



Memorial Dreyeroord, 6 September 2019.

For those who don't know me: my name is Paul Tirion. As chairman of the Airborne Feelings foundation, September 1944, I am happy to be able to stand here, because that means that we have succeeded in making this place even more recognizable for our liberators.

In first instance we were shocked about the plans to demolish the "Dreyeroord" hotel. Various organizations started to take action to prevent the demolition. The petition against the demolition on our website generated responses from more than 40 countries. This indicates that this place is of great historical value to many people. The various petitions received around 25,000 signatures.

So sufficient support for action. Various organizations have helped to prevent breakdown.

In a conversation I had on the spot with Professor Lloyd Clark, the famous war book writer - including about the Battle of Arnhem - and teacher at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, he said: "this building would never have been demolished in Great Britain". This of course because of the strong English traditions and respect for their army.

This location is primarily known for the heavy fighting around "The White House" as the British called it, fighting around the hotel, but also in the immediate area. The property is located in the middle of the Northern sector of the Perimeter that had to be defended against the Germans.

The 7th Battalion of The Kings Own Scottish Borderers and the pilots of Army Air Corps fought here like lions. These troops have landed with a large number of gliders in the Wolfheze area. They ended up in this area via the Ginkel heath and the Johannahoeve.

In close consultation with Amvest, the landowner and developer, it turned out that the building was not suitable for renovation for the new purpose, so demolition was unfortunately inevitable. The final design is similar to the building as it was in September 1944. The new house continues to be called Dreyeroord and the British can still call it the "The White House", as you can see.

We would like to thank Amvest and Het Gastenhuis that is moving in here for there kind cooperation

The Airborne Feelings foundation has, among other things, stated in its statutes "keeping the Battle of Arnhem alive". It does this by publishing the many Airborne activities that take place around the commemorations via, among other things, the website, the Airborne Newspaper, Facebook and the Information Card "Battle of Arnhem".



But with the support of our petition, we said that, if we start something, we must finish it. The former hotel with the owner the Van der Straaten family was not only a place of war, but also a place to stay for many veterans and their families, who came here during the commemorations. That makes this place extra special. From the beginning we have indicated that, if demolition is necessary, this place is entitled to a Memorial. Also in view of the many interested parties who also come here specially for a commemoration. Finally, the Northern Perimeter route and the Liberation Route Europe also pass along here.

Via Amvest we came in contact with the glass artist Ellen Brouwers from Oisterwijk. She is well known for her works in glass art. Her works can be found in the High Tech Campus of Philips, Rabo bank Hart van Brabant, various municipalities, Congregation Sisters of Charity and many more. Beautiful works!

Ellen will indicate in a few moments what inspired her for this Memorial.

Finally, I would like to thank the organizations that contributed to the financing of this memorial for their contribution: Amvest, the municipality of Renkum, Zabawas, Rabo Bank Arnhem and the surrounding area, Prince Bernhard Culture Fund, Zither and the crowdfunders, including an anonymous former Oosterbeker who said to me: "what else do you need?" And then we were able to officially issue the assignment. Thank you all for that.

This Memorial now permanently marks the place to commemorate the deceased Allies and for all the veterans who fought for our freedom.