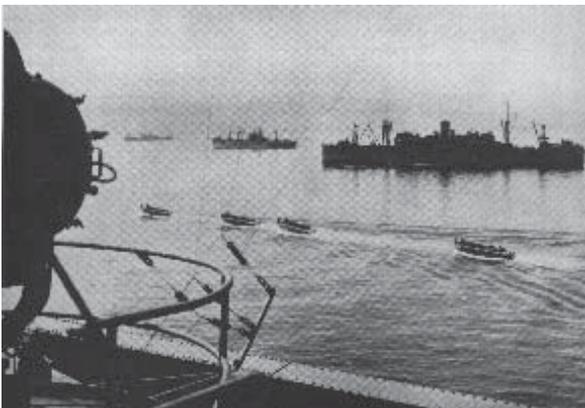


Read about the United States in World War II and their participation, which meant more than the ascension of a new superpower, it is the story of a people.





Is it Here?

Invasion weather was nice and sunny on May 31 over much of northwestern Europe, but as of June 2 the weather began changing. It rained furiously. Before the sun broke the morning's grayness on June 4, 1944, the invasion of Normandy was canceled. At sea the fleet was recalled.

What had happened in the time from June second until June fourth is usually not really mentioned, so providing a little rundown, let's begin with an introduction.

All Allied troops in England were under direct authority of General Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander of all embarkation forces, with his HQ known as Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces. The weather assignment for S.H.A.E.F. was conducted by a team of meteorologists from various services of the Allies— meaning experts from the British and American military departments; they were occasionally helped from the Russian services on the other side of the Atlantic. The British and American units were scattered in different areas in and around Great Britain, with some as far away as Greenland. The opening burden of invasion fell on the shoulders of the meteorologists.

The weather center was based in London. The weather division of S.H.A.E.F., henceforth spelled SHAEF, stationed in nearby Portsmouth, England —under colonels Stagg and Yates — had direct access to London. It was a British officer, James M. Stagg, who had to personally report to the Supreme Commander on





On June 6, 1944, for people in Western Europe it was the beginning of actual liberation from Nazi occupation.

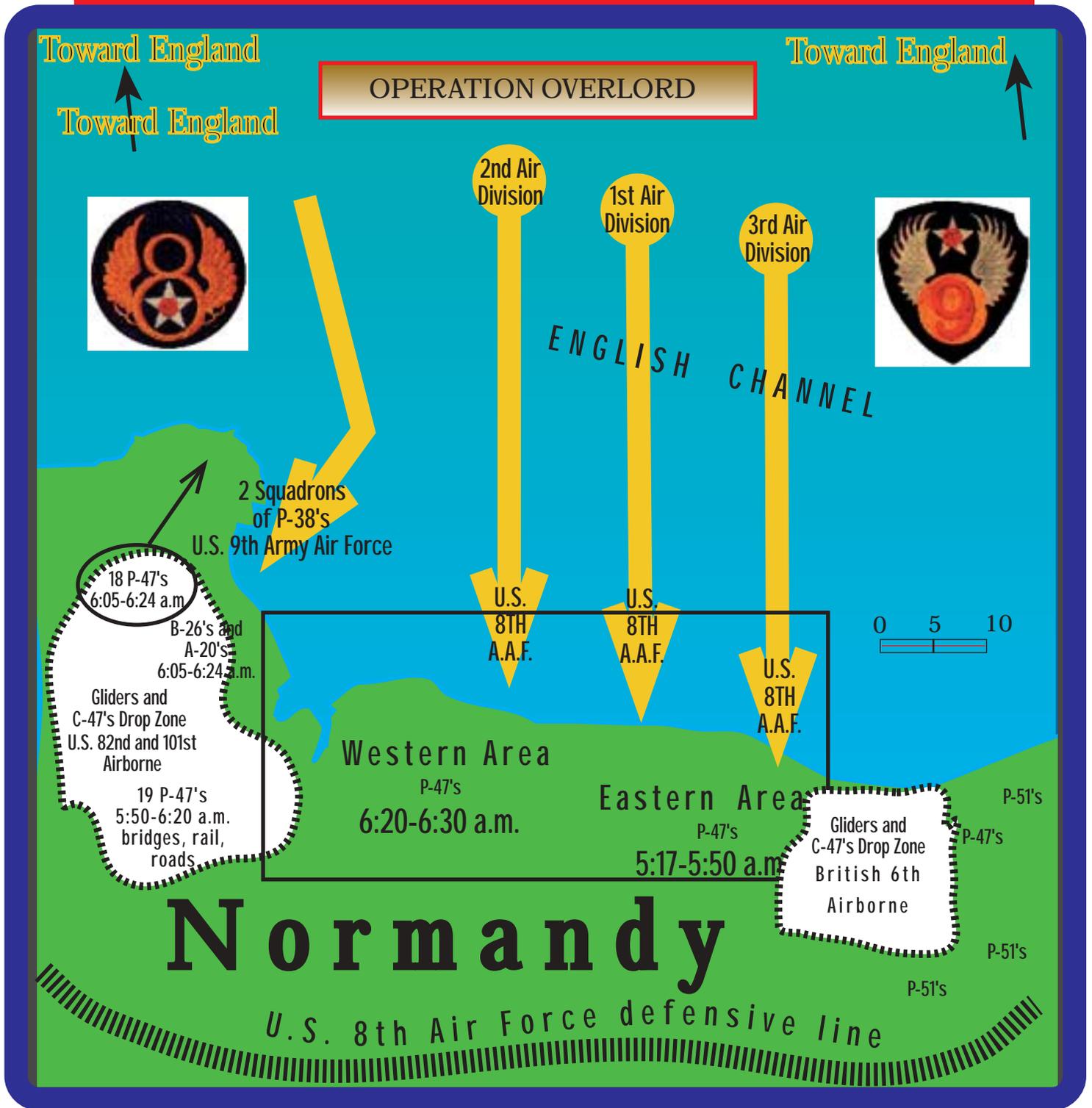
D-DAY: The Grand Normandy Invasion

In man's entire history there has never been any greater combined air, sea and land operation than the one which occurred in Normandy on one fateful June day of 1944. The awesome pressure of waiting, the anxiety of preparations, the culmination of tight security on England, no passes or leaves, was all over. It had become green light for thousands.

Selected for U.S. amphibious assault were 2 beachheads codenamed Omaha Beach and Utah Beach—in between Port-en-Bessin, France, (near Bayeux) and Quinville, France. In unification (conjunction) with the two U.S. beachheads were three allied nations' beachheads in the Grand Invasion called Gold, Juno, and Sword. The two American beaches, and one Canadian and two British beaches, on a world map seem to appear as tiny pieces of a French coastline, yet they comprised what became the most important military operation in the war. They stretched some 60 miles in length, and of the five, Omaha was to be the largest geographically. As one earlier writer cited about the well reinforced armies: June 6 was to be the longest day for many soldiers.

Everyone on both sides of the English Channel, unlike the Mediterranean, was soaked by wet and stormy weather, a climate apparently unsuitable for something momentous. In France's northwest perimeter some 50 German divisions awaited. (Mind you, this is a lot—50—in Italy the battling around Rome entailed 24





U.S. 8th Air Force defensive line

2 Squadrons of P-51's
4:25-8:30 a.m.

2 Squadrons of P-51's
4:25-8:30 a.m.

1 Squadron of P-51's
7:30-11 a.m.

1 Squadron of P-51's
10-11 a.m.

1 Squadron of P-47's
11:40-1:40 p.m.

1 Squadron of P-51's
7:30-11 a.m.

1 Squadron of P-47's
12- 2 p.m.

9th Inf Div

