

Commemoration 80th Anniversary Operation Market Garden

XXX Corps Military Remembrance Convoy
Belgium/Netherlands 2024 (UK version)

Newsletter August 2024 (Rev. 2.0)



XXX Corps Club Route 2024

80th Anniversary Operation Market-Garden 10 - 20 September 2024



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August Update – XXX Corps; Revised August 6th 2024 (Shipping dates).



6 weeks to go until the departure of the LTF Club Route being the XXX Corps Military Remembrance Convoy Belgium/Netherlands 2024 from Leopoldsburg to Bommel. Saturday, September 14 we will depart from Leopoldsburg for a 7-day historical and remembrance tour ending in Bommel on Friday September 20. As it looks now, it will be a very impressive and unique column.

The participant list counts currently 288 vehicles, 47 motorcycles and 720 participants with a total column length of 2.2 km. Most of these come from the United Kingdom (172 vehicles, 14 motorcycles and 397 crew), followed by the Netherlands (97 vehicles, 28 motorcycles and 270 crew) and further participants from Belgium, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, France, Italy and even a small delegation from Malta!



However, we must also note that there is still a lot of work to be done before that happens. This not only applies to the organization but also to many participants who are currently still busy preparing their vehicle(s) for this absolutely unique event.

There have been some rumours and there is some unrest amongst a few participants,

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mainly due to anonymous remarks being made on Facebook. We do not get into heated discussions on Facebook it is counterproductive, and it does not give the team an opportunity to respond. So, to ease you into a positive frame of mind let's look at things in a positive light. Negativity spreads discord, no matter what obstacle is put in our path we will pull through. In that respect there is certainly some similarity here with the situation in September 1944.



Yesterday Leopoldsburg revealed its outline plan for the week when LTF will be forming up in Belgium. This can be found at the next pages.

Traffic controllers: It is true that there has been a problem and that is due to the lack of response from the Gemeentes (town halls). All the permits have now been filed so do please do not listen to anonymous postings from people that are not in the know. The fact that the permits are being processed was not enough for the traffic controllers as they wanted that all permits were released on July 31.

However, it should be noted that in 2019 for example, permits were still being chased up to the 28th of August. On a previous occasion in France the permit was delivered even one day before the event so this is nothing unusual. We do have verbal assurances from the communes that we are interacting with that the permits are being processed and we have no reason to think otherwise. So, we are moving ahead.



We have a backup plan for movements in that we will be able to drive in smaller groups which will obviously not be what we had hoped for, but that is still workable.

All routes have been accepted by the communes and in one instance a diversion was requested by the police for which we agreed and changed part of the route due to a large event being held adjacent to our required route. The same applies to various changes because of planned road works.

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So, where are we now?

Yesterday Leopoldsburg announced their outline for their program for the week when we will be there building up. This is the outline.

- **Open Monument Day**
Sunday 8 September Guided Walks
Liberation Garden,
Koningin Louisa-Mariaaan 2, Leopoldsburg
10.00 to 16.00 hrs.
- **Walking estafette 'Vrijheidspad' (Liberation path)**
Tuesday 10 September
First stage: Leopoldsburg-Lommel. YAP,
Guillaumelaan 11, Leopoldsburg 9.00 to
10.00 hrs
PRESS CONFERENCE Leopoldsburg/LTF (to be confirmed).
- **Historical encampment**
Wednesday 11 September to Friday 13 September
YAP, Guillaumelaan 11, Leopoldsburg
9.00 tot 21.00 hrs.
- **Liberation Garden**
Wednesday 11 September to Friday 13 September
Koningin Louisa-Mariaaan 2, Leopoldsburg; open from
9.00 till 21.00 hrs.
- **Guided bomb crater walks**
Wednesday 11 September
YAP, Guillaumelaan 11,
Leopoldsburg
16.00 hrs.
- **Lecture 'How I liberated Belgium with the Brigade Piron'**
Wednesday 11 September
by De Morgen-journalist Yannick Verberckmoes
YAP, Guillaumelaan 11, Leopoldsburg
19hrs30 (Dutch only)



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- **Theme exhibition 80-year bombardment on “Kamp van Beverlo”**
Thursday 12 September
Koninklijk Museum Kamp van Beverlo, Hechtelsesteenweg 9, Leopoldsburg
9.00 to 17.00 hrs.
- **Guided bomb crater walks**
Thursday 12 September
YAP, Guillaumelaan 11,
Leopoldsburg
14.00 hrs.
- **Liberty Ball**
Thursday 12 September
YAP, Guillaumelaan 11,
Leopoldsburg
19.30 hrs.
- **Commemoration Event**
Friday 13 September
Koningin Astridplein, Leopoldsburg
13.30 hrs.
- **Departure historic column ‘Operatie Market Garden LTF XXX Tour’**
Saturday 14 September
Centrum Leopoldsburg
from 10.30 hrs.



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LTF XXX Corps Tour; Your Program:

Saturday 7th September:

Base Camp Leopoldsburg; gathering of Staff & MP unit.

Location: **Guillaumelaan 11
3970 Leopoldsburg
Belgium**

Sunday 8th September:

Preparations Base Camp (Staff)

Hull & Newcastle overnight ferries ship out

Monday 9th September:

Dover > Dunkirk ships out and arrives.

Hull and Newcastle overnight Ferries Arrives

Harwich overnight ferry (1) ships out



Tuesday 10th September:

Arrival overnight ferries Newcastle, Hull & Harwich (1).

Day ferry Harwich ships out & arrives.

Harwich overnight ferry (2) ships out

Press conference on camp

Start of Arnhem Walk.

Wednesday 11th September:

Arrival overnight ferry (2) Harwich.



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Fuelling & preparations.

Arrival of EU participants.

**2 Dingo's > Suykerbuyck Café (80 years to the day)
including wreath laying.**



Wreath laying – British cemetery – Leopoldsburg

Thursday 12th September:

Displays; Public admission, schools, media opportunity.

Arrival of remaining EU participants.

Liberty Ball. Situated on base camp.

Friday 13th September:

Preparations remaining Fuelling.

Parade in collaboration with Town of Leopoldsburg.

Evening briefing on Saturdays Start of Garden 80.



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Saturday 14th September:

10:30 Convoy moves out to Lommel / Joe's bridge.
Artillery Squadron – barrage at Joe's bridge.



2 allocated Squadrons to Bergeijk – stay overnight.
Remainder, pass through Valkenswaard and onto Leende.
Overnight in Leende.

Sunday 15th September:

2 Squadrons from Bergeijk to Leende
3 Squadrons to outlying areas for displays.
1 Squadron to **Leenderstrijp**.
1 Squadron to **Sterksel**.
1 Squadron to **Heeze**.



Remainder move up to Geldrop, Mierlo, Mierlo-Hout & Helmond for static displays- greet and meet.
Commemorative service at Geldrop/Mierlo military cemetery.



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Route will pass via Stiphout & Nuenen to Son en Breugel.

Camp south side of Son in the same field that XXX Corps camped in during 1944 (de Driehoek (the triangle)).



Monday 16th September:

Son en Breugel – Camp open to the public. Schools and dignitaries. Partial fuelling available.

1 Squadron to **Eerde Mill**

1 Squadron to **Sint Oedenrode Market.**

Tuesday 17th September:

1 Squadron to **Sint Oedenrode** – Reenactment **evacuation of General Horrocks > Boekel.**

1 Squadron to **Sint Oedenrode** – Paddy Mc Rory Remembrance



1 Squadron to **Koeversdijk** – para drop. (overnight Veghel)

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Remaining groups movement via **UDEN, ZEELAND, GRAVE, OVERASSELT.**



1 Squadron to **Balgoij** for static display.
Overnight in Overasselt.

Wednesday 18th September:

Squadrons from **Eerde Mill, Sint Oedenrode, Overasselt & Veghel > Groesbeek.**



2 Squadrons – **town display in Groesbeek.**
Camp Open to public. Evening music and entertainment.
Artillery Squadron to the Island.



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Thursday 19th September:

Groesbeek camp open all day.

Evening soirée for participants.



Friday 20th September:

Move out from Groesbeek via Nijmegen to Bommel.



3 Squadrons to Nijmegen for static display.

Displays in Bommel town and Wreath laying.

Soirée in camp in the same location where XXX Corps ended its journey in September 1944.

END of Commemoration.



Saturday 21st September:

Loading for ferries and dispersal.

Timings to be announced on the next pages.

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Requirements

Please note that all vehicles must have at least the following.

- Fire extinguisher (please check expiry date) and a first aid kit,
- Useable jerry can,
- Reflective Safety Vest,
- Warning triangle,
- Refuse bag,
- Drip sheet to put under your vehicle when parked. We can supply these on base camp 1 Euro each.



Ferry schedule and arrivals

UK Participants: Ferry Departures. We will be sending out the booking references for every vehicle/group. **NB:** There will be ETS charges per vehicle. This will be notified in due course, it is approximately £10 per journey now, so that would be £20 return.



Hull > Rotterdam
(P&O)

Sunday 8th September 20:30 hrs. – ETA 08:45hrs (Monday AM)

Returning Saturday 21st September 20:30 hrs.
ETA 08:45 hrs. (Sunday AM)

Newcastle > IJmuiden
(Amsterdam) (DFDS)

Sunday 8th September 17:30 hrs. – ETA 09:45hrs (Monday AM)

Returning Saturday 21st September 17:00 hrs.
ETA 09:45 hrs. (Sunday AM)

Dover > Dunkirk
(DFDS)

Monday 9th September 10:00 hrs. – ETA 13:00 hrs.

Returning Saturday 21st September 15:00 hrs.
ETA 19:00 hrs.

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Harwich > Hoek of Holland (STENA) Group 1:

On this Ferry we have 3 groups

Monday 9th September 23:00 hrs. ETA 08:00 hrs. (Tuesday AM)

Returning Saturday 21st September 22:00 hrs.

ETA 08:00 hrs. (Sunday AM)

Group 2:

Tuesday 10th September 09:00 hrs. ETA 17:15 hrs.

Returning Saturday 21st September 15:15 hrs. ETA 22:45 hrs.

Group 3:

Tuesday 10th September 23:00 hrs. ETA 08:00 hrs. (Wednesday AM)

Returning Saturday 21st September 22:00hrs

ETA 08:00hrs (Sunday AM)

IMPORTANT!

There will be three sailings, one overnight and one day ferry. It is imperative that you pay attention to the e mail that will follow in due course about which ferry you are on. This is not our choice the ferry company has only given us a certain amount of space on the night ferry.

Dutch participants: We are reasonably flexible for your arrival in Leopoldsburg, but we would like you to be on site by the latest Thursday 12th September.



Other EU Arrivals: Please ensure that you too are on site at the latest by Thursday 12th September.

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You will all realize that this is a big operation and there will be times when it will be a case of hurry up and wait. This has been a long time in planning and there is still a lot to do, but we are confident that it will be a very memorable commemoration.

What can YOU do for this event?

Until now, the organization of the XXX Corps Military Remembrance Convoy Belgium/Netherlands 2024 lies with a small team of volunteers. Because the final implementation phase is now rapidly approaching, we are calling on volunteers to come forward to play a role in the implementation of this initial event.

This can be either implementation-technical or organizational. Any help is welcome currently.

We look forward to receiving your application via d.ops@ltf-hq.com

