



D-DAY 80 EXPEDITION 2024

Plays leading role by lighting a Lamp Light of Peace at 9.15pm (local time) on the Five Beaches in Normandy, France



On 6th June 1944, Second Lieutenant Gilbert Jones RE was approaching Juno Beach in his landing craft. He folded up his maps, popped them in his pocket, checked his equipment and disembarked. Operation OVERLORD had started.



When he died aged 98, all of Gilbert's treasured memorabilia from that day was locked inside a metal stationery trunk. Personal possessions included notebooks, photos, his whistle, and the three Top Secret maps he had kept in his pocket that day. He had always wanted to go back to the beaches, to honour those he had fought alongside, and give thanks for his survival and the peace that ensued. Sadly, he never got the chance.

Now however, his grandson, Dan Searson, a retired RAMC Officer who's seen action in the Balkans, East Africa and the Gulf, is set to follow in his footsteps.



On 6th June 2024, a team of veterans will land on Juno Beach, taking back Gilbert's prized possessions, and pay their respects to those that gave so much. After a Fish and Chip supper, paying 'tribute' to the Fisherman that still fished the seas avoiding mines and German submarines, along with the Farmers that farmed the fields to keep the UK nation fed not knowing if loved ones would ever return; they will light a Lamp Light of Peace at 9.15pm (local time) on each of the 5 Normandy Beaches.

American, Canadian and British representatives will attend their relevant beach to lead this unique tribute.

The Expedition team will then embark on a 4-day, 150km hike visiting all the Normandy Landing sites. The route will take in Utah,

Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches, as well as important monuments and memorials of the campaign. It will be a fitting way to commemorate those that fought for the freedom we all enjoy today.

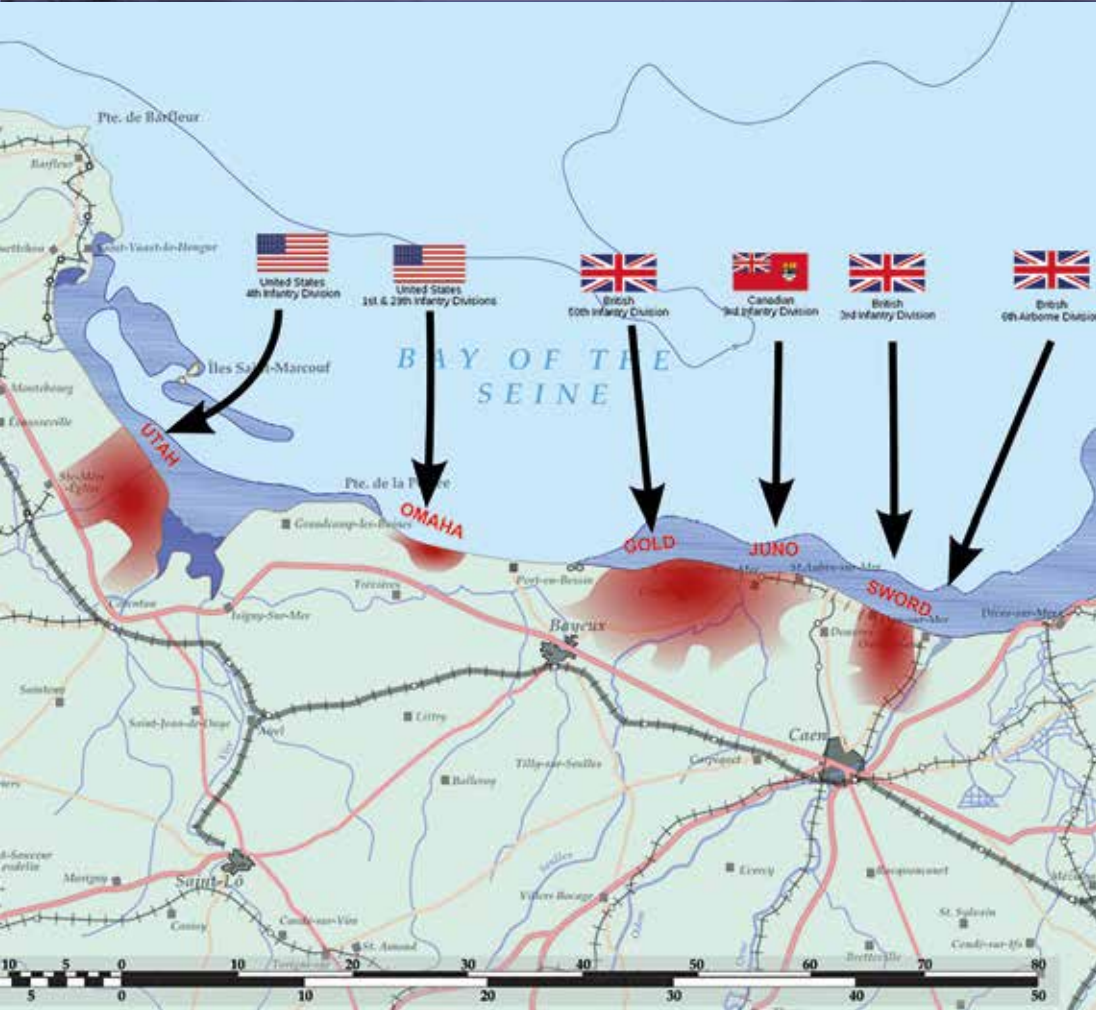




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continued



As a proud supporter and Ambassador of Walking With The Wounded, Dan Searson, founder of Challenge The Wild, is undertaking this expedition in support of the charity and to fly the flag for what veterans can achieve in life on leaving the service.

This charity has gone on to create vital, innovative employment and mental health programmes for veterans and their families, why, because those who served deserve.

Walking With The Wounded was founded on the back of an extraordinary expedition to the North Pole. It showcased the determination of our ex-military to overcome their injuries - mental and physical - and raised awareness of the need.

To follow the Expedition or donate to WWTW, visit: www.ddayexpedition.co.uk

DJ Searson
Operations Director,
Challenge The Wild

