



John W Twigger

CHEVALIER IN THE NATIONAL ORDER
OF THE LEGION OF HONOUR



AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
LONDRES

L'AMBASSADEUR

No 2015 - 929481

19 October 2015

Dear Mr Twigger,

I have the pleasure of informing you that the President of the Republic has appointed you to the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre national de la légion d'honneur.

I offer you my warmest congratulations on this high honour in recognition of your acknowledged military engagement and your steadfast involvement in the Liberation of France during the Second World War.

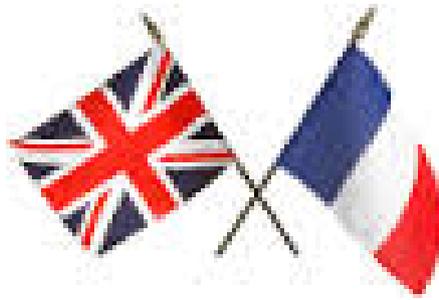
As we contemplate this Europe of peace, we must never forget the heroes like you who came from Britain and the to begin the liberation of Europe by liberating France. We owe our freedom and security to your dedication because you were ready to risk your life. I am happy to enclose your insignia of Chevalier de ta Légion d'honneur and once again extend to you my heartfelt congratulations.

Since a large number of decorations has to be awarded between now and the end of this year, I shall be unable to present this honour personally to every single veteran. However, if you would like an award ceremony to be organized for you, I invite you to contact your region 's French Honorary Consul, who has been informed and is at your disposal. The Honorary Consuls' contact details are enclosed with this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Silvie Bermann

Mr John W Twigger



On 25 July 2014 The Government of the Republic of France announced that it was to recognise D Day veterans with its country's highest honour. It is in recognition of the selfless acts of heroism and determination displayed by all surviving veterans of the Normandy landings and the wider campaigns to liberate France in 1944. John's appointment to the rank of Chevalier (translated, Knight or Horseman) of the National Order of the Legion of Honour will be officially recognised when the insignia of his award is presented to him at a date to be arranged early in 2016 by a representative of the French Government.

John was born in Birmingham on the 28th February 1923. At the Age of 17 years when the war broke out he was employed as a messenger for the Fire Service, before he enlisted in the Royal Air Force.

On D-day plus 1 John landed on Arromanches beach in Normandy where he was responsible for a number of duties including the security of Germany prisoners and the burial of those killed in action. He was later seconded to drive an ambulance after the driver became ill and a number of other important tasks.

John met his future wife, Connie, whilst serving in Germany and had 65 years of a happy marriage.

Connie was employed with the Royal Artillery as an ack-ack gunner and John is very proud of having in his possession the telegram that she received from Field Marshal Montgomery, on her demob, thanking her for her services.

John spent the next 4 years in Germany returning in 1948 to RAF Acklington as the Station Sergeant until he left the Royal Air Force.

John resides in Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham close to his son John. He is an active member of the North East Branch of the Royal Air Force Police Association attending the majority of the meetings and other branch functions. We are all so proud of him.

On Remembrance Sunday this year before laying a wreath at the Memorial Gardens, Newbiggin by the Sea on behalf of the Branch, John was introduced to Her Grace, The Duchess of Northumberland who congratulated him on his award and admired the insignia he was proudly wearing.



Royal Air Force Police Association, North East Branch

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