

Description of the individual buildings



Aerial photograph showing the location of the major buildings

Caption aerial photograph

I = Barracks I, II = Barracks II, III= Barracks III

K= Soldiers' dining facility, L = Instruction building, M = Army depot, MK = former Dining facility, O = Officers' mess, W = Guard building, Z = Sickbay

Guard building

The guard building at the entrance of the military base served as living quarters for one officer and eighteen 'sub-officers'. The ground floor comprised rooms for the duty officer and the watch on duty, six jail cells, a police room, and four office spaces, which were used as regiment and garrison offices and clerical offices. The rooms on the second floor served as living quarters for the officer and sub-officers, while the attic was used as archival space. The guard building also had a basement, including spaces for a boiler, generators and storage of coal.



The main entrance used to be on the corner of Hubertuslaan and Prins Bisschopssingel.



The army base was built on a plot of land covered with inundation basins : in the background one can see the homes that around 1910 were built on the opposite corner.

All around, the army base has a wrought iron fence, which comes with three gates: one gate along the central axis of the parade ground near the barracks, another behind the sickbay, and then there is the original main entrance gate with a sentry box on the corner of Hubertuslaan and Prins Bisschopssingel.

Soldiers' dining facility (near building K)



The former soldiers' dining facility around 1935



Interior of the former soldiers' dining facility ca. 1935

The former dining facility dates from the first stage of construction and its central part consists of two stories covered by a pitched roof at right angles. Originally the building had a kitchen and two dining halls, as well as a reading and writing room. There used to be two verandas on the front side of the building. The kitchen facility for the men was found in the kitchen building, including a room where the men could pick up their meal, after which they would eat it sitting at a long table in their living quarters.

Barracks I,II and III



The barracks were erected in 1916 around the parade ground



The barracks right after their completion in 1916



Backside of the barracks, 2003

The three freestanding barracks or sleeping quarters go back to the original design of the base. There is a parade ground in front of these buildings. Barracks I and II have a rectangular floor plan and consist of a central wing of two stories with a pitched roof and two side wings with hipped roofs at right angles covering two stories and the attic. Aside from sleeping quarters, the barracks also comprised two company offices, sanitary rooms and 'night lavatories'. The attic housed two clothing rooms. Barracks III differed from the two others in that it had a three-story central part, covered with a hipped roof, mainly used as office space. Above the windows of the first floor there is a name stone 'TAPIJNKAZERNE', the name given to the base in 1934. Each barracks could house 220 soldiers and 16 sub-officers.

Gravestone General Dibbets (near cenotaph)



Portrait of General Dibbets



Photograph from the late nineteenth century, when Dibbets' monumental gravestone was still found on the Bosscherweg

On 2 April 1839 Baron Dibbets was buried with military honors in the municipal cemetery on the Tongerseweg. After two months the body of Dibbets was reburied on the Nieuwe Bossche Fronten. It was a great honor to be buried on the Defense Works. Yet many residents of Maastricht saw the general as a traitor. For many years there was a tradition among the locals to

urinate on Dibbets' tomb on Sundays, after Mass. In 1927 (or 1925, according to *Zicht op Maastricht*) the tomb was moved to the grounds of the Tapijnkazerne, without ceremony and paid for by the state.

Drill hall



Interior of the Drill hall



Drawing of a Polonceau truss

The drill hall was meant for practicing indoors. This building also housed the army base workshops for firearms and bicycle repair. Later on, the shed was used as a garage for larger army vehicles. The iron trusses were made according to the system of the French engineer Polonceau, which made it possible to realize a very wide span with a minimum of materials.

Bunker building



Generators in the bunker



Interior Command bunker



The bunker's exterior was camouflaged by using bricks

The high-protection command bunker was possibly built around 1980, in the location of the former bathhouse. It is a typical relic of the Cold War. The bunker has one-meter thick concrete walls, with gas locks and carbon filters. The building is camouflaged as a regular army base building by applying a brick exterior. It houses a telephone switchboard adjacent to the command center, which comes with early application of modular floors. Two giant generators are meant to ensure the building's power supply. In case of ABC-conditions (atomic-biological-chemical), the command bunker's staff was supposed to be able to operate shut off from the outside world for a certain amount of time.

Soldiers' dining facility



Interior of the soldiers' dining facility ca. 1955



Exterior of the soldiers' dining facility ca. 1955

The soldiers' dining facility dates from 1955. This building served as dining hall for the troops, and it also came with a billiards room and a reading and writing room. Designed by architect P. de Ruiter and having a large basic volume and a rectangular ground plan, the building comes with a slightly lower entrance section on the east side. After the Dutch military left the army base in 1967, the building continued to be used as a dining hall, called Anchor Inn.

Sickbay



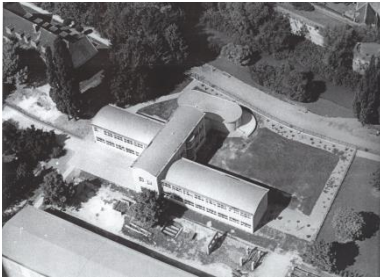
Sickbay ca. 2003, when it was used as an office



Interior of the office in the former sickbay

The former sickbay was added shortly after the first building period. At the time, the building was surrounded by a fence and was also accessible from outside via a separate entrance, so that in case of an outbreak of an infectious disease the victims could be quarantined. Later the building was remodeled into a staff office.

Instruction building and Officers' mess



Aerial photograph of the new Instruction building in 1955



Exterior of the Instruction building



Photographs of the interior of the Instruction building

In 1951 there were plans to expand the army base by adding a garage, a workshop and an instruction building (plus sleeping quarters) with an officers' mess, based on designs by architect P. de Ruiter. The instruction building has a concrete skeleton and an exterior marked by brickwork and large glass surfaces. In 1954 an officers' mess was added to the building.