



The First 300 Minutes

諾曼第登陸的前 300 分鐘

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- 取材/2013 年 5-8 月號美軍工兵期刊

All societies have had conflicts by which they are known—a moment never forgotten even if little is known about the clashing participants. Troy had a wooden horse, the Spartans had a pass, and Marie Antoinette lost her head over cake. Long after the fall of the American empire, men will study our American moment, 6 June 1944—D-Day. On this day, Canadian, British, and American forces breached Fortress Europe and seized a foothold on the way to defeating fascism. At Omaha Beach, the 1st Infantry Division charged its engineers with the daunting task of clearing the beach of obstacles and mines. The 20th Engineer Battalion of the 1140th Engineer Combat Group maintained the audacity and tempo required for the 1st Infantry Division to seize its Normandy objective.

任何國家都有為人所熟知的經典戰役，即使並不多，但總在重要的關鍵時刻讓人難以忘懷。例如特洛伊的木馬屠城記，斯巴達的小徑，法國王妃瑪莉·安托萬內特在蛋糕上掉了她的腦袋。隨著美國帝國主義沒落，美國人將遇到一個屬於她們的重要時刻。1944 年 6 月 6 日，諾曼第登陸的攻擊發起日，加拿大、英國及美國部隊突破了歐洲堡壘，沿路奪佔據點以擊敗法西斯主義。在奧瑪哈海灘，第 1 步兵師命令工兵部隊執行清除灘岸阻絕及地雷的艱難任務。第 1140 戰鬥工兵群第 20 工兵營維持著第 1 步兵師所需要的膽識及節奏，以奪取諾曼第目標。



U.S. Navy Seabees constructed this floating dock at Normandy soon after D-Day.

攻擊發起日後不久，美國海軍工兵在諾曼第構築了這座浮動碼頭。

While World War II raged in the South Pacific, it was first fought only on the periphery of Europe. Allied ground forces could only battle with the Axis in Africa and Italy, naval forces routinely fought in the North Atlantic, and the air forces of both sides had moments of victory. Still, to end the Third Reich, the Allies needed to bring the ground war to Berlin. The approach into Europe required a certain amount of deception, and deception meant difficulty. Landing in Italy to maneuver north into Germany would prove futile once Allied forces reached the Alps and neutral Switzerland. As deception though, it was brilliant. The coast of France, however, was where the main advance had to be conducted. Over the course of months, British and American leaders gathered in Britain to plan Operation Overlord, the invasion of Europe. It would be led by Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower. The 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions and the 2nd Armored Division would reposition from the Mediterranean to England for training.

自從第二次世界大戰在南太平洋蔓延以來，這是第一場在歐洲邊境的戰役。同盟國與軸心國地面部隊只在非洲及義大利發生戰役，海軍戰場則在北大西洋，而雙方空軍均有短暫的勝利，直到德意志帝國末期，同盟國聯軍將地面戰場帶至柏林。要進入歐洲大陸是需要大量的欺敵計畫，而且這些欺敵計畫是十分困難的。當同盟國聯軍抵達阿

爾卑斯山及中立國瑞士，證明在義大利機動登陸向北進入德國的計畫徒勞無功。此時，有一個聰明的欺敵計畫，不過，卻是在主要執行進攻的法國海岸。經過數個月研擬行動方案，英國及美國領袖在英國共同規劃超限作戰，規劃如何入侵歐洲。同盟國聯軍由最高指揮官德懷特·艾森豪將軍所領導，第1、第9步兵師及第2裝甲師將從地中海調整部署至英國從事訓練。

The initial entry of the Allied forces would not be easy. The Normandy beaches were heavily fortified with steel and concrete barriers and manned by thousands of soldiers. Although the Germans believed that Allied forces would enter Europe from across the English Channel, they foresaw an invasion farther north. This belief was due in part to articles that Colonel Paul W. Thompson had been publishing about invading Europe since 1940. A U.S. Army engineer, Colonel Thompson had begun planning the invasion even before the declaration of war. He commanded the 1st Engineer Special Brigade on D-Day. Wherever the eventual beachhead, the Germans continued to fortify and deny space all along the French shore.

同盟國聯軍在進入歐洲初期並不順利，諾曼第海灘被數以千計的士兵構築了層層鋼及混凝土等材料的阻絕。雖然德國人相信同盟國聯軍部隊會橫越英吉利海峽，但預測登陸的地方應該會更北一些。會有這種想法是因為保羅·湯普森上校於1940年出版一篇有關入侵歐洲的文章。美國陸軍工兵上校湯普森在宣戰以前，已經開始著手規劃如何入侵歐洲，在攻擊發起日，他指揮著第1工兵特種旅。不管最終在哪裡建立灘頭堡，德國人持續沿著法國灘岸強化作戰工事，阻止同盟國聯軍之進攻。

Once the planning of Operation Overlord began, it was apparent that five beaches—code-named Juno, Sword, Gold, Utah, and Omaha—would be required to land many troops. U.S. forces would focus on Utah Beach (assigned to the 4th Infantry Division) and Omaha Beach (assigned to the 1st Infantry Division—the Big Red One). To land the equipment needed for the invasion to succeed, General Eisenhower would require weeks of secure and sustained entry at Normandy. D-Day served only to begin the initial assault to defeat the German over watch. This included five battalions of combat engineers. In the days that followed, 10 more battalions of Army engineers and six naval engineer units would land on Omaha Beach to build up the foothold seized. An operation known as Mulberry Harbor established a portable harbor from 8 to 25 June 1944. Although short-lived, it created the necessary harbor infrastructure and

initial lodgment required for follow-on forces.



The Germans emplaced extensive obstacle belts to deny the space to Allied forces.

德軍設置大規模阻絕帶以拒止同盟國聯軍

當超限作戰計畫開始，有5座明顯的海灘可供大量部隊登陸，代號分別為朱諾、史沃德、苟德、猶他及奧瑪哈。美軍部隊著重於猶他海灘及奧瑪哈海灘，猶他海灘由第4步兵師負責，奧瑪哈海灘由第1步兵師(外號：大紅一)負責。為使入侵歐洲所需裝備能成功登陸，艾森豪將軍需確保諾曼第後勤補給數週的時間。攻擊發起日，以初步突擊擊退德軍警戒部隊，突擊部隊包含5個戰鬥工兵營。往後幾天，10個以上陸軍工兵營及6個海軍工兵單位在奧瑪哈海灘登陸並建立據點。在1944年6月8日至25日期間，建立一座名叫「桑葚碼頭」的浮動式碼頭。雖然，這座碼頭壽期很短，但對後續部隊創造了必要的碼頭基礎設施及初步的立足點。

The Big Red One faced only three obstacles at Omaha Beach: the beach itself, the 100-foot cliffs beyond it, and the obstacles emplaced by the Germans. All of them were covered by machine gun fire. As natural obstacles, the cliffs jut out from pebbly sand, which made foot maneuver difficult and provided excellent vantage points and fields of fire for the Germans. This stretch of beach had 8,000 yards of frontage; the villages to the rear were Colleyville, St. Laurent, and Vierville. The beachfront

was divided into seven lanes: Dog Green, Dog White, Dog Red, Easy Green, Easy Red, Fox Green, and Fox Red. These entry lanes corresponded roughly to five natural draws that led inland to the villages. These draws became known as exit roads. Once prepared, the exit roads became transit routes for vehicles, tanks, and artillery pieces intended to support the ground forces that were seizing forward areas.

「大紅一」在奧瑪哈海灘只面對三道阻絕：海灘本身、後方100英尺懸崖及德軍佈設之障礙物。所有障礙物都在機槍火力瞰制之下。卵石砂灘上的懸崖成為天然障礙物，使得以步行運動非常困難，這對德軍的觀測與射擊提供絕佳的優勢。灘岸正面綿延8000碼，村莊後方是科列維爾、聖勞倫斯及外維爾。灘岸正面被分為7條通道：小狗綠、小狗白、小狗紅、簡單綠、簡單紅、狐狸綠、狐狸紅。這些進出通路可概略連接到5條天然溪谷，向內陸連接至村莊，這些溪谷成為熟知的灘頭進出路。當完成準備後，這些灘頭進出路就成為車輛、坦克及砲兵部隊企圖支援地面部隊之機動路線，以奪取前方地區。

The German obstacle belt was emplaced under the management of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. He reported to Field Marshall Gerd von Rundstedt, which caused some animosities, since responsibilities were assigned by Adolf Hitler. A number of constraints hampered Field Marshal Rommel's creativity in designing his engagement area. There were 50 German divisions in France, with nine designated for coastal defense, but the principal fighting of the war was not in France. Therefore, these divisions were at less than full strength (in some cases, at only 50 percent strength) and were led by inexperienced cadre. Often, these units were used to backfill divisions on the Eastern Front.

德軍阻絕帶是由歐文·隆美爾元帥一手策畫，他向歌德·倫德斯特元帥回報，這個舉動造成了一些仇恨，因為權責應該是屬於艾道夫·希特勒，許許多多限制阻礙了隆美爾設計接戰地區的創意。法國境內有50個德軍師級部隊，其中9個師實施灘岸防禦，但是主要戰場並非在法國境內，因此，這些師級部隊比全戰力少很多，有些部隊甚至只有百分之五十的戰力，而且是由沒有經驗的幹部所領導，這些單位經常由東部陣線的師級部隊來補充。

Field Marshal Rommel began his defense with a tidal zone obstacle design in the littorals of the coast, using underwater mines and Teller mines atop long, wooden poles to accommodate the tide. These mines were connected to each other with ant handling devices and wire. In total, 31,000 mines and 517,000 nonexclusive obstacles

were strung along the Atlantic Wall to deny the space. Most of these were emplaced inland from the littoral region to hamper paratroopers rather than landing craft. The obstacles at Omaha were manned by the German 352d Infantry Division, a "Type 44" division. This type of division included just over 12,000 soldiers, of whom 6,800 were combat troops. This was more than 5,000 fewer soldiers than the older model German division. Arguably, this reduction to their force contributed to the success of the Allied invasion.

隆美爾元帥在沿海灘岸地區運用潮間帶障礙物設計防禦系統，運用水下地雷及特勒地雷綁在木裝上以因應潮汐。這些地雷與反排雷裝置及刺絲連結在一起。總計，有31,000枚地雷及517,000非爆炸障礙物構成一系列大西洋圍牆拒止敵軍。大部分障礙物設置於內陸地區而不是灘岸地區，主要是用來阻止傘兵而不是登陸艇。位於奧瑪哈的障礙物是由德軍第352步兵師的「44型師」所設置的，這種類型的師級部隊應有超過12,000員士兵，但實際只有6,800員戰鬥部隊，比原有的德軍師級部隊少了超過5,000員士兵，部隊的缺員造成同盟國聯軍入侵的成功。

On D-Day, one in every 12 American Soldiers was a combat engineer. He carried the same basic load of equipment and ammunition as his infantry counterpart, plus 40 pounds of explosives. The explosives were used to destroy the mines that prevented Allied equipment from moving inland. The engineer also carried Bangalore torpedoes, 5-foot cylindrical explosives that were used against minefields and wire obstacles. His mission was simple: exploit the gaps that led to the five draws inland. Combat engineers were required to clear and mark these lanes. This simple plan was boldly executed as defined by the Army's characteristic of audacity.

在攻擊發起日這一天，每12員美軍士兵就有1員是戰鬥工兵，他攜帶與步兵夥伴同樣裝備及彈藥的基本攜行量外，額外攜帶40磅的炸藥。炸藥是用來摧毀防止同盟國聯軍裝備進入內陸所設置的地雷。工兵也攜帶破壞筒、5吋圓柱型炸藥以破壞雷區及刺絲網障礙物，他的任務很簡單：沿著5條溪谷跨越障礙進入內陸。戰鬥工兵需要清除障礙並標記通路，這項簡單的計畫需要大膽地執行，如同陸軍膽識特性的定義一樣。

The larger landing craft carried tank dozers, which were medium tanks with a blade on the front. They represented the heaviest equipment that was at the disposal of the engineers. These engineer vehicles were assigned to only a few battalions. Of

16 that were sent to Omaha Beach, only six actually landed. The 20th Engineer Battalion tank dozers never arrived. The battalion obstacle clearance was strictly a manual process.



Allied vehicles landed on Omaha Beach.

同盟國聯軍車輛在奧瑪哈海灘登陸

大型登陸艇裝載著坦克推土機，這種裝備由中型坦克配備前鏟斗，為工兵重型裝備的代表。只有少數營級部隊才配備這項工兵機械。有16輛坦克推土機運往奧瑪哈海灘，實際上只有6輛登陸。第20工兵營坦克推土機甚至從未抵達海灘，該營障礙物清除任務就變得十分嚴峻。

The battalion boarded landing craft, loaded with explosives and ammunition, in Bournemouth for the assault on France. The first elements to land received little enemy fire. Friendly fire, however, was abundant. Once the ramp went down on their landing craft, the Soldiers jumped into armpit-deep water and waded ashore, where there was little cover and where most obstacles were booby-trapped. Alpha Company, supporting the 16th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division, landed in the vicinity of Colleville. There, the beaches were still being prepped with artillery fire from the battleships and destroyers in the English Channel. Alpha Company arrived later than planned, and the unit became strung out more than a mile from its intended beachhead, which did not aid in massing an effort at a decisive time and place. Also,

the 3d Platoon landing craft was hit by a German artillery shell before making it ashore, leaving 27 men in the company to accomplish the mission. They maneuvered several hundred yards to establish exit E-3. The unfavorable circumstances and the crowded beach made it impossible for the engineers to remain on schedule, but they continued to push forward. The landings, which occurred between 0700 and 0800 hours on D-Day, would not secure an exit road until much later in the day, even though the roads were only a few hundred meters away.

這個營攜帶爆材及彈藥在波茅斯登上登陸艇，向法國發起突擊，第一支登陸部隊僅受到敵軍零星火力攻擊。然而，友軍的火力是十分充足的，當登陸艇門板放下後，士兵跳入約與腋下同高的水深中涉水上岸，而灘岸有少量火力掩護及大量詭雷障礙物。A連支援第1步兵師第16步兵團在科列維爾附近登陸，這座海灘持續由英吉利海峽上的戰鬥艦及驅逐艦的艦砲所瞰制。A連比計畫時間還晚到達，而且，該連散佈在企圖建立灘頭堡位置外1英哩，因此無法在關鍵的時空上集中戰力。同樣地，第3排登陸艇在登陸上岸前遭德軍火砲命中，全連只剩下27員士兵達成任務，他們運動數百碼建立E-3灘頭進出路。在這處不利的作戰景況及擁擠的海灘，對工兵而言，按照原定作戰期程執行是項不可能的任務，但大家仍然不斷地向前推進。在攻擊發起日0700至0800期間登陸，即使灘頭進出路只有數百公尺遠，直到當天深夜為止，仍然無法確保一條安全的道路。

Bravo Company supported the 18th Regimental Combat Team of the 1st Infantry Division. The company landed near St. Laurent (Easy Red) at about H + 120 minutes. The company advanced to the beach under much heavier fire than Alpha Company had received, because the Allied artillery preparation there had ceased. Unfortunately, the naval gunfire had not silenced the German fortifications and gun emplacements, so the company received fire from 32 fortified positions. Their landing had not put them in position to clear mines, obstacles, and debris from their intended routes across the beach. It was not until Charlie Company landed at H + 300 minutes that Bravo Company could maneuver across the beach. Charlie Company was supposed to support the 26th Regimental Combat Team, but became separated from that unit after landing. The only hope that Charlie Company had of achieving mission success was to work with Bravo Company toward the same exit route. Army Doctrine Reference Publication (ADRP) 3-90, Offense and Defense, states, "Commanders never permit the enemy to recover from the shock of the initial assault. They prevent defenders from massing effects against the friendly decisive operation." Leading the infantry, the engineers moved inland

to clear lanes and establish exit road E-1. For its achievements, the 20th Engineer Combat Battalion received a unit citation.

B連支援第1步兵師第18團戰鬥隊，該連在H+120分鐘時在聖勞倫斯(代號：簡單紅)附近登陸。因為同盟國聯軍砲兵火力在B連附近停止了，所以B連向灘岸前進時承受比A連更強大之火力。不幸地，海軍火力無法停止德軍碉堡內的砲火，因此，B連持續遭受32個據點的火力攻擊。該連登陸位置不是企圖藉由清除雷區、障礙物及殘骸而橫越灘岸的通路，直到H+300分鐘C連登陸後，B連才有能力機動橫越灘岸。C連應該支援26團戰鬥隊，然而，登陸後他們卻與單位分散了。C連唯一的希望是成功地與B連共同合作開設一條灘頭進出路。ADRP 3-90《攻擊與防禦》：「指揮官從不允許敵軍從主動突擊的震撼中恢復，避免守備部隊集中戰力對付友軍的主要作戰方面」。工兵向內陸移動以清除道路及建立灘頭進出路E-1，帶領步兵前進，這項成就使得第20戰鬥工兵營獲得表揚。

The days that followed led to tasks in Colleville and farther inland. Now detached from the 1st Infantry Division for the first time since the war began, the 20th Combat Engineers supported the 1171st Engineer Combat Group and aided in bridge reconnaissance and minesweeping operations. By 18 June, the battalion had planned and rigged the demolition of all bridges in the vicinity of Castillon, Rouxville, and Foullognes, the new footprint of 1st Army.

在往後幾天，接著在科列維爾及更內陸的地方執行軍事行動，戰役第一時間開始，從第1步兵師分遣的第20戰鬥工兵營支援第1171戰鬥工兵群，並協助橋樑偵查及掃雷作業。6月18日，該營計畫將卡斯汀樂、勞克斯維爾及第1軍團所在的弗朗尼附近所有的橋樑設置爆破作業。

The Corps of Engineers is as old as the U.S. Army itself. A small percentage of engineers are responsible for field fortifications and demolitions. These engineers are commonly referred to as sappers, an occupational term in armies around the world for soldiers whose main purpose is to provide mobility to maneuver forces. It is the responsibility of the sapper to aid the infantryman with attacks to maximize his efforts in manipulating the characteristics of the offense:

- Surprise.
- Concentration.
- Tempo.
- Audacity

工兵官科與美國陸軍有著同樣悠久的歷史，少部分的工兵負責野戰工事構築及爆破，這些工兵通常被稱為戰鬥工兵，這是全世界陸軍的專業用語，而這些士兵的主要目的在於提供戰鬥部隊的機動能力。戰鬥工兵的責任是協助步兵發揮最大攻擊戰力，以巧妙運用攻擊的特性：

- 奇襲
- 集中
- 節奏
- 膽識

On D-Day, tempo and audacity carried the day. The tempo that the engineers achieved allowed the infantry to maintain the initiative and disrupt enemy forces as prescribed in Army Doctrinal Publication (ADP) 3-0, Unified Land Operations. Landing on a beach and breaching obstacles under heavy fire that resulted in 40 percent casualties was the definition of audacity. As stated in the same publication, audacity is a simple plan of action, boldly executed.

在攻擊發起日，節奏及膽識引領著這一天。工兵維持著作戰節奏，使得步兵依ADP3-0《聯合登陸作戰》保持主動作戰及擾亂敵軍部隊。在嚴密敵火的海灘上登陸，並突破重重障礙物，造成百分之四十的傷亡，需要充分膽識是相當明顯的。換句話說，膽識是簡單的行動計畫，大膽的執行。

The actions of the 20th Combat Engineers and sappers that fateful day proved how well-trained engineer battalions can lead the Army to successful lodgments and then fight as infantry when necessary. Their versatility and agility contributed greatly to the massing of combat power on the objective. Within days, the engineers had transitioned once again from the tactical offense to stability and reconstruction operations for First Army. In the words of the renowned correspondent Ernie Pyle, “Even the infantry took its hat off to them—for not infrequently, the engineers were actually ahead of the troops.”

在這決定命運的一天，第20戰鬥工兵營的軍事行動，證明他們是訓練多麼精良的工兵營，能夠帶領陸軍成功占領陣地，必要時能像步兵一樣作戰，他們作戰多樣且靈活，並集中戰力於目標。幾天以內，工兵對第1軍團從戰術攻擊轉換至維穩作戰及重建，有句歐文·派爾的名言說：「步兵才剛脫掉他們的帽子，通常，工兵早已在部隊的前方了。」