

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

HRC briefs Soldiers

The U.S. Army Human Resources Command will hold briefings Monday at SHAPE.

Topics will include shaping the force, board processes, evaluations, promotion rates, broadening opportunities, officer/NCO career timelines, career expectation management, education opportunities and Q-and-A session.

Briefings time and location will be from 10 to 11:45 a.m. at the PAO Auditorium, Building 100, for colonels and command sergeants majors and from 2 to 3:45 p.m. at the PAO Auditorium, Building 100 for lieutenant colonels through warrant officers.

Back-to-school newsletter moved

After technical difficulties, U.S. Army Europe School Support Services changed the location of its back-to-school newsletter Aug. 24 and moved it to http://europe.armymwr.com/files/6714/4006/7537/FALL_2015_NEWSLETTER_Final.pdf. This is a change from what was published in the Aug. 20 edition of the Gazette.



424th ABS supports British Army, Air Force

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Richard Wilkins, 424th Air Base Squadron, helps British Army Sgt. David Spindley refuel a British Army Apache helicopter on Chièvres Air Base Friday, August 21, 2015. Four British Army Apache and one Royal Air Force Chinook helicopters stopped for refueling in route to Grafenwoehr, Germany, for the multinational training exercise Swift Response. (U.S. Army photo by Keith Houin)

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'Forgotten Angel' passes away

The World War II nurse whose story was told in the Emmy-winning documentary "Looking for Augusta: The Forgotten Angel of Bastogne" died in her sleep at the age of 94 in Brussels Aug. 23.

A Belgian nurse, Augusta Chiwy performed volunteer service in a U.S. Army medical aid station during the Battle of the Bulge, exemplifying the best of people in the worst of times.

A character based on Chiwy, the nurse "Anna," appears in the sixth installment of the HBO miniseries "Band of Brothers," based on the book by Stephen Ambrose.

In 2011, Chiwy was presented the Department of the Army's Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service. During that same year, the title Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Couronne (Knight of the Order of the Crown) was conferred upon her by King Albert II of the Belgians.

Chiwy will be remembered in a ceremony at the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

Augusta Chiwy received the U.S. Flag at the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, Monday, Sept. 22, 2014.

U.S. Ambassador Denise Bauer invited Chiwy at the U.S. Embassy for the showing of the documentary "Looking for Augusta: The Forgotten Angel of Bastogne."

(U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson)



American Legion Post shows appreciation for grave adopters

Special to the Gazette

by Joseph Schram, commander of American Legion Post BE02

Members of American Legion Post BE02 honored grave adopters of the fallen American Soldiers Sunday at Flanders Field American Cemetery with an Appreciation Day in Waregem, Belgium.

One year ago, Post BE02, also known as Flanders Field Post, implemented an Adopt-a-Grave program for the 368 Soldiers buried at Belgium's only American World War I cemetery. Adopting the grave meant a promise of paying your respects at the grave twice a year, Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Within two months of the announcement of this program, all of the graves and the names on the Wall of the Missing were adopted, the vast majority of which by Belgian citizens.

Appreciation Day began with a small ceremony conducted at Flanders Field American Cemetery to commemorate the fallen heroes and to honor their adopters.

Chargé d'affaires Mark C. Storella, together with the cemetery's Superintendent Chris Arseneault and Waregem's Mayor Kurt Vanryckeghem, attended the ceremony. Storella, who is the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, thanked the adopters for volunteering to adopt a grave

and helping to ensure that no one will ever forget the heroes buried there.

During the course of the year, some of the adopters were unable to fulfill their commitment to honor the fallen Soldiers and relinquished their adoptions, opening up opportunities for others to adopt. At the completion of the ceremony, Storella and Vanryckeghem presented certificates of adoption to new adopters.

The Adopter Appreciation Day event then moved to Park Stadion in Waregem where the adopters and their families could enjoy an American-style barbecue, view exhibits in the "Adopter Village" and participate in a number of other activities.



A color guard comprised of WWII re-enactors led by American Legion "Flanders Field" Post BE02 Sergeant-at-Arms Jeff Andrews heads toward the Chapel at the Flanders Field American Cemetery during a rehearsal for the Appreciation Day, Sunday, Aug. 22., 2015. (Photo by Philippe Colinet)

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Employment, education fair scheduled Sept. 10

special to the Gazette

USAG Benelux-Schinnen's Army Community Service, Education Center, and Geilenkirchen's Airmen and Family Readiness Center team up to sponsor the annual Tri-Border Employment and Education Fair event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 10 at the JFC Brunssum International Conference Center.

If you are on the verge of a life changing event such as looking for a new job, separating or retiring from the military, or thinking about improving your knowledge and value through education, you don't want to miss this opportunity.

Hiring officials and education representatives will be available to provide information and answer questions on benefits, current and/or future positions, duty hours, application procedures, educational programs and much more. The fair is open to all U.S. and NATO ID cardholders, although jobs for non-U.S. citizens are limited.

Andrews Federal Credit Union, Community Bank, Commissary, The Exchange, AFNORTH International School, JFC Brunssum's Family Support, Morale and Welfare, Geilenkirchen Child Development Center and SAS, NATEX and Child, Youth and School Services are among the local employers attending the fair.

Government contractors such as Vinnell Arabia will be recruiting for logistics, vehicle maintenance, medical, artillery, technical and engineering positions in the U.S. and throughout Europe.

BFrench Consulting has positions locally as well as throughout Europe.

A representative from Bradley-Morris Inc., a job placement service, will be available to explain their free services for honorably transitioning military members.

The Benelux Civilian Personnel Advisory

Center will also have representatives available to answer questions about U.S. federal employment, benefits and procedures.

Volunteer coordinators will speak with you about opportunities throughout our communities, including the Red Cross Dental Assisting program at Geilenkirchen where you can get valuable training and earn a certification for future employment.

ACS and A&FRC employment experts will be able to review resumes, assist with job search or interview preparation and have information on upcoming classes. Copies of GI Jobs Magazine will be available for free, and other employment resources such as books and videos will be available for review and check-out.

Information on Military Spouse Employment Partnership will be available

to show how companies like Walmart, Amazon, Home Depot and others, including working from home opportunities, are committed to employing military spouses and veterans.

Representatives from the Education Center, National Testing Center, University of Maryland University College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of Oklahoma, Central Texas College and Community College of the Air Force will be present to discuss degrees offered, upcoming classes and registration procedures.

Experts will answer questions and provide information on the GI Bill, scholarships, Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts, computer lab, testing programs, career assessments, financial aid resources and more.

Registration is not required, just stop by. For more information, call ACS at DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian +31(0) 46-443-7269/7500.

Hiring officials and education representatives will be available to provide information and answer questions on benefits, current and/or future positions, duty hours, application procedures, educational programs, and much more.



Several agencies who participated in the 2014 Job Fair will be present at this year's Job Fair.

ANTITERRORISM

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Credit union closes for renovations

by Andrea Wales

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Andrews Federal Credit Union will open a temporary satellite on Chièvres Air Base while the on-base branch is closed for renovations Sept. 18 to 28. A grand reopening ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Oct. 2.

The ATM will be open during most of the renovation period; however, it will be closed Sept. 21 to 23 while the existing flooring in the credit-union vestibule is being removed and tile is being laid. During this time, as always, the ATM in the SHAPE Post Office will be available for patron use.

To minimize the impact of the main-branch closure, the credit union will manage a small operation on a limited schedule in a concessionaire storefront (old tax office) in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES, food court from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 19 and Sept. 22 to 26.

The Chièvres branch's "new to you" furniture and equipment will come from Andrews storage. Its 2-year-old oak teller line and office furniture were saved for later use when the Schweinfurt, Germany, branch closed its doors, Chièvres branch manager Joshua Barrett said. That military community was closed because of the Army force restructure.

"We're doing these renovations to further enhance the member experience in the Chièvres/SHAPE community," Barrett said. "Some of the highlights include additional privacy for our members, both on the teller line and on the new account/loan side."

In addition to a fresh coat of paint, changing the color scheme from white to cream-and-dark-blue, workers will install a staggered teller line and half-wall partitions to create offices for the branch's three personal bankers, Bar-

rett said. The new teller line will have four stations, the last of which will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Due to this new arrangement, personal bankers — known as member service representatives, or MSRs, in Andrews parlance — and tellers will be able to provide assistance in a more confidential manner.

The existing tracking station will be moved from the left side of the teller line into the new greeter station near the door that opens from the vestibule. Its new up-front location will encourage patrons to use this computer to notify MSRs of the type of help they need, the branch manager said.

As part of the renovation process, some of the current furniture will be donated to Grandma's Attic, the on-base thrift shop.

Eagle Scout project helps animal shelter

by Andrea Wales

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

A local Eagle Scout candidate is calling on members of the SHAPE/Chièvres community to participate in a drive benefiting a no-kill animal shelter in Maisières, Belgium.

Bret Huston's Eagle Scout project helps Pension Animale l'Arche de Noé, or "Noah's Ark animal shelter" in English. About 80 dogs and 30 cats live there.

Huston, 17, has set up bins in SHAPE International Chapel's Fellowship Hall and in the lobbies of SHAPE American Middle School and SHAPE American High School. The drive runs through Sept. 9.

"I cycled through a lot of project ideas," he said, adding, "I walked around the place and said, 'This is perfect. I can't believe I was going to clean up a graveyard instead of this.'"

The plight of the animals struck a chord with Huston:

"When I went to visit the animal shelter, the lady who gave me the tour said they'd had trouble with Shapians adopting a pet, then PCSing without it, then I said, 'I can think of no better way to make it up to you.'"

Workers at Noah's Ark often come to work only to find pets chained to the gate because their owners can no longer care for them — many because they have moved due to permanent change of station.

The drive will gather the items the shelter needs most:

- cat litter,
- cat food,
- dog food,
- blankets (new or gently used) and
- flea/tick repellent.

When asked if dog toys would be accepted, Huston said yes.

"It's not a major item, but I can't imagine any dogs would turn them down," he said, remarking that one person donated a scratching post.

Noah's Ark drive helpers will be at Dogs Day Out Saturday and at SHAPE Fest, working with the International Chapel Charity Council, commonly called IC3, Sept. 4 and 5.

For more details, contact noahsarkdrive@yahoo.com.



Eagle Scout candidate Bret Huston, 17, accepts donations of pet food at a local store with adult Scouter Boyd McMurtrey and his sons Connor and Logan Friday, Aug. 21, 2015. Huston's drive, which runs through Sept. 9, benefits Pension Animale l'Arche de Noé, a no-kill animal shelter in Maisières, Belgium.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Through Aug. 31

- **Chin-Up Challenge** - The first male and female to perform the most chin-ups in 15 days will be declared the winners. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

Aug. 27

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy Chicken & Rib Night with baked potato and salad from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Alternate children's menu is hotdogs or chicken fingers.) Cost: adults \$12; children, ages 12 and under, \$6. Reservations are required. Reserve by close of business the Tuesday before at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

Aug. 28

- **3 Star Recreation Night** - Join the USAG Benelux-Brussels community Fridays from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Recreation Night features games, cards, music and movies. Snacks and beverages available for purchase: crispy chicken tenders, daily homemade soup, potato wedges and more. Call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

Aug. 29

- **Summer Co-Ed Adult Volleyball Tournament** - End summer in a healthy and fun way while engaging in some friendly competition all day at the Sterrebeek Annex compound. Registration needs to be made at the USAG Benelux-Brussels Fitness Center. For more information, call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-7179667.
- **3 Star Recreation Night** - Join the USAG Benelux-Brussels community Fridays from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Recreation Night features games, cards, music and movies. Snacks and beverages available for purchase: crispy chicken tenders, daily homemade soup, potato wedges and more. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

Sept. 3

- **Book Club Welcome Social** - Members and new members are invited to attend this gathering from 1 to 3 p.m. Although this is a get-to-know-you event, at its next event Sept. 17, the group will discuss the featured book, "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. For additional information, call DSN 368-9791 or civilian 02-7179791.
- **3 Star Family Dinners** - Enjoy lasagne, Parmesan chicken, mixed salad and garlic bread as of 5:30 p.m. (Alternate children's menu is hotdogs or chicken fingers.) Cost: adults \$10; children, \$5. Reservations are required. Reserve by close of business the Tuesday before at reservations3star@yahoo.com. For more information, call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Available now

- **Check out a bike at Schinnen ACS** - If you're interested in checking out a bike from Schinnen ACS, visit the Relocation Readiness Office. For more information, stop by ACS, Building 39, or call DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-443-7500. (Limited number of bicycles available.)

Apply now

- **School Meal Program** - CYSS at JFC Brunssum is now taking applications for free/reduced lunch for the 2015-2016 school year. Contact CYSS for the application form. This is for U.S. ID card-holders only. For more information, visit CYSS Parent Central Services in Building H-602, or call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263121/2023.
- **School Age Center programs** - The CYSS School Age Center offers a before- and after-school program for children in first through fifth grades as well as a part-time preschool program for children, ages 4 to 5. The center holds morning and afternoon sessions of Strong Beginnings weekdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID card-holders. For more information, call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263121/2023.

Register now

- **CYSS Soccer** - Register now for the September-to-October season. Cost: children, ages 3 to 5, \$20; children, ages 6 to 15, \$40. For more information, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195.
- **CYSS Flag Football** - Register now for practice starting Sept. 19. Cost: youths, ages 10 to 15, \$40. For more information, call DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195.
- **Parent Education Conference** - Register now for the conference open for parents of high school students from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 16 at AFNORTH International School Cafeteria. Enjoy different workshops: "Chat your course" and "The College application process." For more information, call CYSS Parent Central Services at DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31 (0) 45 526-3121/2023. (Limited space.)
- **Parent Education Conference** - Register now for the conference open for parents of school-aged children from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 17 at JFC Brunssum International Conference Center. Enjoy different workshops: "School Transitions," "Learning styles" and "Time management." For more information, call CYSS Parent Central Services at DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31 (0) 45 526-3121/2023. (Limited space.)

Aug. 27

- **Open Indoor Wall Climbing** - Enjoy great routes for beginners and experienced climbers at the Bowling Center, Building 40, from 6 to 8 p.m. Climbing equipment and instruction available. Admission: \$7, to be paid at Schinnen Outdoor Recreation. For more information, call DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 464-43-7560.

Aug. 28

- **Cosmic bowling** - Enjoy themed music, crazy bowl games upon request, memory lanes lounge, adult gaming rooms and free use of pool table at the Bowling Center, Building 40, from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, call DSN 360-7207 or civilian +31 (0) 464-43-7207.

Sept. 2

- **Heinsberg Hospital Tour** - This tour is offered in English. Meet at 6 p.m. at the front door of the hospital. For more information, call +49 (0) 2452-188501.

Sept. 9 to 10

- **New Parent Support Home Visitor** will be available for office hours, hospital and home visits to all US ID cardholders. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call ACS at DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437500.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Register now

- **Fall Theater Camp** - Children can join the SHAPE Players at the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre through Fall Theater Camp, culminating in four performances of "Into the Woods Jr.," a junior version of the musical by Stephen Sondheim. Camp starts Sept. 21. In related news, "Fractured Fairy Tales," "Glee Me, Please" and other classes begin Sept. 14. Call DSN 423- 3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.
- **Modern Dance for Children** - Register now for the session running Monday and Wednesday, Sept. 2 through Dec. 16 at the SHAPE main gym aerobics suite. Open to CYSS-registered children. Sign up at Parent Central Services, SHAPE Building 503 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Cost: €9 per lesson, payment needs to be made at the gym front desk. For more information, call CYSS Parent Central Services at DSN

Aug. 29

- **Dogs Day Out** - Celebrate canines at this free event under the SHAPE Fest Tent from noon to 4 p.m. The organizers from Chièvres Kennel plan many activities, including a dog show with prizes, working dog and agility course, dog walking trail, dog obedience demonstration, activities for children, and dog photos. During Dogs Day Out, the operating hours of the Chièvres Kennel will remain unchanged. Learn about what's going on at Dogs Day Out at <http://chievres.armymwr.com/europe/chievres/chievres-events/dogs-day-out>. Prospective volunteers should contact the kennel at DSN 361-5436 or civilian 068-275436.

Sept. 3

- **Newborn Network** - Join a support group for parents of babies aged 12 months or younger. During this fun way to meet other parents, discuss transitioning as a parent, and bond with your baby through sharing and music. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

Sept. 4 to 5

- **SHAPE Fest** - Have fun at this international community gathering by eating cultural food, going on amusement rides, visiting the craft market, listening to live music and watching the night sky explode with fireworks.

Movies at SHAPE Cinema

Rates — 2D movies: adults €7 and children 11 and under €4. 3D movies: adults €9 and children 11 and under €6. Check <http://www.shape2day.com> under "Morale & Welfare (MWB)" for the movie schedule.

Theaters near SHAPE/Chièvres that play movies in English:

Only the British or American movies listed as VO (Version Originale or Originele Versie) will be in English.

Plaza Art - Rue de Nimy 12, 7000 Mons (next to the main square). Visit <http://plaza-art.be/index.cgi?p=Grille>.

ImagiBraine - Boulevard de France, 1420 Braine l'Alleud. Check the schedule and purchase your tickets at: <http://kinopolis.be/nl/bioscopen/kinopolis-imagibraine>.

Kinopolis - Boulevard du Centenaire 20, 1020 Bruxelles. Take a look at movie listings at <http://kinopolis.be/fr/cinemas/kinopolis-bruxelles>.

Movie at JFC HQ Alliance Theater

Adult admission is €6.5 (ages 12 and older) - Child admission is €3.75 (ages 11 and under). Check the web page at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Schinnen-1366146> for the movie schedule.

Chimay region honors World War II fallen

For decades the people of the Chimay region have held annual ceremonies to honor the U.S. forces who helped liberate Belgium.

Aug. 29

7 p.m. Swingtime: '40s jazz concert. Admission: €8.

9:30 p.m. Ball. Admission: €4.

Aug. 30

10 a.m. at Monceau-Imbrechies - Ceremony at the Monceau-Imbrechies memorial where the first 12 Soldiers of the liberation died Sept. 2, 1944.

11 a.m. at Cendron - Catholic service in memory of the liberators, followed by a re-enactment with WWII vintage vehicles. Lunch will be available (roasted pig with salad, baked potatoes, dessert and coffee) €15 a person. (That menu requires prior reservations.) Call 0497-072373 to reserve the full meal.



City of Soignies puts culture on stage at festival

Ever since 2005, the city of Soignies has offered a free "multifestival" on the last Saturday of August (Aug. 29 this year).

The event has grown since then and now offers about 20 shows and concerts, a village for children, an international market and street entertainment.

All activities are taking place on and around the Place Verte in the city center.

There will be also a lot of other activities and entertainment around the Place Verte including shows, circus groups, theater, street arts and more.

Program

- 11 a.m.:** Les Fan-foireux
- 1:30 p.m.:** Spoons of Knowledge
- 1:45 p.m.:** Circus Katoen
- 2:30 p.m.:** Kings of Edelgram
- 3:30 p.m.:** Roscoe
- 3:30 p.m.:** O'tchalai
- 4:30 p.m.:** Antoine Chance
- 5:30 p.m.:** L'Or du Commun
- 5:30 p.m.:** Les Volcanics
- 6:30 p.m.:** La Chiva Gantiva
- 7:30 p.m.:** Sonnfjord
- 8:30 p.m.:** Ozark Henry
- 9:30 p.m.:** Chicoy Mendes
- 10:30 p.m.:** Babylon Circus

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Tri-Border Community



Travel the Benelux

Tanks in Town rolls into Mons

by **Tim Clark**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

The annual Tanks in Town, an assembly of World War II tanks in Mons, Belgium, Aug. 28 to 30 will involve more than just tanks.

There will be re-enactors, period vehicles, a military flea market, parades, thousands of spectators, tank rides and an amphibious vehicle operation.

To commemorate the liberation of the city in 1944 by the 83rd Reconnaissance Battalion of the 3rd Armored Division, Tanks in Town brings a large concentration of armored vehicles to the historic center of Mons.

For some, it's the fun of collecting and driving the WWII-era vehicles, for Pierre Deghaye, president of Tanks in Town and vice president of Royal Mons Auto Moto Club, the sponsor of the event, it goes much deeper than that.

"My family suffered from the occupation, my father was a prisoner of war, for them the liberation was both a moral and physical liberation, I participate for them" Deghaye said.

For Deghaye the most touching thing is when he sees people crying as the tanks pass by. "Because those who are crying, lived the liberation," he said.

Tanks in Town started with a Stuart tank, No. 3047787, under the

command of Maj. John Tucker. The tank entered Mons Sept. 2, 1944, at around 5:30 p.m., as a part of the liberation of Belgium. The commander received a welcome by city officials, and Tucker signed the city's visitor book. An alert city official noted the registration number of the tank.

After the war, the city of Mons sent a letter to the 3rd Armored Division with the hope of getting the tank returned to the city. The hope came true in 1946 when the tank, No. 3047787, was brought back to the city. The tank was displayed near city hall until 1984 when the city of Mons authorized the Borinage Jeep Club, now the Royal Mons Auto Moto Club, to restore the tank.

After completing the restoration in 1989, the city invited Maj. Tucker to return to Mons. He accepted the invitation and took the same route into town, on the same tank, as he had taken in 1944.

In 1994, the city again invited Tucker, this time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Mons. Because of his age and health, Tucker declined. From this an idea was born, if he couldn't come to Mons, Mons



People check out a tank in Mesvin at last year's Tanks in Town. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

would go to him.

Finally in 1999, after years and many ideas later, the city of Mons received an official invitation to bring the tank to the United States and participate in the Fourth of July 2000 parade in Washington, D.C.

On Saturday is the military flea market from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., also tank rides will be available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., 10 amphibious vehicles will take to the water in the Grand Large.

Sunday, the vehicles will retrace the route of the 3rd Armored Division into Mons with stops in Cuesmes for a static display and in Mesvin where a mock attack will take place, before arrival on the Grand Place in Mons at around 5:30 p.m.

Tanks in town takes place on the Bois Brûlé, Route de Wallonie (N552), Ghlin, Belgium 7100. For more information and to see a map of the locations visit <http://www.tanksintown.be>.

If you want a free tank ride on Saturday or free tickets to attend the activities during the weekend, call the USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office at DSN 361-5824 or civilian 068-275824. Americans get free access throughout the weekend.



Tanks on display in the Mons town square. (photo by Alain Henry de Frahan)

For your GPS:	From:
Mons, Belgium	Brussels: 84 km
7000	Schinnen: 183 km

Shooting fests popular in Limburg

by Rita Hoefnagels

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

During the summertime, announcements for “Schutters’ feesten” (shooting fest) are posted all over the place in the Limburg provinces of Belgium and the Netherlands. The fests, which consists of men and women from various “Schutterijen” (shooting clubs) participating in parades and shooting at stationary targets, has become a popular tradition in Limburg’s villages and small towns.

Opinions about the history of the clubs differ greatly. The clubs are very proud of their respectable origin because, for many years, it was believed that “Schutterij” had been established to protect church and state from all kinds of calamities.

Limburg shooting clubs were, for the most part, established between 1550 and 1700. This turbulent time with its political, religious, economic and social problems influenced the development of the shooting clubs. However, shooting clubs were established primarily to offer a safe social setting to boost the morale of the town’s people during a time of economic depression and to bring about a sense of brotherhood and safety throughout the community.

It wasn’t until later that the shooting clubs became to be seen as a valuable protective asset to the Catholic Church and the police.

As a way to prevent the decline of the Catholic Church and gain back the trust of its congregation during a time when the Church of Rome was being resisted, the church established shooting clubs as the official

protectors of the Catholic Church in an effort to gain back the interest of its congregation.

Shooting clubs were also used as a tool by the police to perform certain supportive tasks, such as serving as bailiffs. Voluntary protective tasks turned into official duty tasks in the 18th century.

Today, shooting clubs flourish throughout Limburg. Brotherhood, community spirit and friendly competition remain the reason for their existence.



Outside the gate

Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

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

- **Nausicaa (Europe’s largest aquarium) and Two Caps Nature Park in Northern France, Aug. 29**
- **Paris with optional Seine cruise, Sept. 12**
- **Wurstmarkt in Bad Dürkheim, Sept. 19**
- **Plopsaland – Cars and Coasters, Sept. 20**
- **London, Oct. 3**
- **Alsace Wine Route, Oct. 10 to 11**
- **Amsterdam with optional guided tour of Van Gogh Museum, Oct. 17**
- **Rotterdam, Oct. 24**
- **Harry Potter studio tour, Nov. 4**
- **Romania - Bucharest, Bran village in Transylvania (site of Dracula’s castle), Nov. 4 to 8.**
- **Flanders Field WWI Tour of Ypres, Belgium, Nov. 7**
- **Carolus Thermen in Aachen, Germany, Nov. 14**
- **Paris: Moulin Rouge, Nov. 21**

SHAPE Travel Group - Call civilian 0470-876369.

- **Tongeren Antique Market, Aug. 30**
- **The Best of Luxembourg City, Sept. 10**
- **London & Buckingham palace, Sept. 18**
- **Belgian Coast by Tram, Sept. 24**
- **Belgian Trappist and Countryside Tour, Oct. 6**
- **A Day in Rotterdam, Oct. 20**
- **Antwerp and Red Star Line Museum, Nov. 19**
- **Cologne Christmas markets, Nov. 24**

Schinnen Trips & Tours - Call DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- **Bernkastel-Kues, Germany: Wine Festival, Sept. 5**
- **Family Day: Trout Fishing, Sept. 12**
- **National Liberation Museum 44-45, Sept. 26**
- **NFL Games, Book your tickets now for Oct. 3 to 5 (New York Jets vs. Miami Dolphins), Oct. 24 to 26 (Buffalo Bills vs. Jacksonville Jaguars) and Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 (Detroit Lions vs. Kansas City Chiefs).**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Aug. 28

- **Volksmarch in Tournai (100 km)** - Departs at 9 p.m. from Rue Claquedent at the Collège Notre-Dame.

Aug. 28 to 30

- **Abbey of St. Denis** - All kinds of activities will take place at the abbey through the weekend: carillon, archers in medieval costumes, military re-enactors representing the Napoleonic era, access to the vineyards of the abbey, historical games for children, jugglers, acrobats, light show and more.



Aug. 29

- **Music festival in Houdeng-Aimeries** will be held on Place du Souvenir from 5:30 to 11:30 p.m.
- **Music festival in Chièvres** will be held at the Cercle Notre Dame on Rue Notre Dame from 4 to 11:30 p.m. Admission: €10.
- **Carillon concert in Ath** will be at the Tour Saint-Julien on Rue de Pintamont from 4 to 5 p.m.
- **Bike ride in Baugnies (30 km)** - Departs from Rue de Mortagne at 3:30 p.m. Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. Admission: €3 (includes one drink).
- **Crafts and flea markets in Erbisoeul (120 booths)** with music, entertainment and more. on Rue Basse from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Tournai (6 and 12 km)** - Departs from Rue Claquedent at the Collège Notre-Dame from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Aug. 29 to 30

- **Western festival in Havré** - More than 200 cowboy and Indian re-enactors are coming from Germany, the Netherlands, France and Belgium. The festival will take place on Rue du Château from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flower carpet in Seneffe** with classical music, accordion, musical entertainment and a market with local products. The event will take place at the Château at Rue Plasman 7-9 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission: €5.
- **Sport weekend in Blaton** offers beach soccer as of 8 a.m., and beach party as of 8 p.m. Saturday and petanque tournament as of 10:15 a.m. and run and bike Sunday. The event takes place on Place de Feignies. Admission varies depending on the activity.



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

Through Aug. 30

- **Preuvenemint in Maastricht** takes place on Vrijthof. Taste the culinary specialties of renowned Maastricht restaurants and surrounding area. Open from 8 p.m. to midnight Thursday, from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, from 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday and from 12:30 p.m. to midnight Sunday. Find more information at <http://www.preuvenemint.nl>.

Aug. 27

- **Summer market in Kortrijk, Belgium**, is being held on Vandaleplein and Sint Maartenskerkhof. These two areas have been transformed into southern markets like the ones in Provence, France; Tuscany, Italy; and Andalusia, Spain. Enjoy the culinary delicacies and entertainment for which these areas are famous. Open from 5 to 11 p.m. Free admission.

Aug. 28 to 30

- **Wine festival in Haan, Germany**, will be held in Park Ville d'Eu. Visitors will enjoy the many specialties, wines and champagne. Open from 2 to 10 p.m. Friday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.
- **Vlissingen Maritiem in Vlissingen** is a large maritime event held in the harbors and on the boulevard. Besides the participation of many boats and ships, including the ones from the Dutch Royal Navy and several historic ships, there will be traditional crafts market with demonstrations, live music throughout the town, navy parades, culinary event and more.

Aug. 29

- **Antique & Curiosa Market in Roermond** is held on Kloosterwandplein in the center. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aug. 29 to 30

- **Scottish Days in Bachte-Maria-Lerne, Belgium**, will be held at the Castle Ooidonk gardens at Ooidonkdreef 9. Feel, taste and experience Scotland. Open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Admission: €8.
- **Crazy about Ceramics in Duffel, Belgium**, is a ceramics fair held at Nora Nuyts at Franselei 52. The fair has workshops, demonstrations and lots of ceramics. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission.
- **The AltenaFair in Gilze** is a fair with stands, traditional crafts, demonstrations, bungee jump, rides, culinary delicacies, regional products. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



Aug. 29 to 30 continued

- **Flea market in Baugnies (90 booths)** at Rue de Mortagnes 34 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aug. 30

- **Mountain bike ride in Le Roeulx (10, 40, 65 and 95 km)** - Departs from Rue d'Houdeng 20 from 8 to 10 a.m.
- **Flea market in Jurbise (70 booths)** on Route d'Ath from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Flea market in Quaregnon (200 booths)** on Rue Paul Pastur from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Soignies (5, 10 and 20 km)** - Departs from Chemin du Tour Lette from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Ath (5, 10, 15 and 20 km)** - Departs from Rue des Frères Descamps 18 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Brugelette (4, 6, 12, 20 and 30 km)** - Departs from Avenue G. Petit from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ongoing

Through Aug. 30

- **Family cruise in Mons** - This boat trip goes from the Grand Large, Capitainerie, on Rue du Grand Large to the lock in Obourg and back. Departs Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30, 4 and 5:30 p.m. Presence is required half an hour prior to departure. Cost: adult, €7; youths, ages 13 to 18, €6; and children, ages 4 to 12, €4.50. Recommended: Book ahead by calling civilian 065-874890.

Through Sept. 6

- **Visit the Royal Palace in Brussels** - Each summer, the Royal Palace is open to visitors. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free admission.



Mark your calendar

Aug. 29

- **Music festival in Soignies** - Find more information about *Août en Eclats* on page 7.

Aug. 28 to 30

- **Tanks in Town in Mons** - Find out about this World War II commemoration event on page 8.

Aug. 29 to 30

- **WWII ceremonies in Monceau-Imbrechies and Cendron (Chimay area)** - Find more information about them on page 7.



Aug. 29 to 30 continued

- **Puur Genieten Fair in Hillegersberg-Schiebroek (near Rotterdam)** is a lifestyle fair for the whole family held at Bergse Voorplas on Weissenbruchlaan in Hillegersberg-Schiebroek. The fair offers lots about art, fashion, beauty, jewelry, garden and interior/exterior design. It also offers you a chance to try culinary delicacies. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: adults, €10; children, ages 12 and younger, free.
- **Brothers of Limburg Festival in Nijmegen** is the largest medieval festival in the Netherlands held in the center of the historic city. It has parades, knights, falconers, tasting, dance, music, a medieval market, re-enacting and more.
- **Mussels Festival in Philippine** has lots of activities centered around mussels, traditional crafts, demonstrations and art market. Open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Spiriosa Festival in Schinnen** is a consciousness-raising festival with workshops and special booths with good food and music. The event is held in the surroundings of Oude Steenfabriek Plinthos, at Daniken 1. Open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Admission: €15, adults; ages 15 and under, free.
- **Art and Antique Days in The Hague** are two days filled with art, antiques, curios, ceramics, sculptures and more at Lange Voorhout in the center of the city. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aug. 30

- **International Art Market in Kessel** will be held around Castle "de Keerbergh." Open from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Admission: €3.50 (includes Admission to castle); ages 11 and under, free.
- **LieFair in Lieveren** is a country fair combining regional products, art and culture, country life, demonstrations and amusement. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission.
- **Jazz and Wine in Wychen** is a music and cultural festival held on Market Square. Enjoy wines, beers, regional products and culinary delicacies while listening to music. Open from 1 to 6 p.m.

Sept. 1 to 6

- **Hiswa Fair in Amsterdam-Noord** is Europe's most complete in-water boat show held at NDSM-werf at Werfkade 2, with more than 450 luxury yachts on display. Find more information at <http://www.hiswaterwater.nl>.
- **Wine Fest & Market in Bielefeld, Germany**, is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday, from 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.