

Tower of London

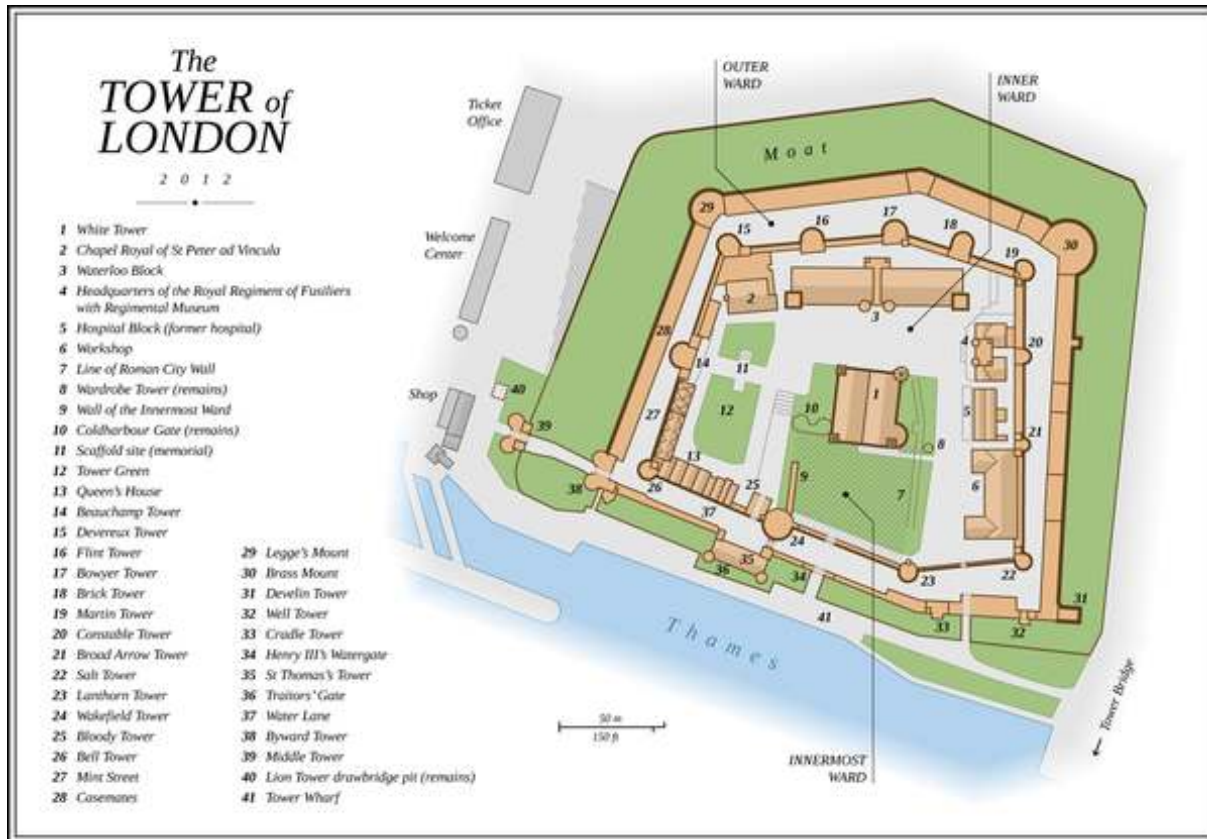


■ The Tower of London, officially known as **HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL PALACE and FORTRESS OF THE TOWER OF LONDON**, is an historic Castle on the north bank of the River Thames in Central London.

It lies within the **LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**, which is separated from the eastern edge of the square mile of the City of London by the open space known as Tower Hill.

It was founded in 1066 as part of the Norman Conquest. The **WHITE TOWER**, which gives the entire Castle its name, was built by William the Conqueror in 1078 and was a resented symbol of oppression, inflicted upon London by the new ruling elite. The Castle was also used as a prison from 1100 AD (Ranulf Flambard) until 1952 (the Kray twins), although that was not its primary purpose. It was a Grand Palace early in its history, and served as a **Royal Residence**.

As a whole, the Tower of London is a complex of several buildings set within two concentric rings of defensive walls and a moat. There were several phases of expansion, mainly under Kings Richard I, Henry III, and Edward I in the 12th and 13th Centuries. The general layout established up to 1380 remains despite later development.



Plan of the Tower of London

■ The TOWER OF LONDON has played a prominent role in English history. It was besieged several times, and controlling the TOWER has been important to controlling the whole Country. The Tower has served variously as an Armoury, a Treasury, a Menagerie, the home of the Royal Mint, a Public Record Office, and the home of the Crown Jewels of England. From the early 14th Century until the reign of Charles II in the 17th Century, a procession of Nobles would be led from the Tower to Westminster Abbey upon the Coronation of a Monarch.

In the absence of the Monarch, the CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER is in charge of the Castle. This was a powerful and trusted position in the Medieval Period. In the late 15th Century, the two "PRINCES IN THE TOWER" were housed at the Castle, when they mysteriously disappeared, presumed murdered.

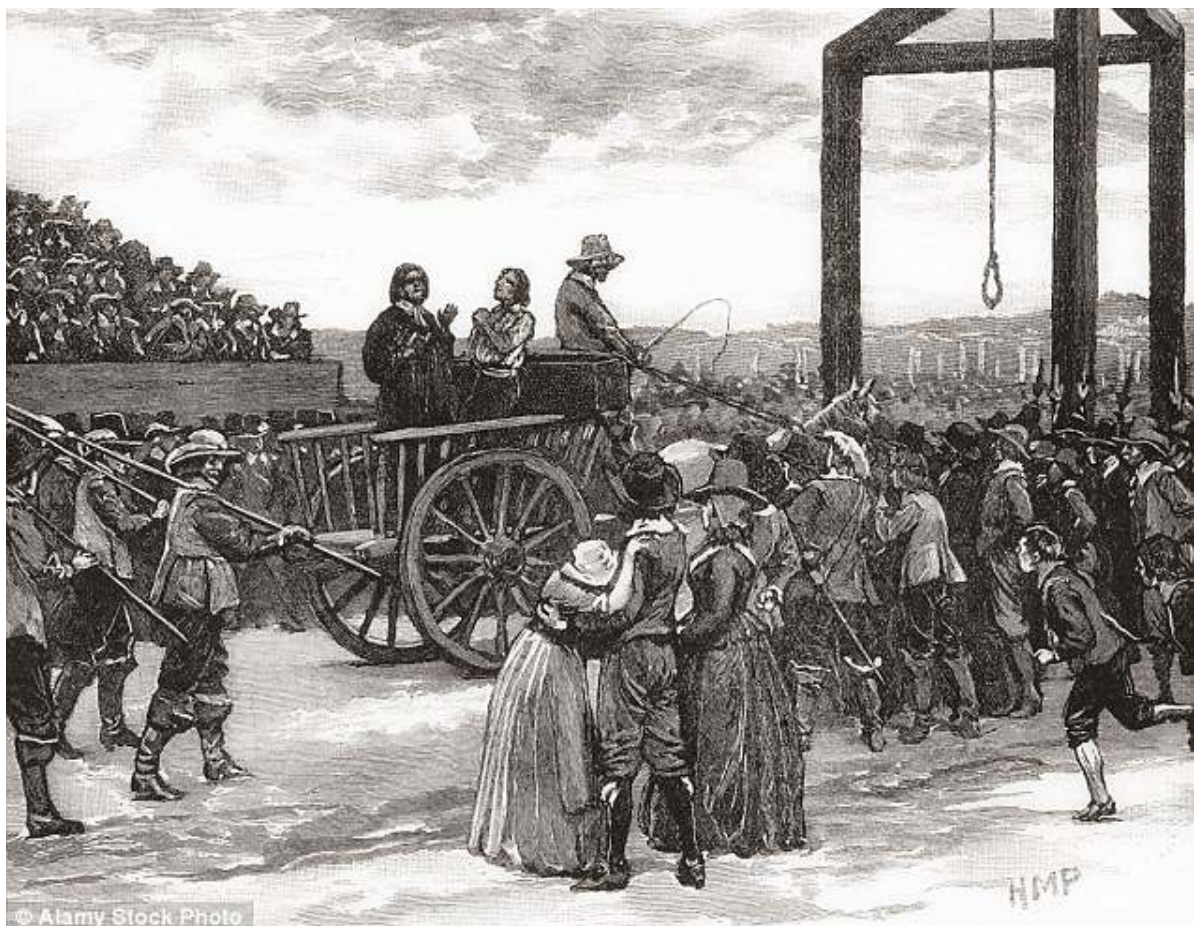
Under the TUDORS, the Tower became used less as a ROYAL RESIDENCE, and despite attempts to refortify and repair the Castle, its defences lagged behind developments to deal with heavier artillery.

The zenith of the Castle's use as a PRISON was the 16th and 17th Centuries, when many figures who had fallen into disgrace, such as ELIZABETH I before she became queen, SIR WALTER RALEIGH, and ELIZABETH THROCKMORTON, were held within its walls. The Tower's harsh reputation has led to the phrase "*sent to the Tower*".

■ Despite the TOWER'S enduring reputation as a place of TORTURE and DEATH, popularized by 16th-Century religious propagandists and 19th-Century writers, only 7-people were executed within the Tower before the two World Wars of the 20th Century.

In fact, EXECUTIONS were commonly held on the notorious TOWER HILL to the north of the Castle, with 112-executions occurring there over 400-years.

The GALLOWS at TOWER HILL



Why Were There Executions at Tower Hill?

Although the common assumption is that hundreds of people lost their heads inside the Tower of London, the reality is that executions inside the Tower were reserved only for people of high status and Royal blood, or for those whom the King or Queen wished to make quiet, quick work of.

EXECUTIONS inside the Tower took place on **'TOWER GREEN'** behind the Tower walls. The walls of the Tower provided privacy and dignity for the soon-to-be-executed; not something that was offered to many as most executions were a Public Event!

EXECUTIONS were deliberately held in places where a huge crowd could gather. This was a great way for the King or Queen to show off their prowess and strength, as well as send a warning to as many people as possible that this was the fate of anybody who dared to cross them.

For Centuries it was considered completely normal to take the family, pack a snack (or just buy one from the vendors who would be selling nearby), and enjoy this horrifying form of entertainment.

Executions were a Public Spectacle, and where better to hold one than on top of a hill, high on a scaffold, in a place where many people could gather, and that had close proximity to where many of the doomed prisoners were kept? **Tower Hill was a perfect location.**

Dozens and dozens of people met their ends here, until SIMON FRASER, 11th Lord Lovat was given the dubious honour of being the last person executed on Tower Hill, when he was beheaded for Treason on April 9, 1747.

Methods of Execution at Tower Hill

- **Beheadings**
 - Considered the most dignified method and common method used at Tower Hill.
- **Hangings**
 - Usually reserved for 'lower class' individuals and common prisoners.
- **Shooting by a Firing Squad**
 - Primarily reserved for spying and desertion.
- **Burning at the Stake**
 - Common for religious crimes. At Tower Hill, this only happened twice.
Both victims were convicted of heresy.
- **Hanged, Drawn and Quartered**
 - Considered the most brutal method. Victims were hung by the neck until almost dead, revived and placed onto a table where their body was cut open and their entrails removed then set on fire. Their corpse was divided into five pieces: the head to be placed on top of London Bridge and the four quarters of the body posted in the four corners of the City.

Famous or Notable People Executed on Tower Hill

- Sir Simon de Burley, 1388 - [Treason](#)
- John de Beauchamp, 1st Baron Beauchamp, 1388 - [Treason](#)
- Richard Fitzalan, 11th Earl of Arundel, 1397 - [Opposing the King](#)
- Rev. Richard Wyche, Vicar of Deptford, 1440 - [Heresy](#)
- John and Aubrey de Vere, Earls of Oxford, 1462 - [Treason, Lancastrian Conspirators](#)
- Sir William Stanley, 1495 - [Supporting Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the throne](#)
- Edward Plantagenet, 17th Earl of Warwick, 1499 - [Treason](#)
- Edward Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham, 1521 - [Treason, Claimant to the throne](#)
- John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, 1535 - [Refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy](#)
- Sir Thomas More, 1535 - [Refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy](#)
- George Boleyn, 1536 - [Incest and adultery with his sister, the Queen](#)
- Edward Neville, 1538 - [Treason, Conspiracy with the Pole family](#)
- Sir Nicholas Carew, 1539 - [Treason, Partook in the Exeter Conspiracy](#)
- Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, 1540 - [Treason, Betraying the King's secrets](#)
- Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, 1547 - [Treason, Aspirations to the throne](#)
- Thomas Seymour, 1st Baron Seymour of Sudeley, 1549 - [Treason, Aspirations to the throne](#)
- Sir Thomas Wyatt, 1554 - [Treason, Began Wyatt's Rebellion](#)
- Lord Guildford Dudley, 1554 - [Treason, Assuming royal authority](#)
- Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk, 1572 - [Treason, Took part in the Ridolfi Plot](#)
- Sir Christopher Blount, 1601 - [Treason, Took part in Essex's Rebellion](#)
- William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645 - [Treason, Supporting King Charles I](#)
- Christopher Love, 1651 - [Treason, Supporting King Charles II](#)
- James Scott, 1st Duke of Monmouth, 1685 - [Treason, Began Monmouth's Rebellion](#)
- William Boyd, 1746 - [Treason, Jacobite Colonel at the Battle of Culloden](#)
- Arthur Elphinstone, 6th Lord Balmerino, 1746 - [Treason, Jacobite Colonel at the Battle of Culloden](#)
- Simon Fraser, 11th Lord Lovat - [Treason, Jacobite](#)

Lady Jane Grey deposed as Queen of England

After only 9-days as the Monarch of England, LADY JANE GREY is deposed in favour of her cousin MARY TUDOR. The 15-year-old Lady Jane, beautiful and intelligent, had only reluctantly agreed to be put on the throne. The decision would result in her execution.

LADY JANE GREY was the great-granddaughter of KING HENRY VII and the Cousin of KING EDWARD VI. Lady Jane and Edward were the same age, and they had almost been married in 1549. In May 1553 she married Lord Guildford Dudley, the son of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland. When King Edward fell deathly ill with tuberculosis soon after, Jane's father-in-law, JOHN DUDLEY persuaded the dying King that Jane, a Protestant, should be chosen the Royal Successor over Edward's half-sister Mary Tudor, a Catholic.

On July 6, 1553, King Edward died, and four days later LADY JANE GREY was proclaimed Queen of England.

LADY JANE'S ascendance was supported by the ROYAL COUNCIL, but the populace supported MARY TUDOR, the rightful heir. Two days into Lady Jane's reign, Dudley departed London with an army to suppress Mary's forces, and in his absence the Royal Council declared him a traitor and Mary Tudor was declared Queen, ending Jane's 9-day reign.

By July 20, most of Dudley's Army had deserted him, and he was arrested. The same day, Jane was imprisoned in the TOWER OF LONDON. Her Father-in-law was condemned for High Treason, and on August 23, 1553 he was executed.

On November 13, 1553 JANE and her husband, GUILDFORD DUDLEY, were likewise found guilty of Treason and sentenced to death, but because of their youth and relative innocence QUEEN MARY did not carry out the death sentences.

However, in early 1554, Jane's Father, HENRY GREY, joined SIR THOMAS WYATT in an insurrection against Queen Mary that broke out after her announcement of her intention to marry PHILIP II OF SPAIN. While suppressing the revolt, Queen Mary decided it was also necessary to eliminate all her political opponents, and on February 7, 1554 she signed the death warrants of JANE GREY and her husband.

On the morning of February 12, JANE GREY watched her husband being carried away to execution from the window of her cell in the TOWER OF LONDON, and two hours later she was also executed. As British tradition tells the story, after the 16-year-old girl was beheaded, her Executioner held Jane's head aloft and recited the words: *"So perish all the Queen's enemies! Behold, the head of a Traitor!"*

The EXECUTION of LADY JANE GREY at the TOWER of LONDON



VICTORIAN RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWER OF LONDON

- In the latter half of the 19th Century, institutions such as the **ROYAL MINT** moved out of the Castle to other locations, leaving many buildings empty. ANTHONY SALVIN and JOHN TAYLOR took the opportunity to restore the Tower to what was felt to be its medieval appearance, clearing out many of the vacant post-Medieval structures.

In the First World War and in the Second World War, the Tower was used as a **PRISON** and witnessed the EXECUTIONS of 12-men for ESPIONAGE. After the Second World War, damage caused during the Blitz was repaired, and the Castle re-opened to the Public.

Today, the Tower of London is one of England's most popular **TOURIST ATTRACTIONS**.

Under the ceremonial charge of the **CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER**, and operated by the Resident Governor Of The Tower Of London And Keeper Of The Jewel House, the Property is cared for by the Charity, **HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES** and is protected as a World Heritage Site.

The **TOWER** was oriented with its strongest and most impressive defences overlooking Saxon London, which Archaeologist Alan Vince suggests was deliberate. It would have visually dominated the surrounding area and stood out to shipping on the River Thames.

The Castle is made up of three "wards", or enclosures. The **INNERMOST WARD** contains the **WHITE TOWER** and is the earliest phase of the Castle.

Encircling it to the North, East, and West is the **INNER WARD**, built during the reign of Richard I (1189–1199).

Finally, there is the **OUTER WARD** which surrounds the whole Castle and was built by Edward I. Although there were several phases of expansion after William the Conqueror founded the Tower of London, the general layout has remained the same since Edward I completed his rebuild in 1285.

The Castle encloses an area of almost 12-acres (4.9 hectares) with a further 6-acres (2.4 ha) around the Tower of London constituting the **TOWER LIBERTIES** – land under the direct influence of the Castle and cleared for military reasons. The precursor of the Liberties was laid out in the 13th Century when **KING HENRY III** ordered that a strip of land adjacent to the Castle be kept clear.

Despite popular fiction, the Tower of London never had a permanent **TORTURE CHAMBER**, although the basement of the **WHITE TOWER** housed a **RACK** in later periods. Tower Wharf was built on the bank of the Thames under Edward I and was expanded to its current size during the reign of **RICHARD II** (1377–1399).

THE WHITE TOWER

The White Tower is a keep (also known as a **DUNGEON**), which was often the strongest structure in a Medieval Castle, and contained lodgings suitable for the Lord – in this case the King or his representative.

According to military historian **ALLEN BROWN**:

*"The great tower [White Tower] was also, by virtue of its strength, majesty and lordly accommodation, the dungeon *par excellence*".*

As one of the largest Keeps in the Christian world, the White Tower has been described as *"the most complete 11th. Century Palace in Europe"*.

The **WHITE TOWER**, not including its projecting corner towers, measures 36 by 32 metres (118 by 105 ft) at the base, and is 27 m (90 ft) high at the southern battlements. The structure was originally three storeys high, comprising a basement floor, an entrance level, and an upper floor. The entrance, as is usual in Norman Keeps, was above ground, in this case on the south face, and accessed via a wooden staircase which could be removed in the event of an attack. It was probably during Henry II's reign (1154–1189) that a fore-building was added to the south side of the Tower to provide extra defences to the entrance, but it has not survived.

Each floor was divided into three Chambers, the largest in the West, a smaller room in the North-East, and the Chapel taking up the Entrance and Upper Floors of the South-East. At the Western corners of the building are square Towers, while to the North-East a Round Tower houses a spiral staircase. At the South-East corner there is a larger semi-circular projection which accommodates the apse of the Chapel.

An APSE is a semicircular recess, often covered with a hemispherical vault. Commonly, the apse of a Church, Cathedral or Basilica is the semicircular or polygonal termination to the Choir or Sanctuary, or sometimes at the end of an aisle. In Church Architecture it is generally the name given to where the altar is placed or where the Clergy are seated.

As the building was intended to be a comfortable **RESIDENCE** as well as a **STRONGHOLD**, **LATRINES** were built into the walls, and four **FIREPLACES** provided warmth.

The main building material is KENTISH RAG-STONE, although some local MUDSTONE was also used. CAEN STONE was imported from Northern France to provide details in the Tower's facing, although little of the original material survives as it was replaced with PORTLAND STONE in the 17th and 18th Centuries. As most of the Tower's windows were enlarged in the 18th Century, only two original – albeit restored – examples remain, in the South Wall at the Gallery level.

The TOWER was terraced into the side of a mound, so the northern side of the basement is partially below ground level. As was typical of most keeps, the bottom floor was an undercroft used for storage. One of the rooms contained a WELL. Although the layout has remained the same since the Tower's construction, the interior of the basement dates mostly from the 18th Century, when the floor was lowered and the pre-existing timber vaults were replaced with brick counterparts. The basement is lit through small slits.

The entrance floor was probably intended for the use of the CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER, LIEUTENANT OF THE TOWER OF LONDON and other important officials. The South Entrance was blocked during the 17th Century, and not reopened until 1973. Those heading to the upper floor had to pass through a smaller chamber to the east, also connected to the entrance floor. The crypt of ST JOHN'S CHAPEL occupied the South-East corner and was accessible only from the Eastern chamber.

There is a recess in the North Wall of the CRYPT; according to GEOFFREY PARNELL, Keeper of the Tower History at the Royal Armouries, *"the windowless form and restricted access, suggest that it was designed as a strong-room for safekeeping of royal treasures and important documents"*.

The Upper Floor contained a GRAND HALL in the West, and a RESIDENTIAL CHAMBER in the east – both originally open to the roof and surrounded by a Gallery built into the wall – and ST JOHN'S CHAPEL in the South-East. The top floor was added in the 15th Century, along with the present roof. St John's Chapel was not part of the White Tower's original design, as the apsidal projection was built after the basement walls.

Due to changes in function and design since the Tower's construction, except for the Chapel, little is left of the original interior. The Chapel's current bare and unadorned appearance is reminiscent of how it would have been in the Norman period. In the 13th Century, during Henry III's reign, the Chapel was decorated with such ornamentation as a gold-painted cross, and stained glass windows that depicted the Virgin Mary and the Holy Trinity.

Innermost Ward

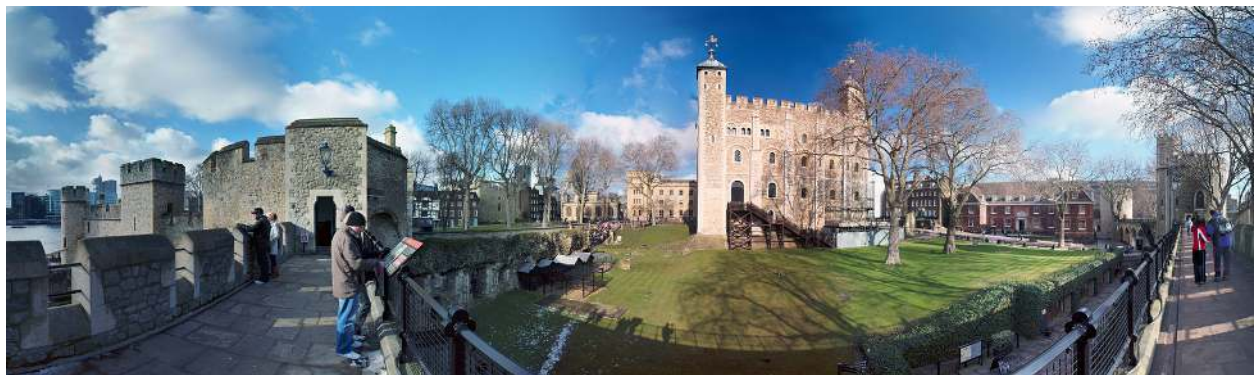
The INNERMOST WARD encloses an area immediately south of the WHITE TOWER, stretching to what was once the edge of the River Thames. As was the case at other Castles, such as the 11th-Century Hen Domen, the Innermost Ward was probably filled with timber buildings from the Tower's foundation. Exactly when the Royal Lodgings began to encroach from the White Tower into the Innermost Ward is uncertain, although it had happened by the 1170s.

The lodgings were renovated and elaborated during the 1220s and 1230s, becoming comparable with other Palatial Residences such as WINDSOR CASTLE. Construction of WAKEFIELD and LANTHORN TOWERS – located at the corners of the Innermost Ward's wall along the River Thames – began around 1220. They probably served as private residences for the Queen and King respectively.

The earliest evidence for how the ROYAL CHAMBERS were decorated comes from Henry III's reign: the Queen's chamber was whitewashed, and painted with flowers and imitation stonework.

A GREAT HALL existed in the south of the Ward, between the two TOWERS. It was similar to, although slightly smaller than, that also built by Henry III at WINCHESTER CASTLE. Near WAKEFIELD TOWER was a postern gate which allowed private access to the King's apartments.

The INNERMOST WARD was originally surrounded by a protective ditch, which had been filled in by the 1220s. Around this time, a KITCHEN was built in the Ward. Between 1666 and 1676, the Innermost Ward was transformed and the Palace buildings removed. The area around the WHITE TOWER was cleared so that anyone approaching would have to cross open ground. The JEWEL HOUSE was demolished, and the CROWN JEWELS moved to MARTIN TOWER.





Interior of the Innermost Ward. Right of centre is the 11th-century **White Tower**; the structure at the end of the walkway to the left is **Wakefield Tower**. Beyond that can be seen **Traitors' Gate**.

Inner Ward

The Inner Ward was created during **RICHARD THE LIONHEART'S** reign, when a **MOAT** was dug to the west of the **INNERMOST WARD**, effectively doubling the Castle's size.

Henry III created the ward's East and North walls, and the ward's dimensions remain the same to this day. Most of Henry's work survives, and only two of the nine towers he constructed have been completely rebuilt. Between the **WAKEFIELD** and **LANTHORN TOWERS**, the **INNERMOST WARD'S** wall also serves as a curtain wall for the **INNER WARD**. The main entrance to the Inner Ward would have been through a Gatehouse, most likely in the West Wall on the site of what is now **BEAUCHAMP TOWER**.

The **INNER WARD'S** Western curtain wall was rebuilt by **KING EDWARD I**. The 13th-Century **BEAUCHAMP TOWER** marks the first large-scale use of brick as a building

material in Britain, since the 5th-Century departure of the Romans. The BEAUCHAMP TOWER is one of 13-Towers that stud the curtain wall. Clockwise from the south-west corner they are: Bell, Beauchamp, Devereux, Flint, Bowyer, Brick, Martin, Constable, Broad Arrow, Salt, Lanthorn, Wakefield, and the Bloody Tower. While these Towers provided positions from which flanking fire could be deployed against a potential enemy, they also contained accommodation.

As its name suggests, BELL TOWER housed a BELFRY, its purpose to raise the alarm in the event of an attack. The Royal Bow-Maker, responsible for making longbows, crossbows, catapults, and other siege and hand weapons, had a workshop in the BOWYER TOWER. A turret at the top of LANTHORN TOWER was used as a BEACON by traffic approaching the Tower at night.

The south face of the Waterloo Block

As a result of Henry III's expansion, St. Peter ad Vincula, a Norman Chapel which had previously stood outside the Tower, was incorporated into the Castle. Henry decorated the Chapel by adding glazed windows, and stalls for himself and his Queen. It was rebuilt by Edward I at a cost of over £300 and again by Henry VIII in 1519; the current building dates from this period, although the Chapel was refurbished in the 19th Century.

Immediately west of WAKEFIELD TOWER, the BLOODY TOWER was built at the same time as the Inner Ward's curtain wall, and as a water-gate provided access to the Castle from the River Thames. It was a simple structure, protected by a portcullis and gate. The Bloody Tower acquired its name in the 16th Century, as it was believed to be the site of the murder of the Princes in the Tower.

Between 1339 and 1341, a Gatehouse was built into the curtain wall between Bell and Salt Towers. During the Tudor period, a range of buildings for the storage of munitions was built along the inside of the north Inner Ward. The Castle buildings were remodelled during the Stuart period, mostly under the auspices of the Office of Ordnance.

In 1663, just over £4,000 was spent building a new storehouse (now known as the New Armouries) in the inner ward. Construction of the Grand Storehouse north of the White Tower began in 1688, on the same site as the dilapidated Tudor range of storehouses; it was destroyed by fire in 1841.

The WATERLOO BLOCK, a former barracks in the castellated Gothic Revival style with Domestic Tudor details, was built on the site and remains to this day, housing the CROWN JEWELS on the ground floor.

Outer Ward

A third Ward was created during Edward I's extension to the Tower, as the narrow enclosure completely surrounded the Castle. At the same time a bastion known as LEGGE'S MOUNT was built at the Castle's northwest corner. BRASS MOUNT, the bastion in the northeast corner, was a later addition. The three rectangular towers along the east wall 15 metres (49 ft) apart were dismantled in 1843. Although the bastions have often been ascribed to the Tudor period, there is no evidence to support this; archaeological investigations suggest that Legge's Mount dates from the reign of Edward I.

Blocked battlements (also known as "crenellations") in the south side of Legge's Mount are the only surviving medieval battlements at the Tower of London (the rest are Victorian replacements). A new 50-metre (160 ft) moat was dug beyond the Castle's new limits; it was originally 4.5 metres (15 ft) deeper in the middle than it is today. With the addition of a new curtain wall, the old main entrance to the Tower of London was obscured and made redundant; a new entrance was created in the southwest corner of the external wall circuit.



The complex consisted of an inner and an outer GATEHOUSE and a barbican, which became known as the **LION TOWER** as it was associated with the animals as part of the **ROYAL MENAGERIE** since at least the 1330s. The Lion Tower itself no longer survives.

King Edward I extended the south side of the Tower of London onto land that had previously been submerged by the River Thames. In this wall, he built **St. THOMAS'S TOWER** between 1275 and 1279; later known as **TRAITORS' GATE**, it replaced the Bloody Tower as the Castle's water-gate on the River Thames. The building is unique in England, and the closest parallel is the now demolished water-gate at the Louvre in Paris.

The dock was covered with arrow-slits in case of an attack on the Castle from the River; there was also a **PORTCULLIS** at the entrance to control who entered. There were luxurious lodgings on the first floor.



The ROYAL MINT at the TOWER of LONDON

- Although the ROYAL MINT has called LLANTRISANT its home for the past 50 years, it was located within the walls of the TOWER OF LONDON for many Centuries.

The ROYAL MINT has evolved to become a sophisticated industrial concern operating today as a Government Company. The 1100 or so years of its existence track the history of Britain through its Wars and Political upheavals, its Social and Economic progress, its Technological and Scientific advances. Its history is, in short, woven into that of Britain itself.

Since 2018 The ROYAL MINT has been evolving its business to help offset declining cash use. It has expanded into precious metals investment, historic coins, and luxury collectibles, which saw it deliver an operating profit of £12.7 million in 2020–2021.

In 2022 The ROYAL MINT announced it was building a new plant in South Wales to recover precious metals from electronic waste. The first of this sustainably sourced gold is already being used in a new jewellery division – *886 by The Royal Mint* – named in celebration of its symbolic founding date.

History - Moving to the Tower

By about 1279, the MINT had moved to more secure quarters at the TOWER OF LONDON. The contemporary Pipe Roll records the expenditure of £729 17s 8½d for work on the mint in the Tower. There are also references to '*the little tower where the treasure of the mint is kept*' and to timber bought for '*workshops in the barbican for the needs of the moneyers*'. What is not clear is whether The Royal Mint's first quarters in the Tower were in the area which it subsequently occupied between the inner and outer walls.

Humble accommodation

For the next 500 years, THE ROYAL MINT remained in the Tower of London. A plan from 1701 shows the mint buildings forming a narrow horseshoe running round the three sides of the Tower not bounded by the river. These buildings were 'largely of wood; the chief of them were two stories; most were crazy with age, held up by timber shores and pinned together with clamps of iron'. One might imagine an overseas visitor in 1710 expressing surprise that handsome coins could emanate from such wretched buildings.

A step forward

Minting processes became mechanized in the 17th Century and the installation of Mills and Presses, while improving the appearance of the coins and making them more difficult to clip and to counterfeit, aggravated the cramped conditions in the Tower. Occasional disputes with the Garrison caused further tension and as the 18th Century drew to a close there was talk of moving The Royal Mint.

THE ROYAL MINT is the United Kingdom's oldest Company and the Official maker of British coins. Operating under the legal name THE ROYAL MINT LIMITED, it is a limited Company that is wholly owned by HIS MAJESTY'S TREASURY and is under an exclusive contract to supply the nation's coinage.

As well as minting circulating coins for the UK and international markets, THE ROYAL MINT is a leading provider of precious metal products.



ELIZABETH I Gold Sovereign Coin

THE ROYAL MINT was historically part of a series of mints that became centralized to produce coins for the Kingdom of England, all of Great Britain, the United Kingdom, and nations across the Commonwealth.

THE ROYAL MINT operated within the **TOWER OF LONDON** for several hundred years before moving to what is now called **ROYAL MINT COURT**, where it remained until the 1960s. As Britain followed the rest of the world in decimalizing its currency, the Mint moved from London to a new 38-acre (15 ha) plant in **LLANTRISANT**, Glamorgan, Wales, where it has remained since.



History

Foundation and early history

Victorious at the BATTLE OF HASTINGS on 14 October 1066, the invading Duke of Normandy, WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, spent the rest of the year securing his holdings by fortifying key positions.

He founded several Castles along the way, but took a circuitous route toward London; only when he reached Canterbury did he turn towards England's largest city. As the fortified bridge into London was held by Saxon troops, he decided instead to ravage Southwark before continuing his journey around southern England.

A series of Norman victories along the route cut the City's supply lines and in December 1066, isolated and intimidated, its leaders yielded LONDON without a fight.

Between 1066 and 1087, William established 36-Castles, although references in the Domesday Book indicate that many more were founded by his subordinates. The new ruling elite undertook what has been described as "the most extensive and concentrated programme of castle-building in the whole history of feudal Europe". They were multi-purpose buildings, serving as fortifications (used as a base of operations in enemy territory), centres of administration, and residences.

William sent an advance party to prepare LONDON for his entrance, to celebrate his victory and found a Castle; in the words of William's biographer, William of Poitiers, "*certain fortifications were completed in the City against the restlessness of the huge and brutal populace. For William realized that it was of the first importance to overawe the Londoners*".

At the time, London was the largest Town in England; the foundation of Westminster Abbey and the old Palace of Westminster under Edward the Confessor had marked it as a Centre of Governance, and with a prosperous Port on the River Thames, it was important for the Normans to establish control over the Settlement. The other two Castles in London – BAYNARD'S CASTLE and MONTFICHET'S CASTLE – were established at the same time.

The fortification that would later become known as the TOWER OF LONDON was built onto the South-East corner of the Roman Town Walls, using them as prefabricated defences, with the River Thames providing additional protection from the south. This earliest phase of the Castle would have been enclosed by a ditch and defended by a timber palisade, and probably had accommodation suitable for KING WILLIAM.

Most of the early Norman Castles were built from timber, but by the end of the 11th Century a few, including the TOWER OF LONDON, had been renovated or replaced with stone.

Work on the **WHITE TOWER** – which gives the whole Castle its name – is usually considered to have begun in 1078, however the exact date is uncertain. William made Gundulf, Bishop of Rochester, responsible for its construction, although it may not have been completed until after William's death in 1087. The White Tower is the earliest stone Keep in England, and was the strongest point of the early Castle. It also contained grand accommodation for the King.



The White Tower dates from the late 11th Century.

At the latest, it was probably finished by 1100 when BISHOP RANULF FLAMBARD was imprisoned there. Flambard was loathed by the English for exacting harsh taxes. Although he is the first recorded prisoner held in the Tower, he was also the first person to escape from it, using a smuggled rope secreted in a butt of wine. He was held in luxury and permitted

servants, but on 2 February 1101 he hosted a banquet for his captors. After plying them with drink, when no one was looking he lowered himself from a secluded chamber, and out of the Tower. The escape came as such a surprise that one contemporary chronicler accused the Bishop of witchcraft.

The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* records that in 1097 KING WILLIAM II - **the third son of William the Conqueror (aka William Rufus)** ordered a wall to be built around the Tower of London; it was probably built from stone and likely replaced the timber palisade that arced around the north and west sides of the Castle, between the Roman wall and the Thames.

The Norman Conquest of London manifested itself not only with a new “ruling class”, but also in a new way the City was structured.

Land was confiscated from the indigenous Anglo-Saxons and redistributed amongst the Normans, who also brought over hundreds of Jews, for financial reasons. The Jews arrived under the direct protection of the Crown, as a result of which Jewish communities were often found close to Castles. The Jews used the Tower as a retreat, when threatened by anti-Jewish violence.

■ The death in 1135 of KING HENRY I left England with a disputed succession; although the King had persuaded his most powerful Barons to swear support for the EMPRESS MATILDA, just a few days after Henry's death STEPHEN de BLOIS arrived from France to lay claim to the throne.

The importance of LONDON and its TOWER is marked by the speed at which Stephen de Blois secured the City. The Castle, which had not been used as a Royal Residence for some time, was usually left in the charge of a Constable, a post held at this time by GEOFFREY de MANDEVILLE. As the Tower was considered an impregnable fortress in a strategically important position, possession was highly valued. Mandeville exploited this, selling his allegiance to EMPRESS MATILDA after Stephen was captured in 1141 at the Battle of Lincoln.

Once her support waned, the following year he resold his loyalty to Stephen de Blois. Through his role as CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER, Mandeville became "the richest and most powerful man in England". When he tried the same ploy again, this time holding secret talks with EMPRESS MATILDA, King Stephen had him arrested, forced him to cede control of his Castles, and replaced him with one of his most loyal supporters.

Until then, the position of **CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER** had been hereditary, originally held by **GEOFFREY DE MANDEVILLE**, but the position's authority was such that, from then on, it remained in the hands of an appointee of the Monarch. The position was usually given to someone of great importance, who might not always be at the Castle due to other duties. Although the Constable was still responsible for maintaining the Castle and its garrison, from an early stage he had a subordinate to help with this duty: the **LIEUTENANT OF THE TOWER**.

CONSTABLES OF THE TOWER also had Civic duties relating to the City. Usually they were given control of the City and were responsible for levying Taxes, enforcing the Law and maintaining order. The creation in 1191 of the position of **LORD MAYOR OF LONDON** removed many of the Constable's Civic powers, and at times led to friction between the two.

Expansion

The **TOWER OF LONDON** probably retained its form as established by 1100 until the reign of **KING RICHARD I (1189–1199)**. The Castle was extended under **William Longchamp**, **King Richard's LORD CHANCELLOR** and the man in charge of England while he was on **Crusade to the Holy Land**.

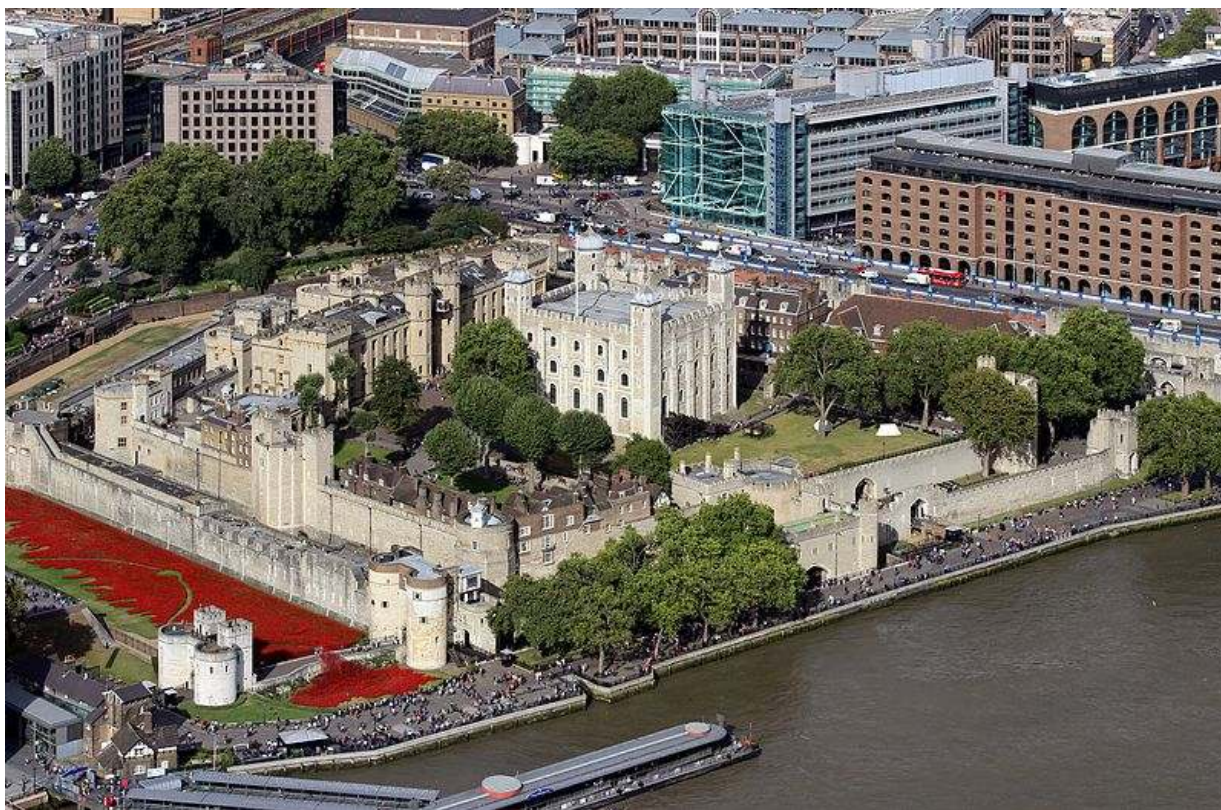
The Pipe Rolls record £2,881 1s 10d spent at the Tower of London between 3 December 1189 and 11 November 1190, from an estimated £7,000 spent by King Richard on castle-building in England. According to the contemporary chronicler, **ROGER of HOWDEN**, **William Longchamp** dug a moat around the Castle and tried in vain to fill it from the Thames.

WILLIAM LONGCHAMP was also Constable of the Tower, and undertook its expansion while preparing for War with King Richard's younger brother, **PRINCE JOHN**, who in Richard's absence arrived in England to try to seize power. As Longchamp's main fortress, he had made the **TOWER OF LONDON** as strong as possible.

The new fortifications were first tested in October 1191, when the Tower was besieged for the first time in its history. **William Longchamp** capitulated to **PRINCE JOHN** after just three days, deciding he had more to gain from surrender than prolonging the siege.

PRINCE JOHN succeeded King Richard in 1199, but his rule proved unpopular with many of his Barons, who in response moved against him. In 1214, while King John was at Windsor Castle, **ROBERT FITZWALTER** led an army into London and laid siege to the Tower. Although under-garrisoned, the Tower resisted and the siege was lifted in 1215, once King John signed the **MAGNA CARTA**.

KING JOHN reneged on promises of reform, leading to the **First Barons' War** in 1215 to 1217.



The TOWER OF LONDON from The Shard. The River Thames is to the south. The outer curtain walls were erected in the 13th Century. In the moat is the 2014 art installation *Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*.

Even after the MAGNA CARTA was signed, **ROBERT FITZWALTER** maintained his control of London. During the War, the Tower's Garrison joined forces with the Barons. **KING JOHN** was deposed in 1216 and the Barons offered the English throne to **PRINCE LOUIS**, the eldest son of the French King. However, after King John's death in October 1216, many began to support the claim of his eldest son, **HENRY III**.

War continued between the factions supporting LOUIS and HENRY, with Robert Fitzwalter supporting Louis. Fitzwalter was still in control of London and the Tower, both of which held out until it was clear that Henry III's supporters would prevail.

In the 13th Century, King Henry III (1216–1272) and King Edward I (1272–1307) extended the Castle, essentially creating it as it stands today. King Henry was disconnected from his Barons, and a mutual lack of understanding led to unrest and resentment towards his rule. As a result, he was eager to ensure the Tower of London was a formidable fortification; at the same time Henry, who was an aesthete, wished to make the Castle a comfortable place to live.

From 1216 to 1227 nearly £10,000 was spent on the Tower of London; in this period, only the work at WINDSOR CASTLE cost more (£15,000). Most of the work on the TOWER OF LONDON was focused on the palatial buildings of the Innermost Ward. The tradition of whitewashing the WHITE TOWER (from which it derives its name) began in 1240.

Beginning around 1238, the Castle was expanded to the east, north, and north-west. The work lasted through the reign of Henry III and into that of Edward I, interrupted occasionally by civil unrest. New creations included a new defensive perimeter, studded with Towers, while on the west, north, and east sides, where the wall was not defended by the River, a defensive ditch was dug. The eastern extension took the Castle beyond the bounds of the old Roman settlement, marked by the City Wall which had been incorporated into the Castle's defences.

The Tower had long been a symbol of oppression, despised by Londoners, and Henry's building programme was unpopular. So when the Gatehouse collapsed in 1240, the locals celebrated the setback. The expansion caused disruption locally and £166 was paid to St Katherine's Hospital and the Prior of Holy Trinity in compensation.

Henry III often held Court at the TOWER OF LONDON, and held Parliament there on at least two occasions (1236 and 1261) when he felt that the Barons were becoming dangerously unruly. In 1258, the discontented barons, led by Simon de Montfort, forced the King to agree to reforms including the holding of regular Parliaments. Relinquishing the Tower of London was among the conditions.

Henry III resented losing power and sought permission from the Pope to break his oath. With the backing of mercenaries, Henry installed himself in the Tower in 1261. While negotiations continued with the Barons, the King ensconced himself in the Tower, although no army moved to take it. A truce was agreed with the condition that the King hand over control of the Tower once again.

Henry III won a significant victory at the Battle of Evesham in 1265, allowing him to regain control of the Country and the Tower of London.

CARDINAL OTTOBUON (aka POPE ADRIAN V) came to England to excommunicate those who were still rebellious; the act was deeply unpopular and the situation was exacerbated when the Cardinal was granted custody of the Tower.

Gilbert de Clare, 6th Earl of Hertford, marched on London in April 1267 and laid siege to the Castle, declaring that custody of the Tower was "not a post to be trusted in the hands of a foreigner, much less of an Ecclesiastic". Despite a large army and siege engines, Gilbert de Clare was unable to take the Castle. The Earl retreated, allowing the King control of the Capital, and the Tower experienced peace for the rest of Henry III's reign.

Although he was rarely in London, EDWARD I undertook an expensive remodelling of the Tower, costing £21,000 between 1275 and 1285, over double that spent on the Castle during the whole of Henry III's reign. Edward I was a seasoned Castle builder, and used his experience of Siege Warfare during the Crusades to bring innovations to Castle building.

His programme of Castle building in Wales heralded the introduction of the widespread use of ARROW SLITS in Castle walls across Europe, drawing on Eastern influences. At the TOWER OF LONDON, Edward filled in the moat dug by Henry III and built a new curtain wall along its line, creating a new Enclosure.

A new moat was created in front of the new curtain wall. The western part of Henry III's curtain wall was rebuilt, with BEAUCHAMP TOWER replacing the Castle's old Gatehouse. A new entrance was created, with elaborate defences including two gatehouses and a barbican. In an effort to make the Castle self-sufficient, Edward I also added two watermills.

Six hundred Jews were imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1278, charged with coin clipping. Persecution of the Country's Jewish population under Edward began in 1276 and culminated in 1290 when he issued the EDICT OF EXPULSION, forcing the Jews out of the Country.

In 1279, the Country's numerous Mints were unified under a single system whereby control was centralized to the ROYAL MINT within the TOWER OF LONDON, while mints outside of London were reduced, with only a few local and Episcopal mints continuing to operate.

Later Medieval Period

During Edward II's reign (1307–1327) there was relatively little activity at the Tower of London. However, it was during this period that the PRIVY WARDROBE was founded. The Institution was based at the Tower and responsible for organizing the State's arms.

In 1321, MARGARET De CLARE, Baroness Badlesmere became the first woman imprisoned in the Tower of London after she refused Queen Isabella admittance to Leeds Castle and ordered her archers to fire upon Isabella, killing six of the Royal Escort. Generally reserved for high-ranking inmates, the TOWER OF LONDON was the most important Royal Prison in the Country. However it was not necessarily very secure, and throughout its history people bribed the guards to help them escape.

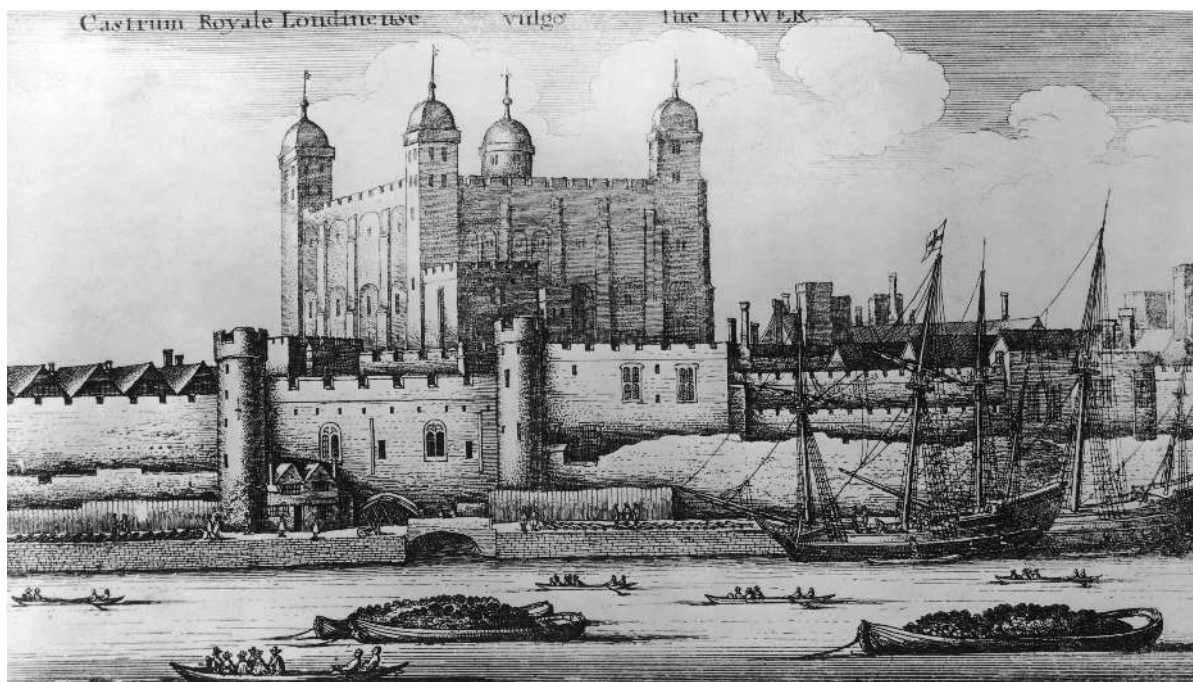
In 1323, **ROGER MORTIMER**, Baron Mortimer, was aided in his escape from the Tower by the Sub-Lieutenant of the Tower who let Mortimer's men inside. They hacked a hole in his cell wall and Mortimer escaped to a waiting boat. He fled to France where he encountered Edward's Queen. **They began an affair and plotted to overthrow the King.**

One of Mortimer's first acts on entering England in 1326 was to capture the Tower and release the prisoners held there. For four years he ruled while Edward III was too young to do so himself. **In 1330, Edward and his supporters captured Mortimer and threw him in the Tower.**

Under Edward III's rule (1312–1377) England experienced renewed success in warfare after his father's losses in battles with the Scots and French. Amongst Edward III's successes were the battles of Crécy and Poitiers where King John II of France was taken prisoner, and King David II of Scotland was captured at Neville's Cross.

During this period, the TOWER OF LONDON held many noble Prisoners of War. Edward II had allowed the Tower to fall into a state of disrepair, and by the reign of Edward III the Castle was an uncomfortable place. The nobles held captive within its walls were unable to engage in activities such as hunting, which were permissible at other Royal Castles used as prisons, for instance WINDSOR.

Edward III ordered that the Tower should be renovated.



The above late 15th-Century image is the earliest surviving picture of the TOWER OF LONDON. It shows the WHITE TOWER and the Water-Gate, with Old London Bridge in the background.

When KING RICHARD II was crowned in 1377, he led a procession of Nobles from the Tower to Westminster Abbey. This tradition began in at least the early 14th Century and lasted until 1660. During the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 the TOWER OF LONDON was besieged with the King inside. When King Richard rode out to meet with Watt Tyler, the rebel leader, the crowd broke into the Castle without meeting resistance and looted the JEWEL HOUSE.

The Archbishop Of Canterbury, SIMON SUDBURY, took refuge in St John's Chapel, at the Tower of London, hoping the crowd would respect the sanctuary. As Lord Chancellor of ENGLAND, he was associated with the heavy tax burden which caused the PEASANTS REVOLT of 1381.

The Archbishop was saying Mass in St. JOHN'S CHAPEL and was dragged from his hiding place, together with Sir Robert Hales, the Lord High Treasurer. They were both taken away and beheaded on TOWER HILL.

According to an account written by John Stow 200-years later, ARCHBISHOP SUDBURY was beheaded by 8-frenzied sword blows to his neck, one of which also severed the fingers from one hand. His body lay in the open all day, and then taken to CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

His severed head had his Clerical hood nailed onto it and fixed to a pole, then placed on LONDON BRIDGE. It was taken down from the Bridge after six days by Sir WILLIAM WALWORTH, the Lord Mayor of London, and taken to Sudbury, Suffolk, England where it is still kept at St. GREGORY'S CHURCH, which ARCHBISHOP SUDBURY had partly rebuilt.





(In 2011 a Computerized Tomography (CT) SCAN of ARCHBISHOP SUDBURY'S mummified skull enabled a facial reconstruction.)

In 1399, there was again Civil Unrest, and KING RICHARD II spent Christmas in the security of the TOWER OF LONDON, rather than WINDSOR CASTLE, as was usual.

When HENRY BOLINGBROKE, Duke of Lancaster, returned from exile in 1399, KING RICHARD II was imprisoned in the WHITE TOWER. Richard then abdicated and was replaced on the throne by HENRY BOLINGBROKE, who was crowned KING HENRY IV and ruled until 1413.

In the 15th Century, there was little building work at the Tower of London, yet the Castle still remained important as a place of refuge. When supporters of the late Richard II attempted a coup, Henry IV found safety in the Tower of London. During this period, the Castle also held many distinguished prisoners. The heir to the Scottish throne, later King James I of Scotland, was kidnapped while journeying to France in 1406 and held in the Tower.

The successful reign of Henry V (1413-1422) renewed England's fortunes in the HUNDRED YEARS' WAR against France. King Henry V's victory at the BATTLE OF AGINCOURT, produced many high-status prisoners who were held in the Tower of London until they were ransomed.



Much of the latter half of the 15th Century was occupied by the **WARS OF THE ROSES** between the claimants to the English Throne, the houses of **LANCASTER** and **YORK**.

The **TOWER OF LONDON** was again besieged in 1460, this time by a Yorkist force. The Tower was damaged by heavy artillery fire, but only surrendered when **HENRY VI** was captured at the **BATTLE OF NORTHAMPTON**.

With the help of **RICHARD NEVILLE**, 16th Earl of Warwick (nicknamed "The Kingmaker") **HENRY VI** recaptured the throne for a short time in 1470.

However, **EDWARD IV** soon regained control, by winning the Battle at Barnet, and **HENRY VI** was imprisoned again in the **TOWER OF LONDON**, where he was probably murdered in **May, 1471**.

In 1471, during the **SIEGE OF LONDON**, the Tower's Yorkist garrison exchanged fire with Lancastrians holding Southwark, and sallied from the fortress to take part in a pincer movement to attack the Lancastrians who were assaulting Aldgate on London's defensive wall.

During the Wars, the TOWER OF LONDON was fortified to withstand gunfire, and provided with loopholes for cannons and handguns: an enclosure called the BULWARK was created for this purpose to the south of Tower Hill, although it no longer survives.

Opposition to **RICHARD III** escalated until he was defeated at the BATTLE OF BOSWORTH FIELD in 1485 by the Lancastrian HENRY TUDOR, who then ascended to the throne as **HENRY VII**.



The Battle of Bosworth Field

One of the most important battles in English and Welsh history took place at Bosworth during the 15th Century WARS OF THE ROSES.

Early in August 1485 the would-be Lancastrian King, Henry Tudor sailed across the English Channel from France to south Wales with a force of around 2,000 men.

Marching through the Welsh countryside the ranks of the Lancastrian army swelled, until by the time they crossed the border into Shrewsbury their number had more than doubled in size.

On hearing the news of Henry's landing, KING RICHARD III began to muster his Yorkist army at Leicester. With his Royal Army now almost 10,000 strong, the King deployed his troops on a hill top, just south of Market Bosworth in Leicestershire.

On an adjacent hilltop stood the forces of Henry's stepfather THOMAS, LORD STANLEY, with a fairly substantial private army totalling around 6,000 men. In the bloody battle that followed, Stanley elected to simply stand and spectate.

As the battle swayed first one way and then the other, RICHARD appears to have decided to bring the encounter to a swift end by leading a charge aimed directly at HENRY.

On seeing Richard separated from his main force, Lord Stanley finally decided to join the battle on the side of his stepson. After his horse became trapped in boggy ground, the King continued to fight on foot before he was finally overwhelmed.

Richard was the last PLANTAGENET KING OF ENGLAND, and the last English Monarch to be killed in battle. On seeing their leader's fate, the Yorkist army abandoned the field. RICHARD'S CROWN was brought to HENRY who was proclaimed King on the nearby Crown Hill.

The new TUDOR DYNASTY would rule England for the next 100-years. Richard's body was interred in a plain unmarked tomb at GREYFRIARS in Leicester and forgotten about, until it was rediscovered under a car park by archaeologists in SEPTEMBER 2012.

The PRINCES in the TOWER



Prince Edward V and Richard in the Tower, 1483
by Sir John Everett Millais, 1878.

They are known as the PRINCES IN THE TOWER as they were lodged in the Tower of London, with their last recorded appearance being in June 1483. Shortly after the death of Edward IV in 1483, the notorious murder of the Princes in the Tower is traditionally believed to have taken place. The incident is one of the most infamous events associated with the Tower of London.

Prince Edward V's uncle, RICHARD, DUKE OF GLOUCESTER was declared Lord Protector while the Prince was too young to rule. Traditional accounts have held that the 12-year-old Edward was confined to the Tower of London along with his younger brother Richard. The Duke of Gloucester was proclaimed King Richard III in June.

The Princes were last seen in public in June 1483; it has traditionally been thought that the most likely reason for their disappearance is that they were murdered late in the summer of 1483.

Bones, thought to belong to them, were discovered in 1674 when the 12th-Century-built entrance to the White Tower was demolished; however, the reputed level at which the bones were found (10ft or 3m) would put the bones at a depth similar to that of the Roman graveyard, found in 2011, at 12ft (4m) underneath the Minories, a few hundred yards to the north.

Changing use

The beginning of the Tudor period marked the start of the decline of the Tower of London's use as a royal residence. As 16th-century chronicler Raphael Holinshed said the Tower became used more as "an armouries and house of munition, and thereunto a place for the safekeeping of offenders than a Palace Royal for a King or Queen to sojourn in".

Henry VII visited the Tower on fourteen occasions between 1485 and 1500, usually staying for less than a week at a time. The Yeoman Warders have been the Royal Bodyguard since at least 1509. In 1517 the Tower fired its cannon at City crowds engaged in the xenophobic Evil May Day riots, in which the properties of foreign residents were ransacked. It's not thought that any rioters were hurt by the gunfire, which was probably meant to merely intimidate the mob.

During the reign of Henry VIII, the Tower was assessed as needing considerable work on its defences. In 1532, Thomas Cromwell spent £3,593 on repairs and imported nearly 3,000 tons of Caen stone for the work. Even so, this was not sufficient to bring the Castle up to the standard of contemporary military fortifications which were designed to withstand powerful artillery.

Although the defences were repaired, the Palace buildings were left in a state of neglect after Henry VII's death. Their condition was so poor that they were virtually uninhabitable. From 1547 onwards, the TOWER OF LONDON was only used as a Royal Residence when its political and historic symbolism was considered useful, for instance each of Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I briefly stayed at the Tower before their Coronations.

In the 16th Century, the Tower acquired an enduring reputation as a grim, forbidding prison. This had not always been the case. As a Royal Castle, it was used by the Monarch to imprison people for various reasons, however these were usually high-status individuals for short periods rather than common citizenry as there were plenty of prisons elsewhere for such people. Contrary to the popular image of the Tower, prisoners were able to make their life easier by purchasing amenities such as better food or tapestries through the Lieutenant of the Tower.

Holding prisoners was originally an incidental role of the Tower – as would have been the case for any Castle – there was no purpose-built accommodation for prisoners until 1687 when a brick shed, a PRISON FOR SOLDIERS, was built to the north-west of the White Tower.

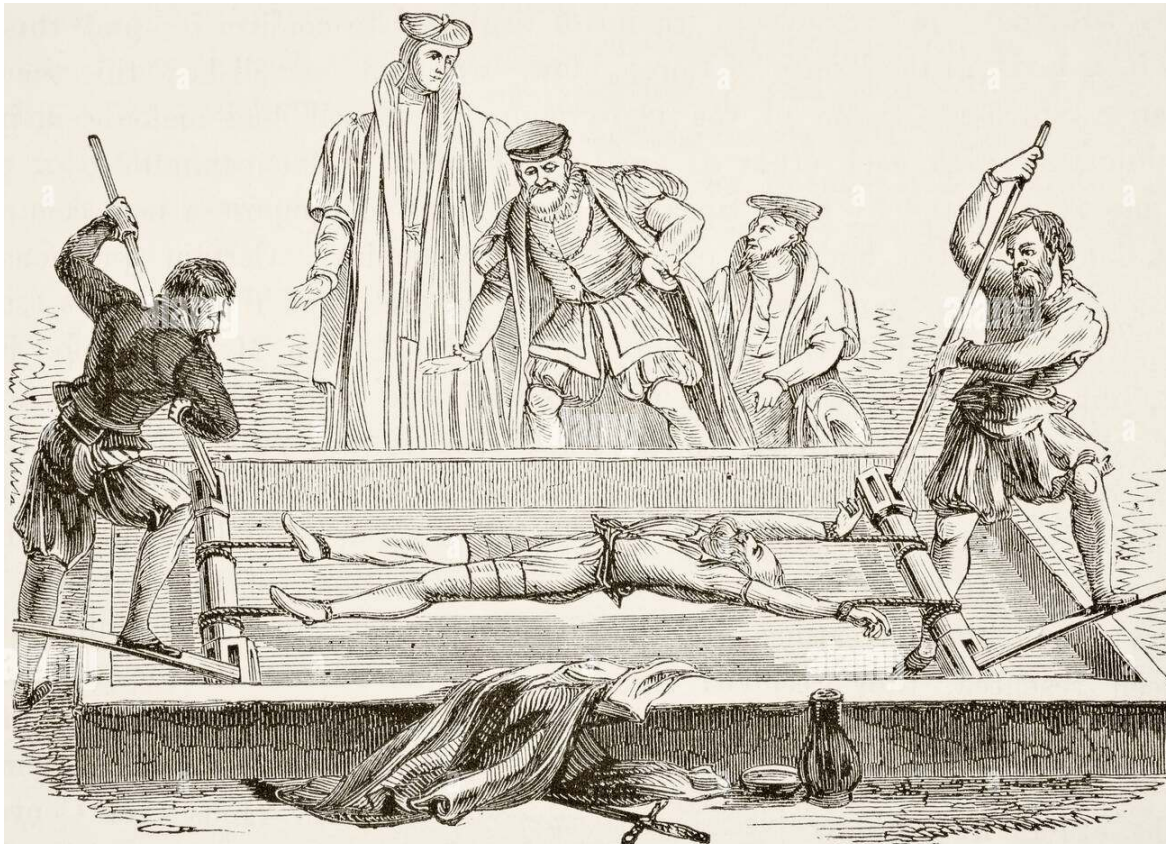
The Tower's reputation for torture and imprisonment derives largely from 16th-Century religious propagandists and 19th-Century romanticists. Although much of the Tower's reputation is exaggerated, the 16th and 17th Centuries marked the Castle's zenith as a prison, with many religious and political undesirables locked away.

The Privy Council had to sanction the use of torture, so it was not often used; between 1540 and 1640, the peak of imprisonment at the Tower, there were 48 recorded cases of the use of torture. The three most common forms used were the infamous MANACLES, the RACK, and the SCAVENGER'S DAUGHTER.

MANACLES



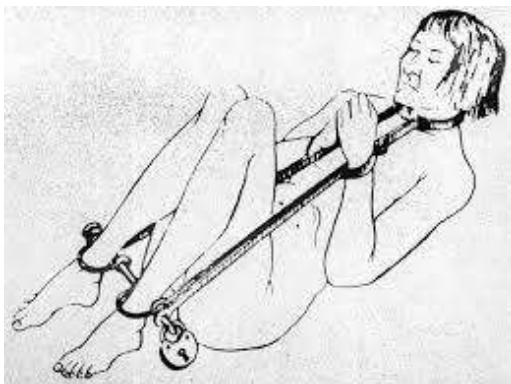
The RACK was introduced to England in 1447 by the Duke of Exeter, the Constable of the Tower; consequentially it was also known as the Duke of Exeter's daughter. One of those tortured at the Tower was **Guy Fawkes**, who was brought there on **6 November 1605**; after torture he signed a full confession to the **Gunpowder Plot**.



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The SCAVENGER'S DAUGHTER



Among those held and executed at the Tower was **ANNE BOLEYN**. Although the Yeoman Warders were once the **ROYAL BODYGUARD**, by the 16th and 17th Centuries, their main duty had become to look after the **PRISONERS**. The Tower was often a safer place than other prisons in London such as the Fleet, where **disease** was rife. High-status prisoners could live in conditions comparable to those they might expect outside; one such example was that while **WALTER RALEIGH** was held in the Tower his rooms were altered to accommodate his family, including his son who was born there in 1605.

EXECUTIONS were usually carried out on **Tower Hill** rather than in the Tower of London itself, and **112 people were executed on the hill over 400 years**. Before the 20th Century, there had been seven executions within the Castle on Tower Green; as was the case with **LADY JANE GREY**, this was reserved for prisoners for whom Public Execution was considered dangerous.

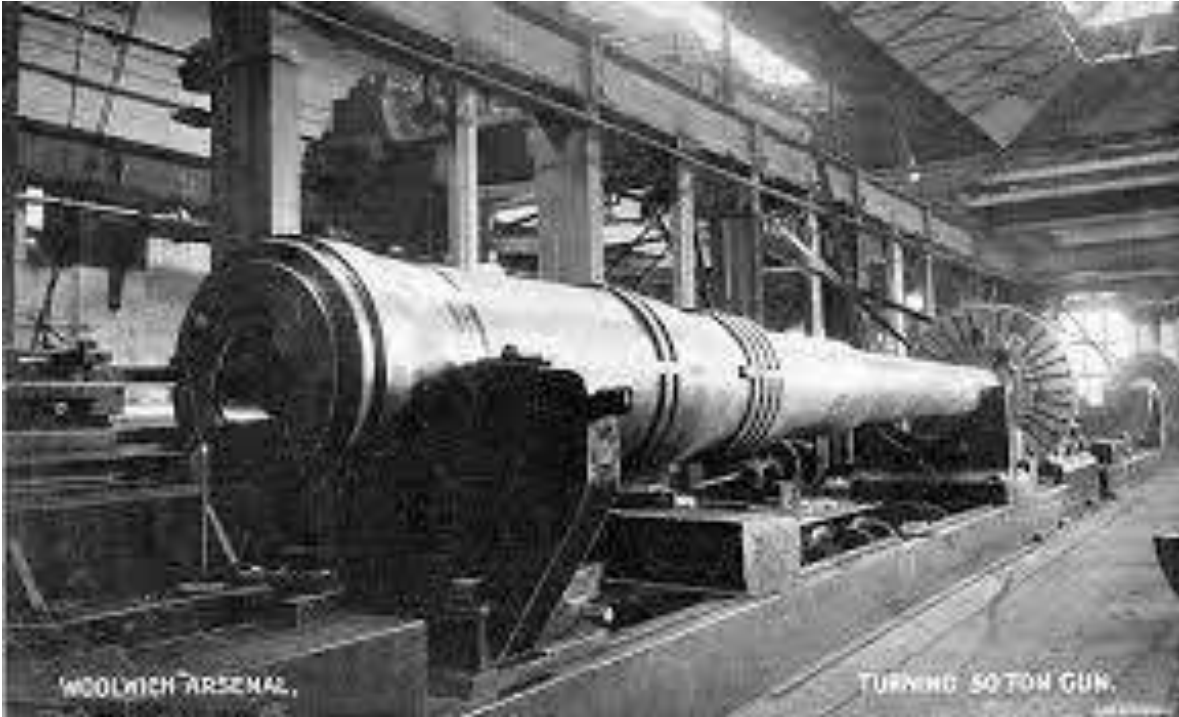
After Lady Jane Grey's execution on 12 February 1554, Queen Mary I imprisoned her sister Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth I, in the Tower under suspicion of causing rebellion as Sir Thomas Wyatt had led a revolt against Mary in Elizabeth's name.

The **OFFICE OF ORDNANCE AND ARMOURY** was founded in the 15th Century, taking over the Privy Wardrobe's duties of looking after the Monarch's arsenal and valuables.

As there was no Permanent Army before 1661, the importance of the **ROYAL ARMOURY** at the **TOWER OF LONDON** was that it provided a professional basis for procuring supplies and equipment in times of war. The two bodies were resident at the Tower from at least 1454, and by the 16th Century they had moved to a position in the Inner Ward. The **BOARD OF ORDNANCE** (successor to these Offices) had its headquarters in the **WHITE TOWER** and used surrounding buildings for storage.

In 1855 the **BOARD OF ORDNANCE** was abolished; its successor, the **MILITARY STORE DEPARTMENT OF THE WAR OFFICE**, was also based there until 1869, after which its headquarters staff were relocated to the **ROYAL ARSENAL IN WOOLWICH** (where the recently closed Woolwich Dockyard was converted into a vast ordnance store).

The ROYAL ARSENAL in WOOLWICH



Political tensions between KING CHARLES I and PARLIAMENT in the second quarter of the 17th Century led to an attempt by forces loyal to the King to secure the Tower and its valuable contents, including money and munitions. London's TRAINED BANDS, a militia force, were moved into the Castle in 1640. Plans for defence were drawn up and gun platforms were built, readying the Tower for war. The preparations were never put to the test.

In 1642, CHARLES I attempted to arrest five members of PARLIAMENT. When this failed he fled the City, and Parliament retaliated by removing SIR JOHN BYRON, the Lieutenant of the Tower. The TRAINED BANDS had switched sides, and now supported Parliament and together with the London Citizenry, they blockaded the Tower. With permission from the King, Sir John Byron relinquished control of the Tower. Parliament replaced Byron with a man of their own choosing, SIR JOHN CONYERS. By the time the ENGLISH CIVIL WAR broke out in November 1642, the TOWER OF LONDON was already in PARLIAMENT'S control.

The last Monarch to uphold the tradition of taking a procession from the Tower to Westminster to be crowned was CHARLES II in 1661.

At the time, the Castle's accommodation was in such poor condition that he did not stay there the night before his Coronation. Under the STUART KINGS the Tower's buildings were remodelled, mostly under the auspices of the OFFICE OF ORDNANCE. Just over £4,000 was spent in 1663 on building a new Storehouse, now known as the New Armouries in the inner ward. In the 17th Century there were plans to enhance the Tower's defences in the style of the *trace italienne*, however they were never acted on. Although the facilities for the garrison were improved with the addition of the first purpose-built quarters for soldiers (the "Irish Barracks") in 1670, the general accommodations were still in poor condition.

When the HANOVERIAN DYNASTY ascended the English Throne, their situation was uncertain and with a possible Scottish rebellion in mind, the Tower of London was repaired. Gun platforms added under the Stuarts had decayed. The number of guns at the Tower was reduced from 118 to 45, and one contemporary commentator noted that the Castle "would not hold out four and twenty hours against an army prepared for a siege".^b For the most part, the 18th-Century work on the defences was spasmodic and piecemeal, although a new Gateway in the Southern Curtain Wall permitting access from the Wharf to the Outer Ward was added in 1774. The Moat surrounding the Castle had become silted over the Centuries since it was created despite attempts at clearing it. It was still an integral part of the Castle's defences, so in 1830 the CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER, the Duke of Wellington, ordered a large-scale

clearance of several feet of silt. However this did not prevent an outbreak of **disease** in the garrison in 1841 caused by poor water supply, resulting in several deaths. To prevent the festering ditch posing further health problems, it was ordered that the moat should be drained and filled with earth. The work began in 1843 and was mostly complete two years later.

The construction of the **WATERLOO BARRACKS** in the Inner Ward began in 1845, when the Duke of Wellington laid the foundation stone. The building could accommodate 1,000 men; at the same time, separate quarters for the Officers were built to the north-east of the White Tower. The building is now the headquarters of the **ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS**.

The popularity of the **Chartist movement** between 1828 and 1858 led to a desire to refortify the TOWER OF LONDON in the event of Civil Unrest. It was the last major programme of fortification at the Castle. **Most of the surviving installations for the use of artillery and firearms date from this period.**

During the FIRST WORLD WAR, 11-men were tried in private and shot by Firing Squad at the Tower for espionage. During the SECOND WORLD WAR, the TOWER was once again used to hold Prisoners of War. One such person was Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's deputy, albeit just for four days in 1941. He was the last State Prisoner to be held at the Castle.

The last person to be executed at the Tower was German spy JOSEF JAKOBS who was shot on 15 August 1941. The executions for espionage during the Wars took place in a prefabricated Miniature Rifle Range which stood in the Outer Ward and was demolished in 1969. The SECOND WORLD WAR also saw the last use of the Tower as a FORTIFICATION.

In the event of a GERMAN INVASION, the TOWER, together with the ROYAL MINT and nearby Warehouses, was to have formed one of three "Keeps" or complexes of defended buildings which formed the last-ditch defences of the Capital City of LONDON.

Restoration and Tourism

The TOWER OF LONDON has become established as one of the most popular Tourist Attractions in the Country. It has been a tourist attraction since at least the Elizabethan period, when it was one of the sights of London that foreign visitors wrote about. Its most popular attractions were the ROYAL MENAGERIE and displays of ARMOUR. The CROWN JEWELS also garner much interest, and have been on public display since 1669.

The TOWER steadily gained popularity with tourists through the 19th Century, despite the opposition of the Duke of Wellington to visitors. Numbers became so high that by 1851 a purpose-built ticket office was erected. By the end of the Century, over 500,000 were visiting the Castle every year.

Over the 18th and 19th Centuries, the Palatial buildings were slowly adapted for other uses and demolished. Only the WAKEFIELD and ST THOMAS'S TOWERS survived. The 18th Century marked an increasing interest in England's Medieval Past. One of the effects was the emergence of GOTHIC REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE. In the Tower's architecture, this was manifest when the NEW HORSE ARMOURY was built in 1825 against the south face of the White Tower. It featured elements of Gothic Revival architecture such as battlements.

Other buildings were remodelled to match the style and the WATERLOO BARRACKS were described as "*castellated Gothic of the 15th Century*". Between 1845 and 1885, Institutions such as the ROYAL MINT, which had inhabited the Castle for Centuries, moved to other sites; many of the Post-Medieval Structures left vacant were demolished.

In 1855, the WAR OFFICE took over responsibility for manufacture and storage of weapons from the ORDNANCE OFFICE, which was gradually phased out of the Castle. At the same time, there was greater interest in the HISTORY of the Tower of London.

Public interest was partly fuelled by contemporary writers, of whom the work of WILLIAM HARRISON AINSWORTH was particularly influential. In his book *The Tower of London: A Historical Romance* he created a vivid image of underground torture chambers and devices for extracting confessions that stuck in the public imagination. Ainsworth also played another role in the Tower's history, as he suggested that BEAUCHAMP TOWER should be opened to the Public so they could see the inscriptions of 16th- and 17th-Century prisoners.

Working on that suggestion, **ANTHONY SALVIN** refurbished the TOWER and led a further programme for a comprehensive restoration at the behest of PRINCE ALBERT. Salvin was succeeded in the work by **JOHN TAYLOR**. When a feature did not meet his expectations of Medieval Architecture, Taylor ruthlessly removed it; as a result, several important buildings within the Castle were pulled down and some post-Medieval internal decoration removed.

Although only one German bomb fell on the Tower of London in the First World War (it landed harmlessly in the moat), the Second World War left a greater mark. On 23 September 1940, during the Blitz, high-explosive bombs damaged the Castle, destroying several buildings and narrowly missing the White Tower. After the War, the damage was repaired and the Tower of London was reopened to the public.

A 1974 terrorist bombing in the **WHITE TOWER MORTAR ROOM** left 1-person dead and 41-injured. No one claimed responsibility for the blast, but the Police investigated suspicions that the Irish Republican Army was behind it.

In the 21st. Century, **TOURISM** is the TOWER'S Primary Role, with the remaining routine **MILITARY ACTIVITIES**, under the ROYAL LOGISTIC CORPS, having wound down in the latter half of the 20th. Century and moved out of the Castle. However, the Tower is still home to the Regimental Headquarters of the **ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS**, and the Museum dedicated to it and its predecessor, the Royal Fusiliers. Also, a detachment of the Unit providing the **QUEEN'S GUARD** at Buckingham Palace still mounts a Guard at the Tower, and with the Yeomen Warders, takes part in the **CEREMONY OF THE KEYS** each day.

On several occasions through the year **GUN SALUTES** are fired from the Tower by the **HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY**, these consist of 62 rounds for Royal Occasions, and 41 on other occasions.



TWO OF THE RAVENS

Since 1990, the TOWER OF LONDON has been cared for by an independent Charity, HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES, which receives NO FUNDING from the Government or the Crown.

In 1988, the TOWER OF LONDON was added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, in recognition of its global importance and to help conserve and protect the site. However, recent developments, such as the construction of skyscrapers nearby, have pushed the Tower towards being added to the UNITED NATIONS' HERITAGE IN DANGER LIST.

The remains of the Medieval Palace have been open to the Public since 2006 where visitors can explore the restored chambers. Although the position of CONSTABLE OF THE TOWER remains the highest position held at the Tower, the responsibility of day-to-day administration is delegated to the RESIDENT GOVERNOR. The Constable is appointed for a 5-year term; this is primarily a Ceremonial Post today but the Constable is also a Trustee of Historic Royal Palaces and of the Royal Armouries. GENERAL SIR NICK HOUGHTON was appointed Constable in 2016.

At least SIX RAVENS are kept at the Tower at all times, in accordance with the belief that if they are absent, the KINGDOM will fall.

They are under the care of the RAVEN MASTER, one of the YEOMAN WARDERS. As well as having Ceremonial Duties, the Yeoman Warders provide guided tours around the Tower. Over 2.9 million people visited the Tower of London in 2019.

If the TOWER OF LONDON Ravens are lost or fly away, the CROWN will fall and Britain with it.



“Did you hear that...? Yeah, I heard that; but Why Would We Leave?”

On his appointment as Constable of the Tower in 1826, the **DUKE OF WELLINGTON** wished to restore its military importance, fearing that the Country was on the brink of Revolution. This passed, and with KING ALBERT'S encouragement, the Tower began to assume the character of a National Monument.

THE ROYAL MINT and Public Records had already been moved out, Ordnance Buildings were gradually demolished, and Tourism and Tradition began to play increasing roles; the Yeomen of the Guard, Ravens, and Crown Jewels have contributed to it becoming one of the world's great tourist attractions.

England's CROWN JEWELS









“Did you hear what they said?” “Yeah! Did you bring any PEANUTS?”



Garrison

The **YEOMEN WARDERS** provided the permanent garrison of the Tower, but the **Constable of the Tower** could call upon the men of the **Tower Hamlets** to supplement them when necessary. The **Tower Hamlets**, aka **Tower Division of Middlesex's Ossulstone Hundred** was an area, significantly larger than the **modern London Borough of the same name**, which owed military service to the **Constable** in his *ex officio* role as **LORD LIEUTENANT of the Tower Hamlets**.

The earliest surviving reference to the inhabitants of the **Tower Hamlets** having a duty to provide a guard for the **Tower of London** is from **1554**, during the reign of **Queen Mary I**, but the relationship is thought to go back much further. Some believe the connection goes back to the time of **WILLIAM the Conqueror**. The duty is likely to have had its origin in the rights and obligations of the **Manor of Stepney** which covered most or all of the Hamlets area.

Crown Jewels

■ The tradition of housing the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London probably dates from the reign of Henry III (1216–1272). The **JEWEL HOUSE** was built specifically to house the Royal Regalia, including jewels, plate, and symbols of royalty such as the Crown, Sceptre, and Sword. When money needed to be raised, the treasure could be pawned by the Monarch. The treasure allowed the Monarch independence from the Aristocracy and consequently was closely guarded.

A new position for "**KEEPER OF THE JEWELS, ARMOURIES AND OTHER THINGS**" was created, which was well rewarded; in the reign of Edward III (1327–1377) the holder was paid 12d a day.

The position grew to include other duties including purchasing royal jewels, gold, and silver, and appointing royal goldsmiths and jewellers.

In 1649, during the English Commonwealth following Charles I's execution, the contents of the **JEWEL HOUSE** were disposed of along with other Royal Properties, as decreed by Oliver Cromwell. Metal items were sent to the Mint to be melted down and re-used, and the crowns were "totally broken and defaced".

When the Monarchy was restored in 1660, the only surviving items of Coronation Regalia were a 12th-Century spoon and three Ceremonial Swords. (Some pieces that had been sold were later returned to the Crown.) Detailed records of old regalia survived, and replacements were made for the Coronation of **CHARLES II** in 1661 based on drawings from the time of Charles I. For the Coronation of Charles II, gems were rented because the Treasury could not afford to replace them.

In 1669, the **JEWEL HOUSE** was demolished and the **CROWN JEWELS** moved into **MARTIN TOWER** (until 1841). They were displayed here for viewing by the paying Public. This was exploited two years later when **COLONEL THOMAS BLOOD** attempted to steal them. Blood and his accomplices bound and gagged the Jewel House Keeper. Although they laid their hands on the Imperial State Crown, Sceptre and Orb, they were foiled when the Keeper's son turned up unexpectedly and raised the alarm.

Since 1994, the Crown Jewels have been on display in the Jewel House in the Waterloo Block. Some of the pieces are used regularly by the Queen. The display includes 23,578 gemstones, the 800-year-old Coronation Spoon, St. Edward's Crown (traditionally placed on a Monarch's head at the moment of Crowning) and the Imperial State Crown.

Royal Menagerie:

■ There is evidence that King John (1166–1216) first started keeping wild animals at the Tower. Records of 1210–1212 show payments to “Lion Keepers”. The Royal Menagerie is frequently referenced during the reign of Henry III. Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II presented Henry with three leopards, circa 1235, which were kept in the Tower.

In 1252, the Sheriffs were ordered to pay 4d. a day towards the upkeep of the King's **Polar Bear**, a gift from Haakon IV of Norway in the same year; the Bear attracted a great deal of attention from Londoners when it went fishing in the Thames while tied to the land by a chain.

In 1254 or 1255, Henry III received an **African Elephant** from Louis IX of France depicted by Matthew Paris in his *Chronica Majora*. A wooden structure was built to house the Elephant, 12.2 m (40 ft) long by 6.1 m (20 ft) wide. The animal died in 1258, possibly because it was given Red Wine, but also, perhaps, because of the cold climate of England.

In 1288, Edward I added a **Lion** and a **Lynx** and appointed the first official **KEEPER** of the animals. **EDWARD III** added other types of animals: **2-Lions**, a **Leopard** and **2-Wildcats**. Under subsequent Kings, the number of animals grew to include additional cats of various types, **jackals, hyenas**, and an old **Brown Bear (called Max)**, gifted to Henry VIII by Emperor Maximilian.

In 1436, during the time of Henry VI, all the Lions died and the employment of KEEPER WILLIAM KERBY was terminated.

Historical records indicate that a semi-circular structure or barbican was built by EDWARD I in 1277; this area was later named the LION TOWER, to the immediate west of the Middle Tower. Records from 1335 indicate the purchase of a lock and key for the Lions and Leopards, also suggesting they were located near the western entrance of the Tower. By the 1500s that area was called the MENAGERIE.

Between 1604 and 1606 the Menagerie was extensively refurbished and an exercise yard was created in the moat area beside the Lion Tower. An overhead platform was added for viewing of the Lions by the Royals, during Lion-baiting, for example in the time of JAMES I.

Reports from 1657 include mention of 6-Lions, increasing to 11-Lions by 1708, in addition to other types of Cats, Eagles, Owls and a Jackal.

By the 18th Century, the MENAGERIE was open to the Public; admission cost 3.5d or the supply of a cat or dog to be fed to the lions. By the end of the Century, that had increased to 9d. A particularly famous inhabitant was OLD MARTIN, a large GRIZZLY BEAR given to George III by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1811.

An 1800 inventory also listed a TIGER, LEOPARDS, a HYENA, a large BABOON, various types of MONKEYS, WOLVES and "other animals".

By 1822, however, the collection included only a GRIZZLY BEAR, an ELEPHANT and some BIRDS. Additional animals were then introduced.

In 1828 there were over 280 animals representing at least 60 species as the new keeper ALFRED COPPS was actively acquiring animals.

After the death of George IV in 1830, a decision was made to close down the Menagerie on the orders of the DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

In 1831, most of the stock was moved to the London Zoo which had opened in 1828. This decision was made after an incident, although sources vary as to the specifics: either a Lion was accused of biting a Soldier (name unknown) or a Sailor, named Ensign Seymour, had been bitten by a Monkey.

The last of the animals left in 1835, and were relocated to Regent's Park.

The Menagerie buildings were removed in 1852 but the Keeper of the Royal Menagerie was entitled to use the Lion Tower as a house for life. Consequently, even though the animals had long since left the building, the LION TOWER was not demolished until the death of Copps, the last Keeper, in 1853.

In 1999, physical evidence of Lion cages was found, one being 2x3 metres (6.5x10 feet) in size, very small for a lion that can grow to be 2.5 meters (approx. 8 feet) long.

In 2008, the skulls of two male BARBARY LIONS (now extinct in the wild) from northwest Africa were found in the moat area of the Tower. Radiocarbon tests dated them from 1280 to 1385 and 1420–1480.



■ In 2011, an Exhibition was hosted at the TOWER OF LONDON with fine wire sculptures by Kendra Haste.

Kendra Haste (born 1971) is a British wildlife artist who produces both public and privately commissioned sculpture using galvanised chicken wire mesh to create wire sculptures of wild animals. She is a member of the Society of Wildlife Artists, the Royal British Society of Sculptors and the Society of Animal Artists. She lives in Surrey, England.



Wire lion sculptures at the tower by Kendra Haste

■ Ghosts at the TOWER OF LONDON.

ANNE BOLEYN was beheaded in 1536 for treason against HENRY VIII; her ghost supposedly haunts the Church of St Peter ad Vincula in the Tower, where she is buried, and has been said to walk around the White Tower carrying her head under her arm. This haunting is commemorated in the 1934 comic song "*With Her Head Tucked Underneath Her Arm*".

Other reported ghosts include HENRY VI, LADY JANE GREY, MARGARET POLE, and the PRINCES IN THE TOWER.

In January 1816, a sentry on guard outside the JEWEL HOUSE claimed to have witnessed an apparition of a BEAR advancing towards him, and reportedly died of fright a few days later.

In October 1817, a tubular, glowing apparition was claimed to have been seen in the JEWEL HOUSE by the Keeper of the Crown Jewels, Edmund Lenthal Swifte. He said that the apparition hovered over the shoulder of his wife, leading her to exclaim: "*Oh, Christ! It has seized me!*"

Other nameless and formless terrors have been reported, more recently, by night staff at the Tower.