

Liberation Day (Netherlands)



Music festival on Liberation Day 2008 in Zwolle

In the Netherlands, **Liberation Day** (Dutch: *Bevrijdingsdag*) is celebrated each year on May the 5th to mark the end of the occupation by Nazi Germany during World War II.

The nation was liberated largely by the First Canadian Army, which included in addition to Canadian forces the British I Corps, and the 1st Polish Armoured Division, as well as, at various times, American, Belgian, Dutch and Czechoslovak troops. Parts of the country, in particular the south-east, were liberated by the British Second Army, which included American and Polish airborne forces, (see Operation Market Garden) and French airbornes (see Operation Amherst). On 5 May 1945, the Canadian General Charles Foulkes and the German Commander-in-Chief Johannes Blaskowitz reached an agreement on the capitulation of German forces in the Netherlands in Hotel de Wereld in Wageningen. One day later, the capitulation document was signed in the auditorium of Wageningen University, located next door.

After the liberation in 1945, Liberation Day was commemorated every five years. Finally, in 1990, the day was declared to be a national holiday, when the liberation would be commemorated and celebrated every year.

On 4 May, the Dutch hold “Dodenherdenking,” Remembrance of the Dead for the people who fought and died during World War II and in wars in general. There are remembrance gatherings all over cities and in the country, the better-known at the National Monument on Dam Square in Amsterdam and at the Waalsdorpervlakte in the dunes near The Hague, one of the infamous Nazi execution places. Throughout the country, two minutes of silence are observed at 8 p.m. On May 5, the liberation is celebrated and festivals are held at most places in the Netherlands, with parades of veterans and 14 musical festivals through the whole country.

1 See also

- Battle of the Netherlands
- History of the Netherlands (1939–1945)#Liberation
- Liberation Day
- Liberation of Arnhem
- Public holidays in the Netherlands
- Remembrance of the Dead
- Victory in Europe Day
- World War II

2 External links

- (Dutch) Nationaal Comité 4 en 5 mei
- WWII: Liberation of the Netherlands - Canada at War
- 1st Polish armoured division liberating Netherlands
- 4th Canadian armoured division liberating Netherlands

3 Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses

3.1 Text

- **Liberation Day (Netherlands)** *Source:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberation_Day_\(Netherlands\)?oldid=679900949](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberation_Day_(Netherlands)?oldid=679900949) *Contributors:* Mav, Tsja, SimonP, NTF, Menchi, Tregoweth, Docu, RedWolf, Gidonb, Dhodges, Guusbosman, PFHLai, Sam Hocevar, D6, Pyrop, El C, Man vyi, Sweek, Ariwara, Ilse@, DodgeK, Eaolson, Graham87, Qwertyus, Opie, DePiep, Rjwilmsi, CalJW, Alexjohn3, TheDJ, RussBot, Cubic Hour, C mon, SmackBot, Burtonpe, Chris the speller, TPO-bot, General Ization, Drork, Cydebot, Esmerálda, Starionwolf, JustAGal, Thomas Milo, Some thing, Magioladitis, Connormah, Jvhertum, Cliché Online, MetsBot, DrFrench, Pharaoh of the Wizards, AstroHurricane001, DadaNeem, DASONnenfeld, Zidonuke, JrPol, Angel388, Dawn Bard, ClueBot, Ideal gas equation, Teejaysoin, DragonFury, Addbot, Capricorn42, Rubenescio, Thayts, Wikipelli, 1Veertje, Gray eyes, ClueBot NG, Jennes83, SteenthIWbot, Erpvb, Mephiles666 and Anonymous: 43

3.2 Images

- **File:Commons-logo.svg** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/4/4a/Commons-logo.svg> *License:* ? *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Mid-Hudson_balloon_festival_6.JPG** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e4/Mid-Hudson_balloon_festival_6.JPG *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Juliancolton
- **File:The_Girls_@_bevrijdingsdag_Zwolle.JPG** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/The_Girls_%40_bevrijdingsdag_Zwolle.JPG *License:* GFDL *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Jelmer Luimstra

3.3 Content license

- Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0