



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout
News letter
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Just another memorial

10 years of
Remembrance
Monument
Mierlo-Hout

Hello friends,

Just another memorial



F: H.Raaijmakers

Memorial Woeste Hoeve

On March 8, 1945, 117 men were shot by the German occupier in Woeste Hoeve in the municipality of Apeldoorn as a reprisal for the "attack" on Rauter, the highest German police general and head of the SS in the Netherlands.

On Saturday July 21, 1945, a simple monument was erected next to the execution site at the initiative of the BS (Internal Forces) from Loenen. It was a wooden cross, made by carpenter Reusken from Loenen. Boulders had been placed at the foot of the cross and nearby was a wooden sign with the following text:

"On 8-3-45, 117 patriots were brutally murdered here by the German usurpers."

History

In the night of 6 to 7 March 1945, an "attack" was accidentally committed on Hanns Albin Rauter near the hamlet of Woeste Hoeve.



F: wikipedia

On March 6, the Apeldoorn underground had received a tip that the Wehrmacht would pick up three thousand kilos of meat the next morning from a slaughterhouse in Epe. Because of the food shortage among people in hiding and evacuees, that meat would come in handy in Apeldoorn.

A group of resistance members was ordered to beat the Wehrmacht and to collect the meat in Epe that same night. The group had German uniforms, but the cars the resistance group had were not suitable for such a large load. They decided to hijack a Wehrmacht truck.

The abandoned piece near Woeste Hoeve seemed the most suitable for the execution of their plan. Quite a few German trucks drove back and forth between Apeldoorn and Arnhem.

When the group heard a heavy car approaching near Woeste Hoeve, they thought it was a truck. However, it turned out to be an open BMW with German officers. In the ensuing firefight, the driver of the car was fatally shot, as was the officer sitting in the back.

The man sitting next to the driver was still alive and pretended to be dead. It later turned out that it was Rauter, the highest German police general and head of the SS in the Netherlands.

It was clear that the Germans would not let it go. After such an incident, it was common for reprisals to be taken in the form of the shooting of imprisoned resistance members, Dutch celebrities and politicians.

Rauter himself had been the initiator of these reprisal measures in the Netherlands. He had even set clear quotas, such as 10 lives for a German dead and 3 for a Dutch dead in German service, etc. In June 1944, Hitler had ordered that the trials of resistance fighters should be stopped. The German SD was then given free rein to do what they wanted with people who they arrested, they became the so-called Todeskandidaten.

In mid-September, Rauter gives the order to shoot the resistance members on the public road as a reprisal and to leave their bodies for a long time. Passers-by were forced to watch the executions. In this way they hoped to break the resistance.

Now that Rauter himself was the victim, it became a reprisal on a large scale. SS-Brigadeführer, and head of the SD in the Netherlands, Karl Eberhard Schöngarth took over from Rauter). He was responsible for carrying out the retaliation. Yet Rauter himself was no less responsible. He has never been unconscious and Schöngarth consulted with him at the hospital.

A total of 274 men were executed on March 8, 1945. In Amsterdam, Amersfoort, Fort De Bilt and on the Waalsdorpervlakte, 157 men were shot because of the "attack" on Rauter.

But the largest retaliatory action took place at the Woeste Hoeve hamlet.

117 men were taken from prisons in Assen, Zwolle, Almelo, Colmschate, Doetinchem and Apeldoorn. The youngest was 17, the oldest 75. All these men were executed on the morning of March 8 at the place where the monument now stands.

They were all first taken to the SD-Dienststelle in Apeldoorn. Here they met the greatest sadists the Veluwe knew at the time. They were so-called "rexists", mainly Belgians who had been transferred from Antwerp to Apeldoorn just before the fall. The most infamous of the group were Emiel Thonon (nickname "the rat"), Hermann Veit, Eugène Dirckx and Verhulsdonk. Oskar Gerbig had been commander here for several months. He had been transferred from Almelo, he was known as a reasonable person and had often prevented worse in Almelo. Unfortunately, he was no match for people like Thonon and Verhulsdonk.

The prisoners were handcuffed by these people and placed in 7 buses, after which they left in a column around half past six in the morning, preceded by Gerbig on his motorcycle on the way to Woeste Hoeve. The buses and lorries were parked two hundred meters from the De Woeste Hoeve inn, on a lawn at the three-way intersection with the road to Hoenderloo. Just past the inn a firing squad of 50 Germans was ready. The execution went quickly. Every five minutes a new group of twenty prisoners was picked up. The victims were then placed in a long line next to each other between the road and the bicycle path. The cyclists who passed had to dismount and walk past the victims.

In the afternoon all victims were buried in a mass grave at Heidehof cemetery near Apeldoorn. From April 25, 1945 (a week after the liberation of Apeldoorn) all 117 victims were exhumed again and identified except for 2 (one of them was identified in 2008). Most of the victims were then temporarily reburied together elsewhere on Heidehof, after which the majority were transferred to other cemeteries in the Netherlands in the course of 1945 and later by their families. Over the years, some of the victims have been reburied on the Loenen Field of Honor.

The relatives jointly ensured that a text was placed in the footpath to the monument. It is a poem by Dietrich Bonhöffer, a German theologian who from 1933 took part in the struggle against National Socialism. He was closely involved in a resistance movement and was murdered on April 9, 1945 in the concentration camp Flössenburg.

if you love someone
and you are separated from that one
nothing can fill the void
you shouldn't try that

you just have to accept and persevere
that sounds very harsh
but it is also a great comfort
because as long as the emptiness really remains empty
you will remain connected

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

How do you get to the monument?

De Woeste Hoeve is located on the Oude Arnhemseweg on the Veluwe between Hoenderloo and Beekbergen (municipality of Apeldoorn).

On the A50 take exit 22 (Hoenderloo).

Then follow the ANWB signs.

The route is also signposted from Beekbergen, Hoenderloo and Loenen.

The monument can be found diagonally opposite restaurant Woeste Hoeve (Oude Arnhemseweg 292, 7361TW Woeste Hoeve / Beekbergen).

More information can be found on the website: monumentwoestehoeve.nl

2011-2021

Ten years of Mierlo-Hout Memorial



Besides the 10-year celebration of our Memorial, it is also 77 years ago that we were liberated from German oppression.

On the occasion of the 10-year anniversary, we as board had thought to give the monument a nice upgrade. Two new names will also be added, which may be classified as a war casualty according to the criteria.

This unveiling will take place during the annual commemoration on September 22.

This year too, the youth will be included in the festivities. As an adoption school this year we have OBS 't Hout.

In the morning, the children will visit War Cemetery Mierlo, where they will be given a guided tour. The movement here to Mierlo and back is done with authentic military vehicles.

The freedom fire will also be lit at 12 noon, in the presence of the school children.

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

<https://monumentmierlohout.nl>

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