



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005
The Liberation of the Netherlands



NEWS BULLETIN RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2020-12

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

In the RCL Newsletter you have been able to read a story "behind the STORY button" several times. This is back for two reasons.

The first: integral inclusion sometimes makes our Newsletter very long and therefore many readers lose interest in reading the articles afterwards. Articles that are certainly interesting and worth knowing.

The second: the story behind the STORY button is actually not news but predominantly history.

However, NOT posting a story means that we would deny our purpose: to remember and commemorate our liberators. After all, it's about THEIR story. It is their experience, their commitment, their sacrifice for which we should be very grateful to them.

In this edition: **Corporal Joseph William Campbell, Service Number F/60646.**

One of the three Canadians who, posthumously, were appointed Knight 4th class in the Military Order of William. The highest Dutch military decoration.

His younger brother, Vernon Francis, died in France in August 1944, at the age of 20, his older brother Peter survived WWII.

Who was Joseph William Campbell?

How was he?

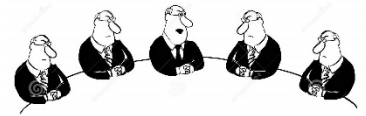
What did he do?

[Read his story here.....](#)



From the Board.

It is as president that you would like to start the new year with good news and that we successfully closed of the year before with good and happy memories.



However, to quote a famous saying of our Queen Elisabeth II it was in 2020 indeed a ***"Annus horribilis"*** with many cancelations of events and restrictions of gatherings at first there was confusion what was allowed and later there were relaxations of the regulations and we could participate in smaller groups in events. Now that we are in the big second wave of infections, we are relegated to protect each other with more stringent regulations. These regulations are however in the spirit of the health of the community as a whole and not as some people proclaim their individual opinions or as in "George Orwell 1984" big brother complot theories. As member of the community, I will respect the opinion and advice of the experts and will follow this with a healthy mind and understanding.

Now to look forward to 2021 I cannot say that it will be a ***"Annus mirabilis"*** with a miracle vaccination or drug and that we can go towards ***"Old Normal"***.

We are as executive constant in contact with organisations about the up-and-coming remembrance dates and events and as soon as we have information, we will keep you updated, or you can check our agenda on the website. We have for the first quarter of 2021 al information on events most are changed from public to invitation only. It looks like that in our opinion and uneducated guess that it will be second half of 2021 or even later before we have the freedom of gathering at will.

This means and I am speculating that with all signals we are getting from here and in Canada that even travelling abroad with a high-risk group as veterans and their families will not be feasibility until much later this year or even until 2022. We as executive of Branch 005 are ready to keep the activities alive in what kind of form that will be, and we hope that as we get the full relaxations of rules all of us are ready. This we hope include Colour parties, delegations, promotion team, education team and not to forget our Poppy Drive.

And in closing Stay Safe, Healthy and Less we Forget.



Martin Reelick

President

The Liberation of the Netherlands Branch 005



Afterburner Poppy Campaign.

By comrade Reinier Groeneveld.

Presentation Poppy Campagne.

Vera Hageman is an 8-year-old girl from the village of Wilnis, the Netherlands. She and all her classmates got an assignment from her teacher: make a presentation about an article in one of the local newspapers.



Vera in „matching" outfit

She found an article which described that this year, due to the Corona pandemic, the Poppy Campaign could not be held in Wilnis. It is especially unfortunate that, in the year the Netherlands celebrated 75 years of liberty, we have to limit the commemorations honouring our liberators.

Vera received a Poppy pinned on her jacket the last two years, so she knew the story of the Poppy as a symbol of remembrance well. After reading the article, she knew right away that this had to be the subject of her presentation. She wanted to tell her classmates all about it.

She did her research and found all the information she needed for her presentation. She made a PowerPoint presentation and studied it so well that she could recite it by heart.

And she did really well: she got the highest score possible! The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 005 is proud of this young ambassador!

Of course, such a performance should also be rewarded by Branch 005.

Poppy Chairman Danny Murphy provided a certificate of appreciation that I had the honour to hand it out.

Again: well, done!



Reinier Groeneveld



Afterburner Poppy Campaign.

By comrade Gerrit Bruggink.

Poppies included in outgoing orders.

As in 2019, the team of Hersbach Tools added a Poppy in the packages that were shipped to their customers.

A particularly inventive way to draw attention to Remembrance Day.

The Poppy, accompanied by a short explanation, was delivered to a large number of addresses in this way.

Thanks to the team which gladly took care of this extra handling.



Gerrit Bruggink

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DON HARRY TODD.

By comrade Peter Bongers.

On the 25th of March 2019, I got a request from Canada: can you give support to a friendly couple from Nova Scotia, who will make a battlefield tour in Europe, in memory and in the footsteps of their uncle and namesake Don Harry Todd (see newspaper cutting), who is buried in the Canadian War Cemetery near Groesbeek?

A few weeks later I received an e-mail from my good old friend Rick Powell (also a good friend of Don and Robin Todd), in which he said that he had promised Don a few years ago to make a rubbing of the headstone in question during the Nijmegen Four Days Marches. Unfortunately, it was raining on the third day of the march, and Rick was not able to make it happen, but if I could take over this task.....

Preparation.

First, I did contact Don and Robin directly, to ask them about their travel schedule and what I could do to assist. They would spend the night of May 8th in Bruges (Belgium) and drive to the Netherlands the next day. If I knew a nice place to stay near Nijmegen. From this place they would like to pay a visit to the grave of their uncle.

So, my first action was to book accommodations: this became a good hotel in Berg en Dal, which they really loved. I also suggested them to come to Rotterdam first on the 9th of May (from Bruges) for a guided tour.

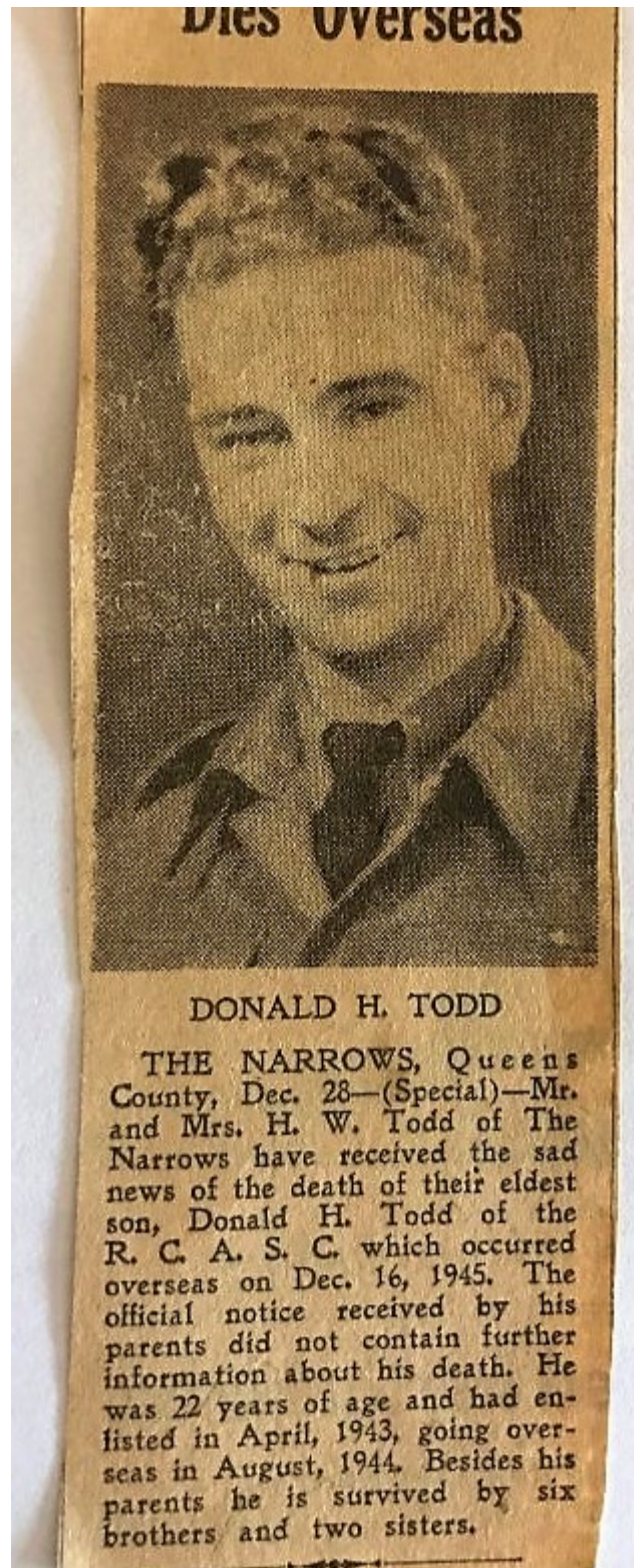
On the 30th of April I went to the Canadian War Cemetery (by train, bus and on foot) to make the rubbing of the headstone. What hit me first, was the date of his death (16th of December 1945).

It was obvious, that after the surrender of the Third Reich the Canadian Forces in the Netherlands would not return to Canada right away.

Most of them stayed in our recently liberated country to help restore law and order and rebuilding. Also did private Don Todd. He was assigned to a support unit (logistics),

As a volunteer of [the Faces-to-Graves Foundation](#) I had access to his military file and learned that he had died in a tragical train accident near Apeldoorn.

The making of the rubbing became a hell of a job, because I wanted to add colour. It should be presented to them after the Rotterdam trip. The night before their arrival I was still working on it in the small hours, to get it finished in time.



Arrival.

The trip in Rotterdam was based on their interests: first the Markthal, the Phoenix Food Factory, a boat trip through the harbour and dinner in city-brewery the Pelgrim in Delfshaven. Then back to my place, to present them the rubbing. This hit them like a bomb: holding back the tears.

Visit Canadian Cemetery Groesbeek.

On the 11th of May, Don and Robin would pick me up from the Nijmegen train station, to drive to Groesbeek and visit their uncle's grave. They didn't expect me in Legion-dress.... Don (a former Airforce Officer) felt himself a bit underdressed.



After the emotional visit of the grave, we walked to the Cross of Sacrifice, where I recited the Act of Remembrance. Robin was tired and we dropped her off in Berg en Dal.

Don and I went to the "Vrijheidsmuseum" in Groesbeek. I thought it was important to give him an impression how it was to live in an occupied country. And to explain instantly why Canadians are still so beloved by the Dutch.

Peter Bongers

December 2020

1202/1/T/9 XVII.D.12 57
G.51508 Private
D.H.Todd
Royal Canadian
Army Service Corps
16th December 1945 Age 22
(Cross)
In loving memory.
Eldest son
Of Harry and Annie Todd,
New Brunswick, Canada

Registration Canadian Cemetery Groesbeek

Candle evening 2020.

No massive turnouts when placing the lights. Thanks to many volunteers, who went the extra mile, it did not stay dark during Christmas Eve.

For example: Comrade Gerrit Bruggink organized the purchase and distribution of a large number of lights for the sixth year.

With the cooperation of many, 97 war graves were provided with a light at 11 locations in the „Middle East“ part of the Netherlands. (Photos: page 6 and 7)

Gerrit, who is also very well acquainted with the historical places in Normandy, managed to get it organized in three places there as well.







Schoonebeek. Photos: Rob Wethly.



Almen, Het Elger. Photo: Ineke Kolkman



Wilnis. Municipality Ronde Venen. Photo: Reinier Groeneveld



Groesbeek, Canadian War Cemetery. Photos: Albert de Valk.



Bergen op Zoom.

Placing a candle at every tombstone at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom was not possible this year due to the Covid-19 measures. To pay tribute to those who fell for our freedom, a short ceremony was held on Christmas Eve.

Family members of Lance Corporal Murray Northrup, Jim and Mark Northrup in Canada could follow the ceremony via a live connection.

After the Act of Remembrance was read by Jim Northrup, comrades Don Paauwe and André Bogerman of RCL Branch 005 placed a candle and a red and white rose on the grave of Lance Corporal Murray Northrup in memory of all the Fallen.



STRIJEN.

(received from Anton de Man)

Attention was also paid to the war graves in Strijen.

Janet Nagtzaam and Ton Pouwe took care of this.





Barchem. Photo: Berry Swarthoff



Field of Honour Markelo. Photo: Fallen Airmen Memorial Markelo



Veenendaal. Photos: Elly van Wakeren



Leesten-Zutphen. Photos: ??



Candles in about 375 places



Wim Poppenk

24 december om 20:50 · 🧑🏻

It is nice and quiet tonight at Holten Canadian War Cemetery. Lest we forget.





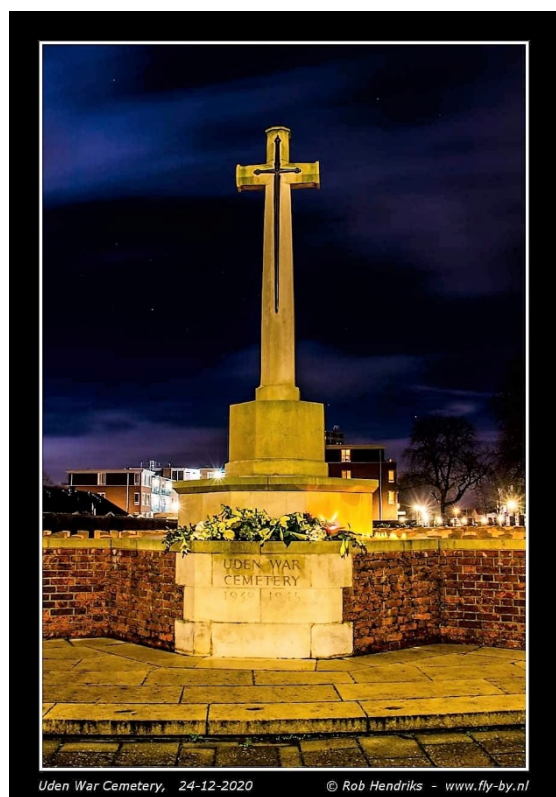
Oosterbeek. Airborne Cemetery



Overloon. ©Overloon Nieuws



Burgum, Friesland



Uden War Cemetery, 24-12-2020

© Rob Hendriks - www.fly-by.nl

Uden. © Rob Hendriks



Vredenhof, Nijmegen. Photo: Johnny Sip

UPCOMING.

All events with a proviso.

January 24: ~~New Years Reception Lochem~~ CANCELLED

February 7: Groesbeek, commemoration start Operation Veritable

N.B. If required by COVID-19 rules, this will be postponed to Monday, 8th February,
ONLY FOR INVITEES

March 28: Annual General Meeting Lochem

[consult the agenda on our website](#) and for the latest news: [have a look on our Facebook account](#)

ON BEHALF OF THE EDITORS:

We wish you a prosperous, but above all, a healthy New Year.

