

The design of the cases and layout of objects and selection of model makers has been carried out to a very high standard by Ivor Heal Design Company, a firm which has been responsible amongst many projects for most of the recent temporary exhibitions at the Royal Academy. Ivor Heal, the chief designer, was originally Head of Design at the Victoria and Albert Museum before going freelance. 129

Until 1st May the museum is free to all Dover District Council residents. Normal admission charges are 95p for adults and 50p for children and senior citizens. For only £2.00 you can buy a season ticket which will allow you free entry throughout the year, or you can join the Friends of Dover Museum which will not only allow you free admission to the museum but also to the Old Town Gaol, Timeball Tower, Victoriana Museum and Grand Shaft. (£5.00 per annum). Lectures, trips and social events are also a part of the Friends' Calendar of Events.

We look forward to seeing you all in the near future!

CHRISTINE WATERMAN  
*Curator, Dover Museum.*

**Footnote:** The Museum was originally sited in the Guildhall in Market Square moving to its present site in 1848. *Ed*

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## *Saving the Western Heights* — *Past and Future*

*presented by JOHN PEVERLEY, Doverian and Borough Architect, Poole, Dorset.*

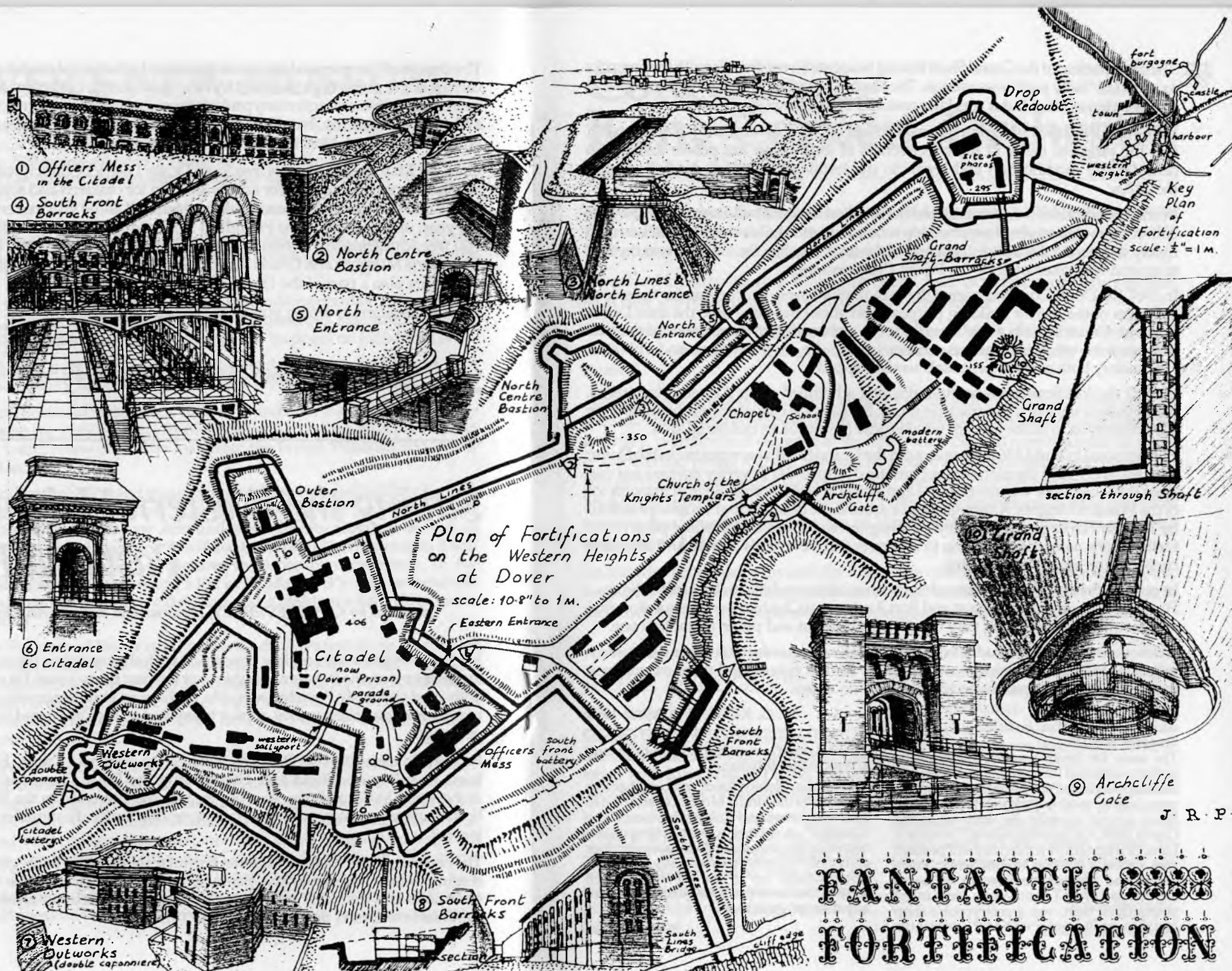
Mr Peverley's talk was mainly concerned with the measures taken to preserve the fortifications on the Western Heights over the past thirty years. By using a projector with dual slides Mr Peverley was able to show us simultaneously photographs of many important sites as they appear today and as they appeared about twentyfive years ago.

Born in Dover in 1933 Mr Peverley belonged to family of Trinity House Pilots. He lived in Folkestone Road and after leaving the Boys' Grammar School studied architecture in Canterbury. As a boy he became interested in the Western Heights Fortifications and later produced a monograph on the fortifications for an architectural journal.

The construction of the fortifications on a full scale started at the beginning of the 19th century when Napoleon first planned to invade England. The building of an enormous and complex system of dry moats with heavily armed bastions and caponiers continued until peace came in 1815.

John Peverley's splendidly-illustrated plan of the fortifications of the Western Heights. This magnificent complex, of enormous historic interest, could be of great value to Dover as a tourist attraction.

After his fascinating illustrated talk at the A.G.M. John donated his slides, some of constructions now destroyed, to Dover Museum.



FANTASTIC  
FORTIFICATION

122 The construction of the Grand Shaft linking Snargate Street directly with the barracks as a kind of "sally port" was unique. The Shaft was sealed in 1966, after the barracks had been demolished but it was later restored by the Borough Council.

By the middle of the 19th century a renewed fear of French invasion (by Napoleon III) and the progress made in the effectiveness of long range fire power resulted in considerable modification and repair to the fortifications which continued until the 1870s.

Modern methods of warfare rendered the fortifications and buildings obsolete by the 20th century. However, the ownership remained with the Ministry of Defence who finally decided to discard certain parts of the fortifications. The Citadel was the first to go and was taken over by the Prison Commissioners.

In 1961 the *Dover Express* reported that negotiations were proceeding for the sale of 160 acres of the site for building purposes. At about the same time the then Dover Borough Council (with a fine regard for the archaeological importance of the site) proposed to use the moats as receptacles for the town's refuse and rubbish!. Fortunately both of these proposals were dropped.

In 1962 the fortifications were first officially scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Nevertheless some of the barrack premises, the garrison chapel and the hospital were later destroyed to make way for what is now the site of an industrial area.

The proposal to build 236 houses around the Grand Shaft was reported in the *Dover Express* in 1971 but the plan was apparently dropped. Mr Peverley pointed out that from that year there was much more appreciation of the archaeological importance of the Western Heights. Although the area around the Drop Redoubt is now protected by English Heritage, Mr Peverley's photographs showed that in some parts of the fortifications nature is beginning to take over (Mr Peverley's words) and adequate conservation seems to be lacking.

In conclusion Mr Peverley showed us pictures of somewhat similar fortifications — Fort Brockenhurst near Gosport and Fort Amhurst at Chatham — where restoration and maintenance are being very carefully carried out and put to a practical use.

At least some of us in the audience were left with an uncomfortable feeling that much more needs to be done so that we can enjoy the full potential of these magnificent archaeological remains situated on our very doorstep.

W. G. KING, 15th April, 1991

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The same Mr Smith was the owner of the earlier mentioned Ice Store, another fish shop in the upper part of Snargate Street and, many years before, another shop in lower Snargate Street almost opposite the entrance to the Grand Shaft. On the other side of Thornton's Lane, (a fragment of which may still be seen) was Terson's Auction Rooms which years before had housed the printing works of another part of the Terson family. Next, in my young days, there was a pastrycook's shop and then, on the corner with Mill lane was the

"Wine Lodge", now entirely re-built and known as the "Britannia".

Beyond the "Robin Hood" was another fish shop run by the kindly Mrs Spicer and next to her was another public house, "The Chandos". A chemist's shop, appropriately owned by Mr Alexander Bottle was next door and I well remember the red- and green-filled carboys, high up in the window, which seemed then to be the distinguishing mark of any chemist's business.

*To be continued*