



WMF News

WMF is a section of the Simon Stevinstichting
Edition 1 of 2005

Composed by Frank PHILIPPART

Dear Reader,

Here is the first newsletter of 2005 with articles and news from Belgium, France, The Netherlands and Malta. I wish to thank my colleagues from Belgium and abroad for their contributions! Enjoy it.

HAVE A LAUGH!



For once the Graffiti guys showed a sense of humour with this machine gun casemate 623 near the Nollehoofd in Vlissingen (NL). "Zimmer frei" means that there is a room "to let".

Source : Luk Tourlouse

MALTA

The perfect camouflage!

In this photo a British bunker is hidden, try to locate it !



That's it!. A machine gun bunker with two embrasures and an observation copula.



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In fact I was looking for 16th and 17th century fortifications on Malta, but I found some bunkers and I could not resist taking some photos.

The following maps show as accurately as possible the location of this bunker. Unfortunately it is extremely difficult to reach, like the photo shows. The mooring place lay unfortunately on the other bank of the Wied Hoxt.



In La Valette I discovered two nice bunkers on either side of the main entrance that leads through the curtain. They were built into the old gun embrasures of the walls. Their entrance was originally on the banquette of the wall. The roof is closed, so only a machine gun position was possible. Notice also that the entrance alley lies at an angle with regard to the combat room. Both bunkers are closed; the old entrance has been sealed and it was too dangerous to climb down the upper slope to look into the small embrasure.





On top of the 17th century walls I saw a gun carriage. The circle is complete, so I guess it served for an anti-aircraft gun. A little further there were four semi-circle embrasures, just like the embrasures from the 1860's fortifications seen at the Antwerp Forts . Could this be older?



Be aware that many places on Malta are open between June the 1st and end of September. That was the reason why I found many doors closed, because I was there in May. Another disadvantage for us from the North : the temperatures of the Sahara climate are extreme...

Source : Mr Vermeulen

BELGIAN FORTS

Eben-Emael

Here are the dates that the fort of Eben-Emael is open in 2005 from 1000 Hr to 1600 Hr.
March : 12 -13, April : 9 – 10, May : 7 – 8, June : 11 – 12, July : 2 – 3 - 21, August : 27 – 28,
September : 24 – 25, October : 22 – 23, November : 19 – 20.

Source : Haepers Yves (official guide of Eben-Emael)

MAGINOT LINE

The casemate of Morfontaine, C14

This casemate is situated between the small works Mauvais-Bois and Bois du Four. It lies next to the D952 from Villers-la-Montagne to Morfontaine.

It is a CORF (Commission d'Organisation des Régions Fortifiées) casemate of the Ancients Fronts with two combat rooms, called a "casemate double". The ground floor has the two combat rooms and also that of the commander . The lower floor has crew rooms, the diesel engine, storage rooms and the well. Two armored copulas for machine guns and observations complete the casemate's armament. Each combat room has two embrasures. The first embrasure was equipped with a 47 mm anti-tank gun that could be switched with a double machine gun. The second had only a double machine gun.

The casemate has recently been restored by an association.



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Photo : F Philippart

Info from Mr J M Gratian

The CERFE (Centre d'Etude et de Recherche sur la Fortification et son environnement) in association with the Association law 1901 Archaeology Bunker, invite you to their annual opening day on July 14th. For your enjoyment there are two multi-purpose halls (exhibition, colloquium, trade and exchange in military antiques, banquet of friendship, and a Projection room) and one hectare of grounds.

Vehicle Collectors' Associations, any associations dealing with militaria and/or with fortifications are welcome. Situated geographically at the crossroads of the big capitals of Europe, we can welcome more and more guests interested by history. A travelling exhibition (photos and material) is shown every time.

During the year you can contact us to meet in a more quiet atmosphere and to visit the casemate C14. We plan to set up a permanent exhibition about the Maginot Line in at least one room.

KEY POINT: Meeting point for those who are passionate about history and/or fortifications as well as those avid greenhorns who want to know more about it.

The casemate opens its door this year on July the 16th or the 17th.

Curiosity: Shots table for mortar of 50 mm. **Entrance Free.**

Contact : gratian@agf.fr, Tel : 33/(0)6.80.07.38.31
EMMANUEL.WILLIG@WANADOO.FR Tel : 33/(0)6.83.48.39.87

Moreover, our partner, is block 9 of large work Brehain or C2. This CORF casemate is situated some kilometres further. This team will open for you the doors of the casemate to reveal the magnificent job which has been done to restore it.

Contact e. mail: Casemate@yahoo.fr.

The small work of Bousse, A.24

Far away from any highway and hidden in a small forest between the giant Anzelling and the small work Hobling lies the small work Bousse. Initially it was planned to have a 81 mm elevating turret, but due to budget reasons, it was never built. This explains the rather big entrance bloc for



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such a small work. The other blocs are an infantry casemate with an MG elevating turret, an observation bloc and another infantry casemate (without MG turret.)

Info from Mr J M Netzer :

A few years ago (1993) our association lifted this small work out of oblivion and we started renovating to open up this work for the public.

A footpath was laid through the forest to connect all the blocs of the work. It is always accessible for visitors and walkers at their own risk.

Inside we restored the electricity in $\frac{3}{4}$ of the galleries and the rooms and restored the machine gun turret which is now up and running again.

The particularity of the work are the frescos and the names of famous persons in the galleries.

2005 will be for us a continuation and speeding up of the renovation works.

Visits for groups are possible when you send me an email.

The fort is open every 1st Saturday of the month from 1000 Hr to 1500 Hr.

There is place to picnic and to barbecue.

If you have some more questions, you can mail me.

Contact : jmnetzer@hotmail.com

Address : Ouvrage Fort aux Fresques, Rue de la Forêt, F 57320 Hestroff

ATLANTIC WALL

Small bunker in Poperinge



One of our colleagues has found a new German bunker. It was built during World-War II to defend a factory making equipment for U-Boats .

As you can see, it is very small : an entrance and one combat room with two embrasures.

Source : Bart Ketels



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75 mm PAK 40 at Hoek van Holland

In January the Atlantikwall Museum located in the 625b in Hoek van Holland, became the proud owner of an original PAK 40 anti-tankgun.

The gun, formerly located in the National War and Resistance Museum in Overloon, was transported by road to Hoek van Holland last Saturday. In Overloon the gun endured 30 years of weather damage, since it was standing outside that whole period.

In the coming months, the gun will be restored to its original state as far as it is possible by the; Stichting Vesting Hoek van Holland foundation, together with the help of various sponsors.

The goal is to place the gun back in the bunker by May 5th, which is the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands.

The 5 cm KwK which the museum houses right now, will temporarily be stored elsewhere until the expansion-plans can become reality.

For more information and pictures considering this news, you can check out our website: www.atlantikwall-museum.nl (English version accessible on the top right corner)

Source : Peter de Krom (Stichting Vesting HvH)

Excavations and restorations in Wijk aan Zee in the Netherlands

On January the 19th and 20th The WOVIJ Foundation started a new project.

In the village Wijk aan Zee in the Netherlands the Foundation has two bunkers in property.

This is a radarbunker V143 *Mammutstand* and a M151 personnel bunker.

We started by opening the front and doors of both bunkers with a hydraulic crane. After the removal of all the rubbish and concrete debris we could start with the cleanup of the bunkers. Finally we secured the bunkers with new armored doors.

The final aim is to setup an exhibition in the V143 which we hope to open later this year.

Source : Ron Bakker (Foundation WOVIJ)

Contact : Info@wovij.nl

Thanks to Yvonne Mayo for the spell check.

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