

# The WWII German Base of Bro Fez (Finistère—FR)

Giancarlo T. Tomezzoli 

Faculté de Lettres et Sciences Humaines, Université de la Bretagne Occidentale, Brest, France

Email: gt21949@gmx.de

**How to cite this paper:** Tomezzoli, G. T. (2025). The WWII German Base of Bro Fez (Finistère—FR). *Archaeological Discovery*, 13, 164-171.

<https://doi.org/10.4236/ad.2025.133009>

**Received:** June 11, 2025

**Accepted:** July 15, 2025

**Published:** July 18, 2025

Copyright © 2025 by author(s) and Scientific Research Publishing Inc. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0).

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



Open Access

---

## Abstract

The map *Flughafenbereich Morlaix-Flugplätze und Ln Anlagen* among some WWII German military bases in South Finistère (FR) studied in past publications and other not yet studied, discloses the German air-naval base of Lanveoc-Poulmic on the Crozon Peninsula. The presence of a *Luftwaffe* base at Bro Fez (Bronfez, Profez) near said base was signaled to me by Mr. Fleuridas. In this article, the surviving components of the Bro Fez base have been presented, investigated, discussed and a more certain legal status and cultural recovery of the site is suggested. It was thanks to an inhabitant of Bro Fez that important details of the base were clarified. The nature of the Bro Fez base as a jamming signal base or a *Luftwaffe* radar base with annexed *FuSZ* remains to be clarified. 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, *Luftwaffe*, Finistère, Crozon Peninsula, Lanveoc-Poulmic, German Base, Bro Fez, Bronfez

---

## 1. Introduction

The map *Flughafenbereich Morlaix-Flugplätze und Ln Anlagen* (**Figure 1**) (Henoff, 2023) of 14.8.43, among some WWII German military bases in South Finistère (FR) studied in past publications and other not yet studied, discloses the German air-naval base of Lanveoc-Poulmic on the Crozon Peninsula. The presence during the WWII of a German base at Bro Fez (Bronfez, Profez) near said base was signaled to me by Mr. Fleuridas.

## 2. Historical Context

The domain on which the first installations of the French air-naval base of Lan-

veoc-Poulmic were built belonged to the Barons de Poulmic family, whose known origins dated back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and which died out during the French Revolution. The base took up the family's weapons to create its ensign.



**Figure 1.** German air-naval base of Lanveoc-Poulmic.

On 1919 the Navy and Colonies Minister G. Leygues, launched a study for creating near Brest an airfield and a center for seaplanes and captive balloons.

As early as 1920, the Lanvéoc site was selected to become one of the 37 maritime aviation seaplanes centers ensuring the surveillance and protection of the littoral and ports. This choice was suggested by the fact that the Brest Bay, in all weather, was capable of accommodating seaplanes and its airfield was capable of accommodating also air-wings based in Brest (*Base d'Aéronautique Navale Lanveoc-Poulmic*, 2011; Charles & Bracichowicz, 2024).

The base was officially opened on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1935 under the command of the CF (frigate captain) R. André, the first “pasha” of the base.

On 29<sup>th</sup> May 1936 at 13:55 an F.B.A. training seaplane leaving Brest for Lanvevenec fell into the sea 1 km from the future Lanveoc-Poulmic base after spinning two or three times and killing all its three occupants (*L'Ouest-Éclair*, 1936).

The first aircrafts arrived at the base on October 1937. They were the Wibault 74s of the 7C1 aviation squadron.

On 1938, the base received a visit of the Minister of the Navy and Colonies C. Campinchi (*Base d'Aéronautique Navale Lanveoc-Poulmic*, 2011).

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 1939, at around 9:15 a.m., a seaplane from the base crashed into houses in the town of Ploumodiern after getting into difficulties on the Menez Hom (Tomezzoli, 2017), killing all its three occupants under the eyes of their parents who watched the flight (*L'Ouest-Éclair*, 1939).

Another accident involving the commander of a French air-wing occurred on La Motte of Locronan, because of a navigation error (Tomezzoli, 2025a).

The base comprised a Lower Zone (48° 16'53.72"N, 4° 25'3.06"W, height 5.23 m),

having: a crane for the seaplane launching and retrieving, launching slips, seaplane parkings, hangars and an Upper Zone (48°16'54.34"N, 4°26'46.99"W, h. 86.92 m) having: "l'Étoile" du Béarn, an 8-pointed star formed by eight times the runway of the first French aircraft carrier Béarn, equipped with a clever mechanism allowing the aircrafts to practice take-off and landing maneuvers.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June 1940, the four-engine aircraft Farman "Jules Verne" took off from the base for the first bombing raid on Berlin.

The base was evacuated on 18<sup>th</sup> June because of the German invasion of France. The German *Luftwaffe* occupied the base for deploying *ME 109E*, *He 111H* and *Do 118* aircrafts.

On 10<sup>th</sup> August, RAF aircrafts attacked the base also named *Brest-Süd* in opposition to *Brest-Norden* corresponding to the Guipavas air base. Some hangars and *Flak* positions suffered damages (*Le Petit Journal*, 1940).

The base served as advanced position for German bombing on Great Britain. For its security, around it, were deployed many *Flak* groups, including one at Tal ar Groas (Tomezzoli, 2025b) and other bases, including one at Bro Fez (Bret.: Land of Faith).

According to a report by Admiral Philippon (1967), codename Hilarion, it was at the beginning of May 1941 that the Germans pressed ahead the construction of "Ducs d'Albe" in the Brest Bay. In the sailor terminology, "Ducs d'Albe" indicated a pair of large pillars made of wood or concrete, anchored deep in the seabed, used to moor ships. In a radio message to London, it was indicated that the "Ducs d'Albe" were located at Lanveoc, the Île Longue and Fret and they were provided with torpedo protection nets for berthing of a 35,000-ton vessel (Dupont & Tomezzoli, 2007). Actually, a concrete "Ducs d'Albe" (48°17'47.59"N, 4°27'6.23"W, h. 0.00 m), were located at the Pointe of Lanveoc, North to the base, and the attended vessel was the battleship Bismark which, on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1941, was sunk by British battleships, 400 miles from Brest.

After numerous and devastating bombings, the base was captured by the Allies on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1944 and the LV (vessel lieutenant) Le Hénaff took possession of it on behalf of the French Navy. The base was rearmed on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1944 (Figure 2) under the commandment of CF F. Bergot.



**Figure 2.** Air-naval base of Lanveoc-Poulmic—vision from Bro Fez, on the right the modern control tower (higher) and the older control tower (lower).

### 3. The Visit

The visit of the Bro Fez base site took place on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The identified com-

ponents were the following (Figures 3-5):

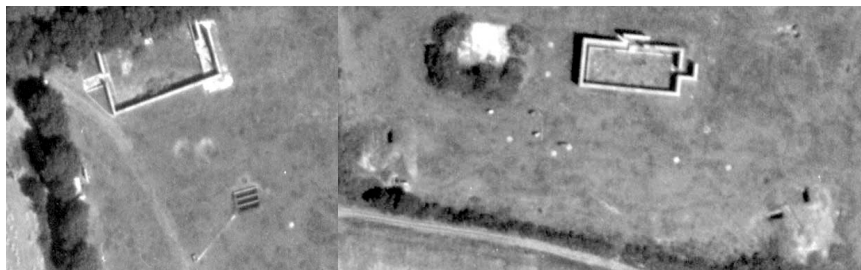


**Figure 3.** Bro Fez base layout—1 rectangular emplacement; 2 farm; 3 bunker; 4 construction; 5 emplacement; 6 bunker; 7 Vf bunker; 8 Vf bunker; 9 water pit; 10 transformer; 11 base portal; 12 hygienic services.

IGNF\_PVA\_1-0\_1951-07-27\_C0417-D0301\_1951\_CDP3760\_0134



(a)



(b)

(c)

**Figure 4.** Bro Fez base details—(a) emplacement 1 and farm 2; (b) rectangular bunker 3, construction 4, on the middle bottom the water pit 9 and the access path marked on the terrain; (c) emplacement 5, rectangular bunker 6, Vf bunker 7 with one entrance on the left, Vf bunker 8 with two entrances on the right.

IGNF\_PVA\_1-0\_1951-07-27\_C0417-D0301\_1951\_CDP3760\_0134



**Figure 5.** Bro Fez base details—(a) rectangular bunker 3 with a blue metallic coverage; (b) internal vision to the East; (c) internal vision to the West; (d) West wall portion with circular opening; (e) local wall stones; (f) elevated cistern of the hygienic services.

A rectangular emplacement 1 ( $48^{\circ}15'22.66''\text{N}$ ,  $4^{\circ}25'39.66''\text{W}$ , h. 58.33 m) disappeared.

A farm 2 ( $48^{\circ}15'23.59''\text{N}$ ,  $4^{\circ}25'35.7''\text{W}$ , h. 54.51 m) in good preservation state, adapted to the nowadays life, only its East wing was gone.

A  $24 \times 12$  m rectangular bunker 3 ( $48^{\circ}15'23.62''\text{N}$ ,  $4^{\circ}25'29.43''\text{W}$ , h. 57.45 m) transformed in stable and agricultural tool shed. Only a portion with a post WWII blue metallic coverage survived. The survived walls, made by local stones, were in good preservation state.

A  $7.2 \times 3.6$  m construction 4 ( $48^{\circ}15'22.92''\text{N}$ ,  $4^{\circ}25'28.75''\text{W}$ , h. 60.19 m) disappeared.

A  $9.6 \times 9.6$  m emplacement 5 ( $48^{\circ}15'21.82''\text{N}$ ,  $4^{\circ}25'27.54''\text{W}$ , h. 62.93 m) disappeared in the years 1960.

A  $16.8 \times 9.6$  m rectangular bunker 6 ( $48^{\circ}15'21.82''\text{N}$ ,  $4^{\circ}25'26.29''\text{W}$ , h. 63.25 m) with two meandering entrances, disappeared in the years 1960.

A 9.6 × 9.6 m *Vf*bunker 7 (48° 15'20.86"N, 4° 25'29.76"W, h. 63.55 m) with one entrance, buried in the terrain, covered by vegetation and not accessible.

A 9.6 × 9.6 m *Vf*bunker 8 (48° 15'20.6"N, 4° 25'25.61"W, h. 66.07 m) with two entrances, buried in the terrain, covered by vegetation and not accessible.

A water pit 9 (48° 15'22.34"N, 4° 25'29.65"W, height 60.6 m) disappeared.

A transformer 10 (48° 15'22.62"N, 4° 25'34.92"W, h. 59.17 m) disappeared.

A base portal 11 (48° 15'23.34"N, 4° 25'32.06"W, h. 57.69 m) disappeared.

Hygienic services 12 (48° 15'24.1"N, 4° 25'28.8"W, h. 54.96 m) disappeared. Only a concrete elevated cistern, in good preservation state, survived. It lets visible metallic portions of the armored concrete and pebbles of the *Ero Vili* (Tomezzoli & Marzin, 2015). Because no trace of scaffolding on the concrete, typical of the German masonry, was visible, it is possible that it was built by a French firm.

#### 4. Discussion

Ms. X, inhabitant of Bro Fez, born in the years 1950, gave valuable information concerning the base and its components. She received information from her grandmother dead during an American bombing and her father who was soldier during the WWII, captured near Amiens and deported to Germany to participate to the German war effort.

Ms. X affirmed that Bro Fez was never bombed.

According to Ms. X:

- The rectangular emplacement 1 remained free and hosted no constructions;
- The farm 2 hosted neither the headquarter nor part of the base garrison;
- The rectangular bunker 3 protected a barrack which was disassembled after the war;
- The construction 4 hosted a water reservoir;
- The emplacement 5 hosted an antenna;
- The rectangular bunker 6 protected a barrack whose foundations were still visible on **Figure 4(c)**; the barrack was disassembled and the bunker demolished by a neighbor after the WWII for letting place to wheat cultivation;
- The *Vf*bunker 7 was a soldier lodgment;
- The *Vf*bunker 8 was an ammunition depot;
- The water pit 9 was used for filling up the water reservoir 4;
- The transformer 10 provided electrical power to the base and to the farm;
- The base portal 11 was disassembled after the war;
- The hygienic services 12 were outside the rectangular bunker 3 and comprises an elevated cistern and lavabos.

Ms. X is of the opinion that the base was a jamming signal base, but provided no details about the instrumentation and the antenna in service. Mr. Fleuridas is of the opinion that the base was a *Luftwaffe* radar base with annexed *FuSZ* (*Funksendezentrale*) (Tomezzoli et al., 2021). In this last case, the radar, Würzburg Riese or Freya, was accommodated at the emplacement 5 and the *FuSZ* antennae located somewhere on the base surface.

The headquarter and the garrison of the base were lodged part in the barracks of bunkers 3, 6 and *Vf*bunker 7.

**Figure 3** shows no evidences of *Flak* emplacements unless they were positioned on the *Vf*bunker 7, 8 coverages.

The base appears to correspond to the red dot with four rays near the Upper Zone of the base of Lanveoc-Poulmic (**Figure 1**). Unfortunately, the acronym under said dot is unreadable. The *Unterstellungsverhältnis* (subordination relationship—**Figure 1**) ensures that on 14.8.43, date of the map, it belonged to the *Jafu 4* (*Ln Regt. 64*).

## 5. Conclusion

The visit on the base site permitted to determine that many of its components disappeared, one has been adapted to the agricultural works, others were inaccessible because of the vegetation. Therefore, for the moment, the preservation of the surviving components is assured, but a more certain legal status and cultural recovery of the site would be desirable.

As usual in such kind of archaeological researches, further issues remain to be investigated: the determination of the actual status of the base: either jamming signal base or a *Luftwaffe* radar base with annexed *FuSZ*, the kind of antennae and transformer, the unit/s in service at the base, the missions actually accomplished by the base 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.

## Acknowledgements

I express my gratitude to Ms. X for her explanations concerning the components of the Bro Fez base, to Mr. Patrick Fleuridas for having signaled me the Bro Fez German base and to Mr. Frederic Henoff for having provided me with the map *Flughafenbereich Morlaix—Flugplätze und Ln Anlagen 4318-631*.

## Conflicts of Interest

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

## References

- Base d'Aéronautique Navale Lanveoc-Poulmic (2011). [http://www.ffaa.net/naval\\_stations/lanveoc-poulmic/lanveoc-poulmic\\_fr.htm](http://www.ffaa.net/naval_stations/lanveoc-poulmic/lanveoc-poulmic_fr.htm)
- Charles, J. L., & Bracichowicz, J. M. (2024). *BAN de Lanvéoc-Poulmic*. <https://www.anciens-aerodromes.com/?p=136197>
- Dupont, P. H., & Tomezzoli, G. (2007). Liegerplatz für deutsche Schlachtschiffe auf der Reede von Brest. In *DAWA Nachrichten, Ausgabe 46* (pp. 20-23). Verlag Harry Lippmann.
- Henoff, F. (2023). *Flughafenbereich Morlaix—Flugplätze und Ln Anlagen 4318-631 im Fl.H.Ber. 10/XII. 1/500,000. Date 14.8.43. Private Archive*.
- L'Ouest-Éclair (1939). *Journal Républicain du matin*.

- <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k661499p/f1.image.r=Poulmic?rk=1759665>
- L'Ouest-Éclair (1936). *Journal Republicain du Matin*.  
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k660543q/f5.image.r=Lanv%C3%A9oc?rk=1351938>
- Le Petit Journal (1940). *Édition de 5 heures*.  
<https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k637305p/f1.image.r=Poulmic?rk=300430>
- Philippon, A. (1967). *Le Blockus du Scharnhorst et de Gneisenau*. Editions France-Empire.
- Tomezzoli, G. T. (2017). The WW II German Stützpunkt on the Menez-Hom (Finistère-FR). *Archaeological Discovery*, 5, 224-237. <https://doi.org/10.4236/ad.2017.54013>
- Tomezzoli, G. T. (2025a). The WWII German UKW-JägerSprechstelle Grille near Locronan (Finistère-FR). *Archaeological Discovery*, 13, 89-98.  
<https://doi.org/10.4236/ad.2025.132005>
- Tomezzoli, G. T. (2025b). The WWII German Bases FuSK-FMa22 and 46T (Finistère—FR). *Archaeological Discovery*, 13, 153-163. <https://doi.org/10.4236/ad.2025.133008>
- Tomezzoli, G., & Marzin, Y. (2015). The Ero Vili and the Atlantic Wall. *Advances in Anthropology*, 5, 183-204. <https://doi.org/10.4236/aa.2015.54018>
- Tomezzoli, G., Frésil, Y., Pottier, L., & Dupont P. H. (2021). Das Lager La Massaye und die Funksendezentrale von Guichen. In *DAWA Nachrichten, Ausgabe 77* (pp. 36-60). Verlag Harry Lippmann.