

The Channel Islands 1941-45: Hitler's Impregnable Fortress

Osprey Fortress series No. 41 (2006)

By Charles Stephenson; illustrated by Chris Taylor.

Contents:

Introduction (pre-WWII Channel Island defences)

World War II (campaign background, general background and occupation of the Channel Islands)

Anatomy of an 'impregnable fortress'

The principles of defence

The living site

Finale

The sites today

Illustrations:

Six maps

Batterie Mirus (Guernsey)

Naval artillery observation and range finding tower (Jersey)

Casemate for 10.5cm gun

Tobruk bunker with FT-17 tank turret

Luftwaffe command bunker (Alderney)

HMG position (Jersey)

Comments:

After a fairly brief overview of the background and occupation of the Channel Islands, the bulk of the book focuses on the defences themselves. The islands were very heavily defended and would have been a very tough nut to crack had the Allies invaded. Of course, they never did invade and the massive, complex defensive works turned out to be a white elephant. I was born in Jersey and so have always been interested in the subject but since there was no battle other readers might be wondering what the point of the book is. Nevertheless, it is well-written and clearly explained. The interested reader should also consult Stephen Zaloga's Fortress books: D-Day Fortifications and Atlantic Wall.

This book is perfect for anyone wishing to conduct a what-if campaign based on an Allied assault on the islands.

--Paul Le Long

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Hitler's impregnable fortress



CHARLES STEPHENSON

ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS TAYLOR