



INTERNATIONAL FORTRESS COUNCIL

Secretariat c/o Stichting Menno van Coehoorn
Mariaplaats 51

3511 LM Utrecht, the Netherlands

secretariat@internationalfortresscouncil.org

<http://www.internationalfortresscouncil.org>

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To: EFFORTS
Head Office
Trierstraat / rue de Trèves 67
1040 Brussel / Bruxelles

PROPOSAL FOR THE MULTI LINGUAL FORTIFICATION DICTIONARY

The International Fortress Council (IFC) was founded in 1989 by the following organisations: Simon Stevin VVC (Belgium; VVC stands for Vlaams Vestingbouwkundig Centrum or Flemish Fortress Centre); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung (Germany); Fortress Study Group (U.K.), and the initiator, the Stichting Menno van Coehoorn (The Netherlands). Later similar organisations joined the IFC: Association Vauban (France); Nacionalna Udruga za Fortifikaciju (Croatia), Czech Association for Military History (Czech Republic), Frënn vun der Festungsgeschicht Lëtzebuerg (Luxemburg), Association Saint-Maurice d'Etudes Militaires (Switzerland); Coast Defence Study Group (USA). The Österreichische Gesellschaft für Festungsforschung (Austrian Society for Fortification Research) and the Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna (Malta Heritage Trust) are joining the IFC.

The IFC unites these organisations from various countries engaged in the protection and study of their national fortified heritage as well as spreading the knowledge about it. Within the IFC these various organisations exchange their knowledge and experiences in that field. If needed they give mutual support.

One of the means the IFC has to spread their knowledge on fortifications is the Multilingual Fortification Dictionary (MFD). The initiative for founding this dictionary came from Mr. Carlos Scheltema, honorary member of the Stichting Menno van Coehoorn and ICOMOS, in 2005.

This digital dictionary (see <http://www.internationalfortresscouncil.org/mfd.html>, screenshot at the end of this message) offers pictures and translations of various components of fortifications from different periods in time. The user can translate a specific term into a certain language or learn the term he or she is looking for by clicking on the picture. The available languages are: Dutch, English, German, French, Croatian, Czech, Polish, Lithuanian, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. The dictionary has been frequently visited and used over the years, it is a 'proven concept'.

Due to various circumstances work on the dictionary came to a standstill. Apart from that the layout of the dictionary's website is outdated. The IFC plans on restarting the work on the dictionary and giving the website a new and modern look.

Right now the dictionary consists of loose terms and black and white pictures. The new site will turn this into a coherent system. On a starting page, showing coloured 3D models, various fortification systems will be shown. By clicking on them the user can learn the term for any chosen specific part, but will be able to learn about the complete system as well. From there the user can go deeper into various details and cross-reference them to other fortification system. This in as many different languages as possible.

The means necessary for this ambitious project go beyond those of the IFC, both technically and financially. By means of this proposal we specifically look for cooperation with the Efforts network. We believe collaboration with Efforts can expand our network of translators and help us furthering the already established contacts with the artists and designers needed to build the site and provide the artwork. Apart from that we hope the collaboration will help us find the necessary financial means from third parties (European Union) as well. The IFC will coordinate the work and put in the knowledge of various fortifications systems. The information that will become available on the site will help the Efforts members. It will provide them with the knowledge and terminology needed for writing plans, research reports and the translation of publications to spread within the network and beyond. It could be an important pillar for a stronger bond between Efforts and IFC.

We hope to have a meeting in the near future between some members of EFFORT's board and IFC's Executive Committee, supported by the MFD Coordinator, Mr Jeroen van der Werf, to further speak about our collaboration in general and more specifically this MFD-project, with EU-projects and EU-funding in mind

On behalf of the International Fortress Council,

Kees Neisingh,
Secretary-general.

Multilingual Fortification Dictionary

The Multilingual Fortification Dictionary (MFD) contains an illustrated list of fortifications and their translations in multiple languages (Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish).

NEW: For a definition of the World War II Atlantikwall, see under the Tab Activities.

The IFC is considering to add new languages and new time periods, eventually including the 'concrete' and 'reinforced concrete century'. At the next General Assembly of the IFC this will be discussed.

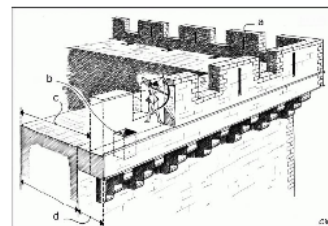
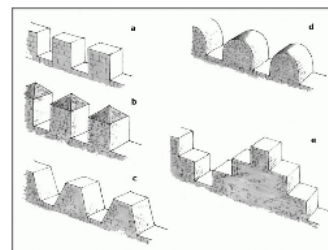
You are invited to use the dictionary and to send comments etc. to the Secretariat, that will forward the comments to the Multilingual Fortification Dictionary Working Group. For a list of members of the Multilingual Fortification Dictionary Working Group see under the tab Contact.

[Members of the Multilingual Fortification Dictionary Working Group can login here](#)

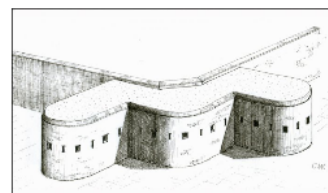


A: Basic forms of fortification

- [A07a: bastion \(Old Italian system\)](#)
- [A07b: bastion \(New Italian system\)](#)
- [A07c: bastion \(old Dutch system\)](#)
- [A07d: bastion \(improved Dutch system\)](#)
- [A07e: bastion \(Vauban system\)](#)
- [A07f: bastion \(new Dutch system\)](#)
- [A08a: hollow \(empty\) bastion](#)
- [A08b: full \(solid\) bastion](#)
- [A08c: bastion, solid, with cat \(cavalier\)](#)
- [A09a: bastion, round](#)
- [A09b: bastion, almond shaped](#)
- [A09c: bastion, rounded](#)
- [A09d: bastion, tenailed](#)
- [A09e: bastion, mixed form](#)
- [A09f: bastion, rectangular](#)
- [A12:](#)
- [A12a: earthwork, quadrangular, bastioned](#)
- [A12b: earthwork, quadrangular with half bastions](#)
- [A12c: earthwork, triangular, bastioned](#)
- [A12d: earthwork, triangular with half bastions](#)
- [A12e:](#)
- [A13: starfort, fort of stellar trace](#)
- [A14:](#)



[merlon, crenel](#)



[tri-lobed caponier at angle of wall](#)