



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



**JUNE 2023, Edition 2023-06**

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D-Day  
Rucphen  
Miscellaneous**

## **THE BACKGROUND STORY**

**Survive the war  
Die in peacetime**

### YOUR SEARCH RESULTS

[Edit Search](#) [New Search](#)

Commemorated In: **Netherlands**

War: **Second World War**

Served With: **Canadian**

Served In: **Army**

Date From: **08/05/1945**

Date To: **01/01/1946**

EXACT MATCHES

CLOSE MATCHES

ALL MATCHES

Only results that match exactly with all of the words you have entered into the search boxes. This is the same as inserting "AND" between the words.

SHOW 10 OF 313 WAR DEAD

[Download all results](#) Sort by **Relevance**

[Refine Results](#)

If we look into Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) records using the criteria: 'Army-Canadian-WW2-Netherlands-Date of Death' and then, for that last filter, fill in: 08-05-1945 to 01-01-1946" we get 313 hits.

Of course I knew that, due to various causes, a number of our liberators have lost their live after **VE-Day (May 8, 1945)** and were buried in the Netherlands. However, the high number surprised me. For me a reason to go into this further.

**Click on the information block above to read the backstory.**

*Herman Sligman*

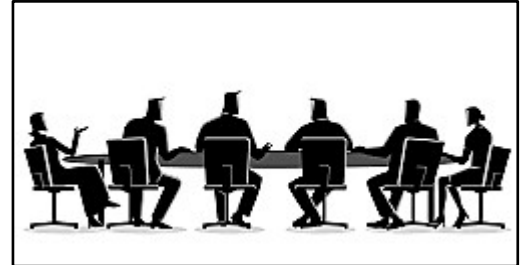


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**Report of the Board.**

On June 22, I attended the unveiling of three special monuments in Rucphen. In memory of warplane crews who crashed in Rucphen during WW2.



Our Colour Party was also present there and the same day also in Bergen op Zoom at the Canadian Cemetery and the British Cemetery. So, a very intensive day for the members of the Colour Party and the Sergeant at Arms. The Board has a lot of respect for this commitment.

Also at these Cemeteries I was again confronted with the many soldiers who often died, at a young age, for our freedom.

There are 5,712 members of the Canadian Armed Forces buried in 199 cemeteries in the Netherlands, including many aviators.

Compared to the other fallen soldiers, aviators often receive more attention.

However, the Faces-to-Graves Groesbeek Foundation, of which I was a co-founder and board member, has ensured that many small monuments have actually been realized by the publication of biographies and photos of fallen soldiers.

For many fallen soldiers, however, this has not yet succeeded, and that also applies for them registered 'Missing in Action'. There are also many soldiers who are buried as 'unknown'.

I have been involved with one missing soldier for a long time informed by Henk Vincent of the Holten Canadian Cemetery Information Center Foundation. Henk Vincent is still looking for the missing Canadian soldier **Arthur Vanance**.

According to Henk, Arthur Vanance could have been buried in Holten plot 11, row H, grave 5. Henk has provided me with a lot of information for this. I hope to share this information with you in our Magazine soon. I have already sent this information to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission once.

But up to now without success.

In July 2023, several commemorations are organized, especially in Groesbeek.

I refer you to the agenda on our website.

Looking forward to see you.

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



Secretary and Legal Officer



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## **Introduction to D-Day commemoration.**

You are undoubtedly familiar with the iconic photo on the right.  
Canadian Troops landing on Juno Beach on June 6, 1944.



It is not hard to guess that the invasion required enormous preparation.

The fact that large troop movements and logistical activities which took place at an early stage, had to be kept as secret as possible from the German observations.

To mislead the Germans and to obscure the place and time 'Operation Bodyguard' was set up. This was to prevent German reinforcements from being sent to the planned landing zone at an early stage. Secrecy was crucial, as Churchill already said on March 26, 1944.



The planning for Operation Bodyguard started after Normandy was selected as the landing site.

Roughly speaking, 'Operation Bodyguard' consisted of several blocks, namely:

**Fortitude, Graffham, Royal Flush, Zeppelin and Vendetta.**

It is very tempting to go into this in detail. But then the introduction would overshoot its mark.

So briefly the basic idea behind it.

**Fortitude.** Divided into Fortitude South and Fortitude North. Purpose: to give the Germans the impression that there would be two landings. One in Norway and one near Calais on the French coast.

**Graffham.** Contacts with Swedish authorities requesting landing rights, fuel intake and permission to use Swedish airspace.  
As expected, this was reported in Berlin by Nazi sympathizers in Oslo.

**Royal Flush.** Following Graffham, Royal Flush was set up to suggest that Sweden gave up its neutrality and particularly supported the Allies for an invasion in Norway.  
With Graffham and Royal Flush it was achieved that Germany kept an approximately 400,000 strong force in Norway.



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**Zeppelin.** Systematic adherence to reports suggested that three British army groups were in Egypt preparing for an invasion on the mainland of Greece or the Balkans.  
(There was also a German 'Operation Zeppelin' with the aim of killing Stalin)

**Vendetta.** On smaller scale, but with great success.

Intent: to make the Germans think that Spain would enter the Allied camp and that an invasion on the French coast in the south was a real possibility.

For this, the British Secret Service enlisted Lieutenant M.E. Clifton James.

A pretty good look-a-like from Marshal Montgomery. He traveled to Spain and various North African British positions. He was not too secretive about the invasion plans for southern France.



Left: the real one

Military experts believe that Operation Bodyguard contributed significantly to the success of the Normandy landings.

Even in the weeks after June 6, 1944, the German army command was convinced that the really big action near Calais was still to come.

For the ceremony on June 6 this year, we use information from the Juno Beach Center website.

For all photos:

<https://www.junobeach.org/ceremony-of-the-79th-anniversary-of-d-day/>



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**Juno Beach, June 6, 2023.**

On the occasion of the ceremony of the 79th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, the 20th anniversary of the Juno Beach Centre was celebrated. Attended, among others, by Mrs. Joya DONNELLY, Minister-Counsellor for Political and Cultural Affairs acting at the Embassy of Canada, Mr. Julien MINICONI, Sub-Prefect of Coutances, Mrs. Anne-Marie PHILIPPEAUX, Mayor of Courseulles, Mrs. Michèle BOISVERT, General Delegate of Quebec and Mrs. Isabelle BRAIS, wife of the Prime Minister of Quebec, Also the Vice admiral Scott BISHOP, Canadian Military Representative to NATO, Colonel Jonathan WARREN, British Air Attaché for the United Kingdom, Commander James CRAVEN of the United States Embassy, Ms. Rebecca DOYLE, Counselor to the Department of Veterans Affairs of the Australian Embassy, Lieutenant-Colonel Daniel KUCHERHAN, Deputy Defense Attaché of Canada in France and may, many French and Canadian elected authorities. Further: Canadian families as well as a group of students from the Canadian Battlefields Foundation, a group of students from the Quintefeuille College in Courseulles-sur-Mer, cadets from the Gendarmerie and a large audience.



Nearly 500 people were welcomed by Mark CLEARIHUE, representative of the Juno Beach Centre Canada Association – Honorary Colonel of the 7th Toronto Regiment of the Royal Canadian Artillery.

After the Last Post, the Silence and Reveil, the reading of the Act of Remembrance was made by Lieutenant-Colonel Bruno BERGERON of the Régiment de la Chaudière and Arlène MASON, daughter of Richard LA CROIX, paratrooper of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion, KIA on June 6, 1944.



R. La Croix



The Promise of Remembrance of Youth was read in French by a student from Quintefeuille College and a young girl from the Canadian Battlefields Foundation.

Reverend Tom WILSON proceeded to a blessing before the laying of wreaths, which took place around the statue "Remembrance and Renewal" and before the national anthems.



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**Rucphen, June 2023.**

Unveiling three monuments.

In the presence of relatives and many invited guests three monuments were unveiled. The monuments are in memory of the killed crews of three aircraft that crashed near Rucphen in 1943.



At the invitation of The Dutch Polar Bears Foundation, RCL Branch 005 was present with a delegation for the wreath laying and with the RCL 005 Colour Party.



The ceremony started in the town hall with a number of speeches and the presentation of the book 'The abrupt end of three missions above Rucphen' by Ad van Uffelen and Frank Overveld. The first copy was presented to the mayor. Afterwards, the entire group of invitees and interested people went outside for the unveiling and wreath-laying.



One member of the crewmembers of the Halifax W1271, which crashed on the night of June 21-22, 1943, was the Royal Canadian Air Force flight engineer:

Sgt. J.J.F. Holland.  
(what's in a name?)



After the ceremony there was a flyby of two 'De Havilland Tiger Moths' performed in the 'Missing Man Formation'.





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After lunch, the attendees went to the Canadian and British War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom. The victims of the crashes have their final resting place there.



Very special was that one of the relatives had taken ashes of her recently deceased mother and scattered them at the grave of her deceased uncle (brother of her mother).

In the meantime, the monuments have been placed at their final location in Rucphen, St. Willebrord and Schijf. As close as possible to the original 1943 crash locations.

It was a well organized ceremony with some very emotional moments. The municipality of Rucphen and the (voluntary) agencies, including The Dutch Polar Bears, have done a special deed with this.

It was an honour for RCL 'Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005 to participate in this ceremony.

Photos:

Anne Poppenk  
Mieke van Bussel  
Dré van Roomen





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**Miscellaneous.**

**News release**

June 8, 2023 – Ottawa – National Defence /  
Canadian Armed Forces

Three Canadian soldiers of the First World War, Private Harry Atherton, Corporal Percy Howarth, and Sergeant Richard Musgrave, were laid to rest with military Honours at Loos British Cemetery, Loos-en-Gohelle, France.



The families of the soldiers were in attendance, with the support of Veterans Affairs Canada, along with representatives of the Government of Canada and the local French Government. All three soldiers were reported missing on August 15, 1917, on the first day of the Battle of [Hill 70](#) near Lens, France, and each was presumed to have died as part of the battle.

Private Harry Atherton was buried by his perpetuating unit, The Calgary Highlanders. Private Atherton died at the age of 24. His identification was announced by the Department of National Defence (DND) in October 2022. Corporal Percy Howarth was buried by his perpetuating unit, The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own). Corporal Howarth died at the age of 23. His identification was announced by DND in January 2023. Sergeant Richard Musgrave was buried by his perpetuating unit, The British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own). Sergeant Musgrave died at the age of 32. His identification was announced by DND in March 2022.

The remains of the three soldiers were discovered during construction projects north of Lens, France, in 2011 and 2017. The CWGC was notified and took possession of the remains and associated artefacts. Through historical, genealogical, anthropological, archaeological, and DNA analysis, and with the assistance of the Canadian Forces Forensic Odontology Response Team and the Canadian Museum of History, the Casualty Identification Review Board was able to confirm the identity of the soldiers.





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**Worth reading.**



Cultural Services

## THE VETERAN

**Artist:** Jim Menken

**Category:** Public Monuments & Memorials

**Address:** 45 Main Street South, Brampton

The Veteran was originally carved in 2005 in honour of the National Year of the Veteran, from the trunk of a dying red oak that had stood for over a century. The statue is modelled on Bill Bettridge, a decorated Veteran of World War II and survivor of Operation Overlord, the D-Day landing in Normandy, France that ultimately led to the end of the war. It stands in silent tribute to the many men and women of Brampton who served and continue to serve our nation in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping missions around the world so that we may live in freedom and in peace.

The Veteran is looking toward the Brampton Cenotaph, reminding all of Brampton's citizens that we have a duty to honour the service, sacrifice, and the memory of all Veterans.

Carved by Jim Menken, this statue was commissioned by the City of Brampton at the request of Mayor Susan Fennell, in association with Branches 15 and 609 of the Royal Canadian Legion, and with the community support of Eclipse Youth Drop-in Centre a program of Rapport Youth & Family Services.

Due to its organic medium, the original wood Veteran statue was replaced in 2016 with an exact replica. In the fall of 2022, the Veteran was replaced again with another more durable replica, this time a bronze sculpture.





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It took consultation to decide whether to include the following message.  
What made the difference is the following:

***Our liberators came from all corners of the world and were of all denominations. Many of them were Native People. From Australia, New Zealand, the Americas and Canada. Many have fought for us. Now they are fighting for their own rights, at least for equal rights. 'Lest we forget'.***



Photo: Castanet  
Okanagan Nation Alliance Tribal Chair Chief Clarence Louie.

Three B.C. Interior tribal councils are being cut into the Columbia River Treaty.

The provincial government announced recently the Ktunaxa, Secwépemc and Syilx Okanagan Nations will each receive five per cent of the revenue generated through the sale of Canada's share of downstream power benefits under the treaty. The proposed interim agreements will share the revenue over four years.

The Columbia River Treaty was ratified in 1964 by the U.S. and Canada to provide flood control and generate hydro power. Four dams were constructed under the treaty — three in Canada and one in the U.S.

The construction of those dams massively impacted First Nations through changes to river flow and ecosystem and cultural losses.

The treaty dams were part of a series of dams that devastated salmon stocks, leading to a decades-long project of the Okanagan Nation Alliance to restore them.

Okanagan Nation Alliance Tribal Chair Chief Clarence Louie called the interim revenue sharing agreement a "historic first step."

"For far too long, we have been excluded from decisions that directly impact the Syilx Nation. These previous decisions lacked any form of consent and often left us with only devastating impacts," he said.

"With this announcement, the provincial government has demonstrated a level of integrity to finally do the right thing."

Louie said the ONA has been pushing the provincial government for involving in the new Columbia River Treaty, which is under negotiation.

"Alongside our First Nation neighbours in the Columbia River watershed — the Secwépemc Nation and Ktunaxa Nation — we are beginning a long journey of righting the historical wrongs of the past injustices with the Crown on decision-making, revenue sharing, ecosystems and Indigenous cultural values."

The provincial government said negotiations will continue with the three tribal councils for a long-term agreement.

**<https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/430971/B.C.-Interior-First-Nations-to-receive-revenue-from-Columbia-River-Treaty>**



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**Invictus Games 2023 – Team Canada Unveiling**

By Martin Zeilig



Colonel Aaron Spott, 17 Wing Commander, said he didn't hesitate for a second when he was approached some months back to host the training camp for the CAF's 2023 Invictus Games team.

On May 17th, Team Canada was announced for the Invictus Games scheduled for September 2023 in Düsseldorf, Germany. Attendees at the unveiling ceremony included the Honourable Heather Stefanson, Premier of Manitoba, Major-General Ian Huddleston, Commander 1 Canadian Air Division, and Captain (N) Adamthwaite, the Deputy Commander, CAF Transition Group, among other dignitaries.

"It's an amazing opportunity to showcase the passion and the drive of these athletes, as well as to showcase the Wing's support and professionalism of our PSP staff because they've been working exceptionally hard behind the scenes to support what's going on here this week."

"With the 6th Invictus Games in Düsseldorf, our goal is to give soldiers who are wounded, injured, or ill in body and soul a greater awareness and recognition in society and to support their path in rehabilitation," Capt(N) Adamthwaite noted in his opening address.

**Soldier On** is a program of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) which contributes to the recovery of ill and injured CAF members and veterans by providing opportunities and resources through sport, recreational, and creative activities.

"It's been an incredible opportunity to meet with other CAF members and learn from their shared experiences of adversity and overcoming obstacles in their lives, and being able to learn from them has been tremendous in my own recovery," Cpl (ret) Muller.

Sgt (ret) Taylor, who retired last September after 30 years in the CAF, will be competing in swimming, indoor rowing and sitting volleyball.

"It's an absolute game changer."

"Everybody is here doing it together. It is fabulous to be here with other athletes—the camaraderie and being together. I'm looking forward to being in Dusseldorf."



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**Message from Wageningen.  
June 29, 2023.**

**Unveiling of the 'Carnation Monument'.**

There is a bronze cavity in the facade next to the entrance of 'Hotel De Wereld'.

This is the 'Carnation Monument'.

From June 29, 2023, a white carnation (Dianthus) will be placed into the Carnation Monument daily, around 3 p.m., with a short ritual.

A delicate flower, exposed to weather, wind and people.  
As a symbol of the fragility of peace and freedom.



And, if because of that vulnerability the carnation loses out to the harsh world, a new one will be placed the next day.

Just as we have to do our best every day for peace and freedom.

Since the protest on June 29, 1940 in The Hague, the white carnation has also been the symbol of veterans and a recognition for everyone who has resisted war and oppression and for them who still work for peace and freedom.

Remember:

***"Freedom is not free. It is bought at a high price. It can be squandered cheaply."***

**Jerry Pournelle**



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**Upcoming.**

**The best way to stay informed:**

**see our agenda.**

**<https://www.rcl005.nl/agenda-google-versie-3/>**



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**To end with a smile:**

