



The shores of Normandy

Jim Radford

In the cold grey light of the sixth of June in the year of forty-four
The Empire Larch sailed out from Poole to join with thousands more
The largest fleet the world had seen, we sailed in close array
And we set our course for Normandy at the dawning of the day

There was not one man in all our crew who know what lay in store
For we had waited for that day through five long years of war
We knew that many would not return, yet all our hearts were true
For we were bound for Normandy where we had a job to do

Now the Empire Larch was a deep-sea tug with a crew of thirty-three
And I was just a galley-boy on my first trip to sea
I little thought when I left home of the dreadful sites I'd see
But I came to manhood on the day that I first saw Normandy

At Arromanches off the beach of Gold beneath the rockets' deadly glare
We towed blockships into place and we built a harbour there
Mid shot and shell we built it well, as history does agree
While brave men died in the swirling tide on the shores of Normandy

For every hero's name that's known, a thousand died as well
On stakes and wires their bodies hung, rocked in the ocean swell
And many a mother wept that day, for the sons they loved so well
Men who cracked a joke and cadged a smoke as they stormed the gates of hell

As the years pass by, I can still recall the men I saw that day
Who died upon that blood-soaked sand, where now sweet children play
And those of you who were unborn, who've lived in liberty
Remember those who made it so on the shores of Normandy

Jim Radford a 15 ans, lorsque le 6 juin 1944, il débarque sur les plages de Normandie. Ce vétéran anglais, aujourd'hui âgé de 90 ans, chante ses souvenirs dans une chanson appelée "The shores of Normandy" (Les rives de Normandie) où il rend hommage à tous ses anciens camarades du D-Day et mise en ligne sur YouTube. Le titre est l'un des plus téléchargés sur Amazon, devant Justin Bieber ou Ed Sheeran. La voix de l'ancien soldat et ses paroles ont ému les internautes et la chanson bat des records sur les sites de téléchargement. Il avait écrit ces paroles il y a 50 ans.

Toutes les recettes seront envoyées au Britannic Memorial en Normandie inauguré le 6 juin 2019.