

The "Canada Remembers" Program was developed in collaboration with the Canadian Embassy in The Hague, Department of Veterans Affairs Canada, Department of National Defence and the Netherlands-Canada Committee to help Canadians and Dutch and other organizations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of major events leading up to the end of the Second World War.

The Canadian Forces actively supported the program throughout the commemoration period and, in fact, formed two special units to perform ceremonial duties at over 200 events in eight countries during 1994 and 19 . These two units, known as the "Canada Remembers" contingent visited the Netherlands from April to November 1994 and again from March to May 19 .

Two Veterans Affairs Canada Pilgrimages in September 1994 and May 19, led by Canada's Secretary of State for Veterans' Affairs, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, commemorated the return of Canadian Veterans to the battlefields and communities of the Benelux. From Holten in the East, to The Hague in the

West, from Putte to Groningen Dutch and Canadians remembered those who sacrificed in the cause of freedom and showed their appreciation to the veterans who played their part fifty years ago.

More than 6,000 Canadian veterans, most accompanied by travelling companions, returned in 19 for the commemorative activities, representing every 1st Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force unit which took part in the liberation of Northwest Europe.

The visit of the HMCS Toronto was a highlight of the International Naval review at The Hague on 5 May 19 , and was followed by a visit to Amsterdam May 5-10.

Some of the main ceremonies during the commemoration period were:

#### 1994

13 Jun : Holten

14 Sep : Maastricht

14 Sep : Margraten

15-17 Sep : Arnhem

16 Sep : Nijmegen