



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout  
Newsletter  
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Sept 2020

### Just another memorial

76th freedom  
celebration

RABO Club greenhouse  
campaign

### Just another memorial

This time an object named after two fallen soldiers.  
A new bicycle and walking bridge has recently been installed over the Wilhelmina Canal in Oirschot.  
This bridge has the name Stönnner - Meijwaard bridge.



Rinus Stönnner & Willem Meijwaard

Both soldiers were members of the Princess Irene Brigade.

Rinus Stönner died on Oct 22, 1944.

Rinus Stönner had lived in Canada since 1931 and had to report for military service in 1942 with his brother. He was assigned to Battle Group I of the Royal Dutch Brigade Princess Irene.

In October 1944, Rinus Stönner's group was located on the south side of the Wilhelmina Canal near Oirschot. Oirschot was still occupied by the Germans. The Princess Irene Brigade had to prevent the Germans from crossing the canal. The staff of the brigade received the message on October 20 that the Germans had evacuated Oirschot. The first platoon of Battle Group 1 was ordered to send a reconnaissance patrol across the canal in the early morning of Saturday 21 October to see if there were any Germans left. On the south bank, the unit had deployed two light machine guns and a 2-inch mortar, as no enemy had been seen for two days. Around 5 o'clock in the morning the men of the patrol were transferred with three rubber boats. It was agreed that the canal would be crossed in silence, this meant that shooting would only take place when it was really necessary. When the boats were about halfway there, to everyone's surprise, machine gun fire rang out from close by from the north side. The fire was answered by the cover group on the south bank. The enemy fire died down, but it soon became apparent that the boat in which Rinus Stönner was sitting had been shot.

Rinus and his corporal Bodes had hit the water. Stönner was injured. The corporal was uninjured and alert enough that he immediately came to Stönner's aid and managed to take him swimming to the safe bank on the south side at De Heuvel. There he was placed on a stretcher and ready with an ambulance jeep that was taken to the Binnenziekenhuis at Vestdijk in Eindhoven. During the investigation there it turned out that he had such injuries to his back, lungs and intestines from machine gun bullets that medical intervention was no longer possible. Rinus Stönner died at the age of 20 in the early morning of October 22, 1944, 2 days before the official liberation of Oirschot.

Stönner was buried in the Commonwealth cemetery in Mierlo. The fact that his family lived in Canada will certainly have played a role in this. This makes him the only soldier of Dutch nationality at this cemetery. Box 7; Row A; No. 11.

Willem Meijwaard died on Oct 18, 1944.

Corporal Willem Meijwaard was a volunteer with the Marine Corps. About a hundred marines were added to the Princess Irene Brigade in April 1944.

He was working with a fellow soldier to make a new "dugout" (temporary shelter) at the Wilhelmina Canal when a German shell hit nearby.

Meijwaard was hit in the neck by one of the shards and died on the spot, he was 26 years old.

Willem is buried in the Grebbeberg military cemetery in Rhenen.



## 76th Liberation Commemoration

On September 22, we commemorate once again that we were liberated from German oppression 76 years ago.

This year will be different from other years. The corona virus has a major impact on the organization of various events. Also for our commemoration.

We have permission from the municipality for a maximum of 250 people present. So it will be fitting and measuring. Of course we also use the 1.5 meter distance.

A limited number of seats will be placed (max 50) and the others will be marked on the road surface.

We therefore hope that you will understand this.

### Program Sept 22;

- 10.00 am Explanation at monument dzv Mario Coolen
- 10.15 am Relocation of the adoption class to War Cemetery Mierlo in old military vehicles
- 10.30 am Explanation War Cemetery Mierlo dzv Harrie Raaijmakers
- 11.30 am Return to Memorial
- 12 noon Ignite Freedom Fire at Memorial by Youth Mayor Noël Silalahi
- 7 pm Remembrance Service St. Lucia Church
- 7.45 pm Commemoration at Monument



Also this year we as a foundation participate in the RABO club greenhouse campaign.

The corona crisis affects our society as a whole, but also associations and foundations.

These associations and foundations are the heart of our society.

You can cast your vote from 5 Oct.

With your vote you help our foundation.