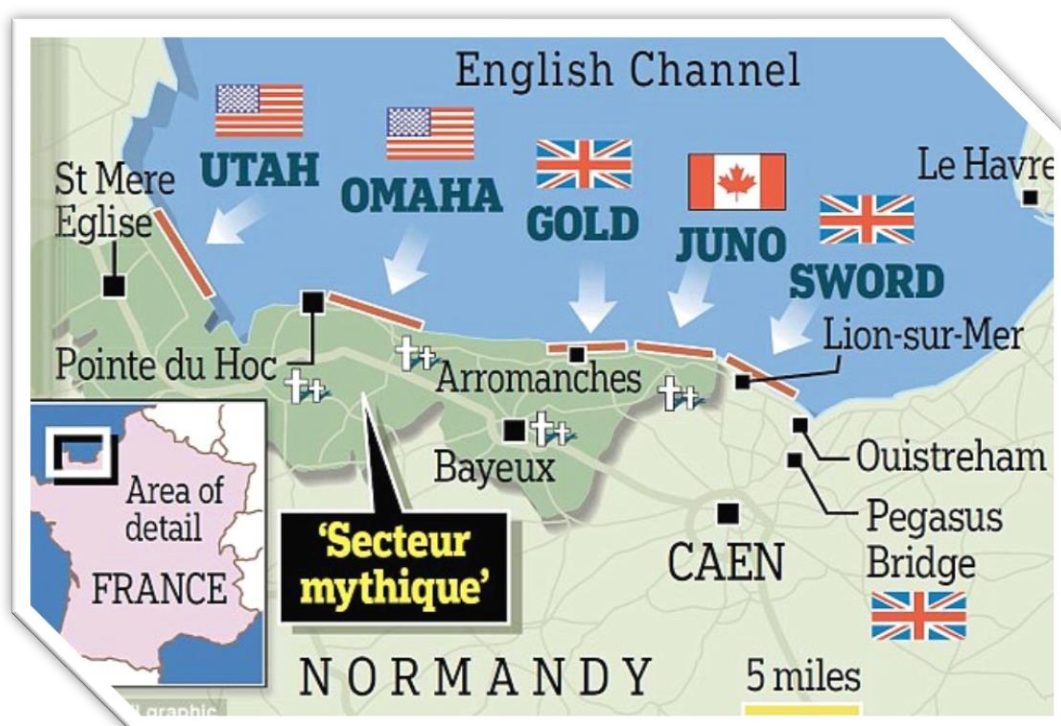


NORMANDY

ERASMUS + MOBILITY IN FRANCE

Our school Zeyerova Olomouc takes part in Erasmus+ project “World War II – Our history and its cultural legacy” together with our partners from Crete, Germany, France and Poland. The aim of the project is to make young generation to look back to our history, compare historical events connecting to World War II in all participating countries, get students more interested in their past and that way help them to understand better our present days and realize what means to become an European citizen...



DAY 1 Visit to Caen

THE CAEN WAR MEMORIAL

On 24th May we had an opportunity to visit the largest museum in France dedicated to the 20th century history, in particular to WW II, D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. We discovered all the historic events that marked the Second World War with focus on D-Day landings through exceptional exhibitions and movies.



DAY 2 Exploring D-day museum in Arromanches

Next day we explored D-Day Landing Museum situated in the town of Arromanches-les-Bains, the geographical center of the D-Day beaches. It is located at the exact point where the Allies have implanted, from June 7, 1944, one of the two artificial ports responsible for supplying the troops engaged in the battle of Normandy. We started our tour around the museum with the guide showing us animated models with direct view on the historical site, then we had chance to watch all the displays and showcases, we watched a movie describing the stages of design, construction and assembly of the port. In the end we were free to discover the the ruins of the artificial harbour's floating road directly on the beach



A floating solution

When Allied troops stormed the beaches at Normandy, France on June 6, 1944 they were using a remarkable and entirely untested technology: artificial ports. Once complete, each Mulberry Harbour gave Allied troops about 1 square mile of quiet, wave-free ocean from which to stage the invasion.

Nearly 200 military ships and landing crafts anchored at Mulberry Harbours in their first week, sending about 180,000 men straight into enemy territory. Ten thousand of them were killed or injured on the first day, blown up by landmines and picked off by camouflaged German machine gun nests and blasted by artillery in concrete bunkers.

On June 19, 1944, a storm permanently disabled the American Mulberry Harbour. But British one continued to serve Allied forces for another 10 months as they freed all French ports from German control.



DAY 3 Experience museum & dead man's corner museum

According to most students the top experience of our stay in Normandy arrived while visiting the D-Day experience museum where we had an unforgettable chance to try an aircraft simulator and became a part of a war crew. The Dead man's corner house tells the story of "Green devils" The German parachute regiment, that was beaten by Americans who established there their command post of 101 Airborne division. The museum is unique for its shop that offers a wide collection of authentic war objects visitors can buy.



War cemetery at Colleville-sur-mer

The last stop of the day was a visit to the American cemetery that contains the graves of 9,387 American soldiers who died on D-Day. The atmosphere of the place is very impressive not only because of long lines of white marble crosses and David's stars but also because of its exceptional location- it overlooks Omaha Beach, the deadliest landing beach of Operation Overlord.



DAY 4 Merville Franceville battery



On the way back to French host families in Wormhout we stopped at a huge area of Merville artillery where we admired four former bunkers, the important part of fortifications that formed the Atlantic wall.

STOLPERSTEINE

Stumbled stones excursion

If you want to understand the world, you must know your neighbourhood first.... and who wants to understand the present and look into future must be interested in learning the past

Students involved in the Erasmus+ project about the Second World War realized this motto and decided to discover a part of history in our town. After doing a research about victims of holocaust and Nazi regime during the World War lost in our region, on a sunny day of June, they went on a tour around the city cleaning the stumbled stones commemorating the names of people who died in the hell of the concentration camps during the war period.

