

The Bombing of Huissen

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During the last days of the Battle of Arnhem (Operation Market Garden 17-26 September 1944), the 2nd SS Panzer Corps planned a counter offensive and defeated the 1st British Airborne Division in the southern region of Arnhem in heavy fighting causing the townspeople to try to flee. The Germans then tried to force all of the British off an island in the middle of the Rhine River where the towns of Elden and Bemmel were south of Arnhem. As they were being forced southward by the SS Panzer Corps, the townspeople of Arnhem fled the fighting to the south across the ferries, and the Arnhem Road Bridge, onto the island where the small town of Huissen resided. The townspeople had received word that the U.S. 82nd Airborne had dropped just south of Nijmegen, and believed, that if they could work their way south past the German forces, they could make it to relative safety southeast of the 82nd Airborne. They were mistaken. When they fled onto the island, the Germans rounded them up and concentrated them in the Town of Huissen.

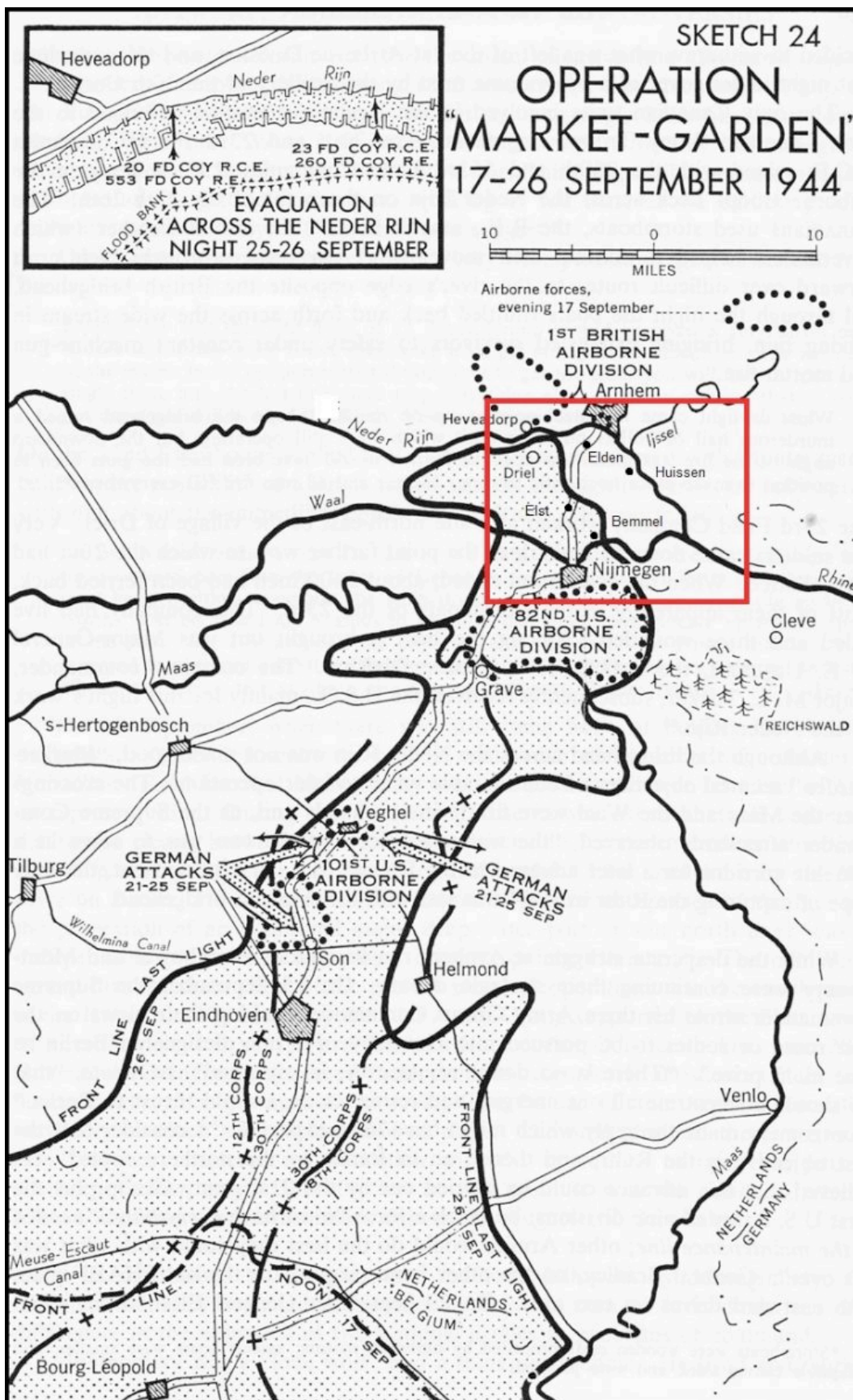
The Germans kept the Dutch civilians captive from 17 September 1944 to the fateful morning of 2 October 1944.

On 2 October 1944, at the request of General Thomas GOC 43rd Wessex Division, and being responsible for the defense of the island, the Allied Air Corps launched a series of bomber raids on the German bridgehead positions to the south of Arnhem in an effort to disrupt the German counter attack. The bulk of the air strikes were aimed at known German concentrated positions and the bridge points of the lower Rhine, The ferry sites at Huissen, Looveer, and Pannerden, and in particular the Arnhem Road Bridge area.

Allied reconnaissance, the day before, had seen that the town of Huissen was filled with German vehicles of the 9th Panzer Division. But during the night these had cleared the town and moved south.

On the morning of 2 October 1944, at precisely 1100 hours, 24 medium "Mitchells bombers" dropped their deadly bomb loads directly on the center of the small walled town of Huissen and some of it's surrounding farms. The civilian population, and the captive people who fled Arnhem, didn't stand a chance. They had been unable to flee past the German roadblocks set up at every canal, ferry site, or dike crossing. The Germans had the road bridge to Arnhem completely blocked by Panzer tanks. The citizens were prisoners on the island town of Huissen and were trying to sit out the battle in their cellars, the church, or other provisional hideouts. The bombs decimated the small town. 106 people from both towns ultimately perished, including the family of Johanness Christiaan Joosten (of Karperstraat 59 in Arnhem- Zuid), his wife Maria Magdalena Jansen daughter

to Lambertus Jansen husband of Magdalena Berendina Cornelia Engles, and his 18-year-old son Theodorus Gerardus Joosten. Lambertus Jansen somehow survived the bombardment, and died some years later in Arnhem. He also returned after he recovered in Hospital in Ede to Karperstraat 59 to live. No death records are yet available for him.



Though the German 9th Panzer Division suffered losses. At least 2 of the howitzer guns being knocked out at 't Zand, they were mostly all to the south when the bombing raid took place.

In the days that followed, soldiers of the U.S. 82ndst and volunteers from Arnhem-Zuid (south Arnhem), sifted through the small town searching for survivors. On 4 October 1944 Lambertus Jansen and Johannes Christiaan Joosten were found alive yet seriously injured and were taken to a hospital in Ede. Johannes Christiaan died of his injuries 2 days later. Survivors were also found in the small farms outside of town. The bodies of the townspeople were buried in a mass grave dug by the paratroopers and volunteers in the town cemetery.

After the war a memorial wall was built around the mass grave, and the names of those killed on 2 October 1944 were engraved in the lower wall.



The above image is the town of Huissen, a southern suburb of Arnhem separated by the Nederrijn Canal. Lake Zwanewater is pictured in the upper right of the picture.

Below is an image of the mass grave where the citizens of Huissen and the refugees from Arnhem were buried.



Death record of Theodorus Gerardus Joosten

Naam:	Joosten, Theodorus Gerardus
Vader:	Joosten, Johaness Christiaan
Moeder:	Jansen, Maria Magdalena
Geboortedatum:	onbekend (unknown)
Geboorteplaats:	Arnhem
Overleden:	2-10-1944
Leeftijd:	18
Beroep:	Zonder beroep (not employed)
Plaats van overlijden:	Huissen (place of burial)
Adres:	Karperstraat 59
Woonplaats:	Arnhem
Begraafplaats: (RK ged.)	Huissen, gem.begraafplaats, Doelenstraat
Grafnummer:	Massagraf (mass grave)
Bijzonderheden:	

Tijdens de Slag om Arnhem met zijn ouders en grootvader Lambertus Jansen Arnhem-Zuid gevlucht naar Huissen. Daar komt hij om bij het geallieerd bombardement van Huissen, samen met zijn moeder.

Zijn vader raakt zwaar gewond en overlijdt zes dagen later in een ziekenhuis in Ede of overlijdt ter plekke. Er zijn namelijk twee lezingen mogelijk.

During the Battle of Arnhem, along with his parents and grandfather Lambertus Jansen from Arnhem he fled south to Huissen. He came to his death from the Allied Bombardment of Huissen, Along with his mother.

His father is badly injured and dies six days later in a hospital in Ede. Or dies on the spot. There are two different versions.

Death Record of Maria Magdalena Jansen Joosten:

Naam:	Joosten, Maria Magdalena
Meisjesnaam:	Jansen
Geboortedatum:	onbekend
Geboorteplaats:	Arnhem
Vader:	Lambertus Jansen
Moeder:	Magdalena Berendina Cornelia Engles
Overleden:	2-10-1944
Leeftijd:	42
Beroep:	onbekend
Plaats van overlijden:	Huissen
Adres:	Karperstraat 59
Woonplaats:	Arnhem
Begraafplaats ged.)	Huissen, gem. Begraafplaats, Doelenstraat (RK
Grafnummer:	Massgraf
Bijzonderheden:	

Vlucht tijdens de Slag om Arnhem voor de gevechten met haar gezin vanuit Arnhem-Zuid naar Huissen. Daar komt ze met haar zoon Theodorus Gerardus (18) en vader Lambertus Jansen (73) op 2 oktober 1944 om het leven bij het geallieerd bombardement op het stadje. Haar echtgenoot raakt hierbij zwaar gewond en overlijdt zes dagen later te Ede of overlijdt ter plakke. Er zijn namelijk twee lezingen mogelijk.

She fled during the battle of Arnhem, because of fighting, with her family from Arnhem- South to Huissen where she came with her son Theodorus Gerardus

(18) and father Lambertus Jansen (73) on 2 October 1944 and was killed by Allied bombing of the town. Her husband was badly injured and dies 6 days later in Ede, or dies on the spot. There are two different versions.

Dear Mr. Jansen, have taken time to honor your request for information on the family of your great grandfather. Have found no other records on Lambertus Jansen. The house where the family lived still exists at Karperstraat 59, it survived the war, however the whole of the street is scheduled for demolition. I wish you further luck with your research. You may also try to get a personal record card of your great grandfather by the CBG in Den Haag

Yours sincerely,

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