

Dear all of the Infogroup and the Projectgroup,

Very important news again, so a newsletter again.

In newsletter nr 10. I wrote about the establishment of our own foundation, we now have found a third relative that is willing to take a seat in the board, besides Johan Wieland and myself, his name is Rob Doves. Rob is the grandson of Hendrina Louise Frank. Hendrina was 30 years and shot whilst walking on the Dam on 7 may 1945, she died the following night in the hospital "Binnengasthuis". She was there with her daughter, a child then of no more than 5 years old. This daughter is still alive and she is the mother of Rob Doves. To establish the foundation we have to follow some procedures that will take some time. I expect that in March it will be a fact.

Also we were brought in contact with the artist/historian Ronald van Tienhoven by the archivers of the Amsterdams Stadsarchief. Ronald started already two years ago a project that should start on the Damsquare on 7 May 2013 and that will last until June. Ronald visited me at my home last Wednesday and we spoke for several hours and he showed me his project. I consider this a very good project. With this project also our own project will be promoted and through the network of connections he has build, we hope some more doors will be opened to establish our memorial in 2015.

The green light for his project should be given next week and we hope that the abdication of Queen Beatrix on the 30 april and inauguration of the new king and queen will not be any obstacle, as that will take a lot of the capacity of the council, police and so forth. On 4 may the National Dodenherdenking will take place on the Damsquare at the National Monument with king and queen. On 5 may it is National Liberationday.

Now you are curious about Ronalds project I suppose? so a description document is available.

If you want to see it or download it you can follow this link and take the steps to install Dropbox if you have not yet. https://www.dropbox.com/sh/v46u2qdcw15kw1d/2dFUNz_NkP

In the Dropbox link you will also find two other important documents.

In two weeks our second session at the Amsterdams Stadsarchief will take place.

We will again go with a small group and study more of the doctorsstatements of the people that died because of the Damshooting massacre in the month of may 1945 in Amsterdam. Never before any historian has made this complete study and because of that all historical publications in the past copied the wrong number of victims as 22. We are now above 30 already. I can not predict how much more we will discover.

Thanks for your support,
Till next newsletter

I am happy that I can inform you more in detail after the breakthrough since our last newsletter.

I was with Johan Wieland and Norbert-Jan Nuij at the institute of the Amsterdam Archives.

They hold 47 kilometers of shelves with boxes with documents.

Only a part has been digitized. So we got 5 boxes with all of the deadcertificates made up by doctors in may 1945. Not sorted on name or date. Not the half of that we could research while we took 6 hours of time.

But the results so far are astonishing, but also very sad.

We have discovered 33 victims of the the Dam shooting and 4 more of whom the location is not clear.

All these have been shot with one ore more bullets. So automatic weapons were used by the Germans.

About 2 more victims could have died because they were trampled in the panic.

We have still 4 more boxes with documents to investigate, I fear that the number of victims will be over 40.

The historical number is 22 victims, but this was made up with no real effort to investigate.

Also I have read the summary of all the discussions of the Council of Amsterdam between the liberation in 1945 and the end of 1947. In 1947 the plaque without names of victims seems to be installed without connection with the Council or with family of the victims and payed for by firms and business like the commisionairs firm of C.F.Overhoff, the so called hero and leader of the BS on 7 may 1945. He was later convicted for fraude with the selling of the belongings of rich Jews that were sent to the concentration camps and mostly murdered. Between 5 may 1945 and 10 may 1945 he was also the most powerfull person in Amsterdam.

Arthur Rebattu