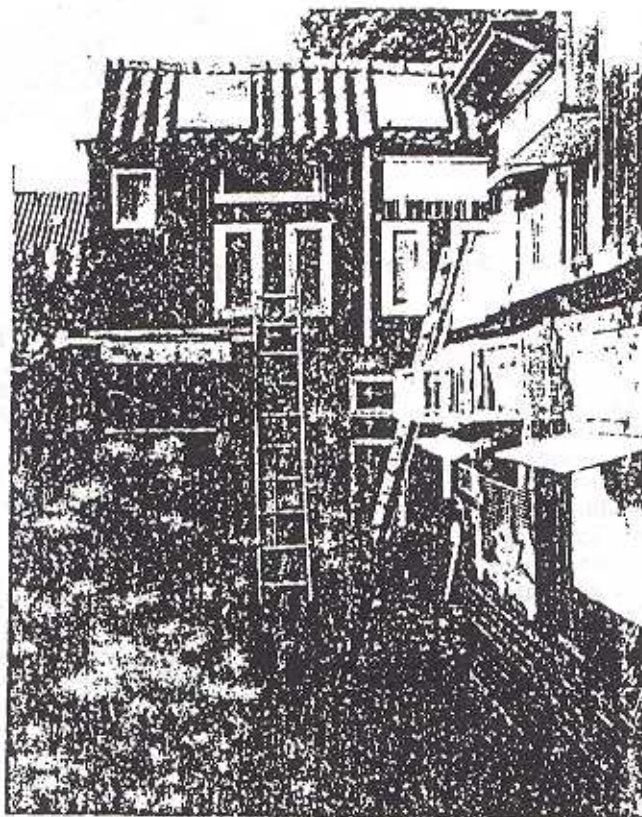


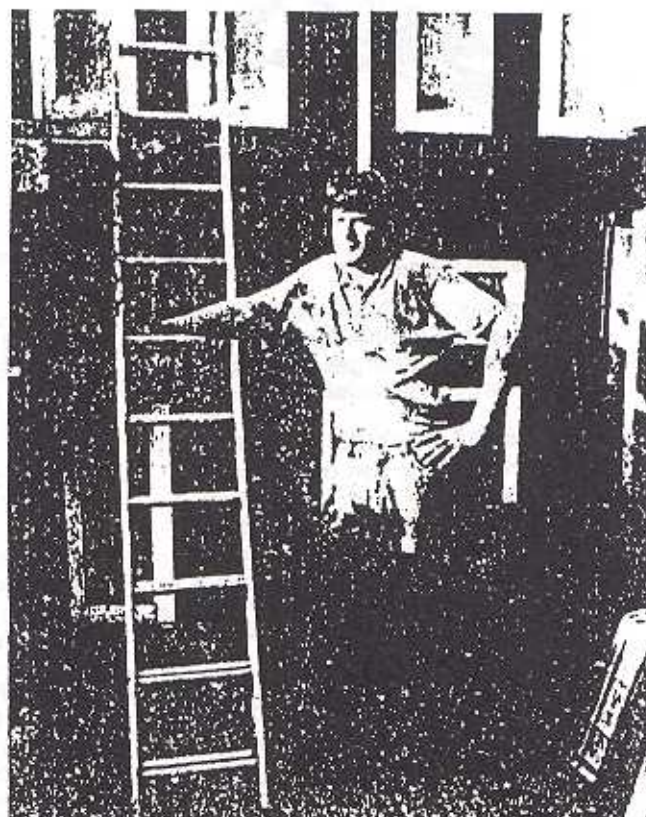
FOUR TIMES 1ST DUTCH NATIONAL IN THREE YEARS

Frank Aarts of Tilberg

by Kevin Hurst



Natural hens race to the lower section nearest the camera. Young birds race to both upper sections



Frank Aarts relaxing at his loft

1989: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 6th Dutch National Orleans, 320 miles, 8,109 birds.

1990: 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Dutch National Chateauroux, 365 miles, 8,996 birds.

1991: 1st, 3rd & 4th Dutch National Orleans, 320 miles, 20,845 birds.

1991: 1st & 2nd Dutch National Chateauroux, 364 miles, 9,108 birds.

The young man of Tilburg, now dominating the racing scene both at Provincial and National levels, in the last three years has won four Nationals. The man in question is Frank Aarts whose life is completely dedicated to his pigeons and their successes.

He is a relative newcomer to the sport, starting in 1981 at the age of 21. Within two years he was 1st Champion Old and Young Birds of

Tilburg, 180 members. Unfortunately for Frank and fortunately for his competitors, his racing activities had to cease whilst he went to do his National Service. On his return in 1986 he recommenced the job of rebuilding his breeding loft. He had kept his best breeders including 'Bange', 'Brother Bange' and 'Blauwe Pieterse' whilst he was away, to form the base on his return. At this point he decided to renew his lofts and knowing of a local fancier who was to finish in the sport he made an arrangement with him to take his range of lofts in exchange for Frank's motor car!

The base breeders of his now established lofts are Janssen, Meulemans, Horemans and Van Loon. Each breeder has been selected for its ability to reproduce and must have a background of winners producing winners. The success of this method can easily be gauged by the fact that at least

24 of Frank's breeders, out of the 25 pairs housed, are responsible for birds to win positions in the first six National races in the last three years alone. It is very difficult to highlight any particular breeder as the ace of the loft; with such an exceptionally high number of successful producers being housed. The main lines are around the cocks he retained when he restarted in the sport in 1986.

'Jan' 80.847802. A pure Janssen of Arendonk, closely related to their famous '019'. He is responsible for many top winners including 2nd Orleans National 1989, 89.609 the 3rd Ace Pigeon Provincial 1989 and the 'Super Hen 663' winner of four 1st prizes.

'Louis Van Loon Cock' 84.2013825 is sire and grandsire of several super racers like the winners of 1st & 2nd Provincial, by 14 minutes, 1st & 2nd Chateauroux National 1991, both arrived together from



'Blauw van Loon', 1st Provincial Chantilly, 2nd Provincial, 6th National Bourges

First Dutch National Orleans 1991 (320 miles)

365 miles, 3rd National Orleans 1989, 4th National Orleans 1991, 6th National Bourges 1990 and at least three Provincial winners.

'Bange' 85.2188369. Pure Janssen of Arendonk, a son of the famous '03' winner of four 1st prizes and is down from the equally famous '06' who won 60 prizes and six 1st prizes. 'Bange' is responsible for '678' 2nd Ace Pigeon Provincial 1989, Provincial winners and 1st Orleans National 1991.

'De Rode Van Gompel' 85.1651688. Another pure Janssen of Arendonk, an excellent racer winning many top prizes. At the end of 1989 he was put in the breeding lofts and in just two years this must now be proving to have been a very wise decision. The results are sensational to say the least. 'De Rode Van Gompel' was sire of 1st Chateauroux National 1990 and is

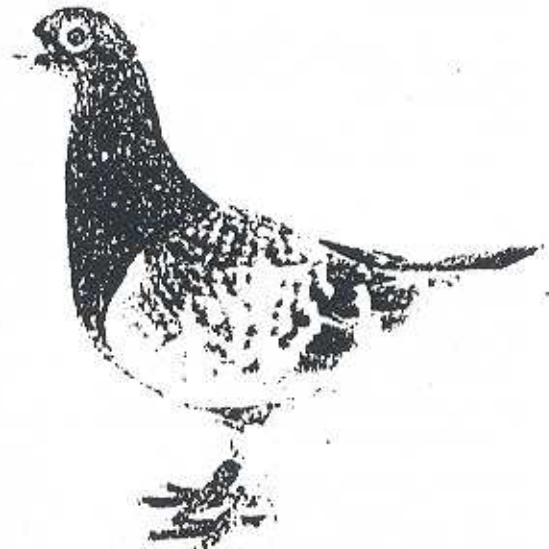
the grandsire of 1st Orleans National 1991. Is this a champion? 'Dikke Blauwe' 85.2188354. A 100% Janssen of Arendonk, his breeding represents the best of these bloodlines. 'Jonge Koppel', 'Raketman' and the famous 'Merckx'. 'Dikke Blauwe' is probably one of Frank's top producers being responsible for many winners at all distances including 1st Chateauroux National 1990, 3rd Orleans National 1991, 6th Orleans National 1990, 90.999 1st Ace Pigeon Overall Tilburg 1991, this with a hen racing on the Natural system, 8th Golden Ace Pigeon Long Distance against 12,000 pigeons 1990. In addition there are several Provincial winners.

'Blauwe Pieterse' 87.2373434. Pure Janssen of Arendonk. A super cock inbred to the famous 'Pair 17 Pieterse'. In the early 1980s until 1986 they were the most

successful Janssen breeding pair Holland. 'Blauwe Pieterse' is sire of 1st Orleans National 1989 and grandsire of 4th Orleans National 1991. A very young cock, only time will tell as to whether or not he will become more famous than 'Pair 17'!

'Blauwe Elsaker' 88.6712143. Pure bred Meulemans, close bred to Meulemans' world famous 'Kadet' and 'Witneus'. He is already in just three seasons sire of 3rd Chateauroux National 1990, a son has won two 1st prizes Provincial and he is also grandsire of a youngster that in August of 1991 won a motor car.

This list of a few of the outstanding breeders housed at Frank's lofts would not be complete without recording the discovery of the new Superbreeding Couple. The cock



'Louis' van Loon cock. Sire 1st National Chateauroux grandsire 2nd National Chateauroux, 3rd National Orleans, 4th National Orleans

'De Rode van Gompel', sire of 1st National Chateauroux (8,966 birds) and 1st National Orleans (20,845 birds)

Birds - Provincial Union Tilburg against 550 members, an outstanding achievement. Detailing winners would be a long task so without wishing to take up too much space I have recorded the most important championships won during the past two seasons.

1990: 1st Champion Young Birds Provincial Midden Brabant, 2,350 members; 1st Champion Long Distance Young Bird Provincial Midden Brabant, 2,350 members; 2nd & 3rd Ace Pigeon Provincial Midden Brabant, 2,350 members; 1st Champion Old Birds Union Kring Tilburg, 550 members; 1st Champion Young Birds Union Kring Tilburg, 550 members; 1st Champion Middle Distance Tilburg 450 members; 1st Champion Overall Old Birds and Young Birds Club, 160 members.

1991: Until August, included four 1st prizes Provincial and 2nd Champion Overall Old Birds and Young Birds Provincial Midden Brabant, 2,350 members; 2nd Champion Old Birds Provincial Midden Brabant, 2,350 members; 1st Champion Young Birds Provincial Union Kring Tilburg, 550 members; 2nd Champion Old Birds Provincial Union Kring Tilburg, 550 members; 1st Champion Middle Distance Tilburg, 450 members; 1st Champion Young Birds Club, 160 members; 1st Ace Pigeon Old Birds with a Natural hen.

I am sure you will agree that these championship wins are impressive to say the least although they give no indication to the extent to which the race teams perform overall. Perhaps these few race results will throw some light. Pont St Max: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th & 9th with 1,099 birds. Creil: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th with 4,933 birds. Etampes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 8th & 9th with 1,410 birds. Melun: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th & 10th with 813 birds. These are but four, week in week out, they are always similar performances.

The Widowhood lofts total some 25ft in length and are the top storey of his double-decker lofts situated in the small rear yard behind his terraced house. They have a pantiled roof fitted with skylights to ensure the maximum amount of sun enters the lofts at all times, a fact that Frank considers is very important to bring the race birds into form and to keep that form for as long as possible. The 24 Widowhood cocks, yearlings and older cocks

yearlings the same, are paired at Christmas. The best performance cocks rear their own youngsters whilst the yearlings are mainly used to rear youngsters taken from the best breeding pairs.

When their youngsters are about 17 days old, they and the hens are taken out of the Widowhood lofts and placed in the young bird section where the hens alone finish the rearing. The Widowhood cocks are left on their own until around April 1 when they are re-paired but are not entered in the early races. The 24 Natural hens are paired in early March and prepared especially for the first five races, which every hen must fly. Once these races start the hens are not trained but are shut out of the loft for one hour's exercise both morning and evening, the same as for the Widowhood cocks.

After the fifth race it's the turn of the Widower cocks. They are entered for their first race feeding a single youngster, the other youngster and the hen having been removed a couple of days earlier. The young bird is removed at 25 days old and the cock will now fly the remaining eight or nine races on the traditional Widowhood method. On basketing night the cocks are shown their hens for two or three minutes before being basketed for the race. On their return the cocks are left with their hens for at least half an hour. After their sixth or seventh race they are left together overnight and separated the morning after the race. One must always be on the lookout to avoid the Widowers getting bored and one trick Frank uses once each season with some outstanding results, is to allow the cocks and hens together for one whole day before their last race. He finds this an ideal way to keep the cocks motivated.

The feeding system for both the Natural hens and the Widowhood cocks when racing is identical. In the early part of the week they are fed depurative with a little Mariman Super M Widowhood mix added and this is changed over the week to 100% Super M Widowhood mixture to build the race birds up to a peak on basketing day. On Wednesdays all the birds have vitamins added to the water. As can be seen everything is in the traditional Widowhood method. However, the same cannot be said of Frank's very successful young bird system, which I am sure will raise one or two eyebrows in the UK by the young bird specialists.

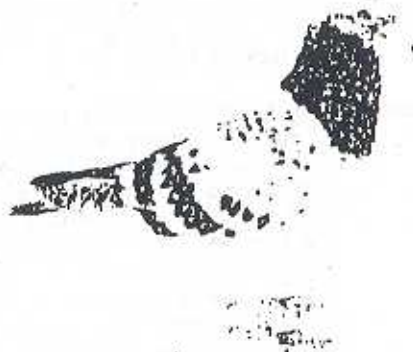
considered of great importance before you can even start to thi of having young bird successes, first, that youngsters must have natural health and must always look good. If any young bird doesn't look right for more than few days it is destroyed. Second is important never to overcrowd their lofts. This is a big mistake many fanciers make. Good health and success will not come in th conditions. Lastly and certainly least is that the young birds mu be able to love their loft and the manager. Once the young birds about four weeks old, they are treated against trichomoniasis using Ridsol S and this is follow up by vaccination against both paramyxovirus and pigeon pox. They are by now exercising round the lofts and this is built up to o hour morning and evening and ai fed on a mixture consisting of 50-50 Mariman depurative and Mariman Super M, a light feed in the morning and as much as they can eat in the evening.

Two or three weeks prior to the first race they are given five or si tosses up to 30-40 miles and the then receive no more training at during the remainder of the seas but are expected to compete in a the races in the programme. For t first two or three races the sexes are kept apart and exercised separately. After these races they are let in together and paired so that they are all racing to the nesting conditions and to youngsters in the nest. This is the condition Frank favours for his young birds when racing in the Nationals at distances up to 450 miles. At the end of the young bir programme only youngsters that have won at least eight prizes are considered for either the Widowhood or Natural loft, all others are destroyed. A very harsh selection method some may feel but one that has to be adhered to because of the small amount of room available in the racing lofts.

May this be the real reason for the super performances of Frank Aarts It must certainly play a large part i the huge success he has enjoyed over the last four seasons and I am certain that, after having spent several hours in the company of this very likeable and dedicated Dutchman, I feel we shall certainly be hearing a lot more in the coming years about Frank Aarts of Tilburg - a true Champion of Champions!



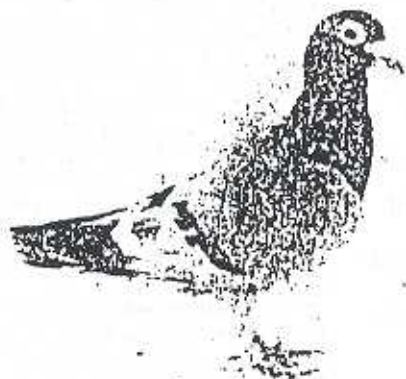
'Taxi', grandsire of 3rd & 6th National Orleans 1909 (8,109 birds)



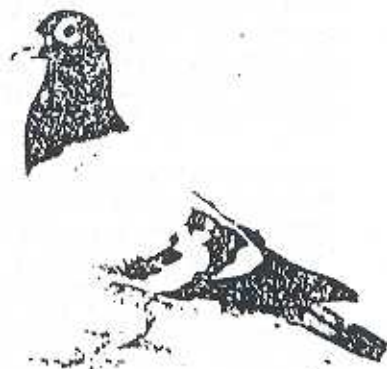
'Zoon van Gompel', sire of 1st National Orleans 1991 (20,845 birds)



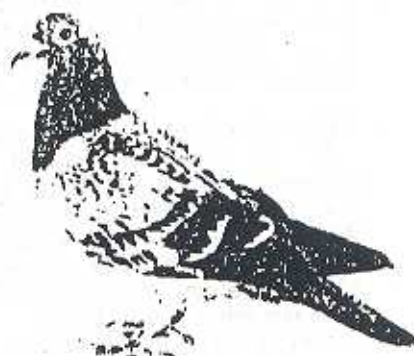
'Jan', sire of 2nd National Orleans 1989 (8,109 birds) and of 'Superhen 663'



'Blauwe Pieterse', sire of 1st National Orleans 1989 (8,109 birds), grandsire of 4th National Orleans 1991 (20,845 birds)



'Dikke Blauwe', sire of 3rd National Orleans (20,815 birds), grandsire 1st National Chateauroux (8,996 birds)



'Superlady 663', winner of four 1st prizes

88.6712140 is pure Karel Meulemans, again closely bred to the famous 'Oude Stamkoppel' the parents of 'Kadet', 'Witness' and 'Benjamin' etc, and obtained direct from Van Elsaker. His mate is 89.8921733 a daughter of the base Van Loon cock 84.2013825 when paired to 'Janssen 66'. In 1990 only one youngster was taken from this new pairing, a hen rung 90.089 and she flew with great success winning six of the top prizes including 1st Chantilly, 1st Provincial, 1st Bourges, 2nd Provincial, 6th National 450 miles, 6,772 birds.

Such results by just one bird, prompted Frank in 1991 to take more youngsters and this time three were raced, one won seven prizes from ten races, the second won also seven prizes but from nine races and the third youngster was entered in ten races to win eight prizes including 2nd Chateauroux National, arriving with and beaten into the clock by a loftmate after 9¼ hours on the wing covering a distance of some 365 miles. So it can be seen why Frank is even more optimistic about the future successes of this new pairing.

New Address:

FRANK AARTS
OISTERWIJKSEBAAN
152

5018 C.E.

Tilburg
HOLLAND.

(The Netherlands).

The breeding pairs are housed in a

28ft long loft at the home of a close friend, due to the shortage of space at the rear of Frank's terraced house. An aviary runs along the entire length of the front of the loft with a mesh bottom, raised some 2ft off the ground with the concrete underneath being washed down daily. All birds, breeders and racers, are paired up around Christmas Day following almost three months of separation. The eggs from the top producers and racers are moved under the yearling racers and feeder pairs when around ten days old thus ensuring there are at least four youngsters to race off all the extra special birds. In addition to this the very best breeding cocks are paired with four or five different hens during the year.

Throughout the year Mariman Breeding mixture is fed and vitamins are added to the water each Wednesday. Since Frank's return to racing in 1986 he has quickly returned to the very top. In 1987 he was declared 2nd Champion Overall Old Birds and Young Birds - Provincial Union Tilburg 500 members, again in 1988 he held the same position. However, for the three years since

Frans Janssen

Frans is also one of the Janssen Brothers who has never been very well-known. The explanation is, that just like Fons, he also left the parental home and got married. Frans has always lived in Arendonk, and raced his pigeons with great success till just before his death. "They never made money out of our Frans", said Louis. When Charel was still a boy he flew with his elder brother for some time. Frans, however, was somebody who would give away a pigeon in the pub, as soon as he had a really good one. It became so bad that Charel could not bear to see it any longer and started to fly on his own at the parental home.

Just like Louis, Frans had been a diamond cutter for a long time. He triumphed with pigeons from home and from his brother Fons. This second eldest of the Janssen Brothers also had very good birds from a certain Van Craenendonk.

Louis van Loon always claimed that his first great successes were achieved with Janssen pigeons. According to the brothers they came from Frans. In any case they were wonderful birds, because what Van Loon achieved at Poppel for many years, is next to incredible. And the number of fanciers who gained fantastic results with the Van Loon family, was enormous.

We would like to mention in name Pol Borgmans of Turnhout, and later on his son Marcel. They succeeded in winning no less than the prizes 1 to 10 in Turnhout, at a racing event from Noyon, with pure Van Loon pigeons. The best pigeon which Anton van Haaren of Heesch ever possessed, was also a pigeon from Louis van Loon. His delightful bungalow still bears the name of this fantastic racer: "De Schalie" "Slaty". In Belgian, and Dutch Limburg as well, there is a great number of fanciers who made a furore with Van Loon pigeons and still do. We are thinking of Cox from Niel and De Wit from Zelem. Neel de Volder of Goirle, at no more than a stone's throw from Poppel, became a concept in Mid-Brabant pigeon racing, with Van Loon pigeons. And his son Ad followed suit.

One of the greatest stars in pigeon racing in The Netherlands, Jan Zoontjens of Riel, partly owes his fame to pigeons from De Volder and... from Verhoeven of Goirle. The latter races mainly Janssen birds.

In the seventies Jan Zoontjens had a pair which produced practically nothing but champions. The cock came from Verhoeven the hen was of the De Volder family. There is quite a share of Janssen blood in the well-known Zoontjens pigeons and it is generally known that many fanciers yield spectacular performances with these birds. The Japanese champion Morisawa knows something about this.

At our advice he purchased pigeons from Zoontjens, who up to then was utterly unknown in Japan. They were the best he ever procured. Progeny of those Zoontjens pigeons won numerous first prizes in Japan, and each year Morisawa pays a visit to the supplier of his successful pigeons.

The Van Boxmeer Brothers of St. Oederode, Rijken of Breda, Van der Sande of Vosselaar (Belgium), De Hoogh of Rijen, Severijns of Kaatsheuvel, Stabel of Tilburg and many others, all flew extremely well with the mostly smokey blue and pied Zoontjens pigeons, in which there is still quite a bit of Janssen blood via Verhoeven and De Volder, both of Goirle.

G. van Kerkhoven of Diegem also found the way to Poppel.

Janssen
Brothers
Book!

