



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005
The Liberation of the Netherlands



NEWS BULLETIN RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2021-01

In this edition:

- From the Board
- Input by comrades: Research Berry Swarthoff & Herman Sligman
- 100 years Poppy, Symbol of Remembrance
- 30 years 48th Highlanders of Holland, Pipes & Drums Apeldoorn
- upcoming

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

Just as a reminder: two reasons why we introduced the background story again:

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:

**Lieutenant John Ch.B. (Charley) Forbes, Knight 4th Class Military Order of William.
Platoon commander Régiment de Maisonneuve**

One of the surviving Canadians who were appointed Knight 4th Class in the Military Order of William. The highest Dutch military decoration.

Who was Charley Forbes?

What did he do?

Where was he?

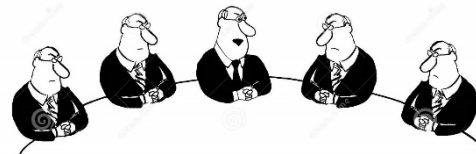
Why record his personal experiences?

[Read about his experiences on the Walcheren Causeway here.....](#)



From the Board.

DEVELOPMENTS ADMINISTRATIVE LAW 2020-2021



In the articles of our news bulletins of the past year and in the individual board messages to the members, there is extensive mention of the goings on of our Branch in these harsh times.

We have maintained good contacts with our relationships in the field of commemorations and events and hope that in 2021 we will be able to actively participate in commemorations and events again.

Our Branch was founded in 2003 under Canadian law and in 2004 I introduced the Branch into an association under Dutch law on the understanding that I included in the statutes all kinds of references and connections with the Canadian rules. In our statutes, Article Three is one of the most important provisions in this regard. This article is as follows:

The association endorses the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of The Royal Canadian Legion based in Ottawa, Canada, insofar as they do not violate Dutch law.

Article 4(1) subsequently states that the association's objective is:

- a. acting as **representative** in the Netherlands of The Royal Canadian Legion.
- b. upholding the traditions of The Royal Canadian Legion.
- c. supporting the objectives and activities of The Royal Canadian Legion.

Paragraph 2 of this Article then indicates how this objective will be achieved.

With regard to the performance in the Netherlands, our Branch has been granted a Charter by the Royal Canadian Legion in Ottawa.

In a letter dated 2 December 2020 to all sponsors of the Red Maple Soirée, the Canadian Ambassador indicated that she sees RCL Branch 005 as "the sole representative in the Netherlands of the Royal Canadian Legion and an important partner of the Embassy of Canada".

In 2019, a governance decision was updated with a job description, division of tasks and powers of the board of RCL Branch 005 in relation to its objectives.

The annual General Assembly of Members was held on 1 March 2020.

This meeting could still be held according to the normal rules and was not hindered by rules because of the Covid-19 virus.

On 20 September 2020, a Special General Assembly of Members was held in compliance with the legal requirements governing the control of the Covid-19 virus. This meeting went very well despite these restrictions. During this meeting, Jan C.K. van Loo was explicitly appointed secretary for four years and he will not resign sooner (designated survivor). Jan will combine this position with his position as Legal Officer.

For the year 2021, holding an Annual General Assembly will be more difficult in connection with the Covid-19 virus. Under Dutch and Canadian rules, we are required to hold a General Assembly of Members every year.

According to the Dutch statutes, each board member is appointed by the General Assembly of Members for four years. However, it is customary for our Branch to resign after two years.

However, this arrangement is not prescribed anywhere, and it is not advisable for the entire board to resign.

We are considering requesting the General Assembly of Members in 2021 to approve the resignation of half of the board every two years according to a timetable to be drawn up by the board.

During the meeting in which the resignation takes place, elections will have to be held for the vacant positions.

The General Assembly of Members will have to be held before 1 July this year. We will prepare to make the meeting take place digitally if necessary.

The board is currently preparing for the upcoming meetings. The Cash Control Committee will draw up the concept control report for the account and accountability 2020 in February 2021.

On the agenda is also the updating of the policy plan and the drafting of a voluntary policy note.

So, there is plenty to do for the board.



Mr. Jan C.K. van Loo LL.M.,
Secretary and Legal Officer
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005
The Liberation of the Netherlands

Research by Berry Swarthoff and Herman Sligman.

We were only able to partially fulfill the officially stated objectives of RCL Branch 005 in 2020. The reason is well known: COVID-19.

We received a number of requests, mainly influenced by the term "75 Years of Freedom", for information or support in searches for Canadian liberators. Some addressed directly to the Branch, others passed through by the Canadian Embassy.

These requests landed in the mailbox of Berry Swarthoff, known for his broad knowledge and circle of acquaintances, and also in mine, Herman Sligman.

We have taken these questions and requests very seriously and a lot of time has been spent on them. This overview has been drawn up to also record this secondary activity.

1.

Early 2020, a request for "tracing" came from the northern part of our province Overijssel. A lady, who was to celebrate her 100th birthday at the beginning of that year, had the name of a liberator still in her mind and wondered if there were any descendants of him. Her caregiver contacted the Canadian Embassy, which gave feedback to RCL Branch 005. We managed to track down a son of this liberator and the day before the 100th birthday of the lady a telephone contact was established.

2.

Then a message came from someone who had lived in Diepenheim (near Lochem) at the time. This gentleman gave very little information. After the liberation, a Canadian soldier had come to his parents' home several times. The name of the liberator was roughly written as:!

Nice puzzle! Berry managed to track down an army unit that had had its encampment near Diepenheim at the time. In fact, he found a name that differed one letter from the given name and a photo of that soldier. Because I knew the applicant, I visited him in the retirement home and showed him the information. Surprise: he wasn't quite sure what the name was, but the one presented DEFINITELY was NOT. File closed.

3.

The next search we did, was at the request of someone who was in contact with a Canadian who was looking for the traces of his late father. He had served with the Canadian Medical Services and had been confronted with the misery of Camp Westerbork in 1945, he had once told his son. He was looking for the complete marching routes of the Medics.

We were lucky. These have been described quite accurately and were available as PDF (more than 680 pages) in the Canadian archives. We put him on this track and, together with his Canadian acquaintance, they continued their research.

4.

After that followed some research at the request of someone who had found a name shield in the Hochwald, Germany. No official dog tag, but more something that was worn on a chain around the neck or as a bracelet. Name, service number and emblem of the Royal Canadian Service Corps were legible.

Searching for the name of the bearer taught us that said soldier had been married, but died and left no children.

He had had one sister who had died without descendants. Searching for nephews or nieces was unnecessary. We advised the applicant to give the shield a nice place in his home as a memory of a Canadian liberator.

5.

A special appeal came from Lemmer. At the end of 1944, a notebook and letters from a Canadian soldier had been left in the house of grandfather and grandmother. Really personal documents. The question was whether we could help to trace possible descendants. Sending these personal items to relatives would make the applicants feel very satisfying.

We can keep it short. Below you can read their email message.

Good afternoon Herman,

Last Saturday we were able to make contact with his youngest daughter.

She was so pleasantly surprised. We posted the letters and booklet this morning.

We thank you very much for your help!

A further search for the name of Vernon's wife (we got from you) resulted in an obituary. The names of all their children were mentioned.

She lived in a small community. With the help of someone there, we joined a kind of community group on Facebook.

Then everything gained momentum. First a contact with a niece and then we got from her the email address of the daughter.

We can assure you that they are all very happy all this. In the meantime, we have also got messages sent by 2 brothers, all very warmly. What we experienced very special is that they all thanked my Grandpa and Grandma for taking Vernon Castle into their home.

Thank you very much again to you and the other comrades who helped.

It is really nice that time is taken for these kinds of things, is greatly appreciated by many people now.

Best Regards,

Raimond en Uschi

NEED WE SAY MORE?

Berry Swarthoff

Herman Sligman

100-Years symbol of Remembrance.

In Canada, the poppy has been officially accepted as a symbol of Remembrance by the Great War Veterans Association since 1921, later "The Royal Canadian Legion".

Strongly influenced by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields".



But who am I to tell the Canadians something about **Poppies and Remembrance?**

For those who want to read the history again: click the link and read how an American woman [Moina Belle Michael \(15 aug. 1869 - 10 mei 1944\)](#) took the initiative for this.

Inspired by Mc Crae's poem, she wrote a kind of answer: "We Shall Keep the Faith".

"We Shall Keep the Faith".

*Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.*

*We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.*

*And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.*



The Poppy, the small, red-flowering plant, has remained the symbol of Remembrance for the Fallen. Those who gave their lives for peace and freedom.

Herman Sligman



30 years 48th Highlanders of Holland, Pipes & Drums Apeldoorn.

**"At the going down of the sun and in the
morning
we will remember them"**



On January 15, 2021, the 48th Highlanders of Holland, Pipes & Drums from Apeldoorn existed for 30 years.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 congratulates them on this wonderful anniversary.

For 30 years they have been a "living monument" for our liberators, because of their musical contribution, always with great enthusiasm, to commemorations and liberation ceremonies in the Netherlands and abroad.

Many times, we have been able to attend commemorations with them.

They intended to celebrate this anniversary with a nice concert, but unfortunately this was not possible due to the COVID-19 rules.



Veterans Day Zutphen 2019 © Trix Mol

UPCOMING.

All events with a proviso.

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

February 7: ~~Groesbeek, commemoration start Operation Veritable~~ **CANCELLED**

March 28: Annual General Meeting Lochem **POSTPONED**

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