

NORMANDY 2025

SANDS OF FREEDOM

From Fort pierce to Omaha and Utah beaches

D-DAY MEMORY TOUR

MAY 18-23



OMAHA BEACH, team 10 KARNOWSKI


**PLANS ARE
WORTHLESS,
BUT
PLANNING IS
EVERYTHING.**

Dwight D. Eisenhower





**SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!
 You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.
 Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped, and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely. But this is the year 1944. Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations¹ have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory.
 I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory.
 Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.
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81 D-DAY ANNIVERSARY



Dear American friends,

It is with great humility, honor, and excitement that we at D-Day Memory Tour (DDMT) offer our services for the 81th D-DAY anniversary. To be with you on the soil of Normandy is a moment that we at DDMT take very seriously. This is not just a trip, nor is it just a tour; it is an experience.

The Navy played a significant and considerable role during Operation Neptune which was the amphibious and airborne portion of Operation Overlord. With 6,000 allied ships of all sizes, it remains the largest naval operation in the history of mankind.

On June 6, 1944, before dawn, the armada anchored off the Normandy coast.

Around 6.00 a.m. as the first waves of assault made their way towards the shore aboard LCVP, the Navy opened fire with all its might on the German defenses forming part of the famous Atlantic Wall.

For many days after D-Day, the firepower of the US Navy will support the ground operations of US troops, in many cases it will open breaches and stop the advance of German reinforcements.

It is in this historical context that we are going to help you discover these places which became the land of freedom; it is also in this context that we are going to discover how the US NAVY successfully played its role.

We will visit many historical sites such as Utah Beach, Sainte-Mere-Eglise, Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach and the American Cemetery at Colleville-Sur-Mer.

I invite you to discover the route that we will follow together during the forthcoming 3 days, 81years after the day when all the Allied Navy units set out to reach the coasts of Normandy from the south of England.

I look forward to escorting you in comfort and handling all the logistics necessary to provide you with an experience you will never forget.

We at DDMT know that we are not visiting just places on a map or in a book but memories. It was on this land that the United States won its greatest battlefield victories in its proud and storied history. It was here that the vaunted Wehrmacht was devastated by the American boys of Broadway and Main Street of all the states of America and liberation for generations was assured.

All the best...

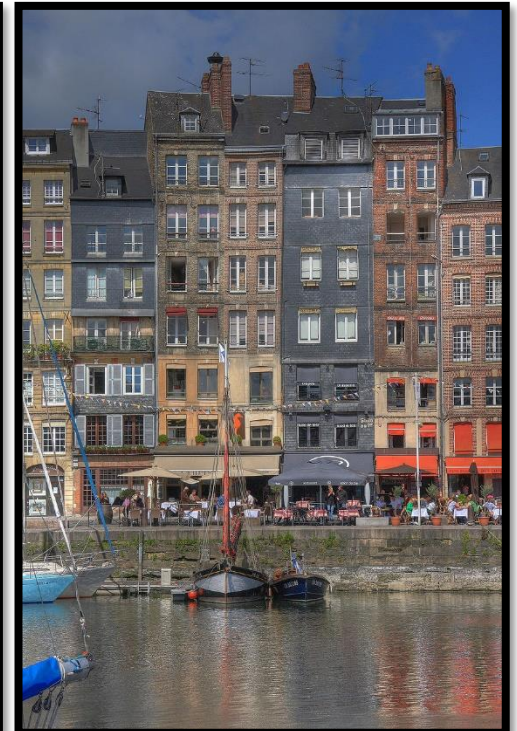
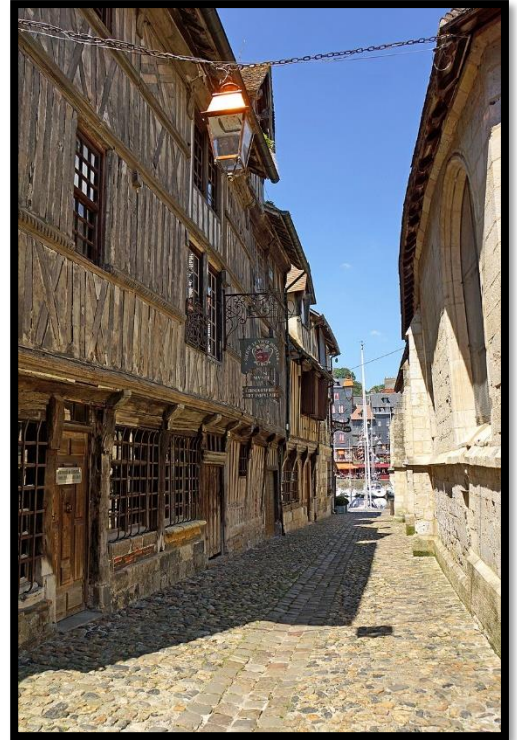
JP. PAVIOT - Owner Founder DDMTUSA.

Day 1 Sunday, MAY 18th

This morning we will meet at our meeting point in Paris CDG Airport hotel Holiday Inn Express. For those of you who have traveled at night from the USA, our team will welcome you at the airport upon your arrival to take you to your meeting place. For those who have arrived the previous day or days we will wait for you at the Holiday Inn Express hotel. A breakfast will be served to you while waiting for the coach to depart at 11:00 am.

We will then take the road towards Normandy. Travel time to our Final destination at Manor at UTAH BEACH is approximately 4 hours. We will make a stop on the way around 1:00 p.m. for lunch in one of the most charming towns in France: **The Port of Honfleur**. We will leave around 3:00 p.m. and arrive at the MANOR around 5:00 p.m.

HONFLEUR - Normandy



Day 2 Monday, May 19th

09:00 am – Departure

This morning we will get on the road and head to Caen.

10:00 am Arrival at CAEN MEMORIAL

We will be welcomed by the director and the board of the Memorial. We will have the chance to explore their news exhibit focused on the life of the young Americans pre and post ww2. **This First stop will bring our Group into the past.**

11:45 Departure to the “Castle In Normandy”

Lunch

we will head towards our lunch place (10mn ride), a beautiful castle dating back from the XIII century. This place, rich in history, has been a part of the same family for 800 years. The owner of the place will welcome us and share its unique history with us.

13:30 Departure From the chateau

Board the bus for a 15 minutes drive to Gold Beach, one of the five D-Day landing beaches on June 6th, then we will ride along the shore towards the 360 Theatre in Arromanches.

14:15 PM - Arrival at 360 Theatre

We will experience a full immersion inside a dome theatre which will bring us back in time to discover and learn about the major event that occurred during the summer of 1944 Normandy Campaign.

15:15 PM - Visit Arromanches

This stop will give you the opportunity to visit, on your own, the beautiful town of Arromanches, which was the most important artificial Harbour built by the the Engineers just after D-Day.

16:30 PM - Departure for Hotel

Board the bus - return to our HQ.

17:30 PM - Arrival at Hotel

Check-in and relax until dinner time.

19.00 Dinner - Domaine Utah

Enjoy dinner at the Domaine Utah, our Main HQ
Dress code CASUAL



Day 3 Tuesday, May 20th

9.00 am Departure.

Today we will head the US Sector in the vicinity of the small town of Vierville, Saint Laurent sur Mer, Coleville. Best known by the famous Beach code name OMAHA. On our way will make a stop at another famous place, La Pointe du Hoc.

09.30 am Arrival at la Pointe du HOC

Pointe du Hoc- We will be welcomed by the ABMC (American Battlefields Monument Commission, Super intendant Mr Scott Desjardins)

U.S. Army Rangers, 2nd Ranger Battalion, were assigned to capture and disable the German enemy six-gun 115-cm coast defense battery at Pointe du Hoc, about three miles west of Omaha Beach. Lieutenant Colonel James E. Rudder, USA, led the men in a successful mission which was deemed impossible. Despite an initial error in landing calculations, the Rangers, along with naval gunfire support, valiantly fought the Germans as they made their way up a perpendicular hill about 10 stories tall. At the top, they continued to fight the enemy who kept popping out of craters accessed by tunnels, until reinforcements from 1st Battalion 116th RCT arrived the following day. At 11:30, on June 8, Pointe du Hoc was under Allied control. USS Satterlee (DD-626) provided support until relieved by USS Thompson (DD-627).

10.30 am Arrival at Omaha Beach

The assault on Omaha Beach can be divided into three well-defined engagements, which took place simultaneously on adjacent landing beaches. At the west end of Omaha, the battle for Pointe du Hoc occupied the 2d and 5th Ranger Battalions, supported by Satterlee (DD 626) and Thompson (DD 627). In the center, on beaches called Dog and Easy Green, the 116th and 115th Regimental Combat Teams (RCT) of the 29th Infantry Division landed, supported by Carmick (DD 493) and McCook (DD 496). On Easy

Red and Fox beaches, to the east, landed the 16th, 18th and 15th RCTS of the 1st Infantry Division, supported by Emmons (DD 457), Baldwin (DD 624), Harding (DD 625), and Doyle (DD 494). USS Frankford (DD 497), DESRON 18's flagship, cruised the landing area and provided the aggressiveness needed from these destroyers in their first major battle.

12.00 pm Lunch at Omaha Beach

We will enjoy a relaxed lunch at a location offering the finest view of Omaha Beach.

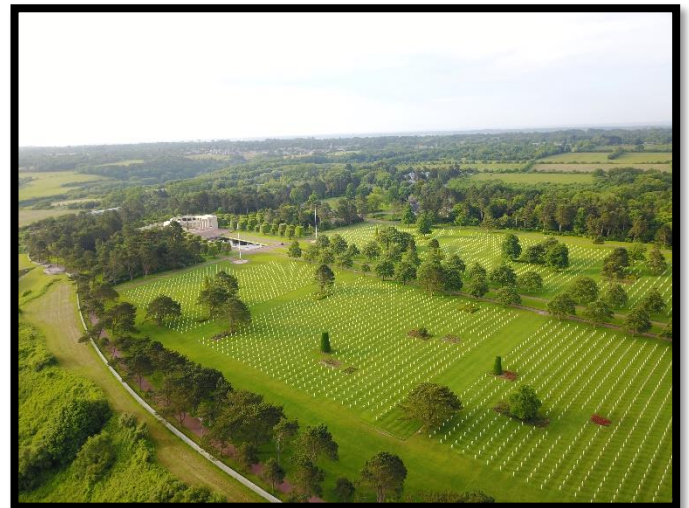


13.45 pm Departure to US Cemetery Colleville-sur-Mer

The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France is located in Colleville-sur-Mer, on the site of the temporary American St. Laurent Cemetery, established by the U.S. First Army on June 8, 1944 as the first American cemetery on European soil in World War II. The cemetery site, at the north end of its half mile access road, covers 172.5 acres and contains the graves of 9,386 of our military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the D-Day landings and ensuing operations. On the Walls of the Missing, in a semicircular garden on the east side of the memorial, are inscribed 1,557 names. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and ident



Radioman 2nd Class Julius Pieper was laid to rest at Normandy American Cemetery on June 19, 2018 next to his twin brother Radioman 2nd Class Ludwig Pieper.



15.30 pm Departure to our HQ at UTAH

16.30 pm arrival UTAH MANOR

We will arrive at our respective HQ in Utah beach area, where we will relax and get ready for a banquet reception at our Main HQ: Utah manor.

19:00 Dinner reception at UTAH MANOR

All transportation will be arranged.

Dress code: SMART CASUAL



Day 4 WEDNESDAY, MAY 21th

09.00 am Departure to UTAH BEACH

Utah Beach is the name of one of the five beaches of the Normandy landings on June 6, 1944.

The NCDUs at Utah Beach reportedly cleared 700 yards of shoreline in just two hours. Then they shifted to using heavy machinery, such as bulldozers, to remove more entrenched obstacles. The NCDUs suffered a 52% casualty rate in the invasion, amounting to what the Navy SEAL Museum now considers the bloodiest single day in Naval Special Warfare history.

The American landing on Utah will therefore be preceded by an airborne operation at night, it will be costly in human lives, on Sainte-Mère-Eglise and Chef-du-Pont to control the few roads through the marshes allowing beach exits.

10:00 Crisbecq Command Post Bunker

The landings having begun on Utah and Omaha Beaches; it was the Marcouf Battery Command Post that was the first to see and then officially announce to the German General Staff the arrival of the Allied fleet on the morning of June 6th.

This story was told after the war by Captain Ohmsen in the book "Zie Kommen!" ("They're coming!" - published in 1961). It inspired one of the most famous scenes in the movie "The Longest Day". This visit to the command post allows us to relive this scene of June 6, 1944.



11h00 German batterie Azeville

The Azeville battery is one of the first constructions of the Atlantic Wall in France. Its four powerful casemates were equipped with 105 mm "Schneider" guns. The battery covered part of the Channel coast from inland. On the night of June 5 to 6, 1944, the battery went into action against the American landing at Utah Beach... The following night (June 8/9) the battleship USS Nevada fired on Azeville and put casemate No. 1 out of action, killing all the Germans manning the gun.

12:30 pm LA FIERE MANOR

We will make a stop for lunch at one of the most significant places in Normandy. The Manor of La Fiere is situated at the very epicenter of the three Drop zones set up for the 82nd Airborne during the first Hour Of D-Day. The manor is probably the first house to have been liberated in Normandy by the Americans after intense combat. Then will follow a 3 day Battle to hold the Bridge, the causeway, which are crucial objectives on D-Day for American troops.

14.30 pm Departure to Sainte Mere Eglise

After our lunch break, we will head to Sainte-Mère-Eglise where you will be able to enjoy the town at your leisure, enjoy a coffee in the square, and discover its numerous art shops.

At the heart of Sainte-Mère-Eglise, facing the church where John Steele famously was caught hanging from the bell tower by his parachute.



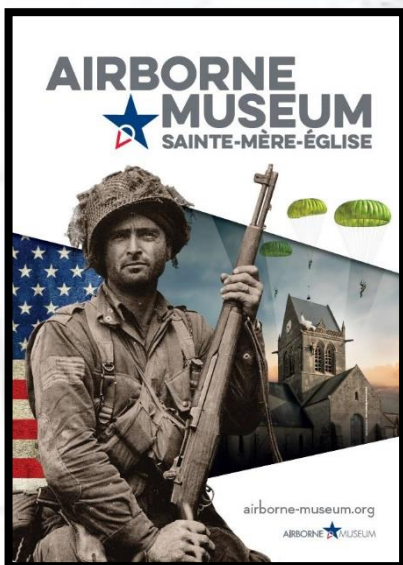
16.30 pm AIRBORNE MUSEUM

Museum visit and Sainte Mere Eglise Tour

18.00 arrival UTAH Manor

19:00 Diner

Dress code: Smart Casual



Day 5 Thursday, MAY 22th

DEDICATION DAY

9.00 Departure to Omaha Beach Ceremony.

We will make our way to the official ceremony held at Omaha Beach.

11.00 to 12.15 pm Official Ceremony

Naval Combat Demolition Units / Scouts & Raiders

Monument Park Dedication

12:15 Departure to the city hall of Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer

15.30 – Departure from Omaha, return to hotel.

Back at our HQ around 16.30, you will have time to enjoy your last evening at your respective locations before our final gala dinner reception.

19.00 Dinner Reception

We will enjoy our last evening together and have a gala dinner reception at our main HQ.

Dress code: Smart casual.



Day 6 Friday, MAY 23rd

Return to Paris

Today our stay in Normandy ends, that morning around 10:00 we will hit the road to reach our hotel at CDG airport. On the way we will stop for lunch in a magnificent Chateau on the banks of the Seine. We will arrive in Paris around 6:00 p.m.

CHATEAU DU TAILLIS Built on the foundations of a 13th century fortified house; it was built around 1530 by Jehan du Fay du Tailly. After unfinished construction, the central body was enlarged by the addition of two pavilions in the 17th century and finalized with new wings in the 18th century. These are 300 years of architecture that coexist and respect each other with the same symmetry that is unique in France.

INFO : This last part of the itinerary will be probably modified depending our schedule, weather conditios, and traffic on our way back to Paris.



TRAVEL

NORMANDY BATTLEFIELDS



Normandy American Cemetery

Memorial in France is located in Colleville-sur-Mer, on the site of the temporary American St. Laurent Cemetery, established by the U.S. First Army on June 8, 1944 as the first American cemetery on European soil in World War II. The cemetery site, at the north end of its half mile access road, covers 172.5 acres and contains the graves of 9,385 of our military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the D-Day landings and ensuing operations. On the Walls of the Missing, in a semicircular garden on the east side of the memorial, are inscribed 1,557 names. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified.

The memorial consists of a semicircular colonnade with a loggia at each end containing large maps and narratives of the military operations; at the center is the bronze statue, "Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves." An orientation table overlooking the beach depicts the landings in Normandy. Facing west at the memorial, one sees in the foreground the reflecting pool; beyond is the burial area with a circular chapel and, at the far end, granite statues representing the United States and France.

Dedicated: 1956 Burials: 9,385 Missing



SAINTE - MÈRE - EGLISE

FAMED TOWER

Mère-Eglise became involved in one of the greatest exploits in military history in the night of 5 to 6 June 1944, as D-Day began. American parachutists were being dropped all around the area, and in the village itself.

The German battery at nearby Azeville, the Airborne Museum, a major war museum in the village, and the copy of John Steele and his parachute stuck on the church tower act as important reminders of how peace can sometimes hang by just a thread... As well as considering Sainte-Mère-Eglise's rousing history, admire its historic buildings, washhouses and fountains, plus the surrounding manors. Enjoy the delights of the rural Cotentin peninsula landscapes and seascapes close by. Nature here remains largely unspoilt. Land and sea give generously, providing high-quality farm produce and seafood. The special atmosphere and light of the local marshes attract walkers and photographers. Sports enthusiasts love horse-riding and sand-yachting along the long, now peaceful expanses of sand nearby, on a strand that, since D-Day, has been known around the world as Utah Beach.



La Pointe Du Hoc

overlooks Omaha Beach, France. It was erected by the French to honor elements of the American Second Ranger Battalion under the command of Lt. Col. James E. Rudder. During the American assault of Omaha and Utah beaches on June 6, 1944. These U.S. Army Rangers scaled the 100-foot cliffs and seized the German artillery pieces that could have fired on the American landing troops at Omaha and Utah beaches. At a high cost of life, the Rangers successfully defended against determined German counterattacks.

By mid-1944, German forces manned formidable defenses along the French coast. Of concern to the Allies were German 155mm artillery

positions on Pointe du Hoc. They could wreak havoc on Utah and Omaha Beaches. Lt. Col. James E. Rudder, commanding the 2nd Ranger Battalion, received the mission to land at 6:30 a.m., scale the 100-foot cliffs and disable the German positions. Lt. Col. Max F. Schneider's 5th Ranger Battalion would follow and reinforce them.

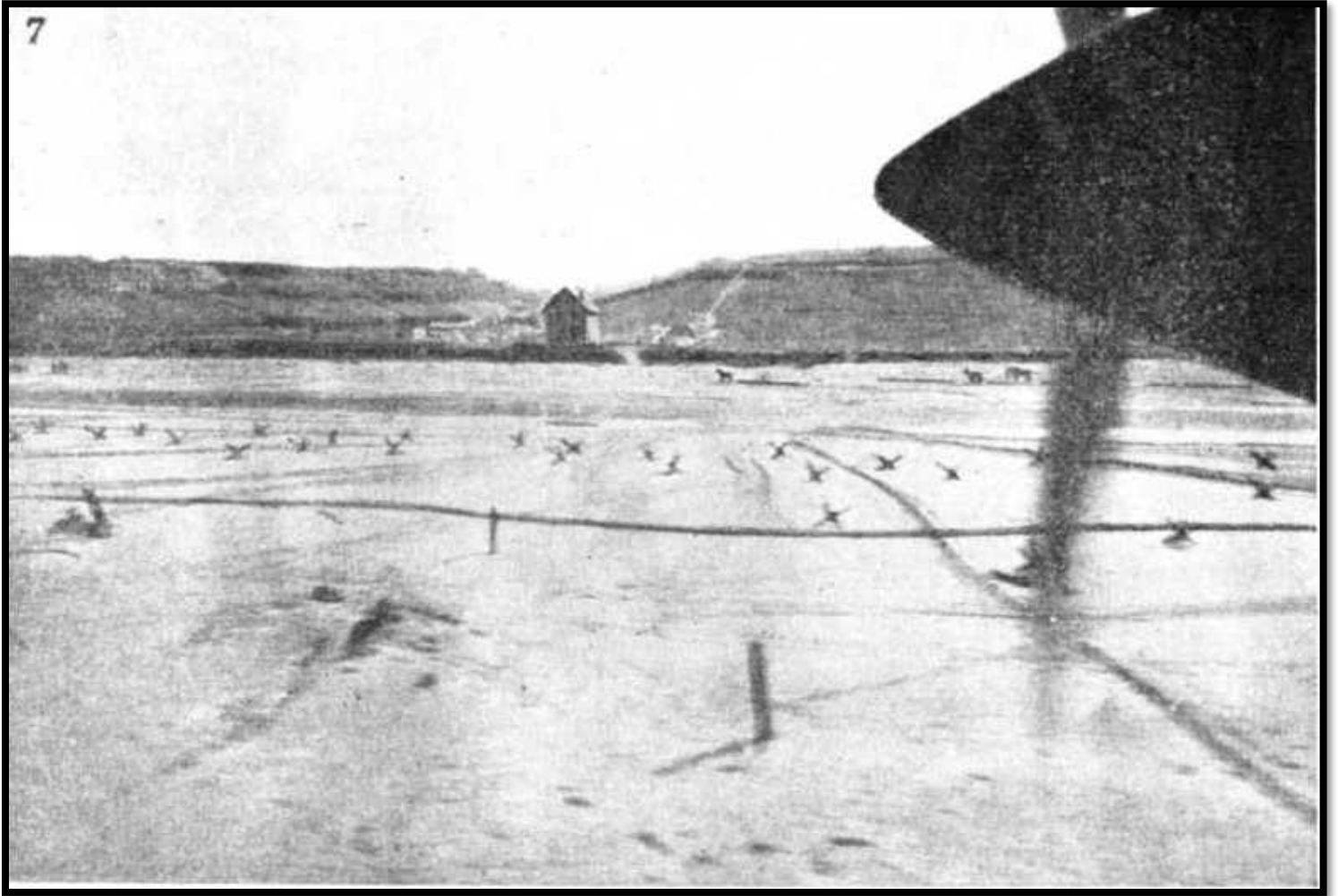
June 6, 5:50 a.m.: Naval bombardment of Pointe du Hoc began, including guns of the battleship USS Texas. Three companies (70 men per) of Rudder's 2nd Ranger Battalion were to land at Pointe du Hoc at 6:30 a.m. but were delayed. Per plan, Schneider's command (plus three companies of the 2nd) joined the Omaha Beach assault.

June 6, 7:10 a.m.: Two landing craft were lost, but the Rangers debarked and started up the cliffs. They pressed upward, supported by the destroyer USS Satterlee. One of the Rangers' DUKWs was disabled by enemy fire en route to Pointe du Hoc. The engine failed. Three Rangers were casualties, including one killed. June 6, 7:40 a.m.: Most of the remaining Rangers reached the top.

June 6, 9:30 a.m.: The Germans had previously moved the guns southward from their initial prepared positions. Despite fierce resistance, Rangers found and destroyed the guns pushing onward to cut the highway south of Pointe du Hoc.

June 6-8: After fighting two days, only about 90 Rangers stood when relieved by Schneider's Rangers and the 29th Division from Omaha Beach.





**THE ONLY
EASY DAY
WAS
YESTERDAY**



D-DAY MEMORY TOUR

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