

THE LANDING BEACHES



BY THE NUMBERS Numbers can be interesting, but they don't tell the whole story. To get that, it is best to read the various histories or, better yet, talk to those who were there during that Normandy summer 65 years ago. We present the following for quick reference, noting that in some cases the numbers are approximations.

06/06/44 Date of Allied Normandy Landings

247 Allied minesweepers deployed to 'sweep' 10 approach channels to the Normandy beaches

5 Allied invasion beaches or sectors, codenamed—from west to east—Utah (US), Omaha (US), Gold (Brit.), Juno (Cdn.) and Sword (Brit.)

132,000 Allied men landed on D-Day

10 Panzer or panzer-grenadier (armoured infantry) divisions in the West by D-Day. Six were considered battle-ready

155,000 Troops landed by sea or by air by day's end on D-Day

6,000 Tonnage of bombs dropped by the RAF Bomber Command in the final hours prior to the invasion

6,000 Vehicles, including tanks, landed on D-Day

23,400 Allied paratroopers, including Canadians, who jumped or landed in gliders behind German coastal defences

171 Air force squadrons of fighters and fighter bombers that attacked the Luftwaffe or ground positions

7,016 Allied vessels employed in the D-Day fleet commanded by Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, including six battleships, two monitors, 22 cruisers, 93 destroyers, 71 corvettes, and various types of landing craft, numbering in the thousands

26,000 Tonnage of stores or supplies required per day to sustain Allied armies in Normandy

100,000 German soldiers squeezed by Allied forces into the Falaise pocket, an area that measured 30 kilometres long by 20 wide on Aug. 16, 1944

195,701 Allied naval personnel, including merchant navy that supported the invasion

400,000 German casualties between June and late August 1944

206,000 Allied casualties between June and late August 1944

OPERATION OVERLORD Codename for the 1944 Allied invasion of occupied Northwest Europe.

D-DAY Allied staff term for the unnamed day on which an operation commences or is to commence. The letter D is a military symbol standing for the day the operation is to happen.

OPERATION NEPTUNE Codename for the assault phase (the Normandy landings and associated operations) of the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy.

JUNO The Allied codename given to the Normandy beach where Canadians landed on June 6, 1944.

For a bird's eye view of Juno Beach on the morning of June 6, 1944, please see our illustrated pullout poster in the centre of the magazine.

For a timeline on the Normandy Campaign, please visit Legion Magazine's website at www.legionmagazine.com

Sources: *Bloody Victory: Canadians and the D-Day Campaign 1944* by J.L. Granatstein and Desmond Morton; *D-Day: The Illustrated History* by Stephen Badsey; *Juno: Canadians At D-Day, June 6, 1944* by Ted Barris; *Legion Magazine*; *Normandy 1944: The Canadian Summer* by Bill McAndrew, Donald E. Graves and Michael Whitby; *Oxford Companion To World War II*; *The Victory Campaign: The Operations In North-West Europe, 1944-1945* by C.P. Stacey; Veterans Affairs Canada.