



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



ARPIL 2023, Edition 2023-04

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THE BACKGROUND STORY

„ABERCROMBIE’

A commando raid with (less successful) Canadian partaking

Read more?

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The Board Page, By the Secretary.

On April 16, 2023, our General Meeting took place in Lochem under the leadership of President Martin Reelick and 2nd Vice-President Wim Poppenk.

Including the board, 24 members were present.

It was the 20th General Members Meeting and that must be about right considering the founding date of our Branch in 2003.

The transformation into an Association under Dutch law, with due observance of Canadian rules, took place in 2004.



The installation of new members is always a special and solemn ceremony and is conducted entirely according to the rules of the Royal Canadian Legion.

1st Vice-President Gerrit Bruggink, the Sergeant@Arms Toon van Bussel and Poppy Chairman Danny Murphy were involved in this ceremony.

Harm Kuijper and André van Roomen were present to be formally sworn in.

After the reading of the protocol, the oath took place and Harm Kuijper and André van Roomen were installed and decorated with the insignia of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Subsequently, the following members were decorated with the badge corresponding to the number of years they have been a member.

Conny Lempke and Anneke Poppenk have contributed to the preparations:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------|
| -André Bogerman | - 5 years. |
| -Mark Veldhuis | - 5 years. |
| -Adriaan van der Pol | - 5 years. |
| -Ruud Janssen | -10 years. |
| -Hendrik Kuiper | -15 years. |
| -Martin Reelick | -15 years. |
| -Fred de Graaf | -20 years. |
| -Jan van Loo | -20 years. |

The election of new board members during the GM was led by comrade Peter Bongers. President Martin Reelick was elected President of our Branch for a second term in accordance with the board nomination.

The 2nd Vice-President Wim Poppenk stepped down and unfortunately there was no candidate to fill the vacancy.

Treasurer Peter Mensink has also resigned and no candidate stepped forward for this vacancy.

Comrade Peter Bongers was pleased to agree to carry out the main tasks of the Treasurer for a maximum of one year.

Peter Bongers was appointed, Finance Officer', an appointment function by the Board.

For many years of meritorious service to Canada and the Royal Canadian Legion Wim Poppenk and Peter Mensink were honoured with the Certificate of Merit. Poppy Chairman Danny Murphy and Legal Officer Jan van Loo presented the Certificate of Merit.



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After the discussion of the other agenda items, including the adoption of the annual reports and the report of the Audit Committee, with members Mr. Fred de Graaf and Hendrik Kuiper, the entire board was discharged from liability for the performance of its duties from March 27, 2022 to April 16, 2023.

The report of the meeting will be drawn up by our minutes secretary Marion Olthoff and will be published on the member portal under the responsibility of Secretary Jan van Loo.

Royal Canadian Legion ,Liberation of The Netherlands' Branch 005



mr. Jan C.K. van Loo, LL.M., BA
Secretary and Legal Officer



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COLUMN BY COMRADE ED MUSTERS.

Three Canadian Heroes Will Always Be Remembered by Our Family

Introduction




There are three WWII Canadian air crew members of Stirling Bomber LK131 that lie buried in the church cemetery of Gilze, which has a strong connection to my family!

The Final Flight of Stirling Bomber LK131

The aircraft took off from RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire on October 31st 1944, at 22:32 hrs for an SOE-operation (drop) to Lage Mierde, Netherlands (code-named: Gerrit 1). The timing suggests the mission would have been in support of the preparations for Operation Market-Garden.

In the early hours of September 1, while flying at a height of 100-150 metres, the aircraft was hit by light Flak of the 3. /Gemischte Flak-Abteilung 591 (RAD) and II. /2. /Leichte Flak-Abteilung 847 and crashed near the airfield at Gilze-en-Rijen in the Dutch Province of Noord-Brabant 19 km WNW from the centre of Tilburg. Only the air despatcher survived, the seven other men, including three Canadians, are all buried at the Gilze church cemetery. Let us remember them and honour their sacrifice!

















<p>Flying Officer Alfred Jerry Wallace</p> 	<p>Pilot Age 20</p>	 	<p>Son of Alfred Wallace and Susanna Bigelow. He was a shipping clerk in Kirkland Lake, Ontario Canada.</p>
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<p>Flying Officer Paul Edwin McNamara</p> 	<p>Navigator Age 24</p>	 	<p>Son of Gerald McNamara and Helen Rosa of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. He lived in Brantford and was a machinist.</p>
<p>Flying Officer Charles Bruce Thompson</p> 	<p>Air Bomber Age 23</p>	 	<p>Son of Russell E. and Jessie Thompson, of Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada. Husband of Jean Thompson, of Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada. He was a grocery clerk.</p>
<p>Sergeant William Allan Baxter</p> 	<p>Rear Gunner Age 19</p>	 	<p>Son of George Douglas and Margaret Taylour Baxter, of Langside, Glasgow, Scotland.</p>
<p>Sergeant Roger Francis Bailey</p> 	<p>Flight Engineer Age 21</p>		<p>Son of William Anthony and Annie Harriett Bailey, of Faygate, Sussex, England; husband of Hilda Elizabeth Bailey.</p>
<p>Sergeant Royston William Bullen</p> 	<p>Wireless Operator Age 21</p>		<p>Son of William John and Beatrice Maud Bullen, of Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, England.</p>
<p>Sergeant Georges Charles Hanson</p> 	<p>Air Bomber Age 21</p>		<p>Son of Walter and Ellen Florence Hanson, of Enfield Highway, Enfield, Middlesex, England.</p>

Sgt Clarence Bowker, Air Despatcher, survived the crash. He was captured and a POW in [Stalag Luft 7](#) near Kreuzburg, (Bankau) Upper Silesia.



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The Connection to my Family

Like thousands of other young Dutch men after the invasion, my father became conscripted labour. Due to his skills as a mechanic and machinist, he worked at the German controlled airfield at Gilze-en-Rijen. It is quite possible he may have witnessed or heard the actual incident.

My parents settled in Gilze after the war and raised their family. My second sister Hilda was born in 1948 but died when only two weeks old of "crib death". She is buried in the same cemetery as our brave air crew and is our second family connection to them. I can imagine my parents would have stopped by the graves of the air crew to say a prayer of thanks and to remember their sacrifice. My sister lies in an entire section of the cemetery dedicated to children, a sad reminder of the rate of infant mortality that still existed after the war.

Our family maintains a grave marker to my sister Hilda to this day, and I visit whenever I am in the Netherlands. I will be visiting again this May 2023. I am the final family connection to the air crew, as I also stop for prayers of remembrance and thanks for giving up everything in the cause for freedom and liberation of Holland.

About the Author

Ed Musters is Canadian born to Dutch parents liberated in WWII. My parents along with their 4 children emigrated to Canada in 1961. Ed served in the reserves of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry in the 80s and is proud to be amongst the newest members of the RCL Netherlands.

Signed:

Ed Musters

Postscript editor.

Thank you very much for this contribution comrade.
Columns from overseas are very rare, that's why they are highly appreciated.
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Steenderen, April 5, 2023.

In Steenderen was the day that Lt. John Gordon Kavanagh and four others died near Rha, not gone unnoticed.

In the cemetery, where his name is now inscribed on the headstone, an appropriate honour was brought.

"Dying for freedom is not the worst thing that can happen, being forgotten is."

It cannot be said more appropriately.



On the left a photo taken at the wedding of John Gordon Kavanagh to Emily Jean Haddleton on June 12, 1943.



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Westervoort, April 8, 2023.

Operation Quick Anger.

Also called:

"The Second Battle of Arnhem".

At the monument near the ferry dock, it was commemorated that on April 12, 1945 the Allies crossed the IJssel.

The prelude to the liberation of the other side of the IJssel.



© Jan Ruland van den Brink

Chairman of the Historical Association, Joop Schuilenburg, said in his speech that he was happy and proud to have lived in freedom for 78 years.

Mayor Arend van Hout also referred to the war in Ukrain and refugees who are being welcomed in Westervoort. "It is important that we do justice to our liberators. Freedom is not for free. That's why that day in April is so important to us."

Wreaths and flowers were laid at the monument, with students of 'The Ravelijn' assisting. The younger generation was represented by the presence of the 'Dutch Polar Bears'.

A foundation that keeps the memory of the events of WW2 alive.

The Dutch Polar Bears originated from a school project.

The 'Act of Remembrance' was read by comrade Gerrit Bruggink, who was present as 'Vice-President of RCL Branch 005'.

An interesting documentary about Operation Quick Anger can be seen on YouTube.

Below the link.

https://youtu.be/h7QhxV_mNdA





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Holten, April 9, 2023.

IN MEMORY OF
THE 48TH HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA.

After the failure of Operation Market Garden, the western and northern Netherlands remained occupied territory. Operation Cannonsnot, the crossing of the IJssel near Wilp, was the prelude to the liberation of the western part of the Netherlands.



The soldiers of the 48th Highlanders of Canada regiment are commemorated annually at the Canadian cemetery in Holten.

The regiment lost 20 soldiers including their commander, Donald MacKenzie.



Afterward: Pipe major Anderson and band playing the Flowers of the Forest at the temporary cemetery on the dyke at the Gorssel/Voorst river crossing spot



The first part of the commemoration was specific to the regiment's victims.



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In the second part of the ceremony all fallen soldiers were commemorated.

The commemoration was organized by the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes & Drums. Comrade mr. F. de Graaf is its patron.



His speech was very well struck, in which the connection was made between the past and the present.



Those present included the Defense Attaché of Canada, Colonel Marc LaFortune, the mayors of Rijssen-Holten and Voorst and the deputy mayor of Apeldoorn. RCL Branch 005 was present with a delegation and took part in the wreath-laying ceremony.

After the wreath laying, Colonel LaFortune expressed his gratitude and respect for the way in which the memory of the Canadian liberators is upheld in the Netherlands. To the surprise of many: in Dutch.



Photo's: Anneke Poppe



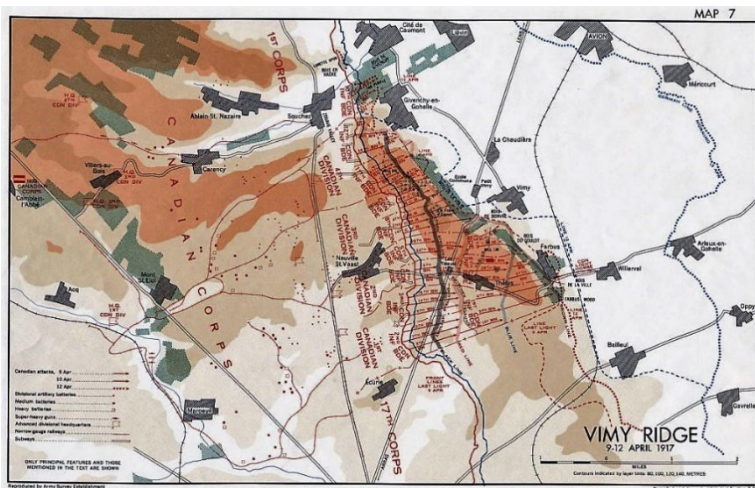
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Vimy, April 9, 2023.

The Canadian encyclopedia writes:

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was fought during the First World War from 9 to 12 April 1917. It is Canada's most celebrated military victory — an often-mythologized symbol of the birth of Canadian national pride and awareness.



The battle took place on the Western Front, in northern France. The four divisions of the Canadian Corps, fighting together for the first time, attacked the ridge from 9 to 12 April 1917 and captured it from the German army. It was the largest territorial advance of any Allied force to that point in the war — but it would mean little to the outcome of the conflict.

More than 10,600 Canadians were killed and wounded in the assault. Today an iconic memorial atop the ridge honours the 11,285 Canadians killed in France throughout the war who have no known graves.

As usual, on April 9, this year, a memorial was held at Vimy Ridge. Comrades from RCL 'Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005 attended the ceremony.



In the photo from left to right:
Ruud Janssen,
Conny Lempke
and Toon van
Brussel.





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Canadians consolidating their positions on Vimy Ridge. April 1917. Library and Archives Canada.



The RCL Branch 005 delegation,
accompanied by [Glenn Miller](#).





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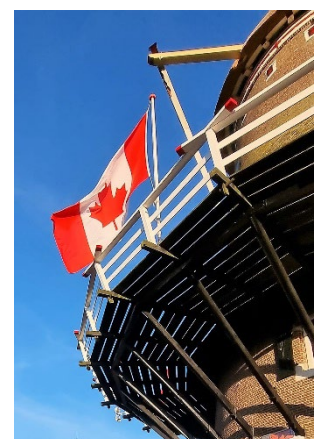


Posterrenk, April 13, 2023.

The annual commemoration of Operation Cannonsnot in Posterrenk at the Wilper Mill, with partaking by the „City of Apeldoorn Pipes & Drums“. Also invited to participate The Royal Canadian Legion, Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005. They were present with a delegation and the Colour Party.



The pictures speak for themselves.





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Markelo, April 15, 2023.

80 years ago, three allied bombers crashed within 4 months in Markelo. At the Field of Honour, a commemoration was held.

17 crew members lost their lives and were given a resting place in Markelo.

Although no Canadian crewmembers were among the victims, the Royal Canadian Legion 'Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005 was present, because of the Canadian Regiment 'Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal'.

Especially this year because, on this occasion, the liberation of Markelo was also commemorated. (April 8, 1945)



Prior to the ceremony on the Field of Honour, a short ceremony was therefore held in the center.

'Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal' were honoured at the plaque on the wall of 'The Beaufort', the former townhall.



School children laid flowers and a wreath was laid on behalf of RCL Branch 005.

The commemoration was attended by relatives of the victims and representatives of the Embassies and Air Forces of Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the Netherlands.





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Two 'old timers' of the Royal Netherlands Air Force Historical Flight made a triple Fly-Past.

Pupils from the primary schools in Markelo laid white tulips at the graves.



New was the participation by members of the Corps 'Nationale Reserve', who ensured that wreaths and flowers were presented correctly.



The 'Highland Regiment Pipes and Drums' provided part of the musical accompaniment.



The presence of members of the Royal Netherlands Air Force Group Reserve Personnel, who provided a stylish Guard of Honour and Flag Guard, should not go unmentioned.



Photos:

Anneke Poppenk





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Apeldoorn, April 17, 2023.

Contribution by Wim Poppenk.
Photos: Anneke Poppenk

Every year on April 17th the liberation of Apeldoorn is commemorated at the 'Sluisje' in the Overijssels Canal.

On the night of 16 to 17 April 1945, two men managed, at the risk of their lives, to cross the canal and convince the Canadians that the Germans had left Apeldoorn and that artillery shelling was not necessary. In doing so, they saved Apeldoorn from major destruction.



After the welcome speech by the chairman of the Vereniging Oud Apeldoorn, the mayor of Apeldoorn spoke. The children of the Apeldoorn Margrietschool had rehearsed a nice role play together.

Special was the story of a Canadian army box in the attic of a house nearby. The box had, not so long ago, attracted the attention of the resident's grandson. On the coffin the name M.L. Brinkman. A real Dutch name but surprisingly no Dutch roots.



After intensive research, Barry Brinkman, a son of this Canadian soldier, was found in British Columbia.

He came over and spoke during the memorial service.

'How special it is to see where my father spent some time in Apeldoorn'. Very impressed with the commemoration; Reading about it is one, experiencing it is two. Awesome! Thank you!

Wreaths and flowers, handed by schoolchildren, were laid and finally the national anthems of the Netherlands and Canada sounded.

The music association Eendracht and the 48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes & Drums provided, as usual, the musical accompaniment and were playing 'Highland Cathedral' together, which made a big impression



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Apeldoorn, April 17, 2023.

Oranjepark.

Source: Samen 1. (Together 1) The local broadcast of Apeldoorn.

Around 7 pm, a ceremony started in the Oranjepark in Apeldoorn to commemorate the liberation of the city 78 years ago.

About two hundred people attended the ceremony.

The liberation fire was brought up again by members of the AV'34 athletics club. The accompaniment was provided by the showband DAP.



The City of Apeldoorn Pipes and Drums also took part in the procession that brought the fire to the park.

The flame of liberation was handed over to mayor Ton Heerts, who then ignited the liberation fire.

This was followed by the mayor's speech, concluded with a poem.

The children's mayor then took over.

Children from two schools performed songs and read poems about the liberation of Apeldoorn.



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Special wreath laying. Groesbeek April 26, 2023.

RCL Branch 005 has been asked by John Desrosiers, Director of Commemorations of Veterans Affairs Canada, to accompany a former Member of the House of Parliament in Canada, Mr. Larry Miller, with his family to lay a wreath at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek.

This concerns his great-uncle soldier Bertram Isaac Pyke, killed on January 30, 1945 in Kapelsche Veer and buried in Groesbeek. Private Pyke served with the

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's).

Through the research of Faces-to-Graves, Larry Miller came into contact with Leon Leijters from Berg en Dal. His grandparents gave shelter to his great-uncle during the Second World War.

To read the full story, visit the Faces-to-Graves site.

[PYKE Bertram-OTS-bio-EN.pdf \(facestograves.nl\)](#)

President Martin Reelick and comrade Ruud Janssen were represented on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion 'Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005.





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Miscellaneous.

On Saturday, April 15, the 78th commemoration of the liberation of Leeuwarden took place at the Town Hall in Leeuwarden.

A delegation of The Royal Canadian Dragoons from Canada attended the commemoration in Leeuwarden.



From the Dragoons' website:

On 15th April 1945, the Dragoons liberated the city of Leeuwarden, Holland.

A, B, C, and D Squadrons were all involved in the liberation with a total of 177 prisoners being taken. This event is commemorated annually and we are still welcomed as liberators on each visit to this fine Dutch town.

A historical film from 14 and 15 April 1945 in Leeuwarden. The quality of the film is moderate, but amazingly interesting. Thanks to a young woman who still had her film camera. Take 5 minutes to watch.

<https://youtu.be/6sIlfkQFMAo>





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Lochem. General meeting.

On April 16, the annual General Meeting of the Royal Canadian Legion, Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005 took place.

It was gratifying that new members could be reported.

The applicants from Canada were not present, present were: André van Roomen and Harm Kuijper.



They were officially installed.
Welcome new comrades.

Regarding board elections:
Martin Reelick (President) ran for re-election and was appointed for another 4-year term.



Peter Mensink (Treasurer) and Wim Poppenk (2nd Vice-President) have resigned. These positions remain vacant, new candidates did not come forward.

Both gentlemen were thanked for their efforts and received a token of appreciation.

Further details will be included in the minutes of the meeting, which will be made available to members.

The photos shown here are by Yvonne Swarthoff, Richard Hendriks and Ruud Janssen.



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WILP. April 16, 2023.



48th Highlanders of Holland Pipes & Drums took part in the commemoration in Wilp. Wooden crosses have been placed on the dike, where the fallen soldiers of the Regiment 48th Highlanders of Canada were temporarily buried. The band played 'Flowers of the Forest' and then the lesser known '[Highland Laddie](#)'.

DERK DE VRIES AWARDED.
April 17, 2023.

On Monday, April 17, 2023, Derk de Vries (Retd. NCO) was awarded the Canadian Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) by the Canadian Ambassador.

This medal recognizes highly professional conduct which has significantly benefited the Canadian Forces.

As you may know, Derk held sway for many years over Camp Heumensoord, where the Canadian Military Contingent was a regular guest during the Four Days Marches of Nijmegen.

Congratulations Derk de Vries on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion 'Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005.

Honour where honour is due.





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CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY GROESBEEK.

Saturday, April 29, 2023 the place for a special activity.
An activity that we can literally call 'Faces-to-Graves'.

More than 1,700 photos have been placed at headstones
and at the Memorial Wall.

These photos will remain until May 21. The cemetery is free
to visit.

Particularly in May, the month we commemorate the official
liberation of the Netherlands, it is good to reflect on those
who paid for OUR FREEDOM with THEIR LIVES.





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Upcoming.

**The best way to stay informed:
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To end with a smile:

