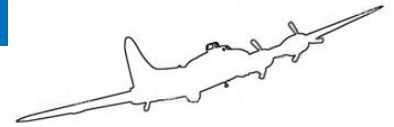


July 2nd, 2020

Year 4, number 7

## Newsletter

### Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



## Limitations and possibilities

Despite the limitations of the last months (as result of the Corona-crisis), the Mission Belle Memorial at the Lek dike was regularly in the news. The ceremony of Memorial Day was a highlight of the events that happened the last few months, just because we felt the affiliation with our liberators of that period the strongest. With that we start our newsletter in a sequence of announcements. Given the many visitors who are at the monument, among them a lot of cyclists, we try to keep the surroundings in perfect condition, among other things by placing bicycle supports. We also got our own flag-poles. Important to mention is the publication of our annual report (with a positive result). We will keep on thinking about the question how we can commemorate the occupation and the liberation and that it will remain on our agenda of society. We are sure that we get a lot of endorsement and support of many.



- May 4th, 2020

## Ceremony, May 4th and 5th, 2020

On the evening of May 4th, 2020, a small ceremony took place at the Mission Belle Memorial, which was graced by the presence of a group re-enactors of the Delaware Company. Before the 2 minutes of silence, the Last Post was played. After that, the Dutch and American national anthems were performed.



- May 25th, 2020

## Memorial Day, May 25th, 2020

Although Memorial Day, the American remembrance of the fallen in all wars, is little known in Holland, we use this opportunity for a modest, but not less impressive wreath laying ceremony. This year, Ruud Boele, chairman of the Historical Society of the Western Alblasserwaard region, did this task. The photo to the left shows the impression of this sober ceremony. As usual, the American and Dutch flag were hanging half-mast. At 12:00 hour the flags were raised in top.



- Flowers and artwork

## Compliment for a monument

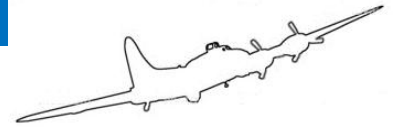
Because of the National Celebration of the Liberation, we, with our monument, entered a competition on behalf of the Province South-Holland, for the so called Compliment, a prize of our province and the May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Committee, for a appealing monument, which has a place in society. Every year this is organized by another province. It was a big surprise that under the cover of an interview at the monument, we got the announcement that we were the winners of this award. Flowers, an artwork and a check did underscore the appreciation of the jury.

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## Newsletter

### Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



- *Flag poles*

## Designing the environment of the monument

### Placing flag poles

A sponsor, who likes to be anonymous, gave us two flag poles. Until now, the county Molenlanden gave them to us when we needed them for ceremonies. It had to be arranged every time, so permanent flag poles were more than welcome. The placing, finishing off waterproof and assurance did take some technical effort, but the result can be seen. The build-in flag lines will prevent annoying beating when the wind blows hard and they will stay clean.

### Placing bicycle supports

Among the many visitors of the monument are many sporty cyclists who need a good location to put their bicycles. Thanks to the loyal cooperation of the central administration, two Velopa bicycle supports are ordered. They will be placed in August.



- *Lecture for School with the Bible*

## Visits

On June 18th a meeting was organized with Group 8 pupils of the School with the Bible from Streefkerk, the school who adopted the monument. Our Board gave a lecture at the monument about the history of it.

Besides the visitors that look at the monument daily, our website is also frequently visited. The counter of unique visitors, from the launch of the website until June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 shows 13.486.



- *Pupils laying flowers at monument*

## A new eye-witness on paper

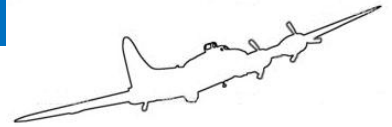
An observant person from Nieuw-Lekkerland told us about the release of a book, wherein Cornelis Eijkelenboom, a cheese seller from Lekkerkerk made a war diary in rhyme. This businessman lived during the war straight across the river of the crash location of the Mission Belle. There are some passages in the book about this crash. Among them the fact that the plane was shot at by two German fighters and that the tail gunner was still firing his gun. Things we did not know. So it seems that the writer is a new eye witness for us.

July 2nd, 2020

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## Newsletter

### Mission Belle Foundation B-17G Memorial



- Source:  
*alblaserdams  
nieuws.nl*

### 'Incident' with a happy ending

On May 25th there was a strange incident at the monument. At the monument were two children's bicycles, while no-one was seen, even in the swampy Vogeltjesland, close by. A person who was passing by warned the police, and they created a big alarm, because the area is close to the Lek river.

Finally, it seemed that two young ladies were having a quiet pick nick, totally unaware about the uproar they created. The Lek River and Lek dike were for a while the scene with a lot of emergency people. We got a photo of it, with a view on the Lek river, as the de pilot of the Mission Belle should have had, shortly before the crash.

### Agenda of the foundation

Worth mentioning is the release of our annual report of the year 2019 with a positive result as conclusion, a document we should have because as a foundation we have the ANBI -status. It will be shown on our website soon.

The county Molenlanden awarded us a grant for making a showcase for the parachute, the only real remaining evidence of the Mission Belle we have. It will be a replaceable showcase we can use at lectures.

We should, this year, be the host of the South-Holland Assembly for Small Counties (ZHVKK). We are waiting to find out how this can be organized.

This year there will be a new flyer, made to keep the attention on our memorial permanently and to find sponsors who can donate regularly so we can cover the yearly costs.