

Fjell Fortress, Fjedia Mountain, Sotra Island, Norway

Norway was considered a neutral country, like the other Scandinavian countries, prior to World War II. On March 1, 1940, Hitler, under the code word "Weserübung," ordered the attack on Denmark and Norway. Germany used a British boarding of a German transport and claimed that Britain had violated Norway's neutrality and used the invasion to claim they were "defending" the Norwegians. On April 9, 1940, the invasion began. Armed resistance to the invasion ended by June 10, 1940 and the occupation of Norway by Nazi Germany lasted until early May of 1945. The reason for the takeover, according to enacademic.com, was due to two principal reasons:

"The first was that in 1940, Germany was dependent on natural resources being sent from Sweden to Germany, if Norway allowed Allied vessels to pass through its waters, they could potentially blockade the trade routes. The second reason was part of Nazi ideology which called for unification of the "Aryan" Germanic race, which Norway was considered a part of."

Hitler allowed a collaborative government to be formed, but with little power. Reichskommissar Josef Terboven, an SS officer, was given the rank of governor and commander of all military forces until he was deposed on May 7, 1945. The German military surrendered to the Allies on May 9, 1945. Liberation of Norway was on May 13, 1945.
-enacademic.com

Attributed to visitnorway.com:

"Fjell Fortress was an underground military base, with a labyrinth of around a kilometer of roads, 10 meters under Fjedla Mountain. The German military established the underground complex around its main artillery - the enormous triple-cannon. Railways, military equipment, ventilation systems and advanced electrical installations are to be found in front wing. Under a meter-thick layer of reinforced concrete are dormitories, kitchens, a medical centre, a workshop, washing facilities, saunas, showers, changing rooms, a communications centre and a network of command bunkers. In 1942, whilst most Norwegians were using outhouses, the Germans had the luxury of the latest porcelain WCs installed deep inside the mountain. Fjell Fortress had sleeping quarters for around 200 men."

The construction of the Fjell Fortress on Sotra Island covers 185 acres. It began in 1942. It was built using around 1,500 Russian prisoners of war who were camped at the base of the mountain. The fortress was intended to be a defense of Norway's sea entrance to Bergen. The armaments included three 11-inch guns from the German battleship Gneisenau with a full charge range of 25 miles. The guide told us that when the full-range charge was fired by the three guns it caused an earthquake that smashed windows and frightened the people and animals in the surrounding area. The charge was reduced to 23 miles. Other armaments included anti-aircraft artillery, anti-tank guns, flame throwers, machine guns, mortars, bunkers and 6- to 10-foot tunnels and trenches. The Fjell Fortress was considered the biggest and strongest fortification in Northern Europe. -<http://bbh3.org> and -tour guide information

Fjell Festning/Fortress is managed by the Norwegian Central Office of Historic Monuments. It is open to the public as a museum.

This photo program represents our tour of the Fjell Fortress.





185 acres
Nearly 1 mile of tunnels

Display of underground tunnels and compartments



33 feet at base



In December 1941 Hitler decided that Germany needed to build fortifications along the coast of the German-occupied Western Europe. The Nazi Atlantic control stretched from Biscay Bay, Spain to Finland in the north. Fjell Fortress was built in 1942 to support that control.

Control room – interior rail line – electric generators – handler for shells - packing



Finished & Unfinished Tunnels: Furnace room–Kitchen–Guard gun rack
Shower room–Sauna– WC –Waste water management–Heating/water ducts



Sources: Tour guide and brochures, <https://en.visitbergen.com/things-to-do/fjell-fortress-museum-vest-p826743>, <https://www.visitnorway.com/places-to-go/fjord-norway/bergen/listings-bergen/fjell-fortress-museum-vest/2607/>, <https://www.uib.no/en/ir/106158/afternoon-fjell-fortress-sotra>, <http://bbh3.org/fjell-fortress.html>, <https://www.spottinghistory.com/view/3209/fjell-fortress/> and <http://enacademic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/8360101>.

acuri.net John R. Vincenti Fjell Fortress, Fjedia Mountain, Sotra Island, Norway