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Newsletter, February 2020

It is now nearly six months since that glorious day in September when we unveiled our Memorial, what has happened since? I hear you ask.

Firstly, an update on the replacement for the damaged stone and other work being carried out by our sculptor Graeme Mitcheson, but first the story of a day I prefer to forget.....

As I said at the unveiling, Tuesday 3rd September 2019 is a day that will remain imprinted on my memory for all the wrong reasons! So here, for those of you who may be unaware, is the story.



The shattered sculpture – miraculously put back together again!

Tuesday, 4 days before the unveiling, was the day when Graeme Mitcheson was to install his sculpture. The night before, everything was loaded onto the lorry at Graeme's studio in Coleorton some 30 miles away from Burrough. I was on route to the site when I received a call to say that one of the stones had fallen from the lorry, pieces scattered across the road in Great Dalby!

Panic, heartbreak, chaos, anger and confusion ensued – the lorry driver having retrieved the broken fragments was hiding from our wrath; he was very lucky no Paras were around!

What should we do? It was too late and impossible to cancel the unveiling; hundreds of you were arriving from not just all over the country but even from across the North Sea.

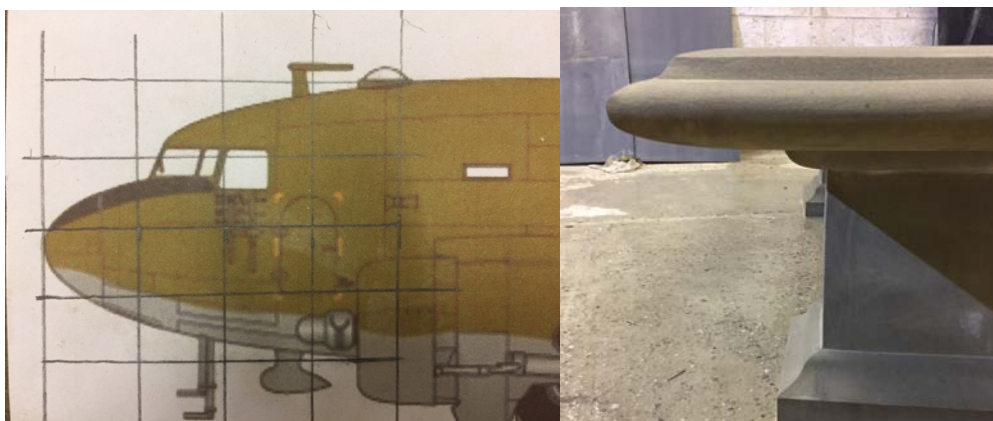
Graeme, devastated, nevertheless came up with a plan. He thought that he could 'put Humpty back together again' in the 72 hours before Saturday. So, he set to work, gluing, sawing, sanding, hammering, carving. Kurt Russell joined him in repairing and re-inscribing some of the names of the Fallen that had been obliterated in the fall.

Incredibly, wonderfully, unbeknown to all, by Saturday Graeme and Kurt had reassembled the stone to almost perfection. Indeed, many at the unveiling did not even notice the damage.

But Tuesday 3rd September hadn't finished with us. Later that day, I received a call from Terry Lowe to say that, one of the stars of our unveiling, 99 year young, 10th Bn Veteran, Victor Gregg had also taken a tumble and was in hospital with a hip fracture. Vic has also been put back together again and was in full and rude health only a few weeks later at our Remembrance Day service – more later.

The stone, although admirably repaired, will not last and is, even now, starting to show more and more the scars of its terrible ordeal.

Graeme Mitcheson has agreed an insurance settlement with the hauliers. Even, as I write. The new replacement sculpture is under way and will be installed in a few months' time. Graeme is also working on the two stone benches and an 'unveiling information' stone that will be installed at the same time.



One of two benches for the Memorial Garden – note how Graeme has cleverly replicated the Dakota nose profile!

Remembrance Sunday 2019

A remarkable weekend when 10th Battalion and Rifle Brigade Veteran, Victor Gregg visited Leicestershire to remember his comrades lost during Operation Market Garden.

Vic, who celebrated his 100th Birthday on October 15th, drove the 150 miles from Winchester to Somerby (yes! Drove!) and spent the weekend with Friends of The Tenth. Vic was not well enough to attend the recent unveiling of The Memorial but fully recovered to visit Somerby for the first time since emplaning for Market Garden in September 1944. Vic described the visit a '*a pilgrimage he needed to make*'.



On Saturday evening Vic met Liset Vos, who travelled from Oosterbeek, the village in the Netherlands where the Battalion was wiped out.

Dinner was at the Stag and Hounds in Burrough on the Hill, the little pub where 10th Battalion's Intelligence Officer, Captain Myles Henry (KIA Arnhem) and his new bride, Pam, were billeted in 1944.

You will remember Pam speaking to us, by video, from New Zealand, at the unveiling. Pam will be 100 in November this year – I will make sure we don't forget her birthday!

On Sunday, Vic laid a wreath for his fallen comrades at the service conducted by FOTT's Padre, Brian McAvoy.

Almost 100 attended the service included many Paras and relatives of the men of the battalion.





After the service, Vic visited Somerby Village Memorial Hall, where the battalion was entertained and assembled in 1944. The men were briefed in the hall prior to emplaning for Arnhem.

Vic received, from FOTT's Grahame & Alec, the framed original cartoon '*The Somerby Land Army Girl Strip*'. In his book '*Rifleman*', Vic describes this event and how, even as a battle-hardened young soldier, he was shocked when confronted by his first ever view of a completely naked young woman, dancing on the table in a Leicestershire pub!

Following Sunday lunch in The Saddle pub in Twyford, another haunt of the battalion, Vic returned to his hosts in Somerby and drove back home to Winchester on Monday morning. Needless to say, he arrived safe and sound, completing the drive in just three hours – what an extraordinary and remarkable man – forever Airborne!

Freddie Deane receives his Arnhem 75th Veterans Medal



Freddie Deane (front centre) alongside his children Natalie Machado (front left) and Inigo Deane (front right) David Jones (front far right) and Bill Piper (left back), and John Hardy (centre back) chairman of SSAFA.

In January, Freddie received his medal at his residential Care home, Bryn Blodau in Llan Ffestiniog, North Wales. We are very grateful to 1 Para, David Jones and John Hardy for facilitating the presentation.

Arnhem Veterans Medal

The Airborne Commemoration Foundation (ACF) commissioned a coin as a token of remembrance, honour and gratitude towards the Arnhem veterans, on the occasion of the 75th commemorations of the Battle of Arnhem, September 1944.

The colour of the ribbon depict all those involved in this commemoration: The Dutch citizens (red, white and blue), the Airborne troops from Great Britain (maroon), the Polish troops (grey) and the official Dutch decoration colours (blue and orange).

The half oval in the medal depicts the Arnhem (John Frost) bridge, undersigned by the Airborne Pegasus emblem and the Polish parachute Eagle emblem.

The 10th Battalion now has its own dedicated display at the Imperial War Museum - Airborne Assault, Duxford.



On the 28th January 2020, Friends of The Tenth were given a wonderfully warm welcome by Curator, Jon Baker and his team for the official unveiling of 'The Last Stand of The Tenth' and the presentation of 10th Battalion's Gerry Dimmock's medals and beret.





Gerry's daughter, Jackie, presented the medals and beret to Jon Baker. We then decamped to the archive office, where refreshed with tea and coffee, we had the unbelievable honour of a close inspection of Captain Lionel Queripel's medals, including his posthumous Victoria Cross - NOT a replica but the real thing! Especially poignant today when we remembered that Gerry was Lionel's driver in the UK during 1943/44.



Lionel Queripel's medal set including his Posthumous Victoria Cross

A huge thank you to Jon and the museum for giving us such an honoured and high-profile presence. Even an edition of Brammall's 'The Tenth' lurking at the bottom of the display - our own 'shrine'!

In addition to Jackie and Bob Cooper, we were joined by Gerry's nephew, Simon Dimmock, FOTT trustee and founder member, Jeanie Holland, Paul Allen and Steve Hooper of 10 para and 3 serving lads from Colchester. Unfortunately, Brian Quarendon, who has generously loaned the 'Last Stand' to the museum, was not able to be with us.

Statement from Airborne Assault's Curator, Jon Baker

"THE LAST STAND OF THE TENTH: Derek Chamber's remarkable painting depicting the final days of the defence of the Oosterbeek Perimeter by the remnants of The 10th Parachute Battalion in September 1944, was unveiled today (28 Jan) at the Airborne Assault Museum in the Imperial War Museum, Duxford.

The painting is accompanied in the display by the beret and medals of 10th Parachute Battalion and Arnhem veteran, Pte Gerald Dimmock, kindly donated by his daughter Jackie.

The painting was commissioned for The Friends of the Tenth for fundraising purposes and has subsequently been kindly loaned by Mr Brian Quarendon for display purposes.

Situated next to a display about the multiple airborne operations in 1944 and adjacent to the existing Arnhem display, the painting and medals form a really eye-catching focal point within the gallery. It is sure to prove a poignant and popular display enjoyed by the museums 150,000 a year visitors.

The Airborne Assault Museum wishes to express its thanks to The Friends of the Tenth, the family of Pte Dimmock - and Jackie in particular - and all those who made this display possible."

www.paradata.org.uk/

We have 3 versions of the high-quality prints of 'The Last Stand' available in our website shop:

2/3rd size fine art giclée print or 2/3rd size photographic print or full-size photographic print - follow this link - <https://friendsofthetenth.co.uk/shop/>

Another poignant memory from Wartime Somerby

We recently heard from Margaret Moulds of Somerby;

"My most vivid memory is hearing the soldiers singing 'Abide with me' in the stable yard on Burrough road, they were going to Arnhem, but we didn't know that.

Second, was the day the boys who got through it came back. My sister and I were at Pickwell to see a wedding and we heard the lorries (I think there were only two) coming back and we ran all the way back to Somerby. My sister was engaged to Jim Finn and of course he wasn't with them as he was taken prisoner.

Jim was secretary for the old comrades' association for over forty years and Doris my sister helped Kath Lees raise a lot of money running Tombola's at all the events to keep the association going. My husband got all the wooden kneelers made to go into Somerby church.

They lived for the day and so got up to some tricks like borrowing cars in Leicester at weekend and leaving outside the police house. We were sometimes allowed into the Ensa concerts which was a highlight for us. We used to sit outside the Naafi hoping for a bit of chocolate.

I have never been able to sing Abide with me because of that memory."

Margaret Moulds 2019

The Memorial Garden and HighGround

We are working in partnership with horticultural garden charity, HighGround and shortly head gardener, Andy Wright, will be planting trees in the Memorial Garden. The trees, along with many maroon tulips have been generously donated by one of our great supporters, ex 2 Para, Alan Staff, who lives in Market Harborough. HighGround will also be working with the Matt Hampson Foundation – as you know our Memorial is at the entrance to Matt's 'Get Busy Living Centre'.

It is gratifying that these three great charities are working together and hand in hand. Please follow these links to find out more about our co-conspirators!

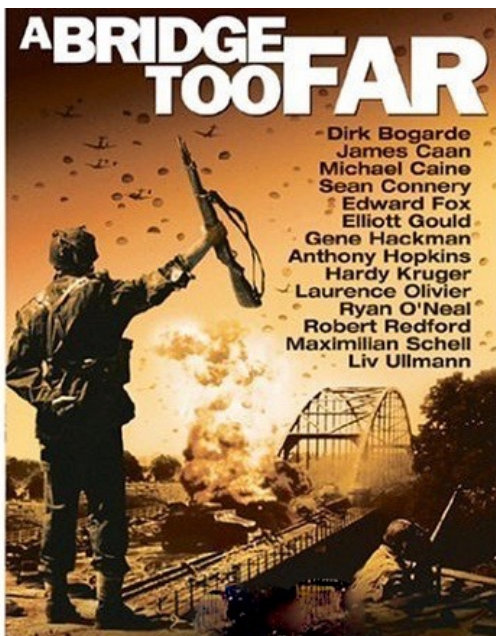
www.highground-uk.org/

www.matthampsonfoundation.org/

Former 10 Para, Paul Allen, continues to raise funds for FOTT

Via his connection with various Free Masonry Lodges, we continue to receive donations organised by Paul. A big thank you as always, during the last couple of years this has been a very significant and much appreciated amount.

Charity screening of 'A Bridge too Far' raises over £300 for FOTT



A charity showing of 'A Bridge Too Far' at Pera Business Park, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray, on Wednesday 18th September 2019 was a great success.

Around 80+ people of all ages attended - not bad for a midweek evening. Visitors were welcomed into Pera, where refreshments were available, as were displays of related WW2 Parachute Regiment memorabilia in the foyer, prompting discussions and shared memories.

The evening started at 7pm, with a 15-minute talk plus some slides, summarising the story of the 10th, 11th and 156 Battalions in Melton Mowbray and the Battle of Arnhem, plus some background introductory information about the film.

Then, Danny Alton-Reynolds kindly shared with the assembled audience some of his father's personal memories of serving in 156 and of the fighting in Arnhem. Danny's account was moving and added a real, poignant, 3D human angle to the night.

There was then a minute's silence before a large projected slide of Pegasus, in memory of all those who fought at Arnhem and those who never made it back.

Although the film showing was free, a total of £210.60 was kindly donated by visitors, with Pera generously adding an extra £100 to the pot, making a total of £310.60 going to the Friends of The Tenth.

A big thank you from FOTT to Martin Welbourne, Austin Ruddy, Pera and everyone involved.

Pte Alfred Milsom aka 'Pete' Watkins 3976895



Very recently, we are delighted to have heard that another wartime 10th Battalion veteran is still with us. Pete Watkins is 97 and living in a residential care home in Derby. Sadly, the care home is being closed and Pete will be moved to another facility. This is causing distress to the residents and their families, including, of course, Pete.

We have been in contact with Pete's stepdaughter as well as Support our Paras, the local PRA and PRA HQ to offer any help and support that is needed. Lynne, Pete's stepdaughter, reports that he is comfortable

and well aside from suffering from dementia. Apparently, he remembers little but is lifted by visits and especially chats about his time in the Parachute Regiment.

Memory Corner

We thought it might be a nice idea for our newsletters to include some information about the Wartime 10th to provide some additional interest for our readers. Please let us know if this is something you would like.



To start the ball rolling, the image, at left, is a newspaper photograph of cheering Airborne Senior NCO POW's arriving at Glasgow docks in May/June 1945, following release from captivity at Stalag 8C in Sagan, Poland.

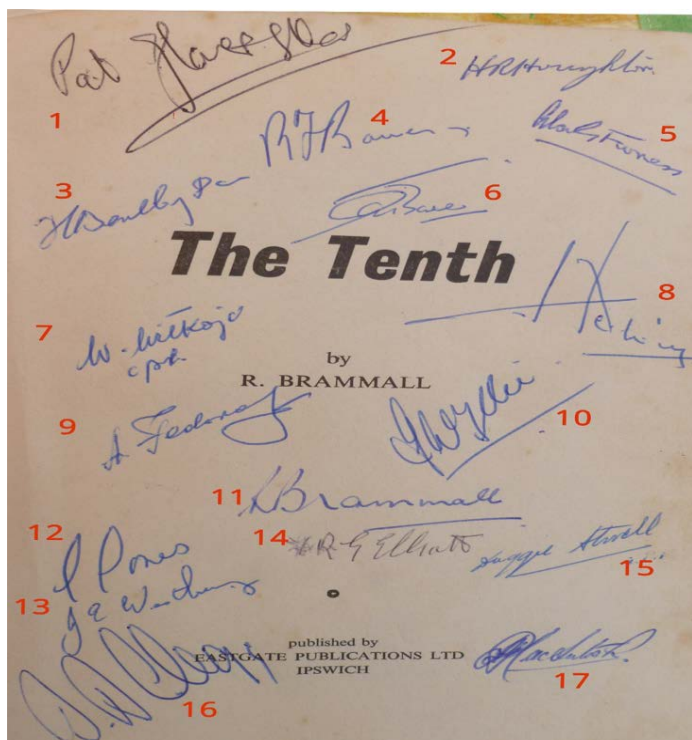
Many of these NCO's had managed to partially recover from wounds received during fighting but were classified as unfit to form part of the 'Long March' relocation of POW's from Poland to Germany. They were eventually released by advancing Russian Forces and finally taken to Odessa on the Black Sea coast from where they were transported back to the UK by sea.

At centre front with his hand in his pocket is Sgt Harry Houghton, A Coy, who received multiple shrapnel wounds fighting at Oude Herberg, Oosterbeek on the 20th September 1944 in the same incident that Lt Leslie Kiaer, also of A Coy, was killed in action.

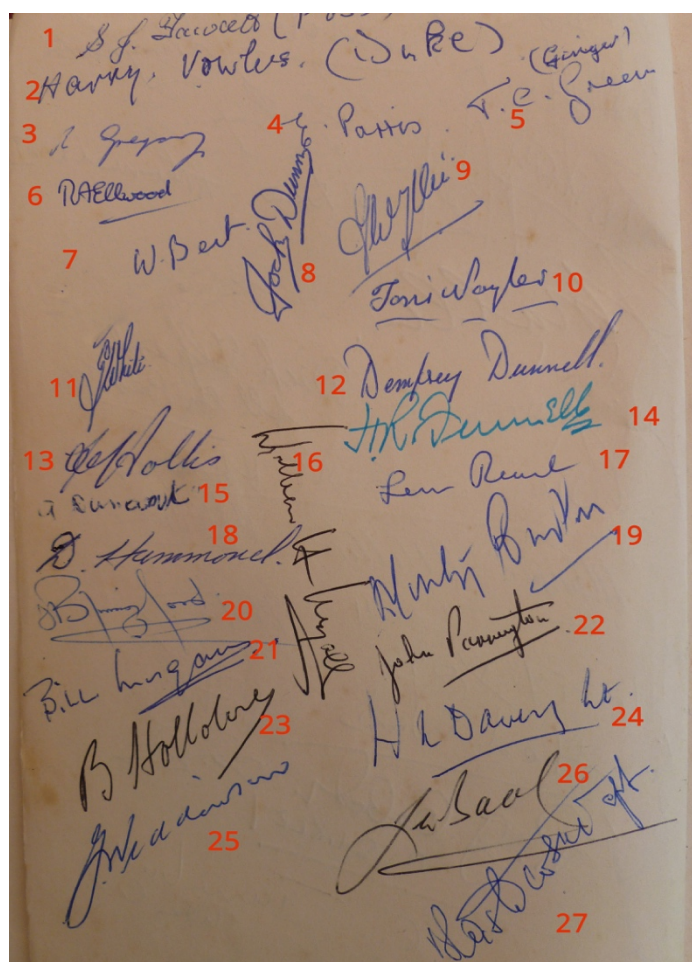
*Newspaper clipping courtesy of Jeanie Holland
Daughter of Sgt Harry Houghton*

Additionally, included below is a selection of signatures of Arnhem Veterans, mainly from 10th Battalion men, from a copy of 'The Tenth' published in 1965, by Major R Brammall, of 10 Para (V). These signatures were collected by the owner of the book, a 10th Battalion Wartime Veteran.

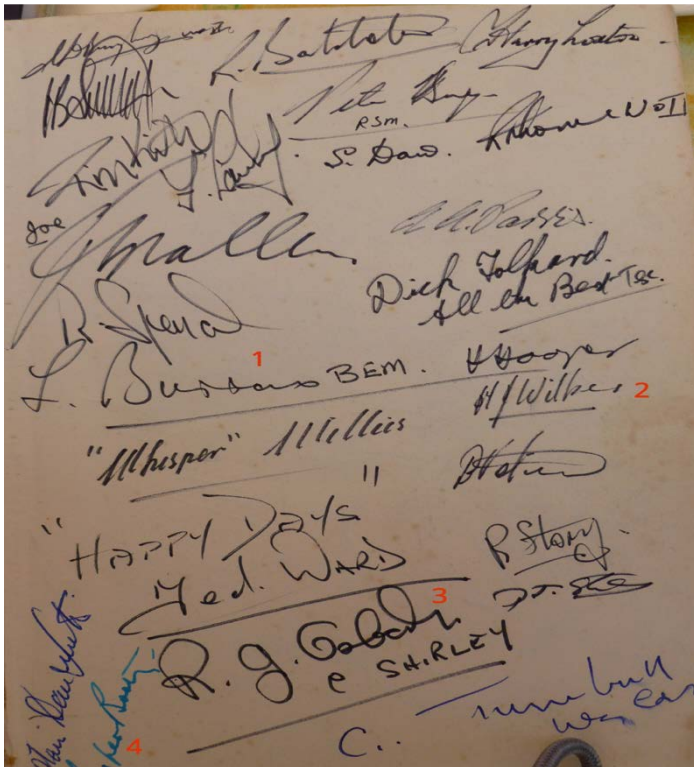
You will see that Major Brammall's signature appears at the centre of Page 1 together with Lt Pat Glover (of Myrtle the Parachick fame and WIA Arnhem and an evader), Capt Peter 'Cowboy' Clegg (WIA Arnhem), Sgt Harry Houghton (WIA Arnhem) and Sgt 'Busty' Bentley (escaped on Op Berlin) to name but a few.



1	Lt Pat Glover	HQ Coy, QM
2	Sgt Harry Houghton	A Coy, 3PI
3	Sgt Tom Bentley DCM	S Coy, Mortars
4	Capt Ray Bowers	HQ Coy, Padre
5	Unknown as 10 th Bn	
6	Pte George Bower	HQ Coy, MT
7	Unknown as 10 th Bn	
8	Unknown as 10 th Bn	
9	Unknown as 10 th Bn	
10	L/Cpl George Wyllie	HQ Coy, Provost
11	Maj R Brammall	Author, 10 Para TA
12	Cpl Jimmy Jones	A Coy, 4PI
13	Pte Jim Westbury	B Coy, 12PI
14	Cpl Fred Elliott	A Coy, 3PI
15	Unknown as 10 th Bn	
16	Capt Peter Clegg MC	B Coy, 2i/c
17	Pte R Macintosh	A Coy



1	Sgt 'Fozzie' Fawcett	HQ Coy, AAC
2	Pt Harry 'Duke' Vowles	HQ Coy
3	Pte Roy Gregory	A Coy, 5PI
4	L/Cpl Edward Parris	B Coy
5	S/Sgt Tom 'Ginger' Green	HQ Coy, APTC
6	A/Sgt Harry Ellwood	A Coy
7	Pte Walter Beet	S Coy, Mortars
8	Pte Jock Dunn	HQ Coy, MT
9	L/Cpl George Wyllie	HQ Coy, Provost
10	Pte Toni Naylor	HQ Coy, MT
11	RSM George White	HQ Coy, WO1
12	Pte 'Dempsey' Dunnell	HQ Coy
13	Pte Frank Hollis	HQ Coy
14	Pte Harry Funnell	S Coy
15	Pte T A Durrant	A Coy, 4 PI
16	Cpl Bill Myall	D Coy, 16PI
17	Sgt Lewis Read	HQ Coy, QM's
18	Unknown as 10 th Bn	
19	Cpl Arthur 'Monty' Burton	HQ Coy, Signals
20	Sgt Bert Springford	A Coy, 5PI
21	Unknown as 10 th Bn	
22	Unknown as 10 th Bn	
23	Sgt Barrie Hollobone	B Coy, 10 PI
24	CQMS Harold Davey	B Coy
25	Maj George Widdowson	Bn 2 i/c
26	Pte Lloyd Baal	HQ Coy, Int
27	Unknown as 10 th Bn	



1	Cpl Len Burrows	10Bn then 11Bn (from 1943)
2	Pte H Wilkes	10Bn
3	Pte R Osborne	10Bn
4	Capt 'Jasper' Booty	HQ Coy, Adj, then 4 Para Bde HQ in 1944

We hope you enjoy seeing these names in print and should any of our members have any articles, images or treasured stories of the wartime Tenth that they might want to send us for consideration in future editions then please let us know. You can email us at alec@friendsofthetenth.co.uk with any information which you might want to share with other FOTT members.

10 Para Commemoration group photo



"...born in the desert
flowered in Italy
withered at Arnhem
yet did not die..."

FORMER MEMBERS OF THE 10TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION MARKET GARDEN AND
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTALION'S DISBANDMENT
SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2019 ~ HARTENSTEIN HOTEL, ARNHEM

**FRIENDS OF
THE TENTH**

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

Are you in it? If you would like a framed copy of this brilliant photograph of former members of 10 para, outside the Hartenstein Hotel, last September - please email Jason 'Billy' Connolly at: jason.connolly1@homeoffice.gov.uk

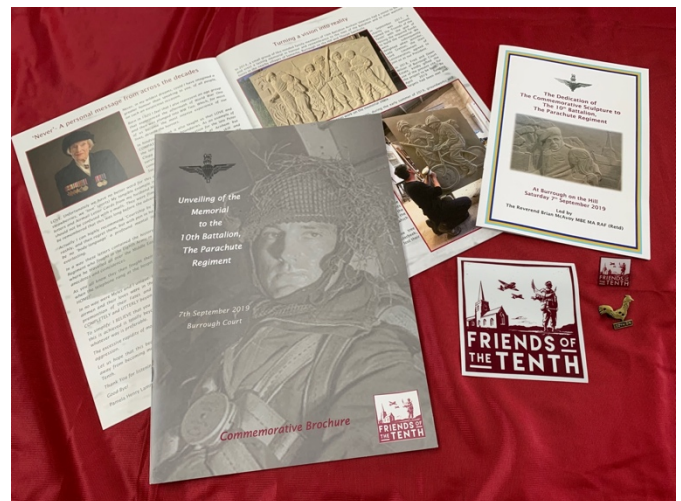
MERCHANDISE

Please visit our website shop where we have for sale, T shirts, ties and bowties, badges and prints.



The **Somerby Cockerel** is a gold-plated solid sterling silver pin badge. We are now ordering the second batch of 30 from the limited edition of only 75.

We also have the **'Unveiling Package'** for sale at only £10 which includes the souvenir brochure, order of service, two badges and windscreen sticker (total value £18!).



We have 3 versions of the high-quality prints of **'The Last Stand'** available in our website shop:

2/3 size fine art giclée print - £75

2/3 size photographic print - £25

Full-size photographic print - £35

Click on this link to go to our shop:

<https://friendsofthetenth.co.uk/shop/>

REQUESTS

PLEASE? If you know anyone who does not 'do' emails and you think would like a copy of this newsletter, would you kindly print a hard copy and forward or post it to them?
Alternatively, email me and I will try to post a hard copy to anyone unable to download this.

Should anyone wish to help in any way whatsoever, I would be delighted to speak with you. There is much more information on our website and social media pages:

www.friendsofthetenth.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofthetenth/>

Friends of The Tenth have always worked with the Leicester PRA, you can view their Face Book pages here - [www.facebook.com/leicesterbranch the parachute regimental association](https://www.facebook.com/leicesterbranchthe.parachute.regimental.association)



An easy way to access our website is to use your mobile phone to scan this barcode

There is still much for us to achieve – if you wish to donate – please use this link
<https://friendsofthetenth.co.uk/get-involved/donate/>

You can contact me at:
alec@friendsofthetenth.co.uk

Alec Wilson
February 2020



KEEPING THE LEGACY ALIVE
The 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment 1942-44