

The WWII German Bases FuSK—FMa22 and 46T (Finistère—FR)

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Abstract

The map *Flughafenbereich Morlaix-Flugplätze und Ln Anlagen* among some WWII German military bases in the South Finistère (FR) studied in past publications and other not yet studied, discloses *FuSK—FMa22* at Kerastrobel near Tal ar Groas and *46T* on the Aber Island both on the peninsula of Crozon. In this article, the components of both these two bases have been investigated and discussed. It was thanks to the help of an inhabitant of Kerastrobel that the position and function of some of the components of *FMa22* have been determined. In addition, the map shows the presence of *FMa20* near Guipavas, *FMa21* at the Ouessant Island and *FMa23* at Le Conquet possible subjects for further studies.

Keywords

WWII, Finistère, Tal ar Groas, Kerastrobel, *FMa22*, Aber Island, *46T*, Crozon

1. Introduction

The map *Flughafenbereich Morlaix-Flugplätze und Ln Anlagen* (**Figure 1**) (Hen-off, 2023) shows the position of some WWII German military bases in the south Finistère studied in past publications: the German radar stations *Renntier* (*QU 300*, *QU 500*) and *QU 13* respectively at the Pointe Du Raz and Men Tan (Tomezzoli, 2021), the *Y-Peiler Atlantik II* near Penmarc'h (Tomezzoli, 2024), the *UKW-Jäger-Sprechstelle Grille* near Locronan (Tomezzoli, 2025). In addition, it shows the position of the German radio navigation station *Elektra/Sonne E6/S6* provided with three antenna masts about 100 m high located respectively on the territories of the municipalities of Lanlean, Ploeven, Plonevez-Porzay, dealt by various authors.

In addition, the map shows the *FuSK* (*Funksende Kompanie*)—*FMa22* (*Flak*

Marine Abteilung 22 at Kerastrobel near Tal ar Groas (Bret.: In front the Cross) and *46T* on the Aber Island (Bret.: Estuary Island) both on the peninsula of Crozon on which no author has paid attention.

2. Historical Context

Many *Wehrmacht* unities took turn in the sector of Crozon during the WWII.

The *11. Schützen-Brigade*, at the order of the *Oberst Von Angern* (1893-1943) was the first to arrive in the sector on 19th June 1940 around noon. On 21st June 1940 it left the sector for the Morbihan.

On 17th December 1940 at Tal ar Groas, the *2. Flugabwehrbatterie* of the motorized *49. Flak-Regiment/I. Abteilung* was violently attacked by RAF fighter bombers. Three bombs touched the *Batterie* destroying two guns, killing six gunners and seriously injured two others (Floch, 2012).

The *Munition-Ausgabestelle der Luftwaffe 21/XII* (Unity L49 510) was quartered at Tal-ar Groas from September 1940 to April 1944 (Floch, 2009).

The competence area limit between the *265. Division* and the *343. Division* was set down at the Aber Island. Elements of the *11. Kompanie* of the *894. Infanterie-Regiment* (Unity 57 864D) quartered at the nearby Saint-Nic, controlled the island defensive components and those of Trez Bellec en Telgruc Island. On 27th September 1943 the Catholic chaplain of the *265. Division*, the *Kriegspfarrer* Lang, celebrated mass at 9:30 a.m. at the Aber Island and at 11:00 a.m. at Trez Bellec. On 16th January 1944 the *11. Kompanie* left the sector for Plogonnec relieved by the *285. Ost-Bataillon*.

The *9. Batterie* of the *49. Luftwaffe Flak Abteilung* was on the road to Lanveoc at Tal ar Groas.

On 6th September 1943 the headquarters of the *III. Infanterie-Bataillon* of the *898. Regiment* (Unity 59 285A) settled down at Tal ar Groas. Its *11. Kompanie* (Unity 59 285D) was quartered at Morgat and its *12. Kompanie* at Tal ar Groas at the place called Kerbastum. On 23rd June 1944 the *Bataillon* left the sector for Normandy relieved by the *I. Bataillon* of the same *898. Regiment*. At Tal ar Groas was quartered since August 1943 the *13. Kompanie* of assault guns of the *Regiment*.

For the lodgment of workers of the *Organization Todt (O.T.)*, at Tal ar Groas was built a barrack camp named *Lager Tirpiz*. On 1944 the *Lagerführer* has name Elsen.

The *4. Staffel* (Unity 41 230E) of the *285. Ost Radfahr-Abteilung*, formed by Russian volunteers, was quartered at Tal ar Groas from 12th December 1943 at 1st March 1944, then the *Abteilung* moved to the sector of Plounevez-Lochrist (Floch, 2012).

Crozon was liberated on 17th September 1944, Brest was liberated on 18th September 1944 and on 19th September 1944 the German *General* H. Ramcke, head of Crozon Peninsula defense surrendered at Roscanvel on the Pointe des Capucins (Le Grand & Thomas, 1980; Le Grand & Thomas, 1981).

In **Figure 1** the *FMa22* position is indicated by a blue rectangle and the *46T*

position by a red dot.



Figure 1. Sector of Brest—on the bottom left FMa22 and 46T.

3. The FMa22 Visit

The visit took place on 3rd May 2025. The FMa22 identified components (Figures 2-6) were the following, note that the component coordinates could be not very precise:

An airstrip 75.25×8.75 m (1) ($48^{\circ}14'37.58''N$, $4^{\circ}26'29.73''W$, h. 84.54 m) oriented toward South-West, disappeared.

A L-shaped 3.5×1.75 m hangar (2) ($48^{\circ}14'38.52''N$, $4^{\circ}26'28.65''W$, h. 83.56 m) disappeared.

A 3.5 m in diam. round tower (3) ($48^{\circ}14'38.72''N$, $4^{\circ}26'27.65''W$, h. 86.5 m) completely covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible. Through the vegetation some stone was visible on the terrain.

A 7×3.75 m bunker (4) ($48^{\circ}14'39.55''N$, $4^{\circ}26'28.08''W$, h. 85.56 m) on a private terrain, inaccessible. Its inspection was not possible.

A 21 m long East-West connecting trench (5) ($48^{\circ}14'40.03''N$, $4^{\circ}26'26.47''W$, h. 86.65 m) disappeared.

A 6.125×7 m rectangular ditch (6) ($48^{\circ}14'39.12''N$, $4^{\circ}26'26.72''W$, h. 86.41 m) disappeared. Inside a rectangular construction or cistern was leaning on the West side.

A 12.25×5.25 m rectangular ditch (7) ($48^{\circ}14'40.71''N$, $4^{\circ}26'24.87''W$, h. 86.74 m) disappeared.

A 7×5.25 m rectangular ditch (8) ($48^{\circ}14'38.68''N$, $4^{\circ}26'25.06''W$, h. 87.99 m) covered by vegetation and flooded by water.

A 3.5 m in diam. semicircular emplacement (9) ($48^{\circ}14'37.16''N$, $4^{\circ}26'25.14''W$, h. 86.79 m) for machine gun, inaccessible. Its inspection was not possible.

A 7×7 m square bunker (10) ($48^{\circ}14'38.55''N$, $4^{\circ}26'22.63''W$, h. 88.19) formed by two opposed walls $1 \times 7 \times 1$ m each having a small, square leaning construc-

tion.



Figure 2. Kerastrobel—FMa22 components—1 airstrip; 2 L-shaped hangar; 3 round tower; 4 bunker; 5 connecting trench; 6 rectangular ditch; 7 rectangular ditch; 8 rectangular ditch; 9 semicircular emplacement; 10 square bunker; 11 trapezoidal ditch; 12 rectangular ditch; 13 rectangular bunker; 14 rectangular bunker; 15 rectangular bunker; 16 square bunker; 17 rectangular ditch; 18 meandering trench; 19 bunker.

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Covered by vegetation, its inspection was not possible.

A 10.5×5.25 m trapezoidal ditch (11) ($48^{\circ}14'39.45''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'23.65''\text{W}$, h. 87.27 m) covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible.

A 7.87×5.25 m rectangular ditch (12) ($48^{\circ}14'38.97''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'22.51''\text{W}$, h. 87.54 m), covered by vegetation and flooded by water. Inside was a rectangular construction or cistern leaning on the West side.

A 7.0×3.5 m rectangular bunker (13) ($48^{\circ}14'39.76''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'21.64''\text{W}$, h. 87.7 m) covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible. On the coverage, two walls on the South side each 2 m long and in-between a 2×2 m square emplacement. Similar to bunker (4).

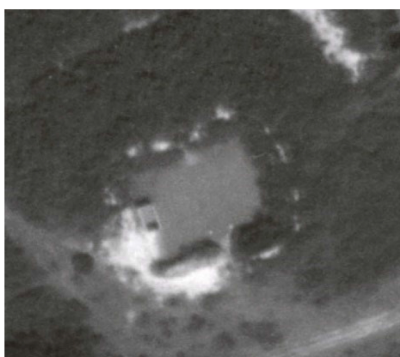
A 6.125×3.5 m rectangular bunker (14) ($48^{\circ}14'40.7''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'23.21''\text{W}$, h. 86.82 m) disappeared. It was formed by two opposed walls $1.5 \times 6 \times 1.5$ m each having at each corner a square leaning constructions 1×1 m.

A 7×5.25 m rectangular bunker (15) ($48^{\circ}14'39.55''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'20.68''\text{W}$, h. 88.31 m) covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible. A rectangular construction or cistern was leaning on the external West wall. On the coverage three possible square supports.

A 5.25×5.25 m square bunker (16) ($48^{\circ}14'39.55''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'19.73''\text{W}$, h. 86.83 m) covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible. It was formed by two opposed walls $1.5 \times 5.25 \times 1.5$ m each probably having two small, square leaning constructions.



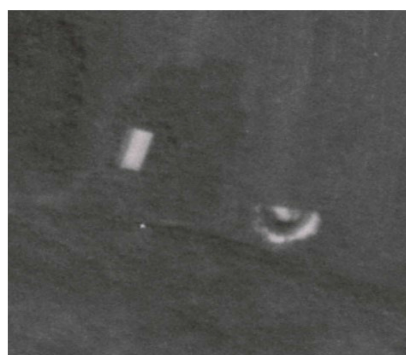
round tower (3)



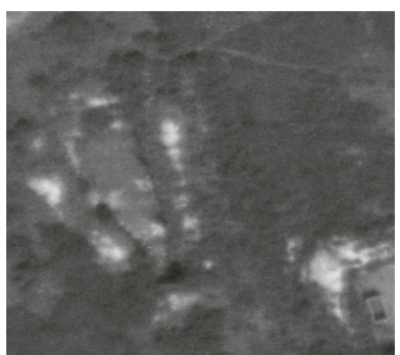
bunker (4)



rectangular ditch (6)



semicircular emplacement (9)



trapezoidal ditch (11)



rectangular ditch (12)



rectangular bunker (13)



rectangular bunker (14)



rectangular bunker (15)



rectangular ditch (17)



meandering trench (18)



bunker (19)

Figure 3. *FMa22* component details.

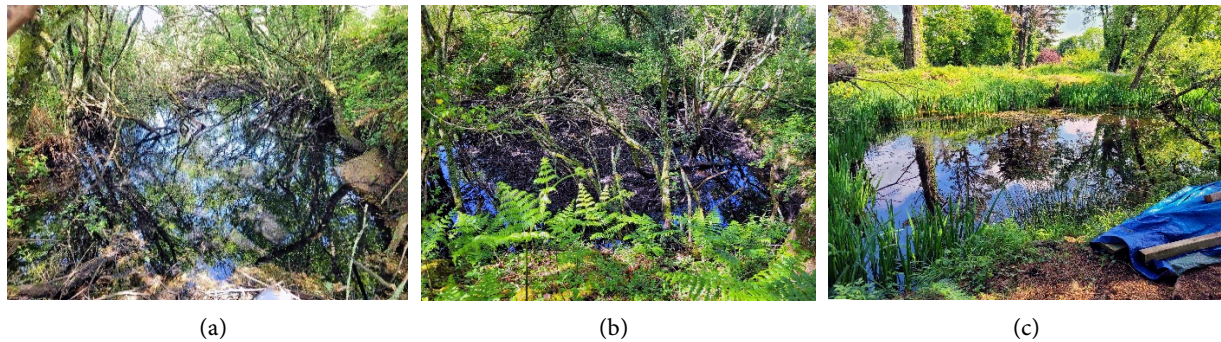


Figure 4. *FMa22* today's visions—(a) rectangular ditch (8); (b) rectangular ditch (12); (c) rectangular ditch (17).

1.5 × 1 m at the corner of each 5.25 side, as for the bunkers (10) (14).

An 8.75 × 6.125 m rectangular ditch (17) (48° 14' 40.71"N, 4° 26' 18.98"W, h. 86.56 m) covered by vegetation and flooded by water.

An 8.75 m long North-West meandering trench (18) (48° 14' 42.65"N, 4° 26' 22.3"W, h. 85.75 m) covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible.

A 7 × 5 m bunker (19) (48° 14' 41.38"N, 4° 26' 15.27"W, h. 86.09 m) covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible.

A 5.25 × 1.75 m rectangular ditch (20) (48° 14' 40.38"N, 4° 26' 21.84"W, h. 87.46 m) covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible. At the interior two possible supports.

A 5.25 × 5.25 m square bunker (21) (48° 14' 41.97"N, 4° 26' 20.56"W, h. 85.86 m) covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible. It was formed by two opposed walls 1.5 × 5.25 × 1.5 m each having two small, square leaning constructions at the corner of each 5.25 side, similar to bunkers (10) (14) (16).

Figure 3, Figure 4 give some more details of *FMa22* components.

Figure 5, Figure 6 show the thirteen *FMa22* ammunition depots. These depots were simple constructions having a 5 m long wall with a perpendicular 2 m wall at each corner, all made by local stones, and a 30 cm thick concrete coverage. Because of the rich vegetation on the site, only the three ammunition depots (f) (48° 14' 40.57"N, 4° 26' 18.83"W, h. 86.41 m), (k) (48° 14' 44.83"N, 4° 26' 30.68"W, h. 77.78 m) and (l) (48° 14' 44.65"N, 4° 26' 30.75"W, h. 78.02 m) were inspected. They were all in a good preservation state.

4. The 46T Visit

The visit took place on 3rd May 2025. The 46T-identified components (**Figures 7-10**) were the following:

The Fort de l'Aber (1) (48° 13' 30.41"N, 4° 26' 13.62"W, h. 27.23 m) about 16 × 16 m, partially surrounded by a moat. The interior and the external walls were in a good preservation state, only some upper wall portions were on the ground.

A 400 m long access path (2) (48° 13' 35.84"N, 4° 26' 07.12"W, h. 17.55 m).

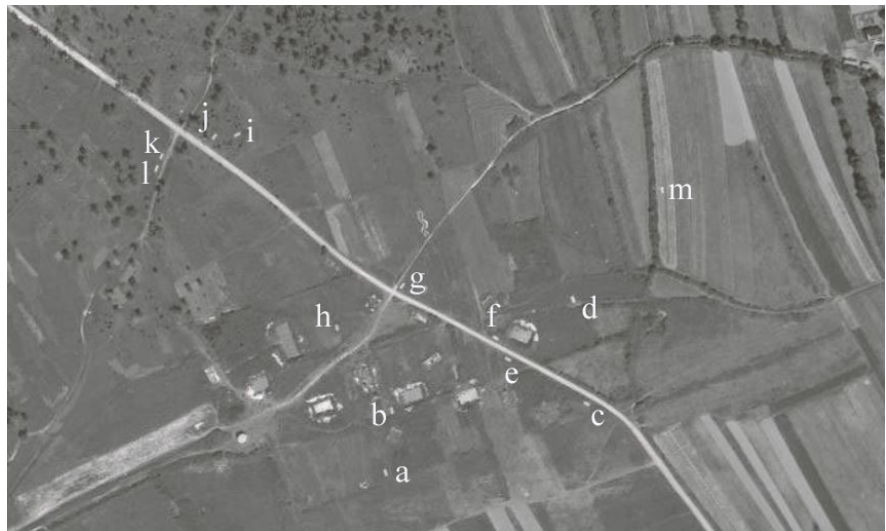


Figure 5. *FMa22* ammunition depots.

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(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Figure 6. *FMa22*—(a) ammunition depot (f) integrated in a chicken coop; (b) ammunition depot (k) external view; (c) ammunition depot (k) internal view; (d) ammunition depot (l) external view.

A gun emplacement (3) ($48^{\circ}13'30.67''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'14.65''\text{W}$, h. 28.94 m) partially covered by vegetation, it preserved an ancient gun basement and a WWII four bolts gun basement both in a good preservation state.

A *tobruck* (4) ($48^{\circ}13'27.62''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'09.68''\text{W}$, h. 27.19 m) completely buried in the terrain. Its 1 m circular opening was visible but obstructed by a concrete layer

that hosted an inscription no longer readable. Its interior inspection was not possible. In the concrete, the pebbles of the *Ero Vili* (Tomezzoli & Marzin, 2015) were clearly visible.

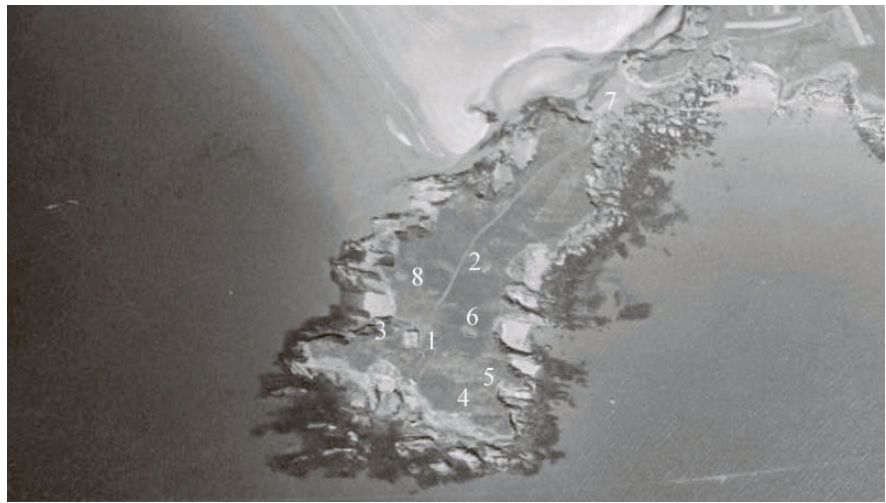


Figure 7. Île de l'Aber—46T components—1 Fort de l'Aber; 2 access path; 3 gun emplacement; 4 tobruck; 5 tobruck; 6 ammunition depot; 7 anti-landing obstacle; 8 gun emplacement.

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A *tobruck* (5) ($48^{\circ}13'28.35''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'9.53''\text{W}$, h. 28.42 m) completely buried in the terrain. Its emerging 1 m circular opening was visible but covered by a concrete layer. Its interior inspection was not possible. In the concrete, the pebbles of the *Ero Vili* were clearly visible.

An ammunition depot (6) ($48^{\circ}13'31.49''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'11.13''\text{W}$, h. 25.59 m) completely covered by vegetation. Its inspection was not possible.

An anti-landing obstacle (7) ($48^{\circ}13'41.55''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'02.2''\text{W}$, h. 2.19 m) severely damaged by the sea water. A major portion of a leg completely disappeared.

A gun emplacement (8) ($48^{\circ}13'33.03''\text{N}$, $4^{\circ}26'14.87''\text{W}$, h. 29.66 m) completely buried in the terrain, its emerged 2×2 m square coverage was in good preservation state.



Figure 8. Fort de l'Aber (1), North-East view.



Figure 9. Fort de l'Aber—(a) internal corridor, on the right access portal to the coverage ascending stair; (b) coverage ascending stair.

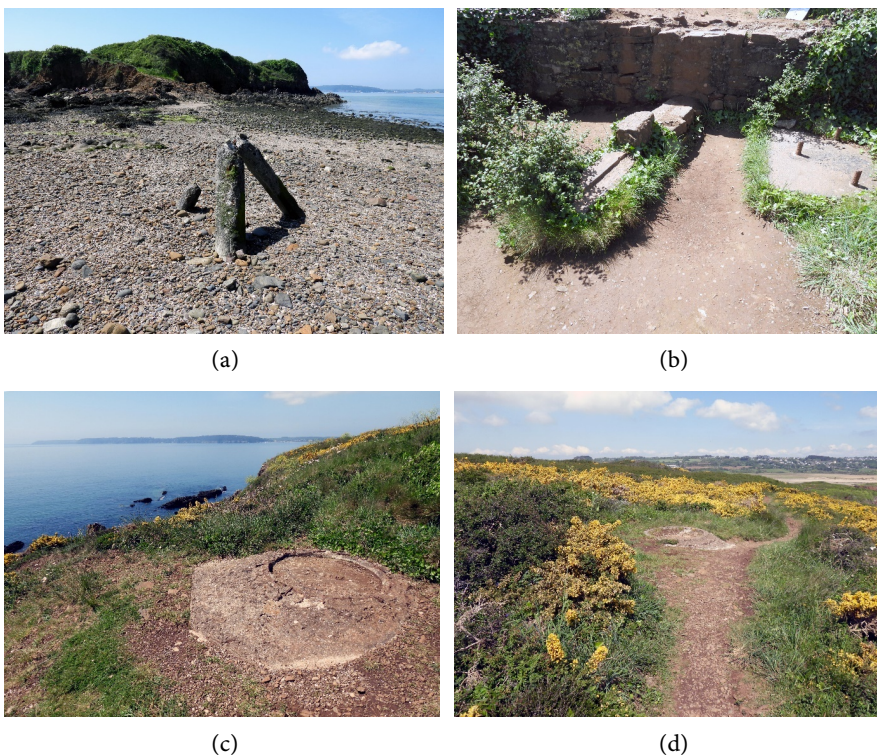


Figure 10. (a) anti-landing obstacle (7); (b) gun emplacement (3), on the left ancient gun basement, on the right WWII four bolts gun basement; (c) *tobruck* (4); (d) *tobruck* (5).

5. Discussion

According to Mr. Rolland, inhabitant of Kerastrobel, born at the end of the WWII:

1) The hypothesis of the airstrip (1) not very long, probably used by small planes as the *Fieseler Fi 156 "Storch"* (50 meters take off with 40 km/h headwind, 20 meters landing) is questionable because at its position the terrain is sloping, maybe it was a cultivated field;

2) The round tower (3) was an ancient mill built well before the WWII. Its upper part was demolished during the WWII and a coverage divided in 10 sectors was built and hosted a machine gun;

3) The ditches hosted *Flak* guns, but the gun types are unknown because he declared not having seen them;

4) The rectangular ditch (17) was a water pool for providing relax to the soldiers in service and providing water for extinguishing possible fires as seen in the German bases at Kerziou (Dupont & Tomezzoli, 2007), Murs Érigné (Tomezzoli, 2016) and at the Domaine de Pignerolle (Tomezzoli, 2019);

5) The ammunitions depots were displaced from the ditches for security reasons.

It is possible that the ammunition depots on the site of *FMa22* were under the control of the *Munition-Ausgabestelle der Luftwaffe 21/XII*. The positioning of these depots on the site of *FMa22* appears to have sense because they would have enjoyed the surveillance and protection of the *FMa22* personnel.

The Fort de l'Aber and its adjacent gun battery were built on 1862 on pre-existing fortifications of 1694 of the royal military architect S. de Vauban (1633-1707), for the protection of the Telgruc and Morgat beaches. On 1940, because of its advanced position on the sea it was occupied by the *Wehrmacht*. Because French reconnaissance images of 1948 do not show traces of barracks or encampments, it is possible that the *46T* garrison was lodged in the Fort. It is possible that one or more light machine gun was installed on the Fort coverage.

The kind of gun mounted on the WWII four bolts gun basement is unknown.

According to Mr. Rolland *FMa22* was located near Kerastrobel for intercepting, with its *Flak* guns, the allied bombers on the return path to Great Britain after their attacks on Brest and to the German air base of Lanveoc-Poulmic, moreover a camp for 50 - 100, evacuated at the Liberation, was in Kerastrobel. Maybe other similar camps existed in the Tal ar Groas sector.

It is possible that the *O.T.* workers of the *Lager Tirpiz* have built the components of *FMa22* and *46T* and other constructions on the Crozon sector. The *Unterstellungsverhältnis* (subordination relationship—Figure 1) ensures that on 14.8.43, date of the map, *FMa22* belonged to the *5.Fu.M.Abt.* Marine.

6. Conclusion

The visit on the sites of *FMa22* and *46T* permitted to determine that many of their components are actually covered by vegetation and forgotten. Therefore, for the moment, their preservation is assured, but a more certain legal status and cultural recovery of the sites would be desirable.

As usual in such kind of archaeological researches, further issues remain to be investigated: the *FMa22* intercepting actions accomplished, its supply in electrical power and water, its and *46T* personnel in service and their vicissitudes during the WWII.

In addition, the map shows the presence of *FMa20* near Guipavas, *FMa21* at the Ouessant Island and *FMa23* at Le Conquet possible subjects for further studies.

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Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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