

We came by vehicle to Brussels

by: Erik Paskamp

We came by motorcycle

- **Erik Paskamp**

- The Netherlands
- MMvG Demo-team
- Driving adapted motorcycle since 1998
 - Left hand operated throttle handle.
 - Left hand operated front brake handle
 - Thumb operated clutch handle on the left side
 - Left hand operated switches for electrical operations
 - Special constructed mobility prostheses for the lower right arm
 - Special profiled sponge rubber grip on the right side

Erik Paskamp, the Netherlands

Background:

Erik is right arm prostheses wearer. As a result of an accident with an explosive device his right lower arm and hand were traumatically amputated and his right arm was neurologically damaged. He has been working as a military police officer in the elite field since 1980 and is trained as a paratrooper, diver and close protection and observation expert. For his work he has been sent to several countries all over the world. After his accident he trained himself on the computer. This resulted in such a way that, in spite of his handicap, he is still working as an intelligence officer within the Dutch military police.

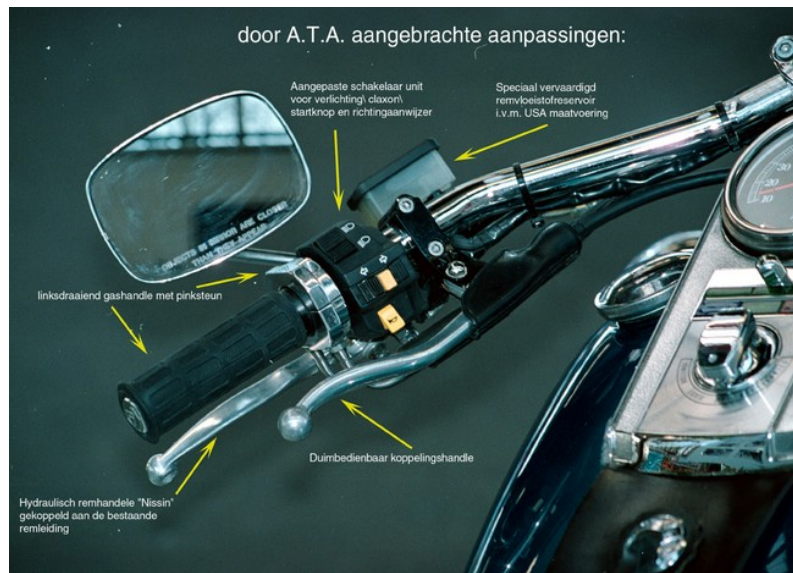
In February 2003 he started his own company in graphic design and image handling and is still part time member of the military police.

Type of vehicle adaptations:

- Left hand operated throttle handle
- Thumb operated clutch handle on the left side
- Left hand operated front brake handle.
- Left hand operated switches for electrical operations
- Special constructed mobility prostheses for the lower right arm
- Special profiled sponge rubber grip on the right side
- Front brake lever has been relocated to the left side to make one hand operation possible

Additional background in the field of mobility of disabled people:

He is well known with traffic rules and traffic laws because of his work within the police. He's also been trained by the Dutch police in special driving skills, and used to drive all kinds of vehicles up to very heavy trucks and city busses. Volunteer for the MMvG project in the Netherlands and gives demonstrations and presentations about driving an adapted motorcycle and coping with disability in general.



The impact of driving:

The adaptations of my bike, makes it possible to travel to the place I work a distance of 200 kilometres. Before my accident I used to drive this distance with a motorcycle to avoid traffic jam. I have been driving motorcycles of all types and since I was 17 years old both private and professional (presently I am 41). Personally I still enjoy every second I'm driving motorcycle. And to me it is also a form of therapy to get away from stress and the "rat race". When I am driving I don't notice that I am disabled, because I can fully focus on the road in front of me. While driving my bike, Is one of the spare moments my disability doesn't show.