

# THE GAZETTE

Published for members of the SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen communities

## Benelux news briefs

### Scholarships

Applications are now accepted for a \$2,000 scholarship for Military Children Program. For information, visit [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org) or [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). The deadline is Feb. 17.

### Cub scout volunteers

Cub Scout Pack 325 is looking for members of the SHAPE-Chièvres community who would like to spend a couple of hours each week helping to lead these young boys along the path from Tiger Scouts to Arrow Of Light. Those interested can call DSN 423-8830.

### Tax Centers open Feb. 16

IRS-trained and certified tax specialists will offer federal and state income tax preparation beginning Feb. 16.

Locations:

- SHAPE: Bldg. 318, Rm. 207, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. DSN 423-4906; Civilian 065-44/4906
- Chièvres: Andrews Credit Union, Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., DSN 361-5706; Civilian 068-27/5706
- USAG Brussels: Bldg. 4, Rm. 316, Tuesday by appointment only, DSN 423-4868; Civilian 065-44/4868

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## Celebrating Black History Month

Gunner Cpl. Carlton Chapman poses in the hatch of his M4 Sherman tank near Nancy, France, Nov. 5, 1944. Chapman served in the 761st Tank Battalion, the first African-American tank unit to go into combat. The unit's first engagement came Nov. 8, only days after this photo was taken. Check out the full story on Page 3. (Photo Credit: courtesy of the National Archives)



# The first African-American tankers in combat

By Elizabeth M. Collins  
Soldiers Magazine

The explosion was massive, far larger than the men of the 761st Tank Battalion were expecting when they responded to a German attack in the Rhineland town of Silz, Germany.

In assigning the 761st Tank Battalion to lead Task Force Rhine with elements of the 103rd Infantry Division, Army leaders hadn't chosen just any tank battalion. The 761st was the first of its kind, the first African-American tank unit to go into combat.

"They trained for almost two years at a time when armor crewmen were getting as little as three months of training because of the pressures of the war. Because they were African Americans, the Army didn't quite know what to do with them," said former Sgt. Wayne D. Robinson, the historian for the 761st Tank Battalion association, and a former armor crewman in the Massachusetts National Guard, noting that the tankers experienced a lot of racism in their rural, Southern training grounds.

When the 761st finally got to France, the tankers encountered a few individuals who may have had trouble with their darker skin, but for the most part, Soldiers were worried about their missions and about staying alive, not skin color. Many infantry Soldiers didn't even know that the tankers running with them were black, said Robinson.

"They are not obsessed with race," said Gina DiNicolo, a former Marine officer and author of "The Black Panthers: A Story of Race, War, and Courage." "They're running into some problems, some challenges. But for the most part, they're



*Soldiers from Dog Company of the 761st Tank Battalion check equipment before leaving England for combat in France in the fall of 1944. (Photo Credit: Courtesy Gen. George Patton Museum and Center of Leadership)*

with their unit and it clicks. ... What is the thing foremost on their minds? They want to kill Hitler. ... It got to the point in combat where the units were interacting like everyone was the same. These guys became one of the guys."

Dade remembered laughing with some infantry Soldiers, not realizing how serious the situation was until the rounds started coming in. "The tank would rock when something hit it and we didn't know what happened," he continued. "We just battled like hell. ... We looked and noticed that our .50-caliber gun was gone. And where it hit it, the shell – armor piercing – they cut it off like you had a torch, you know, a welding torch. They were just that powerful. ... Then I was looking for my friends. I said, 'Where's so and so?' They said, 'No man. They got it a long time ago. They didn't get too far.'"

The men also faced a German roadblock that would have meant almost certain death. Without waiting for orders, Staff Sgt. Ruben Rivers of Able Company climbed out of his lead tank carrying

a large cable. Dodging bullets, he fastened the cable to the tree in the road, and then returned to his tank to clear the road, allowing the Soldiers to proceed. "Then we got into town and we chased them out and they went to the next one," said Dade, who was in the same company.

Barely a week later, Rivers, who had already been nominated for one Silver Star, was left with a deep, bloody leg wound from his knee to his hip when his tank hit a land mine during the unit's Nov. 15 to 19 assault on Guébling, France, according to Dade. Rivers reluctantly let his fellow Soldiers bandage his leg before climbing into another tank, refusing further medical aid throughout the night and into the next morning when he radioed his commander that he could see the enemy.

"I was about 25 yards from him in my tank," remembered Dade. "As we were battling, Sergeant Rivers got hit. When the Germans opened up on us, we were fighting each other like hell. [The company commander] told Rivers, 'We are outnumbered. There are five

tanks out there. Back out.' He said, 'No I see them. I'm going to engage them.'"

Passing within 200 yards of the Germans, Rivers opened fire, helping cover Able Company's withdrawal. "So the next shot came in on this turret, just took his head off," killing Rivers and another tanker, Dade continued. Rivers received another Silver Star, and then in 1997, after a long campaign by his company commander, one of the few white officers in the 761st, Rivers belatedly received the Medal of Honor.

During 183 days of continuous combat, the 761st fought all over northern and central Europe, from the Battle of the Bulge at Tillet, France, to the Battle of the Rhine, eventually making it all the way to Austria. The cost was high, however, with 36 men killed in action, 22 in November alone. They died defending a segregated country, Robinson said, noting that the Army began desegregating shortly after the war.

"We didn't have equal rights," said Dade, explaining that he went home to Texas to face the same prejudice as before the war. "All odds – democracy was against us. I was just fighting for my country."

**Editor's note:** Spelling and punctuation are original to Anderson. Quotes from Dade, who passed away in 2006, come from an oral history he recorded with the Urban School of San Francisco in 2004 and 2006.

The story has also been edited from its original version for brevity. To read the full story, go to [https://www.army.mil/article/181586/come\\_out\\_fighting\\_the\\_first\\_african\\_american\\_tankers\\_in\\_combat](https://www.army.mil/article/181586/come_out_fighting_the_first_african_american_tankers_in_combat).

# Army launches new TV series showing real lives of Soldiers

by Don Wagner

Army News Service

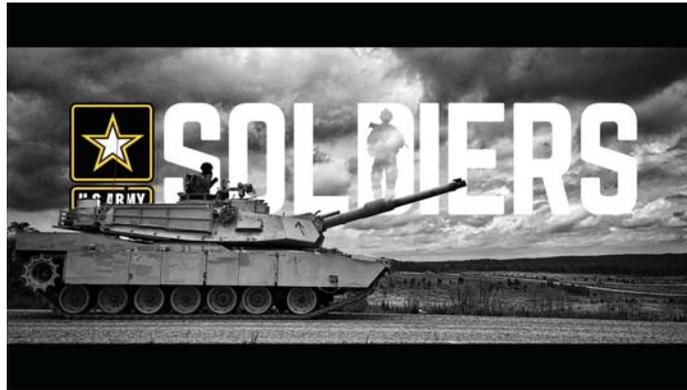
Soldiers Broadcasting launched its newest video series called "Soldiers" Tuesday on Defense TV, YouTube and the new Soldiers webpage.

"These videos showcase the American Soldier in action, preparing for and conducting missions every day around the globe," said Maj. Gen. Malcolm B. Frost, Army chief of Public Affairs. "Soldier skills, grit, commitment and character will be on full display. You will be inspired by the Soldiers who defend our nation as part of the greatest team on earth."

The first episode of the series follows an M-1 tank crew training and showcase the readiness and enduring value of Army forces.

"The series aims to excite and inspire viewers as they experience the dedication and excellence of this nation's Army Soldiers, Family members and veterans," said Peter Ising, one of the show's producers. "[The series] displays Soldiers in their element and their readiness to defend the United States and its allies."

"Soldiers' stories are ex-



An M1A2 tank crew from Charlie Co., 1st battalion, 64th Armor Regiment competes in the Sullivan Cup at Fort Benning, Georgia, May 4, 2016. (Photo Credit: Staff Sgt. Jose Ibarra)

citing, inspiring; they move. We want people to feel the way we feel about Soldiers," said Lance Milsted, Soldiers Broadcasting executive producer. "When we created the 'Soldiers' series, we wanted to create something different, something original and, above all, something compelling."

The first season consists of four episodes that will debut on a monthly basis, February through May:

-- February -- "Seeding Excellence (Sullivan Cup)" follows an M-1 tank crew training at Fort Stewart, Georgia, through its competition at the biannual Sullivan Cup gunnery competi-

tion at Fort Benning, Georgia.

-- March -- "Best Medic" follows two Soldiers as they compete in the Army Best Medic competition at Camp Bullis, Texas. The competition tests their abilities as Soldiers and as medics in scenarios they might encounter in the real world.

-- April -- "Workforce Warrior" takes a close look at the process of transitioning from active duty to the civilian workforce and examines how work-study programs are helping veterans. The segment highlights a Soldier who is taking advantage of one such program while also working

in a bakery and the Soldier for Life program.

-- May -- "Empire Shield" explores the work of members of the New York National Guard who have been assisting the New York City Police Department and Department of Homeland Security safeguard New York City as part of Task Force Empire Shield. The segment highlights individual readiness and homeland defense.

"Our team of Soldiers and civilians will go where Soldiers and their families live, train, and work to support and defend America and American interests -- wherever that is -- Alaska, Africa, or Afghanistan," explained Michael Burnette, Soldiers Broadcasting chief. "This new original feature series is their story."

The show is available online at [www.army.mil/soldiers](http://www.army.mil/soldiers) or <https://www.youtube.com/USArmy>.

It can also be viewed on Defense TV. The Defense TV app can be downloaded for free on iOS mobile devices, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV and Google Chromecast.

## AAFES now offering photo services



(Courtesy photos)

As of Jan. 30, AAFES on Chièvres Air Base has expanded its services as customers can now take their ID photo at the photo booth and print their pictures at the printer kiosk.

Both services are located in the food court area and are accessible seven days a week during food court operating hours. Get your ID photo instantly from the photo booth or print your pictures via USB, SD Cards, or smartphones.

The new service is available to all who have access to the installation. Make sure you have the right amount in Euro coins or five Euro bills to operate the photo booth or photo printer kiosk.

(USAG Public Affairs Office)



## All communities

### Ongoing

- **Swipe It Right photo contest** - Fitness center patrons are encouraged to get in the habit of scanning their ID cards with the Swipe It Right photo contest. Visit the Brussels Fitness Center, the Chièvres Fitness Center, or the Schinnen André Bruls Fitness Center and take a selfie when you scan your ID card. To enter the contest, follow us on Instagram @beneluxmwr and tag your photo with #MWRSwipeItRight. You could win a Polaroid Snap Instant Digital Camera. For additional information, visit <http://www.benelux.armymwr.com>.

**The following are VTC-projected classes. For additional information about and to register for VTC classes, contact your local Army Community Service offices.**

- For SHAPE: Civilian: 65-32/6824 or DSN: 366-6824.
- For Brussels: Civilian 02-717-9783 or DSN: 368-9783.
- For Schinnen: Civilian +31(0)46-443-7500 or DSN: 360-7500.

### Feb. 7

- **Lunch and Learn: Emotional Regulation** - Participants will analyze their anger patterns, focus on values and goals that support a rage-free lifestyle, and learn skills that will help them avoid relapsing into angry behavioral outbursts. Lunch and Learn is a VTC projected class from noon to 1 p.m.

### Feb. 8

- **Insurance Plans** - This workshop is Feb. 8 from 3 to 4 p.m. and will take a close look at various types of life insurance. Participants will learn when it's optimal to use each; what amount you need to protect your family; various cost factors; the importance of insurance.

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities"

### Ongoing

- **MES Inc. is currently seeking U.S. Army Counselor Aide personnel** for the USAG Benelux Army Education Center in Brussels. The person in this position will establish student accounts for Soldiers, and update information, provide guidance and also assist with some administrative tasks. The requirements are: 60 semester-hour credits from a regionally accredited U.S. institution; three years of experience and/or training in U.S. military education programs and U.S. Soldier development courses; NATO SOFA status; ability to obtain a favorable National Agency Check with investigations. For more information or to request an applications, stop by the Brussels Education Center.
- **CYS Brussels Survey** - USAG Benelux Child and Youth Services is assessing the need for full-day, part-day and hourly care for preschool children in the Brussels community. Completing the short survey will help us provide you with the services you need. To take the survey, go to <https://brussels.armymwr.com>.

### Feb. 15

- **Auto Skills 101** is Feb. 15 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This free class will cover basic and not-so-basic topics such as: Checking and changing oil, checking coolant levels, brake maintenance, tire, filters and their contribution to fuel economy, and transmission. This is a hands-on event so wear appropriate clothing.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities"

### Feb. 8

- **Play and Parent Support Group** - The group meets Feb. 8 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the ACS Schinnen living room area. This parent-child playgroup for parents with children up to 36 months old meets one Wednesday a month. Each meeting has toys, circle time (with songs and books) and a sharing section where parents can discuss their parenting successes and challenges with Benelux New Parent Support Home Visitor.
- **Star dinner special** - "Asian ribs and stir fried noodles with rice and salad" starts at 5:30 p.m. Adults \$13, Children \$6. Reservations by Tuesday at [reservations3star@yahoo.com](mailto:reservations3star@yahoo.com).

### Feb. 12

- **JFC Chapel Valentine's Banquet** at the Brunssum International Conference Center is at 6 p.m. Sign up at the JFC Chapel by Jan. 29.

### Until Feb. 17

- **CYS Sports Open Enrollment: Rock Climbing Clinic** - A series of seven sessions of two hours each operating Wednesdays from 4 to 8 p.m. from Feb. 22 through April 12. Ages are 10 to 18 years old. To register, stop by Parent Central Services at JFC Brunssum, Bldg. H-602 no later than Feb. 17.

## SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY Continued

**Register now**

**March 14**

- **Give Retirees a Smile Day in Geilenkirchen** - Registered U.S. military retirees and their spouses will receive a dental exam and a cleaning or simple procedure based on treatment needs. Exam appointments are from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Treatment appointments are from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 3 p.m. Appointments must be scheduled on a first come, first served basis by calling +49 (0)2451-993535.

**Ongoing**

- **Volleyball/Basketball League** - USAG Benelux Schinnen Fitness Center is interested in having a volleyball league/basketball league within the Tri-Border communities. Players from Schinnen, Geilenkirchen, and Brunssum communities are all welcomed to participate (U.S. and NATO card holders) in these leagues. For more information, stop by or contact the Schinnen Fitness Center at DSN 360-7561 or +31 (0)46-4437561.

## SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

See also above in "All Communities"

**Feb. 7 and 21**

- **Chili cook-off** - BOSS hosts a chili cook-off Feb. 7 and 21 in the PX from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.. For more information, call DSN 361-6820.

**Feb. 8**

- **Health and Wellness Seminar** - The SHAPE Clinic hosts "Create More Energy in Your Life" seminar Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room.

**Feb. 9**

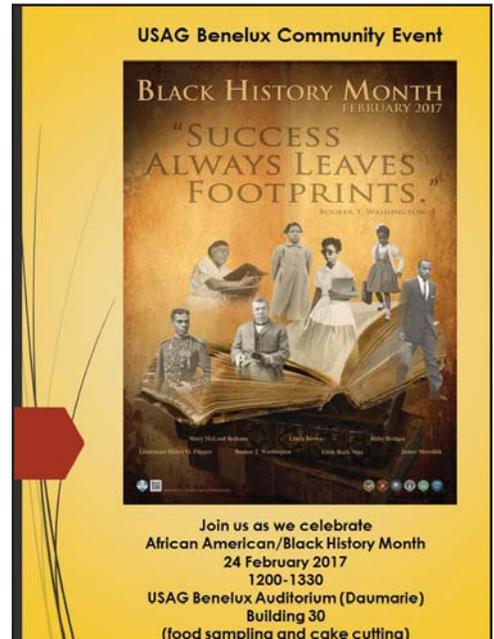
- **The Best Sense of Portugal** - Enjoy the best of Portugal at this event Feb. 9 at 5 p.m. at the SHAPE Events Center. Featuring wine tasting, traditional food, and folks music. All proceeds go to charity.

**Feb. 14**

- **Valentine's Day Potluck and Marriage Vow Renewal** is Feb. 14 at the Daumerie Caserne Chapel from 6 to 9 p.m. The event, which will also feature the SHAPE Bad TFX Lite, is free though it is recommended participants bring a dish to share. The event will begin with a community reception, followed by the vow renewal ceremony. Call DSN 423-7141 to register. Deadline is Feb. 10.

**Feb. 24**

- **Black History Month** - The Black History Month observance is Feb. 24 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Daumarie auditorium.



## Upcoming organized trips

### SHAPE Trips and Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884.

- **London, Feb. 4**
- **Paris for Valentine's Day, Feb. 11**
- **Belgium Beer Tour, Feb. 18**
- **Prague, Czech Republic, Feb. 25 to March 1**
- **Harry Potter Studio Tour, Feb. 27**
- **Lille Cooking Class, March 11**
- **The Champagne Region, March 18**
- **Cochem Germany Castle Tour, March 25**
- **Musical Starlight Express, Bochum, Germany, March 28**
- **Antwerp with Cats, April 1**
- **Lloret de Mar and Barcelona, Spain, April 3 to 12 (spring break)**

- **South Africa, April 3-14**

- **Château de Versailles and Musical Fountains Show, April 8**
- **Dubai and Abu Dhabi, May 25 to 30**
- **Bordeaux Seaside Excursion, June 22 to 25**
- **Crete, Spa and Middelkerke, all year**

### Schinnen Trips & Tours

Call DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- **Day Trip to Luxembourg, Feb. 18**
- **Paris Express, March 18**
- **Family Day "Trout Fishing", April 8**
- **Garden of Europe "Keukenhof", the Netherlands, April 22**
- **NFL International Series, Sept. 24 or Oct. 1**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

**Feb. 3**

- **Farmers' market in Ellezelles** - Local products market held at Salle du Cacs on the square from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Feb. 4**

- **Indoor flea market in Schaerbeek (70 booths)** - Held on Grande Rue au Bois 57 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **"Sharp Edge Show" in Ath** - Display of works by the cutlery craftsmen from the *Bladesmith Society* (school) in Ostiches. Display is held at La Maison des Géants, Rue de Pintamont 18 from 2 to 5 p.m.

**Feb.4-5**

- **Vintage vehicles, parts and accessories fair in Frameries** - Held at Hall de Maintenance on Rue du Chemin Vert from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Entrance fee is €5 adults; €3 children.

**Feb. 4-6 (also Feb. 10-12)**

- **BatiMons - Construction and comfort fair in Mons** - Meet the professionals, take ideas for inside and outside decorations, get to see the newest technologies for your home at this fair held at Lotto-Expo on Avenue Abel Dubois from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. all three days. Entrance fee is €5 but you can download a free access ticket on <http://www.batimons.be>.

**Feb. 5**

- **Volksmarch in Herchies for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs at the school on Route de Baudour 4 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Brussels (Auderghem) for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs the school on Avenue de l'Eglise St-Julien 24 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Indoor flea market in Mons (70 booths)** - Held at the school on Rue Valenciennoise from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Gourmet stroll in Saint-Vaast for 10 km** - During the walk you can admire the local scenery and you will stop at 5 places to taste some less known local specialties. You also have the opportunity to visit the museum of the former coal mine site Bois-du-Luc. Departure is from the school on Rue du Four à Chaux 15 at 9 a.m. Participating fee is €30 per adult and €15 per child. Prior registration at 0476-484443.

Mark your calendar/Register now for lodging

**Feb. 18**

- **Historical walk in the footsteps of the 82nd Airborne Division** - Walk (20 km) starts at 9:30 a.m. in Goronne and will follow the footsteps of the 508th PIR, 82nd AB, going by the hill of Thier-du-Mont where the unit fought one of the most important combats of the Battle of the Bulge. No need to register for the walk but if you'd like accomodation, call DSN 361-5694. Participating fee of €6 for the walk will be paid on site.



Read about events near Brunssum and Schinnen (in the Netherlands unless otherwise indicated).

**Through Feb. 5**

- **Wonen 2017 in Mechelen (BE)** - Flanders largest home and living fair held at Nekkerhal on Boeimeerstraat. The fair has many fun ideas for your interior and exterior and the newest of the newest concerning building and renovating. Entry is €5 and Sunday is €6. The fair is open Mondays to Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m.; Fridays from 1 to 10 p.m. and in the weekend from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Annual Vacation Fair in Laken/Brussels (BE)** - is held at the Brussels Expo, Belgiëplein 1. The fair is divided over four palaces and has more than 800 participants with information on beautiful places far away as well as nearby, adventurous trips, city trips and more. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry: €10.

**Feb. 3-5**

- **Kampeer Totaal in Venray** - This "Total Camping" fair is held at Evenementenhal, De Voorde 30. The fair is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and entry is €7; children ages six to 11 is €3.50.

**Feb. 4-5**

- **Asia in Antwerp in Antwerpen (BE)** at Waagnatie on Rijnkaai 150 features several activities such as the Chinese Lion Dance, ninjas, acrobats as well as many Asian food stands with culinary highlights and Feng Shui, Chinese tea ceremony, yoga and more. Entry is €15 and is open Feb. 4 from noon to 10 p.m. and Feb. 5 from noon to 9 p.m.
- **The 28th International Wine Fair in Gentbrugge (BE)** is held in De Vierde Zaal, Driebekenstraat 2. Participants from international vineyards will present their wines. The fair is open Feb. 4 from 1 to 8 p.m. and Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry is €3.
- **Lace Fair in Oostmalle (BE)** at Domein de Renesse, Lierselei 30 offers beautiful objects. Entry is €3. The fair is open Feb. 4 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Feb. 5**

- **Carnaval Market in Brunssum** offers outfits for the coming Carnaval/Fashioning celebrations. Held at Romboutscollege on Schoolstraat. Entry is free and the market is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Feb. 9-12**

- **Art Rotterdam in Rotterdam** is held at historic Van Nellefabriek on Van Nelleweg 1. This winter art fair is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.