



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



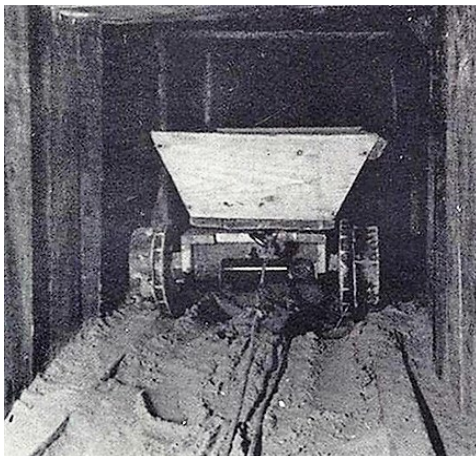
JANUARY 2022, Number 2022-01

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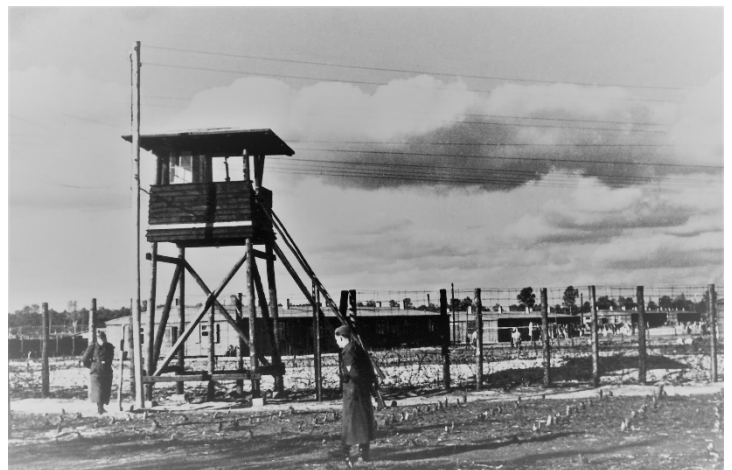


STALAG LUFT III

FACTS AND FABLES ABOUT „THE GREAT ESCAPE“.
To read the background story, click on one of the photos below.



Trolley system tunnel



Camp in 1942



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From the editor.

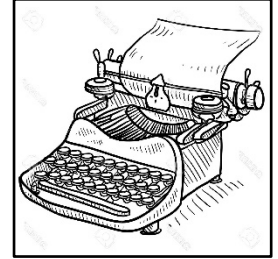
We don't intend to let grass grow under our feet.
I know: it isn't spring yet and the grass is not growing yet.

But in the first month of a new year you have to start with the implementation of your intentions.

So, you see a slightly different layout of our Newsletter.

We opted for a somewhat sleeker appearance with (even) fewer frills.

In the end, it's about the content, not the frills.



Apropos: content.

It has now been about two years since the first COVID-19 infection was detected in the Netherlands.

The doings of (almost) all of us were and are determined by it.

RCL Branch 005 noticed it in the number of canceled or postponed ceremonies.

As a result, fewer reports and photos in our monthly edition.

A separate edition for the Victory March and a special Poppy edition brought a little bit extra in 2021.

Nowadays we search the internet, social media and newspapers for news that might be of interest for our READERS.

I would like to repeat the appeal of my co-editor comrade Ruud Janssen:

In the past year, 2021, due to the COVID measures, the number of events in which we, as an association could participate, was very limited. That will unfortunately be no different for the coming period.

That is why I ask you all, if you suddenly experience something, see something new, see an idea emerge or hear interesting things from family and/or friends abroad that could be of interest to RCL005, to let the editors know via redactie@rcl005.org.

And if you have them of course with photos or other visual material! I am sure your contribution will be much appreciated by the readers, (and by the editors).

Herman Sligman



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Kapelsche Veer.

January 29, 2022.

In a very small committee, but certainly not forgotten.

The conditions were not very pleasant, but considerably better than at the beginning of 1945.



RCL "Liberation of the Netherlands" Branch 005 was represented by the 1st Vice-President Comrade Gerrit Bruggink. He laid a wreath together with Gerard Hendriks of Branch 013.

© Photo's: Rick van Nooij.

To bring it back to your memory, we refer to our background story from edition 2019-12. We concluded with:

The sad balance of Canadian casualties in completely pointless battles for prestige between two generals:

- *Lincoln & Welland Regiment: 39 killed, 35 wounded.*
- *Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada: 15 killed, 35 injured.*
- *South Alberta Regiment: 4 killed, 5 wounded.*



Previous attacks by the Poles and the Royal Marines had cost 231 casualties. The total number of Allied casualties in attempts to capture the island came to 364 killed and wounded.

A few days later, February 8, 1945, Operation Veritable began.



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Column comrade Peter Mensink.

FREEDOM IN A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.

That is what the Memory Museum in Nijverdal promotes.

Every year, the museum, located in the middle of the province of Overijssel, receives approximately 18,000 visitors. The ambition is to grow to 25,000 visitors in the coming years.

Memory Vrijheidsmuseum
Nijverdal



„The museum has no paid employees and it runs entirely with the help of volunteers. From welcoming visitors to developing new dioramas, there is a lot going on in Nijverdal. We are very proud of that“

Besides an experience museum for visitors of all ages, the Memory Museum offers educational programs for many types of education.

In addition to the 1500 m² museum floor, the Memory Museum has also rooms furnished as classrooms.

The museum receives thousands of students every year from schools in the provinces Overijssel and Gelderland.

There is also a room large enough for a group debate of up to approximately 100 participants.

„For the museum is that important because we also want to explain to students how we should interact with each other in the future; we call it „active citizenship“.

We, all citizens together, have the moral duty to ensure that we do not end up again, in a situation like that in 1940-1945“.

The museum sets itself a goal:

„to explain how a war could get started and next: to start the conversation about how we can continue to live together in freedom“.

The key question is: What is freedom? The same question that the news reporters ask again and again on May 5th every year, more precisely: how does freedom work?

The Memory Museum tells the visitor how WW2 started.

The story begins with the end of WW1. How the situation was in Europe after WW1 and of course, the situation during the interbellum in Germany.



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When the Netherlands was attacked on May 10, 1940, 280,000 Dutch men had already been mobilized for 8 months: professional soldiers, conscripts and volunteers. Here you can also find a link between the museum and the Ministry of Defense. The museum tells the story of the so called: „Voluntary Landstorm“. Today's „Korps Nationale Reserve“ continues its traditions.

The museum then takes you through the dark years of WW2, especially in the province of Overijssel. The museum divides the story in three chapters.

The first: how the Dutch military were committed to preserve the national freedom.

The second: how the German occupier began to curtail the individual freedoms of the Dutch population. Ending with the gruesome taking of the lives of approximately 250,000 Dutch people (of which about 102,000 were Jewish).



Just one diorama

Finally: the sacrifice of soldiers who came to Europe from the other side of the world. Those who ensured that the Dutch regained their lost freedom.

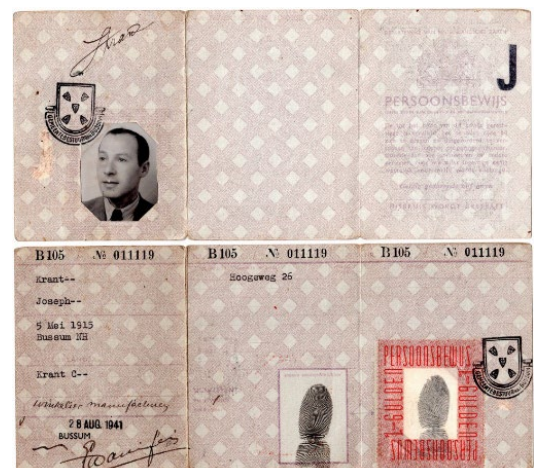
The route through the museum can best be described with the question: how much influence can one individual have on history and on the freedom of others.

This already starts at the beginning of the route: diorama „no man's land“ from WW1. A war that started with the murder of a crown prince by a student.

During the occupation and oppression of the Netherlands for example: the consequences for tens of thousands because an official wanted to develop the perfect identity card.

With that he facilitated the Germans in the persecution of the Jews in our country.

(Note the letter "J" for Jew at the top right →)





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Or the actions of Rev. Overduin in cooperation with the Jewish Council in Enschede. Their efforts ensured that about a third of the number of the Jewish inhabitants in the city of Enschede survived the war.

Just a few examples of how the action of a single individual can have far-reaching consequences. Further than we may realize.

After five years of occupation and oppression, we regained our freedom, thanks to the deployment of the allied soldiers, for the northern part of the Netherlands mainly from Canada.

The first thing many Dutchmen did was humiliating women who had „maintained friendly relations“ with German soldiers. Furthermore, collaborators ([NSB members](#)) were arrested and imprisoned without trial.

What is freedom? How far will your freedom go without harming someone else's? These are the questions that a visitor will hopefully think over again in the evening, sitting on the couch at home. Citizens' initiatives have more influence on the choices that the armed forces have to make than we initially think.

In summary we can say:

In Nijverdal is a museum worth visiting.

In addition to receiving "regular" visitors, it makes an extra effort for veterans. This means that the door is always open for veterans' associations to meet for free in the museum.

In 2020, in front of the museum, a flowerbed with white carnations was unveiled by the mayor of the municipality of Hellendoorn. This flowerbed is a tribute to all veterans.

A veteran can, on presentation of his/her veteran ID, enter for free; it is „a thank you“ for his/her commitment to the peace and security of our country.

Peter Mensink



P.S. of the editor:

Freedom is a comfortable prison.

(Theo Mestrum, autor)

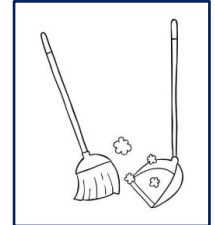


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Miscellaneous. Swept together for you.

Source: Ministry of Defence, 12-02-2022.
Clarity about the fate of Czech aircrew.



On May 25, 2021, the salvage of the aircraft wreckage T2990 started. It crashed in the night of 22-23 June 1941 on the home flight after a bombing raid on Bremen near Nieuwe Niedorp in Northwestern part of the Netherlands. One crew member managed to bale out and was taken POW. The other five crewmembers died in the crash.

Dutch Airwar Studygroup 1939-1945										Loss Chart on: T1068	
Day or Night of operation		Operation				Target		Nickname			
22/23 Jun 41		Bombing				Bremen					
Factory	Aircraft	Mk	Serial/War	Call Sign	Unit	Air Force	TO/t	Airfield			
Vickers	Wellington	Ic	T2990	KX-T	311 Sqda	RAF	2316	East Wretham			
Time	Cause of the Crash		Crash Location			Damage	Province				
0213	Shot down by Oblt. E. Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld, 4./NJG 1		Crashed Kostverloren polder near Nieuwe Niedorp				Noord-Holland				
Source	Mag / Page		Additional sources								
Frien J, Rodeike P,	73		'Wespennest I' p.131-133								
Function	Mil Rank	Ini	Name	Hon	Mil reg	Air Force	Cemetery	Grave	Remark		
Pilot	F/Sgt.	V.	Bufka		787572	ChAF	Survived		pow		
Second Pilot	F/Sgt.	A.	Rozum		787169	ChAF	Runnymede Memorial	37			
Observer	P.O.	V.	Konstacky		82608	ChAF	Runnymede Memorial	33			
Wireless Operator/Air Gunner	P.O.	L.	Sareek		82639	ChAF	Runnymede Memorial	34			
Front Gunner	F/Sgt.	J.	Hejna		787204	ChAF	Runnymede Memorial	36			
Rear Gunner	F/Sgt.	K.	Valach		787551	ChAF	Runnymede Memorial	37			
Data on those who were killed from: www.CWGC.org www.Volksbund.de www.abmc.gov Design SGLO(V.1000104)											
© Dutch Airwar Studygroup 1939-1945 / Studiegroep Lucht oorlog 1939-1945 Last update January 2022											

The Salvage and Identification Service of the Royal Dutch Army found the evidence for this. The five will no longer be listed as "missing". They will have an honourable farewell and a last resting place on a Commonwealth War Graves in the Netherlands.





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BRIDGES TELL A STORY.

Source: FB-account Liberation Tours.

Kingsmill Bridge.

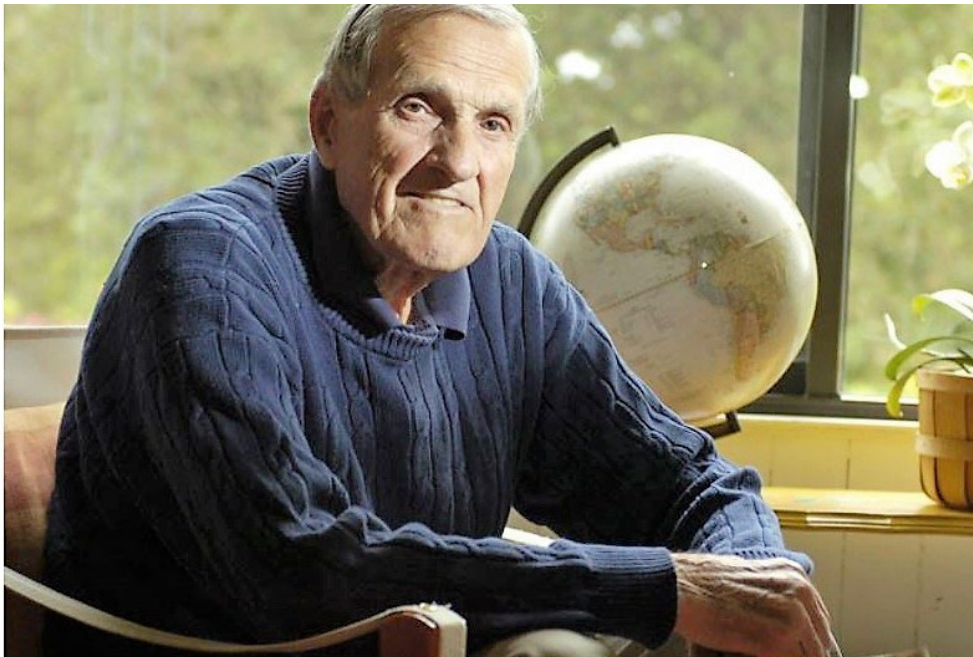
A remarkable story during the advance in Italy.

On May 12, 2007, a memorial was unveiled on the Gari River near Sant Angelo in Italy.

As a tribute to Tony Kingsmill, at the time a captain who served with the 61st Light Aid Detachment of the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCME) during the Italian campaign.



In memory of



Remembering Tony Kingsmill, honoured this year in Italy for unique bridge during WWII. Photo by Dan Toulgoet/Vancouver Courier.

Why this tribute?

Captain Kingsmill devised a clever way to bring in position an already built Bailey Bridge across the Gari River, despite heavy enemy shelling.

The bridge was absolutely necessary to enable the tanks of the Calgary Regiment to cross over and come to the aid of the 8th Indian Division. Their ranks had thinned horribly in the struggle to maintain a realized bridgehead.

The action was crucial in the fighting to break the so-called „Gustav line“.

For those who are interested: activate the link below:

<https://legionmagazine.com/en/2007/11/breaking-the-gustav-line/>

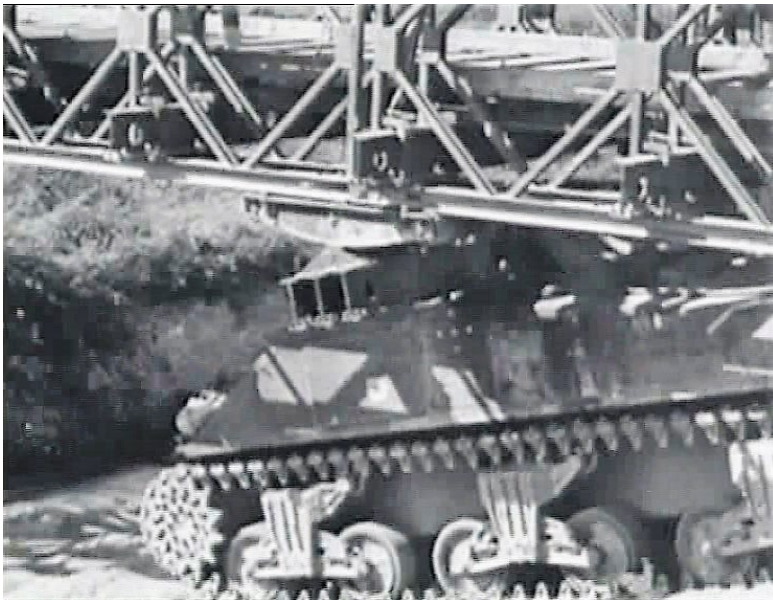
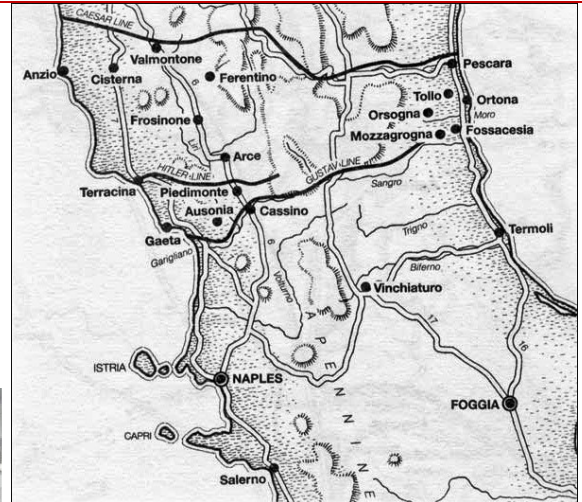


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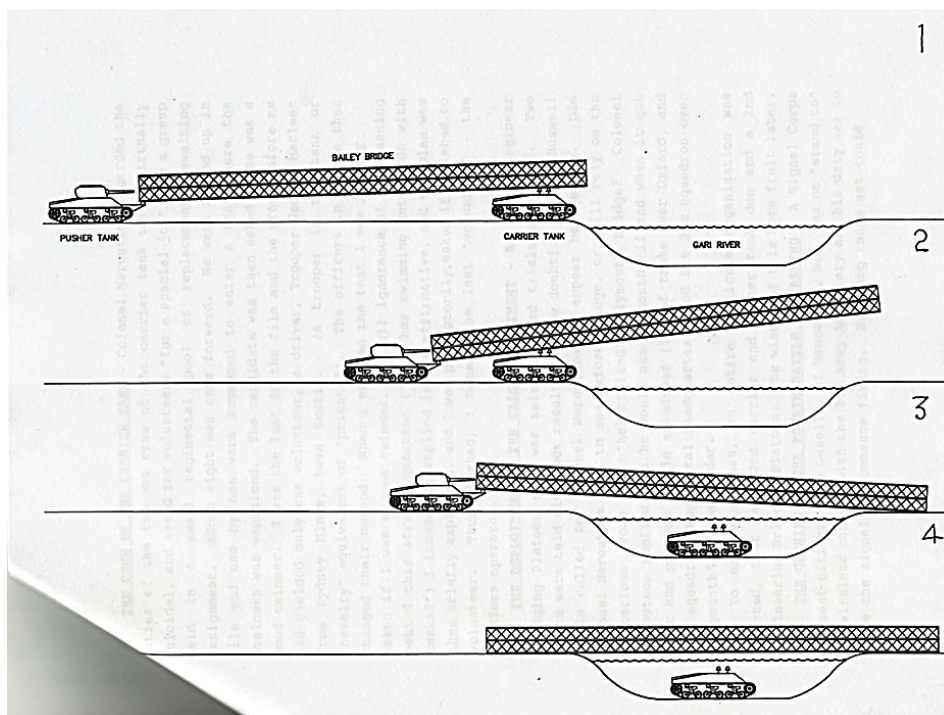
The Gustav Line stretched from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Adriatic Sea north of Ortona. The Allies had been in a stalemate for nearly four months.

The focal point of the Gustav line to the west was Monte Cassino. Stuck in German hands, who could control access to the Liri Valley from there.



The idea: the bridge, was placed at the top of a Sherman tank without a turret, which moved the bridge into place, after which a second Sherman from behind moved the bridge forward.

Captain Kingsmill, himself in the forward tank under heavy enemy fire, was wounded. He was awarded the Military Cross for his action.





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Retranchement.

Following the Battle of the Scheldt, a fierce battle was fought for the so-called Breskens Pocket. People have experienced it in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen.



The Hickman Bridge is located in Retranchement in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, near the border with Belgium.

In 1986 the bridge was named after Sergeant John Lockhart Hickman of the Royal Canadian Engineers.

In October 1944, he led a squad that, under heavy enemy fire, built a Bailey bridge for the crossing of the Uitwateringskanaal.

Sergeant Hickman was killed and five others injured.

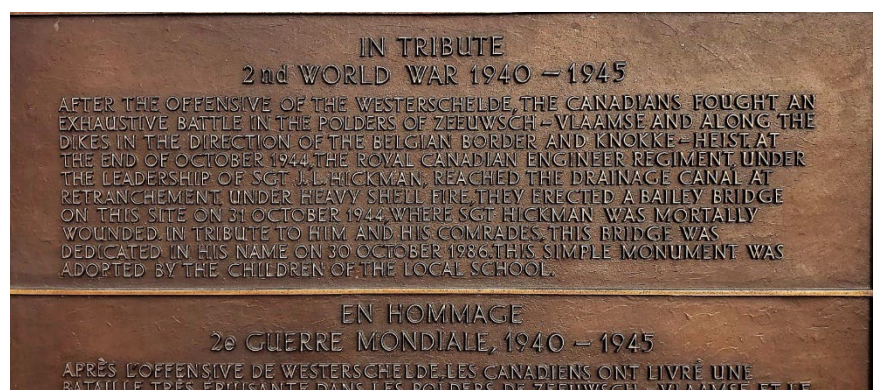


Hickman was married a few weeks before D-Day. Four of his brothers also served in uniform; two in the army and two in the navy.

Sergeant Hickman is buried at the Canadian War Cemetery in Adegem-Belgium.

For those who are interested:

<https://cmea-agmc.ca/award/gallantry/sgt-john-lockhart-hickman>





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Zutphen.

The Canadians Bridge.

A bridge in Zutphen to keep the memory alive of the Canadian troops, who liberated the city and the surrounding area from the German domination in World War 2.

The bridge, as a monument, was unveiled in 1948, in the presence of the Canadian General Charles Foulkes. The bridge in the road to Deventer was blown up by the Germans to delay the liberation of Zutphen by the Canadians. Zutphen was liberated by the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. On Friday, April 6, 1945, they arrived in the northern city quarter of Zutphen in the morning. House-to-house fighting ensued.

On Sunday, April 8, 1945, tanks were ready at the Deventer road-bridge to protect the liberated city quarter. The bridge was temporarily repaired to make crossing of the tanks possible. On the same day the enemy withdrew via the IJssel, and Zutphen was liberated.

For a short
impression of the
liberation of
Zutphen:

click on the photo.



These are just a few examples. So there will be many. Think of:

[Pegasus bridge](#), [William Thomson bridge](#), [John Frost bridge](#),
[Gen-Maj. C.M. Barber bridge](#), [Kings-Company bridge](#).

Do you, dear reader, know more examples? Please mail: redactie@rci005.org.



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Upcoming.

Tuesday, 08th February 2022

10.00

Canadian War Cemetery Groesbeek (commemoration Operation Veritable)

Wednesday, 16th February 2022

12:00

LOCHEM: RCL005 Board Meeting

Sunday, 27th March 2022

12:00

LOCHEM: General Meeting

Tuesday, 05th April 2022

STEENDEREN: Headstone dedication **CANCELLED**

