

Enduring Bonds

The Story of the Dutch Royal Family in Ottawa



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Estate of Yousuf Karsh

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Cover illustration

H. M. Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands with her daughter
Juliana, Son-in-Law Prince Bernhard and granddaughters
Beatrix, Irene and Margriet, 1943

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ALGEMEEN HANDELSBLAD

Verlag 18. Mai 1940

Nederland in oorlog met Duitschland

België, dat ook door Duitsland is aangevallen, en ons land hebben een beroep gedaan op de Geallieerden, die hebben toegezegd alle mogelijke hulp te zullen verleenen.

BRUGGEN OVER MAAS
EN LISSEL ZIJN
OPGEBLAZEN

Versucht de ene overheden Duitse troepen omgeven, valt een van later bombardement de Duitse luchtmacht Nederlandse stellingen en te nu met beide Duitse granaat te "Groenendaal een verdring aan, waarbij de inzet van een Duitse troepenmacht werd aangekondigd en alle transporten werden verstoord.

De Nederlandse Regering heeft deze verklaring met vernemenlijg van de hand geworpen en gruwelend, zich in werking te beschrijven met het

De Nederlandse gemeenschappen hebben namelijk verreind kunnen vinden aan den eiland, die gewacht heeft met overtuigen als vlijtig en omme te overtuigen en te overtuigen aan de burgerbevolking in dien

Op enkele plaatsen hebben vliegende insecten langere poelen gesneden en parasitaire overvloedige, waarvan de dode niet afkomstig.

Te vijf uur in den ochtend kon het Algemeen Hoofdbestuur reeds mededeelen, dat onze overnachten en slouven juist waren en de invaasien zich volgens plan voltrof.

De Opperherfelijkheid heeft een voorkeuren afkeuring, maar bij het afkeuren



Defectors of transmitters can
Deflect, since a transmitter might be
Redefined as direct as way to be
vicious.

Voorts heeft de Openbare Bibliotheek „Het Nationaal Dagblad", „Niek en Vaderland" en „Het Volksbelang" verboden, en een waarschuwing gericht tegen de burgerbevolking om zeer voorzichtig te zijn tegenover socialistischen en anarchistischen, die geving medede van staten van het Nederlandt verzet of van andere handelingen met den afzet.

Volgens berichten van Rindas en Harms zijn de Rijkspolitie en militairen toegelaten in Antwerpen gekomen, verschillende huizen in Brussel door brandweer overvloed, het station bezeteld in sluisen gaten en het vliegveld Eperon door Duitse vliegtuigen met bommen bezeteld.

Egg French legs still make up.

PROCLAMATIE
VAN H. M. DE KONINGIN

1890

[illegible]

Ik en Mies begroting maken ook deze zomer plicht aan. Daar zijn dan ook, vooral in de alle omstandigheden, tekenen op de plaats waarop hij is getuigd, met de eerste aankomst en met de laatste roef in overgang, waarbij een reis gemaakt is naar de stad.

Collecting

In Amerika heeft het advies van de Duitchen landverwinners uit te gemak.

Algemeen Handelsblad
(Holland, 2nd Edition) front
page reporting Germany
invades Holland, Belgium and
Luxembourg, 1940

Alamy Stock Photo | John Frost
Newspapers | E5GFY3

Windmill and German
armoured vehicle,
near Eindhoven air base,
World War II

Courtesy of Ken Coleman | City
of Ottawa Archives | CA006389



Deliberation

Nazi Germany invaded Poland in September 1939. Following the invasion, both Britain and France declared war against Germany. The Netherlands remained neutral; however, the German assault against Norway and Denmark the following spring signaled the Nazis' intentions, and the Netherlands began to prepare their defences.

On May 10, 1940, Nazi Germany attacked Belgium, France, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. The Dutch Royal Family and the government escaped capture, fleeing to the United Kingdom. Fighting in the Netherlands lasted for four days, ending in the surrender of Dutch forces following the bombing of Rotterdam on May 14, 1940. Approximately 2,300 Dutch soldiers were killed and 7,000 wounded. Thousands of civilians were killed in the bombings.

By mid-1940, much of Western Europe was under German control. In the absence of a government, the Nazis installed a civilian governor who instituted economic policies favourable to Dutch businesses. This did not last long, as the tide of war began to turn against the Germans following their defeat in Russia in June 1941. Soon, Dutch industry was turned to support the Nazi war effort.

Active resistance in the Netherlands continued during the occupation. Many of the country's Jewish population were deported to Nazi concentration camps.

"No one can keep out of conflict, the entire world is at war,
and even though the allies are doing better,
the end is nowhere in sight."

Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*



1939-1945 War Medal

The medal was awarded to all full-time personnel of the Armed Forces and

Merchant Marines for serving for 28 days between September 3, 1939, and September 2, 1945. In the Merchant Navy, the 28 days must have been served at sea.

Bev Watson (top left), father of Mayor Jim Watson, was a member of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Canada. He fought alongside the brave young men who played a pivotal role in North Western Europe. The Royal Regiment is credited with liberating the city of Assen on April 13, 1945 — before participating in the clearing of Groningen until April 15, some 20 days before the Netherlands was liberated from German occupation.

Bev Watson (top right) and comrades, 1st Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Canada, 1943

Photo courtesy Mayor Jim Watson

Canadian Armed Forces soldiers with Bev Watson (Royal Regiment of Canada), 2015.

Photo courtesy of Jayne Watson

Medals awarded to Bev Watson

For his efforts, Bev Watson was awarded the France and Germany Star, the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, and the 1939 to 1945 War Medal (photo bottom left).

France and Germany Star - The star was awarded for one day or more of service in France, Belgium, Holland or Germany between June 6, 1944 (D-Day) and May 8, 1945.

Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp - The CVSM is granted to persons of any rank in the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Canada who voluntarily served on Active Service and honourably completed eighteen months total voluntary service from September 3, 1939 to March 1, 1947.

On June 6, 2003, eligibility to the CVSM was extended to members and reserve constables of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who voluntarily served during the Second World War.



Arrival of Princess Juliana by train, 1940

Library and Archives Canada | National Film Board of Canada | C-007488

Safe Haven

On May 10, 1940, the Netherlands were invaded by Nazi Germany and the Dutch Royal Family and the government narrowly escaped capture, fleeing to the United Kingdom. Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina and her son-in-law Prince Bernhard stayed there and established a government-in-exile. The Queen sent her heir, Her Royal Highness Princess Juliana, and daughters to Canada. They arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 11, 1940 and later settled in Ottawa.

The Governor General, the Earl of Athlone and his wife, Princess Alice, offered them lodging at Rideau Hall. After proving too crowded for an extended stay, the Princess moved her family to 120 Lansdowne Road and later to Stornoway House just before the birth of her third daughter.

Princess Juliana, her daughters, and companions spent five years in Ottawa and became a part of the community. The young princesses were enrolled at Rockcliffe Park Public School and the Princess was often seen shopping and, in the evenings, going to a movie. She never expected special treatment and involved herself in community activities to support the war effort. She volunteered at the Superfluity Shop, knitted, and donated blood, all of which endeared her to the people of Ottawa. Princess Juliana also travelled throughout Canada, the United States, and other countries as a representative of Queen Wilhelmina and the Netherlands to foster support for the Allies.

"It makes me sad to leave. Five years is a long time and one becomes attached. We have so many friends.
We shall leave such happy memories."

Princess Juliana

Once the Netherlands was liberated, Princess Juliana arrived on Dutch soil with her mother Queen Wilhelmina in April 1945, and later returned to Canada to collect her three daughters. On August 2, 1945, Princess Juliana and her three daughters were reunited with Prince Bernhard in the Netherlands.

120 Lansdowne Road, Rockcliffe Park, 1941

Courtesy of Mrs. H. F. Feaver

City of Ottawa Archives | CA003820





Princess Beatrix's school photo at Rockcliffe Park Public School,
1940-1945

City of Ottawa Archives | CA003776



Mayor Lewis visits the Cameron Highlanders, c.1943
City of Ottawa Archives | CA003589

Homefront

During the Second World War, Canada's focus was firmly on the war, with citizens providing aid by enlisting in the military, growing crops, working in factories and civil service jobs, knitting socks or collecting scrap metal for munitions and equipment. It was a time of great change and growth for Ottawa, as people flocked to the city from across the country. Dignitaries, political leaders, and famous people also visited the city. Ottawa grew into its government town reputation and became a player on the world's stage, a role which did not cease at the end of the war.

With this sudden increase in population, Ottawa's Mayor J. E. Stanley Lewis and the City Council felt the stress of fulfilling the needs of the people. Plus, with the increased presence of the federal government, the Mayor needed to navigate its demands, while fulfilling the City's economic and societal responsibilities to the war effort.

Beginning in 1942, rationing was imposed, and at the height of the war people experienced mandatory blackouts and air raid drills. Civil defense volunteers paraded to draw attention to proper procedures. All the while, Ottawa's community groups were active, social events were held to entertain and raise funds, and factories were run 24 hours a day. People were volunteering, growing gardens, and living their lives.

"From the outset of the war, the Canadian people have clearly shown that it is their desire to help in every way to make Canada's war effort as effective as possible."

Prime Minister W.L. Mackenzie King





Mayor of Ottawa Stanley Lewis and the Prime Minister of Canada William Lyon Mackenzie King joined forces on Parliament Hill, 1942
City of Ottawa Archives | CA001747

Mayor Stanley Lewis addresses crowd at Victory Bonds drive, c. 1942
City of Ottawa Archives | CA001720

Mayor Stanley Lewis visiting a group of women on a trip to see Canadian troops overseas during the Second World War, c.1943
City of Ottawa Archives | CA001748

Canadians encouraged to fight in Second World War propaganda poster
Library and Archives Canada | Acc. No. 1983-30-245

Princess Juliana holding infant Princess Margriet
at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, 1943
City of Ottawa Archives | CA018868



Birth of a Princess

On January 19, 1943, Princess Juliana gave birth to her third daughter, Princess Margriet at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. The birth of the Princess was a joyous event celebrated in the Netherlands and by Dutch refugees in other countries. She represented a new hope that despite the occupation, the Royal House of the Netherlands was flourishing. The Princess was named for the marguerite daisy that grows in the Netherlands, which came to symbolize hope and resistance during the Second World War. To ensure Princess Margriet remained in the line of succession to the Royal House of the Netherlands, King George VI made a proclamation deeming the birthplace of the Princess in Canada as extraterritorial.

The day after the birth, the Peace Tower bells in Ottawa played the national anthem of the Netherlands and other songs from the country. In the Royal Family's honour, the flag of the Netherlands was flown from the Peace Tower. It was the first time a foreign flag was raised over Parliament Hill.

Prince Bernhard was able to be in Ottawa for his daughter's birth, and later returned to Canada with Queen Wilhelmina for the baby's christening. On June 29, 1943, Princess Margriet was christened in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and many important figures and politicians were in attendance. The ceremony was mostly conducted in Dutch and broadcast in the Netherlands.

"My baby will always be a link with Canada
not only for my own family but for the Netherlands."

Princess Juliana





Christening ceremony for Princess Margriet, St. Andrew's Church, 1943
 Library and Archives Canada | National Film Board | C-027980

Princess Juliana of the Netherlands holding Princess Margriet with
 Prince Bernhard and Princesses Beatrix and Irene, St. Andrew's Church,
 1943
 Library and Archives Canada | National Film Board of Canada | C-004908

Copy of the birth announcement of Princess Margriet of the
 Netherlands in Dutch, 1943
 Handwritten by Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
 Courtesy of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Canada



The endurance and courage of liberators and liberated bound them together in joy at victory, Utrecht, 1945
Library and Archives Canada | Alexander Mackenzie Stirton
Canada Department of National Defense | PA-134376

Liberation

On June 6, 1944 — D-Day — western forces began the process of freeing Western Europe from Nazi occupation. In September, “Operation Market-Garden” was the first major offensive in the Netherlands. This battle was a failure.

The Battle of the Scheldt in October successfully liberated the Belgian port of Antwerp. The battle resulted in over 6,000 Canadian soldiers being killed, wounded, or captured.

In response to these offensives, Nazi Germany cut off food supplies to reduce resistance. Many Dutch starved in the ensuing months, referred to as the “Hunger Winter”.

In February 1945, the First Canadian Army joined the fight to drive Nazi German forces back across the Rhine. The Army included Canadian, British, Polish, and American forces. They began their offensive on March 23, 1945, pushing the Nazi forces across the Rhine and entering the Netherlands from the east. Aided by Dutch resistance fighters, Canadian troops rapidly cleared the northeast of the Netherlands. The Western Netherlands, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and the Hague were cleared of Nazi soldiers by mid-April. The cities of Arnhem and Apeldoorn were later liberated. The Royal Canadian Air Force began air-dropping food to feed the starved citizens of the Netherlands.

Following city-by-city battles and bitter fighting, Nazi German forces in the Netherlands finally surrendered on May 5, 1945. Dutch citizens cheered Canadian soldiers as they arrived in each town and city.

"The hour of freedom has struck."

Dutch Prime Minister Pieter Gerbrandy





Princess Louise Dragoon Guards escorted German prisoners of war out of Amsterdam, 1945

Courtesy of Colonel Charles Petch, City of Ottawa Archives | CA006427

Rough graves far from home for some Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, c. 1945

Courtesy of Norbert Gregoire, City of Ottawa Archives | CA006417

Governor General's Foot Guards in Bergen-op-Zoom, 1944

Library and Archives Canada | Lieut. H. Gordon Aikman |

Canada Department of National Defense | PA-131263

Second World War poster, 1944: "To the children of the Netherlands. We are so happy that we can come back. Father and Mother told us so much about you so we hope to see you very soon. Trix, Margriet, Irene"

Alamy Stock Photo | BNA Photographic | 2APCY4



Orange Emperor Tulip

Photographer: Wouter Koppen, photo courtesy of ibulb

Enduring Bonds

A special bond between the Netherlands and Canada was established during the Second World War when Crown Princess Juliana and her daughters sought safety in Ottawa. It was further strengthened when Princess Juliana gave birth to her third daughter Princess Margriet at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. The bond was firmly cemented when the First Canadian Army participated in the liberation of the Netherlands in May 1945. The special relationship between the two nations endures today, witnessed through annual gifts, monuments, official visits, acts of remembrance, and naming ceremonies.

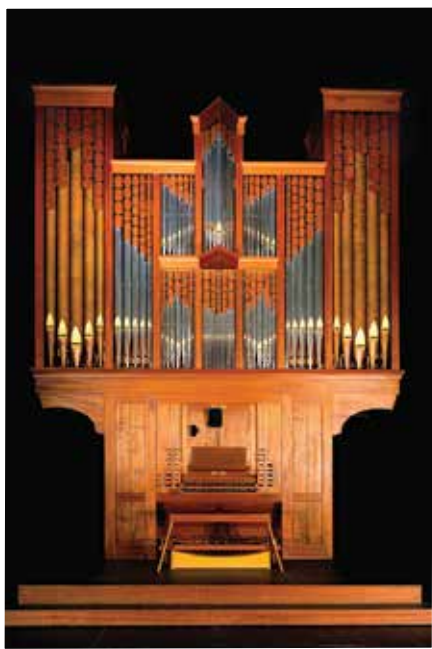
Immediately after the Second World War, Princess Juliana presented Ottawa with 100,000 tulip bulbs in recognition of its hospitality. In 1946, she sent an additional 20,000 as a token of appreciation for Canada's wartime effort. To this day, the Netherlands annually sends tulip bulbs to Ottawa. On October 24, 2001, the tulip was declared the official flower of the City of Ottawa.

To honour Canadian soldiers, school children place lit candles on each gravestone in the Holten Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands every year on Christmas Eve. Each child is assigned a grave to attend and learns about the person they are honouring. It is a beautiful sight which continues the remembrance of the soldiers' sacrifices through the generations.

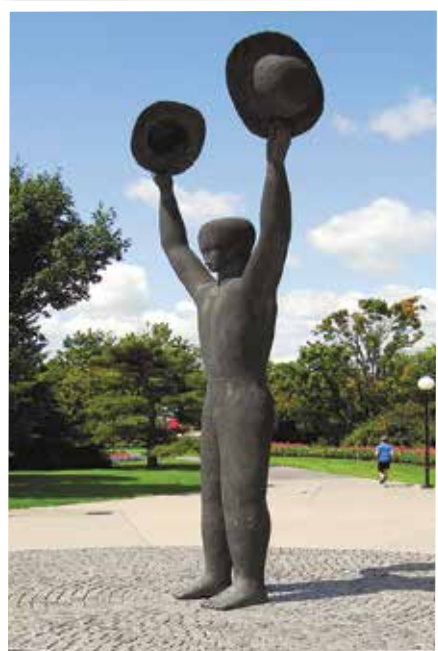
In 2020, in honour of the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands, Fairmont Park near the Ottawa Civic Hospital was re-named Princess Margriet Park.

"I think the greatest love story of World War Two was the relationship between the Dutch people and the Canadian soldiers, now veterans. It's endured. It's never ended."

Veteran Pat Reidy



Flentrop Organ, NAC - Built by the famous house of Flentrop Orgelbouw of Zaandam, the Netherlands. The instruments were gifts to Canada given by the Dutch-Canadian community in appreciation of the role played by Canadian troops in the liberation of the Netherlands in 1945.
Photo Courtesy of the National Arts Centre



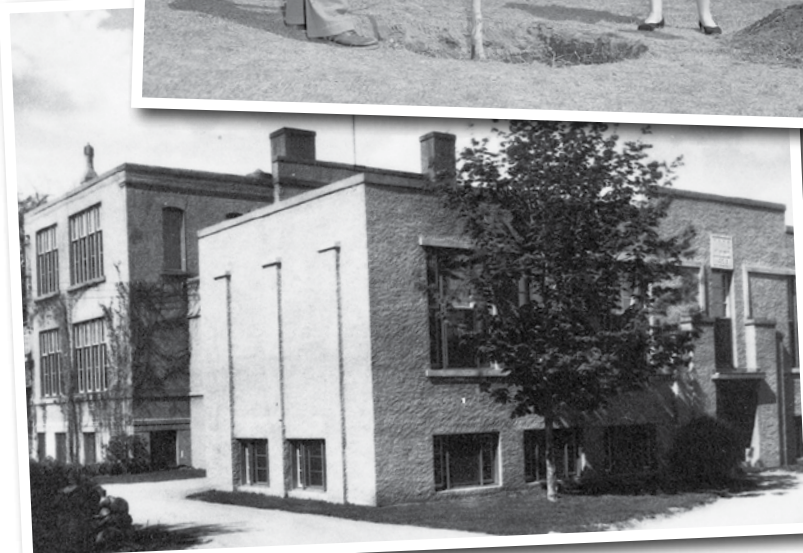
Man with Two Hats, replica | Artist Henk Visch
Photo courtesy of the National Capital Commission

Princess Margriet and husband Pieter van Vollenhoven visiting the Ottawa Civic Hospital, 1968
City of Ottawa Archives | CA18877

Canadian War Cemetery at Christmas Eve, Holten, The Netherlands
Alamy photo | E1REMB

Commemorative bed of tulips and plaque near the main entrance of the Ottawa Civic Hospital presented by Queen Juliana after the Second World War
City of Ottawa Archives | CA002497







Queen Juliana at Ottawa Red Cross Superfluity shop, 1952

Library and Archives Canada | Gar Lunney | National Film Board of Canada | PA-168123

Planting of tree by Queen Juliana at Rideau Hall, 1952

Library and Archives Canada | National Film Board | PA-168122

Queen Juliana Hall addition to Rockcliffe Park Public School

City of Ottawa Archives | CA0018754

Princess Margriet signing of visitor book 2002

City of Ottawa Archives | CA027703

Laying a wreath at The Man with Two Hats monument

His Worship Jim Watson, Mayor of the City of Ottawa, and Ms. Sabine Nölke, former Ambassador of Canada to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, laying a wreath at The Man with Two Hats (De man met de twee hoeden) monument in the City of Apeldoorn. September 16, 2019.



Karsh Portraits: The Dutch Royal Family

Enduring Bonds: The Story of the Dutch Royal Family in Ottawa features Yousuf Karsh's iconic portraits of the Dutch Royal Family from 1940 and 1943. Karsh was one of the most celebrated portrait photographers of the 20th century. His mastery of light and shadow and his unique rapport with his subjects allowed him to capture moments that would otherwise have remained unseen. His unshakeable intensity and artistic intuition emphasized their humanity and established candid immortality.

"The mask we present to others and, too often, to ourselves may lift for only a second – to reveal that power in an unconscious gesture, a raised brow, a surprised response, a moment of repose. This is the moment to record."

Yousuf Karsh

Yousuf Karsh

Yousuf Karsh fonds, Library and Archives Canada, Arch ref. no. R613-718, Item 4934-13, e010751834



H. R. H. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands, 1940



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H. R. H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, 1940



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T. R. H. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands with her daughter Princess Beatrix, 1940



© Yousuf Karsh

T. R. H. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands with her daughters Princesses Beatrix and Irene, 1940



© Yousuf Karsh

T. R. H. Princesses Beatrix and Irene of the Netherlands, 1940



© Yousuf Karsh

T. R. H. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands with her daughter Princess Margriet, 1943



T. R. H. Princesses Beatrix and Irene of the Netherlands, 1942

T. R. H. Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands with their daughters Princesses Irene, Beatrix and Margriet, 1943

T. R. H. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands with her daughter Princess Irene, 1940



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T. R. H. Princess Juliana of the Netherlands with her daughters Princesses Beatrix, Irene, and Margriet, 1945



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T. R. H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands with his daughters Princesses Beatrix and Irene, 1943

