

D-DAY 80 YEARS ON AT BLACKSOD

Event Plan



Event Plan: 80th Anniversary Commemoration of the D-Day Landings

Location: Blacksod Lighthouse, County Mayo, Ireland

Date: June 6th, 2024

Objective: To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings with a series of events at Blacksod Lighthouse, focusing on the pivotal role played by the location in providing crucial weather forecasts for the Allied forces. Dedication to the Irish who served on D-day, also the men who served in the LOPs along Ireland's coastline during the war years.

Schedule:

1. Dawn Ceremony (5:00 AM - 6:00 AM)

- Minute's silence at dawn to mark the hour the first landing craft hit the beaches in Normandy.
- Piper performance.
- Playing of the first radio bulletin announcing the invasion as heard in 1944.
- Navy ship in the bay signaling at 5:00 AM, *formal request was made pending.*
- Tea, coffee, and possible WW2 breakfast offerings.
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2. Exhibition and Displays (10:00 AM - 3:00 pm)

- Representatives from Met Éireann, An Post, Military Archives, and Irish Lights showcasing their roles during the Irish Emergency / WW2.
- Marquee exhibition for the public to explore exhibits and gain insight into the organizations' contributions during the 1940s.
- Display of movie props from "Saving Private Ryan" and "Fury."

3. Public Addresses (11:00 AM - 12:30 PM) Time can be added here if needed.

- **Guest speakers:**
- Donal Buckley Military Heritage Tours
- Ron Howko
- Introduction by Michael Kennedy

4. Music Performance and Flyover (12:30 PM - 2:00 PM)

- Singer performing 1940s music.
- 2pm (est) Flyover of the village by the Air Corps fisheries patrol aircraft, dedicated to those who served in the Look Out Posts (LOPs) during the war. (**Waiting on confirmation - will update**)
- **Possible Vintage WW2 aircraft flyover (Waiting on confirmation - will update)**
- 3pm finish at Blacksod Lighthouse.

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5. Group Talk at SOLAS Visitor Center (4:30 PM, 5pm start - 6:30 PM)

- Group discussion led by you on the purpose and significance of LOPs during WW2 and their connection to D-Day.
- Integration of other representatives into the discussion to unite Ireland, the D-Day story, and Blacksod's role.
- End with reflections on Maureen and Ted's contributions.

Additional Notes:

- RTE's Joe Duffy show might link in during the day.
- Schedule adjustments can be made if necessary.
- Currently all flyovers are to be confirmed and maybe subject to change

Conclusion: This comprehensive event aims to honor the bravery and sacrifice of those involved in the D-Day landings while highlighting the crucial role of many Irish men serving in the allied forces played alongside Blacksod Lighthouse in shaping history. We will also remember the role of the LOPs along the Irish coast and the men who served in them during the war years.

The group talk at SOLAS Visitor Center will provide valuable insights into the significance of LOPs during WW2, and how D-day unfolded through Irish eyes enhancing attendees' understanding of this pivotal moment of world history.