

THE LONGEST DAY 1944 – 2019 (D-DAY 1944)

75 years ago on the 5th June 1944 the forces of 13 Allied countries gathered in Britain for the largest seaborne invasion the world has ever seen.

More than 5,000 ships and landing craft carrying troops and supplies left England for the trip across the Channel to France, while more than 11,000 aircraft were mobilized to provide air cover and support for the invasion.

Codenamed **Operation Overlord**, the historic battle to liberate Europe, began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 British, Canadian and American, forces landed on five beaches (Gold, Juno, Sword, Utah and Omaha) along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region.

The Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control.

The Normandy invasion began to turn the tide against the Nazis. A significant psychological blow, it also prevented Hitler from sending troops from France to build up his Eastern Front against the advancing Soviets. The following spring, on May 8, 1945, the Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. Hitler had committed suicide a week earlier, on April 30.

Winston Churchill rightly said that D-Day was "undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult" operation that had ever taken place.

According to some estimates, more than 4,000 Allied troops lost their lives in the D-Day invasion, with thousands more wounded or missing.

As we mark 75 years, we salute the bravery and sacrifice of all those who took part in liberating Europe.

D-DAY

JUNE 6, 1944

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

