



WMF News

WMF is a section of the Simon Stevin Centrum
Edition 2 of 2005

Composed by Frank PHILIPPART

Dear Reader,

Here is the second newsletter of 2005. In spite of all the efforts of associations, individuals and official bodies, we have to note that the objects of our interest are disappearing. But on the other hand I can announce some good things too. Enjoy it.

ATLANTIC WALL

Bunkers in De Haan preserved !!!

During the war, the centre of the village of De Haan was a strongpoint *Stp Blücher* comprising command- and personal bunkers. Today a few remain safely hidden behind the bushes and mansions. It consists of a command bunker 117b for a battalion or a regiment, a crew bunker for two groups, type 622 and a command bunker, type 608.

The 117b was the command bunker of the 1st Battalion, 216th Regiment, 171st Infantry Division. However, the maps also mention the presence in the village of the command post of the army coastal artillery regiment 940 (HKAR). Please note that HKAR 940 was renamed the HKAR 1240 from 12th December 1943 on. So one of them manned our 117b and the other the 608.

The first is a command bunker for a battalion or a regiment, a *Regelbau* 117b. Originally called : ***Bataillons- oder Regimentsgefechtsstand***. It stands next to the *Carpe Diem* hotel and is in a good state apart from the close-combat room that has been removed to give more parking space. In fact the bunker was built in a dune and on it stands a villa. Most remarkable is the fact that the hotel may use it because the entrances are on their side. On the walls at the entrance the bunker number is still visible and inside all the armoured doors remain together with the inscriptions of the rooms' function.



On may door you still see inscriptions the rooms' function.

On the other side of the village is a second bunker, a *Regelbau* 622 designed for two groups of soldiers; originally called a ***Doppelgruppenunterstand***. This one belonged to the 2nd Cie, Bn I/216 of ID 171. This 622 has two peculiarities. The Tobruk entrance is also the entrance to a tunnel that lead to the country house behind the bunker stands. The length of the tunnel is the same as the length of the bunker. Nowadays the end of the tunnel is closed. The second peculiarity is the fresco's painted on the walls, one in each room. Finally the bunker numbers are still on the walls at the entrances.

Between the country house and the bunker is a swimming pool that for sure dates from the war years. The bunker stands behind villa Bohème in the Jean d'Ardenneaan.



WMF News

WMF is a section of the Simon Stevin Centrum
Edition 2 of 2005

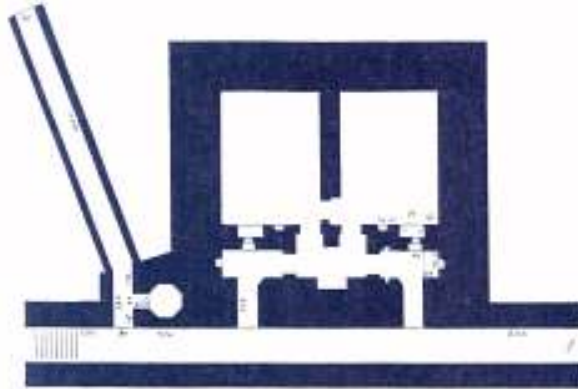
Composed by Frank PHILIPPART



The fesco's at the walls of the 622.

A second bunker that belonged to this group was also a command bunker, *Regelbau* 608, but a large country house has been built on it completely obliterating any traces

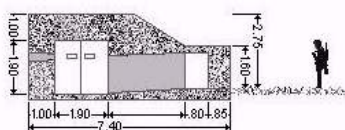
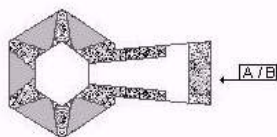
How come they became protected? Some years ago, the Ministry of Monuments & Landscapes asked WMF to make an inventory of all remaining interesting objects of the Atlantic Wall with a view to preserving them. Almost all objects that we proposed were accepted to be included in a conservation proposal for the minister, except for the bunkers of De Haan and a few others. Reason? Quite easy. The whole center of the village is already under a conservation order as "village view" for its picturesque character.



The schema of Regelbau 622 at De Haan © F Philippart

Small bunker in Poperinge

In the first newsletter of 2005 I mentioned that a small bunker has been found. Now, I have received the plan of it.
Source : Bart Ketels ©



COUPE A / B
CUT A / B

The field battery at the Cabour site in Adinkerke

We know that the field battery with six open emplacements and three interesting bunker has been preserved since 10 June



WMF News

WMF is a section of the Simon Stevin Centrum
Edition 2 of 2005

Composed by Frank PHILIPPART

1999. Since then many things have changed for the battery. The command bunker, type 610, and one of the gun casemates, type 611, have been renovated.

In March of this year the book "Cabour 80 jaar IWVA" was presented. The book describes not only the battery, but also the history of the oldest dunes of Europe, the castle that served as field hospital during World War I and the museum of the water winning organization (IWVA). During this occasion the alderman of the village De Panne gave a rough sketch of the evolution of the battery to the actual situation. (Adinkerke is merged with the village De Panne). At last it looked like De Panne has the willingness to support the renovation of the battery.

Association Fort de La Creche

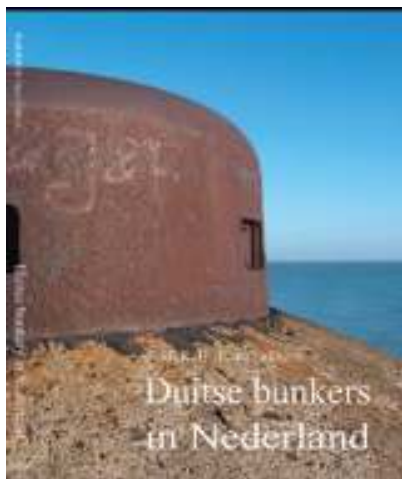
Finally this great site will no longer be a garbage dump or a location for tramps and others... It takes an honorable place next to the Battery Todt and Raversijde in Belgium. At this moment in time the AFLC members are doing their best to renovate it. From a message from the AFLC I have the following information : The visit of the site takes about 1 hour and 15'. You can visit the site on the following Sundays : 22nd May, 5th and 19th June, 10th and 24th July, 7th and 2nd August and 4th and 18th September. The visits start at 1530 Hr and 1700 Hr. Groups can also visit the fort on other days after having made an appointment. The entrance is along side the CD 96.

The barracks of the old Séré de Rivière fort have been cleaned and a 130 mm naval gun from the destroyer Chacal is awaiting refitting. The destroyer fired on the Creche battery in May 1940 before it was sunk in front of Ambleteuse.

Now they have an own website : www.fortdelacreche.asso.fr

Hopefully there will be an association to take care of the battery MKB Oldenburg and the battery Zuydcoote (MKB Malo Terminus) too!!

New bunker book about bunkers in the Netherlands



The title of this must for the bunker freak is "**Duitse bunkers in Nederland**". It's an inventory of the constructed and the remaining German defence works in the Netherlands.

It contains 240 pages, the size is 25.5 x 21 cm and it has a hard cover.

The contents are : introduction, coastal defence, operational works, an inventory by type (Regelbau) and a geographical inventory.

In the book are also 213 site plans, bunker types and special constructions, 73 photos and 119 maps.

The authors are two giants in their field : Hans Sakkers and Rudi Rolf. The editor is Rudi Rolf. On 17th May this new book appears on the market.

The price is 40 €, (port costs in The Netherlands : 3 €, rest of Europe : 5.7 € .

Make a bank transfer to Rudi's Bank. His account is 69 83 05 043. The address data is Rudi Rolf, Middelburg, NL

And don't forget to mention your name and address !!!!



WMF News

WMF is a section of the Simon Stevin Centrum
Edition 2 of 2005

Composed by Frank PHILIPPART

New Museum "Remember" in Brittany



This might be a nice trip when you pass your holidays in Brittany, France.

I have been informed that recently a new museum opened its doors in Brittany near Dinan. It's situated in an old quarry and contains more than 2000 items. One of the most remarkable exhibits is the reconstruction of an Atlantic Wall bunker complete with its crew room, radio room and the gun room with 47 mm PAK 36(t)!!!

The museum has also the famous German 88 mm gun.

The museum is open on school holidays and public holidays from 1000 Hr to 1200 Hr and from 1330 Hr to 1830 Hr.

The address is : Le Pont de la Haye, Léhon, 22100 Dinan, France

Telephone number : 00 33 (0)2 96 39 53 48

The museum is located south-west from Dinan not far from the main

entrance of the "Centre Hospitalier Spécialisé Saint Jean de Dieu"

The access is signposted.

Source : Manu Leysen

MAGINOT LINE

Works are covered with earth

During 1997 the French military authority decided to fill the diamond ditches with earth to avoid that people got hurt if they tumbled into them. Unfortunately they did it so clumsily that not only the ditches were filled, but also the embrasures of some blocs. Then it was quiet again, but the worst had still to come.



The actual view at the entrance block of the large work Billig. (source : internet)



WMF News

WMF is a section of the Simon Stevin Centrum
Edition 2 of 2005

Composed by Frank PHILIPPART

Unexpectedly , during March and April of this year the entrances and combat blocs of some interesting large works have now totally been covered with earth. Namely Metrich, Billig, Mont de Welches and Soetrich. In February I saw that the personal entrance of the latter was still open, but at the end of April I found the entrance completely covered with earth. It's not only earth but also the entrance was blocked with a wall of concrete bricks.

The FASF (Fédération des Associations de Sauvegarde de la Fortification) had asked them not to cover them but to keep the view on the blocs, but unfortunately their request wasn't heeded.

After a couple of year bushes will grow on the piles of earth and then you won't be able to find their location anymore.

I wonder if this is the French government's way to have the Maginot Line disappear from the landscape. Are they ashamed of their own masterpieces of technology??? This is a mistake, a big mistake!!!

Anyway, the good thing is that you can remove the pile of earth as easily as they've put it there. The only thing is to find a politician who wants to listen and who wants to do something....

BELGIAN FORTS

Eben-Emael

On the dates when you can visit the fort (June : 11 – 12, July : 2 – 3 - 21, August : 27 – 28, September : 24 – 25, October : 22 – 23, November : 19 – 20) from 1000 Hr to 1600 Hr., there are special tours to visit turret "Noord" inside and outside, turret "Zuid" inside, "Kanaal Noord" inside and "Mi Noord".

You have to subscribe to these tours, because the groups are limited to 15 persons.

More info on www.fort-eben-emael.be .

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

Flémalle

This fort with a trapezium shape WAS constructed from 1888 to 1892 and is one of the many In a circle around Liège. Together with its neighbour it was to block any enemy advance through the Maas valley.

From 1994 an association organised visits to the fort and since 1997 the association is now official.

In that time they have removed tons of earth and rubbish from the rooms where the museum has been created. They have installed lighting in the rooms and galleries following the specifications of 1892 and a heating for the museum. Besides that they have also organised visits, the maintenance of the fort, the promotion of their fort and functions such as Saint Barbe including veterans for the May 1940 commemorations.

This fort is open on every 1st Saturday of the month with visits at 1000 Hr, 1400 hr and 1600 Hr.

For more info contact the secretariat of the association :

Paul Charlier, rue Wilmotte Dupont 5, 4500 Huy, email : tunnelrats@hotmail.com

Internet site : <http://www.members.lycos.fr/scrivarius>

Thanks to Yvonne Mayo for the spell check.

=====