

LUXEMBOURG NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Honorary Consul and Mrs. Richard J. Wilry are pleased to announce that this year's National Holiday Celebration will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 1994 at the American Legion Post, 6140 Dempster Street, Morton Grove, IL. The reception will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Come and join in the festivities. For further information and reservations contact Mr. Wilry at 312/726-0355.

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Bring along Luxembourg pictures and mementos — and your friends. This is not only for Luxembourg Society members, but also for the public. Our Luxembourg Society Float will be horse-drawn and available for rides and touring the town of St. Donatus. Memberships to the society are welcome — Single \$8.00, Couple \$15 for 1 year. Send to Luxembourg Society of Iowa, Box 2, St. Donatus, IA 52071.

Katia Kilburg, Treasurer Box 7 Preston, IA 52069

"LETZEBUERGER'S" DESTINY AS A SMALL NATION!

A number of statistical accounts as recent as 1992/93, depict an alarming future for the demography of the "Letzebuerg" population! It has been stated that through a gradual decline of its birthrate over the past 25 years, the country, in order to survive as a "Letzebuerg" homogeneous people, that rate would have to be raised 40%! This just to replace its basic generation! Those observations point out that not only the country's demography would be affected but it would also have a disturbing effect on its economic survival of "Letzebuerg" as it is.

Luxembourg as far back as I can remember has not had enough domestic manpower, nor enough specifically-trained workers to fill the needs of an economically striving nation. It depended on other nationalities. I recall that many decades ago an influx of Italian families immigrated to fill the then abundant job openings in the mines and in the steel mills of the southern part of the country; the iron-ore basin. Those Italians were hard workers and over the years earned themselves a better life-style, while at the same time held to a tradition of their own but mingled with their native southern gusto smoothly into the "Letzebuerg" populace. Their labor boosted Luxembourg's economy and they melted easily into the Luxembourg's mentality. During these early years I counted many dear friends among them!

Over the years many other nationalities sought work in Luxem-

bourg, like the Portuguese, the Spanish and others. By contrast they did not seem to integrate as rapidly and willingly. In fact requests for Luxembourg naturalization papers are less than 1% of the foreign population yearly. In 1940 Luxembourg counted 10% foreigners, in 1970 it had risen to 18% and to about 30% in 1992/93. These families seem to have more births than the Luxembourgers, an unfortunate situation!

According to the old system of the State's pension and health programs when these nationalities reach retirement they will draw their pensions and health benefits and gradually return to the more element climate of their native lands.

In spite of the previously mentioned nationalities living and working in Luxembourg, the country still falls short of manpower. However, by contrast, and this to its advantage, 45 thousand foreign workers of all categories cross Luxembourg's borders every day to fill the 23% of the country's open job market. These thousands of commuters burst into Luxembourg City, raising its work pulse, its business and of course its economy! Never mind the confusion, the hurried traffic busting, pedestrian or motorized! Their workday over, they rush back to the neighboring countries where they live, without putting any extra burden on the State's infrastructure!

Liliane Thom-Petit, in one of her recent columns for the French language newspaper "Republique Lorraine", summarizes the situation as follows: "Luxembourg, small but assured as we remember it, this our dear, harmless and reliable "Letzebuerg" our original small world will within half a century according to statistics, be reduced to even less than 40% of its present old "Letzebuerg" stock among the Grand Duchy's entire population. We shall be minorities in our own Country. Strangers among us; we among strangers? A unique small world lost within a World!"

Liliane has a last advice to "Letzebuerg" generations to come: "Let us get used to being minorities and teach our offsprings now, to be open and tolerant among our strangers, the time will come when we will be the minority in our own land!"

Maria Bach Dunn

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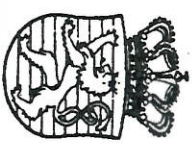
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The Battle of Vianden

(or, The Little Red Lion Roared) by Colonel C. de Mars Barnes, Inf. Ret. Late in October 1944, I was still a young captain, when I arrived in the Grand Duché de Luxembourg from Third Army headquarters located in Nancy, France. I immediately fell in love with this beautiful country, its gentle people, the rolling hills, the richness of the dark green forests, with its beautiful pines reaching for the sky, framing beautiful villages and farms scattered around like jewels.

I soon located my command post at 34, rue de Salentiny, Ettebruck, G.D. de Luxembourg. It was an attractive white stone building with three levels, separated from the street by a black iron fence. It was fully furnished and had all the latest utilities of a modern home. A true luxury for soldiers who had been living a very spartan life since landing in Normandy.

Many years later, I revisited Ettebruck with a veteran group, and as I stood in the street looking up at the house, an elderly lady peered through the lace curtains on the first floor when I caught her eye and motioned that I wanted to speak with her. This brought Mrs. Mays to the front door which allowed me to meet the owner of our former command post.

Madame Mays was a charming, frail, elderly lady with whom I immediately felt at ease. We talked for a long time about the war days, and she smiled sadly when I told her that I had standing orders with our soldiers to avoid tracking dirt into the house, and above all, to be careful and not break anything. She sighed, and told me that she appreciated my concern but all my good intentions were in vain, because after we left the Germans came in and stole everything.

Ettebruck is about 20 Kilometers behind the front where the following story took place. We were intentionally removed from the immediate combat zone, because we didn't have a fighting mission since our job was to infiltrate agents into the German lines



The last of the Miliz when we met in Vianden in 1989 — L. to R K ing: Philippe Glets, Front Row: Friedrich Heintzen, Rene Klassen, Jean-Roger Corring, Michel Schneiders, Chuck Barnes, Willy Wey

branch off on the right to be abruptly stopped at the wall (2). The wall borders the city to the south which seems to hold back an abrupt hill just beyond. The ruins of the castle (3) dominates the opposite side of Vianden, and can be reached from the upper city by a narrow cart path at its base which lead to the main gate. On the morning of November 19th, 1944, the Vener Miliz were stationed throughout the town as follows:

- The castle: (3) 1. Glets, Philippe 2. Heintzen, Friedrich 3. Heintzen, Jean 4. Schneiders, Michel 5. Wyrich, Willy (in charge). 6. Lux, Nicolas (Had a sore foot and was in the Heintz Hotel). 7. Bartz, Metty (in charge). 8. Corring, Roger 9. Denel, Batty 10. Hansen, Pierre 11. Schneiders, Nicolas 12. Viandy, Arthur 13. Watgen, Roger

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which left a void. The Germans under the very best condition couldn't have been aware of this situation, and the fact that they attacked on this particular day, and at that time must be attributed to the luck of war. This situation makes the Miliz resistance even more heroic, because although out-numbered, and alone, caught by surprise, they fought and repulsed the Germans in a very commendable manner.

Prior to the attack, the Miliz dug a deep trench across the Grand Rue at the church. (6) They removed cobble stones from the street which they used to face the trench. Then they covered the top with heavy planks for overhead protection. This defense was un-manned when the attack took place.

The Miliz had very few weapons and used everything they could get their hands on. They had a Czech machine gun positioned in the stairwell leading to the bakery basement, on the corner of the market place, and the Grand Rue. Two more air-cooled American machine guns were on the parapet of the castle aimed at the river. (7) They had one more air-cooled American machine gun in position on the Grand Rue as it joined the Vieille Rue in the upper city. Their hand weapons were a mixture of German and American pieces which include some M-1 rifles. As a result, ammunition was hard to get. It was picked up wherever and whenever possible.

At 0630 AM on the morning of November 19, 1944, a thick fog drifted up from the OUR River in the lower city (8) and reduced visibility to only a few feet. The nearby buildings were reduced to mere shadows.

The cobble stones on the Grand Rue glistened with the heavy morning dew and only the intermittent dripping from the surrounding buildings disturbed the ghostly quiet. Even the customary flutter of the pigeons was missing. Every once in a while, the muffled sound of a shutter being opened was the only noise that disturbed the morning silence. The Miliz awoke slowly and drifted quietly out of the bakery basement stretching in the cold morning air, puffing in their first cigarette. Meanwhile, the Germans were silently creeping

Luxembourg Brotherhood Section #8

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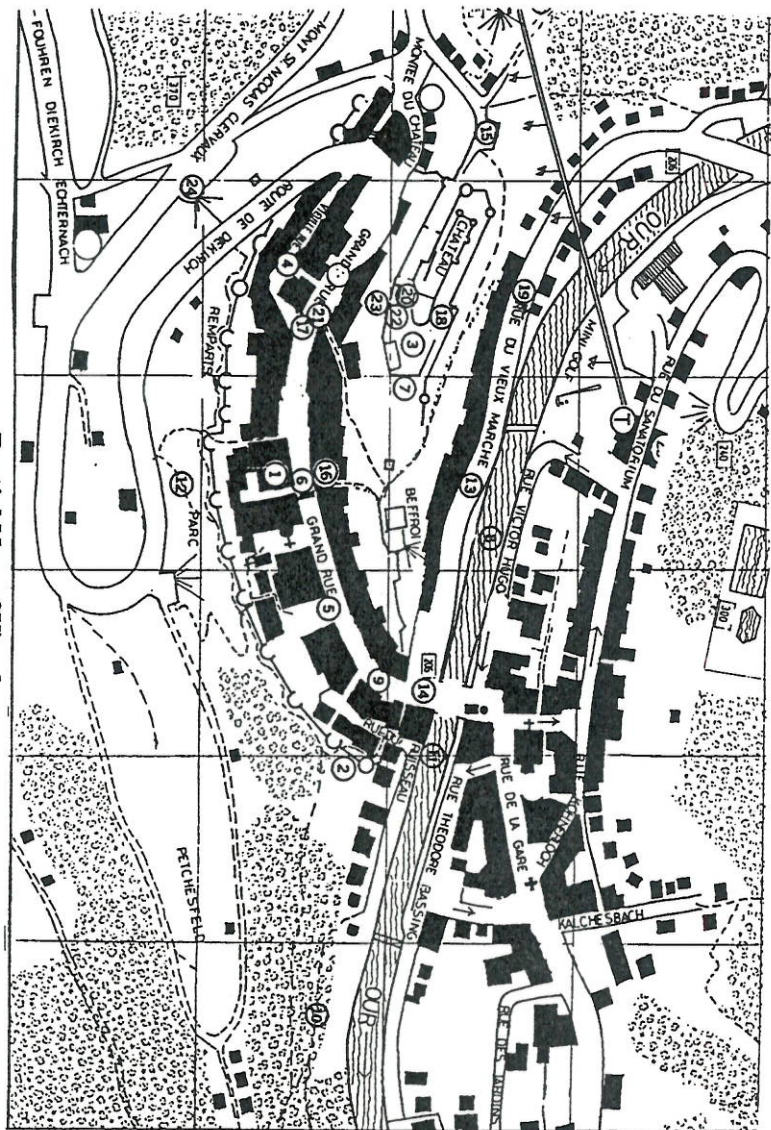
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up the Grand Rue. (9) Rene Klassen, his hands thrust deeply into his pockets to fend off the morning cold, his shoulders hunched - glanced towards the Grand Rue, was the first to notice the ominous shadows of the attacking Germans as they approached. His excited alarm exploded like a bomb amongst the small group who sprang into immediate action. Jean Weis ran for cover in a side street. Roger Leon was killed instantly next to his home as he exited from the back door of the bakery. Tunn Werthesen, Rene Weis, and Rene Kleisen, opened fire from the bakery. It was now between 06:45 and 07:00 AM. The members of the

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Partial Map of Vianden

LUXEMBOURG

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Luxembourg: the only Grand-Duchy in the world. A safe and beautiful land of tradition and tranquility. You'll love the tiny villages, quaint cottages and proud medieval castles; the magnificent rolling woodlands and shady river valleys; the vineyards of the Moselle and the bustling capital city. You'll enjoy good value and a warm welcome too, in its friendly, family-run inns; a warmth that you'll find reflected in everyone you meet.

UST Library Acquires Luxembourg Studies Collection

The University of St. Thomas' recent acquisition of more than 400 volumes of rare books, journals and other materials could make it a premier location for Luxembourg studies in North America. In January staff from the Special Collections Department of the university's O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center began unpacking the two separate collections of materials on the tiny European country - and received a check for \$10,000 to enhance and manage the collection.

The Luxembourg "avalanche" was a gift of San Antonio, Texas, couple - Maria Bach Dunn and her husband, James Dunn. Maria Dunn, who is of Luxembourg descent, is a member of the Luxembourg Heritage Society; her husband is former director of the Minnesota Historical Society library.

The Luxembourg Heritage Society, a national organization of Luxembourg immigrants and their descendants, had sought to establish a center for genealogical and other research to preserve their national roots.

St. Thomas was a likely location for a library collection because of its Upper Midwestern, urban location and its Catholic nature. It is estimated that 70,000 Luxembourg immigrants migrated to the Upper Midwest. Nearly all were Roman Catholic. About 25,000 people of Luxembourg descent now live in Minnesota.

Late last fall, Maria Dunn learned of the availability of the "Bibliotheca Luxembourgiaca" collection, a private collection of more than 200 titles amassed by Dr. Julian Planke, retired curator of the Hill Monastic Library at St. John's University, Collegeville. She and Paul Heinerscheid, who heads Minnesota's Luxembourg consulate and is a member of St. Thomas' adjacent faculty, inquired about St. Thomas' willingness to house the collection. Dunn then purchased the volumes and presented them to the university in the name of the Luxembourg Heritage Society.

A few months later, the Duns gave the university another 200 titles from their private collection and cash to further build the St. Thomas collection. The broad-based collection covers many attributes of Luxembourg, which is nestled between France, Germany and Belgium. The volumes - written primarily in Luxembourgish, English, German and French - range from a 1714 travel book printed in elegant English script to contemporary materials, such as the Luxembourg News of America, the official organ of the Luxembourg Brotherhood, published in Skokie, IL. The collection also includes microfilm, microfiche, grid maps and sheet music.

Of special interest to academic and genealogical researchers are texts covering Luxembourgish immigration, such as Nicholas Gonner's 1889 work, "Die Luxemburger in der Neuen Welt." This scarce first-edition book, bound in Moroccan leather, is complete with advertisements. Minnesotans of Luxembourg ancestry will find an excellent resource: Mary Nilles', 1983 book, "Rollingstone," about the Minnesota town founded in the mid-1850s that became one of America's largest Luxembourgish settlements. Nilles, a Rollingstone native of Luxembourgish ancestry, spent two years in Belgium and Luxembourg as a Fulbright scholar.

According to James Kellen, a St. Thomas special collections librarian of Luxembourg descent, Luxembourgish immigration took place in five different "waves" in the 19th century. The last major immigration to the United States took place between 1875 and 1925. As the country's population increased, property and employment opportunities became scarce. In all, some 20 percent of the country's population emigrated to the United States. In 1940, it was estimated that there were 100,000 Luxembourgers in the United States; in Luxembourg the population was about 300,000.

During Nazi occupation of the country and its devastation during World War II (the Battle of the Bulge was fought primarily in Luxembourg), members of Luxembourg's royal family found refuge in the United States. The two countries' friendship has been strong ever since. Just last year Luxembourg raised some \$450,000 for Midwestern flood relief efforts, according to Heinerscheid.

Luxembourg today has become an important economic and financial center in Europe and is home to more than 200 banks. Its capital, Luxembourg City, has been designated as the "cultural capital" of Europe in 1995. All of the materials in O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center's Special Collections Department are available to the public from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month, and weekday mornings by appointment. For information, call Dr. John Davenport, head of special collections, (612) 962-5468, or Kellen, (612) 962-5461.

LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB

Minutes of April 28, 1994 Meeting

President Karen Winandy called the meeting to order, opening with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. At Roll Call of Officers, all were present. Membership attendance was taken with 28 present.

Minutes of the March 31 meeting were read by Rec. Secy. Loreta Keegan and approved as read. Treas. Ann Powers report was read and approved to file for audit.

A thank-you to John Nosbaum for donating a much needed P.A. system.

The Annual Card Party will be held May 26 at the American Legion Post #320, Skokie, IL. Members were again asked for door prizes, raffle prizes and cake donations for refreshments. There will be a need for workers, and Florence Lang will need help with the raffle. Raffle ticket monies were given to Ann Powers in lieu of Florence Lang's absence.

Several "get well" wishes were sent to members. Karen suggested this be a monthly way of keeping in touch.

Sick List: Madeline McMahon, John Scholtus, Louise Schmidt, Alice Trick.

April Birthdays: Sis Cunningham, Bill Fraser, Louise Gillen, John Nosbaum, Tony Schroeder and Madeleine Simon. Pot-O-Gold Winners: Sis Cunningham, Mary Noesen, Dorothy Piotrowicz.

Luncheon Hostesses for the evening were Betty Fraser, Louise Gillen and Virginia Hubbard. Host and hostesses for June 30 meeting will be Matt and Margaret Heinen, Madeleine Simon and Ann Damasco. Meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Pres. Winandy.

Respectfully submitted, Loreta M. Keegan Recording Secretary

LUXEMBOURG SOCIETY OF IOWA

Plans are being made for a Luxembourg reunion on July 10, 1994 at St. Donatus Parish Hall. Bring a covered dish and table service for a potluck dinner at 12 noon. Coffee furnished, soft drinks available.

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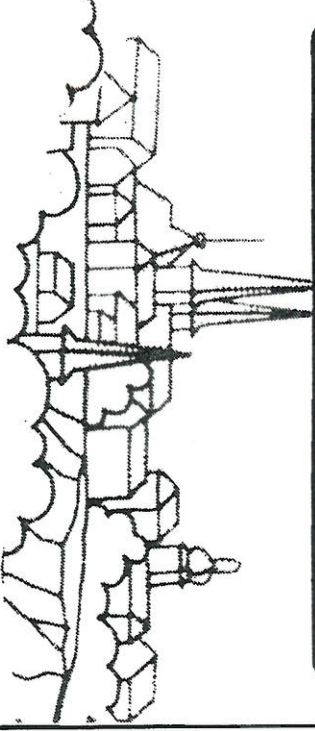
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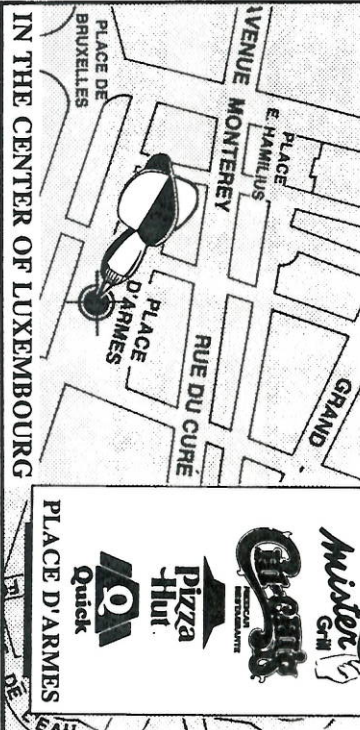
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Miliz were caught completely by surprise and couldn't understand what was happening. The Germans were attacking with three infantry platoons which totaled well over a hundred men. The first platoon attacked through the wood at the south end of the town. (10), and started up the rue du Ruisseau short of the bridge. (11) Then they moved around the city block which today is the Hotel de Bruxelles until they joined the Grand Rue. These were the troops that launched the attack, firing upon the Miliz as they emerged from the basement of the bakery. However, the unexpected stubborn resistance put up by the Miliz stopped their momentum dead in their tracks and forced them to revise their plans. So, rather than fight their way towards the castle, through the roadblock on the Grand Rue, where they thought they would find the main body of the defenders, they decided to circumvent the obstacle and turned left or south west towards the wall, and eventually the road from Diekirch which they followed to the upper city.

The German second platoon attacking from the north, (13) followed the river and came down the Rue du Vieux Marche (14) until it met the blown bridge and turned right on the Grand Rue. The third platoon attacked over the hill from the north where it joined the first platoon in the upper city under the castle wall.

In the lower city the Miliz could clearly hear the German officers ordering their men forward. Wiley Weyrich, from his post on the castle parapet, could only hear bursts of small arms fire from below, but due to the fog he couldn't see where it came from. He aimed his machine gun down although he had no targets, and excitedly asked Michel Schneiders if he

could figure out what was happening. Both men decided to run down Grand Rue. Philip Gleis took over the machine gun and out of sheer frustration fired a burst towards the city. At about this instant the Germans fired a flare calling for artillery.

German shells followed and landed amongst the defenders and the attackers alike and added measurably to the confusion. Wiley Weyrich and Michel Schneiders ran through a postern on the south side of the castle and down a steep path towards the town below.

This led to a narrow passage between two houses on the Grand Rue near the Church. (16) The area appeared to be abandoned until Schneiders tried to venture forth and immediately came under German small arms fire.

Wiley who was in command, turned to Michel and told him to return to the castle and get some hand grenades while he guarded the passage armed with an American M-1 rifle which was a very good weapon. Three men from the Velle Rue detachment in the upper city, consisting of Corring R., Denel B., and Hansen P., manned an American, air-cooled light machine gun at the intersection of the Velle Rue and the Grand Rue. (17) Two of the men armed with burp guns took up covering positions. Metty Bartz, supported by Nicolas Schneiders, Arthur Vinandy, and Roger Watgen, defended the outpost.

Meanwhile, Wiley Weyrich who was guarding the passage way on the Grand Rue suddenly decided to return to the castle, too. When he reached the main court he decided to return below, but this time he would descend through the postern on the north side to exit on the Rue du Vieux Marche which ran parallel to the river (18) and attack the Germans from the rear. He climbed down the steep slope until he reached a small passage between two houses facing the

river. (19) As he was about to step out onto the street he recognized German hobnail boots approaching from the left and hastily took cover. German reinforcements marched by carrying ammunition boxes. So, he let them pass and after assuring himself that there were no lagers, he followed onto the street and took up his firing position. Fortunately, in the interim the fog had lifted enough to allow him to see his targets clearly. After taking careful aim he killed or wounded the entire reinforcing force.

Now, small arms fire could be heard all over town. Philip Gleis and Michel Schneiders also returned to the castle for more ammunition and were still in the court when a German shell exploded on the parapet and seriously wounded Schneiders in the back. Gleis, seeing his friend fall, rushed to his side to help and carried him into the basement of the nearby guard house. (22) where he hid him behind a pile of coal and potatoes. At this instant the Germans unleashed their main attack on the castle by exploding a charge that destroyed the wooden door guarding the entrance. (20) Philip Gleis courageously rushed forward to cover the breach with his machine pistol. As the smoke and dust cleared, he found himself face to face with a German officer dressed in a camouflage uniform. Gleis had just reloaded his piece with a fresh clip but forgot to load a round in the chamber. Both men looked at each other for a fraction of a second, and Gleis said in perfect German, "Kamerad, nicht schießen!" (Comrade, don't shoot!)

The German officer was so astonished at Gleis's strange uniform which consisted of a German helmet and an American jacket plus other miscellaneous pieces of clothing, and being addressed in perfect German, he turned towards his men thinking he was covered but found nobody. Gleis seized the opportunity to ram a round into the chamber and opened fire. At the very same instant several Germans rushed through the demolished door, firing wildly as they entered. At this instant another German artillery shell exploded behind Gleis, blew off his helmet and threw him about 30 feet away. It temporarily stunned the Germans, but they recovered quickly and opened fire again but were high. One round, however, ricocheted and entered Gleis' right eyebrow exiting from his temple, but fortunately it didn't knock him out. Taking advantage of all the smoke and the dust raised by the explosion, and the ensuing confusion he reloaded fast, and slipped through the southern postern (23) which was at hand. By now he was bleeding profusely as he stumbled down the steep slope towards a house on the corner of a passage exiting upon the Grand Rue (21) where he knew he would find help. His friends were aghast as he burst into their kitchen covered with blood, but they quickly bandaged his head and stemmed the bleeding temporarily.

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Grand Rue and cautiously made his way towards the resistance command post in the Heintz Hotel. Meanwhile, Schneiders who was seriously wounded was still hiding in the cellar of the guard house in the castle which was also used to store 300 kilos of ammunition piled up in a corner. His pain was so intense he had to bite a handkerchief to refrain from screaming.

The Germans now controlled the castle, and to discourage any further resistance from any fighters who might be hiding in the cellar, they threw in a hand grenade which fortunately didn't go off. The Germans withdrew shortly afterwards.

Suffering badly from his wounds, Schneiders managed to crawl out of the cellar on all fours until he reached the southern postern which was just around the corner of the building, and led to the path that descended to the city below, when he fainted. This is where Freidrich Heintzen found him when he returned to check the castle. He gently loaded him on his shoulder and carried him down the hill to join the others at the command post on the Vielle Rue.

While the fighting was swirling around the CP in the Heintz Hotel, Victor Abens was frantically trying to reach the American forces in Diekirch by phone. Josey Abens, Leon Hansen, Joseph Kieffer, Barry Reis, Jean Shaefer, and Lucien Weiler were defending the headquarters. Abens finally got through to the Americans and requested assistance.

The American sent a half track which turned off on the road to St. Nicholas/Cleraux, and stopped at the observation platform overlooking the city. (24) By now the shooting had stopped, and everything was quiet.

The half track crew reported that there was no fighting going on, and the city was quiet, and returned to Diekirch.

It is interesting to note at this time the background of a couple of the Miliz fighters involved in this battle, because they played such an important role in the fighting. Wiley was drafted by the Germans early in the war and as a result spoke German fluently. His training in the German army had familiarize him with their tactics, and being fluent in German, he understood all the orders shouted by their officers throughout the attack. As a result he took immediate counter measures. This explains why the Germans couldn't figure out why they were being attacked from all angles.

Philip Gleis also served in the German army but in Russia.

While on the northern front he got a friend to shoot him in the left arm, so that he could go to the hospital from which he escaped, and worked his way back to Luxembourg where he joined the resistance. He, too, was well trained in their tactics and was also fluent in German.

As a result of the battle, the Miliz suffered the following casualties: Michel Schneiders, wounded defending the castle

Philip Gleis, wounded defending the castle
Roger Corring wounded defending the city
Leon Roger killed defending the city

The Germans, frustrated at every turn, withdrew, removing shutters from nearby homes to carry their dead and wounded back to their lines. It was never established exactly how many casualties the Germans actually incurred in this clash, but from all accounts they were much higher than the defenders.

At the conclusion of the battle, the wounded resistance fighters were hurriedly transported to the civilian hospital in Diekirch for treatment and nursing care by the nuns. Because the hospital was out of many medicines, Victor Abens lost no time contacting me and requested some pain killer for his wounded. The medics attached to an Engineer unit parked in our street, supplied the morphine, which I personally delivered to the hospital.

I found the men comfortable as could be under the conditions, and pleased to note that they appeared to be well cared for. Later, I was told that one of the nuns was a German and that she was very unhappy that she had to care for some resistance fighters, but apparently she overlooked her feelings and did her duty.

The writer feels that this outstanding moment in Luxembourg's military history should be officially recorded, because it was the only time throughout the German occupation of the Grand Duchy, during World War II, that a Luxembourg military group, without any American support, fought off a superior German force and prevailed. The facts were gathered and checked with the assistance of Professor Jean Milmeister of Vianden, in addition to his gathering the background information and the history of the Miliz. Prof. Milmeister repeatedly assembled the players for conferences to check the details which were carefully verified before transmitting the information to this writer.

The location of the U.S. forces was verified by the writer. Map was made by C. deM. B. with the assistance of Prof. Milmeister.

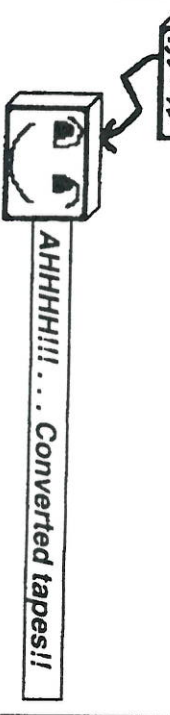
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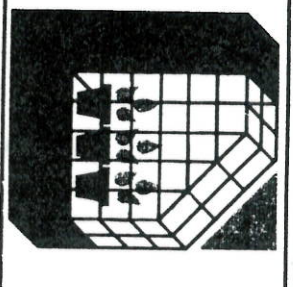
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