

0. CANADIANS LAND AT JUNO BEACH - Story Preface

1. THE WEATHER BREAKS
2. A CROSS-CHANNEL ATTACK
3. WHO WILL COMMAND?
4. D-DAY COMMANDERS
5. LET'S GO!
6. CROSSING THE CHANNEL
7. DEATH ON THE SHORE
8. DIGGING IN; FIGHTING ON
9. UTAH BEACH
10. OMAHA BEACH
11. DECEPTION

12. CANADIANS LAND AT JUNO BEACH

13. BRITS LAND AT GOLD BEACH
14. ...AND SWORD BEACH
15. STUNNING D-DAY FACTS



In this photograph, from the Imperial War Museum (IWM), we see Canadian troops landing at Juno Beach on the afternoon of D-Day (June 6, 1944). The IWM provides a description for its photo A 23938: "The British 2nd Army: Second wave troops of 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, probably Highland Light Infantry of Canada, disembarking with bicycles from LCI(L)s [Landing Craft Infantry Large] onto 'Nan White' Beach, JUNO Area at Bernières-sur-Mer, shortly before midday on 6 June 1944." Copyright expired.

One of the actual landing spots was Juno Beach. Canadian forces, who sailed from England on the 5th of June, were primarily responsible for that assault.

It was not the first time Canadians were involved in amphibious landings on the French coast. The memory of the 2nd Canadian Division must have been in the minds of all Canadians on June 6th.

Earlier in the war, in conjunction with British troops, the 2nd Division attempted a landing at Dieppe. It was a disaster. Testing tactics and techniques, which would later be used during D-Day, the men were largely massacred or taken prisoner.

Matthew Halton, on D-Day assignment with the Canadians, reported what he could to his countrymen. Continued secrecy was a key objective. As Halton observed, news correspondents said nothing which could even conceivably give vital information to the enemy:

I can't describe our order of battle...I can't describe our fire power...nor how we fooled the Germans...I can only describe some of what I saw...We went where our fathers and brothers went 25 years ago...There was an enormous Armada - in broad daylight - but nothing happened...Not a sound at first - then it started. H-Hour: a sudden, fighting hour. The moment for the assault troops to go ashore ... At first, the Germans were stunned...We expected big guns, with a range of many miles...We expected the sky to be an inferno. We thought the submarines would be there. But there were none. Was the German Air Force destroyed? Where were the secret devices?

The German wall of resistance, of course, was still there. By the time the Germans "came to" (using Halton's phrase), forward Allied troops were directly in the line of fire.

Learning from the sacrifice of their countrymen at Dieppe, 14,000 D-Day troops from the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division stormed the beach amidst intense gun fire from German positions. As the fierce fighting continued, 340 Canadians died and 574 were wounded as they secured a beachhead. Of their efforts, John Keegan (the prominent British historian) later observed:

At the end of the day, its forward elements stood deeper into France than those of any other division. (*Six Armies in Normandy*, by John Keegan, page 142.)

Stephen Ambrose also comments on the fierce opposition which the Canadian troops had to endure:

The opposition the Canadians faced was stronger than that of any other beach save Omaha. That was an accomplishment in which the whole nation could take considerable pride. (D-Day, June 6, 1944 - by Stephen E. Ambrose - [page 548.](#))

Bill Grant, a Canadian sergeant, took some of the first D-Day moving pictures seen by anxious people in North America. These were not the days of instant battlefield images. Before anyone could view Grant's film, it had to be processed in Britain.

On [Remembrance Day](#) - every November 11th - Canadians honor those who gave their lives for their country. The wearing of poppies is part of the commemorations.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CANADIANS-LAND-AT-JUNO-BEACH-Normandy-Invasion>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CANADIANS-LAND-AT-JUNO-BEACH-Normandy-Invasion>

Questions 2 Ponder

What Makes an Entire Nation Proud?

When Canadians landed on Juno Beach, the opposition they faced was overwhelming, but at day's end they had gone deeper into France than any other division from any other Allied country.

Around 14,000 D-Day troops from the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division stormed Juno Beach amidst intense gun fire from German positions. As the fierce fighting continued, 340 Canadians died and 574 were wounded as they secured a beachhead.

The historian, Stephen E. Ambrose, describes what the Canadian troops had to endure on D-Day:

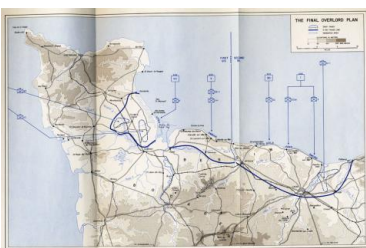
The opposition the Canadians faced was stronger than that of any other beach save Omaha. That was an accomplishment in which the whole nation could take considerable pride.

Is it important for a country to be unified, especially in times of war? Explain your answer.

As the Canadian soldiers pushed forward, on D-Day, their efforts were costly but effective. Despite so many casualties, the Canadians had gone deeper into German-occupied France than any other division. Why were those accomplishments the source of national pride?

When is the last time your country took "considerable pride" in a nation-impacting event? Did you share that sense of pride?

Media Stream



The Final Overlord Plan - D-Day at Normandy

Map image online, courtesy Eisenhower Library and Museum, maintained by the U.S. National Archives.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Final-Overlord-Plan-D-Day-at-Normandy>



Canadian Forces Enroute to Juno Beach

Image described above, contributed by Bill Brinkley and the USS LSM-LSMR Association. Online, courtesy NavSource.org.

PD

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Canadian-Forces-Enroute-to-Juno-Beach>



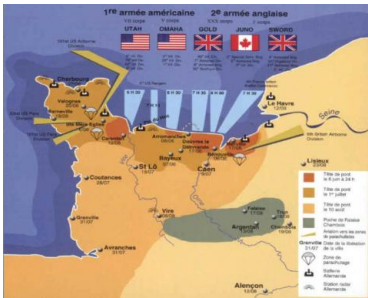
Juno Beach - Royal Canadian Navy Landing

Photo online, courtesy Library and Archives Canada.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Juno-Beach-Royal-Canadian-Navy-Landing>



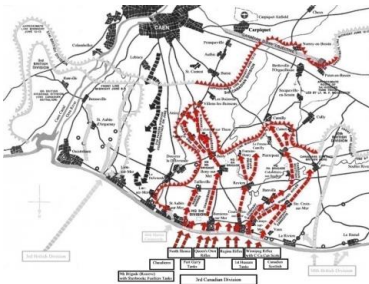
Normandy Operations by Country - Map

Image online, courtesy *Normandie - Les grandes dates* (a French-language web site).

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Normandy-Operations-by-Country-Map>



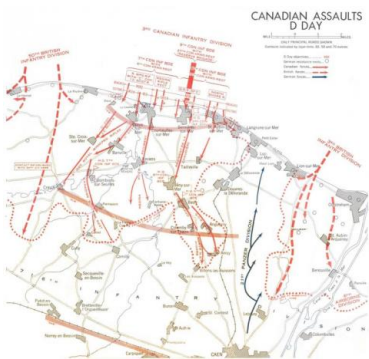
3rd Canadian Infantry Division

Map image online, courtesy "Canada at War."

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/3rd-Canadian-Infantry-Division>



Canadian Assaults - D-Day

Image online, courtesy USMA Map Atlases.

PD

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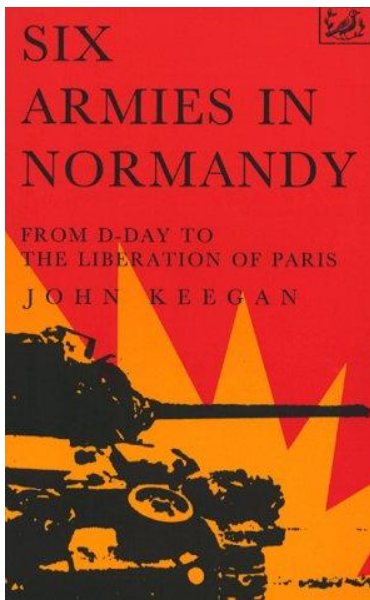
German Forces and Defences - Map

Map image online, courtesy "Canada at War."

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Six Armies in Normandy - by John Keegan

Book-cover image online, courtesy Google Books.

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CANADIANS LAND AT JUNO BEACH

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The Longest Day - A Film About D-Day "The Longest Day"

Directed by:

Ken Annakin (British & French exteriors)
Andrew Marton (American exteriors)
Bernhard Wicki (German episodes)
Gerd Oswald (parachute drop)
Darryl F. Zanuck (uncredited)

Produced by:

Darryl F. Zanuck

Written by:

Cornelius Ryan (Book and Screenplay)

Screenplay:

Romain Gary
James Jones
David Pursall
Jack Seddon

Starring:

John Wayne
Henry Fonda
Robert Mitchum
Sean Connery
Curd Jürgens
Richard Burton
Peter Lawford
Rod Steiger
Irina Demick
Gert Fröbe
Edmond O'Brien
Kenneth More

Music by:

Maurice Jarre

Distributed by:

20th Century Fox

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Longest-Day-A-Film-About-D-Day>



Dieppe - Operation Jubilee

Clip from *History's Raiders*, incorporating newsreels from various national archives.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dieppe-Operation-Jubilee>

