

THE GAZETTE

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

Benelux news briefs

Schinnen CPF moves

Services for customers will be very limited at the USAG Benelux-Schinnen Central Processing Facility (ID cards; ration cards; Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS; in- and out-processing; etc.) April 23 and 24 because its employees and equipment will be moving into a temporary office across the hall from their current office.

Prior to visiting the CPF, call for an appointment by dialing DSN 364-3475 or civilian +31 (0) 45-5263475.

CAC Office closes

The USAG Benelux-Brussels Common Access Card, or CAC, Office in Building 4's Room 311 will be closed May 28 due to mandatory training.

During the closure, you may schedule an appointment at Brussels by calling SHAPE's ID card section in Building 253 at DSN 366-6292/6291 or civilian 065-446293/6291.

AAFES has job openings

Chièvres Main Store is looking for laborers. Positions are temporary part-time work schedules. Call DSN 361-5337 or civilian 068-275337.

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CYSS celebrates Month of the Military Child

More than 300 children of all ages celebrated the Month of the Military Child by participating in the SHAPE CYSS Colorful Run Thursday, April 16, 2015. Participants were squirted with various hues of colored corn starch as they ran the course. Children received Colorful Run 2015 T-shirts, sunglasses, water bottles and tote bags. After the run, they could play games or participate in soccer and/or field hockey. Children also ate hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and cake. The Month of the Military Child celebrates the resiliency of military children. The average child in a military family will move six to nine times during a school career — an average of three times more frequently than nonmilitary families, according to the Department of Defense Education Activity, or DoDEA. (U.S. Army photo by Kathleen Garrity-Cantwell)

FREEDOM 6 SENDS

Leadership, Army values remain crucial in eliminating sexual harassment, assault

'Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part'

by Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges

Commanding General, U.S. Army Europe

The prevention of sexual assault is critical to maintaining an effective fighting force.

We must live the Army core values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. These values are our code of conduct. I expect all Army Europe personnel to

**'Commanders,
leaders and
Soldiers
must create
a command
climate free of
victim-blaming
— one that
encourages
victims to
report incidents
without fear of
repercussions.'**

live by this code on and off duty.

Leadership is essential to eliminating sexual harassment and assault: Strong leadership is at the heart of everything we do. No program — not SHARP, not EO, not suicide prevention — can lead your formation.

We don't have formations of programs; we have formations of Soldiers whose leadership and accountability create the discipline we're ultimately cultivating.

U.S. Army Europe is currently observing the 11th annual Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month with the theme, "Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know Your Part. Do Your Part" with the overall goal to reduce, with the aim toward eliminating, sexual harassment and assault within the Army Europe family, not just this month — but every month.

Units conducted activities for Ready and Resilient Day April 15 to 17, which included training, education and activities that promote awareness about sexual assault and prevention.

Commanders, leaders and Soldiers must create a command climate free of victim-blaming — one that encourages victims to report incidents without fear of repercussions and where retaliation for reporting is unacceptable.



Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges

Every member of Army Europe should fully support the eradication of sexual harassment and assault in our formation.

Sexual violence has no place within the Profession of Arms and is a threat to the integrity and vitality of our all volunteer force.

Prevention of sexual assault is an inherent responsibility of every Soldier, leader and civilian.

One assault is one too many.
Army Strong, Strong Europe.

SHARP Stand-down takes time to teach

by Andrea Wales

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

April is the Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

"Taking care of Soldiers" is more than an informal Army motto; Army leaders across the globe are setting aside time this month to hold the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention stand-down.

USAG Benelux's SHAPE/Chièvres community took part in the Armywide SHARP stand-down in the Chièvres Community Activity Center April 15. Brussels and Schinnen held SHARP training last week as well.

SHAPE/Chièvres employees who were unable to attend the April 15 training may attend on the alternate training date of April 30 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at SHAPE Healthcare Facility.

John Lamb of the Army Substance Abuse Program, or ASAP, discussed

"diminished capacity" in SHAPE/Chièvres round-robin event. In other words, consent cannot be given under the influence of alcohol.

Whether it's the victim or the perpetrator who drinks, the chance of a sexual assault occurring increases when alcohol is involved, he said.

"When two people go out and one gets drunk, the caretaker is often assaulted," Lamb said.

Of those convicted at court-martial proceedings of sexual assault, 80 to 90 percent were under the influence of substances at the time they committed the crime, he said.

"That one loss of control can mess up your career or kill you," Lamb said.

The mainstream media and American culture promote drinking, he said.

"Unfortunately, we associate alcohol with having fun," Lamb said. "Now it's

time for us to change the mindset."

Social pressure to drink can be enormous, especially at social events, he said. At dining-in/out events, however, the "new" Army now provides two grog bowls — one alcoholic, one nonalcoholic.

Alcohol is a factor in suicide, homicide and sexual assault so if you decide to drink, only drink when you are in the right mood. Don't drink when you're angry or depressed, Lamb said.

Lamb offered some helpful hints:

- Alternate between alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks.
- Don't go to a new social setting and get drunk.
- Don't drink on an empty stomach.
- Don't drink from an alcoholic grog bowl at a military event.
- Get the names, phone numbers and workplaces of drinking friends so you help without putting yourself at risk.



Air Force Master Sgt. Jennifer Foster, right, punches Army Sgt. Charles Yates, who is dressed in protective clothing, as he pretends to assault her during the Army Community Service Purple Belt self-defense class in the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base Tuesday, April 15, 2015. The class was taught for Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention, or SHARP, Stand-Down Day. Foster works for American Forces Network Benelux, and Yates is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux. (U.S. Army photo by Pierre-Etienne Courtejoie/Training Support Center Benelux)

Events raise awareness

BOSS Mexican Dinner - Single service members are invited to share in a Mexican dinner, provided by the USAG Benelux Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program, in the first-floor dayroom of the Single Soldiers Quarters on Chièvres Air Base **April 23** at 6 p.m. This event is planned in association with Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or BOSS, and provides a meet-and-greet with victim advocates. Open to single service members living in the barracks on Chièvres Air Base and Caserne Daumerie. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

Take Back the Night run - Registration for the run at SHAPE's Green Gym starts **April 24** at 3 p.m. Local commanders will sign a proclamation at 3:30 p.m. The run begins at 4 p.m. For more information, call DSN 366-6268 or civilian 065-326268.

Chièvres undergoes transformation

by Keith Houin

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Members of the Chièvres/SHAPE community are beginning to see major changes and improvements on Chièvres Air Base as U.S. Army Garrison Benelux makes efforts to meet the goals of the European Infrastructure Consolidation as well as facilitate a long-planned move of operations from Caserne Daumerie to Chièvres Air Base.

The Caserne Daumerie move and other improvements on the air base will consolidate most services in the same area and make it more convenient for patrons of garrison services as well as Army and Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES, and Defense Commissary Agency, or DeCA, services.

The PXtra facility is planned to be converted to office space and PXtra service will be moved to the main store and a new 3,200 square foot extension to the facility. The new extension and consolidation of AAFES services will make it more convenient for customers to get all their shopping done in one location rather than having to go to multiple facilities, AAFES manager Joe Escobar said.

Work on the extension has begun, but in the interim some of the PXtra operations will be conducted from the newly erected tent in the Chièvres Main Exchange parking lot until the extension is completed, Escobar said.

Additionally, Escobar said the dry cleaners will move into Building 20081 – the same building as the laundromat in what used to be the Corps of Engineers office.

Despite every effort to minimize loss of services to the customer, some things will no longer be available, Escobar said, the Möbel Krings-Maraite furniture contract ended March 31, and they won't renew their contract. Video rental and express food will also no longer be available."

The PX will also get a new \$3.6 million Heating Ventilation and Air Condition systems. The new system will reduce energy waste and provide better temperature control in the main exchange to include the new section under construction, said Chris Papaioannou, the garrison's director of public works.

There is no firm date on when the current PXtra will shut its doors but the move will be completed by May 15.

Customers will have already noticed numerous changes within the main exchange. In the coming weeks customers will see more changes as the current customer service area is prepared to become military clothing sales. Customer service will soon be located at the front of the store to provide more convenient service to patrons and to be more in line with similar type stores shoppers are used to in the States.

The post office, also in the PXtra facility, will make a temporary move to Building 8 on Caserne Daumerie May 8, according to Dona Brooks, the director of Human Resources. The Postal Finance Window and the Official Mail Section will be closed on moving day, and the Personal Mail Delivery Section will be closed from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to allow personnel to move the mail and equipment from one facility to the other. It will re-open from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Building 8 on Caserne Daumerie to allow customers to pick up any mail they may have.



Bill Audretsch applies a new sign for Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental as Kenny Goff steadies the glass door in Outdoor Rec's new location in the Chièvres Activity Center Tuesday, April 7, 2015. Its old location will be converted to office space for offices now located on Caserne Daumerie. Outdoor Rec will hold its grand opening at Kids Day April 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (U.S. Army photo by Andrea Wales)

Addresses and receptacle numbers won't change, but combinations of the mailboxes will. Your new combination will be placed in your current receptacle within the next couple of weeks.

The post office will move back to Chièvres Air Base when the renovations of the old PXtra and Bldg 120 are complete.

SATO travel office will move from Chièvres Air Base PXtra to Caserne Daumerie Building 20024 Room 108. The office on Chièvres will close April 30 through May 4 to allow for the move. Normal operations will resume May 5 in the new location.

The PXtra facility won't be the only changes over the next few months.

The Chièvres Community Activity Center has been undergoing a face lift for the past several weeks. The entire facility has been painted and new flooring will be coming for the Fitness Center and the old Patriot Lounge.

There is a lot of new graphic material on the walls both in the Fitness Center and in the large area around the basketball courts.

See next page.

Chièvres transformation / continued

"Inside the fitness center, we are eagerly awaiting the installation of a Cardio Theater," said Craig Larsen, the director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "There are six new TVs, which will shortly be tuned to different stations, mounted to the wall. Attached to the cardio machines will be devices that allow you to plug in your headphones and choose which TV you want to listen to while you are working out. Both Sky Satellite and AFN are being installed, and the plan is to have a variety of programs playing to include sports, news, movies and other popular programs."

Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental has moved to the Community Activity Center as well, Larsen said.

"This move makes (Outdoor Recreation and Equipment

Rental) much more accessible to the community, and they will be able to see all that we have to offer."

The new hours of operation are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m.

There will also be changes in the Brussels and Schinnen communities. The Brussels community may see works begin as early as this fall, but the Schinnen community isn't expected to see any major changes until 2017.

"Actions to facilitate the return of the sites and the movement of the work force and equipment to different facilities are already underway, but most of these actions have had no effect on the supported community," Papaioannou said.

News briefs

USNMR hosts town-hall

The U.S. National Military Representative invites all American service members, civilians and their family members to a U.S. town-hall meeting and information fair at the SHAPE Events Centre May 5 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Meet with community leaders and agencies to ask questions and receive information. Children's bouncy house and food will be available.

Schedule

4 to 5 p.m.: Town-hall Q&A

3 to 4 p.m., 5 to 6 p.m.: Info Fair

For details, contact DSN 423-4032 or civilian 065-444032.

AGCRA offers scholarship

The National Executive Council of the Adjutant General's Corps Regimental Association recently announced its fifth annual AGCRA National Scholarship Program.

Six \$1,000 new college scholarships will be awarded for the 2015-16 school year. The scholarship application deadline is June 1.

Visit <http://www.agcra.com>.

Don't miss deadlines for FY15 end-of-year funds obligation

Special to the Gazette

Regional Contracting Office-Benelux

In order to obligate funds by Sept. 30, the Regional Contracting Office, or RCO-Benelux, must receive a complete Purchase Request and Commitment, or PR&C, package via the General Fund Enterprise Business System, or GFEBS, prior to the cutoff dates below:

Services/Construction/Supply

- April 30: more than \$1 million
- May 31: more than \$150,000 and less than \$1.5 million
- June 30: under \$150,000
- Aug. 15: Task/Delivery Order

Information Technology, or IT (Supply/Services via U.S. Army Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions, or CHESS)

- June 30: more than \$150,000
- Aug. 15: under \$150,000

General Services Administration, or GSA, orders

- May 31: more than \$1 million
- June 30: more than \$150,000 and less than \$1.5 million
- July 31: under \$150,000

Options on and modifications of existing contracts

- Aug. 15: All, regardless of dollar amount.

In related news, officials at Regional Contracting Office-Benelux, commonly referred to as RCOB, would like to know if there are any experienced DAWIA Level II certified 1102 contract specialists (GS-11) who live in the local Benelux area. If you think you have the experience and qualifications, contact RCOB at DSN 368-9625 or civilian 02-7179625 for further information.

Did you know that . . .



Living beyond your means is a prescription for disaster.

Does more than 25 percent of your take-home pay go to paying bills? Are you making only minimum payments on bills due? Are you taking out new loans to pay off old ones? Are you missing payments? Are you stalling one creditor to pay another? Are you having frequent family arguments over money?

Do you really need that new TV, fancy watch or extra cup of fancy coffee? Financial counseling is available through your local Army Community Service office.

Soldiers Helping Soldiers for 72 Years

www.aerhq.org

Volunteers honored for selfless service

by **Andrea Wales**

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

The SHAPE/Chièvres community thanked its volunteers during a volunteer-recognition ceremony in the SHAPE Club ballroom April 17.

USAG Benelux registered volunteers put in almost 18,000 hours, worth more than \$400,000 using Department of Labor and Statistics calculations, said Craig Larsen, the head of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and

Recreation.

"We have hundreds of volunteers," Larsen said. "The true benefit is the individuals and what they give to the community."

Wallace "Spider" Turner, the Benelux Army Volunteer Corps coordinator, talked about their motivation.

"They volunteer from the heart," Turner said. "Our way of saying 'thank you' is the volunteer-recognition ceremony."

Award-winners were:

- Volunteer Service Member of the Year Chief Petty Officer Harry Hughes;
- Volunteer Retiree of the Year Gregory Perkins;
- Volunteer Civilian of the Year Brandy Allard;
- Volunteer Family Member of the Year Kipperey "Kippe" Carlson; and
- Volunteer Youth of the Year Skye Capazzi.

"The typical volunteer doesn't do it for the recognition," Larsen said. "A volunteer sees a need and wants to get involved."

Volunteers also have individual motivations for vol-

unteering.

"I've always wanted a career that involved working with children. Since that hasn't worked out for me yet, I decided to dedicate my spare time to a volunteer opportunity that would allow me to work with them," said Allard, who is an office manager for the Special Advisor for Special Handling on SHAPE. "I chose to volunteer for the Girl Scouts because I wanted to make a difference in their lives by teaching them the values of the program."

Capazzi, 13, is a Girl Scout. "Volunteering is fun," she said. "You get to spend time with people you don't know and make new friends. It gives you something to do."

Among her volunteer efforts, Capazzi brought gifts to the children of Le Kangourou, a battered-women's shelter in Baudour, Belgium.

"The smiles and looks on their faces just warmed my heart," she said. "We watched them play with their new toys, and they were the happiest kids I'd ever seen."

Volunteers are encouraged



Skye Capazzi

to register in the Volunteer Management Information System, or VMIS, which tracks volunteer hours.

VMIS does more than track your volunteer hours, said Perkins, who volunteers as a program-manager assistant for the Employment Readiness Program at SHAPE Army Community Service. VMIS lists available volunteer opportunities and more.

"Volunteering can lead to potential employment opportunities," Perkins said.



Brandy Allard

Schinnen names best volunteers

Top volunteers display their awards at the USAG Benelux-Schinnen volunteer-recognition ceremony in the Schinnen Community Activity Center Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Front row: Representatives of Schinnen's Organization of the Year, the Soldier and Family Readiness Group of Company A, AFNORTH Battalion; Youth Volunteer of the Year Jessica Gullede (with award hanging around her neck); Volunteer Family of the Year (three-family tie) Anna and Rick Galeano (not shown: Katrin). Back row: Volunteer Family of the Year Dwight (wearing glasses), Aletta and David Grismore; Tanya and Gunnery Sgt. Brian Kendrick, Schinnen's Civilian/Family Member Volunteer of the Year and Military Volunteer of the Year; deputy garrison manager Kim Wayland. (Jim, Christy, Sean and Kaitlyn Price weren't able to attend to accept their Volunteer Family of the Year award.)





Celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day

by **Lindita Celaj**

Mobilization and Deployment specialist, USAG Benelux Army Community Service

Part of National Military Appreciation Month, May 8 is designated as Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

SHAPE Army Community Service will honor military spouses and express the appreciation of USAG Benelux at the SHAPE ACS training room May 8 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The event offers military spouses an opportunity to refresh their minds, bodies and spirits with meditation, stress management and resilience training. Light refreshments will be served. Register by May 5. Call DSN 366-6824 or civilian 065-326824.

The role of military spouses has been recognized since the Revolutionary War, but it wasn't until the 1980s that their role was formally recognized as being critical to America's Armed Forces. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 23 as Military Spouse Day. The proclamation recognized the profound importance of the spouse's commitment to the readiness and well-being of service members.

The secretary of defense standard-

'The Army is indebted to spouses for their care and unwavering support to the Army.'

ized the date by declaring the Friday before Mother's Day as Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is observed each year as a way to honor the contributions, strength and resilience of military spouses who have selflessly served alongside their active-duty husbands and wives. On Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Americans celebrate the force behind the force and show these home-front heroes the full support

of a grateful nation. This day recognizes the powerful difference that spouses make in the lives of America's service members. They stand beside those who stand behind the flag, giving their all and making tremendous sacrifices.

The Army leadership acknowledges the following:

- The Army recognizes and appreciates the positive impact spouses have on their Soldiers and the Army.

- Army spouses are vital to the strength, resilience and readiness of Soldiers – helping them start, serve, reintegrate and remain strong.

- Ready, resilient and Army Strong, Army spouses routinely put the welfare of their Soldiers, their families and the nation above their own.

- The Army is indebted to spouses for their care and unwavering support to the Army, including America's Gold Star spouses and spouses of Wounded Warriors.

- The strength of America's Soldiers comes from the strength of their families.

Chièvres celebrates USA with festival

by Tim Clark

USAG Benelux Public Affairs Office

Mark your calendars, the inaugural Chièvres American Festival is set to kick off May 9 and run until May 17. Organized by the Chièvres Tourism office, the festival will honor Americans and build bridges between the Belgian and American populations in the community.

"Since I have been the mayor, I have always sought to integrate U.S. residents in our city so as soon as the tourist office suggested organizing this wonderful initiative we supported them directly," stated Chièvres mayor Bruno Lefèbvre.

The United States established diplomatic relations with Belgium in 1832. Good will and affection for Americans is widely held in Belgium as a result of the United States' role during and after both world wars. The festival will celebrate this long-standing relationship with fun for all ages. The objective of the festival is straightforward, according to Lefèbvre.

"Giving the Chièvres residents and the Americans the opportunity to get to know each other so they can meet more often. Our residents are friendly and welcoming," he said.

May 9: Chièvres City Park hosts a WWII vintage-vehicle display at 4 p.m. Dinner will be available for purchase at the park starting at 6 p.m. The Chièvres band and a disc jockey will provide music for a 1940s-themed ball at 8 p.m.

May 11 and 12: Local school children will visit the International Museum of Chièvres Air Base at Rue de Saint-Ghislain 16 in Chièvres. A staff member will discuss the 1967-2015 portion of the museum that highlights the time that the United States has run the base.

May 13: Word of Truth International Christian Ministries' "Voices of Victory" choir will give a free concert at the St. Jean Chapel in Chièvres at 8 p.m. The chapel can only hold 150 seats; therefore concert organizers recommend reserving seats by calling the Chièvres Tourist Office at 068-645961.

May 14: The fun fair will fill the Grand Place (square).

May 15: American country-music artist Jake Marlin will perform in a concert in the city park at 9 p.m. Horseback-riding at 4 p.m. and a demonstration by Belgian country dancers at 7 p.m. will also be at the park Friday.

May 16: The fun fair continues on the square with a chili cook-off, open to all, at noon. American sports demonstrations will be held in the park from 2 to 6 p.m. Take a look



Country singer Jake Marlin will perform at the Chièvres American Festival in the city park May 15 at 9 p.m. (Photo by Jordan Overturf)

at the motorcycles at the Harley Davidson gathering in the park at 4 p.m. An open-air movie screening will take place in the park at 9 p.m.

May 17: U.S. service members will escort senior citizens from local nursing homes to the Sunday market. Americans and Belgians will hold booths in Rue St Jean to show their specialties, and the fun fair will continue on the square. Displays about the American presidents and the history of Chièvres Air Base will be at the city hall. The festival will close with a fireworks display Sunday night.



Coast Guard leader visits

At left, Vice Adm. Peter Neffenger visits Activities Europe at USAG Benelux-Schinnen for the first time to meet with the command and crew Friday, March 27, 2015. Neffenger is second in command, directly overseeing the Coast Guard's senior operational and mission-support commanders as well as Headquarters staff and serves as service chief in the absence of the commandant.

Trenches to Foxholes

Next week in World War history (April 26 to May 2)

World War I
1915

April 26 - After receiving the promise of significant territorial gains, Italy signs the Treaty of London, committing itself to enter World War I on the side of the Allies.

April 28 - The International Congress of Women convenes on this day in 1915 at The Hague, the Netherlands, with more than 1,200 delegates from 12 countries — including Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Poland, Belgium and the United States — all dedicated to the cause of peace and a resolution of the great international conflict that was World War I.

May 2 - On the Eastern Front, a combined Austro-German offensive begins against the Russian Third Army at Tarnow and Gorlice in Galicia. The attack is preceded by a massive artillery bombardment with more than 700,000 shells. This breaks down the defenses of the weakened Russians who now suffer from shortages of artillery shells and rifles. Within two days, the Austro-Germans break through the lines and the Russians begin a disorganized retreat.

1916

April 27 - Three British officers, including the famous Capt. T.E. Lawrence (commonly known as Lawrence of Arabia), attempt to engineer the escape of thousands of British troops under siege at the city of Kut-al-Amara in Mesopotamia through a secret negotiation with the Turkish command.

April 29 - In the single largest surrender of troops in British history to that time, some 13,000 Soldiers under the command of Sir Charles Townshend give in after withstanding nearly five months under siege by Turkish and German forces at the town of Kut-al-Amara, on the Tigris River in the Basra province of Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq).

- The "Havre Declaration" is signed by France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan and Russia guaranteeing integrity of Belgian Congo.

1917

April 27 - Guatemala severs diplomatic relations with Germany

April 28 - The U.S. Congress passes a bill for raising 500,000 men.

April 30 - The so-called Battle of the Boot marks the end of the British army's Samarra Offensive, launched the previous month by Anglo-Indian forces under the regional commander in chief, Sir Frederick Stanley Maude, against the important Turkish railroad at Samarra, some 130 kilometers north of Baghdad, in Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq).

1918

April 27 - The first contingent of Italian troops arrive on the French front.

April 30 - Viborg (Finland) is captured by German forces and Finnish White Guards

May 1 - Sevastopol taken by German forces.

May 2 - In a conference of Allied military leaders at Abbeville, France, the United States, Britain and France argue over the entrance of American troops into World War I.

World War II
1939

April 27 - The British Air Ministry awards the largest-ever order for an American-built fighter aircraft with an order for 524 Tomahawk fighters.

1940

April 29 - British submarine HMS Unity collides with Norwegian freighter Atle Jarl in the harbor of Blyth, England, in foggy weather. Unity sinks within five minutes, killing four. Lt. John Low and Able Seaman Henry Miller are posthumously awarded the George Cross for their self-sacrifice while helping fellow comrades to escape the sinking ship.

1941

April 27 - The German army enters the Greek capital, signaling the end of Greek resistance. All mainland Greece and all the Greek Aegean islands except Crete are under German occupation by May 11.

1942

April 30 - The German submarine U-456 damages HMS Edinburgh, escorting Allied convoy QP-11, with two torpedoes (one hitting amidships and another ripped off the stern) in the Norwegian Sea 200 miles north of Murmansk, Russia. It is carrying £5,000,000 of Soviet gold meant as down payment for American weapons and other war supplies. HMS Edinburgh sails for Murmansk at the slow speed of 3 knots, escorted by two British destroyer and two Soviet destroyers. U-456 runs out of torpedoes and cannot make further attacks, but remains near the convoy to report on the convoy's position.

1943

May 1 - The International Medical Commission completed its investigation on the Katyn Massacre, concluding that the Soviet Union was responsible for the atrocity..

1944

April 27 - British Sgt. Norman Jackson's Lancaster bomber is attacked by a German nightfighter after a bombing run over Schweinfurt, Germany. As he observes that the starboard wing is on fire, he climbs outside with a parachute and a fire extinguisher. Holding on with one hand, he attempts to put out the fire while the aircraft travels at 200 mph at the altitude of 20,000 feet. He is eventually thrown off the aircraft. He survives the fall but is captured.

1945

April 28 - "Il Duce," Benito Mussolini, and his mistress, Clara Petacci, are shot by Italian partisans who had captured the couple as they attempted to flee to Switzerland.

May 2 - Approximately 1 million German Soldiers lay down their arms as the terms of the German unconditional surrender, signed at Caserta April 29, come into effect. Many Germans surrender to Japanese-American Soldiers. Among the American tank crews that entered the northern Italian town of Biella was an all-Nisei (second-generation) infantry battalion, composed of Japanese-Americans from Hawaii.

"Next week in World War history" is compiled from various sources by Keith Houin, USAG Benelux Public Affairs.

BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

Sign up now

- **Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon** - All volunteers in the Brussels community who are registered with Brussels Army Community Service are invited to attend the USAG Benelux-Brussels Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and luncheon at the 3 Star **April 30** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided for registered volunteers. Reservations are required. To register for the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and luncheon, call DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-7179783.
- **Duathlon** - USAG Benelux-Brussels will hold a duathlon, starting at Brussels Fitness Center, **May 16** from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This event consists of a 5k run, a 10k bike leg and a 5k run. Race officials will award first-, second- and third-place prizes to top-finishing males and females. Open to all U.S. military, civilians, family members and retirees. For details, call DSN 368-9667 or civilian 02-7179667.

April 23

- **Family Dinner at 3 Star** - Family Dinner is normally offered Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy fish-and-chips buffet. Make your (required) reservation at reservations3star@yahoo.com. Cost: Adults \$8, children 12 and under, \$4.

April 24

- **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. Call DSN 368-9822 or civilian 02-7179822.

April 25

- **Month of the Military Child/Family Fitness Day** - Take part in this event at the Sterrebeek Youth Center and Brussels American School soccer field from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy fitness classes for adults and children, kung fu demonstration, sporting games and events, etc. For more information, call DSN 368-9534 or civilian 02-7179534.

SCHINNEN/BRUNSSUM COMMUNITY

Sign up now

- **Flea-market booths** - Schinnen Outdoor Recreation hosts a flea market at the Schinnen Activity Center **May 23** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Setup at 9 a.m. Cost per table is \$10. For registration or more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437560.
- **Country Line Dance Evening** - Come to this community event at the E3A Club on NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen **May 9**. Doors open at 7 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m. Free admission. Register by April 29. Component members and their guests can register at linedancers_for_fun@hotmail.com.

April 23, 30

- **Scream-free Parenting/Raising your kids by keeping your cool** held at Schinnen Army Community Service in Building 39 from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information, call DSN 360-7453/7500 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437453/7500.

April 24

- **Month of the Military Child Celebration** - Join in honoring the community's Military Children from 3 to 6 p.m. at the CYSS Facility on JFC Brunssum. Activities include bouncy houses, games, face-painting, and arts and crafts. Refreshments will also be served. Children must be accompanied by parents in order to participate. All Military Families are welcome. For more information, call DSN 364-3121/2023 or civilian +31(0)455263121/2023.
- **Mobilization and Deployment/Hearts Apart** - Schinnen Army Community Service offers a support group for youth separated from a loved one, whether through a deployment or a family situation from 2 to 3 p.m. at AFNORTH International School. For details please call the ACS Deployment Readiness office at civilian DSN 360-7269/7500 or +31 (0)46-4437269/7500.

April 24 to 26, May 1 to 3

- **Aladdin** - The Alliance Players will present the play "Aladdin" at JFC Brunssum's Alliance Theater April 24 and 25 as well as May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. The curtain goes up on matinee performances April 26 and May 3 at 2 p.m. Admission: €8; children €5. A family package for four is also available for €20.

April 29

- **Denim Day 5k Walk/Run** - Wear denim and show support for an End to Sexual Violence. It starts at 9 a.m. from the Fitness Center. For more information call DSN 360-7367 or civilian +31 (0)46-4437367.
- **Overseas Military Service Coordinator** - Speak to someone who knows about benefits and entitlements obtained through the Department of Veterans Affairs, and get answers to your questions about VA disability benefits, medical-records reviews, appeals or pending claims. The OMSC will be at Schinnen Army Community Service in Building 39 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. To schedule an hourlong appointment, contact germany.va.rep@gmail.com.

SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

Sign up now

- **Registration open for Summer Theater Camp** - Children in grades 3 through 9 can bring the musical "HONK Jr." to the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre during Summer Theater Camp. Session begins **June 29** and runs through Aug. 1. To find out more, call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065-443312 Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.
- **Military Spouse Appreciation Day** - See page 7.

April 23

- **BOSS Mexican Dinner** - See page 3.

April 24

- **Take Back the Night run** - See page 3.
- **PTSA Annual Carnival** - SHAPE American High School's Parent Teacher Student Association, or PTSA, holds its school carnival in the old school cafeteria in Building 710 from 4 to 7 p.m.
- **Karaoke** - Step up to the microphone and belt out a tune or sit back and enjoy the entertainment at B3's Sports Bar. B's is open Fridays from 3:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., but Karaoke Night starts at 10 p.m. Free admission.

April 24 and 25

- **Holocaust Days of Remembrance** - The U.S. Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust, according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's website at <http://www.ushmm.org>. A display will be set up in the Main Exchange food court from 1 to 3 p.m.

April 25

- **Kids Day 2015** - This event will be held at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be a day full of games, exploration, activities, food vendors and live performances. Children can enjoy crafts and creativity as well as the sounds of American Forces Network, or AFN, Benelux, which will be broadcasting live from the event. Stop by Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental's new location in the CAC during Outdoor Rec's grand opening at Kids Day, and see what Outdoor Rec has to offer. Kids Day is open to all U.S. and SHAPE ID card-holders. For more information, call DSN 366-6824 or 065-326824.
- **Special DJ** - Listen and dance to the sounds of DJ "David G" in the Events Centre ballroom from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Free admission.
- **Spanish Feria** - Experience Spain during a fair at the SHAPE Events Centre from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. See a flamenco show, and taste paella and tapas. Admission: €6, which includes tapa and beverage; children under 12, free. Get tickets April 23 and 24 at the Carrefour from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., or at the Silver Spoon Cafeteria from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

April 26

- **SHAPE flea market** - Open to all SHAPE card-holders and sponsored guests from 8 a.m. to noon. Unlike in previous years, the flea market will take place on the parking in front of the Pizza Bowl. Vendor permits can be purchased from Morale Welfare Operations in Building 207, which also houses the SHAPE Performing Arts Centre. For more information, call DSN 423-8341/8340 or civilian 065-448341/8340.

April 29

- **Career Exploration Trip to Microsoft** - This CYSS Youth Centre trip will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to children in ninth through 12th grades. To find out more about this trip or to register, call DSN 423-6104 or civilian 065-446104.

Movies at SHAPE Cinema

Rates — 2D movies: adults €7 and children 11 and under €4. 3D movies: adults €9 and children 11 and under €6. Check <http://www.shape2day.com/cinema.aspx> 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>.

Movie at JFC HQ Alliance Theater

Adult admission is €5 (ages 12 and older) - Child admission is €3 (ages 11 and under). Check the new web page at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/reel-time-theatres/Schinnen-1366146> for the movie schedule.

Travel the Benelux

Encounter carpet of flowers in Blue Forest



Blooming bluebells carpet the forest floor in the Blue Forest in Halle, Belgium, Wednesday, April 22, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

When you see this miracle of nature and smell its intense sweet fragrance, you might feel like you've stepped into a dream.

The secret of this magical place (which is free to visit) is millions of bluebells.

Every spring, just outside of Halle, the forest floor is transformed into a lush floral carpet surrounding the beech trees as far as the eye can see.

The Hallerbos (Dutch for Halle forest), also called the

Blue Forest, is in bloom now but only for about two weeks.

Don't miss going for a springtime walk on the winding trails in the 1,360-acre woods: Each turn of the path brings a new visual delight.

Driving Distance

For your GPS:
Vlasmarktdreef 4
1500 Halle
From Mons: 44 km
From Brussels: 19 km
From Schinnen: 148 km

Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Discounted tickets to theme parks, castles and more are also available. Call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884.

- **Polish Pottery and Czech Crystal Shopping Trip, May 1 to 4**
- **Paris, May 2**
- **Thermes de Spa, Belgium, May 9**
- **Amsterdam, May 23**
- **Normandy Beaches, May 29 to 31**
- **London, June 6**
- **Stonehenge with Salisbury & Oxford, June 13 to 14**
- **Somme Battlefield and Peronne Museum, June 20**
- **Phantasia Land, Bruehl, Germany, June 27**
- **Pamplona Running of the Bulls, July 6 to 9**
- **Prague with Heidelberg and Nuremberg, July 26 to 29 (Register by June 26.)**
- **Disney Paris, July 15**
- **Dolfinarium in Harderwijk, the Netherlands, July 23**
- **Atlantic Wall Museum and Oostende, Belgium, Aug. 8**
- **London, Aug. 15 to 17**
- **Medieval Dinner in Bruges, Aug. 22**

SHAPE Travel Group

For more information, call civilian 0470-876369.

- **Giverny, France: Monet's Home and Gardens, May 7**
- **London and Chelsea Flower Show, May 21**
- **Amiens, France, and Les Hortillonages (Floating Gardens), June 2**
- **Provins, France: Medieval Festival, June 13**
- **Paris, June 18**
- **Hampton Court Palace and Gardens, June 30**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

Call DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- **Day Trip to Delft, May 9**
- **Luxembourg and American Cemetery, May 30**
- **Disney Paris, June 6**
- **Berlin Express, June 13**
- **Canoeing & Biking, June 27**
- **D-Day landing beaches, memorials and battle monuments in Normandy, France, July 17 to 20 (Register by May 15.)**
- **Dutch Day, July 31**
- **Bernkastel-Kues, Germany: Wine Festival, Sept. 5**
- **National Liberation Museum 1944-1945 and Arnhem battlefield tour, Sept. 26**



Read about events near Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

April 23 to 25

- **"La Ronde des Innocents" in Chièvres** - Play relating the story of Gérard le Rond, butcher in Chièvres in the year 1252, who was killed for a cow. Performance begins at 8:30 p.m. on the Chièvres square. Presale tickets are at €12 per adult and €8, under 26 years old and can be bought at the Chièvres Tourist Office on the square.
- **Balkan Trafik Festival in Brussels** - Discover the culture of Balkan and South-East of Europe. This festival mixes traditional musics, electronic musics and cinematographic productions. Find more information at <http://www.balkantrafik.com/lineup-en/>.

April 23 to 27

- **Brussels Tango Festival** with demonstrations and beginners' classes in a variety of venues, not just on stage, but also in metro stations and quiet corners in city parks. Find more information at <http://brus-selstangofestival.com>.

April 23 to May 3

- **Brussels Short Film Festival** - Discover the pick of the world's short films, with more than 300 films from 40 countries. The festival includes international and national competitions. Find more information at <http://bsff.be/en/films-2014>.

April 24 to 26

- **"TournItalia" Italian fair in Tournai** with all kinds of activities around the theme of Italian culture. Find more information at <http://www.tournitalia.be>.

April 25

- **Evening flea market in Soignies** at the train station's parking lot on Chaussée de Mons from 2 to 9 p.m. (100 booths)
- **Flea market and Crafts fair in Hornu** on the Grand'Place from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (120 booths)
- **Flea market in Nimy** on the square and along the canal from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (120 booths)
- **Flea market in Braine-le-Comte** at Rue de Mons 87 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 25 to 27

- **Art Brussels 2015** with more than 2,000 artists, international well-known names as well as promising young talents; 30,000 contemporary art lovers; and famous Belgian collectors. as a 30% visitors from abroad. Find more information at <http://www.artbrussels.com>.

April 26

- **Flea market and crafts fair in Lombise** in the center of the village from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (150 booths)



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

Through April 26

- **Art and Antiques fair in Rosmalen** will be held at Autotron on Graafsebaan. It will host vendors from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; special hours April 23 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission: €15.

April 24

- **Evening Market in Ekeren, Belgium**, will be held on Driehoekstraat. Open from 4 to 10 p.m.

April 24 to 26

- **"Buitengewoon Buitenhof Festifair" in Zeist** will be held at Kwekerij Abbing at Odijkerweg 132-134. This fair focuses on the good life: living, gardening, food and music. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

April 25

- **Antique and curiosa market in Roermond** will be held at Kloosterwandplein in the town center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 25 to 26

- **Scandinavia-XL in Baarn** will be held at Castle Groeneveld at Groeneveld 2. You can find all sorts of Scandinavian food, products, workshops, travel information and more. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €7.50; children, ages 12 and under, free.
- **Thai Market in Borgloon, Belgium**, will have Thai delicacies, merchandise, shows, entertainment and more in Stroop Fabriek at Stationsstraat 54. Free admission. Open April 25 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and April 26 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Curiosa Fair in Gorinchem** will be held at the Fortress Vuren at Waaldijk 29. Many vendors from Belgium, the Netherlands and France will display their wares in the 200-year-old tower. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: €2.50.
- **Elf Fantasy Fair (Elfia) in Haarzuilens** is a fantasy weekend with magic, the rattling of swords, various international celebrities, witches and other fantasy figures at Castle de Haar on Kasteellaan. Open April 25 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. and April 26 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission: €25; children, ages 3 to 11, €13.50.
- **Ceramic Market in Paderborn, Germany**, will be held in front of the library at Geisselschen Garten. Open from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

April 26

- **Antique, Art and Curiosa Market in Maastricht** will be held on Boschstraat. Open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.



April 26 continued

- **Flea market in Enghien** at Rue de la Station 51 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (80 booths)
- **Flea market in Feluy** at the Grand'Place from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (200 booths)
- **Flea market in Mons** at the Place du Marché aux Poissons from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (80 booths)
- **Militaria in Ciney, Belgium**, is a fair with military merchandise, such as uniforms, helmets, medals, flags and more. More than 550 vendors from all over Europe will converge on the Ciney Expo on Rue du marche couvert to display and sell their wares. Open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: €15.
- **Liège-Bastogne-Liège** - Liège-Bastogne-Liège, often called La Doyenne ("the oldest"), is one of the five "Monuments" of the European professional road cycling calendar, and one of 24 races in which points can be gained toward the UCI (International Cycling Union) World Ranking. It is run in the Ardennes region of Belgium, from Liège to Bastogne and back. The race follows a straightforward 95 km route from Liège to Bastogne, and a winding 163 km route back to Liège. The second half contains most of the climbs. Get more information at <http://www.letour.fr/liege-bastogne-liege/2015/us>.
- **Volksmarch in Neufvilles** for 5, 10, 15, 20 km. Departs from Rue de Godimont from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Wasmès** for 5, 10, 20 km. Departs from Rue du Berchon 161 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Houdeng-Goegnies** for 5, 10, 15 and 20 km. Departs from Avenue du Stade 21 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

April 30

- **International Jazz Day in Brussels** - That day is designed to raise awareness in the international community about jazz's virtues as an educational tool, as a vehicle for peace, unity, dialogue, and for enhanced cooperation between people. More information at <http://www.jazzinbelgium.com/festival/international-jazz-day>.

Ongoing

Through May 9

- **Visit the Royal Greenhouses in Laeken** - Every year, the greenhouses are opened to the public for only three weeks. During this period, visitors can admire the architectural structures but also a large number of rare and valuable plants. Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 8 to 10 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 8 to 10 p.m. Admission: €2.50 per person, free of charge up to 18 years old.



April 26 continued

- **Antiques Market in Valkenburg** will be held on Theodoor Dorrenplein in the city center. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 27

- **King's Day in the Netherlands** is a national holiday. Visit street markets. Listen to bands playing on street corners. Watch people dance in orange outfits. Many towns host fun fairs, including Haarlem (on Grote Markt square) and Rotterdam (at Schiehaven harbor). The royal family always visits one or two municipalities so, with any luck, you might see them.
- **King's Day in Amsterdam** will be celebrated with activities throughout the capital of the Netherlands. Visit the huge street market of rugs and stalls where people sell all kinds of items and others show off artistic skills. Boats with party-goers will throng the canals, and plenty of large parties will have famous disc jockeys. A fun fair will be held on Dam Square.
- **King's Day in The Hague**, center of the courts of Holland, will hold plenty of street markets on this special day. The hustle and bustle will be especially spirited around the canals, Statenkwartier and Noordeinde. Visit the well-known fun fair around Lange Voorhout. What The Hague is most known for, however, is King's Night, the night before King's Day, when its various squares – Kerkplein, Grote Markt and Plaats, among others – play host to well-known bands and disc jockeys.
- **King's Day in Utrecht** will hold street markets, which will be open for you to enjoy, starting King's Night, April 26, at 6 p.m. On King's Day, enjoy a convivial atmosphere, created by canals filled with decorated boats as well as squares (such as Domplein, Lucasbolwerk, Mariaplaats, Neude and Janskerkhof) filled with parties and gigs.
- **King's Day in Eindhoven** has lots of entertainment for you to enjoy King's Night, April 26, on its squares: Wilhelminaplein, Stationsplein and Stadhuisplein. King's Day has street markets around Mathildelaan, Strijp-S and the squares.

Ongoing

Through May 10

- **The Frick Collection in The Hague** is on display at Mauritshuis on Korte Vijverberg 8 and includes works from Jan Van Eyck, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Cimabue and Jean-Etienne Liotard. Visit <http://www.mauritshuis.nl>.

Remain vigilant, and maintain situational awareness at all times.