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SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely. But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory! Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.



PLAN OVERLORD
(View of each of the salient operations)

1. 6 June 1944 - Operation Neptune (Landing of the 1st Airborne Division on the night of 6 June 1944, to capture the airfield at Carentan and the bridges across the Vire and Merderet rivers.)

2. 6 June 1944 - Operation Overlord (Main landing of the 1st Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

3. 6 June 1944 - Operation Tongue (Landing of the 3rd Canadian Division on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead north of Caen.)

4. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue (Landing of the 2nd US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

5. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Bird (Landing of the 1st US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

6. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Jay (Landing of the 4th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

7. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Kite (Landing of the 5th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

8. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Lightning (Landing of the 6th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

9. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Star (Landing of the 7th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

10. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Thunder (Landing of the 8th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

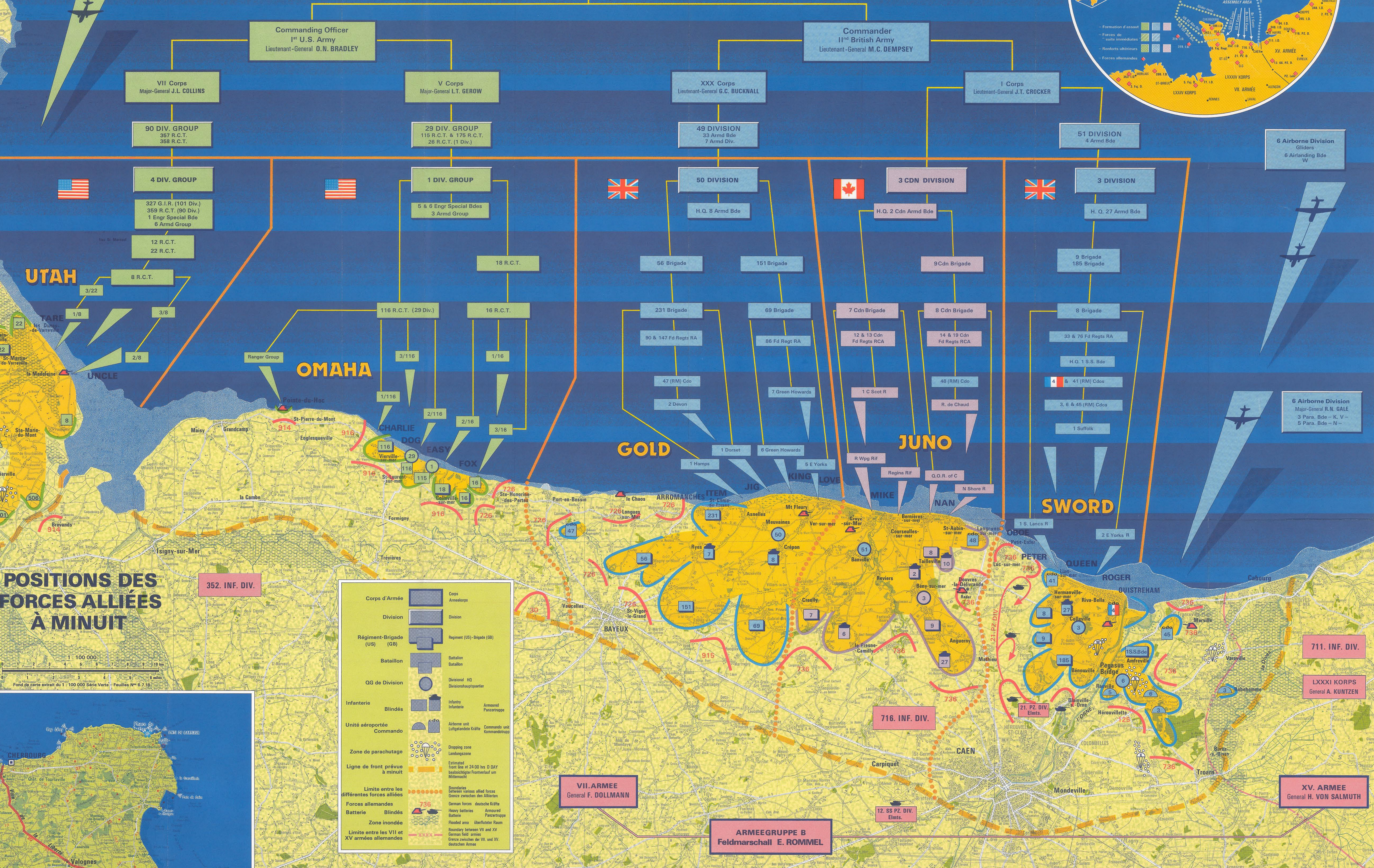
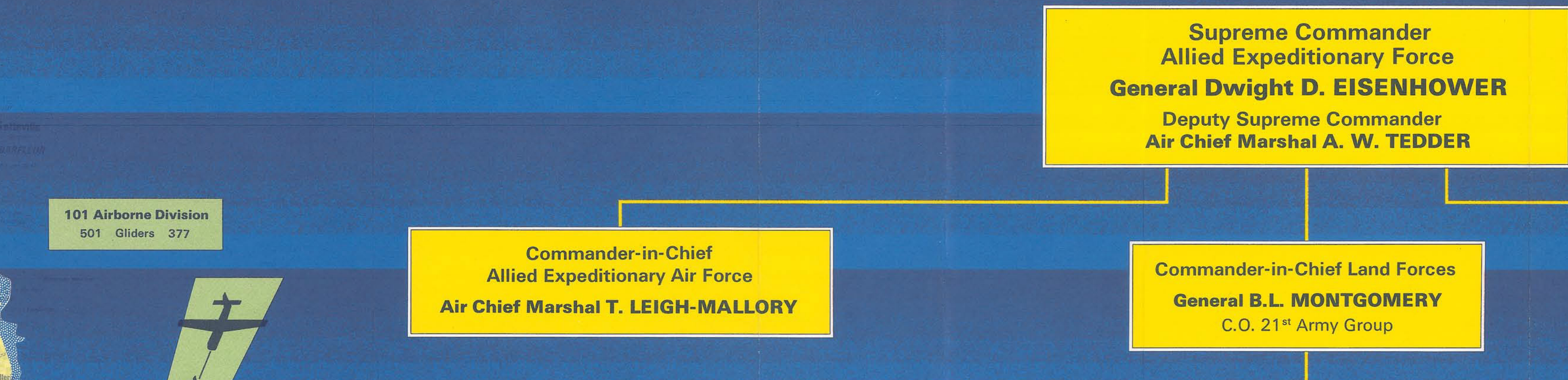
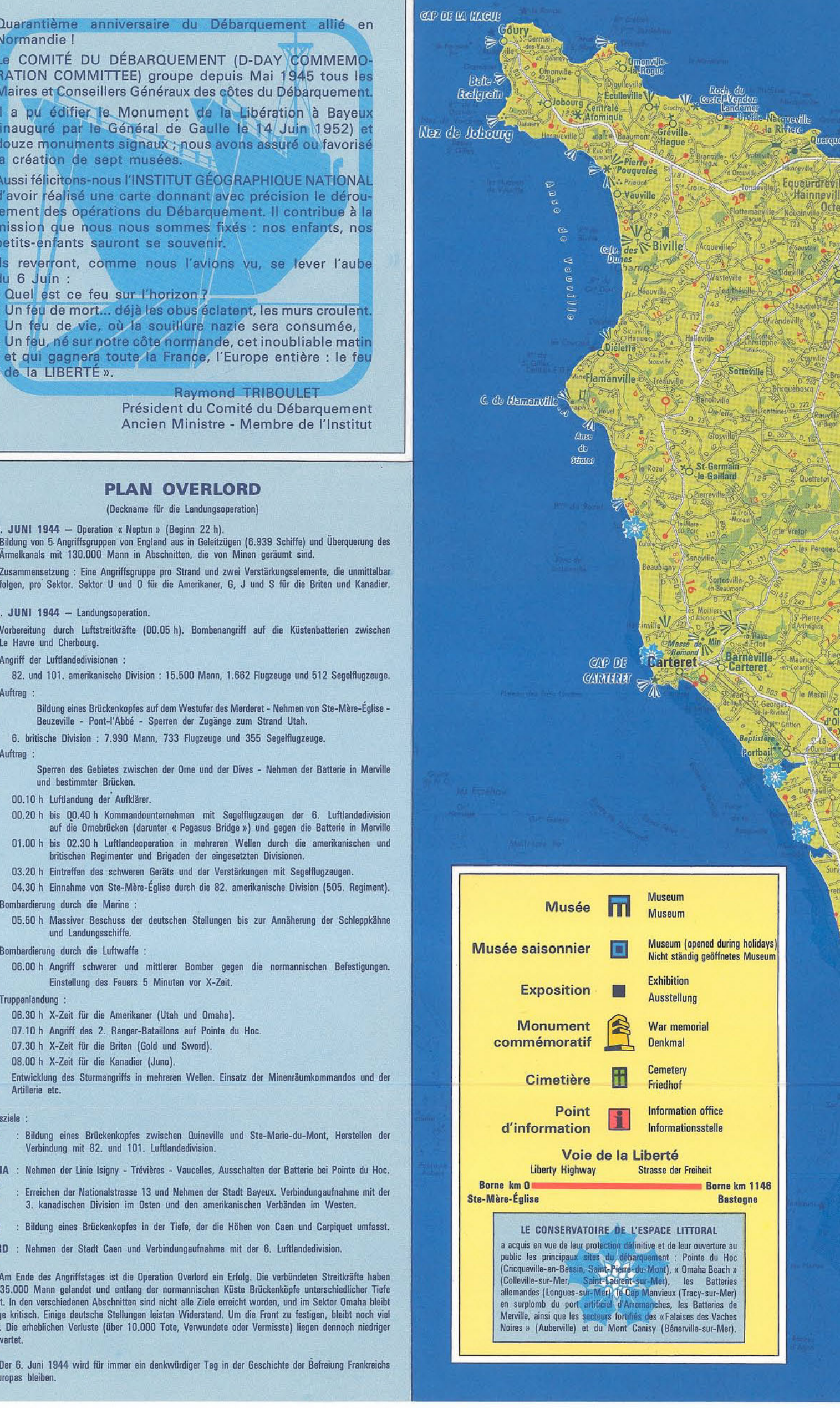
11. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Wave (Landing of the 9th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

12. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Wind (Landing of the 10th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

13. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue X (Landing of the 11th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

14. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Y (Landing of the 12th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

15. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Z (Landing of the 13th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)



Legend for Symbols:

- Corps d'Armée: Large rectangle
- Division: Medium rectangle
- Régiment-Brigade (US) (GR): Small rectangle
- Battalion: Small square
- Unité aéroportée: Triangle
- Zone de parachutage: Circle with dots
- Ligne de front prévue à minuit: Dashed line
- Frontes entre les différentes forces alliées: Dotted line
- Fronts allemands: Solid line with markers
- Batterie Blindés: Square with star
- Zone inondée: Wavy line

Legend for Colors:

- Blue: US Army
- Green: British Army
- Red: Canadian Army
- Black: German Army

Scale and Coordinates:
Fond de carte extrait de 1:100 000 Seine-Venise - Feuilles N° 6, 7, 10



Commandement Suprême des Forces Expéditionnaires Alliées

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MAP LIBRARY ROOM USE ONLY

Soldats, Marins et Aviateurs des Forces Expéditionnaires Alliées!

Vous êtes sur le point de vous embarquer pour la Grande Croisade vers laquelle nous avons tous nos efforts pendant de longues mois. Les yeux du monde sont fixés sur vous. Les espoirs, les prières de tous les peuples après de longues semaines de combats défaites aux Allemands, dans des combats d'homme à homme. Notre offensive aérienne a sérieusement diminué leur capacité à faire la guerre sur terre et dans les airs. Notre effort de guerre nous a donné une supériorité écrasante en armes et munitions, et a mis à notre disposition d'importantes réserves d'hommes bien entraînés.

Le front de la bataille s'ouvre! Les hommes libres du monde marchent ensemble vers la Victoire!

Votre tâche ne sera pas facile. Votre ennemi est bien entraîné, bien équipé et dur au combat. Il luttera savamment.

Mais nous sommes en 1944! Beaucoup de choses ont changé depuis le triomphe nazi des années 1940-41. Les Nations Unies ont infligé de grandes défaites aux Allemands, dans des combats d'homme à homme. Notre offensive aérienne a sérieusement diminué leur capacité à faire la guerre sur terre et dans les airs. Notre effort de guerre nous a donné une supériorité écrasante en armes et munitions, et a mis à notre disposition d'importantes réserves d'hommes bien entraînés.

Le front de la bataille s'ouvre! Les hommes libres du monde marchent ensemble vers la Victoire!

J'ai totalement confiance en votre courage, votre dévouement et votre compétence dans la bataille. Nous n'accepterons que la Victoire totale!

Bonne chance! Implorons la bénédiction de Tout-Puissant sur cette grande et noble entreprise.

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(View of each of the salient operations)

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15. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue Z (Landing of the 13th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

16. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue AA (Landing of the 14th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

17. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue BB (Landing of the 15th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

18. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue CC (Landing of the 16th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

19. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue DD (Landing of the 17th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

20. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue EE (Landing of the 18th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

21. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue FF (Landing of the 19th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

22. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue GG (Landing of the 20th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

23. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue HH (Landing of the 21st US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

24. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue II (Landing of the 22nd US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

25. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue JJ (Landing of the 23rd US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

26. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue KK (Landing of the 24th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

27. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue LL (Landing of the 25th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

28. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue MM (Landing of the 26th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

29. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue NN (Landing of the 27th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

30. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue OO (Landing of the 28th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

31. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue PP (Landing of the 29th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

32. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue QQ (Landing of the 30th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

33. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue RR (Landing of the 31st US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

34. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue SS (Landing of the 32nd US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

35. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue TT (Landing of the 33rd US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

36. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue UU (Landing of the 34th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

37. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue VV (Landing of the 35th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

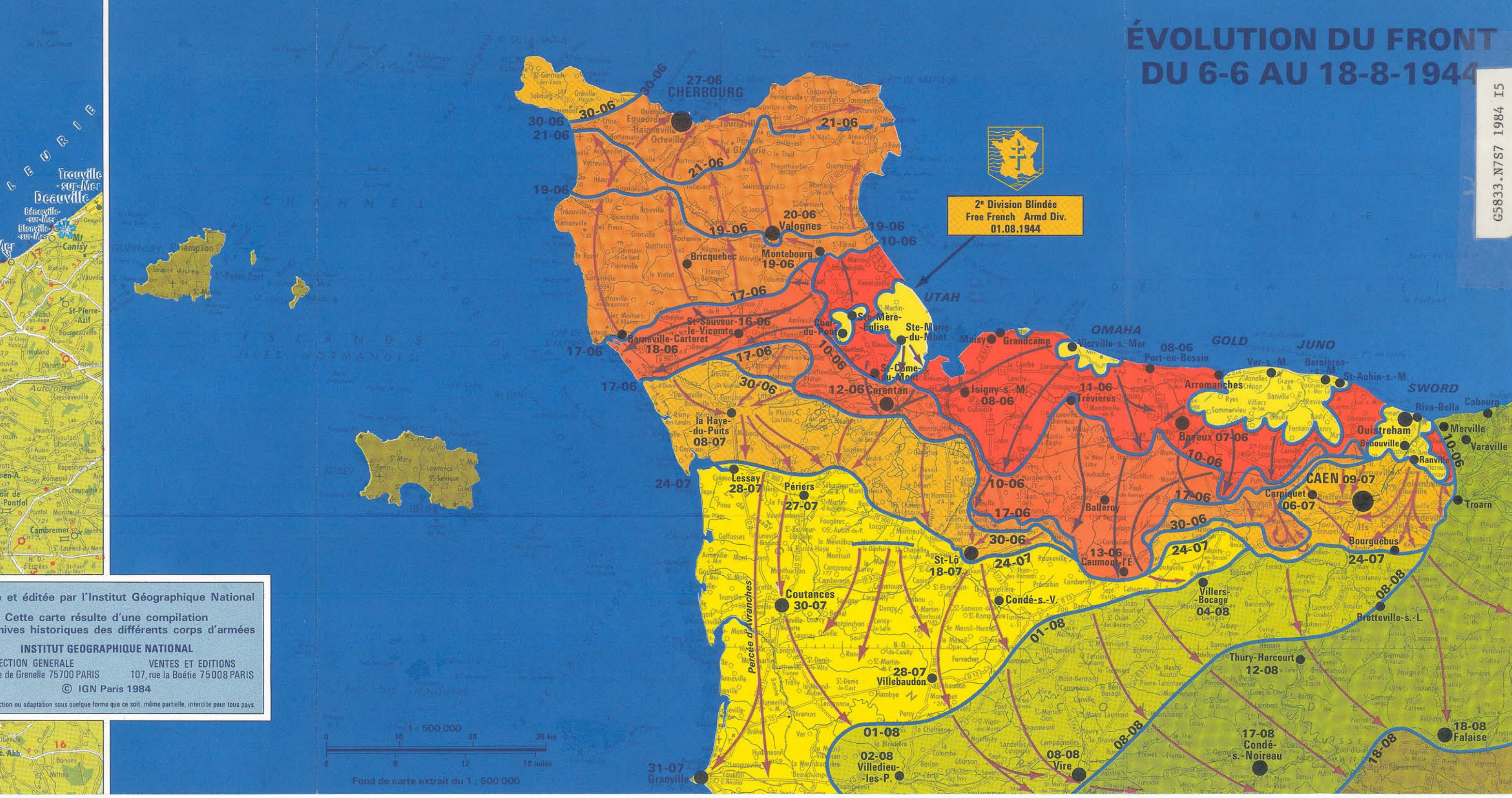
38. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue WW (Landing of the 36th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

39. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue XX (Landing of the 37th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead south of Caen.)

40. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue YY (Landing of the 38th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead west of Caen.)

41. 6 June 1944 - Operation Blue ZZ (Landing of the 39th US Army Group on the morning of 6 June 1944, to capture the beachhead east of Caen.)

SITES ET MONUMENTS COMMÉMORATIFS



Source: National Archives and Records Administration, RG 226, Box 100, Entry 100-21344-108A (1944-06-06).
C.O. 21st Army Group
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