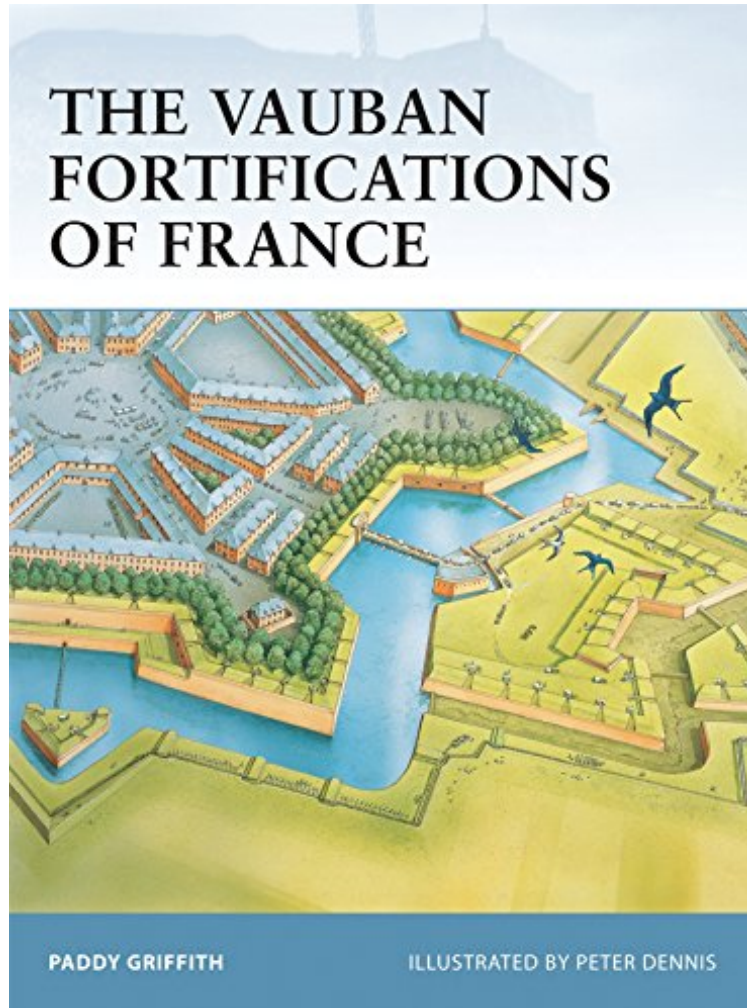


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## The Vauban Fortifications of France (Fortress)

*Paddy Griffith*

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**Paddy Griffith : The Vauban Fortifications of France (Fortress)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vauban Fortifications of France (Fortress):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Sun King's master engineer...By HMS Warspite Louis XIV, France's "Sun King", waged war on Europe for three-quarters of a century. His foremost military engineer was one Marshal Vauban, an equally skilled builder and besieger of 18th century fortresses. The system of layered defenses that Vauban utilized for French forts would influence military engineering into the 20th Century. Veteran historian Paddy Griffith provides the narrative in this Osprey Fortress Series entry; Peter Denis executed the illustrations. "The Vauban Fortifications of France" opens with a quick biographical sketch of the Marshal, followed by an extended discussion of his work and his influence on military engineering. The narrative tends to ramble a bit; Griffith expends some effort attempting to get past the legends to the real extent of Vauban's legacy. The photographs, diagrams, and

illustrations, and a glossary in the back are a terrific introduction into 18th Century military engineering. The topic is too complex for one Osprey book, but this is a good start; recommended. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Very good introduction to its topic...By YodaThis book, despite its relatively short length of 64 pages, provides a very good introduction to its subject. A description of Vauban's multi-faceted strategy in fortress making is provided (i.e., defense in depth, use of water, modifications of previously existing fortifications, etc.). To supplement this discussion excellent illustrations are provided that not only illustrate the fortresses per se but various aspects of design that were essential to Vauban's fortresses. For example, good discussion and illustrations provided regarding countermining shafts, internal access passageways that allowed troops to move from one section of fortress to another even under heavy attack, magazine designs, etc. All and all a very good introduction for the reader interested in the topic with only about an hour's of time available to get up to speed on the topic. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Osprey Fortress Series VaubanBy Steven E. StarkA very good book in a good series by Osprey. The subject could have many huge volumes written on it so you are only getting a brief overview but it is very informative. The photographs and artwork really do add to the description. If you want a book on Vauban's entire career and every fortification he built you will need a bigger book but for an introduction this is a good book. Not as wrapped up in engineering as some larger books on the subject so easy enough for all ages to understand. I would recommend this book to students of history, fortification buff, wargamers, modelers etc.

Vauban was the foremost military engineer of France during the period of its centralisation and wars of expansion in the 17th and 18th centuries. His influence persisted long after Waterloo, and his name has become synonymous with the science of the construction, defence and attack of bastioned fortresses. Dunkirk, Toulon, Perpignan, Verdun and Brest stand out among the many historically significant sites created by this incredible engineer. This book examines the many achievements of this pivotal figure in fortification history, exploring the sites and their subsequent significance.

About the AuthorPaddy Griffith is a freelance military historian based in Manchester, working as both an author and a publisher. His groundbreaking books on low-level tactics include 'Forward Into Battle' (1990), 'Battle Tactics of the Civil War' (1986) and 'Battle Tactics of the Western Front' (1994). He has also written books on the art of war of the Vikings, the French between 1789 and 1851, and NATO in the 1980s, as well as numerous works on wargames. He is currently active in the South Manchester Tactical Society and the Battlefields Trust.