

pipes above. This Fort well deserves an article of its own.

The line runs to the Elephant and Castle, where a large Fort (13) seems to have gone without trace and on to another Fort (14) somewhere near the New Kent Road-Old Kent Road Flyover. Have both these forts been destroyed by recent roadworks, or is there still something left? The final stretch through Bermondsey to the River at Rotherhithe is full of uncertainties. Was there a regular Bank-and-Ditch or did they rely on the many deep drainage-streams here? Did the line run across the Abbey Precinct at Bermondsey, or link up to the Precinct-wall? Was the Precinct-wall, for that matter, where we assume⁶? Even the end of the line is uncertain, as the beginning. Some accounts give us a Fort at "Redriff," others miss it out. Was there a tower?, or a boom across the River?

There are still other puzzles. The water-supplies were unevenly safeguarded. The main reservoir of New River Head had a Fort (5) built round it, but the channel itself could be cut at the first moment of siege. Of the main older systems only the northern Whitehall Palace "Hardwater" system (from Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square) lay within the defences. The other Whitehall "Softwater" system and the Abbey Main lay 500m beyond the Fort (9) at Hyde Park Corner. The old City conduits around Stratford Place, Oxford Street, the Christ's Hospital supply (that had been Greyfriars) from Queen Square and the White Conduit which supplied Charterhouse were all a similar distance beyond the Defences.

6. Described in A. R. Martin, The . . . Abbey . . . at Bermondsey, *J. Brit. Arch. Ass. Second Series* 32 (1926) 195-6 and plotted by W. F. Grimes, *The Excavation of Roman and Mediaeval London* (1968) 212 Fig. 51. This may be open to a good deal of adjustment.
7. *1718 Survey of the Conduits of Whitehall*, British Library Map Room, K Top. XXI.1.3 (probably meant to be 1:3600). *Trans. London Middlesex Archaeol.*

There must have been alternative sources, many springs and wells, the Tyburn, the Fleet, the Walbrook and the Thames itself.⁷ The existing river-defences such as Tilbury Fort were clearly kept in a state of readiness but less seems to be known about the outworks on the other sides.

Finally the London defences were put to the test, and failed, when the victors squabbled among themselves. In August 1647 the Army marched on London. "The great forts which the Citizens had lately made round about the City, which were thought by many impregnable, were all fortified against them." But London proved to be a paper tiger against 20,000 Roundheads under Fairfax and the bloodless siege lasted only four days.

After that the defences were dismantled. "The Forts and Workes about the Citty slighted and pulled downe, and laid levell with the grounde, that these Villians might ride up and downe at their pleasures," as an old Londoner wrote in the back of his Stow's Chronicle.⁸

Postscript

I have overemphasised the new Earthworks and not said enough about the real and emotional value of the City Wall. Professor W. F. Grimes has very kindly reminded that that his section of the Ditch at St. Alphage⁹ showed a recutting about this time, although elsewhere the Ditch was already culverted. That the citizens thought in terms of defence in depth is shown by the many references to chains to bar the streets.

- Soc.* 8 (1911-3) 9-59 (City Supply). *Archaeologia* 61 part 2 (1909) 347-356 also 56 part 2 (1899) 251-266 and 67 (1916) 18-26 (Christ's Hospital). *Archaeologia* 58 (1902) 293-312 (Charterhouse).
8. W. Harrison, *Description of England* 4 (1908) 211 (ed. F. J. Furnivall, New Shakespears Soc).
9. *The Excavations of Roman and Mediaeval London* by W. F. Grimes (1968) 83-88.

Excavations

City, by Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology (City). A series of long term excavations. Enquiries to Brian Hobley, Chief Urban Archaeologist, Guildhall Museum, 55 Basinghall Street, E.C.2 (01-606 3030 ext 2217).

Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Two sites in the grounds of Fulham Palace producing Neolithic to early medieval material and features. Enquiries to Keith Whitehouse, 56 Tamworth Street, S.W.6. (01-385 6038).

Kingston, by Kingston-upon-Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Marion Smith, Kingston Museum, Fairfield Road, Kingston (01-546 5386).

Southwark, Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee. Several sites from the Roman period onwards. En-

quiries to Harvey Sheldon, S.A.E.C., Montague Chambers, Montague Close, S.E.1. (01-407 1989).

Staines, by London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. A Roman site at the Friends' Burial Ground, Thames Street. Enquiries to Kevin Crouch, (01-560 3880 day or 09-328 62874 evening).

GENERAL EXCAVATIONS

THE Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly Calendar of Excavations from March to September, with an extra issue in November and a final issue in January summarising the main results of fieldwork. The Calendar gives details of extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription is £1.25, post-free, which should be made payable to C.B.A., 7 Marylebone Road, N.W.1.