

**ARNHEM 1944 FELLOWSHIP 78th
COMMEMORATION WALK**

SEPTEMBER 2022

**SOME STORIES BEHIND THE
HEADSTONE**



Introduction

Welcome to this unusual battlefield guide, unlike in previous years this will cover the Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery. We will uncover some of the stories about the men who made the ultimate sacrifice. I would like to thank those members who have supported this year's walk and also our guides of whom you will find some information about in their section.

Enjoy the afternoon!

David Locke

Chairman

The first guide to introduce here is Marcel Anker, researcher of C Company, 2nd Parachute Battalion and author of 'The Lost Company'.

C Company was one of the founder airborne units and carried out the first co-ordinated airborne operation of the Second World War: The Bruneval Raid in February 1942.

On 17th September 1944, 113 men from the Company dropped onto DZ X. At the end of their battle only four of them returned on Operation Berlin. During the battle nine members were killed of whom four have no known grave. The other five are resting in this cemetery. The talk today will tell the story of three of them.

Corporal Fred Barnett, wounded on 18th September, DoW on 22nd September,

Grave 6 D 6

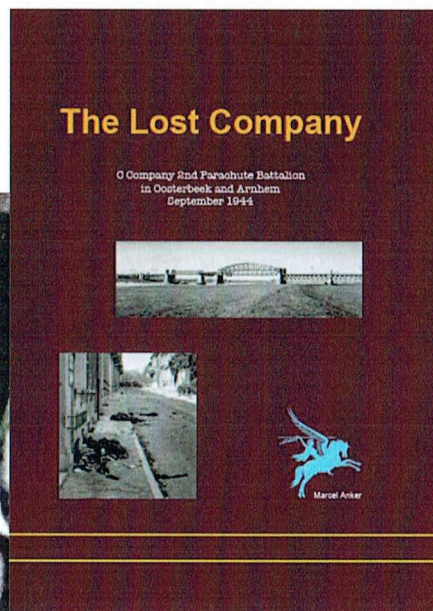


Corporal John Ruddy, wounded on 18th September, DoW on 21st September,

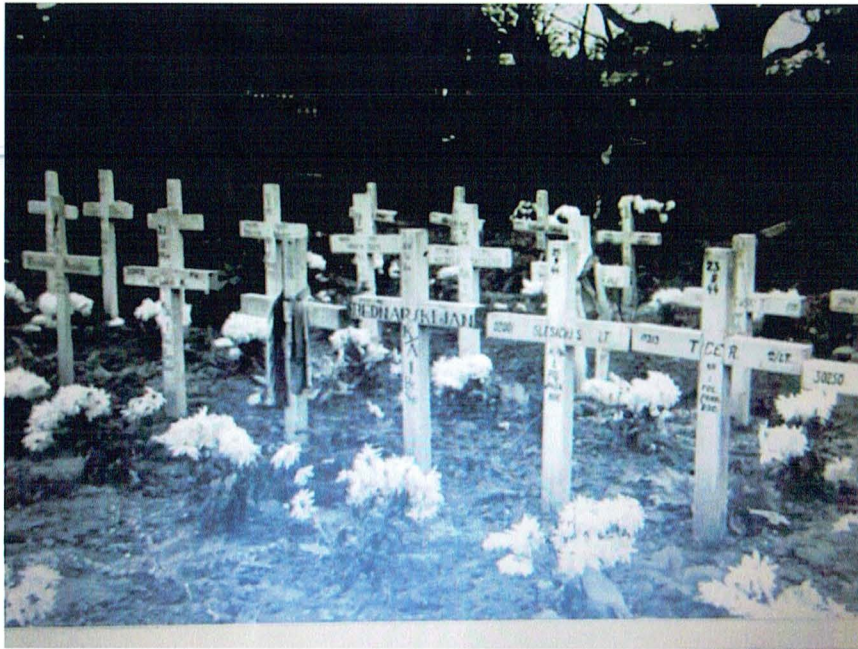
Grave 6 D 11



Lance Corporal Willian Loney, killed on 17th September, Grave 20 B 7



Secondly Graham Francis our Treasurer and serial speaker on Fellowship walks and a mine of information on the men of the 1st Airborne Division with the work he has done to compile a nominal roll. He is going to look at a number of Polish soldiers who are buried in the cemetery in Plots 33A and 34A.



34A.1 Lance Corporal Stanislaw Sitek 31440 3rd Parachute Bn HQ Co Killed in action: 25.9.1944. Born: 29.12.14 Kielce, Southern Poland Served under British command in the UK: 15.8.1942. Landed Overasselt, Nijmegen 23rd Buried: Driel Roman Catholic Church.

34A.2 Lance Corporal Zygmunt Bisiorek 25891 1st Parachute Bn HQ Co KIA 25.9.1944. 18.3.1923 Gniezo, Poznan, Central Poland; UK 1.4.1942; Nijmegen 23rd Driel RC Church.

34A.3 Private Kazimierz Hewak 30418 1st Parachute Bn 2nd Co. KIA 25.9.1944. 3.3.1923 Lwow, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine); UK 15.8.1942 Nijmegen 23rd Driel RC Church.

34A.4 Corporal Tomasz Barkiet 31548 3rd Parachute Bn 9th Co KIA 24.9.1944 self inflicted. 22.2.1914 Lwow, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine); UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

34A.5 Corporal Tadeusz Koszela 30589 2nd Parachute Bn 5th Co KIA 25.9.1944 Artillery shell. 3.4.1915 Stanislawow, (now Ivano-Frankvsk, Ukraine); UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

34A.6 Lance Corporal Cadet Officer Tadeusz Ostojki 30671 2nd Parachute Bn 5th Co KIA 25.9.1944. Artillery shell 16.5.1919 Bialystok, NE Poland; UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

34A.7 Private Tadeusz Zalewski 29069 3rd Parachute Bn 7th Co KIA 22.9.1944 machine gun fire. 15.10.1921 Lublin, Poland; UK 15.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

34A.8 Private Artur Szylak 25602 Medium Transport and Supply Co KIA:
22.9.44. 10.2.1923 Swieciany, Wilno, Poland (now Lithuania); UK 1.4.1942
Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

34A.9 Private Wladislaw Skiers 30313 1st Parachute Bn 2nd Co. KIA
21.9.1944 Killed on drop zone. 19.12.1919 Nowogrodek, (now Novahrudak,
Belarus); UK 15.8.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

34A.10 Lance Corporal - Engineer Michal Rodo 236 Engineer Squadron KIA
21.9.1944 Killed during parachute drop 20.9.1907 Mielec, Krakow, Poland; UK
1.7.1940 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

34A.11 Gunner Jan Bednarski 223217 Anti-Tank (Air Landing) Battery KIA
22.9.44. 5.7.1922 Lwow, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine); UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st
Driel RC Church.

34A.12 Lance Corporal Piotr Jablonski 25308 2nd Parachute Bn HQ Co KIA:
21.9.1944 Killed defending DZ 18.1.1919 Szczuczyn, Bialystok, NE Poland;
UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

34A.13 2nd Lieutenant Richard Tice 22539 3rd Parachute Bn 7th Co
Commanded No 1 Platoon. KIA 22.9.1944 1.7.1922 New Jersey, USA; UK
1.9.1940 Driel 21st Driel RC Church KVSM V.

34A.14 Lance Corporal Czeslaw Machel 30754 2nd Parachute Bn 4th Co KIA
24.9.1944. 17.7.1916 Opatow, Kielce, Poland; UK 25.3.1941 Driel 21 st Driel
RC Church.

34A.15 Lieutenant Stanislaw Slesicki 2001 3rd Parachute Bn HQ Company
KIA 22.9.44. 29.3.1907 Warsaw, Poland; UK 1.7.1940 Driel 21st Driel RC
Church. KW.

34A.16 Staff Sergeant Antoni Salwuk 30256 Medium Transport and Supply Co
KIA 22.9.44 Hit by mortar barrage 6.6.1910 Warsaw, Poland; UK 1.7.1940
Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

34A.17 Corporal Piotr Paszko 30901 2nd Parachute Bn 5th Co Died 21.9.1944
Parachute didn't open. 11.11.1915 Sokal, Lwow, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine);
UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church

34A.18 Lance Corporal Michal Blaszkowski 28503 Medium Transport and Supply
Co KIA 22.9.1944. 21.9.1918 Krakow, Poland; UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel
RC Church.

34A.19 Private Franciszek Lukaszewicz 30608 2nd Parachute Bn HQ Co DoW
3.10.1944 Shot accidentally. 2.6.1920 Pinsk, Polesie, Poland (now Belarus); UK
1.4.1942 Driel 21st Buried: Eindhoven.

34A.20 Lance Corporal Josef Szkwarek 23977 Supply Company, Seaborne echelon. DoW 9.10.1944. Wounded 7th Shot by Grenadier Guards near Neerloon Buried Sophiaweg Nijmegen.

34A.21 Private Tadeusz Lipecki 30509 2nd Parachute Bn HQ Co DoW 30.9.1944 Wounded 26th. 4.1.1921 Boryslaw, Lwow (now Lviv, Ukraine); UK 15.8.1942 Driel 21st Sophiaweg Nijmegen KW.

34A.22 Lance Corporal Lucjan Kowalski 30375 1st Parachute Bn 1st Co. DoW 26.9.1944. Wounded 25th.2.3.1916 Horohow, Wolyn, Poland (now Ukraine); UK 15.8.1942 Driel 21 st Sophiaweg Nijmegen.

34A.23 Sapper Zygmunt Pawluczuk 24851 Engineer Squadron DoW 1.10.1944 Wounded Rhine 23rd /24th. 6.2.1921 Dojlidy, Bialystok, Poland; UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Sophiaweg Nijmegen.

34A.24 Lance Corporal Jan Kulikoski 24080 1st Parachute Brigade HQ DoW 29.9.1944. Wed 25th. Driel 15.7.1922 Pierszaje, Poland (now Pershai, Belarus); UK 1.4.1942 Nijmegen 23rd Sophiaweg.

33A.1 Lance Corporal Czeslaw Gajewnik 27889 1st Parachute Bn Signals Co Drowned 26.9.1944. 11.8.1918 Lubartow, Lublin, Poland; UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Swam to north side on 23rd. Body recovered: 13.11.1944 Gorinchem General Cemetery KW.

33A.2 Gunner Pawel Sobota 31873 Anti-Tank (Air Landing) Battery Drowned either 23rd /24th or 25th /26th. 17.1.1922 Bytom, Germany (now Southern Poland); UK 25.7.1943 Driel 21st. Body recovered 9.11.1944 Wijk bij Duursted Served as Pawel.Lagiero.

33A.3 Lance Corporal Wladislaw Kuczewski 28379 Signals Co Drowned 26.9.1944. 1.7.1924 Wolkowysk, Bialystok; UK 1.4.1942 Glider 17th LZ L on 19th Elst (near Utrecht) KW.

33A.4 Private Mieczyslaw Blazejewicz 30937 3rd Parachute Bn 8th Co Drowned 23.9.1944. 24.11.20 Lwow, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine); UK 1.7.40 Driel 21st Body recovered 9.10.1944. Rhenen General Cemetery.

33A.5 Private Tadeusz Soskow 28511 3rd Parachute Bn HQ Company Drowned: 26.9.1944. 5.2.1921 Tarnopol, Poland (now Temopil, Ukraine); UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st. Crossed north 23rd/24th Rhenen General Cemetery KVSM V.

33A.6 Private Michal Moszowski 23891 3rd Parachute Bn 9th Co Drowned 26.9.1944. 25.6.1918 Lwow, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine); UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Crossed north 23rd/24th. Body recovered 28.6.1945 Rhenen General Cemetery KW.

33A.7 Private Stanislaw Wiecek 24850 3rd Parachute Bn 9th Co Drowned: 26.9.1944. Born 3.7.1921 Lwow, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine); UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Crossed north 23rd/24th. Body recovered 21.10.1944 Rhenen General Cemetery KW.

33A.8 Sergeant (Artillery) Piotr Maslorz 12360 Anti-Tank (Air Landing) Battery Killed 19.9.1944. 21.4.1907 Slask, Upper Silesia; UK 1.7.1940 Glider 126 crashed, Sint-Michielsgestel General Cem.

33A.9 Gunner Kazimierz Nowak 30760 Anti-Tank (Air Landing) Battery Killed 19.9.1944. Born 18.2.23 Rypin, Warsaw; UK 1.9.1942 Glider 126 crashed, Sint-Michielsgestel General Cemetery.

33A.10 Private Zdzislaw Jankiewicz 30479 2nd Parachute Bn 5th Co Died of Wounds: 1.10.1944. Shot by accident by a colleague, previously wounded at Driel on 26th . Died in hospital at Neerloon. 21.4.1919 Rowne, Wolyn, Poland, UK 1.4.1942.

33A.11 Corporal Stefan Plichita 308385 Supply Company, Seaborne echelon Killed 7.10.1944. Aged 30 Shot by Grenadier Guards near Neerloon, SW of Nijmegen. Buried Neerloon.

33A.12 Lance Corporal Boleslaw Mania 471 Supply Company, Seaborne echelon Killed 7.10.1944. Aged 23 Shot by Grenadier Guards near Neerloon, SW of Nijmegen. Buried Neerloon

33A.13 Private Anatol Bier 28359 3rd Parachute Bn HQ Co Signals Platoon KIA 23.9.1944 Driel Post Office. 13.1.1922 Krakow, Poland; UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

33A.14 Lance Sergeant Jan Kossakowski 28129 Medium Transport and Supply Co KIA 21.9.1944. Throat slit at Schutgraff 7.10.1915 Bialystok, NE Poland; UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

33A.15 Corporal Boleslaw Anilo 25850 Medical Company KIA 25.9.1944. 26.2.1919 Kielce, Southern Poland; UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church KW.

33A.16 Private Stanislaw Kornilowicz 28332 Signals Company KIA 25.9.1944. Born 14.2.1919 Augustow, Bialystok, NE Poland; UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church KW.

33A.17 2nd Lieutenant Zbigniew Krukowski 28372 Signals Co KIA 25.9.1944 artillery shell. 17.10.1923 Nowogrodek, Poland (now Novahrudak, Belarus); UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

33A.18 Lance Corporal Wladislaw Palka 24037 2nd Parachute Bn 5th Co KIA 25.9.1944. Artillery shell 8.2.1922 Kowel, Wolyn, Poland (now Kovel, Ukraine); UK 1.4.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church.

33A.19 Lance Corporal Jan Tkaczyk 25314 Signals Co KIA 25.9.1944. Artillery shell. 2.5.1921 Bialystok, NE Poland; UK 1.4.1942 Nijmegen 23rd Driel RC Church.

33A.20 2nd Lieutenant Jerzy Racis 20888 1st Parachute Bn HQ Co KIA 25.9.1944. 5.1.1920 Warsaw, Poland; UK 9.11.1940 Nijmegen 23rd Driel RC Church.

33A.21 Private Piotr Wolbin 30612 2nd Parachute Battalion HQ Company KIA 25.9.1944 Mortar shell. 11.7.1920 Lwow, Poland (now Lviv, Ukraine); UK 15.8.1942 Driel 21st Driel RC Church KW.

33A.22 Corporal Antoni Grzyb 30250 3rd Parachute Bn 8 Co. KIA 25.9.1944. 29.4.1914 Jedrzejow, Kielse, Poland; UK 15.8.1942 Nijmegen 23rd Driel RC Church.

33A.23 Private Michal Niedzwiecki 24782 Medical Co Seaborne echelon. KIA 25.9.1944. 22.2.1914 Grodno, Bialystok, NE Poland, UK 1.4.1942 Killed by shelling at Driel School Driel RC Church KW.

33A.24 2nd Lieutenant Boguslaw Horodyski 23049 1st Parachute Bn 3 Co KIA 25.9.1944. 30.4.1921 Stanislawow, Poland (now Ivano-Frankvsk, Ukraine); UK 1.8.1940 Nijmegen 23rd Driel RC Church.

33A.25 Lance Corporal Cadet Officer Ignacy Zebrowski 29859 1st Parachute Bn HQ Co DoW. 26.9.1944 Wnd Driel 25th 6.2.1921 Wilno, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania); UK 5.6.1943 Nijmegen 23rd Sophiaweg, Nijmegen.

33A.26 Lance Corporal Stanislaw Klapouchy 24773 1st Parachute Bn HQ Co DoW: 25.9.1944. Wnd Driel 25th 7.1.1919 Tarnopol, Poland (now Temopil, Ukraine); UK 1.4.1942 Nijmegen 23rd Sophiaweg, Nijmegen.

33A.27 Lance Sergeant Cadet Officer Edward Kostrz 108 1st Parachute Bn 2nd Co DoW. 25.9.1944 Gunshot wound Driel 25th 19.2.1919 Krakow, Poland; UK 1.7.1940 Nijmegen 23rd Sophiaweg, Nijmegen. Gallantry Awards:

Notes:

Gallantry Awards; KVSM V - Krzyz Srebrny Ord Woj Virtuti Militari Klasy V (The Silver Cross of the Order of Military Virtue Fifth Class) KW Krzyz Walecznych (The Cross of Valour).

Graham has also helped with a number of Arnhem books including Desert Rise Arnhem Descent and the revised nominal rolls in the recent reprints of Off at Last, The Shiny Ninth and A Sapper at Arnhem. He also wrote a chapter of our 75th commemoration book and has contributed a number of items to our newsletter, including an article on Captain Alfons Mackowiak of the 1st Polish (Independent) Parachute Brigade.

Thirdly, David van Buggenum who has had a long standing interest in B Company of the 2nd Parachute Battalion and interviewed many of the veterans from the Company. B Company at Arnhem had the objective of taking the pontoon bridge in western Arnhem but before this had to clear the railway station at Oosterbeek Laag of German opposition who were doing their best to hold up the 2nd Parachute Battalion. At Arnhem 13 men of the Company were killed and David will be looking at the following men:

Privates Claude and Thomas Gronert DofD 17th September 1944 Grave Locations 18A 17 and 18



Lieutenant Peter Cane DofD 17th September 1944 Grave Location 18 A 13



Corporal Edgar Rogers DofD 17th September 1944 Grave Location 18 A 16

Sadly no photograph

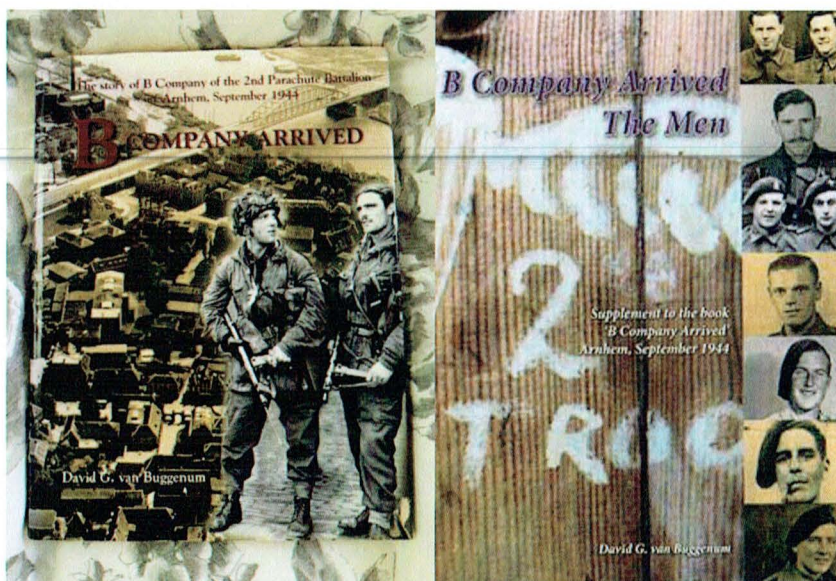
Private Benjamin Bliss DofD 19th September 1944 Grave Location 19 A 10



Private Ronald Moon DofD 20th September 1944 Grave Location Not known
and on Groesbeek Memorial to the Missing



David is the author of books on B Company and you are directed towards these
for more information if you do not already have a copy!



The fourth guide helping today is Niall Cherry who should be well known to many of you as a serial author on the airborne forces in WW2, tour guide and a previous Secretary of the Fellowship. He is going to look at a few casualties from the 10th Parachute Battalion who are buried in Oosterbeek

The 10th Parachute Battalion can trace its origins back to the Western Desert in late 1942 when the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment was converted into a parachute unit. A number of the Class of September 1944 were originals from that time but many were not and the men we will look at are a mixture of these. The 10th suffered heavy casualties at Arnhem and were disbanded when the few survivors got back to England after the Battle.

Out of the 600 or so men of the 10th Battalion that went into action in Holland somewhere between 40 and 60 returned on Operation Berlin. 93 were killed during the battle or would die later because of wounds received during the fighting or ill-treatment during captivity. So around 90% of the Battalion became a 'casualty' of one sort or the other.

Captain Gareth Drayson DofD 19th September 1944 Grave Location 15 B 20



Yerbury

Lance Corporal William Garibaldi DofD 20th to 21st September 1944 Grave Location 5 D 14



Captain Myles Henry DofD 19th September 1944 Grave Location 5 D 1



Private Alfred Penwill DofD 18th September 1944 Grave Location 9 B 4

Sadly no photograph

Private Peter Poupard DofD 18th September 1944 Grave Location 17 C 19



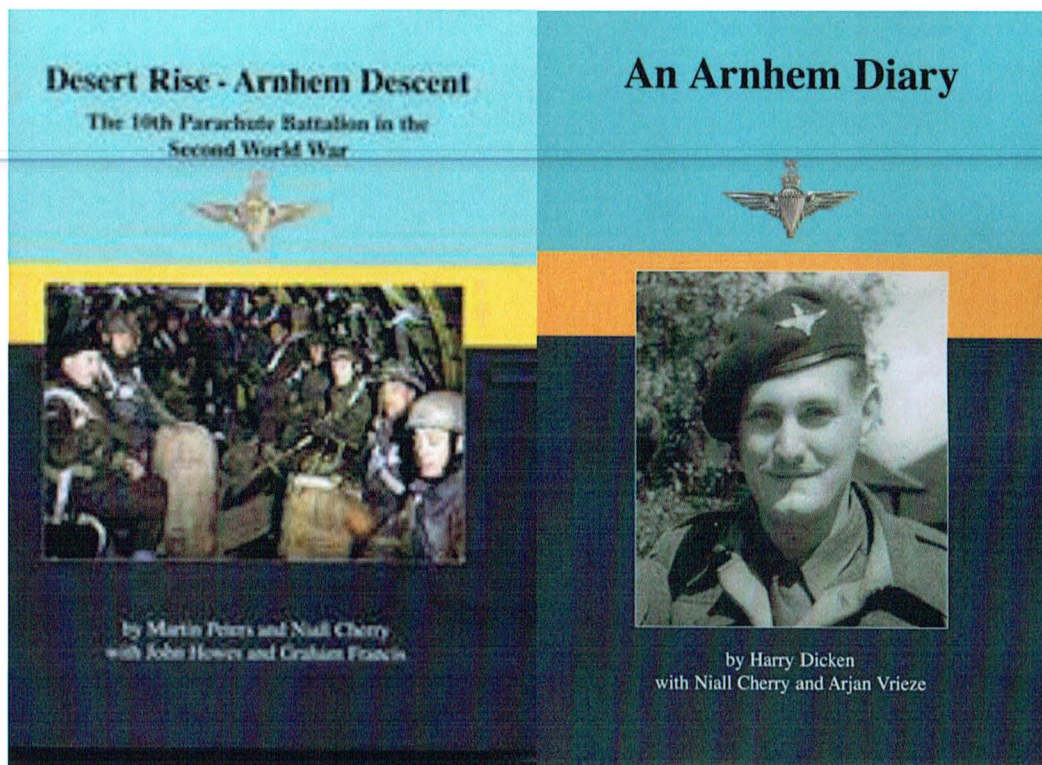
Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Smyth DofD 26th October 1944 Grave Location 18 B 8



Private Albert Willingham DoD 21st September 1944 Grave Location 27 A 10



If you want to know more on the actions of the 10th in WW2.....

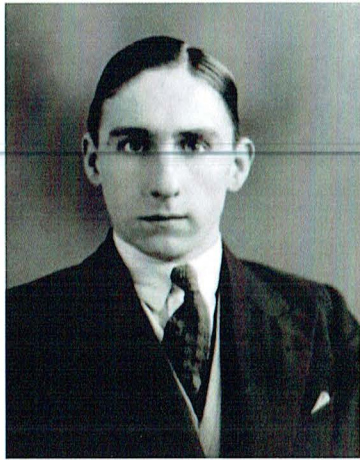


Lastly, the Chairman of the Fellowship David Locke, who has had a lifelong interest in the Border Regiment in which a relative served at Arnhem. He will be covering a number of men from the 1st Battalion Border Regiment. The Battalion objectives for Operation Market Garden were firstly to defend the dropping and landing zones for the 17th/18th September and then to protect the western perimeter as it formed as part of the Divisional area. The Battalion were only one of two units that managed successfully to complete their pre-deployment objectives.

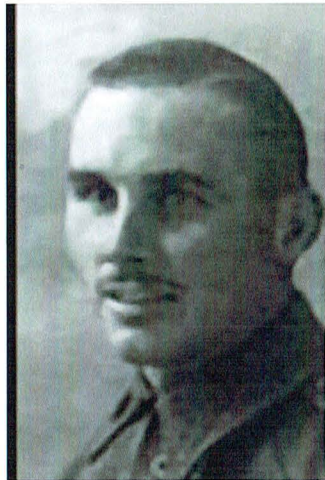
Private George Everington KIA 22nd September 1944 Grave 18 B 14



Lance Corporal Eric Foggo KIA 21st September 1944 Grave 22 B 6



Corporal; George Froud KIA 21st September 1944 Grave 25 C 13



Lieutenant John Wellbelove KIA 21st September 1944 Grave 30 C 2



Private Arthur Foster KIA 21st September 1944 Grave 25 C 6



Sergeant Hendry Burr KIA 18th September 1944 Grave 5 D 7



Private Norman Manchester KIA 21st/22nd September 1944 Grave 1 C 17

Sadly no photograph

Private Joseph Gibson KIA 23rd September 1944 Grave 17 B 3

