

D-Day

Warfare - D



Description: -

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Notes: Originally published: Bison, 1981.

This edition was published in 1995



Filesize: 4.310 MB

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The invasion fleet, which was drawn from eight different navies, comprised 6,939 vessels: 1,213 warships, 4,126 landing craft of various types, 736 ancillary craft, and 864 merchant vessels. Troops of the 82nd Airborne began arriving around 02:30, with the primary objective of capturing two bridges over the River and destroying two bridges over the Douve. Many in the Normandy area were eastern legions —conscripts and volunteers from Russia, Mongolia, and other areas of the Soviet Union.

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The invasion fleet was split into the under Admiral supporting the U. If the airports at Hamburg and Bremen could be taken by parachute units and the ports of these cities seized by small forces, invasion armies debarking from ships would, I feared, meet no resistance and would be occupying Berlin and all of Germany within a few days.

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Strong winds blew the landing craft east of their intended positions, particularly at Utah and Omaha.

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But it offered few opportunities for expansion, as the area is bounded by numerous rivers and canals, whereas landings on a broad front in Normandy would permit simultaneous threats against the port of , coastal ports further west in Brittany, and an overland attack towards and eventually into Germany.

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The Eastern Task Force included the battleships and and the monitor , twelve cruisers, and thirty-seven destroyers. Strong currents forced many landing craft east of their intended position or caused them to be delayed. At first, under the overall command of Field Marshal , the Germans had held the advantage in battle positioning.

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