

“Navigate Your Life”

A report on a Sailing retreat in Dutch waters July, 25th – 30th 2004

“Tot ziens! (bye bye) and don’t forget to send an invitation for the sailing trip next year!”



Participants and Crew

one participant pleaded urgently and all of them agreed.

We had just spent five tremendous days on a Dutch barge in the Netherlands. It was a real loss that three participants from Ukraine and two from Poland were prevented from coming in the very last moment. Therefore we were only 11 “sailors” on board. Most of them had neither sailing experience nor had some of them ever experienced tidal waters. The participants came from Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria

and Germany. Most of them were cadets of their national academies And together with young officers and senior warrant officers we were a good mixture with different background and various experiences.

We arrived on a rainy Sunday night and embarked the barge in order to start the trip by spending the night on board. The next morning it was wonderfully sunny, the first time in months in the Netherlands this summer. We first got an instruction enabling us to handle

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the sails and all the other things necessary for a successful trip. We sailed north-west over the IJsselmeer heading for the North Sea and crossed the dam which cuts the IJsselmeer

from the open sea at Den Oever. The following days we cruised in the shallows visiting Frisian islands and harbours at the main land. We enjoyed impressions of Dutch seaside resorts and picturesque towns with historical cities. For more details see the schedule as follows:



Hoisting the Main Sail

Date	Starting at	Event of the day	Spending the night in	Evening activities
July 25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrival at Stavoren 	Stavoren	Embarking
July 26	Stavoren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing a lock: Stevinsluizen at Den Over 	Oudeschild (Isle of Texel)	sightseeing of the town
July 27	Oudeschild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sailing in the shallows following the shipping ways 	Harlingen	sightseeing of the town
July 28	Harlingen		West - Terschelling (Isle of Terschelling)	
July 29	West-Terschelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> falling dry on a sandbank during low tide and - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strolling along the sands playing “water polo” Passing a lock: Lorentzsluizen at Kornwerderzand 	Makkum	staying on board the ship
July 30	Makkum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> returned to Stavoren while towing another barge 	Stavoren	

We started each day with a Bible quotation at the beginning of breakfast. Before going sailing we usually had a Bible study to reinforce our Christian beliefs, and to deepen discipleship. Having moored in a harbour in the afternoon we had a lecture there we learned not only to survive as a committed Christian in the barracks, but also to share our Christian conviction with our colleagues. We remembered that we are messengers of the most important news of the world! The following discussions proved to be very precious

for we not only could share our personal experiences, but also see the differences in the various national armed forces.



During these short five days we developed an intensive fellowship and grew personally close. Everybody hopes coming again next year. Here is what some of the participants expressed:

“When I went to the Netherlands I didn’t know what I have expected. I have to say that the week overcame all my imaginations. And especially one moment touched me very much. It was our joint and shared prayer around one table the last day, where everyone could pray for whatever, for own problems and intentions with the other a together make the fellowship. I really felt that God taught my heart and I realised the power of shared

prayer, power of fellowship with God.”
(Pavel, Czech Republic)



Night on Board

“I’m very happy that I could take part of this sailing retreat with other Christian soldiers. It was very good to get teaching about how we can represent the Lord in our service. I hope in the future I can use what I studied from the teachings. My heart is full of thanksgiving for this teaching and for these days, I had an opportunity to spend onboard. Thank you Lord!” (Szilvia, Hungary)

“As I took part of „Navigate Your Life” Sailing retreat, I knew what I should expected about the teachings. But God gave me other value things this time. It was very good to talk with others, and share my experiences, and they share their experiences with me. It helped me to see other solutions for my problems, and maybe I could help others in a same way. So I thank to God, he took me there, thank to Igor and Rainer to have the opportunity, and for the all crew for the talks and shared time.” (Zimo, Hungary)