

Where the landscape tells a story



Introduction

The Casemate Museum of Grave

The Casemate Museum of Grave (in Dutch: KazemattenMuseum) was officially opened on 17th September 2011, exactly 67 years after American parachutists captured the Maas Bridge, which is close to Grave. The museum portrays what the Second World War was like in Grave and its surroundings. It is located in the two casemates, or pillboxes, that were positioned on the Grave side of the Maas Bridge for its defence.



The casemates were built in 1936 by the Ministry of War Affairs. The ministry felt the casemates needed to be built due to the threat of war from the east in the latter half of the 1930s.

To secure the bridges across the IJssel, Waal and Maas rivers, so-called river casemates were built that had to be manned by members of the police force.

The Casemate Museum of Grave is an initiative of Stichting Graeft Voort (Grave's historical foundation). Research on Grave's military past is actively sponsored by this foundation and made available to the public. The museum is a splendid addition to the many war museums in the area, such as the National Liberation Museum in Groesbeek and the Liberty Park in Overloon.

The Casemate Museum of Grave is run by volunteers. It would be our privilege to welcome you to the Grave Casemates to share our enthusiasm about the history of Grave and its surroundings.



Exhibition

The North and South Casemates

Casemate North houses the exhibition on the mobilization, the May days of 1940 and the occupation of Grave. On the first floor, visitors can see what the situation was like in Grave on 10th May 1940, when the Germans invaded. In the rooms on the ground floor, the mobilization and occupation are illustrated.



Casemate South focuses on the liberation of Grave on 17th September 1944. On that day hundreds of parachutists from the 504th regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division landed in the region to liberate Grave and its surroundings.

Platoon Commander Lieutenant John S. Thompson of the Easy Company of the 504th regiment and sixteen of his men landed close to the Grave bridge. They succeeded in capturing the south end of the bridge and later that same day also managed to take the north.

Commemoration Day: 17th September

The annual liberation day of Grave takes place on 17th September at 7 pm at the liberation monument next to the Grave bridge, which was renamed the John S. Thomson Bridge in 2004. All visitors are welcome to the annual ceremony and can visit the Casemate Museum afterwards.

A Landscape of Monuments

The museum is situated in an area that has changed very little since the Second World War, so as a visitor you can walk in the same landscape as the liberators. The two river casemates, the Van Sasse pumping station and the Raam river, the Grave bridge and the flood-control dam were all landscape elements that the Americans encountered in 1944. This location is part of the so-called Liberation Route: the route from Normandy to Berlin that the allied forces followed during the liberation of Europe.



In the Netherlands so-called information boulders have been placed along the route and Grave too has a large boulder with an information board.

More extensive information about the area is available via the phone number given, or by accessing the Internet via a smart phone (QR code).

Grave Museum

As well as the Casemate Museum, Stichting Graeft Voort also manages the Grave Museum (in Dutch: GraafsMuseum). This museum is located in the 17th century Hampoort, the last remaining city gate of the fortified city of Grave, which belongs to the top one hundred Dutch UNESCO monuments. The rich history of Grave and its surroundings is permanently on display in the heritage exhibition. Temporary exhibitions are also organized three times a year in the modern wing of the museum.

The Grave Museum is open Wednesday to Sunday from 1 pm–5 pm.

General Information

Opening hours

1 April to 31 October
Saturday and Sunday | 1 pm–5 pm

The museum can also be visited
outside these times on appointment

Admission fee

Admission is for free for persons up
to 18 years old and is € 1,- for adults

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+31 (0)6 34 47 38 48

Email

gkm@graafsmuseum.nl

Website

www.graafsmuseum.nl

Guided tours

The museum is happy to organize
guided tours for groups with a
minimum of 15 persons. Do note
that there is a surcharge of € 20,-
per guide.

Children

The museum is very interesting
for children too and we are happy
to welcome schools, clubs, and of
course families and friends. The
museum is safe, educational, and
does not contain any frightening
images.

Volunteers

The Casemate Museum of Grave
welcomes volunteers who would
like to work as attendants or wish to
contribute to the study committee.
Please send an email to the Grave
Museum for more detailed
information.