



Operation FAUST 2020

Proposal for Participation by CAF
Logistics Branch (and others)

BGen (Retd) Ernest Beno, OMM, CD



Concept for Op FAUST 2020

The Dutch organization, “Keep Them Rolling” is planning on conducting a “re-enactment” of Operations MANNA and FAUST in 2020 – the 75th Anniversary. Op MANNA and FAUST were the food relief operations in The Netherlands in spring 1945 (April-May) – where Canada played a major role saving the lives of thousands of starving Dutch citizens in the weeks leading up to the Liberation of Holland.

This 75th Anniversary will be a major milestone. This would be a great opportunity for the Canadian Armed Forces Logistics Branch (and partner Branches/Corps) to put on a show in the days leading up to the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland.

The Logistics Branch could celebrate past accomplishments and enhance their profile - remembering, recognizing and celebrating the planners and leaders Manna and Faust, RCASC truckers, Ordnance Corps suppliers, Food Services, RCAF Air Log/Air Drop, RCEME, Sigs, Medics, MPs, and so on. A great opportunity to remember, celebrate and pass on lessons to future generations.



Guiding Principles

- 100 (or more) Logistics personnel (and others, e.g., medics, RCEME, aircrew). Engage all log units/outfits at bases, stations, ships, etc Regular Force and Reserve, across Canada. Log Pers could be riding on Keep Them Rolling vehicles on the same routes from the same supply depots as were used 75 years ago, with Ceremonies at the start and end, and at every town and village along the way. Invite retired members of Log Branch on the trip (paying their own way - \$4,K +/-). Note that last year the RCA had 100 Gunners and 100 Sigs, serving and retired on a commemoration/battlefield study tour to Normandy and Vimy.
- The Op MANNA/FAUST events would start end April 2020 and wrap up in time for the troops to participate in or at least attend the major ceremonies of 5 May (Liberation Day).
- The 5 May Official Ceremonies at Wagenengen NL will be separate ceremonies organized by VAC, probably with a 100 person guard, band, VIPs, etc, etc.
- The Log Branch would be better off running their activity as a non-public/arms length program (however, requesting some DND support, such as Hercs, field kitchens, vintage vehicles, authority to wear uniform, etc).

Guiding Principles (Cont'd)

- Showpiece the following: Service Corps, Trucks, Mechanics, Ordinance Corps, Cooks/Food services, MPs/Provost Corps, Medics, Pilots Navs Flight Crews, and so on, plus combat arms if wished. Airlift and air dropping of supplies, such as candies or paper poppies or flags (a couple of Hercs), and setting up field kitchens giving out hot dogs/hamburgers at ceremonies. Buglers, Pipers and Drummers with all ceremonies.
- Include Battlefield Studies (Logistics from Normandy to the front, and Antwerp to the front line, and Crossing the Rhine, etc, etc). Engage professional historians to manage the Professional Development aspects – Battlefield Studies. Examples of Historians – BGen Dave Patterson, Col John Conrad, Lee Windsor, Marc Milner.
- Fundraising and Friend-raising across Canada (Dutch diaspora and the many suppliers to DND and DND Bases) to support sending 100 service personnel (~\$4K each) and there would be money left over to support the Log Association, and support the Log/Ordinance Museum.
- Funds raised by the Association, by individual units across Canada and individuals. Do not rely on DND or VAC, or Heritage Canada – but do not be shy to ask all of them for financial and other support. Overall, undertake this as a private, at-arms-length initiative (except for loan of equipment and use of Hercs).

Timelines/Milestones

- Summer-Fall 2018 – Confirm interest of Log Branch/CFLA
- Fall 2018 – Socialize in Log Branch (and other Branches/Associations)
- Late Fall 2018 – Firm commitment
- Winter 2019 – Recce and Coord Visit to NL
- Winter 2019 – Develop Plan in detail
- Winter 2019 – Develop Battlefield Studies Plan
- Winter-Spring 2019 – National, Regional and Unit Fundraising
- Spring 2019 – Unit and individual commitments, in principle
- Fall 2019 – Communicate the Plan
- Late Fall 2019 – Confirm individual and unit commitments
- Late Fall 2019 – Issue Study Package for Battlefield Studies
- Late Fall 2019-Winter 2020 – Confirm Financial and Travel Arrangements
- Spring 2020 – Operation FAUST 2020

Discussion

- Interest level of CAF Log Branch
- Pursuit through Non-Public initiatives
- Potential to include reps from all Log units across Canada
- Potential for retired, Association and other individuals
- Potential to reach out to other Support Branches (RCEME, Medical, MP, Air Transport, etc, etc)
- Potential for fundraising at national, regional and unit level
- Lessons Learned from RCA and Sigs Vimy 100
- Program Governance and Creation of a Log Branch Leadership Team

Conclusion

- For the Dutch and for Canadian WWII Veterans this will be a significant milestone.
- Keep Them Rolling will organize a great program to remember Canada's efforts in Operations MANNA and FAUST.
- This would offer the CAF Logistics Branch and other support Branches the opportunity to celebrate the past and pay respect to those who served in WWII.
- This would permit serving and retired members of the Logistics Branch (and others) to conduct Battlefield Studies concerning Logistics and other support to operations, and to experience first hand the significance of Canada's accomplishments in WWII.
- The Log Branch would benefit by participating in and leading a major ceremonial undertaking that would boost esprit de corps, enhance Branch cohesion, and set the Association up for future success.
- This would highlight Canada as a warfighting and humanitarian assistance nation – and highlight the enduring Canada-Netherlands relationship.