

Vice President's Letter July/August 2024

Dear Sisters,

Hoping you are all keeping well, the best you can be. It was a privilege to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The National Commemorative event June 6th was historic. Schools need to be given more time to explore the war years, particularly the important role women played as nurses, members of the resistance and code breakers. The last surviving women of the Royal Navy had key roles in the battle of Normandy.

During the battle of Normandy casualty rates were comparable to those in the First World War. By the time Paris was liberated August 25th 1944, more than 425 thousand Allied and German troops had been killed, wounded or gone missing.

Dear Sisters you might have seen the programmes effectively telling the story of D-Day with the remaining British veterans, still strong enough to recall their part in history and their experiences very movingly on television, capturing the suffering, death, destruction and heartache.

A 99 year old veteran said "We didn't know where we were, as I turned to my book of Psalms while making our way onto the beach surrounded by gunfire. It seemed to work, it steadied my nerves and look I'm still here today"

Another veteran told us "We didn't know what to do, so I took a deep breath and started to pray"

If we hadn't won D-Day we would have lost the war. We celebrate our heroes, the story of the 100's of brave young men who died that day and 1000's involved is a day to remember giving us freedom and democracy.

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of life and ask for peace throughout the world and eliminate prejudices and hatred.

Have a lovely summer break.

Yours in Christ

Sr Audrey B Kendall