



70th Anniversary
D-Day Commemorations
2014



On 6 June 1944 – ‘D-Day’ – Allied forces launched the largest amphibious invasion in the history of warfare. Codenamed Operation ‘Overlord’, the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy marked the start of a long and costly campaign to liberate north-west Europe from Nazi occupation. On the morning of [D-Day](#), ground troops landed across five assault beaches – Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. By the end of the day, the Allies had established themselves on shore and could begin the advance into France.



The eastern invasion force was made up of British troops, landing at Gold and Sword beaches, and the Canadians, landing at Juno. These beaches were closer to Caen.

Southbourne
D - Day
70th Anniversary
Commemoration

Order of Service

1st June at 10.30am
Prinsted Shore

led by
Rev. Clive Jenkins
St. John's Church

Remembering D-Day
Tuesday June 6th 1944



Early in 2014 it was suggested that a service on the shore was possible as the tide was right, and Rev Jenkins was approached, he agreed of course.

A service was held on the beach on 1st June.

Residents were asked to put flags out in Prinsted Lane, chairs were transported from St. Johns and the service was attended by nearly 200 people.



Nearly 200 people of all ages gathered to join in a service led by Rev. Clive Jenkins of St John's Church. Flags lined the route and chairs were borrowed from the Sea Scouts HQ as numbers swelled on a very sunny morning.

A newspaper article of the day was read by our curate Sarah Flashman and Mark Everson accompanied the hymns on an accordion.

Rev Jenkins gave a talk from the shore, which involved some children representing the landing craft, tanks and aeroplanes depicting events on the Normandy beaches on 6th June 1944



D-Day 70th Anniversary Commemoration Service held on Prinsted Shore on Sunday 1st June 2014

Southbourne D-Day Commemoration Service

Some 200 people of all ages gathered to join in a service led by Rev. Clive Jenkins of St. John's Church on Prinsted Shore. Flags decorated the route and the Sea Scout HQ on a lovely sunny morning as numbers swelled and chairs had to be borrowed from the Scouts.

To set the scene, St. John's Curate Sarah Flashman read a newspaper article from June 1944. Rev. Jenkins gave thanks for the men who were sent to liberate France and their bravery.

Children represented the ships, landing craft, tanks and planes that would have been on the Normandy beaches that day.

Many of us then met for a cuppa in the Sea Scouts Coffee Shop.





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U.S.



U.K.



Canada



Belgium



Netherlands



Australia



Poland



Greece



France



Czechoslovakia



Norway



New Zealand

Southwick House, Operation Overlord

Nestling beneath the northern slopes of Portsdown Hill, the escarpment that stands sentinel over the Naval base of Portsmouth, the village of Southwick with its thatched roofs and half-timbered cottages remains largely unchanged from that day in June 1944 when this little Hampshire settlement became, quite literally, the centre of OPERATION OVERLORD. It was at Southwick House, the elegant Georgian mansion and ancestral home of the Thistlethwayte family, that General Dwight D Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, made his historic and momentous decision committing three million men and 2,727 ships to the operation which turned the tide of World War II.

In the spring of 1944 the house became the forward headquarters for the Normandy invasion.



The large, specially produced, wall map on which the progress of the Operation was plotted still remains; the room in which it stands is now part of the Officers Mess of Southwick Park.

Many WRENS were employed in the Map Room updating the map with the positions of ships of all descriptions as the night and days of Operation Overlord unfolded. They worked round the clock using information received from the Underground Headquarters of UGHQ, the communications “nerve centre” 100 ft (30 m) underneath Fort Southwick,



Meeting of the commanders of the
Supreme Allied Expeditionary Force, London,
1 February 1944.
Pictured centre
General Dwight D Eisenhower with
General Sir Bernard Montgomery to his left.

Portsmouth was the headquarters and main departure point for the military and naval units destined for Sword Beach on the Normandy coast. Troops camped in the woods to the north and east of Portsmouth.

Troops gathered in camps in preparation for D-Day in Rowlands Castle and in villages from Westbourne to Chichester.

We have no record of a camp in Southbourne. We did have a Dad's Army and a cook house where Scouts is now.

An Ack Ack gun to the west of Scouts



Gold

Nearly 25,000 men of the British 50th Division landed on Gold beach on D-Day. Their objectives were to capture the town of Bayeux and the Caen-Bayeux road, and to link up with the Americans at Omaha.

High winds caused the tide to rise more quickly than expected, concealing the beach obstacles underwater. But unlike on Omaha, the air and naval bombardment had succeeded in softening German coastal defences. By the end of the day, British troops had advanced about six miles inland and joined with troops from the Canadian 3rd Division, who had landed on Juno beach to the east.

Sword

Bad weather and strong German resistance hindered the British 3rd Division's assault on Sword beach, the easternmost of the beaches. Rising tides and the geography of the assault area created a narrow front, causing congestion and delays and making it difficult to land the armoured support needed for the advance inland. Although the 3rd Division successfully repelled a German counter-attack, it failed to take the strategically important city of Caen - its key objective for D-Day. The capture of Caen became a focal point of British strategy in the weeks after D-Day and the city was not fully occupied until mid-July.

Juno

The Canadian 3rd Division's objective was to secure Juno beach and link up with British forces on Gold to the west and Sword to the east. Rough seas delayed the landing and the rising tide reduced the width of the beach, which eventually became jammed with incoming vehicles and equipment. Juno was heavily defended and casualties were high, especially among the first wave of landing infantry. By midnight, the Canadians had yet to link up with the British at Sword but had cleared exits off the beach, advanced several miles inland and joined up with the British at Gold.

Information from the Imperial War Museum website

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-d-day-beaches>

Omaha

Troops from the US 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions landed on Omaha beach on 6 June. Omaha was the most heavily defended of the assault areas and casualties were higher than on any other beach. Preliminary Allied air and naval bombardments failed to knock out strong defence points along the coast and the Americans had difficulties clearing the beach obstacles. The experienced German 352nd Infantry Division was taking part in anti-invasion training in the area and was able to reinforce coastal defence units. Despite these challenges, the Americans were able to gain a small foothold on the beach by the end of the day. At the nearby Pointe du Hoc, US Rangers completed a costly assault on German gun emplacements at the top of the cliff.

Utah

Over 23,000 men of the US 4th Infantry Division landed on Utah beach, the westernmost of the assault beaches. Strong currents swept the first wave of troops into a more lightly defended sector of the assault area – 2,000 yards south of their original target. Airborne troops had dropped into the area behind Utah in the early hours of 6 June. After periods of intense fighting, the paratroopers secured the causeways across the flooded lowlands, providing a route for troops on the beach to move further inland. By the end of the day, the 4th Infantry Division had advanced approximately four miles at a cost of about 200 killed, wounded or missing.