This year marks 75 years since the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, more commonly known as D-Day.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the order of the day, “Full victory, nothing less,” to paratroopers somewhere in England just before they board their planes to take part in the first assault of the invasion of France. (National Archives Identifier 12003938)

On June 6, 1944, in one of the most well-remembered moments of World War II, American,
British, and Canadian forces stormed the 50-mile stretch of coastline in northwest France in the largest seaborne invasion in history: 150,000 troops, 7,000 ships, and over 13,000 aircraft were involved. Twenty-four thousand soldiers descended by air, the rest by sea.

An amphibious landing would not have been possible without the invention of the landing craft, vehicle, personnel (LCVP), also known as the Higgins boat. The patent is dated February 15, 1944 – less than four months before D-Day. On D-Day, Higgins boats transported troops from the 1st Infantry onto Omaha Beach. Each boat could carry 36 combat-equipped infantrymen or 8,000 pounds of cargo. In all, 23,398 Higgins boats were produced during the war.
Today, D-Day is remembered by many as the beginning of the end of World War II, but in the predawn hours of that pivotal day, success was not assured. After years of fighting and strategic planning, the stakes were enormous for the supreme command of the Allied Expeditionary Force and the more than 160,000 soldiers, sailors, and airmen who crossed the English Channel that day.

This combat account was made by the seven survivors of Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment—one of the few companies to actually land where planned on D-Day. The landing craft approached a beach untouched by aerial or naval bombardment and dropped their landing ramps. Instantly, the soldiers inside “were enveloped in a crossing of automatic fire.”

Only one-third of the company made it to the protection of the seawall. You can read the full account in the Catalog:
The National Archives has many records related to D-Day and its surrounding events, revealing the determination, endurance, and sacrifice of the Allied forces that made D-Day the triumph we celebrate today.

For more D-Day records, resources, and stories:

- See the online exhibit "D-Day and the Normandy Invasion" from the National Archives on Google Arts & Culture.
- Research Records Related to D-Day at the National Archives.
- Read Pieces of History: 75th Anniversary of D-Day
- Learn the story of Maj. Philip Gage, who jumped from a C-47 transport plane into the pitch black sky over Normandy in the early hours of D-Day, June 6, 1944

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy we are having a special D-Day document display in the East Rotunda Gallery of the National Archives in Washington, DC, from May 23, 2019 – July 2, 2019.
Do you like learning about awesome women in history? Are you looking to share stories of women who have inspired you? In celebration of our new exhibit, Rightfully Hers, and the passing of the 19th Amendment—which prohibited the states from denying the vote on the basis of sex—we've put together 19 weekly prompts to get us talking about amazing women in history.

Harlingen Army Air Field, Texas--Elizabeth L. Gardner of Rockford, Illinois, WASP (Women’s Airforce Service Pilot) pilot, takes a look around before sending her plane streaking down the runway at the air base. (National Archives Identifier 542191)

Join in on Instagram by following #19ForThe19th as we share women who have inspired us, and then use the hashtag yourself to let us know who inspires you. We'll be posting every Wednesday until October 9. Join us or follow along with #19forthe19th- we can't wait to learn with you!
#19ForThe19th
INSTAGRAM CHALLENGE

19 weeks of amazing women in history to celebrate the passing of the 19th Amendment.

June 5 • Hidden Heroines
June 12 • Women in Uniform
June 19 • Women Abolitionists
June 26 • Women in Government
July 3 • Founding Mothers
July 10 • Women in the Arts
July 17 • Play Like A Girl
July 24 • Accessibility Advocates
July 31 • Women Adventurers
Aug 7 • Fierce Female Friendships
Aug 14 • Frontier Women
Aug 21 • Women of STEM
Aug 28 • Defenders of Human Rights
Sept 4 • Mothers of Invention
Sept 11 • Female First Responders
Sept 18 • Outspoken Women
Sept 25 • Women in Lit
Oct 2 • Women at Work
Oct 9 • Seeing Me in History

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.