

# PIPER'S LETTER

**NO.2**  
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## 80TH D-DAY

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AN INTERNATIONAL  
EVENT

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# 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Dear Members & Subscribers,

The year 2024 will undoubtedly be an unforgettable one, filled with emotions, solemn moments, encounters, and sharing...

With more than 21 events & ceremonies throughout the week (from June 2nd to 8th), up to 450 members and partners present on June 5th between Colleville-Montgomery & Bénouville, and over 300 musicians on the morning of June 6th on Sword Beach.

I would like to once again commend all our members, volunteers, and especially our staff, who often work behind the scenes but play a crucial role throughout the year in the organization, safety, and smooth running of these major gatherings.

The year 2024 is coming to an end, and 2025 will be a year full of surprises and new challenges...

A thousand thanks to each and every one of you for these wonderful memories.

Rémy LAMBERT, President





# 03/06 : PIPER'S TOUR

The week began with great pomp with the ceremony at the British Normandy Memorial (Ver-sur-Mer). A tribute was paid to Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay in the presence of the Ramsay clan from Europe.

In the second part, the ceremony at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach took place under a bright sun, which heightened the emotions that this symbolic place already holds.

Due to the crowds at Omaha Beach and the presence of President Jon Biden's helicopters that day, our musicians had to spend over three hours pacing the pavement of the American cemetery's parking lot! This led us to postpone our performance at Arromanches-les-Bains to the next day.

Tuesday afternoon, June 4th, was originally planned as a half-day of rest. However, all the musicians agreed to return, on their own, to play at Arromanches-les-Bains.

Despite the rescheduling, the crowd showed up and moved all the musicians by humming the famous "Amazing Grace." This aubade, performed in front of the D-Day Museum, a financial partner of this tour, enabled the rental of three buses to transport our 130 musicians and staff members throughout the tour.



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# 05/06 : GRANDE PARADE OF PIPES & DRUMS

The parade and aubade from Colleville-Montgomery to the statue of Bill Millin once again gathered an enthusiastic crowd, as it has for the past three years.

The Millin clan honored us with their presence. John and Jacob emphasized the importance of international unity around this event, thanking all the musicians present for playing in honor of freedom, equality, and fraternity among nations.



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This year, we also had the participation of the HMV Italia (History & Military Vehicles Italia) association, which brought 35 vehicles and 190 reenactors of U.S. units.

It was a beautiful spectacle, enjoyed by young and old alike, bringing together over 180 musicians, with a total of 450 people involved throughout the day.



# 06/06 : D-DAY ON SWORD BEACH

If there is one ceremony that keeps the memory of our members alive, it is the 7:23 a.m. ceremony on Sword Beach, Colleville-Montgomery, followed by the parade at Pegasus Bridge in Bénouville.

On this 80th Anniversary, this day will remain etched in our memories. With over 300 musicians, hundreds of Franco-British military personnel, veterans, and officials, the morning of June 6, 2024, was a particularly emotional moment.

Television networks around the world had their eyes fixed on our musicians. The replay from the French channel TF1 is available on our website.





# BOWU FESTIVAL





# B.O.W.U Launches a Festival!

On the occasion of this 80th anniversary, B.O.W.U held the first edition of its festival, sponsored by John Millin. However, it is important to remember that this is a cultural and commemorative event, and only then a festive one.

**Its purpose?** To provide the association with additional financial income to ensure that all members and musicians, who are volunteers, can be fully accommodated at no cost.

While this first edition does not yet cover all expenses, many services are already in place, thanks in part to the support of the municipality of Bénouville, which took care of some services related to secure accommodations.

The festival also aims to offer moments of relaxation and connection for all members, while promoting traditional Scottish music in a more “lighthearted” setting than the official ceremonies.

More than 7,000 visitors attended this first edition, which delighted festival-goers, including many military personnel, fans of Celtic music, as well as all partners and exhibitors.



The Samarobriva Pipes & Drums Band at the D-Day Normandy Cup



**Looking Back at the Event:**

Opening at 10 a.m. for the public, with the exhibitor village open alongside the morning commemorative festivities.

From 1 p.m., the competitions for Pipe & Drum Bands and the solo Piper trophy kicked off, drawing a large and family-friendly audience.

Congratulations to the winners of the various competitions:



**^ 3 LAKES UNITED (SWITZERLAND) IN THE PIPE BAND CATEGORY**



**< HAMPSHIRE CALEDONIAN (ENGLAND) FOR BEST DRUM CORPS**

**CORINNE SHLUP (SWITZERLAND) > FOR THE BILL MILLIN TROPHY**





In the evening, starting at 7:00 PM, all the musicians presented a mass band performance of freedom to the large number of visitors. Over 100 pipes and drums resonated with the most famous traditional Scottish bagpipe tunes just steps away from Pegasus Bridge.

Then, the stage was handed over to the three scheduled groups (Spoon O'Porridge, Calum Stewart & Celtica Pipes Rock), as well as Julien Tao, who performed his new single "D-Day," composed exclusively for the association as part of the festival. It is a tribute to the memory of all those who lived through this tragic period.

Once again, **a huge thank you** to all the volunteers, musicians, staff, and all our partners and supporters for this first edition!

See you in 2025 for the second edition, from June 6 to 8, 2025.





# NEWS





# CALL FOR DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP

Dear Members of the Association & Subscribers,

I am writing to you on behalf of the organizing committee for the commemorations of the association, an event that is dear to our hearts and brings together many committed participants each year.

First of all, I want to thank you for your dedication and presence, which make these commemorations so special. Your volunteer contribution is invaluable and allows us to celebrate this wonderful event together.

Despite our efforts and everyone's commitment, we are facing some difficulties in finalizing our budget this year. Unfortunately, some of our sponsors and institutions have not honored their funding commitments to date, even after several reminders.

However, the committee has not remained idle! We have organized sales over several weekends to successfully raise funds, but this has not been enough.

That is why we are making this call for donations. Since July, our association has been officially recognized as being of general interest and can therefore issue tax receipts for donations and sponsorship.

Donors who pay taxes in France benefit from a tax deduction of 66% of their donation. For a donation of €100, after the tax deduction, it will only cost you €34.

You can contribute by yourself and by sharing information from our website, on the "support" page, linked at the bottom of the page or via the QR code.

As they say, small streams make big rivers! Your support, in any form, will be a great help and will allow us to continue offering quality commemorations.

We look forward to seeing you at the next edition in June 2025, which will coincide with the 10th anniversary of B.O.W.U.

Thank you in advance for your support and commitment, which make this event a success each year.

Warm regards,  
MATILE Sylvie, Treasurer



<https://bowu.international/donation/>





# 10 years







**In 2025** , B.O.W.U will be 10 years old. We invite you to take a look back with Luc MONOD, Honorary President and founder of Bagpipers Of the World United.

**June 2013:** Inauguration of the statue of Bill Millin marks the beginning of an extraordinary new adventure for Luc, who joined the 91st Gatinais Highlanders Pipe Band.

**September 2014:** After a trip to Moscow to attend a concert for the 10th anniversary of the "Moscow and District Pipe Band," Luc is inspired by the motto "Workers of the world unite" to create the Association and its title, aiming to unite and coordinate commemorations. This effort will continue with Pipers & Drummers from all countries until 2019, and even in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic through a video project. In **March 2015**, the association is officially registered in the French official journal.



**December 2021:** The leadership of the association was handed over from Luc MONOD to Rémy LAMBERT, alongside an enthusiastic team ready to carry the torch for the years to come.

The main objective for the new President is to rethink the association, its operations, and its organization with one question in mind: "After the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, how can we continue to attract our musicians and the younger generation to future commemorations?"

**June 2025:** We will celebrate the 81st Anniversary of D-Day and our 10th Anniversary. This will be a significant event for all our participants, who are all volunteers (musicians, members, volunteers...) and who have worked for years to honor the memory of this chapter in history. Currently, the programming is not finalized and will obviously depend on our year-end finances. Stay tuned in the coming months for more information...



The memorial film of the  
80th D-Day :  
Release at the end of the  
year



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