

## Walking route through Wassenaar along memories of World War II.

Start at the Plein. The cast iron water pump (1) from 1869 was hit by a truck during the war years and was badly damaged. It was taken away and was repaired and reinstalled after the liberation.

The house Plein No. 2, on the corner of Plein and Duinrellweg, served as a distribution office from 1942. To fairly distribute the scarce goods still for sale among the residents, the municipality issued coupons. Only if one handed in the correct coupons for clothing and food to the shopkeeper could one buy these items.

Walk past the Dorpskerk along Duinrellweg toward Duinrell. Cross the Storm van 's Gravesandeweg in the direction of the Duinrell ticket office. Immediately on the left stands among the greenery the German House, (2) a traditionally designed house with an orange tiled roof, built here by order of the Germans during the war. It served to secure the entrance to the Duinrell estate, where the German Commissar General Dr. Friedrich Wimmer lived in the castle (demolished in 1986). He was a kind of minister for justice, public health and education.

Back to the Storm van 's Gravesandeweg. Turn right, walk all the way down the Storm. Across the bridge we come to the Schouwweg. At No. 45, near the corner with Araweg, is the villa where General Winkelman lived (3) when war broke out. He was rushed to the military headquarters in The Hague in the early morning of May 10, 1940, where he directed the defense of the Netherlands against the invading Germans.

Continue along the Schouwweg, cross the Groot Haesebroekseweg, continue along the Schouwweg. Take the first road on the right, the Koekoekslaan. At the next intersection is a small monument commemorating the launch of the first two V-2s (4) on September 8, 1944. These were fourteen-meter-long rockets with an explosive charge that the Germans fired toward London. One rocket was launched at this location, the other at the corner Schouwweg/ Rust en Vreugdlaan.

Walk back down Koekoekslaan the same stretch and turn right into Schouwweg. On the left, behind a wrought iron ornamental fence, is the monument to the victims of World War II. The statue of a dying warrior by Joop Veldheer originally stood across the road from the war cemetery Het Lange Duin. This cemetery was established here in 1940. The statue was placed in 1952. In 1982, the cemetery was dissolved and the remains were transferred to other cemeteries.

Continue along the Schouwweg. On the left is the curved housing complex the WAVO Park.(5) Here, during the May days of 1940, Dutch soldiers stood with anti-aircraft guns on the roof. German planes tried to bomb the artillery. In the process, the housing complex was damaged and one resident lost his life.

Continue along Schouwweg and turn immediately left into Groen van Prinstererlaan. Past the bend to the right, a little further on turn left into Lindelaan. Through this avenue you will reach the entrance to Oud Wassenaar Castle. (6) This was in use as a hotel at the outbreak of war. The Reichskommissar for the occupied territories Dr. Arthur Seyss-Inquart stayed here in 1940 while waiting for the Clingendael country house near the border with The Hague to be completed, where he settled with his family. During the occupation, many senior German officers stayed at the hotel.

Continue the winding driveway along the pond to the end and then turn left into Laan van Hoogwolde. Follow this avenue to the end and go straight into the Rust en Vreugd estate. Follow the straight driveway, the Van Ommerenlaan. On the left, on a pond, stands the villa Rust en Vreugd.

(Van Ommerenlaan 2) The owner of the estate, Philippus van Ommeren, had to give up his villa to the Germans at the end of the war. He was then forced to settle in one of the apartments of the WAVO park.

Follow the signposted Landgoederenroute (estates route) through Backershagen and De Paauw. You will automatically arrive at the rear of Raadhuis De Paauw. (7) During the occupation Wassenaar had a “wrong” mayor, i.e., a prominent member of the NSB (who also collaborated with the Germans). Many Wassenaar municipal officials were neutral, some 'wrong' and a few participated in the resistance. In memory of the heroic civil servant Geesbert van Barneveld, a plaque has been placed in his former office in De Paauw, and in addition, the park along Hofcampweg is named after him.

Walk to the front of the Council House and follow Council House Avenue (with the lawn on your right). Near the end of Council House Avenue, on the left, is a light yellow plastered house now in use as an office. This is huize Klim Op, (8) Raadhuyslaan 4, a former rest home for Jewish elderly. In 1942 and 1943, all residents were ordered to leave the house by the occupying forces, after which they were deported to the death camps. Since 2023, four Stolpersteine or Stumbling Stones, square stones with a brass plate bearing the names of Jews killed during the war who lived here, have been placed in the pavement. Several dozen of these Stumbling Stones have been placed in Wassenaar since 2021.

Walk on to the Rijksstraatweg. On the right at the corner Raadhuyslaan/ Rijksstraatweg is the former porter's house (9) cum teahouse of De Paauw. The Germans made a large horizontal opening in the basement wall on the Rijksstraatweg side. A cannon was placed in the cellar that could cover part of the Rijksstraatweg in a northern direction. It was operated by six German soldiers. The opening was bricked up after the war, so nothing can be seen of it now.

Coming from Raadhuyslaan, turn left and follow the footpath along Rijksstraatweg. Go straight ahead at the traffic lights and keep walking along Rijksstraatweg. Take the first road on the left, into Van Zuylen van Nijeveltstraat. After a slight turn to the right, at the intersection with the Loop is the 1946 Liberation Monument ( 10). This consists of a large boulder from Overijssel. The monument commemorates May 5, 1945.

Follow the Van Zuylen van Nijeveltstraat for a bit and then turn left into the Middelweg. Take the first right, Santhorpslaan, and at the end turn left into Zijllaan. At the end, turn onto the Lange Kerkdam. Follow this past the traffic circle and turn right at the next traffic circle into the Johan de Wittstraat. Follow this until you reach the traffic lights. On your right is the former public elementary school (11) (after the war Europaschool) which is now divided into apartments. Immediately after the liberation, this school served as a temporary prison where a large group of people suspected of collaborating with the Germans were detained. They were later transferred to prisons elsewhere in the region where they had to await their possible trial.

At the traffic lights from Johan de Wittstraat, turn left into Van Zuylen van Nijeveltstraat. At the next traffic lights turn left into Schoolstraat. At the crossing, turn diagonally right into the Schoolstraat. The white mansion Neyenburgh stands on the right at a spacious square. (12) During the occupation this house was used as the town hall when De Paauw was requisitioned by the Germans. It was here that the “wrong” war mayor Daniël de Blocq van Scheltinga, nicknamed “Domme Daan,” resided. He was also an important official within the national top of the NSB.

Further down Schoolstraat on the right at number 5 is the former kindergarten from the eighteenth century (see the gable stone). During the occupation, the “Vendelkwartier” (13) of the

Weerbaarheids Afdeling (WA) of the NSB was located here. The WA consisted of men dressed in black uniforms who targeted Jews in particular.

The walk ends at the Plein. Have a nice day!