



Excursion

Defending the country in a marshland: The fortifications of Aarberg and Murten, 1815-1918

Daniel Marc Segesser
Juri Jaquemet

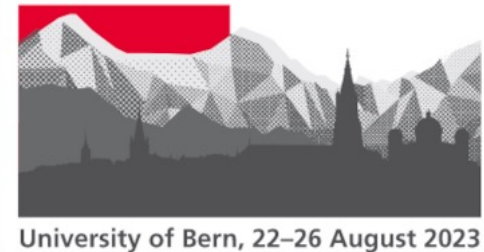
26 August 2023



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Up to the mid-19th century, the so-called Grosses Moos was flooded year-by-year due to a large body of water flowing from the Aare River and its tributaries into this shallow part of the country. For the city-republic of Bern this meant that the main access to its territory from the west could rather easily be defended at the country town of Aarberg, where many roads and lines of communication met.

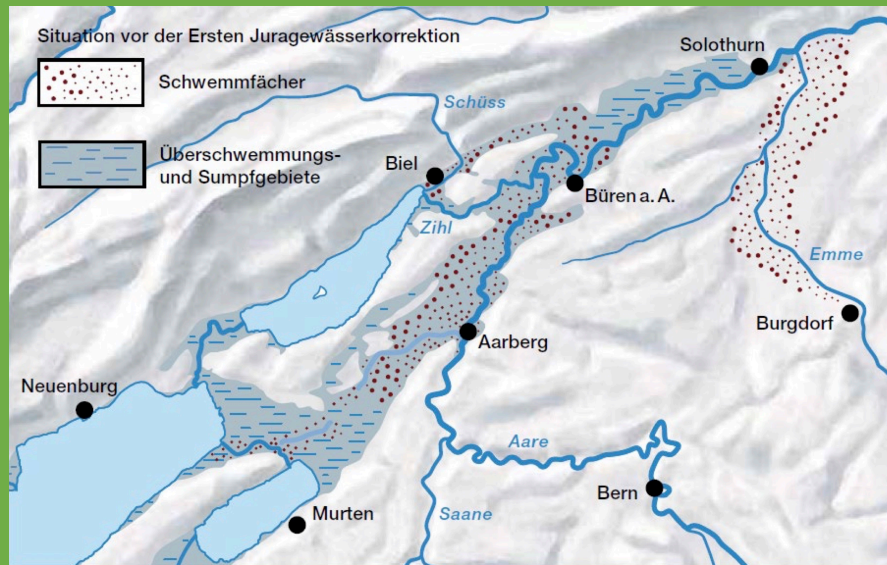
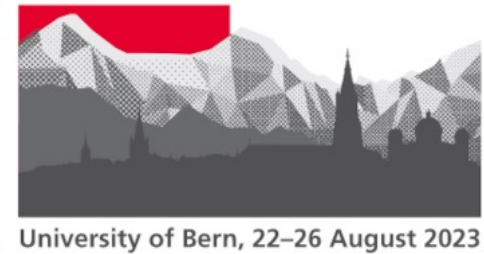


Reconstruction of the Aarberg Entrenchment
by Claudia Jordi, from Jaquemet 2008: 48

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Marshland before 1868, drawing BVD BE

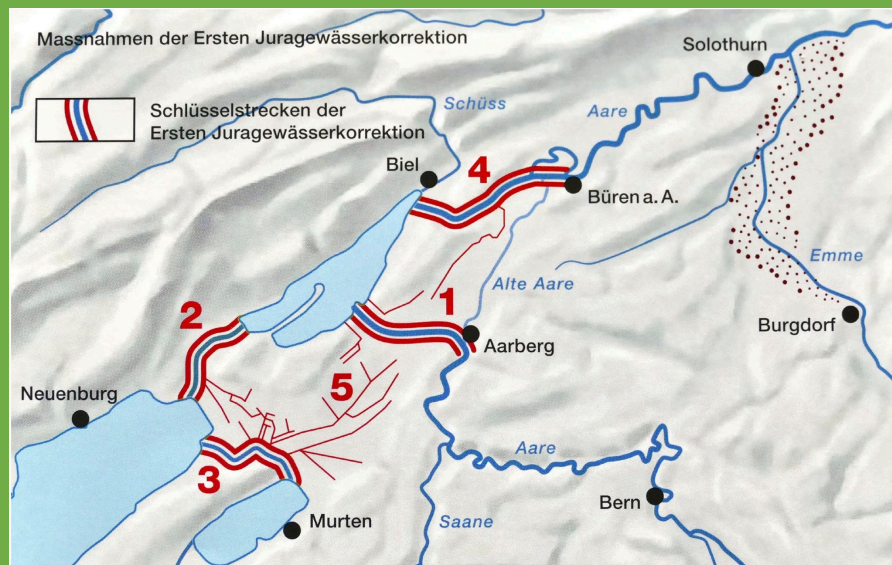


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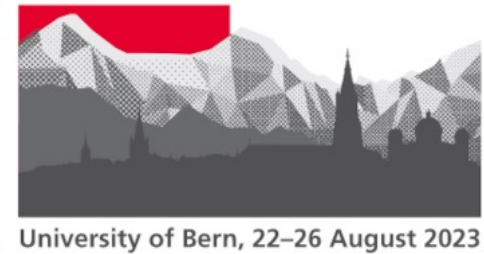
Measures 1868–1891, drawing BVD BE

In the second half of the 19th century, however, due to the Jura lakes melioration project the Aare River was diverted into Lake Biel (1). Besides this lake and Lake Neuchâtel as well as Lake Murten were lowered by more than 2 metres and linked by a system of canals (2–4) and drainage (5). In this way, not only the whole ecosystem changed, but the defensive positions in Aarberg lost much of their strength.

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The line from Mont Vully along the Zihl Canal and the Jolimont became a more forward position that was fortified in the context of the defensive operations of the Swiss Army during the First World War.

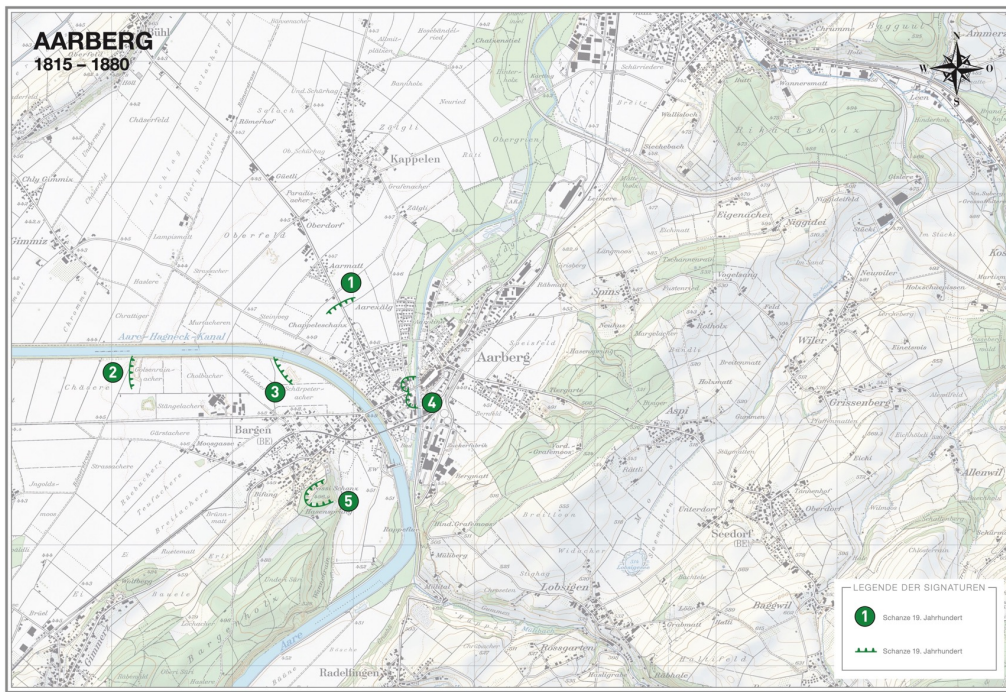
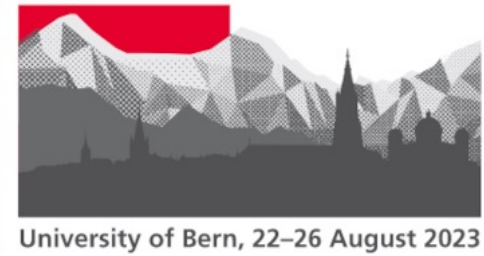


Defensive Positions at Zihlkanal (BAR)

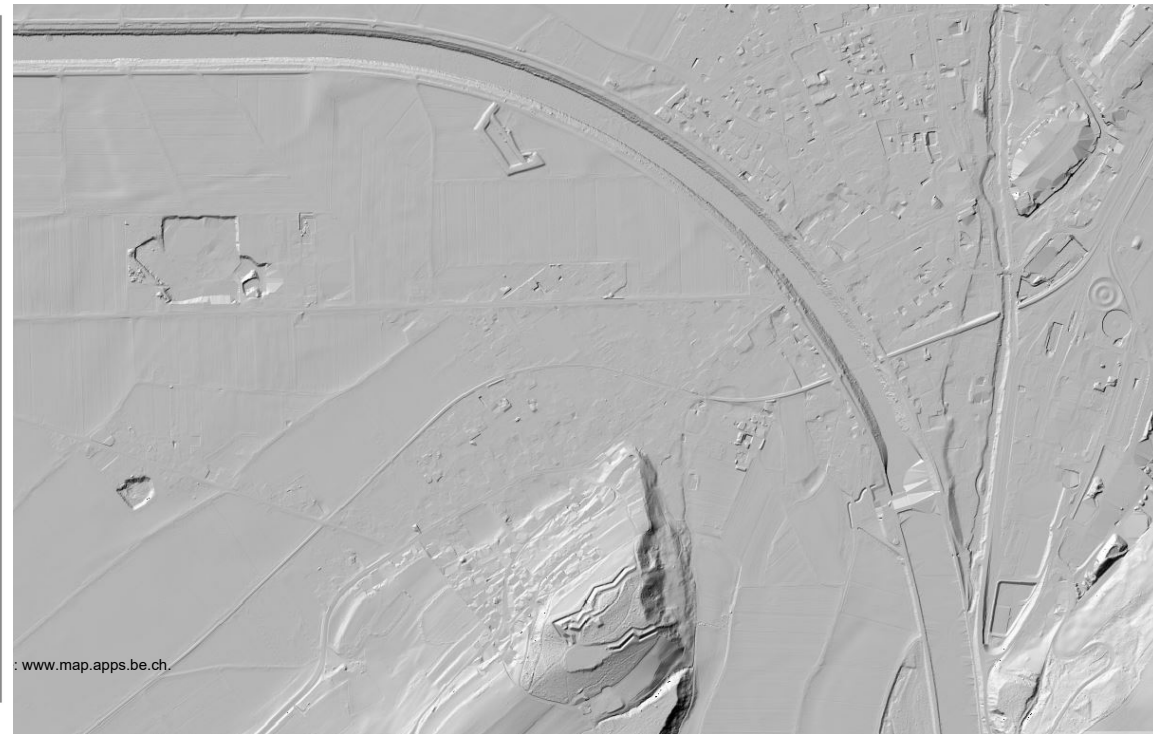
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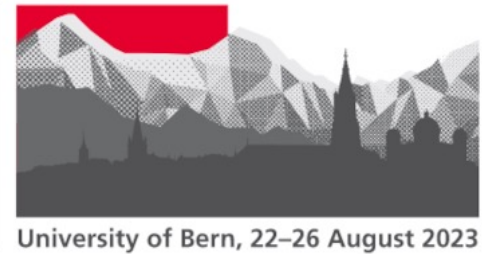


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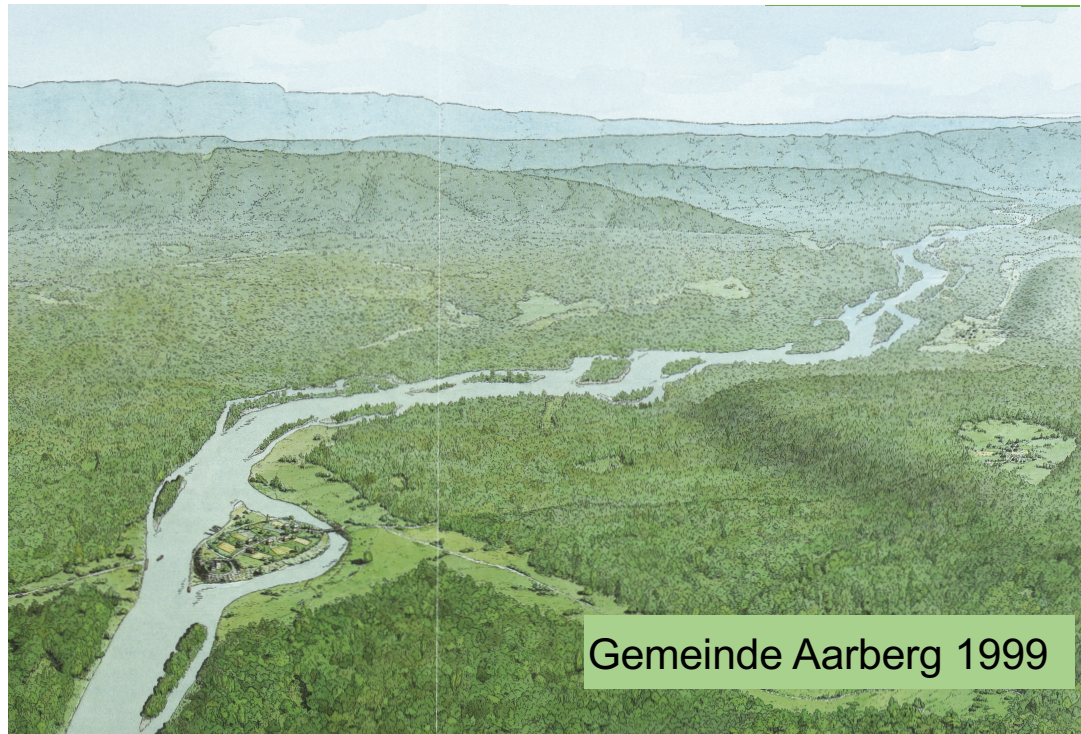
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Gemeinde Aarberg 1999



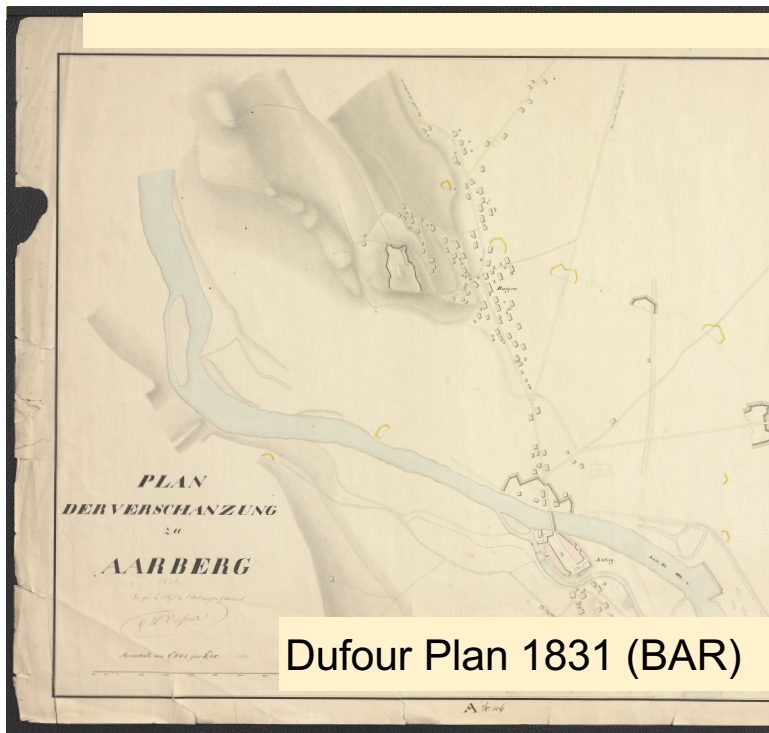
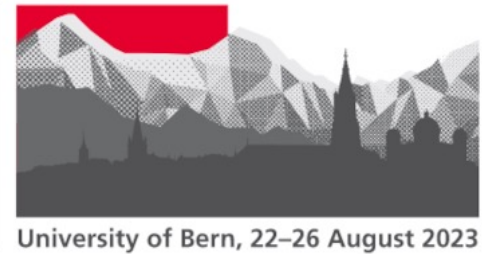
Junker 1990

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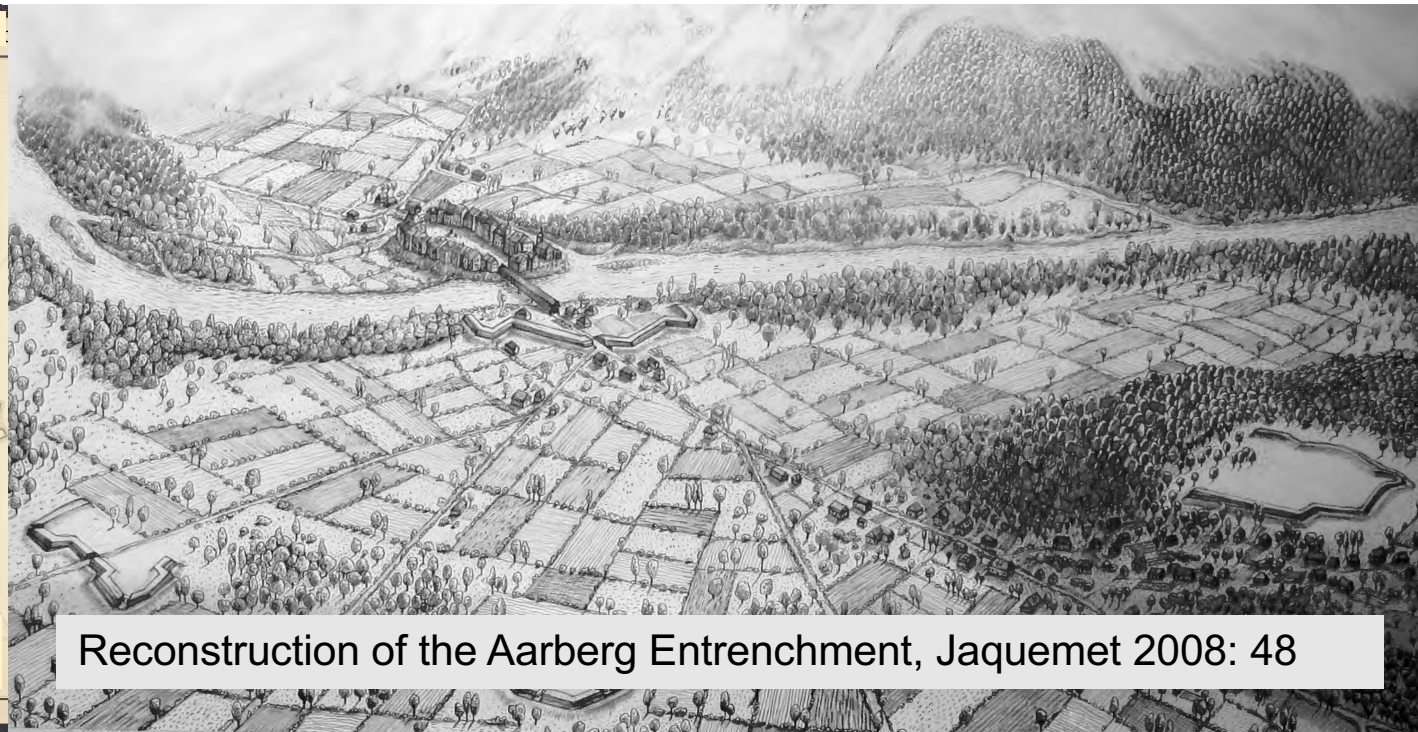
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Dufour Plan 1831 (BAR)



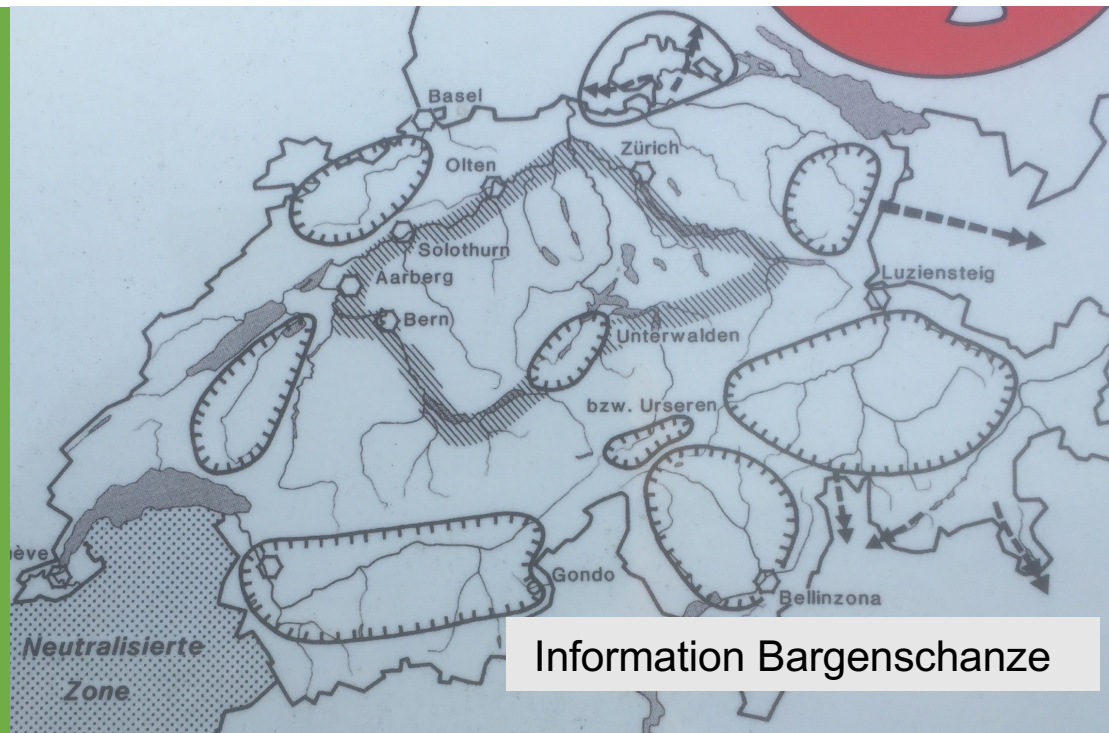
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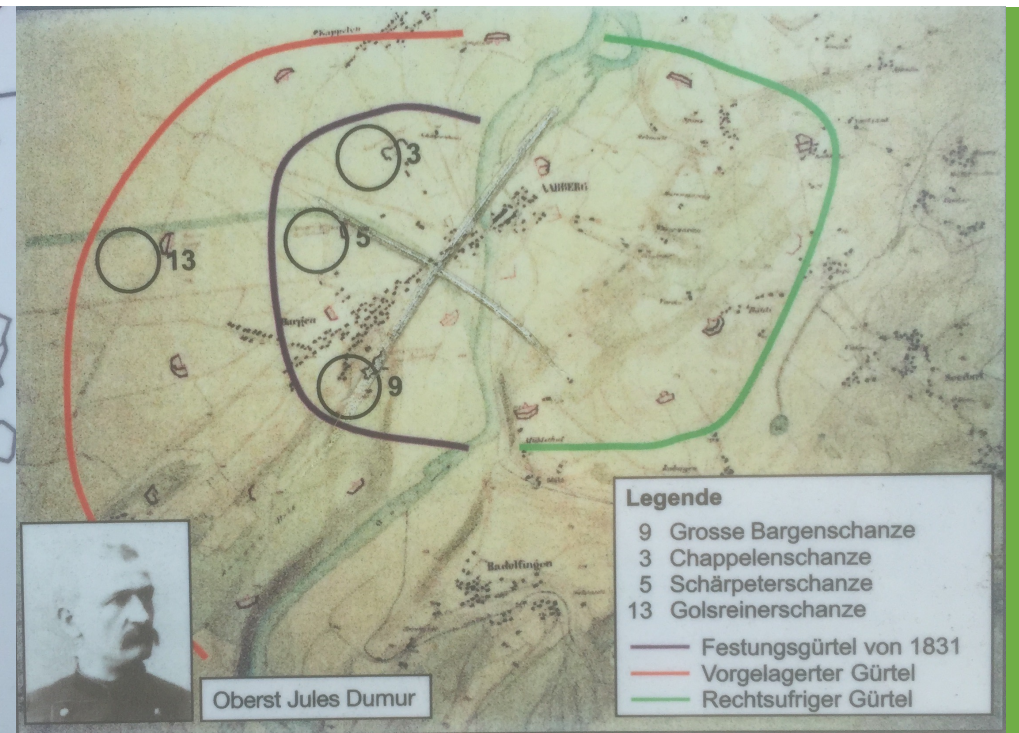
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Information Bargschanze

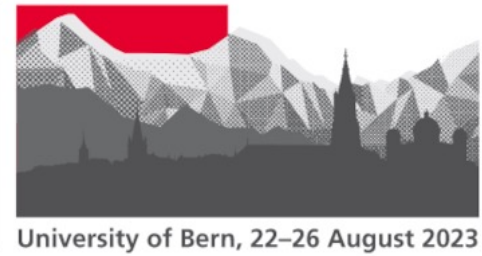


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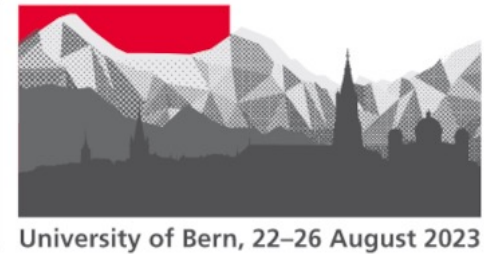
Bargenschanze, 2023

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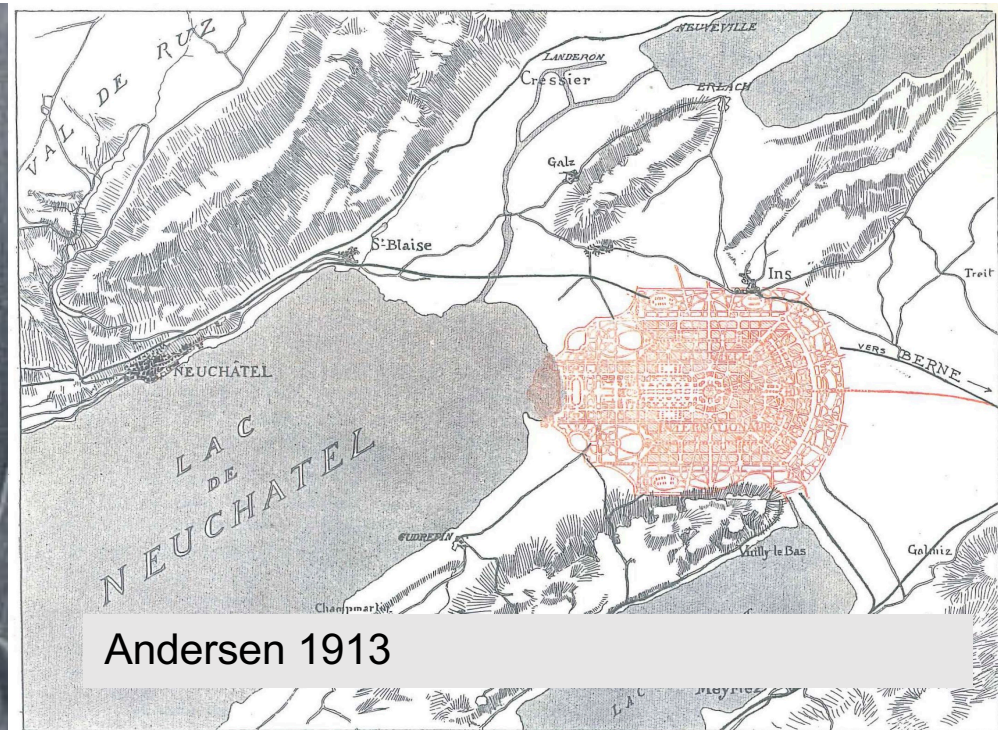
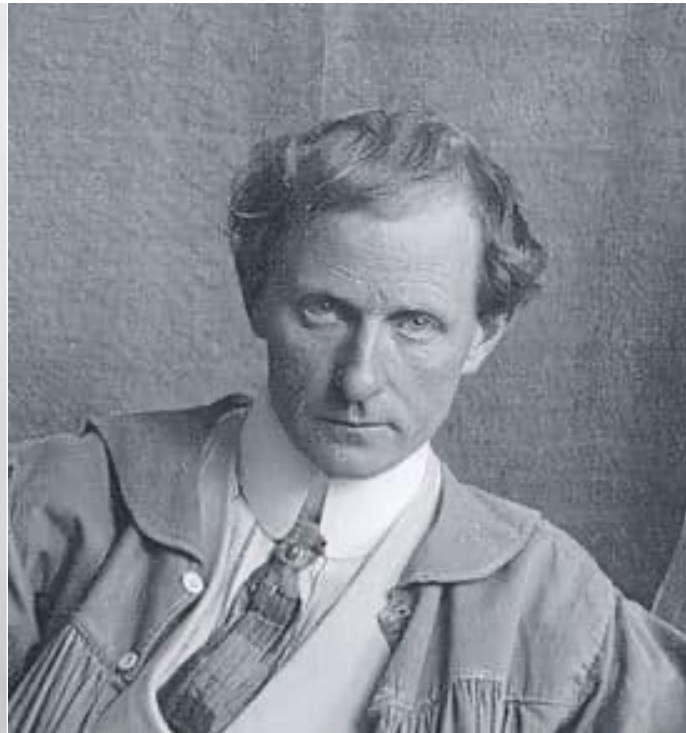
A City of Peace?

in the former Marshland: Hendrik Christian Andersen's Utopia

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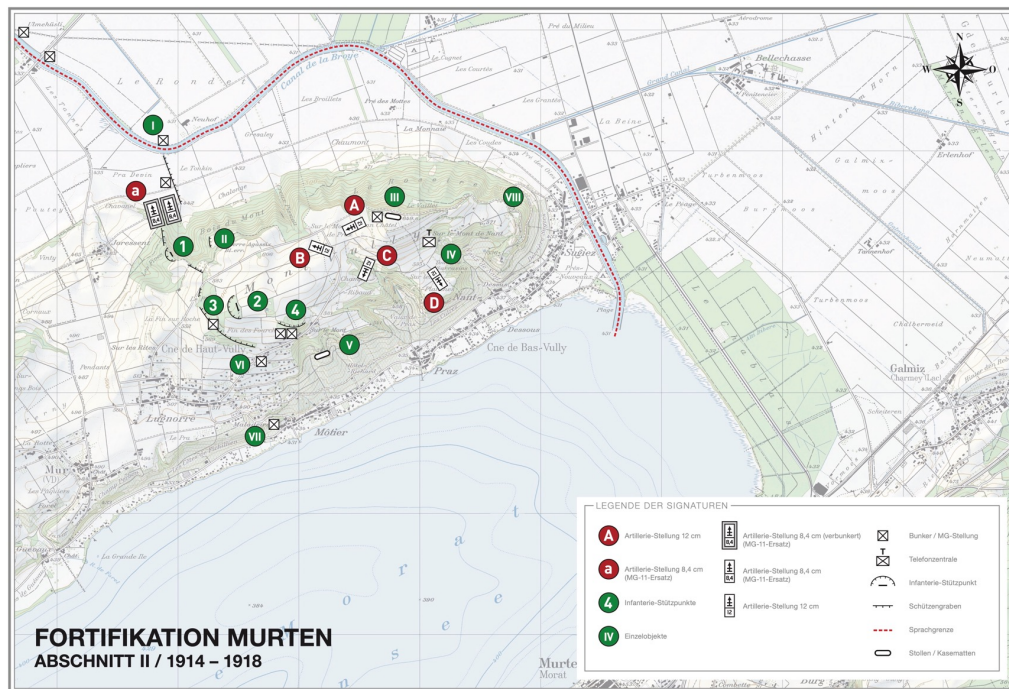
Mont Vully

the centre of the Murten line of fortification

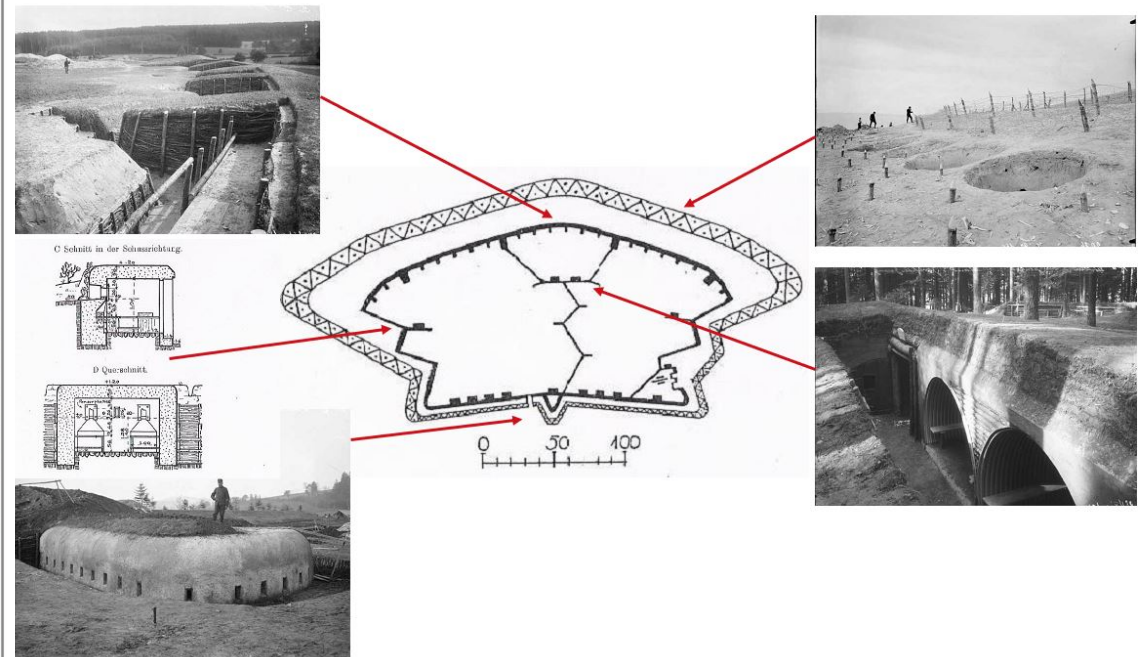
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University of Bern, 22–26 August 2023

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Bearbeitung: Juri Jaquemet / Graphische Gestaltung: Sven Weber / Landeskarte 1:25'000 / Ausschnitt Blatt 1185 Murten, 2006 / Reproduziert mit Bewilligung von swisstopo (BA081316)



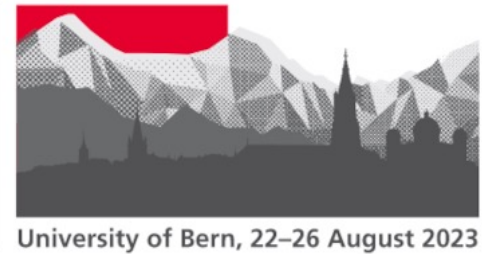
Elemente eines Infanterie-Stützpunktes der Fortifikation Murten, 1914-1918, zusammengestellt von Juri Jaquemet.

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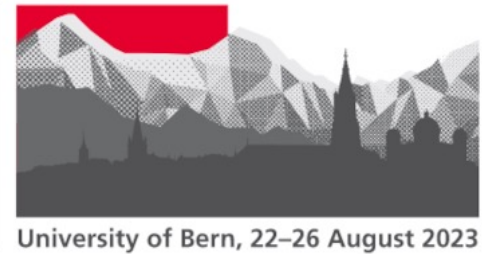
View from Vully 1916 (BAR)

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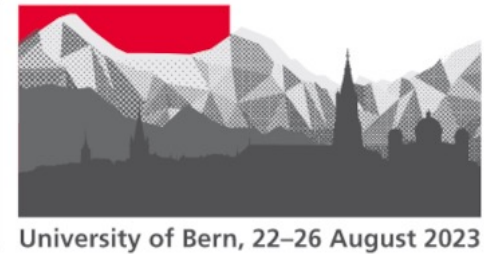


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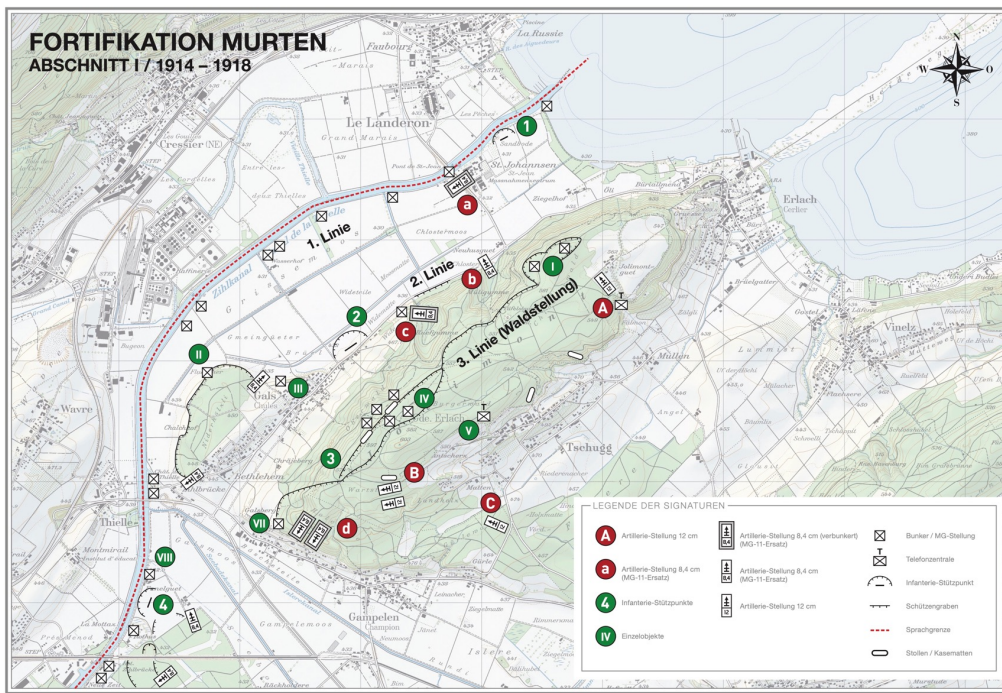
Jolimont and Zihlkanal

the first line against a French attack

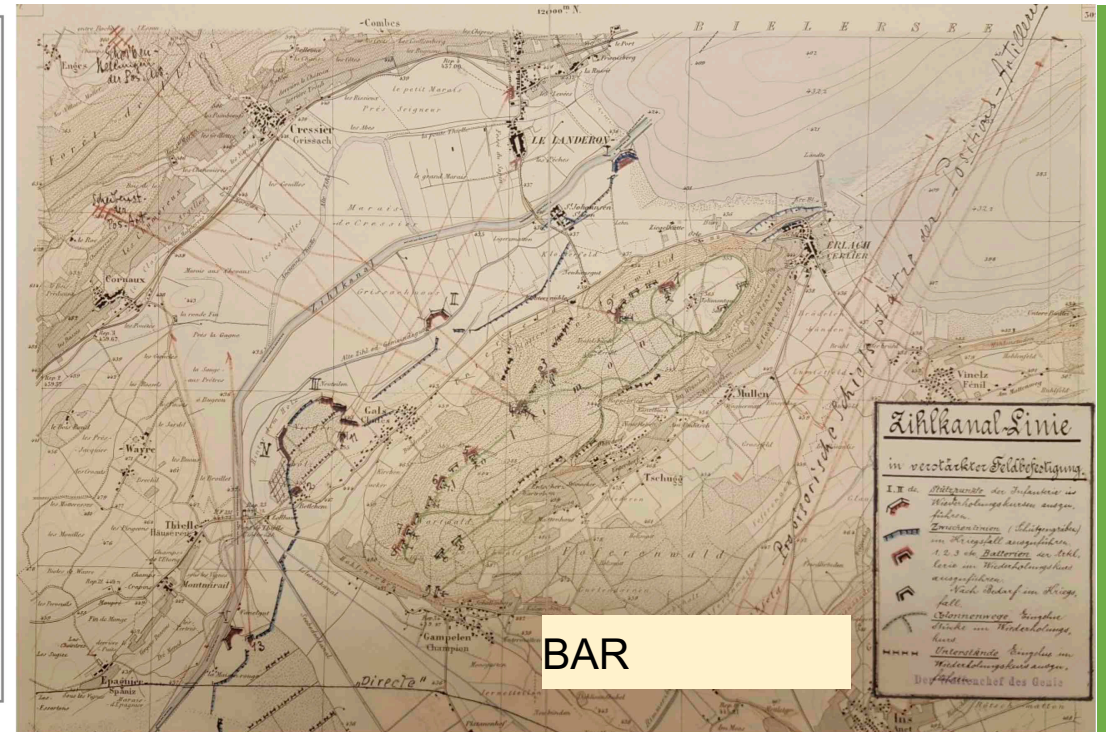
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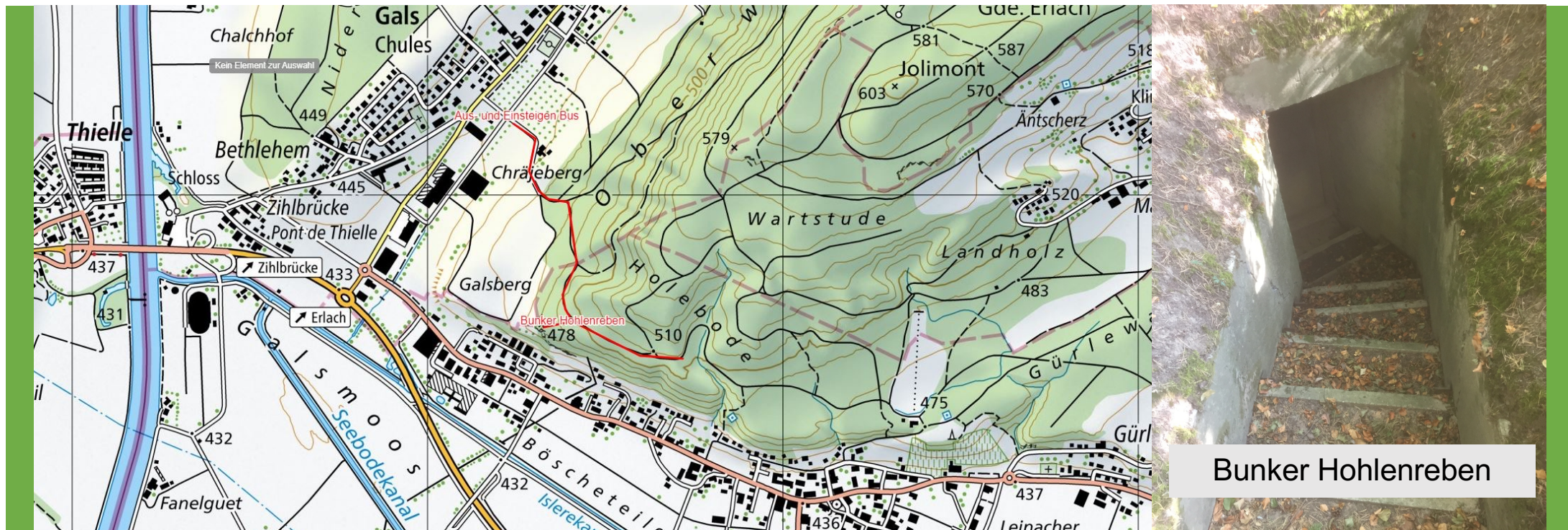
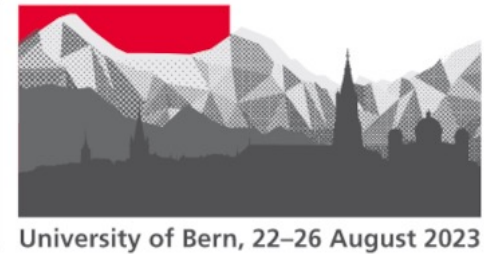
BAR

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Bunker Hohlenreben

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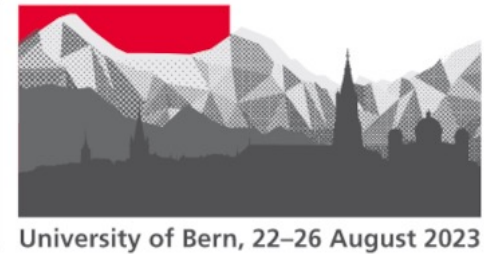
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LIDAR-Aufnahme Jolimont, 2023, Quelle: www.map.apps.be.ch



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