



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 005  
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



**NEWSLETTER RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2020-07**

**In this edition:**

Board announcement  
Column by our Canadian comrades  
Unveiling monument Baak  
Canada Day at Mondani's  
Commemoration Groesbeek Can. War Cemetery  
Ceremony at Groesbeek CWC by students

**Upcoming activities:**

**(subject to COVID-19 measures)**

August: no activities

Sept. 05: RCL Zone meeting (Geilenkirchen-Germany)  
Sept. 13: Adegem commemoration (Zone Europe)  
Sept. 19: Driel, Engineers monument  
Sept. 20: Mook, monument Antonio Barbaro  
Sept. 20: Oosterbeek, Airborne Cemetery  
Sept. 27: Posterenk

For upcoming events: check our [agenda](#) and for the latest news: [Facebook](#).

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

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In this edition a contribution from two Canadian comrades, namely: Jim and Mark Northrup.

Read about their trip to the Netherlands for the rededication of the grave marker for their great uncle Murray in Bergen op Zoom. Their impression of the activities there in the context of 75 years of Freedom. Their trip to Vimy and their presence at the Menin Gate in Ypres.





### **Message from the President.**

July has come and gone and before we know we are into the Fall.

However, we did have some activities in July starting with Canada Day celebration.

We were invited by Berry and Yvonne Swarthoff to have a Canada Day BBQ on the First of July at Restaurant Mondani in Lochem. We had with even the social distancing and keeping with locale regulations still a good time together including some members of the Canadian Embassy. Good food, good drinks and good friends makes a time not to forget.

On Monday 20 of July the Branch was invited by the CWO Derk de Vries (camp RSM) from Camp Heumensoord to continue the tradition of the Remembrance of the Four Days Marches on the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery. It was with Covid-19 regulation a by invitation only event, noting the great absent of the Canadian Armed Forces Walking Contingent and other countries. We were pleased to supply the service with a Colour Party, piper, bugler, and national anthems soloist. It was a small service but very solemnly and efficiently organized in less then a month. After the ceremony we had a get together in the parking lot (Tailgate Party) to thank every one especially to attain our four objectives of the Royal Canadian Legion , Remembrance (lest we forget), Poppy Drive (handing out of poppies), Education to the youth, our student that was making a video report and last objective the Togetherness. However, after this we had to say goodbye to CWO D. de Vries as 1 august 2020 is his retirement date of the Dutch armed forces. We presented him a token of appreciation from Branch 005, a statue of the Kneeling Canadian Soldier and the Little Dutch Girl, symbolising the Canadian – Dutch cultural relationship. The CWO de Vries received a letter of thanks from the CAF Contingent commander Col. ERIC. QUIRION. And a Certificate and Coin of appreciation from the Canadian Defence Attaché Col. Tim Young.

Speaking of our Canadian Defence Attaché Col. Tim Young: he will be leaving us in the first part of September as his tour of duty has come to an end. We are very blessed with the excellent relationship we have with our Canadian Embassy and especially the Defence Attaché and his staff. As Branch we will have an opportunity to say goodbye and all our members will receive a personal invitation via an email about time, date, and location.

With this we are looking into September and on the Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> we are having a Zone meeting hosted by Branch 003 in Geilenkirchen. Members are welcome to come to join this get together as observers or can speak if the zone committee allows it. There will also an election of officers as this is our zone commanders last year and Dan will be moving back to Canada. Maybe a good opportunity to say goodbye to him and his wife and wish them all the best.

With all the uncertainty with the COVID-19 we are trying to stay on top of Remembrance services and as soon as we hear from the organisations about the status we will inform you via the website agenda or in a short email.

Stay Safe for now.

***Martin Reelick***  
***President***

**The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005**  
***"The Liberation of the Netherlands"***



## One Very Memorable Trip, by Jim Northrup.



In early June 2017 a friend of mine went on a tour of the Canadian Battlefields in Northern Europe. I mentioned that my Great Uncle LCpl Murray Northrup was buried in Bergen-Op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery. He took a side trip and took a photo of the damaged grave marker and told me it was being repaired and that in 2019 it was going to be rededicated.

I had mentioned it to my brother Mark and he said “we are going”. We started planning for what we thought was going to be a small celebration in October 2019. I found it hard to get information on this event until Mark got in contact with Martin Reelick, the President of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 ‘The Liberation of the Netherlands’. We were invited to participate in the Formal Celebrations with them and Mark became part of the Colour Party, carrying the Legion Flag from McAdam New Brunswick. Mark is a member of McAdam Branch of the Legion and the District Commander for St. Croix, New Brunswick and I am a member of the Somme Branch in Dartmouth Nova Scotia

On the late afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 Mark and I arrived at the “Tulip Inn” in Bergen-op-Zoom after 24 hours of travelling. The following day we went for a walk around town. We were met by a gentleman by a little Pub near the main square. He stated “you’re Canadian” and took us in for a beer (Coke for Mark). He then told us to wait and shortly after a band marched up to the door of the “DEN ENGHEL” Pub and played “The Maple Leaf Forever and another song”.



We also met Willem de Beem, a Dutch Submarine Veteran, who volunteered to show us around the main part of Bergen-op-Zoom.

We met up with Willem on several other occasions throughout our stay. Willem and I ended up exchanging our Submarine Dolphins with each other.



At the "DEN ENGHEL" there were also several members of the Lincoln and Wellington Regiment, who along with the South Alberta Light Horse, were about to receive the Keys to the City of Bergen-Op-Zoom the following day.

In the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> Mark and I met up with the members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 'The Liberation of the Netherlands' and some of their family members at the hotel "De Blauwe Vogel" as well as the Zone Commander for Europe and his wife for some beer and then Supper.

On Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of October was the Continuation of the Commemorations for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Bergen-op-Zoom. For us it started at the Sloedam Memorial. The reason this place has significance to Mark and I is that our Great Uncle Murray was killed on the Eastern side of the Sloedam. The Royal Regiment of Canada, part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry Brigade, did a rapid advance through South Beveland on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October. That evening they carried out a raid on the East side of the Sloedam. Apparently 2 members of the Dutch Resistance showed them a way to go along the waters edge in low tide. Our Uncle was KIA in this raid. The letter to the family from his Commanding Officer stated that his section killed 8 Germans and captured 20 as well as a lot of equipment. Overall, the Canadians captured over 150 prisoners and took the Eastern side. It was decided that on the 31<sup>st</sup> the Black Watch of Canada would assault the causeway and try to seize it.

Mark joined the Colour Party, carrying the Flag from the McAdam New Brunswick Legion Branch. I was given the honour to lay the wreath with President Martin Reelick on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion. It was a somber moment for me as I got to lay the wreath with my Uncles Medals in my hand.

Following the ceremony at the Sloedam Memorial we went to Canada Lane in Bergen-op-Zoom. This was the spot where the South Alberta Light Horse were the first Canadians to enter Bergen-op-Zoom.



The neighborhood was having a huge street party to celebrate. There was also a ceremony where the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands laid a wreath near a plaque to the SALI. There was a band made up of musicians dressed in period clothing as well as many Re-enactors wearing Canadian Army battle dress.





From Canada Lane we marched to the main square by the Mayor's office for the Freedom of the City Ceremony.

Arriving at the Main Square (Grote Markt) the Colour Party mustered by a Sherman tank by the entrance to the Mayor's Office. Shortly after the members of the South Alberta Light Horse (Armor Regiment) and the Lincoln and Wellington Regiments marched into the square. This was an amazing event with thousands of people there to witness these two Regiments receive the Keys to the City. To Mark and I, being part of this historic event was a great honour.





During a break in events Mark and I did a little official pinning on of the Poppy to Legion Member Don Paauwe.

Don kind of took us under his wing for the remainder of our trip to the Netherlands. On completion of the Freedom of the City Ceremony the Parade marched off in order to regroup for the main Parade and March Past. The Parade started with the South Alberta Light Horse Association Band then the Royal Canadian Legion Colour party followed by the Soldiers from both Regiments. This parade went on for over a couple of hours and included vehicles and armour from the Second World War to present, other Military units and Civilian bands and organizations. When we finished our part of the parade we went back to the main square for some beer and supper. Later in the evening there was a Tattoo in the main square. Great bands. One band called the Liberation of the Netherlands band were all in Second World War Canadian Army uniforms. It was an outstanding performance.



The following day the 27<sup>th</sup> of October was the day of the Rededication of the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen-op-Zoom. This was the main reason Mark and I were there. To have a small little ceremony ourselves to honour our Great Uncle G49900 LCpl Murray Kenneth Northrup, KIA 30 October 1944. What we got was one of the greatest honours we have ever received in my lifetime. First, we were informed that the RCL Colour Party and members were going to attend our private rededication ceremony which made us both really happy.

Then we were told that the Padre from the Lincoln and Wellington Regiment would officiate it. Shortly afterwards we were invited to talk to the Canadian Ambassador, Vice Admiral Darren Hawco the Canadian Representative to NATO and the Mayor of Bergen-op-Zoom, before the start of the official rededication.



Behind the scenes organizing a lot of this stuff for Mark and I was Colonel Tim Young the Canadian Military Attaché to the Netherlands. He has a close association with the Royal Canadian Legion in the Netherlands. We were also asked to help lay the wreath on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces with Vice Admiral Hawco. This we did with pride.

After the official ceremony was complete the RCL Colour Party including a member of the Royal British Legion Colour Party fell in behind our Uncles gravesite. The Padre from the Lincoln and Wellington Regiment came over, Vice Admiral Hawco, Colonel Young, Dan the Zone Commander for the RCL in Europe and his wife, other members of the RCL, Members of the South Alberta Light Horse and Lincoln and Wellington Regiments, the Press and many other from the local area.

It was noticed that the person buried beside Uncle Murray was LCpl D.J. Tuff from the Royal Regiment of Canada and was KIA around the same time as Murray. We included him in the ceremony. It started with Mark and I placing Murray's medals on his headstone and then Martin Reelick saying a few words followed by the Padre doing the official rededication. On completion of this a bottle of Sortilege Maple Whisky appeared. (I still have the bottle). The toast started with Mark and I pouring a drink on the gravesites of our Uncle and that of LCpl Tuff. Mark and I had a sip then passed the bottle around. After everyone who wanted one had a sip the bottle made it back to us with a tiny bit left. Mark and I each had a sip and poured the rest on the two gravesites. That ended the official side of things. There were a lot of photos taken and Mark and I were interviewed by the media. This rededication was the end of the official events for Mark and I for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.





## The Second Part of this trip of Remembrance.

For the first part of this trip's success, we would have to thank all the Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, The Zone Commander for Europe Dan Saulnier, Colonel Tim Young the Canadian Military attaché to the Netherlands and Vice Admiral Hawco the Canadian Representative to NATO. Also, Willem De Beem a retired Dutch Submariner. All of you made this a very special trip for us and we thank you.



As I mentioned earlier, Don Paauwe kind of took us under his wing and made our last couple of days special. Unbeknownst to me Don and several others recommended we visit Vimy Ridge and Menin Gate on Monday. They convinced Mark.

I told Mark I was not driving in Europe, before this adventure started. Next thing I know Don is picking us up in the morning and lending us a vehicle to go to Vimy Ridge and Menin Gate.

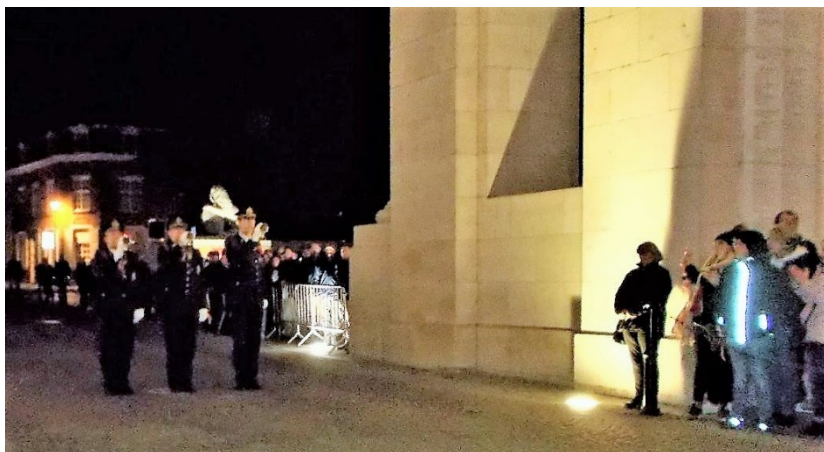
It took me a little bit to get used to driving a standard again

but I got it. Driving in the Netherlands was great, then we got to Belgium. I could not believe you could have that many roundabouts anywhere. I was starting to learn to strongly dislike them.

Then we hit France. Roundabouts gone now we had traffic lights every 3 to 5 kilometers. We did finally make it to Vimy Ridge. It was a place that both of us wanted to go. It is an awe-inspiring place. After a couple of hours at the Monument, Museum and Canadian Cemetery no. 2 we followed the bus of the Lincoln and Wellington Regiment Association to Menin Gate.







We arrived in the city of Ypres a couple of hours before the ceremony so we did some touring around as well as had something to eat. We arrived at the gate about 50 minutes before the Evening Ceremony. Once again it was a very moving Ceremony. While waiting we looked at the names on the monument of those who have no known graves. The actual Evening Ceremony was very somber.

When all of this was over, we followed the bus almost back to Bergen-Op-Zoom. It was a long day but one I will always remember.

The following day after returning the vehicle to Don he took us on a tour of the countryside, to show us the remains of the German defenses in the area, especially around the Sloedam area.

We were also invited guests at the Liberation of the Netherlands Museum. The owner and his son were very knowledgeable of what happened during the war and were able to answer all of our questions. The museum itself was fantastic.

It gave Mark and I a better understanding of what our Uncle Murray had to go through prior to his being KIA near the eastern edge of the causeway.





After leaving the museum we explored some more of the countryside, had lunch and then got to tour the sites on Walcheren Island, such as Westkapelle and Flushing.



It was also amazing to see how they had to build up the Dykes because of global warming. On the completion of this we went back to The Tulip Inn and packed.

On the day of our departure from Bergen-Op-Zoom we only had one more thing to do. Again, Don came to our assistance. He picked us up at the hotel and took us out to the Canadian War Cemetery to assist us in a small ceremony at Great Uncle Murray's gravesite.

We buried a small container with a picture of Murray, his ribbons and a poppy. We collected a bit of the soil for our father's shadowbox. We then said farewell and left.

Don then took us North for a tour of Den Helder Naval Base including the Naval Museum and a tour of an old Dutch Submarine. We were in the company of his Nephew. Once that was done, Don dropped us off at our hotel near the Airport and we said our farewells. Don, we cannot thank you enough for what you have done for us during our visit to Bergen-Op-Zoom.

One of the things that made this trip so special was being able to talk to some of the people who lived around there during the occupation and the Liberation.



Several people said what they remember when they first met the Canadians was being given a piece of chocolate. One woman stated she had never had chocolate before and she still remembers the taste.

The only thing I can say is that Mark and I feel very honoured to have been able to help celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations with everyone involved. We are very honoured at what everyone did for us at our Uncle's little Rededication ceremony.

Mark and I, on behalf of ourselves, and our Father, who was very close to Murray, would like to thank all of the Members of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 "The Liberation of the Netherlands" as well as Dan Saulnier the Zone President for Europe. You people are phenomenal. The work you do for the Royal Canadian Legion is second to none. Throughout the year you represent us at a great many events with pride and dignity.

Also, we would like to thank Colonel Tim Young who organized some things for Mark and I. Retired submariner Willem de Beem, who is not a member but he became a tour guide for us and a friend. We would like to thank Vice Admiral Hawco for inviting us to lay the wreath on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces at the Canadian War Cemetery Rededication as well as attending our little dedication at Murray's gravesite.

*Jim Northrup*

**Baak, June 26, 2020.**

**(by comrade Gerrit Bruggink)**

Mayor Marianne Besselink of the municipality of Bronckhorst and a number of other guests watched how Antoon Hissink and Gerda Romeijn-Harenberg unveiled a monument in Baak.

Close to the intersection Bakermarksedijk and Dollemansstraat, the Lancaster R5572 crashed on June 26, 1943. The aircraft was one of the 473 machines that had started from Syerston airport for a raid against Gelsenkirchen. The aviator, Sergeant E.W. Davidson, of the Royal Canadian Air Force, was the only survivor and was taken prisoner of war.

The other crew members died in the crash. They found their final resting place at the General Cemetery in Steenderen.



**Detail monument. Photo: Alice Rouwhorst**

For a short video impression: click on photo. →

Credits video: **Henk Samberg.**







Crew Lancaster B1-R5572 Crashed 26-06-1943 in Baak

## Dutch Airwar Studygroup 1939-1945

## Loss Chart on: T2599

Day or Night of operation  
25/26 Jun 43

Operation  
Bombing

Target  
Gelsenkirchen



Factory	Aircraft	Mk	Serial/Wnr.	Call Sign	Unit	Air Force	TO/t	Airfield
AVRO	Lancaster	I	R5572	ZN-M	106 Sqdn	RAF	2250	Syerston

Time	Cause of the Crash	Crash Location	Damage	Province
0145	Shot down by NF	Crashed Dollemansstraat - Bakermarksedijk Baak near Steenderen.		Gelderland

Source	Mag / Page	Additional sources
Chorley W.R. 'Bomber Command Losses 1943'	210	'Wespennest II' p.264 for NF, location and time

Function	Mil Rank	Ini	Name	Hon	Mil reg	Air Force	Cemetery	Grave	Remark
Pilot	Sgt.	E.W.	Davidson		R/120225	RCAF	Survived		pow
Flight Engineer	Sgt.	S.	Cowgill		1134233	RAF	Steenderen	8	
Navigator	Sgt.	J.G.V.	Williams		1316732	RAF	Steenderen	9	
Bomb Aimer	Sgt.	E.W.H.	Browne		1323595	RAF	Steenderen	9	
Wireless Operator	Sgt.	J.A.	Francis		1212997	RAF	Steenderen	6	
Mid Upper Gunner	Sgt.	L.F.	Sparling		R/128162	RCAF	Steenderen	5	
Rear Gunner	Sgt.	C.H.	Sinclair		R/153561	RCAF	Steenderen	7	

Data on those who were killed from: [www.CWGC.org](http://www.CWGC.org) [www.Volksbund.de](http://www.Volksbund.de) [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

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Last update June 2020

Maps

*Gerrit Bruggink*

Comrade Gerrit Bruggink attended the ceremony in private.



Lochem, July 1, 2020.

(editorial)

Canada Day or Fête du Canada is Canada's national holiday and takes place on July , every year.

The holiday was originally called Dominion Day but acquired its current name in 1982. 1982 is the year the Canada act was signed, therefore the new name "Canada Day".

But .....who am I to explain this to Canadians? ☺

As usual, Canada Day did not pass RCL Branch 005 unnoticed this year.

An informal meeting was organized in the Mondani Club House in Lochem. The number of visitors could have been a bit higher, but the still valid COVID-19 rules prevented a number of people from traveling to Lochem.



**The Embassy delegation**

Those who did take the trip unanimously agreed that after a long period it was nice to meet acquaintances and catch up.

The Canadian Embassy was represented by a very charming delegation.

As usual hostess and host, Yvonne and Berry Swarthoff, had done their utmost to spoil all attendees with treats from their kitchen.

President Martin Reelick kicked off with a short speech and presented a certificate of appreciation to Ruud Janssen and André Bogerman for their commitment to Branch 005. Respectively as 1<sup>st</sup> Vicepresident a.i. and as Secretary a.i. Eelco de Zee was, due to work, unable to attend and will receive a certificate for his years of work as a Secretary.

Then socializing could begin.







A little (?) lager.



And...does it taste? It tastes!!



Low Calorie ?? !!



Never a dull moment



**Groesbeek. July 20, 2020.**

**(editorial)**

Small ceremony at the Canadian Cemetery in Groesbeek.

No Four Days Marches this year, no Canadian detachment, no major ceremony at the cemetery besides the Zevenheuvelenweg.

The tightly conducted ceremony, by adjutant de Vries (for the non-4-Days connoisseurs: known from Kamp Heumensoord) was modest and dignified.

The Canadian Embassy was represented by the Military Attaché to the Netherlands Colonel Young and Sergeant Jo-Anne Wiseman, Canadian Defence Attaché Assistant.



**Representatives of the Canadian Embassy**



**Delegations**

Deputy Mayor Sylvia Fleuren was present for the municipality of Berg en Dal. Furthermore, the Faces-to-Graves Foundation and a number of military delegations, including a German. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 was invited to the ceremony and was present with the Colour Party to honour fallen combatants. A small delegation from RCL Branch 005 gave also acte de présence.

The ceremony had the usual program: Act of Remembrance, Last Post, a moment of silence, wreath laying.



After the official part, Adjutant de Vries, recently: "retired", was honoured for 18 years "taking care of the 4-Days detachments. President Martin Reelick and Colonel Young presented him an appropriate memento.





The Canadian Embassy representatives visited, of the record, also the Jonkerbos cemetery.

Victims of many nationalities found their final resting place here.

Sergeant Jo-Anne Wiseman made some photos.





**Groesbeek, Thursday, July 23, 2020**  
**(editorial)**

Normally the Groesbeek day of the Four Days Marches. Tens of thousands walk along the Zevenheuvelenweg past the Canadian War Cemetery. Very many, both military detachments and civilians, visit the cemetery that day to show respect for the fallen.

On this Thursday, 75 young people from the Four Days Marches #Vteam visited the cemetery. A number of veterans were also present. Trumpeter Theo Jetten and two young bagpipers provided the musical support.



**Credits:**

**Piet Spanjers**, who published this photos on the [Facebookaccount van WW II history group.](#)

