

### Memorials, Monuments, Museums, Landmarks, and Cemeteries

There are several historic sites and places of interest related to the D-Day landing and the capture of Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer and Tailleville. Map 1A, The Attack on Saint-Aubin, identifies nine sites important to the understanding of the battle and the history of the NS(NB)R. The map also shows the approximate routes taken by the regimental companies during the capture of the town.

1) The Seawall Promenade (Map 1A, Site S1).

Two memorials to the NS(NB)R are located on Cap Romain, on the Seawall Promenade, at the intersection of Rue Pasteur and Rue Gustave Canet. One of these memorials lists the names of the NS(NB)R soldiers who died on D-Day (June 6, 1944). In the same location is one of the original German bunkers that housed a 50 mm gun. The gun had defended the eastern edge of the German strongpoint, Widerstandsnest 27 (WN27), and was the last gun to be captured.

About 200 m to the west of the Seawall Promenade is a path that leads from Rue de Verdun to the beach. The path is named Brèche des Acadiens in honour of the Acadian soldiers of the NS(NB)R that fought and died on June 6, 1944. In 2019 during the 75th anniversary of D-Day a memorial plaque was installed to commemorate the soldiers of the North Shore

(NB) Regiment.

2) Rue Gustave Canet Photo (Map 1A, Site S2).

The photo taken on June 6 shows B Company soldiers attacking the 50 mm gun at the eastern edge of the strongpoint. The gun is visible at the end of the street. Obstacles, including tree trunks, had been placed in the street to obstruct the approach by tanks and other vehicles.

3) The Beach Chateau (Map 1A, Site S3). This is where B Company landed about 8:00 a.m. on June 6, 1944, followed shortly afterward by D Company. The beach chateau no longer stands, and there are no markers to identify it. The site is easy to find, however, as it is visible in the 1944 aerial photograph. Just walk onto the beach at the end of Avenue des Mésanges (about 200 m west of the Seawall Promenade). The chateau was right there. Note that as per Map 1B, Battalion Headquarters was located near the chateau. Immediately to the west of the chateau site is a park that was the Nan 7 Gap on Map 1A.

4) 1354 Promenade des Français (Map 1A, Site S4).

On June 6, 1944, at about 8:00 a.m., A Company landed on the beach in front of this house. They were followed shortly afterward by C Company.

This house, which is visible in the 1944

film footage of the A Company beach landing, still stands. The house is officially in the town of Bernières-sur-Mer. It is on the corner of Rue des Hirondelles and Promenade des Français (about 750 m west of the Seawall Promenade).

5) Église Saint-Aubin (Map 1A, Site S5).

The Saint Aubin Church was the C Company objective after entering the town. They established a defensive position here then cleared streets and buildings west of the main north-south road (later identified as Tailleville Rd.)

The church rectory was converted to a medical aid station for wounded civilians and soldiers.

6) Assembly area for the attack on Tailleville (Map 1A, Site S6). After establishing a defensive position at the church, C Company occupied a farm commanding the road to Tailleville. C Company platoons spread out in the field, and with the assistance of the Carrier platoon, Antitank platoon and Fort Garry Tanks, they led the regiment's attack on Tailleville, 3 km to the south.

7) Stage one objective YEW. (Map 1A, Site S7). All regiments landing on D-Day were given objectives described as follows. Stage One-YEW, Stage Two-ELM, Stage Three-OAK. The Stage One, YEW objective line for the NS(NB)R passes through the intersection of the Tailleville Rd. and the railway line (T. Saunders P. 70).

8) The Railway Station (Map 1A, Site S8).

The railway station is located at Place du Gare at the intersection of Avenue du Général Koenig and Avenue Georges Pepineaux.

D Company, with the assistance of the Carrier platoon, captured the railway station on the morning of June 6 and then established a defensive position along the rail line. Afterward, they cleared the houses and streets in the eastern section of the town. Note that after the war route D7 was constructed on the old railway line.

9) Rue Mgr Hickey and Rue du North Shore Régiment (Map 1A, Site S9). Immediately across from the railway station, Rue Mgr Hickey runs south off of Avenue du Général Koenig. The street was named in honour of the regiment's chaplain, who wrote *The Scarlet Dawn*. Rue du North Shore Régiment runs east from the south end of Rue Mgr Hickey.

10) To the west of Saint-Aubin is the town of Courseulles-sur-Mer, and close to the beach in a memorial park sits a Sherman tank. The tank, which belonged to the 6th Canadian Armoured Regiment (6CAR), had sunk on D-Day. Twenty-seven years later, it was retrieved and restored. Added to the sides of the tank are the regimental badges of the units that were supported by the 6CAR. The NS(NB)R badge is included.

11) The Juno Beach Centre is located to the west in the nearby town of Courseulles-sur-Mer and is immediately behind the beach. The centre is a museum and educational facility that provides information on Canada's role

in World War II. Guided beach tours provide details of the events of June 6, 1944. The staff is made up primarily of bilingual Canadian students, most of whom are the same age as the soldiers who landed there on D-Day.

12) About 3 km south of Saint-Aubin, on route D219, is the village of Tailleville. On June 6, after the beach was secured, the NS(NB)R pushed inland with orders to capture the village. By 9:00 p.m. they had control of Tailleville, but at the cost of numerous casualties, including Major Archie MacNaughton, commander of A Company. Today, the main intersection of the village of Tailleville (Intersections of routes D219 and D35) is called Place du Royal North Shore Regiment. 400 m north on route D219 is Place Alphonse Noel, which

commemorates the Acadian veteran and author of *Mes Souvenirs de la Guerre 1939-1945*. Alphonse Noel was wounded here on June 6 while taking action to protect others who had been wounded.

In 2019, during the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Tailleville, an additional memorial was installed at Place Alphonse Noel to commemorate the North Shore (NB) Regiment soldiers who died here on June 6, 1944. The inscription is written in Mi'kmaq, French, and English.

13) Beny-sur-Mer is the Canadian War Cemetery where most of the Canadian soldiers killed on D-Day are buried. It is located about 6 km southwest of Saint-Aubin on route D35 and about 1 km east of Reviers.



34. BÉNY-SUR-MER CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY NEAR REVIERS, CALVADOS, FRANCE, HOLDS THE GRAVES OF 2,048 SOLDIERS (PRIMARILY CANADIAN) KILLED DURING THE D-DAY LANDING AND IN OTHER EARLIER BATTLES IN NORMANDY.