

# RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL

## “CRANWELLIANS IN 3-D”



A Tribute to Cranwellian Casualties at the time of Dunkirk and D-Day

Version 1.0 dated 25 March 2021 IBM Steward 6GE

In its electronic form, this document contains underlined, hypertext links to additional material, including alternative source data and archived video/audio clips.  
*[To open these links in a separate browser tab and thus not lose your place in this e-document, press control+click (Windows) or command+click (Apple Mac) on the underlined word or image]*

# CONTEXT

Somewhat tongue in cheek, this tribute album is entitled '*Cranwellians in 3-D*'. It captures the losses of Cranwellians who served at Dunkirk (26 May-4 June 1940) and during the Normandy D-Day Landings (6 June 1944). As important, it records and pays tribute to those Cranwellians who lost their lives during the same periods as these pivotal events, but in theatres of operation elsewhere and whose commitment is often overlooked when focusing on the traumatic events in Dunkirk and Normandy.

It is generally accepted that the Dunkirk evacuation started, under the codename Operation Dynamo, on 26 May 1940. By 4 June, it is believed that some 338,226 troops had been rescued from the Dunkirk beaches and harbour. We have listed in red the three Cranwellians (Browne, Franks and Pearson) known to have lost their lives actually over Dunkirk, facts that belie the claim of many a "Tommy Atkins" that the RAF was absent during the Dunkirk evacuation. We have also included one Cranwellian, Butler PS, lost off the coast of Antwerp the day before, as the withdrawal to Dunkirk had already started.

The invasion of Normandy, Operation Overlord, was postponed from 5 June 1944 (bad weather) till 6 June 1944; it is a well documented event in military history. None of the tactical objectives for D-Day were achieved, but beachheads were secured by 12 June and by the end of the month the Allied forces had maintained its air supremacy enabling ground forces to maintain their foothold and advance towards Berlin. For the purposes of this tribute, we have listed all those Cranwellians who lost their lives during the month of June 1944.

Those still under training and KOAS at the time of these two events are listed in grey text.

We have also included newsreel video clips covering the two events; look out for underlined text and pictures. With some browsers, these clips will be downloaded to 'play' off line; other will run successfully whilst remaining on line. Either way, they represent accurate and fullsome accounts of history as it was being made.

# DUNKIRK - 26 May to 4 June 1940

Cranwellian names in plain text have been verified between College and public database lists

Cranwellian names in *italics* are believed to be the correct matches to corresponding surnames and initials in the official IBCC database

## DUNKIRK

Casualty	Decorations	Entry	Description	Date
<b>Browne PESFM</b>		<b>J35</b>	<b>KIA 229 Sqn; Hurricane I P2636; failed to return from air operations over Dunkirk.</b>	<b>29/5/40</b>
Butler PS		J36	KIA 49 Sqn; Hampden I P1318 EA-?; Scampton-Aachen/Krefeld; crashed Belgium coast.	25/5/40
Cameron JS		J38	KIA 37 Sqn; Wellington IC L7793 LF-?; Feltwell-Courtrai/Brussels; forced landed Oostende.	26/5/40
Deas JH		J39	KIA 26 Sqn; Lysander II N1243; crashed at Calais.	27/5/40
Dunn HJR		J37	KOAS 87 Sqn; Hurricane I P3519; from RAF Church Fenton to RAF Yeadon, aircraft accident.	1/6/40
<b>Franks AL</b>	<b>AFC</b>	<b>S26</b>	<b>KIA 610 Sqn; Spitfire Ia N3177; shot down over Dunkirk.</b>	<b>29/5/40</b>
Geach TJ		J36	KIA 77 Sqn; Whitley V N1432 KN-?; Driffild-Avesnes/Hirson; crashed in Pas-de-Calais.	28/5/40
Glencross AR		J30	KIA 37 Sqn; Wellington IC L7793 LF-?; Feltwell; night comms; rescue ship sunk; drowned.	26/5/40
Gossage PL		SFTS6	KOAS 85 Sqn; Hurricane I P3584 stalled in practice dogfight and spun into the ground W of Debden.	31/5/40
Mellor HM	MVO	S21	KIA 22 Sqn; Beaufort I L4450; failed to return from ops over France.	26/5/40
<b>Pearson MC</b>		<b>J35</b>	<b>KIA 54 Sqn; Spitfire Ia N3030; failed to return from an operational flight over Dunkirk.</b>	<b>27/5/40</b>
Smith FM		J33	KOAS 94 Sqn; Gladiator II N2291; aircraft accident Khormaksar Bombing Range, Aden.	1/6/40



**Pearson MC**



54 Sqn Spitfire I  
(of Air Cdre Al Deere,  
Asst Cmdt Cranwell 1963/4)



**Browne PESFM**



229 Sqn Hurricane I



**Franks AL**



610 Sqn Spitfire Ia  
(Of Battle of France)

The Dunkirk evacuation commenced after large numbers of Belgian, British, and French troops were cut off and surrounded by German troops during the six-week Battle of France. In a speech to the House of Commons, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill called this "a colossal military disaster", saying "the whole root and core and brain of the British Army" had been stranded at Dunkirk and seemed about to perish or be captured. In his "We shall fight on the beaches" speech on 4 June, he hailed their rescue as a "miracle of deliverance".

On the first day only 7,669 Allied soldiers were evacuated, but by the end of the eighth day, 338,226 had been rescued by a hastily assembled fleet of over 800 vessels. Many troops were able to embark from the harbour's protective mole onto 39 British Royal Navy destroyers, four Royal Canadian Navy destroyers, at least three French Navy destroyers, and a variety of civilian merchant ships. Others had to wade out from the beaches, waiting for hours in shoulder-deep water. Some were ferried to the larger ships by what became known as the Little Ships of Dunkirk, a flotilla of hundreds of merchant marine boats, fishing boats, pleasure craft, yachts, and lifeboats called into service from Britain.

# D-DAY

## NORMANDY INVASION — JUNE 6, 1944

## OVERVIEW

also called Operation Overlord or D-Day, during World War II, the Allied invasion of western Europe, which was launched on June 6, 1944, with the simultaneous landing of U.S., British, and Canadian forces on five separate beachheads in Normandy, France.

Commander of the Supreme Headquarters  
Allied Expeditionary Force  
**GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER**

Originally planned for  
**MAY 1** and then **JUNE 5**  
but was delayed due to bad weather

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5
<b>12:00 A.M.</b> <b>Airborne Drop</b> 23,400 Allied paratroopers begin landing in Normandy to secure the exits from the beaches	<b>1:00 A.M.</b> <b>Deception</b> Allies fake invasion at Pas de Calais about 150 miles (250 km) northeast of the Normandy landings	<b>3:00 A.M.</b> <b>Aerial Attack</b> Allied aircraft begin bombardment on German defenses in the landing area	<b>5:00 A.M.</b> <b>Naval Attack</b> Naval bombardment on German defenses in the landing area begins	<b>6:00 A.M.</b> <b>Invasion</b> Allied troops begin landing at the beaches in Normandy

### NORMANDY COASTLINE

80 km (50 miles)

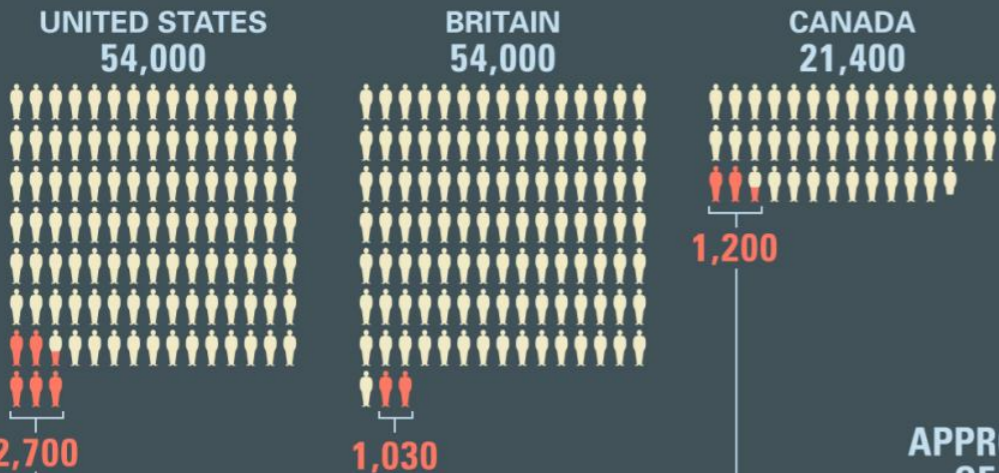
### ALLIED INFANTRY TROOPS LANDED

129,400  = 500

### ALLIED AIRBORNE TROOPS

(includes 4,000 glider troops)

23,400  = 500



CASUALTIES  
3,999

### APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF VEHICLES USED

3,000 landing craft

2,500 other ships

500 naval vessels

20,000 land vehicles

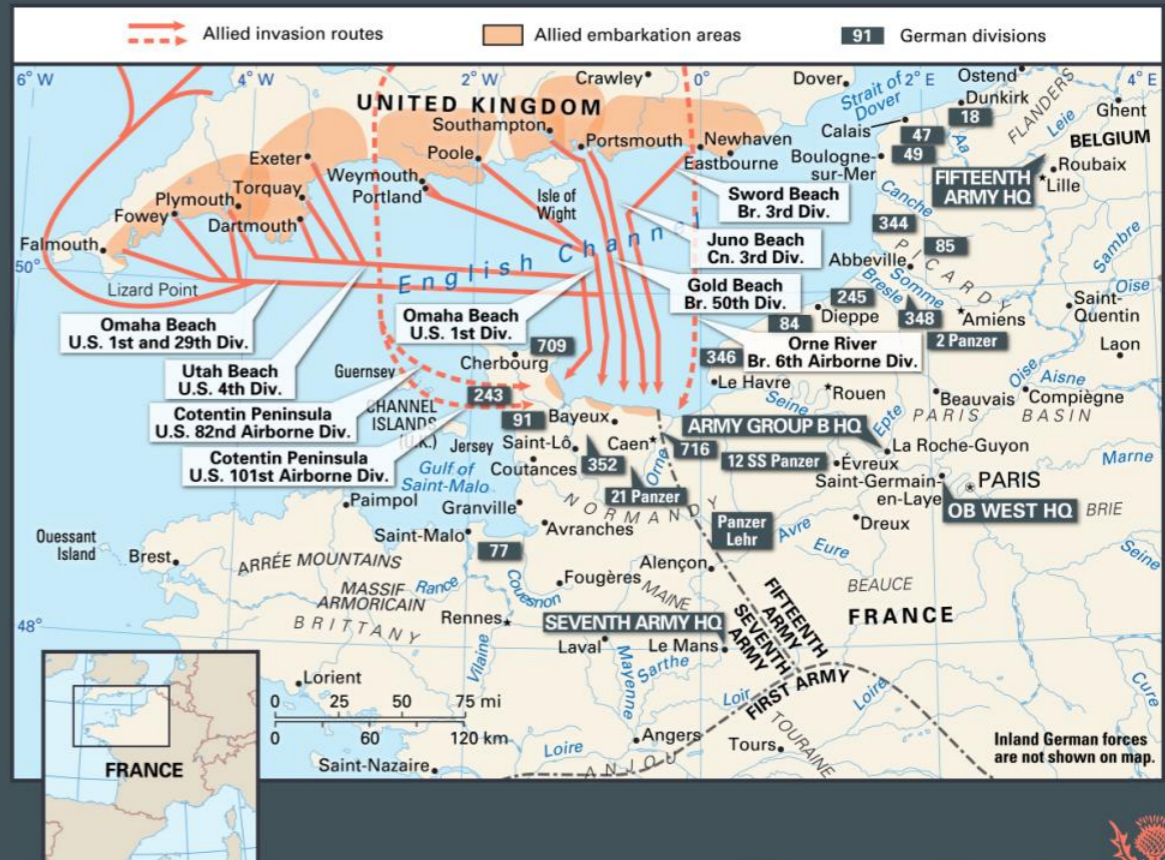
13,000 aircraft

### BY JUNE 11

approximately  
326,000 troops  
54,000 vehicles  
104,000 tons of supplies  
had landed

### BY END OF JUNE

approximately  
858,000 troops  
150,000 vehicles  
had landed



# CRANWELLIANS ON D-DAY

Cranwellian names in plain text have been verified between College and public database lists

Cranwellian names in *italics* are believed to be the correct matches to corresponding surnames and initials in the official IBCC database

## D-DAY

Casualty	Decorations	Entry	Description	Date
Andrewes PL		SFTS42	KIA 16 Sqn; Lancaster III ND399 AS-R; Kirmingto-Gelsenkirchen; night fighter Ugchelen.	13/6/44
<i>Bell BE</i>		<i>SFTS33</i>	<i>KIA 49 Sqn; Lancaster III ND533 EA-N; Fiskerton-Etampes; shot down by night fighter Rosay-sur-Lieure.</i>	<i>9/6/44</i>
Brown LW		SFTS20	KIA 577 Sqn; Oxford Mk 1 DF354.	30/6/44
Carmichael JW	DFC; MiD	S37	KIA 53 Sqn; ASW Ops; Liberator GR.V BZ818; attacked three U boats under heavy fire.	14/6/44
<i>Chalice LH</i>		<i>SFTS45</i>	<i>KIA 602 Sqn; Spitfire IX MH709 (?); evening patrol; shot down over Normandy by Fw190.</i>	<i>18/6/44</i>
<i>Chant WM</i>		<i>SFTS45</i>	<i>KIA 158 Sqn; Halifax III LV921 NP-B; Lissett-Trappes yards; shot down by a night-fighter, Rambouillet.</i>	<i>3/6/44</i>
<i>Gray R</i>		<i>SFTS39</i>	<i>KOAS 11 OTU; Wellington X LN172; Westcott-nav ex; engine failed; crashed in Cardigan Bay.</i>	<i>14/6/44</i>
<i>Harrison GA</i>		<i>SFTS14</i>	<i>KIA 616 Sqn; Spitfire VII MD121; Rodeo169; rammed or collided with Me Bf109 near Laval.</i>	<i>12/6/44</i>
Herrick MJ	DFC*	A39	Ex BoB; KIA 302 Sqn; Mosquito FBVI NS913 shot down Jutland Coast.	16/6/44
Jeffs F		SFTS51	Unable to corroborate RAFC annotation on this airman's record.	13/6/44
<i>Johnson EA</i>		<i>SFTS31</i>	<i>KIA 50 Sqn; Lancaster I ME798 VN-Z; Skellingthorpe-Prouville V1 Site; exploded, Hardinval.</i>	<i>25/6/44</i>
<i>Painter WH</i>		<i>SFTS47</i>	<i>KIA 234 Sqn; Spitfire Vb EN861; Beachhead night patrol; collided with Spitfire Vb EN861.</i>	<i>17/6/44</i>
Ruth WDB	DFC*; MiD	J37	KIA 201 Sqn; Sunderland III ML760; possibly shot down by flak from U-333 in North Atlantic.	12/6/44
<i>Scott AG</i>		<i>SFTS48</i>	<i>KIA 625 Sqn; Lancaster III ED938 CF-C; Kelstern-Gelsenkirchen; crashed at Spanbroek.</i>	<i>13/6/44</i>
<i>Shinn AW</i>	DFC	<i>SFTS45</i>	<i>KIA 49 Sqn; Lancaster III ND683 EA-K; Fiskerton-Wesseling; crashed in sea off coast of Holland.</i>	<i>21/6/44</i>
<i>Taylor GW</i>		<i>SFTS34</i>	<i>Possibly KIA 419 Sqn; Lancaster X KB734 VR-F; Middleton St. George-Sterkrade oil plant; crashed Zeist .</i>	<i>17/6/44</i>
<i>Williams JI</i>		<i>SFTS30</i>	<i>KIA 432 Sqn; Halifax III MZ591 QO-K; East Moor-Metz rly; one of 20 ac lost (of 230); night-fighter, Chevrieres.</i>	<i>29/6/44</i>
<i>Wright L</i>	DFM	<i>SFTS45</i>	<i>KIA 166 Sqn; Lancaster I DV367 AS-T; Kirmington-Versailles; rashed near St Cyr l'Ecole (Yvelines).</i>	<i>8/6/44</i>



Andrewes PL    Bell PE    Johnson EA    Carmichael JW    Chant WM    Wright L    Ruth WDB    Painter WH    Herrick MJ    Taylor GW    Williams JI    Brown LW    Chalice LH    Harrison GA    Scott AG  
 Shinn AW