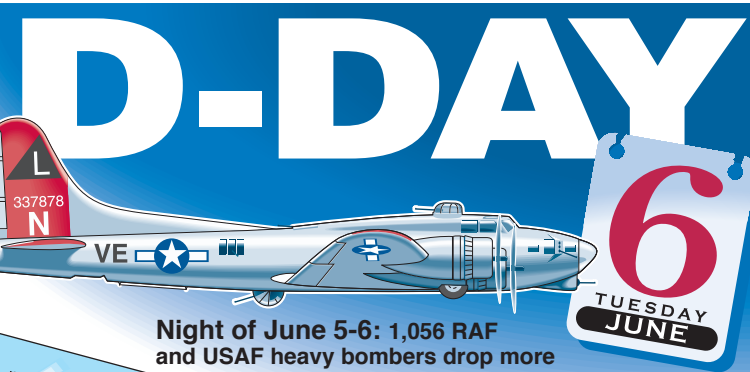


June 4, 1944, 21.30:
"OK, let's go" Following several days of bad weather, the *Met Office* predicts 24 hours of settled conditions from late on June 5. Supreme Allied Commander, *General Dwight D. Eisenhower*, decides the time is right to move



June 5: Task force sets sail
Minesweepers clear channels to *Piccadilly Circus*. Invasion force includes 7,000 ships and landing craft manned by about 195,700 naval personnel from eight allied nations

Assault areas
1 – Utah 4 – Juno
2 – Omaha 5 – Sword
3 – Gold

U.S. 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions: 12,800 airborne troops to secure routes from Utah beach through flooded areas. **U.S. Airborne** suffers loss of 7,500 lives

Douglas C-47 Dakota: More than 900 C-47s – many pulling British and American gliders – transport 82nd and 101st divisions from England to *Cotentin Peninsula*. Allied D-Day aircraft are marked with black and white stripes for easy "friend or foe" recognition

Waco CG-4A glider: Carries 13 troops plus equipment or either a jeep, small truck, or 75mm howitzer

Airspeed Horsa Mk II glider: Carries 20-25 troops, vehicles or artillery. 867 British and U.S. gliders used on D-Day

Spitfire: RAF flies 55 squadrons of Spitfire fighters. 11,590 aircraft deployed to support landings – 127 aircraft lost

June 6, 00.20:
Airborne assault More than 19,000 U.S. and British paratroops drop into Normandy to secure western and eastern edges of battlefield

Night of June 5-6: 1,056 RAF and USAF heavy bombers drop more than 5,000 tonnes of bombs on enemy strongpoints

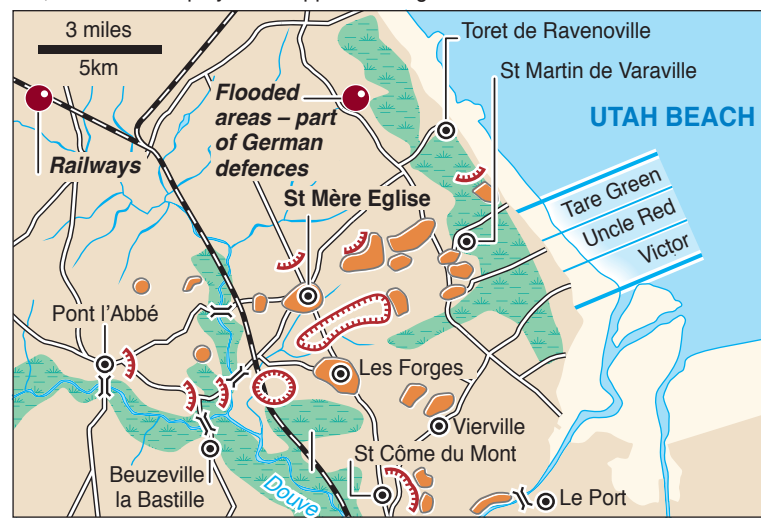
05.30: Drenching fire Heaviest bombardment of the war begins at dawn. 7 battleships, 23 cruisers and 103 destroyers pound German shore batteries to protect assault craft

British 2nd Army
Lieutenant General Sir Miles Dempsey

British 6th Airborne Division: 6,250 paratroops to secure eastern edge of battlefield, destroy four bridges over Dives River to cut off German counter-attack from east, silence shore batteries at Merville – which threaten Sword Beach with their big guns – and capture intact two strategic bridges across the Orne and Caen Canal (*Pegasus Bridge*) to secure exit routes from beachheads. **6th Airborne suffers 650 casualties**

German 15th Army
Generaloberst Hans von Salmuth

KEY: Planned extent of advance by midnight (pink) Actual extent of advance by midnight (orange) German positions at midnight (red dashed line)



06.30: Boots in the sand
Utah – U.S. **4th Infantry Division** meets light enemy opposition. 23,250 troops with support vehicles are landed. **Casualties estimated at 197**
Omaha – 34,250 infantry of U.S. **1st Army** land. Objectives: Take villages of Vierville, St Laurent, Colleville; attack west toward Pointe du Hoc; and east to Port en Bessin to link up with British. **Heavy German resistance turns Omaha into a killing zone – Americans sustain 2,000 casualties.** 25,000 extra troops land during course of D-Day

07.30: British beaches
Gold – **50th Division** of British **2nd Army** lands 24,970 troops. Objectives: Cut Caen-Bayeux road, take Arromanches, move to Port en Bessin and join Americans; link up with Canadians to east. **British suffer 413 casualties while securing Gold**
Sword – British **3rd Division** lands 28,845 troops. Objectives: Take Ouistreham; capture Caen and strategic Carpiquet airfield; push to bridges over Orne River and Caen Canal; link up with **6th Airborne**. **Casualties: 630**

07.55: Canadian beach
Juno – Canadian **3rd Infantry Division** lands 21,400 troops. Objectives: Cut Caen-Bayeux road, seize Carpiquet airport and form link between Gold and Sword beaches. **Casualties: 1,204**
Midnight: End of day one
Allies have landed over 176,000 men in Normandy, supported by over 10,000 tanks, support vehicles and artillery. **By the end of the first day the allies have suffered more than 12,500 casualties – German losses on D-Day are estimated at 6,000**

