

Summary of three beaches GOLD and SWORD British led and supported with JUNO in the middle assaulted by the Canadians with British support, a mix of 24,000 strong with 62.5% Canadians and 37.5% British. These reports in their original forms were submitted to Eisenhower's HQ from respective Flag Officers commanding, in the case of the British, the Flag Officer British Assault Areas [FOBAA] was Rear Admiral James William Rivett-Carnac, and were re-written to be incorporated into the whole scenario of the success of the D-Day Normandy Landings by the Allied Commander General Ike Eisenhower, hence the American spelling and grammar.

Gold Beach

6 Jun 1944

...Gold Beach was situated in the center of the Allied attack on Normandy. The UK 50th Division, veteran of Gazala and El Alamein battles in North Africa in 1942, was placed in charge of the assault; the division was commanded by Major General Douglas Graham, a veteran of the Italian campaign in 1943.

Defending Gold Beach was part of Major General Wilhelm Richter's German 716th Infantry Division, supported by units made up of Eastern Europeans. Behind Gold, Juno, and Sword Beaches was the city of Caen, which was a major objective for all three beaches.

...At 0535 on 6 Jun, HMS Bulolo with naval operations commanding officer Commodore Douglas-Pennant dropped anchor 7 miles off of the beach, thus marking the start of the operation. Undetected, the Gold beach invasion achieved surprise, and the troops were able to board their landing craft without disruptions. As the sun rose, Allied aircraft and warships bombarded the coastline. Duplex-drive Sherman tanks aboard tank landing craft spearheaded the actual landing, followed by those carrying infantry. At 0730, the landing began as DD Sherman tanks were launched 5,000 yards from the beach. Shortly after, the landing operation became rather disorganized as the landing craft arrived all about the same time instead of being staggered, and they threatened to run in to each other as they maneuvered to avoid German fire and naval mines. Despite the spectacular aerial and naval bombardment, much of the German defenses were still in tact.

...At the Jig Green sector of the beach, the British 231st Brigade waded ashore into a field of machine gun fire coming from the village of Le Hamel. Lacking armor protection as many of its tanks were slowed or turned back due to rough seas, the brigade became pinned down between the sea and a minefield. The most formidable obstacle in front of them was a concrete fortification housing a number of machine gun and mortar nests and a concrete casement with a 75-millimeter gun, which had already knocked out several tanks and landing craft by this time. Major Warren of the 1st Hampshires concluded that it was impossible to attack the fortification head-on, and he began to lead his men around it in search for a possible attack from the rear. Meanwhile, the Dorsets landed to the left of the 1st Hampshires; the Dorsets bypassed Le Hamel in favor of attacking German positions at Buhot and Puits d'Hérode. At 0815, the 2nd Devons landed under fire similar to those who landed before them; one company of the 2nd Devons joined the 1st Hampshires in attempt to take out the 75-millimeter gun, while the others moved toward the village of Ryes 2 miles inland. The 47 Royal Marine Commando landed next. After

landing, the commandos moved toward the harbor of Port-en-Bessin in attempt to link up with the Americans landing at Omaha Beach; taking a wide detour around Le Hamel and running into several German strongpoints, it took them until the evening to reach Port-en-Bessin, losing many men en route.

...At King Red sector, the UK 69th Brigade landed at 0730 hours, under fire from a concrete casemate-protected 88-millimeter gun. In this sector, the 5th East Yorks faced the toughest defensive fire, pinned down along the seawall for what it seemed to them like eternity until an AVRE vehicle could get close and fire at point blank range into the casemate, destroying the 88-millimeter gun. The 5th East Yorks spent that morning clearing out the town of La Rivière immediately behind the fortification. To the west, the 6th Green Howards had a slightly easier time with their landing, facing heavy machine gun and small arms fire, but spared of shelling. With the aid of AVRE vehicles, the 6th Green Howards directly assaulted the German machine gun positions and the concrete strongpoint beyond. With most of the beach defenses wiped out, the 6th Green Howards were joined by tanks of the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards in the assault on a four-gun battery at Mont Fleury. The battery's defenders were already demoralized from the earlier bombardment by Allied aircraft and by the HMS Belfast, the battery had been relatively silent, and was taken by the British troops with relative ease. At 0815, the 7th Green Howards landed, completing the landings of the UK 69th Brigade. The troops of the 7th Green Howards attacked the German gun battery at Ver-sur-Mer first, and found its occupants to be demoralized, surrendering rather quickly.

...By the end of the morning, the beach area had largely been secured with the exception of the Le Hamel fortification. A new attempt at assaulting this strongpoint began at 1345 hours, where infantrymen spent an hour to move to a rendezvous point south of the German fortification, and at 1500 moved in toward the fortification. As they were about to be halted by intense small arms fire, they found luck on their side as an AVRE vehicle traveled nearby. They persuaded the crew to help them attack the fortification, and the AVRE fired several rounds of petard charges, stopping the machine gun fire long enough for the troops to rush in. Through fierce hand-to-hand fighting, the Germans were slowly pushed out of the fortification and the surrounding village. The 75-millimeter gun was destroyed by a petard charge fired through the rear door of the blockhouse. By 1600, Le Hamel was secured.

...While the Le Hamel attack was underway, British troops moved west along the coast and cleared several German strongpoints and captured the German radar station on the cliffs to the east of the Arromanches. On the high ground opposite of the Arromanches, German troops were gathering, and naval gunfire was called in to prevent the Germans from staging a counter attack. Meanwhile, the Dorsets, having just cleared Ryes, moved toward a large gun battery at Longues, whose 152-millimeter coastal defense guns had been firing at Allied warships since the invasion began. Three out of its four guns had already been silenced by naval bombardment, but the fourth gun remained defiant, firing intermittently through the entire day. At 1900 hours, the gun fell silent, and the 184-men garrison surrendered peacefully the next morning to the 2nd Dorsets.

Overall, German response to the attack on Gold Beach was weak. The few attempts at concentrating troops in preparation for counter attacks were effectively disrupted by Allied naval gunfire and aerial attacks. By mid-day, the Germans knew the beach could not be defended, and tried to fall back to the town of Bayeux, which guarded the road to Caen.

Junno Beach

6 Jun 1944

Junno Beach was attacked by 15,000 men of the Canadian 3rd Infantry Division, supported by 9,000 British troops. Canadian commanding officer Major General Rodney Keller took charge of this assault. Defending the 5.5-mile stretch of beach between La Rivière and St Aubin was part of Major General Wilhelm Richter's German 716th Infantry Division, supported by units made up of Eastern Europeans. Most of the German defense in the Junno Beach area was concentrated around the small port of Courseulles on the estuary of the River Seulles, located roughly in the center of Junno Beach. Behind Gold, Junno, and Sword Beaches was the city of Caen, which was a major objective for all three beaches.

Due to the need for higher tide at Junno Beach to clear the offshore reef, the invasion began slightly later than Gold and Sword Beaches that flanked Junno Beach on either side. The first wave of attack landed at 0745 with Brigadier H. W. Foster's Canadian 7th Brigade landing on both sides of River Seulles. Previous aerial and naval bombardments failed to neutralize German coastal positions, thus the Canadians found themselves landing in a killing zone, and the lack of armor at the opening moments of the landing made matters worse. B Company of the Winnipeggs, one of the two assault companies, landed at Mike Green sector and was immediately pinned down by heavy machine gun fire from concrete pillboxes and accurate fire from snipers and other infantrymen. The other assault company, D Company, landed on the left, and was forced to fight through a maze of concealed machine gun nests and Tobruk emplacements (underground concrete structures each with a small opening on top that was usually camouflaged). Great casualties were incurred to overtake these defensive structures, and once that was achieved, the Canadians charged inland at a region where the River Seulles curved. Men of the B Company crossed the river on a small bridge and spearheaded this part of the assault, while men of D Company crossed the minefield near La Vallette and advanced toward the village of Graye-sur-Mer. To the west, also at Mike Green sector, C Company of the Canadian Scottish Rifles, attached to the Winnipeggs, landed with less opposition; their objective was a concrete casemate housing a 75-millimeter gun, which had already been knocked out by naval gunfire before the landing.

At about 0805, reserve companies landed on Junno Beach. They were spared of the worst of the direct-fire from German defensive structures, but they still had to land amidst mortar and artillery fire. With the incoming tide, the beach narrowed, and the small strip of land soon became crowded, particularly with all the combat vehicles arriving later than planned, and none of the beach exits had been cleared. At 0830 hours, the beach was less than 100 yards deep. Specialized Hobart's Funnies tanks, Crab

vehicles, were dispatched to clear one of the exits. The first two struck mines and became disabled, but the third Crab vehicle was able to clear a single track 150 yards inland before being bogged down in a flooded area, and the Churchill AVRE that came to the rescue also became stuck, thus the crews had to abandon the vehicles, incurring three deaths and three injuries from small arms fire. Shortly after, a bridge was laid over the flooded area, using the two stuck vehicles as support. This exit was cleared by 0915. The other exit was cleared with less drama, and was open to traffic at about 0930 hours.

...on the other side of the mouth of the River Seulles, the Regina Rifle Regiment landed at Nan Green sector near the town of Courseulles. A Company landed right in front of a German 75-millimeter gun and a 88-millimeter gun, both in concrete casemates, fired on them, supported by machine gun nests and four Tobruk emplacements; B Company landed further to the east; C Company landed right in front of Courseulles. The beached offered little cover, thus all the troops dashed for the base of the German defensive fortifications as soon as they reached land, while a few DD Sherman tanks were on hand to provide some cover fire. The 75-millimeter gun fired about 200 shells before an armor piercing tank shell penetrated the gun shield and killed the crew, and the 88-millimeter gun was likewise disabled by close-range tank gun fire. By the time the Hobart's Funnies vehicles arrived at the Nan Green sector, 40 minutes behind schedule, the Canadian troops had already cleared German defenses in the immediate beach area. The flail tanks, bulldozers, and bridge layers cleared up two lanes inland by 0900 hours. Meanwhile, men of the C Company rushed into the town of Courseulles and performed house-to-house fighting to clear the beach town of German defenders. While the troops cleared each house, sniper fire from neighboring buildings and mortar and machine gun fire from a nearby German strongpoint with height advantage made the task extremely difficult. It took until the early afternoon for Courseulles to become secured, and the strongpoint near the town was taken shortly after.

...To the west, the 8th Brigade of the Canadian 3rd Division landed between Bernières and St Aubin, supported by Canadian and British duplex-drive Sherman tanks. The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada landed at Nan White sector at 0755 hours and had a tough time establishing their positions for the first 15 minutes of the landing, especially with the tanks arriving later than expected. B Company of Queen's Own Rifles of Canada landed directly in front of a German strongpoint, suffering 65 casualties in the opening few minutes of the landing, but the men slowly worked from pillbox to pillbox to silence the machine guns. To the right, A Company men were able to dash across the beach, but were soon held down by machine gun and mortar fire in the field immediately beyond the beach. The arrival of tanks and shortly after the reserve companies alleviated the situation. Between 0910 and 0930, self-propelled guns of the 14th and 19th Field Regiments of the Royal Canadian Artillery landed onto a narrow, crowded, and chaotic beach. Once the beach defenses were knocked out, the troops gathered to take their first objective, the village of Bény-sur-Mer, but it was not until noon they received the order to advance toward the village, and it would not be taken until mid-afternoon.

...The Canadian North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment landed at Nan Red sector at 0800 hours, west of St Aubin. The men of A Company faced relatively light opposition, but the B Company men landed right in front of a strongpoint with a 50-millimeter gun, which knocked out the first two duplex-drive Sherman tanks with ease, followed by the first two AVRE vehicles. It would take the B Company men until 1115 hours to silence the strongpoint with two duplex-drive Sherman tank guns, one AVRE gun, and many petard charges launched by another AVRE vehicle. C and D Companies landed a short while after A and B Companies landed; C Company men took the village of Tailleville, two miles away from St Aubin, in the late afternoon.

...In the Nan Red sector, British marines of the 48 Royal Marine Commando landed after suffering great casualties from destroyed landing craft on the way to the beach and heavy small arms fire after making landfall. They were supposed to capture the strongpoint at Langrune and then link up with marines from the 41 Royal Marine Commando from Sword Beach, but they achieve neither on D-Day as Langrune proved to be much more difficult to conquer than originally thought. Two concrete emplacements, one housing a 75-millimeter gun and the other a 50-millimeter anti-tank gun, held up the British marines' advance; their concrete walls were so well constructed that tanks shells essentially bounced off of them. By the end of the first day of the Normandy invasion, the 48 Royal Marine Commando suffered 50% casualties without taking Langrune.

...**Sword Beach**

6 Jun 1944

...Situated around the estuary of the River Orne, the 21-mile wide area that the Allies designated as Sword and Juno Beaches was defended by the German 716th Infantry Division commanded by artillery officer Major General Wilhelm Richter, an officer since WW1 and a veteran of campaigns in Poland, Belgium, and Russia in the European War. The German 716th Infantry Division was raised in Münster, Germany, and consisted mainly of older men from Rhineland and Westphalia regions; they had been stationed in Normandy, France since Jun 1942 and had been trained specifically for coastal defense and occupation duties. Some of the division's strength was syphoned away as replacements for losses on the Russian front; about 1,000 soldiers from occupied Soviet territories were sent in to replace some of the men transferred away. Several miles inland, about 20 miles southeast of Caen, was the German 21st Panzer Division commanded by Major General Edgar Feuchtinger, who reported to Rommel's Army Group B. Feuchtinger was not a respected commander; though a veteran of many campaigns, he was promoted to a high rank largely because of political connections in the Nazi Party, thus he was not respected by all of his peers. Additionally, some units of the 21st Panzer Division were consisted of men previously rejected by other units; in fact, it was the only panzer division to be rejected for the campaign in Russia in early 1944. Behind the beach's formidable fortifications were artillery pieces not unlike other invasion beaches; heavy guns of 150 to 381-millimeter calibers were deployed as far east

as Le Havre, and closer to the beach at Merville, Ouistreham, Riva Bella, and Colleville were smaller guns with calibers of 104 to 150-millimeters.

...The Allies commander for invading Sword Beach was Major General Tom Rennie of the UK 3rd Division, supported behind enemy lines by Major General Richard Gale's airborne troopers of the UK 6th Airborne Division. Also in assistance of the UK 3rd Division was the 5th Assault Regiment from Major General Percy Hobart's UK 79th Armored Division, which operated specialized tanks, "Hobart's Funnies", to counter beach obstacles. The troops of the 3rd Division were trained since Dec 1943 for the specific purpose of the cross-Channel invasion. Rear Admiral A. G. Talbot of the Royal Navy was placed in charge for the seaborne element of the Sword Beach assault, operating British and Commonwealth ships under his command.

...The invasion of Sword Beach launched at 2256 hours in the night of 5 Jun 1944 when six Horsa gliders were pulled airborne at Tarrant Rushton airfield in England, United Kingdom. These glider troops of the 6th Airlanding Brigade of the UK 6th Airborne Division landed in landing Zone X close by the bridges at Orne at about 0015 hours on 6 Jun. Within minutes, 90 glider troops gathered within 100 yards of the bridges, which were their primary objectives. Lieutenant Den Brotheridge and his platoon dashed across the first bridge, Pegasus Bridge, killing one sentry (the other had ran away at the first sight of the troops), but not before he sounded the alarm. Brotheridge dashed toward a nearby machine gun pit, throwing a grenade into it as he ran, but unfortunately for him, the grenade did not take out the crew, and he was cut down by the machine gun. Troops following Brotheridge silenced the gun pit. On the other side of the bridge, Lieutenant Wood and his platoon had already taken out several defenses, including a machine gun position and a anti-tunk gun crew. The two platoon quickly took control of the first bridge. The second bridge, several hundred yards to the east, were attacked by two platoons of glider troopers. They captured the bridge with relative ease. The glider troopers now dug in to hold the bridge until the arrival of friendly paratroopers. The pathfinders of the UK 22nd Independent Parachute Company landed minutes after the bridges were secured, but they took a while to rally as they were widely scattered. At 0045, transports began dropping the main body of paratroopers, who were also dispersed. By daybreak, only about 200 men gathered for the defense of the bridges, now under the responsibility of paratrooper Lieutenant Colonel Pine Collins.

...Near Merville, British paratroopers were scattered widely like their pathfinder comrades. Many of the battalions were forced to begin their operations at about 60% strength as many of their men were unable to find their way to the rally points. The UK 9th Parachute Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Terence Otway, was of no exception. The 9th Parachute Battalion was charged with taking the gun battery at Merville, which was regarded a critical operation. They were ordered to take the battery by 0500, or cruiser HMS Arethusa would fire her guns in attempt to do the same, which might risk hitting the paratroopers. Otway was only about to gather 150 out of his total of 750 men before he began his attack, meanwhile the Germans were well fortified with barbed wires, minefields, and steel

and earth bunkers. Shortly before he commenced his attack, he met up with Major George Smith and his party, who landed near the battery and had mapped out routes through the minefield without being detected, and Otway's men made use of two of the mapped routes for their attack. Otway timed his attack to coincide with glider landings near the battery so to take advantage of the confusion the attack would cause. Nevertheless, their assault was still detected, and they soon attracted machine gun fire. The gliders were under intense fire but tried to keep on track, but ultimately they were unable to locate the exact location of the battery, and landed too far away to take part in the combat. Without the additional support from glider troops, Otway's men slowly moved forward on their own, receiving fire from all sides. They cleared trenches one by one, some by hand-to-hand combat. Though the fighting was brutal, the German morale was low due to being taken by surprise; additionally, after discovering they were being assaulted by paratroopers, some of the Germans began falling back as they thought they could not defend against hostile elite forces in darkness. With much of the German defenses melting away, Otway's men moved from gun position to gun position, destroying the 75-millimeter guns (they had originally thought 150-millimeter guns were deployed here) one by one, completing the mission before the 0500 deadline. Of the 150 men that launched the attack, 70 were killed or wounded by the time the mission was completed.

...The mission to destroy the two bridges over the River Dives was given to Lieutenant Colonel George Bradbrooke's men of the Canadian 1st Parachute Battalion. Also dispersed, only a fraction of the strength gathered. They were successful in destroying the bridges. The destruction of the bridge near the village of Troarn was among the most difficult. A small group of paratroopers drove a jeep in high speed through the German-defended town, men hanging on to the railings as the vehicle slid left and right as it sped down the main street to avoid gunfire (one man fell off and became missing), and reached the unguarded road bridge. They were successful in destroying the bridge with demolition charges, escaping by foot afterwards.

...Learning of the attacks, Major General Richter called Major General Feuchtinger, requesting the major general to send in all of his tanks of the 21st Panzer Division in anticipation of a major assault to arrive in the morning. Feuchtinger hesitated, unsure whether the airborne attacks were diversionary or not, and he opted to pass the decision up the chain of command, thus losing valuable time. Meanwhile, some of Feuchtinger's men were already engaged in combat, largely because British and Canadian paratroopers had landed near their positions.

...At 0300, the Allied air forces bombarded the German beach defenses for the final time before the amphibious invasion. A few hours later, British warships bombarded German gun batteries and other strongpoints along Sword Beach. After daybreak, British destroyers closed in and fired at short range. At 0510 hours, Royal Air Force aircraft laid a smoke screen to shield the invasion force, but the smokescreen was used by boats of the German 5th Torpedo Boat Flotilla to attack, firing 15 torpedoes and scoring one hit, sinking destroyer *Svenner* with few lives lost. At 0530, soldiers began embarking

landing craft. At 0600, LCA landing craft began sailing for Queen Red and Queen White sectors, joined by waves of various landing craft every few minutes. As the landing craft closed, LCT(R) vessels fired a total of 1,064 5-inch rockets, knocking out some beach obstacles and creating a smoke screen. Shortly after, at the range of 7,000 yards, self-propelled guns of the UK 3rd Division began to fire from their vessels to knock out beach obstacles. At the distance of 5,000 yard to the beach, 40 duplex-drive Sherman tanks of the UK 13th/18th Hussars were launched; 31 of them would make it to the beach successfully. By this point, all German guns were firing at the landing craft, and the Allied formation began to break up. At 0725 hours, the infantry arrived on the beach, which quickly attracted fire from machine guns and other small arms. The UK 2nd East Yorks, which landed on Queen Red sector, experienced a tough fight as they attempted to dash across an area bombarded by 88-millimeter and 75-millimeter guns inland, while being raked by machine gun fire. However, the use of specialized tanks such as the Hobart's Funnies provided the Sword Beach landers a slightly easier time than their American counterparts in Omaha and Utah Beaches, as vehicles such as the flail tanks and bridging tanks cleared obstacles and provided bridges to cross anti-tank ditches, all the while provided just a bit more cover for the infantry against small arms fire.

...Shortly behind the initial wave were 24 landing craft carrying British Royal Marine commandos. The commandos landed on the extreme western end of Queen White sector and moved toward the German strongpoint at Lion-sur-Mer, which would serve as the link-up between Sword and Juno Beaches. The first target of the commandos was the demolished casino at Riva Bella, which had been turned into a formidable fortress of interlocking bunkers, trenches, wire entanglements, and minefields. Leading the attack on Riva Bella was French Captain Phillippe Kieffer, commanding officer of two groups of French commandos attached to the British Royal Marines, thus making this attack a purely French effort. Kieffer attacked Riva Bella at two locations from the rear with small arms, personal anti-tank weapons, and grenades, but the commandos were soon stalled by two German positions, a bunker and a water tower, both proved to be difficult for Allied weapons to penetrate. The bunker in particular was a difficulty for the French troops, as it housed a 50-millimeter gun that fired through concrete embrasures. Instead of ordering his men to charge, Kieffer alone moved toward the beach, found a duplex-drive Sherman medium tank, and persuaded the tank to assist the assault on Riva Bella. The Sherman tank knocked out both of the water tower and the concrete bunker, allowing the commandos to move in and take over the German strongpoint. To the east, British commandos attacked the German gun battery at the mouth of River Orne from the rear. Machine gun nests, 50-millimeter anti-tank guns, and minefields protected the battery. In the center of the battery was a 56-foot high concrete tower that housed the control and ranging equipment for the coastal guns; though not a defensive structure, German troops made effective use of the tower's height to observe British movements to relay down to the defenders on the ground, meanwhile throwing grenades down at close-by British commandos as opportunities presented. To the commandos' disappointment, they found most of the gun positions empty, as they had already been

moved further inland. With this new knowledge, the commandos moved out of the battery to regroup. This gun battery, with its concrete tower, would remain in German control for a few more days to come.

...Another group of commandos, led by Brigadier Lord Lovat, marched inland with bagpiper Bill Millin playing without stoppage. They met up with Colonel Pine Coffin's paratroopers later that day.

...As the beach front began to be cleared, due to the rising tide, the beach narrowed, and the small strip of land soon became a chaotic scene of troops, supplies, vehicles, and landing craft coming and going. Traffic jams became a serious issue at the exits, and this slowed the Allied momentum especially as tanks waited on the beaches for their opportunities to move inland.

...The German forces suffered relative light casualties from the pre-invasion aerial and naval bombardment. Though somewhat shell-shocked, they sprang to action quickly, and even the volunteer units from Eastern Europe fought reasonably well. As the result, most of the strongpoints were fiercely defended, forcing the Allies to seize just about every single one by force. As soon as Gerd von Rundstedt realized that the attack was a major Allied invasion attempt, he contacted Adolf Hitler for permission to release all tanks for a counter attack, but permission was slow in the coming as Berlin still considered the possibility that the invasion was merely a diversionary attack. Therefore, the only tanks available were those of Feuchtinger's 21st Panzer Division located south of Caen. By the time those tanks moved, it was already mid-morning, and Allied fighters and fighter-bombers had already established tight patrols in the air, making vehicular movement very difficult for the Germans. Nevertheless, a counter attack by armor materialized under the leadership of young German Colonel Oppeln-Bronikowski, leading a group of Panzer IV tanks. The German tanks were met with anti-tank weapons and Sherman Firefly tanks of the UK Staffordshire Yeomanry, and the counter attack was immediately halted. Oppeln-Bronikowski called off the attack after losing 13 of his tanks. A second prong of the counter attack by infantrymen of the 192nd Panzergrenadiers fared a bit better being able to penetrate Allied lines and making contact with isolated German beach defenders of the 736th Infantry Regiment near Lion-sur-Mer. These infantrymen were later joined by a few tanks. Instead of exploiting further, however, Feuchtinger was forced to recall the 192nd Panzergrenadiers to Caen after observing 250 gliders full of British airborne troops land near St Aubin. The appearance of German armor and the German's ability to reach the sea made the Allied field commanders at Sword Beach a bit weary, thus a decision was made to regroup at the beach, thus delaying the objective to take Caen by the end of 6 Jun. Nevertheless, British troops still moved toward Caen, albeit a very slow pace, so that the city could be taken in the following few days. Along the way, they encountered the unexperienced but fierce troops of the 12th SS-Panzer Division "Hitlerjugent", who held the lines so that, behind them, German tanks could gather in preparation for a counter offensive.

...Sword Beach was effectively secured by the Allies at the end of 7 Jun.