

# The Allied Invasion of Europe: The D-Day Landings

The Allied invasion of Europe, codenamed Operation Overlord, was one of the most important military operations in history. The landings on the beaches of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, marked the beginning of the end of World War II.

The invasion was planned and executed by the Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower. The invasion force consisted of over 150,000 troops, 5,000 ships, and 11,000 aircraft. The landings were supported by a massive air and naval bombardment.



## Neptune: The Allied Invasion of Europe and the D-Day Landings by Craig L. Symonds

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6887 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Lending : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Print length : 441 pages



The Germans were well aware of the possibility of an Allied invasion of Europe, but they were not sure when or where it would occur. The Allies

had been careful to keep their plans secret, and the Germans were misled by a series of deception operations.

The landings began at 6:30 a.m. on June 6, 1944. The first troops to land were the British 6th Airborne Division, which landed behind the German lines to secure the bridges over the Caen Canal. The American 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions also landed behind the German lines, to secure the causeways leading to the beaches.

The main landings took place on five beaches along the Normandy coast: Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha, and Utah. The landings were met with fierce German resistance, but the Allies were able to secure a foothold on the beaches. By the end of the day, the Allies had landed over 150,000 troops on the beaches of Normandy.

The D-Day landings were a major victory for the Allies. The landings marked the beginning of the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation. The landings also set the stage for the eventual Allied victory in World War II.

### **The Legacy of the D-Day Landings**

The D-Day landings are remembered as one of the most important military operations in history. The landings were a turning point in World War II, and they helped to lead to the eventual Allied victory. The landings are also remembered as a symbol of courage and sacrifice.

The D-Day landings have been the subject of numerous books, movies, and documentaries. The landings have also been commemorated with a number of memorials and monuments. The most famous of these is the

Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, which is located in Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

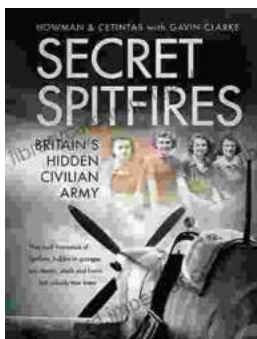
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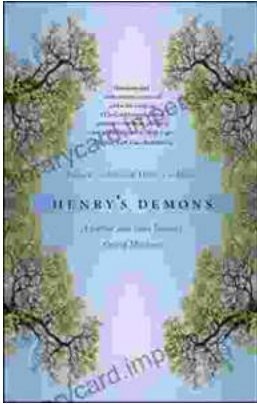
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