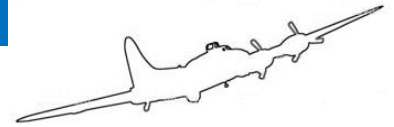


November 7th, 2023

Year 6, issue 2

# Newsletter

## Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



### Introduction

This newsletter (autumn 2023) contains first a short retrospect of the remembrances in the month of May. Before us is the yearly recurring ceremony about the emergency landing of the Mission Belle on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1944, 80 years ago now. As board we are still grateful for the interest and cooperation for keeping it actual about what happened back then

### Excursion and guest lectures

In February 2023 70(!) students of the 'De Schakel' school, visited, together with their teachers, the Mission Belle monument at the Lek dike. Afterwards Evert de Bruijn gave a guest lecture to these children. Imagine: at 10 kilometers high, in a temperature of minus 33 degrees Celsius, in front of an open hatch and a bottom, not much thicker than a Cola can. Two of the biggest kids of the class were dressed by Evert in an original flyers uniform.



### The May remembrances 2023

On May 4th, the Dutch and American flag were hoisted half mast, while on May 5<sup>th</sup>, these flags were raised top. Op both days, a floral arrangement was laid at the base of the monument to give our respect for those who fell and for the liberation of our country. Also on May 4th, at the Old Cemetery on the Lek dike, with a lot of interest, a name plaque was unveiled with the names of war victims who were in any kind related with Nieuw-Lekkerland. On this plaque are also the names of the 3 men of the Mission Belle mentioned. On the last Monday of May, Memorial Day a floral arrangement was laid and flag protocol followed.



### Yearly meeting of Association for Small Places in the Zuid Holland province (ZHVKK)

Op October 30th, 2019, we as Foundation were given the Village Price of the ZHVKK. Because of this honorable award we were, last October 10th, the host for their yearly meeting at Booij Cheese Farm. At this occasion, André Hoogendoorn gave the place and meaning of the B-17G Memorial in the local and regional society to the attention of the people, present at the meeting.



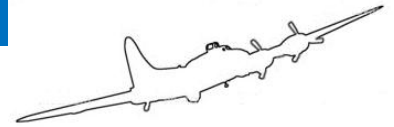
n

November 7th, 2023

Year 6, issue 2

## Newsletter

### Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



## Ceremony on Saturday November 25th, 2023

Two thousand and twenty three is a double lustrum year for the monument. Five years ago – in 2018- the monument was unveiled and this year it is exactly 80 years ago that the emergency landing of the Mission Belle took place. At 13 o'clock the official program will begin at the monument on the Lek dike.

The program mentions a few speeches and wreath laying, and in the background raising the Dutch and American flag.

A planned fly-over was canceled because the plane necessary for this was unavailable. As usual re-enactors in original uniforms will show the atmosphere of back then.

The re-enactors will also take care of the Color Guard. a detachment of soldiers, who were appointed to protect regimental colors and national flags. This job is very prestigious and the military colors will be generally worn by a ensign, while two M1 Garand carriers will be appointed to protect the flags. They can be armed with sabers, or in this case, with rifles to protect the colors.

The School with the Bible from Streefkerk, who adopted the monument, will also give a contribution to the program. Mayor Segers, children's mayor Roos Zeevalking and army preacher reverend Van Driesten as well as the Royal Koninklijke Fanfare Apollo have give their contribution.

We hope that many inhabitants from Nieuw-Lekkerland and surrounding area will show their interest in the young people who gave their lives for our freedom, by their attendance.

**Reserve the date:**

**November 25th, 2023 at 13:30 hours. Mission Belle  
Remembrance at Lek dike bij nr. 26**

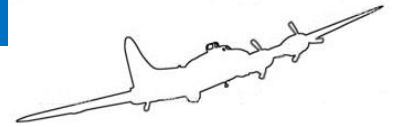


November 7th, 2023

Year 6, issue 2

## Newsletter

### Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



### From the board

- Mrs. Barry Ouweneel is finalizing her work for the third print of the book 'We knew it would be a long day'. The difference with the previous two editions is the expansion of the text with the story about the realization of the monument and a report about the unveiling on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There is also new photographic material added. The presentation of the new edition is planned to take place in the month of February 2024. Date and place will be published later.
- In America, on October 13th, 2023, Paul Josephson, son of Carlton A. Josephson passed away. He was present in 2018 during the revelation of the monument. In September 2023 Dick Johnson passed away. He was a nephew of Carlton A. Josephson. He was also present in 2018. May they both rest in peace.
- We would like to give this lustrum year extra distinctiveness by releasing a paper model of the Mission Belle. The design is finished already. The financing for the print will take some effort.

