



The Royal Canadian Legion

"Liberation of the Netherlands"

Branch 005



August 2021, Number 2021-08.

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The main objective of our Branch is to fulfill an active role during commemorations at Canadian and other allied military cemeteries, monuments and ceremonies where fallen soldiers from, in particular WW II, are remembered.

For photos of previous events visit our website. [Click here to have a look](#)

The background story in this edition is about Market-Garden. Officially September 17 – 25, 1944.

"MARKET" = the large-scale airborne operation; "GARDEN" = the ground offensive started from Belgium. Here we focus on the airborne landings and the battle for the Rhine Bridge at Arnhem.

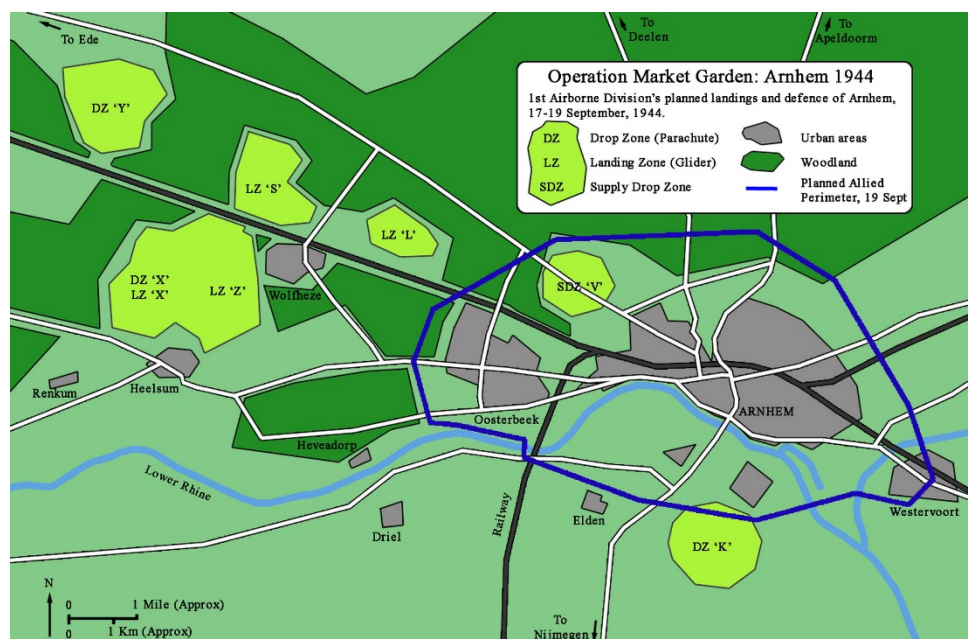
Known to most as, "a bridge too far".

And: the evacuation of only a part of the men who fought on the north bank of the Rhine.

So: special attention to the:

CANLOAN Officers
and the
Royal Canadian Engineers

Click on picture
to read the story.





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FROM THE PRESIDENT.

We have already come to the end of the summer and just like the weather that is unstable, there are still subdued commemorations. With the existing COVID-19 restrictions, most commemorative organizations keep the subdued and by invitation only.

There are several Commemorations in the coming period in September that will continue although restricted, and we will keep members informed of how, what and how much. We must be patient and see how it all develops and whether we finally go back to the old normal.



In the future there are two important events that need attention, one is the General Members Meeting on Sunday 5 September 2021 1300 hrs in Restaurant Mondani in Lochem.

Second is the upcoming poppy fundraising at the end of October. We are calling on everyone to participate in this and we are of course looking for a way to work within the rules and restrictions.

We wish a good late summer to mind.

*Royal Canadian Legion
Liberation of the Netherlands Branch 005*



Martin Reelick
President



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AFTERBURNER.

Groesbeek, June 22, 2021. Contribution Gerrit Bruggink.

Now that the world is opening up a little bit again, there is the opportunity to Commemorate and Remember in an appropriate way.

In the evening of June 22, there was a special meeting at the Canadian Cemetery in Groesbeek.



The V-team

Prior to this evening, the youth section known as the V-team of the the National fund for Peace, Security and Veteran Care (V-fonds), visited the German cemetery in the Reichswald during their 4-day summer camp.

There they received an explanation by guides from the [Freedom Museum](#).

In the evenings the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek was visited. The final resting place for 2,619 soldiers who fell in World War II, mainly Canadians. The war cemetery is located north of Groesbeek in the Dutch municipality of Berg en Dal.

The children were welcomed by members of the Faces to Graves Foundation Groesbeek and comrades of the Royal Canadian Legion Liberation of the Netherlands Branch 005.

We, from RCL Branch 005, were introduced to the founder of the V-team Tako Rietveld and to Bas, Tako's "aide-de-camp".

There was a short briefing regarding the program and the division of tasks.



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Entering the cemetery, the children marched in a disciplined procession to the Cross of Sacrifice where they sat on the ground in a semi-arc.

It is impressive to see how children can turn into a silent crowd.



After a short introduction **Mr. Dick Akerboom** of the Foundation Faces to Graves Groesbeek started explaining about history and organization concerning the cemetery. He also explained the objective of the Foundation: to find out the life story of the victims, to give them "a face" by means of a photo and publication of the life story on the website.

The members of RCL Branch 005 also the members also contributed to the ceremony.

President Martin Reelick, told something about RCL Branch 005, Commemoration and Remembrance and the objectives that the Branch fulfills in the Netherlands and beyond.

Sergeant @ Arms Toon van Bussel, explained the Cross of Sacrifice.

Poppy Chairman Danny Murphy, talked about the poem "In Flanders Fields" The poem by Canadian military physician and poet John McCrae. He wrote the final version on December 8, 1915.

Colour Sergeant Gerrit Bruggink, completed it with an explanation of the Poppy, the origin of the poem and the current meaning of the Remembrance Poppy.

Finally the children received a Poppy and the Canadian pin.

The V-team was then split up into three groups and given a guided tour, accompanied by members of Faces to Graves Foundation.



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At a number of graves, the appropriate story was told by the volunteers of the Foundation.

Sigrid Norde about William Cary Brown – grave V. C. 13; Hennie Koster about Sidney Benjamin McCrea – grave IX. A. 13 and Stewart Irvine McGrouther – grave IV. A. 07; Else Schaberg about William Delong Duckworth, - grave XII. D. 02 and Stuart Drummond – grave X. A. 11.

Before the children left for the tour, Tako made another appeal: *"stop at a grave and silently mention the name of the fallen and look at the age"*.

After the tour, the official part started at 10.00 PM.

The Act of Remembrance was read, followed by the Last Post and a minute of silence.

Then 120 candles were lit and placed at the graves to commemorate the victims.



After a few minutes of reflection, the children walked back to the exit where they became children again and shared their experience with the group.

All the members of Faces to Graves and RCL Branch 005 were thanked by the V-team for their contributions to the ceremony. There was already cautious talk about a sequel in 2022.

We, as members of the Royal Canadian Legion, found this evening very instructive and in the context of our objective "EDUCATION" also very important for the future.

Keeping in touch with the growing youth is an important task for us. We will therefore continue this and expand it where possible.

After all, they are the next generation for remembrance and commemoration

Gerrit Bruggink



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MISCELLANEOUS.

Also, a silent witness. One of many. Lest we forget.



With the kind cooperation of Rob Wethly of the Drenthe Air War Foundation.

An information panel has also been placed near the crash site for some American bombers. At the time of writing, a total of 24 panels have already been placed as part of the "Lost Wings '40-'45" project.



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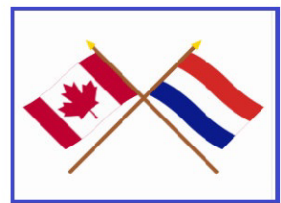


Photo: Bastiaan Miché.

On July 2, 2021, the members of the Hilversum Children's Municipal Council unveiled their artwork at the Hilversum library.

It has been given a place in the grass in front of "Villa Erica" at number 55, 's-Gravelandseweg.

In 1945 this villa served as the "Maple Leaf Club" for the Canadian liberators.

The artwork consists of more than four hundred painted boulders laid out in the shape of a Maple Leaf.

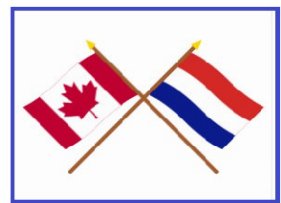
These are encased in cement.

It is a symbol for 75 years of freedom to which everyone has contributed.



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© photo: National Archive NL

August 2, 1945.

After five long years of "exile in Canada", the princesses Beatrix, Irene and Margriet set foot on Dutch soil again. Princess Margriet had never even been to the Netherlands before.





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Do you remember?

The background story in the 2021-06 edition with the information about the crash of the Halifax at Ten Boer?
The story is not over yet and has now also been summarized in a book titled:

"Six Graves in the Village". Writer Jason Pankratz, EdD.



Jason Pankratz (left) and Frank Moore of Tillsonburg proudly announced the launch of their book, Six Graves in the Village: A True Story of WWII Canadian Service and Remembrance last week.
(Submitted) jpg, TN

© Photo: Norfolk & Tillsonburg News

Sacrifice was the keyword for all seven. They are still commemorated by their families and residents of Ten Boer, the Dutch village that still preserves their graves and memory.

Their names and stories were researched and collected thanks to retired banker and historian Frank Moore. By purchasing a briefcase filled with mostly WWII documents, he would bring together the story of a Canadian aircrew who flew night missions in a Halifax Pathfinder.

It didn't take long to realize that the end of a flight and six crew members was the beginning of a story.

Six members of the crew died in the crash:

W/O C.J.V. Kettley;
P/O M.C. Smith;
F/O M.E. Tomczak;
F/S E.K.E. White;
Sgt A.J. Wood;
F/O A. P. McCracken.

The sole survivor spent two years in a POW camp and died years later, remembering the horrific fate of his comrades.



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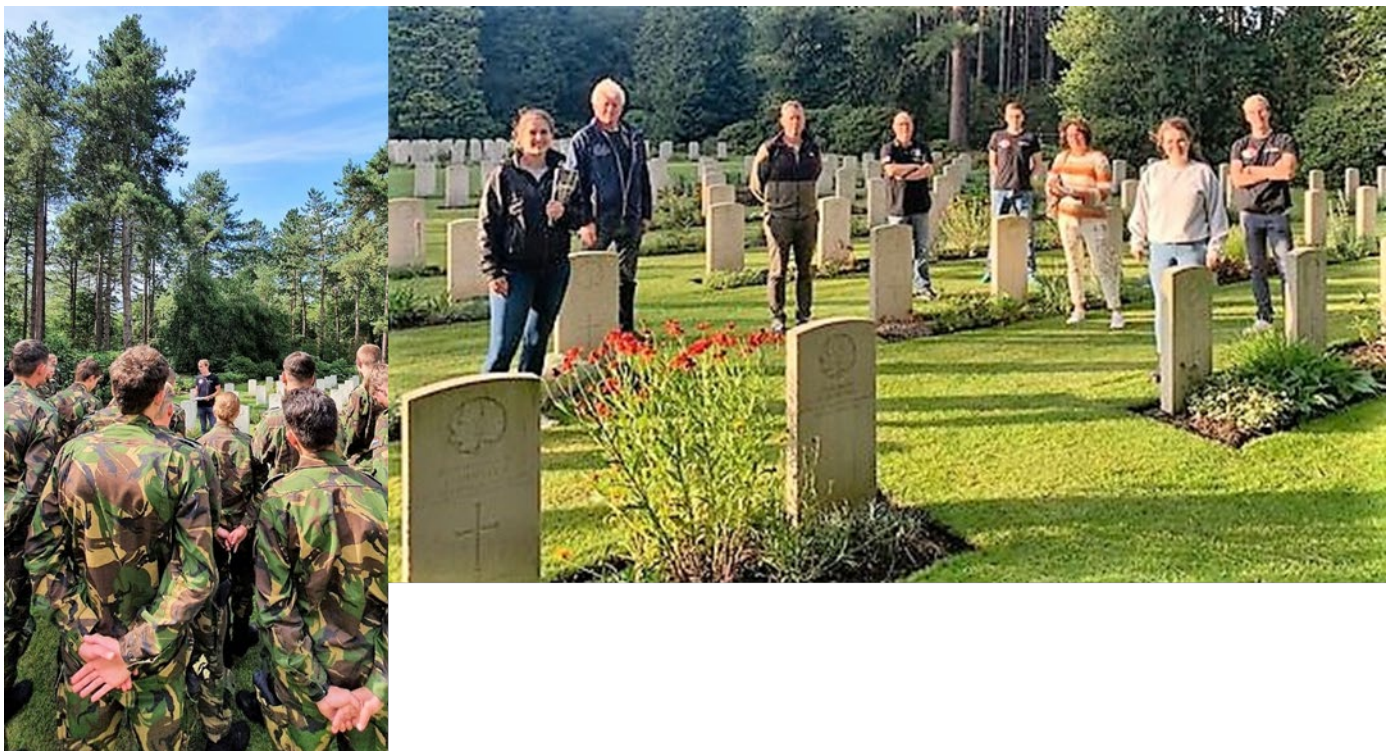
Thursday, July 29, 2021, the Dutch Bears were at the Canadian Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom.



The Dutch Bears

Daan Breugelmans, together with Caroline Raaijmakers from Faces to Graves Bergen op Zoom, gave a presentation about Canadian military personnel for the Royal Netherlands Air Force Academy (KMSL).

He told about Private Roscoe and Major Herbert Lambert. The purpose of this presentation was to give a story and a face to the fallen soldiers of the Second World War who lie in this cemetery. Which is exactly the objective of Faces to Graves.



1202/1/A/8 7.A.4 97
B.40933 Private
W.M. Roscoe
Canadian Infantry Corps
28th October 1944 Age 21
(Cross)
Son, however long
Our lives may last
We will always think of you
R.I.P.

1202/1/D/9 12.D.11
Major
H.O.M. Lambert, MC.
(of U.S.A.)
Canadian Infantry Corps
26th January 1945 Age 33
(Cross)
Rest, soldier
By those who, with you,
Gave the last full measure
Of devotion



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FOUNDATION FACES-to-GRAVES GROESBEEK.

Finally, after almost a year, it was possible to organize a Research Team meeting again on Saturday August 21, 2021.

Just like last year it was a special gathering. Marian Straatman and Gijs Krist were awarded the Faces-to-Graves Coin by chairwoman Alice van Bekkum because they have written more than 25 life stories about a fallen warrior; a very nice achievement.

In addition, Julie Allen handed out a present to Kim Huvenaars, Fred Hulsman en Gijs Krist on behalf of the Dutch Liberation 2020 Canadian Society for their commitment to this organization.



From the left: Gijs Krist, Alice van Bekkum, Marian Straatman. Photo: Joop Verstraaten



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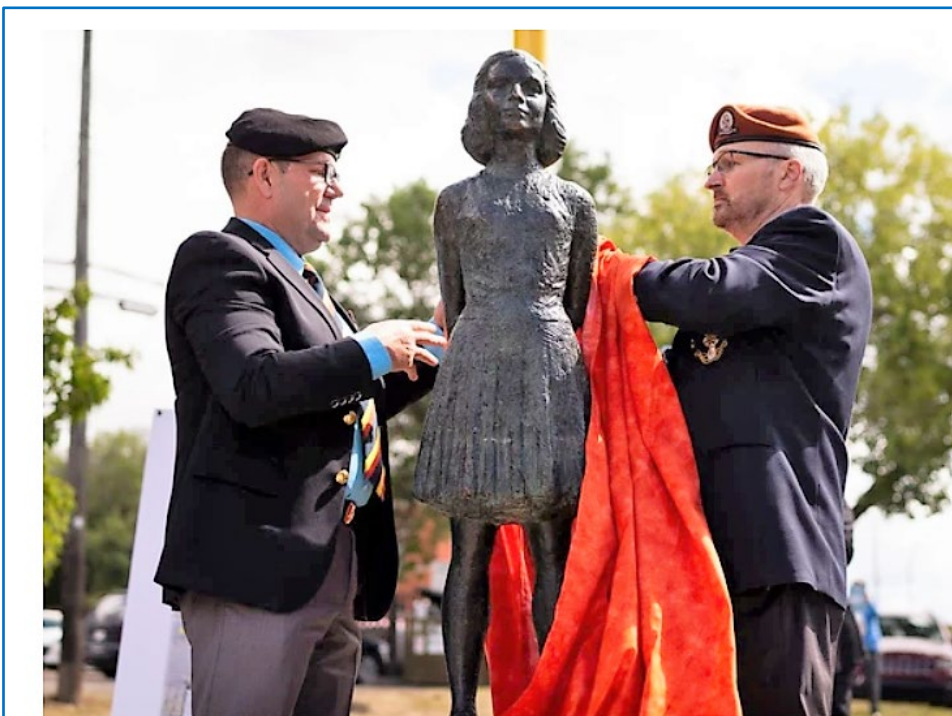
UTRECHT – EDMONTON

Statue ANNE FRANK now also in EDMONTON – Alberta

If you walk through the Canadian city of Edmonton, you might just come across the same statue of Anne Frank as it is in Utrecht. The Dutch Canadian Club Edmonton installed a statue of Anne Frank at an Old Strathcona park, in part to thank the Canadian military for its role in freeing the Netherlands from Nazi occupation during the Second World War.



Photo: Municipality Utrecht



A statue of Anne Frank is unveiled at Light Horse Park in Edmonton, on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021. The statue was installed by the Dutch Canadian Club as part of their 75th Liberation Project. Photo by Ian Kucerak PHOTO BY IAN KUCERAK /Postmedia

The bronze statue of the world-famous diary-writer now stands atop a marble plinth at Light Horse Park off 86 Avenue and Calgary Trail. It was made with the same cast that Dutch sculptor Pieter d'Hont used to create an Anne Frank statue in 1960 for the Netherlands city of Utrecht.

Club president Frank Stolk grew up in the Netherlands after the war and heard stories about the Canadian army.

"That is a gratitude that is forever ingrained in our hearts," he said in an interview.

"The Dutch schoolchildren still maintain the graveyard of the Canadians in the Netherlands ... they put flowers there, they burn little candles on the anniversary date."

Besides honouring the Canadians' sacrifice, Stolk said the club chose to commission a statue of Anne Frank because she represents the good in people.



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Children lay tulips at the feet of a statue of Anne Frank that was unveiled at Light Horse Park in Edmonton, on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021. The statue was installed by the Dutch Canadian Club as part of their 75th Liberation Project. Photo by Ian Kucerak PHOTO BY IAN KUCERAK /Postmedia

"Because for children like Anne Frank, the Canadians came to Europe to help with the liberation."

Anne Frank is also very well known in Canada.

"Everyone learns about her at high school. The students not only read Shakespeare at school, but also Anne Frank.

That way they can understand what happened then.

"That status was also made clear during the unveiling of the monument, which the media reported and which also included the Prime Minister of Alberta.

Stolk hopes that the statue will also have eternal value in Edmonton.

"When people walk through the park and come to the statue, I hope they will stop and think about what happened and what is going on in the world".

Info & photos from newspaper "Edmonton Journal".



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ARNHEM/OOSTERBEEK/DRIEL.

An unknown Polish soldier at the Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek recently got a name. The Polish researcher Mateusz Mróz could prove that it was Edward Trochim of the First Independent Polish Parachute Brigade. Mróz hopes to be able to identify four other Polish soldiers in the same cemetery in the near future.

The 21-year-old Edward Trochim didn't stand a chance when he descended from the air on September 21, 1944 near the Johannahoeve estate north of Oosterbeek. British reconnaissance troops had marked the fields to prepare for the landing. Polish paratroopers, gliders and supplies descended. Waffen SS men suddenly appeared en masse from the woods and fired at everything they saw. Total chaos that ended in a massacre.



Info and photos from newspaper

"De Gelderlander".



Wreck glider near Johannahoeve



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AGENDA.

(Up to now)

September:	5 th , General Meeting Lochem
September:	17 th , Groesbeek, annual commemoration Market Garden
September:	18 th , Driel, Engineers Monument,
October:	1 st , Driel, Hampshire Monument,
October:	1 st , Heteren, Airborne commemoration
October:	5 th , Veenendaal, commemoration Harold Wakeman
October:	8 th , Practice Colour Party
October:	24 th , Bergen op Zoom
October:	30 th , Flushing, Uncle Beach

Of course, subject to the applicable rules

