

THE ASSAULT LANDINGS IN NORMANDY

ORDER OF BATTLE

Second British Army

List of Formations and Units which landed during the first two tides and in the first two Air Lifts.

1st Tide	up to 1730 hrs	6th June 1944
2nd Tide	up to 0530 hrs	7th June 1944
1st Air Lift	0020 - 0430 hrs	6th June 1944
2nd Air Lift	2051 - 2123 hrs	6th June 1944

NOTES

1. General

The plan for the Assault Landings in Normandy (Operation "Overlord") envisaged the formations listed below, as being landed on D-day, 6th June 1944.

First American Army. Sector

VII U.S. Corps

82 U.S. Airborne Division  
505, 507, 508 Parachute Infantry Regiments.(1)

101 U.S. Airborne Division  
501, 502, 506 Parachute Infantry Regiments.(1)

4 U.S. Infantry Division  
8, 12, 22 Infantry Regiments

With under command for assault phase.(2)

6 Armoured Group  
1 Engineer Special Brigade  
359 Regimental Combat team, 90 U.S. Infantry Division

V U.S. Corps

1 U.S. Infantry Division  
16, 18, 26 Infantry Regiments

29 U.S. Infantry Division  
115, 116, 175 Infantry Regiments

With under command for assault phase.(2)

3 Armoured Group  
5 Engineer Special Brigade  
6 Engineer Special Brigade  
Ranger Group (2 and 5 Ranger Bns)

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- (1) The basic organisation of each Airborne Division included a Glider Infantry Regiment, i.e.  
82 U.S. Airborne Div - 325 Glider Infantry Regt.  
101 U.S. Airborne Div - 327 Glider Infantry Regt.  
Some elements of both Regiments appear to have landed during 6th June.
- (2) The Armoured Groups contained the independent tank battalions mostly equipped with D.D. tanks. The Engineer Special Brigades were in general the equivalent of the British Engineer Assault Regiments whose role was to clear all obstacles and prepare beach exits.  
A Ranger Battalion corresponded to a British Commando.

Second British Army SectorI Corps

- 6 Airborne Division  
3 and 5 Parachute and 6 Air Landing Brigades
- 3 Infantry Division  
8, 9, 185 Inf Brigades with under command  
27 Armoured and 1 S.S. Brigades
- 3 Canadian Infantry Division  
7, 8, 9 Canadian Infantry Brigades with under command  
2 Canadian Armoured and 4 S.S. Brigades

XXX Corps

- 50 (Northumbrian) Infantry Division  
69, 151, 231 Infantry Brigades with under command  
8 Armoured and 56 Infantry Brigades

2. Particulars

- (a) In general all the formations of the Second Army employed in the assault landings were composed of personnel drawn from the United Kingdom or Canada.
- (b) All those listed were of U.K. extraction unless the prefix "Canadian" or "Cdn" is used.
- (c) In a few cases, units were split and parts landed on different beaches. In such cases the name of the whole is entered once in the list.
- (d) The HQs of supporting arms and services normally landed with the assault formations to which they belonged. They are not included separately in the lists.
- (e) The same applies to Signal Sections; L.A.Ds; Def. Pls and F.S. Secs.
- (f) The percentage rule (A.C.I 48/1956 para 15) has been applied to all the units listed as they left the anchorage to land. Small elements and Recce parties have not been included.
- (g) In a few cases, units "phased in" on the 6th June and sailing in the assault convoys have been excluded for the following reasons:-
  - (i) On the voyage their transport was damaged and they did not reach the anchorage.
  - (ii) They reached the anchorage but were then not called in to land till too late to qualify.
- (h) Lists of Naval units inclusive of the Royal Marines and of Air Force units are attached.
- (i) The list has been compiled from the various Operation Instructions; Operation Orders and Landing Tables issued. All the entries have been checked against the War Diaries of the formations and units concerned.

XXX CORPS50 Northumbrian Division

Leading formations, 69 and 231 Infantry Brigades

Divisional Troops

50 Div HQ  
50 Div Sigs  
50 Div Provost Coy

R.A.C.

Two Sqns. 61 Recce Regt.

R.A.

90 Fd Regt (S.P.) - 357, 358, 465 Btys<sup>(1)</sup>  
102 A Tk Regt - 99, 288(2) Btys  
82 Bty 25 L.A.A. Regt

R.E.

233 Fd Coy  
295 Fd Coy  
505 Fd Coy  
235 Fd Pk Coy (3)

M.M.G. Bn

2 Cheshire Regiment

R.A.M.C.

149 Fd Amb  
186 Fd Amb  
200 Fd Amb  
22 Fd Hyg Sec.

69 Infantry Brigade

5 East Yorkshire Regiment  
6 Green Howards  
7 Green Howards

151 Infantry Brigade

6 Durham Light Infantry  
8 Durham Light Infantry  
9 Durham Light Infantry

231 Infantry Brigade

2 Devonshire Regiment  
1 Hampshire Regiment  
1 Dorsetshire Regiment

- 
- (1) The other two Fd Regts of the Div Arty did not land till later.
- (2) 107 and 289 Btys did not land till the afternoon of D + 1.
- (3) Formed Specialist detachments, manning bulldozers etc.

Additional formations and units placed under command for  
the assault phase

8 Armoured Brigade

4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards  
Nottinghamshire Yeomanry

56 Infantry Brigade

2 South Wales Borderers  
2 Gloucestershire Regiment  
2 Essex Regiment

R.A.C.

2 County of London Yeomanry  
Two Tps 141 Royal Tank Regiment

R.A.

86 Fd Regt (S.P.) - 341, 342, 462 Btys  
147 Fd Regt (S.P.) - 413, 431, 511 Btys  
198 Bty 73 A Tk Regt  
234 Bty 73 A Tk Regt  
320 Bty 93 L.A.A. Regt  
HQ 120 L.A.A. Regt  
394 Bty 120 L.A.A. Regt  
395 Bty 120 L.A.A. Regt  
HQ 113 H.A.A. Regt  
152 A.A. Operations Room  
One Tp 356 Searchlight Bty  
One Flight 662 Air O.P. Sqn. (1)

R.E.

HQ 6 Assault Regt  
81 Assault Sqn  
82 Assault Sqn  
73 Fd Coy  
280 Fd Coy

R.A.M.C.

203 Fd Amb  
168 Lt Fd Amb

Royal Marines

1 R.M. Armd Support Regt  
47 R.M. Commando

G.H.Q. Liaison Regiment (2)

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(1) Ground Staff only. Aircraft flown in D + 2.

(2) See page 13.

Sub-Area units under command for assault phase

104 Beach Sub-Area HQ and Sig Sec.  
 9 Beach Group  
 10 Beach Group

R. E.

69 Fd Coy  
 89 Fd Coy  
 90 Fd Coy  
 183 Fd Coy  
 21 Stores Sec  
 23 Stores Sec  
 51 Mechanical Eqpt Sec  
 74 Mechanical Eqpt Sec  
 1043 Port Operating Coy  
 953 I.W.T. Operating Coy  
 961 I.W.T. Operating Coy

Infantry

2 Hertfordshire Regiment  
 6 Border Regiment

R. A. S. C.

305 G.T. Coy  
 536 G.T. Coy  
 705 G.T. Coy  
 2 D.I.D.  
 5 D.I.D.  
 244 Petrol Depot

R. A. M. C.

3 Casualty Clearing Station  
 10 Casualty Clearing Station  
 3 Field Dressing Station  
 25 Field Dressing Station  
 31 Field Dressing Station  
 32 Field Dressing Station  
 35 Field Dressing Station  
 Field Surgical Units  
 Nos. 41, 42, 47, 48  
 Field Transfusion Units  
 Nos. 24, 30  
 22 Port Det.  
 23 Port Det.

R. A. J. C.

7 Ord Beach Det.  
 10 Ord Beach Det.  
 36 Ord Beach Det.

R. E. M. E.

24 Beach Recovery Sec  
25 Beach Recovery Sec  
XXX Corps Workshop (1)

C. M. P. (Provost)

240 Pro Coy  
243 Pro Coy

Pioneer Corps

75 Pnr Coy  
173 Pnr Coy  
209 Pnr Coy  
280 Pnr Coy

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(1) Included two composite workshops and a Light Recovery Section.

I CORPS3 Canadian Division

Leading formations, 7 and 8 Canadian Infantry Brigades

Divisional Troops

3 Canadian Div HQ  
3 Canadian Div Sigs

R.C.A.

12 Canadian Fd Regt (S.P.) - 14, 16, 43 Btys  
13 Canadian Fd Regt (S.P.) - 22, 44, 78 Btys  
14 Canadian Fd Regt (S.P.) - 34, 66, 81 Btys  
32 Bty 4 Canadian L.A.A. Regt

R.C.E.

6 Canadian Fd Coy  
16 Canadian Fd Coy  
18 Canadian Fd Coy

M.M.G. Bn

The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa

R.C.A.M.C.

14 Canadian Fd Amb  
22 Canadian Fd Amb  
23 Canadian Fd Amb

7 Canadian Infantry Brigade

The Royal Winnipeg Rifles  
The Regina Rifle Regiment  
1 Canadian Scottish Regiment

8 Canadian Infantry Brigade

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada  
Le Régiment de la Chaudière  
The North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment

9 Canadian Infantry Brigade

The Highland Light Infantry of Canada  
The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders  
The North Nova Scotia Highlanders

Additional formations and units placed under command  
for the assault phase

2 Canadian Armoured Brigade

6 Canadian Armoured Regiment (I.H.)  
10 Canadian Armoured Regiment (Fort Garry's)  
27 Canadian Armoured Regiment (Sher Fus R)

4 S.S. Brigade

48 R.M. Commando  
R.M. Engineer Commando (1 Sec)

R.A.C.

C Sqn The Inns of Court Regiment

R.A.

19 Canadian Fd Regt (S.P.) - 55, 63, 99 Btys  
62 A Tk Regt HQ - 245, 248 Btys  
HQ 80 A.A. Bde (TAC)  
114 L.A.A. Regt HQ - 372, 375 Btys  
321 Bty 93 L.A.A. Regt (1)  
218 and 220 Bty 73 L.A.A. Regt  
Two Tps 474 Searchlight Bty  
155 A.A. Operations Room  
160 A.A. Operations Room  
'A' Flt 652 Air O.P. Sqn (2)

R.E.

26 Assault Sqn  
80 Assault Sqn  
262 Fd Coy  
5 Canadian Fd Coy

Royal Marines

2 R.M. Armoured Support Regt HQ - 3, 4 Btys (3)

Sub-Area Units under command for Assault Phase

102 Beach Sub-Area HQ and Sig Sec  
7 Beach Group  
8 Beach Group

R.E.

HQ 7 G.H.Q. Troops Engineers  
72 Fd Coy  
85 Fd Coy  
184 Fd Coy  
240 Fd Coy  
19 Stores Sec  
20 Stores Sec  
59 Mechanical Eqpt Sec  
11 Port Operating Group  
1034 Port Operating Coy  
966 I.W.T. Operating Coy

- 
- (1) U/comd 114 L.A.A. Regt.  
(2) Ground Staff only.  
(3) With Det 30 Assault Unit R.M.

Infantry

8 Kings Regiment (Liverpool)  
5 Royal Berkshire Regiment

R.A.S.C.

30 Transport Column HQ  
199 G.T. Coy  
282 G.T. Coy  
139 D.I.D.  
140 D.I.D.  
240 Petrol Depot  
242 Petrol Depot

R.A.M.C.

32 Casualty Clearing Station  
1 Field Dressing Station  
2 Field Dressing Station  
33 Field Dressing Station  
34 Field Dressing Station  
Field Surgical Units  
Nos. 33, 34, 45, 46, 56  
Field Transfusion Units  
Nos. 13, 14, 36  
3 Sanitary Sec  
4 Sanitary Sec  
21 Port Det.

R.A.O.C.

15 Ord Beach Det  
45 Ord Amn Coy

R.E.M.E.

22 Beach Recovery Sec  
23 Beach Recovery Sec

Provost

242 Coy  
244 Coy

Labour (R.P.C.)

58 Pioneer Coy  
115 Pioneer Coy  
144 Pioneer Coy  
170 Pioneer Coy  
190 Pioneer Coy  
225 Pioneer Coy  
243 Pioneer Coy  
293 Pioneer Coy

I CORPS3 Infantry Division

Leading formations, 8 Infantry and 1 S.S. Brigades

Divisional Troops

3 Div HQ  
3 Div Sigs  
3 Div Provost Coy

R.A.

7 Fd Regt (S.P.) - 9, 16, 17/43 Btys  
33 Fd Regt (S.P.) - 101, 109, 113/114 Btys  
76 Fd Regt (S.P.) - 302, 303, 454 Btys  
20 A Tk Regt - 41, 45, 67, 101 Btys

R.E.

17 Fd Coy  
246 Fd Coy  
253 Fd Coy

M.M.G. Bn

2 Middlesex Regiment

R.A.M.C.

8 Fd Amb  
9 Fd Amb  
223 Fd Amb

8 Infantry Brigade

1 Suffclt Regiment  
2 East Yorkshire Regiment  
1 South Lancashire Regiment

9 Infantry Brigade

2 Lincolnshire Regiment  
1 King's Own Scottish Borderers  
2 Royal Ulster Rifles

185 Infantry Brigade

2 Royal Warwickshire Regiment  
1 Royal Norfolk Regiment  
2 King's Shropshire Light Infantry

Additional formations and units placed under command for  
the Assault Phase

27 Armoured Brigade

13/18 Royal Hussars  
East Riding Yeomanry  
Staffordshire Yeomanry

1 S.S. Brigade

3 Commando  
4 Commando  
6 Commando  
45 Royal Marine Commando  
Two Tps 10 (I.A.) Commando  
One Tp R.M. Engineer Commando

R.A.C.

22 Dragoons

R.A.

53 Medium Regt HQ only  
73 I.A.A. Regt HQ and 218 Bty  
318 Bty 92 L.A.A. Regt. One Tp only  
322 Bty 93 L.A.A. Regt  
Survey Bty, 9 Survey Regt  
'B' Flt 652 Air O.P. Sqn

R.E.

HQ 5 Engineer Assault Regt  
77 Assault Sqn  
79 Assault Sqn  
71 Fd Coy  
263 Fd Coy  
629 Fd Sqn

R.A.S.C.

106 Bridging Coy  
90 Armd Bde Coy

Royal Marines

41 R.M. Commando (1)  
5 Independent Armd Support Bty. (S.P.) (3 Tps only)

Sub-Area Units under command for Assault Phase

101 Beach Sub-Area HQ and Sig Sec  
5 Beach Group  
6 Beach Group

R.E.

HQ 18 G.H.Q. Troops Engineers  
84 Fd Coy  
91 Fd Coy  
8 Stores Sec  
9 Stores Sec  
50 Mechanical Eqpt Sec  
9 Port Operating Group  
999 Port Operating Coy  
1028 Port Operating Coy  
940 I.W.T. Operating Coy

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(1) Of 4 S.S. Bde.

Infantry

5 King's Regiment (Liverpool)  
1 Buckinghamshire Battalion

R.A.S.C.

21 Transport Column HQ  
39 G.T. Coy (1)  
101 G.T. Coy  
299 G.T. Coy  
633 G.T. Coy  
96 D.I.D.  
138 D.I.D.  
237 Petrol Depot  
238 Petrol Depot

R.A.M.C.

16 Casualty Clearing Station  
9 Field Dressing Station  
12 Field Dressing Station  
20 Field Dressing Station  
21 Field Dressing Station  
30 Field Dressing Station  
Field Surgical Units  
Nos. 37, 38, 39, 40, 55  
Field Transfusion Units  
Nos. 21, 22, 29  
1 Field Sanitary Sec  
2 Field Sanitary Sec  
20 Port Det

R.A.O.C.

11 Ord Beach Det  
12 Ord Beach Det  
44 Ord Amn Coy

R.E.M.E.

20 Beach Recovery Sec  
21 Beach Recovery Sec

Provost

241 Coy  
245 Coy

Labour (R.P.C.)

53 Pioneer Coy  
85 Pioneer Coy  
102 Pioneer Coy  
129 Pioneer Coy  
149 Pioneer Coy  
267 Pioneer Coy  
292 Pioneer Coy  
303 Pioneer Coy

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(1) These four G.T. Coys manned DUKWs and in each case only 2 Pls landed.

I CORPS51 Highland Division (1)

5 Black Watch  
1 Gordon Highlanders  
5/7 Gordon Highlanders

G.H.Q. Liaison Regiment (2)

- 
- (1) A 'follow up' Division, the three units listed formed part of the 153 Infantry Brigade. All three landed on the evening of D-day.
- (2) Five patrols of 'Phantom' were ashore by the evening of D-day on 2nd Army front.

I CORPS6 Airborne DivisionDivisional Troops

6 Airborne Div HQ  
 6 Airborne Div Sigs  
 6 Airborne Div Provost Coy

R.A.C.

6 Airborne Armd Recce Regt

R.A.

211 Bty 53 Air Landing Light Regt  
 3 Air Landing A Tk Bty  
 4 Air Landing A Tk Bty (1)

R.E.

3 Parachute Sqn  
 591 Parachute Sqn  
 249 Fd Coy (Airborne) (1)

Infantry (2)

22 Independent Parachute Coy

R.A.S.C.

716 Light Composite Coy  
 398 Composite Coy (1)

R.A.M.C.

224 Parachute Fd Amb  
 225 Parachute Fd Amb  
 195 Air Landing Fd Amb

R.E.M.E.

6 Airborne Div Wksp (3)

Army Air Corps

1 Wing Glider Pilot Regt  
 2 Wing Glider Pilot Regt

3 Parachute Brigade

8 Parachute Battalion  
 9 Parachute Battalion  
 1 Canadian Parachute Battalion

- (1) By Sea.
- (2) To prepare dropping and landing zones.
- (3) A strong detachment went in gliderborne at H + 4 hrs on D-Day.

5 Parachute Brigade

7 Parachute Battalion  
12 Parachute Battalion  
13 Parachute Battalion

6 Air Landing Brigade

2 Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (1)  
1 Royal Ulster Rifles  
'A' Coy 12 Devonshire Regiment (2)

- 
- (1) To try and seize intact the bridges at Benouville and Ranville a special force was used consisting of:-

Two Pls 'B' Coy 2 Oxf Bucks  
'D' Coy 2 Oxf Bucks  
Detachment (30) 249 Fd Coy (Airborne) R.E.

- (2) The remainder of 12 Devon landed by sea on D + 1.

ROYAL NAVY

Units which landed during the Assault Phase

1. XXX Corps Sector 50 (N) Division front  
 "GOLD" Area -- "JIG" and "KING" Beaches  

Beach Cdo	'J'
" "	'Q'
" "	'T'
  
2. I Corps Sector 3 Canadian Division front.  
 "JUNO" Area - "MIKE" and "NAN" Beaches  

Beach Cdo	'L'
" "	'P'
" "	'S'
  
3. I Corps Sector 3 Division front  
 "SWORD" Area - "QUEEN" and "ROGER" Beaches  

Beach Cdo	'F'
" "	'R'

NOTE: A Naval Beach Commando consisted of 11 Officers, 6 Petty Officers and 67 ratings plus a signal unit of 30.

ROYAL MARINESAdditional Units which landed during the Assault phase1. Landing Craft (1)

'E' Squadron	605	Flotilla	(14)	
	606	"	(15)	
	607	"	(12)	Landing Craft Mechanised (L.C.M.)
	609	"	(11)	
	654	"	(12)	
	698	"	(12)	
'B' Squadron	805	"	(16)	
	806	"	(16)	Landing Craft Vehicle, Personnel (L.C.V.(P)) (2)
	807	"	(16)	
	808	"	(16)	
	809	"	(16)	
Independent	700	"	(12)	Landing Craft Personnel (Large) (L.C.P.(L))
	706	"	(12)	
	557	"	(18)	

NOTE: (1) Primary duties ship to shore assault and ferry service.  
 Total personnel employed = approx 500  
 " craft " = 198

(2) The American equivalent of L.C.P.(L)

2. Landing Craft Obstacle Clearance Units (L.C.O.C.U.)

Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12  
 formed from R.M. Engineer Cdo.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Units which landed during the Assault phase. (1)

1304	Mobile Wing Hdqs	R.A.F. Regiment
1305	" "	" "
104	Beach Section	
107	" "	
15082	Ground Controlled Interception Unit	(2)
15083	" "	" "
21	Base Defence Sector	(2)
24	" "	" "
51	Beach Balloon Flight	
	Provost and Security Unit	
	Emergency Landing Strip	Echelon
11	Air Formation Signals	{ $\frac{1}{2}$ Line Section}
16	" "	{ $\frac{1}{2}$ Wing Section}
	Mobile Signal Units Nos:	
	543; 554; 582, 585, 5006	(1); 5030;
	5132 (1); 5141 (1); 5153 (1); 5260;	
	5276 (1)	

NOTE (1) All Units came from Nos 83 and 85 Groups.

(2) These units landed through the First American Army Sector.

Telephone No.: Whitehall 5422

CABINET OFFICE,  
HISTORICAL SECTION,  
QUEEN ANNE'S CHAMBERS,  
41, TOTHILL STREET,  
S.W.1

29th July, 1958

Dear *Young*

We have been trying to establish the complete strength and casualty figures for the assault landing in Normandy, for some time, and have finally assessed them as shown in 2 (iv) of the attached.

We have come to the conclusion that under the conditions prevailing on the Beaches and in view of the complicated nature of the Order of Battle, few returns, submitted immediately, have any real value. Those contained in the War Diary of I Corps with their comparatively high proportion of "Missing" illustrate this. It was not possible to prepare accurate returns till three or four days later. These exist, but contain bulk figures for the period, and give no separate assessment relating to 'D' Day.

Yours sincerely,

*Daisy Latimer*

Lt. Col. F.W. Young,  
Librarian, Staff College,  
Camberley,  
Surrey.

Strength Returns and Casualty Figures

Assault Landing in Normandy

up to about 0600 hrs

7th June

1. Official Figures

War Diary I Corps A/Q Branch, June 1944

Consolidated Casualty and Strength Return made up to  
0600 hrs 7 June 1944:

Formation	Strength All Ranks	Killed	Casualties Wounded	Missing
6th Airborne Div.	5,177	61	349	612
3rd U.K. Inf.Div.	10,899	107	511	339
<u>"The Canadian Army 1939-45" Page 179, By Col. C.P. Stacey</u>				
3 Canadian Div.	about 14,500	355	708	

2. Notes: Estimates etc.

- (i) HQ 2nd Army estimated that by midnight 7/8 June 97,000 men and 12,000 vehicles had been landed by sea. i.e. exclusive of 6 Airborne Division transported by air.

This gives a figure of about 102,000 ashore by midnight 7/8 June. But the basis for this assessment is not stated.

- (ii) The War diary 50 Div. A/Q Branch is an entry dated 8th June gives a Casualty Return which reads:-

Killed 144      Wounded 617      Missing 318

Presumably this covers the fighting up to Midnight 7/8 June.

- (iii) None of the other War Diaries contain any Landing Strengths or Casualty returns for 'D' Day.

- (iv) The Official Historians have estimated that up to Midnight 6/7 June:

75,215 Landed by Sea, suffering 3,000 Casualties

7,900 Landed by Air, suffering 1,300 Casualties

Total

83,115 Landed, all told, suffering 4,300 Casualties.

Brigadier H.B. Latham

CABINET OFFICE

HISTORICAL SECTION,

QUEEN ANNE'S CHAMBERS,

41, TOTHILL STREET,

S.W.1

Telephone No.: Whitehall 5422

Dear *Young.*

I thought you might like to have a copy of the Order of Battle of the Second British Army for the Assault Landings in Normandy 6-7th June 1944, which has been prepared in this Section.

We thought it advisable to do this, whilst so many of those who took part were still living and able to check the drafts we have circulated.

Perhaps I should stress that the "Assault Phase" closed at 05.30 hrs on 7th June 1944 on the beaches and at 21.23 hrs on 6th June 1944 for the Air Lift and draw your attention to page 2 paragraph 2(f).

Many of the "units" recorded were very small ones and the picture presented of the "tail" required to make such an assault successful is not without interest.

Yours ever

*Harry Latham*

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE

**ECONOMY**

OPEN carefully.  
RE-USE with Economy Label.

Lt. Col. F.W. Young,  
Librarian, Staff College,  
Camberley,  
Surrey.



Code No. 28-18

*X* *Casualty Figure for the*  
*Assault Landings in*  
*NORMANDY*  
*4/6/44 5/6 June 1944*