

Families everywhere can Remember their Loved Ones with the D-Day 80 Lamp Light of Peace

My mother Jean Marshall (then Jean Herring) was a Land Army girl based at Home Farm, Clopton, Suffolk. She was awarded the British Empire Medal for helping to rescue the crew from a burning bomber plane. Below is her account of the incident at the age of 92.

16th April 1942. I was on the bus, with airmen sitting opposite me, going back to Home Farm, where I worked during the war, and a bomber plane heavily loaded was taking off on the runway alongside the bus. We could tell the plane was not flying high enough to clear some trees on our right. It turned right over the road and crash-landed in a meadow. The driver stopped the bus. He and I dashed out and ran across the road into the meadow and to the left where there was smoke and fire. I struggled through a thorny hedge and there was the plane flopped on the grass with no landing gear. The door was open so I could see inside, the navigator was first right. My thought was to get the pilot out first as he was face down on his controls and they seemed to be red hot. I put both my arms around him and dragged him out backwards - what a weight he was! I heaved him onto the grass and struggled to take off his mask thinking he would suffocate but to no avail - I didn't know what to do - and then a voice said "It's alright love - we're here now." It was an airman in uniform and he picked up my shoulderbag for me.

I tried to work the next day but couldn't, my hands were too blistered.

Jean Herring received the British Empire Medal from King George VI for her gallantry.



Jean (1921-2020) in her Land Army uniform.

Nick Marshall



Our family is really pleased to support D-Day 80 and will be lighting a Light of Peace Lamp at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024, coinciding with the Beacons being lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man on that night.

The Lamp is a poignant and meaningful way to remember the incredible bravery of Jean and Eric, the sacrifice of three other members of our family and all of those individuals who took part in the gargantuan effort of the D-Day landings on 6th June 1944 and throughout WW2 as a whole.

If you feel that you would like to remember the wartime members of your family in the same way and join in with the D-Day 80 commemorations **please see page 37 of this Guide.**



Nick and Susan Marshall.



Landing craft LC(T) 923 in action on D-Day.

My Uncle, Eric Myhill, went to Norwich to enlist, prepared to follow in his father's footsteps in the Army (Ypres, Somme). On that day, only Royal Navy positions were being issued and he was given the option to "feed us or shoot them" - he preferred cooking meals to being a gunner and shooting people, so a cook he became. Family members, including my cousin Mark Ratcliff, have a collective impression of Eric's experiences of the D-Day landings based on his rare conversations plus gathered facts. We believe Eric served on the landing craft LC(T) 923. His mission to carry Universal (Bren Gun) Carriers to the beaches began with his Commanding Officer next to him becoming caught in cables used on the front ramps, consequently losing his arm. When they ran to the beach they became stranded on underwater obstacles as the tide ebbed and they were stuck under enemy fire until the tide turned and able to refloat - "We were stuck high and dry on concrete being shot at."

LC(T) 923 had been allocated to 55th LCT Flotilla, "U" LCT Squadron for the D-Day assault, scheduled to land at H+3½ hours on 6 June. Records show that it was carrying 73 men from 2 Essex and 2 Gloucestershire Regiments, HQ and signal staff of 56 Brigade and 26 Regimental Combat Team (US Army).

The intended landing point was Gold Beach Sector Jig Green East, sited close to Asnelles.

The vehicles carried were:
 3 x 5cwt 4x4
 8 x Universal Carriers
 6 x Universal Carriers armed with mortar
 7 x Motorcycles
 1 x M14 Half Track
 1 x Handcart
 1 x Scout Car
 1 x Tractor



Able Seaman Eric Myhill (1923-2017).

Susan Marshall

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 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.idealuksolutions.com/shop

Thank you,
John Millin and Family