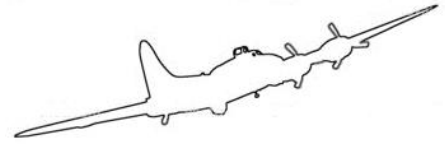


# Mission Belle, B-17G Memorial Foundation



Keeping the memory alive...

## Newsletter 2

### Unveiling memorial

Dear readers,

As board, we can tell you that the date for the unveiling of the monument is set. On [Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018](#) there will be a special way to stand still about the crash of the Mission Belle B-17G that happened on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943 in the Lek river. We have this date determined on the basis of three arguments:

1)

The fundraising is going positive. We have not yet all the necessary financial resources within, but the confidence that this will happen is good. This trust is based on the sales of the book *'Mission Belle, we knew we were in for a long day'* and the sales of the certificates is going well too.

2)

The positive approach of the bodies involved in the authorization. They are the Molenwaard County and the Rivierenlanden Water Board. Also the Department of Water Affairs works positively on the necessary declaration of property.

3)

The positive commitment of the local entrepreneurs, who are a large part of the activities for the Memorial. They do this for us, free of any charge. We will pay more attention to this in a subsequent newsletter.

The contract for the further development of the design and production of the memorial has been granted to Den Hollandsche company, the designer and manufacturer of this monument.

### Lecture about the Mission Belle by Mr. Kees Stam

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 there was a nice turnout at the lecture on the Mission Belle by Mr. Kees Stam. Under the title "Give the freedom by" are this evening the events on the Mission Belle, of the mission itself, the crash-landing on the Lek river and the captivity in the German prisoner of war camps impressively highlighted. During this evening, there were, as icing on the cake, a number of eyewitnesses present. They have seen the Mission Belle and the German fighters flying low over the river. In doing so, they have also experienced the shelling over and over again. It was very special to hear how that was experienced by them.



To give the attendees even more an impression of the hardships of the crew, was this evening a mannequin in original 'waist gunner' clothes prepared. It had an equal model of parachute on his chest. Also the parachute, found during the salvage of the wreck in 1955 was on display. It was very special that some men of the Delaware Company from Hardinxveld-Giessendam attended the lecture. They were dressed in the uniforms of World War II aviators. In such clothes you can of course not come, riding in a modern car. At the entrance of the room, where this lecture was held, there was an original 1944 Willy's Jeep.

### Five couples from America at unveiling



In the first newsletter we gave you that the project is followed with interest from America. The interest is so great that at least five couples (next of kin of the crew members) have indicated that they want to be present at the unveiling. Probably there will be more people from America at this event, including someone from the U.S. Air Force and his Dutch counterpart. On Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 we will like to welcome them very much at the unveiling.

### Sales 2<sup>nd</sup> print of the book about the Mission Belle



Now is also the second edition of the book 'Mission Belle, we knew we were in for a long day' published. In combination with the certificate action and fundraising, the Foundation is working on getting the necessary funds for the Memorial get together for the unveiling in 2018. The books are widely available at the various local sales points. The certificate action is still running too. With that document (see example above) you should see yourself partly as an owner of the Memorial. People abroad can order these items by mailing us at [MissionBelle@xs4all.nl](mailto:MissionBelle@xs4all.nl).

**Website: [www.missionbelle.nl](http://www.missionbelle.nl)**

The Foundation would like to have a unique look to the outside for all interested about the Mission Belle and the monument. With those thoughts we have launched the website [www.missionbelle.nl](http://www.missionbelle.nl), with the help of a new sponsor. It will be in Dutch only, but the previous website <https://hazy.home.xs4all.nl/MissionBelle.html> will stay online in English and will be updated as much as the new one. From today on you can read how the crew members prepared for their mission, the crash and how they experienced captivity. You can also see what they did after the war. The website also includes images to give you an impression about the United States Army Air Force at the time of World War II. In particular the Boeing B-17, type G is on the website with the places where the crew members sat at the time of the flight and their armament. The website will be regularly updated with new information. The newsletters are also available on the website and we keep you informed with important dates, for example, lectures and exhibitions.