



Year 8 | Number 2 | Mission Belle Foundation

Intro

Here again a newsletter of the Mission Belle Foundation. We like to involve you with the monument at the Lekdijk in Nieuw-Lekkerland. A place, which reminds us every day what happened during World War 2 and helps us always to remember the military men.

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

A salute in brotherhood,

André Hoogendoorn, chairman

Heleen Stam, secretary

Cor Brand

Piet Vat

Pieter van de Minkelis

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Dutch Memorial Day, May 4th, 2025

On Sunday afternoon, May 4th, we have, in brotherhood with many others, contemplated with those who have fallen for the freedom of our country. It was beautiful to experience that from our town and surrounding area there was so much compassion.

A wreath was laid at the Mission Belle Monument in Nieuw-Lekkerland by Piet Vat.

Because we live in freedom for so long, it's important to keep on remembering. As a reminder and tribute to those who gave their lives for our freedom. So that we keep on realizing that freedom is not self-evident and asks for our responsibility.



U.S. Memorial Day May 26th, 2025

Monday morning, May 26th, there was a short remembrance at the monument.

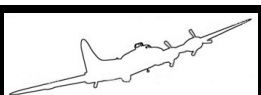
This moment was for Memorial Day. On this American anniversary, the lost American soldiers will be remembered for their service during the war.

The chairman of the Foundation, André Hoogendoorn, gave the words of welcome. After that, the students of group 8 of the Petrus van der Velden school, gave a contribution to this remembrance by reciting six beautiful and applicable poems.

Harold Schreuder, who, since the unveiling of the monument, helped us on behalf of the *Mighty Eighth* at the yearly remembrance, laid the wreath for the Mission Belle Foundation. After that, there was 2 minutes of silence

At the end, Piet Vat, board member of the Foundation, spoke shortly to the students and others, before the American and the Dutch flags were raised in top.

Raising of the flags was done by Harold Schreuder and Gerbert Kroon (teacher), helped by 2 students of the school.



Acquaintance new board members and member leaving:

Piet Vat:

I'd like to introduce myself as a new member of the board of the Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial. I am already in my 71st year and retired since last year's summer. I started as a



crewman on a ship on the river, after that, for over 36 years I worked at the ABN AMRO Bank. Since April 2010 I was an alderman in our beautiful county. Sadly my lovely wife Lena died in December 2018. Thankful and happy am I with my 8 children (4 of my own and 4 spouses) and 16 grandchildren. They are my love and my life. My hobbies are painting, cycling and sailing on the Freedom. When I stopped working last year, my wish was to do something voluntarily, and I am glad to do so on several fronts in our society. I was also asked to become a board member of the Mission Belle Foundation. I did like to join them, especially because the Foundation's history is a part of what happened on the Nieuw-Lekkerland territory. I'd love join others to and make sure the history of the Mission Belle will be kept alive by remembering and commemorate. So that we won't forget, what they did for our freedom.

Pieter van de Minkelis:

My name is Pieter van de Minkelis, 45 years and living in Nieuw-Lekkerland, together with my wife and 2 daughters. In daily life I am working in Interior Construction, where I am commercially responsible for the department of Interior Building within our beautiful company Hoogendoorn 1961.

My hobbies are jogging and history, especially World War 2. I read a lot about it. I am a member of some associations and love to visit museums or monuments, etc. When I was asked to become a member of the board of the Foundation, I did not have to think a lot about that. I was not so much interested in the air war, but I am now getting more into it, like the planes, especially the B-17G. The plan

is, when I am more 'read in', I will add a category to this newsletter: 'Enhanced' where I can so every now and then write about some details of the B17-G or the air war in general or other relevant subjects. I hope we will have a great time together and will keep the memories alive!

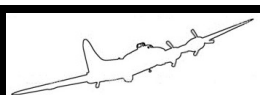


Vacancy treasurer:

Because he moved to another regio, Erik de Ridder has said goodbye to our board. We thank Erik also through this newsletter a lot for his effort for the Foundation!

There is now a vacancy for the function of treasurer. The board is looking for an adequate successor in this position.

If you're interested, you can contact us at: secretariaat@missionbelle.nl



Agenda 2025:

On November 29th, the yearly remembrance will be held at the monument, to remember and honor the crew of the Mission Belle. This remembrance will start at 13:30 o'clock at the monument. You are very welcome!

Open day Molenhoeve:

On last June 28th, there was an open day at the Molenhoeve farm in Streefkerk. The Molenhoeve celebrated her 15th anniversary and opened her doors for everyone. This beautiful organization, with a heart for people, has celebrated this way with a lot of delight and activities. As Foundation, we also have been given a place where we could present ourselves. We were very glad that we could create many contacts and made new friends! We would like to thank the organization of the Molenhoeve for this opportunity!



Becoming a friend:

To keep the preservation of the monument, there will be expenses. You can help us to Carry the costs by becoming a friend of the Mission Belle B-17G. You will be a friend by donating at least a yearly amount of € 10,-. For this you will get twice a year a newsletter and an invitation for the yearly remembrance. You can enlist as a friend at:

secretariaat@missionbelle.nl.

Mission Belle Book:

For sale: the third print of our book 'We wisten dat het een lange dag zou worden' (We knew it would be a long day in Dutch), with a lot of new information.

The book will cost € 14,95, postage and package excluded. In this third print, the history is a readable story linked with the actuality of the monument and with the importance of reminding and remembering. For this, the following chapters have been added; we have to do something with that, the unveiling of the monument, remembrance in perspective and 80 years after the emergency landing. There have also been made some additions and corrections of the previous editions.

The book is of course, provided with a lot of photos, and it will be likely that many who were at the 2018 unveiling or the 2023 remembrance, could recognize their selves or others in this book.

Action:

When you decide to become a friend of the Foundation and are interested in this good book, we can offer the book including membership for one year for € 20,00 (postage and package excluded). Send an e-mail to:

secretariaat@missionbelle.nl

