

THE GAZETTE

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

New Army OER training

Army Human Resources Command is sending a team to provide informational briefings and training on the New Army Officer Evaluation Report. A briefing will be held February 18 from 9 a.m. to noon in the SHAPE PAO Auditorium (Bldg 100) for all Army officers, rating officials, and human resources personnel. Functional training for human resources personnel that will be involved in the OER process will be held at the Digital Training Facility (Bldg 20104) on Chièvres Air Base February 18 from 1 to 4 p.m. The team will also provide a briefing for all Army officers, rating officials, and human resources personnel in the Brunssum/Schinnen community on February 19 from 9 a.m. to noon in Building 3 at the USAG Benelux - Schinnen site.

3-Star Lounge

The USAG Benelux-Brussels 3-Star Lounge is temporarily closed. Only special events to include the AFE Charlie's Angels Comedy Tour on March 6 will be held there. For additional information, call DSN 368-9680/9753 or civilian 02-717-9680/9753.

ATMs in Belgium

Software system changes to many ATMs in Belgium has made the machines incompatible with many U.S. issued ATM cards. This includes the Euro ATM's on SHAPE at the bank and near the Carrefour.

Airmen help remember downed WWII aircrew



Cis Spook

Lt. Col. Christopher Kuester (right), Commander, 424th Air Base Squadron and Commandant Marc Despeghel from the Hainaut Province Military Headquarters pay respect during a ceremony in Macquenoise, Sunday, February 9, 2014.

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Crew of the Susan Ruth remembered

By Cis Spook

USAG Benelux Public Affairs

U.S. Airmen from Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, to include a Color Guard, joined members of the “Duty to Remember” association and patriotic associations February 9 in commemorating U.S. service members who were at the premise of liberation 70 years ago.

A first ceremony was held at the war monument in Macquenoise honoring both the military and civilian victims of World War II. Participants then went to the site where the B-17 Susan Ruth crashed outside the village, February 8, 1944, while en route for a bombing mission over Frankfurt, Germany.

Ball turret gunner Louis Colwart and radio operator Ross Kahler were killed in the plane by the fighter attack. Bombardier Richard Daniels, left waist gunner Joseph Musial and top turret gunner Roy Holbert were captured.

Musial’s left leg was amputated and Daniels shattered arm was treated before they were sent to a prison camp. Tail gunner William Slenker remained in hiding until American Forces liberated the area in September 1944.

Evading capture for three months, co-pilot George Eike, navigator Robert Benninger and right waist gunner John Pindroch were caught in a forest hideout near Chimay and executed by the Nazis along with other air crews and Belgian Resistance members in April 1944. Capt.

Howard Snyder, pilot of the B-17 nicknamed after his wife, evaded capture and spent the following seven months, fighting with Belgian and French Resistance units.

“To them (the Belgians in the area), the crew represented a hope of freedom to come,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Kuester, 424th Air Base Squadron Commander, in his speech. “For the crew, the Belgians were also a hope. A hope and a dream to once again see their families. Seventy years later, this memorial still represents hope. It stands as hope



(From left to right) Staff Sgt. Justin Monty, Staff Sgt. Fernando Andres-Miguel (not in picture), Staff Sgt. Yvonne Simons, Staff Sgt. Antoine Banks and Staff Sgt. DeAndre Dickerson, all members of the 424th Air Base Squadron at Chièvres Air Base, stand behind the star-shaped memorial honoring the 12 first Soldiers who died during the Liberation of Belgium, September 2, 1944.

that peace can be obtained, that people will volunteer to help a fellow human and that friendship last longer than a lifetime,” Kuester added.

After the ceremony at Macquenoise, the commander and color guard went a few miles away to the memorial at Monceau-Imbrechies which honors the 12 Soldiers who died there on the first day of the liberation of Belgium, Sept. 2, 1944.

Christel and Séverine Delahaye who now chair over the association “Duty to Remember” announced that family members from the Susan Ruth crew will be making the trip to Belgium for the other 70th anniversary ceremonies in September

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