

THE SPIRIT OF NORMANDY

A CHARITABLE TRUST TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT TO PRESERVE FREEDOM IN 1944



October 2017

WE'LL MEET AGAIN

The weekend of Friday 29th September to Sunday 1st October was a busy time in Portsmouth. Veterans of the Normandy Campaign came from all over the UK to gather together for a weekend of commemoration and renewing friendships. Veterans from as far afield as Liverpool, Yorkshire, Norwich and the Isle of Man gathered for a gala dinner on the Friday evening, events on Castle Field on the Saturday and a commemorative service with wreath laying on the Sunday. The Service being led by Rev Mandy Reynolds. The weather was not always kind to us but, whilst an expected Spitfire and Hurricane fly past had to be cancelled, a display by the Red Devils took place and was one of the high points of the weekend.



Veterans, families and friends enjoy a break in the weather on Castle Field

We were very fortunate that the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Ken Ellcome took a great deal of time out of his busy schedule to be present at all three days of the reunion weekend. The Lord Mayor and his wife attended the gala dinner on the Friday evening. The Lord Mayor then spent time on the Saturday chatting to the veterans and meeting the prize winners of the Young Historians Prizes, before taking the salute with Brigadier Simon Hutchings OBE at the close of the day. On Sunday, the Lord Mayor attended the commemorative service and laid a wreath on behalf of Portsmouth City Council. Colonel Charles Ackroyd TD RD, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, also attended on Saturday and Sunday.



Red Devil with Union Flag comes in to land





*Veteran
Hector Duff
MM presents
Jed Mussell
with his prize*

YOUNG HISTORIAN PRIZEGIVING

It is always encouraging to see young people taking an interest in history and, in particular, history of the Second World War. This year our annual competition in association with the Young Historian Project saw two worthy winners attend the reunion event to be presented with their prizes. Jessica Stone won the Key Stage 3 Prize for her analysis of the Battle of Britain as a turning point in World War 2. Jed Mussell won the Primary Prize for his work documenting the War, built on his interaction with Normandy Veterans during a Heritage Tour of Normandy. He also wrote a book describing the life experiences of a young soldier. Jed was also awarded the General Peter Martin Prize for the exceptional submission in this year's competition. His certificate was presented to him by General Martin's Granddaughter, Flaminia Martin, a Trustee of the Spirit of Normandy Trust.



*Jessica Stone
and
Jed Mussell
with the Lord
Mayor of
Portsmouth
after
receiving
their Young
Historian
Prizes*



*Wreaths from the
commemorative service
laid at Southsea War
Memorial*

