



These guidelines are partly financed by the European Union (ERDF) within the Baltic Sea Region Programme

# MILITARY HERITAGE

## management guidelines

2011



LAUKU CEĻOTĀJS





This report was compiled within the Baltic Green Belt project. The Baltic Green Belt project wants to conserve, use and develop the common natural and cultural heritage of the coastal border areas formerly dividing east and west by establishing a platform for transnational cooperation between stakeholders working in nature conservation and sustainable development of the southern and eastern Baltic Sea coast.



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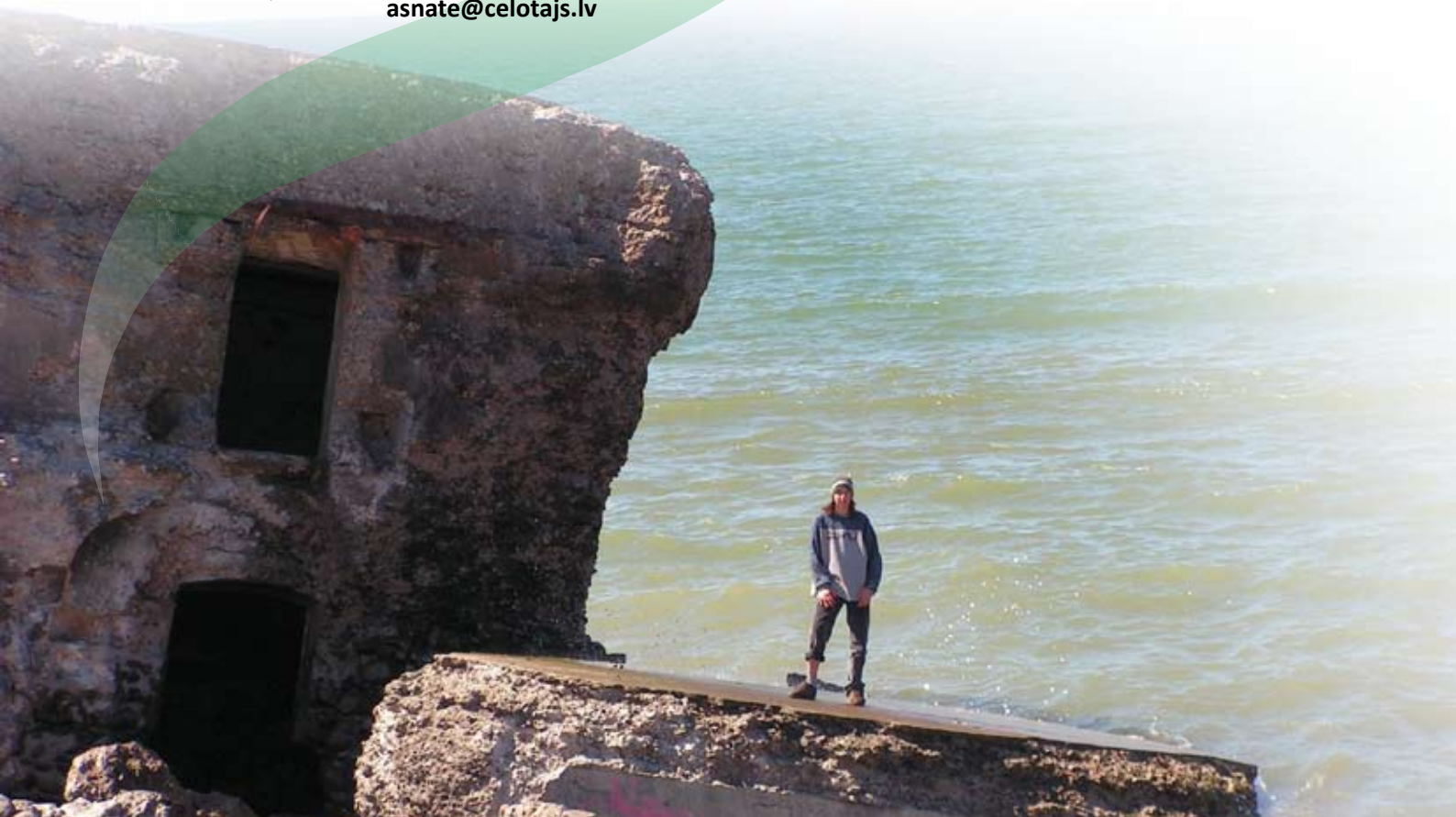
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## INTRODUCTION

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Soviet military bases occupied approximately 10% of the territory of Latvia. There were several hundreds of Soviet military objects located in the country. Irrespective of the multitude and variety of these objects (including also pre-soviet), there are only few shining examples in Latvia of how these significant historical resources are being used in tourism or how an attractive and informative touring product has been developed on their basis.

Meanwhile European and international practice provides countless examples where such objects are popular tourist attractions at the respective regional or even national level.

The **objectives** of the Military Heritage Management Guidelines are to introduce this successful European practice, to promote the usage of Latvian military heritage in the development of new touring products, and to draw public attention to the necessary protection, since the majority of the 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> c. military objects (it refers both to material and nonmaterial heritage) have been lost forever.

### **The concept „object of military heritage” or „military object” in these Guidelines refers to:**

- An object that has been used for military purposes for the past 2 – 3 centuries;
- The former USSR army objects – missile bases, aviation and tank firing ranges, former military aerodromes, military towns, objects of the border guard and counterespionage, etc.
- The former fortification systems, coastal defence batteries, fortresses, pillboxes, blockhouses, bunkers, and in some cases – sconces;
- Collections, museums and exhibitions devoted to the warfare and military issues;
- Significant battle fields, if these sites are facilitated and exhibited as sightseeing objects;
- Weaponry, for instance, - canons;
- People as well – narrators and organized events that continue or display the traditions related to the military heritage.

### **The contents of the Guidelines are the following:**

- Examples of the military heritage objects in Nordic countries and Latvia – best practice military heritage tourism product examples, developed on the basis of interesting, attractive and important military resources;
- Criteria for the evaluation of the military objects’ suitability to tourism, for which a simple algorithm has been drawn up – how to evaluate the military objects’ suitability to the involvement in the development of a tourism product;
- Existent and potential military objects in Latvia – on the basis of the previously mentioned criteria, a list of 63 currently existent and potential military tourism objects has been created.
- Aspects of the use of historical materials and information – the role of historical materials in the development of tourism products has been explained;
- Example of a military touring route – a military heritage touring route has been created in Kurzeme, which is the richest area in Latvia in terms of unused military resources;
- Guidelines on the military objects’ usage in tourism – how to manage the resources related to the military domain;
- Map: Military tourism objects in Latvia – an overview map showing the present military tourism offer in Latvia;
- Military heritage related web sites and information sources – a list of Internet sites, mainly related to Latvia and Nordic countries;
- Acknowledgements – the list of people contributing to the development of the Guidelines.
- Proposals and action plan for transformation of the former 46<sup>th</sup> Vindava Coastal Battery into a tourist attraction – a detailed list of activities and steps in the process.

The Guidelines will serve as a source of information and inspiration for the owners and managers of military objects, for self-governments and Tourism Information Centres (TIC), the staff of museums and other institutions.

The Guidelines have been developed within the framework of the project „**The Baltic Green Belt**” of the pilot project of the Baltic Sea Region Trans-national Cooperation Programme, implemented by the Latvian Rural Tourism Association „**The Countryside Traveller**”, simultaneously also preparing a map of military tourism routes. The preparation process of the information about the objects involved > 30 different interested persons (see Acknowledgements) – researchers of local history, tour guides, local enthusiasts, staff of museums, TIC and self-governments, etc.. By virtue of their cooperation a database on the military objects and related stories has been established on Countryside Traveller’s website [www.celotajs.lv](http://www.celotajs.lv), in the section „Worth seeing”; valuable information has been gathered and historical photographs for the purposes of the above-mentioned map of the military tourism routes have been obtained. Although the “focus territory” of the project is Kurzeme’s historical area (the western border of the former USSR), the information has also been gathered and the experience obtained in the rest of the territory of Latvia. The project activities and previous results have aroused great interest from Latvian journalists and gripping publications both in the “central” and regional press, as well as video stories on the Latvian Television, thus generating interest in the military objects and positive resonance within the sphere.

The aim of the Baltic Sea Region Trans-national Cooperation Programme Project „The Baltic Green Belt” is to facilitate the preservation of the Baltic Sea region biological diversity by establishing the Baltic Green Belt as a permanent network of cooperation. In geographic terms, the Baltic Green Belt runs along the boundary of the Iron Curtain that was set up by the former USSR. For this reason the environment here remains largely untouched and unique. The plan of activities related to the Baltic Green Belt includes attempting to improve the ecological situation in the coastal zone, both in the sea and on land. This will help to promote the sustainability of social and economic aspects of the process, and it will also help to ensure economic welfare for local residents. The project includes NGOs, government institutions, representatives of business and scientific institutions – 15 partners and 7 associate partners in all, all of them representing countries which surround the Baltic Sea. The Latvian Country Tourism Association is one of the partners, and its task in this project is to organize a pilot project in co-operation with the Slītere National Park.



Figure – the European Green Belt  
<http://europeangreenbelt.org>

## EXAMPLES OF MILITARY HERITAGE OBJECTS IN NORDIC COUNTRIES

### ESTONIA

Estonia has a number of successful examples of how former military objects are used in tourism.

#### ❖ Submarine „Lembit” in Tallinn

This is the only example in the Baltics of a submarine preserved till nowadays and open to visitors. The submarine was built in 1936 in England. Submarines were also located in the Liepāja Karosta in Latvia. Unfortunately, they have been cut to scrap metal and melted down. At present, the submarine „Lembit” has been taken out from water and is placed in a hangar in the Tallinn hydro station. This is a unique complex of buildings, erected in 1914, for Russian naval hydro aviation aircrafts. Today the territory is managed by the Estonian Maritime museum. This historical monument is under renovation with the support of EC funding to develop a museum exhibition with the submarine „Lembit” as an important exhibit.

Fig. 1. Web site of the Estonian Maritime museum [www.meremuuseum.ee](http://www.meremuuseum.ee) (a) and submarine „Lembit” (b), photo by N. Smaļinskis



(a)



(b)

#### ❖ Coastal defence battery in cape Sõrve, Saaremaa

The battery was built in 1941 in cape Sõrve, in the southern part of the Saaremaa island. The battery consisted of 180mm guns to defend the Irbe Strait. Some of the constructions have been conserved and the information stand is installed featuring a historical photo. It provides a truthful impression of the batteries at the time they were in action. The other batteries (altogether, there were 4 batteries) are in the nearby forest and have not been reconstructed.

Fig. 2. Coastal defence battery (a) and the information stand (b), a, b – photo by N. Smaļinskis



(a)



(b)

❖ **Military museum cape Sõrve, Saaremaa**

Matti Martinson who lives in Saaremaa and is a military history enthusiast, has created a small museum exhibiting artefacts found in Sõrve peninsula. The visitors can see armaments and military equipment of Russian, German and Soviet military forces during the WWI and WWII. Estonian authorities have provided the building of the former Estonian border guard cordon for the museum. In summertime, the museum hosts youth camps. Expeditions are organised in search for war relicts. The local self-government is in the decision process about handing over the former underground command post of Captain Stebel of the 315-th battery to the museum.



Fig. 3. Matti Martinson (from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)

❖ **Military museum in Hiiumaa island, Tahkuna peninsula**

The local enthusiasts of military history have created a museum in Tahkuna peninsula exposing wartime artefacts found in the island. Armaments and military equipment since WWI, WWII and Cold War of Russian, German and Soviet armies are exposed here. The local self-government has provided the building of the former soviet military radio communication post for the museum. Looking at the examples in Estonia, we have to conclude that military museums become increasingly popular. Further expansion can be expected.



Fig. 4. Military museum in Hiiumaa island, Tahkuna peninsula (from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)

❖ **Touring routes in Aegna island near Tallinn**

Aegna island (Swedish - Ulfsö, German - Wulf) lies in 14km to the North from Tallinn harbour. Coastal defence batteries were built here to defend Tallinn against military offensives from the sea. The buildings went from one hands into others – Russians, Germans, Estonians, Russians again, Germans again, and finally, the Soviet army possessed them. Aegna island is a unique „reserve” of military history. It belongs to municipality of Tallinn. The authorities have installed marked walking and cycling routes, information stands, waste bins. The island can be accessed by a shuttle boat from Tallinn harbour or by private boats.



Fig. 5. Walking route in Aegna island (from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)



#### ❖ **Reconstructions of historical events in Narva**

In the Narva castle, reconstructions of the Battle of Narva between the forces of Peter I the Great and the Swedish army during the Great Northern War take place. The festival gathers the fans of history from Estonia, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania and other countries. The castle hosts a history museum and is often a venue of exhibitions, conferences, meetings and other events. The castle museum and the renovated castle itself are the main support base for tourism events.



Fig. 6. Contemporary reconstruction of the Great Northern War events (from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)

#### ❖ **Medieval reconstruction in Rakvere**

Rakvere medieval castle is a good example of a castle reconstructed and adapted for tourism. Visitors can try bow shooting, see a blacksmith at work, try on a knight's armour, go horseback riding, and feast on medieval foods. An exposition of medieval swords is also here.



Fig. 7. Southern part of Rakvere castle (from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)

## LITHUANIA

### ❖ Missile base in Žemaitija

The missile base is located in the Žemaitija national park and is managed by the national park administration. At present this missile base is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the Žemaitija national park, especially as to foreign visitors („Lonely Planet” describes it as a top site of interest in the territory). Major renovation started In 2010 with the support of EC funding to facilitate the object for visitors. At the same time, a Cold War museum is being created here.



(a)

Fig. 8. The gates of the missile base (a, photo by J. Smalinskis) and an entrance ticket (b)



(b)

### ❖ The Fortress of Kopgalis

Today this is one of the most successful examples in the Baltic countries of how a military object of this type – a 19th century fortress built for defence of the Klaipeda harbour – has been used in tourism. The fortress is fully renovated, and houses the Marine fauna exposition, the Navigation history exposition, the Dolphinarium and other attractions. The fortress is today one of the most popular tourist destination sites attracting the largest visitor numbers in West Lithuania.

Information:

[http://www.muzejai.lt/Klaipeda/juru\\_muzejus.en.htm](http://www.muzejai.lt/Klaipeda/juru_muzejus.en.htm).



(a)

Fig. 9. Sattelite photo of the Kopgalis Fortress (a, Google Earth base) and entrance view (b)



(b)

❖ **The “Memel – Nord” coastal defence battery in Klaipeda**

The “Memel – Nord” coastal defence battery is situated north of Klaipeda, in Girulai village. It was built by the Germans in 1931-41. The battery consisted of four SKL/45 15cm guns. Later they were replaced with 12,8cm FlaK-40 guns. After 1945, on the bases of the German guns, Russian B13 guns of 130mm calibre were installed. It was the 479-th coastal defence battery KBF.

A group of military history enthusiasts have created a museum in the battery buildings. Several buildings are cleaned and renovated. The most significant historical finding in the Baltic Sea coast is the 128mm gun barrel found on the site of the „Memel-Nord” battery.

The battery museum organises lectures, excursions and history lessons for school groups. On the seacoast, anti-war theatre performances are given.



Fig. 10. 12,8 cm FlaK-40 gun barrel and the command post of the Memel-Nord battery (from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)

❖ **The Kaunas fortress, Fort IX and Fort VII**

The Fort IX of the Kaunas fortress is well-known as a Museum of Holocaust and Fortifications. The fort underwent major reconstruction works. For two years, a group of enthusiasts has been renovating Fort VII. Renovations works strongly respect the historical truth. The Fort IX museum is a European Heritage site.



(a)

Fig. 11. Fort IX (from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)

Fort VI (from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)



(b)

## FINLAND

Finland has many examples of former military facilities used in tourism. The most important one is, of course, the **Suomenlinna (Sveaborg) Fortress**, a registered UNESCO site.

### ❖ The Suomenlinna (Sveaborg) Fortress

The construction of the Sveaborg Fortress started in the 18th century and the fortress was the main base of the Finnish Navy (incl. submarines). The fortress has played a major role in the history of Finland. Today it is a popular tourist attraction in Helsinki, accessible to visitors by scheduled boats. There is a visitor centre. More information in the web site: [www.suomenlinna.fi](http://www.suomenlinna.fi).

In Suomenlinna, visitors not only can see the fortress and a collection of weaponry, but also the Finnish submarine "Vesiko".

**Submarine "Vesiko" in Sveaborg Fortress.** This monument opens another theme in military history: "Ships as historical heritage"(from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)



(a)



(b)



(c)

Fig 12. Suomenlinna Fortress bastions (a) and Femore Fortress defence gun battery position (b)

## SWEDEN

### ❖ Femore Fortress

The fortress is situated in Oxelsund, Sweden, ~ 100 km south of the capital city. The fortress is unique as, unlike most coastal batteries and fortresses of this type, it was built during the Cold War, in 1964. The aim was to defend the coast of Sweden against a possible Soviet military offensive. A nuclear bunker was built deep in rock to shelter 70 men (underground tunnel system of 450m length). Today Femore Fortress is a popular tourist attraction offering guided tours, exposition, caffè. In the vicinity, there are guesthouses and other services. Information: [www.femorefortet.se/](http://www.femorefortet.se/).

### ❖ The Siaro Island Fort

The first artillery positions in Siaro island were built before WWI to defend entrance into Stockholm skerries. The first defence line was formed by two 15cm guns dismounted from "Svea", the coast defence ship and four 57mm gun battery. The Fort Siaro served military purposes during WWI and WWII as well as during the Cold War period.

The Swedish Navy left the fort in 1985. After, vandalism and destruction ruled here. Vandals are in every country. What makes the difference is the reaction of authorities to acts of vandalism. In 1993, the fort was committed to the care of the National Real Estate Agency. The decision was taken on its renovation and opening for public "to illustrate the Swedish military history in campaigning for peace and to reveal the less known aspects of the 20<sup>th</sup> century history of the country". The government allocated funds, renovation started in 1995 and was completed in 1996. Less than in one year the fort was prepared and open for visitors. The Siaro Fortress was designated as a museum. Today 3 people are on staff; they also run a café and a small hotel in the former barracks on the island.



Fig. 13. 15 cm guns on the Siaro island  
(from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)

## EXAMPLES OF FORMER MILITARY FACILITIES AS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN LATVIA

This chapter discusses 18 examples of the former military objects in all regions of Latvia looking at benefits and drawbacks of their management and use as tourist attractions.

### ❖ The Karosta Prison in Liepāja

The Karosta Prison is currently regarded the best military heritage tourism product in Latvia for the following reasons:

- It is based on a unique resource – the naval port of Liepāja and the prison located in the port’s territory;
- It is based on true stories of the place. The product is presented as an interactive show involving visitors in action;
- Several show programmes are designed to suit different preferences, abilities, interests and age groups;
- While enjoying the product, the visitors get new impressions, knowledge and experience themselves the peculiarities of the “military ways”;
- The product is very attractive;
- The product has been designed and the shows are given by professional guides - enthusiasts and researchers of the Karosta military history to guarantee truthful and good quality information to visitors.



(a)



(b)

The product is continuously well demanded and is promoted through the web site [www.karostascietums.lv](http://www.karostascietums.lv)

Fig. 14. “Fitness drill” in the Karosta Hall in Liepāja (a) and the show “Behind Bars” (b). Photos by Juris SmalĶinskis

❖ **Riga Aviation museum**

The only museum of this kind in Latvia and one of the largest aviation museums in Europe. The collection presents more than 40 airplanes and helicopters, as well as other exhibits related to aviation. The museum is situated in Riga airport and is open to general public. Information stands, guide services available. Information: <http://aviamuseum.org/>.

Fig. 15. Exposition in Riga Aviation museum (a, b).  
Photo by Juris Smajinskis



(a)



(b)

❖ **Radio telescope at Irbene**

The radio telescope at Irbene was at one time used for anti-espionage purposes to intercept signals from satellites. There were various military units and objects in Irbene, including a military housing estate that has now been abandoned. The diameter of the parabolic antenna of the radio telescope is 32m, the height is 47m, and the weight of the metal construction is 650 tons. It is the largest object of its kind in the North Europe and the 8<sup>th</sup> in the world. The radio telescope is now run by the Ventspils international Radio Astronomy Centre. Guided tours of the object are available.

Fig. 16. View of the Irbene radio telescope (a) and the satellite dish (b). Photo by Juris Smajinskis



(a)



(b)

❖ **A park and museum to commemorate the Christmas battles**

The only territory in Latvia of its type, the site is under cultural and historical protection. Several military objects of WWI have been renovated, like the so-called German Rampart. A history museum is situated in the Mangaļi homestead. The guides are also experts in local regional studies. Regular events demonstrate scenes from the battles and everyday life of the Latvian riflemen in 1917 and have a significant role in education of school youth.



(a)

Fig.17. Imitation of the WWI events (a, archives of the Tērvete museum of Ancient History) and Latvian riflemen (b, archives of the Mangaļi Christmas battles museum, a branch of the Latvian War museum)



(b)

❖ **Bicycle museum at Saulkrasti**

While the museum exposition mainly tells about the history of bicycle manufacturing and use in Latvia, it includes also bicycles of 5 different armies which have been used in different times. For example, a bicycle used in the Russian Tsarist army during WWI, a bicycle used in the National Army of Latvia, two bicycles used in German military during WWII and a military bicycle *Monark* (Sweden) used in the Latvian military in the 90-ties.



(a)

Fig. 18. Exposition at the Saulkrasti bicycle museum (a) and a historical photo (b), photo – courtesy of the Saulkrasti bicycle museum



(b)



❖ **The museum of Kurzeme Fortress at Zante**

This museum has been established privately by Ilgvars Brucis and is based on his enthusiasm. The rich and attractive exposition (over 8000 exhibits) tells about military actions during WWI and WWII in the so called Kurzeme Fortress.



Fig. 19. Artillery bomb shells found in forests in Kurzeme region. Photo by Juris Smaļinskis

❖ **Military museum at Svente Manor**

The only private collection in the Baltics of such size, theme and variety of exhibits. It is situated in the renovated Svente manor and open to general public. All exhibits have been renovated. A good example of private investment in conservation of military heritage and its demonstration to general public.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 20. Svente collection of military vehicles: tanks (a) and guns (b). Photo by Juris Smaļinskis

❖ **The Lt Roberts Rubenis Battalion Museum**

The museum is being developed at Silmači, Ugāle under leadership of Andrejs Ņeizars, a local enthusiast. He also guides visitors to the recently renovated base camp of the 2<sup>nd</sup> company of the battalion and the bunker where this military unit was hiding (it is not far from Usmā railway station). It is a good example of effort and devotion the local enthusiasts and regional researchers put into collection and promotion of the regional history.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 21. The renovated partisan bunker (a) and Andrejs Ņeizars holding a WWII artefact (b). Photo by Juris Smaļinskis

❖ **USSR military border guard watchtowers**

Soviet border guard watchtowers were located in regular distances along the whole 500km long coastline in Latvia. Below are three examples of what happens with the towers now:

- The watchtower by the Mazirbe naval school has been renovated and painted. This is a good practice example – one of the few border guard watchtowers in Latvia which has not turned into a dangerous wreck;
- The watchtower by the Mazirbe beach is abandoned. It is dangerous to climb and represents an example of bad management practice;
- The viewing platform by the Southern pier of Ventspils. On the basis of the old watchtower, a new modern platform is installed with an excellent view of the Ventspils harbour and the Venta river mouth.

Fig. 22. The former border guard watchtower by the Mazirbe Naval school (a), The former border guard watchtower by the Mazirbe beach (b), the viewing platform by the Southern pier of Ventspils (c). Photo by Juris Smaļinskis



(a)



(b)



(c)

❖ **The Daugavgrīva fortress**

The first fortifications in this location date back to 1608, when the Swedish military built them during the Polish-Swedish War. In the 1640s, the Swedes built a modern fortress with five bastions and two gates. There were once 120 cannons and mortars, barracks for soldiers, flats for officers, a garrison church, and warehouses for food and munitions. After the Great Northern War, in 1710, the facility was taken over by the tsarist Russian military. After the occupation of Latvia in 1940, the Soviet Navy used the facility. Today visitors can see the walls, bastions, the ditch and some remnants of the old church. Nearby the fortress, there are the abandoned buildings of the soviet military and a monument to soldiers having served on submarines.



(a)

Fig. 23. Opening hours of the Daugavgrīva fortress (a) and ruins of one of the buildings (b)

The Daugavgrīva fortress has a number of advantages and drawbacks as an important heritage site and a potential tourist attraction. Advantages:

- This unique heritage site is accessible to public in set opening hours;
- There is no entrance fee;
- If renovated, the fortress could be one of the most prominent heritage sites of this type in the Baltic countries.

(Drawbacks):

- The territory is not maintained, the unique buildings have not been renovated, some of them are even dangerous;
- There is no good quality visitor information provided on site, the fortress has no web site;
- The fortress looks abandoned, it is not attractive;
- No guide services, souvenirs, etc. available
- There is a unique resource, but there is no tourism product to expose.

Recently a European organisation *Baltic Fort Route* (BFR) has shown interest in this object. In April 2011, a BFR delegation visited Liepāja, Daugavpils and Rīga. After visiting the Daugavgrīva fortress, the delegation stressed the lack of tourist infrastructure, information and excursion services. The delegation included fortification experts from Germany, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, UK and other countries.

Fig. 24. The *Baltic Fort Route* delegation at the Daugavgrīva fortress (from the photo archive of Yury Melkonov)



DAUGAVGRĪVAS CIETOMŠNĀ APBŪVE		
Atvērta apmeklētājiem		
Paredziena	-	atvērta
Otrāsiena	-	atvērta
Trešāsiena	-	atvērta
Čehartēna	-	10 <sup>00</sup> līdz 18 <sup>00</sup>
Flakštēna	-	10 <sup>00</sup> līdz 18 <sup>00</sup>
Šūrtēna	-	10 <sup>00</sup> līdz 18 <sup>00</sup>
Svārtēna	-	10 <sup>00</sup> līdz 18 <sup>00</sup>

(b)



(c)

#### ❖ Fortifications at Mangaļsala

Forts were built and rebuilt at this location for many centuries by Germans, Swedes and Russians. In 1912, several forts were erected at Mangaļsala and Bolderāja. There were two forts with 254 mm guns, six with 152 mm guns, and three with 138 mm guns. Each fort had two guns. The fortification system at Mangaļsala consists of several parts and covers quite a large area. Some of its elements are not accessible. This unique object is abandoned and neglected.



(a)

(Advantages):

- Situated by the road, there is an information stand showing the location of the separate fortification objects;
- Some of the fortification elements can be seen from the road in the autumn, winter and spring when there are no leaves on trees and shrubs.

(Drawbacks):

- This unique heritage site is very difficult to find unless you are especially prepared;
- The surroundings and fortification itself has no visitor facilities of any kind;
- In fact, the fortification's technical condition represents danger to visitors;
- No comprehensive information can be found either on site or in the web;
- No guide services;
- If renovated, it could be one of the most prominent attraction sites of this type in Latvia;
- This unique object is situated in the capital of the state but is totally neglected.

Fig. 25. Location of the Mangaļsala fortifications shown on an outdoor stand (a) outdoor information stand (b). Photo by Juris Smaļinskis



(b)



(c)

The heritage sites in Mangaļsala are in the focus of the NGO „Dzimtā puse”. For several years, they have been organising jointwork to clean and tidy the fortification grounds. No support has been received from the municipality. Today, an important task is to publish a book on Mangaļsala and Komētforts fortifications, as well as on military heritage sites along the Daugava river. Yury Melkonov is actively engaged in this work cooperating with Estonian historians researching on the events of 1919 in Mangaļsala.

#### ❖ The Rumbula airfield

There are many airfields in Latvia that have been used by the Soviet army. The Rumbula airfield is one of the three airfields in Riga which have been used for both, military and civilian purposes. Today the territory is sort of abandoned and degraded with occasional activities taking place like drag race, paragliding, training for pilots of small aircrafts, etc . The Rumbula airfield is a significant resource which is not adequately and properly used while being situated in the capital city.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 26. Paragliders practicing in the Rumbula airfield (a) view of the landing-strip in the airfield (b). Photo by Juris Smaļinskis

## SOME EXAMPLES OF UNUSED RESOURCES

In Latvia, there are several hundreds of objects, which can be regarded as important or at least attractive heritage sites. At the same time, they are abandoned, unmanaged, and are not used in any way for tourism or regional history purposes (see further).

Fig. 27.

a – the “Namdari” house in Aizpute region. Evidences of the WWII found on the farm’s fields have been exposed by the roadside – shells, mines, helmets, etc. It is an attractive but inaccessible object which has not been advertised;

b – The Lielirbe coastal border guard post. Monuments and similar “attributes” are still found in the territory. Such artefacts would perfectly fit in a collection of local or regional studies. Now they are subject to destruction in the course of time;

c – Soviet military drawings are still found in the former Ventspils border guard unit. This evidence of its time is neglected, like many others which could be preserved and exposed;

d – Remains of the former border guard post in Ventspils region. At such posts, the border guards checked the documents of persons entering the border zone. It is assumed that this is the only one such “exhibit” in Latvia, and is subject to degradation. It should be preserved as a military heritage object of Soviet time.

There are many objects in Latvia, which could be used in tourism. Few more examples are mentioned below:

- o **Coastal defence battery positions.** This topic is very well revealed in the books by Yury Melkonov;
- o **Coastal missile unit positions.** The magazine *BALTFORT* features articles based on memories and stories of veterans of the regiment. The topic is important for Ventspils city and for Vārve parish;
- o **Ground-to-air battery positions.** These were located from Klaipeda to Kolka and also on Saaremaa island. Many batteries were located on Estonian mainland from Tallinn to Narva. This theme has not been researched. Near Riga, at Mucenieki, there was a Soviet air defence command post in an underground bunker;
- o **Lighthouses.** In Latvia and Estonia the history of each lighthouse is documented. There are books available on the history of lighthouses. Lighthouses are to be included in touring routes. Some lighthouses host the local museums, for example, the Ovīši Lighthouse.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

- **Narrow-gauge train and railway.** The only museum dedicated to narrow-gauge train is the Seaside Open-Air Museum, a structural unit of the Ventspils museum. Buildings of the former train stations and elements of railroad infrastructure are still there along the whole narrow-gauge railroad track. These rail tracks should be used in touring routes along the seacoast in Kurzeme, from Ventspils to Mazirbe and Dundaga.
- **Missile shafts and strategic missile positions in Latvia. Underground command posts.** The theme has not been researched and is currently described at amateur level.

## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR RELEVANCE OF MILITARY OBJECTS IN TOURISM

This chapter identifies 9 most essential criteria and offers a simple scheme how to assess, easily and in short time, the potential of a military object as a resource for tourism products.

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Safety	Visitor safety is the most essential and a priority criterion of a potential tourism object. The criterion is very relative and difficult to measure as safety depends very much on interests, attitudes and behaviour of visitors. Unsafe objects are, for instance, open or easily accessible missile shafts, buildings that are dilapidating or partly destroyed, corroded metal constructions (towers) and similar structures, storage sites (former or even present) of hazardous chemical substances, objects in remote locations, difficult to access by rescue services. Where safety threats cannot be removed, the objects should not be used for tourism purposes. It is possible to improve the safety level through a number of efficient territory management methods.
Possibility to locate	Possibility to locate the object is an essential criterion. Visitors must be able to spot and recognise the object easily and quickly. Many of the military objects are relatively difficult to find as they are situated in forest tracts, away from residential areas and major roads (however, asphalt or concrete covered access roads usually lead to the military objects). Most frequently, these objects are not marked in tourist maps. An expert would easily spot these objects in aerial photos, in topographical maps by their characteristic cartographic legend, by configuration and other features. To improve location possibilities, signposts should be placed where necessary.
Accessibility	Accessibility by different modes of transport (quality of roads, absence of barriers, no "private property" or "no entrance" signs), an object should not be situated in the territory of a business company or in similar condition, limiting access and visiting possibilities. Some former military objects are still chemically polluted and closed, with relevant warning signs installed. Such objects should not be used in tourism.
Facilities	For example, signposts, walkways, information stands installed, the grass cut, guide services and information leaflets available, etc.). Visitor facilities depend on management or lack of management, on the interests and activities of the body in charge.
Availability of local guides	Availability of local guides, able to show around and provide information (history, the former use, events, future perspectives of the object). A guide is the person who, within his/her possibilities and competency can take care of visitor safety. A guide will keep the visitors away from dangerous spots and will direct them along the set routes. The most important function of the guide is to deliver truthful, attractive and unbiased information about the site.
Uniqueness	Unique properties (e.g., the only object of its type, large size, peculiar form, specific or unusual type of operation) and singularity in terms of particular region, country, larger geographical region or the world. For example, the Radio telescope at Irbene finds only 8 analogues in the world, therefore it can be regarded as an object of European or even global significance. A unique object was also the locator at Skrunda, which was blown up in the 1990-ties.
Historical value	The object is related to particular historical events that have an important role in the history of the region or country. These can be coastal batteries, former

	military fortifications, etc. The historical value is related to its age, origins, the events the object has witnessed. For example, the Karosta in Liepāja has witnessed five different “powers” and, this fact, as well as the origins of this object make it unique in European and may be even global scale.
Landscape value	The object is well managed and maintained, it integrates in the surrounding landscape. Usually the objects degrade landscape (natural or urban environment). However, such “industrial landscape” has its own charm.
Information availability	Information on the object and its historical and contemporary functions is publicly accessible. Military objects have always been secret, therefore there is no very much information available. Sometimes people are still unwilling to share information they know about secret military objects. It is even more difficult to find photos.

The above criteria can be regarded as subjective, however, all together they form a good indicator for assessment of suitability of an object. Below is a simple scheme of how to assess the usability of a military object for development of tourism products.

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Assessment options</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Safety</b>	Safe	1
	No visible threats to safety	0
	Unsafe	If the object is unsafe, it is excluded from further assessment
<b>Possibility to locate</b>	Easy to find	1
	Difficult to find	0
<b>Accessibility</b>	Easily accessible	1
	Difficult to access	0
<b>Facilities</b>	Facilitated	1
	No facilities	0
<b>Availability of local guides</b>	Guide services available	1
	No guide services	0
<b>Uniqueness</b>	Unique	1
	Cannot be regarded as unique	0
<b>Historical value</b>	Yes	1
	No	0
<b>Landscape value</b>	Fits in landscape	1
	Degrades landscape	0
<b>Information availability</b>	Information available	1
	Information difficult to assess or not available	0

If the object scores at least 4 points and is assessed as at least relatively safe, it can be regarded as a potential tourism resource. Then it is necessary to clean the site (remove garbage, glass, hazardous items), install an information plate, organise guide services, and collect information about the history and related events.



**Assessment of examples:**

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Options</b>	<b>The Irbene radio telescope</b>	<b>The Mangaļsala fortifications</b>	<b>Knīpupji (missile maintenance base)</b>
<b>Safety</b>	Safe	1	1	1
	No visible threats to safety	0	0	0?
	Unsafe	-	-	- ?
<b>Possibility to locate</b>	Easy to find	1	1	1
	Difficult to find	0	0	0
<b>Accessibility</b>	Easily accessible	1	1	1
	Difficult to access	0	0	0
<b>Facilities</b>	Facilitated	1	1	1
	No facilities	0	0	0
<b>Availability of local guides</b>	Guide services available	1	1	1
	No guide services	0	0	0
<b>Uniqueness</b>	Unique	1	1	1
	Can not be regarded as unique	0	0	0
<b>Historical value</b>	Yes	1	1	1
	No	0	0	0
<b>Landscape value</b>	Fits in landscape	1	1	1
	Degrades landscape	0	0	0
<b>Information availability</b>	Information available	1	1	1
	Information difficult to assess or not available	0	0	0
		Total score 9	Total score 4	Total score 2

The radio telescope at Irbene today is open to visitors as a USSR military heritage sites. It was received in relatively good condition and today its functionality is restored. According to the above assessment scheme, the object scores the maximum points which is very uncommon with object of this type. The fortification system in Mangaļsala is one of the most important military heritage examples of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. The object is unique, however, it is not used in tourism and is neglected. Still it scores half of maximum points. With minimum investment in cleaning and tidying of the site (some of its parts), it is possible to expose as a tourist attraction. As the object is located in Riga, it could become a very popular mass tourism object.



Safety of the object in the below photo (Knīpupji) is difficult to assess, as the assessment will be very subjective. Observing the object from the distance – from the nearby road or concrete covered pitches is safe. Walking inside or climbing on the concrete domes of the hangars present risk to one’s health or even life. Thus, the way of visiting and experiencing the object is what makes the difference. Also

the landscape aspect is controversial: on one hand, the object represents degraded ruins, on the other hand – such a “landscape” surprises by its size and “industrial” feeling. Safety can be improved by installing barriers, information signs, organising guide services. The object scored only 2 points and can be used in tourism only implementing a number of measures to improve the situation.

Fig. 28. Partly demolished hangars in the Knīpupji missile base. The issue of management.

## EXISTING AND POTENTIAL MILITARY HERITAGE SITES IN LATVIA

This chapter lists the military heritage sites in Latvia that have been inspected by the Latvian country tourism association and assessed according to four level grading.

- ★ Degraded and/or insignificant objects or objects that are still used for military or other purposes
- ★★ Objects that are used as tourist attractions or related with tourism activities
- ★★★ Objects of historical significance and with good potential as tourist attractions
- ★★★★ Excellent and unique military heritage sites

No.	Title	Location	Importance
1.	Radio telescope at Irbene	Irbene, Ance parish, Ventpils regional municipality	★★/ ★★★★
2.	Kolka: Coast guard post guard post	Kolka, Dundaga regional municipality	★
3.	Kolka: Naval radio communications facility	Kolka, Dundaga regional municipality	★
4.	Mazirbe Coast guard facility	Mazirbe, Dundaga regional municipality, Kolka parish	★★★
5.	Jaunciems: Coast guard facility	Jaunciems, Dundaga regional municipality or Ventpils regional municipality	★
6.	Coast guard facilities at the Lielirbe shore	Lielirbe, Dundagas regional municipality or Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
7.	Miķeļtornis: Coast guard district	Miķeļtornis, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
8.	Miķeļtornis: Tank base	Miķeļtornis, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
9.	Lūžņa: Radio equipment company	Lūžņa, Ventpils regional municipality	★
10.	Oviši: Coastal guard facility	Oviši, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
11.	Liepene: Naval border guard facility	Liepene, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
12.	Staldzene: Projector company	Staldzene, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
13.	Staldzene: Zenith missile brigade	Staldzene, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
14.	Ventpils: Tank division	Ventpils	★
15.	Ventpils: Field hospital	Ventpils	★
16.	Ventpils: Border guard facility	Ventpils	★
17.	Ventpils: Communications facilities	Ventpils	★
18.	Ventpils: Airfield	Ganību iela 103, Ventpils	★
19.	Cīrstene: Zenith missile brigade	Ventpils	★★★
20.	Skujnieki: Firing range	Ventpils	★
21.	Ozoliņi: Border guard facility	Mazciems, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
22.	Grigaļciems: Military structure	Grigaļciems, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
23.	Lībciems: Military zone	Lībciems, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★
24.	Užava: Coast guard facility	Užava, Užavas parish, Ventpils regional municipality	★★★

25.	Užava: Zenith missile brigade	Užava, Užavas parish, Ventspils regional municipality	★★★
26.	Jūrkalne: Air defence division	Jūrkalne, Jūrkalnes parish, Ventspils regional municipality	★★★
27.	Labrags: Coastal guard facility	Labrags, Jūrkalnes parish, Ventspils regional municipality	★★★
28.	Pāvilosta: Coastal guard facility	Sakas parish, Pāvilostas regional municipality	★★★
29.	Pāvilosta: Oil base	Sakas parish, Pāvilostas regional municipality	★
30.	Pāvilosta: Communications facilities	Sakas parish, Pāvilostas regional municipality	★
31.	Pāvilosta: Missile base	Sakas parish, Pāvilostas regional municipality	★★★
32.	Akmeņrags: Coastal guard facility	Sakas parish, Pāvilostas regional municipality	★★★
33.	Akmeņrags: Hydrography service	Sakas parish, Pāvilostas regional municipality	★★★
34.	Ziemeupe: Zenith missile base	Sakas parish, Pāvilostas regional municipality	★★★
35.	Saraiķi Manor: Radio equipment company	Saraiķi, Vērgales parish, Pāvilostas regional municipality	★★★
36.	Karosta: Boiler house	Liepāja,	★★★★
37.	Karosta: Navy driving school	Liepāja	★★★★
38.	Karosta: Missile transport division	Liepāja	★★★★
39.	Cimdenieki: Air defence facilities	Cimdenieki, Grobiņas parish, Grobiņas regional municipality	★★★
40.	Pļavmalas: Communications facilities	Nīcas parish, Nīcas regional municipality	★★★
41.	Papes: Aviation firing grounds	Pape, Rucavas regional municipality	★★★
42.	Pape: Fuel base	Pape, Rucavas regional municipality	★★★
43.	Pape: Lighthouse	Pape, Rucavas regional municipality	★★★★
44.	Papes: Coast guard facilities	Pape, Rucavas regional municipality	★★★
45.	Rucava: Missile base	Rucava, Rucavas parish, Rucavas regional municipality	★★★
46.	Knīpupji: Repair workshops	Bārtas parish, Grobiņas regional municipality	★
47.	Knīpupji: Communications facilities	Bārtas parish, Grobiņas regional municipality	★
48.	Plāņciems: Communications facilities	Bārtas parish, Grobiņas regional municipality	★
49.	Plāņciems: Missile base	Bārtas parish, Grobiņas regional municipality	★★★
50.	Bunker in Līgatne	Skalupes, Līgatnes parish, Līgatnes regional municipality	★★★★
51.	Kurzeme fortress at Zante	Zante, Zentes parish, Kandavas regional municipality	★★★★
52.	Fortress at Daugavgrīva	Left bank of the River Daugava, Rīga	★★★★

53.	Hill Ložmetējkalns	Valgundes parish, Jelgavas regional municipality	★★★★
54.	Military training facility in Ādaži	Ādaži, Ādažu novads	★★★★
55.	Fortifications at Mangaļsala	Mangaļsala	★★★★
56.	Cafe Dakota in Ciemupe	Priežu 1, Ogresgala parish, Ogres regional municipality	★★★★
57.	Military Museum at Svente Manor	Alejas iela 7, Sventes parish, Daugavpils regional municipality	★★★★
58.	The Zvārde base	Zvārdes parish, Saldus regional municipality	★★★★
59.	The Īle bunker	Īles parish, Auces regional municipality	★★★★
60.	Dobele: Tank base	Dobeles regional municipality, south of the Dobele – Kaķenieki road	★
61.	The helicopter base at the Spilve airfield	Rīga region	★★★★
62.	A laboratory to test aviation engines	Rīga, Spilves street	★★★★
63.	The Aviation museum	On the territory of the Rīga International Airport	★★★★
64.	An airplane at Skulte	Skulte, Mārupes regional municipality	★★★★
65.	The Latvian War Museum	20, Smilšu street, Riga	★★★★
66.	The ruins of the Daugavgrīva castle	Riga	★★★★
67.	Cannons on Dole island	Doles sala, Salaspils regional municipality	★★★★
68.	The Battles of More Memorial Park	"Kalna Kaķēni", Mores parish, Siguldas regional municipality, Rīgas region	★★★★
69.	The Swedish bastions	Pļaviņu regional municipality	★★★★
70.	The nuclear missile base at Zeltiņi	Zeltiņu parish, Alūksnes regional municipality	★★★★
71.	A WWII exhibition in Aglona	Aglona, Aglonas regional municipality	★★★★
72.	The Daugavpils fortress	Daugavpils	★★★★
73.	Coastal defence batteries at Olmaņi	Tārgales parish, Ventspils regional municipality	★★★★
74.	Coastal defence battery at Lūžņa	Lūžņa, Ventspils regional municipality	★★★★
75.	The No. 46 Coastal Defence Battery of Ventspils	Ventspils	★★★★
76.	The Northern Forts of Liepāja	Liepāja	★★★★
77.	The No. 23 Coastal Defence Battery of Liepāja	Liepāja	★★★★
78.	The No. 3 Coastal Defence Battery of Liepāja	Liepāja	★★★★
79.	The Liepāja fortificationa	Liepāja	★★★★
80.	Coastal defence batteries at Bolderāja	Bolderāja, Rīga	★★★★
81.	The Comet Fort	Daugavgrīva, the left bank of the Daugava river, Rīga	★★★★
82.	The Vaiņode Airfield	Vaiņode, Vaiņodes parish, Vaiņodes regional municipality	★

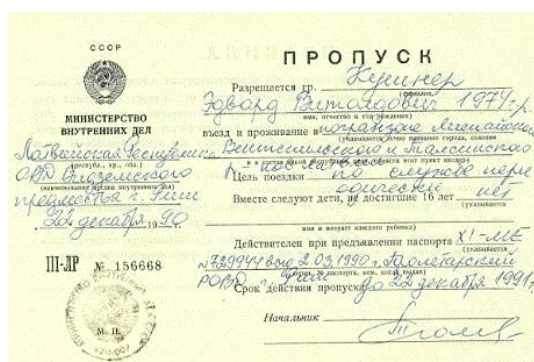
83.	The Upīškalns	Kurmāles parish, Kuldīgas regional municipality	★
84.	The Tukums Airfield	Smārdes parish	★
85.	The Rumbula Airfield	Rumbula, Rīga	★
86.	The Lt Roberts Rubenis Battalion Museum	Silmači, Ugāle, Ventspils regional municipality	★★★★
87.	The former power plant at Lake Bābelītis	Rīga	★★★
88.	Blockhouses on the banks of the Ķegums hydroelectric power plant	Ķeguma regional municipality	★★★★
89.	A zenith missile brigade division at Ragaciems	Ragaciems, Lapmežciema regional municipality	★★★★
90.	A projector facility at Kolka	Kolka, Dundagas regional municipality	★★★
91.	A border guard facility at Kolka	Mērsrags, Rojas regional municipality	★★★
92.	A coastal defence battery at Jūrkalne	Jūrkalne, Ventspils regional municipality	★★★★
93.	A coastal defence battery at Akmensrags	Sakas parish, Pāvilostas regional municipality	★★★★
94.	Old forts in Liepāja	Liepāja	★★★★
95.	A coastal defence battery at Pērkone	Pērkone, Nīcas parish, Nīcas regional municipality	★★★★
96.	The Kundurs blockhouse	Blīdenes parish, Brocēnu regional municipality	★★★★
97.	The Karosta prison	Liepāja	★★★★
98.	A tank base at Lilaste	Lilaste, Carnikavas regional municipality	★
99.	The tank route between Oviši and Ventspils	Ventspils regional municipality	★
100.	The Skrunda army base	Skrundas regional municipality	★★★★
101.	The Durbe hydrplane base	Durbe, Durbes regional municipality	★★★★
102.	The Bauska collection of cast iron cannons	The hillfort at Bauska	★★★★
103.	A tour in a Soviet military truck	Pūpoli farm, Dundagas parish, Dundagas regional municipality	★★★★
104.	Karosta water tower	Liepāja	★★★★
105.	The St. Nicholas Orthodox Maritime Cathedral	Liepāja	★★★★
106.	Karosta hall	Liepāja	★★★★
107.	Oskars Kalpaks drawbridge	Liepāja	★★★★
108.	The Tērvete Museum of Ancient History	„Jērumi”, Tērvete, Tērvetes regional municipality	★★★★
109.	The Viesīte narrow-gauge railroad train at the Viesīte Museum	7, A. Brodeles str., Viesīte	★★★★
110.	A collection of military bicycles at the Saulkrasti Bicycle Museum	44, Rīgas str., Saulkrasti	★★★★
111.	Death Island (Nāves sala)	Nāves sala, Daugmales parish, Ķekavas regional municipality	★★★★
112.	A partisan dugout at Veseta	Protected nature site of the Veseta	★★★★

		marsh, Pļaviņu regional municipality	
113.	The Līdumnieki museum	Līdumnieki, Līdumnieku parish, Ciblas regional municipality	★★★★
114.	The Ventspils Livonian order castle	17, Jāņa str., Ventspils	★★★★
115.	The ship repair works at Tosmare	Liepāja	★★★★
116.	Russian hydroplane hangars, dated 1914	Liepāja	★★★★
117.	The Lielirbe coastal battery with 100mm guns, dated 1956	Lielirbe	★★★★

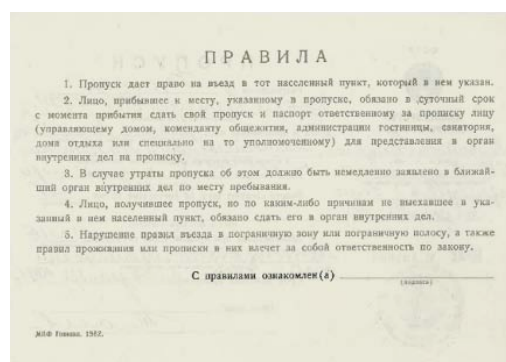
## SOME ASPECTS OF THE USE OF HISTORICAL MATERIALS AND INFORMATION

Updated, reliable and good quality information is essential in exposition of military heritage objects. Unfortunately these have always been top secret, all information has been concealed, and its restoration is very complicated, labour consuming or even impossible.

About many of military heritage objects, the information can be found only in archives and is not always freely accessible while it is still possible to collect stories from eyewitnesses of the Soviet time. Some problems are present here as people, even more than 20 years after Latvia has become independent, are reluctant to share information about the events of these days as once they had signed to keep confidentiality. Most of the people who served in military in these objects or took part in their construction works do not live in Latvia. Historical materials are difficult to access because carrying a photo camera in the border area (not even mention of taking photos of military objects) was considered a criminal offence. It is important to collect the stories of eyewitnesses today, without postponing, and to digitalise the available photo material and other documents, like those related to border areas (see picture below) before they disappear and are lost forever.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 29. Entrance permission to border zone, issued December 22, 1990. Front side (a) and back side (b)



Fig. 30. Soviet army fighters in the Tukums airfield – a unique photo.  
Courtesy: Tukums museum



(a)



(b)

Fig. 31. The Olmaņu (Krasnoflotsk) coastal defence battery. Nowadays (a, photo: Juris Smaļinskis) and in 1980-ies (b, courtesy: Baiba Šūvcāne)



## RENOVATION PLAN EXAMPLE OF A MILITARY HERITAGE SITE

### PROPOSALS AND ACTION PLAN FOR TRANSFORMATION OF THE FORMER 46TH VINDAVA COASTAL BATTERY INTO A TOURIST ATTRACTION

The 46<sup>th</sup> Vindava Coastal Battery is used here as an example. It was built in 1939- 1941 to the south of Ventspils and had four 130mm guns. At present the object is abandoned and is not used in any way. The location in the outskirts of the city (not far from the Seacoast Park) and the historical value make sufficient reason to renovate the buildings and maintain the object as a historical heritage site. Today this untidy, littered and abandoned military object contrasts heavily with the clean and well-appointed city of Ventspils. The buildings have suffered from vandalism as people have taken away ferrous metal and parts that can be reused as building materials. It is a shame that such a site, full of history and a potential tourist attraction right by the city border is in such sad condition.

#### Visualisation of the Vindava battery:



Fig. 32. Aerial photo of the surroundings of Ventspils (source: Google) – Location of the battery infrastructure buildings

The story of the site (by N. Smaļinskis): The Coastal defence battery No. 46 was located in Ventspils. Its construction started in 1939. It had four B-13 gun positions. Nearby a military settlement was built. Officers with their families and the service staff of the battery lived there. The battery was completed and ready for action before the start of WWII. On June 24, 1941, the German torpedo boats attacked the Ventspils port, but the battery resisted the attack successfully. On June 28 an order was given to blow up the guns and the Soviet military withdrew from Ventspils. Vandals have torn the place down, however some buildings in the former military settlement are inhabited.

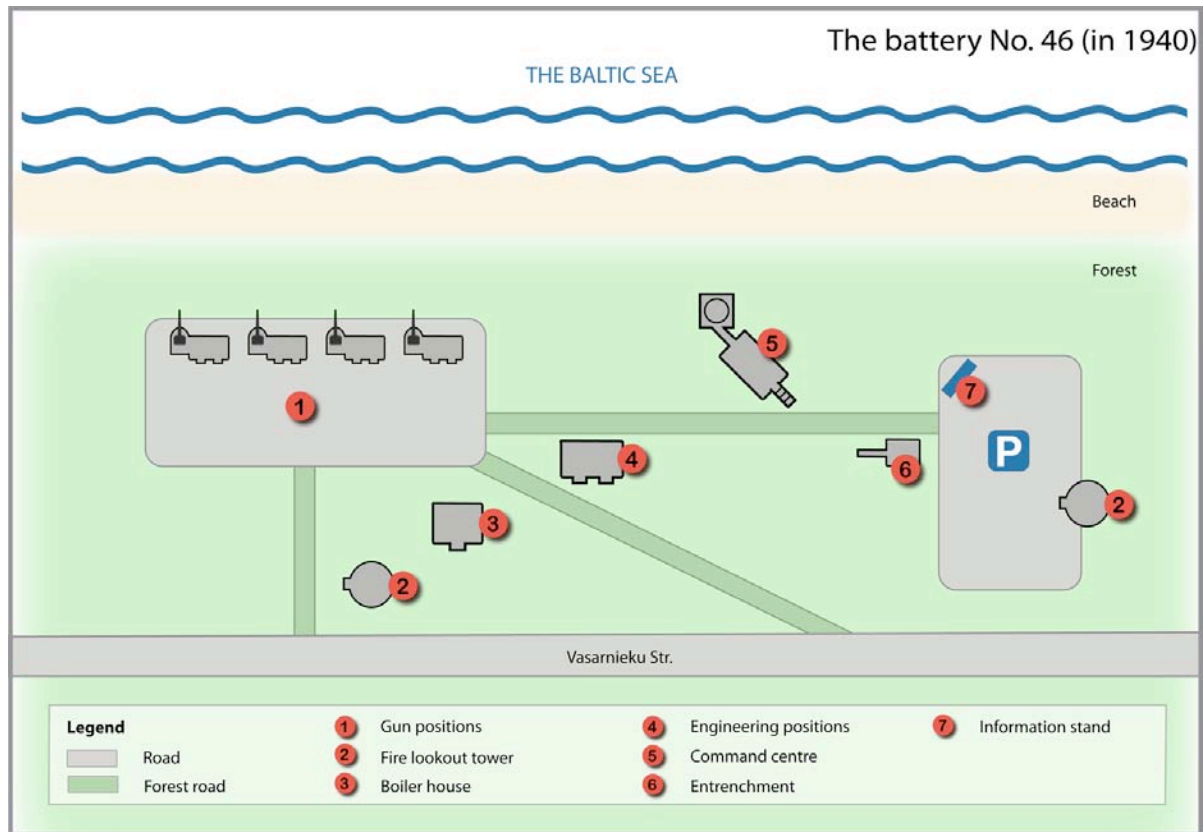


Fig. 33. Coastal defence engineering constructions scheme

#### ❖ Preparatory measures

- Site inspection, making the list of the buildings;
- Taking photos of the battery objects;
- Making videos of the battery objects;
- Drawing a geodetic location scheme of the battery objects;
- Making inventory of the buildings and inventory plans of the premises.

#### ❖ History research

- Seeking information in Ventspils city archives;
- Seeking information in the archives of the local newspaper "Ventas Balss", issues of October 1939 – June 1940;
- Finding eyewitnesses of the events (printed media and TV ads), meeting them, collecting stories, seeking for photos in personal archives;
- Decision on information search in the Latvian State Historical Archives;
- Decision on information search in the archives of St. Petersburg;
- To visit the Hiiumaa Island History Museum to learn about work experience and efforts in conservation and maintenance of a similar coastal battery;
- To visit the Sveaborg Fortress in Helsinki to learn about experience in conservation and maintenance of the fortress;
- Inspection trips to similar coastal batteries in Liepāja and Lūžņa;
- To submit proposals regarding establishment of the site as a branch facility with the Ventspils History Museum;
- To organise collection of exhibits for the branch facility;
- To place a stand with information on the battery in the city museum;

- To find out from where sand and broken stone were taken for construction of the batteries;
- To find out suppliers of building materials from Latvia and subcontractors taking part in construction works of the battery and military settlement;
- To find out the numbers of local people who were involved in building of military objects in Ventspils, Tārgale, Lūžņa, Olmaņi and the Ventspils-Mazirbe railroad. To find out the wage levels of workers.

#### ❖ **Construction works**

- To arrange project documentation for preparation works in the object;
- To draft action plan and budget (overall for the object and separately for each building);
- To clean the place, remove garbage;
- To plan the levelling works of the territory;
- To set up convenience facilities in the territory;
- To repair main roads and access roads;
- To build walking paths for visitors;
- To remove brick partition walls in the bunkers;
- To whitewash the premises;
- To install safety lighting in premises;
- To install security lighting and street lighting;
- To reconstruct the artillery shell and cartridge storage shelves in one of the buildings;
- To cut the trees growing on the bunkers;
- To tidy earth ramparts around the bunkers;
- To restore hydro isolation on the roof of the bunker;
- To renew stairs and railings on the upper platform of the ranging command post;
- To install iron doors in all objects of the battery (8 doors);
- To install alarm system on all doors in the object and connect to security guard control.

#### ❖ **Safety measures in the object**

- Strictly prohibit to cut metal parts and remove as scrap iron. Respective letters should be sent to the State Police and Ventspils Municipal Police;
- To remove water from the fire safety water tank;
- To clean the water tank and deliver to the museum the relevant items found;
- To fill the water tank with sand to the door level;
- To involve the specialists of the 54th Home Guard engineering battalion in inspection of the territory, to deliver the relevant items found to the museum.

#### ❖ **Perspective measures**

- Assess possibilities to purchase replicas of B-13 guns
- To propose assigning the status of cultural and historical heritage monument to the object "46th Vindava Battery".

#### ❖ **Tourist information**

- To include the object in the Ventspils tourist map;
- To put information in the Ventspils city web site;
- To install signposts;
- To install two visitor information stands showing the battery location scheme;
- To produce plates with designation names of the battery buildings;
- To print visitor information leaflet in Latvian, Russian, German, English and Finnish languages;
- To develop a touring route "The Baltic Gibraltar".

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Riga, 11.08.2011



Fig. 34. Visualised gun in the gun position of the battery



Fig. 35. Gun position and the gun barrel pointed to the right direction



Fig. 36. Gun position at present (autumn 2011)

## AN EXAMPLE OF A MILITARY HERITAGE TOUR

The following is the description of a military heritage product – a touring route in Kurzeme historical region, which is the richest in military objects in Latvia.

### THE KURZEME MILITARY HERITAGE AND NATURE TOUR

Self-drive combined with hiking and cycling.

Main stopover points: **Rīga – Dobele – Īle – Zvārde – Saldus – Skrunda – Vainode – Liepāja – Ziemeļupe – Ventspils - Irbene – Tukums – Rīga, 4 days > 700 km**

#### ❖ Day 1. Rīga – Dobele – Saldus 130 km

Aircraft at Skulte – a rarity has survived in Skulte village – Soviet time IL-28 jet bomber. It rests on three concrete pedestals.



On the way, visitors can have a walk in the **Beberbeķi nature park**. It was created to protect the green areas in Riga. Dunes covered with pine-tree forest with spruce understory is what the park looks like. In the southern part, there is the Lake Beberbeķu. The surroundings are well-appointed.

**A park and museum to commemorate the Christmas battles** – a viewing tower has been recently restored and offers a view of the Maztīrelis swamp and the place where the German narrow-gauge railroad used to run crossing the swamp from the North to the South. The rows of trees in the swamp show the former railroad track. In the surroundings of the Ložmetējkalns (the Machine Gun hill), Tīrelpurva swamp and Mangaļi homestead there are unique elements of fortifications from World War I – ones that are related to the Christmas battles. At Mangaļi, visitors can see the museum exposition dedicated to the Christmas battles, including the so called “German rampart”. Knowledgeable guides will show the visitors around the site. Thematic and educational events take place in the park.

**The Dobele tank base and Gardene village** – one of the largest tank bases in the Baltic Military Region was located south of Gardene in Soviet time. The territory has largely been abandoned, and there are just a few remnants of the buildings that were once there. If you drive down the Dobele-Annenieki road, you will find a paved military road splitting off from it. It is still used today. The buildings and urban planning of Gardene are also of interest – during the Soviet era, soldiers and their families lived there.

**The Īle partisan bunker** - In October 1948, nationalist partisans who opposed the Soviet regime built a 9x6 m bunker in the forests of Īle to fight against the Soviet rule and ideology. Five months later, the KGB attacked the bunker. After five hours of gunfire, 15 partisans lay dead, and another nine were captured. The bunker has been restored in commemoration of this event, and it is open to visitors.

**The Zvārde base** - This unique territory covers more than 24,400 hectares, and the Soviet military used it as an aviation training centre. The history of the base dates back to 1951, when four kolkhozes were shut down, roads were closed, and several hundred farms and homes were simply moved elsewhere. A civilian presence at the base was restored only in 1993, when several new roads were installed. If you want to get a bird’s eye view of the base and its forests, you have to climb a high, manmade hillock from which commanders watched manoeuvres. We do not recommend that you wander off from the roads!



The vast area includes various types of forest - boreal forest, bogs of black alder, etc. The fact that the military used to control the territory is one of the reasons why the forests of Zvārde are a location where many rare and protected birds live, reproduce and find food. Some of the elements of the old air base are still in place, including a unique surveillance platform. It is recommended that visitors to the area drive only along general use roads.

## ❖ Day 2. Saldus - Liepāja 140 km

**The Skrunda army base** – The territory is closed to visitors, but it is an important part of Latvia’s military heritage. The well known Skrunda radio locator was installed here. It was blown up after Latvia regained independence.



The territory to the northwest and west of Skrunda – the so called **Skrunda ponds** is an important rest place for water birds during migration and a nesting site. Northern swans nest in the ponds. It is a feeding site for white tailed eagle, falcons and wading birds. A good potential as a bird watching site, but no bird watching facilities installed. The ponds can be spotted from the Rīga – Liepāja road.



On the way to Vaiņode, you can see the **Embūte nature park**. This lovely territory includes the hillocks of Embūte, which are in the ancient Embūte valley. The aim of establishing the park was to protect the landscape, biotopes and species of the region. An ecological tourism trail has been established in the valley, as has a forest trail through the nature park (accessibly only in the company of a guide). Visitors will learn about the hillocks and ravines left behind by the Ice Age. The ravines and the forests along their sides are protected biotopes. There are also important natural and cultural monuments, including the Embūte castle hill and the ruins of a baronial estate, castle and church. Other points of interest include the death place of the Courlandian warrior Indulis, the Joda dam, meadows, a viewing tower, etc. Three unmarked bicycle trails are in the area.

**The Vaiņode airfield** - During Soviet times, Vaiņode was the site of one of the Soviet Union’s largest military airfields in the Baltic States. During the period of Latvia’s independence, the country’s first dirigibles were based here. Eventually their hangars were dismantled and brought to Rīga, where they were used for the Rīga Central Market. They are still there today. Some of Latvia’s first gliders took off from Vaiņode. During the Soviet occupation, the airfield was home to an air defence and destroyer squadron, with 38 SU-27 “Flanker” destroyers on site. After the restoration of Latvia’s independence, the Vaiņode airfield was dismantled in part, and the big plates of concrete that covered the runways and the rest of the airfield were used to improve the Liepāja port. There are still 16 hangars at the airport, and 1,800 of the formerly 2,500 metres long runway are also still there. More information about the airfield can be found at the Vaiņode Regional Research Museum.

**Liepāja.** The Karosta prison. The best example of a military heritage tourism product in Latvia. Offers excursions and programs for visitors, allowing experiencing everyday life of a prisoner or overnight accommodation in a prisoner cell.

In the evening: A walk from the Northern Breakwater of Liepāja to the Northern Forts of Liepāja (4,5km on way). On the way, you will see the three sites described below.

**Liepājas 3rd coastal defence battery** - This is one of the most visually expressive coastal defence batteries in Latvia. Why? Because most of it has been fully or at least partly washed into the sea, creating a truly unusual landscape, particularly during stormy weather. This is an historical monument, which is subject to the mighty power of Mother Nature.

**Liepājas 23rd coastal defence battery** - This battery is easiest to find if you walk on the beach, because one of its four positions is right there, rinsed by the waves of the sea. Other positions, including a telescope tower, are in the pine forest not far from the coast. The battery was installed in the 1940s, and you can see the Northern Forts from here.

**The Northern Forts of Liepāja** are on the edge of the Baltic Sea, and some parts of them have been washed away. This is a small, but very impressive part of the Liepāja fortifications which once encircled the entire town. The underground bunkers of the forts are on two levels, and it's worth visiting them in the company of a knowledgeable guide from Karosta (tours are organised from the Karosta prison). There's a car park alongside the forts.



East of Liepāja, there is the Lake Liepāja - this shallow and eutrophic (around 40%) lake is one of the most important lakes on the shores of the Baltic Sea for nesting and migrating birds (resting and feeding place). More than 100 different species of birds have been spotted there. The lake is no less important for plants which flourish in salty biotopes. On the north-eastern shore of Lake Liepāja (Vītiņu meadow) there are flood-land plains which are the home to domestic animals which have been adapted to life in the wild. There is also a viewing tower, available upon request with the guide. The system of dams along the south-western part of the lake can be hiked or biked (extreme!) to find lots of interesting viewing areas and landscapes. In the surrounding of the lake there are ruins of unique former fortification systems of Liepāja.

### ❖ Day 3. Liepāja - Ventspils 120 km

**Cycling route in Liepāja.** Itinerary: Diver Training Centre – the Convention House of Naval Officers – the Northern Breakwater – the Northern Forts (if you have not taken the previously described walk) – The Fortress Channel – The Lunette with a view of the Lake Tosmare – The Middle Fort – The Naval Submarine Base – The Hall – The Karosta Channel – The Kalpaka bridge.

**Ziemupe zenith missile base** - There are still some buildings, missile silos and an apartment building from the old No. 158 Zenith Missile Base at Ziemupe, but the territory has been abandoned and degraded. It can be well observed from the nearby gravel road. The territory is in a protected nature area.



The Ziemupe nature restricted territory is on the shore of the Baltic Sea, and it protects a wide variety of coastline biotopes. The distinguished grey dunes are found here, as are various kinds of forest biotopes, some of them quite rare in Latvia. There are many protected plants and animals in the area, too. The Akmensrags lighthouse and several tourist accommodations, like camping Laikas who received the "Sējējs" award, are in the territory. On the sea shore not far from center of Ziemupe there is well-appointed parking area with information stands.

**The firing range at Skujnieki** was once used for summer sports, as well as training in the use of firearms. The Defence Ministry still uses the facility from time to time. The central building of the facility was built in 1982, and its façade is decorated with text in the Russian language: "Слава КПСС" (All Honour to the Soviet Communist Party).

**Cirpstones zenith missile base** - This was at one time an important element in the protection of Soviet Latvia's shoreline. A visually interesting and impressive territory near the seashore, it has sadly not been properly managed and is thus full of trash. Opposite, behind a dune, there are missile-launching pitches, connected by a concrete covered road. This is the only military structure

of this type in Latvia, which is located by the sea. To the north from the base (south of Ventspils) there are the former coastal batteries.

#### ❖ Day 4. Ventspils – Tukums - Rīga 160 km

**Cycling route in Ventspils.** Itinerary: The Seaside Park – the former Soviet military coastal batteries with a visor tower – the Zenith missile base – the military coastal road – the Lemberg’s hat (an artificially made hill for skiing and other sports attractions) – the border guard, communication and zenith missile headquarters military settlement – the former field hospital – the Seaside Park.

**The radio telescope at Irbene** – The radio telescope at Irbene was at one time used for anti-espionage purposes. There were various military units and objects in Irbene, including a military housing estate that has now been abandoned. The radio telescope is now run by the Radio Astronomy Centre of the Latvian Academy of Sciences for scientific purposes. Guided tours of the object are available.

**The Lt Roberts Rubenis Battalion Museum** - The museum is being developed at Silmači, Ugāle under leadership of Andrejs Ķeizars, a local enthusiast. He also guides visitors to the recently renovated base camp of the 2nd company of the battalion and the bunker where this military unit was hiding.



On the way, it is worth visiting the **Abava River Valley Nature Park**. The ancient Abava River Valley between Kandava and the place where the river flows into the Venta River is the most expressive river valley segment in Kurzeme in terms of landscape and terrain. The valley is 30 to 40 metres deep and as much as 300 metres wide. The territory is distinguished by great diversity of a biological nature (more than 800 kinds of plants), featuring many different biotopes and natural monuments such as streams, waterfalls, cliffs, huge rocks, and many cultural and historical monuments, small towns such as Kandava and Sabile. In both cases, the town centres are national monuments of urban construction. Popular tourist destinations include Vīnakalns hill in Sabile, where wine-making grapes are grown, as well as the open-air art museum at Pedvāle. To protect cultural treasures, a cultural and historical territory, “Abava River Valley” has been established. Wild livestock live at Drubazas and Tēvkalni to “maintain” the landscape. There are nature trails for tourists, and the Abava is the most popular river for water tourists in Kurzeme.

**The Tukums airfield** - Few Soviet military objects are associated with more legends than this one. During Soviet times, this was a reserve airfield, as well as a storage site (just 50 kilometres from the republic’s capital city) for nuclear weapons. These were hidden in two cement hangars that were covered with soil and vegetation. Public information suggests that an RX-24 nuclear bomb weighing 430 kg and a RX-26 nuclear bomb weighing 1,030 kg were stored here, as were air-to-land missiles equipped with nuclear explosives. If there had been an accident here, what would have happened to Rīga, to Latvia, to the Baltic States and to Northern Europe? The airfield is a closed territory today. At the end of August, aviation festival takes place here.



NATURA 2000 is a network of nature protected areas of European importance. It has been established to protect rare and endangered plant and animal species and their habitats (biotopes) in Europe. In Latvia the network was based upon the existing nature protected Areas. Today there are 337 Natura2000 sites in Latvia.





Fig. 37. Route overview map (based on *Google com*):

It would be interesting to develop touring routes via Kolka, along the Riga Gulf coastline. Kolka is developing into a significant tourism centre, there is an active group of local enthusiasts, and tourism is a part of the regional development vision. In 2011, the Ventspils-Kolka road will be repaired and covered with asphalt. It will be a good support to tourism development along the whole coastline in Kurzeme. Touring routes in this area include both nature and military heritage objects, namely nature and historical heritage theme parks start to develop.

## HISTORICAL HERITAGE THEME PARKS

One of the most perspective ways of military heritage tourism development is establishment of nature and military heritage theme parks in the areas where there are relevant nature and military heritage objects to be included in touring routes.

The surroundings of Lielirbe is a good example of a theme park. The beautiful Irbe river valley, the Soviet time bridge over the river, the Irbe river mouth and the Baltic Sea are all there. The Irbe river mouth is a popular fishing spot.



Fig. 38. The Irbe river mouth.  
Photo: Yury Melkonov.



Fig. 39. Border guard post by the Irbe river.  
Photo: Yury Melkonov.

In the beginning of the road leading to the Irbe river mouth, there is the former border guard post named after Lenin Komsomol. Further, there is the renovated Lielirbe train station by the narrow-gauge rail track. A railway embankment is in good shape and behind the river one can see the old wooden supports of the railway bridge. Now there is a suspension bridge, however it is not safe for walking!

Closer to the coast, on the hills, there are concrete structures of the Soviet time coastal battery. 100mm B-34 artillery guns were located here. This battery was called “anti-cutterboat” as it had a high fire rate (6-8 rounds per minute), and the guns were built for destroying of high-speed targets. Near the gun positions, there was ammunition storage with 50 projectiles. Now, in autumn, the place attracts mushroom pickers.

## LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PLANNING AND ORGANIZING OF THE RURAL TOURISM IN THE NATURA 2000 SITES



If you need to get to know about the requirements as well as permissible/forbidden activities of the SPNT/NATURA 2000 site, it is necessary to read through the individual protection and using rules (Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers) of the appropriate territory, if the administration of the territory has worked out such rules and they are in full force and valid. Information on the rules you can find on the web site of MoE.

Before you start to plan the tourism activities (routes, establishing infrastructure etc.), it is necessary to read through and act in accordance with the nature protection plan (if it is available) containing guidelines in the field of tourism and recreation. You can find all documents of the nature protection plan in Internet on the web site of the Nature Protection Board.

### NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION INSTITUTIONS AND AREAS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY

#### ❖ The Ministry of the Environment

The Ministry of the Environment works out the national policy of environmental protection and holds and coordinates implementation of environment policy. Its structural units are Nature protection department responsible for elaboration of the legislation projects regarding nature protection as well as promotion of the integration of the nature protection requirements in the national economics field strategies and its legislation. One of the structural units of the Nature protection department is the Section of the protected territories, which organizes protection of the SPNT, coordinates creation process of the SPNT and NATURA 2000 sites network as well as determination process of other protected territories with international significance.

The Ministry of the Environment has worked out and with a help of the subordinated institutions implemented the national program „Development of the infrastructure in the NATURA 2000 sites“. Within the framework of the program various infrastructure objects – nature trails, routes, visitors and information centres, towers etc. are established in several territories in Latvia.

#### ❖ The Nature Protection Board

The Nature Protection Board is a state institution under supervision of the Ministry of Environment, which coordinates the administration of the SPNT, implements state environment policy in the field of the protection of species and biotopes as well as fulfil functions of management authority of international trade in endangered species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). NPB organizes elaboration of the SPNT (including NATURA 2000 territories) nature protection plans, ensure management of specially protected nature areas, which do not have their own administrations as well as organize elaboration and renewal of species and biotopes protection plans and promote implementation of these plans.

The Nature Protection Board has three departments:

- Department of species and biotopes responsible for elaboration and monitoring of the protection plans of specially protected species as well as involving society in that process;
- Department of management responsible for examination of the applications for micro reserves out of the forest lands, making proposals regarding the implementation of the nature protection

actions in the SPNT, monitoring of the management actions financed by SES as well as providing conclusions regarding environmental assessments on the NATURA 2000 sites;

- Department of CITES monitoring and permits fulfil functions of management authority of Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) including issuing of CITES permits for import and export of the protected animals and plants as well as cancel and avoid permits (licenses) in accordance with prescribed procedure.

According to the Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers „Rules on the cattling of the wild cattle in enclosed spaces, when producing animal products or using them for the selection”. NPB hand out permits to rear cattle of non-game animals in enclosed spaces.

#### ❖ **The State Environment Service**

The State Environment Service is a state institution under supervision of the Ministry of the Environment. SES performs the following tasks:

- controls the compliance with laws and regulations regarding the output of the natural resources, the protection of the nature, the emissions of the polluting substances, the management of the hazardous and household waste, the activities with the chemical substances and products;
- issues the permits (licenses), the technical requirements and other administrative acts concerning the utilization of the natural resources and the performance of the polluting activities;
- informs the society about the activities of the service and gives to the society the disposable information about the environment;
- takes part in the management of the emergency situations.

The goal of SES is to ensure the compliance of implementation of legislation framework in the area of the environment protection and natural resources as well as to promote use of the nature resources and energy resources in a sustainable way.

#### ❖ **The Regional Environment Boards**

The Regional Environment Boards are the territorial structural units of the State Environment Service. They control the compliance of the nature protection requirements in the region, hand out such permits, and fulfil educational function as well as other functions specified in the legislation. More detailed information on the competences of these institutions on their web sites and in their regulations.

#### ❖ **Administrations of the Specially Protected Nature Territories**

Administrations of the Specially Protected Nature Territories are institutions supervised by the MoE, established for protection and administration of the national parks, nature reserves, North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve. Today such administrations exist in the national parks of Slītere (administrate also the nature reserves of Grīņi and Moricsala), Ķemerī, Gauja and Rāzna, North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve as well as nature reserves of Teiči and Krustkalns (one administration).

Till now SPNT administrations have had a very important role in the establishment and planning process of the infrastructure, used by visitors now.

#### ❖ **The Latvian Environmental Protection Fund Administration**

The Latvian Environmental Protection Fund Administration is a state fund for implementation of projects and issues of the nature conservation. The aim of the fund is to promote sustainable development of the national economy integrating environmental protection requirements in all fields of the national economy as well as provide issues regarding the conservation of the biodiversity and protection of the ecosystem. The fund is financed from state pump-primings as well as contributions from natural persons, including foreign money and financial help from other countries.

### **NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE NATURA 2000 SITES**

Below are listed some NGOs and given a short description of their aims, tasks and investment in the management of the NATURA 2000 sites. They can be potential cooperation partners for the rural tourism providers concerning their plans.

#### ❖ **The World Wide Nature Fund**

The World Wide Nature Fund<sup>1</sup> is involved in the implementation process of various environmental and environmental education projects. On the web site everybody can calculate his/her ecological impact on the environment.

The main aim and mission of the Latvian Nature Fund<sup>2</sup> is to conserve biodiversity in Latvia, therefore the experts of the organization take part in the elaboration and implementation process of the environment policy, invest in the environmental education of the society, take part in the issues concerning the management of the SPNT and NATURA 2000 sites, involving society in the process as well as perform other functions.

#### ❖ **The Latvian Ecotourism Society**

The Latvian Ecotourism Society (LEtS) has been established in the year 2000 and the main aim of the organization is promoting tourism in all regions of Latvia based on the conservation of the historical and culture heritage, development of environmental education as well as improvement of the living standard of the rural people. LEtS unifies people, who want to develop ecotourism and accept mentioned principles as a base of their activities. The existing members of LEtS are from all Latvian regions – owners of farms, employees of local governments, teachers, students, tourism providers and others. LEtS cooperate and is in a partnership with state institutions, local governments and other NGOs.

There are foundations established in some NATURA 2000 sites, e.g. the Society of the Sauka Nature Park, the Development Board of the Vestiena Protected Landscape Area 3, which unifies entrepreneurs, professionals and other persons from the territory. The aim of the organization is to develop tourism in the territory. The Development Board of the Vestiena Protected Landscape Area coordinates also elaboration of the nature protection plans for the appropriate territory.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.pdf.lv](http://www.pdf.lv);

<sup>2</sup> [www.ldf.lv](http://www.ldf.lv);

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.vaaaap.lv>;

Such NGOs as Latvian Ornithological Society, Latvian Botanic Society, VITILA network of environmental guides as well as others (also as a potential partners for rural tourism providers) have very important role in the research work, management and sustainability of the NATURA 2000 sites

## THE MOST FREQUENT ALGORITHMS CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TERRITORIES/OBJECTS

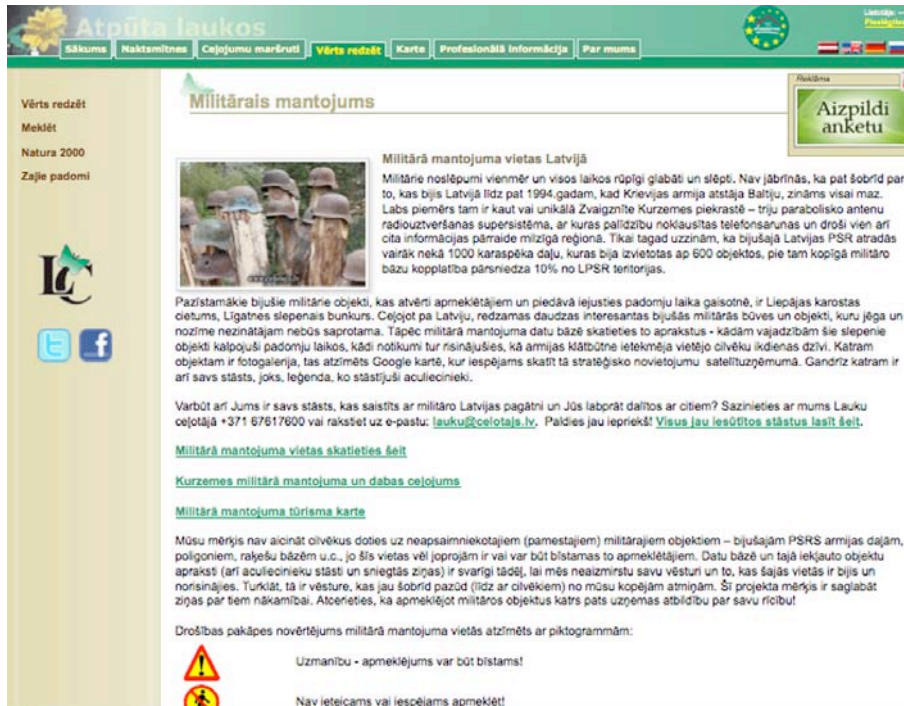
You can find three schematics – various cases and situations, actual for tourism providers, when planning and implementing various activities and management activities in the NATURA 2000 sites.

However above mentioned schematics are created based upon the example of the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve (the largest SPNT in Latvia), the main principles are similar in all the NATURA 2000 sites, there are only some twists and turns.



## DATA BASE OF MILITARY HERITAGE OBJECTS IN LATVIA

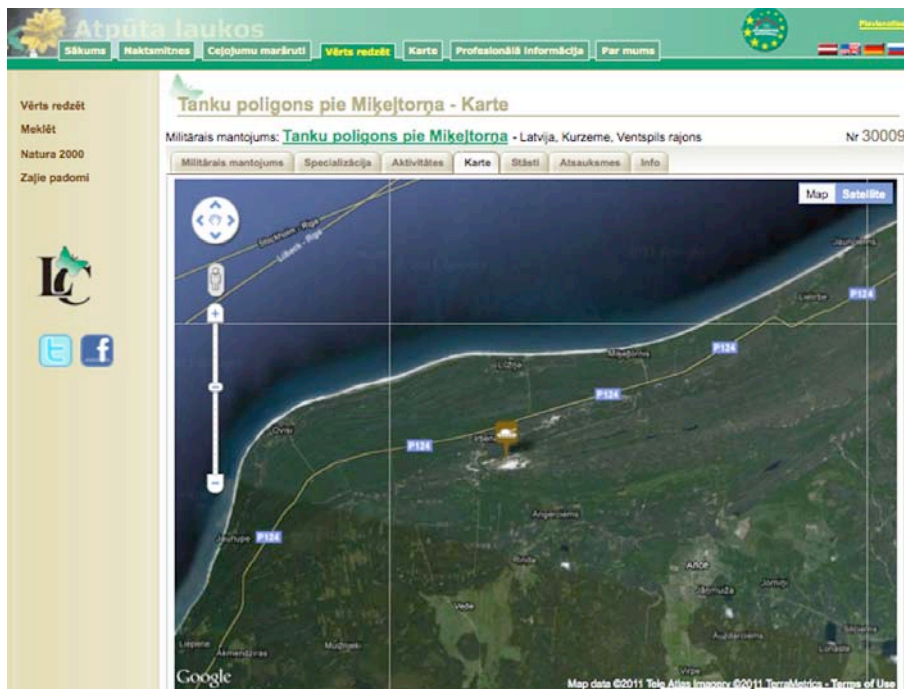
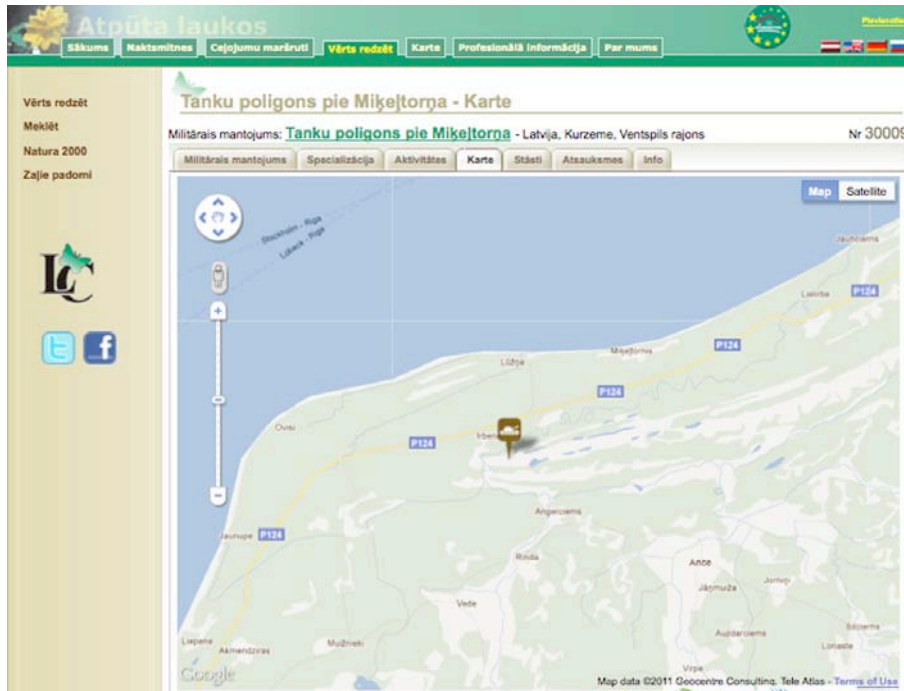
The data base [http://www.celotajs.lv/cont/wrth/military\\_en.html](http://www.celotajs.lv/cont/wrth/military_en.html). Contains more than 100 military heritage sites and objects and interesting stories about the military history of Latvia. It is available in 4 languages – Latvian, English, German and Russian. All military heritage sites and objects have been evaluated during field visits.



Each object of the database has its description – what was done with the secret objects during Soviet times, what happened there, how the presence of the military affected local residents and at what condition the object can be found nowadays. Also information about the location of the object (near the sea, distance from the capital, nature protection etc.) and recommendations for or not to visit the site. Each site has a photo gallery - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/karostascietums?lang=en>.



The data base includes information on specialization and activities offered at the heritage site if there are some. Each object has been marked on Google map which one can see also as satellite image showing the strategic location of the site as Latvia once was Western border of the Soviet Union - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/map/karostascietums?lang=en>.





There is a story attached to nearly every one of the objects – sometimes there are jokes and legends told by eyewitnesses - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/story/list/karostascietums?lang=en>.



**Militārais mantojums KAROSTAS CIETUMS**  
 Militārais mantojums **Karostas cietums** - Latvija, Kurzeme, Liepājas rajons, Liepāja Nr 30098

Stāsti

Datums	Stāsts
21.12.2009 Gunārs Silakaktiņš	<b>Leģenda par Balto dāmu</b> dzirdamas neizskaidrojamas skaņas, bez iemesla sabojājas elektriskie slēdži, paši no sevis uzlādējas mobilie telefoni, ar lielu troksni aizcērtas smagās cietuma kameru durvis...
21.12.2009 Normunds Krafts	<b>Vēl viens stāsts sakarā ar Liepāju kā Padomju Savienības pierobežu</b> Civēki, kuriem nebija pieņemama dzīve Padomju Savienībā, parādīja daudz radošas izdomas, lai izkļūtu no PSRS nelegāli. Lielākoties šie mēģinājumi bija neveiksmīgi.
21.12.2009 Gunārs Silakaktiņš	<b>Celmiņš</b> Celmiņu kopā ar citiem atved uz Karostas cietumu, bet viņš izmanto burzmu cietuma pagalmā, noģērbj vīrsējo civilpārģērbu, paliek vācu fenci un droši paceltu galvu garām sargam iziet ārā.
21.12.2009 Gunārs Silakaktiņš	<b>Trešā ranga kapteinis Valerijs Sabļins. 1975. gads</b> Šis gadījums izraisījis lielu apjukumu augstākajā virsniecībā, tāpēc, lai Rīgā rastos iespējami mazāk baumas, V.Sabļins atvests uz Liepāju, uz Karostas virssardzi.

Pievienot Jūsu stāstu

Also a section for feedback has been created where tourists or any other stakeholder can publish their comments after visit of military heritage and taking part in the development process of the data base - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/feedback/list/karostascietums?lang=en>.



**Leitnanta Roberta Rubeņa bataljona muzejs - Atsauksmes**  
 Militārais mantojums **Leitnanta Roberta Rubeņa bataljona muzejs** - Latvija, Kurzeme, Ventpils rajons Nr 30087

Atsauksmes

Datums	Atsauksmes teksts	Autors
01.09.2011	Hello Mr Keizars, My great grandfather was in Lt. Rubenis' battalion. His name is listed here <a href="http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/feedback/edit/rubenabataljonamuzejs">http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/feedback/edit/rubenabataljonamuzejs</a>	Chelli Canada

Pievienot Jūsu atsauksmi

Info section contains contact data if the particular heritage object is managed and offered for tourist visits - <http://www.celotajs.lv/w/e/info/karostascietums?lang=en>.



**Atpūta laukos**

Sākums | Naktsmītnes | Ceļojumu maršruti | **Vārta redzēt** | Profesionālā informācija | Par mums

Privātnes

**Militārais mantojums KAROSTAS CIETUMS**

Militārais mantojums **Karostas cietums** - Latvija, Kurzeme, Liepājas rajons, Liepāja Nr 30098

Militārais mantojums | Specializācija | Aktivitātes | Karte | Stāsti | Atsauksmes | **Info**

**Kontaktinformācija**

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Invaļiņu iela 4  
Karosta  
Liepāja, LV-3402, Latvija

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## MAP OF MILITARU HERITAGE

See electronical version of the map here:

[http://www.celotajs.lv/p/MilitaryHeritageMap2011/view\\_lv.html](http://www.celotajs.lv/p/MilitaryHeritageMap2011/view_lv.html)

To promote military heritage tourism in protected nature areas, the Latvian country tourism association has published the Map of Military Heritage. The map contains attractive former military objects, which are suitable for visiting in terms of infrastructure and safety.

Military heritage in terms of this map refers to historical outdoor objects such as redoubts, fortresses, certain castles, shoreline defence batteries, bunkers, dugouts, locations of major battles, former military bases, army airfields and bases, as well as museums and collections. This map includes descriptions of 60 military objects, complete with photographs, including historical ones. There is also information about 239 places, which offer accommodations. Many of the objects re in NATURA 2000 territories, and some are cultural monuments.

The aim of this map is to provoke public discussion about management of military heritage objects and their use in tourism and education.

Public discussion took place in Riga, in the Latvian War Museum in presence of military history experts, ministry representatives, managers and owners of objects included in the Military Heritage Map, tourism specialists and other interested participants. Media were invited too, ensuring wide publicity.

The discussions concluded that active exploration of military heritage objects at the present stage is highly important from historical research and educational aspects as through it, important historical evidences are conserved and saved from distruction.

Public attitude must be changed increasing awareness of historical importance and tourism potential of the former military objects. Military heritage in Latvia – dugouts, bunkers, fortifications and similar are common for Eastern Europe and Europe while visitors from other parts of the world reagard them as unique and exclusive.

There are many locations in Latvia where these object can be seen, however, there are not enough guides to show them to visitors and answer their questions. To market



Fig. 40. Cover page of the Map of Military Heritage



Fig. 41. Fragment of the Map of Military Heritage - two descriptions of military objects



Fig. 42. Public discussion and presentation of the map in Riga, the Latvian War Museum

military heritage tourism, state support is necessary. Managers and owners of the military heritage objects included in the Military Heritage Map notice the potential for growth and are thankful to the authors and publishers of the map.

The State Inspection for Heritage Protection in Latvia states that military heritage should be granted protection status. In this case, management and ownership issues of the objects should be reviewed.

The Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development appreciates the efforts of the Latvian Country Tourism Association in research of military heritage and the Military Heritage Map. The ministry also recognises the export potential of military heritage tourism.

A special presentation of the map to media took place in the form of a fam trip visiting several objects included in the map. During this trip, media writers representing different historical viewpoints discussed aspects of military history finding common grounds, listening to the stories of managers of the military heritage sites and initiating further tasks in protection and development of military heritage. Media coverage (TV, radio, press articles) following this media trip continued the public discussion regarding military heritage.



Fig. 43. Media trip visiting the military heritage sites included in the Map of Military Heritage

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