

# The 82nd Airborne Gate

Quorn Parish Council  
welcomes you to  
Stafford Orchard

In 1944 Quorn Camp was established on the Farnham estate at Quorn House behind Wood Lane. It was occupied by the American 82nd Airborne Division of the United States forces, mainly the 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment. From Quorn this regiment took part in two historic drops during 1944 - firstly at Ste Mere Eglise during the Normandy invasion of 6th June, and secondly in the area of Nijmegen, Holland on the 17th September as part of the Arnhem airborne landings. The memorial stone you see nearby comes from the bombed church in Nijmegen and the avenue of lime trees was planted in memory of those who died.

The plaque on the memorial stone reads:  
*This avenue of trees was presented to the village by F A Stenson Esq and is dedicated to the memory of the United States forces who, based in the parish during the 1939-45 war, did not return from their missions. This stone is from the damaged church at Nijmegen, the scene of one of their paratroop engagements. May 1952.*

Stafford Orchard was used by the American servicemen for training exercises and also the occasional game of baseball, despite being let to local people to graze cattle and grow vegetables on at that time! The arrival of the Americans boosted the village population by about 2,000.

*"The young men ...well, they were 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the American 82nd Airborne Division... but I didn't know that at the time... to me they were just Yanks!*

*They all seemed tall, rangy men... blue of eye... lean of jaw... well tanned with their gum and their sharply cut uniforms. They were heroes... or at least they were in the eyes of an impressionable eight year old boy whose horizons had been completely constricted by five years of continuous, depressing, wartime restrictions. Goodness, the furthest I had ever travelled was to see my Auntie in Leicester... 12 whole miles... these people had come from another planet.*

*They were a breath of fresh air in the wartime gloom. 'Over paid... over sexed and over here' ran the popular wartime mantra, but to a small lad asking for gum, running errands, collecting orders for fish and chips from the village chippy, eating some of their rich fruit cake, they were so different... so extrovert... they were real soldiers."*  
Tony Fewkes, Quorn villager.

Close by you will see our tranquil, sensory garden, planned to encourage rest and contemplation. This area has been designed by Jane Hollingworth and planted by village volunteers. The plants have been carefully chosen for their historic or sensory properties, all nearby plants being North American woodland varieties.

Find out more about Quorn's history at [www.quornmuseum.com](http://www.quornmuseum.com)



Just before D-Day at Quorn Camp.



2006 visit by 82nd Airborne veterans to Quorn.



Major Norman E Pehrson, Assistant Military Attache, US Embassy, inspecting the Scouts who formed part of the Guard of Honour, at the presentation of the avenue of fifty lime trees in memory of the fallen of the 82nd Airborne Division. The presentation took place on the 9th May 1952 at a dedication ceremony on Stafford Orchard.