

Patriot Project



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A Teaching American History Grant

The following is information synthesized from the World War II information boards created by Patriot Project Participants on September 11, 2010. Additional information/sources may be added in some cases.

Invasion of Normandy

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The invasion of Normandy was the turning point of the war in Europe. Although planning for the operation began in the summer of 1942, the powerful offensive capability of German ground forces in Western Europe, the need to contain the U-boat threat to the Atlantic convoy routes, the strategic decision to divert troops and amphibious craft to the Mediterranean, and the ensuing difficulties of building up offensive forces in Britain, all combined to prevent an invasion of France in the following year. By late 1943, however, detailed planning for the invasion had taken place and significant forces and material had been gathered in Britain.

After overrunning the German beach defenses, the Allies rapidly expanded the individual beachheads, and the workhorse amphibious craft quickly reinforced the lodgment with new troops, munitions and supplies. Superior Allied naval and shore-based artillery then helped defeat the initial German counter-attacks at the same time that Allied dominance of the air hindered the transportation of German reinforcements to the region. By 25 July, the Allies were strong enough to launch Operation COBRA and begin the liberation of France.

In a larger strategic sense, the successful Allied landing in France was a psychological blow to the German occupation of Europe. It called into question the German Army's ability to control western Europe, dramatically increased partisan activity against enemy occupation, and heartened the spirits of all those fighting against Nazi tyranny. The balance of power on the continent, already weakened by Soviet offensives into Poland, was decisively tipped into Allied favor. From that point on, the Allies would begin the drive into Germany that ultimately destroyed the Nazi regime on 7 May 1945.

Key Personnel

General Dwight D. Eisenhower Expeditionary Force	Supreme Commander of the Allied for the invasion of Europe
Trafford Leigh-Mallory forces	AEAF Commander in charge of all tactical air Based in England
Bernard Law Montgomery Day	Commanded all Allied Ground troops during the D- Invasion in June 1944
Miles Dempsey Normandy	Commanded the 2 nd Army in the invasion of
Carl Spaatz charge of	Commander of the U.S. Strategic Air Force in the destruction of the Luftwaffe
Bertram H. Ramsey Overlord	Admiral in charge of Naval Forces in Operation
Omar Bradley	General who commanded the 1 st U.S. Army in the Invasion of Normandy
Erwin Rommel withdraw	Field Marshall in charge of the German Army in Normandy who tried to convince Hitler to

D-Day Timeline: The Invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944

Phase 1: Airborne drop – Midnight – 2:00AM Over 13,000 paratroopers were dropped behind

Enemy lines, and managed to accomplish many objectives.

Phase 2: Art of deceit – 1:00AM – 4:00AM To distract the enemy, the Allies faked that another

Invasion was taking place in the most expected region- Pas de Caloris.

Phase 3: Aerial attack – 3:00AM Three hundred planes dropped 13,000 bombs on German

Defenses in the landing sector.

Phase 4: Naval attack – 5:00AM Naval bombardment precede the invasion.

Phase 5: The Invasion

Estimated Battle Casualties: Normandy Invasion

	Killed	Wounded & Missing	Totals
Germany	30,000	290,000	320,000
United States	29,000	106,000	135,000
United	11,000	54,000	65,000

Kingdom			
Canada	5,000	13,000	18,000
France	12,200 civilian dead and missing		12,200
	Total		550,200

Sources

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq109-1.htm>

http://www.military.com/Content/MoreContent1/?file=dday_leaders

<http://www.worldwar2database.com/html/planning.htm>

<http://www.history.army.mil/images/Reference/normandy/pics/Omaha.jpg>