

## THE MEMORIAL WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR BY TRUST PATRON GEORGE BATTS

It has been my dream for many years that a Memorial be built in Normandy to record the names of all of the British servicemen and women and those from the civilian services who lost their lives in the 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 NVA 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 left behind in Normandy.

It is absolutely marvellous that the Government has now agreed to give £20 million for the memorial to be built in time for the 75th anniversary of D Day on 6 June 2019.

**George Batts** MBE Leg d'Hon



## MOVING FORWARD AND HOW TO CONTACT THE TRUST

If you have views about the Memorial project you can communicate them to the Trust, either by post to **Normandy Memorial Trust, 16 Collingbourne Road, London, W12 0JQ** or online to the Trust website **[www.normandymemorialtrust.org](http://www.normandymemorialtrust.org)**

As the Memorial project moves forward the Trust will keep Veterans and other

interested parties in touch with progress via these periodic newsletters.

There is much to do and time is tight between now and June 2019. Survey work has already begun at the two shortlisted sites; the Trust is in touch with landowners and Liam O'Connor and his team are working hard on designs. Getting the Memorial in place is the top

priority. We are also looking in the longer term at options for a Visitor Centre to stand alongside the Memorial. Any such Visitor Centre would have to be funded separately, from corporate and public sources, rather than by the LIBOR grant.

## THE NORMANDY MEMORIAL TRUST SUPPORTED BY THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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George Batts MBE, Leg d'Hon.

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## NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2017

## THE BRITISH NORMANDY MEMORIAL

### AN INVITATION TO NORMANDY VETERANS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NORMANDY MEMORIAL TRUST

June 2019 will mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day and of the start of the Normandy Campaign. Following the unforgettable visit by Her Majesty The Queen for the 70th anniversary, it will mark another important moment of our commemoration of those historic events.

The British government has commissioned The Normandy Memorial Trust to design and build the British Normandy Memorial to be inaugurated on 6th June 2019. I am proud to have taken on the Chairmanship of the Trust, building on the great work George Batts has done in inspiring support for his vision. He will become a Patron of the Trust.

The Memorial is being funded by the British government with money from fines imposed on banks in the so-called LIBOR affair.

It will record the names of the approximately 21,000 British personnel who lost their lives in the landings and the campaign which followed.

We have identified two possible sites. One is three quarters of a mile inland from "Sword Beach" in the town of Colleville-Montgomery. The other overlooks "Gold Beach" in the town of Ver-sur-Mer.

The Trust has retained the architect Liam O'Connor, designer of the Bomber Command Memorial in London and the Armed Forces Memorial in Staffordshire. He's been working on the project for the past year.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share information about the plans for the Memorial with Normandy Veterans and others – and to seek your views about what we are proposing.

This Memorial will stand in perpetuity as a reminder of the sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the Normandy campaign in the cause of freedom.



### PETER RICKETTS

Chairman

The Normandy Memorial Trust



### SUPPORT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister Theresa May has given the Normandy Memorial Project her full support and asked to be kept closely informed of progress.

Announcing the British government's £20 million funding for the memorial, the Prime Minister said:

"We must never forget the courage, sacrifice and selflessness of the British servicemen and women who gave their lives in the D-Day landings.

"Located close by the beaches where they began the liberation of Europe, the Normandy Memorial will be a fitting tribute to them and a place where people can gather to reflect on their extraordinary achievements.

"Its unveiling on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 2019 will provide a timely reminder that we should never take our freedoms for granted."

READ ABOUT "THE MEMORIAL WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR" ON THE BACK PAGE....

## FINDING A SITE



The Trust has shortlisted two possible sites for the Memorial. One of them is a field in Colleville-Montgomery (above), the town which changed its name in tribute to the D-Day Land Commander, General Bernard Montgomery. The field is about three quarters of a mile inland from “Sword Beach” quite close to the statue of “Monty” (inset, right) where, last June, Veterans and the town’s officials

were joined by Monty’s grandson, Henry Montgomery.

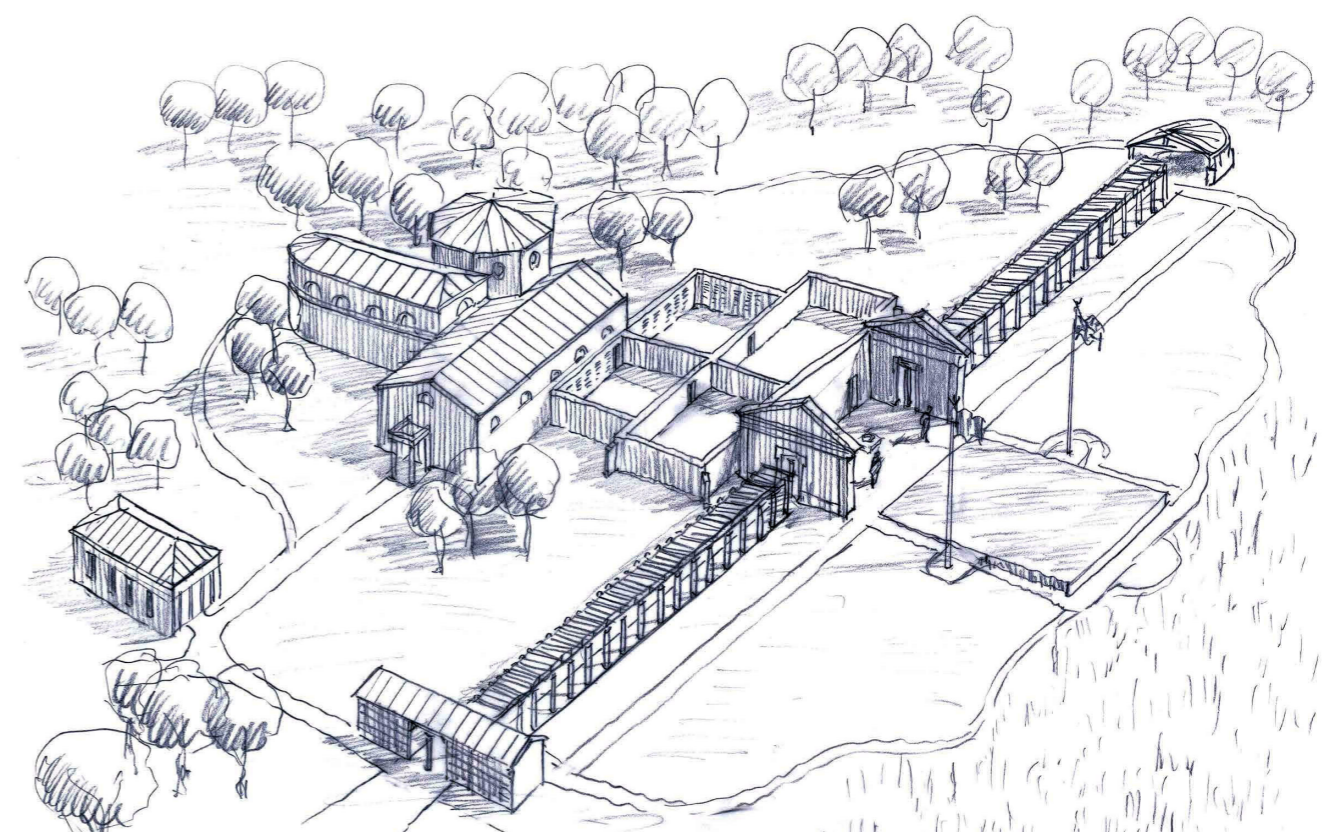
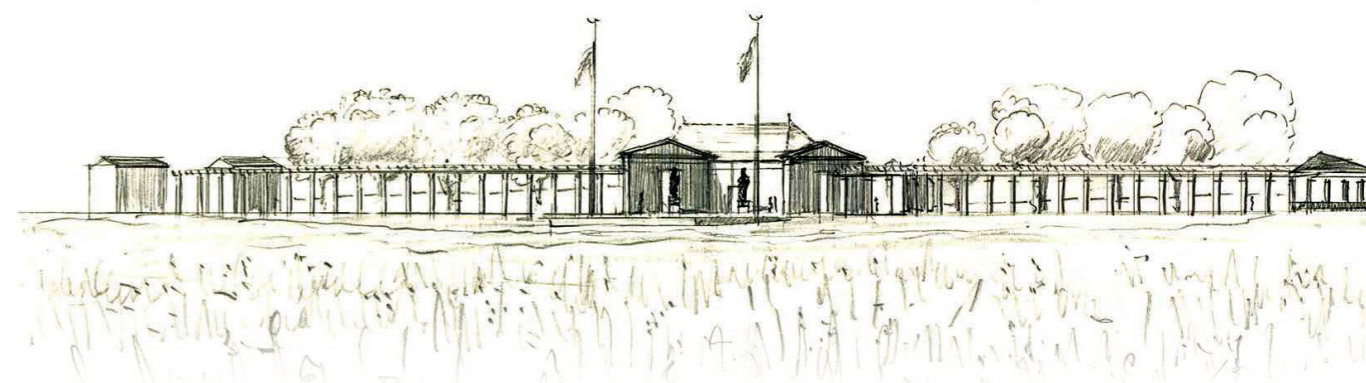
The other shortlisted site is a field overlooking “Gold Beach” in the town of Ver-sur-Mer (below). In addition to the beach, the site affords a clear view of the remains of the Mulberry Harbour off Arromanches (inset below). Ver-sur-Mer was a D-Day beachhead. The field is quite



close to the spot where CSM Stan Hollis of the 6th Green Howards won the only D-Day Victoria Cross.



## BUILDING THE MEMORIAL



Designs for the memorial are being developed by the Trust’s architect and lead consultant Liam O’Connor (left).

The purpose is to create a place for reflection and remembrance where today’s visitors and the generations of the future can appreciate the significance of what happened in Normandy in the summer of 1944 and understand the scale of the sacrifice.

The Trust is currently compiling a schedule of the approx. 21,000 names which will be inscribed on the memorial.

For the first time, at one commemorative site, all the names of those Britons who died in the Normandy Campaign will be brought together. The majority of the names will be those of soldiers and marines who died during the land campaign and who were buried in Normandy.

However, there are several thousand other names, of sailors and airmen who were lost at sea, and of those who died from their wounds after being brought back for treatment in the United Kingdom.