

The Poem

To be read by the children of Salcombe, Malborough and West Alvington Primary Schools at Holy Trinity Church 2-3pm

It is D-Day, the Sixth of June Nineteen-Forty-Four
Operation Overlord commenced, leaving the world
in awe.

The planning started in Nineteen-Forty-three.
Bringing Allies together, to make our World free.

Deception was used, codenamed Operation
Bodyguard.

Making rubber tanks and wooden planes as a
façade.

An American unit was formed for General Omar
Bradley.

Then a web of lies was spread, by his Ghost Army.
Much more was done, to keep the Germans in the
dark.

Before the Allies on foreign shores, could disembark.
Everything was Most Secret and kept Hush Hush.

As Allies gathered resources, for their big push.

The Allied Supreme Commander was General Dwight
Eisenhower.

With General (Monty) Montgomery as Temporary
Ground Commander

Eleven Thousand Aircraft and Gliders with
Paratroopers and Soldiers.

Were dropped behind enemy lines to secure the area.

More than Five-thousand ships, the biggest Armada
ever seen.

Sailed from British shores and our fields of green.

Monty's battle plan was written on one sheet of
paper.

Set for June the Fifth, the day of their departure.

But bad weather caused a Twenty-four-hour delay.

Then conditions changed, and they got underway.

British, American, Canadian and many other
countries were together thrown.

Going to fight a War, something many had never
known.

Over One Hundred and Fifty-Thousand men of every
creed.

Will perform acts of courage that must succeed.

There were Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and the
Merchant Navy.

Many Civilians who volunteered to fight against Nazi
tyranny.

Over the English Channel and to Normandy, France
will go.

To land on beaches called Sword, Gold, Utah, Omaha
and Juno.

Were they afraid? Yes! they most certainly were.

But the world must be saved, that was their spur.

The German defences were called the Atlantic Wall.

Hitler told Field-Marshal Rommel, he must, the Allies
stall.

The Allies landed Twenty-Four-Thousand troops on
D-Day. Commencing at Six-Thirty, then things went
into disarray.

Wind and rough seas helped landing craft miss their
mark.

Putting the plan in jeopardy from the start.

Fierce resistance was put up by Germans guarding
the beaches.

The time had come to fight, no further need for
speeches.

Beaches were mined, barbed wire laid, metal tripods
and many hazards.

Were set to kill, maim, and make things awkward.

Over Ten-Thousand casualties, the Allies had that
first day.

With over Four-Thousand dead, a heavy price to pay.

D-Day made Heroes, in that hell unknown.

Helping turn the Tide of War, as the Enemy were
overthrown.

Roy Palmer
Chelsea Pensioner and Herald