

NEWS RELEASE

A Commemoration of Major Sir Tasker Watkins VC

At Noon on Friday 16th August 2019, a Blue Plaque will be unveiled at the Llandaff, Cardiff, home of Major Sir Tasker Watkins VC. It will be the seventy fifth anniversary of the action during the military advance through Normandy, following the D-Day Invasion, for which Sir Tasker Watkins won his VC.

The Llandaff Society intends to put up a Blue plaque on **St Andrews, High Street**, where Sir Tasker first lived in Llandaff in **1945**. It will be unveiled by **Lady Mair Griffith Williams**, Sir Tasker's daughter, and members of the family. Also present will be **Royal Welsh Regiment soldiers**, army veterans, Llandaff Society members, and WRU representatives, including **President Denis Gethin**, and former internationals **John Dawes and Brian Rees**. Following the unveiling, the blue plaque will be dedicated by **Canon Graham Holcombe**, Residentiary Canon, Llandaff Cathedral, whose father served with Sir Tasker until he was wounded in action in 1944.

Sir Tasker was born in Nelson, in **1918** and educated at Pontypridd Grammar School. He was commander of a company of the **Fifth Welch Regiment** during the fighting near Falaise, Normandy. Following substantial losses with many men being killed or wounded, he charged two enemy field guns. For this act he was awarded the Victoria Cross by **King George VI on 8th March 1945**.

After war service he studied for the Bar, rising to become **Deputy Lord Chief Justice**. He also excelled on the rugby field, playing for **Glamorgan Wanderers** and finally becoming **President of the WRU**. An imposing statue of Sir Tasker already stands at the entrance to the **Principality Stadium** in Cardiff but he will now also be honoured in Llandaff, where he resided for the remainder of his life until his death in 2007.

Geoff Barton-Greenwood, Chairman of Llandaff Society says "We are delighted that the occasion will also be honoured by the presence of the regimental mascot – Shenkin, led by the Goat Major".

Sir Tasker's citation recorded that *"his superb gallantry and total disregard for his own safety during an extremely difficult period were responsible for saving the lives of his men and had a decisive influence on the course of the battle"*.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Contact: Geoffrey Barton-Greenwood, Chairman, Llandaff Society is available for interview and further information about Sir Tasker Watkins

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