



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
BRANCH 005  
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



**NEWSLETTER RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2019 – 08**

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Information for our members  
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**Upcoming events:**

Sept 7 Airborne March Oosterbeek (?)  
Sept 7 Groesbeek Freedom Cycle Tour  
Sept 8 Commemoration Adegem (Zone Europe)  
Sept 13 Nederhorst den Berg unveiling monument  
Sept 17 Berg en Dal Commemoration Market Garden  
Sept 18 Groesbeek Para dropping  
Sept 20 Commemoration Mook  
Sept 21 Commemorations Ede + Driel  
Sept 22 Commemoration Market Garden Oosterbeek  
Oct 5 Veenendaal Commemoration Harold F. Wakeman  
Oct 7 Veenendaal unveiling monument  
Oct 9 Board meeting  
Oct 11 Commemoration Driel/Heteren  
Oct 12 unveiling plaque [Wons](#)  
Oct 25 Bergen op Zoom (BoZ) Liberation concert  
Oct 26 BoZ march-past /comm. Vlissingen + Sloedam  
Oct 27 BoZ Memorial Day of Canada

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.

**KEYWORDS FOR THIS STORY:**

**AIR WAR IN GENERAL – MONUMENT NEDERHORST DEN BERG**

Read the story about the impact of air war in general during WW2, especially about Bomber Command.

In addition, the unveiling of a monument for five young crew members of a bomber. Fallen in the fight for our freedom.





## The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



### From the President

**Sad news:** Recently on August 20 we unfortunately had to say goodbye to comrade Christian van der Linden. He was only shortly a member of RCL005 (since 2018) and had to give up the fight at a young age (46) after a serious illness. Jan van Loo, a close acquaintance of Christian and myself attended the funeral on behalf of RCL005. Christian was active for many years to obtain information about, among others, Canadian and English crew members of warplanes shot down in WW2. That is why he was a member of a working group that did historical research in the municipality of De Ronde Venen on Allied and German crashed aircrafts. He was also a member of the national Air War study group. We hereby lose a driven and expert comrade, but his family and relatives have lost so much more. We wish them a lot of strength in this difficult time. We will remember him.



**Board meeting RCL005:** At the board meeting of August 7 it was decided that a Membership Committee will be established to meet a number of requirements and wishes of the board, but certainly also the members of RCL005. You should not only consider administrative and financial responsibilities, but also one of the objectives of RCL e.g. stimulating and guaranteeing solidarity within the association. It is just because the RCL-members live spread out over the Netherlands that it is important to keep up with the ups and downs of everyone (insofar as this is desirable of course 😊). Martin Reelick and Ruud Janssen will prepare a framework that can then be worked out with the help of a small group of members. We will keep you informed!

**Awards:** And then I like to inform you that the Governor General of Canada, H.E. Julie Payette on Saturday, August 31, awarded 4 high Canadian awards to, among others, two RCL005 members at the HMCS St John's in the port of Vlissingen (see also later in the newsletter).

This time the lucky ones for the **Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers** were:

**Albert Hartkamp**, member of RCL005, for his years of commitment to, among other things, "Thank you Canada and Allied Forces".

**Alice van Bakkum**, member of RCL005, for her unyielding work for "Faces-to-Graves".

On behalf of RCL005, I would like to congratulate every recipient and of course we are very proud that two RCL members have been decorated again.

**Finally:** If you have fun, important, interesting or sensitive topics that you would like to see published in the RCL newsletter, please let us know and send your item to [redactie@rcl005.nl](mailto:redactie@rcl005.nl)

The editors are currently searching diligently for topics that you like to read. Our super motivated editor Herman Sligman would do his utmost to make a nice item of it. I think he has succeeded very well in recent months doing so and that is greatly appreciated. But a "little" help from outside is always welcome and necessary to get everyone involved.

Check the RCL005 Google calendar for all upcoming events. I look forward to seeing you there again!

*Martin Reelick*

**President Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005**





## The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



### Member information

**CHRISTIAN VAN DER LINDEN**

**JUNE 30, 1973 - AUGUST 20, 2019**



On August 24 we received the sad news that our comrade Christian van der Linden passed away at the age of 46 after an unequal battle. Christian had only recently (since 2018) become a member of RCL Branch 005 but had been active for many years to obtain information about, among others, Canadian and English crew members of war planes shot down in WW2. He had been able to make contacts with living crew members and with relatives. The following is written in the death notice:

Done so much,  
Done so much,  
so much to do.  
The fight is over  
with new courage,  
amazingly powerful.  
It is now done,  
that's alright!

We will remember him as a very dedicated comrade. LEST WE FORGET.

The cremation has taken place on Monday, August 26. A delegation of RCL Branch 005 was present.

### Additional information concerning the upcoming events.

Foundation Operation Market Garden 2019 has set up an [interesting program](#). Click on the link for an overview of the program and further information. Keep Them Rolling also participates. Tip for the discerning: under the PROGRAM button you will find **route south** and **route north**.

\*\*\*\*\*

A re-enactment group of the British XXX Army Corps is also en route in the southern part of the Netherlands. Namely from September 16 to September 21, 2019. [Click here for more information.](#)



\*\*\*\*\*

Background regarding the Mook Memorial on September 20, 2019 at the [monument for Antonio Barbaro](#).

At the War Cemetery in Mook on the Groesbeekseweg are 7 Canadians buried. One of them is Captain Harry John Anaka. A CANLOAN officer assigned to the British 7th Bn Hampshire Regiment. His name is on [the Hampshire Monument in Driel](#).

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Although slightly further away: the renewed Liberation Museum Zeeland draws attention to the (re) opening on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. [Click here for their website.](#)

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## From the Board

### **AGAIN "SOVEREIGN'S MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEERS".**

On August 31, 2019, prior to the Sail-Past because of the commemoration of the Battle of the Scheldt 75 years ago, four persons received an award for their special merits to Canada. The location was very special: aboard the Canadian ship HMCS St. John's. The distinguished ones:

**Alice van Bekkum**, chairman of the foundation "Faces to Graves" and member of RCL005;

**Albert Hartkamp**, former board member of "Thank You Canada and Allied Forces" and member of RCL005;

**Marc Fraser**, chairman Celebration National Holidays Holten;

**Paul D. Schouten**, Captain in the Royal Dutch Army.

On the recommendation of H.E. Sabine Nölke, Ambassador of Canada to the Netherlands, were awarded the first three lucky ones with the "Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers" and the last with the "Meritorious Service Medal - Military Division, all for their extraordinary commitment to Canada and its people.

The medals were awarded by the Governor General of Canada, H.E. Julie Payette, who had come aboard the ship especially for this. A select group of RCL005 was present. We congratulate the decorated people and are proud that two more members of RCL005 were rewarded for their commitment.

After the ceremony, the Governor General and the Canadian Ambassador left for Terneuzen to attend the opening of the liberation program by members of the Dutch and Belgian Royal Family.

At the invitation of Col. Tim Young, Military Attaché of the Canadian Embassy, a large group of guests was aboard the HMCS St. John's for the Sail-Past, including members of RCL005. This turned out to be an exciting experience, more of which can be read and seen in this RCL005 Newsletter, on our FB page and soon on our website.

A big thank-you to Colonel Young and Sergeant Jo-Anne Wiseman with their team and last but not least, to the crew of the HMCS St. John's for their hospitality.

*Ruud Janssen*

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President a.i.

Photo above: Alice van Bekkum (r) and H.E. Julie Payette

Photo below: Albert Hartkamp (r) and the Mayor of Hellendoorn Mrs. Raven







## Editorial

Also, an award for the wives / partners of professional soldiers?

In the Legion Magazine of May / June 2019, I read a letter from Mrs. Anne Marie Chiasson, Rogersville, N.B.

A letter that "loosened" something with me. Not because I have been a professional soldier, but because I know many of them. From them I know, to stay in military terms: that a good home front is very important.

Mrs. Chiasson's letter:

*"I am the wife of a retired soldier. Life was good but was also hard at times. We had three kids and when he was deployed, I had to be in charge of the household. We were in Germany for three years and I was often at home alone with the children. I did 27 years. I am not the only one. That is for sure.*

*I have a question: The military has medals and certificates. How about having something for the military wife also".*

\*\*\*\*\*

I don't know if Mrs. Chiasson will see my column. For her and many other partners of professional soldiers the following:

Years ago, the Dutch army command already recognized that feelings.

In the Netherlands we have the **Silver Rose**, introduced by the Army in 1994 as a tribute to the home front. Later expanded for all veterans of a military unit. They can apply for a Silver Rose for only one mission.

My question to you, reader, is this sufficient recognition? Or, sorry to mention: is it Dutch frugality?

Personally, I think it's very austere. One Silver Rose for 3 or 4 missions for example?

Dear reader, let us have your vision. We are happy to reserve space for you in the next Newsletter.



Herman Sligman

on personal responsibility

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## Wings of Freedom – Ede

To get an impression, click → [a brief look at the event](#)

It was a real spectacle in Ede from 21-24 August 2019. Between Ede and Veenendaal again the "Wings of Freedom" airshow took place this year. This time the air show was all about 75 years of freedom. On [an advanced airfield](#) of no less than 18 hectares, entirely in historical appearance from the World War II, various planes have shown their best side. Pegasus Pipes & Drums has musically framed the opening of this edition of the air show.



Both photo's: © Theo Beumer BMU Media

The RCL005 promotional tent was also open to the public every day. A number of highly committed members braved the warmth (34 degrees Celsius) to tell those interested about the mission and objectives of RCL Branch 005.

Thank you very much Elly, Nic, Evelien, Eelco, Peter, Moos and others.







## SAIL-PAST August 31, 2019

Yesterdays experience was nothing short of 'a once in a life time happening' and an event which most will never get the opportunity to be part of. Yesterday, we the members of Branch 005 of The Royal Canadian Legion here in The Netherlands, were very privileged to board and sail with [HMCS St. John's, a Royal Canadian Navy vessel](#).



Our branch members were among the guests which had been invited by The Embassy of Canada for a Battlefield Tour at sea and an honorary Sail-Past. This to launch the 75<sup>th</sup> year of the Liberation of The Netherlands.

Around noon we boarded HMCS St. John's on which, I think speaking for all, we had the day of our lives. I certainly had. A number of members had earlier in the day been awarded tokens of gratitude for their work by The Canadian Government. (see page 3)

On board we were all treated as royalty. Here the world famed Canadian hospitality and friendliness was magnified ten-fold. Nothing was too much for this crew to make this a magnificent day.

After a marvelous lunch and a Sail-Past of the dignitaries from The Netherlands, Canada and various other countries it was about time to leave the ship. That turned out to be a process which took about 5 hours in all. High winds had made it impossible for many to depart by ridged hull and once again the hospitality kicked in during the long wait and process of departing. I could go on and on but let the photos speak for themselves. Crew of HMC St. John's, thank you for a wonderful day.

Column: *Philip Van Leeuwen*







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