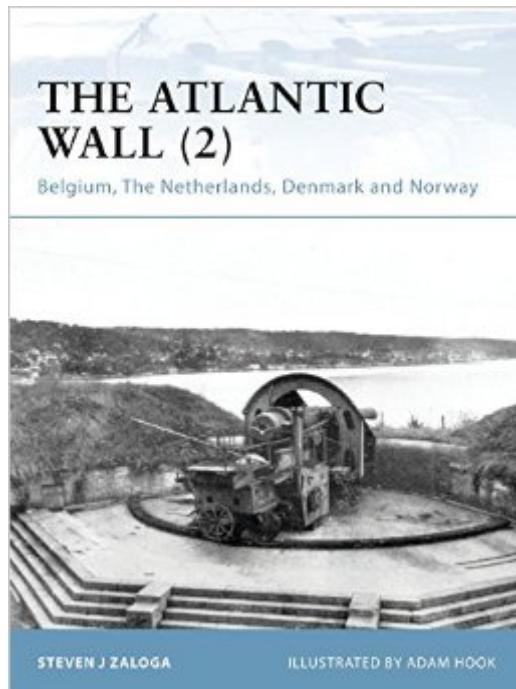


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The Atlantic Wall (2): Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark And Norway (Fortress)



Synopsis

Germany's Atlantic Wall was the most ambitious military fortification program of World War II. Following its conquest of Western Europe, Germany had to defend some 5,000 kilometers of Atlantic coastline from the Spanish border to the Arctic Circle. The United States' entry into the war and the inevitability of an Anglo-American landing in Western Europe resulted in the fortification of this coastline along its entire length. Focusing on the northern Atlantic Wall in the Low Countries and Scandinavia, this title addresses the special defensive features and unique aspects of fortification in these countries, such as the early focus on fortifying Norway, due to early British commando raids; the greater use of turreted naval guns; and the establishment of first-line Flak defenses in the Low Countries to counter the Allied strategic bombing campaign.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Atlantic Wall (2) is the second volume in Steven J Zaloga's in-depth look at the coastal fortifications Germany built along its Atlantic seaboard in the Second World War. As in the previous volume, Zaloga provides a wealth of information in a limited space about the topic and it is particularly rewarding since the geographic area covered - Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway - is outside the norm for books on the Atlantic Wall. However, while the previous volume only covered German fortifications in France, this one has to cover four countries and this proves rather difficult in a 64-page format. In order to assist in packing in information, the author employs fourteen data tables, which succeeds in delivering useful information, but reduces the readability of the

volume. Overall, the Atlantic Wall (2) is a must-have for serious historians or WW2 aficionados, but it lacks the readability for general audiences that the first volume possessed. The volume begins with a 19-page section on design and development that follows from material discussed in the previous volume about Hitler's Atlantic Wall program. In short, the bulk of German resources for coastal fortification went toward France, but Hitler wanted at least the major ports in Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway fortified enough to prevent an easy Allied landing. This section includes one table that compares bunker construction along the various sectors of the Atlantic Wall and a map showing the artillery batteries in Belgium in Holland. This section includes a bewildering array of sub-topics, including how the Germans designated coastal defenses sectors, coastal artillery weapons, fire control radars, controlled minefields, Kriegsmarine coastal commando units and rocket-propelled depth charges (that was a first for me).

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