



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout  
**News letter**  
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## Another Monument

NL-DOET

Hello friends,

2021 has already started several weeks ago.

The COVID-19 keeps us in a tight grip, further freedom restrictions, such as the curfew.

And what will the holiday season bring us?

Nevertheless, the board still wants to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2021.

## Just another memorial

This time for many people the unknown story about: **“the town hall disaster in Heusden”**.

A few hours before the Brabant town of Heusden on the Maas was liberated, a dramatic war crime took place. In the night of November 4 to 5 in 1944, German engineers detonated the town hall, the very place that the inhabitants used as a shelter.

What preceded:

On Saturday, November 4, something remarkable happened. Various people from Heusden saw that German soldiers carried boxes and baskets filled with sand into the town hall. This unusual German activity, which lasted well into the afternoon, aroused suspicion. Several people went upstairs to inspect the floors and the tower, but saw no peculiarities other than green army boxes and baskets of sand. One man even walked around the building armed with pliers, looking for possible guide wires, but he could find no danger. It was clear, however, that civil interference was not appreciated. One of the men who did not trust the case was noticed by some Germans. Enraged, they gave a rant and held him for a while.

That same evening it turned out that the German Red Cross group, which had its post in the parterre of the town hall, had disappeared unnoticed. The fact that the German telephone operators were still in their room on the ground floor reassured the people in the hiding rooms.

At around two o'clock, two blows were heard in succession that were so violent that they were well above the continuous violence. Both the tower of the Catholic and that of the Reformed Church turned out to be bloated. The Catholic Church was on fire and the fire threatened the adjacent monastery, where about a hundred people had sought shelter. While the grenades continued to hit, German soldiers walked back and forth.



The old town hall of Heusden in 1916

**At 02.20 AM there was a bang that was much more violent than the previous two. There was a huge cloud of dust where the town hall was and the contours of a meter-high pile of rubble could be discerned. The tower and the upper floors had fallen with their full weight on the ground floor. A small section in the back had been left, exactly where the German operators stayed, watching the destruction in bewilderment. Other than that, there was only debris.**

**Immediately after the disaster, men and women made every effort to free survivors from the huge mountain of stone that lay in the middle of the town. 134 people were killed. At the time, this was 10% of the total population.**



**Chaos, misery, and debris everywhere, that was the situation in Heusden.**

**Less than four hours later the Scottish tanks entered Heusden.**

**In the days that followed, more and more bodies ended up on the street. Some could be directly identified, others were unrecognizable. Protestants were placed with Protestants, Catholics with Catholics. They went on a flat cart to one of two cemeteries just outside the city. For nine babies it was not known to which denomination they belonged. To be on the safe side, they were taken to the Catholic cemetery. In a few days 134 people had to be buried. The youngest victim was four months old, the oldest 86 years old. The small, close-knit community of Heusden was in shock.**



Memorial stone General cemetery of Heusden (left)  
Memorial stone Dutch Reformed cemetery in Oudheusden (right)



**Memorial in memory of the killed residents of Heusden**

**Memorial - granite commemorative stone - artist F.v.d.Burgt.**

**Source: Wikipedia**

## **NL-doet**



## **Get to work!**

**Spring is coming again. Therefore, the surroundings of our monuments will be renovated again.**

**However, this activity has also been moved to a later date due to corona.**

**What normally always takes place in March has now been moved to May.**

**NL-doet, on May 28 and 29, provided of course that the covid-19 still throws a spanner in the works.**

**Our foundation has therefore officially registered with NL-doet, it is an initiative of the Orange Fund.**

**On May 28, 2021 from 10 AM to noon, we will be doing various jobs on and around the memorial and the monument in the Slegersstraat.**

**By involving students from "KC in het Hart van het Hout" we show that as a foundation we must cherish our youth. This is also their end of adoption year 2020-2021.**

**We will give an impression of this morning, in a later issue of our newsletter.**

**For more information about our Foundation, please refer to our website:**

**<https://monumentmierlohout.nl>.**