


At mid-day on Wednesday 12th May, the strike was called off and William, on behalf of Dover Corporation, sent a letter of congratulations to Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister. Over the next few days, he put in many hours getting the town 'back to normal.'

On 25th May, he and Emma were guests of honour at the Boys' County School sports day even though he still had the cold. The following weekend they cancelled all engagements but by the Monday William had developed pneumonia, he died on Wednesday

2nd June. The funeral, at St Mary's where William had been a churchwarden, was followed burial in Charlton Cemetery. On 26th October

1926 the Corporation resolved that for 'eminent services rendered... particularly in conjunction with her late husband during the period of his Mayoralty... Emma East be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.' She was the first woman to be so honoured.

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Borough of Dover.

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**DEATH OF HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR**

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The funeral of the late Mayor is to take place on Monday, the 7th inst. The first portion of the service will be held in St. Mary's Church, commencing at 2.30 p.m., and the interment will take place in Charlton Cemetery.

It is suggested that all shops should be closed on the day in question from 2 to 3.30 p.m.

R. E. Knocker,

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## Officers' New Barracks

### DOVER CASTLE

BY ROY PORTER, English Heritage Territory Properties Curator (South)

Since its construction in the mid-19th century, the Officers' New Barracks has loomed large over the southern half of Dover Castle. Without doubt the grandest Victorian building to survive in the castle, it was designed to provide accommodation for the officers garrisoned there. When first completed in 1858 it afforded the officers a degree of comfort which must have been the envy of the other ranks accommodated elsewhere in the castle.

During the 1850s the castle garrison expanded, partly because of its use by

returning troops after the Crimean War, and this together with concerns about the sanitary arrangements in existing barracks resulted in the construction of new accommodation for the soldiers throughout the castle.

The Officers' New Barracks were a product of this provision of accommodation. Preparation for the new building began in 1855, when plans were made for clearing the ground for it. This involved the removal of earlier structures and widespread landscaping. The site of the barracks was excavated to

provide for the basement of the building, while further landscaping created terraces to the north on which sat the associated stables, further to the north-east, another terrace for an ordnance store.

Responsibility for planning both the landscaping work and the basic design and arrangement of the new buildings fell to George Arnold, who was a clerk in the Royal Engineers. Arnold is the unsung hero of the barracks, often overlooked because the outward appearance of the building and much of its detailing was designed by Anthony Salvin, a leading architect of the 19th century with extensive experience of working in English castles such as Norwich, Windsor, Carisbrooke and the Tower of London. At the Officers' New Barracks, Salvin was employed to design the external elevations of the building. Essentially Salvin's Gothic elevations

were wrapped around Arnold's internal plan. Salvin employed a Tudor Gothic revival style in the design of his elevations, and although the predominant use of Perpendicular motifs found little parallel with other buildings on the site, the use of Gothic was a natural nod to the medieval castle. Decoration and detailing of the principal public rooms were also designed by Salvin, as were the fireplaces and window shutters used throughout the building.

The Officers' New Barracks were constructed between December 24 1856 and June 30 1858 at a cost of £35,800. The 79th Foot Regiment was responsible for the extensive groundworks associated with the creation of the terraces on which the barracks and its ancillary buildings stood, while a local builder, Mr Moxon of Dover, was contracted to carry out the work. Built of



*Central Block ©Roy Porter*

brick and faced externally with Kentish ragstone rubble and limestone dressings, the building was planned on an axial arrangement running east-west, and consisted of five visually distinct blocks. The terminal and central ones each had four storeys (including the basement), while the intermediate blocks had three storeys including the basement.

The building's principal elevation faced south over the cliffs towards the sea, while to the rear were gardens and paths running up to stables on the terrace above. All except one of the main entrances to the building were in the south façade and this side of the building received the richest architectural embellishment. Here Salvin used occasional crenellated parapets, tall gables, corbelled chimney stacks, a number of sunken panels displaying the initials VR and carved beasts flanking the doorway to the central block to



*South Elevation ©Roy Porter*

enliven his design and create a show front for the building.

The central block contained the main entrance, reached by several steps and leading to a hallway containing a fine timber staircase rising to the first floor. On either side of the hallway were the grandest rooms in the building, the anteroom to the east and the mess to the west. In time the latter room gave its name to the whole building which is still known colloquially as the Officers' Mess.

Both the mess and the anteroom had large stone fireplaces with moulded and traceried surrounds, panelling and imposing doorcases. They also had the grandest windows in the building, the five-light bay window of the anteroom being particularly fine. At the north end of the central block lay a series of ancillary service rooms.

The other blocks provided accommodation. The one to the immediate east of the central block had a single doorway in its south elevation which led to a suite of rooms over the ground and first floors in its western half occupied by the commanding officer. This suite was entirely self-contained, the only entrance or exit being the door in the south front,



*Queen Victoria's Crest over door of Officers' Mess  
©Alan Lee*

and was not accessible from within the building. A similar situation was found in the block to the west of the central block, where the eastern half provided self-contained suites of rooms for two field officers (one on each of the ground and first floors). The rest of the space above the basement provided the general accommodation for officers. Each officer had a two-room suite (sitting room and bedroom) accessed from a communal corridor. The commanding officer and field officers had WC facilities in their respective apartments but WC's for the other officers appears to have been limited originally to two WC's in each of the end blocks.

The use of the basement reflected the functions of the rooms above. Beneath the areas of general officer accommodation the basement rooms provided accommodation for the officers' servants, while the basement rooms below the commanding officer and field officers rooms housed their servants and their private kitchens, larders and, in the case of the Commanding Officer, his private wine cellar. In the central block, below the mess and anteroom, the basement housed the main kitchen, scullery, wine cellar and the cook's room. Servants' WC facilities were located outside the main building, in the area on the north side of the barracks.

Although grand and showy, when first built the Officers' New Barracks had some major teething problems. Shortly after construction was completed damp became an issue, with some rooms at the west end of the building so badly affected that the wallpaper came off the

walls and a medical board declared several rooms unfit for occupation. That this should occur in a building so relatively expensive was doubly serious and Salvin was called before a committee established by the Secretary of State for War to investigate ways of improving the means of constructing barracks. Salvin explained that he had merely provided designs for the building, had played no active role in its construction and laid any blame for the damp on either poor materials or bad workmanship. (Salvin's curt replies to the questions of the committee members suggest that he did not enjoy having his competence questioned.) The damp problem was combated by repointing and rendering the affected areas of the building.

The Officers' New Barracks continued to accommodate soldiers until the departure of the garrison from Dover Castle in 1958. After this time much of the building remained vacant, although parts were used by the Immigration Appeal Service in the 1970s and 1980s. Plans to use the building as a visitor centre resulted in the removal of most of the internal walls at its east end. Unfortunately, the economic climate of the late 1970s meant that the proposed use was never introduced and, while parts are used as a curatorial store, much of it remains empty. English Heritage and Kent County Council are currently working together on proposals for using the building as an archaeological resource centre to house Kent's rich archaeological collections. Meanwhile the Officers' New Barracks will continue to be a dominant presence at the south end of Dover Castle.