

MILLIN-MONTGOMERY VOYAGE

A seaborne relay event in commemoration of the
70th anniversary of D-Day

From the Highlands of Scotland to Sword Beach
5th May - 6th June 2014

www.d-dayrevisited.co.uk/event/millin-montgomery-voyage



**D-DAY
REVISITED**



The Millin - Montgomery D-Day+70 Anniversary Voyage

The “*Millin-Montgomery*” D-Day VOYAGE of 1,000 miles – the story in headline.

On 6th June 1944 the combined beach and air assault codenamed “**OPERATION OVERLORD**” would see over 150,000 troops landed on the first day, mostly by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. D-Day was the biggest ever assault on a hostile coast – up to 7,000 ships and a million men crossed the English Channel to force the liberation of Europe. Leading within a few months to the liberation of France and the subsequent liberation of Europe, the D-Day story has much of its roots in the Highlands of Scotland. New types of training were devised, especially for the Commandos. Away from bombing and aerial surveillance, Inveraray became a massive training centre for British & Canadian forces. Other historic bases were established at Inverailort and Achnacarry, with practice landings being carried out all over the Western Isles.

This is a people’s story which deserves to be told by the people. In this Remembrance Voyage it is for the communities to become involved, to celebrate and commemorate their key part in the Overlord & Neptune story. The Voyage proceeds from Scotland to Ulster, home to many training areas. In North Wales, Conway saw the beginnings of the Mulberry Harbour which was vital to D-Day planning. Further south, Milford Haven was the northernmost port for the Landings. Then down to Cornwall and the Channel coast, the Voyage calls at the main embarkation ports.

Due respect is included to the United States troops who departed from ports in Cornwall and Devon, including a special ceremony to be held in Lyme Bay off ‘Slapton Sands’ in memory of those who lost their lives during the D-Day preparation exercise, ‘Operation Tiger’.

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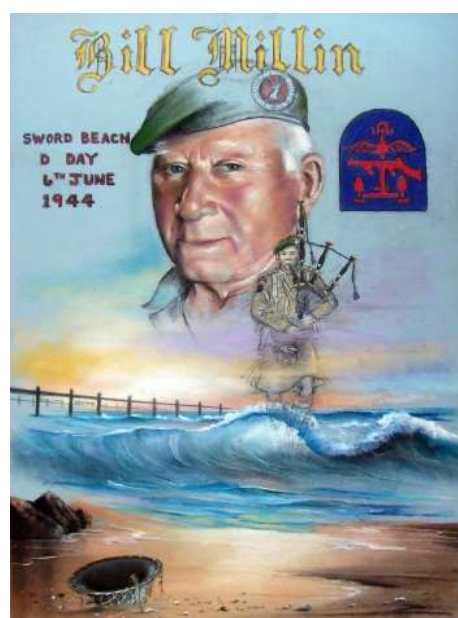
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Introduction: the Millin-Montgomery Story: Dunkirk to D-Day

We help to raise awareness of this story drawing on two historic elements:

DUNKIRK – our troops were driven from mainland Europe in 1940 to return four years later. On the beaches of Dunkirk/Dunkerque, alongside the Royal Navy it was the legendary ‘Little Ships’ which saved the Army: privately owned pleasure craft, fishing boats and ferry boats. As it was then, so it can be the people’s effort now to celebrate and commemorate this 70th Anniversary in a relay of ‘Little Ships’ from Fort William to Portsmouth. At each Port the local community can gather in celebration, involving all ages: those who remember D-Day first hand through to schoolchildren & youth groups who can learn the key role played by their home town.

PIPER BILL MILLIN was trained at Achnacarry in the Highlands and subsequently became the personal Piper to Brigadier Lord Lovat in the first landings on Sword Beach at dawn on D-Day. The 70th Anniversary will see the last gathering of Normandy Veterans in quantity and we present the Piper Millin story in representation of the best of British Military traditions. In Bill Millin we see courage and daring exemplary of the men who assaulted and breached Hitler’s Atlantic Wall of defence. Here was a man who landed with the first wave of Commandos and under heavy fire, armed only with a dirk sheathed in his right sock, he marched along the water’s edge playing his Pipes to lift the spirits of the troops as they waded ashore. Although Bill died in 2010, his legend will endure as an ordinary man called upon to play his extraordinary part in history.



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Starting in the Highlands at Spean Bridge & Achnacarry

At 11am on Sunday 4th May 2014 a gathering of Normandy Veterans will take part in a commemorative ceremony at the Spean Bridge Commando Memorial. This will be followed by a group visit to the nearby former Commando Training Establishment, Achnacarry Castle. Graciously attended by Donald Cameron of Lochiel, the Lord Lieutenant of Invernesshire, Leader of the Clan Cameron and current owner of Achnacarry, the ceremonies will be centred around John Millin, son of famous D-Day Piper Bill Millin, playing a set of replica Pipes designed as a faithful match of those used by his father on D-Day.



The D-Day Bagpipes will then be brought down to Fort William where they will be put aboard the first of the “Little Ships”. Fresh from the highland ceremonies, John Millin will play the Pipes aboard as he hands over to the first volunteer Piper who will then play the ship out of Port and remain on board through to the next Port. At the end of this Anniversary ‘Relay’ Voyage through the next four weeks the Pipes will arrive in Portsmouth on Monday 2nd June. Carried by various and varied vessels throughout this tribute voyage, the Pipes will visit ports en route which are significantly part of the D-Day story of Invasion & Liberation. Ceremonies are planned along the voyage, with each ship being piped into Port by a Volunteer Piper playing the Millin pipes.

On the evening of Monday 2nd June, John Millin will play the Pipes at the Send-off Ceremonial Dinner held at Eisenhower’s 1944 SHAEF Headquarters, Southwick House in Portsmouth, then again as the Ferry leaves Port at 2.45pm the following day. That departure will include at least 60 Normandy Veterans on board, setting off from these shores exactly 70 years on for



Normandy. This departure will coincide with the ‘Solent Salute’ to be carried out by the Royal Navy including RN Tug Boats leading the Ferry out of Harbour, with sirens and water cannons. An exchange salute may take place between Normandy Veterans and serving RN crews of HM Warships at anchor and the French Flagship Aircraft Carrier, the “Charles de Gaulle”.

The final act in this Tribute Voyage will be in the small town of Colleville-Montgomery which is situated in the background of Sword Beach. During the evening celebration and commemorative dinner held there on Friday 6th June, 70 years to the day since the first landings, John Millin will play the Pipes a final time after which a delegation of Normandy Veterans who landed at Sword Beach will present the Millin Pipes to the Mayor.

In this way, a meaningful bond is formed between the Highlands of Scotland where so many of the Liberators were trained, and the Sword Beach community of Colleville-Montgomery, a small French town fittingly renamed in tribute to Field Marshall Montgomery and his troops. During the voyage, all four parts of the Union are visited and tied together; from the rugged Highlands and Islands of Scotland, to Belfast in Ulster, to North & South Wales and on to the West Country of England, finishing with a tour along the English Channel coastal communities.

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The Bagpipes

In close cooperation with the Millin family, a set of bagpipes is being prepared by historic manufacturer, RG Hardie & Company Ltd. of Glasgow.

Alastair Dunn of Hardie's is producing an authentic replica of the Peter Henderson Military Pipes used by Piper Bill Millin when he landed on Sword Beach with the commandos of the First Special Service Brigade under Brigadier Simon Fraser the 15th Lord Lovat.

To aid authenticity, the Millin family has donated a chanter from an original set of Pipes owned and played by Bill Millin. As the original D-Day set is in the Dawlish Museum and the Normandy Pipes (used after the Landings) are in the Pegasus Bridge Museum, by including this chanter into the Replica Pipes we make the closest possible link with that first commando assault.

Striving for authenticity, a special effort has been made to match the discoloration of the ivory fittings. Bagpipes of that period are well known for the 'orange' appearance of joints as material used seventy and eighty years ago has been affected by ultra-violet light. A variety of polymer pigments have been used to accurately replicate this feature and it is hoped that Pipers who notice such features will appreciate the care which has been taken.



Organisation and Contacts

This 70th Anniversary Voyage is being organised by '**D-Day Revisited**' in association with the **Royal British Legion** City of Liverpool Branch.

Contact Sean Pullen: cityofliverpoolpao@fsmail.net 07876 246011

Contact Victoria Phipps: victoria@d-dayrevisited.co.uk 01244 531765

The voyage purpose is to pay tribute to those who took part in the Invasion of Europe which commenced on 5th June 1944 for the first landings on the following early morning. Accordingly, the "Little Ships" will visit ports which played a part in the preparation and execution of the Invasion, especially those towns along the English Channel coast.

The "Little Ships" are provided by volunteers. These will be a variety of privately owned vessels of launches, yachts, ferries, fishing boats, RNLi, HM Coastguard and also included will be Royal Navy P2000 Patrol Boats operated by University RN Units (URNU). Pipers will be selected from volunteers who present themselves keenly to be part of the voyage.

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The 'Little Ships'

What has the Dunkirk evacuation to do with D-Day?

It is a Peoples' story of effort and contribution by individuals and communities. The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was defeated and driven from the beaches of Dunkirk on the French Channel Coast. It was a military disaster yet snatched from this defeat was the extraordinary achievement of repatriating the bulk of the British Army, along with 140,000 French soldiers. From 27th May to 4th June 1940 nearly 340,000 troops were evacuated from the beaches and port of Dunkirk, using 693 British ships of all sizes. The newly appointed Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, was careful not to characterise this retreat as a victory, but it was a vital success.

J.B Priestley in a BBC broadcast on 4th June 1940: *"...in the epic of Dunkirk... our great grandchildren, when they learn how we began this war by snatching glory out of defeat and then swept on to victory, may also learn how the little holiday steamers made an excursion to hell and came back glorious."*

Precisely four years later was 'D-Day': the Normandy Invasion. Winston Churchill's famously rallying speech *"We shall fight them on the beaches"* had been delivered to Parliament on 4th June 1940. By that exact same day in 1944 thousands of ships and landing craft were loaded all along the English Channel coast ready for the signal to return to those beaches, yet this time as Liberators. In so many ways the story of D-Day began at Dunkirk with a Nation stirred into action, through four years of the people's endurance, defiance against the bombing, training, building resources, connecting with the New World through the Atlantic Bridge and finally turning the South of England into a huge army camp. The crucial point to be made through the symbolism of this grand 'Millin-Montgomery' Tribute Voyage is that all parts of the Country played their part. Communities throughout the land contributed to the Invasion and its ultimate success.



This 'Millin-Montgomery' anniversary voyage is predominantly a British event, yet this is a world-wide story. After his appointment as Prime Minister on 10th May 1940, Winston Churchill's first speech three days later laid open the desperate situation, immediately demonstrating his trust of the British people.

"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. You ask: what is our policy? I will say: it is to wage

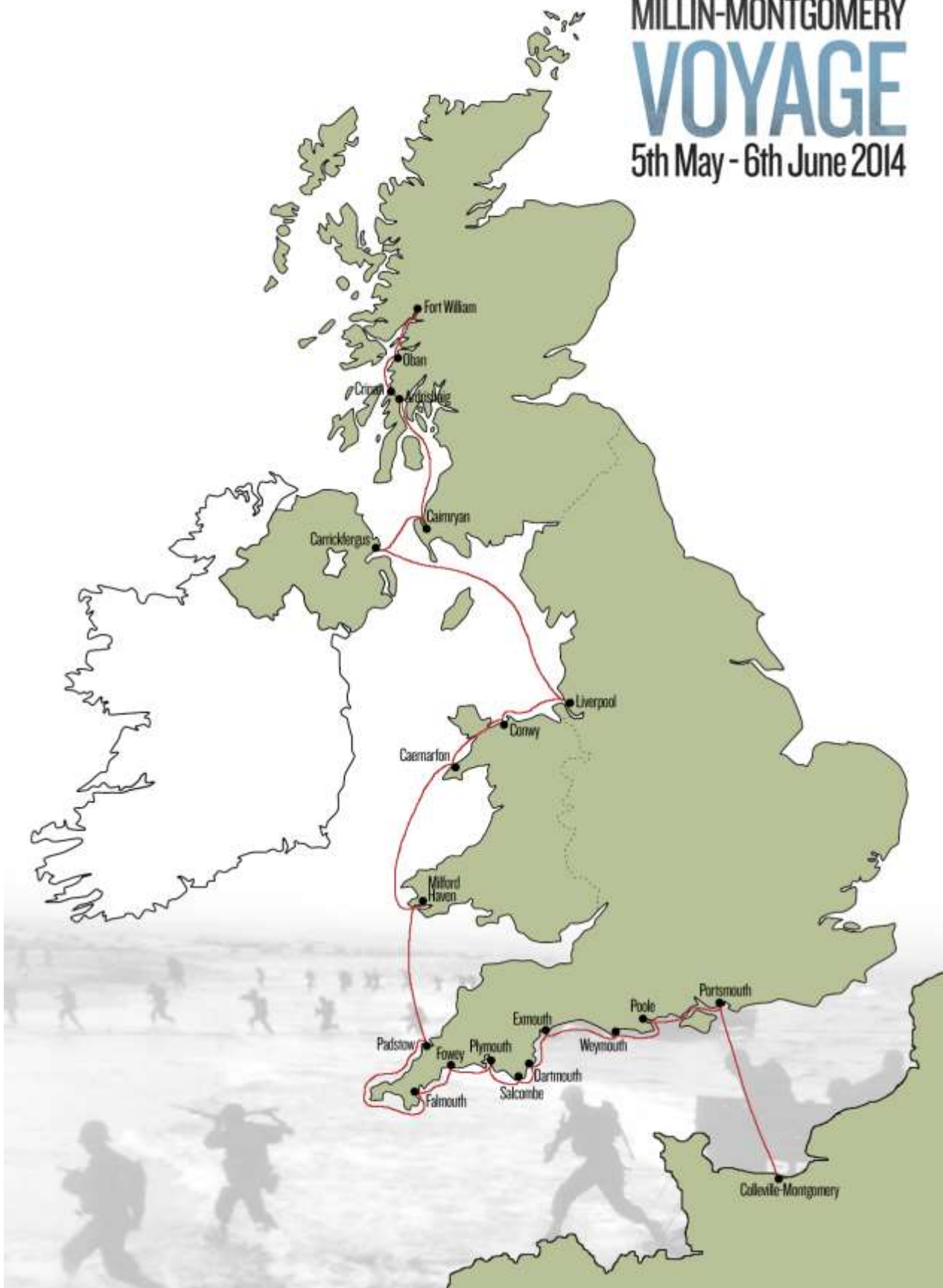
war by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God gave us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny...that is our policy.... Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength."



After years of appeasement and demilitarisation, Churchill knew that Britain could not win the war alone; yet he also knew that Britain could lose it. Without the 'Little Ships' rescue at Dunkirk, an enforced peace deal with Hitler would neuter Britain to become a subjugated State. The British Isles as the last bastion of freedom would not have been available for the launching of D-Day, whilst the full & undistracted might of the Wehrmacht would likely have subdued Russia. Rather than the United States being able to launch an invasion across the Atlantic, it is more likely that liberation of Europe was wholly dependent upon Britain remaining free and defiant to harass the occupying forces, to maintain the hope of eventual freedom for the peoples of Europe.

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MILLIN-MONTGOMERY
VOYAGE
5th May - 6th June 2014



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The VOYAGE – route and schedule in summary.

(Updated 14th April 2014)

(Note: the schedule is flexible to allow for foul weather and preferences of the 'Little Ships')

Monday 5th May: The Millin D-Day Pipes will be received at 0930 at Fort William Town Pier. In a ceremony at the quayside John Millin will play the Pipes aboard the HM Coastguard vessel "MCA Hunter" and hand over to the first volunteer Piper. In the ceremonial party will be veterans of the Royal British Legion Fort William Branch joined by members of the Commando Veterans Association (CVA) and visiting veterans from the Highlands & Islands Region.



As the "MCA Hunter" sets off, it will be accompanied down Loch Linnhe by the vessel "Souter's Lass" with members of the Highland Council on board. For the first five miles a flotilla of small ships will include those joining from the Fort William Yacht Club and a variety of small boats operated by local Sea & Army Cadets along with Air Training Corps.

Departure will be 10am from Fort William to Oban.

BOOKED: Local Coastguard "MCA Hunter".

6th May: 0900 piped out of Oban harbour for Crinan Cove. After the short link across the peninsular to Ardrishaig, the Pipes will be handed over to the Royal Navy's HMS Raider which will complete the crossing to Cairnryan via Campbeltown. An en-route wreath laying ceremony will be conducted in memory of all those who lost their lives in training and beach landing exercises throughout that region of Kintyre/Arran/Bute.

BOOKED: Locally operated 'CALMAC' Ferries



9th May (Friday): Piped out of Cairnryan Harbour (Stranraer) 0730, proceed to Belfast.

BOOKED: STENA LINE has agreed to do this part of the Relay Voyage.

Arrival into Belfast is due at 09.45. The short onward estuary link to Rodgers Quay, Carrickfergus will be made by the Northern Ireland Sea Cadets in a flotilla of boats. Afternoon and evening ceremonies are arranged with the Belfast RBL and RAF Association in order to represent all those of Northern Ireland who took part (and played a part) in the Normandy Landings.

'D-Day Revisited' Normandy Veterans to attend:

John Shanahan (93), Royal Ulster Rifles Veteran of the D-Day Sword Beach landings; Lance Rooke (88) Veteran of the 6th Airborne Division Royal Ulster Rifles – Merville Battery;

Frank Ferguson (90) Veteran of RAF 264 Night Fighter Squadron, based Pecauville Airfield.



10th May (Saturday): 08.30 departure from Carrickfergus on local Fishing Boat to Belfast, followed by 10.30 departure on Stena Line Ferry out of Belfast for arrival into Liverpool at 1830.

BOOKED: STENA LINE has willingly agreed to do this part of the Relay Voyage from Belfast to Liverpool. Upon arrival into Liverpool the "M-M" Pipes will be transferred onto the Mersey Ferry. With a number of Normandy veterans on board the Mersey Ferry will stop mid-river for a wreath laying ceremony which will be conducted in memory of those lost in the Battle of the Atlantic in recognition of the vital wartime supply bridge operated between North America and Liverpool. Following the river ceremony, veterans will be landed at the Pier Head for a civic reception held at the Royal Liver Buildings.

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Saturday 10th May (evening): in Liverpool for ceremonies and river fireworks display.

Sunday 11th May: In consideration of the need for weather flexibility, the schedule will assume this day berthed in Liverpool although an earlier departure may suit forecasted weather conditions for the next stage via Conway in North Wales to Milford Haven in South Wales.

12th May: 0930 piped out of Liverpool heading for Conway in North Wales.

BOOKED: *Private Motor Yacht supported by the New Brighton RNLI Lifeboat.*

Preferably the "Little Ship" should pass through the Menai Straits although this is subject to tide, sea conditions and weather generally. The Captain may opt for routing past Holyhead.



13th May: Depart Conway. **In discussion with RBL for which boat to be used.**

It is expected the Pipes will be relayed to Caernarfon and onward to Milford Haven.

Note: a piped salute to the Menai Straits and Conway Harbour is appropriate for that district's part in the early stages of development and construction of the famous Mulberry Harbour which was towed across to Normandy to create two temporary ports, each the size of Dover.

14th May: At sea/extra time for weather disruption.

15th May: Arrival at Milford Haven which was the northernmost direct departure port in support of the landings and was an area surrounded by airfields which concentrated on the protection of Western Approaches in anti-submarine action. Along with a Veterans' visit aboard, the 'M-M' Pipes are expected to be played on the deck of Minesweeper HMS Pembroke (right) which is scheduled to be in harbour.



Milford Haven D-Day duties were in general material support, with local airfields blockading western access into the English Channel by U-Boats & E-Boats. Some of the capital ships were moored in the Severn Estuary off Milford Haven & Swansea; this was to keep hidden from enemy radar and maintain secrecy; for example the battleship HMS Rodney.

16th May: After ceremonies, depart Milford Haven heading for Padstow.

BOOKED: *Milford Haven Port Authority has agreed for one of its Port Patrol 'Short Sea Division' vessels to take the "M-M" Pipes across to Padstow.*

En route, the 'Little Ship' will pass close to shore along the West Devon coast past the wide beaches of Woolacombe where practice beach landings were carried out prior to D-Day.

Saturday 17th May: After the crossing, arrive Padstow and enter inner harbour.

BOOKED: *Padstow inner harbour berth is reserved with the Harbour Authority.*

A civic reception is arranged with the Mayor of Padstow, the local branch of the Royal British Legion and the local Cadet Force. The historic harbour will be the centre piece.

Sunday 18th May: Spare day in Padstow; veterans may pay a visit to Prideaux Place.

Although this was not an embarkation point, it was a significant Camp with American troops billeted and provides a suitable pause to allow for weather delay.

19th May: 0900 (subject to tides/weather) depart Padstow heading for Falmouth.

BOOKED: *Port Authority 'RHIB' vessel to take "M-M" Pipes around Land's End to Falmouth.*

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21st May: Arrive FALMOUTH; reception and ceremonies in main harbour.

Invasion follow-up Force – there is a US Army embarkation point at Trebah Beach on the Helford River which could be used as a sheltered overnight anchorage.

22nd May: Depart Falmouth

23rd May: FOWEY & POLRUAN

BOOKED: Port Authority berth arranged FOWEY.

NB. No vessels booked yet between here & Weymouth

Saturday 24th May: PLYMOUTH (*Follow up Force*)

Sunday 25th May: SALCOMBE The Town Council and Royal British Legion Branch have agreed to move their 'Whitestrاند Quay' annual memorial service from 4th June to this day. In attendance will be Irving Locker (US Utah Beach Veteran) who will lay a wreath on behalf of the US 7th Beach Battalion which was based in Salcombe.



26th May: Depart Salcombe for passage to Dartmouth.

A wreath laying service will be conducted off Slapton Sands in Lyme Bay, commemorating the loss of life during the training exercise 'Operation Tiger' in simulation of Utah Beach landings.

From the 'D-Day Revisited' Group, three veterans took part in Operation Tiger. It is expected that all will be in attendance on the Greenway Ferry 'Fairmile' (originally RML 497 launched 1942).

Don Reynolds was present on HMS Virago on 'live shelling' beach bombardment.

US Army Utah Beach D-Day Veteran, Irving Locker.

Frank Woods DSM, Normandy Veteran of LCT(R)363 firing rockets during the practice landing.

Tuesday 27th May: DARTMOUTH: depart for BRIXHAM/TORQUAY & EXMOUTH (1st wave UTAH), heading for Portland Bill & Weymouth.

28th May: Sea time, along with adjustment due to weather and/or sea conditions.

29th May: Arrival into WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BILL (1st wave OMAHA). Connection to POOLE on 30th May; this final stage will likely be led by one or more of the original Dunkirk 'Little Ships'. For example, **MTB 102** was the Flagship for the last three days of the Dunkirk evacuation in May 1940.



In accompaniment will be two of the original Dunkirk 'Little Ships' – the Tug Boat 'ST Challenge' and the private motor yacht originally named 'Skylark'.



Motor Yacht "Tahilla" (originally named "Skylark")

Steam Tug Boat "Challenge"



Launched in 1931 "Challenge" was the last steam tug to work on the River Thames. After 'Operation Dynamo', the ship is now registered in the National Historic Fleet.

Saturday 31st May/Sunday 1st June: SOUTHAMPTON and PORTSMOUTH. Arrival is planned for this weekend, with allowance for poor weather and sea conditions.

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Monday 2nd June (10.15am): A grand reception is arranged for the 'Millin-Montgomery' Pipes which will arrive on MTB-102.

The 'D-Day Revisited' party of 56 Normandy Veterans will be at the Historic Dockyard, visiting the ships of the '70th Powerboat Squadron': HSL-102, MTB-102, MGB-81 & HDML HMS Medusa which will all be moored at the pontoon near HMS Warrior.

At 10.30am the 'Millin-Montgomery' Pipes will be delivered to the PNBPT Pontoon and ceremonially handed over to John Millin who last played them at the Town Quay in Fort William. This marks the end of the UK section of the Anniversary Voyage. That afternoon will be spent at 'Southwick House', Eisenhower's Headquarters, visiting the RMP Museum and the 'D-Day' Map Room. In the evening, at the Send-Off Dinner, John Millin will ceremonially Pipe the Normandy Veterans into the Mess Hall; this mimics the traditional '*Piping in the Haggis*', although Haggis is not on the menu! Joining the Veterans for the evening will be the Hon. Lady Arabella Stuart-Smith, Granddaughter of Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. In this way, we so fittingly have together on this grand occasion - a 'Millin' and a 'Montgomery'. Also in attendance will be the 2nd Sea Lord, Rear Admiral David Steele CBE.



Tuesday 3rd June (1445 sailing): With the '*Millin-Montgomery*' Pipes, John Millin will Pipe the Brittany Ferries vessel out of harbour. The departure will be marked by warships and tugs of the Royal Navy in Port which will escort the Ferry out of harbour and conduct a '**Solent Salute**'.

CEREMONIES in France.

Thursday 5th June: the Normandy Veterans will meet up with the 'D-Day Powerboat Squadron' on the Orne River alongside Pegasus Bridge where Parachute Regiment Veterans will enjoy an anniversary military boat ride alongside this historic site – exactly 70 years since their landing!



Friday 6th June: The ceremonial commemorative dinner in *Colleville-Montgomery* will be attended by the 'D-Day Revisited' Veterans Party, John Millin & Family, the Mayor of Colleville-Montgomery along with civic dignitaries, townsfolk and other distinguished guests. During this dinner John Millin will play the Replica 'D-Day' Pipes, following which the Pipes will be presented to the Mayor of Colleville-Montgomery for display in the Town Hall to serve as a permanent reminder/record of the Sword Beach Landings carried out by Commandos trained in the rugged Highlands of Scotland and subsequently all troops who landed in that region by sea and air.

This presentation is used as an historic symbol of the association of the Town with all Normandy Veterans and with the port communities along the British coastline and the Channel coast.

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Port Entrances

Following the background theme of 'Piper Millin', each entry into Port should be conducted (weather permitting) with the Volunteer Piper at the prow of the "Little Ship" playing the vessel into Port. All port entrances will be pre-arranged through the RBL with Port and Civic Authorities. The general and repeated plan is to arrange a Civic Reception which should ideally be combined with representation from local school and youth groups as well as the local veterans' community as being arranged through the Royal British Legion. For 'D-Day Revisited' it is expected one or two of the following veterans will attend some events.

John Dennett (RN & Landing Craft Association)

Don Reynolds (RN – HMS Virago)

Richard Llewellyn (RN – Normandy HMS Ajax)

Charlie Barnes (RN – LST 322)

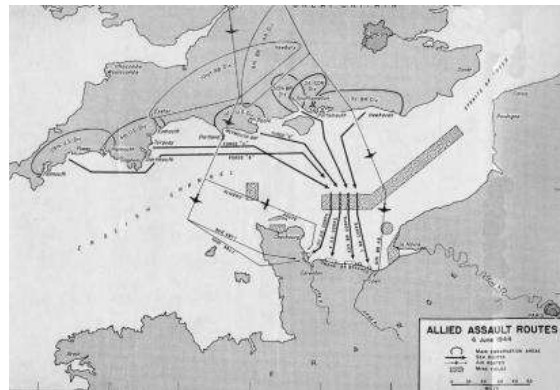
Robert (Bob) Browe (RN - HMS Scilla)

John Salmon (Pioneer Corps – Normandy)

Each river estuary and town will no doubt be pleased to make their own arrangements for the visit and we hope there will be special features introduced by the various towns along the route.

Motivation & Aims

To celebrate the veterans whilst they are still with us, using the D-Day Pipes to help tell the story of the geographical broad base from which the Invasion was launched. To show the veterans they are not forgotten and to pay tribute to those who left each port for the invasion, some never to return. This includes a tribute to the port towns themselves, recognising and remembering each community's contribution to the Invasion effort. To reach the widest population: through the exciting visual impact of the "Little Ships" encouraging visitors of all ages to join the celebration.



It is expected to attract attention of teaching professionals, schools & schoolchildren, hoping to engage with younger generations. Ideally the voyage will provoke school competitions and projects associated with local involvement with the historic Normandy landings of 1944.

Commercial & Media

The "Little Ships" initiative is not a fund-raiser for the Normandy Event. However, some of the voyage relays have costs. Volunteers who require a contribution to costs can discuss this with the joint Organisers. Equally, anyone who wishes to donate can make the same approach. Most importantly, this initiative offers the opportunity for people to contribute their time and enthusiasm to make this plan work.

It is a celebration and commemoration of our people by our people – particularly boating and yachting groups can join in with arrangements and become part of this grand Voyage. Media involvement will be controlled and it is hoped that professional filming could match up to date landfalls in each estuary with 1944 newsreel footage of the day, as well as local film records. With skilled cutting, a remarkable televisual product can be created, leading to production of a worthwhile recording which would attract local, national and international interest. Throughout this anniversary voyage initiative the motivation is always in the interests of veterans and for the education of the wider public in awareness and appreciation of the D-Day story.

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Both charities of the *Royal British Legion* and *D-Day Revisited* concern themselves with the veterans of British Armed Forces. Notwithstanding this, due recognition is given to the Invasion being an allied operation with American, Canadian, Free French and Polish forces involved. In recent years some have developed a sense that the D-Day story has been misrepresented in emphasis by Hollywood. Of course without denial of vital input from America in personnel and the material of war through the massive quantities of goods supplied across the Atlantic into Liverpool & Glasgow, it is hoped this 70th Anniversary can help to re-align the story. More British & Canadian troops than Americans landed on D-Day and 80% of the naval force was British and Canadian. Recognition is also due to the Free French 1er Bataillon de Fusiliers Marins Commandos under Philippe Kieffer who landed on Sword Beach at 0730 on D-Day. Importantly, this anniversary is an opportunity for communities in the United Kingdom to recall their own local part played and to recognise the destructive impact on the people of Normandy whose lives were suddenly and dramatically changed on 6th June 1944.

