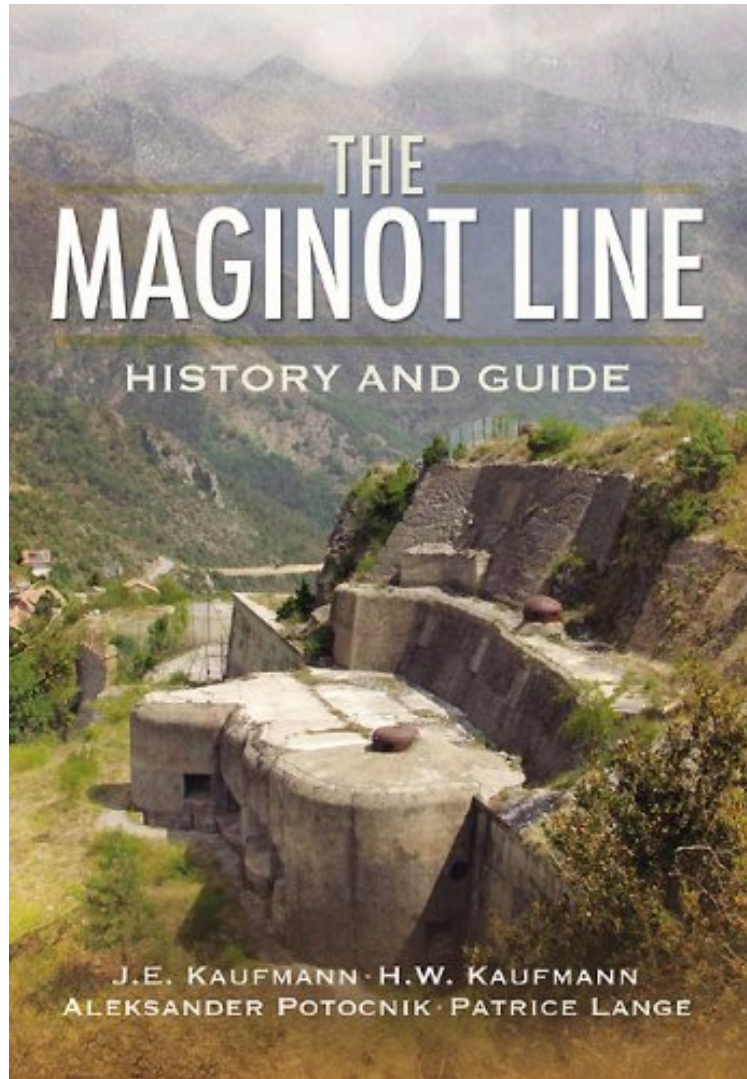


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The Maginot Line: History and Guide

*J.E. Kaufmann, H.W. Kaufmann, A. Jankovi?-Poto?nik, P. Lang
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J.E. Kaufmann, H.W. Kaufmann, A. Jankovi?-Poto?nik, P. Lang : The Maginot Line: History and Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Maginot Line: History and Guide:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Incredibly detailed: more of a catalog than a history, but still worthwhile.By BernardIncredibly detailed guide to virtually all the sites in the various sections of the Maginot Line. I bought this book to prepare for a visit next month, and I found it helpful to focus my planned visits. As a novice, I appreciate the history of how it was planned and executed, although this part could have been more comprehensive, and I would have gladly traded some of the details, for example, the precise calibre of every weapon in each fort for a

bit more of the development history. Nevertheless, it's an impressive piece of work and I shall carry it with me when I visit. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. An excellent guide
By Chris Sterling
This is a fine history and guide to a legendary--and controversial--fortification system. Designed in the late 1920s and early 1930s, then built during the Depression (thus providing work, though at a massive overall cost), the largely underground border forts (ouvrage) faced both Germany and Italy. Behind their seeming impregnability the French military dozed, sadly convinced they merely had to occupy the gros (large) and petite (small) ouvrage to hold off any fascist invasion. Indeed, we speak of the "Maginot mentality" to this day to denote something providing false security. All of this is discussed and assessed here, but the real appeal of this book is just how much detailed information is provided. I especially like the 3-D diagrams of the various Maginot ouvrage, as they offer a solid sense of each underground fort layout and its relationship to local terrain. I began with those ouvrage that I've seen in the south of France---and they bring back that visit of 15 years ago with their clarity. Furthermore, they make clear just how much variance there was in this massive construction project--all of it designed and built with nary a computer in sight. The literature on Maginot's line is substantial---but much of it is quite understandably written in French. Works by Mary and Truttman, to name two of the best French authorities, are invaluable and offer excellent illustrations. But if you can't read the French captions and text, naturally much is lost. The Kaufmann's book provides a concise history as well as the all the context that anyone could need to visit the sites today (more of them are opening all the time). At the same time, it provides something of an English "key" to all those French volumes. I know that I will use both together from now on. I strongly recommend this well-conceived and illustrated book. For the price, you will not find a better guide to and history of a fascinating fortification. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kindle edition spoils the book
By Harry
I spent two and a half years in the Verdun area while in the U.S. Army during the Cold War and constantly encountered elements of the Maginot Line. They were always impressive structures, every bit as attention grabbing as the medieval castles that dotted the high ground across Europe. This book would have been a treasure to have when serving there. It seems to do justice to the history and story of these mostly buried forts. Good job!
This Kindle edition suffers the shortcomings common to most books with illustrations, they are too small to make out. I view it on my 17" PC and using a 3 power reading glass can make out some of the information. It's a huge drawback in this case as the book has a wealth of informative illustrations. It's so bad I had to give the Kindle edition only two stars.

The Maginot Line, the complex system of strongpoints constructed between the world wars by the French to protect against attack from Germany, is one of the most famous, extensive and controversial defensive schemes in all military history. It stretched from Belgium to Switzerland, and from Switzerland to the Mediterranean, and it represented the most advanced and ambitious system of static defenses of its time. Yet it failed to deter German aggression or to halt the invasion of France in May 1940. Much of this historic line - with its fortresses, artillery positions, tank traps, blockhouses, concrete bunkers - has survived and can be visited today. This invaluable handbook, which has been written and compiled by the foremost experts in the field, is a guide to the history of the line and all the major sites concerned.

About the Author
J.E. Kaufmann is a retired teacher and presently an adjunct professor at Palo Alto Jr. College.