

MVT - NORFOLK AREA REPORT - Modified for NMVG use

Since last putting 'fingers to keyboard' the rally programme descended upon us, sometimes stretching resources beyond that anticipated.

April provided our annual calendar excursions of the 'Crank up gathering and meal' at the Flixton Buck, adjacent to Suffolk Aviation Museum, Halesworth to Southwold Road run and East Anglia Transport Museum at Lowestoft.



May offered something different for a limited number, who having made the commitment to attend the Guernsey 65th Anniversary Tour realised their intent to attend the 70th Anniversary Dunkirk commemorations was less than three weeks later! David Skinner put another recent acquisition to his 'Humber stables' through its proving paces, being a 1940 Humber Heavy Utility PU, as did John and Joy Morter who

had only just completed an excellent full rebuild of their 1942 Humber Heavy Utility on which the paint was just about dry! Bill Purchase fielded his 1940 Humber Super Snipe, with me feeling slightly out of place in the 1940 Ford WOC1. On reaching Poole we were met by Brian Mack and Helen in their 1942 Ford WOT 2 who had determined an open cab on the open road, with the possibility of inclement weather, 'flat bed' was the way to travel!. The vehicles behaved well and a fantastic time was had by all, thanks to the Guernsey Area who made us so welcome and put on a well planned and executed event. Three of the intrepid crews, being David and Joy, Bill and Christine and myself with Carol had only just caught up on requirements at home before we were off again, this time via Dover. The Dunkirk commemorations were the best I have ever attended with the French pulling out all the stops to look after veterans and participants alike. A rare sight was eighteen pre 1940 vehicles plus outriders in convoy through the town without a Jeep or Dodge in sight, no disrespect to post 40 vehicle owners! We 'Norfolk Crews' also however had a personal commitment to attend Le Paradis on the 27th May being the 70th anniversary of the massacre of 97 members of the Norfolk Regiment following their surrender to an element of the SS Totenkopf Regiment. The local commune provided a band, dignitaries plus standards from their local legions and Dennis O'Callaghan, son of one of the two survivors, arrived with a coach of friends, relatives plus one veteran of le Paradis, Arthur Brough, who still feels guilty that the remnants of his Battalion were captured only some 700 yards away by a regular army troops and marched into captivity. A return diversion took us through an area of conflict from two world wars to the town of Ypres and the chance to attend again the Menin Gate ceremony.



June saw a number of members attending the military vehicle day at Duxford followed by a 'Dads Army' weekend split between two locations. Saturday saw the unveiling of a life size statue to Captain Mannering at Thetford attended by a few of the original cast and writers followed by Sunday at the Bressingham Steam Museum which also houses the Dad's Army collection. Unfortunately this day clashed with our annual attendance and ceremony at the 7th



Armoured Division Memorial Thetford Forest, where our own veteran Reg Wyatt read the eulogy, although through the organisation of Ray & Sue plus Richard & Sandra at Bressingham good organisation was achieved at both. The last

weekend in June was extremely busy being our annual commitment to the Ellough 1940's Hanger Dance, and Old Buckenham Air Show being fitted around the requirements for vehicles to support 'Forces Day'. Those in the north of the area attended a weekend of commemoration at the Muckleburgh Collection Museum and further south a well attended event and drumhead ceremony at Lowestoft, our attendance organised by Cyril Salisbury who also had focal point, representing the veteran organisations.



July heralded attendance at Great Fransham by an intrepid 'Band of Brothers' including Ray Elderton, Barry Beck, Mike Pollard, Hughie Saunders, Harry Peckett and our own 'pin-up girl' Kim Goldspink. All managed to generate interest and Eastern Daily Press coverage, put on a great show generate a collection on behalf of Help for Heroes, well done to you all!

To date the weather has been exceedingly kind, long may it continue.

Ian McCallum