



GOLD!

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Magazine van de Vereniging Gouden-Kruisdragers Vierdaagse

In dit nummer:
Walkers' bling bling

Which Golden-cross-
bearer bears a golden
cross?

The 100th edition -
enjoy once more





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Goud! is an issue of the association Gold-Crossbearers Vierdaagse.

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The association Gold-Crossbearers Vierdaagse is founded on 24 July 1951 and approved by royal decree d.d. 24 July 1952, no. 46.

What a lovely year it has been...

The end of the year is nearing. And what a year it has been! We have celebrated abundantly. The 100th anniversary of 'our' event; the 65th anniversary of our association. We can look back at a very successful year in which we have positioned our Association of Gold Medallists extra well. Our gift to the Four Days Marches organisation – the song '100ste Vierdaagse' by singer/songwriter Paul de Graaf – was received with enthusiasm. Just like the CD with walking songs that we gave to our members. We heard it everywhere along the route!

We were visible as an association. Literally and figuratively. Recognizable by orange and green shirts with our logo. Clearly visible as flag carriers during the Flag parade. We think it should stay. Do you agree? Do you think the flag parade should stay the way it was organised this year? If so, send me an email via voorzitter@goudenkruisdragers.nl and then we will discuss this for certain during our meeting with the Four Days Marches organisation.

The visibility led to another result: after the Four Days Marches hundreds of new members registered with us. What a good feeling; great to experience that more and more people want to join the club. And while our membership numbers are growing, we want to make sure we stay in touch. Via our magazine, our website and our increasingly popular facebook page, a dedicated platform to ask questions and keep in touch with other members.

The medals and lustrum awards have been handed out, the evaluations have taken place. The festivities have come to an end and peace has returned. Business as usual. For some this means a winter stop; others continue to walk, come rain or shine. Every so often we discuss next year's edition. What will remain and what will change? We are happy to keep you informed.

With the festive season on our doorstep, we hope that again in 2017 we may welcome you during our members' meetings, 'powered by GKD' walks, the Four Days Marches or maybe on a terrace somewhere. Enjoy the festive season and I wish you a good and healthy 2017!

Leonie Vink
Chairman



Delegation of the association at the street parade. (Photo: Frans Leijtens)

News ** News ** News ** News

Change of address, new e-mail address, change of bank?

Should you move, please let us know your address in good time stating your membership number, so that we can send your mail to your new address. We would also appreciate it if you could also inform us of any changes with regards to your e-mail address or bank account. The latter is especially important in case you pay your fee by direct debit.

Growth in the number of members

Year after year our association is growing. Since the 100th 4days marches more than 300 new members have applied so that the total number of members rises to nearly 3600 members; a huge number!

The last years this growth seems to be exponential. In 1998 we welcomed the 1500th member, whereas the 3000th member applied two years ago.

Growth in members is not the purpose, but the larger the association gets, the better we will be able to defend you, the 4days marcher, and your interests at the Stichting 4Daagse.

Types of KWBN membership

As you probably know, one part of the contribution fees paid to to the Association of Gold Cross Owners is reserved for activities organized by the association and another part is transferred to the coordinating organization KWBN. In return, members receive the membership card with which – among other things – a reduced fee is paid at walking events in the Netherlands.

In addition, they receive the magazine Wandel.nl and the annual booklet listing all walking events. Since not all members need this extensive package, the union



Member administrator Gerard Aarts is busy processing the applications after the Marches this year. (Photo: Francien van den Heuvel)

now offers a package containing the membership card only, which of course is cheaper.

In 2018, the KWBN will charge € 9.00 per member for the membership card only and € 14.00 for the complete package. In 2019 this will amount to € 10.00 and € 16.00 respectively.

Our association would like to offer you the choice between the membership card only and the full package. If you want to keep the full package, no further action is needed. If, however, you want the membership card only, you need to make this known in writing before October 1st 2017 to the administrative secretary, Gerard Aarts, Derde Morgendreef 6, 5233 NK Den Bosch, or by Email to ledenadministratie@goudenkruisdragers.nl. As of January 2018, you will then be charged the reduced price of the limited package. Just to be perfectly clear, in addition to the dues to the KWBN, members also pay contribution to the association, which in 2018 amounts to € 10.00.

There is, however, one more thing. If you are a member of more than one walking organization affiliated to the KWBN, you pay the dues to the organization of which you are a member the longest, according to the present arrangement. But if you have opted for a membership card with that organization and you have not notified any other organization, you will be considered "MEMBER" and pay the full amount to them as well.

This is not advantageous for you. You therefore need to notify all organizations of which you are a member that you opt for the membership card only. This is an awkward construction, but unfortunately unavoidable owing to the present policy of the KWBN.

Membership fee 2017 automatic collection

The membership fee of members that have given an authorization for an automatic collection will be collected mid-January.

News ** News ** News ** News

Registration Four Days Marches 2016, Don't forget your reduction.

As from February you can register for the Four Days Marches 2017. If you mark on your registration form that you are a member of KWBN you will receive a reduction.

In 2016 this was € 5.00. It could be that you are asked for your membership number.

If so, you can find this on your membership card that you will receive in December/January.

Rectification

We were notified by Mr. H. Laterveer that the photograph on page 20 in this year's June edition of GOUD! cannot have been taken during the Four Days Marches. He points out that the trees do not have leaves and that the background is empty, which is possible, however, not likely in July in the surroundings of Nijmegen.

In consultation with the Regional Archive Nijmegen the description has been altered to 'A group of tram conductors during a training(?) for the Four Days Marches of 1935' which rectifies the caption of the photograph.

How do I settle my membership fee if I live outside of the euro zone?

Basically, PayPal is applicable. This currently applies to our members in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, UK, Finland, Japan, Norway, United States, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland.

There is an exception to this rule: if one of these members has a bank account in euro and in the euro zone, then a SEPA direct debit is possible. If that is the case, we'd very much obliged if you align with our membership administration (leden-

administratie@goudenkruisdragers.nl) in order to collect the membership fee annually from your euro account. In this way, you will significantly reduce the workload of our volunteers.

If you do not have a bank account in euro and in the euro zone, you will receive an email at the end of the year, a so-called "pre-notification" - in most cases from an email address that ends on "@goudenkruisdragers.nl". This email describes the further process. Shortly thereafter, you will receive a payment request from PayPal to pay the membership fee. PayPal will specify that the request is made by the email address membershipfee@goudenkruisdragers.nl.

In case you have already a PayPal account, you will know what to do. It appears that many of our members in the above-mentioned target group are active on PayPal already.

Otherwise, we ask you kindly to create a PayPal account. This is free of charge. One aspect is important: you need to link a bank account or your credit card to your PayPal account. If you do this, PayPal asks you to confirm the selected account. Your bank or credit card account will be charged and shows "GOUDENKRDR" as a beneficiary. Your payment will be processed by our membership administration.

There is no longer the possibility to pay the membership fee in cash on Monday before the Four Days Marches in the Kolpinghuis.

Is it possible to pay outside the euro zone by bank transfer? We do not recommend doing it. On the one hand, it complicates the process on our site. The Treasurer, membership administration and the member of the Board, responsible for PayPal, need to deal with each of these exceptions from the rule. On the other hand, your bank calculates transfer costs – and, at worst, even us; most likely,

these costs are far beyond the fees that PayPal charges us (the PayPal payment is free of charge for you).

For PayPal, we are a "non-profit" organization and for this reason the PayPal payment fees are minimal. In other words: make it easy, for you and for the association, and opt for PayPal!

Winner!

Last august WSV Schelle organized the "Walk - through Rupelstreek", powered-by Golden Crossbearers. For the first time we crossed the borders and the members needed to get used to the idea of walking abroad. Unfortunately a small number of members have found their way to Belgium. After the walk they could fill in a form and take part in a lottery for an Irischeque.

The lucky winner of this lottery is Jo Franken-Kuypers from Stampersgat:



Concept minutes of meeting

Summary concept minutes

This is a summary of the concept minutes of the General Meeting on July 18, 2016. The complete minutes of meeting will be made available at the latest three weeks prior to the meeting on April 8, 2017. These minutes can be downloaded from our website. Please do take into account that these will be in Dutch only.

Opening

This time, the meeting is opened by singer Paul de Graaf, singing his song "100th Four Days Marches", after which Mr. Rijpstra (President of the Board of the Royal Walking Union Netherlands as of Feb. 2016). Mr. Rijpstra discusses the changes within the Union and states how beautiful this sport really is, because people have time for each other, and that is something different from an app or a text.

The Chair then gives the floor to Johan Willemstein (Leader of the Marches and fellow Gold Cross medalist) and mentions that Johan was named Officer in the Order of Oranje-Nassau, after which she hands him a present. Johan refers to the Star Walks, the honorary laps, the fact that the Dutch King will come to the Entry, and he thanks our Association for its jubilee present, the CD.

On the occasion of our 65th anniversary, he then presents a lithograph to the Chair. Johan ends with a poem by Nijme-



The present of Stichting 4Daagse to our association. (Photo: Martin Raasveld)

gen's 2015-2016 poet: "Fame and Blisters".

Agenda Items submitted and Board Memos

More than 90 members participated in the Flag Parade that led from Lent to Wedren Square, where the opening took

place. It was a fantastic experience, at which our Association did an excellent job presenting itself.

In 2013, we set a new operation plan, of which the majority has been executed, such as the implementation of ambassadors, 'powered by GKD' walks, a magazine and a new website. In 2018, we'll have a new member survey that will be the basis for the next operation plan.

After many discussions within KWBN, the double payment to KWBN has come to an end. This means that our members who had been given Sponsor status will be regular members again starting 2017. Our secretary, Frans Leijtens, played a major role in these discussions.

In the past, things concerning the Jubilee rewards sometimes went wrong. Therefore, the Board decided to, starting 2017, automatically reward jubilee rewards to members involved.

Another 'Powered by GKD' walk was organized this year, by WS'78 in Nijmegen. It drew many people. On August 28, our first Powered by GKV walk abroad will be held in Schelle (Belgium).



Jan Rijpstra, chairman KWBN (Photo: Martin Raasveld)

Our new website went live recently. Board member Vicky Henriksen was heavily involved in this.

Our Association is celebrating its 65th anniversary, and all members received a CD. The Board also wants to thank Jan Woordes. As far as we know, Jan has been a member of our association the longest time. To this occasion, he receives a painting made by member Annemieke Martinus-Claus.

The 100th Four Days Marches and (other) Four Days Marches matters

Our Association is proud to have the Four Days Marches record holders as members of our Association. Bert van der Lans hopes to finish for the 69th time, whereas Dick Koopman hopes to get his 67th medal.

2017 Reunion

In 2017, the reunion will likely take place in a central place in the Netherlands. Frans Leijtens and Veroncia Bunschoten are responsible for the organization.

Questions

A number of topics are discussed, such as the colors of the logo, the Four Days Marches app, the Sunday church celebration and many other events around the 100th anniversary. Several members express their satisfaction with the Flag Parade. This feeling is shared by the other members.

Closure

The Chair thanks René Saleming for hosting us at the Kolpinghuis. René congratulates the Board with the 65th anniversary and offers each Board member a bottle of wine. The Chair refers to Paul de Graaf's version of the Four Days Marches song, which is then sung at the end of the meeting.



Handover of painting to Jan Woordes, with at the left side Annemieke Martinus-Claus (Source: Stichting De 4Daagse, Rolf Namjesky)



Paul de Graaf (Source: Stichting De 4Daagse, Rolf Namjesky)

General Meeting invitation

Be there !

Herewith we would like to invite you for our General Meeting in Nijmegen on Saturday April 8, 2017 in Kolpinghuis, Smetiusstraat 1, Nijmegen, starting 3.00 p.m.

The board suggests the following agenda

1. Opening by the chairman
2. Incoming correspondence & announcements of the board
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2016
4. Annual report of the board on 2016
 - a. Secretary's report
 - b. Treasurer's report
5. Report of cash audit team
6. Change in regulations
7. Appointment of cash audit team 2017
8. Budget 2018 and determination subscription
9. Election of the board
10. (other) Proposals of the board
11. Proposals from the members
12. Any other business
13. Closure

Notes on the agenda:

Item 3: A summary of the Annual General Meeting of July 18, 2016 is printed in this magazine. The draft minutes will be available on the website at a later date, but at least three weeks before the date of the meeting.

Items 4,7: The documents supporting this point will be available at a later date, but at least three weeks before the date of the meeting.

Item 8: The Board proposes to set the membership fee for 2018 at € 10.00 + remittance to the KWBN. The remittance is € 14.00 for the full package of the KWBN or € 9.00 if one chooses to only receive the walking pass.

Item 9: Periodically outgoing and eligible for re-election is secretary F. Leijtens and Mr. M. Pegels. Periodically outgoing and not eligible for re-election is Mrs. V. Henriksen-De-laney.

Any other member who proposes his candidacy need to apply in writing to the board at least 30 minutes before the meeting, accompanied by signatures of at least ten voting members.

"It will be investigated"

The board kindly asks you to communicate questions, which reasonably demand some research, to the board some time before the date of the meeting, in writing or by e-mail.



Mobile musical support during the four days marches (Photo: Jos Knooff)



Tongelaar Castle on the 4th day on the route of the 55km. (Photo: Frans Leijtens)



Almost there.... (Photo: Frans Leijtens)

Join and walk in Rotterdam

Trainingstocht voor de Vierdaagse

Training for the Four Days Marches)

After a visit abroad the next 'powered by GKD' walk will be held in The Netherlands again. The Rotterdamse Wandelsport Vereniging offers a possibility to train for the 101st Four Days Marches on June 10, 2017.



Photo: Frans Leijtens



Photo: Frans Leijtens



Photo: Frans Leijtens

On Saturday June 10, 2017 the "Vierdaagse trainingstocht" will take place, organized by the Rotterdam Walking Association. It's a perfect training just before the Nijmegen "4 days marches" because you have the choice to walk 5 km more instead of the regular distances during the Nijmegen event. You are walking along the north edge of Rotterdam, rich in nature reserves and recreation parks. Apart from the different pubs on your way the well-known RWV rest spots (free of charge) will present as well. The registration fee includes all care on those RWV spots.

Distances : 25 - 35 - 45 - 55 km

Start location : RKC WION canteen, Robert Kochplaats 300, 3068 JD Rotterdam-Ommoord, 010 - 4219160. Start office will be opened from 07.00 up till 18.30 hr.

Reachable by public transport : from railway station Rotterdam-Alexander take the tube direction Ommoord, get out at stop Binnenhof.

Reachable by private car: Take the A20 turn 16, Rotterdam-Pr.Alexander / Capelle a/d IJssel . Coming from Rotterdam then take the turn to your left , coming from Gouda take the turn to your right, follow the Capelseweg with a left bend , now named Pres. Rooseveltweg, after 1000 go to the right named Robert Kochplaats and follow this curved road.

Times to start and registration fees

Distance	Time	With medal	Without medal
25 km	08.00 - 11.00	€ 6,50	€ 3,50
35 km	07.30 - 10.00	€ 7,00	€ 4,00
45 km	07.30 - 10.00	€ 7,00	€ 4,00
55 km	07.30 - 09.00	€ 7,00	€ 4,00

Members of the association get an €1,00 discount and the RWV members an extra €0,50 discount.

For further information :

Astrid Bijl and Gijs den Ouden 010-5010211

Sabine Tebbens 06-20912436

info@RotterdamseWandelsportVereniging.nl



Source: Wikimedia, Rene Mensen

'Powered by GKD' went international

Rupelstreek in retrospect

It happened in August: the first international 'Powered by GKD' walking event in Schelle Belgium in the neighborhood of Antwerp. You might think an urban area at first, but the reality is different. A wonderful area with lush green and a lot of pools. Too good to be true because it was a hot ... very hot day. Leonie Vink joined the walk and shares her experiences with us.

At last, the first international "Powered by GKD" trip took place in Schelle, Belgium, a stone's throw from Antwerp. Hearing that, you may be inclined to think of an urban area. But that is far from the truth. These were splendid surroundings in lush green, intersected by waters. That was a good thing, because it was hot, very hot.

There was a holiday-like atmosphere in Schelle, which might be due to our decision to do this walk on the way back from our holiday address in Tortefontaine in France. Anyway, on Sunday morning we went on our way to the starting place with our Belgian ambassador Katrien Delanote. On arrival we noticed that the walkers were looking surprisingly well equipped with leather jackets and bandanas. Not until we saw a great number of motorbikes on the parking lot did we realize that we had landed up in a day out of a biking club. Nice, but not what we had intended. The mistake was quickly put right and a few moments later we were at the correct place, where the flags of our association were flapping in the wind.



Leonie Vink (left) and the ambassador for Belgium, Katrien Delanote, ready to start. (Photo: Martin Raasveld)



(Photo: Frans Leijters)



(Photo: Frans Leijters)

Nine Distances

There were as many as nine distances to choose from for the walkers, varying from 4 kilometres for wheelchairs to the longest of 50 kilometres. In between there were routes of 7, 12, 17, 21, 28 and 35 kms, so we were spoilt for choice. The spacious starting place was in primary school De Klim, where snacks and drinks were available.

Abbeys and Chapels

The route took us along beautiful spots. To start with, we passed the abbey of Saint Bernardus, a Cistercian abbey, founded in 1243. The present buildings and clock tower date from the 17th and



Sint Bernardusabby (Photo: Martin Raasveld)

18th centuries and have had different functions over the years, such as abbey, hospital, prison and army depot. Of late years the buildings have been renovated and now accommodate Hemiksem town hall, service apartments and the Roelants-museum. Along the banks of the river Schelde the route went through a forested nature reserve (de Maaierhoek) and along the Chapel of Laar. This chapel dates from 1600 and was built by the population who were grateful for being delivered from the Spanish yoke.

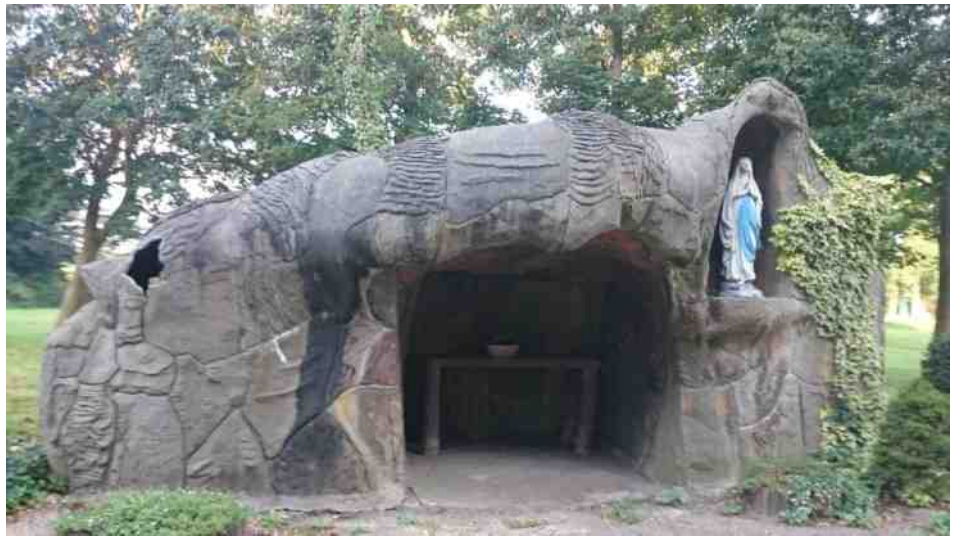


*Walking on an old railroad track - not that easy!
(Photo Martin Raasveld)*

Over a disused railway – which makes walking pretty uncomfortable – we then walked to the nature reserve of Walen-hoek. This is a very special area, where in the 50's and 60's large quantities of clay were dug up for the surrounding brick factories. After the brick kilns had been closed, nature took over, resulting in a lush overgrowth. The water filled deep excavations are nowadays popular fishing waters. Via the Waterfront, and the science park of Antwerp University, and Niels marsh with its wetlands, ditches and swamp forests, we got back to Schelle.

This walk through the Rupel area was organized this year for the 39th time by walking association Schelle. It was a beautiful walk, absolutely worth going

for. Unfortunately, only a handful of Gold Cross Owners found their way to this charming village on the river Schelde, but those who were there had a great time.



Small cave consecrated to Maria in Niel (Photo: Frans Leijtens)



Brick yard Frateur in Noeveren (Photo: Frans Leijtens)



(Photo: Frans Leijtens)

Which Golden-Cross-Bearer bears a golden cross?

A story about medals

Marcel Claassen searched the archives for stories about golden crosses. With contributions of Ad Anemaat, Paul Scharp and Richard Pearson.

On 18th June 1926 (!) troop captain (cavalry captain) A. van der Goes Esq. from Amersfoort was the first walker to be awarded a gold cross. A true inauguration committee was formed, one of whose members was the sports-loving Home Secretary J.B. Kan LL.M. Later, this was no longer organized for a second time. Moreover, it is interesting to know that in those years it was not taken into account by the Rules and Regulations that anyone should finish the Marches for the tenth time. It was not until 1929 that the entry of the Gold Cross Award was included in the Rules and Regulations.

It is one of the changes that have been implemented over the years regarding the awards of the Marches, which can be counted among the effects of advancing insight.

As a result, as of 1909 civilians received a bronze medal with inscription for completing the daily distance of 35 kilometers, there was a bronze association-medal with inscription for military with a light kit and a gold plated association-medal with inscription for military with full kit and for civilians on the 55 kilometers.

When a few years later a number of participants, among whom corporal J. Middendorp, returned, one did not know how to act and the crown from a different award was used to attach to the ribbon, as a result of which there is no cipher two, but the "two" is a crown. In 1917 (Nijmegen), those who successfully finished for the third time still received the silver association-cross, but in 1918 (Den Bosch) this was changed to the fifth time.

Between 1930 and 1960, boys and girls received the incentive medal and the



At the end of the 18th Four Days Marches, Cavalry Captain esquire A. van der Goes (2 years after receiving his golden cross) is being congratulated by the organization. (Source: Photo Collection KNBLO, Regional Archive Nijmegen; Photo: Fotobureau Gazendam, Arnhem)

participants who attained a cipher higher than 12 were between 1932 and 1939 "obliged to hand in the last received cipher in advance" before being allowed to attach the new (gold) cipher to the ribbon.

In 1940 – probably as a result of a printing error – the Rules and Regulations of the National Four Days' Marches did not mention the gold cross, but in 1941 the gold cross and the gold crown for the 11 were rerecorded. Both Marches were cancelled, by the way. When in 1946 the thirtieth Marches could be organized again, conditions at the time were such that the Association did not award a gold cross, but used gold plated silver instead. Those who wished to, were enabled to receive a real gold cross, provided they

handed in 15 grams of gold and paid 30 guilders. In 1947 this became 17 grams of gold plus 65 guilders. Up to and including 1949, this formula was included in the Rules and Regulations, but it was abolished in 1950: from then on, all "gold" crosses were gold plated silver.

As of 1999, the 50, 60 (and 70?) are gold again. But the first "winners" of the 50 (Mrs Mies Klaver-Budding) in 1985 and the 60 (Mr Theo de Blécourt) in 1999, received gold plated silver.

The arms of the gold crosses from the 30's are inscribed with the letters NBVLO, the actual gold crosses with KNBLO. The ciphers of the first period were made by Koninklijke (Royal) Begeer in Voorschoten and are recognizable by ciphers without background and by openwork laurel



An old 20 made by Royal Begeer in Voorschoten
(Source: www.nijmegenmedals.com)

wreaths from 25 onwards. The ciphers made by Van Veluw in Zeist have a green, yellow, and white background respectively.

The transition from Begeer to Van Veluw took place around 1977, but during the issue of the rewards the old stock was used first, so that there, too, all kinds of combinations were possible.

Thus, taking into account the fact that there are separate and semi attached crowns and that nowadays three-dimensional crowns are used, we can only conclude that each Gold Cross owner wears a very personal gold cross.



Mrs. Mies Klaver-Budding accompanied by a lieutenant of the Colonial Reserve during the 27th four days marches. She walks her 8th edition, a long way to the 50th edition. (Source: Photo collection KNBLO, Regional Archives Nijmegen. Photo: Fotobureau Gazendam, Arnhem)



A modern version of medal 50. (Photo: Arjan Versteeg)



(Photo: Reiner Müller, Brensbach, Germany, <https://common.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2666095>)

A successful party

Enjoy once more

Many people, volunteers, sponsors, spectators and of course walkers lived and worked their way to the 100th Vierdaagse. Unfortunately, as every year, these four days pass quickly, but not that fast to enjoy this special edition.

A glance on a festive year must be part of this edition of GOUD! We all together can enjoy once more.



In June the Radboud UMC and the Radboud University organized a symposium 'Success and future of a vital event' in honor of the 100th four days marches. KWBN members had a free entrance at this event with a walking lunch and info market. Main issues during this symposium were: which success factors contribute to the largest multiple day walking event in the world and how will the four days marches remain a vital event for the next hundred years?



With all the attention for the 100th edition we must not forget the jubilee of our association. It exists 65 years! All members received a CD with walking songs. The board of Stichting 4Daagse were offered this CD (Photo: Frans Leijters)



The parole 'The Netherlands walks to Nijmegen' inspired many to walk to Nijmegen from all provinces in the week prior to the Four Days Marches. The start was at the each capital of the twelve provinces on the 9th of July. More than 1000 participants walked to Nijmegen.



The Stichting 4Daagse received many gift due to the 100th four days marches. The board thought about a present and the theme music came along a couple of times. Singer/Songwriter Paul de Graaf was being asked and the song '100ste Vierdaagse' was born soon. In the spring, at the start of the meeting with the Stichting 4Daagse, is the single presented to the board of the stichting. The single became a CD and songs were heard regularly heard along the road. At the end of the members meeting at 'Vierdaagse-monday' the Vierdaagslied is sung. Of course Paul de Graaf did arrange the musical accompaniment! (Source: Stichting 4Daagse, Rolf Namjesky)



The National Liberation museum organized a temporary exposition about the four days marches: 'At free feet'. At this exposition the early years of the four days marches and especially the turbulent thirties and forties were at display.



From 28th May till 4th September this year an exposition was held about 100 years four days marches in the Valkhof. 'the 100th Vierdaagse - Walk through time', displayed an overview of the history of the four days marches.



The regional marches exist of several stages. Participants could indicate how many stages they wanted to walk. This group from Zuid-Holland started their journey in Delft. (Foto: Frans Leijters)



A good birthday tradition: treat. every participant received a rucksack and a silver gladiolus. Volunteers/-coworkers received a golden gladiolus.



The route of the flag parade: start at the Spiegelwaal, 3 km to finish at the Wedren. This is the last stage of the regional marches.



The flag parade is back ... just a bit. Not as before with huge show in the Goffertstadion but as a street parade. It started in Lent and ran through the city Centre of Nijmegen to the Wedren. The association was invited to participate with about 100 members to carry the flags of participating countries.



The street parade was an enormous success and many hope that this parade will remain for the years to come. The association got a lot of attention, we were the headline of the nation's largest morning paper 'de Telegraaf'.



In a colorful parade we walked through the center of Nijmegen. The new green and orange polo's of the association are numerous delivered by Rino Hame-link. We were recognizable. (Photo: Frans Leijters)



Year after year the municipality of Druten lobbied to host the four days marches. All the effort paid off: the track of 55km at the second day led through Druten. It was a big party but to enjoy the festivities you needed to cross 'the border'.



Large parts of the track were decorated with these large rosettes. So no one could have missed this festive character of this year's edition of the four days marches. (Photo: Frans Leijters)



The red carper was rolled out for the participants of the 55km in Druten 55km. (Photo: Frans Leijters)



After the announcement of the extra distance of 55km the organization expected a handful enthusiastic participants. The reality turned out to be completely different when the registration started. In the end more participants were recorded on the 55km in comparison with the 50km. The municipality of Druten had to scale up to provide all the participants a medal and visa. (Photo: Frans Leijters)



Druten got a lot of publicity as 'new' municipality on the track but there were some more new municipalities. For instance Hernen and Afferden on day 2 and Gennep on day 3; that not only hosted the 55km but also the 50km in the ancient center. The 3rd day another township was on the list: Ven-Zelderheide, that was unknown to most of the participants till the 21th of July. Last but not least Mill was 'visited' on the 4th day and the participants received warm encouragements of the audience despite rainy weather.



There are a lot of spectators along the track. There usually is a lot to see and experience. This year special decoration was to be found at some spots. Green and orange shoes marked the track at several places. (Photo: Jos Knooff)



Participants of the lap of honor received a pin as re-collection to this special happening. (Photo: Frans Leijtens)



During the four days marches a lap of honor was walked four times. Each day a group of 25 walkers preceded the course of 50 km. They started in the afternoon and finished just before the start of the regular 50km. In 24 hours this group walked twice the distance. There were four groups: long distance walkers, uniformed participants (police, army, etc.), people from abroad and well-known Dutchmen/women and (former) sportsmen/women. (Photo: Frans Leijtens)



A highlight during the four days marches: the visit of king Willean-Alexander. After a short walk at the course in Cuijk he visited the Via Gladiola. There was enormous delay at his arrival at the grandstand because a lot of participants wanted to shake hands or take pictures. (Photo: Feike de Jong)



Decoration at the Via Gladiola (Photo: Bram Brinkman)



A new gladiolus has been cultivated to honor the 100th four days marches. In July the first one of this species was handed out to Johan Willemstein. This gladiolus is named 'Walk of the world'.

A look back on the reunion: a sunny day in Wijchen

Where have all those people gone?

Every five years the reunion is held in the neighborhood of Nijmegen. This year in Wijchen. The most of us know Wijchen as an intimate and very busy place along the track. There are participants who walked several times the Nijmegen marches and who didn't even see the nice little castle through the enormous crowds. On a sunny day in September the crowds were not there and we could experience Wijchen as it looks on a 'normal' day.

10 September, Wijchen, 10:00 AM; the reunion of the association starts. The sun is shining and it is going to be a radiant day. Leonie Vink opens the reunion and welcomes the 125 members that have applied for the reunion. She announces Henny Sackers as the next speaker after a brief review on the 100th Four Days Marches and a recall on the 65th anniversary of the association.



The reception was ok! (Photo: Tiny Kouters)

Henny is well-known as former chairman and member of honor but this day representing the Stichting 4Daagse. He congratulates the association with its 65th anniversary again, in the role as vice marching leader, and also reflects on the 100th edition of the marches, for instance the 55 km where a few participants were expected. In the end the number of participants on that distance was larger than the number of participants on the 50 km.

The board of Stichting 4Daagse is happy about the progress of the festive edition of the Four Days Marches, despite the higher percentage drop-outs.

After the opening speeches the program starts with a performance of the choir "t Koor" from Beuningen.



The choir from Beuningen. A lot of people sang along and some even danced. A lot of Dutch songs were sung and of course the four days marches song. (Photo: Tiny Kouters)



The castle of Wijchen. Built at first in at the end of the 14th century. The most famous inhabitant was Emilia of Nassau, a daughter of William of Nassau. Since 1996 the museum Castle Wijchen and the council chamber and wedding hall of the municipality of Wijchen reside in the castle after it was restored. (Photo: Tiny Kouters)



Some preferred a guided tour in the castle and a walking tour in Wijchen, other enjoyed a sportive event in playing 'farmers golf'. It turned out to be a good choice with marvelous weather (Photo: F. Leijtens)

At the start the director invites everybody to sing along, this invitation is taken with enthusiasm. Lots of old (and more recent) songs came along and of course the 4 days marches song was sung; two times!

After this performance a large lunch-buffet was presented and at 1:00 pm everyone gathered outside to enjoy the afternoon activities. All gathered were divided into groups playing "boerengolf", a riding tour through the city of Wijchen or a guided tour in the Wijchen castle followed by a walk through the center of Wijchen.



Coat of arms of Wijchen

It is nice to visit and look around in the castle of Emilia and Emanuel, that we all pass during the Four Days Marches. The guides needed some time to present a quick version of the castle's history but in the end they did. The guided tour in the town of Wijchen was giving a total different view as during the four days marches. The stories about its history and facts of several of its inhabitants made it an educational afternoon.

At the end of this day the lustrum awards were handed out and everyone went home with a present: a small cheese in the colors of the Four Days Marches.



At the four days marches a busy market square, now no crush barriers, no crowd and loud music. (Photo: Tiny Kouters)



Photo: Tiny Kouters



At the end of the day Lustrum Medals were administered. (Photo: Tiny Kouters)

Behind the scenes

Gijs Holterman, head of VIM (Vierdaagse, Entry, Music)

Each magazine we have an episode of 'Behind the scenes' in which we highlight parts of the organization. Through this we would like to give you a small insight in the organization behind the Four Days Marches and it will give you an idea what comes to organizing such a big event. This time we take a look at VIM run by Gijs Holterman.

"Parade 'New Style' was a huge success."

Head of VIM Services Gijs Holterman (44) and his team are raving about the success of the Parade in new style which, on July 17, marked the official opening of the 100th Four Days Marches. ' Music orchestras accompanied hundreds of participants who carried flags representing their country, province or organization while walking from Lent through the center of Nijmegen to Wedren Square.

It was a happy street and flag parade all in one. From the responses we got, we gather that everyone loved it!

Logical decision

Until 2012, VIM stood for Vlaggenparade, Intocht, Muziek (Flag Parade, Entry, Music), but when the Flag Parade stopped in 2012, the facility's title changed. It's a sensitive subject for Gijs Holterman. It was a painful, yet logical decision.

No matter how much variety we had in the program, more and more people stayed away from Goffert Stadium. Sure, if you get a singer like René Froger, that stadium will fill up. But then you'll have to ask yourself: are you organizing a Flag Parade, or a concert? That should never be the case as the start of a sports event. And an opening event the caliber of the Olympics or the Soccer World Cup is financially out of the question."

Gijs has been involved in the 'Walk of the World' since he was 12 years old. First as a participant, later as a caretaker and for the past 13 years as a member of the Four Days Marches Executive Committee.

In his everyday life, Gijs is General Mana-



Gijs Holterman (on right) conferring as director with other members executive committee about the entry. (Source: archief Stichting 4Daagse, Ger Loeffen)

ger of a nursing home in Boxmeer.

Vacation period

"Having less music during the Entry or along the route is generally not because of a lack of finances or because of a lack of enthusiastic employees. It is the summer vacation time that is keeping from offering walkers and audience a broad, full music program.

Every region in the country is on summer break at that time. Orchestras have a hard time to get enough musicians available. It is next to impossible for a band or orchestra to perform without is full capacity. This really is the problem."

Dividing tasks

The VIM Facility, led by Gijs, consists of 5 key members, who have done a good job at dividing up the tasks. Theo Jetten, who is well-known in the Dutch music scene, engages the music. Every year, from No-

vember on, Martine Glaudi-Heinen works on getting a solid music program, based on Theo Jetten's agreements with bands and the musical options offered by international (military) delegations.

Martine Willemstein manages all the side activities into which VIM is pulled. Last but not least, Carla van Vaanderen is responsible for VIM's internal and external communication.

During the week of the Four Days Marches, VIM is expanded to around 20 employees who, among other things accompany the military orchestras during that week. "And on that Friday, we have another 10-12 people working to make the Entry a successful one", Gijs Holterman said.

Thirty orchestras

For the 100th Four Days Marches edition, money was not a key factor in the imple-

mentation of a full music program - 30 orchestras during the Entry. "We strive to continue a full program after the 100th edition.

Luckily, the Board supports us in this. The more music, the better the experience for walkers and audience." Gijs was extremely happy with the French military delegation sending a military orchestra to Nijmegen. Now, Holterman has a bigger dream: "To have the Americans do the same thing, that would be a dream come true.

To have a U.S. military orchestra - that would be wonderful."



Flag Parade years ago in the Goffert Stadium. (Photo: Ronald van der Schot)



(Photo: Ronald van der Schot)

Lustrum rewards

Congratulations

We congratulate the following members after all with the achievement of a lustrum during the Four Days Marches of 2016. Did you had a lustrum this year, but is your name not on the list? Then your request was not received or not received in time or you indicated that you did not appreciate to be in the list. It's not necessary to mention it to us.

15X

Mw. E.M.J.J.H. Agricola-Van der Made, Lelystad ◇ Mw. H.M.C. van den Ancker, Kockengen ◇ Hr. M.B. Berger, Essen (Duitsland) ◇ Hr. R. Beukema, Groningen ◇ Mw. W.A.M. Bontje-van Amsterdam, Castricum ◇ Hr. F. van den Boom, Didam ◇ Hr. I.A.A. ten Broeke, Nootdorp ◇ Hr. J. Dassen, Utrecht ◇ Mw. H.A.M. Denissen, Breda ◇ Mw. J.P. van Dijk, Lelystad ◇ Mw. H.J. Dikken-Veluwenkamp, Zwolle ◇ Hr. A.F. van den Dool, Rotterdam ◇ Mw. C.L.M. Duffels, Ede ◇ Hr. M.A.H. Duffels, Ede ◇ Mw. A.W.M. van Gellekom, Bemmelen ◇ Hr. M. van Ginkel, De Bilt ◇ Hr. W.M. van Heel, Helmond ◇ Hr. J.J. Hessing, Arnhem ◇ Hr. L. IJzelenberg, Zierikzee ◇ Hr. R.E.J. Janssen, Hengelo ◇ Hr. G.J. Linthorst, Apeldoorn ◇ Mw. M.L.C. Nijkamp-Kolster, Gouda ◇ Hr. A.A.P.M. Pijnappels, St. Michielsgestel ◇ Mw. A.M. Preusting, Nijmegen ◇ Mw. K. Rasing-Glazer, Didam ◇ Hr. L. Ronved, Hundested (Denemarken) ◇ Mw. M.J.J. Scholtes-van de Bos, Leidschendam ◇ Mw. I.L. Snoep-Vliegenthart, Rhooen ◇ Hr. L. Son, Hoogezand ◇ Hr. C.A.W. van der Vlucht, Sassenheim ◇ Hr. J.J.P. van der Vlucht, Sassenheim ◇ Hr. J. van Zanten, Brakel (Gld)

20X

Hr. J. Aland, Almere ◇ Mw. H.A. Baumann-Schaars, Driel ◇ Mw. B.J.H.M. van de Coolwijk-Bogers, Oss ◇ Hr. H. van Dijk, Almere ◇ Hr. H. Dijkema, Haren ◇ Hr. J.W. Hendriks, Groesbeek ◇ Hr. R.P.M. Joosen, Oosterhout ◇ Hr. L. Kardinaal, Dordrecht ◇ Hr. M. Keulstra, Veenendaal ◇ Hr. J.H.R. Koppelman, Almere ◇ Mw. C.A.M. Kramer-Bergen, Oudkarspel ◇ Mw. I. van Limburg, Nijmegen ◇ Mw. J.M.L. Martinus-Claus, Beuningen ◇ Hr. M.E. Mason, Berg En Dal ◇ Mw. L.H.A. Meijer, Durham (VS) ◇ Hr. E.J. Minkman, Berkel En Rodenrijs ◇ Mw. M.J.A. van Munster, Arnhem ◇ Mw. J.C.M. Ooijen-Jooren, Zevenbergen ◇ Mw. H.C. Ooijen-van Oosterhout, Zevenbergen ◇ Mw. H.L.M. van der Palen, Amsterdam ◇ Hr. C.P.M. Peeters, Almere ◇ Hr. G.L.H. Reurings, Oude Wetering ◇ Hr. A. G. Rothoff, Grave ◇ Hr. P.S.T. Tan, Voorschoten ◇ Hr. E.T. Tappen, Maarn

25X

Mw. C.W. Bakker-van der Hout, Maassluis ◇ Hr. L.W.H. Bijland, Uden ◇ Mw. W. Bruinsma-Boonstra, Beetgumermolen ◇ Hr. H.W.J. Claassen, Deest ◇ Hr. J.T.G. Coljee, Odijk ◇ Hr. R.G. Cox, Malden ◇ Mw. C.M.J. van Diest-Verbrugge, Bennebroek ◇ Hr. J.M. van Doggenaar, Hilversum ◇ Hr. A. Eegdeman, Moordrecht ◇ Mw. J.B.W. Govaart-Vorstenbos, Schiedam ◇ Hr. H.L.A. van Haren, Deventer ◇ Hr. J.H. van Heck, Rotterdam ◇ Hr. W.D.I. Hendrickx, Wageningen ◇ Hr. R.T. Huizinga, Amsterdam ◇ Mw. M. van 't Hullenaar-Seegers, Berg En Dal ◇ Hr. B. de Jonge, Leusden ◇ Hr. F.L.S.M. van Keeken, Apeldoorn ◇ Hr. B. Keizer, Winschoten ◇ Mw. G. Kronenberg, Lochem ◇ Mw. A.B.M. Leuwerink, Beek ◇ Hr. H.G.C.J. Lutz, Doetinchem ◇ Mw. A.J. Manneke-Bouwense, Sint Maartensdijk ◇ Mw. C.M.W.M. Menu, Hulst ◇ Mw. P.M.M.R.A.W. Michels-Wanetie, Lent ◇ Mw. K.J.F.M. Nabuurs, Uden ◇ Hr. B.P. Paetzke, Risum-Lindholm (Duitsland) ◇ Hr. A. Poelstra, Groningen ◇ Hr. A.J. Rombaut, Hulst ◇ Hr. J.J. van Roozendaal, Rotterdam ◇ Hr. M. Rosenthal, Bad Neuenahr - Ahrweiler (Duitsland) ◇ Mw. M.H.G. van Stokkum-Koolen, Aarle Rixtel ◇ Mw. J.M. Timmermans-Smit, Heythuysen ◇ Hr. J.A. Verbocht, Oudenbosch ◇ Hr. T.P.P. Vermeer, Nijmegen ◇ Mw. P. Vissers, Breda ◇ Hr. C. van der Werf, Zwolle ◇ Hr. G.H.H.M. Wijnhoven, Groesbeek ◇ Hr. A.J.M. de Wolf, Nijmegen ◇ Hr. J.T. Wouters, 's-Hertogenbosch

30X

Mw. H. Aalbers, Ewijk ◇ Hr. J.H. van den Berg, Huizen ◇ Hr. P. Bongers, Rotterdam ◇ Hr. B.R.H. Evers, Nijmegen ◇ Hr. W.B.M. Evers, Huissen ◇ Hr. J.H.A. van de Geer, Lent ◇ Hr. J.J.E. van Geest, Gassel ◇ Hr. P.J.G. Haas, Munstergeleen ◇ Mw. M. de Heus, Buren Gld ◇ Mw. J.H.M. Honkoop, Vinkeveen ◇ Hr. A. Mes, Avenhorn ◇ Hr. C.J.E.M. Mol, Breda ◇ Hr. F. Smits, Linne ◇ Hr. J.G. van der Wal, Delft

35X

Mw. P.B.M. Anemaat-Segeren, Vught ◇ Hr. M.A.H. van Bree, Haarlem ◇ Hr. F.T. Durst-Britt, Heerde ◇ Hr. D.W. Floor, Vlieland ◇ Hr. G.T. Groenen, Nijmegen ◇ Hr. J.H.F. Kettenis, Leiden ◇ Hr. J.A.F. Peters, Beek Ubbergen ◇ Hr. G.J. Rosenbrand, Vlissingen

40X

Hr. A.A.M. van Beek, Apeldoorn ◇ Hr. F. van Loon, Doorwerth ◇ Hr. M.J. Pausey, Narangba (Australië) ◇ Hr. W.H. Stevens, Zevenaar ◇ Mw. G.E. Zwep, Elburg

45X

Mw. A. Engels-Tijnagel, Bommel ◇ Hr. D.A. den Hartog, Malden ◇ Hr. M.A.J. Holla, Willemstad ◇ Hr. P.J.H. Oomes, Broek Op Langedijk ◇ Hr. A.L.H. Schakel, Noordeloos ◇ Hr. J.H.T.M. Standaar, Bergen Op Zoom

50X

Mw. R.M. Krebs, Amersfoort ◇ Hr. R.H. van Reijssen, Malden ◇ Hr. A.H. Versteeg, Zwijndrecht ◇ Mw. A.W.C.E. Zaal-Berkelaar, Vinkeveen

55X

Mw. I. Maas, Hulst ◇ Hr. J.B.A.M. Olthof, Hengelo ◇ Hr. R. van Slageren, Gieten



Appropriated decoration of the meeting room during the general meeting. (photo: Martin Raasveld)



Blue tuesday in Elst (photo: Arjan Versteeg)



A present donated by the 4Daagse to the walkers (Source: Stichting De 4Daagse, Rolf Namjesky)

T-shirts of the Gold-Crossbearers

Early this year our association had polo shirts made in cooperation with Rino Hamelink of Blue Boot Walking Tours. At the time, the idea was to do this just once, but given the success and demand for shirts afterwards, the board decided to offer new shirts in 2017.

The design of the new shirts will be different from the ones this year and also the type of shirts (polo shirts, fry-fit for example) is being determined still. At the moment this magazine is printed, details are not known yet, but we do want to inform you already.

We will inform everyone through Facebook and our website. When orders can be made, an e-mail will be send out as well.

"Walkers bling"

What do walkers do with their medals?

One puts them in a box, some have a 'professional' trophy cabinet and many others tinker something themselves to put their medals away or show them off on a special spot at home.

When you are a member of the Facebook-page you might have seen numerous photos of medals during the last months; come one, come all..... The saying holds in this case. We considered it as a nice idea to share this variety with the members through GOUD! Do you have a special way to keep your medals (of the four days marches) and would like to share that with others, please sent your contributions to redactie@goudenkruisdragers.nl.

If we receive sufficient contribution we continue this column!



A number of medals (Photo: Martin de Zeeuw)



(Photo: Karin Gibcus)



2016: 20x on my way to 25! (Photo: Moontje Hijkoop)



A brandnew golden cross for Djamilla this year (Photo: Djamilla Saak)



The Four days marches bling of Roos Kruiniger (Photo: Roos Kruiniger)



Not homemade but received as birthdaygift (Photo: Tim Stolz)

In Memoriam

After appearance of the previous magazine, we have received notification of the des-
cease of the below-mentioned members. Our condolences go out to the relatives.

Dhr.	M.M. Moleveld	1929	Voorburg
Dhr.	P.L. Ragetlie	1940	Deurne
Mw.	E. Schmid	1963	Airolo (CH)
Dhr.	M.E.O. Westrup	1959	Vuren
Dhr.	C. van Wijnen	1952	Hoogvliet





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Portrait of a member



Name : Leonie (Leo) Meijer
Residence : Durham , NH , USA
Age : 47

How should you describe yourself just in one sentence?

Like someone who enjoys the small things during lifetime.

What is your profession?

My profession is Education Abroad Advisor/Program Manager on the New Hampshire University (UNH). In other words : as a study-advisor I help students wanting to study abroad temporarily, during the whole section from start up to finish, on academical- financial- and personal level. On the UNH I organize different events to promote studying abroad.

What makes you happy?

I love my job ; it is really marvellous to work with young people and to see how they are developed mentally after their studies abroad. Personally : I love my dog Jesse - after a tough day coming home there is nothing but fun to see him waiting for me at the frontdoor, wagging his



tall with his big 'labrador smile' . New Hampshire is a wonderful state northeast of the US; I am living north of Boston 1,5 hour driving ,south of the White Mountains 30 minutes driving, and just 20 minutes driving to the Atlantic Ocean - fast an optimal beautiful location ! Nearly every week I am visiting the beach and frequently we are walking long distance trips in the mountains.

When did you start the "4 days marches"?

On the elementary school we had a walking club with the whole family as active members; my sisters and myself were walking and our parents looked after the resting-places , continued during my high school period , all this happened in Nijmegen, where I was born and bred , so the "4 days marches" was a logical next step.

What is your secret to make the "4 days marches" successfully?

That is a good question ; I don't know. Different editions were difficult for me in spite of an optimal training, other editions were very successful without a considerable training, it's a gamble every time again. I like to start very early to walk my own pace if at all possible.

I have a brisk pace and usually I finish around 12:30. For that reason some peo-

ple think I don't enjoy my trip , but just the opposite is the truth ! In the forward line it's relative quiet , enough space for me to look around and pay attention to the public, to chat a bit, or simply enjoy the surrounding area's in a quiet way.

What's your most beautiful meeting and/or memory of the "4 days marches"?

The different "4 days marches" walked as a clubmember from the high school (Canisiuscollege - Mater Dei) were very funny. I remember the next specific event : A waterbottle filled up with rum passed round and afterwards we realised the most rapid finishtime since ever!

The 1988 event was a special one because at that time I met somebody who became and is still dear to me. And the hundredth this year was marvellous ; my twentieth "4 days marches" !!

When did you walk your last "4 days marches"?

This year on the occasion of the 100th "4 days marches".

Do you want to add something?

In 2017 I wish everybody a lot of fun during walking !



Indien onbestelbaar retour: Van Karnebeekstraat 153, 3317 KW, Dordrecht



A group of girl scouts is passing a group of school kids on clogs in Wijchen during the 20th Four Days Marches.
Photo: Photo agency Gazendam

Source: Collection Royal Dutch Association for Physical Education (KNBLO) 1906-2003 (Regional Archive Nijmegen)