

Sword beach – fighting for a foothold

The first of 29,000 men of the 3rd British Division landed at La Brèche at 7:25am – following air and naval bombardment of German defences – and by 10:00am had secured the beach. The intended target was the city of Caen, but this objective had to be abandoned owing to delays in getting armour ashore and troops were ordered instead to reinforce Pegasus Bridge and the line of the Orne

