

HORSHAM AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

HARCNEWS

Coming Shortly

Nov 6th Club Evening HARC V CARC Quiz

Dec 4th Club Evening AGM

Dec 11th Social Evening Boars Head Horsham

Dec 13th Social Evening Xmas Dinner

November 2003

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DX-expedition to La Coupole, Pas de Calais

Departing from G4TMC's QTH at 7.30 on the morning of 11th October, we were headed for foreign climes. Our destination was a WWII V2 rocket construction and launch site near St Omer in Pas de Calais, France. Travelling or rather 'pootling' in convoy behind G4LRP, we whiled away the journey with friendly banter across the airwaves.

The crossing via the Eurotunnel was uneventful enough although I suspect that in commenting too loudly that 'My car has never been stopped and searched!' ensured that G7DFV was selected for a random search, though nothing more dubious than a water gun was found.

We stopped for lunch in the Market Square of St Omer and

enjoyed an omelette or steak (washed down of course with some amber nectar) under the sun before travelling the short distance to the museum. La Coupole is a WWII bunker that was built during 1943-1944 to house the construction and launch of the V2 rocket.

The construction is a concrete dome that was designed to be indestructible, although it was never actually used for its intended purpose because the Allies bombed it before construction was completed.

Now a museum, the bunker houses various exhibitions about the occupation of France during WWII; the development of the V1 and V2 missiles and the subsequent conquest of space

by the successor to the V2 rocket (one of which took Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin to the moon).

We learned that development of the first weapons of mass destruction began in 1937. A team of engineers led by Werner von Braun (who was later involved in the development of space bound rockets at NASA) started developing two missiles at Peenemunde, a site on the Baltic Coast that was built purely for the purpose of constructing and testing the weapons.

First to be tested was the V1 missile that was a pilotless plane, also called the Doodlebug. From the spring of 1944, 9250 were fired at London from mobile launch sites. Only 2500 reached target, the remainder being destroyed by anti-aircraft fire, fighter planes and barrage balloons.

More successful was the long-range V2 rocket that was the first

missile to reach the stratosphere. With a 2000lb payload of explosive, a speed of 3500mph and a range of 199miles, the V2 rocket couldn't be shot down. Despite their destructive capacity, the V1 missiles together with the 1000 V2 missiles that were launched caused less damage than all the traditional bombs that were dropped on towns and cities during the course of the war. Ultimately, the cost of construction proved to be too much and came too late for Germany.

On route back to the tunnel, an obligatory stop was made at Cite Europe to stock up on alcoholic beverages, do a spot of early Christmas shopping, and fill up our own stomachs with food and drink for the return journey. A good day was had by all, and the consensus was that it should most definitely be repeated! Many thanks to G3ZBU for a fabulous day out.



La Coupole



Lunch in the Market Square of St Omer



V1 Rocket



V2 Rocket

Club Calls Contest

This will be on the evening of Saturday 8th November and runs from 20:00 to 23:00 UTC. Frequency sub-band will be 1870kHz to 1990kHz and mode is SSB. Antenna power is limited to 32W p.e.p. (approx) in this sub-band, of course. Extra points are obtained by working Club Stations, so listen out for G4HRS/P.

of the Horsham Amateur Radio Club.

Please e-mail logs in either Super Duper or ASCII format to G3ZBU@hotmail.com.

Remember that HARC won the G4IQM memorial trophy last year and this time we will have to compete against Cheltenham.

Contest exchange will be: RS + Serial Number + Club Member

Good Luck!

January 2004 Meeting

Due to the 1st Thursday of January falling on a bank holiday, the

Club Evening will be on 8th instead. Hope to see you all there.

Xmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner is on the 13th December at the Bax Castle. You will find a menu in this newsletter. Please pick one item from each course and then fill in your name, callsign and phone

number. Please hand it to a member of the committee with your remittance of £19.50. All cheques to be made payable to HARC.