



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 005
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



EXTRA POPPY – EDITION 2019





The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



THE NETHERLANDS

Not just tulips, mills and clogs.

From October till November 11th, the Poppy can be seen more often in the streets of a number of places in the Netherlands. The Poppy, symbol of the fallen in the First and Second World War and the wars thereafter. Much has been written and said about the origin of this sign of reflection. More important to us, as RCL Branch 005, is that the message is passed on as a sign of a life given in the struggle for freedom. It is hopeful that the number of places within the framework of the Poppy Campaign is growing. But ... it still can be more.

In our regular Newsletter, 2019-10, we already announced the start of the Poppy Campaign. In this extra edition we pay attention to the efforts of various comrades. In this way we like to thank them for their time and energy they have spent.

The municipality of **BRONCKHORST** is new on our list.



Set up on a large scale by Gerrit Bruggink.
Photo: Mayor Besselink gets the first Poppy pinned on her lapel

The local broadcasting association paid attention to it.

Several schools were visited and kids from level 7 and 8 were told the history of the Poppy. This in the context of the Week of Education





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Poppies were handed out. (place where to pin is not entirely clear, but it is there).

After the "lesson" there was a test. Just to experience if the story had "landed" and Poppy certificates were issued.



On November 11th, Remembrance Day, the schools were visited again and photos were taken.



The scholars had kept their Poppy safely and had pinned it well now.

An action that we can place under the heading "Education" AND Remembrance". An action that took a lot of time and energy. Thanks to the attained co-operation, also from several companies, it has become a success in the municipality of Bronckhorst.





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A very special promotion, also set up by comrade Gerrit Bruggink.

A company added a Poppy to all outgoing deliveries on the 11th of November, with a brief explanation of the history of the Poppy tradition.



A great idea for the further distribution and



promotion of the Poppy tradition.



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WILNIS, November 1st, 2019.

This year the Poppy Campaign in Wilnis was held on Friday, November 1st.

Wilnis takes care of the graves of 3 Canadians who died when their Vickers Wellington crashed on the night of 4 to 5 May 1943 just outside the village. The weather was cold and wet, but the Poppy team didn't really care, because they were provided with coffee and cakes by the local entrepreneurs.

Reinier Groeneveld is a general practitioner in Wilnis and Poppy coordinator in the municipality of De Ronde Venen to which Wilnis belongs. Reinier had pinned up the first Poppy on Thursday before by mayor Maarten Divendal during a council meeting. A great moment for extra publicity.



Reinier Groeneveld and a local resident



Reinier "manned" the Poppy booth Friday morning and Ruud Jansen and Connie Lempke in the afternoon. A very nice inhabitant thought it was far too cold and brought delicious pumpkin soup for the "crew", which was much appreciated.





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UITHOORN, November 2nd, 2019.

Simultaneously with the Poppy Campaign in Mijdrecht, about 10 km further on, a new promotion was set up by comrade Monique Venne in Uithoorn: the Amstelplein shopping center.



She often participates in the Promotion stand of RCL Branch 005 and wanted to try out the distribution of the Poppies in her hometown. President Martin Reelick was recruited as "a helping hand".

Monique had previously tried to pin a first Poppy to the mayor of Uithoorn, but the municipal secretary indicated that Uithoorn commemorates all war victims on May 4th and celebrates the liberation of the Netherlands on May 5th. Unfortunately, they did not want to make any modification in their policy at that time.

Monique arranged publications in the local media and partly due to the perseverance of the stand crew it became a (financially) positive action in Uithoorn.



Monique Venne and Martin Reelick





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Ruud Janssen and a local resident

MIJDRECHT, November 2nd, 2019.

The Poppy Campaign was also new in MIJDRECHT. Three comrades were active here on November 2nd.

Namely (ladies first) Connie Lempke, Reinier Groeneveld and Ruud Janssen. All with some, or rather a lot of experience in propagating the Poppy tradition.

Because Mijdrecht also belongs to the municipality of De Ronde Venen, it was decided in 2018 to have a Poppy Campaign, as a trial, in the Passage shopping center. The shopkeepers here were very surprised, but also very helpful and caring with coffee and cakes.



Connie Lempke. Who can resist that smile?

It turned out that the residents of Mijdrecht were not really aware of the story behind the Poppy and the campaign that is conducted annually in the Anglo-Saxon countries.

The local TV channel felt that something had to be done about it. They recorded an interview with the Poppy crew and a number of residents. That helped, for which thanks also on behalf of RCL Branch 005.

Click on the photo for an impression of RTV Ronde Venen. →

(sorry, it's in Dutch 😊)





WASSENAAR & SOESTERBERG.

Comrade Philip van Leeuwen placed Poppies, a display and a collection box at a number of strategic places.

Below his own report.

Poppies were released by me at four locations in Wassenaar. This for a number of years. Together with a collection box and some brochure material.



At an American / British coffee corner called "Bagel Alley". The people there are always friendly and very involved.

At the local library. People like to cooperate, but also indicated that the expectations are not too high. Most of the Poppies here are picked up by children. At the end of the line, with a little initiative of my own, the proceeds are a bit similar to the amount of Poppies distributed / taken along.

At the gym in Wassenaar. You wouldn't say it's a logical place, but here in Wassenaar it is. This is because of the many international members of the gym.

At the daycare center. Where a good friend of mine, Ginny Whitty, works. This is an international daycare center and Ginny is very enthusiastic. Given the small amount of Poppies issued and the few people who can actually donate here the proceeds are pretty nice.

New: National Military Museum Soesterberg. I am working there as a volunteer. For the first time, actually a bit at the very end, I placed a collection box and Poppies there. In the meeting room of the volunteers. I have only heard positive reactions from these colleagues. Next year I will try to expand it further. It was incredibly beautiful that for two weeks a lot, if not all, of the volunteers in the working place walked among the audience with a poppy pinned up!

The National Military Museum is simply a fantastic place to run the Poppy Campaign. The colleagues, who are active among the public, are very enthusiastic and propagate the ideas that have a lot in common with the content of the museum. As an example: the upcoming exhibition "Him or Me". The story of a Canadian soldier from WW2. In anticipation of May 2020, I am also thinking of the Canada event that may be held here.

My best experience was the reaction of Jo-Anne Wiseman (ass. to the Military Attaché from Canada) who came to visit the museum with a group of people. She was pleasantly surprised that every volunteer was wearing a Poppy.

Philip Vanleeuwen





L - R: Peter Bongers, Connie Lempke, Ruud Janssen

ZANDVOORT. November 9th, 2019.

The Poppy Campaign in Zandvoort has been a permanent event every year since 2003. The inhabitants are familiar with it and relatively many people from the Anglo-Saxon countries live in Zandvoort. That certainly helps. After the Poppy has been pinned to the Mayor, a new one this year - David Moolenburgh - the campaign is published in the local newspaper report. The people of the secretariat of the municipality are always very helpful with the organization.

In recent years, comrade Reinier Groeneveld, accompanied by his father Ad and his daughter Suzanne were at the entrance of the AH-store in which the Poppy crew took place and so was his jeep. That attracts a lot of attention from old and young people, as we noticed. Reinier unfortunately had no opportunity this year due to his obligations as a doctor. Hopefully Reinier can join us again next year. The local entrepreneurs are always helpful, also a „thank you” for them from this place. The constant crew in Zandvoort: Peter Bongers, Connie Lempke and Ruud Janssen.

Missed this year in Zandvoort:

a great eye-catcher and extra (“small”) hands.



From our website:

The poppy, this small red flower has through the ages, not only remained the exclusive commemoration symbol for the 116031 fallen Canadians but also represents the fallen Americans-English-Poles-Australians-New Zealanders-French-Dutch-Belgians and many other countries, whose countrymen gave their lives for peace and freedom.



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On November 14th, 2019, the Canadian Embassy had an (annual) fundraising campaign, called "Red Maple Soirée."

Guests for the evening were invited by: the Canadian Ambassador, H.E. Ms Lisa Helfand.

The goal is, as the name suggests, to raise funds for two different purposes, namely: for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 and Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign.

The Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) engages federal public service employees and retirees in a combined effort to raise funds and donate time for those in need.

It is the largest and most generous workplace campaign in Canada and takes place annually between September and December. In 2018, employees and retirees donated \$29.8 million.





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RCL Branch 005 promotes remembrance and commemorations throughout the year and spreads out Poppies throughout the year. We will just mention them:

- ❖ The promotional tent, present at the larger events. The permanent team that can be counted on consists of: Evelien and Eelco de Zee; Cynthia and Peter Mensink, Elly and Nic van Wakeren and Monique Venne.



- ❖ Veenendaal. Each year prior to the commemoration of Harold F. Wakeman, an educational lesson is provided by Berry and Yvonne Swarthoff.



- ❖ And last but not least you can always pick up a Poppy at our home base: Mondani restaurant in Lochem.



Composition: Herman Sligman