



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2024-05

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Repeated appeal on behalf of the Youth Auxiliary (see edition 2024-04)

We are still very interested in receiving images and film footage of monuments in your area.

If you have any images or films in your archives for us, or if you are willing to make something in your area, we would be very grateful!

Please send to info@project-carry-their-torch.nl or to youth@rcl005.org.

On the right you see the interactive map. Use the links through the graphic or below and you will be able to get information about each location.

<https://tinyurl.com/mryd3pf6>



Herman Sligman



Holten, 4 May 2024.

**'In Flanders fields the poppies grow
between the crosses, row on row....'**

With a voice like a bronze bell, George Brewster, the 101-year-old former Spitfire pilot from Canada, recited the famous poem by Canadian physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae (1872-1918).



© Vincent Jannink

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

Favoured with pleasant weather conditions, the chairman of SVNF (Foundation for the Celebration of National Holidays in Holten), Mrs. Lianne Jongsma, was able to welcome a large number of attendees.



It would be a busy morning for the elderly veteran. Before reciting the poem, he lit the Canadian Remembrance Torch at the invitation of Suzanne Groeneveld of the Youth Auxiliary, who had marched with the Colour Party of the



Amongst those present: His Excellency Hugh Adsett, the Canadian Ambassador; Canada's military attaché Colonel Marc LaFortune; the King's Commissioner in Overijssel Andries Heidema, the full council of mayor and aldermen of the municipality of Rijssen-Holten and representatives of various other organisations. Many other guests and visitors also found their way into the cemetery.



And, of course, the schoolchildren of Holten have always had a prominent role.

There were speeches from Jan Bronninkreef, Mr. Heidema, and Mayor van Houdt, amongst others.

The program followed the traditional course: Act of Remembrance, Last Post, two minutes of silence, Reveille, the Lament and the Commitment to Remember.

The first wreath was laid by the school children, as is custom in Holten.



Wreaths were also laid by the Canadian Embassy, the municipality of Rijssen-Holten, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, the Royal British Legion, and several other delegations.

Music was provided by the Holten Music Association and of course, the 48th Highland Pipes & Drums were present.





The laying of flowers (white roses on ALL the graves) by the school children was a sight to behold and very special.

This year, the first roses were laid by George Brewster.



© Marielle Beumer, Oost

After a poem was recited by a primary school student, the national anthems of Canada and the Netherlands were played.



The Chairman of SVNG concluded the ceremony with a world of thanks. The Colour Party marched out with 'Flying Colours,' followed by the Canadian Remembrance Torch.

Lest we forget!

An extra standard was included in the Colour Party this year. Comrade Richard Powell walked with the 'Red Ensign' (the former flag of Canada). Richard is a member of 162 Calais Branch in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia.



Here, in our opinion, is the most beautiful photo: a handshake between the Youth and Veteran.

Photos: Anneke Poppenk, unless otherwise stated.



Wilnis, 4 May 2024.

This year, RCL005 also took part in the commemoration on May 4 in Wilnis with the Colour Party and Youth Auxiliary.

Due to a poor weather forecast, it was decided not to include the Canadian Remembrance Torch in the procession.

At 19.45 hours all attendees, following the Colour Party, left in a silent procession through the village to the monument on Raadhuisstraat in time for the two minutes of silence at 20.00 hours.



Afterwards, the flowers and wreaths were laid at the monument.

Once this was completed, the Colour Party accompanied the attendees to the cemetery at the Dutch Reformed Church. There, three Canadian crew members of the Vickers Wellington (428 Squadron) who died were buried.

The Last Post was played here, followed by the national anthem of Canada. Flowers were then placed

on the graves and a wreath was laid by the Youth Auxiliary on behalf of Branch 005.

The ceremony concluded after all those presented walked past the graves to commemorate "their Canadians." Finally, the Colour Party marched past the graves towards the beautiful monument placed



at the entrance to the cemetery.



The commemoration in Wilnis is special, consisting of two parts that are inextricably linked. This makes it very clear that the Canadians buried in the village are part of the community in Wilnis. Every year, Wilnis commemorates "our Canadians."



Van Bevrijdingsdefilé naar Vrijheidsdefilé

With a view to next year, 2025, eighty years after the Second World War, the view of the past is shifted to the future.

The Liberation Parade continues as the Freedom Parade, making the international military cooperation that has guaranteed our freedom since 1945 visible.

The parade started after the National Commemoration of the 1945 Capitulations, during which the eight Allied countries that fought on our territory were honoured with a flag ceremony.

The Allied WWII veterans are honoured in the Freedom Parade. In addition, there is a tribute to all Dutch veterans from later UN peace missions.

At the forefront of the parade are the veterans who fought for our freedom in the Second World War. George Brewster, 101-year-old Canadian veteran was also present. He lit the National Liberation Fire together with British veteran, Geoff Roberts, and with Floor Vermeulen, mayor of Wageningen.

International military cooperation was also made visible with the many international partners participating in the delegation. The year Belgium, Great Britain, the United States of America, France, Norway, and Ukraine participated.

With approximately 1,900 participants, the parade was again an important and indispensable part of Liberation Day in Wageningen.





The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 'Liberation of the Netherlands' also took part in the parade with the Colour Party.

Over the years, this has grown into a major event. Since 1945, freedom in our country has become self-evident.

"Wageningen is the place where this feeling of freedom and gratitude should be visible and tangible. It is not only for war veterans, but also for former soldiers," said the chairman.

In the City of Liberation, 90-95,000 people gathered to cherish freedom with joy.

We will let the photos speak for themselves.







Photos: Anneke
Poppenk unless
otherwise stated



Crash ND641 leads to educational project.

On the night of March 24 to 25, 1944, a Lancaster bomber from the 625th Squadron, Royal Air Force, crashed in Tubbergen (Overijssel). This night was later known by the Bomber Command as '*The night of the strong winds.*' The Lancaster Mk III, ND641 took off from Kelstern, UK, on March 24, 1944, around 18:30 hours for an operation to Berlin, Germany. For pilot Jack Owen, this was not the first flight to the German capital; however, this flight proved fatal.



Due to a strong wind from the north on the route to Berlin, they had difficulty reaching their goal. On the way back it was still questionable whether there was enough fuel to get back to England.

While pilot Owen was discussing with Flight Engineer William Broadmore whether there was still enough fuel to reach England, they were hit by fire from a German Night Fighter. The burning plane crashed near the village of Tubbergen.

Only the bomb aimer, Frank Magee, managed to leave the plane in time. The deceased crew members are buried at the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Tubbergen.

The crew consisted of the following members:

W/O. II	J.D. Owen	RCAF	KIA
Sgt.	W.H. Broadmore	RAF	KIA
Sgt.	J.C.A.D. Lavender	RAF	KIA
W/O. II	F.B. Magee	RCAF	Survived
Sgt.	P.H. Simpkin	RAF	KIA
F/Sgt.	H.W. Nixon	RCAF	KIA
Sgt.	W. Clark	RAF	KIA

In November and December, 2023, the students from 3TTO of the Canisius School Community in Tubbergen visited the war graves and learned the personal stories of the Canadian and English airmen.



There are 13 CWGC graves here.

Photo: Ruud Janssen

Particular attention was paid to the crash of ND641. After the conversation, students entered into dialogue with each other under the guidance of the coaches from the Canadian Cemetery Information Centre in Holten and the Memory Freedom Museum in Nijverdal.



The theme was **COURAGE**.

The Canadian and English airmen who are buried in Tubbergen were courageous; courageous to fight for our freedom during the Second World War. The purpose of dialogue is to bring people closer together and learn to understand each other. Only if you understand each other is it possible to prevent conflicts.

The reactions after the conversations also showed this nicely:

'It was an interesting conversation. We learned to respect each other and let each other talk so we could understand each other better.'

'Asking each other questions was also part of the conversation, which allowed us to understand each other better and the answers came from our hearts. We said what we really wanted to say. We now also understand what dialogue means, that there can be two sides to a conversation. It is not the case that only one person can be right, but that you can calmly end a conversation and both can be right, from their own point of view, without conflict arising due to the differing view points.'

We are used to discussing or debating with each other. This often leads to conflicts and wanting to win, as an individual or a group. If this is left too long, it can lead to polarisation and violence; at worst, to war.

Dialogue is a form of communication that is based on connecting, investigating together, and creating insight. Sometimes dialogue leads to solutions, but in any case, to mutual understanding. It is also nice to experience being listened to when you express your thoughts and feelings.

Below you can read some one-liners from the students' reactions to how they look back on the dialogue session (2022 edition).

Special and interesting	Feelings are difficult	Respect each other	Equal	Cool
Open	Expand your vision	Strange	Courage	To enjoy each day
Accept one as he or she is	Understanding and listening	Understand each others point of view	Listening instead of talking	Learn to listen to stories with a big background
Delay expressing your own opinion	Learn to listen to each other	Emotion	Fulfilment	Gain understanding



Soon, the students of the Canisius School Community will make video calls with the relatives of the crew of the Lancaster bomber. First the students will prepare the questions they want to ask.

In groups of five, the students will engage in a 'speed date' of approximately 20 minutes with one surviving relative to get to know the personal stories of the crew of ND641.

However, the personal stories of the relatives of the crashed flight crew will also be quite interesting. During these online conversations, the children and nephews of the crew of ND641 will be present from Canada and the UK.

Mark Veldhuis

Editorial Addition:

Conflict-war-courage dialogue.

Nice example of how 'history' and contemporary education can connect with each other.



Left: Frank Magee, right Jack Owen



The story of survivor, Frank Magee is also quite interesting. Read about his 'escape route' with others) until they made contact with the Allied troops in Belgium, east of Chaudfontaine, in September 1944.

Click on the map above to activate the link to the report.



Farewell to Danny Murphy as Poppy Chairman.

On April 29, 2024, Comrade Danny Murphy, in the administrative circle, said goodbye as Poppy Chairman of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005. Danny has filled this role with great pleasure and dedication for many years. He started working with the Poppy campaign in 2003 and has been the Poppy Chairman of our Branch since 2011.

Danny always made sure that all participants were provided with the Poppies and completed the formal tasks with the Eurozone and Canada.

The Board is very grateful for Danny's commitment and tenure in this important role. When saying goodbye, Danny received a certificate presented by President, Wim Poppenk.



Danny was also presented with a nice statue as a reminder of his tenure as Poppy Chairman.

Thanks and appreciation were expressed for his efforts and the value to the Board and Poppy campaign.

Right: *'For outstanding, loyal and dedicated service to The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005, 'Liberation of the Netherlands.'*



The statue is a red deer and represents:
Protecting what is dear to you.



Danny says goodbye to working alone as Poppy Chairman but will stay involved as an advisor or supporter in activities that are important to the Branch. He will also assist the new Poppy Chairman.

Berry Swarthoff





Castricum, 16 mei 2024.

Source: BUCH Veterans Committe

On May 16th at 13.00 hours there was a commemoration at the beach entrance in Castricum. The seven crew members of the Lancaster ED877 AJ-A of 617 Squadron Royal Air Force were commemorated (Dambuster Squadron).

The aircraft crash-landed after being fired upon by anti-aircraft fire, killing the entire crew. Their bodies washed up at different places along the coast.

The Observer F/O V.S. MacCausland was from the Royal Canadian Air Force and the rest of the crew were Royal Air Force members.

The Royal Netherlands Air Force had organised a fly pass with three F-35 Lightning IIs.

Among the many attendess was the British Attaché.
(Far left in the photo below.)



Foto's: Marc Brinkman

Right: Vincent Sandford MacCausland.
Photo courtesy of the family for the project:
Operation Picture Me (Canadian Virtual War Memorial)

Born February 1, 1913 in Tyne Valley, Prince Edward Island.
Buried at the General Cemetery in Bergen, North Holland.
Grave 2.D.3





Jonkerbos CWGC, 17 May 2024

Source: Facebook account RCL Branch 005, 'Liberation of the Netherlands'.

On May 17, almost 350 children visited the war cemetery at Jonkerbos, Nijmegen.

The students of the Nijmegen Saint Nicholas School sat around the Cross of Sacrifice in a large circle.



To give students more insight into the Second World War, several schools adopted monuments in 1989. The Saint Nicholas School adopted Jonkerbos.

"We have been coming here for many years," according to director Janneke Folker.

"Always on the first Friday after the May holidays. In the weeks leading up to the commemoration, there is a theme week about the war. That starts in Group 1, where we talk about friendship and death. In the upper grades, the lessons are about the Second World War. We do this, among other things, with the help of Anne Frank's diary".

It is an impressive sight, because the entire school comes to the cemetery.

At the Cross of Sacrifice, Folker spoke of the 'white gravestones.'

"There are more than 1,600 soldiers here, most of them were no older than 20 years old. They came from everywhere: England, Canada, Australia. But we don't know about some of them."



When representatives from the various groups recited a poem or told a story, the children took a rose to place on the graves.

11-year old arieke helped Julia from group 1-2. *"We are looking for a grave with an 8 on the stone, that is Julia's lucky number."*

They stop at a 28-year-old soldier. They only half understand the English text, but there was an eight on the stone, which was the point. The two girls looked at each other and for a spot to place the rose.

These children, their parents, and teachers conclude this annual honourable day with satisfaction and respect.

Lest we forget.



Retranchement, 29 May 2024

Source: PZC.nl by René Hoonhorst.

Tip from Dré van Roomen.

Photos: Kelly Thans.

Read the whole story here: <https://tinyurl.com/2ayape45>

Retranchement follows the footsteps of the Canadian Liberators

Right on the border with Knokke, a 'Vector of Memory' now adorns the parking lot at Hickman Bridge. The vector tells the story of the former bailey bridge, over which Canadian troops entered Knokke.

During the Second World War, 176,000 Canadian soldiers died, recalled Marc Kocken, a member of the Supervisory Board of the Liberation Route Europe (LRE) Foundation. Many Canadian soldiers died in the Netherlands. A national route 'In the Footsteps of the Canadian Liberators' makes it clear to walkers what obstacles Canadian soldiers encountered.

On the route from Retranchement to East Groningen there are hundreds of stories that must be told, promoted by the LRE and many partners.



The message of the Liberation Route was well received in Zeeland, reported Colonel Marc LaFortune, Canada's military attaché for Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg. *'The Battle of the Scheldt was the key to liberation,'* said the Colonel.



Kids' Mayor Eva du Fossé read the poem 'Silence.'



Holten, 31 May 2024

Students from New Brunswick, Canada visit Canadian War Cemetery Holten.

It's an impressive sight: buses stop carrying young students who have never visited a Canadian war cemetery in the Netherlands. Some even had relatives buried in Holten, Groesbeek, Bergen op Zoom, or Agdem in Belgium.



They are here to honour and commemorate the fallen Canadian soldiers of the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment. They will also be present at the 80th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy. The ceremony in Holten was co-organised by Comrade Mark Veldhuis.

In 2019 there was also a large group here from New Brunswick. This time different schools were represented and they drew up their own programme.

The RCL005 Branch was asked to attend with a small delegation; no Colour Party or wreath laying, but for support.



The Canadian Embassy was represented by military attaché Colonel Marc LaFortune.

The "Act of Remembrance" was read by Sydney Stoyko in English and Max Fougère in French. The "Commitment to Remember" was shared by Liam Lavigne in English and Trinity Theriault in French.

"The Last Post" was played by music teacher, Jeff MacQuarrie.





Charleigh van Pluijm and Graydon Daley both read a biography of the fallen soldiers, Private Lionel Valley and Corporal Emile George Frenette, both of the North Shore Regiment and buried in Holten.



A wreath was laid on behalf of the Regiment by Colonel Dufour, together with students Sadie Smith and Abi Cornier

Jakob Jardine, Alicia Gammon and Rylan Gray laid a wreath on behalf of War Amps. (War Amps is a Canadian registered non-profit organisation founded in 1918 whose mission is to help amputees.)



Mitchell Pettigrew and Ava Silver laid a wreath on behalf of all students and teachers.

After playing 'God Save the King,' flags were placed on the graves of 27 fallen soldiers of the North Shore Regiment.

There was also another very special moment.

A number of students are descended from indigenous people, namely the Mi'kmaq First Nation from northern New Brunswick.



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 005 Liberation of the Netherlands



(The Mi'kmaq are a First Nations people of the Northeastern Woodlands, native to areas of Canada's Atlantic provinces, as well as the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec.)

This group held a separate ceremony, according to their own culture and customs, at the grave of John Decoine (born November 10, 1913 in Wabasca, Alberta).



For example, part of the ceremony is: 'smudging'.

(Smudging is the ritual burning of certain sacred herbs so that the smoke purifies and energetically cleanses yourself, other people, an object, or space.)

A tobacco ritual was also held.

(The tobacco ritual can be used as an offering to the Creator or to a person, place, or being. Offering tobacco is a sign of respect and can be done as a request for help, guidance, or protection.)

Student, Tamara, explained the ceremony.

Thanks to:
Mark Veldhuis
Anneke
Poppenk
Berry Swarthoff





Various

The tulips are blooming in Ottawa.





St. Johns, Newfoundland, 25 May 2024

Source: CBC News, Mike Moore en William Ping.

An Unknown Soldier from Newfoundland returns from France after more than 100 years.

The remains of an unknown soldier have been turned over to the government of Canada during a moving ceremony at the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial in France.

The Unknown Soldier will eventually return to Newfoundland and Labrador and be reburied on July 1 at the National War Memorial in St. John's.

Want to read more? <https://tinyurl.com/44vu76zt>



Members of the French military carried the casket of Newfoundland's unknown soldier to the transfer ceremony at the foot of the Newfoundland Regiment memorial at Beaumont-Hamel. (Ted Dillon/CBC)





May 1945

1 May

On the night of April 30 to May 1, General Krebs and Colonel von Dufving arrive in Berlin at Soviet General Chuikov with a letter written by Joseph Goebbels. Goebbels appears to have wanted to capitulate conditionally, but the Soviet officers are only allowed to accept an unconditional capitulation. The Germans left without having made an agreement.

Joseph Goebbels and his wife committed suicide after killing their six children.

Admiral Karl Dönitz accepted the office of Reich President of Germany, succeeding Adolf Hitler, governing from Flensburg.

2 May

Generals Burgdorf and Krebs committed suicide in the Führerbunker on the night of May 1 to 2.

Capitulation of the German troops in Italy.

Delfzijl was liberated in the last battle of the Netherlands.

The German troops in Berlin lay down their arms. Berlin is now under Soviet occupation. The Battle of Berlin has ended.

3 May

The British conquer Hamburg.

Queen Wilhelmina returns from exile.

4 May

Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery, authorised by General Eisenhower accepted the unconditional surrender of all German forces in the Netherlands, Denmark, and North-West Germany.

5 May

End of World War Two against Germany for the Netherlands and Denmark.

6 May

Signing in the auditorium of the Agricultural College in Wageningen.

7 May

General capitulation of the German armed forces was signed by General Jodl at General Eisenhower's headquarters.

Shooting on the Dam Square in Amsterdam ([link here](#)).

The leader of the NSB, Anton Mussert, was arrested.



8 May

Final agreement of the capitulation of all German troops was signed in Berlin. The unconditional surrender of Germany is now a fact, ending the Second World War in Europe.

The Princess Irene Brigade is the first allied unit to enter The Hague.

Units of the First Canadian Army Corps enter Amsterdam, The Hague, and Rotterdam.

20 May

Texel is liberated after the Georgian uprising.

23 May

British authorities in northern Germany arrest the Dönitz government. Among the prisoners are: Admiral Karl Dönitz, Field marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Reich Minister Albert Speer, Alfred Jodl, and Alfred Rosenberg.

Heinrich Himmler is arrested and committed suicide shortly afterwards.

11 June

The last German troops leave Shiermonnikoog.

The last part of the Netherlands is finally free; the price for this was high.

Soldiers who died on Dutch territory during liberation (1944-1945). The exact number is unknown.





UPCOMING.

What's planned? See the agenda:

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

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Follow the Youth Auxiliary on Instagram:

<http://tinyurl.com/cwbx7vzy>



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Our association has ANBI status.

All donations qualify as a tax deduction.

Scan the QR code or visit our website.



A SAD GOODBYE

This is the last edition of the newsletter put together on my laptop.

After six years (and 68 issues, nearly all bilingual), I have decided to stop compiling the monthly newsletter.

Many of our Branch activities, in words and images, are shared (also by individual members) via social media. 'Ruminating' in a monthly circular gives little satisfaction. The time that has to be invested to find something original and applicable (Canadian related) in other media is so great that I can no longer justify submitting a newsletter.

I would like to thank the comrades who have contributed over the years in one form or another.

With no disrespect to those comrades, I would like to especially thank Ruud Janssen, who has also stopped editing the newsletter.

He functioned as co-editor, corrector, the 'second pair of eyes,' and 'watchful guardian.' When I was too 'sharp,' he pointed it out to me; if I had overlooked something, he pointed it out to me; he cleaned up text and when I had little motivation for a new edition, he got me out of the hole.

Thank you comrade.

Herman Sligman