

EQUIPMENT OF A D-DAY SOLDIER

Learn about what a soldier carried during the D-Day Invasion and then outfit your own soldier with the same equipment!

HELMET

A soldier's helmet is made of metal and painted "Olive Drab" to help him blend in with his environment. It does not protect his head from bullets, but it does protect him from shrapnel, pieces of metal or wood that fly during an explosion.



UNIFORM

A soldier's uniform identifies him as an American. It is also "Olive Drab" to help him blend in with his environment, but made out of wool and khaki. The reason why it is made out of wool is because it is durable, helps to repel water, and will keep him warm in the winter.



GAS MASK

During World War I, poisonous gas was used during warfare. Although it was against the law to use gas as a weapon in World War II, the Americans all had a gas mask just in case. It provided a filter for clean air in case poisonous gas was detected in the area. He would wear it on his chest for easy access.

BACKPACK

A soldier kept most of his supplies in his backpack. Supplies included ration boxes of food, emergency drinking water in a can, bullets, grenades, and socks. Soldiers who landed on June 6, 1944 as a part of the D-Day invasion did not know when they would be resupplied so their backpacks weighed anywhere from 70-100 pounds!

LIFEBELT

Instead of carrying a life vest that would go over his shoulders and cover his back and stomach, a D-Day soldier was given a life belt. Many soldiers assumed that it would go around their waists, but it was actually supposed to be worn under the armpits to keep one's head above water. When he wears it on his waist, he might flip over in the water because of the weight in his backpack.



CANTEEN

A soldier carried a canteen of water that they would use for drinking water, similar to a water bottle. He would carry it on his belt.



