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Operation FAUST 2020 – Overview of Canadian Participation

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Canada played a leading role in Operation FAUST 1945, delivering food and supplies to the Dutch citizens who had suffered so badly through the “Hunger Winter” in occupied Holland. Operation FAUST along with Operations MANNA and CHOWHOUND delivered thousands of tons of food, fuel, medical supplies and clothing by trucks and aircraft over several weeks at a critical time for the Dutch people. Members of the Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force and Navy were engaged in this major humanitarian operation, while the fighting against the Nazi occupation continued.

To keep the memory of Operation FAUST alive and to remind the current generations of Dutch and Canadian people of this great undertaking a group known as Keep Them Rolling Netherlands will re-enact Operation FAUST over a five to six day period in April-May 2020. Keep Them Rolling NL (KTR NL), established in 1972, is a club of some 1,500 members and estimated 3,000 vehicles/equipments of World War II vintage – dedicated to restoring and preserving WWII military vehicles and remembering the past. KTR’s Operation FAUST 2020 will be a major undertaking, culminating in conjunction with the Liberation ceremonies in The Netherlands, May 2020. They anticipate 200 to 250 World War II vintage vehicles and tanks, and 500 members to participate in re-enacting Op FAUST and participating in several liberation ceremonies – over the same routes and through the same towns and villages as 1945.



“Canadees, Canadees, Canadees, ..en nog meer Canadezen”



With Canada having played the lead role in Operation FAUST in 1945, the Logistics Services of the Canadian Armed Forces (now called the Royal Canadian Logistics Service) intends to conduct “Battlefield Studies” of Canadian and Allied Logistics in Europe in World War II, and coordinate their commemorative tour with Keep Them Rolling NL’s Operation FAUST 2020. The Royal Canadian Logistics Service and their association, The Canadian Forces Logistics Association (CFLA) will organize a group of 100 to 175 participants (serving and retired, active component and Reservists, including retired Generals and Colonels, and all rank levels) to commemorate past accomplishments and remember the sacrifices of those who fought and died, and served Canada and humanity in the liberation of Holland. They

will be privately sponsored and funded, and meanwhile Canada will also have an “official” contingent representing all elements of the Canadian Armed Forces led by Canadian Government officials.

As a retired Brigadier-General in the Canadian Army, I have great interest in preserving the memory of those who fought in World War II, especially in the Liberation of Holland. Over 200,000 Canadians served in the liberation of Holland, and 7,600 died. We must remember them. I serve on the Board of Directors for the Juno Beach Centre in Normandy and have been deeply involved in several Battlefield Studies and commemorative events in Europe. I have placed a monument in memory of Canadian Gunners in ‘s-Heerenberg, NL and participated in Keep Them Rolling’s “Operation Final Push” in 2015. My wife (Mia, née Holland) and her family are from Nijmegen and the Achterhoek region – and her parents and aunts and uncles (now all deceased) knew only too well about the events of the 1940’s, motivating me to remind today’s Canadian and Dutch citizens of the major role Canada played in liberating The Netherlands – in her time of desperate need. Keep Them Rolling’s Operation FAUST 2020 is a tremendously important event to keep this memory alive, and I am assisting the Royal Canadian Logistics Service and Association to participate in activities and ceremonies, and represent Canada along the routes and in the towns and villages of the original Operation FAUST of 1945.



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 See the attached for the story of Operation FAUST:

Annex A – The Story of Operation FAUST 1945 and 2020



The Story of Operation FAUST 1945 and 2020

Operation FAUST - 1945

In the spring of 1945, in the western Netherlands, the 1st Canadian Corps was responsible for the liberation of the area north of the Maas River. This region includes the major cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Apeldoorn, Utrecht, and beyond where the people were at the end of their endurance from the misery and starvation that had accompanied the "Hunger Winter." Food supplies in the cities were exhausted, fuel had run out almost entirely, and transportation was virtually non-existent. Thousands of men, women, and children had perished.

An assault on Arnhem began on April 12, and, after two days of intense house-to-house fighting, the town was liberated. The 5th Canadian Armoured Division then dashed northward to the Ljsselmeer River, some 50 kilometres away, to cut off the enemy forces in Apeldoorn facing the 1st Canadian Division. The Canadians liberated Apeldoorn on April 17.

By April 28, the Germans in western Holland had been driven back to a line running roughly between Wageningen through Amersfoort to the North Sea, known as the Grebbe Line. On that day a truce was arranged, fighting ceased in western Holland, and several days later food supplies began to move through for the starving people – Operations FAUST, MANNA and CHOWHOUND began.

The alarming messages about an imminent food shortage had been arriving in London. It was clear that more preparation was necessary to provide food for the people in Western Holland, at the moment that Western Holland would be liberated.



A committee in London set itself to the task to calculate what would be necessary to provide the Dutch people long enough from the moment that Western Holland would be liberated up to the moment that the seaport Rotterdam could be made operational.

The committee's report and persuasion from General Eisenhower led to the creation of food dumps in southern Holland by the 21st Army group under field marshal Montgomery. Food dumps were created near Den Bosh and Oss in the liberated south of the Netherlands. The dumps contained a total of 30,000 tons of food.

British Major General John GW Clark had been in charge of these food dumps and he had withstood the many requests to use the food in the dump for additional rations in the south he had brought the dumps back to 30,000 after the winter, when much of it had gone to Germany and Belgium. On May 2nd when Operation FAUST began, the dumps were fully stored and that meant that quick aid was indeed possible.

Operation FAUST was to begin at precisely 07:00 on May 2nd as it had been negotiated by Canadian General Foulkes, after negotiations with the Germans. It had been agreed that one thousand tons of food and medical supplies would be brought from Allied stock by truck through the German lines where it would be transported further by Dutch trucks. The Canadian 1st Corps had 12 platoons with each thirty trucks at their disposal for this task four platoons were British and eight were Canadian. The road would close every day at 18:00 so the trucks had to keep moving in order to unload all the stock before the deadline.



Extract from the book *On to Victory* from Mark Zuehlke: “Captain Robert H. Parkinson's platoon from 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, was first to enter the German lines. Each truck had a white flag mounted on the front fender, but the drivers all had a weapon discreetly hidden in the cab and were under instructions not to get out of the truck for any reason. *‘We knew we were taking food to the Dutch people. It was interesting and somewhat scary as we passed German soldiers who were fully armed and probably they were as interested or frightened as we were... We offloaded the food at the side of the road and turned it over to some kind of Dutch authorities... They took charge of the food and we didn't at any time have ... contact with the Germans.’* The twelve platoons continued moving food into Holland even after the war ended, delivering the last thousand-ton allotment on May 10.”





During this operation, 360 Allied trucks (from 8 Canadian and 4 British transport platoons) conducted multiple round trips, delivering a total of about 9,000 tons of food and supplies to a designated area between the villages of Wageningen and Rhenen in central Netherlands. Logistical problems prevented FAUST supplies from being distributed to the civilians in Amsterdam until 10 May 1945, in The Hague until 11 May 1945, and in Utrecht until 11 May 1945, however. While Operation FAUST officially concluded on 10 May, 200 Canadian trucks remained on food distribution missions in the Netherlands for some time to come. No part of Western Europe was liberated at a more vital moment than the west of the Netherlands, and the Canadian soldiers who contributed so immensely to that liberation were cheered and greeted with great joy.

Operation FAUST 2020

The memory of Canada's humanitarian efforts in the spring of 1945, while fighting continued in many parts of western and northern Holland are remembered and commemorated to this day. The Dutch-Canadian friendship remains strong and evident. 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of The Netherlands and the 75th Anniversary of Operation FAUST – a major humanitarian assistance operation undertaken by the Canadian Armed Forces, along with Operations MANNA and CHOWHOUND.

Keep Them Rolling - Netherlands

To keep the memory of Operation FAUST alive and to remind the current generations of Dutch and Canadian people of this great undertaking a group known as Keep Them Rolling Netherlands (<https://ktr.nl/en/>) will re-enact Operation FAUST over a five to six day period in April-May 2020. Keep Them Rolling NL (KTR NL), established in 1972, is a club of some 1,500 members and estimated 3,000 vehicles/equipments of World War II vintage – dedicated to restoring and preserving WWII military vehicles and remembering the past. KTR's Operation FAUST 2020 will be a major undertaking, culminating in conjunction with the Liberation ceremonies in The Netherlands, May 2020.

Canadian Armed Forces Logistics Service Celebrate Operation FAUST 2020

With Canada having played the lead role in Operation FAUST in 1945, the Logistics Services of the Canadian Armed Forces (now called the Royal Canadian Logistics Service – RCLS) intends to conduct “Battlefield Studies” of Logistics in Europe in World War II, and coordinate their commemorative tour with KTR NL's Operation FAUST 2020. The RCLS and their association, The Canadian Forces Logistics Association (CFLA) will organize a group of 100 participants to commemorate past accomplishments and remember the sacrifices of those who fought and died, and served Canada and humanity in the liberation of Holland. This is a great story, this is a story that should be told, this will be a great event!

The Mission of the RCLS and CFLA Op FAUST 2020 is: *“To commemorate and celebrate the accomplishments of our predecessors in Operation Faust 1945 during 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland in 2020.”*

