

WYVERN CITADEL - OVERGROUND

THE PRIMARY COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE FOR THE DEFENCE ZONE ACROSS THE JACKSON DELTA AREA IS AT WYVERN CITADEL ITSELF, AN ANCIENT STONE-BUILT CASTLE SET ON PART OF A SOUTHWEST TO NORTHEAST TRENDING ROCKY RIDGE THAT FORMS A DISTINCT LANDMARK ON THE NORTH BANK OF THE RIVER JACKSON IN ITS HUGE BEND BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE GREAT STONE WALL AND THE DELTA. THE FAIRLY POOR-QUALITY, STONY, LAND NEAR THE RIDGE IS LITTLE-USED FOR AGRICULTURE, AS THE CLOSEST VILLAGE'S NAME OF STONEMOOR MIGHT IMPLY. IT IS THOUGH AN IDEAL SPOT FOR OLD-TIME PHYSICAL DEFENCE. THE CITADEL IS BUILT ON AN 80-FOOT HIGH (25 METRES) FLAT-TOPPED, ROCKY PINNACLE, SEPARATED BY NARROW, STEEP RAVINES FROM THE REST OF THE RIDGE, WHICH RAVINES IN PLACES SHOW SIGNS OF HAVING BEEN DELIBERATELY CUT AT A MUCH EARLIER TIME, LIKE PARTS OF THE LEVELLED SURFACE ON WHICH THE CITADEL STANDS.

TO THE SOUTHWEST, A WELL-MAINTAINED, NEWLY-REFURBISHED, CAMBERED ROADWAY RUNS UP TO THE CITADEL'S DRAWBRIDGE, AND ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE RIDGE TO MEET THE STONEMOOR TO INSIGHT ROAD AROUND 4 MILES (6.5 KILOMETRES) NORTH OF STONEMOOR VILLAGE. THIS TAKES IT PAST THE STONEMOOR WYVERN DROME, WHICH IS SET IN CAVES ON THE UPPER PARTS OF THE RIDGE AROUND 2.5 MILES (4 KM) SOUTHWEST OF THE CITADEL. CLOSER TO THE CITADEL, THOUGH STILL TOO DISTANT TO FEATURE ON THE CITADEL MAPS, IS A PAVED VEHICLE PARK ON THE RIDGE, USED BY STAFF WORKING AT, OR VISITING, THE CASTLE. THE DRAWBRIDGE IS STRONG ENOUGH ONLY FOR LIGHTER, MAGICALLY-POWERED SURFACE VEHICLES, SUCH AS THE ONE-PERSON CARRIAGES USED BY DISPATCH RIDERS, OR CREATURES LIKE HORSES. HORSES HOWEVER ARE MAINLY USED NOW AS CEREMONIAL OR DISPLAY ANIMALS, RIDDEN ONLY OCCASIONALLY BY SENIOR OFFICERS.

PERSONNEL NUMBERS AT THE CITADEL VARY ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT DEFENCE SITUATION ACROSS THE ZONE, ALTHOUGH EXCEPT IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY, IS USUALLY A BARE MINIMUM OF GUARDS, THE DUTY COMMANDER, A COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND A NUMBER OF ANCILLARY STAFF WHO LOOK AFTER THE DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING OF THE BUILDING, ITS EQUIPMENT AND THE NEEDS OF THE STAFF. THE MILITARY STAFF OPERATE A THREE-SHIFT SYSTEM PER DAY NORMALLY.

THE CITADEL HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUS USE FOR A VERY LONG TIME, AND HAS BEEN ALTERED AND UPGRADED IN PARTS ON AN AD HOC BASIS AS NEEDS HAVE DICTATED. IT PRESENTLY HAS RUNNING FRESHWATER AND WASTE-WATER DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS, AND ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING THROUGHOUT, ALL MAGICALLY OPERATED, POWERED BY WYVERNITE. WYVERNITE IS A MAGICAL CRYSTALLINE MINERAL SUBSTANCE FOUND IN VARIOUS PARTS OF SHOENIA. IT IS USED TO POWER NUMEROUS MAGICAL DEVICES AT A NUMBER OF PLACES, USING "ELECTRICKERY", A FORM OF MAGICAL, CONTROLLABLE, LIGHTNING THAT WORKS THROUGH SOPHISTICATED MACHINERY. WYVERNITE IN ITS RAW STATE HAS A MOTTLED BLACK-AND-RED COLOURING, AND EMITS A PALE REDDISH LIGHT. FEW OF THE MECHANISMS BY WHICH THIS FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN ILLUSTRATED ON THE CITADEL MAPS, BEYOND THE LARGER-SCALE FEATURES, AS MANY OF THE CONCEALED CONDUITS WOULD BE TOO SMALL TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY AT THIS SCALE - MUCH LIKE WIRING AND PLUMBING IN A CIRCA MID-20TH CENTURY HOUSE, FOR EXAMPLE.

ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE PERSONAL SIDEARMS THAT ARE ALSO POWERED BY WYVERNITE SIMILARLY, AND WHICH SHOOT ELECTRICKAL (= MAGICAL LIGHTNING) BOLTS UP TO SIMILAR DISTANCES AND OF COMPARABLE EFFECTIVENESS TO MANY MID-20TH CENTURY PROJECTILE WEAPONS, SUCH AS HANDGUNS AND RIFLES. MORE POWERFUL, LARGER CALIBRE, WEAPONS, NOTABLY VARIOUS MARKS OF THE STRICKFADEN LIGHTNING CANNON, ARE LOCATED ON THE CASTLE'S HIGHER ROOF-PLATFORMS.

EACH LEVEL OF THE CITADEL MAPS IS SEPARATED VERTICALLY FROM THE NEXT BY AROUND 10 FT (3 M), SO THE FLOORS OF THE HIGHEST TOWERS HERE ARE AROUND 50 FT (15 M) ABOVE THE TOP OF THE SOLID ROCK PINNACLE ON WHICH THE CASTLE IS BUILT. THERE ARE THREE SUBTERRANEAN LEVELS BELOW THIS SURFACE TOO (DETAILED SEPARATELY), THE FIRST TWO OF WHICH ARE ALSO AT APPROXIMATE 10-FT DEPTH INTERVALS BELOW THE SURFACE CASTLE FLOORS. FOR CONVENIENCE, TWO OUTDOOR CLIFF-LINE "CONTOURS" HAVE BEEN ILLUSTRATED ON THESE PLANS, WITH BOULDER-STREWN CLIFFS AT THEIR BASES, EACH OF WHICH CAN BE THOUGHT OF AS SHOWING HEIGHT INTERVALS OF AROUND 40 FT (12 M). THUS THE RIDGE TOP AT THE CASTLE'S GROUND LEVEL, ALONG WITH THE ROADWAY RIDGE TO ITS SOUTHWEST ARE ABOUT 80 FT (25 M) ABOVE THE GENERAL SURFACE LEVEL BELOW, WHILE THE RIDGE NORTHEAST OF THE CASTLE'S KNOLL RISES 40 FT OR SO BY THE EDGE OF THE MAP, RISING HIGHER ONLY FURTHER OFF THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE MAP.

FOURTH LEVEL

THE UPPERMOST PARTS OF THE CITADEL. ONLY THE TALLEST THREE TOWER ROOFS REACH THIS HEIGHT.

D Gatehouse Top: REACHED BY A LADDER AND TRAPDOOR FROM THE LOWER LEVELS, THIS IS THE SMALLEST OF THE TOWER ROOF SPACES. A MARK I LIGHTNING CANNON AND ITS PLATFORM (AS DETAILED ABOVE UNDER LOCATION 3 ON THE THIRD LEVEL) MAKES THIS SPACE SEEM PARTICULARLY CRAMPED, FOR ALL THE TOWER GIVES THE BEST VIEWS ACROSS THE ROADWAY AND DRAWBRIDGE APPROACH TO THE CASTLE, SO IS ALWAYS OCCUPIED BY ONE OR MORE LOOKOUTS. THE FRONT CRENELATED CORNERS ARE BOTH RAISED AND HAVE PARAPET GARGOYLES SET ON THEM (SEE ITEM 7 ON THE SECOND LEVEL), AS WELL AS SHOOTING SLITS PIERCED THROUGH BOTH FRONT AND SIDE MERLONS OF THESE HIGHER SECTIONS (AS NOTED WITH AREA 1 ON THE THIRD LEVEL

EARLIER). THE UPPER CRENELATIONS OVERHANG THE WALLS BELOW BY ONLY A SHORT WAY, SO THERE ARE NO FLOOR-CUT MURDER HOLES HERE.

2) SMALL TOWER TOP: THIS ROOF SPACE OVERHANGS ITS SUPPORTING LOWER WALLS SUFFICIENTLY TO HAVE MURDER HOLES CUT ALL AROUND ITS OUTER EDGE, BELOW EACH PIERCED STONE MERLON ALONG ITS CIRCUMFERENCE. EIGHT BROADER CRENELS SPACED EVENLY AROUND THE WALLS ARE EACH SET WITH A HORIZONTALLY-SWIVELLING PIERCED WOODEN PANEL EXACTLY LIKE THOSE DESCRIBED PREVIOUSLY FOR AREA 3 ON THE THIRD LEVEL. A MARK III LIGHTNING CANNON AND PLATFORM (SEE AREA 1 ON THE THIRD LEVEL FOR DETAILS) FORMS THE CHIEF ARMAMENT HERE. A CENTRAL TRAPDOOR LEADS DOWN BY LADDER INSIDE THE TOWER TO THE THIRD LEVEL FLOOR THERE.

3) GREAT TOWER TOP: BY FAR THE LARGEST TOWER ROOF SPACE, THANKS TO ITS SUBSTANTIAL OVERHANG, THIS AREA IS SOMETIMES USED AS A LANDING SPACE BY WYVERN RIDERS BRINGING IN URGENT ITEMS OR INFORMATION BY AIR. IT HAS THE SAME PIERCED MERLONS, WOODEN SWIVELLING PANELS SET IN LARGER CRENELS, MURDER HOLES AND PARAPET GARGOYLES AS DESCRIBED EARLIER FOR THIS LEVEL, ALONG WITH A CENTRAL ACCESS FLOOR TRAPDOOR AND LADDER DOWN INSIDE. ITS PRIMARY PLATFORM-MOUNTED WEAPON IS A MARK V STRICKFADEN LIGHTNING CANNON. THIS IS DISTINCTLY LARGER THAN EITHER THE MARK I OR III, IS MORE POWERFUL AND HAS A RANGE APPROACHING TWO MILES (3 KM). HOWEVER, IT CAN BE TEMPERAMENTALLY UNRELIABLE, AND IS STILL SOMEWHAT EXPERIMENTAL, WITH ONE OR MORE MAGEENGERS OFTEN BUSY TINKERING OVER IT. NONE OF THE GUN CREWS LIKE USING IT, AND GREAT TOWER ROOF DUTY HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A "SHORT STRAW" OPTION FOR CITADEL PERSONNEL, VERY MUCH A DISLIKED CHORE. THE CITADEL COMMANDERS HAVE ENFORCED A STRICT ROTA FOR SUCH DUTY AS A RESULT, AND THE DUTY COMMANDER MUST ALWAYS BE IN ATTENDANCE WHENEVER TEST-FIRINGS ARE TAKING PLACE, TO HELP SUSTAIN CREW MORALE. THE OFFICERS ARE NO HAPPIER ABOUT THIS THAN THE CREWS!