

### 2014 PLANE IN THE COLORS OF 1944 - PEGASUS BRIDGE

'Blessent mon coeur d'une langueur monotone'. The second part of a code message from London announced that the WW II invasion of France had as good as begun. The Pegasus Bridge, a simple bridge over the canal of Caen near Ouistreham in France was vital at the start of the invasion by the Allies on June 6, 1944, and had to be taken by the British 6th Airborne Division definitely in the night of June 5<sup>th</sup>. Major John Howard and his 180 men succeeded in this within ten minutes after they had landed unobserved with glider-planes. Anyone who saw the film 'The Longest Day' knows this bridge, and many 'WW II pilgrims' went there and had a look themselves.

### BLACK AND WHITE STRIPES

The sound of Merlin engines has once again filled the skies of Normandy as the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight based at RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, accompanied by an RAF Typhoon painted with invasion stripes made a symbolic flypast over Pegasus Bridge in Normandy, close to the site of the first Airborne Landings in 1944. Hawker Typhoon was one of the most powerful fighter-bomber aircraft of the Royal Air Force, and now 70 years later - very special - a modern Typhoon (Eurofighter) flew along with a Spitfire over the now new bridge in a memorial flight in this case a very special color scheme. These are the black and white D-Day invasion stripes' on fuselage and wings, which were painted on all Allied aircraft for the sake of a good visual recognition of friend and foe in the air, in order to avoid mistakes during dogfights. Applying the stripes by then even happened here and there at the last minute so that the paint sometimes was applied with brooms minutes before departure.

### 24/7 SECURITY OVER THE UK

Just as the Spitfire did during the Second World War, its modern day counterpart the current RAF Typhoon and its crews provide protection for the United Kingdom 24 hours, 7 days a week from their bases at RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire and RAF Leuchars. The Typhoon's memorial flight now symbolized June 5<sup>th</sup> 2014, the preponderance of Allied aircraft during the invasion to keep the Germans away as much as possible. A memorial flight that many spectators aside the bridge must have given them the goose-pimps while the planes flew over. Also in this flight was the symbolism of a 24/7 surveillance of airspace over the United Kingdom in our present time. WW II is dated, there are barely veterans still alive. Yet war and threats are of all time and this period of WW-II may never be forgotten. The movie 'The longest Day' is more or less a documentary film and for those who have not yet seen it an absolute must

### PAYING RESPECT

As the last post sounded at a service held on the site of the original Airborne landings, the aircraft thundered overhead to cheers and waves from the hundreds of onlookers lining the bridge. Among them was former RAF Air Sea Rescue veteran 73 year-old Terry Delay from Nantwich, Cheshire who said; "I always wanted to see the battlefields of France and as this will be the last big push before the Normandy Veterans Association disbands, I feel it's my duty to pay my respects and lay some wreaths."