



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BRANCH 005
THE LIBERATION OF THE NETHERLANDS



NEWSLETTER RCL Branch 005 Nr. 2019 – 10

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Nov 2 Commemoration Steenberg/Welberg

Nov 9 Commemoration Beaumont-Hamel (Euro Zone)

Nov 10 Apeldoorn – Vimy Ridge (Euro Zone) – The Hague

Nov 11 Groesbeek Remembrance Day

Nov 13 Board meeting

Dec 4 Board meeting

Dec 24 Christmas Eve (candle evening, among others:
Holten, Groesbeek, Bergen op Zoom, Oosterbeek)

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

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



Varied column with information on a specific topic.

This can be viewed by clicking somewhere here.



KEYWORDS FOR THIS STORY:

HUNGER WINTER – FOOD DROPPINGS – FOOD TRANSPORTS

The commemoration and celebration of 75 years of FREEDOM has begun. Winter 2019-2020 is coming.

In memory of the hunger winter (1944-1945) remembering the thousands of victims is also a must.

THE HUNGER WINTER.



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



From the Board.

The first weeks of commemoration in the context of 75 years of liberation of The Netherlands are passed by. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 has shown itself in an excellent way!

The members of the Colour Party have had a tough month, with beautiful moments, for both the Colour Party and the public. This is something to be proud of!

The coming period Zone Europe will be present at commemorations in Beaumont-Hamel and Vimy on 8, 9 and 10 November. Our Branch will also attend.

Our promotional tent has had an excellent year. Thanks to the permanent line-up Evelien and Eelco, Elly and Nic, Moos and partner, Cynthia and Peter.

In addition to providing information about RCL and our objectives, an excellent result of more than 3000 euro was credited to the account of RCL005 by the treasurer.

The annual "Poppy Campaign" has also started again. We hope for a good result, so that we can add a substantial amount to the Poppy fund to achieve its objectives.

The end of 2019 is rapidly approaching, which means that the contribution for 2020 must be paid. Our secretary has sent everyone an e-mail with the request to pay this before December 1st. This gives us the opportunity to report the correct number of members to Dominion Command. This prevents, among other things, that members receive the Legion Magazine too late. A number of you have already paid the contribution, for which thank you. It would be nice to have everything in order before December 1st, 2019.

Peter Mensink

Treasurer

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005





The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



Veenendaal, October 5, 2019.

Commemoration Harold F. Wakeman.

The Harold Wakeman Foundation had given the annual commemoration, this year the 75th, more body than usual. Ten of Wakeman's family members, including his youngest brother James (Jim), arrived from Canada to Veenendaal. Preceded by a delegation from RCL Branch 005, the guests went to the cemetery. The commemoration had the usual routine with speeches and wreath laying, but this time a bit more extensive.



A special moment was the reading of a letter from William (Jack) Wakeman (elder brother, 90 years old) by Bill Wakeman (Harold's nephew). The prominent participation of pupils from the Johannes Calvin School, the school that adopted the grave, is a tradition. The reading of poems, the laying of a wreath and the singing of the Canadian and the Dutch National Anthem are special and moving. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Canadian Embassy, the family members, Municipality of Veenendaal, RCL Branch 005, Veterans Veenendaal and the Harold Wakeman Foundation itself.





Monday, October 7, 2019.

Monument for Harold F. Wakeman.

At the end of 2015, the municipality of Veenendaal had already decided to name a street after Wakeman. A further memory of Harold, one of the five sons of the Wakeman family, was realized on the Dr. Hoolboomweg at De Klomp station. Many interested people watched the unveiling. The mayors of the municipalities of Veenendaal and Ede were present, as well as the students of the Joh. Calvin School.

Another bonus was that a fly-past could take place.

In summary: on both days a very solemn commemoration, which undoubtedly made an enormous impression on all those involved.



LEST WE FORGET!



Male from the right: 2nd James (Jim) Wakeman, 3rd Bill Wakeman (nephew), left: Glenn Seyme (second cousin)



video: [click photo](#)



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Driel, October 11, 2019.

Hampshire commemoration Driel and commemoration 101 Airborne Division Heteren

Both ceremonies went according to the well-known pattern. The interest was extra large. Some British relatives were present. It was satisfying that schoolchildren also showed their involvement here. "Lest we forget" is therefore again underlined.



At the Hampshire monument the thoughts go almost automatically to the driving force behind the reason of the monument, Charles Reeves. R.I.P.



RCL Branch 005 was represented.

Photos: Mark van Aken



WONS, October 12, 2019.

Although the weather was less favourable, there were many interested people at the **two** ceremonies in Friesland. The commemoration of Flt Sgt Muttart **and** the unveiling of a plaque where the Halifax L-9561 has crashed. You could have read the story behind it in our 2019-09 edition.

In addition to family members, the Valkenburg couple had come to Friesland. Piet Valkenburg started an investigation in 2016 into the story behind the name Elmer Bagnall Muttart. He soon joined his activities with the Frisian Foundation Missing Airmen Memorial (SMAMF), which has been investigating air warfare over the province since the 1970s. Together with Dorpsbelang Wons, the Valkenburg couple and the SMAMF succeeded in realizing the information panel about Elmer Muttart's thanks to financial contributions from home and abroad.

RCL Branch 005 was represented by Martin Reelick and Wim Poppenk. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Branch at the cemetery. Wreaths and flowers were also laid at the realized information panel at the crash location on behalf of various delegations.



On behalf of the Canadian Embassy, the Military Attaché Col. Young was present.



In the middle: Piet Valkenburg



Click on the photo left for videoreport.

Column: Herman Sligman

Photo cemetery: S.D. Drijver

Video and stills: Gerben van der Weerd



Opening Liberation Museum Zeeland.

Nieuwdorp, October 25, 2019.

Her grandmother, Queen Wilhelmina crossed in Eede (Zeeland) in 1945 a flour line that symbolized the border. She was back in the Netherlands. HRH Princess Margriet took a similar step and opened the [Liberation Museum](#).

Prior to the opening, a unit of the [Korps Commandotroepen](#) performed a short demonstration. Quite exceptionally, the commander said. However, the Corps has a special relationship with Zeeland. The "green berets", under the name No.2 (Dutch) Troop actively participated in the liberation of Walcheren.



HRH Princess Margriet; l: founder Kees Traas, r: Stef Traas, dir.
(photo: pzc)



1945

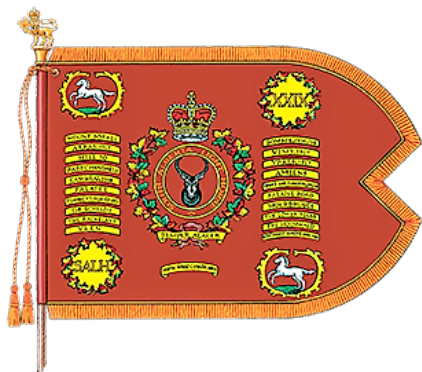


Mrs. Blommaart tells her story (photo: Marcelle Davids)

It was a varied group that was present in Nieuwdorp on Friday. Veterans from home and abroad, sometimes well in their 90s, high foreign guests and various dignitaries. There was also a lot of attention for the volunteers who are active in the museum. Without volunteers no museum is the statement of the management. They cherish the stories of the people who have experienced the war. That is why not only the director told what is on display in the museum. Eyewitness Kees Bierens, 87-year-old Kees de Kok and resistance fighter Marie Blommaart were telling Princess Margriet their stories. About what they had experienced and what their role was. "I was just a courier," Blommaart entrusted Princess Margriet.

The president of RCL Branch 005, Martin Reelick, had received an invitation for the opening.

Column: *Herman Sligman*



SALH and L&W LIBERATION TOUR October 23-27, 2019.

The South Alberta Light Horse Regiment (SALH) from Edmonton and the Lincoln & Welland Regiment (L&W) from St-Catharines, Canada were invited to the 75th liberation celebration of North West Belgium, Zeeland and West Brabant. The regiments were the Canadian liberators

of this region at the end of the Second World War. The RCL Branch 005 had the honour to accompany these regiments with a Colour Party at a number of commemorations, parades and visiting monuments and museums. The towns of Ypres, Moerbrugge, Maldegem, Adegem and Eeklo in Belgium were visited.



Ypres Menin Gate (photo Monique Bogerman)

Then the regiments and RCL 005 in the Netherlands took a peek at the Liberation Museum Zeeland in Nieuwdorp, rang the bell at the Liberation Monument Welberg (the Clock) in Steenberg, attended the Freedom of the City / Liberation parade in Bergen op Zoom and the Memorial at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom. The Colour Party of Branch 005 was also present during the commemoration at the Sloedam and the commemoration at the Canadalaan in Bergen op Zoom. The RCL Zone Europe Commander and his wife were also present this weekend. The events were concluded with a reception in the Markiezenhof in the center of Bergen op Zoom. This event was organized by the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands and the Mayor of Bergen op Zoom. In a number of [Facebook](#) items photos and short reports are made of this trip, don't miss them! Many photos are also included on the [RCL005.nl](https://www.rcl005.nl) website.



Commemoration Walcheren Causeway

It was an overwhelming weekend for all. We let the photos speak for themselves.





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Ypres
October 23, 2019.

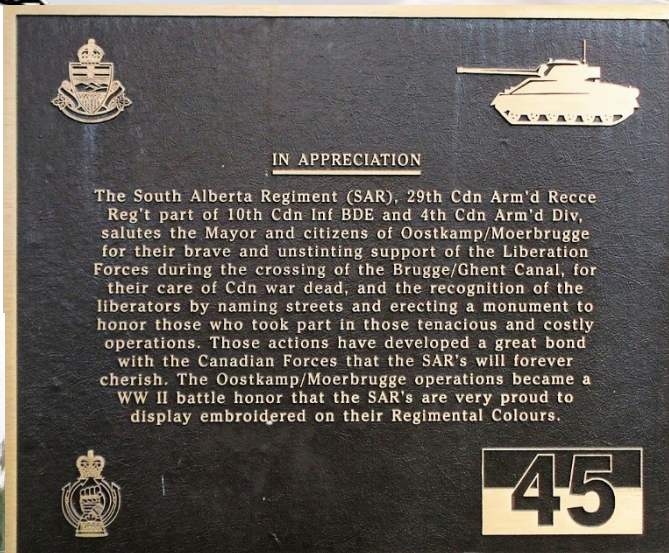




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October 24, 2019. After a night's sleep, um .. so-called sleep. Early to rise. SALH and L&W did not have the same program. SALH had planned a tour through West-Belgium. Visiting Moerbrugge, Maldegem and the Liberation Museum Zeeland in Nieuwdorp.





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October 25, 2019.

Visit to Adegem (B) where a memorial was held at the CWGC cemetery where 848 Canadians are buried.



After the ceremony, continue to Eeklo (B).





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A parade and a memorial ceremony took place in Eeklo. In the center of Eeklo is a special monument on the Canadaplein. Founded by the inhabitants in honour of the Canadian liberators.



Eeklo, België 25-10-2019



The lunch, offered by the municipality of Eeklo, was typically Belgian. Stew, French fries and beer.



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Bergen op Zoom 26.10.2019

The past few days the 75th birthday of the liberation of the Dutch city of Bergen op Zoom and the surrounding area was commemorated and celebrated.

75 years ago, on October 26, 1944, Canadian troops from the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment and the Lincoln and Welland Reg. liberated the city when the town square was reached. Today members of Royal Canadian Legion, Zone Europe participated in a number of impressive and meaningful commemorations.

The town seemed once again to have been taken over by the said regiments. And just as in those days not a soul around who had any complaints about having so many Canadians in the town. A complete joy for everyone and once again a confirmation that Canadians and Dutch maintain a very close and special bond. The city had been completely transformed into a Canadian zone and one highlight was certainly when the two regiments were officially presented with "The Freedom of the City".

The Parade.



Photos from the newsletter of the Commander of the Dutch Armed Forces. Click on a photo for video.

© Sjoerd Brattinga



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After the parade a quick bite, after which everyone sat down in the stands to attend the Tattoo. Many bands from home and abroad, including Canada, showed their best side. **For video click on →**



A special evening with a program that did justice to the joy of 75 years of freedom. The next day we were reminded that freedom is not for free. It has been paid for with many, mostly young, lives.



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Sunday, October 27, 2019.

Memorial Day of Canada.



SALH and L&W detachment at the Canadian War Cemetery



At the Canadian Cemetery in Bergen op Zoom we commemorate the Canadian soldiers who found their last resting place here. They died in the struggle for our freedom.

This annual commemoration is always visited by many people and the children also play an important role. Present were, among others, HRH Princess Margriet, the Canadian ambassador to the Netherlands HE Ms Lisa Helfand, and Frank Petter, Mayor of Bergen op Zoom. Delegates from various embassies, municipalities and government organizations were also present.



©Pix4Profs/Peter van Trijnen



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The Colour Party of RCL Zone Europe, supplemented with a Standard Bearer from the Royal British Legion, brought the cortege to their seats preceded by a Piper. The Colour Party also carried the Branch Banner of RCL Branch New Brunswick, in memory of the uncle of Mark and Jim Northrup, who had arrived from Canada. Mark laid a wreath together with the commander of the Canadian Forces. After the commemoration, a short ceremony was held at the uncle's grave.





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At home, after beautiful but sometimes emotional days, you let everything go through your mind again.

Then, back to the order of the day, you check the incoming emails. One gives a very pleasant and proud feeling.

On Tue October 29, 2019 at 10:01 am:

Dear Mr. Reelick, dear Martin,

On behalf of the board of Foundation Liberation Brabantse Wal, but also on behalf of my Parade/Tattoo working group, I thank you for your efforts. It has been a wonderful and intensive adventure that, thanks to the enthusiastic contribution of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 Colour Party, resulted in an impressive parade on October 26 and an unforgettable weekend.

Sincerely,

Irene van Kemenade

Board member Foundation Liberation Brabantse Wal

There is only one answer that fits here:

„You're welcome. It is only a small compensation for the gift of 75 years of freedom.”





Visit CFB Borden.

Presentation at "Chaplain School & Centre" Camp Borden.

During the third day of the Four Days Marches Nijmegen in 2018, several units of the Canadian Armed Forces visited the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek. Short commemorations were held during those visits. Padre Éloi Gunn guided them in this.

In between, Padre Gunn and I met. In no time the conversation came at moments of commemoration and the presence of the Colour Party of RCL during such an event as the Four Days Marches!

Talking about Canada, it turned out that Éloi is the Deputy Commander of the Chaplain School & Center at Camp Borden. An area in Ontario where we had been before. An invitation followed to send him a message if we were to come close again. Giving a presentation to a new group of students about the Netherlands, RCL Branch 005 and the connection with Canada would be wonderful.



Monday, September 16, 2019: "sign up in building 633," The Old Highschool ", Room 230 at 1 pm".

In the apparently abandoned building we find Éloi on the first floor. He had already seen us coming.

The welcome is warm. We are immediately provided with an espresso and presented to the staff. A short tour through the "museum" and then coordinate the introduction.

Room 230 is a lecture room where 23 students took place. As far as I can see all with the rank of captain, estimated with an average age between 40 and 45 years. All chaplains of different faith groups.

Our USB stick with the Powerpoint presentation has since been confiscated by the Sergeant-Major the first slide soon appears on two screens. Éloi welcomes us (again) and introduces us. He hands over 2 mugs with [the school's badge](#) on it. Special mugs because they keep the coffee hot for a long time. We offer a tile with, yes you guessed it, the image of 2 clogs, one with the Dutch and one with the Canadian flag. Provided with the text "Freedom & Friendship, you pass it on". Thanks on both sides. Our tile will be placed in a prominent place in the museum.

We start the presentation and have an attentive audience. Just when we close, the fire alarm goes off. Very disciplined, everyone immediately leaves the room and goes to the designated assembly point. Military discipline plays a major role. Counting is done, the "class oldest" reports the number of people present. The others from the building also follow the same procedure.

The fire brigade arrives and enters the building. The building is released again after fifteen minutes.





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An odor trap from the sewer or something like that, had a malfunction. Someone then activated the fire alarm. Debriefing is given by a security officer and we can enter the building again. We spend the rest of the time answering questions. Then the hour is over; they thank us for the presentation. When we say goodbye we get an applause.

We talk to Éloi for a while. We conclude from his words that our presence alone is greatly appreciated. He shows us the class schedule of this group of students and tells us that this hour was a "mandatory hour". For him, the Four Days Marches in 2018, with everything around it, was an eye-opener. He wanted to convey the care and attention that the Netherlands pays to the Canadian cemeteries and to the Canadians to the students.

The first students have already indicated that they want to come to the Netherlands and the Four Days Marches. The invitation follows to do things again next year for a larger audience.

We leave camp Borden with a very special experience and continue our journey to the next destination.

Wim Pappenf

2nd-Vicepresident
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005





POPPY CAMPAIGN 2019.

From the last Friday in October to the eleventh of November, the Poppy is a frequently seen symbol in the streets of Canadian cities. The Poppy is THE SYMBOL for the fallen. Originally for the victims of WW1, later also for those who fell in WW2.

In the Netherlands, wearing is mostly limited to commemorations and Remembrance Day, November 11. The moment we write this, October 29, 2019, the municipality of Bronckhorst has already kicked off this year's campaign.

Beautiful posters have been made and Poppies and buses are already present at strategic places to receive a welcome donation.



Comrade Bruggink hands out the first poppy to mayor Besselink

At the end of week 44 a start was made with an educational tour along the primary schools. The history of the Poppy is told for level 7 and 8. The origin and development of traditions over the years. Students can answer questions, receive a Poppy certificate with their name on it and Poppies are handed out. Class photos will be made on November 11, with the Poppy of course being worn.

A wonderful initiative in the municipality of Bronckorst.

BRONCKHORST
Bekent kleur



HEEFT U OOK €1,- OVER VOOR EEN POPPY, ALS DANK VOOR HEN DIE HUN LEVEN HEBBEN GELATEN ZO VER VAN HUIS VOOR ONZE VRIJHEID.



BRONCKHORST
Bekent kleur

**WIJ VIEREN
ONZE VRIJHEID,
U TOCH OOK.**

OP NAAR 2020



HEEFT U OOK €1,- OVER VOOR EEN POPPY, ALS DANK VOOR HEN DIE HUN LEVEN HEBBEN GELATEN ZO VER VAN HUIS VOOR ONZE VRIJHEID.





The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 the Liberation of the Netherlands



The Poppy campaign in Bronckhorst might be new, but in previous years, comrades from RCL Branch 005 were already active in various places. For example from Zandvoort since 2005. The photo on the right shows the presentation of the first Poppy in 2019 to the mayor of Zandvoort, D. Moolenburgh by Ruud Janssen (r) and Jan van Loo (l).



The Poppy campaign is not new anymore in the municipality of Ronde Venen. On October 31, Mayor Maarten Divendal received the first Poppy. Comrade Reinier Groeneveld pinned one on his rever.

(White Weekly; photo Caroline Ströer)

Conny and Ruud are not "new" in Poppy campaigns. For many years they have been promoting, together with comrade Peter Bongers, lapel pinned Poppy in the last weeks before 11 November



Conny Lempke and Ruud Janssen



Not to forget:

The activity of Philip van Leeuwen, in Wassenaar and Noordwijkerhout, is of course not new either. He has brought the Poppies to the attention at strategic places.

And of course, on the home base of our Branch in Lochem: Restaurant Mondani, you can always score a Poppy.



Breaking news, Nov.12.2019:

Comrade Monique Venne has started an action. On November 2, she successfully presented the Poppies in Uithoorn with President Martin Reelick.

More about the Poppy campaign in our next edition.