

The Celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland by the Canadians

I was fortunate, privileged and honoured to be part of illustrious group of Second World War Veterans who returned to Holland to participate in Liberation Celebrations that occurred 65 years ago. On behalf of the Toronto Signals Band and the 709 Communications Regiment I placed commemorative wreaths at Holten, Groesbeek, Bergen op Zoom and Reichswald Forest cemeteries and also where I read the names of fallen Canadian Signalmen that are buried there.

We made our base camp in Arnhem where we paid tribute to the famed John Frost Bridge; made famous through the movie “A Bridge Too Far” in the WWII campaign called “Operation Market Garden”. A special afternoon Tattoo was performed for our Canadian contingent in the city of Voorthuizen that included many military brass bands, pipes and drums and musical groups.

Twenty-six Veterans ranging in age from 84 to 94 accompanied our group, along with past and present members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Legion Members, R.C.M.P., and our spouses and offspring. We were all enthusiastically received by the Dutch people when we were honoured as we marched in special commemorative parades that were held in Katwijk and in Apledoorn.

All in all, it was an experience that was not to be missed, it was living history filled with happiness, joy and yet, with sad reflection.



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