

Dieppe Raid

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for Robert Johnston

Introduction

The Raid on Dieppe was one of the bloodiest, and most devastating encounters that the Canadian Military had ever seen. Canadians were the main army involved in this raid, as Canadians back home felt that we weren't doing enough in the war. The raid was mainly seen as a failure as we suffered extreme casualties and were unsuccessful in completing any important objectives.

Causes of the Event.

In 1942, the Red Army was under heavy attack from the German forces on the eastern front. with fear of being defeated, Stalin asked Winston Churchill and Dwight Eisenhower to launch an assault on the western front of continental Europe, to split up Hitler's armies. As a result, Britain planned many raids against German defences along the channel, however, only one of these operations was carried out - Dieppe. The long term goal of the Allies was hold enough land in Europe where they could set up and get ground forces to move farther into Europe. Before they could carry out such a large landing, the Allies needed to test if they could successfully capture a defended sea port with an amphibious raid.

When and Where

Dieppe was a small town in France located directly across from England on the English Channel. The town was raided at 0500 hours on August 19th, 1942.

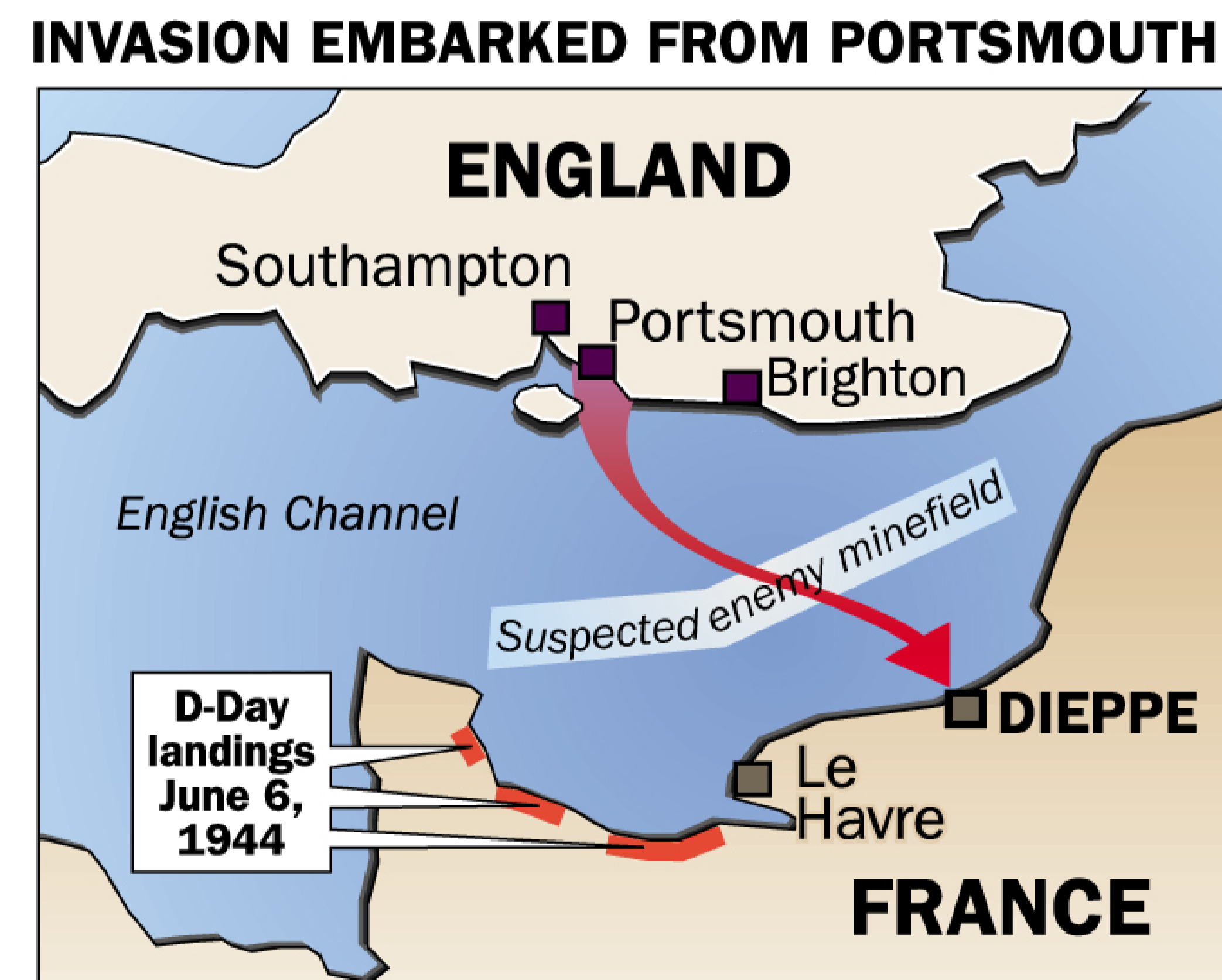


Figure 1: Map of Dieppe

Description of the Event

Early in the morning on August 19th, the Allied amphibious assault craft were landing on the beaches in Dieppe. The Eastern group of ships encountered a small amount of German ships and engaged in a short, but violent battle. The sounds of the explosions alerted the German men on the beach and they prepared themselves at their defence outposts. Many of the ships from this group were scattered and could not even make it to shore with the due to the intense fire from the Germans. The men from this group which did make it to shore were quickly overpowered.

The western assault worked out much better than the eastern assault. They were able to attack with surprise and with the cover of darkness. They successfully advanced and took out the German guns and withdrew quickly without suffering serious casualties.

A half hour after the both the Eastern and Western assault landed, there was a main assault in the middle. By this time, the Germans were completely prepared for the Canadians. Once the Canadians landed, their attempts to breach the seawall failed with extreme casualties. The German machine guns swept the beach preventing them from making any advance. A second fleet landed further down the beach and was able to make it into the town with some success. Roughly 10 hours after the first assault, all of the Allies had withdrawn from dieppe and returned to England.

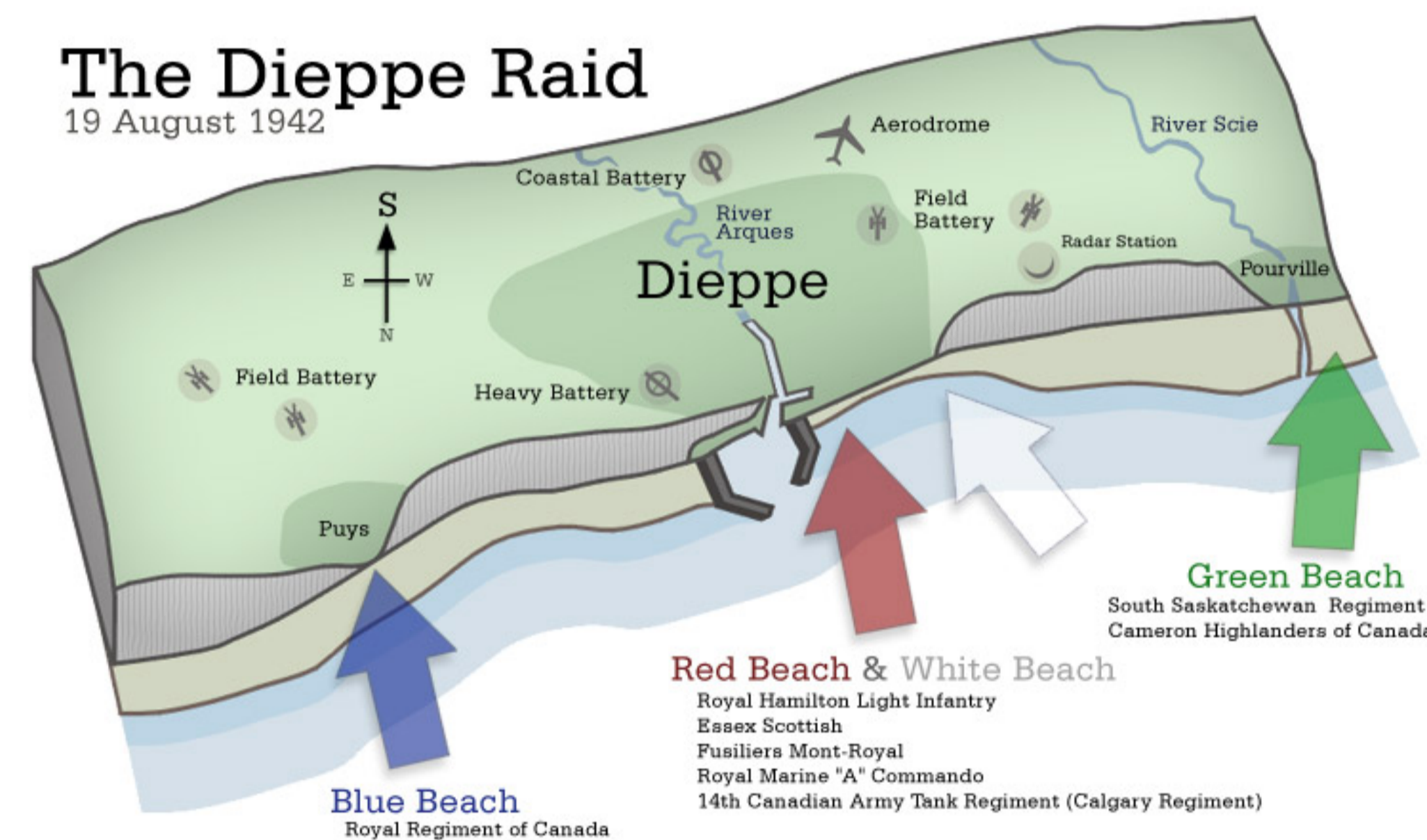


Figure 2: A map of the western, eastern, and main assault

Consequences of the Event

Army	Men killed	Wounded
Canadian	916	586
German	590	348

Table 1: Casualties

By early afternoon, August 19, 1942 The Dieppe Raid otherwise known as Operation Jubilee was over. Thousands of men were dead and virtually nothing was gained from the whole op-



eration. No good came out of the raid other than the lessons learned which helped with future operations such as June 6th, 1944 known as D-day. The Military blamed slaughter of men due to lack of preparation in Dieppe and made plans to prepare for such things and take defended beaches more seriously. The lessons learned about how hard a defended beach really is to take helped saved many lives.



Figure 3: A destroyed beach after the assault

Conclusions

- The Canadian Army played a major role in this attack.
- While the attack was essentially a failure, we learned a few important things for the future landing in Normandy, on D-Day.
- What was done by the Canadian Army at Dieppe remains an important part of our history and our war-time involvement.

References

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