

THE ARDENNE ABBEY

It was in 1121 that a small Christian community stood at Ardenne. On 7 June 1944, at the beginning of the battle, the Germans made Canadian soldiers prisoners in the abbey and twenty-four of these young men are executed in defiance of convention Geneva and the rights of prisoners. Today a memorial commemorates the site of this tragic event.

MEMORIAL NORTH NOVA SCOTIA HIGHLANDERS

On June 7, 1944, in this town and in the surrounding fields, the Canadian North Nova Scotia Highlanders experienced their baptism of fire. Eighty-four North Novas, and seven citizens of Authie, lost their lives this day.

MEMORIAL SHERBROOKE FUSILIER REGIMENT

The village of Buron is known as « Bloody Buron » in Canadian military history. The first battle here was on D-Day+1 during the drive to Caen, and the second was fought on July 8, 1944 when Canadian forces liberated Buron from the 12th SS Panzer Division.

HELL'S CORNER

On June 7, 1944, the North Nova Scotia Highlanders, supported by the 27th Armored Regiment (Fusiliers de Sherbrooke), reached Villons-les-Buissons, Buron and Authie villages, not far from their initial D-Day goal, the city of Caen . The counter-attack by the 25th Panzer Grenadiers, regiment of the 12th SS Division of the Hitler Youth, slowed their progress. Villons-les-Buissons became the fortress of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, which retreated to the village. All counter-attacks are defeated and the front line stabilizes. Canadians resist repetitive attacks by the Germans and bombardments for a month until the victory at the Carpiquet aerodrome on July 4.

ANGUERNY AND ITS INUKSHUK

The men of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada and of the Chaudière Regiment, supported by the tanks of the 10th armored regiment The Fort Garry Horse, liberated that village on D-day and after fierce fighting, Canadians forced the Germans to retreat on D-Day evening in Mathieu, situated 2 km from Anguerny. Memorials are dedicated to those regiments and an inukshuk faces the church surrounded by French and Canadian flags.

CREULLY CASTLE

The Château de Creully is an 11th- and 12th-century castle, a former property hold by Colbert, prime minister of Louis XIV in 1682. But in the early afternoon of June 6, 1944, the Canadians of Company D of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles (7th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division) supported by three Sherman tanks belonging to the 2nd platoon of 1st Hussars C Squadron (2nd Armored Brigade) liberated Creully. A few days later, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio transmitter was installed in the tower of the castle. The castle also housed a club for the Canadian airmen from RCAF and close to it, the B9 airfield was set up from June to August 1944. With a bit of luck, you may see the white lady or Dame Blanche in the castle of Creully. Located to the northwest of the village, General Montgomery set up his tactical headquarters in Creullet castle from 7 to 22 June 1944. He received Winston Churchill on June 12, De Gaulle on June 14, Eisenhower on June 15 and King George VI on June 16.

THE CANADIAN CEMETERY IN BENY-REVIERS

The cemetery contains 2,049 graves. Most of the soldiers buried in the cemetery were killed in June and in early July 1944 during the Battle of Caen on D-Day at Juno Beach. Canadian prisoners of war executed by the SS-Panzer Hitlerjugend at the Abbaye d'Ardenne are also buried in this cemetery.

THE CANADA HOUSE

It was one of the first houses liberated by Canadian soldiers on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and has since become a familiar historic landmark, standing in the backdrop of the many black-and-white photographs showing troops landing on the sands of this village in Normandy. The house has also become a place of pilgrimage. A memorial in front of the house indicates : "Within sight of this house over 100 men of the Queen's Own Rifles were killed or wounded, in the first few minutes of the landings.

THE HOTEL GRAVE, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN WARCOS

A few hours after the landing, 250 pigeons were setting off for England from that place. They were intended to bring news that the landing had been successful. Thus this hotel became the headquarters for the Canadian and British War Correspondents at 10 am. Still at the Hotel Grave, Marcel Ouimé, Radio Canada's first Senior War correspondent interviewed the first Frenchman.

JUNO BEACH

On D-Day, the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division commanded General Rodney Keller landed on Juno Beach. 14,000 Canadians landed alongside 9 000 British troops. Canadian losses were about a thousand. Most of them are buried at the Canadian War Cemetery Beny-sur-Mer.

JUNO BEACH CENTER & ITS PARK

Opened on June 6, 2003, the Juno Beach Centre, a unique Canadian museum on the landing beaches, is located in the town of Courseulles- sur-Mer. Juno Beach Centre presents the civilian war effort and military of the entire population in Canada and the various fronts during the Second World War, as well as the different contemporary Canadian society faces. Closed in January.