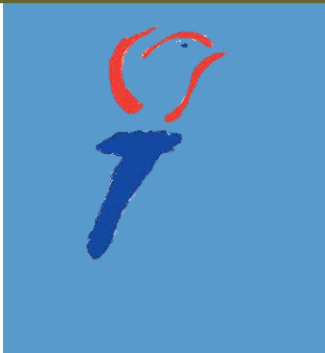
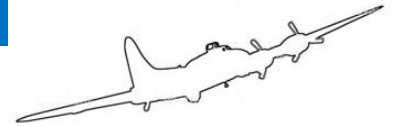


September 27th, 2022

Year 6, number 10

Newsletter

Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



Introduction

Several times a year, we as Foundation Mission Belle B-17G Memorial, would like to get in touch with you with a Newsletter, for more than one reason. First because we would like to keep the thought of the liberation of our country and the ones who have participated in it, alive. The second reason is to stimulate the attention for the monument at the Lek dike. We use important dates from the World War 2 history to underscore the meaning of freedom.

Previous celebrations

A fixed date is May 4th, where in The Netherlands the fallen will be remembered by silent walks to local war memorials. That also happens in Nieuw-Lekkerland on the evening of that day. As Foundation we organize, in a small gathering, a short ceremony in the morning near the Mission Belle monument. The Dutch and American flag are risen half mast that day. This year a wreath was placed by eye-witness Mr. Den Ouden from Lekkerkerk. He was helped by children who live nearby the monument.

Also Memorial Day, the National Remembrance Day in America, which was on May 27th, didn't pass by unnoticed. John Heuvelman from Lekkerkerk, who on behalf of the board keeps contact with the next of kin of the crew in America, laid a wreath at the monument. We thank both gentlemen and the children for their effort.

Guest lesson

On Wednesday, October 12th, member of the board, Evert de Bruijn with his colleague will again give a guest lesson to group 8 of the School with the Bible in Streefkerk. An original Willy's MB jeep from 1944 will be there with the numbers of the 381st Bomb Group and the 535th Bomb Squadron on the bumpers of that car. These are the numbers who belonged to the unit where the Mission Belle was part of. The students will also see various objects that were used by the crew of a B-17G during their flight.

A new flyer

Young Design surprise with a free design of a new flyer. It will be a fold out folder with the most essential information about the Mission Belle and her crew. The print is already realized. Spreading of it will be done by desks of shops, restaurants and touristic meeting places, like the SWEK in Kinderdijk.

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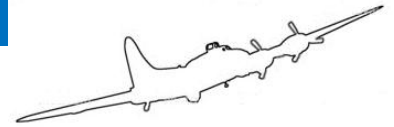
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Contacts with schools and speech

Three students of the CSG De Lage Waard from Papendrecht approached the board of the Mission Belle Foundation. They asked if they could present, on last March 25th, a report with interview about the Mission Belle and her crew. Their goal was to keep a speech about the cultural heritage within the county.

Besides the story about the Mission Belle, the board has let the students carry out another activity, namely to hoist, honor, lower and fold a flag. Folding the American flag into a triangle was new for them. The result is, as you can see on the Photo very respectful. Especially in current times, learning about war is more important than ever.



Yearly remembrance of the emergency landing

The yearly remembrance of the emergency landing near the Lek dike is planned on Saturday, November 26th. The ceremony will have participation by students of the School with the Bible from Streefkerk and there will be also, as before, re-enactors with original army vehicles and dressed as the original crew.



The parachute gets a definitive place

The only tangible memento of the Mission Belle is a parachute. It is durable secured in a showcase that will get a definitive location in the Waelland. A stimulant for the inhabitants and visitors of this care home, to reminisce memories.



Berkenwoude has a monument too

Berkenwoude, on the other side of the Lek river was in the war a location where many weapon-droppings took place for the resistance. There is now a monument with information boards on rocks. They have the same designs as the ones with the B-17G Memorial at the Lek dike. The special template that was made for that, was used again.



Through Radio Orange, local resistance people heard the code 'Two roses are red' and that meant that in the night of April 11th to 12th, 1945 two planes would fly over and drop two in England trained secret agents (Wytze Bisschop and Hendrik Geysen) plus a few boxes with weapons. It was done in the Krimpenerwaard county during the last years of World War 2 for more than ten times before and was always with success. This last mission ended differently for one of the planes on its return to England ...

For more information: <https://www.tracesofwar.nl/sights/141462/Monument-Wapendropping-Berkenwoude.htm>

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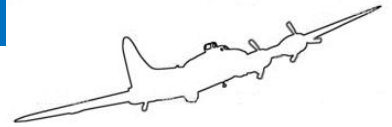
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Finances



It is worth mentioning that our yearly report for 2021 is ready and approved by Verstegen Accountants in Dordrecht.

Our Foundation has no interest to make a profit, but we are working hard to present a balanced budget every year. It takes the necessary attention for the longer term to give the monument a worthy place in the region. Money is an indispensable factor.

Passing of Jim Sweaney



We received the sad news about the passing of Jim Sweaney from Riverside, California. Jim was born 1944, as son of the co-pilot of the Mission Belle. He was at the unveiling of the monument in 2018. May he rest in peace.

Change of governance



For a long time there was an opening for treasurer. This job is finally taken by Erik de Rider from Nieuw-Lekkerland. In daily life Erik is entrepreneur in electrical business. We also said goodbye to Peter van der Giessen from Papendrecht, who was our secretary. Since the day of the unveiling in 2018 he continuously worked for the Foundation. We are very grateful to him for that. His place is now taken by Mrs. Heleen Stam. She is teaching English and active in various councils. We welcome Erik and Heleen into the Board.

Reprint book 'We knew it's going be a long day'

The book 'We knew it's going be a long day', published for the realization of the monument will be reprinted. The publication of the first 2 prints was before the monument was realized. Meanwhile, the monument is there after a spicy building history and an impressive unveiling. The third print will be expanded with some chapters about the Construction and the unveiling of the monument. Mrs. Barry Ouweneel has told us to carry out the redaction of these chapters.

