

Christine Bojen

Welcome to Grimsby

WHAT CAN I SAY - INCREDIBLE, ENJOYABLE & BRILLIANTLY SUCCESSFUL visit by Andrzej, Robert & Przemek. It was a fantastic, brilliant and unforgettable weekend for everyone!

I wrote full report of the visit and attached photos & corresponding press coverage which was in our local newspaper.

Friday 11 - transportation from Doncaster Airport to late evening arrival to Kingsway Hotel when I greeted Andrzej, Robert & Przemyslaw - Witamy w Grimsby!!

Saturday 12 - The delegation assembled at The Knoll - HQ of the Armed Forces Team then walked to the Mayor's Civic Office to be received by Madam Mayor - Christina McGilligan-Fell & her Consort Ian Birrell. A very nice reception when they presented the Mayor with a magnificent Stowarzyszenie Ułanów Karpackich Poznań numbered plaque bearing the PUK badge, and beautiful pair of metal PUK palma collar badges - she was delighted with gift.

At 11.15 Andrzej & Robert started the 3.5km Cleethorpes Poppy and participated in the race - BRAVO - the weather was very cold & wet. In early afternoon the delegation with the Mayor went to Carpathian Lancers Commemoration Garden ,Weelsby Park. Lt Col Andrzej Furman laid the wreath at the PUK plaque. Photos were taken with 'Wojtek' the Soldier Bear. Also In the afternoon Christine Bojen-Piotrowska had organized a 'veterans families reunion' at the RAFA (Royal Air Force Association) where they met the delegation and showed them wartime photos/memorabilia. **Jan Zakrzewski**, son of Colonel Wyskota - Zakrzewski was there, and the sons of Lancers - **Kazimierz Kauss & Jan Kaminski**. Special guest invited was 'Jean Robins' who as a young girl of 17 years used to go to Weelsby Camp and give English lessons to the PUK Regiment 'oficerow'.

In the evening a Mayoral Dinner was arranged at a local Hotel - amongst those attending were Alex Baxter, Chris Shaw, Gavin Marshall - Armed Forces Team, Simon Elmer & member of British Army 17th/21st Lancers Association. The Mayor presented the C. L. delegation with a wooden plaque bearing the crest of Grimsby, and also some cuff-links. It was a lovely cordial evening.

Sunday 13 - The delegation attended the Grimsby Remembrance Day Service in church, and participated in parade through the town of Grimsby to the Cenotaph War Memorial. Simon Elmer in 'Oficerem Reserwystem' uniform paraded the 'Nottingham Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantów' Sztandar, along with the British Armed Forces/British Legion Standards. A Service was held at the Cenotaph when Lt. Colonel Andrzej Furman laid a Poppy Wreath' from the Carpathian Lancers

Association. The Polish National Anthem was played at the end of the Service. In the afternoon the delegation also laid another Poppy Wreath at the Carpathian Lancers plaque at the Cleethorpes Remembrance Gate.

Monday 14 - A visit and guided tour around the Grimsby Fishing Heritage Museum was arranged which they all enjoyed very much, it was followed in late afternoon by a further visit to Weelsby, and concluded by a visit to the cemetery to visit the graves of Capt Wincenty Tomaszewski, Michal Gronski & my father, Tadeusz Piotrowski to pay their respects and light a znicz at their gravesides.

Lastly, after a wonderful, warm welcome received to them throughout their stay by the townspeople of Grimsby/Cleethorpes which they took with them back to Poland - the delegation had a 'fish and chips' meal before being transferred to the Doncaster airport for their evening flight - which very unfortunately was 'delayed' by 3 hours!! They arrived home - very very tired!

The visit was extremely enjoyable, successful and memorable by both the delegation and all those who met them & remembered the Regiment arriving in the town in 1945-46.

Christine

Ps. Media coverage of visit :

<http://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/polish-soldiers-honour-wartime-brothers-in-arms/story-29890019-detail/story.html>