

THE GAZETTE

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

Postal Holiday Hours

The postal holiday hours in the three communities are as follow:

SHAPE - Monday through Friday

Postal Finance, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Parcel Pick-up, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For mail by appointment (five or more parcels), call DSN 366-6311.

Chièvres - Monday through Friday

Postal Finance, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Parcel Pick-up, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For the holiday deadlines, see the community briefs.

Schinnen- Monday through Friday

Regular hours.
Also open for customer service and parcel pick up noon to 4 p.m.
Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22.

Dec. 24 is parcel pick up only from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For the holiday deadlines, see the community briefs.

Fire Drill on Chièvres Air Base

A fire exercise involving the Host Nation fire fighters, the Federal police and the MPs will be going Dec. 1 as of 9 a.m. at the Single Service members quarters on Chièvres Air Base. Non toxic smoke will be released and role players will be evacuated from the third floor. The exercise will last for about one hour.

Leadership serve single Soldiers Thanksgiving dinner



Cis Spook

(From left to right) Staff Sgt. Carmen M. Sinkfield is being served by community leaders Command Sgt. Maj. Phillip L. Dixon, USANATO, Lt. Col. Manuel M. Pozo-Alonso, SHAPE Dental Clinic Commander, Col. Frank J. Gonzales, Commander, NCIA Sector Mons and Col. Sergio M. Dickerson, Commander USAG Benelux at the single Soldiers Thanksgiving dinner held Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012 in the Chapel fellowship hall, Caserne Daumerie.

Table of Contents

News.....	1-5
Benelux news.....	6
Events & Happenings.....	7-11
Community Roundup.....	12-13

USAG Benelux-Schinnen visits Fort Eben-Emael



Courtesy Photo

(Picture left and bottom left) A team of USAG Benelux-Schinnen visited the Fortress Eben-Emael located in the Belgian town of Eben-Emael south of Maastricht (NL), Friday, November 16, 2012. The fortress was part of a ring of fortresses around the city of Liège meant to defend Belgium against aggressors from the East. The unique located and for that time superior armed fortress consists of 17 huge underground bunkers all connected to each other and was considered the strongest fortress in the world. It was supposed to be invincible. The fortress became really famous in history when on May 10, 1940 a small team of German paratroopers took control of the fort's artillery in less than 15 minutes. Organization, innovation and risk taking were the key to the German success. The group discovered the unbelievable adventure of the first moments of WWII. It seemed like the gigantic complex came back to life in the kitchen, the hospital, the hairdresser, showers and other places in this underground city.



Rita Hoefnagels



Rita Hoefnagels

The fortress is only open one weekend in the months March through November. (Picture bottom right) Team Schinnen was lucky with a knowledgeable guide, Guy Hoofs, who had everybody's attention while telling the story of that gruesome morning of May 10, 1940. After two and a half hour walking through corridors underground and hearing sounds like they must have been during the fight, the group was happy to see daylight again. The visit to the Fortress of Eben-Emael is a must for those interested in the history of WWII. For a visit of their website go to www.fort-eben-emael.be/en/.

THE GAZETTE

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Take preventive measures to avoid seasonal small crime

Special to the Gazette

The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany (specifically the neighboring state of North Rhine-Westfalia) in the past few days started their annual campaigns to remind the population again on the upcoming seasonal small crime, such as burglary in housing areas and pickpocketing at Christmas and street markets and shopping centers.

In the past years, around the end of the year all authorities and police forces reported an increasing number of small crime: the increasing number of burglaries into houses in housing areas at daytime and before evening fall and pickpocketing at Christmas markets and in shopping centers are the most important crimes.

Burglary into houses:

Autumn and winter days are getting shorter and darkness shows up much earlier than the rest of the year. Occasional and professional criminals misuse this to conduct their illegal activities such as breaking into visibly unattended houses and apartments. When the occupants most likely are doing their Santa Klaus or Christmas shopping and so are out of their houses, the criminals shortly 'visit' the houses or apartments and remove whatever is of interest and - of course - valuable to them. Darkness enables them in most cases to enter houses and apartments without being observed by persons, gather what they want to take away and shortly after disappear again.

Since a number of years, all police forces in the above mentioned areas have their own - adjusted to their own communities - prevention campaigns including brochures or other handouts for the public to be distributed by roving police patrols or mobile crime prevention teams, crime prevention tips on their Internet websites. Next to these also other operational security measures are taken such as increased police patrols, local safety and security assistants on patrols throughout the communities as well in

some areas, local neighbor watch patrols. But the residents are the most important factor in this crime prevention campaign. The residents themselves can take the most valuable and preventive security measures: install and properly use security locks on doors and windows, in case of short absence partially light the house or the apartment, inform the neighbors on their absence, among others.

Pickpocketing:

When doing their Santa Klaus and Christmas shopping in street markets and shopping centers, most people are in high spirits of the upcoming holidays and so are less aware of the possible crime threat in massively visited areas. Individual criminals but also groups of small criminals misuse that cheerful attitude of the public during these visits and in an unexpected moment, they steal purses and other valuable items from those unsuspecting people. Even if these items to the opinion of the victims are properly secured in pockets or hand bags. Pickpockets have shown to be technically qualified persons to remove small and valuable items in a short moment of unawareness of their victims.

But also in these cases, the public itself can take the most important preventive measures: being aware of the possible threat of pickpocketing, they should be aware more than normally of the chance of becoming a victim and double secure their valuable property and at all times be on the lookout for possible criminals. The local authorities and police forces, next to other public and commercial security and safety patrols, are visibly present in massively visited areas such as street markets and shopping areas than usual in order to prevent this kind of unwanted crime and in many areas pickpocketing prevention posters are installed all over the shopping areas or street markets.

Emergency numbers

Any emergency	112 whether dialing from Belgium or the Netherlands		
Chièvres MP station	DSN 361-5301	or	civilian 068-27-5301
SHAPE Police Desk	DSN 423-3333/4	or	civilian 065-44-3333/4
Brussels MP station	DSN 368-9769	or	civilian 02-717-9769
Schinnen MP station	DSN 360-7555	or	civilian 046-443-7555

Customs shopping guide for the holidays

Robert Szostek

U.S. European Command Customs and Border Clearance Agency Public Affairs

Some people are just not good at buying the right gifts. This is usually a matter of taste. However, people new to Europe should note that many items available in Europe that seem like good Christmas presents violate U.S. customs rules.



Courtesy Photo

Know what you can and cannot mail

Some products are banned from the United States and others may be carried in baggage, but not mailed. Violations of customs, agriculture or postal regulations can lead to hefty fines and confiscation of the goods.

Meat and meat products are the biggest problem, said Tim Sellman, acting director of the U.S. European Command Customs and Border Clearance Agency.

"European delicacies like French pâté, German wurst, Spanish chorizo and Italian Parma ham are here for the buying and much sought-after in the States," he said. "Unfortunately, they can also carry Foot and Mouth Disease, a virulent livestock ailment eradicated in the United States." These products are therefore banned, as are canned meats and even soup mixes or pasta containing meat. Fresh fruits and vegetables are also prohibited because they could harbor pests like the Mediterranean fruit fly.

The threat to U.S. agriculture is so great that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) fine people who mail or take banned foods to the States a minimum of \$100 as a de-

terrent. Criminal action for deliberate cases of smuggling can result in a \$5,000 fine and a year in jail.

Europe boasts many fine wines, spirits and liquor-filled candies that make original Christmas gifts. Unfortunately the U.S. Postal Service bans all liquor from being mailed, even if it is inside a piece of candy. However, customs allows travelers over 21 years of age to import one liter of duty-free liquor. Sellman said the federal taxes and duties are currently low enough to make it worthwhile to take more than one liter of beer or wine stateside as gifts. However, state laws must also be met which can add to the cost. Taxes on distilled spirits like Scotch whiskey are generally considered high, he noted.

Cuban rum and cigars are also available in Europe but prohibited from import stateside by economic sanctions.

And don't be surprised if you get a letter from CBP saying they removed "surprise" eggs from the package you mailed stateside. The reason is that Kinder-brand chocolate eggs and similar items are banned in the United States. While many people think the eggs are innocuous, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission believes the toy surprise hidden inside can pose choking and aspiration hazards to children younger than three years of age.

Wildlife products also present problems. Buying ivory as a gift is a bad idea, according to customs officials. "Only ivory pieces previously registered with Customs and Border Protection may be imported," Sellman continued. Whale teeth carvings, known as netsuke or scrimshaw, are also prohibited from import. When buying furs, shoppers should insist on a certificate of origin stating the animal's scientific name to avoid buying prohibited endangered species products. The movement of caviar is also restricted.

Many European countries make traditional nativity scenes that Americans love to buy. However, the natural products used to make them are sometimes banned from import to the United States because of the agricultural pests that could nest in them, Sellman noted. Shoppers should realize that they should not mail scenes that contain moss, bark, pinecones, untreated straw or other materials found to contain insects. However, agriculture officials say nativity scenes that are produced using stripped wood, plastic, or commercially cleaned and lacquered straw are fine to mail.

Military customs offices can provide more advice on these and other holiday mail questions. There are many informative pamphlets available from Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Agriculture to ensure holiday gifts don't present problems stateside. Information is also available online at www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/vacation/kbyg/send_to_us.xml.

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Education

University of Maryland University College Europe

Registration is available now for Holiday Express Intersession – a shortened session that gives students the opportunity to earn university credit in half the time during the holidays – beginning Dec. 17. Many of these courses are offered face-to-face at downrange locations like Afghanistan and Bahrain, so deployed servicemembers can work toward their future goals while fighting for their country this holiday season. The schedule can be found at <http://webapps.umuc.edu/soc/europe.cfm>. This year, UMUC Europe is spreading holiday cheer with a special offer for Spring 2013 textbooks. From today through Dec. 21, textbooks will be 40% off when ordered from webText Europe, UMUC's online textbook store. Order at www.ed.umuc.edu/webtext.

There is still time to register for two field study courses taking place Jan. 5-12. Students can explore renaissance art in Florence, Italy, or walk through history guided by famous literature in Paris, France. The registration deadline for both courses is Dec. 23. Go to www.ed.umuc.edu/fieldstudy.

For more information, visit www.ed.umuc.edu, or contact UMUC Europe at DSN 314-370-6762 or civilian 0049-6221-3780.

CYSS

Schinnen CYSS

- CYSS is looking for volunteer coaches for tennis, rock climbing, skateboarding, swimming, skiing/snowboarding, archery, and basketball. For information call DSN 364-4195 or civilian 0045-526-4195.

- CYSS Sports & Fitness Basketball - Enrollment for boys and girls basketball ends Nov. 30. Cost for boys is \$20 for ages 3-5, \$40 for ages 6-15 and \$40 for girls 13-15. Enrollment at Parent Central Services is open to all US/NATO ID card holders. For information, contact 045-526-3121.

Brussels CYSS

Brussels CYSS is looking for volunteer coaches for baseball, basketball, cheerleading, flag football, soccer and wrestling. If you are interested, call Youth Sports & Fitness at DSN 368-9651 or civilian 02-717-9651.

Registration for wrestling, basketball and developmental basketball is open through Nov. 30. For more info call CYSS at DSN 368-9651 or civilian 02-717-9651.

SHAPE/Chièvres CYSS

SHAPE/Chièvres CYSS is looking for volunteer coaches for racquetball, cross country and table tennis. If you are interested, call Youth Sports & Fitness at DSN 423-6143 or civilian 065-44-6143.

SKIES Unlimited

- Enrollment for Spanish classes fall session is still open until full. Session is for 6-12 and 13-18 years old. Parents are welcome to enroll with their child. Price is \$120 for 12 classes.

- Enrollment for cheerleading and basketball open through Nov. 30. For age group 6 to 12. Fee is \$40.

For more information, contact Parent Central Services at DSN 423-5612 or civilian 065-44-5612.

Mobile Phone Recycling Drive

The Roots and Shoots Club at SHAPE Elementary School is collecting old mobile phones until Nov. 30. Drop your phone at one of the boxes at the Commissary, SHAPE Library, GB and SHAPE Elementary Office. The collected phones will be given to the Jane Goodall Institute of Brussels for recycling. The reason for collecting these phones is because of coltan, a mineral used in cell phones and that is illegally mined in the Congo, causing problems for habitats for many endangered animals.

Wide Area Work Flow Training

"Wide Area Work Flow" (WAWF) training will be given at Chièvres Dec. 3-4. WAWF is a contractor invoicing system that unit CORs (Contracting Officer Representatives)/receiving officers will be required to use. Seats are limited and there are a few open seats left on Dec. 4. To reserve a seat, please call DSN 368-9632.

Volunteers and hires wanted

The Northern Law Center is looking for military spouses or family members to assist as volunteers or hires during the upcoming tax season. This is a great opportunity to gain technical and practical experience in tax preparation. Best of all, the training is conducted by an IRS representative and it is free. Space is limited. For more information, contact the Northern Law Center at DSN 423-3903 or civilian 065-44-3903.

My Army life in photos

Capture your best Army moments for a chance to win great prizes. This Family & MWR photography contest ends Dec. 19. Weekly winners will be awarded for submitting photos in the following categories:

- Theme 1: Army Strong Families
- Theme 2: HOOAH Homecomings
- Theme 3: Vacation Fun
- Theme 4: Patriotic Pets
- Theme 5: MWR Moments

Participants may enter at any time during the promotion. Submit your photos at www.armymwr.com/photocontest.aspx.

Holiday Mailing Deadlines

To ensure your packages sent to the United States are delivered before Christmas, mail them no later than these dates:

3 December	PAL parcels
10 December	Priority parcels
10 December	First Class letters
18 December	Express Mail

These dates are valid for all three communities: SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen.

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Vandalism in Boussu

Last week, local residents on Rue de la Colfontaine in Boussu, have seen their cars and houses sprayed with green, white and pink colors. Luckily, the colors could be washed out.

Fatal accidents increased in Wallonia

During 2011, a total of 403 people lost their lives in a car accident. This number is a significant increase compared to the 373 deaths in 2010. The Federal Police stated that excessive speed is the most important cause of traffic accidents. Most of the victims are not the drivers of the car involved in the accident but their passengers, and pedestrians. In Mons, 5 people died in a traffic accident in 2010; the number has increased up to 14 in 2011.

Belgian gastronomy

Among the ten restaurants to receive their first star in the *Guide Michelin* that rates Belgian and French restaurants, seven are located in Flanders, one in Brussels and two in Wallonia. The Brussels restaurant that was awarded as a one-star restaurant is *Va doux Vent* in Uccle. The two restaurants in Wallonia are *Le Jardin des Bégards* in Liège and *Impératif* in Maisières.

Wolves are back in the Ardennes

During the month of September 2011, a Flemish television channel videotaped an animal that looked like a wolf. Experts have now confirmed the animal is indeed a wild wolf. Traces and animal hair have also confirmed the presence of the European wolf in the Belgian Ardennes. It seems that the wolf or wolves in the Ardennes come from the Italian Abruzzo area. In 1992, no wolves were identified in France. Nowadays, there are about 200 to 250 wolves that crossed the Italian border into the Vosges area. Wolves have also been seen in Belgium's neighboring countries. The wolf disappeared from Belgium in 1898.

Firefighter loses job because of hairstyle

A firefighter from Zaventem has been taken off the job because of his hairstyle. His superiors feel that his hair that includes a flick poses a danger when he is fighting fires and decided to give him another job. The firefighter doesn't understand this decision. The 43-year-old has been doing the same job with the same hairstyle for 14 years now. He does not believe that his hairstyle poses a danger: "Because the rest of my hair is short I can comb the flick back and it sticks like Velcro. When we're fighting a blaze I wear a balaclava and a helmet, so there's really no real problem."

Belgian budget

Federal Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo stated that the budget agreement reached after a 17-hour marathon of talks will boost the economy and employment. The Belgian leader was speaking at a news conference in Brussels last week only hours after he was able to tweet news of the

agreement on the 2013 budget. "In only 11 months, the government has saved €14.5 billion. Next year's budget adds a further €3.44 billion to this total while 300 million is being released to cut taxes on labor and strengthen the competitive position of our industry," Di Rupo stated. The Prime Minister also stressed that the Belgian budget deficit remained on track to reach the targets set by the European Union: less than 3% this year, under 2.15% next year. Mr Di Rupo claimed that in budgetary terms Belgium was doing better than France, the UK or the Netherlands. Only Germany and Luxembourg are doing better. Still, he added that reaching an agreement was difficult. "We spared citizens as much as we could. We ensured that government is taking the greatest strain. VAT is not being increased. People in work are not being taxed more," he added.

Dutch toy shop sector is in trouble

This may be the traditional time of year for buying presents but many of the Dutch toy shops are in serious financial trouble. Sales have been declining steadily since 2008 and experts say some 300 of the country's 1,100 toy shops may have to close their doors in the coming years. The economic crisis and the shift to online shopping for computer games in particular, is behind the downward trend.

Ajax out of Champions League

A 1-4 home loss against German football club Dortmund ended Amsterdam football club Ajax' hopes of remaining in the Champions League competition last week. With one match still to play, Ajax is one point clear of English league champions Manchester City in third place.

Potential closure of 11 Dutch prisons

Dutch justice ministry plans to cut spending on prisons by €100m, which will lead to the closure of 11 out of 29 jails, 700 job losses and 800 prisoners being sent home to finish their sentences. The ministry is considering concentrating the prison population in the central urban belt known as the Randstad, Overijssel and Noord-Brabant provinces. This would be cheaper and more efficient. The number of multi-occupancy cells would also be increased. At the moment, 1,224 prisoners share a cell but that will almost triple. Last year, justice ministry figures showed the number of people held in Dutch prisons has been declining steadily and will average 8,875 by 2015. The reason for the decline in prisoner numbers is a drop in crime and a switch to fines, community service and electronic tagging.

Dutch pension rules delayed until 2015

The introduction of new rules for Dutch company pension schemes has been delayed until 2015 because of the complexity of the subject. The new system of contracts, aimed at making the Dutch system more sustainable, were due to come into effect in 2014.



This column includes events within close distance to Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

29 November

- **Late openings of Brussels museums** - At least six Brussels museums are open from 5 to 10 p.m. Entrance fee is €3 - some are free of charge. Among this Thursday late openings are Coudenberg - Former Brussels Palace, BELvue Museum, Medical plants and Pharmacy museum, Planetarium. For a detailed list and additional information, go to www.brusselsmuseumsnocturnes.be.

29 November - 2 December

- **Night at the Grand Sablon** - Late opening of the stores and several booths will bring you into the holiday mood.

30 November - 2 December

- **Wine and food fair in Leuze-en-Hainaut** at the City Hall from 6 to 9 p.m.
- **Antiques and Flea market in Quenast** on Chaussée de Mons, 13 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Italian Food Market "Arte in Tavola" in Brussels.** Get to know Italian wine, cheese and of course pasta at this market held at the Maison Grand'Place on Grand'Place 19 from 12:30 to 8 p.m. on Fri; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sat and Sun. Free entrance.

1 December

- **Wine Fair in Wasmes** - With tasting wine and champagne at "Les Caveaux d'Elie and Co" on Rue Saint Pierre 123 from 5 to 11 p.m.
- **Meli Melo - contemporary creators' market in Brussels (Ixelles)** - Designers will offer their original jewelry, cloth, pictures, decorations at Théâtre Marni, Rue de Vergnies, 25 from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Free entrance.
- **Saint Nicolas parade in Brussels** - Saint Nicolas, patron saint of all the children brings every Belgian and Dutch child some goodies during the night of Dec. 5 to 6. Saint Nicolas will be parading through downtown Brussels as of 2:30 p.m. and will be at the city hall at 4:30 p.m.
- **Midi Minuit at Chièvres** - Small commercial fair held at the city hall from noon until midnight

1-2 December

- **Bird Display in Ecaussinnes** at the school on Rue Arthur Pouplier from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free entrance.
- **WWII Display in Bastogne** at "Salle du Village" on Marvie from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sat and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sun. Free entrance.
- **Ethnic Cosmetic Fair in Brussels** - With several workshops and entertainment and a total of some 100 vendors on site at Tour & Taxis on Rue Picard 3, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sat and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sun. Entrance fee is €12, children under 12 years get free access.

2 December

- **Annual St Eloi market in Ciney** in the center of town from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Fabric market in Namur** at the Namur Expo from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entrance is free of charge.



This column includes events within close distance to Brunssum and Schinnen.

28 November

- **Saint Nicolas Market in the center of Maaseik (BE)** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Cis Spook

Saint Nicolas Day (or Sinterklaas in Dutch) is celebrated on Dec. 6 and is a festive event for children in many European countries. Saint Nicolas is known to bring goodies and toys to the children during the night of Dec. 5 to 6.

29 November

- **Winter Market in Bunschoten-Spakenburg** held in the town center with lots of activities from 3 to 9 p.m.

29 November - 2 December

- **Enchanted Christmas Market in Gladbeck (GE)** in the surroundings of Castle Witrtingen. Open Nov. 29-30 from 3 to 8 p.m., Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

30 November - 2 December

- **Damse Polderbeurs in Damme (BE)** is a Country Fair with antiques, interior design, fashion, culinary delicacies and more held on Markt 1. No entrance fees. Open Nov. 30 from 2 to 9 p.m. and Dec. 1-2 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



2 December Continued

- **Flea market in Overijse** at the Markthal on Stationstraat from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entrance fee is €2.
- **Volksmarch in Ghoy (near Lessines)** for 5, 10, 15 or 20 km. Departure is from the "Carton" on Rue Laisette, 1 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Dion-Valmont (Chaumont-Gistoux)** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from Rue de la Cure, 2 at Dion-le-Mont from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parking is available on Rue du Brocsous 3.
- **Volksmarch in Mainvault (Ath)** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from the school on Rue du Mont 2 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in La Louvière** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from Rue de Bonne Espérance 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Vinyl Records Fair in Brussels** at Galerie Ravenstein, in front of the train station from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free entrance.
- **Shopping Cruise Liège - Maastricht** - Get on the boat at 9:30 a.m. at Passerelle Saucy on Quai Van Beneden in Liège, depart at 10 a.m., arrive at approximately 12:30 p.m. in Maastricht for shopping until 4 p.m., get on the boat and arrive at 6:30 p.m. at Liège. Cost is €16.7 per adult, €11.7 for children 6 to 12.
- **Cartoon Fair in Brussels** - New and secondhand cartoons will be for sale on Place Saint Géry from 1 to 5 p.m. both days.
- **Mountain Bike guided tour in Brussels (Auderghem)** - Mountain bikes will be made available (€12 for rent, including helmet). Maximum of 20 participants. Prior registration is mandatory at 0477-459070. Activity starts on Avenue Schaller at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m.
- **Local gastronomy market in Houtain (Ath)** at "Salle de Musique" on Place de l'Eglise with free tasting of chocolates, foie gras, wine, cheese and much more. Free entrance.



Cartoon Fair in Brussels, Dec. 2

Ongoing Events & Happenings

Through 1 January

- **Exhibition "Belgian Art, A Modern Century" in Ixelles** at the Museum of Ixelles. More information on www.museedixelles.irisnet.be/en.

Through 6 January

- **Expo Toots 90 exhibition in Brussels** - For his 90th birthday, discover the career of one of the greatest Belgian jazzmen. More information on www.toots90.be.agenda.



30 November – 2 December Continued

- **Nikolaus Market in the center of Geilenkirchen (GE)** is open Nov. 30 from 5 to 11 p.m., Dec. 1 from noon to 11 p.m., Dec. 2 from 6 to 11 p.m.
- **Christmas Market in Höxter (GE)** held in and around Castle Corvey. Open Nov. 31 from 2 to 7 p.m. and Dec. 1-2 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Entry is €5; children €2.50.
- **Antique & Vintage China & Table Decorations Fair in Veltem-Belsem (BE)** held at "Het Tweede Servies" on Ganzemansberg 8. Looking for ideas to decorate your Christmas Dinner table? Then this is the place to go. No entrance fees. Open Nov. 30 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Dec. 1-2 from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

Ongoing Events & Happenings

Through 3 December

- **Altstädter Nikolaus Market in the old historic center of Bergheim** - Attractive and traditional Saint Nicolas Market located in the Heimatmuseum among the timber-framed houses. Open daily from 6 to 10 p.m.

Through 23 December

- **Christmas Show in Schimmert**, at Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg on Op de Bies 70. Open Mondays from 1 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays-Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Through 3 February

- **Winter Efteling in Kaatsheuvel** at Efteling Amusement & Fairy Tale Park on Europalaan near Tilburg offers good old-fashioned winter fun. Open on



weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekends and Dec. 22 through Jan. 6 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Entry is €35.

Upcoming Christmas Markets



The below list of selected Christmas markets and activities includes the ones that start this week. The list will be updated on a weekly basis to include the markets starting the week of the Gazette's publication date. You can view a larger selection of Christmas markets in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany at the USAG Benelux homepage - www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil - and click on the appropriate country.

Christmas Markets

Selected Christmas markets in Belgium that have opened or will open this week:



Through December 2

- **The Magical Christmas Moments in Bruges** in "Oud Sint-Janshospitaal" in the center town offers a variety of gifts, Christmas decorations and workshops. Open all days 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €12; children 11 and younger get in free of charge.

Through January 2

- **Christmas Market in the center of Bruges** on Market Square and Simon Stevinplein. Open Mon-Fri from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sat-Sun from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Through January 6

- **Winter Dream in Gent** with Christmas Market, ice-skating rink and lots more winter activities on Sint-Pietersplein. Open Mon-Fri from 1 to 9 p.m. and Sat-Sun from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Winterland in the center of Hasselt** with ice-skating rink and more attractions. A Christmas Market is held at Kolonel Dusartplein, Grote Markt and Molenpoort at the same time daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

30 November - 30 December

- **The Christmas Village** in Liège at Place de Marché is the largest and one of the most attractive Christmas Markets in Belgium. Every year it attracts more than a million visitors. In accordance with the traditional German Christmas markets, "Village de Noël" creates a very particular atmosphere, full of magic and glamorous Christmas sentiments in the center of the city. It is a festive and friendly Belgian mix of Alsatian and German Christmas ingredients. Open Mon-Thu from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fri-Sun from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

30 November - 31 December

- **Christmas Village (Noelleries) in Namur** with lots of extra activities in the center at Place d'Armes and Rue de Fer is open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Every Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. Horse drawn carriage rides.

Selected Christmas markets in the Netherlands that have opened or will open this week:



Through 23 December

- **Christmas Market in Soest** with lots of activities at Tuinadviescentrum 't Vaarderhoogt on Dorresteinweg 72b. Open Sat-Thu from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fri from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., closed on Sun.
- **Christmas Fair "Spirit of Christmas" in Spaubeek** at Victorian House, Musschenberg 30 with English antiques such as furniture, accessories and more. The fair is only open on Fri, Sat and Sun from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Market Valkenburg** in Fluwelengrot (Velvet Cave) on Daalhemmerweg. A unique Christmas Market held in the caves under the castle ruins. Open Sun-Thu from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fri-Sat from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €5; children (5-11) €3.

Through 24 December

- **Authentic and attractive Christmas Show in Schimmert** at Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg on Op de Bies 70. Open Mon from 1 to 5:30 p.m.; Tue-Fri from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat- Sun from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Through January 6

- **Valkenburg – Christmas Town.** Visit the town of Valkenburg during the winter months is like stepping into the story of Charles Dickens. Illuminated streets, decorated Christmas trees and beautiful Christmas songs bring this little town alive. Enjoy the only Dutch

town in real Christmas settings: in one of the many cozy restaurants and pubs, in the decorated shops, at the hotels, the sights and of course the unique Christmas markets in the caves. Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. and every Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. a Christmas Parade with floats, dancers and animators will move



Donovan Abrassart

through the center.

30 November - 2 December

- **Danish Christmas Fair in Rotterdam** at Danish Naval Church (Deense Zeemanskerk) on Coolhaven 1-7 with all kinds of Danish products. Open Nov. 30-Dec.1 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Upcoming Christmas Markets | Continued



Christmas Markets

Christmas markets in Belgium | Continued



30 November - 6 January

- **Winter Wonders in the center of Brussels.** Every winter, the heart of Brussels beats to the rhythm of 'Plaisirs d'Hiver' (winter pleasures) featuring a magical décor with an ice-skating rink and a beautiful Christmas market (Europe's most original). Open Mon-Thu from noon to 9 p.m., Fri-Sun from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Dec. 24 & 31 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 from noon to 10 p.m.

1-2 December

- **Attractive Christmas Market in Opwijk** within the walls of a farm. The stately old "quarter" farm "Het Hof ten Hemelrijk" is a perfect and picturesque background for a Christmas Market. The market is held at the inner court of the farm and in the center of Opwijk. Open from 1 to 7 p.m.

1-24 December

- **Christmas Village & Market in Charleroi** at place Charles II. Open Mon-Thu from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fri-Sat from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sun from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

1-31 December

- **The Christmas Village in Tournai** with Christmas Market, a large Christmas tree, rides, Nativity Scene and more on Grand Place is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 2 to 7 p.m. and in weekends the Christmas Village is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Christmas markets in the Netherlands | Continued



30 November - 31 December

- **Magical Maastricht.** The city of Maastricht can be called Christmas Town with reason this year. The Vrijthof is transformed into a large ice-skating rink. There are many traditional and nostalgic attractions and Christmas Markets at several locations in the center, new is the market on Kesselskade along the river. Maastricht with Christmas is fun for young and old. Open Mon-Thu from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fri-Sat from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sun from noon to 6 p.m., Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Dec. 25-26.

1 December

- **Christmas Fair in Brunssum** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Afnorth International School with International vendors; great raffle prizes, festive food, Father Christmas, the School Choir and Band and fun and games for all the family.

1-2 December

- **Christmas Market in Kerkrade** held at the beautiful 900 years old Abbey Rolduc. Open everyday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €3.50.
- **Indoor Finnish Christmas Market in Rotterdam** at Finnish Naval Church (Finse Zeemanskerk) on 's-Gravendijkwal with lots of Finnish articles and delicacies. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. No entrance fees.

2 December

- **Christmas Market in the center of Bocholtz.** This is the only Market in the Netherlands where you can meet both Sinterklaas and Santa Claus. Open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Courtesy Photo

SHAPE Trips & Tours

For information on the trips below,
call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-44-3884

- **Christmas Markets in Germany & France, December 1-2** - Tour begins in Nürnberg with one of Germany's oldest Christmas Markets, dating back to the mid 16th century. The following day, the group heads to Strassbourg, one of France's most enchanting Christmas markets. Price is €180 Single, €165 Double/Twin, €160 Triple, € 145* Youth (7-12), € 125* Children (0 - 6) *when sharing with 2 paying Adults. Departs SHAPE at 6 a.m. (Saturday), departs Brussels at 5 a.m. (Saturday), returns SHAPE at midnight (Sunday), returns Brussels at 1 a.m. (Monday).
- **London, December 8** - The day is yours to see London In Lights. Price is €70. Departs SHAPE at 4:30 a.m., returns SHAPE at 2:30 a.m. Departs Brussels at 3:30 a.m. and returns Brussels at 3:30 a.m.
- **Aachen and Monschau, Germany Christmas Markets, December 15** - Travel with us to the quaint village of Monschau where you can do your Christmas shopping at the many wooden stalls. Our next stop will be Aachen's "Christmas City". Price is € 50 Adults, €45 Child (0-12). Departs SHAPE at 7 a.m., returns SHAPE at 11 p.m. Departs Brussels at 8 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m.
- **Paris after Christmas, December 27** - A relaxing day in Paris. From culinary delights to cultural sights. Price is €50. Departs SHAPE at 8 a.m. and returns SHAPE at 11:30 p.m. Departs Brussels at 6:45 a.m. and returns at 00:30 a.m.
- **New Year's in London, December 30 - January 1** - London is one of the most popular places to spend New Year's Eve. There will be a New Year's Day Parade starting at Parliament Square at noon as well as the fabulous fireworks display at the London Eye that night. Prices: €468 Single, €298 Double, Twin or Triple, €198 Youth 3-12*, €98 Child 0-2* (*When sharing a room with two fully paid guests). Departs SHAPE at 7:15 a.m.(Sunday), returns SHAPE at midnight (Tuesday). Departs Brussels at 6 a.m. (Sunday), returns Brussels at 1:15 a.m. (Wednesday).



Courtesy/ Photo

Schinnen Trips and Tours

For information on the trips below
call DSN 360-7561 or civilian 0031-(0)46-4437561

- **Spring Break getaway to Malgrat de Mar, Spain, March 29-April 7 (Register prior to Dec. 22 with down-payment)** - Included in Tour Price: round trip royal class motorcoach transportation (non-smoking); Seven overnights in a 4-star hotel; half board accommodation (seven Breakfasts & seven Dinners Included). Prices: \$489 per person in Double Room; \$639 per person in Single Room; \$389 per child (3-11 years) staying in the parents room, when sharing a room with two fully paid guests.

SHAPE Travel Group

For information on the trips below call civilian 065-336560

Travel Group members are available every Wednesday and Friday
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Foyer of the SHAPE Library, Bldg. 307.

- **Cologne Christmas Market, November 27** - Get in the Christmas spirit with this annual favorite to Cologne, Germany. It's a unique experience with several Christmas markets in the city. You may also visit the magnificent Cologne cathedral or the Farina Fragrance Museum, home of Eau de Cologne. Price is €25 Adults.
- **Monschau Christmas Market and Coffee Mill, November 30** - Guided tour of an artisanal coffee house to follow the evolution of coffee bean to a cup of java. You will then have time to stroll through the stalls of the quaint Monschau Christmas Market, set in a little postcard village. Price is €35 Adults.
- **Aachen Christmas Market and Cathedral, December 12** - Guided tour of the Dom and Christmas market. Price is €35 Adults.
- **Paris Llights, December 17** - Spend the day in Paris for cultural visits or Christmas shopping. Price is €40 Adults.

For recurring events check on www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/sites/local/pages/gazette/GazetteExtra.pdf.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

BRUNSSUM/SCHINNEN COMMUNITY

- **Baby&Me cancelled until further notice.** - If you have any questions or concerns please contact USAG Benelux- Schinnen ACS at DSN: 360-7335 or civilian: 046-443-7335.

November 30

- **Hearts Apart** - Held monthly at AFNORTH International School library, Schinnen ACS offers a support meeting for youth separated from a loved one, whether through a deployment or a family situation. Next meeting is 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. For details call the ACS Deployment Readiness office at civilian 046-443-7218.

December 1

- **Christmas Fayre** at Afnorth International School from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with international vendors, great raffle prizes, festive food, Father Christmas and the School Choir and Band.
- **Breakfast with Santa** - Join the AFNORTH Battalion from 9 to 11 a.m. at the International Conference Center. Event is open to all U.S. ID card holders assigned to JFC Brunssum. Parents are required to stay with their children at all times.

December 5

- **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** - Held at the Community Activity Center at 5:30 p.m. Following the lighting of the tree, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive and the AFNORTH band and choir will provide entertainment.
- **Ten Steps to a Federal Job** - Get an overview of the start-to-finish process of the U.S. federal job search. Learn the Ten Steps of applying for a job from a certified trainer, including exploring the different agencies, analyzing job announcements, key words, KSAs, and much more. Class is held from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Schinnen ACS Conference Room and requires registration at 046-443-7269/7500.
- **Heinsberg Hospital Tour** - Touring the maternity/obstetrics ward of local hospitals is an important way for pregnant women to prepare for the big day. Tours address admitting procedures and your childbirth concerns. The meeting place is the Heinsberg Hospital lobby at 6 p.m. For more information contact the New Parent Support Program at ACS. Call 046-443-7335.

December 6

- **Aaron Tippin & Friends free concert** - Held at the Schinnen Community Activity Center starting at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.). Open to U.S. & NATO ID card holders and guests. For more information, call DSN 360-7370 or civilian 046-443-7370.

December 7

- **Cultural Adaptation Tour** to Valkenburg Christmas Market - Tour starts at 8:30 a.m. at Schinnen ACS. We'll travel by train to this unique Christmas Market situated in the historic Valkenburg Caves. Tour is open to all US and NATO ID cardholders. To find out more and to reserve a spot call 046-443-7500.
- **CDC/SAS Parents' Night Out** - Enjoy a night out while CYSS takes care of your children from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. A light dinner will be served. Care is \$20 per child with each additional sibling at \$18. AFC benefits can be used. Care is located at JFC Brunssum Bldg. H-501. To sign-up contact PCS at 045-526-3121 or stop by to make your reservation. Open to CYSS Registered Children Infant-6th Grade. Fees are non-refundable. For additional information, call 045-526-3008.

ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

AARON TIPPIN & FRIENDS

FREE CONCERT

Thursday 6 Dec

at the Schinnen Community Activity Center

Doors open: 7 PM

Show Starts: 8 PM

Open to US & NATO ID card holders and guests

For more information call DSN 360-7370 / 046-443-7370

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU.
Subscribe to Cadence, our quarterly e-magazine at armedforcesentertainment.com.

Community Roundup

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

November 26

- **Newcomers' Briefing** - Held at ACS Conference room, Bldg. 318, SHAPE starting at 8:30 a.m.

November 28

- **Resilience Day - Class 6: Put it in perspective** - Stop catastrophic thinking, reduce anxiety and improve problem solving by identifying the worst, best and most likely outcomes. Class is from 10 to 11 a.m. at ACS, Bldg. 318, SHAPE.
- **Page Turners Book Discussion Group** - Meets at 5:30 p.m. at the SHAPE International Library to discuss *Equal of the Sun* by Anita Amirrezvan. Registration is not required and there is no fee for this program. For more information or to reserve a copy of the book, call the library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631, e-mail at shape.library@eur.army.mil or stop by during regular hours.



November 29

- **Insurance Seminar**- ACS is holding an Insurance Seminar from 1 to 2 p.m. at the SHAPE ACS Bldg. Get to know what types of insurance are appropriate for you, if your current policy or coverage is the right one and what you can do to keep your premiums low. For more information and to register call DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.
- **The Illuminati - A Book Club for Preteens & Teens** - Meets at 4:30 p.m. at the SHAPE International Library to discuss *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. Registration is not required and there is no fee for this program. For more information or to reserve a copy of the book, call the library at DSN 423-5631 or civilian 065-44-5631, e-mail at shape.library@eur.army.mil or stop by during regular hours.

December 1

- **Gabriel Rivera European Tour 2012** - Sponsored by Club Beyond from 7 to 9 p.m. at the SHAPE Chapel for praise and worship followed by an Ice Cream Social. Wear warm cloth as worship will be around a bonfire outside, weather permitting. For additional information, call civilian 0486-955561.

December 7

- **Tree Lighting Celebration** on Chièvres Air Base, next to PX and Commissary from 4:30 to 8 p.m.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

December 8

- **Jingle Bell Jog** - Starting at 9 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to first and second place finishers for both the 5km and 10km. The registration deadline for this event is Dec. 4. Contact the Fitness Center at DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-717-9667 for departure location and other information.

When: Saturday, December 8th 2012 Time: 0900

Registration Deadline: December Tuesday Dec 4, 2012

For more information contact
USAG Benelux
-Brussels Sports and Fitness Office-
DSN: 368.9667 COM: 02.717.9667