# EASY COMPANY

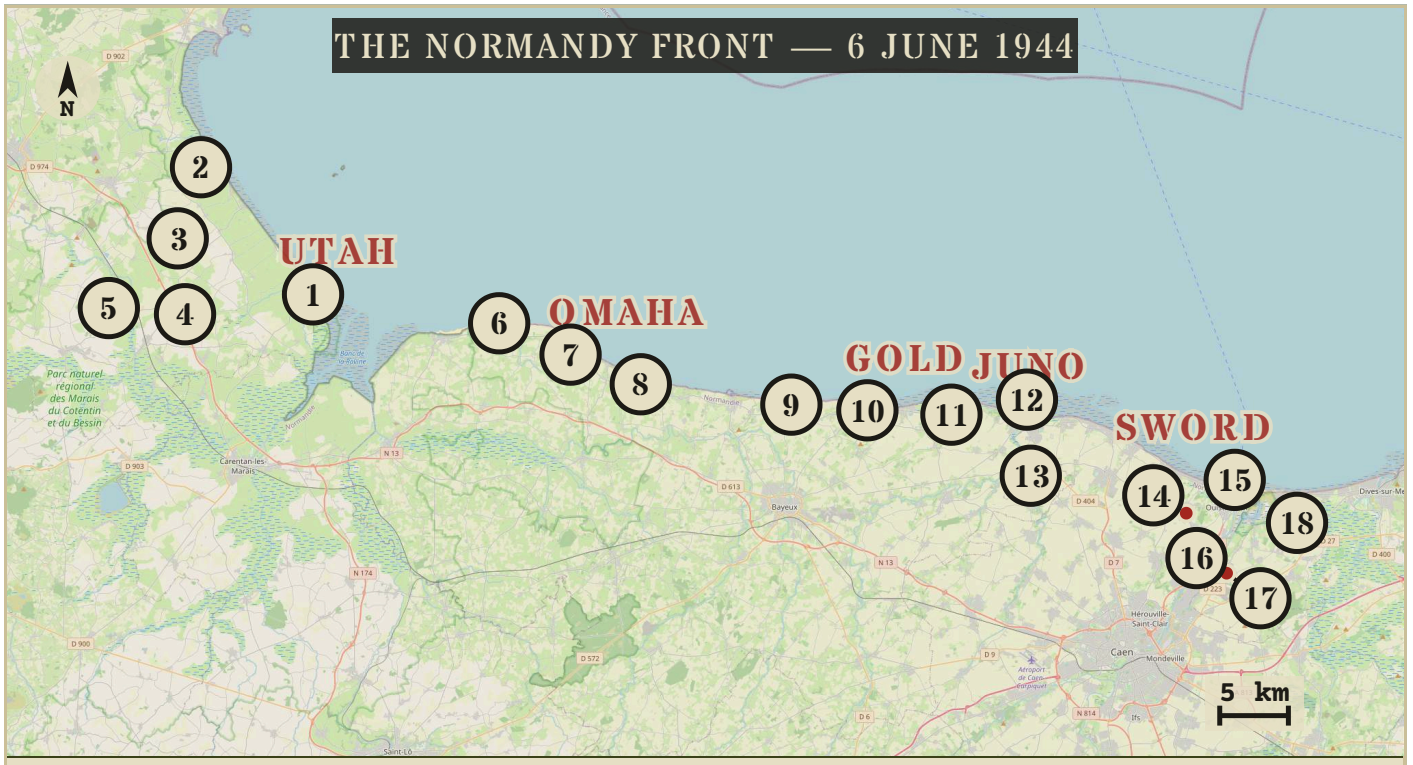
## EUROPEAN WAR ROUTE

WWII • 1944 - 1945

# EASY COMPANY IN NORMANDY

Company E · 506th Parachute Infantry · 101st Airborne Division

6 JUNE – 12 JULY 1944




Cover map · the invasion front from Utah to Sword · tap to enlarge

Follow one rifle company from the night drop behind Utah Beach, through Brécourt Manor and Carentan, to the ship home — with every position rated for how sure we are, every stop linked to your maps, and the whole invasion around it.

▶ PLAN MY TOUR

READ THE BRIEFING

| 21 | 32 | 5 | 0/32 |
|---|---|---|---|
| POSITIONS | TOUR STOPS | DAY FULL ROUTE | STOPS VISITED |

## ORDERS — WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

01 →

### TOUR PLANNER

Tell it how many days you have; it builds the route, the overnights and the map links.

EASY-ONLY OR FULL D-DAY · 1 – 7 DAYS

02 →

### TIMELINE

21 historical positions in date order, from Winters' landing field to Southampton.

6 JUN – 12 JUL 1944

03 →

### MUSEUMS

The anchor museums and the extras worth a detour for a 506th-focused visit.

12 SITES · OPENING HOURS

04 →

### D-DAY

The whole invasion: decisive factors, two clocks side by side, and the front from Utah to Sword.

18 INVASION SITES

05 →

### BRIEFING

The story in five paragraphs, the accuracy rule, and how the map buttons work.

START HERE

06 →

### ORIGINS

How the Airborne was born, how the 506th and Easy Company were built at Toccoa, and the chain of command from squad to army.

BEFORE THE STORY

07 →

### THE MEN

Twenty-five of the men of Easy Company: who they were, what they did, the medals they earned and what became of them.

25 BIOGRAPHIES · DECORATIONS

★ →

### HONOR THEM

This guide is free. Help restore Camp Toccoa, where Easy Company began.

DONATE TO CAMP TOCCOA →

STANDING ORDERS

**Accuracy.** A pin marked LOW is the centre of a search area, not a foxhole. **Respect.** Brécourt, Marmion Farm and many fields are private — view from the road. Cemeteries and memorials are places of remembrance first.

REMEMBER · EXPLORE · RESPECT

# BRIEFING

ORDERS OF THE DAY · READ BEFORE MOVING OUT

This guide follows Company E, 506th Parachute Infantry, from the night drop of 6 June 1944 to the ship home on 12 July. Two sets of positions are kept apart on purpose:

**TIMELINE** — 21 historical positions in date order: what happened, where and when. **TOUR** — 32 stops in driving order across five days: where to go, for how long, and where to sleep. Every stop opens directly in Google Maps.

## THE ACCURACY RULE

A GPS coordinate can locate a museum, memorial or town precisely; it cannot turn uncertain wartime evidence into an exact landing point. Winters himself could not identify his landing spot, so this guide never invents one. Each position carries a coloured label:

The meaning of the **HIGH / MEDIUM / LOW** labels, the **Words to know**, how to use the app, the **Origins** chapter, **The Men** (25 biographies), the **Armoury** (weapons & ammunition) and **Honor them** are the same in all three guides, so they are printed once in the separate PDF **Easy Company — Common Reference**.

**Respect the ground.** Brécourt Manor, Marmion Farm and several fields are private property — view from public roads and marked memorial areas. At cemeteries and memorials, remembrance first, tour second.

## THE STORY IN BRIEF

**The night drop.** Easy Company entered Normandy in fragments. Cloud, flak and evasive flying broke up the C-47 formations and most sticks landed far from Drop Zone C near Sainte-Marie-du-Mont. Stick 66 never delivered its men: the aircraft carrying company commander 1st Lt. Thomas Meehan, 1st Sgt. William Evans and fifteen others was hit by flak and crashed near Beuzeville-au-Plain — all aboard were killed. Easy went into battle without its commander.

**Assembly.** 1st Lt. Richard Winters, the executive officer, came down alone somewhere west of Sainte-Mère-Église — he could never say exactly where — without his weapon. He gathered scattered men, moved round the north of the town, fell in behind Lt. Col. Cole's 502nd group, searched La Herguerie farm and reached the 2nd Battalion assembly area at Le Grand Chemin by morning — now the senior Easy officer present.

**Brécourt Manor.** Sent to silence a four-gun 105 mm battery believed to be firing on Utah Beach, Winters led about a dozen men in an assault often cited as a model of small-unit tactics: a base of fire, a covered approach along the hedgerow, into the trench system, and the guns reduced one by one. Reinforced by Lt. Speirs's D Company men, they destroyed the guns and withdrew.

**South to Carentan.** First night at Culoville near the regimental CP. 7 June: Easy on point into Vierville against German paratroopers. 7–10 June: reserve at Angoville-au-Plain. 11 June: past Dead Man's Corner, across the flooded Douve causeway and into the marsh fields. 12 June: into Carentan on the Route d'Auvers, fighting to the railway — Winters wounded in the shin. 13 June: the German counterattack at Bloody Gulch, held on the right flank until 2nd Armored tanks arrived.

**The long June.** Reserve in Carentan under Lt. Welsh while Winters recovered; patrols (Blithe badly wounded — his Purple Heart is dated 25 June, his 21st birthday, though accounts of the exact day and place vary); in the line until relieved 28 June; "near Cherbourg" 29 June; then the division field camp north of Utah Beach. 10–11 July back to Utah Beach to embark; Southampton on the night of 12 July, and by train to Aldbourne. Ambrose counts 65 casualties from a company of about 140.

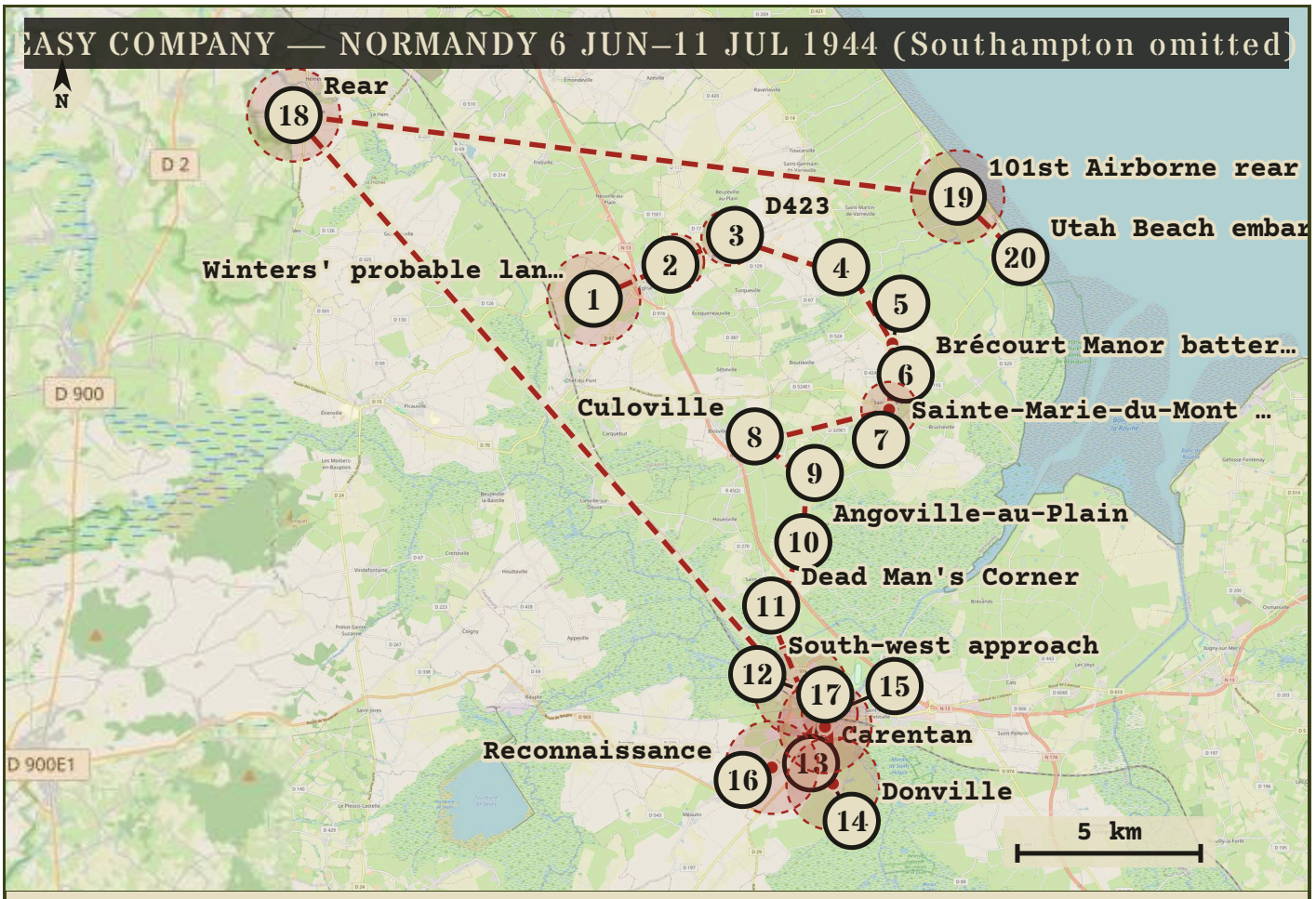
### WHY THE WIDER TOUR

Days 3–5 step outside the company to see the machine it was part of: Omaha and Pointe du Hoc, the Atlantic Wall at Longues, the Mulberry harbour, Caen, and the British airborne flank — where the Merville Battery assault is the direct twin of Brécourt.

## CHRONOLOGICAL MOVEMENT

21 positions from Winters' probable landing area (reconstruction) to Southampton. Lines on the situation map join points in date order — they are not the exact wartime track.

Show All 21 positions




Map © OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org/copyright) · dashed line = order of visit, not the road · dashed circle = uncertain spot · tap ⤢ to enlarge

## PHASE 1 — D-DAY MOVEMENT

### 1 WINTERS' PROBABLE LANDING AREA (RECONSTRUCTION)

LOW

6 Jun 1944 ~01:30

Winters landed well off DZ *(drop zone)* C, west of Sainte-Mère-Église. Some researchers place it near the D15/D17 road junction, but this is a reconstruction, not a settled consensus. Treat the coordinate as the centre of a search area. He oriented himself, gathered scattered paratroopers and moved round the north side of the town toward the 506th objective.

> **On the ground:** Understand how far he landed from the intended drop zone and the difficulty of regrouping at night. No monument — this was confusion across ordinary farmland.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Richard Winters ↗ MVT: Following in the footsteps of Winters ↗
Wikipedia: E Company, 506th ↗

49.40500, -1.33700 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

## 2 RUE SAINT-MARTIN / D423 SECTOR

MEDIUM

6 Jun ~02:30

Winters' growing group linked up with Easy men including Malarkey, Guarnere, Toye and Wynn in this road sector, then continued east and fell in behind Lt. Col. Cole's 502nd PIR *(Parachute Infantry Regiment)* group.

> **On the ground:** Study the road network and distances; the pin is not an exact meeting point.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Richard Winters ↗

49.41400, -1.30600 MEDIUM close — exact spot uncertain

GOOGLE MAPS

## 3 D423 / D115 JUNCTION — GERMAN COLUMN AMBUSH

MEDIUM

6 Jun ~03:00

A German column was ambushed in this junction area. Evidence does not support Winters personally leading the ambush. Afterwards the party continued with Cole's group toward Audouville-la-Hubert.

> **On the ground:** Terrain and context only; exact firing positions are not asserted.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Richard Winters ↗

49.42000, -1.28600 MEDIUM close — exact spot uncertain

GOOGLE MAPS

## 4 LA HERGUERIE FARM, AUDOUVILLE-LA-HUBERT

HIGH

6 Jun pre-dawn

Winters and the Easy men with him searched the farm while moving toward the 506th assembly area, then returned to the road toward Le Grand Chemin.

> **On the ground:** Rural lanes and hedgerows show the navigation problem before dawn.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Richard Winters ↗

49.41000, -1.23900 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## PHASE 2 — BRÉCOURT & UTAH

### 5 LE GRAND CHEMIN — 2/506 ASSEMBLY / CP

HIGH

6 Jun morning

Winters joined 2nd Battalion elements here. With Meehan missing he was drawn into the leadership vacuum and sent forward to investigate and neutralize artillery firing toward Utah Beach.

> **On the ground:** The hinge of the story: the man who landed alone now has a mission, a handful of men and a concrete threat.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Brécourt Manor Assault ↗ D-Day Overlord: Brécourt Manor ↗

49.39400, -1.22460 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

### 6 BRÉCOURT MANOR BATTERY TRENCH LINE

HIGH

6 Jun ~08:30-noon

PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE ROAD

The four-gun battery is firmly identified. Assault from the Le Grand Chemin side along hedgerows and trenches: base of fire, covered approach, into the trench, guns reduced one by one. The force withdrew rather than assaulting the manor. The exact geometry of every gun pit, especially the westernmost, is still debated.

> **On the ground:** Study hedgerows, approach and battery axis from the public memorial. The battlefield is private — do not trespass.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Brécourt Manor Assault ↗ D-Day Overlord: Brécourt Manor ↗

MVT: Brécourt Manor walk ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Winters | Compton | Guarnere | Lipton | Malarkey | Toye | Liebgott | Speirs

49.39160, -1.22430 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

### 7 SAINTE-MARIE-DU-MONT SECTOR

MEDIUM

6 Jun afternoon/evening

Easy and 2/506 operated through this sector after Brécourt as airborne and seaborne forces consolidated, then moved south-west toward the battalion/regimental position at

Culoville.

> **On the ground:** The village and its church tower are the geographic reset between the inland airborne battlefield and Utah Beach.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Sainte-Marie-du-Mont ↗ US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.37780, -1.22580 MEDIUM close — exact spot uncertain

GOOGLE MAPS

## 8 CULOVILLE / HIESVILLE — 506TH CP AREA

HIGH

Night 6-7 Jun

Winters and Easy spent their first Normandy night here near the 506th command post. At first light Easy was ordered to lead the 2nd Battalion column toward Vierville.

> **On the ground:** Starting point for the 7 June advance south.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: 506th Infantry Regiment ↗

49.37000, -1.27400 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

# PHASE 3 — CARENTAN

## 9 VIERVILLE (COTENTIN)

HIGH

7 Jun ~06:00 onward

Easy advanced on point toward Vierville and met resistance from German paratroopers. The village was cleared with support from other 506th elements and armour; movement continued south toward Angoville-au-Plain.

> **On the ground:** This is Vierville in the Cotentin (Manche), not Vierville-sur-Mer at Omaha Beach.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: E Company, 506th ↗ US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.36000, -1.25700 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 10 ANGOVILLE-AU-PLAIN — REGIMENTAL CP SECURITY

HIGH

7-10 Jun

Easy was pulled into reserve and security around Col. Sink's regimental command post while the attack on Carentan was prepared. On the evening of 11 June it rejoined the battalion advance.

> **On the ground:** Visit the church — the airborne aid station where two 101st medics treated wounded of both sides; the bloodstained pews survive.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Angoville-au-Plain ↗

49.34800, -1.25800 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 11 DEAD MAN'S CORNER / ST-CÔME-DU-MONT ROAD

HIGH

11 Jun evening

Easy passed this landmark moving south toward Carentan; it was not Easy's principal battle site that day. The company crossed the Douve causeway corridor, then left the road and moved across fields toward the south-west approach to Carentan.

> **On the ground:** The constricted road/causeway terrain through the flooded lowlands.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗ D-Day Experience (official) ↗

49.32440, -1.26870 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 12 SOUTH-WEST APPROACH / AUVERS ROAD BIVOUAC

LOW

Night 11-12 Jun

Easy bivouacked in the marsh/field area near the approach to Carentan. Modern roads and development make a single exact bivouac point misleading. Before dawn on 12 June the company advanced across fields toward the town.

> **On the ground:** Visualize the pre-dawn movement from the road network into fields toward Carentan.

49.30900, -1.25900 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

## 13 CARENTAN — ROUTE D'AUVERS / RUE HOLGATE

HIGH

12 Jun early morning

Easy entered Carentan on this axis and fought through the approach and along Rue Holgate toward the railway, building to building. Winters was wounded in the shin near

the railway sector.

> **On the ground:** Walk rather than drive the central streets — the major Easy Company urban-combat waypoint.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗ Normandy Victory Museum ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Winters | Welsh | Lipton | Liebgott | Randleman | Blithe

49.30300, -1.25200 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 14 DONVILLE / BLOODY GULCH DEFENSIVE SECTOR

12–13 Jun

LOW

Easy dug in south-west of Carentan and held the right flank during the German counterattack of 13 June (17th SS Panzergrenadier and Fallschirmjäger *(German paratroopers)* Regiment 6 elements) until armour from the 2nd Armored Division helped restore the situation. The exact hedgerow occupied is disputed.

> **On the ground:** Treat the whole sector as the battlefield, not the pin as a foxhole. Hedgerows and restricted sightlines explain why attacks felt isolated and sudden.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Bloody Gulch ↗ Bloody Gulch Museum (official) ↗

49.28600, -1.24700 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

## 15 CARENTAN — DIVISION RESERVE / BILLETS

13 Jun ~23:00 – 19 Jun

MEDIUM

After the 13 June battle Easy and the 506th were withdrawn into division reserve in Carentan. Winters received treatment; Lt. Welsh temporarily ran the company. Local security, recovery and patrols.

> **On the ground:** Connects the combat phase with the recovery period.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗ Normandy Victory Museum ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Winters | Welsh | Lipton | Liebgott | Randleman | Blithe

49.30320, -1.24820 MEDIUM close — exact spot uncertain

GOOGLE MAPS

## PHASE 4 — LATER JUNE

### 16 RECONNAISSANCE / PATROL SECTOR OUTSIDE CARENTAN

≈25 Jun

LOW

Easy conducted reconnaissance and patrol activity; Albert Blithe was seriously wounded on 25 June 1944, his twenty-first birthday. Published accounts do not justify a single exact coordinate for the patrol route.

**On the ground:** Area reference only.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗ Normandy Victory Museum ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Winters | Welsh | Lipton | Liebgott | Randleman | Blithe

49.29000, -1.27000 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

### 17 CARENTAN DEFENSIVE / PATROL SECTOR

21–28 Jun

LOW

Easy remained in the Normandy line on defensive and patrol duties. Day-by-day company positions are not documented well enough to plot without inventing precision. Relieved from the line on 28 June.

**On the ground:** Area reference, not an exact position.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗ Normandy Victory Museum ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Winters | Welsh | Lipton | Liebgott | Randleman | Blithe

49.30000, -1.25000 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

### 18 REAR / RESERVE POSITION — TOWARD CHERBOURG

28–29 Jun

LOW

Winters recalled Easy being pulled off the line on 28 June and moving on 29 June to a position 'near Cherbourg'. No defensible exact camp coordinate survives.

> **On the ground:** Chronological reference only.

**DIG DEEPER**

US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.45000, -1.45000 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

## 19 101ST AIRBORNE REAR CAMP NORTH OF UTAH BEACH

29 Jun - 9 Jul

LOW

The division was concentrated in a field camp north of Utah Beach: training, maintenance, rest, awards and preparation for the return to England. No exact Easy Company tent location is claimed.

> **On the ground:** Approximate area.

**DIG DEEPER**

Utah Beach Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Utah Beach ↗

US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.43000, -1.20000 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

# PHASE 5 — EMBARKATION

## 20 UTAH BEACH EMBARKATION AREA

10-11 Jul

HIGH

Easy moved down to Utah Beach on 10 July to prepare for embarkation; the exact loading point is not established. Departure around 11 July. The historical endpoint of the Normandy ground campaign.

> **On the ground:** Stand on the beach where the company both defended the exits on D-Day and left Normandy five weeks later.

**DIG DEEPER**

Utah Beach Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Utah Beach ↗

US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.41520, -1.17640 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

21

### SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND

12 Jul 1944

HIGH

The returning convoy reached Southampton on the night of 12 July; the men went by train to Aldbourne. Outside Normandy — included to close the sequence.

> **On the ground:** Final marker; not on the Normandy driving route.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: E Company, 506th ↗

50.90000, -1.40000 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## PLAN YOUR TOUR

> **Printed tour:** the app's full recommended route at its standard length, day by day. In the app you can switch to the Easy-Company-only route, choose 1-7 days, and add or drop stops.

The planner ranks every site by its importance to the Easy Company story, fills your days in west-to-east driving order (about 7 hours of visits a day), and picks an overnight base for each night. Five days gives the classic tour; six or more adds the "Easy Company's June" extras.

Full D-Day route · Easy emphasis · 5 days · 32 stops · 32 h of visits · 0 visited

### DAY 1 — THE NIGHT DROP TO UTAH

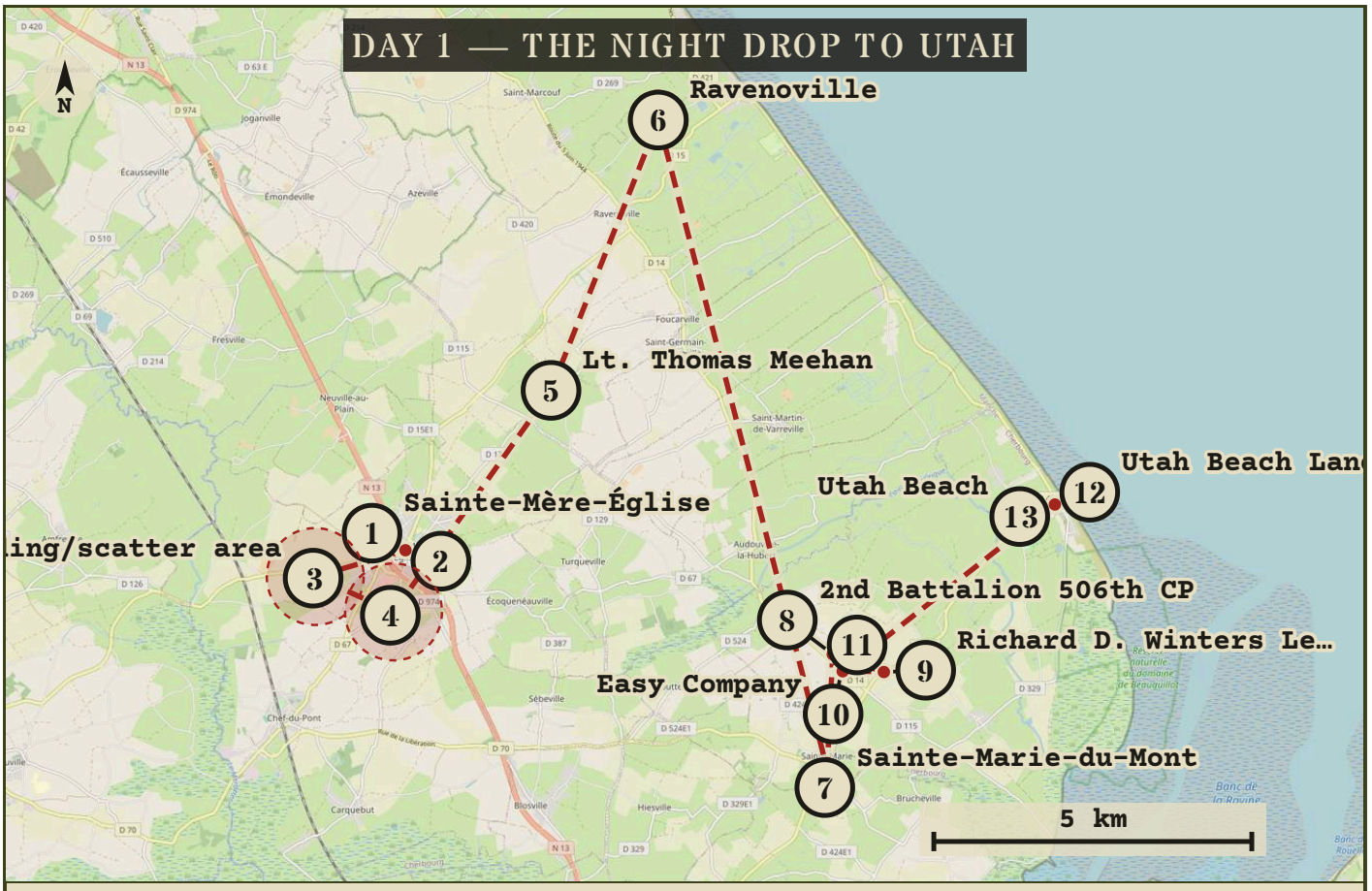
13 stops · ~9 h 35 m of visits + driving

🚐 DRIVE DAY 1 — 13 STOPS IN ORDER, ENDING AT TONIGHT'S CAMPSITE

GOOGLE MAPS ROUTE · PART 1 OF 2

GOOGLE MAPS ROUTE · PART 2 OF 2

Google Maps opens the whole day as one route (in parts — Google allows 10 points per link).




Map © OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org/copyright) · dashed line = order of visit, not the road · dashed circle = uncertain spot · tap ⤢ to enlarge

## 1 SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE

HIGH

Visit 45 min · Town · 82nd / dispersion context

Begin in the square before the museum. The church and compact street plan make this one of Normandy's strongest orientation points for the airborne landings. Chiefly an 82nd Airborne story, but for Easy it shows the scale of the night-drop chaos.

> **On the ground:** Look at the distances on your map rather than searching for an Easy plaque. The lesson is dispersion.

Always open. Best 08:00–09:30 or after 18:00.

**DIG DEEPER**

Airborne Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Sainte-Mère-Église ↗
Wikipedia: Mission Boston (82nd drop) ↗

49.40890, -1.31810 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 2 AIRBORNE MUSEUM, SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE

HIGH

Visit 120 min · Museum

Reconstruct what happened before any Easy man touched French soil: overloaded C-47s *(transport plane)*, darkness, flak *(anti-aircraft fire)*, jump lights, static lines and

landing alone. Aircraft, glider, uniforms and equipment make it physical.

> **On the ground:** Give special attention to the C-47 *(transport plane)* and 101st interpretation — the best place to understand what a 'stick' meant.

Sep 09:30-18:30 · May-Aug 09:00-19:00 · Apr 09:30-18:30 · Oct-Mar 10:00-18:00 · closed Dec-Jan. Arrive at opening.

**DIG DEEPER**

Airborne Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Sainte-Mère-Église ↗
Wikipedia: Mission Boston (82nd drop) ↗

49.40870, -1.31740 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 3 LANDING/SCATTER AREA — WINTERS

LOW

Visit 20 min · Easy Company · Timeline 1

Winters's probable landing sector west of town, not a surveyed touchdown point. He came down separated from his company and without his weapon.

> **On the ground:** Stand quietly and imagine the same fields in darkness. The absence of a monument is part of the experience.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Richard Winters ↗ MVT: Following in the footsteps of Winters ↗
Wikipedia: E Company, 506th ↗

49.40500, -1.33700 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

## 4 LANDING/SCATTER AREA — STICKS 68–71 SECTOR

LOW

Visit 20 min · Easy Company

A dispersion lesson, not four exact landing sites. Men landed across a broad area and assembled in improvised groups; the company that fought on 6 June was not the one that boarded in England.

> **On the ground:** Compare the plotted points with the intended DZ *(drop zone)* C to grasp how much cohesion had to be rebuilt on the ground.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Mission Albany (101st drop) ↗ 506th Association — WWII era & maps ↗

49.40000, -1.32000 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

## 5 LT. THOMAS MEEHAN / STICK 66 C-47 MEMORIAL

HIGH

Visit 30 min · Memorial · Easy Company

C-47 *(transport plane)* 42-93095, carrying Lt. Meehan, 1st Sgt. Evans and 15 other Easy paratroopers, was hit by flak *(anti-aircraft fire)* and crashed near Beuzeville-au-Plain. All five aircrew and 17 paratroopers were killed.

> **On the ground:** Unlike the scatter pins, this marks a documented crash-site vicinity. The story of Winters's leadership begins partly here.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Thomas Meehan ↗ Wikipedia: E Company, 506th ↗
D-Day Experience (C-47 artefacts) ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Meehan

49.43131, -1.28579 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 6 RAVENOVILLE / MARMION FARM AREA

MEDIUM

Visit 30 min · Easy Company

PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE ROAD

Associated with a separated Easy group — Guth, Talbert, 'Smokey' Gordon and Tipper. Small groups formed from whoever was nearby, fought local actions and moved toward friendly objectives.

> **On the ground:** Read the hedgerows and farm lanes. Do not enter private fields or farm property.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Mission Albany ↗ Wikipedia: E Company, 506th ↗

49.46950, -1.26250 MEDIUM close — exact spot uncertain

GOOGLE MAPS

## 7 SAINTE-MARIE-DU-MONT

HIGH

Visit 45 min · Town · 506th sector · Timeline 7

The heart of the 506th's D-Day sector, connecting the landings, the routes to Utah and the Brécourt action. From here the scattered story converges.

> **On the ground:** Use the village and its church tower as your geographic reset.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Sainte-Marie-du-Mont ↗ US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.37780, -1.22580 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 8 2ND BATTALION 506TH CP — LE GRAND CHEMIN

HIGH

Visit 20 min · Easy Company · Timeline 5

In this area Winters reached the battalion CP *(command post)*, was drawn into the leadership vacuum and received the mission that led to Brécourt. Interpretive reconstruction, not a marked footprint.

> **On the ground:** The hinge in the story.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Brécourt Manor Assault ↗ D-Day Overlord: Brécourt Manor ↗

49.39400, -1.22460 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 9 RICHARD D. WINTERS LEADERSHIP MONUMENT

HIGH

Visit 20 min · Memorial

Winters stands for the junior officers who led on D-Day. Not a combat position, but its placement on the road to Utah makes it an effective pause before Brécourt.

> **On the ground:** Look past the statue to the flat farmland and hedges: visibility could collapse within metres in the bocage.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Richard Winters ↗ MVT: Following in the footsteps of Winters ↗
Wikipedia: E Company, 506th ↗

49.39151, -1.21349 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 10 EASY COMPANY / 506TH BRÉCOURT MEMORIAL

HIGH

Visit 30 min · Memorial · public viewpoint

The practical public viewpoint for the Brécourt story. Orient toward the private battery area; the guns were believed to be firing toward Utah Beach.

> **On the ground:** Stay on public access. Use the memorial to identify the participants, then read the ground.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Brécourt Manor Assault ↗ D-Day Overlord: Brécourt Manor ↗
MVT: Brécourt Manor walk ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Winters | Compton | Guarnere | Lipton | Malarkey | Toye | Liebgott | Speirs

49.39172, -1.22273 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 11 BRÉCOURT MANOR BATTERY AREA

HIGH

Visit 45 min · Easy Company · Timeline 6

PRIVATE — VIEW FROM THE ROAD

Winters led a small force against four gun positions: suppressive fire, movement by small groups, into the trench, guns taken in sequence. Four questions to answer on site — where is the covered approach? where can a base of fire suppress? how does the trench connect the guns? why attack sequentially, not frontally?

> **On the ground:** Private property. Understand the geometry from legal viewpoints, not by standing on a supposed gun pit.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Brécourt Manor Assault ↗ D-Day Overlord: Brécourt Manor ↗
MVT: Brécourt Manor walk ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Winters | Compton | Guarnere | Lipton | Malarkey | Toye | Liebgott | Speirs

49.39161, -1.22247 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 12 UTAH BEACH LANDING MUSEUM

HIGH

Visit 105 min · Museum

The other half of the D-Day story: while the airborne secured exits inland, troops and vehicles came through a vulnerable beachhead. Landing craft, vehicles and a B-26 bomber.

> **On the ground:** After Brécourt, focus on the maps of beach exits and artillery threats — the reason for the assault becomes clear.

May–Sep 09:30–19:00 · Oct–Apr 10:00–18:00 · tickets close 1 hr before. Best at opening or from 15:30.

**DIG DEEPER**

Utah Beach Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Utah Beach ↗

US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.41520, -1.17640 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 13 UTAH BEACH

HIGH

Visit 45 min · Beach · Timeline 20

Finish on the sand. The westernmost landing beach, whose success depended on forces inland. Easy's Normandy campaign also ended here — it embarked from this beach on 10–11 July.

> **On the ground:** Walk from the dunes to the water, then turn inland. Sea → land is the right way to close the day.

Always open. Best early morning, low-to-mid tide.

**DIG DEEPER**

Utah Beach Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Utah Beach ↗

US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.41520, -1.17640 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

**END OF DAY 1 — OVERNIGHT**

Recommended base: Carentan-les-Marais / Sainte-Mère-Église sector

**Campervan:** Aire Camping-Car Park de Carentan, Le Port — 30 chemin du Grand Bas Pays, 50500 Carentan-les-Marais

12 pitches · 24/7 year-round · water, electricity, dump, Wi-Fi · 500 m from centre

GOOGLE MAPS

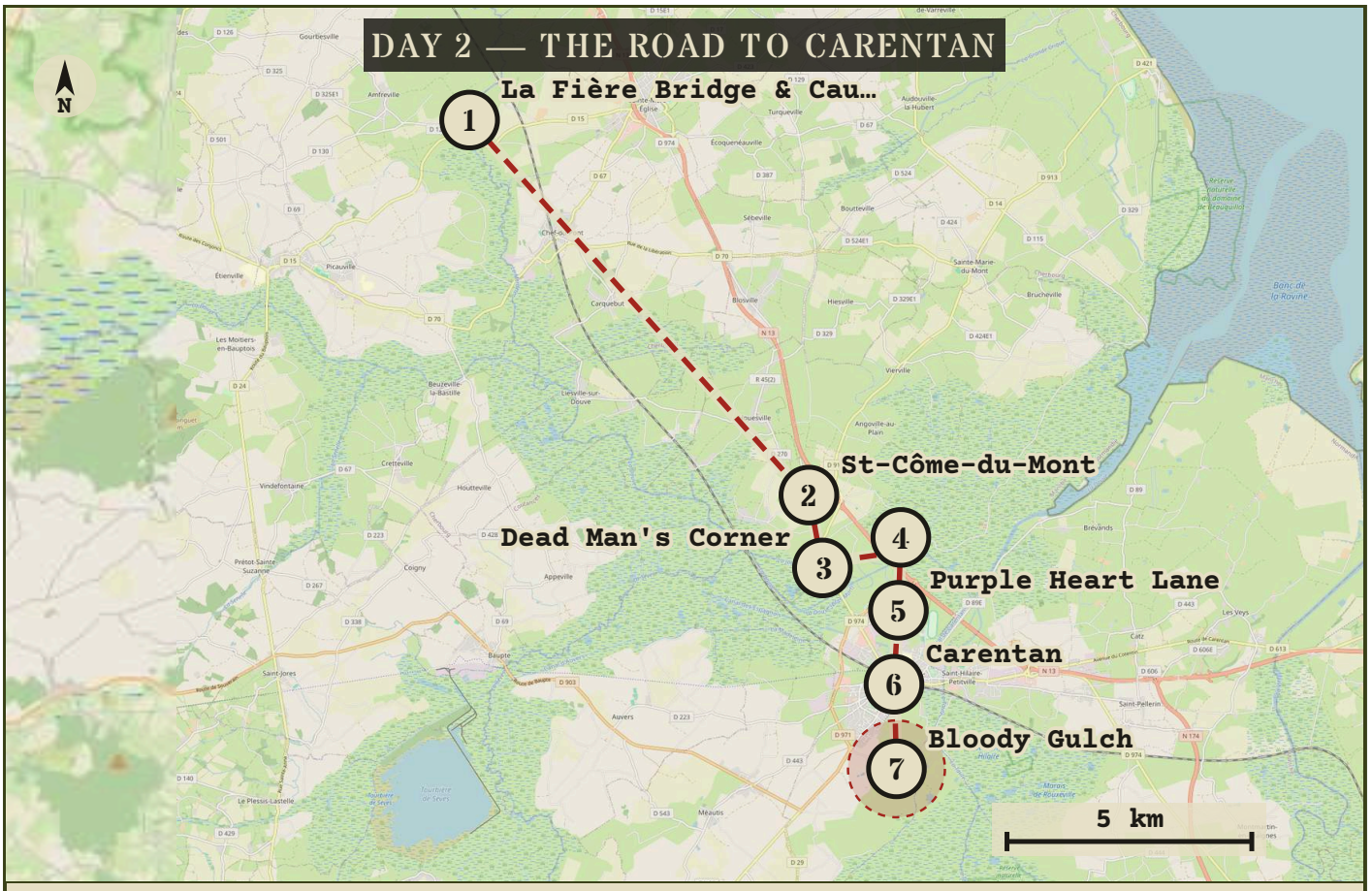
## DAY 2 — THE ROAD TO CARENTAN

7 stops · ~5 h 35 m of visits + driving

### 🚐 DRIVE DAY 2 — 7 STOPS IN ORDER, ENDING AT TONIGHT'S CAMPSITE

GOOGLE MAPS ROUTE

Google Maps opens the whole day as one route.




Map © OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org/copyright) · dashed line = order of visit, not the road · dashed circle = uncertain spot · tap ⤢ to enlarge

## 1 LA FIÈRE BRIDGE & CAUSEWAY

HIGH

Visit 60 min · 82nd Airborne battlefield

Not an Easy action but indispensable context: control of the Merderet crossings produced some of the fiercest airborne fighting of the invasion. The causeway shows how flooded lowlands turned a road into a bottleneck.

> **On the ground:** Study bridge, causeway and flood-plain geometry — the same problem returns on the approach to Carentan.

Always open. Best early or late for low light.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Mission Boston ↗ Wikipedia: 82nd Airborne in Normandy ↗

49.40570, -1.36780 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 2 ST-CÔME-DU-MONT

HIGH

Visit 30 min · 506th / 101st context

The 101st pushed through here toward Carentan; the 506th took the village on 8 June while Easy was in reserve. Hedgerows and narrow roads fragmented movement.

> **On the ground:** Short map distances conceal difficult ground. Every hedge a wall, every junction an objective.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗ D-Day Experience (official) ↗

49.33600, -1.27200 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 3 DEAD MAN'S CORNER / D-DAY EXPERIENCE

HIGH

Visit 90 min · Museum · Timeline 11

The historic crossroads and museum interpret the fighting round Saint-Côme-du-Mont and the approach to Carentan. Material from Meehan's crashed C-47 *(transport plane)* has been displayed here. Easy passed this corner on the evening of 11 June.

> **On the ground:** Refresh the 101st-wide picture before the exposed Douve approach.

**DIG DEEPER**

D-Day Experience (official) ↗ D-Day Center overview ↗
Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗

49.32440, -1.26870 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 4 DOUVE / DEAD MAN'S CORNER SECTOR

HIGH

Visit 20 min · Terrain

Waterways, marshes, bridges and raised roads dictated movement. Possession of a junction or causeway mattered far beyond its size on a map.

> **On the ground:** Do not rush. Low wet fields, constrained routes, few alternatives.

**DIG DEEPER**

D-Day Experience (official) ↗ D-Day Center overview ↗
Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗

49.32650, -1.24650 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 5 PURPLE HEART LANE / CARENTAN CAUSEWAY

HIGH

Visit 30 min · 101st context

The causeway toward Carentan became notorious: troops advancing along it were exposed with no room to manoeuvre. Chiefly a 502nd PIR *(Parachute Infantry Regiment)* story, but it is the battlefield Easy moved into.

**On the ground:** Imagine artillery and machine-gun fire channelled onto a narrow approach with marsh either side.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗ Wikipedia: Robert G. Cole ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Winters | Welsh | Lipton | Liebgott | Randleman | Blithe

49.31730, -1.24700 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 6 CARENTAN

HIGH

Visit 60 min · Town · Timeline 13 & 15

The prize between the Utah and Omaha lodgements. Easy entered on the Route d'Auvers / Rue Holgate axis on 12 June and fought toward the railway, where Winters was wounded; the company was then billeted here in reserve 13–19 June.

**On the ground:** Walk the central streets rather than drive them.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗ Normandy Victory Museum ↗

**EASY MEN HERE**

Winters | Welsh | Lipton | Liebgott | Randleman | Blithe

49.30320, -1.24820 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 7 BLOODY GULCH / HILL 30 SECTOR

LOW

Visit 45 min · Easy Company · Timeline 14

On 13 June German forces counterattacked south-west of Carentan. The 506th held until armour arrived. For Easy a test of holding ground, not seizing it. The exact hedgerow line is disputed.

**On the ground:** Battlefield terrain, not a single-point attraction: hedgerows, folds and restricted sightlines.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Bloody Gulch ↗ Bloody Gulch Museum (official) ↗

49.28660, -1.24760 LOW general area only

GOOGLE MAPS

**END OF DAY 2 — OVERNIGHT**

Recommended base: Carentan-les-Marais / Sainte-Mère-Église sector

**Campervan:** Aire Camping-Car Park de Carentan, Le Port — 30 chemin du Grand Bas Pays, 50500 Carentan-les-Marais

12 pitches · 24/7 year-round · water, electricity, dump, Wi-Fi · 500 m from centre

GOOGLE MAPS

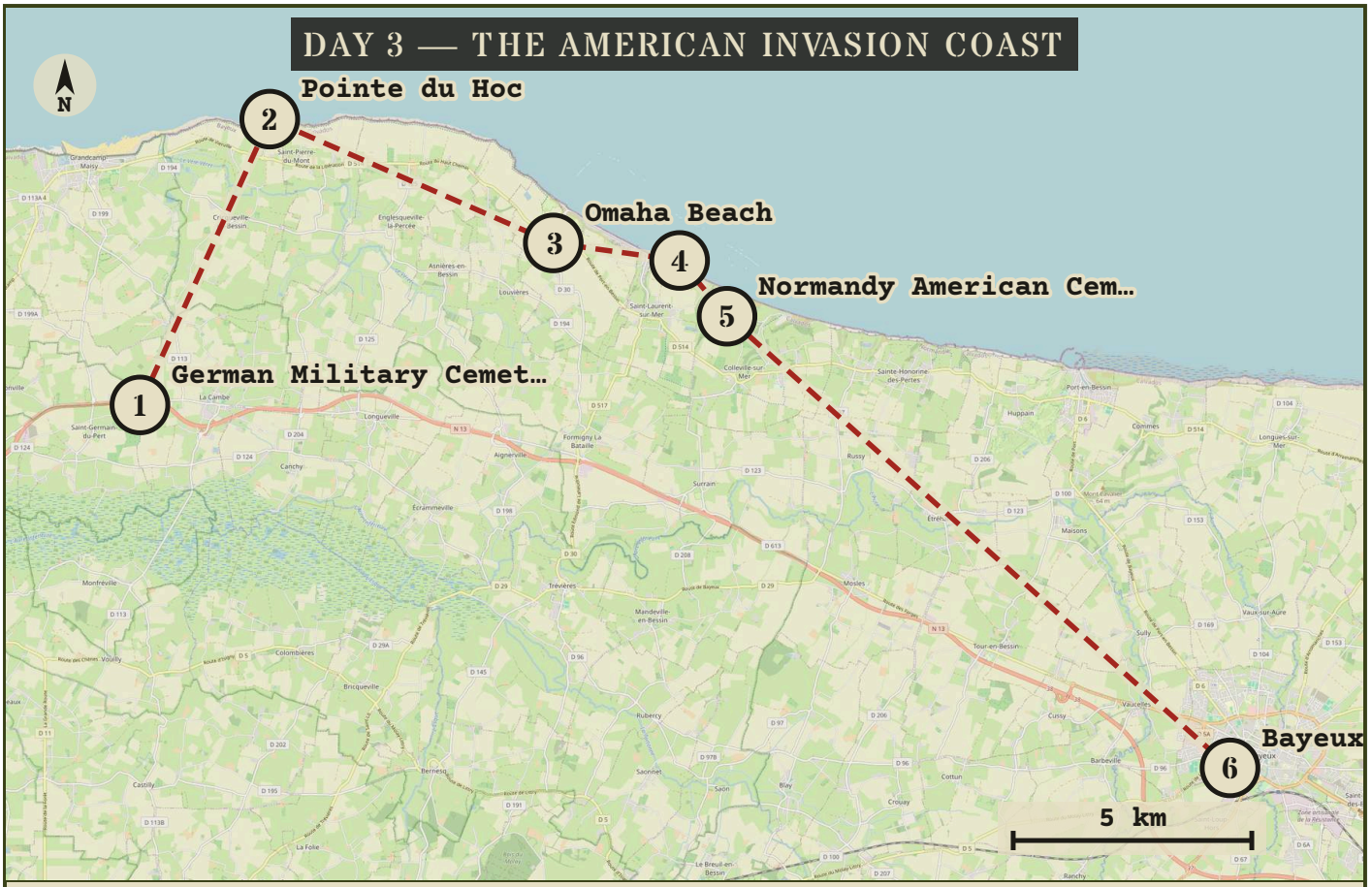
## DAY 3 — THE AMERICAN INVASION COAST

6 stops · ~6 h 40 m of visits + driving

### 🚐 DRIVE DAY 3 — 6 STOPS IN ORDER, ENDING AT TONIGHT'S CAMPSITE

GOOGLE MAPS ROUTE

Google Maps opens the whole day as one route.




Map © OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org/copyright) · dashed line = order of visit, not the road · dashed circle = uncertain spot · tap ⤢ to enlarge

## 1 GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY, LA CAMBE

HIGH

Visit 45 min · Cemetery

The day deliberately begins with the German dead — a stark contrast to the American cemetery later, broadening the tour from unit history to the human cost.

> **On the ground:** Place of remembrance. Notice the massing, stone forms and central mound.

Daytime; visitor centre seasonal.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: La Cambe German war cemetery ↗

49.34250, -1.02690 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 2 POINTE DU HOC

HIGH

Visit 75 min · Battlefield

The Rangers' cliff assault was separate from Easy's, but the preserved craters, casemates and cliff edge make the pre-invasion bombardment legible. Same kind of threat as Brécourt, on a larger scale.

> **On the ground:** Walk the cratered ground slowly; the landscape is the exhibit.

09:00–17:00 daily (2026) · visitor centre closed from 9 Mar 2026 for restoration. Best 09:00–10:30.

**DIG DEEPER**

ABMC: Pointe du Hoc (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Pointe du Hoc ↗

49.39630, -0.98940 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 3 OMAHA BEACH — DOG GREEN / VIERVILLE

HIGH

Visit 45 min · Beach

Among Omaha's most punishing sectors. Open sand, limited exits, commanding bluffs — the contrast with Utah explains why the two beachheads developed so differently.

> **On the ground:** Go near the waterline if the tide allows, then turn toward the bluffs. The exposure is the lesson.

Always open. Best early or 1–2 hr before sunset.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Omaha Beach ↗ ABMC: Normandy ↗

49.37300, -0.90750 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 4 OMAHA BEACH — CENTRAL SECTOR

HIGH

Visit 40 min · Beach

A second Omaha stop keeps the beach from collapsing into one viewpoint: compare exits, bluffs and fields of fire across the frontage.

> **On the ground:** Walk inland from the water and identify the draws — routes off the beach, not shoreline distance.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Omaha Beach ↗ ABMC: Normandy ↗

49.36970, -0.87100 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 5 NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY

HIGH

Visit 90 min · Cemetery

Colleville-sur-Mer turns the battlefield into individual loss; its position above Omaha makes geography and remembrance inseparable.

> **On the ground:** Allow the full time. Move beyond the central axis, read markers, then look back to the sea.

09:00–17:00 daily · closed 25 Dec, 1 Jan · last entry 30 min before. Best 09:00–10:30 or the late-afternoon flag ceremony.

**DIG DEEPER**

ABMC: Normandy American Cemetery (official) ↗

Wikipedia: Normandy American Cemetery ↗

49.35920, -0.85730 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 6 BAYEUX — MUSEUM OF THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY

HIGH

Visit 105 min · Museum

Widens the lens from 6 June to the whole campaign: bocage, attrition, breakout, collapse.

> **On the ground:** Use the maps to place Easy's story inside the larger campaign — you have now seen the ground.

Seasonal hours; check official site.

**DIG DEEPER**

Bayeux Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Operation Overlord ↗

49.27410, -0.71200 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

**END OF DAY 3 — OVERNIGHT**

Recommended base: Bayeux

**Campervan:** Camping des Bords de l'Aure — Boulevard d'Eindhoven, 14400 Bayeux

Full campsite · washrooms · motorhome service point (alt: Aire Trébucien/Verdun, 25 pitches, no showers)

GOOGLE MAPS

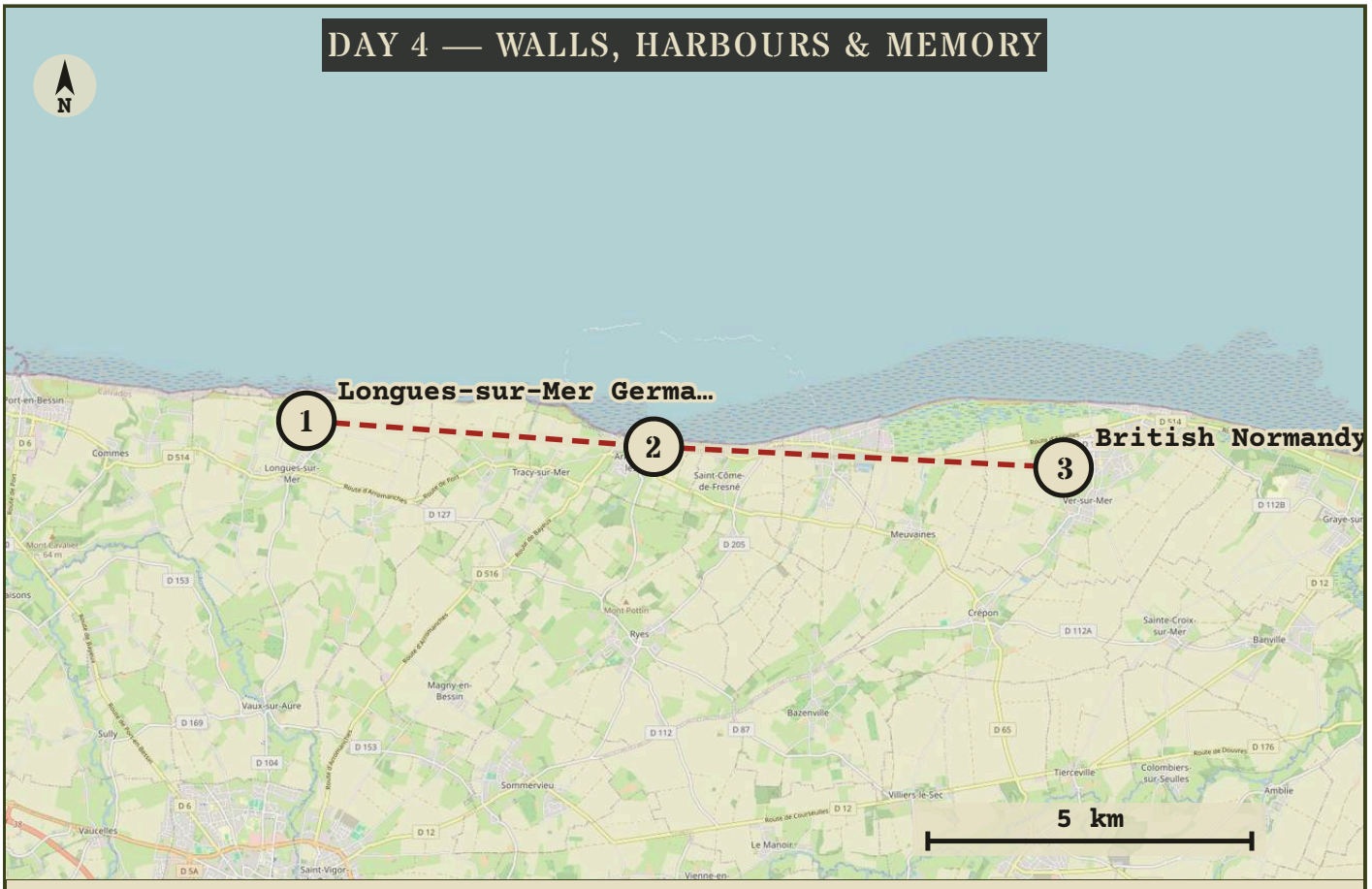
## DAY 4 — WALLS, HARBOURS & MEMORY

3 stops · ~3 h 45 m of visits + driving

### 🚐 DRIVE DAY 4 — 3 STOPS IN ORDER, ENDING AT TONIGHT'S CAMPSITE

GOOGLE MAPS ROUTE

Google Maps opens the whole day as one route.




Map © OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org/copyright) · dashed line = order of visit, not the road · dashed circle = uncertain spot · tap ⤢ to enlarge

## 1 LONGUES-SUR-MER GERMAN BATTERY

HIGH

Visit 75 min · Battlefield

One of the best places to understand the Atlantic Wall as a working artillery system — original guns remain in their casemates.

> **On the ground:** Walk between positions rather than viewing one bunker; the spacing is part of the system.

Freely accessible; tours seasonal. Best early or late.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Longues-sur-Mer battery ↗ Wikipedia: Atlantic Wall ↗

49.34300, -0.69460 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 2 ARROMANCHES-LES-BAINS / MULBERRY HARBOUR

HIGH

Visit 90 min · Site

The logistics story: Port Winston let men, vehicles and supplies flow into Normandy. Read it as a system — offshore Phoenix caissons → floating roadways → shore discharge.

> **On the ground:** View from beach level and from the heights; the harbour only makes sense across the whole bay.

Viewpoints always open; museum hours separate. Best around low tide, late afternoon.

**DIG DEEPER**

Musée du Débarquement (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Mulberry harbour ↗

49.33940, -0.62070 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 3 BRITISH NORMANDY MEMORIAL, VER-SUR-MER

HIGH

Visit 60 min · Memorial

Brings British and Commonwealth sacrifice into the route, above Gold Beach — Overlord was a coalition operation.

> **On the ground:** A reflective end to the day; the names turn numbers back into individuals.

Daylight access; verify gate times.

**DIG DEEPER**

British Normandy Memorial (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Gold Beach ↗

49.33650, -0.53350 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

**END OF DAY 4 — OVERNIGHT**

Recommended base: Bayeux

**Campervan:** Camping des Bords de l'Aure — Boulevard d'Eindhoven, 14400 Bayeux

Full campsite · washrooms · motorhome service point (alt: Aire Trébucien/Verdun, 25 pitches, no showers)

GOOGLE MAPS

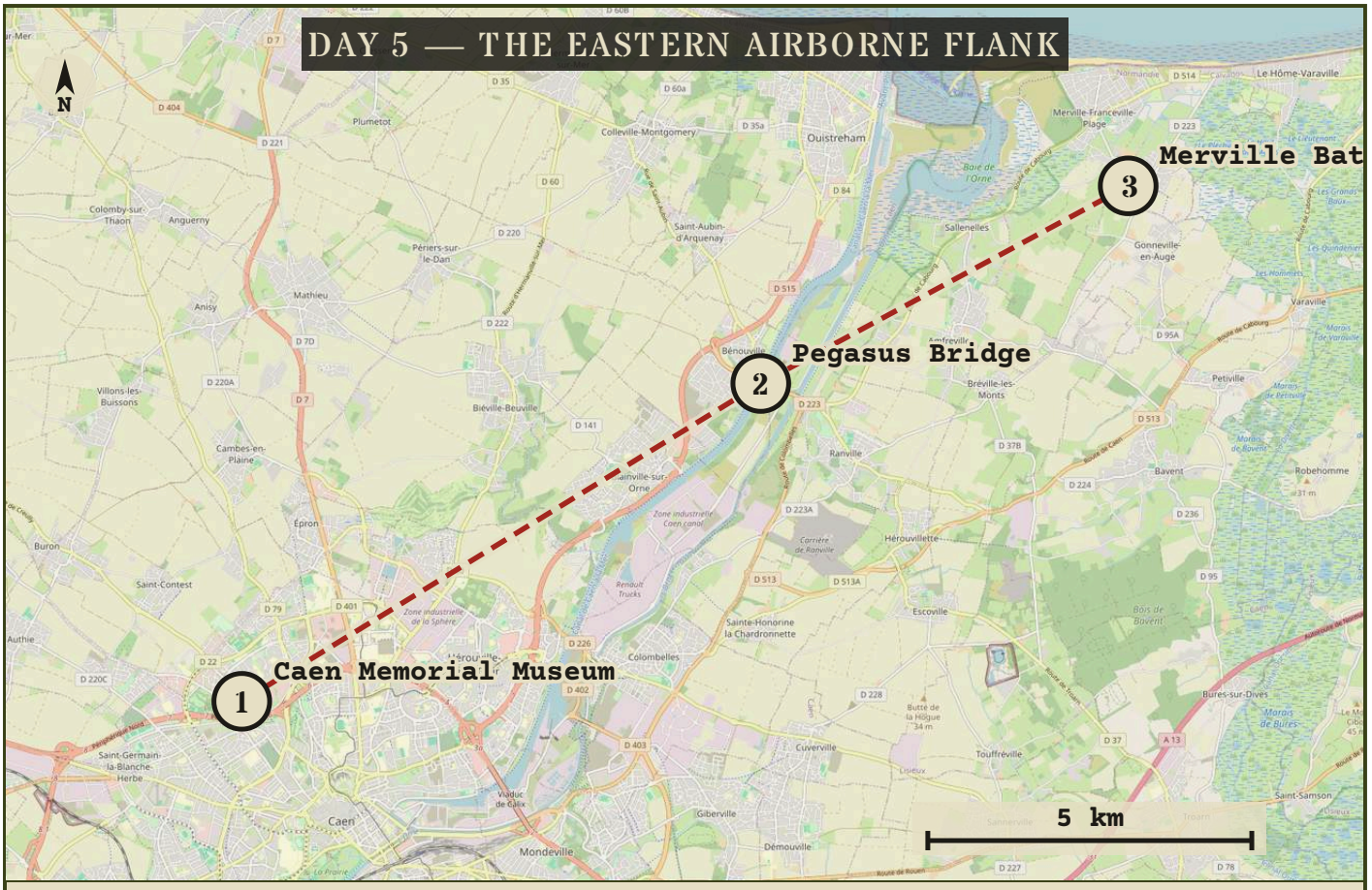
## DAY 5 — THE EASTERN AIRBORNE FLANK

3 stops · ~6 h 0 m of visits + driving

### 🚐 DRIVE DAY 5 — 3 STOPS IN ORDER, ENDING AT TONIGHT'S CAMPSITE

GOOGLE MAPS ROUTE

Google Maps opens the whole day as one route.




Map © OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org/copyright) · dashed line = order of visit, not the road · dashed circle = uncertain spot · tap ⤢ to enlarge

## 1 CAEN MEMORIAL MUSEUM

HIGH

Visit 210 min · Museum

The strategic frame: origins and course of the war, occupation, D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Deliberately placed late, after four days of terrain.

> **On the ground:** Do not read every label; concentrate on the invasion plan, the campaign and the civilian experience.

Seasonal; allow 3-4 hr; start at opening.

**DIG DEEPER**

Mémorial de Caen (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Battle for Caen ↗

49.19790, -0.38470 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 2 PEGASUS BRIDGE / MEMORIAL PEGASUS

HIGH

Visit 60 min · Museum / site · British Airborne

The glider capture of the Orne and canal bridges was one of D-Day's most precise opening actions — the opposite of the scattered American drop, with the same need to secure crossings and protect a flank.

> **On the ground:** Museum closed 1 Sep 2026 - May 2027; the bridge, canal and approaches remain viewable from public areas.

Exterior only while closed; best in the morning.

**DIG DEEPER**

Memorial Pegasus (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Pegasus Bridge ↗
Wikipedia: Operation Deadstick ↗

49.24200, -0.27450 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 3 MERVILLE BATTERY

HIGH

Visit 90 min · Battlefield · British Airborne

The 9th Parachute Battalion attacked this battery despite severe dispersal and lost equipment — the direct parallel to Brécourt. Preserved casemates let you read it from the defender's side.

> **On the ground:** End inside the defensive landscape and compare with Brécourt on Day 1.

15 Mar-30 Sep 09:30-20:30 (last 18:30) · 1 Oct-15 Nov 10:00-18:30 (last 17:00).

**DIG DEEPER**

Batterie de Merville (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Merville Gun Battery ↗

49.26940, -0.19650 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

**END OF DAY 5 — OVERNIGHT**

Recommended base: Ouistreham / onward travel

**Campervan:** Aire de camping-cars de Ouistreham Riva-Bella — Boulevard Maritime, 14150 Ouistreham

34 pitches · year-round · toilets, electricity, water, dump, Wi-Fi · near ferry

GOOGLE MAPS

# OPERATION OVERLORD — THE WHOLE INVASION

Easy Company was one rifle company among roughly 156,000 Allied troops landed on 6 June 1944. This tab gives the big picture, then runs the invasion clock side by side with what Easy was doing at the same hour.

## THE DECISIVE FACTORS

### THE PLAN — OVERLORD AND NEPTUNE

Five beaches on an 80 km front between the Orne and the Cotentin, three airborne divisions dropped on the flanks before dawn, and a lodgement to be built up faster than the Germans could reinforce it. Neptune was the assault phase; Overlord the campaign to break out of Normandy. Easy's regiment, the 506th, sat at the far western end of the whole scheme, behind Utah Beach.

≈156,000 troops landed on D-Day · ≈7,000 vessels · ≈11,500 aircraft sorties · 5 beaches · 3 airborne divisions

### DECEPTION — OPERATION FORTITUDE

A fictional army group under Patton in south-east England, dummy landing craft, double agents and false radio traffic convinced German intelligence that the main blow would fall at the Pas-de-Calais. The German 15th Army stayed there for weeks after 6 June — one important reason, alongside German command paralysis, Allied air power and wrecked transport, why the beachhead was not crushed in its first days.

German 15th Army held at Calais into July

### WEATHER — THE 24-HOUR POSTPONEMENT

Planned for 5 June, the landings were postponed a day when a storm blew in. Group Captain Stagg's forecast of a brief window on the 6th let Eisenhower say 'OK, let's go'. The Germans, reading the same weather, stood down: Rommel was in Germany for his wife's birthday. The wind also scattered the airborne drops — including Easy's.

Decision: 04:15, 5 June · low tide + moonlight window: 5–7 June

### THE GERMAN DEFENCE

Rommel's Atlantic Wall: beach obstacles, mined foreshore, resistance nests, and inland flooding of the Douve and Merderet valleys to drown paratroopers and channel movement. Behind Utah stood the 709th and 91st Divisions and Fallschirmjäger Regiment 6 — Easy's opponents from Brécourt to Carentan. The panzer reserve, held back by Hitler, could not move until the afternoon of 6 June.

Utah sector: 709th Inf. Div., 91st Luftlande Div., FJR 6 · Omaha: 352nd Inf. Div.

### THE AIRBORNE ASSAULT

Mission Albany (101st) and Boston (82nd) in the west, Tonga (British 6th) in the east: about 23,000 men by parachute and glider. Cloud, flak and evasive flying scattered the Americans across the Cotentin — the confusion that cost Easy its commander and made Winters's D-Day. The scatter also confused the Germans, who could not tell where the main drop was.

101st: DZs A, C, D behind Utah · 82nd: Sainte-Mère-Église and the Merderet · 6th: Orne bridges and Merville

### THE BEACHES — FIVE VERY DIFFERENT BATTLES

Utah: 4th Division ashore on the wrong beach, lightly opposed, ≈200 casualties — because the airborne had the exits and the guns (Brécourt among them) were being silenced. Omaha: bluffs, the 352nd Division and no working armour — ≈2,400 casualties and a crisis until noon. Gold, Juno and Sword: British and Canadian landings that reached furthest inland, though Caen was not taken.

H-Hour: Utah/Omaha 06:30 · Gold 07:25 · Sword 07:25 · Juno 07:45–07:55

### NAVAL AND AIR POWER

Battleships and cruisers bombarded the coast from 05:30; thousands of bombers hit batteries and beaches (missing most of Omaha's defences in the cloud). Allied air supremacy meant the Luftwaffe barely appeared and German reinforcements moved only at night — which is why German formations arrived piecemeal and the concentrated counter-blows the invasion plan feared never came.

Bombardment from 05:30 · Rangers scaled Pointe du Hoc at 07:10

### LOGISTICS — THE ARTIFICIAL HARBOURS

Two prefabricated Mulberry harbours were towed across the Channel and working within days. The great storm of 19–22 June wrecked the American one at Omaha; the British harbour at Arromanches carried on. Fuel came ashore in tankers, jerrycans and short shore pipelines; the first cross-Channel PLUTO line was not laid until August and mattered only after Normandy. The build-up race was won by supply as much as by fighting.

Arromanches harbour: ≈2.5 million men, 500,000 vehicles and 4 million tons of supplies over its ten months of operation (not the Normandy campaign alone)

### THE CAMPAIGN AFTER D-DAY

Carentan (12 June) joined Utah to Omaha; the Cotentin was cut on 18 June and Cherbourg fell on 26–27 June; Caen was finally cleared in July; Operation Cobra broke out on 25 July and the Falaise pocket closed on 21 August. Paris was liberated on 25 August. Easy Company was back in England by then, rebuilding for Holland.

Normandy campaign: 6 June – 25 August 1944 · Allied casualties ≈209,000

## TWO CLOCKS — THE INVASION AND EASY COMPANY

Times are approximate and in British Double Summer Time as used by the Allies. Where Easy's position is uncertain the stamp says so.

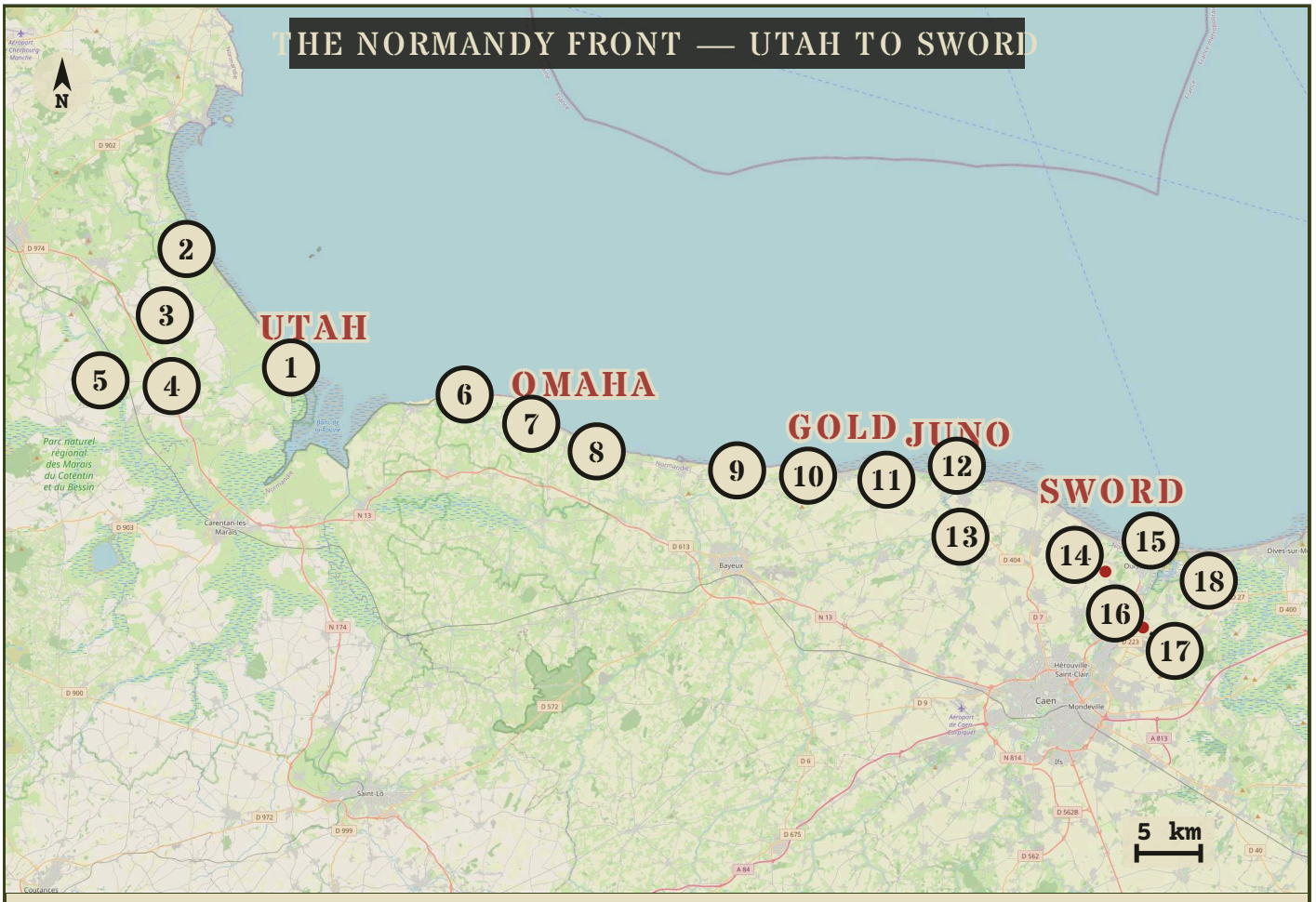
| TIME | THE INVASION | EASY COMPANY |
|---|---|---|
| 5 JUNE — EVENING | | |
| ≈21:00 | Airborne troops in England emblazon faces, load C-47s. 'Ike' visits the 101st at Greenham Common. | Easy Company boards nine C-47s at Upottery, Devon; take-off from ≈23:10. HIGH |
| 6 JUNE — D-DAY | | |
| 00:16 | First British gliders land beside the Caen Canal bridge (Pegasus); bridge captured by 00:30. | Airborne over the Channel; formations still intact. HIGH |
| ≈00:50–01:40 | Mission Albany: 6,600 men of the 101st jump; cloud and flak scatter the sticks across the Cotentin. | Easy jumps around 01:00–01:30. Stick 66 (Meehan, Evans and 15 men) is hit by flak and crashes near Beuzeville-au-Plain. Winters lands alone somewhere west of Sainte-Mère-Église. LOW |
| ≈01:50–02:40 | Mission Boston: the 82nd jumps around Sainte-Mère-Église and the Merderet. | Winters' group grows on the Rue Saint-Martin / D423 sector; falls in behind Cole's 502nd men. MEDIUM |
| ≈03:00 | Paratroopers fighting in Sainte-Mère-Église (liberated ≈04:30); some 800 troop-carrier aircraft have dropped the two American divisions, and the first glider serials are approaching. | German column ambushed near the D423/D115 junction; Winters' party moves on toward Audouville. MEDIUM |
| ≈04:30 | 9th Para Battalion takes the Merville Battery with 150 of its 750 men. | Winters searches La Herguerie farm and heads for the 506th assembly area. HIGH |
| 05:30 | Naval bombardment opens along the coast; 05:50 at Omaha. | Approaching Le Grand Chemin. HIGH |
| 06:30 | H-Hour at Utah and Omaha. Utah's first wave lands 1.8 km south of plan — on a lightly defended stretch. Omaha's first wave is shot to pieces. | Winters reaches the 2/506 command post at Le Grand Chemin. HIGH |
| 07:10 | Rangers begin scaling Pointe du Hoc. | Winters given the mission: silence the guns firing on Utah. HIGH |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **07:25–07:55** | H-Hour at Gold, Sword and Juno. | Brécourt reconnaissance and assault preparation. HIGH |
| **≈08:30–12:00** | Omaha's crisis: Bradley considers diverting follow-up waves; small groups begin climbing the bluffs around 09:00–10:00. Utah: 4th Division moving inland over the causeways. | BRÉCOURT MANOR: Winters' 12 men assault the four-gun battery; the guns are silenced one by one; Speirs's D Company men join; the force withdraws by about noon. HIGH |
| **≈13:00** | 4th Division troops meet the 101st at Pouppeville (Exit 1) — sea and air forces linked at Utah. Bayeux road reached from Gold. | Easy and 2/506 operate in the Sainte-Marie-du-Mont sector as the beach forces come inland. MEDIUM |
| **≈16:00–20:00** | 21st Panzer counterattacks between Sword and Juno, reaches the coast, then pulls back. Omaha finally secured to a depth of 2 km. | Easy moves south-west toward Culoville, near the 506th CP at Hiesville. HIGH |
| **Night** | ≈156,000 troops ashore; ≈4,400 Allied dead. No beach has reached its D-Day objective, but all five lodgements hold. | First night in Normandy at Culoville. HIGH |
| 7 JUNE — D+1 | | |
| **Day** | Bayeux liberated by the British — the first major French town freed. Omaha and Gold link up. | Easy leads 2/506 on point into Vierville against German paratroopers. HIGH |
| 8–10 JUNE | | |
| | 506th takes Saint-Côme-du-Mont (8 June); Omaha and Utah forces meet at Isigny (9-10 June). | Easy in reserve guarding Col. Sink's regimental CP at Angoville-au-Plain. HIGH |
| 11–13 JUNE | | |
| | 502nd fights down Purple Heart Lane (10-11 June); Carentan taken 12 June — Utah and Omaha are now one front. 13 June: 17th SS Panzergrenadiers and FJR 6 counterattack. | 11 June: past Dead Man's Corner, across the causeway, bivouac in the marsh fields. 12 June: into Carentan on the Route d'Auvers; Winters wounded. 13 June: Bloody Gulch held until 2nd Armored tanks arrive. HIGH |
| 14–28 JUNE | | |
| | 18 June: Cotentin cut. 19-22 June: the great storm wrecks Mulberry A. 26-27 June: Cherbourg falls. British Epsom offensive west of Caen. | Division reserve in Carentan; patrols (Blithe wounded 25 June); in the line until relieved 28 June. LOW |
| 29 JUNE – 12 JULY | | |
| | 8-9 July: Caen (north of the Orne) taken. Build-up continues for the breakout. | 29 June 'near Cherbourg'; then the 101st rear camp north of Utah. 10-11 July: embarkation at Utah Beach; Southampton 12 July. LOW |
| AFTER EASY LEFT | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 25 July: Operation Cobra breaks out at Saint-Lô. 21 Aug: Falaise pocket closed. 25 Aug: Paris liberated. | Rebuilding at Aldbourne — next stop Holland, 17 September (Market Garden). HIGH |

## KEY INVASION SITES

The whole front from Utah to Sword. Sites already on your tour are marked; the others are the ones to add if you want the full invasion story. Tap the map to enlarge.




Map © OpenStreetMap contributors (openstreetmap.org/copyright) · numbers match the list below · region names in red

### 1 UTAH BEACH

HIGH

Beach · US 4th Division · on your tour

The westernmost beach; the current pushed the first wave south onto a weaker sector and Brig. Gen. Roosevelt chose to 'start the war from right here'. ≈200 casualties — the airborne had the exits.

> **On the ground:** Museum and monuments on the dunes; walk out to the water, then look inland at the causeways.

**DIG DEEPER**

Utah Beach Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Utah Beach ↗
US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.41520, -1.17640 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 2 CRISBECQ (MARCOUF) BATTERY

HIGH

Battery · German coastal artillery · not on the 5-day tour

Heavy 210 mm naval battery that dueled with the fleet off Utah and was not taken until 12 June. Shows the scale of gun the Brécourt battery was a small cousin of.

**On the ground:** Casemates and museum north of Utah Beach.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Crisbecq Battery ↗

49.48300, -1.29600 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 3 AZEVILLE BATTERY

HIGH

Battery · German coastal artillery · not on the 5-day tour

Four casemates linked by tunnels, painted to look like houses; fired on Utah and held out until 9 June.

**On the ground:** Walkable tunnels; pair with Crisbecq.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Azeville Battery ↗

49.46100, -1.30600 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 4 SAINTE-MÈRE-ÉGLISE

HIGH

Airborne · 82nd Division · on your tour

The first town liberated in France, before dawn on 6 June, by the 505th PIR *(Parachute Infantry Regiment)* — the centre of the American airborne story.

**On the ground:** Church, square and Airborne Museum.

**DIG DEEPER**

Airborne Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Sainte-Mère-Église ↗
Wikipedia: Mission Boston (82nd drop) ↗

49.40890, -1.31810 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 5 LA FIÈRE CAUSEWAY

HIGH

Airborne · 82nd Division · on your tour

Three days of fighting for the Merderet crossing, 6-9 June — the costliest small-unit action of the American airborne assault.

**On the ground:** Iron Mike statue overlooks the causeway.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Mission Boston ↗ Wikipedia: 82nd Airborne in Normandy ↗

49.40570, -1.36780 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 6 POINTE DU HOC

HIGH

Rangers · 2nd Ranger Battalion · on your tour

225 Rangers scaled the 30 m cliffs at 07:10 to find the guns moved inland; they found and destroyed them anyway and held out for two days.

**On the ground:** Cratered ground and casemates; visitor centre under restoration in 2026.

**DIG DEEPER**

ABMC: Pointe du Hoc (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Pointe du Hoc ↗

49.39630, -0.98940 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 7 OMAHA BEACH — VIERVILLE DRAW

HIGH

Beach · US 1st & 29th Divisions · on your tour

The bloodiest beach: bluffs, the veteran 352nd Division, drowned tanks and a first wave pinned at the water's edge. ≈2,400 casualties; the beach was in doubt until midday.

**On the ground:** National Guard monument on the German casemate at the draw.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Omaha Beach ↗ ABMC: Normandy ↗

49.37300, -0.90750 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 8 NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY

HIGH

Cemetery · Colleville-sur-Mer · on your tour

9,389 American graves above Omaha, including 45 sets of brothers and 3 Medal of Honor recipients.

> **On the ground:** Allow the full time; visitor centre explains the whole campaign.

**DIG DEEPER**

ABMC: Normandy American Cemetery (official) ↗

Wikipedia: Normandy American Cemetery ↗

49.35920, -0.85730 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 9 LONGUES-SUR-MER BATTERY

HIGH

Battery · between Omaha and Gold · on your tour

Four 150 mm naval guns in casemates that engaged the fleet on the morning of 6 June until silenced by HMS Ajax and the French cruiser Georges Leygues.

> **On the ground:** The only battery with its original guns still in place.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Longues-sur-Mer battery ↗ Wikipedia: Atlantic Wall ↗

49.34300, -0.69460 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 10 ARROMANCHES — GOLD BEACH

HIGH

Beach · British 50th Division · on your tour

Gold's assault force pushed to the edge of Bayeux by nightfall; the Mulberry B harbour built here fed the whole British front.

> **On the ground:** Harbour remains visible at low tide; museum on the seafront.

**DIG DEEPER**

Musée du Débarquement (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Mulberry harbour ↗

49.33940, -0.62070 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 11 BRITISH NORMANDY MEMORIAL

HIGH

Memorial · Ver-sur-Mer · on your tour

22,442 names of those under British command who died from D-Day to the end of August.

> **On the ground:** Above Gold Beach; free.

**DIG DEEPER**

British Normandy Memorial (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Gold Beach ↗

49.33650, -0.53350 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 12 JUNO BEACH CENTRE — COURSEULLES

HIGH

Beach · Canadian 3rd Division · not on the 5-day tour

The Canadians took the heaviest losses of the British beaches in the first hour, then advanced further inland than any other force on D-Day.

**On the ground:** Canada's museum on the beach; German bunkers in the dunes.

**DIG DEEPER**

Juno Beach Centre (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Juno Beach ↗

49.33730, -0.46000 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 13 BÉNY-SUR-MER CANADIAN CEMETERY

HIGH

Cemetery · Reviers · not on the 5-day tour

2,048 Canadian graves from Juno and the fighting for Caen.

**On the ground:** Quiet, rarely crowded.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery ↗

49.30550, -0.45600 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 14 HILLMAN FORTRESS — COLLEVILLE-MONTGOMERY

HIGH

Strongpoint · Sword sector · not on the 5-day tour

The German regimental HQ *(headquarters)* bunker complex that held up the Suffolks for most of D-Day and helped stop Sword's advance on Caen.

**On the ground:** Restored bunkers; open on set days.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Hillman Fortress ↗

49.27200, -0.29900 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 15 SWORD BEACH — OUISTREHAM

HIGH

Beach · British 3rd Division & Commandos · not on the 5-day tour

Lord Lovat's commandos landed here with a piper playing and marched to relieve Pegasus Bridge by early afternoon. The Grand Bunker — the German fire-control tower — is now a museum.

**On the ground:** Grand Bunker museum and the Kieffer commando memorial.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Sword Beach ↗ Wikipedia: Le Grand Bunker ↗

49.28570, -0.25530 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 16 PEGASUS BRIDGE

HIGH

Airborne · British 6th Division · on your tour

Captured in ten minutes by glider troops at 00:16 — the first action of D-Day.

**On the ground:** Museum closed until May 2027; bridge and café Gondrée viewable.

**DIG DEEPER**

Memorial Pegasus (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Pegasus Bridge ↗
Wikipedia: Operation Deadstick ↗

49.24200, -0.27450 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 17 RANVILLE WAR CEMETERY

HIGH

Cemetery · British 6th Airborne · not on the 5-day tour

2,236 graves, mostly of the airborne division, beside the first village liberated by the British.

**On the ground:** Next to Ranville church; free.

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Ranville War Cemetery ↗

49.23250, -0.25850 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

### 18 MERVILLE BATTERY

Battery · British 9th Para Battalion · on your tour

HIGH

Taken at 04:30 by 150 scattered paratroopers — Brécourt's British twin.

> **On the ground:** Museum in the casemates.

**DIG DEEPER**

Batterie de Merville (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Merville Gun Battery ↗

49.26940, -0.19650 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## MUSEUMS & SITES

The anchors of the route, plus the extras your research flagged as most relevant to a 506th / Easy Company visit.

### 1 AIRBORNE MUSEUM

Sainte-Mère-Église · Day 1

HIGH

The night drop made physical: C-47 *(transport plane)*, Waco glider, equipment. Best place to grasp what a 'stick' meant.

2 hr · at opening

**DIG DEEPER**

Official site ↗ D-Day Center overview ↗

49.40870, -1.31740 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

### 2 UTAH BEACH LANDING MUSEUM

Utah Beach · Day 1

HIGH

The seaborne half of D-Day; beach exits and artillery threats explain Brécourt. B-26 Marauder.

1.5-2 hr

**DIG DEEPER**

Utah Beach Museum (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Utah Beach ↗
US Army CMH: Utah Beach to Cherbourg ↗

49.41520, -1.17640 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 3 D-DAY EXPERIENCE / DEAD MAN'S CORNER

HIGH

Saint-Côme-du-Mont · Day 2

101st and the approach to Carentan; Meehan C-47 *(transport plane)* material has been shown here; C-47 simulator.

1.5 hr

**DIG DEEPER**

D-Day Experience (official) ↗ D-Day Center overview ↗
Wikipedia: Battle of Carentan ↗

49.32440, -1.26870 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 4 MUSEUM OF THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY

HIGH

Bayeux · Day 3

The whole campaign after D-Day — places Easy's June in the bigger picture.

1.5-2 hr

49.27410, -0.71200 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 5 CAEN MEMORIAL

HIGH

Caen · Day 5

Strategic and human frame of the war, occupation and liberation.

3-4 hr

**DIG DEEPER**

Mémorial de Caen (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Battle for Caen ↗

49.19790, -0.38470 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 6 MEMORIAL PEGASUS

HIGH

Ranville / Bénouville · Day 5

British 6th Airborne; original bridge in the grounds. Closed Sep 2026 - May 2027.

Exterior only

**DIG DEEPER**

Memorial Pegasus (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Pegasus Bridge ↗
Wikipedia: Operation Deadstick ↗

49.24200, -0.27450 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 7 MERVILLE BATTERY

HIGH

Merville-Franceville · Day 5

Airborne assault on a battery — Brécourt's twin.

1.5 hr

**DIG DEEPER**

Batterie de Merville (official) ↗ Wikipedia: Merville Gun Battery ↗

49.26940, -0.19650 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 8 NORMANDY VICTORY MUSEUM

HIGH

Catz (near Carentan) · Extra · Day 2

Hedgerow fighting and daily soldier/civilian life — Easy's world 13-28 June.

Optional

**DIG DEEPER**

Normandy Victory Museum (official) ↗

49.31030, -1.19600 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 9 MUSÉE MÉMORIAL DE BLOODY GULCH

HIGH

Méautis · Extra · Day 2

The fighting after Carentan — the 13 June counterattack Easy helped repel.

Optional

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Battle of Bloody Gulch ↗ Bloody Gulch Museum (official) ↗

49.29000, -1.29000 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## 10 D-DAY WINGS MUSEUM

HIGH

Bretteville-sur-Odon (Caen) · Extra · Day 5

Aviation context — the aircraft and crews that carried the airborne divisions.

Optional

**DIG DEEPER**

Normandy Tourism: D-Day Wings Museum ↗

49.17000, -0.41600 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

### 11 ANGOVILLE-AU-PLAIN CHURCH

Angoville-au-Plain · Timeline 10

HIGH

Easy's reserve sector 7–10 June; the airborne aid station where medics treated both sides.

Free

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Angoville-au-Plain ↗

49.34800, -1.25800 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

### 12 IRON MIKE / LA FIÈRE

La Fière · Day 2

HIGH

82nd Airborne statue over the causeway and Merderet flood plain.

Always open

**DIG DEEPER**

Wikipedia: Mission Boston ↗ Wikipedia: 82nd Airborne in Normandy ↗

49.40570, -1.36780 HIGH exact spot known

GOOGLE MAPS

## IF YOU HAVE A SIXTH DAY

SUGGESTED INSERT BETWEEN DAYS 2 AND 3 — "EASY COMPANY'S JUNE"

Angoville-au-Plain church → Vierville (Cotentin) → Normandy Victory Museum, Catz → Bloody Gulch Museum, Méautis → the Carentan reserve and patrol sectors (Timeline 9–17). This is the part of the story the series compresses most.

## SOURCES

U.S. Army University Press staff-ride material (Normandy Airborne Assault / Utah Beach to Cherbourg); 506th PIR S-2 Journal, June 1944; R. D. Winters, war memoir (2006); S. E. Ambrose, 1992 history of Easy Company; Military Vehicle Trust, "Following in the

Footsteps of Richard Winters"; Easy506th.org; 506th Infantry Regiment Association map archive; D-Day Overlord; GSGS 4347 sheet 31/18 SE Carentan (Jan 1944). Opening hours from a 2026 compilation — verify before travel.

Coordinates are navigation references, not proof a soldier stood on that GPS point.