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American soldiers make their way to Utah Beach on D-Day morning, 6 June 1944. On the beach itself are wrecked vehicles. Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives. Click on the image for a better view. At 0630, on the morning of June 6, Americans landed on two of five Normandy beaches earmarked for the invasion: Utah and Omaha. Thanks to National Archives and official military records, we can view pictures of that memorable day.

- An <u>aerial view</u> of Utah Beach on D-Day morning.
- USS Bayfield (APA-33) was the U.S. flagship for the Utah Beach landings.
- During the early phase of the landings, German shells were <u>fired</u> at an LST making its way to Utah Beach.

• <u>Barrage balloons</u>, attached to landing crafts and ships making their way to Utah Beach, were intended to protect men and vessels from low-flying German war planes.

Troops about to go ashore were still smiling. Many would never smile again.

 With its .50 caliber machine gun pointed skyward, for anti-aircraft defense, an Army weapons carrier makes its way to Utah Beach.

- Sunken ships at Utah Beach formed a kind of breakwater.
- Having made it safely to a seawall, soldiers <u>await orders</u> to <u>move inland</u>.
- American soldiers under artillery fire, including African-Americans, do their jobs on Utah Beach.

UTAH BEACH



- VII Corps' D-Day operations at the Utah Beachhead.
- German prisoners of war, captured on June 6th, were temporarily kept in a Utah Beach barbed-wire enclosure.
- Utah Beach <u>headquarters</u>, during the landing <u>build-up</u>, was not a safe place that day.

Omaha Beach, the other American D-Day landing point, had its own series of problems.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/UTAH-BEACH-Normandy-Invasion

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/UTAH-BEACH-Normandy-Invasion

Questions 2 Ponder

Why Do People Smile Even When Facing Imminent Danger?

As Americans reach the shore of Utah Beach, on D-Day, photos show some of the men are still smiling. Not long after, many of those soldiers will never smile again.

What causes people to smile, even when facing imminent danger?

Does smiling somehow make us feel better? Why, or why not?

Is there such a thing as a "nervous smile?" Explain your answer.

Media Stream







Normandy: The Invasion and Operations - June 6-12, 1944 Map image online, courtesy U.S. Military Academy. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Normandy-The-Invasion-and-Operations-June-6-12-1944

<u>Utah Beach - Aerial View</u> Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History. Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Utah-Beach-Aerial-View</u>

USS Bayfield - Normandy Invasion

U.S. Military Photo, maintained by the U.S. National Archives. PD View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Bayfield-Normandy-Invasion</u>









Photo # SC 190438 Weapons carrier goes ashore on Utah Beach, 6 June 1944







USS Bayfield Off Utah Beach U.S. Military Photo, maintained by the U.S. National Archives. PD View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/USS-Bayfield-Off-Utah-Beach</u>

German Shell Explodes Next to an LST U.S. Military Photo, maintained by the U.S. National Archives. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/German-Shell-Explodes-Next-to-an-LST

Barrage Balloons - Screen Against German Attack Planes U.S. Military Photo, maintained by the U.S. National Archives. PD View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Barrage-Balloons-Screen-Against-German-Attack-Planes

Troops Arriving at Utah Beach

U.S. Military Photo, maintained by the U.S. National Archives. PD View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Troops-Arriving-at-Utah-Beach</u>

Weapons Carrier Goes Ashore at Utah Beach U.S. Military Photo, maintained by the U.S. National Archives. PD View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Weapons-Carrier-Goes-Ashore-at-Utah-Beach

Sunken Ships - Utah Beach Breakwater

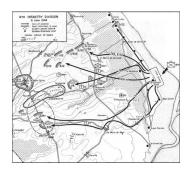
Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History. Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sunken-Ships-Utah-Beach-Breakwater

Troops at the Utah Beach Seawall

U.S. Military Photo, maintained by the U.S. National Archives. PD View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Troops-at-the-Utah-Beach-Seawall</u>















4th Infantry Division - Utah Beach

Map, described above, from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/4th-Infantry-Division-Utah-Beach

Utah Beach - Artillery Fire

Map, described above, from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Utah-Beach-Artillery-Fire

<u>VII Corps D-Day Operations - Utah Beach</u> Map online, courtesy U.S. Military Academy Map Atlas Collection. PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/VII-Corps-D-Day-Operations-Utah-Beach

German Prisoners of War - Captured at Utah Beach U.S. Military Photo, maintained by the U.S. National Archives. PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/German-Prisoners-of-War-Captured-at-Utah-Beach

Utah Beach - Headquarters

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Utah-Beach-Headquarters</u>

<u>Allied Invasion Force and German Dispositions - Map</u> Map online, courtesy U.S. Military Academy.

PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Allied-Invasion-Force-and-German-Dispositions-Map

UTAH BEACH View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/UTAH-BEACH</u>



<u>A Distant Shore: African Americans of D-day</u> Clip from *A Distant Shore: African Americans of D-day*. Online, courtesy the History Channel. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/A-Distant-Shore-African-Americans-of-D-day