Operation Overlord: June 6, 1944
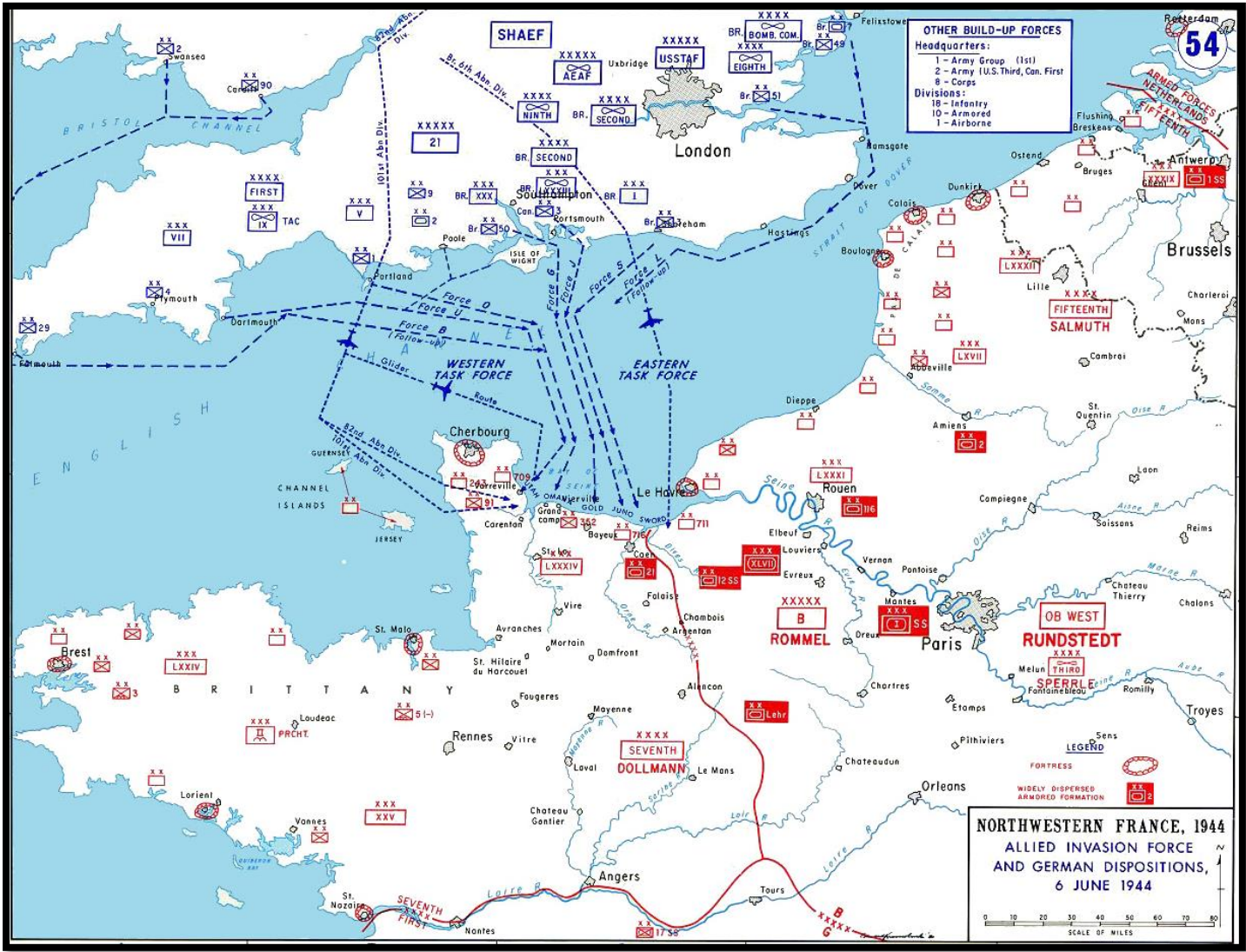
USH Honors

Chapter 12 Lesson 3

Invading France:
D-Day
June 6, 1944

- **The Invasion of Europe: June 6, 1944**
  - Allies set up phantom army, send fake radio messages to fool Germans
  - Eisenhower directs the Allied invasion of Normandy on D-Day June 6, 1944
- **Code named – Operation Overlord**
- **Enormous invasion force had been gathering in England for 2 years**
  - 3 million soldiers – 175,000 stormed the beaches of Normandy!
  - Largest amphibious military invasion in history.
  - Greatest array of naval vessels and armaments ever assembled in one place.
- **The Germans expected the invasion to be at the narrowest part of English Channel**
- **Invasion Point = along a 60-mile stretch of the Cotentin Peninsula on the coast of Normandy**

Planning for D-Day

Fooling Hitler and the German Forces

- **How did the Allies attempt to fool Hitler and the German Army before D-Day?**
  - A complex web of deception!
- **Why this deception?**
  - The D-Day attack would happen in one of the strongest areas of the Atlantic Wall!
  - More than a dozen German spies had been discovered in England prior to D-Day
  - Allies spoon-fed a tremendous amount of faulty information through Nazi double agents.
  - A fictitious British 4th Army was created – amassing in Scotland (planning to invade Norway).
  - Planted a deceased (false) British officer with plans for an alternate invasion.

Eisenhower's
D-Day
Message to
Troops

Timeline of the Invasion:

- **June 4-5, 1944:** Paratroopers prepare to drop behind enemy lines before the amphibious assault begins.

- **VERY Early June 6, 1944**
  - Airplanes and battleships bombarded the Nazi defenses
  - Paratroopers dropped behind German lines late the night before to seize critical roads and bridges for the push inland

- **5 major beaches in Normandy**
  - Utah and Omaha – US
  - Gold and Sword – British
  - Juno – Canadian

What America heard concerning D-Day

D-DAY

JUNE 6, 1944

The HUMAN Cost of D-Day

- **Allied losses had been high:**
  - 9,000 casualties
  - approximately 4,000 fatalities
  - Fighting fierce, but superior manpower and equipment forced German troops off coast of Normandy in a week
- **Allied forces went on to liberate Paris August 25, 1944**
- **Force most of German troops out of Belgium and France by September**

Normandy American Cemetery