



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout
News letter
8th year Volume No.1
February 2022

Another Monument

NL-DOET

80th anniversary
2024

Hello friends,

2022 has already started a few weeks ago.

What will this year bring us?

Nevertheless, the board would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2022.

Just another memorial

Pegasus Bridge

The Pegasus Bridge is a bridge over the Caen Canal near Ouistreham in France. The bridge, also known as the Bénouville Bridge, was one of the key targets to be captured by the British 6th Airborne Division during Operation Deadstick prior to the Normandy Landings. The bridge was given the name Pegasus, because the British airborne troops had the flying horse "Pegasus" as a shoulder emblem.



F I Strijdbewijs

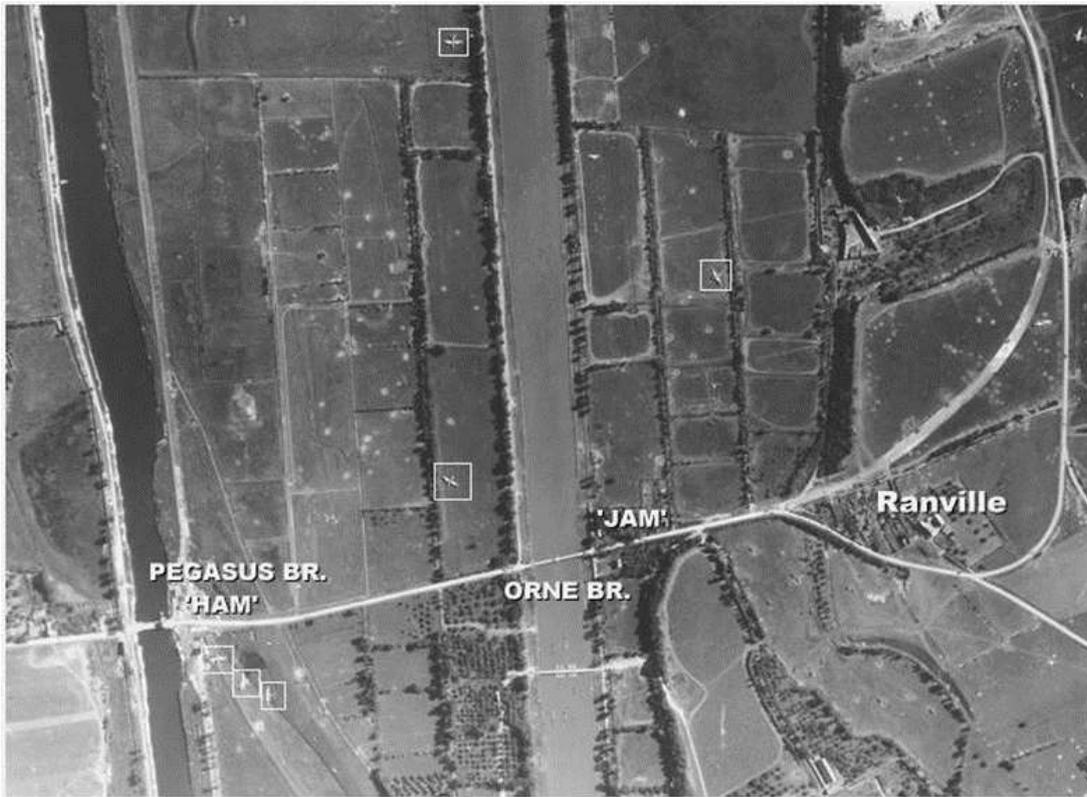
The bridge a few days after the capture; see the Horsa gliders under the trees.



F I Strijdbewijs

The bust of Major John Howard, and 'the man himself'

The attack on Pegasus Bridge was led by Major John Howard. He had two missions: to conquer the Pegasus Bridge and the bridge over the Orne which was 360 meters away. A total of 181 men, including the pilots, took part in the attack. The troops were divided into six towed Horsa gliders. The first took off on June 5 at 10:56 PM and the last at 11:01 PM. At 0.07 hours the first aircraft flew over the coast of France. At 1800 meters the tow ropes were thrown free. The first plane landed 42 meters from the bridge. Three other planes landed very close by. The intake of the whole took less than fifteen minutes.



F I Strijdbewijs

In the white squares the Horsa Gliders

After the British captured the bridge, they found wiring to blow up the bridge, but no explosives were placed. During the first night and the following day there were several smaller attacks by Germans that were repulsed. For example, around 1:30 a.m. on D-Day, an armored half-track armed with a cannon was set alight by Sergeant Charles Thornton with an anti-tank weapon.

At about 1:00 a.m., men from the Fifth Parachute Brigade joined Major Howard's troop and after the afternoon of D-Day, men from Brigadier General Simon Lord Lovat's 1st Special Service Brigade passed by. The café Gondrée near the canal bridge was the location where the wounded were cared for during this period. During the bridge action, two British were killed and five wounded.

The men of the other two Horsas simultaneously captured the bridge over the Orne without a fight. The Germans had fled. After this bridge was also captured, the code message Ham and Jam was sent to indicate that the operation was successful.

From the summer of 1944, the bridge over the Caen Canal was named the Pegasus Bridge in honor of the British airborne troops. The Orne Bridge was renamed Horsa Bridge.



F I H.Raaijmakers

A museum has been built in the immediate vicinity.

The Mémorial Pegasus, a museum to commemorate the events of 1944, was built in the immediate vicinity of the Pegasus Bridge. The most prominent item of the museum is the bridge itself. In 1994 the original bridge was completely replaced by a more modern bridge. This new bridge has the appearance and works according to the same principle as the old bridge. The old bridge was too narrow and not strong enough for heavy traffic. The French government wanted to demolish the bridge, but British veterans managed to buy it for the symbolic amount of a pound. The bridge lay in the open field for six years while money was being raised to prepare it as a museum object. The museum exhibits items related to the war operation. For example, uniforms and medals of men who participated in it are on display. The museum also pays attention to the bailey bridge system. Part of such a bridge is located on the museum grounds. A replica of a Horsa glider is also on display.



F I Wikipedia

The original bridge in the museum



F I Wikipedia

The Airspeed Horsa Assault Glider was a glider that was used extensively during the Second World War in Allied airborne operations. It was developed by the British firm Airspeed and named after the legendary conqueror Horsa. During operations they were mainly used for the British 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions. The Horsa existed in three versions; the AS51 Horsa Mk1, the AS52 and the AS58 Horsa Mk2. More than 3,750 units were built in total. These were all lost during operations or reused after the war as, among other things, temporary housing. The specimens placed in museums after the war are well-built replicas.

There are several monuments on the bridge, including a bust of Major John Howard



F I H.Raaijmakers

The new Pegagus bridge in open condition

Every year, on 6 June, various commemorations in memory of D-Day take place in Normandy. The same goes for the Pegagus Bridge.

With the permission of Pieter Jutte, administrator of the website [strijdbewijs.nl](http://www.strijdbewijs.nl), we were allowed to post some photos. For more info, look at: www.strijdbewijs.nl

NL-doet



Get to work!

Spring is coming again. So the surroundings of our monuments are being renovated again.

NL-doet, is originally planned on March 11 and 12. However, due to the corona virus, this activity can be moved to a later date.

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

On March 11, 2022 from 10.30 – 11.30 am, we will be doing various chores around the memorial monument and the small monument in Slegersstraat during the morning.

By involving students from "OBS 't Hout" we show that as a foundation we should cherish our youth. This is also their closure of adoption year 2021-2022.

We will give an impression of this morning in the next issue of our newsletter.

80th anniversary 2024

2 years prior to the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the South of the Netherlands, the first preparations have already started. See poster of LTF.



We will keep you well informed about these preparations, including ours, in the coming newsletters.

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

<https://monumentmierlohout.nl>.