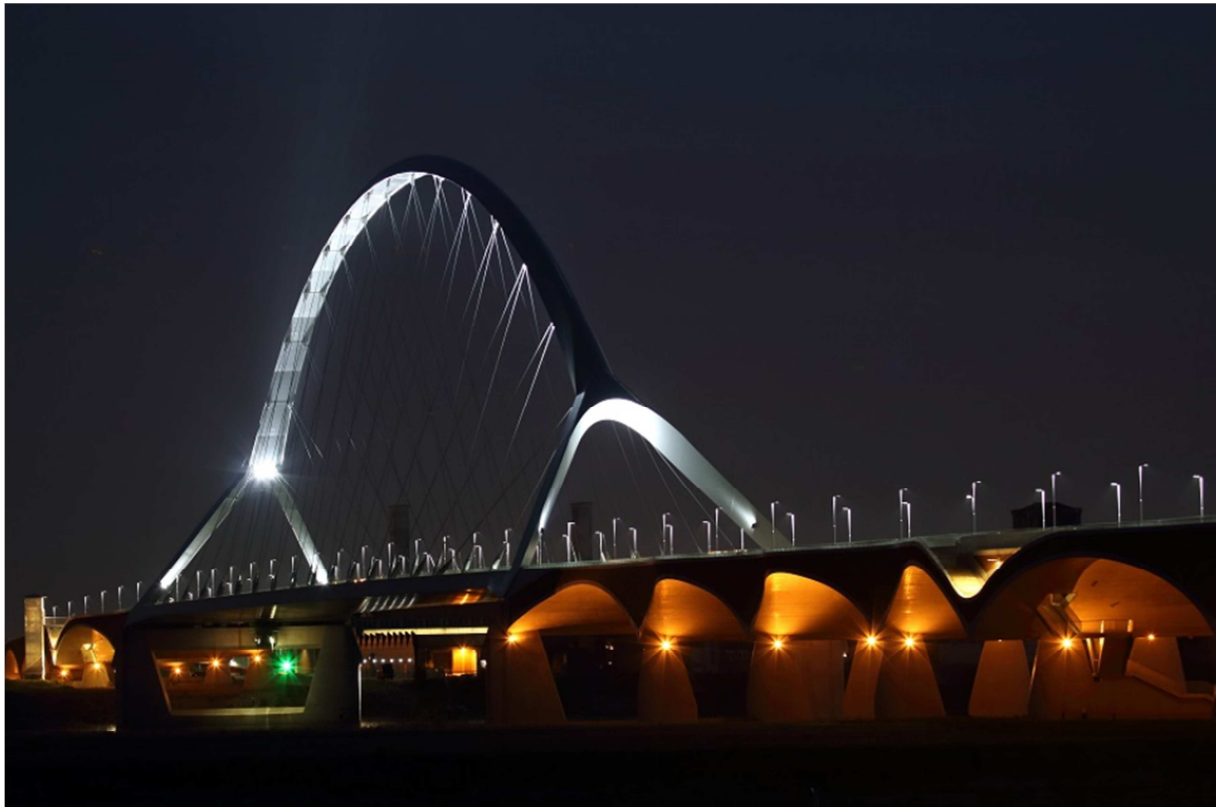


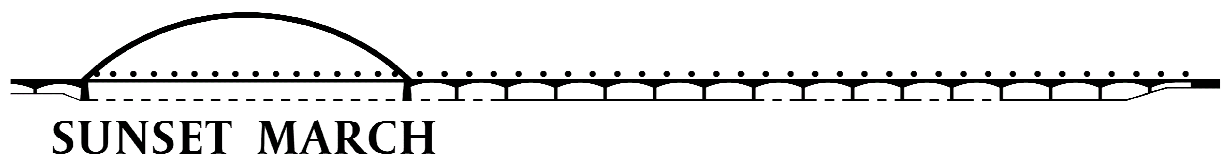
ANNUAL REPORT 2016



SUNSET MARCH FOUNDATION

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1. What is the Sunset March?

Origin

The Sunset March is an initiative founded by veterans from the Overbetuwe region (website: <http://www.veteranenoverbetuwe.nl>). During a meeting of the Overbetuwe Veterans Organisation on 27 September 2014, Tim Ruijling launched the idea to have a look at the possibilities for using the “Lights Crossing” light monument on the new city bridge “De Oversteek” (*the crossing*) in Nijmegen to realise a living and daily tribute to our allied liberators. This idea immediately met with a lot of support and once the necessary website had been launched, the first Sunset March took place on 19 October 2014. The first initiators were: Henk Hanenburg, Douwe Osinga, Wim van Mierlo Tim Ruijling and Dirk-Jan van Zuidam. In addition to the abovementioned initiators, George de Jongh, René Scheeres and Kees Bleijerveld are also members of the foundation’s board. Since 11 November 2015, the Sunset March foundation has been a foundation with cultural ANBI (*Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling*/non-profit organisation) status. The chairman is Tim Ruijling, the secretary is Kees Bleijerveld and the treasurer is Douwe Osinga.



*Signing of the deed of foundation on 11 November 2015
From left to right: Kees, Tim and Douwe.*

How does it work?

Since 19 October 2014, the Sunset March has been a daily tribute to the Allied soldiers who fought for the liberation of the Netherlands. A new bridge, ‘De Oversteek’ [the crossing], was finalised in Nijmegen in 2013, close to the section of the Waal river where on 20 September 1944, American military personnel from US 82nd Airborne Division crossed the river to the northern side.



Panorama picture of the Waalcrossing (Bevrijdingsmuseum Groesbeek/Groesbeek Liberation Museum)

The Waal Crossing, as this action is known, cost 48 soldiers their lives. *Atelier Veldwerk* (Veldwerk Studios) created a light monument on the bridge, titled "Lights Crossing". This light monument on the new bridge is particularly striking. Along the bridge are 48 pairs of street lights, one for each soldier who lost his life. At twilight, the street lights are illuminated one pair at a time, at the pace of a slow march. It takes almost 12 minutes to illuminate all street lights. The first pair that is illuminated is located under the southern arch of the bridge, which resembles a reversed letter V.

Each night at sunset, a veteran walks the Sunset March over the bridge from south to north, walking at the pace at which the lights are illuminated, starting when the first pair is illuminated.



Veteran walking the Sunset March

Once he has arrived at the other side of the Waal, he will give the salute at the Waalcrossing monument. School classes, groups of friends or other interested civilians or veterans often join the veteran of the day when crossing the river, and many authorities and directors of national organisations - including veterans' organisations - have walked the Sunset March as well. On special occasions and commemorative dates, large groups of interested parties and participants join the Sunset March, a bugler plays the "Last Post" and

flowers and wreaths are laid. These special dates include: 4 and 5 May, the week of the Four Days' Marches Nijmegen, 20 September, 19 October and 11 November.

At the end of their Sunset March, veterans receive a unique, numbered certificate. Each day, only one veteran is designated that day's walker, which means that only one certificate will be issued that day, even if more veterans have joined the march. The names of the veterans who have walked the Sunset March are added to a register.

Website

Veterans can register for the Sunset March via the foundation's website (<http://www.sunsetmarch.nl>). The website also provides a lot of information, such as our objective and methods, the register of veterans who have walked the Sunset March, the foundation's contact details, experiences of walkers, photos and videos, etc.

Team Sunset March/ Team 31

In case not a single veteran has registered for a specific date via the website, a back-up group of walkers was set up: Team Sunset March. A member of this team will walk the march on those days when no one has registered. In addition to the 8 board members, Team Sunset March also includes Joey Blokland and Wim van Zijl. This means that there are 10 team members in total. In addition, there is a group of enthusiastic walkers who are prepared to take the place of the veteran of the day on a regular basis. This group of "regular walkers", who in principle are prepared to walk the march - on average - once a month, is called Team31.

2. Activities in 2016

Board meetings

The Executive Board met on two occasions. The entire board met four times. These meetings are held Saturdays at *Intratuin* garden centre in Elst while enjoying breakfast.

Cooperation

In 2016, the foundation worked together with a significant number of organisations. The Sunset March is well-received. In the relatively brief two-year period, it has grown into a much appreciated daily tribute. A large number of both formal and informal cooperative arrangements have developed. Without wanting to downplay the efforts of any parties involved, we specifically mention the Four Days' Marches, the V-fund, Liberation Route, Herberts Printers in Elst, Military Music's buglers, Liberation Museum, Kersten Retail Elst, Atelier Veldwerk (Veldwerk Studios), Fletcher Hotels, BAM for maintenance and repair of the lights, and many departments at the municipality of Nijmegen.

1 March:

On 1 March 2016, the 500th edition of the Sunset March was held. To make this milestone extra special, the King's Commissioner of the provinces of Gelderland, Clemens Cornielje, Sunset March Foundation. Secretariat: Kees Bleijerveld, Dennenlaan 147, 6543 JR Nijmegen.
Email: info@sunsetmarch.nl

and Noord-Brabant, Wim van der Donk, attended. It was pretty chilly that night as there was a strong wind and it was raining, with showers of hail. Despite the terrible weather, the walk was a success and both commissioners expressed the wish to join in on milestone marches in the future.



The King's Commissioners of Gelderland and Noord-Brabant laying a wreath at the Waalcrossing monument.

5 March:

On 5 March, the **504th**!! Sunset March took place. To honour the unique, symbolic occasion, a delegation of **504** PIR from 82nd Airborne Division, led by the commander of the 1st Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, Colonel Colin Tuley, came over from the United States. Colonel Tuley was the walk's veteran of the day.

18 March:

Mayor Carol van Eert and the Beuningen municipal authorities walked the Sunset March, together with representatives of the Beuningen Veterans' Platform.

4 and 5 May

To commemorate the liberation of the Netherlands, the liberation flame is annually brought from Normandy to Wageningen by relay. From Wageningen it is then brought to different locations around the country by relay teams. In cooperation with the Nijmegen Global Athletics Foundation, a Sunset March team received and guarded the liberation flame during the night of 4 to 5 May at the Waalcrossing monument. The team slept in an old army tent, which was erected next to the monument. After relay runners from Nijmegen had brought the flame to the monument during the night, the Sunset March Team guarded the flame during the night, next to the monument. On Liberation Day (5 May), the Sunset March Team then took the flame to the Liberation Festival Nijmegen event location in a historic military jeep, accompanied by runners from Nijmegen Global Athletics.

10 April

Exactly 100 days prior to the 100th edition of the Four Days' Marches Nijmegen. To generate extra attention for the foundation, Bert van der Lans walked the Sunset March this day. Having completed the Four Days' Marches 68 times, Bert van der Lans (84) is the event's record holder. This year, he joined the Four Days' Marches for the 69th time. In addition, Bert van der Lans brought in new sponsors during the event through the fundraiser organised by the V-fund and the Four Days' Marches's organisation.



Bert v.d. Lans

100th Four Days' Marches (18 to 22 July)

A unique cooperation exists between the Sunset March and the International Four Days' Marches Nijmegen. Both have a military background and a special bond with the city of Nijmegen, making cooperation a logical step. This year marked the centenary of the Four Days' Marches. In order to generate extra attention for both events, and to give national and international military personnel the opportunity to join the Sunset March, large international contingents of military personnel staying at Kamp Heumensoord walked the Sunset March on Monday and Tuesday (18 and 19 July 2016) of the Four Days' Marches week. On both days, the contingents were accompanied by a large number of interested visitors. On the two other days of the Four Days' Marches event, smaller contingents of military personnel walked the Sunset March. Representatives of the Veterans Institute and three Sunset March board members joined these Four Days' Marches to collect money for the event.



Contingent of Four Days' Marches participants

7 September

Sunset March Foundation. Secretariat: Kees Bleijerveld, Dennenlaan 147, 6543 JR Nijmegen.
Email: info@sunsetmarch.nl

Two board members manned a Sunset March stand at the Royal Netherlands Air Force annual veterans' day.

20 September

On 20 September 2016, it was exactly 72 years since the Waalcrossing took place, and an American delegation was invited to commemorate this special occasion. The former Commander of the 1st Brigade 82nd Airborne Division, Colonel Trevor Bredenkamp, led the delegation. This memorable Sunset March was attended by a large number of interested visitors.



20 September 2016

30 September

Three Sunset March board members manned a stand during the Netherlands Military Tattoo in Rotterdam Ahoy.

15 and 16 October

The entire board, with their partners, took part in an excursion to the battlefields of the First World War near Ypres in Belgium. Gielt Algra, historian at the Veterans' Institute, acted as their guide. On Saturday night 15 October 2016, the board took part in the very impressive Last Post Ceremony at the Menenpoort. They had the privilege of acting as that night's guard of honour. The ceremony is held on a daily basis, just like the Sunset March, and on this day it drew an impressive crowd of 1500 participants and visitors.



Sunset March board are the guards of honour during the Last Post ceremony.

11 November

11 November was International Veterans' Day, and it also marked the first anniversary of the Sunset March Foundation. For this occasion, all veterans that had previously walked the Sunset March were invited to walk the march together. About 50 people accepted the invitation. Together they walked the Sunset March, and after the march they caught up with each other and enjoyed drinks at the Waalhalla events centre at the foot of the crossing.

3. Other news from 2016

Fundraising

This year, two fundraisers were held. JUMBO McCleane in Elst held a fundraiser to raise money for local clubs and organisations. The total proceeds were €349.61. A successful fundraiser was also held during the Four Days' Marches. With the help of several enthusiastic Four Days' Marches participants, including our board members Tim, Wim and Kees, we managed to raise the impressive amount of €1,728.

Finally, the Sunset March was also selected for the "We are Nijmegen" campaign, an initiative of Nijmegen municipality. Considered a promising initiative that unites people, our foundation was awarded €500 through this campaign. Our foundation also received two substantial donations/gifts.

Information / Cooperation

The board members provided information about the Sunset March to veterans' organisations in the wide surrounding area. This included information sessions in: Ermelo, Beneden Leeuwen, Beuningen, Wageningen and Doetinchem. A presentation was also given at the Mondial College in Nijmegen for 7 pre-vocational secondary education (VMBO) classes.

On 8 November, the chairman held a presentation on Sunset March in the Berg en Dal town hall during a meeting of several organisations from the region dealing with commemorations and remembrance related to the Second World War; the objective was to see how organisations can cooperate. In the same context, a meeting was held on 2 December to Sunset March Foundation. Secretariat: Kees Bleijerveld, Dennenlaan 147, 6543 JR Nijmegen.

Email: info@sunsetmarch.nl

bundle initiatives, which was attended by three Sunset March board members. This meeting organised by the Museums and Commemorative Centres 40-45 foundation was held at the National Liberation Museum in Groesbeek.

RNLA video

In November, the RNLA produced a short video on the Sunset March for the RNLA's Facebook page. After a few days, the film had already been viewed by 21,000 visitors!!!

New jackets

Thanks to the generous contribution from Kersten Retail from Elst, the full Sunset March Team received new jackets in September.



*9 team members in the new jackets from Kersten Retail
From left to right: George de Jongh, Henk Hanenburg, Dirk-Jan van Zuidam Douwe Osinga, Wim van Zijl, Rene Scheeres, Kees Bleijerveld,
Wim van Mierlo and Tim Ruijling. Absent: Joey Blokland*

4. SUNSET MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT 2016*

Income:

Refund incorrect payment Bleijerveld:	€50.00
Travel allowance NCHC 1945 Wageningen Foundation	€12.16
JUMBO campaign	€349.61
Donation from Nijmegen municipality - "We Are Nijmegen" campaign	€500.00 €1,724.00
Proceeds from the Four Days' Marches charity walk Donations	€1,125.00+
	€3,760.77

Total income up to 27 Nov:

Expenditure

Reimbursement of the costs paid by Bleijerveld	€50.00
Printing costs	€171.20
Costs of the secretariat	€12.65
Travel allowance	€32.30
Payment of outstanding account Ruijling "de Oversteek" banner	€38.20 €102.41
Costs for RABO Bank account	€146.42
Bailiff's fees (including registration with the Chamber of Commerce)*	€167.62 €42.35
Photo shoot	€349.00
Expenses for the weekend in Ypres (museums/flowers)	€8.00
Expenses for the board meeting at Intratuin garden centre Liberation Museum	€19.95 €151.25
Photo shoot	€299.00
Purchase beamer	€60.00
Costs for <i>Profistep</i> work clothing, purchase jacket Costs web domain	€167.05+

Total expenses up to 31 December **€1,817.40**

Balance 20-01-16	€344.09
Income	€3,760.77
Expenses	<u>€1,817.40</u>
Balance 01-01-2017	€2,287.46

*Account operational on 18-01-2016. Overview up to and including 27/11/2016. The bailiff costs are under appeal.

5. SUNSET MARCH plans/budget 2017

Plans

Sunset March activities are scheduled for the dates listed below. During these events, expenses are made to hire a bugler and for the purchase of flowers and wreaths:

5 April: Sunset March 900

4 and 5 May: Remembrance Day and Liberation Day. Arrival/guarding liberation flame and special Sunset March

14 July: Sunset March 1000

18-21 July: The International Four Days' Marches. Special Sunset Marches

5 August: 82nd Division centenary

15 August: 82nd Airborne Division 75th anniversary

20 September: commemoration 73 years since the Waalcrossing

11 November: International Veterans' Day

The Sunset March foundation would like to participate in National Veterans' Day in The Hague on Saturday 24 June 2017. In 2016, we were unable to arrange this.

Budget

The following costs are budgeted for 2017:

- Costs of running the website:	€170
- Costs of bank account:	€165
- Travel expenses:	€150
- Buying flowers/wreaths:	€180
- Costs for a bugler	€100
- Costs of the secretariat:	€125
- Purchase of banners	€250
- Printing costs:	€250 +
Budget 2017 - total	€1,390