

# HIGHWAY SHELLHOLE

## NEWSLETTER



### Highway News/ Events

Highway Shellhole Monthly Meeting- 6 June

Comrades-14 June

Springboks vs Barbarians- 20 June

Scottish Gathering- 27 June

### Fathers' Day in Military History

Father's Day was fundamentally inspired by the military. The holiday was conceived in 1909 by Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, who wanted to honor her father, William Jackson Smart. He was a widowed American Civil War veteran who single-handedly raised Sonora and her five siblings after his wife died in childbirth. Military involvement and recognition have shaped the holiday's history and observance worldwide.

#### Symbolic Military Imagery

- "Wait for Me, Daddy": On October 1, 1940, photographer Claude Detloff captured an iconic World War II photo in New Westminster, British Columbia. It showed a young boy breaking ranks to reach out to his marching soldier father, Private Jack Bernard. The image became one of the most famous wartime photographs and a universal symbol of the sacrifices military fathers and their families make during deployment.





## **6 June 1944: D- Day**

The Normandy landings were the landing operations and associated airborne operations on 6 June 1944 of the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during the Second World War. Codenamed Operation Neptune and often referred to as D-Day (after the military term), it is the largest seaborne invasion in history. The operation began the liberation of France and the rest of Western Europe, and laid the foundations for the Allied victory on the Western Front.

Planning for the operation began in 1943. In the months leading up to the invasion, the Allies conducted a substantial military deception, codenamed Operation Bodyguard, to mislead the Germans as to the date and location of the main Allied landings. The weather on the day selected for D-Day was not ideal, and the operation had to be delayed 24 hours; a further postponement would have meant a delay of at least two weeks, as the planners had requirements for the phase of the moon, the tides, and time of day, that meant only a few days each month were deemed suitable. German leader Adolf Hitler placed Field Marshal Erwin Rommel in command of German forces and developing fortifications along the Atlantic Wall in anticipation of an invasion. US president Franklin D. Roosevelt placed Major General Dwight D. Eisenhower in command of Allied forces.

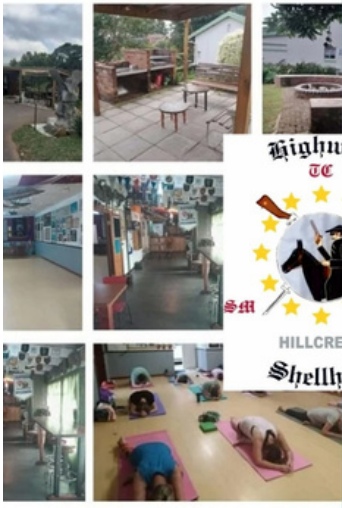
The invasion began shortly after midnight on the morning of 6 June with extensive aerial and naval bombardment as well as an airborne assault—the landing of 24,000 American, British, and Canadian airborne troops. The early morning aerial assault was soon followed by Allied amphibious landings on the coast of France c. 06:30. The target 80-kilometre (50 mi) stretch of the Normandy coast was divided into five sectors: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword. Strong winds blew the landing craft east of their intended positions, particularly at Utah and Omaha.

The men landed under heavy fire from gun emplacements overlooking the beaches, and the shore was mined and covered with obstacles such as wooden stakes, metal tripods, and barbed wire, making the work of the beach-clearing teams difficult and dangerous. The highest number of casualties was at Omaha, with its high cliffs. At Gold, Juno, and Sword, several fortified towns were cleared in house-to-house fighting, and two major gun emplacements at Gold were disabled using specialised tanks.

The Allies were able to establish beachheads at each of the five landing sites on the first day, but Carentan, Saint-Lô, and Bayeux remained in German hands. Caen, a major objective, was not captured until 21 July. Only two of the beaches (Juno and Gold) were linked on the first day, and all five beachheads were not connected until 12 June. German casualties on D-Day have been estimated at 4,000 to 9,000 men. Allied casualties were at least 10,000, with 4,414 confirmed dead.



**We Shall Remember Them**



HIGHWAY SHELLHOLE

## VENUE HIRE

2 MONTROSE AVE,  
HILLCREST

For more information on costs and facilities  
Contact: David Millar: 072 851 8911

## Upcoming Events for Highway

**Highway Shellhole**  
HILLCREST Shellhole

HIGHWAY DARTS COMPETITION  
**FIND YOUR TARGET**  
SATURDAY 4 JULY  
AFTER MONTHLY MEETING

SINGLES R50PP  
DOUBLES R50PP  
BULL CHALLENGE R10PP

HAMBURGERS & BOERIE ROLLS ON SALE



### Smallest Paratrooper

The lightest and smallest paratrooper in the history of the unit, was Rifleman Timothy Jordaan, 1,4 metres tall and weighing only 42 kilogram. He qualified in 1976 by jumping all the required jumps, with two jumps with kit weighing 30 kilogram. It was a wary situation when he did his first jump for his instructors, for they realised that his weight was possibly not enough to open his parachute and that with the landing he would probably be blown away by the wind.

Another difficulty Jodaaan experienced during selection was to carry the heavy combat equipment, but he made it. This was truly a great achievement for him and his instructors.



## Sunset Recalls

Trevor Phillips  
Des Momberg



## Birthdays

- 3 June: Craig Ulyate
- 9 June: Lizel Comfort
- 12 June: Connie Torr
- 17 June: Dave Edwards
- 20 June: Brett Goodwill
- 21 June: Dave Russell
- 22 June: Sheena Gibson
- 26 June: Alastair Comfort
- 30 June: Graham Stubbs

Highway Shellhole wishes you all a very happy birthday.



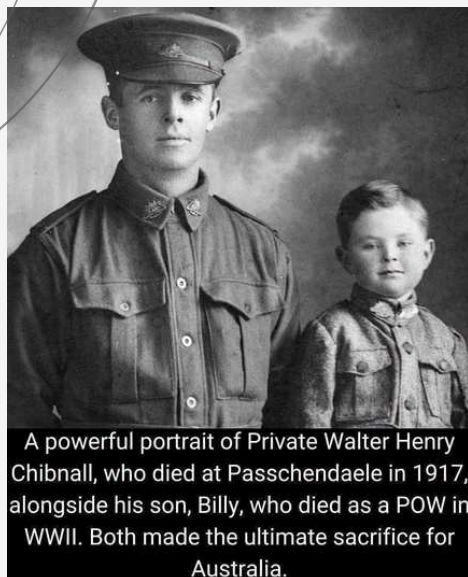
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*Congratulations*

**To all the runners of the Comrades Marathon 2026 and all those who came to support.**



A powerful portrait of Private Walter Henry Chibnall, who died at Passchendaele in 1917, alongside his son, Billy, who died as a POW in WWII. Both made the ultimate sacrifice for Australia.



## Memorable Order of the Tin Hat

**True Comradeship, Mutual Help and Sound Memory**