



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



**DECEMBER 2022, Edition 2022-12**

**In this edition:** FROM THE BOARD  
VICKERS WELLINGTON Mk IV Z1203 QT-O  
COMMITMENT and FINANCIAL SUPPORT  
CANDLE EVENING  
MISCELLANEOUS

**On behalf of the editors:  
wishing you a prosperous and healthy 2023.**

## **THE STORY**

### **EDGAR ARTHUR CHARMAN**

**November 4, 1912 - September 2, 1945**

**Canadian War Cemetery Holten  
V.F.4**

**A member of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserves  
found a last resting place in Holten**



**Read more?**

**Click start!**





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



**From the Board.**

Christmas and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are already history when you read this.

The year 2023 has begun and has been underway for several days.

Time flies.



The past year was a year with two faces; the Covid-19 virus still played a role in the first part, fortunately less in the second part of the year.

The result was that we received almost forty invitations to attend a commemoration with the Colour Party and/or a delegation of RCL Branch 005.

The past year was also a year in which beautiful moments alternated with less beautiful moments. Receiving an award, being complimented on a great performance by our Branch or being confronted with illness and death. It was all very close together.

Sunday January 22, 2023, we organize the New Year's reception in our clubhouse, Canadian Restaurant Mondani in Lochem.

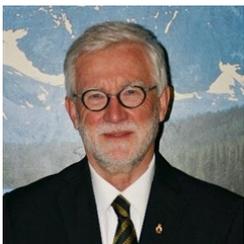
The invitations for this have already been sent to our members.

We are looking forward to this social event. As usual with a snack, a drink and a little small talk.

What the new year will bring us is uncertain. Certain is that we can expect a few challenging years in the run-up to the celebration of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of liberation.

Wishing you a prosperous 2023.

On behalf of the Board of  
RCL, Liberation of the Netherlands'  
Branch 005



**Wim Poppenk**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**



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



**VICKERS WELLINGTON Mk. IV, Z1203 QT-O**

Column by comrade Jan C.K. van Loo

On March 29, 1942, a Vickers Wellington Mk IV, Z1203 QT-O, crashed in Mijdrecht, landing in a pasture near the Tienboerenweg. The Vickers Wellington was part of 142 Squadron of the British Royal Air Force, and on the night in question, it had taken off with six crewmembers from Grimsby Airfield in Waltham, in the county of Lincolnshire, England.



Hangar B1 on the former airfield is still there

The destination was the German port city of Lübeck on the Baltic Sea. Lübeck wasn't an important strategic military target, and there wasn't much anti-aircraft fire.

The attack was part of the British Area Bombing Directive, otherwise known as moral bombing, which targeted the civilian population, with the intention of demoralising them. During the attack – by way of an experiment – a large number of firebombs were dropped, intent on destroying the city's many wooden houses.



The Mother

The 234 bombers of the Vickers Wellington and Stirling types dropped approximately 400 tons of bombs, including nearly 25,000 incendiary bombs. A huge firestorm resulted.

More than 300 people were killed in Lübeck, and more than 1000 others were wounded. The historic centre of the city was almost completely destroyed. The civilian casualties were buried in a mass grave. In 1960, a sculpture entitled 'DIE MUTTER' (the Mother) was placed near the burial site.

The RAF Bomber Command lost twelve planes in this attack.

After the bombing, the Vickers Wellington was struck by anti-aircraft fire along the coast near Kiel. Once the aircraft was above the Netherlands, it proved impossible to remain in the air.



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



The six crewmembers, the pilot, Pilot Officer John Hall, Flight Sergeants Lawrence Houghton, John Harritt and Arthur Tidder and Sergeants George Wadsworth and Ernest Pettitt, were able to bail out. They all survived the crash, although they were captured by the Germans and taken into captivity as prisoners of war.

**CREW VICKERS WELLINGTON Z1203 QT-O:**

-Pilot: Pilot Officer John H. Hall, reg. J4114, born 4 Jan. 1915, Prince Edward Island, Canada, RCAF, POW.

-Co-Pilot: Flight Sergeant Lawrence H. Houghton, reg. 964956, born 18 April 1920, Kingston-upon-Thames, England, RAF, POW.

-Navigator: Flight Sergeant John E. Harritt, reg. 957746, born 22 April 1912, Kamloops, Canada, RAF, POW.

-Wireless Operator: Flight Sergeant Arthur R. Tidder, reg. 745902, born 6 Dec. 1916, London, England, RAF, POW.

-Front Gunner: Sergeant George P. Wadsworth, reg.1280515, born 19 Aug. 1920, Staines, England, RAF, POW.

-Rear Gunner: Sergeant Ernest J. Pettitt, reg.1194046, born 19 Sept. 1921, Birmingham, England, RAF, POW.

The information concerning the crewmembers is far from complete.

It is already very special that everyone survived the crash.

How did these crewmembers get on?

Has everyone survived the war?

In a subsequent article I hope to be able to provide more information on that.

**With this article I call on readers for any information about the crew to share with me.**

Amsterdam, January 2023

Mr. Jan C.K. van Loo LL.M.



Memorial at the crash site



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



---

---

**Commitment and Financial Support.**

By Herman Sligman, on personal title.

A lot has changed for many people and companies in the past 2 years. Do we need to mention the reason? Just 'COVID-19', popular 'Corona' (IN DUTCH) says enough, I think.

This has also had a major impact on the way in which the Royal Canadian Legion, in the Netherlands specifically Branch 005 'Liberation of the Netherlands', had to adjust its objectives.

Commemorations were cancelled, postponed or minimized and educational projects could not be started or completed.

Showing commitment to the relatives of our deceased liberators was made difficult or even impossible.

The liberators who were still alive could not come to their 'fellows' for the commemoration and celebration of 75 years of liberation of Europe, specifically the Netherlands. Many of them have unfortunately died or are no longer able to undertake the tiring journey now that this is currently allowed again.

You would think that due to all the measures no or hardly any financial resources were needed and could be reserved. That is partly true. But also, for RCL Branch 005 the fixed costs remained intact.

Many companies have received support from the government, but a foundation such as RCL Branch 005 could not claim this and had to use its own limited resources.

In addition, many companies, organizations and individuals are careful with their finances and reserve for unexpected circumstances and are not able to donate.

The donations which RCL Branch 005 normally receives by gifts has reduced to a minimum.

An important source was the annual Charity Dinner organized by the Canadian Embassy. The generous contributions received there for charities partly went to RCL Branch 005. Due to the measurements of COVID, this 'dinner' could not take place. At the moment it is highly questionable whether it could ever be organized again.

RCL Branch 005 is therefore looking for new forms of fundraising to secure the necessary money to achieve its goals in the future.

It is inconceivable to me that we would no longer be able to remember the liberators who gave their lives for us and to hold on to the idea of living in freedom.

You can help us with your commitment and/or financial support!

For example, by:

Pay your member contributions for a number of years in advance. This gives us (financial) scope in the short term.



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



---

Draw our attention to companies that have benefited extra from the situation during the COVID period. Do you know such a company or the management personally?

A question as to whether he/she is willing to provide support is perfectly legitimate.

Do you also have ideas on how RCL Branch 005 can collect financial resources to continue doing its work? Please notify us.

Want to help us right away?

Your donation is welcome on account number NL25ABNA 0451117913 in the name of: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 stating "donation".

Thank you so much already.

RCL Branch 005 has an ANBI status for charities.  
Your donation is tax deductible in the Netherlands.  
Start 2023 off right and help us!

Let us, the volunteers of RCL Branch 005, together ensure that we will never forget  
THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR US AND THOSE WHO DIED FOR US!

**NOT NOW AND NOT EVER!**

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM!



Herman Sligman

PS:

Our treasurer's email address is: [treasurer@rcl005.org](mailto:treasurer@rcl005.org)

An email to the board? [bestuur@rcl005.org](mailto:bestuur@rcl005.org)



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



**Candle evening.**

The theme is known.

We know the various places where lights were placed.

Textual explanation is therefore not necessary.

Let the photos speak for themselves.

((The names beneath the photos are either of the photographer or of the person who sent photos))

De 2022 teller staat op:

locaties:

**392**

Aantal graven:

**21.999**

Aantal Monumenten:

**97**

Counter position on 23.12.2022



Dick Vermaas Fotografie  
**Bergen op Zoom**



**Holten - Wim Poppenk**



**Groesbeek - Candles evening Groesbeek**



**Markelo - Arjan Morsman**



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



Schoonebeek - Rob Wethly



Gendringen – OWN



Den Nul - Paul Harmens



Bronbeek - Funckstersshoots



Oosterbeek - Funckstersshoots



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



Jonkerbos - drones Nijmegen



Mierlo



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



Oude IJsselstreek - OVN



Burgum



Ten Boer – bemanning HR864 LQ-M



Grebbeberg – Henk van den Berg



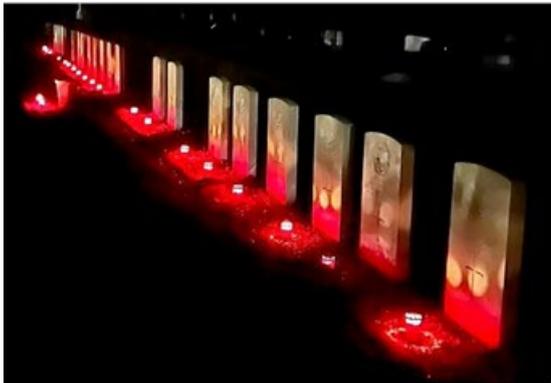
**Royal Canadian Legion  
Liberation of the Netherlands  
Branch 005**



**Veele - FPS/Jos Schuurman**



**Alteveer - FPS/Jos Schuurman**



**Barchem - Berry Swarthoff**



**Steenderen - Gerrit Bruggink**



**Varsseveld - Gerrit Bruggink**



**Vorden - Gerrit Bruggink**



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



**Zelhem - Gerrit Bruggink**



**Wichmond - Gerrit Bruggink**



**Hengelo. Gld. - Gerrit Bruggink**



**Halle - Gerrit Bruggink**



**Groesbeek - Gerrit Bruggink**



**Rha - Gerrit Bruggink**



**Ruurlo - Gerrit Bruggink**



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



Hengelo Gld - Gerrit Bruggink



Baak - Gerrit Bruggink



Olburgen - Gerrit Bruggink



Nederweert - Gerrit Bruggink





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



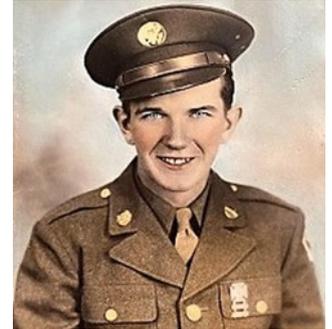
**Miscellaneous.**

Photo number 8500 found of American soldiers at Margraten War Cemetery

Marital Status:	Single	
Relation to Head of House:	Son	
Home in 1930:	Detroit, Wayne, Michigan, USA	
Map of Home:	Detroit, Wayne, Michigan	
Street Address:	Center Line Road	
Ward of City:	15	
Block:	226	
House Number:	6655	
Dwelling Number:	165	
Family Number:	25	
Attended School:	No	
Father's Birthplace:	New York	
Mother's Birthplace:	New York	
<b>Household Members (Name)</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Relationship</b>
Carlson E Webb	35	Head
Irene M Webb	32	Wife
Catherine M Webb	7	Daughter
<b>John C Webb</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Son</b>
Margaret J Webb	3	Daughter
James J Webb	2	Son

**John Colson Webb  
of Canadian descent**

Source: Limburg News and Ancestry.com



John Colson Webb, born June 14, 1925 in London, Canada.  
John was one of four children of Carlson and Irene Webb.

In 1943 he moved to the United States.  
Registered on June 14, 1943 in Detroit.

**Family of which John was a part**

He took American nationality and enlisted in the US armed forces.  
After completing training, he was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion of 501 Parachute Infantry Regiment. (Abbreviated: 501 PIR)



Men of the A-coy of 501 PIR, 1944 somewhere in England



This regiment was later part of 101 Airborne Division during Market-Garden.

The vast majority of 501 PIR landed in drop zone A near Eerde.  
It led to fierce fighting near Eerde and Schijndel.

On September 20, 1944, it was the end of the line for John C. Webb.



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



He was given a grave in a temporary American cemetery near Wolfswinkel-Son.

A monument reminds of this today.



John Webb was laid to rest at the American Cemetery in Margraten,

John Colson Webb is the 8,500<sup>th</sup> soldier to be given "a face".

(According to the Field of Honor Foundation approximately 1,400 more to go-hs)



Photo: Christian Dijkhuizen

Sue Linton, an American volunteer, had made contact with the Webb family.

The project 'The Faces of Margraten' also shows that a photo and a story accompanying a tombstone make an essential contribution to honour and remember the fighters of the past who lost their lives.

*Reflection:*

*Strange that a fallen "comes to life" when you get to know something about his origin and background - hs*





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



**The Rifleman.**

Bulletin of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.

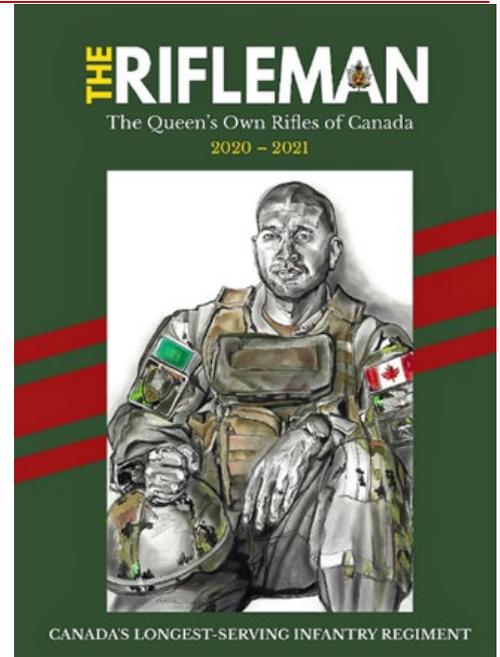
This year, 2022, a detachment of the QOR, on their tour through Western Europe, also visited our country.

We've covered that quite extensively. (See our 2022-10 edition)

In particular their presence in Steenderen at the ceremony for Lt. Kavanagh. For the regiment, a "matter of honour".

Once a year this regiment publishes a bulletin. Various matters are explained in more detail here.

Below is an overview of this year's content. You can activate the link for this by clicking on the image.



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<p>4 Honorary Colonel's Message 6 Commanding Officer's Message 8 "Road To Victory" Garrison Ball 10 Little-Known Facts About A Few RSMs 13 2020: A Year Like No Other 18 Sports Flashback: Olympic Gold Medalist George Lyon 19 Seven Lessons of Military Failures 23 Muskrat Metropolis: A Rifleman Reports From North Of 60° 26 QOR Regimental Museum 29 Honouring A Legacy of Service 30 History Of A Relationship 35 Jewish Volunteers During The Second World War 37 2881 Queen's Own Rifles RCACC 39 LCol James Medhurst's Many Exploits 45 Inaugural QOR Lifetime Achievement Awards 46 Pilot By Profession, Soldier By Heart 54 The Regiment's "Toughest Scrap" 82 QOR Association's Tour Of Camp X 83 QOR Association's Toronto Branch Report 84 D-Day Address – 6 June 2004 86 A Final Salute From The Honorary Colonel</p>	<p>88 Riflemen: Training Exercises &amp; Deployments 90 In Memoriam – Harry Groom: A Pillar In All Communities 92 In Memoriam – John Bennett: One Of The Good Ones 94 In Memoriam – Norm McCracken: A Fighter Till The End 96 Last Post 97 The 1860 Club</p>
---	--

Front cover illustration: "Sgt Stephen Thomas MB CD" by Gertrude Koozin, C.M. (2021). 44 x 30 inches, mixed media on paper. Ms. Koozin is a well-known and respected Canadian military artist. In 2006 she was emboldened in Kandahar, Afghanistan as an official war artist with IFA ROTD 6 for the Department of National Defence. On June 27, 2019 she was appointed as Member of the Order of Canada "for her contributions to preserving and understanding Canadian war history as a contemporary artist." Her works are in the collection of the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa and the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. among others.

Back cover photo: A QOR Regimental Band and Bugles drum and drummer on the beach at Bovenmeer-sur-Mer, Normandy during D-Day celebrations.

The Rifleman is published on behalf of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.  
Submissions are welcome and may be sent as Word documents to the Regimental Secretary at [qorregsec@gmail.com](mailto:qorregsec@gmail.com). The deadline for the 2021-2022 issue is February 1, 2022. The Rifleman welcomes photos of all Regimental activities, past and present, that would be of interest to our readers. Preference for photos is in high-resolution JPEG format, sent to [qorregsec@gmail.com](mailto:qorregsec@gmail.com). Where possible, please also send images as separate attachments. Please include captions and photo credits. We regret that we cannot guarantee that photos submitted will be used.





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



**Upcoming.**

**LITTLE NEWS AT THE MOMENT.**

**The best way to stay informed: [see our agenda.](#)**

**To end with a smile:**

