

## **Unveiling of renewed memorial monument on Marken**

The memorial monument for the crew of the Short Stirling BK710 near the community center Het Trefpunt on Marken has recently been undergoing some changes and additions. The changes involved adding seven basalt blocks with the names of the crew of the Short Stirling BK710 on it and adding the names to the British monument of the Short Stirling BK716 crew. The changes to the memorial monument were officially unveiled last Sunday by Lieutenant Colonel of the Dutch Marines Corps, Robert van Riel and Dutch Army Lieutenant 1<sup>st</sup> class (retired) Jan Commandeur. Because of government Covid-19 guidelines, there were only a few attendees allowed.

On the 'previous' British monument, the names of seven crew members of the BK710 were listed, but that was not the plane that crashed in Markermeer in 1943. That appeared to be the BK716 with a different crew. The local station of the Royal Netherlands Rescue Society (KNRM) on Marken has come up with a solution for this and made changes to the memorial.

The renewed monument is now a British / Canadian monument, since the crew of the BK716 consisted of five British, and two Canadian crew members. But the local committee wanted to continue to commemorate the crew of the BK710, and these names are now listed on stainless-steel nameplates mounted on the seven basalt blocks.

### How it all started.....

On Monday 22 December 2008, the lifeboat 'Frans Verkade' from the search and rescue station of the KNRM on Marken responded to an emergency call. During this emergency call, the crew salvaged an object from what they believed to be, an aircraft part, which initially was thought to be from the BK710. Upon closer investigation, it was discovered that the part was not from the BK710, but the from BK716.

There has been a memorial monument for the BK710 located on Marken since 2011, which has now been changed due to recently discovered new information. And by means of the seven basalt blocks, the crew of the BK710 is not forgotten.

The expanded monument was created partly through cooperation from the local community center Het Trefpunt, KNRM Marken and the Christelijke Oranje Vereniging 'Marken & Oranje'.