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Rear Admiral Teddy Gueritz, who died on 21 December, 2008, was a Royal Navy man of over 40 years who was thrust into command during the D-Day landings.

After seeing his commanding officer wounded during the amphibious attack on the area codenamed Sword Beach, an 8km stretch from Ouistreham to Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, he assumed control amid the chaos.

By the end of the day, 30,000 Allied troops had landed on Sword Beach, as well as hundreds of vehicles and tons of ammunition. It became Lieutenant (as he was then) Gueritz's responsibility to co-ordinate the landing craft and make progress up the beach under the heavy fire of the German defences.

Earlier in the war he had been given the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in the Indian Ocean, including his successful command of the invasion of Madagascar in May 1942.

He was wounded 19 days after D-Day after a shell splinter struck his head and his life was only saved by the skill of surgeons at Southampton General Hospital. A Bar was then added to his DSC.

After the Second World War he became Deputy Director of the Royal Naval Staff College and in the mid 1960s he was captain of the Far East Fleet.

He went onto roles as Director of the Joint Warfare Staff, Admiral President of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich and Commandant of the Joint Warfare Establishment. During the Falklands conflict he provided commentary for the media and he also compiled naval questions for the quiz show Mastermind.

He died from heart failure aged 89 in Salisbury District Hospital, leaving his wife, Pam, son Guy, daughter Amanda, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.