

THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Neufchâteau



Fort Neufchâteau

- Built between 1935 and 1940, and intended to defend the approaches to Visé-Liège, and the valleys and crossroads within range of its armaments.
- Soon cut off from support, the fort of Neufchâteau held out for 11 days after firing 15,000 shells.
- It took 23 infantry attacks, preceded by heavy bombardment, to put its 250-ton gun turrets out of action.
- The destruction of its heavy artillery and the lack of ammunition finally forced the fort to cease combat; the very last grenade was thrown from the postern when the enemy was already within.

Exterior

- The fort comprises twin 75-millimetre gun turrets with a range of 10.5 km and three 81-millimetre mortars with a range of 3.6 km.
- It also has a 47-millimetre anti-tank casemate and two access blockhouses with covered machine guns.
- Two telescopic ventilation apertures ensure a supply of fresh air to the fort which is triangular in shape, and surrounded by a dry ditch defended by casemates equipped with anti-tank cannon, MI, FM and searchlights.
- The view from the postern alone is worth the effort.



Fort
Neufchâteau

Buildings above ground

- The fort is in disuse but is maintained by volunteers. The two posterns and the galleries may be visited.
- It is often said that visiting the 'naked bride' (the fort of Neufchâteau) and the 'bride dressed' (the fort of Tancremont) allows visitors to glimpse a fortification before and after it has been armed.
- The fort possesses a 47-millimetre anti-tank cannon and a 57-millimetre anti-aircraft Bofors.
- In the postern are displayed the engine of a German HE111 bomber and various pieces of equipment from this aircraft, shot down in 1940 by three Spitfires.
- A cannon from 1940 is displayed in the postern, and pictures from the assault on the fort.



Subterranean area

- The 2.5 km subterranean area may be visited with a guide, past the firing range finder, the communications room, the base of the mortar block and artillery turret 1, various service areas, showers, machine room and other support facilities.
- Leaving the combat triangle, visitors make for the underground barracks with the off-duty quarters: rooms, mess, hospital and various support areas, including the morgue.





Map info

- From Visé, make for Aubel, then head for Berneau; follow the signs to the fort.
- From Henri-Chapelle-Visé, turn left before the descent to Warsage.
- From Mons-Bruxelles, take the Liège autoroute towards Visé-Maastricht, down Argenteau, passing Richelle, Dalhem, Val Dieu, la Chaume, and heading for Neufchâteau, uphill to the fort, following the signs after Dalhem.

Practical info

- Contact: +32 (0)486 53 29 14
- +32 (0)497 44 11 82 • +32 (0)67 87 97 59
- +32 (0)4 387 58 37
- <http://forts.shorturl.com>
- Fort Neufchâteau, 4, rue colonel D'Ardenne, in 4608 Dalhem.



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A few figures

- The fort was to lose 7 men killed in action and 20 wounded, while the enemy's losses before the walls of the fort amounted to 500 dead and wounded.
- This massive block of concrete, whose guns are now silenced forever, is a monument to the glory of its gallant defenders, to whose memory a memorial has been erected at the entrance to the fort, guarded by a 47-millimetre anti-tank gun.



■ Lower down in the village the monument of the 740th Tank Bat. was erected by those who served in the United States armed forces, who, after debarkation in Normandy, were stationed for some time in the village and never forgot the welcome they received there.

Calendar for visits to the fort

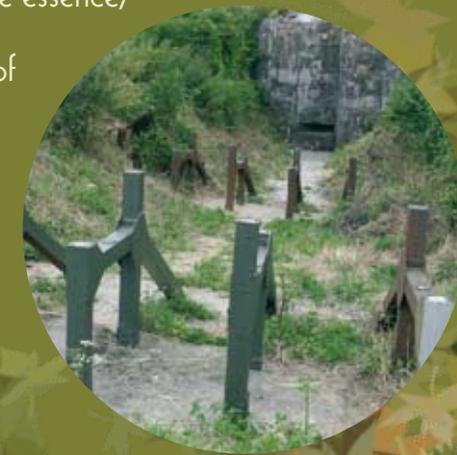
- The fort is open every 3rd Sunday from April to November at 1400 hrs.
- Groups : minimum 15 pers. Please book.
- Depending on availability of the guides: tours conducted in F, NL, D and GB.
- Admission, including museum: 3 €. Children under 12: free of charge. Photography permitted.
- Large parking.

In the interests of health and safety, visitors are advised:

- To wear walking shoes or boots and warm clothing, and to bring a flashlight.
- To stay close to the guide and remain within the lighted areas at all times.

A visit in detail

- Leaving the postern at 1400 hrs, explore the areas above ground, weather permitting.
- Study the explanation using the plans displayed in the postern; then take the 160-step stairway leading down into the installation to a depth of 35 metres.
- Visit the galleries and various different parts of the installation, passing beneath the village cemetery to resurface 1 km away from the point of entry.
- The museum is located 100 metres from the exit block above the school, and contains material reclaimed from the installation as well as fortress equipment.
- Various items from May 1940 are displayed, together with a first-aid post.
- Visitors may enjoy a drink from the bar.
- A visit to the installation and the museum takes about two hours, depending on the interest of the group.
- Near the fort is the site of the Abbey of Val-Dieu where the fort's garrison participated in many ceremonies; don't miss this architectural masterpiece and its windmill museum, sure to delight your eyes - and your palate!
- Visit also the Blégny mine, where you'll find more underground galleries, but of a very different kind!
- If time is of the essence, why not take advantage of a small tavern close to the fort and enjoy an aperitif at the Bout-en-Train at Mortroux, Chemin du Trimbleu, 3, a restored former railway station!



THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Barchon



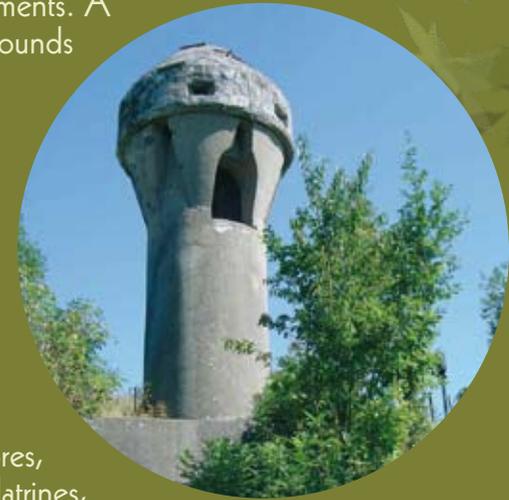
Fort Barchon

■ One of the 12 forts designed by Brialmont, constructed in 1888 for the defence of Liège. This fort bore the brunt of the enemy onslaught and was the first to fall, on August 6th 1914, its garrison by that time being on the point of asphyxiation after several hours of heavy fighting. In 1940 the fort was to offer more stubborn resistance. From 10th to 18th May the fort inflicted considerable damage on the enemy, who retaliated with a prolonged barrage from artillery and Stukas.



Buildings above ground

■ The fort has an attractive location. The access ramp runs down to the ditches surrounding the body of the building, completely underground. The redoubt is shaped like an equilateral triangle, each side measuring 300 m. The redoubt itself, built of concrete, housed the principal defence material (gun emplacements, munitions magazines, etc.) crowned by nine gun emplacements. A dry moat surrounds fortified part of the installation. The trench at the rear, the so-called gorge, housed the service areas (kitchens, stores, guard-room, latrines, etc.)



Subterranean areas

■ Two forts in one! During the construction of the fort in 1888, 500 workmen removed 110,000 m³ of earth with shovels and wheelbarrows and poured 52,000 m³ of concrete around the installation they then covered up with earth again. The fort proved unable to hold out against the bombardments of 1914. Between the two Wars a new underground fort was dug out beneath the older fort, which was then abandoned. In addition, a system of essential ventilation was installed. Visitors may see the ventilation tower and the gallery connecting it to the fort. Discover the past!



Map info

- Rue du Fort, 4671 Barchon (Blegny)
- Access by motorway E40, exit No 36 (Blegny).
- If coming from Liège, take exit No 6, then follow on your right until roundabout (90°), cross motorway bridge. At second roundabout take second exit (240°). At third roundabout, third exit (270°). When heading from Aachen, exit No 36 and at roundabout first exit (90°), then third exit at the second roundabout (270°) (see map above).



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A few figures

■ Fort Barchon was powerfully armed, yet all that remains today is one small turret reclaimed at the camp of Elsenborn. In 1914, the garrison of the fort comprised 400 men, 22 of whom paid with their lives. In 1940, 300 men occupied the fort and 4 of them were killed. In the 60s, Fort Barchon served as a munitions depot for the Belgian Army.

Calendar for visits to the fort

- 2nd Sunday in the month from April to November at 1400 hrs. Groups (min. 15 pers.) other times, by arrangement
- Languages: F, NL and D.



Practical info

- Contacts:
■ Roger Weeckmans, +32 (0)4 387 58 37
or Raymond Pierre, +32 (0) 4 387 59 71
- Charges: Adults 3 €; children (aged 8 to 12) 1.50. €
- Groups (min. of 15 people), adults 2.50 €; children 1 €.
- Easy parking for cars and coaches, museum, cafeteria, toilets, photographing permitted.
- Miscellaneous: Bring a fleece and good walking shoes

A visit in detail

■ Your visit begins with a superb audiovisual montage on a theme devised by Professor Francis Balace, illustrated by 320 unedited slides. Continue with a visit to the museum which holds, among other objects of interest, items left behind by the former garrison of the fort. With the help of a model your guide will explain General Brialmont's ideas in the construction of the fort. On leaving the museum, you enter the fort and explore the galleries, the various defence areas, the first-aid post, the operations block, various rooms, latrines, command post, machine room and ventilation room, the well, the gun-turret shaft, the parade room and a turret reclaimed at Elsenborn and remounted at Barchon by volunteers. After a brief tour of the upper level, where visitors will appreciate the fort's strategic position, you pass through the long gallery linking the fort with the ventilation tower. After a visit to the ventilation tower, you return to the fort itself along a patrol path running outside the building. Your visit concludes at the cafeteria.



THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Battice

Fort Battice

- Situated to the East of the plain of Herve, this fort forms part of the Fortified Position of Liège. With Eben-Emael, Aubin-Neufchâteau and Tancremont, this is one of our country's more modern forts, having been constructed between 1932 and 1938.
- These four new installations together with the eight older modernised forts were intended to form a united bulwark in the event of conflict, and to delay enemy advances.

From the outside

- The rapid progress in artillery and aviation needs to be borne on mind in the designing of new fortifications. At Battice, the close defence buildings have been constructed around the inner periphery of a large, deep ditch bordered by a high concrete wall. This ditch surrounds an extensive terre-plein or earth plateau dotted with buildings housing artillery. Here we no longer see, as in older forts, a central redoubt holding all the principal cannon.



Fort Battice



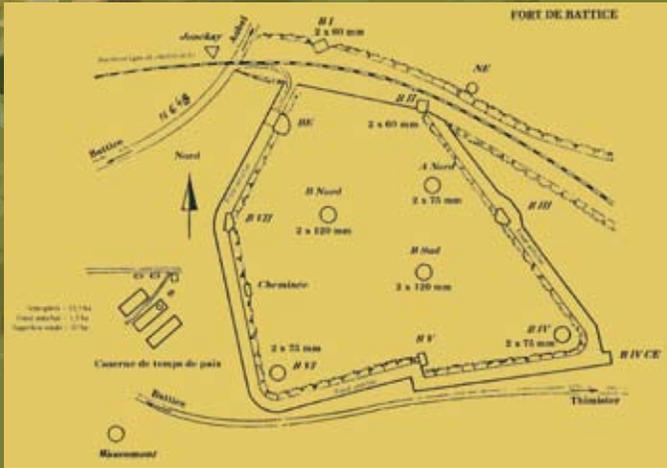
Buildings above ground

- Constructed of reinforced concrete, equipped with anti-tank guns and machine-guns forming part of the close-range defence system, and cannon in turrets or cupolas forming part of the fort's artillery. Several dozen metres apart, each emplacement offers a much smaller target, rendering potential attack more difficult for the enemy, since much of the fort is composed of earthworks, which can absorb projectiles without major damage.

Subterranean areas

- Built, according to the exterior outline, at a depth of between 25 and 30 metres.
- Containing the command post, the ammunition magazines, the machine room, the technical and picket rooms, the morgue, and the barracks, which contains sleeping quarters, kitchens, the hospital, and the victuals and small arms stores. A system of galleries links all these areas and affords access, via shafts, to the surface buildings.





Map info

- B E: entrance «Peace Time»
- Close defence buildings: B I - B II - B III - B IV CE - B V - B VII. (60-millimetre anti-tank guns and machine-guns)
- Artillery buildings: A-North - B IV - B VI. (75-millimetre double cannon I retractable gun-turret)
- B-North - B-South. (120-millimetre cannon, in casing)
- Jonckay: observatory and auxiliary ventilation shaft.
- Waucomont: entrance «War-time», observatory and principal ventilation shaft.

Practical info

- Access: Take the N 648, direction Aubel.
- Bus: number 38B from Liège, numbers 38A and 38B from Verviers.
- Reception: Entrance building 'Peace Time' at the entrance to the trench.
- www.welcome.to/fort-battice



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A few figures

- The construction took only three years, from 1934 to 1937.
- At that time the military terrain occupied an area of 45 hectares.
- The area of the fort is 15 hectares, of which 1.5 is occupied by the trench and the remaining 13.5 by the terre-plein or earth plateau. The fort itself is constructed entirely from reinforced concrete; the thickness of the walls ranges from 0.50 m (the galleries) and 4.50 m (roof of the artillery buildings).
- The garrison comprised 750 men.
- The fort can hold sufficient provisions - victuals, fuel and munitions - for one month.



In the interests of health and safety, visitors are advised

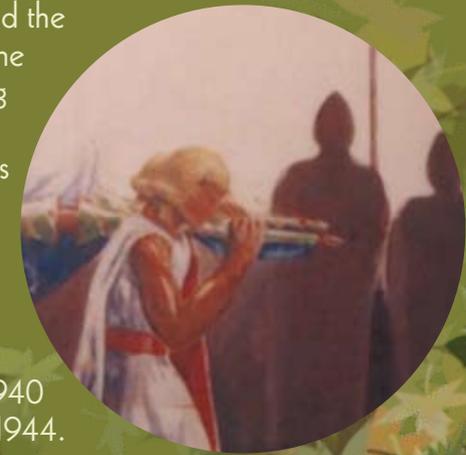
- not to stray off the route and always to remain close to the guide. Children visit the location at the risk of parents/accompanying adults.

Calendar for visits

- Tours arranged on the last Saturday in the month from end March to end November, at 1330 hrs.
- Average duration of the tour: 3 hrs. Bring warm clothing and walking shoes.
- Charges:
 - Adults: 3 €
 - Children: 2 €
 - Youth groups: 10 % reduction.
- Group Tours (10 persons minimum) by arrangement.
- In French: Mr. Nicolas Lange +32 (0) 87 67 94 70
- In Dutch: Mr. Dany Jammaer +32 (0) 11 88 42 22
- In German: Mr. Otmar Rogge +49 (0) 24 08 27 91

A visit in detail:

- The group is always accompanied by a guide, who will be able to provide all the necessary information and will conduct visitors on an exploration of the fortress, through the galleries, the earth plateau (terre-plein) and the small museum. The visit includes a demonstration of the working of a retractable gun cupola, the starting of an original generating set and the arrangement of the entrance building 'Peace Time'
- One room has been devoted to an analysis of the various assaults made by the Germans between May 1940 and September 1944.



THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Flémalle

Fort Flémalle

■ Fort Flémalle occupies an elevated position on the western banks of the river Meuse, west and south-west of the Fortified Position of Liège. Constructed between 1888 and 1892, it is a vast trapezium-shaped installation whose principal task, together with its neighbour at Bonnelles, was to deny hostile forces access to the valley of the Meuse, whether by road, river or railway. This was the last liégeois barrier to Huy and Namur.



Fort Flémalle

From the outside

■ The construction of the forts of Liège and Namur began in 1888, designed according to plans drafted by General Brialmont, with a view to protecting the Meuse valley against a possible attack by the French and/or the Germans. The forts were built using the most advanced military technology of the day. The principal material used for the buildings was concrete, plain concrete with huge Meuse boulders and Portland cement.

Viewed from above, the fort has the form of a trapezium with two parallel sides with its base dented by a blow. It is surrounded by a dry ditch providing a defence against infantry attacks, and by a counterscarp wall. The outer grassy ramp or glacis consisted of a slight slope with no installations, thus offering its cannon an unimpeded field of fire.



Buildings above ground

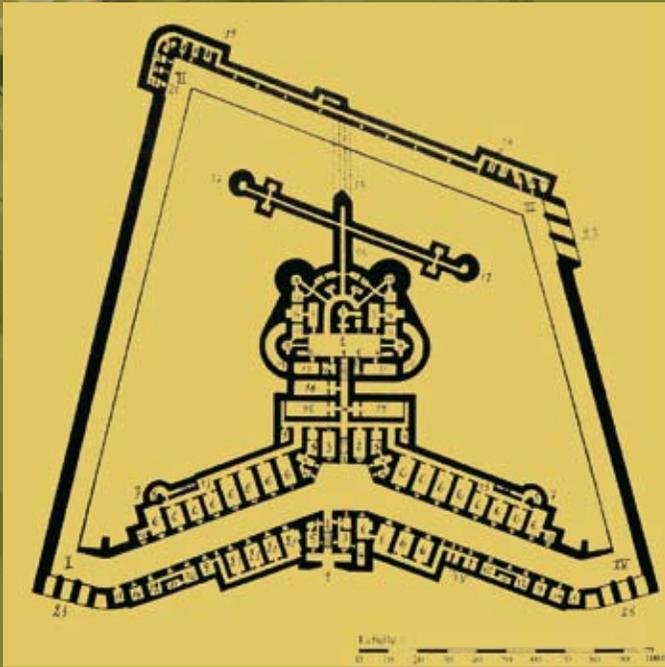
■ The nature of the fort's design made it difficult for an enemy approaching along the paths to pinpoint the fort's precise location on the hillside.

The fort is in fact half underground. Only the gun turrets can be glimpsed just above the crest of the hill. The concrete-built body of the fort was concealed from the sight of the enemy by earth embankments, offering protection against the impact of shells. After the battles, the upper part of the fort, nowadays a small nature reserve, resembled a lunar landscape, pitted with bomb craters.

■ Constructed around 1932, an air tower in reinforced concrete dominates the slopes of Profondval like a giant mushroom, affording a view of Mons-lez-Liège road. This observation point served the gunnery command well, providing invaluable information about the enemy's movements. The tower, which also provided ventilation

■ for the fort during the engagements of May 1940, is connected to the fort by an underground passage. The reinforced concrete building, witness to the terrible conflict of the Second World War, still bears the scars inflicted by German artillery.





Map info

- The fort is located on the Avenue du Fort in Flémalle, above the Profondval quarter north of the river Meuse. Follow the signs from the roundabout at the Carrefour store and from the road to Jemeppe.
- Or from autoroute E42, leaving the motorway at Flémalle, left at the first set of traffic lights and follow the signs which will take you through Mons-lez-Liège towards Profondval.
- For a more detailed itinerary see our website.

Practical info

- Fort de Flémalle, Avenue du Fort in Flémalle
- Tel. Paul 0486 26 62 40
Grégory 0494 59 27 91
- tunnelrats@hotmail.com
- <http://membres.lycos.fr/scrivarius>
- Hier wordt ook Nederlands gesproken (→Tours in Dutch also)
- Admission 3 €, free of charge for children under 12.



Subterranean areas

- Most of the original areas consist of vaulted chambers constructed from concrete 2.50 to 3.50 metres thick, covered with an earthen embankment offering protection against enemy artillery; however, many of the underground passages and chambers have a lower ceiling and closer walls than the original construction, as a result of rearmament operations undertaken in 1931. The fort of Flémalle was brought up to date in preparation for the Second World War; its armaments, engines and lighting system were modified, and, most important of all, a new stairway was built, leading down to the 'quad', which lies beneath the central redoubt and constitutes the lowest level of the fort, where men and munitions were safe.

Calendar for visits

- All year round, 1st Saturday in the month, starting at 1000 and 1400 hrs: heritage days and 21st July.
- Group visits (minimum 15 persons) can be arranged.
- English, Dutch or German-speaking guides.

In the interests of health and safety, visitors are advised to:

- Take warm clothing and walking shoes, and a pocket torch.
- Remain with the group.
- Follow the guide's instructions.
- Helmets will be provided and must be worn.

A visit in detail

- A team of enthusiastic volunteers will welcome you in the counterscarp area. The tour will take you through areas from 1914 (rooms, machine rooms) and from 1940 (the quadrilateral floor, the ventilation tower corridor) After a visit to the central redoubt, you will visit the museum with its interesting collection, and have an opportunity for refreshment at the bar.



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THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Hollogne



Fort Hollogne

- Situated near Liège-Bierset airport, the small fort of Hollogne was one of Brialmont's 12 forts that - in 1914 - made up the ring forts of Liège.
- Comprised of a triangular enclosure with 200-metre-long sides and a concrete central redoubt, this is the only fort in Liège which has not undergone major transformations, which means visitors can see it just as it was at the end of the Great War.



Buildings above ground

- The buildings above ground lie within the main gorge ditch. The service areas and the two casemates are found in the counterscarp; the scarp itself contains the quarters intended for the garrison. Two ditch defence coffer may be seen.
- On the superstructure of the redoubt the shafts protecting the cupolas designed for medium-range and long-range defence have been preserved. The cupolas themselves were either removed in 1933 for redeployment in other forts such as Pontisse, or sold off in the 50s as scrap.



Fort Hollogne

From the outside

- Completely concealed by a stand of trees and vegetation, the fort of Hollogne, like a jewel set amid a major industrial zone, is a sanctuary for many species of flora and fauna flourishing here in seclusion.

Subterranean areas

- Within the redoubt, galleries lead to the chambers, powder rooms, boiler room and coalbunker. Two stairways offer access to the two 57 mm cupolas constituting the main defence of the gorge ditch; a third leads to the parade room near which are the main cupolas, the engine room, the command post and various storage areas for munitions reserves. A tunnel leads to the third 57 mm cupola and the head coffer.



Map info

- 1. Airport
- 2. Fort
- 3. Liège - Hannut Route
- 4. Liège - Namur Autoroute
- 5. Exits.

Practical info

- « GPS N 50°38'43, 6" » and E 5°28'1,2" »
- UTM/UPS: 31 U 0674386 5613211
- Comité de Sauvegarde du Patrimoine Historique du Fort de Hologne, ASBL:
 - Patrice ERLER: rue Léon-Eli Troclay 14
4460 - GRACE-HOLLOGNE
Tel: +32 (0) 4 234 09 50
 - Daniel BASTIN: rue de Milmort, 83
4040 - HERSTAL
Tel: +32 (0)4 264 49 49
 - Yvon LABARBE: rue Voltaire, 19
4460 - GRACE-HOLLOGNE
Tel: +32 (0) 477 63 21 18
 - <http://membres.lycos.fr/forthollogne/>
 - fort.hologne@skynet.be



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A few figures

■ The fort, which has a surface area of 3.16 hectares, was built between 1888 and 1892. It took 40,000 m³ of concrete and a work force of 500. In 1914, the garrison comprised 230 artillery and 120 infantrymen. Between the two wars, it served as an arms depot for the forts of Flémalle and Pontisse. After 1945, the Belgian Airforce used it. In 1998, it was handed over to the S.A.B., its present owners. The ASBL « Comité de Sauvegarde du Patrimoine Historique du Fort de Hologne (C.S.F.H.) », founded in 1993, manages the site.



Calendar for visits

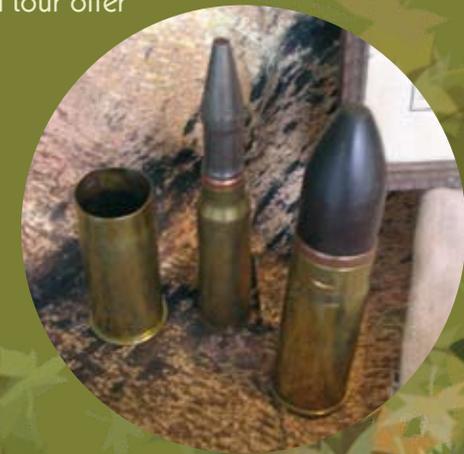
- The fort of Hologne is open to the public 2 weekends a year, in the month of April and again in July, and also on July 21st, Fortress Day, organised by the Province of Liège Tourist Federation.
- Charges: 3 € for regular visits; 4 € for conference visits. Group tours by arrangement (3 € pp. for groups + 10 persons, or group charge 30 €).

In the interests of health and safety, visitors are advised to:

- Bring good walking shoes, a fleece and pocket torch.
- Follow the guide's instructions at all times.
- Never wander off alone on the site or stray away from the group.

A visit in detail

- After a brief introduction to the Fortified Position of Liège in 1914, visitors may follow the galleries running through the installation to explore the fort of Hologne in its entirety and discover all the areas concealed beneath the concrete carapace.
- The parade room is the centre of attention in an account of the Battle of Liège (August 1914). From above the redoubt enjoy the view of Liège airport, the Meuse valley and the Hesbignion plain. The tour ends in the fortress museum, which houses an extensive collection of pieces relating to artillery and to the life of the garrison. If visitors wish to take photographs, this is permitted everywhere when accompanied by a guide.
- For visitors with a special interest we offer conference visits every afternoon (4-5); the introduction and tour offer a more in-depth experience, and during the tour refreshments are provided.



THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Huy

Fort Huy

■ The fort as it appears today was built on the initiative of the Dutch government between 1818 and 1823, replacing the ancient fortress that was finally razed to the ground at the start of the 18th century.

From 1940 - 45, the fort served as a military prison where more than 7000 political prisoners, hostages and members of the Resistance were detained. After the war, the Ministry of Justice installed a centre here for antisocial elements and collaborators.

Today, the fortress has become a remarkable monument to the past.



The old castle : « Tchestia »

■ The great strategic importance of the sheer rocky promontory dominating the confluence of the rivers Meuse and Hoyoux, and commanding the routes to Liège, Brabant, the Netherlands and the Rhine, was realised early in history.

For 9 centuries it was occupied successively by a military camp, then a castle keep, and finally a mighty fortress, which was bitterly contested during the latter half of the 17th century.



Outside

■ The exterior of the fortress follows the contour of the hill, but nonetheless its construction required terraces and the creation of a platform. What you will see is a huge square limestone structure with sides of unequal length.

Each corner has its salient bastion, linked by curtains with an average height of 17 m. Predictably, all the exterior walls of the fort contain gun embrasures and mortars.

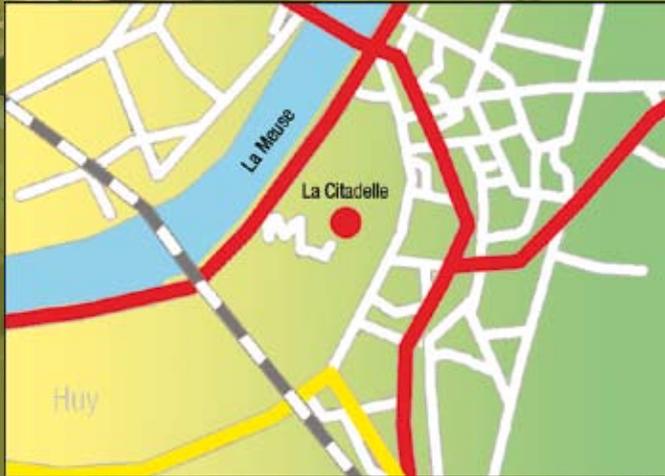
All the troops - the fortress could accommodate 600 men - lived in quarters within the bastion curtains, arranged as large dormitories and equipped with the necessary sanitary facilities.

The water supply was assured by the old well, originally dug in the 16th century on the orders of Erard de la Marck, which the Dutch authorities had taken good care to preserve and even to improve.



Fort Huy





Museum of the Resistance and Concentration Camps

In the eleven rooms which formerly contained the munitions store of the Dutch fort, some 150 educational panels and thirty show cases trace the tragic events which marked our recent history and seek to impress upon visitors at what cost we fought for our freedom. The museum is dedicated to explaining to the younger generation, by means of photos, objects and reconstructions, this turbulent period in our nation's history.



Calendar for visits

- Open: 9 April to 1 October 2006.
- Weekdays from 0900-1230 hrs and 1300-1630 hrs.
- Weekend and holidays from 1100-1800 hrs.
- July and August: daily from 1100-1900 hrs.
- Last admission one hour before closing

A visit in detail

As soon as visitors have entered its gates, the Fort cannot fail to impress: it is as though visitors find themselves beneath the sombre vault of a glacial corridor. Drink in the atmosphere which pervades the sinister dungeons constructed during the Second World War by the German enemy, airless, with no ray of light! Discover the chilling interrogation room where the henchmen of the Gestapo plied their trade. After another set of dungeons, you enter other rooms, some containing bread ovens, others improvised sanitary installations, still bearing witness to the daily life of the men who shared the Fort's historic past. This followed by the great approach walk which leads to the bastion overlooking the confluence of the rivers Meuse and Hoyoux, offering a view of a series of rooms, formerly quarters for the garrison, used during the last occupation as accommodation for internees.

Post-war, these were arranged as exhibits through the good offices of various bodies: the « Fraternelle des Chasseurs Ardennais » (Ardennes military association), « Fédération nationale des Travailleurs déportés and réfractaires » (the national federation of unwilling deported workers), « Association du Front de l'Indépendance » (Independence front), and the associations of former prisoners of war and concentration camps.

Make sure you don't miss the panorama at the end of your visit!



Practical info

- The fort is located Chaussée Napoléon in Huy.
- Price: adults: 3.5 €
- children under 12: 3 €
- Groups: adults: 3 € • children: 2.5 €
- Conducted tours: please book 8 days in advance.
- Tel. +32 (0) 85 21 29 15



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THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Lantin

Fort Lantin

- Lantin is much more than a prison! Here you will discover a verdant nook which conceals one of the ring forts that made up the Fortification of Liège, designed in 1888 by General Brialmont. With the other 11 forts, this fortress was involved in the battle of Liège in 1914.
- The fort of Lantin is a prime example of 19-century military architecture, in that its infrastructure has survived intact. The association acquired this historic site in 1983 and has since then preserved and maintained it, restoring to it certain items such as the searchlight cupola and the 120 cupola with its rotation system.
- Besides this physical aspect, the fort is an important witness to the past history of Liège: the battle of 1914.
- To allow a wider public to relive this fateful moment in the Great War in an interesting and meaningful way is the aim and primary objective of the ASBL « Les Amis du Fort de Lantin » (Friends of Fort Lantin), with the support of the General Tourist Commissariat, Feder, bodies from the province of Liège (Fédération du Tourisme, S.P.I.+ Affaires Culturelles) and the commune of Juprelle. In 1995 the 'ASBL Fort de



Lantin' turned its attention to tourism, and carried out important work within the building.

- To enhance the experience for visitors, allowing them to relive this powerful historic moment, and to appeal to a wider audience, a visually attractive tour with audioguide was introduced.
- Video sequences show the development of the fortifications throughout the centuries and the main events of the First World War, in particular the battle of Liège of 1914. Reconstructions on the basis of personal notes written by a soldier, enhanced with sound and lighting effects, plunge the visitor into the lifelike experience of the garrison during the bombardments of August 1914.
- This faithful yet vivid reconstruction illuminates not only the military but also the social context of these events.
- Besides the evident value of creating a new focus of tourist activity in Hesbaye liégeoise, this also provides a basis for the accumulation of evidence and data concerning the site and its surroundings.



Fort Lantin





Map info

- Access: Autoroute E 40 exit 33 (Rocourt) when heading from Tongeren (N 20): follow the arrows (5 minutes from motorway exit).



Practical info

- Information:
- Tel. +32 (0) 4 246 55 44
or +32 (0) 4 263 34 48
- Fax: +32 (0) 4 247 28 30
- renseignements@fortdelantin.info
- www.fortdelantin.info

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A few figures

- Altitudes:
- Summit of the redoubt: 109 m.
- Lowest point underground: 91.35 m.
- Parade room: 100 m.
- Rooms, passages: 96 m.
- Thickness (concrete)
- Parade room: ceiling: 4.50 m.
(the searchlight: 0.70 m!)
- Powder rooms:
ceiling: 3 m.
floors: 5 m.
- Rooms:
ceiling: 2.5 m.
floors: 5 m.
wall: 1,5 m.
- Counterscarp:
ceiling: 2.5 m.
floors: 1.5 m.
wall: 2 m.



Calendar for visits

- Tours: individual: 15 April to 15 October, Thursday to Sunday + holidays
- 10.00-16.00 hrs (last tour leaves 1600)
- Duration: 70 minutes. Starts every 10 minutes.
- Groups: all year round by arrangement.
- Charges: individual: adults 5 €, senior citizens and students 4 €.
- Groups: adults 4.5 €, senior citizens-students 3.5 €, children 6 - 14: 3 €.
- Various: bring a fleece.
- Because of the stairs, no tours accessible to disabled people

A visit in detail

- Tours of the fort, unique of its kind in the region, are accompanied by audio-guide; visits start with a video sequence tracing the history of the fortifications, the stages in the fort's construction and the beginning of the conflict in 1914.
- Visitors enter the parade room, the largest room in the fort, which still bears signs of the bombardments. They move on to the engine room where another video sequence is shown.
- Passing through the firing room, visitors then see the restored 120 cupola with its rotation system, the 210 Howitzer and enter the tunnel, where sound and lighting effects recreate the scene in all its horror.
- Arriving at the head coffer, visitors proceed up the stairs to the redoubt, identically constructed with its cupola domes.
- The tour concludes with 2 sequences, one showing the troop quarters and the other the moment of surrender. These are followed by a final video.



THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Loncin

Fort Loncin

- General Brialmont built the fort in 1888.
 - With its firepower it defends the major motorway and the railway to Brussels.
- Commandant Naessens commands 550 artillerymen and infantry.
- On the 4th of August 1914 war breaks out.

The soldiers make their commander a terrible promise. 'We shall never surrender. You have our word'.

- Engaged on the 7th of August in the Battle of Liège, through eight long days the fort was to resist Germany's formidable war machine.
- On the 15th of August, a 42-cm shell weighing 800 kilos struck the powder cellar, which exploded.

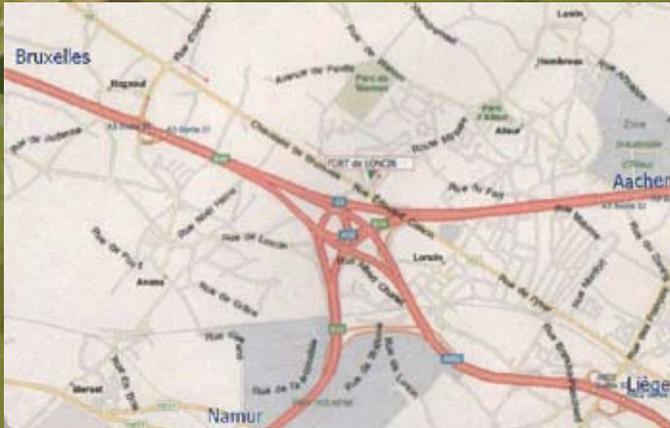
- The fort was blown to rubble; 350 of its defenders died. They had kept their word.
- The fort of Loncin passed into legend.



THESE GLORIOUS RUINS ARE THE TOMB OF 350 HEROES.

- Nature, reclaiming her own, has softened the contours of this scene from Dante's inferno. But the fort remains just as the powerful explosion left it: with its cupolas, its cannon, and its machinery...





Calendar for visits

- Guided tours preceded by audiovisual presentation and visit to the museum, 1st and 3rd Sundays at 1400 hrs, April to October. July, August: every Sunday.
- All year round, tours available for groups exceeding 10 persons from Wednesday to Sunday, with prior booking (10 days in advance).
- Charges
 - Adults: 3 €
 - Children 6 - 16: 2 €
 - Schools: 1.50 €

Museum

- Museum open Sundays from 1400-1600 hrs, April to September. 1st and 3rd Sundays from 1400-1600 hrs, October to March. Wednesday to Sunday: tours upon request, for groups exceeding 10 persons.
- Charges 1.50 € Reserved parking for visitors
- Support our endeavours at the Fort of Loncin. Become a member of our A.S.B.L. Annual cost: pay no less than 5 €, account no. 001-1 1221 17-97, « Front de Sauvegarde du Fort de Loncin », rue des Héros 15bis - in 4431 LONCIN.

Practical info

- 15bis, rue des Héros (route de Bruxelles) in 4431 Loncin.
- Tel. +32 (0)4 246 44 25
- www.fortdeloncin.com



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THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Tancrémont

Fort Tancrémont

■ Inaugurated on 8 August 1937, located within the communes of Pepinster and Theux, Tancrémont is the last of the four new forts which, together with the eight older, re-armed and reinforced forts, made up the Fortified Position of Liège. These forts were garrisoned by men from the Régiment de Forteresse de Liège (R.F.L.) (Liège Fortress Regiment).



From the outside

- The redoubt (3 1/4 H.) which makes up the installation proper contributes all the external factors in respect of firepower and visibility.
- The redoubt is surrounded by a square ditch, 8 m wide and 6 m deep, beyond which extends, around the entire periphery, the glacis, which is free-standing and profiled so as to allow effective close-range defence against attack. Rising from the glacis some 100 and 150 m from the redoubt, two large concrete shelters house a telescopic ventilation shaft and an exit from the fort.



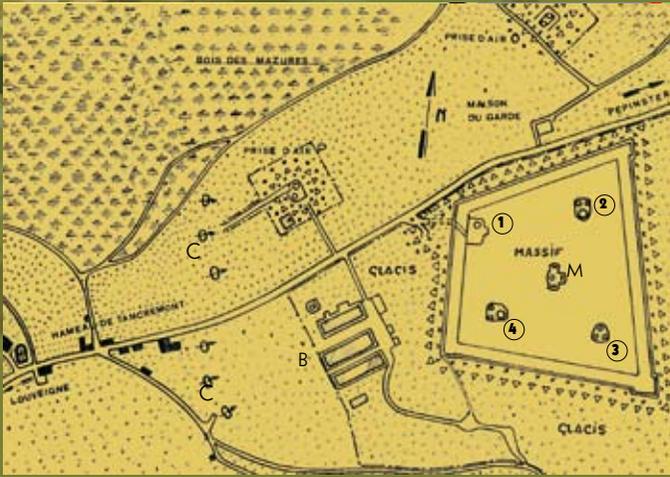
Surface buildings

- B1. Peace-time entrance: machine gun cloche. One machine-gun and one Bren gun under casemate. Searchlight. Periscope.
- B2. Cupola of 2 75-mm cannon (range 10 km) with 2 machine-gun cloches, one with periscope, one with rocket-launcher.
- B3. 3 m-g cloches with rocket-launcher or periscope.
- B4. As B2.
- BM. Cellar with 3 81-mm mortars (range 3.6 km) Cloche for rocket-launcher and periscope.
- BO. Ventilation shaft with cloche for Bren gun and emergency exit
- BP. Ventilation shaft with cloche for Bren gun and 2 Bren guns under casemate and War-time entrance.
- C2, 3 and 4. Flanking coffers for the defence of the ditches, with 47-mm anti-tank guns. Machine gun and searchlight.



Subterranean areas

- Dug out of slate rock, 25 to 30 m deep. Command station. Machine room. Munitions magazines. Communication rooms. Underground barracks. Small areas with Bren gun for interior defence. Some 2 km of galleries connecting all the areas and the access shafts to the surface buildings.



Map info

- 1. Entrance building
- 2. Cupola II
- 3. Machine-gun building
- 4. Cupola IV
- M. Mortar building
- B. Peacetime accommodation
- C. Anti-aircraft weapons
- • Mines
- Δ Anti-tank equipment
- X Barbed-wire network

Practical info

- Secretariat:
- Tel: +32 (0) 4 275 65 80
- Rue des Awirs, 291 - 4400 Flémalle
- philippe.pleic@skynet.be
- www.fortdetancremont.be



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A few figures

■ Motors, lighting and heating: powered by 4 electro-generators each with 130 CV. Ventilation and pressure within the fort: 32,000 m³ of air are required for



full efficiency. Manning the fort: 15 officers, 47 non-commissioned officers, 361 corporals and other ranks.

Manning the exterior observation posts: 12 non-commissioned officers, 78 corporals and other ranks.

Calendar for visits

- 1st Sunday in the month, May to October, 1300-1700 hrs
- 21 July: 1000 -1700 hrs.
- Group tours (by arrangement): on Thursdays.



In the interests of health and safety, visitors are reminded to:

- Follow the route indicated.
- Never touch electrical equipment.
- Bring along one torch per family.

A visit in detail

- Building 1 (peace-time entrance).
- Command station.
- Cupola (weapon still in place).
- Mortar block with three mortars.
- Machine room.
- Underground barracks
- Ventilation shaft P (War-time entrance).
- Small charge to cover cost of maintaining the fort: 3 € per adult, 2 € per child (6-12).
- Duration of the tour: about 2 hrs. in F, NL, D, GB.
- Visitors are advised to bring warm clothing.
- The fort of Tancremont surrendered on 29 May 1940, at 11 hours, one and a half days after the Belgian Army signed the capitulation. Thus its garrison were the last army unit to offer resistance to the enemy.
- « L'Amicale du Fort » has commissioned the book «Tancremont tient toujours» written by fort veteran René Gillis.
- This fully-illustrated work gives a description of the fort and recounts the life of a soldier during the 19 days of the war. It can be purchased at a cost of 10 € when you visit the fort.

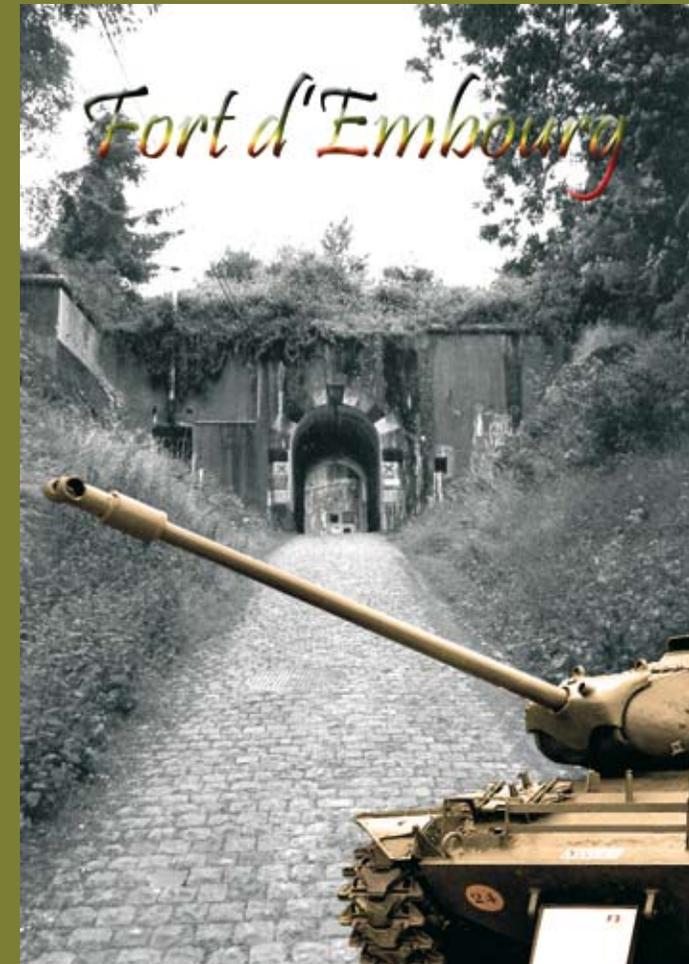
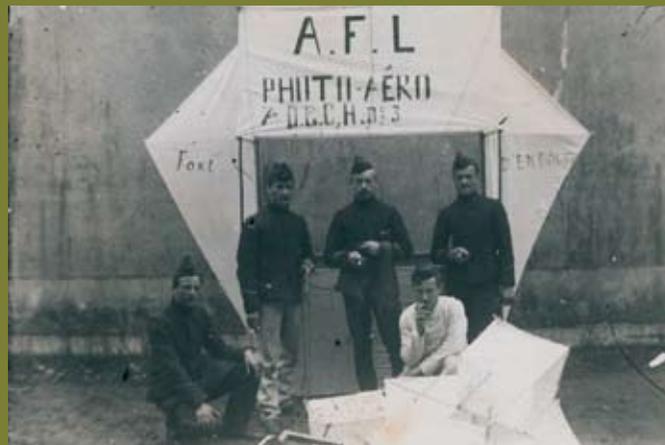


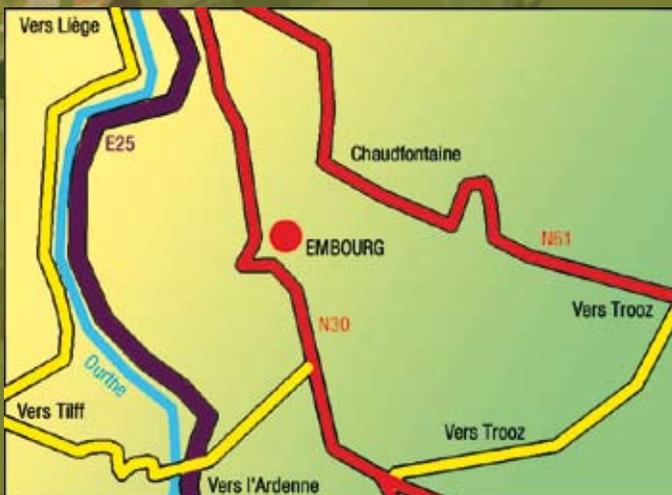
THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Embourg

Fort Embourg

- Constructed according to Brialmont's design, the fort of Embourg is unusual in its trapezoidal form and because, manned by a garrison of only 600, it is among the smallest.
- Around 1912, a team of non-commissioned officers developed kites for observation; this was the birth of air reconnaissance.
- The fort was the theatre of skirmishes between 6 and 12 August, and was subjected to incessant bombing from 1300 hrs on 12 August to 20 hrs on 13th August, when it surrendered. The entrance postern was virtually destroyed, the redoubt suffered serious damage and almost all the weapons beneath cupolas were destroyed.
- There was bitter fighting again in May 1940. From the 14th, the fort was entirely surrounded and on the 15th it suffered attacks from dive-bombing Germany air forces and was shelled by artillery.
- On the 17th the fort lost its last 3 cupolas and was bombed again, this time by heavy bombers rather than Stukas.
- The fort was rendered ineffective. After 7 days and 6 nights of resistance, the commandant took the decision to capitulate to save the lives of his men.





Activities

■ Youth movements, role-play, scout camps, birthdays ...



A visit in detail

- Tours last between one and three hours, as required.
- Visitors are advised to bring a pair of walking shoes and a torch.
- Constant temperature from 8 to 13° according to the level you visit, all year round.
- Volunteer guides will help you turn back the clock 60 or 90 years.
- An exceptional museum was opened in 1973 in one of the fort's galleries, displaying one of the most remarkable collections from the two World Wars.



Calendar for visits

- All year, 4th Sunday in the month at 1400 hrs or by arrangement for groups exceeding 5 persons.
- Charges:
Adults: 4 €.
Children (12-18): 3 €.
Children under 12: free of charge, Fort pass.

Practical info

- Lebrun Jean-Marc: +32 (0) 497 20 35 70
- <http://fortdembourg.ibelgique.com/>
- lebrunjeanmarc@hotmail.com



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THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Eben-Emael

Fort Eben-Emael

- Blending into a green site on Saint-Pierre hill, the fort of Eben-Emael commands from over 60 metres the Caster trench, dug in 1929 for the Albert Canal.
- The flower of Belgian forts, regarded as one of the mightiest fortresses in Europe in 1940, it yet proved incapable of resisting for longer than 30 hours in the face of the unprecedented level and methods of attack used by the airborne troops of the 3rd Reich.

From the outside

- The fort, constructed between 1932 and 1935 from ferro-concrete, was built on a ridge, and covers an area of some 65 hectares. It has the form of an isosceles triangle some 900 metres in height with a base of 700 metres. It was surrounded by the inundated valley of the Geer, an aquatic anti-tank ditch and by the Albert Canal, defended by 8 blocks of close-range defence installations.
- Dispersed about the redoubt, 7 artillery emplacements and 2 machine-gun blocks completed the fort's firing power.



Fort Eben-Emael

Buildings above ground

- The entrance defence block and its postern provide access to the underground barracks at 60 metres below the redoubt, still maintained as it was at the time.
- 7 other close-range defence blocks equipped with projectors and armed with 60-mm cannon and machine-guns defend the glacis.
- The artillery comprises the cupola with 2 120-mm cannon, the 2 cupolas with 2 75-mm cannon and the 4 casemates with 3 75-mm cannon, cover a range of up to 17 km. The enemy was fooled by three false cupolas.



Subterranean areas

- The close-range defence blocks and the artillery installations are connected by stairways in shafts and by tunnels some 25 metres below the redoubt. This level also contains the command post, the firing stations, the communications rooms with telephone and local radio, munitions stores and filter rooms. Some 30 metres lower still lies the underground barracks, accessible from the valley of the Geer.



THE FORTS OF LIEGE

Les Territoires de la Mémoire

The Territories of Memory

- In 1993, the citizens of Liège, including many survivors of Nazi camps, concerned by the resurgence of right-wing extremist movements and parties, decided to found the ASBL « Les Territoires de la Mémoire » 'the Territories of Memory', « Centre d'Éducation à la Tolérance and à la Résistance » (Centre of Education for Tolerance and Resistance).
- The object of the ASBL "Les Territoires de la Mémoire" is to alert the younger generation to an understanding of history and to render them vigilant, to educate them to denounce lies and embrace citizenship, and never to forget the lessons of history.
- To achieve these aims, the association presents a whole range of pedagogical tools and activities aimed at the general public and at young people in particular.



The symbolic route,

- dedicated to deportation under the Nazi regime
- This is the corner-stone of the activities of the «Territoires de la Mémoire », retracing each stage in the terrible journey of the deportees at the heart of the Nazi horror of concentration camps and extermination. Eye-witness accounts, recordings, film sequences and photographs place the visitor amid the context of the time.
- Visitors to the symbolic route experience a systematically-presented historical context, educational reconstructions, and film screening. Prior to their visit, groups will be sent an introductory educational pack.



multi-media library

- Thousands of books, journals, CD-roms, videos for you to study on the spot or to take away with you. The documents are classified under 25 thematic headings, including racism, citizenship, right-wing extremism, Second World War. Children's section.
- Our website provides a complete catalogue of the multi-media library's collection.



Map info

« Les Territoires de la Mémoire » is located right in the centre of Liège, a few minutes from Guillemins station and the historical and commercial, centre, close to several bus stops. Ample parking across the street.



Practical info

- Les Territoires de la Mémoire, asbl
- Centre d'Education à la Tolérance et à la Résistance
- 86, Boulevard d'Avroy - 4000 Liège
- Tel: +32 (0)4 232 70 60
- www.territoires-memoire.be
- accueil@territoires-memoire.be



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Calendar for visits

- Open:
Monday to Friday: 0900-1600 hrs,
Wednesday: 0900-1800 hrs,
1st and 3rd Saturday in month.
- Closed:
Sundays and public holidays.
Last week in July and December,
1st week in August.



Charges

- Individual visits:
- Adults: 2.50 € / 2 € young people
- (0.75 € reduction with SPE included)
- Reservation advisable.
- Group Visits:
- Same charges / Reservation required
- Admission free of charge for members of ASBL and on presentation of teacher/instructor identification
- Reduction on presentation of Plus, Senior Citizen, Article 27, SW-Région Wallonne, MJT and Ampli Junior

A visit in detail

- Before your visit:
- In the case of group visits, please ensure that you have made the necessary prior booking. Normal size of group is max. 25/30 persons; several groups may follow one another at regular intervals. Upon reservation, school parties will receive an introductory educational pack pitched at the appropriate age level. Also downloadable from our website.
- Individual visitors can visit the symbolic route whenever they wish during opening hours. However, it is advisable to check advance that group tours have not been scheduled for the same time, so as to ensure their greater comfort during their visit.



- Visit and activities
- Reception, historical contextualisation (20 min)
- Tour of the symbolic route (50 min): imagine what it felt like to be a deportee and discover, in 12 stages, the Nazi concentration camp organization.
- Film show appropriate to age level of visitors. « Témoins de la Mémoire » (15 min) (The witnesses of Memory)/ « Les Territoires de la Mémoire » (30 min.)
- Access to the resources of the médiathèque (multi-media library).
- Group activities.

THE FORTS OF LIEGE

The St-Laurent Military Hospital



The St-Laurent Military Hospital

- In 1830 the government of the new independent Belgium restored to the former abbey of Saint-Laurent its mission as a military hospital.
- From 1831 wounded soldiers from the French expeditionary corps, which had come to assist in the maintenance of an independent Belgium, were treated there. In 1839 Augustinian nuns from the Hôtel-Dieu in Paris came to work there. These nurses were to display heroic devotion during the cholera epidemic of 1848 and to remain at the Saint-Laurent Military Hospital until the end of the 1970s.
- Since the late 1990s the buildings of the former abbey of Saint-Laurent have been completely restored.
- They no longer house a military hospital, but the 3CRI, the third Regional Infrastructure Centre for the Ministry of Defence. The convent chapel has become a museum showing what life was like in its time as a hospital. The remarkable site of the abbey of Saint-Laurent accommodated the Liège Military Hospital for more than a hundred and fifty years.

The St-Laurent Military Hospital



The Saint-Laurent Abbey in Liège

- The War Years, 1940-45
- In 1940, the personnel having been ordered to withdraw from May 11, the hospital was managed by the Red Cross, in spite of the German occupation: help was provided for soldiers' families, prisoners of war and victims of bombing, etc.
- In September 1944, when Liège was liberated, the Americans established at Saint-Laurent the 15th General Hospital of the US Army.



- The work opposite is known by the name 'Virgin of Dom Rupert'.
- It is a high relief, 92 cm by 64 cm, cut from the local carboniferous sandstone, representing Jesus's mother seated on a throne and suckling her divine child.
- The item on show at the museum is only a copy, the original being preserved at the Curtius Museum in Liège. At the time, this stone was considered miraculous; it is venerated as a source of the gift of intelligence.





A rebuilt room from the 1950s

Abbey and Military Hospital 1936-1992

Information

Tel: +32 (0)4 246 33 76
38, rue Blanche d'Ans, 4340 Awans

Quartier Militaire Saint-Laurent
Rue Saint-Laurent, 79
B4000 LIEGE



The museum is open to the public by appointment

Supported by the Province of Liège



In the renovated setting of the Augustinian nuns' former chapel a hundred and fifty years of the history of military medicine in Liège are represented.



The Coat of Arms of the St-Laurent Military Hospital

