

PRESS RELEASE

Lochem, 6 November, 2019

We welcome all interested parties on Wednesday 20 November

Search for pilot begins with the excavation of British Hawker Typhoon from WWII in Eefde

In Eefde, municipality Lochem, a special project starts on 11 November: On 26 September 1944, in the aftermath of Operation Market Garden, a Hawker Typhoon type fighter-bomber crashed on a pasture between Scheuterdijk and Lindeboomweg. The purpose of the salvage is to find the remains of the pilot, so that he may receive the last honourable resting place he deserves.

During the operation, visitors can come and have a look at the salvage process in the afternoon. You can register for this on www.lochem.nl/vliegtuigberging-bezoekersdag. Visitors are welcome in blocks of half an hour each, to give as many people as possible the opportunity to come and have a look. First come, first served. Primary schools near Eefde and Lochem veterans will also visit.

Mortal remains

Not many recognisable aircraft parts are expected to be found because the aircraft crashed almost perpendicularly from a great height. There is, however, the hope that the remains of the 21-year-old pilot William Robert Stephen Hurrell, who is still listed as 'missing in action' in the records of the British army, will be found. His descendants – who were only made aware in 2015 that their family member crashed at Eefde - are very sympathetic to developments in Eefde.

William Hurrell's body was never recovered. Nevertheless, a memorial has been erected on the Scheuterdijk in remembrance of the pilot. The impact of the lack of a grave, even long after the war, is reflected in, among other things, the documentary [Liever dood dan vermist](#) (e.g. rather dead than missing), broadcast in early 2018 by Omroep MAX.



Start on Remembrance Day

Mayor Sebastiaan van 't Erve: "I think it is very significant that we can commence this special search on the eve of 75 years of freedom. The process starts on November 11, Remembrance Day in England. William Hurrell gave his life for our freedom. We owe this search to him and his relatives. We are therefore very honoured that his family is coming over from Australia during the salvage. We know that his mother found it difficult to cope with the disappearance of her son. We are committed to pay him our last respects".

National Program

The excavation is part of the National Program for the salvage of aircraft wreckages. The municipality of Lochem is the client. At the head of the salvage team is a Staff Officer Aircraft Salvage (SOVB). Leemans Speciaalwerken will carry out the work. It is expected that the operation in Eefde can be completed in two, to a maximum of three, weeks.