

The cover features several stylized, light green leaf motifs scattered across the background. Each motif consists of a stem with two leaves pointing upwards and to the right.

# **MODERN EUROPEAN MILITARY FORTIFICATIONS, 1870–1950**

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**A Selective Annotated Bibliography**

**J. E. Kaufmann, Clayton Donnell**

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*Modern European Military  
Fortifications, 1870–1950*

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J. E. Kaufmann  
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Clayton Donnell

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## Introduction

This selected bibliography covers the greatest age of fortifications of the last two thousand years. During the development of civilization, technological change was generally slow to develop in many areas of engineering and warfare. Many examples can be noted from ships powered by sail and oar before the steam engine to various types of stone and projectile launching artillery before gunpowder. In the case of fortifications the dominant feature remained walls and towers for many centuries with only the type of construction material and the height of the structures varying. The most dramatic change came with the Industrial Revolution. Soon changes came to everything from the ship to even artillery three centuries after the use of gunpowder. Those modifications to both naval vessels and artillery brought drastic changes to the design of fortifications which resulted in walls being brought down closer to ground level and the new forts being largely subterranean structures. Most of these major changes took place between 1870 and 1950, the period that marks the last great age of fortification construction.

The development in the first half of the nineteenth century of the steam-powered warship with explosive shell brought changes to coastal fortifications after the Crimean War of the 1850s. Land fortifications also suffered heavily from the new types of artillery and ammunition that, after the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War, revealed a major change in design. The new forts relied more heavily on earthen protection than brick and stone. In the 1880s the high-explosive shell and the development of concrete resulted in forts being built with many subterranean features. In addition, armored components were developed to protect surface positions including the creation of weapons turrets.

By the beginning of World War I many key positions in Europe were ringed by forts which consisted of subterranean positions, gun turrets, concrete and armored casemates, and even moats with obstacles more akin to fortifications of the previous two thousand years. Before and during World War II great lines of fortifications were built. These included a variety of positions ranging from the

Maginot Line with its huge subterranean gun-bearing forts to the German West Wall which consisted of many small bunkers deployed in depth, and major obstacles including the first major anti-personnel minefields. Strangely, despite the new fortifications, the belligerents still used trenches for their defenses and these were similar to those of World War I and related to more ancient versions associated with siege warfare.

When World War II ended the British had introduced huge aerial bombs that included the Tall Boy and Grand Slam that could penetrate up to seven meters of the huge concrete roofs of German submarine pens. The Germans had also developed heavy artillery rounds to penetrate subterranean forts. The Americans created the atomic bomb that could destroy any fortification with only a near miss. The result was that in the 1950s, heavy fortifications were considered obsolete. Despite this, the Norwegians continued to use some of the coastal positions of the Atlantic Wall and the French restored several Maginot forts to service. Even the Czechs completed some of their unfinished forts of the Benes Line from the late 1930s. Basically, most positions were prepared for nuclear warfare and designed to serve as command centers. The age of massive gun-bearing fortifications had come to an end, although other types of fortified lines, more closely related to field fortifications, were used until the end of the century which included Israel's Bar Lev Line in 1973 and the Iraqi fortifications built in occupied Kuwait in 1991.

Nineteen Europeans, who in many cases are well known in their field of expertise, prepared this work. They have selected mainly the books and magazines that are available to the public. In most cases these are secondary sources since few primary sources are available through most libraries. The number of books on the subject of fortifications during this period of time is also rather limited, although in the case of topics like the Atlantic Wall there appears to be a massive amount of literature. Few magazines cover the topic of fortifications but we have listed some of these that usually contain some material on the subject.

There are also a number of Internet sites that maintain material on these fortifications. Unfortunately, the site addresses usually change so no list has been included. A simple search under the subject "fortifications" will produce the current locations for these sites including SITEO, an international research group devoted to fortifications, to which all the participants in this project belong.

# 1

## Great Britain

From 1870 until the end of the nineteenth century, the defense of the British Isles largely rested on the power of the Royal Navy and the fortifications erected in the mid-nineteenth century around the major docks and harbours. The defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian war led to a relaxation in the need for anti-invasion measures.

The introduction of the Moncrieff disappearing gun carriage in 1870 led to the creation of new emplacements on fortifications to receive the installation which enabled artillery to be mounted below parapet level, to be elevated on firing. In 1882 a steam operated twin gun turret was installed at Dover, but the design was not repeated elsewhere.

The late 1880s saw the introduction of mobilization centers around the British capital. Reinforced brick and concrete store buildings, plus earthworks surrounded London as an anti-invasion measure. At Chatham, a number of ring forts were built to protect this important naval base, and the use of concrete began to be used in the construction of the fortifications.

The beginning of the twentieth century saw the updating of the fortifications along the East Coast of Britain and the introduction of breech-loading artillery. The 9.2-inch and 6-inch guns would form the basis of heavy coast artillery batteries until the standing down of coast artillery in 1956.

The commencement of war on the continent of Europe in 1914 again saw the revival of anti-invasion measures. Additional coastal batteries in concrete emplacements were built, their landward sides protected by barbed wire, field defenses, and pillboxes, the latter also covering areas vulnerable to enemy landings. The defeat of Germany in 1918 led to a relaxation in defenses and a reliance on the power of the Royal Navy.

In 1940 the German victories in France and the Low Countries led to emergency measures. Emergency batteries, mines, pillboxes, and barbed wire protected the coast of Britain. Inland “stop lines,” often following rivers or canals, acted as anti-tank barriers reinforced by pillboxes and roadblocks. By the end of 1940, this accent on static defenses had been discredited and a more fluid system introduced, relying on centers of resistance and “anti-tank islands”. Anti-aircraft batteries were built at the beginning of the war, some remaining in commission until 1956.

The capture by the Germans of the Channel Islands in 1940 led to their fortification on a grand scale. Powerful coastal batteries and field fortifications meant that the islands now formed a part of the Nazi Atlantic Wall.

### GENERAL SUBJECT BOOKS

GB 1. Kightly, Charles. *Strongholds*. London: BCA . 1979. 208pp

The author, helped by many photographs and some plans covers the defenses of Britain from prehistory to the present day. B/W photos. English text. BL

GB-2. Burridge, David. *Twentieth Century Defences in Britain: Kent*. London: Brassey's, 1997. 85 pp.

A detailed look at the defenses of this vital region from World War II through the Cold War. There are numerous B/W photos and some maps. English text. JH

GB-3. Hughes, Quentin. *Military Architecture*. Liphook, UK: Beaufort Publications Ltd., 1974. 256 pp.

Though this work does not cover British works exclusively, it is an excellent guide to both the strategy behind the construction of fortifications as well as a gazetteer of locations. Includes 179 B/W photos plus plans and drawings. English text. JH

GB-4. Hogg, Ian. *The History of Fortification*. London: Orbis Publishing, 1981. 256 pp.

An excellent general guide to the development of fortifications. Though it concentrates on British-built fortifications world wide, this book covers a wide diversity of types. The history is right up to date and includes such things as the defended police stations in Northern Ireland and an ICBM silo. Includes 199 B/W photos, 44 Color photos, plans and maps. English text. JH

GB-5. Lowry, Bernard (editor). *20th Century Defences In Britain, An Introductory Guide*. York, UK: Council for British Archaeology, 1995. 145 pp.

English Language, 84 B & W photos. A general guide to military archaeology, research, sources, and structure types. An excellent introduction to the subject. English text. JH

GB- 6. Saunders, Andrew. *Fortress Britain*. Liphook: Beaufort Publishing Ltd., 1989. 256 pp.

Covering the whole of the United Kingdom, this excellent guide to the major fortifications from the earliest times to the end of W.W.II. Includes 139 B/W photos and a large number of plans, drawings and maps. English text. JH

### **COAST DEFENSES - GENERAL**

GB-7. Burrige, David. "The Western Heights Defences, Dover," *Fortress*, Issue 9, 1991.

An excellent and detailed study of this most important defense site by the leading authority on Dover defenses. English text. JH

GB-8. Caldwell, Anthony and Peter Sprack. "The Sandown Bay Defences", *Fortress*, Issue 7, 1990.

A study of the attempt to defend this vital part of the Isle of White coast over four hundred years. English text. JH

GB-9. Clarke, David and Alan Rudd. "Tyneside in the Breech Loading Era," *Fortress*, Issue 3, 1989.

Survey of coast defenses in the Tyne area from the late nineteenth century to the end of W.W.II. English text. JH

GB-10. Fox, Russell. "Portsmouth's Ramparts Revisited," *Fortress*, Issue 11, 1991.

An archaeological study of the defenses of this important naval port. English text. JH

GB-11. Hogg, Ian V. *Coast Defences of England and Wales 1856-1956*. Newton Abbot, UK: David & Charles, 1974. 264 pp.

A detailed gazetteer of artillery fortifications. Though time has shown the text to be inaccurate on some points, still a very valuable guide. 20 B/W photos plus drawings, plans and maps. English text. JH

GB-12. Kent, Peter. "East Anglian Fortifications in the Twentieth Century," *Fortress*, Issue 3, 1989

Coastal defense in East Anglia during W.W.I and World War II. English text. JH

GB-13. Maurice-Jones, Col. K.W. *The History of Coast Artillery in the British Army* London: Royal Artillery Institution, 1956. 237 pp.

A detailed study of British coastal artillery world wide, detailing armaments and units, though very little about fortifications. Separate folder with 6 maps. Maps and location listed in the text. English text. JH

GB-14. Pye, Andrew & Freddy Woodward. *The Historic Defenses of Plymouth*. Truro Cornwall County Council Planning, 1996. 248 pp.

Though this book deals with a very limited area, it is an excellent guide to the most heavily defended naval port in the United Kingdom. A large number of B/W photos, maps and plans. The majority of sites in the city are illustrated. English text. JH

GB-15. Saunders, Andrew. *Channel Defenses*. London: B.T. Batsford, 1997. 128 pp.

A well structured study of the fortifications on the English Channel coastline from Henry VIII to the twentieth century. Maps and drawings, plus 52 photos in B/W and 12 in color. English text. JH

### **1870-1918**

GB-16. Burrige, David. "The Arming of the Dover Turret," *Fortress*, Issue 4, 1990.

A fascinating look at the only armoured turret to be constructed in the United Kingdom during the late nineteenth century. English text. JH

GB- 17. Burrige, David. *Twentieth Century Defenses in Britain: Kent*. London: Brassey's, 1997. 85 pp.

A detailed look at the defenses of this vital region from W.W.II through the Cold War. There are numerous B/W photos and some maps. English text. JH

GB-18. Cantwell, Anthony and David Moore. "The Victorian Army and Submarine Mining" *Fortress*, Issue 18, 1993.

A very rare study of a common defense system installed in the majority of harbor approaches during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. English text. JH

GB-19. Clements, W.H. *Towers of Strength*: Yorkshire: Pen and Sword, 1999. 192pp

Martello Towers Worldwide. A detailed description of the evolution, building, and history of the Martello tower in the British Isles and overseas. B/W illustrations. English Text. BL

GB-20. Fleming, Peter. *Invasion 1940*. London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1957. 323 pp.

A study in detail of the German plans for the invasion of Britain and British measures to defend her. Includes 23 B/W photos. English text. JH

GB-21. Grimsley, E.J. *The Historical Development*. Guernsey: Sarnian Publications, 1988. 96pp

The book describes the circular towers built in the Channel Islands, some of which pre-date the building of the English Martello towers, and their subsequent history. B/W illustrations plus plans. English text. BL

GB-22. Mitchell, Garry. *The Solent Papers*. Kent: G H Mitchell (self published). 1988. 34pp, plans.

A series of papers covering the Solent fortifications: No1 Spit Bank and the Spithead Forts; No2 The Needles Defences; No3 Fort Nelson and the Portsdown Forts; No4 Halsea Lines and Portsbridge; No5 Fort Gilkicker

GB-23. Woodward, Freddy. *Forts or Follies? A History of Plymouth's Palmerston Forts*. Devon: Halsgrove, 1997. 192pp

An examination of the military viability of the Palmerston-era defences in light of the threat to England from her European enemies. English text. B/W illustrations. BL

## **WORLD WAR TWO**

GB-24. Alexander, Colin. *Ironsides Line*. Storrington, UK: Historic Military Press, 1998. 152 pp.

Covering the prime defense line built in Britain during 1940. This book illustrates all the various structure types, and includes a detailed gazetteer. Maps, plans and 45 B/W photos. English text. JH

GB-25. Anonymous. *Roof Over Britain: The Official Story of the AA Defenses 1939-42*. London: HMSO, 1943. 88pp

The wartime history of the rapid development of British anti-aircraft defenses in response to the Luftwaffe bombing campaign. B/W illustrations. English text. BL

GB-26. Bird, Christopher. "The Fixed Defenses of North and East Norfolk in the Two World Wars", *Journal of the Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society*. Published in two parts, Volume 5, No.1 1991 and Volume 5, No.2 1992.

A study of a small area of front line Britain. A well-researched article detailing the typical defense of Britain during the period of the two wars. English text. JH

GB-27. Gavey, Ernie. *A Guide to German Fortifications in Guernsey*. Guernsey: Armories, 1997. 88 pp.

The guide introduces the reader to the many remains of German fortifications on the island of Guernsey in the Channel Islands. There are many interesting, contemporary photographs included. B/W illustrations plus plans. English text. BL

GB-28. Costard, Matthew (ed.). *Jersey's German Bunkers*. Jersey Channel Islands Occupation Society. 1999. 170pp.

A detailed account of the German fortifications of the island of Jersey. There are many plan drawings, contemporary photographs and illustrations of restored bunkers and their equipment. B/W illustrations plus plans. English text. BL

GB-29. Greeves, I.D. "The Construction of the GHQ Stop-Line, Eridge to Newhaven, June -November 1949," *Fortress*, Issue 16, 1993.

A most unusual article concerning a stretch of W.W.II defenses written by the civil engineer who actually laid out the line of pillboxes. English text. JH

GB-30. Hellis, John. "The Taunton Stop-Line," *Fortress*, Issue 14, 1992.

An analysis of an important element of Britain's defense against invasion in 1940, with a description of the surviving remains. English text. JH

GB-31. Mallory, Keith and Arvid Ottar. *Walls of War: A History of Military Architecture in NW Europe 1900-45*, London: Astragal Books, 1973. 307 pp.

The authors describe in a comprehensive fashion the fortifications of Europe in the twentieth century. The main part of the work is devoted to works of the W.W. II period. B/W illustrations plus many maps and plans. English text. BL

GB-32. Turner, Frank R. *The Maunsell Sea Forts (Parts 1 and 2)*. Kent: F R Turner (self published), 1995. 180 pp per vol.

The author traces the design, development, wartime service, and subsequent history of the sea forts designed by the engineer Guy Maunsell in W.W.II. B/W illustrations. English text. BL

Part 1 - The W.W.II Naval Sea Forts of the Thames Estuary

Part 2 - The W.W.II Army Sea Forts of the Thames and Mersey Estuaries

GB-33. Partridge, Colin and Trevor Davenport. *The Fortifications of Alderney*. Alderney: Alderney Publishers, 1993. 128pp.

The authors describe the fortifications of the island from earliest times, through the extensive re-fortification of the Victorian era and up to the work carried out by the German occupiers in W.W.II. Bereft of its civilian population, Alderney in W.W. II was converted into a true fortress island. B/W illustrations. English text. BL

GB-34. Ramsay, Winston G. *The War in the Channel Islands -Then and Now*. London. After the Battle Publications, 1981. 254pp.

Profusely illustrated with contemporary photographs of the Islands under occupation, plus current comparison shots, this book contains many illustrations of the only fortifications erected by Germany on British soil. It is not a book on the fortifications solely but the many illustrations place the works in their island context and the text tells of the occupation. B/W illustrations. English text. BL

GB-35. Smith, David J. *Britain's Military Airfields 1939-45*. Wellingborough, UK: Patrick Stephens Limited , 1989. 249 pp.

Though primarily concerned with the airfields, there are important chapters on airfield defense, buildings, bombing ranges, etc. Approximately 220 B/W photos plus maps and drawings. English text. JH

GB-36. Ward, Arthur. *Resisting the Nazi Invader*. London . Constable and Co., 1997. 132 pp.

A lively account, profusely illustrated in color, of the British attempts to thwart a German invasion in 1940. Contains a description and photographs of W.W.II anti-invasion defenses. B/W and color illustrations. English text. BL

GB-37. Wills, Henry. *Pillboxes*. Trowbridge, UK: Leo Cooper, 1985. 98 pp.

Detailed study of the design and use of pillboxes in the United Kingdom. Numerous drawings, plans and maps and 78 B/W photos. English text. JH

GB-38. Wood, Derek. *Attack Warning Red*. Portsmouth: Carmichael & Sweet, 1992. 390 pp.

English Language. 72 B/W photos, numerous drawings and maps. The most complete history of the Royal Observer Corps, detailing organization, buildings, and locations. English text. JH.

## BRITISH EMPIRE

GB-39. Harris, Dr. E. C. *Bermuda Forts 1612-1957*. Bermuda: Bermuda Maritime Museum Press 1997. 358pp.

A detailed and profusely illustrated account of the fortifications of the British colony of Bermuda. English text. BL

GB-40. Hughes, Quentin C. *Malta: A Guide to the Fortifications*. Malta: Said International Ltd., Malta, 1993. 293pp.

Illustrated with many plans and photographs, the author describes on a site-by-site basis the island's fortifications which span the period from medieval times up to the period of the siege of the island in the last war. English text. BL

GB-41. Hughes, Quentin C. *Britain in the Mediterranean and The Defense of her Naval Stations*. Liverpool: Penpaed Books, 1981.

A detailed description of the four-hundred-year period of the British naval presence in the Mediterranean and the fortifications built to defend that presence. B/W illustrations and plans. English text. BL

GB-42. Spiteri, Stephen C. *British Military Architecture in Malta*. Vellela, Malta: Self published, 1996. 561 pp.

A very detailed study of the Maltese defenses, with what seems like complete coverage of every site on the island. Includes 597 B/W photos and prints, 26 color photos. English text. JH

## France

### THE MAGINOT LINE

During World War I the French had lost confidence in their late nineteenth century forts after seeing the quick destruction of the Belgian forts at Liège in August 1914. The battle of Verdun proved to them that their forts were much stronger and more effective than those of the Belgians. When the war ended the military was divided on what policy to take in defending their borders. They finally concluded that a new defensive line on the Northeast Front should consist of larger forts based on the experiences of Verdun instead of lighter fortifications and a more elastic defensive system. The period between the wars was devoted mainly to building what became known as the “Maginot Line” as the solution to any future threats from Germany or Italy.

The line of fortifications, when completed in the late 1930s, consisted of two fortified regions between the city of Longuyon in Lorraine and along the banks of the Rhine River below Strasbourg. A gap existed between these two regions in the Sarre River flood zone, which was only lightly defended. The fortifications of the Maginot Line in these sectors consisted of large and small ouvrages (forts) with the former mounting medium and light artillery. The ouvrages were subterranean forts that formed the core of the line. Between these ouvrages were interval positions consisting of casemates, blockhouses, and observatories. In front of the main line of resistance was a series of outposts designed to give early warning and delay the enemy. To the rear was a “Stop Line” of light fortifications, which was not completed. The sectors along the Rhine River were defended by lines of casemates, but no ouvrages.

In the late 1930s, additional fortifications known as “New Front” were created and consisted of modified designs of fortifications. One of the fortified regions, Région Fortifiée Lauter, was extended toward the Sarre Gap with several small ouvrages. Another section was created known as the “Maginot Extension”

which consisted of two small and two large ouvrages along a section of the Belgian border and separated from the Maginot Line Proper by a lightly defended gap in the vicinity of Montmédy. The last ouvrage on the extension was the small fort of Villy-La Ferté located just to the south of the point of the German breakthrough in May 1940 and the first ouvrage to be attacked and captured. Also, around Maubeuge several old forts were strengthened and turned into small ouvrages. These also fell to the Germans in 1940. The main forts of the Maginot Line (not including the New Fronts) were attacked by the Germans in June 1940, but German troops, after the French field army had withdrawn, simply overran the lightly defended Sarre sector and took several small ouvrages from the rear. Late in 1944 the Germans used some of the ouvrages against the Allies.

On the Southeast Front between Switzerland and the Mediterranean, several fortified sectors in the Alpine region covered the major passes from France into Italy. This has sometimes been called the “Little Maginot Line.” The ouvrages here were of a different design than those of the Northeast. The strongest sectors were at Modane, Briançon, and the Maritime Alps sector which extended from north of Sospel south to Menton on the coast near Nice. The defenses in the Southeast successfully repelled the 1940 Italian offensive.

The coastal defenses of France were not greatly improved during the period between the wars. During World War I some positions such as the port of Brest were disarmed. The coastal defenses were concentrated around the ports. The Germans took over these positions and incorporated many of them in their Atlantic Wall.

After World War II many of these World War II-era fortifications were abandoned, but a number of the Maginot ouvrages became headquarters sites for the French military.

FR-1. Armand-Masson, Claude. *Ligne Maginot, bastion inutile*. Cueno, Italy: Editions Sercap, 1985.

This is one of the first accounts of a French Maginot-Line soldier. Edited a few times after the 1939-1940 war, the original title *La Veille Inutile* (the useless wall) was changed to *Ligne Maginot, bastion inutile* for propaganda purposes. This is the story of an isolated infantry casemate located near the fortress of Bréhain written by a member of its crew. Very interesting. French text. PL

FR-2. Beraud, Henri. *Bataille des Alpes Album Memorial: Juin 1940 – 1944/45*. Bayeux, France: Editions Heimdal. 1987. 477 pp.

A most interesting work covering all the wartime operations on the French Southeast Front in W.W.II with information on the Maginot fortifications. Numerous B/W photos, plans and maps. French text. JEK

FR-3. Bruge, Roger. *Faites sauter la Ligne Maginot*. Paris: Editions Fayard, 1973. 445 pp.

The first part of Bruge's series of books, *Histoire de la Ligne Maginot*. Bruge presents the history of the combat that occurred in the Maginot Line before the 1940 armistice. Almost no technique other than a large amount of accounts from veterans without proper evaluation of their stories. He refers to the Maginot Line's history from the point of view of a historian as well as from the point of view of the soldier. This book is mainly for the Maginot enthusiast. Some B/W photos and a few maps. French text. PL

FR-4. Bruge, Roger. *On a livré la Ligne Maginot*. Paris: Editions Fayard, 1975. 380 pp.

Second part of the series *Histoire de la Ligne Maginot*. This book covers the surrender of the fortifications after the armistice. It is well documented as is the previous book and is also a book for the Maginot enthusiast. Some B/W photos and maps. French text. PL.

FR-5. Bruge, Roger. *Offensive sur le Rhin*. Paris: Editions Fayard, 1977. 330 pp.

Third part of the series *Histoire de la Ligne Maginot*. This volume is dedicated to the German attack on the Rhine against the casemates and blockhouses that made up the Rhine Defenses. As well documented as the previous books and provides details of the German Rhine attack. Some B/W photos and maps. French text. PL

FR-6. Chazette, Alain. "La batterie du Bas-Grognon". *Fortifications & Patrimoine*, No 8, October 1998, pp 25-29.

This article describes the use of this coastal defense position from the 1870s through World War II. B/W photos and plans. French text. PL

FR-7. Chazette, Alain. "Le secteur fortifié de fort Lapin/Bleriot-plage." *39-45 Magazine*, No 166, April 2000, pp 52-61.

Although this article is primarily concerned with the German defense of this position near Calais, it does include information on the French coastal defenses from the 1870s until the fall of France in 1940. Photos, plans and maps. French text. PL

FR-8. Chazette, Alain. "Les defenses de Bonifacio entre 1887 et 1941." *39-45 Magazine*, No 152, February 1999, pp 52-61.

The article describes the coastal defenses of Bonifacio until 1940 when they were turned over to the Italians. Photos, drawings and maps. French text. PL

FR-9. Cima, Bernard and Raymond Cima. *Ouvrage du Barbonnet*. Menton, France: Auto-Edition, 1988. 48 pp.

This is one of a series of booklets put out by the Cimas describing several of the Maginot ouvrages in the Alpine regions. French text. Numerous photos and plans in B/W. French text. JEK

FR-10. Cima, Bernard and Raymond Cima. *Ouvrage de Sainte-Agnes*. Menton, France: Auto-Edition, 1990. 64 pp.

One of the Cima booklets on the Maginot ouvrages detailing this key position which helped repel the Italian invasion along the coast in 1940. Numerous photos and drawings in B/W. French text. JEK

FR-11. Cima, Bernard and Raymond Cima. *Ouvrage L'Agaisien*. Menton, France: Auto-Edition, 1994. 24 pp.

This booklet describes the fort of Agaisien near Sospel. Several B/W photos, maps and drawings. French text. PL

FR-12. Cima, Bernard and Raymond Cima. *Sopsel, Ouvrage de Sainte Roche*. Menton, France: Auto-Edition, 1989. 48 pp.

This booklet describes the ouvrage of Sainte Roche outside of Sospel. B/W photos, maps and plans. French text. PL

FR-13. Cima, Bernard and Raymond Cima and Michel Truttmann. *Ouvrage du St. Martin/O.T.C.F. 1939*. Menton, France: Auto-Edition, 1989. 23 pp.

Half the booklet covers the last ouvrage on the Southeast Front that rests on the Mediterranean and the other half covers the O.T.C.F. radio that was used in the Alps. Many B/W photos and other drawings. French text. PL

FR-14. Cima, Bernard and Raymond Cima and Michel Truttmann. *June 1940-La Glorieuse Defense du Pont Saint-Louis*. Menton, France: Auto-Edition, 1995. 23 pp.

This is about the Avant Poste of Saint-Louis and how it resisted the Italians until the armistice was signed. B/W photos and drawings. French text. PL

FR-15. Claudel, Louis. *La Ligne Maginot: conception-réalisation*. Lausanne, Switzerland: Association Saint Maurice la Recherche de Documents Sur la Forteresse, 1974. 30 pp.

This small booklet describes the layout and organization of the Maginot Line. French text. JEK

FR-16. Collin, Lt. Col. Georges and Jean-Bernard Wahl. *La Ligne Maginot en Basse Alsace*. France: Association des Amis de la Ligne Maginot d'Alsace, 1981. 66 pp.

This booklet briefly describes the Maginot fortifications in Alsace. French text. JEK

FR-17. Colonel X. *La Ligne Maginot, bouclier de la France*. Paris: Nouvelles éditions Excelsior, 1939. 120pp.

Pure pre-World War II propaganda containing little information about the Maginot line. It is interesting since it is representative of what was said to the world about the French fortified system before the war and how they distorted the truth about the actual composition of the fortifications. French text. PL

FR-18. Comte, David. "La Ligne Maginot dans les Alpes - l'exemple de Roche-la-Croix." *Fortifications & Patrimoine*, No 10, April 1999, pp 36-39.

This article briefly covers the fort of Roche-le-Croix and its dominant position in covering the Col de Larche in the Alps. Several B/W photos. French text. PL

FR-19. Depret, Julien. "Le secteur fortifié de Maubeuge face à l'invasion de mai 1940 (parts 1 and 2)." *39-45 Magazine*, No 155, May 1999, pp 52-61 and No 156, June 1999, pp 52-61.

This article details the combat operations against the forts of Maubeuge in May 1940. Photos, charts, plans and maps. French text. PL

FR-20. Depret, Julien. "Les Casemates nouveaux fronts du secteur fortifié Escaut (part 1 and 2)." *39-45 Magazine*, No 164 February 2000, pp 54-63 and No 165, March 2000, pp 56-61.

This article describes the casemates used on the sector of Escaut with maps, plans and diagrams. French text. PL

FR-21. Ferrard Stephane. *L'Armement de L'Infanterie Française 1918-1940*. Paris: Argout Editions, 1979. 72pp.

This book covers not just infantry weapons, but the small arms used by the troops manning the fortifications of France. Excellent reference. Numerous B/W photos. French text. PL

FR-22. Ferrard, Stéphane. *France 1940: L'Armement Terrestre*. Boulogne, France: E.T.A.I., 1998. 340pp.

This book covers all the major weapons used by the French in 1940 and includes fortress artillery, signals equipment, and descriptions of the rail artillery used to support the Maginot Line. Many photos including some showing mountings and how the weapons were mounted in the fortifications. French text. JEK

FR-23. Francois, Guy. "Les pieces de cote francaises du calibre 240 - Guerre de 1876 à 1940." *Fortifications & Patrimoine*, No 9, January 1999, pp 9-16.

A description of the main type of naval coastal artillery used by France for almost a century. Includes a listing of positions where it was installed. Photos and drawings. French text. PL

FR-24. Gaber, Stéphane. *Le secteur fortifié de Montmédy, 1935-1940*. Metz, France: Editions Serpenoise, 2000. 135pp.

One of the rare publications dedicated to the "New Fronts" sectors. This work describes not only the well-known ouvrage of La Ferté but also the other components of this sector that were evacuated after the disaster of La Ferté. French text. PL

FR-25. Gaber, Stéphane. *La Lorraine Fortifiée*. Metz, France: Editions Serpenoise, 1994. 170 pp.

In this book the author presents the fortifications that can be found in the French region Lorraine. These include the old nineteenth century Séré-de-Rivières line, including the Verdun forts, and the 1900-1916 German fortifications. The Maginot Line positions in the region are also covered in detail. Many excellent B/W photos and some in color. This is a good book to use as an introduction to the various fortified systems, but of little value to specialists. French text. PL

FR-26. Gamelin, Paul. *La Ligne Maginot: images d'hier et d'aujourd'hui*. Paris: Arguit Editions, 1979. 220 pp.

This is a well illustrated book covering the Maginot Line. Many B/W photos. French text. PL

FR-27. Hohnadel, Alain. *Le fort aux fresques A24*. France: Soldats de France, 1994.

Monograph of the well-known ouvrage du Bois de Bousse. Includes photos of the numerous frescos painted on the walls of this small fortification which were made by the garrison in 1939-1940. French text. PL

FR-28. Hohnadel, Alain. "Le toit de la Ligne Maginot: les ouvrages de Restefond". *39-45 Magazine*, No 160, October 1999, pp 52-62

This article details the history of the Maginot positions guarding the region of Restefond. Color and B/W photos and plans. French text. PL

FR-29. Hohnadel, Alain & Michel Truttmann. *Guide de la Ligne Maginot: des Ardennes au Rhin, dans les Alpes*. Bayeux, France: Editions Heimdal, 1988. 96pp.

A good book including an overview of the Maginot Line with the "how" and "why." The second part of this work is a description of the most accessible elements of the Line open to the public. Many photos in B/W, maps, and plans. This is the kind of book designed for specialists as well as for the basic fortifications enthusiast. French text. PL

FR-30. Hohnadel, Alain & Jean-Louis Goby. *La mémoire des forts*. France: Editions Serpenoise, 1990. 98 pp

The purpose of this book is to present the frescoes drawn on the walls of the old German forts of Metz and the Maginot Line. It is thus not dedicated only to the post-W.W.I period but also to the 1914-1918 period. Many color photos of the drawings made by French and German soldiers during W.W.I and W.W.II. The index includes an interesting list of all the forts where drawings or graffiti can be found, although all of them are not described in the book. French text. PL

FR-31. Hohnadel, Alain and R. Varoqui. *Le Fort du Hackenberg*. Metz: AMIFORT, 1986. 53 pp.

This work is a brief history and description of the large ouvrage of Hackenberg, one of the largest in the Maginot Line. Many photos and illustrations. French text. PL

FR-32. Kaufmann, J.E. "La Ligne Maginot les services secrets allemands." *39-45 Magazine*, No. 168, June 2000, pp 50-62.

The article describes the type of intelligence information the Germans had on the Maginot Line fortifications between 1936 and 1940 with much information taken from a series of German reports made in 1936 and 1937. Also included are some illustrations taken from the German documents. French text. PL

FR-33. Kaufmann, J.E. "The Maginot Line- German intelligence before the war." *FORT*, Volume 26, 1998, pp 199-231.

Same as the article in *39-45 Magazine* except some of the illustrations are different. English text. CD

FR-34. Kaufmann, J.E. and H.W. Kaufmann. *The Maginot Line*. Westport, CT: Praeger/Greenwood, 1997, pp 151.

The book describes the Maginot Line from its creation to its use in W.W.II. Some sections describe the French forts in detail. About 25 illustrations. English text. CD

FR-35. Kaufmann, J.E. and Robert Jurga. *Fortress Europe: European Fortifications of W.W.II*. Conshohocken, PA: Combined Publishing, 1999. 431pp.

The book includes a chapter on France that covers the Maginot Line, The Maginot Extension, the Maubeuge sector, The Little Maginot Line and the Coast defenses. Several B/W photos, plans and maps. English text. PL

FR-36. Kemp, Anthony. *The Maginot Line*. London: Fredrick Warne, 1981. 120 pp.

The second English book on the subject, but provides only a very general account with few details on the Maginot Line. Many B/W photos. PL

FR-37. Koch, Olivier. *Le Petit Ouvrage de Rohrbach*. France: Privately Published, 1995. 125 pp.

Monograph of the Maginot fort of Rohrbach, also known as Fort Casso. An excellent book that will satisfy the basic tourist or Maginot enthusiast, as well as the fortifications specialist. The author's many diagrams and pictures of the fort and its equipment make this book a superior reference on the subject of the "New Fronts" designs of the Maginot Line. The historical section is well done and there are also accounts from veterans who served in the period of May to June 1940 when the ouvrages on the left flank of ouvrage Simserhof came under attack. Many B/W photos, some color photos along with plans and maps. French text. PL

FR-38. Koch, Olivier, "La tourelle mitrailleuse modele 1935 sur la Ligne Maginot" (Parts 1 and 2). *39-45 Magazine*, No 153, February, pp 54-61 and No 154, March 1999, pp 56-61.

This article details the model 1935 machine gun turret used in the Maginot ouvrages. It includes color photos, charts, illustrations and plans. French text. PL

FR-39. Kupka, Vladimir. *Průvodce Po Maginotové Línii*. Czech Republic: FORT print, 1997. 88 pp.

This small booklet covers the history of the Maginot Line, its design and components. Most of the information is taken directly from French sources. Numerous photos and several plans. Czech text. JEK

FR-40. Lempereur, Guy. *Le môle fortifié de Maulde*. France: Association Maginot Escaut.

This is one of the few publications about the Maginot fortifications along the Belgian border. It describes the old fort of Maulde and its improvements. French text. PL

FR-41. Mary, Jean-Yves. *La Ligne Maginot, ce qu'elle était, ce qu'elle en reste*. Cueno, Italy: Editions Sercap, 1980, 355 pp.

This was the first detailed book to appear with relatively good information on the ouvrages of the Maginot Line from the English Channel to the Mediterranean. The publication of this work hindered future writers since many plans, although simple, were published without official permission and at the time they were still considered restricted information by the French government. The author, a Belgian, collaborated with others on this project, including Roger Bruge and Philippe Truttmann. The book is a key reference for enthusiasts and specialists. The first part describes the history of the conception of the Maginot Line, the technical aspects of the forts, the equipment and the troops. The second part of the book contains simple plans, and a few detailed ones, which cover all of the Maginot ouvrages. Examples of the smaller types of fortifications are also included. There are numerous B/W photos and many plans, maps and other types of illustrations that are all of value as a quick reference. French text. PL & JEK

FR-42. Mary, Jean-Yves. *Quelque parts sur la Ligne Maginot*. Cueno, Italy: Editions Sercap, 1985. 105 pp.

This is a history of the ouvrage de Fermont written by a member of the association that restored and opened this fort to the public. This was the first of the large forts turned over to civilians for use as a tourist attraction. It was also one of the few ouvrages to see combat in 1940. French text. PL

FR-43. Mary, Jean-Yves and Alain Hohnadel. *Hommes et ouvrages de la Ligne Maginot*. Paris: Editions Histoires et Collections, 2000. 182 pp.

The first volume in a series of books by two well-known specialists which will be completed after 2000. Well detailed, with many photos and drawings. Includes descriptions of the infantry of the Maginot Line with coverage of each unit. A reference for anyone interested in the Maginot Line. Many photos (B/W and color), plans, maps and other illustrations, all of excellent quality. French text. PL

FR-44. Ministero Della Difesa. *La battaglia delle Alpi Occidentali: Giugno 1940*. Rome: Ministero Della Difesa, 1947.

This is the official Italian government account of their operations against the Maginot Line in the Alpine sectors. Also includes information on an attempt to outflank the French defenses by a seaborne assault. Italian text. JEK

FR-45. Nord, Pierre. *Double crime sur la Ligne Maginot*. Paris: Editions Le Masque, 1936. 240 pp.

Fictional story of espionage in a fort of the Maginot Line. This is a significant piece of World War II propaganda. PL

FR-46. Pallud, Jean-Paul. "The Maginot Line." Issue No. 60 of *After the Battle*, 1988, pp 1-40.

This magazine devotes most of this issue to the forts of the Maginot Line that were engaged in battle during 1939-1940. Some interesting data and drawings. Includes photos that compare the fortifications as they appear today to what they looked like in the 1930s. Many B/W photos. PL

FR-47. Plan, E. and Eric Lefevre. *La bataille des Alpes: 10-25 juin 1940*. Paris: Charles-Lavauzelle, 1982. 121 pp.

The authors present an excellent account of the Italian operations against the French Maginot fortifications of the Southeast Front. Some illustrations. French text. JEK

FR-48. Reberac, Fabien. "Le désarmement des batteries de rupture casematées du goulet de Brest en 1915 et 1917," (parts 1 and 2). *Fortifications & Patrimoine*, No 11, July 1999, pp36-44 and No 12, October 1999, pp 13-17.

The article is about the batteries of Brest that were built in the 1880s and disarmed during W.W.I.

FR-49. Rocolle, Pierre. *2000 ans de la fortification française*. Paris: Charles-Lavauzelle, 1982. 227 pp.

This oversized work covers the major fortifications of France giving some interesting detail on the origins of the Maginot Line and its basic layout. French text. PL

FR-50. Rocolle, Pierre. "La chute de l'ouvrage de La Ferté en 1940." *Revue du Génie Militaire*, September-October 1948.

One of the first accounts of the fall of the small fort of La Ferté, located on the end of the Maginot Line Extension. French text. PL

FR-51. Rocolle, Pierre. *Le béton a-t-il trahi? Historique de la Ligne Maginot et la Ligne Mareth*. Paris: Mirambeau, 1950. 95 pp.

Early post-war account of the history of the Maginot Line and a related fortification, the Mareth Line, in North Africa. French text. PL

FR-52. Rodolphe, René. *Combats dans la Ligne Maginot*. Paris: Editions Ponsot, 1949. 204 pp.

This is an account of the combat that took place in the Vosges Mountains of Alsace by the artillery commander of the Maginot ouvrage of Hochwald in 1940. Some illustrations. French text. PL

FR-53. Roudier, Jean-François. *Le Cap Aux 340*. Paris: Première, 2000. Vol 1, 285 pp. Vol 2, 310 pp.

These volumes give a detailed history and description of the 340mm gun turrets at Toulon. Also included is a large amount of information on French coastal defenses from the end of W.W.I up to the German invasion of 1940. Over 600 photos and 180 plans, maps, and drawings. French text. PL

FR-54. Rowe, Vivian. *The Great Wall of France*. New York: Putman and Sons, 1961. 328 pp.

This is the first English book written on the Maginot Line. It presents few details but gives a good history of the campaign. Few illustrations. English text. JEK

FR-55. Schwartz, Serge and Francois Klein. *Simserhof: Ouvrage d'artillerie de la ligne Maginot*. Paris: Citedis Editions, 1998. 46 pp.

This booklet is a brief history and description of the Maginot fort of Simserhof. It has many color photos and some plans. French text. PL

FR-56. Truttman, Michel. *Le fort de Guentrange*. Terville, France: Ville de Thionville, 1977. 32 pp.

This booklet describes the old German fort and its use in French service up to 1940. Photos and plans. French text. PL

FR-57. Truttman, Philippe. *La muraille de France*. Thionville, France: Editions Gérard Klopp, 1996. 620 pp.

This is considered the number one technical reference about the Maginot Line and has also been noted as “The Bible of the Maginot Line.” The author, a retired military engineer and considered the leading authority on the Maginot Line, commanded the ouvrage of Simserhof in the 1950s and restored sections of the fort. He prepared this work as part of his doctoral thesis while still on active duty. His work covers all the technical aspects of the line, including all types of combat casemates and weapons and traces their development. The book has been revised and reprinted several times since the 1980s. Many excellent drawings that include detailed perspectives of various components of the fortifications. The most important single work produced on the Maginot Line in the twentieth century and a “must” for anyone with more than a passing interest in the subject. Some B/W and color photos. French text. PL & JEK

FR-58. Varoqui, Robert. *Veckring - Le Hackenberg*. Thionville, France: Gérard Klopp, 1992. 48 pp.

Monograph on the second largest fort of the Maginot Line. Not for specialists but a good booklet with many color photographs of the interior and the outside of the ouvrage Hackenberg, including the anti-tank wall. French text. PL

FR-59. Wahl, Jean-Bernard. *Chemin de fer sur voie de 60 de la Ligne Maginot*. Huningue, France: Privately published, 1993. 132 pp.

This reference book is about the 60mm railway of the Maginot Line written by a Maginot specialist. French text. PL

FR-60. Wahl, Jean-Bernard. *Hochwald, une forteresse en Alsace*. Saverne, France: Editions du Polygone, 1999. 192 pp.

The largest fortress of the Maginot Line is described by one of the best-known specialists of the Maginot Line in Alsace. Hochwald is still in military service and has served as a base for the French Air Force for the last 50 years. The book covers the history of this great fortification and includes many excellent illustrations including B/W and color photos, maps, and plans. French text. PL

FR-61. Wahl, Jean-Bernard. *Il était une fois la Ligne Maginot*. France: Editeur Jérôme Do, 1999. 436 pp.

Description of each ouvrage with many photos and drawings. This book partially replaces Y.V. Mary's first book as a premiere reference on the Maginot Line with its excellent photos and illustrations in both B/W and color. It is a basic reference on the Maginot Line, but only on the Northeast Front since there is no data on the Alpine sectors. French text. PL

FR-62. Wahl, Jean-Bernard. *La Ligne Maginot en Alsace: 200 kilometres de beton et d'acier*. Steinbrunn-Le-Haut: Editions du Rhin, 1987. 438 pp.