NORMANDY LANDINGS

Dion Futerman

The Normandy landings (the D-Day operation) of 6 June 1944, brought together the land, air, and sea forces of the allied armies in what became known as the largest amphibious invasion in military history. The operation, given the codename 'Overlord', delivered five naval assault divisions to the beaches of Normandy, France. The beaches were given the code names Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. The invasion force included 7,000 ships and landing craft manned by over 195,000 naval personnel from eight allied countries. Almost 133,000 troops from the United States, the British Commonwealth, and their allies, landed on D-Day. By 30 June, over 850,000 men, 148,000 vehicles, and 570,000 tons of supplies had landed on the Normandy shores. Fighting by the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the allied forces western front, and Russian forces on the eastern front, led to the defeat of German Nazi forces. On 7 May 1945, German General Alfred Jodl signed an unconditional surrender at Reims, France. German casualties on D-Day have been estimated at 4,000 to 9,000 men. Allied casualties were at least 10,000, with 4,414 confirmed dead.

The air war over Normandy

Spitfires above Normandy with 'Invasion Stripes' - alternating black and white bands painted on the fuselages and wings to reduce the chance that they would be attacked by friendly forces

Spitfires on beachhead patrol & map of the beach landings

The Allied fleet off the Normandy coast

Allied forces landing on the beaches

Normandy invasion

Gold Beach

Allied forces landing on the beaches