

The location of image 101I-497-3531-11

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Appendix to Newsletter No. 118 of the Society of Friends of the Airborne Museum Oosterbeek, June 2010



Illustration 1. Image 101I-497-3531-11 (PK Jacobsen, Bundesarchiv).

In Newsletter 111 of August 2008 there was a request to help identify the location where, in September 1944, the following photo of a number of Germans with a captured British jeep was taken. After a long period of research and with the help of a number of SFAM members, the location has finally and conclusively been established.

The illustration comes from a well-known series of photos taken by Jacobsen and Wenzel, two Luftwaffe PK reporters who, during the crucial morning of 19 September 1944, took roughly 6 rolls of film. It was the high point of the Battle including the attempts by the 1st, 3rd and 11th Parachute Battalions and the 2nd Btn the South Staffordshire Regiment to reach the troops at the bridge in Arnhem, under command of Lt. Col. Frost. That did not succeed and was the last time that it was attempted to relieve Frost's men. Thereafter, the remains of these units retreated to Oosterbeek. The enormity of the Airborne losses and especially those taken prisoner on that day and the crucial phase of the battle that is illustrated, makes the series of photos taken by the two Luftwaffe men, a unique document about the essence of the Battle of Arnhem. Anyone interested in the complete set is recommended to look at the book 'Market Garden - Then and Now' by Karel Margry.

A number of SFAM members responded to the request in the Newsletter and, not surprisingly, everyone pointed to the same road location: the Utrechtsestraat, becoming the Utrechtseweg, in Arnhem. The opinions then varied substantially: the majority pointed to a building on the southside of the Utrechtseweg, close to the Oranjestraat, and a building close to the station. None of the suggested locations eventually proved correct. But the investigation which occurred following those helpful tips, fortunately produced a positive result.

On the basis of the sequence in which the PK men took their photos, the spot where we had to search became very clearly identified (see Illustration 2). Jacobsen initially used his camera close to the PGEM building on the Utrechtseweg (where now the Liander and Alliander building stands) and then took the queried photo, followed by a group of British POW's who were taken along the Renssenstraat to the Station. The attached map, produced by Marcel Anker, gives the locations of this series of photos. It is suspected that having reached the Gemeentemuseum (now the Museum of Modern Art) Jacobsen could go no further as he was then in the front line. He possibly then walked back looking for his most important target - British POW's!

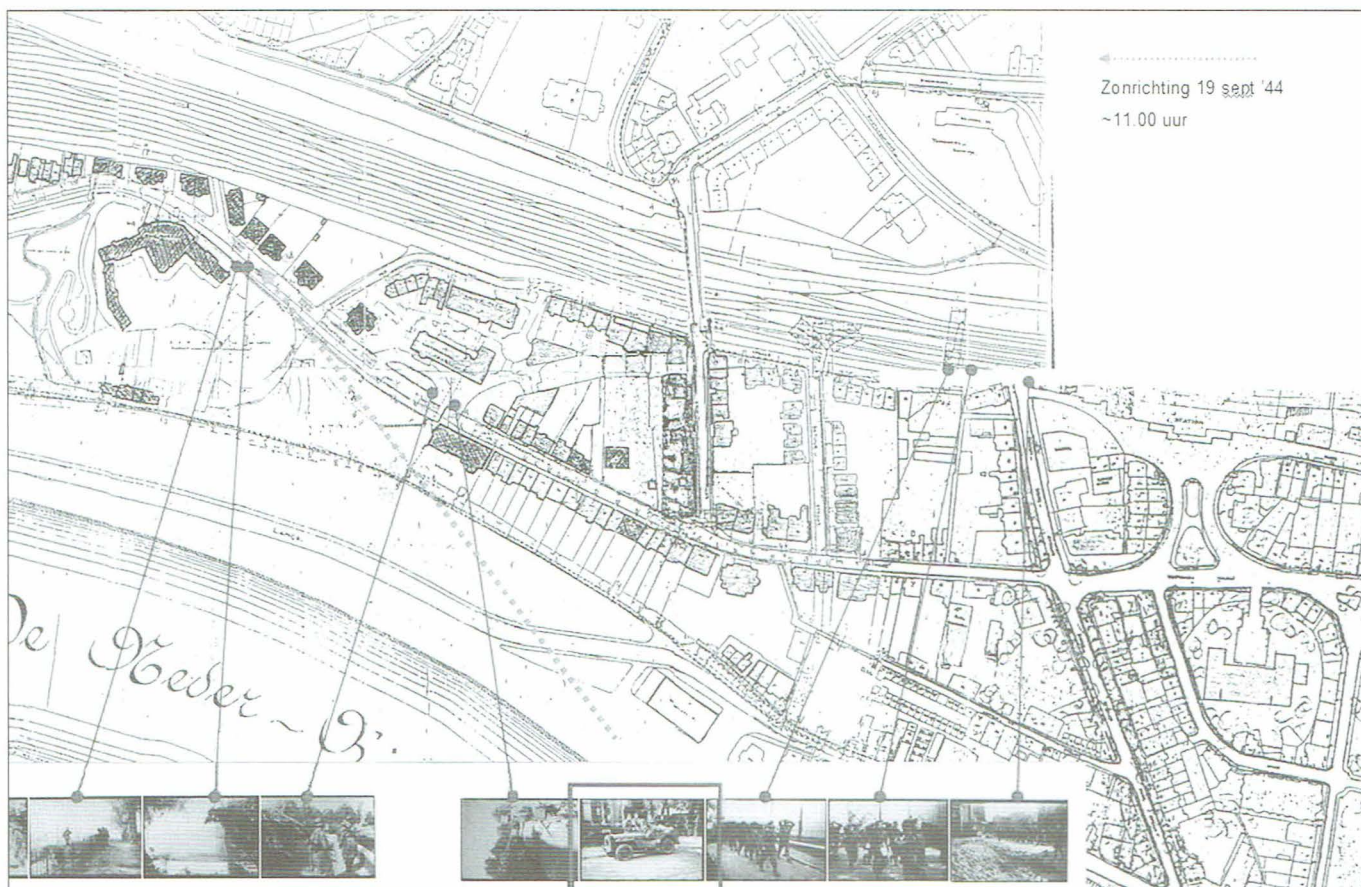


Illustration 2. Sequence of the photos 7-14 from Jacobsen's film 101I-497-3511. The map is an electrical supply cable network drawing from the earlier Arnhem energy company GEB, recovered and worked on by Marcel Anker.

One point not ignored was the fact that in the photo are obviously tram rails. That suggests that, looking at the then existing tram routes, that the site was along the Utrechtsestraat and Utrechtseweg, the Bergstraat, the Stationsplein or possibly the Oude Kraan. Also, the shadows give some indication. After further investigation, it appears that the photo was taken sometime in the morning, possibly between 10 and 11am. The shadows created by the strong sunlight on that lovely September morning, indicate a north westerly direction. That suggests that the photo was taken in a southerly direction.

The first indication that it was in the area of Bergstraat-Utrechtsestraat, came from close analysis of the photo in question and from other photos taken by Wenzel and Jacobsen. Especially standing out was the fence, both in the photo with the jeep and in photo number 3530-15A from Jacobsen (see Illustrations 3 and 4).

The backward bent poles, the fence, the edge of the pavement and (for those looking closely) the two horizontally stretched (barbed?) wire cords between the bent poles are good identifiers. The location of Illustration 4 was already well known: this was taken on the crossing of Utrechtsestraat and Bergstraat in a south-westerly direction. From a little further away, Wenzel also photographed the same corner (see Illustration 6).

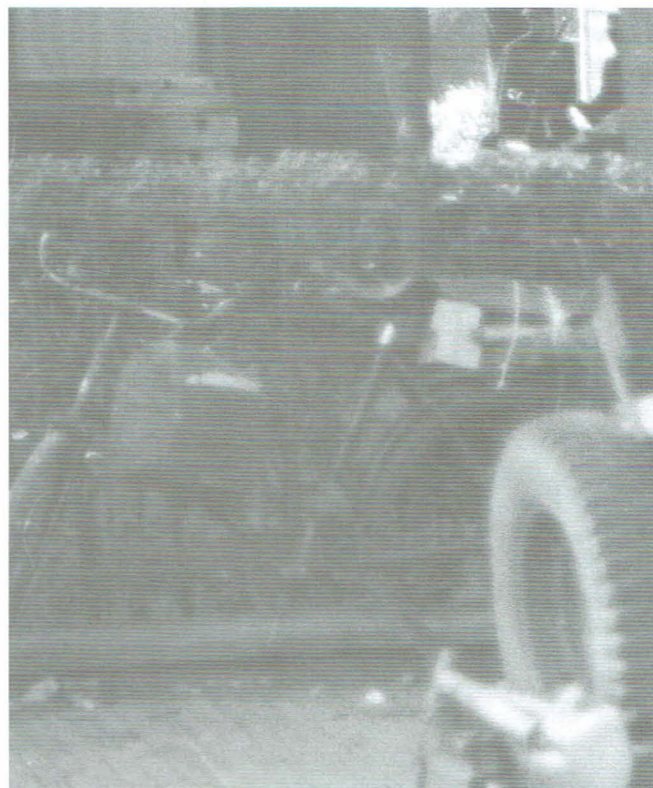


Illustration 3. Detail from 101I-497-3531-11 (PK Jacobsen, Bundesarchiv).



Illustration 4. Detail from 101I-497-3530-15A (PK Jacobsen, Bundesarchiv).

The details of the balcony on the visible villa look very much like the balcony of the building in the centre of the photo with the jeep but it is also obvious that it is not the same house.

The clearest link must be the NSDAP sign on the wall, but it took until September 2009 before this link could be connected. In the first instance, Geert Maassen dug through the Arnhem archives and collection in the Gelderland Archive but no relevant address of an office of the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP) came to light. On the day of the Airborne Walk (5.9.09) by pure chance he stumbled on a very important document

in Oosterbeek. It came about through a small exhibition in the interior design shop L4 Interior and Decoration, who took part in the competition for the best Battle of Arnhem window display. Geert's notice was caught from far way by a motorcycle but when closer by, his eye fell immediately on a printed card from and for German authorities (see Illustration 7) The attached address details were definitive: the NSDAP office was based at the address, No.1, Utrechtsestraat in Arnhem. That was the earlier suggested building on the western corner of that street and the Bergstraat.

Not being aware of this discovery, the writer of this article came to the same conclusion based on a reference in the publication '3x Arnhem' by Bert Kerkhoffs. On page 65 it is stated that, at the address mentioned, a branch of the 'Omnia Treuhand GMBH', a German business which formed part of the NSDAP organisation was installed.

With a little effort and imagination and a good enlargement of Illustration 1, you can see under the NSDAP plate, a number of letters which can be interpreted as reading 'Kreisleitung' and thereunder 'ARNHEIM'.

Further research in the archives revealed that the building, on 17 December 1942 was taken over by the German service organisation 'Reichs Commissioner' (Räumungsfrist 1 Januar 1943). This was done to the dismay of the widow owner Mrs M.E. van Es-Frowein and included the main house with the exception of the garage and garden room. After the War, it appeared the building remained intact

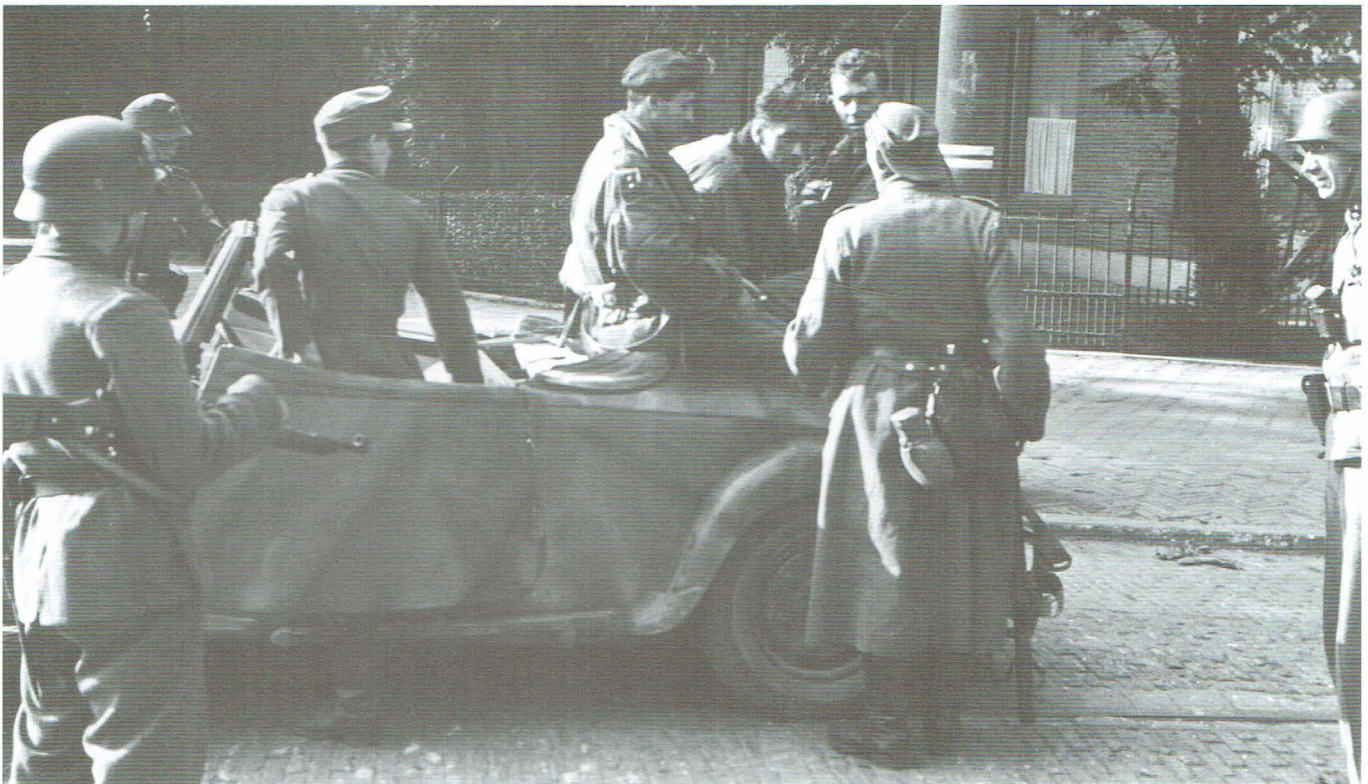


Illustration 5. Image 101I-497-3530-15A (PK Jacobsen, Bundesarchiv).



Illustration 6. Image 101I-497-3526-22A (PK Wenzel, Bundesarchiv).

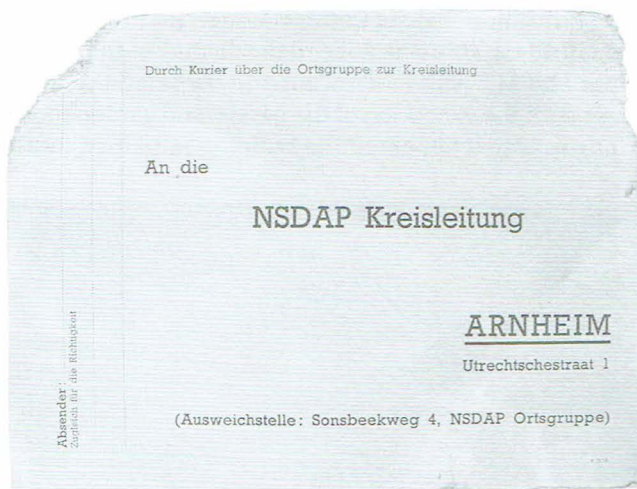


Illustration 7. Printed card from the NSDAP (from private collection).

and was finally demolished around 1953/54, when the land was used for new buildings. The following map gives an oversight to the immediate surroundings of the crossroad Utrechtsestraat/Bergstraat in 1944 and on it, are marked where the photos in this article were taken.

The link with the widow, Mrs Van Es-Frowein revealed more data. From the City records, it concerns Margaretha Elisabeth Frowein (died in Arnhem in 1952 aged 97), widow of Colonel Nicolaas Jan Adriaan Pieter Helenus van Es (died in 1921 aged 73 in the Gelderland capital). In the telephone guide of Arnhem in 1950, the number of Mrs M.E. van Es-Frowein appears at Utrechtsestraat 1; Thus, she returned to the address after the War. Her husband

was apparently well known in the military world around Arnhem.

In the Netherlands Literature Annual of 1921, appears the following text: 'On 14 July 1864, he was appointed as artillery cadet at the Royal Dutch Military Academy in Breda. Following appointment as Second Lieutenant on 22 July 1868, he served successively in the Fortress garrison and Field Artillery until on 1 March 1886, he was promoted to Captain and transferred to the Horse Artillery Corps. After he was discharged from active military service on the grounds of ill-health on 15 November 1898 with the rank of Major, he saw himself promoted to the rank of Colonel, on the basis of his literary and other service background. Amongst other duties, during the mobilisation years 1914-18, he served as Assignment and Station Commander in Arnhem, in which role, through his cordial and courteous manner to Dutch and foreign authorities, he kept the Dutch honour at a high level. Mr Van Es was, for some time, a painter and as such was for many years, a member and chairman of the Commission for running of the 4 yearly exhibitions, member of the art loving society 'Artibus Sacrum' in Arnhem and others. His military service and later literary occupations, contributed to his sensitivity as a painter fully maturing. Colonel Van Es was awarded the honour of the Order of Oranje-Nassau with Sword, Commander, Officer and Knight of a number of foreign awards and was honoured with a further range of Dutch and foreign decorations.

Thus he was a military historian and he served in the Horse Artillery Corps. If only he knew what, 20 years after his death, would appear and take place on his doorstep!

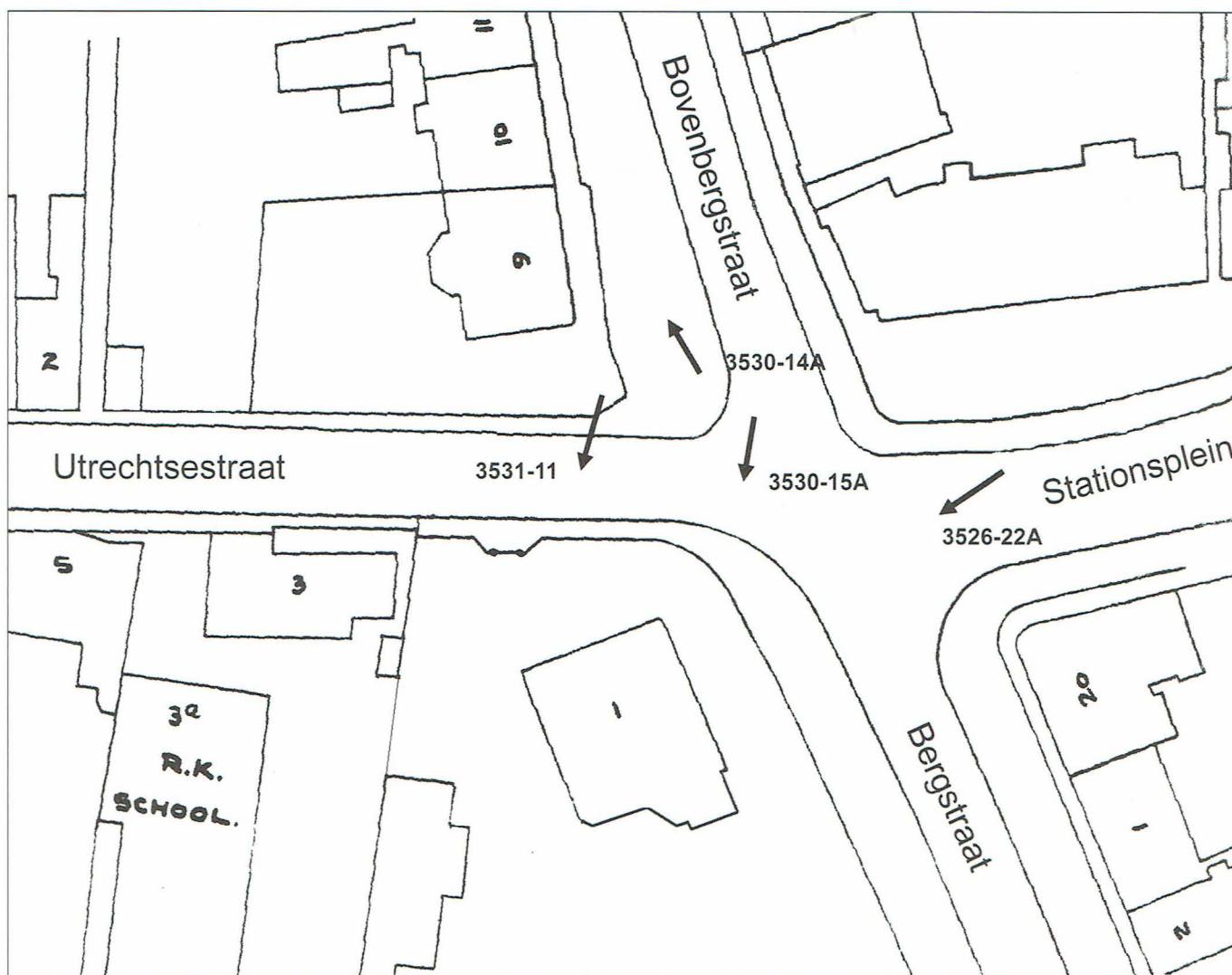


Illustration 8. Map of crossroads Bergstraat/Utrechtsestraat and location of the photos in this article.¹ Drawing from the former Arnhem energy company GEB by Marcel Anker and further work by Paul Meiboom.

As a result, it also appeared the following photo of Mr Van Es still existed (Illustration 9). The original text stated 'Colonel (non active service) N.J.A.P.H van Es mounted on horseback in front of the Mounted Cavalry building' but it is not difficult to see that, in fact, the photo was taken on his own property, when the photographer stood with his back to the Utrechtsestraat. The building behind van Es is in fact the garden building of Utrechtsestraat 1 (see Illustration 8) and the same as in the middle of the German 'NSDAP photo' by Jacobsen (note the details of the balcony wall and corner stones).

Case Closed? Not yet entirely, because a photo of the whole house with the corner where the NSDAP sign appears, is the last still missing part of the puzzle. What is now beyond doubt, is that the location of the photo of the Germans with the jeep is now beyond question.

Anyone visiting the same site today (Illustrations 10 and 11) can understand how difficult the research was. Today,

nothing remains from the site in 1944, except perhaps the street itself but then without the tram rails.

Zooming in on the German photo from 1944 opens a world of details that, at first sight are not obvious. For example, behind the German with the black jacket, two civilians are walking: one man and possibly a boy. Also on the right-hand side, on the driveway, all sorts of material are seen, including what looks like a 'Schwimmwagen' (based on the VW Beetle chassis) and a motorbike. Unexpectedly more questions arise: what are the Germans talking about in the jeep? Who are the civilians and what were they doing there? Are the bicycles theirs? Or are the bikes from Waffen-SS's of the 9th SS Panzer Division Hohenstaufen that fought here? It is known that a number of that unit cycled to Arnhem on 17 September. Was the house at Utrechtsestraat 1, a local headquarters for the Germans who fought here?



Illustration 9. Col.(non active service) N.J.A.P.H. van Es on horseback in front of the garden house at Utrechtsestraat 1. Photo from 1914-19 by Herman de Ruiter, glass negative ordered for 'J. Kooiman, the Dutch Forces and their mobilisation in 1914'. Photo from the Armed Forces Museum, Delft. The school of which a small part is visible on the right-hand side still stands in 2010 (not visible from the Utrechtsestraat).



Illustration 10. The site of Illustration 1 in 2010.



Illustration 11. The site of illustration 6 in 2010-07-11.



Illustration 12. Two details from photo 101I-497-3530-14A (PK Jacobsen, Bundesarchiv).



New Request

The study of a number of enlarged copies from the Jacobsen series revealed a number of previously unnoticed details. It appears that the 3 British POW's in Illustration 5 include 2 lieutenants and one major. The rank insignia badges are in this photo and another of the same group, when greatly enlarged, clear to see. (see 12 and 13) The left-hand lieutenant in illustration 12 has a parachutist wing on his smock. It is possible the left-hand lieutenant in Photo 13 is in fact, a Captain; it is possible that something is not right in that his rank insignia on his right shoulder appears one star is not visible.

In photo 101I-497-3530-14A the three Britons walk out of the building at Bovenbergstraat 9, on the corner with the Utrechtsestraat. They could not have been captured there, because the British did not advance that far. Possibly after they were captured elsewhere, they were brought here and possibly interrogated and, at the moment the photographer walked past, were being taken away. That suggests that the buildings on this crossroads performed a vital role for the Germans during this phase of the battle.



Illustration 13. Detail from photo 101I-497-3530-15A (PK Jacobsen, Bundesarchiv).

Given the location and timing of this photo, it should be possible to identify these officers; there are not many possible candidates. It must be certain that they are British who were taken prisoner at the end of the fighting on Onderlans and thus, were from the 1st or 3rd Parachute battalions. The sequence of Jacobsen's photos shows that the fighting by the South Staffs was still on-going and that the capture of the large majority of these took place at the earliest, 1 or 2 hours after this picture was taken. The first weary South Staffs POW's appear on Jacobsen's following film in photos 3531-12 and 13 (just after the photo with the jeep).

A simple process of elimination concludes that it can involve just three majors: Chris Perrin-Brown, John Timothy and Ronny Stark, all from the 1st Btn. The remaining majors of the 1st Para Brigade and attached units at the time the photos were taken, had died, were at the bridge, wounded and transferred to Oosterbeek or, during one of the previous days, had been taken prisoner. On appearance, Perrin-Brown with moustache does not appear appropriate but, again, Timothy does seem a good candidate.

By chance, John Timothy is still alive and Harvey Grenville of the Parachute Regiment Association was asked to show the photos to him. Unfortunately 65 years after the event, John could not confirm that he is the person concerned.

If the earlier option is correct that the left-hand Lieutenant in photo 13, is in fact a Captain, then it is likely that Capt John O'Sullivan 2i/c S Company of the 1st Btn is a very good candidate. Another living survivor of the 1st Btn is Private Doug Charlton, but he could not confirm any of the three as being of the 1st Btn, thus the above suggestion does not add up



Illustration 14. Left, detail from photo 101I-497-3530-15A (PK Jacobsen, Bundesarchiv). Right, portrait photo Hans Möller, as SS-Sturmbannführer, photo taken after Arnhem, between October 1944 and May 1945 (photo H. Fürbringer).

and therefore it can only be that they are a group of officers from another unit, such as artillery, Glider Pilots or perhaps South Staffs. Thus this new request for info, particularly from our British members: Who are these two lieutenants (or lieutenant and Captain and a Major who were captured on Tuesday morning 19 September in Arnhem-West?

Anyway, picture 5 shows another officer, but a German: furthest right stands an SS-Hauptsturmführer. Compared with a portrait photo of him from roughly the same period, we must, with little doubt, conclude that it is Hauptsturmführer Möller, commander of the Pioneer (engineer) Section of the 9th SS Panzer-Division Hohenstaufen (see illustration 14). He was commander of the Kampfgruppe of the Hohenstaufen on the Utrechtsestraat-Utrechtseweg on 19 September. That makes this photo very important; could it be it was his HQ which was in the villa on the corner of the Brugstraat and Utrechtsestraat?

With thanks to

- Geert Maassen for his contributions to this article and his editing of same.
- Harvey Grenville and Marcel Anker for their contributions.
- Interior Store L4 Interieur & Decoratie, Van Toulon van der Koogweg 18, Oosterbeek. (www.L4interieur.nl)

Sources

In this investigation various sources have also contributed to help delete some possible locations for the photo. Therefore they warrant a mention here, as well as the comment in the main text above.

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- Website 'Arnhem in beeld'.
- Website 'Oud Arnhem'.
- Website 'World War 2 Unit histories and officers. By Hans Houterman/Jeroen Koppes.
- Website 'Airborne Assault – Paradata.
- And last but not least the Gelderland Archive and their website www.geldersarchief.nl.

Endnotes

- ¹ Around this crossroads, Jacobsen and Wenzel took at least 2 photos. In any event two frequently used photos by Wenzel 101I-497-3526-20A (of the 10 Sturmgeschütze in the Utrechtsestraat) and 101I-497-3526 21A (of the very young SS man with helmet and protective eye mask) are almost certainly taken at the same spot as illustration 1, only in another direction. The house in the background, by the young SS man, is the same corner plot from where the 3 British prisoners are seen walking in the photo by Jacobsen. Besides which I have an inkling that the two vague photos, directly following Photo 5 in Jacobsen's film roll, with the subject being other British prisoners, were taken by the villa on the corner of Brugstraat/Utrechtsestraat.