

St Margaret's Church
Westminster Abbey



A SERVICE TO MARK THE
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND THE
NORMANDY CAMPAIGN
AND
THE LAYING UP OF THE
NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
NORMANDY VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Thursday 16th October 2014
Noon

HISTORICAL NOTE

‘The Great Adventure’, as General Eisenhower described the allied invasion of Western Europe in the summer of 1944, started on 6th June with the dramatic and amphibious assault on the beaches of Normandy. It reached its climax less than three months later with the destruction of the German armies in France and the Allied thrusts to Paris, Brussels, Antwerp, and the frontiers of the Rhine.

These events are well remembered, but almost forgotten is the savage war of attrition in the orchards and ‘bocages’ of Normandy that followed the landings. Here, British troops, supported by sea and air, fought the greatest land battles of World War II. It was a battle in which casualties at times reached the proportions of the Somme.

It is in times of great adventure, great hardship, and great achievement that comradeship is most truly forged, and the spirit of Normandy is an inspiration to this day to those who fought there.

After the war, men and women returned to the normality of finding jobs, getting married, and raising families. The events of 1939–45 were, for the time being, largely forgotten. In 1981, however, four veterans of Normandy living in the Grimsby area met and decided to form an association—the Normandy Veterans Association (NVA).

The NVA fosters the unselfish camaraderie that inspired its members in the Normandy campaign, and brings the veterans together to renew old friendships. It honours the memory of those who fought and were killed in Normandy, and of those who survived the war but who have since died. It cares and provides support for those in need, for the sick and infirm, for the lonely, and for widows and other dependents.

This year, members of the NVA, drawn from those who served by land, sea, and air in the Armed Forces or auxiliary organisations between 5th June and 20th August 1944, celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of Normandy and give thanks, in Churchill’s words, for having been allowed, each according to his station, to play a part in making those days memorable in the history of our race.

Today, we lay up our Standard. In November, the NVA will disband, but our memories and fellowship will live on through our relatives, friends, and everyone who appreciates the freedom for which all who served in World War II sacrificed so much to achieve.

George Batts Ld’H
General Secretary, Normandy Veterans Association

The whole of the church is served by a hearing loop. Users should turn their hearing aid to the setting marked T.

Members of the congregation are kindly requested to refrain from using private cameras, video, or sound recording equipment. Please ensure that mobile phones, pagers, and other electronic devices are switched off.

The service is conducted by The Venerable Canon Andrew Tremlett, Sub-Dean and Rector of St Margaret's Church.

The service is sung by the Choir of St Margaret's Church, conducted by Aidan Oliver, Director of Music.

The organ is played by Richard Pearce.

The bugler is from the Irish Guards.

Music before the service:

The Organist plays:

Elegy *Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)*

Prelude and Fugue in B minor BWV 544 *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)*

Solemn Melody *Henry Walford Davies (1869–1941)*

The Lord Mayor of Westminster is received at the West Door and conducted to her seat. All stand, and then sit.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO is received at the West Door and conducted to his seat. All stand.

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ORDER OF SERVICE

All remain standing. The Choir sings

THE INTROIT

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.

*Douglas Guest (1916–96)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1963–81*

Laurence Binyon (1869–1943)

All sing

THE HYMN



O GOD, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

St Anne 417 NEH
probably by William Croft (1678–1727)
Organist of Westminster Abbey 1708–27

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

All remain standing. The Rector says

THE BIDDING

HERE in the heart of our nation's capital, we gather to give thanks to almighty God for the loyal service given to Crown and country by all members, living and departed, of the Normandy Veterans Association; to commemorate the victory of the few, achieved on land, at sea, and in the air, for the liberation of the many; and, in this holy place, to lay to rest this Standard.

Let us pray.

ETERNAL God, you are the Shepherd of our souls, the giver of everlasting life. On this day, when we commemorate and commend to you those who lived and died in the service of others, we are glad to remember that your purposes for us are good, that you gave Jesus Christ for the life of the world, and that you lead us by his Holy Spirit into the paths of righteousness and peace. **Amen.**

All sit. Brigadier David Baines MBE, National President, Normandy Veterans Association, reads

ECCLESIASTICUS 44: 1–15

LET us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us. The Lord hath wrought great glory by them through his great power from the beginning. Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophecies: Leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge of learning meet for the people, wise and eloquent are their instructions: Such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing:

Rich men furnished with ability, living peaceably in their habitations: All these were honoured in their generations, and were the glory of their times. There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them. But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten. With their seed shall continually remain a good inheritance, and their children are within the covenant. Their seed standeth fast, and their children for their sakes. Their seed shall remain for ever, and their glory shall not be blotted out. Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore. The people will tell of their wisdom, and the congregation will shew forth their praise.

All remain seated. The Choir sings

PSALM 23

THE Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

Brother James's Air
James Leith Macbeth Bain (1860–1925)
arranged by James O'Donnell (b 1961)

Psalm 23 in Scottish Psalter 1650

His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, Patron, Normandy Veterans Association, reads

ST MATTHEW 5: 1–12

SEEING the multitudes, Jesus went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



IVOW to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

*Thaxted 295 AMNS
Gustav Holst (1874–1934)*

Cecil Spring-Rice (1859–1918)

All sit for

THE ADDRESS

by

The Reverend Dr David Coulter QHC
Chaplain General to Her Majesty's Land Forces

All remain seated. The Choir sings

THE ANTHEM

MANY waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus. Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

John Ireland (1879–1962)

*Song of Solomon 8: 7, 6; St John 15: 13; 1 St Peter 2: 24;
1 Corinthians 6: 11; 1 St Peter 2: 9; Romans 12: 1*

All stand for

THE LAYING UP OF THE NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE NORMANDY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The Standard Bearer, accompanied by the National Chairman and National Secretary of the Normandy Veterans Association, brings the National Standard of the Normandy Veterans Association to the Altar.

The National Secretary says:

IASK you, Rector, to receive the Standard of the Normandy Veterans Association for safe lodging in this house of God until such time as it will pass to dust like those whose courage and devotion are enshrined in history.

The Rector replies:

WE receive this Standard into the safe keeping of God's house, here to rest for all times as a reminder of those who served faithfully under it.

The Rector lays the Standard upon the Altar, saying:

ALMIGHTY God and Lord of Hosts, we now lay up this Standard, a symbol of steadfastness and devotion to duty. May all who look upon it be reminded of their duty to God, their allegiance to their Sovereign, and their commitment and service to their country. **Amen.**

Veteran Edward Slater MBE Ld'H, Chairman, Normandy Veterans Association, says:

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.

Laurence Binyon (1869–1943)

We will remember them.

The Last Post is sounded.

Silence is kept.

Reveille is sounded.

All kneel or sit. The Reverend Mandy Reynolds CF, Chaplain, Normandy Veterans Association, leads

THE PRAYERS

ALMIGHTY God, the source of life, we offer to you our thanksgiving and praise for your sustaining and guiding Spirit on D-Day and throughout the Normandy Campaign. Keep us always mindful of your abiding and gracious presence.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

ALMIGHTY God, in whose Son Jesus Christ the dead are raised to new life, we remember today those whose lives were lost. As by their service the causes of freedom and peace were advanced, so by the hallowing of their memories may we all seek those things that are above, in God's perfect kingdom in which no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

ALMIGHTY God, the source of all peace, we remember before you those who work for good in all places of conflict and war. Turn the hearts of all towards the ways of justice and mercy.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

ALMIGHTY God, whose compassion fails not, we commend to your care those who continue to suffer as a result of conflict and war. Comfort the bereaved, uphold the injured, and support all whose lives have been devastated by violence.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

ALMIGHTY God, the source of all hope, we look to you for help and strength as we commit ourselves to living according to your Word in the days ahead. Surround us with your love, and enable us truly to dedicate ourselves to your purposes.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

MERCIFUL Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All say the Collect of the Normandy Veterans Association:

OETERNAL Lord God, who has united together all veterans of the Normandy Campaign: **grant them your blessing, give them strength to carry on their work to aid and bring comradeship to all Normandy veterans; and bring joy and common purpose throughout the Association. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, whose courage never failed. Amen.**

The Reverend Christopher Stoltz, Minor Canon and Sacrist, says:

Let us pray together the prayer our Saviour Christ has taught us:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

All stand to sing

THE HYMN



ETERNAL Father, strong to save,
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the universal Lord,
who suffered death by nails and sword:
from all assault of deadly foe
sustain thy soldiers where they go;
and evermore hold in thy hand
all those in peril on the land.

O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace,
who fills with strength the human race:
inspire us all to know the right,
guide all who dare the eagle's flight;
and underneath thy wings of care
guard all from peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and power,
our brethren shield in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them whereso'er they go:
thus evermore shall rise to thee
praise from the air and land and sea.

Melita 354 NEH
John Dykes (1823–76)

William Whiting (1825–78)
Brian Elliott (b 1949)

All remain standing. The Rector gives

THE BLESSING

GO forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no-one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All sing

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

GOD save our gracious Queen,
long live our noble Queen,
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
happy, and glorious,
long to reign over us:
God save The Queen.

Music after the service:

Allegro maestoso from Sonata in G Op 28

Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Members of the Congregation are requested to remain in their places until directed to move by the Stewards.

A retiring collection is taken for SSAFA and BLESMA.