



# D-DAY TOOLKIT



## CELEBRATING IN SCHOOL Fish and Chip Day!

The National day for this is June 6th so we are celebrating early on May 28th 2024!

This humble meal was a vital ingredient of the war effort in both the First and Second World Wars. It celebrates those fishermen and farmers who kept on working to supply potatoes and fish throughout the British Isles. The British Government safeguarded the supply of fish and potatoes during both world wars to ensure the dish remained a boost to morale and these foods were among the few not to be subject to rationing during both world wars.

In the Isle of Man spuds and herring was what kept people going and not so much fish and chips! But National Fish and Chip Day recognises and thanks everyone involved in bringing fish and chips to the centre of every community; from the fishers who go out in all weathers to catch the delicious fish, and the farmers who grow and harvest the perfect potatoes and peas, to the fish and chip shops and restaurants who take those fresh ingredients and create our family favourite.



## MNH MILITARY GALLERY - MANN AT WAR



War has always influenced the history of the Isle of Man, with the Isle of Man playing a very important role in shaping world events. The Manx Museum Military History gallery explores the experiences of people who have been affected by war over the last 250 years. Over 200 objects are on display telling stories from the ages of sail and empire, through the two world wars and into modern times.

Visit the MNH Mann at War gallery at the Manx Museum and investigate their Museum on the Move page here:  
<https://manxnationalheritage.im/learn/family-learning/our-islands-military-history/>

## MNH WWII LOAN BOX



This loan box has been designed to help you examine with your students how the Second World War impacted Island life, with an emphasis on home front stories.

To book this loan box click here:  
<https://manxnationalheritage.im/museum-on-the-move-wwii-loan-box/>

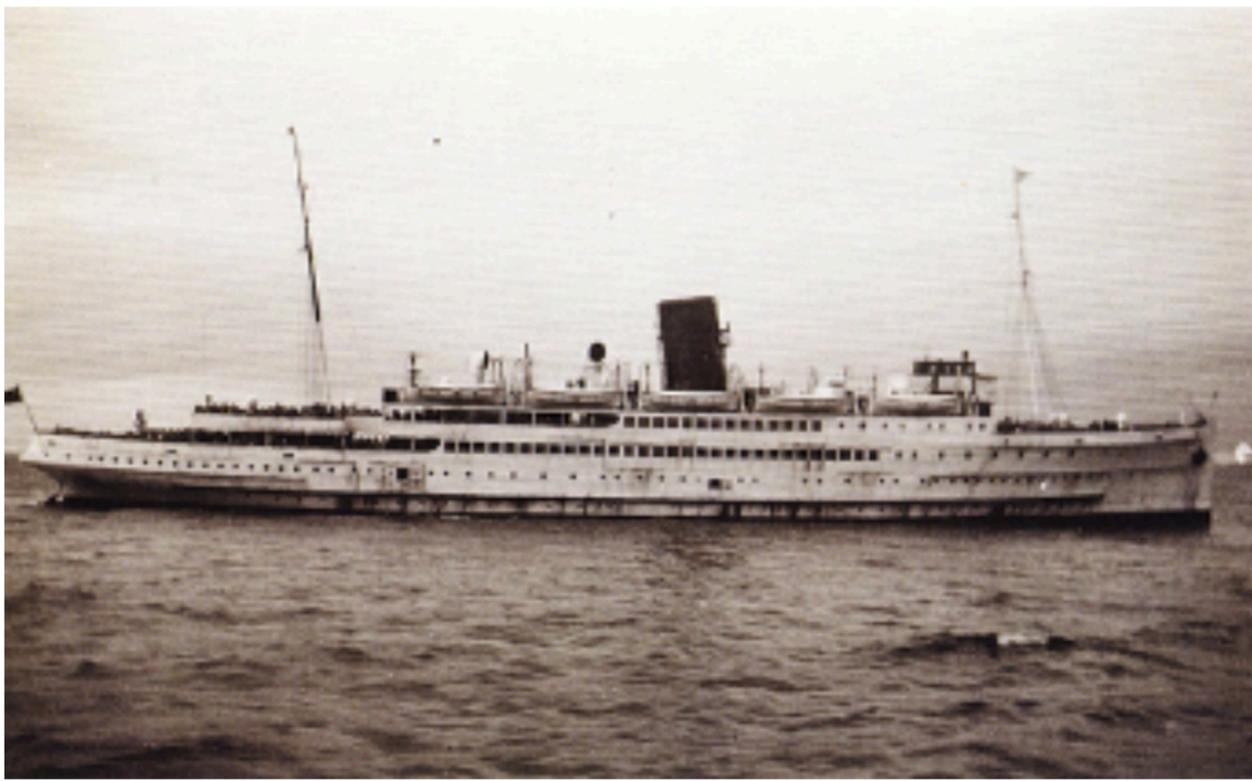


# ISLE OF MAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1944 MANX SHIPS IN THE INVASION

## They Were There on "D" Day

### "Lady" "Ben" and "Victoria"

Three famous ships of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company's fleet carried thousands of our men to Normandy on "D" Day, playing a noble part in the greatest amphibious operation in the history of war. Four years before, almost to the day, our ships were playing a gallant part in the evacuation of the British Army from Dunkirk, and brought safely home 30,000 men, nearly 10 per cent. of those saved in the "miracle of Dunkirk " Let us hope by this time next year they will be taking part in quite the greatest invasion the Isle of has ever seen, by people eager to have a real good holiday in Britain's best holiday resort after five of war!



MONA'S QUEEN, ONE OF THE VESSELS LOST DURING OPERATION DYNAMO



THE STEAM PACKET VESSEL FENELLA

### Officers and Men We Are Proud Of

The Lady of Mann, now in charge of the commodore of the fleet, Capt T. C. Woods look hundreds of troops to Bernieres, in Normandy, on "D-Day" and later made three further trips of larger groups of United States troops. Capt. Woods was recently presented to His Majesty on the occasion of the King's visit to the invasion fleet.

The pride of the Steam Packet Company's fleet and often called the "baby liner" we have no doubt that many Manxmen with the invasion forces recognised her stately lines. At Dunkirk in 1940. with L T. C Woods as skipper, she had 1,500 casualties (including 300 stretcher cases) on her first run, and after carrying hundreds of Frenchmen, she had 5,000 passengers on her fourth and last trip.

The Ben-my-Chree ( also in the Normandy Fleet) left Dunkirk on May 31st, 1940, packed with troops. including 34 stretcher cases, and on her second run she had 2,000 troops and 80 stretcher cases. She was proceeding to Dunkirk on her third trip when she struck a concrete blockship, and was so badly damaged that she had to limp home for repairs.

### LOSSES AT DUNKIRK

There were six Manx transports at Dunkirk, and two of the newest and finest vessels in the fleet were sunk. The Mona's Queen struck a mine and sank with the loss of 24 of her crew when going into Dunkirk on 29th May. She had played a noble part in the evacuations and was the last ship to leave Boulogne after taking 300 tons of high explosives in for demolition work, then returned to England packed with troops. For this the master and ship's company received the thanks of the Port Admiral. Her skipper was Capt. Radcliffe Duggan. He was later awarded the D.S.C., but he was on leave on her ill-fated trip; Now he is taking troops on the return journey in the Ben-my Chree.

At Dunkirk, also, the new ship Fenella was lost. Her master was Capt. W. Cubbon. of Onchan, and when alongside a jetty at Dunkirk, with many troops aboard, she was hit by a bomb which carried half the jetty away and made a great hole in her side. Orders to abandon ship were given, and many got on board the Crested Eagle, a pre-war Thames pleasure steamer, but she was bombed and set on fire and had to be beached. Then it was every man for himself. Two men of the crew were definitely reported killed at the time and 13 missing. The third Manx ship to be lost at Dunkirk was that great old warrior King Orry, which rendered yeoman service in the- last war and led the German Fleet to surrender at Capa Flow. Only the engine room staff were Manx when she was sunk, as she had been taken over by the Admiralty, and all were saved, The Tynwald, sister ship of the Fenella. was taken over by the Admiralty after doing grandwork in the evacuation of the B.E.F. was converted into a "flak" ship, and was sunk in November, 1942, at the time of the landings by Allied troops in North Africa.

An extract from a 1944 Newspaper from iMuseum.im



# MANX PEOPLE & D-DAY

## Extracts from the archives of the Manx Aviation and Military Museum

Compiled by Ivor Ramsden MBE, Museum Director, May 2024.

For further information please contact [airmuseum@manx.net](mailto:airmuseum@manx.net)

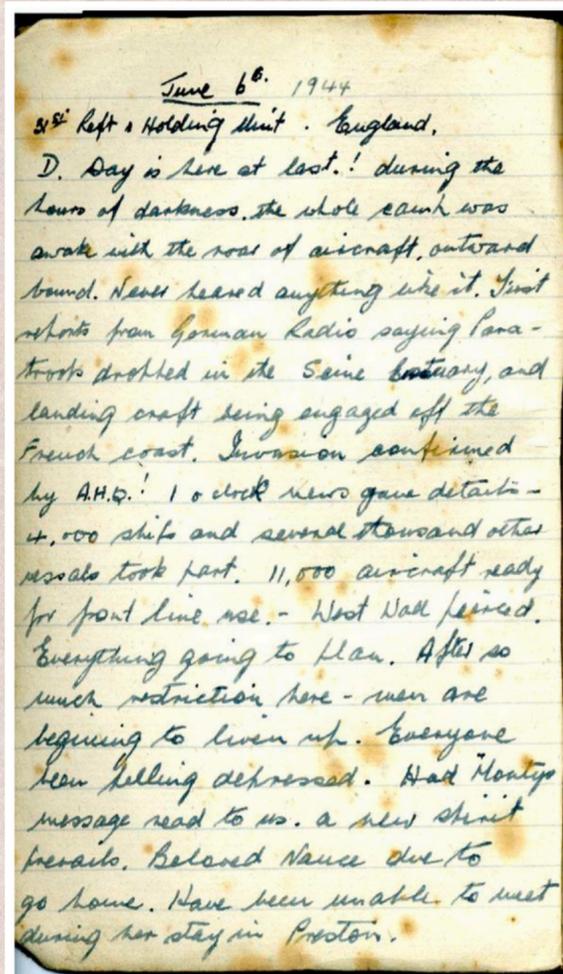
### Army photographer Sergeant William Norman Clague

Sergeant Norman Clague came from Derby Road in Douglas. Before the war he had worked as a photographer in the town and at the time of the Normandy landings he was a member of the Army Film and Photographic Unit attached to No.6 Commando. It might be imagined that a photographer would have a fairly safe time but Clague and his colleagues carried out their duties of recording the progress of the war right on the front lines. In fact some of the most frequently-seen film footage of British troops landing on Sword beach on D-day Day was taken by Norman Clague who landed with the Commandos, filming whilst under enemy fire. Sgt Clague was killed by shellfire on 12th June. He is buried in Ranville War Cemetery.

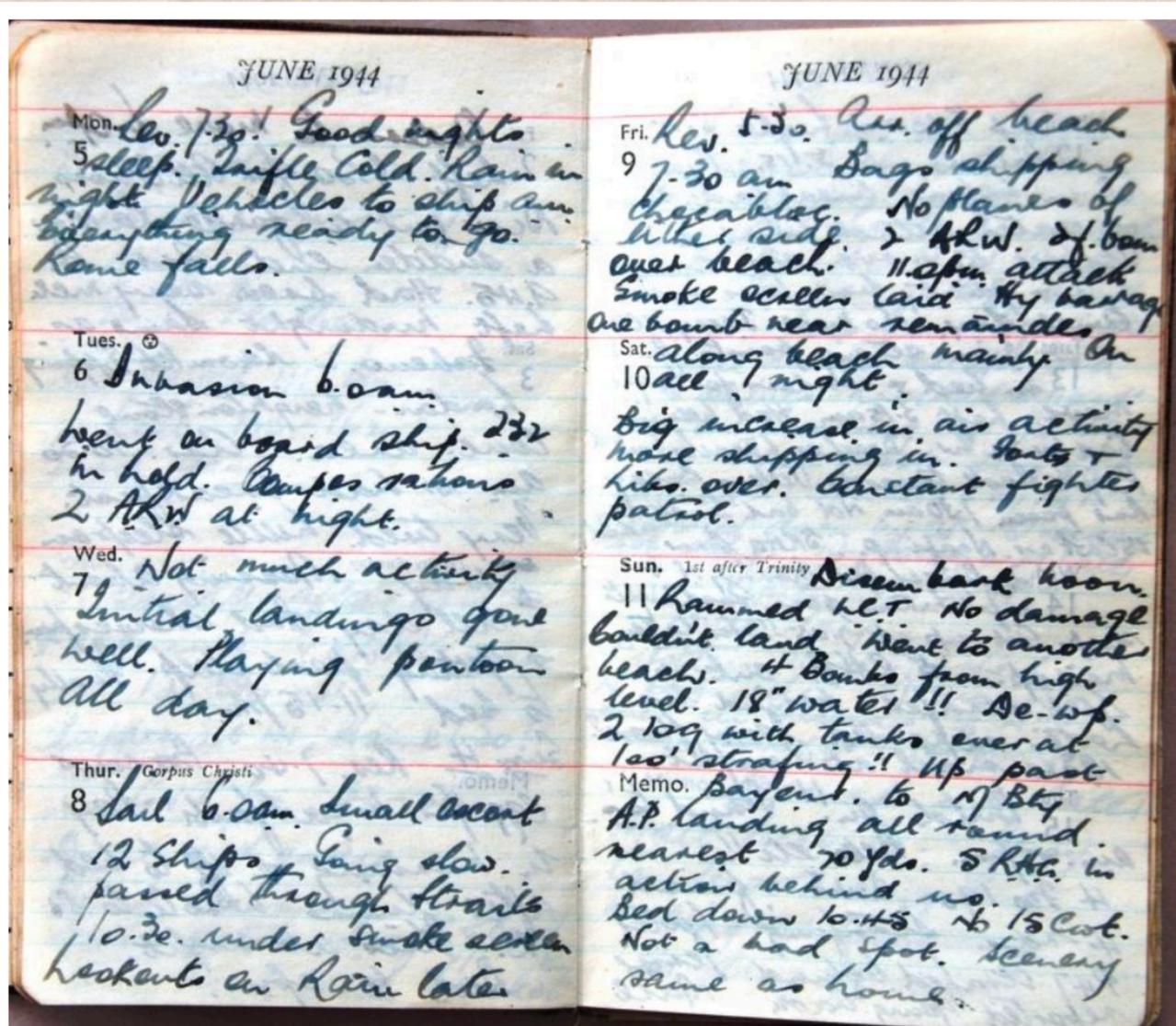


### Diary entry made by Bombardier J H Edmonds from Douglas on 6th June 1944

Bombardier Jim Edmonds from the Isle of Man recorded his thoughts in his diary on the morning of D-Day as he and his comrades awaited the order to leave England for the Normandy coast:



### Diary of Sergeant TD Russell from Ramsey, 42nd Battery, 15th Light Anti-aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (The Manx Regiment)



### Lieutenant Alexander Bell, 1st Battery, 15th Light Anti-aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (The Manx Regiment)

Lieutenant Alex Bell was an officer in 1st Battery of the Manx Regiment. He was one of the regiment's first casualties after D-Day. (On 31st July 1944 he was in charge of a lorry carrying men and ammunition when the lorry caught fire. Most of the men moved away to safety but Lt Bell and another man tried to put the fire out. Sadly the ammunition exploded, killing both men.)





# MANX PEOPLE & D-DAY

## Extracts from the archives of the Manx Aviation and Military Museum

Compiled by Ivor Ramsden MBE, Museum Director, May 2024.  
For further information please contact [airmuseum@manx.net](mailto:airmuseum@manx.net)

### Royal Air Force photographer Mona Hardy

Mona Hardy from Douglas enrolled in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in October 1941 at the age of 21. With experience of photography and film work her first posting was back home to RAF Jurby's Photographic Section. She left Jurby after 18 months and at the time of D-Day she was based at RAF Down Ampney, near Cirencester. Her scrap book contains photographs of invasion-striped Airspeed Horsa gliders lined up awaiting the call to action. It also contains pictures of a royal visit to nearby RAF South Cerney where wounded soldiers were landed by ambulance aircraft.



Gliders at Royal Air Force base South Cerney waiting to carry soldiers across the English Channel to Normandy



Ambulances waiting for wounded soldiers being brought home by air

Her Majesty Queen Mary speaking to a wounded soldier who had recently been evacuated from Normandy.





# MANX PEOPLE & D-DAY

## Extracts from the archives of the Manx Aviation and Military Museum

Compiled by Ivor Ramsden MBE, Museum Director, May 2024.  
For further information please contact [airmuseum@manx.net](mailto:airmuseum@manx.net)

Artwork by Lieutenant James E Williams, 1st Battery, 15th Light Anti-aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery (The Manx Regiment).

All of these were drawn by Lt Williams around the time of D-Day.

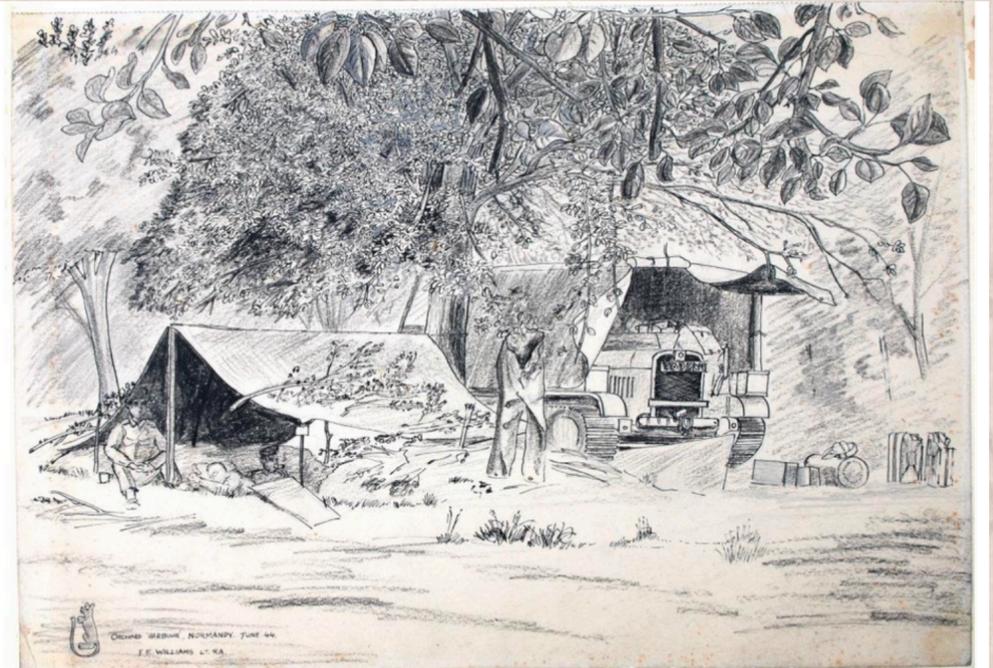


Operation "Overlord", off Arromanches Normandy, "D Day plus 3", June 9th. '44



STUDY FOR WARREN  
TRANSITS AND LANDING CRAFT BEACHED AT LOW TIDE

© 1944 J.E. WILLIAMS L.T.A.R. - NORMANDY



ON THE BEACH, NORMANDY, JUNE 44

J.E. WILLIAMS L.T.A.R.