



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 005
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



NEWSLETTER RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2019 – 07

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Information for our members
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Commemoration Bergen op Zoom

Upcoming events:

Aug 21/24 Wings of Freedom Ede
Aug 31 Vlissingen Sailpast (with a proviso)
Sept 4 Reception on board Rotterdam (with a proviso)
Sept 7 Airborne March Oosterbeek (?)
Sept 7 Groesbeek Freedom Cycle Tour
Sept 8 Commemoration Adegem (Zone Europe)
Sept 13 Nederhorst den Berg unveiling monument
Sept 17 Berg en Dal Commemoration Market Garden
Sept 18 Groesbeek Para dropping
Sept 20 Commemoration Mook
Sept 21 Commemorations Ede + Driel
Sept 22 Commemorations Driel + Heteren
Sept 22 Commemoration Market Garden 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.

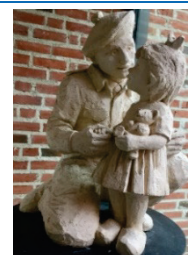
This can be viewed by clicking on the "The Story" button.

KEYWORDS FOR THIS STORY:

THE STATUE, THE ARTIST, FRIENDLY GENTLEMAN, BLACK WATCH SNIPER.

Read the story about the creation of the statue, recorded by LIDWIEN ROUWELER herself.
Read about her contacts with Jim "Hook" Wilkinson.

Also click on the link to the trailer about the Black Watch Scout Platoon, the unit of which Jim was a member. Realize that you hear rather fierce statements and see (re-enacted) images that can be experienced as shocking.





Message from the President

Remembrance Belgium. On July 1, 2019 Zone Europe was represented at the commemoration at Beaumont-Hamel. Especially at the Newfoundland Regiment Monument. Branch 005 was represented by André Bogerman, Philip van Leeuwen, and myself. The Zone had arranged an overnight stay after the ceremony. So, B&B at the Butterworth Farm. Arriving there the ladies had a meal ready. We returned next day, but not before we stopped at the Thiepval Memorial and the Lochnagar-crater. For next year, the Zone is planning two overnight stays. One offered by the Zone and the other on own account. But more about this when the Zone has approved the plan.

Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. Sometimes being a little proud of our branch is also allowed. Three members have received a prestigious award from the governor of Canada: the "Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers". The medals were pinned by a proud Ambassador H.E. Mrs. Sabine Nölke on July 10, 2019 at the "Official Canadian Residence" in Wassenaar. On behalf of the Branch: Congratulations Edwin van der Wolf, Gerard Hendriks and Martin Reelick.

I received this medal personally, but would like to share the honour with the Branch.

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers is a Canadian decoration intended to honour volunteers who have made a significant and continual contribution to their community, either in Canada or abroad.



Status Quo of the board. The new board has been working for a while now. We have learned a lot and picked up skills in a short time. I am proud of the way the new board members take on their primary duties. Do not expect that everything will all go perfectly; we all are volunteers and human. The working groups are also getting better and better acquainted and I also see the results.



JTF Nijmegen. Due to miscommunication and lack of clarity we have missed a memorial in Bergen op Zoom. The "Commemorations" working group has established contact with the JTF Nijmegen planning office. We hope to be informed in time about planned ceremonies and locations for the 2020 edition.

"Farewell"

Sabine Nölke.

On Saturday afternoon, July 27, 2019, a large number of members of Branch 005 attended the "farewell" get-together of our beloved ambassador H.E. Sabine Nölke. She came directly from Amsterdam where she had been present at PRIDE WALK 2019 and



was therefore still dressed in appropriate colours. It was an informal meeting at Restaurant Mondani in Lochem. Intended to say "adieu" personally. After my brief speech Sabine responded with words of thanks to the members of the Branch. She said that she always felt very comfortable and at ease during commemorations, unveilings and Branch meetings. That she could be "Sabine" among us and put "Her Excellency" aside. She has greatly appreciated that. As a memento, a figurine by Lidwien Rouweler was offered on behalf of Branch 005. Background information of the statuette you can find by clicking the "Story button" on the front page of this newsletter. After the pleasant meeting, we also said adieu and wished her and her family all the best for the future.

Martin Reelick

President

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005





The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



Member information

With sadness we have to record two messages here. Our comrade **Gerard Visser** died on August 8, 2019.

Together with Howard Miller, he was one of the founders of the Poppy Campaign in Kennemerland. RCL Branch 005 will be represented at his funeral.

Rest in Peace Gerard!



Gerard Visser

07.09.1934 - 08.08.2019

Alphonse Deguire R.I.P.

On August 5, 2019 we received another sad message.

Alphonse Deguire, Past President of one of the Branches of Zone Europe died on August 2, 2019. After a short illness, he had to stop fighting cancer. We wish his relatives a lot of strength.

A condolence card has been sent on behalf of RCL Branch 005.

We will remember him!



Alphonse Deguire

We also draw your attention to the new Zone Europe website of RCL. www.rcl-europe.org



Royal Canadian Legion
Zone Europe

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Editorial

Dutch Heritage Day

It's time to stock up on orange clothing and wooden shoes because from now on, May 5 will be known as Dutch Heritage Day in Canada.

The federal government has adopted a motion from Chatham-Kent-Leamington MP Dave Van Kesteren to recognize Canada's special relationship with the Netherlands annually on that date, starting this year.

Van Kesteren brought forward the motion (M-207) in January and right from the beginning it was met with support from all parties, eventually passing unanimously in Parliament on April 10 (285 in favour, none opposed).

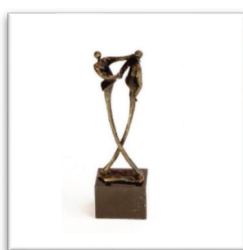
"It's always good to bring forward a motion that everybody agrees on," said Van Kesteren. "When it comes to the people of Canada, where we come from... it's a great story and the story is great because we all contribute in a different way and we bring into the community something we can all benefit from and that's in essence what this motion is about."

But the motion isn't only meant to celebrate the contributions of Dutch immigrants to Canadian society. It is also meant to honour the sacrifices made by Canadian veterans who gave their lives fighting for the Liberation of the Netherlands, which took place on May 5, 1945. While the day will not be observed as a national holiday, Van Kesteren is still hoping some special annual recognition will take place.

"I'm hoping it will grow legs of its own, in all communities — children of immigrants and grandchildren will think about that and come up with something that they can do to make it more meaningful," said Van Kesteren. "It's entirely up to the community... there will be some plans for the 75th anniversary of the liberation, which will happen next year — that'll be a little more intense."



Frederieke Quispel of the Dutch Embassy presents Dave and Faye Van Kesteren the „Handshake“ statue as a symbol of a strong connection between Canada and The Netherlands. (Photo via Facebook Dave Van Kesteren)





Beaumont-Hamel. Juli 1, 2019.

July 1st is of course, as always, Canada Day but it is also the day on which the tens of thousands of casualties of the first battle of The Somme (1916) are commemorated. A number of Royal Canadian Legion, Zone Europe members made the drive down to Beaumont-Hamel where we paid our respects at the Newfoundland Regiment Monument. Bus loads of folks from Newfoundland were also present so a few legion members from there happily lend a needed hand during the always impressive and meaningful ceremony.



We ourselves stayed the night over in a very fine bed and breakfast which carried the name: Butterworth Farm. A name with a very familiar (WW I) sound to it. Indeed, named after English composer and musician Lt. George Butterworth who during the battle died in the direct vicinity. The owners had shortly before we arrived added a few square meters to their driveway and that had produced 'tonnes' of shells, helmets and other WW I metal out of the ground.

A visit to an impressive Australian monument, the Thiepval Memorial and the Lochnagar crater completed our tour after which we headed back for home.

Column: *Philip Van Leeuwen*





July 7, 2019. Mondani walk-in afternoon.

For comrades, with or without partner, on the occasion of Canada Day.

At clubhouse Mondani, Yvonne and Berry Swarthoff had done their utmost to make it a pleasant "social event". According to the visitors, they had again succeeded in this. To use a frequently used cliché: the snacks and the drinks were excellent. By the way: for "snacks" you better read: BBQ.

A visit in between to the Liberation Museum in Lochem was a welcome change from a standard pattern. In summary: a pleasant, successful afternoon. So cozy that none of those present sent a photo to the editorial office.



So, we use our imagination.



Imagination:

Herman Sligman





Bergen op Zoom, July 13, 2019.

Around 200 Canadian soldiers visited Bergen op Zoom.

Every year a group of Canadian soldiers take part in the Four Days Marches in Nijmegen. This year a group of nearly two hundred soldiers from the Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force had come to the Netherlands. In connection with the celebration of seventy-five years of liberation from Bergen op Zoom and because the liberation was also fought by Canadian soldiers, a visit was made to this city prior to the Four Days Marches.

The Canadian cemetery near Bergen op Zoom was visited first. Here, during a solemn ceremony, wreaths were laid for the hundreds of Canadian soldiers who fell at the Battle of the Scheldt.

Four buses left from the cemetery to Plein 13 in Bergen op Zoom. From there, the Canadian contingent marched through the center of the city to the Markiezenhof.



Click on photo for video



The liberation of Bergen op Zoom was part of the Battle of the Scheldt, Canadian soldiers played a key role in these fierce battles.

It is customary to compose a symphony for an important battle. Although the Battle of the Scheldt was very important in the course of the war, no music was written in honour of this battle.

In cooperation with the foundation responsible for the commemoration of the liberation, the municipality of Bergen op Zoom decided to do something about this. Steven Dietvorst, composer and musician with the Royal Netherlands Air Force Orchestra and citizen, was asked to compose „something”.



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



So, he did; the result: "Heroes of the Scheldt". The visit by the Canadian military was an appropriate opportunity to present this symphony for the first time.

In his speech, the Military Attaché of Canada to the Netherlands, Colonel Tim Young, mentioned the link between Canada and Bergen op Zoom and also told about the enormous sacrifices that the Canadians had made in WW2.



Click on photo for video

The battle of the Scheldt, which had long been underexposed, was of great importance because with the expulsion of the German occupiers around the Scheldt, the passage to the port of Antwerp was secured. The supply route for the allied troops was enormously shortened with this.

Afterwards the buses with the Canadians left Bergen op Zoom. Destination: Camp Heumensoord near Nijmegen, where they prepared themselves for walking the Four Days Marches.

Column shared by: *Gerard Hendriks.*

Appreciation for years of commitment

At the end of the ceremony on 13 July in Bergen op Zoom, Detachment Commander Colonel Eric Quirion asked the Past President of RCL005, Gerard Hendriks, to come together briefly. Gerard was very surprised because, especially as Gerard Hendriks personally but also as President of RCL Branch 005, he was offered a display case containing the Canadian Flag and the "coins" from 2012 to 2019. This as thanks for the many years of support for the four-day detachment.

Of course, Gerard was very proud, but we, as Branch 005, are happy that the Dutch support is so appreciated by our friends in Canada. A splendid memento Gerard!

Signed: *Ruud Janssen*

