

AtlantikWall

PLATFORM



Newsletter

AtlanticwallPlatform

The Atlantic Wall platform has grown significantly since the international conference in Amersfoort and Middelburg, on the island of Walcheren. With its cartographic framework as a repository of historical information, the web site has expanded into a lively interactive platform with military, social and urban planning information as it relates to the Atlantic Wall. Many sections of the Dutch coastline have meanwhile been featured and an English translation is available for large parts of the site. As the platform matures, and with further growth anticipated, the time has come for a newsletter. This is to be a seasonal publication featuring a diversity of thematic articles on the Atlantic Wall.

This fall 2011 inaugural newsletter includes articles on:

- The iPhone as a tour guide along the Atlantic Wall.
- From over 4000 to just 300 souls – the effect of evacuations in Hook of Holland.
- Cartography as a 'coat stand' for historical material – an interview with cartographer Michiel Hegener about his contribution to the platform.
- Geraniums on the windowsill – Bunkers reused in Hook of Holland.
- Maigret's confrère from The Hague? Murder in miniature.
- The Atlantic Wall platform: Focus on updates.
- Wall walks: Beach and bunker trail in IJmuiden.

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Cartography as a 'coat stand' for historical material

By Ilse Kaldenbach

Michiel Hegener is a cartographer, journalist and literary editor and he is responsible for all of the Atlantic Wall platform's new cartographic material. Michiel has been authoring hiking guides for the Dutch tourist organization since 1994 and he has published numerous articles in Dutch newspapers and periodicals such as *NRC Handelsblad* and *Vrij Nederland*. For this first newsletter, we asked him about his working methods for the Atlantic Wall project and about his views on cartography as a way to sort historical data.

Whence your fascination with maps?

"I can't put my finger on exactly why maps captivate me. Either they do or they don't. Mostly, I'm fascinated by geographic maps and the manner in which a terrain is rendered. I studied social geography at Utrecht University but it was not at all what I had expected. Instead of studying different countries and peoples, all

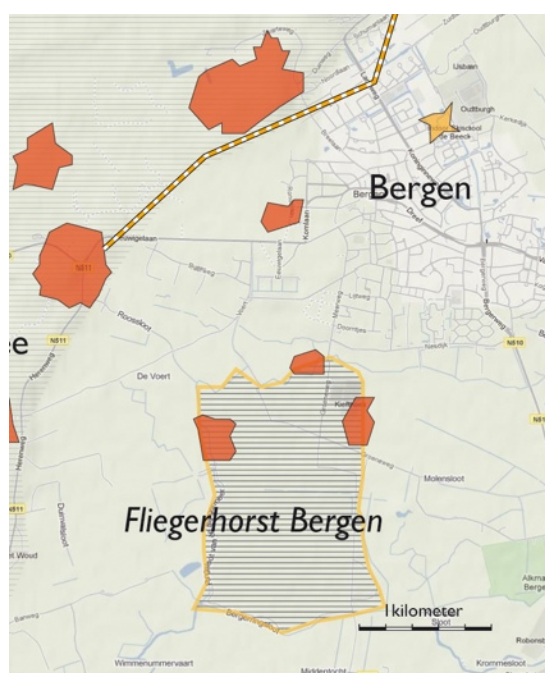
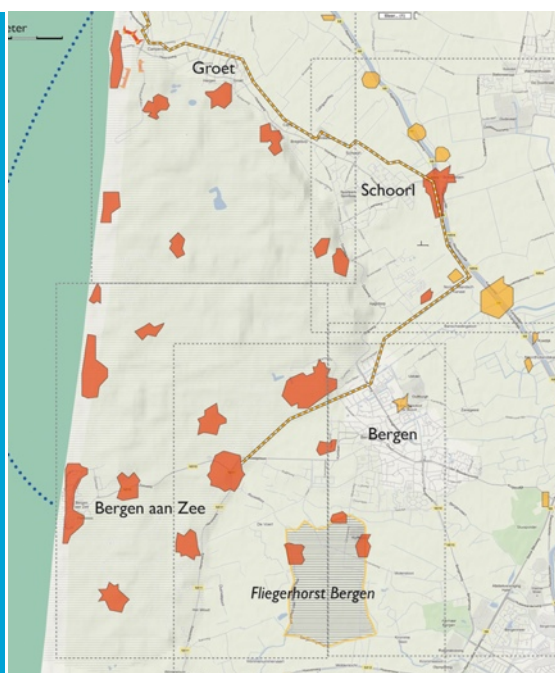
we worked with were mathematical models. This really lowered my grades but making maps pulled me through. Utrecht was the only university offering this specialty course. Thanks to cartography, I was able to graduate."

How were you recruited to create the maps for the Atlantic Wall project?

"I had known Steven [Van Schuppen, initiator of the platform] for a long time through the ANWB [the Dutch tourism organization]. I write hiking guides for them and years ago, when I started over there, an editor told me that there was only one person you could drop in regardless what type of landscape and who would then be able to write something useful about it, and that was Steven van Schuppen. I have always remembered this name until I finally met him at the ANWB. Steven approached me in 2010 for the Atlantic Wall project."

Cartography

Maps that Michael made. In this case an overview and a detailed map.



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How did you go about making these maps; is there a standard method?

"It's a matter of putting together different designs and of frequent consultation with your client. In this case, there was a lot of discussion between Steven van Schuppen, Arjan Nienhuis and myself. You cannot fall back on standard methods. I started out with five, maybe eight, different designs and I kept adding and removing elements following review sessions with Steven and Arjan. So the final form is the result of a lengthy process."

What about the choice of colors?

Did you pick and choose or is it a given that oceans are blue?
"There are no rules here either. Colors do have consequences, they should be logical. With colors, it is important to consider what you want to communicate to the reader. In the case of the sea, my starting point was emotion, not logic. Many



associate the sea with a blue-green color. In the context of this project, the sea had additional meaning: it was where the enemy was expected to come from and the waters were constantly monitored to see if the British might be arriving."

What do you think of such a cartographic approach to historical subjects?

"It's ingenious. Clickable maps are well-known but I never realized that you could carry it so far. In this concept, the map is a kind of coat stand; you can suspend all sorts of

"I can't put my finger on exactly why maps captivate me. Either they do or they don't. Mostly, I'm fascinated by geographic maps and the manner in which a terrain is rendered"

things from it. It is a good way of presenting archival material."

Do you think such a 'coat stand cartography approach' could also work in other disciplines?
"I would hope that other disciplines will pick up on this model and discover that they can sort information on the basis of a map. This type of data management is valuable for many different fields, environmental activism being just one. I also hope this project will be noticed in other countries."

De Stadgeschonden
 This is de Second World War dealt in a four walks

Urban augmented reality

By Steven van Schuppen

The [Urban Augmented Reality \[UAR\]](#) is a digital project initiated by the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAi). It includes an iPhone application that provides instant audio and visual information about the urban environment, revealing what the city looked like in the past and showing what it could look like in the future. The application provides geographically referenced images, sound files and

archival information. Amsterdam, Utrecht, The Hague and Den Bosch will be ready to be launched during 2012. The content for The Hague consists in large measure of material from an exhibit organized by the Haags Historisch Museum, a project called [De Stad Geschonden](#). In four walking tours one can get an idea of the impact of World War II on four distinct parts of the city. The Atlantic Wall is a key theme. Two agencies, [Lopende Zaken](#) and [City Works](#) conceived and produced the museum project and also played a major role in the realization of [this site](#).

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“Germans and remaining civilians alike can be seen surveying the Trümmer [rubble]. The majority of the Den Helder population left town after these raids.”



The Atlantic Wall Platform focus on updates

By Paul Dijkstra

That atlantikwallplatform.eu is a very dynamic site, is evidenced by the numerous updates and improvements that have been implemented in recent months. It may look quiet but a lot has been happening this past year: just click on the updates button.

Hook of Holland and environs [link/updates] have seen [several updates](#) and some of IJmuiden's cartographic details have been refined [expansion FK IJmuiden – Zandvoort]. Several *points of interest* (POIs) have been edited; not only has inaccurate military information been corrected, consequences for landscape and social development have also received further attention – think of evacuation, demolition and reconstruction. New photographic material has been added to the section about *Verteidigungsbereich* Den Helder: an old photo album has surfaced showing pictures taken the week following the RAF's bombardment of Den Helder in 1940. Germans and remaining civilians alike can be seen surveying the *Trümmer* [rubble]. The majority of the Den Helder population left town after these raids.

Because the site is not only intended for national use but is also aimed at an international audience, English

translations have been uploaded in recent weeks. The last POI to be completed will be [Scheveningen](#). It is expected to be quite a job because of the wealth of material available. Meanwhile, the site is expanding across the borders of the Netherlands. The first area to be updated will be the [Deutsche Bucht](#) in the northeast. Preliminary studies are nearing completion and the results will be published by Paul Dijkstra in newsletter # 2. The pivotal question here is: “Why did the Germans continue to work on the Atlantic Wall as late as 1945 when the allies were already moving north?”

Another historical study, authored by Arjan Nienhuis and Steven van Schuppen [about the Atlantic Wall's Vordere Wasserstellung](#) in the Netherlands, is expected in the near future. In addition, we hope to be able to announce the completion of the English translations of the entire web site in newsletter # 2 and to pique your curiosity with new POIs and interesting facts about the AtlantikwallPlatform.

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Fall walks beach and bunker trail IJmuiden

By Vladimir Mars

Directions

1. Start: Bus terminal, western end of the Kennemerboulevard in IJmuiden aan Zee.

2. Take concrete steps up to the Promenade and follow path at slight angle down to the lower parking lots, continue straight along barrier, at the end continue straight on sandy trail. After 50 m, turn left on grassy trail, which leads to a trail along the reeds and banks of Kennemermeer lake.

3. Bear right on the grassy path at the wooden lock. At the end, turn left on the brick and concrete paved road. Turn left on the beach. After ~ 1 km, turn left between the sign 'Nudistenstrand' [nude beach] Bloemendaal and orange kilometer marker # 58. Turn a sharp left up a sandy trail (not clearly demarcated), after cutting through the dunes for ~ 200 m, turn left on sandy road.

4. After a right turn, the trail narrows to a footpath along and through the tall grasses lining the former sluffer. Turn right at the end, up the dune on a steep mulch-covered trail.

5. At the summit, in front of Mirananda restaurant, turn left on paved footpath. Keep going straight, ignore side roads. After intersection with brick-paved road (~ 800 m) continue straight onto a shell-covered trail (bunker path). At the end, cross the street (caution!), turn right on bike road.

6. After the bend and the entrance to

Pedestrian trail along the former Seefront of Festung IJmuiden

Trail length: 6.5 km

Start: The walk can of course be started in several locations along the route, such as near the endpoint of the buses to the beach, at the western end of the Kennemerboulevard in IJmuiden aan Zee.

Public transportation: Connexxion bus # 82 from Amsterdam-Sloterdijk or the Marnixstraat terminal in Amsterdam, bus # 4 from Heemstede via Haarlem railway station. Parking lots can be found south of the Promenade.

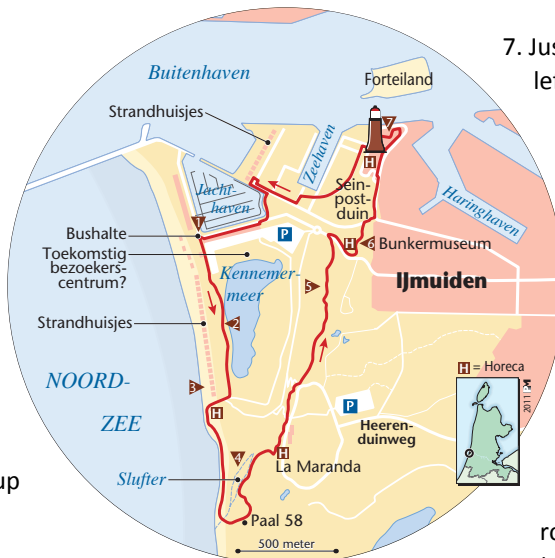
Food and lodging: several along the Kennemerboulevard, near the beach houses (Beach Inn), IJmuiderslag (La Marananda), Seinpostduin (IJmond).

Further information: [Bunkermuseum IJmuiden](#), Badweg 38, is along the way: Opening times: ONLY every first Sunday of the month.

Literatuur: 'Seefront IJmuiden. Duitse bunkers in de kustverdediging van de Festung IJmuiden' (Ruud Pols & Leo de Vries, Pirola publishers, 2007)

Detail map: Topographic map 1:25.000 # 25A Haarlem, edition 2007.

Note: The route is unmarked. Hiking boots are recommended because of uneven and sometimes marshy terrain (paths through dunes, along lakes and shores). Map: © Paul Mouwes



7. Just past the 1st side road on the left, turn left and take the paved path up. At the end, continue straight on the brick road along the Seinpostduin (dune), at the end turn left, at the end, turn left along the red lighthouse. At the end, cross the road obliquely and descend the metal staircase.

8. Turn left on brick road, at the end, straight on across the harbor area and turn right at asphalt road. At the end, past barrier and up the concrete steps near De Pierewaai, turn left at the top on Pierewaaierspad and turn left on to Zuidpier.

9. After ~75, m turn right taking the steps down past the marina, cross the Kennemerboulevard, take the concrete steps up and turn right to the bus terminal.

Bunker museum
IJmuiden, turn a sharp left onto a paved footpath. At the end, near the final yellow bunker and before the concrete steps, turn right down the dune slope to the sandy trail along the fence. At the end, turn right on the Zeekavenweg and turn left immediately on to the Seinpostweg.

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Points of interest

1 Seaport Marina: A marina outside the dunes connected to the open water via a gap in the southern pier, surrounded by an elevated pedestrian zone with cafes, restaurants, shops and condos. Special. Constructed in the early nineties and financed in part with criminal money supplied by real estate developer Willem Endstra who was liquidated in 2004. It is the successor to a pedestrian but cozy string of beach houses with wooden fish restaurants that once stood along the Zuidpier, just outside the dunes.

2 Kennemermeer or Binnenmeer: Natural sand suppletion by the action of winds and water at the base of the Zuidpier (southern pier) in the 1960ies resulted in a wide beach. In the 1990ies, a little lake, protected against the sea by a line of small coastal dunes was excavated south of the marina. The wet dune valley around it developed into a remarkable natural habitat that included Grass of Parnassus, Marsh Helleborine and Autumn Gentian, All of them species that thrive in the calcium-rich waters seeping up from the surrounding dunes..

3 Beach houses and "nolletje" below Zuidpier: a string of beach houses once lay just behind the first line of dunes. With the widening of the beach, they were relocated half a mile away. During the past years, nolletjes [small knolls] or low drifting sand dunes have appeared to the southeast. Cutting through these sand dunes is an occasional gap that opens onto a landscape of seaside villages where one may

spot Sea Holly and a variety of butterflies gathering nectar. Access is permitted, imperative even, to make the habitat to suitable for the flora of the crofts: this is nature to be explored and experienced. But mind you don't trip over the migrating toads in the summer months...At the trail's end, between the Derde Haven [third port] (2001) and the marina, we stumble upon another ribbon of beach houses: They belong to the Pierewaaiers, the *blowers-in-the-wind*, as the tenants like to call themselves.

4. A slufte transforms into a brackish dune valley: Located south of the lake Kennemermeer, are the remains of a largely dried up slufte (an opening in the line of dunes through which sea water can flow in at high tide). It is now all but cut off from open water by the drifting sand dunes known as nolletjes [small knolls]. A semi-salt dune valley with salt-loving vegetation such as Sedge and Sea Arrow Grass. The slufte-trail leads along tall waving grasses, brightly colored Evening Primroses, Fieldmouse Ear and orchids. Breath-taking!

5 Bunker path along remnants of coastal batteries: Some Dutch batteries dating from just before the war and predominantly German ones from 1940-45. Some are almost completely covered with drifting sands, others are exposed. [FLAK-Batterie Olmen \(WiderstandsNest WN 82\)](#) and the [Seeziel-Batterie Heerenduin \(WN 81\)](#), respectively. In the first one, everything from light Flug Abwehr Kanonen (FLAK) [AA guns] in open emplacements from the beginning

Heerenduin

Bunkers that you come across



of the war to heavy FLAK in bunkers with walls several meters thick, gas locks and rotating steel gun turrets from 1943-44. Linked by small stairways to personnel bunkers set deeper into the dunes, and connected via trenches to the fire control bunker, search lights, ammunition and water bunkers, generators, a kitchen, first aid stations, offices, latrines, showers, pigsties and horse barns in rear of the position and a soccer field... a microcosm enclosed by barbed wire, machine gun casemates, mine fields and beach obstacles. Some of all this has been preserved, both above and below ground. The Heerenduinbatterij has different bunkers, more open and jagged types. Most of them can be visited. The fire control bunker ('Leitstand') is the most prominent one, to some it resembles a car, to others a whale...



Geraniums on the windowsill bunkers reused in Hook of Holland

By Ilse Kaldenbach

“Mrs. Klaassen-Van Velzen, clad in a cheerful swimsuit and nicely tanned all over, enjoying the sunshine on her private dune next to her bunker in Hook of Holland. The façade decorated with a bright green horseshoe, a similarly painted fuel tank for the oil furnace and a name plate that reads: ‘Gratitude’...” An idyllic image projected by these opening lines of an article that appeared in the Dutch *Algemeen Dagblad* newspaper of August 22nd 1958, featuring the bunker village in Hook of Holland.

The gray concrete bunkers with their massive walls, facing away from the outside world, don’t

conjure up the sense of comfort and intimacy a home-owner would seek. But the extreme housing shortage after World War II resulted in some amazing creativity in this regard. And so, in several Dutch locations, war-time bunkers were converted (with permits!) into habitable space. Hook van Holland was one of the areas where a cluster of bunkers, concealed in the dunes, was [transformed](#) into a veritable bunker village.

A few lucky Dutch had the opportunity to enjoy their own private bunker for a small weekly

rental fee on condition that they would do their own remodeling. Over the years, strong coastal winds had filled many of the bunkers with drifting sands, so the first order of business was to empty out the new accommodations. It took blood, sweat and tears to create window openings in concrete walls 90 cm thick. The materials for putting in water and electricity were supplied by the municipality. The forbidding bunker look was transfigured by a coat of fresh white exterior paint and geraniums in windows with brightly colored curtains.

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The interiors, too, were improved to create a cozy, home-like feel. The bunkers' high humidity called for particular creativity in floor treatments. One of the tenants covered his floor first with a tar paper moisture barrier and then a layer of hard board, shiny side up. The hardboard was treated with two coats of linseed oil. The concrete floors precluded drilling and nailing, so the hardboard was cut to size for a very precise fit. His invention was a resounding success; this floor turned out to be warm, easy to maintain and virtually indestructible.

None of the bunkers looked the same; some featured a wildflower garden by the front door, others were

pimped with colorful awnings, some lay secluded in the dunes while others sat perkily along "main street". That is not to say that all bunkers in the village were created equal; there were large bunkers with spacious rooms, and smaller ones with considerably fewer amenities. Nonetheless, there was a positive atmosphere among all the tenants. The new-found freedom and a home of one's own, in particular, were a great improvement over having to board with others.

Source: Margriet ladies' magazine and the Algemeen Dagblad newspaper of August 22, 1958.



"An idyllic image projected by these opening lines of an article that appeared in the Dutch Algemeen Dagblad newspaper of August 22nd 1958, featuring the bunker village in Hook of Holland"



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Maigret's confrère from The Hague? Murder in miniature

By Steven van Schuppen

A policy procedural set in The Hague? The events in the *Haagse Mysteriereeks* [The Hague Mysteries] a series of books by Dutch author Pim Hofdorp (pseudonym of Wilhelm Gustave Kierdorff, 1912 - 1984) all take place in a different part of the city. Principal characters are police detective Aremborg and his most meticulous assistant inspector Weimar. The first title in the series is *Moord in Miniatuur* [Murder in miniature – not available in translation], published in 1959. The events take place in the wooded area of the *Scheveningse Bosjes* and in two adjoining neighborhoods: the edge of the *Archipelbuurt* [Archipelago quarter] and the fancy *Van Stolk Park*, the city's oldest villa district. The topographical precision with which Hofdorp describes each place of action, gives the books a typical small-town charm quite characteristic of The Hague, which is exactly why this author's writings are so appealing. *Moord in miniatuur* is a case in point. One can follow the action on the city map. The maps featured on the www.atlantikwallplatform.eu web site could also come in handy, in addition to pre-war maps that show roads and buildings demolished for the Atlantic Wall. The 'bible' of the Atlantic Wall in The Hague, *Van verdediging naar bescherming* [From defense to protection] by Henk Ambachtsheer, head of the municipal Heritage Preservation Agency, is based on just such a pre-war map. The map on page 151 focuses on the Scheveningse Bosjes and the Van Stolk Park. The area shaded in red indicates the zone affected by war-time clear-cutting and demolition and the red line indicates the Hauptkampflinie, which was the land front of Stützpunktgruppe Scheveningen. On this map, the Hauptkampflinie cuts across a monumental villa located in the Bosjes with a view of the *Vijverpartij* [pond]. It is this villa that plays an important role in the plot of *Moord in Miniatuur*.

Supporting evidence of a murder, including the skull of the victim, was once concealed in its basement. The murder had been witnessed by a grounds man employed at the villa at the time. During the war, this grounds man had become involved with demolition activities and had then been able to secure the evidence. After the war, this knowledge and evidence enabled him to successfully blackmail and extort the killer. The local family doctor, who back then had falsely signed a certificate of death from natural causes, also fell into the gardener's clutches. He had to pay off the villain in narcotics. Drug trafficking in nineteen fifties The Hague, hear, hear. In Hofdorp's tale, a dune summit known as *Belvédère*, the highest point in the Scheveningse Bosjes, is another important location in the story. The site of a lookout in the late nineteen fifties, Hofdorp's gardener has secret light signals sent from the summit. This dune actually conceals the bunkers of the [*Stützpunkt van de Führer der Schnellboote*](#).

Regrettably, Hofdorp was unable to include this tasty tidbit in his story. He had no clue, of course – Ambachtsheer's study of the Atlantic Wall (1st edition in 1995) had yet to be written.

Hofdorp ends his first book in miniature: in the miniature city and tourist attraction *Madurodam* right next to the Scheveningse Bosjes. After the war, the grounds man-blackmailer works at Madurodam and hides his stash in these Lilliput buildings. Very small-town indeed... Maybe it's time for a new The Hague Thriller Series? A bit faster-paced than Hofdorp, which shouldn't be too difficult... The adventures of Haagse Harry the Bunker Boy?

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From over 4000 to just 300 souls

The effect of evacuations in Hook of Holland

By Ilse Kaldenbach

The construction of the Atlantic Wall severely impacted Dutch coastal communities. Hook of Holland was no exception; large scale evacuation and demolition drastically changed the village and strongly reduced its population. It meant mandatory abandonment of everything dear to you, taking only a bare minimum of personal items and departing for an unknown destination.

The evacuations in Hook of Holland started in May of 1942 with the measure requiring that the oldest part of the village, known as Oude Hoek, be cleared. Residents of Oude Hoek not required to stay in Hook of Holland because of their jobs, where evicted from the neighborhood. Those economically tied to the area were housed in other sections of Hook of Holland, which were cleared for this purpose. The *Centraal Evacuatiebureau Rotterdam* [Central Rotterdam Evacuations Agency] moved 78 households in a single weekend.

Following a second evacuation order that same month, relocation addresses had to be found for another 2900 inhabitants of Hook of Holland in nearby Naaldwijk. The mayor of Naaldwijk compelled every single resident of his community to collaborate if called upon to provide housing or support to refugees. A *Commissie van Ontvangst* [Welcoming committee!] headed by the mayor oversaw the smooth relocation of newcomers. After their arrival in Naaldwijk, evacuees were brought together in schools, churches and other public buildings before being directed on to their evacuation addresses.

In preparation for these measures, the mayor of Hook of Holland was ordered to notify the population by means of “*Algemene aanwijzingen voor afvoer burgerbevolking*” [General instructions for the relocation of civilians]. Upon leaving, gas and water mains had to be shut off, the house locked and the key (with a tag listing name, street and house number) delivered to the clerk at city hall. The city gave the impression that the homes would be under military

Evacuation

Announcements that Hook of Holland had to be evacuated.

KENNISGEVING

Inwoners van HOEK VAN HOLLAND, die bericht hebben ontvangen, dat zij aan de verplichting tot evacuatie niet onderworpen zijn, worden in de gelegenheid gesteld **VRIJWILLIG** te vertrekken. Zij, die hiervoor in aanmerking willen komen, kunnen ter secretarie van Hoek van Holland inlichtingen ontvangen.

Rotterdam, Januari 1943.

De Burgemeester,
MÜLLER.

BEKENDMAKING

Op verzoek van den Weermachtsbevelhebber in Nederland heeft de Rijkscommissaris voor het bezette Nederlandsche gebied in verband met de uitbreiding land-inwaarts van de kustverdediging en mede in het belang van de burgerbevolking

DE ONTRUIMING VAN HOEK VAN HOLLAND BEVOLEN

Aan de verplichting tot evacuatie is niet onderworpen een klein aantal personen met gezinnen, wier verblijf in het te ontruimen gebied volgens van hoogerhand gegeven richtlijnen dringend noodzakelijk is. Aan deze personen zal mijnerzijds daarvan ten spoedigste mededeeling worden gedaan. Alle overige personen dienen hun woonplaats te verlaten uiterlijk op 1 Februari 1943. Degene die zelf voor een eigen evacuatieadres kunnen zorg dragen, doen zoo spoedig mogelijk, doch uiterlijk op 15 Januari 1943 daarvan ter gemeentesecretarie Hoek van Holland in persoon mededeeling.

Eigen evacuatieadressen zijn niet toegestaan:

- a. in de provincie Zeeland,
- b. in de provincie Zuid-Holland,
- c. in de provincie Noord-Holland,
- d. in de provincie Utrecht in het gebied ten Westen van de spoorlijn Hilversum-Utrecht (de gemeente Utrecht ingegrepen), den Vaartschen Rijn en het Merwedekanaal tot aan de Lek,
- e. in de provincie Noord-Brabant in het gebied ten Westen van de gemeente de Werken c.a. Dussen, Geertruidenberg, Oosterhout, Teteringen, Breda (deze gemeente ingegrepen) en ten Westen van de Mark tot aan de Belgische grens,
- f. in eenige andere gemeenten, waartoe men ter gemeentesecretarie kan worden ingelicht.

Een uitzondering op het voorgaande wordt alleen toegelaten indien de belanghebbenden kunnen aantonen, dat de uitoefening van hun beroep of betrekking alleen mogelijk blijft indien het eigen evacuatieadres komt te liggen in het gebied waarvoor het vestigingsverbod geldt. Een formulier-aanvraag tot vestiging kan op de secretarie Hoek van Holland worden gehaald en ingeleverd; dit moet vóór 15 Januari 1943 geschieden. Zij, die te Hoek van Holland hun werk hebben en dit niet (zoals b.v. de neringdoenden) als gevolg van de evacuatie zullen verliezen, kunnen een adres zoeken te De Lier, Wateringen, Schipluiden of Maastrand. Ook kunnen zij bij familie of anderen te Rotterdam gaan inwonen. Voorts kan men zich ter secretarie Hoek van Holland opgeven voor een woning te Rotterdam, die men dan bij aanbidding onvoorwaardelijk zal hebben te aanvaarden. Temlotte kunnen de hier bedoelde personen zich ten Oosten van de bovengenoemde grens een adres zoeken al zich daarheen laten evacueren, waarbij echter praktisch uitgesloten zal zijn, dat zij te Hoek van Holland kunnen blijven werken.

De neringdoenden, die geen mededeeling ontvangen dat zij mogen blijven, kunnen den wensch te kennen geven, hun bedrijf elders voort te zetten. Zij moeten daartoe zelf pogingen in het werk stellen en kunnen zich voor hulp bij de overbrenging van hun nering of bedrijf wenden tot den Evacuatiedienst van de Kamer van Koophandel voor Zuid-Holland, Van den Spiegelstraat 12, 's-Gravenhage. Een klein getal neringdoenden kan te Rotterdam aan een winkel worden geholpen. Daartoe moet men zich ter secretarie te Hoek van Holland opgeven. De overige af te voeren personen worden in de loop van de maand Januari 1943 door de zorg van de Commissie Burgerbevolking ondergebracht in nader aan te wijzen ge-

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surveillance, but in practice, this protection did not amount to much. Many homes were reoccupied by other civilians, or they were simply demolished. Personal items permitted to be brought along to the evacuation address were restricted to the barest of necessities with a maximum total weight of 30 kg. It came down to not much more than a few files and valuable documents, food for a couple of days, a few items of clothing, toiletries, some cooking utensils, medicines and things like flashlights and candles.

The Wehrmacht's final evacuation order of January 1943 declared that a mere 850 residents of Hook of Holland would be permitted to remain. About 970 evacuees were put up in homes that had become available in Rotterdam because of the deportation of Jews and 224 refugees were housed elsewhere. After the January 1943 evacuations, 913 persons were left in Hook of Holland and in spite of being more than originally demanded, the *Ortskommandant* acquiesced. The impact of these evacuations on the number of residents was huge. In 1939, on the eve of World War II, Hook van Holland had numbered 4012 souls. It was hit hard by the continuously changing circumstances of war and the number dwindled to a low of just 300 residents in 1944.



IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER OF THE ATLANTIC WALL PLATFORM

- > New insights on both sides of the Dollard
- > The Atlantic Wall as waterline and the water agenda of the 21st century
- > Pitches Cap Gris Nez and St. Valery: Heinrich Böll as Wall-soldier
- > Three villages on Walcheren. Landscape and society in the war