

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.

GROUND LEVEL

A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE CITADEL AT THIS LEVEL IS MADE UP OF A SOLID STRUCTURAL-RUBBLE BASE FOR THE UPPER PARTS OF THE STONE CASTLE, WITH ONLY THE GATEWAY BARBICAN AND THE TWO ROUND TOWERS HAVING ACCESSIBLE INTERNAL STONEMWORK CHAMBERS.

1) BARRACKS: BEDS, STORAGE CUPBOARDS, A WC AND SHOWERS OCCUPY THESE TWO ROOMS. THE BEDS CAN BE QUICKLY CONVERTED INTO DOUBLE-HEIGHT BUNKS WHEN MORE PERSONNEL ARE IN RESIDENCE. A STONE STAIRWAY IN EACH LEADS UP TO THE FIRST LEVEL. THERE ARE NO WINDOWS OR OTHER ACCESSWAYS IN EITHER ROOM, AND ALL LIGHTING IS ARTIFICIAL WHEN EITHER ROOM IS IN USE.

2) GATEHOUSE: A BROAD, HIGH, OPEN AREA, THE ONLY SURFACE ACCESSWAY INTO THE CITADEL. ITS CEILING IS 20 FT (6 M) UP. A PORTCULLIS, OPERABLE FROM THE WINCH ROOM ON THE SECOND LEVEL, CAN BE USED TO BLOCK THE OUTER ENTRYWAY EVEN WHEN THE DRAWBRIDGE IS DOWN. THE INNER PASSAGE TO THE COURTYARD (5) CAN BE BLOCKED BY A PAIR OF METAL-REINFORCED GATES THAT OPEN INTO THE YARD, AND WHICH CAN BE BARRED AND FASTENED SHUT FROM THE COURTYARD SIDE. THE GATEHOUSE FLOOR IS A HUGE, STOUT, WOODEN PLATFORM, ACTUALLY A TRAPDOOR, HINGED ALONG ITS INNER, EASTERN, EDGE, WHICH CAN BE RELEASED USING ONE OF THE LEVERS ALSO IN THE WINCH ROOM ABOVE. BELOW THE TRAPDOOR IS A LARGE, 20 FT DEEP (6 M) SPIKED PIT.

3) STORES: A SINGLE-STORY, LEAN-TO, WOODEN BUILDING, RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED IN THE COURTYARD AS AN ADDITIONAL DRY STORAGE SPACE FOR ITEMS REQUIRED IN RUNNING AND MAINTAINING THE CASTLE, INCLUDING DRIED FOODSTUFFS FOR ANY STABLED HORSES. LIKE ALL THE COURTYARD ANCILLARY BUILDINGS, ITS SINGLE-PITCHED ROOF LEANS INTO THE COURTYARD, WITH APPROPRIATE DRAINAGE (NOT ILLUSTRATED).

4) OFFICERS' BARRACKS: A TWO-STORY WOODEN COURTYARD BUILDING, HOME TO THE SENIOR OFFICERS STATIONED HERE. MESS, SHOWER AND WC FACILITIES ARE ON THIS LOWER FLOOR (MEALS ARE TAKEN HERE), WITH SLEEPING QUARTERS ON THE FLOOR ABOVE.

5) COURTYARD: A FLAT, COBBLE-PAVED, OPEN CENTRAL AREA TO THE CASTLE, WITH FOUR LEAN-TO WOODEN BUILDINGS FITTED AROUND ITS STONE OUTER WALLS. THREE SETS OF STONE STEPS LEAD UP TO PLATFORMS AND THENCE ONTO THE SURROUNDING PARAPET WALKWAYS AT HIGHER LEVELS FROM HERE. A HORSE-TROUGH PROVIDES FOR ANY STABLED ANIMALS IN THE NORTHERN CORNER.

6) STABLES: MOST OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THIS LEAN-TO WOODEN BUILDING HOUSES THREE STABLE-STALLS FOR ANY OFFICERS' HORSES THAT MAY BE KEPT HERE AT TIMES. DOUBLE DOORS OPEN ONTO THE COURTYARD, AND A DRINKING TROUGH FOR THE ANIMALS IS PLACED OUTSIDE THE NORTH END OF THE BUILDING. THE SOUTHERN END HAS WC AND SHOWER FACILITIES FOR THE PERSONNEL WHO ARE STATIONED IN THE BARRACKS ON THE FLOOR ABOVE THE STABLES. ACCESS UP IS VIA A LADDER IN THIS PART OF THE BUILDING.

7) MESS HALL: THIS IS THE MAIN DINING HALL FOR NON-OFFICERS STATIONED HERE. WHEN A FULL COMPLEMENT OF MILITARY STAFF ARE IN RESIDENCE, SEVERAL SITTINGS MAY NEED TO BE ORGANISED. THE BUILDING IS ANOTHER SINGLE-STORY, WOODEN, LEAN-TO STRUCTURE, OPENING INTO THE COURTYARD.

8) KITCHEN: AT THE REAR OF THE MESS HALL IS THE CITADEL'S FOOD-PREPARATION AREA, WITH AN ELECTRICAL STOVE, SINK AND UTENSIL CUPBOARDS. A TRAPDOOR LEADS DOWN BY LADDER TO THE FOOD STORE CELLAR AND CASTLE WELL BELOW, AND A DEEPER ICE-HOUSE (SEE THE SEPARATE "WYVERN CITADEL - UNDERGROUND" DESCRIPTION AND MAPS FOR NOTES).

9) STORES: THE LOWEST FLOOR OF THE SMALLER ROUND TOWER HAS DRY-GOOD SUPPLIES FOR USE IN RUNNING THE CASTLE. IT HAS A CLOCKWISE SPIRAL-STAIR ACCESS ONLY TO AND FROM THE NEXT FLOOR UP IN THIS TOWER.

10) WYVERNITE STORE: RAW CHUNKS OF THE MAGICAL ROCK WYVERNITE ARE KEPT HERE FOR USE IN POWERING THE CITADEL'S ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND THE VARIOUS WEAPONS. STOCKS OF FRESH MATERIAL COME FROM MINES AND OCCASIONAL CHANCE FINDS UNDERGROUND ALONG THE ROCKY RIDGE THE CITADEL RESTS ON WHEN NEEDED. THE AREA AROUND STONEMOOR IS PARTICULARLY GOOD FOR WYVERNITE PROSPECTING. SPIRAL STAIRS LEAD DOWN CLOCKWISE TO THE FIRST UNDERGROUND LEVEL BENEATH THE CITADEL, AS WELL AS ANTICLOCKWISE UP TO THE FIRST OVERGROUND ONE.