

D-DAY TIMELINE: THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF WW2

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT – On the beaches

[Voice of Jonathan Dimbleby]

By mid-afternoon, the D-Day beaches are crowded with troops, first-aid posts, wrecked vehicles and landing crafts.

Bulldozers are clearing pathways, while engineers remove German obstacles and clear mines. Small landing craft bring more men ashore and then, if they survive undamaged, shuttle back to the bigger ships to reload and make the journey to the beach again.

Bigger landing craft unload the vehicles. Among the first of these ashore were the Funnies – converted tanks designed to break through the more formidable obstacles and defences.

The Allies now have a toe-hold on Hitler's fortress Europe, although the German leader apparently still believes that they'll be driven back into the sea by nightfall.

Instead, the Allies are beginning to march inland, supported by tanks and heavy guns.

Overwhelming force, innovative equipment, complete air superiority and the gallantry of thousands of men, are winning the day.

IMAGES COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES