

NORFOLK MVT AREA REPORT - AUTUMN EDITION OF WINDSCREEN

Yet another rush to put finger to keyboard and give a brief summary of our very full calendar during this period. As with previous the formal season started with our traditional 'Crank-up' lunch at the flixton Buck, adjacent to the Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum. This was followed by regular rally fixtures taking in the picturesque road run to Southwold and the East of England Transport Museum. With an excellent hotel facility just outside offering a carvery lunch this gave the ideal excuse to forego the normal picnic lunch and go the full hog, quite literally for several members! Next was the Bressingham Steam Museum which also houses the 'Dads Army' museum, described in detail in last year's issue. Although one of the writers and Bill Pertwee were in attendance the intended presence of Philip Madoc (the U Boat Commander), plus Pike and 'Jonesy' never materialised. However a great time was had by all with a bumper turn out of vehicles supported by our Suffolk MVT neighbours. It was then our turn to return the favour for an event at the 95th Bomb Group's rebuilt SNCO's 'Red Feather Club' which contains some fantastic original wall art and history of the station. A number of veterans were in attendance from both the 95th and 100th Bomb Groups and were privileged to have a fly past from the B17 'Sally B' being her first time in the public arena since a major mechanical refit. A fantastic day and well done to a number of the Suffolk Area who have played their part in returning part of our heritage to its former glory.

Next was the big one, our area Normandy Tour. Yours truly was the organiser and co-ordinator, no simple task to find 'rigid roof' accommodation for some 54 members and families in 20 vehicles. Our billets were in a chalet complex on the Bayeux/St Lo road within striking distance of all the beaches plus some of the inland areas to be visited. Although a daily itinerary was available to ensure those wishing a tour of the main D-Day sites were not disappointed there was flexibility for individuals to selected parts or just do 'their own thing'. In a number of instances it was the usual case of what a difference a day makes with respect to getting around places surrounding the 6th June although this had been accounted for in the programme. As we arrived in Ouistreham at the crack of sparrow the opportunity was taken to visit



Pegasus Bridge and the museum plus the Merville Battery en-route to our campsite. All beaches and major museums were covered with several of our Jeep fraternity ensuring their Jeeps travelled the sands wherever possible. At Omaha this resulted in a number of members being encouraged onto the beach, including David Hines and Joy Auty, even it was for just a photo to prove they had been there!

Although places visited is too long to cover the new battery site at Grand Camp Maisy was found to be very interesting, even if it did rain and the internal route directions where somewhat confusing! Not forgetting this was a pilgrimage tour the opportunity was taken to visit the American Cemetery at Colleville plus a number of Commonwealth War Grave Cemeteries. In addition we had arranged to support veterans from both the Norfolk and Suffolk Regiments at wreath laying ceremonies at both 'Hillman', which was captured by the Suffolk's and a nearby memorial to the Norfolk's adjacent to a local farm known as 'Norfolk Farm'. We in turn laid wreaths on behalf of the Dereham Branch of the British Legion and our MVT Area. Unfortunately the event did not go without mishap with Barry and Doris Beck being involved in a road traffic accident in their Dodge. Although initially hospitalised in St Lo they were repatriated to the UK towards the end of our stay and are now both recovering at home. Ending on a high note Joy Auty, actually living in the Midlands Area and sister to Norfolk Area member Sue Elderton, travelled alone from Coventry in her newly acquired Jeep to join us on tour having only driven a total of some 45 miles before her epic journey, well done Joy!

Since our return we have attended the annual Desert Rats Association Memorial Day at the 7th Armoured Division Memorial in Thetford Forest plus the Armed Forces Day event at the Muckleburgh Museum. I just do not know how we have fitted it all in, especially to this report!

Ian McCallum

- MAY 2010 - 65 YEARS OF FREEDOM -

THE GUERNSEY MILITARY VEHICLE GROUP INVITE OWNERS AND THEIR VEHICLES TO JOIN THEM IN CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF LIBERATION FROM THE OCCUPYING GERMAN FORCES.

PLANNING IS STILL IN THE EARLY STAGES ALTHOUGH THE DATE WILL SURROUND THEIR 'LIBERATION DAY' OF THE 9TH MAY

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS ARE CAMPING OR HOTEL

INTERESTED?

CONTACT: THE SECRETARY

MR RICK BROUARD

MIRADOR

POINTUES ROCQUES

ST SAMPSONS

GUERNSEY

GY2 4HL

Tel: 01481 242429

Email info@gmvg.co.uk