



Another Monument

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Another Monument

Plane crash “de Heikant”

June 28, 1943; the day that 608 RAF airplanes took off for a nightly bombing aimed at the city Cologne.

From airport Melbourne in Yorkshire, the 10th squadron, group 4 Bomber Command, joined them with Halifax B11 bombers.

540 planes reached their target area, however 25 were shot and crashed in the areas of Aalst, Waalre, Boekel, Netersel, Nuenen and Aarle-Rixtel.

Night pilot Major Radusch (I/NJG 1), who took off from Venlo, blocked the Halifax DT-783 of Stanley Peate.

Radusch shot at the bomber from below and at 02.33 uur AM, the Halifax B11 crashed near “de Wolfspuiten” in Aarle-Rixtel. The complete crew lost their lives.

They were given a temporary grave July 2nd and were moved to their final resting place in Woensel Eindhoven in October 1944.

Flight Officer Pilot Stanly Peate (England, 20 years of age)

Flight Sgt. Navigator Paul L. Rakoczy (USA, 22)

Flight Officer Airbomber Harace H. Pearson (England, 24)

Sgt. Airgunner A. Bailey (England, 21)

Sgt. Flight engineer. K. Pape (England, 22)

Sgt. Airgunner N. Erickson (England, 27)

Sgt. Airgunner Joseph G. Sweeney (Canada, 22)

Aarle-Rixtel received a small chapel on May 4th 1995, as a remembrance for this crew.



(foto Harrie Raaijmakers)

Introduction



Dear friends of foundation HMMH.

I would like to introduce myself as the newest member of the board at HMMH.

My name is Patrick van Seggelen, 48 years old, married and father of 2 wonderful boys.

My father-in-law Harrie Raaijmakers included me in the HMMH events over the last years. My wife Sandra translates the news letters to English for some years now and I have been helping out here and there during those years.

During the festivities of 75 years of liberation last September, I have seen how much the community of Mierlo-Hout and the villages in the neighbourhood enjoyed the superb organized events, which were set-up by the board of HMMH Henk van de Westerlo, Mario Coolen, Harrie Raaijmakers and of course with the help and support of the volunteers.

As new board member I find it important that people will always remember and celebrate freedom. As what is your life without freedom?

Regards,

Patrick van Seggelen

May 4 & 5

What a grand remembrance and festivities year it should have been, ended in a disappointment. Covid-19 hit hard, all national festivities around 75 years of Freedom were cancelled. The intelligent lock down was difficult, especially for the elderly amongst us, those in the care homes etc. We would like to give our compassion to those who have lost loved ones to this terrible disease.

May 4

The remembrance at “de Dam” in Amsterdam.

Where usually thousands of people gather, it was sad to see a small group of leaders like our King, Queen and Prime Minister. Those that lost their lives during the war, were however remembered with dignity and grace.

May 5

Festivities were planned to be bigger than before, however festivities like in Wageningen with veterans could not take place. The veterans who fought for our freedom 75 years ago, could not be celebrated and they missed their well-deserved tribute. Hopefully they can receive it next year.

As board of the foundation we proposed to not forget about these days and Gerben van der Els was willing to play the Last Post on his trumpet, May 5th at 8PM. Stichtingsbestuur het idee geopperd om deze speciale dagen niet zomaar voorbij te laten gaan.

This was broadcasted live by RAILCAM Nederland.

Werner van Hoof offered to give it a festive touch by playing upbeat music with his small hurdy-gurdy.

Lastly, there was a small delegation of the “Screaming Ducks” who honour the history of that period.



NL-DOET

In the week of May 15th we joint forces with members of CDA (political party), location Helmond, to get the job done after all.

Unfortunately we could not involve the school kids like we normally do every year. We had to keep ourselves to the rules that came with Covid-19.

Plants we bought before lock down, had to be put in the ground earlier. We now also created a walking path towards the compost pile. The monument and it's surroundings look great again. Thanks for your help, CDA delegation!



(foto's Mario Coolen)