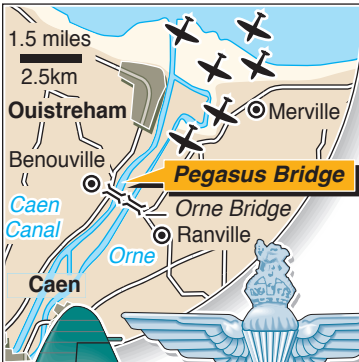


Pegasus Bridge

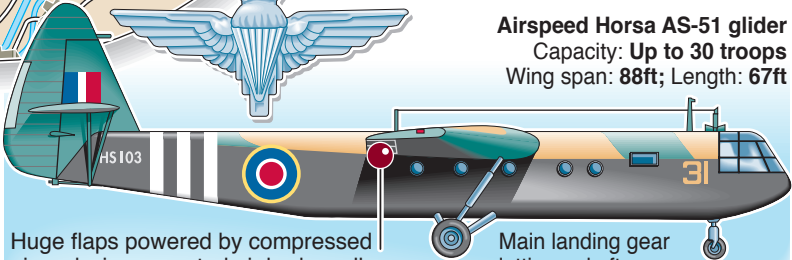
Shortly after midnight on June 5, 1944 six gliders carrying 180 commandos of the 6th Airborne Division, led by Major John Howard, land in Normandy. Half the force is tasked with capturing a strategic bridge over the Caen Canal, the remainder with securing a nearby bridge over the Orne river. Within 20 minutes both bridges are captured intact in the first engagement of D-Day



Airspeed Horsa AS-51 glider

Capacity: **Up to 30 troops**

Wing span: **88ft**; Length: **67ft**



Huge flaps powered by compressed air and wing-mounted air brakes allow glider to stand on its nose and swoop silently to landing zone

Main landing gear jettisoned after take-off on operational missions

Getting airborne...



Glider pilots aided only by maps and stopwatches

Tug rope cast off at 5,000 feet



Tug aircraft: **Halifax, Whitley V, Albermarle**
Towing speed: **127mph**
Gliding speed: **100mph**