

The German Defensive Operation during the Normandy Campaign

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Abstract

At the Tehran Conference in November 1943, the Allies agreed on the timing of the cross-Channel invasion of German-occupied Western Europe. The most grand-scale amphibious landing in human history began with Allied forces landing on the Normandy coast on D-Day (6 June 1944).

Facing the Allied Invasion were German troops waiting and preparing for the inevitable confrontation. However, despite the coastal barricades and fortifications, the German Army could not repulse the Allied landing and the subsequent break-through. The reasons behind the failure of the German defense were diverse: primarily, armored reserves were located so far from the coast that they were unable to immediately intervene in the fighting against the enemies for the first days. Furthermore, the Allied superiority in the air and at sea, the confusion of the German high command system and the difference of German operational command for the anti-Invasion defense, turned the German counteroffensive into a resounding defeat.

The Normandy campaign was not only a decisive battle in World War II, but also a fundamental turning point in the war. It quickly changed into a bitter German defeat turned the tide toward the German decline.

Key Words: the Tehran Conference, Amphibious landing, Armored

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