

# THE GENERAL GAVIN'S PORTRAIT

## DONATED TO THE AIRBORNE MUSEUM BY HIS DAUGHTERS

June, 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 – 6pm

**On June 4th 2016 at 6pm, a portrait of General James M. Gavin will be unveiled at the Airborne Museum in Sainte Mere Eglise. The former commander of the 82<sup>nd</sup> AB : General Nicholson and the actual commander : General Clarke will assist the ceremony.**

On June 6th 1944, Brigadier General Gavin, the youngest general of the American Army, jumped onto Normandy. He led the division in the fighting around Sainte-Mère-Eglise and helped lead the battle to open access for Allied soldiers on Utah Beach. In summer 1944, he was appointed commander in chief of the 82nd AB.

The portrait depicts General Gavin as he was in 1944, at age 37. He stands in front of the bridge and causeway at La Fiere, just outside Sainte Mere Eglise. A battle raged for several days to seize the causeway to allow Allied troops to leave Utah Beach. Military historians have described the battle at La Fiere as the most intense action fought by the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II.

Two of General Gavin's daughters, Chloe Gavin and Liné Lewis, commissioned the portrait by James Crowley. Mr. Crowley is a noted American portrait artist, and his works are owned by many universities and corporations.

In the Airborne Museum, the portrait will rejoin the showcase dedicated to General Gavin where his helmet is.

### **About the Airborne Museum :**

The Airborne Museum, situated in the square of Sainte-Mère-Eglise, facing the church where John Steele famously was caught, relates the heroic adventure of paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division.

Through a spectacular museography, the Airborne Museum takes you through the D-Day alongside American paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division. From the invasion preparations in England through the battles for liberation, meet the Airborne troops and accompany them on their journey to Victory.

Discover an exceptional collection of historic items, an authentic glider and a C-47 plane which was deployed in the D-Day parachute drop operations.

A 20 minutes film shows life under German occupation and relates with deep emotion the Liberation of Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the Cotentin.

In the brand new building « Operation Neptune », be prepared to parachute on the 6th of June 1944! Board a C-47 in England then land in the church square in Sainte-Mère-Eglise and take part in the following battles.

### **Opening times**

- May to August : 9:00 am – 07:00 pm.
- April and September : 09:30 am – 6:30 pm.
- October to March : 10:00 am – 06:00 pm
- From December, 19th to January, 3rd. The museum will close in December, 24th, 25th and 31th but also in January, 1st.

### **Rates :**

- ADULT : 8.00 €
- CHILD (6 to 16 year old): 5.00 €
- FAMILY : (2 adults and 2 Children) : Adults : 7.50€ / Children : 4€

### **Press contact :**

#### **Clémence Lesage**

Responsible for Communication

+33 (0)2 33 41 78 03

[communication@airborne-museum.org](mailto:communication@airborne-museum.org)

#### **Magali Mallet**

Director

+33 (0)2 33 41 78 02

[direction@airborne-museum.org](mailto:direction@airborne-museum.org)