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NORTHERN STAR

Magazine for HQ JFC Brunssum – October 2014



- Thirteen years later, ISAF remembers the fallen
- NCO Leadership Training in Kazakhstan
- Operation Market Garden
- U-center: Compassionate Care and Clinical Excellence



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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

By Brigadier General Torben Dixen Møller, Director of Management



Brigadier General Torben Dixen Møller, Director of Management

The JFC Brunssum team who work for the Director of Management could be considered as the main service provider for the JFCBS Staff. The team provide Staff Workflow Management facilitation; Base Support Group services; and support to any high level visit that might be conducted. My team also has a responsibility to constantly improve or enhance the overall support to the staff in order to make life easier for all of us, and most important of all, enhance the quality of staff output – the “Products”.

JFCBS is a body of over 800 people from 25 NATO and 4 Partner Nations. All have different cultural backgrounds and different ways of doing business with different ways of perceiving the written and spoken word. Add to this the complication of 1/3 of the staff rotating every year, meaning a full turnover of military staff in any given three year cycle. Whilst not unusual in a military organisation, this fact alone would be considered a huge challenge in any civilian enterprise. Amongst other things, the rotation rate causes a significant challenge when it comes to maintenance of a corporate memory and it is important that we factor this into the work that we do to enhance the way we are doing business.

If we look at our own systems today we are probably not adhering too closely to the principle of Keep It Simple S..... (KISS). For example, JFCBS and Higher

Headquarters' Directives are scattered like wedding confetti over various JFCBS Portal pages. Based on a completely non-scientific and informal analysis, it is fair to assume that it takes a person between two to five minutes in order to find a certain directive in this “jungle of information”. If you multiply that by 800 staff then it is clear that incredible amount of time is spent on this endeavour.

Imagine if we, in our daily work, lived in a perfect world with short and easy access to valid data which is relevant and timely. We have an underlying ambition to optimise our internal processes and tools in order to enhance the support to the staff and just generally make life easier.

There are many projects underway at the moment to improve our internal processes but several that have my close attention are:

- Building a more user-friendly and functional Web Portal that will be developed in close coordination with the staff in order to meet the users' demands in the best possible way.
- Further development of the event/synchronisation calendars in order to give a comprehensive overview of activities and the use of personnel resources.
- Optimisation of the Automated Personnel Management System (APMS) in order to integrate JFCBS

deployment structures with manning data.

In addition, the following projects within the Base Support Group are in the development phase:

- An initiative to promote the Eisenhower Hotel, at the International Conference Centre, as the preferred location for overnight travellers visiting this headquarters.
- The enhancement of existing Customer Surveys to include all areas where we provide service within Base Support Group.
- Improved car lease arrangements for VIP and Routine Travel.

Protocol is far more than the legendary “red carpet”, armoured limousines and traffic chaos resulting from roadblocks. Protocol sets the framework for a successful visit or event and, to improve on their current way of doing business, a new Protocol Handbook is being developed in coordination with SHAPE Protocol. We have already improved the “Visitors Information Form” which will help state clear definitions of responsibility and synchronisation, a prerequisite for a visit to JFCBS.

Professional development is a vital part of any organisation that is trying to improve. This summer a number of my staff participated in a cultural awareness session to learn more about other nation's behaviour and perceptions. As a part of the Professional Development Programme, together with my senior staff, I will visit a large Dutch Enterprise in order to learn and gain inspiration on various business related issues. Furthermore, we also expect some useful outputs from the ACO Optimisation Study, conducted by SHAPE in close coordination with DOM, BIM, BSG and PRO.

Over the last few months, the DOM manning levels have begun to improve significantly and we are starting to see technical improvements that will act as key enablers to deliver further efficiencies as we move into 2015. Ultimately this will help us to provide the best possible solutions and service to the Command Group and staff.

Colophon

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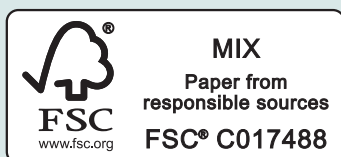
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Edwin Tromp, NLD A
Contributing Editor

Henk van der Velde, NLD N
Contributing Editor



About the Cover



As part of the WWII Liberation celebrations in Brunssum (19 – 21 September) a Ticker Tape Parade was held on Sunday 21 September. The parade included representatives from approximately 50 groups – bands, military, re-enactment, etc – and, despite the weather, the route was filled to capacity with local people who turned out to cheer them past.

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Female Engagement Team Teaches Soldiers How to Work With Afghan Women

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. John Etheridge Regional Command South



Capt. Eunice Owusu-Boadi speaks with an interpreter while role-playing in an Afghan key leader meeting as part of a Female Engagement Team Class, 27th of August 2014, at the Regional Command-South headquarters on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Even though International Security Assistance Forces troop numbers continue to fall throughout Afghanistan, there is still a need for qualified soldiers to work with one of the country's largest groups: women.

Eight female soldiers graduated from a two-day Female Engagement Team (FET) class August 27, 2014, held at the headquarters of Regional Command-South, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Originally, FET members had a primary duty to assist commanders when their units were conducting combat operations and encountering women on the battlefield. "Their duties were to help mitigate gender-related issues that might arise when searching local females or gaining access to areas that only women were allowed into because of local customs", said 1st Lt. Meghanne Majdecki, a native of Tampa, Florida, and the FET officer in charge with RC-South and Combined Joint Task Force-1.

"Female engagement teams help access half of the population that was previously ignored because male soldiers didn't have access to them," she said.

Majdecki explained that circa half of the classroom training was tailored to female search procedures and learning to work through other female cultural issues. The remainder of the training covered other issues, including gender-equality considerations women are facing in

Afghanistan, and actions coalition female soldiers might consider in their capacity to assist Afghan women.

"What we focused on specifically was key leader engagement (KLE)," said Majdecki. "We set up a mock KLE visit and had some Afghan linguists support us and introduced some role-playing exercises."

Besides KLEs, other areas of training also emphasized in the two-day class centered on Afghan culture and customs, study of body language and engaging Afghan leadership on gender equality issues. Attendees also learned administrative procedures for reporting their engagements back to their commands.

In addition to the eight women in the class, there were also three male soldiers who participated in the FET training.

"Even though the training is tailored toward a female engagement team, there was a lot of good general key leader engagement training in the class," said 1st Lt. Aloysius Hunter, a San Antonio native with the Infrastructure Advice Team assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, RC-South.

Hunter said that since he has been in Afghanistan he and his team has worked directly with local government officials and much of the training in the FET class would have been useful to him and his team had they received it during their pre-deployment training.

"It's just very solid general training for any interactions with the Afghan National Security Forces," he said.

Spc. Shaquita Lyles, a communication specialist with HHBN, 1st Cav. Div., said the skills she learned in the FET class would help her in her Army career regardless of whether she was deployed overseas or not. She also learned one of her most important roles as an FET member is to be an example and inspire Afghan women that may want to join the Afghan security forces.

"I'm basically setting an example for those women and showing them that you don't have to be a man to contribute to your country," she said.

Majdecki also agrees that being a role model is one of the best ways to help Afghan women. Afghan military and police forces are pushing to recruit women and she feels that by being in uniform and going to local engagements, she is helping to inspire local women to consider joining these forces.

"I think role modeling is the biggest impact we can have right now," she said. "We have women going out on missions and having the Afghan men and women see them doing their jobs has the biggest positive effect. It shows that women can serve in the military and police and have regular jobs and still be treated with dignity and respect."

Thirteen years later, ISAF remembers the fallen

Story and photo by Lt. Michael J. Fallon ISAF Headquarters

"Thirteen years ago, on a clear summer morning, al-Qaeda struck the American homeland, and our world irrevocably changed," said Gen. John F. Campbell, commander of International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces - Afghanistan.



On the 13th Anniversary of the attacks of the 11th of September 2001, General John F. Campbell delivers remarks honoring victims at a ceremony held at International Security Assistance Force headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Campbell delivered remarks during a ceremony at ISAF headquarters to honor those lost on September 11, 2001 and the sacrifices of countless others since that fateful day.

"Two airplanes sliced through the New York City skyline and smashed into the World Trade Center complex. Less than one hour later, an additional plane crashed into the Pentagon. Minutes later, another -- also headed for the American capital -- plummeted to the earth in Pennsylvania. When it was over, 2,977 men, women, and children representing over 90 countries, diverse cultures, and myriad religions lay dead, innocent victims of one of history's most brazen and reprehensible terrorist strikes."

The skies over Kabul were clear and quiet as the group paused for a moment of reflection. The familiar sound of Blackhawk helicopters was nowhere to be heard. However, looking back on the thirteen years of combat operations in Afghanistan, such tranquility has been rare. America's longest war has been an enduring path of combating terrorists and those who harbor them, of rebuilding the infrastructure of a nation ravaged by decades of war, and of assisting the Afghan government in attaining the goals of peace and stability that have eluded this region for so long.

"Our coalition and Afghan partners have applied relentless pressure against the terrorist networks that operate here," said Campbell. "We have thoroughly disrupted their abilities to plan and execute further attacks against the West."

On this solemn day, those gathered around the world acknowledged that the pursuit of terrorists who threaten the freedom of Afghanistan and, in fact, freedom everywhere has not come quickly or easily. Many have sacrificed greatly, but Campbell explained the necessity of taking this battle to the enemy: "As we found out on 9/11, the cost of our neglect could be far more expensive."

By going after these terrorist networks, the opportunity has emerged to establish a strong, credible Afghan security network. This build-up of Afghan security capabilities is critical to the nation's future as the coalition mission shifts from combat operations to training, advising, and assisting Afghan forces at the end of this year. In addressing the troops gathered at ISAF, Campbell stated:

"Thanks in large part to your efforts, the Afghan National Security Forces have become increasingly capable, confident, and credible. They've been in the lead for security efforts during two fighting seasons and are more than holding their

own against a determined enemy. They have also earned the Afghan people's admiration and trust, and today, the ANSF proudly stands as the most respected institution in Afghanistan."

Though the mission has evolved over the years, the determination to rid the world of terrorists and those who support them is as palpable as ever among Afghan and coalition forces.

At a ceremony in Kabul -- a world away from New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania -- a flag flies at half-staff as this international coalition gathers to remember the atrocities of September 11, 2001, atrocities whose inception was born here and whose effects reverberated around the globe.

Campbell reflected on the memory of those lost to that vicious awakening thirteen years ago today and on the resolve shown since.

"We will continue to protect our homelands by preventing Afghanistan from ever again becoming a safe haven for terrorism. This will be our most important legacy and tribute to our fallen heroes."

MARCOM Chief of Staff Discusses Partnership and Cooperation with Royal Moroccan Navy

Story & photos by Chief PAO MARCOM



Rear Admiral Lazio inspects the troops on parade

In conjunction with a port visit by Standing NATO Mine Counter-Measures Group TWO (SNMCMG2), Chief of Staff, NATO Allied Maritime Command, Rear Admiral Giorgio Lazio met with Vice Admiral Mohamed Laghmari, Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Navy, and his staff to discuss numerous issues of shared importance. Morocco stands as a privileged partner of NATO as an outcome of its participation in the Mediterranean Dialogue and NATO's counter-terrorism Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR.

Taking advantage of an operational brief received by the Royal Moroccan Navy Staff, the two officers had the opportunity to stress again how important it is to cooperate in order to face emerging security challenges in the Mediterranean area. They also agreed that possible actions to enhance the current common effort in ACTIVE

ENDEAVOUR could include visits of Royal Moroccan Navy officers onboard NATO ships and at HQ MARCOM in Northwood, UK.

MARCOM and the Royal Moroccan Navy are also exploring additional opportunities for training and exercises to improve interoperability and strengthen relationships among the naval forces.

"Vice Admiral Laghmari and his staff were very gracious hosts during the visit, and our frank and open discussions provided valuable insight into our common interests in the maritime domain," said Rear Admiral Lazio. "We are striving to enhance our partnership with the Royal Moroccan Navy and our partners in the Mediterranean Dialogue. This visit provided a unique opportunity to identify pragmatic steps toward achieving that goal."



Rear Admiral Lazio being welcomed by the Royal Moroccan Navy Staff

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Czech Republic Hosts NATO-Linked Forward Air Controller Exercise Ample Strike 2014

Story by PAO Ramstein, Photos by Christian Timmig

From 3 to 13 September 2014 the international Forward Air Controller (FAC) Exercise Ample Strike 2014 (AMSE14) was hosted by the Czech Republic and brought together participants from 12 NATO Nations. Mirage 2000 fighter jets.

During one week of live flying, 30 Allied aircraft and helicopters supported more than 400 so-called “control runs” performing Close Air Support (CAS) missions. In several realistic scenarios FACs went through their challenging training at four locations across the south of the Czech Republic.

FACs are qualified individuals who, from a forward position on the ground, direct action of combat aircraft engaged in CAS of land forces. They are the human link between commanders of a ground force and aircraft pilots.

AMSE 14 took place primarily at 22nd Helicopter Base, Namest nad Oslavou, and 21st Tactical Air Force Base, Caslav, and in the Boletice and Libava military training areas and the Bechyne military compound in Moravia.

Twelve NATO member states – together with the Czech Host Nation Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Slovakia, United Kingdom, United States – participated in the exercise.

Supporting Learjet, PC-9 and L-39 aircraft and Mi-17 as well as US Army Apache helicopters flew out of Namest, while the Czech Air Force operated their JAS-39 Gripen, L-39 and L-159 jets out of Caslav. The US Air Force provided four F-16 fighters taking off from Lask Air Base, Poland, and a Czech C-295 CASA was based at Prague Kbeli airport. Three FAC simulators efficiently complemented the field training at the ranges.

“As a continuation of previous FAC exercises such as Ramstein Rover or Flying Rhino, AMSE14 was a NATO-linked exercise and a Czech contribution to the Alliance,” said the AMSE14 Exercise Director Czech Colonel Miroslav Svoboda. “Besides FAC and aircrew training, AMSE also ensured the mandatory qualification FACs need in their challenging trade. For our Czech armed forces accomplishing this task was a major joint effort.”

“The training here is fantastic,” said General Frank Gorenc, NATO’s Air Commander, who attended the AMSE14 Distinguished Visitors’ Day on 10 September. “The other thing that’s really important for me as the proponent for Air Power inside of NATO is the ability to do the most realistic training possible. There’s tremendous value in bringing together all of the FACs and JTACs in the Alliance to share ideas and to share tactics, techniques and procedures and to emphasize the interoperability required. That’s why it’s important to come to a single place. And what I’ve seen here today makes this place preeminent in this area right now.”

During AMSE14, some 1,000 soldiers from the Czech Armed Forces demonstrated their skills as a Host Nation supporting foreign units in conducting training activities in the Czech Republic.



US Air Force General Frank Gorenc, NATO's Air Commander, putting on the AMSE14 badge, with General Petr Pavel, Czech Chief of Defence in the background, at the international Forward Air Controller exercise that took place in the Czech Republic 3 to 13 September 2014.



The Czech commander of a ground force tasks the US Forward Air Controller to call in Close Air Support during AMSE14.



One of six US Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopters sitting on an apron at 22nd Helicopter Base at Namest, Czech Republic. The choppers supported the international Forward Air Controller exercise Ample Strike 2014 that took place in the south of the Czech Republic 3 to 13 September.

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

Prepared by Adjutant Edwin Tromp, photos by PAO JFCBS

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum major activities are depicted along five lines of effort within the Brunssum Plan. Each of these activities requires an ambitious level of attention and effort. Beside routine staff work we plan and conduct special activities in the form of visits and training, as well as, social events on a regular basis. We would like to provide you an overview of those activities by taking a quick look at a few selected events.

August 2014



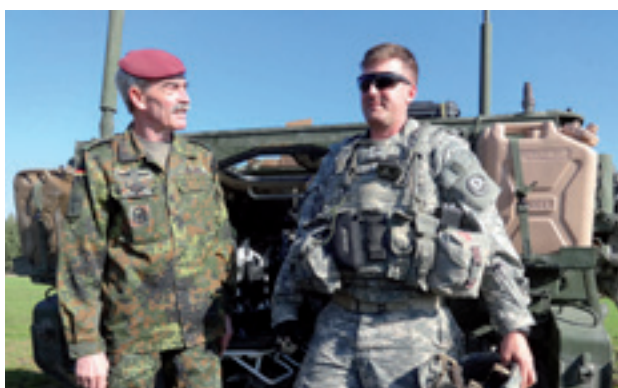
General Campbell Assumes ISAF Command from General Dunford

U.S. Army General John F. Campbell assumed command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from U.S. Marine Corps General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., during an evening change of command ceremony, Aug. 26. The ceremony was attended by senior Afghan, NATO and U.S. officials, including U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army General Martin E. Dempsey; Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum Commander, General Hans-Lothar Domröse; Supreme Allied Commander Europe General Phil Breedlove; Commander, U.S. Central Command Army General Lloyd J. Austin III, Minister of National Defense of Afghanistan General Besmilla Mohammadi and many others.



Commander Danish Division Visits JFC Brunssum 29 August

In a thoroughly interactive exchange Major General Michael Lollesgaard, Commander Danish Division (COM DDIV), was briefed on the roles and responsibilities of JFC Brunssum with particular emphasis on Immediate Assurance Measures in the wake of the Ukraine crisis, the NATO exercise programme, NATO's Response Force, Afghanistan and the Connected Forces Initiative. Subsequently, our visitor briefed lessons learned by Denmark following over a decade of close training and exercise coordination/cooperation with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Undertaken within the spirit of Regional Focus the visit was of great mutual value and served to sustain the strong links that exist between JFC Brunssum and Danish military authorities.



NATO Exercise Steadfast Javelin II

The U.S. Exercise 'Saber Junction' will transition to a large-scale, multinational NATO military exercise called 'Steadfast Javelin II', and take place 2 to 8 September 2014. This portion of the exercise will involve hundreds of vehicles, aircraft and soldiers from 9 different nations. The exercise takes place across 5 NATO countries: Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.



Danish Armed Forces Flag Day

The Danish Armed Forces Flag Day was celebrated at JFC Brunssum's International Conference Centre Friday 05 September. In his remarks, Brigadier General Torben Møller explained the day was introduced to thank Denmark's Armed Forces for their service and pay tribute to those serving abroad and on missions. It is a mark of respect for the work of the Armed Forces and, in particular, provides a platform for the nation to honor those who have made great sacrifice.

A selection of Danish food and drink was provided to a multinational guest list.



Exercise Steadfast Javelin II (SFJVII) Includes Airborne Assault

Steadfast Javelin II is a NATO exercise involving over 2,000 troops from 10 nations. It is being conducted simultaneously in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The exercise focuses on increasing interoperability and synchronizing complex operations between allied air and ground forces through airborne and air assault missions.

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Major General Michel Yakovleff departs JFC Brunssum

Major General Michel Yakovleff completed his appointment as Chief of Staff Joint Force Command Brunssum on 12 September 2014, a role he has performed since 18 February 2014.

General Yakovleff will assume his new appointment, as Vice Chief of Staff at Supreme Allied Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, in Mons, Belgium, on 01 October 2014 in the higher rank of Lieutenant General.



New Commander JFC Naples Visits JFC Brunssum

Monday 8 September Admiral Mark E. Ferguson USN conducted his initial visit to his twin HQs at Brunssum following assumption of his new command 22 July.



Major General Michel Yakovleff Honoured

On behalf of the German Minister of Defence, Dr Ursula von der Leyen, the Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, awarded the Bundeswehr Cross of Honour to Major General Michel Yakovleff today. Major General Yakovleff is honoured for this outstanding contribution to the development of the Alliance's Contingency Plans, the development of the NATO Response Force and the operational planning for Afghanistan.



New Chief of Staff JFC Brunssum

Lieutenant General Janusz Adamczak assumes the JFC Brunssum Chief of Staff role from 12 September 2014. General Adamczak arrives at JFC Brunssum following a tour as Commander of the Polish 2nd Mechanized Corps, Land Component Command, in Krakow, Poland.

NCO Leadership Training in Kazakhstan

Story and photo by Master Sergeant Heiko Kamenz J9 MilPart Staff Assistant and NCO JMTT Coordinator



The Brunssum team with Kazakh NCO's

Joint Force Command Brunssum Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) Joint Mobile Training Team (JMTT) completed a training mission to Astana, Kazakhstan September 08 – 11, 2014. Astana is the capital of Kazakhstan and the home base of the Kazakh 36th Airborne Brigade. The training was conducted at the request of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. During the training the instructors coached 29 NCOs. This was Brunssum's third NCO training mission this year and, altogether, the seventh NCO training mission in Kazakhstan. The main goal of the JMTT is to travel to Partnership for Peace countries and introduce a different kind of training to their armed forces. An additional aim of these training events is to assist the transformation and reform of their NCO systems. The overall program is led by the JFC Brunssum command senior enlisted leader (CSEL), Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay.

Under the professional leadership of the JMTT coordinator at JFC Brunssum, German Army Master Sergeant Heiko Kamenz, a team of instructors travelled to Astana. Following a welcome address by the DCOM 36th Airborne Brigade the team facilitated class-room based leadership training. The training covered various NCO development topics such as: NCO leadership principles; counselling/mentoring; decision making; effective communication; building effective teams;

and motivation. As time allowed, the team went on to introduce additional topics including: the principles of counter-insurgency (COIN); Improvised Explosive Device (IED)-awareness; battlefield casualty drills; combat stress; NATO military map symbols for land operations; and the history/role of NATO. Additionally, each team member delivered a briefing about his national armed forces and national NCO system/education.

The JMTT agreed that the mission to Kazakhstan was a repeated good experience for instructors and students alike that added real value; it was an excellent opportunity to instruct NCOs from NATO's Kazakhstan partner.

As can be expected the experience and knowledge found amongst students varied due to the length of their military service. However, all students demonstrated impressive learning abilities and sustained interest. The training was highly appreciated by the host nation and participants stressed that Kazakhstan is keen for such serials to continue.

Master Sergeant Kamenz's team included French Navy Sergeant Major - in French 'Maitre Principal'- Eric Pouillet (DOM BIM HQIM); Royal Air Force Flight Sergeant Kenny McIntosh (DOM BIM SWM); Canadian Army Master Warrant Officer Mike Vollick (J9 MilPart); and French Navy Sergeant - in French 'Second-Maitre'- Nicolas Blassel (NCIA). The team was

completed by Danish Army Major Mark Winther, who works as the Kazakhstan country desk officer at the J9 military partnership branch and has joined the team to establish new contacts in Kazakhstan.

During the training week the team was offered the opportunity to visit the museum of 36th Airborne Brigade. The museum shows an impressive collection of tanks, aircraft, cannons, howitzers (towed or self-propelled), APCs, IFVs, missiles, rocket launchers and anti-aircraft guns from WW II to the modern day.

On the last day a small closing ceremony was conducted in the classroom. All students were presented with a CSEL-signed certificate whilst the three best were awarded with the JFCBS CSEL coin. The team also presented the JFC Brunssum crest to the DCOM of the 36th Airborne Brigade. All these friendly gestures were highly appreciated by the students and brigade representatives. In return the instructors were awarded with pennants and certificates with the emblem of the 36th Airborne Brigade.

This training event is a great example of how NCOs from different nations and cultural backgrounds can work in harmony. Strengthened partnerships and friendships are the result.

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“Western Front Operations in May 1940 in the Region of Maastricht and the Albert Canal”

Story by Maj De Meyer, Joint Assessment Division JFC Brunssum

...was the theme of the staff ride the Joint Assessment Division undertook in May 2014.



The Joint Assessment Division from JFC Brunssum

The aim of this activity was to examine and learn from the planning and coordination of Military Effects at the operational level. Attention was also paid to the operational assessment of opposing forces' respective campaigns. This included an analysis of how close each side came to achieving the conditions of their respective campaign end-states after operations at the Albert Canal and Eben-Emael had been conducted. The Joint Assessment Division divided into three groups to study these points from the perspectives of the Allied, Belgian and German sides.

The day started with a briefing in the Belgian Support Unit at JFC Brunssum where the plans, intentions and means of the belligerents, in 1940, were

outlined. Much attention was given to the execution of the plans by all actors and, in particular, to the events which took place in the area of Maastricht and the Albert Canal on the 10th and 11th May 1940. These events were discussed in the context of the totality of Western Front engagements in May 1940.

'Fall Gelb', as the German invasion of Western Europe was called in 1940, was, in its initial phase, very similar to the famous Von Moltke plan of the First World War. The original plan, in 1939, of General Franz Halder (Chief of Staff of "das Heer" - The Army), foresaw pushing Allied forces back through central Belgium to the Somme River in Northern France. This was his response to the French Army's 'Dyle Plan'.

In the Allied plan it was foreseen that France and the British Expeditionary Force would take positions at the Dyle

River where the Belgian main defence line was situated and which, mostly, followed the river from Antwerp towards the French border. Defensive positions along this line were very well prepared and especially intended to stop the German Panzer Tanks.

The Belgian Command had prepared a delaying line which followed the Belgian/



Dutch border and the frontier canals towards Liege and, from there, the line followed the border to Arlon. The Ardennes were only lightly defended by two divisions of 'Ardense Jagers' whose mission it was to delay the enemy approach by executing demolition operations.

A second line, the covering position, followed the Albert Canal from Antwerp to Liege and, from there, along the River Meuse to Namur. It seems obvious nowadays that the weak point in the Belgian defence was in the region of Eben-Emael because this was where the two defensive lines intersected and, with the Dutch frontier being only 200 meters away from the Albert Canal, made it quite difficult to react quickly to a German attack. It was this region that was visited during the staff ride.

The Belgian Command thought, however, that there would be time enough to alert and prepare the troops for the attack and destroy the bridges as it would take time for the German forces to advance through Southern Limburg and reach the bridges at the Albert Canal.

Due to the Maasmechelen incident on the 10th of January 1940, when a German aircraft carrying documents containing parts of the Fall Gelb Operational Plan crashed in Belgium, a revision of the German plan seemed more than necessary. The Chief of Staff of Army Group A, General Erich Von Manstein, was able to convince Hitler that the Wehrmacht should attack through the Ardennes Forest. Army Group A, with its seven Panzer Divisions, under the Command of General Von Rundstedt, would cross the Meuse River between Namur and Sedan, before executing



a rapid strategic drive to the coast in order to obliterate the Allied Armies in a classical 'Kesselschlacht' or annihilation battle.

In this plan, it was necessary for the Allies to continue to believe that the main German effort would still be in the North. Although the role of Army Group B, led by General Von Bock, was reduced to a feint attack in the North in the adapted Fall Gelb Plan, it was highly important that it was executed rapidly and accurately to be able to lure the Allied armies into the intended trap.

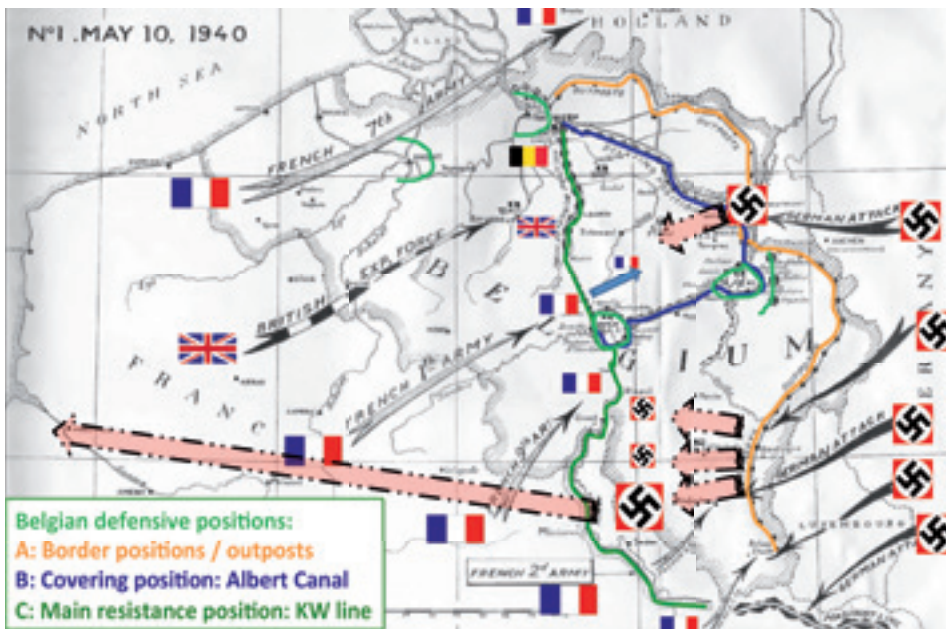
For this reason the 'Sturmabteilung Koch' of approximately 500 men was formed and intensively trained from November 1939. The goal of this elite task force, under the lead of Hauptman Koch, was to take and hold the three bridges at Veldwezelt, Vroenhoven and Kanne on the Albert Canal and neutralize the Fort of Eben-Emael. For this action the attacking force would use gliders, flamethrowers and hollow charges. Hauptman Koch's elite force was, therefore, equipped with the

best armament and supported with air support in the form of Stuka aircraft.

Tactical surprise would be created by attacking without warning and by using gliders that were able to land at a very short distance from the bridges. Of note, the declaration of war by Germany came after the gliders landed in Belgium.

A key element in the operation was the capture of the bridges. This would allow German tanks of the 4th Panzer Division to advance rapidly in the direction of Tongeren and engage the Allies in Belgium between the 10th and 12th of May. Without possession of the bridges a rapid advance and binding of enemy forces in Belgium would not be possible and would not distract Allied attention from developments in the Ardennes. No time could, therefore, be lost in crossing the Meuse River at Maastricht as a rapid connection between the paratroopers and the troops of the 6th Army was necessary to assure possession of the bridges.

The first stop during the Divisions' Staff



Confrontation Dyle plan - Fall Gelb

Ride was at Maastricht where a local guide talked about the events on the 10th May 1940, when Dutch forces were able to destroy the three bridges in the town, causing a serious setback to the German advance. During a one hour walk through the Eastern part of the town, the places where the main actions took place in 1940 were visited providing a good insight of the events that had taken place in Maastricht and the importance of the defensive actions.

From Maastricht the Staff Ride relocated to the bridges of Veldwezelt and Vroenhoven where the actions of the belligerents were discussed. The position of the Belgian Artillery and the Infantry in this area were also shown. The memorial of the 2 Carabiniers, who fought at Veldwezelt, is to be found near the village church. The bridge at Vroenhoven, which survived the allied bombing in 1940, was replaced in 2009 however the bunker near the old bridge was kept as an historical monument.

By visiting these places it became clear to the participants how surprise was created by the German forces and what

the consequences would have been if those bridges would have been blown up. The Albert Canal, with its width, depth and bunkers, would have seriously delayed the German attack.

Lunch was taken in the local brasserie, Kanne & Kruike, in the small Flemish village of Kanne, well known by walkers and cyclists. This touristic village, near the fort Eben-Emael, witnessed fierce fighting between the 2nd Regiment Grenadiers and the German paratroopers for the bridge of Kanne, where both sides suffered severe losses during those two days. Here, the Grenadiers, due to the favourable terrain conditions, were able to blow up the bridge. On the hill on the West bank of the Albert Canal there is a monument and grave yard in commemoration of the remarkable resistance put up by this regiment.

From this point the tour moved to the Fort of Eben-Emael where the exploits of the Det Granit, under the lead of Lieutenant Witzig, and Belgian reactions to them were explained by the enthusiastic guide. It turned out our guide had personally met and discussed

the events of May 1940 several times with Lieutenant Witzig. During the 4 hour visit the group had the opportunity to see almost the whole interior of the fort, with its museum, enormously long corridors, quarters of the commander and soldiers, power plant, sick-ward, transmission rooms, gun emplacements, the authentic glider DFS 230, and a lot more. The exterior part of the fort was not forgotten as we visited its defensive bunkers, anti-tank ditch, casemates, observation domes and false cupolas.

At the end of the Staff Ride it became clear for everyone that, with the loss of Fort Eben-Emael and the possession of two bridgeheads on the Albert Canal, the German Army had managed to inflict a significant tactical defeat on the Belgians. The loss of the fort was a serious psychological blow but, in the end, the position on the Albert Canal was only a delaying line. On the 11th of May 1940 nothing was lost as the Belgian Army occupied the main defense line and the Allied Armies had enough time to establish a defensive position in Belgium. However, the real disaster would happen a few days later, at Sedan.

After a day of travelling the participants finally had the opportunity to taste the famous 'Belgian cuisine' in the Restaurant Apostelhuis at the Castle of Alden-Biesen. This castle was erected in the 11th Century by the Teutonic Order and its historic setting formed a marvellous backdrop for a highly appreciated dinner and provided a fitting day's end. For the Joint Assessment Division it was not only a fruitful working day but also a good team building event.

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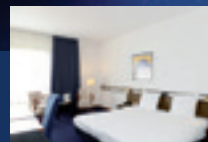


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Operation Market Garden

The Largest Airborne Operation in History

Story published at the 'Liberation Route Europa' website

Operation Market Garden was one of the largest Allied operations of the Second World War. It aimed to secure the bridges over the rivers Maas (Meuse), Waal and Rhine in the Netherlands in order to outflank the heavy German defences of the Siegfried Line and to insure a swift advance towards Berlin.

Operation Market Garden was one of the largest Allied operations of the Second World War. It took place in September 1944. The goal of the operation was to secure the key bridges over three wide rivers in the Netherlands (Maas/Meuse, Waal and Rhine, respectively) in order to outflank the heavy German defences of the Siegfried Line (Westwall) which protected heartland Germany beyond the Rhine. It was hoped that with a swift advance towards Berlin the war would be over before Christmas.

Market Garden was a risky plan of British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery. It was executed by 41,628 English, American and Polish airborne troops and three divisions on the ground. The operation consisted of two parts. Operation Market was the largest airborne operation in the history of warfare. Operation Garden was the campaign on the ground of the 30th Corps aimed at securing the bridges captured by the airborne forces.

The operation was highly ambitious and in the end it failed due to weather conditions and heavy German opposition, especially near Arnhem. But there were more causes of failure: The airborne drop zones were situated too far from the Nijmegen and Arnhem bridges. Combined with communication problems, the laborious advance of the ground troops and a few mistakes by the high commanders in the final days of the operation, they led to failure in the end. After the successful Battle of Nijmegen the Allies did not manage to take the last bridge in Arnhem: the proverbial 'Bridge Too Far'.

Date 17/09/1944 - 26/09/1944

About Liberation Route Europe

Liberation Route Europe is a continuously growing, international remembrance trail, connecting important milestones of modern European history. Liberation Route Europe links the main regions along the advance of the Western Allied Forces.

For more detailed information visit: <http://liberationroute.com/>



Market Garden



British paratroopers unload a glider during Operation Market Garden



American forces in Eindhoven during Operation Market Garden



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U-center: Compassionate Care and Clinical Excellence

Military life can be difficult for not only the military member, but also for their families. With multiple deployments, separations, and ever changing duty stations, both members and their dependents often have a difficult time coping or adjusting to the many dynamic situations that are an integral part of the military life. These situations can lead to stress, burn-out, depression, substance abuse, and anxiety as well as other mental health issues that can seriously affect the well-being of the military member and his or her family members. The first step to recovery is realizing that military life can be challenging, and that those who suffer from stress or depression and anxiety are not alone. The next step is discovering your resources and having the strength to get help.



One of the resources available to military members and their families is U-Center; an international mental health facility in the Netherlands. It is the only facility of its kind in continental Europe that offers an innovative approach to mental health care with a complete English speaking program. U-Center offers specialized programs for a variety of conditions such as substance addiction and dependency, eating disorders, chronic stress and burn-out, mood and anxiety disorders, Trauma/ PTSD, and obsessive compulsive disorders. Treatment programs typically consist of four to seven weeks of inpatient treatment, as well as up to seven weeks of outpatient care, which can be completed from anywhere in the world.

U-Center is centrally located, near Maastricht and Aachen, and has a proven success rate. Treatment results and client satisfaction are scientifically assessed in a variety of ways. Recent studies have shown that over three-quarters of clients reported a complete recovery and that the intensity of any lingering symptoms showed a sharp decrease after treatment. As for client satisfaction, the following is a testimonial from a recent former NATO client:

"I spent a couple of years in out-patient treatment that really didn't seem to be getting me anywhere. The only thing that it did help me realize is that there was a part of me that needed some attention. Not wanting to open the door to whatever that part of me was, I became very

good at persuading myself I was fine and even happy. This is where, for me, having a strong partner was notably priceless. My wife helped me to confront the truth that there was an issue that I needed to address, and as the last couple of years had been taxing on my wife and I, with her support I made the decision to do the intensive in-patient program at U-Center. The emotional roller coaster before starting the therapy and the first 2 weeks of treatment were for me unimaginable. My feelings bounced between confusion, fear, anger and guilt. The four week program, as told to me prior to admission, was not going to be a cake walk, and I was expected to work very hard. This turned out to be so true. With the help from ALL (and I mean exactly that) of my therapists and amazing support from other clients with similar issues, I began to see the way forward. After four weeks I learned so much more about myself, who I've become and what needs to be changed. I also came away with many practical tools on how to keep "in-check" with myself. Total self-reflection really took away the stigma of the idea of engaging in intensive psychotherapy, and it really became a very positive experience.

If I were to describe U-Center's philosophy in combination with my experience "Human Kindness at its Best" comes to mind.

"It literally was a life altering experience for me."

- NATO Civilian -

Admissions

Telephone screening is done by our professional staff at the Communications Center. Applications are received via email and telephone. Admissions and information: +31 434559109 / 0800 - w2224446, mo-fri 09:00 – 20:00, sa-sun 10:00- 18:00. www.u-center.nl

Admittance

Following consultation, admittance can occur either immediately or at a later date.

First week: intake, diagnostic assessment, treatment plan, and start of aftercare planning. Where indicated, partner-relationship sessions are also planned.

Duration of Stay

In principle 4 to 6 weeks. Differentiation possible. Goals and intervention are based on the results of the diagnostic assessment.

Treatments for: psychological problems (depression, burn-out, anxiety disorders, trauma's, and eating disorders) and dependency problems (substances such as alcohol, drugs, medication, and non-substances such as gambling, internet, game- and sex addiction).

Canadian Radio Broadcast Ends

Story by John Nethercott (OF-3, CAN) Public Affairs Officer, Canadian National Military Representative



Station Manager Mr. Olaf Guillaume

The Canadian Forces Network ceased its FM radio and internet broadcast service on September 30, 2014. This brought to an end decades of service providing information and entertainment to generations of Canadian Armed Forces personnel and their families stationed in Europe as well as local listening audiences.

The decision to end CFN operations was not taken lightly. CFN has been in operation, serving Canadians living in Europe, for generations. However, after a comprehensive review of annual expenditures, especially in the face of current fiscal realities, it was determined that CFN was an area in which savings could be made. Alternate, interactive and globally connected medium exist through which information is easily

shared. As the means by which we receive information evolve so too must we adjust our organizational priorities.

Over the years fulltime employees and volunteers, most notably Station Manager Mr. Olaf Guillaume, have demonstrated true professionalism and are to be commended for their hard work and dedication to the community.

CFN has been operating a radio service out of Brunssum, The Netherlands, since 1978 providing 24-hour, real-time relay, live and rebroadcast content to a listening audience spread across Formation Europe. CFN is primarily an entertainment and information service providing content in both official languages. During the Cold War, when the CAF had a larger European footprint, CFN provided a nationally controlled medium for wide-area crisis and special event alerting.

Anyone wishing to send messages or share personal experiences with CFN can do so via their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/CFNEurope



Country : Great Britain
Capital : London
Location : The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK) or Britain, is a sovereign state located off the northwestern coast of continental Europe.
Coastline : 12,429 km
Population : 64,100,000 (2013 estimate)

Recognised regional languages : Scots, Ulster-Scots, Welsh, Cornish, Irish, Scottish Gaelic

Area : 243,610 km² (94,060 sq mi), water 1.34%

Climate:

The United Kingdom has a temperate climate, with plentiful rainfall all year round. The temperature varies with the seasons seldom dropping below -11 °C (12 °F) or rising above 35 °C (95 °F). The prevailing wind is from the south-west and bears frequent spells of mild and wet weather from the Atlantic Ocean, although the eastern parts are mostly sheltered from this wind since the majority of the rain falls over the western regions the eastern parts are therefore the driest. Atlantic currents, warmed by the Gulf Stream, bring mild winters; especially in the west where winters are wet and even more so over high ground. Summers are warmest in the south-east of England, being closest to the European mainland, and coolest in the north. Heavy snowfall can occur in winter and early spring on high ground, and occasionally settles to great depth away from the hills

Economy:

GDP : \$2.828 trillion (2014 estimate)
GDP per Capita : \$43,830
GDP per sector : Agriculture: 0.7%, Construction: 6.3%, Production: 15.2%, Services: 77.8% (2013 est.)

Budget:

Revenues : £648 billion (2014–2015 FY), \$1.06 trillion (2014 est. CIA-WFB)
Expenses : £732 billion (2014–2015 FY), \$1.21 trillion (2014 est. CIA-WFB)
Currency : Pound Sterling (GBP £)

Main Industries : Agriculture and Fishing, Finance, manufacturing, Tourism.

Exports : \$813.2 billion (4th; 2013 estimate), Manufactured goods, Chemicals, Food, Beverages, Tobacco, Automotive vehicles and components, Computer programming, Finance, Entertainment, Clothes, Fuel oil and petroleum products, Industrial supplies and materials, Military arms and equipment, pharmaceuticals.

Imports : \$782.5 billion (4th; 2013 estimate), Manufactured goods, Machinery, Fuels, Foodstuffs



Great Britain

When did you arrive in the Netherlands and which position have you taken?

Myself, husband, 2 children and dog (!) arrived in The Netherlands in October 2013 and I have the pleasure of working with a great team within the Base Support Group.

Tell us about your Military Career?

I joined the Royal Air Force as a Personnel Administrator in the year 2000 at the age of 16. My first tour saw me posted to 33 Sqn, RAF Benson (Puma Helicopters). As their Sqn Clk, I deployed with them to Oman, Norway, Switzerland and Iraq. After 2 years I moved to RAF Lyneham, the then home of the Hercules aircraft, and was based within the Station HQ looking after personnel's HR issues. Whilst here I deployed to the Falkland Islands where I experienced a 'detachment' Christmas and New Year. Shortly after my return I was posted to RAF Ascension Island for 10 months, an isolated volcanic island in the South Atlantic Ocean. Posted back to RAF Lyneham in October 2006, I once again worked within the Station HQ, this time concentrating on helping people with their transition from Forces life to Civilian Street. 2008 saw me once more complete a tour in the Falkland Islands. Whilst on my post operational leave I was informed I had been selected for promotion and was assigned to the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) at Northwood HQ, North London. My job here was the NCO I/C of the Top Secret and Codeword Registry within J2. A little under 4 years later I was assigned to RAF Cosford to the Defence School of Photography. My main role here was looking after the administration of both staff and students, along with mentoring all Phase II students. Last year I was deployed to US Central Command (CENTCOM) located in Tampa, Florida where I spent 6 months working closely with allied nations and directly for the Senior British Military Advisor. Whilst deployed I found out I was to be assigned to JFCBS on my return.

What are your hobbies?

A keen sportswoman I enjoy running and keep fit. The twisted inner me also enjoys competing in arduous events, such as a full marathon this year, and an 11+ Mile Endurance Event in the Florida humidity last year. The remainder of my available time is spent with my family where we like to go on family walks and cycle rides. And on the odd occasion where I get even more spare time I love to bake (at an amateur level!), read and listen to music.

Your future plans?

Time will tell, but at the moment, with another 2 years to see out in the Netherlands, I vow to continue our adventure over here and make the most of both the NATO and European lifestyle, and any opportunities that arise with it.

34th International Soccer Tournament at HQ JFC Brunssum

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Andreas Koes, Commander Network Support Group Brunssum, NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA)

Cup Winner Overview:



34th Oldies' Cup
Tactical Air Force Wing 51 "IMMELMANN"



11th Delegations' Cup
1st DEU/NLD Corps



11th Delegations' Cup
Brunssum Allstars



34th Youngsters' Cup
Tactical Air Force Wing 51 "IMMELMANN"

The year 2014 was all about the soccer world championship in Brazil. With a bit of luck, but not completely unmerited, the German national team took the World Cup back home to Germany. So it was not really surprising that the German National Team Brunssum (GNT) was eager to prepare and host the 34th International Small-Pitch Soccer Tournament of HQ JFC Brunssum at the headquarters' sports complex.

This year a total of 45 international military and civilian soccer teams met for fair athletic competition in four tournament categories. On Thursday, August 14, 2014, the Delegations' and the Ladies' teams played for the championship. The next day, last year's titleholders in the age groups "Youngster – Under-30" and "Oldies – Over-30" competed for the 34th Commander's Cup.

Thanks to the dedicated volunteer group relying on members of the GNT and the German Delegation Brunssum and the first-class support by the Base Support Group HQ JFCBS the playing fields could be prepared in time despite inclement weather conditions. The games could begin ...

11th Delegations' Cup

At the beginning of our tournament a small, elite group of five teams met to be welcomed by Deputy Commander (DCOM) HQ JFCBS, Air Marshal Stacey, who took the opportunity to attended the Delegations' Cup opening match between the 617 Squadron (GBR) and the German Delegation (represented by the German National Team). At this point neither of the two teams would have guessed that their great performance would later be rewarded by a podium place.

Other competitors for the Delegations' Cup were the Turkish Delegation, the CIS Support Sustainment Center (CSSC) of the NCI Agency and the 1st DEU/NLD Corps. However, the soccer contest on this day was impeded by unpredictably capricious weather. After about two soccer hours torrential rain forced the games to be inter-rupted for an hour, because due to the risk of lightning strikes and the enormous amounts of water, it was impossible to continue playing.

CHAPEAU! None of the teams was very impressed by the interruption. After exciting and very committed play offs the teams participating in the finals were known: In the match for the third place the Turkish Delegation faced the British 617 Squadron. In the final the German National

Team wanted to strike the big blow against the team of the 1st DEU/NLD Corps. All of the competing teams had ambitious and honorable goals, but in the thrilling game for the third place the British prevailed over the tough Turkish Delegation. Also the German Delegation with the GNT had to defer to the technically stronger team of the 1st DEU/NLD Corps that took the Championship title in the Delegations' Cup.

13th Ladies' Cup

On Thursday evening, during the Ladies' Cup, the 34th International Small-Pitch Soccer Tournament of HQ JFCBS was put under the theme "The Wind of Change". In previous years the normal sequence of events during the Ladies' Cup usually was as follows: Ten teams meet and play against each other, and at the end Alemannia Aachen is the winner. This was about to be different this year - but first things first. This time eight teams competed for the Champion's trophy and, as expected, among them were last year's titleholders, the Alemannia Aachen girls.

Again as expected, the Alemannia girls with all their strength and experience gained in the Bundesliga celebrated very clear victories in nearly all their group matches. The Brunssum Allstars, for example, were sunk by 5-0. But sometimes the first

impression is misleading – unnoticed by Alemannia, the Brunssum Allstars worked their way up the table and at last were ready for a replay of the group match and to fight for the Ladies' Cup.

Soccer always gives reason for a lot of discussion. Whether it was because Alemannia Aachen underestimated the Brunssum Allstars, or if the team from Brunssum in southern Limburg played this match showing much more attention and a clearly more defensive approach – well, who knows?!?! This game on a high technical level offered enthralling actions by both sides, and the Brunssum Allstars scored, after a remarkable solo run, by lobbing the ball from a distance of about 15 meters over the goalkeeper into the upper right corner. Thereafter, smart defensive work helped them hold onto the lead. Upon the final whistle the Brunssum Allstars players happily fell into each other's arms and celebrated their well-deserved Ladies' Cup Championship.

Following another exciting game the Soccer Ladies Cologne achieved the third rank.

Within the scope of this year's first charitable action the German National Team Brunssum, together with the Head of the German Delegation Brunssum, presented a donation of 500.00 Euro to the Mertins family. At the end of the tournament, when the teams departed on Saturday morning, the DEU/FRA Army Aviation Training Center TIGER, headquartered in LE LUC (FRA), added another 100.00 Euro to that amount. That money is to help finance dolphin therapy for Mia, the Mertins' daughter, who suffers from a very rare chromosomal defect and has had to undergo quite a few different therapies since early childhood.

At the subsequent presentation ceremony led by the President of the GNT and the Head of the German Delegation, the winning teams of the Delegations and the Ladies' Cup were awarded and cheerfully celebrated.

Again "part of the party" was our long-time DJ Carsten Wandelt. Until the wee hours, his full basses and great mix and balance offered a lot for everyone during the Welcome / Winner Party.

34th Commander's Cup

Only a few (very few) cool and wet hours later, at 09:00 hrs, the 34th Commander's Cup waited to be declared open by Colonel Bücklein (Head German Delegation Brunssum).

With 16 teams each competing for the Oldies' Cup and the Youngsters' Cup, about 350 players – some of them pretty tired – set out to make the arduous path to the much-coveted challenge trophies of the Brunssum tournament. The weather forecasts did not really instill any good hopes for nice skies. Nonetheless, after tedious initial minutes, the games soon turned into fierce but fair and highly competitive matches. One or another of the teams that had joyfully danced their night away were now rapidly losing ground and had to face unexpected defeats. We can proudly state, however, that this year

the concept of fair play was particularly well observed. This cannot only be attributed to the sometimes very difficult turf after that long and intense rain. So I want to use this opportunity and extend my special thanks to all the participants for their sportsmanship.

New for some teams may have been the extended match time of 20 minutes in contrast to ten minutes in previous years. This also required a changed approach to the game and a tactical adjustment as to power and endurance.

Maybe that was one of the reasons why the two small finals of the Oldies' and the Youngsters' Cups were not decided on the soccer field. At the teams' request the winners were determined by (9 meter) penalty shootouts. In the Oldies' Cup the Federal Office of Bundeswehr Personnel Management defeated the 1st DEU/NLD Corps, while in the Youngsters' Cup the team of the German Element, HQ EUROKORPS, with their outstanding goalkeeper was the luckier one and won the shootout against the youngsters of the German Air Transport Wing 63.

At this point, let us recall the words characterizing the Ladies' Cup: "The Wind of Change". After exciting and convincing group matches both titleholders – DEU EW Bn 932 (Oldies) and the Team BOELCKE (Youngsters) – survived the knockout round and made it into the finals. Another novelty in Brunssum: Both teams faced the same opponent in two different categories. The Tactical Air Force Wing 51 "IMMELMANN" was able to get both of its teams into the two finals. This was a big motivation, and the "IMMELMANN" guys had only one objective: They wanted both titles and both trophies! Their wish came true. The titleholders of both age groups lost to the strongly performing teams of the Air Force Wing. So the new champion, the Tactical Air Force Wing 51 "IMMELMANN" will be the twofold titleholder at next year's 35th Commander's Cup.

Prior to the awards ceremony in the Youngsters' and Oldies' Cups another charitable action underlined the common-benefit aspect of the GNT tournament.

Having received a donation for the first time in 2013, the group "Basissport Limburg" in Kerkrade was again supported by a GNT donation. This organization of volunteer helpers devote themselves to helping disabled persons participate in sport. This way we do not only support para sports, but simultaneously demonstrate the integration of the GNT and the Joint Force Command in this region of the Netherlands.

The donations in kind such as backpacks, pencil cases and bags for the kindergartens in Teveren and Tüddern the GNT distributed during the tournament are to be seen in that same context. The kids department of the sports club in Scherpenseel received baseball caps, soccer balls and backpacks as well.

The largest sum this year, a total of 1,000.00 Euro, was donated by the Catholic Association for the Welfare of Military Personnel (Katholische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Soldatenbetreuung (KAS)).

The time until the early morning hours belonged to the band 'INSTANT' presenting an unbelievably good music program for all those teams that had refused to yield to the sometimes unfavorable weather – they blasted out a full and rich rock and pop sound!

This gig marked a really perfect conclusion of another successful and unforgettable tournament.

It was, as always, a great pleasure for the German National Team to again contribute to better social interaction and understanding. Our particular thanks go to all the teams that attended our tournament and thus contributed to all these donations.

Donations Overview:

Monetary Donations:

1,000.00 €	Catholic Association for the Welfare of Military Personnel
500.00 €	Basissport Limburg in Kerkrade
500.00 €	Westkirchenstift to support dolphin therapy for Mia Mertins
100.00 €	Westkirchenstift to support dolphin therapy for Mia Mertins (donation by DEU/FRA AAvn Trng Ctr TIGER – SFC Daniel Dreier)

Donations in kind:

Backpacks, bags and pencil cases for the kindergartens in Teveren and Tüddern as well as backpacks, baseball caps and soccer balls for the kids of the Scherpenseel sports club.



Catholic Association for the Welfare of Military Personnel



Westkirchenstift to support dolphin therapy for Mia Mertins



Basissport Limburg in Kerkrade

Did you know? Emperor Augustus Founder of the Roman Empire

Composed by Ed Frieser - Based on British Museum data and several other websites.

Remembering his death 2000 years ago



On 19 August 14 AD the first Roman Emperor Augustus died only a month before his 76th birthday. This year marks the 2000th anniversary of his death and is reason enough to look back in history. I will also examine this event in the context of the cities of Aachen, Jülich, Maastricht and Heerlen, all former Roman settlements in the Dutch-German Euro border region, that are trying to answer the question which city is the oldest.

The 'Euregional Vicus Group' is trying to answer these questions. Several archaeologists, historians and curators from the Dutch-German border regions have been working together to address these issues since 2012. They research the Roman settlements from which these four modern cities developed. The results of their work will be presented during the 'Augustus Most Wanted - Looking for the Euregion's roots' exhibition at the Centre Charlemagne - Neues

Stadtmuseum Aachen from 15 November – 31 December.

The life of 'Augustus' Gaius Julius Octavius
The future emperor Augustus was born into an equestrian family as Gaius Octavius, in Rome, on 23 September 63 BC. His father, Gaius Octavius, was the first in the family to become a senator, but died when Octavius was only four. It was his mother who had the more distinguished connection - she was the daughter of Julia, sister to Julius Caesar.

Gaius Octavius, as a young man, served under Caesar in the Spanish expedition of 46 BC despite his delicate health. And he was to take a senior military command in Caesar's planned Parthian expedition of 44 BC, although at the time he was only 18 years old.

Octavius was with his friends Marcus Agrippa and Marcus Salvidienus Rufus, in Apollonia, in Epirus, completing his academic and military studies, when news reached him of Caesar's

assassination. At once he returned to Rome, learning that Caesar had adopted him in his will. No doubt this only increased his desire to avenge Caesar's murder. Though, when he arrived, Octavius found power in the hands of Mark Antony and Aemilius Lepidus. They were urging compromise and amnesty. But Octavius refused to accept this attitude. With his determined stand he soon succeeded in winning over many of Caesar's supporters, including some of the legions. Though he failed to persuade Marc Antony to hand over Caesar's assets and documents.

The Triumvirate

Many of the senators, too, were opposed to Antony. Octavius, appreciated as Antony's primary rival by then, was granted the status of senator, despite not yet being twenty. When, in November 44 BC, Antony left Rome to take command in northern Italy, Octavius was dispatched with the senate's blessing to make war on Antony. Marc Antony was

defeated at Mutina (43 BC) and forced to retreat into Gaul or Gallia. In August 43 BC Octavius marched on Rome and forced the senate to accept him as consul. Three months thereafter he met with Antony and Lepidus at Bologna and the three came to an agreement, the Triumvirate. This agreement between Rome's three most powerful men completely cut off the senate from power (27 November 43 BC). Meanwhile Octavius's own standing had been heightened by the deification of Julius Caesar in early 42 BC. He was no longer to be addressed as 'Octavius' but insisted on being called 'Caesar' and he now styled himself as 'divi filius' - 'son of the divine'.

As Lepidus fell by the wayside during the conflict with Sextus Pompeius, this left Antony and Octavius rulers of the Roman world. Antony lived openly with Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt. Octavius's apparent modesty and moral strictness contrasted strongly with Antony's life as an oriental monarch at the lavish Egyptian court. Rome's sympathies therefore clearly lay with Octavius.

Octavius used the following years to strengthen his hold over the western provinces. The power struggle between Anthony and Octavius peaked and in 31 BC ended in a real war. In a sea battle off the coast of Greece one of the units of Octavius defeated the fleet of Anthony and Cleopatra. Both had had to seek shelter again in Egypt where the couple committed suicide. Octavius occupied Egypt and became, at the age of 32, ruler of the entire Roman Empire. Further, he now received the name 'Augustus', a slightly archaic term, meaning 'sacred' or 'revered'. Augustus apparently preferred the term 'princeps' (first citizen) which he had been granted, though he also kept the title imperator to emphasize his position as military chief of staff.

Military leadership

Augustus was no great military commander, but he possessed enough common sense to recognize that this was so. Thus he relied on Agrippa to do his fighting for him. Despite his lack of military skill, Augustus achieved vast gains in imperial territory as well as in the standing of Rome. Most important was no doubt the conquest of Egypt in 30 BC. Then, in 20 BC, he recovered the legionary standards captured by the Parthians at the Battle of Carrhae in 53 BC simply by threatening Parthia with war.

Augustus reached the Danube, the frontier in the east of Europe, after his forces fought hard campaigns conquering the Alpine tribes and occupying the Balkans. But his attempts

at making it to the River Elbe, the empire's north-western frontier, ended in the Varian disaster and it became clear to everyone that the Rhine was to be the future border.

Under Augustus the army was thoroughly reorganized, strengthened and posted away from Italy into the provinces. He also remodelled the civil service and substantially rebuilt some parts of Rome, even appointing 3500 firemen under a chief fire officer. Augustus was undoubtedly one of the most talented, energetic and skilful administrators that the world has ever known. The enormously far-reaching work of reorganization and rehabilitation, which he undertook in every branch of his vast empire, created a new Roman peace with

unprecedented prosperity. The Romans enjoyed peace for some 200 years.

Death of Augustus

Emperor Augustus fell ill on the way to Capri and, after four days resting on the island, passed away on his journey back to the mainland. He died at Nola on 19 August AD 14, only one month prior to his 76th birthday. His body was taken to Rome and given a stately funeral and his ashes were then placed in his Mausoleum.



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**JENEVER
MUSEUM**

HAVE A DRINK, IT'S EDUCATIONAL.

Genever lives on!

Isn't it amazing how experimenting with a little berry with a wide variety of medicinal properties led to it becoming Belgium's national distilled drink! But once you've heard the story and are genever-wise, you'll find you can tell the difference between the various genevers and, before you know it, you've acquired a taste for it!

For more than 500 years distillers have played around with ingredients and techniques in search of the perfect genever. As well as the traditional grain genevers, there are also fruit and cream genevers. These days genever is even used in cocktails. But how should you keep, serve and drink genever? What is your favourite flavour? And what is the difference between genever and gin?

Here you will find out why genever is called 'genever'. Why it was invented by nobody in particular. And how it dictated the course of history. A visit to the museum, its exhibitions, workshops and tastings brings all the senses into play and provides a delicious insight into the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the distillery. Where better to capture the true spirit of Belgium!

The real McCoy

You can certainly talk about "our" genever. After all, it is our national distilled drink. Since 2008 the name has been protected so that it can only be used by genever distillers in Belgium, the Netherlands, France (the departments of Nord and Pas-de-Calais) and Germany (Nordrhein-Westfalen and Niedersachsen). This protected status is the European Union's recognition of the age-old tradition and expertise attached to genever production in these regions. Genever is as authentic as Scotch whisky, French cognac. Cheers!

To cut a long story short

How is genever actually produced? You will find out in the distillation room of the former Stellingwerff/Theunissen distillery. The

importance of packaging and promotion is explained in the germination loft and in the house you will be given a potted history of genever. And at the end of the journey, you'll be able to wet your lips!

Enjoy genever responsibly

As you will learn in the museum's genever academy, genever should be sipped rather than drunk. Use your nose and taste buds to discover your preferences. But bear in mind, it is alcohol so not without its dangers. A dummy will demonstrate how drink travels through the body and impacts on the judgment.

Take everything you have learned in the museum with you to the tasting room and put it to the test!

Never a dull moment

In the tasting room there's always something new to discover in the fine selection of genevers from the Low Countries. And you don't need a museum ticket to visit the tasting room.

The Genever Museum also puts together a number of tasting formulas which give you the chance to compare, for example, four European distilled drinks, or four sweet genevers.

And not only can you see the Genever Museum's master distiller at work, but you can also see the listed, nineteenth-century still in action. It is still used to produce two authentic grain genevers and two liqueurs based on historical recipes.

If you would like to take part in or be kept abreast of activities at the Genever Museum, be sure to keep an eye on the calendar on our website or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

A hive of activity

Workshops, guided tours, talks, tastings, educational packages for schools and other events... There's something for everyone. You'll find full details on our website.

Tickets | * including free drink

Adults €6 p.p.*

Those aged 12 – 26: €1 p.p.

Those aged under 12: free

Groups (minimum 15 people): €5 p.p.*

You can book a guided tour through Tourism Hasselt (011 23 95 42).

Open

April 1st to October 31st

From Tuesdays to Sundays,
10 - 17.00 hrs

November 1st to March 31st

From Tuesdays to Sundays,
10 - 17.00 hrs on Saturdays and
Sundays 13 - 17.00 hrs

Last admission: 30 minutes before
closing time.

Closed: Mondays and throughout
January (with the exception of the
Belgian Christmas holidays) and
December 24th, 25th and 31st

Hasselt is very easy to reach by train.
The Genever Museum is walking
distance from the railway station, the
Kolonel Dusartplein bus stop and the
Dusartplein car park.

Genever Museum, Witte Nonnenstraat
19, B-3500 Hasselt
+32 11 23 98 60,
jenevermuseum@hasselt.be
www.jenevermuseum.be



Win Tickets for Jenever Museum

- We have 3 x 2 tickets for the Jenever Museum
- In order to win the tickets, please answer the following question:
- **Quiz Question: In which year was the name 'genever' protected?**
Fill in this coupon and send it to PAO, or send an e-mail to pao@jfcbs.nato.int, before 20 October 2014
- For NATO ID card holders only
- The winners will be announced in the next edition of the Northern Star

Answer:

Division:

Full name:

Extension:



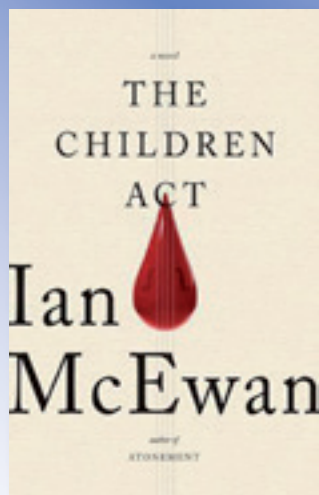
Winners Efteling

The Northern Star congratulates the lucky winner of the last contest.

Tickets won by:

Paul Schmidtpeter	NCIA
Guus Ruysbroek	PROT
Zoe Fowler	BSG

Book Review



The Children Act *by Ian McEwan*

Fiona Maye is a leading High Court judge, presiding over cases in the family court. She is renowned for her fierce intelligence, exactitude and sensitivity. But her professional success belies private sorrow and domestic strife. There is the lingering regret of her childlessness, and now, her marriage of thirty years is in crisis. At the same time, she is called on to try an urgent case: for religious reasons, a beautiful seventeen-year-old boy, Adam, is refusing the medical treatment that could save his life, and his devout parents share his wishes. Time is running out. Should the secular court overrule sincerely held faith? In the course of reaching a decision Fiona visits Adam in hospital - an encounter which stirs long-buried feelings in her and powerful new emotions in the boy. Her judgment has momentous consequences for them both.

The Children Act will be published in September by Jonathan Cape, Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, and Knopf Canada. The audiobook is available from iTunes (UK / US) and Audible (UK / US).

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

Ecolog International Deutschland GmbH

In der Steele 14
D-40599 Düsseldorf
Germany

Phone : + 49 (0) 211 688 750 0
Fax : + 49 (0) 211 688 750 199
info@ecolog-international.com
www.ecolog-international.com