



**A Service to mark the 80th
Anniversary of D-Day**

**Thursday 6 June 2024
9.00am**

The Proclamation will be read by Dorchester Town Crier,
Mr Anthony Harrison

Oyez, Oyez, Oyez

Today we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France – an incredible achievement in military planning and logistics uniting brave service personnel from air, sea and land forces at the beginning of Operation Overlord.

By the day's end, over one hundred and fifty thousand Allied troops had successfully stormed the now famous Gold, Juno, Sword, Utah and Omaha beaches to achieve a toehold in France.

In the weeks that followed, the Allies fought bitterly against a determined foe from the unforgiving countryside of Normandy to the liberation of Paris two months later.

We should all remember and never forget the selfless sacrifice and courage of all those involved and use this Commemoration to pay our tribute to those who gave so much to secure the freedom we all enjoy today.

God Save the King

The Royal British Legion County Chairman will invite the Chair of Dorset Council, Cllr Stella Jones MBE to speak

The Minister says:

As we gather, on this poignant day, we remember those who fought with distinction on D-Day to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. We give thanks for all who paid the ultimate sacrifice and those who fought alongside them.

By committing once again to preserving their memory and remembering their sacrifice, we also take a moment to pray for peace in our world today.

St Osmund's School Choir will sing Dona Nobis Pacem

The Minister will invite the Royal British Legion County Chairman, Mr Grant Parrott to speak

The Royal British Legion County Chairman will call upon the Representatives of the Ex-Services' Associations to deliver the Messages from the five Charities

Message from The Royal Naval Association

There has been no greater combined air, sea and land operation in the history of warfare than Operation Overlord – codename for the invasion of Normandy. The seaborne element of the invasion – Operation Neptune – required 6,833 vessels from great battleships pounding German defences, down to small floating galleys, salvage tugs and landing craft. The naval force was crewed by Frenchmen, Norwegians, Dutch, Poles, Greeks, Americans, but especially Britons and Canadians, who accounted for nearly 80 per cent of all the sailors taking part.

The Royal Marines played a vital part too. Of the hundreds of landing craft sent against the beaches of Normandy, two out of every three were crewed by Royal Marines.

With ever diminishing numbers of Naval veterans who survived this great victory, it is vital that we pay tribute to those who died on this great endeavour, are no longer with us or are not well enough to attend in person.

Message from ABF The Soldiers' Charity

The D-Day landings in June 1944 paved the way for the liberation of North-West Europe and, ultimately, victory in the Second World War.

To this day, our charity remembers - and will always remember - the courage and sacrifice of those Allied soldiers who took part in what was the largest amphibious operation in the history of warfare.

Our charity was established during the same year as the D-Day landings, with HM King George VI as Patron, to ensure support would be available for soldiers, veterans and their families in peacetime – and our founding purpose remains the same to this day.

Thank you to everybody who participates in this important national campaign to remember the greatest amphibious operation in history, and the beginning of the end of the Second World War.

Message from The RAF Benevolent Fund

On behalf of the RAF Benevolent Fund, I am proud to support the D-Day 80 Commemoration event.

On D-Day over 11,590 Allied aircraft of all types were involved, 5,656 of these were Royal Air Force. What is often forgotten is that over 1,800 RAF personnel and 456 vehicles landed on the beaches and by 9 June, this had increased to over 3,500 RAF personnel and 815 vehicles in Normandy, working on airfield construction, aircraft servicing and forward controlling.

As the accounts of the men and women of that fateful time drift further into the past, we must continue to share their stories with our future generations and ensure that their sacrifices for our country are never forgotten.

Message from The Merchant Navy Association

The men of the Merchant Navy and the merchant fleets of the other allied countries were a major part of the seaborne force.

Merchant ships were among the first vessels to arrive off the beaches on D-Day. Their crew were civilians without the support of military discipline and training, yet they faced the dangers and did not waver.

Never was there a lack of willing hands to man the ships though they knew the horrors of an enemy attack at sea.

They took troops to the scene of battle and sustained them as they fought. Tugs brought over the sections of the Mulberry harbours.

During the Invasion, between 6th June and 30th August 1944, 180 MN seamen sacrificed their lives whilst many more were lost bringing supplies across the Atlantic.

Around 50,000 men manned the 835 ships that carried the troops and over half a million tons of cargo from ports between the Bristol Channel and Thames Estuary.

We are proud today to be known as the Fourth Service. Their efforts and sacrifices must never be forgotten.

Message from The Normandy Memorial Trust

The Normandy Memorial Trust was set up in 2015 to realise the ambition of Normandy Veterans for Britain finally to have a national memorial in Normandy which brought together the names of all those in British units who lost their lives in the D-Day landings and the subsequent Battle of Normandy.

The completed memorial was opened by the then Prince of Wales on 6th June 2021. Inscribed on its walls and pillars are the names of 22,442 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of Western Europe's freedom in the summer of 1944.

Few events in European history can match the significance of what happened on the D-Day beaches and in the towns and villages of Normandy.

I hope you will visit the British Normandy Memorial and, with us, reflect and give thanks for the sacrifice which it commemorates.

The Act of Remembrance

The Minister says:

Let us remember before God and commend to God's sure keeping those who have died for their country in war; those whom we knew, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and died in the service of our common humanity. As we commend to you, lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

The Minister will invite His Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant, The Hon Mrs Townshend to read The Exhortation

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

The Silence follows: ... 2 Minutes

The Reveille

The Minister will invite the Royal British Legion County Chairman, Mr Grant Parrott to read the Kohima Plea

When you go home, tell them of us and say: for your tomorrow we gave our today.

The D-Day 80 Flag of Peace will now be raised
by HM Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet CSM Oliver Frowd

The Minister says:

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and forever.

All: Amen

St Osmund's School Choir will sing
Benedictus/Sanctus

The Royal British Legion County Chairman will invite HM Lord-Lieutenant's Cadet CSM Oliver Frowd to read the Poem 'Taking a Stand' by John Bailey

An Act of Commitment

The Minister says:

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and humanity; that we may help, encourage and comfort others; and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

All: O God in whom all life exists, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, 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

We join together in the Lord's Prayer...

Blessing

The National Anthem

With thanks to:

Royal Naval Association
A Sqn Royal Wessex Yeomanry
Royal Air Force Association
Merchant Navy Association
Royal British Legion
US First Infantry Division

Minister

Revd John Yarrien,
Superintendent Minister,
Dorset South and West
Methodist Circuit

Dorchester Town Crier

Mr Anthony Harrison

RBL County Chairman

Mr Grant Parrott

Bugler

Mrs Elizabeth A Carter
BA(Hons)

Choir

St Osmund's School Choir

