

## **Liberation of Hattem 18 april 1945 from 'Canadezen in Actie uitg. 1995**

On April 16, 1945 the first soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Canadian Scottish Regiment (CSR) from Victoria British Columbia came from Zwolle back to Hattem near the river IJssel. They had first liberated the town of Deventer in the south near the river IJssel too.

Members of the resistance Hattem and two policemen who went to the other side by boat or swimming told them that the German positions were very weak. So a patrol by Lt Martin George Van Santvoord went over the river IJssel then and got fire contact but went back immediately to the other side. Martin was unfortunately killed in action a few days later on April 22 during the battle of Wagenborgen near Delfzijl and he is thereafter buried at the Holten Canadian War Cemetery grave 3-G-7

So the CSR send out a little patrol the next day on April 17 1945 with Sgt Dodd, Pte William Brown and another third unknown Pte. In Hattem they discovered that the Germans had gone away.

And that's why the official date of the liberation of Hattem is on the next day April 18 1945.