

## 26 Eusebiuskerk

St. Eusebiuskerk, also well known as “de Grote Kerk” (the Great Church), fell victim to the hostilities in the Battle of Arnhem. For the fifteenth century church, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1452, this time, September 1944, ushered in the start of the destruction.



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### Sunday 17 September 1944

In his sermon on 17 September 1944 the Reverend Johan Gerritsen quoted psalm 91: “...thou shalt not be afraid...”. Halfway through the church service, which had started at 10 am, the electricity supply failed which meant that organist Simon C. Jansen was unable to continue playing the eighteenth-century Wagner organ. [1] This organ, dating from 1769-1770 and built by the famous organ builders Johann Michael Wagner (1723-1801) and Johannes Wagner (1734-1804), would not survive the Battle of Arnhem.

At 10.45 am the air-raid siren sounded for the third time that morning. The first two had been false alarms, but this time bombs fell on various places, including the Willemskazerne (barracks). An unknown number of churchgoers died in the bombing while on their way home from church. However, St. Eusebiuskerk remained undamaged for the time being. Later in the morning the three members of the Air Defence Service who were present, were reinforced by the arrival of seven more. The team leader of this fire picket for art security of the Grote Kerk and Tower was W.A. Bozelie. On 20 November 1944, while at his evacuation address in Eerbeek, he wrote an official report on the activities of his group during that period in September. After the war this report ‘disappeared’ in mysterious circumstances. Bozelie only became aware of this with the appearance in 1981 of the book Arnhem 44 /45. Evacuatie, verwoesting, plundering, bevrijding, terugkeer (Arnhem 44/45. Evacuation, destruction, plundering, liberation, return). In the book, Municipal Archivist Piet van Iddekinge made no mention of the report. Fortunately, Bozelie had kept a copy, which he handed over to the Municipal Archive.

### Monday 18 September 1944

Bozelie wrote about Monday 18 September in his report:

“On Monday morning at about 6 o’ clock [the] tower and [the] church roof came under heavy machinegun fire from the British at the bridge, followed later by fire from an armoured vehicle. (Probably due to a little carelessness by the lookout men, who were watching from behind a wall and wearing helmets). At great risk to their lives all the men, whom I had detailed to spread out over the church roof and tower, succeeded in getting to the comparative safety of the tower.

After a few hours the firing was so fierce - pieces of masonry and bullets flew about our ears -, and after a telephone conversation with the Chief Fire Officer [A. Jonker], I decided to withdraw the men from the tower and withdraw to the church building. For example, if I wanted to use the telephone I had to wait for a break in the gunfire, otherwise I had to cross the firing line continually.

After one of the climbs up the tower the Fire Chief was asked by 'phone if food and drink could be provided from the Fire Station. The reply was that the situation on the streets was so dangerous that no one could be sent out to fetch or bring food, and I was given leave to buy or requisition food in the vicinity of the church." [2]

Although it seems that Bozelie wrote that the British parachutists used an armoured vehicle to fire at the tower he is mistaken. In fact the British had no armour with them, just jeeps, small trailers and four anti-tank guns. The Germans did indeed possess armoured vehicles, such as those of SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 10 at Westervoortsedijk and SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs-Abteilung 9, which that morning tried to cross the Rhine Bridge from the south (see also point 18).

The 67 year-old architect Hendrik Tiemens had a fine view of the church from his house. He wrote in his diary:

"There is regular gunfire, rifle- and artillery fire. We stay indoors all day, in the kitchen and the downstairs room. The least dangerous parts of the house. The house protrudes further into the southern part of Koningstraat than the other houses which makes the upper rooms dangerous, also because the British are shooting from the side of the Markt.

Before noon shots were fired at the tower. Ad watched as a section of the upper balustrade was shot away and called me. I saw a second shell hit the tower: it ricocheted off the east clock face (between numbers IV and V). Shots are fired from an easterly direction, probably by the Germans who perhaps think that the British are using the tower as a lookout post. Constant heavy fire, sometimes air battles (shooting of aircraft) above us." [3]

Meanwhile Bozelie went looking for food and drink, which he found after a long search. In the late afternoon he reached the Fire Station in Beekstraat and handed out bread and butter:

"While I was visiting the Fire Station. they expressed amazement that we were still in the tower and church, especially now that the shooting was getting heavier and that the Germans were now using heavy artillery against the tower. The tower was under fire from two sides, namely the south and east.

When I left the Fire Station I took the keys to the pump room with me. In doing so I asked Mr v. Oene, an Arnhem Fire Service full-time fireman, to explain to me again how the pump installation worked, the pump operation being his job. To his explanation he added the words "Keep your hands off the pump installation." (These words were heard by Mr L. Clerkx, Arnhem Fire Station telephonist.)

In the afternoon a window in the vestry on the Kippenmarkt was smashed by German soldiers, who then took us for parachutists. But after some explanation this was set to rights and we continued on undisturbed in the church and tower. The Germans ran various telephone lines in the church and tower and set up lookout posts." [4]

## Tuesday 19 September 1944

Bozelie and his team were still in the church:

"On Tuesday morning at about 3 am, we saw a fire in the first gallery from our position in the clockmaker's room, and in spite of the heavy gunfire that was still being directed at the tower and the church, team member W. Haverkamp and I went to the tower and succeeded in extinguishing this small fire which was confined mainly to a pile of rope.

I suspected there would be more fires, and since entering the tower was now becoming so dangerous I would need to resort to using the available sprinkler system to fight any possible future fires. And to do this I would have to switch on the pump installation.

In order to convince myself that the installation was in working order I decided, despite Mr v. Oene's parting words when I visited the Fire Station, to run the pump installation engine nevertheless, to make certain that the pump would operate immediately in the event of a fire.

When we tried to start the engine, the battery proved to be flat, so a battery start was impossible. This was also witnessed by team member W. Haverkamp, whom I intended leaving in the pump cellar to operate the engine if necessary, allowing me to lead any eventual fire-fighting work.

I knew there was a starting handle in a small cabinet by the pump installation, but I had to break into the cabinet because there was no key on the bunch. But even with the starting handle we couldn't get the engine going.

As soon as it seemed a bit safer to do so, I went back to the Fire Station to get some petrol, which we were also short of. The fuel tank on the engine was less than half full. I wanted to collect a new battery, too. For some unknown reason there was no battery available for me, or in stock, so I returned to the church having not succeeded in my task.

Arriving back at the church I found that German soldiers had broken down the doors on the big market side and had set up machinegun nests, parapets etc there, whereupon at about 2 to 3 pm I decided to leave the church. After leaving the church and tower we made our way to the Fire Station, but after a few hours we were ordered out by German soldiers and we went to the emergency control post in Rosendaalscheweg. The Chief Fire Officer was there and I reported to him that we had left the church and tower. [5]

Nonetheless, when I arrived at our evacuation address in Eerbeek that same commander upbraided me for deserting my post. He did this in the presence of two directors of the Huiskamp and Sanders paper company, where we were lodged at the time.

After compiling my official report I gave it to the head of the office for art security [G.H. van der Heide] in Velperweg. He called it a damning report for the commander [A. Jonker] and thought it would come as a blow to him. (.....) I never saw Jonker once during my visits to the Fire Station in Beekstraat in those days in September. Someone said he was looking for a safer place for the post. I thought he could easily have given that job to his administrator or to one of the senior firemen. But Jonker got his medal and therefore I do not believe it was officially known what actually took place at the tower." [6]

## Wednesday 20 September 1944 - a German 'friendly fire' incident

The St. Eusebiuskerk tower formed a recognisable orientation point in the chaotic fighting around the bridge. Each side had the other under mortar fire, which after three days seemed to have become increasingly accurate. It is therefore not surprising that the British and the Germans assumed that their opponents had put an observation post in the tower. Up until now no evidence of this has been found. [7] Close study of German eyewitness accounts and conversations with German veterans show that there were no British in the church until late in the evening of 20 September. Even then it was only parachutists seeking shelter, and by that time the tower was already burnt-out and inaccessible.

As mentioned earlier, the British parachutists had no armoured vehicles, only anti-tank guns. These were deployed against the growing number of German tanks and armoured vehicles. By Wednesday afternoon there was only one gun left. Furthermore, it appears from Bozelie's account that German machinegun positions had been set up in the church on Monday. In spite of the telephone lines Bozelie saw being placed, the Germans on the west side of the bridge had no radio contact with their comrades on the east side. [8] Because of this the Germans also had trouble in co-ordinating the fighting.

From the church tower the German gunners had an excellent view of the Markt, both Eusebiussingels and the bridge. Doubtless they fired at soldiers on the ground, who must have looked like miniature dolls on Eusebiusbuitensingel. During the fighting SS-Sturmbannführer Hans-Georg Sonnenstuhl, commander of Battle Group Sonnenstuhl (see also point 18), was in a corner house close to the corner of Eusebiusbuitensingel and Westervoortsedijk - a few dozen metres from the Van Limburg Stirum School. On Wednesday morning he was wounded by machinegun fire from the church tower. Sonnenstuhl assumed incorrectly that they were British gunners.

"During our artillery bombardment two enemy machine gunners had ensconced themselves in the church tower, causing us serious problems. Like two other artillery gunners I was lightly wounded by this machinegun fire. In order to eliminate these church tower gunners we loaded the gun with an incendiary shell and aimed at the middle of the tower. Fire, explosion, dust cloud. There was no more gunfire from the church tower." [9]

Sapper Tom Carpenter with his comrades from 2 Platoon, 9th Airborne Field Company, Royal Engineers, were the last reinforcements to arrive at the Rhine Bridge in the early morning of 18 September. He later recalled the St. Eusebiuskerk tower being set alight by gunfire:

"The tower of the Grote Kerk caught fire on Wednesday afternoon. We were aware that the Germans had an observation post there throughout the entire action at the bridge. I don't know the extent of the damage to the church but it must have been considerable." [10]

That night the tower steeple was completely destroyed by fire and on Wednesday morning the woodwork in the lower section of the tower suffered the same fate. The bells began to ring as they were struck by falling masonry from the steeple. This produced an eerie sound that could be heard in the wide surroundings. [11]

## St. Eusebiuskerk as prisoner-of-war camp

After leaving the Insula Deī on Walburgisplein during the night of 20/21 September 1944 (see point 22), Major Tony Hibbert, brigade major of the British 1st Parachute Brigade, was taken prisoner in a garden close to the Markt:

“Accompanied by about ten other ranks who had also been captured by the same group, I was marched off to the square in front of the cathedral [St. Eusebiuskerk] where a depressing sight met our eyes. Approximately twenty officers and two hundred other ranks, representing virtually all of the unwounded POWs, were held in two separate groups: officers on one side and the men on the other. This was a great shock because you expected that at least some could have broken out. (.....)

The German guards were very lax and it was easy to walk to and fro between the groups, an opportunity not many of us missed. (.....) We now had the chance to take a closer look at the people we had fought against. They were from the SS-Division “Hohenstaufen”, which had recently been involved in heavy fighting in France. The first thing I noticed was the age of the lower NCOs and privates: the majority seemed to be no older than 16 or 17, although they would not admit to being under 18.

The regimental sergeant-major, [of the Germans] was in our faces throughout the entire day. The regimental sergeant-major is the key figure in a German battalion, and this one was a real, sadistic Nazi bully. He never lowered his voice below a scream and had every German within a few hundred metres shaking in his boots. All the ‘Jerries’ seemed to be enormously pleased that they had captured us and a lot of them came to look us over.

When I talked with a few they said that they had never had to fight so hard, not even on the Western and Eastern fronts. The jeeps they had ‘won’ from us proved to be an inexhaustible source of fun for them. They had a strange idea of how to use the vehicles and raced through the streets carrying too much load, sometimes with flat tyres. (.....)

The rest of the booty was systematically dealt with. All the extra clothing, equipment, weapons and ammunition we had with us were carefully sorted and stacked against the cathedral walls. Although it was depressing to see how many weapons and how much equipment had been taken, it was satisfying to see how small the pile of ammunition was: a half dozen shells for a 6-pounder gun that had long been knocked out, and a few dozen .303 bullets. (.....)

At 2 o’clock [British time] we were herded into the burnt-out cathedral; the officers in a small room [the vestry] and the other ranks in the nave. Stricter discipline was now enforced; machine-guns were positioned around us and everyone was ordered to sit on the floor. We were told that anyone who stood up without permission would be shot.

Our stay in the cathedral was made none the nicer by the rubble from the roof and walls which fell to ground from above every now and then. No one was injured but it was a close call at times. We were given no water or food, and since most men had had little to drink in the previous days this was a severe test. Almost everyone took the opportunity to make up some of the sleep they had lost over the past four days.

At six-thirty [British time] we were sent outside and told that we were to be taken to another location. The discipline was much stricter and the officers and men had to form up separately, six rows wide. Major [Freddie] Gough, as senior British officer, took command of the parade, with Captain [John] Killick as interpreter, and the German officer gave instructions via Killick.” [\[12\]](#)

The 18 year-old SS-Oberschütze Horst Weber was one of the few 21. SS-Panzer Grenadier Regiment of 10. SS-Panzer-Division "Fruundsberg" soldiers who had remained behind after the Battle of Arnhem was over. He was responsible for the hand-over of the British prisoners-of-war in St. Eusebiuskerk to units of 9. SS-Panzer-Division "Hohenstaufen" who were in charge of transporting the prisoners. According to Weber one German soldier stood near the heap of British weapons while another guarded the lorries. [13] Weber himself carried a machinegun and opened the back door of St. Eusebiuskerk:

"I was afraid that the British would make a dash for the heap of weapons in front of the church. They would have been able to shoot at least some of us. But I positioned the machine gunner there with plenty of ammunition. One way or another the British were discouraged." [14]

On the Markt the British NCOs and privates were ordered to board lorries. Corporal Leslie McCreesh of the 2nd Parachute Battalion was one of them. He recalled:

"We were taken by lorry and train to Limburg-an-der-Lahn (Stalag XIIC)." [15]

The earlier-mentioned SS-Sturmbannführer Hans-Georg Sonnenstuhl remembered the British prisoners-of-war on that Friday:

"In agreement with two British officers, the surviving British parachutists formed without ceremony into a large marching formation in which their lightly-wounded comrades were taken along helped by their mates, and the seriously wounded were placed on makeshift stretchers which four men carried on their shoulders. The guards were chosen from 9. SS-Panzer-Division "Hohenstaufen" " [16]

After the British POWs had been taken elsewhere, more and more German units left for the Betuwe in an attempt to hold up the vanguard of British 2nd Army. These manoeuvres appeared to be successful when the army commander, Lieutenant General Miles Dempsey, gave the order to withdraw the exhausted remnants of the surrounded 1st Airborne Division in Oosterbeek back across the Rhine during the night of 25/26 September. That day Dempsey's leading units had captured Elst after heavy fighting, but he considered them to be in no fit state to advance further towards Arnhem.

So the withdrawal of the 1st Airborne Division signalled the end of the Battle of Arnhem, although the majority of the Arnhem population knew nothing about this because they had already been evacuated (see also point 32).

## Further destruction after the Battle of Arnhem

The Arnhem art historian Dr. P. Glazema, employed by the Rijksbureau voor de Monumentenzorg (State Office for Monuments Maintenance), and G.H. van der Heide from the Kunstbeschermingsdienst (Art Security Service) visited the damaged St. Eusebiuskerk shortly after the fighting at the Rhine Bridge. After the war they wrote:

"[We] (...) arrive at the great church whose tower, despite the terrible damage, still points majestically skywards, huge and mighty. Sadly, the tower steeple, the characteristic octagonal tent roof, is missing, while the square Gothic body on the east side has been so badly hit that there is a triangular-shaped hole reaching almost to the transept. The church interior is completely burnt out, even down to a part of the floor, which was made of wood. (.....) The arches in the choir and the inner walls, in fact the church's entire nave was otherwise intact." [17]

On Sunday afternoon 24 September, Mr J.K. van der Haagen LLM, head of the Art Security and Science Section of the Department of Education, Science and Culture Security decided to visit Arnhem personally, wishing to see the scale of the damage for himself. He actually lived and worked in Apeldoorn. Accompanied by the Velp architect J.G.A. Heineman, the inspector of Art Security Service Moveable Property, he visited the centre of Arnhem. Next day he wrote a report on the visit:

"The Eusebiuskerk, one of the "specially protected monuments", has been very badly hit. The tower steeple is gone, the square section immediately below the octagonal lantern has an enormous hole on the East side which runs from the arch opening onto the nave - which is badly out of alignment - up to the gallery at the start of the octagon.

The church itself is completely burnt out, the organ and furniture are no more, the roofs are gone as are the arches, which have been preserved in the choir, however. The brickwork surrounding the tomb of Karel van Egmont [Karel van Egmond = Duke Karel van Gelre] seems to be entirely free of damage. A quick look at the columns gave me the impression that they had suffered no serious fire damage. I was told that the art protection service had to work with virtually no equipment because the Fire Station where this was kept had been blown up at the outset. If no new disasters occur the church is certainly repairable. Mr Heineman mentioned a round sum of 200,000 guilders, which I thought was a bit on the low side.

Nevertheless the team [of the Art Security Service] remained at its post from Sunday until Tuesday evening. By then the tower was burning and shots were being fired from the church roof. One was not allowed to use the sprinkler system because machinegun posts had been set up in the doorways on the South side. I cannot help thinking that the church would have remained virtually undamaged if the system had been used.

There is a fair amount of British ammunition at the church. I asked Mr Heineman to make efforts to get this cleared as soon as the situation here has become more normal than it is at present. Furthermore, I authorized him to carry out simple restoration work (shoring up), at State expense, on other monuments as well as Eusebiuskerk, in as far as this was necessary to prevent immediate collapse. At the same time I asked him to save as much old material as possible. He had always been of the opinion that his job was limited to the Eusebiuskerk as a "specially protected monument", but of course he is only too pleased to take on the other things. I requested Mr Heineman to pass on the council's provisional thanks to the team. (.....)

On returning to the car the driver told me that he had been close to a passer-by who was killed by shrapnel from an anti-aircraft gun, which he only managed to avoid by moving the car." [18]

Two days later Van der Haagen wrote a short follow-up on the subject:

"On 26 September this report was sent to Mr Heineman by courier, who informed me of the following. The [Queen's ] Commissioner's official residence is not only badly damaged, it is completely burnt out. The Commissioner and Baroness van Heemstra are uninjured. The entire inventory is lost.

Only part of the Eusebiuskerk's side aisles had collapsed. The art protection service's equipment had not been stored at the fire station but in the tower: everything was burnt. Initially, it had been possible to extinguish two small fires in the church roof which had been caused by gunfire. After having established telephone contact with the Chief Fire Officer the service finally decided they must leave the post because of the shooting. The chief personally asked the Germans who had set up machinegun posts in the church doorways to be permitted to operate the sprinkler system, but this was refused.

Mr Heineman agrees with me that the valuation of 200,000 guilders will be too low. On Monday Mr Heineman still wanted to fetch the drawing archive as agreed with me on Sunday, but no one was allowed into the city any more. Mr Heineman will confer as soon as possible with the Director of Building and Housing Services, Mr Heuvelink BSc, the Director of Council Works and the Chief Fire Officer about the measures to be taken." [19]

Although St. Eusebiuskerk was damaged during September 1944, the burnt-out tower still stood majestically upright. A few months later, in January 1945, the tower fell in. Some historians believe that the tower was destroyed by the blowing up of the Rhine Bridge in January 1945. [20] By contrast others think that the tower was blown up deliberately by the Germans to deny the allies an obvious orientation point.

The tomb of Duke Karel van Gelre (1467-1538) was spared because in April 1940, as a preventive measure, a concrete cap was built over it as protection against possible bomb strikes. [21] This providence saved the sixteenth century monument, but "The man in the little cupboard", a mid-sixteenth century wooden dummy of the Duke in a suit of armour was lost. Only the rusty suit of armour remained. The sword had been stolen. The figure was restored by the Daniëls brothers from Arnhem, and the weapon equipment was restored by the armourer A. Smit at the Army Museum in Leiden. [22]

The carillon ended up amongst the rubble of the church, too. The first bell, one of the 25 so-called Hemony bells from the Zutphen bell-founders François and Pierre Hemony, came crashing down during the night of 19/20 September. Only four of the seventeenth-century bells survived the long drop: they were hoisted into the repaired tower after the war, together with the Martinus and Eusebius bells dating from 1477.

The badly damaged Salvator bell from the Arnhem artillery-founder Willem Tolhuys has been placed on a brick plinth at the rear of the church nave. The bell was cast during Duke Karel van Gelre's rule, but was only finished a few months after his death. It was a posthumous gift to the beloved last duke of Gelre (Gelderland). The cracks and various bullet holes are still clearly visible. [23]

## Rebuilding of St. Eusebiuskerk

The rebuilding of St. Eusebiuskerk after the war went much slower than initially expected. For a while it looked as if the church would be entirely destroyed when, on 15 May 1945, Canadian sappers informed the interim council that they wanted to demolish the church walls and would dynamite the remnants of the tower. Two days later Mr Van der Haagen sent a letter of complaint to Major Kok, head of the Military Authority in Apeldoorn.

A few days earlier Dr Jan Kalf, director of the Rijksbureau voor de Monumentenzorg (State Office for the Monuments Maintenance), had visited Arnhem and spoken with Heineman, who was happy to manage the church restoration himself. But Kalf preferred the Amsterdam architect Berend T. Boeyinga, with whom he was well acquainted. However, the church restoration of St. Eusebiuskerk was not cut and dried. Some people wanted to keep the ruin as a reminder of the war.

A storm in November 1945 brought down a few more pieces of masonry which led the Arnhem councillors to have the height of the tower ruin reduced to that of the church nave. This was carried out on 28 December 1945. With this a striking landmark disappeared from the Arnhem townscape in the first few months after the liberation of the city. [24]

Eventually Kalf appointed Berend Boeyinga as restoration-architect of the church. Together with the supervisor Adrie Schellevis, who took hundreds of photos during the restoration work, he managed the rebuilding. The lower section of the halved tower was rebuilt following a restoration design dating from 1895.

By 1954 the restoration was fairly well advanced when a new discussion arose. What must the tower look like? The people of Arnhem wanted an exact copy of the tower that was destroyed in the war. The councillors led by burgomaster Chris Matser had other ideas, and in 1954 they held a competition for a new design for the tower. A year later architect Theo G. Verlaan won with his design for a 93 metre-high tower, which Matser thought best represented the transition from the pre- to the post-war Arnhem. [25] Four years later work began on the rebuilding of the tower.

In the sixties, on his own initiative, sculptor Henk Vreeling decorated the tower with contemporary gargoyles in the form of Walt Disney comic figures. Arnhem pastor the Reverend G.C. Foeken was outraged at this and had many meetings with the city council with a view to having these figures removed. Vreeling himself was anything but impressed: he added a gargoyle of Foeken as the middle-most of the seven dwarfs!



View of St Eusebiuskerk around 1937. (Photo collection, negative number D568-15. Gelders Archive)

A photo from approx. the same position seventy years later. (Photo taken by Frank van Lunteren, March 2007. Freedom Trail Arnhem collection, Gelders Archive)



## War monuments

In 1995 a plaque was unveiled in St. Eusebiuskerk commemorating the liberation of Arnhem by the British 49th 'Polar Bears' Infantry Division in April 1945. This division owed its name to the period it spent stationed in Iceland. (Freedom Trail Arnhem collection, Gelders Archive)



In 1994 former sapper Tom Carpenter was one of the British initiators for a bronze plaque in St. Eusebiuskerk in memory of the six sappers from 2 Platoon, 9th Airborne Field Company, Royal Engineers, who were killed in the battle around the Rhine Bridge in September 1944. The names of two other soldiers who died of their wounds as POWs in Germany were also included on the plaque. A number of Dutch acquaintances joined the British in forming the Comité Royal (Corps) Engineers Monument led by Mr Jan H. Boon BSc. Burgomaster Paul Scholten personally supervised the placing of the plaque inside St. Eusebiuskerk on the left side of the main entrance to the church [26]

On 14 September 1994 the bronze plaque was unveiled by Colonel (ret'd) B. O'Callaghan, who commanded 2 Platoon, 9th Airborne Field Company, Royal Engineers, in 1944. Various British old-combatants, the burgomaster and a few other dignitaries attended the ceremony. [27] The text on the plaque, which also bears the Pegasus emblem of the British airborne troops and the badge of the Royal Engineers, is as follows:

FROM COMRADES IN MEMORY OF ROYAL ENGINEER SAPPERS  
SPR. ARTHUR 'CAPPY' COTTLE, AGED 25  
SPR. JOSEPH 'JOE' CLOSE, AGED 24  
SPR. RONALD 'RON' RUSSELL, AGED 24  
SPR. WILLIAM 'BILL' ROGERS, AGED 29  
SPR. ROBERT 'BOBBY' TROUSE, AGED 23  
NO KNOWN GRAVES  
AND  
CPR. ROBERT 'TAFFY' EVANS, AGED 26  
NOW OOSTERBEEK AIRBORNE CEMETERY  
ALSO  
SPR. JOHN EVERETT, AGED 23  
NOW BECKLINGEN WAR CEMETERY, GERMANY  
SPR. BERNARD TURTON, AGED 25  
NO KNOWN GRAVE, GERMANY  
PARA/GLIDERBORNE ENGINEERS  
IN ACTION 17th/21st SEPT 1944 ARNHEM ROAD BRIDGE  
OF 2 PLATOON 9th (ABn) Fd Coy RE 1st AIRBORNE Div.  
"LEST WE FORGET"

The monument for the fallen Royal Engineers is not the only one in the church. More memorials were unveiled within the framework of the 50th commemoration of the Battle of Arnhem. These included the statue-group of 19 bronze parachutists designed by the Italian sculptress Simona Vergani (1967). It was one of her first big assignments after her studies at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan from 1985 to 1989, and after having attended the Rijksacademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam between 1990 and 1992. Vergani has been living in the Netherlands since 1990. [28] The 19 statues were not initially intended for St. Eusebiuskerk. Thirteen years later she recalls:

"Originally I had made the work of the 19 parachutists for a gallery in Baarn, for a large, high conservatory. The challenge was to blend in with the exterior landscape and interior architecture of this exceptional location. Eventually I came up with the idea of a trilogy of mankind from child to adult, and its relationship with danger. Thanks to the Eusebiuskerk commission the work was bought in 1994 for the 50th commemoration of the Battle of Arnhem – and this work could find no better home – related to the danger of war and the final battle to freedom. The bronze statues were cast in Geldermalsen." [29]



The Poorters Foundation of Arnhem city bought the statue-group in the summer of 1994 as a gift to the city in the cadre of the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem. The unveiling took place in St. Eusebiuskerk on Wednesday evening 7 September 1994 in the presence of burgomaster Paul Scholten, among others.

That same evening another, older work by artist Joop Janssen (1914-1993) was unveiled. Stained-glass artist Janssen, originally from The Hague, spent most of his life in Arnhem where he died in 1993. [30] At the end of the forties he made the stained-glass-window 'Bevrijdingsraam', showing an image of the Bible figure Simon the Zealot as well as the destruction of Jerusalem. The burning city and the text HIER ZAL GEEN STEEN OP DE ANDERE BLIJVEN (There will not be left here one stone upon another), Matthew 24, verse 2, relate to the destruction of Arnhem.

The window was originally installed in the small St. Eusebiuskerk in Nieuwe Plein. The demolition of this church was the impulse for the setting up of the Stichting tot Behoud Ramen Kleine Eusebius (Window Preservation Small Eusebius Foundation) under the management of Harry Laheij. The foundation gave Arnhem stained-glass-window artist Bas Beckers the task of restoring the stained-glass-window. In early September 1994 the window was placed in the Annakapel in St. Eusebiuskerk. Half of the restoration cost of 100,000 guiders (45,455 euros) was met by the aforementioned foundation which actively sought sponsors, and the other half through gifts from the population of Arnhem. [31]

A fourth monument, a memorial tablet, was added above the main church doors at the front of St. Eusebiuskerk. The initiative for this stone was that of Bernard Grothues (1934)

'Voor U staat hier eUsebIUs reChtop en fier,  
 Vaak besChoten en zo Lang gekWeLD  
 gerestaUreerD en In praCht hersteLD'

'Here before you stands Eusebius upright and proud,  
 often bombarded and tormented for so long  
 restored and returned to magnificence'

The text was written by Grothues in 1994. The chronogram as well as the 19 words and 94 letters which make up the year details indicate 1994, the year in which, precisely 50 years after the Battle of Arnhem, the Eusebius tower was re-opened after 3 years of restoration work. A chronogram is a date verse in which a number of letters are printed in capital letters. Together they form a date in Roman numerals. D=500, C=100, L=50, W=VV=10, U=V=5, J=I=1.

- [1] P.R.A. van Iddekinge, *Arnhem 44/45. Evacuatie, verwoesting, plundering, bevrijding, terugkeer* (Arnhem, 1981), 8.
- [2] W.A. Bozelie, *Rapport betreffende gebeurtenissen in de Eusebiuskerk en toren op Zondag 17 t/m Dinsdag 19 September 1944* (Eerbeek, 1944), 1. Gelders Archive, Documentation collection Second World War, inventory number 285.
- [3] Hendrik J. Tiemens' diary, 18 september 1944. Gelders Archief, Documentation collection Second World War, inventory number 168.
- [4] Bozelie, *Rapport betreffende gebeurtenissen in de Eusebiuskerk*, 1.
- [5] Ditto, 1-2.
- [6] Jan Nieland, 'Grote Kerk had niet ten onder hoeven gaan', *De Nieuwe Krant*, 9 October 1984.
- [7] In his history of Arnhem in 1944 and 1945, Municipal Archivist Piet van Iddekinge wrote that "from the German side it is (.....) claimed that the British used the tower as an observation post for their artillery. It is virtually certain that this is incorrect, although it is most probable that at certain times British soldiers were in or even on the church." (Arnhem 44/45, 32). Unfortunately, in his book *Van Iddekinge* did not give any foundation for the possible presence of British troops.
- [8] Interview by Cornelius Ryan with Major Hans-Peter Knaust, 2 November 1967, page 3. L.P.J. Vroemen Collection (Gelders Archive, 2867), inventory number 30. Original source: the Cornelius Ryan Collection, Vernon R. Aldan Library, Ohio.
- [9] Hans-Georg Sonnenstuhl, 'Bericht H.G. Sonnenstuhl, SS-Stubaf.Rgt.Kdr.SS-Pz.Art.Rgt.10 "Frundsberg"', *Die Hellebarde* (1998), number 18, page 107.
- [10] Letter from Tom Carpenter to Frank van Lunteren, 15 October 2001. Frank van Lunteren collection.
- [11] Van Iddekinge, *Arnhem 44/45*, 33.
- [12] Major Tony Hibbert's diary, which he wrote using notes he made during the battle, pp. 42-46. L.P.J. Vroemen Collection (Gelders Archive, 2867), inventory number E.4.29.
- [13] Telephone conversation between Willem Brouwer and Horst Weber, 5 June 2007.
- [14] Interview by Cornelius Ryan with Horst Weber, 23 November 1967, page 18. L.P.J. Vroemen Collection (Gelders Archive, 2867), inventory number 30. Original source: the Cornelius Ryan Collection, Vernon R. Aldan Library, Ohio.
- [15] E-mail from Leslie McCreesh to Frank van Lunteren, 16 May 2007.
- [16] Sonnenstuhl, 'Bericht H.G. Sonnenstuhl', 108.
- [17] G.D. van der Heide, *Onder de handen der roovers vandaan. De redding van Arnhems kunstschatten uit de stervende stad* (Arnhem, 1946), 23-24.
- [18] Mr. J.K. van der Haagen, *Aide-Memoir* (25 September 1945), 1-2. Gelders Archive, Documentation collection Second World War, inventory number 283.
- [19] Van der Haagen, *Aide-Memoir*, 2.
- [20] A.H. Schulte, *De Grote of Eusebiuskerk in Arnhem. IJkpunt van een stad* (Utrecht, 1994), 72.
- [21] Ditto, 174
- [22] Ditto, 172.
- [23] Ditto, 94-99.
- [24] Van Iddekinge, *Arnhem 44/45*, 349.
- [25] Schulte, *De Grote of Eusebiuskerk in Arnhem*, 84-85.

- [26] Letter from Mr Jan H Boon BSc to burgomaster Paul Scholten, 7 August 1994. Gelders Archive, Documentation collection Second World War, inventory number 939.
- [27] Jan Boon, 'Persbericht Onthulling gedenk-plaquette van 2 Platoon, 9 Fld. Coy. (Airborne) R.E.', 3 September 1994. Gelders Archive, Documentation collection Second World War, inventory number 939.
- [28] [www.simonaverгани.com/curriculum\\_vitae.htm](http://www.simonaverгани.com/curriculum_vitae.htm) Consulted on 27 June 2007.
- [29] E-mail from Simona Vergani to Frank van Lunteren, 2 July 2007.
- [30] 'Joop Janssen (1914-1993)' <http://www.galleries.nl/kunstenaar.asp?artistnr=15044&galnr=1179&nvg=&bond=> Consulted on 4 July 2007.
- [31] Various local newspaper articles from the 1990-1995 period. Gelders Archive, Documentation collection Second World War, inventory number 1173.