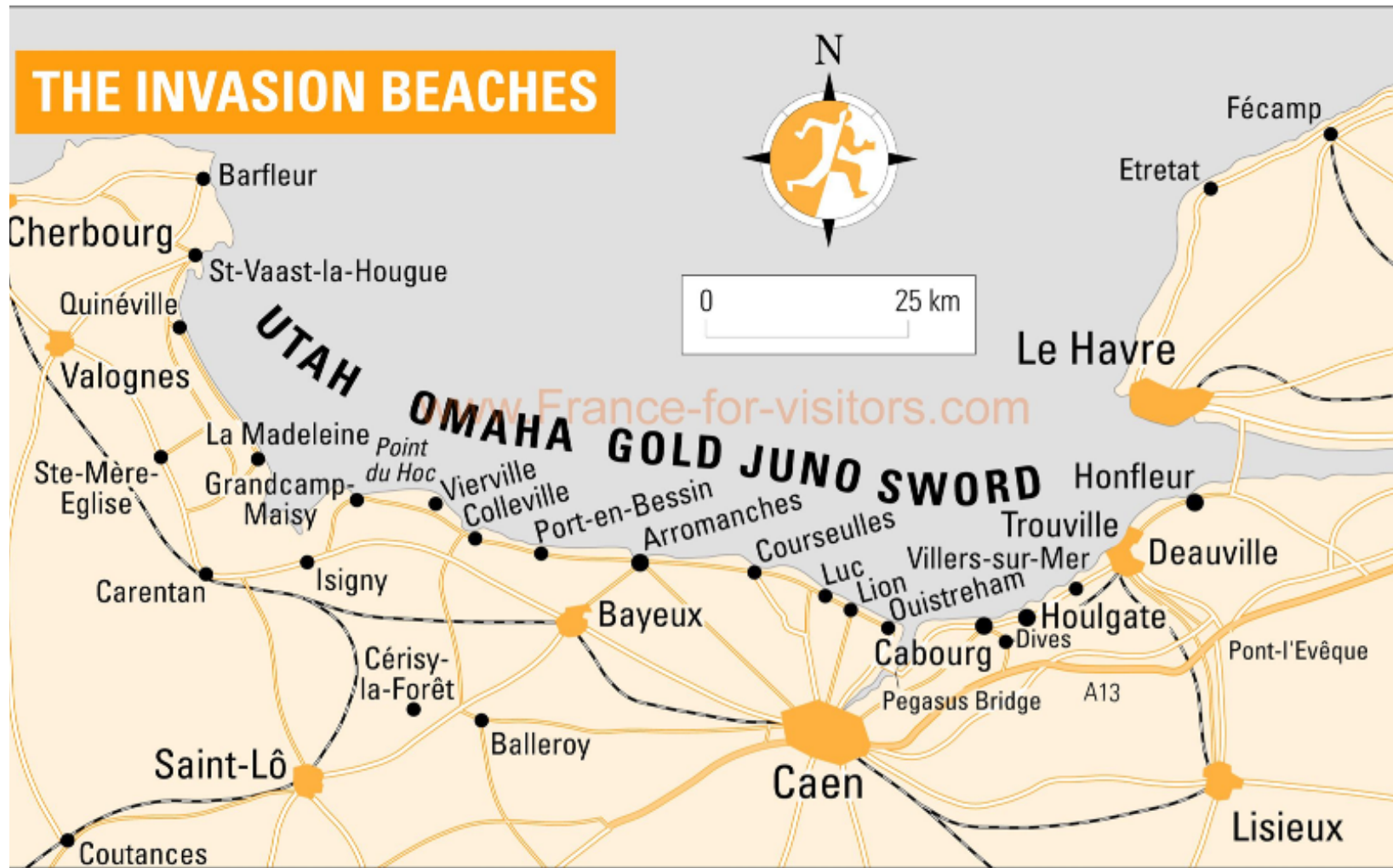


THE INVASION BEACHES



From Normandy to Victory in Europe

Closing the Falaise Gap **July 29-August 21, 1944**

- German army in full retreat; tried desperately to keep an escape route open through French town of Falaise, between Canadian and American armies
- Allied aeroplanes fired upon the retreating Germans mercilessly
- Germany's Seventh Army and Fifth Panzer Army are cut to pieces and 50 000 prisoners taken
- on Aug. 21, the Allies occupy Falaise, and all of Normandy is theirs

Battle of the Scheldt

- **October 7-November 8, 1944**
- opening the large Belgian port of Antwerp was essential to relieve Allied supply problems
- the estuary of the river Scheldt, between Antwerp and the sea, had to be cleared of Germans task given to Canadians
- British bombers blasted through the dikes and flooded the central part of an island so amphibious vehicles could be used in the attack
- was a bitter struggle, but Germans surrendered on Nov. 8
- cost Canadians 6367 casualties, but earns them lavish praise from British

The End of the War **February-May, 1945**

- Canadians spent much of winter in trenches
- then in early February, Canadians took part in Allied spring offensive
- Germans were caught between two-fronts
- Western Allies began to cross the Rhine on March 23 and drive deep into German territory
- Soviet Red Army (6 million strong) squeezed the Germans from East
- April 30, Hitler commits suicide, and by May 2, the Soviets eliminated all German resistance in Berlin
- May 7, 1945, Germany formally surrendered
- For Canadian and other Allied troops in Europe the war is over
- May 8, 1945 becomes known as VE-Day (Victory-in-Europe Day)
- now the Allies can turn their attention to ending the war with Japan