



Word of the President

Dear friends and sympathizers of the Pegasus Museum,

Again we approach the end of the year. The appropriate time to inform you on a number of evolutions concerning the plans for the new museum, the organization of the temporary location and the commissioning of our new warehouse.

The planning for the realization of the new museum is still on track. A public tender was published by the City of Diest to find constructors for the realization of the plans. Furthermore a specialized firm, Wondering, was hired by the City of Diest to design the interior and the exhibition. So far three meetings with the firm Wondering have been held. Today it is already obvious that the museum will undergo a real transformation. The concept of the museum will shift from the current chronological approach to a thematic structure. (life in the Citadel, life in the field, the missions, training and instruction, the deactivation of the unit,...) For each theme one central item will draw the attention of the public, supported and framed by other pieces from the collection, photos and screens providing added details by material such as short testimonies. To record testimonies on tape we were able to strike a deal with the strategic communications service of Defense.

Of course all those ambitions have to be financed. The City of Diest has already introduced a request for subsidies to the Flemish administration. Also the City itself wants to commit a budget from its proper resources. As communicated earlier, the board of the museum has agreed to invest 32.000€. In order to guarantee this amount of money we would also like to appeal to the generosity and commitment of our members. **Each euro you transfer in addition to the yearly membership fee of 15€ is most certainly appreciated.** Be aware that a donation we receive this way cannot be included in your tax return. That is why we are working on an alternative method through the HERITA non-profit organization. For donations exceeding 40€ you will receive a certificate from HERITA that can be added to your tax return. However, this alternative method is not yet applicable.

Since a couple of months the new spacious warehouse has been taken into use. Large parts of the stock have already been moved. Thanks to an extraordinary generous gift we were able to equip the warehouse with industrial quality storage racks. Truly a remarkable improvement. Before we were able to put the new warehouse into use significant investments were needed in fire – and burglary protection. Now our warehouse meets the most recent security criteria.

Since a couple of weeks the temporary location is again windproof and can be locked. The board is working hard to determine the content of the new location. The first plans are being detailed, material is being collected in order to be ready to start working on the rooms we will use in the future. A lot of work, as well as the required investments, are still ahead of us to make the new location fit for purpose and ready to receive part of our collection.

Because of the planning of the actual beginning of the works of the contractor, currently scheduled after the leave period in construction, the board has decided **to close the current museum after the museum**

Sunday of May 4th. Hence members who want to visit the current museum are encouraged to start planning it promptly! From May onward the moving of the items of the museum begins.

The board has made the required contacts with the new city council in order to insure the continuation of the positive cooperation.

According to custom the general assembly for the members of the board will occur in the TrgC Para, this year on February 27th. The annual members meeting is organized on March 29th in 'Den Amer", hall JOC in Diest. Participants will most definitely receive an extensive explanation on the future of our Pegasus Museum.

To conclude, I want to remind you that at the beginning of the year it is time to renew your membership to our Pegasus Museum. To do so a deposit of **15€** needs to be made at our regular account (**BE33 0001 7103 5046**). As mentioned before an additional amount to support our future investments is most definitely welcome.

The board wishes you all Happy Holidays, surrounded with lots of warmth from friends and family!

We hope to welcome you at the members meeting!

Who Dares Wins

Peeters Johan
President

Smeets Yannick
Secretary