

# PROGRAMME 2026

## Memorial Square

### Airborne Commemoration

From 11:30 to 12:30, the annual Airborne commemoration of Operation Market Garden will take place. The commemoration can be viewed by everyone at the Memorial Square. You can also view it on the LED screens on the grounds or live via TV Gelderland. During the commemoration, you will hear various speeches. Wreaths will also be laid. From 13:30, you can take a moment to remember at the Airborne monument itself. You can also lay a flower or wreath then. We hope that several World War II veterans will be present at the commemoration again this year, together with their family members.

### Wings Exchange

This year, the traditional Wings Exchange returns to the Memorial Square. After the afternoon airborne landings, a group of paratroopers will march to the Memorial Square, accompanied by the Pegasus Pipes & Drums. This will be around 3:00 PM. There, the soldiers will receive their Wings from other participating countries. Wings are military decorations that show that someone has jumped by parachute or from an aircraft of another NATO country. This way, we reflect on the connection between the paratroopers of the past and the soldiers of today.

## Air Program

 Once again there is plenty to see above the Dropzone.

During the mass drops, the sky is filled with paratroopers. Did you know that the landing is just as hard as a jump from the 12th step of a staircase?

The final times for the air program depend on various conditions, such as the weather. We will keep everyone informed via the loudspeakers on the site.

### 09:30 Air Program Start

#### Morning

- Small group of paratroopers performs a celebratory jump from a C47 Dakota, dressed in historical WWII attire.
- Mass drop with hundreds of paratroopers from 11 NATO countries. They jump from military aircraft (such as the C130 Hercules).

#### Afternoon

- Small group of paratroopers performs a celebratory jump from a C47 Dakota, dressed in historical WWII attire.
- 11 Air Brigade performs an “Air Assault” helicopter demonstration above the Dropzone.
- Mass drop by hundreds of paratroopers from 11 NATO countries. They jump out of military aircraft (such as the C130 Hercules).

### 15:30 end of air program

## Public Square

### Airborne Market

Visit the 35 stalls at the Airborne Market, featuring military memorabilia, books on the Second World War, Airborne Ede flags, traditional Dutch sweets, military information stands and historical societies.

### Children’s Screen-Printing Workshop

The children’s screen-printing workshop by Zeebra Zeefdruk from Ede is new this year. Children can print various designs (for example, parachutes, Dakotas, or jeeps) onto items such as a linen bag or a piece of clothing they bring themselves.

### Children’s Drawing Workshop

Under the guidance of Sonja Hartsuiker from Ede, children can create drawings in the Airborne theme this year. For example, airplanes, parachutes, or military vehicles.

### Children’s Button Making Workshop

Make an Airborne button for free. As soon as the self-made drawing is finished, the button will be pressed and you can pin it on.

### Children’s Glitter Tattoo Workshop

This year, children can once again have a glitter tattoo applied in the Airborne theme. This is a decoration on a hand or arm that lasts for a few days.

## Music Program

### 1 Airborne Red Devils

The Airborne Red Devils play live music from the 1940s. From 08:00 to 10:00, they will be playing by the shuttle buses at Ede-Wageningen station. Between 13:00 and 15:00, you can find them at the bus stop on the Ginkelse Heide.

### 2 Massed Pipes and Drums

Like last year, the Massed Pipes and Drums will be present at the commemoration. These are various bands led by the Pegasus Pipes & Drums. Around 75 bagpipes will play before and during the commemoration. Following tradition, we will conclude the commemoration with the Highland Cathedral piece, played by the Massed Pipes & Drums. After the commemoration, the bagpipers will walk around the grounds all afternoon and play at various locations.

### 4 Swing The Mood en The Paratroopers

The two sisters Evelien and Marlies are a familiar sight on our Ginkelse Heide. For years, they have been singing live hits from the 1940s with their Swing the Mood show. This year, they will be accompanied by four rugged brass musicians.

## Airborne Square – NEW

New this year is the Airborne Square of the 11 Air Brigade: a place where past and present meet. Here you will discover the special bond between the paratroopers of then and now. Surrounded by military vehicles, activities, and encounters, you will experience the world of the Red Berets up close.

### Military Vehicles

At the Airborne Square, you will find various military vehicles from the 11th Air Brigade. From vehicles for rough terrain to vehicles from the engineering and medical services. Talk to the Red Berets of the 11th Air Brigade and discover how they train, work, and are deployed.

### Parachute Drop-off Point

At the parachute drop-off point along the tank track, you will encounter the paratroopers who have just landed on the heath. After every mass drop, the Wings Exchange ceremony also takes place here. During this ceremony, soldiers receive their Wings from other participating countries. Unfortunately, it is impossible to predict what time this will be. At 3:00 PM, there will be an official Wings Exchange at the Memorial Square, accompanied by the Pegasus Pipes & Drums. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### 5 Survival Course

How strong and athletic do you need to be to become a Red Beret? The sports instructors of the 11th Air Mobile Brigade challenge children aged 8 and up to experience it for themselves. Climb, crawl, and jump over the course and discover how soldiers train for strength, teamwork, and perseverance. Who dares to take on the challenge?

### Defense Stalls

You will also find various Defense stalls and stands at the Airborne Square. Take a look at the Falcon Shop. This shop is normally only accessible to military personnel at the Oranjekazerne in Schaarsbergen. But especially for this day, they are present on the Ginkelse Heide. The stand is staffed by former Red Berets and veterans.

## Tank Track

The tank track is located along the Dropzone. Here you will find military vehicles and steel silhouettes.

### Keep them Rolling & Airborne Battle Wheels Oosterbeek

View 75 real historical vehicles on the tank track. The international group of the Airborne Battle Wheels will be dressed in period uniforms. Around 1:00 PM, they depart from the tank track to Arnhem for the ‘Race to the Bridge’. The Dutch association Keep Them Rolling restores and maintains military vehicles from the Second World War.

### Standing with Giants

These heroes of steel can’t be missed. More than a hundred life-sized silhouettes stand along the tank track. They reflect the soldiers we’ve lost during military operations such as D-Day and Operation Market Garden.

## Pegasus Square

Across from the Memorial Square, you will find Pegasus Square next to restaurant Juffrouw Tok. Here, there are stalls selling food and drinks. There is also live music from the 1940s. There is also plenty to do here for the little ones.

[ede.nl/airborne](https://ede.nl/airborne)

 EdeAirborne

 AirborneEde



Ministerie van Defensie



HEIDEWEEK



RDJAV



CULTURA



Dulon



Verhuurstad



de BusSpecialist.nl



FIETSVERRHUUR







# MAP 2026 AIRBORNE OPERATIONS AND COMMEMORATION

