



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout

## Newsletter

Year 3, volume 2

March 2017

**75 years of liberation**

**An other Memorial Monument**

**NL-Doet**

**May 4 and 5**

**Dear friends,**

**As foundation we are slowly but surely focusing on the 75th liberation anniversary in 2019. You might think, this is still far away, however proper preparation is in place.**

**We would like to involve you in this journey.**

**Please inform in your network if there are people who have pictures or other materials from the second world war period. Maybe you know someone who is willing to tell his/her story from that period ? Our foundation would like to get in touch with them.**

**By gathering this information, pictures and other materials, we want to create a memorial book of 75 years of liberation.**

### **An other Memorial Monument**

#### **War monument at Castle Heeswijk**



Castle Heeswijk and monument

**Castle Heeswijk is situated about 10 kilometres south east of 's-Hertogenbosch in former municipality Heeswijk-Dinther, now Bernheze. The castle nowadays is a famous wedding and party location, next to being a museum.**

## Monument

At the south side of the castle, is a small park situated with a simple monument. This monument was opened September 17th 1994, in remembrance of airborne landings, 50 years earlier.

In 1944 amongst others, the 101st Airborne division was deployed at an attempt of the allied forces to get through to Arnhem and create a corridor for the advancing troops. Unfortunately the bridge near Arnhem was a bridge too far. Paratroopers and materials were not only dropped in the Arnhem and Nijmegen area, however also in the area south west of these cities.

## Airborne landings in moat

The monument at Castle Heeswijk remembers one of the special situations, happening during the airborne landings. An army chaplain of the 101st Airborne division, jumped on top of a colleague during the descent. Together they landed in the moat of Castle Heeswijk and they could climb out of the moat without issues. The army chaplain did have to dive back in once more to retrieve his equipment.

## Memorial tablet



War monument at Castle Heeswijk

The monument remembers this event in both Dutch and English. The chaplain's name is Lt.Col. Francis Sampson, he died January 28th 1996 in Minnesota USA.

## Memory

When you visit Castle Heeswijk or when you take a stroll around the castle, please don't forget to visit the monument. You can remember this special event in September 1944 and all these, mainly young, men who helped realize the freedom we currently live in, in the Netherlands.

## NL-doet

**Roll up your sleeves!**

**For the first time the board of HMMH, volunteers and the 8th grade of the Odulfusschool, have participated in “NL-doet”.**

**We were accompanied by nice weather this beautiful spring morning, March 10th. Everyone rolled up their sleeves to get several chores done at the memorial monument that has been located at de Houtse Parallelweg in Mierlo-Hout since 2011.**

**During the break everyone was well taken care of by means of coffee, chocolate and cake. The cake was baked by volunteers of the LEV-group Helmond. All participants were provided with a coupon for discount at a big DIY store as well by the initiators of this event; “Oranjefonds”.**

**The last chore of the morning was installing 2 flagpoles, with the 8th graders.**

**The monument looks spotless again. This day will be a yearly activity for our foundation, to also include the school during the year they adopt the monument.**

**The board of HMMH thanks all volunteers, LEV-group and students and teachers of St.Odulfus school to make this morning a success.**

**For an impression of this morning, feel free to look at the video through below link.**

**<https://nieuws.ditisonzewijk.nl/nl-doet-st-odulfusschool-hangt-vlag-in-top-bij-monument/>**



## May 4 and 5

**Flowers by 8th grade St Odulfus school.**

**Due to the May school holiday and CITO-exams, we have agreed with the teacher of the 8th grade to add the flowers to the monument while revealing the information plaque and the stone, at the place where in 1944 the temporary grave was situated, in the Slegersstreet. Date will follow as soon as possible.**

**Adding the flowers tot he monument, is part of the adoption path, created by the National Comittee May 4 and 5, taken on by the 8th grade for season 2016-2017.**

**You, as a friend or beneficiary, are invited to join this moment.**