



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout

News letter

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Mierlo-Hout 79 years of liberation

On Monday evening, September 18, a delegation of participating Peel municipalities collected the liberation fire in Eindhoven.

The fire was then transferred to the Maria cave in Mariahout for a night.

On Tuesday evening, September 19, the organization was in the hands of Stichting Vrijheidsvuur de Peel and the municipality of Laarbeek



Openluchttheater
Mariahout

Open-air theater Mariahout was the venue this year.

After the liberation fire had been handed over to Mayor Frank van der Meijden of the municipality of Laarbeek, various speeches were given and there was music to complete the event.

The liberation fire was handed over to the mayors of the 7 municipalities in Brabant and 4 in Limburg. The fire was then brought to locations in the region by various groups of runners.

By runners from HAC, the freedom fire was transferred to the St. Lucia Church where it was received by our board and lit on a special candle. Here the freedom fire continued to burn until the Friday evening of September 22.

In 2024, Helmond will be the host municipality from which the fire of freedom will be spread across the Peel region.



This year OBS 't Hout is the adoption school for 2023-2024.

A few days earlier, the OBS students received a PowerPoint presentation at school. On September 22, they were picked up in style with authentic vehicles from the WWII period.



It is customary for us to visit War Cemetery Mierlo with these children, from the two groups 8. But the first stop is always at the monument at the railway crossing, where Mario Coolen talks about the fierce fighting that took place there in 1944.



The group of children then went to Mierlo with the historic vehicles and an extra minibus from the Bergerhof Tours company, for a visit to the English war cemetery. This ride has been going via Slegersstraat for years and the vehicles drive past the memorial stone of the three fallen soldiers.

Harrie Raaijmakers was the person who informed the children through a tour at the military cemetery what some fallen soldiers meant to the liberation of our region.



Around twelve o'clock the freedom fire was picked up by the children in the St. Lucia Church.



The freedom fire was lit at the monument by Councilor Cathalijne Dortmans.

The evening commemoration started with a prayer service in the St. Lucia Church led by Pastor Pieter Scheepers



This service was again graced this year by Gemert Firebrigade Pipes & Drums.





There was also a delegation from the Guild of Saint Anthony Abbot

After the church service, the ceremony continued at the monument

In the past year, after research, our foundation has again managed to find out the name and photo of a deceased Mierlo-Hout resident. The fourteenth victim is Bert Sprengers, he died at the age of 23 in Barkhausen, Germany.

It was not until May 5, 1948 that the Sprengers family received official notification that Bert had died of pulmonary tuberculosis on November 15, 1944.

Barkhausen was a subcamp of Neuegamme.

Family member Bart Sprengers, together with our secretary Harrie Raaijmakers, unveiled the name and photo on the monument.



After Gerben van der Els sounded the Last Post and played the national anthems, wreaths and flowers were laid.



Wreaths were laid by councilor Cathalijne Dortmans and councilor Anja Spierings on behalf of the residents of Helmond.

Chairman Mario Coolen, HMMH foundation with Ernest Donders, LTF on behalf of the residents of Mierlo-Hout.

And on behalf of the Guild by King Stefan Vogels with his queen/consort Kitty.

Other visitors were also given the opportunity to leave flowers at the monument.



To conclude, children from the adopted school and other children placed candles on both sides of the path to the monument.

For more photos of the festivities, visit <https://monumentmierlohout.nl>



For this evening, our new board member Sandra Raaijmakers was asked to act as master of ceremonies. As a token of appreciation, at the end of the evening, she received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the chairman.

The foundation board would also like to thank everyone who helped with this event for their contributions and presence.

A special thanks to the photographers: Jan Dijstelbloem and Henk van Dijk, for making the photos available.

“You pass on freedom, we only have the monument on loan from our children”

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

<https://monumentmierlohout.nl>