

GENERAL SIR BERNARD MONTGOMERY

"TO US IS GIVEN THE HONOUR OF STRIKING A BLOW FOR FREEDOM WHICH WILL LIVE IN HISTORY AND IN THE BETTER DAYS THAT LIE AHEAD MEN WILL SPEAK WITH PRIDE OF OUR DOINGS."

General Sir Bernard Montgomery Commander in Chief, Allied Land Forces Personal message to all forces

5 June 1944



© Imperial War Museum

General Sir Bernard Montgomery, KG GCB DSO PC DL



HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES



CLARENCE HOUSE

I was delighted to learn of plans to create a long overdue, permanent and fitting National Memorial in Northern France to the 22,000 service personnel who gave their lives during the D-Day landings and Battle of Normandy in 1944.

I have long been concerned that the memory of these remarkable individuals should be preserved for generations to come as an example of personal courage and sacrifice, for the benefit of the wider national – and, indeed, international – community. That is why, after attending commemorations of the 70th anniversary of D-Day in 2014, I commissioned a series of portraits of veterans from those Regiments of which my wife and I are either Colonel or Colonel-in-Chief. And it is why I take great pride in offering my wholehearted support for a new Normandy Memorial to be constructed on a highly evocative site overlooking Gold Beach, near Arromanches.

The Memorial will provide a place of private and perpetual contemplation, where visitors can reflect on what we owe to all those who so gallantly carried out their duty with such extraordinary selflessness and resolve; in other words, the kind of qualities that we, our children and grandchildren would surely hope to emulate in the service of others.





Image courtesy of Clarence House His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Wales



GEORGE BATTS

PATRON

Lyears that a Memorial be built us a fantastic start in funding in Normandy to record the names terms – but to deliver the complete of all the British servicemen and memorial project to match those women and those from the civilian of other nations we will need to services who lost their lives in the go further. D-Day landings and Normandy Campaign.

The Americans have a memorial at Omaha and the Canadians a memorial on Juno. It is not right that the Brits do not have a similar memorial.

When the Normandy Veterans Association disbanded in 2014 and I stepped down as National Secretary I was determined to raise the money to build a memorial to all the mates we Patron left behind.

Tt has been my dream for many The British government has given

It is my greatest wish and that of other Veterans to see this project completed in our lifetimes. If the remembrance of what was done on the D-Day beaches matters to you we would be so grateful for your support.

In the name of the Normandy Veterans, thank you.

George Batts MBE Leg d'Hon The Normandy Memorial Trust





Above: George Batts MBE Leg d'Hon March, 2017 Left: Sapper George Batts

May, 1944



LORD PETER RICKETTS

CHAIRMAN

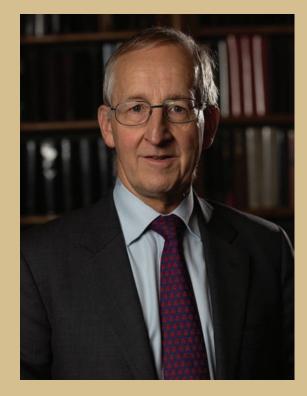
A France, I saw at first hand the extraordinary level of interest every year in the commemorations of the Battle of Normandy. The determination of the veterans to be present, and to salute the memory of fallen comrades, was deeply moving. So too was the fact that growing numbers of young people of many nationalities came to learn of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for the liberation of Normandy, and of the suffering of French civilians.

When I learned of the proposal from the veteran community for a British national memorial, I was

convinced that this was the way to help future generations understand the scale of the sacrifice, and the values at stake in the Battle of Normandy.

I was honoured to take on the chairmanship of The Normandy Memorial Trust, and I am glad to report that real progress has been made towards the objective of a fitting memorial on a very special site looking over Gold Beach. The Trust would be very grateful for your interest and support.

Lord Peter Ricketts
GCMG GCVO
Chairman
The Normandy Memorial Trust



Lord Peter Ricketts, GCMG GCVO



LORD RICHARD DANNATT

TRUSTEE

way for the successful Normandy of the campaign. Campaign and the end of the Second World War.

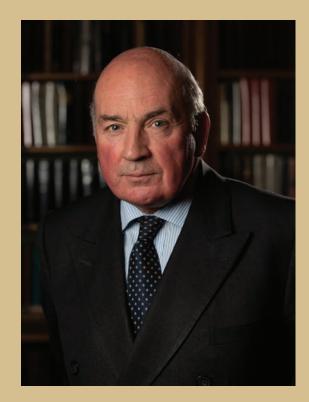
in Normandy, as did many this extraordinary campaign. thousands of French civilians.

It is only right and proper that General The Lord their sacrifice and service is acknowledged and commemorated GCB CBE MC DL with a fitting British national Trustee memorial.

peration Overlord was the The site at Ver-sur-Mer – chosen largest amphibious landing by the surviving veterans ever seen in military history, and commands extraordinary views likely never to be repeated. The towards Gold Beach where many courage and determination of the of the assault troops landed, and soldiers, sailors, airmen and towards Arromanches and the marines on land, at sea and in the remains of the Mulberry harbour, air on 6th June 1944 paved the so vital for the logistic sustainment

Many much-loved memorials already exist in Normandy but More than twenty two thousand I believe this new national servicemen and women under memorial will become the British command lost their lives unifying commemorative focus of

> **Richard Dannatt The Normandy Memorial Trust**



General The Lord Richard Dannatt. GCB CBE MC DL



THE RT. HON GAVIN WILLIAMSON MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

am delighted to be lending I my wholehearted support to this important project, to establish the British Normandy Memorial.

In the summer of 1944, much of Europe was in the grip of a terrible tyranny. It fell to the young soldiers, sailors and airmen from the United Kingdom and the other Allied nations to fight for, and secure, the freedoms which have underpinned the lives of all of us ever since.

The final stage of that battle for the freedom of western Europe began on the beaches of Normandy.

lives - as it did the lives of CBEMP servicemen from many other Secretary of State for Defence (UK)

nations who fought bravely under British command.

It is a remarkable thing that there is no single British memorial which brings together the names of all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in Normandy in the summer of 1944.

It is time that omission was corrected before the last of those indomitable Veterans Normandy have departed.

I commend this project to you and hope, if you can, you will support it.

It cost many thousands of British The Rt. Hon Gavin Williamson



The Rt. Hon Gavin Williamson, CBE MP



PRÉSIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON & PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY



"We will support The Normandy Memorial Trust in their work to build a Memorial in Ver-sur-Mer commemorating the more than 22,000 who fell while serving under British command in the Battle of Normandy in 1944.

The President and Prime Minister will together attend the inauguration of the project in June 2019 as part of the commemorations to mark the 75th anniversary of the operation."

Président Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Theresa May United Kingdom-France Summit Declaration 18 January 2018



INTRODUCTION: THE BRITISH NORMANDY MEMORIAL

liberation of Europe and the end of the Second World momentous events, and more than 22,000 made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

Up to now there has been no single memorial dedicated to their remembrance.

The Normandy Memorial Trust was created in 2016 to realise the dream of Normandy Veterans finally to have a British Normandy Memorial.

The Memorial will stand on an imposing site overlooking "Gold Beach", one of the principal beaches where British forces landed on 6 June 1944.

It will record the names of all those under British command who lost their lives in Normandy between the D-Day landings of 6 June and 31 August 1944 when - with Paris liberated - the Normandy Campaign was officially concluded.

The Battle of Normandy in 1944 opened the way to the Also honoured will be the tens of thousands of French citizens who lost their lives as the battle for the freedom of War. British armed forces played a central role in those Europe was fought-out in the towns and villages of Normandy.

> The core memorial has been financed by the British government from the LIBOR fund.

> But for the British Normandy Memorial fully to take its place alongside the other national memorials in Normandy, the project needs to develop educational and other facilities so that the generations of the future can fully understand the significance of what happened on the beaches and in the fields of Normandy in the summer of 1944, and the part played by the United Kingdom in securing Europe's future.



THE MEMORIAL SITE

At 0725 on the morning of 6 June 1944, British forces began the landings on Gold Beach, one of the three beaches where British forces participated in the D-Day operation.

The British Normandy Memorial will be constructed on a gently sloping hillside above Gold Beach with a commanding view over the landing areas and, to the west, to the coast off Arromanches and the remains of the famous "Mulberry Harbour" where hundreds of ships landed the munitions to support the Allied armies.

The memorial location was identified after a search for a suitable site along the Normandy coast. It is close to the town of Ver-sur-Mer which witnessed extensive action, both on D-Day itself and in the subsequent days and weeks.

The site of the Memorial has a strong historical resonance.

British forces moved inland from Gold Beach along a track which borders the western flank of the site. A few hundred metres to the east are the ruins of the Mont Fleury gun battery. It was here that CSM Stanley Hollis of the 6th Green Howards began the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest award for valour in the face of the enemy. It was the only VC awarded for the events of D-Day.

CSM STANLEY HOLLIS VC

Company Sergeant Major Stan Hollis of 6th Green Howards was in one of the first waves of British troops to land on Gold Beach.

As his company moved inland they came to a spot close to the Memorial

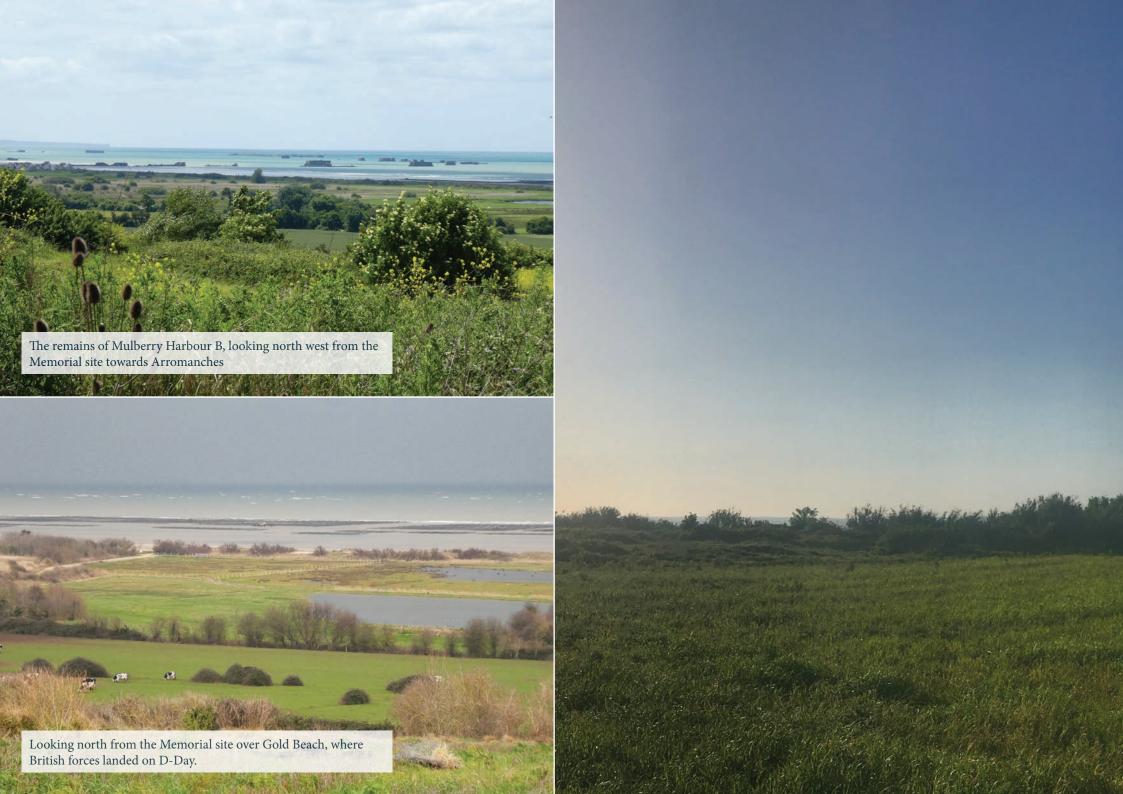


Image courtesy of The Green Howards Museum

site where two German pillboxes were situated. An officer pointed them out to CSM Hollis who immediately charged at them. He captured both pillboxes and took more than thirty of their occupants prisoner.

Later the same day, in fighting near Crépon, he went forward under enemy fire to rescue two of his men who had been stranded.

The citation for his Victoria Cross stated: "Wherever the fighting was heaviest he appeared, displaying the utmost gallantry."







THE MEMORIAL

The British Normandy Memorial will stand in a place where history was shaped.

From its elevated hillside position, visitors will have a clear view of one of the beaches where British forces landed on D-Day.

On the columns of the Memorial will be the names of more than twenty two thousand men and women.

The overwhelming majority of the names will be those of the British soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who lost their lives on D-Day or in the weeks that followed as the Allies fought their way through Normandy.

But there will also be the names of men and women from other nations who fought under British command, from Ireland and European nations like France, the Netherlands and Poland which had been occupied by the Nazis.

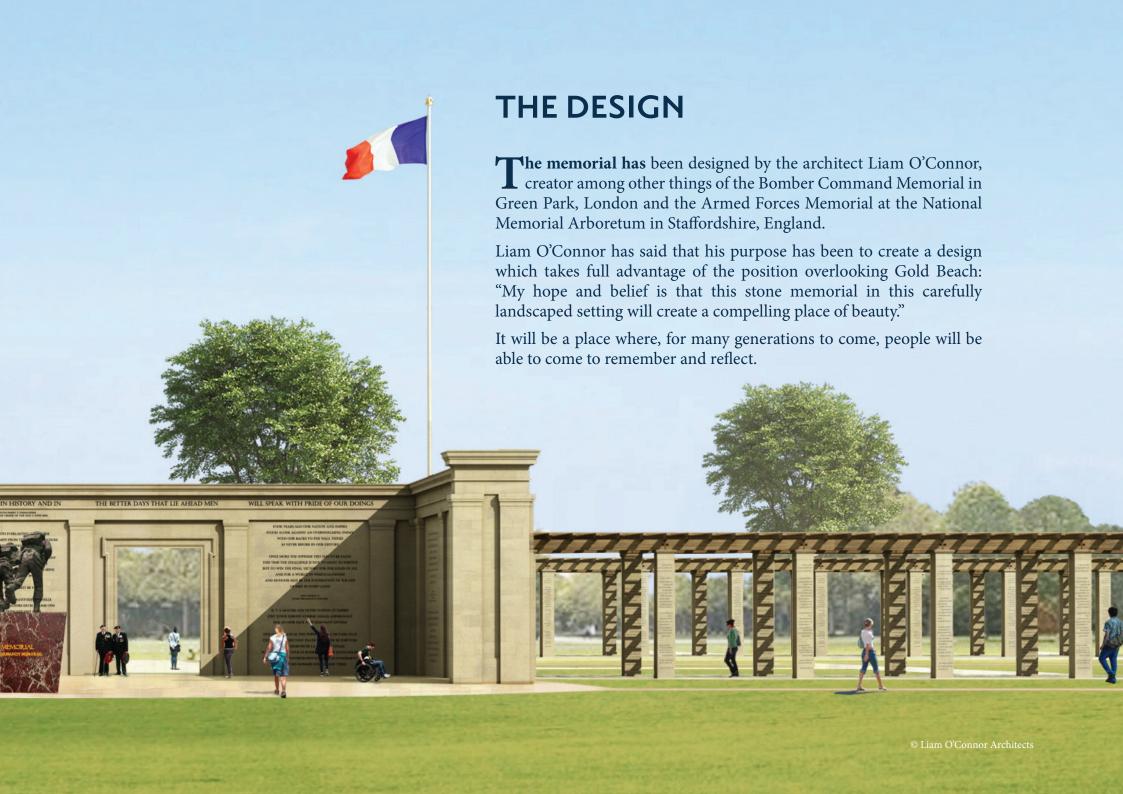
Names of those from further afield who had enlisted in or been attached to the British armed forces from, among other countries, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa - and the United States of America - will also be listed on the memorial.

The losses of the British Merchant Navy will be remembered, as will civilian losses, most notably those suffered by France.

They will have their own dedicated place of remembrance.

















THE ROLL OF HONOUR

The task of compiling the Roll **■** of Honour of more than 22,000 names for inscription on the British Normandy Memorial has been an original piece of historical research.

The names of all the Britons who lost their lives on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy have never, until now, been brought together.

The research programme was led on behalf of the Trust by Jane Furlong, formerly of Imperial War Museums.

Starting with names supplied by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Jane and her team including the UK sources National Archives, regimental remember."

and international records, together with family history sources, reference books and websites.

Reflecting on the task, Jane Furlong said the personal stories she had uncovered had brought home the individual effort and sacrifices made by those who had fought and died in Normandy:

"It demonstrated the physical lengths to which people were prepared to go to help to secure victory, and the impact their sacrifice had on those who survived," she said.

"It is only once you start to personalise events that you can consulted a range of primary start to understand the impact war has on lives and the desire to



© Liam O'Connor Architects

The names will be inscribed on the columns of the Memorial's pergola



THE D-DAY SCULPTURE

The **British** ■ David Williams-Ellis has been commissioned by the Trust to occupy a prominent position on the forecourt of the Memorial against the backdrop of Gold Beach.

Mr Williams-Ellis's father was an officer in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. He commanded a motor torpedo boat which supported the Normandy operation.

Williams-Ellis said the opportunity to create a major sculpture as part of the Normandy Memorial had both an artistic and personal resonance for him.

sculptor He recalled that as a child he'd met many of his late father's wartime comrades: as a result, he said, he create the "D-Day Sculpture", a set fully understood the poignancy of bronze figures which will and significance of the British Normandy Memorial.

> "It is a huge honour to be asked to commemorate the D-Day landings," he told the Trust, "I will use my four decades of experience to create a memorial that will enable those who visit the site to reflect upon and contemplate the bravery and sacrifices made by those in June 1944."



© Liam O'Connor Architects

Architect Liam O'Connor, sculptor David Williams-Ellis, and Lord Richard Dannatt review designs for the D-Day sculpture



THE NORMANDY VETERANS

Tor nearly a decade, the charity Staffordshire regiment: "I think it's Veterans on annual visits to the Normandy beaches.

Its chairman John Phipps says the Veterans are bound together by a powerful sense of those friends and comrades whose lives were lost in Normandy. "They reflect on their own long lives with a strong feeling of gratitude and a sharp awareness of the lottery of war and of all the young lives which were taken in Normandy."

In June 2017, D-Day Revisited took a party of Veterans to the site the British Normandy Memorial. John Phipps shared their reaction: "They were thrilled at the grandness of the position and its superior view of Gold Beach."

Typical of the responses from the Veterans was this comment from Bob Laverty, formerly of the South

■ D-Day Revisited has taken ideal, fantastic. This is where so many British troops landed. We couldn't wish for better."

> Joe Cattini, formerly of the Royal Artillery, said: "The Memorial needs to be at one of the locations where British troops landed. Versur-Mer is an ideal location."

> Bill Ridgway, a former Royal Engineer, said: "It's taken 70 odd years to do it. It's time Britain had a D-Day memorial."

> According to John Phipps, the construction of the British Memorial has deep significance to the surviving Normandy Veterans: "They feel a powerful responsibility to speak and act for their lost comrades, for those who cannot speak for themselves.

> "Seeing the Memorial completed is their last duty to the fallen."





British D-Day Veterans visit the site of the British Normandy Memorial in Ver-sur-Mer June, 2017



FRANCE'S SACRIFICE

By the time Allied forces landed in Normandy in June 1944, France had been occupied by the Nazis for more than four years.

The French nation suffered grievously during the Second World War and Normandy, in particular, suffered heavy losses among its civilian population as the Allied forces fought their way ashore.

It's estimated that between 15,000 and 20,000 French civilians lost their lives during the Battle of Normandy.

Those French civilian deaths will be honoured at a separate memorial on the site dedicated to their remembrance.

French soldiers, marines and airmen took part in the D-Day military operation. One hundred and seventy seven men of the "Berets Vert" led by Commander Philippe Kieffer landed on Sword

Beach as part of the British 1st Special Service Brigade and helped to seize the town of Ouistreham. French members of the British Special Air Service regiment dropped by parachute behind enemy lines and French pilots flew with the Royal Air Force.

The names of more than one hundred members of the French military who lost their lives while operating under British command will be inscribed on the Normandy Memorial.

On the early evening of D-Day as the Allied forces, supported by their French comrades, consolidated their beach-head positions, Général Charles de Gaulle, the leader of the Free French, broadcast these words on the BBC from London:

"Behind the cloud so heavy with our blood and tears, behold: the sun of our greatness is shining forth once again."



© Imperial War Museum

A British soldier carries a French girl to safety through the ruins of Caen 10th July, 1944



THE DUTY OF REMEMBRANCE

The task of commemorating those who fell during D-Day and the Battle of Normandy does not end with the construction of the British Normandy Memorial.

The Duty of Remembrance continues. The Normandy Memorial Trust wishes to ensure that the generations of the future understand why these men and women were prepared to sacrifice their lives - and what they achieved by doing so.

An Education Centre will be an interactive space designed to bring to life the stories of those who did their duty in Normandy in the summer of 1944.

It is an inspiring story, underpinned by the long association of two of Europe's great nations, the United Kingdom and France.

In the next phase of the Memorial project the Trust will work with historians and educational experts to create both a physical and virtual space to tell visitors about the lead-up to D-Day, the gathering of the Allied forces, the contribution of the "Home Front" in Britain, the vital role of the French Resistance and the resilience of the French civilian population.

Above all, the visitors of tomorrow should be helped to understand the leading contribution made by the United Kingdom alongside its wartime allies to secure the freedom of Europe.

The Trust will seek funding for an Education Centre from private and corporate sources and hopes to open it in time for the 80th anniversary of D-Day in 2024.



© Liam O'Connor Architects

A view of the proposed Education Centre



"THE WIND OF FREEDOM"

In a speech to the leaders of 19 "And yet those young men, amid D-Day and the obligation of all people and all nations to remain true to the sacrifice of those who died in Normandy.

He delivered his speech on "Sword Beach" near Ouistreham, one of the principal beaches where British forces landed on D-Day. These are extracts from his speech:

"Seventy years ago, right here, opposite this beach, thousands of young soldiers jumped into the water under a torrent of gunfire and ran towards the German defences. They were 20 years old, give or take a few years, and at that moment, who could say that 20 was the best age in life?

Inations on the 70th anniversary that hell of fire and steel, didn't of D-Day on 6th June 2014, the hesitate for one second. They then President of the French advanced, advanced across the Republic, François Hollande, soil of France, braving the bullets spoke about the significance of and shells. They advanced, risking their lives to defeat a diabolical enemy; they advanced to defend a noble cause; they advanced, yes, and went on advancing, to free us, to liberate us at last.

> "As the sun set on the Longest Day, a radiant beam of hope rose over subservient Europe.

> "On these tranquil beaches, whatever the weather, whatever the climate of the seasons, a single wind blows: the wind of freedom. It still blows today."



Her Majesty The Queen with former Président François Hollande at the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of D-Day 6th June, 2014





THE NORMANDY MEMORIAL TRUST

Patron



George Batts MBE, Leg d'Hon.

On 6 June 1944 George Batts was an 18-year-old sapper in the Royal Engineers. He landed on "Gold Beach" at approx. 10:00 am, among the first waves of British servicemen to come ashore. His task was to clear the beach of mines and booby traps. He was appointed National Secretary of the Normandy Veterans' Association in 2009. It has been his ambition for many years to establish a British Memorial.

Chairman of Trustees



The Lord Ricketts GCMG, GCVO

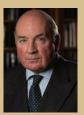
Peter Ricketts was a British diplomat for 40 years. His final posting was as Ambassador to France from 2012 to 2016 when he was heavily involved in the annual D-Day commemorations in Normandy. Before that he was the UK's National Security Adviser. He was appointed to the House of Lords in 2016.

Trustees



The Rt. Hon. The Lord Janvrin GCB, GCVO, OSO

Robin Janvrin is a former officer in the Royal Navy and diplomat. In 1987 he joined the Royal Household. He served as Private Secretary to Her Majesty the Queen from 1999 to 2007. He is currently Senior Adviser to HSBC Private Bank (UK).



General The Lord Dannatt GCB, CBE, MC, DL

Richard Dannatt was a soldier for forty years. He began his military service as an officer in the Green Howards regiment and concluded his career as Chief of the General Staff, the professional head of the British Army. He is a Deputy Lieutenant for both Greater London and Norfolk and Chairman of the Royal Armouries.



David McDonough OBE

David McDonough runs a strategic communications consultancy. He is the co-founder and Life President of The October Club; a member of the World War One Centenary Commemoration Advisory Group; an Ambassador for The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, and the Founder Patron of South London Cares.



Sir Michael Rake FCA, FCGI

Mike Rake has held a variety of senior executive roles in British business and the City. Among his former roles he's been Chairman of BT Group plc., Easyjet, KPMG and President of the Confederation of British Industry. He's now Chairman of the Great Ormond Street Hospital and Phoenix Global Resources. He was knighted in 2007.



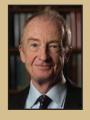
General Sir Peter Wall GCB, CBE, DL, FR Eng

Peter Wall began his military career as an officer in the Royal Engineers. He served as head of the British Army from 2010 to 2015. He is co-founder of Amicus, a specialist leadership consultancy, advising businesses on getting the best from their people.



Andrew Whitmarsh

Andrew Whitmarsh is the Curator and Development Officer at the D-Day Museum, Portsmouth. He's spent more than 20 years researching D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. He's written and broadcast on the subject and is the Trust's principal historical adviser.



Nicholas Witchell

Nicholas Witchell set up the Normandy Memorial Trust in 2016 after a meeting with Normandy Veteran George Batts and former diplomat Alastair Dutch. Government support was sought; the architect appointed; a site identified and a board of trustees assembled. He has worked for BBC News for more than 40 years.

The Normandy Memorial Trust

Website: www.normandymemorialtrust.org | Email: info@normandymemorialtrust.org

