



Our 'Meivlieger' Remembered

Military base built on former Ypenburg aerodrome site
renamed in honour of former 33 Squadron veteran, Jan Linzel



Thursday 23 January 2020

The Hague

On Thursday 23 January, during a ceremonial meeting attended by the Dutch Chief of the Air Staff, the name of the military location 'Brasserskade' was changed to the 'Major Jan Linzel Complex'.

Emma Linzel, Jan Linzel's granddaughter, attended the ceremony and in her speech she emphasized the warm bond with her grandfather. During his speech, the Air Force Commander, Lieutenant General Dennis Luyt, discussed the great significance of Jan Linzel during the German invasion of the Netherlands in the early days of 1940 and that, thanks to the efforts of soldiers like him, Dutch people have been able to live in freedom for 75 years. Jan Linzel was one of the Fokker DXXI pilots who entered the unequal battle with the Luftwaffe on 10 May 1940. He was seriously injured in the leg and managed to survive after baling out. General Luyt said: "Freedom cannot be taken for granted. It requires courage, sacrifice and dedication. Above all it requires responsibility. Major Jan Linzel was one of those brave people who fully accepted his responsibility."

Jan Linzel did not give up the fight and eventually managed to reach the United Kingdom as an 'Engelandvaarder', a term given to the Dutchmen who managed to escape from Occupied Europe and continue the fight against the Germans. As we know, and personnel visiting and working at the complex will be able to read, visitors to the Jan fought across Europe as a fighter pilot with 33 Squadron. During his career, which continued in the RNLAF after the war, Jan Linzel received several awards, including the Cross of Merit (*Kruis van Verdienste*) and the Fliers' Cross (*Vliegerkruis*). As members of the Association, and the readers of 'Loyalty' and 'Past & Present' will recall, Jan Linzel died on Sunday 5 May 2019, at the age of 103, in his hometown of Glengariff in Ireland.

The name change from the Brasserskade military location to Major Jan Linzel Complex emphasizes the great value that Jan Linzel has had for military aviation and is a tribute to a man who worked for our freedom. As our man in Zeeland, Jan Westhoeve, wrote: "So he will still be remembered."

LOYALTY

