



Denis Kenyon writes:-

Thanks to a simple error I made of a date in the biography of Flt Lt. Simon Malin, who is commemorated on Gateway Grammar School war memorial, I was contacted by a Dutch gentleman, Jan de Jager, with whom I have been in regular correspondence ever since.

*Jan is a volunteer with a wonderful organisation, **TracesOfWar**. His article below gives you a good idea of what they do but I want to draw you attention to something extra special.*

I had no idea of the huge effort put in by so many Dutch people of all ages, to tend and commemorate the graves and memorials of allied service personnel who are buried in numerous cemeteries throughout The Netherlands. Allied airmen whose aircraft crashed on Dutch soil. Allied soldiers killed fighting to liberate Holland from the Germans. Allied seaman washed up on Dutch shores.

When you have read Jan's article, please look at the links. You will be amazed and humbled.

TRACESOFWAR – In a World where history is just around the corner!

Thank you very much for inviting us to tell you, the readers of Last Post, about our project and website.

TracesOfWar.com is an encyclopaedic website about global war history, told from a military, political and social perspective. The first steps towards this were taken in 2002 when STIWOT (Foundation for World War Two Information) was established in the Netherlands. In 2012, STIWOT merged several existing websites into one umbrella organisation and introduced TracesOfWar.com as a new website. Since then, TracesOfWar has grown to become one of the most consulted platforms in the world for war-related information.

The content of our website is divided into six thematic areas or domains:

- Sights
- Persons
- Awards
- Articles
- Current
- Themes

The website is almost entirely bilingual, in Dutch and English.

With more than 2,000,000 visitors per year, TracesOfWar.com is a frequently consulted website. Visitors plan their city trips or holidays based on war museums and monuments published on the website. In

addition to the website, this can also be done with a mobile app for tablets or smartphones. With the touch of a button, you can see where there are interesting places of interest around the world. TracesOfWar on the go!

To give you an idea of the scale, our site currently lists more than 160,000 places of interest and more than 123,000 people from all over the world. These numbers are growing daily. In the case of Great Britain, this concerns approximately 26,000 locations and 15,700 people of British nationality. Our approach is to link these people, places of interest and, where possible, articles to each other as much as possible.

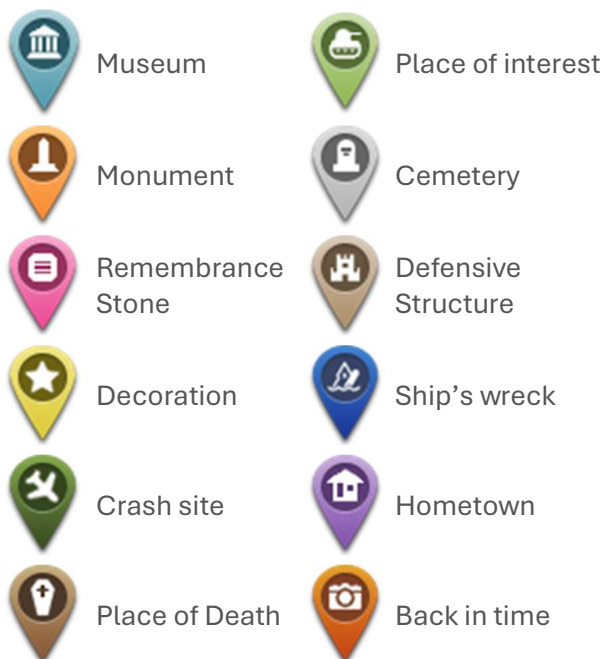
Although the emphasis is on the Second World War, we strive to cover other past conflicts and wars in every domain, from the Napoleonic Wars to those in Afghanistan.

Domain Sights:

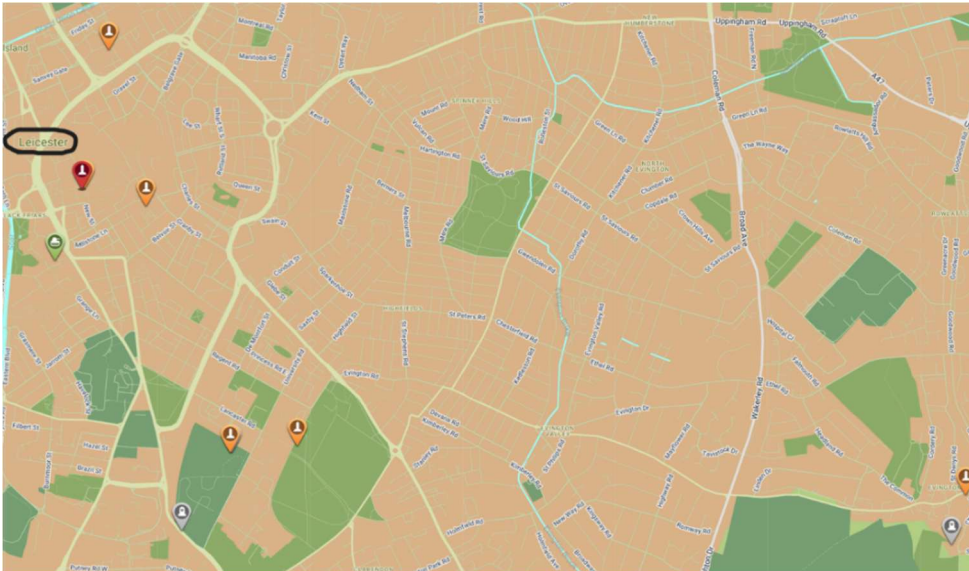
Sights include among other things monuments, cemeteries, crash sites, Stolpersteine (small brass plaques set in the pavement recording a person or event) and defensive structures. Almost all of these pages feature one or more photographs and a short or longer text. The length of this text depends mainly on the information that was available at the time of publication.

This domain uses the services of Google Maps. It is possible that a place of interest is located on an unknown road or does not have a street number. We do our utmost to indicate a location as accurately as possible (with very specific coordinates), but we cannot give any guarantees.

Features and downloading the app. You can search for places based on attractions, but you can also find what there is to see or visit in the area at any location in the world. You can add attractions to your favourites, making the information even more accessible. Just like on our website, these attractions are divided into types, such as museums and monuments. Each type has a recognisable icon on the map:



For example Leicester:



You can download our app from both the Apple Store and Google Play.

We deliberately don't include current visitor info, like admission prices or opening hours, because these often change and it would give a wrong impression of what's actually happening.

Domain Persons:

The persons featured on the site are mostly military personnel, but often also have a background in the resistance, collaboration or political functions, and may or may not have received an award for this. As mentioned earlier, these persons are linked as much as possible to the monuments on which their names appear, the cemeteries where they are buried and any awards they may have received. We try to provide these biographies with portrait and/or graffiti photos as much as possible. Here too, the content of the biographies depends on the information available and its reliability at the time of entry.

Domain Decorations:

This domain describes a wide range of military and civilian decorations from around the world, such as the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order, the Medal of Honour and the Iron Cross. These decorations are also linked to the recipients known to TracesOfWar.

Domain Articles:

This domain contains a large number of articles written by our volunteers or by third parties such as historians or other organisations. They cover a wide range of topics and are divided into six main groups: Biographies, Military, Persecution, Documentation, Society and Weapons. Before an article is published, it is reviewed by one of our experienced editors. Many – but not all – articles are also available in English.

Domain Current Events

This domain contains all kinds of topics or photo reports from current events, almost all of which are related to the Second World War. The editors of this domain also write book and film reviews, interviews and a quiz. Unfortunately, this quiz is only available in Dutch. A large part of these reports is only available in Dutch, but English-language news is also shared.

Domain Themes:

The domain themes is a kind of archive where you can find numerous topics with related sights and people.

What can you do yourself?

Would you like to contribute to TracesOfWar? We are always looking for new volunteers. For example, you could write articles about the Second World War or take photographs of places of interest related to war history. For more information, please see the current list of vacancies on the website or contact us using the contact form.

You don't necessarily have to be a volunteer to contribute to the development of the site. We strive to register all places of interest, but it is always possible that something is missing.

If you think a place of interest is missing, you can report this via the contact form or by email to input@tracesofwar.com. To add a new topic, a (short) description, the location (preferably with coordinates) and between one and eight photos are required. New photos are also always welcome for locations where photos are missing or are of poor quality.

Information about missing or additional details and/or photographs of existing persons for the Persons and Awards section is also welcome. These can be sent to: info@tracesofwar.com. When it concerns awards, the information must be reliable and/or verifiable, and preferably accompanied by supporting evidence.

If you would like to submit an article, we recommend that you first submit the subject via the general email address.

Thank you for your attention. Enjoy TracesOfWar.

Lennard Bolijn - Chairman

Our contact details:

 www.tracesofwar.com (website in English)

 www.tracesofwar.nl (website in Dutch)

 www.stiwot.com (owner, non-profit organisation)

 info@tracesofwar.com

 <https://www.facebook.com/tracesofwar>

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