

Desert Rat returns to Tunisia

Newport Pagnell resident Ron Groom, who served in the RAF as a Desert Rat in Tunisia during World War Two has been awarded a National Lottery Grant for him and a companion to revisit some of the locations he served in during the War.

The National Lottery's Good Causes grant was awarded to Mr Groom, who was a Radar wireless operator in Tunisia, which means he will now be able to return back to the old battle fields with The British Legions "Poppy Travel".

City MP Mark Lancaster was notified of the award and met with Mr Groom with the hope of drawing attention to the grants which are available to people within the community.

Mr Groom joined the Royal Air Force with four other local men at the start of the war but was the only survivor and is pictured showing Mark Lancaster their names on the War Memorial in Newport Pagnell High Street.

Mark said "It is fantastic to see that the National Lottery money is being used for the purpose it was first intended. As a serviceman myself I think it only right that we should enable veterans to visit places they served during the war and I hope that Mr Groom's success will encourage others to apply. If anybody is interested please contact my office as we are more than happy to help with the application"

Mr Groom said;

"I was absolutely delighted to receive this grant and I hope that perhaps we can find some fellow desert rats to join me on this trip."