



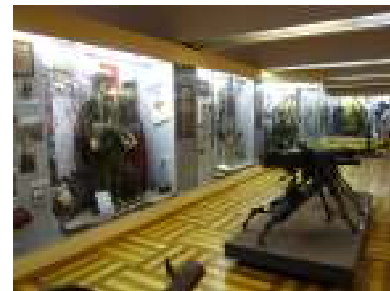
SPOTLIGHT ON A MUSEUM

The army museum of Prague



The museum is not described as a tourist attraction, but it lies next to one of the iconic monuments of the city. If you have forgotten the town map, then you can easily locate the museum because it's under the National Monument in Zizkov. You can see the monument from far. Although it's outside the ancient city centre, you can reach it with the Underground within a little more than 15 minutes.

The entrance to the museum is free and it has four departments : WW-I, WW-II, the interwar period and a temporary exhibition about sports during the world war in Czech.



I have already visited quite a few museums during the last years and this was a nice collection and presentation of mannequins and uniforms. I noticed that the WW-II room was better presented in dioramas than the WW-I room and that made it more interesting to look at.

If you are a real layman about the subject, then you'll not learn much because the English explanation is minimal. If you want to see heavy material like guns, tanks and airplanes, then you have to visit one of the other two museums in the country. The only heavy piece is a Russian T34/85 tank that stands in front of the museum.

Details :

Armadni Muzeum Zizkov

U Pamatniku 2

130 05 Praha 3, Zizkov

Open every day from 1000 Hr – 1800 Hr except on Mondays

Contact : museum@army.cz www.vhu.cz

The tank and artillery museum :

Vojenske Technicke Muzeum Lesany

Lesany, Okres Benesov

Open in June and September on Saturdays and Sundays from 0930 Hr – 1730 Hr.

Open in July and August from Tuesday to Sundays from 0930 Hr – 1730 Hr.

Contact : museum@army.cz www.vhu.cz



The air force museum :

Letecké Muzeum Kbely

Mladoboleslavská ul, Praha 9-Kbely

Open from May to October from 1000 Hr – 1800 Hr, except on Mondays.

Contact : museum@army.cz www.vhu.cz

Source : Anita Philippart



hole. This kind of bunker was also covered by a smaller machine gun bunker on the friendly side of the ditch.

The ditch which was 13 to 18 m wide had a depth varying from 2 to 2.5 m. It had a broken shape and each corner was defended by a machine gun bunker.

The lock bunker in the Mastenbos

Source : F. Philippart

New numbering for the bunkers at the Antwerp Anti-tank ditch

Let us stress that it is not my intention to degrade the work of Joseph the Hasque. His book published posthumously by the Simon Stevin Foundation in 1990 is still the standard work on this matter, all other publications are indebted to his work .

Without his book, I could never had made such an in depth study on this matter.

But the current numbering of the bunkers stated in his book are no longer sustainable.

Since the release of the Moscow archives (Fund 185) and the archives QGT, now to be found in the Documentation Centre of the Royal Army Museum in Brussels, we have a wealth of new information.

We now have a clearer understanding of the planning and execution of the works delivered by the then contractors.

Accurate analysis of military maps and the correspondence between the 2nd Board of Engineers and Fortifications of Antwerp and the then contractors clarify the location and type of bunkers of the Anti-tank ditch.

The public tender for the bunkers of the anti-tank ditch was divided in three sectors :

Sector 1 : From the Scheldt to Fort Ertbrand: 17 bunkers in one batch goes to the company : Florent van den Bulck , Molenlei 33 Merskem. From now on known under the code Entreprise ' K

Sector 2 : Fort Ertbrand the canal Antwerp – Turnhout: 18 bunkers in two batches goes to the company : Société d' Etudes des Grands Travaux d' Anvers SA (S.E.G.T.A.) Chaussée de Haecht 159 Brussels. From now on known under the code Entreprise 'U'.

Sector 3 : From the canal Antwerp - Turnhout to the Albert canal: 16 bunkers in one batch goes to the company: Leon Lemmens Lommelsebaan 100 Leopoldsburg. From now on known under the code Entreprise ' O'.

On the worksheets for the contractors they are always indicated by the letter code of the contractor

(K for van den Bulck) and their number , A if the bunker is paired with another bunker (KA1 , KA1bis - UA9 , UA9bis - OA19 , OA19bis) , and with the letter B if it concerns a single bunker (KB1 , UB3 , OB5).

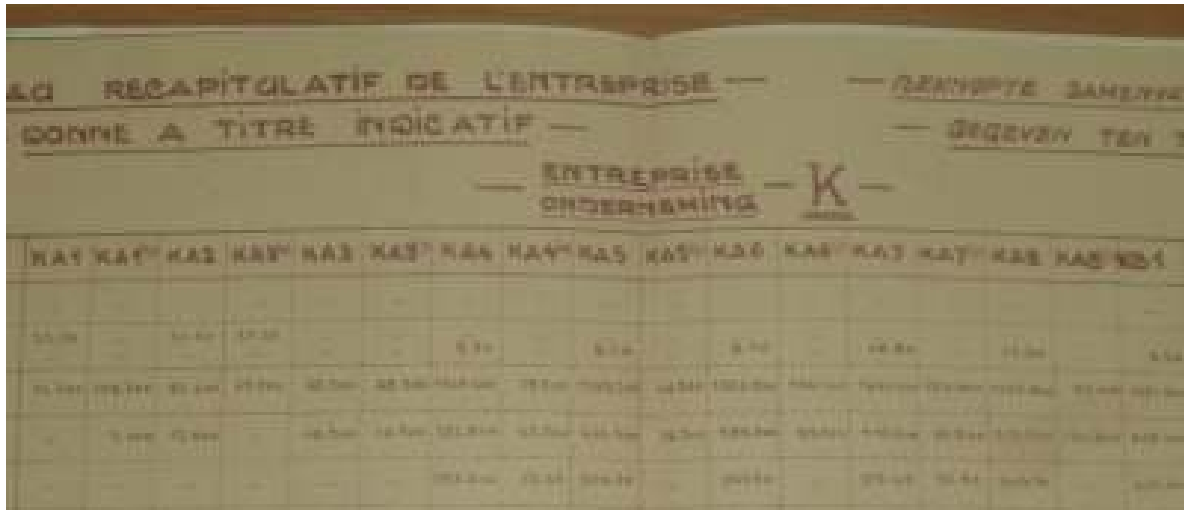
This gives for the first sector in order:



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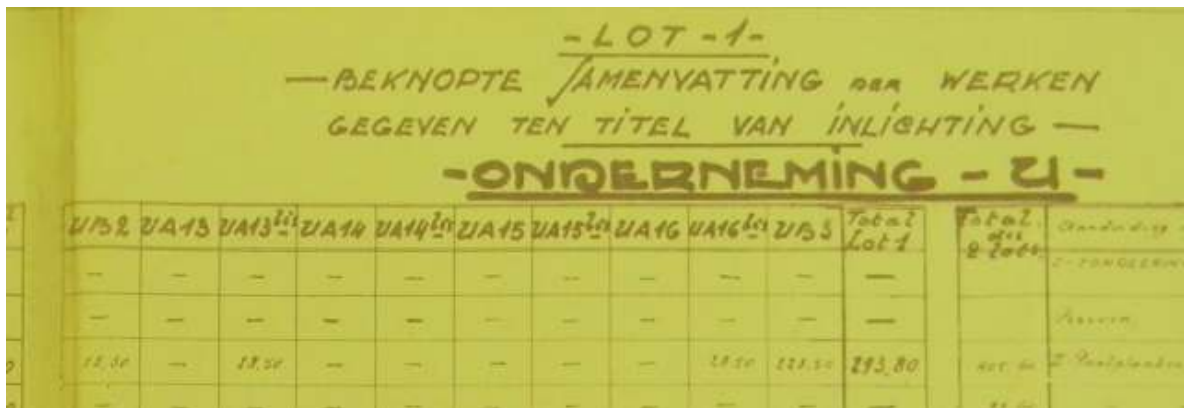
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KA1	KA1bis	KA2	KA2bis	KA3	KA3bis	KA4	KA4bis	KA5
KA5bis	KA6	KA6bis	KB1	KA7	KA7bis	KA8	KA8bis	



For the second sector:

UA9	UA9bis	UA10	UA10bis	UA11	UA11bis	UA12	UA12bis	UB2
UA13	UA13bis	UA14	UA14bis	UA15	UA15bis	UA16	UA16bis	UB3



For the third sector:

OB4	OA17bis	OA17	OA18bis	OA18	OA19bis	OA19	OB5
OA20bis	OA20	OA21bis	OA21	OA22bis	OA22	OA23bis	OA23



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We know from the vouchers that all these bunkers were built . Several military plans and the Annex of GH/6388 from.27 june 1946 show all these bunkers

The Hasque however, missed the first four bunkers of sector 1 and bunker B5 from sector 3 , they were by then already gone at the time of his research work .

Bunker B2 from sector 2 was still there , but not knowing the existence of 'B-type' bunkers he erroneously named it (A12) to match the sequence.

From the information he had, he probably started counting backwards from the bunkers he knew and the ones that were still in place.

He then with some speculation and a bit of guesswork gave the number to the bunkers that had been in his supposed list . Even the non existing bunker BA15/A24

The contractors who built the small lock bunkers Ba IV in sector 1 and Ba VIII in sector 2 are still unknown.

They are not included in any of the known specification lists

Corrected numbering of the bunkers.



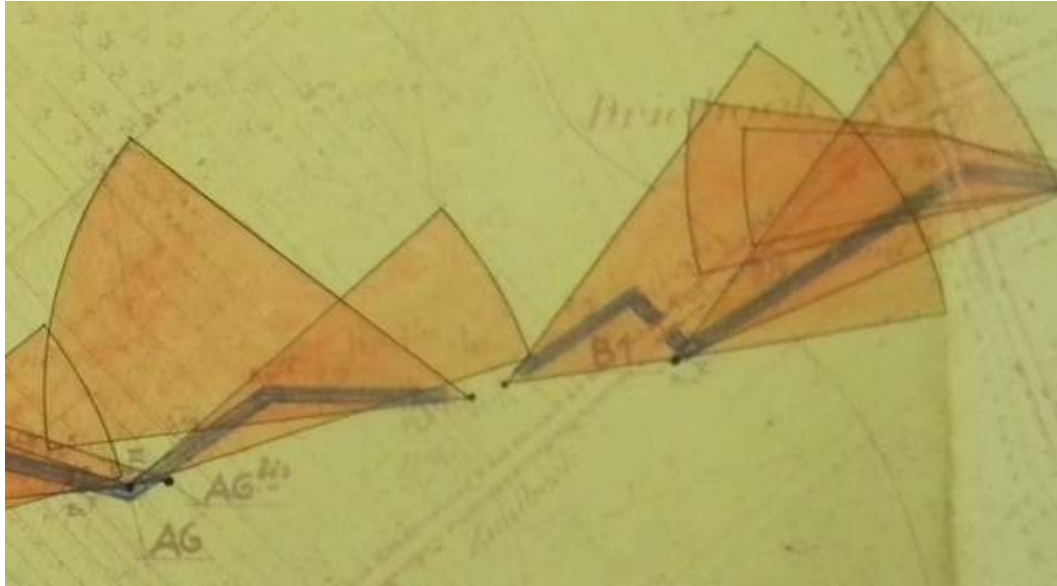
Bunkers A1 – A1bis – A2 – A2bis – A3 – A3bis.



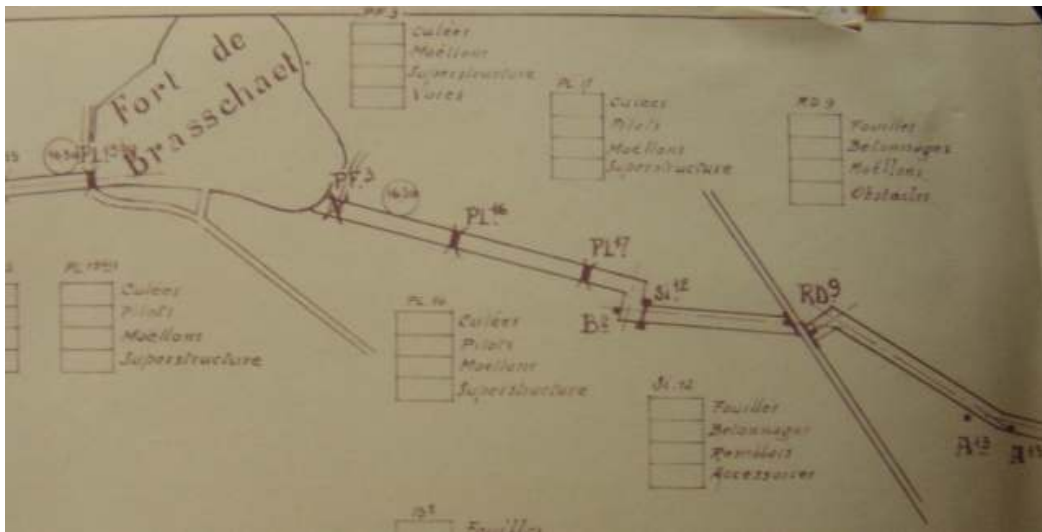
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Bunker B1.



Bunker B2.

As of September 22, 1939 the contractors are allowed to build an additional bunker.
They are intended to cover a main road crossing the ditch with direct fire.

- for sector 1 bunker 3ter which covers the RD2.
- for sector 2 bunker 15ter which covers the RD11
- for sector 3 bunker 19ter which covers the RD13.



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Bunker A3ter.



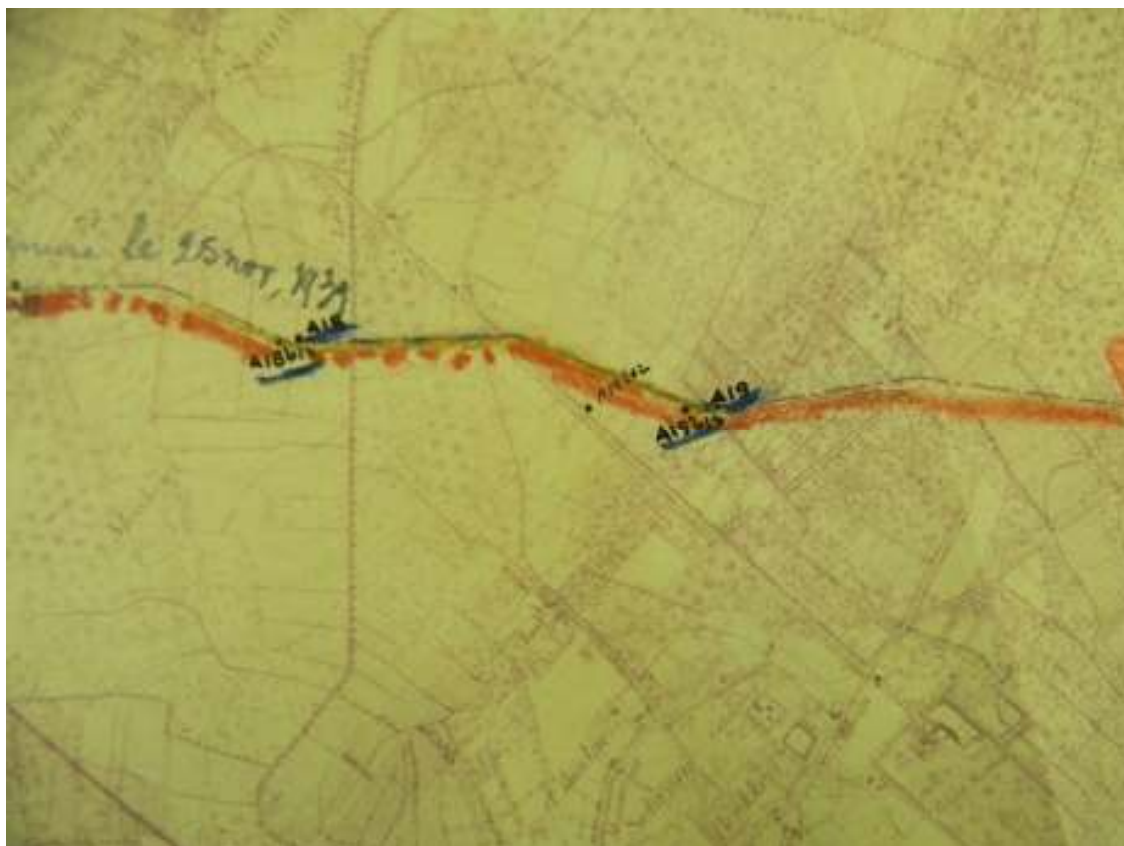
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Bunker A15ter.



Bunker A19ter.



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Corrected numbers	Numbers de Hasque	Corrected numbers	Numbers de Hasque
From the Scheldt to Fort Ertbrand Sector 1		Fort Ertbrand tot Fort Brasschaat Sector 2 Lot II	
A1	X	Ba VIII	BA 8
A1 bis	X	A9 / Ba IX	A8 / BA 9
A2	X	A9 bis	A8 bis
A2 bis	X	A10	A9 bis
A3	A1	A10 bis	A9
A3 bis	A1 bis	A11	A10 bis
A3 ter	X	A11 bis	A10
A4 / Ba I	A2 / BA 1	A12	A11 bis
A4 bis	A2 bis	A12 bis	A11
A5 / Ba II	A3 / BA 2	Fort Brasschaat - canal Antwerp-Turnhout Lot I	
A5 bis	A3 bis	B2	A12
A6 / Ba III	A4 / BA 3	A13	A13
A6 bis	A4 bis	A13 bis	A13 bis
Ba IV	BA 4	A14	A14
B1 / Ba V	A5 / BA 5	A14 bis	A14 bis
A7 / Ba VI	A6 / BA 6	A15	A15
A7 bis	A6 bis	A15 bis	A15 bis
A8 / Ba VII	A7 / BA 7	A15 ter	X
A8 bis	A7 bis	A16	A16
		A16 bis	A16 bis
		B3	Tapsluis Nord

Corrected numbers	Numbers de Hasque
Canal Antwerp-Turnhout to Albert canal Sector 3	
B4	Tapsluis South
A17 bis	A17 bis
A17 / Ba X	A17 / BA 10
A18 bis	A18 bis
A18 / Ba XI	A18 / BA 11
A19 ter	X
A19 bis	A19 bis
A19 / Ba XII	A19 / BA 12
B5	X
A20 bis	A20 bis
A20 / Ba XIII	A20 / BA 13
A21 bis	A21 bis
A21 / Ba XIV	A21 / BA 14
A22 bis	A22 bis
A22	A22
A23 bis	A23 bis
A23	A23
Bestaat niet	A24 / BA 15

Source : Jean Rijlant

Thanks to Yvonne Mayo for the spell check.

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