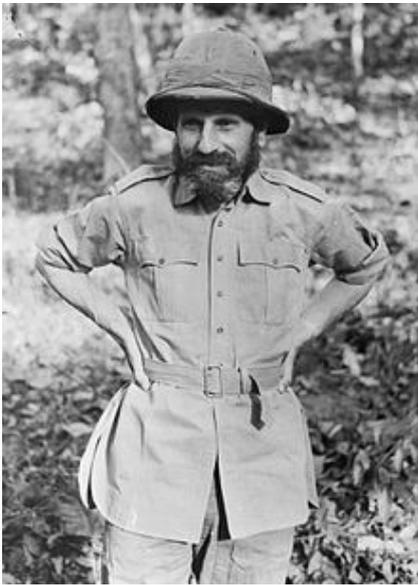


Memory Café Amusement Arcade 20.

You may have noticed that Rotary flew the Union Flag on 8th May to commemorate VE Day and on Monday, 25th May we will fly the Stars and Stripes in memory of the airmen of the 91st Bomb Group (Heavy) who flew from Royston and district between 1942 and 1945. It is important to remember the courage and fortitude of all those, both under arms and civilians, who endured such terrible times and just made the best of things.

You might be surprised to learn that in Arlington Cemetery, Washington DC on Memorial Day, a group from the British Embassy will turn out to plant the Union Flag on the grave of four Brits. This is the resting place of General Orde Wingate and three of his men who were killed in Manipur, India whilst flying in a USAAF B-25 Mitchell bomber on 24 March 1944 when it crashed into the jungle. Because 5 of the 9 people on board were Americans, including the pilots, their remains were exhumed and reburied in Arlington in 1947.



Orde Wingate has an unfortunately mixed reputation. He was eccentric, strong willed and thought difficult. He strongly advocated irregular warfare and was a forthright supporter of Zionism. He was strongly favoured by Winston Churchill who called him one of the most brilliant and courageous figures of WW2. Lord Moran, Churchill's personal physician, wrote in his diaries that Wingate seemed to him to be hardly sane, so that Churchill realized he was too mad for high command! However, he did get things done and Wingate's Chindits are credited with holding the Japanese Army back from over-running India but with dreadful losses.



On a lighter note!

But I know we'll meet again at a future Memory Café meeting some sunny day.

Regards, David