



Victory March instead of the Walk of the World

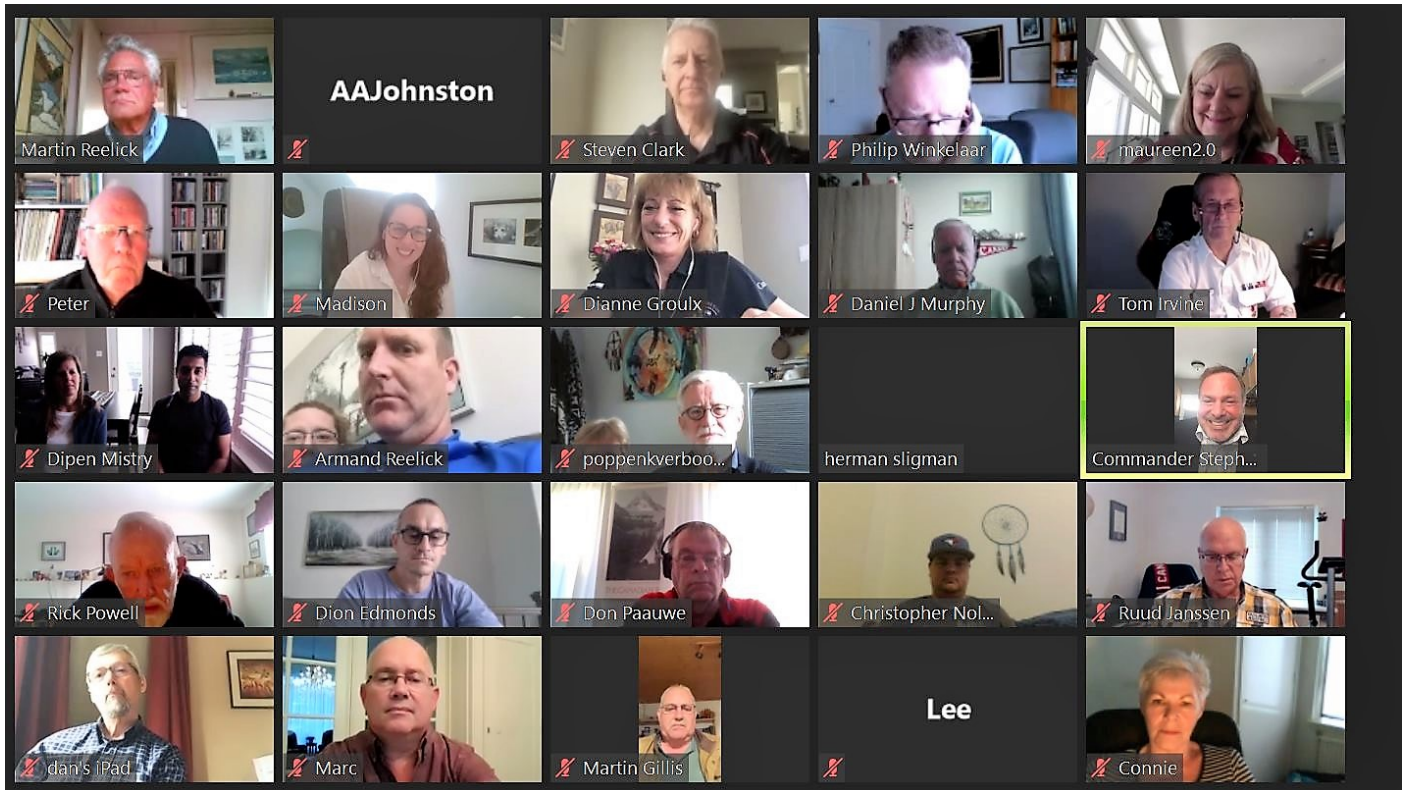


The announcement.

Victory March/ La marche de la Victoire is a new challenge where Canadians can march alongside members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Ruck up and join us for any two days between 1 to 9 May 2021, and experience the military tradition of marches on this virtual event taking place in your town and city!

After a call from the President,
a team was formed by
the Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 005
"Liberation of the Netherlands"

Team Klingon Join team	Peter Hutchison	Thomas Watson, Peter Hutchison, Victoria Sleeman, Julian Braet Show more...	\$4,210.49	Donate
The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment Join team	Jeffrey Leandro	Jeffrey Leandro, Tyler Heffernan, Sean Francis, Dave Kervin Show more...	\$3,346.46	Donate
Boomer's Team Join team	Maureen Eykelenboom	Maureen Eykelenboom, Ron Eccles, Nigel King, Pamela Jolin Show more...	\$2,979.88	Donate
Conflict and Complaint Management Services Central Region Join team	Penny van den Berg	Penny van den Berg, Danielle Blommestyn, Carol Zwicker, Charlene Chubbs Show more...	\$1,892.98	Donate
Royal Canadian Legion "The Liberation of the Netherlands" Branch 005 Join team	Martin Reelick	Martin Reelick, André Bogerman, Don Paauwe, Armand Reelick Show more...	\$1,759.32	Donate
Team M&M Join team	Brad Biggar	Brad Biggar, Peter Vail, Eric Labine, Doug Wagenaar Show more...	\$1,732.36	Donate



Tom Irvine

Legion Dominion President Tom Irvine helped kick off the 2021 Victory March for our "Liberation of the Netherlands" Branch 005 Team on Zoom on Saturday, 01.05.2021..

Among the participants on the call were JTF Nijmegen Commander and Victory March Director Cdr Stephen Kaufman, who unveiled the commemorative coin for the inaugural Victory March 2021, and Cdr Martin Reelick, President of Branch 005 in the Netherlands.

It was also an honour to have Andrew Boomer's mom Maureen Eykelenboom, founder of Boomer's Legacy, help reiterate the "why" of the Victory March and Boomer's Legacy.



Participants in the 2021 Victory March are raising money for Boomer's Legacy, named after Corporal Andrew "Boomer" Eykelenboom, a dedicated soldier and a Canadian Armed Forces medic killed by a suicide bomber on August 11, 2006.



By Carole Thompson

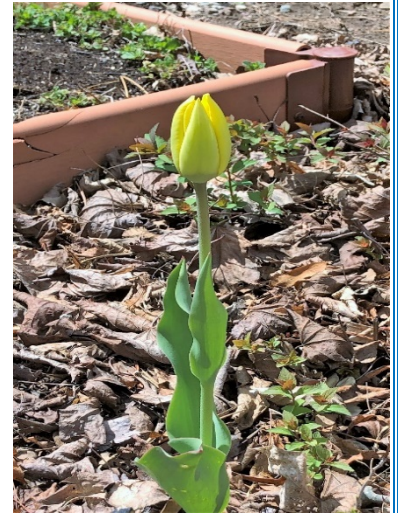
(The first reaction I saw in the mailbox May 2, 2021
at 5:00 AM Zulu Time -hs)

*These tulips greeted me as I got home from Leg 1 of
my March of the Tulips.*

*They are wanting to open - but on the first week of
May in Canada, might be a bit chilly for them, just
yet....!*

*They are from bulbs I brought home after my 2016
Nijmegen Marches!*

But next day they opened up a bit.

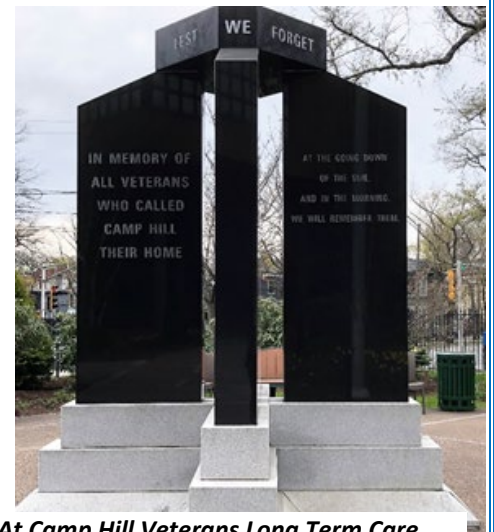


(Can it be more Dutch-hs?)

During leg 2:



*Fountain monument, in memory
of Canadians who fought in the Boer
War. It is in the Halifax Public
Gardens.*

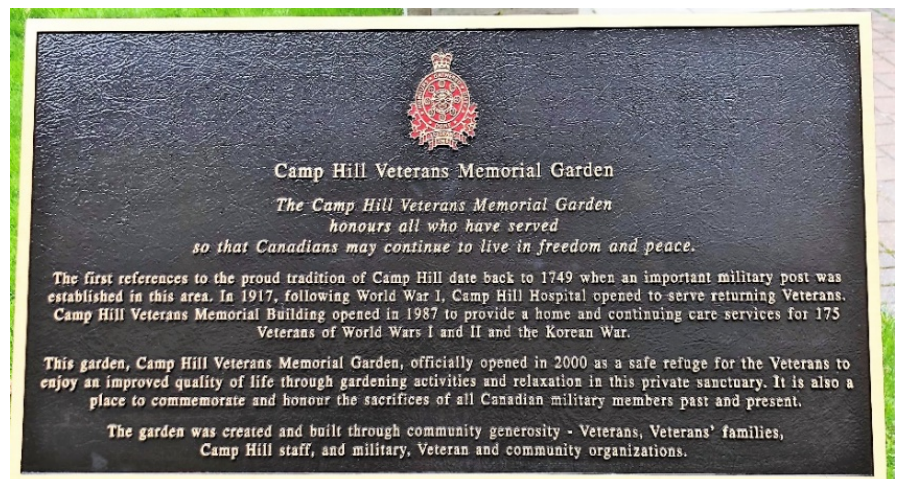


**At Camp Hill Veterans Long Term Care
Facility Halifax, NS.**

*My last pictures to be sent for the
Victory March Challenge 2021.*

Although working in a COVID-19 ICU
(what a job in these circumstances!)
Carole Thompson completed her 2x 10 km
in between.

My respect. -hs-





Philip van Leeuwen. Day 1.

The Westduin General Cemetery contains a plot of 87 Commonwealth burials of WW2. The majority of them are airmen and among them quite a few Canadians. Westduin also holds the 43 executed members of the so called 'Stijkel' Resistance Group. Captured by the Germans in the early days of the war but held captive for a number of years before being cowardly executed.



Pieter Kuijt was a forest worker during WW2. Secretly and to his own peril, he marked the spot where Germans had buried Dutchmen who had been executed so that after the war they could be exhumed. Due to him they could be identified and reburied. A true hero who, on May 1, 2021, received his honour.

*National Monument Orange Hotel
(Scheveningen prison)*

During the war the prison was nicknamed Orange Hotel as a respectful ode to every Dutchman who was held captive here, Hollands absolute finest.



The Waalsdorper plains.

During WW2 this secluded area was used by the Germans to execute Dutch members of the resistance.

These victims were taken from the nearby Scheveningen prison, marched to the place of execution, shot and buried. It is estimated that during the war some 280 of Holland's finest were killed here. After the war most were exhumed and reburied elsewhere after identification.

A significant number however was never to be identified.

Monument for French Commando's at the Wassenaar coastline.

This monument is erected to honour six French commando's who perished in the night of 28th. February 1944. Their mission was to secretly scout the local Dutch coastline in search of possible locations to set secret agents ashore in the future. The mission somehow went terribly wrong and the six were found dead the next morning. All had drowned.

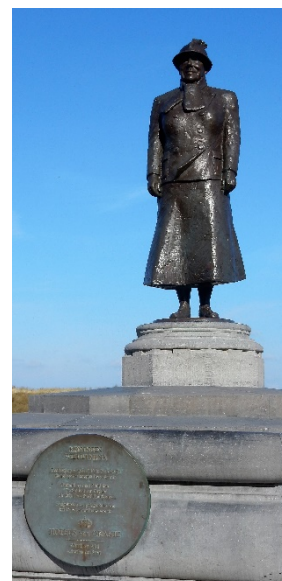




Philip van Leeuwen. Day 2.

Monument for Queen Wilhelmina

After the Germans over ran Holland in WW2I, Queen Wilhelmina, much to her disliking, fled too to England on advice of the Dutch military command. She remained there during the war, held regular radio broadcasts to her countrymen in occupied Holland. As such became a symbol of resistance. She would have nothing to do with surrendering to Nazi Germany and met every single Dutchman who had made it to free England personally. After the war she returned to liberated Holland.



***Monument for 'Engelandvaarders'.
(Those who seek England)***

An honorary title for all those brave Dutch men and women who during WW2, after the German occupation of The Netherlands, attempted to somehow make the daring cross over the cold and stormy North Sea too free England. Once there to somehow continue the battle against the hated occupier.

It is estimated that some 1700 Dutch, after overcoming serious difficulties and risks, made it to England. How many more perished while making the attempt remains unknown. These men and women are the true hero's and represent the best of this nation.

This erected monument excellently depicts just how dedicated these countrymen were in seeking liberation.

Commemoration for the battle of Valkenburg Airfield and Haagsche Schouw bridge.

In the early morning of May 10th 1940 field workers near military airfield Valkenburg in the Netherlands heard airplanes approaching. Minutes later the skies were filled with descending German paratroopers and landing German JU aircraft. The Dutch defenders awoke and were initially overrun. Heavily outnumbered and lacking proper equipment the Dutch succeeded in recapturing the airfield at the end of the day at the cost of hundreds of dead.



Dozens of German airplanes were taken out of commission. However, the bombing of Rotterdam days later, meant the inevitable surrender of Holland to superior German forces.

At the nearby town of Valkenburg a memorial has been erected and some 32 Dutch soldiers still remain buried there.



Monument at the 'Haagsche Schouw' bridge.

This monument located near the city of Leiden, was erected to commemorate the Dutch soldiers who defended this important bridge, following the German attack on neutral and unsuspecting Holland. They defended and held the bridge against far superior Germans both in number and equipment. German paratroopers desperately attempted to obtain this bridge in order to move on to the nearby Dutch airfields of 'Valkenburg' and 'Ockenburg'. At the cost of 52 Dutch soldiers the bridge was held.

Commonwealth Cemetery in Noordwijk.

Much to my surprise I was recently made aware of a Commonwealth Cemetery literally a stone throw away from where I live. Today during our walk, we paid a visit.

The two Commonwealth plots at Noordwijk General Cemetery represent one for each World War. The First World War plot contains 81 burials, including 54 unidentified naval ratings.



Of the 52 Second World War burials, among them a number of Canadians, 19 are unidentified. The plot also contains two Polish Airmen's graves, one is unidentified.

'Lest we Forget'.

The German Battery located in the dunes of Noordwijk was manned by about 180 soldiers from the Kriegsmarine during WWII. It consisted of four artillery bunkers, two ammunition bunkers and a fire directory bunker. All but this three-storey fire leader has in the course of the years been buried under the sand. The fire direction bunker was the largest bunker that the Germans had built here by Dutch bunker builders and it still stands today as part of a very interesting museum.





Rick Powell. Day 1.

May 4, 2021.

"Dodenderdenking" in the Netherlands
4/5/21

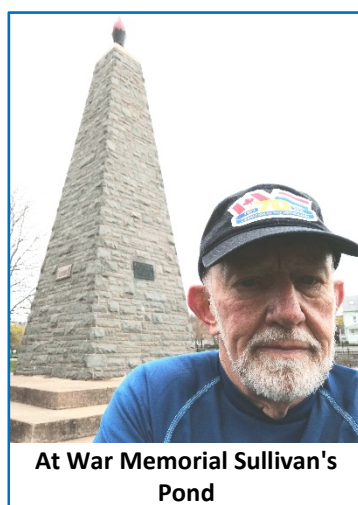


At War Memorial Cole Harbour

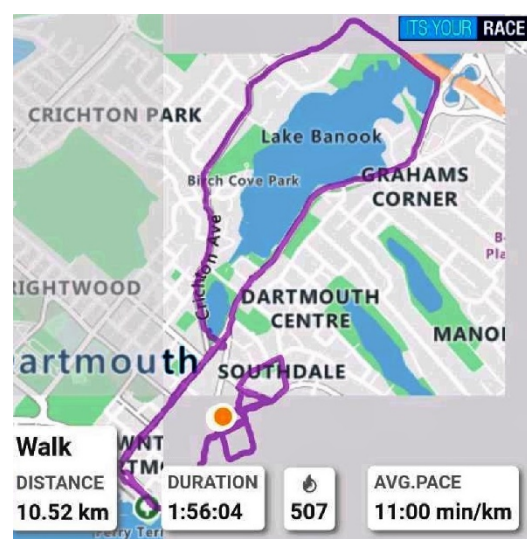
Rick Powell. Day 2.

May 5, 2021.

"Bevrijdingsdag" in the Netherlands
5/5/21



At War Memorial Sullivan's Pond





The Wars commemorated on the Sullivan's Pond Cenotaph



RCL Branch Dieppe Plaque on Memorial Sullivan's Pond

Rick and Comrade Peter Bongers agreed to complete their walks in sync. See next page.



Peter Bongers.

My first leg was on the 4th of May. My good old **Canadian marching buddy Rick Powell** from Dartmouth Nova Scotia started on the same moment: 14.00h local time in the Netherlands and 09.00h local time in Canada.

Because of the remembrance aspect of this day, I intended to finish at the Crooswijk cemetery in my home town Rotterdam. In this cemetery there is a location with fallen allied soldiers (most of them aircrew) from the UK, Poland, Czechoslovakia, New-Zealand, Australia and Canada. Every year we have a remembrance service here on Remembrance Sunday.



A free walk in a free town.



Crooswijk Cemetery

The second leg I decided to celebrate our freedom (on the 5th of May) and march with my wife Hilde and our dog Mickey.

The finish beer tasted great as ever.



Cheers!



There is nothing like the real Nijmegen Vierdaagse, but as a training and bonding event this is a good start of a tradition. Big compliments for this wonderful initiative!

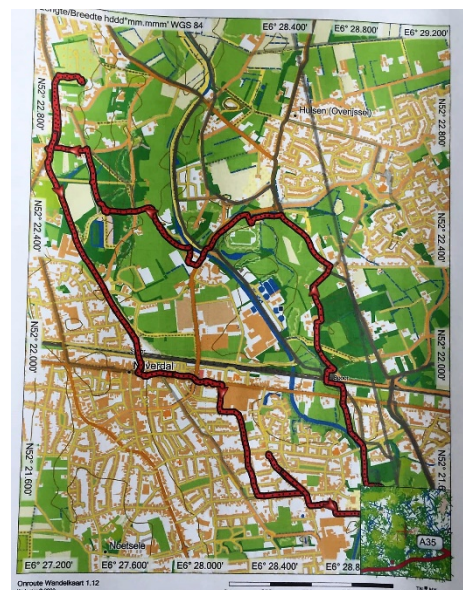


Anneke en Wim Poppenk.

Day 1.



Nijverdal „MEMORY" Freedom Museum



General Cemetery Hellendoorn. 15 CWGC graves, 2 Canadian.



No words needed I guess



Part of railway bridge, destroyed by the Germans at the end of the war.

The part of the railway bridge is placed in front of the MEMORY museum and named after Charles Reeves. Reeves maintained the Holten Canadian War Cemetery for more than thirty years and was a really war hero.





Anneke & Wim Poppenk.

Day 2.

To the Canadian War Cemetery in Holten and back.



22,53 km = 2x 10 + bonus



The first shower



For Vena & Dan Saulnier



Traces of May 4th commemoration

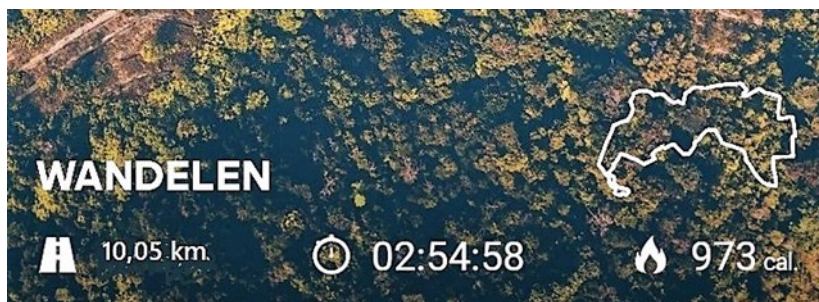


Herman Sligman. Leg 1.

For my March of the Tulips.

Along the traces of WW2 in my home village Markelo.

Just to highlight three of them.



The monument for the fallen men and women of the Resistance in the Province of Overijssel.



The monument for the crew of the Short Stirling EF399 AA-O, 75(NZ) RAF Squadron.



The field of honour at the General Cemetery in Markelo.

17 CWGC Wargraves for members of three crashed bombers. A grave for an inhabitant of Markelo, KIA on the first day of WW2, May 10, 1940. Four resistance victims are honoured here too and two civilians.





Herman Sligman, Leg 2.

For my March of the Tulips.

About 11.5 km of "reconnaissance" in this area

To report:



Residue trenches



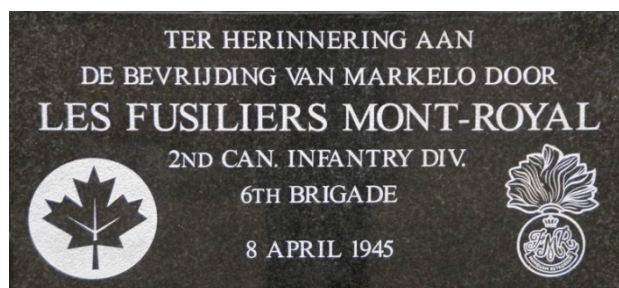
Bomb crater with shrapnel



Empty spaces in the row of trees still testify to the use of flamethrowers



Place of crossing Schipbeek Canal by Fusiliers Mont-Royal



In memory of the Liberators of my home village

LEST WE FORGET!



Martin Reelick. Day 2, May 5 2021.

For the first day: see report Danny Murphy page 17.

2nd Leg of the Victory March (Boomer's Legacy) was a walk together with Yvonne and Berry Swarthoff, Theo Lenderink and Louise de Bree and the dog named MYLO.

Starting Point Hotel Wageningse Berg down General Foulkesweg to Hotel the Wereld.

This is the Route that normally is done on the 5th of May with the veterans to celebrate the signing of the capitulation form with the unconditional surrender of the German forces in the Netherlands.



Slogan: "Together we make the difference".



A select group of Branch 005. From the left: Berry Swarthoff, Theo Lenderink, Yvonne Swarthoff, Martin Reelick, Louise de Bree. Looking in another direction: Mylo.



Street signs with familiar names





Many guests and interested parties were present for the ceremony at hotel "De Wereld", including foreign representatives.





Dan Murphy - Victory March Number 1.

01 May 2021 - 5 K's

Approaching the Via Gladiola or Sint Annastraat in Nijmegen. On the left-hand side, you see the last assembly staging area for the military contingents.

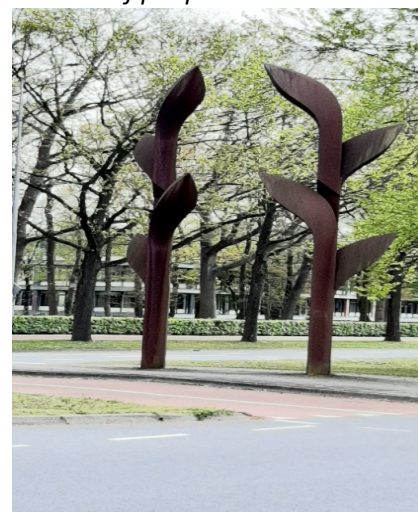
Sadly enough, the field is empty, let us hope for better days to come.



Walking on a little further we see a familiar sign on the right side of the road. You are now entering Nijmegen, the oldest city in the Netherlands. You are not the first here, the Roman Legions were here, also Vikings, Charlemagne, Spanish army's, Napoleon Bonaparte, Germans, Americans, British and Canadians. The walk to the reviewing stand is about 5 k's from here.

During the 4 Day Marches the street will be filled with thousands of people who are cheering the marchers on to the finish.

A couple of objects to look for as you walk the Via Gladiola are the giant metal Gladiolas further along the route.



During the 4 Day Marches you will be overwhelmed by the crowds of people, the music, and the clapping of hands.



Other objects that you should see are the special traffic lights further along way, only the Via Gladiola has these lights.

You will now have walked a good halfway to the official 4 Day March finish line. Keep on going there are still a few things to notice as you walk.

If you look upwards at the street lights you will also see that there are now special street lights in Gladiola fashion.



Keep on walking and enjoy all that you see, the finish is in sight.

You will now enter the Keizer Karel traffic circle and the 5 K journey will be over.

For those of you who walk the 4 Day Marches this will be the final meters of possibly pain, pride, pleasure, blisters, and beer.

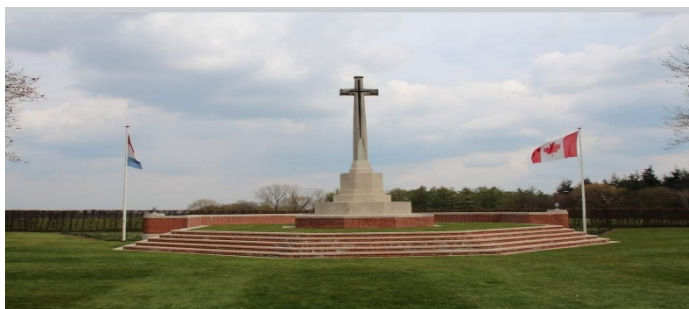
You will have completed the "The Walk of the World"



Dan Murphy - Victory March Number 2.

04 May 2021 - 5 K's

My second 5 K march began with a ceremony at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek with Comrades of Branch 005 of the Royal Canadian Legion. The ceremony is dedicated to the Dutch Day of Remembrance for all that have fallen in various conflicts.



Comrades from RCL Branch 005 have laid a wreath



*At the Grave of Pvt.
A. Groulx RHII we
pay our respects.*

**Those present
were:
Martin Reelick,
Gerrit Bruggink,
Toon van Bussel,
Richard Hendricks
and Dan Murphy.**



*Participating in the 5 K march in the Groesbeek area were
Martin Reelick, Gerrit Bruggink and Dan Murphy
So here we go for a hike in the "Dutch Mountains".*



A memento of the start of Operation Veritable

On the way to the seven hills, it has started to rain and the wind is blowing hard.

After rain and wind, we finally made it back to the Cemetery and completed the 5 k's.





Lee Holman & Tatjana Holman.

After Action Report 9 May 2021.

Boomer's Legacy, Family Walk of 2X2Km.

On the 4th of May, Tatjana and I walked from our local cenotaph via Veteran's Way to our midpoint at The Stettler Information and Referral Centre, then back to our Back yard at our Flag stand.



On the 5th of May, we again walked the same route from the Cenotaph to the Stettler Information and Referral Centre and back to our back yard flag display.

Well done! -hs-



Connie Lempke & Ruud Janssen.

VICTORY MARCH 4 AND 6 MAY 2021.

Last week, RCL005-comrade Connie Lempke and I (Ruud Janssen) participated in the Victory March for fundraising for Boomer's Legacy in Canada. We have made two walks. The first in the Woensdrecht area, together with RCL Branch 005-comrades **André and Monique Bogerman and Don Paauwe.**

We have seen interesting memorial points. In Woensdrecht, of course, much of the Battle of the Scheldt.



From the left: Don Paauwe, Connie Lempke, André Bogerman, Ruud Janssen



Looks like a "real reconnaissance" patrol



Another hard-won place: Brabantse Wal.

Cycling trail Battle of Woensdrecht Col. Whitakersquare



On October 13th, 1944, William Denis Whitaker, Lieutenant Colonel of the infantry-battalion with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, was ordered to organize an assault on Woensdrecht to liberate the village from the Germans within 48 hours. After heavy fighting, mostly man-to-man combat, Allied battalions drove the occupier from the hills and streets of Woensdrecht. The village of Woensdrecht was liberated on October 21st, with its countryside following a few days later.

William Denis Whitaker (1915-2001)

After the start of World War II, this Toronto-born officer, who attended the Royal Military College of Canada, was called to duty with the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. In the impressive 'Battle of Dieppe' (France) of August 1942, a kind of prelude to D-Day two years later, he managed to stand out as a captain and was awarded a Distinguished Service Order (DSO). In February 1954, for his bravery in the Battle of the Rhineland he was awarded a second DSO, which later allowed him to assume the rank of Brigadier-General in the Canadian army. He resigned from the army in 1951 to excel in other fields, including as a businessman and author (along with his wife Shelagh). He died at the age of 86 in Oakville, Ontario (Canada).

To honor, thank and remember him, the decision was taken in 2015 to let this square in Woensdrecht be known as the Col. Whitakersquare. The name is reflecting his rank during the battle of Woensdrecht, Lieutenant-colonel, which is abbreviated internationally as Col.



"W.D. Whitaker during World War II"

Strategic position of Woensdrecht

As a part of the wider Scheldt conflict, the Battle of Woensdrecht proved to be the key to liberating the North-West of Europe.

By the end of September, 1944, the Canadians had their work cut out for them: liberate the harbors along the English Channel, clear out the enemy along 80 kilometers of the Scheldt River, establish Antwerp (Belgium) as the port of landing, and ensure German enemies cannot withdraw from Zeeland to Noord-Brabant through the Kreekrak Dam. In turn, the Germans, who held quarters at the Mattemburgh Villa, were instructed to defend the entry into Zeeland at Woensdrecht down to the last man. This meant very heavy resistance.

The liberation of Woensdrecht on October 21st, 1944 allowed other regiments to sweep the natural landscapes of Lindork and Cuypers' Bossen. North of De Zoom in Bergen op Zoom, the Germans managed to hold their position for several more days. The Canadians then marched towards Zeeland. The journey towards Beveland across the Kreekrak Dam and across the Sloot to Walcheren was just a matter of days. After a few weeks of mine clearing, the Scheldt was released for use on November 28th, 1944, and the port of Antwerp was opened to Allied ships.

Woensdrecht, October 1944

When the first Canadian attack failed with heavy casualties, between Saturday, October 7th, 1944 and 'Black Friday', October 13th, 1944, the Germans entrenched themselves in the hills north of Dorpsstraat in Woensdrecht. Lieutenant Colonel Whitaker was then ordered to organize a frontal assault on the town of Woensdrecht within 48 hours.

Whitaker planned his attack in two days of careful consultation, on October 14th and 15th. The deserted city council building served as his headquarters. In these two days, the citizens of Woensdrecht wisely fled, following the urgent requests of the Red Cross, Pastor Stalbert and several Germans, who knew all about the kind of artillery fire that would herald Whitaker's attack.

In the early morning of Monday, October 16th, 1944, Whitaker ordered his troops north, moving from the streets of Oudestraat and Markje. At 6:15 in the morning, he occupied the Van Beek family farm at Dorpsstraat in Woensdrecht, which he turned into his next command post. The fighting was intense, with heavy casualties. Yet, the battle was won, and Woensdrecht was liberated on October 21st.



"Brigadier-General W.D. Whitaker"

Provinciaal Landschap Brabantse Wal
De Brabantse Wal heeft een mooi landschap, waar mensen wonen, werken en recreëren. Het gebied onderscheidt zich van andere landschappen door zijn typische geometrische (de wal zelf), de verbroten ondergrond van andere landschappen. Het gebied is ook een belangrijk onderdeel van de provincie Noord-Brabant.

Het routeboekje behoort bij deze thema
seizoen is verkrijgbaar bij de vestigingen
van VVV Brabantse Wal.

Kijk ook op www.vvvbrabantsewal.nl
Brabantse Wal
aan 't Veld 1000



Connie Lempke & Ruud Janssen, May 6, 2021.

The second walk of the Victory March 2021.

Connie Lempke and I walked together with **comrade Reinier Groeneveld and his daughter Suzanne.**

Reinier is a general practitioner in Wilnis, as was his father. Suus, as she wants to be called herself, is very interested in the Second World War and always helps RCL005 with the Poppy Campaign in Wilnis. Why in Wilnis? During the Second World War, many fighter planes were shot down in the municipality of the Ronde Venen and the majority of them are still buried in the polder. Information boards have been set up at six crash sites. **RCL005 comrade Jan van Loo**, secretary, was also able to contribute to this. More information can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3h9lljf>.

We visited two places in our walk.

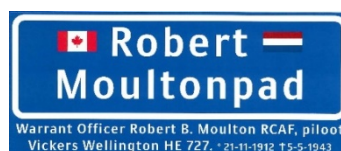


We started in front of the church at the memorial, which was erected for the Vickers Wellington HE727 NA-K, which crashed just outside the village.

The pilot of this plane, Robert Moulton, has been able to keep the plane in the air and saved many lives in the village. He is buried together with his plane comrades Joseph White and Adrien Thibaudeau at the CWGC cemetery, which is right next to the monument.

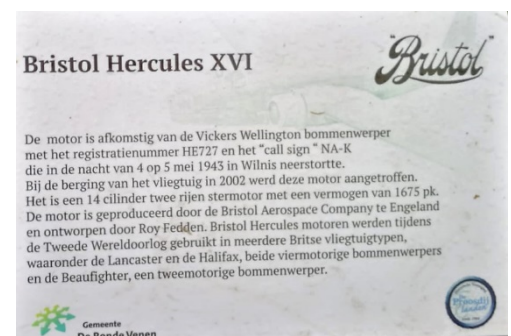
They are commemorated every year by the people of Wilnis on May 4.

We walked a few blocks down the 'Robert Moulton' path, named after him and unveiled by **the previous Ambassador of Canada to the Netherlands: ms Sabine Nölke.**



Leaving that part of Wilnis behind us, we arrive at the information post of the Vickers Wellington.

Part of one of the engines of the crashed plane lies next to it for some time now.

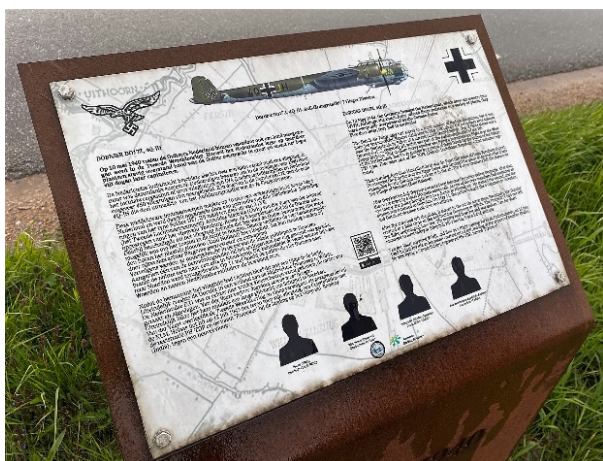




That is an impressive sight. The wind is picking up and the rain is pouring down from the sky... ..but we continued.

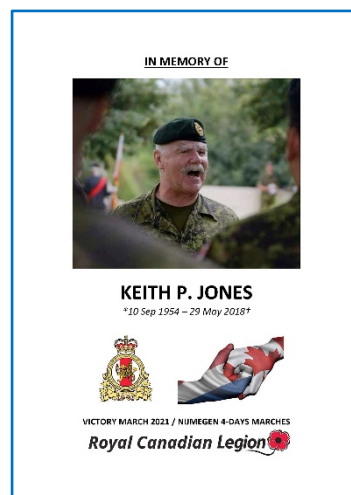


Next point of interest: an information board of a Dornier Do.17Z Code: 4Q-JH, a German plane.



Then it also starts to snow... and we decide to walk back. Together we had a nice walk and were able to discuss a few things about what happened here. Reinier and Suus continued to run 5k to reach their Victory March goal. We were happy to have been part of the Victory march 2021.

Connie and I would like to dedicate these walking tours to Keith Jones, the CWO of the Contingent Canadian soldiers of the Nijmegen Four Days Marches. Keith has completed that tour many times with heart and soul. Unfortunately he passed away at the age of 63, shortly after his retirement. May he rest in peace.





**Reinier Groeneveld and daughter Suzanne.
Leg 2.**

On Friday May the 7th, my daughter Suzanne and I walked our second walk for Boomer's Legacy. We decided to walk the Perimeter Walk in Oosterbeek.

This walk is divided into two sections: the northern and the southern walk. Both are about 4km long. By adding the walk to the Airborne Cemetery our total came to the planned 10km.



Hartenstein



The Perimeter Walk takes you past the surroundings the British Airborne troops had to defend in September 1944, during Operation Market Garden. Both parts of the walk start at the Hartenstein Airborne Museum.

Along the route there are several information panels that give information about the fights that took place in the direct vicinity of the panel.



The northern route takes you through the residential areas between Hartenstein and the train station.

The Southern route takes you through the beautiful parc Hemelseberg and the meadows bordering the river.

*Another highlight of this route is the local church.
The oldest parts were built in the 10th century.
A fierce battle was also waged here.*





The monument near the church keeps the memory of this alive.

Several Canadians are buried in the Airborne Cemetery. Some of them were killed as a member of an aircrew.

Others were killed during the fighting on de ground.

They served as so-called CANLOAN-Officers.

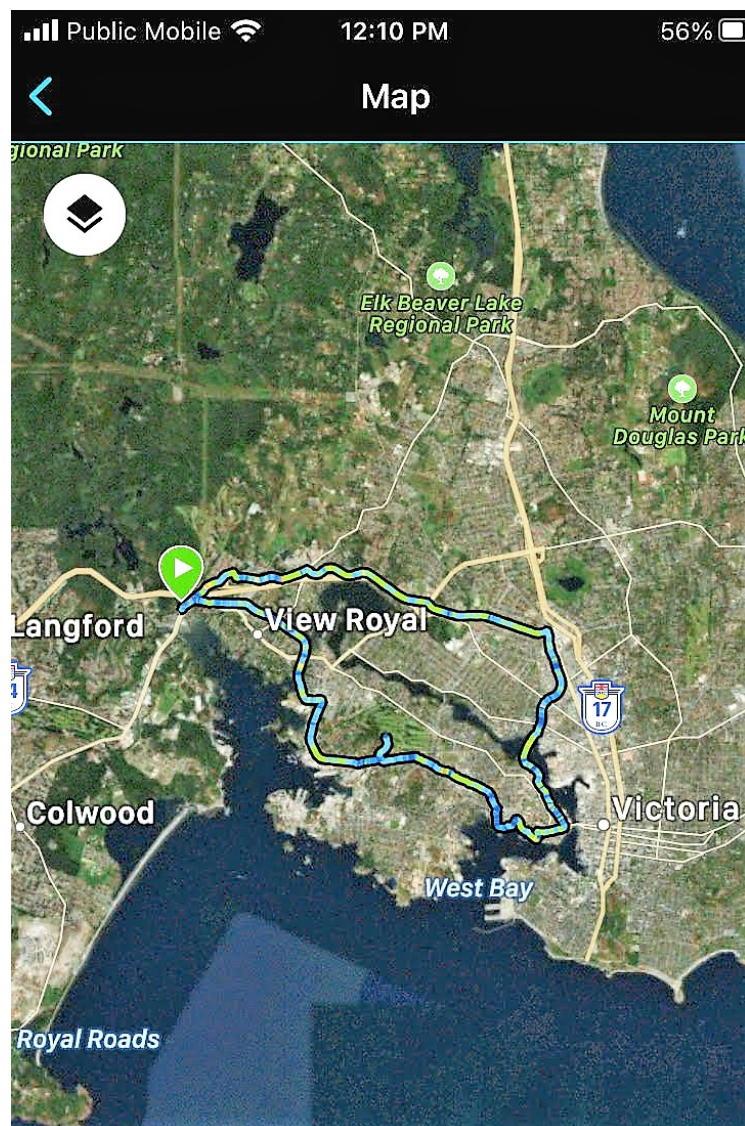
This program helped the British Army with its shortage of junior officers by "lending" Canadian officers being to it.

In total 673 Canadian officers volunteered for this program. Of these, 128 were killed during the war.





Submitted by: Armand and Elicia Reelick.
Completed 2x 20 km. Bravo! -hs-



They visited the Veterans Cemetery, God's Acre.





Team members in alphabetic order:

*André Bogerman – Peter Bongers – Gerrit Bruggink
Steven Clarck – Donna Clarck – Mel Cyba-Ambrose
Jessica Eby*

Martin Gillis – Larry Goucher

Reinier Groeneveld – Suzanne Groeneveld

Lee Holman – Tatjana Holman – Alice Huibregts

Tom Irvine

Ruud Janssen

Dan Langer – Connie Lempke

Danny Murphy

Christopher Nolan

Don Paauwe – Serge Peters

Wim Poppenk – Anneke Poppenk – Richard Powell

Martin Reelick – Armand Reelick – Elicia Reelick - Petra Rona

Yvonne Swarthoff – Berry Swarthoff

Raymond Tanguay – Sandra Tanguay - Carole Thompson - CM Thompson

Philip Van Leeuwen

Evan Webb - Paul Williams – Philip Winkelaar



and

in the rearguard:

Herman Sligman (alias EdiTor)





The President (and Team Captain) has the final say. (-hs-)

Dear Team Members,

*Thank you for participating in the first Victory March of the JTF Nijmegen.
Hope you all achieved your plan and had a good time doing it, I sure did.
Some of you have already shared their story and pictures on their Facebook account.
Many were also picked up automatically by the JTF Nijmegen FB page [#VictoryMarch2021](#).*

You just finished the special edition of the Newsletter of RCL Branch 005 dedicated to this event.

The current status at the time of writing:

Our team has raised \$ 1,974.41

Boomer's Legacy raised \$ 86,455.41

*Thanks again and stay healthy,
Your Team Captain*



Martin Reelick