

A RAOTA “Get Together” is being organised by Gordon G4DRF at Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre, nr. Woodhall Spa, Lincs. on the 10th May 2008. The Centre is an interesting and popular museum based on the site of the WW2 Woodhall Spa RAF aerodrome, home of 617 Dambusters and other squadrons. Several halls display quite comprehensive WW2 memorabilia; two light aircraft under restoration, and a 1960s English Electric ‘Lightning’ is parked in the grounds. A comprehensive amateur radio station is available for RAOTA use, with other WW2 fixed and mobile radio equipment on display. The NAAFI will be opened for refreshments during the visit. The impressive Dambusters Memorial in Woodhall Spa village centre will be visited prior to a buffet lunch at the Bluebell pub adjacent Thorpe Camp. If possible, the ‘Lancaster Bar’ at the Petwood Hotel, Officers’ Mess of 617 Sqdn will be included in this visit.

The ‘Bluebell’ is a small 13th century rural ‘watch your head’ pub located 200m from Thorpe Camp. During WW2 it was the favourite haunt of off-duty Bomber Command crews and is filled with memorabilia of the time, mainly wartime photographs, including the famous. RAOTA will have two private rooms for the buffet, with the main lounge between. The local ‘Dambuster’ and ‘Bomber’ beers are excellent.

Timetable

10.45 Gather at Thorpe Camp car park.

11.00 Depart by car 2 miles, for viewing Dambusters Memorial. Park cars on Victoria Avenue. (Turn RIGHT immediately ahead of central cross roads mini-roundabout and short walk to Memorial which is adjacent to roundabout).

12.00 Return to Thorpe and park either at Camp or in Bluebell car park and gather at Bluebell for buffet to be served at 12.45.

14.00 Move to Thorpe Camp. Brief address by President in NAAFI followed by viewing the site.

16.30 Departure.

Directions

Woodhall Spa is located at the junction of the B1192 and the east-west B1191. Thorpe Camp is located in the small village of Tattershall Thorpe on the B1192, about two miles South of Woodhall Spa on the Right Hand side. The Bluebell pub is a further 200 metres along.

Alternatively, you can approach Thorpe by joining the B1192 at the village of Tattershall proper, on the A153. If approaching from the West (Sleaford/Grantham) on A153 do not turn Left at the Woodhall Spa sign in Tattershall village green, the B1192 turn off is on the Left about one mile further along, with Thorpe Camp about one mile from this junction, on the Left side, immediately past the Bluebell pub.

From the North the best approach is via Lincoln and the B1188 to Metheringham and the B1191 to Woodhall Spa. From the East, via the A158 to Horncastle and B1191 to Woodhall Spa.

Costs

The cost inclusive of the buffet lunch and admission to Thorpe Camp is £5.00 per person, preferably payable in advance. Please advise as early as possible if you wish to attend in order for the buffet requirements to be established. Accommodation at the buffet is limited to around 37 persons.

Contact: By post: Gordon H Fuller G4DRF, 4 Stanhope Avenue, Woodhall Spa, Lincs. LN10 6SP...or g4drf@komstar.net or phone at 01526-353696.