

60th
anniversary
1944-2004

Remembering D-Day when

Beginning of the end for World War II

1944-2004

Acton Citizens' Band concert Sunday features D-Day tribute

Acton Citizens' Band will pay tribute to the 60th anniversary of D-Day at their concert in Acton arena this Sunday, June 6 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Bandmaster Dr. George Elliot said the band has been practising since Christmas for the concert. Among the selections will be 'The Thin Red Line,' a tribute to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who fought the battle of Balaclava.

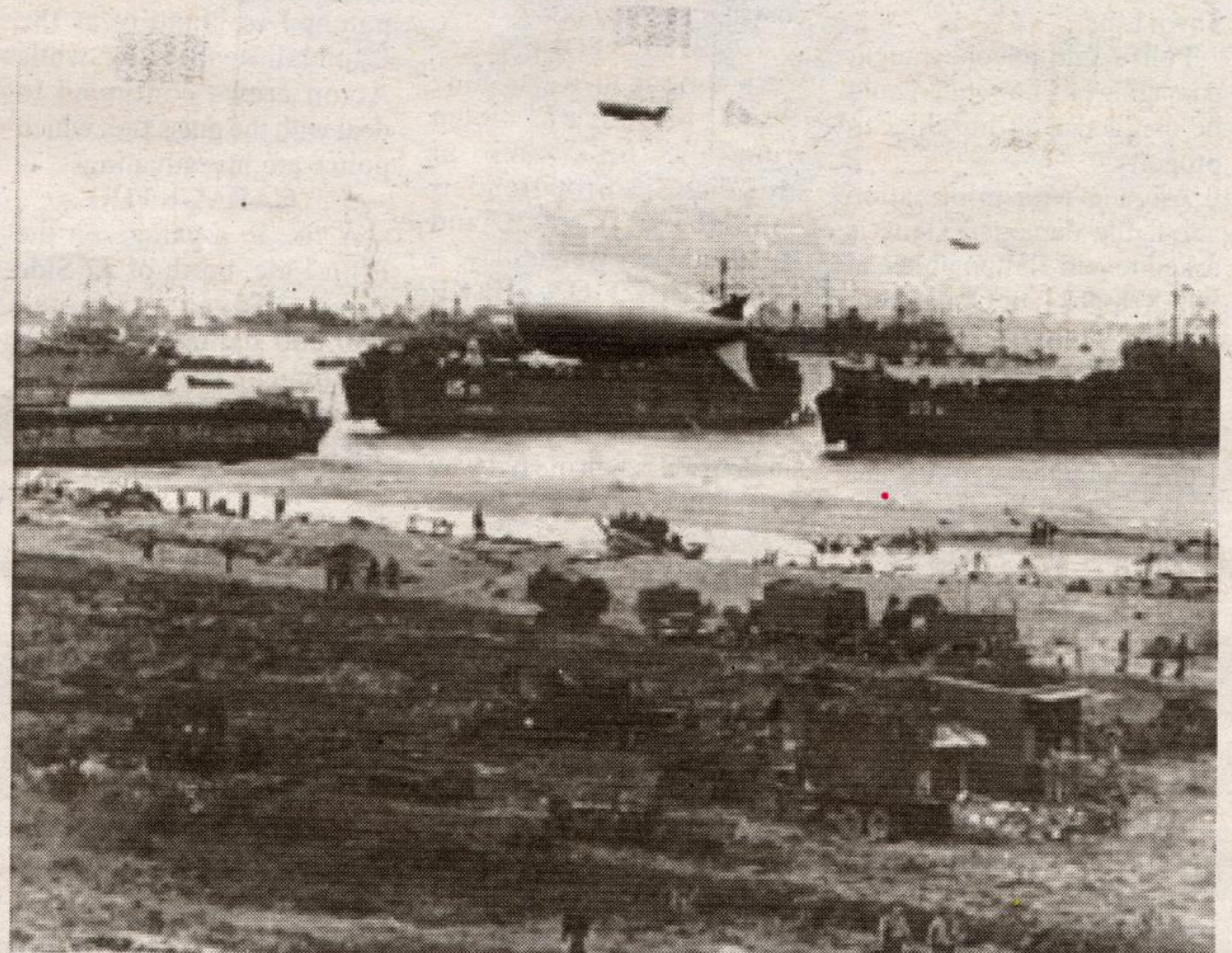
The band will also play Crown Imperial and the RAF March Past which has also been adopted by the RCAF as its

march. Classical marches will be part of the program by composers such as John Philip Sousa.

The program will feature classics which have survived from the past 50 years such as Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring, the classic hymn of Johann Sebastian Bach as well as the works of Mozart and Beethoven.

A new wrinkle will see the band predicting music which will last. One such piece is the music from The Lion King.

The concert is being held in the community room of the Acton arena.



The scene at a Normandy beachhead Brits, Canucks comprised most of invasion force

Forget those Hollywood films which portray D-Day as an All-American effort with some help from the British and Canadians.

Most troops in the D-Day assault were British and Canadian - 83,000 as opposed to 73,000 Americans. The air and naval forces were 80 per cent British. It is outrageous people in Britain and Canada that the U.S. is taking all the credit for the invasion of Normandy. The British preponderance of troops, aircraft and warships is not mentioned in some Hollywood and TV flicks.

Saving Private Ryan, Steven Spielberg's 1998 film portrays the landing as an All-American affair. The television series, Band of Brothers makes little or no mention of Allied co-operation and the fact it was British General Montgomery who was in charge of the land operation involving all British, Canadian and American troops gets only a

mention as being a hindrance to the U. S. machine.

And yet of all the operations in WW2 the D-Day landings were the most truly Allied in their planning, command and execution. British, Canadian and American forces, working with contingents from France, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Norway, New Zealand and Australia all took part in a cohesive effort that was a crucial stepping stone to victory in the West.

By the end of D-Day the Allies had landed as many as 155,000 troops in France by sea and air and achieved complete surprise in doing it. The Atlantic Wall had been breached but the battle had just begun.

As Churchill said on another occasion: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

'The Canadians stormed ashore in the face of withering fire from entrenched German positions. Victory did not come cheaply. In a few hours one company lost almost three-quarters of its men.'



From the going down of the sun...until the morning... we shall remember them.

GIANT TIGER
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D-DAY 1944

Canadian airmen and sailors were among the first into action. The Royal Canadian Air Force had already been involved in bombing targets in the invasion areas. Now they flew as part of the 171 Allied squadrons that attacked on D-Day. Canadian



fighter pilots fought the Lutwaffe in overcast skies.

Contributing in large measure to allied air supremacy.

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." - Winston Churchill.

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D-DAY 1944

Although only one Canadian unit reached it's D-Day Objective, the first line of German defences had been completely smashed. By evening, Canadian troops had progressed father in land that any of their allies. It was a remarkable achievement but despite casualties being less than expected. It was an expensive one too. German dead were littered over the sand dunes. By them lay Canadians in blood stained battle dress... living only a few minutes of the victory they had fashioned.

"To ensure victory was wrought 340 Canadians gave their lives. Another 574 had been wounded and 47 taken prisoner..."



"We shall remember them."
The Town of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and the Members of Council