



SUNSET MARCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Sunset March #3362 up and including #3727



Colophon

This annual report is a publication of the Sunset March Foundation.

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Photo 1: Sunset March XXL (photo: municipality of Nijmegen)

1. Introduction

The year 2024 marked 80 years of the liberation of our region and, in addition, the Sunset March in October marked its 10th anniversary. All in all, reasons enough to make it a memorable year with many special events. As a highlight, an XXL version of the Sunset March took place on Sunday, 21 September, in which more than 8,000 commemorators took part. From September to November, an exhibition "Overbruggen" was held for over 2 months in the House of Nijmegen History with a twofold reason: Commemoration that 80 years ago the Waalcrossing took place and the anniversary of 10 years of Sunset March.

Beyond these two highlights of the year, of course, a Sunset March was walked every day, the most important reason for our existence. There were plenty of special Marches among them. There were sad occasions and there were joyous "milestones." For example, there were two Marches this year in which the Sunset March was walked as a last will of the person involved. At the end of March, UNPROFOR veteran Henk Esselink walked his first and also last Sunset March despite his illness. In April, a special Sunset March was provided by the Ambulance Wish Foundation for the incurably ill Hein Calis. We received word from the families of both people a short time later that they had passed away. There was also a happy event in December: the 1000th certificate was awarded.

2024 was the year in which many municipal administrators also participated in the Sunset March. In June, after several postponements, it was finally the turn of the mayors of Arnhem, Overbetuwe and Nijmegen to complete the Sunset March together, unfortunately in the pouring rain. Mayors of Beuningen, Druten, Wijchen and Zevenaar also walked the march, mostly with their municipal veterans' platform or association.



Photo 2: The mayors of Nijmegen, Overbetuwe and Arnhem (fltr: Hubert Bruls, Patricia Hoytink-Roubos and Ahmed Marcouch) walk the Sunset March together for the first time (photo: Ton Timmer)

Another memorable Sunset March that took place last year was the March of the Four Chaplains Foundation in April. The Four Chaplains Foundation is an American initiative dedicated to individuals and organizations (mostly armed forces related) that selflessly dedicate themselves to others. We can firmly reveal that this visit will be followed up nicely in 2025.



Photo 3: Members of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation (photo: Sunset March)

But whether one day only the Veteran of the Day is the only one crossing the Bridge or walking with a school class or with a sports club or with a platoon of military personnel; the most important thing is that in good or bad weather, the Sunset March takes place every day. The Sunset March was made possible again this year thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers from the Board, Team31 and the unique Veterans of the Day from across the country or far beyond. All who made this possible: thank you so much for your support!

2. What is Sunset March?

Origin

On 27 September 2014, the plan was born to see if it was possible to use the light monument "Lights Crossing"¹ on the new city bridge "De Oversteek" in Nijmegen to realize a "living" and daily tribute to our allied liberators. This initiative is aimed at commemorating what sacrifice the American soldiers made here far from home for our freedom. It is also particularly aimed at building a visible bridge to all veterans, who have contributed and continue to contribute to peace and security in missions around the world. On Sunday, 19 October 2014, the first Sunset March was walked.

Multimedia

The Sunset March website (<https://www.sunsetmarch.nl>) allows veterans to sign up to run the Sunset March. The website also provides a wide range of information, including: objective and methods, register of veteran marchers, details of the foundation, experiences of marchers, photos and videos. Sunset March is also active on Facebook. The Facebook page is used for announcements, impressions and reactions about (special) Sunset Marches. On LinkedIn the group Sunsetmarch exists for which LinkedIn members can sign up.

¹ Artwork by Atelier Fieldwork

Board and Team31

The board is composed of 9 people. The board consists of a Daily Board of 3 persons, which are in addition to chairman Peter Grotens, secretary Kees Bleijerveld and Douwe Osinga as treasurer. The other 6 board members take care of other tasks such as: technical support, arranging and providing meeting rooms, material management, web hosting, etc. The board is further supported by a coordinator from Team31, Henk Deelen, who among other things takes care of the designation and registration of the Veteran of the Day; an important task.

Team31 consists of 31 veterans, mostly but not exclusively from the Nijmegen area. They make sure that any gaps in the calendar are filled at all times and thus there is always a Veteran of Day. The existence of this fixed group of selected veteran marchers thus guarantees the continuity of the daily ceremony. It is important to mention that the turnover among the members of the board and Team31 is very small. Most are members from the (almost) beginning and remain loyal thereafter.

Information on personnel changes and events

After saying goodbye to four members of Team31 for various reasons, 5 new members were added to Team31 last year, as a older deficit of 1 member also had to be filled. In 2023, Coert Langenhuijzen left the team. Last year's departing members are: Jurgen Janssen, Patrick van Es, Anang Melis and Dennis van de Stroom. The new members are: Erik Donkersloot, Ronand Luijters, Steven Smit, William Megens and Henk Schoenmakers.

On 23 February, former Team31 member Co Willemsen was awarded the New Guinea Memorial Cross by the mayor of Overbetuwe, Mrs. Patricia Hoytink-Roubos.



Photo 4: Presentation of the New Guinea Memorial Cross by Mayor Hoytink-Roubos of the Overbetuwe Municipality to former Team31 member Co Willemsen.

On 13 July, Paul in den Bosch was decorated and appointed Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau by the Mayor of Beuningen, Mrs. Daphne Bergman. Paul was nominated for this decoration among other things for his (volunteer) work within Team31 and maintaining the relationship of the Sunset March Foundation with the 4Daagse Foundation. Beyond that, Paul dedicates himself to multiple social causes.



Photo 5: Knight Paul In den Bosch (photo: Paul In den Bosch)

On 16 July, our treasurer Douwe Osinga somewhat belatedly received his medal for 12 years of long, honourable and faithful service. The medal was awarded during a reunion of the Garde Grenadiers en Jagers at the Oranjekazerne in Schaarsbergen.



Photo 6: Presentation of medal for 12 years of faithful service by Col (ret.). Ludy de Vos to board member Douwe Osinga

On 28 August the sad news was received that our former Team31 member Derk Finke had passed away. During Derk's farewell, a delegation of Team31 gave the honorary salute, as Derk himself wished.

Furthermore, we extend our sympathy to all of us who have had to deal with the loss of a loved one or close family member last year. We also wish much strength to those who themselves or those close to them are or have been dealing with other unpleasant and difficult circumstances.

The board appreciates being notified of special (personal) circumstances among our members so that an appropriate response can follow.



*Photo 7: Derk Finke (1965-2024)
(Photo: Finke family)*

Team31 day

On the third Saturday of January (30 January), the Team31-day traditionally took place. This year, due to circumstances, not in Fletcher Hotel Erica in Berg en Dal, but in the neighbouring Fletcher Hotel Val Monte. It is traditionally the opportunity to catch up with colleagues (again).



Photo 8: Presentation by Bauke Huisman during the Team31 day at Fletcher hotel Val Monte (photo: Sunset March)

This annual meeting was attended by a total of 26 members. There was first a pleasant catch-up while enjoying a fine breakfast. Then Mr. Bauke Huisman told us about the events that took place in the Betuwe (Het Manneneiland) shortly after the Waalcrossing. Bauke is a member of the Betuwe War Information Center. Afterwards there was still time to catch up and "socialize" with each other. In short; another successful meeting. By the way, the Team31-day of 2025 will be held on Saturday, February 8, again at Fletcher Hotel Erica.

3. Veterans in 2024 as "Veteran of the Day"

The veteran who signs up through the website to walk on one of the 365 (or, like this year 366) days is called "Veteran of the Day". From 1 January 1 through 31 December 2024, 134 veterans, who have not previously received a certificate, signed up to be "Veteran of the Day"; a 6% increase compared to last year. Each veteran who walks the Sunset March for the first time as "Veteran of the Day" is awarded a unique certificate. With a unique number, name, the date of his or her Sunset March and the time. This will be sent through the mail. On the website, a separate register lists the names of all veterans of the day and their nationalities. On 4 January, the first "new" veteran of the year walked with certificate number 875. On 29 December, the last of the year 2024 walked and received certificate 1007. Over the entire existence of the Sunset March, a "new" veteran walks as Veteran of the Day once every 3.7 days. The most certificates (839) were awarded to veterans of Dutch nationality. The three countries with the most certificate holders after that are the United States (115), Great Britain (15) and Canada (12). For a complete overview of numbers of certificate holders per year and some other statistical facts are included in the appendix.

4. Activities and details 2024

Board meetings

The board met 4 times last year to meet. These meetings took place on Saturdays January 13, April 22, August 24 and November 2. All meetings took place at our sponsor Dirksen Training in Elst.

The Executive Board has always met in the weeks preceding the board meetings.

Collaboration

Once again this year, the activities of the Sunset March have been supported by a wide range of agencies and organizations. Existing partnerships have been continued and perpetuated, others revived. Thanks to gifts, sponsorships and donations, all planned activities could take place again this year. We are of course extremely grateful to our sponsors and partners for this and naturally hope for a continuation of the relationship.

Our sponsors and partners are:

- Atelier Fieldwork,
- BAM Infra
- Bureau Stroom
- CCC Corporate Clothing
- Dirksen Training Elst
- Fletcher Hotels Berg en Dal,
- Various departments Municipality of Nijmegen and Province of Gelderland
- Honourary Consul in Kleve, Germany
- Kersten Retail Elst
- Liberation Route Europe (LRE).
- Military Music Armed Forces
- The 4Day Foundation
- Friendship Albany Nijmegen Foundation (FAN).
- Veterans Institute (VI)
- VFonds
- Cooperating Veterans Meeting Centers (VOC).
- Veterans Activities Support Foundation (OVA).
- 11th Air Mobile Brigade,
- 82nd (US) Airborne Division,
- Pontoon Group '40-'45
- House of Nijmegen History

Extraordinary Sunset Marches

Last year was a leap year, so 366 Sunset Marches were walked. While every Sunset March is special and impressive, some are just a little different than usual. Below is a sampling of those "different" Sunset Marches in 2024:

- ✓ 19 February: Delegation from the Royal Home for Former Military Personnel and Museum Bronbeek walks on the initiative of Warrant Officer (ret.) Visser with a delegation of veterans and staff. The father of Warrant Officer (ret.) Visser served as a lieutenant with the 82^e Airborne Division under the command of James Gavin.



Photo 9: Delegation from KTOMM Bronbeek (Photo: FunCkSterrShoots)

- ✓ 21 February: On this day Mr. Hein Calis, chained to his bed and in pouring rain, saw his last wish come true thanks to his daughter, who made this possible through the Foundation "WensAmbulance". In a personal message, Mr. Calis reported that he believes that every resident of Nijmegen should do the Sunset March once in his or her lifetime to honour or remember the young men who died far from home for the ideal of living without occupation and domination.
- ✓ 22 February: As usual on this day, a delegation consisting of a representation of the German/Dutch business club from Kleve (GE) and a delegation of military personnel from Kalkar/Uedem (GE) walked. Earlier a wreath was laid by the group at the monument "The Swing" in memory of the "mistake bombing"
- ✓ 12 March: Major General Ernst Dobbenberg walked with a group of staff from the Directorate of Operational Readiness Management (DAOG) of the Ministry of Defence.



Photo 10: Veteran Kees Bleijerveld and staff from the Ambulance Wish Foundation escort sick Hein Calis across the Crossing. (c) Bert Beelen

- ✓ 31 March: Incurably ill UNPROFOR veteran Henk Esselink fulfilled one of his last wishes and fulfilled his first and last Sunset March. On April 27, we received word from his family that Henk had passed away.



Photo 11: Henk Esselink (photo: Esselink family)

- ✓ 4 April: Howard Schaeffer, president, walked as veteran of the day along with delegations from the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation US and NL. The Foundation honours individuals and initiatives that selflessly dedicate themselves to others.

- ✓ 11 April: As every year: a well-attended Sunset March to commemorate the closing of Nijmegen University on 11 April 1943. Administration of the Radboud University, the Radboud UMC and student association Carolus Magnus were among those represented.
- ✓ 3 May: Traditionally on this date, a delegation of the "Friends of the Red Beret" walked the Sunset March, led by Brigadier General Frank Grandia, the new commander 11th Air Mobile Brigade, as veteran of the day.
- ✓ 4 May: A well-attended special Sunset March with Vietnam veteran John Koeppen (US) as veteran of the day. Beforehand, he had scattered ashes of his late father at the monument after the commemoration of the dead at the Waalcrossing Monument. His father was one of the Waalcrossers in September 1944.



Photo 12: Memorial Day at the monument (photo: Sunset March)

- ✓ 19 May: The youth editors of the local newspaper "Lentse Lucht" walk the Sunset March for an article in their neighbourhood magazine.
- ✓ 4 June: After being postponed several times, it was finally here: the mayors of Arnhem, Overbetuwe and Nijmegen walked the Sunset March together.
- ✓ 11 June: LIONS club Wijchen.
- ✓ 11 July: This date has been set aside for Dutchbat veterans for years at the initiative of Col (ret.) Ludy de Vos.
- ✓ 15 July: On the Monday evening before the start of the 4-Day Walk, a large detachment of international military personnel stationed at Camp Heumensoord. Veteran of the day was British WWII veteran Jack Daniels.
- ✓ 16 July: A detachment of the U.S. 1th Battalion, 503 Infantry Regiment, 173 Airborne Brigade (Vicenza, Italy) walks the Sunset March led by Nash Wuthrich.
- ✓ 25 August: Division of the Union of Dutch Military War and Service Victims (BNMO) led by Fred Lardenoye.
- ✓ 5 September: The new chairman Association Veterans Zevenaar, Sjoin Moheb, with a delegation and the mayor of Zevenaar, Lucien van Riswijk.

- ✓ 19 September: Delegation of 101 AirBorne Division (ABD) led by their commander Major General Brett Silvia (US).
- ✓ 20 September: Special Sunset March with combined NL/US honorary positions. Veteran of the day: deputy commander 82 ABD: Brigadier General David Pack (UK).
- ✓ 21 September: Sunset March XXL (see Chapter 6, 80 Years of Market Garden).
- ✓ 23 September: Mayor and Board of Trustees Municipality of Druten.
- ✓ 24 September: Mayor and Board of the Municipality of Overbetuwe together with a delegation of Air Cadets (UK) accompanied by Steve Parlor, who, after years of participation with his detachment of cadets, was, to his surprise, designated veteran of the day.
- ✓ 26 September: "Women and Defense" networking organization
- ✓ 7 October: Veterans' Platform Beuningen and Mayor Beuningen.
- ✓ 12 October: A delegation of Westland veterans walks the Sunset March.
- ✓ 19 October: Wim van Mierlo was Veteran of the Day on this 10th anniversary of the Sunset March. He was also the first veteran to run the Sunset March 10 years ago, making him the holder of certificate number 1.



Photo 13: 19 October, 10 years of Sunset March (Photo: Sunset March)

- ✓ 20 October: Delegation of veterans from Haarlem.
- ✓ 30 October: Kolpingvereniging Nijmegen walks the Sunset March.
- ✓ 11 November: Traditionally, a large group of members of the board and Team31 walked the Sunset March on this International Veterans Day, followed by a nice cup of pea soup and a sandwich. Also walking this day again was a large group of veterans of the Regiment Technical Troops.
- ✓ 18 November: Another tradition: on this founding day of the Peace Mission Veterans Royal Air Force (VmVKLu), a large group of Air Force veterans walked with Major General Robert Adang, Deputy Air Force Commander.

- ✓ 24 November: A delegation of veterans from Texel walks the Sunset March.
- ✓ 6 December: Today, the 1000th certificate was presented to a veteran who walked as Veteran of the Day for the first time. This certificate was presented to Lieutenant General Jan Swillens, Commander of the Army.



Photo 14: Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General Jan Swillens with members of the Dutch Invictus Team (photo: Sunset March)

Other events.

In addition to the above list of special Sunset Marches, there were other memorable events, encounters or facts to report last year; a non-exhaustive list follows below:

- ✓ April: This month saw the release of the book written by journalist Peter Visser, "The Forgotten Commando," which is about Val Kokhuis, the only Dutch soldier who participated in the Waal crossing and was also awarded the Bronze Cross by Prince Bernhard for it.
- ✓ A flag in honour of the liberators was designed for this anniversary year. The new flag for Airborneregion Nijmegen is an initiative of Groesbeek Airborne Friends and is an idea following the Pegasus flag from the Airborneregion Arnhem.



*Photo 15: Regional flag Market Garden on the occasion of 80 years of liberation.
(Photo: Groesbeek Airborne Friends)*

- ✓ Our foundation had been asked to entuse volunteers/veterans to participate in "freedom meals" in our region on 2, 4 and 5 May. Initiated by the National Committee 4 and 5 May, these meals are organized throughout the country to bring people together and share their thoughts on the concept of freedom. Willem Baardman and Jos Staps participated in this. We hope for more volunteers next year.
- ✓ On 4 May, there was a memorial service organized by the Sunset March at the Waalcrossing Monument. Because of bad weather, there were slightly fewer interested people than usual. About 40 attendees were collectively silent for 2 minutes at 20:00. Afterwards, flowers were laid and Mr. Qader Shafiq, former Nijmegen Citizen of the Year, gave a speech in which he discussed, among other things, his flight from Afghanistan, his time in Charkow in Ukraine and the problems that surround us there and in other places in the world. It was an engaging speech, in which he carried the audience's thoughts with him. Among those present at the speech was Mr. John Koeppen (US), himself a Vietnam veteran and son of an American Glider pilot who crossed the Waal in September 1944.

After the speech, Mr. John Koeppen, along with his wife and out of sight of those still present at the time, scattered his father's ashes at the Waalcrossing monument. After the Commemoration of the Dead, a joint Sunset March was walked. Some 20 more attendees joined the party at the starting point. Led by John Koeppen as veteran of the day, the group left at 21:05 for a special Sunset March on this special day.

- ✓ 26 June: A large reception is held annually at the U.S. Embassy as part of Independence Day. This year it took place on 26 June with about a thousand guests. Political and economic guests and partners are invited to this. And, of course, there are a number of important speakers. This year one of these speakers was the (former) foreign minister and veteran Hanke Bruins Slot. During her speech (to be read via the link below²) she again showed herself to be a good ambassador of the Sunset March. On behalf of the board of the Sunset March, Dirk-Jan van Zuidam was present. Not coincidentally from the same coat of arms as Hanke.



Photo 16: US Ambassador Ms. Shefali Duggal, Foreign Minister Ms. Hanke Bruins Slot (photo: Sam van Damme)

- ✓ From 16 to 19 July, 6 board members successfully walked the Nijmegen 4-Day Marches. Several Team31 members also participated in the 4-Day Marches again this year. It seems like a good idea to promote our foundation during this event by walking as a 4-Days marcher in our polo shirt
- ✓ On 28 August, the kick-off of the Market Garden 80 commemoration period was at De Lindenberg with a representation of the board and all heritage institutions from the region.
- ✓ 6 September: Opening of the exhibition "Overbruggen" in the House of Nijmegen History by the mayor of Nijmegen, Hubert Bruls.



Photo 17: Six board members just before the four-day finish line (photo: Sunset March).

- ✓ On 27 September, it was exactly 10 years ago that the idea for the Sunset March was born during a meeting of veterans from the Overbetuwe region. To commemorate this occasion festively, the board and partners were invited by initiator and former chairman Tim Ruijling and his wife for a bite and a drink at "Onder de Toren" hall centre in Elst, the same establishment where it all started.
- ✓ 19 October: the tenth anniversary of the Sunset March. This day a large representation of the board and Team31 walked the Sunset March together with invited guests. Afterwards, there was a closing drink at the House of Nijmegen History.

² <https://www.government.nl/documents/speeches/2024/06/26/speech-minister-hanke-bruins-slot-us-embassys-independence-day-reception>

5. Information/Stands

This year too, the Sunset March worked on its promotion. A presentation was given on March to the volunteers of Vereniging Dorpsbelang Hees, the neighbourhood almost adjacent to the bridge. This education took place in the canteen of De Boog sports hall on the north side of De Oversteek. Many walked the Sunset March afterwards. An education was also given upon request to: Veterans Meeting Centre Vechtdal in Hardenberg. This included the first soccer team of this municipality. On 5 October, our chairman, Peter Grotens, gave information to five groups of about twenty people at his home during the "Nachtommetje" of Hees, which is very well-known in Nijmegen.

Stands were set up and manned by volunteers from the board and Team31 on the following occasions:

- ✓ 5 May celebration Wageningen
- ✓ 15 June: UNIFIL veterans meeting day at Zeewolde
- ✓ 29 June: Dutch Veterans Day on Malieveld in The Hague
- ✓ 4 October: KMAR Veterans Day in Apeldoorn.
- ✓ 7 October: CLSK Veterans Day at the NMM in Soesterberg.



Photo 18: construction Infostand Vrijheidsplein Wageningen 5 May (Photo: Sunset March)

6. 80 years of Market Garden.

Traditionally, the week from 17 to 21 September in our region is a busy one filled with Market Garden commemorations, gatherings and unveilings of monuments and plaques. Last year, because of the anniversary year, it was extra busy with all kinds of gatherings. Of special note was that on 19 September, a detachment of 101 Airborne Division (ABD) walked the Sunset March. The veteran of the day was the commander, Major General Brett Silva, special to him as he is a former commander of 307 Airborne Engineer Battalion, the unit that provided the engineers for the Crossing in 1944. Of course, a special Sunset March was held on 20 September with, as almost tradition, the posts of honour at the lampposts. The detachment of 82 ABD walked the Sunset March with the veteran of the day being Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Randolph Delapena. This day's special commemorative MG80 coins were also awarded to the participants.



Photo 19: Commemorative coin 80 years of Market Garden (photo: Sunset March)

The highlight was the XXL edition organised by the municipality of Nijmegen in cooperation with the Sunset March on 21 September. The march was preceded by the Peace-by-Peace festival, a parade through the city and a forum discussion on freedom on the Nyma grounds. During this forum discussion, the Sunset March was represented by Cees van Doorn.



Photo 20: Forum Discussion during "Peace by Peace Festival MG80" with Mart de Kruif and Cees van Doorn (photo Cees van Doorn)

At the 75th commemoration, a first "big" Sunset March had already been organised with 7500 participants, which showed that this concept caught on. That is why, in this anniversary year, a large version was chosen again, in which as many Nijmegen citizens as possible could participate. A large delegation of Board, Team31 and 82ABD walked in front to lead the normal Sunset March with a salute. The others, after everyone had been given a "finger light", walked behind Mayor Bruls in the dark on the extended Sunset March along the memorial path: via the Stadseiland and the Zaligebrug. In the end, over 8,000 interested people participated in this successful special performance of the Sunset March.



*Photo 21: Sunset March XXL, more than 8000 participants, a ribbon of lights
(Photo: Sunset March)*

If his schedule allowed, the chairman responded to all invitations during that week as much as possible. In some cases, he was accompanied or represented by other board members and flower arrangements were laid.

Some commemorations, in which participated: Groesbeek (17/9), Kessel (D) on 18/9, Jonkerbos Cemetery in Nijmegen, Heumen, Nijmegen and Lent on 19/9, Oosterhoutsedijk (20/9), Oosterhout and VASIM (21/9), Kranenburg (D) on 22/9.



*Photo 22: Wreath laying Oosterhout 21/9
(Photo: Henk Hanenburg)*

7. Exhibition "Bridging"

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sunset March, the plan was conceived to set up an exhibition on this first memorable period in the House of Nijmegen History in the Mariënborg Chapel in Nijmegen in the period September/November. With (financial) support from the Province of Gelderland, Municipality of Nijmegen, the V-Fonds, Karel Doormanfonds, the OVA and CCC corporate clothing, the plans succeeded. On 6 September, the exhibition was festively opened by Mayor Bruls of Nijmegen. During this opening, historian Dr Joost Rosendaal gave a presentation on the Battle of the Waal Bridges and the Waal Crossing in particular.



*Photo 23: Official opening of the exhibition by the mayor of Nijmegen, Mr. Hubert Bruls
(Photo: Sunset March)*

The exhibition consisted of three parts, the Battle of the Waalbridges and Waalcrossing, the construction of the bridge (the monument) de Oversteek and the creation of - and 10 years of Sunset March. On 6 October, a special "writers' day" was organised during the exhibition: "Writing in the Chapel"; the resulting stories were added to the exhibition. On 19 October, the board hosted its sponsors and other guests in the exhibition space to celebrate the 10th anniversary. The exhibition experienced its last day on 17 November. An above-expected 3944 visitors visited the exhibition

8. Coin Sunset March

After much deliberation, the board has decided to (commission) a Sunset March Coin. Given the value and appreciation of a coin in the military society, it is a nice gesture to hand it over on special occasions or to special relations or Sunset Marchers. This will be done after consultation within the Daily Board of the foundation and will be kept in a register, even though the coins are not numbered. This unique coin will not be offered for sale.



Photo 24: Coin Sunset March (photo: Sunset March)

Meanwhile, the first coins have already been handed over to former chairman Tim Ruijling, to Chloe Gavin, daughter of General James Gavin, and James Cook, son of Major Julian Cook

9. Media

The Sunset March also received attention in various media this year. Many articles about the programmes for the various commemorations of 80 years of Market Garden appeared in *De Brug*, *De Gelderlander*, among others, and a special newspaper was even published on the subject of 80 years of Freedom. All these articles mentioned the Sunset March. The Nijmegen municipality posted an atmospheric film of the Sunset March XXL on its social media and regional broadcaster RN7 also made a nice report of this special march. This broadcaster also paid attention to the exhibition and the 10th anniversary of the Sunset March.

Also, among others, a report on the special Sunset March by Hein Calis in *De Gelderlander* of 22 February. An article on the Sunset March by the youth editors in district magazine *Lentse Lucht*. An extensive article on the Sunset March and their participation in the BNMO's magazine, the *Kareoler*.



Photo 25: Article about the Sunset March in the Lentse Lucht (photo Sunset March)

There were interviews with the chairman Peter Grotnens in Checkpoint No 08 (December 2024) and with the former chairman and creator Tim Ruijling in the book "War in my head", a book of 80 stories published on the occasion of 80 years of freedom by De Gelderlander. The former chairman was also interviewed on one of the last days of the year by regional broadcaster RN7 for the annual review.

10. Finance 2024

Sunset March Foundation has a number of fixed annual costs. These are mainly the costs for domain names and the website, maintaining a dedicated bank account for ANBI status, flowers and wreaths for commemorations, team and promotional activities. Other costs are variable and are adjusted and determined annually by the board. Special one-off support for the "Overbruggen" exhibition was received from the Province of Gelderland, Municipality of Nijmegen, the V-Fonds, the Karel Doorman Fund, Stichting Ondersteuning Veteranen Activiteiten (OVA) and CCC-Bedrijfskleding.

This year, substantial support was also received from the Veterans Meeting Centres (VOC) support fund. In addition, a number of smaller donations, mostly from individuals, were received. Participation in Rabobank's Clubkas Campagne once again contributed to our coffers this year. Thanks to the many contributions from those who have a good heart towards us, we were once again a financially healthy foundation in the past year and were able to carry out all planned activities.

A full statement of income and expenditure in 2024 will be available on our website (www.sunsetmarch.nl) in mid-2025.

11. Outlook 2025

The following events are already set for next year; a condensed overview:

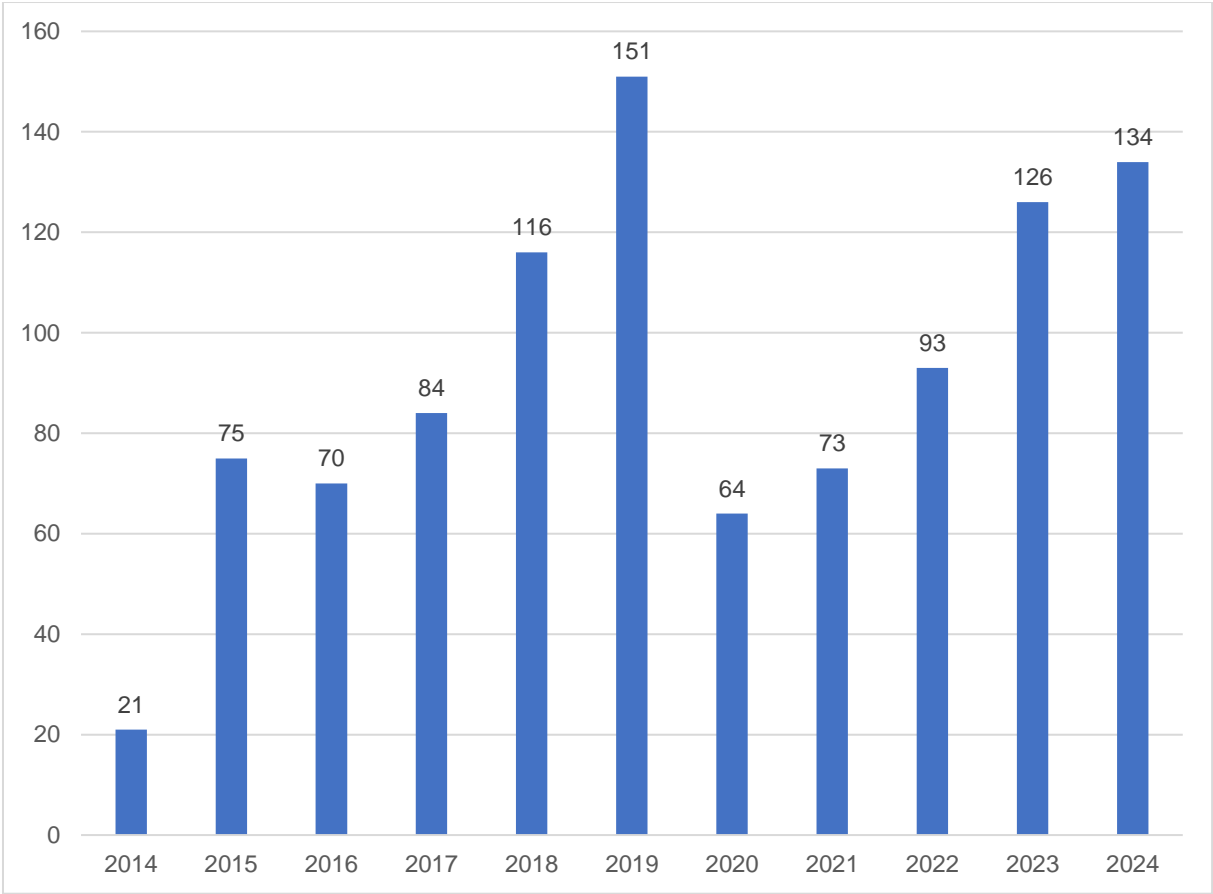
- ✓ 365 Sunset Marches
- ✓ 22 February: Participation of a German/Dutch delegation
- ✓ 11 April: Radboud University to commemorate closure of university in 1943
- ✓ 4 and 5 May: Receiving Liberation Fire and informal commemoration of the dead
- ✓ 14 July: Participation detachment of international veterans from Heumensoord for the 4Daagse
- ✓ 20 September: Commemoration 81 years Waalcrossing and a special Sunset March
- ✓ 30 September: 4000^e Sunset March
- ✓ 19 October: 11th Anniversary of the Sunset March
- ✓ 11 November: International Veterans Day



Photo 26: 21September Sunset March XXL, memory trail (photo by Henk Beenen)

Annex: Statistics

Overview of Certificates issued



After peaking around 75 years of Market Garden in 2019, due to the Covid pandemic, there was a decline in the number of certificates issued. Soon, the number increased again.

Number of certificates issued to non-Dutch

Country	Number
US	115
UK	15
CA	12
GE	9
NO	7
DK	3
BE	2
FR	2
AUS	1
IT	1
SE	1