

Düppel bunkers are dangerous!

Every parent knows that children are naturally curious about their environment. Curiosity is a healthy thing, of course; but just as curiosity killed the proverbial cat, so can it endanger the life and health of the unwary youngster.

Case in point: near the Düppel Housing Area, there are a number of underground concrete bunkers which were part of a World War II anti-aircraft installation. These dark and forbidding structures with their air of mystery hold a powerful attraction for youthful explorers, especially with the return of warmer weather. Captain Larry Boisvenu, chief of the Berlin Brigade Explosive Ordnance Disposal Section, warns that these bunkers hold a variety of hidden dangers and that children should stay away from them.

Boisvenu says that groups of American children frequently play around these bunkers and try to gain entry to them. The Brigade Engineer & Installation Division has sealed the bunkers, but children continue to dig and try to pry them open.

The greatest danger in the bunker system area is the great number of unexploded anti-aircraft rounds that have remained there since the war. These supposed "duds" are extremely dangerous, says Boisvenu. Exposure to the elements over the years often renders the firing mechanism very sensitive, and the slightest touch may set them off!

Unexploded World War II ammunition abounds in Berlin. During the war, thousands upon thousands of tons of bombs, mortar and artillery rounds and other ammunition items were expended within Berlin. Many of these items did not go off. EOD recovers these munitions on almost a daily basis, says Boisvenu. In almost every instance, the items recovered are still filled with live explosives and present a serious hazard.

Children can not be faulted for their curiosity, but their parents can be held responsible for the conduct of their children. **Parents: Your children are playing with their lives! For safety's sake, forbid your children to go into the area of the Düppel bunkers!**

If you find any item of ammunition, no matter how large or small and regardless of its age, **DON'T TOUCH IT!** Contact EOD at 6298 during duty hours. After duty hours, contact the Provost Marshall's office at 3402/3512.



CHECKING OUT A BUNKER near the Düppel Housing Area is SP4 Rich Bailey. The area around Düppel was the site of an anti-aircraft installation during World War II, and unexploded anti-aircraft ammunition is frequently found in the area. Parents should not permit their children to explore these dangerous bunkers nor to play in their vicinity. (Photo by Dale Sharp)