



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



MAI 2023, Edition 2023-05

**In this edition:
Activities:**

**From the editors
Huissen-Holten-Lochem-Borssele-Wilnis-Wageningen-
Gendringen-Posternek-Laren (Gld)-Hilversum
Miscellaneous**

THE BACKGROUND STORY

,the Morgan Bunker'

A fallen Canadian, found in a German bunker

Click on one of the photos below for the story.





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From the editors.

**CELEBRATION OF LIBERATION.
78 YEARS AFTER WW2**

2023 has again become the year of celebrating our liberation. Many commemorations take place on the cemeteries and at monuments, which reflects what our liberators have done for us.

Because Covid is behind us, many were able to be present again spread across the Netherlands. Our liberators and/or their relatives also frequently used the opportunity to come to the Netherlands again during this period (2023) and celebrate the liberation.



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, 'Liberation of the Netherlands' is the only chartered branch in the Netherlands entitled to represent the Royal Canadian Legion in the Netherlands. Many Canadians praised the involvement of our Branch, for which we thank them very much.

RCL005 is often asked to lay a wreath at commemorations or to pay tribute to our deceased liberators with her Colour Party. The presence of members of the Canadian Embassy in the Netherlands, in particular the Defense Attaché and his assistant, was also very much appreciated.

Below is a brief overview of the period from 3 to May 7, 2023. Details with photos and film will follow separately at our socials.

In this Newsletter we will limit ourselves as far as the text is concerned. Where necessary, some clarification will be added, otherwise the photos will speak for themselves.

But prior to the festivities on May 5, Liberation Day, we stood still on May 4, Remembrance Day, for the victims.

We commemorated the military and civilians, of whatever nationality. Their efforts and sacrifices made it possible for us to celebrate 'LIBERATION'.

LEST WE FORGET!

Ruud Janssen

Herman Sligman



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Huissen. Mai 3, 2023.

Municipality of Lingewaard.

Prior to Remembrance Day and Liberation Day, The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Pipes, Drums and Dancers visited the municipality of Lingewaard.

Supplemented with fifteen members of the 'City of Apeldoorn Pipes and Drums'.



After a word of welcome from Mayor Kalfs, there was a performance in front of Castle 'de Kinkelenburg' on Wednesday morning.

The group also visited the memorial sign, the Sherman tank in Bemmelen.

From there, the musicians walked to the river 'Linge' across the former battlefield. The river formed the front line between the Allies and the Germans in 1944.

In the afternoon, the mass grave at the Commemoration Park in Huissen was visited.

A memorial for more than 120 civilian victims.

At the invitation of the Exodus Huissen Foundation, our 1st Vice-President Gerrit Bruggink was present. He laid a wreath on behalf of RCL Branch 005.





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Holten, May 4, 2023.

RCL, Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005, attended the commemoration at the Canadian Cemetery in Holten.

It was an honour to participate again in the commemoration of the many Canadian victims, our liberators.



The meeting with one of the last veterans, Mr Jim Parks, was a highlight of the morning.

Good conditions, a lot of interest and a prominent role for the youth, as usual in Holten.

No need to write extensive texts here. The photos speak for themselves.



Summarizing:
a well-organised, smoothly-run, particularly dignified commemoration.





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Photos by courtesy of:

Math Willems photography - Holten.

Our thanks for this.





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Lochem, May 4, 2023.

After the ceremony at the cemetery in Holten, there was the usual lunch in the club house of RCL005, restaurant Mondani in Lochem. There was discussion about the commemoration, but also looked ahead to the things that still had to come.



Special was that two new Canadian members of RCL Branch 005 were installed.

**Welcome Kathie Laforge
and
Ed Musters.**



An extra highlight was also the birthday of Mieke van Bussel, the wife of our Sgt@Arms.



Naturally, she received many congratulations and.... there was, of course, a birthday cake.

Canadian veteran Mr. Jim Parks was present in Lochem, with his guidance. Jim acted as a witness as the new members were installed.





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Borssele, May 4, 2023.

Remembrance Day 4 May in Borssele was well attended.

Also this year, the victims of war were commemorated in Borssele.



Children from both schools in Borssele gave a presentation and they put flowers in the memorial wreath.

Petra Smit gave a speech on behalf of the village council.



Comrade Don Paauwe was present and laid a wreath on behalf of RCL Branch 005.

Source: website Borsseledorp.nl



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Wilnis. May 4, 2023.

In Wilnis, where a silent procession takes place every year, the Colour Party of RCL Branch 005 was also present.



In addition to the Dutch victims, the members of the crew of the Vickers-Wellington bomber buried there were also commemorated in Wilnis.

It crashed nearby on 5 May 1943.

On behalf of RCL Branch 005, a wreath was laid by Suzanne Groeneveld. She is the daughter of comrade Reinier Groeneveld. He himself participated in the Colour Party.





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Wageningen. May 5, 2023.

The day on which the liberation is celebrated nationwide in the Netherlands.

The liberation parade took place in Wageningen. Veterans were (still) the most important participants.

They open the parade. Behind them, usually, the 'City of Apeldoorn Pipes and Drums'.

This year combined with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Pipes, Drums & Dancers to form a mass pipe band.

The Colour Party of RCL Branch 005 followed immediately behind with a delegation.

No extensive stories: pictures speak for themselves.





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Highly concentrated



Warming up





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When we talk about veterans, a photo of a member of the former Royal Dutch Brigade Princess Irene should not be missing. The brigade was assigned to the 2nd Canadian Army Corps. In the photo below, in the middle: Max Wolff.

Max Wolff was only fourteen years old when the Second World War broke out in the Netherlands. Barely four years later, he was part of the allied armies that liberated France, Belgium and the Netherlands as an interpreter. Wolff, decorated with the French Légion d'Honneur, among other things, is one of the few living veterans of the Irene Brigade.





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Gendringen. May 6, 2023.



Our 1st Vice-President Gerrit Bruggink attended the commemoration at the invitation of the working group "OWNV" (Lest we Forget).

The interest in this was particularly great, probably due to the presence of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Pipes, Drums & Dancers.

The working group "OWNV" provided guidance for this group.



The RCMP group gave several performances and concerts between April 28 and May 7. In, among others, Ypres (B), Vimy, (F), Wageningen and Posternek (NL).

An impression of their tour can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/RCMPpipesanddrums>.

The Canadian Embassy was also represented. Defense Attaché, Colonel Marc LaFortune, and his aide, Sergeant Nicole Mitchell, had made the journey to the eastern part of the Netherlands.

On behalf of RCL Branch 005, a wreath was laid by our 1st Vice-President.



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Posterenk, May 6, 2023.

Celebrating the liberation.
Commemorated was already on April 13, 2023.

It was celebrated with the presence of the RCMP Band.
The evening started with an official part, the Colour Party of
RCL Branch 005 was also present.
Planned after that was an evening party.

However, the weather had planned a heavy downpour.
Still, it turned out to be a 'cozy' get-together.
Those present fled into the tent and into the mill.

For the RCMP it was a nice farewell, they left for Canada on
May 7th.
Welcome again.





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Laren (Gld), May 7, 2023.

The 1st Battalion of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada Pipes & Drums was in Laren Gld on Sunday 7 May, and so was a detachment from Le Régiment de Maisonneuve.

They made a memorial tour, started in the south-west of the Netherlands, along places in the Netherlands where both regiments had fought in WW2.

In our region, the guests, under the guidance of comrade Berry Swarthoff, started their tour in Almen.

A wreath was laid at the monument near 'Het Elmer'.



At the time, temporary graves had been made in the garden of this villa.

In the surrounding area 40 Liberators gave their lives.

The place where the Twente Canal was crossed at the time was also visited.

(In the late afternoon of April 2, 1945, the first men of the Royal Regiment of Canada crossed the channel in canvas boats. They moved silently into the meadows as darkness fell. There was not a German to be seen at that time. HS.)



They then visited the private war museum of Christiaan Harkink.

Over the years, Christiaan has collected quite a few objects that keep the memory of WW2 'alive'.

This was followed by a visit to the farm of the Koeslag family. A place with history. Especially for the residents of that time.

People in hiding and pilots were received here and helped further. Ap Koeslag had an impressive story about it.





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After lunch, the group arrived at the former butterfly garden. Several guests spoke here and Mayor Sebastiaan van 't Erve and Colonel Marc LaFortune of the Canadian embassy unveiled the plaque with the names of the fallen Canadian soldiers.

The ceremony concluded with the Last Post, the Reveille and the Canadian and Dutch national anthem.



After the ceremony, the group moved to the church in Laren.



A wonderful performance was given.
There were many interested visitors.
The empty seats in the front did not remain empty. At the time of the recording, many people were still standing in the back of the church to take their places.

Click on the photo for a video impression.





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Hilversum, May 7, 2023.

Source: Newspaper ,De Gooi- en Eemlander’.



**Wreath laying by Martin Reelick, President of the Royal Canadian Legion ,Liberation of the Netherlands’ Branch 005
© Margot Brakel Photography**

A small group commemorated the liberation of Hilversum on Sunday, May 7, at the cemetery. Respect was paid to sixteen men of the Polar Bears. Thirteen of them died, three days after the liberation, when an ammunition dump exploded when German weapons were handed in Soestdijk.

Three more British soldiers died in the following months. They were given a final resting place at the ,Noorder Cemetery’ next to their comrades. The Polar Bears belonged to the British 49th (Western Riding) Infantry Division and were part of the Canadian troops that liberated Hilversum on May 7, 1945.





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Miscellaneous.

Balkbrug, May 13, 2023.
Unveiling monument.

On Thursday, May 13, 1943 - 8 minutes to midnight - the Halifax bomber, JB966 LQ-D, took off from [Airfield Gransden Lodge](#).

The aircraft belonged to the Royal Canadian Air Force [405 \(Vancouver\) Sqdn.](#) (Pathfinder)



Name, Rank & Service No.	Unit, Regiment, Country of Service	Date of Death	Commemorated at
SYDNEY BUCHANAN HAWLEY Sergeant Service Number: 1269142	405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqdn Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve United Kingdom	Died 14 May 1943 22 years old	AVEREEST (OUD AVEREEST) GENERAL CEMETERY Grave 3. Netherlands
HUGH DONALD BEATTIE Flying Officer Service Number: J/10119	405 Sqdn. Royal Canadian Air Force Canadian	Died 14 May 1943 21 years old	AVEREEST (OUD AVEREEST) GENERAL CEMETERY Grave 1. Netherlands
RALPH ERIC HART Flight Sergeant Service Number: R/95244	405 Sqdn. Royal Canadian Air Force Canadian	Died 14 May 1943 22 years old	AVEREEST (OUD AVEREEST) GENERAL CEMETERY Grave 2. Netherlands

It was part of a formation of 442 aircraft.
Mission: Carry out a bombing raid on Bochum (D).

On the way back, the plane ran into problems.
It was attacked by a German night fighter of 8./NJG 1 flown by Hauptman H. Lütje.

Four crew members were able to safely leave the aircraft and were taken prisoner. The 21-year-old pilot, Hugh Donald Beattie, managed to swing to the countryside and Dedemsvaart was spared a disaster. The three deceased were transported to Balkbrug and given a grave in Oud-Avereest.

In the same night, from the same raid, four other RCAF men died in a crash.



Loss chart: T2311										
Day or Night of operation		Operation		Target		Nickname Aircraft				
13/14 May 43		Bombing		Bochum						
Factory	Aircraft	Mk	Serial/Wnr.	Code	Unit	Air Force	TO/t	Airfield		
Handley Page	Halifax	II	JD113	VR-Z	419 Sqdn	RAF	2357	Middleton St. George		
Time	Cause of the Crash				Crash Location				Damage	Province
0245	Shot down by Hptm. H. Lütje of 8./NJG 1				Crashed Het Bongvliet near Dalen					Drenthe
Function	Mill Rank	Ini	Name	Age	Mill reg	Air Force	Fate	Cemetery	Grave	Remarks
Pilot	F/Sgt.	W.H.S.	Buckwell	22	R/120100	RCAF	KIA	Dalen	1N 7 167	
Flight Engineer	Sgt.	F.W.	Walkerdine	24	R/63806	RCAF	KIA	Dalen	1N 7 166	
Navigator	Sgt.	R.W.	Lowry		J/13812	RCAF	POW	-		
Bomb Aimer	Sgt.	W.M.	Reid		R/105405	RCAF	POW	-		
Wireless Operator	Sgt.	W.J.N.	Duggan		R/88090	RCAF	EVD-POW	-		
Mid Upper Gunner	F/Sgt.	A.E.	Hurteau	24	R/149121	RCAF	KIA	Dalen	1N 7 168	
Rear Gunner	F/Sgt.	W.Le R.	Bovaird	21	R/113737	RCAF	KIA	Dalen	1N 7 165	
Wartime Records		Background Info								
Operations Record Book		Chorley, 'Bomber Command Losses 1943', page 149; Boiten, 'Nachtjagd Combat Archive January-June 1943', page 93; Cornelissen, 'Van grasmot tot Fliegerhorst', page 403								



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To end with a smile:

