



## **From Yards to Hards:<sup>1</sup> Preparing Allied naval forces for the 1944 Normandy Landings**

**Naval Dockyards Society 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (in-person)  
The D-Day Story, Portsmouth - Partner and Venue:  
Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Portsmouth PO5 3NT  
Saturday 18 May 2024**



**Sponsored by the Society for Nautical Research**

**REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS 10.00-10.30 CONFERENCE 10.30-4.05 LUNCH 12.05-12.55**

### **PROGRAMME**

10.30-10.35 Welcome **Dr Ann Coats NDS Chair**

#### **Morning: Strategy - Chair Andrew Whitmarsh Curator The D-Day Story**

10.35-11.05 Dr Andrew Jeffrey, From Operation Claymore to the Normandy decision: The critical role of Scotland's Combined Operations bases in Allied preparations for D-Day.

11.05-11.35 Dr John M. Curatola LtCol USMC (Ret,) Amphibious Allies: Overlord Preparation and the Combined US/UK Effort.

11.35-12.05 Matthew Mackmin MBA, MSc, Operation NEPTUNE and the Combined Operations Experimental Establishment.

#### **12.05-12.55 Buffet Lunch**

#### **12.55-3.55 Afternoon: Logistics & Equipment - Chair Ian Stafford NDS Committee**

12.55-1.25 Chris Barrington Brown, The Logistic Build-Up to D-Day.

1.25-1.55 Dr Adrian Webb, The road to D-Day: The Hydrographic Department's role in supplying Allied Forces.

1.55-2.25 Andy Skinner, Southampton and the Preparations for Operation Overlord.

#### **2.25-2.45 Tea break**

2.45-3.15 Dr Jacob Thomas-Llewellyn Prefabricating Victory: The Design and Development of the MULBERRY Harbours, 1942-1944.

3.15-3.45 Dr Ian Buxton MBE, Building the Tank Landing Craft.

3.45-3.55 Andrew Whitmarsh Curator The D-Day Story, LCT 7074.

3.55-4.05 Valediction & comfort break

#### **4.05-4.45 Optional visit to LCT 7074**

5.00 Museum closes

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<sup>1</sup> A hard is a firm beach or foreshore where marine structures can be built and launched; it is also a sloping roadway at the water's edge for beaching vessels and landing materials – the D-Day hards were UK beaches which loaded landing craft.