

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

Get out the vote

Elections are important and as citizens of the United States of America, it is our duty and responsibility to exercise this right by casting our ballots on Election Day and to encourage others to do so as well.

It was on this premise that The American Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program was initiated shortly after the organization's inception. Today it is as important as it was in elections past.

The American Legion Post BE02's trained Voting Assistance Officers ensure that citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act understand their voting rights, how to register and vote absentee, and provide accurate nonpartisan voting information and assistance.

Members of the post will be at the SHAPE Fest on Sept. 5. If you have further questions regarding your voting rights, please contact us at flanders.fields.post.be02@gmail.com.

Library closure

The SHAPE International library will be closed Sept. 5 due to SHAPE Fest.

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US, Belgian Soldiers support Chiwy's funeral service

Combined U.S.-Belgian color guard and pallbearers participate in Augusta Chiwy's funeral service at the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Donovan Abrassart)

See page 3.

Chimay region honors its liberators

Story and photos by Donovan Abrassart
USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office



(Clockwise from top) USAG Benelux Commander Col. Marty Vannatter and Command Sgt. Major William L. Majors lay a wreath at the monument in Cendron, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2015. • The USAG Benelux Color Guard comprised of (from left to right, front row) Sgt. Devlin Trefethen, Sgt. Joseph Quirarte, Spc. Jeffrey Candler and Spc. Zachary Yahn, led by Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy King, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2015. • A Belgian Soldier salute during the playing of the national anthems, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2015. (U.S. Army photos by Donovan Abrassart)

People from the Chimay region commemorated the 71st anniversary of their liberation Sunday during a ceremony at Monceau-Imbrechies and Cendron.

The first ceremony was held at the monument in Monceau-Imbrechies where stand 12 white headstones bearing the names of the first 12 American Soldiers who were killed Sept. 2, 1944.

The second ceremony was held at the monument in Cendron, at the Belgian-French border, marking the spot where the U.S. First Army entered in Belgium Sept. 2, 1944, during the liberation offensive.

The USAG Benelux Commander Col. Marty Vannatter and Command Sgt. Major William L. Majors and the USAG Benelux Color Guard joined the people from the Chimay region in honoring the fallen Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice as they were fighting for freedom.

"Thank you for making the Benelux team part of today's commemoration and for hosting such a beautiful ceremony on this hallowed ground," Vannatter said at the monument in Monceau-Imbrechies. "I am honored to be here."

To submit or subscribe, email usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil

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'Angel of Bastogne' not forgotten

Story and photos by Donovan Abrassart
USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office



"The forgotten Angel of Bastogne" died in her sleep Aug. 23 in Brussels at the age of 94. Family members, military and civilian officials paid tribute to Lady Augusta Chiwy during a funeral service Saturday at the Mardasson Memorial in



Bastogne.

Belgian Air Force Col. Serge Vassart, representing King Philippe of the Belgians, U.S. Ambassador Denise Campbell Bauer and the Mayor of Bastogne Benoît Lutgen joined the family and many other people in honoring the Belgian nurse who helped save hundreds of U.S. Soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge.

Emotions were running high as people had gathered in the WWII memorial to say goodbye to the, now, unforgettable WWII hero.

"Today, we are mourning the loss of an Angel and of one the biggest treasures Belgium gave us," Bauer said. "During the worst days this city has ever seen, during the greatest hour of need, Augusta Chiwy risked her life to help save those fighting for freedom in Bastogne."

With Augusta's death, it is one of the last surviving witnesses and heroes of WWII who disappears.

"Through Augusta, I would like to pay tribute to all civilians, all the civilians who are popular heroes, notably those who, by their profession, treat people, sometimes risking their lives," Lutgen said.

Chiwy had come to Bastogne to visit her family when she unexpectedly became involved in the Battle of the Bulge during the final stages of WWII.

"She was not involved in this conflict, she didn't have to do anything but she was confronted with men belonging to the same humanity, and she considered that she had to have a human behavior that was well over the aspect of the conflict," said Chiwy's son, Alain Cornet.

On June 24, 2011, Chiwy received the medal of Knight of the Order of the Crown and on Dec. 12, 2011, she received the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service by the United States Department of the Army.

After the funeral service held at the Mardasson, attendees headed to the cemetery in Bastogne where Chiwy joined her final resting place in a family plot.



(Clockwise from top left) Combined U.S.-Belgian pallbearers salute during the playing of the Belgian national anthem as Chiwy's casket has arrived at the Mardasson Memorial, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015. • Augusta Chiwy received the U.S. Flag at the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, Monday, Sept. 22, 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson) • Spc. Travis L. Brantley, Pvt. Alexander Martinez and Spc. Edward D. Chambers II, USAG Benelux, stand by Chiwy's casket during the funeral service at the Mardasson, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015.

Aviator speaks at Women's Equality Day event

Story and photo by Andrea Wales

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

A female aviator addressed members of the SHAPE/Chièvres community at a standing-room-only event celebrating Women's Equality Day in the art gallery of SHAPE International Library Aug. 26. Attendees also flowed over into the main (lower) level of the library.

The rotary-wing aircraft that Navy Capt. Shoshana Chatfield mostly flies have been the Sikorsky H-60S helicopter and the Sikorsky MH-60S Knighthawk (Seahawk)

multimission naval helicopter. Chatfield currently works as the senior military assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, or SACEUR.

A turning point in Chatfield's life was a third-grade field trip that included a flight simulator. Her teacher's twin sister was a private pilot, and she was the tour guide.

"I learned two things from that experience: Flying is hard, but women can be pilots," Chatfield said.

'Our diversity is our strength. Finding a way to be respectful of the differences is where our growth is.'

The Navy's recruiting website, navy.com, has a photo of a female aviator on its Naval Aviators web page, but being a woman in what had been a men-only field hasn't been easy. Chatfield has faced barriers.

"You go around 'em or you stand at the door until they're ready to let you in," Chatfield said, stressing that you have to get the training that makes you qualified to be admitted.

Politics

Women's Equality Day commemorates the 95th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

"You cast your vote, and everybody's vote carries the same weight," she said.

However, Chatfield pointed out that, in the Senate and in the House of Representatives, about 80 percent of the legislators are men, which, she said, means that mostly issues that are important to men go forward to become bills and laws.

"It seems a bit unequal what issues go forward," she said.

Politics is a struggle over the power of who decides what, Chatfield said.

Working together

A group identity, cultivated in an environment where no one is isolated, helps ensure

that everyone works together to overcome any issues that the group faces, Chatfield said.

"People are more likely to feel respected and feel good about themselves if they're having the same experience," she said.

Just before the cake-cutting at the end of the Women's Equality Day observance, Chatfield said she was pleased that the cake was decorated in purple, the color that represents a joint environment – many services working together.

"Our diversity is our strength," she said, adding that the secrets are how to get the best out of each person and how to make sure that none of their talents is wasted. "Finding a way to be respectful of the differences is where our growth is."

Chatfield summed up the importance of equal rights by quoting Slide 35 of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute's informational presentation on Women's Equality Day:

Investing in gender equality and women's empowerment can unlock human potential on a transformational scale.

"It's not a question of women's rights; it's a question of everyone's rights," Chatfield said.



Navy Capt. Shoshana Chatfield states her views on gender equality in America today at the Women's Equality Day observance at SHAPE International Library Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2015.

MWR holds fun-filled dog day



Kent Bagley shakes hands with his dog Libi, a 6-year-old cockapoo at the dog show Saturday, August 29, 2015 in the SHAPE fest tent. It was all part of Dogs Day Out sponsored by MWR. (U.S.Army photo by Tim Clark)



(from left) Kody gives Natalie Yates and owner Marie Gallant a shower after his bath. • Bulldog Bruce sticks out his tongue at the photographer. • Linda Nogueira poses with her corgi Chole. • Winner of best looking dog, Baxter sits with happy owner Debra Escobar.(U.S. Army photos by Tim Clark)



Jennifer Bermodes, Paul Wright, Jeremiah Johnson, Erin Williams and Jesse Shambo members from both the Schinnen community completed a tough and challenging three-session course, to become certified supervisors for the Schinnen MWR Indoor Climbing Wall, for PT sessions on Aug. 28 at USAG Benelux-Schinnen. Instructor Mark Boggess (far Left) and Kim Wayland, DGM, (far right) congratulated the five graduates. (Photo by Tony Untalan.)

New procedures for postal customs forms

Starting Oct. 1, handwritten customs forms will no longer be accepted at Benelux Army post offices. Postal customers will have to complete their customs forms online prior to presenting their packages to the mailing windows.

You may do this one of two ways:

1. From home: Use the U.S. Postal Service's online customs-form tool at <https://www.usps.com/international/customs-forms.htm> or Click-N-Ship at <https://reg.usps.com/login>.
2. From the APO: If you can't do it from home, use the new computer workstations in the lobbies of the APOs in Brussels, Chièvres, Schinnen or SHAPE to complete customs forms online on the USPS website. APO staff will be available to assist you if you are having difficulties.

Be specific when writing the descriptions of your contents. General terms like "Gifts," "Clothes," "Toys" and "Misc" will no longer be accepted. Each piece of mail requiring a customs form must be validated and approved in the automated postal system before departing the APO. If a customs form has a description that is too vague, it will be flagged and you will have to retrieve your mail from the APO. Be thorough, and list each item and quantity of each item.

USPS officials state that sending mail Priority Express and Priority using Click-N-Ship (and paying by credit card) is less expensive than paying retail at a post-office counter. Click-N-Ship gives you everything you need online, including your customs form and postage. Just use your home scale and round to the nearest pound to save both time and money.

Reading over the procedures before trying to use the new system will save you time and frustration. (See graphic this page.)

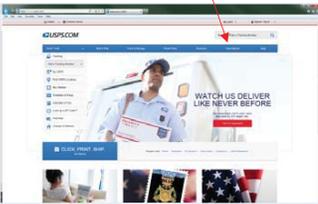
"I tried it, and it is a little confusing at first," said Dona Brooks, the director of human resources at USAG Benelux. "OK, yes, I am like many of you who want to knock it out before reading the directions. How hard can it be, right? Review the Step-by-Step Procedures first; it makes it much easier the first time around."

Don't wait until Oct. 1 to start familiarizing yourself with completing customs forms on usps.com.

"Save time: Customs forms online," said the USAG Benelux-Brussels postmaster, Joshua Alo.

Step by Step procedures to filling out your U.S. Customs Forms online at usps.com

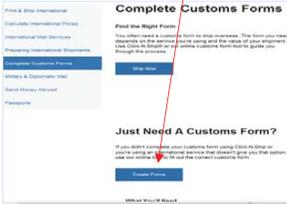
1. Log on to USPS.com and scroll on International



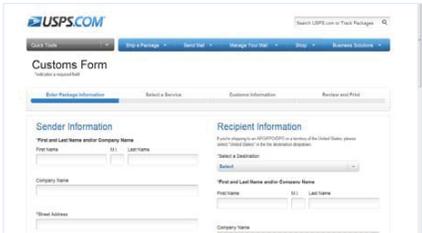
2. On drop down menu click on Complete Customs Forms



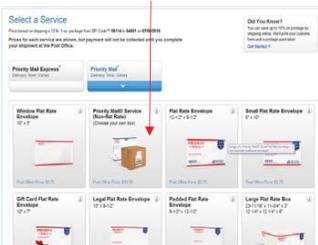
3. Click on CREATE FORMS



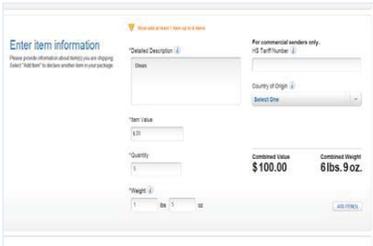
4. Fill in data blocks step by step then Click Next: Select a Service



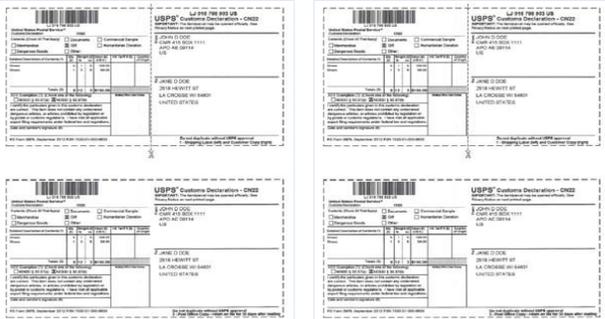
5. Select a Service then click Next: Enter Customs Information.



6. Enter item information. You must declare all items and value. Click Next: Review and Print



7. Print two pages (4 Forms) and bring to your local Post Office with package; (1) Customers; (1) Post Office; (2x) With Package (U.S. Customs)





KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

The Official Website of the American Forces Network Benelux

Brussels: 101.7 FM – Chièvres 107.9 FM – SHAPE 106.5 FM and 104.2 FM

<http://benelux.afneurope.net>



Families need to make emergency plans for evacuation, communication

In September, America observes National Preparedness Month.

Officials at Ready Army emphasize the importance of maintaining a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards and remind Army families to plan ahead and establish a family emergency plan.

Ready Army is an emergency preparedness-and-awareness campaign aimed at Army Soldiers, Army civilians and contractors and their families to prepare them for relevant emergency hazards — man-made or natural.

To fully prepare your family for an emergency, Ready Army officials suggest that you "Get a kit. Make a plan. Be informed." The Army's emergency-preparedness campaign expands upon the national Ready campaign from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Ad Council to provide targeted information to support the unique needs of our Army community stationed around the world.

A family emergency plan can help protect you and your family in emergencies, said John R. Hopper, the USAG Benelux-Schinnen emergency manager. Use this tool to plan ahead as a family for all types of emergencies and responses.

Planning ahead as a family is crucial for all types of emergencies and responses. Make sure everyone in the family knows what to do, where to go and what to take in the event of an emergency. Create a family emergency plan to help your family do what needs to be done.

When creating a family emergency plan, be informed and consider the range of potential emergencies and

DON'T WAIT. COMMUNICATE.
MAKE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TODAY.



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!



all the places that you and your family might be.

Some emergencies require different responses than others, but a family communications procedure will let your family know how to keep in touch and find one another when emergencies strike.

When establishing a family emergency plan, remember the following:

Establish an evacuation procedure

- Know your installation's evacuation plan.
- As a family, discuss where you will go in the event of an emergency, including where your children will go if they are in school at the time of the emergency, and make sure they understand where you intend to be.
- Plan how you will evacuate family members with special needs.
- Include pets in your family plan.

Develop a family communications procedure

- Develop a comprehensive procedure as a family for communicating in the event that you are separated during an emergency.
- Create a sheet or card with all the phone numbers and information every individual in the family may need, in-

cluding an in-case-of-emergency (ICE) name and number.

- Make sure every member of the family has a copy of the communications procedure.
- Save the ICE information on everyone's cell phone.
- Be aware that in the event of an emergency, phone lines and cell phone towers may be out. It may be necessary to have a contingency plan for reaching one another. Consider using text messaging if normal communication options aren't available.

Practice your plan

- Set up practice evacuations (sometimes referred to as exit drills in the home, or EDITH) and shelter-in-place drills for your family to ensure everyone knows what to do and where to go in the event of an emergency.
- Keep your emergency supply kit up-to-date, replacing water and perishables periodically. Make sure everyone knows where emergency supply kit is and knows to take it along when sheltering or evacuating.
- Check your smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms regularly.

Learn more

- Obtain additional information from
- Ready Army at <http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy>
 - Department of Homeland Security (www.Ready.gov) at <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency at <http://www.fema.gov/plan-prepare>
 - American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/news/article/September-is-National-Preparedness-Month-Are-You-Prepared>.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Sept. 4

- **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.

Sept. 9

- **Preschoolers Story Time** - At the USAG Brussels-Benelux library from 1:30 to 2:25 p.m. Call DSN 368-9791 or civilian 02-7179791.

Sept. 10

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy hamburgers & hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad, mixed salad & chips bread from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Alternate children's menu is hotdogs or chicken fingers.) Cost with hamburger: adults \$7; children, ages 12 and under, \$4. Cost with hotdog: adults \$5; children, ages 12 and under, \$3. Reservations are required. Reserve by close of business the Tuesday before at reservations3star@yahoo.com.

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.)

Sept. 8 to 9

- **Registrations for language classes** from 5 to 7 p.m. at the JFC Library in Brunssum. Course dates are: Sept. 14 - Dec. 10. Available classes: Dutch 1 & 2, French 1 & 2, German 1 & 2, Spanish 1 & 2, Italian 1, and three levels of English. For more info contact jfclanguageprogram@yahoo.com.

Sept. 9 to 10

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

Sept. 10

- **Employment & Education Fair** will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the JFC Conference Center, Brunssum. Looking for a Job? Retiring or separating from the military soon? Thinking about furthering your education? Questions about employment or educational opportunities and benefits? Come to the fair to speak with hiring officials and education representatives, and see what opportunities are in your future. Local employers as well as some government contractors will be there, as well as representatives or information from local universities and colleges. For more information, please call DSN 360-7269/7500 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437269/7500.

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 423-6039 or civilian 065-446039.

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.

Sept. 9

- **Sponsorship Training** - Participation in the ACS Sponsorship Training provides Sponsors with the tools they need to assist Newcomers before, during, and after their relocation to the SHAPE/Chievres community. For more information and to register call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.
- **Modern Dance** at the SHAPE Gym Aerobics Suite. Cost is €9 and payment is made at SHAPE Gym front desk. For more information and to register call DSN 423-6039/6097 or civilian 065-446039/6097.

Sept. 10

- **Dress for Success Workshop** at Army Community Service, SHAPE, Bldg. 318. This lesson will allow students to visually see various examples of dress and to determine the standard for dress in an interview, for a day on the job, and then to discuss alternatives such as "business casual", accessories, tattoos, piercing, and the like. For more information and to register call DSN 4366-6824/6097 or civilian 065-326824.
- **Hearts Apart Club** at Army Community Service, SHAPE, Bldg. 318. Has your sponsor been deployed, is deployed, or will be deployed soon? Has he/she been, is he/she on, or will he/she be going on extended TDY? Don't remain alone. Connect with others in the same circumstance by joining the ACS Hearts Apart Club. For more information and to register call DSN 4366-6824/6097 or civilian 065-326824.

Sept. 11

- **9/11 Remembrance Run/Walk** - The 9.11 kilometer run and a 3 or 5 kilometer walk will begin at 9:11 a.m. at Hangar 1 on Chièvres Air Base. The event is open to all U.S. ID card holders, green SHAPE ID card holders, and blue NATO ID Card Holders. Registration is required and must be done in person at the Chievres Fitness Center. It is possible to register the day of the run, but one must arrive at 7:30 a.m. to do so. People who register on the day of the event will be placed on a standby list for a t-shirt. Early registration ensures that one's name will be placed on the list for one of the 200 T-shirts that will be given away. There will be signs posted with directions to Hangar 1 on the day of the event.



Inside the gate

Movies at SHAPE Cinema

Rates — 2D movies: adults €7.50 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.

Travel the Benelux

Ancient Belgian city offers history, art

by **Tim Clark**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Tournai, one of the oldest cities in Belgium, has much to offer a visitor: Interesting history, art and architecture are abundant. Renowned for its cathedral and belfry, which are both designated UNESCO World Heritage sites, Tournai has many historic buildings. The unusually shaped Grand Place, shaped like a triangle rather than the usual square or rectangle, has many fine restaurants and cafés where you can have a drink or meal and enjoy the view of the historic buildings.

Founded by the Romans circa 50 B.C., Tournai has been under the control of Spain, France, England, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, and of course, since 1830, Belgium. Captured in 1513 by Henry VIII of England, Tournai became the only Belgian city to have ever been ruled by England.

Tournai draws its nickname “The City of Five Steeples” from the colossal Cathédrale Notre-Dame. The church, which is undergoing extensive restoration with much of the outside covered by scaffolding, is still worth a visit. The rose window (photo above) set in the west façade is a stunning depiction of the Virgin Mary in the center surrounded by 16 windows portraying the prophets.

Among the treasures of the church are priceless gold and silver reliquary chests encrusted with gems. On the second Sunday of September (Sept.13 this year), the chests are paraded through town in The Great Procession

of Tournai, a religious procession that has taken place every year since 1092.

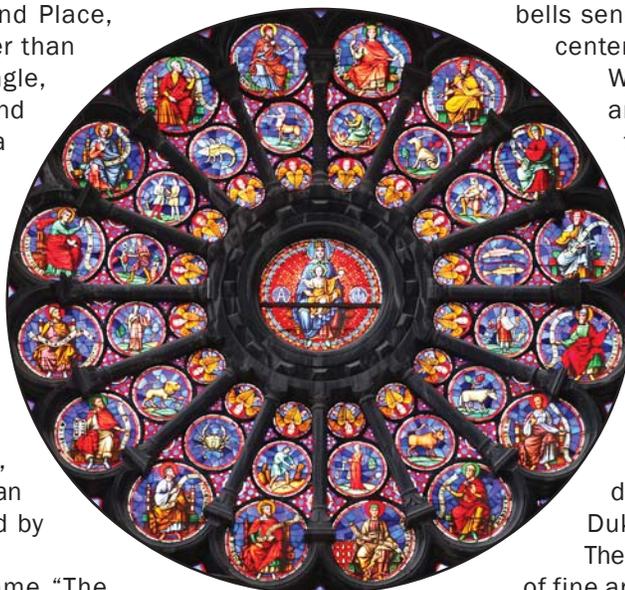
The belfry anchors one end of the square. The oldest bell tower in Belgium, it dates from the 12th century and stands 236 feet high. Its carillon of 44 bells sends melodies out over the city center.

With a symmetrical design and intricately detailed facade the cloth hall stands regally on the square. A splendid Renaissance building from the 1600s, the gilded building was restored in 1998.

A statue of Christine de Lalaing stands in the middle of the Grand Place. In 1581, while her husband, the governor of Tournai, was away, she rallied the troops in defense of the city against the Duke of Parma.

The Musée des Beaux-Arts (museum of fine arts) was designed by the great art nouveau architect Victor Horta. The star-shaped building, topped by glass cupolas, alone is worth a visit just to see the only museum in Wallonia designed by Horta.

In galleries fanning out from a central hall filled with sculptures, you can see an impressive collection of work from the 15th century onward that includes art by many of the greatest Belgian painters and sculptors. Among them are Rubens, Ensor and Tournai native Weyden. International artists-such as Manet, Monet, Lautrec and van Gogh-are also represented.



Outside the gate



The bronze statue of Christine de Laling by Tournai artist Aimable Dutrieux.



The gilded cloth hall and the oldest bell tower in Belgium stand on the Grand Place in Tournai.

From:
Mons: 49 km
Brussels: 98 km
Schinnen: 218 km

Inline skates invented by Belgian

by **Tim Clark**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Sliding down a handrail, jumping over objects, getting some air on a half-pipe, performing spins, flips and other aerial maneuvers, inline skating, also called rollerblading, is a sport that is fun for both spectators and participants. Rollerblading started in the 18th century with a Belgian living in London.

The inventor of inline skates, John Joseph Merlin, was born on Sept. 17, 1735, in Huys, Belgium. Merlin was a musician, a mechanical genius and an inventor.

Merlin moved to Paris as a young man where he made museum-quality clocks, musical instruments and other delicate mathematical instruments. He became fascinated by the problem of ice skating on dry land.

He moved to London in 1760, where he opened Merlin's Mechanical Museum. His museum, located on Hanover Square was a showroom for his mechanical and musical inventions. One of his inventions was a pair of skates with a single line of small metal wheels, the first inline roller skates.

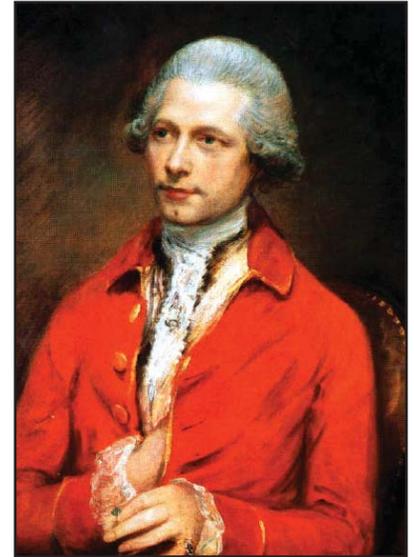
He was a well-known inventor; he wasn't a good skater. From the beginning starting was never a problem, stopping was.

Always a promoter and showman, Merlin famously made a grand entrance into a party on his skates while playing a violin. The earliest record of this story comes from "Concert Room and Orchestra Anecdotes" by Thomas Busby.

"One of his ingenious novelties was a pair of skates contrived to run on wheels. Supplied with these and a violin, he mixed in the motley group of one of Mrs Cowley's masquerades at Carlisle House; when not having provided the means of retarding his velocity, or commanding its direction, he impelled himself against a mirror of more than five hundred pounds value, dashed it to atoms, broke his instrument to pieces and wounded himself most severely."

Not surprisingly, this event set back the sport of roller skating for decades. In Paris, in 1789 another Belgian, Lodewijk Maximilian Van Lede, invented a skate he called Patin à terre, which translates from French to "land skates" or "earth skates." His skates consisted of a single wooden wheel fastened to a metal plate that attached to the foot or shoe with leather straps.

Merlin who died in London in 1803 at the age of 68, is remembered for more than skates. His inventions include: an impressive array of automata (self-operating machines), an early form of odometer called a way wise, a self-propelling wheelchair, a personal weighing machine, a six-octave pianoforte and many exquisite clocks.



John Joseph Merlin

Outside the gate

Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

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

- **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.

- **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 (Jets vs. Dolphins), Oct. 24 to 26 (Bills vs. Jaguars) and Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 (Lions vs. Chiefs).**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Sept. 4 to 6

- **Belgian Beer weekend in Brussels** - Event celebrates the beer-brewing tradition and is held on the Brussels main square from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Entrance is free of charge but consumptions are to be paid with crowncorks that can be purchased on site.
- **Brewery Open Doors in Boussu** - Brewery Deseveaux on Rue Hanneton 8 will open for visits from 2 to 10 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Sept. 5

- **Flea market in Carnières (150 booths)** - On Rue Royale from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Youth fest in Saint Ghislain** - Bouncy castles, death ride, magic show and more from 2 to 8 p.m. on the Grand'Place and various sports activities at Stade Saint-Lô. Also, free access to the swimming pool from 2 to 6 p.m. for youth 10 to 18 years old.
- **Orchids and garden plants fair in Ronquières** - From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Plan Incliné, Route Baccara 1W. Entrance and parking free of charge.

Sept. 5 and 6

- **Medieval fest in Soignies** - The fourth edition will get you familiar with the medieval past at Château du Saulchoy on Chemin du Cornet 70 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Entrance fee is €5, children under 12 years old get in free of charge.
- **Jurbise sports clubs open house** - All sports clubs that use the Police Academy's structure on Route d'Ath 25/35, will offer free classes for the beginning of the sports season: school of circus, volleyball, badminton, mountain bike, modern jazz, and fitness from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. On Saturday at 4 p.m., free aikido, judo, taekwondo and fencing class.



Château du Saulchoy

Sept. 5 to 8

- **Local fest in Lens** - Various activities: magic show from noon to 1 in the fest tent; culinary workshop from noon to 4 p.m.; painting and guitar workshop from 2 to 3 p.m. and evening concert to name a few on Saturday. Concert from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, balle pelote games at 2 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. Fire works on Tuesday at 10 p.m.



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

Sept. 3-6

- **Jazz in 't Park in Gent, Belgium** at Zuidpark. Traditionally this annual event offers the newest and best of Belgian jazz. No Admission fees and the event is open on Sept. 3-4, 12:30 to 11 p.m.; Sept. 5, 6 to 11 p.m.
- **Culinary Festival in Lippstadt, Germany** with a chance to taste the many culinary highlights in the beautiful old center of town.

Through Sept. 4

- The city of **Alkmaar is** famous worldwide for its cheese market. Cheese has been weighed in Alkmaar since 1593. Cheese carriers carry thousands of kilos of cheese from 'Waagplein' square to the weighing house. Cheese carriers can be seen in action between 10 a.m. and noon. You'll be surprised at how important cheese used to be and still is for the city of Alkmaar.

Sept. 4

- **During "Knapkoek" Festival in Maaseik, Belgium** an enormous "knapkoek" (local cookie) will be baked in an original wood oven at market square in the center of town. There are of course also a lot of activities going on. Starts at 2 p.m.

Sept. 4-6

- **Wine Fest in Geilenkirchen, Germany** at market square in the center of town with lots of live music and wine of course. Open Friday, 6 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 3 p.m. to midnight and Sunday, noon to 7 p.m.
- **World Harbor Days Festivities in Rotterdam.** The program includes shows, demonstrations, excursions and lots more.
- **The City Festival in Unna, Germany** in the center of town offers something for all ages. It has a historic arts & crafts market; live music on several stages throughout the center; and lots more. The festival starts Friday at 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at noon.

Sept. 5/12/19/26

- **Antique & Curiosa Market in Roermond** is held on these Saturdays at Kloosterwandplein in the center of town from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sept. 5-6

- **Medieval Weekend in Enschede** with old crafts, sword fights, black smith and more from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Stroinksweg 90. No admission fees.
- **The historic "Irmgardis Markt" Viersen-Süchteln, Germany** is an old Crafts Market held in the center of town is both days open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



Sept. 6

- **Volksmarch in Gibecq (Ath) for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs the square between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Haulchin for 5, 10 or 20 km** - Departs Chemin d'Harmignies between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Ittre for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km** - Departs Pré de l'Aîle between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Bray (200 booths)** - On the square from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Cambron-Casteau (100 booths)** - On Rue Notre-Dame 15 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Jemappes (200 booths)** On Avenue Maréchal Foch from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Tertre (100 booths)** - On the Square and Rue Defuisseaux from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Repair shop in Soignies** - Bring your broken electric appliance, bicycle, lawn mower, computer,.. and volunteer technicians will help you repair it free of charge. At 'Cité des Jeunes' on Rue Henri Leroy 15 from 2 to 6 p.m.

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.



Sept 6 and 7

- **International Hunt and Nature Day in St Hubert** - Arts and crafts market, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., religious service with hunting horns at the church, Saturday at 6 p.m. Hunting horn bands on Sunday at 10 a.m. Place de l'Abbaye, blessing of the animals on Sunday at 11 a.m. at the church.

Mark your calendar

Sept. 12 and 13

- **Heritage days in Wallonia** - This year's theme is "From one world to another (1713/1830)" will highlight the architecture from the 18th century and first part of the 19th century. Almost every city in Wallonia will open its doors free of charge to the infrastructure related to this year's theme. The sites to visit will be identified with the heritage flag (shown here above). See also next week's Gazette for some suggestions.



Through Sept. 6

- **The Hiswa Fair in Amsterdam-Noord** is Europa's most complete in-water boat show held at NDSM-werf, Werfkade 2 with more than 450 luxury yachts on display. More info: www.hiswaterwater.nl.
- **Wine fest & market in Bielefeld, Germany** the old and historic center of town. Open Tuesday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday & Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Cultura Nova Festival in Heerlen** is an international festival filled with theater, music, film, dance and art held all days from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Burgemeester van Grunsvenplein.
- **At the culinary festival Lippstadt, Germany** in the historical center of town many restaurants invite the visitors to taste their culinary highlights. The event is open from 1 to 6 p.m.

Sept. 6

- **A rural festival in Altweeterheide** is held at Heltenbosdijk 10 with old crafts, old machines, animals, history and entertainment. Open: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission: €4; children €1.50.
- **The Scottish/Celtic Festival in Hank** held at recreatiepark "De Kurenpolder" on Kurenpolderweg 31 has a Celtic Market; crafts; Celtic Games; Highlander clans, lots of music, demonstrations and more. Open: 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Admission: €7.50; children €5.
- **Vintage & curiosa fair in Hulsberg** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wissengrachtweg 40 in Hulsberg with vintage clothes, jewelry, ceramics, furniture, art and more. Admission is €1.
- **At the Knights Training in Limbricht** at Castle Limbricht, Allee 1 knights train in the courtyard of the castle. The knights of the Four Quarters invite children to come and learn what knights do and train with them. Open noon to 4 p.m. Participation and admission is free.
- **A Taste of Limburg Festival in Maastricht** is the largest of its kind in Limburg and it is held in the court of Castle Vaeshartelt with regional products, music, entertainment, activities and more. The festival is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Large Antique & Flea Market in Maastricht** with more than 200 stands held on Alexander Battalaan from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Year Market in Meerssen** held at the beautiful square in front of the Basilica from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Outside the gate

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.