From the president Alice van Bekkum

Time flies by: since our last newsletter our organization has grown tremendously and it is now all hands on deck, so much is happening! This is in part due to the many commemorations around 75 years of Liberation which in our region started on September 17th with Operation Market Garden. Volunteers of World War II organizations are often called upon for assistance, thus keeping us busy.

Prior to that, there was the commemoration of the battle of the Scheldt on August 31st. A special event took place: four Dutchmen were awarded the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers on the Canadian naval vessel HMCS St. Johns’s in the port of Vlissingen, handed out by General Governor Julie Payette. I happened to be one of the lucky ones and it was a great experience to see all the effort for this project awarded, a token of appreciation for all volunteers of Faces to Graves. It could not have been achieved by me only!

Front left to right Sabine Nölke, Canadian Ambassador, Alice, Governor General Julie Payette.
At the end of September the Canadian Ambassador Sabine Nölke left for another destination, she had a warm heart for Faces to Graves and has meant a lot to us. Sabine thank you! Best wishes for the future!

On November 14, Alice met the new ambassador Lisa Helfand, on the right of the photo.

For five years now, every evening at sunset the so-called Sunset March has been taking place on the new bridge between Nijmegen and Lent called "The Crossing". The name refers to the crossing of the Waal by American soldiers on 20 September 1944 during Operation Market Garden. Forty-eight American soldiers died during this heroic effort; they are commemorated by lighting the 48 lampposts on the bridge, one by one. Led by a Dutch veteran, participants march slowly over the bridge to always arrive at the next lantern when the light goes on. Because of 75 years of liberation there were 75 special Sunset Marches. On May 28, at the initiative of Kim Huvenaars, research team member, we participated with a number of research team members and partners. Our group photo is included in the book "Sunset March, the bridge between the present day and past war."

On May 1, after our board meeting, we met Adriana Zylmans and Carl van Noort bulb grower from Langley, British Columbia at his office in Noordwijk. Adriana had contacted us because our project is actually an extension of the project that her organization, ‘Dutch Canada Remembers 2020’, has set up in Canada. Adriana’s roots lie in Brabant, but she lives in the Vancouver, BC area. She regularly comes to the Netherlands for family visits, this time combining it in order to meet us. Adriana explains: "The aim of the ‘Dutch Canada 2020 organization’ is to plant as many red tulips as possible throughout the country in cities, villages, parks and gardens, as a token of our deep gratitude and appreciation for Canada and its veterans."

Carl advised us to put a search option for the fallen soldiers on our website. For Canadian families who do not know exactly where their soldier is buried,
there is now a link to the archives lists of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, where you can find information about his grave. These data also form the basis of our database. Faces to Graves is now on the menu of their website: https://www.dutchcanada2020.com/faces-to-graves/

In addition, there is information about our project on the tulip packaging boxes.

Report Kim Huvenaars: “When I was working on Captain David Stephen Herbert Loughnan’s lifestory, I came in contact with Estelle Mumby of ‘Winterton Remembers’ in the UK and a relative of David Loughnan in Canada, David Rose.

David and Sue Rose traveled in the spring 2019 from Canada to Europe and they first visited Winterton and the birthplace of David Loughnan.

On the 1st of June they traveled to Groesbeek to visit the final resting place of David Loughnan. It was a nice summer day and in the company of colleague researchers Fred and Saskia it was a warm and wonderful visit. First they visited the cemetery. Afterwards, with a cup of coffee at a terrace, David Rose told us a lot of family stories and shared some pictures with us. It was a day to remember and a good way to finalize the life story of David Loughnan. Thank you David and Sue Rose!

Read more here: https://www.facestograves.nl/LifeStories/LOUGHNAN%20David%20Stephen%20Herbert-KHS-bio-EN.pdf
End of May I received an email from Margeret Chase that a student from her school, Julianne MacCallum, together with a group of students from four different High Schools in New Brunswick, would come to the cemetery in Groesbeek. Julianne had researched Margaret’s uncle: Ted Campbell Pilot Officer of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Sunday morning, June 2, a message came from Julianne: “Found out we are going to the Groesbeek Cemetery around 4 o’clock! Our schedule got switched around.” Fortunately I got there on time. Afterwards I managed to help out another student who had left his backpack at his Nijmegen hotel. I gave him and his father a ride to Nijmegen and then on to Arnhem where they would spend the night.

One of the teachers performed a special ritual for Private John Henry Lavigne of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, he was a First Nation.

John Henry Lavigne

Fortunately we could now take a picture of his image and again we have a face to a grave!

Unfortunately it was not possible to get in touch with the students who were looking for a grave they had researched. Some of them might even be related to a soldier. We would have liked to have recorded their stories!
There is also the result of the school project that students of the Canisius College in Nijmegen participated in. On June 4 they gathered at the Groesbeek war cemetery, where at the respective graves they read aloud the life stories they had compiled. A conscious decision had been made to let two students write a story together. Dick Akerboom (board) and Sigrid Norde (research team) were in charge of this project. Two classes, 3VA and 4VWO, under the supervision of teachers Anita Aengevaeren and Fleur Lamée, put together 29 bios! It even resulted in a new volunteer: the mother of one of the students.

On Monday July 15, before the start of the Nijmegen Marches, the commemoration took place by the Canadian military delegation. Afterwards they are then given a tour of the battlefields in Germany.

-photos Henk Baron-
Dick Akerboom and Alice van Bekkum laid a wreath, which was handed to us by Frank Sevigny, GEMRC.

Before the ceremony we were welcomed by Dianne Groulx, her uncle Private Arthur Groulx of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry is buried here.
Frank Sevigny brought me into contact with Jimmy Auger, Private Paul Eugene Auger from Le Regiment de la Chaudière is his great-grandfather. He suspects that he is the first family member to visit the grave.

Jimmy has not yet sent any further information, we would like to add the photo of Paul Eugene to our event ‘The Faces of Groesbeek’.

On the third day of the Nijmegen Marches, Thursday 18 July, when the route leads over the Zevenheuvelenweg where the Groesbeek war cemetery is located, many soldiers of different nationalities paid their respects, and short commemorative ceremonies were held. A Swiss military Chaplain discovered his grandfather's name on the Memorial among names of the missing soldiers. We hope that he will contact us to share this information with us.

Some volunteers from Faces to Graves gathered at the promotion tent of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 005 - Liberation of The Netherlands.

As a representative of Faces to Graves, we are recognizable by our T-shirts.

photos Monique Bogerman

Sigrid, Andre Bogerman and Alice

Fred and Sigrid
A Swiss military minister had discovered that his grandfather's name is on one of the panels of the Memorial. It contains all the names of the missing. We hope that he will contact us to share this information with us.

A TV programme called "The feeling of the Four Days Marches" by journalist Fons de Poel contained an interview which was filmed at the cemetery; we received the recordings to publish on our website. See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppY_VvPYyI4

On Monday after the Four Days March I spoke with Karen Hunter, who is organizing a special trip for relatives of Canadian WWII veterans in May 2020. In three days they will walk 60 km "in the footsteps of their fathers", as a reference to her organization "In Our Fathers’ Footsteps“ https://www.inourfathersfootsteps.com/

She asked if she could be of assistance to FTG, and we are now in regular contact and look forward to meeting in Groesbeek.

Julie Allen joined the Research Team as a new volunteer and she emerges as one of the best Faces to Graves ambassadors in Canada we could wish for. And - quite coincidentally - her house in Canada is in Guelph, where Karen lives too! But also John Boers, of Dutch descent, from the organization "Liberation Children" lives in Guelph and he sends us announcements about the soldiers who got killed in the local newspaper archives. Julie could already be seen in: https://www.guelphmercury.com/news-story/9682217-bringing-guelph-soldiers-back-to-life-through-stories-images/

Some time ago we asked the volunteers to put down in writing their motivation to sign up for the Research Team. Some have already done so and we will put their stories two at a time in the newsletter, giving you an impression of the diversity of our group of indispensable researchers.

Interview with Fred Hulsman, a member since January 2017. He says: “My motivation came from my parents who were much involved with the Canadians who were billeted with them from November 1944 to April 1945. One of them, Private Charles Melvin Crelin of the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, got killed and lies buried at the cemetery in Groesbeek. The
grave of Charles was adopted by my parents and for years contact was maintained with his family in Canada. Now I experience the same gratitude that my parents received at the time.

My inspiration to continue comes from being able to get in touch with family members during the search (although mostly via e-mail or by post). The contact with family members you meet at the cemetery, and then being able to provide on-site chapter and verse about their fallen uncle or cousin: those are goosebumps moments! Then you immediately feel their gratitude and the appreciation they have for our work, which for me means that indeed we should never neglect this.”

Fred has already compiled 35 life stories.

Interview - Saskia Peters, member since 2017 says: “My motivation comes from my mother who has always visited the grave of soldier I.F. Matheson faithfully visited her whole life. Her parents, my grandfather and grandmother Eikholt adopted his grave after the war. I often went with my mother to lay flowers on his grave and to reflect on his life. Three generations who therefore regularly visited the grave I.F. Matheson.

Alice van Bekkum gave me his first names in May 2015 and in November of the same year she sent the photo of the soldier I grew up with: Ivan Fowler Matheson. My mother was able to experience all this and she was so very happy and grateful for that. More about him: https://www.facestograves.nl/LifeStories/MATHESON%20Ivan%20Fowler-SPS-bio-EN.pdf

At the beginning of this year a telephone call came from Marieke van Santen, a researcher for the BNN / VARA TV channel. They were looking for material to shoot a TV program called "Typically Groesbeek". She had visited our website and was impressed by our project. I suggested to ask our volunteers if they would cooperate, and Marian and Saskia did not hesitate and volunteered. I was at the first meeting with Marieke and their stories about how their grandfather and grandmother had to evacuate also impressed me! Both Marian and Saskia were followed over a longer period, also during commemorations and the like. The result was impressive; in at least five of the twelve episodes one of the two appeared. Nicely compiled and the stories respectfully visualized.

https://www.facestograves.nl/LifeStories/MATHESON%20Ivan%20Fowler-SPS-bio-EN.pdf

Saskia: “On behalf of our foundation, I participated in the recordings for Typisch Groesbeek. We have thus had the opportunity to show "our boys /soldiers" to the rest of the Netherlands and of course also to the people abroad. I really think that is so wonderful and beautiful that the family of "my boys", among others,
can see how we deal with the Canadian War Cemetery and their loved ones. It is so important to know that even though it is now almost 75 years since the war ended, we still cannot and will not forget them. But by showing their faces and telling their stories to remember them.

A member of the committee of recommendation, Gerd Prick advised us to look for someone with many contacts in the region and the name of a former march leader of the Nijmegen Marches: Johan Willemstein. That resulted in an introduction, and we completed his questionnaire together. He later indicated that he is willing to be a member of the committee and that he likes to think actively. Johan be welcome in the Faces to Graves "family".

In August we received a message from Vanessa Kirz, a history teacher (among other things) at the All Saints College in Kanata, near Ottawa. In May 2020 she will come to Groesbeek together with two colleagues and 36 students and she wonders if she can contribute to our project. This is very good news, the more so since it also appears that a second cousin of Anthony Barbaro is a teacher at this school! Read his story: https://www.facestograves.nl/LifeStories/BARBARO%20Antonio-AVB-bio-EN.pdf

Kurt Johnson, who has written several life stories for us, lives in the neighbourhood and has offered to help the students to write the life stories. Vanessa has by now received 42 names of soldiers from the Ottawa area: we wish them good luck!

On 29 August, the ambassadors of several countries visited the cemetery, took part in a bicycle ride along the Liberation Route and came to Groesbeek on the last day. We had been asked to welcome them; I decided to compile a manila folder for each nationality with the number of graves and some life stories.
Because the Australian ambassador would also be there, I had invited Jan Smolenaers. Jan has ensured that a beautiful monument was erected in Vorstenbosch (Noord-Brabant) at the spot where Australian Pilot Officer Maurice McHugh performed a heroic act: by staying in his burning plane he saved the farms where Jan Smolenaers and others were living. The ambassador was impressed and promised to come to Vorstenbosch! In the meantime we received the news that McHugh's cousin Peter will visit the Netherlands in May 2020.

September, 75th anniversary Operation Market Garden in Groesbeek.

Preceded by the commemoration at the General Gavin Monument, on September 18, hundreds of parachutists of various nationalities jumped from a continuous supply of aircraft on a bright day, the latter in sharp contrast with the reality of 75 years ago.

At the end of the afternoon I participated in a live interview on TV Gelderland, together with the American ambassador Pete Hoekstra and Qader Shafiq, a writer from Kabul, Afghanistan, who lives in Nijmegen. We sat at a table in a beautiful location overlooking the dropping zones. See:

is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3Um9AYCTsM&list=PLEVaKKTgLrZvC02tigZZkZbJtUjBDoyB&index=27

A second interview followed on Friday afternoon, September 20, this time on RN7 the local broadcaster Nijmegen. Eva van den Berg and Job Jaspers had prepared their questions well, making it a valuable conversation. To be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkrsCSr6cLc
Visit from of Captain Sydney Sol Pappelbaum’s family, by Marian Straatman.

On Sunday the 21st of July, 2019 at 12.00 AM Sydney Bucovetsky and his wife Barbara come to the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek to visit his uncle Captain Sydney Sol Pappelbaum’s grave. At his request Rabbi Levine of the Jewish Community in Nijmegen holds a short memorial service. Three grandchildren of Mr. I. Elzas were also present along with some members of Faces to Graves.

1,5 years ago Marian Straatman got in touch with mister Sydney Sol Bucovetsky, whose mother was Captain Sydney Sol Pappelbaum’s sister. Sydney is evidently named after his uncle.

Sydney Pappelbaum was hit by a schrapnel while giving fire support the battles in Rees, Germany and dies as a result of this on March 29, 1945. He is buried at the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek. Read more: https://www.facestograves.nl/LifeStories/PAPPELBAUM%20Sydney%20Sol-MSN-bio-EN.pdf

After Marian had told Sydney Bucovetsky that Faces to Graves writes lifestories of the deceased soldiers and therefore likes to hear stories about a soldiers life before the war from his relatives, Sydney got in touch with several cousins. They shared many beautiful memories, pictures and letters from the past. Sydney asked Marian to pay attention to one letter in particular:

A letter from mister I. Elzas from Zutphen was found. On February 12, 1947 mr. Elzas writes, via the army, that he has adopted Sydney’s grave in Groesbeek. He didn’t receive a reply back then. Via social media, through a journalist, Marian manages to contact three of mr. Elzas’ grandchildren. They didn’t know about their grandfather’s adoption of Captain Pappelbaum’s grave. So after 74 years, through Faces to Graves, Sydney Pappelbaum’s cousin and namesake has gotten in touch with I. Elzas’ grandchildren after all land they met eachother at the memorial in Groesbeek.
After the memorial last July we chatted while enjoying a cup of coffee or tea and a treat at ‘Het Balkon van Groesbeek’. An emotional band has been created over time and is being cherished. A memorial, special gathering for Captain Pappelbaum, who gave his life for our freedom along with many others. Find his life story: https://www.facestograves.nl/LifeStories/PAPPELBAUM%20Sydney%20Sol-MSN-bio-EN.pdf

In Bienen we were shown around by Josef Becker, whose eyewitness report touched us deeply; unfortunately, he fell ill shortly afterwards and died on September 29. He was a remarkable person who worked for the relatives of Dutch people whose husband / father / brother died during forced labour in Germany during the war.

"Josef Beckerbridge lovingly called a bridge builder"

In the meantime, preparations for the event ‘The Faces of Groesbeek’ in May 2020 are in full swing. We got permission to hold this event at the cemetery of Commonwealth War Graves. It is supported by the municipality of Berg en Dal and DHD printing company that sponsors us. A lot of people send photos, which means there will soon be more beautiful photo frames. Due to the larger number, the cost for all of this is rising, which is why the project group has launched a 'donate a photo' campaign. We are very happy with every donation that comes in, whether it is for one, 5 or 50 photos. Thanks to all for donating!

From the board: Together with our advisory board members Conny van den Berg, Bas van de Kieft and Johan Willemstein, I took a closer look at our organization prior to the board meeting. We presented the result of this consultation to the board on 31 October. To think ahead, all tasks need to be better distributed, and that needs to be made clear. We have a vacancy in the secretariat, a post that should preferably be filled by someone from the Groesbeek area. More volunteers need to be deployed for marketing, media and IT, for example. So there are changes in the pipeline.
As for the editors of the life stories: a stagnation in the processing of the written life stories was because of editors stepping down, which caused us great concern. Fortunately, a number of people were willing to take over. Conny van den Berg, Luc Boode, Ria Lap and Lo van Wingerden have now started working under the guidance of Jelle Reitsma, our counsellor.

In the previous newsletter I wrote about Richard Russell, who was going to set up a master-database for us. He has now undergone two surgeries, but is still always at hand for us in between. Richard, thanks to you, this data overview clearly shows how our Research Team is progressing and also where the bottlenecks are.

In early October, before I knew it, I was in the middle of a Skype interview with Erin Collins, reporter at CBC News in Calgary. Jim Hoover, FTG "ambassador" had arranged this. He himself was interviewed, together with his father. His father is James Earl Hoover’s brother, read more: https://www.facestograves.nl/LifeStories/HOOVER%20James%20Earl-OTS-bio-EN.pdf Jim will soon start a bike tour through Canada to raise money for Children in Need.

I told Erin that we are in contact with Donna Maxwell who has shared many photos of soldiers with us over the years. She appeared to live close to Erin and was extensively interviewed for the broadcast on November 11.

"Donna, left, and Alice (right) met five years ago in Apeldoorn."

Immediately afterwards the InBox flooded and there was almost no time for other things. The first reaction came from Myrna Dezeng, whose uncle Willie Favel, Private, Algonquin Regiment is buried in Groesbeek. We thank all the family members who contacted us. Awesome!

We thank everyone who sent us information and / or photos and our special thanks go to the family members or others who provided us with the life stories of their brother, uncle or otherwise. All of this ensures that we can continue building our Digital Monument and we are working hard to accomplish this.

Above all, we thank you for your heart-warming words and expressions of appreciation, which inspire us to continue with our project: giving 2619 graves a ‘face’. 
11 november
Remembrance Day

-photos Fred Hulsman-

Alice van Bekkum and Jaap van der Woude, Research Team layed a wreath on behalve of Faces to Graves.

-Adriaan van der Pol met a namesake-

Recently we received various donations for which we would like to thank in person. Unfortunately that is not possible if you do not leave a contact address. Hereby we want to thank EVERYONE for his contribution!

As you may well understand our not-for-profit organization can only work with the support of your donations; we want to thank everyone who has contributed! You can find the logos of our sponsors on our website.

Important message from the treasurer: the Dutch banks no longer process paper checks !!

Important message from the treasurer: the Dutch banks no longer process paper checks !!
We thank Richard Meeussen of hotel-restaurant 't Zwaantje in Mook for his hospitality during the meetings of the Research Team. For years, he has facilitated us by means of a rent-free meeting room and plenty of coffee on the house!

Thanks to our webmaster Terry Verduijn **good news**: the first 80 life stories are now on our website and we will add more soon! Terry is working on improving our website. We are happy that a start has finally been made with our goal: a Digital Monument.

On behalf of all of us, I wish you a Merry Christmas and who knows, maybe we can meet at one of the cemetery’s commemorations, which are timely listed on our website-agenda.

Like us on Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/FacesToGraves](https://www.facebook.com/FacesToGraves)