



Jan-Feb 05

Newsletter of the Dutch Connection of Arizona

Vol. 15, Issue 1

PRINCE BERNHARD OF THE NETHERLANDS June 29, 1911 - December 1, 2004

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands died of cancer at the age of 93 in an Utrecht hospital, University Medical Centre, on December 1, 2004. Until his death he suffered from malignant lung and intestinal tumors.

Prince Bernhard was born in Jena, Germany on 29 June 1911, the elder son of Prince Bernhard zur Lippe and Baroness Armgard von Sierstorpf-Cramm.

The Prince spent his early years at Reckenwalde, the family estate in East Prussia (now Woynovo in Poland), near the city of Züllichau (Sulechów). The Prince received his early education at home. When he was twelve he was sent as a boarder to the gymnasium in Züllichau and several years later, again as a boarder, to a gymnasium in Berlin, where he gained his leaving certificate in 1929.

He went on to study law at the universities of Lausanne, Munich and Berlin. He was awarded his Referendar Juris degree in 1935. On graduating, the Prince went to work for the German chemical company, I. G. Farben. After a period of training, he became Secretary to the Board of Directors at the Paris office in 1935. He worked there until 1936, the year of his engagement to Princess Juliana, heiress to the Dutch throne. In that year too, he acquired Dutch nationality.

On 7 January 1937, Prince Bernhard married Princess Juliana of the Netherlands. On that occasion, he was accorded the title of Prince of the Netherlands. The royal couple chose Soestdijk Palace as their home, and they have lived there ever since.

Four daughters were born to Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard: Princess Beatrix in 1938, Princess Irene in 1939, Princess Margriet in 1943 and Princess Christina in 1947.

After the German invasion on 10 May 1940, the royal family was forced to flee to the United Kingdom. For safety reasons, Princess Juliana and her children departed for the Canadian capital, Ottawa, a month later. Prince Bernhard visited his family there on several occasions, but he spent almost the entire war in London, the seat of Queen Wilhelmina's government-in-exile.



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Published bimonthly under the auspices of the Dutch Connection of Arizona. Subscription is complimentary to members and on a sample basis to prospective members. A membership subscription is \$15.00 per year.

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PRINCE BERNHARD OF THE NETHERLANDS

Between 1940 and 1945, he played an active part in the Allied struggle against Nazi Germany, both in London and, from September 1944, in the Netherlands. As Supreme Commander of the Netherlands Armed Forces and of the Netherlands Forces of the Interior, he was present when the terms of surrender were negotiated in Wageningen in May 1945. He was reunited with his wife and family in the Netherlands in August 1945.

On 4 September 1948 Princess Juliana succeeded her mother as Queen of the Netherlands. From that date to the date of Queen Juliana's abdication in 1980, Prince Bernhard, as the Queen's Consort, bore the title the Prince of the Netherlands. The Prince accompanied his wife on state visits and attended official receptions.

Prince Bernhard played and continues to play an important role in many fields. The many hundreds of organizations of which Prince Bernhard is patron, honorary chair, special supervisory board member or honorary member together form a picture of Dutch society in all its diversity. The Prince has been or still is a member of the supervisory board of Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM), Hoogovens and the Royal Netherlands Industries Fair, chair of the National Disaster Fund, member of the board of the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), Commander of the Netherlands Order of St. John of Jerusalem, honorary chair of the Royal Dutch Touring Club (ANWB) and the Royal Tropical Institute, and patron of the Netherlands Olympic Committee, the Society for the Preservation of Nature Reserves, and the Jewish National Fund, to name but a few.

After the Second World War, Prince Bernhard played an important part in the economic reconstruction of the Netherlands. He made goodwill visits to many countries to promote Dutch trade relations.

From 1954 to 1976, the Prince was Chair of the Bilderberg Group, a debating forum for politicians, businesspeople and other prominent figures from Europe, the United States and Canada.



The Group meets informally once a year at different venues to discuss current political, economic and social developments. It takes its name from the venue of its first meeting, the Bilderberg Hotel in Arnhem. Queen Beatrix and sometimes the Prince of Orange still attend these meetings.

Shortly before his marriage, Prince Bernhard swore the oath of allegiance as an officer and was commissioned in a number of military ranks. He was appointed Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Netherlands Navy, Captain in the Royal Netherlands Army and brevet Cavalry Captain in the Royal Netherlands Indies Army. In 1939 he became Aide-de-Camp Extraordinary to Queen Wilhelmina.

However, it was the Second World War that marked the start of Prince Bernhard's military career proper. During his stay in London, he gained his

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pilot's wings. In 1941, he became Honorary Air Commodore in the R.A.F. and in 1964 was promoted to Honorary Air Marshal.

Promotions followed in rapid succession. In 1943, Queen Wilhelmina appointed him Lieutenant-General and Vice-Admiral, and in 1944 Supreme Commander of the Netherlands Armed Forces and the Netherlands Forces of the Interior (the military resistance). In September 1945, the Prince was honorably discharged from these posts and, at the same time, appointed Inspector-General of the Royal Netherlands Army.



For his services during the Second World War, Prince Bernhard was awarded the highest military decoration - the Cross Commander of the Military Order of William - in 1946. For his achievements as a pilot on active service, he received the Flying Cross. In 1984, he was awarded the Resistance Cross. The Prince was also decorated for his war

service by the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Greece and Czechoslovakia.

In 1946, Prince Bernhard was appointed Inspector-General of the Royal Netherlands Navy, and Inspector-General of the Royal Netherlands Air Force in 1953. In 1970, these three posts were combined into one - that of Inspector-General of the Armed Forces. In September 1976, the Prince retired from military duties with an honorable discharge.

Prince Bernhard is the founder and a governor of the Prince Bernhard Fund, which was set up in London in 1940. The original aim of the Fund was to collect financial contributions for the Allied war effort. After the war, it became a vehicle for the advancement of culture, science and nature conservation in the Netherlands, and regional branches, known as Carnation Funds, were established. Every year, Prince Bernhard presents a number of monetary awards on behalf of the Fund to artists and scholars, and every summer he presents the Silver Carnation award for voluntary service in the cultural field.

The Prince is also a governor of the Erasmus Prize Trust, which he founded in 1958. Every year, the Trust makes monetary awards to people or organizations for outstanding services to culture, society or the social sciences in Europe. Recipients of the prize include Jan Tinbergen (1967), Amnesty International (1976), Vaclav Havel (1986) and Simon Wiesenthal (1992). Now worth 300,000 guilders, the Erasmus Prize is the Netherlands' most valuable cultural award.

From 1956 to 1977, Prince Bernhard was chair of the Fondation Européenne de la Culture, which was founded by Robert Schumann in Geneva in 1954, and has been based in Amsterdam since 1960. The Fondation promotes European cooperation in the field of education, the arts, the environment, social issues and cultural relations between Western and Eastern Europe. Princess Margriet has chaired the Fondation since 1984.

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Prince Bernhard has always been highly committed to nature conservation. In 1961, he established the World Wildlife Fund, with the aim of conserving plant and animal species throughout the world, making more space for nature, and protecting the environment. As the WWF's President, Prince Bernhard regularly visited countries in Asia, Africa and South America. On his retirement in 1977, he was appointed Founder President. The Prince has remained President of the Netherlands Branch.

In 1971 the Prince founded the Order of the Golden Ark, an honor awarded to those who have performed outstanding service in the area of wildlife conservation.

Prince Bernhard takes a keen and active interest in sport, and is patron of a great number of sports organizations, including the Netherlands Sports Federation, the Netherlands Lawn Tennis Association, the Netherlands Ski Association and the Federation of Sport for the Disabled. For many years he chaired the Fédération Equestre Internationale, and is now honorary president. The Prince is a keen golfer and skier.

The Prince's leisure pursuits include photography and film-making. He is also very interested in aviation, and in the summer of 1994 he ended a flying career spanning 53 years, during which time he flew over 200 types of aircraft.

Prince Bernhard usually spends his summer holidays in his residence l'Elefante felice at Porto Ercole in Italy. Up to 1994, the Prince and Princess Juliana went skiing every winter, usually in Lech, Austria.



SAILS OF HERITAGE BOATS AS SCREEN FOR MOVIES

An art experiment launched five years ago in Schiedam has grown by leaps and bounds. The concept has been exported as well and this year, the well known resort town of Nantucket in Maine will make the Dutch invention part of its annual film festival.

The early concept was to project films onto natural screens: the sails of boats anchored in the Schiedam harbor. The background of the old city added to the cultural aspect of the 1999 manifestation as - since then - has done the involvement of many more and older ships, part of the so-called 'brown fleet'.

Last summer's Schiedam event was the largest ever. The manifestation "Doek!" ('curtain up', also plays on the Dutch word for the fabric of which the sails

are made) involved over 100 heritage boats, new film, old archival moving pictures and the natural backdrop of the old harbor.

While cinema and art are the main attractions for the Schiedam festival, the heritage ships and barges play an important role. The spotlight (quite literally) is on the old commercial boats, on their history and on the people who have sailed them or restored them in their former glory.

Film and light projection not only uses the sails of the ships, but also many of the walls, quays, buildings and homes. Audience participation by fellow sailors is welcome as part of what in Dutch is called a 'Drive-in' where the phonetic sound of the word in Dutch denoted 'floating.'

DUTCH AMERICAN LAWYER DOEBBLER TAKES ON DEFENSE SADDAM

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has taken on Dutch-American human rights expert Dr. Curtis F.J. Doebbler as one of the principals of his defense team. The Dutch-American received his law degree at the Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen in 1993. Doebbler, who holds dual citizenship of the United States and the Netherlands, is renowned for his expertise on international human rights issues.

Born in Buffalo, NY in 1961, Doebbler was educated in English literature and journalism at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. Afterwards, he studied law at the New York Law School, where he received his degree of Juris Doctor in 1988. After graduating from the university in Nijmegen, where he studied Dutch law, comparative constitutional law, private international law, and

public international law, he specialized in international human rights law. Doebbler transferred to the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he received a Ph.D. (international law) in 1998.

Family of the incarcerated Iraqi leader hired Doebbler, who will work with a defense team of 19 other lawyers. He contends that Saddam Hussein only should be judged by an international tribunal, such as the International Criminal Court in The Hague. However, the United States has not ratified this UN body and since its inception in 2003 has made that it will not support any rulings of this court.

The Saddam Hussein defense team is made up of lawyers from Belgium, Great Britain, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia.

MOGELIJK TUMOR PRINCE BERNHARD

Bij prins Bernhard zijn cellen gevonden die kunnen wijzen op uitzaaiingen van een tumor. Dat heeft de Rijksvoorlichtingsdienst woensdag 17 november bekendgemaakt. De RVD zei dat de prins niet zal worden geopereerd. Volgens zijn artsen is dat niet mogelijk.

Uit de berichten valt op te maken dat het er slecht uitziet voor de prins. De aan zekerheid grenzende waarschijnlijkheid van kanker betekent zeker niet dat de prins op dit moment stervende is. Hoewel hij met 'vermindering van krachten kampt', is de prins gewoon op, telefoneert hij en ontvangt hij gasten. Hoe de prins geestelijk onder het slechte nieuws is, is niet bekend.

De 93-jarige prins is afgelopen weken in het UMC Utrecht poliklinisch behandeld voor kortademigheid. Twee weken geleden maakte de RVD bekend dat de kortademigheid van prins Bernhard was verminderd na de tweede poliklinische ingreep om vocht uit zijn borstholte te verwijderen. De prins kampte al sinds september met kortademigheid, veroorzaakt door vocht in de borstholte. Artsen hebben poliklinisch een drain aangebracht om het vocht te verwijderen. De drain is later verwijderd.

Bij onderzoek van het vocht zijn volgens de RVD 1994 haalden artsen de hele tumor uit de dikke darm. Het leek er op dat de prins weer snel het ziekenhuis kon verlaten na de ingreep, maar er trad als complicatie een longontsteking en een shocklong op. Die bleken nogal hardnekkig waardoor de zorgen om herstel van de toen 83-jarige prins toenamen. Pas na de kerst waren er tekenen van herstel. In maart 1995 verliet hij het ziekenhuis en in mei kwam hij weer in

cellen verkregen die kunnen wijzen op uitzaaiingen van een tumor. Volgens de RVD beperkt de prins zijn activiteiten wegens 'vermindering van krachten'. Het is niet de eerste keer dat de prins te kampen heeft met kwaadaardige cellen. In 1994 werd hij geopereerd aan een tumor van de darm en in 2000 aan een borsttumor. Bij de operatie in november het openbaar. In mei 2000 leek de prins, opnieuw na een operatie, te sterven na een 'neurologische complicatie' en ernstige ademhalingsmoeilijkheden (naar later bleek door een ingeslikte brug). Koningin Beatrix bleef tot diep in de nacht bij haar vader, de pers lag massaal voor de deur van het ziekenhuis. Twee dagen later maakte de RVD bekend dat de prins de krant alweer gelezen had.

In december van dat jaar moest de prins onder het mes om een borsttumor te verwijderen. Hij verbleef slechts een nacht in het ziekenhuis en kon daarna weer naar Soestdijk.

De nieuwe gezondheidsproblemen van de prins komen aan de vooravond van een interessant jaar voor hem. In 2005 is het einde van de Tweede Wereldoorlog zestig jaar geleden, wat met diverse herdenkingen gepaard zal gaan. De prins geldt voor velen nog altijd als een icoon van de oorlogsjaren. Dit voorjaar werd bekend dat hij 5 mei 2005 voor de laatste keer het traditionele veteranendefilé op Bevrijdingsdag in Wageningen wil afnemen. De prins was in 1945 in de Gelderse stad aanwezig bij de capitulatie van de Duitsers.

Op zijn verjaardag, 29 juni, staat voor komend jaar de eerste nationale veteranendag gepland.

'I AMsterdam MOET 'I LOVE NY' GAAN EVENAREN

Amsterdam, de omliggende gemeenten, het bedrijfsleven en organisaties als Tourist Board zijn een campagne begonnen om de hoofdstedelijke regio internationaal op de kaart te zetten. Het motto is de slogan: 'I AMsterdam'. Met de slogan wil de regio de concurrentie aangaan met andere Europese steden. Over een paar jaar moet de hele wereld de slogan kennen en moet het motto wijdverbreid zijn op souvenirs, billboards en in communicatie uitingen. Uit onderzoek bleek dat 'I AMsterdam' goed te onthouden is en aanspreekt.

PERMANENTE EXPOSITIE OVER GESCHIEDENIS ZEEBRUG HOLLAND-AMERIKA LIJN

Ongeveer 800.000 immigranten reisden sinds 1873 met de Holland-Amerika Lijn (HAL) naar overzeese gebieden. In het Maritiem Museum in Rotterdam is onlangs een permanente expositie geopend over de 131-jarige geschiedenis van het bedrijf. Het nieuwste HAL schip, de Westerdam, luisterde het evenement op in de haven.

Het scheepvaartbedrijf is al jaren in buitenlandse handen, maar de band met het moederland en met name Rotterdam blijft sterk. De HAL is nu een succesvolle cruisereederij die met dertien luxueuze schepen de wereldzeeën bevaart. Het bedrijf koestert echter het verleden, waarin met veel eenvoudiger stoomboten straatarme emigranten vanaf de Wilhelminakade voor een betere toekomst naar de VS en Canada werden gebracht.

Het verhaal van de HAL wordt in het Maritiem Museum in vier episodes verteld. Het eerste deel (1873-1900) gaat over de oprichting onder de naam Nederlandsch-Amerikaanse Stoomvaart Maatschappij. In deel twee (1901-1945) is de enorme landverhuizing van Europeanen naar de 'Nieuwe Wereld' gevisualiseerd.

Na de oorlog verging het de HAL minder. De stroom passagiers naar de VS daalde en in 1978 nam Rotterdam noodgedwongen afscheid van het bedrijf. De HAL ging in Amerikaanse handen verder als cruisemaatschappij. De stoomschepen werden uit

de vaart genomen en maakten plaats voor de luxe oceancruisers. Sinds die tijd zit de HAL flink in de lift.

In die laatste periode werd de band met Rotterdam hersteld. Inmiddels leggen steeds meer cruiseschepen van de HAL aan bij de opgeknapte Cruiseterminal. In 2004 kwamen bijna 12.000 passagiers op bezoek. Dat toerisme leverde de Nederlandse economie 107 miljoen euro op, dat becijferde de HAL directie.

Het nieuwste HAL schip, de Westerdam, heeft inmiddels in de Maasstad bijgedragen aan die beramingen. Het varend dorp is met 1848 passagiers kleiner dan concurrent Queen Mary 2, die onlangs ook aanlegde, maar qua luxe wel het neusje van de zalm. De HAL doopte in 2003 op dezelfde plek de gelijk uitgevoerde Oosterdam en bouwt totaal vier van deze schepen.

Nederland is voor de HAL belangrijk en het bedrijf is trots op de band met Nederland, aldus directeur Kruse. Om dat te onderstrepen neemt de HAL het liefst Nederlandse officieren in dienst en wordt een Nederlands architectenbureau ingehuurd voor de inrichting. Kruse zou het liefst zien dat Nederlanders wat meer cruises op zijn schepen boekten. Van de 600.000 passagiers die in 2003 met de HAL voeren, kwamen er 550.000 uit de VS. HAL is bezig met een marketingplan voor Europa.