

't Oranje Krantje



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Newsletter of the Dutch Connection of Arizona Arizona

Vol. 14, Issue 4

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN

Operation Market Garden was an Allied military operation in World War II, which took place in September of 1944. It was an attempt to take bridges over the main rivers of the German-occupied Netherlands, enabling the Allies to advance into Germany without any remaining major obstacles. The operation was successful up to the capture of the Rhine bridge at Nijmegen, but was overall a failure as the final bridge at Arnhem was not held, resulting in the destruction of the British 1st Airborne Division.

After the breakout from the Normandy beachheads in August, the Allied forces had pushed back the German army hundreds of miles over a period of only a few weeks. By the end of August enough Allied troops were on land to form several armies. To the east, on the right, the US had two complete armies, the 1st under Gen. Courtney H. Hodges and the 3rd under Gen. George S. Patton, in a line running roughly north-south near the German frontier. To their left the British 2nd Army under Bernard Montgomery held the northeast corner in a line running from Antwerp to the US lines roughly along the northern border of Belgium. On their left, on the Atlantic coast, was the Canadian 1st Army who had recently advanced to a line just south of the British.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I bought a new car a few weeks ago. For me this car was proof of the American Dream. Work hard and you make a good chance it'll all come together.

On the night of May 28, about midnight, I was taking two clients home from a very pleasant dinner when we were standing still at a stoplight and someone rear ended my "new" car and sent us flying across the intersection. The next thing I remember is that someone is yanking on the passenger door trying to get us out of the car. Believe it or not but it was the driver of the other car. Even though he was so impaired that he could barely stand he at least didn't try to run away!

We had about six cars around us at the time of the accident. When we had come to a standstill we only had one left, an off duty cop from California. He was shining his Maglite into the car to see if everyone was alright. The guy in the back was pinned between the front seat and the back seat. The blow completely bent the front seat frames back. My front seat passenger was a former pro baseball player and he weighs in at 250lbs and stands 6'6". Mr. Officer got on the radio called in the accident and bailed the moment the blue lights came in sight!!! There went our only witness.

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Members are encouraged to submit articles of general interest with a Dutch-American flavor and newsworthy items concerning other members. Be sure to include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Submit material to the editor by e-mail: hans@dutchconnectionaz.org
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My clients and I are standing on the side of the road and drunk boy is in the back seat of his own car sobbing to his friend on the cellphone when the cops showed up. They came to the conclusion that alcohol had played a pretty substantial role in the cause of the accident and they split the two parties up and we start exchanging insurance info.

Now here comes the real kicker. One of the female officers came back after 15 minutes and kind of stood between Drunk boy and myself when she started telling me that in Arizona there's a really stupid and frustrating law that bars police from arresting someone for drunk driving if there are no witnesses on the scene! In other words, if the California cop hadn't left the scene of an accident we would have been fine.

So where are we now? I have a massive whip lash in my neck and back and have been seeing a chiropractor three times a week for the last three weeks. He's saying it's going fine but I have to count on about eight weeks more to go. My backseat passenger was hit in the head by the navigation system that broke off the dashboard and will probably need some plastic surgery to get his nose back to normal. Mr. Baseball is fine.

My car is in pieces and Drunk boy's insurance company will not total it. We're at 10K damage and counting. Naturally I have a lawyer on it but there's no money to be made outside of personal injury so I'm not getting the support I need. Believe it or not, the one that really seems to be helping me out is the dealership. They've offered to buy the car from me in its current state. I give them the repair money and they give me a compatible, pre-accident, car back. Of course they'll make their money off labor because retail damage is \$10K but the dealer will do it for \$6K. So he puts \$4K in his pocket. Ah well at least someone's trying to help me.

What are the lessons we've learned? Always say you saw the guy get out. Bring the car to a body shop that will do some "extra" work do get it totaled. Always wear your seatbelt. And DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK!!!!

Be careful everyone. It's a jungle out there.

Drew de Weerd

The following events are planned on the dates and at the times indicated. While every effort is made to stay with this schedule, all dates may be subject to change.

In any case, make sure to mark your calendars. For details to these events go to the web site www.dutchconnectionaz.org and click on the events tab.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| September 30 | Wine Tasting |
| November 16 | Dutch-American Heritage Day |
| December 12 | Sinterklaas |



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Information & Announcements

Membership Data and Changes

Please contact our secretary, Alette van Beek, if you changed address, phone, fax, e-mail or whatever. This also applies to other organizations who receive this newsletter. You can also go on the web site www.dutchconnectionaz.org to make these changes

Please refer to the Calendar of Events and mark your own calendar accordingly. The listed events are subject to change.

The Board wants to let all members know and hope they will agree and understand, that at events other than the picnic, bowling and Sinterklaas children are not allowed.

Anytime members hear about other members being ill, having a major family event such as a birth, anniversary or death, please contact any board member.

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOU DUES

Because in the change over of the board of directors and the many hours of planning, invoices for annual dues will not be mailed out.

In order to facilitate payment please mail your annual dues of \$15.00 by check payable to the Dutch Connection of Arizona to:

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P.O. Box 15665, Scottsdale, AZ 85267

EDITOR'S CORNER


It's that time of year again when many of us slow down a little and enjoy the lazy days of summer. Some of you will stay home and brave the Arizona heat, others will go to the high country and the cool pine forests for some relieve, and many of us will make a trip to the "old country." This message comes from Belgium and no matter where you are spending your summer, I wish all of you safe travels and enjoyable stays.

Our next event, the wine tasting on September 30, will bring us all back together again for an enjoyable evening of wine tasting and, perhaps like last year, some beer tasting also. I particularly enjoyed the latter. And, yes you guessed it, that why Francine and I spend the summer in Belgium. I can't think of nothing better than to kick back with a nice cold glass of Leffe!

With much regret I have to report that Siebe van der Zee's mother passed away in the Netherlands recently. Siebe, our prayers and thoughts are with you. The board and I extend our sincerest condolences.

I hope all of you have a great summer.


Hans Verhaagen




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OPERATION MARKET GARDEN *(Continued from page 1)*

At this point the offensive halted as supplies ran low. The only source of supplies in Allied hands were the shallow docks built on the original invasion beaches, and the nearby deep-water port of Cherbourg at the tip of the Cotentin. Both of these were of limited use, as the D-Day pre-invasion "softening up" air strikes had effectively destroyed



General Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery

all railroad transportation in the area. The massive port of Antwerp lay in British hands, but the river estuary leading inland to this port (the Westerschelde) in front of the Canadians was still in German control. Clearly, the primary concern for the Allies should have been the advance of the Canadian army to remove the remaining German forces from the area and open Antwerp. However the Canadians had little "pull" compared to the two prima-donna generals, Patton and Montgomery. Both consistently asked for all available supplies to be given to them for quick advances, but Eisenhower refused, and maintained a strategy of broad attack across the

entire front. As the offensive faltered, both Montgomery and Patton argued anew for thrusting attacks, and Eisenhower eventually asked both for their plans.

Patton favored an attack east from his current positions to take the city of Metz, and then into the industrial area of the Saar. However this required passing the Siegfried Line of defenses at the German border, and left them in front of the equally heavily defended Rhine. As a defensive maneuver it was an excellent plan, as it would leave the Allies in control of the easily defended west bank of the Rhine. But as an offensive plan it did little other than take more land, and left them in an only slightly better position to assault Germany.

Montgomery instead suggested an attack north to Arnhem, deep inside the Netherlands, which would bypass the Siegfried Line, which stopped about 20 km south of there, cross the Rhine, and capture the entire German 15th army behind their lines between Arnhem and the shores of the IJsselmeer. This would also have the side effect of cutting off the V-2 launch sites, which were bombarding London at this time. Eisenhower continued to dither, as he was most interested in the opening of Antwerp to supplies. Both generals continued to pester him, and political infighting was common. Montgomery pointed out that his plan ringed the entire Antwerp area well behind Allied lines, allowing it to be easily opened once the attack was completed.

The final straw was the addition of the newly-formed 1st Allied Airborne Army into the mix.

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OPERATION MARKET GARDEN *(Continued from page 4)*

This consisted of three US and two British airborne divisions, and an additional Polish Brigade, which had formed up in England after the removal of the airborne forces from France after the Normandy breakout. Eisenhower had been under intense pressure from the US to use these forces as soon as possible, so Montgomery changed his plan to use the 1st to capture three important bridges, opening the entire attack route to a very rapid advance by the 2nd Army. The plan of action consisted of two coordinated operations, Market which was the use of the airborne troops, and Garden consisting of the British 2nd Army moving north along highway 69, spearheaded by the British XXX Corps.

Market would employ three of the five divisions of the 1st Airborne army. The US 101st Airborne Division would drop in two locations just north of the XXX Corps to take the bridges northwest of Eindhoven at Son and Veghel. The 82nd Airborne Division would drop quite a bit northeast of them to take the bridges at Grave and Nijmegen, and finally the British 1st Airborne Division and Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade would drop at the extreme north end of the route, to take the road and rail bridges at Arnhem.

Market would be the largest airborne operation in history, delivering 30,000 men of the 101st, 82nd, 1st and the Polish Brigade in a series of three huge operations known as "lifts". Commander of the 1st Army, Browning, added his own HQ to the first lift so that he could command from the front.

Garden consisted primarily of the XXX Corps, the core of the 2nd Army. They were expected to arrive at the south end of the 101st's area on the launch day, the 82nd by the second day, and the 1st by the third or fourth day at the latest. They would also deliver several additional infantry divisions to take over the defensive operations from the airborne, freeing them for other operations as soon as possible.

Still, four days is a long time for an airborne force to fight unsupplied, and they are lightly armed to start with. But it seemed that the German resistance at

this point was even lighter. Most of the German 15th Army in the area appeared to be fleeing the field from in front of the Canadians, and they were known to have no Panzer-gruppen. XXX Corps would therefore be facing very limited resistance on their route up highway 69, and little armor. Meanwhile the German defenders would be spread out over 100 km trying to contain the pockets of airborne forces, from the British 2nd Army in the south, to Arnhem in the north.

All was not what it seemed. In fact the rout of 15th army had largely ended with the arrival of Gerd von Rundstedt in early September. Rundstedt, generally detested by Hitler, was well liked by his troops, who he had back in fighting condition within the week. The rout ended with most of the men escaping out from the pocket between the Canadian 1st and the Westerschelde, adding 80,000 men to the area just to the northwest of the attack route.

Much more alarming was an unrelated event taking place nearby. When discussing the Allied plan of attack, Rundstedt and his generals agreed that Eisenhower would favor Patton. The troops of the 9SS and 10SS Panzer divisions from the 17th Army in front of Patton were in no condition to fight, so they were ordered to rest and refit in the rear. A suitable quiet spot was selected, which happened to be Arnhem. This meant another 9,000 troops in the area, all of them elite armored forces with heavy weapons.

Several reports started leaking out from the Netherlands reporting on the German movements, but by this time the planning was in late stages and the reports were basically ignored. When a rec. flight was sent in on behalf of the 1st Airborne Army, it returned with pictures clearly showing tanks deployed just to the northeast of Arnhem, perhaps only 15 km from where the British would be dropping. These were dismissed out of hand, with the claim that they probably couldn't run and were broken down.

Worse, RAF Transport Command reported that

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OPERATION MARKET GARDEN

(Continued from page 5)

they were desperately short of aircraft and would be barely able to support the operation. Any losses or bad weather would upset this ability. The problem was so acute that they flatly refused to drop the British to the north of their target bridge because it would put them in range of flak guns just to the north at Deelen. Another suitable drop zone just to the south of the bridge was also rejected because it was thought to be marshy, and thus unsuitable for dropping the gliders containing the force's heavier equipment. Instead they demanded a drop zone 15 km away from the bridge, which would have to be taken and held overnight until the 3rd lift — the force would have to be split in half for over a day.

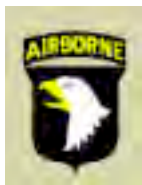
Realizing the seriousness of the problem, the plan was then hastily changed to add a small force of machine-gun equipped jeeps to the first lift. These would race forward from the drop zone to the bridge as soon as possible, holding it until the infantry could arrive. Three brigades would follow on foot, with the fourth and all the glider pilots holding the drop zones while they waited for the next two lifts.

In a staggeringly short period of one week, everything was ready.

To be continued in the next issue.



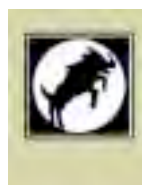
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ONLY IN HOLLAND

A man who refused to use a basket when shopping for one item only in an Assen supermarket, was arrested, fined and barred from entering the store for a year. After he had selected a package of meat and proceeded to the check-out, a store security guard told him that the use of a basket was mandatory. The man declined and then also refused to leave the store without his intended purchase. Police were called and arrested the shopper, who was fined \$165 for trespassing.

PIA DOUWES FIRST DUTCH LEAD ACTRESS IN BROADWAY PLAY

Dutch actress Pia Douwes is set to take one of the leading roles in the Broadway musical *Chicago* at the Ambassador. She will be the first Dutch actress to take such a lead in the Mecca of the American musical theater.

Douwes will portray Velma Kelly, a role she had played earlier in the Dutch version of *Chicago*. It ran for 20 months in the Beatrix Theatre in Utrecht. Before making her debut on Broadway, Douwes will perform in the same role in the musical staged in London. Her engagement on Broadway will last for six weeks.

Pia Douwes created the title role in the Vienna world premiere of *Elisabeth* (Sissi) as well as the role of Milady de Winter in Holland's *Three Musketeers*. She earned numerous other theatrical credits.

'IK HAAL ADEM, MEER NIET'

"Ik word er verwaand van", peinst de oudste mens ter wereld over alle aandacht die ze maandag krijgt. "Al geniet ik er stiekem ook wel een beetje van. Daar ben ik heel eerlijk in!" Al urenlang wordt de deur van haar kamer in het verzorgingstehuis in Hogeveen platgelopen door alle media. Radio, televisie, internet; allemaal uitvindingen die op haar geboortedag in juni 1890 nog niet bestonden. "Wat heb ik nou helemaal gedaan om dit te bereiken? Ik haal adem, meer niet. Dat is toch niet zo'n prestatie?"

De 113-jarige Hendrikje van Andel-Schipper uit Hogeveen is sinds zaterdag, 29 mei 2004, officieel de oudste mens ter wereld. Ondanks haar leeftijd is ze nog ontzettend pienter. Twee blauwe pretoogjes staren het bezoek aan. "Geef eens een stevige hand, zeg! Als ik ergens niet tegen kan is het van die slappe handjes. Vroeger werd dat nog gewoon op school geleerd, hoe je je goed diende voor te stellen." Het praten gaat nog uitstekend maar horen en zien is wat lastiger voor de Hogeveense.

Veel plezier beleeft ze nog aan paraferalia van haar favoriete voetbalclub Ajax, waar ze al bijna een eeuw fervent aanhanger van is. Ze wijst trots naar een beeldje van de Griekse god dat in het raamkozijn staat. "Een paar jaar terug gekregen van het bestuur, omdat ik de oudste Ajax-supporter was. En ook de enige uit Drenthe, volgens mij."

Het hoogtepunt uit haar leven? Toch het huwelijk met haar man, Dick van Andel. Twintig gelukkige jaren beleefde zij met hem, tot hij in 1959 stierf. Hendrikje was toen 69. "Het was zo'n lieve man: een fijnere echtgenoot had ik me niet kunnen wensen." Hij stierf aan de gevolgen van kanker, had z'n hele leven gerookt. Haar ogen dwalen weg als ze aan hem denkt. Ze slikt even, haar perkamenten keel beweegt zachtjes.

"Dat is ook het beste advies dat ik mensen kan geven wanneer ze vragen hoe je 113 wordt. Niet roken, en niet teveel alcohol drinken. Alleen een advocaatje met slagroom op zon- en feestdagen, dat

mag wel natuurlijk." En je moet in beweging blijven, adviseert Van Andel. Zij heeft veel gefietst vroeger: duizenden kilometers legde ze af door de Drentse natuur. "En dansen natuurlijk! Ik was vroeger een walskoningin: de jongens vochten echt om met mij de dansvloer op te mogen."

Die tijden zijn nu echter voorbij. Zitten is alles wat de oudste mens ter wereld tegenwoordig nog doet. Meer kan ze met haar versleten lichaam ook niet eigenlijk. "Zitten, zitten, en nog eens zitten. De hele dag door. En ik vind het heerlijk! Al die mensen die zo haasten en jagen en druk doen de hele tijd. Ik ben blij dat ik eindelijk eens tijd heb om uit te rusten." Iets te wensen heeft de vrouw niet meer trouwens. Ze heeft ook geen naaste familieleden, al wordt ze gekoesterd door al het personeel in verzorgingstehuis De Westerkim.

Dus leeft ze van dag tot dag. Of eigenlijk meer van verjaardag tot verjaardag. 29 juni is het weer zo ver, dan hoopt ze 114 te worden. Wanneer ze ooit sterft, wil ze in elk geval geen ziekbed. "Ik heb niet 113 jaar overleefd om zachtjes weg te teren in m'n bed. Mijn man heeft maandenlang geleden voordat hij opgaf: zo'n lijdensweg wens je niemand toe. Ik wil net zo rustig en tevreden kunnen sterven als ik de afgelopen jaren ook heb geleefd."

MEER BOEKEN VERKOCHT

De boekverkoop in Nederland is over het vorige jaar gestegen met 4,9 procent. De speciaalzaken verkochten zelfs 6,2 procent meer.

Volgens de Nederlandse Boekverkopersbond gingen er ongeveer 26 miljoen boeken over de toonbanken van de erkende boekhandel. In total werden er 35 miljoen boeken verkocht, afgezien van school- en studieboeken. De gemiddelde aankoopprijs in de boekhandel was het afgelopen jaar 13,60 euro.

BALKENENDE OPENT VLAGGETJESDAG

Premier Balkenende heeft zaterdagochtend, 5 juni, de Vlaggetjesdag in Scheveningen geopend. De traditionele viering van het begin van het haringseizoen is dit jaar groter van opzet omdat de Scheveningse haven honderd jaar bestaat. De organisatie verwacht ongeveer 200.000 bezoekers.

Net als de anderen die de afgelopen jaren de Vlaggetjesdag openden, kreeg de minister-president de Scheveningse stropdas cadeau, die hij direct moest omknopen. Daarna hees Balkenende de Scheveningse vlag en hapte hij met burgemeester Deetman van Den Haag een vette haring.

Tegen 13.00 uur begint de haringrace, waarvoor prinses Margriet het startschot geeft. De huidige haringrace is een symbolisch overblijfsel van de 'echte' haringrace van vroeger. Toen voeren de vissers na Pinksteren uit en wie als eerste terug was met zijn schip vol haring, had de race gewonnen.

BURGEMEESTER VAN FRANKFURT HERDENKT ANNE FRANK

De burgemeester van Frankfurt Petra Roth heeft zondag, 20 juni, de 75ste geboortedag van Anne Frank herdacht. De in 1945 in een concentratiekamp omgekomen schrijfster van de wereldberoemde dagboeken werd op 12 juni 1929 in Frankfurt geboren en vluchte met haar ouders in de jaren '30 naar Amsterdam.

Volgens Roth herinnert Anne Frank de wereldgemeenschap eraan dat alle zes miljoen tijdens de holocaust vermoorde joden individuen waren en dat het belangrijk is om stil te staan bij de persoonlijke tragedies die zich tijdens de oorlog hebben voorgedaan.

Roth stelde zich Anne Frank zondag voor als "een nu 75-jarige dame die waarschijnlijk een prominente rol in het culturele leven van Frankfurt zou hebben gespeeld" als ze de oorlog overleefd had.

De burgemeester roemde verder de dagboeken van Anne Frank en leerlingen van de Anne Frank-school in Frankfurt beeldden in een voorstelling haar leven uit.

PRINSES AMALIA GEDOOPT MET WATER UIT JORDAAN

Prinses Catherina-Amelia is zaterdag, 19 juni, in de Grote of Sint Jacobskerk in Den Haag gedoopt. Dominee Carel ter Linden leidde de dienst.

Het prinsesje hield zich stil toen het speciaal overgebrachte water uit de Jordaan over haar hoofd werd gesprenkeld.

Ter Linden hield tijdens de dienst een schriftlezing uit het Nieuwe Testament, Mattheus 25. Nadat de dominee de zegen over prinses Amalia had gesproken, spraken de peters en meters een wens voor de dopeling uit.

Prinses Victoria van Zweden hoopt dat Amalia zal genieten van het leven en prins Constantijn dat zijn nichtje ons over grenzen helpt te stappen. Martin Zorreguieta, de broer van prinses Máxima, wenst zijn nichtje bescheidenheid, de kunst van het toegeven van fouten en daar dan ook van te leren.

Vice-president van de Raad van State Herman Tjeenk Willink hoopt dat zij de kracht heeft om vooral zichzelf te blijven. Marc ter Haar, een goede vriend van prins Willem-Alexander, vindt optimisme, zelfvertrouwen en vreugde belangrijke elementen in het leven van Amalia. Máxima's vriendin en huwelijksgetuige Samantha van Welderen barones Rengers-Deane wenst tenslotte Amalia geluk, gezondheid en liefde.

WAT STAAT NEDERLAND DEZE ZOMER TE WACHTEN?

De extreme hitte die vooral het zuiden van Europa vorig jaar trof "had statistisch gesproken niet mogen plaatsvinden." Dit zeggen Zwitserse klimaatonderzoekers in het wetenschappelijk tijdschrift Nature. In ons land was het niet zo uitzonderlijk maar deze zomer hoort wel tot de warmste sinds het begin van de metingen in 1706. Grote vraag is wat de zomer dit jaar gaat doen. Een herhaling van een zomer zoals vorig jaar zou wel heel bijzonder zijn en lijkt vrijwel onmogelijk. Toch is de zomer in Zuid-Europa weer veelbelovend begonnen.

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KABINET STEMT IN MET VERLENGING MISSIE IRAK

Het kabinet heeft ingestemd met een verlenging met acht maanden van de Nederlandse missie van 1350 militairen in het zuiden van Irak. De ministerraad sloot zich aan bij het voorstel van de ministers Bot (Buitenlandse Zaken), Kamp (Defensie) en Van Ardenne (Ontwikkelings-samenwerking).

De huidige groep militairen wordt in de loop van juli afgelost door militairen van het 13e infanteriebataljon van de 11e luchtmobiele brigade in Assen. Defensie houdt ook de zes Apaches die onlangs voor de veiligheid naar Irak werden gestuurd, de komende acht maanden in Irak.

Bot, Kamp en Van Ardenne schreven vrijdag in hun brief aan de Tweede Kamer dat een internationale militaire aanwezigheid in Irak van belang is voor de veiligheid en stabiliteit in het land. Dat zijn voorwaarden voor de economische en politieke wederopbouw van het land, aldus de ministers.

Belangrijk aspect voor het besluit om te blijven, is ook dat ongeveer 550 Japanse militairen belangrijk humanitair werk verrichten in het zuiden van Irak en voor hun veiligheid geheel afhankelijk zijn van de Nederlanders.

Het kabinet verwacht dat het aantal incidenten, ook in de 'Nederlandse provincie' Al Muthanna, zal toenemen in de komende drie weken richting de soevereiniteitsoverdracht op 30 juni. Momenteel is de situatie in Al Muthanna weer "relatief rustig", na een periode van incidenten in april en mei. Bij een aanslag op 10 mei kwam de sergeant Dave Steensma om het leven.

WAT STAAT NEDERLAND DEZE ZOMER TE WACHTEN? *Continued from page 8*

In Italië en Frankrijk waren de eerste tien dagen van juni extreem warm met temperaturen tussen 30 en 35 graden, in Spanje en Portugal was het zelfs warmer dan 35 graden. Heel uitzonderlijk voor begin juni: Milaan noteerde op 10 juni 35,5 graden, slechts 0,2 graad lager dan het maandrecord. De afgelopen maanden heeft het in Zuid-Europ echter behoorlijk

TOURISTEN TROKKEN MASSAAL NAAR NEDERLAND MET PASEN

Het paasweekeinde heeft dit jaar 875.000 buitenlandse vacatiegangers naar Nederland getrokken. Dat aantal is gelijk aan vorig jaar en ligt 25.000 hoger dan verwacht.

Door het mooie weer gingen ook veel Nederlanders vooral op tweede paasdag een dagje uit. Volgens het NBTC boekten veel mensen op het laatste moment en kwamen veel toeristen op de bonnefooi, omdat het weer goed was. Het merendeel van de buitenlanders kwam uit Duitsland (60%). In Brabant, Noord- en Midden-Limburg en Zeeland waren veel Belgische toeristen op de been. De grote steden waren vooral geliefd bij mensen uit Spanje, Scandinavië, Oost-Europa, Azië en de Verenigde Staten.

Ongeveer 400.000 Nederlanders gingen met Pasen in eigen land op vakantie. Veel van hen besloten op het laatste moment weg te gaan of probeerden door het mooie weer de tent uit op een camping.

Uitschieter was de internationale bloemententoonstelling Keukenhof. Tussen vrijdagochtend en maandagmiddag bezochten 75.000 mensen het park. Ook de Efteling had met 50.000 bezoekers een druk weekeinde.

geregend en dat is een wezenlijk verschil met de aanloop naar de zomer van vorig jaar toen het zelfs in het normaal regenrijke winterseizoen de regen uitbleef. Uit het onderzoek van de Zwitsers blijkt dat vorig jaar waarschijnlijk vooral de combinatie van aanhoudende droogte en langdurige hitte een belangrijke rol heeft gespeeld. Extreme droogte versterkt namelijk de hitte. Wanneer tijdens een langdurige warmteperiode een groot deel van het bodemvocht is verdampt, wordt de door het aardoppervlak opgenomen zonne-energie vrijwel geheel gebruikt voor de opwarming van het oppervlak en de lucht erboven. Bij voldoende bodemvocht gaat een groot deel van de opgenomen zonne-energie "verloren" aan het verdampen van water.

