

## **Group #1**

Journal entries from the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, U.S. First Infantry Division,  
June 6, 1944

### **Directions:**

Your assignment is to read through this description of D-Day. You may not have time to read it all (that's OK). You may encounter vocabulary or abbreviations with which you are unfamiliar.

In your group, discuss the document and be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. What are the strengths of this document for doing historical research on D-Day?
2. What are the weaknesses of this document?
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Choose a reporter who will speak for your group.

6 June 44

- 0630 - First wave lands on schedule on beach of Normandie France (see Field Order #5, Hq CT 16) and meets fierce resistance on beaches. Beach is under heavy machine gun and rifle fire. No advance made inland as beaches were fully covered by pill boxes and mine fields just inland from beaches.
- 0730 - Forward CP lands. Beach still under small arms and machine gun fire. No advance made inland. Casualties extremely heavy. Slight artillery fire on beach. Heavy machine gun fire covering all exits and the entire beach.
- 0805 - Rear CP lands. Beach still under heavy fire. CP established on beach and infiltration started thru right flank of area at small break thru. Mine field cleared out and all troops on beach commence moving off to flank.
- 0830 - First four prisoners all from 8th Co, 916th Regiment, 352nd Div., brought in.
- 1000 - CP established just off beach on side of hill at 684895. Battalions are moving forward, but are out of contact with regimental CP. Beach and entire territory still under heavy fire and companies are meeting heavy resistance. Several landing craft have received hits and troops still landing on the beach are receiving artillery fire, causing medium casualties. Things are becoming organized, however, and the situation is beginning to clear.
- 1055 - 1st and 2nd Bns. get contact with the Regimental CP and are moving forward slowly, hitting very heavy resistance.
- 1115 - CO to CO 2nd Bn - 2nd Bn. is to hold up at point 38. Do not move further forward until you hear from us.
- 1120 - S-3 to S-3 1st Bn - Hold up at 38. right, and we have contact with 2nd Bn. The 5th Co. is reported to be located at surrain.
- 1135 - Negative report to Division by radio.
- 1145 - S-3 to EX 1st Bn-2nd Bn., 18th has landed. They will go in on your right. They will take your objective. You dig in and prepare for a counterattack. OK. A is on the right, C on the left, with B Co. following. We are still advancing slowly.
- 1145 - S-3 to CO 2nd Battalion - I talked to Capt. Smith and told him about the 18th. How soon can you move the rear part of your CP here by us up forward? We have someone on the way back now to pick them up and guide them forward.
- 1205 - EX 1st Bn to CO-Can we get any tanks up to Colleville-sur-Mer? A: No, none of them are up to here yet. They aren't off the beach. However, as soon as we can possible get anything up, we will shoot it up to you. Keep yelling for it.
- 1210 - CO Can go to S-3-We must have some tanks or artillery up here soon. Will you see what you can do about it for us? A-OK.
- 1220 - Information received that the 3rd Bn, 18th Inf., was in, but location at the present time was not given. Probably only a rumor.



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- 1223 - Message to CO 3rd Bn-2nd Bn. has had units in Colleville-sur-Mer for some time. 1st Bn. landed on the left of G-1, and is pushing in to assist the 2nd Bn. in taking its objective.
- 1232 - Ex 1st Bn to S-2- A Co. is at 678892. Part of B Co. is with them, and the rest is in reserve. We are going over to Point 19 first, and then towards 38. C is at 681884, moving very slowly. Capt. Merendino, Co. B., said he lost about 12 men from pill boxes firing on them. He couldn't get contact with the battalion. Major Driscoll said he wanted him over on the right. Major Driscoll to S-3 - We are 100 yards NW of 20. We are still pushing.
- 1255 - In with 3rd Bn. by wire.
- 1245 - Msg. to CG 1st Div-Prisoners stated that the CP 10th Co., 726th at St. Laurent- sur-Mer. CP 12th Co., 726th at Grandcamp-les-Bains. That is in the 116th sector. 916th in sector of 16th Inf. CP, 5th Co., 916th at Surraïn. The 916th relieved the 915th two weeks ago.
- 1301 - Out by wire with 2nd Bn.
- 1312 - 1st Bn., 18th Inf., lands and is passing thru the CP area, moving forward.
- 1318 - Major Lauten to 1st Bn - Lt. Kolb is trying to find your CP and will follow the wire line up.
- 1326 - S-3 to 2nd Bn fwd- Where are you? A: CP is now moving forward. We are not in contact with them just now. They took a radio with them to keep in contact with us.
- 1327 - S-3 to 1st Bn - Are you with Major Driscoll now? A: No, he is at the forward CP and we can't contact him now. However, I can give you the dope. A Co. is pinned down by a strong point, just at the head of the draw there at G-2, over by 20, West of Colleville B Co. is going along, sending a couple of sections over to help out C Co. C Co. is 100 yards NW of Point 20. The Naval Shore Fire Control Party is out with Major Driscoll now. The 2nd Bn. is held down. We are in buildings S and E of 20. There is stuff all around. S-3: Artillery fire is coming in on the beach now. A: Well, I can't see where it is coming from up here.
- 1355 - White out by wire.
- 1422 - More prisoners brought in. Prisoners have been coming in by twos and threes since the landing.
- 1425 - Msg. 2nd Bn to CO-Co I held up at Pt 8. Co. I unable to assemble forces to advance and has enemy infiltrating his position. Co. L same situation as Co. I. Co. I and L are just beyond Pt 9. Tanks and reinforcements needed. Time: 1330.
- 1440 - 1st Bn to S-2-C Co. the same as before, and B Co. has moved up to the right of them. There is no other change.

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- 1502 - S-2 to 2nd Bn - Have they cleaned out the town yet? A: The last report I had a half-hour ago was that they were just on the outskirts of the town. I will check by the 300 set and let you know.
- 1515 - 2nd Bn to S-2-Capt Dawson started into the town. He had a small counter-attack. He had a couple of sections as far as the church. Wozenski is trying to clean up. Dogtag is going thru the town. S-3; Halftracks are in. I am sending them up. What is you CP location? A: The CP is at 683885. We have contact with the 1st Bn only by means of passing men. The 2nd Bn., 18th, is passing through. E Co. is working up on the right, between G and Red. We received information from a civilian that there were about 150 Jerries in Colleville-Sur-Mer. We have only about 200 men left; 115 in G, 2 officers and 40 men in E, and 2 officers and 12 men in F. There are possibly 20 more around.
- 1540 - 2nd Bn. to S-2; What is the latest with Blue? A: Not so good. Part of I Co. didn't land. Very low on strength.
- 1540 - 1st Bn to S-2; C Co. is moving very slowly. B is on our Right, moving slowly, because of machine gun fire. As far as we know, A Co. is in the same spot.
- 1640 - S-2 to switchboard; Are we in with Danger Advance? A: No, sir.
- 1725 - In by wire with Decoy.
- 1800 - Capt. Smith, 1st Bn., to S-2; Major Driscoll says we need stuff up here to take out these pillboxes. If we can't get it, we will be held up. We're leaving this for your consideration.
- 1830 - 26th Infantry started landing on beach at 1830 hours. A few enemy artillery shells landed near them along the beach. Shortly after, the cruisers and artillery guns opened up for a short period of time.
- 1935 - Cruisers and ships firing heavy counter battery on guns firing on beach.
- 1940 - Enemy barrage of artillery landing along the beach where the troops are landing. Casualties light.
- 2045 - S-4 to Danger 6; Do you have an ammunition supply? A: We don't have any as yet. S-4; Do you have any transportation in yet? A: No. We are getting some in on DUKWs and as soon as they come in, we will send you one of the DUKWs with ammunition. It will come in at E-1.
- 2048 - Delight line is out.
- 2100 - Capt. Robbins to Major Heath-A German prisoner had two maps on him with 3 spots underlined. Believe they are strong points. These are at 659874, in vicinity of the road; 665874, running along road to the road junction and road north of it at 666875; and at Surrain, they had underlined around 670859. Very little change.



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- 2115 - Col. Pickett, Div. Sig., to Mr. Wiles-what is your equipment status?  
A: We are very short on our signal equipment. All the men that were carrying equipment were hit and we had to salvage what we could off the beach. Col. Pickett; OK. I will try to get you another signal crew and what equipment I can.
- 2124 - Capt. Bour, White 1, to G-1: Any improvement on the evacuation of wounded? A: If at all possible, we will send them out to the ships tonight. Send them up to us as soon as you can, and we will take care of getting them out.
- 2140 - S3 18th to S3: Williamson is located just north of goose egg on your map. One company at 702872, one at 702872, one at 695873, and one at 788875. They are advancing to the high ground and then will move toward the West. We are holding back our 1st Bn. Do you have anyone in Colleville? A: Not that we know. S3 18th: Is your 2nd Bn. at 682878 and your 1st Bn. at 679878? A: Yes, that is right.
- 2145 - Danger 2 to G2: What's the situation in front of you? A: Very vague. There is a pill box in the draw near Colleville, and its causing us trouble. G2: Is the enemy close to the edge of Colleville? A: The 18th is at the top of the hill south of Colleville, but our right flank is still held by the enemy. There is no enemy North of the road except at G-3 exit, where there is a pill box. There's a heavy gun at Formigny and a few small ones at Russy. A few tanks were seen yesterday in Colleville. G2: What about your left company? A: They are on the edge of Lahammerros. G2: Did you run into any tanks? A: No reports of any today. We got prisoners from 10th and 14th companies. 916th is the only company we are in contact with now. G2: There is a lot of shelling from the southeast and the Maisy area.
- 2205 - G3 to S3: Any more dope on your two units near Colleville? The General says that place must be cleaned out tonight. The 18th has two battalions in front of you. A: No, no more dope on them.
- 2242 - Danger 4 to S3: Do you know where the temporary vehicle area is? A: Yes. It is at E-1. Capt. Fish has been out there. G4: I'm setting up a temporary ammunition dump there. The ammunition will be rationed. Do you know anything about the 116? A: Yes. They are getting along OK. They are southwest of St. Laurent. ~~Capt. Toby, 7th FA to S2:~~
- 2255 - Capt Toby, 7th FA to G2: I had a report from a Medic that people in St. Laurent had 29 Jerries billeted with them. They left tonite and were to meet in Louvieres.



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- 2257 - S2 to danger 2: Col Evans, we had a report from the 7th FA, who talked to some civilians who said that 29 Officers who had been billeted at St. Laurent. They were gone tonight and the officers were to meet at Louvieres.
- 2300 - Major Tegtmeyer to Col Picchy: We are not able to evacuate any of our people. There are no evacuation facilities at the beach and something must be done. A: We will try and see that this is taken care of at once.
- 2310 - CO 2nd Bn to S2: Can you give me any dope? A: Yes. Two battalions of the 18th are on that hill by you. CO: OK. people are infiltrating. We are digging in and need reorganization. Tell the Colonel.
- 2310 - Air raid on ships, beach, and short distance inland.

## **Group #2**

#1 SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force) incoming messages from General Dwight Eisenhower to General George Marshall concerning the first reports of the Normandy landings, June 6, 1944

#2 SHAEF message from General Eisenhower to General Marshall reporting on D-Day landing area, June 8, 1944

### **Directions:**

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Choose a reporter who will speak for your group.

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

**SHAEF**  
STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL  
**INCOMING MESSAGE**

**EYES ONLY**

SHAEF CP

SHAEF 83/06

Filed 060800B June

TOR 060930B June

U R G E N T

FROM : SHAEF COMMAND POST, PERSONAL FROM GENERAL EISENHOWER  
TO : AGWAR-TO GENERAL MARSHALL FOR HIS **EYES ONLY**; SHAEF FOR INFORMATION  
REF NO : 90016, 6 June 1944

Local time is now 8 in the morning.

I have as yet no information concerning the actual landings nor of our progress through beach obstacles. Communique will not be issued until we have word that leading ground troops are actually ashore.

All preliminary reports are satisfactory. Airborne formations apparently landed in good order with losses out of approximately 1250 airplanes participating about 30. Preliminary bombings by air went off as scheduled. Navy reports sweeping some mines, but so far as is known channels are clear and operation proceeding as planned. In early morning hours reaction from shore batteries was sufficiently light that some of the naval spotting planes have returned awaiting call.

The weather yesterday which was original date selected was impossible all along the target coast. Today conditions are vastly improved both by sea and air and we have the prospect of at least reasonably favorable weather for the next several days.

Yesterday, I visited British troops about to embark and last night saw a great portion of a United States airborne division just prior to its takeoff. The enthusiasm, toughness and obvious fitness of every single man were high and the light of battle was in their eyes.

I will keep you informed.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1. SUPREME COMMANDER ✓
- 2. CHIEF OF STAFF
- 3. SGS
- 4. Gen. Strong (6-2)
- 5. Gen. Bull (6-3)

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR. 5200.10, June 29, 1960  
NE by WGL date 6-29-67

~~TOP SECRET~~

COPY NO 1  
SUPREME COMMANDER

466  
174

# SHAEF MESSAGE FORM

CALL      CIRCUIT No.      PRIORITY      TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

**NR**

SPACES WITHIN HEAVY LINES FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM (A)      SHAEF CP      ORIGINATOR      Supreme Commander      DDE/map      DATE-TIME OF ORIGIN      8 June 1944

TO FOR ACTION      AGWAR

TO (W) FOR INFORMATION (INFO)      , SHAEF

MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS      GR  
0815290      97c

(REF NO.)      (CLASSIFICATION)      ~~TOP SECRET~~      SCAF-48

ACCOMPANIED BY ADMIRAL RAMSAY I MADE YESTERDAY A COMPLETE TOUR BY DESTROYER OF THE LANDING AREAS BEGINNING ON THE RIGHT PD PAREN TO THE COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF FROM EISENHOWER CITE SHSAC PD THIS IS SCAF NUMBER FORTY EIGHT PD UNPAREN TO AGWAR FOR INFO SHAEF THE LANDINGS ON THE COTENTIN PENINSULA APPARENTLY WENT ABOUT AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED WITH THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST AIRBORNE DIVISION CARRYING OUT ITS MISSIONS IN GOOD STYLE PD INFORMATION OF THE EIGHTY SECOND AIRBORNE IS MEAGRE BUT GENERAL BRADLEY INFORMED ME THAT THE SEVENTH CORPS HAD MADE CONTACT WITH IT PD ON BEACH O REPEAT OBOE ATTACK/BY THE FIFTH CORPS OPPOSITION WAS UNEXPECTEDLY HEAVY DUE TO THE PRESENCE ON THE BEACHES OF A FULL GERMAN DIVISION WHICH WAS ON MANEUVERS PD LOSSES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE IN THIS FORCE AND LANDINGS HAVE BEEN MOST DIFFICULT DUE TO THE COVERAGE OF BEACHES BY HOSTILE ARTILLERY PD MOREOVER A LARGE PORTION OF ~~D REPEAT DOG D REPEAT DOG~~ <sup>DD</sup> TANKS FOUNDERED ON THEIR WAY TO THE BEACHES PD DUE TO THE ROUGH WEATHER DECISION WAS MADE ON THE OTHER BEACHES NOT REPEAT NOT TO ATTEMPT TO SWIM IN THE ~~D REPEAT DOG D REPEAT DOG~~ <sup>DD</sup> TANKS PD THESE WERE UNLOADED DIRECTLY ON THE BEACHES FROM THE LCT'S CARRYING THEM PD

DISTRIBUTION:  C/S	COORDINATED WITH:		THI or TOR	Opr.
	THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CYPHER IF LIABLE TO INTERCEPTION	Precedence <b>URGENT</b> ORIGINATING DIVISION SHSAC INITIALS NAME AND RANK TYPED. TEL. NO. HARRY C. BUTCHER, Comdr. AUTHENTICATING SIGNATURE <i>Harry C. Butcher</i>		
<del>TOP SECRET</del> THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT IN CLEAR BY ANY MEANS INITIALS				175

~~TOP SECRET~~ BSR

AT NOON ON JUNE SEVENTH GENERAL BRADLEY FELT THAT CONDITIONS WERE IMPROVING ON O BEACH AND STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO REPLACE ARTILLERY WHICH WAS LOST IN LANDING DUE TO HOSTILE ARTILLERY FIRE AND SINKING OF LANDING CRAFT PD BECAUSE OF THE CONFIGURATION OF THE GROUND IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA SPOTTING FOR NAVAL GUNFIRE WAS RATHER DIFFICULT AND SINCE TROUBLE CAME FROM FIELD WORKS RATHER THAN FROM FIXED BATTERIES CMA BOTH AIR BOMBARDMENT AND NAVAL GUNFIRE WERE RELATIVELY <sup>CRAFT TUBS</sup> INEFFECTIVE IN ASSISTING THE LANDING PD PARAGRAPH ON THE WHOLE U S REPEAT UNCLE SUGAR ARMY FRONT THE IMMEDIATE TACTICAL PLAN HAS BEEN ALTERED WITH THE PURPOSE NOW OF BOTH CORPS MAKING AN EARLY DRIVE TOWARD CARENTAN TO JOIN UP CMA AFTER WHICH THE ORIGINAL CONCEPTIONS WILL BE PURSUED PD PARAGRAPH ON THE FRONT OF THE FIFTIETH BRITISH DIVISION PROGRESS WAS VERY GOOD ALTHOUGH CMA AS AT EVERYWHERE ELSE CMA UNLOADING WAS INTERFERED WITH BY THE ROUGH WEATHER PD LIKEWISE ON THE FRONTS OF THE THIRD BRITISH AND THIRD CANADIAN DIVISIONS PROGRESS WAS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY ALTHOUGH ROUGH WEATHER HAD FINALLY COMPELLED THE NAVAL FORCE COMMANDER TO DIRECT THE DRYING OUT OF LST'S BECAUSE RHINO FERRIES COULD NOT WORK PD ON THIS PARTICULAR FRONT THE BEACHES WERE FLAT AND HARD AND IT WAS BELIEVED THAT NO DAMAGE WOULD RESULT TO THE LST'S PD PARAGRAPH THROUGHOUT THE FRONT WE LOST CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF THE SMALLER LANDING CRAFT CMA BOTH BECAUSE OF ROUGH WEATHER AND MINES IN THE TOUCHDOWN AREAS PD THESE WERE TELLER MINES WHICH BLEW SIZEABLE HOLES IN THE LANDING CRAFT BUT ~~W~~ LARGE NUMBERS OF WHICH CAN BE REPAIRED AS SOON AS MAINTENANCE GROUPS CAN BE PLACED ASHORE AND START TO WORK PD THE LOSS OF THESE CRAFT CMA ADDED TO THE ROUGH WEATHER SLOWED UP THE LANDING OF ALL SUPPLIES AND AT NOON ON D PLUS ONE WE WERE APPROXIMATELY TWENTY FOUR HOURS BEHIND OUR EXPECTED SCHEDULE OF UNLOADING PD THE WEATHER IMPROVED MARKEDLY AT NOON ON D PLUS ONE PD IF THIS

CCS, SCAF 48

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

GOOD WEATHER STRETCH CAN BE PROLONGED FOR A FEW DAYS WE WILL DO MUCH  
TOWARD CATCHING UP PD PARAGRAPH DURING <sup>PART 3</sup> THE COURSE OF THE DAY I TALKED  
WITH GENERAL MONTGOMERY AND GENERAL BRADLEY AND WITH ADMIRALS KIRK CMA  
VIAN CMA DOUGLAS <sup>-Pennant</sup> PENNY AND OLIVER PD ALL WERE DISAPPOINTED IN THE  
UNFAVORABLE LANDING CONDITIONS AND ALL FELT THAT IMPROVEMENT OF THE  
WEATHER WOULD SEE A CORRESPONDING GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN OUR POSITION PD  
PARAGRAPH UPON RETURN OF ADMIRAL RAMSAY AND MYSELF TO ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS  
ABOUT TEN P M WE LEARNED THAT WE HAD APPARENTLY CAPTURED BAYEUX PD  
PARAGRAPH EARLY THIS MORNING I AM INFORMED THAT A GERMAN COUNTER ATTACK  
BY PARTS OF TWO PANZER DIVISIONS IS PUSHING IN ON THE RIGHT OF THE BRITISH  
~~SECTOR~~ SECTOR AND HAS MADE SOME PROGRESS PD HOWEVER CMA YESTERDAY AFTERNOON  
WHILE I WAS PRESENT ON THOSE BEACHES THE SEVENTH ARMORED DIVISION WAS BUSY  
UNLOADING AND THIS EARLY ENEMY THREAT SHOULD BE EFFECTIVELY COUNTERED PD  
PARAGRAPH ON THE AMERICAN BEACHES THE SECOND AND NINETEITH DIVISIONS  
WERE DUE TO BEGIN LANDING LAST NIGHT AND CMA WHILE I HAVE HAD NO REPORTS  
THIS MORNING CMA I BELIEVE THAT THE GOOD WEATHER LAST NIGHT SHOULD HAVE  
PERMITTED THE LANDING OF CONSIDERABLE REINFORCEMENTS IN THOSE DISTRICTS  
PD PARAGRAPH DUE TO THE FLUID NATURE OF THE BATTLE IT HAS BEEN EXTREMELY  
DIFFICULT TO GIVE LOGICAL TARGETS TO MUCH OF OUR AIR FORCES BUT I AM  
CONFIDENT THAT IF WEATHER PERMITS OUR AIR WILL INTERVENE EFFECTIVELY IN ANY  
ATTEMPTED COUNTER ATTACKS BY THE ENEMY

end of message

CCS, SCAF 48

- 3 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

### **Group #3**

The diary of Lt. Sidney J. Montz, U.S. 4<sup>th</sup> Division, May 15- June 17, 1944

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MAY 15 - (Monday 21 days before <sup>June 6</sup>)  
Moved from Heathfield to  
Shipham, MARSHALLING AREA  
ARRIVED AT NIGHT.

MAY 16 - JUNE 1  
TOOK THINGS EASY, DREW  
EQUIPMENT, TIME OFF TO  
TORQUAY, TOOK A FEW  
SHORT MARCHES TO  
KEEP IN SHAPE (6 MI. & 4 MI).  
A FEW DAYS BEFORE JUNE  
1<sup>ST</sup> WE WERE BRIEFED,  
SHOWN MAPS & SAND TABLE  
OF WHERE WE WERE  
GOING. EVERYTHING IN  
GOOD SHAPE, I WAS EXEC.  
OFF. BUT WILL TAKE 81MM  
IN. WITTENBERGER DOES

Not Know Mortar, off. in  
Co. 1<sup>st</sup> BN. Buckles  
2<sup>nd</sup> Pt. Woodruff  
3<sup>rd</sup> Pt. Wittenberger  
1<sup>st</sup> Sec. Levy  
2<sup>nd</sup> " Bucklew  
3<sup>rd</sup> " Olson  
Exec. Montz  
Co SAMSON

June 2 - Left camp at 1020  
for TORQUAY, got on LCVP  
to go to ship (The S.S. DICK-  
MAN) on ship life was  
OK.

June 3 - SAT. - More briefing  
& plans for landing.

June 4 - SUN - Too busy to  
go to church - MAKING final  
preparation - HEARD we  
SAIL to-day for landing  
to-morrow - weather very  
bad so things called off.  
Spent most the night in  
lounge, drinking coffee &  
listening to radio. Heard  
the fall of Rome, in  
bed by 0200.

June 5 - MON. - Heard we  
SAIL at ~~12~~ 1300, Gen.  
Ike Message read over  
the loud speaker after  
we sailed. Told D-DAY June  
6 - H-Hour 0630. We anchor  
at 0200 June 6 & get in  
LCVP.

Checked all equipment that  
was already in LCVP. Men  
in good shape & ready  
to go. Told that 10,500  
planes would be in  
operation, 6000 bombers,  
rest fighter bombers. Did  
not know anything except  
we land on Utah beach  
Red & Green with 12,000  
paratroops landing H-4  
inland. Messed around,  
shooting bull & kidding  
each other. Channel pretty  
rough. Men will be fed  
at 2200, off. at 2400

June 6 - D - DAY

2400 - Eating a good meal,  
MAY be the last one,  
went down to compart-  
ment with my boat team.  
SEA very rough. Started  
loading about 0230, went  
over side down net &  
it was really tough.  
Took off to rendezvous  
area, had a tough time  
finding it, made it O.K.  
Started circling, finally  
the other boats came  
in. Planes lit up the  
beaches, AA fire starting,  
flares dropping, beautiful  
sight but it scares the

hell out of you. Hit Line  
of Departure, first + 2nd.  
wave ~~on~~ practically on  
the beach, All Hell broke  
loose from the beach, some  
boats hit by 88, they are  
on beach + going in. We  
are near beach + 88 opened  
up on the boat on our  
right + almost hit us.  
Some boats hit landmine,  
lucky we landed because  
much more we would have  
sunk, water still rough.  
Jumped out in waist  
deep water, about 500 or  
600 yds from seawall, the  
longest I have ever seen

in my life, MG, mortar +  
artillery fire around us,  
finally in shallow water  
+ able to run, had to miss  
all types of obstacles in  
+ out the water. Picked  
up six rds. of 81mm amm.  
on the way, it seemed  
as though we would never  
reach seawall. Men being  
blown up + hit all around  
me, you could hear them  
scream, it was horrible.  
Finally hit seawall, stopped  
to get a blow + bearing,  
Gen. Roosevelt walking  
around telling everyone to  
clear beach or they  
would get killed.

Rockets hit the third  
section - injured - Lt Levy,  
ARPs, Singer, Cole, Sgt. Hastings  
- Killed - Cpl. Herr, Brandt,  
Wadja

Check  
with  
co.

Time to move or they will  
kill us all. Gen. Roosevelt  
gave me tons of courage.  
Co. "A" about 500 yds. to front  
finally got over with  
Wittenberger + one  
section, another sec. coming  
up. Under small arms +  
artillery fire. Navy  
left us 1000 yds. too far

left, the left outfit caught  
hell. Moved in very fast,  
every house + tree loaded  
with men, they fire at  
you from all directions,  
very hard to see them  
as they use smokeless  
powder. Will get on  
to them soon then they  
will catch hell

June 10 Saturday

1400 - Hit by sniper as taking  
a sqd. to Co. "A" right flank,  
100 yds. from road west of  
Monteburg. We were catching  
hell but know we will  
hold them, had 400 yds to  
get to objective. ON way

to aid-station, hit in neck +  
Right leg. Banded up + put  
in ambulance to be taken  
to beach, then sent to England.  
Spent the night in field  
tent, caught in air raid.

June 11 - Sunday - Put on LCM  
+ sent to Hosp. ship, impossible  
to sail due to "E" boats in  
channels.

June 12 - Monday - Sailed  
for England, Destination  
NAVAL Hospital at South  
HAMPTON. Got in pretty late,  
was fed, a good bath, clean  
clothes, a bed with sheets.

Doctors looked at us.

June 13 - Tuesday

Rested, ate, slept, Doctor  
came.

June 14 - Wednesday

SAME AS Tuesday, had  
two X-RAY TAKEN of JAW +  
leg. ~~SAW~~ SAW a show.

June 15 - Thursday

Prepare to leave at 1930  
for ARMY Hosp. Board  
Hosp. train for 53<sup>rd</sup> Gen. Hosp.  
NEAR MALVERN, About 200 mls.  
from South HAMPTON.

June 16 - Friday -

ARRIVED 0700, TOOK AMBULANCE  
to hosp. Food + bed. Rest.

June 17 - Saturday -

Eat, sleep, Rest - Doctor

## **Group #4**

U.S. newspaper articles about D-Day, June 6, 1944

### **Directions:**

Your assignment is to read through these descriptions of D-Day. You may not have time to read it all (that's OK). You may encounter vocabulary or abbreviations with which you are unfamiliar.

In your group, discuss the documents and be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. What are the strengths of these documents for doing historical research on D-Day?
2. What are the weaknesses of these documents?
3. What questions do you have about these documents?

Choose a reporter who will speak for your group.

# War News Summarized

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1944

The invasion of western Europe began this morning.

General Eisenhower, in his first communiqué from Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, issued at 3:30 A. M., said that "Allied naval forces supported by strong air forces began landing Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France."

The assault was made by British, American and Canadian troops who, under command of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, landed in Normandy. London gave no further details but earlier Berlin had broadcast that parachute troops had landed on the Normandy Peninsula near Cherbourg and that invasion forces were pouring from landing craft under cover of warships near Havre. Dunkerque and Calais were being heavily bombed, the Germans said.

Later announcements from Berlin said that there was fighting between Caen and Trouville and that shock troops had swung into action to halt the invasion. [All the foregoing, 1:8.]

General Eisenhower, in an order of the day to each member of the "great crusade," told his men the enemy would fight savagely and added: "We will accept nothing less than full victory. Good luck." In a broadcast to the "Peoples of Western Europe," he said the day would come when he would need their full help. A special word to France added that Frenchmen would rule the country. [1:6-7.] Almost simultaneously it was announced that General de Gaulle had arrived in London. [6:2.]

The liberation of Rome in no way slowed the Allied pursuit of the tired and disorganized German armies in Italy yesterday. Armored and motorized units sped across the Tiber River to press hard upon the retreating enemy's heels. Five hundred heavy bombers joined with lighter aircraft to smash rail and road routes leading to northern Italy and to add to the foe's demoralization. The Eighth Army, despite heavy opposition, especially northeast of Valmontone, captured a number of strategic towns. [1:3; map P. 2.]

General Clark said that parts of the two German armies had been smashed. He doubted the ability of the German Fourteenth to put up effective opposition and declared that the Tenth had taken a bad beating. [3:1.]

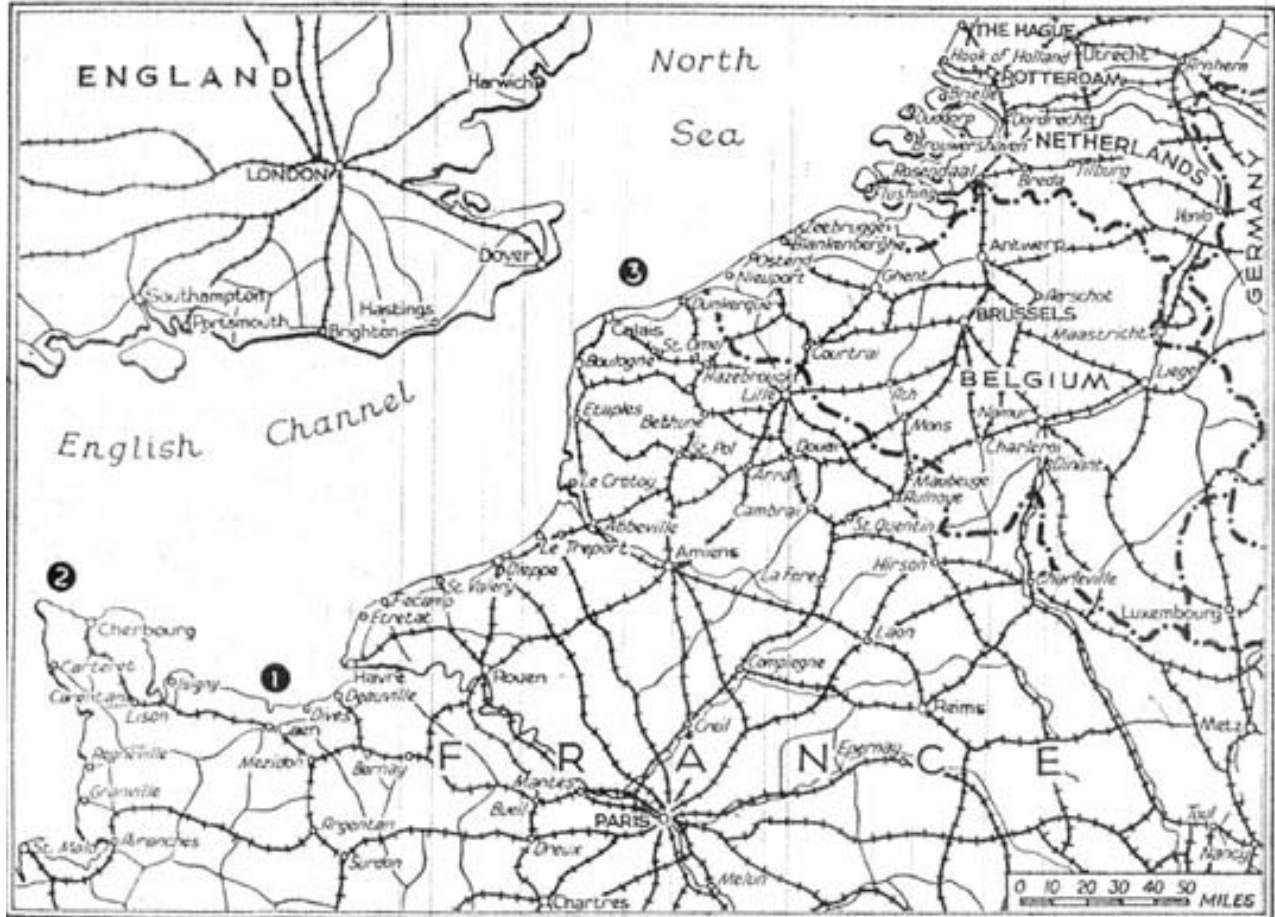
King Victor Emmanuel fulfilled his promise and turned over all authority to his son, Crown Prince Humbert. [1:5-6.]

President Roosevelt warned the people of the United States in a radio talk last night not to over-emphasize the military significance of the liberation of Rome. "Germany has not yet been driven to surrender," he said. "Victory still lies some distance ahead. \* \* \* It will be tough and it will be costly." The President appealed to the world to give Italy a chance to contribute her share to a lasting peace. [1:1.]

In the Pacific theatre Americans were converging on the Biak airfields. Allied planes sank one and damaged two Japanese destroyers and shot down at least eighteen aircraft. [8:1.]

Source: New York Times

FIRST ALLIED LANDING MADE ON SHORES OF WESTERN EUROPE



General Eisenhower's armies invaded northern France this morning. While the landing points were not specified, the Germans said that troops had gone ashore near Havre and that fighting raged at Caen (1). The enemy also said that parachutists had descended at the northern tip of the Normandy Peninsula (2) and heavy bombing had been visited on Calais and Dunkerque (3).

Source: New York Times, June 6, 1944

# Landings in West France Reported by Germans; Not Confirmed by Allies

LONDON, June 6 (Tuesday.) (AP)—Three German news agencies this morning flashed word to the world that an Allied invasion of Western France had begun with Allied parachute troops spilling out of the dawn skies over the Normandy Peninsula and seaborne forces landing in the Le Havre area. There was no immediate Allied confirmation.

The Germans also said that Allied warships were furiously bombarding the big German-held French port of Le Havre at the mouth of the Seine River, 100 miles west of Paris.

German shock troops also were hurled against Allied troops rushing ashore from landing barges, the broadcasts said.

Le Havre lies 80 miles across the Channel from the British coast.

## Dunkirk and Calais Reported Attacked

Dunkirk and Calais, just across the Channel coast from Britain, were under attack by strong formations of bombers, D.N.B. said.

"The long-expected invasion by the British and Americans was begun in the first hours of the morning of June 6 by the landing of parachute troops in the area of the mouth of the Seine," declared the Transocean broadcast.

Allied headquarters remained silent.

The German D.N.B. agency said Le Havre was being "violently bombarded at the present moment" (7 a.m. German time, or 10 p.m. P.W.T. Monday night.)

"German naval forces are engaged in fighting with enemy landing craft off the coast."

Calais and Dunkirk, which Berlin said were under heavy air attack, are also important French ports along the invasion coast 150 miles northeast of Le Havre.

## LATE WAR BULLETINS

NEW YORK, June 6. (AP) — A B.B.C. broadcast recorded this morning by the Blue Network warned residents of France that a new phase of the air war against the Continent had begun and told them to stand by for further instructions that would be dropped by leaflet.

## British Warn Dutch to Leave

LONDON, June 6 (Tuesday.) (U.P.)—Shortly before

Source: Los Angeles Times, June 6, 1944