



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



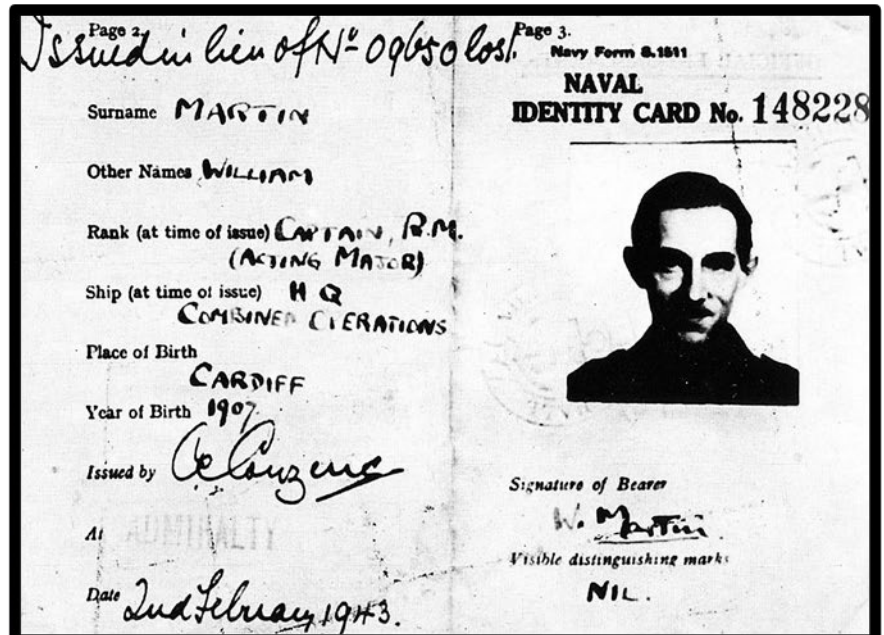
JULY 2023, Edition 2023-07

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THE BACKGROUND STORY

**Operation Mincemeat.
Manipulating a dead person.
Reprehensible or acceptable in bizarre times?**



Click on the photo block above to read the story.

Herman Sligman

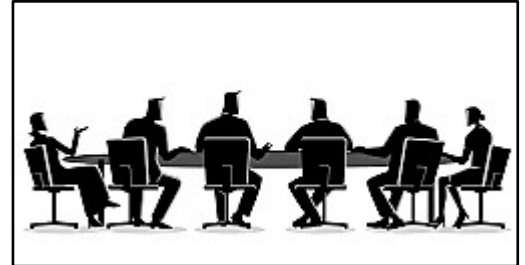


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From the Board.

On July 2, 2023 we celebrated Canada Day and the fact that RCL Branch 005 has existed for twenty years. The establishment took place on August 24, 2003 in the presence of the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands Mr. Serge April, the Mayor of Apeldoorn Mr. Fred de Graaf, Lieutenant-General retired A.W.T. Gijbsers and from Germany Zone Commander Andy Andrews and Vice Zone Commander Reg Bonnar.



The many aspiring members present took the oath and a board was immediately elected from these members, with our member Fred de Graaf playing an important role in the distribution of functions. Mark Hoedeman was chosen as the first President, as Vice Presidents Marga Timmerman and Jan van Loo, as Treasurer Piet Polderdijk. Ben Zonnenberg was chosen as Liaison Officer. The position of Secretary was later filled by Bob Veenstra.

Hendrik Kuiper was appointed as first Sergeant at Arms.

During the existence of our Branch, problems have often arisen due to insufficient solidarity, understaffing of the board and differences of opinion. However, the Branch has always been able to find the right direction and if a difficult problem arose or a "fire had to be put out", Fred de Graaf was always (and still is) willing to lend a helping hand.

The beautiful badge associated with our anniversary is of course available to all members and was also presented to members on July 2 during the celebrations.

In July there were various activities. This has been given ample attention in our magazine. Especially the performance of the Colour Party in Groesbeek during the Four Days Marches stands out.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to our plans to have more young people join our involve activities.

One problem is that according to Canadian regulations, young people must be at least 18 years old to become a member. This also applies to participation in the Colour Party. Nevertheless, we think it is very important that young people are involved at an early stage in commemorations and education about the Second World War and other armed conflicts and hope to come up with a constructive approach in the short term.

mr. Jan C.K. van Loo LL.M.



Secretary and Legal Officer



**Royal Canadian Legion
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Lochem, July 2, 2023.

**Celebrating Canada Day and 20th Anniversary of Branch 005.
Herman Sligman**

Because I myself had to give priority to my granddaughter's 25th birthday this Sunday, I heard and read everything.

You can read a detailed report on the [Facebook page of RCL Branch 005](#).

We do not want to withhold from you the full description of this day in this edition.

For the NON-FACEBOOKERS and for those who haven't had the opportunity to read it yet: the text by Ruud Janssen is included in its entirety on the last pages of this Newsletter.

For the start: here a few keywords and pictures. **(Photos: Anneke Poppenk)**

Mondani Lochem - nice weather - nice turnout - Oldtimers - live music -
WW2 field kitchen – menu: Canadian Stew – dessert: Canadian Pancakes with fruits.

President – speech Founding Father Fred de Graaf – institution Youth Auxiliary Team, now also acting as the Youth Auxiliary Torch Keepers.

Presentation of RCL 20-years Jubilee pin - Presentation of self-designed plaque by Richard Hendriks - cozy get-together.



The place to be



Nice weather



Nice turnout



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Oldtimers (the car and motorcycle of course)



Live music



Field kitchen



Dinner is ready: Canadian stew



Dessert: Pancakes with fruit



Disappointed. No bone to chew



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President



Speech Fred de Graaf



Youth Auxiliary Torch Keepers is a fact



Pin Nr 1 for comrade Fred



Pick up your pin



Plaque President



More plaques



..and cozy it stayed



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The first steps of the RCL Branch 005 Youth Auxiliary.

My name is Suzanne Groeneveld. My father, Reinier Groeneveld, has been a member of RCL Branch 005 for several years. Through him, my interest in the Second World War was instilled at an early age.

In recent years I have accompanied my father to a Poppy Campaign a number of times. I really enjoyed participating. The members of RCL Branch 005 were always very warm and welcoming. The interaction with the people to whom we offered a Poppy was also very nice. People often reacted enthusiastically when I could tell them something about the Poppy as a child. I found myself getting excited about using my interest in World War II for a good cause.



Last May 4th, I also went to the commemorations at Holten Canadian War Cemetery and in Wilnis. Then too I was warmly welcomed and I already felt like part of RCL Branch 005. This made me very motivated to become a member. My request to the board to become a member was answered positively with the establishment of the Youth Auxiliary.

The start was announced during the celebration of Canada Day and we immediately had a 2nd member: Victoria Geurts. But what exactly does the establishment of the Youth Auxiliary mean? What should our role be within RCL Branch 005 actually? We immediately started making plans for the Youth Auxiliary: what could our role be? What would our outfit look like? What immediately became clear was that one of our tasks within RCL Branch 005 would be to carry the Canadian Remembrance Torch during commemorations.



On July 17th was the 1st commemoration in which we were allowed to participate. This was the commemoration at Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery and Memorial prior to the Nijmegen 4-Days Marches. It was a very cool experience and also quite exciting (you want to do it right). Just before the ceremony it was decided where I would walk next to the Colour Party and how and when we would light the torch.

I was also asked to read the Commitment to Remember during the ceremony. The text of this fits exactly with the purpose of the Youth Auxiliary. There were a few minor 'cosmetic flaws' but other than that it went great.

I also received a lot of compliments afterwards and everyone was very enthusiastic about the new addition to RCL Branch 005. We will now continue to work further on the plans of the RCL Branch 005 Youth Auxiliary. I hope to see you often during activities!

Suzanne Groeneveld.





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Groesbeek, July 17, 2023.

As usual, a short commemoration was held this year at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek.

A ceremony for the military contingents participating in the Nijmegen 4-Days Marches.

Normally a Canadian detachment is present, unfortunately they had to pass over this time.

Individual Canadians did participate in the marches and attended the commemoration. The organization of the ceremony on Monday is in the hands of the 'Kamp Heumensoord Detachment'.



Also, as usual, the presence of The Royal Canadian Legion 'Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005. Of course with the Colour Party and a delegation. New was that the Canadian Remembrance Torch (replica) was carried with the march on of the Colour Party. Suzanne Groeneveld performed this task conscientiously and with charm. Suzanne is a member of the new Youth Auxiliary Team of RCL Branch 005 together with Victoria Geurts.

It was established on July 2, during the celebration of Canda Day, and is responsible for carrying the torch at commemorations where possible.





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© Henk Baron





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From the Promotion Team. Third day of the 4-Days Marches.

Again, we had a wonderful day during the 4-Days Marches.

On Thursday, July 20, we were in Groesbeek at 7:15AM.

To our surprise: Herman Sligman was already there. It had never happened before that someone was present earlier than us, that was a good start. Comrade Hendrik Kuiper also arrived shortly afterwards.

It took a while before Quint Wijnholts and Berry Swarthoff arrived.

They brought the trailer, containing the promotion tent and all the other articles we needed. Many hands available, so the tent was set up in a blink of an eye, so the display of the promotional items could begin. Meanwhile, Moos Venne had arrived also.

In less than an hour we were 'ready to go'. But, as we all know, the reality is slightly different. It was pretty quiet the first period. Every now and then a single 'speed walker' passed by, they didn't pay attention to us. Around 10.30AM it became busier.

In the quiet time, yours truly had made sandwiches and some fruit bites.

Everyone got up early, so sandwiches and coffee were gladly accepted.

Fresh fruit was also in great demand. Something to eat or drink was available all day.

During the hours when most walkers passed by, sales of our items were very well.

The weather conditions were fine, better than the last time we were here.

Not too hot, not too cold. The walkers were less tired and took their time to take a look and/or buy an article.

A few of them used our chairs to eat something or have a drink. Or just sat down for a while.

In the afternoon after 3.00PM, it became less busy and an hour later we slowly started packing up again.

And..... not unimportant, but exciting every time: counting the money.

Revenues exceeded expectations. People had made many donations for our good cause.

Both with regard to the sale of promotional items, as well as the contents of the Poppy jar.

So not a bad day at all!

Nic and I hope that the next event will be just as successful.

We hope to be in Oosterbeek during the Airborne Walking Tour on September 2nd.

Comrade Moos Venne has promised to help and a friend of ours is coming along to assist us as well. A little extra help is welcome because this is always a very busy event.

From this place in the Newsletter I would like to thank again: Quint, Berry, Herman, Hendrik, Moos, Ruud and of course also, my husband Nic.

Elly van Wakeren

(The editors and the comrades gladly join in this 'thank you'.

Doing the promotion tent is quite a job. But the fun and sociability make up for it)



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Groesbeek, July 20, 2023.

**The day the 'hills must be conquered' during the Nijmegen 4-Days Marches.
A report from the editors about the involvement of RCL Branch 005 during this day.**

Thursday morning: 1,354 walkers did not appear at the start.

Not at the start, but present early at the Canadian War Cemetery: the promotion team, with tent, of RCL 'Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005.

A little later, the members of the Colour Party of RCL005 Branch 005 arrived.
Present to accompany the military groups that wanted to pay tribute to the fallen.

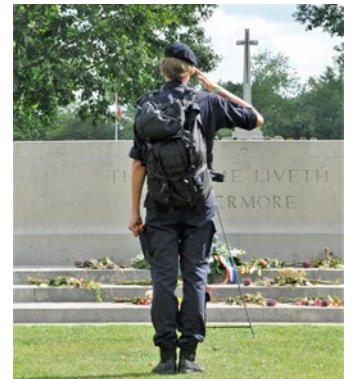


The President also made an appearance.

The run-up was quiet in the beginning.

There were also individual walkers who paid a moment of respect to the fallen.

The military share in 2023: 6,222 persons, of which 2,183 had the Dutch nationality.



In total, the military contingent consisted of 37 nationalities.

The 'flag parade' resulted in a nice photo.



Most of them came from Switzerland.
The Swiss were not very impressed by the Dutch hills.



Although?

A look in their First Aid tent showed that their feet also had 'some problems'.



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The Swiss detachments showed up first. They were many and, as usual, had their own pattern for the tribute.



It was also quiet for the Colour Party (CP) in the first few hours. After noon, however, it became very busy. For the CP it was at least an hour and a half 'At Attention' and 'Carry Colours'. The two less experienced members of the CP got a 100% share this day, but the experienced members also had a hard time.





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However, no effort is too great for our fallen liberators and those who still honour them.

Our RCL005 comrade Peter Bongers walked the 4-Days Marches for the 34th time and was spotted by our photographer Anneke Poppenk. Watch and listen, in Dutch, to [the interview](#).

What remains now: a good feeling about a long, tiring but beautiful day. And the photos of course.

But also respect for:



the wheelchair participator
on the top of the hill



the bugler
X-times 'Last Post'



the last man, keeps going
with the 'sweepers' right behind him

and of course:
also for the members of the
Colour Party and the Sgt@Arms.

In the photo on the right during their march
off after a tiring day.

A day when they gave the Royal Canadian
Legion 'Liberation of the Netherlands'
Branch 005 again an extra positive push.





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MISCELLANEOUS.

July 13, 2023.

Canadian Forces Support Unit (Europe)
Selfkant Barracks, Geilenkirchen.

For several years now, units of the Canadian Forces Support Unit from Geilenkirchen have been coming to Groesbeek. They participated in many commemorations at the Canadian War Cemetery.

Contacts always went via Chief Warrant Officer Hugo Asselin, MMM, CD. On July 13, he said goodbye, because his service in Europe is over and he returns to Canada.

At the ceremony, he was the Outgoing Chief Warrant Officer and makes way for the Incoming Chief Warrant Officer, Samuel Pépin, CD.



CWO Hugo Asselin, MMM, CD



Outgoing (in front) and Incoming CWO.
Accompanied by the Commanding Officer (right)

Considered a worthy successor as Hugo indicated.

Because he appreciated the cooperation with our RCL Branch 005 so much, a few comrades were invited.

President Martin Reelick and Louise attended. Alice van Beckum with a colleague from Faces-to-Graves, Danny Murphy and Berry & Yvonne Swarthoff. Berry and Yvonne always provided the catering for the Forces Support Unit. Hugo & his wife Carole were also guests at our Canada Day celebration in Lochem.

We wish Hugo Asselin and Samuel Pépin every success in their new position.





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Westerbork, July 22, 2023.

Contributed by Gerrit Bruggink.

Collect one and a half million buttons, one for each child who did not survive the Holocaust. Actor and artist Jeroen Krabbé embarked on that mission earlier this year with the help of students from school 'De Nieuwe Veste' in Hardenberg-Netherlands.

From July 19 on, a first temporary version of the button-monument to be built, can be seen in the Westerbork Memorial Center as part of a larger exhibition.



Children in Camp Westerbork



Entree Westerbork nowadays

Why are we including this in our Newsletter?

The reason was the message quoted above, which also referred to the Canadian unit that entered the camp first.

(Further research into that information led us to the memoir's of Ted Sheppard-hs)

On the morning of April 12, 1945, 'C' Company of No. 7 troop of the 8th Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment, including five armoured cars and about a hundred men, rolled into the camp in the twilight of the morning.

The platoon of 21-year-old Lieutenant Ted Sheppard was among the first to enter the camp.

They approached cautiously, Sheppard explained. The watchtowers were empty, the gates were open, and the parade ground and camp courtyard were deserted. "It felt like we were in an abandoned ghost town."

Sheppard reported his findings to headquarters. His unit was ordered to continue the advance. The Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Regiment took over control of the camp.



Lt Ted Sheppard (1944)

Very interesting to read the piece of Edward John Ted Sheppard's memoirs. Activate the link below:

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/mpsb-edward-john-ted-sheppard>



Royal Canadian Legion Liberation of the Netherlands Branch 005



Ten Boer, July 25, 2023.

Source: A Canadian Soldier
"Memorial Site" for our WW1 &
WW2 'Heroes'.

During a short ceremony at the
cemetery in Ten Boer, a large
wreath was laid on the graves of
the crew members of LQ-M for
Mother.



Exactly 80 years ago, they died on their 17th flight en route to Essen, Germany, to bomb
the Krupp factories there. Unfortunately, they were not allowed to return and they rest
forever in Dutch soil.

Around 200 invited and interested people gathered around the 6 tombstones. At 7:30PM,
a veteran gave a speech. After the Last Post, the national anthems of England and Canada
were played.

Many visitors then walked past the graves to pay their respect.



Studiegroep Luchtoorlog 1939-1945

Loss Register

Loss chart: T2689

Day or Night of operation	Operation	Target	Nickname Aircraft						
25/26 Jul 43	Bombing	Essen							
Factory	Aircraft	Mk	Serial/Wh.	Code	Unit	Air Force	TO's	Airfield	
Hindley Page	Halifax	II	HR864	LQ M	405 Sqdn	RAF	2146	Grandson Lodge	
Time	Cause of the Crash	Crash Location	Damage	Province					
2354	Shot down by OGB, R. Zomer of 3./NIG 3	Crashed Thieringen between Thiering and Ten Boer		Groningen					
Function	Mk Rank	INI	Name	Age	Mk reg	Air Force	Fate	Cemetery	Grave
Pilot	F/O.	M.E.	Tomczak	23	1/21999	RCAN	KIA	Ten Boer	26
Flight Engineer	Sgt.	A.J.	Wood		661485	RAF	KIA	Ten Boer	26
Navigator	F/O.	A.P.	McCrocker	21	1/14192	RCAN	KIA	Ten Boer	26
Bomb Aimer	F/AL	A.J.	Sochowski		1/20161	RCAN	POW	-	-
Wireless Operator	W/O. II	C.J.V.	Kettley	23	1/97604	RCAN	KIA	Ten Boer	25
Mid Upper Gunner	F/Sgt.	E.K.F.	White	21	1/150807	RCAN	KIA	Ten Boer	24
Rear Gunner	F/O.	M.S.	Smyth	25	1/18068	RCAN	KIA	Ten Boer	27

Wartime Records

Background info

Operations Record Book
Chorley, 'Bomber Command Losses 1943', page 243; Bollen, 'Nachtjagel Combat Archive June-September 1943', page 39; Haldrup, 'Met de blik naar boven', page 279; Jansen 'Gevechtsgif Verleden' page 284-290





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RCL005 ACTIVITIES WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE PROMOTION TENT.

In September there are a number of activities related to the Battle of Arnhem in 1944. The Promotion Tent of the Royal Canadian Legion 'Liberation of the Netherlands' Branch 005 is present at two important events. Put it in your diary and come and meet us!

The Airborne Walking Tour will take place on September 2, 2023.

This is a tribute to the more than 1,700 British, Polish and Canadian victims who lost their lives in the Battle of Arnhem and are buried at the Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek.

In 1947, the Police Sports Association Renkum organized the "Airborne March" for the first time. A 'memorial march' to honour those who fought for the liberation of our country in the September days of 1944 in the Oosterbeek area.

About 2,000 walkers took part in the first Airborne March, making the march a success right from the start.

With the permission of Major-General R.E. Urquhart, CB, DSO (commander of the 1st Airborne Division) the march was named "Airborne Walk" and allowed to use the Pegasus decal.

Nowadays, around 35,000 people take part in this march every year.



The Airborne Walk has four route distances, namely: 10, 15, 25 and 40 kilometers (40 km not for groups). The four routes lead walkers past striking places, which are reminders of what happened in Arnhem and the surrounding area during World War II.

The routes also take the participants through rustic forests on the Veluwezoom. In some places a beautiful view of the Rhine is offered.

Would you like more information or register (until September 1) and join?

Check out the website of the Airborne Wandeltocht:

<https://airbornewandeltocht.nl/nl/over-airborne-wandeltocht/>

On September 16, 2023, the Airborne Landings and Commemoration will take place.



As every year on the Ginkelse Heide near Ede. During Operation Market Garden in 1944, some 2,200 Allied paratroopers landed on the Ginkelse Heide. This in an attempt to conquer the bridges at Arnhem.

Every year in September, this day is commemorated and relived during the Airborne landings.



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This happens in the presence of the last veterans at the Airborne monument.
On this day, between 9.00AM and 3:30PM, we will reflect on how valuable our peace and freedom is.
Many come to this event. You too?

Further information can be found on the website of the municipality of Ede:
<https://www.ede.nl/in-de-gemeente-edelairborne-luchtlandingenenherdenking>

Under the always inspiring leadership of Elly and Nic van Wakeren, with the help of a view enthusiast friends, the RCL005 Promotion Tent is present.

In Oosterbeek at the Van Limburg Stirumstraat and in Ede on the Ginkelse heide.
Perhaps you could also meet the members of our newly established youth unit 'RCL005 Youth Auxiliary' and discuss how remembrance should take place in the future?

We look forward to welcoming you!



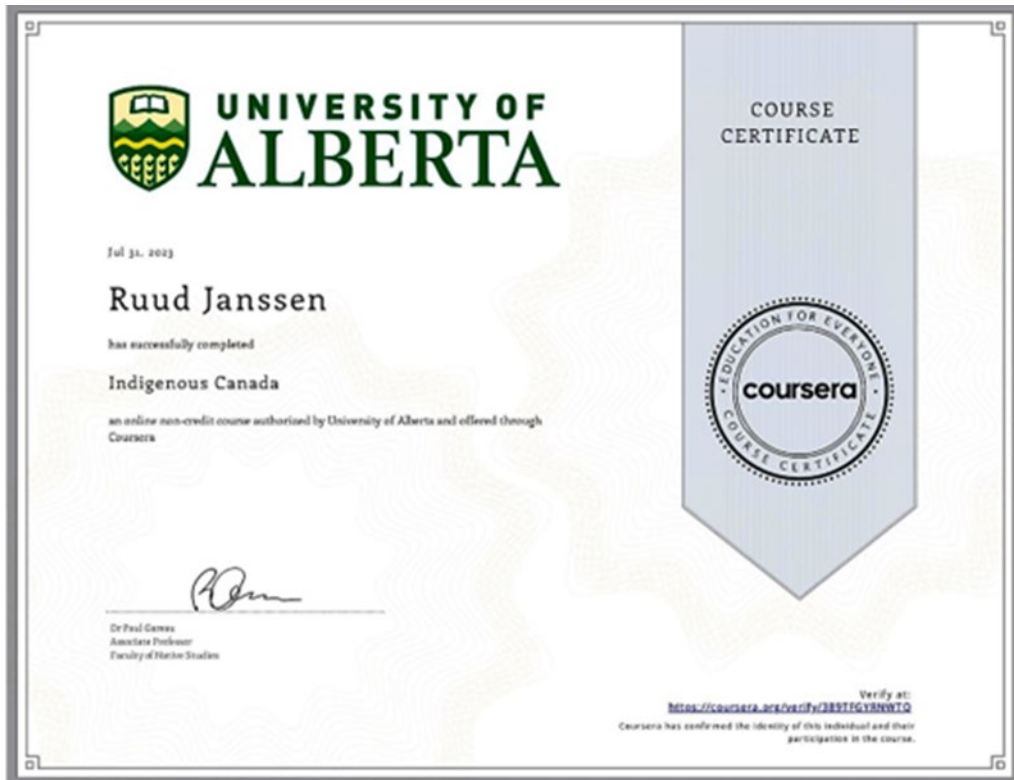


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Not common (or at least very exceptional) in this Newsletter:

Naming a specific comrade for a specific reason:
Who? Comrade Ruud Janssen.
Why? This is why:



As Editor of this Newsletter I allow myself to do so.
From the many conversations I had with him in the context of our collaboration on the monthly Newsletter, I know that he greatly appreciates his Indigenous friends in Canada for their standards, values and willpower.

Ruud is also part of the Indigenous Legacy Project that we started this year.

Two reasons that drove him to this study to learn more about the Indigenous Community and their relationship to Canada today.

A study that he successfully completed.

Congratulations Ruud, I think on behalf of many.

Herman Sligman



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Upcoming.

The best way to stay informed:

[see our agenda.](#)

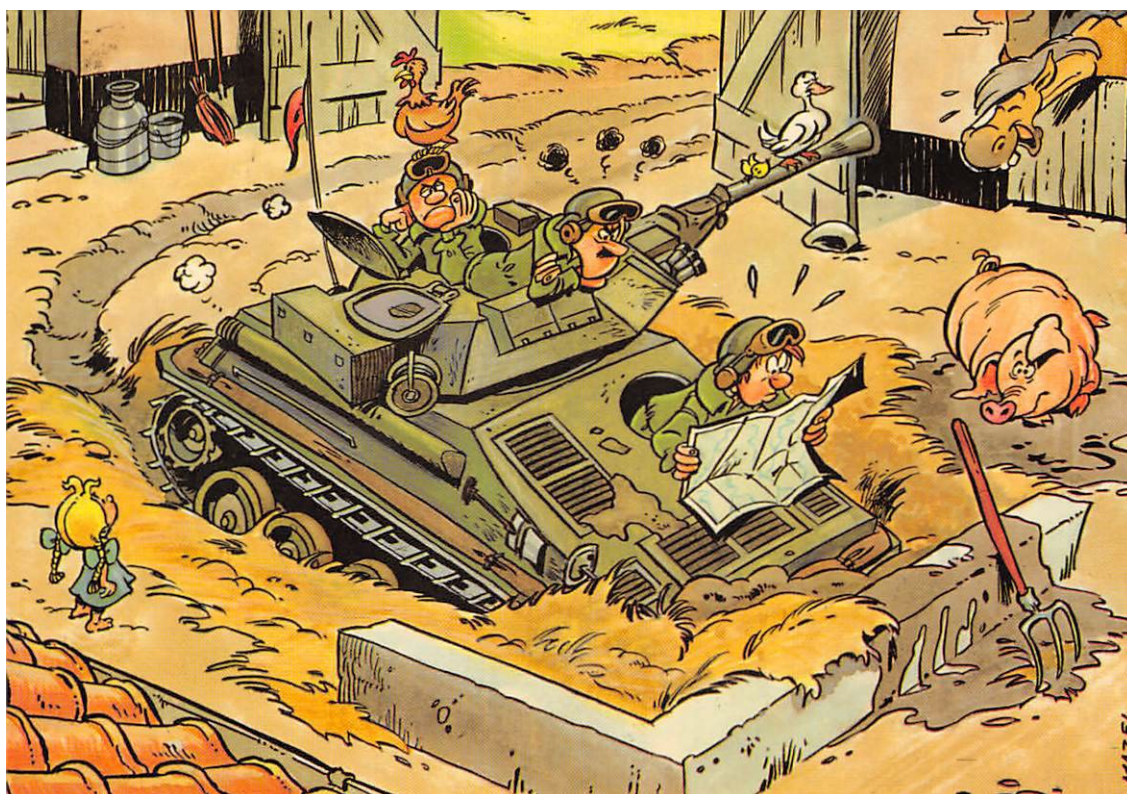
<https://www.rcl005.nl/agenda-google-versie-3/>



Follow us also on Facebook.



To end with a smile:





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Celebration Canada Day.

Report by Ruud Janssen.

Every year on July 1, Canada celebrates its date of origin in 1867.

Of course Canadians or people with a "Canadian heart" in the Netherlands participate in this.

However, we (Dutchies) don't get a day off as Canadians do.

That is why the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, 'Liberation of the Netherlands', celebrates this day on a Sunday, so that as many comrades as possible can celebrate it together.



This year was a good time, because RCL005 was installed 20 years ago in August. So last Sunday, July 2, all members were invited to come to the RCL005 clubhouse "Restaurant Mondani" in Lochem. The weather was good, so it was nice to sit outside. New members were also present, such as members of the Dutch Polar Bears. There was some praising about last week's beautiful commemoration in Rucphen (see our June newsletter).

There was a full WW2 field kitchen set up in the parking lot of Restaurant Mondani. The peeling of the potatoes and vegetables for the Canadian Stew started early in the day. A dessert was also provided. Canadian pancakes with fruit in them. Everything fresh and natural. Next to the field kitchen a beautiful military vehicle from that time and on the other side a motorcycle and another special classic car. Beautiful.

From 2.00PM the grounds started to fill up and everyone found their place at the front or back of the restaurant. Two live music sides provided beautiful and sometimes very appropriate notes. We thank them for that.

At one point, President Martin Reelick took the floor and introduced comrade Fred de Graaf, also co-founding father of RCL005. He quoted some historical moments and expressed the hope that we can all continue to work towards the main objective of RCL005, which is: commemorating and remembering the fallen liberators of our country.

Once again the President took the floor and announced the board's intention to involve the youth more in what the Legion means.

For this Suzanne Groeneveld (15 year old daughter of comrade Reinier) was asked if she was willing to start this youth department.

Suzanne had indicated earlier that she would like to participate in the Colour Party of RCL005, but due to her age she cannot yet become a member of the Legion and according to the rules cannot be a member of the Colour Party.

That is why she has been asked by the RCL005 board to lead a Youth Auxiliary Team. Her father Reinier agreed to act as team captain.

A first task for the team was immediately formulated.



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They were given responsibility for the replica of the Canadian Remembrance Torch. This was handed over to RCL005 by the members of the "In our Fathers' Footsteps" pilgrimage through the Netherlands in September 2022 to present it in the various commemorations that the Branch is present in, in the Netherlands.

Martin Reelick immediately renamed the new youth initiative: 'Youth Auxiliary Torch Keepers' and handed over the torch to Suzanne.

Of course it was indicated that new youth participants are very welcome and immediately Victoria Geurts (also 15 years old) signed up. Kudos to these two young ladies!

Afterwards, an RCL 20th anniversary pin was handed out to everyone. A milestone in the history of RCL Branch 005.

Then Richard Hendriks took the floor. He wanted to say 'thank you' for the services rendered by a number of RCL-comrades and handed them over a plaque/coat of arms developed by himself.

- Martin Reelick for his work at RCL005 especially as President, despite difficult times.
- Berry Swarthoff for example for the maintaining the RCL005 museum.
- Fred de Graaf because of his long service for RCL005.
- Danny Murphy because he has been married to his wife Lies for 59 years.
General laughter among the members of course, but also a lot of applause.

The afternoon continued in merry animosity before everyone made their way home. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend and contribute.

Ruud Janssen

