



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005
The Liberation of the Netherlands



NEWS BULLETIN RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2021-04

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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 World War II are remembered.

For photos of previous events, visit our website. [To have a look: click here.](#)

The background story for this edition.

On May 5, 1945, the Canadian General Charles Foulkes summoned the German Commander-in-Chief Johannes Blaskowitz to Hotel "De Wereld" in Wageningen to discuss the effects of the capitulation of the German troops in the Netherlands.

The capitulation document was signed on May 6. (no typewriter was present on May 5th!)

On May 8, 1945, Nazi Germany officially capitulated. This day is now known as Victory-Europe Day, or VE-Day for short.

But..... the last Germans did not disappear from the West Friesian Island Schiermonnikoog until June 11, 1945.

[You can read here how it eventually came to an orderly departure....](#)





* 10.06.1921 - † 09.04.2021

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 mourns the loss of Prince Philip,
Duke of Edinburgh.

Our sincere condolences go out to HM the Queen, the Royal Family and his loved ones.

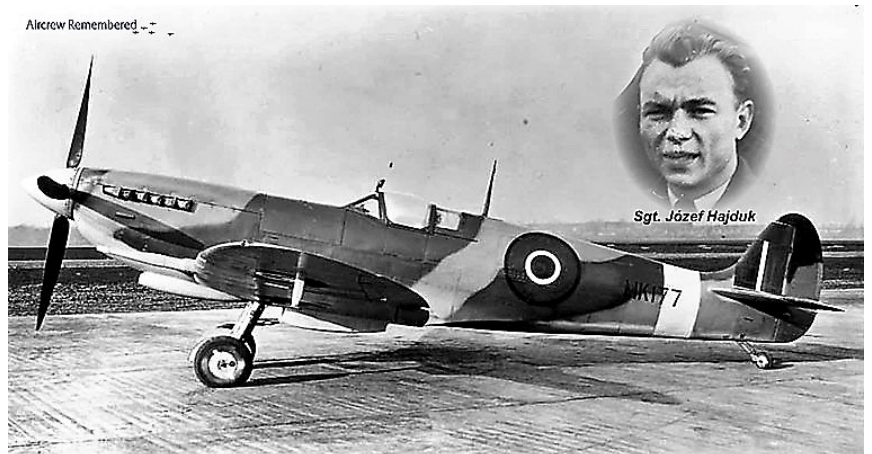




April 5, 2021.

The Municipality of Bronckhorst commemorates and celebrates Freedom.

(Submitted by comrade Gerrit Bruggink)



Lt. Kavanagh was killed in the hamlet of Rha
Sgt. Hajduk crashed in the hamlet of Toldijk

April 9, 2021.

**We commemorate:
the Battle of Vimy.
(April 9 to 12, 1917)**

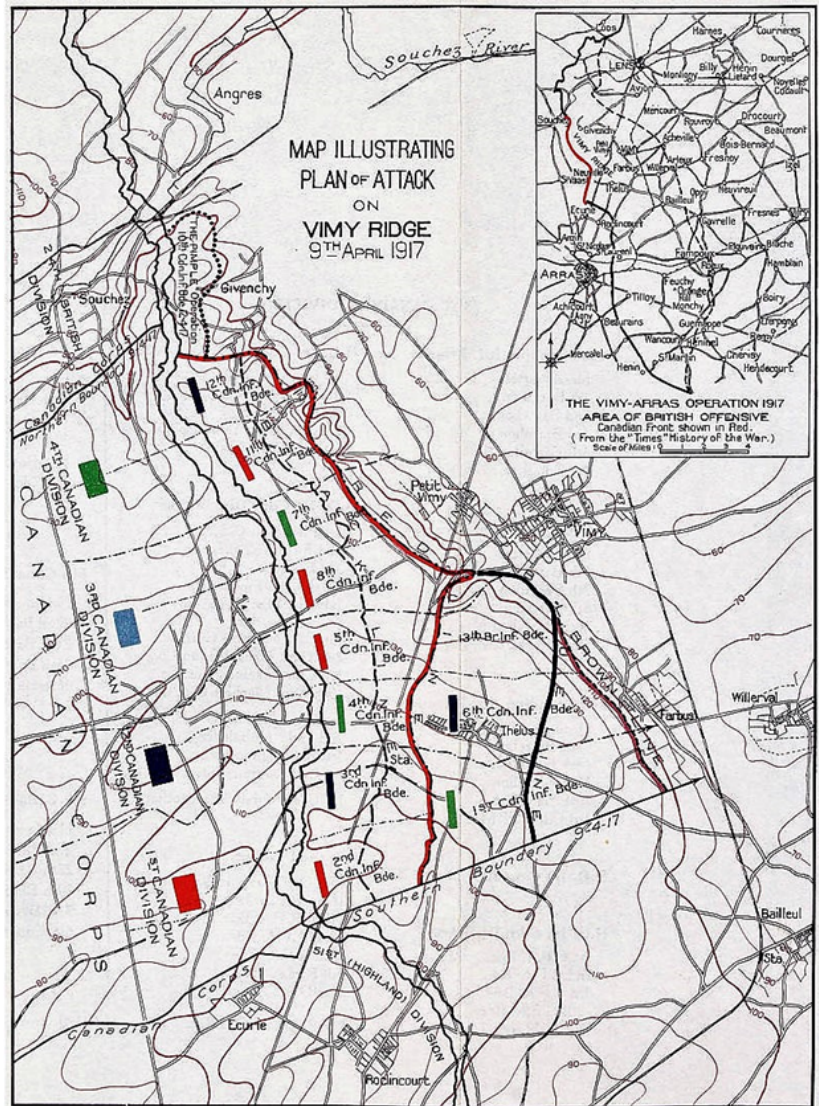
The first time that four Canadian divisions took part in a battle together as one formation.

By the night of April 12, the Canadians were firmly in control of the Vimy ridge.

On the Canadian side, there were 10,602 casualties, or 3,598 dead and 7,004 injured.

Four members of the Canadian Corps were awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration for the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces.

Private William Johnstone Milne
16th (Canadian Scottish) Battalion
Lance-Sergeant Ellis Wellwood Sifton
18th (Western Ontario) Battalion
Private John George Pattison
50th (Calgary) Battalion
Captain Thain Wendell MacDowell
38th (Ottawa) Battalion.



Ghosts of Vimy Ridge Image by Will Longstaff

April 12, 2021.

We commemorate the Liberation of Camp Westerbork.

On April 12, 1945, the Canadians freed 876 Jewish prisoners in camp Westerbork. 500 of them had seen the last train leave, the rest had been arrested in the last months of the war.

Between July 1942 and April 1945, 107,000 Jews, 245 Sinti and Roma and a few dozen resistance fighters were deported from Camp Westerbork to the East. In total, only 5,000 people returned.

The 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment (Troop # 7), also known as the Terrier Platoon, led by Lt. Sheppard, who was the first to approach the camp. Soon after, the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Regiment arrived, later in the evening, around 11 p.m. it was taken over by the South Saskatchewan Regiment, Royal Canadian Medical Corps and Provost Corps.



Camp Westerbork. "Le Boulevard des Misères" this road was called by the prisoners



Lt. Sheppard, photo 1944



The monument

April 12, 2021.

In memory of Operation CannonsHOT, the Pipe Major Dik Singel of the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes and Drums from Apeldoorn was present on the dike in Wilp.

He played to honour the 19 Highlanders of Canada who lost their lives for our freedom.

Not a grand commemoration, but a modest and heartfelt gesture of gratitude and reverence.



Photo is a still from the video of Dennis Kolkman

In the early summer of 1945, men of the 48th Highlanders returned to Wilp to pay tribute to their fallen comrades.



April 13, 2021.

We commemorate the Liberation of Posterenk.

Posterenk was liberated on April 13, 1945 by the Carleton and York regiment of the Canadian army.

During this liberation, six Canadian soldiers were killed in the vicinity of Posterenk, including Lieutenant Richard Booth Savage



Photo: Local Newspaper

A sober commemoration for invitees. Interesting was the live stream broadcast for the other interested parties, including a connection to Canada.

Speech by Mayor Penninx, wreath laying by the Posterenk working group and the Royal Canadian Legion.



April 26, 2021.

The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

Canada's longest-serving Infantry Regiment.
Standing on guard since 1860.

The fact that the Queens Own Rifles of Canada, founded on April 26, 1860, use the anniversary to draw attention to their [museum in Casa Loma Toronto](#) is, in itself, not special.

What is special is that in the city you can see banners depicting Lieutenant John Gordon Kavanagh.

As we reported in our 2020-05/06 edition, last year, after having been buried nameless for 75 years, Lieutenant Kavanagh was given a tombstone with his name.



Steenderen, 4 May 2020.

After 75 years, it is finally clear: the unnamed "soldier of the 1939-1945 war" is Uncle Jack.

75 years after his death at Rha, John Gordon Kavanagh has been identified. That is "exciting news" for the relatives of the Canadian soldier



Submitted by comrade
Gerrit Bruggink



UPCOMING.

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO COVID-19 REGULATIONS.

- Mai 1-9: [Victory-March,](#) RCL BRANCH 005 participates with a team
- Mai 4: Wreath layings Bergen op Zoom, Groesbeek, Holten, **only invitees**
- Mai 8+9: Apeldoorn Liberation Festival, **cancelled**
- Mai 16: Annual General Meeting, **postponed until September 2021**

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

