

# **Jacob Eduard de Witte**

- Born in Amsterdam
- Stepped in service of Russian Empire
- Lived and worked in Riga
- After Swedish-Russian 1788-1790 war made a large fortification project for Tallinn at 1791 (a little part is realized)
- Lived to the end of his days in St Petersburg



# The project itself

- Lies in the Estonian Historical Archive in Tartu
- Project's explanations are in French; lot of local place names are inflected
- Most of the sheets are about Tallinn (one sheet misses)
- One sheet is about Paldiski
- The project's drawings are very handsome





Estonia of that time







# Events of the 1790-s in Europe

- Enlightenment
- Turkish wars 1787-1792
- Swedish-Russian war at 1788-1790
- French Revolution and wars
- France conquered the Netherlands and established Batavian Republic
- Partitions of Poland; Duchy of Courland became a part of Russia



Gustav III of Sweden



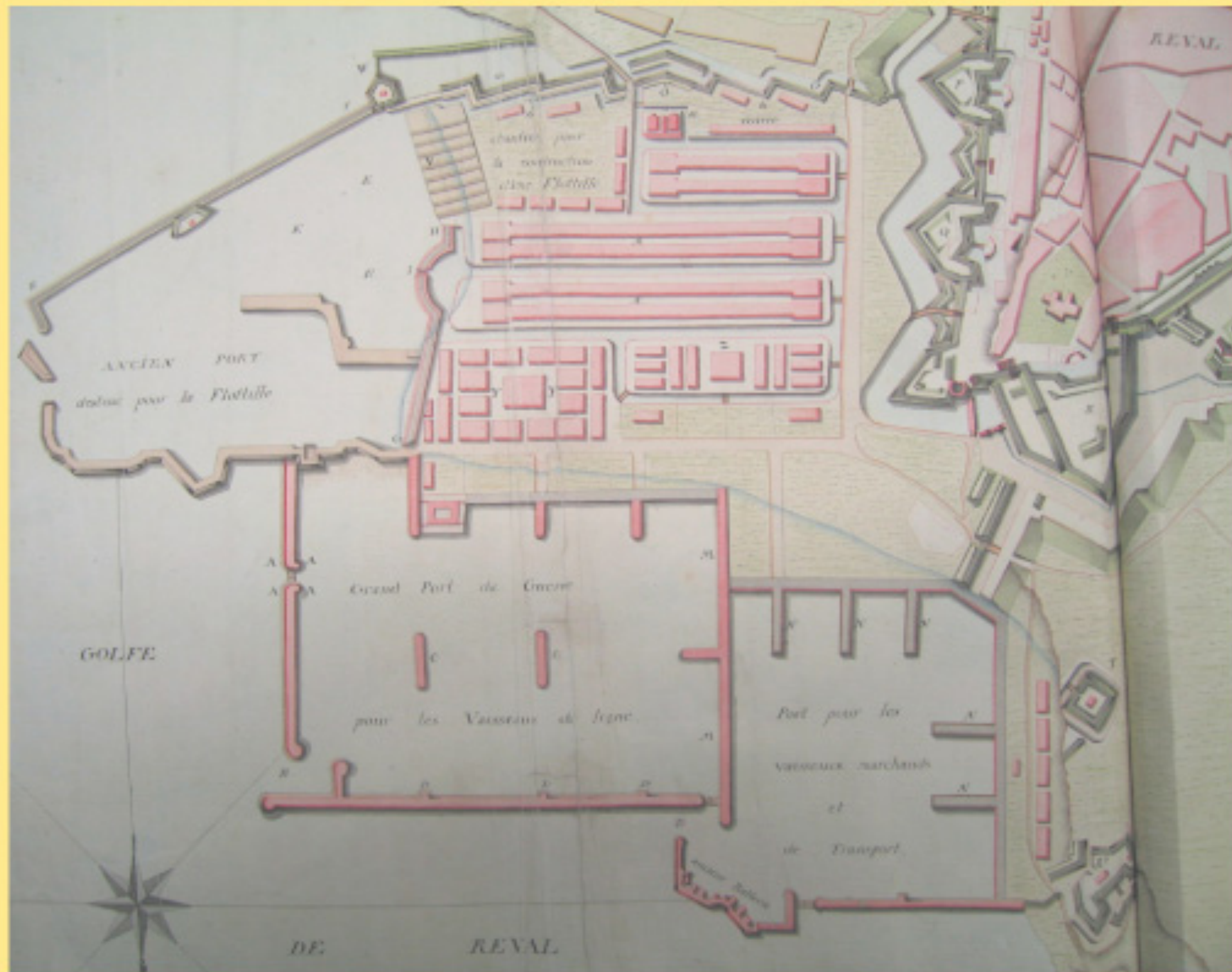
Catherine II of Russia





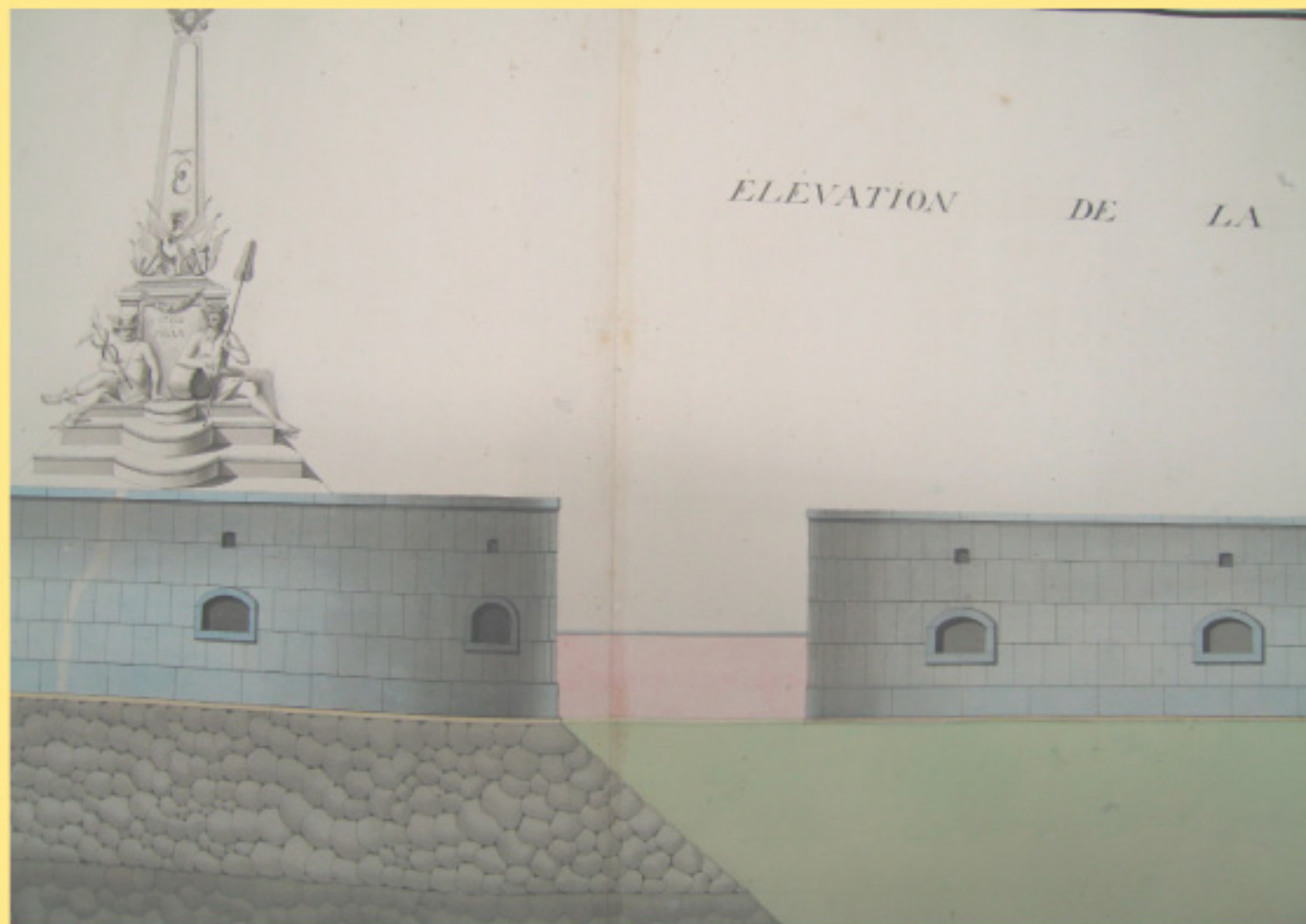
General view to Tallinn. Above the town is a new military harbour.

The new garrison town is east to town, west to river and south to harbour



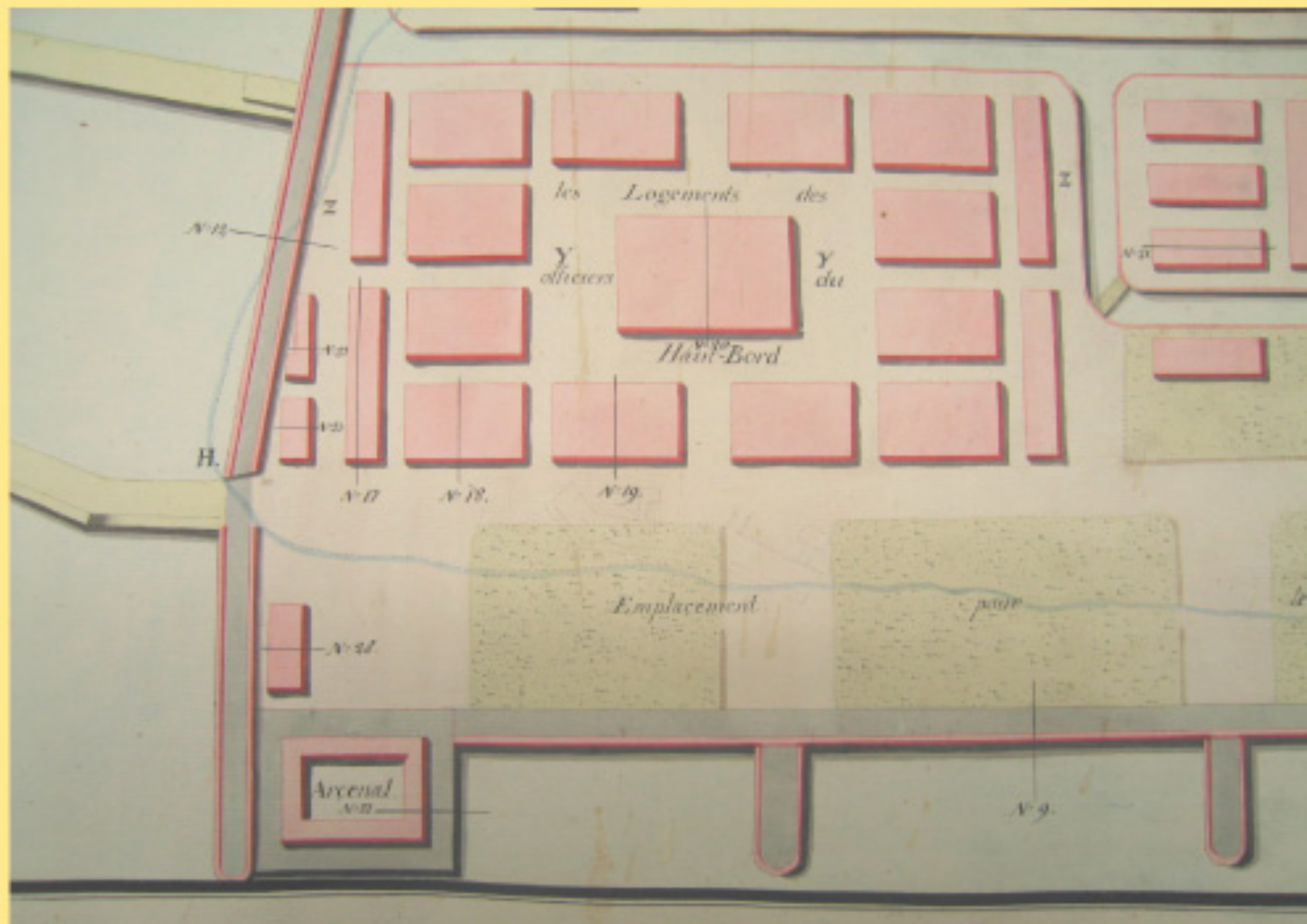
New harbours and garrison to more than 10 000 men. The *retranchement* wall and redoubt (on the top of the picture) made at 1791 (now demolished). The naval battery (on the bottom of the picture) still exists. North is below the picture.





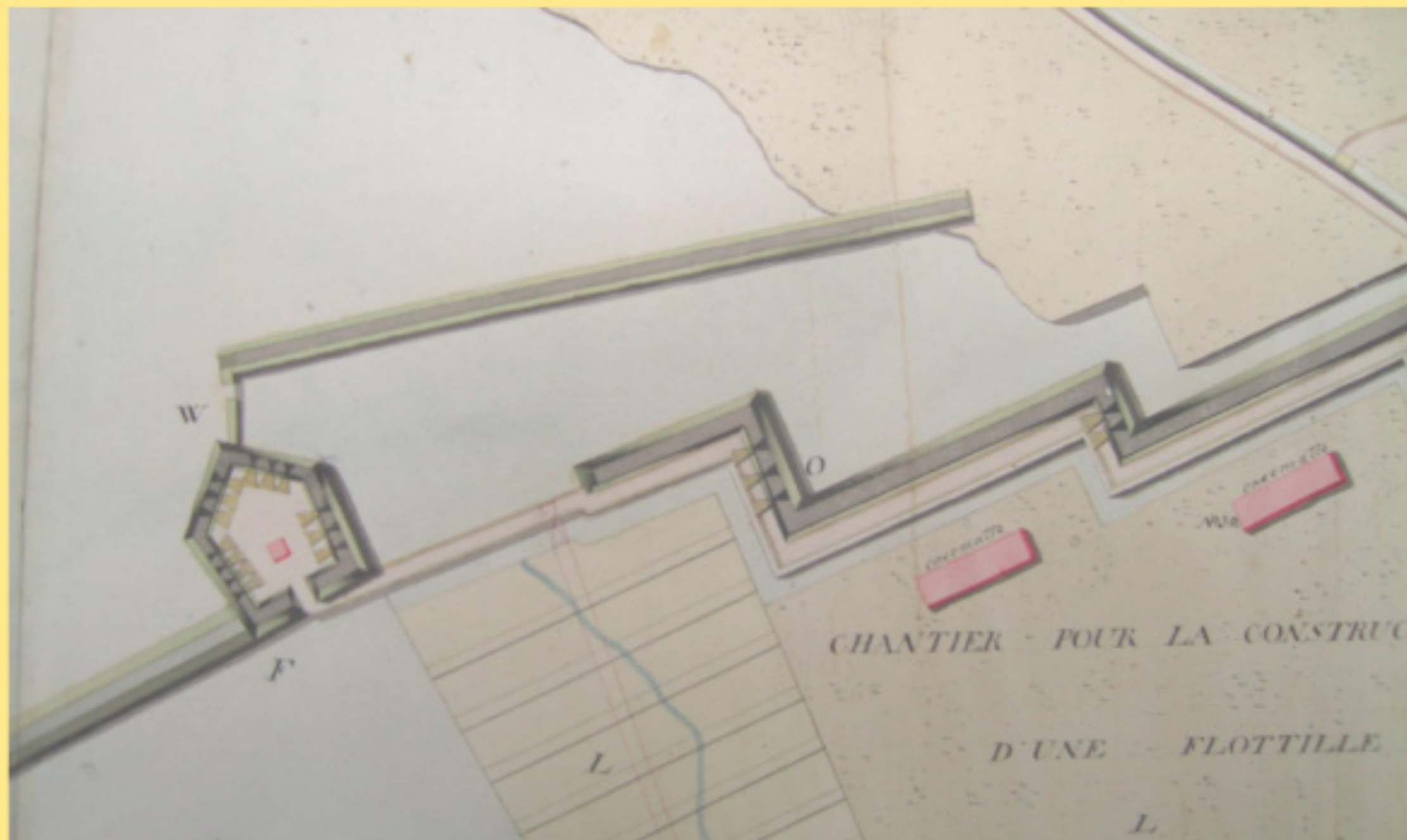
Main entrance to the military harbour





Residence for the upper officers. In the coast there is an ancient mortar battery (in the ground now). North is below the picture.



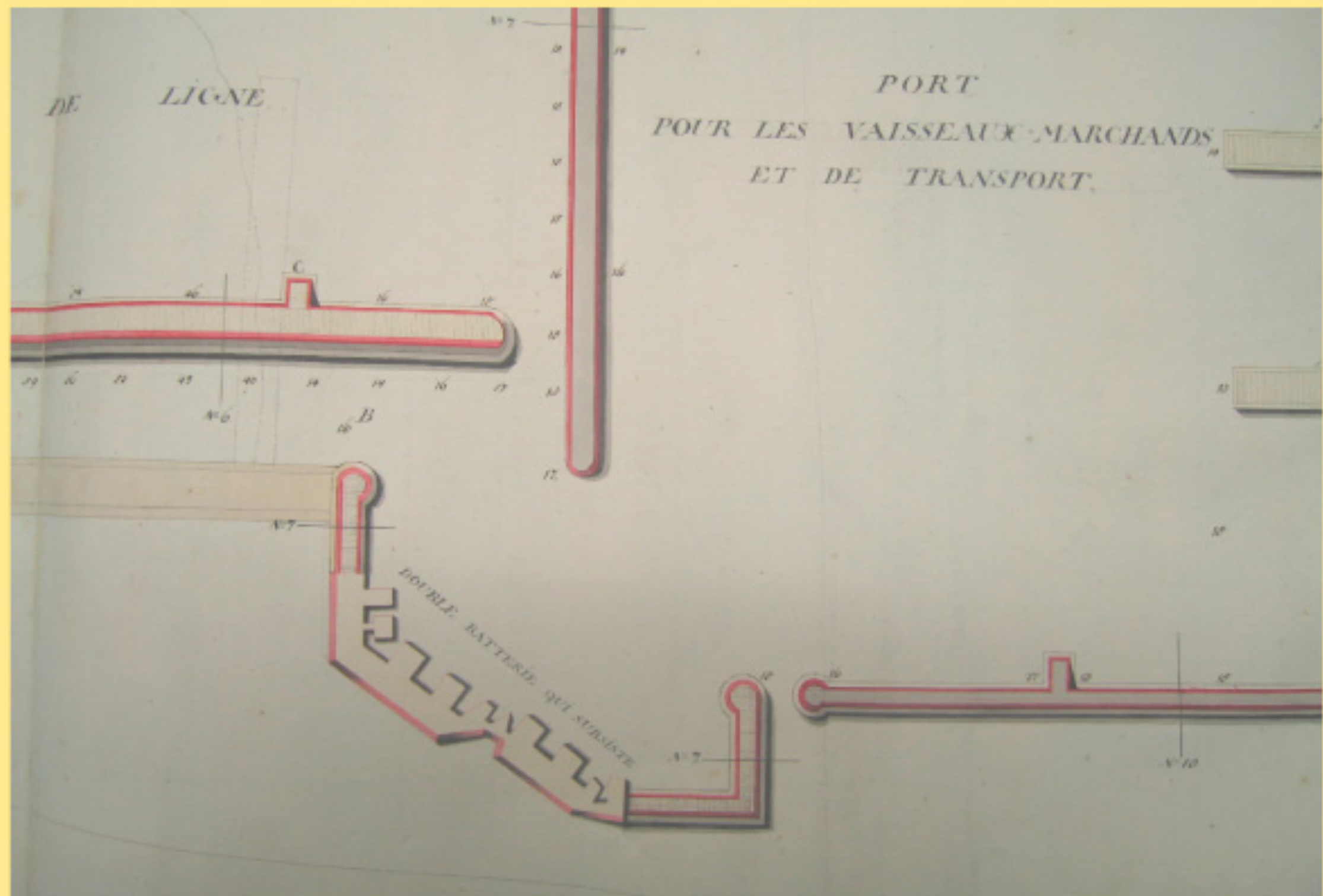


The end of eastern *retranchement* wall and supporting redoubt (demolished). North is below the picture.





A new garrison church next to ancient cannon redoubt (partly exists now). North is below the picture.



Entrance to the merchant harbour. Double battery partly exists now. North is below the picture.





Fortifications of town of Paldiski. The ancient bastioned pentagonal fortress partly exists now.