



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout
News letter
9th year Volume No.6
December 2023

End of 2023

Another Monument

**Rabobank Clubkas
Campaign**

Acknowledgement



Dear Friends

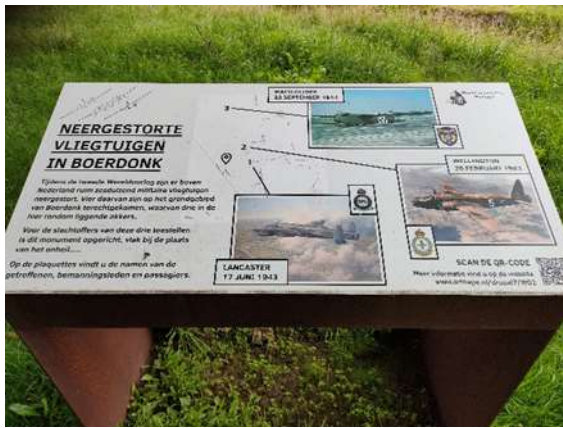
2023 has had its day.

What will **2024**, the **80th year of liberation**, bring us? We're going into it with a positive attitude and will try to make it a great year!

Another Monument

Planes shot down in Boerdonk





F I Harrie Raaijmakers

During the Second World War, approximately 6,000 military aircraft crashed in the Netherlands. More than 1,000 of these ended up in North Brabant. This concerns both Allied (British, American and Canadian aircraft with crews consisting of many more nationalities) and German aircrafts.

On February 26, 1943, a Vickers Wellington III bomber (Z1599) from the 426 Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force crashed near Boerdonk at 9:34 PM.

The pilot was F/Sgt. Harold Rands (25), a Canadian. He was killed in this crash, as were four other members of his crew: F/Sgt. William Wilson Cameron (27), radio operator and gunner, Canadian; Sgt. Richard Edward Dean (21), radio operator and gunner; Sgt. Robert Williams (31), gunner. These four are buried in Woensel, Eindhoven in graves JJB 29-32. The fifth casualty, also a Canadian, was F/O John Philip Monckton (23), navigator and bomb aimer. He has been buried since November 21, 1945 at the Canadian cemetery of honor in Groesbeek, grave XVI F 12, after having had an earlier grave in Woensel as well.

One crew member is said to have survived and was taken prisoner by the Germans: flight engineer F/Sgt. HEY. Vey of the RCAF, who was the only one to land by parachute on the other side (west side) of the Zuid-Willemsvaart. He ended up at Marinus Penninx's farm, where he was found by a person in hiding at that address. Vey was arrested by the police/marechaussee from Beek en Donk and transferred to the prisoner of war camp Stalag VIII B / 344 near Lamsdorf, where he was liberated on May 11, 1945.

On June 17, 1943, an Avro Lancaster III crashed again in Boerdonk at 1:41 am, not far from the place where the Wellington had fallen in February. This bomber was from the 49 Squadron.

This aircraft was flown by F/Lt. C.W. Dunnet.

It was one of 202 bombers that attacked Cologne that night.

The Lancaster ED497 of F/Lt. Charles William Dunnet (24) was shot by Hptm. Manfred Meurer in his night fighter from I./NJG 1. In addition to the pilot, the crew consisted of Sgt. Reginald Frank Middlebrook (37), flight engineer; Sgt. Robert Gordon Smith (21), navigator; Sgt. Michael Frederick Haley (21), radio operator/gunner; P/O Charles Arthur Edwards, gunner; Sgt. William Arthur Dutton (24), bomb aimer; Sgt. Richard Montacute William Selby-Lowndes (20), gunner. The plane crashed in Boerdonk near the Penninx family farm.

None of the crew members survived this crash. It was their third operational flight. Their remains are buried at War Cemetery in Woensel like the others. Dunnet lies in grave EE 69, the others more together in graves JJB 99-104.

Dunnet's remains were not found until 11 days after the crash. He was therefore not buried until July 2. Smith lies in grave JJB 107.

On Saturday afternoon, September 23, 1944, a Waco CG-4A glider of the American Air Force had to make an emergency landing in Boerdonk.

The aircraft was part of the last, direct supply flights for the paratroopers of the 82nd US Airborne Division, who landed in the Groesbeek area as part of Operation Market Garden on September 17.

The glider with serial number 43-39695 of 440TCG/98TCS was hit by German anti-aircraft fire above Schijndel.

The glider pilot, F/O Herbert J. Wasson, disconnected his glider from the tractor and made an emergency landing in Boerdonk, halfway between the Zuid-Willemsvaart/kanaaldijk and the Boerdonksedijk in a meadow belonging to H. Bekkers.

In Boerdonk, the glider pilot Wasson and four men were taken prisoner by the Germans. They were Private First-Class David C. Bailey, Corporal Henning E. Lindgren, Corporal George W. Simon and Sergeant Delman Whitt.

Private Walter J. Linehan was later found dead in the plane with a bullet through his throat and head. He had probably already been hit by anti-aircraft fire during the flight.

On the following Monday, members of the Erp resistance buried him at the Roman Catholic Church cemetery. In July 1945, he and a few other American soldiers were transferred to the temporary American cemetery in Wolfswinkel, Son and from there to the American cemetery in Margraten.

In September 1948 he was reburied at the Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Philadelphia, U.S.A.

The last two infantrymen, Staff Sergeant Lois W. Melvin and Captain Shelby L. White, were seriously wounded. The retreating German troops left the two overnight in A. van de Berg's farm on the canal dike (Antoniushoeve) in Boerdonk; this family had fled. The two were found there on Sunday morning by neighbor Brans. Her husband Frans alerted a command post of the American paratroopers in Veghel via a detour and from there the two were picked up by ambulance and taken to a dressing station/hospital; they were back in the U.S. after a short time.

For more information about crashed aircrafts:

<https://www.bhic.nl/ontdekken/verhalen/neergestorte-vliegtuigen-in-erp-1940-1945;>

STEM OP ONS!



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout

This year we again participated in the Rabobank Club Support

This year's proceeds are:

€ 169,50

We would like to thank all those who voted for us.

Acknowledgement

The liberation and commemoration festivities 1944-2023 in Mierlo-Hout were again made possible this year by our volunteers, partners, sponsors, the Damiaan parish and not to forget all those who have joined the club of: 'Friends of the Monument'.

The HMMH foundation board is very grateful to you and would like to express its respect and appreciation to everyone for all your small and large efforts. Our thanks also go to all family members who, after a funeral / cremation of a deceased loved one, donated or placed flowers at our memorial without obligation in 2023.

On behalf of board members, Harrie, Henk, Patrick, Ad and Sandra, we wish everyone very happy holidays and... may the new year be a year of which you say in all areas; it may continue for years!

Mario Coolen Chairman



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

<https://monumentmierlohout.nl>

Stichting HMMH ♦ p/a Binnenvoort 6 ♦ 5706 GB ♦ Helmond ♦ KvK 64271153
Telephone: +31 (0)622606053 ♦ Bankaccount: NL33RAB00149510217