

# Allied Landings on June 6, 1944

KEY: † Military Cemetery

Parachute Drop



## Utah Beach Monument

A red granite obelisk in a small park overlooks historic Utah Beach. It honors the achievements of U.S. VII Corps forces that fought to liberate the Cotentin Peninsula.

## Pointe du Hoc Monument

A granite pylon tops a bunker on a 100-foot cliff eight miles west of the cemetery. It honors soldiers of the 2nd Ranger Battalion who scaled the cliff to disable German guns threatening Utah and Omaha Beaches.



## American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 31 memorials, monuments and markers in 17 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

## Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial

The Normandy American Cemetery is one of 14 permanent American World War II military cemeteries on foreign soil. The government of France granted use of this land, in perpetuity, as a permanent burial ground without charge or taxation.

Contact [NormandyVisits@abmc.gov](mailto:NormandyVisits@abmc.gov) for information on our free guided tours.



Cover photo: Robert Uth

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)



ENGLISH

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

## Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial



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- General of the Armies John J. Pershing



# THE NORMANDY CAMPAIGN

The massive Allied assault on the Normandy coastline on June 6, 1944 aimed to liberate France and drive into Nazi Germany.

Before dawn on June 6, three airborne divisions—the U.S. 82nd and 101st and the British 6th—landed by parachute and glider behind targeted beaches. Allied naval forces, including the U.S. Coast Guard, conveyed assault forces across the English Channel. Beginning at 0630 hours, six U.S., British and Canadian divisions landed on Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword Beaches in history's greatest amphibious assault.

The U.S. 4th Infantry Division pushed inland from Utah Beach. To the east, on Omaha Beach, the U.S. 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions battled German resistance over a beach bristling with obstacles. To reach the plateau where Normandy American Cemetery stands, troops fought across an open area of up to 200 yards, and attacked up steep bluffs. By day's end, the Americans held fragile control of Omaha Beach.

On Gold, Juno and Sword, British and Canadian divisions forged ahead. In less than a week, the Allies linked the beachheads and pressed onward.

Over the next three months, the Allies battled German troops throughout Normandy. British and Canadians freed Caen. Americans liberated Cherbourg and staged a dramatic breakout near St. Lô. Allied troops, joined by French and Polish units, encircled and annihilated German troops at the Falaise Pocket while surviving units fled eastward. The way was now open to advance toward Paris and then to Germany.

**Symbolic Statues**  
Two statues of Italian Baveno granite representing the United States and France stand at the west end of the central mall.



**The Chapel**  
Its mosaic ceiling depicts America blessing her sons as they depart by sea and air, and a grateful France bestowing a laurel wreath upon the American dead.



**Overlook**  
Gives a panorama of Omaha Beach and the English Channel.



**The Memorial**  
Features a 22-foot statue, "The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves," facing west toward the headstones.





## Layout

From the visitor center at the east, the Garden of the Missing leads to a memorial overlooking a reflecting pool, then to the grave plots, chapel, and statues at the west end.



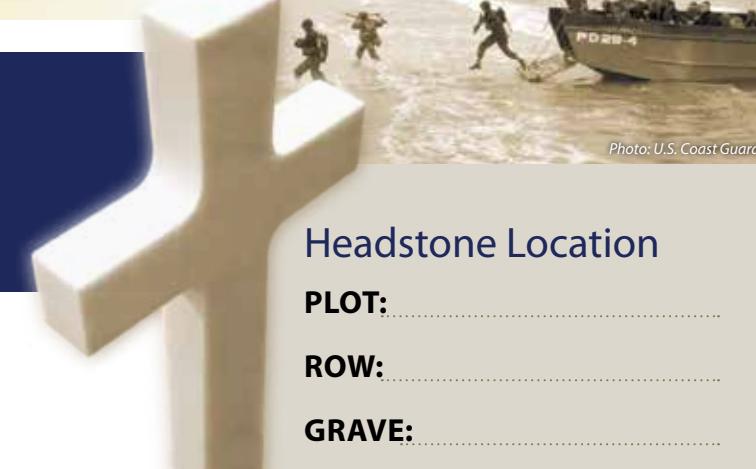
### The Graves

A central mall bisects the cemetery's ten grave plots. Our servicemen and women lie beneath precisely aligned headstones of white Lasa marble Latin crosses and Stars of David.



### The Plantings

Trees, shrubs and roses highlight the grave plots. Beds of polyantha roses trim the Garden of the Missing, while a variety of trees grace the lawn areas.



## Headstone Location

**PLOT:** .....

**ROW:** .....

**GRAVE:** .....

## USEFUL INFORMATION

**DIMENSIONS:** 172.5 acres  
**HEADSTONES:** 9,389  
**LATIN CROSSES:** 9,236

**STARS OF DAVID:** 153  
**TABLETS OF THE MISSING:** 1,557  
**SETS OF BROTHERS:** 45

**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS:** 3  
**DEDICATED:** July 18, 1956



*Photo: U.S. Coast Guard*