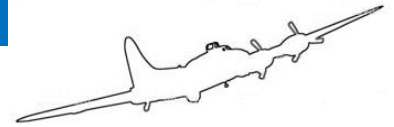


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Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



In Memoriam



On June 23rd, our board member and honorary member Kees Stam passed away at the age of 93 years.

Kees played an important role during the establishment of the Mission Belle Foundation B17-G Memorial and the realization of the monument for the Mission Belle and her crew. Besides that, Kees contributed a lot with realizing the newsletters and the redaction of the third print of the book "We Knew It Would Be A Long Day" which was released on April 25th. We shall remember Kees as a warm and involved personality, we have a lot to thank him for.

On June 18th, we could nominate him as honorary member of the Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial.

The planning was to surprise Kees with that, during the presentation of the book on last April 25th. Some circumstances were the reason it could not take place. That's why our chairman André Hoogendoorn, on Tuesday June 18th, surprised Kees Stam with this. It was done in presence of his son, Teus Stam.

Presentation book



On April 25th we presented the third print of our book "We Knew It Would Be A Long Day". In this third print, the history is a readable story connected with the actuality of the monument and the importance of remind and remember. So, we will never forget. For this part, the following chapters were added; we should do something with that, the unveiling of the monument, remembrance in perspective and 80 years after the emergency landing. There were also some completions and corrections added in the previous versions.

There were a lot of photos added into the book, which might help many, who were at the unveiling in 2018 or the remembrance in 2023, to see themselves or others in this book.

At the closing of this presentation, the book was officially given to alderman van Helden of the Molenlanden County and to Mrs. Barry Ouweneel, who edited and took care of the style of the book.

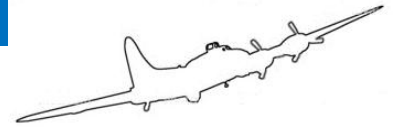
The cover was designed by Bert de Jong of the Young Design Xperience Studio.

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Remembrance May 4th and 5th



On May 4th and 5th flag protocol was followed.

On May 4th, at 11:00 o'clock a flower arrangement was laid by Mrs. A. van Hoorne-Muilwijk.

Mrs. van Hoorne was an eyewitness, who we got in touch with last April.

She has seen the Mission Belle fly lowly over the river on December 1st, 1943 in Streefkerk, while she was under assault of German fighter planes.

Remembrance Memorial Day



Memorial Day is an American remembrance day, held on the last Monday of May, when the deceased American military will be remembered. On December 1st, 1943, during the fight and emergency landing, 3 American crew members of the Mission Belle got killed.

On Monday May 27th, at 08:30 o'clock, the American and Dutch flags were hung half mast. At 11:45 o'clock, Huig den Besten, remembering an honoring them, laid a flower arrangement at the Mission Belle monument. After laying the flowers, there was a minute of silence.

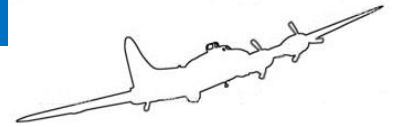
At 12:00 o'clock the flags were lifted into the top of the mast by Huig den Besten and board member Erik de Ridder.

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Guest lesson



Thursday July 4th we could give a guest lesson at the School with the Bible in Streefkerk.

We gave attention to the plane, the crew (young men in average 24 years old) and how extreme it was what this crew endured. With a short fragment from the movie "Masters of the Air" we have shown how hard an air war is. We also gave information about rescuing the 7 crew members who survived the crash and also their time in a prisoner of war camp. Also the involvement of some people who lived nearby the crash site was given attention. Finally we remembered the deceased crew members, Harland Sunde, John Healy and Doyle McCutchen. What was their role, and when and where were their bodies found and laid to rest.

Remembrance November 30th 2024

On Saturday November 30th from 13:30 o'clock to about 14:15 o'clock we hope to organize the yearly remembrance. At this moment we are preparing for this. Luckily we can see that a lot of people are willing to lend a hand. Put this date in your agenda and will you be there?

Lest we forget!

Board matters

At the moment we are looking for a new board member.

Here a sketch of who we are looking for:

A (young) man or woman, preferably from Nieuw-Lekkerland or Streefkerk, who is interested in the war history. Who likes to create a newsletter or have contact with the press. But as a general member you will be welcome to think with us about remembering, fundraising and maintenance. For more information or to let us know if you're interested, you can let us know via info@missionbelle.nl.