

# D-DAY 79<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY: BRITISH NORMANDY MEMORIAL HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CEREMONY FOR FIRST TIME

The British Normandy Memorial, which officially opened in June 2021, will for the first time play host to the annual International Ceremony marking the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. The Memorial remembers the 22,442 servicemen and women from 38 different countries who died under British command on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy in the summer of 1944.



Organised by the *Comité du Débarquement*, the International Ceremony hosts representatives from the nine principal Allied nations (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Poland, Norway and the United States of America) as well as Germany.

The service includes speeches from these representatives, the raising of each Allied flag in turn, and music from a French military band.

Last year, the Ceremony took place in Bernières-sur-Mer in the Canadian sector.



6 JUNE 1944													
SON P T	CAPT	301	BRIDGEMAN E	MNS	28	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	CLIFFORD A C	PTE	31	ELLIOTT M	SGT
	SGT	24	STEWART D	AB	28	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	CLOVIS E W	PTE	31	ELMER A A	PTE
	CPL	25	STURLEY E	MNS	27	TICKNELL J A	COR	28	COOPER W	PTE	25	ELSON J R G A	SGT
	MNS	21	SWANBY P J	MNS	20	TIDGEMAN T W	PTE	31	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	MNS	26	SWINDALL R T W A	MNS	26	TIDGEMAN T W	PTE	31	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	AB	20	TAYLOR G O	MNS	19	TIDGEMAN T W	PTE	31	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	AB	22	TAYLOR G O	MNS	19	TIDGEMAN T W	PTE	31	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	MNS	20	TAYLOR G O	MNS	19	TIDGEMAN T W	PTE	31	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	24	TERRILL E N S	MNS	21	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	MNS	20	THOMSON A	AB	23	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGM	28	THOMSON A	AB	23	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	AB	22	TIPPING F J	SGT	20	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	MNS	20	TREWELL E J	SGM	20	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	LT	24	TREWELL E J	SGM	20	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	PTE	24	TREWELL E J	SGM	20	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	MNS	20	TURNER I H B	MNS	22	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	20	UPTON L	CPL	26	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	MNS	20	WADSWORTH P B	MNS	19	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	MNS	20	WADSWORTH P B	MNS	19	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	24	WATSON G	MNS	19	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	24	WATSON G	MNS	19	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	LCPL	20	WELSH T C	MNS	20	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	20	WELSH T C	MNS	20	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	CAPT	23	WHITAKER F	MNS	19	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	20	WILKINSON P	SGT	24	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	CPL	19	WILLIAMS C J	MNS	19	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	MNS	19	WILLIAMS R	MNS	21	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	MNS	19	WISS D G	CPL	20	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	20	WOOD S	AB	20	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	20	YATES T D	LT	22	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	20	YOUNGMAN E P H	CPL	22	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	20	ARMY	AGE		TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	20	ABELL E E	LSGT	25	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE
	SGT	20	ADAMS D	PTE	12	TIBBY T W	PTE	288	COOPER T L	PTE	27	EMMETT E	PTE

**Stan Ford, Normandy Veteran and Memorial Ambassador, said:**

“I am delighted that this year the international ceremony is being held at the British Normandy Memorial. I look forward to taking part in the ceremony, paying tribute to the many thousands of servicemen and women who died under British command, and those from the other Allied Nations and Germany. It will be a truly poignant moment to remember and reflect together surrounded by the engraved names of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.”



This year's anniversary will also be the first time that the Veterans, families of the fallen and many dignitaries will have the opportunity to see the newest addition to the Memorial site: The Queen Elizabeth II Avenue.

The planting of 70 trees, a gift offered by President Macron for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last June, took place on Wednesday 11 January at the site of the British Normandy Memorial.

The gift now stands as a marker of the Queen's remarkable reign, in her memory, and as a sign of the significant relationship between the UK and France.

**SUMMARY OF EVENTS – D-Day 79**

The British Normandy Memorial, the Royal British Legion (RBL) and the French authorities announce the full timetable of events taking place on 5 and 6 June 2023 – full details in Notes to Editors (p. 3). All events are open to the public, although spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come – first served basis.

**5 June 2023**

Youth Commemoration – British Normandy Memorial, Ver-sur-Mer – 14:00-15:30 CET

Commemorative Service – Bayeux Cathedral – 18.00-18.45 CET

**6 June 2023**

RBL Service of Remembrance – British Normandy Memorial, Ver-sur-Mer – 10.00-10.30 CET

Ver-sur-Mer Service of Remembrance – Place Winston Churchill, Ver-sur-Mer – 11:30-12:00 CET

RBL Commemorative Service – Bayeux War Cemetery – 12.30 – 13.00 CET

International Ceremony – British Normandy Memorial, Ver-sur-Mer – 16.30 – 18.00 CET

## Notes to Editors

For more information contact:

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### **Commonwealth War Graves Commission – France –**

Pascal-Louis Caillaut – [pl.caillaut@cwgc.org](mailto:pl.caillaut@cwgc.org) - +33 (0) 6 76 73 23 67

Images of the events taking place at the British Normandy Memorial will be available at –

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/69hli3ohnxl204i/AAAqrNnPYnHB6SPKNLP8ii0Wa?dl=0>

Please get in touch for interview opportunities with D-Day / Normandy Veterans and British Normandy Memorial spokespeople.

## **YOUTH CEREMONY**

**Date:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Location:** The British Normandy Memorial, 13 Avenue Paul Poret, Ver-sur-Mer (14114)

**Timings:** 14.00 CET – 15.30 CET

**Description:** Organised by the *Comité du Débarquement*, based in Bayeux, this commemorative service is attended by schoolchildren and youth from across the area where British forces landed (Ver-sur-Mer, Creully-sur-Seulles, Sommervieu, Esquay-sur-Seulles, Bayeux) and a group of young people from the defence college Rachel Salmona in Tréport.

Includes speeches and presentations from the youth of the projects they have been working, as well as the laying of wreaths.

**Notes:** This event is open to the public.

No ticket or registration required.

Spaces will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Arrival from 13:30 CET.

Seating is not available.

There is a small fee to park vehicles at the British Normandy Memorial. All money raised contributes to the upkeep of the Memorial.

## **BAYEUX CATHEDRAL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE**

- Date:** Monday 5 June 2023
- Location:** Cathedral of Our Lady of Bayeux, Ville de Bayeux (14400)
- Timings:** 18.00 CET – 18.45 CET
- Description:** Organised by the British Defence Staff, this annual multi-faith Service of Remembrance reflects upon the sacrifices made by those under British command during the D-Day landings and throughout the Battle of Normandy.
- Notes:** This event is open to the public.  
No ticket or registration required.  
Spaces will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Arrival from 17:30 CET.

## **THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION'S SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

- Date:** Tuesday 6 June 2023
- Location:** The British Normandy Memorial, 13 Avenue Paul Poret, Ver-sur-Mer (14114)
- Timings:** 10.00 CET – 10.30 CET
- Description:** Organised by the Royal British Legion with the Normandy Memorial Trust, this small but significant ceremony will recognise the sacrifice of the troops who died under British Command on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 and throughout the Battle of Normandy.  
A group of British Battle of Normandy Veterans are expected to attend the service.
- Notes:** This event is open to the public.  
No ticket or registration required.  
Spaces will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Arrival from 09.30 CET.  
Very limited seating.  
There is a small fee to park vehicles at the British Normandy Memorial. All money raised contributes to the upkeep of the Memorial.

## **VER-SUR-MER SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

- Date:** Tuesday 6 June 2023
- Location:** Place Winston Churchill, Ver-sur-Mer (14114)
- Timings:** 11.30 CET – 12.00 CET
- Description:** The village of Ver-sur-Mer's annual service of remembrance commemorating the British soldiers who died liberating the village as well as the civilian casualties of the occupation and the battle of Normandy.  
Includes speeches on the importance of peace, involvement of local youth and the national anthems of France and Great Britain.
- Notes:** This event is open to the public.  
No ticket or registration required.  
No seating.

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION'S COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

- Date:** Tuesday 6 June 2023
- Location:** CWGC Bayeux War Cemetery, 1945 Boulevard Fabian Ware, Bayeux (14400)
- Timings:** 12.30 CET – 13.00 CET
- Description:** Organised by the Royal British Legion, this annual commemorative service takes place among the 4,648 British servicemen and Allied forces buried here.
- The service comprises performances by British Army Band Catterick, mezzo-soprano Emma Brown and Normandy Veteran testimonies, as well as a wreath laying.
- A group of British Battle of Normandy Veterans are expected to attend the service.
- Notes:** This event is open to the public.
- No ticket or registration required.
- Limited seating. Spaces will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Arrival from 12.00 CET.

## INTERNATIONAL CEREMONY

- Date:** Tuesday 6 June 2023
- Location:** The British Normandy Memorial, 13 Avenue Paul Poret, Ver-sur-Mer (14114)
- Timings:** 16.30 CET – 18.00 CET
- Description:** Organised by the *Comité du Débarquement*, the International Ceremony hosts representatives from the nine principal Allied nations (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Poland, Norway and the United States of America) as well as Germany.
- The service includes speeches from the representatives, the raising of each Allied flag in turn, and music from a French military band.
- A group of British Battle of Normandy Veterans are expected to attend the service. They will be joined by a group of up to 50 US Veterans who have been brought to Normandy with the Best Defense Foundation.
- Notes:** This event is open to the public.
- No ticket or registration required.
- Spaces will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. Arrival from 14:30 CET.
- Seating is not available.
- There is a small fee to park vehicles at the British Normandy Memorial. All money raised contributes to the upkeep of the Memorial.

## What Was D-Day?

The D-Day landings in Normandy on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 marked the beginning of the Allied assault against the Nazi occupiers in western Europe. From first light on 6<sup>th</sup> June, forces comprising British, US, Canadian, French and other nationalities landed across a beachhead stretching for over 60 miles along the Normandy coastline on five beaches: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword (from west to east). More than 180,000 men landed that day on the beaches and from the air, while more than 7,000 ships were involved in the bombardment and bringing men and supplies ashore.

## The British Normandy Memorial

The British Normandy Memorial stands on a hillside in Ver-sur-Mer above Gold Beach in Normandy, a place where history was shaped. On the columns of the Memorial the names of 22,442 servicemen and women from 38 nationalities who lost their lives on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy are inscribed. The site of the Memorial was selected by Normandy Veterans during a consultation process in April 2017. It was formally opened on 6 June 2021 by the then Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, as Royal Patron of the Normandy Memorial Trust.

Key facts about the Memorial:

- 50 acres (20 hectares) – size of Memorial site.
- 700m – distance from Gold Beach.
- 38m – height above sea level.
- 4,700 tonnes – amount of stone used to construct the Memorial.
- 7.6m – height of walls of Memorial Courtyard, with the names of the 1,746 who died on D-Day itself engraved on the walls.
- 160 – number of pillars on which the remaining names are cut in chronological order (by day).
- The youngest servicemen to be included on the Memorial are 16 years old whilst the oldest is 64.
- The remains of the Mont Fleurie Battery, a German artillery bunker borders the site to the east, where CSM Stan Hollis VC began the action that saw him awarded the only Victoria Cross of D-Day.

The Normandy Memorial Trust is the UK registered charity responsible for the construction and management of the British Normandy Memorial. To help safeguard and maintain the Memorial for future generations, you can become a Guardian in remembrance of the 22,442 who sacrificed their lives for our freedom through a regular monthly donation. More information at <https://www.britishnormandymemorial.org/guardian/>

The Roll of Honour database can be searched and viewed at [www.britishnormandymemorial.org/roll-of-honour](http://www.britishnormandymemorial.org/roll-of-honour). The task of compiling the Roll of Honour of names for inscription on the British Normandy Memorial has been an original piece of historical research undertaken by the Normandy Memorial Trust.

- Website:  
[www.britishnormandymemorial.org](http://www.britishnormandymemorial.org)
- Social media channels:  
[www.facebook.com/BritishMemorial](https://www.facebook.com/BritishMemorial)  
[www.twitter.com/BritishMemorial](https://www.twitter.com/BritishMemorial)

Registered charity number: 1168973

## The Comité du Débarquement

This committee is responsible for planning and delivering the annual D-Day commemorations in Normandy. They organise the Youth Ceremony for local children and the International Ceremony, hosting representatives from the principal Allied nations, from across Europe and the world.

- Website  
[www.dday-comitedudebarquement.fr](http://www.dday-comitedudebarquement.fr)

## **Royal British Legion**

The Royal British Legion (RBL) is the UK's largest charity dedicated to supporting the needs of the Armed Forces community, past and present and their families. The RBL is the champion of Remembrance and safeguards the Armed Forces Covenant. It is well known for the annual Poppy Appeal and its emblem the red poppy.

- Website:  
[www.rbl.org.uk](http://www.rbl.org.uk)
- Social media channels:  
[www.facebook.com/OfficialPoppyLegion](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialPoppyLegion)  
[www.twitter.com/PoppyLegion](https://www.twitter.com/PoppyLegion)

Registered Charity Number: 219279

## **The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)**

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is a global leader in commemoration. Our mission is to ensure those who died in service, or as a result of conflict, are commemorated so that they, and the human cost of war, are remembered for ever. Founded by Royal Charter in 1917, we work across the world on behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom to commemorate the 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth who lost their lives in the two World Wars.

- Website:  
[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)
- Social media channels:  
[www.facebook.com/commonwealthwargravescommission/](https://www.facebook.com/commonwealthwargravescommission/)  
[www.twitter.com/CWGC](https://www.twitter.com/CWGC)

Registered charity number: 171947

## **CWGC Bayeux War Cemetery**

Bayeux War Cemetery is the largest Second World War Commonwealth cemetery in France. The cemetery contains 4,648 burials mainly from Commonwealth forces who died during D-Day and liberation of Normandy. There are also a further 466 graves of German soldiers. Opposite the cemetery is the Bayeux memorial which commemorates more than 1,800 casualties of the Commonwealth Forces who died in Normandy and have no known grave.

For almost 80 years on 6 June veterans and their families have returned to honour their comrades during the commemorative events held in the cemetery. Bayeux War Cemetery has been and remains the focal point of remembrance for those who fought and died during the Normandy campaign. The cemetery and memorial were built and are still maintained today by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.