

1944-2014  
70TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
D-DAY ALLIED INVASION  
NORMANDY, FRANCE  
5-6 JUNE 2014



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Scale 1:12,000,000

# 70th Anniversary D-Day Commemoration Regional Overview



-  Event Venue
-  Hospital
-  Police Station
-  Fire/Emergency Service
-  Point of Interest
-  Capital City
-  Airport
-  Major Highway
-  Highway
-  Railroad
-  River/Canal
-  National Boundary
-  Ferry
-  Built-Up Area
-  Airfield
-  Airfield Runway/Taxiway
-  Park
-  Water

**D170** D -- Departmentale Road.

**A148** A – Federal or regional automobile routes that serve as access to: major transportation nodes (e.g. airports, railroad stations); special purpose facilities. This prefix is also applied to automobile routes connecting roads of federal significance to each other.

**E46** E – European routes – part of a unified European transportation system and occasionally coincide with segments of Federal highways.

**N211** N/S-- Secondary roads or major routes throughout Europe.

Not all symbols appear on all pages

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Imagery Source: ©DigitalGlobe (2011 thru May 2014)

Map information current as of May 2014

Normandy Area		Paris Area	
MGRS		MGRS	
100,000 - m Square ID		100,000 - m Square ID	
XV	YV	DQ	DP
Grid Zone Designation 30U		Grid Zone Designation 31U	

\* 500-m , 1,000-m or 2,000-m GRID  
 Military Grid Reference System (MGRS)  
 World Geodetic System 1984  
 GRID ZONE DESIGNATION 30U, 31U  
 100,000-m SQUARE IDENTIFICATION: XV, YV, DQ, and DP  
 Mean Sea Level

**All maps herein are for reference purposes only, and are not intended to be used for targeting or navigation.**

# Facts About D-Day

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- The D-Day invasion at Normandy took place on 6 June 1944.
- The invasion consisted of about 156,000 soldiers of Allied forces from the United States, the United Kingdom, Free France, Canada, and Norway.
- Allied Commanders of the D-Day invasion:  
Dwight D. Eisenhower, Omar Bradley (United States)  
Bernard Law Montgomery, Trafford Leigh-Mallory, Arthur Tedder,  
Miles Dempsey, Bertram Ramsey (United Kingdom)  
  
Commanders of German forces were Erwin Rommel, Gerd von Rundstedt, and Friedrich Dollman.
- The armada had 11,000 aircraft, 50,000 land vehicles, and 5,000 ships and landing craft.
- Casualties (numbers of captured, wounded, and killed soldiers) included 6,603 US soldiers, 2,700 UK soldiers, and 1,074 Canadian soldiers.
- The code names used for the D-Day invasion sites along the Normandy coast were Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. These sites composed a fifty mile length of Normandy coastline. Of the five landing sites, Omaha was the costliest in terms of loss of Allied lives.
- More than 326,000 men and 100,000 tons of equipment had landed in Normandy by 11 June 1944. On 25 August 1944, Paris was liberated, and Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945.
- In the term *D-Day*, the *D* stands for *day*—a convention used when the day of an event is unknown or dependent upon unpredictable variables, such as weather conditions.

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Source: The National World War II Museum ([www.nationalww2museum.org/media/press-releases/d-day-fact-sheet.html](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/media/press-releases/d-day-fact-sheet.html))

AF Photo



Normandy Venues Overview

# American Cemetery, Colleville, France

655500m E  
0°51'30"W

656900m E

0°51'0"W

569500m N  
49°21'30"N

49°21'30"N  
569500m N

0°51'30"W

655500m E

0°51'0"W

656900m E



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Cimetière  
Américain

Mémorial

Visitor center



655 500m E  
0°51'30"W

656 900m E

0°51'0"W



54 69 500m N  
49°21'30"N

54 69 500m N  
49°21'30"N



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0°51'30"W  
655 500m E

656 900m E

0°51'0"W



# American Cemetery, Colleville, France

Scale 1:6,000 0 25 50 100 Meters

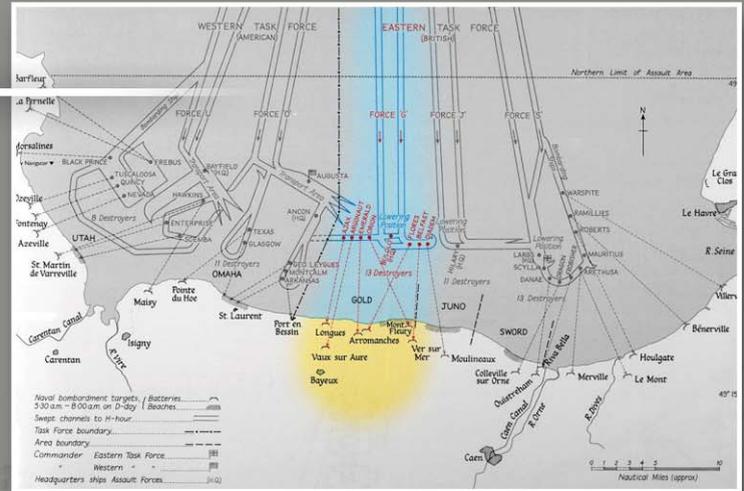
# Gold Beach

In the center of the five landing sites was the beach code-named *Gold*. The landing took place along a five-mile stretch of the nearly ten-mile beach and had the objectives of capturing the village of Arromanches, taking control of roads at Bayeux, seizing Port-en-Bessin, and attacking positions at Longues and south of Arromanches.

German defenses were strong as the landing operation commenced, but British forces—the 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Division, the 47th Royal Marine Commandos, and the 79th Armoured Division—broke through with relatively light casualties. Vehicles used during the Gold Beach landing included tanks equipped to perform such special purposes as minefield clearing, bulldozing, bridge carrying, and flamethrowing.

By midday, the villages of La Rivière and Le Hamel were under Allied control. Because the British cruiser HMS *Ajax* had earlier destroyed the German battery at Longues, the Royal Commandos were more easily able to close to within just over half a mile of Port-en-Bessin. Misidentification of what was thought to be a US landing near the Vire estuary caused German forces to move in reaction to the perceived threat. By the time they realized their mistake, they took hours returning to the real landing at Gold Beach.

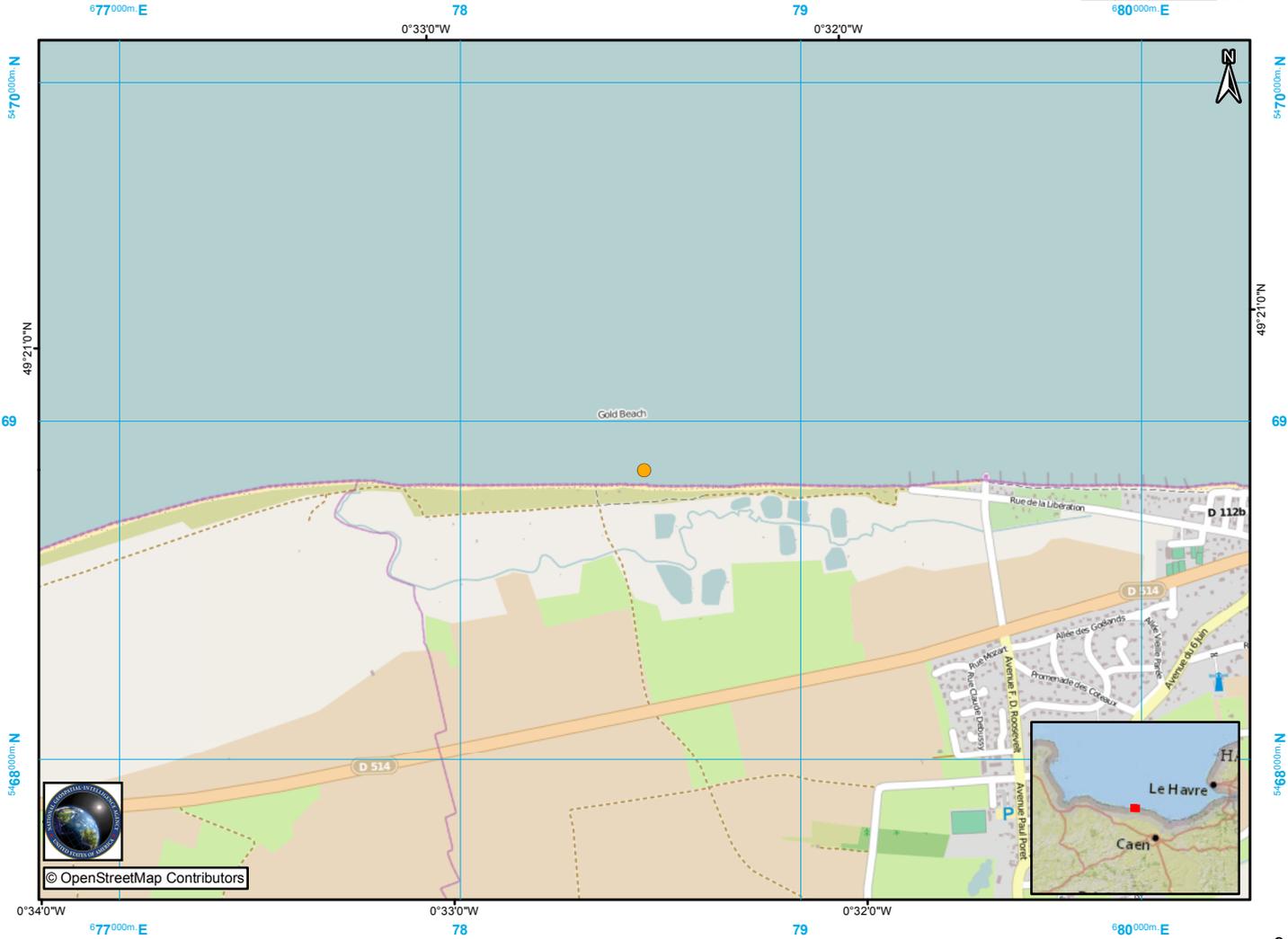
By the end of the day, British forces had sent 25,000 men ashore with only 400 casualties and had advanced six miles inland. With the exception of being unable to take the objective at Bayeux, the Gold Beach landing was a great success.



Source: Military History Online ([www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/gold.aspx](http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/gold.aspx))

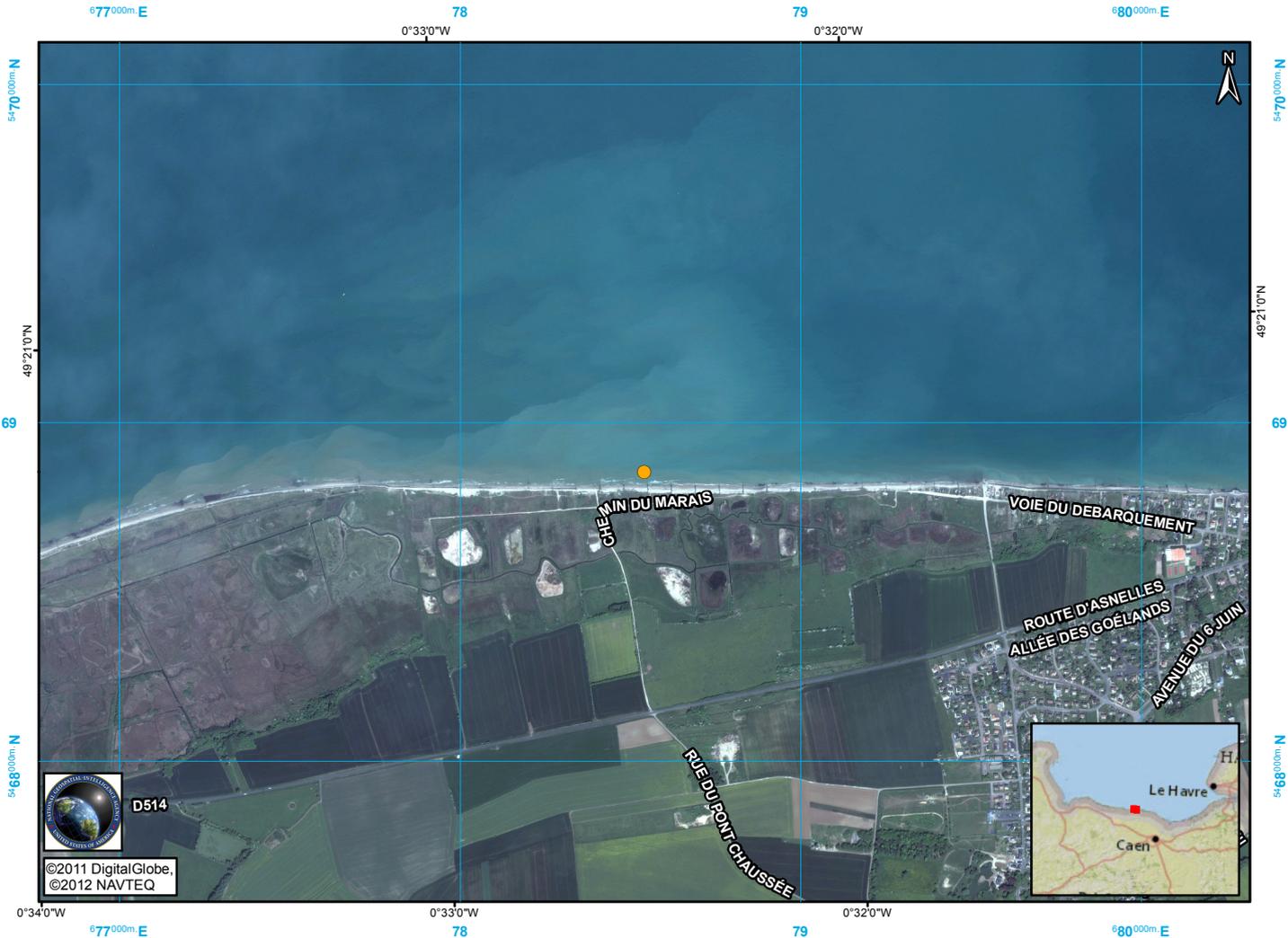
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# Gold Beach



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Gold Beach

Scale 1:20,000 0 100 200 400 Meters

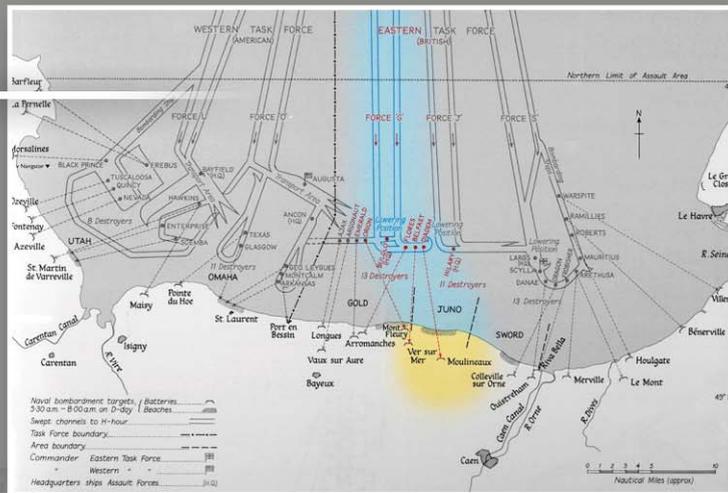
# Juno Beach

The landing beach with the code name *Juno* was the second easternmost of the five beaches to be invaded on D-Day. Allied forces landing at Juno Beach on June 6th included the Canadian 3rd Infantry Division and the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade. Their objectives were the village of Caen and, eleven miles farther inland, the airfield at Carpiquet.

A major disadvantage to the landing at Juno Beach was the presence of offshore rocks treacherous to force waiting until high tide to begin landing operations. That meant this landing had to begin about thirty minutes later than the others, and that German defenses would be alerted to the invasion and be better prepared. The high tide also presented the problem of high water sending the first wave of Allied forces directly into an array of beach obstacles, further hindering progress of the mission. The waters were choppy, as well, causing more delays.

Although the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and Regina Rifles were able to advance about two miles inland relatively easily, the 8th Canadian Brigade met strong resistance and suffered heavy casualties. With support from the French-Canadian Régiment de la Chaudière, much of the resistance had been overcome, and the town of Bernières was under Canadian control by mid-morning.

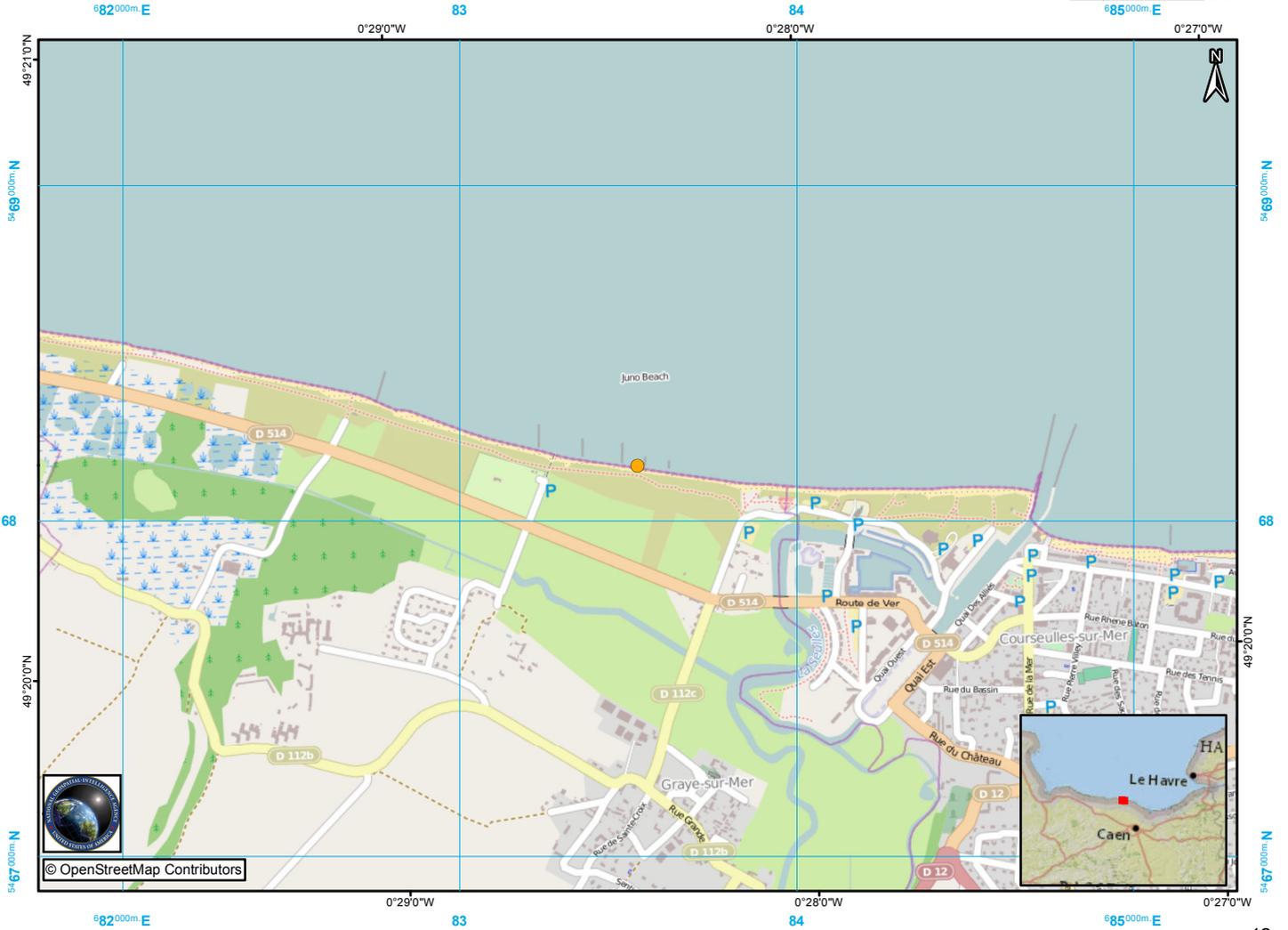
Weather and sea conditions had a great effect on the Juno Beach landing. Canadian forces lost about 1,000 men. Delayed support meant that the advance to Carpiquet didn't begin until evening that day.



Source: Military History Online ([www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/juno.aspx](http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/juno.aspx))

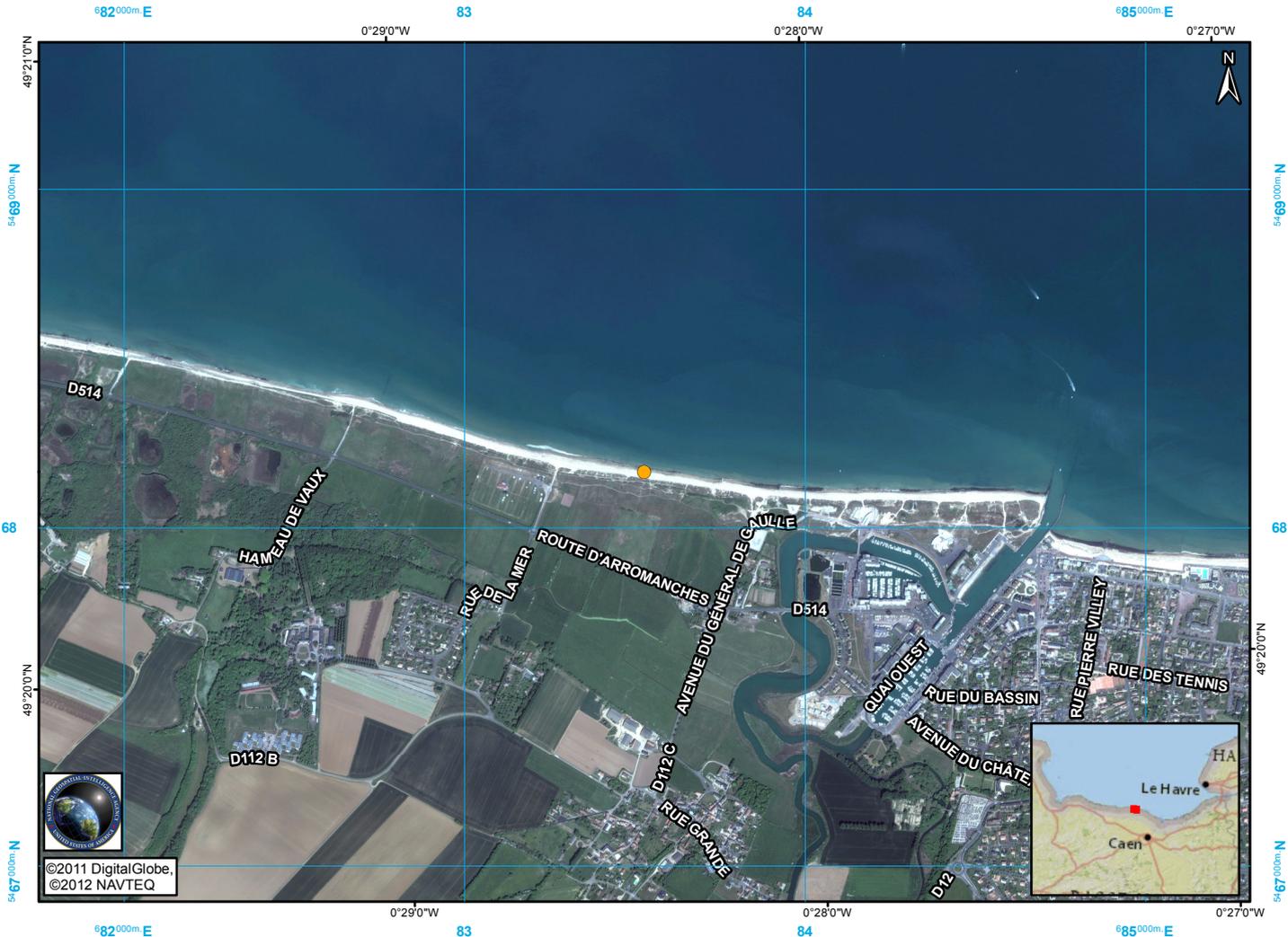
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# Juno Beach



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# Juno Beach

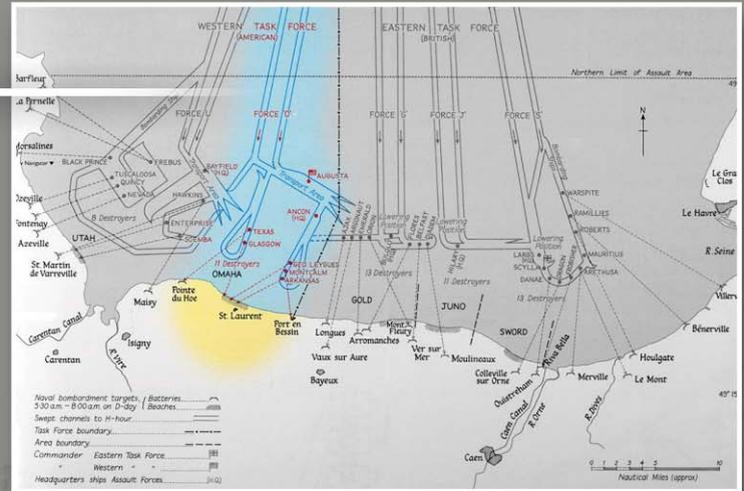
Scale 1:20,000 0 100 200 400 Meters

# Omaha Beach

In terms of Allied casualties, the beach code-named *Omaha* bears the unfortunate distinction of being the site of the most costly landing of the D-Day invasion. The landing force included the US 1st Army, V Corps and the US 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions. About 34,000 men lead the first wave on the morning of June 6th, with an additional 25,000 men landing that afternoon. Fire support was provided by bombers, tank battalions, battleships, destroyers, and cruisers.

The landing forces had the objectives of securing a beachhead between the town of Port-en-Bessin and the Vire River and continue advancing inland to Saint-Lô, then to the area of the Cerisy Forest, south of the Aure River. Most of these Allied forces had landed farther to the east than intended, due to strong currents, causing numerous problems and complications, including sending some men ashore where no units were available to provide cover and forcing men into deep water while carrying heavy equipment and explosives. Many boats ran aground farther offshore than planned, and many soldiers suffered from seasickness in the choppy waters.

German defenses were more robust than had been expected at Omaha Beach. Progress was slow, resulting in a backing up of the landing forces as the day progressed. Of the equipment, only 200 tons out of 2,400 made it onto the beach. Casualties were high: V Corps alone had about 3,000 men killed, wounded, and missing, and the 16th and 116th Regimental Combat Teams (of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions) suffered about 1,000 casualties each.

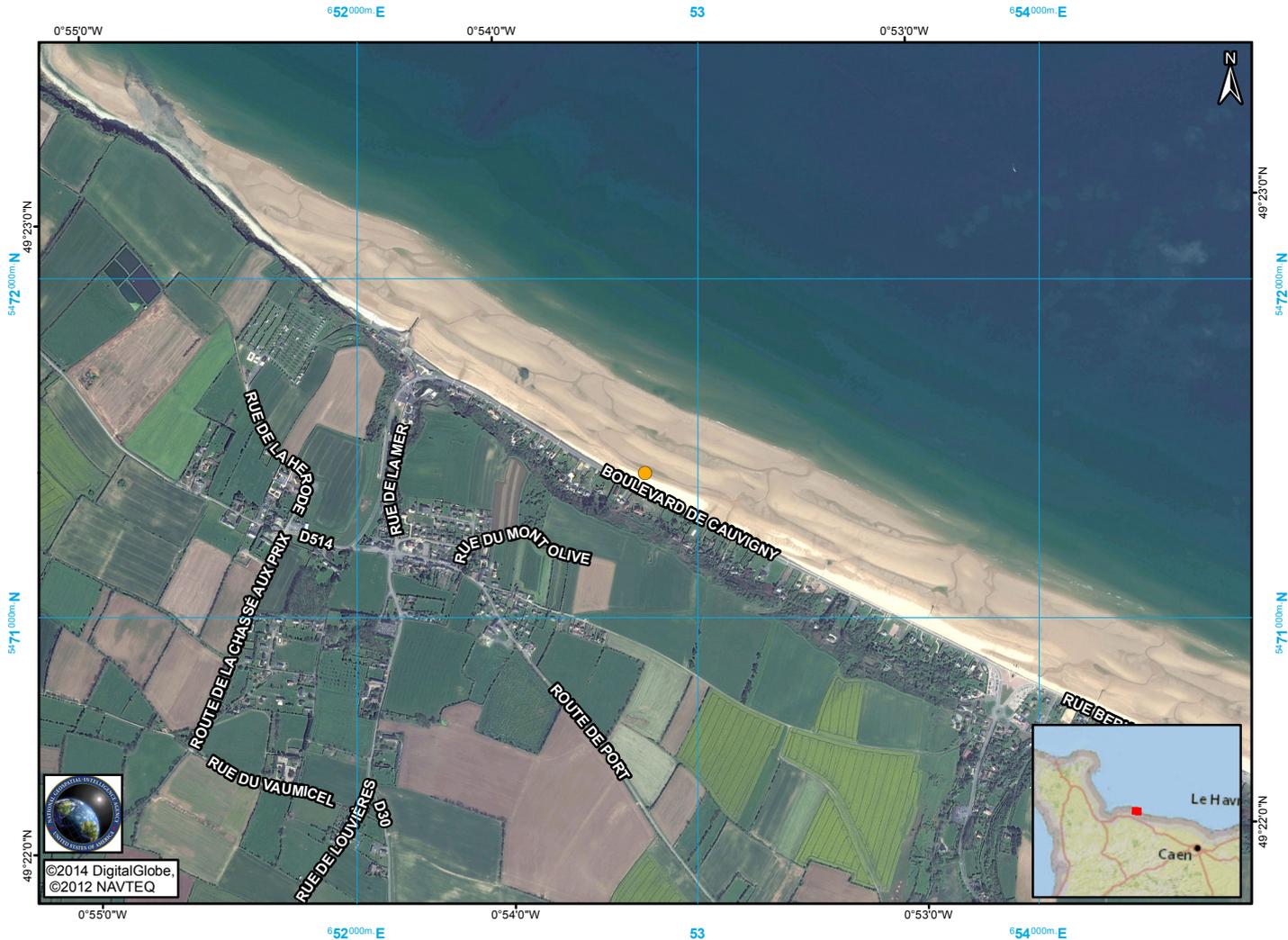


Source: Military History Online ([www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/omaha.aspx](http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/omaha.aspx))

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# Omaha Beach





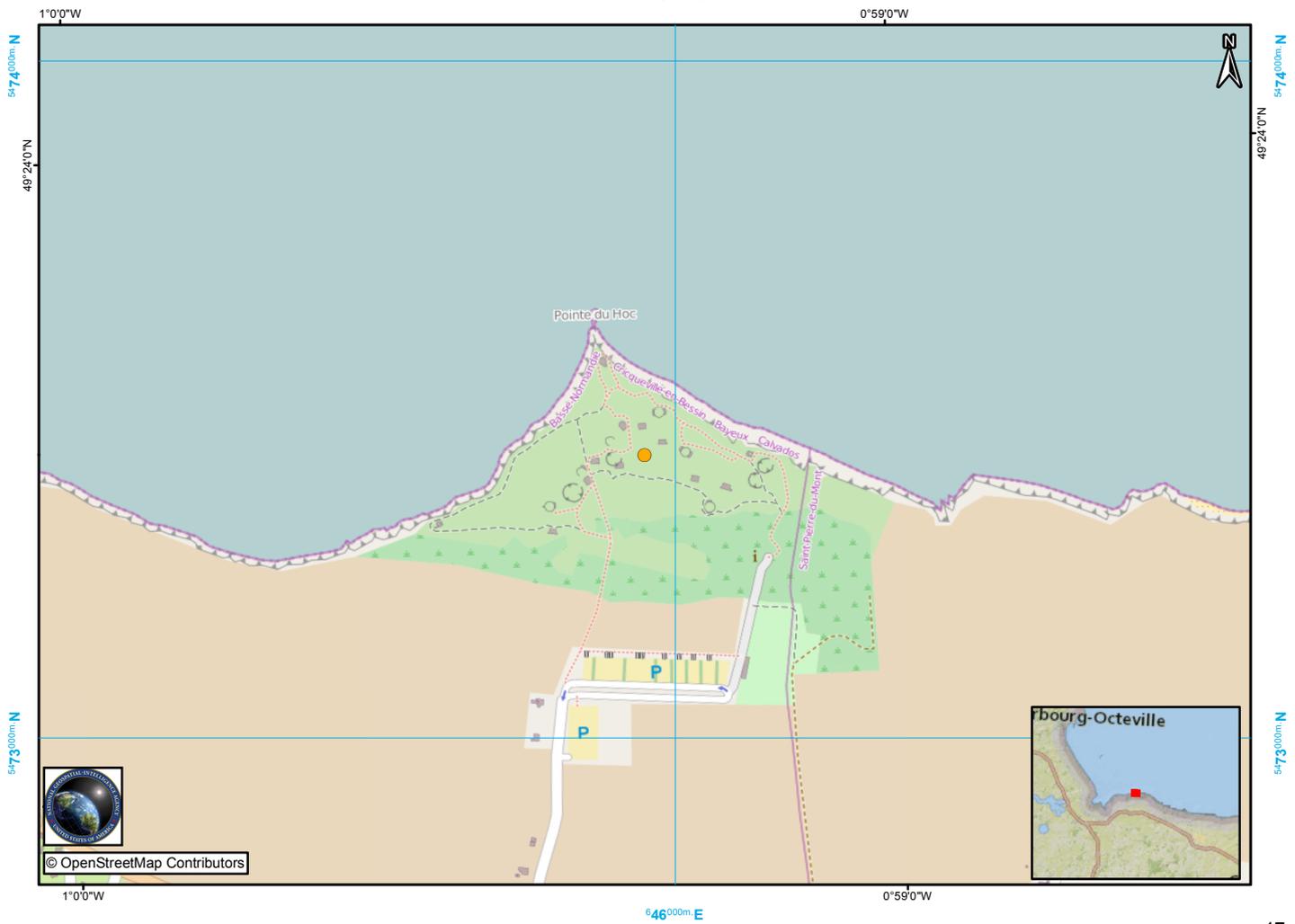
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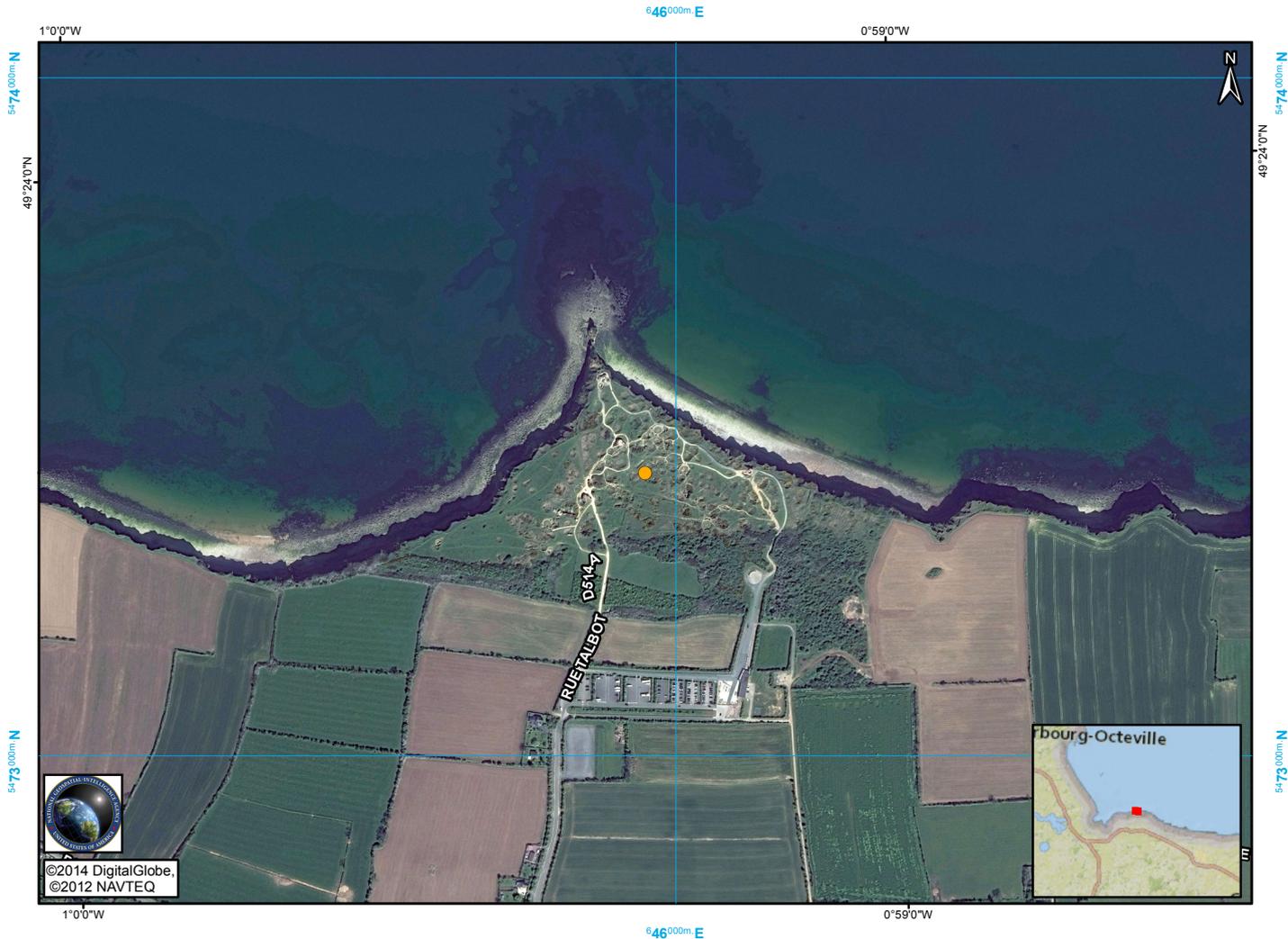
# Omaha Beach

Scale 1:20,000 0 100 200 400 Meters

# Pointe du Hoc



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# Pointe du Hoc

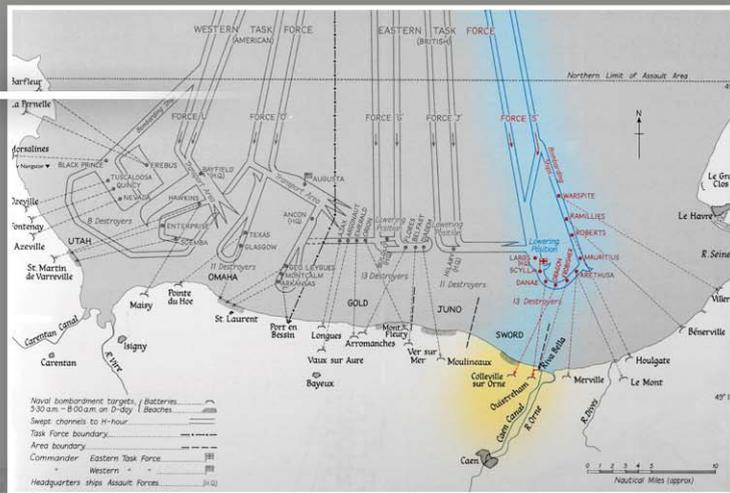
# Sword Beach

The beach code-named *Sword* was the eastern-most of the five landing beaches of the D-Day invasion. The landing forces—the 1st South Lancashire and 2nd East Yorkshire Battalions—had the objective of capturing the city of Caen and joining with the 6th Airborne Division.

It was during the landing on Sword beach that German naval forces had their only noteworthy action of the day as three Kriegsmarine E-boats torpedoed and sank the Norwegian destroyer HNoMS *Svenner*.

Less than two hours after landing on the beach, the 1st South Lancs had advanced one and a half miles and seized Hermanville. Past this village, their progress was stalled by the 21st Panzer Division at Périers Rise. The 2nd East Yorks also faced strong resistance during the effort to clear German strongpoints. A reserve brigade (the 1st Suffolk) met lighter resistance; they took the village of Colleville and cleared two German strongpoints near Colleville.

By early afternoon on the afternoon of June 6th, the advance on Caen—the primary objective of the Sword landing—began. The 185th Brigade, comprising the 2nd King's Shropshire Light Infantry, the 2nd Royal Warwicks, and the 1st Norfolks, made the advance, but it would not be until 8–9 July that Caen would finally be taken.



Sources: Military History Online ([www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/sword.aspx](http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/sword.aspx))  
The Encyclopedia of Warfare: World Wars 1914–1945

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# Sword Beach, Ouistreham, France

697000m E

98

99

700000m E

0°17'0"W

0°16'0"W

0°15'0"W

49°18'0"N

5°64'000m N

5°63'000m N

49°17'0"N

49°18'0"N

5°64'000m N

5°63'000m N

49°17'0"N

XV YV



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697000m E

98

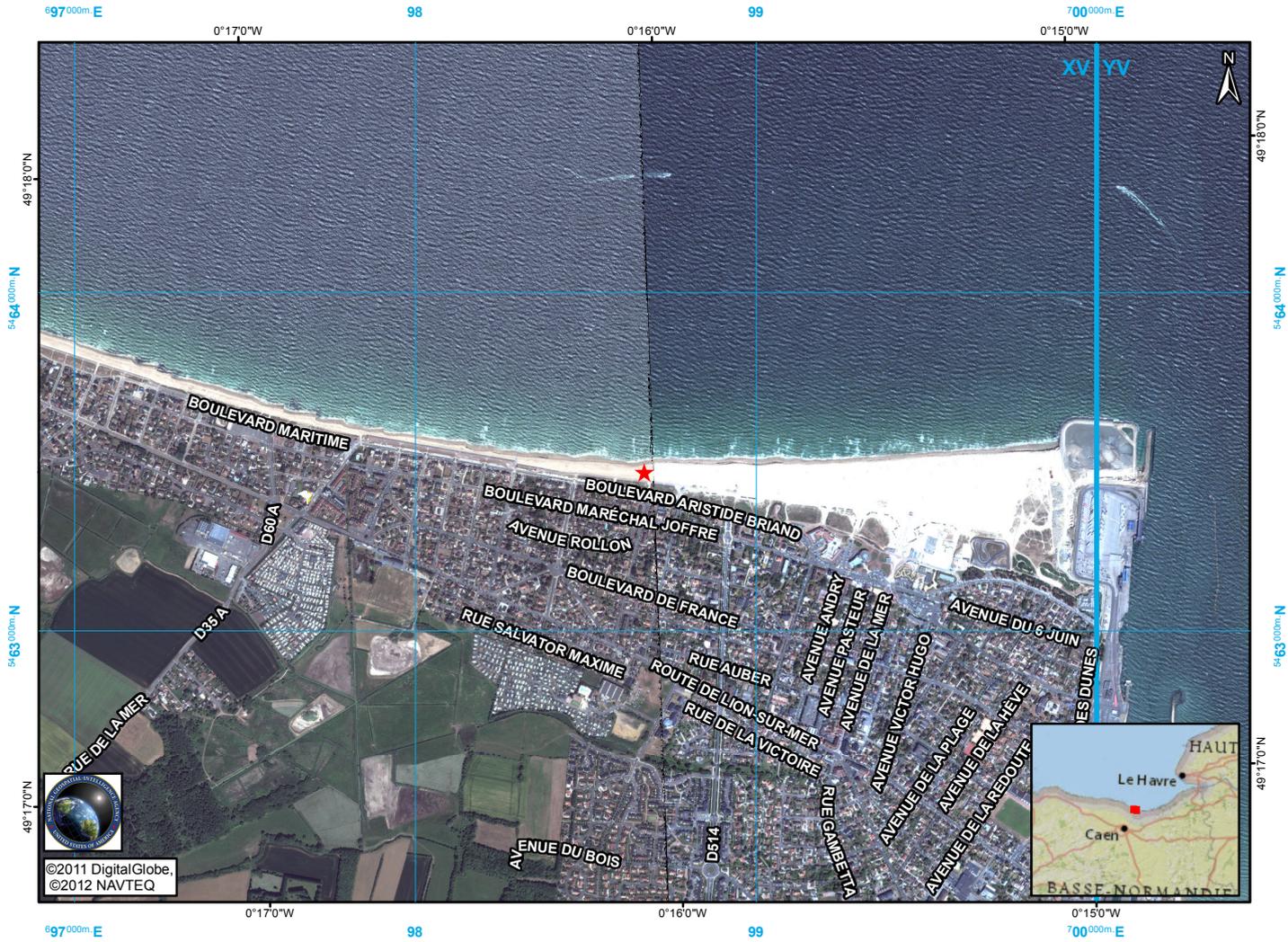
99

700000m E

0°17'0"W

0°16'0"W

0°15'0"W



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### Sword Beach, Ouistreham, France

Scale 1:20,000 0 100 200 400 Meters

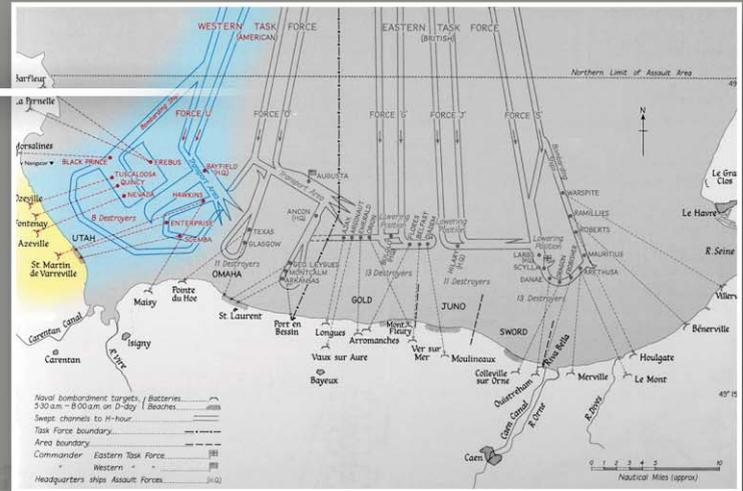
# Utah Beach

The assault on Utah Beach—the westernmost of the five landing sites—began in the early morning hours of June 6th with bombardment of the beach by Allied bombers and then by battleships USS *Nevada*, USS *Texas*, and USS *Arkansas*. After the bombing of the German batteries and the assault on a seawall at the beach, Allied plans called for three waves of landing forces.

The first wave consisted of landing craft with rocket launchers, a fleet of Higgins boats carrying the 8th Battalion, 8th Infantry, and two squadrons of amphibious tanks. The second wave would follow, consisting of the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry in a second fleet of Higgins boats. The third wave would then consist of eight landing craft with Sherman tanks and bulldozer tanks. Because of the influence of various factors, including heavy currents, low visibility due to smoke, and the timing of arrival of various ships, little went precisely according to plan.

By early afternoon, the Allied forces reached Pouppeville and learned that the village had been secured earlier by the 101st Airborne. By the evening of June 6th, the 4th Division had penetrated four miles inland and were near the village of Sainte-Mère-Église.

Despite early setbacks, the landing at Utah Beach was a big success. Casualties were light, and the Germans were unprepared for an Allied landing at this beach.



Source: Military History Online ([www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/utah.aspx](http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/dday/utah.aspx))

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# Utah Beach





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# Utah Beach

Scale 1:25,000 0 125 250 500 Meters

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