

Isle of Man Commemorates D-Day Anniversary



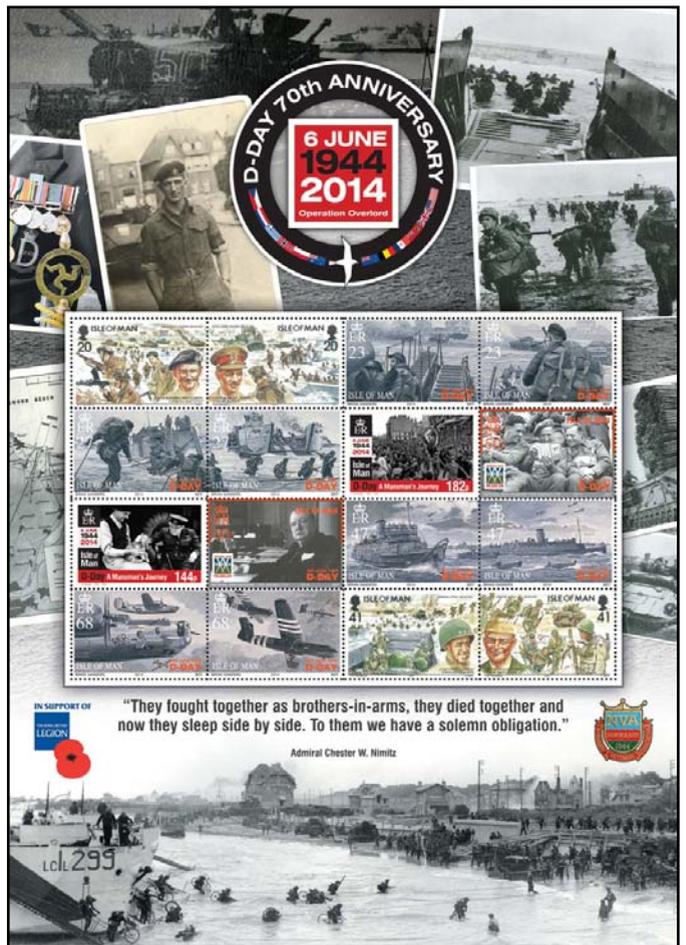
To commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day, Isle of Man Stamps and Coins not only has produced a set of six stamps, but also has created a memorable stamp collection. Produced in support of the Royal British Legion and The Normandy Veterans Association this comprehensive issue was released on May 8th, the anniversary of V-E day, and marks the 6th of June 1944, the day on which D-Day took place.

The allied invasion of the Normandy beaches on that historic day was the largest amphibious assault ever and one of the most heroic, and significant battles of World War II. Known as Operation Overlord, the invasion involved nine army divisions in the initial attack with the support of over 7,000 ships and 11,000 aircraft. More than 75,000 British and Canadian troops, and 57,000 U.S. troops landed on the beaches, with a further 24,000 landing by air. The beaches were known by their Overlord code-names, Sword, Gold and Juno in the East, the site of the British and Canadian landings, and Omaha and Utah to the West, where American forces were concentrated.

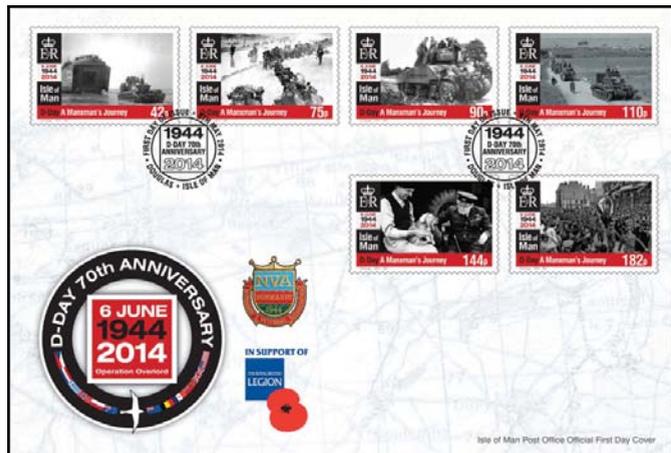
In the text that accompanies the stamps Manxman Hector Duff provides a very detailed and personal account of his memories of Operation Overlord, and the unexpected resistance as the allies tried to push into France and force the Germans back into their own country.

Hector's story of events, chronicled by Colonel Charles Wilson of the Isle of Man Cadet Force describes how he looked at D-Day as a crossroads between the long war already fought and the final push which was at the end of WWII. His account builds a clear picture of the events that unfolded on the day, from the rough Channel crossing in the Landing Craft Tanks, to the realization of the hundreds and hundreds of vessels surrounding them and his discomfort at the heavy firing and amount of infantry dead on the beach and in the water from the initial waves of troops.

The six stamps in the issue feature original black and white prints of photos from the liberation of Europe. They show the moment that the troops arrived on the beaches of Normandy to the later event. The First Day Cover (below) features the D-Day 70th Anniversary logo.



In addition a commemorative sheet (above) that incorporates stamps from the 50th, 60th and 70th D-Day anniversaries has been included and a limited edition folder (below) is also available from which £2.50 (approximately \$4.20) of each sale will go to The Normandy Veterans for its new memorial for those who fought on the beaches of Northern France in 1944.



For information on this and other Isle of Man new issues and a link to the Isle of Man postal administration website, please go to <https://www.iompost.com/stamps-coins/>. You can also read about all previous Isle of Man 2014 issues at <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/IsleOfManNewIssues.html>.