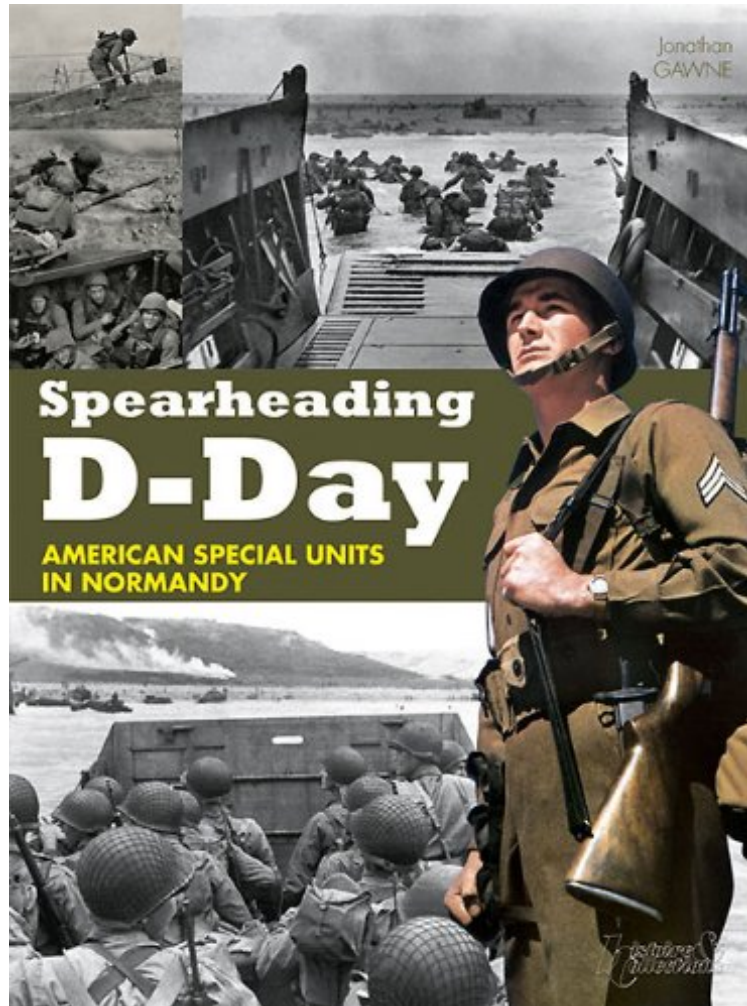


Spearheading D-Day: American Special Units in Normandy

Jonathan Gawne

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Jonathan Gawne : Spearheading D-Day: American Special Units in Normandy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spearheading D-Day: American Special Units in Normandy:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Most Authoritative D-Day Book By K. DAVEY My father was a D-Day medical officer with the 6th Naval Beach Battalion on Normandy D-Day 6 June 1944. Historians who write definitive books about Americans at D-Day and fail to mention the Army/Navy gap assault teams, LCI sailors, Army Engineer Special Brigades and attached Naval Beach Battalions, have left out the "backbone" of the Normandy invasion. Jonathan Gawne's Spearheading D-Day: American Special Units in Normandy set the record straight in 1998. Military authors should not feel bad if their books were published before Spearheading D-Day. Up to 1992, when Gawne first wrote about the "forgotten sailors of the invasion beaches," most naval historians were unaware that

their own were some of the first ashore on D-Day. Spearheading D-Day, covering American forces in France, is simply the best invasion book published since Cornelius Ryan's *The Longest Day*. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Good book! I Think anyone interested in D-Day would ...By nopennameVery Good book! I Think anyone interested in D-Day would like this book.the only complaint I have is the text print seemed kind of small.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. First class informationBy William StrangVery impressed with the quality and detail of the book this far

The invasion of Normandy is undoubtedly one of the most celebrated military events of the 20th century. However, many of the smaller units that played important roles have been forgotten or ignored, with the result that many unconfirmed or erroneous myths about the American landings have been repeated in popular books. In "Spearheading D-Day," military historian Jonathan Gawne examines the US landings at Omaha and Utah with an eye to what other writers have ignored. Utilizing the original military records and extensive veteran interviews, this book covers such diverse topics as how the invasion tactics were developed, the organization of the units involved, as well as the uniforms and equipment of the assault troops. For the first time, both Navy officers directly involved with the first waves at Utah Beach speak out on what actually caused the misdirection of the Utah landings. The harrowing experiences of the advance demolition teams on Omaha are described, as well as the daunting tasks of US engineers, frogmen, pathfinders and Rangers. Heavily illustrated, the emphasis of "Spearheading D-Day" has been placed on little-known photos, including a selection of rarely seen color stills taken from Coast Guard movies of the Normandy invasion.

"...focuses on the small units usually forgotten...tells for the first time the full story of these units...well supported by uniform reconstructions and well produced color and black and white photographs (including color stills rarely seen from US Coast Guard movies of the D Day Landing). (Military Modelcraft International)For even the most self-assured D-Day savant, it is impossible to read this book and not learn something new, such as the composition of the engineering teams who dealt with obstacles and mines on the beaches. Gawne's research is deep and air-tight, and his grasp of military organizations, uniforms, equipment and weapons borders on the unbelievable. "It is easy to list items carried and uniforms worn, but no writing can capture the shaking voice a man has when he talks of the sea running red with the blood of his friends," Gawne writes poignantly. (John McManus, Wall Street Journal)The text is informative and put together with such passion I am in no position to make any negative criticism. ... this book is an absolute essential. Must have. Go get. (War History)About the AuthorJon Gawne is considered one of the leading experts on the history of American Army uniforms and equipment in both world wars. His numerous articles for *Militaria Magazine* have covered everything from the shortage of winter clothing during the Battle of the Bulge to the history of dog tags. His writings have been translated into many languages, including French, Italian and Czech, and are equally popular in both Europe and the US. He has been a technical consultant for films and museums. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife and a small spoiled dog, in a house overrun with books, documents and military memorabilia.