

TNBL Holland Branch Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 1 January 2014

A Word from the Chairman

Now that the A.G.M. is behind us, your new Branch Committee is again hard at work. The Poppy Appeal seems to have been a huge success this year, thanks to the hard work of Messrs Ray Waller and Ken Lightwood. But it has not just been them. Mr. Rick Landman has, for a couple of years now, graciously allowed his home to be turned into a storage place for all the Poppies and Poppy Wreaths. A big Thank You to Mr. Landman! Also, the network of collectors and sellers has been enlarged, to whom I would like to give my thanks for their hard work. With the amount that Mr. Waller informed the A.G.M. about, plus the money that has since been handed to him, it looks like our Branch has set a new record for the amount collected. This money will soon be sent back to Great Britain, where it will be used to help those of the armed forces and their dependants, who are in need of it.

Not only were Messrs Waller and Lightwood busy with the Poppy Appeal, they also found time in their busy schedule to arrange the now yearly Remembrance in Oosterbeek. With our Branch Padre, the Reverend Geoffrey Allen

leading the service, I have heard nothing but good reports regarding this Remembrance. Luckily, the weather held up! There were many Remembrances held over that same period; Mrs. Emerson B.E.M., Mrs. van Gelderen, and Mr. Thomson were also busy representing the Branch at some of these.

Continuing with the Remembrance theme, in May 2014 more are going to be held, and I would like to ask our Members, should the occasion arise, that they represent the Branch if possible, as it is important that the Legion's profile should be seen. In May, we will have the honour of hosting VIPs, in the persons of the National Chairman, and the National Standard Bearer, who will come over for May 4 and 5.

The 5th of May, Freedom Day Parade will be held in Wageningen. Who will be attending? I would like to ask now, because in January, the collecting of numbers of attendees will start. I would like to know how many will be marching, and how many would like tickets for the Veteran vehicles, which also take part. For those of us who have a computer,

Apologies from your newsletter editor

Just a short note from your newsletter editor to apologize to you for only managing to produce one newsletter last year, and for the fact that this current newsletter has reached you so late. Of course, this should have been a Christmas newsletter, but I was unable to get everything finished in time. Last year was an extremely busy one for me privately, as well as within the Branch; indeed at one point I found myself serving as Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Website manager and temporary membership secretary. Unfortunately, I was unable to fulfil all these roles and obligations adequately, and the newsletter was the first and most obvious victim. Thankfully, the Branch has in the meantime found excellent replacements for the positions of Secretary and membership secretary (see back of this newsletter), which has allowed me to step down and stay on as newsletter editor only. I sincerely hope this will allow me to do a better job this year, and supply you with at least three newsletters a year as I have done in previous years. For now, thank you for your understanding and best wishes for 2014!

Contact us!

Here is a friendly reminder to please contact us if you wish to inform us of any change in your personal situation such as your moving house or wishing to relinquish membership of the Branch or Legion. For all membership enquiries or messages, please contact our membership secretary. For matters of a general nature, please contact our Secretary. For any reactions or additions to the newsletter, please contact the newsletter editor, Mr. Alistair Bright (caribbright@gmail.com). Thank you!





A Word from the Chairman, continued

we have our website, which is in the process of being revamped, and the address is www.trblhollandbranch.nl. We also have a page on Facebook, and a regular Twitter account. Please visit these to see what we are up to, and the rest of the world as well.

So, Christmas is almost upon us, I hope that you all have a good time, and that the New Year will be a happy and healthy one. Take care, and enjoy yourselves.

Derek Williams



Calendar of Events

March 3rd

Remembrance Service Wassenaarse Slag

April 25th

ANZAC Day Remembrance Service, Westduin Cemetery, Den Haag

May 4th

Wreath laying service at the Waal Bridge Nijmegen, 20:00
'Dodenherdenking' ceremonies at Eindhoven, Waalre, Oisterwijk, Tilburg, Epe, Gorsel, Amsterdam Nieuwe Oosterbeegraafplaats and Dam Square, Beemster, National Monument for Seafarers and Crooswijk Cemetery, Rotterdam, Airmen's Monument, Den Helder, Monument 1940-45, Voorthuizen and the Airgunners Memorial, Dronten.

May 5th

Liberation Parade, Wageningen.



Remembrance Sunday 2013

Many members represented the Branch on Remembrance Sunday in various parts of the country. Including the laying of wreaths at commemorations such as the service organised on behalf of the commonwealth countries, which was organised this year by the Canadian Embassy.

Once again, the official Branch Drumhead Service was held at the Arnhem Oosterbeek cemetery. On this occasion, our President, Mr John Cameron-Webb, represented Her Majesty's Government and laid the embassy wreath in his capacity as the British Consul.

The service was conducted by the Reverend Geoffrey Allen and by Father Fons Eppink from the "Mill Hill" missionary in Oosterbeek. The occasion was also fully supported by the Pipes and Drums of the RBL, The Netherlands, De Koninklijke Harmonie Oosterbeek and many others, to whom we are, as usual, very grateful.



Wageningen, 5 May 2014

Derek Williams

It is that time of the year again. The 4th of May is Remembrance day, where we all will be doing our bit to remember those who have given their lives for the good of all. The 5th of May is just as important. This day we will again meet up in Wageningen to parade through the streets, to celebrate the freedom of the Netherlands. Along with our sister Branches from Germany, we will again

be making an appearance there, will you be there as well? Please let me know (superchefw@hotmail.com / 06-17854356) if you are going to attend. I have parking permits and permits for those of you who wish to ride in the veteran vehicles. Bring your Sunny face, and take part in the third biggest day in the yearly calendar.

Above: photographs of the Royal British Legion Holland Branch Remembrance Sunday Service 2013 at Arnhem Oosterbeek, courtesy of Mr. Simon Brown.





Poppy Appeal 2013

Photo gallery



This year's Poppy-appeal is not yet fully completed. It looks as if we are, for the second consecutive year, getting close to a final total of about €10,000.

Obviously this would not have been possible without the support of many people throughout the Netherlands who collect the donations for us and display our poppies and other items during this period every year. We are very grateful for this support and really the Poppy-Appeal in the Netherlands would not survive without them, particularly during difficult economic times.

We do however need to find more places, such as schools, shops, museums, churches, etc., where we can display our poppy boxes. We would also like more support in delivering and collecting various items in many different areas, especially in and around Amsterdam.



TRBL Holland Branch visit to the Recovery & Identification Unit (RIU), Royal Netherlands Army at Kamp Soesterberg (01-07-2013).



Scouting Nederweert once again assisted in the wreath laying at the Nederweert remembrance service (09-11-2013).

New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members:

Mr. Shorthouse, Mr. Brouwers, Mr. Quist, Mr. Vogels, Mr. Scholten, Mr. Castle, Mr. Rossall-Thompson, Mrs. Sampers, Ms. Van Veggel, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Wiggers and Mr. Sluijter.

Of course we would like to add many more names to this column in future newsletters.

Do remember that we all share the responsibility to attract new members to the Legion. Without them, the long-term future of our Branch remains uncertain!

If you are able to assist in any way, please contact us: Ray Waller (06-2706049) or Ken Lightwood (06-11208093),
E-mail: RayWaller@btinternet.com.

RIP

We regret to inform you of the passing of our members Mr. Welboren, Mr. Stolk, Mr. Rommes, Mr. Cohn and Mrs. Van Gelderen.

They will be dearly missed, and our thoughts go out to their families and loved ones.



Just one of many wreaths laid by / on behalf of the Royal British Legion Holland Branch throughout the Netherlands during Remembrance weekend, this one at the Sittard War Cemetery (10-11-2013).



SHOULD YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER WITH AN INTERNET CONNECTION, DO NOT FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE NOW AND AGAIN: www.trblhollandbranch.nl! YOU CAN ALSO FIND US ON FACEBOOK : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Royal-British-Legion-Holland-Branch/165977903485813>. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE A TWITTER ACCOUNT, FOLLOW US HERE: <https://twitter.com/#!/RoyalBritishLeg>.

ELECTED OFFICIALS 2013/2014**Branch President**

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Vacant

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