



- 1 In 1944, after nearly five years of war, British and Commonwealth troops and American troops were ready to cross from England to mainland Europe to start to free those countries occupied by the Nazis.
- 2 Where would the Allies land? Would they cross the Channel by the shortest route, to land near Calais? Would they land first on the British territory of Jersey and the other Channel islands, already occupied by the Germans? Yet both these places were the most heavily fortified and defended.
- 3 It was decided instead to land in Normandy, hoping that they would not be detected on their long journey across the sea - at least 150km (95 miles). On 6th June 1944 the D-Day landing took place in Normandy, involving hundreds of thousands of people working together. D-Day was a turning-point because it saw the start of the defeat of Hitler.


4 *Let us pray:*


**Lord our God,
 inspire us to make our choices well
 and understand our responsibilities
 and the consequences of what we do.
 Help us to make good use
 of the opportunities that come to us.
 Lead us to be positive in our attitude,
 that we may work well with others
 and live this day to the full. Amen.**




 *The Allied armies would have great difficulty landing, wherever they chose. Having decided upon Normandy, they wanted to know more details of the beaches and surrounding areas. The British government asked the public to send in any holiday photographs that they had but, obviously not wanting to let the Germans know where they were going to land, they asked for photos of much of the coastline of mainland Europe!*

 *Hitler was convinced that Britain would first want to re-take the only British land to be occupied by the Germans - the Channel Islands. When the Germans first landed there in July 1940, a few thought they were on the Isle of Wight (being an island in the Channel), close to the British mainland. Hitler was so convinced that Britain would re-take the Channel Islands that, incredibly, a quarter of all the 'Atlantic Wall' defences were on those islands - many still remaining there today.*

 *132,000 men were landed on D-Day. Within 3 weeks more than a million men had landed. On the 50th Anniversary, Queen Elizabeth II stood on one of the landing sites and said: "Veterans of the Normandy Campaign: you deserve your nations' thanks. May we, your fellow countrymen, be worthy of what you did for us."*

 *The term "D-Day" is used by military people, indicating the day on which activity is to take place. "D-minus two" is an easy way of referring to the day that is two days before the main action starts. "D", therefore, stands for "Day"-meaning **the** Day.*

 Come let us go up to the Lord; This day
 God gives me; This is the day

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:

www.prayingeachday.org