



Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

Bunker from World War II (level Plaka) at Vamos / Prefecture Chania (Archie [for air defence & for sea targets] at Cap Drapanon [Souda])

Preliminary remark: To complete this leaflet we received numerous background information from the members of our forum; therefore see at (in German only): [<http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/wbb2/thread.php?threadid=1106>]; also the members of the "Forum der Wehrmacht" supplied important hints, see at (in German only): [<http://www.forum-der-wehrmacht.de/thread.php?threadid=15880>]. These links provide so many more details and information. At this point we thank all Forum participants for their support on our research. The afterimage shows a view from the bunker of the Souda Bay.



You get to the bunker complex of **Kokkino Chorio** if driving on the North coast of Crete, east of **Chania** from the village **Kalives** towards the village **Plaka**. In the well-known resort of **Almirida**, you follow the road along the sea until you reach the junction on the left to **Plaka**. In **Plaka** itself stay on the wide main street, until you get to the end of the village where you must turn right uphill to **Kambia**. In **Kambia** points a sign on the left towards **Kokkino Chorio**. There turn right before the place at the Church, and at the fence with the many mailboxes (see figure right) turn right again. From now on, follow the directions to the Chapel of Agios Giorgios which is located adjacent to the bunker complex.



According to historical sources, in particular the 22nd Infantry Division led by Corps E was deployed in Crete: Battles at **Souda Bay** and foray over **Rethymno** to **Heraklion**, (05/27 – 05/30/1941). Hereafter the Archie Company III/65 was used to back up the coast on both sides of Iraklion and particular at **Vamos** Archie Company III/16; Quotation about the section Rethymno / Chania [<http://www.lexikonderwehrmacht.de/>]: "GR 16 in Rethymno; I./16 in Spili for the protection of the South Coast and the island Gavdos and the heartland; II./16 protection of the Coast of Jorjupolis to Panormon; Pi.Btl. in Prines; I./AR 22 Arjiupolis, Adele und Rethymno; 3./Pz.Jg. in Rustika; one Archie company in Armeni, later at the airport of Rethymno; AA in Perama; III./16 in Vamos" (Vamos). As of February 1943, the 22nd ID as well as the 11th Air force field-Division were active in the North of Crete; in April 1944 die 22nd ID & die 133rd ID; from October 1944 the 133rd ID.



Starting point to the bunker complex is the Chapel *Agios Giorgios* (see fig. above left). Left hand of the Chapel leads a new road up the hill (to the bunker). From here you have a good view at the ruins of the former subsidiary facility with a memorial plaque at the foot of the hill (fig above right & below)



Right of the chapel leads a footpath (from the chapel square over five steps) to the entrance of the ammunitions dump which was built in the mountain (see fig. below left). The ammunition dump is connected inside of the mountain to the bunker. In the entrance area to the munitions bunker is also a memorial plaque (see fig. below right.)

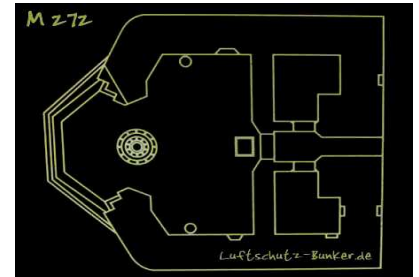


The bunker system is probably a German artillery bunker for heavy shore batteries, probably after the rule construction type M 272 for ship guns with a range of 20 km (~ 12.4 miles); for further details see: [www.luftschutz-bunker.de].

The bunker very reminiscent of the great naval shore battery, like e.g. a naval archie battery for the air defence or surface targets. They exist of a control stand (rule construction 178), artillery embrasure (rule construction 272), ammunition dugout ((rule construction 134 and FI 246) und further subsidiary buildings (rule construction of series 58); for more details see: [<http://www.7grad.org/Exkursionen/Atlantikwall/atlantikwall.html>].

The sketch shows the structure of a pillbox be construction rule "M 272" for 17 cm-ship guns with a range of 20 km. It consists of two rooms of ammunition in the rear and the battle space itself where the gun was.

The following picture from the place (with short description) show further views of the bunker complex.



Images are showing 2 pictures from the entrance to the ammunition bunker from inside towards outside. Electric cable for "lighting" are left on the ground of the tunnel and at the ceiling but not usable (missing lamps or generator) Therefore a flashlight is needed for planned inspection. The image right is showing a by a railing "enclosed" shaft (close to the stairs towards the control room), which probably was used as a "well" (diameter approx 40-50 cm). It has a depth of some over 9 m.



The pictures are showing impressions from the ammunition dugout within the mountain, which has multiple, laterally mounted adjoining rooms (storerooms).



Via a staircase in the mountain you can get from the munitions storage area into the control centre (see figure in the middle) of the bunker on the mountain. The artillery embrasures are well visible from inside as well as from outside the bunker. The outdoor complex of the bunker was restored.

© **Pictures:** M. Eleftheria 14 x, U. Kluge 4 x (2008), Luftschutzbunker-de (sketch)

Further information about the German occupation of Crete during World War II can be found at our info leaflet 086-05/E at [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/086-05E.pdf] and about the guerrillas stroke “Andartes” within the Internet at: [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andartes#Andartes>]; for this see also our leaflet at: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/308-09E.pdf].

Translated by Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling

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Promotional: Welcome to the “Bergischen (Rhein)Land”



Crest of the family Eikamp

[Gerhard von Eikamp (1294-1326) and Heinrich von Eikamp (1303), knight in Eikamp]. The name “Eikamp” is derived from “eynkamp” which means “fenced ground”: forest and/or willow.

The crest painting was done on reference by *Dagmar Harmsen* (Berlin)

Literature: Gerd Müller: *Odenthal - Geschichte einer bergischen Gemeinde*, Kierdorf Remscheid, 2. Auflage 1987. This book also contains a „directory of inhabitants“ of the earlier, free village Eikamp, from beginning until today a

urban district of the municipal Odenthal. Traditional care operates the resident “Theatre and May Club Eikamp eV” s. u.: [<http://www.theater-und-maiverein.com/>]); the Hotel “**Eikamper Höhe**” has its own homepage; there see at [<http://www.hotelonline.de/hotels/hotel-eikamperhoehe-in-odenthal.htm>].

