

Royal Marines Corps Memorial Dates

6 June 1944 - The Landings in Normandy

Over 16,000 Royal Marines took part in the largest amphibious operation in history. Most of the landing craft were manned by Royal Marines and all capital ships carried an RM detachment. Five RM Commandos (41, 45, 46, 47 and 48) were landed during the assault phase; grouped with three Army Commandos into two Special Service Brigades. In addition the Corps provided a number of specialist units including Armoured Support Group, beach clearance and control parties and Engineers.

The first 48 hours of the operation were the most critical involving a seaborne assault against a heavily protected and strongly held coastline. Most of the RM Commandos were ashore by 0900 on 6 June and had achieved their initial objectives by early on 7 June. The Corps thus played a leading role in the establishment of secure beachheads from which subsequent operations to defeat the German Army in the west were developed. Nine officers and 85 men were killed in action on the 6 June. The number of wounded is not known. The following gallantry awards were conferred upon Royal Marines during the Normandy campaign, most of them for actions on the 6 June: five DSO, three OBE, thirteen DSC, ten MC, one CGM, twenty-six DSM and thirteen MM.
