



D-Day: Leadership.



"You have got to have something in which to believe. You have got to have leaders, organization, friendships, and contacts that help you to believe that, and help you to put out your best."

—Dwight D. Eisenhower from remarks to the Leaders of the United Defense Fund, 1954

Some of history's greatest military leaders helped lead to an Allied victory, and D-Day was certainly an important test of that leadership. Here are some facts about those fascinating Allied leaders.

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Allied Expeditionary Force Supreme Commander.

During World War II, Eisenhower was earned his fifth star as Supreme Commander of the Allies — one of only nine men to ever hold a 5-star rank. As the Allies Commander, Eisenhower was considered the most powerful military man in the world. Ironically, his Jehovah's Witness parents had been strict pacifists.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, 1st Baronet, Commander of the Royal Air Force Bomber Command. He believed that strategic bombing alone would defeat Germany. Unfortunately this strong conviction and his reluctance to allow his aircraft to be diverted from this

role, brought Harris into conflict with fellow Allied commanders, including Chief of the Air Staff and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. In Jan. 1946, he was ignored and omitted from the Victory honors list and resigned later that year.

Air Marshal Arthur Tedder, 1st Baron Tedder, Deputy Commander of Allied Forces.

A colleague Eisenhower respected considerably, Tedder was to "paralyze" the French railway on the eve of Overlord. He identified over 70 railroad targets in France and Belgium, directing traffic away from lower Normandy. Historians generally agree Tedder was key to Allied air forces success. By destroying bridges over the Seine and Loire rivers, they effectively isolated Normandy, imposing long detours and endless delays on the Germans.



Gen. Bernard Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein.

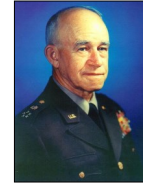
During the Normandy landings and for several months afterwards, Montgomery commanded all Allied troops in France. But in September 1944, Eisenhower took over, with Montgomery reverting to command of 21st Army Group, much to his chagrin. His arrogance was well known, and the



"Montgomery cocktail," a martini mixed at a ratio of 15:1, is a facetious reference to his alleged refusal to go into battle without at least that numeric advantage. Reportedly, severe internal injuries from WWI prohibited his own drinking and smoking.

Adm. Sir Bertram Home Ramsay, Allied Naval Expeditionary Force commander.

Ramsay was responsible for Operation "Neptune," which was primarily a Royal Navy effort — only 346 American of 2,468 major vessels involved on D-Day. Ramsay did not live to see victory in Europe. On Jan. 2, 1945, his aircraft crashed upon take-off, on his way to see General Montgomery, .



LTG Omar Bradley, Commander of US 1st Army.

General Bradley was the last of only nine people to hold five-star rank in the U.S. Armed Forces. In 1949, he was named first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. For D-Day, Bradley was chosen to command the US First Army, which alongside the British Second Army made up General Montgomery's 21st Army Group.

Lt. Gen. Miles Dempsey, Commander of UK 2nd Army.

In North Africa, Sicily and Italy, Dempsey gained a reputation for expertise in combined operations such that Gen. Montgomery selected him to lead the 2nd Army (the primary UK force, plus Canadians) in Jan. 1944.



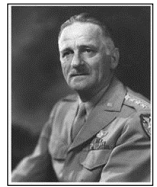
Air Marshal Trafford Leigh-Mallory, Commander-in-chief of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force.

Leigh-Mallory was the most senior British officer killed in World War II. For D-Day, he led the Allied aerial push to stop German troop movement. His success led to appointment as Air Commander-in-Chief of South East Asia Command. Unfortunately on his way there in November, he died when his plane crashed in the French Alps.



Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz, Commander of Strategic Air Forces in Europe.

Spaatz was under direct command of Gen. Eisenhower. Spaatz was noted for his Oil Plan which prioritized those targets. After the war, Eisenhower was reported as saying Spaatz and Gen. Bradley, were the two American general officers who contributed most to the victory in Europe.



Lt. Gen. Water Bedell Smith, Chief-of-Staff at Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

"Beetle," Smith began his military career as an enlisted soldier but ultimately became one of Eisenhower's most trusted strategic advisers.

