

But as Mr Sherred told the Inspector: "Despite all the fine arguments being put forward at this inquiry, the majority of those here today will not have to bear the consequences of the eventual decision. It is we who are left behind who will have to live with the consequences."

*A Factory Outlet Shopping Centre (FOSC), such as that proposed for

Whitfield, would sell surplus stock from manufacturers with a limited range of mainly fashion and out-of-season/over-production and/or discontinued lines of household table top goods. It is claimed that the same products would not be available at town centre shops and that they would be sold at 25% to 75% of normal retail prices.



Defence of Dover Castle

----- AUTUMN 1940 — SPRING 1941 -----

Mrs Wendy Atherton, wife of our President, Brigadier Maurice Atherton is engaged in writing a scholarly book on "The Defence of Dover Castle". Because this may prove to be indigestible without some lighter anecdotes, Mrs Atherton would welcome any material in the way of factual accounts by any members of the Dover Society who may be able to help with contributions. She has already accepted the following piece.

FRANCE FELL. "We will never surrender" Churchill told Hitler, "We will fight on the beaches..."

The grapevine had it that when (not if) the Germans landed, the first line of defence would be at the River Stour at Canterbury with the second major line at the River Medway. The civilian population of Kent would be overrun by the Blitzkrieg and would perish in the invasion or would surrender but, although the Castle might be besieged by the Germans (as it had been by the French long ago) it would never surrender: the heroic garrison would rather die.

I, a young airman from RAF Hawkinge, arrived at Dover Castle in the autumn of 1940, as did a whole motley collection of volunteers from the tattered remnants of the B.E.F. and other units. We mounted a twenty-four hour watch along the battlements. We had no weapons. Between times we attended lectures on military tactics and stripping and cleaning arms (working from diagrams) and on the use

of grenades (working with one dummy grenade) remembering always to remove the pin with our teeth whilst keeping the grip most firmly depressed. We were promised real grenades and real rifles at any moment — they never arrived.

The twenty-four hour watches continued and when the winter snows fell we were instructed to make snowballs and practise lobbing them over the ramparts as if they were grenades. For arms we could go to the Keep and remove from the walls the weapons of olden times, battleaxes, lances, swords and shields.

So Dover Castle was defended by intrepid volunteers with snowballs and ancient arms against Stuka bombers and the threatened Blitzkrieg until Spring 1941 when it became clear that the German invasion was but a myth and we could return to our units.

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