

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

1944-2014



OFFICIAL BROCHURE





Photograph by SNOWDON



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

A MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

I am very pleased to be able to join veterans here in Normandy to mark the 70th anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

On 6th June 1944 after months of planning and training, the largest amphibious assault in history was launched to secure freedom in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of Servicemen made the journey across the Channel by sea and air, and through their brave actions and dogged determination, established a vital foothold in occupied Europe. This immense and heroic endeavour brought the end of the Second World War within reach.

I am sure that these commemorations will provide veterans of the conflict and their families gathered here in France, along with their hosts, the people of Normandy, with an opportunity to reflect on their experiences and the incredible sacrifices that were made.

ELIZABETH R.





LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

For France and her Allies, 2014 is the commemorative year of the 100th Anniversary of entry into the First World War and of the 70th Anniversary of the Allies' Landing in Normandy.

Our country is aware of the International Community's keenness to commemorate this day, D-Day, with the greatest respect.

On the morning of the 6th June 1944, our veterans entered into a merciless fight against the occupation, in which soldiers from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth played a great part.

They helped to liberate this country, and France is always delighted and proud to welcome them.

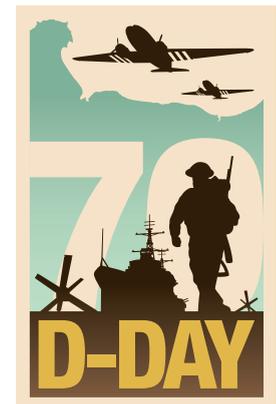
The ceremonies, which will be held throughout the month of June, will mark our gratitude to all who defeated Nazism.

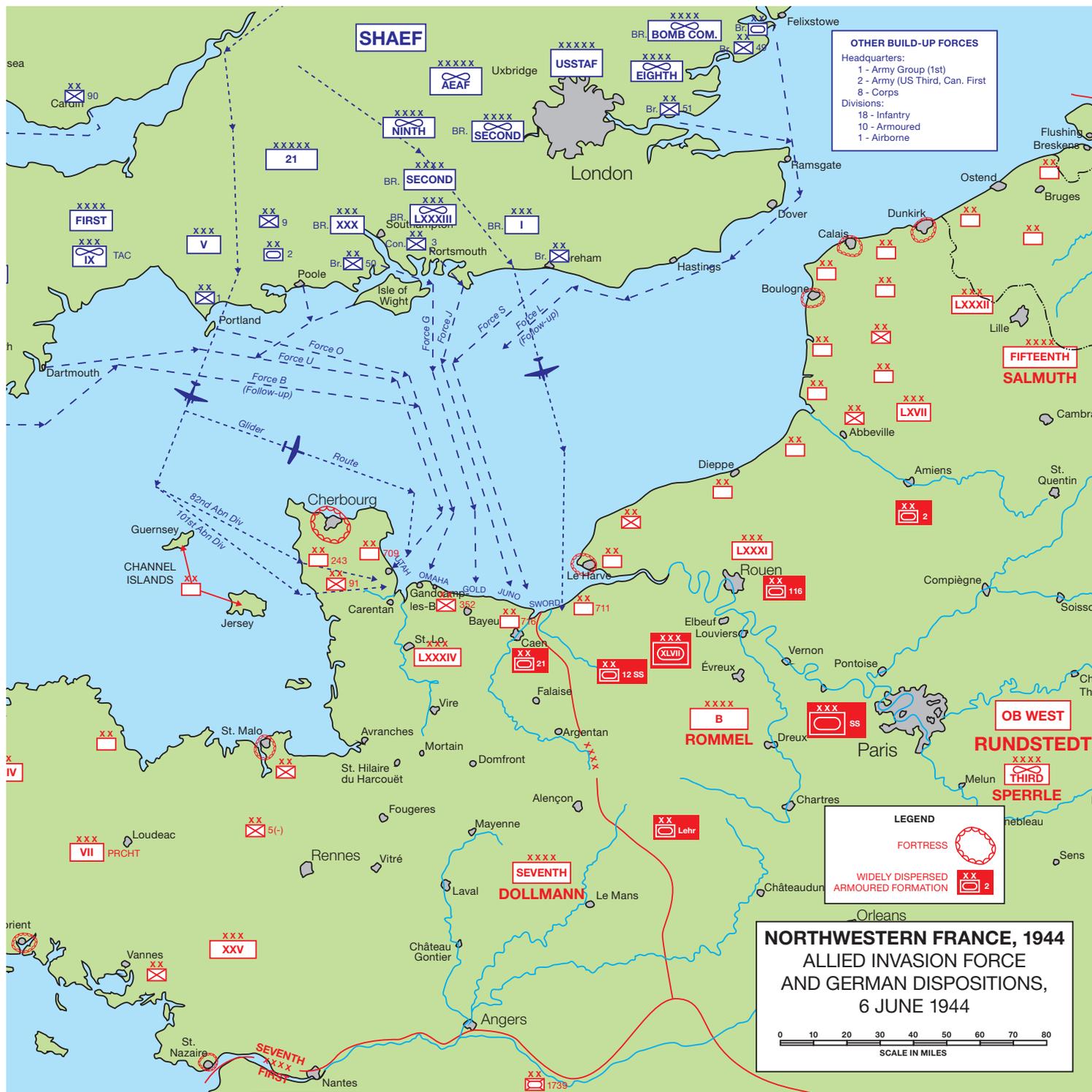
I express the hope that they take place within a union of Europe now at peace.

May your veterans know that they and their families will be always be welcome here.



François HOLLANDE





D-DAY AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY

On D-Day, 6 June 1944, Allied Forces launched a combined naval, air and land assault on Nazi-occupied France. Codenamed Operation 'Overlord', the Allied landings on the Normandy beaches marked the start of a long and costly campaign to liberate north-west Europe from German occupation. Early on 6 June, Allied airborne forces parachuted into drop zones across northern France. Ground troops then landed across five assault beaches - Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. By the end of the day, the Allies had established a foothold along the coast and could begin their advance into France.

1. Richard Ernst Eurich's enigmatic composite painting of land and naval forces massing off the South Coast before D-Day. Copyright IWM

The defeat of Germany was acknowledged as the western Allies' principal war aim as early as December 1941. Opening a second front would relieve pressure on the Soviet Union in the east and the liberation of France would weaken Germany's overall position in western Europe. The invasion, if successful, would drain German resources and block access to key military sites. Securing a bridgehead in Normandy would allow the Allies to establish a viable presence in northern Europe for the first time since 1940. Lieutenant General Frederick Morgan and his team of British, American and Canadian officers submitted plans for the invasion in July 1943. Although limited planning for an invasion of Europe began soon after the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940, detailed preparations for Operation Overlord did not begin

until after the Tehran Conference in late 1943. A command team led by American General Dwight D. Eisenhower was formed in December 1943 to plan the naval, air and land operations. Deception campaigns were developed to draw German attention - and strength - away from Normandy. To build up resources for the invasion, British factories increased production and in the first half of 1944 approximately 9 million tonnes of supplies and equipment crossed the Atlantic from North America to Britain. A substantial Canadian force had been building up in Britain since December 1939 and over 1.4 million American Servicemen arrived during 1943 and 1944 to take part in the landings.

D-Day required unprecedented cooperation between international Armed Forces. The Supreme Headquarters Allied



Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) was an international coalition and although the Allies were united against Germany, the military leadership responsible for Overlord had to overcome political, cultural and personal tensions. By 1944, over 2 million troops from over 12 countries were in Britain preparing for the invasion. On D-Day, Allied forces consisted primarily of American, British and Canadian troops but also included Australian, Belgian, Czech, Dutch, French, Greek, New Zealand, Norwegian, Rhodesian and Polish naval, air or ground support.

The invasion was conducted in two main phases: an airborne assault and amphibious landings. Shortly after midnight on 6 June, over 18,000 Allied paratroopers were dropped into the invasion area to provide tactical support for infantry divisions on the beaches. Allied air forces flew over 14,000 sorties in support of the landings and, having secured air supremacy prior

to the invasion, many of these flights were unchallenged by the Luftwaffe. Nearly 7,000 naval vessels, including battleships, destroyers, minesweepers, escorts and assault craft took part in Operation 'Neptune', the naval component of Overlord. Naval forces were responsible for escorting and landing over 132,000 ground troops on the beaches. They also carried out bombardments on German coastal defences before and during the landings and provided artillery support for the invading troops.

Germany tried to defend the northern coast of France with a series of fortifications known as the 'Atlantic Wall'. However, German defences were often incomplete and insufficiently manned. Members of the French Resistance and the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) provided intelligence and helped weaken defences through sabotage. The Allied deception campaigns succeeded in convincing

the Germans as late as July 1944 that the main invasion force would still land elsewhere. The threat of this larger, second invasion kept German reinforcements tied down away from Normandy. Defence also suffered from the complex and often confused command structure of the German Army as well as the constant interference of Adolf Hitler in military matters. However, the Allies faced a number of setbacks both on 6 June and in the months that followed. On D-Day, the Americans came close to defeat on Omaha partially because the preliminary air and naval bombardment failed to knock out strong defence points, but also because they faced highly effective German troops who had gained hard-earned experience on the Eastern Front. Throughout the Battle of Normandy, the technical superiority of their tanks and anti-tank weapons, as well as the tactical skill of their commanders, gave German forces an advantage over the





2. A Sherman tank of the 13th/18th Hussars, 27th Armoured Brigade, reverses aboard an LST (Landing Ship Tank) at Gosport, 1 June 1944. Copyright IWM

3. Members of the Womens Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) repair and pack parachutes for use by airborne troops during the Normandy invasion, 31 May 1944. Copyright IWM

4. Troops of 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade disembarking with bicycles from LCI(L)s (Landing Craft Infantry Large) onto Nan White beach, Juno area, at Bernieres-sur-Mer, shortly before midday, 6 June 1944. Copyright IWM

5. Commandos of HQ 4th Special Service Brigade, coming ashore from LCI(S) landing craft on Nan Red beach, Juno area, at St Aubin-sur-Mer, 6 June 1944. Copyright IWM





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Allies. However, the Germans were never able to fully exploit their successes or the weaknesses of the Allies in a decisive way.

D-Day was made possible because of Allied efforts across all fronts, both before and after June 1944. In planning D-Day, Allied commanders drew important lessons from previous failures at Dieppe in France and Anzio in Italy. The Allied strategic bombing campaign, which began in 1942, weakened German industry and forced Germany to commit manpower and resources away from Normandy to home defence. Securing air superiority allowed the Allies to carry out aerial reconnaissance, giving them vital intelligence on German coastal defences. D-Day also depended on Allied control of the Atlantic, which was finally achieved in 1943 through victory in the Battle of the Atlantic. The campaign in Italy directed German troops away from the Western and Eastern Fronts. The Soviet Belorussian offensive, Operation Bagration, was launched just after Overlord and destroyed the entire German Army Group Centre. It also kept German forces tied down in the east. Ten weeks after D-Day, the Allies launched a

second invasion on the southern coast of France and began a simultaneous advance towards Germany.

The importance of D-Day often overshadows the overall significance of the entire Normandy campaign. Establishing a bridgehead was critical, but it was just the first step. In the three months after D-Day, the Allies launched a series of additional offensives to try and advance further inland. These operations varied in success and the Allies faced strong and determined German resistance. The bocage - a peculiarity of the Normandy landscape characterised by sunken lanes bordered by high, thick hedgerows - was difficult to penetrate and placed the advantage with the German defenders. Yet the bloody and protracted Battle of Normandy was a decisive victory for the Allies and paved the way for the liberation of much of north-west Europe.

In total, British and Commonwealth casualties (killed, wounded or missing) on D-Day numbered approximately 4,300. Today, 70 years on, surviving veterans, families, and those supporting them are gathering here in Normandy, to remember, and to reflect on these losses



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6. Poster from the time of the invasion. 'All together, for a single victory. Union creates strength. The aggression of the Axis powers. Two thirds of the world's nations are working and fighting alongside the United Nations for victory'. Copyright IWM

7. Commandos of 1st Special Service Brigade crouch on Queen beach, Sword area, before moving inland, 6 June 1944. Copyright IWM

8. A 6-pounder anti-tank gun of 50th Division covers a lane in the Lingevres area, 16 June 1944. Copyright IWM

5 JUNE CEREMONIES: PORTSMOUTH AND NORMANDY

PORTSMOUTH

On 6 June 1944, Portsmouth was one of the key strategic locations for D-Day. From the city and from the surrounding south coast, thousands of troops left for the beaches of Normandy, in an operation planned from Southwick House, just to the north of Portsmouth.

This year the city is the focus for the country once more, as it commemorates the epic operation to liberate France. A veterans' centre has been set up on Southsea Common and an impressive series of events have been taking place for the days leading up to D-Day and beyond.

On 5 June, in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Normandy veterans and their families, major celebrations began with a Drumhead Service and military parade made up of personnel from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force on Southsea Common. After, Her Majesty's Royal Marines mounted an impressive amphibious landing display from HMS Bulwark along Southsea seafront together with members of the Royal Netherlands Marines Corps from the Dutch vessel HNLMS Johan de Witt.

The world famous Red Arrows then followed with a display over the Solent. Concluding the festivities were a flotilla of Royal Navy and allied nation ships sailing from Portsmouth to the Normandy coast, led by HMS Bulwark and HMS Richmond.

Portsmouth-based Type 23 frigate HMS Richmond joined the flotilla of ships that sailed to Normandy for the commemorations.



Able Seaman Sarah George, with Frank Rosier, 88, who served as an infantryman in 2nd Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, pose at Southsea Beach, Portsmouth. Aged 18 he landed in the second wave on Gold Beach on D-Day

NORMANDY

Airborne commemorations on 5 June in Normandy

A range of events took place on 5 June to commemorate the involvement of 6th Airborne Division on D-Day, when 7,900 troops landed by parachute and glider ahead of the seaborne invasion fleet.

Troops from 16 Air Assault Brigade – the British Army's rapid reaction force and the successor to the proud traditions of Airborne Forces – joined veterans and dignitaries for commemorative events across the area.

The day began with a memorial service at Pegasus Bridge, Caen, where troops landed by glider to capture key bridges across the River Orne and Caen Canal, the first action of the invasion.

Airborne veterans were then joined by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall for lunch at Ranville, the first French village to be liberated.

In the afternoon, some 300 British, Canadian, American and French paratroopers jumped onto Drop Zone 'N' near Ranville, which was used on D-Day. The mass drop was led by The Parachute Regiment's Red Devils freefall display team, and included a tandem jump by 89 year-old D-Day veteran Jock Hutton. A dozen 16 Air Assault Brigade troops also jumped from a Dakota of the Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, the transport aircraft used on D-Day. A Spitfire and Lancaster of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight also flew over the zone in salute.

Memorial services were held at Les Mesnils Bavent, to mark the involvement of Canadian paratroopers; Breville Crossroads, where airborne troops fought tough defensive battles to defend key high ground overlooking the invasion beaches; and at Merville Battery, where a much depleted force captured a German gun position that could have shelled invasion landing craft.

As midnight approached, a vigil was held at Pegasus Bridge to mark the moment when the gliders landed to begin the liberation of France.

THE ROYAL NAVY AT THE COMMEMORATIONS

Alongside the many Royal Naval and Royal Marines personnel you will see in Normandy undertaking ceremonial duties and supporting veterans for the commemorations, the Royal Navy has a number of Her Majesty's Ships sailing across the English Channel to mark D-Day 70.

1&2. 42 Royal Marines Commando training in preparation to become lead Commando Group in May 2013

3. HMS Ranger (left) and HMS Trumpeter (right) act as an escort for the Royal Barge during the weekend celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant

4. HMS Bulwark

HMS Bulwark

HMS Bulwark was launched at the BAE Systems shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, on 15 November 2001. She is now the Fleet Flagship of the Royal Navy. Maintained at high readiness to deploy worldwide, she is the Royal Navy's most advanced Command and Control platform and is the hub from which the Commander and Battle Staff of the UK Task Group and 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines can project the Royal Navy and the United Kingdom around the world. After spending the last few months conducting several training exercises, HMS Bulwark will lead the UK's Response Force Task Group through the Mediterranean and East of Suez later in the Autumn.

HMS Bulwark led the flotilla as it sailed for Normandy on the 5 June from Portsmouth. She will also provide the backdrop to main events along the invasion beaches.

HMS Richmond

The seventh and current HMS Richmond (F239) is the 10th of 16 Type 23 Duke Class Frigates to join the Royal Navy. She was built at Swan Hunter Shipbuilders on the Tyne, laid down on 16 February 1992, launched 6 April 1993, and commissioned into the Royal Navy on 22 June 1995.

The ship has recently completed a successful £12million refit in Her Majesty's Naval Base Devonport in 2012, which saw upgrades to a number of capabilities including Automatic Small Calibre Gun and Sea Wolf Mid Life Update, there then followed a seven month Atlantic Patrol (South) operational deployment which included operations off Europe, Africa, the Antarctic, South America and in the Caribbean.

HMS Richmond formed part of the flotilla that sailed from Portsmouth on 5 June, and is alongside Ouistreham for the D-Day events, hosting several dignitaries and high profile events.

HMS Ledbury

Minehunter HMS Ledbury is the oldest of the eight Hunt-class mine countermeasures vessels operated by the Royal Navy and based in Portsmouth. The ship was built by Vosper Thornycroft in Southampton and commissioned in June 1981.

The Hunt-class live up to their name – minehunters. Using high-definition sonar, they hunt the world's seabeds for mines and lost explosives, which are then destroyed by the Hunt-class ship's own clearance diving teams or the Seafox mine-disposal system. These ships clear the way of mines to allow safe passage for larger forces, swiftly detecting and destroying any hidden dangers from sea lanes. This has recently been put into practice as HMS Ledbury completed Exercise Joint Warrior which saw her honing her core skills as a minehunting vessel.

HMS Ledbury, together with HMS Ranger and HMS Express arrived in Normandy on 5 June, and sailed up the Caen Canal passing Pegasus Bridge on transit. The ship will be alongside Caen until 9 June.

HMS Ranger

HMS Ranger is a P2000 Archer Class Patrol Vessel tendered to Sussex University Royal Naval Unit (URNU). She served for 13 years in the Gibraltar Squadron before returning to the UK in 2004 to be allocated to the Sussex URNU.



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Now forming part of the 1st Patrol Boat Squadron, HMS Ranger provides practical seamanship and navigation training to undergraduates from the Universities of Sussex and Brighton.

HMS Express

HMS Express is a P2000 Archer Class Patrol Vessel, based at Penarth Marina in Cardiff Bay. The ship provides sea training and an insight into the modern Royal Navy for Wales URNU undergraduates drawn from Cardiff, Swansea and Glamorgan Universities, and University of Wales Institute Cardiff. The smaller inshore patrol boats are adept

and flexible units providing support to the Fleet and a unique insight to the Royal Navy for university students.

1 Assault Group Royal Marines

1 Assault Group Royal Marines is the lead for amphibious warfare and Royal Navy board and search training. The group is tasked with training and developing core amphibious and surface assault skills and equipment, including the provision of operational support for the Ministry of Defence. The Group is responsible for four subordinate

units which deliver the vast spectrum of training and operations required in delivering amphibious and surface assault capability of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

1 Assault Group Royal Marines supported the UK D-Day 70 commemorations in Portsmouth on 5 June. They are represented at Pegasus Museum, Ouistreham and Arromanches and are coordinating events at Port en Bessin on 7 June.

FORCE TROOPS COMMAND SUPPORT TO D-DAY 70



Every serving Regular and Reserve member of Force Troops Command recognises the bravery, commitment and sacrifice of all Allied personnel who took part in the decisive actions of D-Day and the Normandy Campaign. Under the command of Major General Tim Radford DSO OBE, Force Troops Command is the United Kingdom's Defence lead, working in partnership with all the agencies involved in the D-Day 70 commemorations, to provide command and logistics support to ensure the successful delivery of the events in France.

Force Troops Command provides the Combat Support, Command Support, Combat Service Support and Specialist Support required by the Joint, Reaction and Adaptable Forces. It is the first fully integrated Regular and Reserve Command and is the first major formation to be created under the directive of Army 2020. By the end of 2015 it will be the largest of the Army's 2-Star Commands comprising a quarter of the Regular Army and almost half of the Reserves.

At each of the events there will be a military presence. On 6 June, visitors will see members 32 Regiment Royal

Artillery at Bayeux Cathedral, 2 Signal Regiment at Sword Beach, and 39 Engineer Regiment supporting the events at Arromanche-les-Bains.

Adding a musical flourish to the commemorations across Normandy will be the Band of the Parachute Regiment, the Pipes and Drums from The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland, and the Band of the Royal Yeomanry. Leading the tri-Service Honour Guard for Her Majesty The Queen and the Prime Minister of France at Bayeux Cemetery will be the Guidon – or ceremonial flag – of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. The Royal Yeomanry's Nottingham-based squadron was the only Reserve unit to have served on D-Day and is still in existence.

Working with Force Troops Command in Normandy will be members of 3rd (UK) Division, the division that led the assault onto Sword Beach on D-Day; 1st and 4th Battalion The Rifles at Pegasus Bridge; 16 Air Assault Brigade at the Ranville and Merville events led by 7 Parachute Royal Horse Artillery with 23 Engineer (Air Assault) Regiment Royal Engineers; The Pathfinder Platoon; 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions The

Parachute Regiment; 13 Air Assault Support Regiment RLC; 16 Close Support Medical Regiment; 3rd and 4th Regiment Army Air Corps; 7 Air Assault Battalion Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; 156 Provost Company Royal Military Police and 216 Parachute Signals Squadron.

In support of the Commemorations in France, there will be representation from across the Command provided by distinct units bringing their own specialist skills. In addition to elements of the Force Troops Command Headquarters, 104 Logistic Support Brigade and 17 Port & Maritime Regiment will provide real life support. Medical services will come from 256 Field Hospital; communications infrastructure will be provided by 2 Signal Regiment and 3 Royal Military Police will support the Gendarmerie.

Major General Radford and all officers and soldiers from Force Troops Command and attached units are personally committed to supporting the Normandy veterans. By supporting the events at key locations, Force Troops Command will ensure the smooth running of the commemorations in honour of those who served before us.



THE ROYAL AIR FORCE AT THE COMMEMORATIONS

Popular aircraft from the Royal Air Force's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF), including two Spitfires, a DC3 Dakota and a Lancaster, will be taking part in a number of key events across Normandy between Thursday 5 and Saturday 7 June.

Based at Le Havre Octeville Aéroport during the commemorations, the BBMF elements, complete with D-Day invasion stripes, will conduct flypasts over Pegasus Bridge, Colleville-Montgomery, Arromanches, Périers-sur-le-Dan and Sannerville.

In addition, in a nod to the airborne elements of D-Day, some of the 300 parachutists involved in the mass parachute drop led by 16 Air Assault Brigade at Ranville on 5 June jumped from the DC3 Dakota, while others jumped from RAF C-130 Hercules and aircraft from other allied air forces.

BBMF aircraft you will see in the Normandy skies will include:

Spitfire

Built in 22 variants over 12 years, the Spitfire's first flight was in 1936, with Mk1 Spitfires entering service with the RAF in August 1938.

Produced in greater numbers than any

other British combat aircraft before or since World War II, it played a key and important part in the victory in WWII and has earned its place as one of the most successful fighter designs ever.

Lancaster

The famous Avro Lancaster was the Royal Air Force's most successful heavy bomber of World War II. Its legend lives on today and the contribution of the aircraft and its crews to our nation's freedom will, hopefully, never be forgotten.

The Lancaster's performance was simply outstanding, capable of carrying a maximum bomb load of 22,000lb. Its maximum level speed with a full load at 15,000 feet was 275mph and it could cruise routinely at altitudes above 20,000ft at a range speed of 200mph. The Lancaster's performance, its ruggedness, reliability and to many its sheer charisma endeared it to its crews, who were proud to fly this famous thoroughbred.

Dakota

The Dakota was a tactical transport aircraft used to carry troops and freight, air-dropping paratroops and supplies, towing gliders and casualty evacuation.

The Dakota's amazing ruggedness became legendary and under the demands of war its limits were often exceeded. The Dakota was actually overbuilt, making it almost indestructible. As one Dakota pilot put it: "You can wreck a Dak, but you can't wear it out!"

The vital and dangerous part played by these transport aircraft during the assault phase of the great D-Day invasion cannot be underestimated. Its work was, perhaps, unglamorous and unsung but the Dakota and its crews played a crucial part in the final Allied victory of World War II.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion is the United Kingdom's custodian of Remembrance and its largest Armed Forces charity.

We are honoured to be organising the Service of Remembrance at Bayeux Cathedral and, in collaboration with the Normandy Veterans Association, the Service of Remembrance at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Bayeux.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all Normandy veterans, their families and friends, Her Majesty The Queen and other Members of the Royal Family, and the many international representatives joining us for today's commemorations.

The Legion helps the Armed Forces community all year round. We provide practical, emotional and financial support; we campaign to improve the lives of Service people; we bring the Armed Forces community and supporters together as one of the UK's largest membership organisations and we honour the sacrifices of the fallen as the national custodian of Remembrance.

MESSAGE FROM THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE

Welcome to Normandy! All of us working for Britain in France are committed to doing everything we can to ensure that your visit is happy and memorable.

I find that French people are intensely grateful for the sacrifices made by British and other Allied forces 70 years ago. They are delighted to welcome back the veterans and their families, and I am sure you will feel the warmth of that welcome.

We are also remembering this year other shared moments of our history. For example, we are celebrating 20 years since the Channel Tunnel opened. What a difference it has made to travel to the Continent!

Later in the summer we will commemorate the start of the First World War, including

the Battle of the Marne at which so many British soldiers gave their lives.

This year is also the 200th anniversary of the purchase of the wonderful house in Paris which is still the Residence of British Ambassadors. The lucky first Ambassador to live there was the Duke of Wellington. The British Residence continues to be a place where British and French people from all walks of life meet, work together and build the friendships that will ensure our relations remain just as strong for the next 200 years.

It is a great honour this year that the Normandy commemorations take place in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen and other Members of The Royal Family. There could be no more fitting recognition of the continued relevance of those dramatic events of 70 years ago to today's generation.

I hope you thoroughly enjoy your stay in Normandy.

Sir Peter Ricketts GCMG
British Ambassador to Paris





THE BIG LOTTERY FUND – HEROES RETURN 2

The Big Lottery Fund is proud to support the nation's Second World War veterans to attend the historic 70th anniversary of the Normandy Landings through its Heroes Return 2 programme.

In recognition of Normandy and forthcoming 70th anniversaries of World War Two, the Big Lottery Fund has extended its Heroes Return programme till the end of 2015. This will enable Second World War veterans from the UK, Channel Islands and Republic of Ireland who have already been funded since the

programme opened in 2009, to have a second opportunity to apply for a grant to commemorate landmark 70th anniversaries across the world and in the UK.

Peter Ainsworth Chair of the Big Lottery Fund, said: "As we approach the historic 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings we are proud to remember and honour the immense debt of gratitude owed to those brave veterans whose courage and sacrifice finally brought peace to millions across the world."

Heroes Return has to date awarded over £28 million to more than 57,000 Second World War veterans, widows, spouses and carers across the UK.

For details contact: Heroes Return helpline: 0845 00 00 121 or visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/heroesreturn

THE NORMANDY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The Normandy Veterans Association (NVA) was launched in Britain in April 1981. It was the idea of Arthur Flodman who had landed in Normandy with the Durham Light Infantry. He lived in the Grimsby area and put a paragraph in the local area newspaper which invited local veterans of the Normandy campaign to attend a meeting. That first meeting attracted 29 participants. By 1985 Flodman decided to form a national association. At that time there were 35 branches in the country. The first national president was Flodman's former commanding officer, General John Mogg. Arthur Flodman died a few weeks later.

The aims of the association are to:

- encourage the 1944 spirit of comradeship irrespective of rank or social position;
- promote contacts between former comrades via branch meetings, reunions etc.;
- organise visits;
- give practical assistance to members and their dependents who are in need; and
- inform the younger generation of the times and past deeds of their forebears for the benefit of their country.

By the mid 1990's the NVA had over 102 branches, not only in Britain, but in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Belgium and France. Each local branch organises its own affairs and visits to Normandy. The branches send annual levies, according to the number of

members, to the National Council which meets three times a year.

The 70th anniversary of D-Day is of particular significance to the NVA, as they have indicated it will be the last that they will officially mark as a national association. Later this year, following ceremonies at the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire, the Association plans to officially disband and lay up their National Standard at a service at St Margaret's, Westminster, London.



THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) was founded by Royal Charter on 21 May 1917 and is responsible for the commemoration of almost 1,700,000 members of the Commonwealth forces who gave their lives in the two world wars. The graves and memorials of these men and women, who came from all parts of the Commonwealth and who were of many faiths and of none, are found around the globe at a staggering 23,000 location, in 153 countries.

Here in Normandy, the position of the 18 Commonwealth war cemeteries gives an indication of the progress of the fighting in 1944, as well as the human cost of those operations.

The CWGC commemorates more than 22,000 Commonwealth Servicemen and women in these cemeteries and memorials but many more graves can be found in churchyards and village cemeteries throughout the region.

We have been pleased to work with our partners in the Normandy Veterans Association, The Royal British Legion, Ministry of Defence, British, French and Commonwealth governments to help mark this important anniversary.

Ahead of the 70th Anniversary D-Day commemorations the CWGC's staff in Normandy have been working to prepare and renovate many of these important sites. This has included replacing more than 8,000 headstones to ensure the



The grave of an unknown Canadian soldier at Bayeaux Commonwealth War Grave cemetery

names of those who died will never be forgotten.

We have also installed interactive Visitor Information Panels at some of these locations to help visitors gain an understanding of why our memorials exist, why it is important to visit them and maintain them, and who these men and women were. The panels use smartphone technology to reveal the personal stories of some of those buried or commemorated at the location. Discovering these stories help bring home to all of us the great sacrifice made by the

Servicemen and women who took part in the Battle of Normandy.

Our cemeteries and memorials around the globe are physical reminders of a painful past, but they are also places that have the power to bring enormous comfort to the families and comrades of those buried and commemorated there.

We would encourage you to visit the graves, to spend a quiet moment reading the names and depart the better for the experience – inspired by the young men and women who lie here – and determined that they will never be forgotten.



Photograph: James Woolley, Creative Commons license.

BAYEUX CATHEDRAL AND THE THERESE- BENEDICTE BELL

The Catholic Notre-Dame de Bayeux Cathedral is dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption. Its construction began during the Romanesque period on the initiative of Bishop Hugues and continued under the episcopate of Odon de Conteville, the half-brother of William the Conqueror. Its dedication was celebrated on

14 July 1077. The famous Bayeux tapestry was regularly displayed there. As a result of two fires, 'William's Romanesque cathedral' was from the 12th century to the 13th century a testing ground for the introduction of the Gothic style in France. The construction of the central tower began with Bishop Louis d'Harcourt in the 15th century, but was finished only under the Second Empire thanks to the work of the engineer Flachet. It remained intact after the battles of June and July 1944.

On 6 June, a new bell for peace and freedom (the Thérèse-Bénédicte bell) will

be consecrated to call out for brotherhood among peoples. It is sponsored by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and eight young people of different nationalities (America, Canada, Great Britain, Norway, Poland, Belgium, Holland, France and Germany). It will sound for the first time on 14 June 2014.

Saint Teresa Benedicta, born Edith Stein in 1891 in Breslau was a German philosopher. Baptised in 1922, she became a Carmelite nun in 1933 and was executed at Auschwitz in August 1942. She was canonised by Pope John Paul II in 1998, and is the patron saint of Europe.

The Royal British Legion Service of Commemoration and Remembrance to mark The 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings

Bayeux Cathedral, Friday 6 June 2014, 9.15am

Please Stand

Procession of Clergy and Standards

Welcome

by

Monseigneur Boulanger

Évêque de Bayeux

with

The Reverend Patrick Irwin

The Royal British Legion Chaplain to Normandy

His Eminence Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois

Cardinal-Archbishop of Paris says

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you

All Say Together

And with your spirit.

Hymn

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make;
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.

Choir Only

O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good;

His mercy is for ever sure;

His truth at all times firmly stood,

And shall from age to age endure

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God Whom Heaven and earth adore,

From men and from the angel host

Be praise and glory evermore.

Amen.

Words attributed to William Kethe

Music: Old 100th, attributed to Louis Bourgeois

Please Sit

The Lesson

read by

Brigadier David Baines MBE

National President, Normandy Veterans Association

Ecclesiasticus Chapter 44 1 – 14

Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us.

The Lord hath wrought great glory by them through his great power from the beginning.

Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophecies:

Leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent in their instructions:

Such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing:

Rich men furnished with ability, living peaceably in their habitations:

All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times.

There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported.

And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them.

But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten.

With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance, and their children are within the covenant.

Their seed standeth fast, and their children for their sakes.

Their seed shall remain for ever, and their glory shall not be blotted out.

Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore.

The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will shew forth their praise.

Psalm No. 121

Sung by the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge
Director of Music, Andrew Nethsingha

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills;
from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh even from the Lord: who
hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and
he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is
thy defence upon thy right hand;

so that the sun shall not burn thee by
day: neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea
it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy
coming in: from this time forth for evermore.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be: world without end.

Chant: Henry Walford Davies

The Address

by

The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch KCVO
National Chaplain, The Royal British Legion

Anthem

My Soul, There Is A Country

My soul, there is a country
Far beyond the stars,
Where stands a winged sentry
All skilful in the wars:

There, above noise and danger
Sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles
And One, born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.

He is thy gracious friend
And, O my soul, awake!
Did in pure love descend
To die here for thy sake.

If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flow'r of Peace,
The Rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress and thy ease.

Leave then thy foolish ranges,
For none can thee secure
But One who never changes,
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

Words by Henry Vaughan
Music by Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

Please Stand.

The Act of Remembrance

The Exhortation

read by

A Normandy Veteran

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.

All Say Together

We will remember them.

The Last Post

Silence

Reveille

Prayers, Lord's Prayer and Act of Commitment

The Reverend Patrick Irwin *says*

Remember, O Lord, those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence, especially those who died in the battles that we commemorate this day, and grant them rest eternal with the life that knows no age; sustain with your loving power all those who mourn the loss of those dear to them and those who bear the scars of physical and mental suffering; and enable us all to appreciate the sacrifices made by so many on our behalf; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Ives Noyer, Bayeux Cathedral *says*

Lord Jesus, you are for us the Prince of Peace. We pray that you will give to our world bold witnesses to your Word who will also become builders of peace, men and women with a thirst for justice. May we be numbered among those who dare to work for peace and justice. We entrust to your care all nations now distressed with tensions either at home or with their neighbours. Lord, hear us. Amen.

All Say Together

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in Heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 the power and the glory,
 for ever and ever:
 Amen

Commitment

All Say Together

We pledge ourselves anew to our work in support of the wartime generations and to all those in other conflicts since. We promise to do everything possible to help where there is need, and to ensure that those who gave so much for us may enjoy the years that lie ahead in comfort, dignity, contentment and honour.

Hymn

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
 endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
 angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
 kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
 Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
 Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
 let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
 for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
 life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
 make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
 bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*Words by Edmond L. Budry
 Music by G. F. Handel*

Please Remain Standing

During the hymn the Heads of State and members of Royal Families, Senior Clergy and other Dignitaries will move to the Cathedral's Bell for Peace and Freedom, "Thérèse-Bénédicte".

Dedication and Striking of the Bell "Thérèse-Bénédicte"

Cardinal Vingt-Trois *says*

Our Lord who is eternally faithful, You who never cease to bring close those who believe in your name, welcome the prayer of your people: we recognise all you do for us in the joy of the Holy Spirit, and ask you to bless this new bell in the praise of your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Cardinal Vingt-Trois asks His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales
What name do you want to give to this bell?

Answer: Thérèse-Bénédicte

Cardinal Vingt-Trois sprinkles the bell with Holy Water.

Cardinal Vingt-Trois says

We bless you God our Father, as you have made the universe for all creatures who proclaim the splendour of your name. You have made man so that he comes to know you by listening to your word. From the very heights of heaven, spread your blessing upon this bell so that its voice, like an echo of your call, may gather us around you, that its sound may remind us each day of your invisible presence around us; that it may be the vibrant expression of our joys and of our sorrows; that it may ring always to the praise of your glory. For all that you do, with all that celebrates your name, by all that we are, be praise and glory to you, our God, heavenly Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, now and always, forever and ever.

Cardinal Vingt-Trois censes the bell and says:
May Thérèse-Bénédicte proclaim peace, freedom and brotherhood to the glory of God and mankind

Cardinal Vingt-Trois rings the bell three times followed by Mr James Aitken, a Normandy Veteran aided by his grandson, Sergeant Stephen Marshall, 32 Regiment Royal Artillery.

The Blessing

Cardinal Vingt-Trois:
May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely

Bishop Rainer Klug:
And may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound

Bishop McCulloch:
And blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cardinal Vingt-Trois:
In The Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Please remain standing for the Recession

Members of the Congregation are requested to remain in their places until invited to move by the Ushers.



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COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION BAYEUX WAR CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL

On 6 June 1944, the Allies landed on the coast of Normandy. British units reached the outskirts of Bayeux by nightfall, and on the following day the city became the first in France to be liberated.

Medical facilities were quickly established nearby to treat men wounded in the

fighting, and the British Army constructed a ring road around the city. The road alongside the cemetery is Boulevard Fabian Ware, named after the founder of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Bayeux War Cemetery is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery of the Second World War in France. It contains the graves of men originally buried on the battlefields, and those who died in military hospitals in Bayeux. The cemetery was started during the war by the 48th Graves Concentration Unit – a unit of the British Army responsible for recovering, identifying and burying the dead – who were based here.

The cemetery was completed in 1952 and is now the final resting place of more than 4,100 Commonwealth Servicemen, of

whom nearly 340 remain unidentified. Also buried here are some 500 servicemen of other nations. The majority, more than 460, are German.

Opposite the cemetery stands the Bayeux Memorial, which bears the names of more than 1,800 men and women of the Commonwealth land forces who fell during Operation Overlord and have no known grave. They died during the landings, the intense fighting in Normandy, and in the advance to the River Seine in August 1944. Both the cemetery and the memorial were designed by Philip Hepworth. The Latin inscription on the memorial recalls the Norman invasion of Britain in 1066 and reads: “We, once conquered by William, have now set free the Conqueror’s native land.”

A Service of Remembrance Organised by The Royal British Legion and the Normandy Veterans Association to mark the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings

Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Bayeux Cemetery, Friday 6 June 2014, 11.15am

Please Stand

Procession of Clergy and Standards

Welcome

The Reverend Patrick Irwin
The Royal British Legion Chaplain to Normandy
with

The Reverend Mandy Reynolds
Normandy Veterans Association National Chaplain

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia
Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him,
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise with us the God of grace.

*Words by Henry Francis Lyte
Music by John Goss*

Bidding Prayer

The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch KCVO
National Chaplain, The Royal British Legion

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping:
those who have died for their country in war; those whom we
knew, and whose memory we treasure; and today especially those
who gave their lives in June 1944 and subsequent months during
the liberation of France.

The Act of Remembrance

The Exhortation

Veteran Eddie Slater MBE
National Chairman, Normandy Veterans Association

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.

All

We will remember them.

The Last Post

Silence

Reveille

Lament

Laying of Official Wreaths**Prayer**

The Reverend Patrick Irwin

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

O valiant hearts who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave,
To save mankind—yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made;
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,
Whose cross has bought them and whose staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
Commits her children to thy gracious hand.

*Words from a poem by Sir John Stanhope Arkwright
Music by The Reverend Dr Charles Harris*

*Please Sit***The Lesson***read by*

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB OM

Romans, chapter 8, verses 31b to 39

If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers

The Reverend Monsignor Andrew McFadden QHC
Vicar General, Naval Chaplaincy Service *says*

Lord, welcome into your calm and peaceful kingdom those who have departed out of this present life to be with you. Grant them rest and a place with the spirits of the just; and give them the life that knows no age, the reward that passes not away. Amen

The Reverend Jonathan Woodhouse QHC
Chaplain General, HM Land Forces *says*

Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces: grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Venerable Ray Pentland CB QHC
Royal Air Force Chaplain-in-Chief *says*

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all, the true love of peace and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen

The Reverend Mandy Reynolds *says*

Teach us good Lord to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do Thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Normandy Veterans' Prayer

led by

Veteran George Batts, Legion d'Honneur
National Secretary, Normandy Veterans Association

All Say Together

O Eternal Lord God, who has united together all Veterans of the Normandy Campaign. Grant, we beseech you, your blessing and give strength to carry on our work to aid and bring comradeship to all Normandy Veterans, and joy and common purpose throughout our Association. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ whose courage never failed. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

led by

The Reverend Mandy Reynolds

All Say Together

Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever:
Amen

Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humanity, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.

Please Stand

Blessing

by

Bishop Nigel McCulloch

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting. And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

The French National Anthem

Allons enfants de la Patrie,
Le jour de gloire est arrivé!
Contre nous de la tyrannie,
L'étendard sanglant est levé.
L'étendard sanglant est levé!
Entendez-vous dans les campagnes
Mugir ces féroces soldats?
Ils viennent jusque dans vos bras
Egorger vos fils et vos compagnes!

Aux armes, citoyens,
Formez vos bataillons,
Marchons, marchons!
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons!

The British National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.

Please Remain Standing for the Recession

Members of the Congregation are requested to remain in their places until invited to move by the Ushers.





Photograph: L.Williamson, Creative Commons license.

THE D-DAY 70 COMMEMORATIONS AT ARROMANCHES

In the very heart of the D-Day beaches, Arromanches is renowned for its artificial “Mulberry” harbour, known as “Port Winston”, whose remains, both impressive and moving, continue to remind visitors of the remarkable technical feat of taking 600,000 tonnes of concrete and equipment across the Channel in wartime to serve as a base for Allied troops.

The sea resort was a priority target for the Allies, who intended to set up an artificial port for the supply of weapons and ammunition to invasion troops. Numerous remains of the harbour are strewn over the beaches which played

such an important role in the liberation of Europe.

Arromanches, on Juno Beach, was liberated on 6 June and is annual host to a commemorative event organised by local council representatives, the Musée de Debarquement (D-Day Museum), situated in the town, and the Surrey Branch of the Normandy Veterans Association. Taking place on the evening of 6 June, and known for its convivial atmosphere as well as moments of reflection, this year Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are honoured guests.

1



HMS Belfast and D-Day

On 6 June 1944, the Royal Navy warship HMS Belfast took part in D-Day, one of the most significant operations of the Second World War. HMS Belfast acted as the flagship of Bombardment Force E, part of the Eastern Naval Task Force, with responsibility for supporting the British and Canadian assaults on Gold and Juno beaches.

HMS Belfast first opened fire at 5.27am on 6 June, targeting and suppressing a German battery near the village of Ver-sur-Mer, until the position was taken by the 7th Battalion Green Howards. Over the five weeks following D-Day, HMS Belfast was almost continuously in action and fired thousands of rounds from her guns in support of Allied troops fighting their way inland. On 8 July 1944, Belfast fired her last rounds of the war in support of heavy fighting for the city of Caen. Two days later the battle lines had moved beyond the range of Belfast's 6-inch guns and she set sail for Plymouth Devonport for a refit.

Located on the Thames in London, HMS Belfast, part of IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of life on board, exploring how war affects and impacts on

2



the morale, resilience and determination of a ship's community. HMS Belfast takes visitors on a journey through the ship's nine decks, showing them what life was like for the 950-strong crew, through the real life stories of the people who served on her.

Open daily, HMS Belfast, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2JH

www.iwm.org.uk

1. HMS Belfast leaving Scapa Flow for the Normandy beaches, June 1944.

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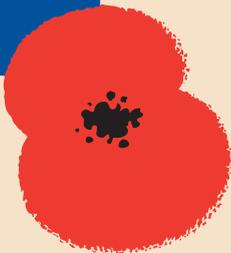
2. A Bofors gun crew stand watch out for enemy aircraft while LSTs (Landing Ship Tank) are loaded at a south coast port in preparation for the invasion of Europe, 1 June 1944. Copyright IWM



Ministry
of Defence

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