

't Oranje Krantje



<http://www.dutchconnectionaz.org>

Sep-Oct 04

Newsletter of the Dutch Connection of Arizona Arizona

Vol. 14, Issue 5

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN (Continued) **Day by Day**

Day 1: Sunday, September 17, 1944

Operation Market/Garden opened with success all around. The first lift was during daylight, and almost all of the troops landed on their target drop zones without incident. In the south, the 101st met little resistance and easily captured the small bridge at Veghel. However, a similar bridge at Son was blown up as the 101st approached it, after a brief engagement with German antitank guns. Later that day several small attacks against units of the 15th Army were beaten off, while small units of the 101st had moved south of Son.

To the north, a small group of the 82nd dropped near Grave and took the bridge intact. However, the main force of the 82nd found their objective of securing the Groesbeek Heights to the east of Nijmegen more difficult than expected. One force charged with taking the bridge made their attempt, but due to miscommunication they didn't start until late in the day and did not capture the bridge, and left it in German hands.

Meanwhile the 1st Airborne landed almost without a hitch, but half its Jeeps were lost, and the rest were ambushed on their way into Arnhem. Thus the only hope of capturing the bridge was on foot. Two of the three brigades found themselves slowed down by small German units of a training battalion. One brigade, led by Col. Frost, found their way largely undefended, and arrived at the bridge in the afternoon. They set up defensive positions. Continued attempts by the other two brigades were meeting increased resistance, so eventually the decision was made to wait for the second airlift and try the next day.

Continued on page 3

EDITOR'S CORNER

The summer is almost over. Well maybe not for all you good people in Arizona. Here in Europe, and specifically where we are, on the Dutch-Belgian border in Knokke, we are beginning to see the coming of Fall. Trees are beginning to drop their leaves and the temperatures have cooled considerable compared to the beginning of August, when the temperature was pushing 90F, a real heat wave. On page nine of the newsletter is an article on how the Dutch spent their vacation. Well, this year my summer reading was the almost 1100 pages long "Lord of the Rings." And in our local library I found Fons Rademakers' 1976 film "Max Havelaar" based on the book by Multatuli. (Remember your old schooldays when Multatuli was on the required reading list?) Talking about required reading. Last year I read "Camera Obscura" by Hildebrand. *Oer Nederlands!* One Sunday in August after Mass, the *Paters* of the Dominican Cloister offered snacks and refreshments after Mass in honor of St. Dominic's birthday. The good Father invited everyone from behind the altar for a "Straffe Hendrik" (you can guess what that is) and sandwiches. Enough about Dutch-Belgian culture. In August we planned to see a performance of "The Glory Gospel Singers" from New York. The concert was to be held in the

Continued on page 3

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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. Selected articles may be edited for clarity or space limitations at the sole discretion of the Editor. Submitted materials cannot be returned. Any article may be reproduced with acknowledgment of the source without permission. A copy of any material published would be appreciated.

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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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:

**Dutch Connection of Arizona
P.O. Box 15665, Scottsdale, AZ 85267**

EDITOR'S CORNER (Continued from page 1)

church next door, but unfortunately the group was involved in a car accident in the Netherlands and had to cancel their tour. We also go out on day-long bicycle rides. Frank Meyers, if you are reading this, you may be interested to know that this summer we have targeted the island of Walcheren. It's very easy to get there on the Fast Ferry across the Wester Schelde. We have done a circuit starting in Vlissingen (Frank was born there and some of my forebears are from Brouwershaven) through the polders and back along the dunes. Also from Veere through the country to Middelburg and back to Veere. Many of us have returned from wherever we went. I think many of you went to Holland. I would like to hear from you and your experiences in the "Old Country." Some of you may have returned after a long absence and I would be very interested about hearing about your experiences and feelings. Maybe you would like to share this with your fellow country men and women in Arizona. Email me your story and I will publish it here for the whole world to see. For those of you who return often, you may have had some experiences you may want to share. Let's hear from you.

Hans Verhaagen

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN (Continued from page 1)

Unlike any of the bridges to the south, which span smaller rivers and canals and could be bridged by engineering units, the Nijmegen and Arnhem bridges crossed two arms of the Rhine. The British airborne forces were on the far side of the bridge. If either Nijmegen or Arnhem bridges were not captured and held, there was absolutely no way for the 30th Corps to reach them. At the end of Day 1, only a small force held Arnhem, and Nijmegen was German. To make matters worse, the British radios didn't work. Their long-range VHF sets were delivered with the wrong crystals. Also, the short range sets for use between brigades didn't work either and the various brigades were completely cut off from each other.

The 30th Corps didn't start their advance until 2:00 pm. The reason for this planned delay were unclear. Soon after starting they ran into a force of antitank units dug in along the road. It took several hours for them to be cleared, along with the loss of several of the elite Guards Armored's tanks. By the time daylight started to fade, they were still 15 km south of Eindhoven. The operation was already behind schedule.

On the German side things were not much better. It was not clear to the Germans what was happening. Model, in command of the forces in the area, was completely confused by the British dropping in what appeared to be in the middle of nowhere. He concluded that they were commandos attempting to kidnap him. Meanwhile Bittrich, commander of the 9th and 10th (collectively the 2nd SS Panzer Corps), had a clearer head and immediately sent a reconnaissance squadron of the 9th to Nijmegen to reinforce the bridge defense there.

Continued on page 4

MEMBERSHIP DATA AND CHANGES

Please contact our secretary, Alliete 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.

DUTCH DJs AND BANDS POPULAR IN U.S.

The recent Movement Festival in Detroit saw participants of 16 Dutch musical acts. The event is touted as the biggest dance festival in the U.S.

Dutch DJs - led by 'world's best' DJ Tiësto - and bands appear to be very popular beyond the borders of the Netherlands. Last year, there were over 2,100 performances abroad by Dutch bands, solo acts and DJs.

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN *(Continued from page 3)*

Day 2: Monday, September 18, 1944

Early in the day the force of the 9th Panzer, sent south the day before, decided that they were not needed in Nijmegen, and tried to return to Arnhem. They were aware of the British troops at the bridge, but attempted to cross by force anyway. They were beaten back with staggering losses. Meanwhile, the attempt to move the other two British brigades into the bridge area were both easily stopped by the newly arrived forces of the 10th SS. The second air lift from England arrived late that day due to fog in England. They put down successfully in the afternoon. To their south the 82nd was having troubles of its own. Grave was well protected, but German forces continued to press on the 82nd deployed to the east of Nijmegen. In the morning the Germans took one of the landing zones targeted for the second lift. Allied troops from the entire area rushed to the drop zone and by 3:00 pm it was back in their control. Luckily, due to the delay in England the second air lift didn't arrive until 3:30 pm.

The 101st, faced with the loss of the bridge at Son, attempted to take another bridge a few kilometers away at Best. However, they found their approach heavily blocked, and eventually gave up. Other units continued moving to the south and eventually reached the northern end of Eindhoven. At noon they were met by reconnaissance units from 30th Corp. At 4:00 pm they made radio contact with the main force to the south and told them about the Son bridge, asking for a Bailey Bridge to be brought in. The 30th Corps soon arrived in Eindhoven, and by that night were camped out south of Son, while they waited for the Royal Engineers to erect the Bailey bridge. Thus ended Day 2, with the operation already 36 hours behind schedule and both primary bridges still in German control.

Day 3, Tuesday, September 19, 1944.

At this point, most of the 1st Airborne was in place, and only the Polish brigade was yet to arrive in the third air lift later that day. Yet another attempt was made to reinforce Frost at the bridge, and this time resistance was even stronger.

It appeared that there was no longer any hope of reaching the bridge, and the isolated units then retreated to set up strong lines to the west of the town, in Oosterbeek. Meanwhile at the bridge, German tanks were arriving to take up the fight, which was becoming desperate for the allied forces.

At 5:00 pm, a small part of the Polish units in the third lift finally arrived, but fell directly into the waiting guns of the Germans. With radios not working they had no way to tell headquarters that the landing zone was taken, and many Polish troops were killed. At the same time several of the supply drop points were also in German hands, and the 1st retrieved only 10% of the supplies dropped to them. Things were going somewhat better for the 82nd, who found advanced units of the 30th Corps arriving that morning. With the support of tanks they were able to quickly beat the Germans in the area, at which point they decided to make a combined effort to take the bridge. The Guards Armored and 505th (part of the 82nd) would attack from the south while the 504th would cross the river in boats and take the north. The boats were called for to make the attempt in the late afternoon, but due to huge traffic problems to the south, they never arrived. Once again 30th Corps was held up in front of a bridge.

To the south, units of the 101st sent to take Best the day before, found themselves facing a renewed attack that morning and gave up ground. However, as more British tanks arrived the Germans were beaten by late afternoon. Later, a small force of Panthers arrived at Son, seemingly out of nowhere, and started firing on the Bailey bridge. These too were beaten back by antitank guns that recently landed, and the bridge was secured. Frost's forces at the bridge continued to hold out. Around noon the radios started working and they learned that the rest of the division had no hopes of relieving them. The 30th Corps was stuck in the south in front of Nijmegen bridge. By the afternoon the Germans had complete control of the Arnhem bridge and started to burn the houses the British

Continued on page 5

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN *(Continued from page 4)*

were defending. The rest of the division had now set up defensive positions in Oosterbeek to the west of Arnhem, waiting for the arrival of the 30th Corps.

Meanwhile, in Nijmegen, the boats still had not arrived, so the troops continued to wait. The boats did not arrive until the afternoon, but time was so short that they decided to do the crossing in daylight. In what is generally considered to be one of the bravest actions in military history, they made the crossing in 26 rowboats into well defended enemy positions. They took the banks and pressed to the bridge, which caused the Germans to pull back from their positions on the southern side. That freed the Guards Armored, who rushed across the bridge and met the airborne troops. Nijmegen bridge was now in Allied hands after four long days.

The Germans organized another attack on the heights on the east side of town, this time making significant progress. Eventually the only remaining bridge suitable for tanks fell to the Germans, but was retaken by forces of the 82nd and Coldstream Guards.

To the south the running battles between the 101st and various German units continued, eventually with several Panthers once again rushing in and cutting off the roads, only leaving when they ran low on ammo.

Although hard pressed, things were looking up for Market/Garden this morning. The 30th Corps was across the Nijmegen bridge and less than an hour's drive from the ongoing battle at the foot on Arnhem bridge. But it was too late, Frost's force was down to two houses, a handful of men, and had used up every bullet they had. With a last radio message "out of ammo, God save the king", his remaining force surrendered.

At the same time, the rest of the Polish brigade, now two days late due to weather, arrived. The situation north of the river was obviously too hostile to land, so a new drop zone on the south side was selected. The landings went well, but the ferry they planned to use to reach the British had been sunk. Their force was largely wasted as a result.

Meanwhile the lead elements of Guards Armored sat still. Their commander refused to move them forward, while Nijmegen to the south was still under constant threat. He radioed back along the line for the 43rd infantry division to move up to take over the town. However, by this time there was a 30 mile long traffic jam behind them, and the 43rd didn't arrive until the next day. But the Guards Armored were close enough that they were in radio contact with the units in Oosterbeek, and starting shelling any German units who attempted to approach them.

German attacks continued all along the route, but the Allied forces had clearly started to gain the upper hand. Not only were the Germans attacks stalled, the British and 101st continued to take more and more area. That afternoon, two British airborne soldiers swam the Rhine and informed the remaining Polish brigade of the desperate situation, asking for any help they could give. The Poles were hastily equipped with flimsy inflatable rubber rafts, and promised to try a crossing that night. Only 52 soldiers of the 8th Polish Parachute Company made it across.

Much of the battle area was now in allied hands, except to the north with the 30 Corps. As soon as the 43rd arrived things would be in better shape, and the Guards Armored could attempt to retake the Arnhem bridge.

However, the Germans had other ideas, and during the previous night had organized two mixed armored divisions on either side of highway 69 between Veghel and Grave. They attacked and only one side was stopped, while the other made it to the highway and cut the line. Any advance on Arnhem was now impossible.

Day 7, Saturday, September 23, 1944

The Germans had figured out what the Poles were attempting to do, and spent the rest of the day trying to cut the British off from the riverside. The British managed to hold on, and both sides suffered heavy losses. The Germans also attacked the Poles on the south side in order to tie them down, but

Continued on page 6

OPERATION MARKET GARDEN (Continued from page 5)

several tanks arrived from 30th Corps and they were beaten off. Boats and engineers from the Canadian army arrived that day, and another river crossing that night landed another 150 troops of the Polish 3rd Parachute Battalion.

To the south, several more German attacks from their road crossing were stopped, but the road was still cut. 30th Corps then sent a unit of the Guards Armored south and retook the road. The rest of the force continued to wait for infantry to move up, still only a few kilometers from Arnhem.

Day 8, Sunday, September 24, 1944

Yet another German force attacked the road, this time south of Veghel. Several units were in the area, but were unable to stop them, and the Germans quickly set up defensive positions.

It was not clear to the Allies how much of a danger these actions represented. But it was on this day that the operation was essentially stopped and the decision made to go over to the defense. The 1st Airborne, or what remained of them, would be withdrawn that night. The lines would then be solidified where they were, with the new front line in Nijmegen.

Day 9, Monday, September 25, 1944

At 10pm the withdrawal of the remains of the 1st begins, as British and Canadian engineering units start ferrying the troops across the Rhine, covered by the Polish 3rd Parachute Battalion on the north bank. By early the next morning they had withdrawn some 2,000 troops, but another 300 were still on the north bank at first light when German fire stopped the effort. They surrendered. Of the 10,000 troops of the 1st Airborne Division, only 2,000 escaped.

To the south, the newly-arrived 50th Infantry attacked the Germans holding the highway. By the next day they had been surrounded and their resistance ended. The corridor was now secure, but with nowhere to go.

In retrospect, the plan placed little effort on capturing the bridges with forces dropped right on them. In the case of Veghel and Grave, where this

was done, the bridges were captured with only a few shots being fired.

The commander of the 30th Corps asked for another course of action. About 25 km to the west was another bridge at Rhenen, which was undefended due to all efforts being directed on Oosterbeek. Had the GA dashed over, it is almost certain they would have crossed unopposed. However, by this time it appears that Montgomery was spooked by the continued resistance of the German forces and refused to take the chance. Nonetheless, bad choices were made throughout, and opportunities ignored.

The Dutch resistance was ignored by the forces at Arnhem. Hundreds of well-armed, knowledgeable, and dedicated men and women would have been of great assistance, especially with their knowledge of two specific items: the Driel ferry (which could have consolidated forces on both sides of the Lower Rhine) and the secret telephone network (which would have allowed for instantaneous, secret contact between Arnhem, Nijmegen, and other key cities). The latter was very important: it would have given the 30th Corps and Airborne High Command knowledge about the dire situation that had enveloped Col. Frost and Gen. Urquhart at Arnhem.

In the end Montgomery still called Market Garden 90% successful and said: "In my prejudiced view, if the operation had been properly backed from its inception, and given the aircraft, ground forces, and administrative resources necessary for the job, it would have succeeded in spite of my mistakes, or the adverse weather, or the presence of the 2nd SS Panzer Corps in the Arnhem area. I remain Market Garden's unrepentant advocate."

The story of Operation Market Garden is, among others, told in Cornelius Ryan's novel *A Bridge Too Far* and its subsequent film adaptation by Richard Attenborough.

LOST 1922 U.S. FILM FOUND IN DUTCH FILM MUSEUM

A 1922 film starring silver screen legends Rudolph Valentino and Gloria Swanson, was recently discovered in the collection of the Amsterdam Film Museum. The copy is the only one known to be in existence in the world, and is complete.

Curators at the museum discovered the treasure in one of 2,000 film canisters donated to them by an avid film collector from Haarlem. Because the man had been worried about theft, the priceless collection had been hidden in a number of warehouses, while keeping the contents of the reels secret.

Beyond the Rocks was directed by Sam Wood and was the 24th film in which Italian Valentino had starred. Four years later, Valentino died at age 31.

The 81-minute film is being restored and will be shown for the first time in 2005. The narrative text of the print - the 'titles' between scenes - is in Dutch.

U.S. FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH HONORED WITH NEW TULIP VARIETY

A new variety of the 'Dutch national flower', the tulip, recently was named after Mrs. Laura Bush. The U.S. First Lady received the pink flower at a ceremony in the official residence of the Netherlands' Ambassador to the U.S., Boudewijn van Eenenaaam.

Mrs. Bush is the second in her family to be so honored. Earlier, Barbara Bush, wife of former President George Bush Sr., also had a tulip name after her. In March 1994, the Netherlands also had honored Hillary Rodham Clinton with a special tulip variety when she was the U.S. First Lady.

In 1998, when her husband was Governor of Texas, Mrs. Bush also had a variety of Petunia Violacea named after her.

DUTCH WHISTLER GEERT CHATROU CAPTURES WORLD TITLE.

Dutch musician Geert Chatrou has captured the world title at the 2004 International Whistling Convention in Louisburg, North Carolina. The jury praised the Noord-Brabant man for his virtuosity.

Chatrou, who also has mastered a number of 'regular' wind instruments, was the only foreigner in the competition among 47 participants. He performed a piece by Vivaldi, as well as a contemporary, popular piece of music. For an encore, Chatrou whistled the American national anthem, which was well received by the large audience.

DUTCH-BRITISH ACTRESS NAMED 'MOST NATURAL BEAUTY' EVER

Actress and former Unicef ambassador Audrey Hepburn has been named the most naturally beautiful woman ever in a worldwide poll of beauty experts. Hepburn died in 1993.

The film and stage performer was born in Brussels in 1929, the daughter of British diplomat Rushton-Hepburn and of Dutch baroness Van Heemstra. Audrey spent most of her formative years in the Netherlands during W.W.II, where Audrey, then called Edda, as a courier participated in resistance work.

After Hepburn played minor roles in one Dutch and a few English films, she moved to Hollywood. The actress had received acclaim through her role in the film *Roman Holiday* (1953) for which she won an Academy Award. Hepburn went on to star in such audience favorites as *A Nun's Story*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and especially *My Fair Lady* (1964).

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IN ORANJE VERLICHT OP KONINGINNEDAG

Het Empire State Building in New York stond op 30 april **oranje** in het teken van Koninginnedag en ter nagedachtenis aan koningin Juliana.

Het verzoek tot deze speciale verlichting is ingediend door een groep Nederlandse emigranten. Vorig jaar werd eenzelfde wens niet gehonoreerd in verband met de oorlog in Irak.

Het hoogste gebouw van New York is iedere avond bijzonder verlicht. Met de kerstdagen kleurt de toren bijvoorbeeld rood-groen, op Valentijnsdag rood en op Amerikaanse nationale feestdagen rood-wit-blauw.

Ook voor de New Yorkers is **oranje** een belangrijke kleur. De vlag van de stad bestaat uit de kleuren **oranje**-wit-blauw, waarbij het **oranje** verwijst naar de historische banden van New York (Nieuw Amsterdam) met Nederland. In het vredesakkoord met Engeland verruilde Nederland in 1667 Nieuw Amsterdam voor Suriname.

BEATRIX VIERT JUBILEUM IN ALLE PROVINCIES

Ter ere van haar zilveren ambtsjubileum zal koningin Beatrix volgend jaar alle twaalf provincies in Nederland bezoeken. Daarnaast worden er allerlei andere activiteiten georganiseerd. Het Nationaal Comité Zilveren Regeringsjubileum Koningin Beatrix, dat donderdag een eerste indruk van het programma gaf, roept bovendien de Nederlandse bevolking op met ideeën te komen.

Op 30 april volgend jaar is het 25 jaar geleden dat Beatrix koningin werd. De plannen van het Comité verkeren nog in een pril stadium. De komende maanden worden de diverse onderdelen verder uitgewerkt, en aangevuld met reacties en ideeën vanuit de bevolking. Begin 2005 wordt een compleet programma gepresenteerd.

Het jubileumjaar gaat van start op 29 en 30 april 2005 in Amsterdam en Den Haag. In Amsterdam is

Continued on page 9

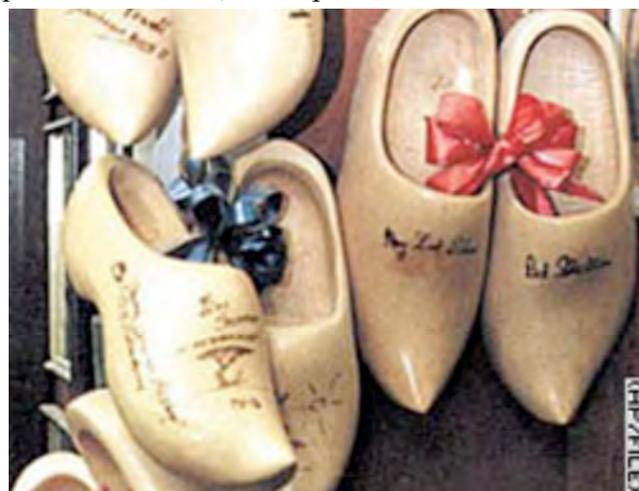
KONINKLIJKE BIBLIOTHEEK ZET ORANJEFOTO'S OP INTERNET

Geïnteresseerden in de Oranjes kunnen voortaan ook terecht bij de Koninklijke Bibliotheek in Den Haag en speciaal de website www.geheugenvannederland.nl. Die zette ter gelegenheid van Koninginnedag ruim 4000 digitale afbeeldingen van leden van het Nederlandse koninklijk huis op internet.

Het gaat om bijzondere prentbriefkaarten, merendeels zwart-wit, uit de periode 1880-1960. De prentbriefkaarten maken zichtbaar hoe de afstand tussen vorst en volk in de loop van de jaren steeds kleiner werd, aldus een woordvoester van de Koninklijke Bibliotheek.

De collectie omvat onder meer officiële portretten, glamourfoto's, informele kiekjes en persfoto's van werkbezoeken in binnen- en buitenland. De meest voorkomende figuren op de plaatjes zijn de vorstinnen Wilhelmina en Juliana.

In 1959 kwam de Koninklijke Bibliotheek dankzij een schenking in het bezit van deze bijzondere collectie. Twee dames met een fascinatie voor Europese vorstenhuizen, mevrouw J. van Holthe tot Echten-Mollerus en mevrouw C. Harmens, hadden meer dan een halve eeuw lang foto's van vorsten en hun familie verzameld, aangevuld met knipsels uit kranten en tijdschriften. Uiteindelijk telde de collectie 51 fotoalbums, met voornamelijk prentbriefkaarten, en 29 plakboeken.



BEATRIX VIERT JUBILEUM IN ALLE PROVINCIES (Continued from page 8)

er op 29 april 's avonds een feestelijk publieksevenement. In Den Haag vindt op 30 april 's ochtends een eigentijdse viering plaats. In de middag en avond zijn er op verschillende plaatsen in Den Haag feestelijke evenementen voor een breed publiek. De viering van het Zilveren Regeringsjubileum wordt eind december 2005 afgesloten.

De programmering van de viering is onder te verdelen in 3 categorieën. In de eerste plaats zijn er nationale evenementen en landelijke activiteiten die door het Nationaal Comité zijn geïnitieerd of worden gecoördineerd. Deze activiteiten vinden zowel in Nederland als op de Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba plaats.

In de tweede plaats zijn er de door het Nationaal Comité gestimuleerde en gecoördineerde provinciale en regionale activiteiten. Voor de programmering, inhoud en uitvoering van deze activiteiten ligt de verantwoordelijkheid bij de provincies. Als onderdeel van deze activiteiten zal de Koningin aan elk van de provincies een bezoek brengen. Ten slotte zijn er de overige, door anderen geïnitieerde activiteiten en evenementen die de drie doeleinden van het Nationaal Comité ondersteunen.

Voor het jubileumjaar wordt een speciaal logo ontwikkeld, dat het herkenningsteken moet worden van de viering. Hiervoor is een ontwerpwedstrijd uitgeschreven onder studenten van creatieve opleidingen. Op de laatste dag van de inzendingstermijn, maandag 24 mei jl., waren er 55 inzendingen binnen. De jury, bestaande uit vijf leden van het dagelijks bestuur van het Comité, zal de inzendingen beoordelen en spoedig het gekozen ontwerp bekend maken.

Actuele informatie hierover is te vinden op de speciaal ingerichte website van het Nationaal Comité. Het adres is: www.25jaarkoninginbeatrix.nl Op deze website staat de rubriek 'Doe mee!' centraal. In deze rubriek wordt de bevolking opgeroepen met ideeën te komen die kunnen aansluiten bij de vieringen.

VAKANTIEGANGER HEEFT LIEVER CULTUUR DAN STRAND

De favoriete vakantiebezigheid van Nederlanders is het bezoeken van bezienswaardigheden zoals musea, historische gebouwen en kerken. Daarna volgen wandelen en andere sporten. Zonnebaden komt op de vierde plaats van onze meest geliefde bezigheden.

Dat is het resultaat van een onderzoek van researchbureau GFK en The Wall Street Journal Europe onder 21.000 mensen in twintig landen. De ondervraagden mochten op de vraag naar hun favoriete vakantiebezigheid drie antwoorden geven.

Nederland scoorde bij de vakantiebezigheden bezienswaardigheden en lezen boven het Europees gemiddelde, maar bij wandelen, sporten en zonnebaden gaan veel andere Europese landen ons voor.

Bij Duitsers is zonnebaden het populairst, gevolgd door wandelen. Fransen en Spanjaarden gaan vooral graag wandelen. Spanjaarden houden van alle Europese volkeren het minst van zonnebaden, terwijl Duitsers de grootste zonneaanbidders zijn. De grootste liefhebbers van sport (fietsen, bergwandelen, watersporten) op vakantie zijn Finnen, Oostenrijkers en Zwitsers. Ook de Belgen scoren hoger dan de Nederlanders.

Nederlanders blijken ook niet voor het goede eten op vakantie te gaan. Slechts 7% geeft aan dat “eten in goede restaurants” een geliefde vakantiebezigheid is. Dit tegen 35% van de Duitsers en 20% van de Fransen.

Van de Nederlanders brengt bijna de helft zijn vakantie bij voorkeur door aan het strand of de kust. Eén op de tien verkiest de bergen en net zoveel Nederlanders blijven liever gewoon thuis. Ook de Duitsers, Denen en Britten houden hun vakantie het liefst aan de kust.

