

## **An other Memorial Monument**

**“NL-Doet”**

**New info boards**

**Dear friends,**

**2017 has started, not knowing what this year will bring us.  
As board we hope that you and your families will have a healthy and happy year.**

## **An other Memorial Monument**

**This time closer to home; the Willem Hikspoors bridge in Eindhoven.**



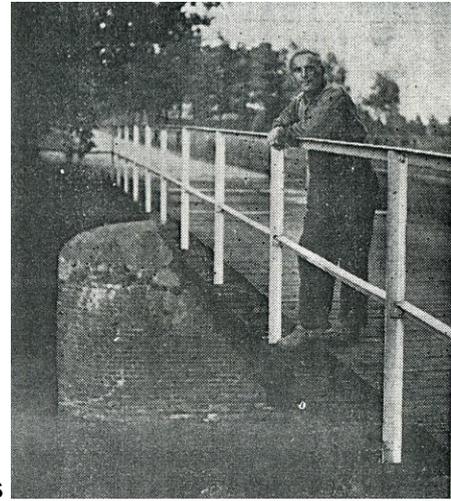
### **Location:**

**The Willem Hikspoors bridge crosses the stream Dommel, near the Soeterbeekse road in Eindhoven.**

**Operation Market Garden was in September 1944 and to succeed, the Americans created a bailey bridge in Son across the Wilhelmina canal. September 19th the Germans (107th armoured brigade lead by major Von Maltzahn ) prepared a counter attack in Nuenen against the British (XXX corps) who advanced towards Arnhem. The Germans were looking for ways to reach Eindhoven and Son and had to cross the stream the Dommel to do so. One of the options was the bridge at the Soeterbeekse road. They sent a reconnaissance unit with 5 halftrups-vehicles to see if the bridge can support the German tanks.**



Willem Hikspoors



At this bridge the Germans encountered Willem Hikspoors. Willem was gardner at Estate Soeterbeek and immediately understood what the Germans were up to. He convinced them that the bridge would not be strong enough, besides that he managed to save the son of the junker, who was seen as a spy by the Germans. Willem received an award for his courageous performance and in 1984 the bridge was named after him.

### “NL-Doet”

## Roll up your sleeves!

Spring is knocking at our doors.

Not just in our nature, also in your neighborhood. “NLdoet”, March 10 and 11, is the moment to volunteer and make a difference for, as example, a foundation, sportsclub or health facility. This is the biggest volunteer initiative in the Netherlands. Our foundation has officially registered at “NL-Doet”. “NL-Doet is an initiative of the “Oranje fonds”.

### **Fun day**

Together with the board and the 8th grade of St Odulfusschool, we will roll up our sleeves. We will do this March 10th 2017 between 9AM and 12PM. This morning we will do some chores on and around the memorial monument and at the cemetary in Mierlo-Hout. By involving the children, our foundation shows we should charish the youth of our community, This 8th grade class adopted out memorial monument for the year 2016-2017.

Next newsletter will include an impression of this morning.

### New info boards

This year, the board will commit to creating more info boards at several locations, that have played an important role in the liveration of Mierl-Hout. These info boards will combine text and pictures to clarify what happened at that location.

As a first project we will place a big rock at the location where we have had temporary graves for three soldierst hat died during the fights around the railway crossing in September 1944. This is in the Slegerstraat and next to placing this rock, we will also have an info board.

As board we will have the 8th grade of the St Odulfusschool reveal the info board. We will announce the date for this event timely, so you can be present as well if interested.