

444 (SHOREDITCH) SQUADRON AIR CADETS
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Shoreditch Pipers Join Veterans at D-Day Commemorations

Cadets from 444 (Shoreditch) Squadron Air Cadet Band, based in Hoxton and Mile End, joined many World War II veterans in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Over 100 cadets and adult staff paraded as a band at Bayeux Cemetery in northern France, joining local dignitaries and veterans to remember the fallen of the invasion of Normandy by allied forces on 6 June, 1944. The parade was led by the band from London & South East Region.

Cadet Sergeant Danny Gray, aged 16, who was on the parade said: "It is important to understand history through talking rather than text books. Every medal here tells a story and they need to be told through parades such as this. It is also special to me because it is a great honour to meet these men who were only a little older than me on D-Day."



Cadet Corporal Sophie Cooper, who played bagpipes at the Bayeux Cemetery in front of the combined Normandy Veterans Association and Royal British Legion groups, commented:

"It was such a moving experience to play the pipes at the Bayeux Cemetery. I was really nervous but I knew how much it meant for so many people to be there. I am pleased to have been part of something so special."

444 Sqn Cadet Sophie Cooper playing bagpipes in front of Veterans at the Bayeux Cemetery

Squadron Leader Nick Sermon, an adult volunteer member of the Air Training Corps, on parade with Air Cadets at Bayeux for the 65th anniversary of the D-Day landings: "When you meet and talk to the veterans, you can really appreciate the kind of courage they must have had to do not only on D Day but in the weeks following that eventful day. It was also an opportunity to meet local people whose lives were changed forever as a result of the events during that period of history. The four pipers from Shoreditch Air Cadets were fantastic and really made the day for so many of the people there."

A further 100 cadets plus support staff attended a parade at Colleville-Mongomery.

The day saw a number of commemorative events around Normandy, attended by veterans and representatives of the allied forces and representatives of Her Majesty's Government and Armed Forces, including His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Prime Minister Gordon Brown MP and Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Richard Dannatt.

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For more information on this release, please contact Flight Lieutenant Peter Gourri RAFVR(T): media.london@aircadets.org or 07930 507081

About 444 (Shoreditch) Squadron:

444 (Shoreditch) Squadron has been part of life in the East End of London since 1940 and is part of the Air Cadet Organisation, which is open to young people aged between 13 and 18 years of age. Cadets have the opportunity to go flying and gliding as part of the Air Cadets. The Air Cadet Organisation also supports qualifications through BTECs in Aviation Studies, Music and Public Services. Cadets can also take part in a wide choice of activities including adventure training, flying, gliding, a variety of sports, shooting and additionally, there are visits to RAF stations, as well as camps both in the UK and overseas. Cadets are also encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.