

# SEA-RELATED WORDS

The origin of the names of sandbanks, channels and other ‘sea-related words’

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Have you ever wondered what the origin of the toponym Trapegeer is, or how cod got its name? Or are you interested in the person behind Thornton Bank or the genesis of the maritime term ‘crow’s nest’? Then you’re in luck, since a team of experts explains the meaning of some of the most intriguing sea-related words in every issue of De Grote Rede.

*In this special issue of De Grote Rede, we focus on the etymology of the toponym Flanders and other place names from the front area of the First World War. Due to limited space, we had to make a selection from the extensive list of cities, towns and villages in the Belgian Westhoek area that were part of the war zone. In case of places that are no (longer) independent municipalities, we always mention the amalgamated municipality of which they are part. Then we state a few attested forms of the place name, including the oldest one. This information was mainly extracted from the work by F. Debrabandere, M. Devos et al. (2010), *De Vlaamse gemeentenamen, verklarend woordenboek*. The etymological explanation is also based on this publication, to which we refer the reader for extensive bibliographical references. Some name forms are preceded by an asterisk (\*) in the text. This is to indicate that the form in question is not attested as such in a historical source, but has been reconstructed by linguists from derived forms found in more recent language development stages.*

## FLANDERS

Latin sources: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 8<sup>th</sup> C. *Flandrensis, Flanderenses, in Flandris*, 745 *in pago Flandrinse*, 854 (copy from circa 1175) *in Flandrense pago, in pago Flandrensi*, 1014 (copy from circa 1050) *Flandria*

Anglo-Saxon sources: 1075 (copy from 1121) *to Flandran*, 1079 (copy from circa 1100) *on Flandron*, 1085 (copy from 1121) *of Flandran*

Dutch sources: 1237 *Vlandern*, 1277 *Vlaendre*, 1295 *Vlaendren*, 1281 *Vlaemdren*

Currently, Flanders is the official name of the Dutch-speaking northern part of Belgium. Within the Belgian federal structure, Flanders is one of the three “regions”, besides the Walloon Region and Brussels-Capital Region. The name comes from the historical County of Flanders, which encompassed the current Belgian provinces of West and East Flanders, Zeelandic Flanders (in the Dutch province of Zeeland) and French Flanders, located in the Nord department of France (map p.105).

### FLANDERS, A FLOODED AREA

The most commonly accepted etymology of the name *Flanders* was developed by Ghent toponymist Maurits Gysseling in an article he published together with historian Jan Dhondt in 1948. According to Gysseling, the root of *Flanders* is the Germanic noun *\*flauma*, which means ‘flood’ and hence ‘flooded area’. This word does not appear to have any direct descendants in Dutch, but it does have derivatives in other Germanic languages. For instance, current English dialects still have the word *flam* for a waterlogged area near a stream, as well as *fleam* for a drainage ditch or leat. *Flaumr*

meant ‘torrent, eddy’ in Old Norse, from which Norwegian *flaum* and Danish *flom* are derived, meaning ‘flood, high tide’.

As a rule, the Germanic diphthong *au* became the close-mid vowel /oo/ in Dutch, e.g. Dutch *rood* (red) from Germanic *\*rauda*. But in North Sea Germanic or Ingvaenic languages – which include Frisian and English as well as the oldest stratum of Flemish and Hollandic – this phoneme has sometimes developed into *aa*, e.g. in case of the toponym *Adinkerke* (see below). Other examples of an Ingvaenic *aa* derived from *au* or *oo* are Middle Dutch *sade* (sod) (from Germanic *\*sautha*) and toponymic forms such as Zeelandic Flemish *Aardenburg* (metathesis of *Radenburg*, which goes back to *Rodenburg*, the first part of which probably stems from Celtic water name *\*Rodana*), the historical name *Radenburg* of the Leiden neighbourhood of Roomburg (from Germanic *rauda* ‘red’ and *burg* ‘fort’), *Asdonk*, a hamlet of the village of Mendonk in northern East Flanders, *Asthusa* (Oosthuizen) in North Holland, and *Astbroek* (Oostbroek) in Velsen, also in North Holland. In the three last names, *ast-* goes back to Germanic *austa* (east).

The two final syllables of *Vlaanderen* (the Dutch name of *Flanders*) are remnants of two suffixes. Gysseling reconstructed the complex form as *\*flaam-dra-um*. The last part is a case ending, namely dative plural, which became the standard form of numerous place names, even if the root did not evoke the idea of a plural. The element *-dra* is an old Germanic suffix, thought to be derived from a prehistoric language. This suffix was originally used to form nouns from verbs. However, the root *flauma* of *\*flaam-dra* already is a noun, which in an older, pre-Germanic stage had been derived from a

verb meaning ‘to flow, to stream’ by means of another suffix, namely Indo-European *\*-mo* (>Germanic *\*-ma*). It is likely that this Indo-European verb is also at the basis of the Dutch verb *vloeien* (to flow). Strictly speaking, the element *-dra* is therefore redundant, as it does not add anything to the etymological meaning of *flauma* (flood, flooded area). Yet combinations of two suffixes with the same morphological function and meaning sometimes occur in Dutch. For instance, this process can be seen in the formation of diminutives, where the Germanic diminutive suffix *-l* is often combined with the more recent suffix *-kijn* (reduced to *-ken* later on). Examples of this are Middle Dutch and dialectal diminutives such as *bosselke* ‘bundle’, *wegelke* ‘path’ and *visselke* ‘little fish’. The evolution of the reconstructed root form *\*flaam-dra-um* to *Vlaanderen* is plausible phonetically speaking. The vowels in the unstressed suffixes became weaker, which resulted in the intermediate form *vlaam-dr-em*. Already in the West Germanic stage that preceded Old Dutch, the Germanic dative case ending *-m* was replaced by *-en* due to assimilation with the accusative case. The change of the *m* in *vlaam* to *-n* under the influence of the *-d* that follows probably dates back to the West Germanic period as well. The old form ending in *-m* has been found four times in 13<sup>th</sup>-century texts, e.g. *graue van vlaemdren*, Bruges 1281. This *-m* has also been preserved in the demonym *Vlaming* (Fleming), where it has been able to maintain itself before a vowel. Finally, the Germanic *f-* at the beginning of the word shifted to *v-* in Old Dutch, e.g. compare Dutch *vlam* to Frisian *flam*, English *flame*, and German and Danish *flamme*.



■ Nowadays, Flanders (pale green) is one of the three “regions” of the kingdom of Belgium, besides the Walloon Region (dark green) and Brussels-Capital Region (olive green). The name comes from the historical County of Flanders, which roughly encompassed the current Belgian provinces of West and East Flanders, Zeelandic Flanders in the Netherlands and French Flanders (situation circa 1400) (VLIZ on the basis of Wikipedia maps).

## ORIGINS IN PAGUS FLANDRENSIS

As far as the meaning is concerned, the explanation ‘flooded area’ is consistent with the historical geography of Flanders. The oldest sources in which the name *Flanders* – in its Latinised form – appears (8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century) prove that the toponym already existed prior to the foundation of the County of Flanders by Baldwin II (in 884 or shortly afterwards). The area originally called *Flanders* was much smaller than the future county. It constituted a territorially limited administrative unit in the Frankish Empire, a so-called *pagus* (shire). According to Jan Dhondt, *Pagus flandrensis* covered a broad strip along the North Sea coast, which included the flood plain as well as the northern fringe of the adjacent sandy region. The area would have stretched from the Zwin estuary in the east at least to the river Aa (currently located in France) in the west. Yet according to recent historical research, Flanders originally had a smaller surface area, bounded in the west by the river Yser (Declercq 1995). In any case, its landscape mostly consisted of unembanked salt marshes criss-crossed with tidal channels and creeks. It is therefore not surprising that this marshy land was called “the flooded area” (map p.107).

## ADINKERKE (DE PANNE)

1123 *Adenkerka*, 1132 *Odecherca*, 1139 *Adenkerke*, 1159 *Odenkercha*, *Odenkerke*, 1513 *Adinkerke*, 1537 *Aeyenkercke*.

This place name is composed of *-kerk* and the Germanic personal name *Audo*, here in the genitive case, and means ‘**Audo’s church**’. The Germanic diphthong *au* became the close-mid vowel *oo* in Dutch (e.g. *brood* from Germanic *brauda*). In accordance with this phonetic law, *Audo* should become *Odo* as is the case in the southern West Flemish place names *Otegem* (submunicipality of Zwevegem) and *Ooigem* (submunicipality of Wielsbeke), both derived from *Odengem* which in turn stems from *\*Audo-inga-heem*. However, in coastal dialects *au* sometimes became *aa*, hence *Adenkerke* besides *Odenkerke* (for this phonological change, see the etymology of ‘Flanders’ above). Apparently, the two variants coexisted for a very long time, and *Adinkerke* eventually became the standard written form as well as the common colloquial form. Due to replacement of the intervocalic consonant *d* by the palatal consonant *j* (e.g. Dutch *odevaar* > *ooievaar* [stork]) the – antiquated – local pronunciation is *Ooienkerke*: 1566 *Oyenkercke*, 1650 *Oye Kercke*, 18<sup>th</sup> C. *Oienkerke*.

## BOEZINGE (YPRES)

1107 *Bosinga*, 1120 *Boesinga*, 1138 *Boesinghe*, 1276 *Bousinghes* (Romanic form), 1744 *Boesinge*.

Derived from the Germanic personal name *Boso* and the patronymic suffix *-inga*, which converts personal names into clan names. These names were in turn often given to the settlement of the clan in question. *Boezinge* was originally the **home of the people of Boso**.



## DE PANNE

± 1785 *de la Kerkpanne* nommée *Joseph Dorp*, 1786 *de plaets Kerkepan*, 1800, 1820 *Joseph Dorp*, 1818 *Kerkepanne*, 1826 *Kerkepanne (La Panne)*, 1840 *hameau la Panne*, 1900 *Sint-Jozef's Dorp*, 1900 *de Kerkepanne*, 1901 *de Panne*.

The original name of this fairly recent settlement is *Kerkpanne*. Its root is *panne*, the western form of Dutch *pan*, which literally means 'a vessel used in cooking' and metaphorically also 'a depression in the earth, a basin, a dune valley'. This is one of many names of containers used to indicate valleys and depressions, cf. *basin*, *bowl*, *crater* and *trough* in English. The premodifier *kerk* does not refer to a local church, as no chapel was built on this site until 1860, the precursor of the current St. Peter's Church. Was this hamlet the property of a church, e.g. Adinkerke church? Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II wanted to expand the settlement and turn it into a real fishing village named after himself: *Jozefdorpe*. Yet this name did not take hold. The current name *De Panne* is the literal translation of *La Panne*, the French form of vernacular *Kerk(e)panne*. In 1789 *Kerkepanne* was a hamlet of Adinkerke, in 1911 it became the independent municipality of De Panne. Adinkerke became a submunicipality of De Panne in 1977.

## DIKSUIDE

1089 *Dicasmutha*, 1119 *Dischemue*, *Dixmue*, 1128 *Dixmude*, 1608 *Dixmuyde*, 1906 *Diksmuide*.

The forms ending in *-mue* are Romanic. The current French form *Dixmude* actually corresponds to Middle Dutch orthography. *Diksmuide* is a compound of *muide*, which stems from Germanic *muntha* 'mouth', also in the sense of 'the point where a river empties into a sea or lake'. In Dutch coastal dialects and in English, the *-n* disappeared before the dental fricative *-th*, as a result of which the preceding vowel became longer, hence Middle Dutch and West Flemish *muude* (>Dutch *muide*) and English *mouth*. The first part is the genitive of Germanic *\*dika*, from which Dutch *dijk* and English *dike* are derived. In the name *Diksmuide*, *dik-* has the original meaning, which still exists in the West Flemish dialects, of 'ditch, narrow channel'. Old English *dic*, which is etymologically identical to *dik* or *dijk*, has the same meaning (in addition to 'embankment') and is akin to the verb *to dig*. The settlement of Diksmuide was founded where a small stream issued into the Yser. Perhaps this stream was the forerunner of the current Handzamevaart canal, dug in the bed of a natural watercourse.

## HANDZAME (KORTEMARK)

1085 *Hansam*, 1155 *Hanzam*, 1268 *Hansame*, 1289 *Handsame*, 1826 *Handzame*.

*Handzame* stems from *Hands-hamme*, a compound of the Germanic personal name *Hanno*, in the genitive case, and *ham*, a Germanic word that is frequently found in toponyms meaning 'meander, bend in a watercourse' as well as '(alluvial) land in such a bend'. The *-d* in *hand* was added later on, perhaps by analogy with the word *hand*; the *-e* in *hamme* is a dative ending. *Handzame* was originally the **land of Hanno, located in the bend of a local watercourse**. In French, *ham* evolved into *han*, as in *Bohan*, *Frahan*, *Poupehan* and *Mortehan*, which are all names of places near the Semois river.

## HOUTHULST

1096 *in Walnensi nemore*, 1151 copy from ± 1225 *Woltehurst*, 1187 *Wouthulst*, 1201 *Outhulst*, 1306 *Houthulst*.

This site was originally called *Woudhu(l)st*, traditionally considered as a compound of *woud* (wood) and *hulst* (holly). According to this explanation, it would have signified 'holly wood'. If this were the case, we would expect the reverse order of the name's components, i.e. *Hulstwoud*, with the modifier preceding the modified element, as in *Hulshout*, a municipality in the province of Antwerp. It is therefore possible that the premodifier has another origin, but it remains unclear what this actually was. On the basis of the oldest vernacular attestation, *Woltehurst*, it is possible to consider *hurst* as a variant of *horst* with the West Flemish elision of *-r*. Because the *-w* at the beginning of *woud* was dropped before the back vowel in West Flemish, as is still the case in West Flemish *oensdag* 'Wednesday' and *oekeren* (Dutch 'woekeren'), the form *Oudhulst* came about. The first part was interpreted as the word *hout*, which formerly meant (timber) forest in Flemish and sounded like *oud* in *Oudhulst* in the h-dropping dialects of West Flanders. After this reinterpretation by folk etymology, *Houthulst* found its way to the written language and later on it became the official name. In 1926 *Houthulst* was split off from Klerken and became an independent municipality, which nowadays also includes Klerken, Merkem and Jonkershove.

## YPRES

1071-93 *Ipera*, 1096 *Ipre*, 1162 *Ypre*, 1798 *Yperen*, 1903 *Ieperen*.

The city's name is derived from the river *Ieper*, which was canalised and renamed *Ieperleet* later on. *Ypres* (*Ieper* in Dutch) is a prehistoric water name borrowed from the Indo-European language that preceded Germanic and Dutch in this region,

presumably Celtic. *Ieper* stems from *ip-ara*, a compound of an Indo-European root *\*ip*, derived from *\*ejap*, which means 'flame-coloured' or 'red', and the suffix *-ara*, which occurs in numerous names of rivers (e.g. *Dender*, *Demer* and *Vesdre*) and probably means 'water'. *Ypres* therefore means 'flame-coloured water'. The formerly often used form *Ieperen* is a more recent calque of the French form *Ypres*. The current Dutch spelling *Ieper* is etymologically incorrect, since the *i* is short in local pronunciation and according to the phonetic laws, and is not a long vowel or diphthong. The correct Dutch spelling should therefore be *Iper*, cf. *Izenberge* and *Izegem*, or it should be pronounced with a Dutch diphthong (*Ijper*), cf. *Ijzer* (Yser), *Slijpe* and *Wijtschate*.

## YSER

846 *Ysera*.

*Yser* (*Ijzer* in Dutch) is also a prehistoric water name, formed with the same suffix as *Ieper*. The first part is the Indo-European (Celtic) word *\*is*, which is thought to mean 'lively'. The river was therefore called 'lively water'. The Dutch name *Ijzer* is etymologically identical to e.g. *Isère* (France), *Isar* (Germany) and *Jizera* (the Czech Republic).

## KEMMEL (HEUVELLAND)

1066 *Kemble*, 1089 *Kemlis*, 1189 *Kemle*, 1243 *Kemmel*, 1269 *ad opus rivi qui vocatur Kemle*.

Various explanations have been suggested as to the origin of *Kemmel*. Gysseling initially traced the name back to *Camulion*, a prehistoric settlement named after the Celtic god *Camulios*, and he assumed that this god had once been worshipped on Kemmel Hill (*Kemmelberg* in Dutch). Later on he recognised a prehistoric water name derived from the Indo-European root *\*akom*, meaning 'charming' or 'excellent'. Debrabandere also thinks that it originally was a pre-Germanic water name, *Kemmel* or *Kemmelbeek*, but he says its meaning is unclear. In 1977 *Kemmel* was consolidated with seven other villages into the new amalgamated municipality of Heuveland.

## KOKSIJDE

1270 *Coxhyde*, 1295 *Koxide*, 1915 *Koksijde*.

*Koksijde* is one of many toponyms ending in *(h)ide* on the coast. The second part stems from the Middle Dutch verb *hiden*, etymologically identical to English *to hide* and Dutch *houden* (to tend, to keep watch over). Its original meaning 'to hide' developed into 'to take to safety' and in particular 'to land a vessel'. An Ostend city account from 1403-04 states "*als men de bakine stac omme de harijnc sceppe te hydene*" (when the beacons were lit to guide the herring ships to land). The derivative noun *hide*, which lost the *h* and became *ide* in the local dialect, indicates a place on shore where small fishing boats were brought to protect them from storms, in particular a **creek or channel behind the dunes**, perhaps sometimes a flat area between the dunes, cf. Low German *hude* entrepôt, staple town' (e.g. *Buxtehude*, *Steinhude*). The first part of the name *Koksijde* is thought to refer to a person, an important inhabitant of the settlement that grew around the landing place. The same name is possibly found in other coastal toponyms such as *Coxland* (Westkerke), *Coxmoer* (Varsenare) and *Coxweg* (St.-Kruis, Zeeland). It is more likely, however, that *kok* stems from *koog*, a coastal West Germanic word meaning **unembanked alluvial land**. In this case, the place name is comparable to German *Cuxhaven* (Lower Saxony): 1570 *Kuckeshaven*. It is likely that *Koksijde* was originally located on the

coastline just outside the domain of Ter Duinen abbey. This settlement disappeared in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, after which the name was passed on to the older settlement of Simoenskapelle, which in turn was buried under the Galloper dune in the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century. The current town of Koksijde was established about 600 metres to the south.

## LANGEMARK (LANGEMARK-POELKAPPELLE)

1102 *Marc*, 1219 *Langhemarc*, 1824 *Langemark*.

Initially this village was called *Mark*, the name of the watercourse on which Langemark and Merkem (from *Mark-heem* 'settlement on the Mark') are located and which is still in part called *Martje*. *Mark*, from Germanic *\*mark* -, originally meant 'boundary', hence also 'boundary marker' and in particular '**watercourse as a boundary**'. Numerous watercourses in the Low Countries have names derived from *mark*, and several of these names have been passed on to the settlements on these rivers, e.g. Marke (near Kortrijk), Maarke (near Oudenaarde), Merksem and Merksplas (both in the province of Antwerp). A village of the same name, currently known as Kortemark, was situated about twenty kilometres northeast of Mark. To distinguish between these two place, the premodifiers *Lange-* and *Korte-* were added in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Why

these premodifiers were chosen exactly remains unclear. *Lang* (long) and *kort* (short) do not refer to the shape of the territory of the two villages, as neither of them is particularly long or short.

## LOMBARDSIJDE (MIDDELKERKE)

1285 *Lombardie*, 1375 *van Lombardien*, 1408 *Lombaerside*, 1409 *van Lombaerds yden*, 1818 *Lombartzijde*.

In view of the oldest form, *Lombardie*, which survives in popular speech up to this day, it is unlikely that this is a name ending in *-hide* like *Koksijde* and *Raversijde*, from which the *-d-* disappeared in the local dialect. This assumption does not explain the first part of the name: *Lombard* is probably not a personal name, as the genitive ending *-s* is lacking and since no given name or surname resembling *Lombard* has been found in our historical personal name lexicon. The name may refer to the region of Lombardy in Italy, not literally but in a figurative sense: a **place far away** from the eponymous centre. Remote hamlets and estates have often been named after distant places, e.g. *Turkijen* (Turkey), *Pollanen* (Poland), *Egypten* (Egypt), *Bohemen* (Bohemia), *Canada*, *Argentinië* (Argentina) or *Siberië* (Siberia). We know from 13<sup>th</sup>-century sources that the polder of Lombardsijde was owned by St. Peter's Abbey in Oudenburg. According to medieval standards, this *polre van Lombardien* was quite a long way from the abbey, which is probably where the thought of distant Lombardy came from. Rotterdam and Roermond also have neighbourhoods called *Lombardije* and these are located at a fair distance from the city centre. The form *Lombaerside* did not appear before 1408, and likely arose by analogy with *Koksijde* and *Raversijde*. The ending *-ide* can be explained as a hypercorrection of *-ie* (cf. Dutch *kastijden* (to chastise) from Middle Dutch *castien*).

## MANNEKENSVERE (MIDDELKERKE)

1171 kopie 13<sup>de</sup> eeuw *Manekini overvara*, 1235 *Mannekinsvere*, 1435 *Mannekensvere*.

This place was named after a *veer* or **ferry across the Yser owned by someone called Mannekin**, a diminutive of the old Germanic male name *Manno* or of a shortened dithematic name such as *Herman*. Mannekin was probably the official who operated the ferry on behalf of the count. The ferry was replaced by the Gravenbrug bridge in 1287. The current Uniebrug bridge was constructed during the French occupation of Belgium. Mannekensvere was an independent municipality until it was consolidated with Schore, Slijpe and Sint-Pieterskapelle into the new municipality of Spermalie in 1971, which became part of Middelkerke in 1977.



■ Pagus Flandrensis covered the coastal area between the Yser and the Zwin estuary, including the flood plain as well as the northern fringe of the adjacent sandy region. This administrative unit was created in the Carolingian period, so before the County of Flanders existed (Raakvlak, from Hillewaert et al 2011)



## NIEUWPOORT

1163 *Novus portus, Novum oppidum*, 1190 *Nieweport*, 1302 *van der Niewer port*, 1723 *Nieuwpoort*.

Compound of *nieuw* (new) and Middle Dutch *port*, *poort* from Latin *portus*, which means 'port' or 'harbour'. In the case of *Nieuwpoort*, this word already had the Middle Dutch derived meaning of 'city'. The name is etymologically identical to *Nieuwpoort* near Gravelines in northern France and *Newport* in England (*Novus Burgus* in Latin). The city was called 'new' by contrast with the older city of Veurne. *Nieuwpoort* was built in the area of *Zandhoofd*: 1083-93 *Sandasovad*, 1107 *Sandeshoved*. This name, which refers to a chain of dunes on the Yser estuary, appeared frequently until 1373, so two centuries after the appearance of the new name.

## OOSTDUINKERKE (KOKSIJDE)

1120 *Duncapella*, *apud Dunckerkam*, 1135 *Duunkerka*, 1149 *Duncaple*, 1231 *Dunkerke*, 1235 *Ostduenkerke*, 1827 *Oostduinkerke*.

Up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, this place next to *Dunkirk* (*Duinkerke* in Dutch) was also known as *Duinkapel(le)*, the former meaning 'church in the dunes' and the latter 'chapel in the dunes'. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, *oost-* (east) was added to the name to distinguish the site from *Dunkirk*, located to the west and currently in France. However, the old form *Duinkerke* still appeared frequently in archival sources until after 1450.

## OOSTENDE

± 1115 *in orientali fine in Testrep*, 1256 *Ostende*, 1285 *Oostende*.

The name literally means 'east end'. Ostend (*Oostende* in Dutch) and Westende were located on the eastern and western tip of the island of *Testreep*. Middelkerke was situated in the middle of this island. The name *Testreep* (992 in *Testerep*, 1107 *Testrep*, 1173 *Testreep*) is a compound of West Germanic *\*tehstera* 'on the right side' and *\*raipa*, from which Dutch *reep* is derived, meaning 'a long, narrow strip of land'. *Testreep*, or 'the strip on the right side', was an elongated tidal island separated from the mainland by a tidal channel. As the Germanic tribes orientated themselves along the north-south axis, the west is on your right-hand side if you are facing south. *Testreep* is in other words a 'western strip'. When the meaning of this name was no longer clear, it was reinterpreted by folk etymology as *Ter Streep*, currently the name of a hotel in Ostend. Cf. 1380 *ten Streep*, 1455 *te Streep*, 1483 *ter Streep*. The island was swallowed up by the North Sea later on, as was the original site of Ostend.

## PASSEDALE (ZONNEBEKE)

844-864 kopie 961 *Pascandala*, 1187 *Paskendale*, 1190 *Paschendale*.

Compound of *dal* 'valley, hollow' and the name of a former inhabitant. Perhaps this is the Hebrew name *Pascha*, or a name from the language spoken in this region prior to the arrival of the Germanic tribes and linked to the Indo-European word *\*pasik*, which means 'child'. *Passchendale* was an independent municipality until 1977, when it was consolidated with Zonnebeke.

## PERVIJZE (DIKSMUIDE)

1063, 1115 *Paradisus*, 1172 *Parvisia*, 1225 *Pervisa* (TW), 1189 *Parvise*, 1190 *Pervise*, 1915 *Pervijze*.

The name comes from Old French *parevis*, French *parvis*, which stems from Latin *paradisus* and meant 'forecourt or square in front of a church' in the Middle Ages. This is derived from the original meaning: 'enclosure, courtyard, park'. *Pervijze* is therefore named after its village square. The local pronunciation ending in *-ie* or *-ze* can be explained by the frequently occurring Latinised variant *Parvisia*.

## POELKAPELLE (LANGEMARK-POELKAPELLE)

1377-78 *ter capelle ten Poele in de prochie van Langhemaerc*, 1648 *Poele cappelle*, 1681 *Poelcapelle*, 1915 *Poelkapelle*.

The name refers to a chapel within the domain of *Ten Poele* in Langemark. *Ten Poele* means 'at the pool, at the marsh'. *Poelkapelle* became an independent municipality in 1904, but was consolidated with Langemark into the municipality of Langemark-Poelkapelle in 1977.

## POPERINGE

844-864 *Pupurninga villa*, 877 *Pupurningahem*, 1040 *Poparingehem*, 1190 *Poperinghem*, 1218 *Poperinghe* (TW), 1903 *Poperinge* (DF).

The toponym *Poperinge* originally ended in *-ingaheem*. This common name type consists of three elements. The first part is a personal name, in particular the name of the chief of the Germanic clan that founded the settlement. The patronymic suffix *-ing* was used to derive a clan name from this personal name, with the plural genitive ending *-a*. The final part is *heem*, which means 'home'. The personal name in *Poperinge* is sometimes believed to be the Germanic name *Poppo*, a pet form of *Robrecht*, which survives in the surname *Poppe*. However, this is unlikely according to the phonetic laws, as we would expect *Poppingaheem* in that case,

without *r* and with *-pp-*. *Gysseling* therefore suggests a personal name derived from *\*pupurn-* which goes back to the root *\*peup-* 'child'. Already in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, the suffix *-heem* seems to have disappeared, perhaps by analogy with other names ending in *-inge* from the area such as *Vlamertinge*, *Boezinge* and *Elverdinge*.

## RAMSKAPELLE (NIEUWPOORT)

1120 *Ramescapella*, 1227 *Ramscappel*, 1915 *Ramskapelle*.

Named after a chapel founded by a person with the Germanic name *Hraban* or *Hramno*. Another village called *Ramskapelle*, currently a submunicipality of Knokke-Heist, is located in the northeast of West Flanders. Yet vernacular pronunciation distinguishes between both place names: *Ramskapelle* on the Yser is called *Ramskapel*, while its namesake is called *Ramskapelle*.

## RENINGE (LO-RENINGE)

877 kopie 12de *Rinenga*, 1085 kopie 12de *Rininge*, 1162 *Reninghe*, 1903 *Reninge*.

Just like *Boezinge*, *Reninge* was originally the name of a Germanic clan, named after its chief, *Rinno*. This name is a pet form of a Germanic name beginning with *ragin* such as *Reinbert*, *Reinhard* and *Reinboud*.

## RENINGELST (POPERINGE EN HEUVELLAND)

1107 *Rinigelles*, 1133 *Rinegels*, 1200 *Rininghelst*, 1391 *Reninghelst*, 1686 *Reningelst*

The modern form, a compound of the place name *Reninge* and *elst* 'alder wood', is misleading. As the oldest attestation indicates, *Reningelst* is in fact a compound of *Reninge* and the Old French diminutive suffix *-elle*. So the name means 'little Reninge'. As early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century, this foreign suffix was assimilated with the well-known Dutch word *elst*.

## SCHOORBAKKE (DIKSMUIDE)

1643 *Schoorebacke*, ca. 1680 *tot Schoorbacke*.

*Schoorbakke* is a hamlet of *Pervijze* on the Yser near Schore. The name is a compound of the place name *Schore* and the word *bak* (with dative ending), a Flemish derivation from Old French *bac*, which means 'ferry'. In *Schoorbakke* you could take the ferry to *Schore*. Nowadays, it is the location of the *Schoorbakkebrug* bridge.

## STADEN

1115? *Stathen*, 1183 *Staden*, 1552 *van Staen*, 1641 *Staden alias Staen*, 1818 *Staden*.

The name comes from Germanic *\*statha*, which became *stade* in Middle Dutch, and meant a bank or **landing place on a watercourse**. The name is etymologically identical to Old High German *stade* 'bank, shore', *Gestade* in modern German. In West Flemish it is pronounced *Staan*, with omission of the -d between the two vowels, cf. West Flemish *braan* and *laan* for Dutch *braden* (to roast) and *laden* (to load).

## STUIVEKENSKERKE (DIKSMUIDE)

1218 *Stuvinskerke*, 1350 *Stuveskerke*, 1459 *Stuvekens kerke*, 1494 *Stuvekinskerke*, 1903 *Stuivekenskerke*.

The oldest form, *Stuvinskerke*, clearly refers to a **church of a person called Stuvín**, a name that lives on in the surname *Stuyven*. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the pet suffix *-in* was replaced by the diminutive suffix *-kin*, which became *-ke* in Dutch. The shortened form *Stuvekins* evolved into *Stuuetjes* or *Stuigies* in the local dialect.

## TERVATE (DIKSMUIDE)

1180 *uate*, 1219 *Vatha*.

Tervate is a hamlet of Stuivekenskerke, currently part of the municipality of Diksmuide. The name is a compound of the preposition *ter* (contraction of *tot deer*) and the dative form of the word *vaat*, a dialect variant of *vat*. *Vat/vaat*'s original meaning 'container for holding or storing liquids' changed to a public well or a watering place in Flemish and Zeelandic dialects. Tervate therefore originally meant: **near the watering place**.

## VEURNE

877 kopie 961 *Furnis*, 1080-85 *Furnes*, 1110 *Furna*, 1237 *Veurne*, 1306 *Voerne*, 1324 *te Vorne*, 1686 *binnen Veuren*.

*Veurne* stems from a water name, but its age and original form are uncertain. In all likelihood, the name is etymologically identical or at least akin to the river names *Voer* (the name of two rivers, one in Limburg and one in Flemish Brabant) and *Vurre* (in Afsnee near Ghent), as well as *Voorne*, the name of a Dutch island. Gysseling initially thought this was the Germanic water name *\*Furno*, derived from the same root as *to fare* (Old English *faran*). In this case it would mean 'navigable water'. As a place name, this would have led to Old Germanic *\*Furnum* (in the plural dative) and the Romanic plural dative forms of *Furnis* and *Furnes*. In a later study about water names in the wide

European-Asian area of the Indo-European languages, Gysseling stated that *Veurne* and *Voer* go back to an older stratum than Germanic. He thought it was a prehistoric water name which he reconstructed as *\*Pur-ina*, a derivative from the Indo-European root *\*peur*, from which *puros* stems ('flame-coloured' in Greek and 'pure' in Latin). The equally prehistoric suffix *-ina* means 'water', as does *-ara* in *Ieper* (Ypres) and *IJzer* (Yser). According to this explanation, *Veurne* means **settlement on the red or pure water**. French river names *Rhône* and *Seine* were also formed with (a variant of) this suffix.

## VLADSLO (DIKSMUIDE)

992 kopie 11<sup>de</sup> eeuw *Frordeslo*, 1119 *Flardeslo*, 1150 *Fladreslo*, 1223 *Flartslo*, 1279 *Vlardselo*, 1529-38 *Vlaedzeele*, 1609 *Vladslo*.

Compound of the Germanic personal name *Frawarad* with genitive ending *-s*, and the word *lo*, which means 'woodland on higher sandy soil' in Flemish place names. So the village inherited its name from a **woodland that once belonged to Frawarad**. However, the locals of Vladslo and the surrounding area do not call the village *Vladslo* but *Vlazele* in their dialect. The latter form, which dates back to at least the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, developed spontaneously from *Vladslo* in popular speech. Due to the strong stress on the first syllable, the second syllable was reduced to *-le*, which occurred with various names ending in *-lo*, e.g. *Stavele* (West Flanders), *Ronsele* (East Flanders) and *Zoerle* (Antwerp). After this vocal reduction, the pronunciation became *vladzle* in line with the West Flemish assimilation rule whereby an *-s* preceding an *-l* changes into a voiced *z* (cf. West Flemish *vizleurder* instead of Standard Dutch *visleurder*). Yet the new form did not just have an obscure meaning, it was also difficult to pronounce because of the heavy consonant combination *-dzl-*. This was rectified by expelling the *-d-* (cf. dialectal variant *Dizele* for the West Flemish village of Dudzele) and inserting the long close-mid vowel /ee/ between *z* and *l*, which resulted in a new ending: *-zele*. This may have occurred by analogy with other place names in the area ending in *-zele* such as *Voormezele* and *Dadizele*. In written language, the original etymological form *Vladslo* remained predominant throughout the centuries and acquired official status.

## WESTROZEBEKE (STADEN)

1072 vals 12<sup>de</sup> eeuw *Rosebeke*, 1200 *Roosebeke*, 1299 *Droghe Rosebeke*, 1567 *Droochroosbeke*, 1652 *West roosebeque*, 1802 *West-Roosebeke*, 1915 *Westrozebeke*.

This village was originally called *Rozebeke* after a local brook. The first part stems from Germanic *\*rausa* 'reed', so Rozebeek was a **brook in which reed grew**.

The premodifier *West-* was added later on to distinguish it from another 'Rozebeke' located about 20km to the east, currently called *Oostrozebeke*.

## WIJTSCHATE (HEUVELLAND)

1069 *Widesgada*, 1080-85 *Wideschat*, 1224 *Widescate*, 1237 *Witscate*, 1313 *Wijtscate*, 1641 *Wijtschate*.

The root in this name is *gat*, which meant 'passageway, entrance' in Old and Middle Dutch (and still has this meaning in some Dutch dialects), cf. English *gate*. The first part is probably the Germanic personal name *Wido* in the genitive case. Another possibility is Middle Dutch *wide* 'osier', from which the synonymous West Flemish word *wiedouw* was derived. Wijtschate is therefore named after a **passage or entranceway** that either belonged to *Wido* or that was bordered with *osiers* or ran through such a woodland.

## ZARREN (KORTEMARK)

1089 *Sarra*, 1112 kopie 12<sup>de</sup> eeuw *Sarran*, ± 1185 *Zarren*.

Named after a local **brook** called *Zarre*. This prehistoric water name is derived from the Indo-European root *\*ser-/sor-* which means 'to flow, to stream' and is akin to the name of the Saar river (French: *Sarre*), a tributary of the Moselle in France and Germany.

## ZEEBRUGGE (BRUGGE)

This recent name dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the development of a seaport connected to the inland harbour of Bruges by means of a canal was begun. The port was founded within the limits of the municipality of Lissewege, currently incorporated into the city of Bruges. The name *Zeebrugge* was devised by officials and was written down for the first time in 1894, when the Belgian state, the city of Bruges and a few private investors entered into an agreement as to the construction and operation of the planned seaport.

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