ARTISTIC CREATIONS

The artistic design of the memorial was commissioned by Prof. Hans Wimmer (March 19, 1907 to August 31, 1992). The world-famous sculptor, painter and draftsman created the memorial with his second draft after an intensive, often controversial dialogue with his client, the Kuratorium Ehrenmal of the German Army.

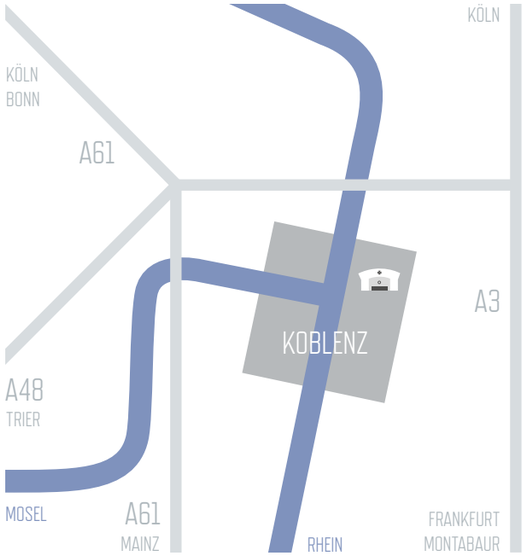
For this purpose, a niche with a lowered base, with an oversized embrasure was modeled in the main trench, beaten into the wall of the Ravelin and placed whitin a larger than life figure. The sculpture of black diabase shows a young man with a bare head, tilted slightly over to the right and eyes closed, clothed, but bare-chested. The unnatural arm and hand position indicate that he is dead – not dying and not sleeping. He can be recognised as a soldier by his coat, his boots and the steel helmet lying next to him, but cannot be assigned to any particular era.

Some elements of the memorial were altered after the inauguration in 1972 outside of the original Wimmer concept, which included a memorial plaque, the oak wreath, planted trees and the Steele.













KURATORIUM EHRENMAL DES DEUTSCHEN HEERES E.V.

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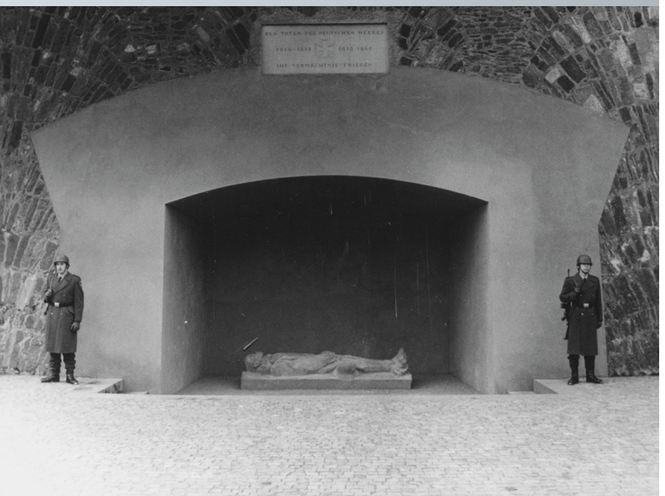
FESTUNG EHRENBREITSTEIN
KOBLENZ

In 1969 Members of the German Army founded the Kuratorium Ehrenmal of the German Army in Bonn with the aim of finding, designing and maintaining a suitable central place of remembrance of the dead of the German Army in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In 1971 the fortress Ehrenbreitstein was designated as the location of the Army's memorial, as Koblenz has a long tradition as Garrison of many Army units and the Federal Ministry the Defence in Bonn and the Army Command. The memorial should be both an impressive and dignified memorial to the dead from both world wars and at the same time blend harmoniously into the overall structure of the fortress.

The memorial was designed to be simple, to invite thought and to remind subsequent generations of the suffering of their predecessors. The design of the sculptor Prof. Hans Wimmer from Munich met these requirements in a brilliant manner and was completed in 1972.





On 29.10.1972 the memorial was inaugurated and has since, been the place of the annual central commemoration of the Army, but is also a memorial for all the victims of war and tyranny.

In subsequent years, repeated changes were made. In 2006, the memorial was extended by a simple, gray stele with a plaque. The relatives and comrades of the soldiers killed in the foreign missions wanted to have a public place of remembrance and reflection, which had to be part of the memorial. Likewise the many soldiers of the Army who since 1955 had given their lives in the Service for peace and freedom.



RAVELIN OF THE FORTRESS EHRENBREITSTEIN 50°21'54,8"N, 7°36'57,8"E

The monument to the German Army was integrated into the triangular, twelve meter high Ravelin. This is located in the middle of the main wall in front of the main ditch and is enclosed by the two Contregardes. It is one of the oldest and most important bastions of the fortification system and was intended to prevent the enemy from entering the fortress. The walls at the base of the ravelin are up to three meters thick.

The forecourt of the memorial was redesigned in 2011 as part of the Federal Garden Show Koblenz. Since 2019, an information room was established in a Guard Room of the Poterne on the Remembrance Memorial of the German Army, which also included, as well as the history of the memorial, the other Remembrance Memorial Sites of the Armed Services of the Bundeswehr and other memorials of the Koblenz Garrison.