

= Juno Beach =

Juno or Juno Beach was one of five beaches of the Allied invasion of German occupied France in the Normandy landings on 6 June 1944, during the Second World War. The beach spanned from Courseulles, a village just east of the British beach Gold, to Saint @-@ Aubin @-@ sur @-@ Mer, just west of the British beach Sword. Taking Juno was the responsibility of the Canadian Army, with sea transport, mine sweeping, and a naval bombardment force provided by the Royal Canadian Navy and the British Royal Navy as well as elements from the Free French, Norwegian, and other Allied navies. The objectives of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division on D @-@ Day were to cut the Caen @-@ Bayeux road, seize the Carpiquet airport west of Caen, and form a link between the two British beaches of Gold and Sword on either side of Juno Beach.

The beach was defended by two battalions of the German 716th Infantry Division, with elements of the 21st Panzer Division held in reserve near Caen.

The invasion plan called for two brigades of the 3rd Canadian Division to land on two beach sectors ? Mike and Nan ? focusing on Courseulles, Bernières and Saint @-@ Aubin. It was hoped that the preliminary naval and air bombardments would soften up the beach defences and destroy coastal strong points. Close support on the beaches was to be provided by amphibious tanks of the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade. Once the landing zones were secured, the plan called for the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade to land reserve battalions and deploy inland, the Royal Marine commandos to establish contact with the British 3rd Infantry Division on Sword Beach and the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade to link up with the British 50th Infantry Division on Gold Beach. The 3rd Canadian Division's D @-@ Day objectives were to capture Carpiquet Airfield and reach the Caen ? Bayeux railway line by nightfall.

The landings initially encountered heavy resistance from the German 716th Division; the preliminary bombardment proved less effective than had been hoped, and rough weather forced the first wave to be delayed until 07 : 35. Several assault companies ? notably those of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada ? took heavy casualties in the opening minutes of the first wave. Strength of numbers, as well as coordinated fire support from artillery and armoured squadrons, cleared most of the coastal defences within two hours of landing. The reserves of the 7th and 8th brigades began deploying at 08 : 30 (along with the Royal Marines), while the 9th Brigade began its deployment at 11 : 40.

The subsequent push inland towards Carpiquet and the Caen ? Bayeux railway line achieved mixed results. The sheer numbers of men and vehicles on the beaches created lengthy delays between the landing of the 9th Brigade and the beginning of substantive attacks to the south. The 7th Brigade encountered heavy initial opposition before pushing south and making contact with the British 50th Division at Creully. The 8th Brigade encountered heavy resistance from a battalion of the 716th at Tailleville, while the 9th Brigade deployed towards Carpiquet early in the evening. Resistance in Saint @-@ Aubin prevented the Royal Marines from establishing contact with the British 3rd Division on Sword. When all operations on the Anglo @-@ Canadian front were ordered to halt at 21 : 00, by which time The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada had reached its D @-@ Day objective, and the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division had succeeded in pushing farther inland than any other landing force on D @-@ Day.

= = Background = =

= = = Invasion of Normandy = = =

In 1942, the Western Allies agreed to open a second front (the Western Front) in Western Europe to take pressure off the beleaguered Red Army in the Soviet Union. While Britain and the United States did not yet possess the resources to mount a full invasion, invasion plans that came to be known as Operation Sledgehammer were drawn up, in case the German position in Western Europe weakened or the USSR's situation became dire. In August 1942 Anglo @-@ Canadian

forces attempted an abortive landing ? Operation Jubilee ? at the French port of Dieppe ; the landing was designed to test the feasibility of a cross @-@ channel invasion . The attack was poorly planned and ended in disaster ; 4 @,@ 963 soldiers were killed , wounded or captured . Following the Anglo @-@ American victory against Field Marshal Erwin Rommel in North Africa in May 1943 , British , American and Canadian troops invaded Sicily in July 1943 , followed by Italy in September . By December the Allies ' progress had slowed facing tenacious German resistance and the difficult geography of the Italian Peninsula .

After gaining valuable experience in amphibious assaults and inland fighting , Allied planners returned to the plans to invade Northern France , now postponed to 1944 . Under the direction of General Dwight D. Eisenhower ( Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force ) and Frederick Morgan , plans for the invasion of France coalesced as Operation Overlord . With an initial target date of 1 May 1944 , the infantry attack was conceived as a joint assault by five divisions transported by landing craft , constituting the largest amphibious operation in military history . The attack was later scheduled for Monday , 5 June 1944 , and Normandy was selected for the landing sites , with a zone of operations extending from the Cotentin Peninsula to Caen . There were originally seventeen sectors along the Normandy coastline with codenames taken from one of the spelling alphabets of the time , from Able , west of Omaha , to Rodger on the east flank of the invasion area . Eight further sectors were added when the planned invasion was extended to include Utah on the Cotentin Peninsula . Sectors were further subdivided into beaches identified by the colours Green , Red and White . Operation Overlord called for the British Second Army to assault between the River Orne and Port en Bessin , capture Caen , and form a front line from Caumont @-@ l'Éventé to the south @-@ east of Caen , to acquire airfields and protect the left flank of the United States First Army while it captured Cherbourg . Possession of Caen and its surroundings would give Second Army a suitable staging area for a push south to capture the city of Falaise , which could then be used as a pivot for a swing left to advance on Argentan , the Touques River and then towards the River Seine .

After delays due to both logistical difficulties and poor weather , the D @-@ Day of Overlord , the largest amphibious operation ever , was postponed 24 hours to 6 June 1944 . Eisenhower and Montgomery , commander of 21st Army Group , aimed to capture Caen within the first day , and liberate Paris within 90 days .

= = = Juno = = =

Operation Neptune , the landing phase of Overlord , called for a five @-@ division front spread across 50 miles ( 80 km ) of coastline ; three airborne divisions ( two American , one British , which also included a Canadian battalion ) would also land in the pre @-@ dawn hours of D @-@ Day . Eisenhower and General Bernard Montgomery hoped to have eight infantry divisions and fourteen tank regiments in the Normandy beachhead by nightfall on D @-@ Day . The landing zone was divided into five landing areas , with the Americans attacking Utah ( the westernmost ) and Omaha , and the British attacking Gold and Sword . Juno , a 6 @-@ mile ( 9 @.@ 7 km ) stretch of shoreline between La Rivière to the west and Saint @-@ Aubin to the east , was assigned to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division ( 3rd CID ) , commanded by Major @-@ General Rodney Keller . Juno included the villages of Courseulles and Bernières .

The name " Juno " arose because Winston Churchill considered that the original code name ? Jelly ? sounded inappropriate . The code names for the beaches to be taken by British and Commonwealth forces were named after types of fish : Goldfish , Swordfish and Jellyfish , abbreviated to Gold , Sword and Jelly . Churchill " disapproved of the name Jelly for a beach on which so many men might die " . He insisted on a change to the more dignified name Juno .

= = Planning and preparation = =

= = = German defences = = =

While the German army had seen its strength and morale heavily depleted by campaigns in Russia , North Africa and Italy , it remained a powerful fighting force . Despite this , most of the German divisions along the French coast in late 1943 were composed of either new recruits or veteran units resting and rebuilding from the Eastern Front ; altogether some 856 @, @ 000 soldiers were stationed in France , predominantly on the coast . An additional 60 @, @ 000 Hilfswillige ( " voluntary helpers " ) , USSR and Polish members of the German army , served on the French coast . Under the command of Field Marshals Erwin Rommel and Gerd von Rundstedt , the defences of the Atlantic Wall ? a line of coastal gun emplacements , machine @-@ gun nests , minefields and beach obstacles along the French coast ? were increased ; in the first six months of 1944 , the Germans laid 1 @. @ 2 million tons of steel and 17 @. @ 3 million cubic yards of concrete . Rommel also surrounded the coast with four million antitank and antipersonnel mines and 500 @, @ 000 beach obstacles .

On Juno , the defences of the Atlantic Wall were greater than at many other landing sectors . The Germans assumed that the Allies would land during high tide , to minimize the distance during which they would be exposed on the beaches and created " a ' devil 's garden ' of beach obstacles ... deployed in rows between 12 ? 17 feet ( 3 @. @ 7 ? 5 @. @ 2 m ) above the low @-@ tide mark " . Strongpoints of machine @-@ gun positions , antitank and antipersonnel artillery and bunkers were located every 1 @, @ 000 yards ( 910 m ) , manned by several platoons with mortars . Minefields were deployed surrounding these strongpoints , and additional defences were present in the Courseulles harbour .

The Calvados beaches of Normandy were defended by the 716th Static and 352nd Infantry divisions , with the Canadian landing zone defended by elements of the 716th . It was formed mostly from soldiers under 18 or over 35 , comprising 7 @, @ 771 combat troops in six battalions ( as opposed to 9 or 12 battalions of Allied divisions ) . While the 352nd was considered a first @-@ rate division , the 716th was " accounted a better @-@ than @-@ average static division " ; these divisions generally had very few vehicles or tanks and had to rely on infantry and field regiments . On Juno the division 's 736th Grenadier Regiment deployed four infantry companies : 7 Kompanie held what was to become " Mike Sector " , the 6th was stationed in Courseulles , the 5th was at Bernières , and the 9th held Nan sector and Saint @-@ Aubin . A second line of four infantry companies and one panzer company was stationed 1 mile ( 1 @. @ 6 km ) inland . The 21st Panzer Division was deployed south @-@ east of Caen and two battalions of Polish and Russian conscripts were stationed on the flanks of Juno adjacent to Sword and Gold .

= = = Canadian preparations = = =

Canadian training for D @-@ Day had begun as early as July 1943 , when Lieutenant @-@ General Andrew McNaughton of the First Canadian Army informed Harry Crerar , commander of II Canadian Corps , that the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division might play a role in the invasion of France . Initial training was demanding , and complicated by the lack of any landing craft to practice with , either LCAs or LCTs . Field exercises in Scotland commenced in August and September 1943 , and succeeded in establishing unique techniques and equipment for use by armoured and artillery regiments in storming the beach ; the most significant were the amphibious duplex drive tanks ( DD tanks ) . Mechanisms were also developed to allow artillery to bombard the beach while still attached to their landing craft . Through the winter of 1943 , units jointly developed more advanced assault tactics among the Juno regiments .

The landings would be supported by the largest invasion fleet in history ? 7 @, @ 016 vessels in total . The Royal Canadian Navy contributed 121 vessels to the armada , including destroyers , frigates , corvettes , landing ships , minesweepers and torpedo boats . Four Canadian Tribal @-@ class destroyers were in the Royal Navy 's 10th Destroyer Flotilla , which joined other RN units in keeping the English Channel near Normandy clear of German naval units . Naval Force J had begun intense training for the invasion with the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division in February 1944 , with a full @-@ scale simulation of the invasion carried out on 4 May in Exercise Fabius . On D @-@ Day

itself , Force J , commanded from HMS Hilary , was to bombard German defensive positions along the landing zone with everything from heavy @-@ calibre cruiser guns to self @-@ propelled artillery attached to landing craft . According to Canadian Army Historian C. P. Stacey , a light bombardment of the landing zone would commence " 30 minutes before H Hour and continue for 15 minutes ; heavy bombing would then begin on the flanks of the divisional attack , lasting until H Hour " . Additional cover would be provided by Royal and Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons both before and on D @-@ Day . A successful surprise invasion required total air superiority over the English Channel and Normandy . In the months preceding D @-@ Day , the RAF Second Tactical Air Force attacked airfields , coastal garrisons , radar , railway lines and transport routes in order to soften the beach defences , as well as prevent the German Luftwaffe from mounting a serious challenge to air superiority over Normandy . By dawn , on 6 June , the RAF tactical air forces had 2 @,@ 434 fighter and fighter @-@ bomber aircraft with approximately 700 light and medium bombers to support them .

The operational plan for Juno was divided into two main sectors : Mike ( west ) and Nan ( east ) . Mike Sector would be attacked by the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade , with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles , The Canadian Scottish Regiment and the 1st Hussars in support . The 7th Brigade was to take Courseulles and drive inland . Nan Sector would be assaulted by the Regina Rifle Regiment of 7th Brigade , as well as the North Shore Regiment and the Queen 's Own Rifles of Canada of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade , while tanks of the Fort Garry Horse provided armoured support ; a squadron of specialized AVRE engineering tanks from the British 79th Armoured Division would land on each beach sector as well . The 8th Brigade was to capture Bernières and the western edge of Saint @-@ Aubin , then push south into Normandy . The operational plan also called for the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade and the Sherbrooke Fusiliers to be deployed to Juno as reinforcements within 4 to 6 hours of the initial assault . By nightfall of D @-@ Day , the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division was slated to have captured the high ground west of Caen , the Bayeux ? Caen railway line , and the seaside towns of Courseulles , Bernières , Saint @-@ Aubin and Bény @-@ sur @-@ Mer .

= = D @-@ Day landings = =

= = = Early bombardment = = =

Air attacks on Normandy 's coastal defences began in earnest on 5 June at 23 : 30 , with RAF Bomber Command units targeting the primary coastal defences . The attack continued until 05 : 15 , with 5 @,@ 268 tons of bombs dropped by 1 @,@ 136 sorties ; this marked the largest attack by Bomber Command in terms of tonnage up to that point in the war . Initial attacks on the Atlantic Wall proved ineffective , with poor weather and visibility making it difficult to accurately hit the bunkers and turrets . The bombing left the defences on Omaha , Gold and Juno virtually intact , yet did not damage Allied landing craft in the Channel ( as many planners had feared it would ) . 230 Royal Canadian Air Force bombers specifically bombed targets on Juno during this raid , yet direct damage was limited .

As the Americans began their own bombing runs against Omaha and Utah to the west , the Anglo @-@ Canadian naval forces began their counter @-@ battery fire , seeking to knock out German shore batteries and bunkers . The British had attached the cruisers HMS Belfast and Diadem to Force J to serve as heavy support . Belfast commenced bombardment of the Atlantic Wall at 05 : 30 and Diadem at 05 : 52 on 6 June . The naval gunfire proved more effective than the aerial bombardment ; the battery at Longues was the only one to return fire , and was quickly destroyed by the light cruiser HMS Ajax . Indeed , most of the gun batteries at Juno were incomplete on D @-@ Day , and did not possess sufficient protection or communication measures to accurately return fire on Force J. The Bény @-@ sur @-@ Mer battery was neutralized by Diadem shortly after she opened fire .

At 06 : 10 , the 11 destroyers of Force J moved shoreward to begin bombardment , hoping to

damage light gun emplacements and prevent the German 716th from mobilizing and moving across the beach . They were supplemented by additional raids by medium bombers and fighter @-@ bombers of the RAF and USAAF , which dropped an additional 2 @,@ 796 tons of ordnance on the five landing zones . While the medium bombers proved inaccurate , the Hawker Typhoon fighter @-@ bombers proved more effective at attacking coastal defences . As the bombing runs continued to hit Juno with ordnance , the destroyers and landing craft moved towards the beach and began close @-@ range saturation bombardment . In addition to the destroyers of Force J ? two Canadian , eight British , one French ? bombardment was also provided by converted LCTs fitted with 4 @.@ 7 @-@ inch ( 120 mm ) guns . Smaller , light @-@ gunned landing craft were able to get closer to the beach and use their 6 @-@ pounder guns against German defensive positions . Additional firepower was provided by eight landing craft fitted with over 1 @,@ 000 high @-@ explosive rockets and 24 LCTs , each carrying four M7 Priest self @-@ propelled guns . These field regiments , while still seaborne , were to fire heavy concentrations of high explosive and smoke shells against the four main " resistance nests " in " Mike " and " Nan " sectors , beginning half an hour before H Hour . Forward observation and fire control officers in the leading assault waves were to make the necessary adjustments to this neutralizing fire during the assault .

The bombardment was scheduled to cease immediately before the assault companies deployed on Juno , but due to heavy seas , the landing was delayed by ten minutes , to 07 : 45 in Mike sector and 07 : 55 in Nan Sector . This was at a slightly higher tide , closer to the beach obstacles and mines . The LCTs carrying the field artillery were forced to adjust course to avoid landing too early ; the LCTs carrying DD tanks were forced to break off their advance . The seas proved too rough to launch the DD tanks , so they were ordered to deploy from the LCTs several hundred yards out from the beach .

= = = Landing : 7th Brigade ( Mike , Nan Green ) = = =

Though the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade was scheduled to land on Mike Sector at 07 : 35 , rough seas and poor craft coordination pushed this time back by ten minutes . Two assault companies of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles , one assault company of the Canadian Scottish Regiment , and one squadron of the 1st Hussars were to land on " Mike Red " and also on " Mike Green " , while the Regina Rifle Regiment , supported by a second squadron of the 1st Hussars , landed on " Nan Green " sector . The first Winnipegs touched down at 07 : 49 , with the remaining assault companies deploying within seven minutes . The LCAs carrying " B " Company craft were engaged while about 700 yards from shore . Disembarkation had to be done under direct fire and , in consequence , heavy casualties were sustained by this company while landing . The strongpoint in this area consisted of three casemates and twelve machine @-@ gun emplacements . This left the infantry the grim prospect of clearing it by direct assault . " B " company was unable to advance further without armoured support . The Hussars ' " A " Squadron launched 1 @,@ 500 yards ( 1 @,@ 400 m ) from the beach , but would not be fully deployed until a full six minutes after the Winnipegs were ashore . To their west , " D " Company faced less defensive fire , as it was clear of the strongpoint . The company easily cleared the beach , and went through the barbed wire with light casualties . " A " platoon of the 6th Field Company Royal Canadian Engineers was redirected to clear the minefields facing " D " Company , given that the flail tanks had yet to land . On the far right , " C " Company of the Canadian Scottish Regiment landed with little opposition , and discovered that their objective ? a 75 mm gun emplacement ? had been destroyed by naval gunfire .

To the east of Mike Sector , the Regina Rifles came ashore on " Nan Green " with the objective of subduing German forces in Courseulles . " A " Company reported touchdown at 08 : 09 , and met heavy resistance almost immediately ; " B " Company reported touchdown at 08 : 15 . The Hussars ' tanks first reported deploying twenty minutes before the infantry , with " B " Squadron HQ reporting their landing at 07 : 58 . They faced the task of destroying a heavy gun emplacement equipped with 88 mm and 75 mm guns , and 4 @-@ foot ( 1 @.@ 2 m ) thick concrete walls . The pre @-@ landing bombardment had failed to destroy the emplacement , and heavy machine guns subsequently inflicted high casualty rates on the company ; one LCA reported six men killed within

seconds of lowering the ramps . One platoon was able to breach the barbed wire lining the beach and take cover in Courseulles , and then eliminated the machine @-@ gun positions engaging " A " Company of the Regina Rifles . The DD tanks arrived in the Regina Rifles sector with both greater numbers and punctuality than in the Winnipeg ' sector . The 75 mm gun emplacement in the Courseulles strongpoint was destroyed by fire from " B " Squadron of the 1st Hussars ; the 88 mm was similarly silenced . To their east , " B " Company encountered limited resistance , and succeeded in pushing into Courseulles , and soon " had cleared a succession of the assigned blocks in the village " , according to Stacey .

With the initial assault companies ashore and fighting for their objectives , the reserve companies and battalion ( Canadian Scottish Regiment ) began their deployment on Juno . " A " and " C " Companies of the Winnipeg Rifles landed at 08 : 05 , and began to push towards the villages of Banville and Sainte @-@ Croix @-@ sur @-@ Mer . " A " Company encountered heavy machine @-@ gun resistance , and had to request support from the 1st Hussars to clear the position . On Nan Green , " C " and " D " Companies of the Regina Rifles prepared to storm Courseulles . " C " Company touched down at 08 : 35 , and moved into the village without difficulty . " D " Company was further delayed , meaning that several LCAs struck antitank mines attached to beach obstacles ; only 49 " D " Company soldiers reached the beach . The Canadian Scottish Regiment arrived on the beach at 08 : 30 , with the leading companies coming under heavy mortar fire ; it took the regiment a full hour to get off the beaches and push further inland .

= = = Landing : 8th Brigade ( Nan White , Red ) = = =

Originally scheduled to land at 07 : 45 to the east of the 7th , the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade 's two assault battalions were postponed by 10 minutes as a result of heavy seas . The Queen 's Own Rifles of Canada ( QOR ) landed at 08 : 12 at Nan White and faced the most tenacious defences of any unit in Nan Sector : an 88 mm gun emplacement with multiple machine @-@ gun nests outside of Bernières . The first LCA to touch down saw 10 of its first 11 soldiers either killed or wounded . " B " Company came ashore directly in front of the main resistance nests , 200 yards east of their intended landing zone , subjecting them to heavy mortar and machine @-@ gun fire . The QOR had been scheduled to advance with DD fire support , but the heavy seas meant that " instead of swimming in , they [ DD tanks ] left their craft close inshore and landed behind the infantry assault companies " . Several soldiers from " B " Company succeeded in outflanking the main pillbox and killing its gunners with grenades and small arms . One LCA 's rudder from " B " Company had jammed , and that platoon landed far to the left of the rest of " B " Company , enabling them to outflank and destroy the gun emplacements . With the defences silenced , the QOR was able to advance into Bernières , having taken 65 casualties on the beaches . To their west , " A " Company encountered less resistance , but was limited by poorly coordinated run @-@ ins by the LCAs to the beach . " A " Company was able to quickly reach the seawall and breach the barbed wire , but encountered heavy mortar and sniper resistance in Bernières . This was the only sector of Juno where armoured support proved ineffective , as " B " Squadron of the Fort Garry Horse was too far out from the beach to provide heavy support .

The first units of the North Shore Regiment 's " A " and " B " companies touched down on Nan Red at 08 : 10 in chest @-@ deep water . They were tasked with securing Saint @-@ Aubin and clearing defences in the village . " B " Company landed to find that the Saint @-@ Aubin strong point " appeared not to have been touched " by preliminary naval bombardment . The two assault companies faced a 100 @-@ yard ( 91 m ) sprint across open beach in the face of fire from Saint @-@ Aubin . " A " Company suffered the heaviest casualties , incurring many fatalities from beach mines . " B " Company faced stronger opposition at the strong point , yet managed to breach the seawall and barbed wire . The strong point 's 50 mm antitank gun was still active , and the thick concrete casemates protected it from infantry fire . By 08 : 10 , Sherman tanks of the Fort Garry Horse and Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers ( AVRE ) tanks of the 80th Assault Squadron , Royal Engineers , had landed at Nan Red , and began to assist " B " Company in clearing the gun emplacement . The 50 mm gun knocked out four of the squadron 's tanks , while the North Shore 's

machine @-@ gun platoon flanked the position . The right section of the strong point was eliminated by antitank guns and combat engineers , while the central antitank gun was silenced by petard shells from the British AVREs . When the North Shore captured the strong point , approximately half the defenders were killed ; 48 German soldiers surrendered .

The 8th Brigade 's reserve battalion , Le Régiment de la Chaudière , began deploying to the beaches at 08 : 30 along with the reserve companies of the North Shore and QOR . More than half of the LCAs were crippled by mines buried along the beach ; QOR " C " Company was forced to touch down further offshore when their LCAs were damaged by mines . " C " Company linked up with " B " Squadron of the Fort Garry Horse , and moved to assist the pinned @-@ down and exhausted " A " Company . The North Shore 's C and D Companies landed outside of Saint @-@ Aubin , with " C " Company taking over for " A " Company in the advance further into Saint @-@ Aubin , while " D " Company established a firm presence inside the village . All but one of the LCAs carrying Chaudière " A " Company foundered before they could touch down on the beach , and they lost most of their equipment while swimming to shore . The Chaudières quickly formed up outside Bernières and Saint @-@ Aubin , linking up with both the QOR and the North Shores . The reserve also included the No. 48 ( Royal Marine ) Commando , which was scheduled to land 45 minutes after the first arrivals . The Commandos were to pass Saint @-@ Aubin 's eastern edge and occupy Langrune @-@ sur @-@ Mer on the eastern end of Juno . The strong point facing them had not been cleared , and 40 per cent of the 400 @-@ man unit became casualties within seconds of landing .

= = = Deploying reinforcements = = =

With Juno itself largely secured , Keller prepared to deploy the reserves of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade and tanks of the Sherbrooke Fusiliers . The reports coming in from the battalions already on Juno were mixed ; Canadian military historian Terry Copp says that the North Shore was " proceeding according to plan " , while the Chaudières were " making progress slowly " . The two self @-@ propelled artillery regiments ? the 14th Field and 19th Army Field Regiments , Royal Canadian Artillery ? had deployed at 09 : 25 and 09 : 10 , and had several dozen guns in action before 11 : 00 . Opposition and continued problems with mine obstacles on Nan Red meant that the entire 9th Brigade would have to land in Bernières and Nan White sector . When the 9th Brigade 's LCIs touched down at 11 : 40 , the congestion on the beach in Nan White was so heavy that most infantry companies could not disembark from their landing craft . The 9th Brigade 's reserves consisted of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa , the North Nova Scotia Highlanders , the Stormont , Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders , and the Highland Light Infantry of Canada . The Glengarry Highlanders reported coming under mortar fire from German positions further inland , as " with little room to manoeuvre on dry land , the entire 9th Brigade became easy targets for German artillery " . The 9th Brigade quickly made it across the beach , and joined the Chaudières , Queen 's Own Rifles and Fort Garry Horse in Bernières to await further advance inland .

Having subdued German defences on the beach , the other priority of the landed forces was to clear Juno of obstacles , debris and undetonated mines , as well as establish the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division 's headquarters in Bernières . Movement Control Units came ashore just before noon , with military policemen beginning to marshal vehicles through to Bernières and Courseulles . Sappers of 619 Independent Field Company also moved in to begin clearing the minefields surrounding the beach , so as to free up the advance south towards Carpiquet . Keller himself established divisional headquarters in Bernières shortly after noon .

= = Advance inland = =

= = = Initial attacks = = =

At 14 : 35 , Keller met with the commanders of the 8th and 9th Infantry Brigades , as well as the

newly reconstituted 2nd Armoured Brigade ( Fort Garry Horse , Sherbrooke Fusiliers , 1st Hussars ) . With the first line of objectives ( codenamed Yew ) secured on the beachhead , Keller ordered the 7th and 8th Brigades to advance with armoured support towards the second line of objectives ( Elm ) , whereupon 9th Brigade would then leapfrog over the 7th and 8th to reach the third objective line ( Oak ) . Facing them were the remains of three battalions of the 736th Grenadier Regiment , and three battalions of the 726th Regiment . " B " Company of the Winnipeg was still facing heavy resistance from snipers and machine guns in Courseulles , while the eastern companies of the North Shore Regiment were fighting for Saint @-@ Aubin . " A " and " C " Companies of the Royal Winnipeg moved off the beach , cut through the walls of barbed wire behind the German bunkers , pushed through Vaux and Graye @-@ sur @-@ Mer , and began to advance towards St. Croix and Banville . " C " Company advanced on Banville ? the headquarters of II Battalion of the 726th ? but was stopped by three machine @-@ gun emplacements just short of the town . Winnipeg " A " Company joined " C " Company of the Canadian Scottish Regiment and a troop of " C " Squadron of the 1st Hussars and advanced on St. Croix , unaware of a large German counter @-@ attack massing in St. Croix under the command of 8 Battalion , 726 Regiment . " C " Company of the Canadian Scottish Regiment had deployed to their west , and was able to spot the units of the 8th Battalion , and halt the counter @-@ attack before it fully materialized . " D " Company of the Winnipeg joined the advance on Banville with covering fire from the Cameron Highlanders and the 12th and 13th Field Artillery Regiments ; Banville was declared captured at 13 : 10 , although small pockets of resistance would survive until nightfall and then retreat . " D " Company of the Canadian Scottish moved to capture two bridges on the Seules River further inland from the Winnipeg companies . " B " Company joined them , and pushed through the gap between St. Croix and Banville , joining " C " Company as it did so . " C " Squadron of the 1st Hussars provided armoured support . To their east , the Regina Rifles advanced south towards Reviers , engaging troops of the 7th Battalion of the 736th Grenadier Regiment . They reported reaching the town by 12 : 15 with two companies , and began consolidating their position in preparation for further advance .

In Nan Sector , the 8th Brigade 's advance started slower than that of the 7th Brigade , because the Chaudières had lost most of their equipment on the advance over the beaches . The Queen 's Own Rifles ' " C " Company was pinned down at the edge of Bernières by sniper @-@ fire , and could not cross the open fields behind the town ; their armoured support was also stopped by heavy antitank fire coming from Beny @-@ sur @-@ Mer . The Chaudières " A " and " B " Companies were caught in the crossfire ; " B " Company lost almost an entire platoon when a German 88 mm scored a direct hit on a Priest self @-@ propelled gun . Chaudière and QOR progress was slow ; all told , it took nearly two hours for artillery and heavy guns to clear the defences at Beny @-@ sur @-@ Mer , allowing the QOR to advance towards the town . Beny @-@ sur @-@ Mer was reported cleared at 14 : 00 , at which point the Chaudières began to mass in the town for a further advance south towards Carpiquet . The QOR broke off to the left to engage heavy artillery batteries to the west of Beny , and " B " Company was assisted by the guns of HMCS Algonquin , which destroyed a bunker of 105 mm guns . To their east , " C " and " D " Company of the North Shores advanced towards Tailleville ? the headquarters of II Battalion of the 736th Grenadiers . Mortar fire north of the headquarters was both concentrated and accurate , slowing the advance of " C " Company . They were supported in their drive south by tanks of the Fort Garry Horse , which caught close to 100 German defenders in open fields . The North Shores and their armour support entered Tailleville at 14 : 00 , at which point the six tanks of " C " Squadron moved through the village , destroying German gun emplacements . However , the defenders of the II Battalion had created a complex underground bunker system in the village , which enabled them to continuously outflank Canadian infantry ; it would take another seven hours to clear Tailleville of defenders , which ensured that the North Shores would be unable to capture German radar sites to the south on D @-@ Day .

Meanwhile , " B " Company of the North Shore Regiment and No. 48 Commando of the Royal Marines were engaged in a protracted fight to secure Saint @-@ Aubin and Lagrune @-@ sur @-@ Mer . " B " Company had generally neutralized the strongpoint at WN27 within two hours of landing , which allowed Troops A and B of the Royal Marines to push west . These units had the important objective of bridging the 5 @-@ mile ( 8 @-@ 0 km ) gap between the landing zones at Juno and



Sword , which would allow for a continuous Anglo @-@ Canadian front by the end of the first day . The Royal Marines began to advance on Lagrune and strong @-@ point WN26 , while to their east No. 41 Commando Royal Marines advanced from Sword . The strongpoint was defended by " a reinforced platoon from the 736th Grenadiers " , and was centred on a group of fortified houses and 50 mm antitank guns . B Troop 's first attempt to capture it failed , and the assault was renewed with support from Centaur tanks only to again falter in the face of heavy resistance . No. 48 Commando was forced to call the assault off at nightfall , as reports of massing counter @-@ attacks by the 21st Panzer Division against the divide between Sword and Juno began to filter in . The strong points at Lagrune and Luc @-@ sur @-@ Mer were captured on 8 June .

= = = Drive to Elm = = =

The division 's advance south of Tailleville had halted , preventing an attack on German radar stations . The Queen 's Own Rifles and " C " Company of the Chaudières opted to continue their advance towards Anguerny and Columby @-@ sur @-@ Thaon and Objective Line " Elm " . The beachhead was now filled to capacity with troops , to the point that " B " Company of the Chaudières could not be deployed alongside " C " Company without severely hindering the advance of the QOR to their east . " C " Company 's advance on Basly was even further hindered by the proximity of the combat ; the fighting occurred at such close range that the 14th Field Artillery would not provide fire support for fear of friendly @-@ fire casualties . When " C " Company reached Basly , the North Nova Scotia Highlanders formed up outside Beny @-@ sur @-@ Mer , with the intention of overtaking the Chaudières and making for Carpiquet and the Caen ? Bayeux highway . At 16 : 45 , the North Novas assembled in Beny , and were the target of concentrated German mortar fire as the Sherbrooke Fusiliers de @-@ waterproofed their tanks . Three companies of the North Novas and a squadron of the Sherbrookes advanced on the mortar positions , taking heavy casualties among the infantry but clearing the positions . The QOR entered Anguerny ? on the Elm Objective Line ? at 17 : 30 , and sent " D " Company to probe German defences on the hills overlooking the village . The Chaudières reported that Basly was cleared of defenders at 18 : 15 , allowing the 9th Brigade to advance towards Carpiquet Airfield . By 19 : 00 , the North Nova Scotia Highlanders were advancing towards Carpiquet , encountering their first resistance an hour later . With reports of the 21st Panzer Division attacking the flanks of the British 3rd Infantry Division on Sword , Lieutenant @-@ General Miles Dempsey ? commander of the British Second Army ? ordered forces on Sword , Juno and Gold to establish defensive positions at their intermediate objectives .

On the western edge of the Canadian sector , the advance of the 7th Brigade had stalled in the face of stiffening resistance in St. Croix and Banville , throwing the right flank of the assault off @-@ schedule . The German defenders gave ground slowly , and did not begin withdrawing from the towns until the Bren Gun platoons began to arrive at 14 : 00 . Once St. Croix and Banville were cleared , the Canadian Scots pushed south to Colombiers , reinforced the platoons that had captured the bridge across the Seuelles earlier in the day , and moved towards the Creully ? Caen road . The Canadian Scots reported reaching the road at 16 : 30 , and continued to push south past Objective Line Elm . To their west the Royal Winnipeg's stopped at Elm Line , and began to erect defensive positions with Bren Gun carriers and artillery . The Regina Rifles , meanwhile , had been slow to advance from Courseulles on account of the heavy casualties taken securing the village ; the 1st Hussars ' " B " Squadron was in a similar position , with only half its fighting strength having made it off the beach . By 18 : 00 the Reginas were advancing , while the Hussars scouted ahead of the infantry companies . As the Reginas linked up with the Canadian Scots , the order to hold positions and dig in arrived from Keller 's headquarters ; the two battalions halted at 21 : 00 .

Three tanks of the 1st Hussars ' " C " Squadron ( No. 2 Troop ) had continued to advance southwards , pushing through side @-@ roads towards Carpiquet Airfield . Aside from a German staff @-@ car and a machine @-@ gun nest , the three Sherman tanks encountered virtually no resistance , advancing all the way to the Caen ? Bayeux railway line and becoming the only unit on the whole of D @-@ Day to reach its final objective . Though the commander of the unit ? Lieutenant William F. McCormick ? attempted to contact his superiors to bring up reinforcements to

attack Carpiquet Airfield , the three tanks eventually withdrew back to the Canadian lines .

= = Positions at nightfall = =

At the end of D @-@ Day , the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division was situated firmly on Objective Line Elm , short of their final D @-@ Day objectives . In the west , the 7th Brigade was anchored in Creully and Fresne @-@ Camilly . The 9th Brigade was positioned a mere 3 miles ( 4 @. @ 8 km ) from Caen , the farthest inland of any Allied units on D @-@ Day . On the eastern edge of the Canadian sector the 8th Brigade had taken up positions in Anguerny and Columby , having begun in the late afternoon to dig in . The 3rd Canadian Infantry Division had succeeded in advancing farther than any other divisional element in the Allied Expeditionary Force , but due to heavy fighting in Lagrune and Saint @-@ Aubin had failed to link up with the British 3rd Division from Sword . The German 716th Infantry Division was scattered and heavily depleted : division commander Lieutenant General Wilhelm Richter recorded that less than one full battalion could be mustered for further defence . The German 21st Panzer Division had driven a wedge between the British and Canadian 3rd Divisions , yet had been unable to dislodge either from the beaches . To the south , Hitler had released the elite Panzer Lehr Division and the 12th SS Panzer Division Hitlerjugend ( Hitler Youth ) , both of which now prepared to head north with the I SS Panzer Corps .

= = Aftermath = =

While the Normandy landings in all five sectors managed to establish footholds in Normandy , many D @-@ Day objectives were not met . The 82nd and 101st American Airborne Divisions had suffered heavy casualties ? their landings were scattered all over the dropzones ? but had captured Sainte @-@ Mère @-@ Église to the west of Utah . On the Cotentin Peninsula , the American 4th Division had suffered lighter casualties in securing Utah , and had established a strong bridgehead by the end of D @-@ Day . Omaha had met with less success , as intact defences and high @-@ calibre troops of the 352nd Division caused heavier casualties than at any of the other beaches ; at one point the attack was going so badly that Lieutenant General Omar Bradley considered withdrawing the US V Corps from the beaches . A second wave of attacks breached the coastal defences , but could only push 2 @, @ 000 yards ( 1 @, @ 800 m ) inland by nightfall . To the west of Juno , the British 50th ( Northumbrian ) Infantry Division encountered only light resistance , and succeeded in advancing inland and creating a continuous front with Juno ( though not with Omaha ) with only 413 casualties . To their east , the British 3rd Infantry Division succeeded in establishing a foothold on Sword . However , counter @-@ attacks by the 21st Panzer Division in the afternoon prevented the 3rd Infantry from advancing on Caen and from making contact with the Canadian 3rd on Juno . The counter @-@ attack did not succeed in driving the British off the beaches , as units of the British 6th Airborne Division ? which had landed the previous night near the River Orne ? were able to outflank the 21st and force it to withdraw .

In spite of the heavy casualties inflicted on the 352nd and 716th Infantry Divisions , the German Seventh Army quickly established plans for counter @-@ attacks . Early logistical responses to the invasion were confused , as the divisions necessary for counter @-@ attacks fell under a different jurisdiction than those defending the coast . Furthermore , the heavy Panzer divisions , such as the Panzer Lehr , 12th SS Panzer , and 2nd SS Panzer , could not be mobilized to the coast without the explicit authorization of Hitler himself . The order to mobilize Panzer Lehr and the 12th SS was finally given in the mid @-@ afternoon of 6 June . When the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade and the Sherbrooke Fusiliers began to advance on 7 June , they were met by entrenched forces of the 716th Infantry and 21st Panzer Divisions . At 17 : 00 , the advancing force was counter @-@ attacked by the 12th SS , under the command of Kurt Meyer . After heavy fighting the 9th Brigade was forced to withdraw to their D @-@ Day positions , having suffered heavier casualties than any single unit on Juno itself the previous day . However , the 7th Brigade succeeded in reaching its final D @-@ Day objectives along Line Oak , while the 8th Brigade attempted to destroy German radar stations to their east , a task which would only be completed on 11 June .

The 3rd Canadian Infantry Division made contact with the British on Sword on 7 June , before forming one continuous front with the American sector by 13 June . The subsequent advance on Caen and Cherbourg was slow , as a greater number of German Panzer units were concentrated near Caen and Carentan . The Canadians captured Carpiquet Airfield during Operation Windsor on 5 July , while Anglo @-@ Canadian forces captured Caen as part of Operation Charnwood ( 8 ? 9 July ) and Operation Atlantic ( 18 ? 20 July ) .

= = = Casualties = = =

Initial predictions for the likely casualties on Juno had been very high , approaching 2 @,@ 000 , including 600 drowned . In the end , the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division suffered the following casualties : 340 killed , 574 wounded and 47 taken prisoner . The Queen 's Own Rifles suffered the heaviest , with 143 casualties , the Royal Winnipeg 128 , the North Shore 125 and the Regina Rifles 108 . Of the varied landing craft used on the run @-@ in to Juno , 90 of 306 were lost or damaged . Due to the breakdown of logistics on D @-@ Day the exact numbers of casualties for the German 716th Infantry Division is unknown . However , of the division 's four German battalions numbering 7 @,@ 771 men before the invasion , Richter reported that the equivalent of only one battalion ? at 80 per cent strength ? remained . At least one of the two conscript battalions of the 716th was reported to have fled . Richter also reported that 80 per cent of the division 's artillery had been destroyed or captured on D @-@ Day , while only two gun batteries were intact west of the River Orne . By 9 June , the division had been reduced to a battlegroup of 292 officers and men .

= = Analysis = =

= = = Preliminary bombardment = = =

Military historians have generally drawn the conclusion that the preliminary aerial and naval bombardment of Juno was not as effective as had been hoped , yet differ in their opinions as to how ineffective . The aerial bombardment of Juno 's defences the night before is considered to have been very ineffective , primarily because of the inclement weather . John Keegan notes that " the prevailing low , thick cloud frustrated its [ Bomber Command 's ] efforts " . Colonel Stacey ? the official historian of the Canadian Army in the Second World War ? considers the effects of the bombing runs to have been " spotty " , noting that while several coastal batteries were not hit , those that were ( such as the battery at Houlgate ) were hit accurately . Chester Wilmot offers a different view , suggesting that " [ the coastal guns ] had been accurately bombed , but had survived because they were heavily protected by the concrete casemates Rommel had insisted upon " . Historians ' assessment of the naval bombardment is even more mixed ; while they generally agree that it failed to fully neutralize German defences on Juno , they are in disagreement as to why . Stacey suggests that while the " beach @-@ drenching fire " was concentrated and substantial , it was both inaccurate and of insufficient firepower to destroy the coastal bunkers . He further suggests that the effect of the drenching fire was moral rather than material , in that it forced defenders to keep below @-@ ground and sapped their morale . Terry Copp echoes this analysis , noting that " reasonable accuracy could not be obtained from the pitching decks of LCTs [ by mounted artillery on the ships ] " ; the 13th Field Regiment 's drenching fire fell on average 200 yards ( 180 m ) past their targets . British historian Max Hastings notes that because of the delay in landing times by ten minutes , a substantial gap existed between the cessation of bombardment and the actual landing of the first waves of infantry , meaning that platoons of the 716th had ample time to return to their positions . The bombardment of specific strongpoints in the towns along the coast was inconsistent ; the North Shore Regiment reported that the strongpoint near Saint @-@ Aubin " appeared not to have been touched " by bombardment , while the strongpoints facing the Canadian Scottish Regiment had been eliminated by naval bombardment before their landing .

= = = Overall = = =

Despite the failure to capture any of the final D @-@ Day objectives , the assault on Juno is generally considered ? alongside Utah ? the most strategically successful of the D @-@ Day landings . Historians suggest a variety of reasons for this success . Mark Zuehlke notes that " the Canadians ended the day ahead of either the US or British divisions despite the facts that they landed last and that only the Americans at Omaha faced more difficulty winning a toehold on the sand " , suggesting that the calibre of the training the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division had received beforehand explains their success . Chester Wilmot claims that the Canadian success in clearing the landing zones is attributable to the presence of amphibious DD tanks on the beaches ; he also notes that the absence of DD tanks was largely responsible for the heavier casualties on Omaha ? the only beach with heavier resistance than Juno . Canadian historian Terry Copp attributes the steady advance of the 7th Brigade in the afternoon to " less serious opposition " than the North Shore Regiment encountered in Tailleville .

Despite the verdict of a successful D @-@ Day for the 3rd CID , the failure of Canadian units to reach their final objectives has proven more disputed than the reasons for their success . Terry Copp places the blame on Keller , who committed the entirety of the 9th Brigade reserve to land on the narrower beaches of the 8th Brigade ? which was itself still fighting to clear the seaside towns ? after receiving reports of poor progress by the 7th Brigade . Dutch historian Dan Van der Vat notes that " the planned breakout of the 9th Brigade was held up by a huge jam of vehicles " . Wilmot also places the blame with logistical difficulties of the landing , saying that " on the whole it was not so much the opposition in front as the congestion behind ? on the beaches and in Bernières ? that prevented the Canadians from reaching their final D @-@ Day objective " . Stacey offers a different view , suggesting that it was not impossible for the 3rd CID to reach its D @-@ Day objectives , and that the failure to do so rests in the fact that " British and Canadian forces were usually better at deceiving the enemy and achieving initial success in an assault than they were at exploiting surprise and success once achieved . Perhaps they were rather too easily satisfied " . Copp disagrees with Stacey 's assessment , suggesting that such caution was not the result of poor planning but of the fact that " the British and Canadians fought the way they had been trained , moving forward to designated objectives in controlled bounds and digging in at the first sign of a counterattack " . He also disputes whether the capture of the final objectives would have been strategically intelligent , observing that " if 9th Brigade had reached Carpique and dug in , with artillery in position to offer support , the commander of the 26th Panzer Grenadiers might have followed orders and waited until a coordinated counterattack with other divisions had been organized . Such an attack might well have done far more damage to the Allied beachhead than the hastily improvised operation actually carried out [ on 7 June ] " .

Stacey offers a second line of analysis on the Canadians ' failure to advance to Line Oak , suggesting that difficulties encountered by the British 3rd Infantry Division on Sword caused Dempsey to halt the advance of the entire British Second Army . The British encountered heavy counterattacks by the 21st Panzer Division , which prevented the British 9th Brigade from establishing contact with the Canadians at Juno . Copp offers agreement on this assessment , writing : " Before this withdrawal [ of the 21st Panzer Division ] became evident , Dempsey had concluded that more armoured counterattacks could be expected . So he ordered all three assault divisions to dig in at their second line of objectives . This decision was relayed to subordinate commanders somewhere after 19 : 00 " , just as the 9th Canadian Brigade was preparing to advance south towards Carpique . Wilmot also agrees with this analysis , arguing that the British 3rd Infantry Division 's brigade commanders were overly cautious in advancing towards Caen . This , in turn , slowed the momentum of the entire Anglo @-@ Canadian advance , especially given the reports of counterattacks Dempsey received from Sword .

= = Commemoration = =

The landing is commemorated today by the museum and memorial at the Juno Beach Centre in

Courseulles @-@ sur @-@ Mer as well as exhibits at the Canadian War Museum and other Canadian military museums . One of the Sherman tanks that landed at Juno Beach , the M4A3 Sherman Bomb , fought all the way into Germany and is today preserved at Sherbrooke , Quebec .