

Market Garden

In the footsteps of the 75th



Market Garden in the footsteps of the 75th

This book is to pay my respect for what the finest of young men did to liberate the Netherlands 75 years ago during the biggest airborne operation in September 1944. I would like to share this book with you to have a guide to travel and see what these young men have seen back in 1944. This is to have a glimpse and a better idea what it must have looked like back then and now.

This guide will get you to many places from the Belgium border up to Arnhem "A bridge too far"

Hereby I would like to quote General Sir Brian Horrocks.

"This is a tale you will tell your grandchildren"

Share and pass this information along to the finest young people of today and the future.

As history is all ours to share and pass along.

Enjoy and remember freedom isn't free it has been paid for!

Lest we forget!

Yours Sincerely,

Tim Hendriks

author

Thanks to my wife Amarilla who supported me in this and also thanks to Paul Brindley, my family and friends for helping me out and having the honor to go on a trip with them to see all these magnificent places.

Thanks to you all who keeps the history being passed on.

Foreword

Tim's book is a superb, succinct, simple and informative guide.

My understanding of the battles, their results and why events worked out as they did was enhanced and given a deeper and wider perspective through Tim's thorough descriptions, diagrams, pictures and explanations.

This book would be a helpful gift for anyone visiting any part (or all) of 'Market Garden' for the first time – or even the 100th time! And it will make touring 'Market Garden' both easier and an absolute pleasure.

It is a delight to read, with the slight English aberrations both endearing and forgivable from a Dutchman who is clearly touched by the sacrifice of so many brave men.

Thank you, Tim!

Ray Schofield-Almond

CHAPTERS

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- The island

Hechtel

The battle for Hechtel took place between 6 -12 September 1944 this is before Market Garden started off. However, this will lead to the point where XXX corps started their route on Hells Highway to get to the Arnhem Bridge.

On the 6th of September troops of the Germans Wehrmacht succeeded to place canons at strategic places to delay the advance of the British ground forces from Hasselt towards the Netherlands at the traffic junction Hechtel. Fallschirmjagers transferred from Germany settled themselves in Hechtel. The battle was a house to house battle with the Welsh Guards.

When the Irish Guards made a maneuver that surrounded the Germans the battle ended on the 12th of September as the Germans could not retreat to the North. With this maneuver from the industry terrain in Overpelt by the Irish Guards bridge number 9 was captured also known as Joe's Bridge.



(Source: lommelvanvrijheidtotkeizerrijk.blogspot)

This Sherman firefly tank of the Welsh Guards is situated on the road towards Leopoldsburg.

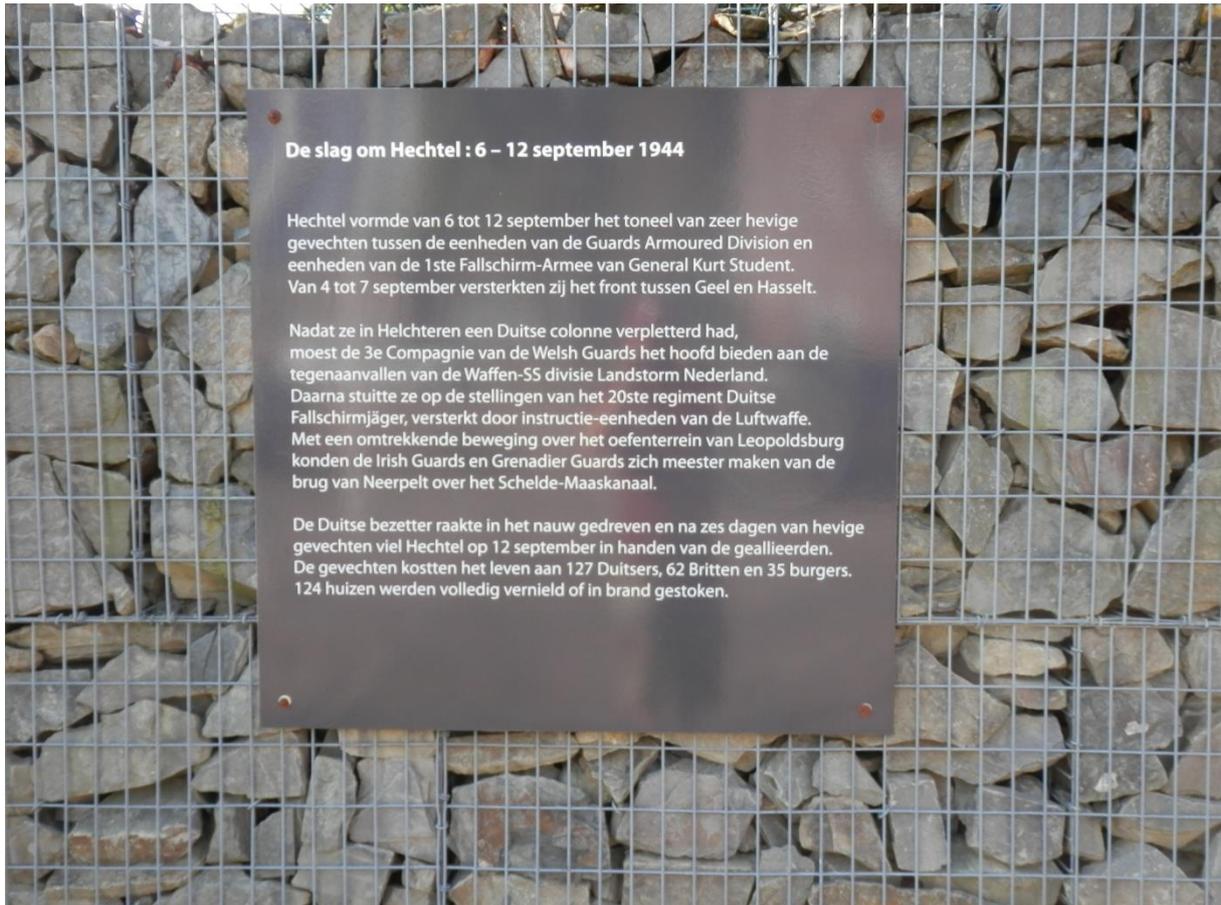
Kamperbaan 80-47

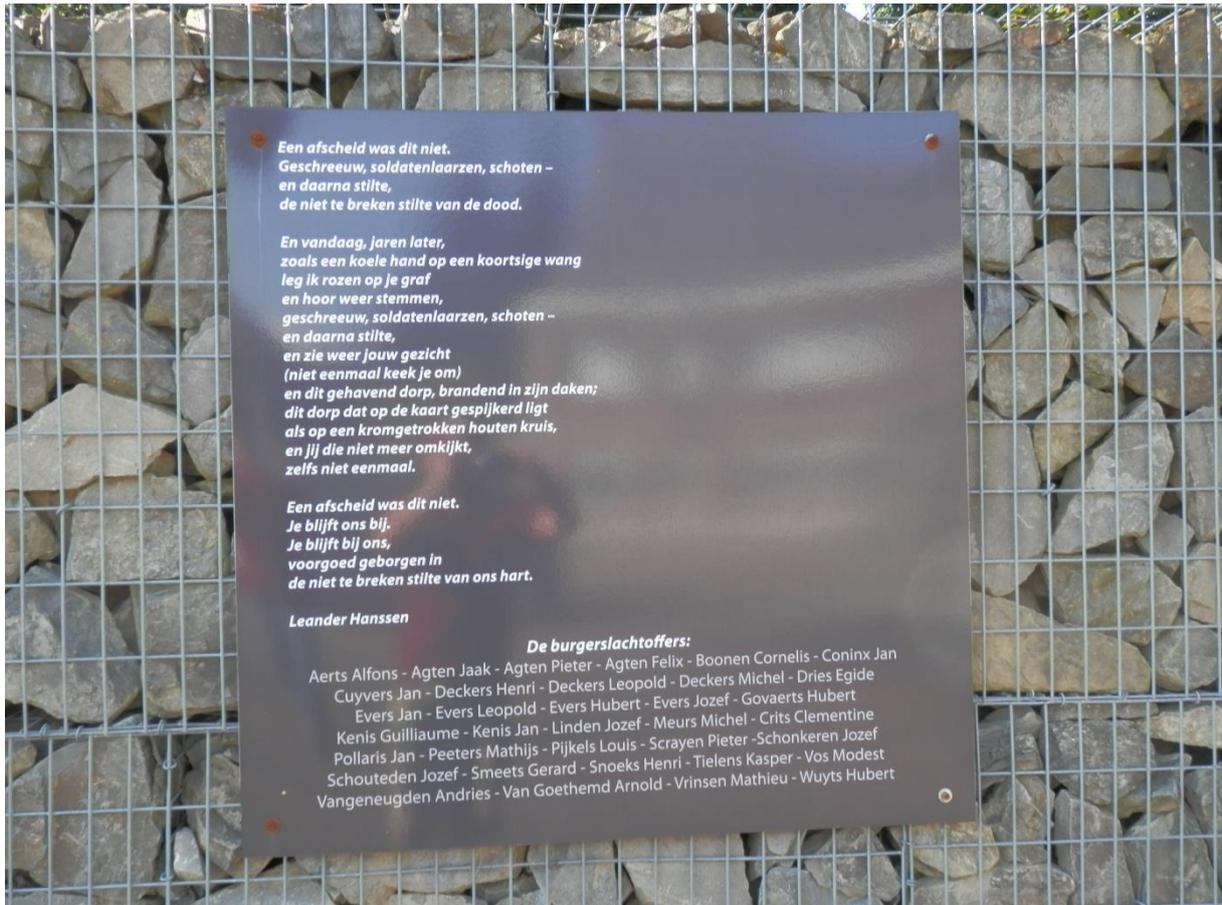


This plaque tells the story about the battle of Hechtel with the German 1st Fallschirm-Armee of General Kurt Student and the Guards Armoured Division.

After the 3th Company of the Welsh Guards smashed a German cologne at Helchteren they had to give in on the counter attacks of the Waffen SS division Landstorm Netherlands. After this they found themselves in a battle with the 20th regiment German Fallschimjager and a training unit of the Luftwaffe.

The battle cost the lives of 127 Germans, 62 British and 35 Civilians. 124 houses were demolished or burned.





*Een afscheid was dit niet,
Geschreeuw, soldatenlaarzen, schoten –
en daarna stilte,
de niet te breken stilte van de dood.*

*En vandaag, jaren later,
zoals een koele hand op een koortsige wang
leg ik rozen op je graf
en hoor weer stemmen,
geschreeuw, soldatenlaarzen, schoten –
en daarna stilte,
en zie weer jouw gezicht
(niet eenmaal keek je om)
en dit gehavend dorp, brandend in zijn daken;
dit dorp dat op de kaart gespijkerd ligt
als op een kromgetrokken houten kruis,
en jij die niet meer omkijkt,
zelfs niet eenmaal.*

*Een afscheid was dit niet.
Je blijft ons bij.
Je blijft bij ons,
voorgoed geborgen in
de niet te breken stilte van ons hart.*

Leander Hanssen

De burgerslachtoffers:

Aerts Alfons - Agten Jaak - Agten Pieter - Agten Felix - Boonen Cornelis - Coninx Jan
Cuyvers Jan - Deckers Henri - Deckers Leopold - Deckers Michel - Dries Egide
Evers Jan - Evers Leopold - Evers Hubert - Evers Jozef - Govaerts Hubert
Kenis Guillaume - Kenis Jan - Linden Jozef - Meurs Michel - Crits Clementine
Pollaris Jan - Peeters Mathijs - Pijkels Louis - Scrayen Pieter - Schonkeren Jozef
Schouteden Jozef - Smeets Gerard - Snoeks Henri - Tielens Kasper - Vos Modest
Vangeneugden Andries - Van Goethemd Arnold - Vrinzen Mathieu - Wuyts Hubert

A nice Poem in Dutch and the names of the Civilian Casualties.

From Hechtel you can go towards Leopoldsburg and Lommel.

Leopoldsburg

The Belgian group liberation (bevrijding) left Brussels. Placed under the command of the 8th Independent Armoured Brigade Group (XXX Corps) it was ordered to proceed to the Leopoldsburg-Heppen area. Early in the afternoon the Albert Canal was crossed at Beringen through the bridgehead defended by the Dutch Prinses Irene Brigade. At around 17:00 on the 11th of September Leopoldsburg was liberated as well as a camp housing 900 political detainees.

In this small town at the Belgium border General Sir Brian Horrocks held his famous speech (as seen in the movie a bridge too far) just before Market Garden was given the H-Hour. This speech was given the 15th of September.



General Sir Brian Horrocks in 1945 (Source: Wikipedia)

“This is a tale you will tell your grandchildren....and mighty bored they will be”

The Cinema this speech was held is no longer there only a small plaque remains. This plaque can be found if you are in front of the station facing the Sherman tank and turn left in Nicolaylaan.

This is how the cinema would have looked like.



(Courtesy of Strijdbewijs.nl)



The building how it looks like now. The small plaque can be seen on the wall.





The plaque up close on the former cinema Splendid.

The Sherman firefly tank on Stationstraat



This tank is facing his gun towards the former cinema Splendid. If you are standing in front of this you have to cross the street behind you and turn right on the Nicolaylaan.



There is a nice restaurant on the corner opposite the Sherman if you are facing the Sherman tank like this the plaque is a little 500 meters to your left on this sidewalk.

From here you can drive towards Lommel and end up at Joe's Bridge in Neerpelt.

Neerpelt / Lommel

As mentioned at the battle of Hechtel the Irish Guards made a surrounding maneuver on the 12th of September and captured Bridge number 9.

This bridge is also known as Joe's Bridge.

In the afternoon of the 17th of September 1944 this is where the ground forces started their advance into Holland. Led by the Irish Guards of Lt-Col Joe Vandeleur

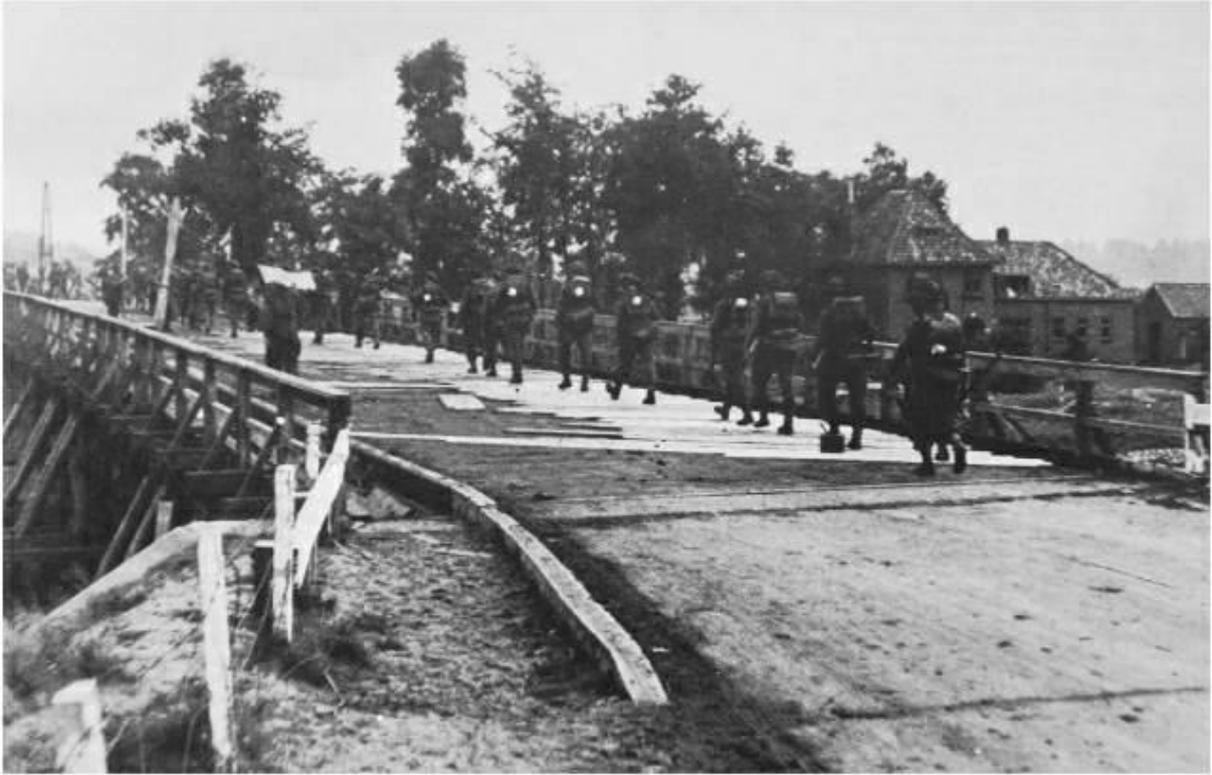
The code name for the start of this advance of the ground forces was Garden.

Right after the start of this operation the ground forces ran into a German Ambush. The route the ground forces took also known as club route would soon to be known as Hells Highway as this was a single highway and not suitable for tanks. The Germans succeeded to cut off the corridor several times. This had an effect on the outcome of this operation as well.



Lt-Col Joe Vandeleur

(Source: ww2guards.com)



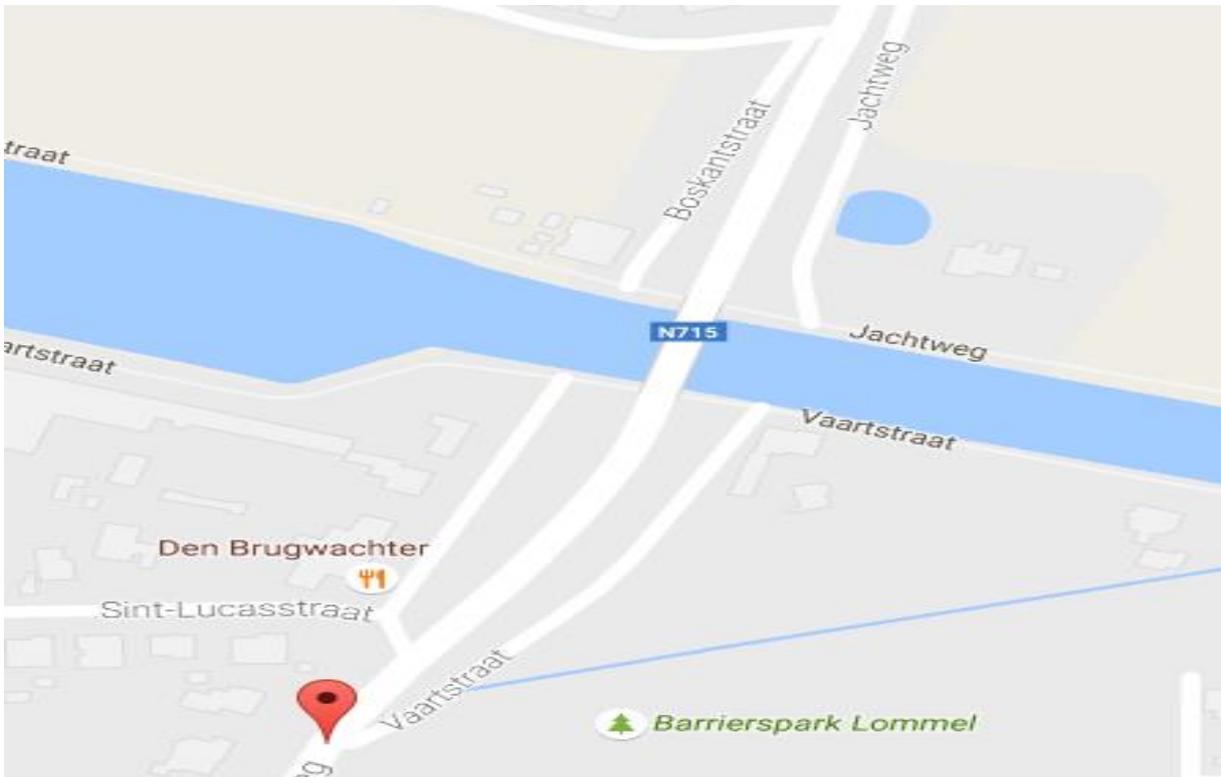
(Source: lommelvanvrijheidtotkeizerrijk.blogspot. The Bailey bridge at Lommel)



(Source: internetgazet.be another picture taken from the North side of the Bailey bridge)

This bridge (Joe's Bridge) is on the Luikersteenweg in Lommel. On the south side there is a parking spot with a small monument.





This is the spot of the Bailey bridge. Close to the house was an 88mm canon. This bridge was captured on the 10th of September 1944



This is the monument on the south side of the canal at the parking spot Vaartstraat 68-104





Valkenswaard

When you follow the road towards Valkenswaard and Eindhoven after Joe's Bridge you will see a war cemetery on your left-hand side. Along this road is where the spearhead of the advance got ambushed by the Germans.

There is a very good map of this Ambush in the book "It never snows in September. I tried to point out the ambush in the map at Neerpelt / Lommel.





Due to this ambush the ground forces lost time in their advance that could not be lost. They reached Valkenswaard the 17th of September at around 18:30 and stopped there for the night. XXX corps will make a link up with the American 101st airborne in Eindhoven the Next day.

It was planned that Eindhoven should have been reached the 17th of September. They were already behind on schedule. It has never become clear why the advance did not continue. Never the less the delay in the advance had a major impact on the end result of Market Garden.

XXX corps stopped for the night in Valkenswaard. It must have looked like this at Markt in this village. If you want to visit it is best to park close to Markt around Eindhovenseweg.



(Courtesy BHIC: markt Vlakenswaard September 1944)



Same spot today.



Eindhoven

On the 18th of September Eindhoven was liberated by the American 506th of the 101st airborne division. The 506th was unlucky in their attempt to capture the Son Bridge on the 17th. This bridge was blown up in their faces. They managed to get a small bridge head across the canal at Son in the night and capture Eindhoven and link up with vanguard of the Guards division at midday and with the main force late Afternoon.

Due to the Dutch people celebrating their liberation in the streets of Eindhoven XXX corps could not advance as fast as they would like, and this was also a setback in time.



(Courtesy eindhovenfotos.nl: People on the streets in Eindhoven)

A much greater setback was of course that the Son bridge was blown up and a Bailey bridge must be build.

The Dutch citizens of Eindhoven also suffered from a night bombing raid by the German Luftwaffe in the night of the 18th September 1944.

This lighttower in the below picture is close to Demer and can be seen from the 18 september plein.



(Courtesy eindhovenfotos.nl: paratroopers of the 101st on Demer)

View from 18 September plein. Nice to know you can park real close to the Station and walk towards this square.



Close to the square is the plaque where XXX corp. and the 506th linked up by 19:00 on the 18-9-1944. This is on the KFC building at Markt.



As you can see on the next page it was hard to get through the crowd in Eindhoven as many many civilians went out to meet their liberators and celebrate.



(Courtesy eindhovenfotos.nl: People celebrating their liberation at Markt Eindhoven)

On the next page is a Google map view of the surroundings.



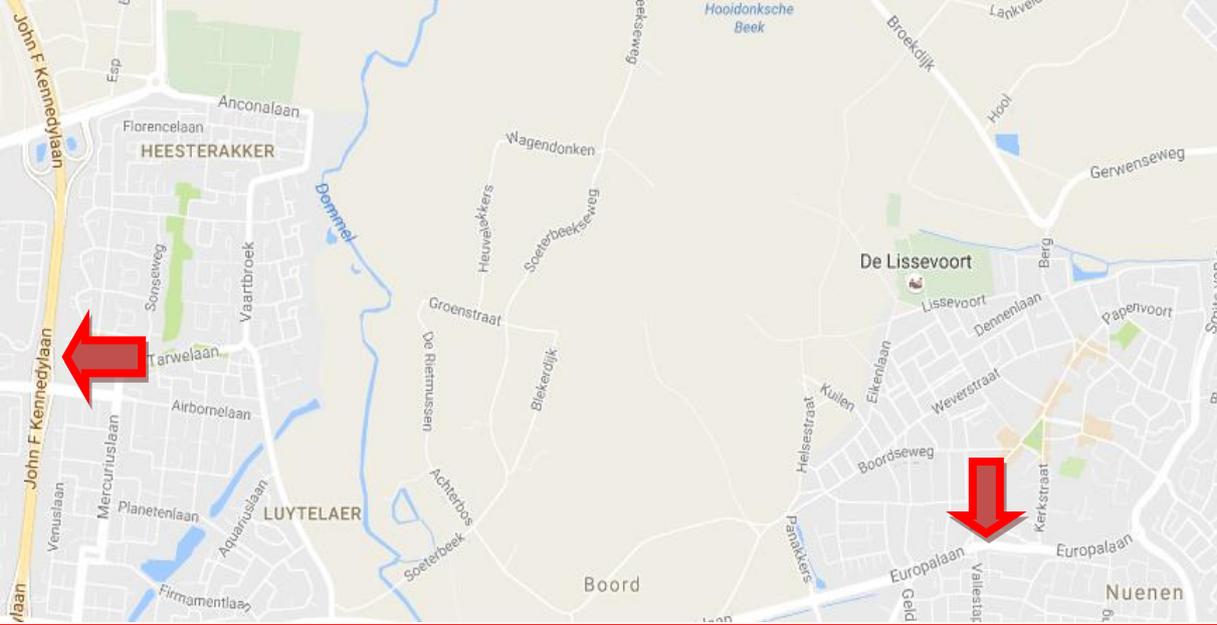
The next monument is on the John F Kennedylaan /Airbornelaan and is just at the corner where you turn up or off to the highway. This is dedicated to the 506th that entered and liberated Eindhoven the 18th of September.







From this spot you can easily go into Nuenen where there is a small monument for E-506th at Parkstraat / Europalaan. There is a plaque for e-company 506th next to the freedom monument.



Nuenen

On the 20th of September 1944 Nuenen was the scene of a battle involving the 506th PIR of the 101st airborne division and the British 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars of the 11th Armored division. These units fought with Cromwell tanks against the German 107th Panzer brigade. During this fight the British lost two tanks and four Paratroopers and three British soldiers were killed in action. The Germans lost two of their soldiers.

There is a plaque at Parkstraat for the 506th PIR between two benches next to the liberation monument on the corner Europalaan / Parkstraat best is to set your gps on Parkstraat





If you walk into the center of Nuenen towards Park 35 you will see a restaurant. From here John Martin of the 506th spotted a German tank as seen in the series band of brothers.



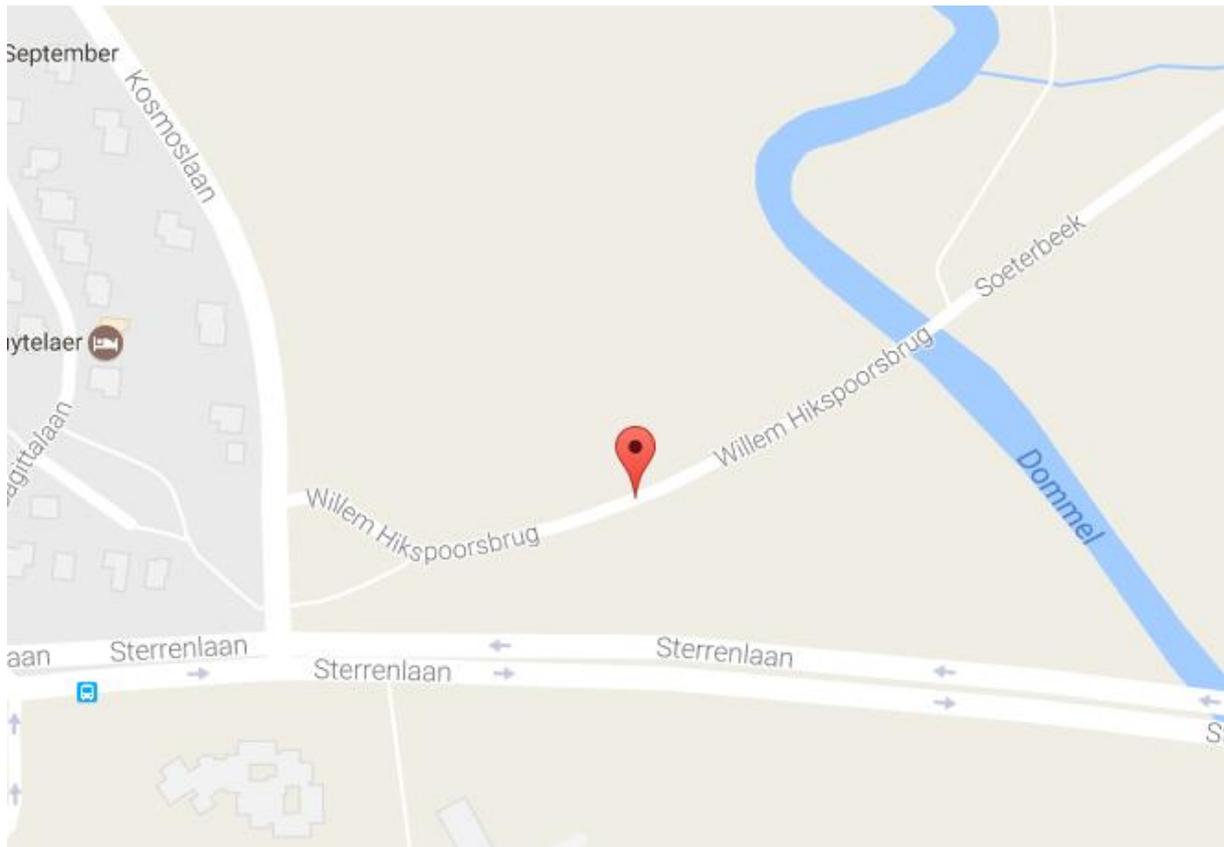


Nuenen is very close to Eindhoven and this little monument is 15 minutes away from the monument described in the Eindhoven part at the Kennedylaan / Airbornelaan.



The Germans tried to reach the Bailey bridge at Son by crossing the Bridge at Soeterbeek. Due to the gardener of Soeterbeek Willem Hikspoor who advised the Germans to turn around as the bridge could not hold the weight of their tanks this was prevented.

Later the British used the Willem Hikspoor's Bridge to cross.



Nuenen was liberated the 21st of September 1944.

Son

North of the Wilhelmina canal is the small village of Son. North of Son is the Sonse heide this was the drop zone - (DZ). Sonse heide is a large farmland between Son and Best. Marked on the map as DZ-B for the 502nd heading to Best and DZ-C for the 506th heading for Son and Eindhoven and landing zone (LZ) W for the 321st.

This farmhouse Paulushoef on Sonniuswijk 42 was a rally point the 17th of September for many paratroopers heading on their way.





101 AIRBORNE DIVISION
REPHUDING SEPTEMBER 1944



THE EAGLE WILL ALWAYS SCREAM FOR OUR FALLEN BROTHERS
MAY THE WORLD NEVER FORGET

AIRBORNE

506TH P.I.R. 101 ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
E COMPANY
OPERATION MARKET GARDEN 1944



Nice to know is that these little parachutes take you to a walking trail called airborne pad





(Courtesy Albert Krochka: 2nd and 3th Battalion 501 Eerde)



(Source: Wikipedia Photo Courtesy of U.S. Army. A glider crash on the landing zone Son)



(Source: everyoneweb.com/kickoff1944 paratroopers on the drop zone Son)

Close to Paulushoef is also a monument for the temporary cemetery at the Rooijseweg(Wolfswinkel).



(Source: abmceducation.org cemetery at Wolfswinkel)



U.S. MILITARY CEMETERY SON

DEZE WEG LEIDE TUSSEN 1944 EN 1945 NAAR HET TIJDELIJKE KERKHOF
DE LOCUS IN DE VELDEN ACHTER
ROLDORP. 'WATERHOEF' DIT KERKHOF
WAS BESTemd VOOR DE AMERIKAANSE
EN ALLIEERDE GEBENVELDEN
WIJER IAGEN DE GEVALLEN DIE HUN
LEVEN HEBBEN GEGEVEN VOOR ONZE
VRIJHEID.

HERDENK HEN ALLEN!

U.S. MILITARY CEMETERY SON

THIS ROAD LEAD TO THE FIELDS WHERE
FROM 1944 TO 1945 THE AMERICAN
AND ALLIED TEMPORARY CEMETERY
WAS LOCATED BEHIND THE WATERHOEF
FARM. THIS IS WHERE THE SOLDIERS
RESTED AND PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE
FOR OUR FREEDOM.

REMEMBER THEM ALL!

© VAN PULO

C. DIA WILLEN

M.T. THUNISSEN

SEPTEMBER 2006



After the landings the 506th went to capture the bridge at Son. The Germans defended this bridge well with some 88mm guns and as the advancing troops nearly got to the bridge it went up in the air in front of their faces. Some of the troops crossed the channel and the engineers created an ad-hoc bridge for more troops to cross and establish a bridgehead for the attack on Eindhoven the next day.

This new bridge is on the Nieuwstraat.





(Source: Pinterest.com the Bailey bridge at Son)

On the north side (right side of the picture) of the Canal you can see the street where the 506th advanced on this is on Kanaaldijk Noord 12-18 and from the main road.

After the Bailey bridge was build and the ground forces could proceed.

XXX corps was behind 36 hours on schedule. However, a rapid advance could be made due to the efforts of the 101st airborne at Veghel and the 82nd airborne at Grave.

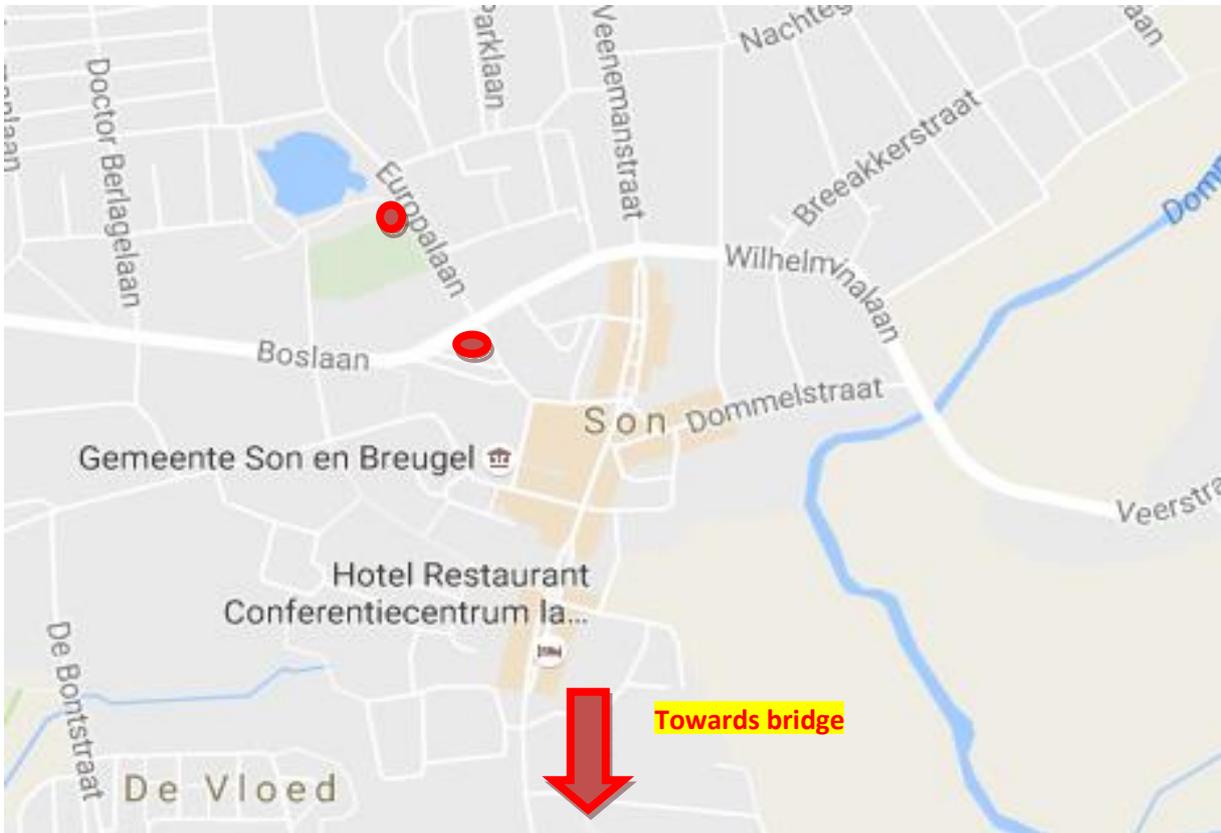


View from the south side of the bridge. There is a small plaque on this side see below.



In the town center at Europalaan there is a monument for the 101st and on the Boslaan is a small fountain with 101 on it. These two monuments are in walking distance of each other.





Best

On the 17th of September the 502nd landed on DZ-B the same Sonse heide as the 506th. After the landings the 502nd had to capture a bridge at Best. This is where Joe Mann got killed in action the 19th of September and was awarded the Medal of Honor. This trooper saved his brothers in arms by throwing himself backwards on a hand grenade. Joe was wounded on both hands already, so he could not pick up the grenade and throw it back.



Joe Mann

(Source: spokesman.com/stories/2004/aug/14/war-hero-enriches-soul-history/)

This monument is on the boslaan-zuid close to the bridge that is now called Airborne Bridge.





The Airborne Bridge is the A2 highway. As seen on the picture the old bridge must have been right next to it. If you follow the NCB-Weg towards Son you will end up on the N620 again and from there you can go left towards the following monument.

The following monument is located at Joemannweg towards the open-air theater.



Joe Mann monument

Dit monument is een eerbetoon aan Joe Mann en aan allen die streden voor de bevrijding van Best. Parachutist Joe Mann maakte deel uit van de Amerikaanse 101^e Airborne Divisie. Deze divisie landde op 17 september 1944 op de Sonse Heide in het kader van de operatie Market Garden. Joe Mann sneuvelde bij de verovering van de brug over het Wilhelminakanaal op 19 september 1944 toen hij met zijn rug de explosie opving van een granaat. Hij redde zo het leven van zijn kameraden. Postuum kreeg hij hiervoor de "Medal of Honor". De tekst op deze medaille staat op de voet van het monument. De herinnering aan deze moedige daad wordt gesymboliseerd door de pelikaan die zijn jongen voedt met zijn eigen bloed. Ad Berntsen maakte het monument dat door de ouders van Joe Mann in 1956 werd onthuld.

Stichting Geschiedenis van Best

Gemeente Best

Major Robert C. Cole was killed in action at Best. Major Cole was awarded the Medal of Honor for his action in Normandy. Cole was shot by a German sniper when he went out to put marker panels on radio request of a pilot on his front line close to the DZ.



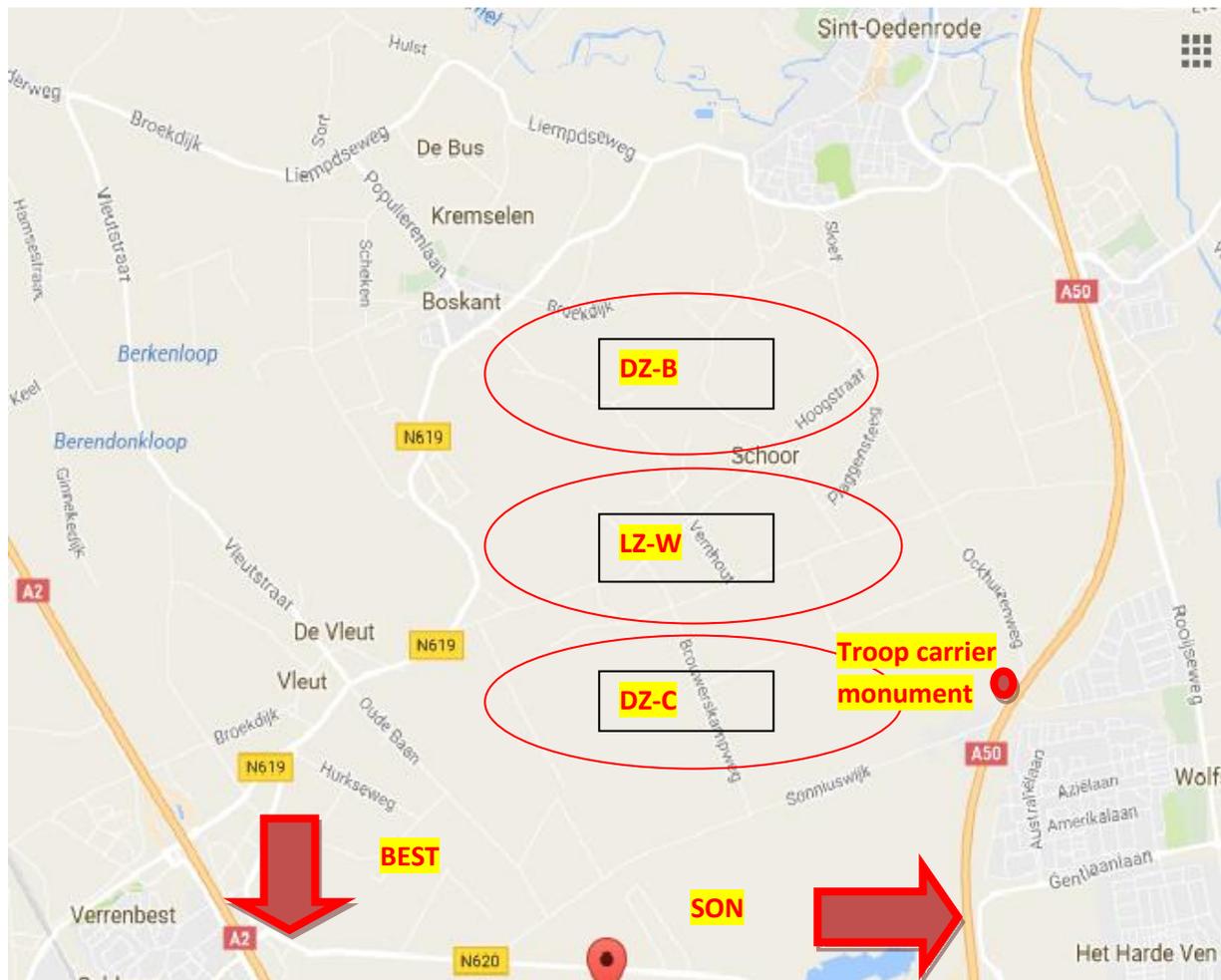
Major Cole

(Source: Liberationroute.com)

This monument is on the Schietbaanlaan/N620



The DZ and LZ between Best and Son.



On the Ockhuizenweg there is a nice monument for the troop carriers and gliders. This place gives a nice overview of the DZ and LZ.



At the edge of Schietbaanlaan/Oude baan you will find the below marker of the DZ and LZ see the picture of that marker on the next page.

Translated the top part of the marker:

In these surroundings 4400 paratrooper of the 101ste airborne landed on these field as well as 54 gliders carrying troops and 43 jeeps and trailer and other equipment. In the days after the 17th of September about a hundred Gliders landed with troops and equipment like cannons. The task of the 101st was to take the bridges at Son and Best enter Eindhoven and clear the road toward Veghel



Eerde

Near the small village of Eerde was DZ-A for the 501st. There was a fierce battle for the sand dunes of Eerde around the windmill. Eerde was the first village to be liberated during Market Garden and changed from occupier several times. There is a story of a trooper being a look out in the church tower who got blown out of there three times and went back up every single time he got blown out of there. The American flag was placed on the rubbles of the church to show the Germans the American where there to stay no matter what.

Eerde was the scene of fierce fighting especially for the Eerde sand dunes.

This monument is at Zandvliet. The windmill is next to it. Go have a look into the windmill shop.



Nice to know this windmill is dated from 1884 and was heavily damaged during the war efforts. The top came off and the windmill was fully restored and re-opened on 17th September 2011.



May they rest in peace. my friends

Pvt Walter D. Cooper

Pvt William J. Dellapenta

Lt. John W. Ell

Pvt Orven E. Frisby

Pfc Wilbrod A. Gauthier Bastogne

Col. Howard R. Johnson

Capt. Vernon Kraeger

Pvt Andrew W. Jr. Mahoney

Pvt Pete T. Phillips

Pfc David R. Salazar

Lt. John L. White

Eerde, 9 June 1989

William and Thelma Mc Mahon





MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
THE AMERICAN PARATROOPERS OF THE
501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT
10TH AIRBORNE DIVISION

PVT ROBERT WESTER	PVT FERRIS J. MURPHY
LT FRANK W. SHARPLEN	PVT ROBERT E. SANDERSON
PFC JOHN W. ELL	1/4 THEODORE P. DENTON
JACOB M. SHIRAN	PVT JOSE J. TISSER
SST THEODORE M. WILSON	PVT JONAS E. DANNER
PVT PETER Y. PAULSON	SST JOHN H. MOSE
PFC ALVIN K. BRIPPIN	SST EUGENE J. LINDENBERG
SST PATRICK W. CHASE	PFC STANISLAW LECZ
PVT ARTHUR J. EARL	LT JOHN L. "TOM" SAZGAN
7/4 WALTER J. FOSTER	PVT JOSEPH E. BARK
CECL. J. FUGARA	SST FORD C. BARK
PLT WALTER J. FURBER	PVT WILLIAM J. BRIN
PVT JOSEPH W. BARRETT	PVT JOSEPH J. CRYAN
BRODUSLAW KRAGA	SST BARNARD R. RIVELL
PFC ROBERT F. RELLER	CPL VERNOR KRASER
SST GEORGE H. J. ADAMS	PVT ANDREW W. DE MARONEY
SST PAUL F. ANDERSON	PFC WILLIAM T. GREESE
PVT JACK W. DELAY	PFC HAROLD M. FINEA (DIP)
SST ARTHUR HUTNER	PVT JACK E. BOND-WATTS
PVT GEORGE M. KELLY (DIP)	SST CHESTER L. BRIDGES
PVT WILLIAM F. LERLY	SST JOHN A. ROSSER
PFC JOHN C. HANNE	CPL BUSTER E. WHITE
PVT WAYNE A. McCLELL	WILLIAMS

IN THIS WINDMILL WAS KILLED
ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1944
ABOUT ELEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
JACOB F. WINDGARD PENNSYLVANIA
SST 501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY
MAY HE REST IN PEACE
ON THE AMERICAN CEMETERY
OF MARGRATEN.

BETWEEN THE WINDMILL AND THE HOUSE
WAS A BRITISH SHERMAN TANK
KNOCKED OUT DURING THE FIGHT
ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1944
IN THAT TANK WERE KILLED
3 BRITISH SOLDIERS
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
IN THE CHURCHYARD OF EERDE.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
THE BRITISH SOLDIERS OF
ROYAL ARMORED CORPS. 24 SEPT. 1944

S/L JOHN J. JONES	AGE 27
P/W STACY	AGE 27
L/C HADDO	AGE 28
LT W.E. WOODER	AGE 28
AGE 28	

WOUNDED BY BRITISH IN BATTLE
ONCE DORPDRISTEN

Dirk v. Heulom	60 YEARS
Dirk Bredt	62 YEARS
Arthon v. E. Heijden-Boeyen	62 YEARS
Maryska Versteegh	62 YEARS
Steen v. Reeneek	62 YEARS
Jan Mulderweeg	62 YEARS
Bart Koster	62 YEARS
Frans v. Amelink	62 YEARS
Gerard v. Gennens	62 YEARS





(Source: liberationroute.nl the damaged windmill)



(Courtesy BHIC: Damaged church at Eerde)



Below is the map of the DZ for the 501st between Eerde and Veghel. The miss-drop should have taken place at Veghel.



Heeswijk-Dinther

Heeswijk-Dinther is another village that was in the line of action. The DZ-A1 for 1-501st was a miss drop as this was supposed to be for castle Zwanenburg at Veghel. The plane with the Pathfinders for this drop zone was shot down over Belgium so the pilots of the main force could not see any DZ marker but only a castle so decided to drop at the castle of Heeswijk-Dinther.

Father Sampson landed in the moat again after a midair collision (He landed in the moat as well in Normandy). Some 38 troopers were left behind at the castle when the rest backtracked towards Eerde-Veghel. The German kampgruppe dewalt part of 1st fallschirm Armee wiped out the men that were in the rear guard with only few survivors.

There is a monument close to the castle and the castle itself is worth a visit. This place is on Gouverneursweg and road signs will get you to the castle.





IN 1858 FRANSIS SAMPSON, PARAJANIER
VAN DE 101^{ste} VERBODEN DIVISIE IN DE
LUCHT KWAM HIJ OP EEN ANDERE
PARAJANIERE TERECHT EN WIEL IN DE
WASTELKROEGT SAMEN KLOMPTEN EEL TRUIT
WAS AANWEEZENDE SAMPSON MOIST NIE
LANG DUREN OM ZIJN UITRUSTING TE REDDEN
TE HERINNERING AAN DEZE GEVAARLIJKE
WELDE DEEL GEBRUKT SAAT HIER GELIJKT
OP 10 SEPTEMBER 1954.
GASTORP IN DE JANUARIJ 1956, MINNESOTA USA

LEUTENANT FRANCIS SAMPSON, PARAJANIER
SERGEANT DIVISION PARAJANIERE IN
SEPTEMBER 1954, LANDING IN THE AIR ON
TOP OF ANOTHER PARAJANIERE, THE TWO CELL
IN THE PARAJANIERE TOGETHER ON 9
SEPTEMBER BUT 10 THE SAMPSON FIRST
TO BE ALIVE TO RECEIVE HIS EQUIPMENT
TO REMEMBER THIS REMARKABLE EVENT THIS
PLAQUE WAS PLACED HERE IN SEPTEMBER
1954. THE 101st AIR DIVISION OF THE ARMY

Small plaque at the base of the monument, likely containing the name of the donor or a specific dedication.





(Source: herdenkingskalender.nl the drop zone at Heeswijk-Dinther castle)

There is a chapel in Heeswijk-Dinther see next page.





Schijndel

On the 19th of September 1944 the Germans attacked from the West sending in troops from the Schijndel area. These troops consisted of infantry, Luftwaffe troops and troops of the elite Fallschirmjagers Regiment 6, these troops had fought XXX corps at Neerpelt two days before.

On the 21st of September 1944 the 1st and 3rd battalion of the 501st was ordered by Lt-Col Howard Johnson (commander of the 501st) to attack Schijndel at night. Very early in the morning the attack started.

The 3rd battalion attacked Schijndel coming from Eerde, while the 1st battalion moved in from (Heeswijk)-Dinther. The attack soon stopped in its tracks, but the captured ground was held by the attacking force.

The 22nd of September 1944 the 501st attempted a new attack on Schijndel from the positions they reached the day before but this time with tank support from XXX corps.

With the help of these tanks the 1st and 3rd battalion was able to clear Schijndel easily.

At pompstraat 17 there is a museum called Jan Heesterhuis that has a nice monument in the garden. This monument is made for the nuns of the Lidwina monastery who hid 27 American paratroopers during market garden until October 1944. Please note the museum is open from 13:00.





When you go further towards the junction Rooiseweg and Structuurweg there is a monument for the 51th Highland Division. Nice to know the stone is from Scotland.

Schijndel was liberated 27th of October 1944.



Veghel

On the 17th of September 1944 elements of the 501st PIR captured Veghel and its bridges over the River Aa.

People were celebrating their liberation and were waiting for the arrival of XXX corps.

As this all was going on a strange situation occurred when a German tank commander realized too late that Veghel was taken by the American paratroopers. He tried to re-join his own troops by firing as he went.

The corridor was targeted by German counter attacks. The roads both north and south of Veghel were cut off several times. However, the allies held their ground in Veghel. Veghel was a liberated island in occupied territory for a while.



(Courtesy BHIC : HQ of the klondikes (501st) at Hoogstraat in Veghel)



Between St Oedenrode and Veghel you can find a small monument on a Tree next to a dirt road. This monument is for the soldiers killed in action during the counter attacks of the Germans on the corridor. Please note that this road is parallel to the highway on Logtenburg.





St. Oedenrode

On the 17th of September 1944 the 502nd PIR was assigned with the task to capture the bridge over the Dommel at St Oedenrode

The small village of St. Oedenrode was the scene of fierce fighting and huge counter attacks by the Germans. The bridge over the Dommel was the focus of these attacks.

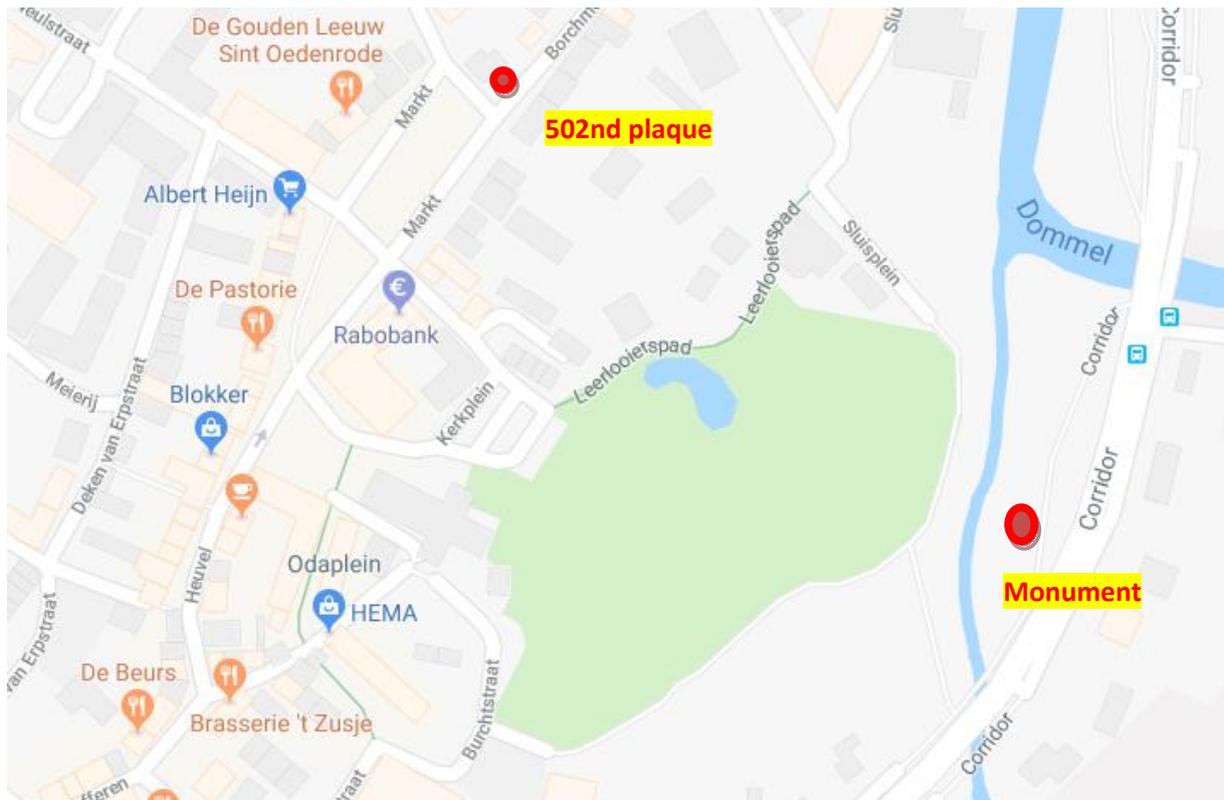
Gen. Maxwell Taylor held his HQ at castle Henkenshage.





In the center of St Oedenrode there is a plaque for the 502nd on the building of the city hall (raadshuis).





Between the 24th and 26th of September 1944 a huge battle raged in the sand dunes at Erde and at Koevering (Veghel). The German Jungwirth Battalion succeeded in cutting of the corridor here. This delay would have huge consequences.

The corridor would be opened again the 26th of September 1944

There is a nice monument across the street of Corridor 9 see above map and picture on the next page.



Koevering

On the 24th of September 1944 the allies received the biggest setback during operation Market Garden. The Germans cut the corridor again after they were successful at Mariaheide earlier. Now they succeeded to cut the corridor for 45 hours. One of the main responsible for this cut off was General Kurt Chill.

This setback was of importance as the supplies and re-enforcements for the troops in Arnhem did not arrive on time.

The single highway towards Arnhem seems to be with right a Hells Highway.



(Source: Album2war.com)

Grave

What is the best way to attack a bridge? Both ends at once. This is what E-504th from the 82nd Airborne did under the command of Lt Thompson. They Landed on the south side of the bridge at Grave while the rest of the 504th Landed at Overasselt on DZ/LZ-O. Lt Thompson and his group charged towards the bridge on the South side and knocked out some pillboxes and secured the south side of the bridge.

This is the DZ as it is now Marsstraat. You can see the van Sasse lock.





This map gives an overview of the DZ's used and the attack on the Bridge at Grave.

As you can see I pointed out more lines at the Overassel DZ as this is where the main force of the 504th landed and units went out to get the Heumen, Malden and Hatert bridge

This is the van Sasse lock just south of the bridge. From here you can see the pillboxes that were built by the Dutch army. These bunkers were overrun and taken out by the men of Lt Thompson. The one on the South end of the bridge had a flak gun on it that was taken out with a bazooka after the troops swam across the little canal at akkerskamp.



The pill boxes south of the bridge with the flak gun on it.



If you look close to these bunkers you can see they are heavily damaged by small arms and some heavier weapons like a bazooka.

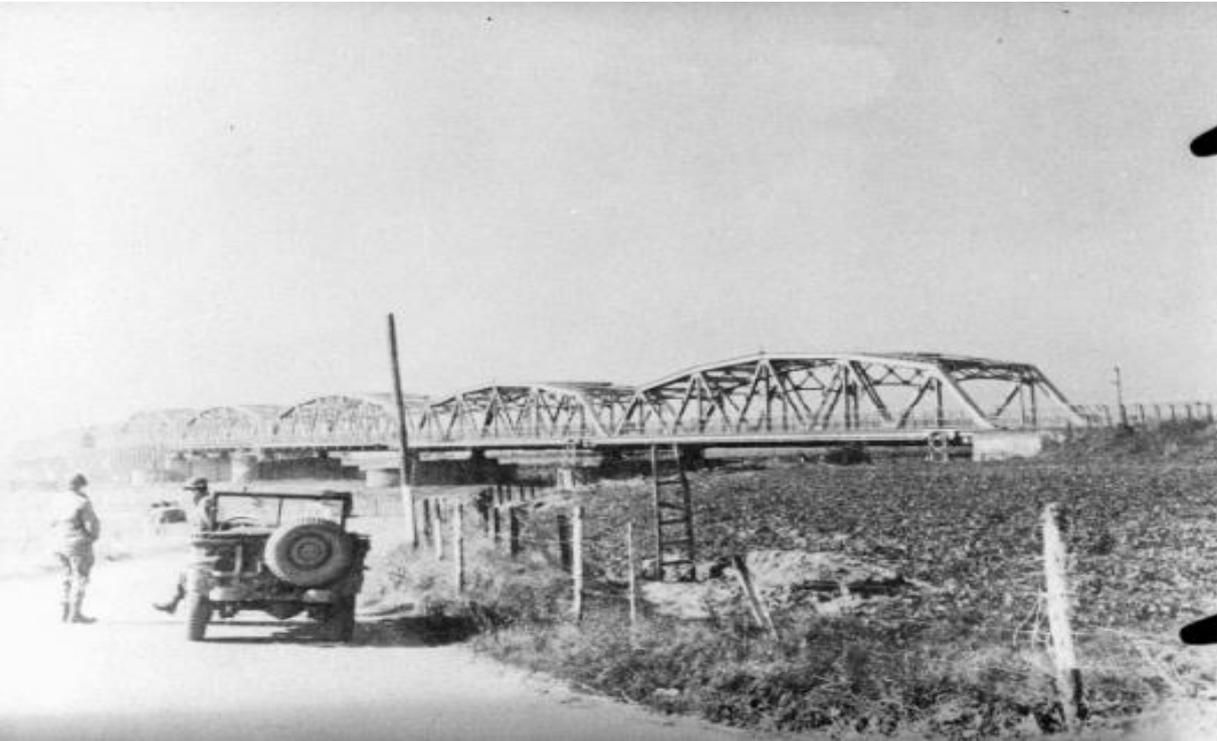
The flak guns were on top the bunkers.



Pillbox north but still on the south end of the bridge.



Bridge no11 Grave captured intact. There is a small parking lot just after the bridge where you can find a small monument.



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: Grave Bridge from the south end)



AIRBORNE



On 17th September 1944, during the Second World War, the West Bridge in Normandy was captured by the 2nd Airborne of the 2nd British Airborne Division.



On 19th September 1944, the first tank of the 1st US Army crossed the West Bridge.



In 1944, the defence of the West Bridge was a key part of the 1st US Army's operations in Normandy.



(Source: tracesofwar the north end of Grave bridge)

In the village of Grave you can still find some monuments and one is the CIDER WHITE plaque on hoofdwagt opposite the church at the tourist information center VVV. CIDER WHITE was the CP of Major Wellems.





(Source: Book Als sterren van de hemel the command post cider white in 1944 Major Wellem without helmet)



At Maaskade you can find a draped parachute at the Poort van Grave. It is a very small monument and if you don't pay attention you will miss it.





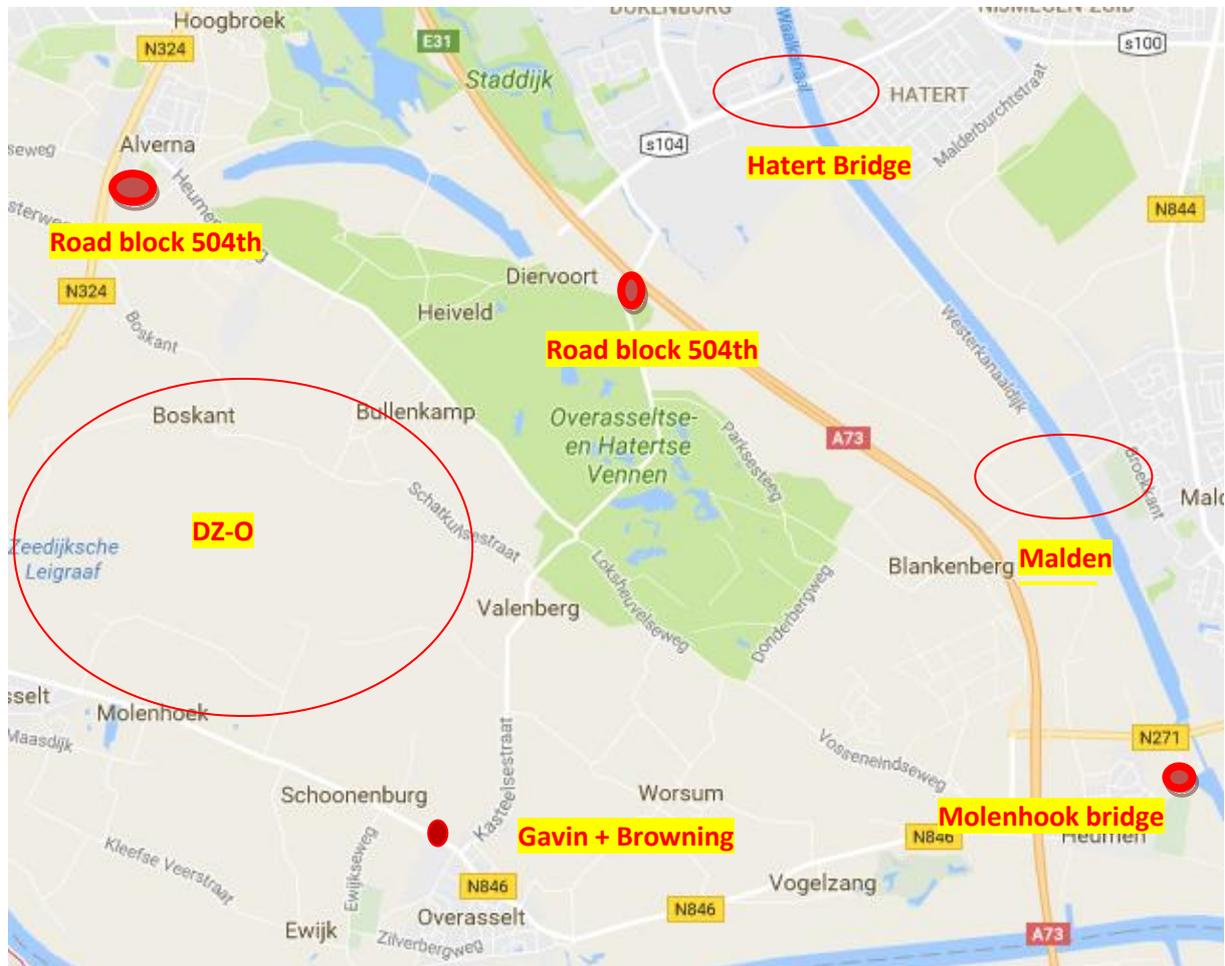
Overasselt

This little village on the north end of the bridge at Grave was the DZ-O for the 504th there is a nice monument for the devils in baggy pants that descended to earth on the 17th of September 1944. This DZ was also a LZ for 325th for gliders. Some polish troops landed here as well. Follow the N846.



(Source: dorpsraadlangenboom.nl drop zone landing zone at Overasselt)

The drop zone at Overasselt. From here some units from the 504th went out to take the bridges at Malden and Hatert. These bridges were blown up by the Germans in front of the attackers faces.



The Hatert Bridge on Van Boetbergweg at Nijmegen and the Malden Bridge at Blankenbergseweg in present day. The Honinghutje Bridge at Nijmegen was heavily damaged, but we will come back to that bridge later.



Hatert Bridge present day.



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: Hatert Bridge winter of 1944)



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: damaged Bridge at Hatert)



Malden Bridge present day.

Nice to know is when the Tanks crossed the bridge at Grave General Gavin and General Browning waited for the tanks at Schoonenburgseweg. On the picture below, you can still see drop containers from the DZ.



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen)



Heumen

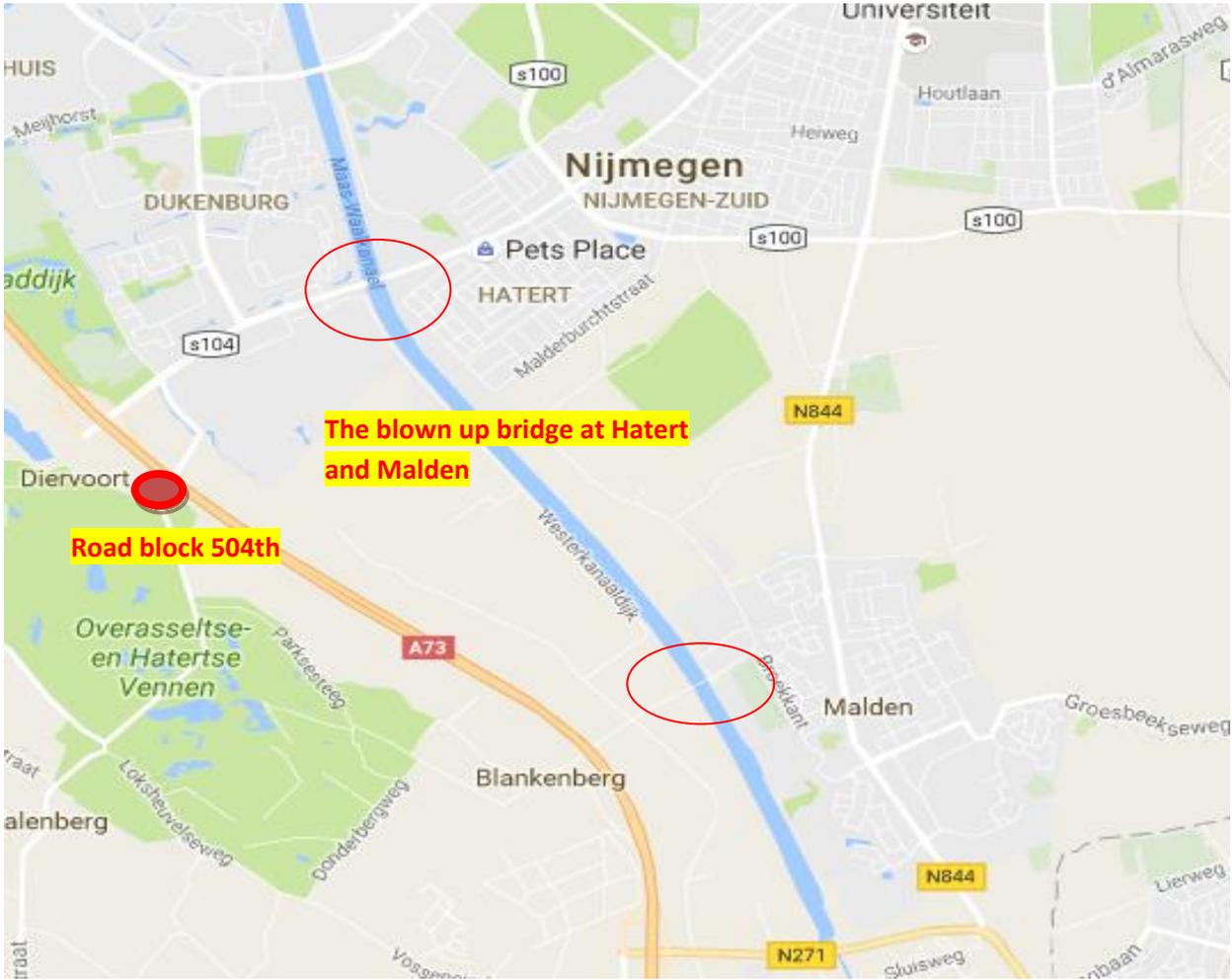
This bridge over the maas-waal canal was baptized as the Molenhook Bridge by the men of the 504th. A-504th was one of the first companies to almost take a bridge at Malden but this was blown up in front of their faces. Later that day they established to make a bridge with the rubbles of that bridge and made contact with 2-505th. C-504th also had no luck at the Hatert Bridge as this bridge was blown up as well. There are some bridges over the canal and this is Molenhook Bridge taken after a fierce battle by B-504th and some of the 2nd battalion 505th and 307th engineers coming from the Groesbeek surroundings. There are some signs of the battle for this bridge. Now Gavin was very satisfied to have an internal linkup with all his units on the 17th of September.

This bridge can be found at the Kapitein Postmalaan (note this is a death end street)





(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: The Molenhook Bridge as it was back in the day)



Molenhoek

There is a small monument in Molenhoek for a temporary cemetery. This monument is placed on the corner of molenstraat/hoogenhofsepad.

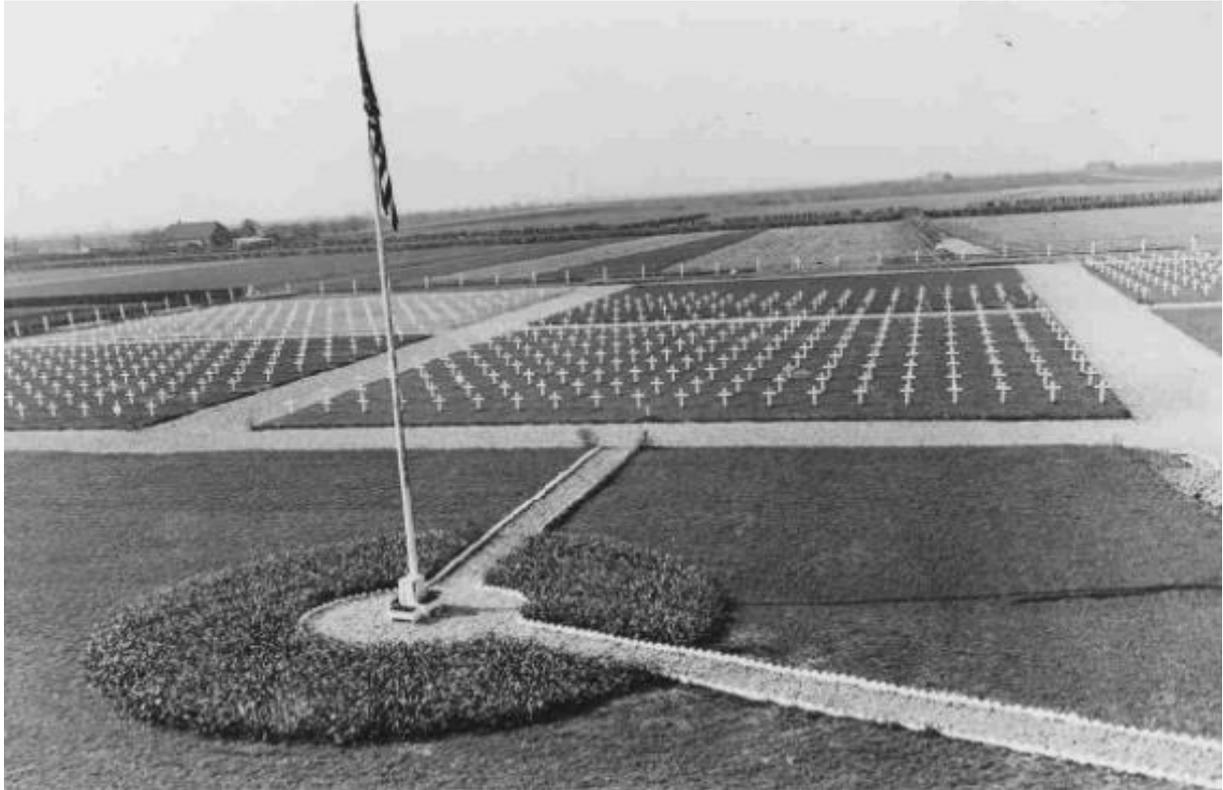




As you see Molenhoek is close to Heumen that is on the other side of the Canal with the Molenhookbridge.

From Molenhoek it is easy to go towards Mook.

On the next page is an old photo of the temporary cemetery at Molenhoek.



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: The temporary cemetery at Molenhoek)



Mook

Mook was liberated by men of the 505th 82nd airborne. Mook suffered intense from the switch around from being captive by the Germans and being liberated again by the 82nd. The village was liberated the 17th of September and re-captured by the Germans the 20th of September in the afternoon. Mook was liberated again the same evening with support of XXX corps. This was one of the reasons XXX corps could not advance towards Arnhem after taking Nijmegen Bridge.

The battle of Mook became world news. 81 American soldiers lost their lives and 8 civilians during this battle.

There are some small signs and plaques near the town square of Mook. This one is on raadhuisplein. See next page.





AIRBORNE



In honor of the men of the 101st Airborne Division, who were willing to pay the ultimate price for our freedom.

LEST WE FORGET

Ter nagedachtenis aan de mannen van de 101ste Airborne Divisie die bereid waren de ultieme prijs te betalen voor onze vrijheid.

OP DAT WIJ NOOIT MOGEN VERGETEN

17-9-1944

17-9-1944

There is a very tiny plaque in the wall of the house on the corner of the square on your left hand side when you are in front of the plaque above.





At the grave yard at the Church of Mook is the grave of PvT E. Holmes. His grave was lost for 40 years. With the help of a Local from Beek the family of PvT E. Holmes found his grave.

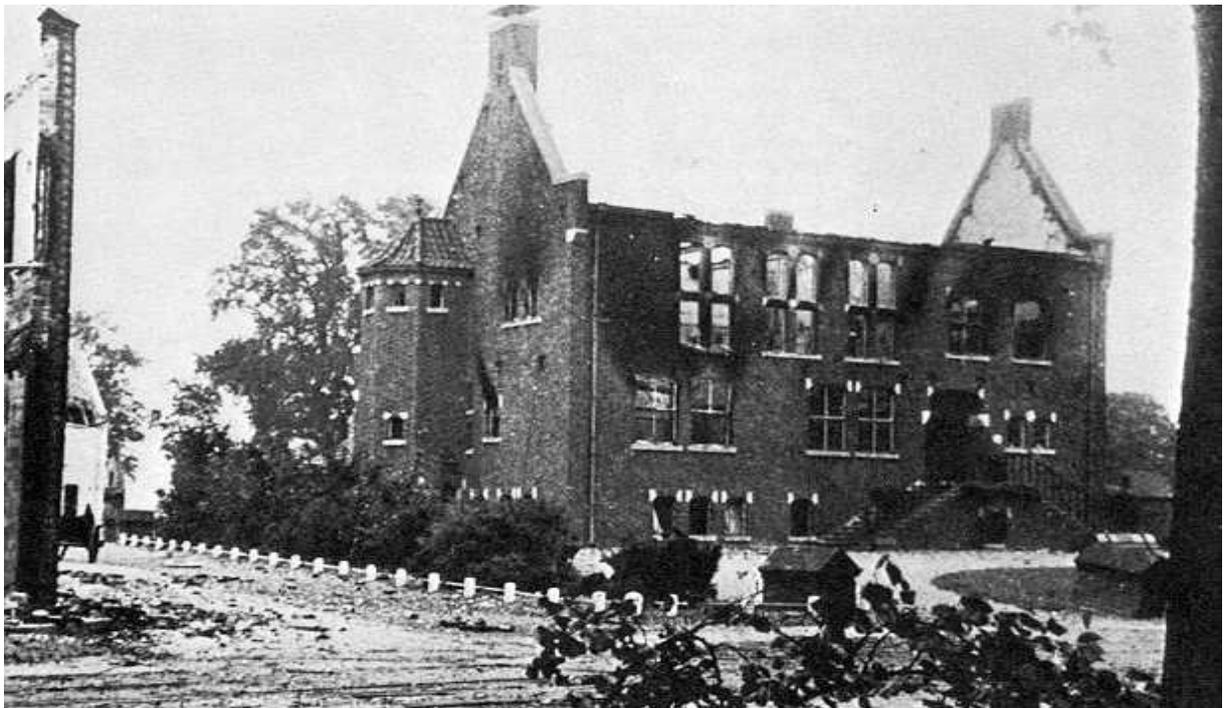
From this spot in Mook you can also visit the war cemetery on Groesbeekseweg from there it is easy to go to Groesbeek.



14704522 PRIVATE
E. HOLMES
THE SUFFOLK REGIMENT
3TH OCTOBER 1944 AGE 19



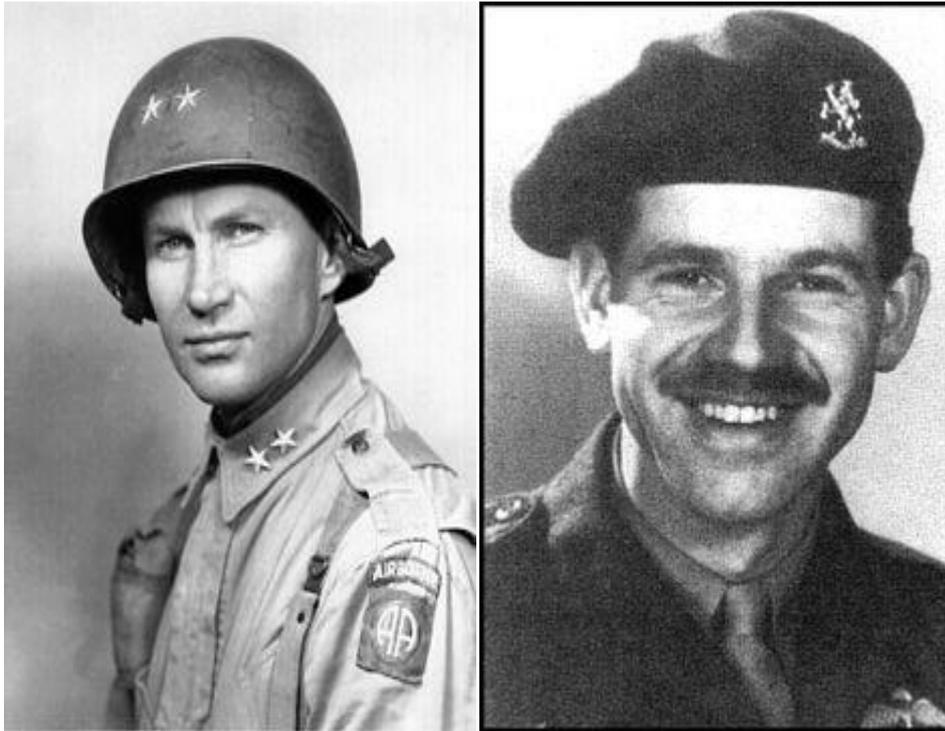
This is the town hall of Mook in September 1944



(Source: Book als sterren van de hemel)

Groesbeek

On the 17th of September the 505th and support landed on DZ-N knapheide now a day this is called Klein Amerika. General Gavin landed here as well and headed towards his CP with the Dutch commando Capt. A.Bestebreurtje. Bestebreurtje saved Gavin's live by taken out a German soldier who was trying to shoot Gavin. Bestebreurtje shot the German shooting his rifle from the hip.



General Gavin

Capt- Bestebreurtje

Gavin landed around the spot marked with an X. From here he went towards his CP following the three lines and through the woods.



Aerial picture and a picture taken from the ground.



Close to camping Klein Amerika is a monument



This field was also LZ-N. There is a nice monument of a WACO glider at knapheide. This is marked with road signs and located in the field of Klein Amerika.





On the Nieuwe Drulseweg is a monument for General Gavin.



The General's CP in 1944 codenamed as champion was in the woods close to Hotel Wolfsberg at Groesbeek. This hotel is at Mooksebaan 12. The road sign champion was placed on the corner of Mooksebaan / Rijlaan.





(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: Sign command post wolfsberg)

At Mooksebaan Capt. Bestebreurtje was gathering Intel from some Locals.



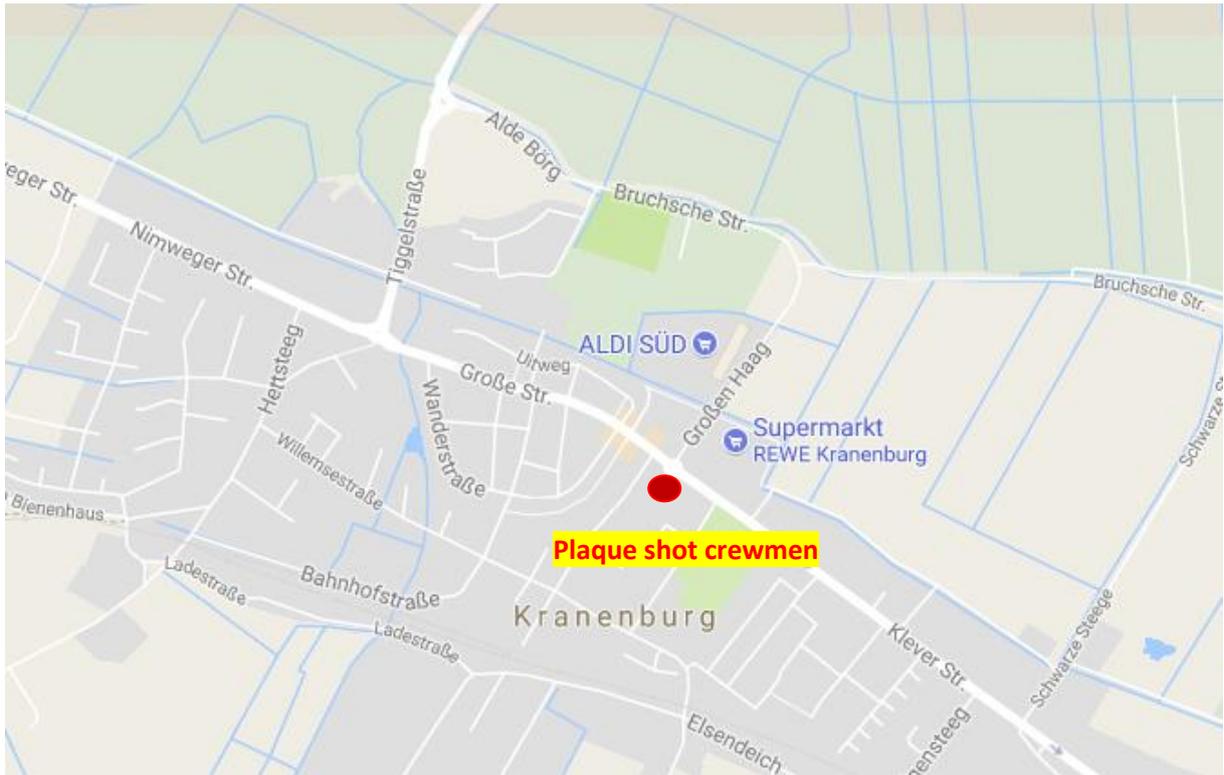


At Wylerbaan you will find a Museum and is worth a visit. Further down the road there is a monument for the landings of the 508th on DZ-T. This road will lead you towards Berg en Dal and Duivelsberg. Please note that after the 504th crossed the Waal River they were placed in defensive positions at Duivelsberg and at the farm Den Heuvel. Den Heuvel switched from German to American side several times. From here you can also see Kranenburg Germany. Some paratroopers over shot the DZ and ended up in Kranenburg. Some crewmen had to jump with the paratroopers and got fusilladed by the Germans.

The following plaque is in Germany Kranenburg and can be found in front of the town hall Klever Strasse.

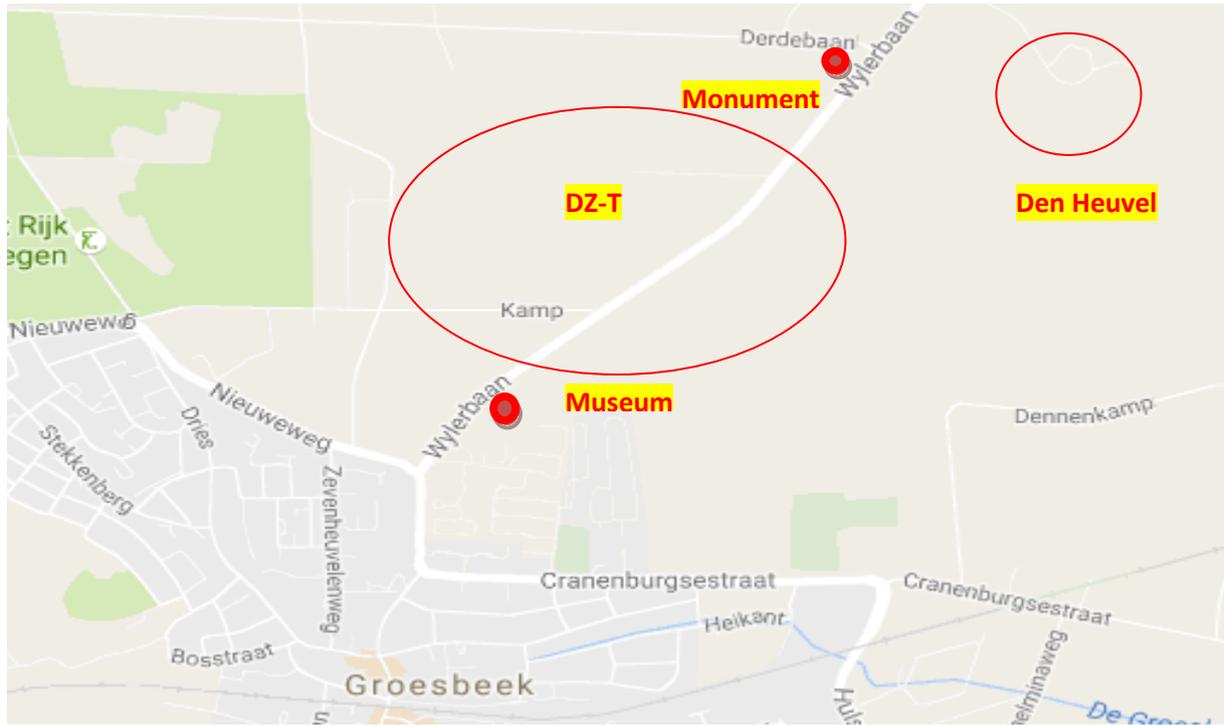


It says "on the 17th of September 1944 the day the allies landed in this border area Technical Sergeant George T Harrison and Corporal William H Armstrong crew of an American transport plane got captured and shot by an SA-Man.



The following monument is at Wylerbaan and also has some text on there for operation Vertable.







If you are lucky enough, you can find a plaque for the 82nd in the city town hall at Dorpsplein 1 in the center of Groesbeek.



(Courtesy: Dana Beach)



Breedeweg (Groesbeek)

In the small village of Breedeweg the HQ of General Browning landed with Horsa Gliders. Note this village is close to Germany. The General walked to the edge of the LZ towards the Reichwald after landing and took a piss on Germany.



Lt-General Browning

(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)

There is a small monument at the landing spot of Lt-General Brownings HQ on Koningin Wilhelminaweg. This is very hard to see and is on the side of the road and you will drive pass it if you do not keep your eyes open. If you come from Breedeweg this will be on your left-hand side



PEGASUS

MET HORSIA GLIDERS ALS GEVLEUGELDE PAARDEN
LANDDE HIER OP 17 SEP 1944
HET BRITSE AIRBORNE CORPS HOOFDKWARTIER
ONDER GEN BOY BROWNING

BEZOEKER, LAAT LIEFDE U VLEUGELS GEVEN
OM TE ZIJN WAAR U NODIG BENT

THE BRITISH AIRBORNE CORPS HEADQUARTERS
UNDER GEN BOY BROWNING
LANDED HERE ON 17 SEP 1944
WITH HORSIA GLIDERS AS THEIR WINGED HORSES

PILGRIM, LET LOVE LEND YOU WINGS
WHEN NECESSITY CALLS



On the Parachutistenstraat you can find a monument that was made from a part of a Horsa Glider.

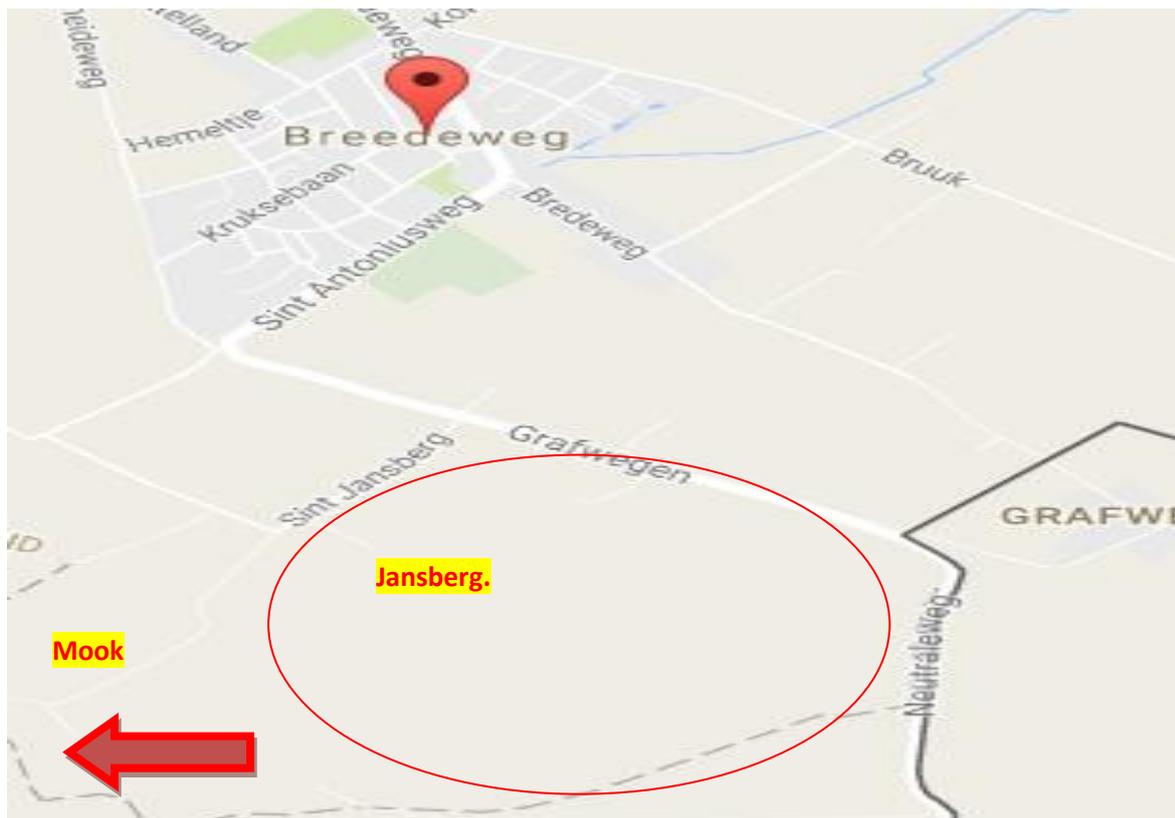
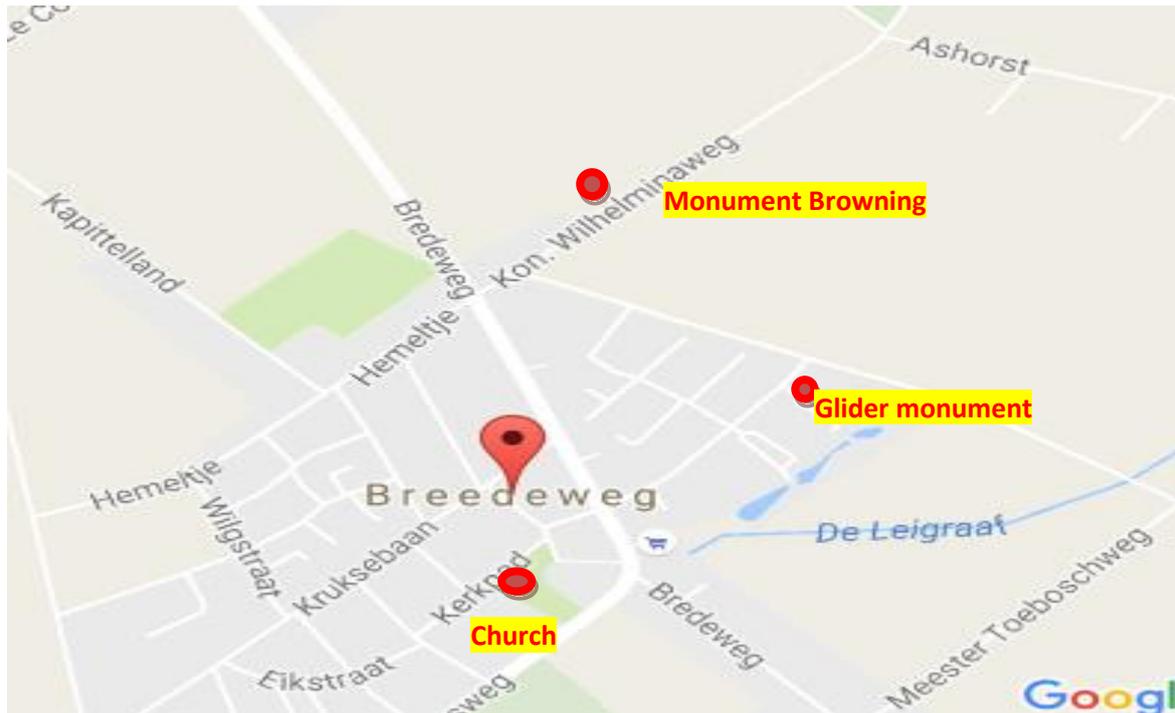




If you follow your way towards the town square and church (padre Hoek) you will find some small monuments on the left-hand side at the bottom of the tower and on the wall of the tower. There was some heavy fighting going on at the Jansberg as the other side of the road is Germany.







As you can see the thick blue line and the village of Grafwegen is Germany. The road below is strategic as it goes towards Mook and towards Groesbeek. The Americans called this the Hill (kiekberg/Jansberg forest). The 505th took the hill on the 17th of September but the Germans broke the line on the 20th and B and C Company got isolated. The 325th landed on Klein America LZ-N the 24th and the 2nd battalion got ordered to release the 505th at Plasmolen.

The American counter attack on these woods started the 25th of September and by the end of the 28th the woods were cleared for 75% by the Americans. On the 29th nothing much happened but the 30st the Germans counter attacked again around midnight however the Americans stand their ground and both sides had heavy losses. The Americans made a defensive line. The Germans didn't succeed to recapture the woods and hill. The 325th got released by the 505th. Later the British took over and the 8th of November the Canadian Cameroon Highlanders.



(Source: sprekendlandschap.nl/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/rapport-WO2-St.Jansberg_klein.)



As you can see the places are very close to each other and the counter attacks of the Germans influenced the big push through to Arnhem as many think that the tanks just stopped after taking the bridge. This is not true. The Germans were about to break the lines on several fronts and close to let Market Garden fail at Nijmegen and to my opinion this would have caused much more trouble for the 1st independent Polish Brigade, the 1st Airborne Division, 82nd Airborne, 101st Airborne and XXX corps.

Duivelsberg

Hill 75:9 Devils hill. The actions to take and keep this hill is one of the most remarkable actions of the paratroopers of 508th A-company as it one of a small isolated unit who did not gave an inch of their positions. Tuesday afternoon the 19th of September around 15:30 Lt John Foley was summit by his battalion commander. Shield Warren demanded that LT Foley and his men of A-company supported by machine guns and a support company released a platoon of the 3th battalion who did not succeeded in taken hill 75:9. After contact with this platoon it should be attached to LT Foley command and the hill should be hold against any price and the road below should be cut off. The German forces estimated a company and shouldn't be much trouble according to Warren. Lt Foley and his men set off. It was no trouble for Lt Foley to find the route through the forest. They crossed the road Berg en Dal and went into a little valley called filosofendal. At the bottom of the hill they found the platoon of Lt Covey and now the troubles started. The Germans did not set outposts, so they immediately got a warm welcome from Spandau machine guns. To shut down does guns Lt Foley ordered a bazooka team to make an outflanking maneuver left around the hill. The team just went on their way and immediately all 10 of them got mowed down by an MG-42. This caused some fear and doubts within the company. After a 2nd bazooka team got taken down Lt Foley stopped the outflanking maneuvers and decided to attack the hill frontal form the South. He led the company a bit back and started to climb the hill. Without any doubt Lt Foley ordered his machine guns to his right flank for close fire support and deployed his sections. At 200 meters from the top he gave the signal 'Let's go!'

Staff Sergeant Herman Jahningen advised the others to yell and scream like Indians. He knew from experience that this would take away fear and would give fear to the German defenders. So, it worked out yelling screaming and firing from all kind of weapons the German defenders ran away. Lt Foley ordered his men to dig in and take defensive positions. He went to the North side of the hill with the other officers of the attached platoon to work out the defensive plan when they attracted small arms fire from the street below. The overrun Germans regrouped and tried to take the hill. This was easier said than done. The egg-shaped grenades rolled better down wards than the stick grenades went up as they easily hit a tree or a branch and fell back down.

Around 18:00 the 5 machine guns were 300 feet above sea level and were firing via the Querdamm on the fleeing Germans in the farm fields. The hill was full of dead Germans and equipment like K98 rifles and two 20mm canons with 300 rounds each. Lt Foley lost 10 men and 7 injured. During the 5 days and nights he only lost another man because he had to lay down artillery fire almost on his own positions to avoid German Fallschirmjagers to take over the hill. Lt Foley set outpost down a little crooked path at the slope of the hill that leaded back to herberg Zum Teufelsberg (now the pancake restaurant) Lt Foley and his men had no idea they were fighting on German soil. They also did not know this land belonged to Frau Alice Schuster a cousin of Hermann Goring. Her villa was called Villa Wylerberg this was 600 meters from the hill. In the night Lt Foley and his men got some resupplies but did not received rations. The men went down the hill at night to find something to eat and so they did find some at the foot of the hill at the house of Theo Hendriks across of Café Startjeshof. The owner Theo Hendriks never realized the Americans were taking his food.

At the same time the hill was taken another company also took the high grounds of Wyler. The route Nijmegen – Kleve was cut off at three positions. At Beek, at the Querdamm and at Wyler.



On the next page you will find pictures from Villa Schuster, restaurant Zum teufelsberg and from on top of the hill overlooking Querddamm.





From the top off the hill you can see miles and miles if weather allows you in any wind direction.



When you go to visit Devils hill try to avoid it in the weekend's afternoon as it is pretty busy. When you go, have a walk in this forest you will have a clear view of Germany Kranenburg and on the other side Wyler.

Beek-Ubbergen

This little village changed from German to American side a couple of times. In the beginning of Market Garden elements of the 508th used the east side to attack the bridge to avoid the city center. However, they did not really pay attention to the high ground and the rijksweg leading from Germany to the Hunnerpark / Nijmegen Bridge. The Germans could use this road and did not give it up that easy as it also could be used to escape from Nijmegen. The Division staff of the 82nd airborne wanted the high grounds taken and the road to be blocked. Lt Mendez commander of the 3th battalion 508 ordered some of his men to cut off the road at Beek and ordered Lt Wilde of G-Company he ordered 12 of his men including LT Call to cut off the Quardamm hill and Wyler Lake. This group reached the hill as we now know as Devils hill. They did not know the Germans were on it and Lt Wilde ordered his men to go back towards Berg and Dal. Call reported at Wilde and Wilde gave the 2nd battalion orders to take care of it. They also could not take it and the regiment got called in. However, Lt Mendez could not miss any more men for this task. In the meanwhile, creating a road block in Beek did not take so much effort. In the night of the 18th of September, a halftrack went up the Nieuwe Holleweg. A bazooka team knocked it out. The next day more paratroopers went into Beek to fall back on the higher grounds when the Germans counter attacked. Because the American used tricks to make the Germans believe they were with more the Germans were forced to search house by house. Some German troops reached the top of the high grounds at Beek / Berg and Dal but got into fierce fights with the Americans. The 20th of September the Germans attacked Beek again. With the Waal crossing and the Germans breaking through the lines at Mook and Beek General Gavin arrived late in the evening at Berg and Dal and he remembered crawling from foxhole to foxhole to tell his men to hold the line at all cost. Gavin ordered all guns within reach to concentrate on Beek. Gavin only heard about the success of the crossing and taking the bridges days later as he was so busy and focused on Mook and Beek / Berg and Dal. The Americans had to counter attack and H-company of Capt. Toth got this task. The next 24 hours would be hell for the people in Beek. Now that the bridges were under control and the urge of getting the Germans out of Beek got more serious by the minute Lt Mendez had a trick up his sleeve as he could not miss too many men as he might lose the high grounds. He ordered a platoon of F-company and some mortar and heavy machine gun teams to attack Beek at day break. It was a nightmare as straight away a platoon commander and some scouts got killed. Machines guns were blazing the mortar pipes were red hot. The Germans counter attacked again and almost reached the center of Berg and Dal. Due to the fact that the British Wessex division took over the positions of the 2nd battalion 505th of Lt-Col Vandervoort this battalion could be released to get some rest on the high grounds at Berg and Dal. Lt Mendez could now use I-company and surrounded Beek in a half circle with four companies. However, the plans Mendez had could not be used as a small recon team of H-Company got into the center of Beek and reported the Germans had heavy losses. When Mendez got these reports, he ordered to attack Beek straight away. The Germans could not counter attack anymore and Beek was liberated at 18:00 the 21st of September.

There is a monument in Beek-Ubbergen and the is on the corner of Rijksweg,





Nijmegen

On the 17th of September in the late afternoon 18:30 the 1st battalion of Lt-Col Shield Warren 508th had their CP on a hill around the Sionshof and Nebo map coordinates 731591. Later Capt. Bestebreurtje would have his CP here and the linkup with XXX corps was established the 19th of September. From the Sionshof now a Chinese restaurant the 1st battalion of 508th tried to get into town and capture the bridge as the rumor had it is the bridge was easy defended. Also Capt. Bestebreurtje started a reconnaissance mission toward Nijmegen. There was a small firefight with a German group as American troops went down the road towards Nijmegen. The American took cover in the front garden of houses and this is where Corporal Roy B Lewis jumped into a comrade's bayonet that was already taking cover in the foxhole. This was at house 68 at that time.

Bestebreurtjes mission ended soon at café Groenewoud corner postweg. And the patrol of C Company that took a different route ended close at Mariaplein around 03:00.

There was a mistake in the orders as Gavin thought that Col. Linquist gave orders to the 1st battalion to take Nijmegen bridge and now this battalion (A and B company) took defensive positions at café de ploeg for six hours after the landing. Col. Linquist thought he could not give the orders to attack the bridge. Gavin took action and told Linquist that the 1st battalion 508th should attack the bridge. However, they wasted too much time and reached the city around 22:00 by then Nijmegen and the bridge was heavily defended by a reconnaissance unit of the 9th SS panzer division. When they reached Keizer Karel plein they had to fight with knives and bayonets as the fighting was so heavy and close that you could not tell who was shooting who. Luckily B Company showed up after they got lost. That saved A company from big losses.

Captain Adams still wanted to try and go find the explosion device that according to the local Dutch resistance was situated in the post office or the Belvedere close to the bridge. With a small group he fought his way into the post office and Belevedere and when he could not find what he was looking for he redraw towards the Keizer Karel plein.

The Germans thought that a large group of American Paratroopers where attacking towards the bridge. Therefore, they only kept the defensive positions. If they would have known this was only a company it would have been a bad situation for the 1st company of 508th and the outcome of Nijmegen.

Nijmegen Bridge was captured the 20th of September

There are some small monuments in and around Nijmegen to see.

The Sionshof at Nijmeegsebaan. The tanks of XXX corps established a linkup the 19th of September coming in from Scheidingsweg as the tanks took the Molenhook Bridge to cross the maas-waal canal. This was not needed and took more time again. There was a bridge just 6 kilometers from the Waal Bridge. This bridge named Honinghutje Bridge at Graafseweg was damaged but still could carry the heavy tanks. However, these tanks returned and went over the Molenhookbridge instead.



Above is the Honinghutje Bridge no 10 at Graafseweg.

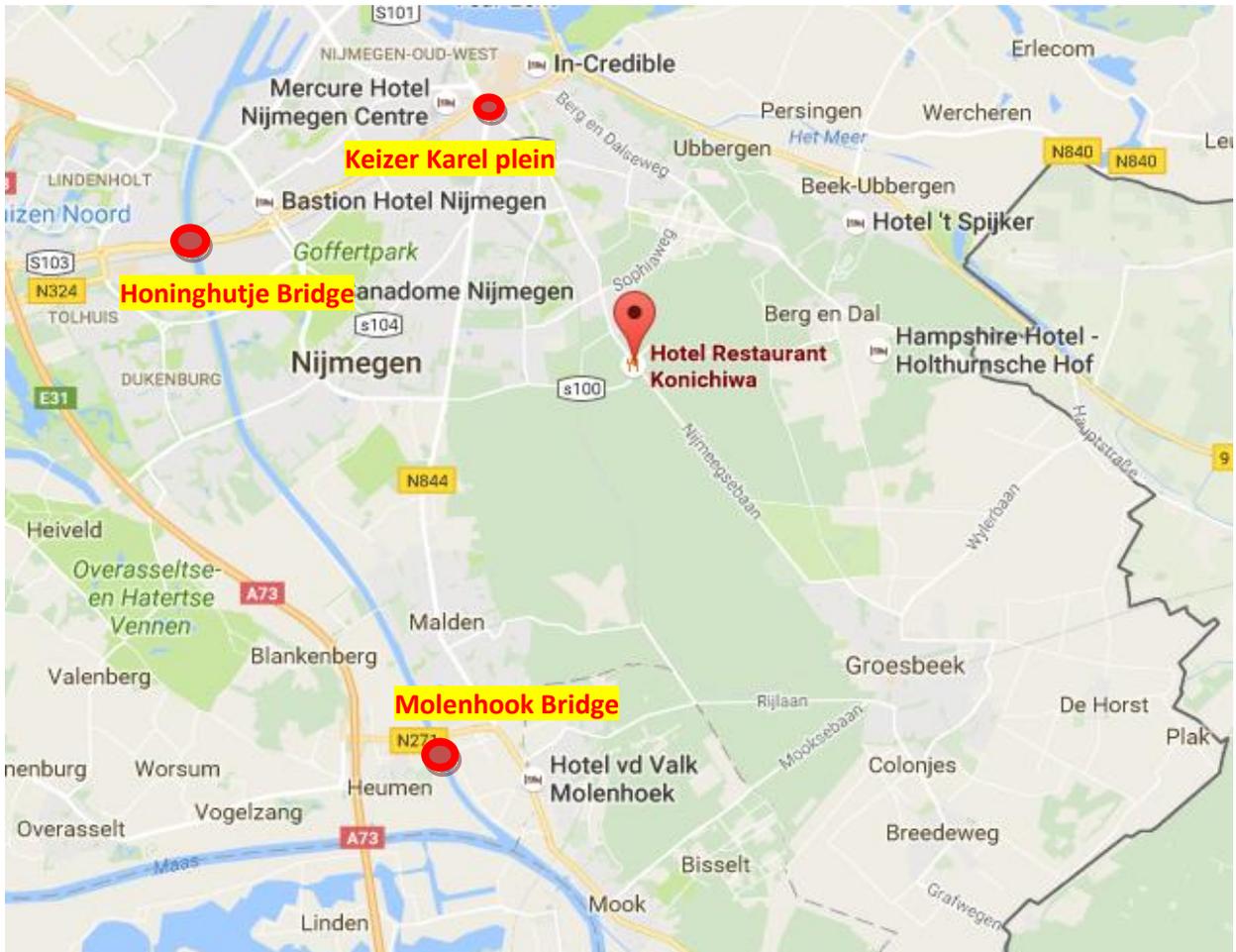
On the next page is the Sionshof. If you look at the place like in the picture the tanks came up from the road behind you. If you walk around and look down the road on your right at the roundabout you look towards Groesbeek.

There are two small plaques.

One above the entrance and one next to the entrance.







Below is a small table that can be found at the General Gavin monument in Groesbeek. This table shows a good overview of the surroundings.



Following now are some monuments and places towards and in Nijmegen city center. The city was in rubbles as it was bombed on the 22nd of February and again before Market Garden started.

First the Keizer Karel plein as it was. Now a day this is a big roundabout and still dangerous as people coming on this roundabout have way on the people that are driving on it. So be careful.



(Source: gemeentetramnijmegen.nl)

After the battle Keizer Karel plein. The Theater can be seen on the right and in front is Oranjesingel towards the bridge.



(Courtesy of regionaal archief Nijmegen: Keizer Karel plein after the battle)



(Courtesy of regionaal archief Nijmegen: a German killed in action at Keizer Karel plein)



Keizer Karel plein now a day.

When you go into the city you should try to go up the St Stevens church and have a nice overview of the Nijmegen battle grounds if you look towards the Road Bridge you can see the Valkenhof and Hunner Park. These parks were the last foothold of the SS and heavy fighting was going on for these parks until elements of the 504th crossed the Waal river and the German Captain Euling found himself surrounded. Never the less he kept his position and escaped that night in a daring escape going under the bridge and crossing the Waal River. If you walk up to these parks, see if the town hall is open as there is a plaque inside the arch.

On the left-hand side towards the rail road bridge you can see Kronenburger Park. Close to this park Jan van Hoof a member of the Dutch resistance claimed the 18th of September he had cut the wires of the explosives that were placed to blow up the road bridge got shot from a reconnaissance vehicle. There is a small plaque where he was killed on Joris Yves Plein.



Others claimed that the wires were cut in the old post office at Van Schevichavenstraat that is now a grocery store called AH.



This was the former post office. On the next page is a picture of the post office in September 1944. It was to believe that the detonator charges and cables for the demolition charges of the bridge were kept in this building.



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: Post office september 1944)



The bridge as seen from the St Stevens Church. On the right-hand side is the Valkenhof

Back in February 1944 Nijmegen was heavily bombed by the allies and again before Market Garden started.

At Plein 1944 is a small monument to remember the battle of Nijmegen.



This monument can be found at the square 1944.



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: The bombed city of Nijmegen 22-02-1944)

From Plein 1944 you can go in any direction. Nice to know the public transport stops at this square and there is also a parking place.



Plaque in the town hall arch.

From this place you can walk towards the Valkenhof Park and towards the Belevedere and Hunner park. When you get to Hunner park you can see Keizer Lodewijks plein. There was a 88mm gun position on this square. The SS burned down all the houses on the other side of this square to have a good overview and a free range of fire.

When you are in the Valkenhof Park see if the bunker is open that was used to overview the Bridge.

If you go down to Voerweg and the Belevedere you can find a small plaque on the left-hand side of the tunnel going under the Bridge.



The entrance of the Valkenhof Park.



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: Sherman tank at the corner Hertogstraat in the middle you can see the statue in front of the Valkenhof park)





(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: Tank at St Jorisstraat this is between the Valkenhof and the Hunner Park)



Picture taken from the Valkenhof bunker. You can see the Bridge from this spot and the road below that lead to the Voerweg and the plaque at the underpass of the Bridge.



Plaque on the bridge at the Grenadier Guards viaduct.

From this position you can walk up to the Hunner Park and the Belvedere. There is still a German PAK 38 positioned under the Belevedere. From the Hunner Park you can see the Keizer Lodewijk square with a nice monument for the Dutch Resistance.



The Grenadier Guards viaduct.

The road behind you going up is the Voerweg. This road will take you up to The Valkenhof Park or the Hunner Park.



The Belvedere with the PAK 38 just visible.

From this position you can walk up to the Hunner Park and see the monument for the Dutch resistance on the Keizer Lodewijks plein now N325.



The belvedere after the battle and in the front line.

(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen)

The Hunner park as of now is a very nice place to have a nice walk and it is hard to understand that back in September 1944 during the battle of the bridges this was a German strong point and almost impossible to overtake. The allies only took this position as Captain Euling escaped in the night heading east. This after he found himself surrounded when elements of the 504th crossed the River.

In the end the British Grenadier Guards and the Americans 505th skipped the Hunner Park and secured the south end of the Bridge by bashing through and let the Hunner Park for what it was at that moment.



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: Killed in action British soldier in the Hunner park)



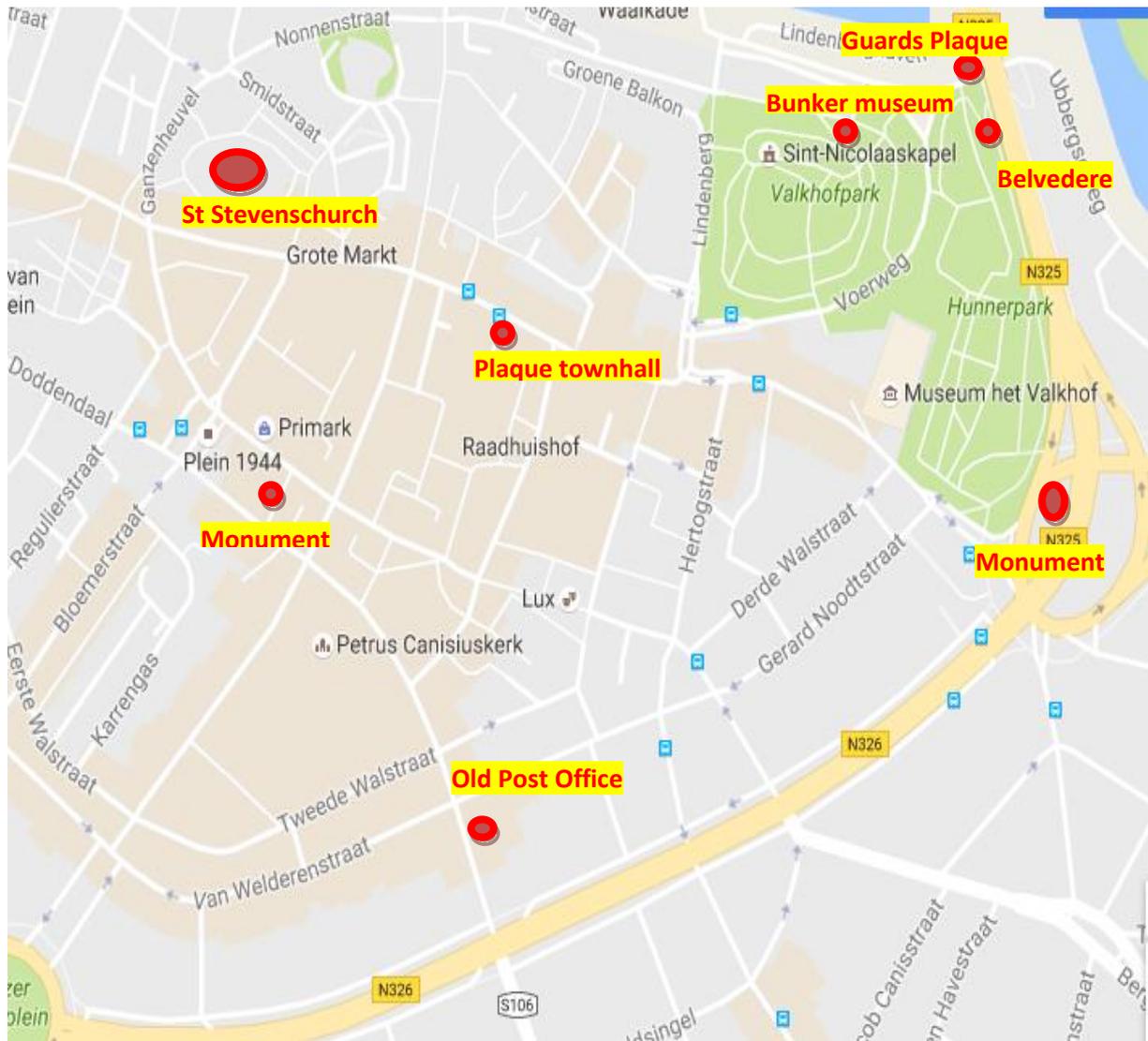
(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: The 88mm canon on the Keizer Lodewijk Plein)

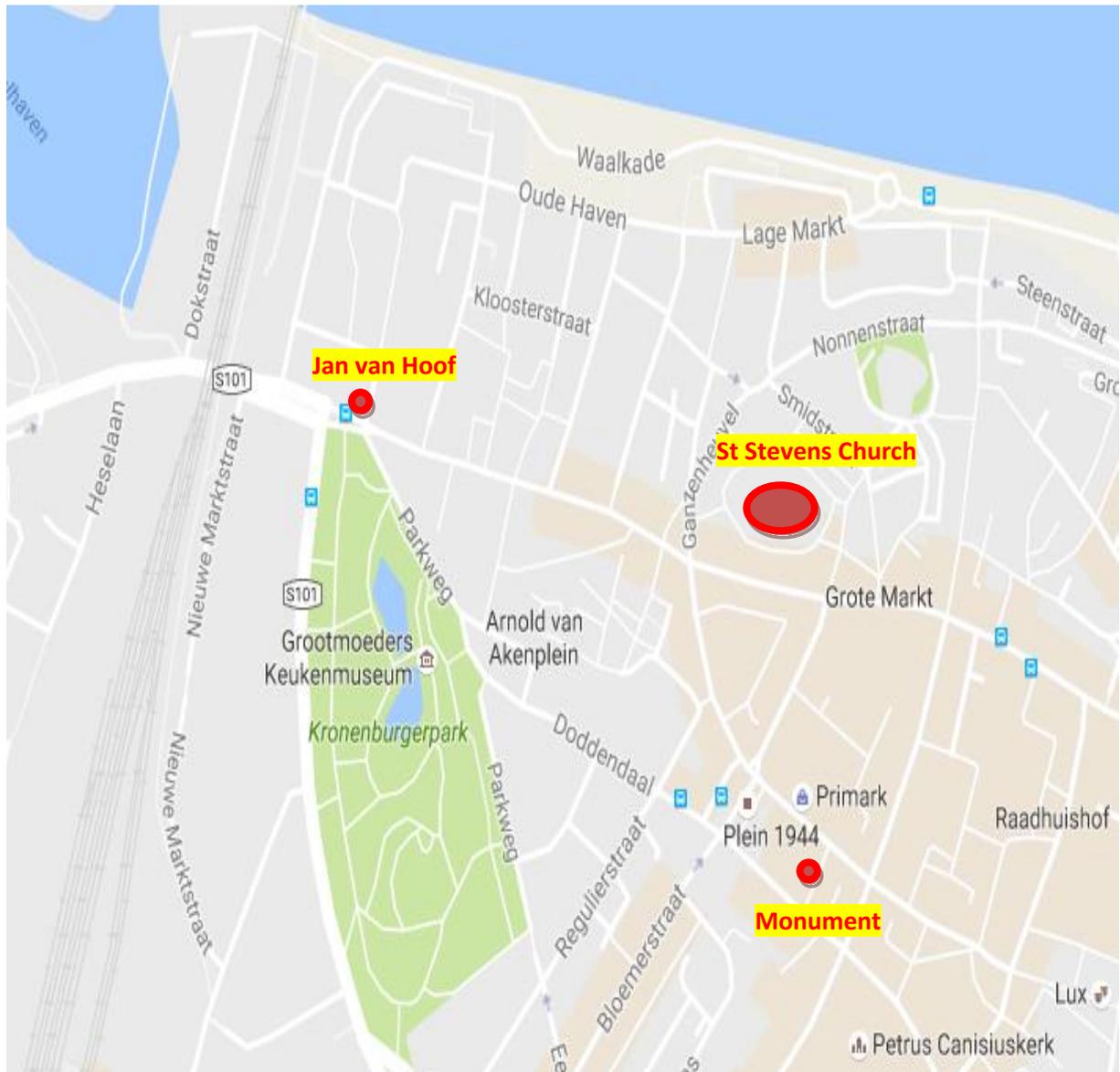


(Source bunker museum Valkenhof: Defensive positions on the Keizer Lodewijk Plein)



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: British troops are crossing the Waal Bridge)







(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: Tanks at the Kronenburger Park)



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: American paratroopers heading into the city from Lange hezelstraat close to begijnenstraat)

The Waal crossing. The best way to attack a bridge is from both ends at once. Major Julian Cook was given this task to cross the Waal with the 1st and 3th battalion 504th by boats and take the railroad

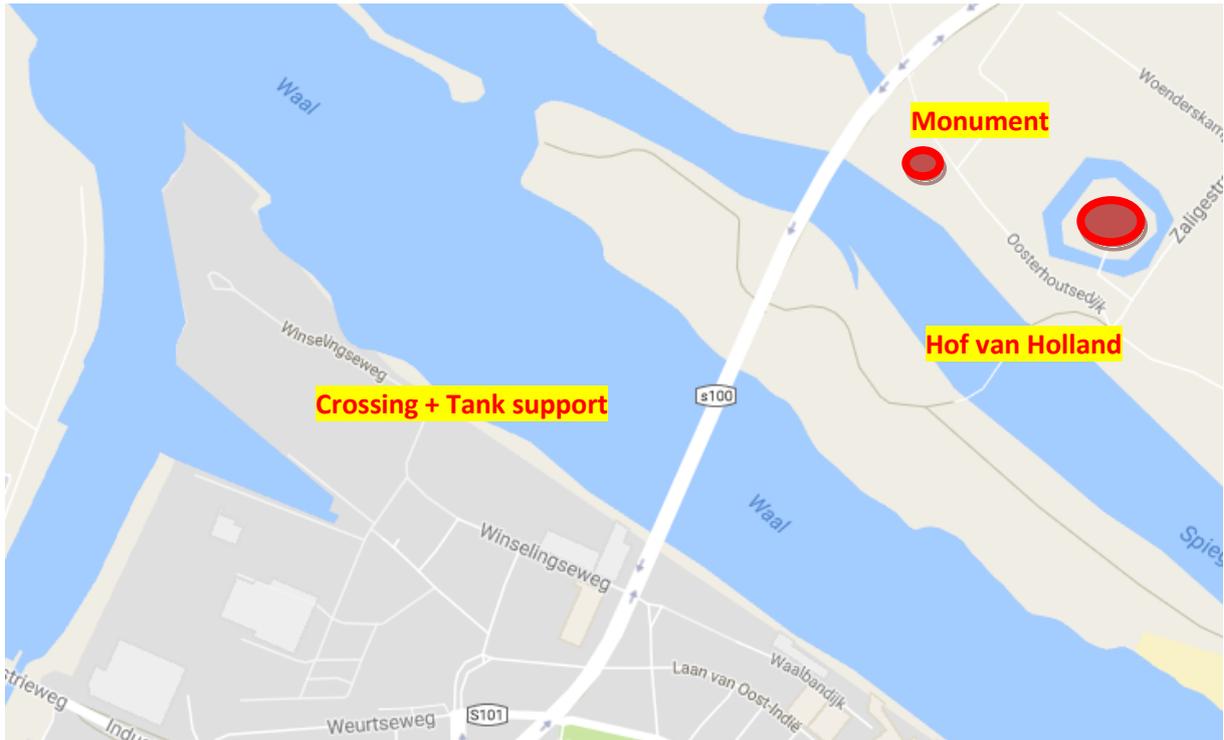
bridge and the road bridge from the north side while the south end was attack by the guards of XXX corps and elements of 2nd battalion 505th. The bridge was taken around 19:00 on the 20th of September after heavy fighting.

The crossing of the Waal was a daring attack over the wide Waal River during daylight as the boats arrived 10-15 minutes before H-hour at 15:00. Tanks would cover the attack while the paratroopers took their canvas boot up the dike over the road and down the slope into the water all hell was falling upon them when they crossed. From the 26 boats during the first wave only 11 came back for the second wave of attack.



(Courtesy Engie)





Note you can't enter the power supply terrain, but you can have a look at the Winselingseweg to see where the crossing started. Under the new bridge there is a listening stone from the liberation route.

Hof van Holland is on the North side and can be found on the Oosterhoutsedijk. Please note that you can reach this place by going over the old bridge turn directly right after the traffic lights and go under the railroad bridge.

The monument at the north end of the Waal where the troops landed and started their advance to the bridges can also be reached this way. On the next page is a picture of this monument



DEZ MOND
PLAATS
OP
DE WAAI
DE WAAI
DE WAAI
DE WAAI

WAALCROSSING BRIDGEHEAD - KILLED IN ACTION - DIED OF WOUNDS - SEPTEMBER 1944

ADAMS Dale F	191	104 478	1001	88	HENNINGER Edward F	191	101 190	101	101	SCHEPPE Marvin W	191	104 478	1011	1001
ALLEN D James	191	104 478	101	87	HEFFORD D Gerald F	191	104 478	101	101	SCOTT Brian W	191	104 478	1011	1001
BEI Anthony	191	104 478	101	87	HOLT Louis F	191	104 478	101	101	SEYMOUR Jack W	191	104 478	1011	1001
BURBY Harry F	191	104 478	101	87	HOPKINS Jack B	191	104 478	101	101	SHAW John	191	104 478	1011	1001
CAMPBELL Dan E	191	104 478	101	100	JACOBS James A	191	101 190	101	101	SHAWSON Robert M	191	104 478	1011	1001
CASE Louis R	191	104 478	101	100	JENNINGS Robert E	191	101 190	101	101	SMITH Michael M	191	104 478	1011	1001
CLEMENS Calvin J	191	104 478	101	100	JONHON William B	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH John R	191	104 478	1011	1001
COLLETON Peter A	191	104 478	101	100	KADWIN Paul J	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH Robert M	191	104 478	1011	1001
CURRIER Robert E	191	104 478	101	100	KERN William E	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH William A	191	104 478	1011	1001
DIXON William M	191	104 478	101	100	KHILL Robert F	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH William E	191	104 478	1011	1001
DOWNS Francis J	191	104 478	101	100	KOENIG Robert F	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH William E	191	104 478	1011	1001
EDWARDS Michael W	191	104 478	101	100	KOENIG Robert F	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH William E	191	104 478	1011	1001
GENTILE Louis F	191	104 478	101	100	KOENIG Robert F	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH William E	191	104 478	1011	1001
GONDELLA Thomas R	191	104 478	101	100	KOENIG Robert F	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH William E	191	104 478	1011	1001
GRONBERG Raymond M	191	104 478	101	100	KOENIG Robert F	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH William E	191	104 478	1011	1001
HALL D John W	191	104 478	101	100	KOENIG Robert F	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH William E	191	104 478	1011	1001
HARTMAN William S	191	104 478	101	100	KOENIG Robert F	191	104 478	101	101	SMITH William E	191	104 478	1011	1001



Nice to know that modern veterans walk a sundown march every night and 48 lights will go on for the fallen troopers.



U.S. 82ND AIRB. DIV.
WAALCROSSING
20 SEPT. 1944
504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY
507 ENG. 576 PEAB.
IN COOP. WITH
505 PAR. INFANTRY
GUARDS ARMORED DIV.

10 SEPT 2004

From this position elements of the 504th attacked Hof van Holland. This was a strong point held by the Germans. After this was taken they headed for the railroad bridge and after that the main Bridge was taken.



(Source Valkenhof bunker: The river crossing and the attack on the bridge.)



Entrance of the Hof van Holland.

Some Germans gave up after the attack on the fort and the attackers went on to take the bridges.

As the fort had many layers there were still Germans in it and after a fierce fight they surrendered.

At the railroad bridge paratroopers got the Germans in between the attackers on the South end and themselves. The Germans were mowed down by the paratrooper at the North end that just crossed the Waal.



Inside the Hof van Holland. From here follow the river bank towards the railroad bridge. There is a small plaque on the wall of the railroad bridge.



The railroad bridge was blown up later by Germans divers on the 28th of September.



(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: The blown-up railroad bridge seen from the South end)

After the railroad bridge was taken the attackers headed for the Road Bridge. On the North side you can find the road blocks used. On the right side of the bridge is a bunker and a small plaque for Jan van Hoof on one of the pillars of the Bridge.

These road blocks were found when they started creating the new bridge and extra water way close to the rail road bridge. On the next page a picture of the road blocks as they are now at the north end of the road bridge and back in 1944.



(Source Valkenhof bunker: The North end of the bridge with the road blocks)



This picture is taken at the ramp of the bridge the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



Bunker on the North end of the Bridge. The plaque for Jan van Hoof is behind you from this position.



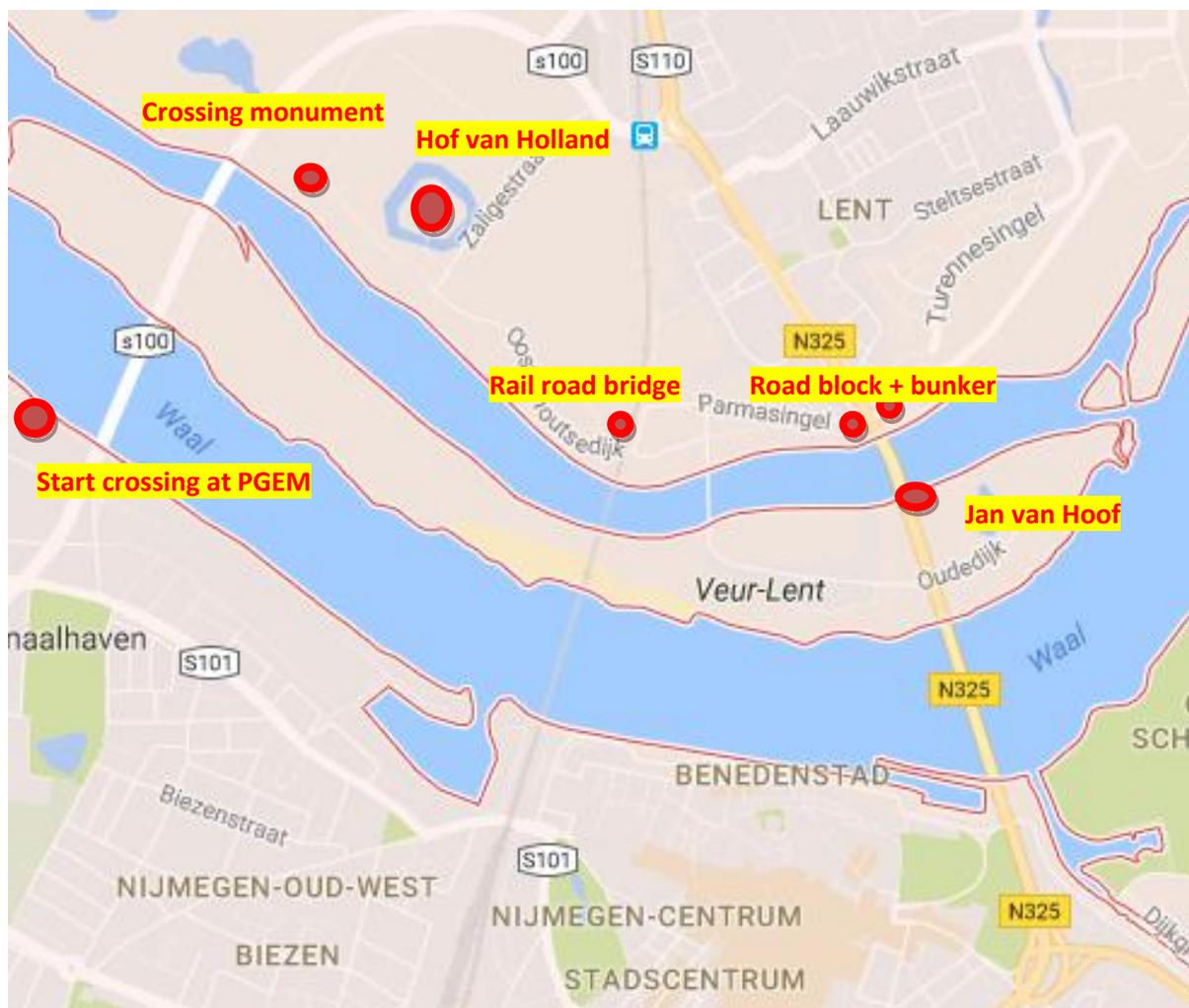
(Courtesy regionaal archief Nijmegen: Troops moving towards Lent)



After this Bridge was taken the 2nd battalion of Lt-Col John Frost had lost the Arnhem Bridge after holding it for four days. The tanks didn't push through to Arnhem due to the Germans breaking the lines in the Nijmegen surroundings and they did not know what was in front of them.

Unfortunately, the Germans could use the Arnhem Bridge again and build a defensive line between Nijmegen and Arnhem.

It might have been possible to reach Arnhem Bridge if they pushed on but they lost the element of surprise and the defensive line of the Germans got better and better after the loss of the Arnhem Bridge.



Please note that the extra water line was not there back in 1944 this was all farm land. See the picture on page 143 for the attack on the bridges.

Renkum

On September the 17th 1944 this field at telefoonweg Renkum was marked as Drop Zone X for the 1st parachute brigade under command of Brigadier Lathbury with the following units Recon, 1st parachute battalion, 2nd parachute battalion, 3rd parachute battalion. On the East side of this field there was Landing Zone Z for the Brigade HQ with Maj-Gen Urquhart.

The 1st battalion under command of Lt-Col Dobie with Recce under command of Maj Gough took the Leopard route towards Wolfheze via Amsterdamseweg and tried to get in to Arnhem from the North. Recce ended up in an ambush at the culvert at Wolfheze and could not reach Arnhem Bridge as planned with a coup de main. Some of the Recce bashed through the defensive line and reached Lt-Col Frost at the Bridge at a later stage of the battle.



Lt-Col Dobie

(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)



Maj- Gough

(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)

The 2nd battalion under command of Lt-Col Frost took the Lion route towards Heelsum, Heveadorp and followed the lower route towards Arnhem Bridge. This battalion under the command of Lt-Col. Frost reached the Bridge early evening. They were also assigned to take the railroad bridge, but the Germans blew this one up in front of the advancing paratroopers.



Lt-Col Frost

(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)

The 3rd battalion under command of Lt-Col Fitch took the middle route called Tiger towards Heelsum and via Oosterbeek Utrechtseweg and head into Arnhem.



Lt-Col Fitch

(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)

These drop zones and landing zones were marked by the pathfinder of the 21st independent parachute brigade.

On the next page are some pictures of DZ-X as used during the events of the Arnhem remembrance by Pathfinder UK.





To give an idea how a drop zone is marked for the incoming planes and paratrooper see the next page.



(Picture taken from information sign at drop zone and landing zone Renkum)



(Courtesy Gelders archief: DZ + LZ at Renkum)

On the next page a monument made from equipment that was found / left behind. This monument is at the Bennekomseweg and can be easily found when you drive back towards Oosterbeek after you have visited the DZ and LZ at Telefoonweg.



Wolfheze

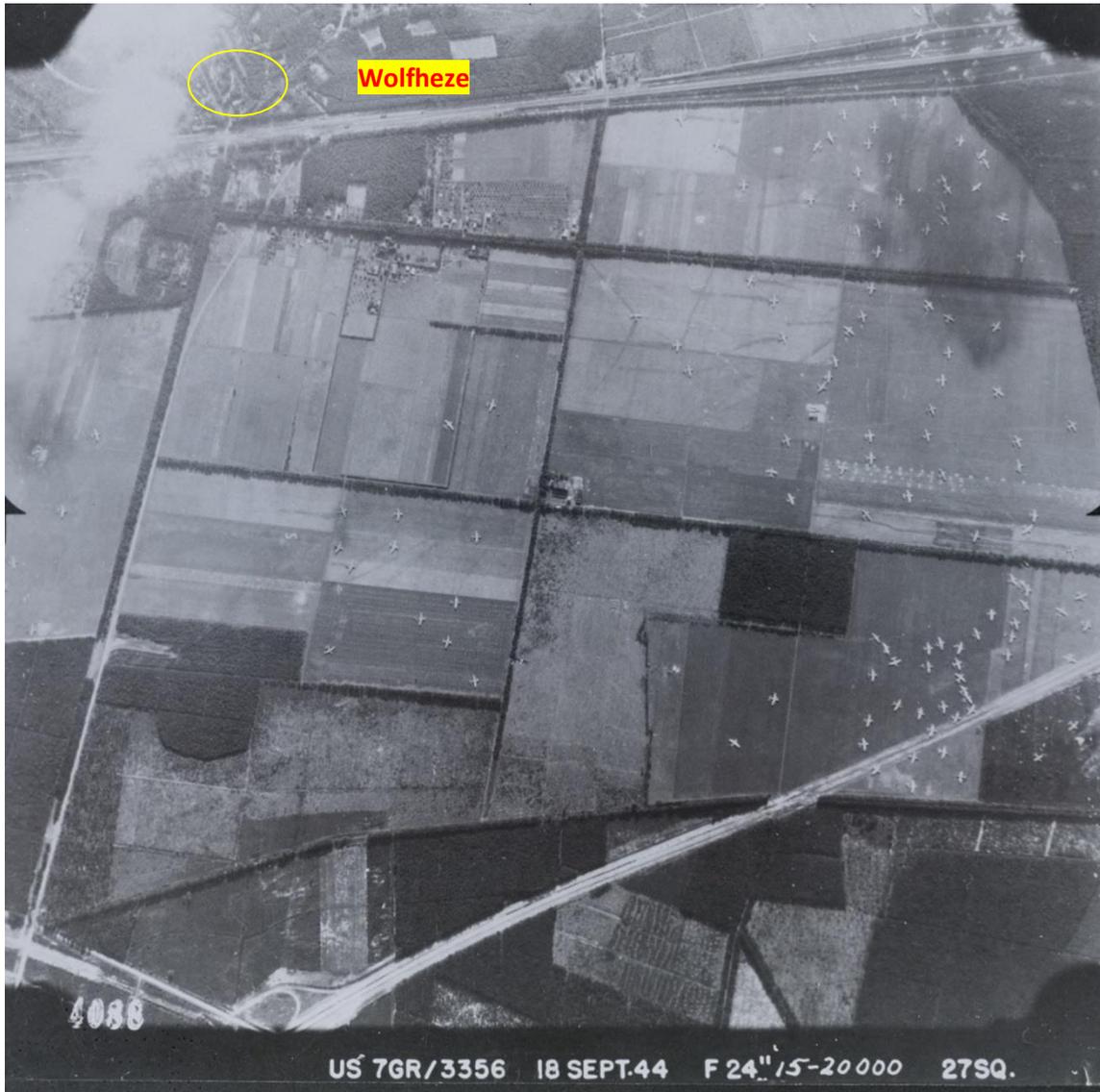
At Wolfheze the 1st Air landing Brigade under Brigadier Hicks came down on Landing Zone S. The landings took place on the 17th and 18th of September. The units involved were the 1st Border Regiment, 7th Kings Own Scottish Borderers and the 2nd South Staffords with a platoon of 9th Field Company RE and 181st Air landing Field Ambulance.



Brigadier Hicks

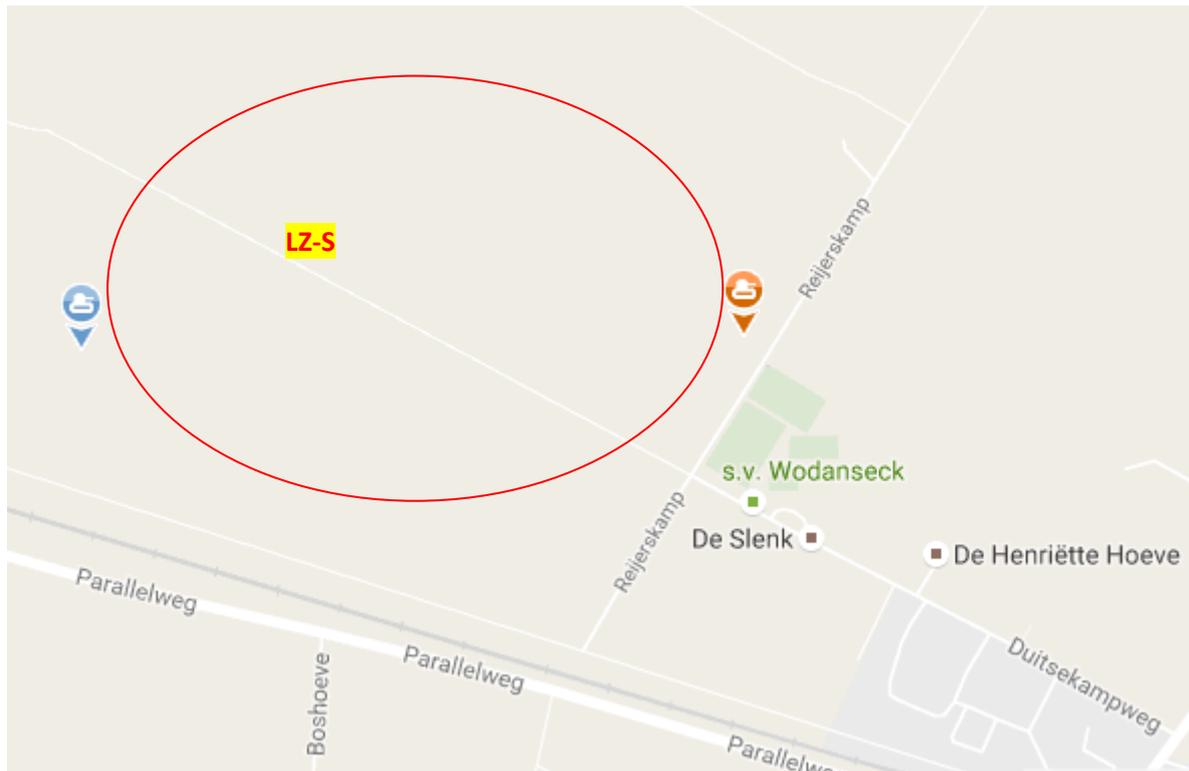
(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)

The Reijerskamp Farm is in the center of the LZ at the end of Duitsekampweg. David Lord VC crashed with his Dakota KG374 on September the 19th on a resupply drop for the troops on the ground. While his airplane was on fire and going down he was still trying to get as many of supplier to surrounded airborne.



(Courtesy Gelders archief: LZ-S as seen from the air)

The road on the bottom of the picture is the A12 on the top in the yellow circle is Wolfheze.



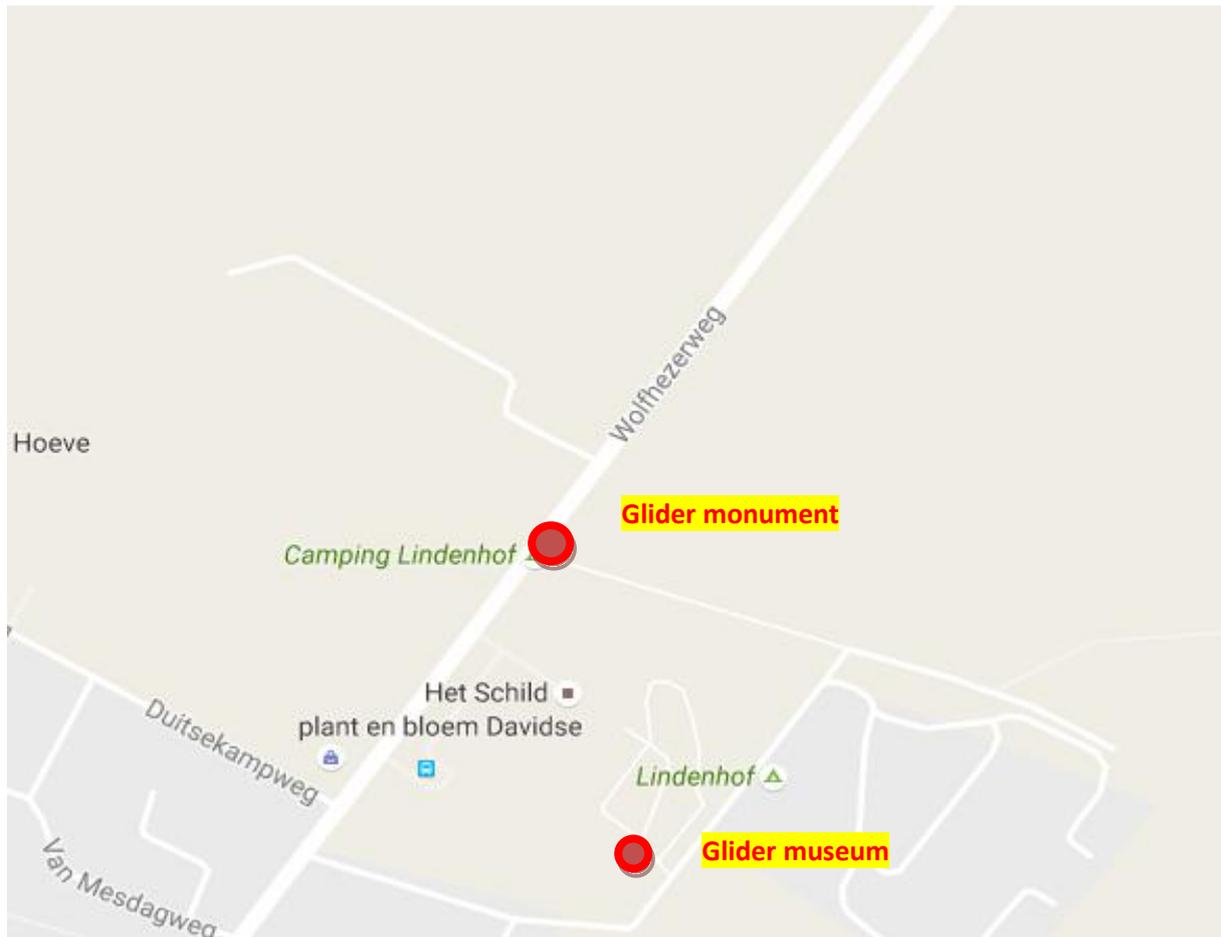
At Wolfhezerweg there is a Glider monument and on camping linden Hof there is a Glider museum that is worth a visit. Nice to know that on this field during the remembrance of the battle of Arnhem Parachute Group Holland performs a parachute jump from a C-47.

At the culvert on the next page the Recce squadron got ambushed by the defensive line of Battalion Krafft. By his quick reaction of the situation he managed to stop the Recce to race to the bridge. This same culvert has been used by the 4th parachute brigade to withdraw from their positions and head back to the lines of the perimeter. As you can see a jeep will just fit under it to pass.



The culvert is at the Johannahoeveweg. Please note you can't go there by car you have to walk. From the train station you can follow the bike road and enter the culvert from the south side.





Ede

This Drop zone is well known during the events of Market Garden this is where the army does their parachute jumps together with Parachute Group Holland for visitors to see what it must have looked like on a big scale.

This Drop zone at Ginkelse Heide was marked as DZ-Y and was defended by the 7th battalion of the Kings Own Scottish Borderers the 17th and 18th of September. The Germans based on the Simon Stevinkazerne 4th ss training battalion en personal of the Luftwaffe 20. Schiffs Stamm Abteilung from the Maurits-en Johan Willem Frisokazerene and the SS wachtbattalion from Amersfoort and two companies of artillery units from Wageningen and a battalion of the Sicherungsregiment 42 and an SS Training battalion where involved at the battle for the Ginkel Heath 17th to 18th of September.

When the 4th parachute brigade from Brig-Gen Hackett came in on the 18th of September the KOSB and other units like the 3th platoon of the 21st independent where fighting off the Germans so the 4th parachute brigade came in on a HOT DZ. The Germans set the heath on fire and were shooting at paratroopers coming down from the sky.



Brig-Gen sir Hackett

(Source: IWF)







(Courtesy Gelders Archief: The Ginkel heath DZ-Y on fire below again the A12)

On the next page an aerial view from the Ginkel Heath during the remembrance events.

As you can see there are still some vehicles that are on the Ginkel Heath. These vehicles are from members of the Airborne Battle Wheels Oosterbeek.

These vehicles will be on their way to Arnhem Bridge in the race to the bridge and have a static show on the Airborne Museum Oosterbeek to show and tell the people what it must have looked like in 1944.



Oosterbeek

The village of Oosterbeek present day is a very nice and picturesque village. It is hard to imagine that this village suffered immense during the battle of Arnhem as many other villages and cities.

For example, the airborne museum Hartenstein and its gardens are such a place. This hotel as it was back in the days was the HQ of Field Marshal Model when the British landed on the 17th he evacuated and the British Major-General Urquhart made this his HQ and can be found at the Utrechtseweg.



Maj-Gen Urquhart

(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)



Field marshal Model

(Source: ww2gravestone.com)

Today this hotel is the well-known airborne museum. In and around the arrear you can still find some monuments such as the needle and the Recce battle field marker in front of the airborne museum. Also, the tennis courts where the airbornes held their German POW's and now a day the airborne marches start every first Saturday in September. The canons used in and around Oosterbeek are also positioned in the Park.









When you walk down from this place towards Arnhem along the Utrechtseweg you will come to a crossroad. This was the end of the line later in the battle and houses around this crossroad were used as strongpoint or aid stations. One of the aid stations is Schoonoord. In present day this is a nice restaurant and it is worth to have a drink or meal and have a look inside.



(Courtesy Gelders archief: The Schoonoord as seen from the other side of the crossroads)

Opposite of this Schoonoord on the other side of the road was also an Aid station called villa Vreewijk and just on the left side at stationstraat corner is a white house the 21st independent took defensive position to hold the perimeter. If you are facing the Schoonoord like this a bit further down the road on the right-hand side, you will find another Aid station called Tafelberg at Pieterbergseweg.

You will experience that the fighting in Oosterbeek and Arnhem was very close and most of the monuments and battle field markers are close to each other.





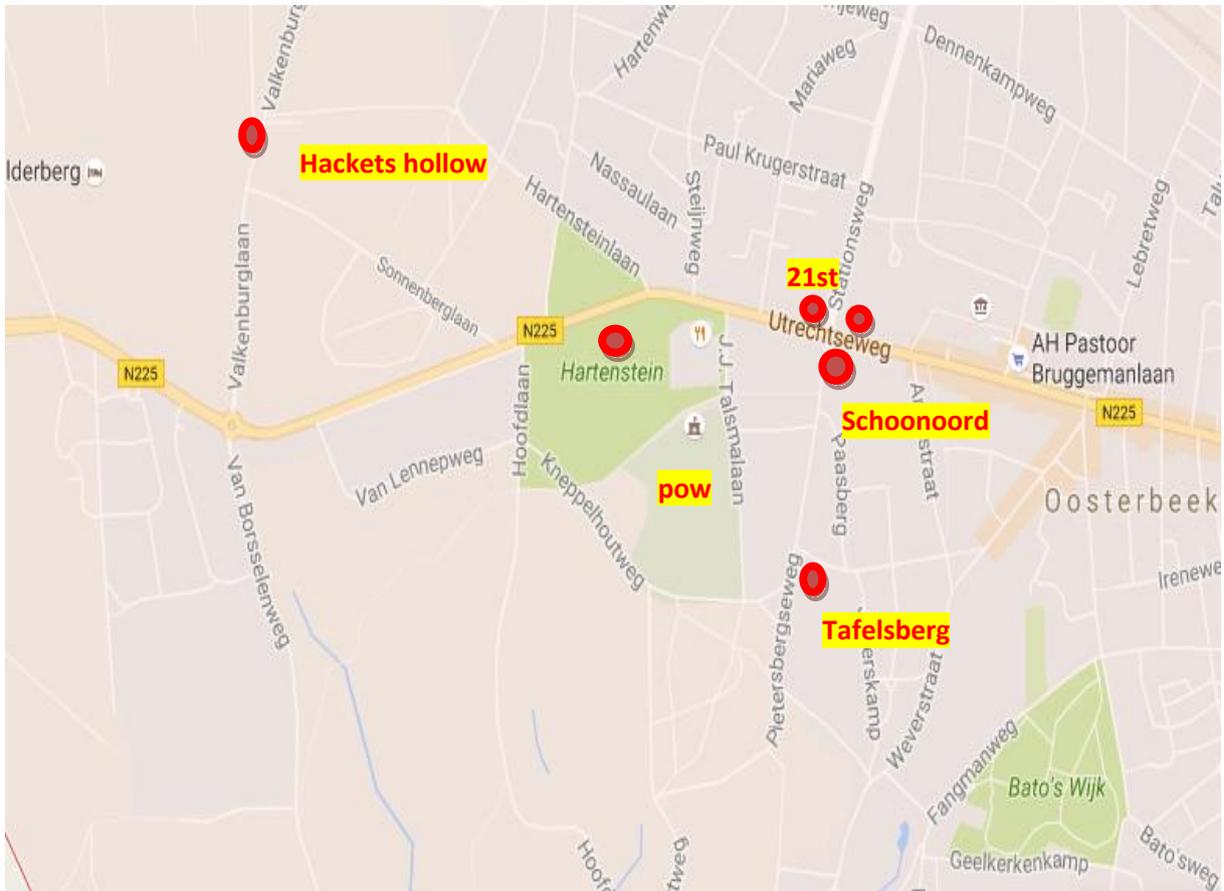


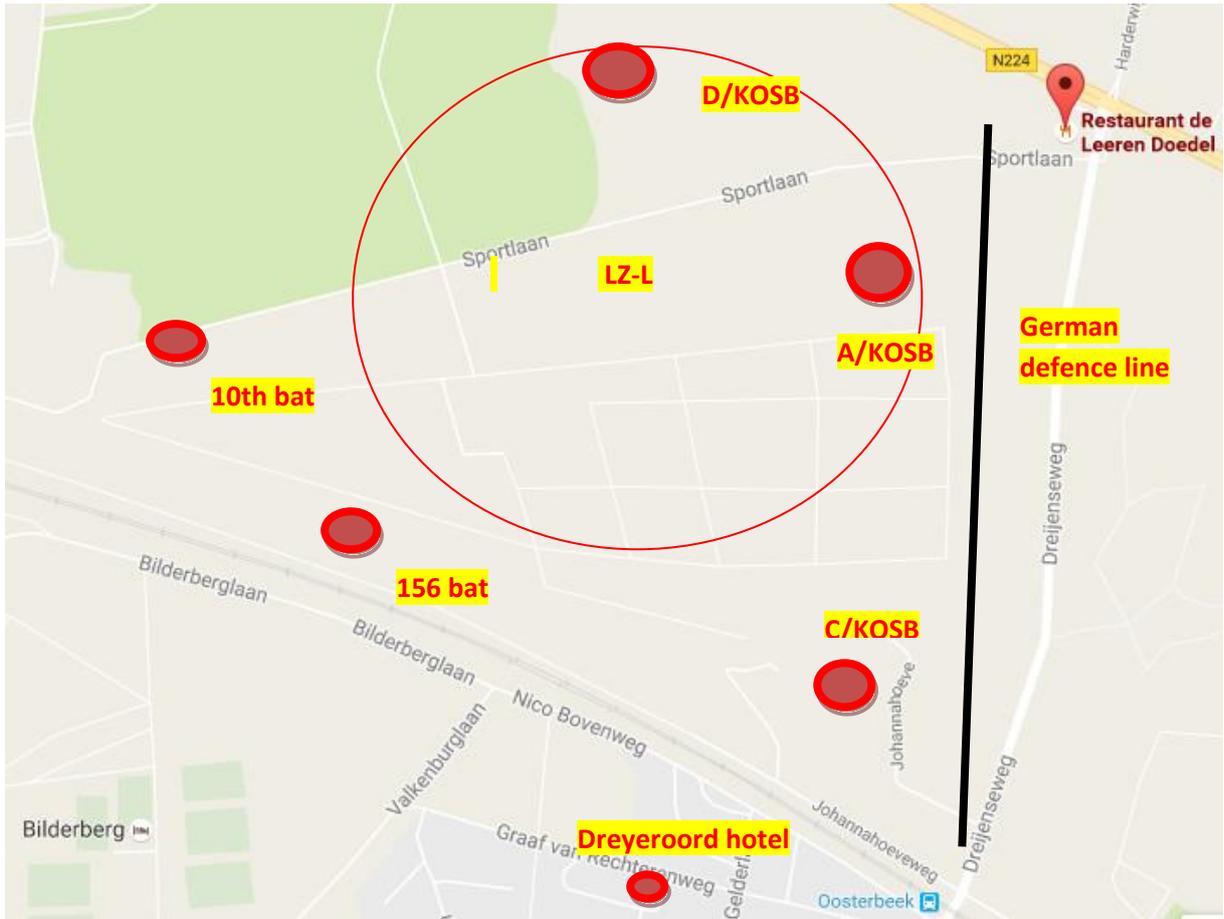
(Courtesy Gelders archief: A movie still from the movie theirs is the Glory)

When the Germans were closing in after the battle of the bridge was over and they could focus more on the Oosterbeek surroundings. Remnants of the 4th parachute brigade were holding their grounds and were about to cut off from the rest of the division and made a mad rush back towards their own lines. This is known as Hackets hollow at valkenburglaan.



The 4th parachute brigade was involved in heavy fighting at Johanna Hoeve LZ-L together with elements of the KOSB. On the 19th the heavy material was flown in by Glider for the 1st Polish independent parachute brigade and they landed in the middle of the battle for the Johanna Hoeve. Not long after this battle the remnants of the 4th parachute brigade and the KOSB had to withdraw towards the Perimeter of Oosterbeek. They found out that jeeps and canons could go through the culvert (s) as by new information there must have been a few. By going under the railroad tracks it was possible to get back into the perimeter with most of their equipment.





On the next page a Polish glider is coming in at Papendal LZ-L as you can see there are also dropping containers with material that was very hard needed.

Most of the re-supply material fell into German hands as they overrun the DZ+LZ.

Some of the re-supply planes got shot and the most remarkable one is the plane from Flight-Lt David Lord VC. He and his crew kept on dropping re-supply bundles while the plane was on fire and eventually went down at Reijerskamp.

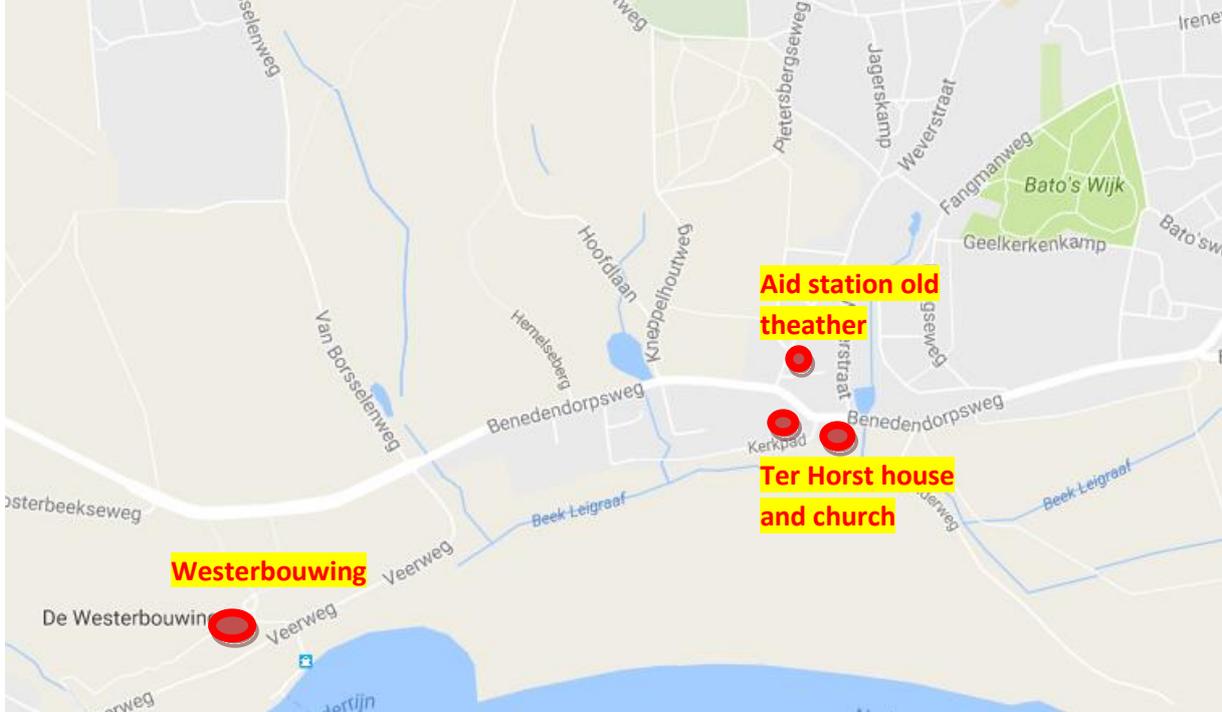


(source Wikipedia: Flight-Lt David Lord VC)



(Courtesy Gelders archief: Glider coming in at LZ-L)

When you go towards the Riverside via Van Borsseleweg of Oosterbeek you must go visit the high grounds of Westerbouwing. These high grounds were over run by the Germans after a fierce battle with the KOSB. A river crossing was made by the 4th battalion Dorsets but failed as well to turn the outcome of Market Garden. There are some monuments at Westerbouwing and from here you can have a nice overview of Arnhem.





Westerbouwing and the lower Rhine. In the distance you can spot the Railroad Bridge and Arnhem.

On the next pages the monument you can find at Westerbouwing. It is nice to have walk in the forest there and see how beautiful these surroundings are.





From the Westerbouwing it is easy to drive towards the little church at the Rhine bank.

This is the house of the Angel of Arnhem who took in the wounded and dying.





Kate ter Horst.

(Source: Saak.nl)

At the old Church at the Benedendorpsweg there is a tree that got hit by a Mortar while there were airbornes having a talk. Also, at this very same church Maj Lonsdale gave his famous speech to his soldiers of Lonsdale force. The church was heavily damaged.



Church with the tree in front +Plaque.



The old theater former aid station.



Maj Lonsdale

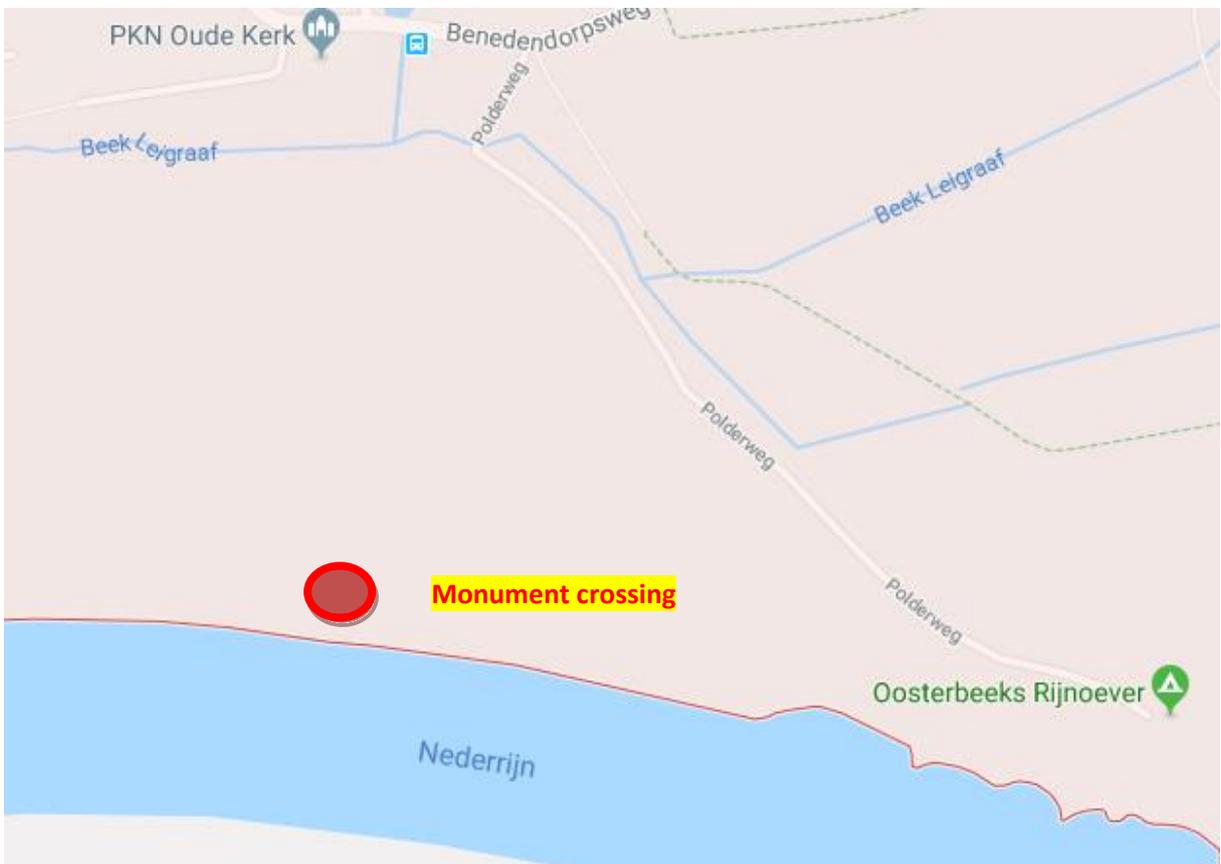
(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)



(Courtesy Gelders archief: Germans at the Church with British Jeeps)

As you can see the Church and not only the Church had massive damages from the battle.

If you follow the road towards Arnhem and go on Polderweg via the camping you will find a small monument that marks the withdrawal over the Rhine. You have to climb a fence.



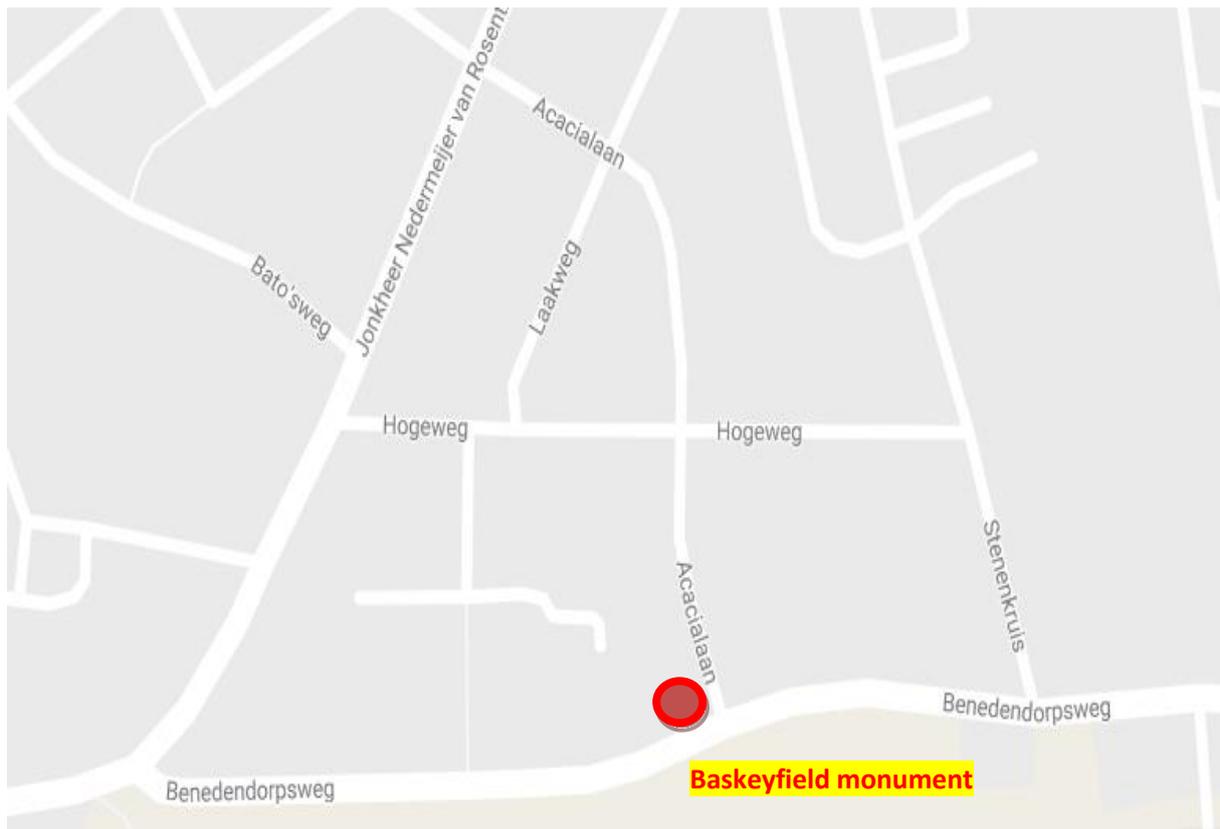
If you follow the Benedendorpsweg towards Arnhem, you will come across Acacialaan. On the corner of Acacialaan/Benedendorpsweg you will find a monument for J.D. Baskeyfield VC. When his own canon was put out of action and he was wounded by a tank after defending and taking out a tank with his crew John crawled towards a canon which the crew got killed or injured. He single handled the gun, knocked out a tank and while reloading the gun he got killed in action and for this action he was award the Victoria Cross.



J.D. Baskeyfield VC

(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)





From here you follow the Benedendorpsweg towards Arnhem you will underpass a railroad track and 2nd battalion had a fire fight here before they got to the Bridge. At this very point my friend Paul Brindley told me the story of his uncle Edward (Ted) Brindley 2nd Battalion, South Staffordshire regiment "A German officer in a scout car stopped him and a friend. In Teds words the German said to him, "and where do you think you're going kiddier"? Ted replied, "Well we're going into Arnhem". The German officer replied, "No you're not because you are captured". Ted said he replied,"oooooh I don't know about that, our officer will go about it". (Story given by a good friend of Paul named Bill Townley).

There are still bullet holes in the wall of this railway underpass.



(Courtesy Gelders archief: The viaduct under the railroad track)





Go further on the klingelbeekseweg towards the St Elizabeth guesthouse (hospital). The St Elizabeth hospital was used as a field hospital on both sides as the situation changed a lot. The 2nd South Staffords and the 1st and 3th parachute battalion got hold up in these surroundings as far as the Museum when they tried to push through the German defensive line to reach the 2nd battalion at the Bridge.

In the neighborhood of Lombok on the 17th of September Brigadier Lathbury, Maj-Gen Urquhart and Lt Cleminson were trying to find out why they could not reach the Bridge. Brigadier Lathbury got shot and was wounded and was brought into Alexanderstraat 135. Maj-Gen Urquhart shot a passing German and had to leave Brigadier Lathbury at the Dutch family. Lt Cleminson and Maj-Gen Urquhart got signaled by the owners of zwarteweg 14 and had to hide out in the loft of this house.



Brigadier Lathbury



Lt-Cleminson

(Courtesy Airborne Assault, Duxford)

The following monument is at the Frederikhendrikstraat and the house where Lathbury was brought in Alexanderstraat 135.





The house were Urquhart and Cleminson hide out.



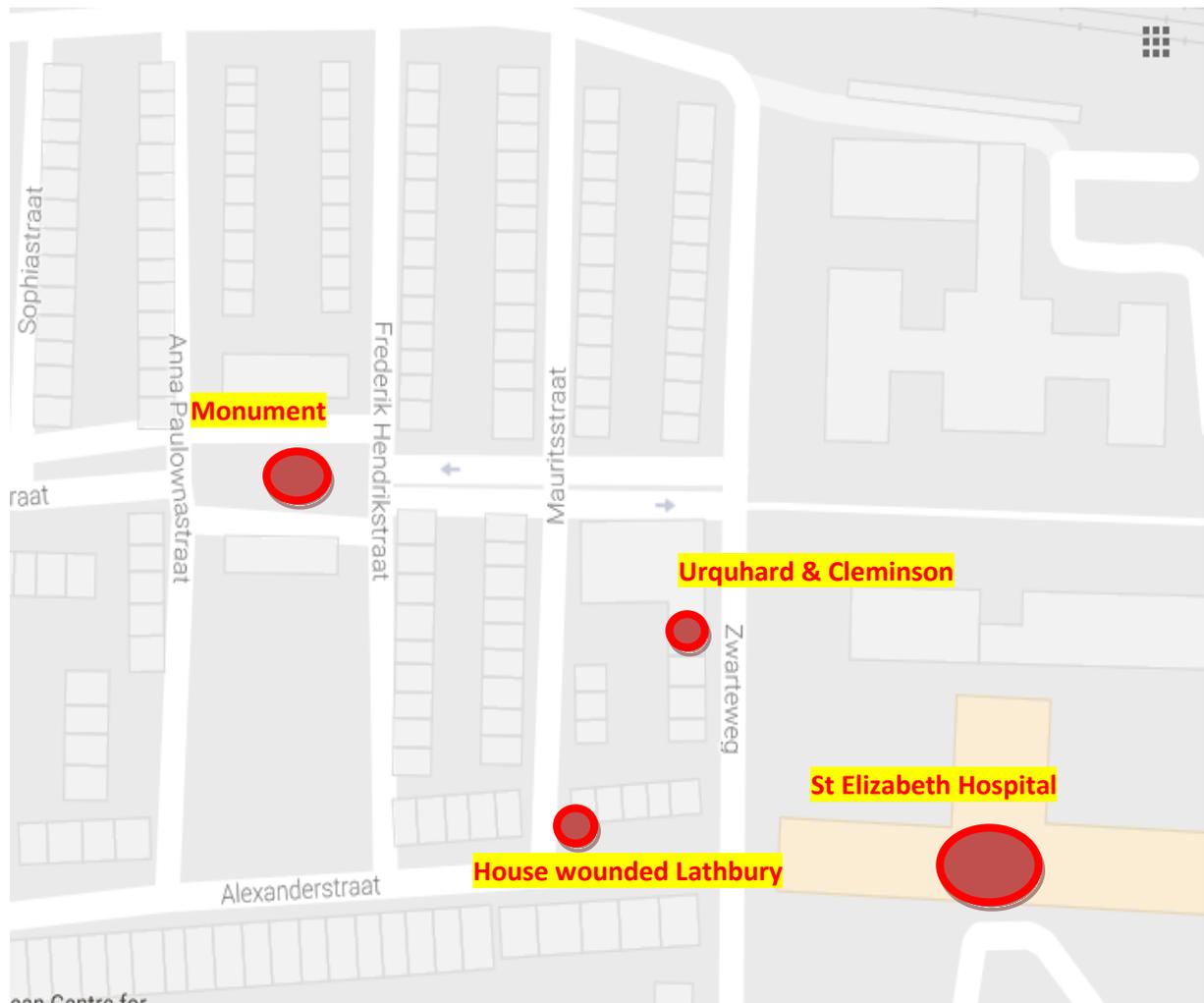


This is the St Elisabeth hospital. This was used as an aid station / hospital by both the British and the Germans. This is very close to the house of Urquhart and Cleminson at Zwarteweg 14. If you have a change to go, see it inside you must take this opportunity as in all the years I am going there I have never been in side to see the small plaques.



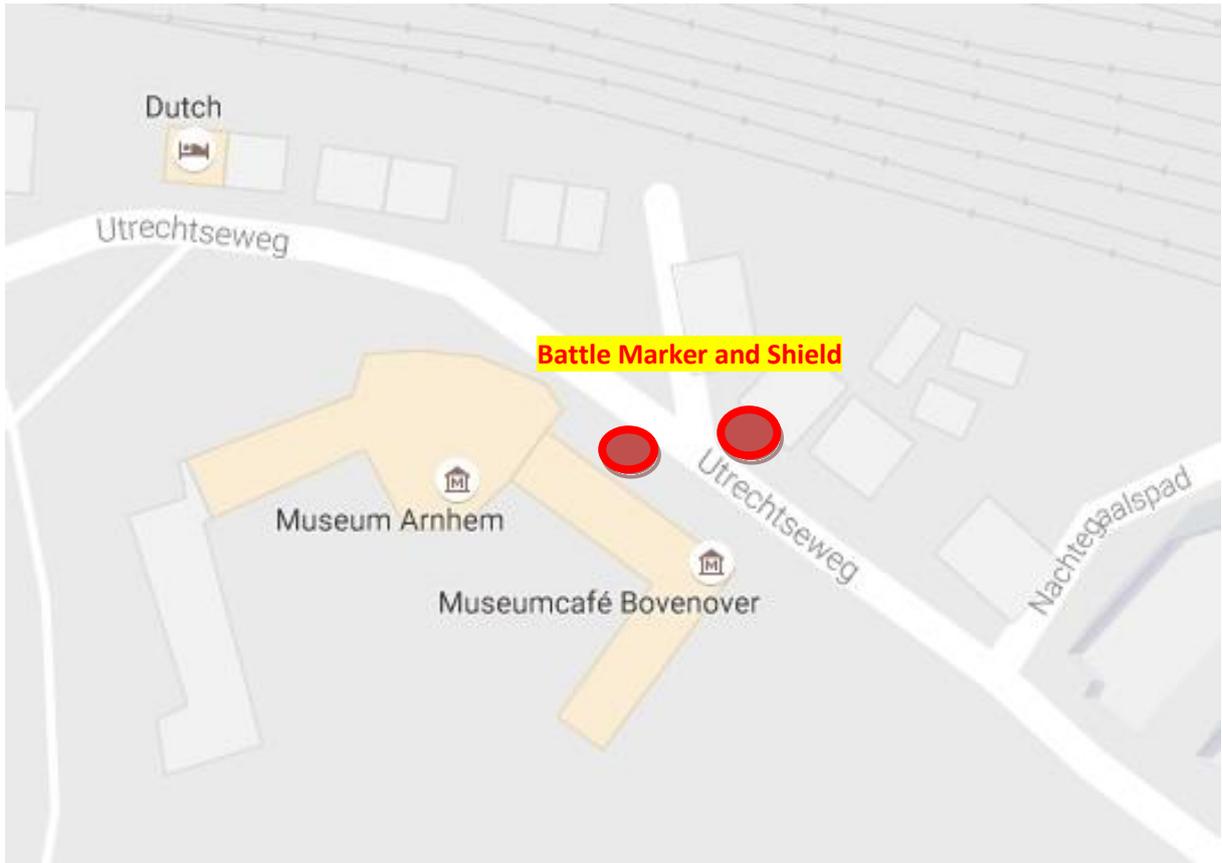
(Courtesy Gelders archief: St Elizabeth hospital after the battle)





Close up of the surroundings in Lombok. This is around 3 km from Arnhem Bridge. This is the closest the airborne troops would get to relieve the 2nd battalion on the Bridge. After the failed push through from these grounds the troops had to retreat towards the Oosterbeek surroundings until withdrawal from the perimeter in the night of the 25th towards the 26th of September.

There is a battle field Marker and a small shield on Utrechtseweg close to the museum towards Arnhem Station.



On Tuesday morning September the 19th the last attempt of the 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire's and the 11th Parachute Battalion to break through to the Rhine Bridge failed.

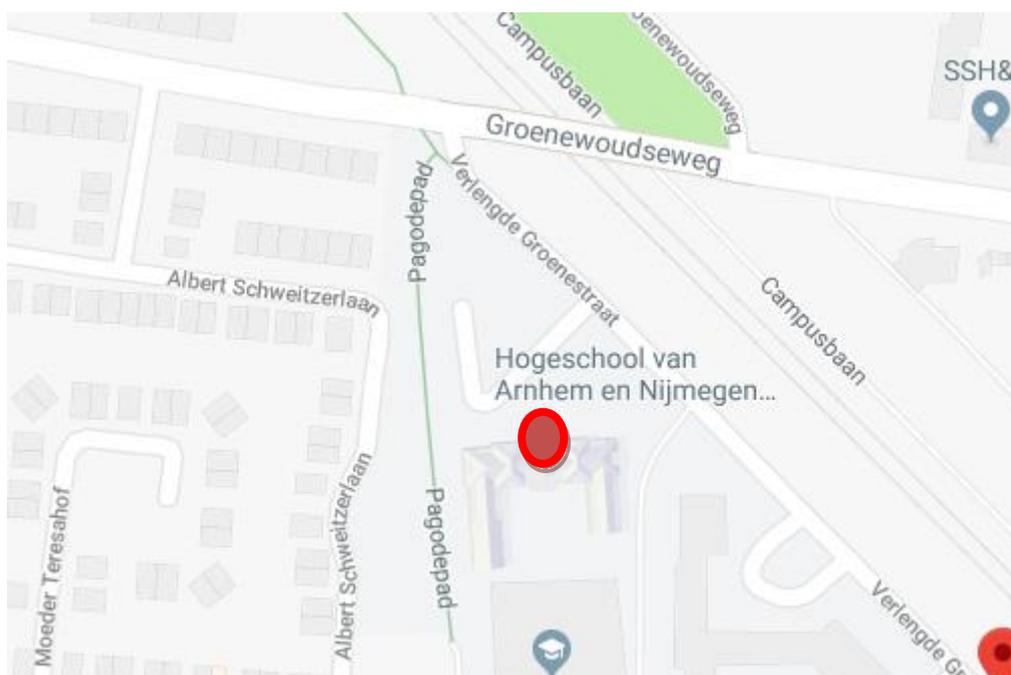
The shield is placed above a door on a house where 30 soldiers held their ground and had to pull back towards their own defensive line.

When the battle was over the 1st airborne withdrew after nine days. They held out much longer than the actual plan was. XXX corps was about to reach Arnhem in two to three days. The 2nd battalion with some 740 men held the bridge for four days until they ran out of ammunition.

The remainder of the 1st airborne division crossed the Rhine from the Oosterbeek perimeter towards Driel in operation Berlin and after that towards Nijmegen to get some rest.

This is the bisschop hamerhuis (see next page) in Nijmegen where many Airbornes stayed after the withdrawal from Arnhem including Johnny Peters.

This building can be found on the Verlengde Groenestraat 75 in Nijmegen





(picture taken from Liberation route stone at Westerbouwing)

Arnhem

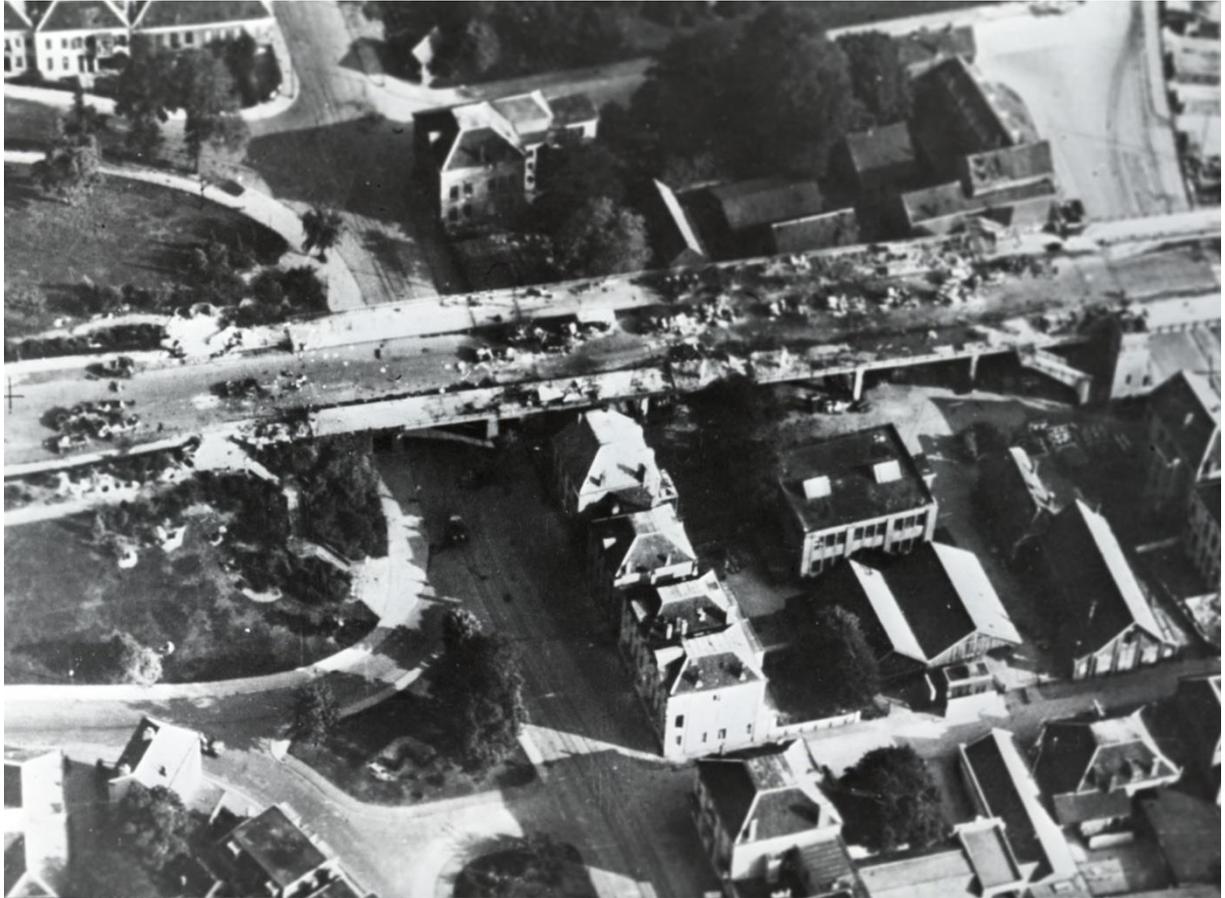
On the 17th of September the 2nd battalion of Lt-Col Frost reached the Arnhem Bridge and they were lucky this bridge was still standing as the Railroad Bridge got blown up in their faces. They tried to take the south end of Arnhem Bridge but failed to do so and decided to stand their ground on the North end of the Bridge until support either from Oosterbeek or XXX corps would come.

The 2nd battalion did an outstanding job in holding the North end of the Bridge as what was supposed to be an objective for the entire division was done by 740 something men for four days.

The 2nd battalion held off the 9th Recce battalion of Hauptsturmführer Gräbner in the morning of the 18th September. This battalion including Hauptsturmführer Gräbner knew that the paratrooper held the North end and tried to push the paratroopers from their defensive positions and got killed in this two and half hour battle. Of the 22 armored vehicles that were involved in the assault, 12 were destroyed or knocked out and over 70 men killed during the assault. The rest of the attackers retreated back towards Elst.



(Source: Wikipedia Hauptsturmführer Gräbner)



(Courtesy Gelders archief: The bridgehead and the damaged vehicles below the east side of the bridge today there is a battle field marker at the place where the school building was)



At the surroundings of the bridge some monuments, plaques and battle markers can be found as well in the town square and in the church.

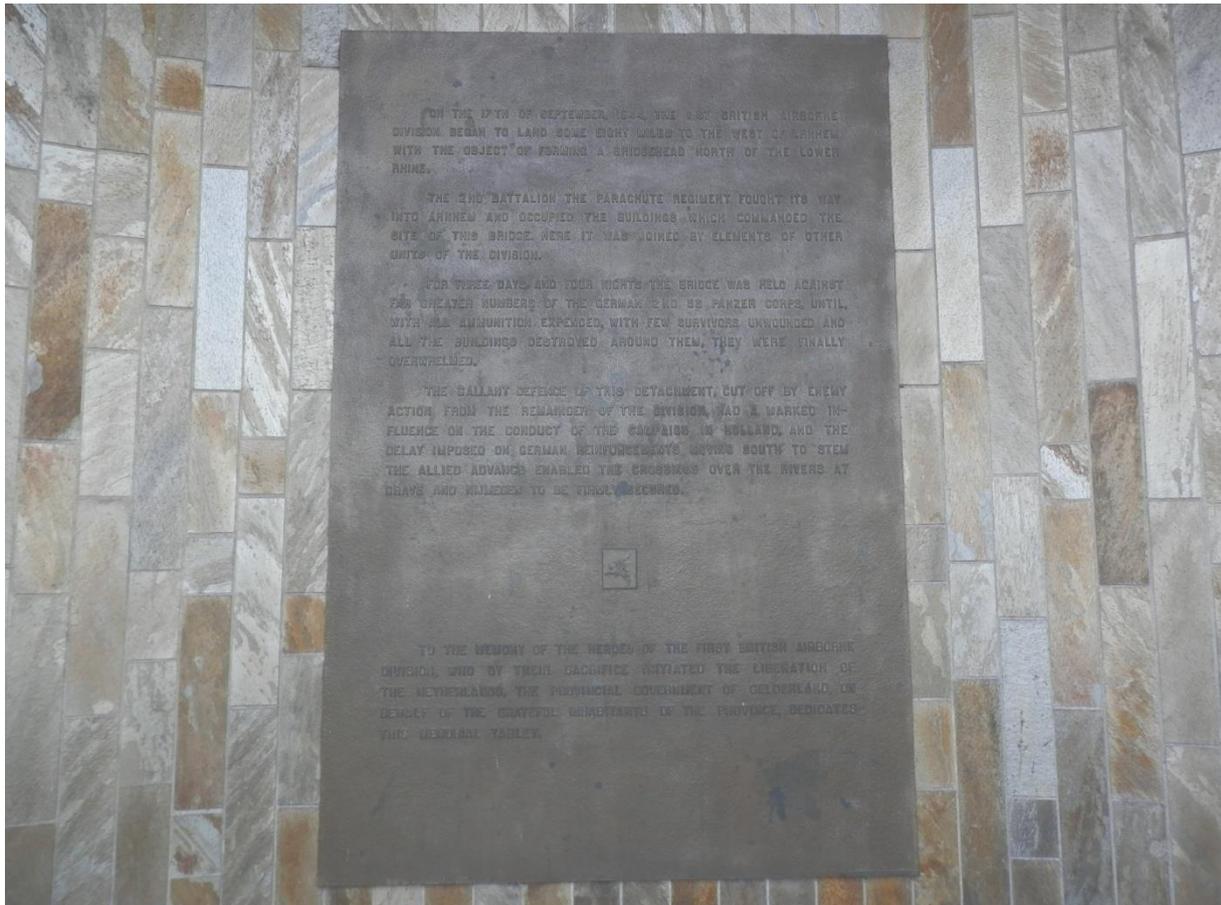


This is the Jacob Groenewoud square. Jacob Groenewoud was a Dutch Commando who got killed as he tried to reach the rest of the division with the news about the position of 2nd battalion.



If you go up to the bridge taking the stairs you will find a plaque on one of the pillars. As you walk back down the ramp there are some battle markers on both sides of the bridge and a plaque for the HQ of Lt-Col Frost.





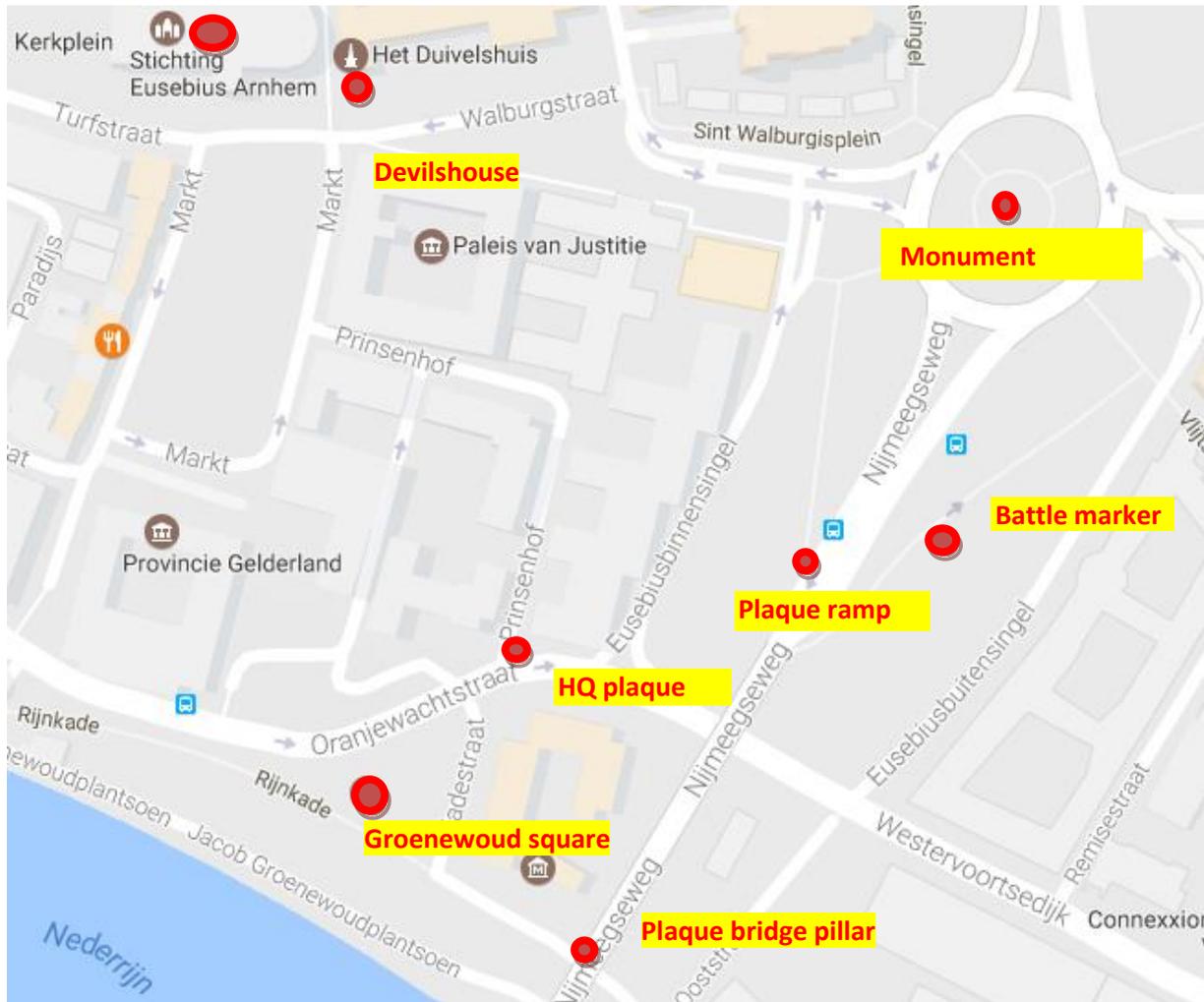
If you walk down towards the ramp of the bridge you will come across this plaque. Behind this plaque was the HQ of Lt-Col Frost. If you walk down the stairs and go towards the Prinsenhof you will find the plaque for the HQ around the corner on the wall.

This is all close to the Jacob Groenewoud square and all in walking distance and you can easily park your car there.



In the middle of the roundabout just north of the Bridge you will find a silent witness of the battle of Arnhem. This is one of the pillars of the house of Justice.





From here you can walk towards the town square and see the devils house. At this building the Germans held the POW's captured around Arnhem Bridge.

See if the church is open there is a small monument on the ceiling and if possible you can go up the church tower and overlook the battle field

Driel

The Polish 1st independent parachute brigade under command of Maj-Gen Sosabowski landed at Driel the 21st of September due to bad weather this was a bit late. Most of the heavy material was flown in on the 19th of September and landed by glider on Johanna Hoeve on LZ-L at Oosterbeek. Most of this material was damaged as a heavy fighting was going on at that LZ. The Poles that landed at Driel didn't have a warm welcome by the Germans as well as the Germans were shooting at them when they were coming down under their silk canopies. Due to the fact the Poles landed at Driel the Germans had to loosen the grip on the Perimeter in Oosterbeek to face this new threat.



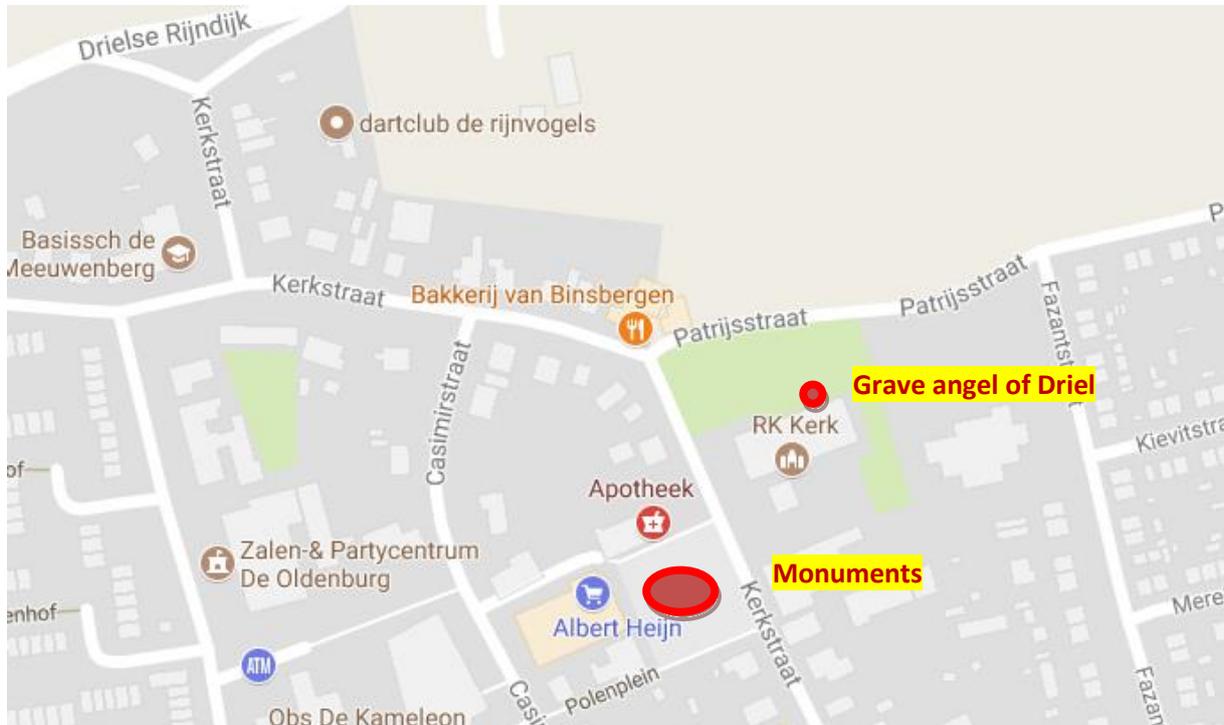
Maj-General Sosabowski

(Source: Wikipedia)

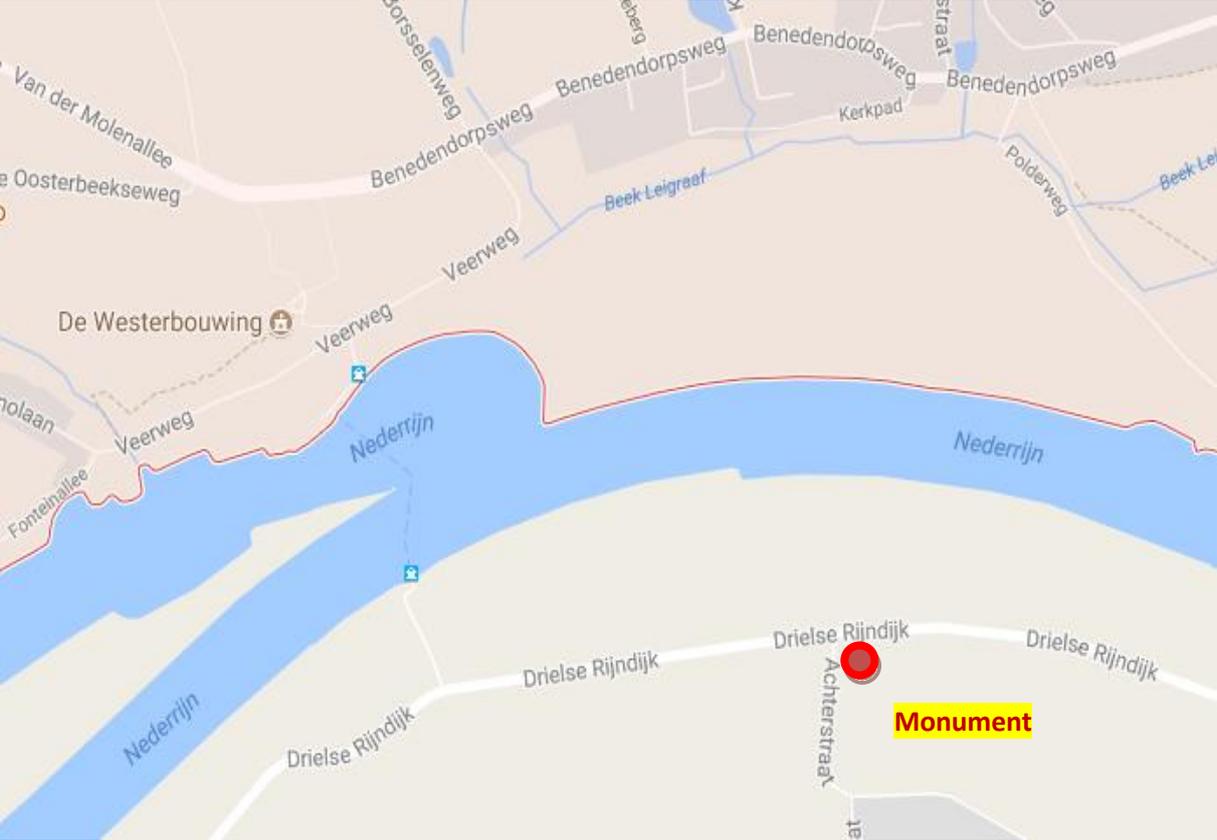
There are some small monuments in the village of Driel most of them around the town square at Kerkstraat.



 <p> POMNIK GEN. SOSABOWSKIEGO ODSŁONIĘTY 16-9-2006 PRZEZ GEN. HAJA SOSABOWSKIEGO </p> <p> GENERAL BRIGADY STANISLAW SOSABOWSKI I FORMIERSZE JEGO 1 SAMODZIELNE BRIGADY SPADOCHRONOWEJ DOZIELNIE WALCZYLI GROM- SOWICH BRITYSKICH TOWARZYSZY BRAMA W IET WIEL POND ARNHEM W 1944 PO BITWIE WORSKWA KARJERA GENERALA ZOSTAJA PRZEZROWANA NIEUSPRAWIELIWIONA TYTUSA </p> <p> POMNIK TEN ZOSTAJE WZNIESIONY PRZEZ BRITYSKICH WETERANOW Z FOR ARNHEM DO UPAMIETNIENIA ICH TOWALGO KODZIWU DLA NIEZLONNEGO DOWODCY NIEBOSTAZONEGO BOJOWNIKA O WOLNOSC I WIELKIEGO POLSKIEGO BOHATERA </p> <p> AVE SOSABOWSKI MORTURE. TE SALUTANT </p>	 <p> THE SOSABOWSKI MEMORIAL WAS UNVEILED ON 16-9-2006 BY GEN. HAJA SOSABOWSKI </p> <p> MAJOR GENERAL STANISLAW SOSABOWSKI AND HIS FIRST POLISH INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE FOUGHT GALLANTLY BESIDE THEIR BRITISH COMRADES AT THE BATTLE OF ARNHEM IN 1944 AFTER THE BATTLE THE GENERAL'S OUTSTANDING MILITARY CAREER WAS ENDED IN UNFAIR DISMISSAL </p> <p> THE BRITISH VETERANS OF ARNHEM HAVE RAISED THIS MEMORIAL TO RECORD THEIR ENDURING ADMIRATION FOR AN INSPIRING COMMANDER A FEARLESS FIGHTER FOR FREEDOM AND A GREAT POLISH HERO </p> <p> AVE SOSABOWSKI MORTURE. TE SALUTANT </p>	 <p> SOSABOWSKI MONUMENT ONTHULD 16-9-2006 DOOR GEN. HAJA SOSABOWSKI </p> <p> GENERAAL-MAJOR STANISLAW SOSABOWSKI EN ZIJN EERSTE POLSE ONAFHANKELIKE PARACHUTISTEN BRIGADE STREDEN DAPPER ZIJ AAN ZIJ MET HUN BRITSE KAMERADEN TIJDENS DE SLAG OM ARNHEM IN 1944 </p> <p> NA DE STRUD WERD DE BUTTENGEWONE MILITAIRE CARRIERE VAN DE GENERALA BEEINDIGD DOOR EEN ONRECHTVAARDIG ONTSLAG </p> <p> DE BRITSE VETERANEN VAN ARNHEM HEBBEN DIT MONUMENT ONGERICHT ALS BLIJK VAN HUN GROTE ERBOWAANDRING VOOR EEN BEZIELENDE BEVELHEBER EN ONBEVREDE STRIJDER VOOR DE VRIJHEID EN EEN GROTE POOLSE HELD </p> <p> AVE SOSABOWSKI MORTURE. TE SALUTANT </p>
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The Poles fought very hard and tried to go over the Rhine to help the 1st airborne division in the perimeter at Oosterbeek. Some hundreds could go across but the 1st airborne division was doomed after holding out for nine days the decision was made to withdrawal the men out of the perimeter. The Generals as seen in the movie a bridge too far must have been standing in the tower of this Church and must have seen Market Garden could not succeed anymore.



The monument of operation Berlin is on the Drielerijndijk / Achterstraat if you face this monument the DZ is behind you. This operation was to withdraw the remnants of the 1st airborne division in the night of the 25th and 26th of September.



With this Market Garden ended and the ground gained between Nijmegen and Arnhem became known as the Island.

Extra

The island

As we all know by now Market Garden failed to succeed and the terrain between Nijmegen and Arnhem also known as the Betuwe became no man's land. Still heavy fighting was going on here and I would like to focus on the 101st Airborne division and trace back some of the 506th footsteps. Most of us have seen the episode of crossroads of the TV show band of brothers.

With this little extra guide, I would like to encourage you to go out and trace their footsteps and wonder off like I do when I am on these places. Often, I think about the lives lost during these battles and any battle and wonder did we learn a thing from our past?

Hopefully with this guide I will trigger people young, old, men or women to think about our freedom and see by themselves that this was not for free.

Below I will show some monuments of The Island.

Lest we forget!!!!



The HQ of Capt. Dick Winter and Capt. Lewis Nixon. This farm can be found at Logtsestraat at Valburg.





At this spot Private Dukeman got killed by a rifle grenade fired from a culvert. At this spot the famous bayonet charge by Capt. Winters and his men took place. This is a Randwijkse rijndijk between Randwijk and Heteren.

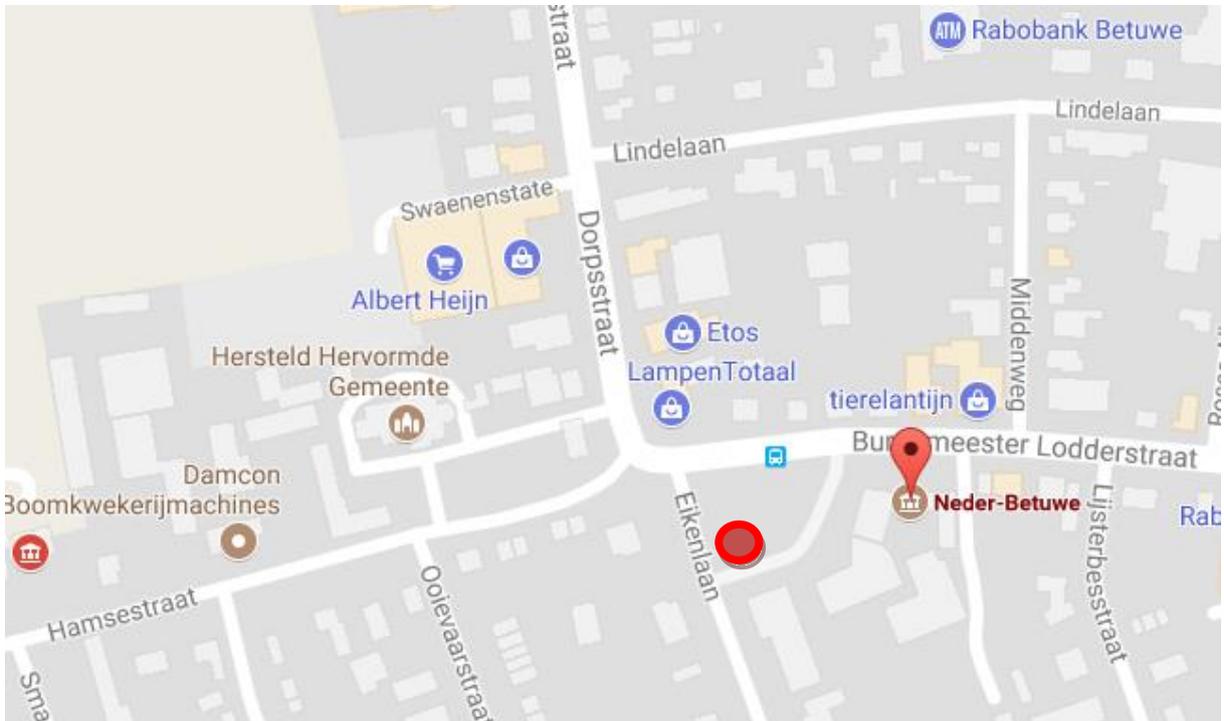




During the German counter attack Maj. Oliver Horton got killed in action close to the rail station. This monument is at the Bridge at Dalwagenseweg.



There is another small monument in Opheusden at the corner of Eikenlaan / Dorpstraat.





This monument is at Drielerijndijk close to Heteren. This monument is for Operation Pegasus where men of Easy company crossed to Rhine to make contact with British Paratroopers to help them escape back to their own lines.



Last word

With this book I have tried to bundle all the monuments from the Belgium Border up to Arnhem and every place in between that was in the main plan of operation Market Garden.

I have tried to explain some situations combined with small momentums during the battle and tried to create a picture view of most places that brings you back to September 1944.

If in any case I have missed a monument or made a mistake in a story I take full responsibility and I am happy to adjust my book. My goal was to get people to know where the monuments are and have a view of what it must have looked like in 1944 with a picture and a story of that time.

I am very satisfied with the outcome of this book and hopefully you will all have the pleasure to visit these sites.

Thanks to all who supported me thanks as well to my sources for the pictures of the then period. Without these pictures the book would not have been established.

Thank you!

THE END.

Market Garden

On Sunday 17th September 1944 the greatest armada of troop-carrying aircraft ever assembled for a single operation took to the air. The Operation MARKET GARDEN, a combined air and ground offensive inspired by FIELD MARSHAL BERNARD MONTGOMERY.

Market, the airborne phase of the Operation, involved almost 5,000 aircraft and 2,500 gliders. Their aim was a bold attempt to seize and hold land within Nazi occupied Holland.

Garden, the ground forces, was the massed tank columns and men of the British Second Army. Their mission was to dash up the backbone of Holland along a strategic route to link up with the position that the para-troopers were fighting to capture and hold.

Montgomery's ambitious plan was to race through Holland, leap across the Rhine and into Germany itself. It was, he reasoned, the lightening stroke needed to end the war in 1944.

WE THAT REMAIN, CAN CRY.

WE THAT SURVIVED CAN SEE THE TREES;

TOUCH THE GRASS AND FLOWERS SMELL,

LISTEN TO THE MANY SOUNDS OF LIFE,

VISIT WHERE, SO MANY FELL.

REMEMBER, FOR THEY ARE GONE;

BUT WHAT OF THOSE, WHO FOUGHT WITH US;

CAPTURED BRIDGED TO DEFEND,

FORGET THEM NOT, THEY WERE, THEY ARE;

OUR COMRADES TO THE END.

AND WE THAT ARE LEFT, LIVE ON

Dennis G.Sear. EX-30 Corps.