

6 August 2019

**Operation FAUST 2020 Netherlands and Keep Them Rolling
Change of Leadership in Op FAUST NL, and Update**

Friends of Operation FAUST 2020

My long-time good friend and incredible organizer, leader and manager, Rob van 't Oost has found it necessary to withdraw from the leadership of Operation FAUST 2020. We owe Rob our gratitude for motivating and inspiring us on this major event to be held during the Liberation of Holland 75th Anniversary ceremonies – May 2020. Rob's leadership within Keep Them Rolling has been outstanding. I first met him when he organized "The FINAL PUSH" on the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland in 2014, and had the pleasure of joining KTR for several road trips, bivouac visits, cemetery visits, re-enactments, and city/town ceremonies.



Several Canadian soldiers got to experience firsthand the history of operations of crossing the Rhine and fighting north to Groningen – and being welcomed by the Dutch people in villages, towns, cities and along the route. What Rob has achieved, with the whole KTR team behind him is tremendously important to Canada. He and KTR have kept the memory of the hardships, determination and sacrifices of the Canadian Armed Forces, and Canada as a country, in 1944 and 1945, alive and in the public eye. They have helped educate our service personnel on the history of their brave, resilient and determined predecessors. And, these activities and events have helped keep the Dutch-Canadian friendship visible and palpable. Yes, Rob is stepping down, but he has made his mark and has set the path for future major commemorations and Dutch-Canadian friendships – he has set the scene for a successful, memorable and meaningful Operation FAUST 2020. Dank u wel, Rob.

Operation FAUST 2020, Netherlands will continue as planned, under the leadership of Johan Goudkuil. Johan has been with KTR for more than 40 years, since he was 17. His wife, Will Jansma is the President of KTR. They live in Zeist, NL, not far from Utrecht. Their son, Bram, is very much into the history of Op FAUST and has established great contacts in the archives of various towns/cities and has access to the War Diaries of many of the Canadian and British units of Op FAUST.



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KTR's Operation FAUST 2020 Netherlands

The plan for Op FAUST 2020 NL has changed little from what Rob had proposed and had been working on. Op FAUST 2020 will run from 1 May to 5 May. I believe that the main bivouac for KTR will be Ede, just to the north west of Arnhem. Johan is expecting 80 to 100 vehicles and 200 (+) members of KTR. Keep in mind that numerous towns and villages will be asking KTR members to participate in their liberation ceremonies, so Will and her team will be very busy coordinating it all. Operation FAUST, however, is the premier activity for KTR. KTR will have daily runs of vehicles from the supply depots of WWII (near Nijmegen, Oss and 's-Hertogenbosch) toward Utrecht, but not Wageningen or Rhenen (unfortunately they have other ongoing ceremonies). They still intend to carry donated food supplies to seniors' residences and homeless shelters. The Op FAUST Recommendation Committee will continue, with Johan now in the lead.



Canadian Operation FAUST 2020

The Canadian Forces Logistics Association (CFLA) and Royal Canadian Logistics Service (RCLS) (and other Branches) continue to implement Op FAUST 2020 from 29 April to 8 May 2020. This will be a "Battlefield Study" of Canadian Military Logistics, air, land and sea, during the liberation of Europe, 1944-45. We expect 50 serving military personnel plus another 50 retired and interested attendees. The main hotel will be in the Nijmegen region and the studies will include the support of an Army of 250,000, crossing of the Rhine, Op MARKET GARDEN and of course Operation FAUST 1945. This group will visit the Netherlands' Op FAUST in the bivouac, along the routes and at ceremonies. The details are yet to be worked out. Brigadier-General, Retired, David Patterson will be our lead historian and he is planning the program. Dave will touch base with Johan to coordinate our joint activities and with Bram (and others) to coordinate the historic matters.



Op FAUST 2020 – April-May 2020

There has been a change in leadership for Op FAUST 2020 NL, and adjustments to the plan, but FAUST 2020 will continue. The CFLA/ RCLS-led Canadian Op FAUST 2020 will continue as planned. This will be a notable, remarkable and memorable tribute to those who delivered food, and "More than Food," to the impoverished and desperate Dutch population in May of 1945.

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