

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.

THIRD LEVEL

THE NEXT FLOOR UP FROM THE PARAPET WALKWAYS HAS THE FIRST OF THE OPEN TOWER TOPS, ALL PLACED TOWARDS THE FRONT OF THE CASTLE.

D BARBICAN TOP: THE TWO BARBICAN TOWER TOPS ARE FLAT, OPEN PLATFORMS SURROUNDED BY HEAVY CRENELATIONS WHICH SLIGHTLY OVERHANG THEIR LOWER SUPPORTING WALLS. EACH CAN BE ACCESSED BY A SINGLE TRAPDOOR AND LADDER FROM THE INTERIOR FLOOR BELOW. EACH ALSO HAS ONE CORNER OF THEIR REAR CRENELATIONS BUILT-UP HIGHER THAN THE REST, WITH A PARAPET GARGOYLE (G) SET UPON IT. PIERCING THE STONE ON EACH SIDE OF THESE RAISED CORNERS IS AN ADDITIONAL VIEWING AND SHOOTING SLIT. ONE OR BOTH PLATFORMS MAY HAVE ONE OR MORE LOOKOUTS STATIONED THERE, ALTHOUGH THE CENTRAL, HIGHER, GATEHOUSE TOWER TOP ON THE FOURTH LEVEL BETWEEN THESE BARBICAN ROOFS IS THE PREFERRED SPOT FOR THE

PERMANENT LOOKOUT'S STATION. EACH BARBICAN TOP ALSO HAS A FLAT-PLATFORM-MOUNTED MARK III STRICKFADEN LIGHTNING CANNON, A MAGICALLY OPERATED DEVICE ABLE TO PROJECT A POWERFUL, LINEAR LIGHTNING BOLT ALMOST UP TO A MILE (1.5 KM). EACH NEEDS A CREW OF TWO TO OPERATE. ITS POWER COMES FROM DIRECTLY-INSERTED, CUT AND PREPARED WYVERNITE CRYSTALS, WHICH ALLOW A LIMITED NUMBER OF SHOTS PER CRYSTAL BEFORE BECOMING EXHAUSTED (THE NUMBER BEING POWER AND RANGE DEPENDENT). EACH CANNON'S TARGETING SYSTEM IS POWERED VIA A SQUARE WYVERNITE CONTACT-INDUCTION GRID EMBEDDED INTO THE TOWER'S ROOF. SOMETIMES CALLED "STATIC ELECTRICKERY", THIS SYSTEM IS SAFE TO WALK OVER IN NON-METALLIC FOOTWEAR, BUT BARE SKIN WILL CONDUCT THE ELECTRICKAL POWER READILY. THE UNDERSIDE OF THE MOBILE SQUARE PLATFORM EACH CANNON IS MOUNTED UPON CONDUCTS AND MAKES USE OF SOME OF THIS POWER TOO, ALLOWING CANNON AND PLATFORM TO BE EASILY MOVED BY-HAND. THE PLATFORM MAGICALLY LEVITATES SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE ROOF SURFACE, MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH THE WYVERNITE GRID BY SPECIAL METAL BRUSHES SET ACROSS ITS UNDERSIDE. THE PLATFORM CAN ALSO BE LOCKED IN POSITION FIRMLY FOR SHOOTING, ALLOWING PROPER TARGETING, ESPECIALLY AS EACH SHOT DOES HAVE A SLIGHT RECOIL. THE CANNON CAN BE RAISED ON A CENTRAL SPINDLE ABOVE THE PLATFORM, AND GIMBALED FROM THE SPINDLE'S TOP, ALLOWING IT TO BE ANGLED TO SHOOT ALMOST DIRECTLY DOWN TOWARDS THE BASE OF ITS TOWER (THOUGH THERE IS A "DEAD ZONE" CLOSE TO THE TOWER'S BASE WHERE THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE), OR ALMOST DIRECTLY OVERHEAD, SHOULD EITHER BE REQUIRED. THE MARK III CANNON IS THE MORE WIDELY-USED TYPE AT PRESENT, BEING GENERALLY ROBUST, RELIABLE AND EASILY OPERATED. ITS POWER AND RANGE ARE SOMEWHAT LIMITED, HOWEVER.

2) WINCH ROOM LOFT: THE UPPER PART OF THE WINCH ROOM ON THE SECOND LEVEL BELOW IS SEPARATED FROM THE LOWER ONLY BY A LATTICE OF HEAVY WOODEN TIMBERS RATHER THAN A SOLID FLOOR, AS THE LOFT IS USED ONLY TO ACCESS THE WINCH MECHANISM ABOVE THESE RAFTERS. A LONG WOODEN LADDER REACHES FROM THE FLOOR OF THE WINCH ROOM BELOW TO THE TRAPDOOR IN THE CEILING ABOVE THE LOFT, TO ACCESS THE CENTRAL GATEHOUSE TOWER'S ROOF. THE WINCH MACHINERY THAT OPERATES THE DRAWBRIDGE ELECTRICKALLY IS ATTACHED TO BOTH SIDE WALLS TOWARDS THE FRONT OF THIS CHAMBER.

3) SQUARE TOWER TOP: ACCESSIBLE ONLY UP TWO SETS OF STONE STEPS LEADING FROM THE PARAPET WALKWAYS ON ITS NORTHERN AND EASTERN SIDES, THIS FLAT PLATFORM SPORTS AN OLDER MARK I STRICKFADEN LIGHTNING CANNON ON A MOVABLE PLATFORM EXACTLY LIKE THOSE DETAILED FOR THE BARBICAN TOPS (1) ABOVE. THE MARK I IS LESS POWERFUL THAN THE MARK III, AND HAS A RANGE OF BARELY HALF A MILE (0.8 KM). IT IS VERY RELIABLE HOWEVER, AND USES LESS POWER PER SHOT THAN THE MARK III. THE CRENELATED SURROUND HERE HAS ANOTHER PARAPET GARGOYLE (6) ON ITS COURTYARD-FACING CORNER. THE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN WALLS HAVE ADDITIONALLY-RAISED PARAPET SECTIONS, TWO OF WHICH MERLONS ON THE OUTWARD-FACING SIDE BY EACH CORNER (SO FOUR IN TOTAL) HAVE PIERCED SHOOTING SLITS LIKE THOSE NOTED EARLIER FOR THE BARBICAN TOPS. THIS TOWER TOP HAS A CONSIDERABLE OVERHANG BEYOND THE CITADEL'S LOWER WALLS ON THESE SAME OUTER SIDES, AND THE FLOOR BELOW EACH OF THESE PIERCED SLITS HAS HAD A MURDER HOLE CUT THROUGH AS WELL, ALLOWING VERTICAL SHOOTING DOWN TOWARDS THIS TOWER'S BASE. THE MIDDLE SECTION OF EACH OF THESE EXTERIOR CRENELATED WALLS HAS A BROADER CUTAWAY SECTION IN ITS UPSTANDING STONEMWORK, EACH OF WHICH IS BLOCKED BY A STOUT WOODEN PANEL. EACH PANEL HAS A CENTRAL, VERTICAL SHOOTING AND VIEWING SLIT PIERCING ITS MIDST, WITH THE ENTIRE PANEL MOUNTED INTO ITS SURROUNDING STONEMWORK ONLY BY A SOLID WOOD, CYLINDRICAL, HORIZONTAL BAR. THIS ALLOWS EACH PANEL TO BE PIVOTED HORIZONTALLY, TO ALLOW MORE DIRECT VIEWING OR SHOOTING OUT AND DOWN BEYOND THE PARAPET. THE PANELS CAN BE REMOVED COMPLETELY, AS THEIR PIVOT-BARS ARE SIMPLY SLOTTED INTO GROOVES CUT IN THE SIDE OF THE STONE MERLONS FACING INTO THE GAP.

4) CORNER TURRET: A SIMILAR CHAMBER TO THAT IMMEDIATELY BELOW IT ON THE SECOND LEVEL, ACCESSED FROM THERE BY A FLOOR TRAPDOOR AND LADDER, WITH A SECOND LADDER LEADING UP FROM HERE THROUGH A CEILING TRAPDOOR TO THE ROOF ON THE FOURTH LEVEL. LIKE ITS LOWER COUNTERPART, THIS ROOM TOO IS OCCASIONALLY USED AS EXTRA STORAGE SPACE. THREE SLIT-WINDOWS WITH HINGED WOODEN SHUTTERS ARE SPREAD AROUND THE OUTWARD-FACING WALLS.

5) DUTY ROOM (UPPER): USED MORE COMMONLY AS AN EXTRA WATCH ROOM FOR STAFF IN THIS PART OF THE CITADEL TO REST, THERE IS ALSO A SMALL COMMUNICATIONS PANEL HERE FOR USE BY THE DUTY COMMANDER, AS IN THE LOWER DUTY ROOM DIRECTLY UNDERNEATH (CHAMBER 6 ON THE SECOND LEVEL), ALONG WITH ADDITIONAL STORAGE SPACE FOR OLDER ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS REGARDING THE CASTLE. A SPIRAL STAIR IN THE NORTHERN QUADRANT DESCENDS CLOCKWISE TO THAT SECOND LEVEL DUTY ROOM, WITH A LADDER LEADING UP TO A CEILING TRAPDOOR OPENING ONTO THIS TOWER'S ROOF.

6) PARAPET GARGOYLE: THREE MORE GARGOYLES, JUST AS DESCRIBED UNDER ITEM 7 ON THE SECOND LEVEL.