

# Belgium Rendez-Vous 127

## Meet Yvonne Daley-Brusselmans



"I am not a speaker," insists Yvonne Daley-Brusselmans, "I am a story teller." With that simple introduction, Yvonne began her "story" which included accounts of narrow escapes, brushes with the Gestapo, and the amazing courage of her mother, Anne Brusselmans; how she became central to saving hundreds of American and British airmen trapped behind enemy lines in Belgium, at tremendous risk to herself and her family.

Sitting quietly on a stage next to a small table on which was placed a photo of her mother, a few clippings, and other mementos, her calm delivery was in stark contrast with her tales of assassinations and intrigue, disguises and danger.

For one veteran in particular, William "Bill" McGinley, Yvonne's story was especially meaningful. "Bill" was introduced to Anne Brusselmans after he bailed from his burning B-24. Once on the ground he found himself quickly moving through the Belgian woods but with a gun pointed at his head as he was brought to Madame Brusselmans. She was the interrogator. The right or wrong answer to questions meant life or death. Luckily for Bill, his answers were authenticated. He became eligible to be held in the relative safety of the Brusselmans' home—at least until he

could be inserted into the Belgian underground and ushered back to England.

Bill kept in touch with Anne through the years. After all, he was one of "Anne's boys." He made his way slowly up to the stage in a wheelchair after Yvonne began taking questions. She recognized him almost immediately. The years melted away instantly and two old friends began to reminisce, sharing Bill's story with the audience.

### ...more about Yvonne

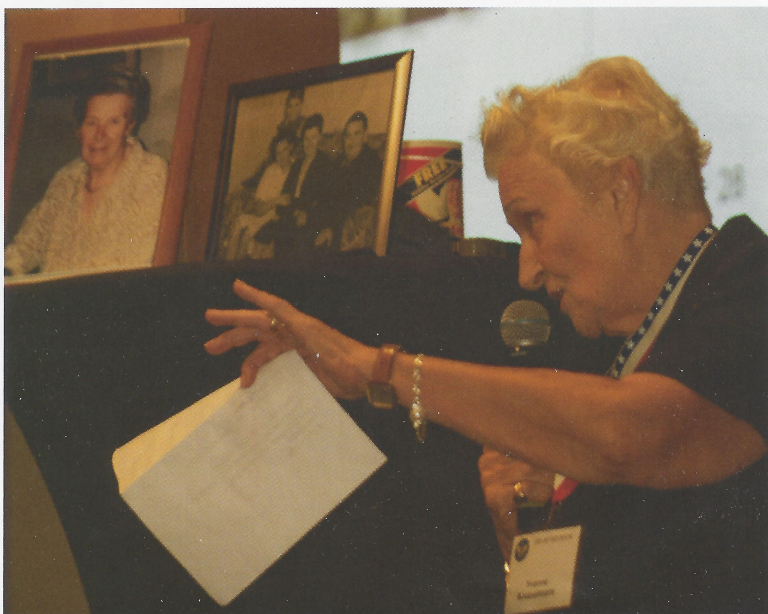
Yvonne spent the four years of World War II in Brussels, under German occupation, while her mother, Anne Brusselmans, worked tirelessly in the patriotic but dangerous Belgian Underground.

After graduation from college with a degree in education, Yvonne worked in the European Office of the Air Research and Development Command of the US Air Force, at the Embassy in Brussels. She subsequently worked as an administrative assistant to the Hughes Aircraft Company representative in Brussels, and then for Shulton, Inc., also in Brussels.

Her husband, Ian Daley, served in the Royal Air Force for 26 years, after which he joined Her Majesty's Foreign Service. The Daleys left Great Britain for a post at the British Embassy in Paris, then went to Brussels to the European Commission with Lord Soames. Yvonne became an Assistant Teacher at the Common Market School in Brussels.

Following her husband's death, Yvonne Daley-Brusselmans immigrated to Canada first, and eventually to the United States.

She is a former Board Member of the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society



[AFEES], a member of the Board of Trustees for the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, a Life Member of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, and an Associate Member of the Order of Daedalians—Suncoast Flight #25, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida; and was a former member of the Royal Air Forces Escaping Society until her emigration to the United States.

Yvonne is the author of, *"Belgium Rendez-Vous 127 - Revisited: Anne Brusselmans, M.B.E. -- Resistance, World War II"* and *"Anne Brusselmans: Mission Accomplished: My Mother."*

*(Our front cover showcases more photos of William "Bill" McGinley and Yvonne Daley-Brusselmans from our 40th Annual 8th AFHS Reunion in Nashville, Tn.)*

