



# Newsletter

Year 8 | Number 1 | Mission Belle Foundation

## *Intro*

Here again for you is a newsletter of the Mission Belle Foundation. We like to involve you with the monument at the Lek dike in Nieuw-Lekkerland. A place that reminds us daily what happened over there during World War 2 and helps us to remember the fallen crew members until today.

Thank you for your involvement and support! This will help us to keep on telling the story of the Mission Belle and pass on, also to the younger generations!

A salute in brotherhood,

Cor Brand

André Hoogendoorn, chairman

Erik de Ridder

Heleen Stam, secretary

Piet Vat

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## Remembrance November 2024

Also in 2024 we organized the yearly remembrance, on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Children's Mayor Maren Mourik, Mayor T. Segers and pastor of the army Nederveen from Nieuw-Lekkerland held a short speech / meditation. Also students from the School with the Bible from Streefkerk provided a contribution. They were given a certificate, which said that they will take care of the monument. The presence of the re-enactment group gave the remembrance a fitting military presentation. Besides that, there were several military vehicles to admire of the 'The Green Virus' Foundation. School-children and guests were brought to the monument with army trucks and also other children were allowed to take a seat in these vehicles to take a photo. The Ensemble of Royal Apollo played along the event with music.

The two minutes silence to remember, hoisting the flags and playing the National Anthems, where veterans gave a military salute, were impressive moments for all people present. Finally, various wreaths were laid at the memorial with the re-enactors and children were asked to lay a white gillyflower.

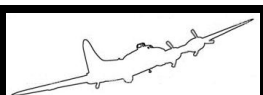


On Christmas Eve, 3  
candles were lighted  
*#nagedachtenis,*  
*eerbetoon*

### *In Memoriam*

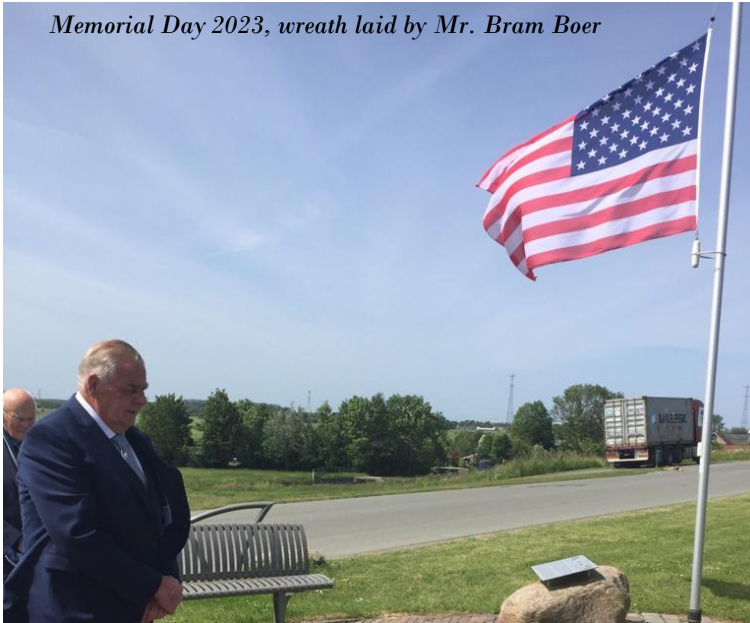
On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, eyewitness Mr. A den Ouden passed away at the age of 90 years.

Mr. den Ouden told us on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, during the official morning program of the unveiling of the memorial, about his recollection of the shooting of the B17 bomber by German fighters. Mr. den Ouden also laid a wreath, with his wife (and local children) on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the monument. We wish the relatives a lot of strength to live with this loss.





Memorial Day 2023, wreath laid by Mr. Bram Boer



## Involvement schools

There is a structural contact with the School with the Bible from Streefkerk. Every year there will be held a presentation in group 8 and some students of that Group give a contribution during the annual remembrance. **To ask** structurally at other schools in Molenlanden / Nieuw-Lekkerland, attention about World War 2 and local history of the Mission Belle, we are connected with the Learning Line Heritage of County Molenlanden. We told you about this in the newsletter of April last year. Meanwhile there is a concept lesson that will be made definitive in the first quarter of 2025. The starting point will be that the lessons will be given by teachers or guest lecturers. This in preference with a visit to the monument.



Update: on our website you can find the annual account of 2023.

For the maintenance of the monument costs are made. You can help us to carry the costs by becoming a friend of the Mission Belle B-17G. You become friend by a annual contribution of minimal € 10,-. For this you will get twice a year a newsletter and an invitation of the annual remembrance. You can enlist as a friend via: [secretariaat@missionbelle.nl](mailto:secretariaat@missionbelle.nl).

## Agenda 2025

*May 4th and 5th* | On both days there will be a flag ceremony at the monument on the Lek dike. On May 4th, in the afternoon at 14:00 o'clock, a wreath will be laid by Mr. D. van der Borg, former mayor of Molenlanden County. The administration will also be there.

*May 26th* | Also on May 26th, Memorial Day, there will be a flag ceremony, where in the morning at 11:45 o'clock a wreath will be laid by someone from the society.

*November 29th* | On November 29th, the annual remembrance at the monument will be held, to remember and honor the crew of the Mission Belle. This remembrance starts at 14:00 o'clock at the monument. Lest we forget.

## Acquaintance new board member

*Hello, my name is Cor Brand, I am 59 years old, born in Streefkerk and I live since 1991 at the Lek dike in Nieuw-Lekkerland (across the monument). I work as truck driver for many years at the Eskes company. In my spare time I prefer to be outside. Gardening is a large hobby. I can be very active, but also enjoy the peace of the nature.*

*For a few years I also am mowing the lawn around the monument, where I often have nice contacts/conversations with visitors. During my maintenance of the monument I got in touch with Andre Hoogendoorn, who asked me to become a member of the board of the Mission Belle. I pretty proud about that.*

*Another hobby is my interest of the history of World War 2. I often have read about that a lot. But I didn't know about the story of the Mission Belle. When the monument came, I started to get into it. I went to the information night and bought the book and read it. I also bought the second edition of the book and read it too.*

*I hope we will have a great time together!*

