

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

AFN films holiday greetings

Not going home for the holidays? Your family can still see and hear from you. American Forces Network Benelux will film holiday greetings:

- Nov. 9 in the CYSS Youth Center in Sterrebeek Annex's Building 80015 in Brussels from 3 to 6 p.m.;
- Nov. 10 at the Chièvres Air Base Community Activity Center from 3 to 6 p.m.; and
- Nov. 12 at the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux-Schinnen headquarters in the Building 8 lobby (or outside if the weather is nice) from 2 to 6 p.m.

Service members must be in uniform to participate. Department of Defense civilians and their families may participate; however, contractors may not.

APOs begin holiday hours

U.S. military post offices on SHAPE and Caserne Daumerie will adopt holiday schedules Nov. 16 to Dec. 18.

Sections of the post offices will adopt the following hours (closed on federal holidays):

- Postal Finance will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Personal Mail Pickup will be open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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Bam! Pow! Wham!

Michelle Wagoner (Black Widow) and Claudia Romero (Catwoman) await on Chièvres Air Base for trunk-or-treaters to visit the Gotham City display built by their families. Trunk or Treat, held at all three Benelux garrison locations over the weekend, was a huge success with a large turnout of trick-or-treaters and their parents. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

See page 4.

AFNORTH school sections pull together recently to support Terry Fox Run for cancer research

Efforts pay off for Dutch Cancer Society

Story and photo by Erich Remisch

Principal of Canadian section of AFNORTH International School

On behalf of AFNORTH International School, AIS officials presented a large check to the Dutch Cancer Society Oct. 30 to help find a cure for cancer.

AFNORTH held its annual Terry Fox Run Sept. 24, raising more than €6,500 in the process.

AIS director Dr. Uwe Bettscheider, German principal Peter Friedrich, Canadian principal Erich Remisch and run organizer Philippe Lajoie from the AIS Canadian Section presented the giant-sized check to Marlies Deckers and Marianne van Haren from Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds Kanker Bestrijding, or “the Queen Wilhelmina Fund Cancer Society” in English, which is known simply as the Dutch Cancer Society.

This year was the 35th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run, which is held in September in more than 60 countries across the globe each year. This event is held to honor the memory of Canadian Terry Fox and to raise money for cancer research.

Terry Fox was 18 when he lost his leg to cancer. He began his run April 12, 1980, at the age of 21. His goal was to run across Canada – almost 5,000 miles. He ran 42 km a day, or the equivalent of one marathon, every day until Sept. 1, 1980, when he found out his primary cancer had spread to his lungs. Fox succumbed to cancer June 28, 1981.

At AFNORTH International School, the American, British, Canadian and German sections all participated in the event,



Canadian students and staff hit the track at the Terry Fox Run Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015. Proceeds were presented to the Dutch Cancer Society in the form of an oversized check Friday, Oct. 30, 2015.

which included students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Family and friends from NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, JFC Brunssum and Schinnen delegations came out to support the event and help make it a memorable day for the cause.

Visit the new USAG Benelux Flickr page at
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/135840597@N02>

THE GAZETTE

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Garrison hosts Veterans Tribute

USAG Benelux will honor all veterans from World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, first and second Gulf War during a Veterans Tribute to be held at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base Nov. 10.

The event will be open to all SHAPE/U.S. ID card-holders as well as the host-nation work force from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will consist of a display with artifacts and uniforms from the above-mentioned wars.

At 4 p.m., the deputy garrison commander will address attendees after which the host-nation work force will honor the Soldiers and veterans they work with on a regular basis by bringing some Belgian goodies.

During the event, from 3 to 6 p.m., AFN will be taping the Holiday Greetings, which will be the chance to send special season's greetings to the families back in the States.

For USAG Benelux personnel members, the commander has approved that the Community Activity Center would be their place of duty, work permitting, as of 3:30 p.m.



Veterans Day closures announced in Benelux

Key facilities will be closed Wednesday to celebrate a holiday that began with the end of World War I and is shared by Americans and Belgians alike.

Credit union

Every branch of Andrews Federal Credit Union will be closed Nov. 11.

CSC/CPF

The U.S. Community Services Center, once known as the U.S. Central Processing Facility, in SHAPE's Building 253 will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day.

Health clinic

The SHAPE Healthcare Facility will operate on a holiday schedule Nov. 11 for Belgian Armistice Day and American Veterans Day:

- Acute Care Walk-in Clinic will be open from 8 to 10 a.m.
- All other services will be closed.

Armistice Day honors World War I fallen

by **Tim Clark**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Eleven, eleven, eleven: At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the armistice between Germany and the Allies brought to an end one of the deadliest conflicts in history Nov. 11, 1918.

A national holiday in Belgium, Armistice Day (which coincides with Veterans Day in America) honors those members of the armed forces who lost their lives in World War I. In the Netherlands, Armistice Day isn't commemorated because the Netherlands remained neutral in World War I.

Large memorial services are held in the northwest of Flanders, where hundreds of thousands of American, English and Canadian soldiers lost their lives in the trenches of Flanders fields.

Each year, a number of commemorative events are held in Ieper (Ypres) to mark the anniversary of Armistice Day. Starting with religious services at several churches in the morning and followed by a parade, the commemoration continues with wreath-laying and speeches at the Menin Gate Memorial, a memorial built to honor British and Commonwealth Soldiers who were killed

in combat in the area. The Menin Gate was constructed astride the road that Soldiers used to march to the front. The events close out with buglers playing Last Post, the British equivalent of Taps.

In Brussels, the Belgian royal family lays down flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The tomb lies at the base of Congress Column and is marked by an eternal flame. It will be followed by a 21-gun salute and a minute of silence.

Red poppies have become a symbol of Armistice Day and Veterans Day. The flowers that grew on the battlefields in Flanders became associated with World War I through the iconic poem by Canadian Dr. (Maj.) John McCrae, "In Flanders Fields."

The poem's poignancy captured the attention of service members and civilians around the world and forever enshrined the flower as a symbol of the Great War. A memorial to McCrae stands in Essex Farm cemetery in Boezinge, Belgium.

In the United States, Armistice Day became Veterans Day and honors all American veterans, both living and dead.

Local observances set

• **Brugellette Nov. 5**

6 p.m. A torch-lit parade will go from city hall to the war monument.

• **Brugellette Nov. 11**

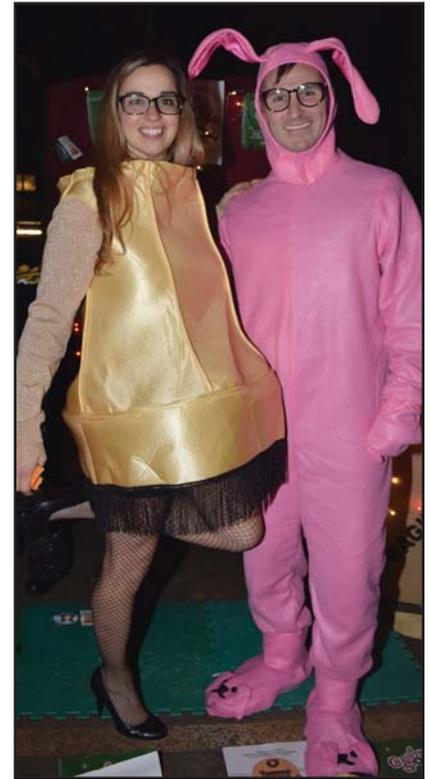
10:30 a.m. A religious service will be followed by a parade through town and wreath-laying ceremonies at the war monument.

• **Chièvres Nov. 11**

9 a.m. A religious service will be followed by a parade to the cemetery and main square for wreath-laying.



Costumes, candy enjoyed at Trunk or Treat



(Clockwise from top) Gabriela Bargouth is ready to give out candy on Chièvres Air Base Saturday, Oct. 31, 2015. • In Brussels, Olivia and Craig Butera create a trunk based on the movie "A Christmas Story" Friday, Oct. 30, 2015. • More than 2,000 visit the Schinnen Trunk or Treat Saturday, Oct. 31, 2015. • The headless horseman draws the attention of the children attending Chièvres Trunk or Treat. • Pirates Lt. Col. Brian Kastning and son E.J. (as Mr. Smee and Capt. Hook from "Peter Pan") hand out candy on Chièvres. • The Netherlands Law Center wins Best Trunk on Schinnen with a gruesome dinner theme. • Batman, Catwoman and a pirate (Command Sgt. Maj. William Majors, wife Laura and Brussels deputy garrison manager Derrick Hood) drop in on Autumnfest fun in Brussels Friday, Oct. 30, 2015. [U.S. Army photos by Tim Clark (Chièvres/Brussels) and Rita Hoefnagels (Schinnen)]



AFNORTH Soldiers help JFC Brunssum earn honor of leading NATO Response Force, if activated

by **Katrin Galeano**

Soldier and Family Readiness Group, Company A, AFNORTH Battalion

Allied Forces North (AFNORTH) Battalion Soldiers have been playing a crucial role in Exercise Trident Juncture, NATO's largest military exercise in more than a decade, involving 36,000 personnel from more than 30 Allied and partner nations. The battalion's command team, Lt. Col. Mike Minaudo and Command Sgt. Maj. Travis Childers, traveled from SHAPE to Zaragoza, Spain, to observe their Soldiers participating in the exercise, which is commonly referred to as TJ15.

"Leading up to the exercise, I was highly impressed by the intense training that took place to get ready, and, now that we're here, the contributions that we're making to the alliance are absolutely incredible," said Minaudo, the commander of AFNORTH Battalion.

The unit's command sergeant major echoed Minaudo's praise.

"These Soldiers' work shows the U.S. Army's commitment to NATO and our collective defense responsibilities," Childers said. "This commitment has never been stronger. Readiness has never been higher."

The Soldiers played a vital part in Joint Forces Command Brunssum having been officially certified to lead the NATO Re-



Videographer Michael Schweikhard (in foreground) films Capt. David Sonney, commander of AFNORTH Battalion's Alpha Company, giving a message of appreciation Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015, to all Alpha Company Soldiers in support of NATO Exercise Trident Juncture 2015 in Zaragoza, Spain. (Photo by NATO Public Affairs Team for TJ15)

sponse Force, if activated, throughout 2016.

AFNORTH Battalion's Company A is part of JFC Brunssum. From the establishment of the Zaragoza camp to the command and control of operations, Alpha Company Soldiers helped this exercise succeed.

Company commander Capt. David

Sonney saw his Soldiers in action at TJ15.

"I'm extremely impressed with scope and complexity of Exercise Trident Juncture 15," he said. "After visiting my Soldiers in Zaragoza, I'm humbled and overwhelmingly proud of the impact they have had in this exercise. This will only strengthen NATO and our great alliance."

Find voting help in local military community, online

The USAG Benelux voting-assistance officer invites American adults in the Benelux community to visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website for their states' cutoffs for voter registration and other voting-related information.

"Absentee voting requires a little prior planning," Richard J. Smith Jr. said. "A person needs to identify the state they qualify to register in, complete a federal postcard application (FPCA) and deliver it to the correct registration office prior to the cutoff date."

All of the timelines for requesting or submitting ballots can be found on the FVAP website at <http://www.fvap.gov>.

Completing the FPCA is a simple process and can be done almost completely online now. Many states even allow the FPCA as well as the ballot to be handled via email, although some still require the use of mail, Smith said.

If mail is to be used the postage is free, and the envelope

can be printed using the same application that is used to create the FPCA, he said.

"Prior to an election a ballot will be sent to either the address or the email account listed on the FPCA based on the states rules," Smith said. "You fill it out and return it to the election office. It's that easy."

When it comes to the election process, the worst thing that a citizen of the United States can do is to not participate, he said.

"Regardless of the country you find yourself in, you still have a voice," Smith said. "You still have an opinion, and it should be counted."

Contact your unit voting-assistance officer with questions. You can also contact Smith at DSN 361-5973 or civilian 068-275973 or send an email message to usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.mbx.voting-assistance@mail.mil.

Restrictions apply for travel to Turkey

U.S. Army Europe recently implemented travel restrictions to Turkey for Department of Defense personnel. These restrictions include:

- Through Nov. 9, all Department of Defense service members, civilian employees, contractors and command-sponsored family members, including those with dual citizenship, are prohibited from all unofficial travel (such as leave, liberty and special pass) to and within Turkey. In the case of extenuating circumstances, the first general officer in an individual's chain of command

may approve a waiver permitting unofficial travel.

- After Nov. 9, any unofficial travel requires general-officer approval, including travel on cruise ships that stop at ports in Turkey.

- Unofficial travel now requires theater and country clearance for service members.

- All official travel must be mission-essential and requires general-officer approval.

Additionally, all DOD members traveling in Turkey should avoid public pro-

tests, demonstrations, rallies or other large gatherings to the greatest extent possible. They should remain alert to suspicious behavior and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

USAREUR officials recommend that travelers join the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov/step>.

Before making travel plans to Turkey, whether for official reasons or vacation, DOD personnel should talk to their organization's security or antiterrorism officers.

Chièvres Commissary now offers in-store Wi-Fi

The Chièvres Air Base Commissary now offers free in-store Wi-Fi access for patrons. The service began Oct. 27.

Through its Commissary Patron Internet Mobile System, or CPIMS, the Defense Commissary Agency opened customer Wi-Fi access initially in all stateside commissaries and is now being rolled out in the overseas area.

"Many of our patrons come to the commissary with their smart phones and tablets, and store Wi-Fi will help them maximize their commissary benefit," store manager Mario Caputi said. "There's a lot of valuable shopping information

on <https://www.commissaries.com>, such as digital coupons for the Commissary Rewards Card, our sales flier, the online Savings Aisle for access to promotional prices and much, much more."

Prior to accessing the store's free Wi-Fi from the sales floor, patrons must accept Defense Commissary Agency's "terms of Service" agreement, which can be obtained at the Customer Service window at the front of the Chièvres store.

Patrons with questions about accessing Wi-Fi should contact the Chièvres Commissary's customer-service representative.

Recycling Week comes to Benelux next week

USAG Benelux Recycling Week will take place Nov. 9 to 15, the week in which America Recycles Day, Nov. 15, falls. USAG Benelux Recycling Week is designed to increase awareness of recycling and to motivate participation.

- Chièvres. Stop by the food court to view informational panels with striking images of planet stewardship in general and recycling in particular. A representative from the USAG Benelux Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Division will be on hand Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to provide information on recycling. A representative from the BEBAT battery-recycling company will be there Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to answer questions.

- Brussels. An informational display will be set up in Building 4.

Learn more about Recycling Week by calling the Environmental Division at DSN 361-5612 or civilian 068-275612.



See this GoodPlanet image and others like it in large scale during USAG Benelux Recycling Week.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Through Nov. 19

- **200,000 Pound Deadlift Challenge** - Competitors have 17 days to lift a total of 200,000 pounds. Awards will be given to the first competitor to reach 200,000 pounds. Male and female categories. For more information or to register, call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-7179667.

Nov. 6

- **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.

Nov. 9 to 10

- **Welcome, newcomers** - Brussels Army Community Service invites all service members, civilians and their families to participate in free newcomers events next week. **Nov. 9:** The deputy garrison manager's welcome and USAG Benelux-Brussels site brief start at 9 a.m. and are followed by a cultural acclimatization (information on local customs as well as basic French and Flemish), which ends at 12:30 p.m. **Nov. 10:** Metro Madness (in which newcomers learn to use public transportation) runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Meet in the ACS conference room in Building 4 half an hour before start time to get settled, get a snack or get ready to leave as a group for a tour, if applicable. Register by calling DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.

Nov. 12

- **3 Star Dinner Special** - Enjoy spaghetti and chicken parmesan from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$12; children, ages 12 and under, \$6. (Alternate children's menu: hotdogs or chicken fingers.) Reservations are required. Reserve by close of business the Tuesday before by sending an email message to reservations3star@yahoo.com.

Nov. 15

- **Sunday Stories at Brussels Library** - Join the library staff once a month for this special story time from noon to 1 p.m. This edition of the event celebrates International Girls Day. Children, ages 3 to 10, and their parents are welcome to learn about famous women in history through stories. They can also enjoy crafts and snacks.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Volunteer now

- **Coaches needed** - Potential coaches for Child, Youth and School Services, or CYSS, basketball must fill out the required background check forms, get fingerprints taken and have a local police check conducted. All coaches will receive National Youth Sports Coaches Association, or NYSCA, Coaches Training and Certification. In addition, all CYSS coaches need to have two specific training sessions before the start of the season: CPR/first aid and training in the prevention/detection of child abuse. If you are currently certified in CPR/Red Cross or have taken the other training in the last year, you must send CYSS a copy of your certification/course date. For more information, contact CYSS Sports & Fitness at DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195.

Register through Nov. 27

- **CYSS sports programs** - Open enrollment is going on now for several sports programs offered by Child, Youth and School Services during the Jan. 16 to Feb. 20 season. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID card-holders, but spaces are limited. Youths must be registered with CYSS and have a valid health assessment at the time of enrollment. For details, contact CYSS Sports & Fitness by stopping by Building H602 on JFC Brunssum or calling DSN 364-4195 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5264195.

Coed basketball - Youths ages 3 to 15 may be signed up for this sports program. Cost: \$20 for children ages 3 to 5 and \$40 for those ages 6 to 15.

Junior girls basketball - This sports program is offered to youths ages 13 to 15. Cost: \$40.

Cheerleading - This sports program is offered to youths ages 6 to 15. Cost: \$40.

Nov. 10

- **Circle Time** - Stories, songs and sharing are provided during Thursday morning Chapel playgroup from 11 to 11:30 a.m. at the JFC Brunssum Chapel ground floor.

Nov. 12

- **S.P.A.R.C.** - This one-day institute will focus on "Helping Military Children Discover their S.P.A.R.C. (Strength, Potential, Aspirations, Resourcefulness, Confidence)." This training will be held at Geilenkirchen NATO Base in Building 3 (Chapel Annex) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn how to prepare young people to meet goals. S.P.A.R.C. develops hardiness skills in youths through the identification of their sparks and interests while they develop a growth mindset. To register, call at DSN 458-6015 or civilian +49 (0) 2451-633791, or register online at <http://www.militarychild.org/training>. Continuing Education Credits are available for this course.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY continued

Register now

- **New Parent Support Home Visitor** – The New Parent Support Program's home visitor will be available **Nov. 18 to 19** for office hours, hospital and home visits to all U.S. ID card-holders. To schedule an appointment, call Schinnen Army Community Service at DSN 360-7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437500.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Tickets on sale now

- **Urinetown: The Musical** - The SHAPE Players at the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre in Building 207 present a musical satire, "Urinetown," featuring the SHAPE International Band. The curtain goes up **Nov. 18, 19, 21, 25, 27 and 28** at 7:30 p.m. The curtain goes up on Sunday matinees **Nov. 22 and 29** at 3 p.m. Tickets: adults €16, students and children €8. For details on the SHAPE Players version of this 2001 Broadway show, call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.



Register now

- **Corn-hole tournament** - Register for the monthly corn-hole tournament (first Saturday of the month at the Chièvres Community Activities Center) by calling DSN 361-6268 or civilian 068-276268.
- **Movember mustache-growing contest** - SHAPE Healthcare Facility will host a Movember event **Nov. 30** from noon to 1 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of the clinic. Movember raises awareness about men's health concerns, such as prostate health. Be ready to show off your mustache (within regulation, if military). A donation will be made in the winner's name to the Movember-related charity of the winner's choice. To register for the competition, call Preventive Medicine at DSN 566-5336 or civilian 065-325336.

Register by Nov. 27

- **CYSS sports programs** - Open enrollment is going on now for several sports programs offered by Child, Youth and School Services. Open to all U.S. and NATO ID card-holders, but spaces are limited. Youths must be registered with CYSS and have a valid health assessment (that will remain valid throughout the season) at the time of enrollment. Youths must meet age requirements by March 15, 2016. For details, stop by SHAPE's Building 503 or call DSN 423-6039/6097 or civilian 065-446039/6097.
 - Basketball** - This program is offered during the December-to-March season to youths ages 6 to 15. Cost: \$40. Call CYSS for appropriate league.
 - Developmental basketball** - This program is offered during the January-to-February season to girls and boys ages 4 to 5. Cost: \$20.
 - Cheerleading** - This program is offered during the December-to-March season to youths ages 9 to 12. Cost: \$40.

Registration Nov. 9 to 30

- **Cross-country** - This CYSS program is offered during the December-to-February season to youths ages 10 to 13. Cost: \$15. For questions or to volunteer as a coach, call the CYSS Youth Sports Office at DSN 423-4448 or civilian 065-444448. To register for cross-country, contact Parent Central Services at SHAPE's Building 503 or call DSN 423-6039/6097 or civilian 065-446039/6097.

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>.

Movies 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

WWI Belgian army makes a stand at Diksmuide

Story and photos by Tim Clark

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

A quiet and serene place today, De Dodengang (loosely translated from Dutch as the Trenches of Death), just outside of Diksmuide, Belgium, was the scene of squalor, suffering and death during World War I. The Diksmuide trenches were held by the Belgian army against determined German forces for more than four years.

More than 60,000 Soldiers lost their lives there, hence its grim name. In 1914, Belgium was almost completely overtaken by the German army. King Albert I gave the order to maintain the line of defense in Diksmuide. This place, where regiment after regiment of the Belgian army fought by turns, was the heart of the opposition to the Germans.

To stop the German advance to the Belgian coast and to France, Belgians blew up dikes on the Ijzer River, flooding the surrounding area in 1914. However, because the land there was so high, it didn't flood and this area had to be guarded.

Both sides built fortifications there. Slowly, the Belgians extended their trenches to the north, toward a German observation post. The Germans extended their trenches to the south, until both sides were only yards apart.

Filled with mud, lice and rats, the trenches were a Soldier's hell. Life was rigorous in the trenches where Soldiers were extremely vulnerable and under constant assault by mortar attacks. Belgian Soldiers manned the trenches for three days straight, then got three days rest in a camp in the rear of the combat zone before a return to the trenches.

The Trenches of Death remained the heart of the Belgian opposition until the successful offensive called the Battle of Flanders began Sept. 28, 1918.

The preservation work done on the trenches makes it difficult to experience the conditions of the time. The place is quiet, clean and orderly

with the sandbags reinforced with concrete. You can walk through a remaining section of the trenches and visit a museum at the site. The museum has uniforms, guns and other artifacts recovered from the trenches after the war. Photographs and films tell the story of what happened there.

Inside the museum, a small plaque proclaims: "Here our army held the invader in check."



(From top) World War I weapons are on display at the museum. • Visitors walk through the preserved trenches Saturday, Oct. 31, 2015. • A view of the trenches from a bunker. • A Belgian army uniform can be seen at the museum.



Essentials for your visit

The site is about a mile from Diksmuide, Belgium. Open daily April 1 to Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Open Tuesday through Friday Nov. 16 to Dec. 24 and Jan. 5 to March 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Last entry: one hour before closing.) Admission: €4 (by card only).

The museum is accessible, but the trenches cannot accommodate a wheelchair.

Outside the gate

Is St. Martin's feast day Dutch Halloween?

by Rita Hoefnagels

USAG Benelux-Schinnen

Although Halloween began in Great Britain and spread to its American Colonies, it has a growing following in Europe. Halloween has its origins in the Celtic New Year Nov. 1.

The Netherlands has an unrelated, although similar, tradition.

St. Martin is called Sint Maarten or Sint Martinus in Dutch. Later known as St. Martin of Tours (France), he was born in 316 in what is now Hungary. He was conscripted into the Roman army, became an officer and was knighted by the emperor.

Sulpicius Severus, a contemporary and Martin's biographer, wrote this about him. When Martin was still a Soldier, he and his men traveled through France. It started to rain. The men, all on horseback, just wanted to get to the closest city as fast as possible before the gates closed for the night. The men spurred their horses, except Martin who spared his horse. Soon Martin was caught in a blizzard.

On the side of the road just outside Amiens, France, Martin saw a beggar, who was dressed in rags and shivering, according to <http://www.nlplanet.com>. Martin cut his warm cloak in two and gave half to the beggar. (Martin couldn't give away



Dutch children celebrate St. Martin's Day.

the entire cloak because, as a Roman Soldier, Martin was required to have it.) That night, Martin dreamed of Jesus wearing half of his cloak.

The symbolism (Matthew 25: 34-40 — "Whatsoever you do for the least of my brethren, you do for me.") is strong.

He was moved to become a monk. He shared everything he owned. Martin founded several monasteries in France. After the death of the bishop of Tours, Martin was pressed into service as the new bishop by popular demand in 372. Martin died Nov. 11, 397, and Tours became a place of pilgrimage.

In 480, St. Martin's Day (Nov. 11) officially became the beginning of the church year and was known as the period leading to Christ's birth. After Martin was canonized, his death day became a religious holiday. Martin became, among others, the patron

saint for poor people and for children. He is also the patron saint for Soldiers, cavalry, beggars, travelers, prisoners, shepherds and more.

On this day, poor people would knock on the farmers' doors to ask for food: Preparations for winter were done, cattle were slaughtered and the harvest was brought in, so it was now customary to give to the needy.

St. Martin's feast day has come to be known for its festivities for children. Traditionally, children make their own lanterns out of paper, carton or a hollowed-out sugar beet or pumpkin. They will carry their lanterns while they knock on doors and sing songs for some candy. Although the children aren't in costume when they venture out Nov. 11, they have a lot in common with trick-or-treaters who take to the streets Oct. 31.

Bonfires are also lit in some towns. A sign of light, warmth and security, this fire was thought to chase away ghosts, keep away contagious diseases and further fertility. Ask your Dutch neighbors if they know of a St. Martin's Fire in your town, and don't forget to have candy, oranges or apples for the children who will knock on your door around Nov. 11.

Outside the gate

Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

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

- **Flanders Field World War I Tour of Ypres, Belgium, Nov. 7**
- **Carolus Thermen spa in Aachen, Germany, Nov. 14**
- **Paris: Moulin Rouge, Nov. 21**
- **Snow & Ice Sculpture Festival in Brugge (Bruges), Nov. 28**
- **German Christmas markets overnight, Dec. 5 to 6**
- **Alsace Christmas markets overnight in Triberg im Schwarzwald (Black Forest), Dec. 12 to 13**
- **Aachen and Monschau Christmas markets, Dec. 20**
- **Paris in winter, Dec. 28**
- **London New Year's, Dec. 30 to Jan. 1, 2016**
- **Les Orres (French Alps) ski trip, varying dates**

SHAPE Travel Group - Call civilian 0470-876369 for details.

- **Antwerp, Belgium, and the Red Star Line Museum, Nov. 19**
- **Cologne Christmas markets, Nov. 24**
- **Canterbury, England, Dec. 3**
- **Aachen Christmas Market, Dec. 10**
- **Paris Lights, Dec. 15**
- **Snow World, the Netherlands (transportation and four-hour ski pass), Jan. 19, 2016**
- **Trocs and Leuven, Jan. 28, 2016**

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

- **Express Trip to Paris, Nov. 21**
- **Cologne Christmas Markets, Dec. 5**
- **Disney's Enchanted Christmas Celebration at Disneyland Paris, Dec. 19**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

Nov. 5 to 8

- **Brussels Beer Challenge in Antwerp** at the De Koninck Brewery - A tasting panel of 60 internationally renowned beer connoisseurs will taste 850 beers from all over the world. Find more information at <http://www.brusselsbeerchallenge.com>.

Nov. 6

- **Jazz Night 'Super Sax Battle' in Morlanwelz** at Place Albert 1er 16a from 8 to 11 p.m. Admission: €10.



Nov. 6 and 7

- **Market highlighting products from Brittany in Dour** offers various fish and related products, such as oysters, seafood soup and scallops, as well as some typical entertainment. Market will be held at the "Anciennes Câbleries" on Voie du Prêtre. Open from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. Free admission.

Nov. 6 to 29

- **Drawings exhibition 'Fabulous Fair' in Mons** at La Fabrique des Singes at Rue de la Coupe 27. Open from noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Free admission.

Nov. 7

- **Rock concert in Soignies** will be held at the Salle Victore Jara at Place Van Zeeland 31 from 1 p.m. to midnight. Admission: €25.
- **Jazz concerts '50 Shades of Jazz' in Hautrage** will be held at Place d'Hautrage 44 from 7 to 10:30 p.m. Admission: €10.
- **Flea market in Gilly (150 booths)** at Chaussée de Lodelinsart 1 from 4 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Nov. 7 to 8

- **Wedding, children and beauty fair in Mons** will be held at Lotto-Expo at Avenue Thomas Edison 2 from 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. You'll find more information about this fair at <http://salonmariageetenfant.be>.
- **Adventure weekend in Ath** offers bouncy castles, circus entertainment, magic workshops, sports, balloon sculpture and more on Quai de l'Entrepôt from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €8.



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

Through Nov. 8

- **Traditional Hanseatic Fair in Dortmund, Germany**, is held in the center of town and features traditional crafts, farmers market, knights camp and tournament, music, acrobats and actors.
- **Christmas Creations Fair in Den Bosch** will be held in Brabant Hallen at Diezekade 2. This indoor fair is designed to inspire ideas for decorating your home for the holidays. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €12.50; children €5.

Through Nov. 11

- **Jaarbeurs in Roeselare, Belgium**, will be held at Expo Roeselare at Diksmuidsesteenweg 400. This fair has more than 190 participants displaying their products and services in a space of almost 108,000 square feet. Open Sunday through Wednesday as well as Friday and Saturday from 2 to 7 p.m. Special hours Thursday from 2 to 10 p.m. Admission: €7.

Nov. 6 to 8

- **Martinsmarkt in Brühl, Germany**, will be held in the center of town where you will find a combination of art, ceramics, antiques and curiosa, and Christmas decorations.
- **Collectors and curiosa market in Nieuwegein** will take place in Beursfabriek at Symfonielaan 1. This large market is international. Open Nov. 6 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Nov. 7 and 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission: Nov. 6, €7.50; Nov. 7 and 8, €5.

Nov. 7 to 8

- **Pets' Days Fair in Assen** will be held at TT Hall at De Haar 11. The fair has all sorts of items with regard to pet grooming, training, food, toys and more. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €8. Parking: €3 per car.
- **Traditional art market in Bad Driburg, Germany**, will take place around the Rathaus (town hall). Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Martinsmarkt in Bad Oeynhausen, Germany**, will be held in Museumshof on Schützenstrasse. This small art market offers traditional as well as new art and crafts. Open Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **"Woonestetika" in Genk, Belgium**, will be held at Limburghal on Jaarbeurslaan 6. This home-and-living fair will have live music, culinary delicacies and experts with information and demonstrations to make your home your castle. Open from 1 to 6:30 p.m. Admission: €5.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



Nov. 7 to 8 continued

- **Animal-wellness fair in Quiévrain** on Rue de l'Abattoir from 9:30 to 6:30 p.m. Free admission.

Nov. 7 to 11

- **Christmas market in Waterloo** will be held at the Carmel d'Argenteuil convent at Drève du Carmel 24. You'll find homemade products, such as jam, jelly, candles and more. Open from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 to 4:30 p.m.



Nov. 8

- **Volksmarch in Le Roeulx** for 5, 10, 15 and 20 km. Departs from Rue de l'Ange gardien 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Woluwe-Saint-Pierre** for 5, 10, 15 and 20 km. Departs from Rue au Bois 365B from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Erbisoeul** for 5, 10 and 20 km. Departs from Rue de l'Ange gardien 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Jemappes (200 booths)** at Avenue Maréchal Foch 873 from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Flea market in Ollignies** (130 booths) at Lessines Expo at Rue Grand Marais 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ongoing

Through Nov. 15

- **Railbike in Elsenborn** at Am Breitenbach 35. Discover the Ardennes and the Fagne in an original way on an old railway. Open every weekend from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €30 for four people. Get more information at <http://www.railbike.be>.

Through Dec. 10

- **Brussels Museums Nocturnes** - Every Thursday evening from 5 to 10 p.m., at least seven museums will stay open to visitors. It is the ideal opportunity to (re)discover the cultural treasures of Brussels. Enjoy festive activities in 66 museums. Admission: 3€ per museum, €1,50 for 25 and under. Some late-evening openings are free. For more information, visit <http://brusselismuseumsnocturnes.be/en>.

Through Jan. 17

- **Exhibition "Mankind, The Dragon and Death. The Glory of St Georges" in Mons** - The exhibition shows how the iconography of St George and the dragon has always been a powerful driver of the European imagination. A selection of works is on display (including paintings, sculptures, drawings and illuminated manuscripts) representing the saint in different forms. The exhibition takes place at the MAC'S at Rue Sainte Louise 82. Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More information at <http://www.mons2015.eu/en/man-dragon-and-death>.



Nov. 7 to 8 continued

- **Art fair in Köln-Westhoven, Germany**, will be held in Gutshof Engelshof. About 130 participants will display their wares at this large, pre-Christmas event. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €5; children, ages 15 and under, free.
- **International Wine Fair in Düsseldorf, Germany**, will take place at InterContinental Düsseldorf on Königsallee. Open Nov. 7 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €12.
- **Flight Simulator Weekend in Lelystad** will take place in Aviodrome at Pelikaanweg 50. Many flight simulators clubs, flight decks, real-motion booths will be represented at the world's largest international flight-simulation event. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €17.50.
- **St. Martin's Festival in Utrecht** will be held in Catharijneconvent Museum at Lange Nieuwstraat 38. It is a weekend full with theater, snacks, music and more, all devoted to St. Martin. The museum has several items from this saint on display. Open Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. (A parade is scheduled from 6 to 7 p.m.); Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €5. (See page 9 for more on St. Martin's fest.)
- **Martinsmarkt in Viersen, Germany**, will take place in the center of town. At this pre-Christmas market, choose from decorations, artwork, toys, candles and antiques. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Nov. 8

- **"6 Sjtond" (six hours) in Vaals** is a Le Mans-style endurance race for 50cc motorbikes at the Outdoor Karting rink at Selzerbeeklaan 23. About 30 teams will compete for six hours to make as many laps as possible. The race is a go, rain or shine. Opens at 9:30 a.m. Admission: €6; children 11 and under, free admission.

Nov. 11

- **Festmarkt (Fest Market) in Antwerpen, Belgium**, will take place at Sint-Jansplein. More than 80 participants will offer clothes, jewelry, candy, food and more. Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nov. 12 to 15

- **La Table Fair in Naarden** will be held in Grote Kerk at Grote Markt 13 in the center of this fortified city. This Christmas fair features festive table settings. More than 50 exhibitors will display antique and modern china, silverware, glassware, wines and more. Open Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nov. 13 from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Nov. 14 and 15 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: €15; children, ages 13 and under, free.

Outside the gate

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.