



6

## Siege Warfare

Fortresses played a decisive role in almost all European wars of that time. Indeed, there were considerably more sieges than battles. Fortified towns were the most highly contested possessions. Against the increasingly complex fortifications with their bastions, ramparts and trenches, a systematic technique of assault was developed from around 1670, making use of approach trenches and gun batteries. The preparations for and the conduct of a siege were marked by an enormous mobilization of people and materials. At the centre of the room is the unique planning model of the Fortress of Ingolstadt (around 1570). Some of the most important architects of that time were involved with fortifications. But all these plans and elaborate drawings must not obscure the fact that siege warfare was just as cruel and destructive as the other forms of war. Artefacts from a large excavation on the site just north of the New Castle shine some extra light on the hard work of the fortress labourers. An original wheelbarrow from 1537 can be seen opposite the fortress model.

## The “Little War”

The everyday experience of war did not consist solely of great battles and sieges. Marches and bivouacs were often much more stressful. Added to this was the plundering of the land, which made war possible in the first place. The armies were constantly on the move to feed themselves or to impede the enemy's supply. The contemporaries called this the “little war”. It was the civilian population, who were being robbed and terrorised, that suffered the most from it. For them, it did not make much of a difference whether it was enemy soldiers or those of their own sovereign. Furthermore, armed marauders also frequently went on the prowl, on their own, in times of war. In the centre of the room there are two helmets of soldiers who were slain while looting.

- Title** *Three-quarter armour, 17th century on model horse*  
 1 *View into the Duernitz (Knight's Hall)*  
 2 *Buckler or parrying shield, Italian(?) 15th century*  
 3 *Musket with snaplock and serpentine, ca. 1650*  
 4 *Plug bayonet, ca. 1680*  
 5 *Painting of the Battle of Blenheim 1704 (Jan van Huchtenburg)*  
 6 *25-pound siege mortar, 1687*  
 7 *The Miseries and Misfortunes of War (Jacques Callot), 1633*

*Photos by Gert Schmidbauer, Carlo Paggiarino, Erich Reisinger*



7



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### OPENING TIMES

Tue – Fri 9am – 5.30pm | Sat – Sun 10am – 5.30pm

### ADMISSION

3,50 €, concessions 3,00 € | Sundays 1,00 €  
 Children and students under 18 yrs - free

BAYERISCHES  
**ARMEEMUSEUM**

NEW PERMANENT EXHIBITION

**FORMS  
 of  
 WAR**

**1600-1815**



**Bavarian Army Museum**  
 New Castle Ingolstadt  
 www.armeemuseum.de

## Forms of War

The Bavarian Army Museum is one of the largest military museums in Europe. The first section of the new permanent exhibition depicts the forms of war in the period from about 1600 to 1815. It is housed in the New Castle in Ingolstadt, a splendid Gothic building built in the 15th century for the Bavarian dukes.

## Arsenal and Museum

Where does this museum stem from? In the first room, the Duernitz or Knight's Hall of the Castle, a large number of old weapons have been put up to indicate that the oldest part of the museum's collection goes back to the old arsenals in Bavaria. For centuries, not only weapons for use by the military were stored here, but also valuable memorabilia. Nowadays, it is important to tell the story of the museum. It was founded in Munich in 1879 to present testimonies of Bavaria's past to the general public. At that time, pride was taken in the military feats of the past, especially the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71. But they



also began to research things more closely and came into contact with many other museums in the world. Badly damaged in 1945, the museum was moved to Ingolstadt in 1972. Today, the exhibits in the collection are no longer the trophies of old, but testimonies to an eventful history shaped by war and violence.

## Treasure Chamber

Of course you will find treasures here as well. For them, a separate treasure chamber was set up in a tower room. Here, however, there is no war booty on display, but rather items that are particularly valuable due to their rarity. Amongst these, a stalking rifle used by Elector Palatine Ottheinrich for hunting or the unique garment of a European soldier from the 16th century, which was found in Peru and is testimony of the early, violent expansion of Europe to the Americas. Right in the centre of the room, however, stands the so-called Passau armour from around 1350 - a forerunner of the later plate armour worn by the European knights.

## The Battle

Large battles, which were at the very heart of the war, are presented on the upper floor, in the former ballroom of the castle. The opposing troops would meet on an open field and within a few hours the battlefield was littered with dead or wounded soldiers, often thousands of them. The distances at which the projectiles of the muskets and cannons could hit their targets were short. The combatants stood face to face. Again and again there was close combat with cutting and thrust- weapons. The cavalry was particularly terrifying. With firearms becoming more and more numerous and effective, tactics had to be adapted. The strict discipline with which the foot soldiers marched into battle at that time is hard to imagine today. The exhibition puts the weapons and equipment of the warriors on display, thereby making the combat very vivid. But it also depicts the wounds and hardships. The bones found in a mass grave from the Battle of Alerheim (1645) bear visible testimony to the lives, sufferings and deaths of those soldiers.

