

# THE FORTRESS ROTHENBERG



The history of Rothenberg dates back to the 13th century, when the hill was crowned by a castle and a village.

In 1478 the castle of Rothenberg (the village was destroyed long ago) bought by 44 Franconian knights and fortified as a base.

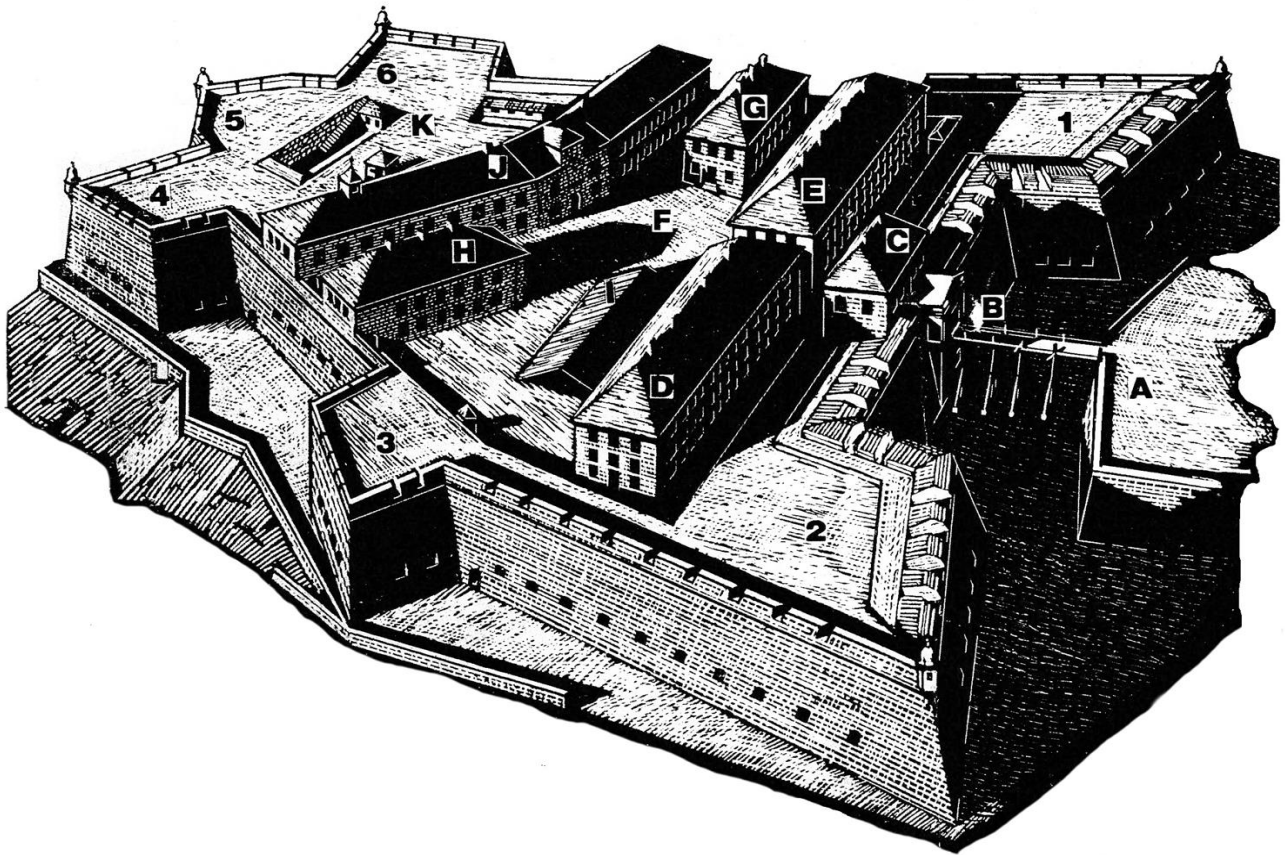
Purchased by the Electorate of Bavaria in 1703, the base was taken in the War of the Spanish Succession and demolished at the urgent request of the Council of Nuremberg.

20 years later, Elector Karl Albrecht ordered the construction of a new fortress based on French models. Construction of the fortress began in 1729 on the site of the old foundations. In June 1744 the fortress was besieged by Austrian troops for three months, but the garrison held out and the enemy withdrew on 14 September.

Construction continued throughout the year, interrupted by preparations for battle. The construction of the fortress was stopped in 1799 because its strategic position had become insignificant. King LUDWIG I of BAVARIA ordered the demobilisation of the fortress on 22 July 1835 and the last guard left Rothenberg on 2 October 1841. The fortress was then left to decay.

In 1889 the "HEIMAT-UND VERSCHONERUNGSVEREIN SCHNAITTACH" has been looking after the ruins and encouraging people to visit. Seven centuries after its beginnings, Rothenberg Fortress still offers its visitors a magnificent panorama from its hollowed-out walls.

# FORTRESS ROTHENBERG ABOUT 1780



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1	Bastion	Amalia
2	Bastion	Charles
3	Bastion	Glatzenstein
4	Bastion	Kersbach
5	Bastion	Nürnberg
6	Bastion	Schnaittach

A	Ravelin
B	Bridge and Entrance
C	Guardhouse with Commander's Residence
D	Old or Charles Barracks
E	New or Amalia Barracks
F	Fortress Square
G	Headquarters
H	Hospital, Residence of Parson, Teacher (with 1 Schoolroom), Physican and Ward
I	Church Foundations
J	Arsenal W. Carpentry, Locksmith, Blacksmith, Armsroom, etc, Temporary Church
K	Outer Courtyard with Well, Stable and Magazines in Building Foundations
L	covered Path around Fortress

GARRISON:	500 SOLDIERS
	200 CIVILIANS
WEAPONS:	300 CANNONS PLUS NUMEROUS SMALL ARMS

Inside the 55' high walls are casemates with 80 gun positions and 6 attack gates;  
The 275 sq. yd. Vaults are supported by 92 heavy stone pilars.  
Near the fortress is a cemetery and the outwork Max Joseph with well installation  
(the „SCHNECKENBRUNNEN“)