

# NATO SKYWATCH

Volume 21, No. 8

NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen

22 April 2005

## NRF exercise Noble Javelin 05

See related article on page 4



Fighter allocator Capt. Jose Pereira-Garcia (left) and weapons controller TSgt. Jordy Ward control Spanish F-18s and Dutch F-16s.

Photo La Provincia, Adolfo Marrero

## Margraten: A Place to Remember

**The American Military Cemetery of the Netherlands, commonly called Margraten Cemetery, is a U.S. national cemetery. It is located just outside Margraten and about 15 miles south-east of Schinnen. There are 8,302 U.S. soldiers buried at the Cemetery. The site covers 65½ acres, and was one of the first battlefield cemeteries to be used for the temporary interment of U.S. soldiers in this area during World War II.**

In observance practiced since 1945, the Margraten US Military Cemetery Memorial Day Service will begin on 29 May at 1500 hrs. U.S. and Dutch government and military officials are providing guest speakers for this Memorial Day service.

An important part of this observance is the laying of wreaths on behalf of U.S. and Dutch organizations honoring the sacrifices of American service members in World War II. This Memorial Day ceremony is open to the

public. Seating is based on a first-come-first-served basis. Arriving early is highly recommended.

The easy way to reach Margraten is to take the A-76 toward Maastricht, and then take the N-278 toward Cadier en Keer/Vaals (or Aachen). You will see blue signs with 'American Cemetery' as you come closer to the cemetery.

A different route to the cemetery is through Valkenburg, Sibbe, Margraten and then to the American cemetery.

This route can be very confusing to someone not used to the area, so experienced travellers suggest that visitors take N-278 toward Cadier en Keer/Vaals. The blue signs with 'American Cemetery' appear the closer you get to the cemetery.

For more details contact the American Battle Monuments Commission at 0031-43-458-1208, or on NAB Geilenkirchen contact Capt. Dion Mack ext. 3061 or Capt. Trish Luiken ext. 4492.

**Next NATO Skywatch:  
10 May  
Submissions due by:  
28 April**

**Also in this issue:**

**Developing Close Air  
Support training**

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**Enjoy an  
asparagus tour**

See page 3.





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# Component developing Close Air Support training

By Capt. Cameron Lowdon and  
Capt Jason Morris,  
Training Wing Training Development

**Definition of Close Air Support: "Air action against hostile targets which are in close proximity to friendly forces and which require detailed integration of each air mission with the fire and movement of those forces" - Quoted from the Joint Forward Air Control Training and Standards Unit.**

For the E-3A Component, supporting the NATO Response Force in the future will require coverage of a broad spectrum of missions, including the capability to coordinate Close Air Support (CAS). Since this is a relatively new mission for the Component, efforts to enhance training for this capability are underway.

As part of an on-going effort to integrate specific CAS training into the training program, the Training Wing sent two personnel to observe a course at the Joint Forward Air Control Training and Standards Unit (JFACTSU) at RAF Leeming/UK.

Capt. Cameron Lowdon and Capt. Jason Morris of Training and Development joined the group for the first week of a four-week course attended by nine British Army and two Norwegian Army personnel. The course certifies students as Limited Combat Ready Forward Air Controllers - specialists in coordinating CAS.

Recent conflicts have highlighted the requirement for smooth coordination to achieve a successful ground force campaign, and CAS can play an important role by coordinating and integrating air operations to hit enemy forces and avoid hitting friendly forces. Noting this battlefield tactic, Lt. Col. Mark Russell, Training Wing Training Development Division Chief, initiated sending the two captains to the course.

The Forward Air Control unit at RAF Leeming is one of the pre-eminent FAC Training establishments in Europe, holding seven courses annually to instruct British and NATO personnel. Often they are requested to support various FAC/CAS training exercises throughout the year with their controllers or their two on-staff BAE Hawk pilots, who are experts in CAS procedures. The ability to control a fast air-attack aircraft from a spot in the hills to attack a target in close proximity to friendly troops is critical. Known as 'putting warheads on foreheads', learning how to work with ground-based FACs will be essential to future NATO AWACS operations, especially those related to the NRF.

The first three days of the course involved ground training and various simulator rides, preparing each student for the upcoming time in the field controlling live airplanes. Topics covered included Basic Map Reading; Air Power Doctrine; Air Command, Control and Communications; and use of GPS receivers and laser designators - the basic information required by all students to continue on the course.

Capt. Morris and Capt. Lowdon were then able to see the real effect of CAS from both ends of the spectrum. One day they visited the OP (Observation Post) as the students directed British Hawks into various 'real' targets in the North Yorkshire Moors. They were also able to see the pointy end of the stick,

observing from the back seat of a Hawk as it was controlled in a Low Level CAS mission against various pre-defined targets. Both of these opportunities showed, even in an exercise setting, just how difficult it is for both FAC and pilot to successfully hit a target.

To be successful, a CAS mission requires complex coordination. The aircraft would start at an Initial Point and, prior to starting the target run, the FAC would pass target information the pilot needs before he attacks. Upon leaving the IP on an initial heading given by the FAC, the pilot listens to additional information given by the controller about the target. This may include where the target sits on a hill, what identifying features the pilot may see on his in-bound route, and where the target sits in relation to one of these identifiable features. The FAC will tell the pilot where to look to see the target, and then confirm they are both looking at the same target. Then the FAC clears the pilot to drop his ordinance. From IP to weapons release may be as little as 60 seconds, but the pilot can only see the target itself for a period as short as ten seconds.

**E-3A aircrew can play a critical role in this process. In addition to providing threat calls, the E-3A can be tasked to have control of all the assets the FAC will need. Proper coordination between the FAC and the on-scene E-3A will be essential to ensure mission success.**

The opportunity to see a course such as this should prove valuable to future Fighter Allocators and Weapons Controllers within the Component. Development of CAS training at the Component will continue and as the Component prepares to support the NATO Response Force, air-to-ground operations training like this will become ever more important.

The trip starts with a more than 100-year old train at one of the destination stations, either Geilenkirchen-Gillrath (at the B-56) or Gangelt-Schierwaldenrath station. Once on the go, you will get a welcoming drink in the buffet carriage. The asparagus menu will be served at the restaurant Zur Selfkantbahn at the railway station in Schierwaldenrath. You will get asparagus soup, asparagus with new potatoes and pork fillet or ham. The asparagus is of course from the Heinsberg asparagus region, freshly served.

Tickets are €25, €14 for children up to the age of 15. Tickets are available from the Heinsberg Tourist Service,

## In Memoriam



It is with deep sadness that the Italian Senior National Representative, Col. Alberto Pierotti, announces the sudden death of CMSgt Massimo Abbate who tragically died in a car accident on 12 April 2005.

CMSgt. Massimo Abbate joined the Component on 6 August 2001, serving as Crypto Custodian at the COMSEC Branch until 23 September 2004, when he returned to Italy to take up his new post as Crypto Custodian at the CAOC 5 in Poggio Renatico, Ferrara - Italy.

A valued colleague and dear friend, he was known for his dedication to his work and for his willingness to provide assistance wherever possible. His enthusiasm and competency set an example, and fostered motivation throughout the Component.

He was much liked and respected by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

His funeral took place on Friday, 15 April at his hometown of Bacoli, Italy.

He leaves behind his wife Julia Moller.

The Italian community and the E-3A Component wishes to extend its sincere condolences to his wife and their families for the sad loss.

*Alberto Pierotti*  
Colonel ITAF  
Senior National Representative, Italy

### Note:

For all Component members who wish to pay their last respects to Massimo, a memorial service will be held in the St Marien Church, Gillrath on Sunday, 24 April 2005, at 1130.

phone 02452 131415 or at the train station Gangelt-Schierwaldenrath 02454 6699 and at the restaurant Zur Selfkantbahn 02454 6962.

### Heinsberg Region goes on art tour

On 1 May between 1100 and 1800, open house will be held at the art studios and galleries in the Heinsberg region. The main attraction is in Kreismuseum Heinsberg with early graphics from Pablo Picasso.

All information on this art tour is available from the Heinsberg Tourist Service or check [www.kunsttour-hs.de](http://www.kunsttour-hs.de).

## Vacancy announcement

Applications are invited for the following post:

*Analyst (Audit)*, Post Number OSC BIB 0050, Advertisement Number 05006, NATO Grade A-2, assigned to the Central Region Audit Section B, Geilenkirchen, ACO Audit and Inspection Branch, J8 Budget and Finance Division, SHAPE. This post is due to be filled as soon as possible.

Closing date: 11 May 2005.

For further details, please visit the Component Information Portal (WISE) under Headquarters, PEC, Recruitment/Services Section or review the advertisement posted in Building 8.

*Note: Only applications of qualified personnel will be considered.*

## Make a trip

### Asparagus tour with the Selfkant train

The Selfkantbahn in the Heinsberg region has a special culinary offer: An asparagus tour with the Selfkant-train. Dates are 1, 5, 8, 22, 26, 28, 29 May, and 5 and 12 June.



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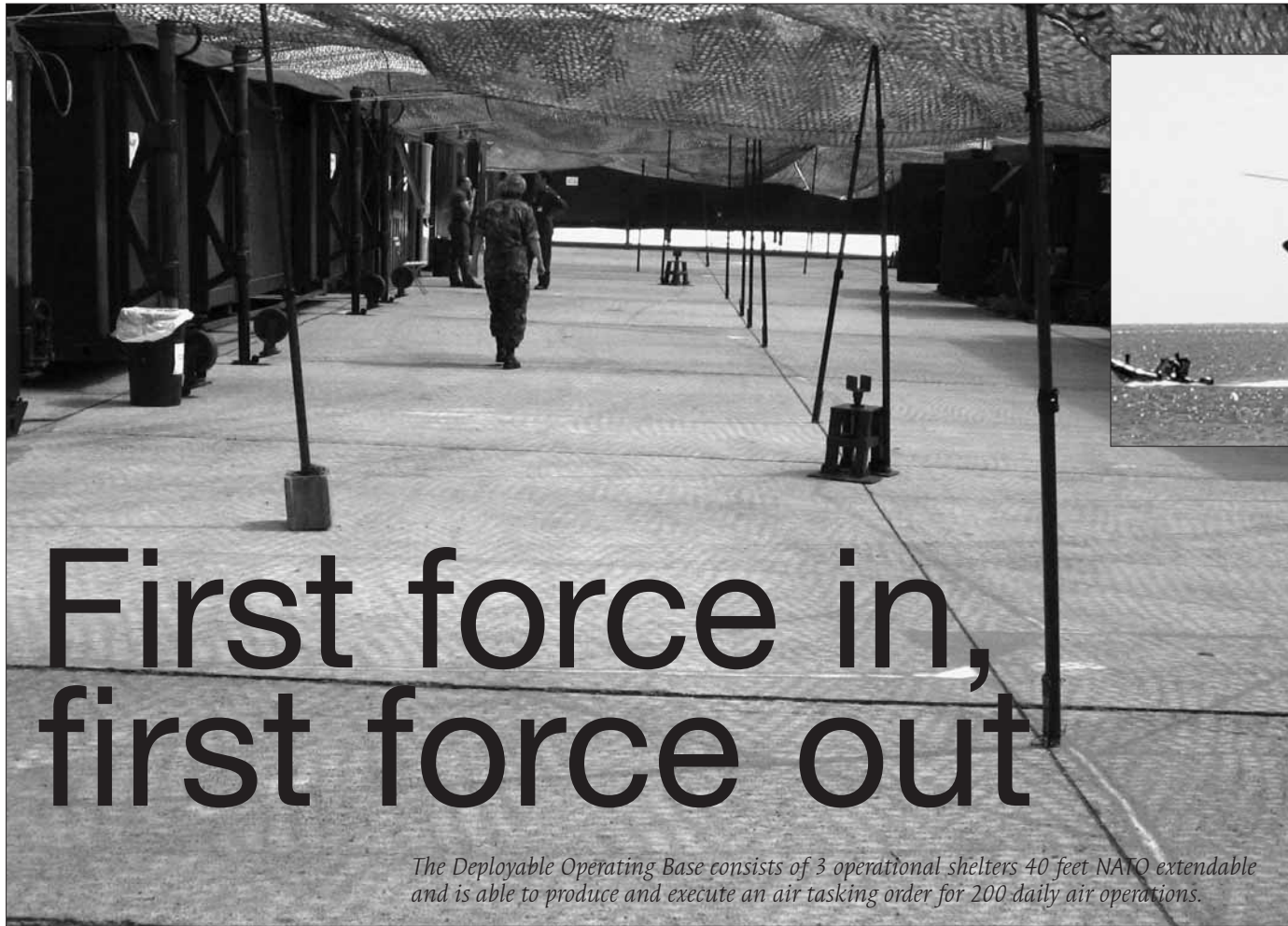
Volume 21, No. 8

22 April 2005

**Commander**  
Brig. Gen. Axel R. Tüttelmann  
**Chief, Public Information Office**  
Capt. Robert A. Firman  
**Editor**  
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

NATO Skywatch is an authorized, unofficial commercial enterprise newspaper published under exclusive written agreement with the NAEWF & CF E-3A Component by Pollaert Mediacenter, Postbus 1234, 6040 KE Roermond, +31 (475) 370 280. Opinions expressed by contributors are their





# First force in, first force out

*The Deployable Operating Base consists of 3 operational shelters 40 feet NATO extendable and is able to produce and execute an air tasking order for 200 daily air operations.*



*Gando Bay was used as a training area for Special Forces.*

Text and photos  
SMSgt. Johan Hijmenberg

**A 'historic' exercise combined an E-3A Component crew with additional maintenance personnel from 1 to 15 April on the Canary Islands. For the first time the opportunity was provided for an operational deployment far from their home bases by NATO Response Force (NRF) components to practise the concept and procedures for planning and mounting an operation using the NRF concept.**

NATO has created a permanently available, multinational joint force at very high readiness – the NRF – consisting of land, air and sea components, as well as various specialist functions. When fully operational in October 2006 it will consist of over 20,000 troops and it will be able to start to deploy after five days' notice and sustain itself for operations for 30 days and more if re-supplied. With this force, the Alliance is giving itself the means to respond swiftly to various types of crises across the globe, as and where decided by the North Atlantic Council.

Three thousand personnel from sixteen NATO nations participated in exercise Noble Javelin 05 (NJ05). Around 400 of these troops belonged to the air component, which operated out of Gando Air Base on Gran Canaria. Spanish F-18s and C-295s, Dutch F-16s, an E-3D AWACS from RAF Waddington and an E-3A AWACS from Geilenkirchen could be found on the platforms at Gando Air Base that is situated 20 kilometres south of Las Palmas and surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. In 1492, Christopher Columbus spent several days in Gando Bay on his discovery voyage to the Americas.

NJ05 provided the opportunity to practise the deployment of a robust operational liaison and reconnaissance team, train the move of a Deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters from a sea-based platform, on the HMS Invincible, to a land-based one on Fuerteventura, another of the Canary Islands. The exercise aimed to 'train as we fight' and to accomplish a specific operation within a real-time constrained environment. Units deployed troops and equipment by aircraft and ship to the Canaries.

At Gando Air Base around 110 Italian Air Force personnel created a

Deployable Operating Base. The commander and his staff, almost 30 persons, are trained in commanding and controlling major air operations; they belong to Air Force Operational Command in Poggio Renatico, Italy. They operated out of a mobile command and control structure, taking care to coordinate the joint activity of the multinational forces that were deployed at Gando AB.

To manage some of the command and control functions a Command Reporting Post was also deployed on the same airbase, manned by Italian air defence controllers belonging to the Airspace Brigade in Rome.

## A range of missions

The NATO Response Force, which is driven by the underlying principle 'first force in, first force out', has various missions:

- to deploy as a stand-alone force for Article 5 (collective defence) or non-Article 5 crisis response operations such as evacuation operations, disaster consequence management (including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear events), humanitarian crisis situations, and counter-terrorism operations.
- to deploy as an initial entry

force facilitating the arrival of larger follow-up forces.

- to deploy as a demonstrative force to show NATO's determination and solidarity to deter crises (quick-response operations to support diplomacy as required).

Four 'prototype' rotations have already been activated. They have been used to test the concept and fine-tune the practices of the force. Although not ready for the full spectrum of operations, NRF 3 and NRF 4 have already reached initial operational capability and could conduct many of the mission types envisioned in the NRF military concept. At present, NRF 4 is in place under the command of Joint Force Command, Naples, Italy.

The principle of rotation applies to the NRF. After a six-month training programme, the force is certified to the highest standards, especially with regard to capability and interoperability. It is then put 'on-call' for six months. The units that constitute this joint force are either land, air or naval forces, or have some special function, such as the multinational Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Battalion.

These force components are then replaced by a fresh set of units that will constitute a new prototype. They follow a similar training programme and are put 'on-call' for the same period of time before being replaced by other forces once they have completed the training cycle.

All NATO member countries fully support this rotational system, which brings major benefits for the troops involved, for instance by providing special training experience and integration, in a force that has the highest standards of readiness. For the NRF, the focus is more on quality than it is on quantity.



*For an NRF exercise such as Noble Javelin 05 the interest from the media is huge. E-3A deployment commander Lt. Col. Dieter Meissner explains the AWACS mission while a cameraman tries to get the best footage of a Dutch F16 off the shoulder of a colleague.*





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IDH, Officers', Frisbee and Sentry Clubs now on the BASS LAN System. Menu information under Public Folders/Base Support Wing/Services Squadron/Clubs or IDH. Also, check out the Services Squadron web page for programme information and upcoming events.

## E-3A Component Clubs

Sunday brunch will alternate between Officers'/Frisbee Clubs. Members from both clubs are eligible to attend. Regular prices for brunch: members €9.20, guests €10.70; lunch: members €6.10, guests €7.65; children 4-12 years half price. Reservations should be made NLT 1200 on the Friday before; Club cards are required. For additional information, please contact the Officers' Club, ext. 4990, or the Frisbee Club, ext. 4994.

- 1 Family brunch at the Officers' Club; Frisbee Club closed.
- 8 Mothers' Day brunch at both clubs; special price of €12 for members and €13,30 for guests; watch for special fliers.
- 15 Whit Sunday lunch at the Frisbee Club; Officers' Club closed.
- 22 Family brunch at the Officers' Club; Frisbee Club closed.
- 29 Sunday brunch at the Frisbee Club; Officers' Club closed.

## Officers' Club (SWPO/4990)

Operating hours: bar Monday-Friday 1100-2300; restaurant Monday-Friday 1130-1330, Sunday 1100-1400 (alternating with the Frisbee Club). Reservations are required for Sunday brunch by 1200 on the Friday before. Club cards required when using the Frisbee Club (ext. 4994).

*Lunch at the Officers' Club: Monday-Thursday à la carte menu served; Monday + Wednesday a vegetarian special also available; Friday Buffet Style lunch. Throughout the month Membership Appreciation; one time each month for each Officers' Club member, buy one drink of your choice and get an equivalent drink of your choice free of charge; Club cards required.*

Tuesdays 1700-1800 Happy Hour, free snacks available; Fridays 1600-1800 Happy Hour, free snacks available.

- 5, 16 + 26 Officers' Club closed due to Component Holidays.
- 9-12 Asparagus specials during lunchtime.

*Special Notes: The Officers' Club has rooms available for your conferences, meetings, presentations or Commanders'*

# MWA INFORMATION May

Call. Make your reservations now.

Officers' Club Participation in Frisbee Club Events. During Frisbee Club opening hours, Officers' Club members are eligible to utilise the Frisbee Club for breakfast, dinner and Sunday brunch (on an alternating basis between the Frisbee and Officers' Clubs); Club cards required when Officers' Club members are using the Frisbee Club. *Cancellations for Officers' Club events will be accepted up to two days prior to the event on ext. 4990. After this time, a cancellation fee of €5 per person must be charged for non-excused absences.*

ALSO: Visit the Officers' Club Web Page on the Component Information Portal, through Base Support Wing, Services Squadron, Clubs, for the latest information.

## Sentry Club (SWPJ/4997)

As well as the daily special, the Sentry Club will now offer a weekend special comprising soup and a main course. The weekend special will be advertised in the Sentry Club and on the Component Web page.

*The Sentry Club is also able to support conferences and meetings with coffee, soft drinks, Brötchen or muffins. The 'off sale' operation can also provide Warsteiner Beer in 30 and 50 ltr containers, various soft drinks in 1 ltr bottles, and tables, benches and other items to help in organising your party. Please order in advance. Additional information on any of the above can be obtained from the Sentry Club Manager, ext. 4996.*

## Frisbee Club (SWPN/4994)

Make a reservation today at the Frisbee Grill and enjoy the cosy atmosphere and good food! *Remember - the Frisbee Club is open for breakfast and dinner to all Frisbee and Officers' Club members (club cards required).* Throughout March Happy Hour Monday-Thursday 1700-1800; Friday 1700-1900 with free snacks.

*Every Monday Night Steak Night in the Frisbee Grill during normal restaurant times; during May, Frisbee Grill open Mondays for steak dinners only. Normal-sized*

*steak €6 and large steak €8.*

3 SKAT – card game.

5, 16 + 26

Frisbee Club closed due to Component Holidays.

10 BINGO

12 International Wives' Club Italian Night.

17 DOKO – card game.

24 BINGO

25 Indian Curry Night (restaurant closed).

## Sports Department (SWPT/4946)

Throughout May, Outdoor Soccer League on Mondays and Wednesdays.

2 Summer schedule begins in the Old Gym, New Gym and Multi-Purpose Room. Swimming Pool opens.

4 Coaches' meeting for Component Sports Day – 0900 in the Officers' Club Conference Room.

18 Jogging Cross for Component members only. Various categories available.

21 0900-1800 First International Invitational Outdoor Co-ed Volleyball Tournament at Volleyball Courts at the New Gym.

28+29 Seventh International Invitational Mixed Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament and Pre-Season Softball Tournament on the Softball Fields (Home Run Derby).

## International Pre-school (SWPS/4957)

5, 16 + 26

No school due to Component Holidays.

*No slots are available for the current school year.*

13 and 14 June starting at 0800, registration for the new 2005/2006 school year – first come, first served! For additional information, please call the Pre-school on ext. 4957.

## International Library (SWPL/4956)

Monday-Friday operating hours 1100-1600.

*The 'NewsBank' subscription has been extended. Click on to 'Newsbank' through the [usafelibraries.org](http://www.usafelibraries.org) page. <http://www.usafelibraries.org> 1-1.php where the 'AIR FORCE TIMES' will be available. This paper will no longer be available in a printed version at the International Library. Also check out the military periodicals database and the 'Armed Forces'*

*and 'Government News' database on 'Newsbank' as well.*

## Thrift Shop (SWPG/4919)

Tuesdays + Thursdays operating hours 1000-1400.

## International Youth Activities (SWPY/4954/5)

Registration and further information at the IYA Office in Bldg 95, ext 4954/5, opening hours Mon-Fri 0815-1300.

## IYA Summer Break Program

Between 20 June and 19 August the IYA is organizing weekly sessions for children aged 6+ with activities from 0930 to 1630. The children can be dropped off at 0800, and picked up no later than 1730. The programme includes fun games, swimming, arts & crafts, sports, scavenger hunts, free play, special projects, and movies, but will also depend on the weather. Cost is €36 per child, including lunch on Friday, plus the cost of the field trip. The 3rd child only pays half price, and additional children are free. Slots are limited. A detailed list of field trips and prices are available at the IYA Office. Registration will begin on 2 May.

*Mothers Day Trip to Keukenhof, Scheveningen Beach and Gouda, The Netherlands*

Join the IYA to enjoy famous Keukenhof Park with its colourful gardens and pavilions filled with tulips, daffodils and hyacinths on Sunday, 8 May, 0800-2000. In the afternoon we will travel on to Scheveningen, a popular Dutch seaside resort, and then visit the beautiful cheese city of Gouda with its historic buildings and picturesque canals. Point of departure and return is the parking lot outside the Front Gate. Cost is €19 for ages 12+, €14 per child aged 4-11 years and €8.50 per child aged 0-3 years.

*Trip to Walibi Amusement Park in Wavre, Belgium*

On 26 May, 0800-2000, the IYA is sponsoring a family trip to Walibi Belgium, an exciting amusement park boasting roller coasters, merry-go-rounds, a large variety of big and small rides, shows, and many more attractions. Point of departure and return is the parking lot outside the Front Gate. Cost is €27.50 for ages 3 and up, and €8.50 per child aged 0-2 years.



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