



A group of Rangers inside an LCA in port before heading out to the landing ships on June 4. Most of the photos of the LCA in Weymouth and Portsmouth harbors show Force C, as the rocket-grapnel launchers on the Force A LCA were considered secret. (NARA)

pounding the strongpoint with its 14in guns, firing some 250 rounds. One of the spotter planes from *Texas* orbited over Pointe-du-Hoc to call in artillery corrections. One of the most evident effects of its bombardment was to knock down a large chunk of the cliff immediately below the eastern Flak bunker; this would figure in subsequent developments. Also, the bombardment largely ended the threat of the roller-mines that had been hung along the cliff, as most were dislodged. The destroyer USS *Satterlee* attacked known pillboxes on the western side of Pointe-du-Hoc while HMS *Talybont* attacked the *Stützpunkt Le Guay* radar station and the defensive positions to the east of Pointe-du-Hoc. USS Thompson was assigned to bombard WN 74 at the tip of Pointe-et-Raz-de-Percée. The naval bombardment lifted at H-5, 0625hrs in anticipation of the arrival of the Rangers at H-Hour. In the wake of this bombardment, the final but delayed air attack of Operation *Flashlamp* took place after 0630hrs, when nine B-26 bombers of the 391st BG arrived overhead and dropped another 16 tons of bombs on the strongpoint. The attacking RAF bombers did not escape unscathed. In the early morning hours of D-Day, *I./Schnellkampfgeschwader 10*, a ground-attack “fast bomber wing” with Fw-190 fighter-bombers, was alerted to intercept Allied transports that were dropping paratroopers near Carentan. The 3.Staffel (a *Staffel* was equivalent to an Allied squadron) led by Hauptmann Eberspächer finally got airborne from Evreux airfield two hours late with four fighters, and was instructed to head for the coast and report on the situation. In the dim early morning light, the four fighters encountered



**GERMAN FORCES**

2./HKAR.1260 (2nd Battalion, Army Coastal Artillery Regiment 1260)

- 1 Gun pit 1
- 2 Gun pit 2
- 3 Gun pit 3
- 4 Gun pit 4
- 5 Gun pit 5
- 6 Gun pit 6
- 7 H679 Casemate 2 (foundation)
- 8 H679 Casemate 3 (foundation)
- 9 H679 Casemate 4
- 10 H679 Casemate 5
- 11 H636A Observation bunker
- 12 East L409A flak bunker
- 13 West L409A flak bunker
- 14 H 134 ammunition bunkers
- 15 Ammunition storage shed
- 16 Small ammunition bunker
- 17 H 661 Double-group personnel bunker (20-men)
- 18 H 662 Double-group personnel bunker (20 men)
- 19 H 502 SK Double-group personnel bunker (20 NCO)
- 20 H 621 Group personnel bunker (10 men)
- 21 Group personnel bunker (10 men)
- 22 Group personnel bunker (10 men)
- 23 Tobruk gun pit
- 24 Troops barracks
- 25 Open communication trench
- 26 Covered communication trench
- 27 Guard tower
- 28 Mine field MF.24
- 29 Barbed wire fence
- 30 Former Guelinel farm
- 31 Post entrance
- 32 Machine gun positions