

FOCUS

STORY OF

OPERATION

JUBILEE



DISCOVERY TOUR

**ALLIED RAID OF
19TH AUGUST 1942**

**VILLES
& PAYS
D'ART &
D'HISTOIRE**

“A few hours ago an aid operation began in the Dieppe sector which immediately required the inhabitants of the region to avoid ANY action which might compromise their own safety. We instruct you not to move! Do not expose yourselves to german reprisals! On the day of liberation France and her allies will need you!”

Announcement broadcast on the BBC on the 19th of August 1942

Cover Poster distributed by the Canadians after the raid: Lieutenant-Colonel Dollard-Ménard, Commander of the Fusiliers Mont-Royal

1. Sailors going to Dieppe



ALLIED RAID OF 19TH AUGUST 1942

THE CONTEXT

In the spring of 1942 the military situation of the Allies remained precarious despite the involvement of the United States after the attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941.

Japan was winning spectacular victories in the Pacific and the Germans were advancing deeper into the USSR. In North Africa, the 8th British Division had to withdraw and Europe remained a Nazi fortress. It was not possible, at that moment, to attempt a large-scale invasion of the Continent to help the Red Army.

However, it was decided to organise an important operation in the port of Dieppe. It was hoped that German fears about an attack on the western front would be aroused and that they would thus be obliged to strengthen their defence along the Channel at the expense of the eastern front.

The attack would also be a useful experiment on the way to capture a heavily defended port, an experiment considered essential for the successful liberation of Europe.

Despite a certain number of disadvantages (the cliffs, the pebble beach...), Dieppe was chosen for two main reasons: the sufficiently large size of the agglomeration and its distance, which made constant air cover from the British coast possible.

HOW THE RAID PROGRESSED

Known as "Operation Jubilee" the raid took place on 19th August 1942. The number of assault troops totalled 6100, of whom 5000 were Canadian, the rest being British commandos,

about 15 Free French soldiers (among them Kieffer commandos), 50 American rangers and soldiers from occupied territories.

The attack was escorted by 8 Royal Navy Destroyers and, in the air, covered by 74 Allied squadrons (four of which belonged to the Canadian Air Force). Five different landing points were planned along a front of about 16 kilometres. Four lateral attacks were to begin simultaneously at dawn, to be followed by a frontal attack on Dieppe itself.

The Canadians were to provide the main force for this frontal attack on Dieppe and for the flanking attacks on Pourville to the west and Puits to the east. The British commandos were responsible for demolishing the coastal batteries at Varengeville and Berneval.

THE LATERAL ATTACK

VARENGEVILLE-ORANGE BEACH 1 & 2 6 7

In order to hem in the target, N°4 Commando landed according to plan in two groups; on Orange Beach 1 at Vasterival to the north of the German battery and on Orange Beach 2 at Sainte Marguerite. The combined actions of the Royal Air Force and this Commando thus led to the successful destruction of the munitions store and the Hess coastal battery.

BERNEVAL-YELLOW BEACH 1 & 2 4

In Berneval, however, the surprise factor, that was vital to the success of the operation, was thwarted when landing vessels from the eastern sector met a convoy of German patrollers.



1. Landing craft stranded
on the beach in Dieppe

2. Commando squads
coming back to Newhaven
(England) after the Raid

3. Airborne leaflet dropped
over the town in the morning
during the Raid

The noise of the ensuing battle alerted the defence and in the confusion most of the landing vessels from No. 3 Commando were dispersed before even reaching the coast.

Five out of twenty-three barges still managed to drop troops on Yellow 1 at Petit-Berneval, to the east of the coastal battery, and one only landed on Yellow 2 to the west. Although the men from Yellow 1 were mostly decimated, unable to reach their target, the twenty or so men from Yellow 2, displaying great audacity and courage, succeeded in advancing on the arsenal; their aim was not to capture it, as their numbers were too small, but to neutralise it. For one hour and a half they prevented the Germans from firing at the ships which were bringing in the Allied troops to the Dieppe beaches before regaining their barge and reaching England with no losses at all.

PUYS-BLUE BEACH 2

The objective of the Royal Regiment of Canada was to neutralise the arsenals situated on the cliff to the east of Dieppe. The narrow beach at Puy was not easily accessible however... the sea wall, reinforced with barbed wire, and

the road leading inland were dominated by the German positions which were strategically spread over the cliffs. The landing took place in three successive phases, each one facing formidable opposition. The Germans were fully alerted and opened fire as soon as the first boat landed on the beach.

The evacuation of Blue Beach was extremely difficult as the onslaught of fire from the Germans prevented an organised retreat. Only 63 men out of 650 re-embarked for England.

The survivors surrendered at about 8.30 a.m. The Royal Regiment of Canada had lost 94% of its men in less than two hours.

POURVILLE-GREEN BEACH 5

The men from the South Saskatchewan Regiment had landed by mistake on the western part of the beach and were at first obliged to cross the River Scie in order to move eastwards to carry out their mission. In spite of the courage of the men from this regiment they were unable to reach the German positions on the cliff tops, the trenches dug around the Four Winds Farm and the radar station because of shell and machine-gun fire. However, a small group managed to bring back precious information about the Freya radar installed near the Golf course and to neutralise its transmissions.

To the west, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada started late but successfully assaulted the positions to the west of Pourville before rushing towards their target, the Saint-Aubin-sur-Scie aerodrome.



2

3

FRANÇAIS!

Ceci est un coup de main et non pas l'invasion.

Nous vous prions instamment de n'y prendre part en aucune façon et de ne faire quoi que ce soit qui puisse entraîner des représailles de la part de l'ennemi.

Nous faisons appel à votre sang-froid et à votre bon sens.

Lorsque l'heure sonnera, nous vous avertirons. C'est alors que nous agirons côte-à-côte pour notre victoire commune et pour votre liberté!

5



Dieppe (FR) - Normandie (FR)

avant-port
ferries

chapelle de
Bonsecours

Notre-Dame
des grèves

route de Bonne nouvelle

quai du Tonkin

gare SNCF

bd G. Clémenceau

rue Thiers

av. Pasteur

hôtel de Ville

bd du Général de Gaulle

DVAH

église
Saint-Jacques

place
Nationale

Grande Rue

rue St-Jacques

église
Saint-Rémy

rue de la Barre

rue Claude Groulard

Pourville

av. Léon Gambetta

Rouen

port de
plaisance

quai du Carénage

quai Henri IV

quai Henri IV

quai du Hâble

bd. de Verdun

bd. Maréchal Foch

plage

pelouses du
front de mer

bd. Maréchal Foch

bd. de Verdun

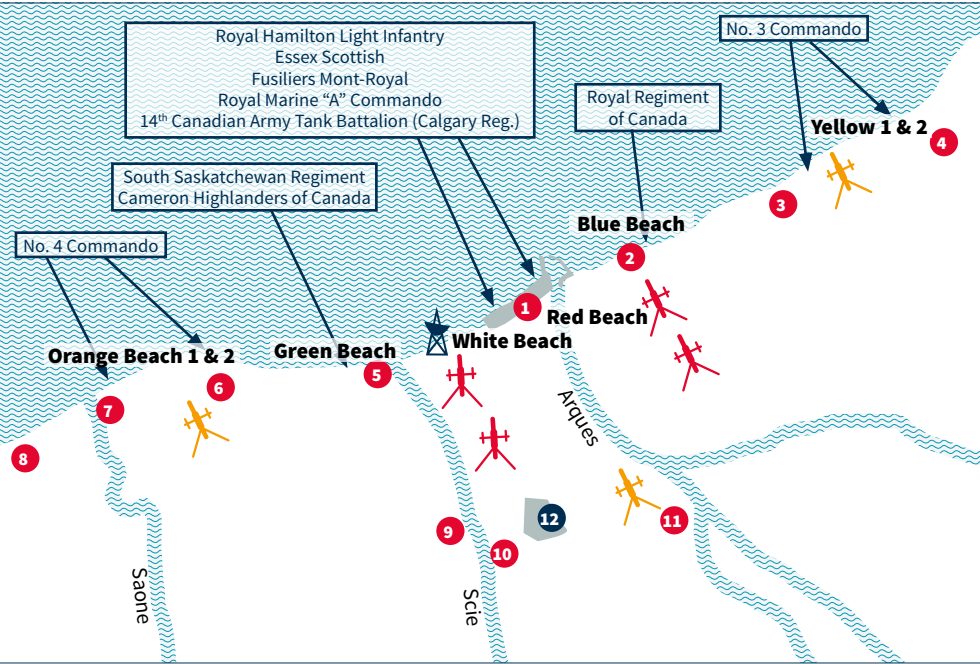


DIEPPE HARBOUR

- 1 quai Henri IV
 - 2 Jehan-Ango Marina
 - 3 Saint-Jacques church
 - 4 rue de la Barre
 - 5 Saint-Rémy church
 - 6 castle promenade
 - 7 square du Canada
 - 8 beach
 - 9 hospital
- A parc Jehan Ango
 - B Jehan Ango chapel, Saint-Jacques church
 - C Les Vertus Cemetery
 - D 19th August 1942 Memorial, place Camille-Saint-Saëns
- 11 Dieppe, Town of Art and History (Dieppe Ville d'art et d'histoire), place Louis-Vitet
 - 12 Dieppe Museum Castle, rue de Chastes
 - 13 Jean-Renoir Public Library Local and Historical Collections (fonds Ancien et local)

 Tourism Office

OPERATION JUBILEE



- 1 Dieppe
 - 2 Puys
 - 3 Bellville
 - 4 Berneval
 - 5 Pourville
 - 6 Varengeville
- 7 Sainte-marguerite
 - 8 Quiberville
 - 9 Petit Appeville
 - 10 Saint-Aubin sur-Scie
 - 11 Arques la bataille
- 12 Aerodrome
 -  Radar station
 -  Battery
 -  Coastal battery



1. Puys beach

after the Raid

2. German soldiers

defending their position
on the cliffs of Dieppe

3. Tanks and barges

on the beach of Dieppe
after the Raid

4. Canadian prisoners

in front of the Square
du Canada

5. The 19th August 1942

Memorial: a place which
preserves the Raid's memory

After covering three or four kilometres (a couple of miles), they arrived at the Petit Appeville crossroads to join up with the Calgary Regiment tanks, which had landed at Dieppe, but the order to retreat had already been given.

During the final evacuation these two battalions lost a large number of men. A rear guard, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Merritt, was formed to cover the re-embarkation of the troops but it then had to surrender, having exhausted its stock of ammunition.

THE FRONTAL ATTACK ON DIEPPE

RED BEACH AND WHITE BEACH 1

Consequently, when the units landed on Dieppe beach, after canon fire from the eight destroyers, they were nailed to the beach by murderous cross-fire. At the same time, the mission of the Royal Air Force squadrons was to fire on the German defences positioned on the beach and the Churchill tanks of the Calgary Regiment was to land in order to cover the advance of the soldiers.

However, a delay in navigation and a deluge of enemy fire prevented the tanks from giving cover support to the Infantry.

A few soldiers from the Essex Scottish Regiment, who had landed on the east beach (Red Beach), and some from the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, who had landed on the west beach (White Beach), tried to find a way into the town through obstacles and barbed-wire fences. Some managed to take the Casino and get into the town but they were either killed or taken prisoner.

The Fusiliers Mont-Royal, who were sent out as last reserve by General Roberts, himself very ill-informed about the extremely confused situation on the beach, suffered the same fate. The evacuation began at 11 a.m. and at 1 p.m. all fighting had stopped. The Allied losses were considerable: about 1200 dead (including 907 Canadians), 2340 prisoners and 119 planes and the destroyer Berkeley lost.

AFTER THE RAID

The Dieppe raid was the subject of great controversy and some believe that it was a tragic blunder. Others think that it was necessary for the success of the invasion of the continent two years later. Important lessons were undoubtedly learned and they contributed to the reduction of losses on D-Day in June 1944. But a fearful price was paid as visitors to the Commonwealth Military Cemetery in Les Vertus, five kilometres from Dieppe, can easily appreciate.



The day after the raid, the Nazi regime attempted to exploit the 19th August defeat by thanking the Dieppe inhabitants for their “correct” attitude during the military operations. Actually, it was the Allies themselves, in an attempt to save civilian lives, who had put out orders to the local population, via leaflets dropped from the planes, requesting them not to participate in the operation.

THE LIBERATION OF DIEPPE

Two years later, in memory of the tragic events of 19th August 1942 in which so many Canadians had lost their lives, the honour of liberating Dieppe on 1st September 1944 was given to the 2nd Canadian Division.

When they paraded through the town on 3rd September 1944 to the ecstatic cheers of the crowd, the memory of their comrades' sacrifice was on every person's mind.

Dieppe and its region have honoured the memory of this raid ever since with annual commemorations and make every effort to strengthen their ties with Canada.

THE 19th AUGUST 1942 MEMORIAL

Housed in the 19th century Dieppe Little Theatre, on the Place Camille Saint-Saëns, the memorial, created in 2002 by the Jubilee Association, in partnership with the Town of Dieppe, contains a collection of 19th August 1942 soldiers' uniforms, military equipment, photos, newspapers, a film and documents about the battle.

You can find more information on their website: www.dieppe-operationjubilee-19aout1942.fr/



COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENTS

SAINT-AUBIN-SUR-SCIE

- > Les vertus, Commonwealth Military Cemetery, where the raid's victims are buried

SAINTE-MARGUERITE-SUR-MER

- > Beach: No. 4 Commando
- > No. 4 Commando Square: Joint Allied No. 10 Commando and Allied No. 4 Commando

VARENGEVILLE

- > Route de Vasterival: position of the battery
- > Place des Canadiens: 19th August 1942, 1st September 1944

POURVILLE

- > To the right of the church: The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada
- > Bridge: Lieutenant-Colonel Cecil Merritt
- > Seawall: South Saskatchewan Regiment

PETIT APPEVILLE

- > Stone at the Rond-point des Canadiens

BERNEVAL

- > Avenue du Capitaine Portheous: Chapel and No. 3 Commando Monument
- > Carpark on the Rue Marie Alexis: No. 3 Commando Monument
- > Serge Moutailler Bridge: Free French Navy

PUYS

- > Beach: Royal Regiment of Canada

DIEPPE

- > Round House (rotonde): U.S. Rangers, Belgian Royal Navy, Free Polish Naval Forces, Free French Air Force and Navy.
- > Sea Front: Essex Scottish Regiment, Fusiliers Mont-Royal, Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, Seaman's Memorial.
- > Square du Canada: Franco-Canadian Friendship Stone, Toronto Scottish Regiment, Calgary Regiment, Monument to The Canadian Liberators, Dieppe War Veterans Tribute, Free French Navy Tribute, Canadian Embassy Stone and Prisoners Stone.
- > At the foot of the Saint-Rémy Church, rue du 19 août 1942: In Memory of Two Fallen Soldiers.

Two Regiments do not have their stone yet: The Black Watch Regiment, (Puys), The Calgary Highlanders (Dieppe)



1. Pourville beach

in the evening after the Raid
during the evening
after the Raid

2. Canadian soldiers

paying their respects
on their companions' graves
on September 1944

3. The Liberation of Dieppe September 1st, 1944

4. A family from the Pollet
neighbourhood in front
of the destroyed Colbert
swing Bridge

5. Canadian soldiers
in Dieppe commemorating
the Raid, 1946

Layout

Ludwig Malbranque,
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DO NOT EXPOSE YOURSELVES TO GERMAN REPRISALS! ON THE DAY OF LIBERATION FRANCE AND HER ALLIES WILL NEED YOU!

Announcement broadcast on the BBC on the 19th of August 1942

19th august 1942 Memorial

For opening times and prices,
see the website of the Jubilee
Association: [https://www.dieppe-
operationjubilee-19aout1942.fr/](https://www.dieppe-operationjubilee-19aout1942.fr/)

All around the year, booking for groups:
02 35 83 70 65

Dieppe has been a member of the national network of Towns and Regions of Art and History since 1985

The Department of Architecture
and Heritage at the French Ministry
of Culture and Communication
attributes the Towns and Lands of Art
and History label to local collectivities
that bring their heritage to life.
The label guarantees the competence
of the guides, lecturers and heritage
activities coordinators, as well as the
quality of their activity. The towns and
lands present their heritage in all its
diversity from ancient remains to the
architecture of the 20th century. Today,
a network of 184 towns and lands
all over France offer their skills and
knowledge for educational purposes
and information.

Near

Amiens, Rouen Métropole, Fécamp,
Le Havre, le Pays d'Auge, le Pays
de Coutances et le Pays du Clos
du Cotentin benefit from the name
Town or Land of Art and History.

the Heritage Activity Service

Dieppe Ville d'art et d'histoire
coordinates visits and activities.
The service also offers year-round
activities for Dieppe inhabitants,
school groups and tourists.

Enquiries and Information

service d'Animation de l'architecture
et du patrimoine
place Louis-Vitet - 76200 Dieppe
02 35 06 62 79 - www.dieppe.fr
dvah@mairie-dieppe.fr
📍 Dieppe ville d'art et d'histoire
Opening time :
From Monday afternoon to Friday
9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.
to 5.30 p.m.

If you are in a group

Dieppe Town of Art and History
(Dieppe Ville d'Art et d'Histoire)
offers guided visits about the history
of Canada in Dieppe or about the
19th August 1942 raid on a year-round
basis. Visits must be booked in advance.

