



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 005
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



NEWSLETTER RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2019 – 11

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Upcoming events:

Dec 4 Board meeting

Dec 24 Christmas Eve (candle evening, among others:
Holten, Groesbeek, Bergen op Zoom, Oosterbeek)

Jan 19 New Year's reception

Feb. 5 Board Meeting

March 1 General Members Meeting

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

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



Varied column with information on a specific topic.

This can be viewed by clicking somewhere here.



Bob Upcott

KEYWORDS FOR THIS STORY:

THE FIRST RISKY DROPPING FOR 5 CANADIAN CREW MEMBERS

a sequel to the background story from edition 2019-10

a boy on the hunt for food

much later: a meeting never thought possible



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From the President.

Before you know it, it will already be 2020, and with this said, this newsletter will also be the last to be released in 2019.

We are busy with commemorations of the 75th liberation of the Netherlands. Many thanks to those who participated.

In the coming months in 2020 there are also plenty of activities that we are going to and will be invited to. There are quite a few this year throughout the Netherlands and we would like to be represented at all, but we are dealing with volunteers, time and distances and then we sometimes face annoying choices and organizations we have to disappoint.

And with this in mind, I would like to point out to all members that the 2020 agenda will soon be coming out and we invite you to carefully check where you have time in your agenda to participate in the Commemorations as Colour Party, member laying a wreath or as a delegation.

I just want to thank the members who have committed themselves this year to our Remembrance Poppy drive. Despite unfamiliarity in the Netherlands, it was quite a success and not only thanks for your time but also for thinking how we can raise money in other ways.

In closing, I wish you all the best Holidays and a pleasant year change.

Martin Reelick

President
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005





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From the Board.

New Year's reception and General Members' Meeting dates:

From the RCL board meeting of November 13, we can report that the New Year's reception 2020 is scheduled for Sunday, January 19 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The General Assembly will take place on Sunday, March 1 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. For both meetings an invitation and necessary documents will be sent to all members.

RCL005 as "supplier":

Recently, various questions have been received from organizations for the delivery of Poppies and wreaths. The RCL board has made the decision that RCL005 cannot be a supplier for these items. As for Poppies an adapted policy has recently been published on the member site. If wreaths and / or Poppies are required for a commemoration at which RCL005 is present or if there are questions about this subject, you can address the board via secretariaat@rcl005.nl

Revised "Remembrance Instruction":

A revised version of the "Remembrance Instruction" has also been made (only in Dutch). This will soon be published on the members only part of the website. It describes how the RCL005 board sees the rules of conduct of the members of the Branch being executed during and around the commemorations at which RCL005 is present. It also contains rules with regard to the RCL outfit as Branch 005 agreed on.

Advertising in RCL005 media:

A number of questions have been raised by organizations in the Netherlands AND Canada whether they can post commercial messages on RCL005 media, such as Facebook and website. It has been decided, given the ANBI status that RCL005 has, to not responding to this. It is possible to place a logo for sponsors, but there is no demand for it yet.

Change in the position of the RCL005 secretary:

Recently, comrade Eelco de Zee, secretary of RCL Branch 005, indicated that due to a very high increase in his private and business activities, he can no longer guarantee the performance of his duties as secretary. He has therefore resigned and asked the RCL005 board to arrange for replacement. He and his wife Evelien have indicated that they would like to continue to take care of the operational exploitation of the promotion tent.

After consultation, comrade André Bogerman is prepared to take over the position of secretary, at least until the next board election. In connection with the coming busy period of the 75th anniversary of the liberation year, André will initially be busy improving the internal and external communication lines. He will also screen the quality and validity of the members database and compare it with what is registered in Canada.

The members of the board are delighted that André is so quickly prepared to lend a helping hand and will heartily support him in this.

Ruud Janssen

1st Vicepresident
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005





AFTERBURNER. An editorial.

Occasionally we post a column about an event that took place some time ago, but which, for some reason, was not published in our Newsletter. However, in our opinion, still worth mentioning.

COMMEMORATION TER APEL, November 23rd, 2018. (Yes, a year ago)

Already from the beginning of 2018, we, Joop, Hennie and Roelf van der Veen, did not accept any obligations for Friday, the 23rd of November.

A year earlier, at the commemoration in Ter Apel, we were asked if we would join the ceremony again. In 2018 it would be 75 years ago that an AVRO-Lancaster crashed at the Kloosterveen-road. The aircraft belonged to the 405th Pathfinder Squadron of the Royal Canadian Airforce. Six crew members were killed in the crash. Only one could leave the burning aircraft in time and was captured. The killed airmen got a final resting place at the General Cemetery in Ter Apel. The 75th anniversary of the tragedy was held in a more extensive form. RCL Branch 005 was represented and the participation of their Colour Party and the Highland Regiment Pipes & Drums contributed some extras to the ceremony.

After receiving the invitees and other guests, a memorial service was held in the St. Willibrordus Church. The service was attended by many interested people. Also, by children from the primary school who had made drawings of the theme. At school, a lot of attention was paid to it during the lessons.

Special guests had come over from Canada, namely: Robert Lawrence, a grandson of a younger brother of one of the victims and his wife. Robert's father and his grandfather had previously attended commemorations in Ter Apel.



The presence of these family members brought us emotionally closer to the men buried here. That they came here to commemorate relatives made us forget the intervening years.

During the commemoration we recalled the value of our freedom and at what price it was achieved. Robert Lawrence expressed his appreciation for the Netherlands in general and the organization committee in Ter Apel. In particular for the way in which the fallen liberators are honoured and commemorated.



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After the service in the church we went to the cemetery on foot. Preceded by the Pipes & Drums and the Colour Party. At the cemetery wreaths were laid by the family members, on behalf of the Canadian Embassy, on behalf of RCL Branch 005 and, not to be forgotten by pupils of the school, who had brought a homemade wreath. A poem was recited and the national anthems were played. After this, the ceremony ended with a parade along the graves. A special moment was the "Flypast" of two historic aircraft. (a Beechcraft-18 and a Harvard)



After the commemoration there was an opportunity to talk about the ceremony, to maintain social contacts or to develop new ones. There was a rumour that the commemoration will be held once every five years. The reason: the interest in the commemoration in the intervening years was too small. Personally, I believe that we have to commemorate annually. The number of people who have witnessed this terrible period in our history has greatly decreased. Honouring and commemorating the victims who gave their lives for our freedom is our moral obligation.

The local organization deserves a "thank you" for her efforts. Hopefully they continue with the task they have taken on.



Column: *Raelf van der Veen*

Pictures: Ruud Manning



Tips from the editors for the interested:

The Dutch NOS Television has a website in which many stories are told about WWII and the 75th Liberation of the Netherlands. Maybe you are interested in the newsletters?

Every week in a (English) newsletter they collect articles, that they make for the special site around 75 years of liberation in the Netherlands. If you want to stay informed, you can subscribe here: <https://bit.ly/37Nxx5i> in English.



Foundation Faces to Graves.

Stay informed of the wonderful work that this foundation does. Certainly, also in view of their plans for 2020 when 75 years of Freedom are celebrated in the Netherlands.

Click on the photo for the latest newsletter from the foundation.





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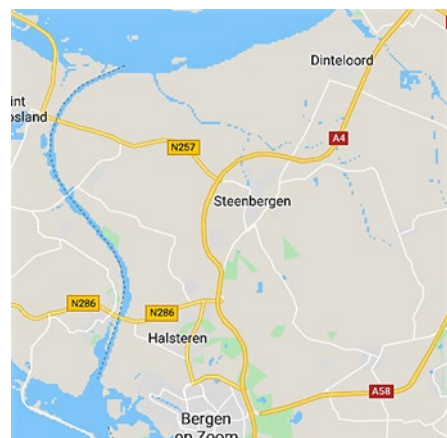


COMMEMORATE & CELEBRATE. November 2nd, 2019.

Steenbergen & Welberg.

On November 2, 2019, it was 75 years ago that West Brabant was liberated in the Battle of the Scheldt. After a tough five-week battle, with thousands of victims on both sides, the Scheldt estuary was free.

The last, heavy fight in the Brabant part took place in the municipality of Steenbergen, especially at Welberg. Because of the fierce fighting, the bombing of Dinteloord and the many victims, the Second World War is still alive in the municipality. A working group with representatives from almost all centers of the municipality had put together a program to commemorate the victims and celebrate the liberation.



COMMEMORATION ALGONQUIN REGIMENT.

The Algonquin regiment was one of the Canadian army units that fought for the liberation of Welberg and Steenbergen. In September 2019, some thirty Canadian guests had already come over for a ceremony at, among others, "the Clock".

COMMEMORATION GIBSON & WARWICK.



Also in September 2019 there was a ceremony at the Propeller - monument in Steenbergen. In the morning, students from the Gummarus School laid a wreath at the monument to Gibson and Warwick (RAF). The airmen that crashed on the territory of the municipality of Steenbergen were also commemorated.



HERDENKING 2 NOVEMBER.

The Municipality of Steenbergen received over a hundred Canadian guests on Saturday, November 2nd from the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment, which fought hard at Welberg. Among other things, they were offered a walk through the city and a lunch in the Gummarus church. Dressed in original Canadian and German uniforms from the Second World War, two re-enactment groups replayed a number of scenes.



Click on photo for video



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Welberg Poppy viaduct.

In the afternoon the Poppy Viaduct in Welber was visited. At this beautiful location, an information panel was unveiled by the Welberg village council, where the concept of painting the viaduct was symbolically handed over to the Canadians.



Liberation monument "the Clock".

The official commemoration took place at 2.30 pm at the liberation monument "the Clock". During this memorial the Canadian guests took the lead, but there were also roles for the relatives of the civilian victims, and for the pupils of the Pius X school in Welberg who had rehearsed two songs. Flowers were laid and the clock was still sounding for a long time.

Still from video Local Broadcast Steenbergem

RCL Branch 005 was represented by Don Paauwe and Loes & Gerard Hendriks.

It was a pity that André Bogerman, who would also be present at the wreath laying, had to be absent due to illness.



Column: Gerard Hendriks



Photo: Wil Rombouts



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Beaumont-Hamel and Vimy Ridge. November 9th & 10th, 2019.

RCL Zone Europe participates in Remembrance Day services.

Once again, a year pasted by very quickly and once again Royal Canadian Legion members of Zone Europe made their way down to France to participate in Remembrance Day commemorations. These members came over mostly from Germany and The Netherlands. However, we were also very pleased to have two legion members from Belgium join up us. It must have been very exciting for them to form up and participate in our Colour Party for their very first time. Certainly, at locations like Vimy and Beaumont-Hamel.

Furthermore, a number of Canadian military service men participated in the CP. These were guys who knew their stuff and who had also been practicing their drills throughout the past week. This meant that as Sergeant at Arms, I had to be on my toes. Their presence certainly added to having all members of the CP to be at their best and to look sharp. It was wonderful to have them join our ranks and to pick up a few pointers as we went along.



During the weekend we participated in impressive commemorations at Beaumont-Hamel and Vimy. Locations which need no further introduction and over which has been written in Canadian history books in dark black ink. On site slight new adjustments had been made to insure the progress of these commemorations. For instance, the aging French veterans who have their own Colour Party, can no longer make it up the slope at the Vimy Monument. Their numbers are dwindling and they are now seated lower down on the pavement.

Being there also gave me the opportunity to once again visit my WW I adoptive grave. An initiative of The Royal British Legion in which I had once participated makes that I am to keep the thought and memory alive of gunner P. Vango. A young man who at age 24 died in the battle of the Somme on the 1st of October 1916. I'm sure he must have had other plans for his future. His sacrifice and those of millions of others must never be forgotten and this is my way of doing that for him. Our entire legion group stayed over at Butterworth Farm near the said commemoration sites and in the middle of where once the Somme battle raged. Butterworth farm has a familiar sound to its name. It's history, our comradeship and the making of new friends meant that we spent wonderful evenings there. We look back at participating in very meaningful commemorations and having a splendid weekend.



Philip Vanleeuwen Sgt. at Arms RCL Zone Europe

Photos: Venah Saulnier



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Remembrance Day. Den Haag.

Sunday, November 10th, a memorial service was held at Westduin Cemetery in The Hague, organized by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Netherlands Joint Committee, this year directed by the Canadian Embassy. The Colour Party and a delegation from RCL Branch 005 were involved in this commemoration.



After the commemoration a short ceremony was held at the [Stijkel Monument \(Dutch resistance group\)](#) with a speech from the Canadian Ambassador, H.E. Ms. Lisa Helfand. A respectful beautiful sunny day. We will remember them.

We will remember them.

Column: *Wim Pappenk*



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Apeldoorn. November 10th, 2019.

On Sunday, November 10th - Remembrance Day - the Canadian soldiers, killed in both World Wars and during peacekeeping missions, were commemorated. To show respect and to show that one should never forget this, Poppies are worn. In the Netherlands, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, as part of the Royal Canadian Legion organization, is dedicated to attend on Remembrance Day ceremonies to honour our liberators in this way. To give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in this memorial, Remembrance Sunday is set on the Sunday closest to November 11th. In Apeldoorn this happens with a ceremony on the Loolaan at the monument "The man with the two hats". Many young people are also present to pass on the torch of freedom.



At the end of Loolaan, there is a somewhat mysterious figure of more than four meters high. He raises both hands, waves two hats and stands with his giant feet on a plateau with images a Maple Leaf. This is the National Canadian Liberation Monument. The monument, an expression of joy and gratitude for regained freedom, is a permanent tribute from the Netherlands to Canada. Although the Netherlands were liberated by soldiers of many nationalities, it is mostly Canadians who are the liberators in our memory.

Column: Gerard Hendriks

Members of RCL005 take part in commemorations at important places abroad where Canadians died for the freedom of Europe. The comrades Marc van Aken and Freddy Blom have made the trip to Vimy and were there at the ceremony on the occasion of Remembrance Day. Respect.





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Groesbeek. Monday, November 11th, 2019.

Remembrance Day Ceremonie.

This year I attended Remembrance Day at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek. The last resting place for 2,338 killed. There is also a memorial here that commemorates the members of the British Commonwealth who fell in Northwestern Europe and who, as far as we know, have no grave. A total of 1,103 names are listed here, including 108 Canadian.

The ceremony in Groesbeek was in the hands of Support Unit Geilenkirchen of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The ceremony was led tightly, which in my view is a basic condition.

The Colour Party this year was from RCL Branch 005 led by Sgt. at Arms Toon van Bussel.



The interest in the ceremony was great.

It was a worthy memorial on a sunny fall day.

You are familiar with the sequential outcome of commemorations such as these.

The summaries: ... "then, and then, and then ..." I will save you. Wreaths were laid by various delegations and representations.

Wreath laying on behalf of RCL Euro Zone was done by Zone Commander Dan Saulnier and Dep. Zone Commander Martin Reelick.

Column: *Herman Sligman*

Photos: Piet Spanjers and RCL005





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Red Maple Soiree. November 14th 2019.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING

On November 14th the annual Red Maple Soiree was held at the Canadian residence in Wassenaar at the invitation of the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, HE Ms. Lisa Helfand. During this evening, money is being raised for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, "the Liberation of the Netherlands" and the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign. The ambassador then invites many acquaintances from the business world, whom have a warm heart for both organizations. A number of board members of RCL005 were also present to represent the Branch and to speak with the guests present. Master of Ceremony is always the Defense Attaché of the Canadian Embassy, in this case Col. Timothy Young.

After his introduction and a word of welcome from the Canadian Ambassador the President of RCL005, Martin Reelick, was given the honour of speaking to the guests. He expressed in an excellent way how RCL005 works in the Netherlands and what objectives it has, for which donations from the guest's present are very welcome. And specially to buy raffle tickets, the proceeds of which go to the two charities. The prizes are donated by friendly companies. RCL Branch 005 also wishes to thank all attendees, prize sponsors and donors for their contribution. In this way the Branch can continue to do the work for which it stands: Lest we forget! In addition, of course, thanks to all the people from the Canadian residence and Embassy who had organized and taken care for this event to perfection.



During this evening Col. Young handed a token of appreciation in the form of a plaque and his military coin to two RCL005 members, namely Connie Lempke and Danny Murphy, as well as to the Chief of the Cabinet of the Mayor in Bergen op Zoom, Paul Versijp for their uncompromising contribution in memory of our fallen but also living Canadian liberators. All three were pleasantly surprised and said it was an honour to receive this.

Column: *Ruud Janssen*



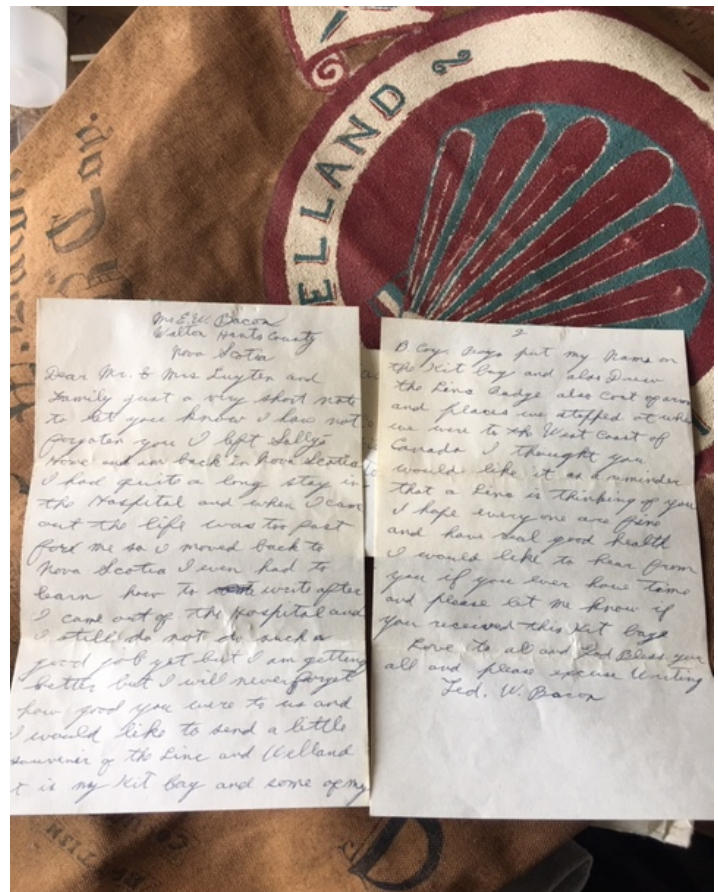


Comrade Story. The duffel bag of the Lincoln & Welland Regiment is “home” again!



Markiezenhof

In the parking lot of the Markiezenhof a some members of RCL Branch 005 were approached by Philippine Verhagen and her family. They asked for our help because they wanted to go to the reception but did not have entrance tickets. Philippine did like to donate something to the Canadian soldiers. Philippine brought out an old small duffel bag. To our surprise, the duffel bag was completely overwritten and the emblem of the Lincoln & Welland regiment was painted on it. There was also a letter with the duffel bag from which it appeared that Ted Bacon, a Canadian soldier from the Lincoln & Welland regiment, donated the duffel bag to Philippine's grandfather after the Second World War. Ted writes in the letter that he is giving the duffel bag for the help that Philippine's grandfather has offered him. After the war, Ted, together with his wife Sally and later their daughter Lesley, visited Philippine's grandfather and grandmother several times when they came to the Netherlands for commemorations, among other things. On the way to the Markiezenhof, Philippine tells the further history of the duffel bag and the reason why she wants to donate this precious family property to the Lincoln & Welland regiment.



Ever since she was a little girl, she was fascinated by her grandmother's stories about the war and the resistance. From that time on, the stories about the war have never been out of her mind. A few years ago, she made a photo album of all the war documents in the possession of the family. These were documents from the resistance but also the duffel bag with accompanying letter. Philippine says that she finds it important that we continue to commemorate and also tries to tell her children that living in freedom is not self-evident.

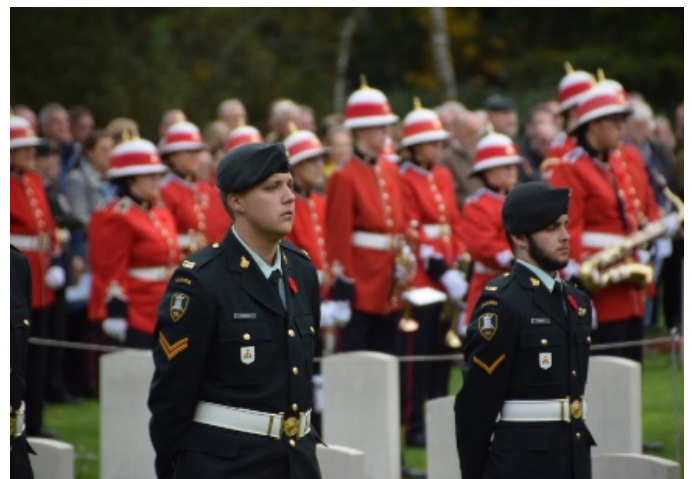


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Philippine further explains that the last days were very special. On Saturday, after "The freedom of the City" and the big liberation parade, she suddenly thought of the photos she had taken of the Canadian duffel bag. In the center of Bergen op Zoom she spoke to a Canadian soldier who had participated in the parade. Looking at the photo, Philippine saw that the Canadian soldier was wearing the same emblem on his uniform as what was painted on the duffel bag. However, the soldier could not tell her more about the duffel bag than it had been from a soldier from the Lincoln & Welland regiment.

So, Philippine did not want to give up and on Sunday her search continued. After the memorial ceremony at the Canadian cemetery, she again spoke to a member of the Lincoln & Welland regiment. He was immediately enthusiastic about the photos and sent her to someone else and soon Philippine and some Canadian soldiers were looking at the photos of the duffel bag and the letter. Eventually an officer came, who later turned out to be the curator of the Lincoln & Welland Museum in Canada, who indicated that he very much liked to place the duffel bag in the regiment museum.



Because the soldiers were so happy and surprised that after 75 years the duffel bag was still in the possession of the Philippine family, this made her decide to donate the duffel bag to the regiment. Philippine couldn't think of a better place for the duffel bag.

The duffel bag will soon be "home" again in Canada and visible to everyone in the museum. In the meantime, we had arrived at the Markiezenhof and went looking for members of the Lincoln & Welland regiment.



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After we spoke to some officers, all of whom responded very enthusiastically when they saw the duffel bag, the Commanding Officer and the curator of the Lincoln & Welland regiment were eventually found.

In a separate room, the duffel bag was "officially" handed over by Philippine to the museum curator. The Commanding Officer expressed his gratitude on behalf of the entire regiment. He said it was very special that Philippine wanted to give up this family property. The curator made the commitment that he would try to find out the history of the duffel bag and the owner Ted Bacon. The circle is complete for Philippine. Through the donation she wants to show that she and her family are just as grateful for the help of the Canadian soldiers 75 years ago, as it was for Ted Bacon with the help of her grandparents after the war. What started as a search for information eventually became a gift to our Canadian heroes.

Because one of the photographers from RCL Branch 005 was present, Philippine has left a tangible memory of the donation in the form of a photo report.

"This is what's The Legion is about".

Text André Bogerman

Photos Monique Bogerman

