



Jan Willem Hazelaar

died on May 14, 1940. He was an orderly in his unit and had to deliver the message of capitulation to the troops near Overschie. On the way he was shot by German paratroopers from a factory on the edge of Overschie at the Doenkade and was then transported, seriously injured, to the Oud & Nieuw Gasthuis in Delft. He died the same day. Like many others, Jan also had to report for the mobilization of the army in 1939. When the war broke out on 10 May 1940, Jan was serving near Rotterdam. He died on the day of the bombing. His body was transferred to De Wijk to be buried there.



Klaas Fernim

The Leeuwarden airfield was attacked by English air raids several times from July 1940. On 29 July 1940, eight workers were killed and four were seriously injured. Among them Klaas Fernim from De Wijk. He died shortly afterwards, on 31 July, from his injuries. The Agrarisch Nieuwsblad dedicated the newspaper article below to Klaas Fernim.



Francis Graham Latham

On Tuesday May 4, 1943, the Wellington bomber HE530 HD-V of the Royal Australian Air Force, 466 Squadron took off from the RAF Leconfield. The aircraft with its crew of five was part of a formation of 595 bombers with Dortmund as its target. On the outward journey, the bomber was hit by a German Messerschmitt night fighter when it approached the German border. Everyone managed to leave the aircraft, except for tail gunner Sergeant Francis Graham Latham. He was last seen extinguishing a fire in the tail. Sergeant Francis Graham Latham was killed in the crash.



Jan Donker

refused to work for the Germans and went into hiding. He was arrested at the end of the war and taken to a penal camp in Wilhelmshaven. He lived to see the liberation but died on May 20, 1945 as a result of an injury during a bombing raid on the German naval city. Hendrik de Vries (1924-2021), a former Wijker, said: "I knew Jan Donker well. I can still see him clearly. He lived on the Hoogeveensche Vaart between Wijkbrug and Rogat. I don't know exactly how and why, but Jan Donker had to report to work for the Germans and he refused. He went into hiding with his fiancée in Ruinen, but was arrested there and taken to a penal camp in Germany.



Nestor Probizanski

Canadian Nestor Probizanski was nineteen years old when he volunteered for military service in June 1941. He was assigned as a driver to the D-Squadron of the Manitoba Dragoons, a reconnaissance unit. In July 1944 he landed in Normandy. Eventually he arrived in our region after many detours. This mounted reconnaissance unit operated far ahead of the fixed lines. As a result, they were often the first Canadian liberators in many villages. Nestor Probizanski jumped out of his vehicle with a loaded weapon. The weapon went off. The bullet hit him right in the head. He must have died instantly. He was buried in Zuidwolde and was later transferred to the Canadian cemetery near Holtzen.