

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

Offices close to set up Plain White T's concert

The Brussels Fitness Center and Auto Skills Center will be closed on Saturday, Sept. 13, in order to provide support for the setup of the free Plain White T's concert at the Brussels American High School gymnasium, scheduled for that evening. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the 7 o'clock performance. (No tickets necessary. Seating is on a "first come, first served" basis.)

Brussels SATO closed Monday

Due to nonavailability of staff, the Contracted Travel Office-Scheduled Airline Traffic Office, or CTO-SATO, at USAG Benelux-Brussels will be closed Sept. 15. Normal operations will resume for the Brussels travel-agency office Sept. 16. In case of an emergency, contact Chièvres Carlson Wagonlit Travel-SATO, or CWT-SATO, at DSN 361-5783 or civilian 068-657125/fax 068-657170.

Gazette submissions

Send requests for publication to usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil.

Table of Contents

News.....	1-13
Events & Happenings....	14-16
Community Roundup.....	17-18



Chimay, Cendron celebrate WWII liberation

Members of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Color Guard, followed by a USAG Benelux platoon and Belgian and French flag bearers of various patriotic associations, march in the footsteps of the American troops who entered Belgium at Cendron 70 years ago. (U.S. Army photo by Cis Spook)

See page 4.

Trenches to Foxholes

Belgium commemorates 70th anniversary of liberation

Chimay area



Marie-Lise Baneton



Tim Clark



Sgt. Vincent Pedican

(Clockwise from top left) A concert by the SHAPE International Band at the Chimay castle kicks off commemoration events Friday, Aug. 29, 2014. • World War II vehicles parade through the local area of Cendron Saturday, Aug. 30, 2014. • The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Color Guard and Honor Platoon participate in the official commemorations that started Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014, honoring the U.S. troops who entered Belgium in Cendron 70 years ago. • Local school children wave the American colors during the ceremonies. • U.S. Ambassador Denise Campbell Bauer addresses the audience at the ceremony in Monceau-Imbrechies where the first 12 GIs were killed in the liberation of Belgium. • USAG Benelux commander Col. Marty Vannatter, Christel Delahaye of the "Duty to Remember" Association and Adj. Maj. Stéphane Charlier from the Belgian Air Force Base in Florennes pay respect to the fallen. • The 424th Air Base Squadron Color Guard participates in the ceremony at St. Rémy Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, commemorating the American aviators and Belgian resistance fighters who were shot by the Nazis. • Family members of the Susan Ruth B-17 crew pay tribute at the memorial erected on the spot where the plane crashed Feb. 8, 1944. • The 424th Air Base Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Kuester, salutes during the playing of the anthems at the Susan Ruth monument. (U.S. Army photos by Cis Spook unless otherwise specified)



Sgt. Vincent Pedican



Continued on next page.

Trenches to Foxholes

70th anniversary of liberation I continued



(Center left) 2nd Armored Division World War II veteran Francis Turner salutes during the playing of the national anthems at the liberation bridge. • (Bottom left) Col. Pierre Bancu, military commander of Hainaut Province; Col. Dean D. King from the Office of Defense Cooperation Belgium-Luxembourg; and Prince Laurent watch the theatrical representation. (U.S. Army photos by Donovan Abrassart)

Rumes

In the days leading up to Sept. 2, 1944, Germans in the village of La Glanerie, Rumes, were getting nervous, and many were fleeing. The Allied Forces, having liberated northern France, were about to enter Belgium. Inhabitants of Rumes felt they were living the last days of the war. The morning of Sept. 2, they heard bells peeling and shouts of joy coming from the French village located just across the border. A few moments later, a pathfinder of the 2nd Armored Division crossed the border on his motorbike using the little bridge – now known as the Liberation Bridge – spanning the Elnon river. Since he hadn't received the order to cross the border, he turned back when he realized he was in Belgium, only to return a few moments later at about 9:30 a.m. accompanied by a military convoy coming to liberate Rumes.

On Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014, government officials and dignitaries including Prince Laurent, the brother of the King of Belgium, joined the population of Rumes to commemorate the liberation of the city and honor their liberators. Also attending the ceremonies were three U.S. veterans of the 2nd Armored Division, "Hell on Wheels,"



(Top left) Children from local schools sing the Chant des Partisans. • (Above right) Members of the USAG Benelux Color Guard wait for Prince Laurent to arrive at the Liberation Memorial.

Francis Turner, Charles Grunert and Bob Connerton, and a British veteran of the 43rd Wessex Division Ernie Turner. The ceremony started at the Liberation Bridge that was crossed by the liberators.

"A bridge so insignificant, but a bridge that marked history, allowed to link people and put an end to the war," said the mayor of Rumes, Michel Casterman.

The ceremony continued at the Liberation Memorial – a statue representing the pathfinder who crossed the bridge, where attendees saw a theatrical performance and a movie about the war. It also included a re-enactment of the arrival of the the pathfinder and the 2nd Armored Division.

The final location was the Secret army's plaque where local children honored the Resistance and, joined by Prince Laurent, sang the Chant des Partisans (Resistance fighters song).

Chièvres

Chièvres commemorated the 70th anniversary of its liberation Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, on the Grand' Place. On Sept. 3, 1944, Chièvres was liberated from a long Axis occupation by the Allies.

The airfield was abandoned days before as the Allies approached, and hundreds of thousands of pages of German documents were burned.

The commemoration was the kickoff of a series of World War commemorative events.

The next event will be the Sept. 13 opening of a World War I exhibit at the Musée de la Vie rurale on Rue Augustin Melsens 28 in Huissignies, a village of Chièvres.



Chièvres Mayor Bruno Lefebvre arrives on the Grand' Place aboard a WWII military vehicle Sept. 3, 2014. (U.S. Army photos by Donovan Abrassart)



Lt. Col. John Bivona, USAG Benelux director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, salutes during the playing of the national anthems.

Trenches to Foxholes

Casteau relives first shots of WWI



On Aug. 22, 2014, local re-enactors from the British War Society recreated the battle that occurred in Casteau between German and British Soldiers exactly 100 years ago.

On Aug. 22, 1914, British and German Soldiers came across each other on the Chaussée de Bruxelles (N6).

The ceremony, co-hosted by the cities of Mons and Soignies, commemorated the first gunshots fired there by Cpl. Edward Thomas. Local officials joined military representatives from SHAPE to host a group of descendants of Thomas and Capt. Charles Hornby who led the first British cavalry charge.

At left, re-enactors recreate the scene. • At right, descendants of Cpl. Edward Thomas and Capt. Charles Hornby lay a wreath at the monument. (U.S.Army photos by Marie-Lise Baneton)



The Netherlands celebrate WWII anniversaries in local communities

Sept. 13 to 21

"Brunssum celebrates 70 years of Freedom" - For an entire week, Brunssum devotes itself to commemorating its liberation from the Germans by American Soldiers from the 2nd Armored Division nicknamed "Hell on Wheels." Admission and parking are free at liberation events. Highlights of "Brunssum celebrates 70 years of Freedom" include

- **All week** - Visit a "Liberation Museum" on d'r Brikke-Oave with photos, film footage, scale models of military vehicles, historic material, uniforms and more.
- **Sept. 19** - Festivities on Lindeplein Square in the city center from 7 to 10:30 p.m.:
 - 7 p.m.: Memorial Service in Gregorius Church includes a musical performance by Solo Voci.
 - 7:45 p.m.: Memorial ceremony at the General Cemetery will be accompanied by the brass ensemble of the Concordia Wind Orchestra.
 - 8:15 p.m.: Memorial ceremony at the British Cemetery will be accompanied by the Coriovallum Pipe Band and the brass ensemble of the Concordia Wind Orchestra.
 - 8:45 p.m.: 2nd Armored Division "Hell on Wheels" memorial will be unveiled at Dorpstraat.
 - After unveiling and official reception for invited guests: A Big Band concert at the Lindeplein pavilion features mezzosoprano Mylou Mazali.
 - 10 p.m.: Fireworks start at Vijverpark.
- **Sept. 20** - Activities from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.:
 - Take a look at old and new military vehicles at Lindeplein/Kerkstraat.
 - Visit the Militaria Market plus two field kitchens, a WWII U.S. Post Office and a static display of Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team.
 - Let little ones enjoy children's events in Vijverpark.
 - Ride around in military vehicles from the Lindeplein.

—Photoshoot in uniform at historic "staircase Waltmans."
 —Kerkstraat shopkeepers offer various activities.

- From 8 to 9:30 p.m.:
 - Open-air Memorial Concert by Brunssum Wind Orchestra, with solo vocalist Mylou Mazali.
- From 10 p.m. to midnight:
 - Listen to a band on Kerkstraat Square.
- **Sept. 21** - Explore the area from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Enjoy performances by re-enactment groups and static displays of military equipment, including a Patriot Launcher, starting at 1 p.m. (See Sept. 20 for other nonmusical events. Children's activities in Vijverpark Saturday only.)
 - 2 p.m.: Watch the Ticker Tape Parade on Dorpstraat-Kerkstraat.
 - After the parade: Listen to the sounds of live music at Kerkstraat Square featuring The Spikes until 8 p.m.

Sept. 14 to 20

- **70th anniversary of Operation Market Garden in Veghel** celebrates the battle that started in the early morning of Sept. 17, 1944, and became a pivotal moment in the history of the southern part of the Netherlands. The brain child of British Field Marshal Bernard Law "Monty" Montgomery, Operation Market Garden's objective was to capture eight bridges and end the war by Christmas. Unfortunately, the Allies encountered unexpectedly fierce German resistance. As part of the 70th commemoration, a parade of historic World War II vehicles will move from the towns of Borkel and Schaft to Veghel and Nijmegen during the week of Sept. 14 to 20. The town of Veghel functioned as the center for Operation Market Garden. Now in 2014 Veghel is again the center of things with a historic base camp and many more activities. For more information on Operation Market Garden commemoration activities, go to <http://omg2014.allunited.nl>.

Trenches to Foxholes

Tanks in Town offers 'liberating' experience

Events celebrate 2AD 'Hell on Wheels'

A group of vintage motorcycles sit out on display at Tanks in Town in Mesvin, just south of Mons. Tanks in Town (Sept. 6 and 7) celebrates the 1944 liberation of Mons by the 2nd Armored Division. The weekend also included tank rides in the Bois Brulé in Ghlin.



A Border collie finds some shade under a tank in Mesvin during Tanks in Town 2014.



A GI re-enactor watches the deployment of tanks and jeeps in the field in Mesvin at Tanks in Town 2014. (Photos by Tim Clark)



One of the highlights of Tanks in Town, a Piper Cub flies over the field in Mesvin.



Tanks roll out with an attack of a German position in Mesvin as a part of Tanks in Town 2014.