

TUDORS
1485–1603

1533

The Archbishop of Canterbury declares the marriage of Henry VIII (1509–1547) and Catherine of Aragon null and void.

1539–47

Henry's government carries out a programme of building coastal defences called 'the Device by the King'.

1585

England, ruled by Elizabeth I (1558–1603), declares war on Spain.

1534

The Act of Supremacy recognises Henry as head of the church in England. Pope Clement excommunicates Henry.

1588

English ships defeat the Spanish Armada in its attempt to invade England.

1538

France and Spain form an alliance against England.



1500

1540–45

Pendennis and St Mawes artillery forts are built as part of Henry VIII's government's 'Device by the King' building programme.

1578

Pendennis Castle and St Mawes Castle are both garrisoned with 100 men.

1596-97

A huge fleet of Spanish ships gathers in Spain to launch an attack on Pendennis but are twice turned back by bad weather.

1597–1600

A new fortress is built at Pendennis in the Italian angle bastion system.



16TH
CENTURY



STUARTS

1603–1714

GEORGIANS

1714–1830

1603

England makes peace with France and Spain following the union of English and Scottish Crowns under King James I (r.1603–25).

1642–51

The English Civil Wars between the King (Charles I (r.1625–51)) and Parliament.

1646

15 March: the Royalist army surrenders to the Parliamentary commander Lord Fairfax at Truro.

1649

Charles is tried, convicted and executed for high treason. The monarchy is abolished and the Commonwealth of England is declared.



1600

1775–83

The American War of Independence between Britain and its American colonies.

1789–99

The French Revolution leads to the end of the French monarchy. Napoleon Bonaparte (r.1804–14) takes power and begins France's aggressive campaign to become the world's dominant power.

1793

Britain declares war on France.

1815

The Duke of Wellington defeats Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

1700

1642–49

Royalist warships use the Carrick Roads estuary as a base guarded by the guns of Pendennis and St Mawes.

1644

Charles I's wife, Queen Henrietta Maria stays at Pendennis Castle before sailing to France.

1646

Charles's son, Prince Charles stays at Pendennis before sailing to the Isles of Scilly.

The tiny garrison at St Mawes surrenders to Fairfax's army. The Royalist garrison at Pendennis is under siege by Fairfax's troops. After three months of fighting, Sir John Arundell negotiates surrender.

17TH
CENTURY

1732–39

The parapet of the Elizabethan ramparts at Pendennis is reformed and the Tudor guns replaced. New guns are mounted on batteries on the shoreline at Pendennis and St Mawes.

1775–80

The part-time militia at Pendennis and St Mawes garrison the forts. In 1779, 2,000 Cornish tin miners reinforce Pendennis Castle.

1793

More gun batteries are built at Pendennis along with new barracks and storehouses for ammunition and supplies.

18TH
CENTURY

VICTORIANS
1837-1901

WW1
1914-18

WW2
1939-45

1837-1901

Reign of Queen Victoria.

1852

Napoleon III (r.1852-70) takes the throne of France and tries to regain French dominance. The French overseas empire doubles during his reign.

1853-56

France and Britain defeat Russia in the Crimean War.



1914-18

The First World War. Falmouth becomes the command centre for the coastal defences of West Cornwall and a base for naval operations against German submarines.



1939-45

Second World War.

1800

1900

2000

1854

New shell guns are mounted at Pendennis and St Mawes. The Henrician fort at St Mawes is given a bomb-proof cover made of concrete.

1885

An electrically operated submarine minefield is laid across the entrance to the Carrick Roads estuary.

1888

Quick-firing breech-loading guns are mounted at One Gun Battery and at Half Moon Battery.

19TH
CENTURY

1902

New barracks are built for the 105th Company Royal Garrison Artillery.

1914

Thousands of troops come to Falmouth for training before going to war.

1939

Pendennis and St Mawes are re-armed and manned by the Royal Artillery and the Home Guard.

1956

The Coast Artillery branch of the army is disbanded. From then on, Pendennis and St Mawes are looked after as important historical sites.

20TH
CENTURY