



A Jeep is lowered onto a Higgins Landing Craft, Mechanized (LCM)-3 from the *Harris*-class attack transport USS *Joseph T. Dickman* (APA-13).





A GMC CCKW 353 2.5-ton truck nicknamed "Lil' Nellie" is loaded aboard LST-134 at Portland Harbour in Dorset during embarkation before D-Day. A deep-water fording kit has been installed on "Lil' Nellie," and she has a camouflage net lashed to her left front wheelwell. LST-134 carried elements of the divisional headquarters for the 1st Infantry Division to the Easy Red sector of Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.





Loading LST-357 at Portland Harbour in Dorset during embarkation before D-Day. In the foreground, a Dodge WC-51 Winchless Weapons Carrier and a GMC DUKW 353 2.5-ton amphibian truck prepare to come aboard. The emblem above the throat leading to the ship's tank deck depicts a stork (nicknamed "Palermo Pete") and the motto "We Deliver." By June 1944, LST-357 had already participated in the Operation Husky landings in Sicily (July 1943) and the Operation Avalanche landings at Salerno, Italy (September 1943). On D-Day, "Palermo Pete" landed elements of the U.S. Army V Corps on the Easy Red sector of Omaha Beach.





A Jeep from the Engineer Special Brigade's medical unit drives aboard a Landing Craft, Tank (LCT) nicknamed "Channel Fever" at Castletown near Portland (south of Weymouth) in Dorset during embarkation for D-Day.





Jeeps and personnel from the 1st Infantry Division on board the LCT "Channel Fever" at Castletown near Portland (south of Weymouth) in Dorset. Among the soldiers and sailors seen here are two U.S. Navy ensigns (standing shoreside between two soldiers) as well as troops from the 5th Engineer Special Brigade and the 741st Tank Battalion.





Three U.S. Army combat engineers from either the Special Engineer Task Force or Beach Obstacle Demolition Party move to their embarkation assembly area in preparation for D-Day. Each soldier carries a section of Bangalore torpedo on his shoulder, reels of Primacord, and an M7 Assault Gas Mask Bag worn on his chest. The man in the center already has his M1 Garand rifle packed in a Pliofilm bag to protect it from sand during the landing. *National Archives and Records Administration*



In this photograph, taken on Thursday, June 1, 1944, U.S. Army Rangers march along the waterfront in Weymouth, Dorset, to meet the landing craft that will carry them to the transports anchored in the harbor. The Rangers remained aboard their ships during the coming days as a security precaution. Here, men can be seen carrying Bangalore torpedo sections, M7 Assault Gas Mask Bags, U.S. Navy invasion inflatable lifebelts, and assault/invasion vests in dark-green canvas (which were distributed ten days before the invasion).





Jeeps and personnel from the 1st Infantry Division on board the LCT "Channel Fever" at Castletown near Portland (south of Weymouth) in Dorset. Among the men seen here are a sailor and soldiers from the 5th Engineer Special Brigade and the 741st Tank Battalion.





This photograph shows the intersection where Custom House Quay and the Esplanade meet on the waterfront in Weymouth, Dorset. At the time this photo was taken during the first week of June 1944, the embarkation for Operation Neptune was well under way. In the background, LCI(L)-497; LCH-87 can be seen nested together alongside the quay. At the center are two trailers carrying bottles of compressed hydrogen used to inflate VLA anti-aircraft barrage balloons like the three secured to the ground with nets and sandbags in the foreground. At center right can be seen an International Harvester 4x4 Truck, a closed-cab GMC 353, a U.S. Navy 6x6, three Dodge WCs, and a Diamond T Model 972 Dump Truck.





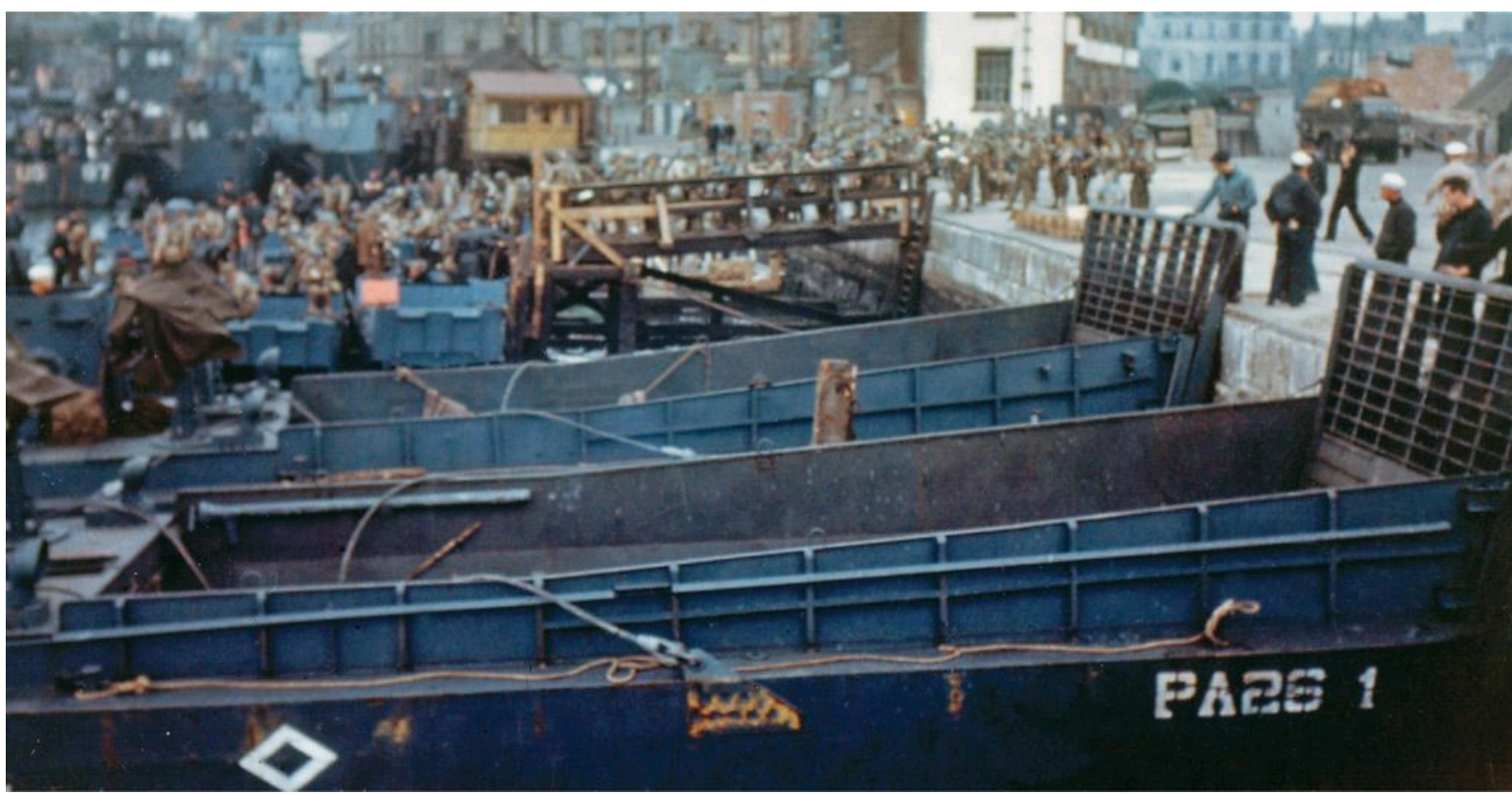
Soldiers from the medical section of either the 5th or the 6th Engineer Special Brigade board an LCT at Castletown near Portland (south of Weymouth) in Dorset during embarkation before D-Day.





At the intersection of Custom House Quay and the Esplanade on the waterfront in Weymouth, Dorset, U.S. Army Rangers have begun boarding five Royal Navy Landing Craft, Assault (LCAs) for the trip out to their transport anchored in the harbor during embarkation shortly before D-Day. In the background, LCI(L)-497, LCI(L)-84, and LCH-87 can be seen nested together alongside the quay.





Thursday, June 1, 1944: Two Higgins LCM-3s from the USS *Samuel Chase* (APA-26) have pulled up to the seawall at the intersection of Custom House Quay and the Esplanade on the waterfront in Weymouth, Dorset. In the background, U.S. Army Rangers are loading five Royal Navy LCAs, and LCI(L)-497, LCI(L)-84, and LCH-87 are nested together.



Thursday, June 1, 1944: At the intersection of Custom House Quay and the Esplanade on the waterfront in Weymouth, Dorset, U.S. Army Rangers have boarded five Royal Navy LCAs for the trip out to their transport anchored in the harbor during embarkation shortly before D-Day. In the background, LCI(L)-497, LCI(L)-84, and LCH-87 can be seen nested together alongside the quay.





“Check Rosters Here”: U.S. Army Rangers make one last stop in this tent before boarding landing craft that will take them out to the transports that will ultimately carry them to Normandy. After checking in with officers of the Transportation Corps at the front of the tent, the men receive donuts and coffee from the Red Cross at the other end of the tent. The famous Weymouth Pavilion, requisitioned by the military during the war, is visible in the background.





Personnel of the 5th Engineer Special Brigade embarking on a Higgins LCVP from the USS *Thurston* (AP-77) using the portside ramp of LCI(L)-497 on the waterfront in Weymouth, Dorset while a VLA anti-aircraft barrage balloon floats overhead.













U.S. Army soldiers loading a Higgins LCVP from the *McCawley*-class attack transport USS *Barnett* (APA-5) in Plymouth Harbor during a training exercise prior to D-Day. The LCVP next to it (marked PA13-25) belongs to the USS *Joseph T. Dickman* (APA-13), a *Harris*-class attack transport operated by the U.S. Coast Guard. Both the *Barnett* and the *Dickman* ultimately carried elements of the 4th Infantry Division to Utah Beach on D-Day. At the far left, a group of soldiers has already boarded an unidentified British LCA (probably from *Empire Gauntlet*).





U.S. Army Rangers from A Company, 5th Ranger Battalion boarding a British LCA in Weymouth Harbor, Dorset, during embarkation for D-Day on June 1, 1944.