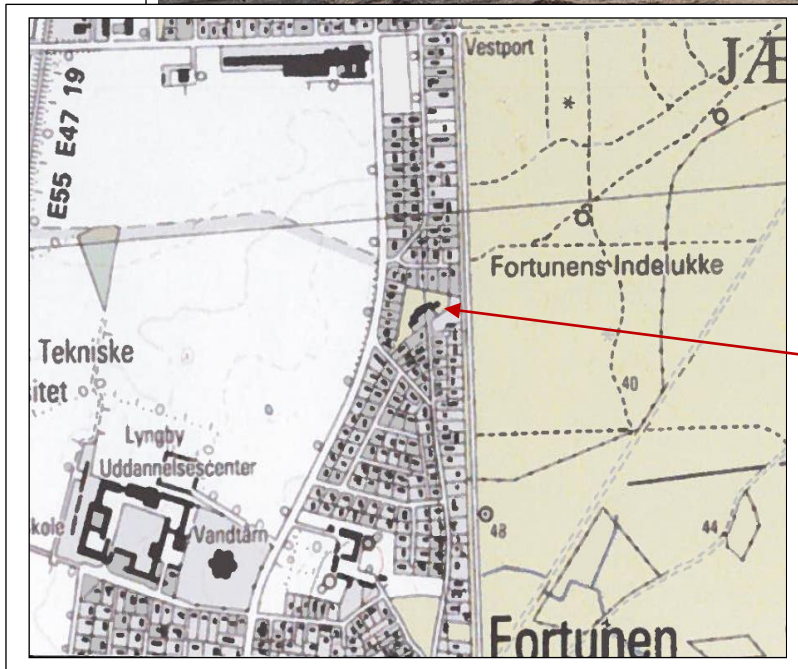
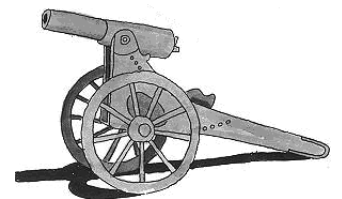


# FORTUNFORTET

An ancient monument



Fortunefortet



## 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.

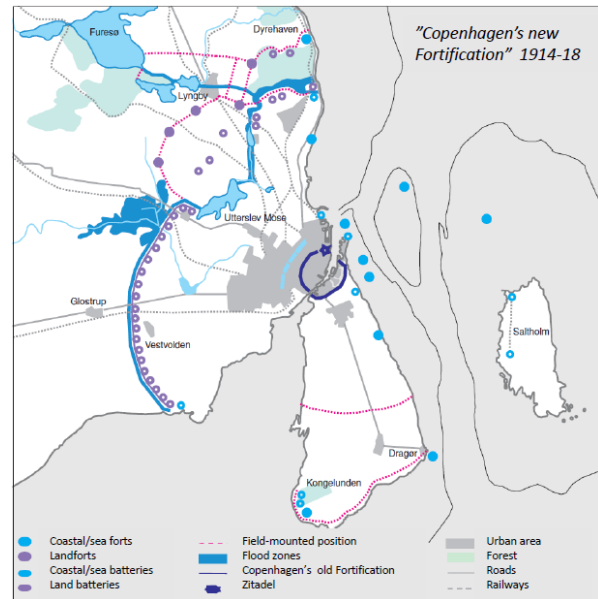
Based on the defeat and the experiences in 1801 and 1807, it was decided to reconstruct the fortification of *Copenhagen* so that the capital could be defended during modern war.

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 *Glad-saxe*, *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 m<sup>3</sup> of water. Via *Mølleåen* and a 3 km long channel, the water should be transported from *Frederiksdal* to *Ermelunden*.

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.

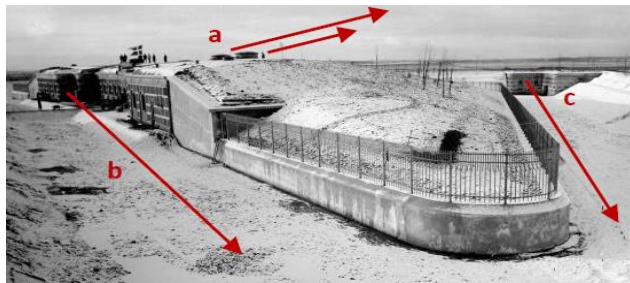
## About Fortunfortet

*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 cost was approx. DKK 550,000, of which the cost of protection and armor-piercing turrets amounted to approx. DKK 245,000.

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*.



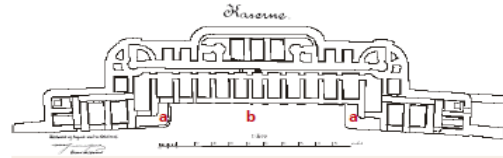
Denmark's flag *Dannebrog* waves from the top of *Fortunfortet* at the inauguration in December 1892. The rounded domes at the top of the fort (a) are two of the four "disappearing" canon towers that can be raised and lowered, each containing a 75 mm cannon. The fort is surrounded by a wide dry moat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

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.

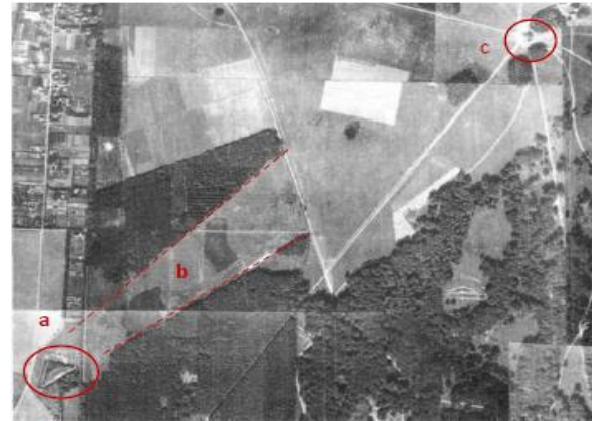
During World War I, the fort was further strengthened. Cannons were established on *Dyrehavegaardsvej* and *Ved Fortunen*, and in the western fields an enhanced infantry, the *Lundtofte* position, was established (also called the *Bavnehøj* position). In the forest east of the fort, the *Dyrehave* position 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* "Diamont moats" (a), "Throat moat" (b).

In relation to the preparation of the fort in 1914, large portions of *Fortunens Indelukke* were cut down 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 *Hjortekærsvvej* 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 the majority of the land fortification and sold in 1923. Since then, the fort has had different owners, before ownership passed to *Lyngby-Taarbæk* municipality in 1958.

## Renovation of the Fortunfort

From June to November 2022 Fortunfortet has undergone an extensive renovation. The renovation project was supported by grants from Aage and Johanne Louis-Hansen Foundation and Lyngby-Taarbæk Municipal Board.

The renovation included:

- Casting of a new waterproof concrete roof
- Renovation of the fort's 18 ventilation ducts
- Cleaning of walls and ceilings in a 100 m<sup>2</sup> room inside the fort.

The waterproof concrete roof was constructed as a so-called "bridge membrane". Loose concrete and plaster were removed from the surface of the old roof. A layer of mortar was then spread on top of the roof to even the surface. On top of this surface a layer of strong roofing felt was welded. Thereafter a 12 mm thick reinforcing mesh was laid out, which was covered by a 12 cm thick layer of concrete. On top of each of the four tower wells and the two observation towers, a large round ventilation hole was established. The ventilation holes were covered by corten steel domes to resemble the top of the original four retractable turrets and observations turrets. The 18 ventilation ducts on the fort's throat facade, had new cast iron grates installed and the external wreaths around the ventilation ducts were plastered and restored.

The fantastic result is shown on the first page of folder.

## The background for the renovation project

"Fortunfortets Venner" entered a partnership with the municipality of Lyngby-Taarbæk in 2016, to draft a protocol describing a renovation project for the Fortunfort. The project was pre-approved in 2017 by the Agency for Culture and Palaces.

In the period 2016-2020, the partnership applied approximately 20 foundations for financial support to the renovation project of the fort, including Aage and the Johanne Louis-Hansen Foundation.

As part of the renovation project, Lyngby-Taarbæk municipality already in 2016 carried out a renovation of the gutter and cornice at the Fortunfort. In 2017 the facade around the main gate was restored and in 2018 the fort's name, "FORTUNFORTET", year of construction, and coat of arms and king's crown was placed on the newly renovated facade above the main gate.

## Previous renovation work

In the years 2002-2006, Lyngby-Taarbæk municipality and Copenhagen County, with permission from the Cultural Heritage Agency, carried out a number of renovation works at Fortunfort. The works included the excavation of two "diamond trenches" at the "cuts" in the throat facade on either side of the main gate to the casemate building, clearing and trimming of the vegetation on top of the fort, repair of the casemate building's concrete roof and gutters, excavation of the earthen ramp at the south-western end of the fort as well as restoration of the stone blast cover and the throat trench in front of the casemate building.

"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](http://Fortunfortet.dk)

You are most welcome to contact us:

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Read more on <https://fortunfortet.dk>

