



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 005
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



NEWSLETTER RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2020-02

In this edition:

From the Board
Commemoration Groesbeek
Column by a comrade

Upcoming events:

- March 1 General Members Meeting
- March 4 Unveiling monument Bergen (L)
for crew Lancaster ED449 VN-T
- March 4 Board meeting
- March 21 Meeting Zone Europe
- March 28 Vlaardingen, commemoration Wellington
- March 31 Etten, commemoration Liberation
- April 9 Vimy Ridge Zone Europe
- April 12 Holten, ceremony 48th Highlanders
- April 13 Posterenk, 75th anniversary Liberation
- April 13 Holten, ceremony Dragoons (I)
- April 13 Lettele, ceremony Dragoons (II)
- April 15 75th anniversary Liberation Leeuwarden/Friesland
- April 17 Apeldoorn, commemoration 't Sluisje
- April 17 Apeldoorn, commemoration Oranjepark
- April 25 Diever, 75th anniversary Liberation

- May 2 Start project Faces to Groesbeek

Have a look on the [agenda](#)

For the latest news: [Facebook](#).

There are far more pictures on our website. To have a look: click: [album](#)





BACKGROUND STORY

Varied column with information on a specific topic.

Can be viewed by clicking somewhere on this page.

HIM or ME?

GOOD GUY versus BAD GUY?

An 'One-Eyed Rambo' versus Soldier against his will?

THE SAME GOAL: S U R V I V E





From the Board.

During the board meeting in last February, it was decided that one of the board members would write a column in the upcoming newsletters. It is sometimes difficult to find inspiration every month and to write an article like our President often did. However, in this anniversary year it should not be a problem. Enough activities, special commemorations and celebrations. I hope that it is also an inspiration for our comrades to write something themselves. How did you experience the commemorations and celebrations? What are your own experiences with celebrating the liberation in your own village or town?

It is my honour to be the first to do this. I would like to tell you something about the activities in our crown year. Commemorating and celebrating the 75th anniversary of our liberation. I am not going to give you a list of everything cumming up in 2020. I just want to indicate a few highlights. There is celebration and commemoration throughout the year in various places. Usually related to the specific day of their liberation. But the period from May 2 to 10, forms the main and national period. You can find many activities, in which RCL005 will participate, on our website in the agenda. Unfortunately not all of them here either. There are hundreds of activities in the context of the 75th anniversary of our freedom.

Celebrating the liberation of the Netherlands began on August 31, 2019 and will continue in 2020, until the end of the Second World War in August (the capitulation of Japan), 75 years ago.

The celebrations and commemorations follow the path of our liberators through the Netherlands. From Market Garden via Battle of the Scheldt to Operation Veritable (Groesbeek and Reichswald), the liberation of the east of our country and the sometimes very fierce battles to also liberate the North. And the stabilization in the middle of our country (river area) The signing of the surrender in Wageningen, but also Operation Manna and Faust in the hunger winter 1944/45.



The 75th anniversary of freedom was officially opened in Terneuzen by HRM King Willem-Alexander. A year of commemorations and celebrations was ushered in with the sound of a historic buoy. (Foundation May 4 and 5)



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Our Canadian comrades were involved in many of these campaigns. They have fought some of the main battles in Canada's military history in the Netherlands. Many died here, but we also know how, why and where from many of the victims. Sometimes we don't know their last resting place. Many family members from Canada use this special opportunity to find out the stories, visit places where family member fought and, if possible, visit their final resting places. But also to hear stories or find the families where they were once billeted. In the meantime some liberators have been identified and their gravestones will be given their real names and the term "unknown soldier" will be replaced. Like this year for example in Steenderen where finally a tombstone (unknown soldier) is given a name: [Lieutenant John Gordon Kavanagh](#). (According to the latest information on April 6, 2020)

There is a special group (In Our Fathers Footsteps) coming over from Canada to the Netherlands to walk literally in the footsteps of their family members here. They will start in Groesbeek (May 2) and finish in Apeldoorn (May 9).

Of course they don't do everything on foot. But certainly the pieces where "something or special things" happened. A historian will also tell details here. They walk in groups of 30 people (platoon context) just as their ancestors have done. The daily distance to walk is at least 20 - 25 km. A route that is also embraced by the Royal Dutch Walking Association. They also participate in this.

Another special feature is Canada Day at the Museum. On May 6, we welcome many Canadians in the National Military Museum in Soest (Soesterberg). Many music companies will provide the musical accompaniment. From 12.00 - 13.00 a memorial will be held for the Canadian victims of WW2. Authentic and special vehicles used by Canadian liberators will also be set up outside the museum.

The traditional highlight is of course on May 5: the General Foulkes Festival and the Parade in Wageningen. This really promises to be a spectacle with many participants from home and abroad. The Liberation Festival at Paleis Het Loo in Apeldoorn on May 9 and May 10, ensures the grand finale and the end of a period of commemoration and celebration.

The important commemorations at the Canadian War Cemeteries in Groesbeek (May 3), Holten and Bergen op Zoom (both May 4) are of course also among the highlights. Many (Canadian) friends will attend these.

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) will be present in large numbers to celebrate this special commemorative year. They will participate in many ceremonies. With a military unit, a salute group of howiters, a military Pipe & Drum Band and a Canadian Military Brass and Reed Band (The Royal Canadian Artillery Band).

The Ministry of Veterans Affairs Canada ensures that a few World War II Veterans will come to the Netherlands. It is not yet possible to say with certainty how many there are. However, the numbers mentioned by VAC are very encouraging. Of course, not all details and details are known yet. But they are now replenished almost daily. The agenda on our website will also be updated regularly. Take a look at it.

I would also like to ask you again: make a short report of the activities and celebrations in your area and send them to the editors. Then maybe we can make a special "liberation edition" of your reports.



Gerard Hendriks

**Past President
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005**





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Groesbeek, February 9, 2020.

Remembrance ceremony Operation Veritable.

The weather played an important role in Operation Veritable in 1945. Now, 75 years later on February 9, 2020, it was also very turbulent with wind to hurricane power. The commemoration of the victims of this operation was therefore moved from the Canadian Cemetery to the historic church in Groesbeek.

Preceded by a memorial service in the morning, where many invitees and guests were present, a memorial ceremony was held in the afternoon. There was also great interest in this ceremony.

Despite the harsh weather many had gone to church and with some improvisation a worthy ceremony was dedicated to the heroes of the time.

In the afternoon program extra attention was paid to two casualties of 6th Field Coy. from the Royal Canadian Engineers.

Namely: Lieutenant Francis Roger Cauley and Sapper Arthur Ormond Buck. Both have their last resting place at the Canadian Cemetery in Groesbeek. II.D.10 and II.D.12 respectively.

LEST WE FORGET!



RCL005

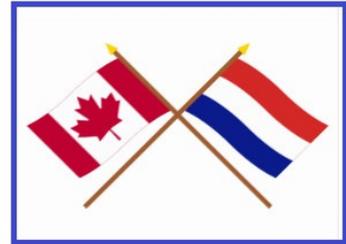




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Faces To Graves
K.Huvenaars



Faces To Graves
K.Huvenaars



RCL005



Column: Herman Sligman



**Column by a comrade.
Thursday, February 13, 2020.**

Just a weekday, but special to me.

Following a personal invitation, I was present at the official opening of the exhibition "Him or Me" in the National Military Museum in Soesterberg. I owed this invitation to making a flag available. Not just a flag, but the "Red Ensign" that I received as a gift from a French family in June 2019. Together with comrade Fred Blom, among others, I visited Normandy. This has already been reported in the 2019-06 edition of our Newsletter.



The flag, which had been faithfully preserved for all those years, was donated by Canadian soldiers at the time after the landing and liberating the Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer area. Of course I was looking for a suitable destination for this unique item. After some research, the destination was found. The unit that donated the flag to the French family was, most likely, the Régiment de la Chaudière.

The above-mentioned exhibition in Soesterberg refers to a remarkable soldier from this regiment. The connection was made quickly. My decision was made: the flag would get a place in the National Military Museum in Soesterberg.

The official opening, by Lieutenant Admiral Bauer, was attended by many. Including the Canadian ambassador to the Netherlands, H.E. Ms Lisa Helfand.



From he left: Jean-Nicolas Major, his father Daniel Major, Anita and Peter Kürten

The Canadian soldier Léo Major and the German soldier Hans Kürten are the two men who are the subject of the exhibition. Special guests were a son and grandson of Major and the son and daughter of Kürten. That it was a very emotional gathering for these familymembers may be clear.





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After the opening speech by Lieutenant Admiral Bauer, the family members of both parties embraced each other with applause from those present.

After the lunch there was an opportunity to take a closer look at the exhibition, which was particularly moving. Needless to say, the „Red Ensign” had a great place.



February, 2020



June, 2019

Column: Marc van Aken