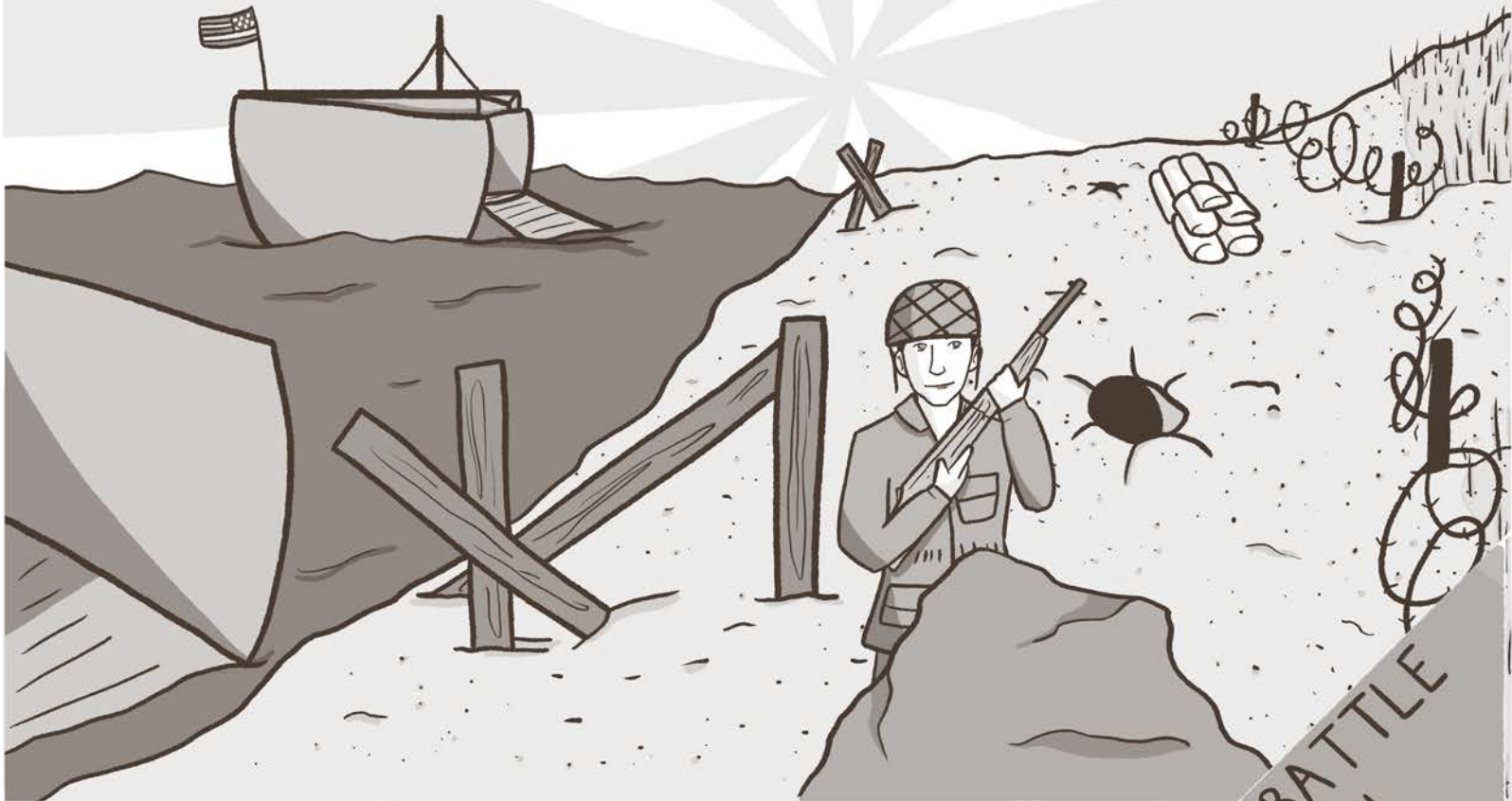




4

CARVING UP NORMANDY

FOLLOW THIS
TOUGH 'OMBRE'S
JOURNEY FROM
UTAH BEACH INTO
THE BATTLE OF
NORMANDY!



WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MELINA TESTIN

STORY PROVIDED BY CARVER MCGRIFF VIA THE HOLT ORAL
HISTORY PROGRAM, LISTEN AT PRITZKERMILITARY.ORG

D-DAY BATTLE
MAP!
Pg. 6

Carver McGriff



WWII / 90th Division

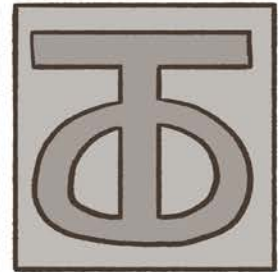
Born 5 September 1924 in Indianapolis, IN, Carver McGriff grew up hearing WWI stories from his veteran father, and anxiously awaited his turn to join the Army. After the war, Dr. McGriff served as a Methodist Pastor in Indiana, where he still lives with his wife, Marianne. The couple has led several tours of Normandy together.

My little brother joined the Navy as a minesweeper in the Pacific, but I wanted to be in the infantry.

The Army seemed more dangerous and exciting than the Navy.

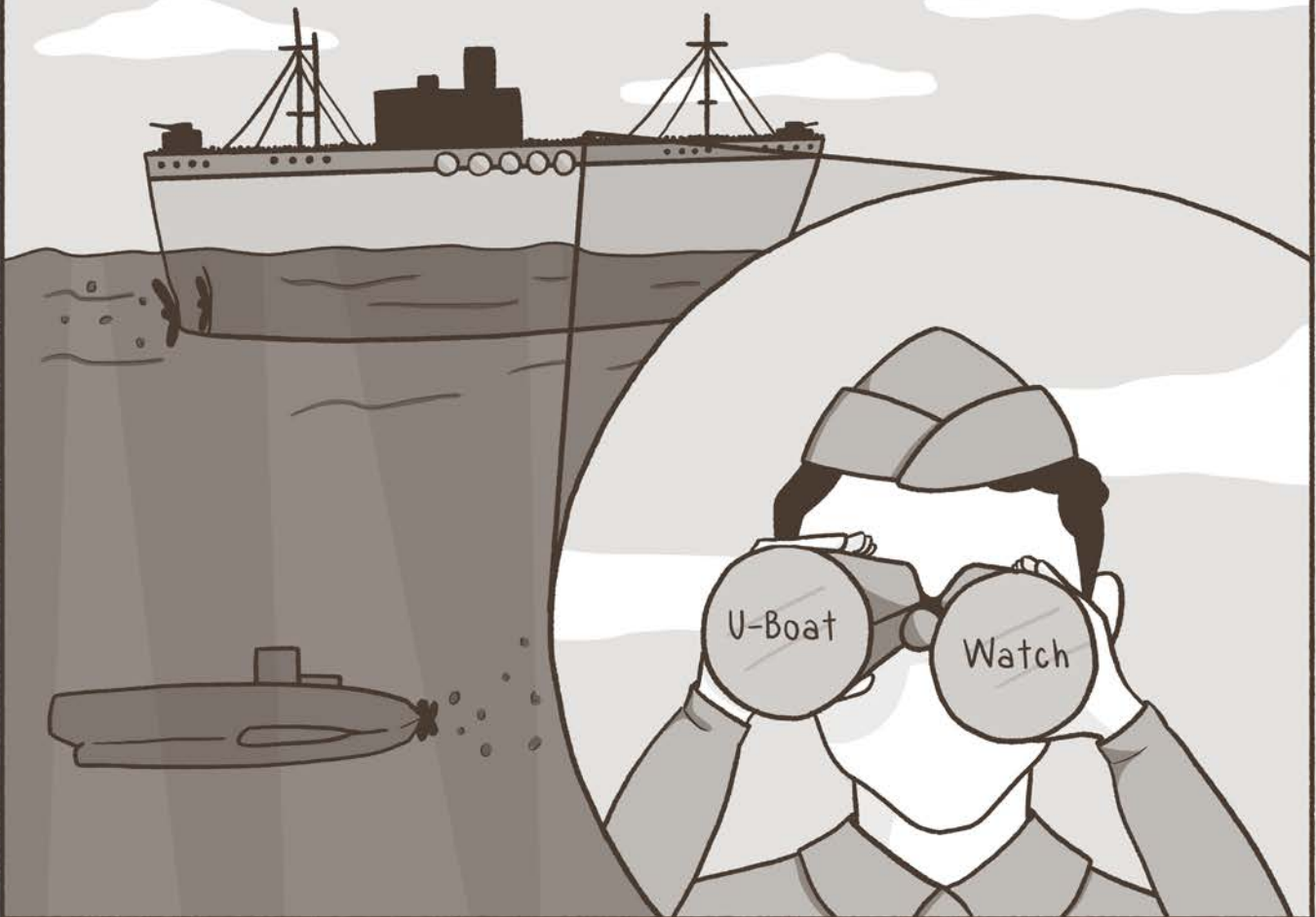


I was assigned to the 90th Division,



the "Tough 'Ombres."

Aboard the troop transport to Europe, I spent the weeks-long voyage on

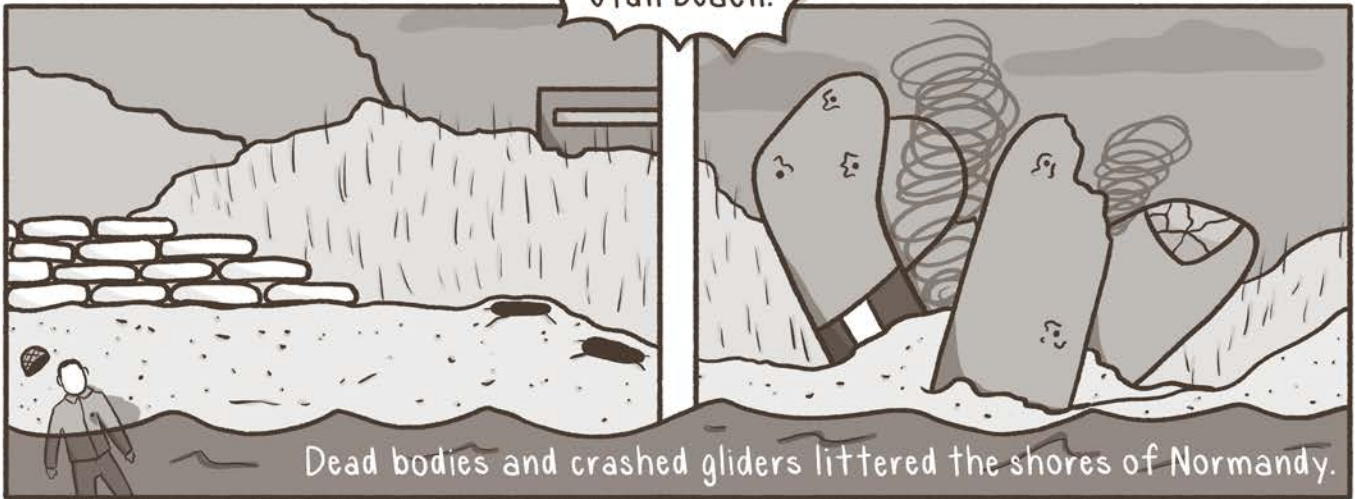


The group of 200 men I joined were reinforcements for the 6 June 1944 D-Day invasion, the bloodiest day in American military history.

I waded ashore



Utah Beach.



Dead bodies and crashed gliders littered the shores of Normandy.



We took cover in slit trenches that felt more like graves.

The people back home watching newsreels probably

had a better picture of what an artillery barrage was like than we did, hiding in our foxholes.

We had not been trained to fight in hedgerows. I was a fraid.

I wrote to my parents all of the things I regretted not saying enough:
I love you, and thank you for everything.
- Carver

I sent the letter to my brother and told him to only give it to my parents if I died.

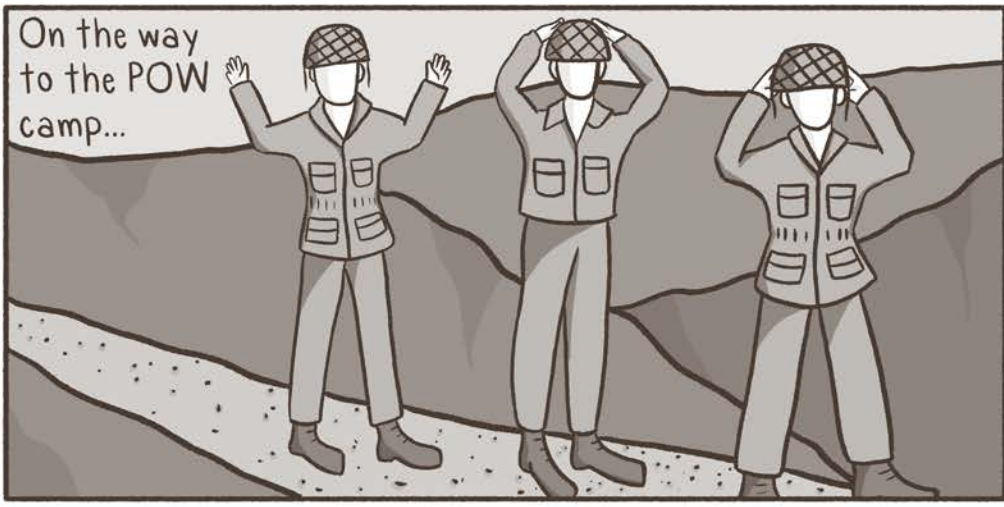


I thought about a Bill Mauldin cartoon I had seen in the Stars and Stripes:

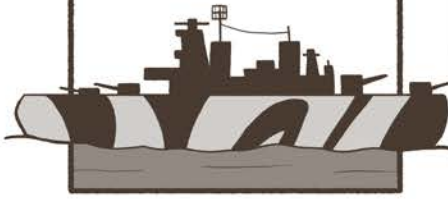


I fought with 130 men in a drainage ditch for two days until we ran out of ammunition.

We had to surrender.



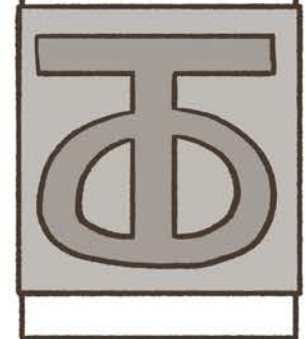
DAZZLE CAMOUFLAGE



Dazzle Camouflage was a pattern of camouflage popular in both world wars for naval vessels. Though ineffective in concealing ships, it was meant to complicate the enemy's ability to determine the ship's course or class. During WWII, the use of radar made any attempt at ship camouflage rather futile, and all efforts at dazzle camouflage were given up in 1945. Pictured here is the USS *Iowa* in dazzle camouflage. Battleship *Iowa* notably transferred President Roosevelt to the Tehran/Eureka Conference in 1943 at which the plan for Operation Overlord (D-Day) was decided.

The 90th "Tough 'Ombres" Division began as the Texas-Oklahoma Division. The 90th served as a reserve division on D-Day, landing at Utah Beach on 6 June 1944. After Carver's unit was captured at Hill 122 (Mont Castre) on 11 July, the division laid siege to Metz in the fall and served along the Saar River and Siegfried Line/Westwall during the winter Battle of the Bulge.

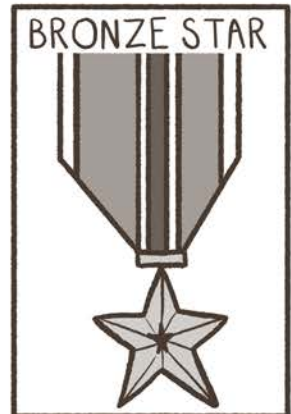
90TH DIVISION



BILL MAULDIN

Bill Mauldin was a soldier and cartoonist during WWII. As a T-5 in the 45th "Thunderbird" Division, Mauldin designed his first war comics featuring iconic characters Willie and Joe. In 1944, Mauldin began to draw comics exclusively for the *Stars and Stripes* magazine. Distribution in the *Stars and Stripes* made fans of soldiers in every division, including Carver.

The **Bronze Star** is a medal awarded for "heroic or meritorious achievement or service." It was introduced during WWII, and continues to be awarded in the Armed Forces today. Carver earned the Bronze Star for his service in capturing Hill 122 (Mont Castre) in Normandy. He also won the Purple Heart for the shrapnel wounds he sustained as a prisoner of war.



AU-Boat was a German submarine. In both World Wars, U-boats threatened Allied ships in the Atlantic. Carver luckily never spotted any U-boats during his time on the troop ship.

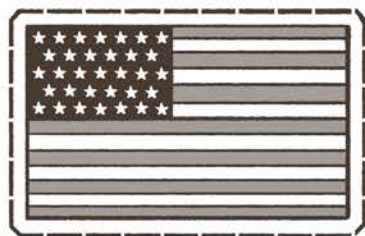
A Slit Trench is a wide foxhole meant to offer cover for multiple soldiers. Ideally 6-7' in depth, trenches were time consuming to build and soldiers often had to lie down for cover.

Hedgerows are series of closely planted shrubbery that bordered fields in Normandy. Difficult to see and pass through, they slowed Allied foot soldiers' assault of Normandy.

Shrapnel, the fragments kicked up by explosives, produced wounds ranging from superficial cuts to the loss of limbs. The shrapnel in Carver's legs was removed by surgery.

D-Day Battle Map

6 June 1944 was D-Day. Known as Operation Neptune and commanded by Major General Eisenhower, the invasion of Normandy across the English Channel is the largest amphibious military invasion in history, involving more than 350,000 Allied troops and 50 miles of Norman coastline. The Allies attacked at five beaches on D-Day: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Operation Neptune was the first step in the Battle of Normandy, Operation Overlord.



AMERICA
First Army
V Corps
VII Corps



1st Infantry Division
Omaha Beach -
Colleville



4th Infantry Division
Utah Beach -
Cherbourg



29th Infantry Division
Omaha Beach -
Vierville - St. Lô



82d Airborne Division
Ste.-Mère-Eglise -
La Fièvre



90th Infantry Division
Utah Beach -
Mont-Castre



101st Airborne Division
Ste.-Marie-du-Mont -
Carentan

21st Army Group

BRITAIN
Second Army
I Corps
XXX Corps



3d Infantry Division
Sword Beach - Caen



3d Infantry Division,
Canadian First Army
Juno Beach - Courseulles



6th Airborne Division
Caen - Bréville

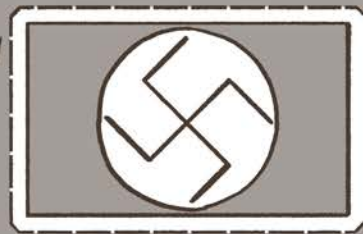


50th Infantry Division
Gold Beach - Bayeux



Army Group B

GERMANY
Seventh Army
Retreat from
Central
Normandy to
Falaise Pocket



Cut out the pieces below and track Operation Overlord on the battle map of Normandy (pg. 8).

Montgomery	
	Dempsey Crocker Bucknall
	
	THE WATER RATS
	RED DEVILS <i>"Go To It"</i>
	
Rommel	
	Dollmann

Bradley Gerow Collins	
THE BIG RED ONE <i>"No Mission Too Difficult. No Sacrifice Too Great. Duty First!"</i>	
IVY DIVISION <i>"Steadfast and Loyal"</i>	
BLUE AND GRAY <i>"Twenty-nine, let's go!"</i>	
ALL AMERICAN DIVISION <i>"Death From Above"</i>	
TOUGH 'OMBRES	
SCREAMING EAGLES <i>"Rendezvous With Destiny"</i>	

OVERLORD: 1944

4 June -

invasion of Normandy delayed by weather

5 June -

0600, troopships depart from England
2300, airborne troops depart from England

6 June -

0100, 6th British ABN drop at Caen
101st ABN drop at Ste.-Marie-du-Mont

0200, 82d ABN drop at Ste.-Mère-Eglise
0630, 4th ID land at Utah Beach
1st and 29th ID land at Omaha Beach

0730, 50th British ID land at Gold Beach
3d Canadian ID land at Juno Beach
3d British ID land at Sword Beach
1000, 90th ID land at Utah Beach
3d Canadian ID liberate Courseulles
29th ID liberate Vierville
82d ABN liberate La Fièvre

7 June -

1st ID liberate Colleville
50th British ID help liberate Bayeux

12 June -

101st ABN liberate Carentan

13 June -

6th British ABN liberate Bréville

26 June -

4th ID help liberate Cherbourg

10 July -

90th ID take Mont-Castre

18 July -

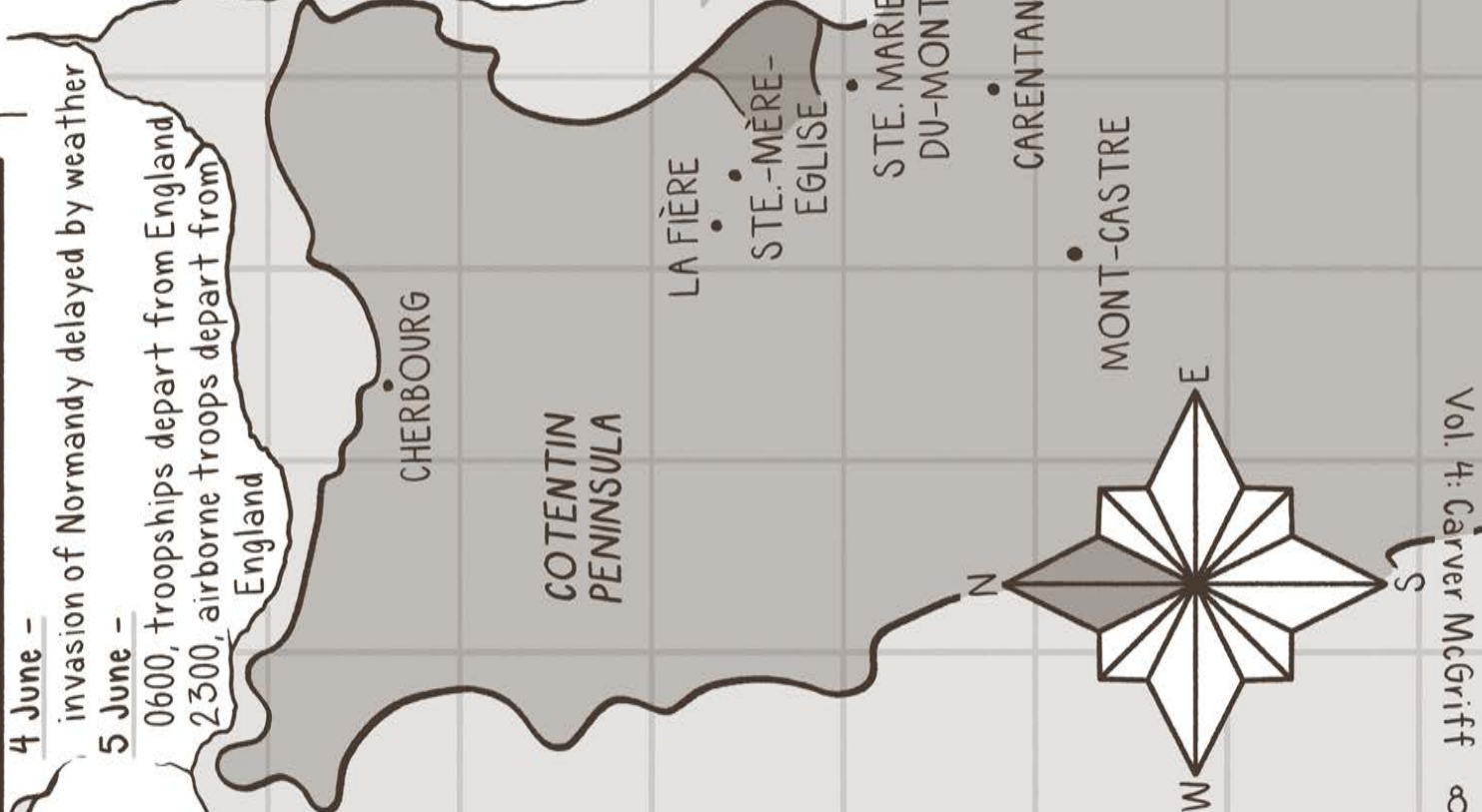
29th ID liberate St. Lô

19 July -

3d British ID help liberate Caen

17 August -

German Army surrenders Falaise



1944 D-DAY BATTLE MAP

CARVER MCGRIFF