



# TRBL Holland Branch Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 1 April 2013

## Chairman's Chat

Since our last Newsletter, winter has come and, well, almost gone, but spring has not yet 'sprung', in the expected sense of the word. However I trust that you all had an enjoyable Easter, and that we can look forward to a marked improvement in the weather; particularly as we are rapidly approaching the commencement of our busy RBL ceremonial/remembrance/liberation season.

I accepted an invitation to **The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL)** New Year Reception at Lochem on 19<sup>th</sup> January. The president Gerard Hendriks approached me about a possible co-operation between our respective branches. More about this later in this chat.

phlett at the Embassy Residence reception on 18<sup>th</sup> March and found him a most affable officer and hope for equally good relations with him.

**The 'Pea Soup Tram' outing** in Rotterdam on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, arranged by our Elsa van Gelderen, was attended by a number of our members and also supported by several members of the RAFA Amsterdam Branch. The approx. 2 hour round trip showed us much of Rotterdam, and I had to constantly physically restrain my wife Janet from pushing the 'stop' button on the tram whenever she caught sight of 'de Bijenkorf' and other large 'retail therapy' outlets in the shopping centre! Thank you Elsa for the initiative and organisation.



Our new **Defence Attaché** (Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg) at the British Embassy in The Hague is **Captain Nigel Amphlett RN**, who succeeds Captain Peter Lambourn RN, with whom we enjoyed a positive relationship and effective communication. I met Capt. Am-

The first **Branch Committee meeting** since November last year was held the following day, Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at the home of Ad and Corrie Rotscheid. This was long overdue, due to the unavailability of various committee members and we consequently had an extremely

## Calendar of Events

### April

**25th** ANZAC Day Remembrance Service, Westduin Cemetery, Den Haag

### May

**4th** Wreath laying service at the Waal Bridge Nijmegen, 20:00

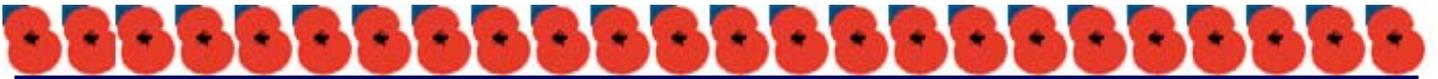
'Dodenherdenking' ceremonies at Eindhoven, Waalre, Oisterwijk, Tilburg, Epe, Gorsel, Amsterdam Nieuwe Oosterbeegraafplaats and Dam Square, Beemster, National Monument for Seafarers and Crooswijk Cemetery, Rotterdam, Airmen's Monument, Den Helder, Monument 1940-45, Voorthuizen and the Airgunners Memorial,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

**5th** Liberation Parade, Wageningen.

## Worth a visit

Are you in need of suggestions for an informative day out? Why not visit one of the many war museums and remembrance centers in the Netherlands? A small selection is listed below:

1. Stichting Airbornemuseum 'Hartenstein', Oosterbeek
2. Stichting Nationaal Bevrijdingsmuseum 1944-1945, Groesbeek
3. Stichting Nationaal Monument Kamp, Amersfoort
4. Stichting Hollandsche Schouwburg, Amsterdam
5. Stichting Nationaal Oorlogs- en Verzetsmuseum (Liberty Park), Overloon
6. Indisch Herinneringscentrum Bronbeek, Arnhem
7. Stichting Nationaal Monument Kamp Vught, Vught
8. Stichting Herinneringscentrum Kamp Westerbork, Hooghalen
9. Stichting Verzetsmuseum, A'dam



### Chairman's Chat, continued

full agenda. However, many important issues were discussed including; co-operation between our Branch and the RCL and the RAFA; the need to sort out the acceptance, by our bank ABN/AMRO, of our treasurer Ray Waller as a committee member with full authority, along with both me and Derek Williams, authorised to make decisions on financial matters; and the continuing debate over the presence at Wageningen of 'The Pipes & Drums of The Royal British Legion, the Netherlands'. After the conclusion of a long meeting I thanked our hosts Ad and Corrie for their generous hospitality.

On 26<sup>th</sup> March I at last managed to enter into discussions with the **Chamber of Commerce (KvK)** and our **bank ABN/AMRO** over the vexed question of the authority status of our treasurer. I made reference to this problem at our last AGM. After a long period of feeling like a 'ping pong' ball, being passed from one side to the other, both saying that the problem lay with the other party, I was finally given an assurance that our case was being given urgent priority and have been told by the bank that all will be resolved shortly.

Our committee members Laurens van Aggelen and Ken Lightwood will repre-

sent our Branch at the **RCL committee meeting in Lochem on 9<sup>th</sup> April** to discuss possible co-operation between our two branches.

On **21<sup>st</sup> April I shall attend the annual ceremony at Roermond**. This will be held at the Old Cemetery, Herkenboscherweg in Roermond. Assembly at 13.45 hrs. Ceremony commences at 14.00 hrs. All members are invited to attend.

On **25<sup>th</sup> April I shall attend the annual ANZAC ceremony at Westduin Cemetery in The Hague** commencing 08.00 hrs. Members are welcome to attend this ceremony.

**4<sup>th</sup> May:** Committee members will be present at the many Dutch Remembrance ceremonies throughout the Netherlands. All members will be welcome to attend any of these local to them.

**5<sup>th</sup> May: Netherlands Liberation Day – Wageningen.** Full information about this most important event is available from Derek Williams. I will be present, as will other members of the committee, but I would encourage as many members of our Branch as possible to also attend, in order to 'swell the ranks'

of the usual meagre number of our TRBL group participating.

**24<sup>th</sup> May: 'Vindictive' Ceremony - Ostend Belgium.** The renovated memorial (the bow of HMS Vindictive) will be moved nearer to where the ship was sunk to block Ostend Harbour, during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, in 1918. I shall attend this ceremony on my way to the UK and all members are also invited to attend and possibly meet the King and Queen of Belgium!

**21<sup>st</sup> June: Ceremony for 'Fallen Airman Memorial'** at Markelo (afternoon). Relatives of the three air crews from Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain will be present on this, the 70<sup>th</sup> year after the planes' crashes. I shall attend this ceremony, along with Ad Rotscheid and Derek Williams as Standard Bearers.

**Invitation to attend a tour of the Logistics Training Centre at Camp Soesterberg,** by Warrant Officer Class 1 Geert Jonker, Head of the Recovery and Identification Unit. Mr. Jonker will talk about the work he and his team do in the field of recovering and identifying human remains from WWII found in the Netherlands. Number of participants limited to 15. Date (week day) and time to be arranged, but anyone interested in attending this tour should **contact Branch Secretary Alistair Bright** (caribbright@gmail.com) asap.

John Bright

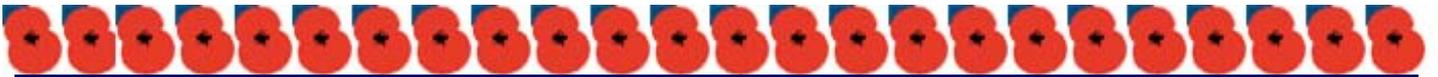
## Wageningen, 5 May 2013

*Derek Williams*

It is that time of the year again. The 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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, permits for those of you who wish to ride in the veteran vehicles, tokens for drinks and food. Bring your Sunny face, and take part in the third biggest day in the yearly calendar.





## Poppy Appeal 2012

We are delighted to inform you all that we managed to collect a magnificent amount of money for last year's Poppy Appeal. In total, the donations, great and small, amounted to a little over **£10.600!**

On behalf of The Royal British Legion, we would like to thank everyone who helped us to reach this total, be it by donating, actively collecting or by providing logistic support. Thanks to your efforts and commitment, the overall tally for the 2012 Poppy Appeal has got that little bit closer to the aim of £42 million!

We are setting our sights on at least matching last year's total this year. Will you help out again this year and enable us to reach this target? To do so, it is vital that we increase the number of places where we sell our poppies every year. We supply all manner of locations currently, ranging from schools and churches to bookshops and societies. Do you have any good suggestions regarding a suitable spot for a poppy collecting box, and would you be willing to commit to delivering the poppies there and collecting the proceeds and left-over poppies again? If so, please get in touch with our Treasurer Ray Waller (RayWaller@btinternet.com or 06-27506049).

Expanding our operations can only serve to increase local awareness about the activities and aims of the Royal British Legion, as well as yield an even higher total than last year. So please (continue to) spread the word!



## New Members

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members: Mrs. D. Wijntjes, Mr. de Man, Mr. van de Poel, Mrs. Millard and Mrs. Van Saagsvelt-Melse.

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!

## RIP

We regret to inform you of the passing of our members Mr. J. Burggraaff, and of former members Mr. M. Grady and Mr. M. van Weerd. They will be dearly missed, and our thoughts go out their families and loved ones.

## Great EXPATations!... it's Britnet!

At a Consular Reception in January at the British Ambassador's residence, attended by your Secretary / Newsletter Editor and P.R. / Fundraising Officer, plans were unveiled by the British Society of Amsterdam (BritSoc) to set up *Britnet*, a new online forum for expats and others in the Netherlands with an interest in all things British. Why not give the forum a visit, and check out their first venture, a directory of social and networking clubs in the Netherlands?"

<http://www.britsoc.nl/britnet-regional-social-networking-clubs/>

Come to think of it, why not check out the BritSoc website as a whole?

<http://www.britsoc.nl/>

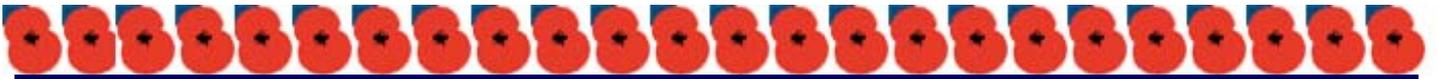
## RAFA invitation to attend events

The Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) Amsterdam Branch recently reiterated that TRBL Holland Branch members are always more than welcome to attend any of their social events, which include monthly bingo nights at De Drie Hoven, Amsterdam, and Koninklijke Nederlandse Vereniging Onze Luchtmacht (KNVOL) visits to various airbases.

For more information, please contact Ellen van Gilst, Welfare Officer & Events via: [lucyvgilst@hetnet.nl](mailto:lucyvgilst@hetnet.nl) or tel. 029-9621926.



SHOULD YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER WITH AN INTERNET CONNECTION, DO NOT FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE NOW AND AGAIN: [www.trblhollandbranch.nl](http://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>.



## Remembrance Sunday (11 November 2012) Remembrance at “Ereveld Soestbergen” in Utrecht

*Nico de Water*

On Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> 2012 the annual **Remembrance Sunday** service was once again held at the Soestbergen Cemetery in Utrecht.

This service has been organised by the Utrecht branch of the Bond van Wapenbroeders since the early 1980s. What started out as a small-scale remembrance service (initially drawing only members of the Wapenbroeders branch) has over the years expanded into a service that attracts invited guests and many interested parties. Unfortunately, it is noticeable that the number of veterans able to participate is diminishing by the year. This in no way detracts from a most dignified and deserving remembrance service however.



### The Remembrance service

On Sunday 11 November 2012 some 60 guests and attendees arrived at the cemetery around 11:30 and were escorted to the war cemetery, where the service commenced at 12.00 on the dot. Wreaths and bouquets that had been delivered or brought along were taken to the war cemetery by scouts of the Salwega group. Here, the flags of various nations were flying, including the Netherlands, Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand.

The 21 fallen that lie buried here are British, Canadian, New Zealandish and Australian. The Scouts of the Salwega group formed a Guard of Honour by the flags, beside the standard bearers of the Contact Oud Mariniers and the Utrecht Branch of the Bond van Wapenbroeders. The honorary complement further comprised veterans in uniform belonging to the Contact Oud Mariniers, Oud-

Libanongangers and the Bond van Wapenbroeders.

After words of welcome by the vice-chairman of the Utrecht branch, Mr. Hoogstraten, the ceremony commenced with prayers led by pastors Ds. Jan Mooij (naval chaplain) and Reverend

Ds. Mooy pronounced The Act of Remembrance, which was followed by the laying of wreaths on behalf of all the aforementioned organisations. The scouts of the Salwega group assisted with the wreathlaying, placed 21 “Poppy Crosses” on the graves and formed a Guard of Honour by the flags. Next, the so-called “Roll Call of the Dead” was carried out, which entailed reading out the names of the fallen, followed by a call of “present”, and finally, The Last Post and Reveille were performed by Mr. Sjoerd Mevisse.

After a communal “Our Father” prayer, Reverend Maudlin gave his blessings and Messrs. Hoogstraten and Heymann offered some concluding words of thanks. Finally, there was a procession past the graves.

David Maudlin (Clergyman of the Holy Trinity Church in Utrecht).

That this ceremony is still regarded as viable and significant, is attested by the presence of the following important dignitaries and representatives:

Deputy Commissioner of the Province of Utrecht Mr. A. Wolfsen, Mayor of Utrecht, Mr. T. Dres (Comité 4-Mei Herdenking Erehof Prinsesselaan in Utrecht), Mr. J. Reinolds, Stichting Herdenking Stad Utrecht Bond van Nederlandse Oorlog en Dienstslachtoffers, Mr. H. Heymann (Contact Oud Mariniers), Mr. Sjon Brands and members of Vereniging Oud Libanongangers, Mr. Tholen (with the scouts of the Salwega group), Mr. S. Mevisse (musical accompaniment), Committee and members of the Bond van Wapenbroeders (Utrecht branch).

On behalf of the committee of the Bond van Wapenbroeders, Utrecht branch, Mr. Hoogstraten thanked one and all for their interest in this service in honour of those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. He expressed the wish that in years to come, this important remembrance service would continue to be organized jointly with the Contact Oud Mariniers.

Prior to and after this impressive service, Nico de Water, member of The Royal British Legion Holland Branch collected for the Poppy Appeal. Those present expressed appreciation and approval of this important collection taking place.

