



Liberation  
Route  
Europe

# THE NETHERLANDS

TOUR & TRAVEL GUIDE

## Harley-Davidson Liberator

LIBERATION MUSEUM ZEELAND



An Harley-Davidson in WWII.

The American and Canadian Army used the Harley-Davidson motorcycles on a huge scale during World War II.



The motorcycle, which is pictured here, is equipped with a 750 cc engine block and was specifically produced for the Canadian Army in 1942. It is on display at Liberation Museum Zeeland.

The Harley-Davidson 'Liberator' was not just a motorcycle of a world famous brand, but also an icon during the liberation of the Netherlands. The latter explains the name Liberator. After the fighting finished, many Harley-Davidson motorcycles were left behind. Because of a shortage of vehicles directly after the end of the Second World War, the Liberator was widely used on the Dutch roads. The Harley-Davidson brand became popular in the Netherlands. The Liberator thus not only played a role during the liberation of the Netherlands, but also during the Post-War Reconstruction.

## 'Little doll', the story of Riek Snel

NATIONAL MONUMENT CAMP VUGHT



Little doll as a 'self-portrait' by Riek Snel.

Jo Elsendoorn and Riek Snel were a couple and members of a resistance group in Amsterdam.

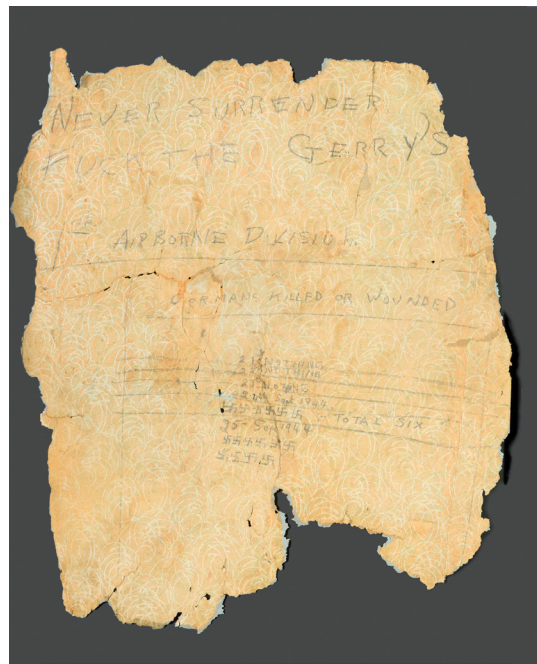
They were betrayed, caught and sent to Camp Vught. In Camp Vught, Jo sends Riek small, sweet messages hidden in the cork of a bottle. As a reply, she sends him a small doll, as a 'self-portrait'. The doll, which measures 17 centimetres, wears a dress made of the camp's clothes. Riek thought of every single detail when creating the doll. Even the red triangle, the wooden shoes and a headscarf are visible. The doll carries a small book in its arms with the text 'Next time in a more beautiful dress'. Unfortunately, it didn't turn out this way. Jo was able to escape the camp and survived the war, while Riek was transported to concentration camp Ravensbrück where she lost her life.



Secret messages were hidden in the cork of a bottle.

## 'Killscore', the story of Anthony Crane

AIRBORNE MUSEUM AT HARTENSTEIN



This is the piece of wallpaper that Anthony Crane used to write on.

On 21 September 1944, during Operation Market Garden, British sniper Anthony Crane found himself in the house on the Pieterbergseweg 34 in Oosterbeek.

On the wallpaper of the house he kept track of how many German soldiers he had killed or wounded. From 21 to 23 September he did not get any kills but on 24 and 25 September he shot a total of 16 German soldiers. At the top of the piece of wallpaper he wrote "Never surrender" and "Fuck the Gerry's". Many years later in an interview, Crane stated that he found it very hard to shoot people. The writing on the wallpaper was something he did to make himself feel braver.

"Never  
surrender"

### Key events & commemorations

Last  
Sunday  
in January  
Holocaust  
Memorial Day

25th  
of February  
Commemoration of  
the February Strike  
in Amsterdam

4th  
of May  
National  
Remembrance  
Day and the  
commemoration on  
the Dam square in  
Amsterdam

5th  
of May  
Liberation Day  
and its Liberation  
festivals

15th  
of August  
National  
Commemoration  
of the end of WWII  
with the surrender  
of Japan

Mid  
September  
Market Garden  
Remembrance Week

End  
of October  
Battle of the Scheldt  
Commemoration

## History



Dutch children on a Canadian Sherman tank in Harderwijk

After five days of heavy fighting  
The Netherlands was occupied in May 1940.

During the occupation, thousands of civilians died in Allied bombings and as a result of the Nazi rule. Especially the Jewish population suffered greatly: three quarters of the Dutch Jews did not survive the war. In late 1944 the southern part of the country was liberated during Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Scheldt, while the north remained occupied until 1945.



Battle of the Scheldt



Part of the Atlantikwall after the fighting

## Battle of the Scheldt

On 4 September 1944, the Allies captured Antwerp, a major Belgian port city on the river Scheldt.

However, the port could not be used as the German troops still controlled the Dutch province of Zeeland and the access to the North Sea. The Allies launched the Battle of the Scheldt in October 1944 where the Canadians landed at Westkapelle, Zeeland. The Allies finally won the battle in November 1944 with the liberation of Zeeland, allowing the eventual use of the port of Antwerp.

NATIONS INVOLVED



Hell's Highway



American paratroopers above Groesbeek

## Operation Market Garden

Operation Market Garden, one of the largest Allied operations of the Second World War, was launched in September 1944.

The goal was to secure the key bridges over the rivers Meuse, Waal and Rhine in the Netherlands in order to pave the way for a swift advance towards Berlin. American paratroopers were dropped around Eindhoven in North Brabant. Together with the paratroopers dropped around Nijmegen and Arnhem in Gelderland, they were to capture and hold the bridges until they could be relieved by the ground forces. After the successful battle of Nijmegen, the bridge at Arnhem turned out to be a bridge too far.



## In the footsteps of Canadian Liberators

The First Canadian Army played a major role in the liberation of the Dutch people who had suffered terrible hunger and hardship under the increasingly desperate German occupiers.

More than 7,600 Canadians died in the nine-month campaign to liberate the Netherlands, a tremendous sacrifice in the cause of freedom.



Liberation of South Limburg



Liberation of Rijssen by the Canadians

## In the footsteps of the American Liberators

The United States helped play a key role in the liberation of the Netherlands.

From September 1944 to April 1945, thousands of American soldiers lost their lives in the ultimate attempt to break German defences. Starting from Mesch in Limburg, they moved through the provinces of North Brabant and Gelderland.



Venlo

## Audio spots



Currently, there are over 200 audio spots, located in eight different Dutch provinces.

Liberation Route Europe started creating so-called 'audio spots' in the Arnhem-Nijmegen region in 2008.

At each spot, you can read and listen to a moving story that can be downloaded for free in three different languages via [www.liberationroute.com](http://www.liberationroute.com)

By doing so, you can learn about what happened at a specific location in 1944 and 1945, linking major, well-known events with very impressive personal stories and experiences. All the information and the different locations of the audio spots can be found on:

[WWW.LIBERATIONROUTE.COM](http://WWW.LIBERATIONROUTE.COM)



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## 'The Carillon'

THE GERMAN WAR CEMETERY IN YSSELSTEYN



The Carillon

This is the story of Klara Von Zitzewitz.

Klara Von Zitzewitz was 90 years old when she visited the grave of her son Ernst-Jürgen on the German War Cemetery in Ysselsteyn for the last time. It is a place where she and many others remember their beloved ones.

Ernst-Jürgen, the son of Klara Von Zitzewitz, was sent to the Dutch front during the battles of Operation Market Garden. After these battles, his parents never heard of him again. After the war ended, Klara Von Zitzewitz started to look for answers to the fate of her son. Unfortunately, to no avail. In 1951, information from the Red Cross indicated that her son had died in The Netherlands. The search came to an end when Klara learnt what had happened to her son and found his grave at the German War Cemetery in Ysselsteyn.

In 1952, Klara had the idea to install a carillon in the cemetery. She financed the biggest clock of the carillon herself and made sure the city of Berlin and the German government financially contributed to it as well. She succeeded in her initiative: in 1959, the carillon, consisting of 25 bells, was installed at the cemetery. Since that day, the carillon plays a melody in the cemetery where 32,000 people found their last place to rest. On the opposite side of Ernst-Jürgen's grave, on a bench that was placed there for her, Klara remembered her son, sometimes for multiple days in a row. There, she thought about her beloved son, who died at the age of 18 years and 8 months, for the senselessness of war.

"When you hear about how big it is, but then seeing it is something completely different. Everywhere you look there's just more and more graves. I think it's really important that people are coming here because they all learn about history"

MCLEAN BROWN, STUDENT, USA.



In the footsteps of the Canadians



1 Museum de Casteelse Poort  
WAGENINGEN – casteelsepoort.nl



2 The National Canadian War Memorial  
APELDOORN



3 Memory Museum  
NIJVERDAL – memorymuseum.nl



4 Information Centre Canadian War Cemetery Holten  
HOLTEN – canadesebegraafplaatsholten.nl



5 National Memorial Centre Camp Westerbork  
HOOGHALEN – kampwesterbork.nl



6 Canadian War Cemetery  
GROESBEEK – cwgc.org



7 Hotel de Wereld  
WAGENINGEN – hotel-dewereld.nl

Others



1 Atlantikwall Centrum  
HUISDUINEN – atlantikwall-wadden.nl



2 National Monument Oranjehotel  
THE HAGUE – oranjehotel.org



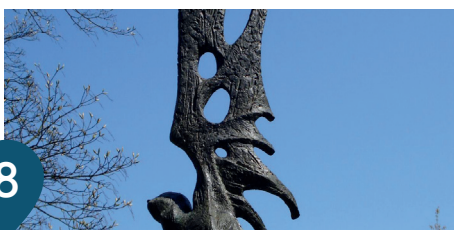
4 War Museum Overloon  
OVERLOON – warmuseum.nl



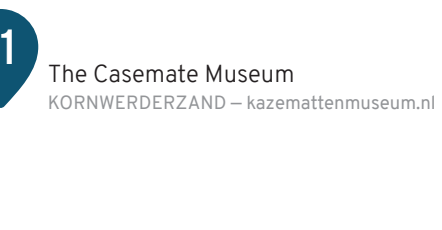
5 War Museum Eyewitness  
BEEK – eyewitnesswo2.nl



7 Camp Vught National Memorial  
VUGHT – nmkampvught.nl



8 Monument Englandspeil  
THE HAGUE



11 The Casemate Museum  
KORNWERDERZAND – kazemattenmuseum.nl

Battle of the Scheldt



1 Liberation Museum Zeeland  
NIEUWDRP – bevrijdingsmuseumzeeland.nl



2 The Sloedam  
ARNHEM



3 Maczek Memorial Breda  
BREDa – maczekmuseum.nl



4 Bergen op Zoom War Cemetery  
BERGEN OP ZOOM – cwgc.org



5 Het Polderhuis  
WESTKAPELLE – polderhuiswestkapelle.nl



Operation Market Garden



1 Museum Wings of Liberation  
BEST – wingsofliberation.nl



2 The Poles of Driel  
DRIEL – driel-polen.nl



3 Freedom Museum  
GROESBEEK – freedommuseum.com



4 Sunset March  
NIJMEGEN – sunsetmarch.nl

“The Sunset March showed a different and daily level of commitment to keeping the memory to WWII alive”

MEAGHEN THOMAS, STUDENT, USA.



5 John Frost Bridge  
ARNHEM



6 Ginkel Heath & Monument  
EDE



7 Airborne Museum 'Hartenstein'  
OOSTERBEEK – airborneuseum.nl



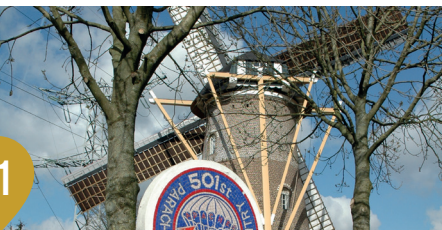
8 Airborne at the Bridge  
ARNHEM – airborneatthebridge.nl



9 Airborne War Cemetery  
OOSTERBEEK – cwgc.org



10 Information Centre WW2  
NIJMEGEN – infocentrumwo2.nl



11 Eerdse Molen and Geronimo Museum  
VEGHEL – eerdsemolien.nl

“At the Netherlands American Cemetery I visited the grave of John M. Sherry. It puts it into perspective to where it's not just a number anymore, it's not just a name, it's a person that had a family and a life and they had to give all that up for us. I found that really touching”

TOMMY WILLIAMS, STUDENT, USA