The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005

"Liberation of the Netherlands"

June 2021, Number 2021-06.

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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.

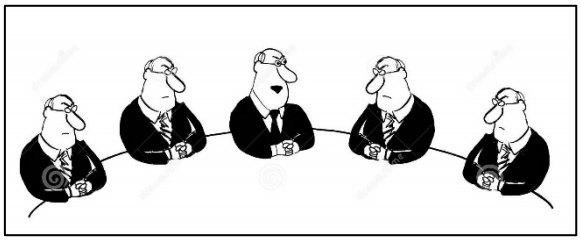
For photos of previous events visit our website. Click here to have a look

The background story in this edition is about one special Halifax Mk II bomber.
Registration number HR 864 LQ-M, of 405 Squadron.
The aircraft belonged to No.8 Pathfinder Group.
Their motto: "DUCIMUS". (We lead)

During a raid on the Krupp factory in Essen it was attacked by a German night fighter and crashed west of Ten Boer in Groningen.
Only one crew member survived.
So much for a story like there are unfortunately so many. However, this story has a separate sequel.

Well worth a read.
Click on photo to read the story.

LETTER OF THE BOARD.



The first half of the year is already over and we are starting to look forward to commemorations with more participants.
The next one, probably still a bit modest, will be at the Canadian Cemetery in Groesbeek on Monday 19 July 2021. Committees which organize commemorations have not yet announced their future plans and are busy adapting the new Covid-19 regulations. We can assume that commemorations will take place on the 'regular dates'. The request and information of commemorations may only be sent quite shortly before the date and that may require some flexibility from us all.
The next board meeting is on Wednesday 7 July 2021 and the agenda includes the upcoming commemorations and preparation of the GMM in September.
Then we will also know more about the outcome of the Royal Canadian Legion 48th Dominion Convention 13 – 15 August 2021.

Passed away on June 8, 2021:
comrade **Wayne C. Johnston.**
Wayne was a much-loved personality and, wherever he could, attended commemorations of British and Canadian liberators who fell in battle. Unfortunately, he had to give up his fight.

R.I.P. Wayne.

D-DAY 2021.

Also, this year only modest ceremonies due to the known restrictions.
A new monument was unveiled in Ver-sur-Mer for the fallen under British command.

It lists the names of 22,442 who died during D-Day and the battle in Normandy.

The official unveiling could only be attended by a limited number of invitees.
About 100 veterans watched from Staffordshire via a livestream connection.

The Prince of Wales spoke by video-link to about 100 veterans and their families gathered in Staffordshire

COMMEMORATION RUCPHEN.

RCL Branch 005, 'Liberation of the Netherlands', was invited on June 22, 2021 for a commemoration in Rucphen at the crash site of Halifax W1271 VR-P.
President Martin Reelick and Comrade Don Paauwe were present on behalf of Branch 005.

Dutch Airwar Studygroup 1939-1945 — Loss Chart on: T2501

Day or Night of operation	Operation	Target	Nickname
21/22 Jun 43	Bombing	Krefeld	

Factory	Aircraft	Mk	Serial/Wnr.	Call Sign	Unit	Air Force	TO/t	Airfield
Handley Page	Halifax	II	W1271	VR-P	419 Sqdn	RAF	2342	Middleton St. George

Time	Cause of the Crash	Crash Location	Damage	Province
0132	Shot down by NF Hptm. W. Baak of I/NJG 1	Crashed at De Posthoorn Rucphen		Noord-Brabant

Source	Mag / Page	Additional sources
Chorley W.R. 'Bomber Command Losses 1943'	197	Archive H. Welting for crew data and cause; A/c 419 Sqdn, crew 428 Sqdn

Function	Mil Rank	Ini	Name	Hon	Mil reg	Air Force	Cemetery	Grave	Remark
Pilot	Sgt.	C.R.	Pearce	DFM	NZ414671	RNZAF	Bergen op Zoom	27 A 3	
Flight Engineer	Sgt.	J.J.F.	Holland		R/53029	RCAF	Bergen op Zoom RCAF	11 F 4	
Navigator	F/Sgt.	W.T.	Ellis		NZ413703	RNZAF	Bergen op Zoom	25 C 8	
Bomb Aimer	Sgt.	G.J.D.	Thompson		1385555	RAF	Bergen op Zoom	23 B 1	
Wireless Operator/ Air Gunner	Sgt.	W.A.	Randall		1202224	RAF	Bergen op Zoom	18 B 2	
Mid Upper Gunner	Sgt.	J.	Galloway		651974	RAF	Bergen op Zoom	25 C 7	
Rear Gunner	F/Sgt.	E.L.	Robson		NZ412903	RNZAF	Bergen op Zoom	25 A 1	

Data on those who were killed from: www.CWGC.org www.Volksbund.de www.abmc.gov
Design SGLO(V.1000104)
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Last update April 2021

The organization was in the hands of the "Dutch Bears". A group of young men of the same age as the bomber crew. An initiative that RCL Branch 005 warmly welcomes.

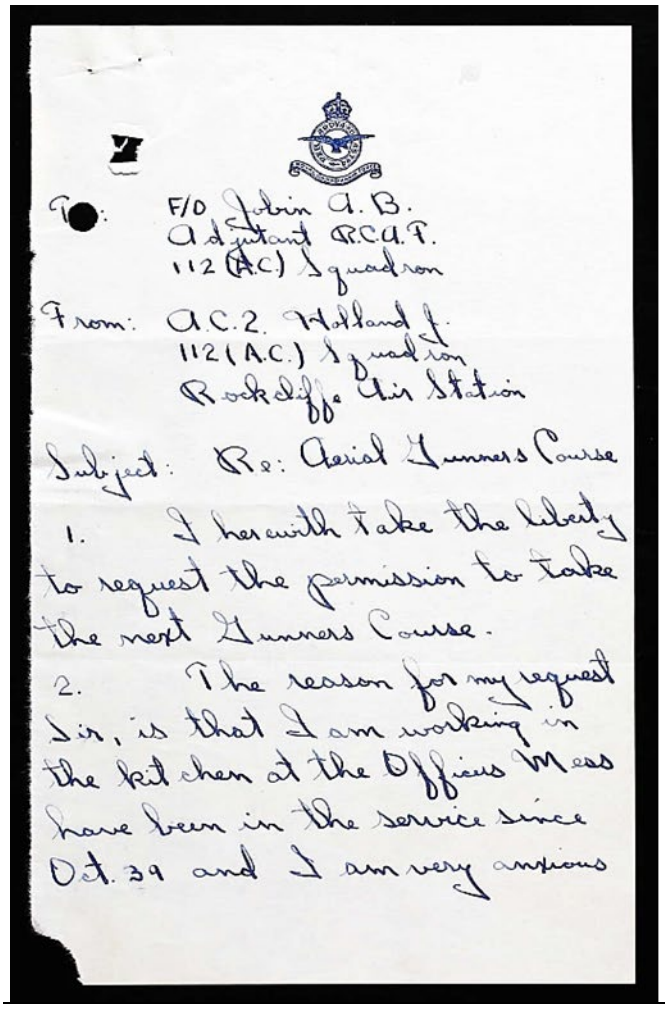
In appreciation, the President presented the coin ''75 -Years of Freedom" to the group.
Herewith the links to 2 documentaries of approximately 75 minutes each. They record other activities of the Dutch Bears.
- Walking the route of the 4th Canadian Armored Division. (Green Route Up)

Click on sign to have a look. →

And their walking tour via the liberation route of the Polar Bears from Massenhoven (B) to Roosendaal (NL).
Activate via the photo below.

Daar komen de Dutch bears, vlnr Job Elshout, Daan Breugelmans, Lars de Graaf en Casper van Loon volgen het pad van de bevrijders van Bergen op Zoom. Foto: Pix4profs/Iman Fase © Pix4profs/Iman Fase

The Flight Engineer of the Halifax was Canadian.
Flight Sergeant Joseph John Francis Holland was his full name, as we found in his records.
We consulted these, purely out of curiosity. In it we found information that we had not encountered before in other records.
A handwritten note in which Holland "applies" for another job within the armed forces. He believes he can make a better contribution as a gunner than as a kitchen attendant in the officers' mess.
He was transferred, because of his technical background he became a Flight Engineer. This meant that his life was ended prematurely. He did not make his 23rd birthday.



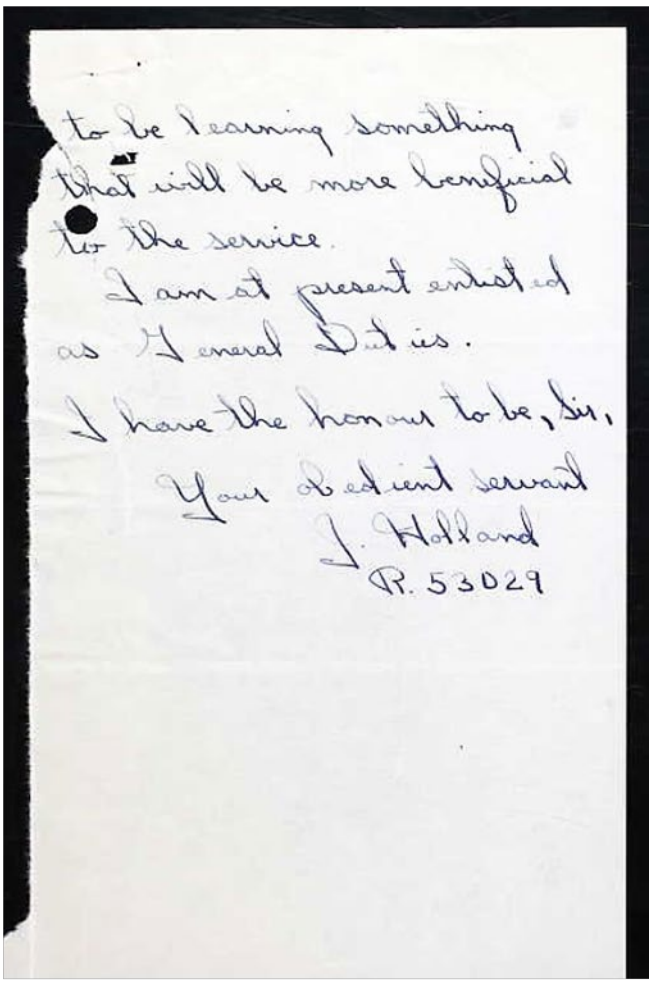
To: F/O Jobin A.B.
Adjutant R.C.A.F.
112 (A.C.) Squadron

From: A.C.2. Holland J.
112 (A.C.) Squadron
Rockcliffe Air Station

Subject: Re: Aerial Gunners Course

1. I herewith take the liberty to request the permission to take the next Gunners Course.

2. The reason for my request Sir, is that I am working in the kitchen at the Officers Mess have been in the service since Oct. 39 and I am very anxious



to be learning something that will be more beneficial to the service.

I am at present enlisted as General Duties.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant
J. Holland
R. 53029

MISCELLANEOUS.

From Juno Beach Centre:

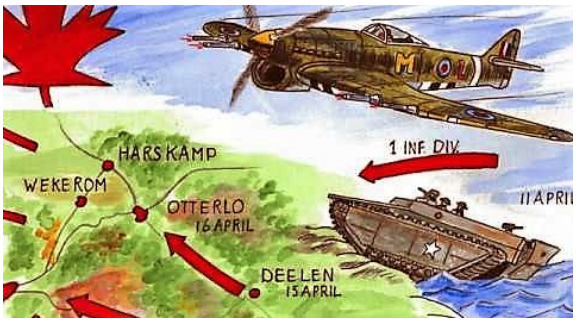
Juno Maple Leaves find homes with Jewish Veterans. This past spring the Juno Beach Centre was honoured to gift two Juno Beach Maple Leaf flags to veterans Alex Polowin and Norman Cash.

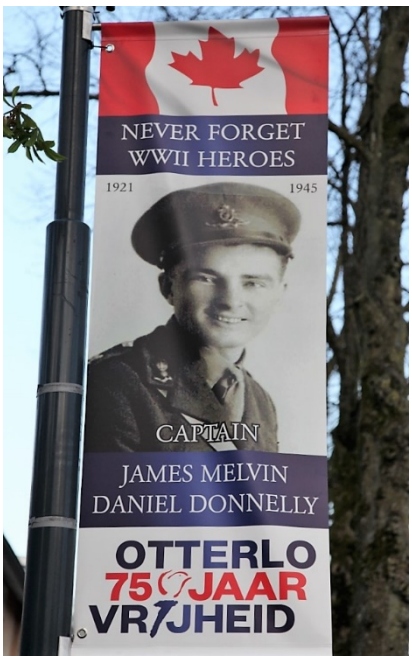
Norman Cash (L) and Alex Polowin

Mr. Polowin's war was spent at sea, on board several Canadian warships and destroyers including HMCS Huron while Mr. Cash went overseas in 1941 and landed on Juno Beach a day after D-Day, serving as a gunner with the Royal Canadian Artillery. While both men survived the war, nearly 450 Canadians of Jewish faith lost their lives. Those whose bodies were recovered lie buried in military graveyards across Europe, Africa, Asia and in North America, as well.

Otterlo commemorated and celebrated Freedom in this way.

April 1945, there was fought hard at Otterlo. 17 Canadians and 6 British soldiers lost their lives.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Otterlo





SOMETHING SPECIAL.

Comrade Gerrit Bruggink reported:
''I received some photos that were taken at memorable places in the municipality of Bronckhorst. It turned out that flowers had been laid at the monument in Rha (QOR), at the Resistance Monument in Vorden and on the graves of Allies at the cemetery in Hengelo. (Gld).
I was asked: "why"?
I contacted the Schuppers/Berendsen family and they gave the following explanation:

''On June 17, the mother and grandmother of the Schuppers family passed away.
After the cremation, there were beautiful flowers that had no clear final destination.
These flowers were placed on the above mentioned spots.

The reason for this was the involvement of Mr. Schuppers in the resistance in the years 1940-1945 in the town of Gorinchem. Like so many, at the risk to their own lives. Like so many others, he had hidden this deep inside. Only after years, step by step, the stories were told.
However, many men and women of the former resistance, took the stories with them to the grave.
Therefore, the family brought the flowers to the places mentioned above".

A heartfelt thank you to the family for the respect they showed with this.

AGENDA.

(up to now)

01-07-2021	Canada Day at Mondani's
07-07-2021	Board meeting
19-07-2021	Ceremony Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery (modest mode)