

Anyone with information on this two stamp set?



D-Day Landing on Omaha Beach.

Omaha Beach was the Allied codename for one of the principal landing points at Normandy on June 6, 1944. The beach is approximately 3.5 miles (5.6 km) long, between Sainte-Honorine-des-Pertes and Vierville-sur-Mer.

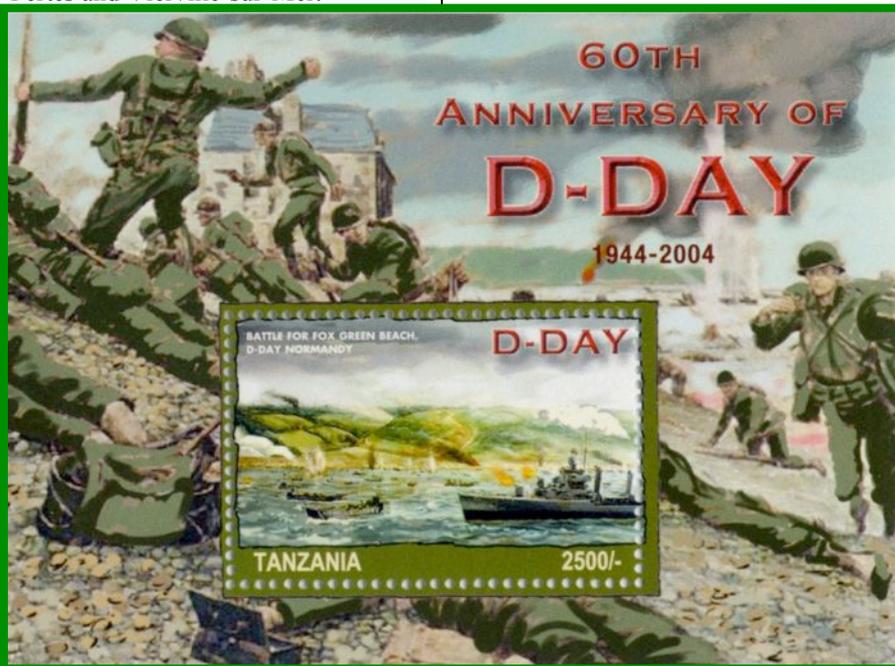
The untested 29th Infantry Division, joined by eight companies of Rangers redirected from Pointe du Hoc, were to assault the western flank of the beach and the 1st Infantry Division was given the eastern approach. This was their third amphibious assault of the war, after Africa and Sicily. The primary objective of the Omaha Beach assault was

to secure a beachhead between Port-en-Bessin and the Vire River, before pushing southward toward Saint-Lô.

The Wehrmacht had well prepared their Atlantic Wall defences, strewing various obstacles along the beach; and the gentle downward slope provided an excellent field of fire. The German 352nd Division defending Omaha Beach was one of the better-trained units in the area. Twenty-seven of the 32 amphibious Sherman DD Tanks, intended to give armoured support, floundered in the rough seas before reaching shore. This was due to a combination of adverse weather conditions (the tanks faced two metre-high waves where they could only withstand .3), improper navigation (the tanks approached in a stair-step pattern, exposing the low sides of their floatation devices to the

incoming waves), and poor command (many of the tanks were launched approximately five kilometres offshore, too far away for the fragile tanks). The Allied air bombardment of the beach defenses prior to the landings was largely ineffective

because most of the ordnance fell too far inland. The initial naval bombardment proved just as ineffective due to the short time allotted to the naval guns (40 minutes). The result was German defences were left largely intact when the first assault waves hit the beach. Soldiers who were not immediately



killed found almost no defilade on the 182 metre-deep beach (at low tide), and what little cover provided by the beach obstacles was nullified by overlapping fields of fire pre-sighted by the Germans. Fogbanks and smoke from artillery fire created low visibility for the men on the beach, and many could only barely make out the cliffs ahead. The carefully planned assault soon turned to chaos as wind, waves, and current scattered most of the landing craft far from their assigned targets. Tired and seasick, and weighed down by wet and sand-filled gear, the troops could not run across the open sand (as often portrayed in movies). Most could only walk or trot the expanse toward the seawall.

(Omaha Beach, continued on page 82)