



WMF News

WMF is a section of the Simon Stevin Centrum
Edition 2 of 2012

Composed by Frank PHILIPPART

FORTENDAG 2012

Saturday 29 Sep

This year, our fair about forts, bunkers and fortified cities takes place at the fort of Stabroek to the north of Antwerp. You can visit the fair from 1100 Hr till 1700 Hr. Next to the fair you have the possibility to visit the fort as well. Fort Stabroek is one of the forts constructed around Antwerp just before the outbreak of the First World War.

If you want to participate with a stand or with leaflets about your fort, bunker or fortified city, let me know and I'll send you a form of tender.

My address : Frank.philippart@simonstevin.org

How to get there?

Take exit 13 on highway A12. Turn to the right in the direction of Stabroek. At the traffic lights, turn to the left, direction Berendrecht. This is the Adbtdreef. The fort lies about 1.5 Km on your right side. There will be road signs.

SPOTLIGHT ON A MUSEUM

Museum : Hürtgenwald 1944 und im Frieden

This small, new museum is located in the small village Vossenack in the northern part of the Eifel in Germany. The museum gives information about the bloody battle of the Hürtgenwald which took place in the autumn of 1944. This was really a black page in the history of the US forces. In the museum you find information about the Westwall, but not too extensive. There's a video about the battle of the Hürtgenwald next to the classic artefacts of the battlefield. They built also several sceneries with soldiers and equipment.

There are also lots of books for sale about bunkers and the Hürtgenwald.

<http://www.huertgenwald.de/index.php?go=tourismus&museum2&0>

Pfarrer-Dickmann-Straße 21 - 23

52393 Hürtgenwald

Phone - Fax: 00 49 - (0) 24 29 - 90 26 13 (only during opening hours)

The museum is always open from the First Sunday from March until the last Sunday of November. It's only open on Sunday from 1100 Hr to 1700 Hr

Museum : Regelbau 32, Dressing station bunker

This dressing station bunker lies in the small village Simonskall which lies down in the valley of the Kall river. The bunker was initially camouflaged with an house on top of it. For sure this has saved its life because the bunker is completely intact. A few years ago the original house was broken down to build a new one. The bunker has entirely renewed with door, stoves, racks and equipment.

How do you find it? It's easy, but you have to know. When you come from Vossenack, there's a last curve in the road, just before you enter the village. At that moment you see a pale-red house in front of you. Under it lies the bunker.

For the opening hours, you have to contact the museum in Vossenack.

The Hürtgenwald, open-air museum



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But, the whole region (Vossenack, Simonskall, Hürtgen, the Hürtgenwald, the Buhlert,...) is one big museum. Everywhere you encounter objects that remembers the fears fights between the American and German soldiers. There are the Westwall bunkers of Der Buhlert which are not exploded. There are the hills Ochsenkopf and Peterberg which cover lots bunker ruins, trenches, fox holes and also a few monuments of soldiers who were found decades after the war. There are the german military cemeteries. On the one of Vossenack is Fieldmarshall Walter Model buried.

In Vossenack you can follow the famous Kall Trail, the way the 28th Infantry Division followed to reach Schmidt at the other side of the valley.

Spread over the other villages you'll find other monuments and graves.

To conclude, visiting the museum together with the region is worth to make the trip.

Historisch-Literarische Wanderwege

This is a map with a description for 6 walks in the region of the Hürtgenwald. All are related to a development in 1944. Each walk is described with the history what happened in 1944.

I bought the map in the Talschenke hotel in Simonskall.

Language : german

Hürtgenwald 1944/1945

Militärgeschichtlicher Tourenplaner

This pocket book describes the entrance in Germany in September 1944 and the heavy battles in the Hürtgenwald during the autumn 1944. The main part of the book is a travel guide through the region to see the bunkers, cemeteries, monuments etc.

Language : german. Pages : 184.

The author is Rainer Monnarts.

ISBN : 978-3-938208-68-7

Publisher : Helios

EASTERN FRONT

Sapun Gora

The Sapun Gora is a mountain of 240 m high and has a length of 8 kilometres. Sapun Gora lies 6 Km to the south-east of Sebastopol. The Russians made a fortified position of this mountain with trenches and bunkers. This position was a part of the second defence line around Sebastopol. From this height the Russians could observe all movements to the south of the city.

The Germans assaulted this position at the end of 1942. After two weeks of heavy fights the Germans had the control over the mountain. The way to Sebastopol was open.

The battle for the liberation of Sebastopol took place in May 1944. The Germans had the former position reinstalled and reinforced. The Russians assaulted the mountain on 7 May 1944 and the battle took 9 hours.

Today the Sapun Gora is set up as an open air museum with a scale model of the Russian attack of 7 May 1944.



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A 10.5 cm "leichte Feldhaubitze (leFH) 18/40" light howitzer in a reinforced position.





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German wooden shelter and a trench.



A Russian bunker





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View at the former battlefield from the highest top of the Sapun Gora

The Sapun Gora Memorial Complex
<http://www.worldwalk.info/en/catalog/296/>

Jan Cauwenberghs

BOOKS

Le Secteur Fortifié de Maubeuge face à l'invasion de mai 1940

Author : Julien Depret

With 550 unpublished photo's and tours

248 pages at format A4.

Price : Pre-subscription (before 31 July) 25 €. After 31 July it's 30 €. Mind, this is without postage. For the exact postage and orders, contact Mr Depret at julien.depret@free.fr

Le Fort de Janus

This book describes one of the powerful Maginot works of the French Alps. It's situated at 2500 m altitude. More curious is that it was initially a fort of the type Séré de Rivières.

Author : Franck Marquillie.

220 pages and 300 photos and plans, format A4.

Price : 45 €.

Forecast for the publication : Christmas 2012.

For orders and info about the postage, contact the author at :
Franck Marquillie, Terre Noire, 05100 La Vachette, France

De Atlantikwall op Schouwen-Duiveland

This book is new, but not brandnew.

This A4 hardcover book describes all the strongpoints and batteries of the Atlantikwall on the Dutch island Schouwen-Duiveland in the Scheldt estuary.

For each strongpoint and batterij there is a decent description and the known history.

The authors describe not only the the strongpoints, but also how it all started in 1940.

The book counts 240 pages and 350 illustrations and photos.

Language : dutch

Authors and publishers : P.C. Heijkoop and J. Rijpsma.

Published in Middelburg in 2010

ISBN : 978-90-78012-07-8

Thanks to Yvonne Mayo for the spell check.

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