NEUSCHARFENECK - LETTERBOX

(placed 27. September 2003 by Michael Wilhelm)

City: Ramberg / Pfalz (approx. 15 km southwest of Neustadt a.d.Weinstrasse)
Start: Parking area „*Drei Buchen*"
Difficulty: (**---)
Terrain: (**---) Slight slope; Length: 6 km; approx. 2-3 hours
Recommended map: *"Neustadt a.d.Weinstr./Maikammer/Edenkoben/Landau i.d.Pfalz 1:25.000".*
(hiking map)

INFO

The "Castle Neuscharfeneck" is 501 m above sea level. With a length of 150 meters and a width of 60 meters it is one of the biggest castle buildings. It has an amazing shield-wall, 58 m long and 12 m thick with a height up to 20 m.

1232	Construction by "Johann von Scharfenberg-Metze".
1363	Together with "Castle Altscharfeneck" enfeoffed to "Kurpfalz".
1450-1469	Complete rebuilding by "Kurfürst Friedrich I. von der Pfalz". Construction of the shield-wall.
1525	Destroyed by fire in the Peasant War.
1535	Rebuilt by "Friedrich von Löwenstein-Scharfeneck" as a cosy castle.
1633	Completely destroyed through the Thirty Years' War.

You can hear some Sagas and Legends, like the one about the one-eyed knight of Neuscharfeneck...

CLUE

From the parking area "Drei Buchen" near Ramberg you follow a comfortable forest path with slight slope to "Ruine Neuscharfeneck" in approx. 40 minutes.

Take enough time to enjoy the amazing sight from the different lookout-platforms. Study the signs (only german) and discover all the rooms, also the inside. And who dares to go down into the dungeon ?

Remark: Since 2006 the entrance to the 'inside' is locked!

Answer the questions:

- While enjoying the sight from the highest point go to the end of the shield-wall in the south. You will see a staircase at 280°. There is a gate at the top of the staircase with a sign being mounted above. Look for the year on that sign. How often can you put 31 in this number (A = _____) and there will be a rest of (B = _____) ?

- Find the well (Brunnen). There is a tall stone with a year engraved (Mid 16th century). Subtract 2 from the first two digits and note the result as (C = _____). The two right digits of the year are (D = _____).

- The tower near the gate of the castle (Torturm) has two stairways up to the platform. For the first needed value you must count the steps of the first stairway and add D (E = _____). The second value is the number of steps of the second stairway + D (F = _____).

And where is the Letterbox?

In former days there was a bridge leading to the castle. So you could pass the moat (Halsgraben) to a crest on the other side. Just on that hill the Letterbox is hidden.

Now leave the complex and find a way up the hill. Your search will begin in the middle of the two rocks.

- Position yourself exactly between the two big rocks, then go C steps in the direction of A°.

- Stand on the stone and proceed B steps in E°.

- Now climb on the stone and walk eight steps to the corner of a rock in F°.

- Turn to 40°. Two meters to your feet you should see a shelf. There is a hollow space under it containing the "Neuscharfeneck Letterbox".

Take care of other hikers!
Stamp and hide the box as you have found it,
best covered by wood, moss and leaves.
Thanks!