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*Stagg -
Thanks - & Thank
the gods of war we
went when we die!
DZ*

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-3 (Ops) Division

SHAEF/Met

21 June 1944

SUBJECT: Weather Conditions in the Normandy Beachhead Area
from 17th to 21st June 1944.

(Dwight Eisenhower)

TO : AC of S, G-3 Division.

1. In view of the fact that postponement of the "NEPTUNE" assault for about a fortnight would have brought the next possible D-day into the period 17th to 21st June, it is thought that the following brief statement of the weather in the beachhead over that period may be of interest.

2. During the period midnight to afternoon on each of the days 17th and 18th, the sky was completely overcast with base about 2,000 feet. There were some temporary breaks in the afternoon each day.

Wind was mainly Northwest Force 4-5 on the 17th June but Force 6 or 7 at times in the main Channel-on the 18th, wind was north-easterly Force 4-5.

3. From the evening of the 18th the overcast cloud thickened and the height of its base was under 500 feet throughout the 19th till late in the evening of that day.

Winds were Northeasterly Force 5 but increased to Force 6 and 7 during the afternoon and evening of the 19th.

During the early hours of the 20th cloud broke substantially though the wind remained northeasterly Force 5 and 6.

4. After 0400 on the 20th, the sky again became overcast, base 1000 feet and this persisted until the afternoon when cloud again broke temporarily only to reform an overcast sky again with 1000 feet base by 1800 hours.

Wind throughout the 20th was ENE, Force 6 though Force 7 was reported at times.

Overcast conditions with cloud base between 500 feet and 1000 feet persisted throughout the night 20-21 and until the afternoon of 21st.

Wind continued strong (Force 5 and 6) from Northeast.

6. Summary.

(a) Throughout the period winds have been Northeasterly, mainly Force 5 or above; except for breaks in the afternoons and early evenings, overcast skies with cloud base 1000 feet or lower have been prevalent.

(b) Wind conditions were almost continuously prohibitive

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for beach landings; and, except for a short period after midnight on the 20th, cloud conditions were unsuitable for any visual bombing in the night hours.

Apart from the same brief period on the night of the 20th, there were no night periods with cloud conditions approaching those on the morning of the 6th June for airborne landings.

Aircraft spotting and reconnaissance would have been almost continuously prohibited.

J. M. [Signature]

Meteorological Office, SHAEF,
21 June 1944

Chief Meteorological Officer.

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