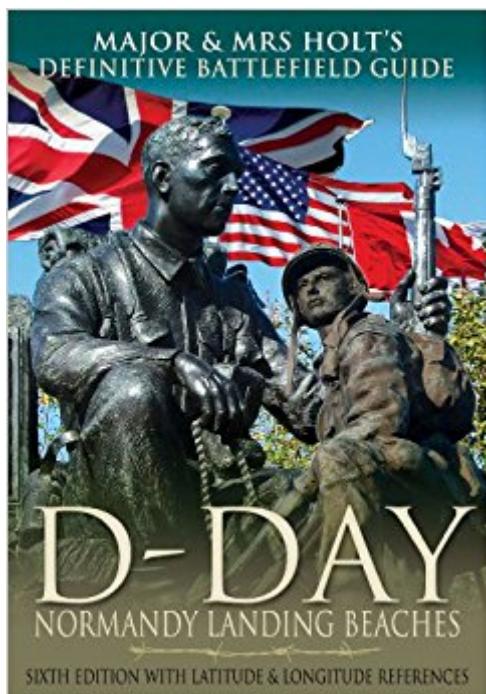


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# D-Day, Normandy Landing Beaches: Battlefield Guide (Major And Mrs Holt's Battlefield Guides)



## **Synopsis**

This book is a summary of Major and Mrs Holt's study of the Normandy Landing Beaches and Battlefields that has taken over 30 years of work in both conducting tours and writing five earlier editions of the work. This 'Definitive' work is so called because not only does it provide clear backgrounds and tours for each of the Landing Beaches and Airborne Zones but it locates over 500 memorials, cemeteries, bunkers etc and each one has a photograph and a GPS location. Major and Mrs Holt - Tonie and Valmai Holt - are credited with creating the modern battlefield tour in the 1970s when they were the only people conducting such tours. This book not only draws on the many personal accounts that they heard during their years of touring but also from the military training of Tonie (the 'Major') and Valmai the arts graduate. Because they write all their books together and do all of their own research the book is not only a Guide but also a Military History and a genuine story of human endeavour.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

We are often asked - 'Why do you write your guide books?' The answer is that we believe that it is important to record the past and the endeavours that shape our today. Probably the two most important events of recent history are the two world wars and the part that our countrymen and allies played in them. As we conducted our tours around the battlefields it became clear that there was no central record of the memorials that chronicle the struggles of those that fought for our freedoms. We therefore decided that we would begin to record those memorials and events and the

culmination of that effort over the last 30 years or so is our book on Normandy. We travelled every road (many times) went in every bunker and cemetery, visited every museum and in the course of our travels made many friends in Normandy. The book is held together by the personal stories of many veterans that we came to know over the years. It is their story. In view of the advances in modern technology we have included GPS locations for every stop that we suggest and have added a photo too. It took two years of work when we were unable to find time to write on anything except Normandy. Our first Normandy Guide was written over 20 years ago. This edition is the 6th. We hope that every reader will find something of value in our books but ultimately we believe that if we are to properly value the freedoms we have today we must know the price that has been paid for them.

Major and Mrs Holt founded the first organisation to offer battlefield tours to the general public in the late 1970s. Since the 1990s they have been writing their series of guide books, incorporating all that they have learned from their experiences conducting thousands of people around battlefields. This series, designed to serve as companions for travellers, whether sitting at home or physically visiting the battlefields, includes detailed travel directions, military history, fascinating anecdotes and tourist information. The Holts share the writing of their books equally and conduct all their own research, spending many weeks on the ground as they prepare each new book or update previously published titles.

I purchased the Kindle version of this marvelous guide prior to a 3 day trip to the Normandy battlefield area in and around Bayeux. I realized the map size on my screen was inadequate to grasp the extensive detail involved, and 3 days prior to departure from our home in Oregon I sent an email to the Holts inquiring where I could obtain a paper version of the map component in Bayeux. The response was amazing in this day and age of impersonal commerce. Mrs. Holt mailed the map I needed to our hotel in Bayeux without charge. As to substance, the guide has the historic and personal details rarely found in the narratives of this most important military event. Personal stories, recounting the smaller but crucial combat events, fill in the massive events of June 6, 1944. To be candid, reviewing the Holt's guide AFTER having seen the ground, and now having an appreciation of the physical extent of the front (being much larger than I had anticipated), I find significant value in the information that fills in or completes the picture of the combat plans and the events that actually evolved in the places visited. If you are going to the D-Day invasion area, and have a serious interest in the breadth of history you are taking in, get Major and Mrs. Holt's guide. One

further suggestion. Buy the paper version. You will want to go back and forth in the text and map pages to tie people, places and events together. I have just ordered the paper version to re-read and in anticipation of a return visit in the near future.

I bought this book in preparation for my trip to the Normandy beaches. The book is amazing. It gives information a practically every museum, battery, marker, etc. I really found useful the coordinates that I will use in my GPS as I will be driving the area. It is organized using suggested itineraries for six different areas of the invasion locations. While I have created my own routes, these suggested tour routes helped my in planning my three day visit. These suggested are so detailed that each of the six would require approximately 6-7 hours. This book is a great resource if you are planning a trip to the D Day invasion area.

I found this book when I was at the Portmouth, UK, war museum. I ordered the Kindle version since I was backpacking around Europe and didn't want to carry all that paper. The book is thick and heavy. It is a pretty conclusive work and has some new material that I had not seen before, but much of it can be found in other publications as well. If you've never read about D-Day, it is a good book to start with. There are plenty of personal stories and it is a good overview of the hell that was D-Day.

Excellent book for seeing WWII memorials for D-Day Normandy.

We were there several years ago and felt we missed much. I have previously used the Holt guides to a number of the WWI sites and found them to be superior to any guide books to European battlefields. My plan is to incorporate this into my next trip. In looking at this volume, the descriptions are 'spot on.'

I ordered this book for my husband after our trip to Normandy. This book was on of several available at our B&B in Isigny-Sur-Mer and we used it while touring the area. This is a very good book and we hope to use it when we go back in a few years.

Made me realize that I needed to add another day to my proposed Normandy trip, and not in a bad way. The Holts' thorough guidebook is an exceptional planning aid. I can't say enough about these guidebooks!!!

Great book all kinds of info and suggestions worth aread

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