

2nd ARMORED DIVISION

**VETERANS LIBERATION TOUR**

**FRANCE—BELGIUM—THE NETHERLANDS**



**August 31th—September 14th  
2009**



1944

2009

65 years later

Welcome to our Liberators

We like to welcome you all to this "*Veterans Liberation Tour*" from "*Normandy trough Belgium into the Netherlands.*"

How has this started ?

September 2007, the yearly convention off the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division in Washington DC. One evening I was sitting together with Rudi, Chris and some off our American friends, at the bar in the hotel. Suddenly someone said:

"In 2009 it will be 65 years ago that Europe was liberated. What do you think to set up a tour to visit some sites in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Places wherever **2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division** was involved into."

We looked to each other and said : " First meeting tomorrow." And so it started.

Rudi, Chris and I, myself, arranged everything in Europe and Barbara was the contact person in the US.

Rudi took contact with his friends in Belgium and Erik was the one who helped us out with contacts and his part off the convoy.

And, as you can see, it took us 2 years to have everything arranged.

With this brochure we will give you an idea what we are going to see during this period, day by day, and to start we open this brochure with the pictures off the veterans that will accompany us , pictures from the past and pictures from now. Some of them you will recognise immediately and some you have to look twice.

We hope that you will enjoy the trip.

Greetings,

Rudi, Chris , Jeff and Niki

**Francis C Turner**  
**2nd Lt.-A Company**  
**17th Armored Engineer Regiment**



**Peter D Burland**  
**M / Sgt Intellegence HQ**  
**2nd Armored Division**



**Junior Riley Propps**  
**S / Sgt -MP Section**  
**41st Armored Infantry Regiment**



**Paul Hicks**  
S / Sgt "H" Company  
67th Armored Regiment



**Robert George Bergman**  
Cpl-Reconnaissance Regiment  
67th Armored Regiment



**Robert Joseph Connerton**  
Cpl - C Company  
82nd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion



**Joseph J Ververloh**  
Pfc - F Company  
41st Armored Infantry Regiment



**Kalman N Isaacs**  
**Pfc - Reconnaissance Company**  
**67th Armored Regiment**



**George Smilanich**  
**Pvt - E Company**  
**67th Armored Regiment**



**Walter Schendig**  
**CO-E**  
**67th Armored Regiment**

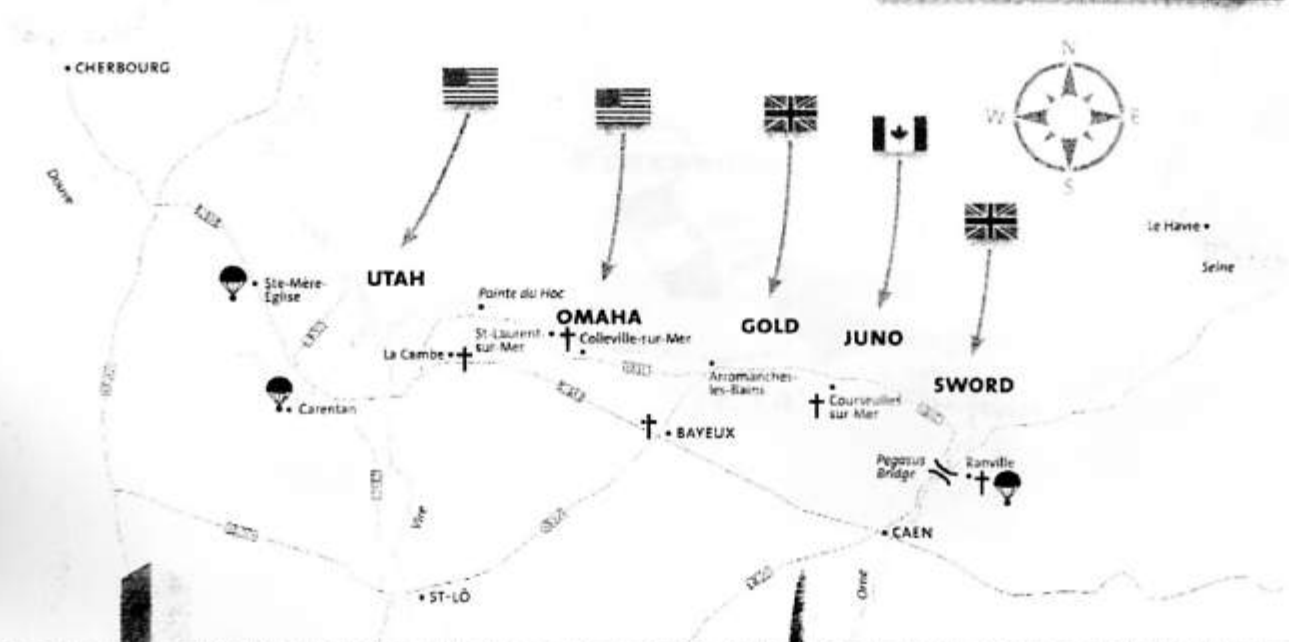


**Mr. Lauzeray - French Volunteer**  
**82nd Recon**

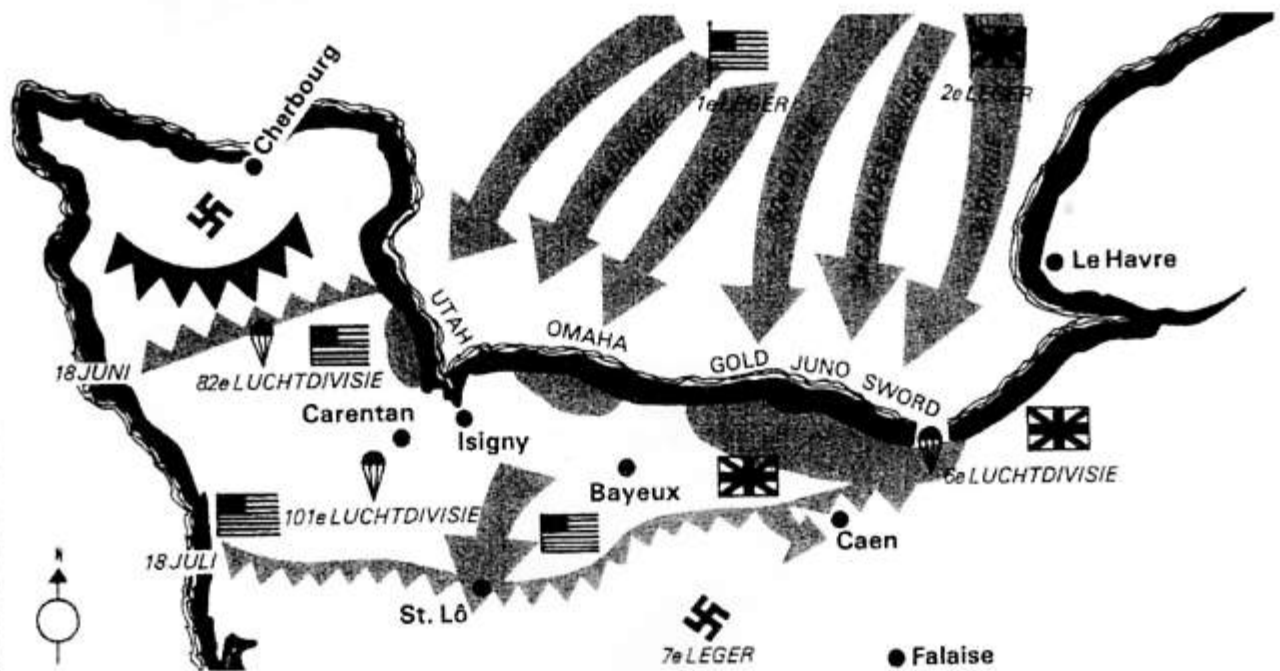
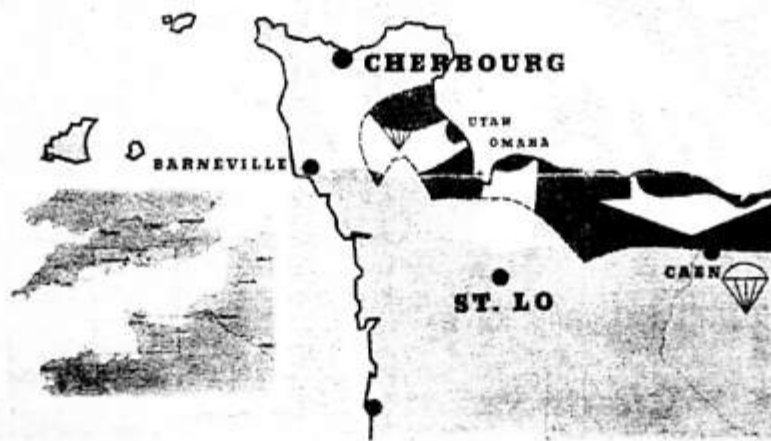
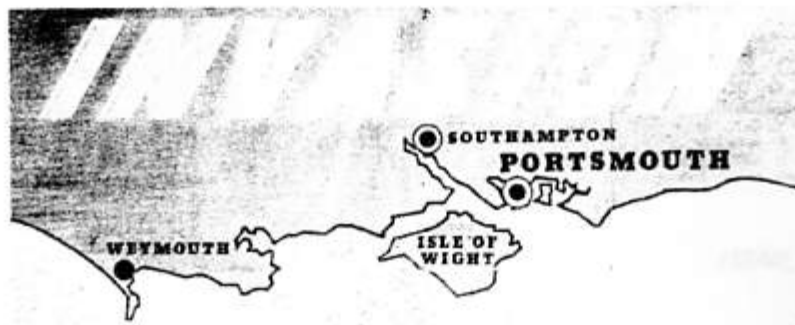
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# Allied Landings on June 6, 1944

KEY: † War Cemetery    ☪ Parachute Drop



	<p><b>Utah Beach Memorial</b>          A tall, dark monument stands on a grassy area, marking the site of the Utah Beach landing. The monument is a simple, rectangular structure that serves as a memorial to the soldiers who landed here on June 6, 1944.</p>		<p><b>Pointe du Hoc Memorial</b>          A tall, dark monument stands on a grassy area, marking the site of the Pointe du Hoc landing. The monument is a simple, rectangular structure that serves as a memorial to the soldiers who landed here on June 6, 1944.</p>
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## Don't Fence Me In

Words: Cole Albert Porter

Music: Cole Albert Porter

Performed By: (1944),

(1944).

From the Film: Hollywood Canteen (1944)  
Transcription corrected/edited by John Mair and Cool Hand Luke

Wildcat Kelley, lookin' mighty pale,  
Was standin' by the sherrif's side  
And when the sherrif said "I'm sendin you to jail,  
Wildcat raised his head and cried

Oh, give me land, lots of land under starry skies above,  
Don't fence me in.  
Let me ride through the wide open country that I love,  
Don't fence me in.  
Let me be by myself in the evenin' breeze,  
listen to the murmur of the cottonwood trees,  
Send me off forever but I ask you please,  
Don't fence me in.

Just turn me loose, let me straddle my old saddle  
Underneath the western skies.  
On my Cayuse, let me wander over yonder  
'Til I see the mountains rise.

I want to ride to the ridge where the west commences  
gaze at the moon 'til I lose my senses  
I can't look at hobbles and I can't stand fences  
Don't fence me in.

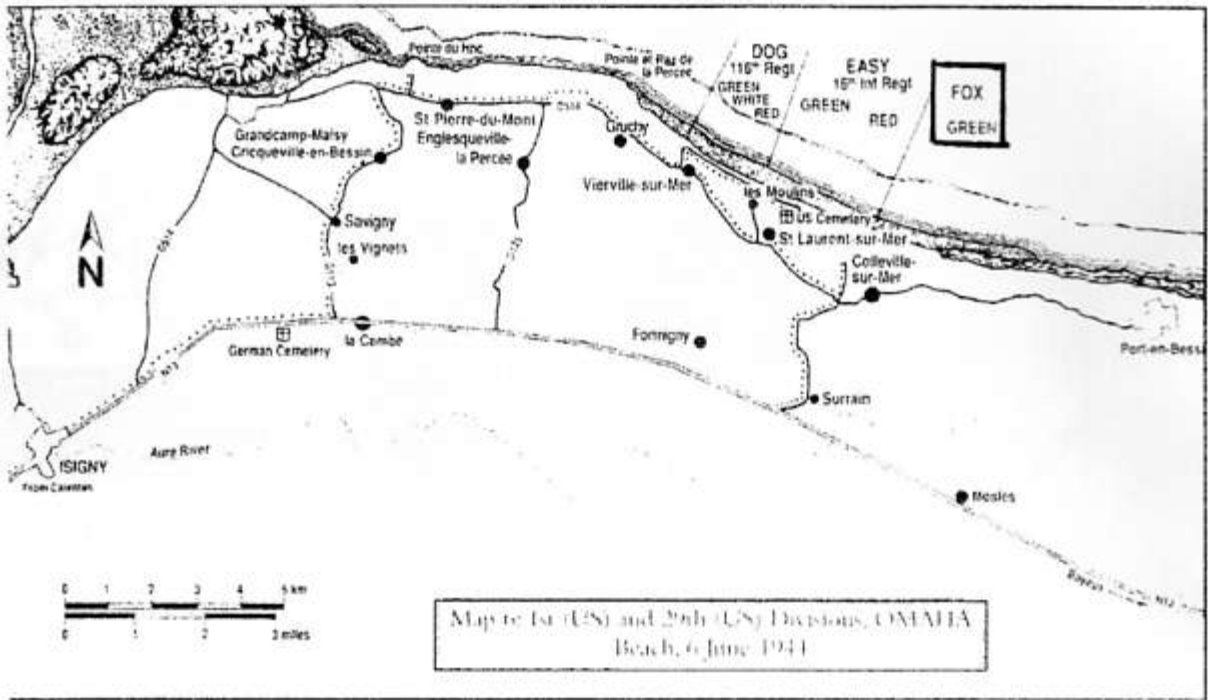
Wildcat Kelley, back again in town,  
was standin by his sweethearts side,  
And when his sweetheart said "come on let's settle down,  
Wildcat raised his head and cried

Oh, give me land, lots of land under starry skies,  
Don't fence me in.  
Let me ride through the wide open country that I love,  
Don't fence me in.  
Let me be by myself in the evenin' breeze  
listen to the murmur of the cottonwood trees  
Send me off forever but I ask you please,  
Don't fence me in

Just turn me loose, let me straddle my old saddle  
Underneath the western skies  
On my Cayuse, let me wander over yonder  
'Til I see the mountains rise.

I want to ride to the ridge where the west commences  
gaze at the moon 'til I lose my senses  
I can't look at hobbles and I can't stand fences  
Don't... fence me in.



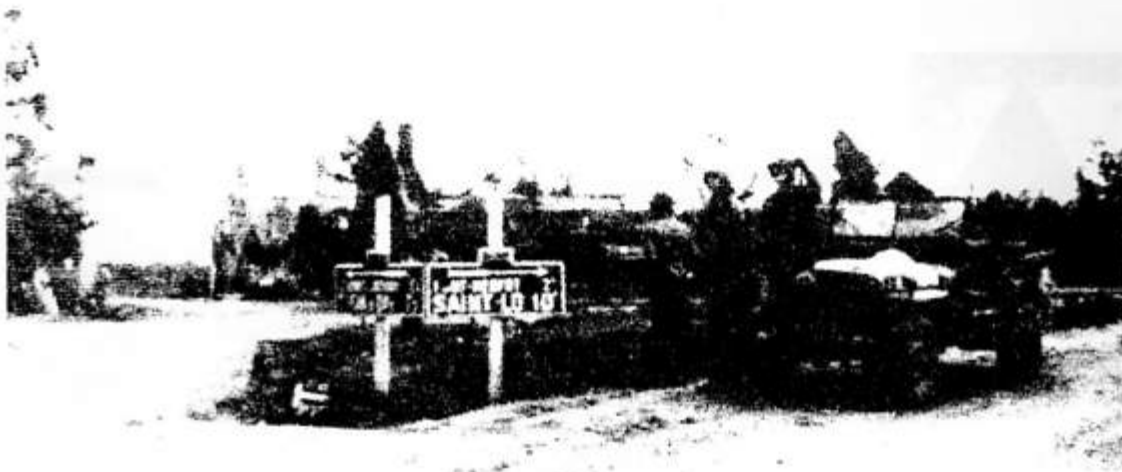




G.I's in their boats nearing the landing beaches of Normandy



2nd Armored Division at Omaha Beach-France



**Above:** Troops await the carpet bombing attack before the breakout at St. Lo, France.



**Above:** Troops of the 82d Reconnaissance Battalion enter a French village during the breakout at St. Lo.

Tuesday September 1st, 2009

Visit Omaha Beach , landing beaches and Cemetery



A view of the wreckage along Omaha Beach. The steel object in the right foreground is one of the obstacles placed by the Germans to prevent landings



Memorial to US 149th Tank Battalion ('Hell on Wheels', VVF)



**Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial**

American Battle Monuments Commission



Wednesday September 2nd, 2009

Visit Notre Dame de Cenilly , passing through Saint Denis le Gast to Saint Sevère de Calvados

**Notre Dame de Cenilly**



**Saint Denis le Gast**



The report that states of the...  
 (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read, but it appears to be a military report or a testimonial.)



On 27 June 1945, Sergeant Joseph...  
 (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read, but it appears to be a military report or a testimonial.)

**Saint Sevère de Calvados**



**Freddy Quinn**

## My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean

My Bonny is over the ocean,  
my Bonny is over the sea.  
My Bonny is over the ocean.  
Oh, bring back my Bonny to me.

Bring back, bring back,  
bring back my Bonny to me, to me.  
Bring back, bring back,  
bring back my Bonny to me.

Last night as I lay on my pillow.  
last night, as I lay on my bed,  
last night, as I lay on my pillow  
I dreamt, that my Bonny was dead

Bring back, bring back,  
bring back my Bonny to me, to me.  
Bring back, bring back,  
bring back my Bonny to me.

The winds have gone over the ocean,  
the winds have gone over the sea.  
The winds have gone over the ocean  
and brought back my Bonny to me.

Bring back, bring back,  
bring back my Bonny to me, to me.  
Bring back, bring back,  
bring back my Bonny to me.

Thursday September 3th , 2009

Arromanches -harbor ,Pointe du Hocq , Saint Mère Eglise and Saint Marie du Mont

**Arromanches – harbor**

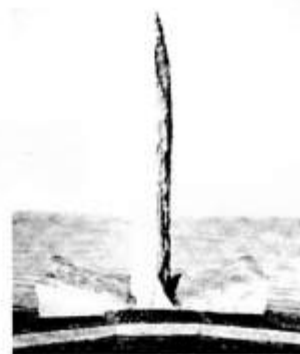


The Muberry harbor at Arromanches in 1944

View over Arromanches from St Côme, showing the remains of the Muberry Harbour.



**Pointe du Hocq**



Kilometer Zero, the Marker

**Saint Mère Eglise**



The church, St. Mère Eglise, with the spire of John Steacie on the steeple.

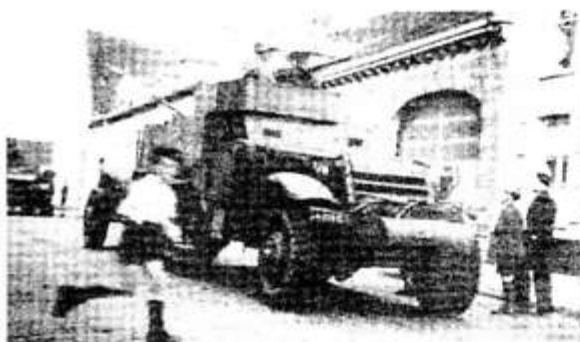


**Saint Marie du Mont**



Friday September 4th , 2009

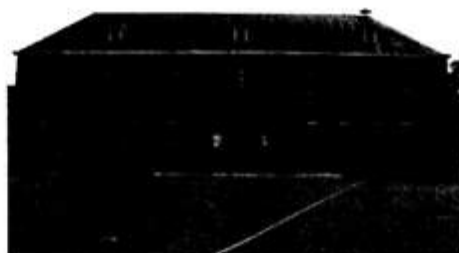
Lens -Belgium



*A la Rue Vallée, un jour et un dimanche*



*Sur la Grand Place (bâiment arrière - La Paroisse)*





Saturday September 5th, 2009

Nivelles and Engis

Nivelles



Engis



Sunday September 6th , 2009

Sint Truiden and Noorbeek (Netherlands)

**Sint Truiden**



**Noorbeek**



Monday September 7th, 2009

DAVID

Tuesday September 8th, 2009

Ardennes and Luxemburg

**Ardennes-The Bulge**



**Bastogne**



## Houffalize



Then: At Houffalize, a once-mighty Panther lies belly up in the Ourthe river in the center of the town. This specimen belonged to the 116. Panzer-Division, LVII. Panzerkorps, 5. Panzer-Armee, which occupied the town on December 18, 1944 without a struggle. On January 3 the Allies began a major counter-attack with the V Corps and the XVIII Airborne Corps of the US First Army striking from the north into the 5. Panzer-Armee. With the growing pressure of the US First and Third Armies converging on the German bulge from the north and south, an order was given on January 15 to pull German forces back to the west.



Now: The same day the First and Third Armies met together in Houffalize in an historic, strategic link-up. This comparison, taken 50 years later almost to the very day, shows the second of two major crossings of the Ourthe in the town, this bridge (1) being on the Rue Porte à l'Eau, where it intersects the Avenue de la Gare (behind the author).



Then: The retreat of the 116. Panzer-Division from Houffalize on January 14 left many armored vehicles littering the streets. Most likely taken on January 20, this USAAF photograph illustrates the final resting place of a rather rare specimen — a Panzer II. Given the battlefeld attrition of earlier tank versions, and the reassembly effort with more modern vehicles, it is somewhat surprising to see such an old tank still being employed in 1945.



In spite of the restored buildings, the tank's resting place (2) can be pinpointed with complete accuracy — on top of the planter in the middle of this photo which stands outside the 1. et Vieille Auberge restaurant! The building on the left is No. 1 Villa Sassez; behind the author's position runs the Rue du Port heading to the northernmost bridge in Houffalize.



Then: In advance of the approaching American armies, Houffalize suffered terribly from repeated shelling and many of the inhabitants still have bitter memories of the damage inflicted on it by the Americans. This picture was taken on the Rue de Bastogne (3) looking south in mid-January 1945.



Now: This is the same view 50 years later. Despite the shelling, one can still match up the characteristic windowed porticos and rooflines of at least three houses in the distance. Today, the little girl would be dashing into a bank, perhaps depositing her hard-earned gains.

## La Roche



Then: By December 20, 1944, lead elements of the 116. Panzer-Division had nearly reached La Roche-en-Ardenne but, surmising that the streets would be inappropriate for rapidly advancing armour, the division detoured north towards Dochimps and Samrée. After subsequent unsuccessful attacks on Hottzen on December 21, the division then fell back into La Roche the following day to resume its westward advance. Two weeks later, the tide had swung in favour of the Allied forces and La Roche was retaken on January 11, 1945, by the 154th Brigade of the British 51st Highland Division.



Now: The Hotel de Liège [1], outside which the M41 Shermans belonging to the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry (33rd Armoured Brigade) once parked, is still in business 50 years later, with a small café area now added to the front of the building. It stands on the Rue d'Échavées at the junction of the Rue de la Gare, the railway station in the background and the descending hills in the distance serving to make a perfect comparison.



Then: In the effort to retake La Roche, the centre of town suffered horribly under incessant artillery shelling and bombardment from the air. Most likely taken in early January 1945, a Jeep slowly picks its way down a narrow street winding through the ruins. Over 120 people were killed as a result of the shelling.

Now: The same street 50 years later. With the heart of La Roche completely rebuilt, it would be difficult to match the photo if it were not for a single tall-tale building [2] which survived. Its windowed portico can just be made out in the centre of the wartime picture just above and to the left of the Jeep. Today, looking down the Rue Clèrve, it still survives as part of the Capero Restaurant.



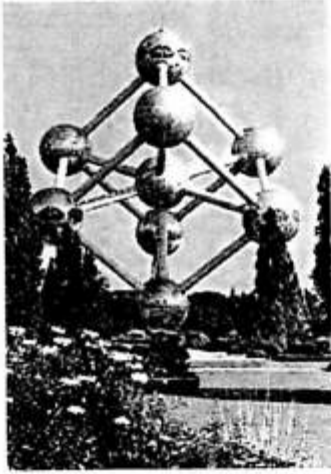
Then: Walking through war-torn La Roche in January 1945, US soldiers turn and pose in Rue Chamont [3] with the Hotel du Luxembourg in the background — though this is Belgium! Despite the snowy blanket covering the town, the destruction is self-evident.



Now: Looking south today, the Hotel du Luxembourg no longer stands on Rue Chamont; only the stately building on the far right survives. In a rare reversal, the original street dimensions have since been narrowed, not widened. The intersection with Rue de la Gare lies just behind the camera position.

Wednesday September 9th , 2009

Visiting Brussels



World Fair 1958



Town Hall



Grand Place



Place Montgomery



Royal Palace



Jubelparc







Friday September 11th , 2009

AM—Rumes

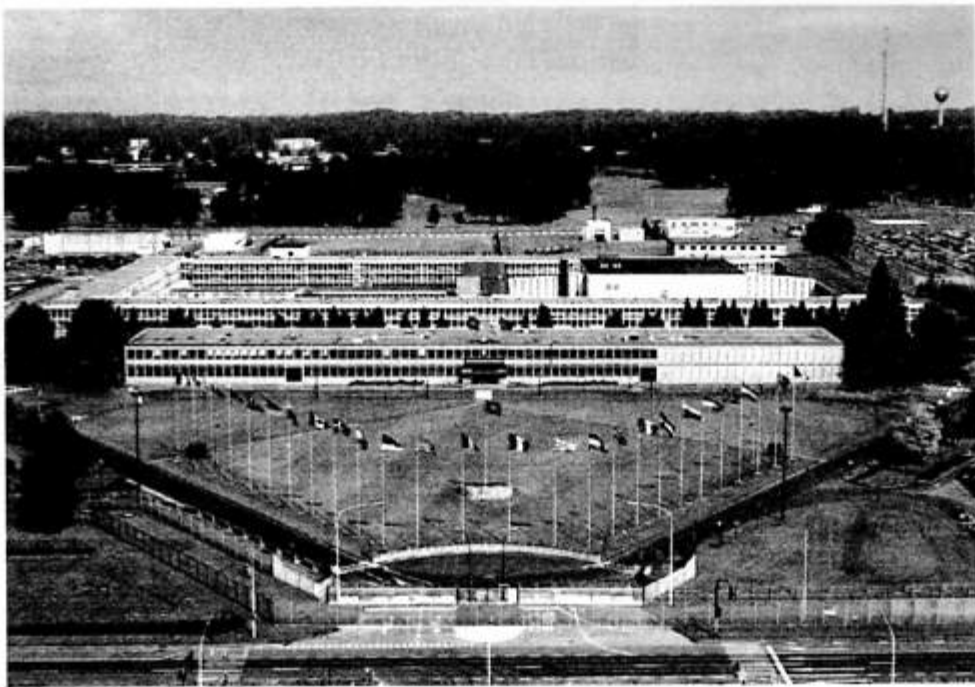
September 2nd , 1944



Friday September 11th , 2009

PM

We will remember the 9-11 victims  
at Shape Belgium



Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

**Ma (He's Making Eyes At Me) (1921)**

Ma, he's making eyes at me  
Ma, he's awful nice to me  
Ma, he's almost breaking my heart  
I'm beside him  
Mercy! Let his conscience guide him!  
Ma, he wants to marry me  
Be my honey bee  
Every minute he gets bolder  
Now he's leaning on my shoulder  
Ma, he's kissing me

Little Lily was oh so silly and shy  
And all the fellows knew  
She wouldn't bill and coo  
Every single night some smart fellow would try  
To cuddle up to her  
But she would cry:

Ma, he's making eyes at me  
Ma, he's awful nice to me  
Ma, he's almost breaking my heart  
If you peek in, can't you see  
I'm goin' to weakin'  
Ma, he wants to marry me,  
Be my honey bee  
Ma I'm meeting with resistance  
I shall holler for assistance  
Ma, he's kissing me

Lily was so good everybody could tell  
You'd never see her roam  
She'd always stay at home  
All the neighbors knew little Lily too well  
For when the boys would call  
They'd hear her yell:

Ma, he's making eyes at me  
Ma, he's awful nice to me  
Ma, he's almost breaking my heart  
If you peek in, can't you see  
I'm goin' to weakin'  
Ma, he wants to marry me,  
Be my honey bee  
Ma I'm meeting with resistance  
I shall holler for assistance

Saturday September 12th , 2009

**The way to Maastricht**



**The crossing at Veldwezelt on the road to Holland**



**Fort Eben Emael, near Maastricht, Belgium. This fort, which earned fame in World War I, fell easily to the Allies in World War II.**

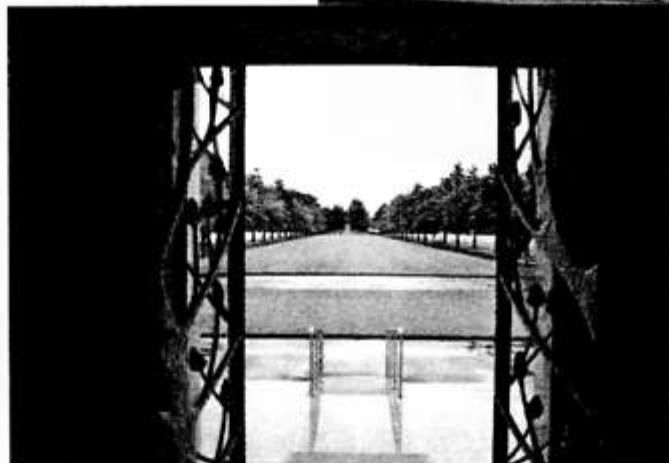
**Crossing the border Belgium—Holland over the River Maas**



Sunday September 13th , 2009

Margraten and Henry Chapelle

**Military Cemetery Margraten  
Holland**



Henry Chapelle Cemetery  
Belgium



## Siegfriedline



Dugout's built in the Siegfried line, with one of the pillboxes in the background.



A view of the pillbox in the former state, after it had been blasted by military demolition.



# REMEMBER OMAHA



They climbed aboard with anxious heart  
The madly sea-tossed landing-craft,  
The sea-fog on that sad morn  
All but shrouded the pale dawn,  
As if heav'n itself dared not see  
The hounds of hell that day set free.

## REMEMBER OMAHA

They disembarked under hail of shot,  
Spewing up all - one knew not what -  
Facing those cliffs, with gunfire ablaze  
Waves bore broken bodies along  
The length of that encrimsoned strand,  
Where Death was given so free a hand.

## REMEMBER OMAHA

They were no heroes  
Though all were heroic  
In that eventful day,  
When mankind put all at stake.  
It's an understatement to say  
That our liberty was dearly bought  
At the time of that first onslaught.

## REMEMBER OMAHA

The foam is red.  
All is now still, save for the breeze  
That carries back, across the seas  
The souls of America's sons,  
Whilst the sun, now and then, warms  
Those twenty-year-olds who sleep today  
Facing the sea in Normandy.

Jean



PA 26-18

