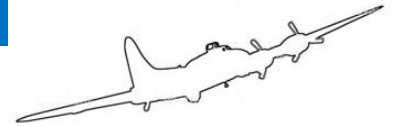


February 18th, 2023

Year 6, number 1

Newsletter

Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



Introduction

With the publication of a Newsletter, we try as a Board to keep interested parties up-to-date about everything of the monument at the dike near the Lek river. Of course there are inevitable administrative issues, but it is mainly the place the Mission Belle monument takes in society. Naturally there is the question for sense and meaning of remembrance and how to give it a new shape. Among this, is combining it with national and regional remembrances. Especially the month of May this will take place.

Agenda 1st half year of 2023

As said, the month of May is in The Netherlands an very important month. Not just because on May 10th, 1940 our country was treacherously attacked, but especially because in this month of 1945, the war ended in Europe.

- May 4th is the fixed date for the National Remembrance of the Dead;
- On May 5th the liberation will be celebrated on Liberation Day.

On both days there will be a Flag Ceremonial at the monument on the dike, where the board will be represented. On May 4th a wreath will be laid there by someone from society.

- On May 27th, jointly with American Memorial Day, also a Flag Ceremonial with someone from society laying a wreath will take place.

Remembrance November 26st, 2022

The yearly remembrance of the emergency landing of the Mission Belle on December 1st, 1943, was again an impressive happening. The presentation of the Color Guard during the opening and closure of the ceremony (together with the reenactment group) gave it a special character. The public interest was satisfying. A camera team, helped by a drone, made a beautiful film of the ceremony. You can find this film back on our website:

www.missionbelle.nl. This year, the remembrance was combined with Veterans Day of Molenlanden county. A number of these veterans took actively part in the ceremony. After it, there was an opportunity to visit, in an informal atmosphere, the stands of the Veterans and the Mission Belle at the 'Molenhoeve' farm. And finally we enjoyed a great buffet, offered by Molenlanden county. The Elshout Foundation surprise us by sponsoring the party tent, that gave the musicians of the Royal Apollo Ensemble a comfortable place to do their job. We are very grateful for the speakers, especially Mayor Seegers of Molenlanden county and Reverend Jelle Kommerie, military pastor, for their impressionable contributions. We also give our thanks for the beautiful and respected contributions of the Children's Mayor and the School with the Bible from Streefkerk.

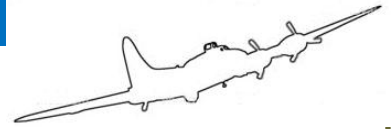


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Will you be our new 'eavesdropper'?

One of the goals that the Board of our Foundation has is listening to what is going on in society around the subject of remembering and memorialize. This job needs to have attention to news from various sources. Points of attention are for example planned salvages of crashed B-17's, national ceremonies, remembering as phenomenon, creating new memorials, the attitude of the government towards ceremonies, contacts with next of kin generally. Our 'eavesdropper' reports about that to the board and advises us about it for our policies.

Do you like this? Let us know at: secretariaat@missionbelle.nl

New flyer

At the end of 2022 our new flyer, in the shape of a wrapped folder, came from the printing press. André Hoogendoorn gave the first copy to Mayor Segers. The design was created, for free, by *Young Design* in Hardinxveld-Giessendam. The printing was donated for 100% by a sponsor. An insert will give you the possibility to report yourself as a 'Friend of the Mission Belle'. The folder contains in short the history of the Mission Belle and the personal information of the deceased crew. You can ask for it at Schoenmaker Verhaar or at Simons Toys.

Wordt vriend van de Mission Belle!

Voor de instandhouding van het monument worden kosten gemaakt.
U kunt ons helpen door vriend te worden van de Mission Belle B-17G.
U wordt vriend door een jaarlijkse bijdrage van 10 euro en het doorgeven van uw e-mailadres!

Hiervoor krijgt u per e-mail:
- 2 keer per jaar een nieuwsbrief;
- Een uitnodiging voor de jaarlijkse herdenking rond 1 december.
Ook als u vrijwilligerswerk of een bestuursfunctie ambieert kunt u contact met ons opnemen via: secretariaat@missionbelle.nl



Wat vooraf ging

Op 1 december 1943 vertoefde voor het vliegtuig B-17G van het Engelse Escort van B-17's van het 3. Lichte Squadron bekend bij de 38. ste Bomb Group van de United States Army Air Force (USAAF). Daar was deze een van de bombardeurs van een vliegtuig van de Duitse luchtmacht.

Nag vooraf het doel van het monument was de Mission Belle en van de luchtmacht van de Duitse luchtmacht. Het monument is een herdenking van de 38. ste Bomb Group van de United States Army Air Force (USAAF) die op 1 december 1943 werd vernietigd door de Duitse luchtmacht.

Het monument

Het monument bevindt zich op de plaats waar de Mission Belle een geallieerd vliegtuig was in de nacht van 1 op 2 december 1943. Het monument is een herdenking van de 38. ste Bomb Group van de United States Army Air Force (USAAF) die op 1 december 1943 werd vernietigd door de Duitse luchtmacht.

De 38. ste Bomb Group van de United States Army Air Force (USAAF) was een van de meest succesvolle bombardementseenheden van de Tweede Wereldoorlog. Het was een van de meest succesvolle bombardementseenheden van de Tweede Wereldoorlog.

De bemanning

Plaat en groepen van de bemanning van de Mission Belle. Het monument is een herdenking van de 38. ste Bomb Group van de United States Army Air Force (USAAF) die op 1 december 1943 werd vernietigd door de Duitse luchtmacht.

De bemanning van de Mission Belle bestond uit de volgende personen:

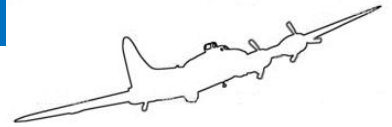
- Commandant: Major James William Swanney (20 jaar)
- Navigator: Sergeant Charles James Swanney (20 jaar)
- Bombardier: Sergeant Charles James Swanney (20 jaar)
- Radio operator: Sergeant Charles James Swanney (20 jaar)
- Engineer: Sergeant Charles James Swanney (20 jaar)
- Observer: Sergeant Charles James Swanney (20 jaar)
- Flight engineer: Sergeant Charles James Swanney (20 jaar)
- Navigator: Sergeant Charles James Swanney (20 jaar)
- Bombardier: Sergeant Charles James Swanney (20 jaar)
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Reprint of the book

“We knew we were in for a long day”

The 2^e print of the book ‘We knew we were in for a long day’ is almost sold out. The board decided to reprint the book. The first and second print came out before the memorial at the dike was revealed. Since then, the monument was realized and there are often small and large public events. The new print will include more about the realization of the monument and the official unveiling on Saturday, September 29th, 2018. Also celebrations that took place later will be mentioned, including the involvement of the School with the Bible from Streefkerk, who have adopted the monument. The text shall be supported by actual photo material. Mrs. Barry Ouweneel-van Dam, who also edited the original version, has spontaneously declared that she will edit the chapters that will be added. For the design of the cover, *Young Design* will help us for free.

Crash of a B-17G on November 12th, 2022 in Dallas

There are still B-17's kept in the air of America by expert plane builders. Sadly, at an air show on Dallas Executive Airport, a B-17 crashed after a collision with a Bell P-63 King Cobra fighter. The two planes fell down and exploded. All people aboard died on both planes. We sympathize with the next of kin. This B-17 came in July, 1945, out of the factory and hasn't been used in World War 2. Formally it didn't belong to the 381st Bomb Group, where the Mission Belle was a part of. Besides our own website, you can see more about the crash here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022Dallas_airshow_mid-air_collision.

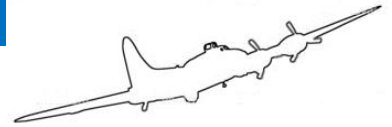


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Friends of the de Mission Belle



To keep the monument at the dike in good shape, there will be some costs. You could help us with that by becoming a friend of the Mission Belle B-17G. You can be a friend for a yearly contribution of € 10,--.

For that you will get by e-mail:

- 2x a year a Newsletter
- An invitation for the yearly remembrance

You can report as a friend via secretariaat@missionbelle.nl

Annual meeting of the ZHVVK

Two years ago we acquired as Foundation the Towns Award of the Southern Holland Association of Small Towns. This honorable award gives us the task to be the host of the annual meeting of this association. We want to use this event to give extra attention about the location and meaning of the B-17G Memorial in the local and regional society. Soon there will be contact with the people involved about the program.