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Stand Easy

2012



**Kenny Hunter
Leicestershire County Council
Armed Services Memorial**



Stand Easy

Leicestershire County Council Armed Services Memorial

The four bronze figures in this memorial sculpture are based on young recruits entering into military service. Having completed basic training they are depicted 'Passing Out' after receiving their berets. This tradition seemed pivotal to me, as it is at this point at which their career in the military begins in earnest. It could also be argued that this universal ceremony signifies their first act of bravery, as they fully commit themselves into life the Armed Forces. What they do after that is in their own words 'all in the line of duty'.

The decision to depict a group of military personnel rather than a single figure must be stressed here, for this memorial attempts to give recognition to the sense of brotherhood and reliance on others that is a defining feature of military service. This is further underlined in the communality of the drill formation and the uniform, however in each face we do see an individual who has made a commitment to work for the group, for the benefit of each other.

Present within the overall landscaping design is the time honored memorial symbol of a Cross, here it also functions as two intersecting pathways for the viewer to navigate the space and engage with the artwork.

In this new memorial to honour service in Leicestershire's Armed Forces since 1945, the traditional expectations of elevation are replaced by a figure group that shares the same ground as us. The absence of a plinth and a direct eye-level to the figures, evokes in our minds empathy rather than reverence, encouraging us to rethink our relationship to the Armed Forces.

This memorial was made with the collaboration of Leicestershire County Council, Welbeck The Defence Sixth Form College and bereaved families.

Kenny Hunter























