

BRABANT IN WORLD WAR II

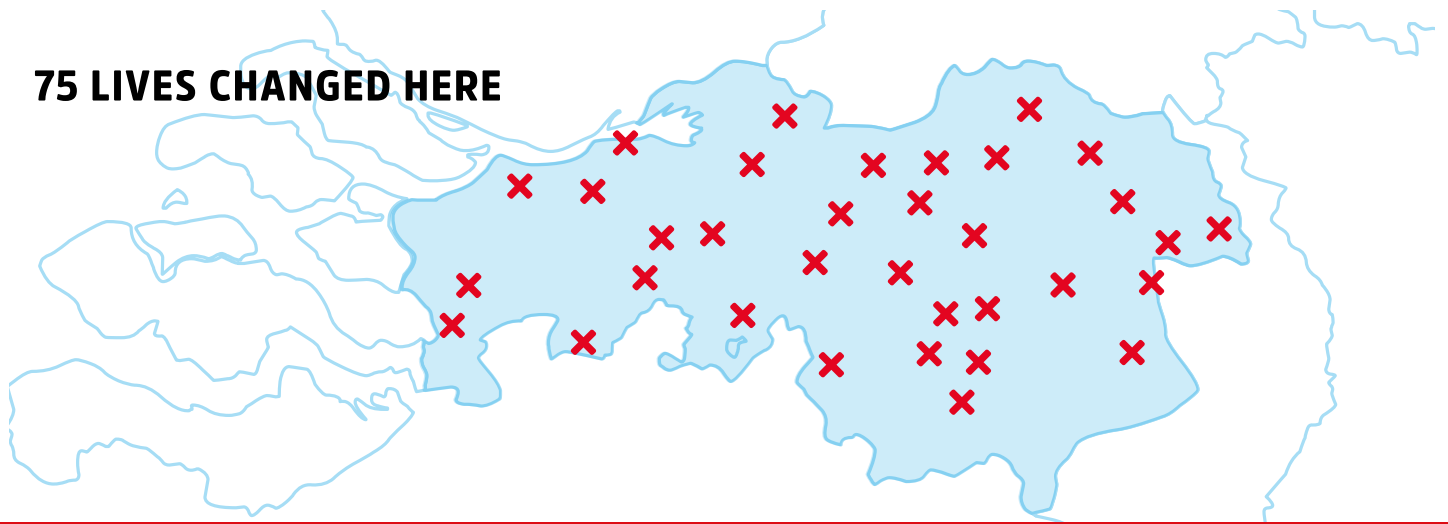
# 75 LIFE CHANGING WAR STORIES



# CROSS X ROADS

[WWW.CROSSROADS4045.COM](http://WWW.CROSSROADS4045.COM)

# 75 LIVES CHANGED HERE



*"Crossroads presents a variety of sights, museums and commemorations related to remembrance tourism in Brabant, a unique history which is not to be missed."* Director International Markets, NBTC Holland

We are proud to present our Tour & Travel factsheet for tour operators. We would like to invite you to our Crossroads locations and events where you can get to know all the extraordinary and impressive stories that took place in Brabant between 1940 and 1945.

### CROSSROADS: life changing war stories in Brabant

In 2019 and 2020, Brabant commemorates and celebrates seventy-five years of freedom. In late 1944, the south of the Netherlands was liberated during Operation Market Garden and the Battle of the Scheldt. The north remained occupied until May 1945.

The Second World War provided Brabant with a countless number of stories. Both anxious and hopeful moments have found their place in history. Small, personal recollections provide a complete picture of the war. CROSSROADS: LIFE CHANGING WAR STORIES IN BRABANT is all about these stories; recollections that changed individual lives for ever. This fact sheet features six of these stories which will form the basis for events and recollections in 2019 and 2020. We will bring the stories to life through their locations, as though they were an actual witness of the war, and make them familiar by retelling them in a contemporary way. In this way we can keep and share our wartime stories, both large and small, for the next generations.

### Main events in 2019

- Glow Light festival Eindhoven November 2019
- Operation Market Garden 2019; re-enactment route Operation Market Garden with more than 400 vehicles
  - 14/09 > Route South: from Leopoldsburg (Belgium) to Veghel (North Brabant, the Netherlands)
  - 15/09 > to 21/09 Visit the Basecamp in Veghel or the smaller Cider White in Grave
  - 22/09 > Route North: departure towards Gelderland
- Battle of the Scheldt 2019
  - 26/10 > Route with WWII vehicles from the province of Zeeland to Bergen op Zoom, followed by a (military) parade
- More events to follow soon

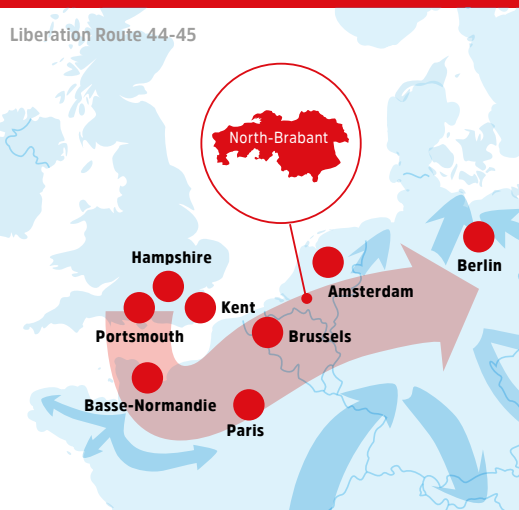
### Information

VisitBrabant, your partner in TradeServices

VisitBrabant is the official Marketing Organisation for the province of North-Brabant, the Netherlands.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to know more about the Crossroads locations, package deals and (group) rates, or if you would like to receive a custom quote, please do not hesitate to contact us:

E [trade@visitbrabant.com](mailto:trade@visitbrabant.com), T +31 13 3030393, @brabanttrade



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:





## **X01** CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY & BRITISH WAR CEMETERY

The Battle of the Scheldt was one of the biggest military operations carried out during the Second World War. Canadian troops, and British and Polish troops under Canadian command, received orders to capture the Western Scheldt, the access point to Antwerp from the Germans. Most of the fallen in both cemeteries lost their lives during fierce battles in late 1944.

### TO SEE, DO AND EXPERIENCE

#### Canadian & British War Cemetery

Bergen op Zoom has two military graveyards as reminders of our war history. Both cemeteries are located next to each other and are freely accessible between sunrise and sunset.

- *British War Cemetery*; with 1284 graves.
- *Canadian War Cemetery*; with 1119 graves.

#### Commemorative meetings

Bergen op Zoom was liberated from the Nazi regime on 27 October 1944. Every year the Battle of the Scheldt is commemorated, this is organised by Bevrijdingsmuseum Zeeland (Liberation Museum Zeeland) and Foundation Brabantse Wal.

#### Canadian Remembrance Day

2018 and 2019: 11 November

#### British Remembrance Day

2018 and 2019: 11 November

#### War Museum Ossendrecht

This museum, which is housed in a former Catholic Military Home, is a private collection. All kinds of materials from the Second World War can be found here, with the Battle of the Scheldt as a special theme.

#### Audio columns

Listen to lifelike radio plays with liberation stories that took place at these locations during the war.

#### Liberation bicycle routes

Impressive bicycle routes will take you past various war and resistance memorials in Bergen op Zoom, Steenberg and Woensdrecht, which saw a lot of action during the war.

#### More information

For more information and details visit our website:  
[www.crossroads4045.com/trade](http://www.crossroads4045.com/trade)





## X02 WAR MUSEUM OVERLOON

Hell broke loose above Overloon on the 12th of October 1944. The Allies bombarded the German positions with heavy artillery and concentrated air attacks. Overloon was recaptured house by house by the British, but not much of the village survived. When Harry van Daal returned after the attack to see this total devastation, he decided that the battle field must remain intact to keep the memories of this terrible war alive.

War belongs in a museum. That is War Museum Overloon's most important message. The museum is located on the middle of the battle field of the Overloon tank battle of 1944. It houses a large, comprehensive exhibition about the Netherlands during the Second World War, with more than 150 military vehicles. This makes Overloon the largest war museum in the Netherlands.

### TO SEE, DO AND EXPERIENCE

#### Permanent exhibition about WWII:

- The largest exhibition about the use of German paratroopers (the Fallschirmjäger).
- Blockbuster, a multimedia presentation about the bombardments of British, German and Dutch towns.

#### Guided tours for groups (possible in NL, DE and EN)

Because of the very extensive grounds and unique collection, a number of different group tours are possible. For example, an impressive tour past the unique collection of military vehicles.

#### Special Events

Militracks has been organised since 2010 and is the largest event in the world about Second World War German vehicle engineering. More than 100 unique German vehicles from all over Europe come to Overloon with their crews. Visitors can even catch a ride! [www.militracks.nl](http://www.militracks.nl). 2018: 19 – 20 May 2019: 18 – 19 May 2020: 16 – 17 May

#### Battlefield tours

The Battle for Overloon is the largest tank battle in history that took place in the Netherlands. The battlefield tours consist of tours in small groups in historic military vehicles.

#### British military cemetery, Overloon

In this cemetery, all 280 graves but one are British; 265 soldiers and 14 pilots. The one remaining grave is of a Dutch soldier. Most fell during the battles of October and November 1944 when the British Second Army moved forward.

#### German military cemetery

This military cemetery in Ysselsteyn is the final resting place of more than 31,500 German Second World War soldiers. It is one of the largest of its kind and the largest military cemetery in the Netherlands by far.

#### More information

For more information and details visit our website: [www.crossroads4045.com/trade](http://www.crossroads4045.com/trade)





## **X 03** WINGS OF LIBERATION MUSEUM

Operation Market Garden was one of the most important military events in the history of the Netherlands. More than 4,500 paratroopers dropped from the skies above Son in three quarters of an hour on Sunday afternoon, the 17th of September. The "Paulusfarm" was an ideal point of orientation for the pilots because its name was written in large letters on the roof. Paul van Overveld, then 15 years old, experienced it all, lost a friend and together with other locals helped the Americans in any way they could.

Follow the footsteps of the 101st Airborne Division heroes and relive the story that led to the liberation of the southern Netherlands at the Wings of Liberation Museum.

### **TO SEE, DO AND EXPERIENCE**

#### **Wings of Liberation Museum**

Learn about this impressive operation and see unique airplanes, tracked vehicles, tanks, gliders and army jeeps. There is also a large collection of weapons such as anti-aircraft guns, canons and lots of ammunition. There are some unique exhibits such as a Dakota C-53, a Sherman tank, a T-34 tank from the Soviet army and a crashed glider (*from the film Saving Private Ryan*).

#### **Guided tours**

Book a two-hour guided tour. Your guide is an expert who will tell you everything about Operation Market Garden with pictures and film clips.

#### **A ride in an army jeep**

Ride in a historic army vehicle and visit the landing grounds at the 'Paulusfarm', which has a small museum about the gliders that landed there.

#### **Special excursions**

- *An Army Tour*  
A tour to the landing grounds and the Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Cole and Private Joe Mann monument.
- *Battlefield tours*  
Tours to various interesting locations in other villages, where many battles took place and where paratroopers landed.

#### **More information**

For more information and details visit our website:  
[www.crossroads4045.com/trade](http://www.crossroads4045.com/trade)





## X04 CITY OF EINDHOVEN (18 SEPTEMBER FOUNDATION)

Hans Noach's Jewish father was arrested and imprisoned in Camp Vught. When Hans came home from school, his mother and brother were waiting for him in the doorway. His mother gave him the choice: "You can go into hiding, or go with us to a work camp." The 8-year-old Hans decided to stay with his family, and as a consequence of that, imprisonment.

Each year on the 18th of September, Eindhoven commemorates the liberation from the German occupiers by the American 101st Airborne Division and the Second British army with a torchlight parade in the centre of the town. On this day, after bitter combat, allied British ground troops entered Eindhoven from Valkenswaard, while American paratroopers approached the city centre from Son.

### TO SEE, DO AND EXPERIENCE

#### Commemoration

Since 1945, Eindhoven has organised a number of historical, cultural and sportive events for its liberation every year. It is the only town in the Netherlands who does this on the 18th of September. There is a large parade with veterans, army vehicles, various music corpses and sports clubs.

#### VR Stadstour: (Will be finished 2019)

In 2019, Eindhoven will be making its war history more tangible with a unique, innovative, and interactive virtual reality city tour in which experiences from the war and the liberation come to life in 3D at various historic locations.

#### Locations

- The "Band of Brothers" story by Dick Winters
- The "Sinterklaas" bombardment on the 6th of December - the date that Dutch children celebrate "Sinterklaas" with gifts and sweets -

when the RAF bombed the Philips factories.

- Hans Noach's story who was deported to Camp Vught and Auschwitz as a Jewish boy and survived.
- The virtual liberation of the city of Eindhoven on the 18th of September 1944.
- Strijp S, where camp refugees were given temporary lodging at an emergency hospital after the war.

#### CrossRoads Historic Walking Route (app)

An initiative to remember the 274 Jewish inhabitants of Eindhoven who were killed during the war. Small remembrance stones have been placed in the pavements in front of the houses where the victims lived.

#### Freedom Run

A yearly run, dedicated to certain liberators of Eindhoven

#### More information

For more information and details visit our website: [www.crossroads4045.com/trade](http://www.crossroads4045.com/trade)





GEORGE & URSULA  
LEVY'S LIFE  
CHANGED HERE

## X05 CAMP VUGHT NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Because the hatred of Jews was increasing in Germany, George and Ursula Levy's mother sent them to the Netherlands in the hope that they would be safe there. They ended up in Camp Vught where the SS put the fate of their carer Florence into the hands of the 13-year-old George. You can find out more about this story, and many others, at the Camp Vught National Memorial.

In 1943 *Konzentrationslager Herzogenbusch* was built in Vught - the only SS concentration camp outside Nazi Germany. The memorial centre tells of Camp Vught's beginnings and the national-socialist system. In just 18 months, more than 32,000 people were kept prisoner, mostly because they were Jewish or because they worked for the resistance.

### TO SEE, DO AND EXPERIENCE

#### Audio tour (Available in NL, EN, FR, DE)

The audio tour is a unique experience because of the many personal stories from ex-prisoners. Descriptions of Camp Vught are alternated with quotes from ex-prisoners and fitting music that was composed in the camp by, for example, Louise van de Montel and Marius Flothuis who later became famous as an artist and a composer.

#### Guided tours

There are special tours with stories from prisoners who emigrated after the Second World War, such as George and Ursula Levy and Corrie ten Boom from the United States. There are also stories from France, Great Britain, Israel, Poland, and tours with German stories (about guards, collaboration, civilian evacuations) and/or the history of Canadian soldiers in Vught.

#### Camp barrack 1B

The last authentic camp barrack 1B.

#### Former execution site

Monument with the names of 329 executed male resistance fighters.

#### Special days or activities

4 May: Dutch National Remembrance Day

10 June: Commemoration of the children's transports, 75 years ago in 2018.

From March 2018: New exhibition: The year of the resistance

#### More information

For more information and details visit our website:  
[www.crossroads4045.com/trade](http://www.crossroads4045.com/trade)





## X06 GENERAL MACZEK MUSEUM BREDA

On the 29th of October 1944, Breda was liberated by a Polish division commanded by General Maczek. After the Normandy landing and many bloody battles, Maczek arrived at the town border with his division and liberated Breda from house to house rather than using the full power of his tanks. Many Polish soldiers died in this fierce battle for Breda. In the end, the town was liberated by the Poles with avoiding many civilian casualties. Shortly after this it became apparent that the Poles would never be able to liberate their own country. Maczek reminded his troops that, despite having lost their country, they still had something to fight for. The Poles followed their Commander and continued into battle. From 2019 the Story of the Poles will be told in the General Maczek Memorial.

### TO SEE, DO AND EXPERIENCE

#### The General Maczek Memorial

The General Maczek Memorial will be built at the Ettensebaan road, close to the Polish Honorary Cemetery. The Memorial combines an unique location with a unique building and will accommodate the permanent exhibition of the General Maczek Museum and offers commemorative space. This modern memorial will be built close to the General Stanislaw Maczek's grave and a large number of fallen companions. The exhibition will be more than a traditional war museum. The General Maczek Memorial combines stories from the past with lessons for the present.

#### Presentations & excursions surrounding Breda's liberation

- *Maczek Life Story*  
General Maczek, who liberated Breda in 1944 with his 1st Polish Armoured division, led a noteworthy life.
- *The Battle for Kapelsche Veer*  
In the winter of 1944-1945, a fierce battle was fought over the Kapelsche Veer, at the Maas River. This completely unnecessary

battle lasted five weeks and cost the loss of about 1,200 casualties; Polish, British, Canadian, Norwegian, Belgian and German soldiers.

- *Breda, Maczek memorial walk*

A walk along the Polisch Monument and the Wilhelmina park. This park is an important location for commemorating General Maczek. You can also visit the liberation chapel and look at the woodcarving on the choir benches in "Onze Lieve Vrouwe Kerk".

#### Also visit

Two Polish cemeteries in Breda, the cemeteries in Oosterhout and Alphen, the Battle Field tour to Sprang Capelle and the Liberation Route Europe Brabant (visit: [www.liberationroute.com](http://www.liberationroute.com)).

#### Commemorations

2018: 27 and 28 October: 74th anniversary of liberation  
2019: 26 and 27 October: 75th anniversary of liberation

#### More information

For more information and details visit our website: [www.crossroads4045.com/trade](http://www.crossroads4045.com/trade)

