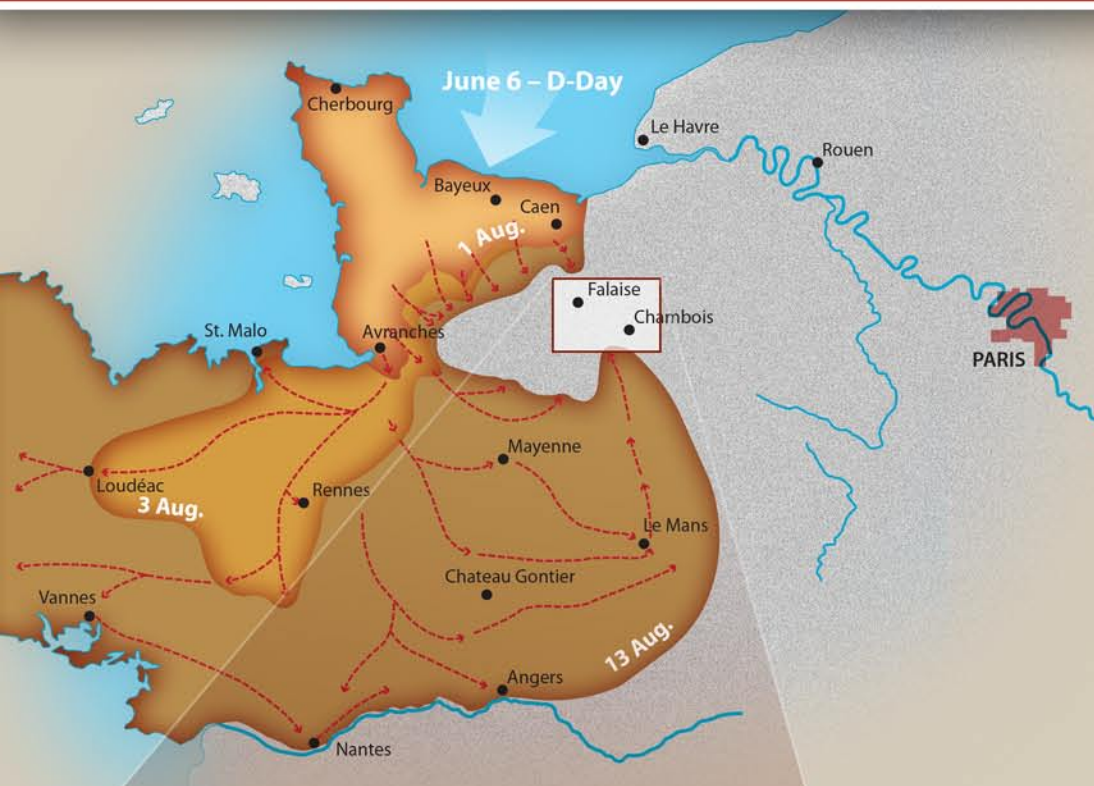
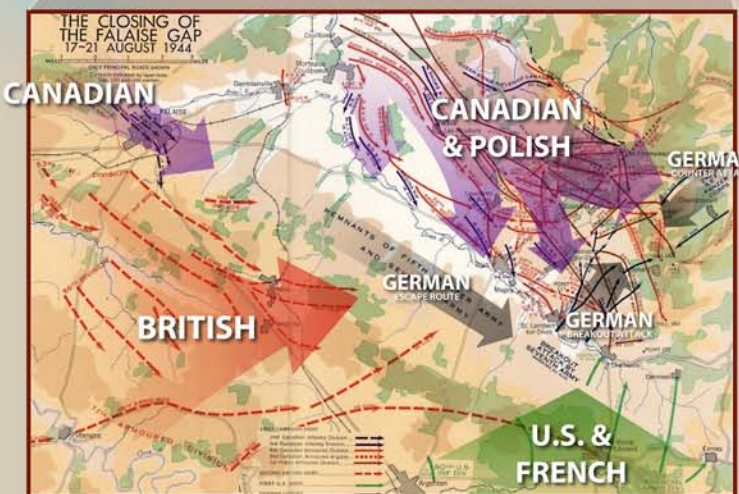


Battle of the Falaise Gap



The Falaise Pocket

The Falaise Pocket or Battle of the Falaise Pocket (12–21 August 1944) was the decisive engagement of the Battle of Normandy. The German 7th Army and Fifth Panzer Army was encircled by British, Canadian and American forces. As the Germans attempted to retreat the Canadian First Army along with elements of the 1st Armored Polish Division moved south from Caen to block the retreat.



After several days of bitter fighting only a few battered remnants of the German army had managed to escape the carnage. The battle resulted in the destruction of the German Army Group and for his courage in battle Canadian Army **Major David Currie** was awarded the highest military decoration in the British Commonwealth - the Victoria Cross. Currie was the sole surviving officer of the infantry and tank force which fought bravely to repel the desperate German attacks to break out. Listen here to his interview on CBC.



2014

German prisoners captured by Canadians, St-Lambert-sur-Dives in 1944 and the same location today. Major Currie stands watch on the left in the foreground.

1944

Troops of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles near Iffs, France, July 1944. On the road to Falaise.

1944

1945

Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

June 6
Operation Overlord (D-Day Invasion)

June 6 - Aug 6
Caen

August 7-10
Operation "Totalize"

August 12-21
Battle of Falaise Pocket

August 25
Paris liberated

Sept 17 - 25
Operation Market Garden

Dec 16 - Jan 25
Battle of the Bulge

February 8 - March 10
The Battle of the Rhineland

March 7
Crossing of the Rhine River by Allied Forces

May 8
End of WWII in Europe
Nazi Germany's Unconditional Surrender

Tank concentration of the Fort Garry Horse ready to leave for noon attack from Bretteville-Le-Rabet, Normandy, during Operation Tractable, 14 August 1944.



2014 The Allies used their supremacy in the air to deadly effect. The battle of the Falaise Gap was known as the "death road" by German troops.



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7th Medium Regiment, 12th Battery, "A" Troop, fire on Germans with 5.5 inch guns, Bretteville-Le-Rabet, Normandy, 16 August 1944.