



Stichting Herdenkingsmonument Mierlo-Hout
News letter
10th year Volume No.4
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Just another memorial



Joe's Bridge is the nickname of bridge 9 over the Bocholt-Herentals canal (or Maas-Scheldt Canal) in the Barrier district of Lommel.

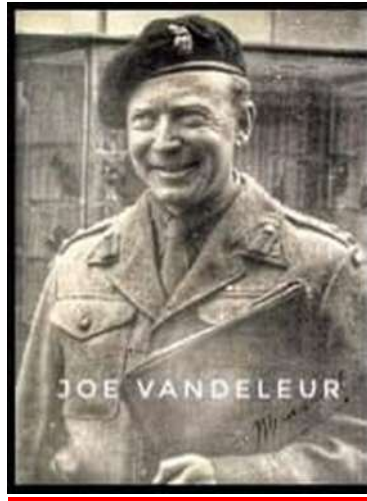
The bridge served as a springboard for the ground offensive of Operation Market Garden.

On September 10, 1944

While the Welsh Guards attacked the elite German forces around Hechtel, the Irish Guards quickly advanced northeast through the villages of Aksel, Overpelt and Neerpelt, launching their combined infantry-tank attack, with artillery support, from the zinc processing plant site in Overpelt and took the bridge undamaged.

By capturing the bridge, retreating German troops from Hechtel were cut off from the pass. In the following days, the German units attempted to retake the bridge from the north with bayonet battles and troop reinforcements, which also resulted in civilian casualties.

The bridge became known as "Joe's Bridge", in tribute to Lieutenant Colonel John Ormsby Evelyn Vandeleur Commander of the Irish Guards.



Once the bridge was safe, men from the 615th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, began repairs.



While the Irish Guards were securing a bridgehead along the N69 main road towards Valkenswaard, some 3 km to the west, SS troops, in the center of Lommel, had put forty randomly selected Belgian civilians onto the street - pointing machine guns at them - using them as a human shield. The rapid advance of the British from the east prevented a massacre. The Germans held the north side of the canal until September 17, except for the area around the bridge. The bridge was rebuilt after the war.



A memorial has been placed in the Barriers Park in Lommel. It consists of a stone with text and a listening stone.



The bridge is the starting point of the Airborne path Market Garden, a 225 kilometer long walking path to Arnhem in the footsteps of the Allied liberators



Walking sports association OLAT, now 3rd edition July 2024

Thanks to Lambert Birdy Kliebisch for letting us use his data.

Then and now



F I RHcE



F I SHMMH

The St. Lucia Church is the parish church of Mierlo-Hout in Helmond and is dedicated to Lucia of Syracuse.

The tender for the construction of the church took place on May 9, 1895. The contract for the construction was awarded to the lowest tenderer G. Mestrum from Venlo for approximately 30,000 guilders. Laying of the foundations began in October 1895 and the actual construction started in April 1896.

The architect was the then well-known church builder Caspar Franssen from Roermond, who received a gold medal 'for the most beautiful village church' for the construction of the church in Brussels in 1897. The church was completed on May 1, 1897 and blessed on May 16 of the same year by construction pastor Nicolaas Franciscus Elsen. From 2005, a large number of activities were planned during five years to finance the necessary renovation costs.

Rabo Club Support campaign 2024

September 2 to September 24, 2024

This year our Foundation is once again participating in the Rabo ClubSupport.

By casting your vote, an x amount will be allocated to our Foundation.

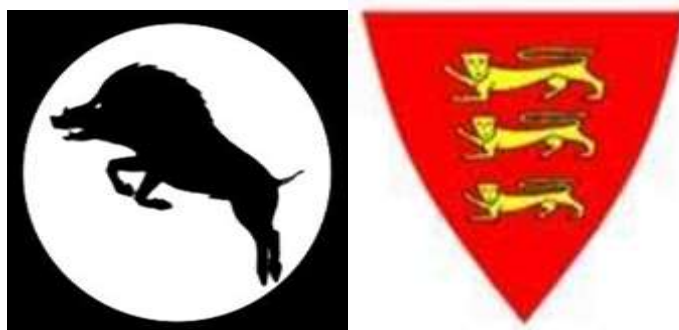
We will use the awarded amount, which will be announced in October, as compensation for the costs incurred in connection with the 80th anniversary of our liberation in Mierlo-Hout.



80th anniversary commemoration 1944-2024

September 15

Liberation Task Force



Authentic WWII vehicles will arrive from approximately 11:30 am, in packages of 25 vehicles. The Gemert Fire Brigade Pipes & Drums will welcome them from 12 noon and lead the way on the Hoofdstraat. The drivers then have lunch at the Alphonsus retirement home and the last vehicles are parked in Mierlo-Hout until approximately 3:10 p.m.

They then continue their way to Son en Breugel and pass our monument for a greeting.

22 september



Mierlo-Hout viert 80 jaar vrijheid!

Op zondag 22 september 2024 is het **BEVRIDINGS-DAG**. Dat herdenken en vieren wij in een speciaal programma:

- ♦ 10:00 uur: Aanvang herdenkingsdienst in de St. Luciakerk voor de inwoners en Britse militairen die tijdens de 2e Wereldoorlog in Mierlo-Hout zijn omgekomen.
- ♦ 12:00 uur: Aanvang bevrijdingsconcert met de **Band of Liberation**. Locatie: Carat Paviljoen Stadsark de Warande.
- ♦ 15:30 uur: Voortzetting van de plechtigheid bij het herdenkingsmonument met het onsteken van het bevrijdingsvuur, leggen van kransen en bloemen.

Graag nodigen wij u uit om deze speciale bevrijdingsdag bij te wonen. U bent van harte welkom!

Kijk op www.monumentmierlohout.nl voor het complete programma.

For further information about festivities, visit the Helmond website www.helmond.nl/80jaarvrijheid/

All festivities are financially supported by local companies



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

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