

THE FORT DU SCEX

Part of the historical fortress of St-Maurice

Justification for a fortress

- St-Maurice is the northern portal of the principal alpine transit routes between the Franche-Comté, and the Piedmont. This determined the military importance of the place and the constant interest of erecting fortifications there.
- With the development in the 1880's of shells filled with melinite explosives, the fortress built in 1831 at St-Maurice proved to be outdated and had to be replaced. In 1892 construction began of the Savatan and Dailly forts on the right bank of the Rhone.
- It soon became necessary to protect these two constructions with flanking guns. Guns and ammunition were first placed on the terrace of the Ermitage, which lies on the cliff face of Vérossaz. Then, in 1911, the 'Galerie du Scex' was constructed and armed with four 7.5 cm guns.

An old Fort modernized

Improvements and extensions have been made more or less continuously:

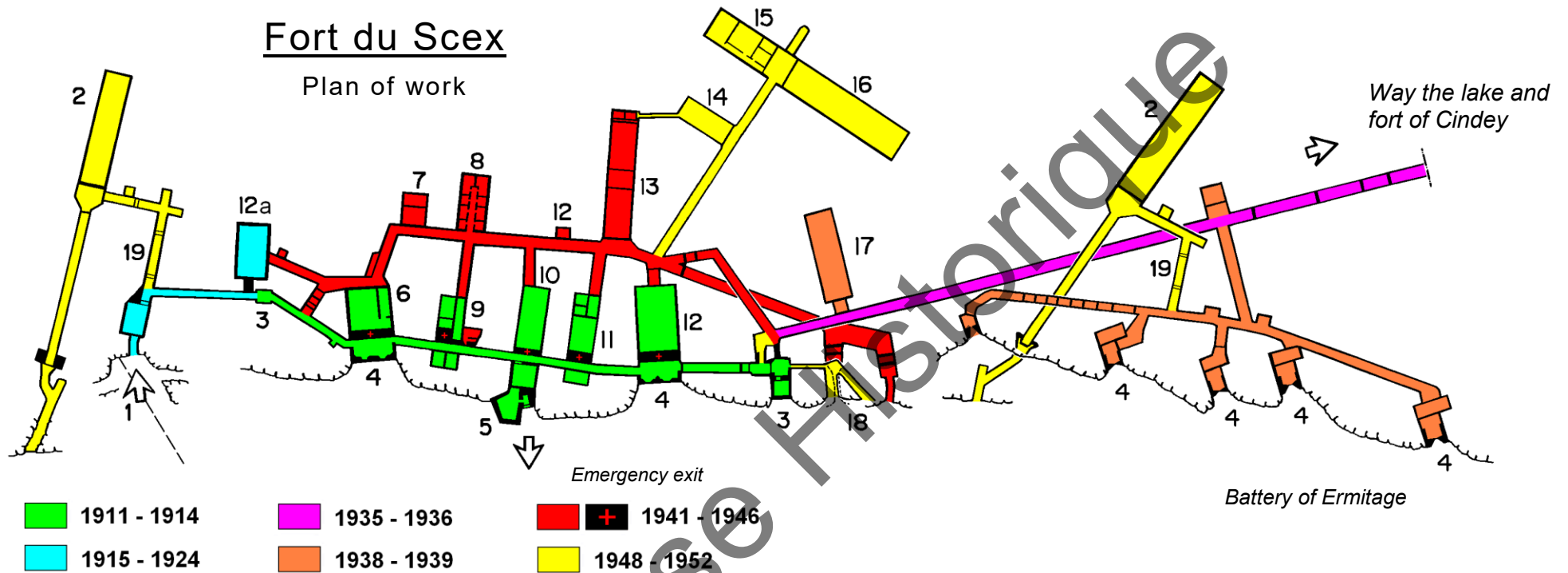
- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 1915 - 1924 | : | The new entrance and infirmary, which was later used as an additional dormitory. |
| 1935 - 1936 | : | Construction of a connecting gallery to the 'Grotte aux Fées'. |
| 1938 - 1939 | : | Addition of the battery 'Ermitage' with four 7.5 cm guns. |
| 1940 - 1946 | : | An interior passageway connects the new quarters with the isolated older ones of the casemates. |
| 1948 - 1952 | : | New ammunition magazine and infirmary. |
| 1984 | : | Disarmament of the artillery, installation of a big command post on the site of the infirmary. |
| 1995 | : | The fort is downgraded and abandoned. |

Particularités

- Garrison:
 - Before disarmament of the artillery: 1 fortress company with 172 men (6 officers, 28 non-commissioned officers, 138 soldiers)
 - After disarmament of the artillery: 1 fortress company with 97 men (4 officers, 15 non-commissioned officers, 78 soldiers)
- The machine room and the switchboard also serve Fort Cindey.
- The pump station for fuel is situated 90m below the lower cable car station
- In the Fort there is also the battalion fire control centre.
- There is a big command post in the Fort and a water reservoir of 330'000 litres.

Fort du Scex

Plan of work



LEGEND State in 1995

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Entrance from 1922 and aerial ropeway 2 Ammunition magazine 3 Radio station (formerly 90 cm searchlight) 4 Artillery casemate 5 'Poterne' and flanking machine gun positions (4 x fortress machine gun), entrance 1912 6 Dining-rooms on two floors 7 Battalion fire control centre 8 Officer's dormitorys, offices (formerly battery fire control centres) 9 Officer's dining-room and officer's dormitory on two floors, post office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Lavatorys 11 Kitchen 12 Dormitorys 12a Dormitorys (formerly infirmary) 13 Machine room 14 Fuel reservoir (4 x 12'000 litres) 15 Transmission centre 16 Command post (formerly infirmary) 17 Water reservoir (330'000 litres) 18 Engine cooling 19 Anti-blast air-lock-chamber |
|--|--|