



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout  
**Newsletter**  
Year 2, volume 4  
October 2016

**Memorial  
September 22, 2016**

**An other Memorial  
Monument**

### **Memorial September 22, 2016**



The weather gods were in a good mood this year. The memorial started at the Odulfusschool, the school adopted the memorial monument this year. Mr. Frans van Elderen informed the 8th grade and their teacher Pauline on the details of World War II during the morning.

After the lunch break they received an explanation at the memorial monument. Our chairman gave the group more details on the fights around the railway crossing and the soldierst hat passed away. Next to that he informed the kids on the contribution of Francien Coolen and the others mentioned on the memorial monument.

Afterwards de kids were brought to the Military War Cemetary in Mierlo, in old military vehicles.

The kids were unanimous that the drive to and from the cemetery was the best part of the day. They still talk about it after a month.

At the War Cemetery the kids and others interested received information from Mr. Ad Hermens. They walked by several graves and Mr Hermens explained what the soldiers contributed during the fights in the area.

After this visit to the cemetery, the kids were treated to a drink. The drinks were sponsored by RKS V Mierlo-Hout, for which we thank them.

The evening activity started with a memorial service in the St. Lucia Church.

For us memorable, seeing that Pastor van de Laar is back after recovering from a major traffic accident.

We invited some guests, amongst which alderman F. Stienen and former mayor F. Jacobs. Guild St. Antonius and 8th grade of St Odulfusschool were present as well. Singer Francis sang several songs, including "We'll Meet Again".

After the memorial service, all walked towards the memorial monument.

After several ceremonies, like speeches, placing flowers and the vendel greeting of the Guild St. Antonius Abt, the 8th grade placed candles on both sides of the path.

After closing the official part, the attendees were invited for a cup of coffee/ tea in care home Alphonsus.

We, as a board, look back at a successful memorial day and thank all attendees for joining us.

For more information and pictures of the monument, we invite you to check our site:

[WWW.hmmh.nl](http://WWW.hmmh.nl)

## An other memorial monument



## KZ Husum-Schwesing

Concentration camp Husum-Schwesing is located in the Schwessinger district Engelsburg, about 5 KM north-east of Husum. This camp opened September 26, 1944 as a satellite camp of concentration camp Neuengamme. This due to the build off he so called Friesenwall. 2500 prisoners out of 14 countries were imprisoned in the fall of 1944. Between 300 and 500 prisoners died due to servitude, malnourishment and abuse. The camp was closed again December 29, 1944.

## **Geography**

The area is located a few kilometres north-east of Husum in the district of North-Friesland, in between the main way Husum-Flensburg (now B200) and the former railway towards Flensburg. In that time, the area was called Engelsburg, which is the reason of the name KZ Engelsburg being used once and a while.

## **Usage as builders camp**

In 1938-1939 airport Husum-Schwesing was built. A camp was created for the builders near the village Schwesing. The capacity of the camp was 250 people. The Luftwaffe was located in Husum during World War II, only using dummy planes to mislead the allied bombers, who were coming from the Northsea. In 1940, the camp was temporarily used as a gathering point for the Wehrmacht soldiers, who went back to Scandinavia after their holiday.

In September 1944, the inhabitants of Husum had to construct a double ring of barbed wire with high towers at each corner.

The camp consisted of 9 barracks, 8 for prisoners and one as an infirmary. Besides that, the 3000 m<sup>2</sup> area contained 2 bigger buildings, where the camp kitchen, the warehouse, a tailor, a shoemaker and 4 temporary toilets were located.

## **Prisoners**

1500 prisoners from concentration camp Neuengamme were transported by cattle car from Reichsbahn to Husum-Schwesing, September 25.

Followed by another 1000 prisoners from Neuengamme, October 20.

The main nationalities were Dutch, French, Danish and Polish. Others were from the Soviet-Union and Germany. The oldest prisoner was the German politician Heinrich Neufeldt.

## **Everyday work**

August 28, 1944 Hitler instructed the build of the Friesenwall. A line of defense from the Netherlands to Denmark. He was afraid for an invasion from the Northsea. The prisoners only had a spade to excavate a 5 meter wide and 3 meter deep anti-tank ditch and other combat positions like shelters in heavy marshes.

Some were working in cold water and mud all day long. They were also exposed to the hits of the Kapo's, who had to motivate the workers, however were terrorised at random.

Older "incompetent" marines guarded the prisoners at work and at the often kilometres long road there.

The work in the camp was done under the eyes of the locals. Each day the prisoners walked through the village twice, in the morning and evening. The people in Husum had to transport the bodies of the deceased to the cemetery.

In December 1944 the Friesenwall became useless due to the completely changed military situation. The camp in Husum-Schwesing was closed and the

survivors brought back to Neuengamme. In total 22.000 prisoners worked at this line of defense, of which 50% was coming from the Netherlands. In February 1945, 250 km was finalized.

## Why this concentration camp?

One inhabitant of Mierlo-Hout, died in this camp. His name is mentioned at the memorial monument. He died of pneumonia.

## Johannes Martinus Maria Keijzers 1927-1944

Victim of war

Reached the age of 17

Born May 15, 1927 in Helmond

Died October 25, 1944 in Kdo. Husum-Schwesing, Neuengamme

|             |                                  |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Last name   | Keijzers                         |
| First names | Johannes Martinus Maria (J.M.M.) |
| Profession  | Student                          |

Dutch field of honor Lübeck in Lübeck-Vorwerk

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Grave Location | Square 37 |
| Row number     | 3 H 9     |

