



WMF News

WMF is a section of the Simon Stevin Centrum
Edition 2 of 2007

Composed by Frank PHILIPPART

Dear Reader,

Here is the second newsletter for 2007. It gives a summary of our annual fortification fair Fortendag and also some good news about other Atlantikwall sites. Enjoy it.

Fortification fair : FORTENDAG 2007

On Saturday, June the 16th we, the “Simon Stevin Centrum” and the “vzw Fort Eben-Emael” organized the Fifth fortification fair “Fortendag 2007.”

The events took place in the fort of Eben-Emael, the largest fort in Europe on the eve of the second world war.

A total of 24 associations and publishers were present at our Fortendag comprising a Belgian, a French, a Dutch and a Polish publisher, 12 Belgian, 2 French, 2 Dutch, a German and a Czech association and a French and a Dutch author. 12 associations sent us leaflets and posters : 8 French, 2 Dutch and 2 Belgian associations.



They were : The Simon Stevin Centrum (be), the CHLAM (be), the Menno Van Coehoorn Stichting (nl), Stichting Maastricht Vestingstad (nl), De Krijger (be), Fortress Books (nl), Librairie Histoire & Fortification (fr), Forteca (pl), Raversijde (be), Rudi Rolf (nl), Junien Depret (fr), Fort Aubin-Neufchâteau (be), fort of Barchon (be), Fort of Hologne (be), Fort of Kessel (be), Fort of Liezele (be), Fort Napoleon (SVE) (be), Klub Vojensle Historie Nachod (cz), the Maginot work Fermont (fr), the Maginot work Galgenberg (fr), Fort 4 (be), Festung Archäologische Arbeitsgesellschaft (de), and the fortified city of Dendermonde (be).





The associations who sent leaflets were the Maginot works Four-à-Chaux, Rohrbach, Immerhof, the Atlantic wall fortress Cité d'Aleth (fr), La Coupole (fr), V3 base of Mimoyecques (fr), Fort 2 (be), Fort de Verny (fr), Villey-le-Sec (fr), VCM (be), Fort aan de Hoek van Holland (nl) and Stichting Bunkerbehoud (nl).

Fort 4 brought their exhibition "Crossing the Lines".

The weather was not with us but that did not deter the enthusiasts, they came from everywhere. It was a success, for the fair and for the fort. We received 1000-1500 visitors and 824 also visited the fort!

The next fair "**Fortendag 2008**" takes place in the fortified city of Dendermonde on October the 4th 2008.

Pictures : Philippart - Leysen

ATLANTIKWALL

Command bunker 117b destroyed in Westkapelle (be)

A "Regimentsgefechtsstand" type 117b of the 732nd Regiment of the 712th Infantry Division was built in Westkapelle (Kalvekeetdijk) near Knokke-Heist.

This bunker was painted during the war with a "brick-wall" camouflage. Even in 2006 a part of this original camouflage between the entrance and the "Nakampfscharte" was still visible. The bunker has been used as a wine cellar by the adjacent restaurant.

Some days ago, I've read in the local newsletter "Tam-Tam" (dd.26 April 2007), that the new owner of the restaurant decided to demolish the bunker to make room for a bigger and more beautiful garden.

It's a pity that this unique bunker on the Belgian coast, had to be demolished and could no longer be integrated into a (new) garden concept.



This beautiful brick pattern is no more... (pict Philippart)

M.Leyesen

Editor's Note : Destroying a lump of armored concrete with wall 2 m thick. It must have cost a fortune! And just for a garden? It cannot be expensive enough.

20 bunker sites are now preserved monuments !

Now some better news. In WMF-News number 2 of 2006 I wrote about the study on the remaining Atlantic Wall sites in Belgium that the Ministry of Monuments & Landscapes asked to make in 2002. The Ministry chose 20 from the 28 proposed bunker sites. The decision was signed on February, 26th 2007.



These are the ones :

1. WN Ludendorf at the bridge on the Westkapelse Steenweg, nearby nr. 160, 8380 Brugge
2. The remains of Stp Blankenberghe Mole, at the Oude Wenduinse steenweg opposite nr 3.
3. The remains of Stp Westlich den Haan, at the Koninklijke Baan next to the "Zeepreventorium" at De Haan.
4. The remains of railroad battery E 690 , at the Koninklijke Baan at Bredene.
5. The storage bunker of Stp Hafen – at the Slipwaykaai at Oostende .
6. The transformer bunker of Stp Hafen at the Dokter Edouard Moreauxlaan at Oostende.
7. The transformer bunker of Stp Hafen at the Godetiastraat at Oostende .
8. The bunker for a anti-tankgun (505) of PzStp Blaue Schleuse- at the Brugsesteenweg 37, at Bredene
9. The bunker for a 5 cm KwK (667) of the Landront of Oostende at the Polderdijk 2 at Zandvoorde .
10. The observation post of the Landfront of Oostende at the Polderdijk at Zandvoorde
11. The remains of a field battery at the Grintweg nearby nr. 121at Zandvoorde
12. The air-raid shelter at the Stationsstraat at Zandvoorde
13. The command bunker (117b) of Stp Illtis at the Oudstationstraat nr.8 at Stene.
14. The remains of Stp Seydlitz at the Strandlaan and the Koning Ridderdijk at Westende.
15. The former army coastal battery at the ex-camping Cosmos at the St Laureinsstrand at the Koninklijke Baan 151 at Westende.
16. The remains of Stp Seeckt at the Kustweg 101, at Lombardsijde.
17. The remains of the Navy coastal battery Ramien at the Oude Zeedijk at Nieuwpoort.
18. The remains of the former army coastal battery Groenendijk Plage at WN Karthauserdünen at the crossroads of the Kinderlaan, Toekomstlaan and Nieuwpoortse Steenweg at Oostduinkerke.
19. The remains of the command center of the 171^e Infantry Division at the IJzerheemplein nr 1, Gasthuisstraat nr 6 and Willem Telllaan nr 3 at Diksmuide.
20. The control tower of an German airfield in 1940 at the Westvleterse Weg at Poperinge.

A third Belgian 12 cm is found

In one of the previous newsletters we wrote about the remaining K 370 (b) guns : one in the Army Museum in Brussels and one in Norway.

One of our readers, Daniel Schellenberger, discovered a third one in the artillery collection of the german army in Idar Oberstein.

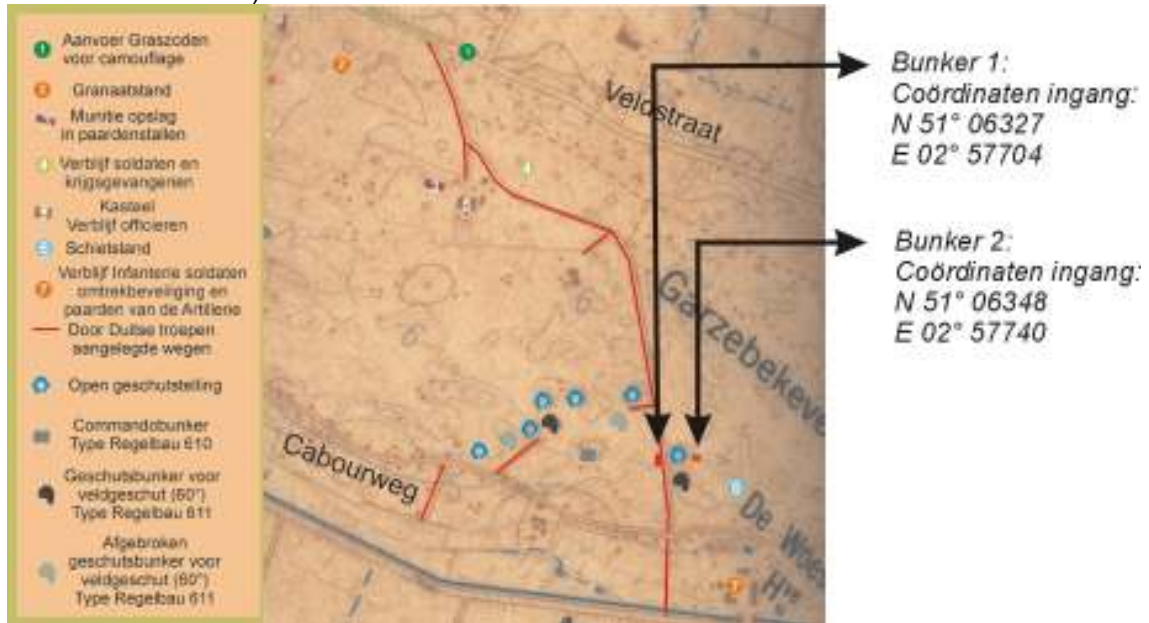
The photo's are by Daniel Schellenberger.





The ammunition bunkers of Stp Schlieffen

Recently I rediscovered the two ammunition bunkers of the field battery of Adinkerke. (Stp Schlieffen Ost W 049)



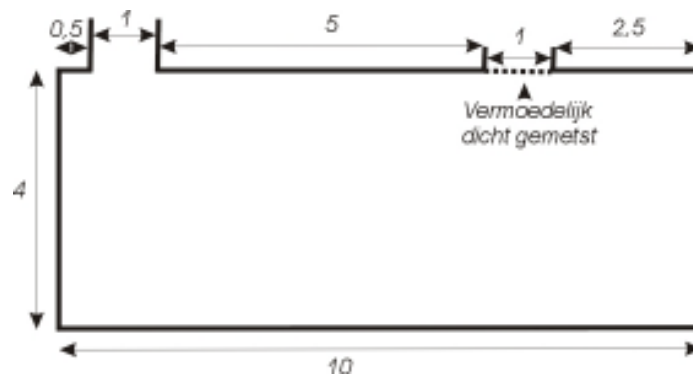
Bunker 1:
Coördinaten ingang:
N 51° 06327
E 02° 57704

Bunker 2:
Coördinaten ingang:
N 51° 06348
E 02° 57740

Bunker 1

The bunker is completely covered with sand. It lies approximately 4 m next to the north-south dirt road through the area. The roof lies beneath the level of the road. Inside the bunker is filled with sand, there is only 50 – 60 cm room left. The walls are brick and are 40 cm thick. The roof is concrete and is slightly bent. It's about 55 - 60 cm thick. Built-on wall let's assume that there was a second entrance but it's closed. Another almost identical bunker in the Cabour area dated certainly from world war I and has inside a height of 2.2 m. Probably the bunker was built during the first world war and reused during the second war.

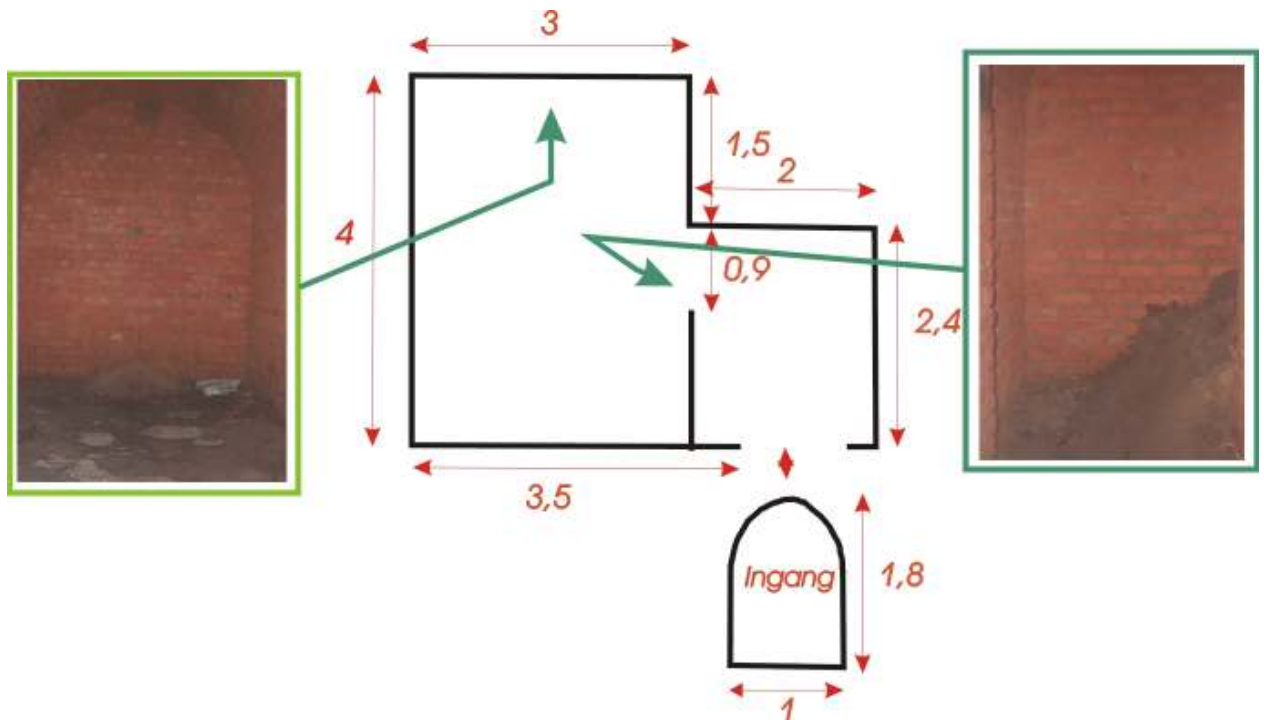
Remark : Measuring the bunker is done by looking for the edges and corners by means of a stick. To have exact figure we would have to dig it out completely, but this is not possible seeing the location of the bunker.





Bunker 2

This bunker is completely covered with sand. It lies next to the open emplacement N of bunker 358. The bunker is built with the same kind of bricks as used for the open emplacements. The walls and the vaults have a thickness of 40 cm. On the vaults is a thin layer of concrete. The height is about 2 m. After the research the staff of the department "Natuur en Bos" closed the entrance with sand and a concrete plate.



Note : Both bunkers have already been set on the map by P Francart but could not be located anymore until now.

Guido Mahieu

Würzburg radar

More good news. The curator of the Atlantic Wall museum of Raversijde, Mr Deseyne, confirmed to me firmly that the Würzburg radar of Humain (in the Belgian Ardennes) is coming to Raversijde. Only he did not specify it in time.

BOOKS

La Muraille de France

A new edition of the well known big blue book of Truttmann is announced. It has been reworked with new drawings.



Fortresse Boulogne-sur-Mer

This soft cover book with 176 pages continues the history of the Festung Boulogne from 1940 to 1944. Each battery and strongpoint is described with a plan, several photos from during the war and bunkerschema's of the special constructions. The authors have an eye for details. For example, in this book you see the schema of the third bunker of the Friedrich August battery which was for long time unknown. It shows also a photo and a location plan of the fire control post of the same battery.

The authors are Alain Chazette, Jacky Laurent, Alain Destouches and Jacques Tomine. The publisher is Editions Histoire et Fortifications.

ISBN : 2-915767-09-2 Price : 29 €

Mr Chazette is also working on similar books for Calais and Dunkerque.



De kust bezet

This wonderful and interesting book gives you a detailed study of the German Coast defences in Belgium during the first World War. The first part of the book explained the "Marinekorps Flandern". Is this part you can read about the history, the tasks and the operations and even a global view of the uniforms and the weapons of the German "Marinekorps."

In the second part of the book you read about the "German coast defences". The history, the job and how a battery looked like will be explained and completed by a description of each battery (one by one). The author tells you what happened after the war with those coast defences and gives an overview of the different war museums that existed on the Belgian coast after the war... This "unique" book with "hundreds" of pictures taken during and after the first world-war is recommended for those who are interested in the coast defences...

Author: **Alex Deseyne** Responsible publisher : Hilaire Ost, "Provinciegriffer"

Print : Goekint Graphics nv Oostende

ISBN : D/2007/0248/11. Year : 2007 Number of pages : 277. Language : Dutch

You can buy this book at: Domein Raversijde (Oostende-Belgium).



Source : M. Leysen

"OSTWALL" (Die vergassene Festungsfront "Oder-Warthe-Bogen")

This wonderful book gives a general overview of the Oder-Warthe-Bogen (Ostwall) build by the Germans in the period of 1930-1936 between the rivers Oder and Warthe in front of the Polish border. After a short chapter about the history, the author explained the different components of the Ostwall: sorts of tunnels, weapons, periscopes, panzer turrets, M19-turrets, etc... The second part of the book gives an overview (one by one) of the different "panzer works" (fortresses). This book is written in German and is easy to read. Sometimes there are more colour-pictures as text. A beautiful book for those who want to know more about the Ostwall....

Author : **Christel Focken** Publisher : HELIOS ISBN 3-938208-23-6

Printed in Serbia. Number of pages : 104. Year : 2006. Language : German

Source : M. Leysen



Thanks to Yvonne Mayo for the spell check.

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