



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 005
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



NEWSLETTER RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2019 – 09

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Upcoming events:

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 /Walcheren Causeway
Oct 27 BoZ Memorial Day of Canada
Nov 2 Commemoration Steenberg/Welberg
Nov 9 Commemoration Beaumont-Hamel (Euro Zone)
Nov 10 Apeldoorn – Vimy Ridge (Euro Zone) – The Hague
Nov 11 Groesbeek Remembrance Day
Nov 16 Ede Concert 75 years Freedom
Nov 23 Ter Apel Annual Remembrance (75 years)
Dec 4 Board meeting
Dec 24 Christmas Eve (candle evening, amongst others:
Holten, Groesbeek, Bergen op Zoom, Oosterbeek)

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:

WWII pilot from PEI saved a Dutch Village - unveiling memorial plaque



Read the story about Elmer Bagnall Muttart, by saving a village he sacrificed his own life.

What happened in Wons will be commemorated in Wons on October 12, 2019.



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From the President

Liberation activities.

We started with the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands and that means many commemorations and liberation activities. This takes a lot of time and effort from our members and especially the members who are actively involved as Colour Party and Delegation members. That is why I ask all members who are not always present to go the extra mile and to participate in these activities.



Poppy Drive.

On top of that we will have another important time ahead: the Poppy Drive. We are very active in the West of the Netherlands and would like to expand this to other parts of the country. So if someone has an idea for initiatives in the Netherlands, then I am open to suggestions. Keep in mind that the Poppy must generate money and that we must adhere to the rules and regulations of the Poppy policy (International and of RCL005).

Zone Europe update.

We had a Zone meeting on Saturday 7 September and a number of things were discussed there. First, the commemoration program of Zone Europe on next November 9, 10 and November 11th.

November 9 at Beaumont-Hamel, November 10 at Vimy Ridge and November 11 at Groesbeek. Colour Party and participants can register at the Member's site. The plan is to spend the night on 8 and 9 November at Butterworth Farm, Northern France. The Zone take care of the costs for accommodation and transport (fuel) for one vehicle. Then we had a conversation with Comrades from Belgium and whether they were interested in moving Branch 004 to Belgium. They thought it was a good plan. They have received the information about what needs to be done and will return after a meeting with the rest of their group. We are awaiting and will keep you informed of this.

SALHR.

We also received information from the Battlefield Tour of the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment. Colour Party members who would like to escort them to their commemorations on 23, 24 and 25 October 2019 can obtain information about this via our Sgt @ Arms. Possible housing is in Bergen op Zoom in the Sporthal.

Promotions tent.

Next I heard that our Promotions Tent was incredibly busy during the September month at a number of events. For that, my hat off for this small but hard-working group of members. Bravo Zulu.

With this I hope to see many of you at the upcoming events in October 2019.

Martin Reelick

President Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005





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Airborne March Sept. 7, 2019.

The Airborne Walking Tour, the world's largest one-day memorial walk, took place for the 73rd time on Saturday September 7.

This walking tour, in the context of the Battle of Arnhem 1944, takes place every year on the first Saturday in September in Oosterbeek. The first trip was already two years after the war, in 1947. The Airborne Walking Tour pays tribute to the more than 1,700 British and Polish soldiers who died in the Battle of Arnhem and are buried at the Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek.

This year there were more than 32,000 participants.



Photos: © Gerard Burgers



for video impression: [> click here <](#)



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Groesbeek Freedom Cycle Tour.

During the weekend of 7 and 8 September a two-days, bicycle tour was organized in the beautiful surroundings of Rijk van Nijmegen.

Two days of cycling for young and old! Along the way, the participants passed numerous historic sites where they could see, commemorate and realize Operation Market Garden, the liberation and everything around it.



Photos: © Harvey van Dijk



ADEGEM (B)

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Today a delegation from Zone Europe of The Royal Canadian Legion, of which I was part off, participated in the commemoration in Adegem, Belgium. There, at the Canadian cemetery, the 75th birthday of the Liberation of Belgium was commemorated. The Kings representative was lucky to be under an umbrella when the rain showers came down on us. Once most of us where wet the sun came out anyway. We witnessed and took part in an impressive but never the less warm ceremony which was very well attended. A Canadian WW II veteran, who had just turned 100 years old, stole the hearts of everyone. A good part of HMCS St. John's ships crew was present as well. The Belgians do not cut corners when it comes down to laying down wreaths and flowers, I'll tell you. It was good to be there and our presence was well appreciated.

Column: *Philip Van Leeuwen*





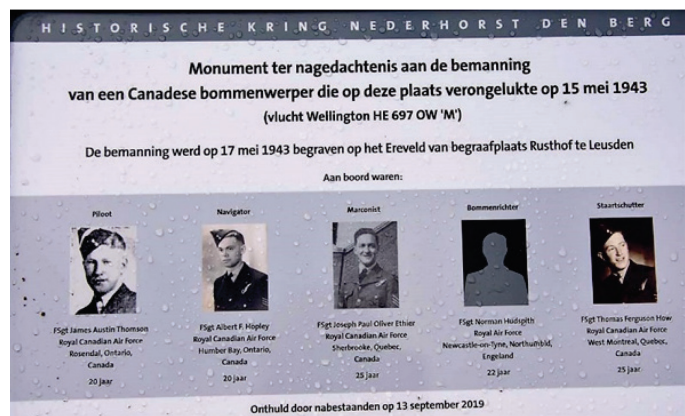
Nederhorst den Berg, September 13, 2019.

A large war memorial on the Randweg was unveiled with great public interest. It was a worthy ceremony that Nederhorst den Berg can be proud of, partly thanks to the efforts of the Historical Circle and many volunteers. Near the spot where on May 15, 1943 at 02.45 a British bomber crashed with four Canadians and one British Airman on board, the Colour Party of the Royal Canadian Legion opened the ceremony.



(From: weekly magazine Wijdemeren by Herman Stuyver)

The family of the killed Canadian Thomas How had come especially to Nederhorst den Berg for the unveiling of an aircraft monument. Tommy, as they call him, was one of the crew members of the bomber.



Jane is 89 years old and a niece of Thomas. She can still remember him well. "We used to play together in the woods. He was a silent boy," she says. "His death had a big impact on the family, because it was a big family with mostly girls. Only three boys were in the family and two of them died during war".

Column: *Herman Sligman*



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Groesbeek, September 17-18, 2019.

In September 1944, thousands of paratroopers landed in and around Groesbeek as part of the Operation Market Garden. The emphasis for these commemorations was therefore on activities in Beek and Groesbeek. The main focus was on "Operation Market", (airborne landings). "Garden" was the code name for the ground offensive started in Belgium.

On September 17, 2019, it was 75 years ago that the US paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division landed on the fields around Groesbeek during Operation Market. A memorial ceremony was held on that day at the [General Gavin Monument](#). Among the numerous invited guests were a number of veterans of the first hour.



The Canadian embassy was represented by Military Attaché Col. Tim Young and Liaison Officer Gerard Hendriks. The comrades Danny Murphy and Ruud Janssen have laid a wreath on behalf of RCL Branch 005.



Photos: Richard Hendriks

A lot has been written and said about the various activities around the 75th anniversary of Market-Garden. Newspapers and other social media overflow with stories, photos and videos. We limit ourselves a little in this Newsletter.

"Less is more" is the motto here.



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The airborne landings were also commemorated at the "de Heuvel" estate in Groesbeek.



The annual international airborne exercise "[Falcon Leap](#)" was dedicated to this commemoration this year. Five Hercules aircraft started from Eindhoven Airport.



Photos:

Defense Department
"Photography" by Martin Bos

Click on this photo for video recordings (Remco Wildeman)

Column: *Herman Sligman*



Mook, September 20, 2019.

On Friday 20 September it was exactly 75 years ago that Mook and Molenhoek were liberated. The commemoration was organized at [the Antonio Barbaro monument on the Maasdijk](#), near the former ferry landing place at the railway bridge in Mook. The commemoration was dominated by the decisive role that Allied forces played in the liberation of this region. Special is that the front line ran through the municipality of Mook and Middelaar.



The villages of Middelaar and Plasmolen were not captured from the Germans until February 1945. The municipality of Mook and Middelaar suffered badly, there were many fatal civilian casualties and a very large part of the houses and other buildings was completely destroyed by the war violence.

Among others the memorial was attended by Chloe Gavin, the daughter of General Gavin. Also present was

Major Garret Book with a detachment of the 23rd Field Squadron, 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment Canadian Armed Forces. There were also representatives from the US and Canadian embassies. The Colour Guard was provided by the 82nd Airborne Division (USA), who are considered the official liberators of Mook.

RCL Branch 005 was not officially represented. Two comrades were present, of course in standard Legion uniform: Gerard Hendriks as Liaison Officer Canadian Embassy and the undersigned individually.



Photos: stills from the [video of Gerry van der Meulen](#).

Column: *Herman Sligman*



Ede - Ginkel Heath, September 21, 2019.

Here too, at the 75th anniversary of Operation Market Garden, the organization had set up the commemoration and the dropping on a large scale. On the Ginkel Heath, on Saturday September 21, more than a thousand parachutists jumped out of planes at the air landings and there was a memorial at the monument, with, among others, Princess Beatrix and Prince Charles. The interest was huge, more than 100,000 people observed the event.



Photos:
Theo
Beumer

For a short
video click
photo →



Because of the overwhelming fringe, you would almost forget that these are the people who really deserve it to be the center of attention. (both photos: Freek Wolff)



Column: *Herman Sligman*





Driel, September 21, 2019.



They were the heroes of the day. The veterans Kubinski, Staszewicz and Cisek. The three Polish veterans who were part of the Battle of Arnhem. Cisek was even back in Driel for the first time after his jump into the unknown in 1944. In the presence of Prince Charles, they were silent for a minute, laid a wreath and listened to music and speeches.



There had never been such a high visitor to commemorate the Polish contribution to the Battle of Arnhem. Prince Charles visited the commemoration in Driel, was the first to lay a wreath and visited an exhibition in the Driel church.

(Text: De Gelderlander, photos © ANP)

ENGINEERS MONUMENT DRIEL.



On Saturday, September 21, the evacuation of Polish and British Airborne troops was commemorated. British and Canadian Engineers played an important role. The evacuation is known as "[Operation Berlin](#)" and took place on the night of 25 to 26 September 1944. Naturally, wreaths were laid and members of RCL Branch 005 were present. Comrades Marc van Aken and Fred Blom put extra attention on the veterans who came over, which, as you can see in the photo, was appreciated with a big smile.

Column: *Herman Sligman*





Oosterbeek, September 22, 2019. Airborne War Cemetery.



Sunday September 22, 2019 was the annual commemoration of the victims of Operation Market Garden 1944 at the Airborne War Cemetery in Oosterbeek. Many people had come to the memorial as well as representatives of the countries involved and many veterans who lost their "buddies" in the battle. Every year, from 1945 onwards, flowers are laid on the graves of the victims by the "Flower Children" during the ceremony. This is a tradition that has been passed on for three generations and they were also present this year (young and old).

Click on picture below for a short video impression. ↓





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In addition to the various army units that have been honored, a Colour Guard is always drawn up of British and Polish Colour bearers. The Colour Party of RCL005 has also been part of this for a few years. Many wreaths were laid in front of and around the Cross of Sacrifice, in particular by the veterans, who despite their old age, sometimes supported, wanted to honour their "mates." A wreath was also laid by the Canadian Ambassador H.E. Mrs. Sabine Nölke, together with Col. Tim Young, the military attaché of Canada. For Mrs. Nölke it was one of her last commemorations before she transfers the ambassadorship to her successor. Of course there was a meeting after the ceremony to say goodbye to "our" Sabine and her husband Chris. On behalf of RCL Branch 005 many thanks to Ambassador Sabine Nölke and Chris Ram for all the attention they have given during the many commemorations and ceremonies in recent years. And not to forget: the support to our Branch.





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Lochem, Mondani, September 28, 2019.

An event of a completely different nature. Suitable in the context of "Education", one of the objectives of RCL Branch 005. A generous gift from [NAVCAN](#) in 2018 makes it possible for us to give this goal an extra boost.

The Canisius College from Tubbergen has an exchange of students with Canada for a number of years already in the context of commemorations. Because the board believes that the Canadian gift should not be subject to the normal cost pattern, it has been decided to offer three students a Scholarship this year. They are leaving for Canada in October for a few weeks and received a (financial) support.

President Martin Reelick gave an introduction speech about RCL in general and of Branch 005 in particular. Treasurer Peter Mensink explained the selection procedure followed from which the students present (all three ladies!) were selected based on their written motivation letters.



in Legion uniform: left Martin Reelick, right Peter Mensink



Accompanied by parents / relatives, they were the center of this small but so special gathering. Yvonne Swarthoff, hostess of Mondani (also Liaison Officer Social Events for Branch 005), had organized an excellent "reinforcement for the inner person".

We wish all three success in their exploration on the other side of the ocean. Remain to say:

"Come home safe and let us share in your experiences".

For the sake of completeness, it should be stated that the "Faces to Graves" Foundation also receives a contribution.

Column: *Herman Sligman*



Poppy Campaign.

The most memorable time of the year.

In Canada, every year on November 11 at 11 a.m., regardless of which day of the week this date falls, official commemorative meetings are held throughout the country in towns and villages. This usually happens at the local memorial monument (the cenotaph), where wreaths are laid on behalf of government agencies, associations, churches and individuals. From the last Friday in October to November 11, the poppy can be seen on many lapels in the streets in Canada.



Wassenaar

In the Netherlands however, the poppy is (mostly) only worn during a commemoration. Members of RCL Branch 005 have been committed to the Poppy Campaign for a number of years. They were also active in 2018. Their work was not really brought to the attention by a hitch in our Newsletter series. That is why in this edition we show a number of photos from last year. As a token of respect and appreciation for their efforts.



Zandvoort



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Wilnis (Municipality De Ronde Venen)

Finally, a poem by **PAUL HUNTER**, that really touched me. Short and powerful, but with a world of feelings in it, which paint the exact meaning of a poppy on a lapel.

I am not a badge of honour,
I am not a racist smear,
I am not a fashion statement
To be worn but once a year.

I am not glorification
Of conflict or of war.
I am not a paper ornament
A token,
I am more.

I am a loving memory
Of a father or a son,
A permanent reminder
Of each and every one.

I'm paper or enamel
I'm old or shining new
I'm a way of saying thank you
To every one of you.

I am a simple poppy
A reminder to you all,
That courage, faith and honour
Will stand where heroes fall.

Column: *Herman Sligman*