



Learning Curve

WORLD WAR II

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

D-DAY: TASK INSTRUCTIONS

The key question: Why was D-Day successful?

D-Day was one of the most remarkable military campaigns in history. The Allies had to do in 1944 what Hitler had been unable to do in 1940, cross the Channel in the face of determined opposition.

Your task

Your task is to explain the factors that made D-Day a successful campaign. You have to complete your task in the form of a storyboard with captions. You can have a maximum of six scenes.

Or if you wish, you can use your own preferred video or graphics software.

Here are a few points and ideas that might come in handy...

- Air superiority
 - Allied naval power
 - British Empire and US troops
 - Co-operation between Allied commanders
 - Intelligence Military resources of Allies
 - Poor decisions by Hitler
 - Technical ingenuity
 - Weaknesses of German forces
-



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This photograph shows landing craft each with their balloon ready to move off for Normandy, June 1944. Balloons with radar reflectors were used to give a response on enemy radar equal to a 5000 ton ship

Catalogue ref: DEF 2/502





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This photograph shows British commandos going ashore with bicycles in Normandy June 1944

Catalogue ref: DEF 2/502



How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. What do these photographs tell us about the preparations for D-Day?
2. How do you think the troops in these photographs might have felt on landing in Normandy?
3. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
 - Will you include this source in your storyboard?
 - If you do use it, what are the main points you will make in your caption?

Use the framework to plan your storyboard.



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The importance of air power on D-Day

An extract from the log of a RAF squadron involved in D-Day

Catalogue ref: AIR 27/1879

Extract a

Today was the "Big Day". In conjunction with the landings of allied forces on the northern coast of France, our squadron attacked a number of gun positions just behind the proposed beachhead at Courseulles. This squadron, led by S/L Norsworthy, dropped 24 x 1000 lb. bombs in direct support of the assault landings of the Third Canadian Division. Red Flight struck at one German Battery position, while Blue flight struck at another one only a short distance away. When the bombs struck, both batteries were believed to be "a long distance removed". The actual bombing attacks were made through billowing clouds of smoke and corruption to the tune of an intense sea to land bombardment by heavy naval guns. Tanks were observed landing on the beach and aircraft of all descriptions were present in every corner of the sky. No resistance appeared to be offered to the invaders in these early stages of the attack. All our aircraft returned safely.

Extract b

Briefed to search for enemy armoured vehicles near Caen. F/L Dadson led the squadron unexpectedly over a large north bound armoured column just south of Caen, in France. The column believed to be a part of the 21st Panzer Division en route to assemble near Caen. The squadron attacked the column with 500 lb. bombs and cannon inflicting heavy damage on a score of vehicles. Bombs were dropped over various parts of the column on individual attacks. None of our aircraft were damaged. All returned safely.

What is this source?

This is an extract from the log of an RAF squadron involved in the D-Day campaign.

By late 1943 and early 1944 the Allies had built up a commanding position in terms of air power. It was to prove a key element in the success of the D-Day campaign.



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What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940. The landings took place in June 1944.

One key area in which the Allies were stronger than the Germans was in air power. They had more aircraft, more different types of aircraft suitable for different jobs and also well trained pilots.

It's worth knowing that...

The Allies enjoyed almost complete air superiority on D-Day. This was a huge advantage as it meant Allied aircraft could focus on attacking German forces and not have to worry about enemy aircraft.

Another key role of the air forces was reconnaissance. Aircraft could spot enemy defences and troop movements and alert troops on the ground.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. How do you think the actions of the pilots helped the troops on the ground?
2. Does this source support the evidence provided by the film "Special Invasion" in the source box?
3. Is it possible to say whether the role of the air forces was more or less important than the role of the naval forces on D-Day?
 - o Will you include this source (or part of it) in your storyboard?
 - o If you do use it, what are the main points you will make in your caption?

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Sources relating to the troops facing each other on D-Day

War Diary of a unit in the 8th Canadian Brigade

Catalogue ref: WO 179/2866

6 Weather - Fine. Enemy Air Activity - NIL.		
At Sea	0630	D Day. Sighted BERNIERES and ST AUBIN. The landmarks which had been carefully memorized from air photos were clearly recognizable - the jetty at the harbour of COURSEULLES - the flat expanse of marsh land to the EAST - then the church steeple amid a profusion of trees, which marked BERNIERES and on down the coast to the cluster of bldgs surrounding the next church which marked ST AUBIN SUR MER.] As the coast drew nearer the wind increased and a heavy sea made it necessary to consider whether or not the DD tks were to be launched or should the tps go in without their immediate assistance.
	0700	Visibility lessening and the decision was made not to launch the DD tks.] The expectant and eager tps of the assault coys leaded into their LCAs.
	0705	At this time a sig was received that the AVREs were late. H hr for J2 was set back an additional 10 mins. To give the leading inf the sp at the correct time, orders were issued to delay fire from the SP arty to conserve amn for the assault. The armada slowly approached the shore and at 0725 LCs opened fire on beach def's followed by the SP arty who opened fire after a slight delay had occurred in transmission of orders to all craft. The orders were to fire until 0807.]
	0725	
	0735	

What is this source?

This is an extract from a war diary of a Canadian unit involved in D-Day.

War diaries were official documents that recorded what a unit did. They were not the personal diaries of soldiers.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940. The landings took place in June 1944.

It may seem obvious but one of the key factors in any battle is the quality and commitment of the troops who were fighting. Many of the German troops facing the Allies at D-Day were not German. They were conscripted into the German army from territories that the Germans had conquered.

It's worth knowing that...

There were major differences in terms of the quality of Germans troops the Allies faced on D-Day. American units faced SS Panzer Divisions on D-Day, for example, and these were well trained, well equipped, committed and very formidable opponents. However, not all German units were so committed.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

By 1944 the vast majority of German soldiers in the German army were fighting on the Eastern Front against the USSR. Possibly, as many as five out of six German soldiers were not German. Recruiting from occupied lands made up the numbers.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. Try and sum up the attitude of the troops in this source.
2. What does this source tell us about the training of Allied troops?
3. Compare this source to the interrogation statements made by captured German soldiers in this investigation.
4. Is it possible to say whether the role of the ground troops was more or less important than the role of the other forces on D-Day?
5. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
 - Will you include this source (or part of it) in your storyboard?
 - If you do use it, what are the main points you will make in your caption?

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

Extract from a report that includes interrogation statements from captured German soldiers

Catalogue ref: DEFE 2/490

716 A tk Bn (716 Inf Div). Three PW interrogated. Feldwebel of 1 Coy age 27, believed in German victory. Unteroffizier 2-Coy age 28, very intelligent peasant. Said his tp's 7.5 cm guns were all destroyed by bombardment and his sgt said it was more reasonable to surrender since they could not fight any more (captured 7 June near Caen). Some Valksdeutsche in his coy. Third, an Obersoldat 2 Coy age 38, a Polish cobbler, tells the following story. "At 2 o'clock one morning the Alarm Stufe 2 was given and he was sent forward to Craye-sur-Mer (presumably Graye-sur-Mer) to a gun section. He had been trained as an infantryman and had no anti-tank experience. When the Allies appeared off the beach his platoon commander, a Stabsfeldwebel, a very decent fellow in PW's opinion, said 'This is it, boys. We give up now' and the platoon never fired a shot." PW stated that 1 Coy was composed entirely of Germans, 2 Coy had about 80 Poles in a total strength of 150.

What is this source?

This is part of a report that includes interrogation statements from captured German soldiers. One of these soldiers is Polish.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940. The landings took place in June 1944.

It may seem obvious but one of the key factors in any battle is the quality and commitment of the troops who were fighting. Many of the German troops facing the Allies at D-Day were not German. They were conscripted into the German army from territories that the Germans had conquered.

It's worth knowing that...

There were major differences in terms of the quality of German troops the Allies faced on D-Day. American units faced SS Panzer Divisions on D-Day, for example, and these were well trained, well equipped, committed and very formidable opponents. However, not all German units were so committed.



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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

By 1944 the vast majority of German soldiers in the German army were fighting on the Eastern Front against the USSR. Possibly, as many as five out of six German soldiers were not German. Recruiting from occupied lands made up the numbers. As this shows, these troops were not cowards but they were not strongly committed to the German cause.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. What is the attitude of the troops in this source?
2. Why were the German troops in this source less committed than other German troops?
3. Were the German troops well trained?
4. Is it possible to say whether the role of the ground troops was more or less important than the role of the other forces on D-Day?
5. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
 - Will you include this source (or part of it) in your storyboard?
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The role of the intelligence services**Extract from a German intelligence report that was intercepted by British intelligence**

Catalogue ref: HW 1/2784

PAGE FOUR.

CX/MSS/T183/84 (CONTINUED).

ENEMY MINING FROM THE AIR REMAINED LIVELY WITH SCHWERPUNKT OFF SUBMARINE BASES, LEZARDRIEUX AND AGAINST CHANNEL ISLAND NARROWS. AGENTS' REPORTS, APART FROM A PLETHORA OF LANDING DATES WHICH MAINLY POINT TO THE FIRST HALF OF MAY, YIELDED NO SPECIAL INFORMATION.

C. IN C. WEST APPRECIATES THE SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:

INVASION-PREPAREATIONS BY THE ANGLO-AMERICANS IN THE ENGLISH MOTHERLAND ARE COMPLETED. DESPITE THE FACT THAT VISUAL AND PHOTO RECCE HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO INCLUDE THE WHOLE OF THE ENGLISH SOUTH COAST, THE OBSERVED CONCENTRATIONS OF LANDING SHIPPING SPACE, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA NORTH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT (PORTSMOUTH - SOUTHAMPTON), NEVERTHELESS GIVE A CLEAR PICTURE OF A MAIN CONCENTRATION DEFINING ITSELF IN THAT AREA. TONNAGE OF SHIPPING SPACE FOR LANDINGS WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN OBSERVED CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE SUFFICIENT FOR 12 TO 13 DIVISIONS (WITHOUT HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND REAR ELEMENTS) FOR FAIRLY SHORT SEA-ROUTES.

What is this source?

This is an extract from a German intelligence report that the British intelligence services were able to intercept in 1944.



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By 1943 British intelligence services had cracked a number of German codes. What was even more valuable was that the Germans were unaware of the extent to which their codes had been cracked.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940. The landings took place in June 1944.

German naval forces and aircraft closely watched the Allies' preparations. It was simply not possible to hide a force as large as the D-Day invasion force but the Allies did try very hard to keep the Germans guessing about exactly where the invasion would take place.

It's worth knowing that...

The fact that the Germans did not know that the Allies knew what they were thinking was incredibly useful. Apart from any other advantages, it allowed the Allies to see whether their plans to deceive the Germans were working.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

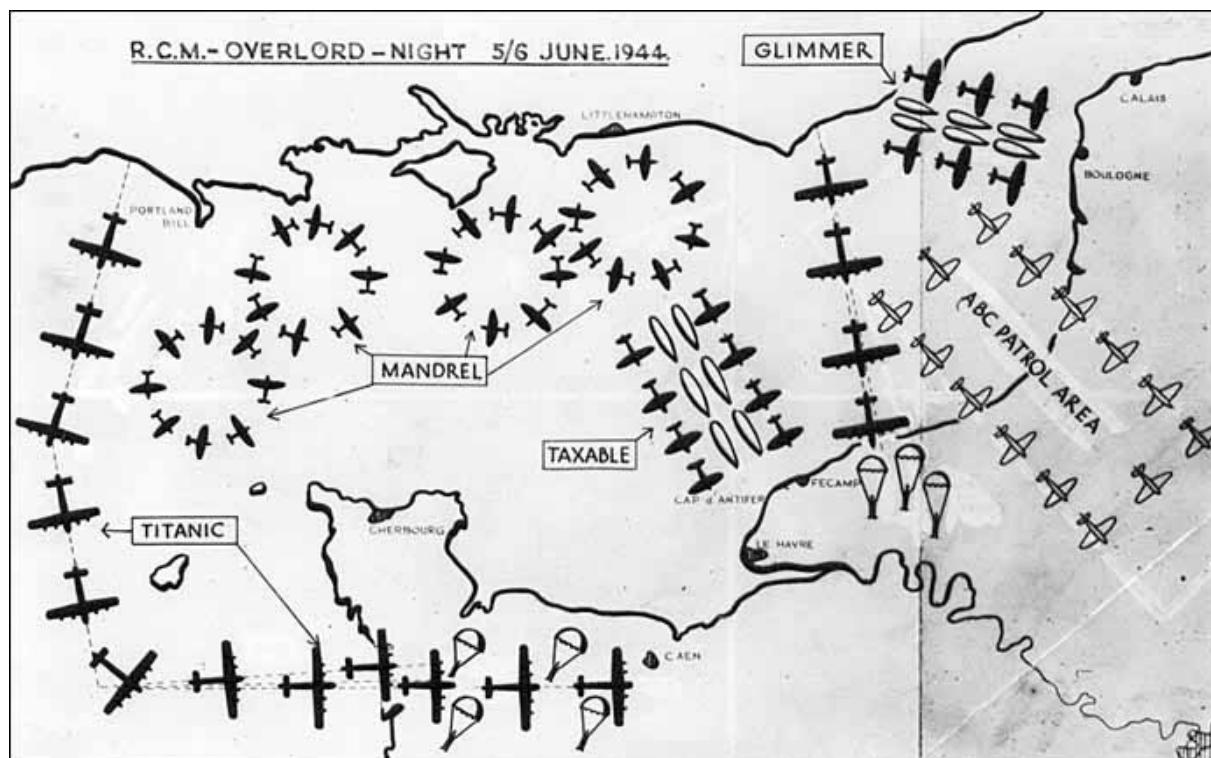
1. What does the source tell us about what the Germans knew?
2. The Germans did not know the British were intercepting their reports. Is that obvious from this source?
3. How much of the information in this source is correct?
4. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
 - Will you include this source (or part of it) in your storyboard?
 - If you do use it, what are the main points you will make in your caption?

Use the framework to plan your storyboard.

Deception tactics for D-Day

Diagram to show radar counter measures for Operation Overlord, 5/6th June 1944

Catalogue ref: DEFE 2/502



What is this source?

This diagram shows the radar counter measures and diversion tactics involving sea and air power that were used to keep the Germans from knowing where the invasion would happen. The code name for the invasion of Normandy was Operation Overlord, but is more commonly known as D-Day.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940.

German naval forces and aircraft closely watched the Allies' preparations. It was simply not possible to hide a force as large as the D-Day invasion force



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but the Allies did try very hard to keep the Germans guessing about exactly where the invasion would take place in order to make them delay their movement of troops to meet the invasion.

It's worth knowing that...

As part of the planning for D-Day, the Navy carried out various diversions. These diversions were supported by air operations and did not involve the landing of troops. These operations, along with radar counter measures (named in this source diagram), were carried out at the same time as the actual landings.

Operation Taxable:

No. 617 Air Squadron dropped strips of tin foil known as "chaff" (to interfere with German radar signals) together with a Royal Navy deception operation, to represent an invasion convoy approaching the coast at Cap d'Antifer.

Operation Glimmer:

No. 218 Squadron carried out a similar "chaff" dropping exercise. A force of six motor launches were also used to simulate an invasion convoy heading for Boulogne in the direction of Pas de Calais. This was designed to make it appear as if the Allies were invading from the shortest crossing point across the Channel.

Operation Titanic:

A force of 40 aircraft dropped dummy parachutists to make it look like an airborne landing away from planned invasion area. 200 dummy parachutists were dropped south west of Caen and 200 more south west of Dieppe. Dummy parachutists consisted of a series of cloth bags that contained an explosive charge that destroyed the cloth "figure" by setting it on fire. Therefore, it looked as if the man had burnt the parachute and possibly lay hidden, ready for action.

Operation Mandrel:

Between Littlehampton and Portland Bill more aircraft set up a jamming screen using Mandrel EW radar jammers to hide the real invasion fleet from German radar.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. What does this source tell us about deception tactics and planning for D-Day?
2. Is it possible to say whether the role of the air forces was more or less important than the role of the naval forces on D-Day?



- Will you include this source (or part of it) in your storyboard?
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Use the framework to plan your storyboard.



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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

Photograph of the Allied command team behind D-Day, February 1944

Catalogue Ref: CH 12110

Courtesy of the [Imperial War Museum](#), London

The leaders in the photograph (clockwise from top left) are: Lieutenant-General Omar Bradley, Commander, 1st US Army; Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, Naval Commander-in-Chief; Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory, Air Commander-in-Chief; Lieutenant-General Walter Bedell Smith, Chief of Staff; General Sir Bernard Montgomery, Commander, 21st Army Group (all Allied land forces); General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander; Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Deputy Supreme Commander.





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What is this source?

This photograph is an official publicity photograph of the Allied commanders planning D-Day. The photograph was taken in February 1944 but probably not released to the public until after the invasion had taken place.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940. The landings took place in June 1944.

The date of the D-Day landings was June 6th 1944. It was an incredibly risky operation, because the Allies had to cross the English Channel. Weather and tides had to be perfect for the invasion to work.

It's worth knowing that...

The leaders of the British Empire and US forces were under pressure from Josef Stalin, the leader of the USSR to attack the Germans from the West. Soviet forces had been fighting the Germans since 1941 and they felt that the western Allies should also take their share of the fighting.

The Allied commanders were facing many problems in preparing for D-Day. They were short of vital equipment, especially landing craft. There were also big disagreements between the Allied commanders about exactly where and when the invasion should take place and what the Allies should do after they captured the beaches.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. Which different military services are represented in this photograph?
2. What countries are represented?
3. Do you get the impression from this photograph that the Allied commanders worked well together?
4. Do you think that was the intention of this photograph?
5. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
 - Will you include this source in your storyboard?
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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

Photographs of Mulberry harbours, June 1944

Catalogue ref: DEFE 2/502

Photograph of a Mulberry harbour with a lorry carrying supplies going ashore along the causeway.



What is this source?

This is a photograph of an artificial Mulberry harbour at Arromanches.

An engineer from North Wales developed the Mulberry harbour. They were first tested in the River Conway.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive



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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940. The landings took place in June 1944.

The Allied commanders were aware that they had to support their forces with more troops, supplies and equipment if their invasion was going to succeed. They also knew that the existing harbours would be held by the Germans and probably damaged in the fighting. As a result they came up with the idea of creating their own prefabricated harbours. These were made in Britain in sections and towed across the Channel and set down off the coast of Normandy. Once they were in place they were filled with water and became stable platforms to unload men and equipment from ships.

It's worth knowing that...

One of the reasons why Hitler had not invaded Britain in 1940 was that he could not work out a way to keep his troops supplied once they had got ashore. The Allies came up with this solution to the problem.

There were many other impressive pieces of technology and engineering. Another one was PLUTO, which stood for Pipe Line Under The Ocean. This pipeline supplied the Allies with their fuel for tanks and other vehicles.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. How would you have supplied the D-Day troops with reinforcements and supplies without a Mulberry harbour?
2. How do you think the actions of the pilots helped the troops on the ground?
3. Is it possible to say whether the role of the engineers who designed and built devices like this was more or less important than the role of the other forces on D-Day?
 - Will you include this source in your storyboard?
 - If you do use it, what are the main points you will make in your caption?

Use this framework to plan your storyboard.



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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

Photographs of Mulberry harbours, June 1944

Catalogue ref: DEFE 2/502

Aerial view of a line of "block ships" and caissons that were added to the Mulberry harbour for further protection. (A caisson is a floating structure used to close off the entrance to a dock).



What is this source?

This is a photograph of an artificial Mulberry harbour at Arromanches.

An engineer from North Wales developed the Mulberry harbour. They were first tested in the River Conway.



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The Allied commanders were aware that they had to support their forces with more troops, supplies and equipment if their invasion was going to succeed. They also knew that the existing harbours would be held by the Germans and probably damaged in the fighting. As a result they came up with the idea of creating their own prefabricated harbours. These were made in Britain in sections and towed across the Channel and set down off the coast of Normandy. Once they were in place they were filled with water and became stable platforms to unload men and equipment from ships.

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

The role of the intelligence services

An example of Allied deception tactics on D-Day

Catalogue Ref: AIR 20/4349



What is this source?

This is a British photograph of an aircraft on an airfield in England.

By 1943 British intelligence services had cracked a number of German codes. What was even more valuable was that the Germans were not aware of the extent to which their codes had been cracked.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive



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the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940. The landings took place in June 1944.

German naval forces and aircraft closely watched the Allies' preparations. It was simply not possible to hide a force as large as the D-Day invasion force but the Allies did try very hard to keep the Germans guessing about exactly where the invasion would take place.

It's worth knowing that...

The fact that the Germans did not know that the Allies knew what they were thinking was incredibly useful. Apart from any other advantages, it allowed the Allies to see whether their plans to deceive the Germans were working.

The aircraft in this photograph is a wooden fake. From the air it would have been almost impossible to spot. Large numbers of fake tanks and aircraft were placed in the east and south east of England to make the Germans think the invasion would come near Calais or Dieppe (the shortest crossing). Since the Germans thought this was going to happen anyway, these fakes probably convinced the Germans they were right, when in fact they were mistaken!

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. Study the photograph. Did you realise this aircraft was a wooden fake?
2. Do you think it is possible that seeing large numbers of 'aircraft' and other equipment like this might have influenced German views of what was happening?
3. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
 - Will you include this source in your storyboard?
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British commandos land in Normandy

Photograph shows British commandos keeping well down as they push forward across the beach

Catalogue ref: DEFE 2/502



What is this source?

This is one of a series of "stills" taken from a government film made about British Commando troops embarking for France and landing on the Normandy beachhead on D-Day.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive



The banner features the Learning Curve logo with a stylized 'A' and the text 'the national archives'. Below it, the words 'WORLD WAR II' are written in large, bold, yellow letters. A dark background shows silhouettes of aircraft flying across the sky.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939–1945: D-DAY

the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940. The landings took place in June 1944.

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1. What does this source tell us about the training of Allied troops?
2. Is it possible to say whether the role of the ground troops was more or less important than the role of the other forces on D-Day?
3. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
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The importance of air power on D-Day

Film clip from "Special Invasion", a film produced by War Pictorial News showing actual footage of aerial attacks on Hitler's West Wall coastal defences before and after D-Day

Crown copyright

Transcript

1944 Tuesday June 6th, the invasion of Western Europe, a date with history! From hundreds of airfields on Britain, thousands of aircraft roared out across the Channel in a shuttle service of destruction. Theirs, a vital task: the softening up of the German coastal defences, Hitler's formidable West Wall. The bombing and strafing [attacking using low-flying airplanes with machine-gun fire] of communication channels carrying ammunition and weapons from inside Germany to still further strengthen those same coastal defences. Theirs too, the job of keeping the Luftwaffe out of the air

What is this source?

This is an extract from a film produced by War Pictorial News shown to British and overseas audiences in 1944.

By late 1943 and early 1944 the Allies had built up a commanding position in terms of air power. It was to prove a key element in the success of the D-Day campaign.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940. The landings took place in June 1944.

One key area in which the Allies were stronger than the Germans was in air power. They had more aircraft, more different types of aircraft suitable for different jobs and also well trained pilots. The film gives a sense of the hugely destructive power of aerial bombardment.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

It's worth knowing that...

The Allies enjoyed almost complete air superiority on D-Day. This was a huge advantage as it meant Allied aircraft could focus on attacking German forces and not have to worry about enemy aircraft.

Another key role of the air forces was reconnaissance. Aircraft could spot enemy defences and troop movements and alert troops on the ground.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. What activities do the aircraft in the film carry out?
2. How do you think the actions of the pilots helped the troops on the ground?
3. This is a propaganda film. What do you think is the aim of the film?
4. Does the film clip support the story told in the log of an RAF squadron involved in the D-Day campaign that you can find in the source box?
5. Is it possible to say whether the role of the air forces was more or less important than the role of the naval forces on D-Day?
6. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
 - Will you include this source (or part of it) in your storyboard?
 - If you do use it, what are the main points you will make in your caption?

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WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

Evidence of Allied naval power on D-Day

Film clip from "Time to Remember", newsreel that shows the naval bombardment of the Normandy coastline

Catalogue ref: BP01014225106

By courtesy of [ITN/Source](#).

Transcript

Yes. There they were off the sands of Normandy and the mine-sown grass of Calvados. And Eisenhower's was the face that had launched four thousand ships. From these ships, men, guns, tanks and every device that brains could conceive to break down an Atlantic Wall. Welcome John Doe from Kansas! Welcome Charlie Hardcastle from Manchester! Welcome Harry Smith from Toronto. Four years we have waited for you to come, but better late, oh so much better late than never. Bienvenue [Welcome] Monty, that's a big jump nearer to finishing your job!

What is this source?

This film was produced by British Pathe for newsreel on D-Day and would have been shown to audiences soon afterwards.

The film clip would have been edited before showing to audiences. It would also have had titles and a soundtrack added.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940.

The date of the D-Day landings was June 6th 1944. It was an incredibly risky operation, because the Allies had to cross the English Channel. Weather and tides had to be perfect for the invasion to work.



Learning Curve

WORLD WAR II

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

It's worth knowing that...

Britain and the USA the Allies were the world's leading naval powers. One of the reasons why the Germans had not invaded in 1940 was the power of the Royal Navy.

The role of the navy was crucial on D-Day. They had to get the troops safely to Normandy. They also had to supply them with weapons and supplies. At the same time they also had to protect the troops from enemy ships and also use their big guns to try and destroy enemy defences. As well as these roles, naval ships also picked up wounded troops and took them back to Britain.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. Does this film clip support or contradict the view that the operation was difficult and complicated?
2. Does film clip support or contradict the view that the operation was effective?
3. Does film clip allow you to say that the naval power of the Allies was the most important factor in the success of D-Day?
4. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
 - Will you include this source (or part of it) in your storyboard?
 - If you do use it, what are the main points you will make in your caption?

Use this framework to plan your storyboard.



Learning Curve

WORLD WAR II

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

Film clip from "Commandos and Canadian Troops in action on D-Day" that shows a scene from Juno Beach soon after the D-Day landings, June 1944

Catalogue ref: IWM A70 37-1

Courtesy of the [Imperial War Museum](#), London.

This beach was attacked by Canadian troops at dawn on June 6th 1944. The film gives a clear indication of how hard the fighting was and why the casualties were so heavy.

What is this source?

The Army Film and Photographic Unit for the War Office made this film. It was made soon after the beach was secured by Canadian troops. It is a good visual record of the aftermath of the Normandy landings and gives us an idea of what it might have been like on other invasion beaches.

The purpose of the film was to record the scene to see whether the military commanders could learn any lessons from it and improve future tactics. Also, parts of the film could be used in newsreels to be shown to the public in Britain, the Empire and the USA.

What's the background to this source?

By late 1942 the tide began to turn against Germany. From 1943 to 1944, British Empire and US forces began a build up of troops and equipment to drive the Germans out of the lands they had invaded in 1940.

The date of the D-Day landings was June 6th 1944. It was an incredibly risky operation, because the Allies had to cross the English Channel. Weather and tides had to be perfect for the invasion to work.

It's worth knowing that...

This film clip gives an idea of the scale and complexity of the operation. All the damaged equipment shown on the beach had not been there at the start of the day! It had to be transported in landing craft from England. The clip also provides evidence of how fierce the fighting had been and the number of casualties.

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

Casualties were very high. This is not surprising since the troops had to charge at strongly defended beaches with barbed wire, mines and concrete forts. The scale of the D-Day campaign was small compared to the fighting going on between the Germans and the USSR in Eastern Europe. However, the casualty rates (casualties compared to numbers of troops involved) were actually higher than casualty rates in the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. How many pieces of equipment can you spot in this clip?
 2. How do you know this was a major operation?
 3. What does the clip tell you about the fighting?
 4. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
- Will you include this source (or part of it) in your storyboard?
 - If you do use it, what are the main points you will make in your caption?

Use this framework to plan your storyboard.



Learning Curve

WORLD WAR II

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

Film clip from "Commandos and Canadian Troops in action on D-Day" that shows a scene from Juno Beach soon after the D-Day landings, June 1944

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Courtesy of the [Imperial War Museum](#), London.

This beach was attacked by Canadian troops at dawn on June 6th 1944. The film gives a clear indication of how hard the fighting was and why the casualties were so heavy.

Transcript

This video does not contain audio.

What is this source?

The Army Film and Photographic Unit for the War Office made this film. It was made soon after the beach was secured by Canadian troops. It is a good visual record of the aftermath of the Normandy landings and gives us an idea of what it might have been like on other invasion beaches.

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What's the background to this source?

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It's worth knowing that...

This film clip gives an idea of the scale and complexity of the operation. All the damaged equipment shown on the beach had not been there at the start of the day! It had to be transported in landing craft from England. The clip also



Learning Curve

WORLD WAR II

WESTERN EUROPE 1939-1945: D-DAY

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How does this source help us to understand why D-Day was successful?

1. How many pieces of equipment can you spot in this clip?
 2. How do you know this was a major operation?
 3. What does the clip tell you about the fighting?
 4. How would you sum up the main value of this source to the historian?
- Will you include this source (or part of it) in your storyboard?
 - If you do use it, what are the main points you will make in your caption?

Use this framework to plan your storyboard.



D-Day storyboard

Choose 6 sources (or part of a source), one for each section of your storyboard. Write a caption of 50 words explaining how each source helps to account for D-Day's success.

- Air superiority
- Allied naval power
- British Empire and US troops
- Co-operation between Allied commanders
- Intelligence Military resources of Allies
- Poor decisions by Hitler
- Technical ingenuity
- Weaknesses of German forces

Source 1	Source 2	Source 3
Caption	Caption	Caption
Source 4	Source 5	Source 6
Caption	Caption	Caption