

A Piper's Tale



John Millin and his son Jacob. Photo © Millin family.



I am very proud to participate in D-Day 80 being organised throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man on 6th June 2024, in Commemoration/Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on the five Beaches in Normandy, France, on 6th June 1944, especially as 2024, may be the last time living Veterans of this historic battle will be honoured by grateful nations of the allied armed forces.

On 5th June 1944 Lord Lovat assembled his Commandos of the 1st Special Services Brigade. This would be the last speech Lovat would give to his full Brigade before embarkation to the landing crafts.

He said "in a hundred years from now your children's children will look back and say, they must have been giants in those days."

My Father, 21 year old Piper William (Bill) Millin, Personal Piper to Simon Fraser, 15th Lord Lovat Commander, British 1st Special Service Brigade, could not have imagined that he would return home as the Mad Piper of Normandy.

Many of his friends died on Sword Beach and he witnessed their death as he played his pipes along the shoreline to Pegasus Bridge.

His post war years were dedicated to the memory of his fallen comrades and to all armed forces who gave all for the freedom we enjoy today. The

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Merchant Seamen of all the allied countries deserve our recognition and respect for their sacrifice.

D-day 80 will pay tribute to them all in 2024. Lovat's speech looked to the future and handed down to their descendants the task of paying tribute for the bravery and sacrifice of the men and women of D-Day.

My Son Jacob and I will play our pipes for the countdown to D-Day 80 playing 'Highland Laddie' as my Father did when he disembarked the landing craft and first set foot on Sword Beach.

On our return to Normandy for D-Day 80 my family will carry the Lamp Light of Peace in tribute to all the fallen of Normandy. Please help us to shine this light in an act of Remembrance by purchasing and lighting a D-Day 80 Lamp Light of Peace at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024, from a location of your choice, coinciding with the lighting of the Beacons that night, in tribute to your Veteran. The flame in your Lamp will represent the 'light of Peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of War 80 years ago, and in future, we will light the Lamp at 11am every November 11th thereafter, in Remembrance and in tribute to the men and women of all all wars.



To order and purchase your Lamp please go to
www.lamplightofpeace.co.uk

*Thank you,
Piper John Millin.*