



Love your Castle

THE GEORGIAN CASTLE

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1793

By 1688 Elizabeth Castle had been encircled by a defensive wall and so the Castle would have been recognizable to a modern day visitor. From then until the Occupation the main changes concerned the refurbishment and replacement of gun positions and emplacements reflecting the improvement of artillery power and the replacement of accommodation for the garrison and its officers.

In the Upper Ward the Captain's House was reduced in length sometime between 1680 and 1737. Several stretches of the defensive walls and five surviving buildings in the Lower Ward were built during the period 1726-1749. The earliest, built in 1726, was in the 1780s used as a storhouse, with the Master Gunner's Garden taking up the space which became the Coach House, and the final part of the 1726 building was the Master Gunner's House, which today is a ruin.

Between 1730 and 1734 John Bastide¹ rebuilt sections of the defences and re-modeled The Ditch, in front of the Main Guard or Third Gate, and its sally port passages, including the Great Sally Port under Royal Bastion. The projecting sentry-box or pepper-pot bastions, added to the defences when they were refurbished, are almost certainly by Bastide.

The last vestiges of the Priory Church were removed in 1735 when the Officers' Quarters together with the canteen and adjoining prison cells were built on their site. This was when the East Curtain wall with its Redan and the associated Mount Bastion and Royal Bastion were rebuilt. The raised platform behind the wall was known as the *terreplein*. The paved area between the Redan and the Royal Bastion was a four-gun battery dominating the Havre St Jaume. The

cannon fired through splayed embrasures in the parapet. The height of the wall has been greatly reduced and the decorated masonry thrown onto the beach below.

In 1746 the Ordnance Store was built alongside Sir John Lanier's Magazine and in 1749 work started on the huge Barracks block for the men on the north side of Lower Ward which when it was completed in 1755 completely enclosed the Parade Ground with buildings on all side.

Beyond the Lower Ward a new Port Guard (now called the Old Port Guard) was built down by the main gate in 1738 around 1735 and the seaward side of Fort Charles was reinforced with a new buttress about the same time and the old ditch with its drawbridge which had protected Fort Charles was filled in.

Up in the Upper Ward the roof of the Governor's House was raised in 1737 and the old fireplaces were replaced in brick. (After 1842 this third floor was to become the Garrison's Chapel.)

In the second half of the eighteenth century the alterations and additions to the Castle were relatively modest.

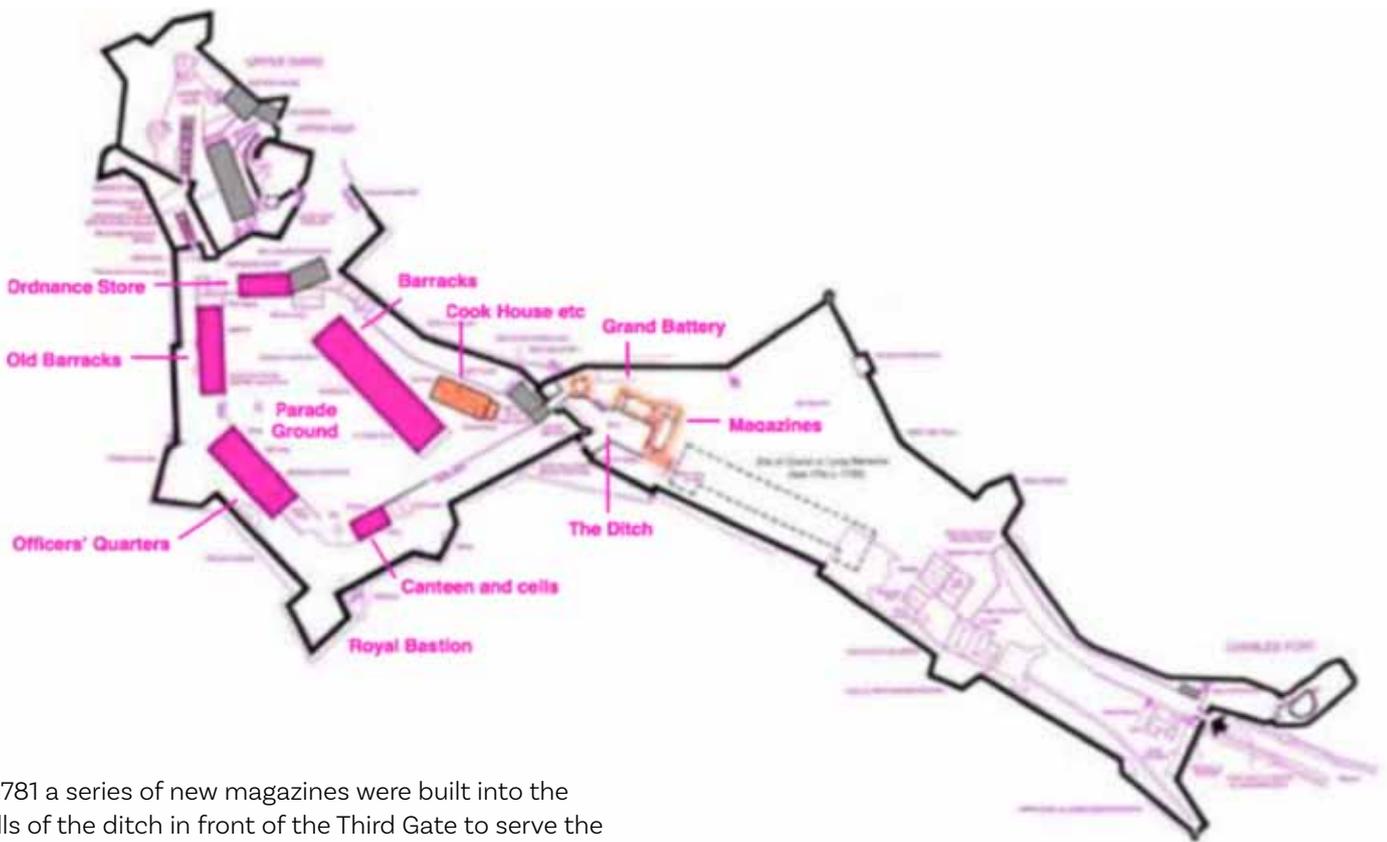
In 1783 there were seven cannon in the Bastion next to Captain's House and 15 cannon on the Mount, then referred to as 'The Saluting Platform'.

The Grand Battery, on the west side of Outer Ward, was built in 1743 and then refurbished in 1770 and its 15 24-pounders made it the strongest battery in the Castle. As part of this work the Lime Kiln which may have been built during Bastide's time, was situated here (now covered by

¹JOHN BASTIDE (1700-1770) is attributed with having undertaken works to the Castle in the period 1730 to 1734. He was a military engineer. He was commissioned as an ensign in 1711, became a Lieutenant in 1718, and continued in that rank for 20 years. He worked for a while on designs for military roads and bases in Scotland shortly after the first Jacobite Rebellion in 1715. After his time in Jersey he went to America in 1740 as chief engineer at Annapolis Royal and eventually returned to England in October 1762. In 1770 he was promoted to Lieutenant-General and is believed to have died shortly after this date.

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In 1781 a series of new magazines were built into the walls of the ditch in front of the Third Gate to serve the increasing number and power of the guns. These were accessed by a covered staircase down from the Green. Built into the side of the ditch the three magazines were used for storing gunpowder. These magazines were well protected and cool but very dark. Because soldiers were unable to use a candle or lamp to check the gunpowder supplies, oil lamps were placed behind a glass window at the end of the long rooms. These were accessed by an outside corridor. The entrance to the magazine was protected by a curtain of wetted cloth or leather to prevent any sparks causing the gunpowder to ignite.

(The storage of powder was always an issue in the Castle. In 1783 there were 84 guns listed and if only half were used in the course of an attack, and each of these only fired 50 shots, then over 2,000 round shot and about 160 barrels (c.30 tons) of gunpowder would be used.)

The Old Barracks (aka the Long Barracks or the Grand Barracks) on the Green, which had been sufficient to

house four companies but had been neglected for most of the century were pulled down shortly after 1783.

The only other surviving building attributable to this period is the structure between the Third Gate and Soldiers Barracks, which has been used as a cook house, wash house and laundry.

²Despite these changes the Castle still had one major weakness and that was exploited by the French in 1781 - the garrison at Elizabeth Castle could not defend St Helier when the causeway was covered by the tide. Following the Battle of Jersey it was decided that an additional fortification would be built above St Helier on Mont de la Ville - Fort Regent.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century a Fives Court was added to the Northern end of the Officers' Quarters.

²Elizabeth Castle Battle of Jersey timetable - 1781

- 2:35am - High Water (26ft 7ins)
- 7:00am - Captain Mulcaster, on horseback, arrives at Elizabeth Castle. Immediately meets with Captain Crawford and other officers of the Invalids
- 7:15am - Alarm guns fired from Elizabeth Castle and taken up around the Island
- 7:45am - Causeway dry
- 8:00am - Sunrise
- 9:00am - French party arrive with demand for surrender
- 9:15am - Request sent to Captain Lumsdaine and Colonel Benest for support
- 10:30am - Captain Aylward arrives and takes command of the Castle
- c.10:45am - French sent second demand for surrender. Again rejected - Causeway beginning to cover
- 11:30am - Causeway impassable and garrison cut off
- 3:15pm - High Water (27ft)

Captain Peter Aylward (EC)

- Lieutenant Peter Aylward commissioned captain in the 9th Foot on 24 July 1762. Stationed in East Florida in 1765.
- In 1769 he was the senior captain in the 9th Foot.
- In 1770 he was on the half-pay list as belonging to the 109th Foot where he remained until he was appointed to his own Independent Company of Invalids, (formed from the out-patients of the Chelsea Hospital, 25 December 1779) in October 1779.
- In June 1790 he exchanged his position with the Invalids in Jersey to be a Captain of one of the 11 new units created that year but bizarrely enough he was back in Jersey commanding his invalid company in Jersey in 1798 and was still there in 1800.