



D-Day
June 6, 1944
76th Anniversary

June 6, 1944, D-Day:
155,000 allied troops
11,590 aircraft
6,939 vessels
4,413 Allied dead
~8,000 Germans dead



Charles de Gaulle



Marshal Pétain



Winston Churchill

Prologue

June 16, 1940: Under blitzkrieg, the French war cabinet sent Charles de Gaulle to seek help from England. He and Churchill proposed an "indissoluble union" between the two nations, an idea spurned by the French war cabinet because "... in three weeks, England will have her neck wrung like a chicken." Speaking to the Canadian Parliament in 1941, Churchill recalled the French reaction, retorting: "Some chicken. Some neck". Marshal Pétain compared such a union to "...a fusion with a corpse."

June 22, 1940: While the French capitulated *and* collaborated and while Adolf Hitler danced a jig, the English corpse made tea and carried on.

In the end, lesser men.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1982-009-10
Foto: o. Ang. [22. Juni 1940]





*This collection of photos (with the exception of the last two) from:
<https://allthatsinteresting.com/d-day-normandy-invasion-operation-overlord#1>)*











































































These last two photos from:
<https://www.magnumphotos.com/newsroom/conflict/robert-capa-d-day-omaha-beach/>
Robert Capa © International Center of Photography US troops' first assault on Omaha Beach
during the D-Day landings. Normandy, France. June 6, 1944. © Robert Capa © International
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Epilogue

August 25 1944: As General Charles de Gaulle strutted along the Champs Élysées to Notre Dame Cathedral, he gloated:

"Paris! Paris outraged! Paris broken! Paris martyred! But Paris liberated! Liberated by itself, liberated by its people with the help of the French armies, with the support and the help of all France, of the France that fights, of the only France, of the real France, of the eternal France!"

He failed to mention that the Germans had surrendered to the 2nd French Armored Division on Aug 25 only after units of the US 3rd Army had entered Paris that morning. Nor did he mention the Normandy landing 70 days earlier during which four thousand, four hundred and thirteen allied soldiers died. To de Gaulle, this parade was all about de Gaulle.

Assembled by Gerry Porter

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/if-france-kept-fighting-how-world-war-ii-might-have-gone-17590>



President Donald Trump gave an emotional display of gratitude when he hugged 94-year-old World War Two veteran Russell Pickett, who heroically stormed the beaches of Normandy 75 years ago.

<https://neonnettle.com/news/7722-trump-hugs-94-year-old-ww2-veteran-who-stormed-beaches-of-normandy>
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