



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

EDITION 2024-01

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

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 Update Project 'Carry their Torch'
 Yet one more time. Can't resist (contribution Herman Sligman)
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Sunday, January 21, 2024. NEW YEARS'S RECEPTION.

The turn-out was nice. About 60 attendees, a nice mix of guests and members attended the event. This afternoon everyone had the opportunity to meet the new Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, His Excellency Hugh Adsett, accompanied by his partner Beth Alexander. From the Canadian Embassy were also present Colonel Marc LaFortune, the Defense Attaché, and his aide-de-camp Sergeant Nicole Mitchell. From Germany, Lieutenant Colonel Pleasance and Chief Warrant Officer Pépin had made the trip to Lochem. Respectively Commanding Officer and Unit Sergeant-Major of the Canadian Forces Support Unit (Europe).

Other representatives were from: Faces-To-Graves, the Groesbeek Airborne Friends Foundation, 48th Highlanders and the Ettense Molenstichting. Without disrespecting other individuals, we would like to mention a few names: The presence of Louise de Bree, who had made the journey to Lochem after the loss of her partner, our president Martin Reelick, was gratifying. Also worth mentioning the presence of comrade Michael Stephenson and Petra, who had come over from Flensburg-Germany. (more than 500 km) Our former president Ben Zonnenberg was also present after a long absence. Unfortunately, our Secretary/Legal Officer Jan van Loo was not present. His recovery take more time as expected.





Opening speech by Gerrit Bruggink, 1st Vice-President, on behalf of the board of RCL Branch 005.

Dear guests, friends and comrades.

Welcome.

A special welcome to the new Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands, His Excellency, *mr. Hugh Adsett. and his partner Beth Alexander. Canadian Defense Attaché Colonel Marc LaFortune and his assistant Sergeant Nicole Mitchell.*

From Canadian Forces Support Unit (Europe).

*Lieutenant-Colonel Alma Pleasance
Chief Warrant Officer Samuel Pépin.*

Welcome to you all

Before we go any further, I wish to make a toast on the new year, We, the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 005, wish you all the best for 2024, Cheers.

Let's look back to 2023

We, RCL Branch 005, have participated in 40+ commemorations. New projects have also been developed and implemented. I will come back to this later.

But we have also known our sad times, our President Martin Reelick passed away, after a long battle against cancer, on November 4, 2023. Comrade Ruijs passed away in January, Comrade Anton de Man in May. Former member and Past President Peter Spierenburg in June.

I would like to think about them for a moment.

Please, 1 minute of silence.

We Will Remember Them.

From here on I will continue in Dutch, sorry.

You can read Gerrit Bruggink's complete speech:

HERE

<http://tinyurl.com/2bznag8h>

Then our Liaison Officer Yvonne Swarthoff took over the microphone from him. She gave a special speech with a surprising twist at the end.

Furthermore, the photos provide a good impression of a very successful reception.

Photos by courtesy of: Mieke van Bussel, Yvonne Swarthoff, Richard Hendriks and Ruud Janssen.



VIPS



**Men from the very beginning
From the left: Ben Zonnenberg, Danny
Murphy, Hendrik Kuiper**



Sales continue for the Kitshop-team



A serious conversation



Three is a crowd? Not now, not here!!



Look for the differences



Sociable



With a beer



With a glass of wine



No words needed



**Sergeant @ Arms
RCL Branch 005**



**Sergeant @ Royal Canadian Air
Force**



**Colonel @ Canadian
Armed Forces**



And the 'Mounty' kept an eye on things



Quilts of Valour - Canada Society

During the New Year's reception on January 21, two comrades with Canadian roots, **Danny Murphy** and **Wayne Healey**, received an unexpected surprise.

Both officially recognized Canadian veterans and both injured during their service. Danny and Wayne received a beautiful quilt. Made by volunteers from the Canadian Association 'Quilts for Valour'.

Before the presentation of the quilts, Yvonne Swarthoff, Liaison Officer of Branch 005, gave a short introduction.

She started her speech with the words of Linda Gerein, President of Quilts for Valour:

'Our mission as a Society is to ensure that all Canadian military members, past and present who are ill or injured as a result of their service and sacrifice to our country, are recognized and honoured with a Quilt of Valour.'

The need for our quilts continues to grow. At present there are approximately 185,000 Veterans, many of whom are eligible to receive a Quilt of Valour.

To date we have presented more than 21,000 quilts. Each one a handmade hug, stitched with love and gratitude by grateful Canadians.'

Yvonne continued:

'It is an honour that we, as RCL Branch 005, are allowed to handout two of these quilts.

One of them is for 'one of our oldest members Danny Murphy. Danny is a Congo veteran, was injured and was even temporarily a prisoner of war.

The other is for Wayne Healey.

Wayne served for twelve years in the Canadian Air Cadets, Royal Montreal Regiment, Canadian Armed Forces and on HMS Kootenay."

This was followed by the presentation of the quilts.



Yvonne Swarthoff



An official photo of the two veterans together with His Excellency the Ambassador of Canada to the Netherlands should, of course, not be missing here.

From the left:

Danny Murphy

His Excellency H. Adsett

Wayne Healey

Would you like to read more about the Quilts of Valour Society?

Activate this link:

<https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca/>

There was another surprise for Danny Murphy at the reception.

Yvonne continued her speech with:

'On this occasion we can also award a certificate to Danny Murphy for his tireless efforts as Poppy-Chairman and his contribution to the various working groups over many years.

We salute both Canadians, it's an honour and privilege to know you'.





**The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005
'Liberation of the Netherlands'
Youth Auxiliary
"Be yours to hold it high"**

Project Carry their Torch

We would like to give you an update on Project Carry their Torch.

Preparations are in full swing now.

Through RCL Dominion Command we were put in touch with CANVETS, the company that develops all logos for the Legion and produces the Legion Magazine. They are designing a professional logo for this project. Dominion Command has responded very positively to the project. The communications department has indicated that it will promote the project in Canada through their media channels, including the Legion Magazine.

The association for history teachers (VGN Kleio) has also responded positively to the project. They will help us bring the project to the attention of their members.

We have also been invited to write an article for their magazine.

Fortunately, two members responded to the earlier call we made.

This has resulted in very valuable support, for which we sincerely thank you.

However, we would like to ask you all for help again. This time it's a specific request. For the promotional campaign of Project Carry their Torch, we want to make a series of very short videos that we can regularly post on social media. We want to draw and maintain regular attention to the project. These short videos (30-90 seconds) will focus on the various monuments and graves in the Netherlands as they can be found on the Canadian War Graves and Monuments map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/edit?mid=1JwOeRk-FTBOeSPRP28CCnq1EMhyrzL4&usp=sharing>

We are in the process of collecting material for this ourselves, but it would help us enormously if you would invest the time and help us record material. Take a look at the map to see what can be found near you and visit these places sometime. If you take some photos and videos with your mobile phone and send them to us (youth@rcloos.org)

We will prepare this material for publication. The time investment on site is therefore only a few minutes. It can take even less time if you already have material for us in your archive. For us it saves a total of days, just in travel time! The more material we receive from different locations, the better we can promote the project and thus convey the message that we all stand for as RCL005.



Suzanne and Reinier Groeneveld.

www.youth-auxiliary-rcloos.nl



Operation Mickey Finn.

Contribution: Herman Sligman

<https://codenames.info/operation/mickey-finn/>

December 7, 1944.

During the winter period of 1944/ 1945, it was not quiet at the front. Patrols and raids were carried out regularly.

The aim was to collect tactical intelligence, sharpen the skills of their own men in 'small unit' operations and keep the German troops busy.

These operations were assigned specifically defined objectives and missions.

The strength of the units for these actions was greater than one platoon.

These operations were practiced in advance. The action got usually fire support.

Preliminary shelling by artillery and/or other weapons.

A typical example of such an operation was 'Mickey Finn'.

The troops for the action were from the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada.

This was one of the three battalions of the 5th Brigade, commanded by Brigadier W.J. Megill.

Operation 'Mickey Finn' was carried out near the Dutch-German border south of Groesbeek.

In charge was the D-Company of the Black Watch.



W.J. Megill

This action was also 'practiced' in advance by the troops.



Map: Groesbeek Airborne Vrienden

Major E.W. Hudson, the company commander (CC) had found a piece of terrain near the position of his D-Coy that was quite similar to the objective they had to deal with.

Trenches were even created in accordance with the pattern and dimensions that, to the intelligence information, corresponded to the trenches near the Reichswald.



The distances were determined and checked.

The timetable was carefully drawn up with a view to the planned artillery barrage in advance.

The start of the operation, H-hour, was set for Thursday, December 7, 1944 at 8:00 PM.

Objective: a quick attack on a German position to test vigilance and strength and possibly take one or more prisoners and discourage German attack plans.

The route that D-Company would follow was down through the positions occupied by the Calgary Highlanders D-company.

The first orientation was the intersection of Knapheideweg-Grafwegen. **(RAP)**

Then in a south-westerly direction to the road past the dike, marked as the starting line.

The starting line was known as **"Sally"**. **(see map)**

Before the attack there would be a preliminary shelling.

Indicated on the map above with, among other things, 'BEAR'; 'GIN'; 'RYE'; 'RUM'.

The artillery would move the first phase of the barrage (WHISKY First) at H minus 2 minutes from the target area **'PORT'** **(see yellow mark)** to 'Whisky Ridge'.

Fire support was provided by their own (Black Watch) 2" mortars, the 3" mortars of the Calgary Highlanders and a section of the Toronto Scottish with heavy (.50) machine guns and 4.2" mortars.

The artillery barrage was carried out by the 5th Field Artillery.

Major E.W. Hudson announced in advance that only a serious wound or the capture of a German POW would allow a withdrawal before the scheduled time of 8:15 PM.

When the first shells of the barrage landed, the soldiers were no more than fifty meters behind them.

When the barrage on the target area stopped, the attack began and the soldiers set off. The German position was reached without much enemy resistance. Sergeant Morrison convinced one German soldier that he had better get out of the dug-out. The others, who continued to refuse, had hand grenades thrown inside. Private White was put in charge of control of the POW. This man made an attempt to flee but was wounded in the legs by a short burst from a stengun.

So far everything went as planned and the withdrawal started at 8:15 PM.

When the men on the retreat approached the starting line "Sally", the Germans began to fire on the nearby area with mortars. After a few minutes the Germans shifted fire forward towards Knapheide.

Assuming that the withdrawal would take place along this route.

This assessment turned out badly for D Company.

The losses for the D-Company: 8 men killed in action and approximately 15 injured.

The estimated victims on the German side: approximately 25 dead, the same number or a few more wounded and one prisoner of war.

In the afternoon of December 9, a cloth model on scale of the target area was prepared and in the evening of December 9, 1944, Major Hudson explained the action, carried out by his company.

All officers of the Brigade were present.

Post script.

It was a bad week for the Black Watch (RHR) of Canada.

On Tuesday, December 5, 1944 a 6-man patrol from the Scout Platoon was ambushed.

Two men were killed instantly and 1 man wounded.

Sources: Wikipedia, War Diaries Black Watch; Groesbeek Airborne Friends, Faces-to-Graves, ww2talk; battlefield tours.



Miscellaneous.

Source: Normandy Memorial Trust, forwarded by Gerrit Bruggink.



Construction has begun on 'The Winston Churchill Centre for Education and Learning' which is set to open on 6 June 2024, the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

On Tuesday 16 January, the moment was marked with the 'breaking of ground' at the Memorial site in the presence of Cressida Hogg, Chair of BAE Systems, Lord Richard Dannatt, Chair of Normandy Memorial Trust as well as representatives from British Embassy, Paris, Seullles Terre et Mer (confederation of 28 communes) and Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Barker Langham is the agency responsible for the design of the Centre.

This is an historic milestone in the evolution of the Memorial project. The creation of the Centre will fulfill the Trust's ambition to allow future generations to learn from the events of summer 1944 and keep alive the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

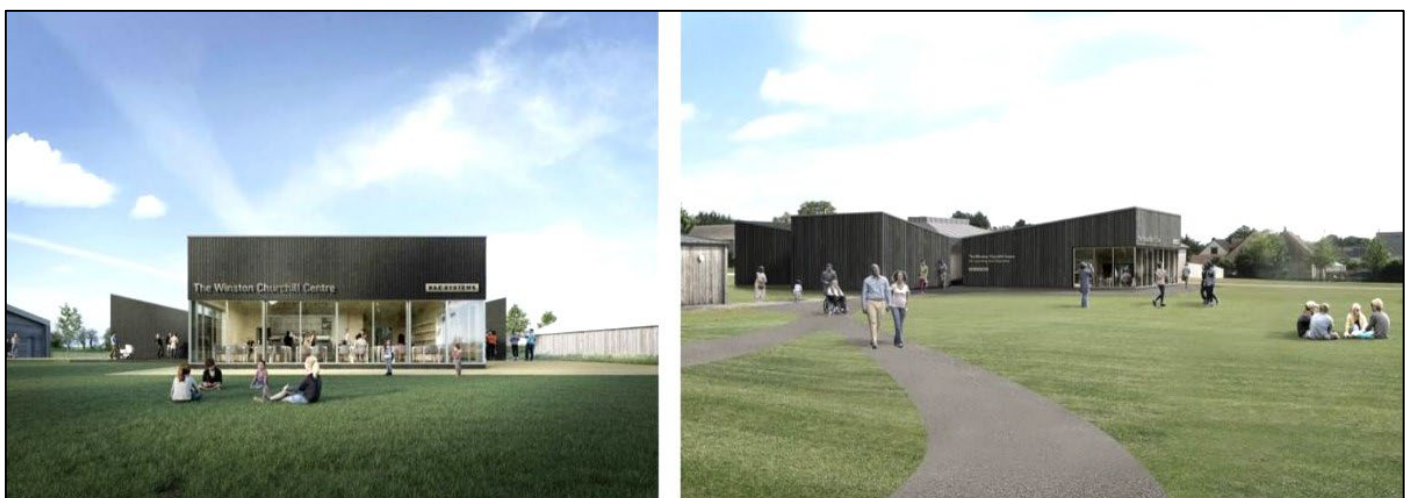
The Winston Churchill Centre has been funded through a donation of £600,000 from the Trust's principal sponsor, BAE Systems.

The Ministry of Defence has also contributed to the construction of the Centre. The Normandy Region, the Department of Calvados and the Seullles Terre et Mer Community of Communes have also made a significant contribution towards funding of the Centre.

The new building will house two educational exhibition galleries telling stories of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, curated by The Royal British Legion.

A specially designed classroom for use by schools from the UK, France and beyond will also be available, plus a shop selling official merchandise and a café.

The Centre will be free-of-charge to visit.



Illustrative image of the completed Centre. Credit: British Normandy Memorial / Barker Langham



Canadian Armed Forces.

Source: Facebook Royal Military College of Canada.

The Indigenous Leadership Opportunity Year (ILOY) at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC Canada CMR) is one of our unique and rewarding educational programs and entry plans for Indigenous Peoples.

The program is designed to challenge and provide students like you with individual, group, and cultural experiences that help build your indigenous self-identity, confidence, leadership, and life skills.

Through it all, you will be paid at rank level and receive free tuition and books with no obligation to remain in the CAF.

Not convinced? Check out the video of ILOY graduates describing their experiences.

If you're interested in applying, visit the link to learn more and start your application today:

<https://forces.ca/en/programs-for-indigenous-peoples/iLOY/>





UPCOMING.

Take a look at the calendar. (Google version)

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

Follow us on Facebook:

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

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.

Suitable for the weather conditions in the Netherlands at the end of 2023 and in early 2024

