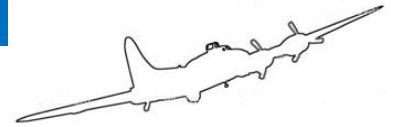


July 18th, 2018

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Mission Belle B-17G Memorial Foundation



Progress

Authorization

We have, as foundation, experienced the collaboration with Molenwaard County and Rivierenland Water Board as very positive.

The people of these organizations were very constructive to make the authorization of our project possible.

We can tell you that the licenses are definitive and that the user's agreement/ownership statement with the Water Board is drawn up.

With this, everything is ready to get started at the location where the monument will be placed.

Parking places

On Friday, June 29th we could present the parking places near the location where the monument will be created.

These parking places were donated by De Combinatie Dijkverbetering Molenwaard Company and the Rivierenland Water Board.

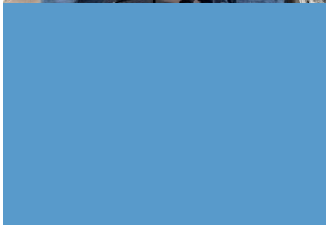
Groundwork

In the week of July 9th, 2018, groundwork of the monument started.

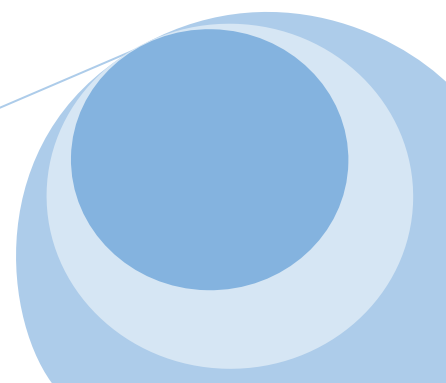
J&V Company started with the steel construction. Contractor Jan Verheij has already the material in stock and will take care of the right measurements.

Dimmen van Eckenvelde did the digging for the lower parts of the monument.

All these activities were done as a part of sponsoring and we are very grateful for that.



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The Netherlands, attn. G. Verheij
Website: [www. http://missionbelle.nl](http://missionbelle.nl)
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Chamber of Commerce nr.: 66774977

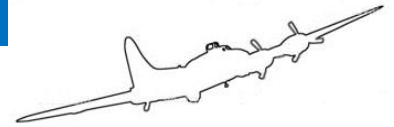


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American guests at the unveiling



- Honored by the presence of...

The plans for the establishment of a monument for the Mission Belle were received in America with great interest and appreciation.

There was contact over the phone and by e-mail with several relatives and friends of the crew.

Most of them are amazed and grateful that so many years after the event in the Netherlands, people are still interested in this project.

People in America are following the progress of this project with great interest.

The book that we have published, has also stimulated interest in the US.

In the meantime, 31 persons (of the 32) have booked accommodation in the De Witte Brug hotel in Lekkerkerk to the unveiling of the monument on September 29th, 2018.

This number has far surpassed our expectations.

Together with them and other invited guests, we hope this revelation will be an unforgettable event.

The people who will come are all family of the crew, except four others.

Only with the family of Charles J. Culver (flank shooter) we can't make contact.

The family of William P. England (flight engineer) cannot come.

The son of Claudio S. Carano (radio operator) had also wanted to come, were it not for the fact that he just makes a cruise with his wife between Spain and Florida.

We should mention that from America also a generous financial contribution came from several people for the realization of the monument.



- Website: www.missionbelle.nl

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You can visit our website at www.missionbelle.nl (Dutch only), but the other website still exists at <https://hazy.home.xs4all.nl/MissionBelle.html>.

New information can also be found on Facebook under the name: Mission Belle Stichting B-17G Memorial.

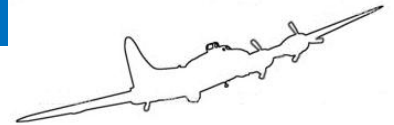
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Preparation commission

Why a commission?

As a Board, we believe that the creation of a monument and it's revealing are two substantially different things. The Board wants the memory of the shot down B-17G bomber Mission Belle be kept alive. But also as a tribute to those who have fought for our freedom. The involvement of the community is what we as foundation appreciate. Partly for that reason, the Board was of the opinion the disclosure should not take place in complete private management.

Composition

The Commission consists of the following persons:

mr. A. den Boer,
 mrs. J. Stout,
 mr. M. Jongkind,
 mr. P. Meerkerk

from the Mission Belle board:

mr. E. de Bruijn.

Program

This Commission has ensured a dignified and respectful program, which has been established by the Board. We will make the program for the unveiling on September 29th, known after the coming holiday period. We will make this known through various channels, including the local media, the website, the Facebook page and our next newsletter.

Exposition Mission Belle B-17G

Exposition Mission Belle in 't Waellant location

Leading up to the unveiling on September 29th, the previous two weeks (starting from Monday, September 10th) will be an exhibition about the B-17G Mission Belle.

The story will be shown during this exhibition about the crew, the preparation, the mission, the crash and the captivity.

This exhibition will be held next to photo material and documents and also show actual original utensils which were present aboard a B-17G bomber, including the uniforms, wool-lined clothing, survival means and oxygen equipment.

The original parachute from the Mission's Belle is also shown. It was found during the salvage in 1955 of the wreck.

Also in the two weeks after the unveiling on September 29th, the exhibition will be free of charge in 't Waellant location in Nieuw-Lekkerland.

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