



D-DAY CONNEAUT

August 19-20, 2011

2011 Event Schedule

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Join us for D-Day Conneaut 2011!

Once again D-Day Ohio, Inc. will invade the Lake Erie shores of Conneaut, Ohio, and stage the largest D-Day (1944) living history reenactment in the country. Featuring hundreds of reenactors from across the US and Canada, spectators witness men, women, and their machines perform a living tribute to the veterans of WWII through dress, mock battles, and living history displays.

Come join us at this Admission FREE event and experience what many call the most realistic and educational D-Day reenactment to showcase the WWII era.

The event occurs within the beautifully kept grounds of Conneaut Township Park, in Conneaut, Ohio. Just off Interstate 90 (Exit 241), 5 miles west of the Pennsylvania border. Conneaut is just about half way between Cleveland Ohio and Erie Pennsylvania. There's plenty of free parking and shuttles and entry is free. *Donations of any size are always appreciated.

[Download
2011 Brochure](#)

Conneaut Township Park Preliminary Schedule of Events

Friday, August 19th - [Click the times below to show/hide event details](#)

9:00 AM

[9:00](#)

[Event: Allied Camp Flag Raising](#)

[Location: Parade Field - England](#)

Description: Join us for the raising of the Storm Flag, signifying the beginning of D-Day Conneaut 2011. Public is welcome, but please note that encampments do not open till 12:00 noon.

10:30 AM

[10:30-12:00](#)

[Event: Veteran and Reenactor Only 1-on-1](#)

[Location: Veterans' Reception Tent - England](#)

Description: New this year for all reenactors. Come join our honored guests and hear their personal stories of their service. Be a part of this unique question and answer session and get the opportunity to shake the hands of these heroic individuals. For more information on this event or if you are a Vet interested in participating, please contact [Eric Montgomery](#).

Note: This event is open only to Reenactors, Veterans, and their families please.

12:00 PM

12:00

[Event: D-Day Conneaut 2011 Opens](#)

[Location: Conneaut Township Park](#)

Description: Welcome one and all to this year's event. Be sure to pick up an up-to-date schedule of all our events as many things are new for 2011. Our PX-Store tent has unique D-Day items for sale. All sales support this fine event.

12:00

[Event: Raising Garrison Colors](#)

[Location: Parade Field - England](#)

Description: Come to the North end of the parade field and watch as the Garrison Colors are raised in ceremony.

1:00 PM

1:00 - 1:30

[Event: German Weapons Demo](#)

[Location: Occupied France](#)

Description: Stop by the German camp and see a live demonstration of some of the weapons used by the Germans in 1944.



2:00 PM

2:00 - 2:30

[Event: Airborne Tactical Training Demonstration](#)

[Location: Allied Camp, England](#)

Description: View light infantry attack tactics used by the Airborne infantry men when they dropped into France in the early morning hours of June 6, 1944.



3:00 PM

3:00 - 4:00

[Event: Assault Training Center for Allied Infantry](#)

[Location: Beach](#)

Description: Watch Allied soldiers rehearse assault training and tactical methods used to disembark from landing crafts on D-Day.



4:00 PM

4:00

[Event: Aerial Demonstration featuring the T-51 Mustang](#)

[Location: Beach](#)

Description: Aerial display of WWII aircraft acrobatics featuring the T-51; 3/4 scale replica of the famous P-51 Mustang produced by Titan Aircraft.



4:30

[Event: German Checkpoint Changing of the Guard](#)

[Location: Mid-park](#)

Description: German vehicles and Truppen pass in review.

4:55

[Event: Encampments Closed to the Public](#)

[Location: All Encampments](#)

Description: For security, all encampments are closed to the public during the Road to Victory Battle.

5:00 PM

5:00

Event: The Road to Victory Battle

Location: Mid-park - Between England and Occupied France

An airman, lost after jumping from his crippled plane, is pursued by German soldiers outside the town of Foucarville. Fortunately, the crash was witnessed by members of local French Resistance cells and a party has been sent to rescue the airman. Prior to the invasion of Normandy, French Resistance members rescued hundreds of downed Allied airmen. After a brisk fire fight, the airman and his rescuers escape into the nearby woods. The rescue and firefight occur at twilight on June 5, 1944.



The German soldiers take up their positions as sentinels outside Foucarville. Time passes and soon it is after 3 AM on June 6, 1944.

In the fields outside of the town, Allied airborne soldiers land and begin to seek out their fellow soldiers using children's' "crickets" . Soldiers of the 101st Airborne link up under the command of Captain Cleveland Fitzgerald and organize an attack on their objective, the town of Foucarville. This town is a major crossroad beyond Utah Beach and its capture is critical to the success of the landings. The subsequent action is the first engagement of the invasion of Normandy....

Through the night all over the northern coast of France, groups of Airborne soldiers link up and proceed upon their objectives—to cut off major intersections and hold cross roads leading from the beaches so that the landing troops could mobilize inland. Some soldiers don't locate their companies until next day as, during the drop, they are scattered across the drop zone and into adjacent areas. The Airborne portion of the campaign also spread confusion to mislead the German command. The widespread attack, and the use of paradummies (Ruperts) made the initial Allied attack from the air seemed larger and made the Germans think they were being attacked across a wide front. German Command had difficulty mobilizing successful counter attacks because of this mistaken understanding of the breath of the attack.



5:00 - 9:00

Event: American Legion Steak Fry

Location: Conneaut American Legion (272 Broad Street)

Description: Wonderful steak fry with "all the fixins" put on by our friends at the American Legion. Open to all reenactors, their families and the public! Reenactors and Living Historians: \$8.00 Public: \$10.00

7:00 PM

7:00

Event: Movie: Saving Private Ryan

Location: Conneaut American Legion (272 Broad Street)

Description: This year's American Legion movie will be "Saving Private Ryan" and is free for all attending the steak fry.

Saturday, August 20th

9:00 AM

9:00 - 9:15

[Event: Opening Ceremonies - Flag Raising](#)

[Location: Mid-park - England](#)

Description: Opening Ceremonies of D-Day Conneaut 2011- 1st formation of Allied Forces and the raising of the US flag.

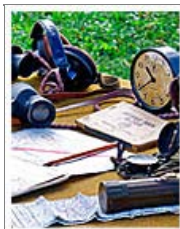


9:00 - 5:00

[Event: Encampment and Displays Open](#)

[Location: All Encampments](#)

Description: All encampments and displays are open to the public. Please visit the different encampments and exhibits. Our reenactors are eager to meet and talk with you..



9:00 - 4:30

[Event: D-Day Chinese Auction Opens](#)

[Location: Near Registration - Main Street USA](#)

Description: Get your tickets for this year's D-Day Chinese Auction. Proceeds to help us to continue to put on this wonderful tribute to our veterans. Auction drawing will take place at 4:30 PM

9:00 - 4:45

[Event: Victory Garden Info and Demonstration Opens](#)

[Location: Near Registration - Main Street USA](#)

Description: Brought to you by the Ashtabula Master Gardeners, the victory garden exhibit explains the WWII government program to encourage Americans to grow food locally. This program helped to increase food supplies and saved valuable fuel and transportation space that was needed by the war industry.

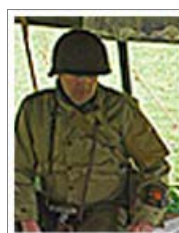


9:30 - 9:50

[Event: Allied Unit Commanders Beach Briefing](#)

[Location: 29th Allied HQ - England](#)

Description: Final review by Allied Commanders before the fateful launch of Operation Overlord - the invasion of the coast of Normandy France.

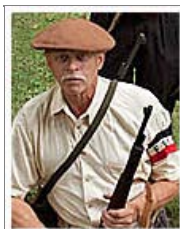


9:30 - 9:50

[Event: French Resistance Briefing](#)

[Location: French Camp - Occupied France](#)

Description: Final meeting by the French resistance prior to the arrival of the invasion forces. Resistance fighters review of diversionary tactics, sabotage, and methods to disrupt vital communication channels used by the Germans.



10:00 AM

10:00 - 4:30

[Event: D-Day in Miniature Opens](#)

[Location: Volleyball Sand Court - England](#)

Description: Children 13 and under (accompanied by parent) come together and recreate and reenact the battle for Omaha beach. While this takes place, vets, parents and reenactors are there to guide the children and answer question. It is a wonderful learning experience. Visiting the sand box (volleyball sandpit) behind the Beach Battalion Bunker.



See pictures of last year's event and more information [here](#).

10:00 - 10:20

[Event: Allied Sand Table Briefing](#)

[Location: Briefing Tent \(Marked with Bradley's Flag\) - England](#)

Description: Prior to the invasion of the beaches of Normandy, extensive reconnaissance was done of the terrain. Detailed "sand table" miniature models (sand tables) were produced with as much detail as possible for the troops. Men were encouraged to study these maps in earnest so that they could easily get and keep their bearing once on shore without having to pull out a map in the heat of the battle.



10:00 - 10:30

[Event: Tour of the Atlantic Wall Fortifications](#)

[Location: Bluffs Overlooking Beach](#)

Description: Late in 1943, in response to the build up of Allied troops in Great Brittan, Hitler issued Directive 51 which called for the strengthening of the defenses on the "Atlantic Wall". Come take a tour of our section of the wall and inspect the German fortifications.



10:00 - 10:45

[Event: Veteran Personal Histories](#)

[Location: Veterans' Reception Tent - England](#)

Description: New this year. Come listen as WWII veterans recount their experiences and stories of war.



10:30 - 10:40

[Event: Dressed to Kill - Invasion Clothing and Equipment](#)

[Location: 29th Division - England](#)

Description: Before departing England for the invasion, troops were issued a new uniform and weapon. Come learn about what was so special about these uniforms and the equipment they carried into battle.



11:00 - 11:45

Event: Valley and La Fier Bridge Battle

Location: Valley Floor - Occupied France

Description: Join us for our 3rd annual "Bridge Battle", featuring French Resistance, Allied Airborne, and Axis soldiers.

The Battle for La Fiere Stone Bridge

Early on June 6, 1944, members of the French Resistance in Normandy are carrying out plans to disrupt German communications and movement prior to the Allied invasion. A team of Resistance fighters are busy cutting communication wires near a German outpost Cauquigny, a small inland village linked to St. Mere Eglise by the La Fiere Bridge and causeway. At the same time, a team of Resistance members are desperately searching for the aircrew of a downed C-47 that had dropped Airborne troops earlier that morning.

A member of the crew emerges from the woods and begins to make his way up a creek bed, trying to stay out of sight of German sentinels guarding the causeway leading between Cauquigny and St. Mere Eglise. As the French Resistance spots him, the German guards also notice the airman and begin to fire upon him. French partisans return fire from the woods and provide the airman covering fire to escape from the Germans.

The Germans, having lost their quarry, reinforce their position on the causeway. Fragmented and confused reports throughout the night and early morning indicate the region is under a broad attack. The guards and reinforcements are nervous but confident they can hold their position.

Soon, a party of Allied Airborne soldiers approach under the cover of the predawn and make their way toward the causeway and bridge. Their objective is to take the bridge and advance up the causeway to link up with General Gavin's force after it has crossed the Mederet. The small company of Airborne attack the 50-man garrison at the bridge. Although the Airborne company forces the Germans off the bridge, it doesn't have sufficient numbers to advance up the causeway and anxiously awaits reinforcements so that it can accomplish its objective....

Please plan on arriving a few minutes early to get a good viewing spot. Note: To ensure the safety of spectators and participants access to certain viewing areas will be limited once the show begins.

12:00 - Noon

12:00 - 1:00

Event: Veteran Personal Histories

Location: Veterans' Reception Tent - England

Description: New for 2011, WWII veterans recount their experiences and personal stories of their wartime service.



12:00 - 12:20

Event: 5th Ranger Battalion on D-Day

Location: Briefing Tent (Marked with Bradley's Flag) - England

Description: Reenactors describe the equipment, training, and objectives of the 5th Rangers and their role when the Battalion came ashore on D-Day.

12:30 - 1:00

Event: Commonwealth Briefing

Location: Briefing Tent (Marked with Bradley's Flag) - England

Description: The roles of the Commonwealth troops on D-Day are discussed by reenactors portraying Commonwealth soldiers.

1:00 PM

1:00 - 1:30

Event: Boat Assault Team Demo - 29th DIV

Location: Parade Ground England Static Landing Craft

Description: Everything, including the way the landing crafts were loaded, had an order and purpose. This demonstration covers how the landing crafts were loaded, specifically, the teams of men that went aboard and the equipment they carried into battle.

1:30 - 2:00

Event: Axis Weapons Demonstration

Location: Axis Camp (Occupied France)

Description: German commander Rommel believed that the only way to beat the Allies was to contain the pending invasion to the beaches. If the Germans let them off the beaches all would be lost. This demonstration covers the weapons used by the Germans in their defense of the coast and throughout the war.

2:00 PM

2:00

Event: Allied Troup Embarkation Formation for Beach Landing

Location: Parade Ground - England

Description: Allied troops form up for loading into the transports. Once assembled, Allied troops will perform a "Pass in Review" for our veterans on their way to the embarkation zone.

2:30

Event: Beach Landing Narration Begins

Location: Bluff Overlooking Beach

Description: A historical narrated account of the preparations for the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944 and description of what will take place during the recreated landings.

3:00 PM

3:00 - 4:00

Event: Seaborne Beach Landing Begins

Location: Bluff and Beach

Description: Join us once again for the recreated battle for the beaches of Normandy. Watch as hundreds of Allied Troops land to attack the German fortifications of the "Atlantic Wall". Allied soldiers supported by United States Army Air Force Fighters, fight their way through explosions, barb-wire, mine fields and machine gun fire on their quest to take the German fortifications.

4:00 PM

4:30

Event: Press Briefing

Location: 29th Division - England

Description: A postmortem with Allied commanders once the beachhead has been secured by the invasion force.

4:40

Event: D-Day in Miniature Close

Location: Volleyball Sand Court - England

Description: All good things must come to an end. The D-Day in miniature display will come to a closes at 4:40 PM.

5:00 PM

5:00

Event: Encampments and Displays Close

Location: Volleyball Sand Court - England

Description: All good things must come to an end. All D-Day encampments and displays will close to the public at 5:00 PM.



8:00 PM

8:00 - 12:00

Event: USO-Style Dance

Location: Conneaut American Legion (272 Broad Street)

Description: Started in 1941, with a challenge by President Roosevelt for US Service Organizations including the Salvation Army, YMCA, YWCA, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board to provide a means of emotional support for troops at home and abroad. USO shows typically included comedians, actress and actors and numerous famous musicians of the day.

Come join us in our final event of D-Day Conneaut 2011-- our USO Salute and dance complete with a fabulous live "Big Band". You'll never know who you'll see. Open to the public. 1940s dress is encouraged. Reenactors are free and there is a small \$5.00 admission fee

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[Webmaster](#)