

## NORMANDY 2018

### **74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Normandy Landings** **An important commemoration**

June this year, as in so many previous years, saw a large number of Normandy veterans travelling to France to take part in a wide range of commemorative events. There were numerous events across Normandy over the first week or so of June. The events captured in this newsletter are just a flavour of some of those that were held.

74 years on from the operation that liberated France, and ultimately Europe, from a sinister and oppressive regime, the events were as emotional and meaningful as always.

#### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

The Spirit of Normandy Trust, in partnership with the Mairie of Colleville Montgomery, held a commemorative service at the statue of Montgomery at Colleville Montgomery.

The Mayor of Colleville Montgomery spoke at the Service and the event was led by Rev Mandy Reynolds who is well known amongst Normandy Veterans. A good number of veterans attended, music was provided by massed pipes led by the Luc Monod and a military bugler from 3 Div played Last Post and Reveille. The Lesson was read by Richard Palusinski, Chairman of the Trust, the Exhortation was given by Hector Duff MM BEM TH Leg d'hon. A number of Standards were paraded. The service commenced with Emma Brown singing Amazing

### **Future Events**

#### **Cenotaph Parade Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Veterans wishing to march as part of the Spirit of Normandy Trust contingent at the Cenotaph this year should contact Trust Secretary, Mary Stewart, as soon as possible as we need to submit names soon.

#### **Nonrmandy 2019 (75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)**

It looks like next year will be a busy year in Normandy as well as at locations in the UK. We are working closely with the Royal British Legion, the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans, Return to Normandy, D Day Revisited and others so that arrangements in Normandy can provide the best possible experience for veterans who wish to be there.

The British Legion have launched a form, on which you can express an interest or intention to be in Normandy or to attend some of the planned events in the UK. If you have access to the internet, you can complete details of your plans at <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/community/d-day-75/>. If you do not have internet access, please let us know and we can have a form sent to you. It is really important that we get as clear a picture as possible of the likely numbers planning to be present. It is absolutely clear that wherever you plan to go security will be tight. Early planning will help us to help you.

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Grace. Emma also led the singing throughout the service.

As in past years the service concluded with a march past followed by a Vin d'Honneur on the sea front, hosted by the Community of Colleville Montgomery.



*Service at Colleville Montgomery*

## **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

As in past years, the main commemorative events were held in the Cathedral and Military Cemetery at Bayeux. Both Services were very well attended.

The day started with a 10.00 a.m. Service in Notre Dame Cathedral in Bayeux. Seats towards the front of the nave were reserved for veterans. The Dutch Band of Liberation provided the music.

Following the Cathedral Service, veterans, families and friends gathered at the British Military Cemetery for a commemorative service at midday.

The Service was very well attended and was a poignant and moving ceremony. This year the service started with a reflection on D Day and the time since, which was given by James Corrigan Leg d'hon. During this Service at Bayeux Cemetery the Exhortation was given by Ray Lord Leg d'hon and the veterans' prayer was read by Percy Lewis Leg d'hon, The reading was given by James Corrigan Leg d'hon.

Hector Duff MM BEM TH Leg d'hon gave the Exhortation at the Cathedral service and the Kohima Epitaph at the Cemetery.



*Mary Stewart, Trust Secretary arrives with veterans at a misty Bayeux Cemetery*

Later that day veterans again gathered at Arromanches for a parade and Service, which was held on the sea front by the D Day Museum.

Rev Mandy Reynolds led the Service and the Mayor, M Patrick Jardin, and his deputy, M Adrian Cox, spoke warmly of the bravery and fortitude of the young men who landed on the beaches of France so many years ago.

During the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup> June Patrick Thomas unveiled a commemorative plaque during a small ceremony on the sea front of Lion Sur Mer. It was a moving ceremony attended by local dignitaries and Patrick gave a clear account of the loss of his shipmates when his vessel was sunk.

Meanwhile, back in the UK at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, a well attended ceremony Led by the Rt. Rev. David Bennett, OSJ took place, which had been organized by Peter Lloyd. A number of Legion d'Honneur medals were also presented at that event.



*Veterans and supporters gather at the National Memorial Arboretum*

## THE EVENTS IN PICTURES

A difference in weather!



*Bayeux CWGC Cemetery*

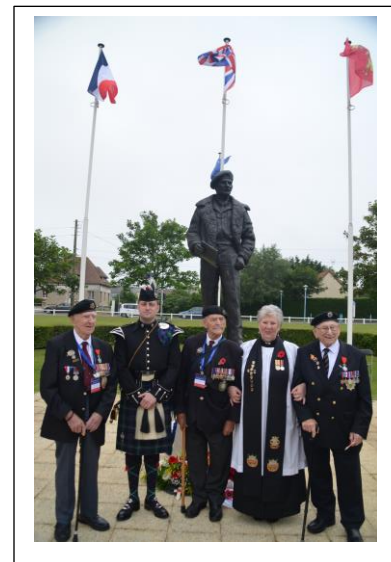


*National Memorial Arboretum*

Scenes at Ceremonies



*Colleville  
Montgomery*



*Bayeux  
Cathedral*



*Arromanches*

