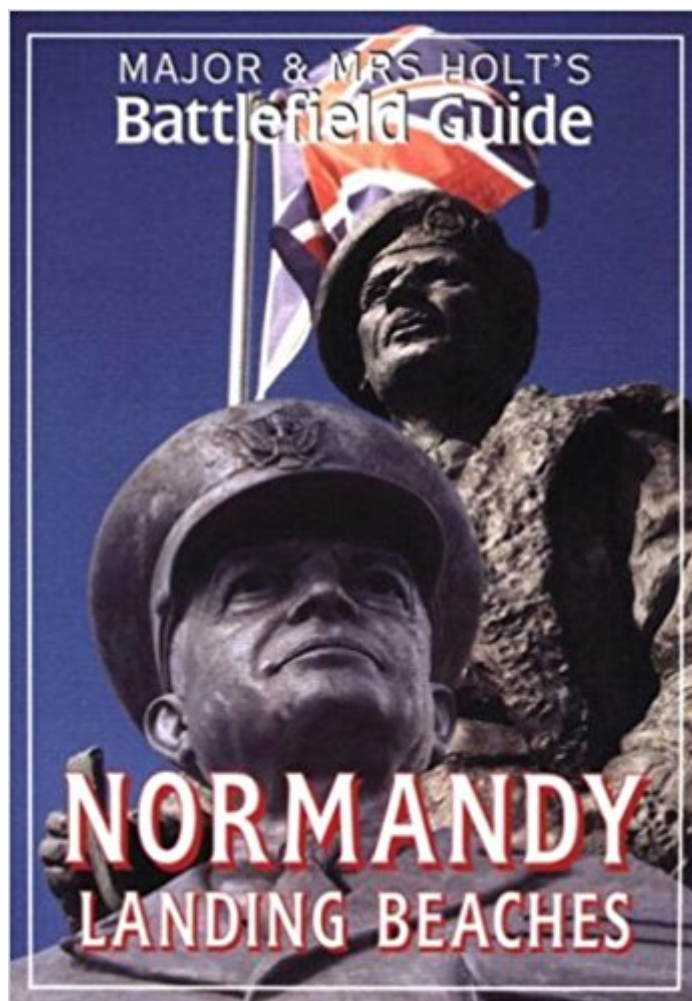


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# Battlefield Guide To The Normandy D-Day Landing Beaches



## Synopsis

Potential visitors and those interested in the finer details of the Normandy campaign will never find a more exhaustive guide than this one to all five D-Day landing beaches, the airborne drop zones, and surviving fortifications, as well as all cemeteries, memorials, museums, local accommodations, and other points of interest. Interest in the D-Day landings has never been greater on both sides of the Atlantic. No one knows the Normandy Campaign and countryside as it stands today better than Major and Mrs Holt, the pioneers of battlefield touring.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

We have been visiting Normandy for over 30 years. One of us went on a Battlefield Tour there when he was at the Army Staff College and met many of the dramatis personae who took part in the events of 1944/45. The aim of this book and all of the others that we write is to commemorate the men who played such a vital role in the development of our nations as we know them today. We do not set out to be partisan though we do offer concise historical comments about the conduct of policies and battles. Wherever possible we write about things from the viewpoint of the ordinary soldier who is so often ignored in conventional histories, and quote from the memories of many of the veteran friends that we have made over the years. Being husband and wife, our books are not all bangs and bullets but woven into the narratives are poems and music, observations about life on the Home Front and much attention to the monuments and memorials that have been erected to acknowledge the debts of the living to those who lost their lives. Please read this book before you go and then take it with you if you are travelling to Normandy in person rather than in the mind. There is

nothing more irritating than to come across this book when you get back only to discover how much you missed.

The authors are generally accepted as having kick-started the modern interest in visiting the battlefields of the First and Second World Wars when they began their company 'Major and Mrs Holt's Battlefield Tours' in the 1970s. At that time they were the only company offering such tours. Over the next 30 years their company conducted thousands of people around battlefields in places as far apart as South Africa, Viet Nam and the Falkland Islands. In the 1990s they sold the company to concentrate upon writing guide books to the most visited battlefields of the First and Second World Wars - Normandy, Ypres and Passchendaele, the Somme, Arnhem and Æ Æ Gallipoli. In these books they distill the knowledge gained from detailed and continuing research, what they learned from those who travelled on their tours and the practicalities of travelling from A to B, to offer the reader unparalleled guidance to the battlefields. They do not employ researchers - they go themselves to the places they write about and the books are updated regularly. Indeed many of the tour guides who use these books themselves refer to them as 'the bibles'.

The book is well written. I'm disappointed that I can not find a copy of the Major and Mrs. Holt's Battle Map of the Normandy Landing Beaches which is referred to frequently when you read the itineraries. It appears that the more recent edition of this book comes with the map, but when I ordered the book there wasn't any mention that this was an earlier edition. I would appreciate it if could supply me with a copy of the map.

I picked up this book in the gift shop at the Imperial War Museum. I'd been to Normandy once before, but was planning another trip and wanted something more definitive. This book covers just about every nook and cranny of Operation Overlord, from Pegasus Bridge to Utah Beach (and, in some cases, beyond). Like other reviewers have noted, it does not punch up the highlights. But, I'd ask any pilgrim to Normandy, "Tell me, what ground is less hallowed?" This is an excellent, comprehensive guide to one of the most important, and accessible, battles of WW2. We Yanks, while standing in overwhelming grief above the cliffs at Omaha Beach, should NEVER discount what our Allies accomplished to the north. And, while in Normandy, should take time to pay our respects to the battlefields and final resting places of those gallant friends. MAJ and Mrs Holt ably guide us there. Just a note. Unbeknownst to me at the point of purchase, my book was missing the map. If you have the Michelin Atlas to France (the large, yellow one), the book, and a half-way

decent sense of direction you'll do fine. Oh, and the Normans are fantastic!

This book is loaded with color pictures and black & white photos. It covers more monuments than you could possibly see in a visit, so it is great after you've been to Normandy. It would also be handy as you explore because it gives background on various sites, as well as eyewitness accounts. This is a superb guidebook. It would be nice to have a general knowledge before reading the book, but the authors have also included a good brief history of Operation Overlord. This is not a detailed account of D-Day. Maps, photos, eyewitness accounts, limited orders of battle, troop positions, and info on war graves commissions are given. Emphasis is on the Allied Powers, although there is some info on the Nazis. This is a good armchair tour and indispensable guide for your car if visiting.

As other reviewers have noted, this book is from a British perspective, but covers the American and Canadian beaches in exhaustive detail. The suggested routes are excellent and everything a visitor could possibly want to see is covered. Brief descriptions of the planning and course of the invasion and battles provide an overview. My only quibble is the map, while showing every site in detail is more for planning and not actual navigation. When travelling, I used the Michelin map and the guidebook with great success. Major and Mrs. Holt produce an excellent series of guidebooks aimed at the person with detailed interest - their books are not for the casual traveller due to the level of detail.

A most excellent book. This is my second copy, I am sending to a friend. It will make a world of difference on his Normandy tour, this summer. Professional reenactors/historians had recommended this book to me.

This book was an invaluable guide for a self-drive two-day tour of Normandy sites that my wife and I undertook in May 2007. We only scratched the surface of the many different sites that are described in the book, but the reviews/overviews for each location were incredibly helpful in choosing our path, and the map was also quite useful (much better than other reviewers had indicated). Highly recommended!

I am going to Normandy this spring and I bought this guide to show me where to see the battlefields, monuments, museums, etc. I expect I will get good use from it. Not only it's a guidebook, it's also a lesson in history just to read all the personal accounts and little known stories. Thanks to the authors

for writing it!

Essential history tourist guide.

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