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HERMANN LETTERBOX

Placed September 14, 2006

State: North Rhein–Westfalia, Germany

Nearest city: Detmold

Location: Hermannsdenkmal www.hermannsdenkmal.de

CLUES:

History was made in the Teutoberger Wald two thousand years ago when Hermann the Cherusci united the tribes of Germany to defeat the Roman Empire. Today you walk in the footsteps of ancient and contemporary Germans...and Hermans!

- Park your car in the visitor's lot. Enter and follow the wide path, continuing past a cluster of restaurants and shops.
- When the path curves, you'll pass a small hut on the right, home to Ernst von Bandals. He was the architect and builder of the Hermannsdenkmal.
- Near the hut there is a large green trail map. After you pay your regards to Hermann, return to this point to search for the letterbox.

- Start at the trail map near the hut. Follow the trail into the forest.
- Soon you'll come to a fork in the trail. Continue to the left on the main trail and proceed about 40 meters.
- At the point where the evergreen forest surrounds you, look to the right and see a red A2 marked on a tree.
- Now turn to your left and gaze uphill into the forest. You'll see two fallen trees, lying in Hermann's shadow. As mighty Rome, these trees were felled.
- Climb up the hill and sit on the trunk of the largest tree. Ponder the events of 9 AD and the deeds of Hermann the German.

- The roots of the smaller tree are on your left. Search in the rubble of leaves and bark beneath the roots to find a memento from other Hermans who also passed this way.

The Hermann Letterbox honors William Morris Herman (1906–1996). His ancestors came from Germany to Kentucky, USA in the early nineteenth century. As an Allied soldier in 1945, he came through this area of Germany himself. The letterbox was placed on his 100th birthday by the Herman Family, who traveled to Germany in September 2006 to connect with their roots.