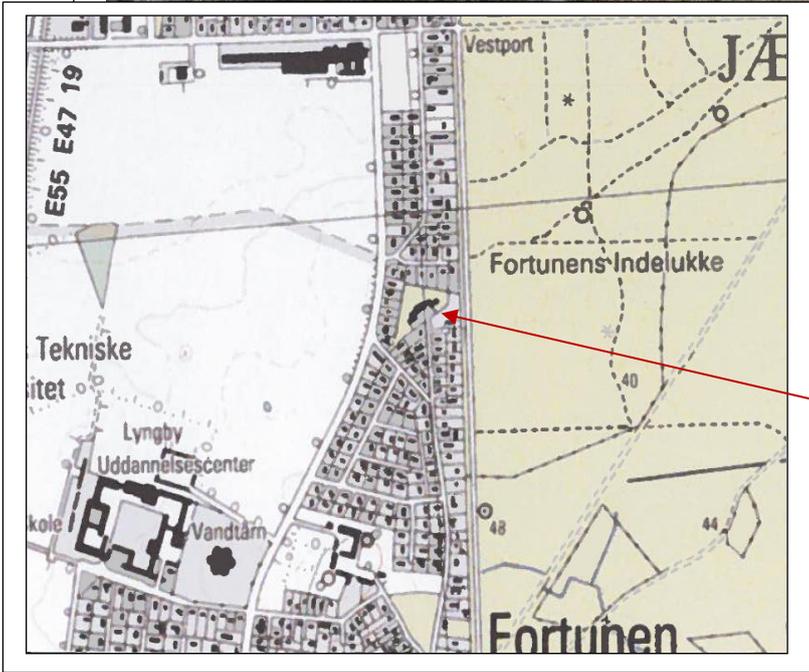
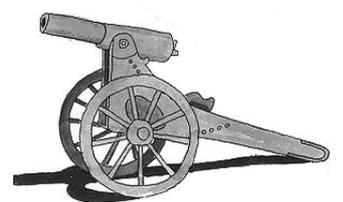


FORTUNFORTET

An ancient monument



Fortunfortet



About Copenhagen's Fortification

For centuries in Denmark's history, enceintes, wood palisades, etc, have been used as local defence against invading strangers. In line with the development of arms and attack systems, fortification and coherent enceintes became an important component of all major cities and traffic junctions.

An example of this is the establishment of the extensive enceinte and fortification system in the years 1600 to 1860 around what we today call the *Medieval City* in *Copenhagen*. The purpose was to make *Copenhagen* a safe city, thus strengthening the city's position as a trading city and the capital of the monarchy.

However, this old so-called bastionary fort proved to be completely inadequate both during the *Battle of Copenhagen* in 1801 and during the English's terror bombardment of *Copenhagen* in 1807.

It is well known that Denmark in 1864 suffered a sad defeat to Germany and we lost our self-esteem and two-fifths of the kingdom.

Based on the defeat and the experiences in 1801 and 1807, it was decided to reconstruct the fortification of *Copenhagen* so that the capital could be defended during modern war.

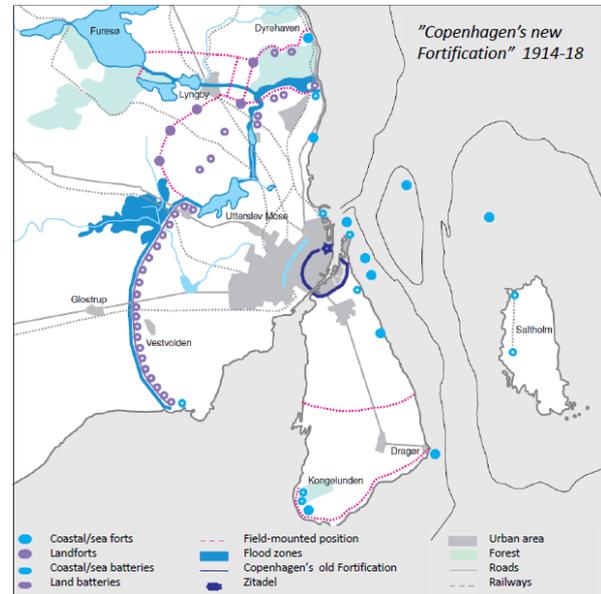
The construction of "*Copenhagen's new Fortification*", as the new defence is usually called, was initiated in 1886 and was fully completed during World War I. *Fortunfortet* is part of "*Copenhagen's new Fortification*".

This, also in European scale, major maritime and land defence consisted of six sea forts, four coastal forts, a sea battery and eight coastal batteries as well as five land forts, nine land batteries, two contiguous enceintes and two flood zones. Together, these formed one coherent defence system that encompassed all of *Copenhagen*.

The land defence with forts and batteries stretched from *Avedøre*, along

Vestvolden (the western rampart/enceinte), via *Gladsaxe*, *Bagsværd*, *Lyngby* and beyond *Dyrehaven* to *Taarbæk*.

The maritime fortification closed the ring around *Copenhagen* from *Avedøre* through *Øresund* to *Taarbæk*.



Map from the booklet; *Copenhagen's new Fortification 1858-1920*, published in 2003 by the County of *Copenhagen*

As an additional safeguarding of the land defence, a wide range of canals and embankment made it possible to flood the *Ermelunden* area from *Lyngby* to *Øresund*. Furthermore, small artillery units were built along the edges of the wetlands. A flood would be made by lowering *Furesøen's* water mirror by approx. 1.25 m corresponding to 10 million m³ of water. Via *Mølleåen* and a 3 km long channel, the water should be transported from *Frederiksdal* to *Erme-lunden*.

In 1909, the *Danish Parliament* decided to abandon the land fortification in 1920 and shortly after, most of the forts were disarmed and some facilities were also filled in with earth.

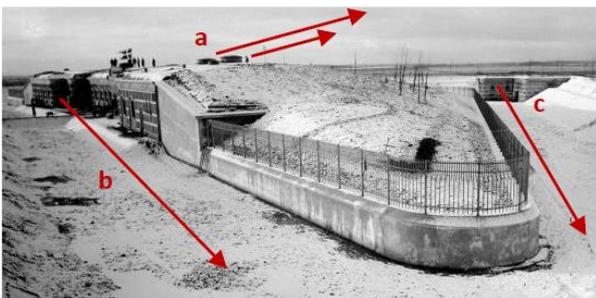
Copenhagen's new fortification was manned with a security force of about 70,000 men during *World War I*. Today the fortification facilities are used as recreation areas and excursions.

About Fortunfortet

Fortunfortet is the smallest of the land forts and was established as the last in a row towards Øresund. The fort was inaugurated on December 20, 1892. The total construction amount was approx. DKK 550,000.

Like most of the land forts, *Fortunfortet* is formed as a triangle surrounded by dry moats but unlike other forts built on two floors, *Fortunfortet* is built in 1½ floor.

The fort got a suitable location, dug down and well protected in a hill. The dry moats on the three sides of the fort could be defended, partly from the 'throat' casemate at the entrance of the fort, and partly from the so-called saillant caponier (artillery bunker) at the fort tip which today lies under one of the plots on *Boveskovvej*.



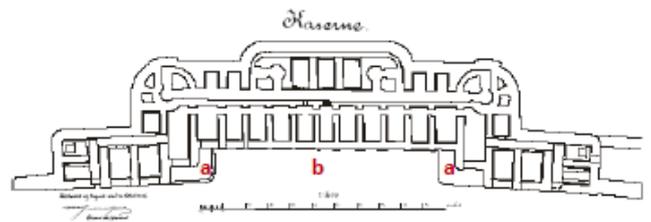
Denmark's flag *Dannebrog* waves from the top of *Fortunfortet* at the inauguration in December 1892. The rounded domes at the top of the fort (a) are two of the four "disappearing" canon towers that can be raised and lowered, each containing a 75 mm cannon. The fort is surrounded by a wide dry moat that could be defended by cannons and machine guns in the "throat" casemate (b) and in the saillant caponiere (c). Photo: *Tøjhus Museum*.

The dry moats could be defended by means of four fast-firing 75 mm cannons and 12 recoil guns.

On the deck of the fort, four 75 mm fast-firing cannons were installed in each of its "disappearing" towers. In each tower, the armour dome, the wall of the tower and the cannon carriage formed a whole that could be raised and lowered as required by a counterweight. The towers could be rotated and at the same time act as observation stations through fairly large embrasures.

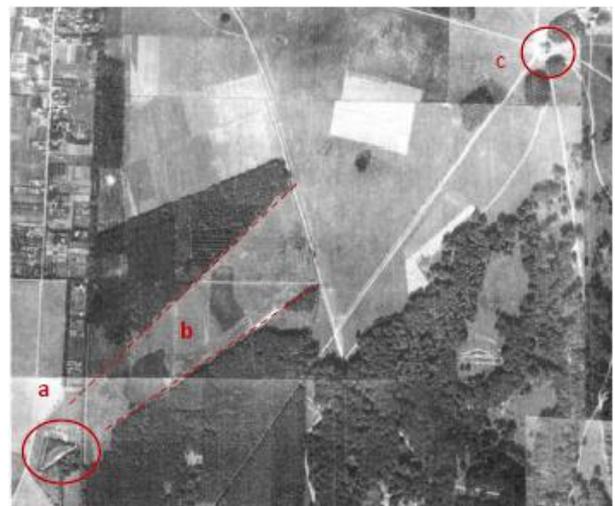
During World War I, the fort was further strengthened. Cannons were established on *Dyrehavegaardsvej* and *Ved Fortunnen*, and in the western fields an enhanced infantry, the *Lundtofte* position, was established (also called the *Bavnehøj* position). In the forest east of the fort, the *Dyrehave* position joined.

The fort crew consisted of about 110 artillerists called in the security forces, and of course the fort had its own water supply, food storage and own kitchen. The rooms were heated by tiled ovens connected to the eight chimneys which can still be seen on the top of the fort today.



Floor plan of *Fortunfortet* "Diamond moats" (a), "Throat moat" (b).

In relation to the preparation of the fort in 1914, large portions of *Fortunens Indelukke* were cut down (forhug) so the fort got a free view and without problems could defend the *Dyrehave* side towards the *Eremitagen* plain.



North east of *Fortunfortet*(a), you see the front triangle part of *Fortunens Indelukke*. Forhug (b), The Hermitage(c). (Aerial photo mosaic approx. 1926, *Lyngby City History Collection*)

The outer parts of the enceintes around the fort, the *Glacier*, along *Hjortekærvej* and *Boveskovvej*, have been built on since the early 1930s.

The little house at the entrance to *Dyrehaven* which is used by the scouts today, was the control and guard room of the fort.

The fort was decommissioned in 1920 together with most of "Copenhagen's new Fortification" and sold in 1924. The fort has since been owned by various private companies, among others with the purpose of cultivating mushrooms before the *Municipality of Lyngby-Taarbæk* took ownership approx. 50 years ago.

Renovation of the Fort

In the years 2002 - 2006, the *Municipality of Lyngby-Taarbæk* and the *County of Copenhagen* have, following permission from the *Heritage Agency*, carried out several renovations at *Fortunfortet*, such as

- Pruning and removal of the plantation on the building
- Improvement of roof and gutter of the casemate building
- Exposure of the two "diamond moats" on either side of the main gate of the casemate building
- Removal of earth from landslide
- Re-establishment of the "throat moat" in front of the casemate building

To clarify and prioritise the future renovation of the fort, the *Municipality of Lyngby-Taarbæk* in 2011 asked the engineering, design and consultancy company *Rambøll* to prepare a status report and renovation plan, and in 2014 the consultancy company *COWI* made a preliminary analysis of the ground protection work of the fort.

In 2016, the *Municipality of Lyngby-Taarbæk* carried out a renovation of gutter and cornice and later also renovation of the facade around the main gate to the fort was carried out. In June 2018, the partnership has set up a fort name, construction year, coat of arms and royal crown on the newly renovated façade above the main gate to *Fortunfortet*.

Fortunfortet's Friends has partnered with the *Municipality of Lyngby-Taarbæk* and has, based on the reports from *Rambøll* and *COWI*, prepared a foundation and renovation project for the fort. The partnership currently applies for relevant funding of the project.

In September 2020, *Aage and Johanne Louis-Hansens Fond* have granted DKK 4,7 million for the casting of a new waterproof concrete pitch and liming of walls and ceilings in at least 100 m² of space inside the fort. *Lyngby-Taarbæk Municipality* has also granted DKK 1,25 million to the *Fortunfortet*, which will be used for the renovation of the fort's ventilation ducts.

With *COWI* as advisor the planning of all these works is in full swing. In December 2021, the *Agency for Culture and Palaces* approved the planned works and a detailed project for the tendering of the workers is being prepared.

"Fortunfortet's Friends" was founded in 2007 and aims to:

Work for and support the renovation of *Fortunfortet's* buildings and enceintes, including assistance to apply for funding

- Develop *Fortunfortet* so it can be used as a local cultural center and educational asset for the municipality
- Participation in planning and management of the Fortification Day and similar non-profit events
- The association also aims to spread the knowledge of the now hidden defence on the north front: The *Dyrehave* position and the *Taarbæk* fort
- Establish and maintain the web site Fortunfortet.dk

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Learn more on www.fortunfortet.dk

