

SLO-DRENTHE

THE SEARCHLIGHT



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From studygroup to Foundation

On Wednesday 27 December the three new board members signed the document. With this, the Foundation Airwar Research Drenthe was officially founded.

Chairman Rob Wethly, treasurer Harrie Peters and secretary Peter van der Weide are very pleased with this milestone. After 2.5 years of hard and successful cooperation, it was time to take the next step.

"Who could have thought that 2.5 years ago ..." Harrie Peters thinks in amazement and satisfaction.



AIRWAR WITHOUT BORDERS

On 2 December, the Dutch-German exhibition 'Air War Without Borders' was opened in Twist and visited by the many guests.

SLO-Drenthe, in cooperation with Heimatverein Twist and Erdöl-Erdgasmuseum Twist, is organizing an exhibition about the air war during the second world war over the border area of Emmen, the Emsland and the Grafschaft Bentheim.

CANDLES ON WARGRAVES

For the third time on Christmas Eve, on 101 war graves in Drenthe,



was burning a candle. The goal of the foundation is to show respect for the fallen soldiers.

The relatives of the killed soldiers receive a photograph of the honoured grave afterwards.

MAY I INTRODUCE...

One of our tasks is 'giving a face' to the fallen crew members. Thanks to these photos, the names on tombstones and information boards change into real young people. Rob recently obtained

photos of Marcario, Pfanner, Moyer, Blatz and Reed from B-17 42-40054 'Jinny', which was hit over the Dutch border where the fuel tanks caught fire. Only 6 crew members survived this crash.

PEATCAMPS

In the autumn of 2017, Stichting Luchtoorlog Onderzoek Drenthe and Stichting RAF Monument Nieuw Dordrecht held a joint seminar for the first time along the border camps with a guided tour in Lager Esterwegen.

The study day served many purposes. Getting to know the people who are involved in different ways with the war and memories in all its facets.

It was also a starting signal for the hope of good cooperation, but it also emphasized the cause and reason for which the Allies fought and why both groups continued to keep the memory alive.

The seminar was concluded in Gasthof Robben, where a follow-up was planned immediately for the SLO to organize..



AIRWAR WITHOUT BORDERS



The motto of the exhibition is: "Europe - from enemies to friends" Time to build good bridges to the future. Among the invited guests were Herr Winters of the Landesrat and also Mr. Bijl, deputy of the province of Drenthe.

Mr. Bijl opened the exhibition in Zwartemeer in 2015 and unveiled the first step of the cross-border Lost Wings project.

Initiator Herr Reinert pointed out that he hoped that this would be the beginning of a special cooperation between Dutch and German organizations to give a shared past a good place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring 2018

The Lost Wings Route in Emmen will be completed before the spring of 2018.

Airwacht tower

The airwacht tower in Schoonebeek will be resurfaced in 2018

4 th May 2018

Rembranceday in Nieuw Dordrecht en Schoonebeek.

Donators

Would you like to support our work? Feel free to contact us via facebook or website.

74 YEAR LATER...

Today 74 years ago another massive mission of the ongoing 'Battle of Berlin'.....

The Lancaster JB280 LQ-K of the RCAF 405 squadron took part in the second group of Pathfinders in the massive raid. Berlin was the main target, and was attacked by 421 Lancasters. Many German fighters intercepted the Bomber force, 28 Lancasters were lost 168 crew members killed and 34 prisoners of war.

Berlin was almost completely cloud-covered, and the Pathfinders experienced much difficulty in marking the target properly both marking, and bombing were carried out almost blindly. Bomber Command could make no assessment of the results; bombing was scattered and relatively ineffective mostly in the southern districts of Berlin.



OLD NEWS

Het Drentsch Dagblad reports on 06-10-1943:

The new mayor of Schoonebeek

As can be heard elsewhere in this issue, Mr. H. M. Verbeek in Rossum has been appointed mayor of the municipality of Schoonebeek. Mr. Verbeek was born in the year 1900 in Rossum, which is located at the place where the Maas and Waal in the Betuwe come closest to each other. After completing his studies for municipal administration, he was appointed as a secretary there. In 1933 he became secretary of the municipality of Veen, located between Gorinchem and Den Bosch on the Maas. Mr. Verbeek, however, stayed in Rossum, where he married an Austrian. The new mayor is Ned. Reformed and since 1941 member of the N.S.B. He held positions for the Dutch Volksdienst en Winterhulp Nederland.



The Lancaster took off after a long delay caused by bad weather on 2 January 1944 at 00.23 Hrs. from Gransden Lodge. On its route to their target Berlin the Lancaster was attacked by the German night fighter pilot Leutnant Friedrich Potthast flying a Bf 110 of the IV./NJG1 while the Lancaster was bombed up with one 4000 lb. HC Cookie and four 1000 lb. MC bombs and with high octane fuel on board left for seven hours of flying. The plane and its crew crashed at 02.10 Hrs. close to Schoonebeek in the Netherlands after a violent midair explosion caused by the attack of the German night fighter killing instantly the entire crew of seven and shredded the Lancaster.

Let's keep the remembrance alive of what Flying Officer Thomas Henry Donnelly, Sergeant Leslie George Robert Miller, Flying Officer Alexander Jerry Salaba, Sergeant Brian Sidney James West, Flight Sergeant William Leonard John Clark, Sergeant Ronald Everest Watts and Sergeant Ronald Zimmer did for our freedom.

All the crew members of the Lancaster JB280 LQ-K are buried in the Commonwealth War Graves section of the Municipal Cemetery at Schoonebeek in the Netherlands.