



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 005
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



NEWSLETTER RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2019 – 06

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Upcoming events:

July 1 Commemoration Beaumont-Hamel (Zone Europe)
July 7 Canada Day, Soc. Event at Mondani
July 15 Commemoration Groesbeek by Can. Detachment
July 18 Groesbeek, Regiment related ceremonies
July 27 Goodbye Ambassador (informally at Mondani)
Aug 7 Board meeting
Sept 1 Airborne March Oosterbeek (?)

Have a look on the [agenda](#). For the latest news: [Facebook](#).

There are far more pictures on our website from multiple ceremonies, to have a look: click: [album](#)

THE STORY

Changing column with background information on a specific topic. This can be viewed by clicking on the "The Story" button.

This time a biographical outline of a Canadian veteran of "foreign" origin.

Not surprising because almost the entire population of Canada (95%) consists of immigrants and their descendants. More than a quarter of them are of British and Irish descent, around 24% are originally French, 4% German, 3% Italian, 2% Ukrainian and 1.4% Dutch. (2017)

WALLY D. BUNKA, one from around 2% of Ukrainian descent.





Message from your 1st Vice President a.i.

Appreciation and respect.

It's gooseberry season ... the vacations have begun. That also means that you have the opportunity to think about what you are doing in life and what that means for you and the people around you.

I have just returned from a 4-week special trip with five of us to British Columbia Canada where we have met "old" friends, but also many new people.

We stayed with friends and also a few times in rented houses and we had a good time. The owners were very pleased that we were so positive about their houses, but also respected the points of improvement that we gave. We ourselves received compliments for tidy leaving the houses and the good mutual communication. It gave an extra good holiday feeling.

It made me think. Everyone needs appreciation at a moment about what he / she is doing in life. Positive criticism is part of that, so that you can also work on improvement. It shows respect to each other that you are open to that. This also includes awarding appreciation to others. In my opinion you have to show that you are happy for the appreciation that someone else receives. You are not the one who gives away the "compliment"; another person has ruled on that. It has everything to do with communication between each other and not about each other. Communication is the transfer of facts, but also of feeling. Objectively and subjectively. But always from the person who carries out the communication. He / she is therefore always responsible for what he / she communicates or emits.

But now enough thoughts have been said.

I wish you all a nice holiday period and dare you to do some "thinking" in the sun. There will certainly be a few moments in the coming period. The editors of the Newsletter would be happy to hear if you have special thoughts, which you like to share with others. Or let me know personally. Maybe I will see you at the events in Groesbeek during the 4 Days Marches of Nijmegen?

Have a wonderful time!

Ruud Janssen

1st Vice President a.i.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005





Burgemeester Slinkman hoists the flag

NEW NAME FOR MUSEUM IN GROESBEEK.

On May 9, 2019 the new name of the National Liberation museum 1944-1945 in Groesbeek was published during a special press conference. From the moment the new museum opens the door on the 1st of September 2019, the name will be changed to **“Freedom Museum”**.

This name fits better with the new international storyline of the Museum: The Story of War and Freedom without Borders. This storyline has been created by a uniquely and intensive cooperation between Dutch and German historians and museums. On the 7th of May the highest point of the new building was reached. In a few hours' time the roof is slowly blown up during a precision operation. The museum finds its new residence in a [“Shaded Dome”](#).

This new concept has been developed and delivered by Shaded Dome Technologies and has a strong resemblance to an enormous parachute. A recognizable logo of the liberation at the time. With the new cross-border educational storyline and the new accommodation the museum is given a unique and permanent exposition for young and old. The special shaped building is a real tourist attraction in the green, hilly landscape of Groesbeek. After the press conference the flag with the new logo was unveiled and hoisted by Mayor Mark Slinkman of the municipality of Berg en Dal.

Copied from “De Rozet”. (Local Newspaper Berg en Dal Region). Volume 33 No. 10.



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Students at Holten.

Just in time for the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings, students and staff from the Anglophone North School District were in Europe to retrace the steps of New Brunswick's North Shore Regiment.



For a CBC report just click the photo

For extra information about the Regiments landing on D-Day at Juno Beach, just click →

Their journey started in Amsterdam and ended on the beaches of Normandy.



On the 1st of June they visited Holten. There, the ceremony was organized by students from the Canisius College in Tubbergen-NL under the inspiring leadership of teacher and comrade Mark Veldhuis.

Some of the students with a First Nation background sang a traditional song, [Mi'kmaq Honour Song](#), life stories were told, wreaths were laid and the national anthems from Canada and the Netherlands were played.

Colonel Tim Young, the Canadian military attaché to the Netherlands was present. RCL Branch 005 was part of the ceremony with the Colour Party and a small delegation.



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Soldiers of the North Shore Regiment boarding an Alligator before the start of Operation Veritable on Feb. 8, 1945

Private J.W. Butler (left) of The North Shore Regiment searches a German prisoner of war who is slightly larger than himself. Sangatte, France, 26 September 1944.

The most significant D-Day film footage was shot on Juno Beach by Sergeant Bill Grant. The film shows Canadian troops of the North Shore Regiment landing on Juno Beach, on D-Day, June 6, 1945.

>click the link below<

<https://youtu.be/DV7mK0iT3P8>

Column: *Herman Sligman*





Heijningen, Fort Sabina, June 6, 2019.

Mrs. Lori Jacobs Veness was visibly moved. Together with Mayor Jac Klijs from the municipality of Moerdijk, she had just cut the paper loose and unveiled sculpture created of mesh. Not just a piece of art, but one that gives an extra dimension to the memorial for her uncle Walter Veness in the courtyard of Fort Sabina.

Trooper Walter Veness died in the vicinity during the last days of the war. We have already described this incident in more detail in our 2019-05 edition.



kijkopMoerdijk.nl

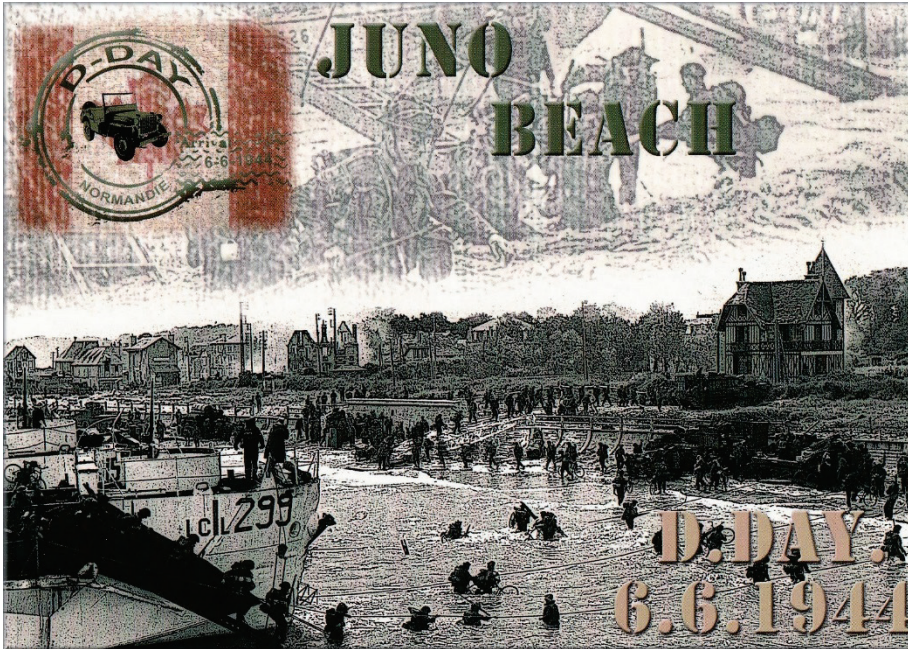
Click on photo for more pictures



RCL Branch 005 was invited to attend this ceremony and was present with a delegation.

Column: Herman Sligman





NORMANDY

75th ANNIVERSARY D-DAY.

The largest amphibious operation in history started on June 6, 1944. The code name for the complete operation was Operation Overlord. The code name for the landings on the 6th of June was Operation Neptune.

With landing crafts, soldiers mainly from the United States, Great Britain and Canada, headed for the beaches of Normandy.

Parachutists had been dropped more inland before the landings on the beaches. Warships were responsible for the shelling from the sea.

A cool description of a gigantic operation. A well-prepared but daring attack to set up a second front in Western Europe. The ceremonies for the 75th anniversary of D-Day, as it is called June 6, have been extensively described in all media.

We only show some photos.



Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer



Winnipeg Rifles heading for Juno Beach



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Gérard Doré. E / 584, Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal.

Widely recognized as the youngest fallen. Born 29.08.1927.

At the time of his registration, he specified 1924 as the year of birth. His hefty stature made him appear credible. Killed on 23.07.1944, a month before his 17th birthday.



Villa "Denise et Roger" at Bernières-sur-Mer. Now known as Canada House.

Click on the photo for film footage of a ceremony at the temporary graves behind the villa.

The men are from the Regiment de la Chaudière.



Men of the Regiment de la Chaudière heading for Juno Beach

For another film footage: https://youtu.be/1un_R-QBrD4



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They were there on the 6th of June 2019



Not to forget them: they were also there in 1944.

In August 1944, quite some time after D-Day, the Princess Irene

Brigade landed with about 1.200 men at Arromanches in France. On August 12, 1944 the Brigade took part in the fighting's at Pont-Audemer and Saint-Côme.

Compilation: Herman Sligman

De commandanten van de 6de Airborn Division en de 5de Para brigade bedankten de Prinses Irene Brigade in lovende woorden voor de inzet:

Brief van C.-6 Airb. Div. aan C.-Irene Brigade

My dear Colonel,

I cannot say, how sorry I am, that the command of your galant brigade should so soon pass from me. It will always be my great pride, that the Royal Dutch contingent first fought in this great battle for liberation under my command.

Your men have fought splendidly throughout this time, culminating in your splendid dash for Pont Audemer. It has been an honour to have fought besides you.

May God speed you in your advance to your great country.

Yours very sincerely
(signed) Richard N. Gale
Major-General

Brief van C.-5 Para. Brig. aan C.-Irene Brig.

Thank you so much for the fine work you and your Brigade did during our rapid advance on Audemer. The fine spirit and bearing of your men was most impressive and I felt it a great honour to have you with us.

We all of us in this brigade wish you the best of luck and may you speedily and succesfully reach the frontiers of your own country. We shall follow your progress with much interest.

Good luck and great succes! I hope we shall meet again.

Yours very sincerely
(signed) Nigel Poëtt.



Report of the Normandy trip by the comrades Marc van Aken and Fred Blom.

Their own text:

Normandy trip.

We, the undersigned together with Fred and 3 others, left early in the morning of the 3rd of June. We wanted to arrive at our B&B on time.

The first days went as planned, as far as you could still speak of sticking to a plan in the bustle. This changed on the morning of June 6; we had left early for the memorial on Juno Beach. All of a sudden, we arrived at a crossroads with a large road and so did many other motorcars. There, the crossing traffic from both directions was stopped. After a long wait I went to take a look. I asked a policeman about what was going on, he told me not to be able to report anything about this.

I showed him our E-tickets, the permission to attend the ceremony at Juno Beach, but that didn't change anything. His statement: "you all have the right papers, but with an additional emergency ordinance, no one is allowed to cross the road for the hours to come". We decided to turn the car and go to Bayeux. There we made a tour through the historic city center and visited the Cathedral. In the afternoon we heard that around 3 p.m. the emergency ordinance was cancelled and we could drive to Juno Beach. No sooner said than done.

Arrived at Juno Beach I placed the photos of three brothers James, Albert and Frank Maloney, as promised to the Canadian Maloney family. In remembrance of all three. James died during the liberation of Etten, both his brothers survived the war but have since died.

After this we drove to the town of Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer. We commemorated our veteran Bill Cole who died on May 12, 2019. Bill landed there on June 6, 1944 with the British South Staffordshire Regiment.

This regiment fought hard in the Battle of Caen. Due to the heavy losses, the regiment was split up in August 1944 and the men were transferred to other units. Bill Cole was assigned to a Canadian unit. With the Canadian troops, Bill ended up in Doetinchem. When Doetinchem was liberated, he met his beloved Erna there. After the war, he visited her again and married her.



In Remembrance: the Maloney brothers



After this it was time to eat something and we walked along the boulevard of Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer. Suddenly I saw a flag hanging on a house, for me a familiar one: the "Red Ensign".

I paused a moment to look at it, but the others walked on. I remanded them back to explain which flag this was. At that time the residents also came out for having lunch on their terrace. I asked them if Fred and I could take a picture with this flag. Fortunately for us, the woman spoke a little English and she quickly understood what the intention was.



In Remembrance: Bill Cole

When I stood next to the flag and I grabbed it for a moment, I realized that this had to be an oldie. I asked her about the origin of this flag. She said that her father-in-law had received it on June 6, 1944 from the Canadians who had landed there and had freed the town from the Germans.

After that, the flag had once again been hung on a wooden pole near the town hall together with the French flag during a commemoration. Then well stored in the attic, where he had been for around 75 years. I quote: *"This morning I told my husband that this was a perfect opportunity to take the old flag from the attic and hang it to honor our liberators in this way."*

After taking some photos, we talked a little longer and then went on to eat something. It was very busy everywhere and wherever we went: no free places. Then back on our steps to see if there was still a place on the other side of the boulevard.

So we walked past the house with the flag again and the lady of the house started to wave and shouted that her husband wanted to show me something. He came outside with a Canadian helmet in perfect condition. Completely original with all the trimmings.



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We looked at it and returned it and said that we would now continue to eat something. At that moment she said: *"wait a minute, my husband wants to give you something"*. Her husband walked inside and came back with a pair of scissors in his hand.

He cut the ropes of the flag, he assembled it a little and gave it to me. I was so surprised and thought: an original D-Day flag for me! How beautiful and very special that is.

I didn't know how to thank them; I kissed her three times and gave him a big hug, then, together with Fred, I folded the flag as it should be done. When she looked hereafter, it became too much for her, she started to cry and said: *"How nicely do you do this and how respectful is that for a flag that has survived D-Day"*.

I still have those words in my mind.

We took some more photos and exchanged our data to keep in touch. It was truly a day never to be forgotten.

How we will proceed with the "Red Ensign" is still being discussed. That we are going to do something with it is for certain. At that time an update will follow.

Signed: Marc van Aken.



A picture together with the generous donors



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Canada Day celebration at the Embassy.

June 27, 2019.

Canada Day or Fête du Canada is the national holiday of Canada and takes place every year on July 1. The holiday was originally called Dominion Day, but it got its current name in 1982, when the Canada Act was signed.



The Canadian Embassy in the Netherlands traditionally organized a festive gathering.

A honoured guest was HRH Princess Margriet.



By the way: HRH arrived by car!

The Sherman tank was a decoration.





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← the culinary forces



the sweets →

48th Highlanders
Pipes & Drums
Holland



The crew of the Embassy

Thank You Excellency, thank you Canada.



Compilation: *Herman Sligman*