

Belgian nurse who saved GIs in WWII honored

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS

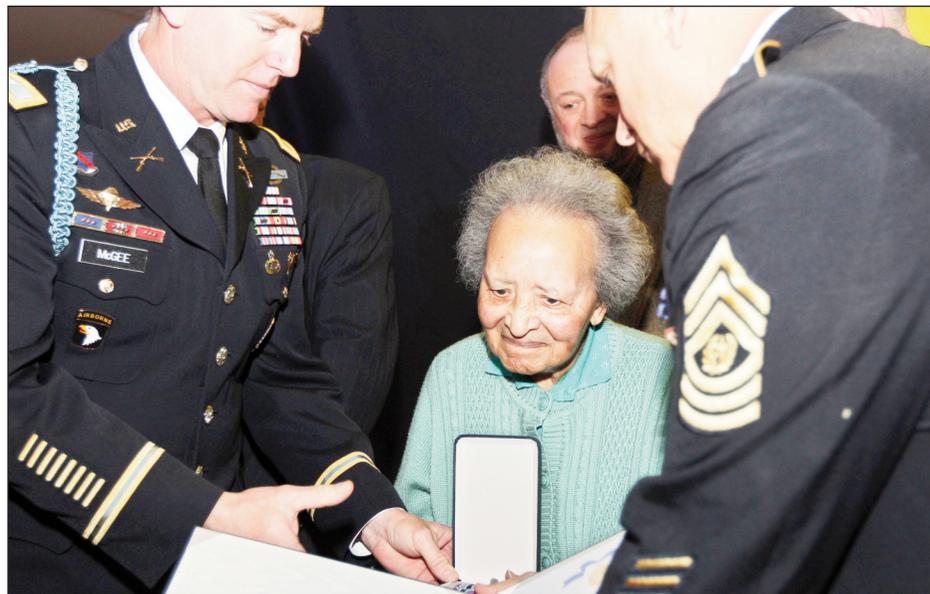
A Belgian nurse who saved the lives of hundreds of American soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge at the end of World War II was given a U.S. award for valor Monday — 67 years late.

Congolese-born Augusta Chiwy, now 93, received the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service medal from U.S. Ambassador Howard Gutman at a ceremony in the military museum in Brussels.

"She helped, she helped, and she helped," Gutman said at the ceremony. He said the long delay in presenting the award was because it was assumed that Chiwy had been killed when a bomb destroyed her hospital.

The Battle of the Bulge was a ferocious encounter in the final stages of World War II. In desperation, Adolf Hitler ordered a massive attack on allied forces in the Ardennes, in southern Belgium. More than 80,000 American soldiers were killed, captured or wounded.

Chiwy had volunteered to assist in an aid station in the town of Bastogne, where wounded and dying U.S. soldiers in their thousands were being treated by a single doctor in December 1944 and January 1945. Chiwy braved the gunfire, helping whoever she could, and saving the lives of hundreds of American GIs.



AP/Yves Logghe

Belgian nurse Augusta Chiwy, center, who saved hundreds of wounded GIs during the WWII Battle of the Bulge, receives an award for valor from the U.S. Army, in Brussels, Monday.

The Nazis hoped the surprise attack would reach the sea at the Belgian port of Antwerp and cut off the advancing allied armies. Bastogne, a market town that was also a critical road junction, was quickly besieged.

The U.S. troops — led by paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division — found them-

selves surrounded. But they resisted fiercely, and the key crossroads was never taken.

During the siege, Bastogne was heavily shelled and quickly reduced to ruins. Another Belgian nurse — Chiwy's friend Renee Lemaire — was killed along with about 30 patients when a bomb penetrated a cellar

where she was tending to the wounded.

Gutman said the diminutive Chiwy combed battlefields during the battle, often coming under enemy fire, to collect the wounded in the deep snow.

"What I did was very normal," Chiwy said during the ceremony. "I would have done it for anyone. We are all children of God."

But Col. J.P. McGee, who commands a brigade of the 101st Airborne Division based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, said that to the wounded soldiers Chiwy was "a goddess."

"Men lived and families were reunited due to your efforts," he said.

McGee said the army's doctor in Bastogne, John Prior, had joked that the German snipers couldn't hit Chiwy because she was so tiny. But Chiwy, who moved to Belgium from the colony of Congo before the war, responded that they were just bad shots.

McGee also gave Chiwy a letter of appreciation from Gen. David Petraeus, himself a former commander of the 101st Airborne.

After the battle, Chiwy slipped into obscurity, working as a hospital nurse treating spinal injuries. She married a Belgian soldier and had two children.

She was finally located several years ago by a British author and historian, Martin King, who had heard stories about a black nurse at Bastogne.

Chiwy was knighted by the Belgian king in June.

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

Comisión de Desarrollo Cooperativo de Puerto Rico

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AVISO IMPORTANTE

Por la facultad conferida al Comisionado de Desarrollo Cooperativo de Puerto Rico mediante la Ley Núm. 247 del 10 de agosto de 2008, **Ley Orgánica de la Comisión de Desarrollo Cooperativo de Puerto Rico**, se propone adoptar el siguiente reglamento:

REGLAMENTO PARA LA OTORGACIÓN DE FONDOS A COOPERATIVAS JUVENILES O GRUPOS COOPERATIVOS JUVENILES EN FORMACIÓN EN FAVOR DEL DESARROLLO Y FORTALECIMIENTO DEL COOPERATIVISMO JUVENIL

El propósito de este reglamento es establecer las normas para la otorgación de fondos a cooperativas juveniles y grupos cooperativos juveniles con cargo al *Fondo Especial para la Formación, Organización e Incorporación de las Cooperativas Juveniles*, según lo permite el Artículo 10A de la Ley Núm. 247.

Copia de este *Reglamento* estará disponible durante los días laborables de 8:00am a 4:30pm, en la Recepción de la Oficina Central de la Comisión de Desarrollo Cooperativo de Puerto Rico localizada en la Ave. Américo Miranda #400, Edificio Original COSVI Urb. Villa Nevárez, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00926. También estará disponible en Internet en la página web de la CDCOOP www.cdcoop.pr.gov.

El solicitante que interese una vista oral, deberá solicitar la misma por escrito con los fundamentos que a juicio del solicitante hagan necesaria la concesión de dicha vista oral. La solicitud de vista oral y los comentarios a este *Reglamento* deben remitirse por escrito dentro de los 30 días siguientes a la publicación de este Aviso a: **PO Box 21408 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00928-1408** o ser remitidos por correo electrónico a la siguiente correo electrónico: ndiaz@cdcoop.gobierno.pr.

Hon. Melvin R. Carrión Rivera, Agro.
Comisionado de Desarrollo Cooperativo

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Cooperative Development Commission of Puerto Rico

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

By the power vested in the Commissioner for Cooperative Development of Puerto Rico by Act No. 247 of August 10, 2008, **Organic Law of the Commission for Cooperative Development of Puerto Rico**, it is proposed to adopt the following rules:

REGULATIONS FOR THE GRANTING OF FUNDS TO YOUTH COOPERATIVES AND YOUTH COOPERATIVE GROUPS IN PROGRESS FOR THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING THE YOUTH COOPERATIVISM

The purpose of this regulation is to establish rules for the granting of funds to youth cooperatives and youth cooperative groups in progress from the Special Fund for the Development, Organization and Incorporation of Youth Cooperatives, as established by Article 10A of the Act No. 247.

A copy of this Regulation will be available weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm in the Reception of the Central Office of the Cooperative Development Commission of Puerto Rico located in the Américo Miranda Avenue # 400, COSVI (Original Building), Villa Nevárez, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00926. It will also be available online at the website of the CDCOOP www.cdcoop.pr.gov.

An applicant, who wishes an oral hearing, must request it in writing with the reasons why, in the opinion of the applicant, such hearing should be granted. The request for hearing and the comments on this regulation must be submitted in writing within 30 days following publication of this notice to: PO Box 21408 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00928-1408, or sent by email to the following email mail: ndiaz@cdcoop.gobierno.pr.

Hon. Melvin R. Carrión Rivera, Agro.
Commissioner of Cooperative Development