

## **Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day: A Tribute to Bravery and Sacrifice**

The 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a pivotal day in World War II, D-Day. The courage displayed by the soldiers on that fateful day remains etched in history. Facing formidable defences, rough seas, and relentless enemy fire, they advanced with unwavering resolve. These men (many of whom were young) exhibited exceptional heroism, including a young boy aged only Vergil Mounts, who was only 15 years of age. Over 400,000 soldiers died or were seriously injured in the name of peace, but their sacrifices were not futile.

As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, it is crucial to reflect on the profound impact of this event. The success of the Normandy landings was a turning point in the war, leading to the liberation of Western Europe and the eventual defeat of Hitler's Hitler and the Nazi soldiers.

The sound of gunfire, bombs, and the image of dead and dying men is long since gone, but the shores of Normandy stand as silent witnesses to the cost paid by so many brave soldiers and their ever-existing legacy. Gunfire, bombs, and the image of dead and dying men are long since gone, but the shores of Normandy stand as silent witnesses to the cost paid by so many brave soldiers. A reminder that freedom and democracy come at a great price.

As we pay tribute to those who served, we reaffirm our commitment to the values they fought to protect freedom, democracy, and peace.

The 80th anniversary of D-Day is a moment upon which we can reflect and obtain inspiration, demonstrating our deepest gratitude to those who gave their lives for our liberty. The strength and courage of those

few but brave soldiers should never be forgotten, and forever, their sacrifice should remind us of the cost of liberty enjoyed by so many.

The Christian faith is one of liberty obtained by the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ in the name of love. Jesus' words in John5:13, "*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends*" "echo in our hearts and minds when we think about D-Day; we are reminded of selflessness, valour, and the prevailing hope for peace.

At the time of this war, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1944, the then King of England, King George VI, made an address to the public stating, "*At this historic moment surely not one of us is too busy, too young, or too old to play a part in a nation-wide, perchance a worldwide vigil of prayer as the great crusade sets forth.*"

This message remains today as we face D-Day for the Kingdom of God. It is not from the King of England but from the King of Kings: "*At this historic moment surely not one of us is too busy, too young, or too old to play a part.*"

D-Day

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