

## **Policy Plan – War Cemetery Brunssum Foundation 2025**

- Maintain the adoption register – Ensure that each grave has an adopter
  - Coordinate the commemorative ceremonies on May 4th and November 11th
  - Maintain the website and social media channels
  - Fundraising and receiving family members of fallen soldiers
  - Organise educational briefings and guided tours for schoolchildren and other interested groups
  - Maintain contact with veterans
  - Provide information about the soldiers buried at Brunssum War Cemetery and the historical context of World War II
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## **Secretary's Report 2024 – War Cemetery Brunssum Foundation**

### **New Impulse for the Board**

In 2024, the board of the War Cemetery Brunssum Foundation was strengthened with the addition of a new board member who has long been involved in commemorative work and education. His previous collaboration with the foundation's founder, as well as his dedication at other war cemeteries, makes him a valuable asset to the team.

In addition to his role on the board, he is actively engaged in educational efforts, with a particular focus on teaching lessons about “war and peace” to upper primary school students.

### **Educational Projects with Schools**

Thanks to our partnership with the Vrije Academie, particularly through the Cultuurbox, more than 200 pupils from the Parkstad region visited War Cemetery Brunssum in the spring. For each student, we received a small contribution, providing a welcome financial supplement. These educational tours are a vital part of our mission to raise awareness among young generations about history and the sacrifices made for our freedom.

### **Special Visits from the United Kingdom**

In 2024, we had the honour of welcoming two families from the UK who came to visit the graves of their fallen relatives.

The first family was invited to lunch after their visit to the cemetery. Following that, a special reception was held at the town hall, where they received an honorary certificate. This visit coincided with the filming of a documentary marking 80 years of liberation, in which the daughter of the fallen soldier was also interviewed.

Unfortunately, we have lost contact with the adopter of this particular grave. We hope to reconnect in the near future.

The second family was warmly received by the current adopter of the grave. During a shared lunch, the honorary certificate was presented to the relatives – a touching and respectful moment.

### **Activities and Representation**

In 2024, the daily board represented War Cemetery Brunssum at several events:

- In June, during the “VEVA Heroes March,” for which a €50 donation was made.
- In October, during a joint visit with Veterans Brunssum to the American Cemetery in Margraten.
- In November, at the Poppy Day commemorations in both Sittard and Nederweert.
- Also in November, during a visit to the **Monument of Tolerance** in Haelen.
- In December, following the **Peace Light** ceremony, we attended the **Military Meeting Point Brunssum** – a moment for reflection and camaraderie.

### **Peace Light and Grave Adoptions**

The annual **Peace Light** event was once again a success. Many visitors, including a large number of new grave adopters, took part. The scouts received their symbolic ribbon, expressing their commitment to remembrance work.

After an article was published in the December edition of the regional magazine *HALLO*, stating that a few graves were still available for adoption, we experienced a significant surge in interest. No fewer than **25 graves** were adopted. A **waiting list** has since been created, although we expect to work through it in the near future.