

Record of Service Podcast Episode 5: D-Day (Bonus Episode)

Article by [The Memory Project/Le Projet Mémoire](#)

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[Record of Service](#), a podcast presented by [The Memory Project](#), a program of [Historica Canada](#). In this series, we bring you interviews with Canada's veterans—their stories of life, loss and service. (Click [here](#) to view the entire series.)

June 6, 2019 marked the 75th anniversary of the [Allied landings](#) in Normandy, France during the [Second World War](#). This bonus episode of [Record of Service](#), [Historica Canada's](#) new podcast, features the lived experiences of veterans who participated in the operation through testimonies from [The Memory Project Archive](#).

Music Credit: Kai Engel – Hopes and Dreams (FMA)

past, both the good and the bad. This is where our podcasts come in.

Podcasts like “Residential Schools”, a three-part series created to honour the stories of survivors, their families, and communities and to commemorate the history and legacy of Residential Schools in Canada.

Riley Burns: “I didn’t want to be an Indian, I didn’t know who in the hell I wanted to be. I wasn’t accepted by the white man; I was accepted by my own people in my reserve.”

AWS: Subscribe to Historica Canada Podcasts for deep dives into our past. You can listen to “Residential Schools” on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts. Never stop learning.

Maia Foster: Welcome to “Record of Service”, I’m your host Maia Foster. Today’s episode is a bonus episode. Earlier this year, we marked the 75th anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Normandy, dubbed Operation Overlord, and known commonly as D-Day.

Just a warning to those that may be listening with young ones around, today’s story contains graphic descriptions.

Lloyd Bentley: “D-Day was supposed to happen on June the fifth, but, because of the bad weather and the channel was very rough, they decided to put it off ‘til June the sixth.”

MF: This is Lloyd Bentley, a Canadian airman from Northern Ontario, who

an invasion set for the following summer. It would be the largest amphibious invasion in history.

Just a quick note on the term “D-Day” – the term had been used to plan operations in the past, and all it really did was act as a place holder for the specific and top-secret date of an attack. Since the Battle of Normandy, it has been forever linked with June 6, 1944.

Martin Maxwell was one of the paragliders to go in on D-Day. He was born in Vienna and was sent to Britain on the Kindertransport, which took approximately 10,000 Jewish children out of Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland to the United Kingdom after the violence of Kristallnacht and before the outbreak of the Second World War. After his adoptive brother joined the Royal Air Force, he decided to join the Royal Pioneer Corps – a corps open to German and Austrian nationals.

Martin Maxwell: “Now, when I finished my training, I went to one of the officers that I knew because he was the sports officer and I played soccer; and I said, look, I didn’t join the army to dig ditches or to build bridges, I want to

bombers, et cetera. There were several, several heights of them. The west-most landed at Utah Beach state - near Saint-Mère-Église. And then the middle lane landed at Omaha Beach and they had the real, the toughest, fighting of anybody. And then the eastern-most lane was British and everybody else. And when they got nearer to shore, they split into three different lanes and the western-most lane was Gold Beach, were British. The middle lane was the Canadians at Juno Beach. And then the eastern-most lane was the British, French, Free French, Norwegians, et cetera, et cetera, Dutch. And they landed at Sword Beach.

“As you got near England, you could see that all the three lanes that were still coming out, about thirty or forty miles wide, probably. I swear you could see about two or three thousand aircrafts. 13,000 aircrafts took part and there was between 5,000 and 7,000 ships. And I swear, if I had long legs and stepped

MF: They captured a mile of beach on the first day and spent the night there.

HC: "We were together for 5 and a half years. We were just like brothers, and then all of a sudden here is all these people you know dead - you know dead or wounded, most of them dead. I think we lost 100 people killed that morning on the beach besides the wounded, so it takes quite a jolt out of you the first day. But then after the first day you know the battle is over and you

that would turn up in the different types of wounds. We were very fortunate

