

# NORMANDY LANDINGS

## D-DAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1944

### 07.25, SWORD BEACH, NORMANDY



Lord Lovat

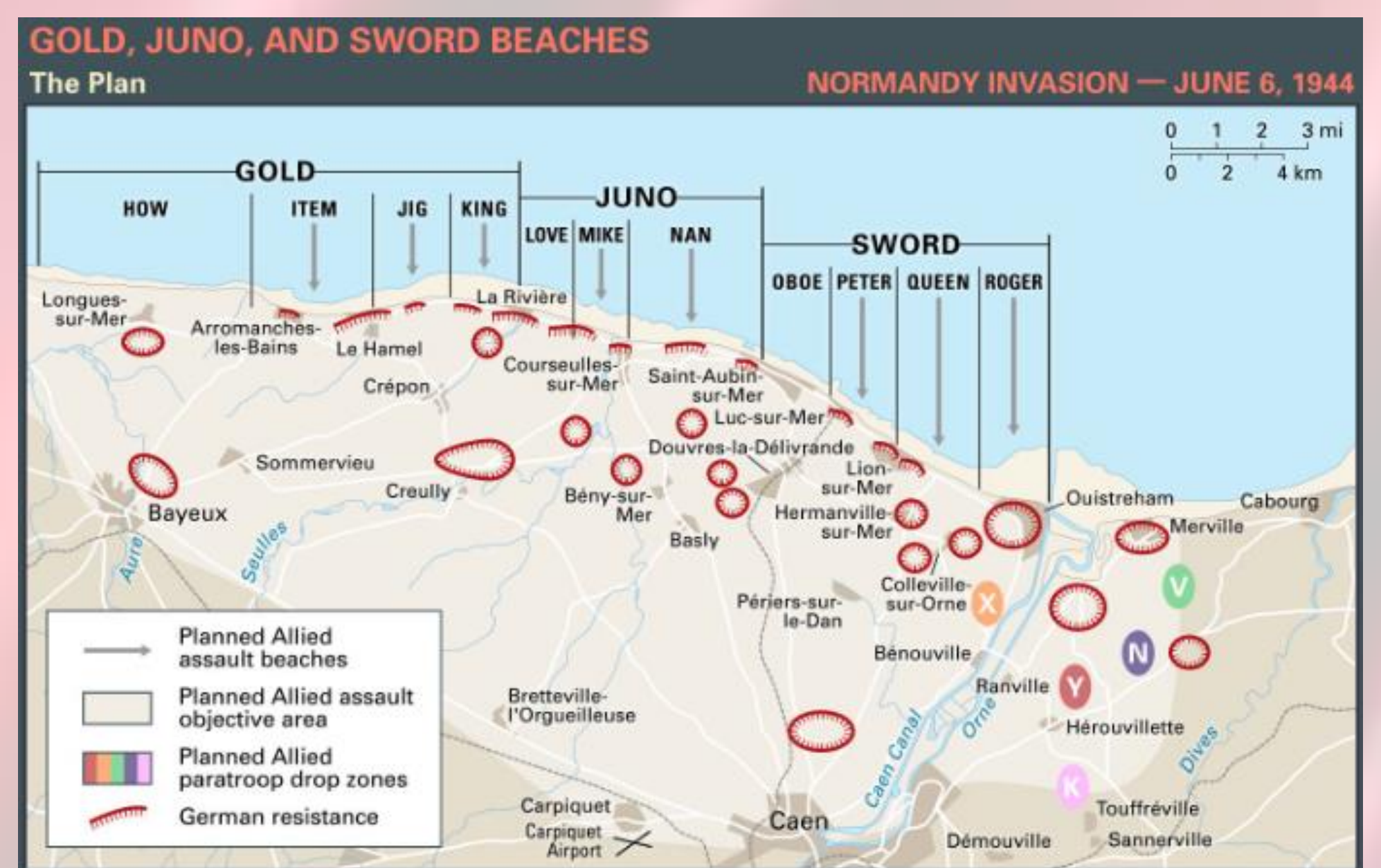
Brigadier Simon Christopher Joseph Fraser, 15th Lord Lovat, was a prominent British Commando during the Second World War. On D-Day, he led the Special Service Brigade at Sword Beach accompanied by his Piper Bill Millin.



Piper Bill Millin

At the start of their journey to Normandy, Lord Lovat told Piper Bill Millin to pipe them out of The Solent. The main tune he played was 'The Road to the Isles'. He was standing in the bowsprit, and the music was on a loudhailer. In the Solent just off the Isle of Wight were thousands of transports with troops aboard and when they heard the Pipes they threw their hats in the air and cheered.

*Queen Red Beach, Sword Area. Lord Lovat, on the right of the column, wades through the water. The figure in the foreground is Piper Bill Millin.*

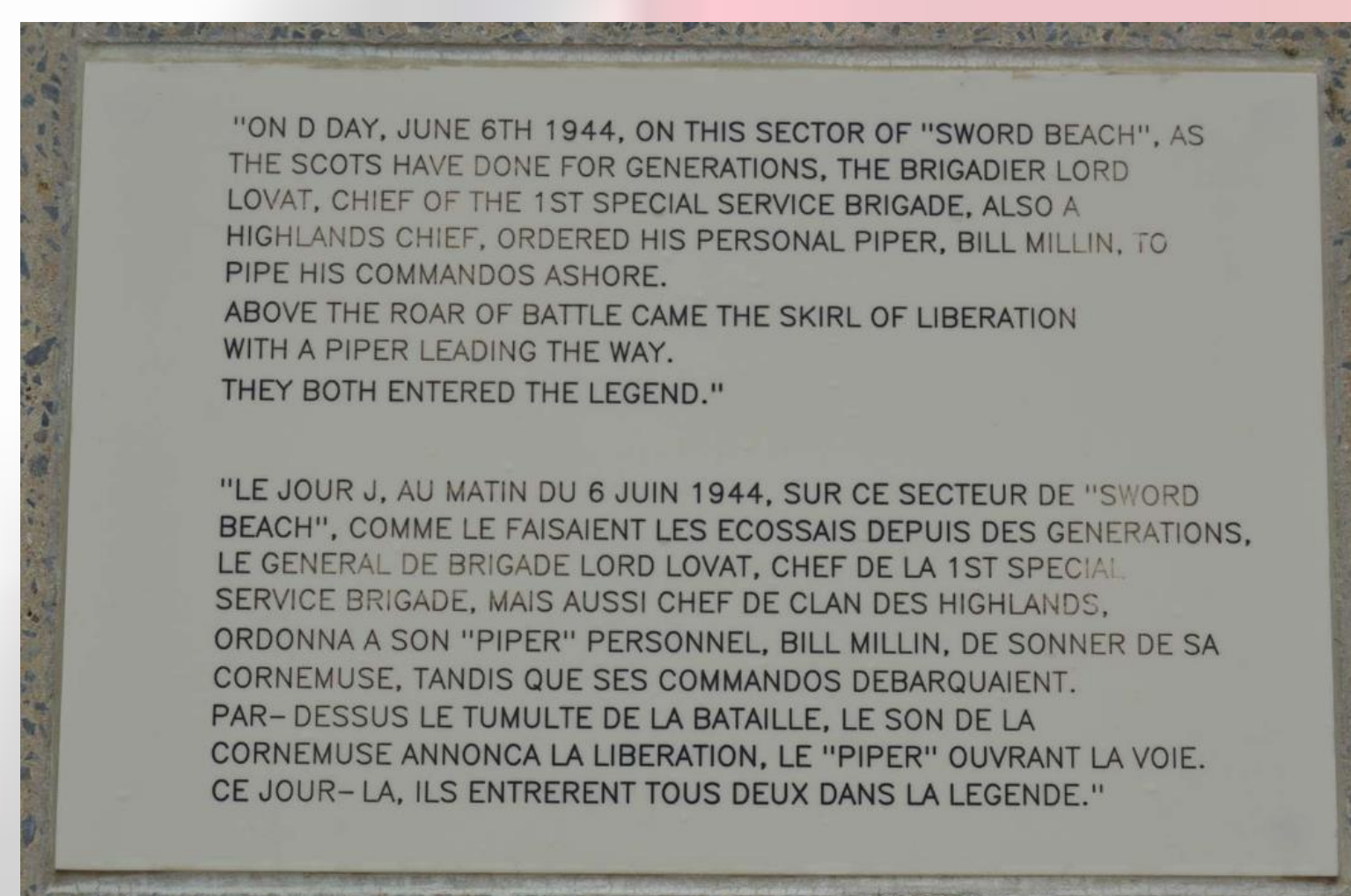


At the break of dawn, around 07:25, the great invasion began. Among the early waves, Lord Lovat's craft crashed upon the shore, accompanied by the haunting melody of Bill Millin's bagpipes. The piper led the brigade ashore in Queen Red Sector. Despite being unarmed, he marched up and down the shore at Sword Beach in his kilt piping 'Highland Laddie'.

The actions of Piper Bill Millin are depicted in the film *The Longest Day*.



As they moved inland Bill Millin piped them forward as they secured Pegasus Bridge. His bagpipes, which were silenced four days later by a piece of shrapnel, were handed over to the National War Museum of Scotland in 2001, along with his kilt, commando beret and knife.



The statue of Piper Bill Mullin with Sword Beach in the background