

Fortification had always been a traditional means of protection against aggression; therefore, a new fortified system was projected in Czechoslovakia since 1934. Along the north border with Germany from the city of Ostrava to the Krkonoše Mountains, an incredible succession of building sites was then started on over 250 kilometers to form the line of heavy fortifications. Moreover, the rest of 1 545-km long border with Germany and borders with Austria and Hungary were protected with light fortifications. From 1935 to 1938, 9 artillery strongholds, 263 infantry casemates and nearly 10 000 light pillboxes were built. International treaties with France and United Kingdom guaranteed the independence and state borders of Czechoslovakia.

### SERGEANT'S SLEEPING ROOM

For four men.

### HAND GRENADE STORAGE

150 hand grenades for hand grenade slides.

### LAVATORY AND WC

Cold water only. Water toilets were quite modern at that time. Moreover, there is an "OMS" cleaning device for wastewater to prevent the contamination of the water well or the blockade of the outlet.

### VENTILATION

The ventilator runs by an electrical engine or thanks to a handle in case of power cuts, as well as the water pump. The fresh air from outside was passed either through heat exchanger (here comes the hot cooling water from diesel engine) or through smoke and gas filters (in case of chemical attack). Thanks to this system the inside of the blockhouse could be put under the air overpressure to avoid possible chemical warfare agents to float in and to push out the poisonous gases originated by shooting.

### EARTH TELEGRAPH

If the phone cables to other bunkers were interrupted, using so called "earth telegraphy" the objects could communicate using the Morse alphabet. The high-voltage signal would come through the soil to other objects. As this device worked without cable, it was practically not possible to destroy it.

### WATER WELL

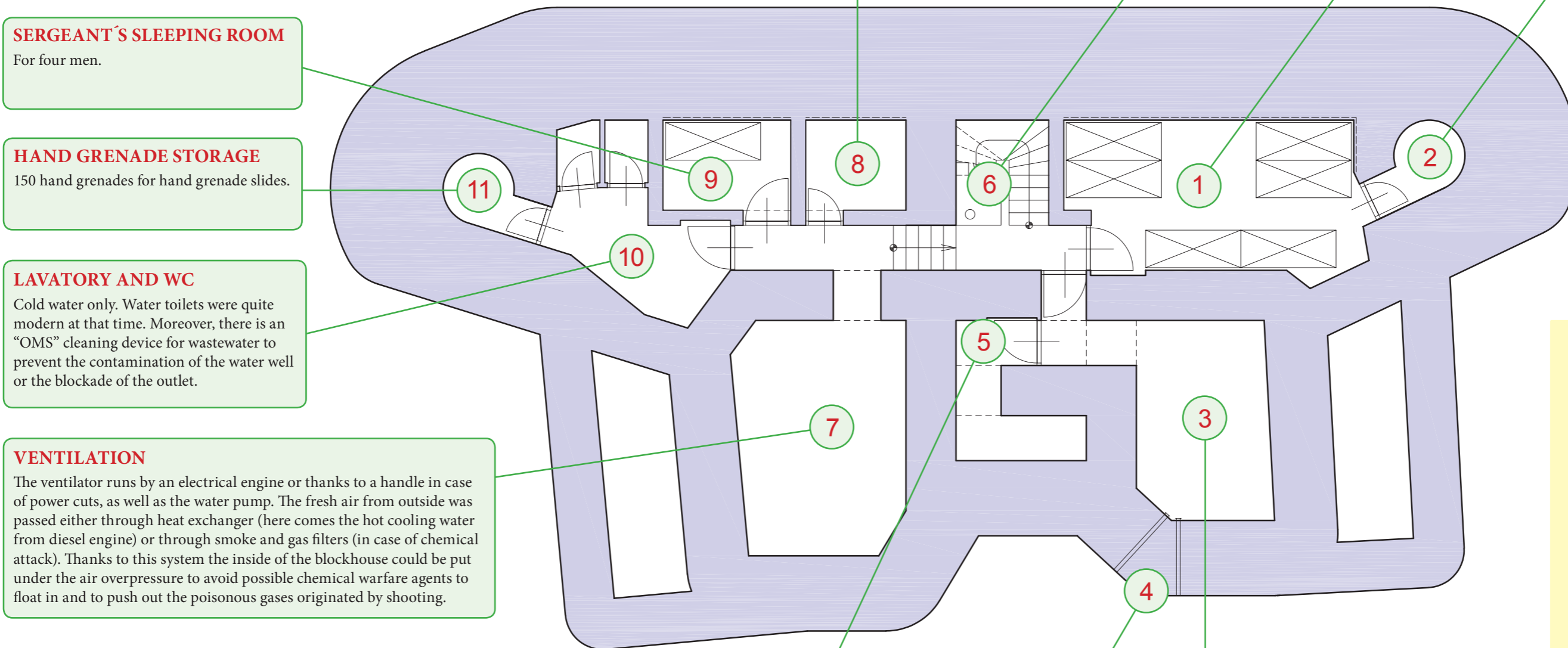
61 m deep well provided drinking water for men and for cooling of the diesel engine and weapons. Cylindrical pump filled the water tanks (above) with 20 L/min (4 L/min manually) up to a maximum capacity of 3 000 L.

### MEN'S SLEEPING ROOM

12 beds for 24 men (change every 12 hours). Parts of equipment and armament of elite frontier units.

### FOOD STORAGE

Food for 14 days.



### FUEL STORAGE

Fuel and oil storage for 14 days.

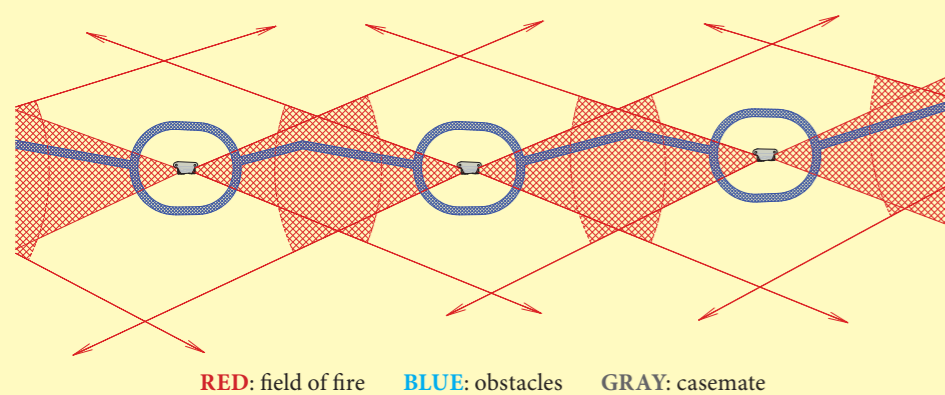
### CABLE ENTRANCES

Two pipes for phone cables and earth telegraph.

### GENERATING SET

Supplied power to ventilation, light, water pump etc. Two-cylinder water-cooled diesel engine Škoda with direct injection is running at 1 000 rpm. The hot cooling water was utilized to warm up the blockhouse. A 10 kVA alternator is producing 220 V three-phase current for strength and 127 V AC for light.

### SCHEME OF FIRING BETWEEN CASEMATES



N-S 82 "Březinka" infantry casemate was concreted from October 4 to 9, 1937 and its cost was evaluated at about 5 million crowns, which would now correspond to one and half million Euros. The work consists of 1 365 cubic metres of high quality reinforced concrete. The non-exposed walls are one meter thick while the roofing slab is two meter thick and the front wall is 2.25 meter thick. The bunker was equipped with 1 anti-tank cannon, 6 heavy machine guns and many light machine guns. The crew was composed of 32 men. During World War II the object was heavily damaged by the German occupation authorities, embrasures and cupolas were extracted. From 1989, the blockhouse has been step-by-step reconstructed into the original pre-war condition and appearance by members of the Military History Club Náchod. During fifteen years, uncared object filled with waste turned into one of the best museums of its kind.

### CUPOLA FOR H.M.G.

The main point of observation for the left part of the object. Made of special armouring steel, 20 cm thick, weight 21 ton, 4 embrasures for 7.92 mm heavy machine gun Model 1937, central hole at the top of the cupola for the periscope. For one man.

### AMMUNITION STORAGE

In this room 1 200 cartridges for anti-tank cannon were stored. Today you can see here only one cartridge together with accessory and spare parts for anti-tank cannon.

### COMMANDER OF THE CASEMATE

On the doors, there is a photo of por. pěch. J. Pivonka, who was the chief of the crew in 1938. During WW II, he took part in the underground resistance movement against the Nazis, was captured and died in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1942.

### PHONE EXCHANGE

Original device from 1930s with 20 directions for the phone links within the casemate and to other bunkers.

### AMMUNITION STORAGE

This storage contained cartridges for machine guns (approx. 400 000 cartridges). The same types of cartridges were used for both light and heavy machine guns.

### CUPOLA FOR L.M.G.

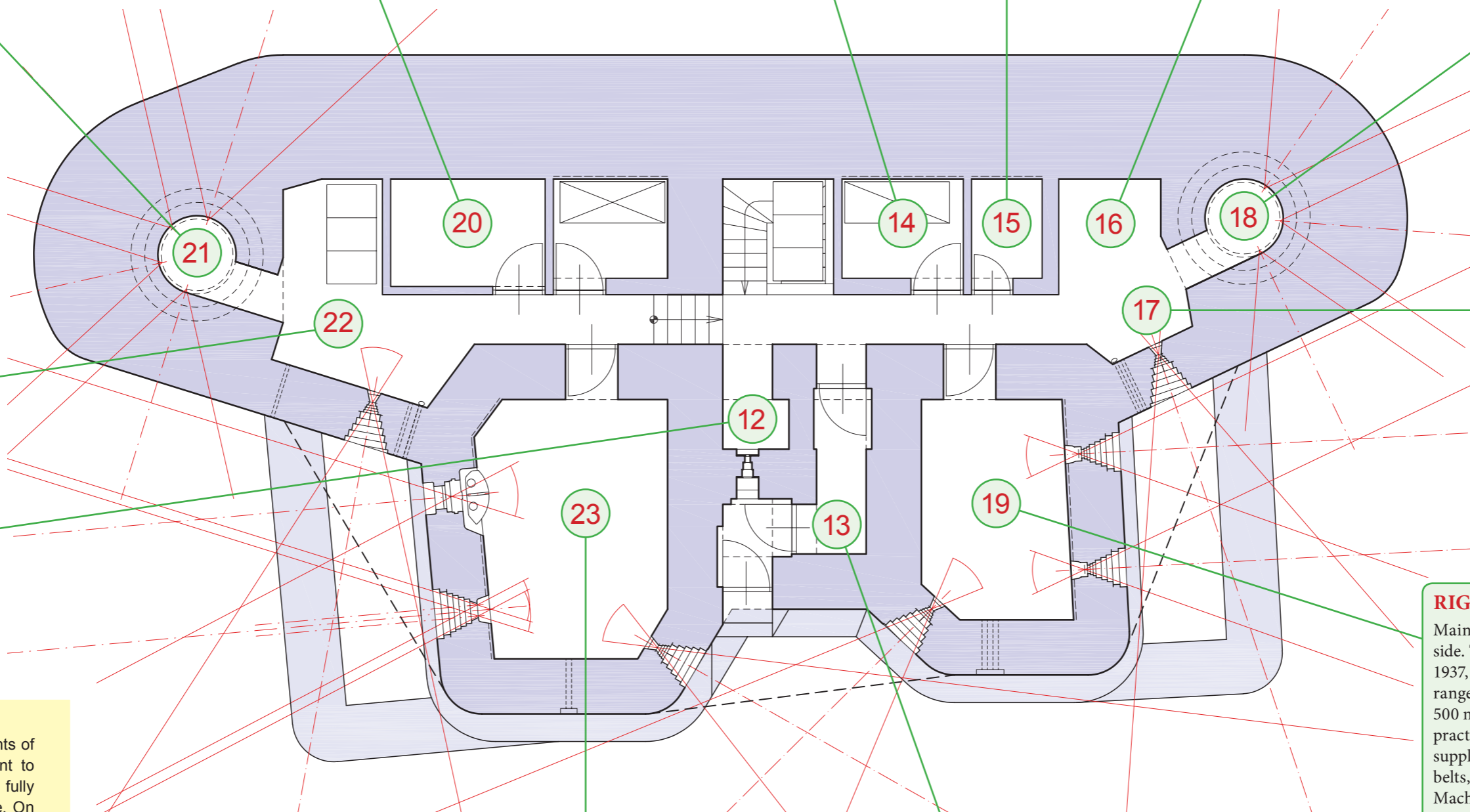
The main point of observation for the right part of the object. Made of special armouring steel, 20 cm thick, weight 20 ton, 3 embrasures for L.M.G. Model 1926, central hole at the top of the cupola for the periscope. For one man.

### LEFT WING OF THE OBJECT

Embrasure for light machine gun to protect the access to the main embrasures on the left side of the casemate (23). Periscope and grenade launcher for the defense of the „diamond pit” in front of the left shooting room. In metal box: the „kitchen” of the object containing the original army petrol cooker from 1930s.

### ENTRANCE EMBRASURE

Protected the only entrance to the casemate.



### LIGHT MACHINE GUN

Light machine gun Model 1926, calibre 7.92 mm, weight 8.84 kg, range of fire 3.2 km (practical 150 m – 2 000 m), rate of fire 600 shots per min, practical speed 200 shots per min, supply through clips containing 20 cartridges, firing shot by shot or in bursts. This gun protected the access to the main embrasures\* of the right shooting room (19). Moreover, there is a “diamond pit” under the embrasures, 1.5 m wide and 3.2 m deep. With the periscope, it was possible to observe the pit and to defend it by hand grenade slide.

\*embrasure = shooting window

### RIGHT SHOOTING ROOM

Main weapons of the object to the right side. Two heavy machine guns Model 1937, calibre 7.92 mm, weight 19 kg, range of fire 3.2 km (practical 300 m – 2 500 m), rate of fire 750/550 shots per min, practical speed 500/300 shots per min, supply through 200 shots ammunition belts, firing shot by shot or in bursts. Machine guns are fixed to the platforms equipped with an aiming mechanism elaborated for night shooting. These guns were used for lateral firing to protect the anti-tank obstacles; each blockhouse could cross its firing with that from the neighbouring ones. The firing of anti-tank cannons and machine guns then could constantly fight the interval between two bunkers in order to form an impenetrable curtain of fire. One L.M.G. Model 1926 in the embrasure to protect the entrance to the casemate.

### LEFT SHOOTING ROOM

47 mm anti-tank cannon Model 1936: range of fire 5.9 km, rate of fire 35 shots per min. High-quality weapon made in Škoda Plzeň. For example, by one shot it could theoretically destroy two enemy tanks on 1-km distance (the thickness of their armor was only 14 mm while one cannon shell could penetrate 50 mm armor).

The room was hardly destroyed during WW II when the Nazis extracted the embrasures. The Wehrmacht then used the Czechoslovak weapons in German fortifications, particularly at Atlantic Wall. During the reconstruction, the embrasures from another object were placed there. The anti-tank cannon was recovered from the Stronghold of Oscarsburgh near Oslo in Norway (see photo). By chance it is the same cannon (serial No. 173), which was in 1938 installed in this casemate.

### ENTRANCE

The “zig-zag” entrance to the casemate was protected with grated doors (200 kg) and two gas-tight doors, which are 30 mm and 15 mm thick (weight 650 kg and 450 kg). Both gas-tight doors are placed round the corner so they can not be bombarded from outside. Thanks to this arrangement it was also possible to protect the area of the entrance by entrance embrasure (12). One of the two doors was always kept closed, which preserved the air overpressure inside the object and prevented the contamination of the casemate with chemical warfare agents. The armour plate in the bottom part of the first gas-tight door can be removed and the hole can be used as an emergency exit from the casemate.

In spite of the fact that huge amounts of money and enthusiasm were spent to build the fortification, it was never fully completed or used for any defence. On September 30, 1938, the Munich Dictate was signed. Czechoslovakia was forced by its allies, France and United Kingdom, and by Germany and Italy to save the peace in Europe. In this hopeless situation, the Czechoslovak government accepted the Munich Agreement and agreed with annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sude-teland by Nazi Germany. Finally on March 15, 1939, Germany occupied the rest of the Czechoslovak Republic. The way to World War II was opened...