



Yesterday, today tomorrow always

Para-commando

A.N.P.C.V. Leuven Branch

80 years Commando's

80 years Paratrooper

70 years ParaCommando's



Every man an emperor *Monty*

www.paracommando-vriendenkring-leuven.be

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2. Word from:

2.1. The president.

Beste Para-Commando's, Sympathisanten en Vrienden

Allereerst wil ik jullie bedanken voor jullie aanwezigheid. Door ons te herkiezen, tonen jullie het vertrouwen in heel het bestuur en het werk dat zij gedurende de moeilijke periode 2021 hebben verwezenlijkt. Onze algemene vergadering vond plaats in een goede sfeer, iedereen was blij zijn kameraden in een goede gezondheid terugzien en allerlei anekdotes en avonturen van vroeger boven te halen. Dit alles vergezeld van een drankje(s) en snacks. Laten we de dames niet vergeten die tot het einde van algemene vergadering moesten wachten om ons te vervoegen. Ze konden eveneens genieten van de drankjes en de snacks klaar gemaakt door Lieve en Marleen. Ik wil hier de hele crew bedanken voor de organisatie van de algemene vergadering.

Weet dat Jos (secretaris) Dompi (Peningmeester) ikzelf (voorzitter) en zonder Chris onze erevoorzitter te vergeten ons best doen om de geest en de tradities van Para-commando's te behouden en te verspreiden, zowel in het groen als in het rood, we blijven één familie.

Ik vraag even jullie aandacht, voor onze kameraden die in Kigali, op 7 april 1994 op laffe wijze zijn vermoord, nu 28 jaar geleden.

We kunnen ook deze verachtelijke invasie van Oekraïne door Rusland ook niet voorbij laten gaan zonder erover te praten of op zijn minst een gedachte te hebben voor deze moedige Oekraïense soldaten die vechten en sterven voor hun vaderland.

Belangrijke informatie, voor al diegenen die hun commandobrevet nog nooit hebben ontvangen of verloren en deze willen ontvang (onder voorbehoud) neem contact op met mij of de secretaris. (Via email aub)

Keep safe. Who Dares Win, United We Conquer, Never Surrender
Roger Robert (Rob) - Voorzitter ANPCV Leuven

2.2. The Secretary.

Verslag algemene vergadering van 25/03/2022

De voorzitter opende de algemene vergadering om 19.00 uur met een welkom woord er waren op dat ogenblik 16 leden aanwezig. Na het welkomstwoord werd een minuut stilte gehouden voor onze overleden leden, waarna de voorzitter het woord gaf aan de secretaris

Verslag 2020-2021

Door coronavirus werden in het jaar 2020 alle activiteiten opgeschort met de woorden "blijf in U kot". Er was dus geen algemene vergadering. Na eindelijk terug uit ons kot te mogen komen, hebben wij in 2021 onze activiteiten terug opgestart zowel onze BBQ, mosselstijf als ons korpsmaal terug ingericht en met succes. Onze mars echter is niet kunnen doorgaan door verschillende omstandigheden, zijnde problemen met een controlepost, personeel dat afhaakte door het coronavirus.

Van het Stadsbestuur kregen wij de toelating om de plechtigheid Lt. Charles Mathijs te laten doorgaan maar met een beperkte groep en zonder receptie het stadsbestuur was vertegenwoordigd door De Heer Schepen Van Sina er werden ook een poppie krans neergelegd in naam van Belgian SAS Vriendenkring.

Op alle Plechtigheden die mochten doorgaan was ons vaandel aanwezig.

Spijtig mochten wij in Groot-Brittannië nog niet binnen en aldus werd de reis ook afgelast. Daar er geen algemene vergadering in de twee vorige jaren is doorgegaan heeft het bestuur zijn werk verder gezet tot op heden. Dit Jaar is er terug de mogelijkheid tot verkiezingen van het bestuur, er werd in het vorig schrijven gevraagd degene die zich willen kandidaat stellen voor een bestuursfunctie het moesten laten weten voor 15 januari 2022 tot op heden is er geen kandidatuur binnen gekomen.

De secretaris

Na het verslag werd het woord gegeven aan de Penningmeester die een overzicht gaf van de kastoestand. Die een positieve balans blijft houden. Er werd aan de aanwezige leden gevraagde verslagen van secretaris als penningmeester goed te keuren. Dit gebeurde met éénparigheid van stemmen.

Verkiezingen voor een nieuw bestuur, daar er geen kandidaten zich hebben gemeld voor een bestuursfunctie werd het huidige bestuur herkozen door handgeklap.

Daarna werd de algemene vergadering besloten.

Opening van de gewone vergadering

De voorzitter verwelkomde ons lid Stefan Stienlet die zijn laatste boek kwam voorstellen. Dit boek kon worden aangekocht, wat door vele leden dan ook werd gedaan.

Hierna werden de dames uitgenodigd om samen een hapje en een drankje te nemen. Dat door Iedereen werd gesmaakt. Om 22.30 werd de zaal opgeruimd en gesloten.

De secretaris

Paracommando groeten

Jos

2.3. Treasurer.

Beste Leden,

De balans van 2021 is opgemaakt, gecontroleerd, goedgekeurd door de rekenkundigen en opgestuurd naar NATIONALE. Ondanks de Corona jaren, kunnen we toch spreken van een gezonde kas. Wie inzage in de boekhouding wil, mag me daarvoor altijd bellen of mailen. (Ben wel gewoon van te bellen, vraag dit maar eens aan ons bestuur).

BEDANKT: Aan al onze SPONSERS, ook in moeilijke tijden hebben ze ons blijven steunen.

BEDANKT: Alle leden voor jullie Lidgeld te betalen.

BEDANKT: Alle leden die iets meer Lidgeld betaald hebben, als steun voor onze kas.

BEDANKT: Alle werkers op onze activiteiten, in het bijzonder, onze DAMES, geen dames, serieus probleem denk ik.

BEDANKT: Aan onze buitenstaanders die gratis komen helpen.

BEDANKT: Aan de Chiro voor de hulp, die we uiteraard vergoeden. Die doen het voor een goed doel. Zij geven hun welverdiende centjes af, voor ouders die Chiro kamp niet kunnen betalen voor hun kinderen.

BEDANKT: Ben nu al 5 jaar Penningmeester, overgenomen van Willy, die dat jaren prachtig gedaan heeft. Heb altijd gezegd, met geld werken is iets delicaat. Wou dit absoluut niet alleen doen. (Ik kan ook fouten maken). Daarom wil ik onze secretaris, Joe bedanken voor de hulp en het mee nakijken van de boekhouding.

BEDANKT: Aan allen die ik vergeten ben

Tot op onze BBQ

Dompi

2.4 Editor.

Tot mijn grote spijt moet ik wegens gezinsproblemen, eind 2022, mijn ontslag geven als redacteur. Soms moet een mens beslissingen nemen die hijzelf niet graag neemt, maar het wordt me te zwaar. Het is ook de reden dat dit tijdschrift een maand later verschijnt, waarvoor mijn excuses. Ik hoop dat er een opvolger komt die het maken van ons tijdschrift zal overnemen;

Bedankt voor jullie steun, het gaat jullie goed.

Chris VANDEPUT

Redacteur en erevoorzitter

3. What's past.

3.1. Monthly meetings.



On the agenda.

Pointing out upcoming activities such as, B.B.Q., Mussel Festival.

Purchase of new equipment.

Our participation in the Airborn Day in Portsmouth.

Notifying participants to have travel pass, corona certificate.

State of membership numbers. Writing to members who have yet to pay etc....

In other words, doing everything that needs to be done to have a healthy and thriving association. Op de agenda.

3.2. Monthly shooting sessions.

Normal shooting sessions on the first Monday of the month resume. However, Corona rules still apply (mouth mask on shooting stand and moves).

2 May
6 June
4 July
September 5
3 October
7 December

The days mentioned above were provided under reserve for section of our circle of friends, in the shooting range of the "Grizzly's located Burdasteenweg 9 at 1830 in Machelen.

These will take place from 19.00 to 22.00.

For further information consult the site of GRIZZLY's

Range officer - Johnny Willems

Not only do we go shooting on the first Monday of the month, but before discussing our shooting results in the cosy bar, we have to clean up first. For some, a side income by picking up shells, preferably copper ones, to reload later or just to sell at the ironmarchand as copper. One does not get rich from it, but good riddance.

3.3. Herdenking Lt. Charles Mathijid

Foto's Jacques Grauls en Johnny Willems

On 12 March, the annual commemoration of the death of SAS Lt Charles Mathijs took place.

This commemoration this year enjoyed the interest of:

For the city of Leuven. Alderman dh
Dirk VANSINA. For Provincial
Command. Captain Commander Luc
WINDEY

For the Royal Leuven Reserve NCOs,
AdjMaj (Res) Thierry LAUWEREINS
For the Royal Reserves Vlaams Brabant:
Kapitein-Commandant (Res) Guy
SCHEPERS.

For the S.A.S. Mr Fred
VANHAEZENDONCK

For the E.V.V.V.L.O. Mr. President
Robert UYTEBROECK

For A.N.P.C.V. GENT 5 persons

For A.N.P.C.V. Waasland.



Further delegates from:

- Oud-strijders Vissenaken
- N.K.B. Leuven
- N.K.B. Tienen
- Patriottische Vereniging Tienen
- Breendonk

And several flag bearers from patriotic associations.

Speech by President EVVVLO Roger ROBERT:

Mr Dirk VANSINA representative of the City of Leuven

Captain Commander Luc WINDEY representative of the Provincial Command of Flemish Brabant
Ladies and gentlemen,

In your degree and capacity, esteemed flag bearers I welcome you to this solemn commemoration of Lieutenant Charles Mathijs.

Who was Charles Mathijs?

Charles was someone who spent his childhood in this environment, having to work at a young age to support his family. But Charles had more abilities, his uncle taking him under his wing and sending him to a college in Brussels. Unfortunately, the invasion of World War 2 was at the door and Charles had to flee. Through Belgium, then France, to end up in Britain.

Charles Mathijs volunteered from the very beginning with the Belgian Land Forces in the U.K. He enlisted in the parachute unit. He achieved brilliant results in the officer training centre (Officer Cadet Training Unit) where he showed himself to be an ideal chief and who paid great attention to his men.



In June 1944, he was first parachuted with a combat group behind the German lines in France to disrupt the operations of the retreating Germans.

Charles was then placed at the disposal of the British Intelligence School n°9 Western European Area. He cooperated in bringing more than 300 escaped Airmen back to their own lines. On 1 September 1944, he was parachuted into enemy territory a second time, this time in the Belgian Ardennes. Between December 1944 and January 1945, he took part in the Battle of the Bulge.

Charles Mathijs especially devoted a lot of energy to training young recruits. It was during a military manoeuvre north of Leopoldsborg that he was killed on 4 March 1945, hit by a ricocheting projectile. They went with songs to the battle they are young

Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow

They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted

They fell with their face to the foe

Their hands grow not old, as we that are left grow old

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.



After the floral tributes and the playing of the 'Last Post', the move was made to the city cemetery where Lt Charles Mathijs is buried.

There, the prayer of the paratroopers was recited by our president.

Lord, grant me what remains.
Give me what is otherwise never asked.
I ask You neither silence nor peace of mind.
Neither soul nor body.
No wealth or success.
Nay, not even health.
For all that, Lord,
Has so often been asked of Thee.
That Thou wouldst no longer possess it.
Lord, give me that which thou hast left.
Give me that which is too little for others;
The unsafe, the restless.
Give me the storm, the strength to fight.
Grant me all this forever, Lord
So that I may be sure to possess always.
For not always will I have the courage to ask You for this
Give me Lord, what remains.
Give me that which others will not.
But also grant me courage, strength and faith.



After the ceremony, drinks were offered to attendees at Park Abbey Cafe.

As a commemoration, several attendees were treated to a P.V. from our active Leuven police officers. Due to lack of parking spaces, most had found a spot, not disturbing pedestrians, cyclists et al.

Where are the days when policemen kindly came to inform people that if they were parked incorrectly it was best to find another place. Now when driving away they were standing 100 metres away smiling and enjoying their performance.

But yes law is law huh.



3.4. General Assembly U.N.P. Section 591.

Several members of our branch participated in the General Meeting at our French friends of the Section 591 at Lille.



Like all general meetings, this one proceeded normally. Speech by the president, thanking those present and especially the Belgians of their presence. Commemoration of the deceased members. Now that the corona crisis is over, activities will be resumed. A key point is that a fraternisation is on their programme with our English friends from Portsmouth. We may well put a feather in our Belgian cap. For it is thanks to us that this contact has been achieved. Namely, our regional Leuven invites both the French paratroopers from Lille and the English paratroopers from Portsmouth to the annual

St Michael's Day festival in Brussels. It is therefore there that the contacts originated. I may be repeating myself, but why should we shut ourselves up in our little country, it is oh poor a handkerchief big. Our regional Leuven, and others like, Menen, Mons, Mouscron, Arlon et al have tried to establish contacts with other countries. (Nvdr)

Marie-Pierre as treasurer and duty secretary explained more about the number of members, which remains stable and the healthy financial cash.

After the meeting, most went for dinner at a Chinese. Buffet 'à Volonté. Belly full and returned home with a sober driver.



Section LILLE 591



3.5. Our annual General Meeting



You can find the chairman's speech at the chairman's word.



The secretary and treasurer also read out their reports. These showed what the number of members remained stable and our treasury, thanks to the efforts of our members in our various activities, is healthy.



Onze aandachtige luisteraars



Our ladies





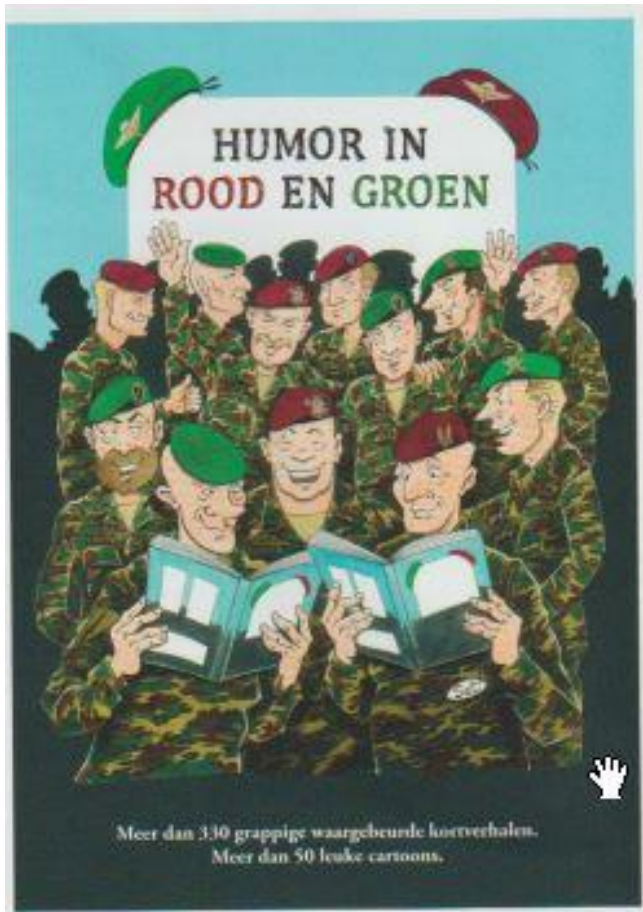
After the official part, the partners were invited for a pleasant chat with a snack, prepared by Lieve and Marleen for which we thank them, and a tap



Onze toegangers

Onze fotograaf van dienst Johnny

Philippe Stienlet took the opportunity to sign his book "HUMOR IN RED AND GREEN" with a small intention for each. It is a beautiful book with many anecdotes and true stories. Highly recommended. Still obtainable by transferring 38 euros + 5.70 euros postage to account number BE15 9731 4873 9430. Do not forget to mention your surname and first name, full address and language preference With ref: Para-commando



3.5. Commemoration 10 Paracommandos killed in Kigali.

7 April is the annual commemoration day of our servicemen who have fallen in operations since the end of World War II.

We pay tribute to the 252 Belgian soldiers who gave their lives for freedom.

This date of 7 April, was chosen because on this day in 1994, in Kigali (Rwanda), 10 Belgian Paratroopers of the 2nd Battalion Commando from Flawinne were killed.



ZUIVEL EN DRANKEN

Marc CHRISTENS

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3.6. Reception at Provincial Command.

Corona played a role when the Provincial Command wanted to hold its reception, so this happened on 20 April 2022.

On that occasion, Province Commander Danny VANDENBERK ir Colonel Pilot SBH gave a presentation of the Province Command, its duties and Activities. But first something about himself.

Before accepting this task, he has come a long way.

As an 18-year-old, he was part of the 140 POL at the KMS.

In 1991 to the logistics school at Heverlee and Tournai.

1992 - 1993 Pilot training (Al 11) EVS, Light Aviation.

1993 - 1995 Maint Off at the 16Esc Light Aviation Germany.

1995 - 1998 Project Offr - Evere GSP-AéMob Staff Army.

1998 - 2000 Tech Office + Bierset WASO GpLtAvn.

2000 - 2001 Staff College 2nd cycle in the KHID.

2001 - 2003 JSHP in Evere MRSys-A.

2003 - 2004 NPC A400M in Evere MRSys-A.

2004 - 2005 Staff College 3rd cycle in the KHID.

2005 - 2011 NH90 programme manager in Evere MRSys-A.

2011 - 2014 OSN (Comd FGp) at Beauvechain.

2014 - 2017 MA + Synth Offr ACC at Evere COA.

2017 - 2020 Base Comander at Beauvechain 1 Wing

2018 - 2019 Higher Studies in Security and Defence at KHID.

2020 - Mil Comdt Province of Flemish Brabant

Provincial Command consists of 2 Offr/ 3 OOffr: 3 Volunteers.

Province Commander: Col VI SBH Vandenberg, ir.

Offr Deputy: Cdt Windey.

Tasking Ops/ Security AdjChf De Koninck.

RSM -HR. AdjMaj Doomen.

Corporal Ops/ICS driver: 1KplChf Geleyns.

Clerk HR/Srt Driver: 1KplChf Cortvrient.

MR - AsPrev: Adj Premereur.

Clerk MR: 1KplChf Peetermans.

+ 16 reservists (OT = 17 reservists).

What are the tasks of the Provincial Command/

Can be divided into Operational, Territorial and Defence Representative.

- Under Operational we have

o Counsel to the Governor (Federal Emergency Planning).

o Homeland Operations (Host Nation Support and Aid to the Nation).

o Coordination Mil Operations and Training. (Manoeuvre Requests).

- Territorial.

o Territorial Command.

o Performance for third parties.

o Management of abandoned quarters.

o Basic consultation committee.

- Defence representative;

o Business networking.

o Defence representative during PR & social activities and ceremonies.

o Defence spokesperson towards local press.

o Support of recognised patriotic associations. Activiteitenkalender2022.

- 21 juli 2022 Te Deum.

- 22 Sep 2022 Herdenkingsplechtigheid Veltem-Beisem.

- 26 Okt 2022 Benefietconcert.

- 15 Nov 2022 Te Deum.

Invitations are sent to the chairman/secretary. They distribute them to members and provide feedback to the RSM.

3.7. Sauerkraut at the Regional Brabant

Corona caused us to wait until 30 April for our annual sauerkraut or steak day Three months later, 12 of us participated in the annual sauerkraut or steak day. With the regional Brabant, we have a special bond. After all, we are fraternised. So it is natural for us to support them with our presence.

There were 12 of us. Roger and Magda are missing from the photos because the photographer on duty Dominique and Marleen had an urgent appointment.

In his welcome speech, the chairman thanked the participants and especially the Leuven delegation (12 people) for their presence. He further elaborated on their programme, especially their presence at the Open Door at M.L.D. That they are the only ones who will have a stand at this activity.



3.8. Commemoration at Kortrijk

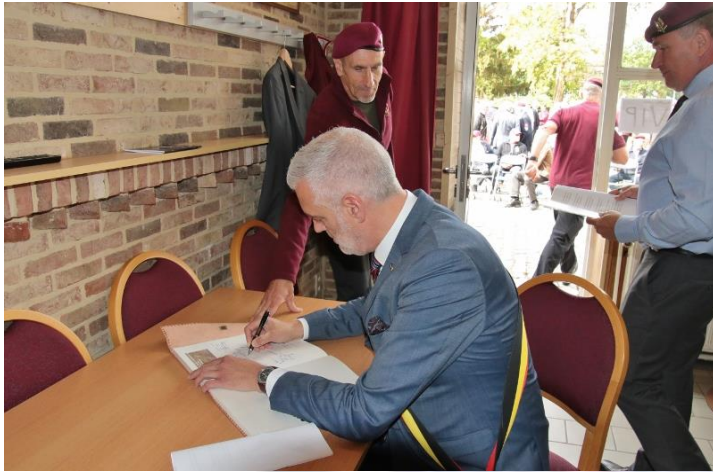






3.10 Commemoration Colonel Blondeel te Diest





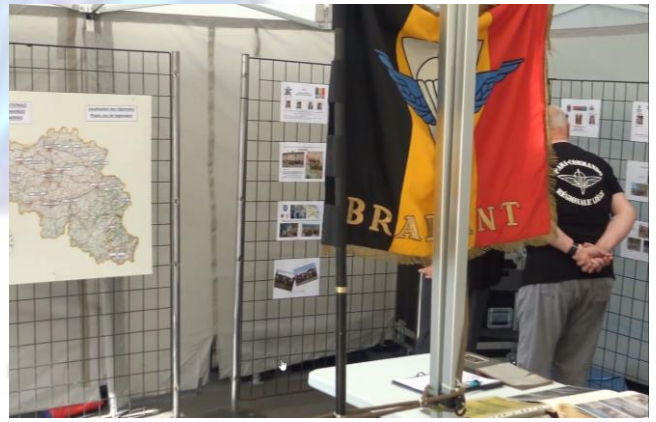
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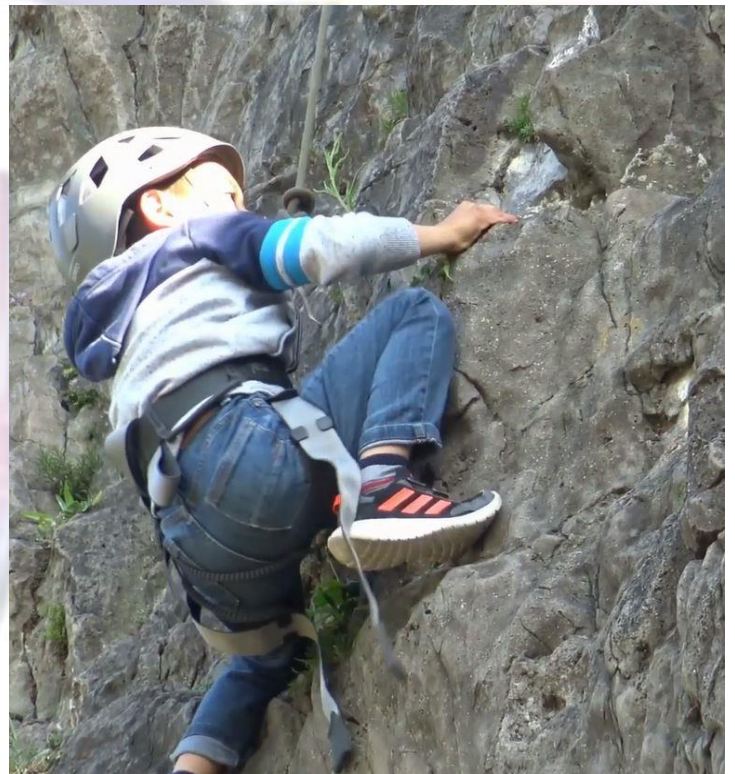


Rillaarseweg 134 3390-Tielt-Winge
Tel, Fax 016502686
<http://www.van-der-meersch.be/contact>

3.11 Open door at MLD en Wartet TrgCeCdo.







3.12. MEMORIAL DAY at 3th Bn Paratroopers at Tiel

After a 2-year hiatus, the time had come for our friends to reunite on Memorial Day. Memorial Day, formerly known as 'Korea Day', evokes the memories of the struggle of our Belgian volunteers who were deployed to liberate South Korea from the Communist North.



On
25



June 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea. In response, the United Nations Security Council decided by Resolution 84 to provide military support to South Korea. Eventually, that support consisted of a force in which 15 countries participated in addition to US troops: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Philippines, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and South Africa. All troops came under the command of the United States. US general Douglas MacArthur was appointed commander-in-chief.

After a few days, the South Korean capital Seoul was occupied and 90% of South Korea was in the hands of Northern troops by early September 1950. Only a small area around Busan still held out. Almost the South Koreans and the Americans coming to the rescue were brought to their knees, mainly because both the South Koreans and Americans were inadequately trained, morale was very low and leadership was often severely lacking.

However, partly due to the fact that the North Koreans had suffered very heavy losses during their advance and the supply routes for them had become longer and longer, the North Korean offensive slowly bled to death. In addition, reinforcements kept arriving for the Americans and South Koreans in the form of new US divisions and units from other United Nations countries. With the help of a tactical feat (the amphibious landing at Incheon, far behind the North Korean lines) and good luck, Commander MacArthur managed to push the North Koreans back to the borders of China.

At that time, the People's Republic of China intervened, partly because of the perceived threat of capitalist army units on its borders and the fact that the US was openly supporting the nationalist Chinese on the island of Formosa (present-day Taiwan), led by Chiang Kai-shek. The US deployed the 7th Fleet to protect Formosa. The attacking Chinese pushed back the Western coalition back. Once again, Seoul fell into communist hands. On 11 April 1951, Douglas MacArthur was relieved of his post as commander of UN forces in Korea. The reason was that he had made controversial statements about a possible extension of the war into China, and about possible use of nuclear weapons (because a nuclear war was feared).

In the period that followed, the war dragged on, with successes and setbacks alternating for both sides. In mid-1951, attempts were made to start peace negotiations. These were able to begin in Kaesong on 10 July 1951. Negotiations dragged on for months and were repeatedly suspended. A major stumbling block was the exchange of prisoners of war.



To put pressure on the North Korean leaders, the Americans subjected North Korea to a merciless napalm bombardment in the last two years of the war. This killed about 500,000 people. Pas na de dood van Sovjetleider Stalin in maart 1953 werd er weer vooruitgang geboekt en op 27 juli 1953 kon er te Panmunjeom een staakt-het-vuren worden afgekondigd

This annual Memorial Day also commemorates the first post-war operational jumps of the 3rd Bn Para and their interventions in the former Belgian Congo.

These took place at Kindu (OPS 2Cie), Kikwit (OPS 1Cie), and Kasongo (2Cie). On the initiative of Chris Vandeput, in 1960 Sgt and section superior in the 1st platoon (Pel Cdt Ajd. KRO Jonhny Vanstiphout), he had planned a reunion of the ancients of the 16 Detachment 2Cie in Diest, our first home base. This turned out very well and he was already making plans for another visit. Assisted by Leo Van Dyck also Sgt and section superior in the 2 Pel (Pel. Cdt lt. De Maere d'Artrygke), Schaffen was chosen. Both Diest and Schaffen brought back fond memories. Here we also had the honour and pleasure of

welcoming our 1960 Cie commander, General Toon Everaert. After Diest and the TrgCePara, a visit to the 3rd Bn Para could not be postponed. The 3rd Bn ParaCommando was our second mother



base. On departure with the Kamina to the Belgian Congo, we had to replace 1 Para's badge with the Korea badge. Unlike previous detachments, we were allowed to keep our wine-red cap instead of wearing the brown Korea cap. It was at this visit that our detachment came up and these participants were the ones who had carried out the operational jump at Kindu. It was the beginning of a great collaboration



4. Future activities and news.

4.1. Leuven Branch.

4.1.1. Monthly shooting sessions continue at

2 May/ 6 June/ 4 July and 1 August???, 5 Sept.

The days mentioned above were provided under reservation for section of our circle of friends, in the shooting range of the "Grizzly's located Burdasteenweg 9 at 1830 in Machelen.

These will take place from 19:00 to 22:00.

4.1.2. June 4 Annual B.B.Q. Already more than 100 entries

4.1.3. 23 - 26 June. Participation to the Parachute Regiment Association Day at Portsmouth UK and Aldershot.

Programme :

Departure Thursday, 23 June Departure at +/- 04.30 RV. Rue Mons 58 3020-Herent

Herent - Loon sur Plage (Ferry Dunkirk) 205Km

We take the ferry in Dunkirk (Fr) with departure at 08.00 hrs.

Arrival at Dover at 09.00. Local time.

Via the A2/A20-M20-M26-A3-A31 to Aldershot and Farnham

GU97DR 175km Hotel The Bishops Table West Street 27. (Arrival +/- 11.00am.

Lunch and programme (to be agreed with Aldershot and Portsmouth Branches)

Commemoration ceremony "Falklan Islands".

Departure to Portsmouth 65 Km Depends on programme.

Dinner at hotel or at one of the many restaurants.



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BROODJE, EEN HEERLIJK HUISGEMAAKTE PASTA
OF EEN NIEUWE SUGGESTIE UIT GROOTMOEDERSKEUKEN**



Friday 09.00hr Departure to Portsmouth 65Km

Visit to renovated Royal Marines Museum

Day off.

Changing clothes. Where? Still under consideration

19.00hr Dinner with Portsmouth and Aldershot Branch members.

Drink of friendship in the bar of the Royal Maritime Club hotel

Return to Farnham.

Saturday Parachute Regimental Day

Depart from hotel 08:30am

Participation in the parade and socialising

19.00 Supper at Bistrot Rouge with the Aldershot Branch board.

Sunday Depart from hotel 09.00

Ferry in Dover 175 Km

Ferry 13.00

Lunch on board or in the docks

Arrival at Dunkirk 16.00 local time

Arrival at Herent +/- 19.00 hrs 4.1.4.

16 JULI Cenotaph te Lonodon.

4.1.5. 21 JULI Nationale feestdag te Luven en Brussel

4.1.6. 8 October Our Annual Mussel Fest Invitations later in our magazine.

4.1.7. 4 November Annual Corps Dinner Invitations to be sent out

4.1.8..19 November "RED & BLACK DRAGON MARCH. Please note these dates in advance.

4.2. Antwerpen Branch.

4.2.1. Saturday 20 August bike ride + B.B.Q. .

4.2.2 Saturday 3 September liberation festivities Antwerp.

4.3. Menen Branch.

Saturday 18 June at 11am

Ceremony Locks and

Cross-border meeting

Last Post at Ypres.

Saturday, October 7 at 17.00h HAC carding.

Saturday, November 26 at 11am: Corps meal.

Fri Dec 30 at 6pm St Sylvester walk.

4.4. By S.O.R.

Aug 26 at Schaffen: OPEN DOOR on the TrgCe Para

5. News from our foreign friends.

5.1. U.N.P. Section 591 Lille

The Annual General Meeting UNP Section 591 Lille, took place at the

" Cercle mixte de garnison - 1st floor - rue du Pont Neuf 59 LILLE

9.15 am: reception, payment of membership fees for 2022 -

member: 33€ - widows 16.50

Agenda of the meeting

10.00 a.m. Opening of the meeting,



Welcome by the chairman
Moral report 2021 and vote
Financial report 2021 and vote
Presentation and election of candidates for the office
Proposal and election of secretary and flag bearer
Calendar 2022
Miscellaneous questions

Closure of the General Assembly
Photo of participants in front of the DLP (Debout les Paras)

Meal at an Asian restaurant after the meeting for volunteers

The year 2021 ended sadly with the death of our former secretary Jean-Claude Bony. His funeral took place on 16 December in Lambersart.

So, for this new year, the board members wish you all for you and your loved ones a Happy New Year 2022, good health, happiness and fulfilment in all your activities and reunions with family and friends.

Given the difficult year due to Covid and the guidelines and restrictions imposed by the government, many activities have been postponed or cancelled.

The number of members attending the various ceremonies and summer activities was limited.

The city of Hazebrouck did not allow us access to the fishing pond for the B.B.Q.

We had to cancel our Saint-Michel celebration due to too few entries, 42 entries which was not enough for the owner. There had to be at least 60 participants, resulting in a loss of 400€ for the coffers.

The Saint-Michel in Paris took place as indicated in the DLP, there were few of us, our section was represented by president Philippe Duretête, flagbearer Hussein Ben Faour and Jean Claude Cartigny, regional delegate and vice-president of the section.

With a view to twinning, we were approached by a group of English paratroopers.

The chairman is a well-known general, Major General Chip Chapman and another member is none other than 'Monty's' second cousin, General Montgomery.

After the resignation of Xavier Mille for personal reasons and the imminent departure of René Gruelle, we need a secretary and a standard-bearer.

The president
Philippe Duretête.

5.2. P.R.A. Pompey Branch

Latest news about ABFD. IF, it goes ahead, it is planned for the 25th of June 2022. I expect that the ABFD will be Saturday 25th June, possibly the Parade on 26th June and the Dinner, maybe on 24th June. However, these are not yet confirmed, but will give you something to plan to. As and when I receive more details, I will let you know.

Stay Safe my friend, Be Careful Kindest Regards,

5.2.1 The death of Jim Knox



A hero has left us.
Jim Knox attended the annual Last Post ceremony organised by the ANPCV MENEN.
He was a veteran of World War II and participated in the Battle of Monte Cassino (Italy), among others.
We will miss your smile gentleman Jim.



5.2.2. 50 years since the IRA bombed the officers' mess of the 16th PARA Bde.

The bombing was an attack by the Official IRA on 22 February 1972 on the officers' mess of the Headquarters of the 16 Para Bde in Aldershot and was claimed as revenge for the so-called 'Bloody Sunday' events a few weeks before. Padre Gerry Weston (RC Padre) was killed and six civilian employees (mainly female cleaners).

Officially, IRA member Noel Jenkinson was convicted and jailed for his part in the bombing. To mark this important event, the Aldershot PRA is holding a special event consisting of a Drumhead service (1200), unveiling of a new memorial at the site of the atrocity and a short march of veterans. The day will conclude with a light lunch (sponsored by SODEXO) at Garrett's Sports Club House.

5.2.3. Activities.

- 22 Feb 2022 – Monument unveiling - Aldershot Garrison Mess Bombing - Aldershot
 - 18 June 2022- 40th Anniversary OP CORPORATE - Aldershot
 - 23 July 2022 - NMA Service of Remembrance
 - 01 Aug 2022 – 80th Anniversary of The Parachute Regiment – Merville Barracks, Colchester.
- Aldershot
19 March 1 and 2 PARA Reunions Blackpool
6-7 May 3 PARA Reunion Blackpool
7 May 4 PARA Reunion Leeds
12 June Falklands 40th Anniversary Memorial
18 June Falklands 40th Anniversary March & Service of Remembrance in Aldershot

6. Read for You.

6.1. Why USA loses wars. (continued)

America's wars and failures (Geopolitical Futures Comment (Austin, TX))

ABN Editor: For the benefit of some of the more recent ABN members who may be wondering who is George Friedman, and why am I reviewing him? The second part is easy, and that is because he is a pretty smart guy who has brought 'Geopolitics' and 'Forecasting' forward by leaps and bounds, and is one of the most respected analysts in his field. The first part was also straightforward. George Friedman is an internationally recognised geopolitical forecaster and strategist in international affairs, and the founder and chairman of Geopolitical Futures, and he has the ears of policymakers around the world.



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Friedman György, or George Friedman, was born in Budapest in Hungary to Jewish parents who survived the Holocaust. His family fled Hungary when he was a child to escape communist rule and first settled in a camp for displaced persons in Austria, then emigrated to the United States. Dr Friedman has briefed numerous military and government organisations in the United States and overseen, and regularly appears as an expert on international affairs, foreign policy, and intelligence in major media outlets. For nearly 20 years before he resigned in May 2015, Dr Friedman was CEO and then chairman of STRATFOR, a company he founded in 1996. Friedman received his Bachelor's degree from City College of the City University of New York, and holds a Doctorate of Government from Cornell University.

In his first article of the New Year, George reflects on America and its wars and concludes that America has forgotten how important it is to know your enemy.

By George Friedman (Founder GPF)

Sixty years ago, in 1962, the United States made the decision to go to war in Vietnam, deploying ground and air forces for the first time in combat. This was only a fraction of the manpower and aircraft that would serve there in the years to come. It was a frontier taken by the Kennedy administration, but saw US involvement as a small, even experimental step.

However, when a nation sees its soldiers go to war, a logic kicks in.

When men die, the nation assumes it is for a vital cause, and leaders cannot explain away the experiment because they cannot admit to having experimented on soldiers' lives. A death requires a worthy cause, and establishing that the death was not in vain is incompatible with "cutting and running," in the words of Lyndon B. Johnson. Intervening is difficult, but retreating under fire is agony.

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To understand US strategy between 1962 and now, we need to understand what John F. Kennedy saw and thought when he made the first major commitment. Kennedy had been shaped by World War II, and so had the senior military. In World War II, America understood its enemy. Germany was ruled by Hitler, and - Hitler and his subordinates were smart, ruthless and, like us, fought a war of engines and industry.

- We understood that Hitler was an unscrupulous tyrant.

- Japan was an empire ruled by a brutal government and, as we saw in China, ruthless warriors.

- We also knew that, like the Germans and Americans, they were fighting an industrial war.

We knew the enemy, never underestimated its strength, and we timed our war so with industrial production.

- We knew the value of allies, the use of aircraft carriers and tanks, and how to train people to wage war.

We mastered this and more, and we would fight to the end, no mercy asked or given.

The United States trumped North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in every measure that won the Second World War won, but we did not realise that we did not understand our enemy. They were not industrial, nor were they divided between communists and a range of factions. Clearly, the non-communists in the south hated the tyranny of the north. The anti-communist population was to be mobilised and armed with the best equipment, and the American flag, along with that of the Vietnamese, would fly over Hanoi. Crowds in the south would welcome the Americans even if the US did not take Hanoi.

How wrong you can be if you don't understand your enemy.

The purpose of intelligence is to predict what others will do, and just as the CIA did not understand the consequences of the Bay of Pigs (Cuba), it did not understand Vietnam. It was also stuck in World War II.

Vietnam was not the SS fighting the Maquis (French resistance fighters). Vietnam was divided by treaty, but it was one country. The communists had conquered the north and the non-communists ruled the south. The non-communists came in many forms, but the only thing they shared with the communists in the north was that they were Vietnamese. They were not so much shocked by a repressive communist regime as by the thought of a Vietnamese civil war, which the Americans were selling, whether they called it that or not. They did not want to fight others and all they wanted was to be left alone. The Vietnamese did not see the Americans as liberators and protectors, but they saw them as deliverers of the horrors of an industrial war. Having endured French occupation and oppression by Vietnamese who had turned the French into puppets, they had no intention of choosing between a new imperialism and a communist dictatorship. This did not mean that anti-

communism was not present, nor that many did not recognise the Americans as a friendly force. It did mean that the passions of the Vietnamese were divided, complex and volatile.

The Americans made three mistakes.

The US did not understand its enemy or its friends. They feared communists less than American public opinion. In wars, the darkest moment can be just before success, think of "the Battle of the Bulge" Battle of the Belgian Ardennes. The darkest moment could not be a moment like this because absurd claims of success had not prepared the American public for it.

If we think of not understanding the enemy, of shaping a war around the falsehoods of it and trying to overwhelm by industrial warfare an enemy fighting a very different war, we can also think of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The enemy may or may not have hated the government, but plenty of people hated the Americans and their allies because they were not Iraqis or Afghans. Ideology and religion played a role, but they were not the solution they were a stranger in their home, and they had to expel him. Why don't we learn lessons from history, Americans should be fully aware of this. Our revolution was meant to drive out the haughty British, with their rules and regulations...have the leaders forgotten that? The revolution was committed to the Declaration of Independence, but the real enemy was the British. They were a stranger in our house, and they had to be driven out. The moral principle is there, but men die for the love of their own. There are few wars like WWI and II, thank God, but reasoning from how we won those conflicts.

Conflicts usually will lead to failure in other wars. The proliferation of US wars after World War II and their unsatisfactory outcomes should be massive evidence of this. Going to war and failing ... is leadership without discernment, with irrational belief in one's own strength and foolish rejection of the enemy's motivation and intelligence. Even if many welcome us as liberators. It will be these factors that determine our fate. Fortunately for America, it is too rich and strong to go down to failure, but it is important not to push your luck.

Wars are necessary and will happen, but they must begin as World War II began: with fear and awe of your enemy, because everything else makes you careless. As Thucydides noted, war cannot be waged from a divided and frightened city.

This was demonstrated in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The most important question was never asked: What would the United States gain from victory, and what would defeat cost?

Defeat was never thought of, and the benefit of success was heavily overestimated. The world did not end, nor did US power, but fearing the consequences of defeat, we postponed the inevitable.

Today, the US is cooperating with Vietnam against China and so, what was unthinkable and unbearable then is neither today. Wars should therefore be rare, but absolutely necessary and not undertaken on an ill-conceived whim.

6.2. S.O.R. Special Operation Regiment.

6.2.1. The Commandos.

80 years ago in August 1942, the first Belgian troop Commandos was created in England, the 4th Troop of the 10th Inter-Allied Command. It was composed of volunteers from various Belgian units in England.

After intensive training, the first candidates obtain their command certification at the "Command Training Centre" in ACHNACARRY.

Located in ABERSOCH, the Belgian Commando Company, under the command of Captain DANLOY, leaves England bound for ALGERIA. She will be the first Belgian unit to be engaged in operations.

In October 1943 it was deployed in IIALIA together with the Fifth Army.

In March 1944, the unit takes part in the defence of the island "VIS" (Yugoslavia) on the side of the partisans. Afterwards it rejoins England from where it will carry out a reconnaissance raid on the island of YRU (France) in June 1944

On 1 November 1944, the Belgian Commandos disembarked on the island of WALCHEREN, which was liberated after heavy fighting.

The various heroics and operations of this first Commando unit earn it the three following citations.

ITALIË - JOEGOSLAVIË - WALCHEREN.

6.2.2. De Paratroopers.

80 years ago in May 1942, the Belgian Independent Parachute Company was formed in England. It was composed of volunteers from Belgium and the four corners of the world who had fled to England. After very intensive training, the first candidates obtain their parachutist's licence at RINGWAY's "Parachute Training School nr1".

Located at FRITZHILL, the Belgian parachute unit, under the command of Captain BLONDEEL continues its training for about 2 years. The unit will be named "Belgian S.A.S. Squadron" and will be assigned to the notorious British S.A.S. "Special Air Service".

In July 1944, three squads of the Belgian Parachute Squadron will jump in FALAISE (France) and in August they will carry out missions in the French Ardennes. Two squads carry out missions in occupied NETHERLANDS for six months.

During the Ardennes Offensive in December 1944, the regrouped and armoured jeeps squadron carries out security missions for the benefit of the British Airborne Division.

This parachute squadron was the first Allied unit to set foot on Belgian territory (15 August 1944) and in Germany (5 December 1944).

The various operations and heroic deeds of this unit earned it the following mentions:

NORMANDIË - BELGIË - ARDENNEN - EMDEN - OLDENBURG

6.2.3. The Regiment Para-Commando.

70 years ago, the Regiment Para-Commando was created. It became an amalgamation of the Parachutists (Bn Parachutists at Diest) and the Commando units (Citadel Namur).

6.2.4. The Brigade Para-Commando.

In November 1991, the Para-Commando regiment became Brigade Para-Commando. It is composed of the following units.

The 7th Brigade consists of the following units:

- HQ Company 4 Commando Régiment
- Régiment 12e de Ligne Prince Léopold - 13e de Ligne - Light Infantry
- 2nd Commando Battalion
- 3rd Parachute Battalion
- Special Forces Group

History

The 7th Brigade was formed on 1 December 1948 as the 7th Infantry Brigade, taking over the traditions of the 7th Mixed Brigade, which was formed on 31 July 1914 and disbanded on 1 February 1918. Throughout its history, the 7th Brigade has had many different names. From 1957 to 1961 it was known as the 7th Infantry Group, from 1961 to 1969 again as the 7th Infantry Brigade, from 1969 to 1994 as the 7th Armoured Infantry Brigade and from 1994 to 2004 as the 7th Mechanised Brigade. In 2004, it was formally renamed the 7th Brigade. In 2011, it was merged with the Direct Response Cell to form the Light Brigade.

6.2.5. Special Operation Regiment: S.O.R.

- On 2 July 2018, yet another reform. This reform allows Belgium to respond to geopolitical evolutions and the increasing number of threats it has faced in recent years.
- The Special Operations Regiment is one of the pillars of the Land Component. Thanks to the very lightweight nature of the units that make up it, the Land Component can deploy this capability very quickly.
- The Special Operations Regiment's headquarters is located in Heverlee (Leuven). This headquarters directs six units.
- The Special Forces Group (SFGp) is the Regiment's elite unit. Its tasks are mainly unusual reconnaissance missions, raids and sabotages, in addition to supporting its own t- calls.

- o The 2nd Bn Commandos from Flawinne and the 3rd Bn Paratroopers from Tielen form the major combat units They are deployed both as rapid reaction units for NATO and Belgian forces, as well as for humanitarian missions and in support of the S.F.Gp.
- o The commando and paratrooper training centres are responsible for specialised training.
- o - In addition to those combat units, SOR also permanently has a unit to support them with communication and information tools adapted to their missions. The 6 Group Communication and
- o - Information Systems Group also has an additional paratroop commando capacity..

6.3. Stand Para-Commando at the Royal Army Museum



"Minerva" fit for drop, all in and around the mystical C119 the Flying Boxcar. Notwithstanding the "COVID", we have not stood still in improving our stand, as you can see from the accompanying photos.

There is now a diorama (AS24 1964), a television screen with films about dropping, a cabinet "African period" still to be finished, posters in natural size and the jeep. The C119 is accessible again and inside you can see a paracommando ready for the jump.

To cover our various costs, we are appealing to our members and friends Para-commando to support us so that we can further develop our stand.

The annual membership fee is a minimum of 10Euro per year to be paid into the account of: Reserve NCOs Para-Cdo no: BE93 0012 1764 7767 With mention WAR HERITAGE MUSEUM ParaCdo 2022.

Dear friends Para-Commando,
The Army Museum, renamed "WAR HERITAGE MUSEUM" is known for its vast collections, the museum attracts thousands of tourists every year. It is therefore normal for the Para-Cdo's to have their stand there.



Many will raise their eyebrows and ask the question what do we have to do with those reserveonderofficieren ParaCdo.

A bit of history, back in 1984, to commemorate Operation Stan & Paulis, the then Army Museum, was asked to set up a stand Para-Commando. This was granted and it was a beautiful stand, with military uniforms a medical unit drop ready, AS24 etc.....

When Adj. Res Gerard Houben (then a member of ANPCV Brabant visited brought to the museum, and passing

by the ParaCdo stand, he uite his displeasure to some of the persons employed there. Quickly the answer was ready: What are you waiting for, we are all benevolders who come here to spend their free time maintaining the Air and Navy stands.

And what does Gerard do, he calls his best friend "the Chris", and 1SgtMaj (Res) Chris Vandeput immediately says, we're going to start it. A lot of cleaning, tearing down, moving, searching for equipment (much had disappeared to other locations!!??), begging from the various regiments with alternating success, etc.

Other reserve NCOs joined us year after year. I am thinking of Lode Vandael, Jan Willemse sorry to forget any. With the cooperation of the Air Force Department, the stand became more beautiful but also bigger and all this on a rather limited budget. Here goes my special thanks to the National Bureau of Reserve NCOs (KNUROO) who supported us financially with an annual grant, which helped cover part of the expenses. The rest was adjusted by membership fees. Meanwhile, the reserve in general has been transformed such that not only reserve NCOs, also soldiers are allowed to be part of the Reserve NCO Para-Cdo Circle.



Ma-vrij / 9.00-18.00u Zaterdag / 09.00-14.00u
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ZONDER AFSpraak

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7. Members' news

7.1. Overlijdens:

7.1.1. Marc Hayen

Was born in Leuven on 9 January 1951 and died at AZ Turnhout on 24 December 2021.

7.1.2. Vandendaele Pierre

© Gazet van Antwerpen door Kristin Matthyssen

Leo Van Dyck

War hero Pierre, who left with 'vélo' in Halle to drive out Germans, commemorated in Halle.

As 22 January is his birthday, tribute was paid to Pierre Vandendaele on Saturday at the honour of the veterans of Halle cemetery. The Halle man died on Christmas Eve 2016 at the age of 93 and was the first Belgian commando to be trained for covert operations in the UK in 1942. For his war heroics, he was appointed Chevalier de La Légion d'Honneur, the highest national decoration in France. "It is normal that we want to commemorate such an exceptional figure every year from now on," said Leo Van Dyck of the Antwerp Veterans Parachutists and Commandos and member of the Leuven Regional, among others.

It was the first time Pierre Vandendaele had been commemorated so extensively at the place where he rests. Even Lieutenant Colonel SBH Frédéric Linotte, head of the Special Forces Gp, was present with his wife. A delegation of the 15th Détachement Para-Commandos and the Paracommando Friendship Circle of Leuven was also represented by Jos Aerts, with banner.

The mayor, Liesbeth Verstreken and alderman Danny Van de Velde. All came to pay their respects and flowers were laid down. Louis Stuyts blew the "Last Post". This all was attended by Pierre's grandson.

That more than five years after his death so much attention is still being paid to Vandendaele is because he was "gene gewone", as they would say now. In June 1941 after the capitulation of Belgium, as a young idealist of 18, he simply set off on his bicycle in Halle to do something against the occupying forces. At home on the table, his parents found a note 'I'm off'. His brother Roger was of the same calibre. He enlisted in the Piron Brigade and died at the end of the war. Pierre rode his bicycle as far as France, swam across the Somme, but was caught in France and detained in a labour camp. There he escaped on 14 July during celebrations for the bank holidays in France.

He then crossed the Pyrenees only to be unfortunately immediately arrested in Spain and imprisoned in the famous Miranda de Ebro prison camp. After five months, he was freed and reached England via Gibraltar, where Allied headquarters were located. Volunteers from all over occupied Europe were trained as commandos there after rigorous screening at the training centre at Fort Williams in Scotland's rugged Highlands.

The 10th Commando Inter-Allied Troops were deployed to carry out dangerous and covert operations. The Zoerser did campaigns in Italy, Yugoslavia and France. During the landing on Walcheren (Zeeland) for the liberation of the Scheldt estuary in November 1944, he was badly injured and was even



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paralysed for a while, which must have been a disaster for his parents, since brother died that same week at age 23 from a bullet in the head.
 After the war, Pierre stayed in the army. He started a family, settled in Saint-Antonius and went to work. For the last four years of his life, Pierre lived with his daughter Michou, who was a veterinarian
 "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away" was written on his prayer card. "With Pierre Vandendaele, an important eyewitness disappeared" says Leo Van Dyck from Halle. "He deserves to be remembered every year"



Openingsuren
 van maandag tot zaterdag van 9u tot 19u doorlopend
 op zondag van 9u tot 13u
 zon- en feestdagen geopend
 van begin juli tot einde maart



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Never give up



**Uit sympathie
MN**

BOutique

8.



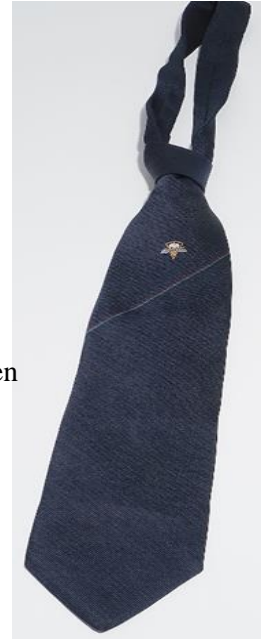
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Pull or polo on order



Die on order
15 Euro

All items available in burgundy and bottle green

All items available in burgundy and bottle green



T-shirt 15 euro
Dessert colour



T-shirt 15 euro
grey



White shirt L,M of SS
on order



Pin 4 euro



Pin 4 euro



Pin 4 euro



Pin 4 euro



Bow-tie in UK on order(*)



Emblem 3 Euro



Cap red of Green 15 euro



16 Euro



Ballpoint 2euro

(*) Still one Para bow tie in stock at 14Euro.

Due to BREXIT: For every order in the U.K. one pays import duties (21.35Euro VAT incl.).