

Photography exhibitions by
IAN PATRICK

D-DAY PORTRAITS • ANONYMOUS HEROES



at the l'HÔTEL des INVALIDES
from june 1 to august 26, 2024
Permanent gallery at the
OVERLORD MUSEUM

• PREAMBLE •

ANONYMOUS HEROES

Reflections on the 6th of June

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.

Since June 2019, my D-Day Portraits have found a permanent home. Nicolas Leloup, the owner of the Overlord Museum in Colleville-sur-Mer, in Normandy welcomed the series of photographs to join his incredible collection of vehicles and artifacts from the battle of Normandy. Visitors learn more about the landings, the battle, see the faces and read the stories of the men and women who brought us the peace and freedom we know today. The photo gallery consists of over 70 portraits and texts taken from interviews of veterans. My photographs are a 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.

My book is for sale in museum bookstores in Normandy, at the Fnac or it can be ordered from me directly at ianpatrickphoto@gmail.com

IAN PATRICK

• EXTRACTS •

Léon Gautier

1er Bataillon de Fusiliers Marins Commandos
No. 4 Commandos



"Having been forced to leave France four years earlier, our motivation to help liberate her was immense. We would finally be going home. The British were also very motivated for many had suffered greatly from the intensive bombing by the German Air Force. Many had to sleep in the Underground and had lost a member of their family. I have great admiration for the British courage that we would probably not have had in their place. The Americans did not have the same feeling of revenge, they were coming wage war."



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 replaced 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 !"



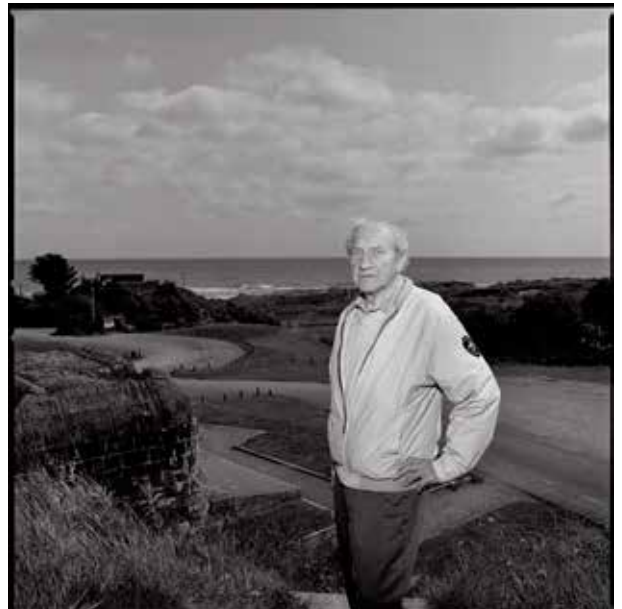
Bernard Dargols

S/Sgt 2nd. Inf. div.U.S. "Indian Head"



"It is hard for me to describe but perhaps easier for you to imagine the anguish, gut feeling of going out to find information about the Germans. The idea of a sudden counter attack, a sniper's bullet, or at best being taken prisoner was always on our thoughts. I had luck riding in the jeep with me during all our successful incursions into enemy territory all through our Normandy and Brittany campaigns.

Today, all these years later , I still wonder "What if the D-Day landings had failed ?".





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 organise 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."



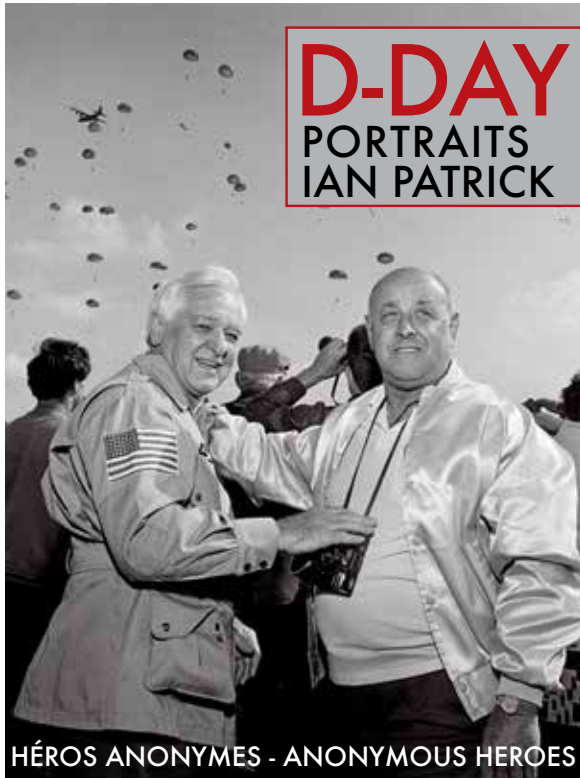
William Patrick, my father

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



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 "Levitation".

Ian Patrick published a 152 page book of D-Day with 52 veteran interviews and 76 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.

