



www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org

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920-825-7319

NOVEMBER 2025

BHC 2025 Event Calendar - Save the Dates!

8 NOV	Louise Endres Moore, author of "Alfred" / Belgians in the War exhibits
21-22 NOV	Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt
28 NOV	Thanksgiving Sale / Family Glass Workshop
29 NOV	Holiday Shopping Hours
6/13/20 DEC	Holiday Shopping Hours
6 DEC	Christmas Spirits Adult Glass Workshop

BHC Open by Appointment

BHC will be open to visitors by appointment through the winter months, weather permitting. Please email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org or call 920-619-6363 at least one week ahead of your planned visit.

REMINDER: Veterans Day Special Event - November 8 — 10:00 to 3:00

Louise Endres Moore author of "Alfred" / Belgians in the War

Don't miss our special tribute. BHC will be open from 10:00 to 3:00 on November 8 featuring photos, videos and artifacts of the many Belgians who served in the US military. At 1:00, Louise Endres Moore will discuss her award-winning book "Alfred" describing her nearly 20 year journey to discover the full story of her father's World War II experiences.

2026 Event Preview

Events for next year are being scheduled at this time. Save these dates!

- Booyah and Bread – April 26
- Renee Vaughan, nyckelharpa player of Walloon and Swedish descent – May 2
- Kermis – August 16

Also in the works for 2026 – a cooyah tournament and celebration of the United States 250th year! More to come...



BHC display boards feature historic images of many Belgian communities. We recently added Lincoln, Walhain and Thiry Daems. We would love to add Tonet, Humboldt and Gardner but need pictures. The boards can be loaned to community organizations such as schools, churches, town halls, community centers, etc. Email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org if interested in contributing photos or displaying the boards.

Mosaic Glass Workshops

BHC will host two mosaic glass workshops this fall. Past participants have loved the experience and many come back every year!

In the workshops, you will make stained glass mosaic sun-catchers using pre-cut shapes such as butterfly, heart, flag, Christmas tree, circles, etc. and precut stained glass chips in various sizes, shapes and limitless colors. Create your own custom art to hang in your window, use as an ornament or give as a gift. Sessions are led by Gary Chaudoir of Chaudoir Glass Studio in Sister Bay. Gary's popular workshops have been featured at fairs and festivals for over 15 years, including BHC.

Walk-ins are welcome but reservations are strongly encouraged. Reserve early to ensure we can seat your group together. Call 920-619-6363 or email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org for reservations or information.



Family Workshop, Friday, November 28 – 9:00 to 3:00

Bring the whole family to BHC the day after Thanksgiving for a mosaic glass workshop designed for all ages. Workshop is priced per project ranging from \$10 - \$20 per item depending on size and complexity. The last start time is 2:00 to finish by 3:00.

Christmas Spirits Workshop, Saturday, December 6 – Noon to 5:00

Gather your friends for a little Christmas spirit (and spirits) as you create your mosaic glass masterpieces. This workshop includes one sun-catcher/ornament, two drinks (wine, craft beer or non-alcoholic beverage) and charcuterie buffet featuring Renard's cheese, local wine and craft beer, and Belgian chocolate for a price of \$35 per person. All participants will be eligible for a special drawing to win a little extra Christmas cheer. This session is for adults 21 and up. The last start time is 4:00 to finish by 5:00.



Don't think you're "artistic" enough to create a beautiful ornament? The ornaments pictured above were made by participants in previous workshops. Some of these were created by children and others by first time workshop attendees.

Holiday Shopping at BHC

Looking for St. Nick or Christmas gifts for your favorite Belgians? Shop BHC! We have a variety of Belgian themed flags and apparel and you can stock up on chocolate stocking stuffers. Bobbin lace handmade in Brugges or custom art glass by Gary Chaudoir make especially wonderful gifts. Our selection of books offers something for all ages. Stop in or check out our merchandise catalog at belgianheritagecenter.org. Most merchandise is available for shipping.

BHC will be open on these dates for shopping and order pick-up:

- Friday, November 28 — 9:00 to 3:00
- Saturday, November 29 — 9:00 to Noon
- Saturday, December 6 — 9:00 to 5:00
- Saturday, December 13 — 9:00 to Noon
- Saturday, December 20 — 9:00 to noon



NEW THIS YEAR

Belgian American Heritage Coloring Books

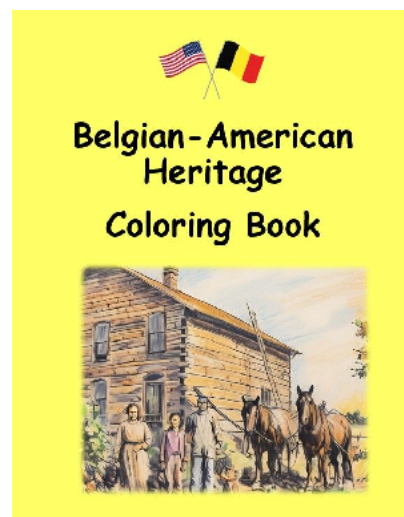
BHC is pleased to announce a coloring book meant to teach children about the Belgian settlements. The coloring books use actual images from BHC archives converted to coloring sheets. Each page explains traditions like Kermis and Christmas pageants or shows iconic images of the settlements like brick houses and roadside chapels. The book includes a list of questions children can ask to learn more about Belgian traditions. Coloring book is \$8 and makes a great St. Nick or Christmas gift. **Start children early to appreciate their heritage!**

American Made with Belgian Parts Sweatshirt

BHC added a new crewneck sweatshirt design to our selection of Belgian themed apparel. The sweatshirt is royal blue with an embroidered chest logo and sells for \$35. Available in sizes S-2XL.



Belgians made big giant costumes for parades and Kermisess. A hidden person inside made them move.



Christmas Pageants



At Christmas time, girls dressed like angels to put Baby Jesus in the manger at Midnight Mass.

St. Nick / Christmas Gifts at Christkindmarkt!

BHC will be at the Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt at Lakehaven Hall in Kewaunee on Friday, November 21, from 3:00-9:00 pm and on Saturday, November 22, from 9:00-4:00. Enjoy an old-fashioned German Christmas market held at the historic Lakehaven Hall! Get a head start on your holiday shopping as you browse through a number of unique vendors offering exquisite apparel, one-of-a-kind ceramic items, homemade food items and much more! BHC will have a variety of items available for your St. Nick and Christmas shopping needs, including authentic Belgian lace ornaments and Belgian T-shirts and sweatshirts. The Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt is an annual event sponsored by the Kewaunee Area Chamber of Commerce and is part of a weekend event also featuring a Christmas Stroll of Kewaunee County businesses, a Friday night Holiday Parade of Lights, and a visit from Santa. Come enjoy the event and pick up a few items for those Christmas stockings!

Help Us Manage Newsletter Cost

If you would like to save the cost to BHC to print and mail your newsletter, we will send it to you via email or you can see the content on our Facebook page. If you are interested, please email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org or contact us through Facebook. Donations to offset the cost of newsletter production and delivery (\$10 per year per person) are greatly appreciated.

Belgian Heritage Center Donation Form

Name: _____ Donation: \$ _____
Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: Belgian Heritage Center, P.O. Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. Donations may be made at www.belgianheritagecenter.org (PayPal and major credit cards accepted).

Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation, owner of the Belgian Heritage Center, is a 501(c)(3) organization

2025 Accomplishments and 2026 Look Ahead

BHC volunteers have been especially hard at work this year. On top of events, raffles, presentations, tours, and much more, here's what we've accomplished:

- St. Roch Chapel exterior restoration
- St. Mary of the Snows School/Convent exterior restoration
- Installation of four new outdoor exhibits to share our story every day, all year long
- Parking lot striping including designated walkways and ADA parking

We are already looking ahead to what needs to be done in 2026. Two essential projects for preservation of the historic church building are at the top of our list.

Steeple Repairs and Paint

The former St. Mary of the Snows church was completed in 1893 and for its age, it is in great shape. But, it takes work (and money) to keep it that way. Most of the exterior maintenance (like tuck-pointing) has been done over the years by BHC volunteers but now we have structural repairs and work on the bell tower that has to be done from a lift. The crosses and louvers need scraping and painting. Estimated cost of repairs is \$12,000 including an allowance for added work as the condition is further examined.

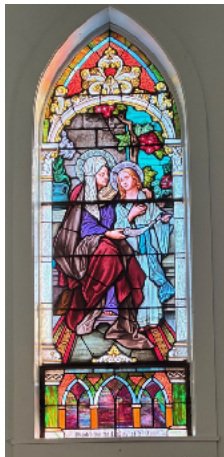


Stained Glass Window Repairs

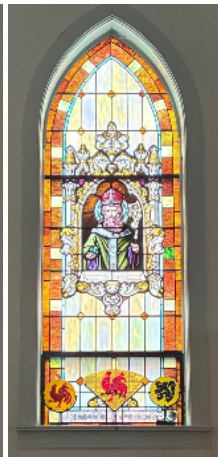
The stained glass windows in the church were installed in 1914 and are the most distinctive feature of the building. There are 16 windows, many of which were donated by past parishioners. The window frames need to be repainted, caulked and glazed for protection of the windows. Estimated cost of repairs is \$7,000.



St. Theresa



St. Anne



St. Patrick



Stained Glass Repair



Can you help? Donors of \$600 or more will be recognized with a plaque. If interested in a donation for one of these projects, please email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org or call Bill at 920-559-3113.

Donations can be mailed to Belgian Heritage Center, PO Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. Online donations can be made at belgianheritagecenter.org. The Belgian Heritage Center is owned and operated by the Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.

BHC is in need of laptop computers (new or used) compatible with Windows 11 and Microsoft 2024. Our current equipment is outdated. Up to date equipment is needed to continue our presentations and to create and post more online content.

BHC is an all-volunteer organization. Everything we do to plan, execute and manage our events, publications, online content and projects is done by people dedicated to seeing that our unique Belgian history and heritage continue for many more generations. If you are interested in advancing our mission, we have a way for you to help! Just call Julie at 920-619-6363 to learn more about the many ways you can get involved.

Discovery and Naming of a Foundling

This is an excerpt from *Brief Life History - Discovery and Naming of Francois Maximin* posted at [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)

Shortly after his birth, Francois was abandoned by anonymous person(s) in the Vegetable Market Square of Namur, Belgium. At approximately 9:30 in the evening of that day, 29 May 1807, two neighborhood women, Marie Joseph Guergon and Marie Therese Bavay, discovered the infant adjacent to the stall of one of the vendors.

Upon realizing that the infant had been abandoned, the two women took the infant foundling to the office of the mayor, where at 10:00 that evening they met with a deputy mayor and registrar, Hubert Joseph Goubbaux. In the presence of the two women, Goubbaux examined the infant, and identified it as a newly-born male. He further noted the nature of the clothes worn by the infant, including that the infant was swaddled in common rags.

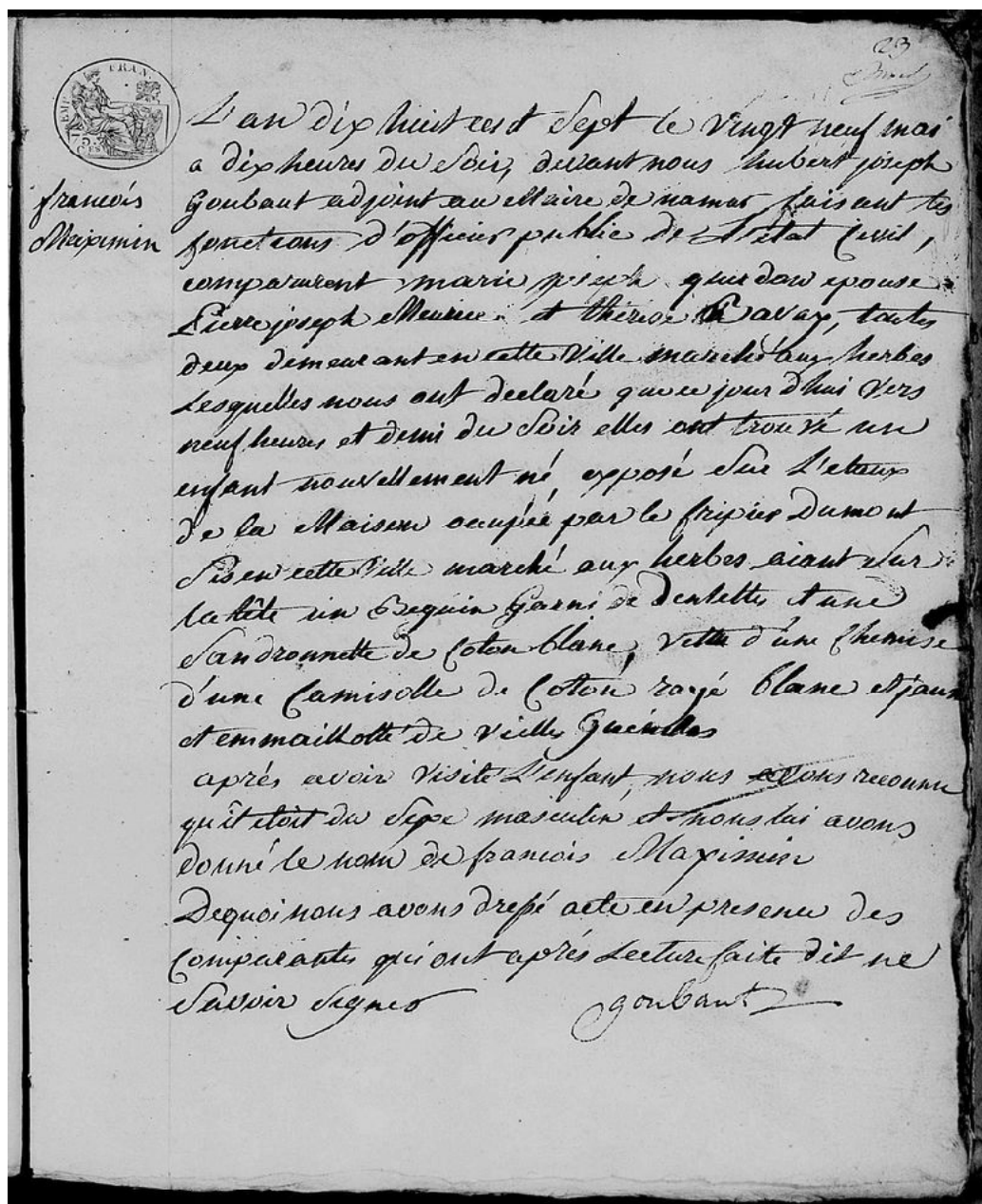
After the examination, and in the absence of any information that could allow determination of the identity of the infant or of his origins, Goubbaux bestowed upon the infant the first name of Francois and the surname of Maximin, the name by which the infant foundling was to be known thereafter in most Belgian civil records.

In bestowing this name on the foundling, Goubbaux followed the then local practice of providing an anonymous foundling a full name composed of two common first names, and that the name chosen as the surname was not already in use locally as a surname lest the foundling be perceived as a member of that local family. This was recorded and attested to by Goubbaux and the two women on that evening. The record remains in the Belgian State Archives and a copy is accessible online at [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org), ID 9X2T-C3L.

On that same evening, and immediately after his registration in the mayor's office, the infant Francois was handed over to the custody of the Hospice of Saint Gilles, a local institution with oversight and financial support responsibilities for foundlings. The oversight typically included the placement of the foundling in foster care with a family in Namur or a nearby village. Based upon later documents, there is a likelihood that Francois was placed with a foster family in the village of Meux. Meux was listed as Francois' place of residence at the time of his military registration in 1826, and again within multiple documents filed in 1837 and 1838 related to his marriage of Marie Josephine Bouchat.

From the time of his marriage until the family departed Belgium in 1856, Military Service Certification for Francois Maximin, submitted for the marriage of Francois Maximin and Marie Joseph Bouchat, Saint-Denis, Namur Province, Belgium, 21 December 1837. Saint Denis, another of the villages located near Namur, was the birthplace of his wife and the location of their marriage. It was also the residence of Francois' in-laws and the birth place of all of Francois' and Marie Josephine's Belgium-born children.

Francois and his family lived in Union, Door County and Ahnapee, Kewaunee County before moving to Stutsman County, North Dakota. Francois died there in 1894.

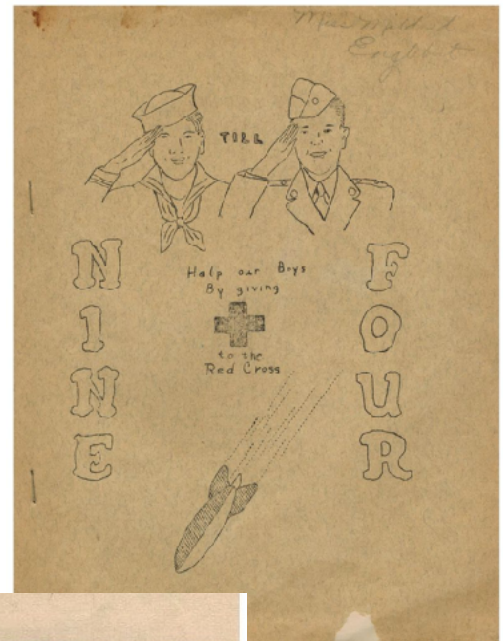


Foundling's Discovery and Naming Document, Civil Records of Namur, Belgium, 29 May 1807

World War II Through the Eyes of Students

World War II ended 80 years ago. Those who experienced the war years first hand are becoming fewer every day. Whether they were at home or fighting on foreign soil, people in the United States felt the effects of the war.

At Brussels High School, student newsletters covered war related topics. Thanks to Brad Deprez, we can share these articles from the 1943 issues of *Nine Till Four*.



April 1, 1943

NINE TILL FOUR

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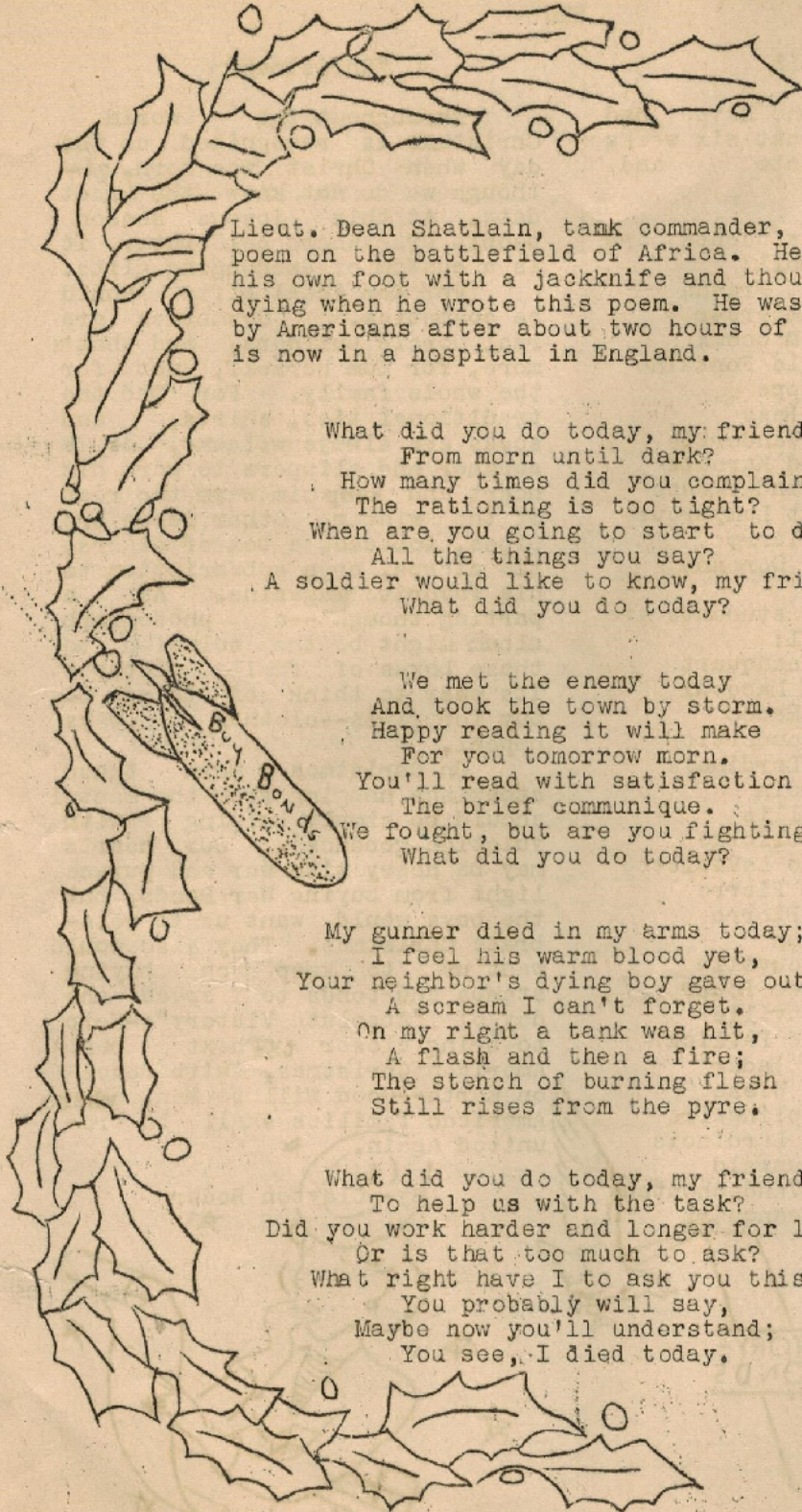
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Pupil transportation problems have become increasingly difficult since the rubber conservation program began, and are apt to continue to grow more so as the war goes on. Transporting pupils to high schools is an essential activity and is recognized as such. The Office of Defense Transportation realizes this fact, but at the same time is faced with the problem of cutting bus routes to an absolute minimum so that vital materials can be made to give the utmost service. This means that bus routes can no longer be made out so that pupils have bus service to their doors. Bulletins issued by the department of Public Instruction state that pupils living off of the bus routes are expected to walk up to one and one half miles to meet the bus if necessary.

Routes must be approved by the state and they will not approve any routes which do not eliminate all unnecessary travel. Walking up to a mile and a half to meet the bus is inconvenient to say the least and at certain times, especially during the winter months is apt to be a severe hardship. The pupils and parents must realize that this war is causing hardships to a good many people, and must be endured if this war is to be won. Another important point to remember is that the purchase of fuel, tires, tubes and repair parts is authorized only if the bus routes follow these policies.

Pupils and parents must accept any additional hardships as part of their contribution to the war effort and should realize that the sooner we all make sacrifices the sooner the war will be won. It is not going to be easy, and grumbling isn't going to help matters any.

C A Sickinger



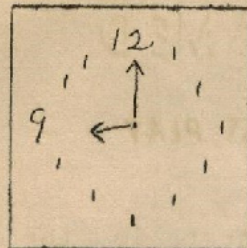
Lieut. Dean Shatlain, tank commander, wrote this poem on the battlefield of Africa. He amputated his own foot with a jackknife and thought he was dying when he wrote this poem. He was rescued by Americans after about two hours of hiding and is now in a hospital in England.

What did you do today, my friend,
From morn until dark?
How many times did you complain
The rationing is too tight?
When are you going to start to do
All the things you say?
A soldier would like to know, my friend,
What did you do today?

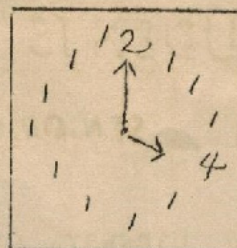
We met the enemy today
And took the town by storm.
Happy reading it will make
For you tomorrow morn.
You'll read with satisfaction
The brief communique.
We fought, but are you fighting?
What did you do today?

My gunner died in my arms today;
I feel his warm blood yet,
Your neighbor's dying boy gave out
A scream I can't forget.
On my right a tank was hit,
A flash and then a fire;
The stench of burning flesh
Still rises from the pyre.

What did you do today, my friend,
To help us with the task?
Did you work harder and longer for less,
Or is that too much to ask?
What right have I to ask you this?
You probably will say,
Maybe now you'll understand;
You see, I died today.



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Belgian Heritage Center
PO Box 173
Brussels, WI 54204



The school/convent was repaired and returned to a traditional paint scheme thanks to a donation from Glenn and Barbara Timmerman in memory of Glenn and Rita (Smeester) Timmerman, Glenn's Belgian parents. This image, captured by Joe Alexander, shows recent improvements to BHC's campus. The school/convent exterior restoration, outdoor exhibit installation and exterior restoration of St. Roch chapel were completed in 2025. Asphalt parking lot was completed last fall with striping added this spring. Sidewalks were installed in 2024 and include a ramp providing accessible access to the school/convent.