Sometimes known as the ‘Airborne Cemetery’, many servicemen can be found here, including the 21 year-old Gronert twins from Cornwall. Thomas and Claude Gronert died together on the first day of Operation ‘Market Garden’, and they are buried side-by-side in Plot 18, Row A, Graves 17-18.

Upon their headstones is the inscription: ‘Winds of heaven blow softly here where lie sleeping those we loved so dear’

John died at Arnhem on 20 September while singlehandedly fighting advancing German Tiger tanks after his entire gun crew had been killed. For his actions he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. He is commemorated on Panel 5 of the Groesbeek Memorial.

We honour and care for the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars, ensuring they will never be forgotten. Funded by six Member Governments, our work began with building, and now maintaining, cemeteries at 23,000 locations all over the world.

Today, over a century after we first began, our work continues through our staff, supporters and volunteers who preserve our unique cultural, horticultural and architectural heritage and ensure that the stories of those who died are told.

Find out more about our charitable foundation at www.cwgc.org/support-us

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17 – 26 SEPTEMBER 1944: THE BATTLE OF ARNHEM

Operation ‘Market Garden’ was the largest airborne assault in history, and one of the most daring and ambitious Allied operations of the Second World War.

On 17 September 1944, Allied airborne troops landed behind enemy lines to capture vital river crossings in the Netherlands. The bridge at Arnhem was the furthest inside enemy territory and despite determined attempts, supporting ground forces could not reach their surrounded airborne comrades and secure the bridge. It became known as ‘a bridge too far’.

After ten days of desperate resistance around 2,400 airborne soldiers managed to escape, but more than 6,000 were captured.

CEMETERIES & MEMORIALS

1 ARNHEM OOSTERBEEK WAR CEMETERY

Constructed near the site of the airborne landings at Arnhem, this now peaceful and beautiful cemetery is where many of the Commonwealth and Polish troops who died in the Battle of Arnhem were laid to rest after the war.

The cemetery is extremely important to the local community and each year on the anniversary of the battle, local school children meet to lay flowers on the graves – a tradition that dates back to 1945.

2 THE GROESBEEK MEMORIAL

After the war great efforts were made to find and identify the fallen. However, the final resting places of many service personnel remain unknown. Built within CWGC Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery, the Groesbeek Memorial commemorates more than 1,000 personnel who died in north-west Europe from the summer of 1944 until the end of the war who have no known grave.

Over a third of the men commemorated here died during the ten day period of Operation ‘Market Garden’.