

Remembering in Opmeer

“That their names may never be forgotten”



inhoudsopgave

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Foreword

The horrors of the Second World War, and those of other wars, are often beyond comprehension. It is the stories and photographs of individual people that bring the immense suffering into view and make it tangible.

On May 4th, we commemorate at three locations in Opmeer. There are three monuments bearing the names of the victims. This booklet contains the stories of those people.

You might think that remembrance is mostly about the past.

What happened in the past is indeed very important on May 4th. The stories and the people described in this booklet deserve all our attention. These are events that took place close to home. We can visit the monuments, point out the houses, recognize the family names.

But remembrance is also about today.

Because awareness of past events provides guidance for reflecting on the conflict areas of our own time. And they inspire us to look, in our daily lives, for ways in which we can contribute to peace and security. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this publication. I would especially like to mention the name of Bep de Haan: her tireless dedication and research laid the foundation.

Mayor H.M. (Herman) Wiersema

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War victims from Hoogwoud

Each year on the 4th of May an official commemoration is held at the Burgemeester Hoogenboomlaan. The commemoration begins at 20.00 hrs.

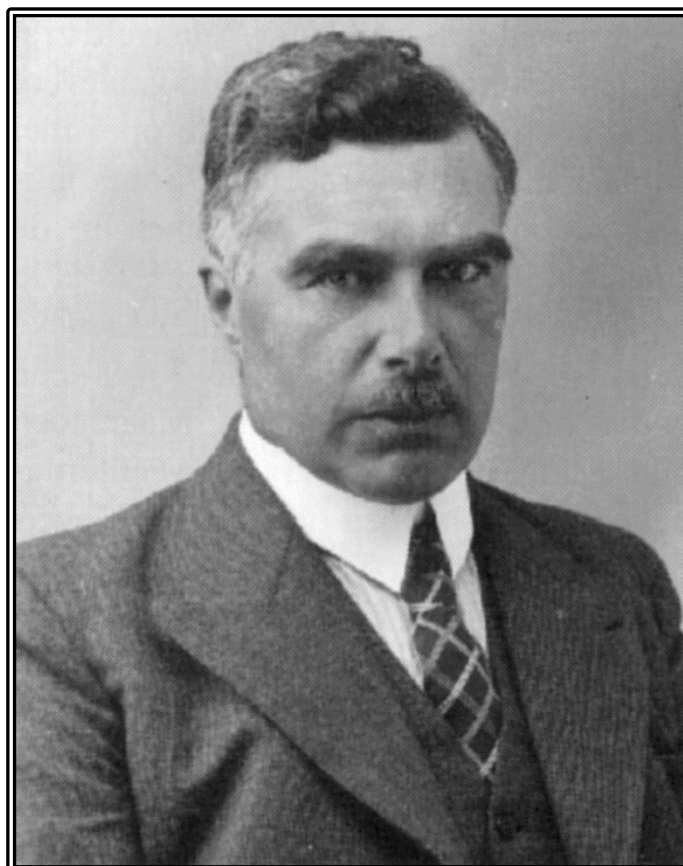


The war monument is in Hoogwoud on the burgemeester Hoogenboomlaan number 9, opposite the old town-hall.

Mayor Dirk Hoogenboom

Died early May 1945

Memorial concentration camp Buchenwald in Weimar



Mr. D. Hoogenboom Mr. D. Hoogenboom was born on the 9th of December 1888 in Oud-Beerland. He was appointed Mayor of Hoogwoud-Aartswoud on the 26th of January 1931. The family Hoogenboom lived in the former vicarage in Aartswoud. During the war the family gave shelter to a Jewish couple who were well hidden from the Germans. The Mayor knew as no other what the consequences could be for this action. After betrayal from the Jewish community, both the Jewish couple and Mayor Hoogenboom were arrested on the 22nd of August 1944 by the Sicherheitsdienst.

After first being jailed in Amsterdam and later in detention camp Vught, Mayor Hoogenboom was placed on a transport to Buchenwald in Germany on the 2nd of September 1944. According to a statement from a fellow prisoner, Mayor Hoogenboom perished during the last days of the war whilst being transported. It is not known where.

Miss A. Breed

Died on the 7th of March 1945

Buried at the Roman Catholic cemetery Hoogwoud



Afie Breed was born on the 31st of December 1891 in Hoogwoud and lived during the war years in the Zuideinde in Hoogwoud.

On the afternoon of the 7th of March 1945 the Germans held a bicycle razzia in the area. At that time, in a farm across the road from Miss Breed there were members of the underground present. During the inevitable battle between the Germans and the underground Miss Breed was struck in the head by a stray bullet and was killed instantly.

Cornelis Commandeur

Died 23d of April 1945

His grave, initially at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Hoogwoud,
does not exist any more



Kees Commandeur was born on the 16th of November 1886 in Wognum. During the war years he had a grocery shop, the "Rijstvogel", in the Boekel in Hoogwoud. Commandeur had no connection to the resistance but occasionally provided shelter to people of the underground who would spend the nights at different locations.

Sometime around midday on the 23rd of April 1945, members of the Landwacht invaded his house and attacked him. They forced him, on his own bicycle, to go to Hoorn with them. When they arrived at the crossing Spanbroekerweg and Wuiver he was executed. Shot down in cold blood. "Attempting to escape" is what they called it.

War victims from Spanbroek



Each year at 20.00 hrs. on the 4th of May during the National Memorial, an official commemoration is held at this monument.

This war memorial is located in Spanbroek on the corner of Hertog illemweg/Spanbroekerweg, at the entrance to the church.

Following the official commemoration, flowers are laid at the cemetery of the Kerkhuys for the 5 crew members of a RAF aircraft. On the night of the 12th and 13th of June 1944 the Lancaster ED938 Code CF-C of the 625 squadron was shot down by a German night hunter. The plane crashed in a field behind Zandwerven number 33, almost 300 meters from the house.

Two crewmen, J.D. Lindsay and R.F. Ridge survived the crash and were captured.

The remaining five crewmen did not survive.

The wreaths are for:

- ❖ Pilot officer Alexander Gregory Scott, British, aged 26
- ❖ Sergeant Alfred Ronald Williams, British, aged 24
- ❖ Flight sergeant Charles Stirling Dundas Tainsh, Australian, aged 26
- ❖ Flight sergeant Jeffrey Gordon Lane, Australian, aged 21
- ❖ Sergeant Leonard Thomas Victor Suffield, Australian, aged 23

Some of the war victims described in this booklet are buried in the cemetery of the Roman Catholic Bonifatius Church in Spanbroek. On the 4th of May at about 18.00, flowers are laid there by Council representatives.

The Firing Squad*

An account of the execution of residents of Spanbroek

On the 6th of March 1945, Obergruppenführer Hanns Rauter was attacked by the inn "De Woeste Hoeve" near Apeldoorn. Hanns Rauter was the highest SS officer in the Netherlands. He was responsible for the deportation of 120,000 Jews and countless terrorist attacks against civilians.

He survived the attack thanks to a suitcase full of washing that absorbed many of the bullets. He was, however, hit in the jaw and had to hold his jaw in place with bandages. In retaliation for the attack, 300 hostages were executed including six residents and temporary residents of Spanbroek: Nicolaas Appel, Antonius Bosse, Johannes Hoek, Cornelis Loos, Johannes Stam en Jacobus Weerdenburg.



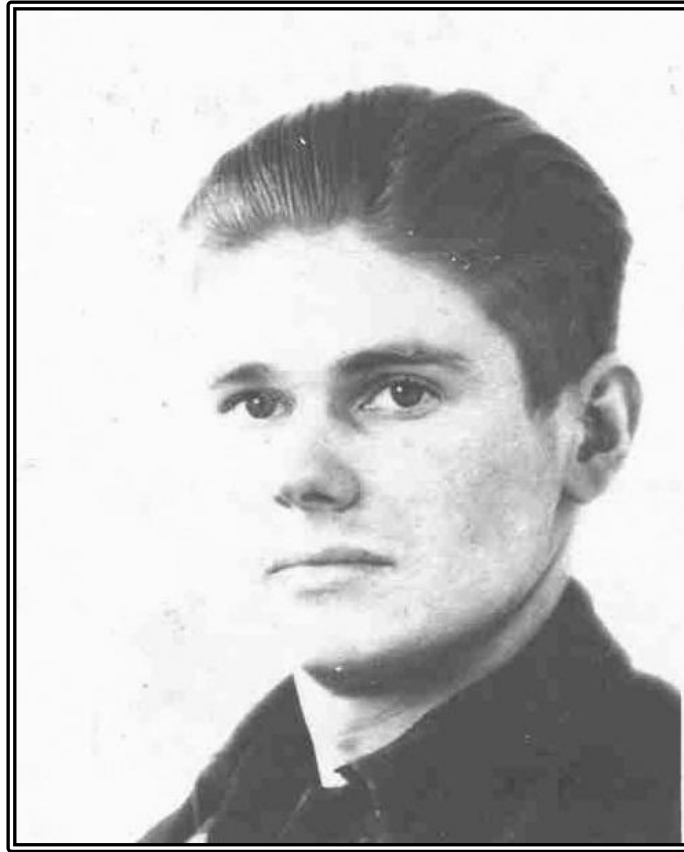
The location where the executions took place, at the Amsteldijk. Picture taken just after the war.



Grave of the executed at the cemetery in Spanbroek

Nicolaas Appel

Executed on the 8th of March 1945 in Amsterdam
Buried at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Spanbroek



Klaas Appel (born on the 11th of October 1920 in Spanbroek. He was also known as Klaassie (little Klaas) because he was quite small, was only 24 years old when he was executed. He was asked "to do a job" at the dropping field "De Mandril" on the Zomerdijk in Spanbroek. He did do the "job" and was consequently arrested at his home during the early hours of the 26th of February by the Landwacht. Together with other villagers he was brought to Amsterdam. In the morning of the 8th of March he was taken to the Amsteldijk where along with many others he was executed. As it turned out, this execution was retribution for the attack on Obergruppenführer Hanns Rauter.*

Antonius Bosse

Executed on the 8th of March 1945 in Amsterdam
Buried at the honorary cemetery in Bloemendaal / Overveen



Ton Bosse, born on the 20th of April 1922 in Haarlem, was a student when he was called up for forced employment in Germany. Ton decided that this wasn't for him and went into hiding. After travelling around for a while he ended up at the farm of Jan Loos in Spanbroek.

His host Jan had joined the resistance and in spite of his father's disapproval, Ton decided it was his duty to join as well.

During the weekend of the 24th and 25th of February some of their group were arrested. They had obviously been betrayed by someone. Jan and Ton were not amongst those arrested. Jan Loos went into hiding and Ton Bosse decided that it was his duty to stay on the farm and look after the livestock. He didn't want Mrs. Loos to have to look after the farm on her own. The Landwacht later searched the farm for Jan Loos but found Ton Bosse instead. Ton was taken to Amsterdam where he was executed.*

Cornelis Botman

Died on the 14th of February 1945

Memorial: concentration camp Neuengamme in Hamburg



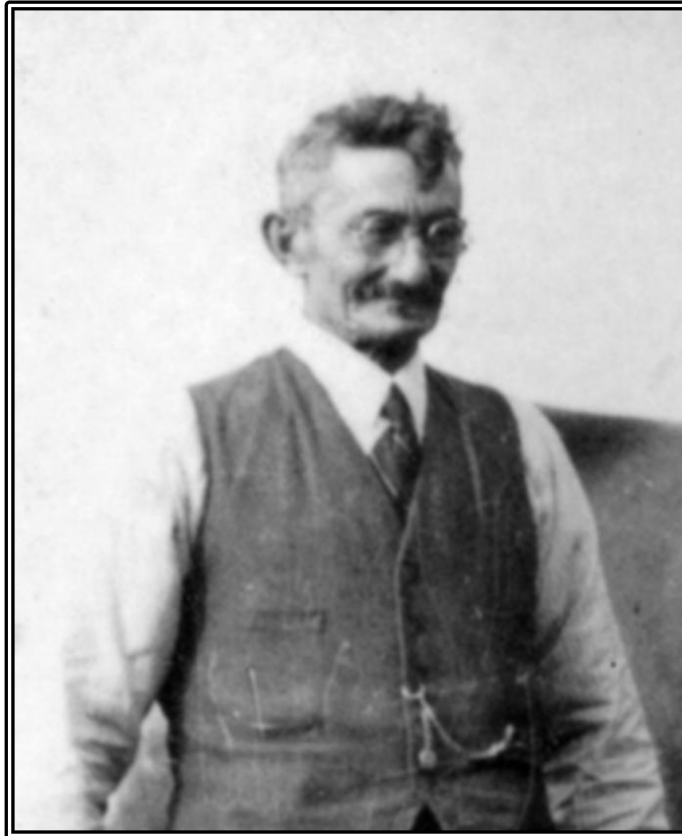
Cor Botman was born on the 20th of January 1924 in Hoorn and was a student at the outbreak of the war. He was called up in 1942 for forced employment in Germany but decided not to go. Through a friend he managed to find hospitable accommodation with the family Mul on the Spanbroekerweg in Spanbroek. During the early morning of the 9th of August 1945 the house was viciously raided by the Landwacht. Mr. Mul was in particular a victim of this raid. Cor Botman had a false passport so the Landwacht ordered him to go with them, by bicycle, to Hoorn. He didn't even have time to change and had to wear a jacket over his pyjamas. Mr. Mul and two others who had also been in hiding, had to go with them.

Cor Botman was put on a transport to the concentration camp Neuengamme in Germany. He died there of hunger and exhaustion on the 14th of February 1945.

Petrus Brakeboer

Died on the 16th of January 1945

His ashes were scattered at the memorial camp
Sachsenhausen Oranienburg



Petrus Brakeboer was born on the 13th of March 1881 in Medemblik. When war broke out he was living and working with his family on a farm at the Berkmeerdijk in Opmeer. In the summer of 1944 several people were in hiding at the farm. There was a request from the resistance asking him to lodge a Jewish couple. At first he refused, not wanting to risk the others in hiding. As it was to only be for one night he eventually agreed. It was that very night on the 13th of July 13 1944 that the Landwacht attacked the farm. The Jewish couple was badly beaten, as was Mr. Brakeboer. All three were arrested. Mr. Brakeboer was forced to walk to the train station in Obdam and was then moved to the prison in Amsterdam. Later he was sent to camp Vught and eventually ended up in camp Sachsenhausen in Germany. He died there on the 16th of January in 1945 of tonsillitis (read: deprivation).

The Van Emden Story

To whom Mr. Piet Brakeboer granted hospitality
in the summer of 1944

Jetty and David van Emden lived together with their daughter Fieke-Maja in Borne in the province of Overijssel at the outbreak of the war in the Netherlands. To escape deportation they decided to go underground.

On the 19th of April 1943 there was an appeal in the local newspaper that nine Jewish people had disappeared and the German occupier was searching for them. David and Jetty and their daughter Fieke-Maja were among the people named. Presumably the couple were underground in Groningen, while their daughter Fieke-Maja was placed with the Sant family on the Westerdijk in Hoorn.

During the summer of 1944 Mr. and Mrs. Van Emden were in hiding in Blokker. They stayed at the farm belonging to the family Wagenaar until Wednesday the 12th of July.

The underground were afraid that their position had been compromised and decided to search for a new hiding place. They eventually found refuge at a farm on the Berkmeerdijk with the family Brakeboer in Opmeer.

In 1944 during the early hours of Thursday the 13th of July, the Sicherheitsdienst and the Landwacht raided the farm.

Mr. Brakeboer and Mr. and Mrs. van Emden were subsequently arrested. The arrest must have been very violent because in a short note sent from prison in Amsterdam, David van Emden wrote to his daughter "Mummy can't eat because she has a broken jaw".

Due to gross abuse and torture it is likely that the couple told where they had been hiding. In the evening of the 13th of July Mr. Wagenaar from Blokker was also arrested.

For ignoring the order to report for transportation to Germany, Mr. and Mrs. Van Emden were taken via Hoorn and Amsterdam to the concentration camp in Westerbork.

In September 1944 they were put on one of the last transportations to the extermination camps.

The couple did not survive the war, their daughter Fieke-Maja did.



Early pictures of Fieke-Maja van Emden with her father David and her mother Jetty.

Jacobus Duivestein

Jacobus Duivestein was in hiding with the family (Cor) Dijkstra and also became a victim of the occupying forces. He was arrested on the 9th of August 1944 by the Landwacht and later transferred to Leipzig where he died.

The original information that was known:

Jacobus Duivestein was born on the 26th of April 1921 and died on the 23rd of June 1945 in Leipzig, Germany.

Unfortunately there was no more information on the life of Jacobus Duivestein. Recently however, inquiries have given a strong indication that the following war victim could be Jacobus Duivestein:

Jacobus Gerardus Duivesteijn, born on the 16th of December 1922 in The Hague. He was called Jacques and was a warehouse clerk. He arrived at the camp in Amersfoort on the 18th of August 1944 and on the 1st of September he was transported to Germany for forced labour. He worked at Sàchsische Werke Böhlen in Leipzig. He died on the 6th of June 1945 due to exhaustion and malnutrition in the Bezirkskrankenhaus in Múgel near Leipzig.

Despite the strong indication that this is the same person as the Jacobus Duivestein as mentioned on the war monument, this has not (as yet) been definitely established.



Unfortunately there is no photo of Jacobus Duivestein available.

Cornelis Dijkstra

Died on the 20th of December 1944 in concentration camp
Neuengamme in Germany

Memorial site: Field of Honor of the Netherlands in Hamburg-Ohlsdorf



Cor Dijkstra, born in Sexbierum in Friesland on the 19th of October 1904, worked during the war at the dairy processing plant Aurora in Opmeer. He had two little boys and had joined the Underground. He worked closely with Mr. Tulp from Hoogwoud.

In the early hours of the 9th of August 1944 he was arrested together with the fugitive Jacobus Duivestein who resided with him. Cor Dijkstra was transferred first to Hoorn and then to Amsterdam. From there he was put on a transport to the concentration camp Neuengamme in Germany where, on the 20th of December 1944 he died of exhaustion.

Petrus Nicolaas Eitjes

Died on the 26th of February 1945

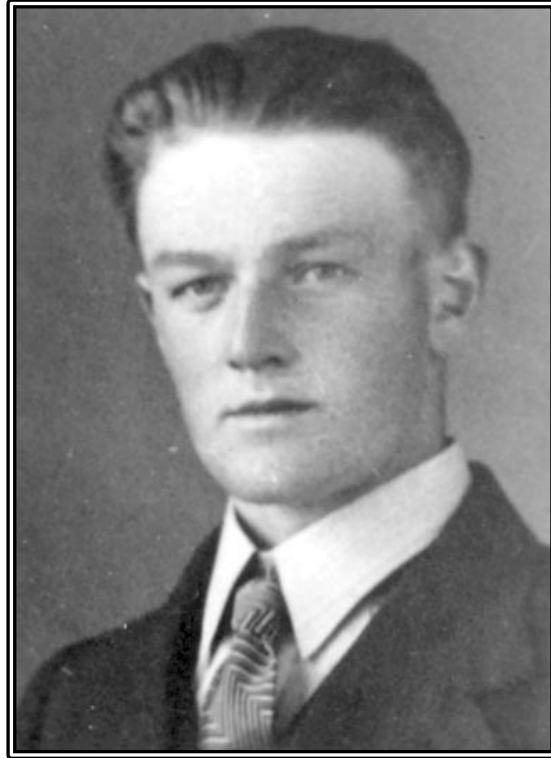
Buried on the Dutch Field of Honor, Loenen (Apeldoorn)



Piet Eitjes was born on the 16th of April 1920 in Spanbroek and was involved in the resistance and guarding the 'De Mandril' which was a dropping field on the Zomerdijk. During the war years Piet lived with his parents in Wadway, Spanbroek. In the early hours of the 26th of February the Landwacht raided the Eitjes family. During the raid mother Eitjes was beaten. Piet attacked the offender and then tried to escape through the garden. Unfortunately it was a clear night and Piet was an easy target for the trigger-happy Landwacht. He was shot in his stomach and was transported to the hospital in Hoorn. The hospital was not allowed to give him medical treatment and so he died the same day. He found his last resting place on the Dutch Field of Honor in Loenen near Apeldoorn.

Johannes Hoek

Executed on the 8th of March 1945 in Amsterdam
Buried at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Spanbroek



Jan Hoek was born on the 20th of November 1915 in Venhuizen. He worked as a farmhand for Klaas de Jong in Spanbroek. He had also joined the resistance and was arrested on the 26th of February by the Landwacht on Klaas de Jong's farm. He was hiding in a haystack but when the Landwacht threatened to "throw a grenade in the haystack and blow up the whole farm" he came out of hiding. As he was being taken away, he thanked the De Jong family for taking such good care of him. Jan and others who had been arrested were taken to the Amsteldijk in Amsterdam where they were all executed*

Simon Koning

Missing



Simon Koning was born on the 26th of June 1906 in Bovenkarspel. In 1940 he was appointed town constable in Spanbroek. Soon after he joined the L.O. (National Organization for help to hidere). The occupier required all council officers to sign an oath of loyalty, Simon refused.

He was a father to four children and was fully aware of his responsibility to them. He had made a deal that he would never evade the consequences should he get caught doing work for the resistance. On August the 24th 1944 he was arrested by members of the Sicherheitspolizei and imprisoned in death cell number 596 of the notorious Orange hotel in Scheveningen. He was treated according to the "Nacht-und-Nebel-Erlass", which meant that all documents referring to interrogations and human remains had to be destroyed. Victims disappeared in the "night and in the mist". Nothing has ever been heard from Simon after Dolle Dinsdag (Mad Tuesday) September the 8th, 1944, in spite of all investigations.

S. Koning was posthumously awarded the Mobilization War Cross on the 4th of September, 2014.

Johannes Kramer

Died on the 15th of March 1945

Buried at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Spanbroek



Born on the 26th of April 1912 in Hoorn, Jan Kramer was married to Bets Eitjes (Piet Eitjes sister). He was not involved in the resistance but was present at a card evening given by the Loos family, when, on the 24th of February 1945 the first people were arrested on suspicion of resistance. Jan was also taken to the police station in Hoorn but was released a few days later. This aroused suspicion among the leaders of the resistance.

On the 15th of March, when the news came that six men of their group had been executed, Jan Kramer was immediately summoned to the Zomerdijk. This was where the resistance leaders were.

That same day Jan was killed and buried in the Zomerdijk. His wife and family were unsure of his fate for a long time. After the war he was reburied (after first being mistaken for another victim) at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Spanbroek.

Cornelis Loos

Executed on the 8th of March 1945

Buried at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Spanbroek



Cor Loos, born on the 22nd of April 1909 in Spanbroek, was father to two small children at the moment that the Landwacht invaded his house during a card evening. He was suspected of being a member of the underground resistance, this was not the case.

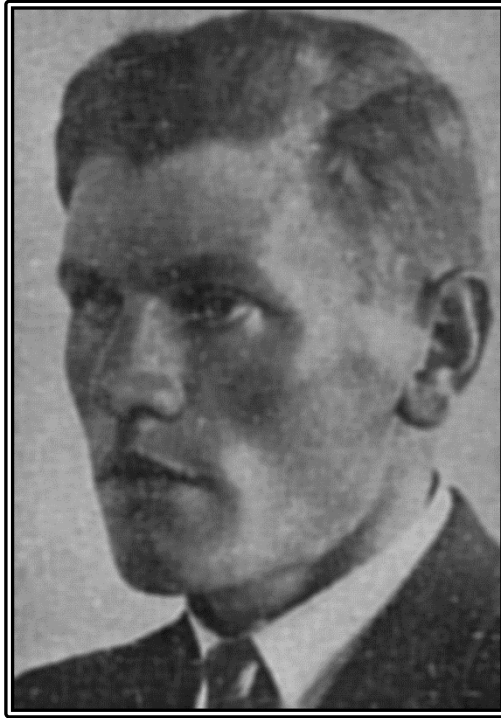
His two children crept into a deep closet during the raid but were clearly able to see how their father and the other members of the card club were arrested.

After interrogation by the Landwacht at the station, he was taken to the Weteringschans in Amsterdam.

On the 8th of March he was executed at the Amsteldijk*

Johannes Roosje

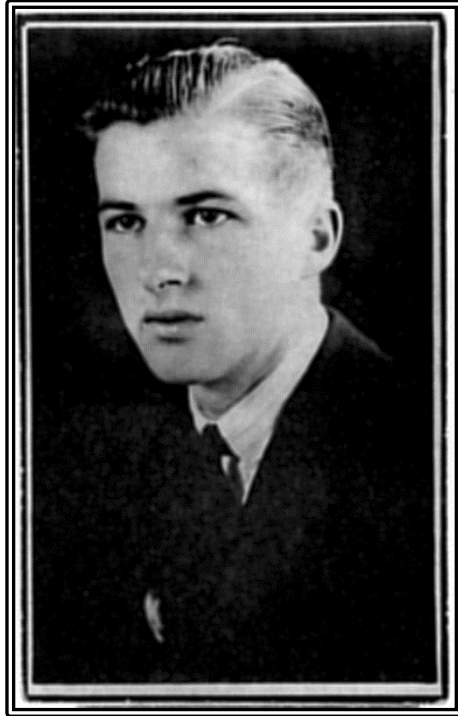
Died on the 17th of February 1945 in Oostwoud
Buried at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Spanbroek



Jan Roosje was born on the 26th of February 1915 in Hensbroek. On the 22nd of May 1939 he married Afie Konijn from Spanbroek. The couple lived in Spanbroek where Jan worked for the Schipper family on the Zomerdijk. He got involved with the dropping of guns and joined the resistance. One day in Oostwoud, whilst the group was involved in getting an English pilot to safety they came upon Die Grüne Polizei. During the subsequent battle Jan Roosje was killed. For days after, his body was laid in front of the Medemblik Town Hall. This served as a warning to everyone. After the war Jan Roosje was reburied at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Spanbroek.

Petrus Scholten

Died on the 16th of December 1944 in Leipzig
Reburied at the Dutch Field of Honor in Loenen (Apeldoorn)



Piet Scholten was born in Hoogwoud on the 10th of April 1924 and was the eldest son of the family. The Scholtens moved to Leidschendam but still kept in touch with friends and acquaintances in Hoogwoud and Spanbroek. During the war years Piet received the order for forced labor in Germany. He went and was put to work in an office. He came back home during a short leave and decided to go into hiding. He found hospitable lodgings in Spanbroek with the Mul family. Unfortunately, during a raid by the Landwacht on the 9th of August 1944, he was forced to go to Hoorn voor interrogation. During the interrogation they discovered that he had a false passport. They also found letters on him revealing his true identity, and so Piet was brought to the prison camp in Amersfoort. From there he was taken to Leipzig in Germany. He wrote letters to his parents that gave the impression that he was cheerful but in reality it was very different. As an office worker he was definitely not used to the hard manual labor in the camp's stone quarry. He died of pneumonia on the 8th of December due to the hardships.

Johannes Stam

Executed on the 8th of March 1945

Buried at the Roman Catholic cemetery in Spanbroek



As a farmer's son, Jan Stam (born 1st of April 1915 in Sijbekarspel) grew up on his parent's farm near Wadway (Spanbroek council). On the 24th of February 1945, he was enjoying a card evening at Cor Loos's house. He was not involved with anything illegal himself but was well aware of what was going on around him. When the house was raided all the men, including Jan, were taken in for questioning.

He was allowed to go home to put on a warm coat and change his slippers for shoes. He said to his mother "Mother, don't worry, I'll be home soon".

They were the last words that she ever heard him speak.

On the 8th of March 1945 he was executed at the Amsteldijk in Amsterdam.*

Jacobus Weerdenburg

Executed on the 8th of March 1945
Buried at the Dutch Field of Honor in
Bloemendaal-Overveen



Jaap Weerdenburg was born on the 5th of May 1923 in Amsterdam and came to Spanbroek looking for food at the farm of the Wittenberg family. Their son Gerrit was an active member of the resistance. When Jaap Weerdenburg received the summons to go to work in Germany the Wittenberg family offered him a place to hide at their farm.

On the 26th of February 1945 the farm was raided. The Germans were looking for Gerrit but could not find him. Instead, they found Jaap Weerdenburg who had ignored the summons to work in Germany.

On March the 8th 1945 he was amongst those who were taken away and executed by firing squad at the Amsteldijk.*

The monument for the fallen aviators

On the 4th of May at about 18.25 flowers are laid at the monument for the fallen aviators.

At that time a 'lost man' formation is flown as a tribute to these victims.

During the night of Sunday the 11th of May 1941 an English Short Stirling bomber was shot down by a German fighter plane. The bomber was found meters deep in a field at the corner of A.C. de Graafweg and Middelweg in Opmeer and was recovered in September 2003.

In the aircraft were the remains of six personnel.

The pilot's body was found outside the plane at the crash site. The bodies of the six crewmen have all been identified and on the 11th of May 2004 their remains were buried at the General Cemetery in Bergen.

The monument has been made from a part of one of the aircraft's engines along with the blade of one of the propellers.

At the foot of the monument is the V-shape which is used in England and New Zealand as the sign for victory' and is the symbol for peace and freedom.

On the monument are the names of the flight crew Engraved.

At this monument we remember the seven flight crew of the English Short Sterling N3654 from the 15th Squadron.

- ❖ Wing Commander Herbert R. Dale, British RAF, aged 33
- ❖ Pilot Officer Peter R. Stephenson Bird, British RAFVR, aged 20
- ❖ Pilot Officer Daniel McLean Campbell, New Zealand RNZAF, aged 25
- ❖ Sergeant Stanley P. Plumb, British RAFVR, aged 24
- ❖ Sergeant Frank A. Sidney Smith, British RAF, aged 21
- ❖ Sergeant Eric R. Lucas, New Zealand RNZAF, aged 26
- ❖ Sergeant Norman H. Nattall, British RAFVR, aged 21



The monument is parallel to the A.C. de Graafweg and the park at the Glazen Wagen.

Thinking of de dead

A poem for the 4th of May

Thinking of the dead
names in the ground
names of the dead
say them out loud

And tell stories
of how they fared
without freedom
so many times

Names to be named
on the 4th of May
because flowers bloomed
and we became free

Keep their names now
keep their names high
What they did for us
We will always see

Names of the dead
hold them in the light
thinking of the dead
with eyes closed tight

Thinking of the dead
of days gone by
We call to the future
In their names

Sources: unknown