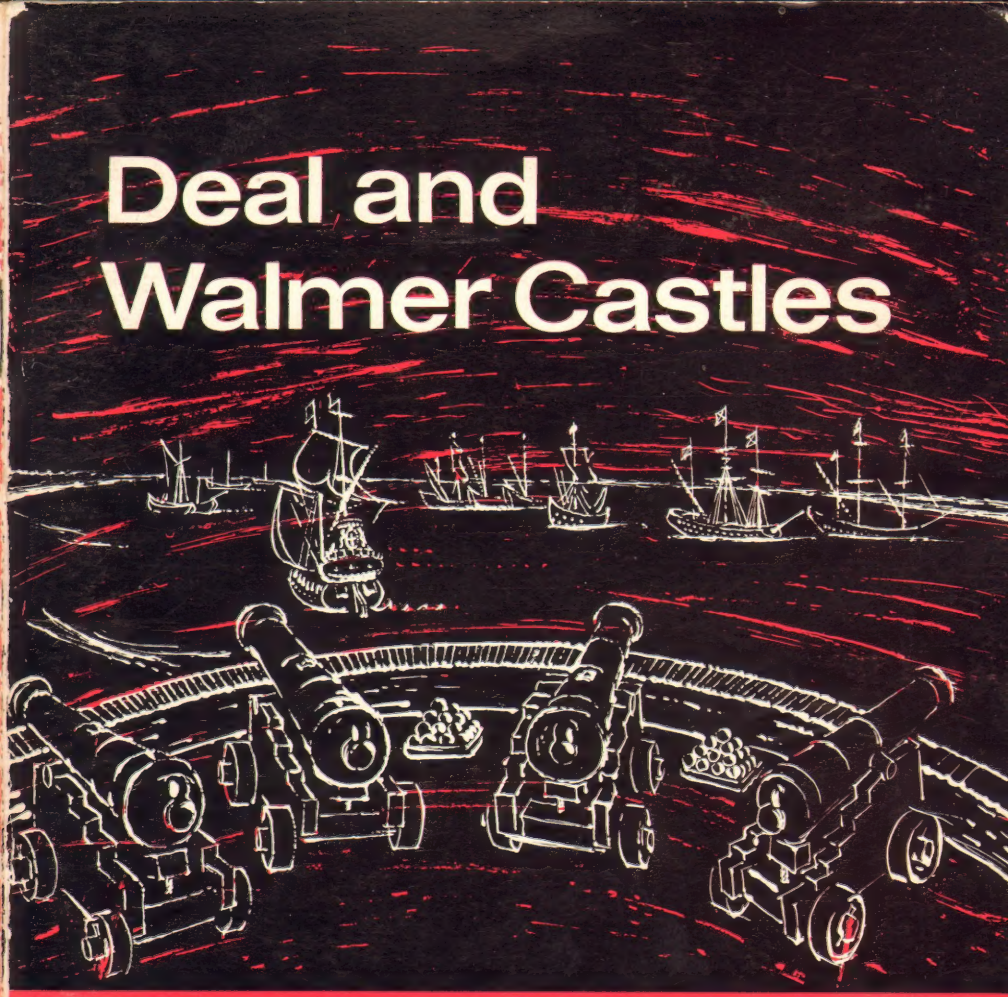
Deal and Walmer Castles



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Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings

Deal and Walmer Castles

by A. D. SAUNDERS, MA, FSA

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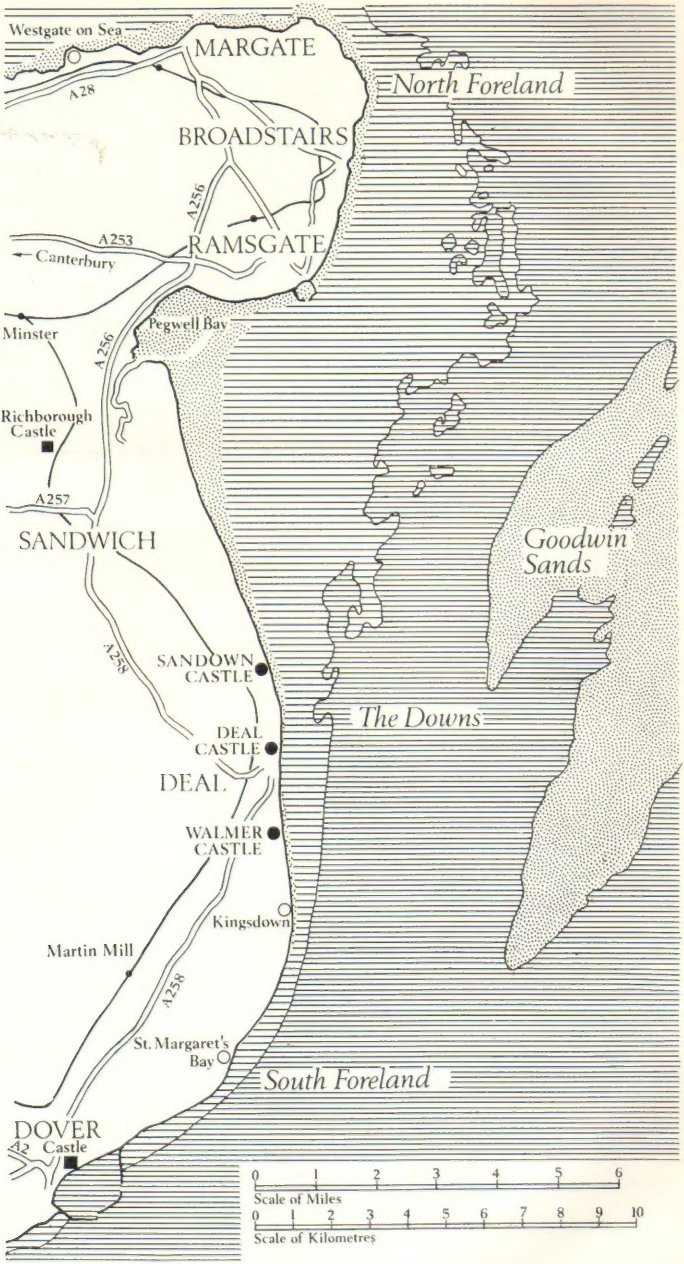
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Scale of Miles
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The "Castles in the Downs" as they appeared early in the eighteenth century

DEAL AND WALMER CASTLES

"The Three Castles which keep the Downs", Deal, Walmer and Sandown, were built by Henry VIII in 1539-40 to protect the anchorage within the Goodwin Sands. Little of sea-eroded Sandown remains to-day. It is Deal and Walmer which have retained much of their original form and, by being garrisoned and inhabited for many years, have kept a sense of historical continuity.

Neither Deal nor Walmer has many of the characteristics associated with the traditional notion of a castle. The lofty towers and curtain walls of most medieval castles are absent, so too is the elegance of the private apartments which distinguish many fortified residences. Nor do they possess the romantic flavour of the ruin, which has appealed to us since the birth of the "picturesque" in the eighteenth century. In essence Deal and Walmer are colder, more methodical in purpose. They are forts. They were built in terms of the new, more impersonal weapons of gunpowder. They were constructed as bulwarks against an invasion which never came.

The cool efficiency of their symmetrical plans and uncompromising exterior is more apparent at Deal. Even the bugle calls from the nearby Royal Marine barracks remind us that the military life still has its echoes here. At Walmer the lines of the old fortress have been softened by the formal gardens and long-planted trees which enclose it, by the windows and new roof lines which have domesticated it. Internally the changes at Walmer are even more pronounced. The setting is that of a country house created by virtue of its being the official residence of the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports.

The Downs

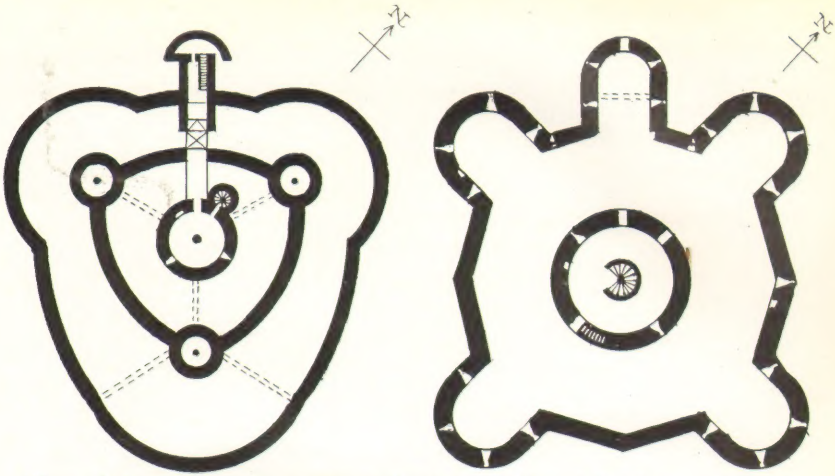
To-day it may seem strange that this stretch of coast should be chosen for such formidable fortification. Yet in the days of sailing ships the Downs were a most important anchorage. Deal and Walmer look eastward across four miles of semi-sheltered water to the Goodwin Sands. The Downs were an excellent roadstead except when strong winds were blowing from the east. Apart from some small decaying or already silted harbours, by the sixteenth century there was no safe place of refuge between the Downs and Portsmouth. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries ships often anchored there to dispatch or receive letters and news, or to take on or drop passengers. On one occasion in the last century five hundred sail were counted there. It is hardly surprising that when Deal appealed for a charter in 1698 the townspeople should claim that ships were supplied from there "with Pilots, Anchors, Cables, Provisions and all necessarys to the great accommodation of Navigation in General".

In wartime the Downs could be of great strategic importance in the defence of the English Channel. During the crisis of the Spanish Armada the main body of the fleet was based there and thence were sent the fire-ships which so demoralised the Spaniards before the decisive battle of Gravelines. Nearly a hundred years later Blake set out from there to fight de Witt and a large Dutch fleet which was approaching the Thames Estuary. The very closeness of this stretch of coast to France laid it open to invasion. After all, Walmer beach is said to have been Julius Caesar's landing place in 55 B.C.

The Cinque Ports

During the Middle Ages the defence of the Channel was undertaken by the ancient organisation of the Cinque Ports. This had its origins in the reign of Edward the Confessor, before the Norman Conquest. Its object

Henry VIII, by Holbein



Plans of the neighbouring castles of Sandgate (left) and Camber

was to supply a specific number of ships and seamen to the King in return for legal and economic privileges. The original five ports were Hastings, Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich, but more than thirty other places in Kent and Sussex and one in Essex became joined to the several Head Ports as "limbs" at various times.

The heyday of the Cinque Ports was the thirteenth century. By the feudal system of sea service the King could provide for the defence of the coasts and the cross-Channel passage. But in the later Middle Ages their importance greatly declined. The reason was a geographical one. The changing shape of the coast line caused the silting or erosion which ruined the harbours. Deal, originally a "limb" of Sandwich, through its nearness to the Downs replaced them as an anchorage for large ships. In some respects the three castles and the other new fortifications at Dover, Sandgate and Camber superseded the defensive functions of the Cinque Ports.

The invasion scare of 1538

It was, of course, a political crisis and a fear of invasion which led to the building of the castles. In Catholic Europe Henry VIII's position looked precarious indeed.

Henry's determination to divorce Catherine of Aragon produced a breach with the Pope and had led the King to proclaim himself sole head of the Church in England. The Pope in his efforts to arrest this new area of disintegration to his authority negotiated a truce between the two most

powerful sovereigns of the day, Francis I of France and the Emperor Charles V of Spain. From this alliance he anticipated an invasion to overthrow Henry and recover England for Rome. In December 1538 the Pope carried out the Bull of excommunication, and preached a crusade.

Henry's egoism was sufficiently shaken for him to take ostentatious counter-measures. One of these was a programme of castle building along the coast from Hull to Falmouth and Milford Haven to protect the more important harbours and estuaries. Such an extensive scheme of coastal defence on a national scale had not been undertaken in England since the latter years of the Roman Empire. Then, a series of forts linked by signal stations to the fleet and field army were instituted under the Count of the Saxon Shore. In 1539 it seemed logical that the cost of such a measure against the Catholic powers should be met, to a large degree, from the profits accruing from the Reformation. Not only was a proportion of the revenues from the newly dissolved monasteries appropriated but some of the building materials from their ruins as well.

The castles in the Downs

The defences built by Henry VIII were not the first to be designed with artillery as the dominant weapon in mind. The townsfolk of Dartmouth, Devon, had defended their harbour with gun towers on their own initiative as early as 1480, and gunports had been provided in gatehouses and curtain walls before that. Henry's castles, however, were the first artillery fortifications in England to escape from the older conventions of castle building. In this sense they were revolutionary.

The castles in the Downs shared the same basic elements. They were centrally planned. Sandown and Walmer were practically identical with four large round bastions or lunettes round a central circular keep. Deal, "the great castle", was six-sided with its circular keep rising above six attached bastions within an outer ring of six larger bastions. Outside each was a deep wide moat; between keep and outer bastions was a passage-like courtyard at ground level. The parapets were curved to deflect gunshot. The main armament was mounted on the outer and inner bastions and on top of the keep. At Sandown and Walmer there were casemates in the outer bastions. For self-defence both the moats and courtyards were protected by regularly spaced openings for hand guns so that either area could be a death-trap to attackers who had penetrated so far. In all there were five tiers of guns.

The castles are clear examples of the principles of static defence but internally the garrisons were given the means for great mobility. Each portion communicated with another. When in action, the supply of munitions and provisions could be dispatched without difficulty. If one stair or entrance was put out of action, there was usually an alternative which could be used.

Originally there were earthwork defences linking the castles. Between Walmer and Deal were the circular Black and Little Bulwarks. They have now disappeared, as have two more built between Deal and Sandown. It is also likely that all these fortifications were linked by trenches.

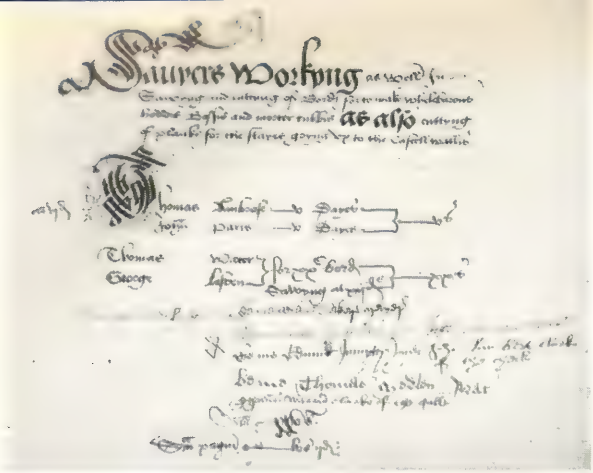
The Downs castles are not alone in being centrally planned. Along the south coast most of Henry's major castles share this feature: St. Mawes and Pendennis guarding the Fal, Hurst opposite the Isle of Wight, and the nearer neighbours Sandgate and Camber. Sandgate had three bastions outside the keep, and a gatehouse; Camber, four and a gatehouse bastion.

The building of the castles

1539 saw the appointment of commissioners to "search and defend" different parts of the coast. A little later another commission was formed to carry out the "Device of the King for three new Blockhouses or Bulwarks to be made in the Downs". The administrative and supervisory staff were named. There were two paymasters, a comptroller, the master carpenter and master bricklayer were called Clement and Christopher, and the master mason was the same man who held that position at Hampton Court. The overseer was Sir Edward Ryngley, who had been comptroller of the fortifications at Calais.

At Calais, Ryngley was assisted by Stephan von Haschenperg, a Bohemian by birth. Little is known of this engineer. Besides work at Calais and Carlisle he is known for his close supervision of the building of Sandgate Castle, where he was described as the "deviser". His career in England was short. He was sacked in 1543 as he had "appeared to have behaved lewdly and spent great treasure to no purpose". Subsequent attempts to return to England and regain the King's favour came to no avail.

An entry in an account in the Public Record Office shows that Stephan von Haschenperg also designed the earth bulwarks linking the Downs Castles. Unfortunately detailed accounts of the work on the castles do not survive as the finances were lumped together with other important royal works at Hampton Court, Oatlands and Dover Castle. However, the



Part of the "ledgers" of Sandgate (1540), the account refers to the sawyers' work in making wheelbarrows and other building plant

"ledgers" of Sandgate remain, and a close examination of them builds up a picture of the construction which must be closely similar to the work done in the Downs.

At Sandgate, the masons and quarrymen along with lime burners and woodfellers spent the early months preparing the building materials. At this stage there was little need for carpenters and those present constructed plant, scaffolding, barrows, hods, tubs and other apparatus of a building site. Throughout the summer the number of men rose until the daily average was five hundred. Bricklayers became more numerous than stone masons, and there were more than fifty carpenters and sawyers. Less than half of the total were labourers. During the winter the labour force dropped, as might be expected, to just over a hundred, and temporary accommodation was provided. By June 1540 the daily average on site was six hundred and thirty and the job finished by that autumn. In the Downs 1400 were at work in May 1539.

The stone came from local quarries and from the sea shore. It was also brought from the disused religious houses such as St. Radegund's Abbey, Horton Priory and Christchurch, Canterbury. For the Downs castles, the Carmelite Friary at Sandwich is a likely source. This explains the quantity of Caen stone in the walls and the occasional moulded fragments from early windows and doors. The bricks are likely to have been local in origin as would have been the lime. At Sandgate 44 000 tiles were used and most of them came from Wye. Sources of timber were not far away.

At Sandgate, the masons were recruited in Somerset and Gloucestershire, some having been pressed into service. Skilled men got 7d. or 8d.

Deal Castle, an etching by Hollar, c. 1649

a day. Labourers received 5d. or 6d. This 5d. rate of pay produced a strike at Deal in June 1539. Ryngley wrote: "This week we had business with the King's labourers here, saying they would have 6d. a day; but after I had spoken with them I caused them to return to work, as Robert Lorde who was present at Deal can inform your worship. I have sent the 9 first beginners, 5 to Canterbury Castle and 4 to Sandwich Gaol".

Origins of design

In the evolution of artillery fortification these centrally planned castles with their rounded bastions and tiers of guns are out of the mainstream of military engineering. There is still some element of the medieval tower in their design. During the 20s and 30s of the sixteenth century in Italy a new style of fortification had developed. It was based on the pointed, angled bastion which gave more effective flanking fire across the curtain walls and was more difficult to assault. Furthermore, earth as a shock-absorber was increasingly being used instead of masonry alone. In 1539-40 the system was well advanced. Signs of the arrival of these ideas in England can be found in the Portsmouth area. A rudimentary angled bastion was added to the town's defences at this time, and at Yarmouth Castle, in the Isle of Wight, an eared bastion of true Italian form was built about 1547.

The inspiration for Henry's castles may have sprung from Northern Europe. There are similarities in design in some Continental castles. The use of semi-circular bastions with sloping parapets and smoke vents was recommended by Albrecht Dürer, who in 1520–21 was called in to advise

on the defences of Antwerp. In another scheme for a fortress, Dürer suggested the use of gunports at ground level firing into an enclosing moat. Dürer may have kindled the ideas reproduced in Henry's castles and it is significant that the man responsible for designing at least one of them came from Central Europe.

Armament

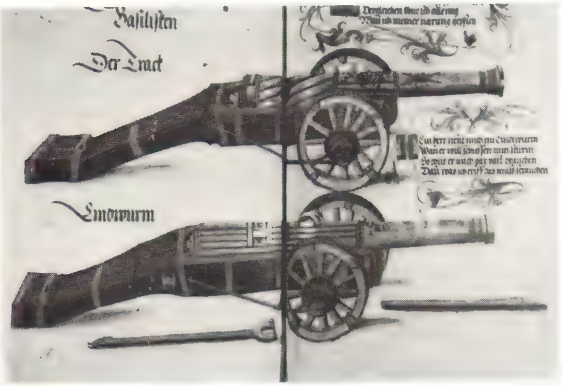
It is difficult to provide a description of the armament of these castles. The number and type of guns often varied from year to year. Early guns took the form of great bombards such as "Mons Meg", which can be seen at Edinburgh Castle, or smaller-calibre weapons, sometimes constructed on a primitive breech-loading principle, often strapped down to wooden beds or used on pivots. By the early years of the sixteenth century a variety of guns were in use with recognised calibres and weight of shot. In all essentials they differed little from the eighteenth-century 32-pounders at both Deal and Walmer. Bows and arrows remained in use but the arquebus fired on the match-lock principle became more common and was the type of weapon used in the ports covering the moats and courtyards.

Mid-sixteenth-century descriptions suggest the demi-cannon (six-and-a-

Deal Castle from the air

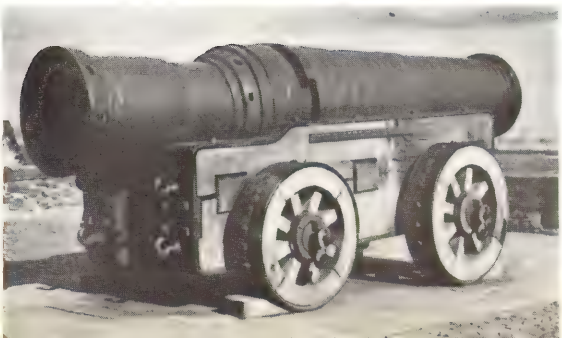
Examples of 16th-century cannon

Long culverin, which fired an 18-lb. shot



Two basilisks: above, a wyvern; below, a dragon. The basilisk was a form of culverin firing a shot up to 25 lb.

Cannon still to be seen at Pevensey



"Mons Meg" at Edinburgh Castle

half-inch bore and 32-pound shot), culverin (five-inch bore and 18-pound shot) and the saker (three-and-a-half-inch bore and 6-pound shot) were in commonest use. In 1597 there were one cannon, one culverin, five demi-culverins, a saker, a minion and a falcon at Walmer.

Their ranges have been given by contemporaries: about a mile and a half for the cannon, and about a mile and a quarter for the saker. Allowing for a certain amount of exaggeration, the castles could make the occupation of the Downs anchorage by an enemy an impossible task unless the guns were first silenced.

Garrisons

Details of the garrisons are much more complete. From a document of 1540 we even have their names as well as their rates of pay. At each were a captain, his deputy and a porter. At Sandown there were ten gunners, eleven at Walmer and sixteen at Deal. The earthwork bulwarks each had a captain and two to four gunners. Captains were paid 1s. to 2s. a day, the porters 6d. to 8d., and the gunners 6d. These were the garrisons in residence. They would be supplemented by the local inhabitants in an emergency. In 1661, after the Restoration, the complements were much the same, with sixteen gunners at Sandown and Walmer and eighteen at Deal. The ground floor of each keep provided the accommodation for the soldiery and the officers had their quarters on the first floor.

The Civil War

As is the way of coastal fortification the castles rarely saw the action for which they were constructed. Apart from safeguarding the Downs during the anxious days of the Spanish Armada their activities against shipping were usually no more than firing cautionary shots across the bows of foreign ships which had not dipped their flags in salute. Nevertheless, all three castles were besieged.

This took place during the period of political manoeuvring following the military defeat of Charles I. In 1648 there was a mutiny in the Downs fleet and Royalist risings in Kent and Essex. The three castles had been in Parliamentary hands at the start of the Civil War but now Sandown declared for the King along with the fleet and Deal and Walmer capitulated to the Royalists soon afterwards. The Kentish revolt was quickly put down and the castles were the last fortified places to hold out. Colonel Rich with 2000 foot and a few horse set out to relieve Dover Castle and then moved on to the Downs. Unfortunately he had no artillery to speak of. One of his

Colonel John Hutchinson, the regicide, who was imprisoned at Sandown; portrait by Robert Walker

men wrote that they waited a week for a mortar and when that came no engineer came with it. Walmer was the first to be surrounded. It was a siege of skirmishes. The besiegers were harassed not only from the other two castles but also from landing parties from the fleet. When outside relief failed, after three weeks Walmer surrendered. Rich then turned his attention to Deal and obtained two cannon and two demi-cannon for his siege work. Yet even here he was held up for nearly three weeks because of sorties from Sandown and the fleet. When the garrison eventually marched out, Colonel Rich wrote to the Speaker of the House of Commons, "the castle is much torn and spoiled with the granadoes, as Walmer was, or rather more". Sandown surrendered soon afterwards.

Later history

The castles were repaired and during the Dutch Wars of the 1650s and 60s they were put into a state of readiness. Sandown fired on a man-of-war attacking small craft in the Downs. Yet in 1722 Daniel Defoe seeing them on his travels remarked of Deal and Walmer that they were "two small works of no strength by land and not of much use by sea". And during the eighteenth century military requirements gave way to increased domestic needs. The use made of the Downs by the Navy meant that the castles remained important. During the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic

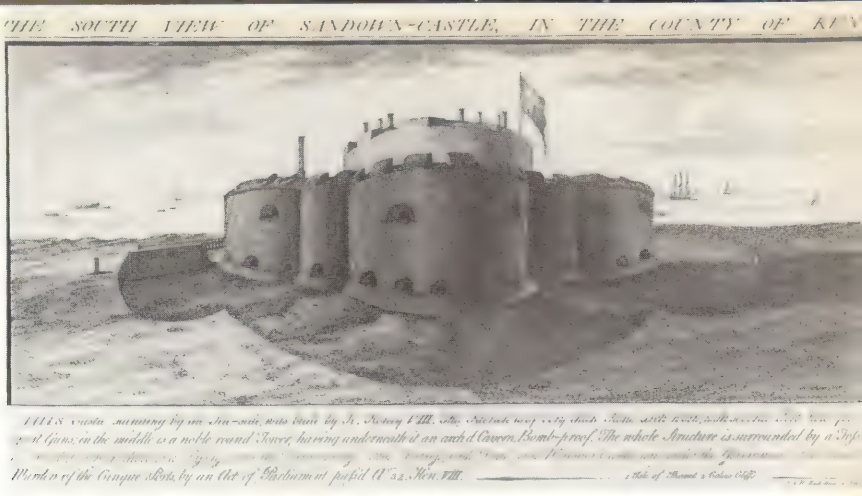
William Pitt as Colonel of the Cinque Ports Volunteers

Wars they were kept in some form of defence and the Cinque Ports Volunteers trained and built earthen fortifications. "Hornworks, covered-ways, bastions, demi-bastions, counter-scarps, etc. are springing up like mushrooms after a shower", stated a letter in the *Kentish Gazette*. Popular defiance of Napoleon was summed up in the verse of Peter Pindar:

"Come the Consul whenever he will,
And he means it when Neptune is calmer,
Pitt will send him a damned bitter pill
From his fortress, the castle of Walmer."

Deal Castle

These were the last days of activity for Deal and until the last war it served as a residence for the holder of the honorary post of Captain. In 1802 in anticipation of Lord Carrington's residence the Governor's Lodgings, which had been built over the courtyard nearly eighty years previously, were demolished and rebuilt. The new block was not architecturally distinguished. A well aimed bomb in 1941 so ruined it that its remains have since been removed. Deal has been in the active guardianship of what is now the Department of the Environment since 1904.



How S. and N. Buck saw Sandown Castle in 1735

Sandown Castle

The castle obtained notoriety after the Restoration by the imprisonment there of the old regicide Colonel Hutchinson. "When he came to the Castle, he found it a lamentable old ruined place," wrote his wife. Its condition did not improve much during the eighteenth century. Although the sea broke into the moat in 1785 and the castle was soon afterwards declared unfit for habitation, it was repaired and garrisoned during the Napoleonic Wars. Attempts were made to save it in 1856 but sea erosion and a fire ended them. Demolition began soon afterwards. Some of the stone was used in the additions to the gatehouse at Walmer. Today most of it has disappeared into the sea and a shapeless mass marks the remains of the west bastion.

Walmer Castle, home of the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports

Since the early eighteenth century Walmer Castle has been the residence of the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports. The Wardenship really developed in the thirteenth century and by the reign of Edward I the office had become one of permanent authority over the Ports. The power was concentrated in the hands of the Constable of Dover Castle. Before the end of the fourteenth century it was a life appointment by the King and in more recent times the honour has been held by illustrious statesmen. The annual salary of £3,000 ceased at the death of Lord Liverpool in 1828. Although there have been occasional attempts to abolish the office they have not been pressed to a conclusion. The office has become gradually

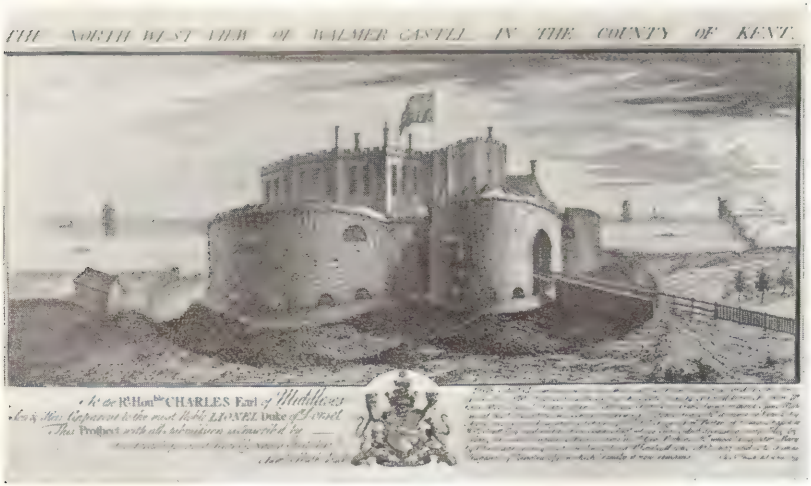
little more than a title but in 1900 the Lord Warden's position was compared with that of a Lord Lieutenant of a County.

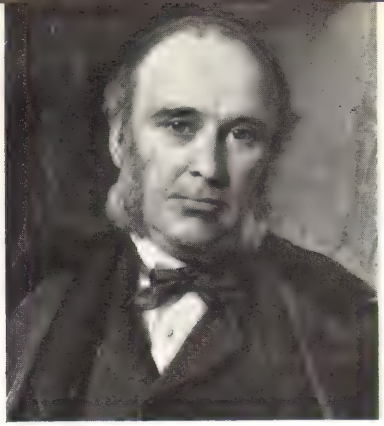
In order to create a residence commensurate with the dignity of the Lord Wardenship the alterations to the castle have been extensive. Rooms were built out from the keep on to the bastions by the first resident Lord Warden, the first Duke of Dorset (1708-13 and 1727-65). Nearly every subsequent Lord Warden has left his mark. Most notable were the thirteen extra rooms built above the gatehouse by Lord Granville (1865-91) in the 1860s. The gardens were largely laid out by him, though much had been done by Lady Hester Stanhope during the years of William Pitt's office (1792-1806).

Walmer has been visited by many famous and distinguished public figures, including Queen Victoria. Lord Curzon (1903-05) is said to have told the story that the Queen left the castle within twenty-four hours because she found her bed damp and Prince Albert caught a streaming cold. But this anecdote is inconsistent with the facts. She stayed here in 1835 aged sixteen, and in 1842 the Queen and the Prince stayed for nearly a month with their two eldest children. They were delighted with the place.

Internally the relics of former Lords Warden and their guests are very evident. Walmer's two most famous occupants, William Pitt and the Duke of Wellington (1829-52), are commemorated by numerous items of furniture and personal belongings. The room which Pitt used as a study, when

Another impression by S. and N. Buck





Portrait of W. H. Smith by George Richmond

for so long he was concerned with England's defence, remains. So does the room in which the Duke of Wellington lived and died. It was largely due to Lord Granville's successor, W. H. Smith (1891), the founder of the well-known firm which bears his name, that these effects were preserved as heirlooms and they and their setting were thus safeguarded for the nation. Later Lords Warden have taken a similar interest in Walmer, and given many pictures, pieces of furniture and items of historical significance. What is now the Department of the Environment has maintained the fabric since 1904. Sir Winston Churchill, when Lord Warden, never took up residence, but the present holder of the office, Sir Robert Menzies, retains a flat in the gatehouse. In this way Walmer maintains an active link with the four centuries in the history of "the castles which keep the Downs".

The beach at Walmer

Print by William Daniel, 1823, *showing the Governor's Lodgings on the seaward side of Deal Castle*

DEAL CASTLE: DESCRIPTION

Entrance

Approaching the castle from the main road, the visitor is immediately faced with the defensive devices which were intended to protect the only entrance in an otherwise symmetrical scheme. The broad and deep moat was, of course, a formidable obstacle in itself, even though it was not meant to hold water. It is crossed by a stone causeway detached from the outer wall of the castle itself. A modern bridge over the gap replaces the former drawbridge. This was controlled by chains which passed through the round holes on either side of the gate arch. Immediately in front of the gate was a portcullis, and a glance upwards to the five circular shafts in the roof of the entrance passage is enough to show that an attacker trying to force the heavy oak door was liable to be harassed by grenades and missiles dropped on him from above. Even if the enemy broke in, a cannon mounted in the gunport in the back wall of the entrance hall covered the doorway.

The entrance has little architectural display about it. The large arch has now only a badly-weathered plaque above it. Its inscription, if it had one,

The way in

has vanished leaving only scarcely discernible Renaissance motifs. Splendour was sacrificed to functionalism.

The gatehouse was constructed within one of the six bastions of the outer ring. The entrance hall is spacious in order to provide the staggered approach. On the right was the porter's lodge with its door and shuttered window controlling the hall. The lodge could also be entered from the inner courtyard. Below its floor is a cellar lit by a small window high in one wall and originally entered, as it is today, by a trap door. It is possible that this was used as a prison. The lodge contains a large casemate for a gun covering the landward approaches. Its fellow on the other side of the gatehouse is now partially blocked. The porter's lodge now houses a small museum of local antiquities in the ownership of Deal Corporation.

The inner doorway of the entrance hall had a door which opened outwards towards the keep. This enabled the defenders to isolate the enemy who might have forced their way into the gatehouse. At the same time it prevented the attackers turning it into an independent stronghold. They were then at the mercy of the defence.

Entrance hall of gatehouse

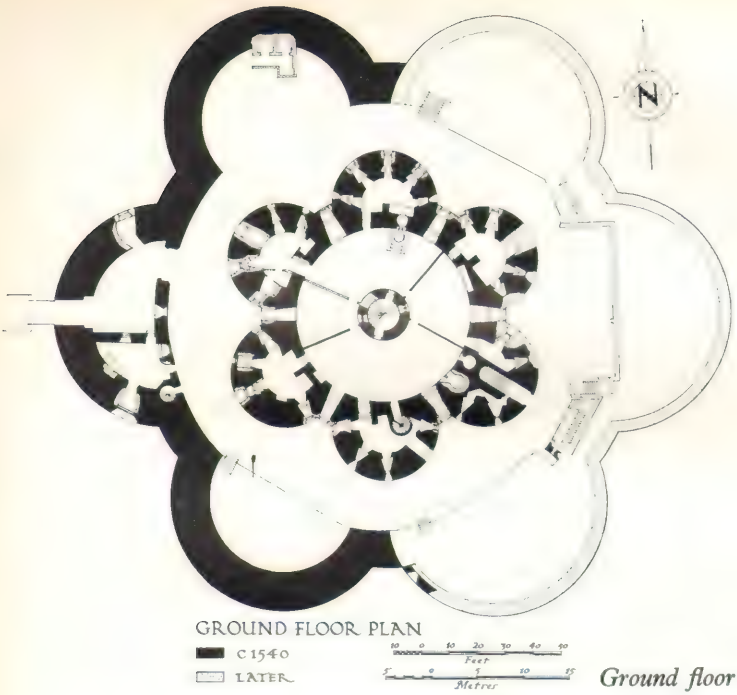
Outer Bastions

Before going inside the keep, the visitor is recommended to walk round its exterior and to climb on to the outer bastions. It will quickly be appreciated that the castle is in two parts. The main armament was mounted on this outer ring. More guns could also be fired from the top of the keep and from the inner bastions or lunettes attached to it. The courtyard between the two parts is little more than a passage. Both the courtyard and the moat outside could be covered by small-arms fire from regularly spaced gunports. In all, therefore, there were five different tiers of guns.

The battlements visible to-day, however, are more picturesque than functional. They date from 1732. Originally the keep and outer bastions had broad rounded parapets pierced by embrasures. Traces of these parapets survive in the bastions on either side of the gatehouse.

It seems that the bastions were originally hollow and were later filled to provide wider gun platforms. The four guns now mounted on them are 32-pounders from the time of George III. Early in the eighteenth century the appearance of the seaward side of the castle was drastically altered by the building of the Governor's Lodgings. This large block of rooms was constructed across the courtyard and over the bastion. It was a sign of the times as the castle became more of a residence than a fortress. The Lodgings were replaced by another building in the nineteenth century. This was so badly damaged by bombing in 1941 that the ruins have been removed and this side of the castle restored more nearly to its original form. One of the entrances to the stairs leading down into the "Rounds", the gallery serving the gunports covering the moat, has been re-established as a result. The discovery of a window lighting the stair has enabled the showing of the original inner wall of the bastion and the later filling. On the town side of the castle is a bastion which is at a slightly lower level than the others. To the right of the men's lavatories here, still occupying the site of the eighteenth-century soldiers' latrines, is a kiln for heating round shot, a particularly useful weapon against wooden ships.

Externally the castle bears the signs of change. Many of the Tudor, four-centred arch openings remain but others have been altered to give larger windows and new openings made to meet the castle's increasing domestic needs. The lantern surmounting the keep is a feeble finish to the summit. It belongs to the eighteenth century. Its forerunner may have been of stone and similar to the watch turrets at Henry VIII's Cornish castles of St.



Ground floor at Deal

Mawes and Pendennis. More success has been made of the masonry repairs where galleting, the insertion of flint chips into the mortar joints, has been repeated in all subsequent rebuilding. In terms of colour the castle still retains its original tones, dominated by the greenish-grey of the rag blocks. Here and there can be seen the bands of pale yellow Caen stone with which the builders varied the finish, and occasionally, the moulded stones from an ancient religious house.

The keep, ground floor

One enters the keep by turning right on emerging from the gatehouse and walking round one-third of its circuit. Thereby an attacker could be covered by the gunports in its bastions. The entrance itself is inconspicuous, and there is no portcullis or other elaboration for defence.

The ground floor provided the main living accommodation for the garrison. Timber and wattle-and-daub partitions divided the wide area which surrounded the central stair well, from which the ceiling joists

The entrance

radiated like spokes of a wheel. It is somewhat gloomy today with little direct light, despite the enlargement of most of the windows.

The visitor first enters the common hall. The fireplace on the left is original but little remains of its detail. The battery of ovens on the right-hand side were not included in this room formerly. They belonged to the kitchen, and the partition dividing them from the hall has since been removed. The larger of the ovens is original and there were two more ovens, one on either side of the large kitchen fireplace. Early plans show a pump against the stair well opposite the fireplace.

Beyond the kitchen were smaller rooms probably used for sleeping quarters. Still partitioned off is a room which in more recent times has been used as a chapel. It contains a memorial tablet to Field-Marshal Lord French, first Earl of Ypres, and a stained glass window, also bearing his coat of arms. They commemorate residence as Captain of the Castle from 1923 to 1925. There is no evidence to suggest there was a chapel in the first lay-out.

Attached to the keep are the inner six bastions. They had a purely

defensive function. Each had five ports for hand guns, four if a doorway was required, with high sills and a good field of fire. They had shutters and were barred. Vents in the vault carried away the smoke and fumes. The best preserved are in the south-east bastion on the left of the courtyard entrance to the basement. They show great craftsmanship in the brick laying. The bastion opposite the gatehouse was used as a guard room in the eighteenth century. By then defensive considerations had lapsed sufficiently for an entrance to be forced into the bastion to enable direct access into the keep, thus nullifying the elaborate sixteenth-century arrangements. A restored gunport has now taken the place of the doorway. The bastions at one time or another had fireplaces or stairs inserted into them for the convenience of the garrison; one has a furnace with its firing chamber on the other side of the wall dividing bastion from keep. It may have been used as a forge.

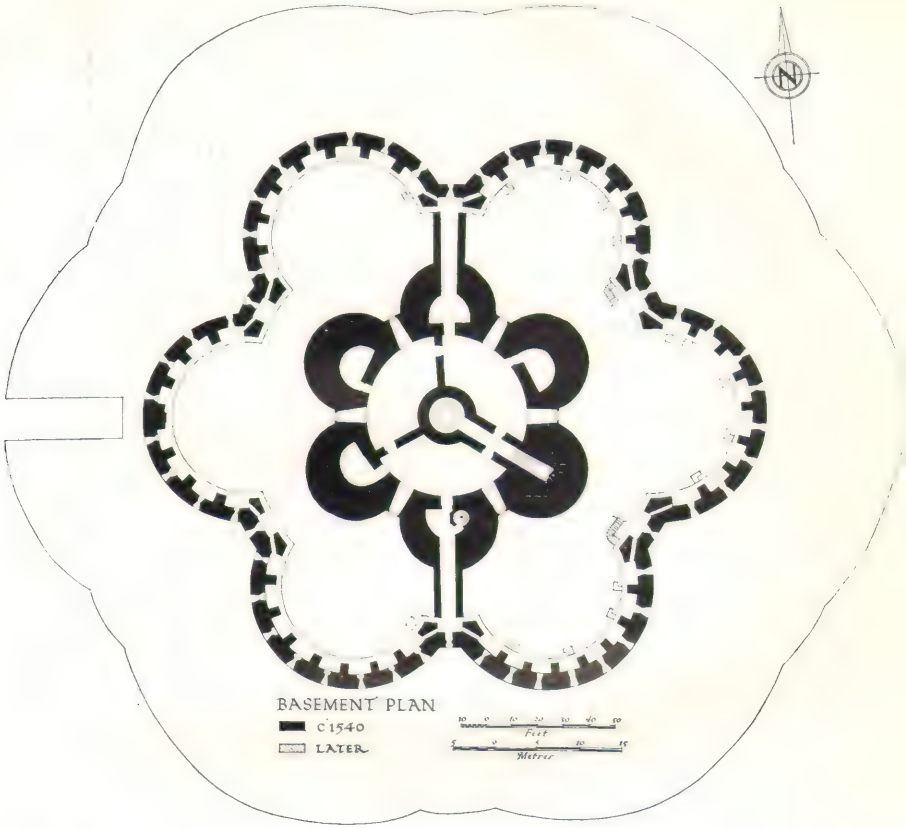
The main stairs to the first floor were in the central column. They were double and ingeniously devised. One started opposite the entrance to the keep and went up to the first floor. The other began on the opposite side and went up to the roof over the keep. Yet both used the same newel post.

The keep, first floor

The upper storey was intended for the quarters of the resident captain. Later it served as part of the Governor's Lodgings and gave accommodation to other officers.

To the left of the visitor on climbing the stairs is a passage, the end of which is now blocked. It had been forced through the wall to connect the keep with the new Governor's Lodgings over the courtyard and outer bastion. The partitions here all belong to the internal reconstructions of the eighteenth century. On turning right, however, through a Tudor doorway, the surviving portions of the original arrangements can be seen. Here is a corridor concentric with the stair well. Three timber partitions each have moulded doorways. Two Tudor fireplaces and the remains of another can also be seen. They were found recently, hidden behind panelling. A latrine was provided on the west side. Its drain runs out under the courtyard.

The rooms on this floor contain an exhibition of photographs and prints illustrating the strategic purpose of Henry VIII's castles, their differences and the common elements of their design, the manner of their building, garrisoning and armaments, and their place in the long history of England's defences against invasion.



Basement at Deal

The keep, basement

The basement provided storage for provisions and munitions. It could serve the keep and the batteries of the outer curtain simultaneously. A doorway from the courtyard led down a flight of steps to the well below the central stairs, and doors on either side opened into the basement proper. The visitor already in the keep should reach it by the spiral stair beside the ground floor entrance. At the bottom of the stairs a long sloping passage leads to the "Rounds". By turning right one reaches the basement. The splendid ribbed vault springing from the central shaft contrasts with the

patchy internal walling of chalk blocks and bands of beach pebbles. Shafts in the courtyard give a dim light. Stone walls divide it into three parts. The first room one comes to was the store room in the eighteenth century. To the left was the magazine. In more recent times this was the laundry. The box press remains but only the recess and chase for the flue of the fireplace for heating the flat irons. On the right was the wine vault, later used as a magazine.

As on the ground floor, doors led off to the six bastions which were also lit by light shafts. The three not used for access to other parts of the castle were clearly used for storage.

The "Rounds"

There are two means of getting into the continuous gallery within the bastions of the outer curtain. The long passage at the bottom of the stairs connecting the ground floor with the basement is the main approach. It ends in a sally-port to the bottom of the moat as well. The other passage is on the opposite side of the keep.

The gallery serves the hand-gun ports which give complete coverage over the moat. There are eight ports in each bastion, fifty-three in all. Vents over each carried off smoke, and at irregular intervals there are L-shaped ammunition lockers in the wall behind. Loops in the thickness of the wall enabled internal covering fire to control the junctions of the bastions with the short curtain walls. The gallery had direct access to the courtyard by the two stairs on either side of the seaward bastion.

Walmer Castle from the north-east

WALMER CASTLE: DESCRIPTION

From the early years of the eighteenth century, Walmer Castle has been the official residence of the Lords Warden of the Cinque Ports. Some of them, William Pitt, Lord Liverpool, the Duke of Wellington and Lord Granville made it their homes; others such as the Duke of Dorset visited only occasionally, perhaps for a few weeks in the summer. Of all the Lords Warden who have lived here it is the Duke of Wellington who has given much of his character to the castle, although unlike some of the other residents, he added little to the building or its grounds. His life was frugal and almost spartan, and, of course, unmistakably military.

The Duke of Wellington, in particular, constantly received notable guests in what he called "the most charming marine residence he had ever seen. The Queen herself has nothing to compare with it." The most memorable visit was undoubtedly that of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in the autumn of 1842. The Queen and the Prince could walk on the beach without attracting too many sightseers. Not that their stay passed unnoticed. The local boatmen arranged an assembly of about fifty luggers which were launched simultaneously while the Royal party watched from

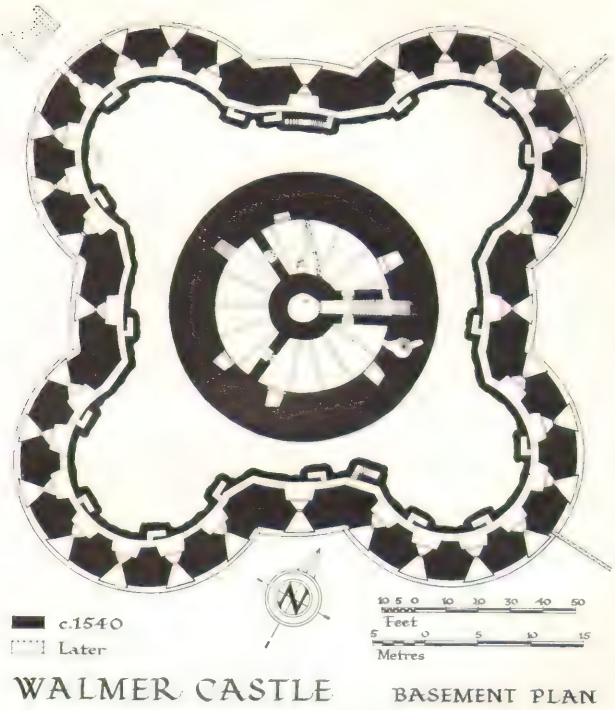
the ramparts. One of the party, Lady Lyttelton, has charmingly described the domestic scene in this 'marine residence'. "The Prince and Queen are reading Hallam's *Constitutional History* and for a light book St. Simon's *Memoirs* . . . . Very pleasant to find him reading aloud to her while she was at cross-stitch as I did the other evening before dressing time." Lady Lyttelton also indicates that Walmer was not, in fact, the most comfortable of quarters in which to live. "It seems needless to go out for air, doors and windows chatter and sing at once, and hardly keep out the storms of wind and rain which is howling round." Great changes had been made to turn the castle into a residence suitable to the dignity of the office of Lord Warden. Nonetheless Henry VIII's fortress, with all its inconvenience for elegant living, shows through the veneer created by two centuries of domestic improvements. The visitor will notice in its basic structure great similarities to Deal Castle.

Walmer Castle was not as large as "the great castle" in the Downs. There were just four large rounded bastions with a simple circular keep rising from the centre. A narrow courtyard separated the keep from the outer curtain. The defensive principles remained the same although there are differences in the shape and size of gunports. There were three main tiers of guns, two in the bastions and more guns mounted on top of the keep. A continuous gallery below the outer curtain connected the hand-gun ports which defended the bottom of the moat.

The keep was well-nigh identical to Deal in its internal arrangements. Very little of the internal plan of the basement and ground floor remains. They were taken over in recent years for the servants' quarters and service rooms. Few Tudor openings survive, particularly in the keep, where most of them have been widened to provide sash windows. Such alterations have tended to conceal the fact that the courtyard here could be raked by gun-fire if an enemy managed to break in.

Entrance

The tree-lined drive and Lord Granville's castellated additions to the gatehouse give a softer tone than do the realities of Deal. The inscription over the gateway records the heightening of this bastion to give thirteen extra rooms in 1874. Yet the visitor will quickly see the original defensive arrangements. A drawbridge connected the causeway across the moat with the entrance passage above which were eight murder-holes – shafts in the brick vault through which the defenders could drop grenades or other



missiles on anyone trying to break down the portcullis and door behind. Once inside the door the visitor steps into a large entrance hall roofed and defended in a similar manner to that at Deal. The porter's lodge was on the left-hand side. On the right, on either side of a widely splayed casemate, are racks containing a number of rammers, sponges and wad-hooks suitable for the 32-pounder muzzle-loaders on the seaward bastions. From the gatehouse the visitor walks for a short distance along the courtyard before entering one of the later additions to the castle. This is an undistinguished, weather-boarded structure, the Gunners' Lodgings, linking the keep with the outer curtain, and contrasts with the well-built masonry of Henry VIII's time.

Interior

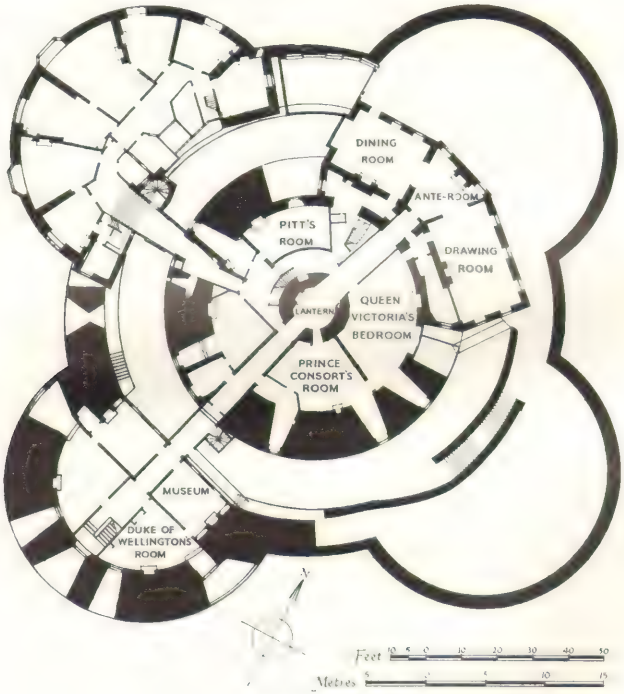
Inside the castle a number of the more important rooms are furnished and are open to the public. Some of the furniture has been in the castle for

many years, owned and used by successive Lords Warden. Most of the pictures and prints too have been collected over a long time. They were preserved here as heirlooms through the foresight of W. H. Smith, Lord Warden in 1891. In almost every room the visitor sees something connected with the Duke of Wellington. His presence may still perhaps be felt although some of the military character that he gave the castle is missing. Abrupt notices, placed by his orders, reading "Shut this door" have since been removed by his less brusque successors.

Gunners' Lodgings

The Gunners' Lodgings or cabins were built across the back of the open south bastion early in the eighteenth century. They were built in timber and were weather-boarded. There were two rooms on each floor. On the right-hand side of the through passage on the ground floor one of these rooms is open and contains a number of heirlooms. At the back of the

Plan of first floor



The Duke of Wellington, from a picture by Goya

room beside the fireplace is a large Chinese screen and between the windows is a bust of the Duke of Wellington. There is a chair belonging to William Pitt, four Regency chairs, a chest and a table.

East and West Lounges

These are two rooms created out of the southern bastion. The deeply splayed recesses in the windows are the remains of the large casemates for the heavier guns.

A number of the pieces of furniture are heirlooms. The four Louis XV armchairs covered in blue velvet are in the West Lounge. So are the six Hepplewhite chairs which formerly belonged to William Pitt. In the East Lounge is an early eighteenth-century walnut table inlaid with black and white squares for chess. The top lifts off to provide a card table or a backgammon board. There are also other chairs which belonged to William Pitt.

Corridor

At the head of the stairs to the first floor are two portrait prints; on one side the Duke of Wellington and opposite Napoleon Buonaparte. A bust of the Duke of Wellington by Turnerelli stands on the window sill and on the landing is a large mahogany writing bureau once belonging to the Duke. Above it is a rather fanciful representation of the Roman landing in Kent in 55 B.C.

Lucas Collection

The room on the left-hand side at the top of the stairs contains the collection of Wellingtoniana given to Walmer Castle by Wing Commander T. H. Lucas in 1966. The collection includes medals, books, figures and busts, Staffordshire figures and ornaments which relate in some way to the Duke of Wellington.

Next door to this room is a room containing articles relating to William Pitt. There is his library chair in a corner and contemporary political cartoons on the walls. In the case in the centre of the room are smaller objects associated with Pitt and with later Lords Warden, Lord Reading, the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava. Between the windows is a loyal address to King George V in 1935 from the Cinque Ports.

Coat worn by the Duke of Wellington as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports; and the original "Wellington boots"

The Duke of Wellington's room as it looked on the day of his death, 14 *September* 1852*; and as it looks today*

William Pitt, twice Prime Minister

Duke of Wellington's Room

This simple room overlooking the sea and the grounds served the Duke as bedroom and sitting room throughout his years of residence. The same armchair in which he died in 1852 stands faded and tattered in its same position. So too does his narrow camp bed with its horse-hair mattress, which he always used and took with him on his campaigns, and on which his dead body was laid. When one of his friends was surprised that he continued to use a bed on which there was no room to turn his answer was, "when one begins to turn in bed it is time to turn out".

The room has been kept furnished in very much the same state as on that day in 1852. The carpet, however, is a copy of the original. So are the wallpaper and yellow moreen curtains. In the window at the back of the room is his simple painted deal dressing table with looking glass and blue and white ewer and basin. A tall towel horse stands beside it. In front of the bed is a table and writing desk designed so that it could be used when in bed. In the centre of the room is a high desk, a favourite of the Duke's as he preferred to work standing up. It was later used by Lord Palmerston when Lord Warden. All these pieces of furniture are shown in a picture of the room painted in the Duke's lifetime, two copies of which hang on either side of the fireplace. The remaining pieces which are now here were either used by or associated with him.

On the left of the gilt mirror over the fireplace is a print of the Duke leaving Horse Guards for the last time. There is also a youthful portrait of Prince Arthur, afterwards Duke of Connaught, his godson. Beside the window are two prints of Mrs. Siddons as a tragic actress.

Museum

Leading out of the bedroom was the Boudoir, now a museum of objects which belonged to the Duke. Above the fireplace is a representation of Strathfield Saye House composed of 3500 pieces of wood and made by the Duke's house carpenter. The Duke thought so much of it that it used to hang in the Dining Room in his lifetime. In the case opposite the windows are a death mask taken three days after his death, a pair of "Wellington boots" and a pair of overall boots. The black Wedgwood tea and coffee pots, the cups and saucers, the two bronze hot water jugs were used by him. His telescope is there as well as a multitude of representations and mementoes. In the case opposite the fireplace hangs the last coat worn by Wellington as Lord Warden, and the Field Marshal's coat which belonged to the 1st Duke. Among the prints is a representation of the Duke's lying-in-state.

Prince Consort's Room

Back on the other side of the corridor is the Prince's dressing room, part of the suite created out of half the keep in 1842 for the visit of the Royal Family. Much of the furniture has been introduced in fairly recent times. However, the six cane-seated chairs are listed among the original heirlooms. A photograph of King George V recalls that for two years he was Lord Warden when Prince of Wales (1905–07).

Queen Victoria's Room

Entering this room one is immediately struck by the fine view across the ramparts and out to sea. Wellington put in a plate glass window so that the Queen might have a better view of the sea. The mahogany four-poster bed, with remains of its original hangings, was the one used by the Queen. So was the sofa beneath the window on the right. The high round-backed armchair on the other side of the room is also known as Queen Victoria's chair.

The Sheraton tallboy against the wall has the misleading inscription "sacred to Nelson, Trafalgar" stamped on the oval brass handles. It does not have any direct connection with him. The eight satinwood armchairs

like those in the Lounge belonged to Pitt. Other heirlooms are the Japanese fire screen, the Chinese cabinet in black lacquer and the mahogany pedestal cupboard beside the bed. The rest of the furniture, including the wig stand with pin-cushion lid by the bed, was brought to the castle later.

Lantern and Corridor

Returning to the corridor one enters the lantern which originally was the central stair well of the keep. The corridor contains portraits of admirals and notable seamen. The corridor beyond the lantern contains portraits of former Lords Warden. The series is completed by a newly-acquired portrait of Sir Winston Churchill.

The corridor leads into an ante-room to the sides of which are the Drawing Room and Dining Room.

Drawing Room

This is on the right-hand side and contains some interesting pieces of furniture: in particular the Hepplewhite painted and figured chairs,

Prince Consort's room

Queen Victoria's room

window seats and settee, and the Chinese Chippendale folding card table. The pictures include engravings of sea scenes which are so typical of Walmer and several views of Dover Castle.

Walmer Castle from the gardens

The Queen and Prince walking in front of Walmer Castle were featured in the Illustrated London News *of 25 November* 1842

Dining Room

This room is chiefly noted for its pictures. An unsigned oil painting of the Downs over the fireplace shows the castles as they must have appeared before 1730. There are also two oil paintings of Dover Castle. The ten Chippendale chairs and three elbow chairs were left as heirlooms by W. H. Smith. The dining table is a later addition and the fine inlaid Sheraton table at the back of the room is a recent loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The mauve glass in the windows, here and elsewhere, is said to have been put in by Lord Liverpool to ease his wife's eyes.

Exterior of the castle

Leaving the keep by the French doors and stepping out on to the ramparts one is brought back to the conception of the castle as a fortress. Guns, 32-pounders, stand on the platforms of the bastions and six 6-pounders are mounted beyond the moat. It was here that Queen Victoria liked to stroll when not taking walks along the beach. The characteristics of the castle's former appearance are best appreciated from the gardens to the south and west. Part of the heavy curved parapet still survives together with some unaltered embrasures. Many of these were cut down to form windows and the wide splayed casements have similarly been altered but enough remains to give a feeling of massive strength.

Sir Winston Churchill at his installation in 1946 *as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports*

The Gardens

These can be reached by crossing the wooden bridge on the south side. In Wellington's time the moat was turned into a kitchen garden. Lord Granville improved it and gave it its present appearance. Beyond the moat is a formal garden with box hedges, stone seats and a sundial on a terrace. Beyond that, trees and shrubs fill the grounds. To the right of the main path is The Dell, an old quarry planted with trees by Lady Hester Stanhope when she was staying with Pitt. She wrote, "I am not dull, or, rather, not idle, as I have the charge of improvements here – plantations, farms, buildings, etc." It is largely to her and to Lord Granville, who also planted the clumps of ilex in the meadow and the trees on the beach, that our gratitude is owed for this pleasant adjunct to Walmer Castle.

Lord Granville, who developed the gardens

SELECT GLOSSARY OF MILITARY ENGINEERING TERMS

BASTION	Projection from the general outline of a fortress from which the garrison can see, and defend by flanking fire, the ground before the ramparts.
CASEMATE	Bomb-proof vault providing an emplacement for a gun.
COUNTER-SCARP	Outer side of ditch.
COVERED-WAY	Protected communication all round the works of a fortress on the outer edge of a ditch, covered by earth-work from enemy fire.
CURTAIN	Portion of the rampart which connects two adjacent bastions.
EMBRASURE	Splayed opening in a wall or parapet.
HORN WORK	An outwork beyond the main line of fortifications consisting of one curtain and two half-bastions.
PORTCULLIS	Iron-shod wooden grille suspended by chains in grooves in front of a gate, and let down to ground level in time of necessity.
SALLY-PORT	Subsidiary opening which serves as a communication for a sudden attack by the besieged on the besiegers.

CONVERSION TABLE

Page		
13	32 pounds	14·5 kg
	$6\frac{1}{2}$ inches	165·0 mm
14	18 pounds	8·2 kg
	25 pounds	11·3 kg
15	32 pounds	14·5 kg
	5 inches	127·0 mm
	18 pounds	8·2 kg
	$3\frac{1}{2}$ inches	88·9 mm
	6 pounds	2·7 kg
	$1\frac{1}{2}$ miles	2·4 km
	$1\frac{1}{4}$ miles	2·0 km
24	32 pounds	14·5 kg
32	32 pounds	14·5 kg
41	32 pounds	14·5 kg
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