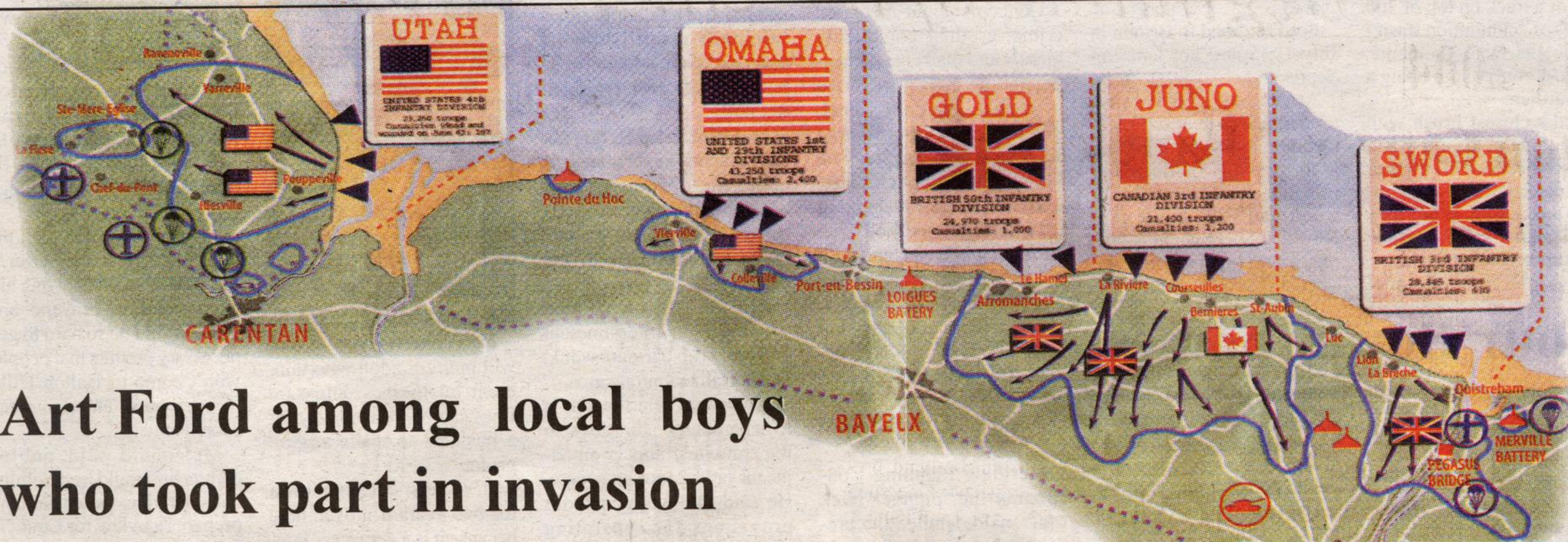


# the Allies landed in Normandy

25,000 Canadians were in the forefront of invasions



## Art Ford among local boys who took part in invasion

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY  
The New Tanner

Crescent Street resident Art Ford drove the first ammunition truck onto the beach at Courseulles for his regiment when they landed in France on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

"It was just breaking day when I drove onto the beach," Ford recalls. "The guns had just landed and the infantry behind them. We left our 2 IG (second in command) for the regiment on the beach. We went about five miles that first day."

An Acton resident from a very early age, Ford enlisted in the 12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, 43<sup>rd</sup> Battery in Guelph the day he turned 18. Norm Price joined the same day.

Since Ford already had considerable training with

the Lorne Scots before enlisting for active duty he was put in charge of the machine guns when he joined the artillery.

The regiment went to a camp at Sussex, New Brunswick when they finished training locally. Ford was part of the advance guard for that move. They arrived November 5 and were billeted in tents.

"We forgot how to shave in a hurry," he says. "The water froze up in the basin so you just didn't bother."

That was the camp where they encountered the Chaudieres from Quebec.

Ford says they were such brawlers and ramboulers the store windows were barred and everyone in town was afraid of them. When a group returned from leave, the

camp commander sent a company of soldiers with loaded rifles to escort them back to camp. That way they all stayed out of trouble and they didn't tangle with the 12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment.

In July 1941 they crossed the Atlantic on the Duchess of York, or the Drunken Duchess as she was known because of her tendency to roll from side to side—even in calm seas.

They were sent to Eastbourne, near London, when they first arrived and wound up on coastal duty for most of their stay.

It was while he was in England that Ford asked for and received his transfer to driving an ammunition truck. He wanted the switch because it was less responsibility.

*continued on page 12*

'Toronto's Queens Own Rifles received the worst battering of any Canadian unit on D-Day. The initial bombardments on their sector of Juno Beach had barely dented the enemy's fortification.

Only a few tanks made it to shore because of high waves. The men made a dash from shoreline to a seawall 183 metres away with no cover. It was a blood bath. Only a handful survived."



*Their sacrifice on the beaches of Normandy will never be forgotten.*

Ted Chuleigh  
MPP North Halton



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### D-DAY 1944

'The Royal Canadian Navy provided 109 ships and 10,000 sailors as its contribution to the massive armada of 7,000 Allied vessels which put to sea on

D-Day. Battling choppy waters and drenching rains they kept the enemy fleet bottled up in its ports...'

*We salute those who went down to the sea in ships so we could enjoy the freedoms we have today.*



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## The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 197 Acton

### D-Day June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1944

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

## "We Will Remember Them"



The Branch will be open on Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> 12-6pm.  
Complimentary refreshments will be available to WW11 veterans.