



D-DAY: 1ST CANADIAN PARACHUTE BATTALION'S ANDERSON

On 5 June, 1944, shortly before midnight nineteen year-old Raymond Anderson landed in France.

A member of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, Anderson had been sent in early to establish the Drop Zone in preparation for his battalion's role in the D-Day landings. Anderson was chosen for the job because it was thought that his Aboriginal background - he was Metis - would come in handy. Anderson's task was essential for the success of the mission: to secure the eastern flank of the Normandy Coast where the D-Day invasion would take place. It was the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion's first combat mission.



Paratroopers of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion in a transit camp staging area prior to D-Day, England, ca. 1-5 June 1944
(Credit: Sgt. Elmer R. Bonter/Canada DND/ LAC M#3405879)

Despite Anderson's efforts, the parachute drop did not go according to plan. As the thirty-six C-47 Dakota aircrafts approached the designated Drop Zone with the Parachute Battalion during the very early hours of June 6th, they encountered German anti-aircraft artillery and were forced to veer off course.

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Their detours, in combination with poor visibility, resulted in a situation in which the paratroopers who successfully made the drop found themselves scattered across an area much larger than expected, some of them kilometers away from Raymond Anderson and the Drop Zone. Eighty-two paratroopers were captured by German forces before making it to the Drop Zone while some of those who landed in flooded marshland were drowned by the weight of their equipment.

Due to these difficulties, only a third of the battalion reach their rendezvous points. Once there, the paratroopers realized that most of their equipment, including their heavy weaponry and explosives, had been lost during the desperate drop. Nonetheless, the paratroopers managed to capture all their objectives and successfully prevented German reinforcements from reaching the beaches

and thereby contributing to the Allies' dramatic victory.

"Andy" survived the Second World War, went on to serve in Korea. He lived a long and fruitful life as an employee of the Province of Manitoba, and passed in 2016.



*Paratroopers of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion on a Churchill tank in early 1945.
(Credit: Charles H. Richer/ Canada DND/ LAC M# 3525208).*

VALOUR CANADA UPDATE

The team at Valour Canada has been working remotely these last few months to deliver quality educational content to our viewers.

With the cancellation of our In-Museum programming, we were eager to find new ways to virtually engage with students, parents, and educators. As a solution, we created a series of at-home-learning resources to assist in history and Social Studies education for youth in

grades 4-12. We are also continuing to develop exciting virtual reality modules – stay tuned for the launch of our new virtual tours coming in the Fall of 2020!

Finally, we would like to thank our members and donors for their support during these unprecedented times.

Stay safe and healthy, everyone.

REMEMBERING D-DAY



On D-Day, 6 June 1944, roughly 14,000 Canadian soldiers landed on Juno Beach. They were part of the Second World War's largest amphibious invasion. In addition, 10,000 Royal Canadian Navy sailors aboard 110 vessels, and 15 Royal Canadian Air Force squadrons attacked from the shores and skies of Normandy.

The attack began with an extensive naval and aerial bombardment targeting coastal defences beginning on the 5th of June. Shortly afterward, the landings were to occur and Canadian troops would push forward, securing a coastal bridgehead and forming a link between British forces on both flanks. The stormy, rough weather made it difficult for landing crafts to maneuver, and Canadians met heavy resistance from the opposition. Despite these obstacles, Canadian forces were able to overcome German forces and take the beach within the day.

This event 76 years ago began the eleven week liberation of Normandy. During the Normandy campaign, Canada suffered over 18,700 casualties, of these, 5,000 died. The success of the D-Day landings and the Normandy campaign is in part attributable to

the Canadian soldiers' drive, courage, and high quality training, alongside the other tremendous efforts of the Allies.

This June, take a moment to remember the brave soldiers who served Canada during the Normandy campaign and those who died fighting to secure peace across Europe.



Canadian soldiers disembarking on D-Day (Credit: Library and Archives Canada, Mikan #3194311)

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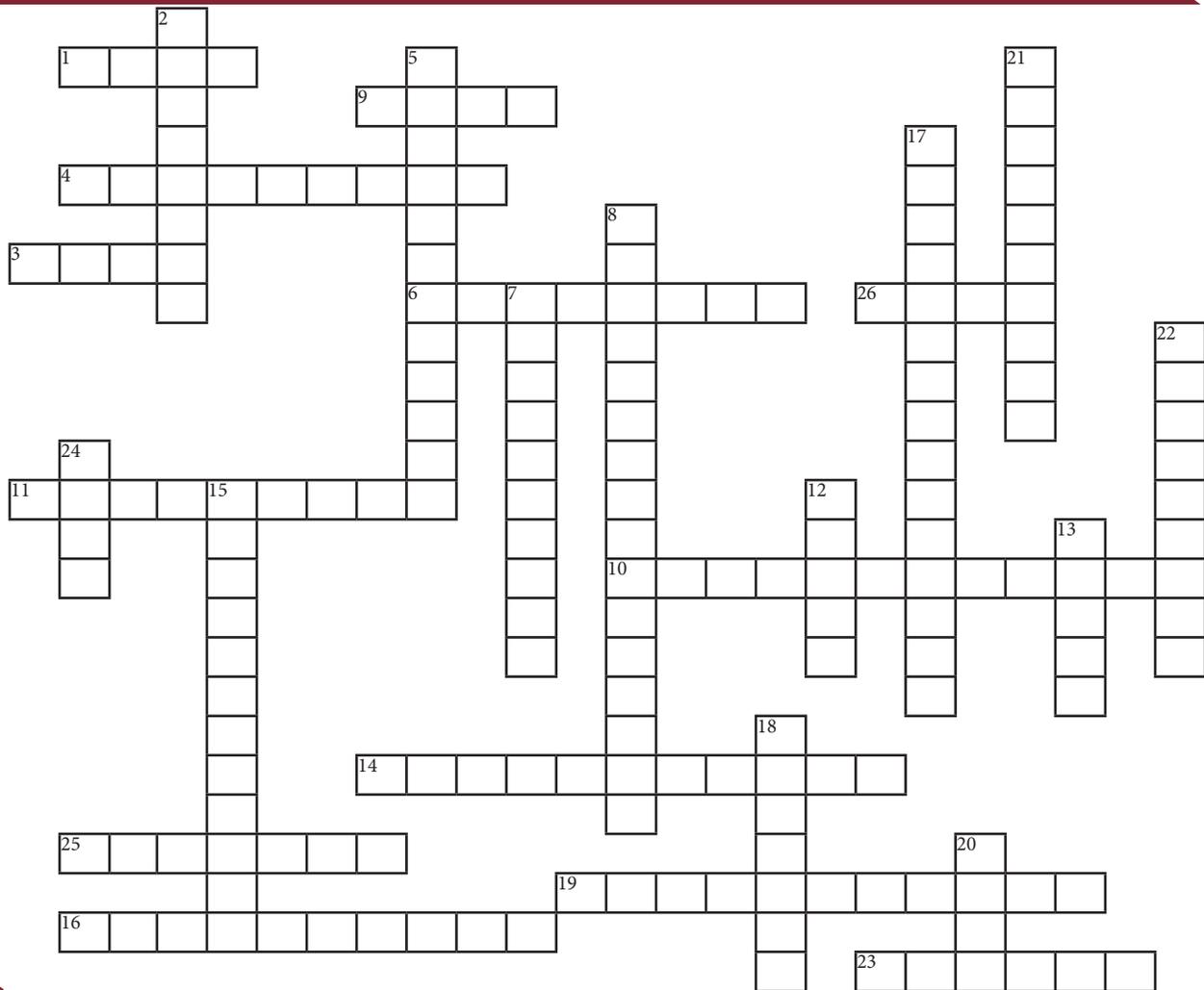
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\$5000 (or ONE HUNDRED memberships) allows the development of one new virtual reality module.

JUNE 2020 WORD PUZZLE: D-DAY



CLUES:

1. The alliance of Germany, Japan, and Italy
2. A ruler unconstrained by law; typically obtained control by force
3. Canada's landing beach
4. The objective of the D-Day landings was to secure a coastal _____
5. Three divisions of _____ were dropped behind enemy lines
6. The "Operation" codename for the assault
7. The assault occurred under the command of this U.S. General
8. Temporary portable ports designed for rapid offloading of cargo (2 words)
9. The Canadian objective was to capture the city of _____
10. A vast network of German fortifications along the Normandy coast (2 words)
11. Non-combatant locals
12. The beach was strewn with these explosive devices
13. Information-obtaining device that emits electronic signals
14. The invasion took place after an extensive naval and aerial _____
15. Forces arrived on Juno Beach in these vessels (2 words)
16. British General Bernard _____
17. German armoured units (2 words)
18. The assault took place on this front
19. Unique Amphibious _____ tanks used in the invasion (2 words)
20. The Western sector of Juno Beach
21. Tribal-Class _____ were deployed as part of the initial naval bombardment
22. After remaining German forces were subdued on the beach, these had to be cleared
23. V-E Day was _____ months after D-Day
24. Juno was one of this many landing beaches
25. After the capture of Caen, this "gap" had to be closed
26. The _____-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery houses 2049 Canadian war dead



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