



80

D-DAY

6 JUNE
2024

THE LARGEST NAVAL, AIR AND LAND OPERATION IN HISTORY

D-Day 6th June 1944

Who has heard about D-Day?

What does 'D-Day' mean?

'D' stands for Day! A code name for the day of a planned invasion into France.

By June 1944, Britain had been at war with Germany for almost 5 years! It was time to bring it to an end.

Today, 6th June 2024

We are marking the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when soldiers and airmen from Britain, America, Canada, France and 9 other nations joined forces in an invasion called 'Operation Overlord'.

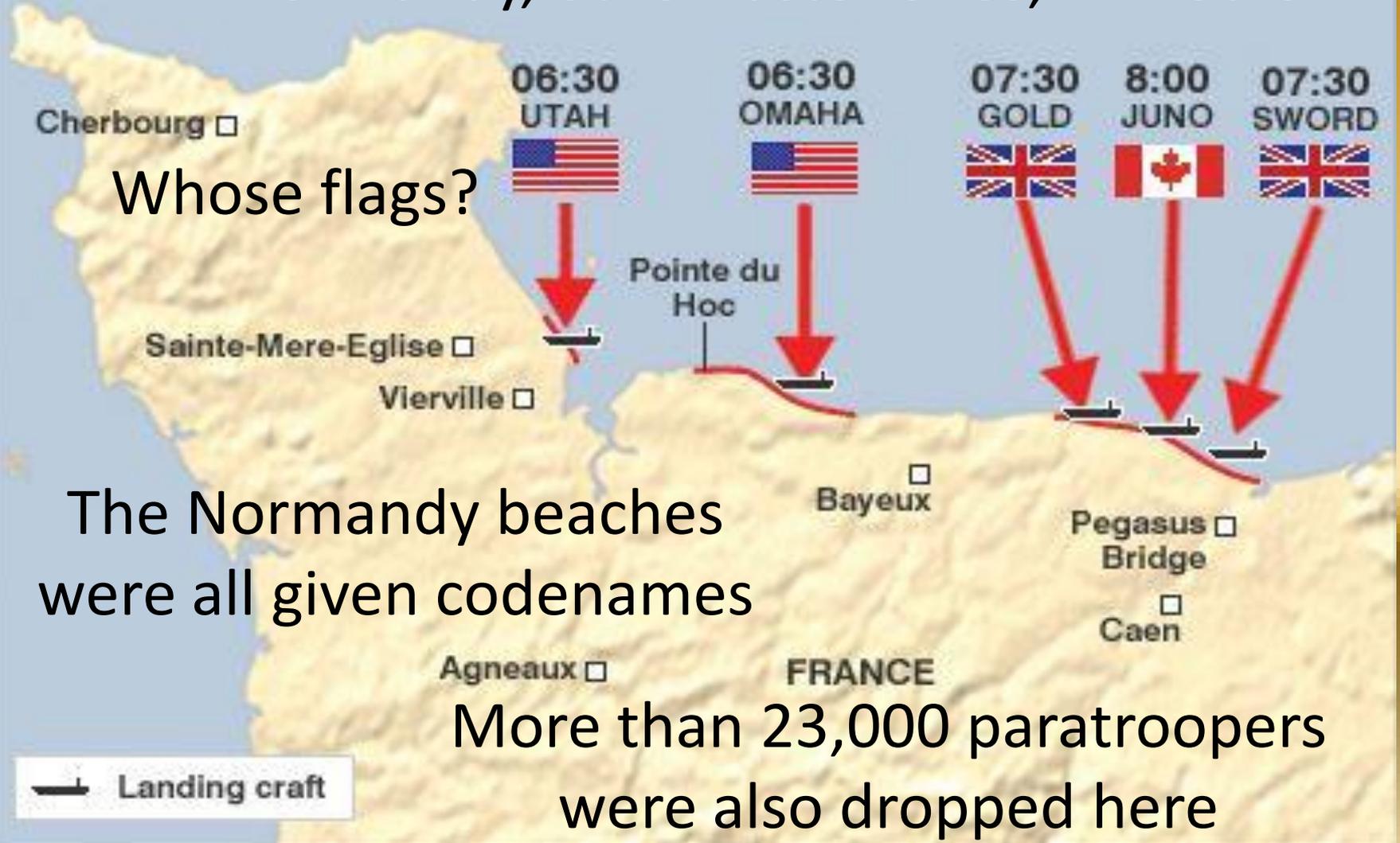
It was to be the largest invasion the world has ever witnessed.

7,000 ships and landing craft were used to set down around 132,500 men on 5 beaches in Normandy in France.



It took some ships over 24 hours to reach Normandy, other faster ones, 12 hours

English Channel



Whose flags?

The Normandy beaches were all given codenames

More than 23,000 paratroopers were also dropped here

How did the Normandy beaches get their names?

The codename for the Normandy coast was
'Overlord'

An American Commander, General Bradley, asked
two officers where they were born.....

Utah, Sir! Omaha, Sir!

The British and Canadians, however, chose fish
names – Goldfish, Jellyfish and Swordfish! These
were shortened to Gold, Jelly and Sword, then
Jelly was changed to Juno, in honour of the wife
of one of the officers....!



British soldiers landing on Gold beach



American soldiers had to wade through deep water to get to Omaha beach

How do you think the soldiers felt on reaching land?

SCARED!

Wet..their boots were full of water and they were soaked through to their underpants.

Heavy..their uniforms were wet and they carried a lot of equipment.

Cold..the water was cold, miserably cold, only 8 deg.C on 6th June 1944, after an earlier storm.

Despite this, the soldiers carried on and soon secured the beaches.

Any questions?

You have just heard the voice of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Who was he and what did he do?



General Dwight D Eisenhower was appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces for Operation 'Overlord' in late 1943.

He went on to become US President from 1953 - 1961



Paratroopers landing about 2 miles from the Normandy beaches



By 11th June (D+5) more than 326,000 soldiers had been landed on the Normandy beaches.

As soon as the Normandy beaches were made secure the Allied Commanders brought in an amazing invention, the 'Mulberry' 'piers that would form a floating port, rising and falling with the tide.



Each section was towed across the English Channel

The sections were then 'bolted' together to form massive harbours and over the next 10 months more than 2 ½ million soldiers had been landed.



The role of women in the D-Day invasion

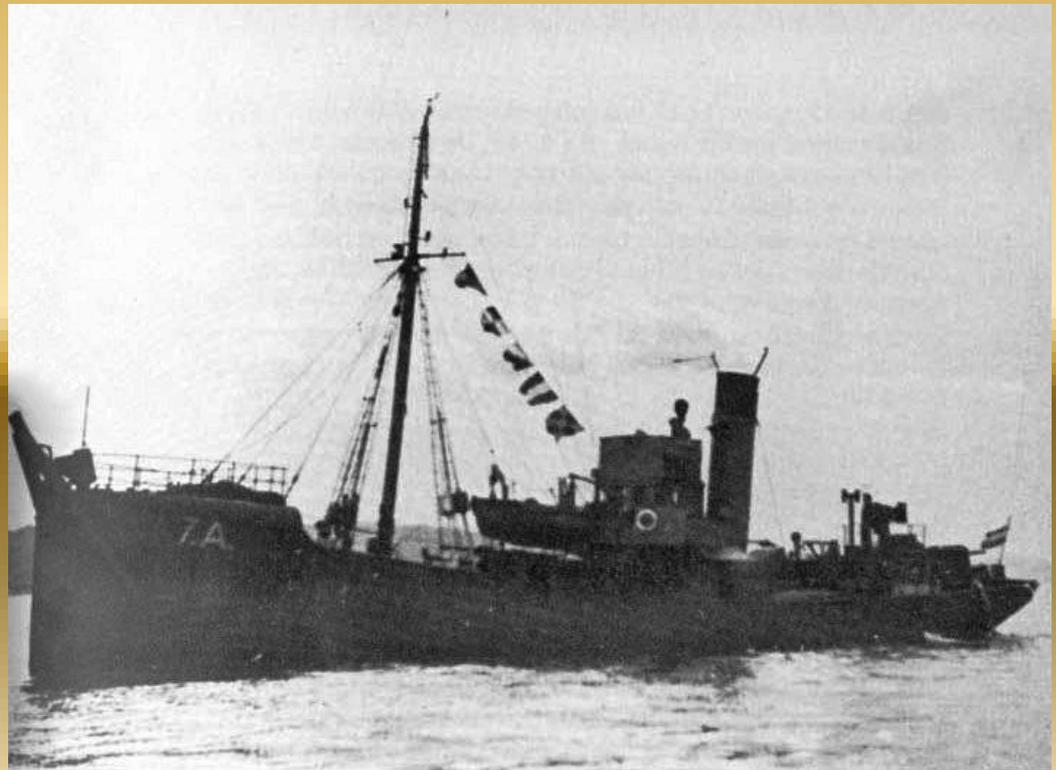
They did not fight but provided support services such as nurses, telephone operators, drivers and pilots, to name a few.



Here we see nurses being escorted to field hospitals set up along the beaches. Many lives were saved by their help.

Throughout the war, fishermen risked their lives to carry on catching fish, vital to feed the British Nation. Many trawlers were used on D-day, towing barges full of equipment and supplies, some even towing mini-submarines!

This trawler is displaying the naval signal flags as it waits near the Normandy beaches. Some were fitted with guns.



To remember the fishermen, 6th June is also National Fish and Chip day! That meal has to be served with mushy peas!



This is why there will be a fish & chip van at St. John's Park this evening!

Why are we commemorating D-Day 6th June 1944?

To celebrate those brave men and women who gave us our freedom and to remember those that lost their lives in the battles that took place.



Today, all over the United Kingdom, villages, towns and cities will be commemorating D-Day, by decree of the King's Pageantmaster, Bruno Peek.

In Normandy, a beacon will be lit on Gold beach at 8.15pm, followed by those on Sword, Juno and Utah beaches and at Omaha beach a service of thanksgiving will take place.

After we have had dancing and fish and chips in St.John's Park, a beacon will be lit at precisely 9.15pm and throughout the land, thousands more will send a signal of our remembrance.

D-day was not the end of World War 2

It carried on for another 11 months and we will learn more about this next year.

Thank you for listening.

