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Photos provided by: Andy Clevenger, Ray Perez, Dennis Owens, Mike Hanson, David Enhis, and Danielle Roubroeks

Please send all submissions to
Margraten.Post.NL01@gmail.com
 Editor: Commander Ray



My Dear, Comrades!

I'm very PROUD and humbled to be elected your New Commander. I first want to say Thank You! Thank you for your trust and support. It's through that trust and support that our membership and mission will continue to grow and flourish. I have no doubt that this will be another outstanding year for Post NL01!



Every day, I want us to think of the positive and the good that we do for our fellow veterans, our fallen heroes, and our community as a whole.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Past Commander (PC) Ray Vincent and Adjutant Andy Clevenger. I credit a huge part of our success to this tremendous maiden year we've had to them! PC Vincent's leadership, mentorship, and friendship have prepared me for this position and I will continue to draw from his support.

Andy has giving a new meaning to "Attention to Detail". He went the extra yard on every project he was apart of and I truly thank him for that and also the efforts he took to spin-up our new Adjutant Rick Ojeda. I tip my CAP to you both!!

Speaking of Adjutant Ojeda, he's a wonderful guy and I know we're damn lucky to have him! I encourage you take the time and read Rick's Legionnaire Spotlight in the Dec 2017 Newsletter Pg. 15.

So let me tell you what I had the pleasure to get up to during my first month as Commander of the best Post in the Department of France!

Right after the election meeting, I drafted and sent an email to USAG Commander Col Kurt Connell, requesting a meeting to discuss Private Organization Status. Col Connell quickly replied to my letter and got his team together to assist. We now have all the required documentation submitted to the Private Organization POC! We were also able to get our much needed Bonding and Insurance! I hope to get our PO status before our next meeting on 20 April. I would like to give a big shout out to our fantastic Post Finance Officer Dale Snyder; he has been on point during the entire process!

I passed the new Commander and Adjutant information to Past National Vice Commander Doug Haggan, who updated our Post information on the Department of France website.

Through the help of our wonderful 1st Vice Jim Brotherton, we were able put the finishing touches on the Post, Commander, and Adjutant of the Year Awards certification packages. We also submitted Sgt-at-Arms Mark Chernek for Legionnaire of the Year!

Dates to Remember

04/11/18/25 Apr - Bowling League



20 Apr - Gen Membership Meeting



28 Apr - Wereth 11 Ceremony



1-6 May - Faces of Margraten



12 May - B-17 Joker Ceremony



26/27 May - Memorial Ceremonies



Keeping busy I was able to secure Schinnen Commissary for the Awareness Drive on the 31st of March. I would like to thank Legionnaire Joseph Dorovolc for his assistance. He also connected me to Nicky Ruiz who is the POC for doing Bagger for a Day! It was my hope that we could double tap the event on the 31st but unfortunately she doesn't have an open spot till July 1st. So Post NL01 will do the bagging on the 1st of July. This is a great way to raise funds and I thank 2nd Vice Harvey Briggs for the idea! Fantastic suggestion Harvey!

I had the pleasure of meeting with "Odyssey of the Joker" author Isabelle Engels. Isabelle, works on Geilenkirchen Air Base and has been the POC for the past 26 years for the ceremony that honors the B-17 crew "Joker" that crashed at Berismenil, Luxembourg/ Belgium. Isabelle and I are working together to make the ceremony happen. Coordinating with the township leaders and looking at our own busy schedule, our post will be supporting the ceremony 12 May. I would like to thank Legionnaires Andy Clevenger and Steve Smalley for bringing this to my attention! This is what Margraten Post NL01 is about! I would also like to thank Legionnaire Troy Becker for his support on the US side!

The post attended the 3rd DEC on the 17th of March in Ansbach, DE. I would like to give congratulations to 1st Vice Jim Brotherton, who was appointed to serve as Department Sgt-at-Arms during the DEC by Department Commander James Dennis.

Our Post has also been given the opportunity to host a national visit in June, which I will cover further in this issue. I would like to thank Legionnaires Kyle Irish and Sharon Lisby for their support in this effort.

It's been a busy old month and we as a Post have already made huge strides!

It's going to be a great year!!

Lastly,
I'll like to leave you with a few things to think about and remember:

This is YOUR membership YOUR way!

NL01 is YOUR Post and YOU will always have a Voice and a Vote!

If it means something to YOU. You'll do something about it!

Your Commander



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Margraten Post NL01 Election Meeting



On March 3rd. The American Legion Post NL01, Margraten, had its first formal Election Meeting. Present for the meeting was Department of France Commander James Dennis, VCAL, Charly Brown, and Vice Commander Casby Logan. It was a great honor for our post to host our Department Comrades! Huge thanks to SO Ron Macauley for securing the venue!

The turnout for this event was the best we have had! Not counting all the guests we had 19 Post NL01members presents!



By passing all the officer reports, we will start with **Old business:** Commander Ray Vincent took the floor to provide his closing comments about the Post, our accomplishments, and addressed each member of the PEC with his gratitude and appreciation.

New Business:

Sgt at Arms directed Post to re-assemble. Commander Ray Vincent gavelled to Order and VCAL Brown assumed New Business for the election. VCAL Brown vacated all Officer positions. Adjutant remained in-place to record election and meeting minutes.

Election:

Commander- single nomination for Ray Perez. He accepted the nomination and gave a short speech on his intentions for the position. With no other candidates, VCAL Brown cast a single, uncontested ballot and declared Ray Perez the Commander Post NL01.

1st Vice- single nomination for Jim Brotherton. He accepted the nomination and gave a short speech on his intentions for the position. With no other candidates, VCAL Brown cast a single, uncontested ballot and declared Jim Brotherton the 1st Vice Commander.

2nd Vice- nominations were Harvey Briggs and Andy Clevenger. Andy did not accept nomination. With no other candidates, VCAL Brown cast a single, uncontested ballot and declared Harvey Briggs the 2nd Vice Commander.

Historian- single nomination for Dennis Owens. He accepted the nomination and provided comments on his intentions for the position. With no other candidates, VCAL Brown cast a single, uncontested ballot and declared Dennis Owens the Historian.

Service Officer- single nomination for Ron Macauley. He accepted the nomination and with no other candidates, VCAL Brown cast a single, uncontested ballot and declared Ron Macauley the Service Officer.

Sgt at Arms-single nomination for Mark Chernek. He accepted the nomination and provided comments on his intentions for the position. With no other candidates, VCAL Brown cast a single, uncontested ballot and declared Mark Chernek the Sgt at Arms.

Finance Officer- single nomination for Dale Snyder. He accepted the position and provided comments on his intentions for the position. With no other candidates, VCAL Brown cast a single, uncontested ballot and declared Daly Snyder the Finance Officer.

Margraten Post NL01 Election Meeting cont.

Department Commander provided the Oath to new Officer's.

Other New Business:

Ray Perez assumed the Commander role. 1st point of business, appointed Rick Ojeda as Adjutant.
Commander Perez discussed the need to form several committees to plan and carry out the goals of the post.

Sgt. at Arms presented a white oak walking stick to Finance Officer Dale.

Department Commander presented Letters of Appreciation to previous officers.

Department commander presented 100% Membership ribbon to Post NL01.

Andy Clevenger made a motion for the new commander to review the by-laws and constitution.
-Commander Perez reviewed the docs and the body voted to accept the by-laws and constitution.

Historian Owens asked for an update on the 4th of July festivities.

-Commander Perez stated that he is still working on the details and will announce specifics once known.
-Commander Perez also stated the need to have committees to work on upcoming events like the 4th of July and Foggy Fields.



Open points of order for the membership (Good of the Legion):

-Ray Vincent made a statement that he was extremely pleased with the flow of the meetings and the accomplishments of the Post in the past year.
- Comrade Tom Akerboom expressed his happiness with the post and the meeting.

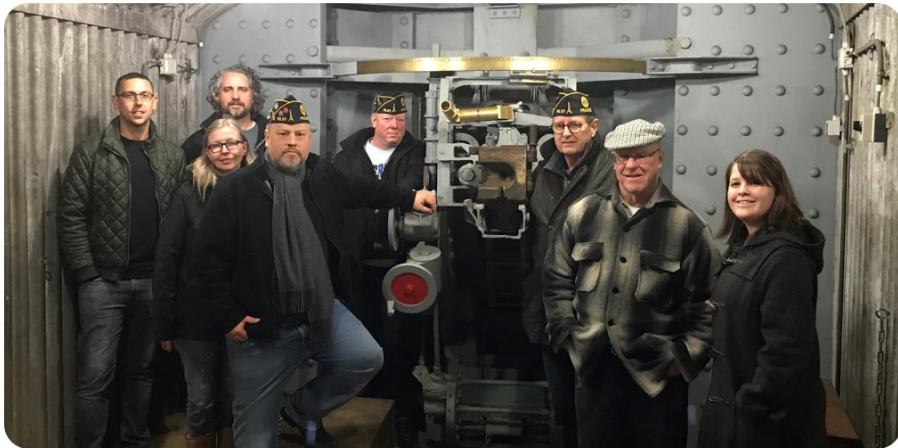
Commander Ray Perez adjourned 13:00hrs.



Visiting Fort Eben-Emael

Fort Eben-Emael is an inactive Belgian fortress located between Liège and Maastricht, on the Belgian-Dutch border, near the Albert Canal. It was designed to defend Belgium from a German attack across the narrow belt of Dutch territory in the region. Constructed in 1931–1935, it was reputed to be impregnable and at the time,

the largest in the world. The fort was neutralized by glider-borne German troops (85 men) on 10 May 1940 during the Second World War. The action cleared the way for German ground forces to enter Belgium, unhindered by fire from Eben-Emael.



A very special thanks to GOC Parkstad for inviting us and providing this wonderful tour and experience for the Legionnaires of Post NL01!

Please visit their Facebook [page](#).

Faces of Margraten: May 2-6, 2018; Search for Photos

Rows, endless rows of white marble crosses and stars of David. This is what one sees when overlooking the American War Cemetery and Memorial Netherlands in Margraten, the Netherlands. 8,301 American soldiers have been buried in this cemetery; another 1,722 names are listed on the Walls of the Missing. We do know the names of all these men and women, but who were they? Where did they come from and what did their lives look like prior to World War II? The Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven (SVAAO)(Foundation United Adopters American War Graves) hopes to make a unique tribute to the men and women buried there by trying to give as many names of the soldiers buried in or memorialized at the Margraten Cemetery as possible a face, by decorating their graves or names on the Walls of the Missing with a personal photo through the project "The Faces of Margraten" during a Memorial week once every two years.



Submit Photo

During the second edition of The Faces of Margraten tribute in 2016 we were able to put a face to 4,000 names. However, thousands of photos continue to be missing. Do you have a photo of a soldier buried or memorialized in Margraten? Please submit it then through [this page](#). It will mean another soldier whom we can give a face in 2018.

Fields of Honor – Database

In addition to using the photos for the unique tribute at the cemetery from May 2-6, 2018, photos also will be stored for future generations in the Fields of Honor - Database. In this database, information and photos can be found on thousands of American soldiers, including many who have been buried in Margraten. The database can be visited at www.fieldsofhonor-database.com.

Post NL01 submitted 1Lt. Charles N. Todd



First Lieutenant Charles N. Todd

Anyone can submit a photo for The Faces of Margraten—it does not have to be a family member. SVAAO is hoping to connect with more libraries and historical societies in the United States this year in hopes they reach the 6,000th photo by the time The Faces of Margraten occurs in May. To see if your family member or friend already has a photo on file, visit the Fields of Honor website.

3rd DEC at Ansbach, Germany

We had the honor and privilege to attend the 3rd Department Executive Committee Meeting @ Ansbach, Germany. The event hosted by David Chavez Post GR 1982 was very well organized and was a wonderful experience for our Post delegation. We truly treasured the opportunity to share it with the best of the American Legion!



Post NL01 Legionnaire Spotlight

From the Viet Nam era to active duty folks, our post is blessed with many incredible people representing all the services. Putting a few of our Legionnaires under the spotlight is a regular feature in our newsletter. I think it's important to learn more about our comrades and benefit from their stories. ~ Commander Ray



ANDY CLEVENGER

Andy was the 2017 Post NL01 Adjutant during the 1st year of our re-activation and oversaw the growth and numerous accomplishments we've made so far. "It was my honor to be Adjutant and I'm very proud to be a part of this Post. I wish Commander Ray Perez and Adjutant Rick Ojeda all the best going forward and I know they will take our Post to greater heights".

Andy was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio and knew during his junior year of high school, he was going to join the Air Force. This should not have come as a surprise since he has military service in his DNA. Generations of family have served, most recently Grandfathers' during WWII (Navy- Pacific and Army Air Corps- Europe) and his Father, Uncles and Cousins during Vietnam. After graduation and "taking the summer off", he left for Basic Training in late August 1990. Entering the USAF with no selected specialty code, many fortunate things occurred to find him selected for Flight School as an Enlisted Aviator.

Technical schools ("the pipeline") followed at Sheppard, Keesler and Fairchild Air Force Bases, finally attending AWACS Airborne Surveillance Technician training at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. He was a "student awaiting training" when Desert Storm kicked off but would find his way to Operation Southern Watch from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia during the drawdown in August 1991. The years that followed would take him to many exercises and real world contingencies around the globe. He says, "The greatest thing that happened in my career was being selected for Enlisted Weapons Director training in 1994". There, he would be stationed at Tyndall AFB, Panama City, Florida for "an amazing six months!" After completing Undergraduate Controller Training, he returned to Oklahoma and was actually re-assigned to the same Squadron he left, the 964th AACs, where he stayed until February 1999. With over eight years in service, still stationed in Oklahoma and after so many deployments and TDY's, he was uncertain of what to do with his future.



After some contemplation and with a determined supervisor who convinced him to re-enlist, then seek and accept a new assignment, Andy packed up and moved to NATO AWACS, Geilenkirchen, Germany. This began another period of exercises, deployments and TDY's. Some of which, were to wonderful locations! Greece, Turkey, Portugal, Spain and Alaska, just to name a few. During this time, Andy would realize there was something "meant to be" about this assignment. He would meet and marry his wife Astrid, learn some German language and culture, and travel much of Europe. But also witness the attacks of 9-11 from abroad. The days and weeks that followed saw the 552 Air Control Wing from Tinker AFB deploy to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. After the North Atlantic Council's decision to enact Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty, NATO AWACS deployed to Tinker AFB, Oklahoma for Operation Eagle Assist. Andy would return "home" for a six-week deployment, flying over and protecting the airspaces of America. Andy stated, "It was a very surreal time for many of us 'Americans' on the

crew to be flying an Operation over our Homeland, while at a time of war, but we did that with an amazing group of Maintenance and Operations personnel from 13 different Nations”.

Nearing the end of his NATO assignment, Andy and Astrid were married and moved in February 2004 to where?..... Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. This time around was much different and in many ways, much better. They built a new house and traveled the States. Andy was assigned as a Flight Instructor in the schoolhouse and Astrid found work as an architect with a Firm in Norman, OK. They were planning to start a family, Andy to finish his Bachelor's Degree and “settle in” when just over 2 ½ years there, they were notified of a new assignment to.....NATO AWACS, Geilenkirchen, Germany.



They returned in February 2007, exactly three years after leaving for Oklahoma. Years later, at Andy's 2011 retirement ceremony, Brigadier General Darryl Burke

would say, “Now Andy has had an amazing 21 year assignment track record that I've never seen before. He changed stations just three times and this was it, Tinker-GK, Tinker-GK”. This assignment to Geilenkirchen would be his last, as he completed a distinguished flying career on AWACS as an Instructor in two different aircrew positions. Returning to Germany in 2007 also had another surprise in store. Astrid was indeed pregnant and Andy would become a father to their son Leon.

Fast forward to now; Andy enjoyed a full year as a “stay-at-home Dad” until rejoining NATO as a contractor to the AWACS Mission Simulator in September 2012. It's there that he gets to continue his life's work, instruct, train and develop the aircrews through mission simulation. He's very grateful for his health, to remain in Germany, take Astrid and Leon to Cincinnati every summer, stay closely connected to the Military community and “give-back” through his efforts with the American Legion and other organizations in Germany. His interests include photography, traveling, history and local activities.

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Letters to Dad

JOURNAL OF AIR FORCE SERGEANT DENNIS OWENS DURING THE AIR WAR of DESERT STORM - 1991

The following are excerpts from the daily journal kept by Post NL01 Legionnaire, USAF Sergeant Dennis P. Owens during his tour of duty as an aircrew member in an E-3A AWACS in Desert Storm. He was the computer system technician. It is presented exactly as he wrote it.

Dear Dad, 2140 [9:34pm] 20 Jan 91

It was today that we talked on the phone. Good to hear your voice. This letter is being written on my 3rd combat mission. Right now we are taxiing down the taxiway. I'll log things for you providing I have minimum computer problems or activity around us is little (so not to keep my attention), as the last 2 hair raising flights were before. My uniform is sanitized, I have my dog tags, ID card, glasses, "Go to Hell" ball cap, flight gloves, uniform flight hat, water, flight publications, and around \$1.00 in change. Additionally, I have: one gas mask, ground and air crew ensemble, helmet, aircrew chemical protection suit,

2147L[9:47pmSauditime] Takeoff

Four knives; 2 pockets, 1 boot, and 1 hunting knife strapped onto my web belt with my canteen and gas mask. NO wedding ring, wallet, patches, etc., etc. Dad, I did get the desert fax. It showed it was sent at 9pm on Jan 18, Sacramento time. I received it at 4pm Saudi time here on 20 Jan. Looks like 1.5 days. Very Good!

2154L[9:47pmSauditime] Seatbelt sign off 2158L[9:58pmSauditime] Power [his computer] system up 2200L[10:00pmSauditime] Loadprograms2205L [10:05pmSauditime] System cyclic [test]- - - 2229L[10:29pmSauditime] AllSystems go. 1929z [10:29pmZULUtime] All Systems go. Just to un-confuse things, I'll call out ZULU [Greenwich Mean] times, which equal 3 hours behind us and 8 ahead of you [PST]. On the plane, we use Zulu for logs and times. So, I'll stick to Zulu (z).

2011z [8:11pm] just rolled in behind our first tanker tonight. We will refuel 2 times on this 14.8 hour scheduled flight. Around 1950z [7:50pm] tonight, we got word that one of our fighters went down over IRAN. No word on pilot condition. Around 2003z [8:03pm] got word that 4 scuds were launched on East Saudi; 2 confirmed patriot kills and 2 impacted a city on Saudi east coast.

2021z [8:21pm] Contact with A/R [air refueling KC-135 tanker]. 2029z [8:29pm] off A/R 2156z [9:56pm] 7 scud missiles just launched - destination: Jeda, Riyadh, Dharan. Results approximate near miss at Riyadh. 2205z [10:05pm] 3 more scud launches. This time, destination is a Saudi military city. This shit's for real! 2211z [10:11pm] Results of 3 scud launches, report from the ground. Quote "Patriots are six for six." (A couple of high fives on this a/c [aircraft] for those guys)!

We are listening to reports that the AC-130 gun ship (Specter), just like the C-47 called Puff the Magic Dragon used in Viet Nam, is out there in Iraqi air space getting ready to do the AT&T thing "reach out and touch someone." This AC-130 with guns can spray a football field and not leave any square 2-inch patch of turf without lead. The targets he is going for are the mobile observers along the Iraq/Saudi border that have (since we knocked out most of their radar in that area) been calling back to HQ when a package [formation of planes] would cross the border. Here's a quick summary of missions I've flown this trip. We arrived in Saudi Arabia on 9 Jan at 6am local time. First mission 11 Jan from 2111L to 1206L for 14.9 hours, then 13 Jan from 2215L to 1437L for 16.4 hours, then 15 Jan from 2145L to 1212L for 14.5 hours. At 0800L on 16 Jan 91 the deadline expired, (midnight Jan 15 EST), I was airborne. The next flight was my first combat mission on 18 Jan from 0158L to 1339L for 11.7 hours. This was around 18 hours after the war started. Then 19 Jan from 1030L to 0229L for 16 hours combat time. Total hours since I left Tinker include the 17.3 trip over here is now 90.8. Then this flight. We are limited to 130 hours [normally but] waived up to 165 hours per month [because of hostilities] and 335 per quarter. At the rate we are going, 5 more flights (which we could do in one week) would shut us down for 1.5 weeks [until Feb 1]. Keep in mind, we are briefing for 3 hours before and debriefing for 2 hours after each flight, which makes for a long day.

2240z[10:40pm] Updateon7scudmissileattacksonRiyadh. Itappears7werelaunchedatRiyadhaswellas unknown number at Jeda and Dharan. Out of the 7 destined for Riyadh, 6 were intercepted by patriots. The seventh hit or hit very close to Eskan, THE COMPOUND WHERE WE LIVE. There are more than 10,000 GI's living there now from army, air force, and marines. Sometimes it's good to be airborne. I'll update you later on the missile - so far, they have not reported chemicals. I understand the word got out [missile alert] and the condition went to MOPP level 4 moments prior to impact. I know that the word takes awhile to get out. MOPP level 4 is the FULL chemical suit, which takes around 5 minutes to put on. Tell me they had time!

2308z[11:08pm] OK, now a clearer picture on the scud attacks on Eskan where we live. They say that debris has hit Eskan, not sure if it's a close impact point from the one that did hit or if it was debris from some of the ones that the patriots took out. Listening to the 'rivet joint' (RC-135) that was told to EXPEDITE takeoff as the patriots were being fired off, I would say those boys need to clean out their pants! The expected kill ratio of the new (new before war tested) patriots are 90%, so they fire off two at a time. Now they figure a 96% kill ratio.

2314z[11:04pm] Another scud alert-more to come.... This news makes all of us feel better. A package of B-52's and F-4G Weasels and other a/c were diverted from their original missions and given the coordinates of the mobile scud site that launched the attack. They are overhead now as I'm writing this. Boy, you don't need any coffee on this flight. Just think, only 10.5 more hours before we end this mission. So far, the system is working OK. I lost 1/2 of my computer due to one of the arithmetic units freezing up. The other took over OK. Now I'm down to one, but still cooking. I might have to do some pretty quick tap dancing soon.

I wonder if Mike or Danny were still in, [the military] if they would be over here now?

2326z[11:26pm] OK, here's some more news for you. It appears that one of those visual ID posts that the AC-130 gun ship was going for, moved. We have new coordinates. A message was intercepted that said they have a new commander. The old commander has 'been waxed.' I don't know whose side waxed him. Insane has been known to shoot those that disagree with him AND those who have greatly succeeded. The later because he doesn't want a coup attempt on him. I've also been told that he has given orders to all of his troops that anyone wearing white will be shot. He is afraid they might surrender.

This stuff is pretty neat if you think about it. Here I am up in this radar platform alongside some ACE commanders who listen to reports of new information like observations of SAM [surface to air missile] sites and scud launches then redirect on the spot, fighters to those locations to pound some lead up their behinds. Here's that id bit for you... I was just talking to the ACE onboard. I believe that's Airborne Command Elementor something like that, and he is a F-15 pilot with four silver stars on his right sleeve. Stars are fighter time [diamonds are aircrew time] silver and gold still mean the same [silver signifies 500 combat hours]. I asked him how long it took him to make 2000 hours flying. He replied 15 years. Right now I'm pushing 3000 in 6 1/2 years. Keep in mind that the entire year I served in Iceland I only picked up 90 hours. (I just did that last week!) Anyway, I guess what this means is that our E-3A crews along with two other air frames will get the most combat hours here. We won't get the most missions, and I don't think we will see any fireworks but I have been over the border and directly over a SAM site that was active. That's enough for me, thanks anyway!

0137z[1:37am] So far, no reports on the last scud attack I mentioned at 2314z. Just got a report that the scuds that hit Riyadh were not chemical. Hey, here's one for you... Yesterday, on AWACS tail #006, during a very hard landing some of the ceiling panels came lose in the mid section and what do you know but 3 ea 1/2 gallon bottles of RUM flew out of the ceiling as cheers erupted from the crew.

NeedlesstosaytheyalldisappearedASAP.Icouldjustseetheseguyswithpalms up saying 'There is a God.' Some poor maintenance guy is out of some hootch. When we got on this plane, during preflight, I was tapping on all of the ceiling panels and I even went so far as to ask the pilot to deliver us a hard landing. Update: on those scuds fired at Riyadh, one hit city center. One of our crews that was pre-fighting an AWACS was to ID incoming, MOPP level 4, get out of the a/c and into the ditches'. They did and they reported seeing the patriots launch and destroy the incoming scuds. Talk about more pants that need cleaning! Well, here is the 8-page letter I said I would write. Feel free to type it and spread it around. I would, but this is obviously not a word processor.

1000z[10:00am] Descending for landing at Riyadh (they have apparently cleaned the scud debris off of the runway).

1010z Just heard a rumor (you remember the rumor mill?) That they might give us a couple of days off.

1017z Landing for 15.5 (total 106.3 since 7 Jan 91). Darn, no rum. But it was a very firm landing! I'll give him that! The briefings are for the most part very boring for the techs but I'll give the weapons directors and surveillance guys a lot of credit. They have a tough job up there with a lot of pressure on them.

1630L[4:30pm local] Finally arrived back at Eskan village. Boy, the stories the guys told about the scud missiles. I took my uniform off, made a couple of drinks and sat down to watch the news. The TV said 10 scuds were launched and the patriots killed all but one and it landed in the gulf. Before we left the briefings, intelligence said '17 scuds and 35 patriots.' They're not sure which one or both impacted Riyadh. The guys at Eskan were notified by sirens. They heard terrific explosions, saw patriots take off and arc this way and that as each found their targets. Then an explosion in the sky. One was said to arc left and explode in Riyadh or just above it as it hit the scud. I went to bed at 1900L [7:00pm] very tired.

0350L[3:50am] 22Jan EXPLOSIONS. Very loud but at a distance. Then sirens. We are being hit by scuds right now. I stand out on our balcony in my underwear looking in the direction of Riyadh. Nothing to see, it's over that quick. Turned on the news and Dhahran is being hit also. Paul, my roommate and fellow CDMT, and I stay up for an hour and half watching the news and listening to sirens. Everybody else stayed in bed. We went back to bed at 0500 [5am].

0715L[7:15am] Our flight engineer, Bart Holmes bangs on our door and asks us if we are going to get up for the next flight? We slept through the alarm at 0600. Showtime for the next flight is 0745 downstairs. We look at each other and decide to forget the showers, let's eat breakfast. We quickly get dressed and walk downstairs just to hear sirens go off again. Well, no breakfast today. We went right back upstairs, gathered our shit together, this time to include ground chemical ensemble.

You know, I'm not very worried about the scuds. For them to have the 300 mile range to hit Riyadh, they have to make it more rocket and less missile. They end up with only around a 300 lb. warhead on the tip. It could hit the building next to me and do no or little damage to our building. Plus, the accuracy of these is around 5 miles to the target. Right now, he is not using chemicals, but you never know. I always have my mask at hand and ready. 0745L Showtime

0815L Arrived at Riyadh Air Base. Got word that we will be taking a/c 007 which is at the civilian airport, another 30 minutes away. While I was receiving my classified, [computer tapes] the tape librarian guy showed me some scud fragments that he found in the parking lot where we were standing. I looked around and found four small pieces. I'll send you one.

1000L Preflight complete. This plane is a pig! Before we take off, the computer is already 1/2 broken. This will be an interesting flight. So much also for the rumor of a day off. Oh well, I would much rather be here doing it than reading about it.

1030L-0730z [7:30zulu] Takeoff. Minor problems with the computer at start-up, but nothing we can't handle. This is Paul's turn at the beginning of the mission. He will have the seat until the second A/R then I will take it.

1630z[4:30pm] My system, good nap, (caught up on my sleep). 1750z Scud attack on Dhahran, patriots engaging, no results yet.

1800z Scud launched. Copilot witnessed the glow and flame from the cockpit. These scuds are WEST bound! Target - Tel Aviv. Results mostly unknown, but one landed 5 miles from Tel Aviv.

2000z I was in the cockpit for over an hour and saw numerous planes going north and many flashes of bright lights under the clouds WAY up north.

2209z System powered down now. We have finally been relieved by another AWACS. Here is some food for thought. This is mission number ADS099. That breaks down to A=January, DS=Desert Storm, 099=number of missions flown.

Now figure 99x15 hours each. Today is only the 22nd of January. That's a lot of fuel.

2240z 0140L Landing, total of 15.2 hours for 121.5 since 7 Jan, for 58.5 total in 4 combat missions.

Dad, I love you and it's not so bad over here. I realize there is danger but I think of the grunts [ground troops] in the desert and I realize we have it made. We have continuous combat air patrols north of us just there to protect AWACS. We go back to our cots in a villa with running hot and cold water. We have electricity. We have a chow tent close. We are airborne 1/2 of our time. I'm even getting used to sleeping with my dogtags on (they don't leave my neck).

This letter should give you a glance of what it's like over here for a computer technician on AWACS during Desert Storm.

Love, Dennis

Margraten Post NL01 2018 Awareness Campaign

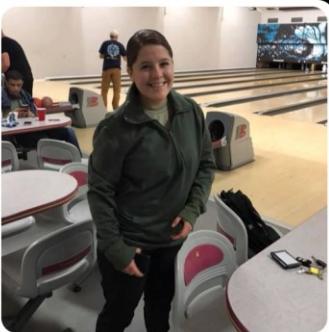


31st March - USAG Schinnen Commissary: Post NL01 had an excellent Awareness Drive!

We were able to welcome two new members to Margraten Post NL01!

Welcome, John Andrew Pope Jr. and Randal Garfield (Transfer) to Post NL01!

Special Thanks to Post Legionnaires, Kiara Valencia, Andy Clevenger, Historian Dennis Owens, and Commander Ray!



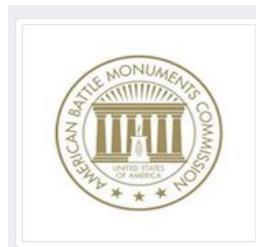
Come out and Join the Margraten Legionnaires Bowling Team!

We're always looking for more people to take part in the fun. Every Wednesday from 6-9 pm at the Schinnen Bowling Center. Events are always posted on the Post NL01 Facebook page.

If interested please contact Team Captain Dave Ehnis at davidehnis01@yahoo.com



OR CHAT ONLINE AT <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/gochat/>



American Battle
Monuments
Commission ✓
[@abmcpage](https://www.abmc.gov)



Movie of the Month:

PATTON

A 1970 American epic biographical war film about U.S. General George S. Patton during World War II. It stars George C. Scott, Karl Malden, Michael Bates and Karl Michael Vogler. It was directed by Franklin J. Schaffner from a script by Francis Ford Coppola and Edmund H. North, who based their screenplay on the biography *Patton: Ordeal and Triumph* by Ladislas Farago and Omar Bradley's memoir *A Soldier's Story*. *Patton* won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Director and Original Screenplay. Scott won Best Actor for his portrayal of General Patton, but declined to accept the award.

Patton was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant". The Academy Film Archive preserved *Patton* in 2003.

Basic Training

Learn about The American Legion in this self-paced online course



Basic Training Graduate

Congratulations Raymond!

You have passed the course 1 time.
Your last graduation date was 10/08/2017.

Print your certificate: [B&W](#) | [COLOR](#)
Order your cap/lapel pin [here](#).

Where you left off

[Resume](#)



The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam.

The course is free for members. The training took me a little over 2 hours to complete, but there is no time limit on the course. You can return to where you left off anytime you wish for as many times as you want. Once complete you will get a printable Certificate of Completion and the opportunity to order the redesigned lapel/cap pin pictured above.

I found this training to be a great jumping off point for any new legionnaire. Anyone who participates in Awareness Drives should have this information in their toolbag!

As an Historian I of course found the History & Organization module to be the most interesting and fun but the section on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation was very eye-opening.

This Basic Training package is an outstanding gateway of knowledge into the nation's largest veterans service organization and an opportunity not to be missed.

After taking the course it opens your eyes to what we really can accomplish and do. I never really knew how much the Legion was involved in.. Should have joined years ago! ~ Post NL01 Sgt-at-Arms Mark Chernek



How to Become A Sentinel of Memory

By Commander Ray

Over the past year the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA) Foundation has been focusing on the restructuring the adoption program of over 14,000 American soldiers who have their last resting place in Belgium. The program to honor our fallen is call the Sentinel of Memory program. Last issue I wrote about what the program consists of. This article will cover the steps on becoming a Primary Sentinel of Memory.

1. Go to www.aomda.org and choose the language of your preference.

2. Click on "Register" and follow the instruction on the form. Your request is usually approved within 24 hours. Mine was a little over 48 hrs.

3. If your registration was successful, go to the site and click "Login" Give your email address and password.

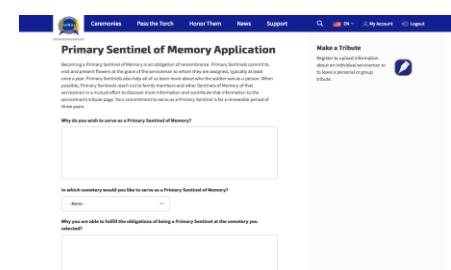
4. You are now automatically linked to the page for your personal account. Please take the time to fill in your profile information so that they can effectively reach you in the future.

5. Click on "Honor Them" and then click on "Serve as a Sentinel of Memory". Once that page comes up, click on the hyperlink "Primary" Sentinel of Memory"

6. Fill out the Primary Sentinel of Memory Application. Make sure you give full detailed answers. Make sure you select the right cemetery. You will also be asked why you are able to fulfill the obligations of being a Primary Sentinel at the cemetery you selected. Saying you live locally and normally visit the selected cemetery a couple of times a year is an acceptable answer. If you're interested in a particular serviceman please provide his name. You will also have the option to select to be put on a waiting list or be assigned any available serviceman.

7. Once you have completed the form, click on "Send". Your application will be forwarded to the Administrator for the Remembrance Honors. After approximately 72 hours you will receive an answer. Mine took closer to 6 to 8 weeks but that was when the AOMDA was still getting going through the 14,000 graves. Should be much quicker now. Your name will then be on the page of the serviceman your Primary Sentinel for. (if you don't want your name to appear on his page, you can make that adjustment through the privacy settings of your account)

8. You will receive an email from the AOMDA with your serviceman's information and a Certificate of Appreciation for your commitment to serve as a Primary Sentinel of Memory. The pledges last for three years and you will be sent an email when the end of your pledge nears with the option to renew.



2018 Visites non-stop
Non-stop bezoek
de/van 10h - 16h

24 & 25 MAR 25 & 26 AUG

28 & 29 APR 9 SEP

26 & 27 MAY 29 & 30 SEP

23 & 24 JUN 27 & 28 OCT

21 JUL 24 & 25 NOV

FORT EBEN-EMAEL



rue du Fort 40 • B-4690 Eben-Emael

GPS N 50° 47'51.5" E 5° 40'45.0"

+32 (0)4 286 286 1

www.fort-eben-emael.be



Department of France Centennial Challenge Coin!

March 2019 is firmly circled on The American Legion Dept. of France calendar. That's when Legionnaires across Europe will celebrate the organization's 100th birthday in Paris, where a gathering of soldiers, sailors and Marines that month in 1919 gave birth to what would become the largest organization of U.S. veterans. To honor the centennial, and to help cover anticipated costs of celebrating the anniversary, the Department of France has struck a commemorative challenge coin. The coins have been purchased by members, collectors and post leaders to distribute among military personnel, supporters and others who help the department fulfill the Legion mission in communities overseas. The challenge coin features the Eiffel Tower – the image of which is embroidered on Department of France Legion caps – above the organization's national 100th anniversary logo. On the flip side appear the emblems of all four American Legion Family groups – the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and The American Legion. The challenge coins are \$10 each, plus shipping, add \$2 per coin for standard shipping and \$13 per coin for priority shipping. To date Post NL01 has sold over **115 coins!**

Mathilde and Marcel SCHMETZ
Always remember our liberators

REMEMBER MUSEUM 39-45





Words from Service Officer Ron

We consider ourselves quite lucky to have Ron Macauley as our SO. As you read in our last newsletter, Ron's civilian job carries many of the responsibilities and tasks asked of a Legion Post Service Officer. Part of Ron's job entails keeping veterans' informed of their benefits and any change in policy that could effect those benefits. ~ Commander Ray

New VA appeals status tool provides tracking and transparency for Veterans

The appeals status tracker, designed with help from Veterans, now clearly answers three questions: What's happening with my appeal and what happens next? What do I need to do? How long will my case take?

VA | Vets.gov

Explore benefits | Manage your health & benefits | Find VA locations

Get the VA services you've earned.

Get started with Vets.gov

Apply for health care | Apply for education benefits | In crisis? Get help now



WASHINGTON – Veterans can again submit online applications for new identification cards through the Department of Veterans Affairs website after the system was taken down in December following rollout problems.

The purpose of the identification cards is to help veterans prove their military history without having to carry around their DD-214 certificates, which contain sensitive information. The new IDs do not replace VA medical cards or defense retiree cards, nor do they qualify as official government-issued identification.

Veterans can now use My HealtheVet credentials to access benefits tools on Vets.gov

Login to Manage Your Healthcare

Pharmacy

Appointments

Messages

Health Records

Resources

Benefits

Mental Health

Veterans Health Library

Healthy Living

Community

HealthLiving Assessment



New VA representative are inbound and have already gotten in contact with many of our Veterans. PSO Ron Macauley will keep us advised on their arrival and future 1 on 1 dates.

To schedule an appointment, please call DSN: 314-606-244-3848 or CIV 045-526-3848 -or- E-mail: ronald.macauley.civ@mail

Welcome home, Vietnam War veterans

Denise H. Rohan, National Commander
Mar 29, 2018



Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

Thursday, March 29, is Vietnam War Veterans Day.

While we honor our war dead on Memorial Day and our living veterans on Veterans Day, this is a time when we give a special tribute to those who served during the Vietnam War. For many, it's the recognition they deserved when they returned to America.

They defended our flag with honor. They supported democracy. They fought in brutal conditions.

Yet when many Vietnam War veterans

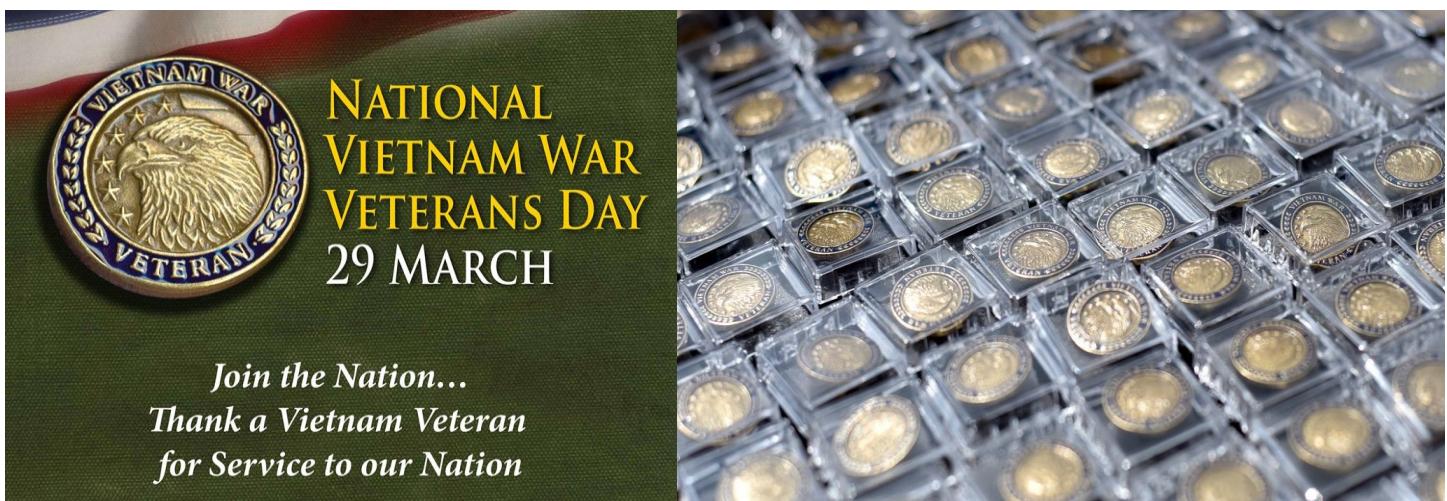
returned to America, they were unwelcomed. While we cannot change the actions of the past, we can show our support and gratitude today – something that should have happened 50 years ago.

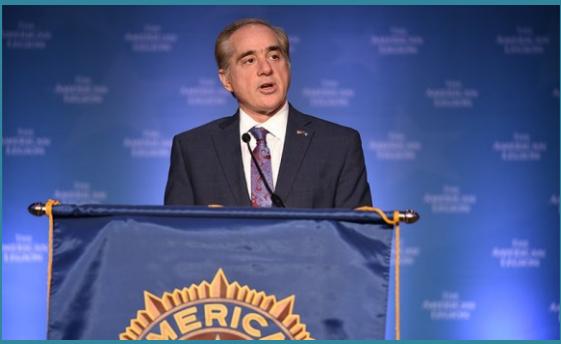
In fact, many American Legion posts and members, Sons of The American Legion squadrons, American Legion Auxiliary units and Riders chapters are supporting efforts to honor these special veterans. www.vietnamwar50th.com/

Across the nation, ceremonies will honor Vietnam War veterans this Thursday. Of course, the Vietnam Wall will play a special role in honoring and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Throughout the United States, nearly every state is planning to host commemoration events.

We should not allow this special day of recognition to fade when the calendar turns over. Join me in thanking Vietnam veterans for their service not just this Thursday, but every day.

Welcome Home.





American Legion: Shulkin made 'positive changes'

American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan issued the following statement regarding the departure of David Shulkin as secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

"Secretary Shulkin has acted in the best interests of America's veterans and was making meaningful, positive changes at the VA. We wish Shulkin well on his next venture."



Five new rosettes were placed on the Walls of the Missing at the Netherlands American Cemetery & Memorial.

AIELLO, Michael (S/Sgt, 401 GIR /101 A/B Division, MIA 30-9-1944), ALLEN, Clarence E. (2LT, 368 FG, MIA 12-10-1944), BAILEY, Shirley E. (PVT, 4th Infantry Division, MIA 29-11-1944), DAMAN, Charles H. (Sgt, 448 BG, MIA 4-4-1945), and MAINS, Robert L. (1Lt, 448 BG, MIA 4-4-1945). Mortergroup 'B' Wonju Compagnie 12 Infantry Battalion were present to assist in this ceremony.

THE AMERICAN LEGION – WHO WE ARE

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, and community service organization, which now numbers 2.4 million - men and women - in more than 14,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These Posts are organized into 55 Departments – one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The American Legion has its headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, with offices in Washington, D.C. In addition to thousands of volunteers, serving in leadership and program implementation capacities from the communities to the Legion's standing national commissions and committees, the national organization has a professional staff of about 250 employees.

Membership eligibility in The American Legion is based on honorable service within the U.S. Armed Forces between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 (World War I); December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946 (World War II); June 25, 1950, and January 31, 1955 (Korean war); December 22, 1961, and May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War); August 24, 1982, and July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada); December 20, 1989, and January 31, 1990 (Operation Just Cause – Panama); or August 2, 1990, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.



Tom Hanks Is Teaming Up With Vet Filmmaker Dale Dye to Make a Veteran-Powered WWII Drama

Tom Hanks has signed on to both act in and executive-produce *No Better Place To Die*, an upcoming World War II drama about the airborne Normandy landings on D-Day, written and directed by Marine vet and seasoned technical adviser Dale Dye. Planned release to coincide with the 75th Anniversary.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Floral Tribute to General Patton

By Commander Ray Perez

My wife asked me last week what I wanted to do for my 54th birthday on the 31st of March and I said I would love to take a trip down to Luxembourg and visit General George S. Patton and lay a floral tribute. We had

to adjust the date slightly because our Post was running the Awareness Drive on the 31st. This was fine, if not fate because the next day was of course Easter Sunday. Very fitting if you ask me.

This is the first time we have visited the Luxembourg America Cemetery but I knew that Gen. Patton's grave was positioned in front and overlooking the rest of the 5,000+ stones. The grave also has a chain to restrict the foot traffic, thus keeping the lawn intact. As I wanted to lay the wreath at the Generals cross and take a picture standing beside it, I coordinated with ABMC beforehand. ABMC Associate Jennifer Roman was very helpful and noted my time of arrival for the on duty staff for Easter Sunday. We were met by ABMC Associate Laure Mathis who granted access and gave an in-depth history of Gen. Patton's grave position and the rest of the Cemetery. The weather was less than generous during our visit and



Laure stood out there with us. The visit was lovely and the cemetery is kept to the highest of standards.

I messaged Gen Patton's granddaughter, Helen before going and said I would send her the pictures of the visit, which I have. She wished me a Happy Easter and told me not to forget to give myself some candy. I did that to. ;-)



The Patton Foundation
@ThePattonFoundation





Legion Bowling

Every Wednesday between 1800-2100. If interest please contact Comrade David Ehnis @ davidehnis01@yahoo.com

PEC

Post Officers will hold a virtual PEC on Sunday 15 April @ 1300. Agenda to be released no later than 14 April

Post Membership Meeting

Monthly Membership Meeting will take place 20 April on USAG Schinnen. Bldg. 3 Classroom A @ 1700. Gavel @ 1730. Will have a Brisket Raffle at \$5 dollars a ticket. All proceeds go to the Post. Adjutant Ojeda will send out the agenda NLT 13 April.

Wereth 11 Annual Ceremony

Post NL01 will be attending April 28th. There will be a reception lunch after the ceremony for 15 euros. Further information will follow through Post distro. Please check out site <http://www.wereth.org/> for information about the ceremony and history.

April 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 Newsletter Release
2	3	4 Legion Bowling 1800-2100 Make-Up	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	12	13	14	15 PEC (Skype) 1300-1400
16	17	18 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	19	20 Post Membership Meeting @1700 Bld. 3 Room A	21	22
23	24	25 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	26	27	28 Wereth 11 Ceremony 1000-1100 + Lunch	29
30						



May 2018

Faces of Margraten

Post has been asked to help with the setup on May 1st and pack-up on May 6th. Exact times to follow.

B-17 Joker Ceremony

Ceremony collaboration with GK Air Base. Working on Base Transportation for 1045 arrival.

Post Membership Meeting

Monthly Membership Meeting will take place 18 May on USAG Schinnen. Bldg. 3 Classroom A @ 1700. Gavel @ 1730. Will have a Brisket/or Rib Raffle at \$5 dollars a ticket. All proceeds go to the Post. Adjutant Ojeda will send out the agenda NLT 13 April.

Memorial Day Ceremonies

Post NL01 will be attending at least three Memorial Day Ceremonies over the weekend 26/27. Looking for maximum Post participation in honoring our fallen hero's. We will also be inlaying sand and laying floral tributes for the 7 Wereth 11 laid to rest in Henri-Chapelle as well as our other graves that we are Sentinel of Memory for.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Faces of Margraten	1 Faces of Margraten Legion Bowling	2 Faces of Margraten	3 Faces of Margraten	4 Faces of Margraten	5 Faces of Margraten
7	8 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	9 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	10	11	12 B-17 Joker Ceremony Belgium	13
14	15 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	16 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	17	18 Post Membership Meeting @1700 Bld. 3 Room A	19	20
21	22 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	23 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	24	25	26 Memorial Day Henri-Chapelle Rotterdam	27 Memorial Day Margraten
28	29 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	30 Legion Bowling 1800-2100	31			