

Sussex Knights Make First Trip to Pilgrims in Germany, Ablly Assisted by Northumberland's Best

A marathon effort of patience and selfless commitment was demonstrated by nine Knights of the Temple from the Province of Sussex who endured incredibly long tails backs on the autobahns of Belgium, Netherlands and Germany to honour an invitation to attend a meeting in Herford, Germany. The trip being a year in making and facilitated by E Kt Jeremy Griffin from Uckfield's Holy Cross Preceptory.

The town of Herford also once the Garrison town of the 1st (UK) Armoured Division, who led the British element during Gulf War I.

Pilgrims Preceptory No.5, is also the home of the Grand Master of



Germany, ME. Kt Roddy Mackenzie GCT (and his Northumberland based Body Guard) who made a unique and impromptu request the Sussex team accompany him in as part of his procession. In Germany, this is seen as a great honour as it has not been bestowed on overseas guests before. Entering under a perfectly formed Arch of Steel by the Grand Master's Bodyguard, commanded by E Kt Scotty Hunter, were greeted with a very personal and warm welcome from ME Kt Roddy GCT. Following the their duty of honour, then took their stalls in a colourfully adorned Temple.



With tight precision, the Body Guard returned to their stations, in unison, returned their swords to gracefully sit.



Left: Grand Master, ME Kt Roddy Mackenzie GCT, to his left the Grand Seneschal, VE Kt Dirk Hennemann GCT GMA and right, VE Kt Lt Col (Retd) Mick McCarthy, the Eminent Preceptor. In frame, the Grand Almoner, Grand Sword Bearer and Grand Herald and members of the GM's Body Guard. Far left, VE Kt David Pearson, Grand Organist.

The Sussex contingent were then entertained by a ceremony to Install three Knights which included them alternating positions during part of the ceremony to simulate the military passage of lines. Four members of the Body Guard were summoned to guard the sepulchre for a key part of the ceremony along with two banner bearers for the accolade at a later stage, all adding to the grandeur of the ceremony.

All Knights were then treated to an informal self-service festive board organised by VE Kt Dean Thompson (Grand Treasurer) and an amazing cheese board by Kt Paul Baker (Northumberland and GPvD Grand Master's Body Guard), constructed on an epic scale.





Guard, re-assembled in the Town's Stat to while away the hours with ice cold beers in hand. All agreed, the journey was worthwhile and one to be

Following the dinning ,the Grand Master led the final duty, unique to Germany, to toast Hughe de Payne and the founding Knights of Knights Templar. With a quick pack-up of furnishings, heavily supported by the Grand Master's Body



remembered for many wonderful reasons.



Not resting on their laurels, on the Sunday, the Body Guard, as a team, detoured via Arnhem to visit the "bridge too far" and the

medical treatment station at Ouster Beck where the remnants of the British parachute Division escaped the clutches of the Germans in September 1944.



Since visiting Germany, the team forming the Grand Mater's Body Guard have visited the dams hit by the "Dam Busters", the Normandy Beaches of D Day and this year, the site that created airborne legend. In addition, they have accompanied the Grand Master to Greece, Estonia and more close to home in Scotland.