

**Cérémonie de remise de la Légion d'honneur à trois vétérans  
britanniques du Débarquement**

*Tatton Park, Cheshire, 8 janvier 2015*

**Chancellor,**

**Lord-Lieutenant,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**I am very pleased and honoured to be in Tatton today to present three veterans from Cheshire – Eric Glennon, Norman Iredale and Robert Lasham – with the insignia of *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur*.**

**I am delighted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is here to share this very special occasion. I would like to thank him warmly for inviting me to his constituency, named after this beautiful Tatton Park estate, which has a rich history.**

**On the sixth of June twenty-fourteen, on the beach at Ouistreham, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, French President François Hollande sent a strong message of gratitude to British and other Allied soldiers.**

**To mark the seventieth anniversary of D-Day, the French President decided to award the *Légion d'honneur* to all the British veterans who took part in the Liberation of France during the Second World War.**

**The *Légion d'honneur*, created by Napoleon in eighteen-ô-two, is France's highest distinction and honours exceptional acts of bravery and devotion by all those who have served France, whether they be French by blood or "by spilled blood".**

**Gentlemen,**

**Through the insignia of *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur*, France wants to thank you for your absolute commitment to freedom.**

**By taking part in the Normandy Landings in June nineteen-forty-four, in the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force respectively, you played an active role in liberating our country, and you do us an honour by being here today.**

**Eric Glennon, you landed with your ship on the sixth of June at sector Mike Red on Juno Beach. You fought two Sherman tanks and their crews. Your ship was then used to accommodate wounded troops.**

**Norman Iredale, you served on HMS Sweetbriar. You landed on the Normandy beaches early on the sixth of June, and for six weeks escorted troops and supplies.**

**Robert Lasham, you were a Lancaster pilot and captain, and on the sixth of June you took part in the bombing of a coastal battery at Saint-Pierre-du-Hont, and a German supply depot at Argentan. You went on to make a further twelve sorties against German targets in France before the liberation of Paris.**

**Gentlemen,**

**We owe our freedom and our security largely to your dedication, because you were ready to risk your lives to ensure a better and brighter world.**

**Honour is the word that springs to mind when I read your stories – stories born of so much courage – and when I read about all your French and British companions who met their fate on French soil, all your comrades-in-arms you so loyally remember. On them, “death shall have no dominion”.**

**This ceremony doesn’t just pay tribute to men who were ready to give their lives to liberate us. It sends a message to every British person that we shall not forget.**

**To salute the bravery displayed by the British during the Landings is also to pay tribute to Britain's strength in holding out alone against the enemy.**

***“He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,  
Will stand a tip-toe when the day is named”***

**When Shakespeare penned those words, which are spoken by one of his best known characters, Henry the Fifth, moments before the Battle of Agincourt, it was at a time when French soil, in the collective memory, was a battlefield of deadly antagonism between Britain and France.**

**Several centuries later, France was the scene of another battle, but one in which your bravery and dedication shone through. It set the seal on our two nations' destinies and gave us back our hope, fraternity and freedom.**

**In World War Two, as in the past few months, the struggle against terror has been, and shall remain, a central part of cooperation between France and Britain. The people of France are immensely grateful for the tireless commitment of their long-standing ally.**

**To quote Shakespeare once again, we shall always keep the heroes of June nineteen-forty-four “freshly remembered”.**

**May your commitment continue to inspire the hearts and actions of us all.**

**Long live Britain!**

**Long live France!**

**Long live Franco-British friendship!**