

# Cavalier (fortification)

A **cavalier** is a fortification which is built within a larger fortification, and which is higher than the rest of the work. It usually consists of a raised platform within a fort or bastion, so as to be able to fire over the main parapet without interfering with the fire of the latter.<sup>[1]</sup> Through the use of cavaliers, a greater volume of fire can be obtained, but its great height also makes it an easy target for a besieger's guns.<sup>[2]</sup>

There are two types of cavaliers:

- Common cavalier – a raised gun platform without any additional defensive features
- Defensible cavalier – a raised gun platform surrounded by a ditch. If the ditch cuts across the bastion's terreplein and is supported by cuts, the cavalier can also be considered as a retrenchment.<sup>[3]</sup>

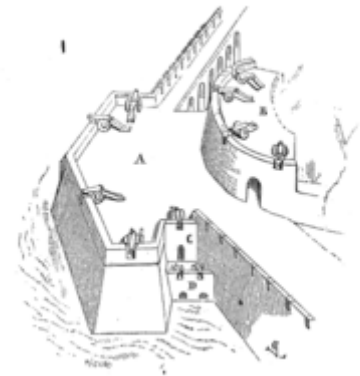


Illustration of a cavalier (the structure on the right, marked as "B") from *Dictionnaire raisonné de l'architecture française du XIe au XVIe siècle* by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc

## Gallery



Ferramolino's Cavalier, Fort St. Angelo, Birgu, Malta

## References

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2. Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "Cavalier" ([https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911\\_Encyclop%C3%A6dia\\_Britannica/Cavalier](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Cavalier)). *Encyclopædia Britannica*. 5 (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. pp. 562–563.
3. Pasley, Charles William (1822). *A Course of Elementary Fortification - Volume II* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=fM1CAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA337>) (2 ed.). London: John Murray. pp. 337–342.

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