

# Liberation of the



# Netherlands




# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *Table of Contents*

The Campaign.....	3
Assault on Arnhem.....	5
To the Men of Arnhem.....	6
Royal Dutch Canadian Signals Company.....	7
Col, The Honourable, William J Henderson.....	9
Childhood Under Occupation.....	13
In Memoriam.....	15
Medal Recipients.....	17
Bronze Cross Recipients.....	18
Bronze Star Recipient.....	25
Cross of Merit (Meritorious Service Cross) Recipients.....	27
Military Cross Recipients.....	31
British Empire Medal Recipients.....	35
Military Medal Recipients.....	38
The Order of the British Empire Recipients.....	45
The Order of Orange-Nassau Recipients.....	52



# Liberation of the Netherlands




## *The Netherlands Campaign*

The Liberation of the Netherlands took place from September 1944 to April 1945, with the First Canadian Army playing a key role in the campaign.

The Battle of Scheldt was a series of military operations led by the First Canadian Army, with Canadian, British and Polish troops that took place between October 2nd and November 8th 1944. Its purpose was to open up the estuary (the tidal mouth of a river) that led to the port of Antwerp. This was vital in maintaining Allied supply lines for the push into Germany. The Germans had fortified their position in South Beveland, north of the estuary, in the Breskens pocket on the south shore of the estuary and on the island of Walcheren. The areas around these strongholds were flooded, flat and littered with mines, making approaches slow and difficult. After a series of amphibious landings and frontal assaults, the German defence of all three areas crumbled one by one. Throughout the campaign, Canadian signallers distinguished themselves, maintaining the vital communication links despite the tough fighting conditions and difficult terrain. It was a costly battle with 6,367 Canadians becoming casualties. There was relative calm for the next three months, as the Allies prepared for the next phase of the offensive.



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *The Netherlands Campaign*


On February 8th, Operation VERITABLE was launched with the objective of clearing the area south of the Rhine River. After intense fighting through the Reichswald and Hochwald Forests and breaking through the Siegfried Line (the German defence network along the western German border), the final phase of the campaign could begin. During this intense month of fighting, the Canadians suffered 5,304 casualties.

The assault of the Rhine began on March 23. This operation was a success and the Allied Forces could now proceed with the final push into Germany. The Canadian role in this period was to open up supply routes through Arnhem and clear northeastern Netherlands, the German coast line and western Holland. The 1st Canadian Corps, which had been fighting in Italy since 1943, was transferred to Northwest Europe for this phase in the campaign; the two Canadian formations fought together for the first time. The 2nd Canadian Corps moved to break the German defences in the northeast while the 1st Canadian Corps worked to clear the remaining Germans in the west. Despite fierce resistance, the momentum of the Allied advance could not be stopped. On April 28, a truce was arranged to allow for much needed food to be delivered to the starving Dutch people. On May 5th, Canadian commanders accepted the surrender of German forces in the Netherlands. The formal surrender was signed on May 7th 1945.

The Liberation of the Netherlands was a costly victory for Canadian forces. More than 7,600 Canadians died during this nine-month period, including 35 signallers. The sacrifice made by Canadian soldiers to free the Netherlands is remembered and honoured by both Canada and the Dutch people in a special relationship that continues to this day.



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Doomed Drop*

### *The Assault on Arnhem*

Codenamed Operation MARKET GARDEN, the assault on Arnhem was a daring move to open the way to the Ruhr by seizing a bridgehead north of the Rhine. The initial airborne landings went well, but that was the end of the successes for the operation. The Allies failed to heed intelligence from the Dutch resistance stating that there was a German panzer corps nearby. Stiff German resistance prevented the ground troops from establishing a bridgehead north of the Rhine, known colloquially as “A Bridge Too Far”. Of the ten thousand who landed at Arnhem, fourteen hundred were killed and over six thousand captured.

One of these casualties was Flight Sergeant Semon (Blondie) Lievense. He was in charge of a Light Warning Radar crew that went on the ill-fated assault. Wing Commander Laurence Brown (himself an eventual casualty) successfully argued for the inclusion of mobile radar units to be part of the landing. The plan was that these radar would provide information of incoming enemy air attacks quickly to fighter command to protect the forward troops on the ground. Arriving at the landing-zone in Horsa gliders, the radar crew came under heavy anti-aircraft fire. Conditions and casualties were so severe that the equipment could not be activated and the surviving personnel fought as ground troops, a task for which they were not trained.

Of the radar crew, five officers and 40 airmen that went into Arnhem - three officers and one airman came out. Blondie Lievense was killed on 22 September after being hit three times in the back with shrapnel while fighting as an infantryman. He is buried at Ooterbeek War Cemetery.



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## TO THE MEN OF ARNHEM

### *We Thank Them All*

White gravestones -- hundreds -- row by row  
Silently on parade. reminder of deathly show  
Of war and hate. of duty done  
A soldier resting beneath each stone.

Our hearts grow heavy with untold sorrow  
For those young men -- without tomorrow  
Our minds and souls are equally sore  
For these young men -- that are no more.

We walk along on a lawn so green  
With veterans -- telling what they have seen  
Of war and battle and fearful strife  
That cost these men their youthful life.


A stone with badge, a name, a date  
Buried here, brothers, friend and mate.  
They fought their battles to free us all  
Till the bugle sounded their last call.

We stand and listen to that silent sound  
That seems to come from all around  
With bowed heads we hear that call  
With grieving hearts we thank them all.

-Thanks to Milt Thomas, Pointe-Claire, Quebec



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *The Unofficial Unit that Helped Win the War*

### *The Royal Dutch Canadian Signal Company*

In October of 1944, the First Canadian Army began its advance into the territory of the Netherlands. As the units moved forward, they required the assistance of civilian PTT (The Dutch publically owned communications company) employees to aid the Signals units in establishing civilian communications in the liberated areas. After mistakenly entering an enemy occupied town, two PTT employees were shot by the Dutch SS (one died, the other managed to survive his injuries), while their military commander, BGen Bartlett was sent to a POW camp. It was decided that if these employees were going to risk their lives working with the military, they should be given military status. BGen JE Genet requested authorization to form a Dutch Signal Company attached to the Canadian Army Signals. The unit was formed before any official authorization was received.

The unit was to be comprised of sixty men, organized into seven cable splicing teams, technicians and a few essential administrative personnel. They had no difficulty finding recruits, with many being enticed by a sense of duty and the promise of good food rations. These men served alongside Canadian signallers throughout the rest of the war and helped to alleviate the burden of re-establishing communications in the formerly occupied country. At the war's conclusion, the men of the Royal Dutch Canadian Signal Company were honoured by BGen Genet with a parade and the unit was disbanded.



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *The Unofficial Unit that Helped Win the War*

### *The Royal Dutch Canadian Signal Company*

A Canadian officer, Capt Norman Clendening Phemister worked alongside the PTT personnel and was made a Knight of the Order of Orange-Nassau. His citation is below;

*This officer has been employed on the restoration and maintenance of communications in Holland, particularly at Eindhoven, Utrecht, Rotterdam and The Hague. In this capacity he dealt directly with P.T.T. employees and officials. His capacity for work and pleasing personality made him ideally suited to this type of work and gained for the unit, further operation by P.T.T personnel.*



Photo Caption: RCCS Restoring civilian communication in Holland 1944

Photo Credit: Archives of the Military Communications and Electronics Museum



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *Colonel The Honourable William James Henderson MBE, QC, LLD, DC*

William J Henderson was born on October 13, 1916 in Empress, Alberta to John and Leita Henderson. An outbreak of Spanish flu convinced his parents to send him east to Ontario to live with his maternal grandfather, where he would spend the rest of his childhood. Henderson completed a Bachelor of Arts degree from Queen's University in 1938 and then attended Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. He was called to the bar in 1942 and the next year he married Helen MacDougall with whom he would go on to have three daughters. At the outbreak of war in 1939, Henderson enlisted, transferring to the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals in 1942. He served throughout Europe and was awarded Member status in the Order of the British Empire for his work reestablishing the civil law courts in the Netherlands (see full citation for more details).



William J Henderson, WWII



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *The Order of the British Empire A/Capt Henderson Citation*

*During March 1945 a Civil Affairs Branch was formed as an increment to HQ 1 Cdn Corps. This branch assume full responsibility for the civil administration and reorganization of the Dutch province of GELDERLAND, and subsequently for the provinces of NORTH & SOUTH HOLLAND & UTRECHT.*

*The necessity for reconstituting civil courts of law throughout these areas became of vital importance shortly after the branch became operational, and it developed as a matter of great urgency that the reorganization take place without delay. A/Capt. W.J. Henderson, working entirely without aid, undertook full responsibility for the reorganization, and, by his tireless efforts and organizing ability had the situation throughout the entire areas well under control in a comparatively short period of time. This officer, by working exceptionally long hours, personally directed the reconstitution of civil law courts throughout these areas. In many cases, especially in damaged areas where the existing accommodation for courts had been destroyed, he immediately made arrangements for temporary facilities and personally directed the situation until such time as court was able to function alone.*

*By his enthusiasm, energy and devotion to duty this officer was largely responsible for the speedy restoration of law and order in these provinces, and his zeal was an inspiration to all he worked with, Canadian, British and Dutch alike.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *Colonel The Honourable William James Henderson MBE, QC, LL.D., DC*

After the war, Henderson went on to form a General Practice Law firm in Kingston with Lloyd Woods and in 1949 he was elected as Member of Parliament for Kingston and the Islands, serving on the House of Commons Defence and Veterans Affairs Committee, the Private Members Bills Committee and as Defence Critic. During this time, he founded the town of Amherstview west of Kingston and would play a key role in its development throughout his life.

When his time in Parliament came to an end in 1958, Henderson became the president of the Frontenac Law Association, worked on the Queen's Council, became president of the Ontario Liberal Association and chaired its Policy Advisory Committee. In 1965, Henderson became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario, serving in that post for eight years until his retirement.

His retirement proved to be a busy one as he served as a judge of the Court Martial Appeal Court, acted as a Family Law Commissioner and an Official Referee of the Supreme Court of Ontario. In 1979, Henderson became the Director of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice and served in that capacity until 1990.



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *Colonel The Honourable William James Henderson MBE, QC, LL.D., DC*

Henderson was also an incredibly active supporter of health care in the Kingston area, serving as a Member of Le Royer Circle of the Board of Director of Hotel Dieu Hospital, visiting the Vatican in 1985 along with hospital representative, co-chairing the KGH/Hotel Dieu Funding Campaign of 1987, being involved in a number of other local health care institutions and helping to create the Helen Henderson Retirement Center by donating his Amherstview home.

His desire to give back did not diminish in his later years. Henderson became the Chairman of the Fundraising Committee for the Military Communications and Electronics Museum in the 1990s and was a patron and supporter for many years. He was appointed the Honourary Lt.Col of the Reserve Electronic Warfare Squadron between 1993 and 1997 and Honourary Colonel of the Communications and Electronics Branch in 1997.

William J Henderson never stopped for a second after getting off the train as a small child in Yarker, Ontario. He served his country overseas, he served justice both in the House of Commons and in the Courtroom, and he gave back to the community that raised him. It was apt that in March of 2006, just two months before his death, Henderson was honoured with Davis Award for Philanthropic Leadership. He embodied the meaning of the word philanthropist through his work and life and has left an indelible mark on this community for years to come.



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *Childhood under Occupation*

### *The Liesbeth Langford Story*

Liesbeth Langford spent her early childhood living under occupation by the Nazis in World War II in her small eastern town of Apeldoorn, Netherlands. Her father, Anton Kalff, was a member of the Dutch resistance who helped find safe homes for Jewish children. Her mother, Janet, an English woman, took care of Liesbeth and her older sister while her husband was living underground. They spoke only Dutch to avoid suspicion. At the start of the occupation they were forced to hand over all their valuables such as cash, jewelry, paintings, cars, etc to the Nazis.

Near the end of the war in late 1944, Janet began to write letters to her husband in English, though they were not sent to him. These letters became the basis for Liesbeth's book, *Written by Candlelight*. These letters show how frightening it was to be living under occupation. One account in the book recalls a time the Germans raided their neighbourhood looking for any boys and men between the ages of 16 and 60, pulling them from their houses and sending them away. Her father was hiding in a secret loft upstairs and, thankfully, wasn't discovered.



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *Childhood under Occupation*

### *The Liesbeth Langford Story*

In her talks, Liesbeth discusses the hunger that seized them the winter of 1944-1945, known as the Hongerwinter. She describes how her mother boiled tulip bulbs for them to eat, slicing them very thinly to make them go farther. It was a time of severe deprivation with nightly curfews and no electricity.



Liesbeth Langford giving her talk at the Military Communications and Electronics Museum in September of 2017.

The town was liberated by the Canadians on April 17, 1945. The soldier's mess was set up in a house across the street from Liesbeth and her family. She would go across the street and eat breakfast with them every morning. Her mother worked as a translator for the Canadians. Before the soldiers moved on, they made Liesbeth an honorary captain in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. She was presented with the military rank insignia and her mother sewed the badges onto the sweater currently on display.

Liesbeth Langford has never stopped telling her story. In her own words; "When you lose your freedom, it's horrific, and when you regain it, it's something you think about at least once a day for the rest of your life".



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *In Memoriam*

The following are the names and circumstances, if known, of the Canadian signallers killed during the Netherlands campaign which took place between September 1944 and April 1945.

On October 28, 1944, five signallers were killed by a mine at 1745 hours.

Cpl Norman Armitage, 28, Sgmn Joseph Henry Fraser, 28, L/Cpl Robert Henry Goodyer, 25, Sgmn Hugh Verdun Webber, 23, Sgmn Donald B Wallace, 26

On November 1, 1944, Sgmn Robert James Clark, 27 was killed in action while attached to HQ 4th S S Bde.


On December 16, 1944, 10 signallers were killed when their 60-CWT truck returning from leave in Brussels was hit in the vicinity of Brasschaet. In total, 13 were killed and 9 were injured.

Sgt Russell Haigh Clapperton, 24, Sgmn Reginald Greentree, 32, L/Cpl Chancey Alva Jones, 23, Sgmn Gordon Cardno Kilgour, 44, Sgmn Murray Foster Newman, 21, Sgmn James Gilbert Reason, 29, Sgmn Thomas Turner Smith, 29, Sgmn Edgar Beatty Black, 26, Sgmn Eugene Wilfred LeBlanc, 20, Sgmn James William Yates, 32

On December 18, 1944, Sgmn Lawrence Edward Wilks, 21 died in a friendly fire incident.



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *In Memoriam*

Over the course of the campaign, eight signallers were killed in motor vehicle accidents. Sgt Albert Bernard Eakatt, 25, December 25, 1944, L/Cpl John HF Steeds, 24, December 25, 1944, Sgmn Hector Vertente, 21, December 25, 1944, Lt Pitman Elwood Scharfe, 35, January 6, 1945, Sgmn Gordon Allan Brown, 19, February 7, 1945, L/Cpl Diamond Quon, 23, March 12, 1945, Cpl Philip Andrew Bentley, 23, March 30, 1945, Cpl Edward Stephen Couture, 34, April 26, 1945

On February 10, 1945, Sgmn William Dornville Clark, 31, was killed by a mine.

On February 13, 1945, Sgmn Burton Ronald Rodgers, 24, drowned while laying line.

On February 19, 1945, Lt Kenneth Geikie Jeanneret, 25, and Capt David Stephen Herbert Loughnan, 25, were killed attempting to maintain communications during an enemy assault.

On April 12, 1945, Lt Allan Mackenzie Burslem, 28, was killed in an enemy ambush.

Between April 23 and 26, 1945, four signallers died in mine strikes.

Cpl Robert Luke Harrison, 25, April 23, Sgmn Albert Edward Jay, 21, April 23  
Sgmn Henry Joseph Levesque, 23, April 23, Cpl Grant Albert Druhan, 24, April 26

On April 25, 1945, Cpl Alfred Rawnsley Edwards, 28, was killed in action while repairing line.

On April 27, 1945, L/Cpl Ernest Raymond Taylor, 25, was killed by small arms fire when his line crew encountered a German trench.





# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *Medal Recipients*

*Netherlands Campaign, September 1944 to April 1945*

### *Bronze Cross*

Cpl Albert Burgin  
Cpl James Courtland Fooks  
Lt Walter Craven Long  
Cpl Harold Roberts  
Cpl Ross Elton Wiebe  
Lt William Syms Wills

### *Bronze Star*

Maj James Bruce Clement

### *Cross of Merit*

*(Meritorious Service Cross)*

L/Sgt Harold Alford  
Sgt Richard Callen Hammond  
L/Cpl Asmunder Sigurdson

### *Military Cross*

Lt Warren William Finaly  
Capt Hubert Ernest Good  
Lt Bernard Lafleur

### *British Empire Medal*

Sgmn William Thomas Codlin  
L/Sgt Harold Arthur Huntington

### *Military Medal*

Cpl Thomas Edward Anderson  
L/Cpl Roy Alfred Davis  
Cpl Lloyd Walter Feig  
Sgt Idris Raymond Johns  
Cpl James Marshall Murray  
A/Cpl John Reiberger

### *The Order of the British Empire*

Lt-Col George Clarence Leech, *Officer*  
A/Capt Arthur Thornfloe Curliss, *Member*  
A/Capt William James Henderson, *Member*  
A/Maj Johseph Arthur Kennedy Leger, *Member*  
Capt Robert George Murray, *Member*  
Maj Herbert Reginald Varcoe, *Member*

### *The Order of Orange-Nassau*

Brig Samuel Findlay Clark, *Commander*  
Capt Edwin George Coombe, *Knight*  
Lt Norman Clendening Phemister, *Knight*  
Capt Walter James Stevenson, *Knight*  
Maj Fraser Deacon, *Officer*  
Maj William Henry Jardine, *Officer*

# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *The Bronze Cross Netherlands Award*


The Bronze Cross was instituted on 11 June 1940 by Queen Wilhemina during the German occupation. It is the third highest military decoration for bravery. It is awarded for distinguished service and acts of courage and leadership in the face of the enemy.



The Bronze Cross  
Photo Credit: eMedals  
<https://www.emedals.com/ww-ii-bronze-cross-1940-eu5436>



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Bronze Cross, Netherlands Award*

### *Cpl Albert Burgin*


*During the advance of 1 Canadian Corps in Holland Corporal Albert Burgin was the instrument mechanic in the signal section of 1 Canadian Armoured Car Regiment (RCD). He was responsible for the maintenance and repair of all wireless sets in the regiment. During March, April and May the section was short of electricians. He successfully carried out the extra duties often working all day and night.*

*When the regiment was advancing to the Zuider Zee the squadrons were far apart and on many occasions he had to pass through territory through which none of our troops had been. On the night of 15/16 April while travelling between headquarters squadron and C squadron, a distance of twenty-five miles which had not been cleared of the enemy, he came upon several Germans, gave chase and managed to capture two of them.*

*This N.C.O has set a fine example in his section. It was mainly due to his hard work, determination and sound knowledge that wireless sets in the regiment were kept working when their use was vital.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Bronze Cross, Netherlands Award*

### *Cpl James Courtland Fooks*


*Corporal Fooks was in charge of the wireless detachment attached to 17 Canadian Field Regiment and was responsible for the maintaining of communications to the batteries of the regiment and to the Commander Royal Artillery.*

*During that night of 17 April 1945, the regiment was counter attacked by a large force of the enemy. The vehicle in which Cpl Fooks was working was exposed to extremely heavy small arms and mortar fire from all directions. Enemy infantry succeeded in infiltrating through the defences and fighting was taking place within a few yards of Cpl Fook's vehicle.*

*During the entire section, Cpl Fook remained in the vehicle, maintaining wireless communications. His devotion to duty was outstanding example to his comrades and assisted the defenders to successfully beat off the attack with very heavy losses to the enemy.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands




## *Bronze Cross, Netherlands Award*

### *Lt Walter Craven Long*

*In early January 1945 the Germans were firmly established on Kappelscheveer Island in River Mass. 4 Cdn Armd Div was ordered to clear this position which threatened southern Holland. The action lasted from 21-27 Jan 45. The enemy made a desperate stand; several assaults and heavy concentrations of artillery were required before the island was captured. Lt Long was signal officer of one of the supporting field regiments. He personally supervised the establishment and maintenance of the vital telephone and wireless communications to the island in the face of enemy fire. By his untiring efforts, cheerful and conscientious performance of duty, he inspired his own men, won the respect of his superiors and contributed considerably to the success of the operations.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Bronze Cross, Netherlands Award*

### *Cpl Harold Roberts*

*Cpl Roberts was Corporal in charge of line laying for "E" Sec Sigs att to 4 Fd Regt., RCA, from the landing in Normandy to the end of the war in Europe. By his skilful handling of all the features of his work, by his supreme courage under fire, and more especially by his cheerful disposition under the most difficult circumstances, he was a superb example to all the men under his command.*

*In the advance from the Rhine to Groningen when the Regt was moving fast, and on many occasions found itself ahead of the infantry, his services were beyond praise. Immediately before the fall of Assen the line crew were working almost constantly under shell and small arms fire but Cpl Roberts, with complete disregard for personal safety, ensured that the communications so vital to the Regt were never delayed.*

*By such acts as these which occurred many times during the campaign, and because of the importance of his accomplishments much credit for the successful operations of the Regt is due to him.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## Bronze Cross, Netherlands Award

### L/Cpl Ross Elton Wiebe

*From the twenty fifth day of March 1945 until the first day of May 1945, Lance Corporal Wiebe was attached to the Regina Rifle Regiment as NCO in charge of the Brigade Signal Detachment. Throughout the entire period of his service with the Regina Rifle Regiment, L/Cpl Wiebe performed all his duties in such an exemplary fashion as to be a continual source of inspiration to those men serving under him. There were no duties too arduous nor none too long and difficult that L/Cpl Wiebe hesitated for a moment to undertake. Many times it was only through L/Cpl Wiebe's outstanding technical ability and sheer physical perseverance that communications were maintained.*

*On the night of 8 February 1945, L/Cpl Wiebe operated the rear link of the 1st Battalion The Regina Rifle Regiment continuously and without a break in communications for sixteen hours. By this outstanding piece of work, L/Cpl Wiebe in no small way contributed to the success of the kick off of operation "VERITABLE".*

*In the attack on EMMERICH on the night of 29 March 1945, L/Cpl Wiebe after having put in an extremely arduous day on the rear link wireless set, turned to in an emergency and with absolutely no rest continued to operate the set and was able to maintain communications throughout the entire twenty four hour period. This whole period being spent with no relief or assistance of any kind. L/Cpl Wiebe's untiring devotion to the task before him, and as a result, the continuous communication that was maintained, undoubtedly assisted the handling of the Battalion in action and subsequently materially affected the course of the battle.*

*Throughout the fast moving advance after the RIVER THINE was established communications were strained to the utmost and, L/Cpl Wiebe continued to do an outstanding job. His technical skill and ability to maintain communications under the most difficult circumstances has been of considerable assistance during and a contribution to the success of operations in Holland and adjacent German territory. His aggressiveness and devotion to duty this time has been an example to all.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## Bronze Cross, Netherlands Award

### *Lt William Syms Wills*

*During the battle for HOOGERHIEDE, HOLLAND, on the 9th of October 1944, "A" Company was attacked very strongly and out off from the rest of the battalion. With no communications, and completely surrounded by the enemy, it was impossible to relay vital information back to the battalion commander. The situation was serious.*

*Lt Wills, battalion signals officer, volunteered to push forward to establish communications with the isolated company. Taking a wireless set, and accompanied by two signallers, he set off in daylight.*

*The enemy continued his aggressive attack and his fire thickened up along the whole disorganized battalion front. Eventually the remaining companies of the battalion were busily engaging the enemy.*

*Lt Wills and his small party soon was forced to engage the enemy. On signaller was wounded. But this did not deter Lieutenant Wills from his purpose. He pushed tirelessly forward through enemy shell and mortar fire with the remaining signaller and his heavy equipment, making use of all the cover he could find.*

*Eventually he reached "A" Company and immediately set up his wireless set. Unfortunately some lengths of serial had been lost on the way and he was unable to get into communication with headquarters. Appreciating this technical difficulty he quickly remedied the situation by connecting the wireless set to an aerial which was still intact on a partially demolished house. The set functioned properly and all the necessary information was passed back to battalion headquarters. With this information the battalion commander was able to plan a successful counter attack and relieve the stranded company.*

*The very difficult task which Wills set for himself was carried out successfully and in doing so he displayed courage of the highest order.*





# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *The Bronze Stars United States Awards*


The Bronze Star Medal is a United States decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone. It was instituted by Executive Order 9419 on February 4, 1944 and it was retroactive to December 7, 1941. Civilians serving with the military can also be eligible for the award.



The Bronze Star  
Photo Credit: Medals of  
America  
<https://www.medalsofamerica.com/bronze-star>



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Bronze Star Medal*

### *Maj James Bruce Clement*

*Maj Clement commanded No 2 Company L of C Sigs from Aug 43 to Jan 45, and in that capacity he was to a great degree responsible for the communications on the long L of C necessary through France, Belgium and Holland. He was posted to Sigs 4 Cdn Armd Div in Jan 45 as second in command and has distinguished himself by meritorious service during subsequent operations of this division. Under the most trying conditions, especially in the advances to the RHINE, where the line communications problem, with narrow congested roads, was perhaps the most difficult since the arrival of this unit in France, he never once failed to carry out his duties in anything but an outstanding manner. Maj Clement's sound judgment and well directed efforts contributed largely to the success of the divisional communications. His leadership and loyalty in all phases of his work have been of highest quality and he has always been an inspiration to those under his command.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *The Cross of Merit Netherlands Award*


The Cross of Merit was instituted by the Dutch government in exile in London on 20 February 1941. It is awarded for working in the interest of the Netherlands while faced with enemy actions and distinguishing oneself through valour and resolute behaviour. It is the fourth highest military decoration in the Netherlands.



The Cross of Merit  
Photo Credit: Marnix Coumou  
saved to Militaria in de Gloria 72  
Dutch Cross of Merit medal/Kruis  
van Verdienste  
<https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/369013763192077944/>



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Cross of Merit, Netherlands Award*


*Meritorious Conduct Cross*

### *L/Sgt Harold Alford*

*L/Sgt Harold Alford was employed during the advance of 1 Canadian Corps through Holland as non commissioned officer controlling wireless at foresight headquarters. By continual effort, foresight and good organisation he maintained wireless communications under most trying conditions. His task required many long hours of tedious work constantly checking as many as fifteen wireless stations. By sound knowledge, fine example and cheerfulness he got the most from his men during difficult periods, thereby contributing largely to the success of wireless communications in 1 Canadian Corps.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Cross of Merit, Netherlands Award*


*Meritorious Conduct Cross*

### *Sgt Richard Callen Hammond*

*This NCO has performed outstanding duties as a splicer of armoured and buried cables for communications within First Canadian Army in Holland and Germany. These duties took him to the very forward areas, in order to put through earliest possible communications. His work was performed in a most outstanding and successful manner, and very often carried out in the face of persistent enemy action. In Holland his services in connection with the PTT have been most valuable and his contribution towards good telephone service is most commendable. This NCO has the confidence of his men, is cheerful, thorough, and in every way he has set an outstanding example to his comrades.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Cross of Merit, Netherlands Award*

*Meritorious Conduct Cross*

### *L/Cpl Asmunder Sigurdson*

*L/Cpl Sigurdson was an NCO in charge of a Despatch Rider Detachment during the operations in the NETHERLANDS. As well as actually taking many of the runs himself he had the full responsibility of organizing and despatching all regular SDS runs and every SDR that was called for. During the operations in the NETHERLANDS the SDS was exceptionally arduous due to the fact that the Division was continually moving and the large area it was required to cover. L/Cpl Sigurdson was required to put in many hours of continuous duty and his services were invaluable.*

*This NCO's unselfish devotion to duty was an inspiration and example to the rest of the Despatch Riders and his work contributed greatly to the efficiency of communications.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *The Military Cross*

The Military Cross was established on 28 December 1914. The Military Cross during WWII was awarded to commissioned officers of the substantive rank of captain or below or warrant officers for distinguished and gallant service in battle. That changed in 1993 during the reformation of the British honours system and it is now available to all ranks. It is the third highest award for gallantry in the British honours system, under only the Victoria Cross and the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross.



The Military Cross  
Photo Credit:  
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/06/THE\\_Military\\_Cross\\_MO\\_D\\_45147519.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/06/THE_Military_Cross_MO_D_45147519.jpg)



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## Military Cross

### *Lt Warren William Finlay, MC*

*Lieutenant Warren William Finlay has been in charge of the line section of 1 Canadian Infantry Divisional Signals since August 1944. In this capacity he has done consistently outstanding work. The responsibility of providing line communications within the Division during battle required a high degree of personal courage, leadership, resourcefulness, indefatigable purpose and continuous hard work under very trying conditions.*


*As one example of his outstanding service Lt Finlay personally supervised the laying of lines across the IJssel when 1 Canadian Infantry Division forced a bridgehead across the river on 11 April 1945. Lt Finlay led a small party of linemen to initial wave of infantry crossed in BUFFALOS. The first boat crossing the river with the line was destroyed by shellfire. Lt Finlay arranged for the provision of a BUFFALO to take the lines across the river and under shellfire carried two lines across. Seven and a half hours after H hour a bridge was completed. Lt Finlay then laid new lines over the bridge to ensure adequate communications by these alternate route. In addition to this immediate task Lt Finlay was at the same time responsible for two other parties of linemen, one on lines approaching the bridge site and the other extending the lines on the far side of the river. It was responsibility to see that the complete system was coordinated and maintained.*

*Lt Finlay has at all times throughout the campaigns in ITALY and NORTH WEST EUROPE shown himself to be of exceptional value both as a fine leader of men and also as an outstanding example to all those who have worked with him.*





# Liberation of the Netherlands



## Military Cross

### Capt Hubert Ernest Good, MC

*On 11 April 1945, 2 Canadian Infantry Brigade made an assault crossing of the IJssel River. Captain HUBERT Ernest GOOD was in command of <<k>> Section, 1 Canadian Infantry Brigade Signals attached to Headquarters 2 Canadian Infantry Brigade.*


*Knowing good communication to be vitally important in an operation of this nature and knowing also that wireless communication was extremely unreliable due to the nature of the ground, Capt Good, on his own initiative, worked out in detail an ingenious plan whereby line communication could be maintained during battle. Capt Good's plan called for various lines to be carried over the 125 yard wide river on the heels of the assaulting waves, some lines being supported above water while others were sunk to the river bed. Crossing the IJssel with the assault waves of infantry, Capt Good immediately pressed on the locations of the two assaulting battalion headquarters, and personally supervised the laying of the line, with the result that within fifteen minutes of crossing over the river both battalions were in communication again with Brigade Headquarters.*

*During the night Capt Good was out constantly with his line crews laying lines and repairing those out by the heavy enemy shell fire. Throughout this critical period, when on heavy counter attack was launched, communications were maintained and restored in record time, although the lines were out time and again by shell fire and by our own <<Buffaloes>> in the off-loading area. Thus the Brigade Commander was able to maintain the close control so essential in an action of this type.*

*As a result of Capt Good's skill and devotion to duty Brigade Headquarters was continually in communication with the forward battalions throughout the battle. Had such excellent communication not been available, brigade Headquarters would have been required to move across the river in order to maintain control of the battle, and a move at that time would have seriously disrupted all communications with the supporting arms and, as a consequence, prejudiced the entire operation.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## Military Cross

### *Lt Bernard Lafleur, MC*

*On the 3rd March the Fusiliers Mont-Royal were attacking in the vicinity of the HOGHWALD forest to open the approaches to XANTEN.*

*Early in the action communications between the leading company and the tactical command post were severed due to a direct hit on the company's wireless set and its operator.*

*Lt Lafleur, battalion signal officer, being unable to contact the company, immediately realized that communication must be restored, as the success of the operation must be known early, in order that the remainder of the plan could be put into effect.*

*Carrying a replacement wireless set, he made his way forward towards the leading company. The area over which he had to travel was under heavy artillery and mortar fire, by observation from well sited enemy observation posts, and movement brought down concentrations. Despite this he continued forward and was successful in reaching the company installing the set and restoring communications.*

*He personally operated the set, until a spare operator could be brought forward, passing the valuable information of the company's position and situation, which enabled the battalion commander to so appreciate the situation and launch the remainder of his plan.*

*The superb courage and complete disregard for danger shown by Lt Lafleur, enabled communications to be restored against seemingly unsurmountable odds, and was a large contribution toward the success of the operation.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *British Empire Medal (BEM)*


The BEM was created by Royal Warrant on 29 December 1922. It is affiliated with the Order of the British Empire though recipients are not members of the Order. The British Empire Medal was awarded for commendable service which warranted such a mark of royal appreciation for both civilian and military.



British Empire Medal  
Photo Credit: Collection of  
Auckland Museum Tamaki  
Paenga Hira, 2001.25.708  
Brent Mackrell Collection



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *British Empire Medal*

### *Sgmn William Thomas Codlin, BEM*


*Between December, 1944 and March, 1945, 2nd Canadian Corps Signals constructed two new terminal equipment vehicles at WIJCHEN, in HOLLAND. Suitable lineman-mechanics were not available to do the detailed wiring which entailed the soldering of some 8, 000 connections in each vehicle. For this work, Signalmán Codlin, a lineman, was put in charge of three lineman-mechanics and five Dutch technicians. He laid out tasks for himself and his assistants, set the pace by his own work, and checked each detail as it was completed. In addition, he contributed several ingenious solutions to problems which arose as the work progressed.*

*So thoroughly did Signalmán Codlin devote himself to the work that final checks were entirely satisfactory and the vehicles were completed in time to be used during preparations for the crossing of the Rhine.*

*During the entire advance through France, Belgium, and Holland, this signalmán, though trained only as a lineman, has repeatedly shown an outstanding devotion into duty and a dogged determination to master the complexities of terminal equipment vehicles. His success has done much to shorten interruptions to the corps communications, and to spur his comrades on to greater effort.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *British Empire Medal*

### *Sgt Harold Arthur Huntington, BEM*

*This NCO has been a Detachment Sgt of a line section during the operational period on the continent. During the entire period he has shown outstanding leadership, willingness, and resourcefulness. His ability to grasp a situation and take immediate action on his own initiative, is far beyond that demanded or expected of one of his rank. On one occasion, when fire threatened destruction of a considerable amount of transport, his prompt action in extinguishing the fire resulted in severe burns but was successful in saving badly needed transport. During the flooding of the Mass in February 45, Sgt Huntington worked in water to hip waist for several days to save, restore, and establish our line communications across the Mass. His inestimable value as a N.C.O. in this Unit, has not resulted from any isolated and specific instance, but rather from a continued application to his work and an unfailing sense of responsibility that would be credible in a soldier of much higher rank than Sgt Huntington.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *The Military Medal*


The Military Medal was instituted on 25 March 1916 with retrospective application to 1914. When the medal was first introduced, it was unpopular among regular soldiers. Frank Richards (MM and DCM recipient) stated, "the Military Medal, which without a shadow of a doubt had been introduced to save awarding too many DCMs. The old regular soldiers thought very little of the new decoration". The medal was awarded to Warrant Officers Non-commissioned officers and Non-commissioned members for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire. It was discontinued in 1993 after the reformation of the British honours system.



The Military Medal  
Photo Credit:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military\\_Medal#/media/File:Military\\_Medal,\\_George\\_V\\_version\\_\(Obverse\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_Medal#/media/File:Military_Medal,_George_V_version_(Obverse).jpg)



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Military Medal*

### *Cpl Thomas Edward Anderson, MM*

*On 18 November 1944, Cpl Anderson was put in charge of a wireless detachment at a traffic control post at the southwest end of the NIJWEGEN bridge, which was under enemy observation and intermittent shellfire. This bridge was on the main supply route to the formations on the island, and heavy traffic had to be cleared over the bridge with a minimum of delay to keep down vehicle and personnel casualties and congestion.*

*On 23 November 1944, shellfire tore several large holes in the wireless vehicle. On 24 November, Cpl Anderson's driver was taken off the detachment suffering from battle exhaustion. On 25 November, the company commander visited the detachment and found the men in excellent spirits, but, while standing by the vehicle, the company commander, his driver, and the operator on the set were all wounded by airburst. Cpl Anderson took over without hesitation, and shortly afterwards, when visited by his section officer was most insistent that he remain there until the job was finished. His detachment personnel and vehicle were changed, but he stayed on during two weeks of intermittent shellfire directed onto the immediate and disregard for personal danger, inspired his detachment so successful that during its entire employment at this post, communications were interrupted only once, and that was due to shrapnel damaging the wireless equipment.*

*Cpl Anderson landed in Normandy July 1944 as a wireless detachment commander with this unit, and served as such throughout the campaign in North West Europe. During the advances through France and Belgium, he was an outstanding detachment commander, both as a soldier and as a technician. He was always at his best under adverse conditions, and the confidence which he inspired in his men never failed to carry them through to successful completion of their duties.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Military Medal*

### *L/Cpl Roy Alfred Davis, MM*

*On the 25 and 26 April 1945 the guns of the 8 Canadian Field regiment (Self-Propelled) were deployed near WIRDUM in support of the attack on the DELFZIJL pocket. During this time the whole regimental area was subjected continually to intense enemy shelling with result that vital line communications were being repeatedly out. The task of L/Cpl Davis was to maintain these communications at all costs. Working day and night for 48 hours with little or no sleep and complete disregard for enemy shelling L/Cpl Davis repaired and maintained approximately 3 miles of existing cables and in addition personally supervised the laying of a supplementary cable, a distance of 2 miles, over difficult country.*


*L/Cpl Davis realised that if line communication was not kept open the full support of the regiment would not be available for our forward troops, and when three members of his party became casualties he re-doubled his efforts, going personally to effect repairs particularly in the places where the shelling was heaviest.*

*It was in no small degree due to the courage and initiative of this soldier, who carried out a hazardous and trying task with great gallantry, that the full fire support of the regiment was readily available throughout the action to our forward troops.*





# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Military Medal*

### *Cpl Lloyd Walter Feig, MM*

*During November and December 1944 and January 1945 this NCO has shown exemplary devotion to duty and initiative in overcoming technical difficulties whilst in command of isolated wireless detachments.*

*In particular, Corporal Feig showed praiseworthy leadership whilst in charge of the rear link wireless detachment at HQ 4 Commando Brigade during the seaborne assault on WALCHEREN ISLAND 1 November 1944. This detachment manned a wireless set specially installed in an LVT which disembarked from an LCT on the WEST KAPPELLE Beach at H-plus-1 Hour.*

*Enemy shelling was heavy during the approach to the beach and the LVT was hit by fragments from a nearby burst but communication was re-opened immediately after landing.*

*Brigade Headquarters was established in a blockhouse, but since the wireless set could NOT be removed from its vehicle, the LVT carrying Corporal Feig's detachment was forced to remain on open ground where it was subjected to fire from artillery, mortars and machine guns.*


*For two days Corporal Feig's detachment remained in this position, after which they spent three days in the village of WEST KAPPELLE where only occasional shelling was experienced.*

*Wireless traffic was fairly heavy and the detachment, in addition to its expected task, was required to pass messages over a forward net on a different frequency using the same wireless set. During the entire five days, communication was interrupted only twice—once for fifteen minutes when the LVT was hit, and once for thirty minutes when exploding ammunition from a nearby burning vehicle was falling in and around the wireless LVT.*

*During the difficult first two days of the landing, Corporal Feig remained continuously with his detachment. By his steadiness he ensured that messages were passed forward as necessary, as well as backward over the rear link, thus maintaining communications which were vital to the success of the operation.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## Military Medal

### Sgt Idris Raymond Johns, MM

*Sergeant JOHNS has been attached to 3 Canadian Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (Governor General's Horse Guards) for the past eighteen months in command of 'R' Troop Signals 5 Canadian Armoured Division. He had displayed excellent qualities of a Non Commissioned Officer and in the exercise of his duties has shown outstanding ability and leadership. By the enthusiastic spirit of this Non Commissioned Officer it is evident that he has at heart not only the interest of his troop but of the Regiment as a whole.*


*In October 1944 the Governor General's Horse Guards undertook a dismounted role for the push from BELARTA to RAVENNA. The complex system of line communications required for this role appeared impossible from the resources within the Regiment. Sergeant JOHNS immediately undertook to assemble the necessary equipment to provide signal coverage for this extremely difficult change-over. Working at high speed Sergeant JOHNS and his detachment accomplished the task and when the regiment went into action, complete wireless and line communications were available. Throughout the long operation this outstanding Non Commissioned officer inspired his men to such a degree that maintenance and repair of signal cables were of the highest order. The initiative and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant JOHNS have materially contributed to the brilliant success of the operation.*

*In April 1945, South of DREEL, HOLLAND, Sergeant JOHNS again distinguished himself. "B" Echelon had just harboured for the night when word was received that a force of approximately 200 of the enemy were forming up to attack the position. Without hesitation Sergeant JOHNS organized a cable laying party from men available and quickly established communications from the command post to each outpost. Sergeant JOHNS personally undertook to lay cable and check the telephone of the most exposed outpost and remained at this position until he was satisfied that everything was in order. As a result of the rapid action on the part of this Non commissioned Officer complete control was maintained throughout the attack.*

*The service rendered by Sergeant JOHNS to the regiment to which he was attached, has often been above and beyond the normal call of duty, and has won him the respect and admiration of all and has contributed greatly to the many successful actions fought by the regiment.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Military Medal*


### *Cpl James Marshall Murray, MM*

*On the 7th and 8th of April 1945 Cpl Murray was placed in charge of a test point at Driel, west of Arnhem on the Neder Rhine. The test point was located in the center of Driel in the area of a forward company of the Perth Regt. and its purpose was to keep open line communications to be used to control a proposed crossing of the river at that point. During the hours of daylight the immediate area was under observation from the far side of the river and was constantly under fire from enemy mortars and machine guns.*

*On ten separate occasions the lines were out and each time Cpl Murray at once led his detachment to repair them. While up a pole making a splice, shells landed nearby. He ordered his men to cover but without regard for his own safety he completed the splices. Cpl Murray's devotion to duty and splendid example is typical of the fine service rendered by this N.C.O. throughout the campaign in Italy and NW Europe.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Military Medal*

### *A/Cpl John Reiberger, MM*

*On 11 April 1945, 1 Canadian Infantry Division made an assault crossing of the IJssel River at MR 945024. L10515 Signalmán (Acting Corporal) John Reiberger was in command of a detachment of 1 Canadian Infantry Division Signals Line Section.*

*Acting Corporal REIBERGER's task was to lay signal lines from the command post of the Commander Royal Engineers to the bridging sites of the three Fields Companies. One of these bridging sites was on the far side of the river. A/Cpl Reiberger worked ceaselessly from 1630 hours on 11 April until 0230 hours on 12 April laying and maintaining the lines to these bridging sites. Throughout the while of this time he was under continuous shell fire.*

*In one instance while paying out cable and shells were dropping all around him, he continued to ignore the safety of a slit trench nearby and carried on with his task ensuring that the lines did not become snarled or broken.*

*At 0100 hours on that night it was reported to Cpl Reiberger that the line to the Forward Observation Officer was out. Realizing the vital necessity of counter battery fire he immediately volunteered to repair it. Under the harassing conditions of complete darkness he undertook this task of repairing a line with which he was not familiar and which was laid across ground he had not been over before. By this own initiative and courage Cpl Reiberger overcame these difficulties and repaired the line. Again he was under continuous shelling.*

*Such unflinching devotion to his duty was a constant inspiration to his men. As a result of his efforts good communications were maintained with the bridging sites and largely contributed to the successful bridging operation.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *The Order of the British Empire Officer, Member*


The Order of the British Empire was established in June of 1917 with the civil and military branches established in December of 1918. It was created primarily to award non-combatant services to the war and was to include women, who were often excluded from other orders. It was also awarded for gallantry in battle. There are five levels to the Order; Knight/Dame Grand Cross (GBE), Knight/Dame Commander (KBE/DBE), Commander (CBE), Officer (OBE) and Member (MBE). The first two levels confer knighthood to the recipient and, due to the Nickle Resolution of 1919, Canadians are ineligible for those honours.



Officer of the Order of the British Empire  
Photo Credit: Medals of Service  
<https://www.medalsofservice.com.au/product/officer-of-order-brit-empire-full-size/>



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Order of the British Empire Officer*

### *Lt-Col George Clarence Leech, OBE*

*Lieut-Colonel George Clarence Leech since his appointment on 16 Jan 45 as CR Sigs and to command 3 Cdn Inf Div Sigs has performed outstanding service to his formation.*

*His foresight, his planning and his untiring persistence in the execution of these plans has at all times and under all conditions provided this formation with good and reliable intercommunication.*


*Throughout the difficult period from the breakout from the Nijmegen area through the Siegfried Line, through the Hochwald Forest, the crossing of the river Rhine, the rapid advance through Holland along the river IJssel and until the unconditional surrender of the German Armed Forces on this Division's front all commanders Divisional, Brigade and Battalion-had full-confidence in their Signal communications.*

*This unrestricted confidence was due to the frequent personal visits of Lt-Col Leech to brigades and battalions in action so that he could see for himself the problems and make suggestions and /or give instructions for the overcoming of same.*

*His work, his leadership and his untiring efforts to provide intercommunication within this Division has enabled the Divisional Commander at all times to exercise full control of all elements under his command and in this way Lt-Col Leech has contributed much to the many successes that this Division has enjoyed.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Order of the British Empire Member*

### *A/Capt Arthur Thornfloe Curliss, MBE*

*Lieutenant Arthur Thornfloe Curliss commanded <<A>> Section 1 Canadian Infantry Division Signals from October 1944 until May 1945. In this capacity he was responsible for the wireless communication from Main Divisional Headquarters to the Brigade and Reconnaissance Regiments, flanking Divisions and to 1 Canadian Corps Headquarters. During this period his organization, initiative and continuous supervision, many times for twenty-four hours a day, resulted in the highest standard of wireless communications. Due to the high casualty rate of wireless operators he organized throughout this time a continuous training program in order to maintain the excellent standard of operating and maintenance of signal equipment.*

*The administration of <<A>> Section was carried out to the last detail with meticulous care and painstaking devotion to duty. The care of his men was an example to all officers and resulted in a high standard of morale and the cheerful acceptance of long hours of continuous duty.*

*During the landing in SICILY, the advance through ITALY, and the engagements in HOLLAND his work has been of an outstanding character. Not only has he shown exceptional ability in his administrative duties but during battle his fine example of courage and hard work has been an inspiration to all those working with him.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Order of the British Empire Member*

### *A/Capt William James Henderson, MBE*

*Acting Major J A K Leger has been employed as SO Lines During March 1945 a Civil Affairs Branch was formed as an increment to HQ 1 Cdn Corps. This branch assume full responsibility for the civil administration and reorganization of the Dutch province of GELDERLAND, and subsequently for the provinces of NORTH & SOUTH HOLLAND & UTRECHT.*

*The necessity for reconstituting civil courts of law throughout these areas became of vital importance shortly after the branch became operational, and it developed as a matter of great urgency that the reorganization take place without delay. A/Capt. W.J. Henderson, working entirely without aid, undertook full responsibility for the reorganization, and, by his tireless efforts and organizing ability had the situation throughout the entire areas well under control in a comparatively short period of time. This officer, by working exceptionally long hours, personally directed the reconstitution of civil law courts throughout these areas. In many cases, especially in damaged areas where the existing accommodation for courts had been destroyed, he immediately made arrangements for temporary facilities and personally directed the situation until such time as court was able to function alone.*

*By his enthusiasm, energy and devotion to duty this officer was largely responsible for the speedy restoration of law and order in these provinces, and his zeal was an inspiration to all he worked with, Canadian, British and Dutch alike.*





# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *Order of the British Empire*


*Member*

*A/Maj Johseph Arthur Kennedy Leger, MBE*

*Acting Major J A K Leger has been employed as SO Lines at HQ 21 Army Group under the CANLOAN Scheme since the early days of planning for the invasion of FRANCE and subsequent operations. Throughout the whole period he has worked efficiently and enthusiastically particularly during the arduous periods prior to the mounting of the various operations culminating in the crossing of the RHINE. He has been largely responsible for the design and provision of the very large truck communication network which has been built up in FRANCE, BELGIUM and HOLLAND for all users of all services.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



*Order of the British Empire*  
*Member*


*Capt Robert George Murray, MBE*

*Captain MURRAY as officer commanding No. 1 Canadian Special Wireless Section, has been responsible for all intercept and direction finding of enemy wireless for 1 Canadian Corps. He was an original member of the section and has been in command since June 1943 and in no small measure has been responsible for the training and success of the section. While serving directly under the Eighth Army in Italy Captain Murray and the section received very high personal praise from the Army Commander. While in the field Capt Murray was responsible for experimentation which resulted in the first successful direction finding on very high frequencies. This was not thought technically possible and its use opened up a completely new source of information. During the crossing of the NEDER RHINE and the IJSEL rivers the Special Wireless Section obtained very valuable information with regard to the enemy order of battle and the location of enemy headquarters. In the resulting breakthrough the section moved with the forward troops of 5 Canadian Armoured Division and continued to supply <<GM>> intelligence at Corps Headquarters with very useful information.*

*Capt Murray, by his technical knowledge and leadership has been a credit to his Corps and has greatly contributed to the success of 1 Canadian Corps.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



*Order of the British Empire*

*Member*

*Major Herbert Reginald Varcoe, MBE*

*Major Varcoe has served as GSO II Signals on the staff of the CSO since April, 1944. He has carried out the detailed planning and coordination of line communications for the Corps since the commencement of operation in France in July 1944, in an outstanding manner. His aggressive personal investigation and plans for rapid repair of civil and enemy systems made it possible to provide line communications for the battles against South Beveland and Walcheren Island where the task would have been impossible with army lines and manpower available.*

# Liberation of the Netherlands

## *The Order of Orange-Nassau Commander, Officer and Knight*


The Order of Orange-Nassau is a Dutch order of chivalry instituted on 4 April 1892 by Queen regent Emma. It has civilian and military branches and is separated into six grades currently. During WWII there were only five grades; Knight Grand Cross, Grand Officer, Commander, Officer and Knight with the sixth, Member, being added in 1996. It is similar in structure and honours to the Order of the British Empire. It is awarded to those with special merits for society and/or service on behalf of the Dutch state.



The Order of Orange-Nassau, Commander,  
Military Division  
Photo Credit: eMedals  
<https://www.emedals.com/netherlands-kingdom-an-order-of-orange-nassau-commander-c-1945>



# Liberation of the Netherlands



*The Order of Orange-Nassau  
Commander*

*Brig Samuel Findlay Clark*

*Throughout the campaign in the Netherlands Brig Clark distinguished himself by the outstanding efficiency with which he carried out his duties as CSC of this Corps.*

*His clear appreciation of the many problems involved, his sound planning and his energetic direction of the resources under his control ensured that communications, vital to the successful conduct of the operations in progress, were established and maintained with maximum effectiveness.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *The Order of Orange-Nassau Knight*

### *Capt Edwin George Coombe*

*During the last stages of the battle for Western Holland the rapid advance of the artillery regiments of 1 Cdn Corps took them further and further away from the airfield from which photographic flights were being made for counter battery purposes. Intercommunications was vital; Capt Coombe was the signal officer responsible for it. The distances involved were much greater than those for which his equipment was assigned. Conditions were particularly difficult during the period 20-25 Apr 45. During this time Capt Coombe went practically without rest but managed to maintain efficient service with his wireless sets. By his forethought, initiative and hard work he contributed greatly to the success of the operations.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



*The Order of Orange-Nassau  
Knight*

*Lt Norman Clendening Phemister*

*This officer has been employed on the restoration and maintenance of communications in Holland, particularly at Eindhoven, Utrecht, Rotterdam and The Hague. In this capacity he dealt directly with P.T.T. employees and officials. His capacity for work and pleasing personality made him ideally suited to this type of work and gained for the unit, further operation by P.T.T personnel.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



*The Order of Orange-Nassau  
Knight*

*Capt Walter James Stevenson*

*During the operations of 1 Canadian Corps in the North West European theatre Captain Walter James Stevenson as Technical Maintenance Officer was in charge of the maintenance and repair of all signal equipment. This highly important task which required sound technical knowledge and an ability to get the most from his men under trying conditions, he has carried out with such efficiency that communications were never delayed through faulty equipment. He has contributed in a large measure to the success of communications within 1 Canadian Corps during operations in Holland.*





# Liberation of the Netherlands




*The Order of Orange-Nassau  
Officer*

*Maj Fraser Decon*

*As officer Commanding 4 Company, Major Fraser Deacon has been responsible to the CCRA for communications within the Corps Artillery and to the CE for communications within the Corps Engineers. A task requiring a great deal of liaison and close supervision. Possessed of tireless energy and a tactful personality this officer has by continual effort, careful planning and organization, maintained communications under trying and difficult conditions. He has made a great contribution to the success of operations within 1 Canadian Corps during the campaign in Holland.*



# Liberation of the Netherlands



## *The Order of Orange-Nassau Officer*

### *Maj William Henry Jardine*

*From landing in FRANCE 4th July 1944 until wounded at the approach to NIJMEGEN bridge 25 November 1944, Major Jardine commanded the company of 2nd Canadian Corps Signals which provides all communications to Rear Headquarters 2nd Canadian Corps.*

*Due to his organizing ability, energy, and constant devotion to duty, communication to this headquarters were outstandingly successful. In spite of the fact that on several occasions the corps had under command more than twice as many formations as were contemplated when his company was formed, Maj Jardine never failed to provide the required communications and throughout the entire period NO message was lost and only one was delayed.*

*By constant careful supervision and intelligent anticipation of possible difficulties Maj Jardine ensured the maintenance of communications at a high degree of efficiency thereby contributing to the success of the operations leading to the liberation of the Netherlands.*

