# LET'S GO!



- 0. LET'S GO! Story Preface
- 1. THE WEATHER BREAKS
- 2. A CROSS-CHANNEL ATTACK
- 3. WHO WILL COMMAND?
- 4. D-DAY COMMANDERS
- 5. LET'S GO!
- 6. CROSSING THE CHANNEL
- 7. DEATH ON THE SHORE
- 8. DIGGING IN; FIGHTING ON
- 9. UTAH BEACH
- 10. OMAHA BEACH
- 11. DECEPTION
- 12. CANADIANS LAND AT JUNO BEACH
- 13. BRITS LAND AT GOLD BEACH
- 14. ...AND SWORD BEACH
- 15. STUNNING D-DAY FACTS

Allied paratroopers, about ready to leave England, get final instructions before their departure. Image number RG-208-MO-10H, National Archives.

Years before Eisenhower gave the "Let's go" order, Allied commanders had secretly worked to plot every battleplan detail.

While British and American generals thought through specifics, Air force personnel practiced <u>bombing runs</u>. As Churchill and Roosevelt fretted over the progress of the war, men <u>trained</u> for the invasion <u>in England</u>.

<u>Training for D-Day</u> was sometimes hard to justify when troops were desperately needed elsewhere. How could one afford to pull men from the Mediterranean, for example, to practice for a beach assault in England? Even so, nearly all U.S. troops involved in the <u>Overlord</u> assault were <u>trained</u> for the mission - using <u>live ammo</u> - in Woolacombe, England.

<u>Enemy artillery</u> and land mines along the French coast would be <u>deadly</u>, but Allied planners were sure that "V Bombs" (German <u>pilotless aircraft</u> launched from the Pas-de-Calais area into southern Britain, including London) would not be a factor during the invasion.

<u>Anti-landing obstacles</u> on the beaches, however, were something else. They (plus devices such as the "<u>Belgian</u> <u>Gate</u>") were <u>intended to ensnare</u> assault troops who, like prey in a spider's web, could be <u>pounced on</u> and easily killed.

With their training complete, Allied personnel from all branches of military service (like these <u>paratroopers</u> marching to the airfield on June 5th) <u>awaited</u> orders to <u>ship</u> <u>out</u> of southern England.

Details of where the invasion would actually take place were kept secret until the last possible moment.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/LET-S-GO-Normandy-Invasion

## See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/LET-S-GO-Normandy-Invasion

## **Questions 2 Ponder**

## What Meanings Can We Ascribe to the Command "Let's Go?"

When the men in the room were later asked what the General said, as he made clear his decision that June 6th



would be D-Day, few men had the same answer.

Their recollections ranged from: "We will sail tomorrow;" to "OK, boys. We will go;" to "OK, let'er rip;" to "OK, we'll go."

Whatever his exact words, Eisenhower's order to begin the cross-channel attack on June 6th had a profound impact on millions of people.

Do you think it's important to know General Eisenhower's exact words when he told his commander that the invasion was a "go?" Why, or why not?

Historians have spent a great deal of time trying to determine Eisenhower's specific words. Do you think that is a good or a bad use of time? Explain your answer.

If you had been the one to pick Eisenhower's words, to start the invasion, what would those words have been?

## How Do We Keep a Massive Plan Secret?

When the Allies were planning the Normandy invasion, mission commanders had to keep more than a million men from learning the location. At the time, and later, people speculated that the information was the best-kept secret on the planet.

With so many moving parts—such as ships, planes, men—involved in the Normandy Invasion, how would it be possible to keep the exact location of the landings a secret?

Why was it so important that the landing-locations were kept secret?

If the landing-locations had not been kept secret, what impact may that have had on the war itself? Do you think that keeping the D-Day secret would be possible today? Why, or why not?

# Media Stream









## **D-Day - Command Channel Detail**

Image described above, online courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/D-Day-Command-Channel-Detail

## Allied Commanders - Battle Plans

Image described above, online courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Allied-Commanders-Battle-Plans

## D-Day - Bombing Run Sorties

Image online, courtesy the World War II database.

PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/D-Day-Bombing-Run-Sorties

## Training for the Normandy Invasion in England

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

PD

## View this asset at:

 $\underline{http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Training-for-the-Normandy-Invasion-in-England$ 















#### <u>D-Day - Military Training Exercises</u> Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/D-Day-Military-Training-Exercises

## D-Day - The Final Overlord Plan

Image described above, online courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

## PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/D-Day-The-Final-Overlord-Plan

## **Operation Overlord - Training for the Beach Assault**

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Operation-Overlord-Training-for-the-Beach-Assault D-Day Prep - Training Maneuvers with Live Ordnance

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

### PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/D-Day-Prep-Training-Maneuvers-with-Live-Ordnance Normandy Invasion - German Artillery

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

## PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Normandy-Invasion-German-Artillery

## Normandy - Enemy Bunkers and Deadly Artillary

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Normandy-Enemy-Bunkers-and-Deadly-Artillary-

## German Pilotless Aircraft - WWII

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/German-Pilotless-Aircraft-WWII















### Normandy Beaches - Anti-Landing Obstacles, 1944

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

#### View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Normandy-Beaches-Anti-Landing-Obstacles-1944

#### D-Day - Belgian Gate, German Defensive Measure

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/D-Day-Belgian-Gate-German-Defensive-Measure

#### Normandy Invasion - Wounded Soldiers on the Battle Field

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Normandy-Invasion-Wounded-Soldiers-on-the-Battle-Field

## Normandy Invasion - Deploying Paratroopers

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Normandy-Invasion-Deploying-Paratroopers

#### **Operation Overlord - Ready to Begin The Campaign**

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Operation-Overlord-Ready-to-Begin-The-Campaign Normandy Invasion Launch Site - Ready to Ship Out

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Normandy-Invasion-Launch-Site-Ready-to-Ship-Out

#### Boarding Troop Carriers to Cross the English Channel Image, described above, online courtesy U.S. Army Center of Military History.

PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Boarding-Troop-Carriers-to-Cross-the-English-Channel





## Invasion Force Enroute to Normandy

Image described above from the United States Army in World War II Series, European Theater of Operations, U.S. Army Center of Military History. Online, courtesy HyperWar Foundation and iBiblio - The Public's Library and Digital Archive at University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill).

#### PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Invasion-Force-Enroute-to-Normandy

Paratroopers Leave England Image number RG-208-MO-10H; National Archives. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Paratroopers-Leave-England</u>



## Normandy Invasion: D-Day

This historical newsreel, now maintained at the U.S. National Archives, depicts actual D-Day battle scenes.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Normandy-Invasion-D-Day



### German Defenses at Normandy

Video clip online, courtesy WW2GermanNewsreels' Channel at YouTube. PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/German-Defenses-at-Normandy