

## YORKSHIRE

Yorkshire Area members have been busy through the autumn and the run up to Christmas.

September: Simon Balding reports; A number of Yorkshire MVT members packed up and headed off to Europe for the 80th commemorations of Operation Market Garden portrayed in the film A Bridge Too Far. We were participating in the XXX Corps event, which recreated the efforts of the British ground forces to connect all the bridges in Belgium and Holland captured by the allied airborne forces. Over two weeks, we joined 300 commonwealth vehicles and crews in progressing through Belgium and Holland along the famous. We took our Canadian Dodge and grouped up with the YMVT guys of the Grumpy Old Men 1944 group and some of our friends from over the hill with the Mid Lancs MVT.

We participated in many local town celebrations marking 80 years of their liberation by XXX Corps. On one of the days we were supposed to be resting up, we sneaked off camp crammed in the back of a friend's WOT2 and popped over the border to Germany to the Reichswald, and then up to Arnhem and Oosterbeek. Officially the XXX Corps never made it that far during Operation Market Garden, but we had to go and take an unofficial look at all the Arnhem commemorations as well. Passing over some of the iconic bridges as we made our way to Bommel, just short of Arnhem was really moving, and an experience we and many others, will not forget.

October: Nothing came in for October but I can report that I used my Jeep around South and West Yorkshire a couple of times over one mild weekend. I took Ro out to the pub for lunch on the Sunday and it was great until we got caught in the rain on the way home!

November: Steve Carr went out over the Remembrance Weekend, November 9-11; He said, "I took all three of my vehicles out visiting local war memorials. Looking at the number of names on the memorials, compared to historical photos of the villages, some had on average, every other household losing someone. Over the three days of the memorial tours, I drove around 56 miles, taking in 14 war memorials and five mining memorials - so many names remembered

in such a small area of just one county in England. We Will Remember Them."

December: Area Secretary Brian Slingsby reported that 'the December meeting in Wetherby is by now steeped in tradition and is generally regarded as our 'Christmas Party meeting' nothing too posh, but it seems to suit many of our members, we had almost fifty turn out for an evening of good beer, good food (pie and mushy peas of course!), a heavy duty, marathon raffle and of course the inevitable game of 'higher lower' compered by non-other than the veteran

(of many Christmas Party campaigns) Brian Fox. All went down very well, with many entering into the spirit and taking home arms full of raffle prizes as well as two winners of the higher lower game. The evening raised £101, which has been sent to the local Salvation Army to help with their Christmas drive to help the homeless. All in all a great evening so a big thank you to all who came and an especially big thank you to those of you who bought raffle tickets to help raise money for this worthy cause.

John Carroll

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