# D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemorations: Reflecting on a Historic Turning Point in World War II



On June 6, 1944, known as D-Day, Allied forces initiated the Normandy landings in Nazi-occupied France, marking a decisive turning point in World War II. The United States played a significant role, contributing 73,000 troops on the first day, with 1,465 killed, particularly at Omaha Beach, noted for its fierce combat and steep cliffs.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who orchestrated the invasion, became a celebrated hero and later served as U.S. President. The event has roots in American culture with Hollywood adaptations such as "The Longest Day" and "Saving Private Ryan."

This year, commemorations for the 80th anniversary of D-Day will take place in Normandy, attended by U.S. President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, and the Prince of Wales. This follows past commemorations attended by former Presidents Donald Trump and Barack Obama, the latter having a personal connection through his grandfather, Stanley Dunham, who landed at Omaha Beach and later served in General George Patton’s Third Army.

Among those being honored is Jim Miller, a British veteran who landed on Juno Beach and recently celebrated his 100th birthday with a personal visit from King Charles at Buckingham Palace. King Charles, Queen Camilla, and Prince William will partake in the commemorations in both the UK and France, marking the King's first trip overseas since his cancer diagnosis.

The Normandy landings involved 156,000 Allied troops, with an estimated 2,500 fatalities on the first day. These commemorative events serve as significant historical reflections on the military campaign that contributed to the defeat of Nazi Germany.