



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005
The Liberation of the Netherlands



NEWS BULLETIN RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2021-03

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The main objective of our Branch is to fulfill an active role during commemorations at Canadian and other allied military cemeteries, monuments and ceremonies where fallen soldiers from in particular World War II are remembered.

For photos of previous events, visit our website. [To have a look: click here.](#)

The background story for this edition.

As announced in previous editions, we would like to mention all nine Canadians who were awarded the Military Order of William and were appointed Knight 4th Class.

So far, we have listed four names; in this edition we highlight, in alphabetical order the other five men. Like Lieutenant Forbes, they survived.

Their names:

Caron, Roger,

Gillis, James E.,

Kirk, Wilford H.,

Liddell, Kenneth C.,

Mason, Gerald L.



[The description of the actions that led to their award you can find here.](#)

Retirement of the former Canadian Ambassador in the Netherlands, Mrs. Sabine Nölke.

March 17th, 2021,

Dear Mrs. Sabine Nölke,

We, members of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, would like to congratulate you with your retirement. We enjoyed working with you during your time in Holland. You were not only a valuable Ambassador to the Netherlands but also an enjoyable presence in our RCL Branch 005.

While you, your husband Chris and your daughter Eilidh will be missed by all of us you certainly deserve your retirement. Your hard work and diligence have greatly benefited our Branch.

Your contribution and cooperation with us and many other commemorative societies is something we will never forget. Together we shared special and ceremonial memories such as:



the 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge, the several visits to the "Last Post" in Ypres, 1st of July, Maple Soirée, and the many ceremonies on the Airborne and Canadian War Cemeteries, monuments and visits to the RCL clubhouse.

We can list so much more, but you were always there with your husband. Therefore, it was an honour and a privilege to know you. It was always a pleasure to work with you.

We all had hoped that you could celebrate the 75th Commemoration with our Branch, but unfortunately that was not possible, and we were saddened to see you go.

But we are confident that you will find the same success and happiness that you experienced during your time in The Netherlands.

The Royal Canadian Branch 005, The Liberation of the Netherlands wishes you the best in your future endeavours.



Retirement will surely offer you many new opportunities, which we know you will embrace wholeheartedly, just as you did in The Netherlands with your friends and with our Branch.

Please keep in touch and visit us when you have the time and opportunity.
We hope to see you again in the near future and thank you for this special and wonderful friendship.
Sincerely yours,
The Comrades of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, "the Liberation of the Netherlands".



N.B.

All photos were taken before COVID-19 troubled us or with the due observance of the regulations that were mandatory at that time.

Board news flash.



Again, we are held back, and activities postponed, and the annoying thing is that we can't see a fixed date when everything can open and go normal again.

This means that many organizations and we too, must remain flexible in terms of participating in commemorations and refrain from getting together. One thing is for sure that if the terraces can open again we go first and we hope many of our members also go to our clubhouse, at restaurant Mondani, to just see each other again and have a snack and drink.

Furthermore, there are two commemorations on the agenda for the coming period and we have been invited to participate with a maximum of two members. These are Etten on March 31 and Posterenk on April 13.

For May 4 we decided as a board that we also give our members the opportunity to participate in a branch commemoration on the 3 Canadian War Cemeteries Bergen op Zoom, Groesbeek and Holten. We hope that the COVID-19 rules will then be more open and that we can come together with more than two.

May 5th in Wageningen is entirely digital. Just a limited meeting of the Defense Attachés of Allied countries is permitted. Too bad, but we hope to be able to walk down the General Foulkes road in Wageningen again next year with the music upfront.

During the week of 1-9 May, the JTF Nijmegen Canadian four-day contingent invited us to participate in the [Victory March](#). See this website for more information about the intentions.

As Branch 005 we have set up a team and you can participate in different distances or you can sponsor the team or individual participants.

You can see our team via this link: [Royal Canadian Legion "The Liberation of the Netherlands" Branch 005](#). If you like to participate in a march, you can walk the distance you are comfortable with. We still need to walk in small groups due to the COVID-19 rules. This event is a good support to the JTF Nijmegen Teams.

It has been informed to us by Zone Europe that Branch 003 has cancelled the lease of their Clubhouse in Teveren / Geilenkirchen. Branch 003's board had no option but to do so. The prospect of reopening and no revenue and too little or no financial support from government and Dominion Command has decided them to do so. However, they continue as an RCL-branch organization and are looking for alternative ways of housing. Zone Command is in contact with them to assist and overcome this difficult period.

For the Executive Board,

Martin Reelick

*President
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005
The Liberation of the Netherlands*



Input Comrades.

Salute to The Infantry Soldier

*So heres to the men who fight hand to hand,
With no armour plate to save them;
They do their job and make their stand,
with only the strength God gave them.*

*They're in the thin black line in the map of war,
Up where the foe can find them;
They're out in the front of the other corps,
The rest of the army behind them.*

*They live for months in the wind and rain,
With only a foxhole to curl in;
But they are moving ahead to Tokyo,
They've battered their way to Berlin!*

*So heres tot the men of the Infantry!
The muddy, bloody Infantry!
The valiant, gallant Infantry!
The rough and ready,
The tough and steady,
The men who won the war.*

Written by Oren Foster from Deep Brook, Nova Scotia, Canada.

More from Oren Foster can be read and heard if you click the link below.

[Op thememoryproject - the second world war - veteran stories -](#)

(Provided by Wim Poppenk, additions by Herman Sligman)

Oren Foster visited the Netherlands in 2005.

Our current 2nd Vice-President Wim Poppenk and his wife Anneke were his host and hostess at the time. Wim previously reported about this in our 2020-03 edition.

As already written at the time, Foster had come alone.

At first sight he seemed to be a rather aloof personality. But gradually he "thawed out" a bit and turned out to be a man of humour.

As we read his service records and about the actions of him and his comrades, it became clear why he had remained somewhat of a "Loner".

He was one of the men in the Scout-Sniper Platoon of the West Nova Scotia Regiment. (WNSR)

The men who, as he himself writes in his poem, operate in the thin black line that indicates the frontline on the staff maps. Going out on recce alone, sometimes with a buddy. Completely dependent of their own skills, trained to the maximum.



Oren Foster (2005 in NL)

If you like to read more about the founding of the sniper-scout platoon of the WNSR and the training and experiences of Oren Foster and his buddies [click on this link](#). (Stories of their actions in the Italy campaign)



Photograph published in unknown newspaper, Nova Scotia. Notations identifying Oren Foster and Charlie Fleet (his friend) are made by Oren Foster.

Caption: This photo of eight of the original volunteer snipers with the West Nova Scotia Regiment was taken in England in 1941.

Pictured are: (BR, L-R) C. Cameron of Maccan, F. Embree of Springhill, E. Smith of Barrington and W. Wall of Amherst; and (FR, L-R) C. Fleet of Corner Brook, B. Gehue of Lawrencetown, H. Weeks of Truruo and Oren Foster of Deep Brook.

A special award, the British Empire Medal, Military Division, had been awarded to Oren Foster for his adequate intervention during a training in England in January 1942.

During exercises, an assault boat had capsized and the occupants had ended up in the cold, fast-flowing water.

Although Foster couldn't swim himself, he immediately started a rescue operation with a small boat.

He managed to rescue four men from drowning.

NEW YEAR'S 1943				DECORATIONS—C. A. S. F.		
SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS) CHRISTIAN NAMES				REG. NO	RANK	C.A.S.F. UNIT
FOSTER, Oren Smith				F-41595	Pte.	FILE NO. West N.S.R. 0042
					09	C.I.C. T
AWARD	L.G. AUTHORITY	DATE	PAGE	DEED OF ACTION OR CITATION (USE REVERSE SIDE)		
COMMENDATION FOR DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT	C.S.R.O. #2477	3-9-42	3			
BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL	C.G. #2 35842	9-1-43 1-1-43	58	<p>This soldier has served continuously with his regiment since 4th Sept. 1939. In January, 1942, when an assault boat capsized in a swift tidal river, he, although unable to swim, launched a reconnaissance boat and in constant danger of overturning he was successful in rescuing four drowning men. His initiative and disregard for his personal safety has been inspiration to his Comrades.</p>		

The fact that the King in person had handed out the medal at Buckingham Palace had made a great impression on him.



Photo published in unknown newspaper in Nova Scotia.
Caption: In Britain with the West Nova Scotia Regiment, Private O.S. Foster, Annapolis, examines the British Empire Medal, Military Division he had just received from His Majesty the King. With him is Private J.E. Cook, Bear River.

Canadian Army Photo



Oren Smith Foster, one of many and yet special. R.I.P.

Commemoration Etten (Gld) March 31.

Austere ceremony, but it has not gone unnoticed.
RCL Branch 005 was invited (max. 2 persons) for a wreath laying.

We will remember them!



2019



2021 what a difference!

UPCOMING.

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO COVID-19 REGULATIONS.

- April 13: Commemoration Posterenk, **only invitees**
- April 17: Commemoration Apeldoorn 't Sluisje, **cancelled**
Commemoration Apeldoorn Oranjepark **modified ceremony**
- Mai 1-9: [Victory-March](#), **RCL BRANCH 005 participates with a team**
- Mai 4: Wreath layings Bergen op Zoom, Groesbeek, Holten, **only invitees**
- Mai 8+9: Apeldoorn Liberation Festival, **cancelled**
- Mai 16: Annual General Meeting, **with a proviso**

Also [consult the agenda on our](#) website and for the latest news: [have a look on our Facebook account](#)

Stay
healthy