



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout  
**News letter**  
10th year Volume No.2  
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## **Just another memorial**



F I H.Raaijmakers

### THE MONUMENT OF TOLERANCE

The Military Memorial Foundation was established in 2000 with the aim of creating a monument as a reminder of the war events in the years 1940-1945 and the hundreds of soldiers of many nationalities who served in the area between Noordervaart, Neers canal, the Maas and the Wessem-Nederweert canal and were killed. Since all military victims, from 11 nationalities, are commemorated here (Allies and German and Austrian victims), it is therefore rightly a Monument of Tolerance.

The Monument was unveiled on March 8, 2001, in the presence of many dignitaries and many veterans. In memory of the more than 800 soldiers (837) of 11 nationalities who lost their lives in the Leudal area in the service of their homeland and far from home.

The Monument of Tolerance is a regional monument.

The Military Memorial Foundation was partly established with the aim of maintaining the Monument of Tolerance in the Leudal area and to organize an annual commemoration ceremony, in collaboration with the Leudal municipalities. Since the current municipality of Leudal consists of the centers: Baexem, Buggenum, Ell, Grathem, Haelen, Haler, Heibloem, Heythuysen, Horn, Hunsel, Ittervoort, Kelpen-Oler, Neer, Neeritter, Nunhem and Roggel, the Foundation has decided, to include in the database of their website, all names of soldiers who died in the current municipality of Leudal as well as the former Leudal area.

The international commemoration takes place every year on the Thursday closest to November 16 (day of the liberation of the Leudal). Here, veterans from home and abroad, representatives and interest groups and various national and international dignitaries gather at this monument to meet each other and commemorate together. The highlight of the commemoration every year is the joint wreath-laying ceremony by veterans from different countries.



F I H.Raaijmakers

To ensure that the monument remains relevant in the future, young veterans from home and abroad are involved in the commemoration every year.

After all, as Winston Churchill said:  
“A nation that forgets its past has no future”

The statue, cast in bronze, was made by sculptor Thea Houben from Roggel. It consists of a half arc on an equilateral triangle symbolizing the Divine. The seagulls represent freedom. The sword with the laurel wreath and the joined hands indicates the battle that has been fought and the fraternization over death. The design of this application, as well as the symbolism of the seagulls, is the idea of John Wagemans. The base of the monument is covered with Maas boulders, one for each fallen soldier. The red rays in the pavement symbolize the nationalities of the fallen.



F I Foundation Monument of Tolerance

A CD-ROM has been placed in the heart of the monument on which this information is recorded. These deceased soldiers can be viewed in a database on the website.

This year 2024 the commemoration will take place on Thursday, November 14.

Location:

Roggelseweg 58  
6081 NP Haelen  
The Netherlands

[www.monumentoftolerance.com](http://www.monumentoftolerance.com);

**With thanks to the Military Memorial Foundation.**

**Then and now**



Gedurende de oorlog bouwden vele burgers eenvoudige schuilkelders in hun tuinen. Dit bord staat op de exacte locatie waar de schuilkelder zich destijds bevond. De foto is kort na de bevrijding van Mierlo-Hout gemaakt. Bij de ingang van de schuilkelder zien we Francien Coolen. Bovenop staan de kinderen Jan en Mies van Bladel.



Drie dagen na de bevrijding van Mierlo-Hout, werd op 25 september 1944 ook Helmond bevrijd. Al snel werd de stad door de geallieerden ingericht als 'Rest Center' het was een maandelange periode waarin Helmond een gastheerschap vervulde voor ruim 30.000, vooral Engelse militairen, die hier vaak na de verschrikkingen van het front op een welverdiend kort verlof werden gesteld en samen met de Helmonders van alle lagen in zijn bevolking dit genoten. In het gebied waar nu de woonwijk Rijpelberg is gebouwd werd door de Engelsen een vliegveld aangelegd wat de codenaam B.86 droeg. Een van de vele "Signs" verwijst o.a. naar het vliegveld met de afkorting RAF (Royal Air Force). Na de verwoestingen van de oorlog werd de bevolking, door de geallieerden ondersteund met herstelwerkzaamheden. De Engelsen hielpen in Helmond en Mierlo o.a. bij de wederopbouw van opgeblazen bruggen en de reparatie van wegen. Op de foto uit mei 1945 poseert een MP bij de spoorwegovergang. U staat nu, net als deze militaire politieagent op enkele van deze loodzware, betonnen blokken, die gebruikt werden door de genie om de kruising te herstellen. Al die tijd lagen ze goed bewaard in de achtertuin van Henk Lammers op Hoofdstraat. In september 2019, schonk Henk de stenen aan het beheer van dit herdenkingsmonument. Hiermee kwamen de 'Floor Tiles' na 75 jaar weer terug in de omgeving, waar de Engelse militairen ze destijds hebben achtergelaten. (Foto's M. Coolen sr.).

F I Foundation HMMH

## NL-doet



## Get to work!

On March 15, various jobs were done at the memorial by students and guidance from OBS 't Hout, alderman Cathelijne Dortmans and councilor Marcel Rieter.

This happened under the inspiring leadership of several board members of our foundation.





F I Toon Van de Wijk / HelmondLive en Sandra Raaijmakers

This year the board will renovate the graves at the St. Lucia cemetery in the context of the 80th anniversary of liberation. That is why this action is not included in NL-DOET.

NL-Doet 2024 was also the conclusion of the adoption year 2023-2024 by the OBS't Hout.

Our thanks go to the children and guidance of OBS 't Hout for their enthusiasm during the past adoption year.

The task as an adoption school 2024 - 2025 will be taken over by  
"KC in het Hart van het Hout".



## **80th anniversary commemoration 1944-2024**

The first festivities have now been announced.

- September 22: 10 a.m. Liberation Service St. Lucia Church, motto "Freedom"
- September 22: 12 noon – 1.30 pm  
Liberation concert CARAT was performed by Band of Liberation
- September 22: 3:30 PM  
Commemoration at the Mierlo-Hout monument, musical enhancement Band of Liberation



**For more information about our Foundation, please refer to our website:**  
<https://monumentmierlohout.nl>.