



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



**JANUARY 2023, Edition 2023-01**

**In this edition:**      **THE BOARD PAGE  
NEW YEARS'S RECEPTION  
MISCELLANEOUS**

**THE STORY**

**No. 1 Photographic Reconnaissance Unit (1 PRU)  
The forgotten heroes of WW II**

**“We were losing people at a worse rate than Bomber Command”**

**The brave pilots who flew unarmed and unarmoured planes  
– with only their flying skills for protection –  
to photograph targets**

**Read more?**

**Click start!**



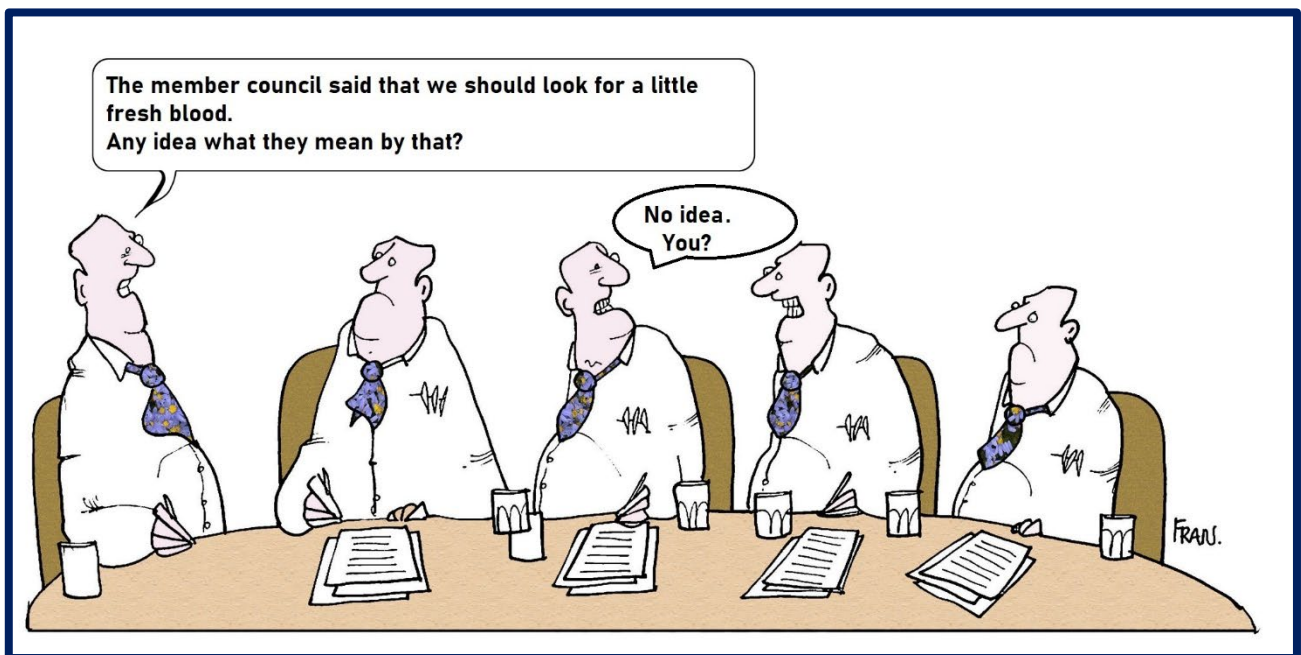


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**Board page.**



**The above cartoon is NOT an official announcement from the board.  
It sprang from the editor's slightly twisted brain.  
-hs-**



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**New Year's Reception.**

Sunday, January 22, 2023.

A moderately attended social activity. Thanks to the presence of a number of guests from other organisations, the room at our Mondani clubhouse in Lochem was quite full.

Needless to say: hostess Yvonne and host Berry, with their staff, handled it just fine.



There was a short, but to-the-point, word of welcome from our President Martin Reelick.

The representative, Vice-Commander, of the American Legion Margraten Post01NL, Mr. Jim Brotherton briefly introduced himself.

It is worth mentioning that he took the initiative to establish cooperation between the US, British and Canadian Legions in the Netherlands.

Also gratifying was the presence of Colonel Marc LaFortune and Sgt. Nicole Mitchell of the Canadian Embassy.

Lieutenant Colonel Pleasance and Chief Warrant Officer Asselin had made the journey to Lochem from Geilenkirchen, Germany.

Commander and unit sergeant major, respectively, of the Canadian Forces Support Unit (Europe).

The latter will return to Canada next July because he has been promoted in rank.





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**Jim Brotherton introduces himself**



**Lt/Col. Pleasant (L) and  
CWO Asselin**



**Delegation from Holten**



**The company (partly)**



**What did they talk about?  
The secretary (L) and the Sgt@Arms**



**Did they enjoy it? What do you think?**





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**The sergeant is the backbone of the Forces and the focus point at a reception. Not so Nicole?**



**Among VIP's**





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**Miscellaneous.**

Canadian soldier of the First World War identified.  
News release. 16-01-2023

The Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have confirmed that remains recovered in Vendin-le-Vieil, France, are those of Corporal Percy Howarth, a Canadian soldier of the First World War. The identity was confirmed through historical, genealogical, anthropological, archaeological and DNA analysis.

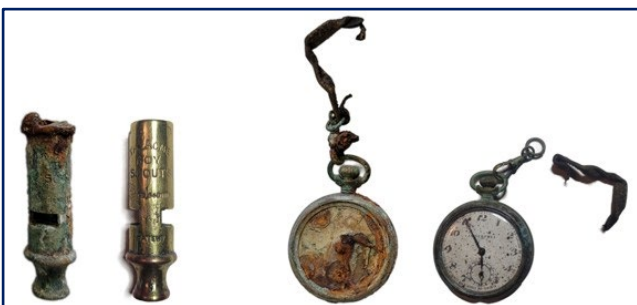


Badge 7th Canadian Inf.  
Battalion

Percy Howarth was born August 16, 1894, in Darwen, Lancashire, England, one of eight children of Richard and Margaret Howarth (née Dearden). He immigrated to Canada in 1912 and worked as a sailor in Vancouver before enlisting with the 121st 'Overseas' Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), at the age of 21. After training in England, he was sent to France and was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal and then Corporal. Corporal Howarth fought with the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion, CEF, in the Battle of [Hill 70 near Lens](#), France, which began on August 15, 1917. He was reported missing, then was later presumed to have died on that day. He was 23 years old. The Battle of Hill 70 exacted a heavy toll over ten days, with more than 10,000 Canadians killed, wounded or missing, including over 1,300 with no known grave. More than 140 men of the 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion were killed, 118 of whom were missing with no known grave.

The family of Corporal Howarth have been notified and the CAF is providing them with ongoing support. Corporal Howarth will be buried at the earliest opportunity in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Loos British Cemetery in Loos-en-Gohelle, France.

We will remember them.



Whistle and watch found with Corporal Howarth's remains.  
Both were later restored by CWGC's Christian Cousin (Photo: CWGC)

The DNA analysis in particular was a problem. [Read it here.](#)



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## Education.

Article 2 of the objectives of our Branch 005.

Education need not be limited to schools nor is it reserved for only Branch 005 or its comrades.

It can be done in many ways and by many organizations, foundations and...individuals.

The Harold Wakeman Foundation from Veenendaal, not unknown to RCL 'Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005, put this into practice.

Read the contribution of comrade Elly van Wakeren.



Feedback from the coordinator (sorry only in Dutch)

## Visiting the Anne Frank House.

*"In the context of education, the Harold Wakeman Foundation sponsored this trip.*

*I met these Moroccan girls during my volunteer work at Stichting Buitenzorg in Veenendaal.*

*This is a foundation where people with disabilities are taken care of. The volunteer coordinator approached me because she knew we were doing something related to the war.*

*Once the ball got rolling, I gave her a lot of information about the RCL in general and about Harold Wakeman. On the way in the train the whole story about this was told to the Moroccan girls. And that's how it all came about".*

*Elly van Wakeren*





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**Winner World Press Photo 2022 in Hilversum.**

Amber Bracken, winner of the World Press Photo 2022, came over from Canada on Saturday, January 15, 2023 for the opening of the exhibition in Museum Hilversum. There she talked about her work and the situation of the indigenous people in her country.

**Amber Bracken** won the World Press Photo 2022 with a composition of wooden crosses in a verge along a highway with children's clothes hanging on them.

They depict the children who died in the Kamloops Indian Residential School in Canada.

In 2021, the remains of 215 children were found in a mass grave at this school.

The rainbow in Bracken's photo ends with one of the lanes right where the graves were found.



Amber Bracken  
Foto: Margot Brakel



*The winning photo. © Amber Bracken*

The crosses along the highway in the photographer's image were created at the initiative of Snutetkwe Manuel, a woman belonging to the indigenous Secwépemc community. The Secwépemc believe that children come from a star and that you return to a star at the end of your life. The clothing is a gift for their journey to the celestial body.

Amber Bracken: *"It shows how rich and beautiful their culture is. Children are surrounded with warm care. It touches me because it shows how heavy their loss was."*

Tip for this subject came from Martin Reelick.





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CBC News · Posted: Jan 21, 2023 12:27 PM EST | Last Updated: January 22



A memorial outside the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in 2021. The federal government has agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit over the loss of culture and language brought on by Indian residential schools for \$2.8 billion. (Ben Nelms/CBC)

Officials announced Saturday that the federal government and 325 First Nations have agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit, seeking reparations for the loss of language and culture brought on by Indian residential schools, for \$2.8 billion.

The agreement still has to be approved by a Federal Court before it can be disbursed to recipients, who filed the claim for collective compensation in 2012 as part of a broader class action known as the Gottfriedson case.

Canada agreed to pay the \$2.8 billion of settlement money into a new trust fund that will operate for 20 years, if the court approves the deal. The fund will be run independent of the federal government, according to officials.

The fund organization will be governed by a board of nine Indigenous directors, of whom Canada will choose one, the agreement says.

Want to read more about this theme? Open the link below.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs/news/2023/01/settlement-agreement-reached-in-gottfriedson-band-class-litigation.html>



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**Gendt, Museum Niemandland. (No-man's-land)**

January 23, 2023.

A Vector of Memory.

Now in the outdoor showcase, but next year on the facade of a new building.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Gerrit Bruggink was present at the unveiling by Mayor Dr. P.T.A.M. (Nelly) Kalfs from the municipality of Lingewaard.

The new building will also be the intended starting point of a cycle route through the Overbetuwe along places that remind of WWII and the liberation.



**Unveiling Ghent.**

On January 21, 2023, it was 78 years ago that there was still a lot of fighting in the Betuwe.

On April 2, 1945, after more than 6 months of fighting, the region was finally liberated by the 49<sup>th</sup> (West Riding) Infantry Division), nicknamed 'Polar Bears'.

In June 1944, the division took part in the battle in Normandy as part of the 30<sup>th</sup> Army Corps.

After the campaign, a change was made so that the division now served alternately under 1<sup>st</sup> Army Corps, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Army Corps and 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Army Corps. They served as General Montgomery's left flank in the campaign that took place in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Robert Braam.  
Initiator of the war museum No-Man's-Land  
© Gerard Burgers





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**Upcoming.**

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

**To end with a smile:**

