

NORTHERN STAR

MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM - JUNE 2017



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NATO COMMAND &
CONTROL CENTRE OF
EXCELLENCE HOSTS
DEFENSE ATTACHÉS
FROM 17 COUNTRIES



NATO SEARCH AND
RESCUE EXERCISE
CONCLUDED



THE LITHUANIAN
ARMED FORCES



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ABOUT THE COVER

A CF-18 Hornet fighter jet soars through the clouds over Iraq before commencing the next mission during Operation IMPACT.

Image courtesy of the Canadian Ministry of Defence.

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COLOPHON

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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

Composed by: Rear Admiral Simon Hardern (GBR N)



When I left the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence in March 2010 and set the satellite navigation for Mons (SHAPE) in Belgium, I had little idea then that, eight years later (in 2017), I would still be working in NATO.

Through my time at SHAPE, then at NATO HQ in Brussels and, since December last year, here in Brunssum, I have to admit that I have had many (many) frustrating moments to contend with. At the same time and somewhat curiously, I have also found it to be one of the most professionally challenging and thoroughly rewarding periods of my (so far) 33 year career in Her Majesty's Royal Navy. It has been, without any doubt, a very busy period with much that has kept the Alliance (and me) on its toes - the ISAF surge and subsequent transition to RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission (which I named), Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR (which I also named), three Summits (Chicago, Wales and Warsaw), delivery of the Readiness Action Plan, Assurance/Adaptation Measures, GRPs, eFP and a NCS Review (with another one pending in the next year).

As a junior Captain in 2010, as I began the adventure, I was also told that volunteering to serve in NATO could well mean the end to my career and certainly promotion. I have, however, somehow miraculously ridden the crest of a rather large wave and have not looked back since that time. Having been away from home-shores for so long, it goes without saying that I would undoubtedly struggle to find my feet in a job either back with my Navy or in a Joint job in UK Defence. In truth, the question I ask myself is 'why would I want to return?' If you think about it, the role we all play in NATO is crucial to the strength of the Alliance - the advice that we help develop and then pass to SHAPE will often end up in the hands of the Nations in the

Military Committee and, on many occasions, even with the Permanent Representatives of the North Atlantic Council. I have to admit spending my first two years at SHAPE wondering what they did in Brussels other than seemingly change some very good military advice into 'something less than optimum' (to put it diplomatically). I came to realise, however, and something that was reinforced by four years working in the International Military Staff, that this (what some perceive as) 'dumbing down' represents the small price for reaching Consensus amongst 28 (soon to be 29 with the Accession of Montenegro in May) Nations - each time they agree represents a small miracle and the manifestation of 'the art of the possible'.

If I draw the context offered above together then, from my seven years in NATO thus far, what I have learnt is:

Be Personable - you each must: show trust and respect to all; encourage two-way discussion in an open and transparent way; view time in any of the HQs as a learning environment; and recognise that no question is ever too stupid (and it is often the question many would ask if they the strength of character to do so)! I actually think military officers are far more diplomatic than many of our civilian counterparts and we might often wish to avoid confrontation - I've never bought in to that one. In nestling your arguments in common-sense, you must never avoid telling the people (albeit respectfully) the way you see it because as, Staff Officers, you more often than not have an opinion that really does count and needs to be heard. This leads nicely into my other maxims.

Be Prepared - you each need to: recognise the importance of situational awareness; ensure rapid decision making when necessary (you might laugh noting that NATO is not necessarily well known for this); not be afraid

to have some issues develop with a 'slow burn time'; and encourage Consensus through stimulating conversation and sharing views through constructive dialogue.

Be Purposeful - you should (when in a position of necessary authority!) offer clear, unambiguous direction to champion primacy of military advocacy; and ensure that your team share the credit for successes but that you take responsibility for failures.

Have Priorities and Plan - this means you each should: focus on the actionable deliverables with the aspiration to do good, backed with the appropriate capacity and capabilities to follow-through; and facilitate work by establishing a clear and agreed plan focused on having the right discussions at the right time with clearly defined deliverables.

After six months at Brunssum, I have considered whether these maxims still ring true ... and I strongly believe that they do. I would encourage all of you to spend a few moments each day, as you tackle your tasks, to think about what you are doing and the part it might play in maintaining a strong and relevant Alliance. Each of you brings an experience in a certain field and you must never shy-away from using it or, even better, from sharing that experience. And it is not just a matter of what you know but who you know so do all in your power to create a network of contacts, not just in this Headquarters but with others, down, across and up the Chain of Command. Those up can be of particular value and can often result in you avoiding a great deal of wasted effort that you can ill afford to expend. If you leave this HQ without thinking that you would, at some stage in the not too distant future, like to return to NATO, then I feel we, the senior management, would have failed you. So, be thoughtful, energetic and never fear about of asking your peers or superiors challenging questions but, equally, never go to them with a problem without being in a position to offer them mitigating solutions.

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VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Composed by: Ms Petra Szeplaki (HUN C)

Commander JFC Brunssum Visits Latvia

Riga, Latvia - On 21 April Commander JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, visited Latvia in order to meet with the Latvian Secretary of State for Defence, Mr. Janis Garisons, and the Latvian Chief of Defence, Major General Leonids Kalnins.

Meetings focused on the contribution of the Latvian Armed forces to NATO operations

and missions with special regard to NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) and the upcoming deployment of the multinational battlegroup to Adazi in June.

21 APR 2017



Ukrainian War Veterans Visit JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, Netherlands – the NATO Public Diplomacy Division (NATO HQ, Brussels) working together with the NATO Information and Documentation Centre in the Ukraine, jointly organized a visit of competition winners to NATO HQ in Brussels, Belgium, and JFC Brunssum 24-26 April. Participants comprised war veterans, including disabled servicemen, who recently fought in Eastern Ukraine.

JFC Brunssum was honoured to host this group of Ukrainian wounded military vet-

erans. Presentations were delivered to provide insight to the role and responsibilities of JFC Brunssum and granularity of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence activities along its north-eastern flank. JFC Brunssum briefers outlined JFCBS's structure, tasks and current operations, providing more detail about the operation in the Baltics and Poland.

24 APR 2017



King's Day Race

Brunssum, Netherlands - On Wednesday 26 April the JFC Brunssum Fitness Centre held their annual King's Day races. This comprised 5 and 10 km events that saw some 50 runners take part. Running conditions were perfect, the sun even came out for us!

26 APRIL 2017



10 MAY 2017



NATO Civilians Awarded for Long Service

Brunssum, Netherlands - NATO International Civilian staff working on the JFC Brunssum site gathered to pay their respects to the long service of colleagues. Rear Admiral Simon Hardern (JFC Brunssum Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans)) made a rousing speech underlining the critical role played by civilian staff day-to-day within the Alliance structure and in the mission environment. 'Civilians bring a raft of skills not normally found in

the military and provide essential continuity', he explained.

On this occasion Mrs Manuela Tegethoff-Belau and Mr Johannes Janssen were rewarded for 15 years of service, whilst Mr William Pickwell gained official recognition for reaching the milestone of 35 years of service.

10 MAY 2017



Intelligence Systems User Group Hosted by JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, Netherlands - The 18th Intelligence Systems User Group (ISUG) meeting was held on 10-11 May 2017, at JFC Brunssum. The event was organized by the Intel Systems Section from the Intelligence Division of the headquarters and chaired by a representative from SHAPE.

Almost 40 ISUG members took part in the meeting, representing NATO HQ and most commands from the Allied Com-

mand Operations structure, as well as some participants from the NATO Force Structure. The NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA), BICES group executive (BGX) and the Allied Command Counter-Intelligence Unit (ACCI) were also present. Allied Group Surveillance (AGS), Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and STRIKEFORCE NATO also joined the ISUG via Video Conference.

17 MAY 2017



Resolute Support Key Leader Training

Brunssum, Netherlands - JFC Brunssum is the out-of-theatre operational headquarters for NATO's Resolute Support mission (RSM), in Afghanistan. Essentially, this means the headquarters does everything in its power to enable RSM i.e. oversee the development of projects funded by the Alliance (providing airports, roads, buildings, electricity, etc), operationalise strategic guidance, run the NATO budget for RSM, contract local support staff such as interpreters in

Afghanistan and, as in this case, conduct Key Leader Training (KLT) that prepares military and civilian staff for deployment. Resolute Support KLT is a biannual event organised by JFC Brunssum. The training forms part of a broader pre-deployment package that provides Key Leaders with a current strategic, geo-strategic and operational overview of the RS mission.



ANNUAL NETHERLANDS REMEMBRANCE SERVICES IN BRUNSSUM

Composed by: Ms Petra Szeplaki (HUN C)



Brunssum, Netherlands – 4 May, the annual Netherlands remembrance services were conducted at Brunssum. Services commenced with a well-attended International Ecu-
menical Service at the Gregorius Church led by Pastoor-Deken Delahaye and Chaplain Mitchell; on completion, attendees formed a parade, behind the AF-NORTH Cadets Colour Guard, to

make their way to the Brunssum General Cemetery.

At the General Cemetery opening remarks were made by Mayor Winants. His thoughtful words were based around a central theme of continued struggle for peace via sacrifice, shared values and sustained vigilance. But, most of all, he emphasised the debt owed by us all to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy freedom and security today.

Once formed at the British War Cemetery an opening prayer was given by Chaplain Mitchell. This was immediately followed by a special citation from the Dutch Forces Rabbi Gaillard before wreaths were laid. Subsequently, pupils from Brunssum Primary Schools and Limburg Scouts laid flowers and placed a lit candle on each of the 328 graves. The last post was followed by a minutes' silence before the ceremony concluded with the UK National Anthem.



NATO COMMAND & CONTROL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE HOSTS DEFENSE ATTACHÉS FROM 17 COUNTRIES

Composed by: Lieutenant Commander Stephen Gray (USA N)



Twenty One Defense Attachés representing seventeen countries visited the NATO Command and Control Centre of Excellence (C2COE) on April 6th at the Kromhout Barracks, in Utrecht.

Defense Attachés are representatives of the senior military officials of their host nation. They also develop military to military relationships with the armed forces in the nation they are serving in and give military advice to their ambassador. They are an invaluable asset to fostering military and diplomatic relationships between countries. The NATO C2COE was honored to host the Defense Attachés with the goal of sharing information about the Centre, provide briefings and facilitating discussions regarding C2, as well as various projects that are underway.

The Director of the NATO C2COE, Captain Renée van Pamelen-Hol-

lenberg (NLD N) gave a command brief that introduced the NATO COE concept, why NATO has created 24 COEs (with 2 more soon to be accredited), why C2 is still an important and relevant concept, and led a discussion of the manning and key projects for the Centre. Lieutenant Colonel Jelle Bode (NLD AF) had the opportunity to share the Centre's work on Urbanization where he discussed the future trends of population, migration, and the steady growth of mega-cities and how that might impact the decision making of NATO military leadership. Lieutenant Commander Stephen Gray (USA N) and Lieutenant Colonel Federico Clemente (ESP A) rounded out the presentations with a discussion of the upcoming NATO C2COE participation in 'Thinktank for Information, Decision and Execution Superiority (TIDE)', the Centre project on the Joint Task Force Handbook

that was released last year, and an introduction to the C2COE Seminar that will be held from 13-15 June in Valencia, Spain.

The meeting concluded with discussions that centered on future cooperation and mutual learning between the Defense Attachés and the NATO C2COE. The desire to create a regular drumbeat meeting to continue information sharing and discussion of ongoing initiatives was expressed by both parties. The NATO C2COE is planning to be more active and improve its visibility outside Allied Command Transformation and a future cooperation with the Defense Attachés could be an opportunity to gain that effect.

Overall, the visit was a resounding success and all parties are looking forward to future opportunities to interact and learn together.



STANDING NATO MARITIME GROUP ONE VISITS TALLINN, ESTONIA

Composed by: MARCOM Public Affairs Office



BALTIC SEA – Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG1), arrived in Tallinn, Estonia 12 May for a scheduled port visit as part of the group's deployment to the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea is an area of great strategic importance, where NATO maritime units are able to provide an important contribution to NATO's enhanced forward presence in the region.

SNMG1 plays a valuable role in

maintaining sea lines of communication, which is essential for maritime trade transiting in and out of the Baltic Sea.

"We look forward to engage and train with close Allies as well as key partners in the Baltic region," said Commander SNMG1, Commodore Ole Morten Sandquist. "SNMG1 aims to utilize every opportunity to strengthen our collective defence, by enhancing Alliance capability and interoperability through close cooperation with local navies."

During the port visit, the SNMG1 command team met with civilian and military authorities in Tallinn and hosted a tour for participants of the Lennart Meri international security conference onboard. The port visit was also a great opportunity for the sailors to enjoy a well-deserved break from operations in the historical city of Tallinn.

SNMG1 is currently composed of the NATO group flagship, Norwegian frigate HNoMS Roald Amundsen, and the Dutch frigate HNLMS Evertsen.



NATO SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE CONCLUDED

Composed by: MARCOM Public Affairs Office



NORTHWOOD, United Kingdom (May 11, 2017) - On Wednesday May 10, 2017, NATO's Search and Rescue (SAR) exercise Dynamic Mercy concluded after training in the Baltic region since April 26.

The exercise was divided into six chal-

lenging aeronautical and maritime training scenarios. In total, nine Rescue Coordination Centres (RCC's) comprising of Joint, Maritime and Air Centres from eight NATO countries and Partners with adjacent Search and Rescue Regions participated. Military and civilian air and maritime assets from Denmark, Finland, France, Germany,

Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden collaborated and interacted together during the training scenarios.

The aim of Exercise Dynamic Mercy is to practice and develop inter-regional and cross boundary cooperation and coordination between the RCCs of Allies in NATO's northern region with Partner Nations that have common Search



and Rescue Region (SRR) boundaries with those of Allies. The exercise is held annually, either in the Atlantic or the Baltic Region, this year focusing on the Baltic.

During this year's exercise, through live and synthetic SAR scenarios, cross region cooperation and interaction between RCCs (military and civilian) and

mobile SAR units were tested and activated. These coordinated procedures are vital for common understanding of multiple national services, and crucial for rescuing lives at sea.

"Dynamic Mercy is an extremely important exercise for NATO, as it enables NATO to work side by side with RCCs, SAR units, civilian agencies, and com-

panies from different countries and regions," said Captain Colin Walsh, Chief of Staff for Commander Maritime Air NATO. "NATO annual oversight and co-ordination ensure a consolidated effort in Search and Rescue, contributing to a better understanding of the complex SAR environment due to the multiple actors involved."



NATO JETS IN BALTIC LAUNCHED ON ALERT FOR FIRST TIME

Composed by: Lieutenant Commander Stephen Gray (USA N)

Photograph by: Michal Pataj (POL A)



ŠIAULIAI, Lithuania / ÄMARI, Estonia - NATO's new Baltic Air Policing nations Poland and Spain launched their first alert scramble out of their bases in the Baltics on Monday, May 15, 2017. The sorties took place under the Allies' 24/7 routine peacetime mission safeguarding the airspace of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

In both cases they were set off by the

Combined Air Operations Centre at Uedem, Germany, and the Control and Reporting Centres at Karmelava, Lithuania, to execute a visual identification of an unidentified aircraft.

The Polish F-16 fighter jets took off to in the afternoon of May 15 to fly into the skies over the Baltic Sea to identify an IL-20 reconnaissance aircraft while, more than an hour earlier, the Spanish F-18 fighters had identified an SU-24 fighter bomber; both identified aircraft are from the Russian Federation Air Force.

The Polish Air Force and the Spanish Air Force took over NATO's Baltic Air Policing mission at Šiauliai, Lithuania, and Ämari, Estonia in early May. Since 2004, when Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania joined NATO, other Allies have taken turns providing fighter aircraft to safeguard the Baltic skies. This uninterrupted rotational presence of Allied air forces in the region ensures the same level of airspace protection across the Alliance and demonstrates solidarity and resolve. AIRCOM's Air Policing peacetime



Two Polish F-16s leave their shelter at Šiauliai Air Base, Lithuania, to undertake their first alert scramble in support of NATO's Baltic Air Policing mission.

mission involves the use of the Air Surveillance and Control System, Air Command and Control and appropriate air assets, so called Quick Reaction Air (Interceptor) or QRA(I) fast jets. Air Policing scrambles respond to military and civilian aircraft that do not follow international flight regulations and approach Allies' airspace.



Lithuanian troops deployed in support of a NATO-led peace support and stabilization operation.

THE LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES

Composed by: Major Tomas Baliūnas (LTU A)

The modern Lithuanian Armed Forces counts almost 100 years of its existence interrupted by five decades of Soviet occupation. The progress made during last 27 years, when Lithuania regained independence and re-established her military, allowed the Lithuanian Armed Forces to develop to NATO standards, join the Alliance and to remain a reliable partner for 13 years now.

After the 1990s, the most important task to perform was to consolidate the

Independence by ensuring State sovereignty by taking over State border control from Soviet Army units, making the Soviet Union withdraw all Soviet Army troops from the territory of an Independent State as soon as possible, and re-establishing Lithuanian Armed Forces. The initial Independence consolidation process symbolically was concluded in August 31, 1993, when the last unit of the Soviet Army left the country.

From the very beginning, Lithuania's Defence System was based on the concept of "total and unconditional de-

fence", setting the main goal to prepare the society for general defence and, in parallel, integrating Lithuanian Armed Forces into Western security and defence structures – NATO in particular. This obliged Lithuania to develop new Military Doctrine, adjust personnel education and training programmes, and adopt NATO standards. This also obliged the nation to support partner nations and the Alliance by contributing to ongoing International Operations.

All this led to the current situation where, alongside providing support to the NATO

Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battle Group led by Germany, and support to US Troops participating in Operation Atlantic Resolve, Lithuania has developed its own National Rapid Reaction Force whilst continuing to contribute to International Operations, Training and Capacity Building Missions.

Involvement in International Peace Keeping Operations started in 1994, when the first Lithuanian platoon-size unit was deployed to Croatia to participate in a United Nations (UN) led operation. Since then, Lithuania has participated in numerous International

Operations worldwide, led by UN, European Union (EU), the Organisation of Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), NATO and Coalition led Operations.

Since the first International Operation Lithuania contributed troops to (the UN Protection Force in Croatia) where 90 troops were deployed in rotations between August 1994 and February 1996, the biggest challenge was the Lithuanian-Led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Ghor Province, Afghanistan, as part of NATO's International Security Assistance

Force (ISAF). Between June 2005 and August 2013 more than 2500 Lithuanian troops were deployed to Ghor Province in 16 six-month rotations. The Lithuanian-led PRT, together with Croatia, Denmark, Georgia, Iceland, Japan, Ukraine and the United States, worked together in Ghor Province to establish a secure and stable environment such that International and Afghan civilian agencies could provide development support and aid.

Currently Lithuania contributes to seven ongoing NATO, EU and UN-led International Operations and Missions:

LEADING INSTITUTION

MISSION/OPERATION

PERSONNEL

EU-led

**Anti-migrant smuggling
Operation SOPHIA
Training Mission in Mali
Counter-piracy Military
Operation ATALANTA**

**3
3
1**

NATO-led

**KFOR
Training Mission
RESOLUTE SUPPORT
Deployable CIS
Module Afghanistan**

**1
21
1**

UN-led

**Stabilization Mission
MINUSMA**

1

Along with International Operations, from 2014 Lithuanian military personnel, together with counterparts from Canada, Poland, the United Kingdom and United States provide support to Ukraine's defence reforms, train its military personnel, and provide medical rehabilitation for wounded Ukrainian soldiers.

Lithuania will continue to contribute to International Security Operations; the main effort is the provision of Host Nation Support to Allies deployed in the country as part of eFP and Operation Atlantic Resolve.

A NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU) was established in Lithuania in 2015 with the task to facilitate the rapid deployment of NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) and other NATO Response Force (NRF) elements, held at high readiness levels, in order to enhance Alliance responsiveness.

The constant political pressure and disinformation campaigns against NATO and Lithuania's actions in the country from a neighbouring state shows those efforts

pay off. To counter adversarial messaging, Lithuania was the first amongst Allies to launch a large-scale Public Education Campaign on the topic of propaganda.

Lithuania's permanent transformation and modernisation processes should also be touched upon in this article because these keep the Lithuanian Armed Forces in a constant state of development and sustained readiness in order to best counter/meet National and Allied threats, tasks and goals.

A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION FROM 1956-1960 AT FONTAINEBLEAU – A SMALL PART OF NATO IN FRANCE

Composed by: Corporal (Rtd.) Terry Bryant (GBR F)



French Airmen's Block on left, and French Airmen's Mess at end of road in the Winter snow.

How many of us can recall, with any detail, periods of life when all was well? When friends surrounded us each day at work and play. Some to remain lifelong friends, others, through the Fontainebleau Veterans Association (FVA) to become good friends later in life. Camp Guynemer, on the edge of Fontainebleau, that quintessentially French town was an hour's drive from Paris just off the RN7 on the other side of which stood an ancient forest. The town was a

place where you could meet for a drink, enjoy a hot chocolate and a fresh crusty sandwich jambon with all the trimmings at most times even late at night.

The six, later seven nationalities, when the German's joined the American, Belgian, British, Canadian, Dutch and French at Fontainebleau learned to work in harmony, at least most of the time. We enjoyed sports and athletics, the cinema and the big prizes that could be won at the inter-services, inter-camp Bingo, which were reputed to be the biggest in Eu-

rope at the time. Those of us lucky enough to have wheels with an engine enjoyed cheap petrol. Ration cards gave us cheap cigarettes and booze aplenty. This also meant Paris was within reach for us to delight in all that that lovely city had to offer.

As WWII was not long over the French were overwhelming in their hospitality. I recall motoring to Dijon with friends and ending up in a dancehall. After learning that we were Armie De La Air (forgiveness please if that is an incorrect term for the French Air Force) the barman de-



United States Air Force Band of France Concert in Embry Stadium.

mandated that a group seated near the bar give up their seats for “our gallant British comrades”. I do not recall paying for a single drink all night! We made a return trip at a later date and the same courtesy was extended to us. Dijon was a city where the Brits did cut the mustard!

The only fly in the ointment, so to speak, were problems caused by the Algerians in ‘1959/’60 when major French cities/towns were on alert as were the camps around Fontainebleau. The “Aircent Police”, as we were called collectively, were on alert

and, with the exception of the British, personnel were issued with side arms. The RAF Police were issued with truncheons.

The accommodation for singles was good, four to a generous sized heated room that was cleaned weekly by a local lady. The food was good and plentiful, particularly if you were on night duty at Melun Airfield and you knew the Junior Tech in the Mess Stores.

The two years of such harsh conditions flew by but are recounted with great affection by yours truly and I

am sure by the majority of those fortunate enough to have been there. I am sad that Camp Guynemer is just a shadow of its former self and is closing down but I am grateful for my time there and the wonderful memories I have. No recollection of Fontainebleau would be complete without mentioning Dear old Flight Sergeant Charlie Collyer BEM; not one of the best but ‘The Best’.

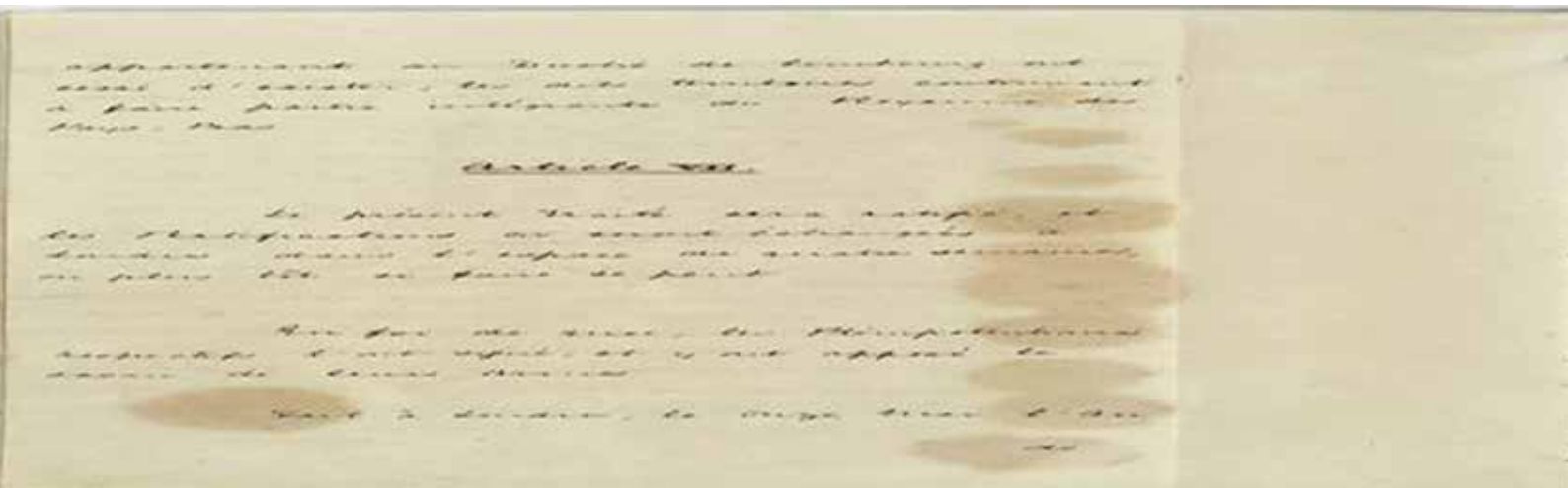


150TH ANNIVERSARY LIMBURG DUTCH PROVINCE

'LIMBURG NOW MOST INNOVATIVE PROVINCE IN THE NETHERLANDS'

Composed by: Ed Frieser (NLD C)

Sources: Press release Province Limburg; Speech Governor Bovens.



Article VI and VII of the final act of the second London Treaty of 11 May 1867 which was signed by all the Great European Powers and made Limburg an official and integral province of the Netherlands. The document can be found in the National Archives of Luxembourg.

Did you know that on 11 May 2017, the Province of Limburg celebrated its 150th Anniversary of being an official and integral part of the Kingdom the Netherlands? Although Limburg already existed as a political entity since 1839, following the split of Limburg into Belgian and Dutch elements, the Dutch Province of Limburg had a double status as it was also part of the German Confederation, and known as the German Duchy Limburg. An unwanted situation!

Treaty of London

In 1815, at the Vienna Conference following the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, the new Kingdom of the Netherlands was created and included some former Austrian territory that in 1830 became Belgium. When the Catholic and French-speaking Belgians split away from the mainly Calvinist northern Netherlands in the Belgian Revolution of 1830, the Province of Limburg was originally almost entirely under Belgian rule. At the time of the signing of the first Treaty of London, 19 April 1839, the province was officially divided into two parts, with the eastern part going to the Netherlands and the western part to Belgium. At that time it was also decided, and accepted

by the Dutch that Belgium would be an independent nation; until then it had been a part of the Kingdom the Netherlands. The Meuse River formed the border with Belgian Limburg, except in Maastricht, the present Limburg Capital. Although the Dutch Province of Limburg has existed in this form since 1839 it took another thirty years or so to formally end the awkward situation that Limburg had been a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as well as of the German Confederacy (an Alliance of smaller German States). Limburg was also a German Duchy. This double status is hard to understand. With the second Treaty of London (11 May 1867) 150 years ago, this all came to an end as it was decided by the Great European powers - the Austrian Empire, Kingdom of Prussia, the Russian Empire, the Kingdom of Italy, the United Kingdom, the French Empire, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of Belgium, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands - that Limburg should become a province of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

150th Anniversary Celebrations

The Seven Weeks' War between Austria and Prussia, in 1866, led to the collapse of the

German Confederation. Faction Chairman, Joost van den Akker of VVD, the Dutch Liberal Party, in the Limburg Provincial States or Limburg Parliament recalled: "When Otto von Bismarck abrogated the German Confederation the Limburg question could finally be solved. Until that moment, in addition to Dutch law, Confederation Law was applicable and even had to prevail." For this reason the Provincial Government and Provincial States, extensively commemorated and celebrated this historic event on 11 May 1017 with a symposium and feast at the Provincial House in presence of Minister Ronald Plasterk, Minister of Domestic Affairs.

Governor's New Years Speech

During the Governor's New Year's reception on 2 January 2017 the Limburg Governor, Theo Bovens, gave a historic summary of the history of Limburg: "In 1867 Limburg finally got married to The Netherlands. Not that they passionately fell into each other's arms because the love for Holland was not that big. The Dutch currency, the Dutch language, and the Dutch habits were not welcomed by the Limburgers." Many Limburgers and, in particular, Maastricht citizens cer-

ONE OF US

CORPORAL (OR-4) TREVOR PARK,
AIR FORCE (GBR F)

Composed by: Corporal Trevor Park (GBR F)



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WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE IN THE NETHERLANDS AND WHAT POSITION HAVE YOU TAKEN?

I arrived in the Netherlands in July 2016 and I work as the Staff Assistant to the Political Advisor.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR MILITARY CAREER.

I joined the Royal Air Force in 1999 and trained as an administration/human resources clerk. My first posting was with the Queens Colour Squadron in London from 2000 – 2003, then I moved to No 1 Air Control Centre. I had a 3-year tour at Brunssum working in the UK Support Unit (2008 – 2011) before returning to the UK to work at RAF Kinloss, in the north of Scotland. Further postings to RAF Honington and RAF Waddington led me back to Brunssum.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS?

I spent 6 months at Al Kharij, Saudi Arabia working in the US billeting office as the RAF accommodation clerk in 2003 during Op Iraqi Freedom. I have also spent 7 months at Camp Bastion, in Afghanistan, with the RAF Force Protection Wing.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOB AND WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES YOU HAVE TO FACE.

Working as a staff assistant in the Political Advisor's outer office my job is to provide administrative support to the POLAD and the POLAD staff. This includes monitoring the POLAD office mailbox and running the calendar. A large part of my job is booking travel on behalf of POLAD for her many duty trips.

IS YOUR FAMILY HERE WITH YOU?

I have a house in Heerlen where I live with my wife Vikki and 3 children. My 2 daughters go to Afnorth International School and my son will start Sunbeams in January 2018.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

Football. I like to watch and read about football. Due to limited ability I am not much of a player although I do try to get to the gym for 5-a-sides when I can.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE IN YOUR JOB?

I enjoy working with people from different nationalities to learn about their culture. I am also interested in how peoples' attitudes differ from popular opinion in the UK.





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WHEN YOU PLAY, WE WORK HARDER



02 JUN
2017 FRI
1900

WONDER WOMAN

Gal Gadot
Chris Pine
141 min



03 JUN
2017 SAT
1600

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MOVIE

Kevin Hart
Ed Helms



03 JUN
2017 SAT
1900

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES

Johnny Depp
Geoffrey Rush



09 JUN
2017 FRI
1900

THE MUMMY

Tom Cruise
Sofia Boutella
107 min



10 JUN
2017 SAT
1600

MEGAN LEAVEY

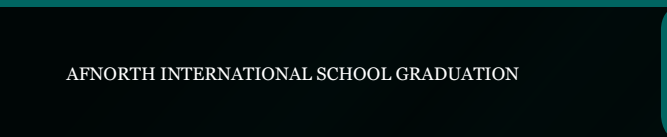
Kate Mara
Edie Falco
116 min



10 JUN
2017 SAT
1900

MY COUSIN RACHEL

Rachel Weisz
Sam Claflin
106 min



AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GRADUATION

16 JUN
2017 FRI
1900

CLOSED

AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL GRADUATION



17 JUN
2017 SAT
1600

CARS 3

Owen Wilson
Larry the Cable Guy
109 min



17 JUN
2017 SAT
1900

ROUGH NIGHT

Scarlett Johansson
Paul W. Downs



23 JUN
2017 FRI
1900

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

Mark Wahlberg
Jerrod Carmichael



24 JUN
2017 SAT
1600

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS: THE FIRST EPIC MOVIE

Kevin Hart
Ed Helms



ALL EYEZ
ON ME

24 JUN
2017 SAT
1900

ALL EYEZ ON ME

Kat Graham
Lauren Cohan
139 min



30 JUN
2017 FRI
1900

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES

Johnny Depp
Geoffrey Rush



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FILM REVIEW THE ZOOKEEPER'S WIFE



In 1939 Poland, Antonina Żabińska (Jessica Chastain) and her husband, Dr. Jan Żabiński (Johan Heldenbergh), have the Warsaw Zoo flourishing under his stewardship and her care.

When their country is invaded by the Nazis, Jan and Antonina are stunned – and forced to report to the Reich's newly appointed chief zoologist, Lutz Heck (Daniel Brühl). To fight back on their own terms, Antonina and Jan covertly begin working with the Resistance – and put into action plans to save lives out of what has become the Warsaw Ghetto, with Antonina putting herself and even her children at great risk....

Director: Niki Caro

Genre(s): Biography, Drama, History, War

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¹ the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

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