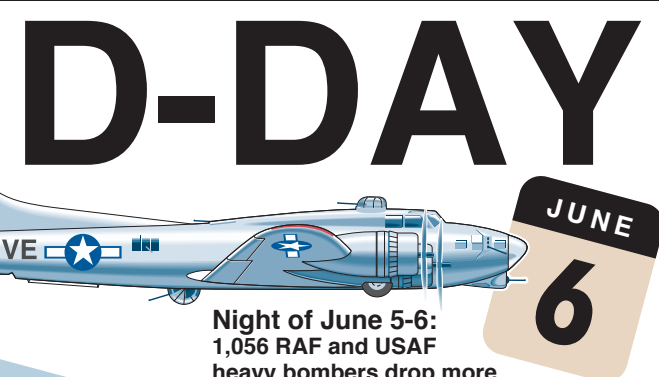


June 4, 1944, 21.30: "OK, let's go."
Following several days of bad weather, the Met Office predicts 24 hours of better conditions from late on June 5. Supreme Allied Commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, decides the time is right to move

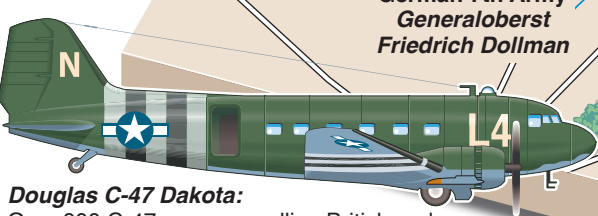


Night of June 5-6:
1,056 RAF and USAF heavy bombers drop more than 5,000 tonnes of bombs on enemy strongpoints

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

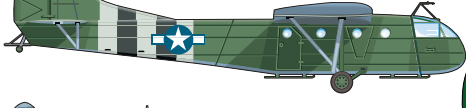
Assault areas
1 - Utah 4 - Juno
2 - Omaha 5 - Sword
3 - Gold

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

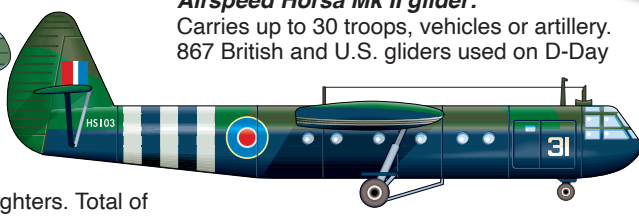


Douglas C-47 Dakota:
Over 900 C-47s - many pulling British and U.S. gliders - transport 82nd and 101st divisions from England to Cotentin Peninsula. Allied aircraft marked with black and white stripes for easy "friend or foe" recognition

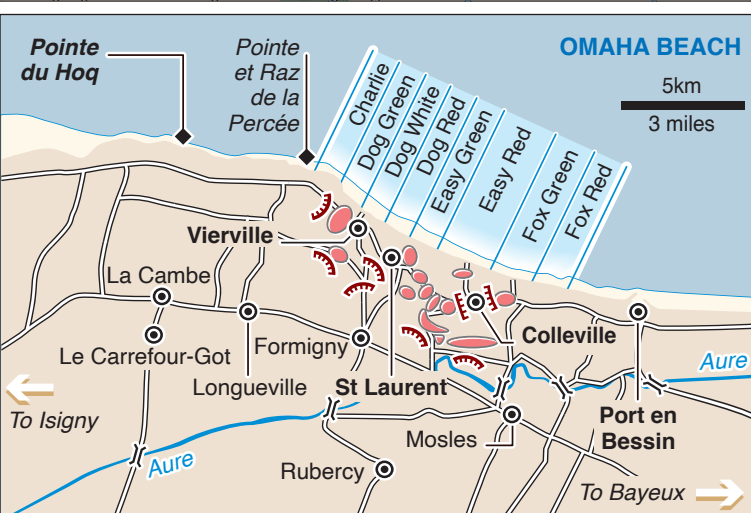
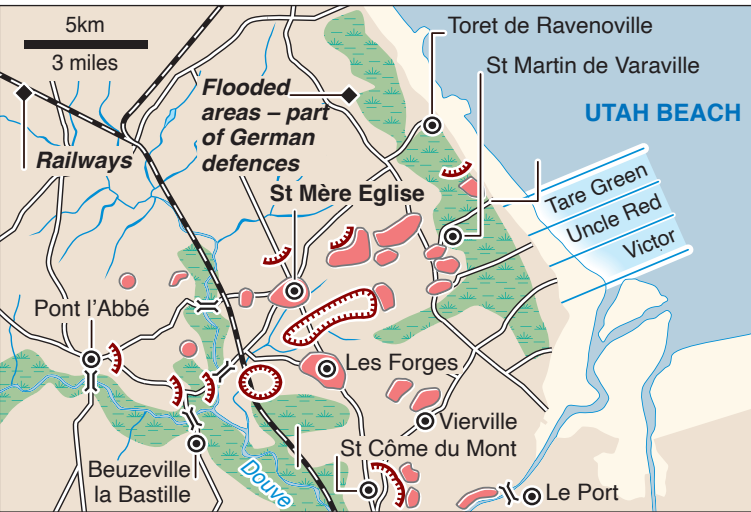
Waco CG-4A glider: Carries 13 troops plus equipment or either jeep, small truck, or 75mm howitzer



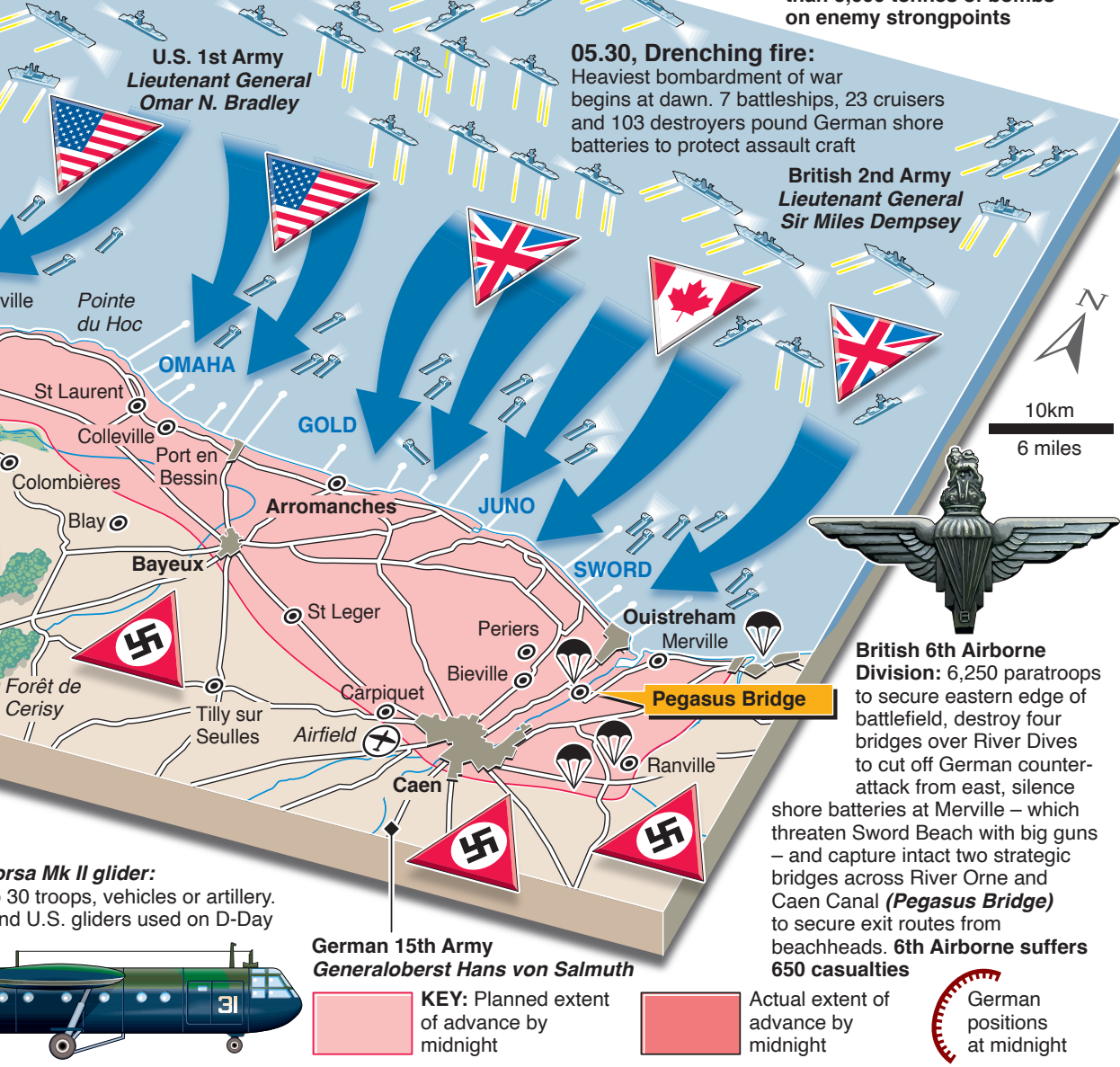
Airspeed Horsa Mk II glider:
Carries up to 30 troops, vehicles or artillery. 867 British and U.S. gliders used on D-Day



Spitfire: RAF flies 55 squadrons of Spitfire fighters. Total of 11,590 aircraft deployed to support landings - 127 planes 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



05.30, Drenching fire:
Heaviest bombardment of 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 River Dives to cut off German counter-attack from east, silence shore batteries at Merville - which threaten Sword Beach with big guns - and capture intact two strategic bridges across River 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 (light pink), Actual extent of advance by midnight (dark pink), German positions at midnight (red dashed line)

06.30, American beaches:
Utah - U.S. **4th Infantry Division** meets light enemy opposition. 23,250 troops with support vehicles landed. **Casualties estimated at 197**
Omaha - U.S. **1st Army** lands 34,250 infantry. 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 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 end of day one allies have suffered over 12,500 casualties - German losses on D-Day are estimated at 6,000

