

Four-Pronged Ghost Army Presence in Luxembourg

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Friday morning saw a press conference at the Abbaye de Neumunster, led by Timothy Lone, Director of the Patton Stiftung Sustainable Trust, to announce details of The Ghost Army in Luxembourg.

He explained that part of the work of the foundation is to retain the memory of historical happenings.

In the winter of 1944, the Ghost Army was an American battalion billeted at what is now the Limpertsberg home of the University of Luxembourg. From there, the unit of 1,100 GIs masterminded battlefield deception during World War II which included availing of the services of American artists, to create inflatable tanks, audio effects and impersonation to make it seem a large army was indeed present.

Shortly after D-Day, the men of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops landed in France. Known as the Ghost Army, they staged more than 20 deceptions in the European Theatre of Operations to fool the enemy about the strength and location of American units. Their mission was top secret and was hushed up for decades after the war's end.

Four separate events are being held around The Ghost Army, as follows:

- an Exhibition at the Abbaye de Neumunster (CCRN) from 15-27 November 2013; Claude Frisoni, Director of the CCRN, welcomed the exhibition to the abbaye; Opening Mon-Fri 08:00 - 19:00; Sat-Sun: 10:00 - 18:00. The

exhibition includes wartime photos and artwork created by the Ghost Army soldiers. Additional pieces are on display at the Banque Fortuna (Bld de la Petrusse).

- a lecture at the University of Luxembourg on Monday 18 November at 18:00, by film-maker Rick Beyer; The rector of the University of Luxembourg, Rolf Tarrach, explained the concepts of ghost particles and anti-matter in terms of the universe - he has a background in physics

- augmented reality component in which a virtual image of a tank can be created, at the CCRN

- a film of The Ghost Army, the European Premier of which will be screened on Wednesday 27 November at 19:00 at the CCRN

The film-maker, Rick Beyer, explained that he discovered the story 8 years ago when he met the widow of one of the former soldiers who retained three notebooks containing much of his wartime art. In the making of the film, he interviewed 19 veterans, of whom 10 have passed away since.

He also mentioned that as he arrived in Luxembourg with the portfolio of exhibition items, as the plane was touching down, he was very conscious of the art "coming home", since Luxembourg is where much of the art was created originally.

Photos by Geoff Thompson: (top, L-R): Rick Beyer, Claude Frisoni; (below, L-R): US Ambassador Robert Mandell, Claude Frisoni, Rolf Tarrach, Paul Schonenberg, Chairman of AMCHAM; (bottom: Timothy Lone)



