



**Royal Canadian Legion
Liberation of the Netherlands
Branch 005**



JUNE 2022, Edition 2022-06

In this edition: Canada Day - more than just a day off
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Column comrade Richard Hendriks
Miscellaneous (interesting mixture)
Dutch monument for missing airmen
Afterburner
Upcoming

NO BACKGROUND STORY IN THIS EDITION

LEST WE FORGET.

The original Canadian caption read:

'While snipers' bullets still whined in the air and flames and gunfire still wrought havoc along the Normandy beach the boys of Canada's Third Division continue to wade ashore on 'D' Day at the little Norman town of Bernières-sur-Mèr.

During these critical hours the LCI(L)s of the Royal Canadian Navy transported thousands of troops to the Beachhead and played an important role in establishing the first great breach in Hitler's Fortress Europe.'



Click on the photo and experience it from an LCV.



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Canada Day – more than just a day off.

Canada Day is Canada's national holiday and takes place on July 1 every year. The holiday was originally called Dominion Day but was given its current name in 1982. In that year the Canada Act was signed, hence the new name "Canada Day". Canada Day regularly hosts parades and other festivities. Often there are also firework shows in the evening.

History of Canada Day.

On June 21, 1868, a document was signed by Governor-General, Lord Monck, calling on all by Her Majesty Queen Victoria to celebrate the Confederation of Canada on July 1, 1868.

This day of rest, July 1, was established in 1879 under the English name Dominion Day.



C.S. Monck

In the past, the 1st of July was often the day of special celebrations. On the 50th anniversary in 1917, the new Center Block of the Parliament Building in Ottawa, still under construction, was dedicated as a memorial to the [Fathers of Confederation](#) and the exploits of Canadians who fought in World War I.

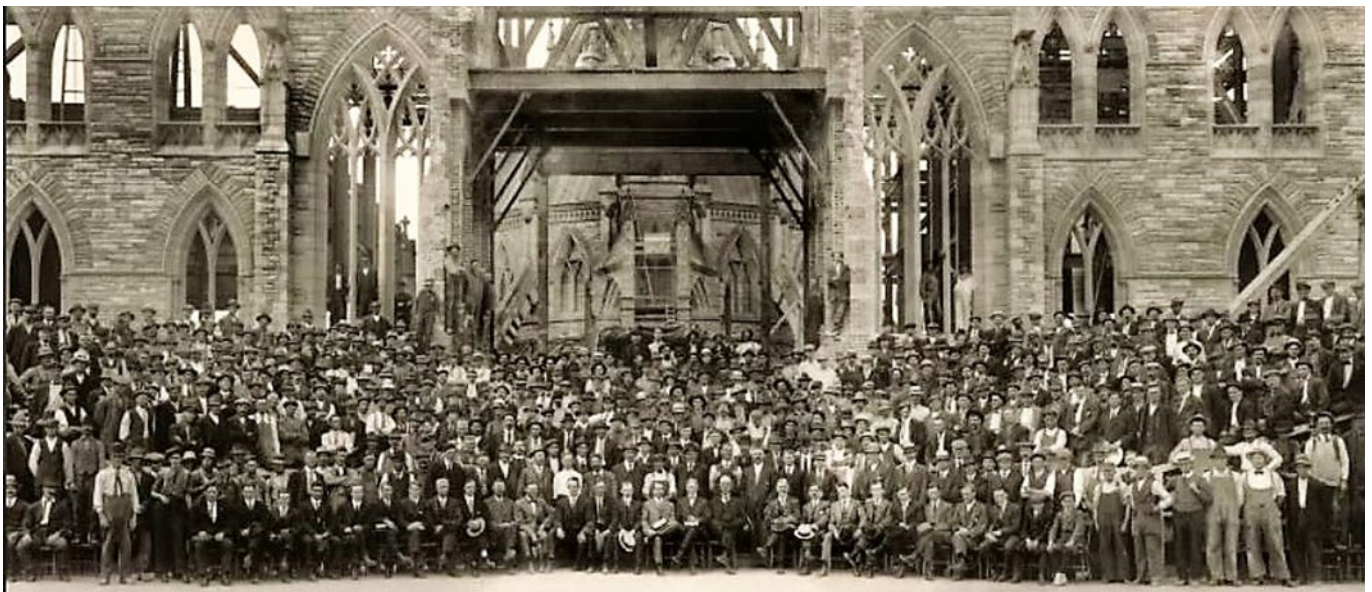


Photo of the 528 people who helped rebuild. Taken on or about Dominion Day, July 1, 1917.
Hilltimes.com



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A huge fire completely destroyed the old Parliament building on the night of 3 to 4 February 1916. Only the library could be saved, thanks to the efforts of the fire brigade.

In June 1916, the construction site had already been cleared to the point where rebuilding could begin, as shown in the photo on the right.



During the reconstruction of the Parliament building, the Peace Tower was also realized. A freestanding tower that is a part of the entrance to the Center Block. The tower features a 53-bell carillon and a Memorial Chambre.

The Peace Tower's construction honours Canadians who died during World War I and the name was originally associated with the 1918 armistice. The Peace Tower will never cease to be a landmark in modern times.



Crowds celebrate Dominion Day in 1927, the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation, on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. (Library and Archives Canada)

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Canada in 1927, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Confederation, took on added significance.

After all, in 1917, during the Great War, celebrations were minimal.

The federal government had pledged \$250,000 - equivalent to approximately \$3.5 million today - to host Canada's first truly national birthday celebration.



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The bells rang for the very first time on Parliament Hill when the Viscount Willingdon, the Governor General, unveiled the new Peace Tower carillon.

The sound was heard across the country as part of the country's first national radio broadcast.

In 1958, the government decided that a celebration should be held every year on Canada's National Day.



In 1967, during Canada's 100th anniversary, Queen Elizabeth II attended the festivities.

This was a reason for a grand ceremony, in which a.o. the Centennial Flame was lit in front of the House of Representatives in Ottawa.

The idea of the ceremonies changed in 1968 with the addition of multicultural and professional concerts held on Parliament Hill. These included a national television show.

Until 1975, the Festival Canada festivities were held in the National Capital Region during the month of July and featured various cultural, artistic and sporting events.



Beginning in 1985, committees were established in each province and district of Canada to plan, organize, and coordinate local Canada Day ceremonies. Money for this comes from the government.

But the 1st of July is not just a day of festivities.

In addition to festivities, there is also an opportunity to remember and to commemorate in Canada on the same day. (This is also the main objective of the Royal Canadian Legion, Liberation of the Netherlands, Branch 005.)

In the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, Memorial Day is celebrated on July 1, each year along with Canada Day.

Memorial Day commemorates the efforts of the veterans of these counties, especially those who took part in World War I.



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Newfoundland soldiers during the First World War. Courtesy of The Rooms Provincial Archives Division (B 5-147), St. John's, NL.

Background.

The July 1, Memorial Day commemorates the veterans of Newfoundland and Labrador, in particular the members of the Newfoundland Regiment who fought and died at Beaumont-Hamel during the first day of the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916.

According to Veteran Affairs Canada, Newfoundland was a domain of the British Empire and not yet part of Canada during World War I (1914-1918). When Britain declared war on Germany in August 1914, Newfoundland was automatically at war.

The 1st Newfoundland Regiment was assembled and trained, and the first recruits were sent overseas in October 1914 to become a unit of the British Army. They would become known as the "Blue Puttees" because of the colour of the uniform leggings they wore. After action in the Gallipoli Campaign in Turkey in late 1915, the Newfoundlanders were sent to the western front in France in 1916.

The Allied plan was to make the "Big Push" at the Somme in a joint French/British attack. It would be on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, near the village of Beaumont-Hamel in northern France, that the 1st Newfoundland Regiment would come into action. The result was devastating: more than 57,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers were killed, wounded or missing. The sector of the front at Beaumont-Hamel where the 1st Newfoundland Regiment came into action was to be taken by surprise, but the Germans knew the attack was imminent.

The 1st Newfoundland Regiment also suffered heavy losses at Beaumont-Hamel that day. Only 68 of the regiment's 801 members were on roll call the following day. This event was a devastating day for the men who had fought valiantly for what is today known as Newfoundland and Labrador.

Herman Sligman

Sources: Veteran Affairs, Hilltimes.com; Wikipedia



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Rucphen, June 22, 2022. Crash Halifax W1271.

Thanks to Monique and André Bogerman.

Since last year there has been a temporary monument on the Pierestraat in Rucphen, close to the spot where the bomber crashed at the time. The working group WW2 Crashes and the Dutch Polar Bears organized a commemoration together.



Among the visitors are representatives of the municipality; the Royal Canadian Legion, Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005;

The Royal British Legion Holland Branch & Poppy Appeal; Dutch Veterans Institute; Royal Airforce; Rucphen's Active Seniors (RAS).



Various persons, including Mrs. Marjolein van der Meer Mohr, the mayor of Rucphen, spoke.

Numerous wreaths were laid.



The crew of the W1271 had several nationalities.

In the overview on the next page, you can see the names and nationalities.

That is why the flags of Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and the Netherlands were taken care of by members of the scouting.

The organization hopes to unveil a definitive monument next year, exactly 80 years after the crash.





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Day or Night of operation	Operation	Target	Nickname Aircraft							
21/22 Jun 43	Bombing	Krefeld								
Factory	Aircraft	Mk	Serial/Wnr.	Code	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	
0143	Shot down by Lt. W. Johnen of 5./NJG 5, detached to 2./NJG 1			Crashed De Posthoorn at Rucphen					Noord-Brabant	
Function	Mil Rank	Ini	Name	Age	Mil reg	Air Force	Fate	Cemetery	Grave	Remarks
Pilot	Sgt.	C.R.	Pearce	22	NZ414671	RNZAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	27 A 3	From 428 Sqdn
Flight Engineer	Sgt.	J.J.F.	Holland		R/53029	RCAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom RCAF	11 F 4	From 428 Sqdn
Navigator	F/Sgt.	W.T.	Ellis	27	NZ413703	RNZAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	25 C 8	From 428 Sqdn
Bomb Aimer	Sgt.	G.J.D.	Thompson	22	1385555	RAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	23 B 1	From 428 Sqdn
Wireless Operator/ Air Gunner	Sgt.	W.A.	Randall	23	1202224	RAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	18 B 2	From 428 Sqdn
Mid Upper Gunner	Sgt.	J.	Galloway	21	651974	RAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	25 C 7	From 428 Sqdn
Rear Gunner	F/Sgt.	E.L.	Robson	27	NZ412903	RNZAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	25 A 1	From 428 Sqdn



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Column by comrade Richard Hendriks.

Featured: one out of many.

Edmond David Girardot. KIA.

October 20, 1921 - April 18, 1942

Girardot enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force on July 20, 1940.

In August 1941 he left for England.

He followed a training program there until the end of November 1941.



Lockheed Hudson

CONFIDENTIAL Form 1499D

REPORT ON THE FLYING AND GROUND TRAINING OF PILOTS

SURNAME: GIRARDOT CHRISTIAN NAMES: EDMOND DAVID
NUMBER: R. 74127 RANK: Sergeant

AT No. 1 OPERATIONAL TRAINING UNIT
ARRIVED ON: 23.8.41 LEFT: 22.11.41 COURSE No. 12

FLYING TIMES

Type of Aircraft	Day		Night		Crew Training	Dual	2nd Pilot	1st Pilot	Crew Training	Instrument Flying	Formation Flying	Link Trainer
	Dual	1st Pilot	Dual	1st Pilot								
HUDSON	51.00	1.00	89.00	59.00	3.00	-	7.00	-	20.00	10.00	21.00	
Previous Flying	23.15	70.05	53.30	80.10	2.25	9.05	10.25	19.30	1.45	10.45	9.45	
At O.T.U.	76.15	71.05	142.30	135.10	5.25	9.05	17.25	19.30	21.45	10.45	30.45	

GROUND EXAMINATION MARKS

	%	%	%	%
Maneuvering	...	...	...	...
Maintenance	...	...	...	...
Armament	...	...	...	...
Signals (Pract.)	...	...	...	...
Navigation	...	...	...	...
Aircraft Recognition	...	...	...	...
Position on Course	13 of 20	...	...	...

FLYING APTITUDE (on conclusion of Course)

	Exceptional	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor
1. Natural Aptitude
2. Skill in Landing
3. Airmanship
4. Aerobatics
5. Cockpit Drill
Instrument Flying
Formation Flying
Night Flying
Map Reading
Target Bombing

Girardot was assigned to [No. 407 Squadron \(RCAF\)](#), part of Coastal Command.

In June 1941 the Squadron had been given the Lockheed Hudson.

Until October 1942, No. 407 Squadron deployed in attacks on enemy ships off the Dutch coast.

Early in the morning, 04:00 am, on April 19, 1942, he took off from Bircham Newton with the Hudson AM878 for a mission along the Dutch coast.

No radio contact was maintained on this flight. AM878, unlike another aircraft of the squadron, did not return.

Whether the crash was caused by a clash with enemy fighter pilots is uncertain.

Fire from German ships is also conceivable as the cause.

The crash was also reported by the German 11th Vorpostenflottile.

(A 'Vorpostenflottille' had the main task of escorting German coastal convoys along the Dutch North Sea coast. A number of these ships were moderately to heavily armed with anti-aircraft guns (Flak). This Flak was used to harass allied aircraft-red.)

The entire crew of the Hudson was killed.



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Group Photo – Edmund David Girardot (2nd from right) with flight crew. 1941.

The body of Girardot washed ashore on the coast of Ameland, as the date was mentioned July 12, 1942.

After originally being buried on Ameland, in the cemetery of Nes, his remains were later transferred to the cemetery Jonkerbos near Nijmegen.

His grave can be found under number: 7 J 8. The bodies of two other crew members also washed ashore on the Dutch coast, the other two "remained at sea".



Below: the documentation of the Study Group Air War 1940-1945.

Richard Hendriks

Day or Night of operation		Operation		Target		Nickname Aircraft						
18/19 Apr 42		Coastal Patrol		Coast of Holland								
Factory		Aircraft		Mk		Serial/Wnr.		Code	Unit	Air Force	TO/t	Airfield
Lockheed		Hudson		V		AM878		RR-B	407 Sqdn	RAF	0410	Bircham Newton
Time	Cause of the Crash				Crash Location						Damage	Province
0600	Shot down by V 1108 of 11. Vorpostenflottille				Crashed into North Sea 7 km n of Ameland							North Sea
Function		Mil Rank	Ini	Name	Age	Mil reg	Air Force	Fate	Cemetery	Grave	Remarks	
Pilot		P/O.	E.D.	Girardot		J/15310	RCAF	KIA	Jonkerbos	7 J 8	Washed up Ameland	
Observer		Sgt.	D.S.	Kennedy		R/74331	RCAF	MIA	Runnymede Memorial	104		
Wireless Operator		F/O.	R.A.C.	Draper	20	C/7493	RCAF	KIA	Hallum	32 1A	Washed up Ferwert 12 Jul 42	
Wireless Operator/ Air Gunner		F/Sgt.	B.W.	Weaver	21	R/67233	RCAF	KIA	Franeker	K 1 1	Washed up Barradeel 11 Jul 42	
Wireless Operator/ Air Gunner		Sgt.	E.G.	Alexander		R/77418	RCAF	MIA	Runnymede Memorial	102		
Wartime Records						Background Info						
Operations Record Book						KTB 11. Vorpostenflottille						



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On June 1, 2022, 'Stolpersteine' were laid in two places in Lochem.

In our opinion, the name 'Stolpersteine' is well known in the Netherlands and in almost every other European country.

Since 1992, the German artist Gunter Demnig has been making the brass stones for which he obtained a patent. 'Stolpersteine' is now a brand name.

With the 'stumbling stones', as the Dutch term goes, the victims of National Socialism before and during the Second World War are commemorated.

The stones are placed in front of the last (freely chosen) home of the victims.

Each brass stone bears the name of one victim. Below this is the year of birth, place and date of arrest by or on behalf of the regime (if applicable). And finally, the place and date where the victim died. About 90,000 Stolpersteine have now been installed in 26 European countries.



Since its foundation in 2019 up to and including 2021, the Stolpersteine Lochem Foundation has had a total of 24 stones placed at 6 addresses in the Municipality of Lochem. On June 1, 2022, 8 stones were laid at two addresses in Lochem.

Four stones at Stationsstraat 32, for members of the Meijer family.

Also, four stones at Walderstraat 17. Precisely the building next to the [Liberation Museum](#) of our comrades Berry and Yvonne Swarthoff.

The Hartog family had a butcher shop here at the time.



Comrade Yvonne Swarthoff placed the stones for:

Alexander Joseph Hartog, (55 years)
Betsy Hartog-Vromen, (53 years)
Joseph Hartog and Adolf Hartog, resp.
20 and 18 years.

On July 9, 1943, immediately upon arrival in Sobibor camp, their lives ended in the gas chambers.



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June 9, 2022. Holten. Canadian War Cemetery.

A special experience, a personal column by Herman Sligman.

Organized by:

[NANAI, Netherlands Association for North American Indians.](#)



The organization welcomed about twenty interested people to a sun-drenched Canadian War Cemetery.

Attention was paid to the fallen First Nations, who were laid to rest here.

Special guests: Adrian Harjo and his son Ascension Harjo, over from Canada.



The comrades Berry Swarthoff and Edwin van der Wolf highlighted the backgrounds of a number of First Nations.

The graves were provided with a photo, which made the explanation very personal.

The Canadian guests laid a wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice. True to their outlook on life and beliefs, they also performed a ceremony in which two verses were performed.

The first verse was for all the First Nations who are no longer with us.

The second was a victory song composed by a First Nation after returning from Europe, with the subject of battle and victory.



At Welby Lloyd Patterson's grave, a "Tobacco ceremony" was held.

We have no photos of this special ritual, nor from the other ceremony.

Photographing during their rituals was not desired and we respected that.



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Welby Lloyd Patterson, of the Tuscarora tribe, was chosen for their ceremony because, like them, he was from the Six Nations Reservation.

Delving into the background of Welby Lloyd Patterson, we found in his military records:

Entered service on January 29, 1943 - Overseas to England in September 1943,
July 21, 1944 Landing in France - September 28, 1944 Awarded the Military Medal.
On April 14, 1945, killed in action in Germany, temporarily buried in Friesoythe.

Records show that he had a reasonably paid job at Bethlehem Steel.

His reason for enlisting? It was not: unemployment; he himself had indicated: 'adventure'.

Interesting to read: a note about his person:

IV. Occupational Background

1 year - farming Father's farm.
1 " Steel worker - instructional.

V. Military Background

Nil.

VI. Other Personal History and Appraisal

A quite tall, well-built, (5' 11½"; 168 lbs.), Indian recruit of poor complexion. He is of neat appearance, has a smiling, good-natured manner, coupled with a good attitude toward the Service. Recruit has a good educational background, received at the Mohawk Reserve, Government School. He, and his brother own a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Recruit has been riding for a couple of years. He seems to enjoy that type of activity, and has asked for that work in the Service. He appears to have the eagerness and alertness to make a good motorcyclist. Recruit is of average learning ability. He appears normally stable, and says his habits are moderate. He should make a fairly efficient soldier.

WE WILL REMEMBER HIM.



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Continuing on the previous:

(From The Royal Canadian Legion - National Headquarters Facebook account)

June 21, summer solstice, is Canada's [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#).

It is a special opportunity to learn about the rich and diverse cultures and histories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Legion Grand President Vice-Admiral (Rtd) Larry Murray and National Executive Director Steven Clark laid wreaths at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa.

The monument commemorates the contributions of all Aboriginal people to war and peacekeeping operations from the First World War to the present day.

During a ceremony at the National Military Cemetery in Beechwood, the first two symbols representing indigenous spirituality were unveiled for military headstones.



The two symbols are the First Nations Medicine Wheel and the Métis Infinity symbol.

The Medicine Wheel is spiritually significant for many Indigenous People and is an honourable way of representing First Nations.



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The Infinity symbol represents the joining of two very different cultures, European and First Nations, merging together to create the distinctive Métis culture.

The Métis Infinity symbol also symbolizes the faith that the Métis culture will live on forever.

It is now possible for Indigenous CAF members, veterans, and their next of kin, to request that these symbols and their Indigenous name be engraved on their headstone at the National Military Cemetery.





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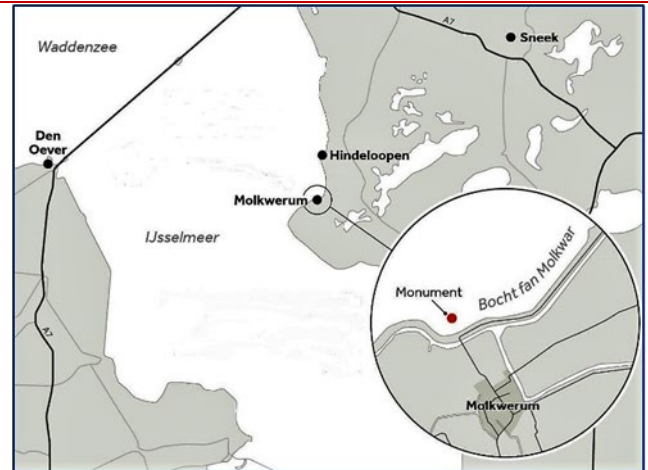


Molkwerum, June 26, 2022.

The Frisian village of Molkwerum took the initiative.

It was/is customary that killed airmen are buried in the country where they died.

But about 220 airmen, from the aircrafts that crashed into the IJsselmeer, are still officially "missing". Among them at least 10 members of the Royal Canadian Airforce.



For the approximately 20,500 men and women from the United Kingdom who are registered as 'Missing in Action', Englefield Green is home to the Air Forces Memorial, also known as the [Runnymede Memorial](#).

But the IJsselmeer is home to several wrecks whose airmen have never been found.

Until now, there was no monument or memorial stone for these missing persons in the Netherlands so that the memory could be kept alive.

We purposely write: "WAS".

On Sunday, June 26, 2022, a national monument was unveiled near Molkwerum, a very special monument.

It is placed in the water and has the shape of the wing of a Stirling bomber.

The information panel reads:

„A broken wing is in a place where it really doesn't belong; just like the missing airmen who have remained in a place, where they really don't belong, far away from their loved ones“.





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Upcoming.

- Sunday,** **July 03, 2022,**
12.00 h LOCHEM, Mondani, Canada Day
- Monday,** **July 18, 2022,**
09.00 h GROESBEEK, annual commemoration prior to the 4-Days Marches
- Thursday,** **July 22, 2022,**
09.00 h GROESBEEK, ceremonies and promotional tent present
- Sunday,** **August 28, 2022,**
 MAASSLUIS, unveiling monument 21 Sq. RAF
- Wednesday,** **August 31, 2022,**
 LOCHEM, Board meeting - POSTPONED until September 7, 2022

To end with a smile:

