

Trenches to Foxholes

Belgium commemorates 70th Anniversary of Liberation

Borlo



(At left) The U.S. Army Garrison Benelux-Brussels Color Guard composed of (from left to right) Sgt. Bryan R. Teneyck, Staff Sgt. Matthew F. Severino (in the back), Sgt. William S. Felts, Spec. Joseph L. Perkins and Staff Sgt. Shawn M. Taylor present arms at the ceremony commemorating the liberation of Borlo, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2004. (Below) The audience listens to the historical overview leading to the liberation of Belgium. Eugene Polinsky (third to the left in front row), is a World War II veteran who was involved in Operation Carpetbagger over Belgium, the name used for the aerial supply of weapons to resistance fighters.



Quévy, Belgium and Gognies-Chaussée, France



(Clockwise from top, left to right) U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Command Sgt. Maj. Robert D. Carter; Lt. Col. John C. Bivona, USAG Benelux Director, Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; Col. Donovan G. Green, Commander, SHAPE Healthcare Facility; and Belgian and French officials pay their respects during the ceremony held at the Belgian border between Mons and Maubeuge, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014. • Members of the USAG Benelux Color Guard — Spc. Devlin Trefethen, Sgt. Gregory Hubbard, Sgt. John Webb, Sgt. Joseph Quirarte, Spc. Edward Chambers and Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy King (not shown) — lead the parade. • A young girl, dressed in vintage civilian clothes and wearing the armband of the Belgian Secret Army, sits on top of a tank during the ceremony commemorating the events that occurred in September 1944. During the night of Sept. 2 to 3, 1944, the road between Mons and Maubeuge was blocked at several locations in an attempt to prevent the German troops from penetrating the American defenses. Fierce battles ensued. Members of the local population were hiding in their basements. Vehicles of all types, followed by troops riding horses were seen everywhere. The 3rd Armored Division, led by Maj. Gen. Maurice Rose, realized how critical the situation was and requested air support. The 1st Infantry Division troops came in to clean up the area. The German forces, stuck in Gognies, were destroyed by squadrons of U.S. Thunderbolts and P-47s. More than 400 vehicles were destroyed as well as five German units. Hundreds of casualties, burned vehicles and horses covered the streets of Gognies. On the evening of Sept. 3, the German counted 350 killed in action and 5,000 wounded or prisoners. By the end of the week, 1st ID reported 18,000 German prisoners, including 300 officers. A total of 34 houses had been completely destroyed, and many others were damaged. (U.S. Army photos by Marie-Lise Baneton)



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WWII's Market Garden remembered in Veghel

The 70th anniversary of Operation Market Garden in Veghel, The Netherlands, commemorates 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.

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 through Sept. 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.

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. However, the Allies encountered unexpectedly fierce German resistance so Monty's bold gamble didn't pay off.

Market was the airborne part of the operation, Garden was the ground portion. By September 1944 the Allies were overstretching their supply lines; they'd liberated Belgium and France and were poised to strike into Germany, but all their supplies still had to be trucked all the way from the Normandy beaches. (Monty had captured the Belgian port of Antwerp Sept. 4, but the Germans still controlled the Scheldt Estuary that led to the port.)

Both Monty (in the north) and Gen. George S. Patton (in the south) wanted to lead the final victorious assault into Germany, but there weren't enough supplies for both. Ike was put on the spot to choose one over the other and eventually went to go with Monty's plan.

For more information about the commemoration of Operation Market Garden, go to <http://omg2014.allunited.nl>.



WWI display is now open

U.S. Army Garrison Benelux commander Col. Marty Vannatter assists Chièvres Mayor Bruno Lefebvre in cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the World War I display in Huissignies, a village of Chièvres, Friday, Sept. 12, 2014. The display highlights not only the war in the trenches but also local civilians' daily life under the occupation. Numerous items on display have been collected from among Chièvres residents. Located at the Musée de la Vie Rurale (Museum of Rural Life), Rue Augustin Melsens 28 in Huissignies (Chièvres), the display will be open Tuesdays to Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Sundays and holidays from 2 to 6 p.m. through Nov. 11. (U.S. Army photo by Marie-Lise Baneton)

Brunssum celebrates anniversary of WWII liberation

Brunssum commemorates its liberation from the Germans by American Soldiers from the 2nd Armored Division nicknamed "Hell on Wheels" with "Brunssum celebrates 70 years of Freedom." Admission and parking are free at liberation events.

Highlights include

Through Sept. 21 - Visit a "Liberation Museum" on d'r Brikke-Oave with photos, film footage, scale models of military vehicles, 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 music 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 CWO brass ensemble.

—8:45 p.m.: 2nd Armored Division "Hell on Wheels" memorial will be unveiled at Dorpstraat.

—After unveiling and official reception for invited guests: Enjoy a Big Band concert at the Lindeplein pavilion.

—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 and a WWII U.S. Post Office.

—Let little ones enjoy children's events in Vijverpark.

—Ride around in military vehicles from the Lindeplein.

From 8 to 9:30 p.m.:

—Open-air Memorial Concert by Brunssum Wind Orchestra.

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. (See Sept. 20 for other non-musical 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.