

GEORGIAN BRITAIN

1714–1837

EVENTS IN BRITISH HISTORY

1714–27

Reign of George I.

1745

A Jacobite rebellion, led by Charles Edward Stuart, begins. A Jacobite army marches into England.

1746

Charles Edward Stuart is defeated at the Battle of Culloden and flees to France.

1756

The Seven Years War begins in Europe, with England and France on opposite sides.

1792–1802 and 1803–15

Great Britain and France are enemies again during The French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars.

1815

The British defeat Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. The number of soldiers in the British Army is quickly reduced.



1700

1745 onwards

The castle's medieval buildings in the Inner Bailey, including the Great Tower, are converted into barracks to accommodate a larger garrison.

1756

The castle defences are updated to face the threat from Europe: parts of the curtain wall are lowered and strengthened to mount gun batteries or for musket fire.

1800

1792–1809

Lieutenant-Colonel William Twiss designs and supervises massive new defences at Dover Castle. A system of tunnels is excavated behind the cliff face to house more soldiers.

1815

The tunnels are no longer used as barracks. Some of them are adapted as gunpowder magazines.

1818–27

Officers from the Coast Blockade Service use part of the tunnels as their base for capturing illegal smugglers.

18TH
CENTURY

19TH
CENTURY



ENGLISH HERITAGE
EDUCATION

VICTORIAN BRITAIN

1837–1901

1837–1901

Reign of Queen Victoria.



20TH CENTURY

1900–2000

1936–52

Reign of George VI.

1938

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain negotiates a peace deal with Adolf Hitler, including agreeing that Germany take over the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia. The British Fleet mobilise.

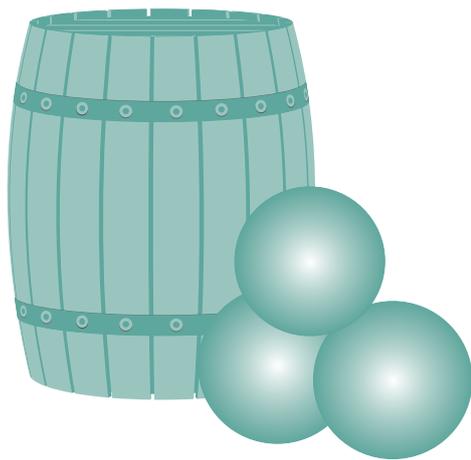
1939

Germany and the Soviet Union invade Poland. Days later, Britain and France declare war on Germany.

1900

c.1870s

The last ammunition is removed and the tunnels are abandoned.



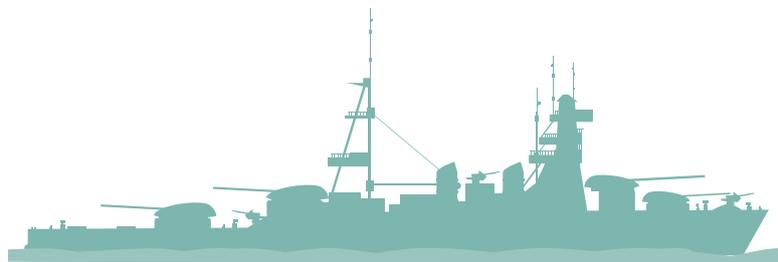
19TH CENTURY
(CONTINUED)

1938

Rear-Admiral Bertram Ramsay is brought out of retirement to re-create a Royal Navy sub-command at Dover.

1939

Planning is under way to equip the tunnels – safe from enemy bombardment – as the Royal Navy's headquarters for controlling the Strait of Dover.



20TH
CENTURY

DOVER CASTLE'S

20TH CENTURY

1900–2000

1940

(10 May) Chamberlain resigns and George VI asks Winston Churchill to become Prime Minister.

(14–25 May) The German Army marches westwards through France, forcing the retreating French and British forces to withdraw to the port of Dunkirk.

(22 May) After the fall of other French ports, Boulogne and Calais, the British Government orders the evacuation of as many troops as possible from Dunkirk.



1945

(7 May) Germany surrenders to the Western Allies and the Soviet Union.

1952–present

Reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

1962

President Kennedy of the USA begins a naval blockade of Cuba, to stop the Soviet Union from putting nuclear weapons on its islands. The British Government prepares for nuclear war.

2000

1940

(20–26 May) Ramsay and the staff in the tunnels organise military and merchant ships to begin the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from France.

(26 May) Operation Dynamo begins.

(29 May) The first convoy of civilian 'little ships' from the Admiralty's 'Small Vessels Pool' sail to Dover.

(2 June) Evacuation of the BEF complete.

(4 June) Evacuation ends with the recovery of French and Belgian troops.

1940–45

The tunnels continue to be used as the Royal Navy's headquarters for the Dover command, monitoring the movement of enemy ships in the Channel.

1941–43

The tunnels are extended for use as a hospital, stores, more offices and accommodation.

1962

The tunnels are secretly equipped as one of 12 Regional Seats of Government if London is destroyed in a nuclear attack.

20TH CENTURY
(CONTINUED)

WARTIME TUNNELS TIMELINE