

36 Nieuwe Kade-Badhuisstraat

During the Battle of Arnhem (September 1944) the fighting at the corner of Nieuwe Kade and Badhuisstraat lasted much longer than the Germans had first estimated. A small group of British parachutists fought a courageous eighteen-hour battle, without any reinforcement, against an overwhelming force of German infantry. But Dutch citizens were also caught up in the events at this location. Therefore this spot has been included in the Freedom Trail Arnhem website as point 36.



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The bombing at Nieuwe Kade

When British and American aircraft began bombing objects in and around Arnhem on Sunday morning 17 September 1944, the German flak gun that was positioned close to the Kamevaar family's house at Nieuwe Kade was one of the targets. An allied fighter-bomber attacked the gun at the precise moment that a number of slaughtered beef carcasses were being collected from the nearby slaughterhouse. That morning Arnhem butcher Kees van Lunteren at Taklaan 17 had been rung by the Contact Commissioner for nutritional provision in Gelderland, veterinary surgeon Dr. W.H.F.C. Majoewsky, and given the order to fetch the carcasses. Wim van Lunteren, 27 at the time, recalled later:

"On Sunday morning 17 September we were telephoned by Dr. Majoewsky, commissioner for nutritional provision in the region, who told us there were seven slaughtered cattle hanging in the Municipal Slaughterhouse at Nieuwe Kade. These carcasses had to be collected for preparation in the Central Kitchen for food for the population. At that time my father was in charge of the technical side of meat distribution in the Arnhem Municipality, including the Central Kitchen. A flatbed horse-drawn trailer and horse were organized and the meat was to be taken to the Central Kitchen in Verlengde Paulstraat. While my father and wagoner went about their business I got ten or so butchers together to help butcher this huge quantity of beef." [1]

At Nieuwe Kade, the journey of Kees van Lunteren and the wagoner turned into a terrifying undertaking. Later that day his son Wim heard what had happened:

"On arriving there they entered a hellish situation in the form of an attack on a German flak gun and its crew beside the Rhine. Together with the wagoner my father lay pressed close against the wall surrounding the slaughterhouse, next to the Kamevaar house. The Kamevaar family - I knew a few of them personally - lived in the house of the former manager of the slaughterhouse. Mr Kamevaar was a captain in the Dutch army but had been released from prison on account of his large family.

When they approached the slaughterhouse the German artillery piece there was under heavy attack. This took its to-be-expected toll of the flak gun crew, who were blown to bits." [2]

The advance of the liberators

The successful air attack on the German gun would not be the only incident that day. That afternoon, parachutists of the British 1st Parachute Brigade landed to the west of Arnhem. The 3rd Parachute Battalion, under Lieutenant Colonel John A.C. Fitch, was one of the three battalions which in the afternoon of 17 September 1944 left the landing zones near Heelsum and headed for the Rhine Bridge in Arnhem. The battalion marched in a column along Utrechtseweg with 'B' Company leading, followed by HQ Company and the battalion staff, then 'C' Company, 'A' Company, a few anti-tank guns and sappers. The advance went slowly because the leading company was held up time and again by enemy fire.

By about 17.30 hours the 3rd Parachute Battalion was still some 500 metres west of Oosterbeek. Lieutenant Colonel Fitch and his commander, Brigadier Gerald Lathbury, were concerned about the tempo of the advance and ordered Major Robert P.C. "Pongo" Lewis and his 'C' Company to continue on towards Arnhem via the Utrecht-Arnhem railway line (north of the planned advance route). Lieutenant Len Wright, commander of 9 Platoon, recalled later:

"Major Lewis was called to 3rd Parachute Battalion headquarters and on returning to the company staff group told the platoon commanders that 'C' Company was to leave the battalion and find an alternative route to the bridge. The arrangement of the company would remain the same. It was not said if the battalion would follow us if we managed to find an open route, but it was reasonable to assume they would do so provided we had radio contact." [3]

With 9 Platoon in the lead, 'C' Company turned left off Utrechtseweg into Bredelaan. The two scouts captured a German who almost rode into the British on his bicycle. He was most surprised. An injured soldier, who had damaged his ankle in a football match a few days earlier, took over the bicycle and escorted the prisoner back to battalion headquarters. Meanwhile the rest of the company continued the advance. Shortly after the war Major Lewis wrote:

"I and my company continued towards the railway along a side road, assuming it would be undefended. At the crossing of the road and the railway 9 Platoon (Lieutenant Wright) was fired on by an enemy vehicle which quickly withdrew. Two other half-tracks and a trailer loaded with ammunition were surprised and set alight by gunfire. 7 Platoon (Lieutenant Hibburt) attacked a half-track which was trying to approach them from behind. Our own casualties in this action amounted to five NCOs and privates (dead and wounded). When we reached the railway I gave the men a short break before we moved off again towards the city." [4]

At around 7.15 in the evening the company reached Parallelweg in Oosterbeek, not far from the station. Major Lewis decided to halt for a while and wait for darkness. Hopefully, the advance would then be a little more 'peaceful'. A 9 Platoon section commander had been killed at the Nico Bovenweg/Stationsweg crossing in Oosterbeek, and a wounded soldier was left behind with two medics. Another section commander had been hit in the leg but was nevertheless able to carry on on foot. [5]

At approximately 8 pm Lieutenant Len Wright's 9 Platoon was ordered to resume the advance. Along the railway line a small patrol from his platoon came across two Dutch workmen from Dutch Railways who were taking a break beside the track. They knew nothing about the strength or presence of any German troops in the surroundings and explained that all rail employees were on strike. Later, Wright had this to say about the entry into Arnhem:

"The advance continued to the platforms at the western end of Arnhem station without further incidents." [6]

Mr Bep Bolte, a supervisor with Dutch Railways, lived at Utrechtseweg 48, directly opposite the entrance to the Municipal Museum. His back garden ran diagonally down to the railway shunting yard. Together with his wife Dina and step-daughter Corrie he saw the Arnhem liberators arriving:

"On Sunday evening we heard voices coming from the direction of the railway and then saw [British] soldiers moving in single-file towards the station." [7]

Lieutenant Wright continues:

"At this point Major Lewis ordered 8 Platoon to take the lead and 9 Platoon dropped back to rearguard behind 7 Platoon in order to take a 'breather'. 8 Platoon was being led by Sergeant Vic Lumb's section with Privates Roberts and Sully as scouts." [8]

23 year-old Lieutenant Gerald M. Infield from London was in command of 8 Platoon. He was of Jewish origin and had served with the 3rd Parachute Battalion for some time. His maternal grandmother came from the Netherlands and he had various Dutch relatives living in and around Amsterdam. Many years after the war Lieutenant Infield told about his arrival in Arnhem:

"I was one of the first to enter the station. We quickly passed through. I remember jumping down from a platform and landing very heavily because of the heavy pack I, like everyone else, carried. The station was completely deserted." [9]

In his incomplete company history Lieutenant Wright wrote that 8 platoon did actually encounter some Dutch people in the station:

"8 Platoon found a number of Dutch railway personnel in a room in the station, but no Germans, although the platoon had to wait for a German orderly and a tank to pass by before leaving the station. 8 Platoon led the company to Willemsplein via Stationsstraat, where Private Harry "Titch" Webber from Sergeant Charlie Storey's section destroyed a German PV [Personnel Vehicle] and its occupants with a Gammon bomb (A bomb made of plastic explosive in a muslin bag and usually fitted with an impact fuse, used mainly against vehicles). Glass from broken windows crunched beneath our feet and the burning silhouette of the damaged Willemskazerne on the north side of the square bore witness to the effectiveness of the Royal Air Force bombing earlier that day." [10]

Major Lewis ordered Lieutenant Infield to make his way to the bridge as inconspicuously as possible:

"The night was fairly dark and I had my company march through the city to the main square [Willemsplein] where we came upon a vehicle with enemy soldiers on board. I ordered the lead platoon, 8 Platoon (Lieutenant Infield), not to attack the enemy or to make any threatening movements, thinking they would probably take us for Germans; this ruse succeeded and we marched on towards the bridge. We had captured two Germans on the outskirts of the city, including an officer who escaped at that precise moment and warned [presumably] the enemy that reinforcements had reached the bridge." [11]

At Velperplein, barely fifty metres from the Wehrmachtheim (Wehrmacht recreation centre) in Musis Sacrum, a small group of Arnhem policemen led by inspector Stuvell came face to face with the British, who asked them the way to the bridge. At first sight the police thought they were dealing with German soldiers and for safety's sake called out "Polizei!" (Police). On realizing they were British troops the police were only too pleased to answer the question. Nonetheless, their weapons were confiscated. [12]

Lieutenant Wright continues his company history:

"More tanks hindered the advance of company HQ and the last two platoons. A searchlight on one of the tanks was switched on and directed at the leading group, but was hastily switched off when Major Lewis shouted "Licht aus!" [Lights out!].

The company's original objective had been to occupy the platforms at the eastern end of the station as well as an armoured train standing there. The order from the brigadier to go to the bridge changed the objective. As 8 Platoon crossed the western part of Velperplein, doubtless mistaken for a group of Germans, the men opened fire on a passing lorry carrying German soldiers; to good effect judging by the screams and shouts we could hear." [13]

This short clash alerted the Germans and when 7 Platoon entered Velperbuitensingel from Velperplein they were fired at from a passing enemy halftrack. The platoon dashed for cover after three soldiers were hit. [14] Lieutenant Wright of 9 Platoon had a short discussion with Lieutenant Hibburt who told him that the rest of 'C' Company had gone on ahead. Wright took command and ordered Hibburt to regroup his platoon and follow immediately behind 9 Platoon to the bridge. By now, 8 Platoon and 'C' Company HQ were almost at the bridge.

C Company at the Rhine Bridge



8 Platoon, 'C' Company, 3rd Parachute Battalion, in England, 1944. Lieutenant Gerald Infield is in the front row, sixth from the left. (Airborne Museum Collection, Oosterbeek)

After arriving at the bridge Major Lewis reported to 2nd Battalion headquarters in Eusebiusbinnensingel. He was told by the intelligence officer Lieutenant Clifford Boiteaux-Buchanan that the rest of the 3rd Parachute Battalion had not yet arrived. 'C' Company had to take up temporary positions east of the Rhine Bridge. The time was about 11 pm.

Meanwhile Lieutenant Wright deployed 7 Platoon in Eusebiusbinnensingel and 9 Platoon in Eusebiusbuitensingel, alongside Lauwersgracht. Shortly afterwards Hibburt and Wright were told to report to Major Lewis. At the 2nd Parachute Battalion command post they met Lieutenant Infield and the deputy company commander Captain Wilfred H. Robinson as well as Major Lewis. Lieutenant Wright remembers the briefing:

"Major Lewis told the platoon commanders that, on the orders of Lieutenant Colonel Frost which we had received from his intelligence officer, 8 Platoon had to occupy the buildings at the eastern approach roads to the road under the bridge, 7 Platoon was ordered to defend the school building [Van Limburg Stirum School] (.....) and 9 Platoon were ordered to occupy the northern crossroads, until a messenger from company HQ came to fetch them and direct them to the school as well." [\[15\]](#)

Lieutenant Infield's 8 Platoon followed Eusebiusbinnensingel further along the west side of the bridge ramp towards the viaduct under the road bridge. Silvery flares were being fired over their heads from the south bank. Three German soldiers appeared from beneath the viaduct and were shot dead from close range. A German lorry was on fire on the bridge, illuminating the surroundings. [\[16\]](#)

Over on the other side of the bridge Lieutenant Infield ordered Sergeant Andy McCandlish to occupy the Camiz Melkfabriek with his section (a group of about eight privates, a corporal and a sergeant). At the factory McCandlish found a number of soldiers from the 1st Parachute Brigade Defence Platoon. This was a platoon whose task was to guard Brigade HQ. However, at this stage not one complete battalion had arrived at the bridge, so the platoon, along with some sappers and a supply platoon, was ordered to occupy the houses at the corner of Westervoortsedijk and Eusebiusbuitensingel. The arrival of McCandlish's section brought the strength of the British soldiers in the Camiz Melkfabriek to approximately twenty men.

The rest of 8 Platoon continued along Nieuwe Kade and took over the Jos Pé picture postcard factory at Nieuwe Kade 2, at the corner of Badhuisstraat. This group consisted of the sections of Sergeants Vernon "Vic" Lumb and Charles Storey, and Lieutenant Infield's 8 Platoon HQ, altogether about twenty-five men.

Captain Hendrik Kamevaar

The Kamevaar family - Hendrik and Theodora Kamevaar and their nine children - lived at Nieuwe Kade 3, on the other side of Badhuisstraat. The 53 year-old Hendrik Kamevaar was a captain in the infantry and in 1942, together with the majority of Dutch regular servicemen, was nevertheless made prisoner-of-war by the Germans. Kamevaar was interned in the Neu Brandenburg camp in Germany. A year later Adolf Hitler decreed that military POWs with eight children or more should be released. Thus, Kamevaar returned to Arnhem a free man.

He was given a job as a supervisor at the distribution service and his work often took him to Deelen airfield as supervisor of hard labour. Kamevaar was a member of the O.D. (Order Police) and made sketches of the German positions at Deelen, and noted the troop-strength and number of aircraft. He took these sketches to Gerhard C. Wunderink who owned a grocery shop in Steenstraat (number 97 - see also point 31). On a few occasions his eldest son John delivered the drawings:

"My father still had the tin box containing all the detailed Ordnance Survey maps of the Netherlands. When he arrived home from the airfield he would lay out the relevant map and place a sheet of tracing paper on top. He would then draw the positions on the airfield and put other details on the tracing paper. In the evening I would take the tracings to Mr Wunderink. I was able to do this because I had an air defence armband, and because of this the Germans were not allowed to confiscate my bicycle and I was also permitted to cycle through the city during curfew." [17]

"The rule in the organization to which Wunderink belonged was: no one knows anyone else's name(s). If I had to contact someone I was never given a name, only a distinguishing mark or password.

At the start of the war an Arnhem resistance group had been rounded up. Major Van der Ploeg and Mr Hoefsloot, commander [of the] Burgerwacht (Civil Guard) were executed. The Germans got hold of a list of names and addresses of all the members, with all the associated consequences. This would never happen again. After that a widely spread organization of various groups arose, including Wunderink and consorts, but by continuing to use codes and indications one knew nothing of the others. If you met people you never used your name, at the most a code or password.

I didn't know what my father did or what he knew. We never told each other what we did (unless necessary). I only knew a bit about the tracings of Deelen airfield because he showed them to me and I had to take them to Mr Wunderink at his shop. They would be sent on to the allies." [18]

Wunderink was a captain in the reserve and, like Kamevaar, a member of the O.D. From August 1944 he had regular meetings with members of the L.K.P. (Landelijke Knokploegen - National Commando Teams) of Ir. (BSc) Piet C. Kruijff.

On Tuesday 12 September 1944 Wunderink was shot by the Germans in Dieren, but the resistance work went on. Kamevaar's sketches were worked up into a detailed map with co-ordinates, and eventually sent to the Dutch Bureau Inlichtingen (Information Bureau, a military intelligence service) in London via other resistance groups. The Bureau then sent the map on to the British intelligence service.

The first German counter-attack

While three British parachute battalions made their way from the landing zones at Heelsum to the bridge on that Sunday afternoon of 17 September 1944, the German II. SS-Panzer-Korps gave the order to 9. SS-Panzer-Division "Hohenstaufen" and 10. SS-Panzer-Division "Fruntsberg" to secure the bridges at Arnhem and Nijmegen at all cost. Early in the evening, SS-Sturmbannführer Leo H. Reinhold, a battalion commander from SS-Panzer-Regiment 10 of the Fruntsberg division, was ordered to form a battle group and follow SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs Abteilung 9 (a reconnaissance unit from the Hohenstaufen division) across the road bridge in Arnhem to Nijmegen.

However, when Kampfgruppe Reinhold reached the centre of Arnhem it appeared that British parachutists had already captured the northern ramp of the road bridge. So Reinhold was forced to deploy his scratch battle group against the British positions. SS-Hauptsturmführer Karl-Heinz Euling's 1st Battalion of SS-Panzer Grenadier Regiment 22 was ordered to attack along Nieuwe Kade. Euling's battalion had left Rheden for Arnhem late that evening. The strength of his unit had been greatly reduced by the fighting earlier in France. He had two companies, commanded by SS-Obersturmführer Geipel and SS-Obersturmführer Severing. Euling had had no radio contact with other units by the time he arrived in Arnhem. Messages were delivered by despatch riders. [19] He established his command post in the left-hand office building of the slaughterhouse, immediately next door to the Kamevaar family's house. This building was used as a laboratory and office stores. The slaughterhouse caretaker lived on the first floor.

Euling's battalion encountered the most easterly positions of the British parachutists at the bridge - Lieutenant Gerald Infield's 8 Platoon. The fighting was fierce. Euling recalled later that there was "ferocious house-to-house fighting". [20] Meanwhile, Major Lewis and Captain Robinson in the Van Limburg Stirumschool in Eusebiusbuitensingel were unable to establish any radio contact with Lieutenant Infield. [21]

Battle Group Knaust

That same night various other units which had left from Germany entered Arnhem. They were either transported by train or drove from their bases to the Gelderse capital. Major Hans-Peter Knaust commanded one of these units. His Panzer-Grenadier Ausbildungs und Ersatz Bataillon 64 (Bocholt) had left Bocholt the previous day and arrived in Westervoort at 4 am. Most of his men were young, inexperienced recruits and soldiers who had been wounded in Russia. Knaust himself had lost a leg in December 1941 in the vicinity of Moscow. [22]

This battle group became known as 'Kampfgruppe Knaust' and was reinforced by a company of tanks (Kompanie 'Mielke') from Panzer Ersatz Regiment VI 'Bielefeld' under the command of Lieutenant Mielke. This company consisted of eight ageing German tanks still painted in the camouflage of the desert war. [23] Knaust was also allotted a platoon of self-propelled guns plus the 2nd Battalion from SS-Panzer-Grenadier Regiment 22 commanded by SS-Hauptsturmführer Ulrich Haucke. Knaust's own battalion comprised a staff group, four companies of panzer grenadiers, a signals platoon, an anti-tank platoon and a platoon of engineers. [24] Although post-war British historians estimated the strength of Kampfgruppe Knaust at no more than 200-300, it was undoubtedly higher. [25] A strength of approximately 450 men seems more likely.

Kampfgruppe Knaust was added to a larger battle group: Kampfgruppe Brinkmann. This was commanded by SS-Sturmbannführer Heinz Brinkmann of 10. SS-Panzer-Division 'Fruntsberg'. Major Knaust was ordered to take over from the SS-Panzer-Grenadier Bataillon of SS-Hauptsturmführer Euling at Nieuwe Kade and Westervoortsedijk, and then re-take the bridge. Euling's battalion would cross the Rhine via the Pannerden ferry and head for Nijmegen to defend the Waalbrug. However, the hand-over didn't go as smoothly as expected because some companies from Euling's battalion were engaged in heavy house-to-house fighting. [26]

Knaust sent one company from SS-Hauptsturmführer Haucke's 2nd Battalion of SS-Panzer-Grenadier Regiment 22 along Nieuwe Kade to the bridge and ordered two other companies to attack across Westervoortsedijk. These two companies were followed by Knaust in his tank, accompanied by his other tanks. He held the rest of his battle group in reserve. [27]

The British patrol

It was still dark in the morning of 18 September when a small patrol from 8 Platoon (of 'C' Company, 3rd Parachute Battalion) entered the back garden of the Kamevaar's house. The man of the house went outside to talk to them. [28] His son John recalled later:

"Early on Monday morning a patrol of British soldiers came to our house. My father spoke to them and answered their questions as best he could. I was not there." [29]

It is possible that Kamevaar gave the British some directions or information about the German positions. As it became light on Monday morning all was quiet on Nieuwe Kade. Kamevaar and son John went outside to talk to a few administrative employees from the slaughterhouse, who had a house next to their work premises.

According to John his father, being a regular officer, was very interested in the fighting going on around them:

"On Sunday and Monday my father was greatly interested in the fighting at the bridge near our house. During that period he watched the surroundings through the military binoculars which he had kept and made some telephone calls, but he told us nothing." [30] On Monday different groups of German soldiers came into our house. They searched the entire house - for British soldiers? They looked in all the cupboards and so on. After one such group's visit it turned out that the windows of the top cabinets of the sideboard had been smashed. The silverware they had contained had disappeared." [31]

The second German counter-attack

At noon Kampfgruppe Knaust attacked. John Kamevaar saw how the German soldiers were deployed close to their, the Kamevaars', house:

"They began by firing mortars in the direction of the bridge. Bullets struck, windows broke. The Germans searched our house, turning everything upside down. We spent most of the time in the cellar." [32]

After the war Major Knaust recalled that his battle group saw the corpses of many SS soldiers lying around. The British parachutists held up two of his companies at Westervoortsedijk because they were shooting at them from the Camiz Melkfabriek and the tram terminal. The attack that morning cost Knaust three company commanders. The fighting in the Camiz building complex was sometimes so fierce that there would be German soldiers on the ground floor of the factory and British on the first floor (Sergeant McCandlish's section from 8 Platoon and part of the Brigade Defence Platoon). [33]

The fighting along Nieuwe Kade also continued throughout the entire afternoon. Later, Sergeant Vernon "Vic" Lumb in the Jos Pé picture-postcard factory at Nieuwe Kade 2 looked back at the fighting:

"At first light enemy infantry [Euling's SS-Panzer-Grenadier Bataillon] attacked and edged closer, but we drove them back. We were mortared the whole day, after which infantry tried to surround us. Once a German officer nonchalantly tried to scan the surroundings through his binoculars, until he was mowed down by fire from our Bren." [34]

Private Stanislaus, the Bren-gunner from Sergeant Lumb's section, shot the German company commander early in the afternoon. [35] After the fighting Dokus Kamevaar, one of the family's youngest children, saw the body of the dead German officer lying by the gatekeeper's lodge at the slaughterhouse. A dead German soldier lay near the shed in their back garden. The Kamevaar family's house lay directly in the frontline because part of 8 Platoon had taken up positions at Nieuwe Kade 2.

At about 14.00 hours soldiers from Kampfgruppe Knaust finally surrounded the premises. [36] The Germans brought up two tanks and began firing at the building to force the British to surrender. Sergeant Lumb tells:

"In the afternoon two tanks came to the fore and fired at us from a distance of about eighteen metres, first with solid shot to break open the walls and then with high-explosive shells fired through the holes. SS infantry burst in and we were taken prisoner. We were dazed, deaf, and some of us were wounded." [37]

A deathly-white Unterscharführer armed with a Panzerfaust (similar to a bazooka) stormed into Nieuwe Kade 2 followed by a group of SS soldiers who immediately began searching the damaged building. It was just after 4 pm. The British prisoners, most of them wounded and still deaf from the impact of the high-explosive shells, were led away eastwards along Nieuwe Kade. As they passed Nieuwe Kade 3 Lieutenant Infield noticed someone standing at an upstairs window:

“After I was captured I saw a civilian standing at a window. Maybe he had been shooting from the window? It was somewhere higher up in the building” [38]

Shortly afterwards Lieutenant Infield was separated from his men and transferred to Offiziers Lager 79 at Braunschweig, a POW camp for officers. He was liberated by allied troops in the spring of 1945. Although he came back to the Netherlands on a number of occasions after the war to visit relatives, he never again returned to Arnhem.

The death of Captain Kamevaar

Captain Hendrik Kamevaar was a member of the Orde Dienst and gathered information about German army positions and troop movements, which others passed on to Britain. In the afternoon of 18 September 1944 he was shot dead in his home by German SS soldiers. (Photo via Dokus Kamevaar. Freedom Trail Arnhem Collection, Gelders Archive)



The time at which Gerald Infield saw a man at the window agrees with the recollections of the Kamevaar family. That afternoon they remained in the cellar while a fierce battle raged around and about their house. Hendrik Kamevaar made regular trips upstairs to see what was going on. At about 16.15 hours he again left to fetch some things in case they had to spend the night in the cellar. But he was gone a long time. Finally John Kamevaar decided to go after his father to see where he was:

“Heavy fighting continued as darkness began to fall. Father wanted to bring some bedding down from upstairs. He stayed away a long time so I went up to find out where he was. A few SS men came down the stairs, shouted something about terrorists and leaving. I found my father lying dead on the floor in one of the bedrooms, his skull shot away. (...)

Just before the entire population of the city was driven out of Arnhem by the Germans, a friend and I had the opportunity to collect father’s body from the house in a delivery bicycle. We placed his remains in a temporary mass grave at the Onder de Linden cemetery.” [39]

It is possible that Hendrik Kamevaar was not seen by Lieutenant Infield alone, the German soldiers who led the British away could have seen him as well. There was probably no German officer on the spot, at least Infield and Lumb cannot recall having seen one at the time of their capture. The German SS who fought at Nieuwe Kade were without a company commander and it is unlikely they were under the command of an officer. So those who eventually shot Captain Kamevaar had taken the law into their own hands.

Because there was no hold-up in the fighting the Kamevaar family stayed in the cellar, awaiting their fate. John wrote later:

“During the Monday/Tuesday night we found a wounded British soldier in the central-heating cellar behind our house. We gave him something to drink and within an hour he had disappeared.

On Tuesday morning my mother and the six of her children who were in the house (including myself) were ordered to leave. With some clothing and whatnot in a perambulator and pushing my father’s duty bicycle we went to acquaintances in the city. We remained there until the entire population of Arnhem was expelled from the city. We ended up in Rheden.

In Rheden I went to the Red Cross department because I had a First Aid and casualty assistant certificate. In October I arranged a Red Cross car and drove my mother and the children to her family in Driebergen. I stayed in Rheden as a casualty assistant and in the early spring of 1945 I was appointed as section commander of the Stoottroepen, Gewest Veluwe [A military unit whose origins are the LKP resistance groups, Veluwe District].” [40]

Shortly after Mr Kamevaar's death a rumour began circulating that he had signalled to the British parachutists. On 18 September 1945 he was reinterred in the Moscowa cemetery in Arnhem. His gravestone states 'Gevallen in The Battle of Arnhem 18 Sept. 1944' (Fallen in the Battle of Arnhem 18 Sept. 1944). His name is also inscribed on the monument to fallen members of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Motor Vereniging (KNMV - similar to the RAC) in its office at Zijpendaalseweg 1, Arnhem.

Resistance fighter Bernard Vork

Remarkably, Mr Kamevaar was not the only Dutchman to be shot on 18 September 1944, but this time the murder occurred south of the bridge. Bernard Vork was a contractor from Rotterdam who came to work at the AKU factory in 1943. A new factory had been built in the Kleefsche Waard and the 51 year-old Vork had been involved in the construction of this complex. Vork joined the resistance during his Rotterdam days and shortly after his appointment at AKU he established contact with Ir. Piet Kruyff, becoming a member of Kruyff's LKP resistance group. [\[41\]](#)

During the week Vork lodged with the Bombach family at Graslaan 38. This house was situated almost opposite Nieuwe Kade 3. Even more remarkable is that Vork decided to remain in the house even after the Bombach family left their home on the morning of 18 September 1944. That same morning SS-Panzer-Aufklärungs Abteilung 9 made an unsuccessful attempt to cross the bridge from the southern ramp. Post-war accounts by Arnhem eyewitnesses showed that that morning Bernard Vork, and probably during the night of 17/18 September, was flashing Morse signals to the British parachutists on the north bank of the Rhine. [\[42\]](#) It is possible that Vork signalled to Kamevaar as well.

Perhaps Vork also shot at German soldiers in Arnhem-Zuid (South). After the war neighbours recalled that German soldiers were searching for 'Partisans' that day. One of the witnesses, Arnhemmer Gerard Wijnholts, a worker in the concrete industry, saw how Bernard Vork was dragged out of the Bombachs' house by German troops. [\[43\]](#) It seems that Vork was betrayed by an NSBer (a Dutch collaborator) and, according to a police report written after the war, he was executed shortly afterwards near the southern bridge ramp. [\[44\]](#)

Bernard Vork was not buried until 1 October 1944 by evacuees from Huissen under orders of the Germans. However, his grave was never found after the war because Canadian sappers removed the soil from the area in spring 1945 to make way for the building of an emergency bridge. [\[45\]](#)

[1] Account by Wim van Lunteren sr. from 2004 following the exhibition 'Gedolven Helden' in the Municipal Museum. On page 30 of his book Arnhem 44/45. Evacuatie, verwoesting, plundering, bevrijding, terugkeer (Arnhem, 1981), deputy municipal archivist Piet van Iddekinge wrote that there were twelve hung beef carcasses belonging to the Wehrmacht that Majoewsky managed to spirit away, or - "with a horse-and-cart claimed this precious booty". This is incorrect. There were seven carcasses and Majoewsky only organized the transport. He did not go to the slaughterhouse that day.

[2] Account by Wim van Lunteren sr.

[3] Len Wright, Draft Account 3rd Parachute Battalion, "C" Company (1998), 4. Gelders Archive, Documentation collection Second World War, inventory number 1378. It is not known if a definitive version of this account exists. Wright wrote it on the basis of detailed research into the battle performance of his company.

[4] Major R.P.C. Lewis, Report on the Action by 'C' Company, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment at Arnhem, (1945). www.pegasusarchive.org/arnhem/war_3rdBatt.htm

[5] Wright, Draft Account 3rd Parachute Battalion, 5-8.

[6] Ditto, 8

[7] Transcript of Klaas Schaap's interview (Arnhem municipal archivist) with Bep Bolte, 29. This interview took place on 3 June 1965. Gelders Archive, Documentation collection Second World War, inventory number 150.

[8] Wright, Draft Account 3rd Parachute Battalion, 8.

[9] Telephone conversation between Frank van Lunteren and Gerald Infield, 2 October 2006.

[10] Wright, Draft Account 3rd Parachute Battalion, 9.

[11] Lewis, Report on the Action by 'C' Company.

[12] Deputy municipal archivist P.R.A. van Iddekinge's interview with former inspector J.D. van Maris in Zandvoort, 16 February 1977. Gelders Archive, Documentation collection Second World War, inventory number 26.

[13] Wright, Draft Account 3rd Parachute Battalion, 9.

[14] Questionnaire to Major R. "Pongo" Lewis from 8 January 1968, Cornelius Ryan Collection, Vernon R. Aldan Library, Ohio. The consulted copy of this document is in the Airborne Museum, Oosterbeek.

[15] Wright, Draft Account 3rd Parachute Battalion, 11.

[16] This lorry was part of a German convoy that had been shot at by 'A' Company of the 2nd Parachute Battalion an hour or so earlier. The lorries contained ammunition, which exploded. Before that a small building storing ammunition was accidentally set on fire by a shot from a British flamethrower. This building exploded, setting the bridge paintwork alight. Martin Middlebrook, Arnhem 1944: The Airborne Battle (London, 1994), 158.

[17] Letter from John J. Kamevaar to Frank van Lunteren, January 2007.

[18] Letter from John J. Kamevaar to Peter Dijkerman, 9 May 2005.

[19] Letter from Karl-Heinz Euling to Frank van Lunteren, 5 May 2007.

[20] Ditto.

[21] Letter from Sir Wilfred Robinson Bt. to Frank van Lunteren, 25 April 2007.

[22] Cornelius Ryan's interview with Hans-Peter Knaust, 2 November 1967. L.P.J. Vroemen Collection (Gelders Archive, 2867), inventory number 31. The original is in the Cornelius Ryan Collection, Vernon R. Aldan Library, Ohio.

[23] Marcel Zwartz, German Armored Units at Arnhem, September 1944 (Hong Kong, 2001), 50.

[24] Cornelius Ryan's interview with Hans-Peter Knaust, 2 November 1967.

- [25] The British military historian Robert Kershaw estimated the number at 200-300 men. Robert J. Kershaw, *It never snows in September : the German view of Market Garden and the battle of Arnhem, September 1944* (Crowood, 1990), 339.
- [26] Heinz Harmel, *Einsatz der 10.SS-Pz.Div."Frundsberg" im holländischen Raum*. L.P.J. Vroemen Collection (Gelders Archive, 2867), inventory number 31. The original is in the Cornelius Ryan Collection, Vernon R. Aldan Library, Ohio.
- [27] Cornelius Ryan's interview with Hans-Peter Knaust.
- [28] Telephone conversation between Frank van Lunteren and John Kamevaar, 24 April 2007.
- [29] Letter from John J. Kamevaar to Frank van Lunteren.
- [30] Letter from John J. Kamevaar to Peter Dijkerman.
- [31] Letter from John J. Kamevaar to Frank van
- [32] André Horlings, *Arnhem Spookstad . . . en we gingen voor drie dagen. . . Herinneringen en foto's van evacués, gastgezinnen en achterblijvers na de Slag om Arnhem, 1944-'45* (Rijswijk, 1995), 41-42.
- [33] Cornelius Ryan's interview with Hans-Peter Knaust.
- [34] John Waddy, *A Tour of the Arnhem Battlefields* (Londen, 1999), 70.
- [35] Telephone conversation between Sergeant Vernon Lumb with a Cornelius Ryan employee, 8 January 1968. Cornelius Ryan Collection, Vernon R. Aldan Library, Ohio. The consulted copy of this document is in the Airborne Museum, Oosterbeek.
- [36] Ditto.
- [37] Waddy, *A Tour of the Arnhem Battlefields*, 70.
- [38] Telephone conversation between Frank van Lunteren and Gerald Infield.
- [39] Horlings, *Arnhem Spookstad*, 42.
- [40] Letter from John J. Kamevaar to Frank van Lunteren.
- [41] Wil Kester, 'Duitsland? Ik kan er nog steeds niet naar toe', *De Gelderlander* 10 September 1994.
- [42] C.A. Dekkers and L.P.J. Vroemen, *De Zwarte Herfst; Arnhem 1944; de worsteling van mensen in oorlogstijd; authentiek relaas van ooggetuigen* (Arnhem, 1986), 243-244.
- [43] Dekkers and Vroemen, *De Zwarte Herfst*, 244.
- [44] Wil Kester, 'Duitsland? Ik kan er nog steeds niet naar toe'.
- [45] Dekkers and Vroemen, *De Zwarte Herfst*, 244.