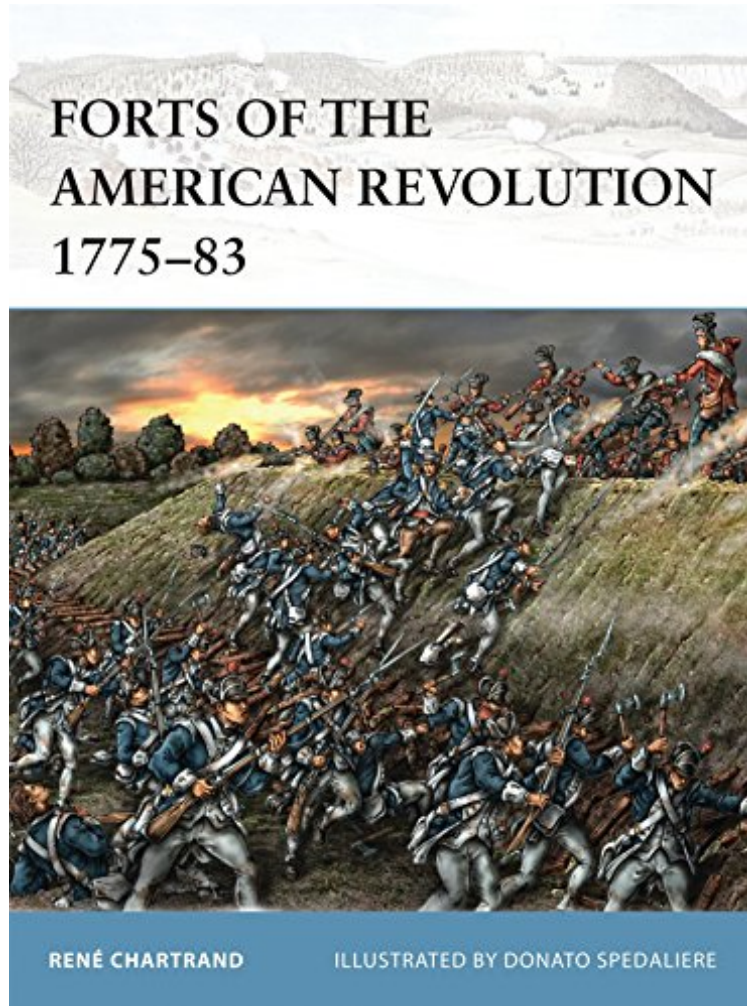


## Forts of the American Revolution 1775-83 (Fortress)

*Ren Chartrand*

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**Ren Chartrand : Forts of the American Revolution 1775-83 (Fortress)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forts of the American Revolution 1775-83 (Fortress):

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent text, disappointing illustrations. By A. C. Murphy  
Rene Chartrand, who is a regular contributor to Osprey's Fortress series, delivers another great volume in "Forts of the American Revolution: 1775-83." The volume covers fortifications on the North American continent divided by region: The Northeast, Canada, The South, and The Midwest. Little or no mention is made of fortifications that played a role in the conflict in the Caribbean (such as Fort Montagu, captured by Continental Marines in a raid on Nassau in the Bahamas), Europe, or India. Nor is there little said about western frontier fortifications outside of George Rogers Clark's campaigns against Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes even though there were military and settler-built fortifications such as Fort Laurens in the Ohio Country, Fort Henry in Western Virginia (modern Wheeling WV), or

Fort Boonesborough in Kentucky. This is understandable given the limited coverage available in the Osprey format. All said, Chartrand delivers a good survey of forts and techniques of fortification in the more major theaters of operations. This book's greatest disappointment are the color plates. Unlike previous Fortress volumes illustrated by Donato Sedaliere (such as "Forts of the War of 1812" or "The Forts of Colonial North America"), this entry in the Osprey Fortress series includes no bird's-eye reconstructions of important forts. Instead there are four illustrations of basic and general fort construction (the construction of an earth and timber wall, a view of a general blockhouse, and two illustrations of stockade construction), two illustrations of siege batteries (a French mortar battery at Yorktown and Spanish howitzers at Pensacola), and two battle scenes (Patriots awaiting the British assault on Breed's Hill, and the storming of Redoubt 10 at Yorktown). This is really the only major fault with this book. Had it included even a few high-quality reconstruction illustrations of some of the major fortifications, it would be a much stronger book. Chartrand's text is excellent, but the disappointing illustrations are the only reason I would give this book three stars instead of five.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Digging in...By HMS Warspite  
As author Rene Chartrand notes, the American Revolution was fought mainly in the field between British and American armies. Fortifications and sieges played an important role, however, beginning with the siege of Boston in 1775, and ending with the siege of Yorktown in 1781. In between, the ability of the British and American armies to take advantage of hasty and existing field fortifications played a key role in a number of battles and campaigns. "Forts of the American Revolution 1775-83" is an Osprey Fortress Series book. The author steps quickly through the history of the conflict, emphasizing the important role played by forts. The narrative includes the sieges of Charlestown and Savannah, as well as the British campaigns against the Hudson and Delaware Rivers forts built by the American army. Of particular interest is the description of the siege of British Pensacola by Spanish troops in 1781, an often overlooked event that had important ramifications for the future of American fortunes in the Mississippi Valley. This book provides a solid and very readable introduction to its topic, supported by period and modern illustrations. Highly recommended.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not enough Engineering  
By DoodleG  
Too much on the History. Based on his "French Forts" book (which was MUCH better), I hoped for more on the actual design building of the forts. I wanted an Engineering perspective, not historical.

Though primarily fought in the field, the American Revolution saw fortifications play an important part in some of the most important campaigns of the war. Field fortifications were developed around major towns including Boston, New York and Savannah and frontier forts--at Stanwix, Niagara and Cumberland--were to all be touched by the war. This book details all the types of fortification used throughout the conflict, the engineers on all sides who constructed and maintained them, and the actions fought around and over them.

"This excellent, well-written, survey was a pleasure to read." - The Coast Defense Journal  
About the Author  
Ren Chartrand was a senior curator with Canada's National Historic Sites for nearly three decades. Now, a freelance writer and historical consultant, he has written numerous books including over thirty Osprey titles. He lives in Gatineau, Quebec, with his wife and two sons. Donato Spedaliere served in the Italian Army as a paratrooper and since 1995 has worked as a professional freelance illustrator. He was special-effects supervisor on the film *Obolus*, and now lives in Italy.