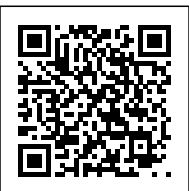


# CRUSADER CHURCHES FORTRESSES

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E. Rey, an authority on Crusader era castles and fortresses, says that at the fortress of Lampron in Cilicia, "Armenians designed circular openings for nocturnal signaling, some sort of optical telegraphy. Armenians had excellent knowledge of siege machinery. An Armenian called Avedik devised a siege machine and in 1124 was summoned from Cilicia to offer his expert services in the siege of Tyre, Lebanon.

Crusader era Armenians were considered "as the most accomplished military architects in the Levant at the time of the First Crusade, and were known as excellent designers of bent entrances, machicolations and concealed posterns. Two experts of the time have written: "It is safe to say that their knowledge and skill were among the causes which made the military architecture of the Levant the most advanced of its time, according to Robin Fedden and John Thomson ("Crusader Castles"), London, 1957, pp. 55-56.

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