

Pamphlet 01: IFC

In many built environments, the question, "Who built this structure and why?" is relatively easy to answer on the basis of common knowledge and visual evidence alone. Raketenstation Hombroich and similar relics of the Cold War in Europe and elsewhere are more resistant to identification and interpretation, however. Not only were they essentially closed to public observation when in operation, but since becoming obsolete with the end of the Cold War they have entered a process of transformation which includes decay, reuse, and simple persistence in varying proportions. None are now what they once were; many are ruins, and a few, like Raketenstation Hombroich, have been reborn in new guises. Nevertheless, most remain inscrutable. Field work and academic research can provide answers to some questions, but do not give much access to the shifting spheres of perception and meaning which surround these environments. Specifically, we want to know what role military installations, with their prominent landscape features and functionally brutal architecture, played in the lives of those who lived and worked near them, and what meanings and interpretations they engender now. For this it is necessary to interview local residents about their memories and attitudes, a process which tends to be more fraught with social obstacles than might be expected. But significantly, memory and understanding are often at odds with documented reality, often assuming the character of stories and myths which reveal more about social and political relations, identity, and hopes and hatreds than any purely factual account would provide. This is the essence of psychoarchaeology, and why it has become our single most important tool in these investigations.

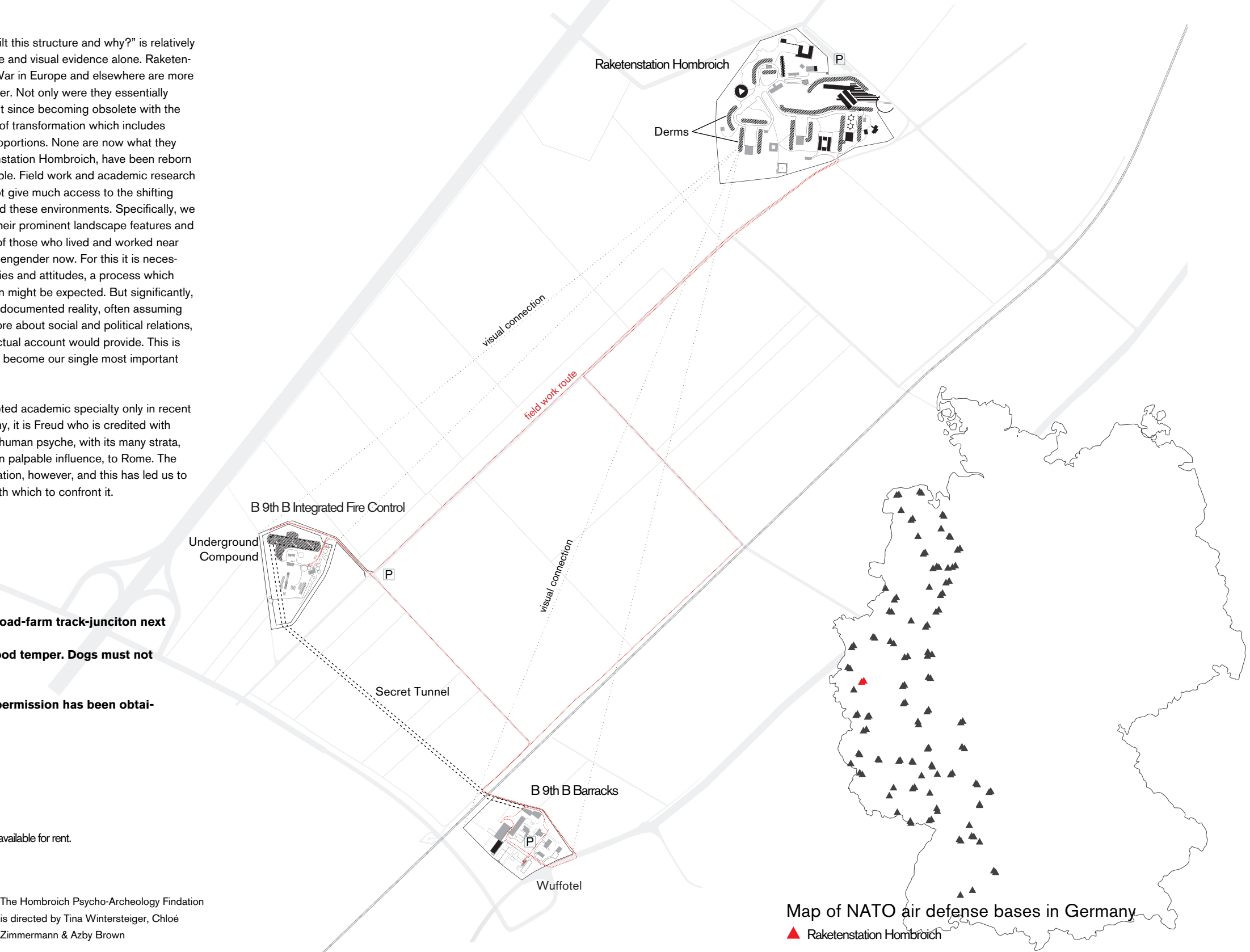
Although psychoarchaeology has become an accepted academic specialty only in recent years, as an offshoot or subset of psychogeography, it is Freud who is credited with having invented the term, famously comparing the human psyche, with its many strata, visible and invisible, old and new, but all exerting an palpable influence, to Rome. The meanings we seek center on invention and imagination, however, and this has led us to seek a purer, more authentic psychoarchaeology with which to confront it.

Please note:
Park your truck in the roadside ditch at the road-farm track-junction next to the dog walker's car.
Dogs must be leashed. Dogs must be in a good temper. Dogs must not be herding.
Stay out!
Filming/photography is not allowed unless permission has been obtained from the owner.

Guidances
Workers guide you to the exit.
Please don't contact Mr. Lupp, +49 (0) ██████████

Rentals
There are no buildings available. None of the buildings are available for rent.

Hombroich Psycho-Archeology Findation
Raketenstation Hombroich 4
D-41472 Neuss
The Hombroich Psycho-Archeology Findation is directed by Tina Wintersteiger, Chloé Zimmermann & Azby Brown



Map of NATO air defense bases in Germany
▲ Raketenstation Hombroich

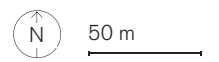
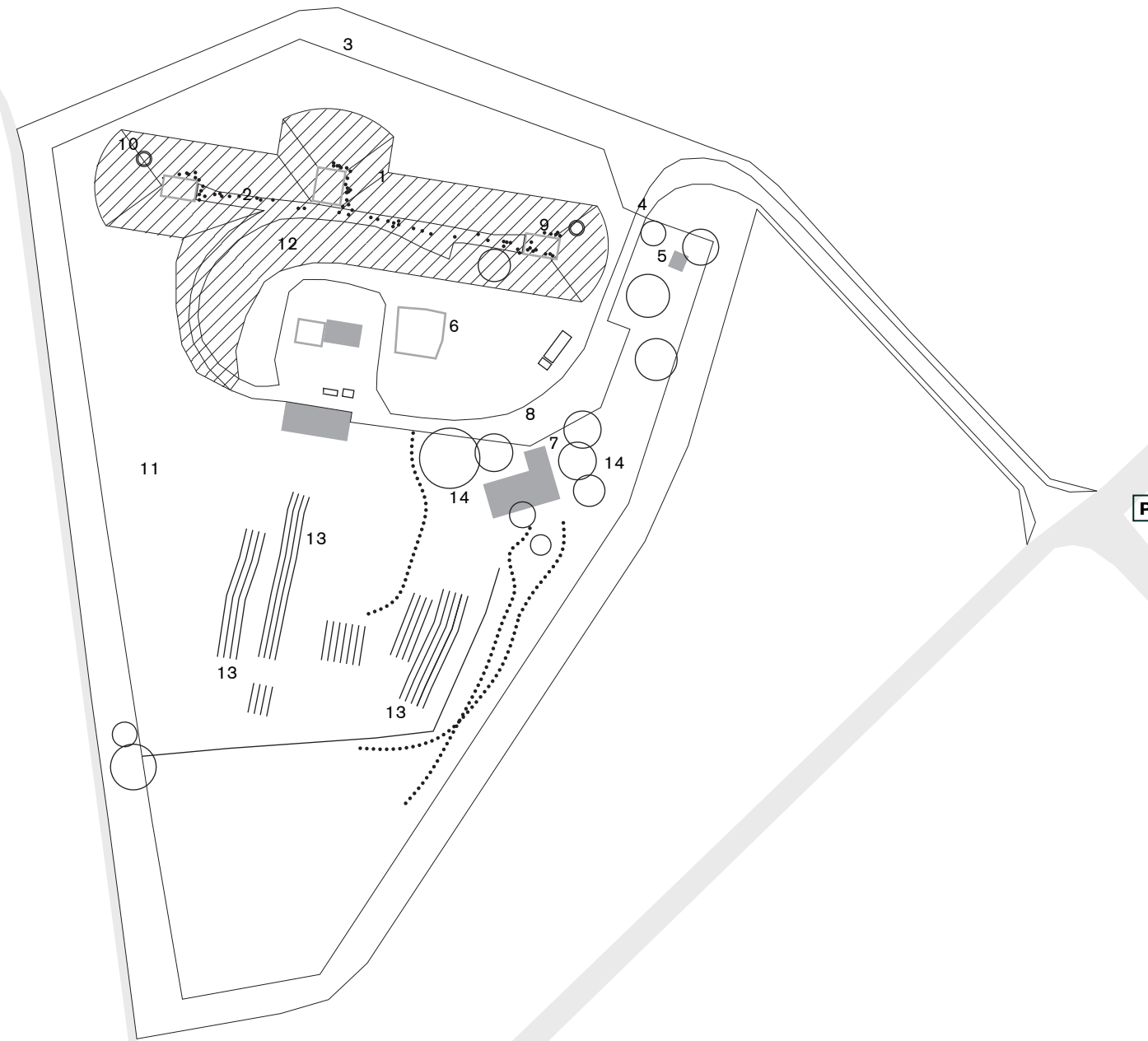


B 9th B Integrated Fire Control

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Raketenstation Hombroich, more correctly identified as the 9th B Launching Area, Kapellen, was one of over 70 Nike missile launch bases built by NATO in Germany between 1959 and 1967 for primary air defense against attacks by Warsaw Pact aircraft. Other NATO countries, such as Italy, Greece, and Norway, hosted similar bases, and over 200 were built in the continental United States. NATO air defense bases in Germany were manned by troops from Germany, the US, Belgium, and the Netherlands, each base usually being staffed by a single nation, with significant administrative, logistical and other support provided by the US. Though sleeping and eating accommodations were provided for staff manning each launch area (LA) in the "ready" mode, larger barracks (kasernes) were invariably located nearby which served troops from several bases in the same sector. In addition, missile targeting and fire control systems were located approximately 1000 to 5000 meters from each launch area. While there was a fair degree of standardization in siting and functional elements, bases of each type were laid out to accommodate variations in the available sites, most of which had previously been agricultural land. With the end of the Cold War in 1989, hundreds of bases of many types in Germany were decommissioned as part of the major drawdown of NATO troops, and the issue of their reuse was studied extensively and many proposals made. Nevertheless, because few are actually easy to reuse for civilian purposes, most former NATO bases in Germany remain in an abandoned state.

Even frequent visitors to Raketenstation Hombroich are surprised to learn that its Integrated Fire Control (IFC) site and the Kapellen Kaserne where the troops lived are nearby, and, since being decommissioned in the early 1990's, have developed into a sharply contrasting and intriguing family of "orphans." While the Launch Area has been transformed into a visionary arts facility, the Integrated Fire Control now provides an artificial hillside for grazing sheep, and the Kaserne has been repurposed into a hotel for dogs and other animal-related uses. Our investigations included online and archival research, site visits, and interviews, which together provide the basis for a psychoarchaeological commentary.



buildings open to the public

for private use only

1 Berm

The exterior appearance seems to be essentially unchanged since the cold war era, and it is visible from a distance

2 Grazing Sheep

A very notable aspect is the flock of sheep which now graze on the berm

3 Razorwire Fence

The fence is very intimidating, even though it's only current function is to keep sheep from straying

4 Entrance Gate

The gate appears to usually be open during normal work hours, but can be found mysteriously closed after visits from nosy psychoarchaeologists

5 Gatehouse

Identical to the one at Raketenstation Hombroich, except it is derelict and houses alarming political graffiti

6 Vicious Dogs

These are kept in a large cage like that for circus animals, and bark constantly

7 Slaughter Shed

The interior is difficult to observe under normal conditions, but the floor is bloody

8 Worker

Only one worker was encountered, who was polite but not encouraging

9 Blockhouses

The current working assumption is that these date from the Cold War, however some informants expressed the opinion that they were built later. Regardless, their primary function now is to provide shade for sheep

10 ICBM Silos

These were indetified as such by a local informant

11 Tunnel

Reportedly built to allow safe underground transportation by vehicle between the site and the Wuffotel (ex Kaserne)

12 Underground Compound

Since there was a tunnel, there must have also been a small underground city

13 Hay bales

These take on a quasi-architectural character

14 Nice Trees

(No explanation required)

Pamphlet 02: Barracks
 In addition to the shifting uses, identities, and perceptions which have arisen for each site, a number of consistent themes were identified. Time figures prominently, of course, particularly when viewed as a flow of change which has led to long periods of slow change, even stasis, punctuated by intense periods of rapid, even catastrophic, transformation. The decommissioning process can be seen as a primary example of the latter. Time also manifests in the position of physical elements and behaviors along an axis whose poles can be described as "temporariness" versus "persistence," which invariably overlap and interact. The process of change and transformation is also characterized by material flows, as inputs (such as during construction) and outputs (such as during removal). Overall each site can be said to be undergoing a process of "rewilding," not necessarily an ideal "return to nature" but the reappearance of biological organisms which had been absent for decades while the bases were in use and their environments strictly edited and managed. But the most striking aspects revealed by this research are the degree of divergence the sites now exhibit, and the way each has stimulated a very different type of creative thinking which is evident in the nature of each reuse. That the results often strike trained observers as amusing also brings to the fore the obstacles to reuse each site presented and the kind of effort grappling with each has required.

The cognitive and behavioral aspects each site encourages in the people who live in, work at, or visit them also appear to be extremely divergent, though marked by what may be a shared and partly intentional progressive forgetting and resistance to memory, as if no more needs to be known about their original uses. As "swords," these bases were deadly reminders of existential threat and the missteps of past history, and the impetus to transform them into "plowshares" may well encourage a psychic distancing from the implied violence of their origins. In this situation, a myth serves as well as a fact, if not better, for explaining new uses and purposes, and for contrasting the benefits transformation has brought in its wake with the unpleasant prior reality.

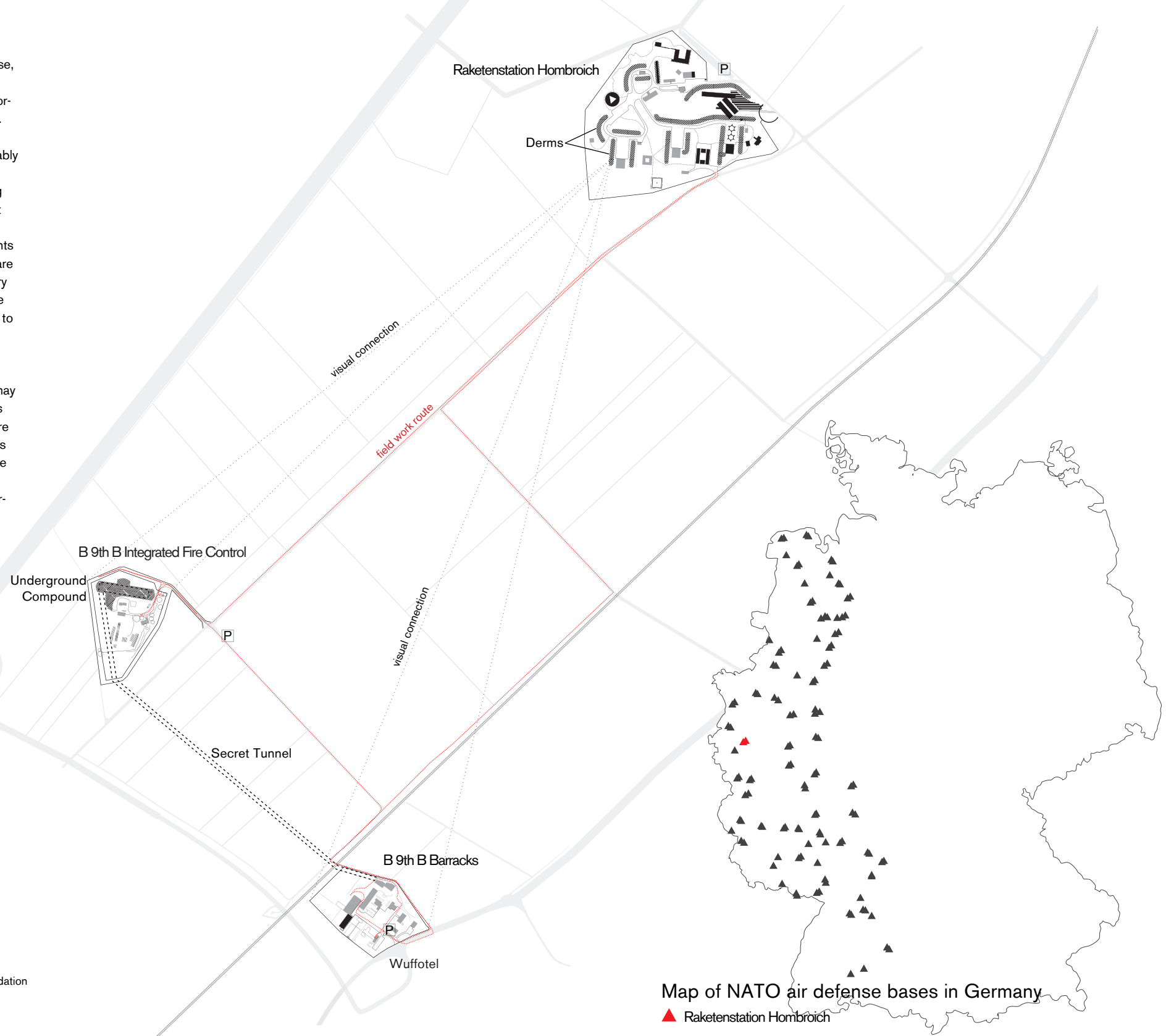
Park your car/motorcycle in the central parking lot.
Dogs must not be checked into dog hotel. Dogs must be in a good temper.
Stay on the designated motor vehicle paths.
Filming/photography is not allowed unless permission has been obtained from the owner.

Guidances
 Residents might guide you around Kaserne Hombroich, staff might guide you around Wuffotel. Information at www.wuffotel.de. Please contact info@wuffotel.de or +49 (0) 2182 87 10 536.

Rentals
 Some of the buildings are available for rent.

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Map of NATO air defense bases in Germany
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B 9th B Barracks

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1 Wuffotel, indoor facilities

Though the interior has not been directly observed, it seems both human customers and their dogs find them comfortable enough

2 Wuffotel, outdoor kennels

Dogs of all shapes and sizes run around in large outdoor pens, which also contain small roofed shelters

3 Bomb Shelter

The outdoor kennels were built over a sports field which was built over a bomb shelter

4 Barracks Converted to Stable

A multistory reinforced concrete building. It is unclear what interior modifications were necessary.

5 Pony Paddock

Ponies can move freely between the stable and the paddock

6 Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare Shelter

Located underneath the stable, it was securely closed with concrete at the end of the Cold War

7 Terrace With Portal of the Sun

This suggests a hippie influence

8 Pony Gate

A semiological feature connected to the stable and pony paddock. It is sited so that gate functionality cannot be achieved

9 Apple Trees

Trees which produce apples

10 Plastic Toy Graveyard

A number of large, obsolete plastic childrens' toys have been collected here

11 Tunnel Entrance

The tunnel entrance ramp for vehicles was reportedly filled solidly with concrete after the cold war, and now functions as a space for mechanics

12 Mechanics Party

Several varieties of automobile and motorcycle mechanics appear to have living, working, and entertainment space here, including audio entertainment

13 Abandoned Panzer Terminal

A former loading dock for NATO tanks being transported elsewhere, or possibly for repairing them

14 Pizza Hut

The roof of this building takes semiotic cues from American fast-food restaurants; current function unknown

15 Automobile Drive-in

This zone functions as an outdoor display of status in the form of wheeled vehicles

16 Lion House

Through the addition of a pair of large concrete lions, potted palm trees, a large entry, and red paint, a former house for military officers has been transformed into a simulacrum of a palace

17 Oasis

Dominated by a circular pool

18 House of Gold

Though not as elaborately signified, it forms a pair with the red Lion House

19 Streetlight Storage

A building which displays a fascinating state of advanced decay which has revealed formerly hidden structural aspects . Its primary function now is to protect scavenged streetlamps from the elements

20 Unidentified Ruin

Detected in aerial photographs, its identity has not yet been determined. Excavation is recommended

21 Dogs with Short Tempers

Similar to their counterparts at Integrated Fire Control; the fence separating them from the surrounding environment, however, suggests the possibility of escape

22 Commander's House

A commander's house which currently has no commander. Maybe it should be renamed

23 Panzer Turrets

According to a local informant, these small circular ruins were originally surmounted by tank turrets intended to serve a defensive purpose. Now they collect water

24 Semi-destroyed ruined barracks

A notable feature of the site, this multistory reinforced concrete building is either collapsing or being reborn

25 Huge Pile of Rubble

This provides evidence that large barracks buildings can be transformed into large mounds