

*A poem, today, for you
Children and grandchildren of the 18th*

Here we are, together, sharing memories and stories
Here we are together, travelled from different countries and city
Talking about our fathers and grandfathers, surrounded by
Photos from a not forgotten history.

We together, side by side, and perhaps
Just as our fathers and grandfathers once did
Sharing stories, drank together, ate together
Just as we now sit.

Our photos and stories that make them live again
There were they once sat, shaking hands
Hands that we today shake together

Here today with speeches, loudly at front, silently at the back
Stories from all over the world
Were we, in silence and attention
With our own memories were listening to

The story of Johannes 'Joop' Deknatel
And the memory of the 18th in Australia with the B-25
Two passionate storytellers with one purpose
We will not forget

And after the speeches we would find each other again
In stories, wonderment and photobook
While drinking a cup of coffee, and some *spekkoek*

And there it was! Lunch, the *Blauw hap*
All together in line, not knowing about the danger above us
Talking, laughing, cosy, step by step
Under the treat of a flying Jap*

It was, and is a special day, with laughter and talks
Information being spread, photos made, and new names are found
All here together in the 'mess' by the same history bound

That piece of history, what unfolded in a different time
Our fathers, flying together above an ocean, side by side
And when I think of them, I cannot stop myself from thinking
That they, the men of the 18th, look down upon us with content

And that they must have laughed
When they saw us standing before the Spitfire
I think in there time there would have been
a lot more discipline

The children of the 18th, we, who honour the boys
Honour, with respect and love, here together side by side
And that they will never
Ever be forgotten

It was a beautiful day
Talking with a glass in our hands
Standing together, still or in motion

The day that we remember
Our fathers and grandfathers
Who once flew
Above the ocean

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*The model of the airplane was on second look not a 'Jap'