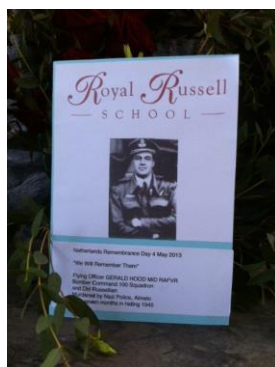


## Gerald Hood's Remembrance: A Dutch Honour



In 1944 Old Russellian Flying Officer Gerald Hood RAFVR, MiD had been hidden by Dutch civilians after baling out from his burning Lancaster Bomber over Holland.

Seven months later, just before the end of the war, he was discovered and taken to jail. Resisting three days of intense interrogation by Nazi police, Hood refused to reveal the names of any Dutch helpers and friends. He was finally taken into woods, shot at close range and bundled into a pit. Three days later his Dutch student friend was similarly shot and dumped alongside.

In the Netherlands their loyalty and bravery have never been forgotten. This is thanks to a local Remembrance Committee set up by Gerard ter Brugge in the village of Zenderen. Annually on the 4th of May he gathers together up to 100 townsfolk and the local band who play Elgar. At the site of the killings, the Union Jack and Dutch flags are raised and lowered and schoolchildren each add individual flowers to wreaths laid by locals as well as the Old Russellians.



In 2007 Gerard ter Brugge came to Royal Russell School and joined a ceremony also commemorating Hood. The 100 squadron of the Royal Air Force provided a flypast and a small oak sapling from the Dutch killing woods was planted on the lawns.

At the last ceremony of her reign, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands has recently awarded Gerard ter Terre the Medal of The Orange Order for his services to Remembrance and his Community.

