

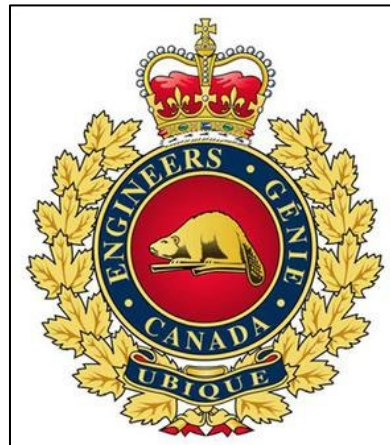


**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024**

**EDITION 2024-02**

**OBJECTIVE Nr. 1: ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT of COMMEMORATIONS and REMEMBRANCE**

In this edition:      From the Board  
                                 Commemoration Kapelsche Veer  
                                 Commemoration Operation Veritable (Groesbeek)  
                                 Participation of "youngsters" in the commemoration of Operation Veritable  
                                 Promotion team on tour  
                                 Miscellaneous



**Why a background story in this February 2024 Newsletter?  
The commemoration of Operation Veritable on February 8, 2024 was dedicated to  
The Royal Canadian Engineers.  
Therefore, a little history about this Corps.**

**Activate this link: <http://tinyurl.com/38cek6r4>**

**Or click on the pictures below.**





### **From the Board.**

Dear Comrades, Friends!

It was a great start this year, a large turnout at the New Year's reception and, certainly worth mentioning, the beautiful and positive reactions afterwards.

By the time you read this, two months of 2024 will already have passed.

When we look outside, we can barely see the sun in the sky and snow is only sporadically present in the European ski resorts.

Meadows are flooded and there is turmoil in the world.

We also hear some 'worried' sounds from the members within RCL Branch 005. Partly I can understand their concerns.

We, the board members, are currently not operating at full speed due to understaffing. We can still meet all agreements and obligations, even though this requires a lot of energy from the current board members and members of the RCL-workinggroups.

Partly for this reason, we are already busy preparing for the General Members Meeting on April 7, 2024.

To ensure smooth functioning of the association, a full board is a must, apart from that, it is also a statutory requirement.

The celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation will certainly require 'all hands on deck'. Preparations are already in full swing in the southern part of the Netherlands, and will be followed by commemorations in the spring of 2025 for the rest of the country.

For sure, there will be numerous requests for the deployment of our Colour Party and delegations for wreath laying.

If we take a look at the line-up of our Colour Party, it is clear that reinforcement is urgently needed. It cannot be ruled out that, on certain days, presence will be required in several places.

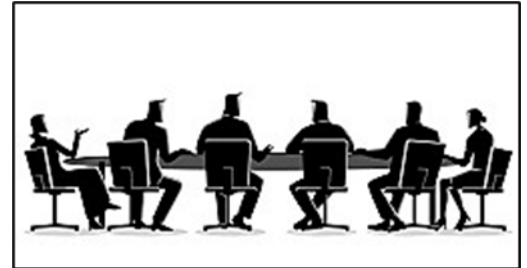
The flags are there for such a situation, but the bearers are currently missing.

So, Members of Branch 005, make yourself heard and come to the General Members Meeting on April 7, 2024, and actively participate in the efforts of our Branch 005, in whatever positive way possible.

We're counting on you.

### **Commemoration and remembrance**

As you have read, there have already been a number of commemorations to which we have contributed: at the Kapelsche Veer and in Groesbeek at the commemoration of Operation Veritable.





The agenda currently includes the commemoration in Etten on March 31 and the ceremony in Posterenk on April 13, 2024.

New registrations are now coming in regularly and that will continue steadily.

If you want to stay informed about all the activities of our association, check regularly the agenda on our website, [www.rcl005.nl](http://www.rcl005.nl).

There you will also find the monthly newsletters.

As for the website, there are plans to clean it up and make it faster. This will make everything more accessible and cause fewer disruptions. We will also look at information that is currently running in the background but is important to a large group of readers, especially from outside our association.

We hope to have informed you a little bit about the ups and downs of our association:

**The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 'Liberation of the Netherlands'.**



Your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President,

*Gerrit Bruggink*



**February 4, 2024. Commemoration Kapelsche Veer.**

Contribution by comrade André van Roomen.

**The tree that saw everything...**

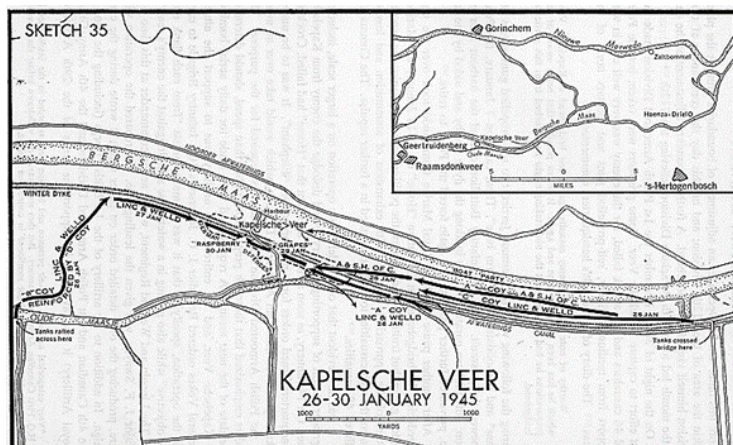
On Sunday afternoon, February 4, 2024, comrades Gerrit Bruggink, Reinier Groeneveld, Ad van Uffelen and the undersigned were present at the commemoration of the soldiers who died in the battle for Kapelsche Veer 79 years ago. Known as Operation Elephant.



An attack by the First Canadian Army on a narrow island north of the Meuse River, in which various nationalities fought on the Allied side.

A battle lasting about 1 month, which started just before Christmas 1944 and left approximately 400 dead and missing among Poles, Norwegians, Belgians, British and Canadians.

It is estimated that there were approximately 500 German casualties. So a very fierce battle. The battle for Kapelsche Veer can be assumed to be well known.



"Commemoration literally means remembering again," said Mr. Jack Didden, author of historical WW2 books and one of the speakers during the ceremony.

And that is what we did on behalf of RCL005.

The commemoration took place at the monument on the Veerweg, located in front of an old weeping willow.

A weeping willow that was already there in 1944, in other words: 'the tree that saw everything'.

This time the ceremony was mainly focused on the Poles who fought here.

It was also the opening of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of 'the glorious advance of General Stanislaw Maczek's 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division'.

His grave is located on the Polish cemetery on the Ettensebaan in Breda, where the memorial is also located.

Definitely worth a visit!



1945. The willow after the fight



There were several Polish delegates and dignitaries, including some high-ranking officers of the Polish Army.

The guard of honour was formed by members of the Polish Mountain battalion in beautiful uniforms with capes/cloaks and hats with feathers. Striking and special to me was the Edelweiss emblem on the mantle.



In the morning program there was a lecture about the history of these Mountain Hunters.



And also, in the morning program, flowers were laid at the grave of Lieutenant Leon Czertok – officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division – who was the first to die in the battle for Kapelsche Veer. This grave is located at the Jewish cemetery in Den Hout.

We were not present at the morning program ourselves.

This time the organization of this commemoration was in the hands of:

Polish Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe Breda and the Polish Historical Memory Group. Also involved:

Association 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Armoured Division Netherlands, Jewish Community of Breda, Reenactment group Breda 1944, Pheasant Foundation, Association Kryptonim T-IV and Polish military delegations



A wreath was laid at the monument on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005.

Afterwards there was an informal gathering in restaurant 'De Dreef' in Dongen.

There we were warmly welcomed by the organization and treated to a Polish buffet.

The buffet was provided by the wife and daughter of Mr. Witold Gudys from "Polska Grupa Pamieci Hystorycznej".

What a beautiful and worthy commemoration!  
What a battle was fought at Kapelsche Veer!

We will remember them!



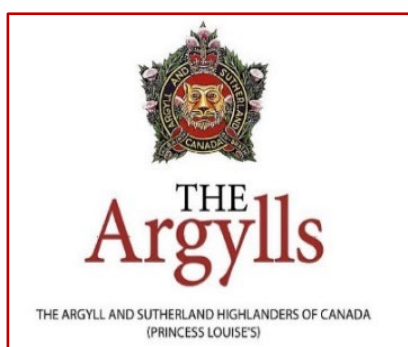
*André van Roomen*

**Foto's: Conny de Vries**

Editorial addition:

The battle may be assumed to be 'known'.  
If you would like to read more about this:  
see the background story in our 2019-12 edition  
<http://tinyurl.com/yjby3beu>

(Allied casualties in a prestige battle for approximately 10 square kilometers  
General Crocker vs. General Student. The fight for Kapelsche Veer)



But also the story of:  
Donald D. MacKeracher and Riet Laurijsen  
from Kaatsheuvel in our 2022-11 edition.

<http://tinyurl.com/32m6d5c5>

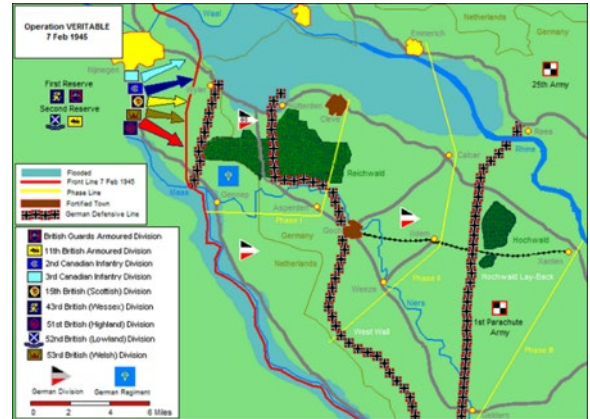




**February 8, 2024.  
 Commemoration Operation Veritable.**

Organisation: Groesbeek Airborne Friends.  
 This year's theme: The Royal Canadian Engineers.

After the fighting for the Scheldt estuary had come to an end - it was mid-November 1944 - more Canadian engineering units came to this region. During the winter months, their main task was building bridges and repairing roads. Important work in view of the upcoming and decisive offensive towards the Rhineland in February 1945.



There were many visitors. Among the guests: the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, H.E. Hugh Adsett, Canada's Defense Attaché, Colonel Marc LaFortune and his aide-de-camp Sergeant Nicole Mitchell. And of course Mayor Slinkman of the municipality of Berg en Dal. German local municipalities had also sent a delegation, as well as The British Embassy.

The Colour Party and the Youth Auxiliary of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 were there. The Canadian Remembrance Torch was special, presented by Suzanne Groeneveld of the Youth Auxiliary of Branch 005.



Several organizations, including Faces-to-Graves, were represented by a delegation.

The ceremony was led by Mrs. Jeanne Melchers. (who else?)



—◆—  
**WELKOM**  
*Jeanne Melchers*

**INTRODUCTIE**  
*Herman Wijnhoven*

**LIED**  
*"Wohin soll ich mich wenden"*

**WOORD**  
*Marco Cillessen*

**MUZIEK**  
*"Wings"*

**WOORD**  
*Ambassadeur Hugh Adsett*

**LAST POST - MOMENT VAN STILTE - ROUSE**  
*Theo Jetten, Bugler*

**KRANSLEGGING**  
*Op afroep*

**GEDICHT**  
*Inge van Duin*

**VOLKSLIEDEREN**  
*"O Canada" - Het Wilhelmus - "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

**OVERWEGING**  
*Peter Pot*

**ACT OF REMEMBRANCE**  
*Allen*

The ceremony proceeded according to a familiar schedule.

Several people gave a short speech.

Canadian Ambassador His Excellency Hugh Adsett surprised those present by opening in Dutch.



After the 'Last Post' and a moment of silence, the 'Rouse' was played by bugler Theo Jetten.

The wreath laying ceremony followed.

Some images of that.



By two youth members of the Groesbeek Airborne Friends together with two students from the Montessori College in Groesbeek.



On behalf of RCL Branch 005 by comrade Danny Murphy and Suzanne Groeneveld.



Comrade Richard Hendriks laid a wreath on behalf of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada.





The choir sang the national anthems. The ceremony ended with the Act of Remembrance, recited by Jeanne Melchers.

Followed by the march off of the Colour Party.



The organization had provided a beautiful, warm location after the ceremony.

Here the guests could 'relax' for a while. There was coffee, discussion, reflection and information about the corps of 'Royal Canadian Engineers'.

A well-organized, dignified commemoration.

One that did justice to the many victims in general and to those of this, today specially appointed, corps of the Royal Canadian Engineers.



*Herman Sligman*

Photos: Richard Hendriks, unless otherwise stated



**GROESBEEK – commemoration of Operation Veritable February 8, 2024**

**Participation of 'youngsters' in the commemoration.**

It was cold and stormy weather, as we are used to at the commemoration of Operation Veritable at the Canadian cemetery in Groesbeek.

This time ice water also fell down from the sky, but everyone survived that well. Put on a thick winter coat or a beautiful red trench coat and you can withstand any weather situation.



In this way Danny Murphy, Poppy Chairman and Suzanne Groeneveld, member of the Youth Auxiliary, had armed themselves. Both are (youth) members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Liberation of the Netherlands, Branch 005.

Danny has been a long-term member of RCL005, now 84 years young and has been an initiator and/or participant in many commemorations in Groesbeek, but also elsewhere.

Suzanne, now 15 years old, shows enormous curiosity and commitment to the background of the sacrifice that our liberators made for our freedom.

Like every year, the commemoration was well organized and in addition to all the guests, including the Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, His Excellency Hugh Adsett, the Youth Department of the Groesbeek Airborne Friends also participated in the commemoration this year.

The collaboration between them and the Youth Auxiliary of RCL005 was enthusiastic and therefore excellent. Commemoration is increasingly a topic that young people are also concerned with.



(c) Fotografie HenkBaron.nl

The Canadian Remembrance Torch, an important part of the RCL005 Youth Auxiliary in the commemoration of fallen Canadian soldiers, was carried in by Suzanne Groeneveld during the "March on the Colours" next to the Colour Party of RCL005.

Thereafter lit by Sven Reijnen, a member of the Youth Department of the Groesbeek Airborne Friends.



The 'Commitment to Remember' was then read in a special "Youth version" by Elin Kuijper (Dutch) and Suzanne Groeneveld (English).

The involvement of the young people was a relief. Our older-youngster Danny Murphy thought so too. As a Canadian veteran and member of the Board of RCL005, he is very involved in the many commemorations he has attended in his life. He always encourages young people to participate and think about why and for what purposes commemorations should still take place.

During the ceremony at Groesbeek, for the victims of Operation Veritable, he and Suzanne Groeneveld laid a wreath at the monument and they saluted.



That moment was captured in a special way in a photo by Kim Huvenaars and we don't want to deprive you of that.

Thanks for your permission Kim.

On behalf of the RCL005 Youth Auxiliary

[www.youth-auxiliary-rcl005.nl](http://www.youth-auxiliary-rcl005.nl)

*Ruud Janssen*



**Miscellaneous.**

**THE JUNO BEACH CENTRE RECOGNIZES NS(NB)R VETERAN LT GERALD MORAN**

In preparation for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 2024, the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, France has recently opened a Faces of Canada Today exhibit which focuses on the contribution of Canadian veterans after combat.



One of the veterans chosen for this exhibit is Lt Gerald Moran who served with the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment.

Gerald landed with the regiment on D-Day, was seriously wounded on the beach, and was evacuated to England. The war was now over for Lt. Moran, but he continued to make use of his exceptional skill as a radio operator and instructor.

For many years after the war, and well into retirement, Gerald operated a Ham Radio system that connected Canadian soldiers, serving in combat, and in peacekeeping missions around the world, with family at home in Canada.

This service was provided at no cost. On Christmas Day at the Moran home, no presents could be unpacked until all calls from overseas had been connected.

Retired Lt Gerald Moran in his home broadcast studio in Fredericton, New Brunswick, connects Canadian soldiers from all over the world to their families and friends back home.



Below is a link to the new Faces of Canada Today exhibit at the Juno Beach Centre

<https://www.junobeach.org/faces-of-canada-today/>



**Source: Facebook Ad van Uffelen.**

See also in our 2023-12 edition the report on the unveiling of three monuments in Rucphen.

For more than a year and a half, Ad van Uffelen investigated the crash of a Canadian bomber near "de Posthoorn" in Rucphen. He obtained valuable information from conversations with residents of Rucphen and a diary of the De Rooy family.

This gave him a clear picture of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bomber Command, and specifically of the crew of the Halifax W1271.

The research is now available in the form of a book for interested parties.

This book can be ordered via a personal message to Ad van Uffelen.

**It is bilingual: Dutch and English.**



**Preview:**

<https://www.albelli.nl/onlinefotoboek-bekijken?widgetId=5771ee9a-d550-45e0-b446-f9d2a56d8362>

Meanwhile, Comrade Ad van Uffelen has started another investigation.

On June 22, 1943, a Vickers Wellington (HE981) from the 429 squadron of No. 6 Bomber Command crashed near the Langeweg (Oudenbosch-NL).

The entire (Canadian) crew: F/O Pilot John L.F. Lown, navigator Sgt Arthur J. Sieffert, bomb aimer Sgt John K. Wood, radio operator and gunner F/Sgt Albert S. Rhodes and gunner W/O II William H. Calder were killed.

Day or Night of operation	Operation	Target	Nickname Aircraft							
21/22 Jun 43	Bombing	Krefeld								
Factory	Aircraft	Mk	Serial/Wnr.	Code	Unit	Air Force	TO/t	Airfield		
Vickers	Wellington	X	HE981	AL-T	429 Sqdn	RAF	2327	East Moor		
Time	Cause of the Crash		Crash Location				Damage	Province		
0221	Shot down by Hptm. P. Förster of 2./NJG 1		Crashed Langeweg at Oudenbosch					Noord-Brabant		
Function	Mil Rank	Ini	Name	Age	Mil reg	Air Force	Fate	Cemetery	Grave	Remarks
Pilot	F/O.	J.L.F.	Lown		J/13992	RCAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	25 C 1-2	Initially buried Breda
Navigator	Sgt.	A.J.	Sieffert		R/119786	RCAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	25 C 1-2	Initially buried Breda
Bomb Aimer	Sgt.	J.K.	Wood	23	R/82786	RCAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	25 C 1-2	Initially buried Breda
Wireless Operator/Air Gunner	Sgt.	A.S.	Rhodes		R/131818	RCAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	25 C 1-2	Initially buried Breda
Rear Gunner	Sgt.	W.H.	Calder	24	R/116334	RCAF	KIA	Bergen op Zoom	25 C 1-2	Initially buried Breda
Wartime Records	Background Info									
Operations Record Book	Chorley, 'Bomber Command Losses 1943', page 197; Boiten, 'Nachtjagd Combat Archive January-June 1943', page 127; www.6bombergroup.ca/Operations for radio letter									



**Contribution Information Center CWGC Canadian War Cemetery Holten.**

(via comrade Edwin van der Wolf)

In memory of Edward Underwood.  
Grave VI.E.2.

The family of Edward, who died on  
November 17, 1945, has presented a work  
of art to the information center.

The Underwood family is a First Nations  
family of the Tsawout Band from  
Saanichton on Vancouver Island, British  
Columbia.

The artwork was created by First Nation  
and tribal member Doug LaFortune.  
It has been given a worthy place in the  
corridor of the information center.



In the photo you can see the hand over of the painting by Dr. Bettina van Hoven. She is  
affiliated with the University of Groningen and contact person for the Tsawout Band in the  
Netherlands.

On the right, Mr. Edwin van der Wolf, who received the canvas on behalf of the information  
center.

**Pte Edward Underwood**

**Graf VI.E.2**



Edward werd geboren op 15 september 1918 als zoon van Bert  
en Ellen Underwood uit Saanichton British Columbia. Zijn  
broers waren Benjamin, George en Harry Underwood en zijn  
zusters: Adeline, Marjory, Bertha, Mary, Esther, Bernadette en  
Patricia Underwood.

Hij was een Indiaan van de Tsawoutstam vanwege de afkomst  
van beide ouders.

Hij was visser en lid van the Methodist Church.  
Hij nam op 20 september 1939 dienst in Victoria British  
Columbia en ging op 2 september 1941 overzee naar het  
Verenigd Koninkrijk.

Op 3 juli 1944 maakte hij de oversteek naar Normandië.  
Met zijn onderdeel, het Canadian Scottish Regiment, nam  
hij deel aan de verdere opmars door NW Europa.



Edward stierf op woensdag 17 november 1945 op de leeftijd van 27 jr. aan de  
gevolgen van een spoedoperatie wegens complicaties bij een  
tuberculosebesmetting in een Canadees hospitaal in Oldenburg (Duitsland).  
Hij werd tijdelijk begraven in Osterscheps (Duitsland) voordat hij op 6 maart  
1946 werd herbegraven in Holten.

Toegekend werden hem de volgende onderscheidingen:  
1939-1945 Star; France Germany Star; Defence Medal; War Medal en de  
Canadian Volunteer Service Medal met Clasp.



**CBC News.**

Source: Rachel Watts-CBC News  
Feb.09 2024.

2 female Inuit pilots made history flying together.  
They hope it's a start.

*'Seeing somebody who looks like you and is like you is important,' says pilot from Inukjuak*

Melissa Haney and Zoe Kroonenburg have flown from Montreal to Puvirnituk, in the northern Quebec region of Nunavik, hundreds of times.



Zoe Kroonenburg, left, and Melissa Haney, right, snapped a photo together on Feb. 6. It was the first time either of them had flown a plane alongside a fellow female Inuk pilot. (Submitted by Melissa Haney)

But Tuesday's (Feb.06-2024) two-and-a-half-hour cargo flight, with Haney as the captain and Kroonenburg as first officer aboard the Air Inuit Boeing 737, felt different. It was the first time either of them had flown alongside someone who looked like them.

*'Representation does matter,' said Haney.*

*'It's something that I've been waiting for for a long time — to have two female Inuit pilots up front. So I was excited for this day to come.'*

It took 20 years for Haney.



Air Inuit says Kroonenburg and Haney's latest trip north was the first time a female Inuk captain and copilot flew a 737 together for Air Inuit.

When she started flying in 2004 for Air Inuit, Haney was the only female Inuk pilot — [and the first ever female Air Inuit captain.](#)

Now, there are four female Inuit pilots among the 220 pilots working for the airline.



**Tip from comrade André van Roomen.**

Source: Brabant Broadcasting

**A bell crosses the ocean.**

The Welberg Liberation Monument Foundation received a beautiful specimen.

An approximately 70 centimeter high bronze bell that had served for years in a nursing home in Roosendaal turned up in a depot.

This bell will travel across the ocean to the Algonquin Regiment in Ontario. This unit played an important role in the liberation of Steenberg and the surrounding area.



Angelo Somers of the foundation shows the bell.  
Photo: Erik Peeters

In 2014, the foundation also donated a bell to the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment. It is customary that the bells in Welberg and Alberta are being rung simultaneously during the annual commemoration early November.

The intention is that in due course the bell in Ontario will also sound at the same time. First, volunteers will make a bell chair. In November this year it will be rung next to the bell in Welberg. You can see this in the photo below during the commemoration in November 2023.







**UPCOMING.**

Take a look at the calendar. (Google version)

<http://tinyurl.com/4yzn9jus>

Follow us on Facebook:

<http://tinyurl.com/38cmdct>

For the Youth Auxiliary of RCL Branch 005:

<http://tinyurl.com/cwbx7vzy>

**TO HONOUR CANADA'S VETERANS:**

Donations are always welcome.  
Our organization has an ANBI status.  
All donations have a Tax Advantage.  
Scan the QR-code or visit our website.



**Ending with a smile  
Little differences**

