



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 005
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



NEWSLETTER RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2019 – 05

In this edition:

Letter of the President

Holten, May 4, 2019

Opening Liberation Museum Lochem

Silent March Groesbeek

Commemoration Apeldoorn

Liberation Day Wageningen

Commemoration Hoeksche Waard

Logistic explorations, preparations for

Four Days Marches Detachment

Upcoming events:

June 1 New Brunswick students at Holten

June 6 Commemoration D-Day 75 years ago

June 12 Board meeting

June 13 Ceremony at Fort Sabina Heyningen

June 27 Canada Day Wassenaar (Canadian Embassy)

July 1 Commemoration Beaumont-Hamel (Zone Europe)

July 7 Canada Day, Soc. Event at Mondani

July 15 Commemoration Groesbeek by Can. Detachment

July 18 Groesbeek, Regiment related ceremonies

Have a look on the [agenda](#). For the latest news: [Facebook](#).

There are far more pictures on our website from multiple ceremonies, to have a look: click: [album](#)



Changing column with background information on a specific topic. This can be viewed by clicking on the "The Story" button.

In this edition a two-part story to connect as closely as possible to the current activities of our Branch:

the story behind the commemorations of Fort Sabina and Beuamont-Hamel





Message from your President.

For many of us, summer time also means vacation time. I myself have put that into practice and enjoyed a short vacation in Spain.

In order not to delay the deadline of our Newsletter this time a short message.

In the first place I want to thank all members who participated in the various ceremonies in the recent period. The National May 4 commemoration, many of which were at the local level. Not to forget the participants in the Liberation Parade in Wageningen. Not only respect for the participants of the Colour Party who, in the new set-up, are given a whole walk, but also for the occupation of our promotional stand. In the Newsletter you will find a photo impression of the 5th of May in Wageningen.

I also want to draw your attention to the upcoming activities. The most striking for us will undoubtedly be the ceremonies in Groesbeek during the 103rd Four Days Marches 16-19 July 2019.

To stay up to date with what's going to happen soon regularly consult the Google Calendar on our website.

For everyone who is planning a vacation, far away or nearby, I wish you a pleasant time and I look forward to seeing you healthy, rested and full of energy.

Martin Reelick

President

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005





The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



Holten, 4 May 2019.

"They were so young; they did their duty and gave everything of themselves. We pass on the torch so that we do not forget them".

As usual, honor was given to the fallen liberators at the Canadian Cemetery in Holten. There was great interest in this. A total of 1,394 Canadians found their last resting place here.

Children from the Holtense primary schools traditionally play an important role in the commemoration. "I will commemorate the soldiers by laying flowers at the graves. They have done their best to save the Netherlands from the Germans," says student Claire.



Among those present H.E. Mrs. Sabine Nölke, the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands and the military attaché Colonel Tim Young. Flowers and wreaths were laid during the commemoration, also poems were read and stories told. Among others by Rik Aangeenbrug. "I told a story about my own father who was in the resistance in Leerdam".

Aangeenbrug continues: "People in the war had to make choices, including my father. That is still essential for young people, because making choices in life is very important. That was the story".

RCL Branch 005 was represented with the Colour Party and a delegation.

Column: *Herman Sligman*





The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



LOCHEM - Saturday, May 4, 2019.

A start with impact for the Liberation Museum Lochem.

There was a great interest in the opening of the building in the Walderstraat. Among the guests, totally unexpected, also the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Mrs. Sabine Nölke.

For website click here →



The guests went on foot from restaurant Mondani to the Walderstraat. A bagpipe player and four flag bearers in front. After opening the doors, it took a while to give everyone a place.

Hereafter, initiator Berry Swarthoff took the floor. He thanked everyone for the contributions they made to the realization of the museum. The museum is opened right now because next year it will be celebrated that the Netherlands were liberated 75 years ago.



From left: Yvonne Swarthoff, Mayor van 't Erve, H.E. Mrs. Nölke, Berry Swarthoff
(Photo: Lochems Newspaper)

Berry Swarthoff - known from Canadian restaurant Mondani - owns a huge collection of World War II relics and knows almost everything about the liberation of Lochem and the surrounding area, by Canadian and English Forces. His collection forms the basis for the museum.

The intention is to invite school classes and to tell the students about the events that their grandparents experienced personally. For once not on a global scale but rather close to home and in recognizable locations. Berry Swarthoff and his wife Yvonne maintain good relations with liberators or their relatives.

In the future the museum also organizes walks and trips with different vehicles along places "with a story" in and around Lochem.

Column: *Herman Sligman*



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Photo: Joop Verstraaten

Groesbeek, May 4, 2019. Silent March.

Several hundred people braved the cold and threatening rain on Saturday evening and took part in the silent march that went from the Town Hall in Groesbeek to the Canadian War Cemetery.

Every year in Groesbeek many people take part in the commemoration of the dead, on the 4th of May.

For this the traffic is diverted and the route of the march is completely closed. Several hundred participants started at 19.00 hour from the Town Hall. Gradually the procession became longer and longer because people joined along the way. The procession arrived at the Canadian War Cemetery at about 19.30.

It was a cold but an impressive memorial. After the Last Post two minutes of silence were observed. Only the birds and the wind were heard. The pupils of Primary School De Horst placed candles on the stairs of the monument on behalf of all the children from the Berg and Dal municipality.

Then multiple wreaths were laid.

Text from:

Het Gemeente Nieuws (Local Newspaper)



Shared by: Gerard Hendriks



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



Apeldoorn, May 4, 2019.

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, the entire country observes silence for a moment to commemorate all Dutch war victims. Our thoughts were with those who perished during the Second World War and everyone who lost their lives in war situations and post-war peace operations.

In Apeldoorn we did it in the following way: everyone was welcome from 18.30 hours on in the Grote Kerk. There the Memorial Service began at 18.45. After a short opening speech by the Mayor, students from the



local Gymnasium told the story of various war victims from

Apeldoorn

The Silent March to the memorial "The Man with the Flag" in the Orange Park started at 19.30. After a short speech by the Mayor, she laid the first wreath.

The "Last Post" was blown at 19.59, followed by two minutes of silence. Then several organizations, veterans, military delegates and commanders' laid wreaths.

RCL Branch 005 was represented by Major Dianne Groulx and RSM Andrew Papple of the Canadian Support Unit Four Days Marches-Detachment. They laid a wreath on behalf of our Branch.

For video >>[click here](#)<<



Column: *Gerard Hendriks*



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



Wageningen, 5th of May 2019.

Commemoration 74 years of Freedom.

The festive commemoration began, as usual, with the lighting of the Liberation Fire at noon.

Kenneth Mayhem (102), the only survivor with the Military William Order from the Second World War, started the fire together with DJ Sam Feldt, who is also an Ambassador of Freedom.



Kenneth Mayhem

(Photo Gelderl. Newspaper)



Liberation Fire



Several hundred veterans from the Second

World War also participated in the parade. Of course, the numbers are getting smaller, but veterans who are still capable of doing so are happy to come to the Liberation Defile in Wageningen on May 5. They are all well over ninety.



Because the media has published extensively about the festivities, we only show some pictures here. In the Netherlands we often say: "a picture paints a thousand words".

(Photo Gelderlander Newspaper)



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Veteran Raymond Lord brings the torch to the 5th May Square.

©ANP



Branch 005 took part in the defile



Our RCL Branch 005 promotional tent

[For video click here](#)

Column: *Herman Sligman*



May 11, 2019.

Hoeksche Waard.

Every year, at the monument in Oud-Beijerland, ALL Allied and Dutch pilots who were killed over the Hoeksche Waard in World War II are honored. Among the international guests was also the Marshall couple, family of one of the victims.

RCL Branch 005 was present with a small delegation. The Seaforth Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums participated in the ceremony and so did an ensemble of De Bazuin.

The special thing about this monument is that modern techniques are used. By scanning the used QR codes with smartphones, information and stories can be retrieved.

A clear link to modern times, with a nod to "the youth", which was actively involved in the commemoration.

There was a "flight by" from the Ghost Squadron of Flying Museum Seppe. Speeches were held by deputy mayor van Leenen and Mr. Marshall. Wreaths and floral arrangements were laid under the musical accompaniment of the copper ensemble of the Bazuin.

Column: *Ruud Janssen*



Photo: Municipality of Hoeksche Waard



Logistical exploration for Four Days Marches Nijmegen 2019.

Annually, the Logistics Director of the Canadian Detachment 4-Days Marches, Major Groulx, paves the way for a new and beautiful 4-Days event together with the Regimental Sergeant Major. In the last week of April, after a "tour" through France, Belgium and Germany, they visited the Netherlands.

RSM Andrew Papple will act as such for the first time this year after he has taken over from his predecessor. While the participants are in training in Canada, they are preparing the logistical operation for the relocation to the Netherlands. A small Battlefield tour is also arranged for the detachment prior to the Four Days Marches. Upon arrival, they traditionally visit Vimy and Ypres.

In the many conversations I have had with Major Groulx and the various commanders of the detachment, we came up with the same theme every time. The detachment moves during the Four Days Marches in a, for Canada, historic environment. 250,000 Canadians were stationed at the end of 1944 in Nijmegen and the surrounding area; awaiting the start of Operation Veritable on February 8, 1945. The largest operation in World War II with the most casualties. The attack on Arnhem, via the Betuwe ([Men-s- Island](#)), started also from Nijmegen. Vimy is of course very important for the Canadian people. But the Great War is gradually being pushed into the background.

This year there will be more attention for the operations of the Canadian soldiers during the Second World War in the area around Groesbeek. The memorial with the complete detachment takes place on Monday, July 15, 2019. The commemoration starts at 10.00 at the Canadian Cemetery on the Zevenheuvelenweg. The participating Canadian soldiers will be given a tour of the cemetery beforehand. Following the official commemoration, one group will go to "the tree" where they will receive expert explanation of the events in February 1945. The other group will go to the Liberation Museum where they will see a film about the attack (Operation Veritable). It is a first step into a different setup. In 2020 a real Battlefield tour will be made in the weekend. The area between Groesbeek and Wesel, where the crossing of the Rhine took place, will be visited.

After some conferences at the Museum in Groesbeek and at the Berg en Dal municipality, the trip went to the General Winkelman-Barracks at ISK De Harskamp. After the Four Days Marches, the detachment goes to the ISK on Saturday to "lick the wounds" and regain strength. Then they have some time to fill in themselves; the trip back to Canada is on Monday.

Before leaving from Canada, the detachment is officially waved goodbye by many dignitaries and family members in the War Museum in Ottawa. This is also broadcasted live. Below a video of the departure parade in Ottawa in 2018.

<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianForces/videos/2018-nijmegen-marches-departure-parade-live-from-the-canadian-war-museum-nijmege/2318085505085305/>

May 4 and 5 were finally a few days "off" for our duo. I had invited them to attend commemorations this weekend in Holten and Apeldoorn.



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



In the morning of May 4, we headed for Holten. As usual a very impressive ceremony. RSM Andrew Papple was very impressed, he was in Holten for the first time. Following the memorial, we visited the information center at the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten.



During this visit I found out that Major Dianne Groulx had a background with the "Carleton-York Regiment". Knowing this, you quickly link to the victims of this regiment in Posternek. On the way to Apeldoorn we visited Posternek and viewed the mill with the memorial plaque there.



Then on to the memorial in the Grote Kerk in Apeldoorn. We participated in the silent march to the Orange Park to lay a wreath at "the Man with the Flag" on behalf of RCL Branch 005.





Sunday, May 5, 2019.

Liberation Day in Wageningen.

Wageningen is the place to be on this day. In the morning, in drizzling weather, we explored the Arboretum. All groups were represented already. Re-enactors had their shows well organized. Not unimportant: plenty of opportunities for a drink and a snack. Dianne and Andrew didn't know where to look.

We visited the promotional tent of our Branch and then it was time to taste some goodies.

We decided to increase the turnover of the “poffertjes tent”. (poffertjes = mini pancakes) Given the body language of Dianne and Andrew it was a perfect choice.

Then we quickly took a look at the parade route. Closer to the start time of the parade, the weather became better and better.

So, we quickly searched our seats in the gallery. The parade took place under a beautiful sun. It was a great experience to see the groups come by from this place. Thanks to the considerably improved weather, the flypast was able to continue. The Mitchel B12 was accompanied by two Harvard's. A beautiful sight.



On Monday my Canadian guests had another appointment at the Harskamp. Then they left for Support Base Geilenkirchen for final discussions. From Brussels the plane was taken back to Canada. It had been very busy days, but a good foundation had been laid for the 2019 4-Days Marches detachment.

When you read this it doesn't take 2 months anymore, then the time has come: the Nijmegen Four Days Marches, in which, again, a proud Canadian Detachment will participate.

Column: *Gerard Hendriks.*