

Fighting Obstacles Activity Sheet

Trying to Keep Up! Setting the Detonations Before the Tides Took Over

How did the tides affect the Allies at Omaha Beach on the morning of D-Day?

FACTS: Approximately 300 - 400 feet of beach existed between low tide and high tide. There were between 5 and 10 yards of the sea wall to reach sand dunes. At the sand dunes, there were 200 yards of beach shelf to climb. At that point, there were 100 - 170 feet to the top of the cliffs to come off the beach.

• Low tide was at 5:23 am and high tide occurred at 10:12 am. On average, during that time, the range of the tide was 18 feet. How many inches per minute did the water rise?

The first infantry to reach the coast arrived at 6:30 am. The Naval Combat Demolition Unit (NCDU), had little time to blow up the obstacles the Germans had set up to slow the advance and kill the Allies.

• The first infantry to reach the coast arrived at 6:30 am. By 7:00 am, the water had already risen 2.4 feet. How many inches per second did the water rise during that time?

• There were 16 main obstacles to eliminate, but the NCDU was only able to take out 31.25 percent of them. How many obstacles remained?

More Information at: <https://skyandtelescope.org/astronomy-news/astronomy-d-day-sun-moon-tides/>