



# NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

June 2024

## 80th Anniversary

### BATTLE OF NORMANDY

June 6 - August 30, 1944



- The **Battle of Normandy**, codenamed Operation Overlord, was the Allied invasion of northern France on June 6, 1944 (**D-Day**). It is the largest amphibious operation in modern history.
- Paratroopers landed before dawn, followed by massive seaborne landings on five beaches (**Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, Sword**).
- Though facing fierce German defenses, especially at Omaha Beach, the Allies secured a foothold and began pushing inland. The success at Normandy paved the way for the liberation of France and the eventual defeat of Germany.

# 73,000+

# U.S. personnel supporting Normandy operations

Navy physicians, hospital corpsmen, hospital corps officers, and dentists, could be found on ship and shore:



- Aboard **landing craft** bringing the Army V Corps to the fight



- Aboard **battleships, cruisers, and destroyers** that pounded German fortifications and cleared the way into the beaches



- Embedded with the **2nd, 6th and 7th** Naval Beach Battalions on Omaha and Utah Beaches



# 29,000+

# of U.S. service personnel killed at Normandy. This includes **4** Navy physicians, **1** dentist and **23** hospital corpsmen attached to LSTs, support ships and beach battalions.

# 16

# Navy Landing Ship Tanks (LSTs) at Normandy specially designated as "emergency hospitals"



# 2,300+

# Navy medical personnel assigned to LSTs at Normandy

# casualties transported by Navy LSTs from Normandy to England

# 41,000+







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## NAVY MEDICINE HEROES AT NORMANDY



### Lt (j.g.) Frank Hall, 7th Naval Beach Bttn

- Navy physician Lt. (j.g.) **Frank Hall** was part of the initial assault on Omaha Beach when his landing craft was sunk three miles from the beachhead. Salvaging what medical supplies he could, he then swam through the cold ocean water to the distant shore.
- Despite extreme exhaustion, and facing relentless enemy fire, Hall “resolutely” assumed command of the “medical work,” leading the triage and attending to numerous casualties until they could be evacuated.
- Hall was later awarded the **Navy Cross** for his actions.



### Lt (j.g.) Frank Ramsey & PhM3c Byron Dary, 6th Naval Beach Bttn

- Navy physician Lt. (j.g.) **Frank Ramsey, Jr.**, and Pharmacist's Mate Third Class **Byron Dary** landed on Omaha Beach with the 6th Naval Beach Battalion on June 6, 1944.
- Upon hitting the beachhead, the physician and hospital corpsman rushed to the aid of wounded Army personnel lying near a burning half-track.
- In minutes, the vehicle exploded spraying shrapnel across the battlefield and taking Ramsey out of the fight. With little protection against this onslaught, Dary dragged Ramsey to a foxhole and administered life-saving first aid. He then ran through machinegun and shellfire to aid a severely wounded Army colonel, all while being targeted by an enemy sniper.
- Dary was later awarded the **Silver Star** for actions at Normandy and go on to receive a posthumous **Navy Cross** for actions on Iwo Jima, 1945
- Lt (j.g.) Ramsey was awarded the **Bronze Star** in 2012 at the age of 96 years old in a ceremony aboard USS New Jersey.



Navy medical personnel at Normandy were awarded **2 Navy Crosses**, **5 Silver Stars**, and **12 Legions of Merit**



## NAVY MEDICINE AT NETLEY

- Once safely back in England, Navy medical personnel triaged patients, conducted emergency surgery, and stabilized the injured until they could be evacuated to other hospitals in Britain or back to the United States for more definitive treatment.
- One of the hospitals designated to care for the casualties of the D-Day invasion was US Navy Base Hospital Number 12. The facility occupied the thousand-bed Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley, adjacent to the major Channel port of Southampton.
- 740+ U.S. Navy physicians, nurses, dentists, hospital corps officers and hospital corpsmen at Netley cared for patients night and day. Their dedication and skill ensured a 97 percent patient survivability.