



## With Compliments

Roy church  
55 East Avenue Grantham  
NG31-7PW  
Tel-01476-409045 E-mail roychurch99@yahoo.com

Report on the PEGASUS PLAQUE you said you would like.

---

18-12-2011

Dear Dr Kingsley

After leaving the Army I worked as an Electrical Engineer with the East Midland Electricity Board, and one of my tasks was to inspect Electricity Installations around the Grantham area.

In the autumn of 2003 I inspected the pole mounted Sub Station at the back of the Manor and living local I had always admired the building when I passed by on Harlaxton road, and this particular day, because I was in the grounds of the building I thought I would have a closer look.

When I came into the court yard at the back I was surprised to see an old Plaque of Pegasus, the emblem of the British Airborne Division, I knew the Para's were stationed there in the War before they went to Arnhem in Holland for the Operation Market Garden in 1944.

The plaque was in very poor condition after 50 odd years all broken and with weeds growing out of it, there was even a small Elder Tree coming out of the centre.

My Military career was with the Medical Corp and the Parachute Regiment and the Plaque and what it represented was part of my Military History, so I decided if I could get permission and a little help from my friend Frank Simmons (who was also an Ex Para) I would restore it back to what it was like back in 1944 and using as much of the original materials that could be saved.

I wrote to the Principal of the College and received a very nice letter in return from a Mr Walch giving me permission to carry on, Frank and I started as soon as the weather was suitable, first getting rid of all the weeds and the small tree and then sorting out which piece went where it was quite a jigsaw, but we were pleased with the finished article.

When we had completed the job I took some photographs and sent them to The Parachute Regimental Magazine (The Pegasus) which they

published together with my photo's asking if any of the readers where stationed at the Manor in 1944 and if any of them worked on the Plaque, I received seven replies from Ex Para's who were spread all over England and one in Scotland, They told me they had indeed worked on the Plaque, and one Letter was from a Major Tyler M.B.E.

.His name is chalked on the door of a small room above the College Kitchen as Cpl:Tyler together with a Cpl:England, I have been in contact with all seven of them since and have met some of them, the one from Scotland came down to the Plaque, but now sadly they have all passed on

I received a letter from a lady in Southampton saying that her Husband was killed at Arnham and could she come up to Grantham and meet me with the idea of laying a wreath to his memory at the Plaque! When she came up we had a little ceremony with some of my Branch in attendance.

It is nice to know that my connection with the Plaque has led to the wonderful get together every November that I and the branch have with you and your students of which I thank you sincerely.....

Roy Church

Airborne Forces Emblem is Bellerophon mounted on the winged horse Pegasus. the first recorded instance of an airborne warrior, his exploits are recounted in Greek Mythology where he is chiefly famous for slaying the fire-breathing monster Chimaera. Mounted on Pegasus, with spear in hand, Bellerophon rode into the air, swooped down upon the monster and destroyed it,

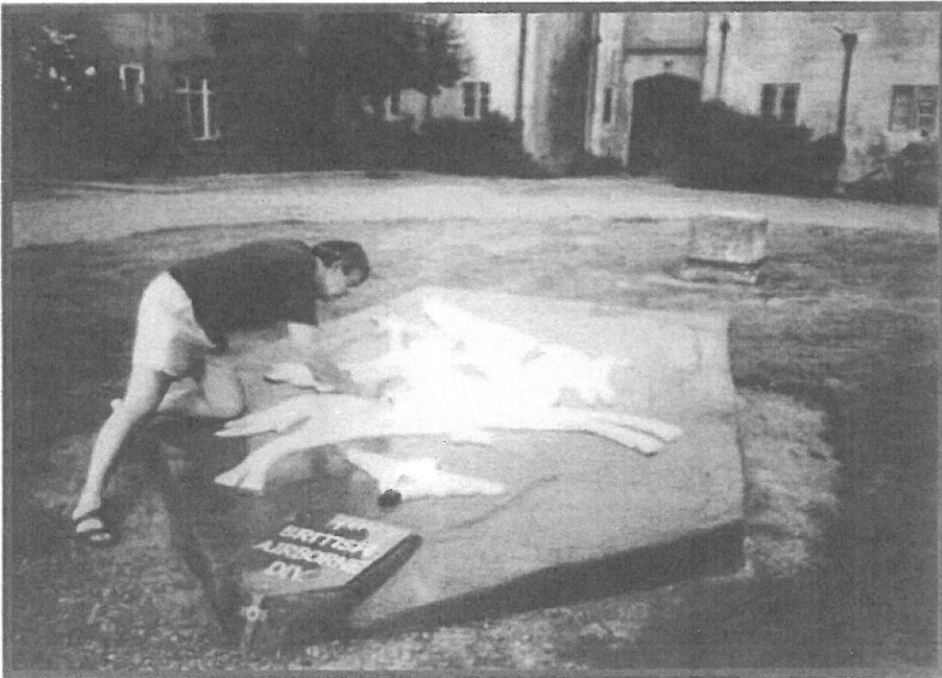
-----

" PEGASUS" The Emblem, was chosen for the British Airborne Forces by the late Lieutenant General Sir("Boy") Browning GCVO, CB, DSO, When he was appointed to raise Airborne Forces in 1941. The emblem was designed in May 1942, by Major Edward Seago, to be worn on the arms of all Airborne soldiers

-----



FRANK AT WORK 2004



ROY NEARLY FINISHED LATE 2004

3/

Sgt too, do you belong to the W.O.'s; Sgt Post and present club? were you at the club annual dinner this year down at Browning Barrack? Do you go to Airborne Forces Day? you know if you come down to Harloxton again let me know and maybe Frank and I could meet you in the Gregory Arms for a drop of Tuck and a yarn!

Well my new friend, I will close now, it's been nice writing to you, Hope to see you sometime. All the Best for Christmas and the new year to you and yours.

Sincerely,  
Roy Church.

Frank sends all the Best!

Tel 0476/65387<sup>5</sup>

55 East Avenue  
Grantham  
Lincs.

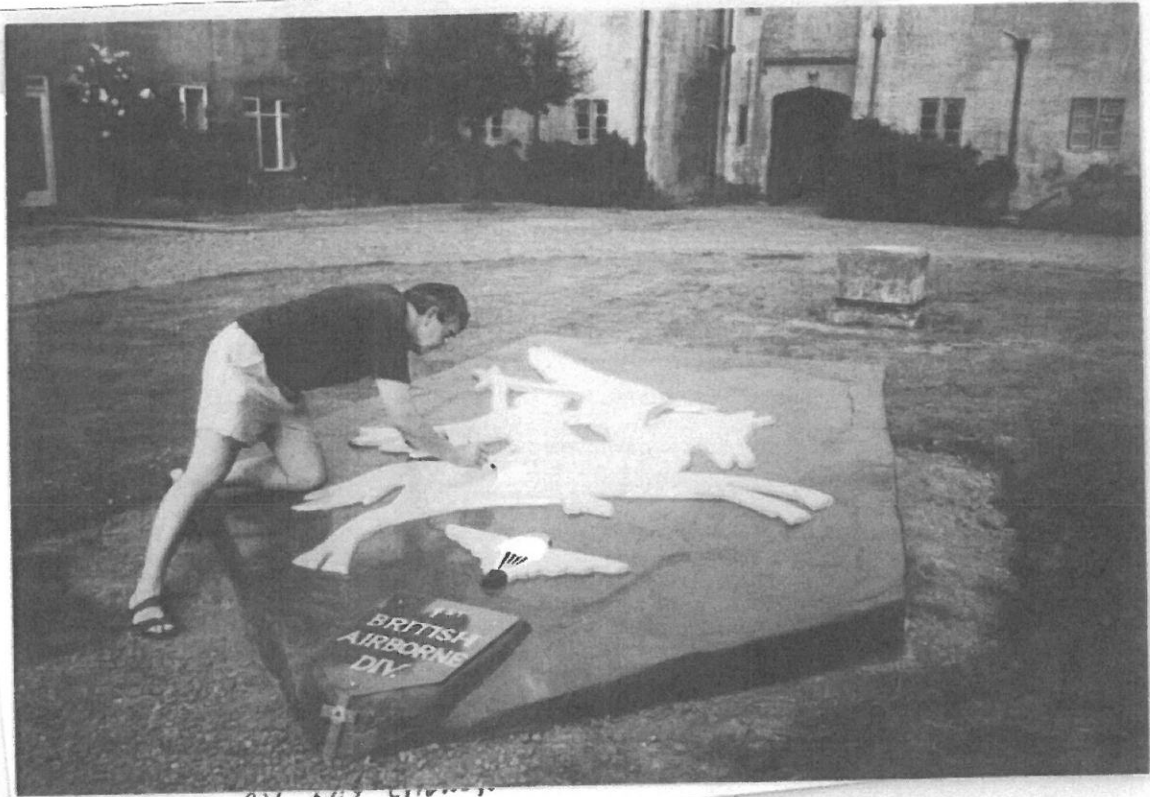
18/12/92

(HARLAXTON PLAQUE) NG31.7PW

Dear Mr Miller

Sorry I don't know your first name, it doesn't appear in your letter anywhere, any way no matter. Thank you very much for your very interesting letter and photo, I am returning your photo Thank you for sending it. also some photographs taken after Frank and I restored the plaque, you can keep them for memory sake

Your letter was one of many I received from Paris all over the country and I am doing my best to answer them and sending photos to the lads who were at Harloxton. as well as Provis it appears the RASC (Airborne) had a Coy there



AS FOUND BY NOT CHERRY







STARTING RESTORATION WITH FRANK SIMMONS