

Fighting the War in Europe

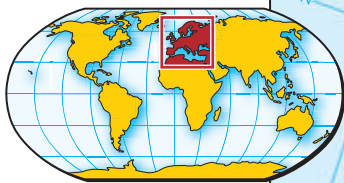
The Allies halted German advances in 1942, then went on the offensive to reverse earlier Axis gains.

- ★ Allied advances pushed Axis troops out of France, Italy, and the Soviet Union. Italy surrendered on September 3, 1943.
- ★ By 1945 the conflict had become a true world war, involving nearly 60 nations from six continents.
- ★ In 1945 Allied troops fought their way toward Berlin from the east, west, and south. Germany surrendered on May 7.

VICTORY IN EUROPE
1942-1945

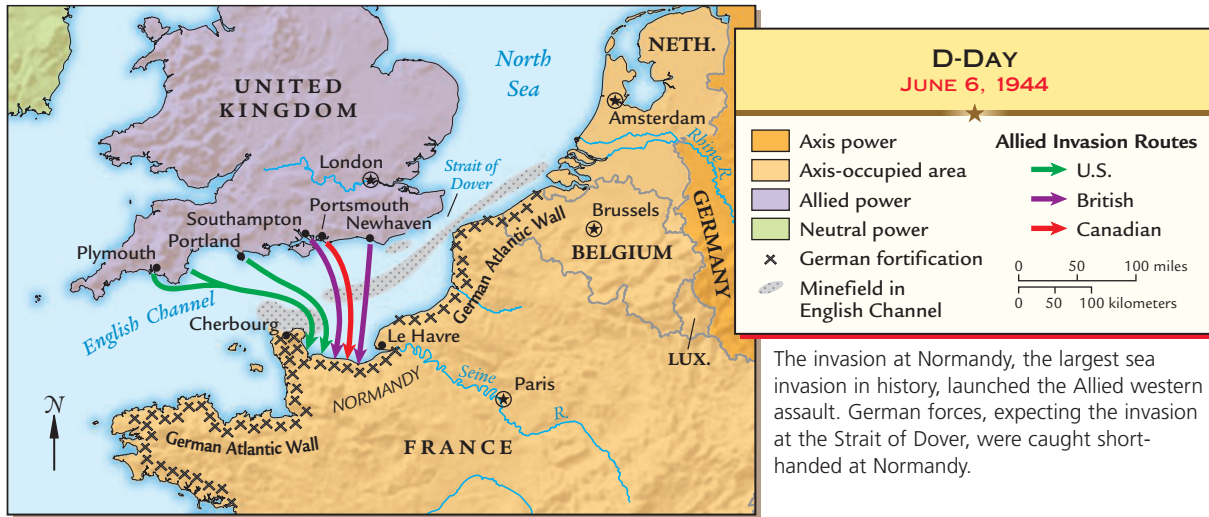
- Axis power and occupied area, January 1, 1945
- Allied power
- Neutral power
- Allied advance on Germany
- Axis victory
- Allied victory
- No clear victor

0 250 500 miles
0 250 500 kilometers

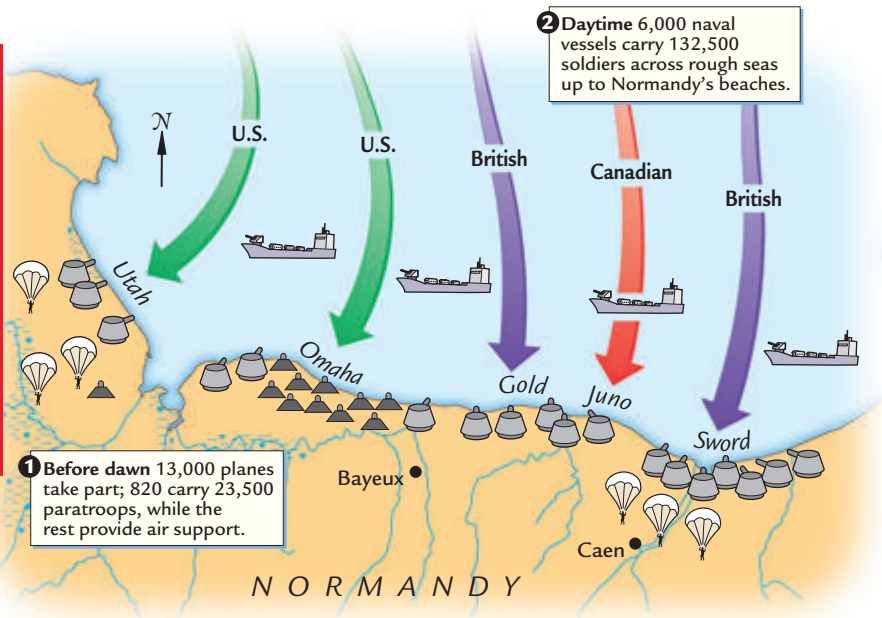
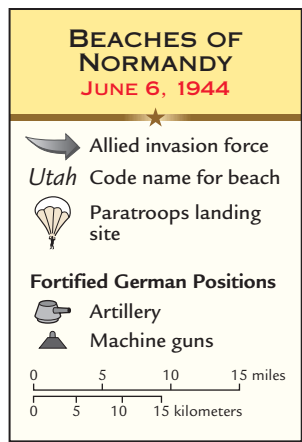


B Victories in Stalingrad and North Africa were turning points of the war and opened the way to Allied advances by land and by sea. Fierce fighting continued for over two years before the Axis fell.

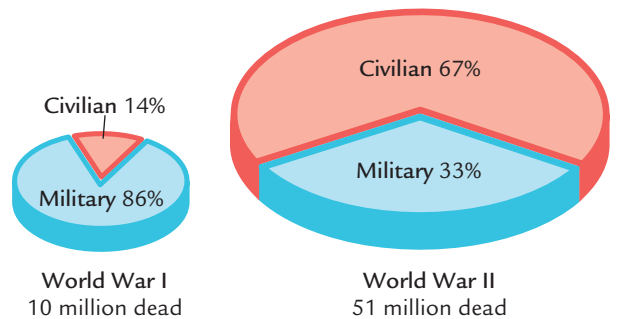




The invasion at Normandy, the largest sea invasion in history, launched the Allied western assault. German forces, expecting the invasion at the Strait of Dover, were caught short-handed at Normandy.



Allied troops met the most resistance at Omaha Beach. However, by the end of the day, the Allies controlled all five beaches in Normandy.



F LIVES LOST TO TOTAL WAR

Worldwide, World War II took more lives, mostly civilian, than any other war. Among the civilian dead were up to 13 million targeted by the Nazis as undesirable, about half of them Jews killed during the Holocaust. See the graphs on pages 31, 59, and 77.