# **House of Alfter History**

# **The Peace Trail**

(Friedensweg)



Including Panoramic Trail Rebels on Tour

#### **The Peace Trail**



Located above Alfter and Roisdorf, the steeply ascending *Peace Trail (Friedensweg)* links the Jewish Cemetery of Alfter to the site of the so-called Holy Grave near the former excursion restaurant *Heimatblick*. This installation, reminiscent of the Stations of the Cross, was created by gardener and blackberry wine producer Wilhelm Maucher (1903–1993) as a powerful expression of his tireless commitment to peace and his opposition to all forms of violence and injustice.

In 1978, Maucher laid natural stone slabs with inscriptions in the green area next to the trail. These are:

10 Commandments that all politicians and rulers of this world should follow!

proclaims the first stone. A second one adds:

These stones speak for all who are too cowardly or lazy. Each of the subsequent slabs is engraved with a litany-like plea:

- 1. Free us from atomic and neutron bombs
- 2. Protect us from chemical poisons, radiation, and napalm
- 3. Deliver us from armament and arms races
- 4. Free us from militarists and Nazis
- 5. Save us from unemployment and lockouts
- 6. Protect us from the dumbing down of the people through mass media
- 7. Redeem us from unjust laws and unjust judiciary
- 8. Grant us re-education, improvement, and reparation instead of punishment
- 9. Protect us from the squandering of billions in tax money
- 10. Shield us from dictatorships and harassment

Additional stones bear the following dedications:

In honor of the first | female Nobel Peace Prize laureate Bertha von Suttner (1843–1914) | Nobel Prize 1905. She envisioned a world of peace | without weapons and without war | just like Christ and all people | of good will

and this appeal:

Help secure peace through disarmament and conscientious objection, otherwise annihilation will follow Wilhelm Maucher. 1978.

The path is completed by another stone bearing this inscription:

Only absolute pacifists, conscientious objectors, and deserters are true and genuine heroes for peace, and martyrs against all wars on Earth.

The Peace Trail is a moving memorial by a committed Christian and humanist—a vital cultural monument of our homeland.

Ernst Gierlich, www.heimatfreunde-roisdorf.de

## **The Book**



The richly illustrated 120-page book\* contains Maucher's own written recollections and documents, as well as eyewitness reports. It highlights Maucher's unwavering commitment to peace and justice, his deep-rooted character, and the remarkable success story of his blackberry wine Rebellenblut (Rebel's Blood), closely associated with the excursion site Heimatblick.

The second part focuses on the mostly younger generation who, after Maucher's death, dedicated themselves to preserving the Peace Trail and continue to care for the site to this day. Conclusion: A fascinating chapter of local history that reflects the ideological conflicts of the 20th century—and remains highly relevant today.

Roland Reischl

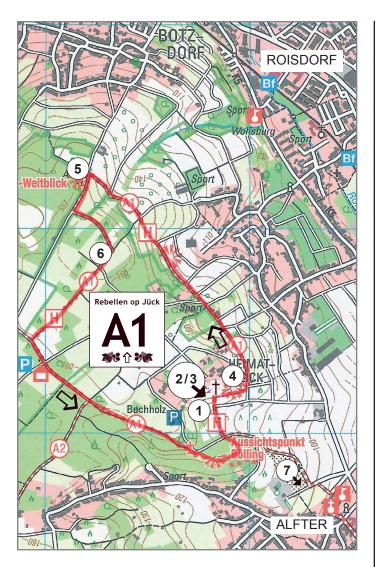
Förderverein Haus der Alfterer Geschichte (Hg.): **Der Vorgebirgsrebell.** Wilhelm Maucher (1903-1993) und der Friedensweg in Alfter bei Bonn\*

120 p., approx. 120 black-and-white photos. ISBN 978-3-9812648-9-0 Publisher: Roland Reischl Verlag. Price: € 12.80 (RRP)

Available in the bookstore *Buchhandlung Seitenblick* in Bornheim for the special price of € 10.00 – or directly from www.rr-verlag.de.

\* The book is only available in German.

**Panoramic Trail** 



#### Panoramic Trail (A1) Rebellen op Jück / Rebels on Tour

Buchholzweg - Hühnerbuschweg - Jewish Cemetery - Peace Trail – Christ Statue – Heimatblick – Blutpfad (information on viticulture in the foothills) - Neuweg - Observation Tower (Fietzeks Weitblick) - Hiking Parking Area - Alte Burg - Böhling Observation Tower - Kemmertsgasse - Buchholzweg - Parking Lot

(4,6 km)

Map excerpt: Rheinbach, Südliche Ville. Wanderkarte Nr. 6 des Eifelvereins e.V. ISBN 978-3-944620-07-7. Reprinted with the kind permission of the publisher: www.eifelverein.de

The Panoramic Trail Rebels on Tour (Rebellen op Jück) commemorates both Wilhelm Maucher, known as the Rebel of



Draft of the logo for the Panoramic Trail

the Vorgebirge (Vorgebirgsrebell), and the resistance efforts of the Landschaftsschutzverein Vorgebirge (LSV), who successfully halted quartz sand mining in the mid-1990s. The trail is not signposted. Please refer to the map sketch on the left or use www.outdooractive.com (search for Rebellen op Jöck) to view the route online.



#### Contact

### Förderverein Haus der Alfterer Geschichte e. V. (HDAG)

(Friends' Association House of Alfter History)

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Donation Account for the preservation of the Peace Trail: HDAG (recipient); IBAN: DE24 3706 9520 8012 4718 16 BIC: GENODED1RST (VR-Bank Bonn Rhein-Sieg)

