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Extra edition Composed by Frank PHILIPPART

The Atlantic Wall in Jersey

Frank Philippart

The first time I visited Jersey was in 1986. It was in fact my first real encounter with the Atlantic wall, I discovered several items and missed the majority. During the summer holidays of 2000 and 2001 I tried again to make a new, more complete, survey. This report will try to summarize my impressions of all the interesting things to see on the Island.

My overall impression, bunkers apart, is that the island isn't cheap anymore. Perfume and alcohol are the same price as in Belgium. And then there are the cars! The roads are narrow and the island is really overcrowded with cars of all types. Keep a cool head, because, we, from the continent, are not used to driving on the other (wrong?) side of the road. The good thing is that the island is a real Garden of Eden.

As you know the Channel Islands is the only part of English Territory to have been occupied by the Germans. They consist of the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm. They are situated close to the French coasts of Normandy and Brittany off St Malo.

The Germans considered these islands not only as a springboard to the continent, but also as a propaganda coup due to the fact that they form a part of GB. It was for them a matter of prestige to turn the islands into impregnable fortresses. They had time, concrete, steel and manpower a plenty to busy themselves with this task. Unfortunately the manpower employed were prisoners who had to work under extremely bad conditions.

Luckily for the bunker enthusiast, the majority of bunkers and constructions remain and the state of Jersey considers them as a part of their history. For many years now an association takes care of the preservation and renovation of various bunkers and bunker sites on Jersey. This is the CIOS, which stands for Channel Islands Occupation Society. Congratulations to these men, because they have done and continue to do a great job!



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Their contact address is:

CIOS Jersey
"Les Geonnais de Bas"
Rue des Geonnais

JE3 2BS St OUEN
JERSEY
Channel Islands

Apart from the CIOS you have on the island several occupation museums.

Many books exist about the island, but I would recommend the following ones.

- * "Jersey's German bunkers", archive book no 9.
Published by CIOS
- * "Le Mur de l'Atlantique dans les îles Anglo-Normandes" by Jean-Bernard Wahl
(contains also Guernsey and Alderney)
- * The map "the German occupation of Jersey 1940/1945. (Every book- and souvenir shop sells it)

This is the hierarchical scheme of the German units.

7 AOK	(Le Mans)
LXXXIV AK	(St Lo)
319. ID	(St Martin, Guernsey)
582. IR	(Kernwerk, St Anastase)
I	(St Matthew's Church, St Peter)
II	(Mont Felard)
III	(La Hougue Bie)
IV	(Trinity Church, Bouley)
16. MG	(St Peter)
364 Russ. Volontiers	
319. AR	(Kernwerk, St Anastase)
I	(Mont de la Rocque, St Brelade's)
II	(Mont Mallet, Gorey)
604. MAA	(St Martin, Guernsey)
1265 HKAR	(St Martin, Guernsey)
I	(Côte 215, St Ouen)
II	(Leitstand M10, La Moye)



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I'm going to provide a description of each bay. The south, east and west have large sandy beaches which require specific armaments. The north has steep cliffs which is a natural defence.

Note I haven't visited everything!. So, there's a big chance there are more interesting items to be found.

1. St Aubin's Bay

This is the largest bay situated in the south comprising the two major locations of St Aubin and St Helier, (which is the capital of the island). The beach is defended by six 4.7 cm PAK 36 (t) guns, well integrated into the dike, all are flanking to St Aubin. These 631b's with observation copulas, (long gone) are all worth visiting from the outside, there are however a few bunkers worth noting. The small Vf casemate at St Helier (WN Lichtfeuer) is fully integrated into the wall of a store house. Only the embrasure is visible. The one at St Aubin (RN Aubin Hafen) is a 676SK. Last but not least the Millbrook casemate is a MUST (WN Millbrook). CIOS has renovated and re-installed it, complete with its 4.7 cm gun. You can visit this casemate every Thursday evening.

At Bel Royal you will find the remains of a 115b, next to the 631b.

At WN Third Tower you can have a drink in the Gunsite café, which is a Vf bunker for a 10.5 cm K 331 (f) gun. This casemate appears to fire directly to the sea, but in reality it crosses its fire with the Jäger casemate of St Aubin's fort, which lies in the sea in front of St Aubin. (The Jäger casemate had been designed by a German engineer on the islands and is named after him. It houses a 10.5 cm K 331 (f) gun.)

At St Aubin, in the southern mole you can see the embrasure of a 676 SK. At low tide you can walk to St Aubin's fort on which you see a rare 628 crew bunker. This one is open. A bit further you'll notice the Jäger casemate. Next to it you have the concrete basement for a FT17 tank turret. Unfortunately vandals smashed the turret between 1986 and 2001.

Another Renault tank turret has been removed to a Jäger casemate at St Ouen's Bay which has become a museum.

I almost forgot! Last but not least there's Elisabeth Castle. For centuries the castle has been extended with bastions and later with bunkers. There is a Vf mount for a PAK 36 defending the entrance. Next to it there's an open emplacement for a search-light. Its bunker is a 606. A bit further on lies a crew bunker which unfortunately is closed, so I couldn't define the Regelbau. On either side of the castle there's a Jäger casemate, complete with its gun. In the crew room there are the remains of HES2.4 filters and bunks. Seeing the effort the owners have done to restore the whole, it's a pity the guns are rather rusty.



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On the side of the castle opposite the Hermitage, you can see a Renault R35 turret and on top of the castle there's an observation tower. On the back of the barracks there are several concrete emplacements for a heavy MG. Enter the tavern to see a nice 5 cm PAK 38.

At St Helier, on the Esplanade there's an occupation museum and don't forget to have a look at the Maritime Museum (next to the steam clock) to see the excellent hanging tapestry.

2. Noirmont Point

This land-end may be rightly considered as a real bunker museum. At this place the MKB Lothringen was installed with four 15 cm SK L/45 guns on open emplacements.

All constructions remain, gun emplacements, crew- and ammunition bunkers, Flak- and seach-light emplacements. On one of the open emplacements is a restored 15 cm SK L/45 gun and on the two others one can see a 10.5 cm K 331 (f) gun and a barrel of a 15 cm K 18.

But the items of interests on this side are the Marine Peilstand MP1 with four observation levels and next to it the fire control post of the battery (a M132 complete with steel observation copulas and rebuilt range-finder). The MP1 and the M132 are both open to the public and under the management of CIOS. A visit to Noirmont and both bunkers is a must.



The steel domes of the M132.



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3. St Brelade's Bay

This bay may be considered as the prettiest of the whole island. It's divided in two by a land-end called Point de Grouin, which was a Stp with the same name. Here you find the following items of interest.

A 680 flanking to St Brelade's, on the other side a 631 flanking to Ouaisne. On the rock, an open emplacement for a field gun, its Wellblech garage, a MG pit, a Tobruk and some concrete constructions. A huge anti-tank wall has been built along the whole bay. Notice the fake loopholes in the wall close to the 680 and the 631. Unfortunately both are sealed.

On the other hand the 631 together with the fake loop holes is a photo opportunity not to be missed.

4. La Moye

To see the HQ of II/1265. HKAR, you have to take the street leading to the prison. Pass the prison until you reach private property and you will see the impressive bunker. It was also an observation post M10. Now it's a radio station.

5. Corbiere Lighthouse

Corbiere is THE place to be for the tourist to see the white lighthouse in the submersible area. For the bunker enthusiast it's also an interesting area. It's known as Stp Corbière. Your attention is immediately attracted by the high Marine Peilstand, MP2, which is nowadays a coast guard station.

In the middle is a 606 with two emplacements for a search-light. When you're looking at the 606, you are actually on the roof of a Jäger casemate. On the other side of the road there's a 633 for the 5 cm M19 mortar. This bunker has been restored by CIOS (During the summer of 2001 one of the CIOS guys told me they had rebuilt a M19.) and open to the public. The 633 has the particularity of being connected by a tunnel to a 634 situated a bit higher up. The 634 was equipped with a Sechsschartenturm which unfortunately went during a scrap drive.

On the sloped site in the direction of St Ouen's Bay is the second Jäger casemate (restored by CIOS) with a very nice 10.5 cm K 331 (f) gun. This casemate is open to visitors on Saturday morning.

Finally on top of the hill, notice the observation post M1.



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The well restored Jäger casemate of Corbière with a 10.5 cm K 331(f) gun.

5. L'Oeillère

Between St Ouen's Bay and Petit Port Bay one has a 631, flanking to Corbière and a Jäger casemate to the St Ouen's Bay. Both are not sealed. The 631 has the

particularity of having an alley coming from the entrance area ("Hof" in German) of the Jäger casemate.

Between the two bunkers a Tobruk for a tank turret can be seen.

6. St Ouen's bay

This bay is a real chunk to visit. There are more than 50 constructions to visit here. The large sandy beaches are defended by 631b and Jäger casemates.

Next to them are search-light emplacements, MG pits, water- and crew-bunkers. Some WN's are particularly worth mentioning .

First of all you have WN La Carrière with 8 bunkers. A 631 flanking to l'Oeillère. From the beach you have an impressive view on the 631 with the huge anti-tank



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wall. This one is also one of the CIOS bunkers (open to the public on certain days). The bunker flanking the other side is a Jäger casemate.

The next WN is Le Braye. Items of note here are a 631b in the anti-tank wall and an early Westwall Regelbau at the end of the parking lot.

WN Kempt Tower has next to the classic Jäger and other casemates an early model of a MG bunker with a steel roof. The bunker is entirely covered with big black-grey stones.

The first prize for design would have certainly been for WN La Crabièrre. Two 631's were built back to back forming a very special shape in the anti-tank wall.

The Jäger casemate of WN Lewis Tower houses nowadays an Atlantic Wall museum. On its Tobruk was has been installed the Renault turret of St Aubin's Fort.

Wrong spot, but on the other hand, everybody can see it now. Before that it stood on private ground.



One of the two 631 casemates of WN La Crabièrre.



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Inland, about 700 m from the beach there are two resistance nests which are worth visiting.

The first is WN La Mare Mill which has a Regelbau with a Sechschartenturm which was the only one built on the Channel Islands. The turret had been covered with rocks to obtain a perfect camouflage which was a complete success because the turret escaped the scrap drive. This casemate is also in the hands of CIOS.

The next one is the WN Doktorhaus. It lies on both sides of a street called Mont Mathieu. Here, on the top of the hill survived another Sechschartenturm. Along the Mont Mathieu is the entrance to a basement with a nice entrance block. This block is unfortunately sealed.

7. L'étaquerel

In the north-west of the island where the St Ouen's bay ends and the cliffs of Les Landes start, there's an impressive rock called Grande Etaquerel. This is Stp L'Etaquerel. In the rock the Germans cut away a 670 which has its entrance on the other side of the rock. A tunnel through the rock connects both blocks.

On the other side of the road, there's a Jäger casemate which has extra rooms for a Sechsschartenturm and its crew. Of course the turret has gone. Now it's a fishmongers .

8. Les Landes

This land-end at the north-west of the island offers two interesting sites.

The first is HKB Moltke with 4 * 15.5 cm K 418 (f) on open emplacements. One of them has been restored by the CIOS, complete with a 15.5 cm gun. Next to it is another emplacement with two gun barrels in it. From here starts a covered trench which connects a M151 crew bunker and a 512 ammunition bunker. It was intended to house a 15 cm SK C/28 gun, but it was never completed. These bunkers are also in the hands

of CIOS. Notice around this complex a few FlaK emplacements and the other sanded emplacements. Two army observation posts are built here, namely M2 and M2a.

In the distance you recognise the impressive observation tower MP3 of Stp Butts. Next to the MP2 there's a large engine bunker which is now firmly sealed. The Marinepeilstand is defended by two 2 cm guns in a FI242.



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The impressive Marine Peilstand MP3.

9. Grève de Lecq

The bay of the Stp with the same name has on each side a gun-casemate, being a 680 for a 7.5 cm PAK 40 and a 670 for a 10.5 cm K 331 (f).

10. Sorel Point

WN Sorel B offers a nice open emplacement for a 10.5 cm K 331 (f) gun, a Wellblech and an army observation post M4.

11. Verclut Point and Arichondel Tower

Also know as St Catherine's bay. This bay was intended to be a port for part of the English fleet. Therefore they started building two large moles. When relations with France improved the work was stopped. Only the one at Verclut Point is finished. You still can see the beginning of the other one at Arichondel.

Two casemates are holding the bay under cross fire. At Verclut you have a 670 constructed in the rock with a backwards entrance, cut away through the rocks.

At

Arichondel there stands a 680. You can have a look inside via the embrasure.



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12. Gorey

This village is dominated by the impressive medieval castle Mont Orgeuill. The HQ of 1/1265. HKAA was located here. On top of the castle the Germans built three small observation turrets in the same structure as the castle. This was army observation post M7.

13. St Peter's bunker

In the center of St Peter you can visit an SK bunker. This is actually a museum with plenty of equipment, weapons, medals, etc. A special point of interest is the mount with the MG34 at the embrasure which covers the cross-road. The HQ of 16. MG Bn was located in the former Alexandra hotel. One can assume the bunker was intended to house the HQ during combat.

14. The Underground hospital

This is probably the war relict on the island with the most publicity. I visited it in 1986 and saw a nice reconstruction of the hospital with operation room, diversion quarter for the doctors and wards. This summer, (2001) I went back, hoping to see a more

extensive reconstruction. But I was really disappointed. Only the most necessary rooms remain : the operation room and the room of the store-keeper. No more diversion quarter and wards. Instead of this, they have installed an exhibition about the evacuation, invasion, occupation and liberation of the island. Nice exhibition, really. But on the wrong spot. When visiting an underground hospital, one expects a medical factory. Moreover the visit wasn't cheap ! Sorry, a dud for the fortification die-hard.

15. La Hougue Bie

You wouldn't expect this, but on the ground of the Celtic burial mound there's also a underground Vf command post which is actually a museum with German equipment.

16. The Living Legend (ex Strawberry farm)

Probably better known as the "Kernwerk" among the Atlantikwall specialists. This was the HQ of the island. One of the 609SK command posts with two floors was a nice museum and was located at the so called Strawberry farm. A 88 mm stood near the

entrance. Actually this location became the entertainment area "The living Legend" . The museum has gone, but the bunker is still there and used as a store. A missed chance, pity! Moreover the bunker can't even be visited from outside.



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On the other hand, another 609SK can be seen at the "La rue du Coin Varin" at the opposite of "The White House". It has still its steel gates, but these are locked.

In one of the "green lanes", "La rue de St Anastase" you can see a piece of a 617 (probably) at private ground.
