

**Memorial stone temporary  
 grave 1944 - 1945**

**Memorial Sept 21 and 22**

**Dear Friends,**

To start with, my apologies with the delay in getting this newsletter out. Due to a personal event of moving houses and due to the preparation time required for the memorial of Sept 22, I have not been able to get the newsletter out faster.

**Memorial stone temporary grave.**

The 8th grade children of Odulfus school revealed the monument with information board, next to the entrance of the graveyard in the Slegersstraat Tuesday morning June 20. As mentioned in an earlier letter, this was the place where three killed soldiers received their temporary grave in Sept 1944. Not until a year later their remains were transferred tot he British war cemetary in Mierlo.



## Memorial Sept 22

This beautiful memorial is a good reference for our foundation. Our secretary Harrie found family members, after a long search that started in 2015. The first contacts with the relatives were in April of this year.

The relatives are children of the Chaplain that made sure the three killed soldiers received their temporary grave in the Slegersstraat during the liberation of Mierlo-Hout.

The Chaplain also wrote letters to the parents of these soldiers, to tell them the story how these soldiers, their sons, were killed.

A copy of one of these letters is displayed at the information board in the Slegersstraat. You will also find a picture of the Chaplain; Reverent Charles Spencer Edgington.

After contacting the Chaplain's son Patrick Edgington, he confirmed right away he and his wife Maxine were interested and willing to come to Mierlo-hout.

Without checking with us which hotel we would recommend, they booked the Carlton De Brug in Mierlo.



Patrick & Maxine Edgington-Norman

“Both their fathers have been in our region during Market Garden”

The board was pleased to welcome Patrick and Maxine Edgington - Norman in the afternoon of Sept 21, after which we gave them a tour in Mierlo-Hout. Patrick was deeply touched when he saw his father's picture on the information board in the Slegersstraat.



8th grade Jorisschool

The same morning, Harrie provided the 8th grade of the Jorisschool a lesson on Market Garden and its influence on the liberation of Mierlo-Hout and later the liberation of Helmond (three days later).

This lesson had an impact on the kids, they also talked about several grandfathers. Unfortunately, our guests could not joint his lesson.

The 8th grade of miss Arja adopted the monument this year.



School kids in the back of a war vehicle



We used old military vehicles to move between the places to visit on Friday morning Sept 22. Our English guests and the school children were first taken to the Monument at the corner Hoofdstraat/ Houtse Parallelweg.

Our chairman Mario Coolen explained the background of the Monument.

Next stop was the war cemetery in Mierlo, where Ad Hermens explained about the cemetery.



Ad Hermens



Cemetery Mierlo



As each year, the evening memorial started with a church service in the Lucia Church in Mierlo-Hout. Unfortunately, the guild could not be present this year.



The Fire Brigade Pipes & Drums of Greater Baltimore

The Fire Brigade Pipes & Drums of Greater Baltimore of the fire brigade Gemert took care of the musical accompaniment this memorial evening.

After the church service, we went to the Memorial Monument where many people witnessed the different speeches and offering of flowers and bouquets.



Patrick Edgington read his father's letter, to the parents of one of the three killed soldiers, aloud.

After the "Last Post" by Gerben van Elst, the kids were last to place candles at the monument.



To close the evening, we had a nice gathering in nursing home Alphonsus. Here we said our goodbyes to Patrick and Maxine. They would follow their journey on Saturday towards Ieper and Normandy.

The memorial and all visits made in the 2 days, deeply impressed our English guests.

Interesting to know is that Maxine's father, Howard Wyle Norman was a Captain during the liberation in Eindhoven.

Harrie continues his search to find more information on both their fathers.

Patrick and Maxine advised they would like to return to Mierlo-Hout for the 75th Liberation Memorial in 2019, of course only when their health allows.

For a complete impression of the Memorial, please find below links.

**Video:**

<https://nieuws.ditisonzewijk.nl/video-van-de-bevrijdingsherdenking-mierlo-hout-1944-2017/>

**Photo's:**

<https://nieuws.ditisonzewijk.nl/fotogalerij-bevrijdingsherdenking-mierlo-hout/>

## **Call for Help**

As a foundation, we started the preparations for the 75th liberation festivities in 2019.

First ideas are drawn up and first contacts to others made.

We would like to involve you; please don't hesitate to share your ideas for the festivities itself.

The board will then review if your idea can be executed.

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