

Atlantikwall Europe Start Event

Oostende, 28/11/2018

Rafaël Deroo (AWE)



Military Built Heritage and #DifficultHeritage



#atlantikwalleurope
#europeforculture
#eych2018

Fb /Instagram : Atlantikwall Europe
Twitter :@atlantikwallE

“Monuments and memorials are perhaps best understood as a starting point rather than an end point for a society’s engagement with its past. If understood this way, they still might have a future.”

-‘Mahnmal’ : ‘warn sign’

-Link past-present



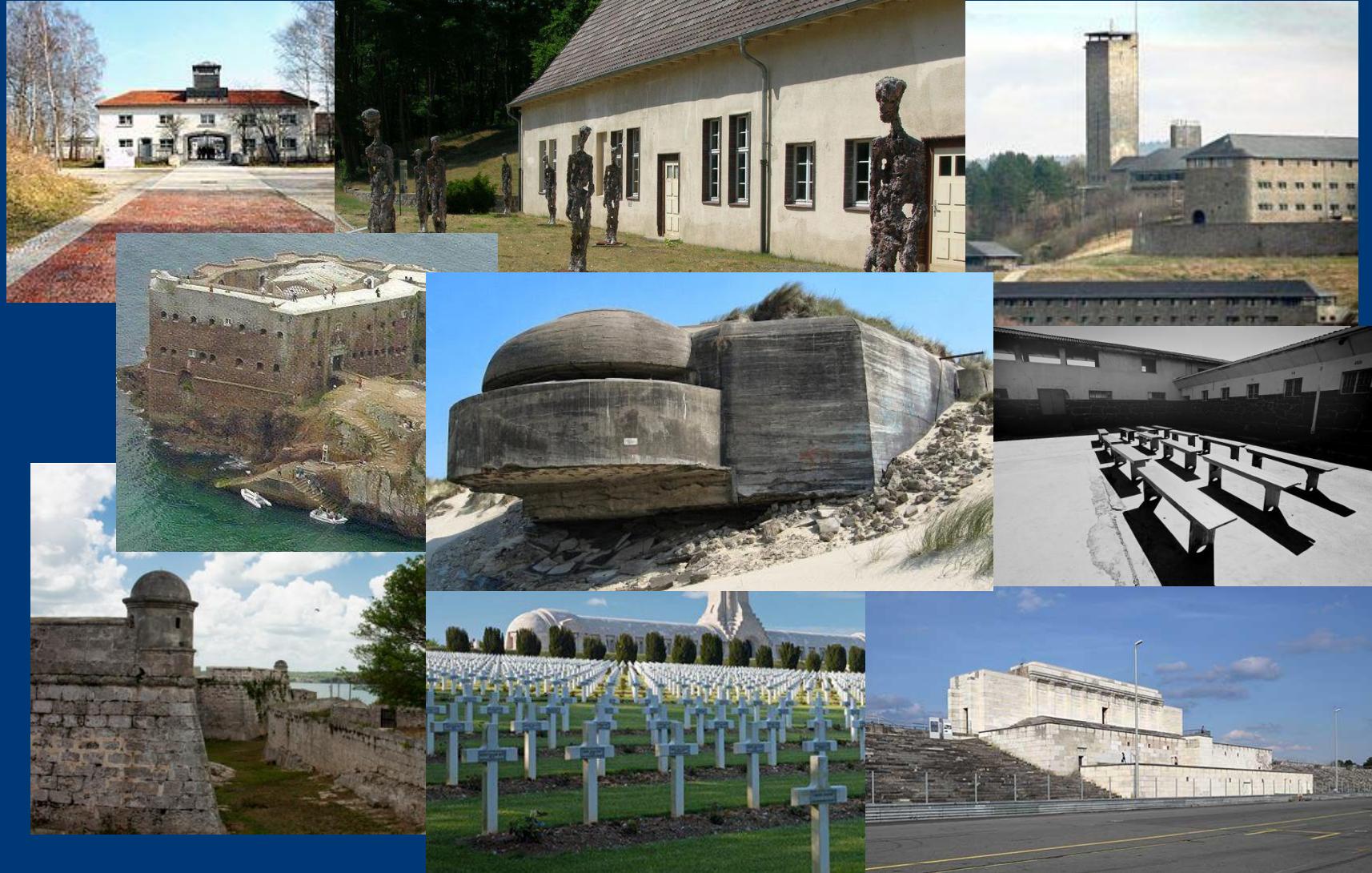
Heritage



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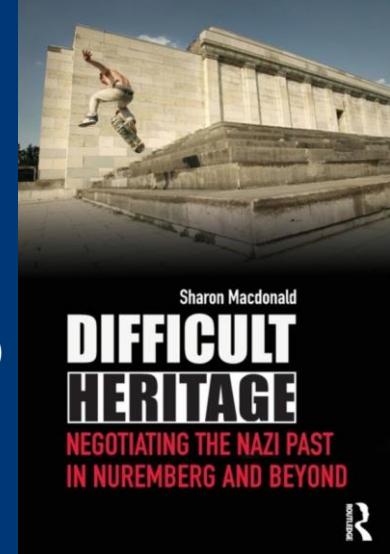


Difficult heritage



‘Difficult Heritage’

- Introduction of ‘Difficult Heritage’ by **Sharon MacDonald** at the ICMAH (International Committee for Museums and Collections of Archaeology and History) Annual Conference in 2007.
- ‘**Difficult Heritage**, negotiating the Nazi-past in Nuremberg and beyond’, 2008 - by Sharon MacDonald
- ‘Heritage Education : challenges of the past’, 16-18 June 2011 **ICMAH Conference** – Center of Historical Culture at Erasmus University, Rotterdam (research project of **Van Boxtel, Klein, Snoep**)
- ‘Contested heritage : educational approaches to occupation museums in the Baltic States
- 2014 Caen ‘Remembrance Tourism’ conference (FR)
- ‘**Code of Ethics**’ by the Word Tourism Organisation
- ‘Difficult Heritage : making sense of uncomfortable histories / Difficult Heritage as a Verb? Trauma, Redemption and Action, April 2018 – by **Jessica Moody** (Bristol University) at Bar Convent, York (event supported by the Heritage Consortium and the Leed Beckett School of Cultural Studies and Humanities (UK)
- Network of European Museum Organisations (**NEMO**) **Webinar** 25 June 2018 : Difficult Heritage, museum at Spac Prison (Albania)
- ‘**Böse Bauten**’(‘angry buildings’), 2018 – a ZDF documentary on the Atlantikwall in Scheveningen (NL)
- 2020 ‘Ethical Charter’ for Atlantikwall sites by **Atlantikwall Europe**.



‘Atlantikwall Europe’ #eych2018



ATLANTIKWALL
EUROPE

EUROPEAN HERITAGE - HUMAN HISTORY



EUROPEAN
BUNKER DAY



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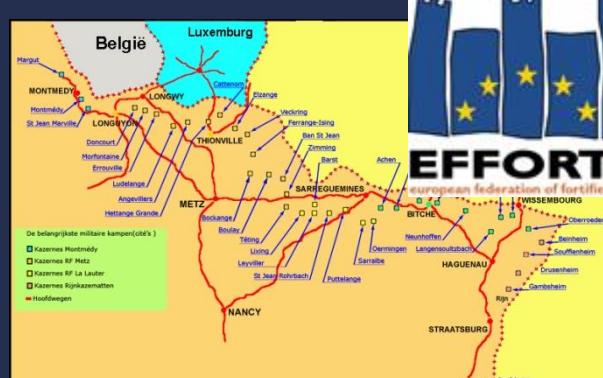


Lines, Walls and Forts

Atlantic Wall 1942-1944



- inundatiegebied
- forten en vestingen:
 - Stelling van Amsterdam
 - Oude Hollandse Waterlinie
 - Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie
 - Grebbelinie
 - Zuiderwaterlinie
 - IJssellinie



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The Atlantikwall

- Atlantikwall : WW2 Nazi Germany constructions in occupied countries, 75 yrs ago**
- Most visible, every day free access WWII remnant across 7 European countries, 1000's of sites left.**
- Transitional heritage**



EU Creative Europe Cooperation 'Atlantikwall Europe'

- Show difficult heritage
- Use it to discuss today's difficult discussions
- Showing Atlantikwall's relevance today

(Start Event AWE 'Walls&Peace' 28 November 2018, Oostende, B)



- What is ‘difficult heritage’ ?

Accepted military built heritage ?

Ignored military heritage ?

Sensitive Heritage ?



The Anne Frank House
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Contested Heritage ?

- Leopold II statutes in Belgium / Slave forts in Africa, Americas
- Gestapo HQ in Brussels / Seyss-Inquart's HQ in The Hague
- Hitler's birth house in Austria
- Confederate statues in the US (are there statutes in Europe for Von Rundstedt, Rommel ?)
- Foundation preserving Franco's heritage in Spain
- Early churches and places of worship in countries of different religions
- Berlin wall in 1990's
- WWI
- WWII (AWE)



• Sites are difficult when :

- ‘**Communality**’ : common history (with former adversaries, Europe)
- **War, occupation or repressive force / victims** : on own soil and ideology still present
- **‘Moral witnessing’ / ‘inoculations’**
(see S. MacDonald)



- European heritage can also be difficult



Common heritage

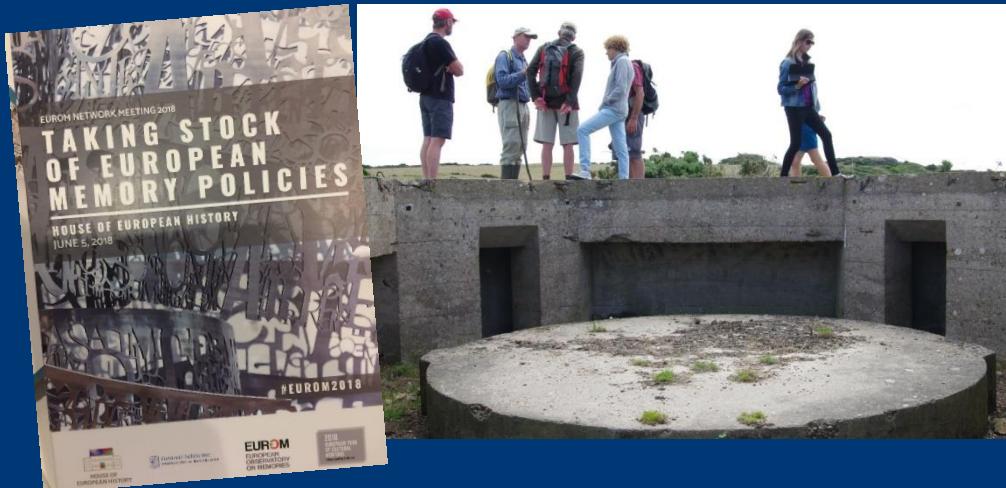
evolution in thinking for most.



Future



-UNESCO recognition in 2019 of D-Day
beaches / EHL / remembrance



Otherwise : ‘Missed’ Heritage
/ Missed past

• How to deal with Difficult Heritage ? (1)



'never again'

**Further than 'inoculation' and 'remembrance'.
Place of ACTION for Europe's FUTURE**

How to deal with Difficult Heritage? (1)

It should never get 'less difficult'.

- Last witnesses of a difficult past
- Continuous effort (preservation)
- Time / Distance
- Education / cultural actions (AWE)

• Thank you -

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