

Yorkshire

The latest news from Yorkshire is that a group went to Normandy in June and had a great time. Closer to home this weekend, tomorrow as I write this, is the Yorkshire Wartime Experience. In between these major military vehicle happenings, Steve Carr has been out and about in his Dodge to Heugh Battery in Hartlepool (Britain's only WWI battlefield), the Durham Marketplace Nostalgia Day and a Jubilee weekend street party. He took his Jeep along and got joint first place for the best display. Back in the Dodge he went north of Newcastle to Stannington in Northumberland to the delayed Battle of Britain 80th Anniversary Day and stayed on a campsite at the former RAF Morpeth, an RAF gunnery school. After this he attended the wartime weekend at Bowes Railway between Washington and Gateshead. He reported that 'this was the first event of the year where we got both the Dodge and Jeep to.'

Meanwhile Simon Balding 'tootled off to York for the day' to attend the 'We'll meet again' 1940s event at the Yorkshire Air Museum. Entry was supposed to be for only Commonwealth vehicles, which may have limited the number of trucks in attendance. We were permitted a quick drive around to take photos of the truck with the Halifax, Lysander and Dak before the punters entered.

Following a shout out through Area Secretary Brian Hartley's newsletter, Simon Balding went to Armed Forces Day at the Acorn in Eldwick, saying, "a gaggle of us tipped up with vehicles to show our support. We were treated to a free bar tab, bbq and some great live music by landlord and ex-serviceman Graham." Vehicles were; Simon's Jeep, Adrian's Jeep and Derick's Command Car.

He also said, that 'his first visit to the invitation only 1940s event at Lotherton Hall in June was fantastic. Our group was invited to attend with the trucks, and put on a great vehicle display amongst the regular re-enactor groups. Set up in the grounds of the historic estate, we had free roam of the grounds over the weekend including access to the bird garden attraction and hall. We were treated to some lovely early summer sunsets.'

In June, shortly after I took my old pick-up to Race the Waves in Bridlington where I was pleased to meet some local guys in a Jeep, I ran into John Gray, one of the aforementioned Normandy crew in his shed surrounded by US halftrack parts. His news was that he was continuing on stripping the M2 halftrack's suspension parts while his son Tom, was finding parts for the M3 Stuart before the big attack on the restoration. More news, including that from the Yorkshire Wartime Experience, next time.

John Carroll

