<https://www.4en5mei.nl/nieuws/nieuwsbericht/371/nieuw-lekkerland-ontvangt-compliment-voor-een-oorlogsmonument>

Translation:

**Nieuw-Lekkerland receives Compliment for a War Monument**

April 30th, 2020

**The Mission Belle B-17G Memorial in Nieuw-Lekkerland received the *Compliment for a War Monument 2020*.**

André Hoogendoorn and Kees Stam of the Mission Belle B-17G Memorial Foundation in Nieuw-Lekkerland were given an artwork from the artist Jolien Wesselink (from the province of Southern Holland) and 1.000 Euros to support activities that will keep the monument ‘alive’. That is for management and preservation of the monument and organizing educational activities.

The province of Southern Holland and the National Committee 4 and 5 May both presented theCompliment for a War Monument 2020 today. Chairman of the jury and Commissioner of the King in Southern Holland, Jaap Smit: “This still very young, appealing monument is created from an initiative in Nieuw-Lekkerland, the people are maintaining it themselves and a lot of schoolchildren and tourists are visiting it every year. The jury saw that as reason to say: this year the *Compliment for a War Monument* will go to this beautiful monument.”

The jury has judged the participants on several points, among them the way the monument is kept ‘alive’. They also looked at the way how management and preservation of the monument is organized, for now and in the future. The jury members are: Jan van Kooten - National Committee 4 and 5 May, Mariëlle Hendriks - director Heritage Southern Holland, Gert-Jan van Rijn – curator/educator Museon and Jolien Wesselink - artist. The five Southern Holland ambassadors of freedom have judged the contributions on behalf of the province.

**Artwork**
The winner was given, next to the 1.000 Euros, to support her activities, the by Jolien Wesselink created artwork ‘Dansante’. This artwork symbolizes freedom and movement.

**National Celebration of the Liberation**
The province of Southern Holland is guest province for 2020 of the National Celebration of the Liberation. In the run-up to May 5th, several projects were organized in the province, including the *Compliment for a War Monument.* Because of all the measures against the Corona virus, the remembrance and celebration on May 4th and 5th will take place in a customized manner.

<https://www.rijnmond.nl/nieuws/194910/Mission-Belle-in-Nieuw-Lekkerland-krijgt-Compliment>

Translation:

**Mission Belle in Nieuw-Lekkerland gets Compliment**

Written by Marcia Tap

The Mission Belle B-17G Memorial in Nieuw-Lekkerland has received the ‘*Compliment for a War Monument* ', an award that is given yearly by the National Committee 4 and 5 May. The monument, located at the Lek dike, honors the three crew members of the American B-17G bomber ‘Mission Belle’ who came down in the river Lek on December 1st, 1943.

The plane left England for a mission over Germany. It got shot at over there. One of the crew members got killed. On the way back to England the Mission Belle was chased by German fighters.

## Emergency landing

The pilot made an emergency landing in the Lek river, halfway Nieuw-Lekkerland and Streefkerk. Two crew members drowned during the rescue efforts. The plane was finally salvaged in 1955.
In 2016, among others, André Hoogendoorn and Kees Stam took the initiative to create a monument for this relatively unknown story.

The unveiling of the Mission Belle B-17G Memorial was in September 2018. And now, the monument received the *Compliment for a War Monument* award. This is an initiative of the National Committee 4 and 5 May. The Compliment is awarded every year in the host province of the National Celebration of the Liberation. In 2020 it will be Southern Holland. There were five nominees.

Because of the Corona crisis, the festive announcement of the winner was canceled. André Hoogendoorn and Kees Stam were told that they would be interviewed at the monument by Rijnmond about their nomination.

During the interview they were suddenly told that the Mission Belle B-17G Memorial had won. “Wonderful, super, we never expected this”, was the first reaction by Hoogendoorn. “The nomination was already great. And it will be very exciting with five nominees. We are very thankful that we have won this award.”

## 'Living' monument

A jury judged the participants on several points, one of them was how the monument was kept ‘alive’. Chairman of the jury and Commissioner of the King of Southern Holland, Jaap Smit explains why the Mission Belle gets the Compliment for a War Monument: “This still very young, appealing monument is created from an initiative in Nieuw-Lekkerland, the people are maintaining it themselves and a lot of schoolchildren and tourists are visiting it every year.” Smit thinks it is an appealing monument: “I have been there myself and it looks beautiful.”