

# NORMANDY LANDINGS

## Omaha Beach

### June 6, 1944

The Allies (U.S., Great Britain, Canada) invaded German-occupied Normandy, France on June 6, 1944 at five fortified beaches studded with obstacles, some armed with explosives, and under direct fire from heavy artillery, mortars, machine guns, and small arms. The most dangerous was Omaha Beach, assaulted by units of the 1st Division, 29th Division, and Army Rangers at daybreak. The objectives were to capture four heavily defended draws or land routes through the high bluffs lining the beach and move five miles inland. Aerial and naval bombardments overshot and fell short of the German targets respectively. Floating tanks were swamped in the rough sea. Only one landing craft hit the beach where it was supposed to; army and naval engineers had great difficulty clearing paths through the beach obstacles. Subsequent assault waves were much more successful. Although the invaders did not meet their objectives, at the end of the day, the beachhead had been secured at great sacrifice. The Americans suffered approximately 2,400 casualties; the Germans half as many. The assault marked the beginning of the end of the Third Reich.



**29th Infantry Division-Gerhardt**  
116th Infantry Regiment-Cota



**US 1st Army-Bradley**  
V Corps-Gerow



**1st Infantry Division-Huebner**  
16th Infantry Regiment-Taylor

English Channel

### Map Legend

- German Kompanie (static)
- American Company (planned)
- American Company (actual 1st wave)
- American Battalion
- American Regiment (follow-up)
- Low Tide / High Tide / Beach
- Initial Breakthroughs
- US Occupied Territory
- Belgium gates or Element C
- Stakes or fence
- Curved rail or fence
- Hedgehogs or tetrahedra
- Mines
- Barbed wire
- Anti-tank ditch
- German strongpoints
- Tank turret tobruk
- Gun in casemate
- Machinegun bunker or tobruk
- Mortar tobruk
- Field gun / AT gun

