

ANONYMOUS HEROES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY

IAN PATRICK



D-DAY PORTRAITS

OVERLORD MUSEUM

• PREAMBLE •

ANONYMOUS HEROES

Reflections on the 6th of June

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

My father was a Battle of Normandy veteran. I first came to the beaches and battlegrounds with him in 1980, when, for the first time, he spoke to me about the massive effort and sacrifice that were made. I was very impressed by the historical importance of these events and the Norman welcome to these ageing heroes. I began photographing them, the landscapes around them, the ceremonies and the cemeteries as well as recording their stories every year as I came back to meet them, learn more and honour them.

This coming June a large exhibition of my photographs will be inaugurated by Nicolas Leloup, director of the Overlord Museum in Colleville-sur-mer, Normandy. It will add to his impressive collection of artefacts and vehicles from the period and will show the faces and stories of the men who lived through this moment in history, and offered us the peace and freedom we know today. The exhibition consists of 64 images taken between 1984 and 2018. Many of the images of veterans are accompanied by their words, words that don't always come easy, for even with the decades of time that have passed, the horrors of war are still present. My photographs are my humble way of thanking this heroic generation of men and women who stepped forward to the call of the oppressed peoples of the world. We cannot let their efforts be swept away by the waves of time.

IAN PATRICK

To see more images you may visit my web site : ianpatrickimages.com

• PREAMBLE •

My father Michel Leloup was an eye witness to the battle of Normandy and later participated in it's reconstruction. By the end of the 1960's he had amassed a collection of over 10 000 artefacts from the battle fields of Normandy. In 2013, three years after his death, I opened the Overlord Museum adjacent to the American Cemetery and Omaha Beach.

I met Ian at the inauguration of the museum and then discovered his work. I was very impressed by his art and his portraits of veterans in black and white. We spoke about an eventual exhibition but when I decided to enlarge the museum I naturally had the idea of creating a dedicated space for his photographs which will be ready for the celebrations this year. In this new gallery of portraits the public will discover and share the emotions of his portraits of the men and women who participated in the greatest military operation in history. I have no doubt that this new addition to the museum will give an even greater appreciation of the efforts and sacrifices by all involved in this great task : Operation Overlord.

Nicolas Leloup



D-Day veterans James K. Kunkle, Roy O'Neill and Cyril Banks with Nicolas Leloup.

• EXTRACTS •



Bob Murphy

U.S. 82nd Airborne Division

Pathfinder, « A » Co. 505th Parachute Regiment



“ In the afternoon of June 7th, the Germans counterattacked again. By this time we were getting artillery help from our 4th division moving inland, but it did not stop us from taking many more casualties. We were running low on ammo, so my first sergeant Owens who had replace our dead officers, sent me across the road to ask for instruction from Lt. Dollan as to staying or pulling back. The reply was quick : “We stay ! There’s no better place to die !”

Bill Dixon

Private - 1st Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers
British 3rd Infantry Division



“On the evening of 6th June we were in the vicinity of Benouville / Pegasus Bridge and saw the second landing of the 6th Airborne Division at 6pm. During the night I could hear the cries from one of the pilots who had crash landed. The following day I found the pilot Eric Martin dead, I took off his dog tag and gathered other personal belongings before burying him in my slit trench. He was the first man I was to bury out of about half a dozen all told.”

Bill Dixon touching the head stone of pilot Eric Martin who he buried in his slit trench, Ranville cemetery 2008.





Taps being played at Pointe du Hoc, 1990

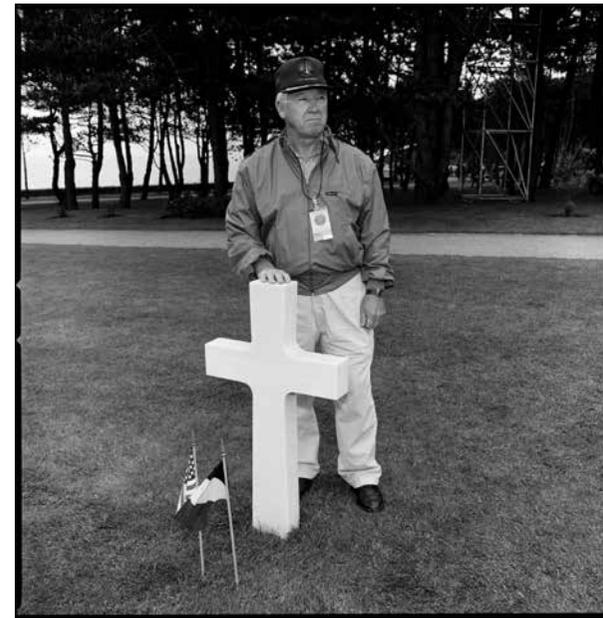
William Patrick, my father

371st Fighter Group "Frisky Fox"



"There were crudely marked graves with a tree branch or a K-ration box top with the persons name written on it. I saw our men being stacked in trucks like wood, on their way to make-shift cemeteries."

With the grave of high school friend James R. Douglas, 1994



Charles Norman Shay

Medic, Fox Company, 16th Infantry Regiment,

1st Infantry Division (Big Red One)

Native American - Penobscot Nation



"Many of the men in my landing craft were wounded as soon as the ramp went down. I jumped into water up to my chest and saw many more wounded men drowning because of their heavy equipment. It was every man for himself, but our main goal was to get up to the sea wall and out of the line of fire. I made it that far and began to organize first aid for the wounded. I went to work on men who were bleeding, applying bandages, tourniquets and morphine when necessary. As the tide came in, I pulled many helpless wounded out of the cold water knowing they would drown without help. I went back again and again despite the machine gun fire. I don't know how many I pulled out, but after a while I was too exhausted to do more. After a respite I continued to go back into the water. When the full tide was in, our boots were in the bloody water."



Piper Bill Millin

Brigade HQ, 1st Special Service Brigade



"There were two ramps at the front of the landing craft. Lord Lovat was up on one and I was up on the other. He was over six feet tall so I waited till he jumped into the water to see what depth it was. The next man after him was immediately shot. A piece of shrapnel or a bullet in the face and he fell and sank. Well, I jumped in pretty smart then. My kilt floated to the surface and the shock of the freezing cold water knocked all feelings of sickness from me and I felt great. I was so relieved of getting off that boat after all night being violently sick. I struck up the Pipes and paddled through the surf playing "Highland Laddie", and Lord Lovat turned round and looked at me and gestured approvingly."

Willi Hornack

716th German Infantry Division

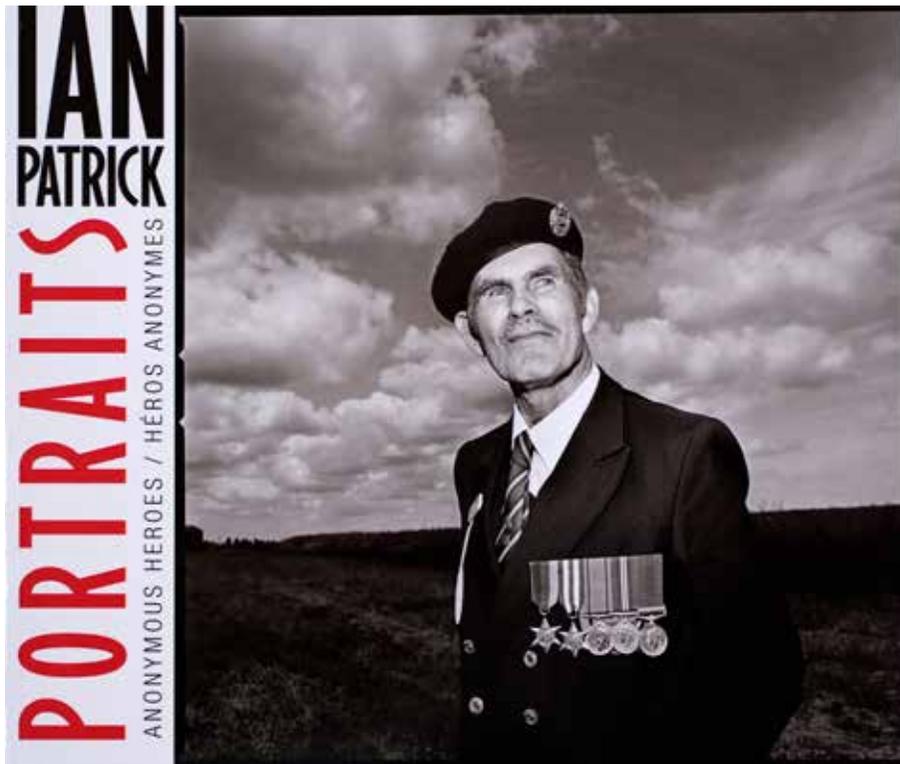


"Around 5 A.M. I was awakened and came out of my bunker. I saw thousands of ships, big and small just off the shore in front of us. My heart sunk to my feet."

German veteran Willi Hornack (kneeling at center) with British veterans (standing left to right) Stan Jackson, Ted Ellis, Jim Chandler, George Richardson, Les Gibson, Norman Morgan, Joe Clements, Joe Hilliard and Arthur Middleton (kneeling right) on Sword Beach Hermanville-sur-Mer, 1993.



• BIO AND BOOK •



Ian Patrick is an American in Paris, and is now also French.

Born in Salzburg, Austria, to American parents, he grew up and traveled through Europe in the 50's and early 60's. After graduating from Art Center College of Design, Los Angeles, he decided to take his chances in the "Big Apple", where he immortalized artists like Andy Warhol or Bob Marley for Rolling Stone, Esquire and the New York Times Magazine. In 1979, he discovered Paris, and establishes his studio on the canal Saint-Martin.

Other photographic projects have been a book on the circus Archaos, rodeo cowboys, and a series of underwater nudes called "Levitacion".

Ian Patrick published a 118 page book for the 65th anniversary of D-Day with 25 veteran interviews and 75 photographs.

The book is in English and French. It is available at the museum and from the author. The book price is 29.50 euros tax included.



• USEFUL INFORMATION •

The show opening will be at the beginning of June.

For an invitation or more information, contact Ian Patrick (ianpatrickphoto@gmail.com) or Overlord museum (contact@overlordmuseum.com).

• ACCESS •

OVERLORD MUSEUM-OMAHA BEACH

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E-mail : contact@overlordmuseum.com

PAR LA ROUTE

- A 280 km from Paris (RN 13)
- A 50 km from Caen (RN 13)
- A 55 km from Ouistreham (D 514)
- A 20 km from Bayeux (RN 13)
- A 20 km from Arromanches (D 514)
- A 80 km from Cherbourg (RN 13)
- A 120 km from Mont Saint Michel (A 84)

OPENING TIMES

7 days a week
April/May/September : 10 to 6:30
June/July/August : 9:30 to 7
March/October/November/December : 10 to 5:30

ENTRANCE RATES

Full price : 8,40€
Reduced price : 6,10€
(children over 10, students, handicaped people, unemployed)
Free for children under 10, veterans

For more information, go to the museum's website : overlordmuseum.com

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All the prints for the Exhibition were made by Ian Patrick on Canson Infinity Rag photographique paper.



Our mission is to help preserve and transmit the deeds of the men and women who fought in World War II and operation Overlord.

We install memory plaques for forgotten men and battles, restore and maintain monuments and graves that are abandoned or damaged, lay flowers spontaneously or by request, and help transmit individual histories of veterans.

Deep Respect also provides assistance to veterans and families who wish to come back and visit the Normandy battle fields and cemeteries. School children in the region also participate in our actions and may adopt and sponsor one of our projects.

Ian Patrick has been an active member in our association since it was established in 2010.