

# THE GAZETTE

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

## Benelux news briefs

### Brussels closes 3 Star to prepare for Spring Fling

The 3 Star Recreation Center won't hold a 3 Star Recreation Night March 27 because it will be closed in preparation for the Spring Fling March 28.

### Luxembourg Gate has new exit hours

Luxembourg Gate near the SHAPE Club now has new hours. In addition to being open for traffic entering SHAPE weekdays from 8 to 9 a.m., the gate will be open for traffic exiting SHAPE Monday through Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. It will be open for exit Fridays from 3 to 4 p.m. No entry will be allowed in the afternoon.

### Library closures coming

The USAG Benelux-Brussels Library will be closed April 5 because of Easter Sunday.

SHAPE International Library will be closed for professional-development training April 20.

### Website may have problems

The USAG Benelux website at <http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil> may be experiencing technical difficulties. The Benelux web team is working with U.S. Army Europe to resolve the issue.

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### Past, present service members honor 17th Airborne Division

(From left to right) Spc. Devlin Trefethen, Sgt. Bryan Derochie, Sgt. Jay Butler, Sgt. Joseph Quirarte and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy W. King (back) stand ready to march to the monument at the start of the commemorative ceremony honoring members of the 17th Airborne Division in Houmont Saturday, March 21, 2015. (Photo by Eric Daniel)

Trenches to Foxholes

# Meeting US WWII Soldiers at ceremony in Houmont

by Cis Spook

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Local citizens and members of the re-enactors association "101st Airborne Belgian Friendly" gathered with WWII veterans and their family members to honor the Soldiers of the 17th Airborne Division during a ceremony held in Houmont, Belgium, March 21.

Special guests at the ceremony were two veterans of the 17th Airborne Division: Lynn W. Aas and Daniel Chipego. Both their units were rushed in emergency to the west of Bastogne when the Nazis released their offensive in the Belgian Ardennes.

Aas was born in 1921 and is a veteran of the 193rd Glider Infantry Regiment under the 17th Airborne Division. He enlisted Aug. 18, 1942, and joined Company D, 193rd GIR, in spring 1944. In August 1944, he arrived in southern United Kingdom and was sent to the Belgian Ardennes soon after. Jan. 7, 1945, was Aas' very first day of combat. Aas' unit endured heavy losses due to severe winter conditions and strong enemy resistance. The regiment faced the Germans for six days before the situation cleared out.

"The first time I came back to Houmont after the war, was in 1999. There were more emotions from the war that time than this time," Aas said. "This time, it brings celebration because of the 70th anniversary, and the damages of war – while they are still in your heart and in your head – you are not reviving them for the first time."

After the war, Aas became an administrator of a medical group in North Dakota.

"The war was a challenge, but, at the same time, it probably was a great help in establishing the direction of my life, my beliefs and my attitude towards life," he said.



Eric Daniel

A re-enactor dressed in a WWII uniform attends the commemorative ceremony in Houmont, Belgium, Saturday, March 21, 2015, honoring the Soldiers of the 17th Airborne Division who fought in the area in January 1945.



Lynn W. Aas, a veteran of the 193rd Glider Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division, signs the guest book next to Mayor Jacques Pierre of Sainte Ode after the ceremony in Houmont Saturday, March 21, 2015.



At left, Sgt. Joseph Quirarte, USAG Benelux MP, shows respect while shaking hands with Isaac Curtis Phillips, veteran of the 4th Infantry Division. Phillips was in the second wave of the Normandy landings on Omaha Beach June 6, 1944. Although his unit didn't fight in the area of Houmont, Phillips, a resident of Binche, Belgium, attends various ceremonies honoring his comrades-in-arms. • At right, Daniel Chipego, a veteran of the 466th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion, 17th Airborne Division, sits next to Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy W. King during the reception held at the conclusion of the ceremony in Houmont, Belgium, Saturday, March 21, 2015. (U.S.Army photos by Cis Spook unless otherwise indicated).