



1. Inner face of Wall, about 250 m. south of Derviş Kapı



2. Detail of pl. III, 1

IV.—THE LONG WALL IN THRACE

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Militarily the Thracian peninsula is a bottleneck, with Constantinople as the cork. Routes from the west converge, and Constantinople's great strength was strategic, the ability to block invasion from the Balkans. The city itself had formidable walls,¹ but control of the hinterland was vital, if only to safeguard the aqueducts.² About 65 kilometres (40 miles or 2 days' march) west of the city a wall was built across the peninsula from sea to sea, a distance of 45 km. (28 miles) as the crow flies (fig. 1). Much of this wall still stands, but the area has been inaccessible, and it is little known. There are short descriptions of its remains by Schuchhardt (1901), Orëshkov (1915), and Dirimtekin (1948 and 1955).³

Procopius attributed the building of the wall to Anastasius I (491-518),⁴ and the *Chronicon Paschale* gives the year as 512.⁵ Bury argued for 497,⁶ but Stein has shown that there are references to it in 478 and 469;⁷ Anastasius'

¹ F. Krischen, *Die Landmauer von Konstantinopel I* (Berlin, 1938); A. M. Schneider and A. Mayer-Plath, *Die Landmauer von Konstantinopel II* (Berlin, 1943).

² P. Forchheimer and J. Strzygowski, *Die byzantinischen Wasserbehälter von Konstantinopel* (Vienna, 1893); K. O. Dalman, *Der Valens-Aquädukt in Konstantinopel* (Bamberg, 1933).

³ C. Schuchhardt, "Die Anastasius-Mauer bei Constantinopel und die Dobrudscha-Wälle," *Jahrbuch des Kaiserlich Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts XVI* (1901), pp. 107-115; P. N. Orëshkov, "Vizantiiski Starini okolo Tsarigrad," *Spisanie na Bulgarskata Akademïa na Naukite X* (1915), pp. 71-118 (esp. 80-88); F. Dirimtekin, "Anastase Surları," *Belleten XII* (1948), pp. 1-10; *id.* "Le Mura di Anastasio," *Palladio n.s. V* (1955), pp. 80-87. M. Sarantis, "To makron teichos tou Anastasiou en tē Thrake," *Mesaionika Grammata IV* (1939), pp. 3-27, is simply a translation of Schuchhardt with additional comments. The surviving sector of the wall is clearly marked on the 1:200,000 map (Tekirdağ sheet) of Turkey (Harta Genel Müdürlüğü, 1951).

⁴ *De Aed.* IV, 9.

⁵ *Chron. P.* (Bonn ed.), p. 610.

⁶ J. B. Bury, *History of the later Roman Empire* (London, 1923), I, p. 435.

⁷ E. Stein, *Histoire du Bas Empire II* (Paris, 1949), p. 89, citing Malchus, frag. 16 (*FHG IV*, p. 124), for 478, and *Vita S. Danielis Stylitae*, 65, for 469.

work was evidently a rebuilding. It was repaired later in the 6th century⁸ and again in the late 10th or early 11th century.⁹ The sources suggest that it was more frequently breached than held, and the difficulty of manning its length is noted in the 6th century.¹⁰ References to its administration are discussed by A. H. M. Jones.¹¹

The Long Wall (it was generally called *to makron teichos* or, the plural, *ta makra teichē*) runs from Evcik Iskelesi on the Black Sea to a point just west of Silivri (*Selymbria*) on the Marmara. The southern half, in rolling agricultural land, has left few traces; the northern, in desolate hill country with deep twisting ravines, sandy soil and dense scrub, is extraordinarily well preserved. This has long been, and still is, a military area,¹² but restrictions have recently been relaxed. The following notes were made in July 1968.¹³ The ditch is here recorded for the first time, and towers and another fort are added to the central sector.

The modern road from Çatalca to Saray crosses the Wall just north of its mid-point, at Derviş Kapi. The countryside is covered with thick scrub, and the line of the Wall to north and to south is clearly seen as a narrow ridge of bushes and trees holding the higher ground. On top of the Wall and in front (i.e., west) of it is a dense jungle of undergrowth, saplings and briars, often almost impenetrable. Immediately behind the Wall, however, is a rough modern road running south from Derviş Kapi, and a forestry track runs north.

⁸ Procopius, *loc. cit.*

⁹ Inscription of Basil II and Constantine VIII (976-1025), recorded by Schuchhardt, *loc. cit.*

¹⁰ Procopius, *loc. cit.* Many of the ancient sources were collected by A. Van Millingen, *Byzantine Constantinople* (London, 1899), pp. 342-3.

¹¹ *Later Roman Empire* (Oxford, 1964), pp. 231, 280, etc.

¹² The Wall runs just west of the famous Çatalca Lines.

¹³ On three day-trips from Istanbul, with Dr. Nezi̇h Fırathı of the Istanbul Archaeological Museum and members of the Sarçane excavation team. I should here like to thank Dr. Fırathı and Prof. W. L. MacDonald for various references to the Wall, and Miss B. Genova of Dumbarton Oaks for helping me to translate Oręshkov's article.

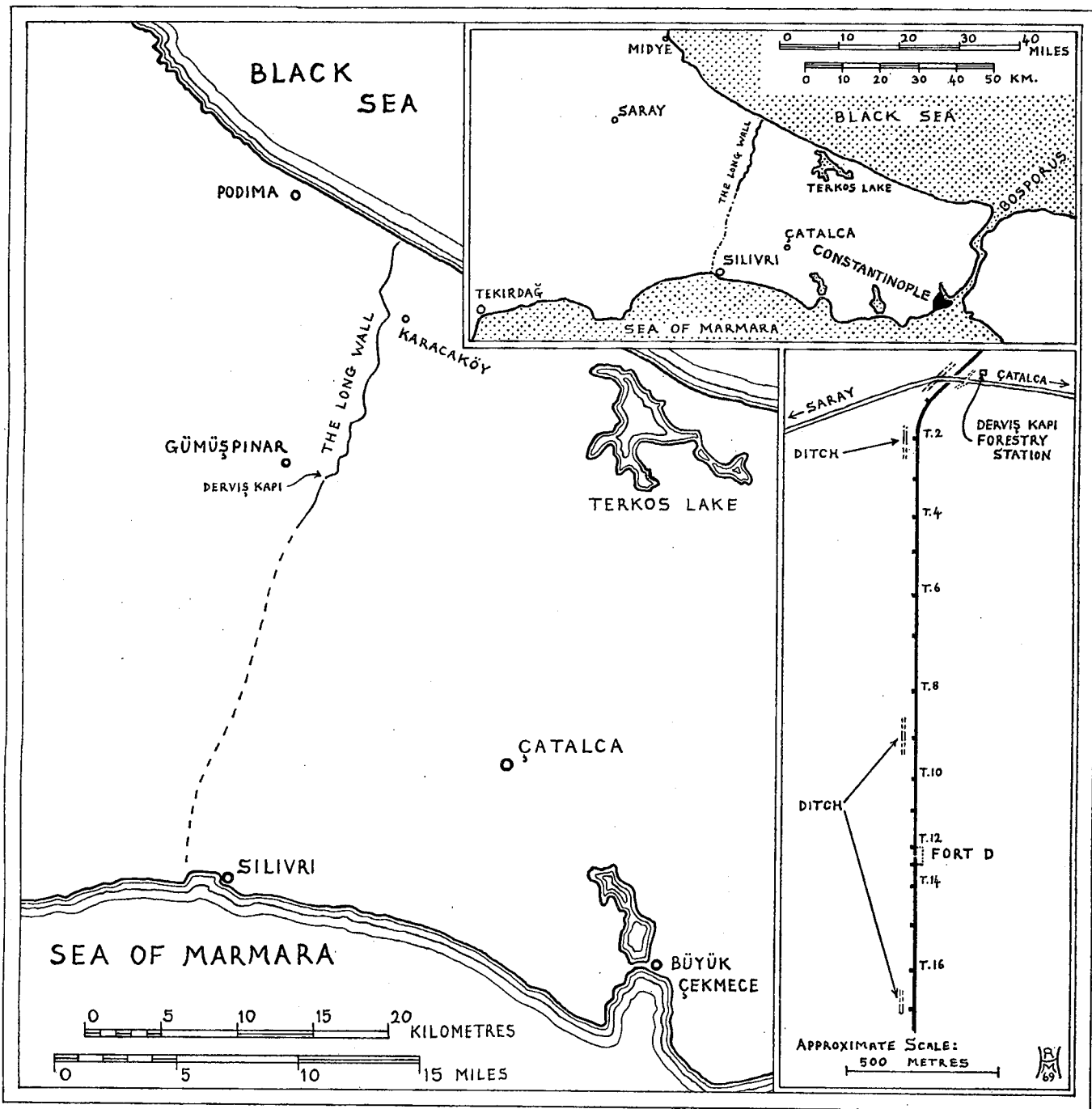


FIG. 1. MAP OF THE LONG WALL, WITH INSETS OF EASTERN THRACE AND THE SECTOR AROUND DERVİŞ KAPI



South from Derviş Kapi

The Wall was examined for about 2 km. (1½ miles) south from Derviş Kapi. Its thickness here is 3.30 m. (11 ft.), its height generally between 3 and 5 m. (10 and 16 ft.). A concrete core, of hard pinkish mortar with nodules of brick, is faced with large well-cut blocks of limestone laid in regular courses 0.30 to 0.50 m. (12 to 20 ins.) high (pls. III 1 and 2). At one point the facing stones of the inner (eastern) face had been recently robbed, showing the lower courses set in yellow sand (disintegrated mortar?), only the upper courses in hard pink mortar (pl. IV 1). At another point joggled masonry indicates the junction of two stretches of the Wall built separately (pl. IV 2).

Seventeen external towers (here numbered T.1-17 from Derviş Kapi) were identified at distances varying from about 120 to 160 m. (400 to 530 ft.) apart.¹⁴ T.5, 6, 7, 9 and 16 are rectangular, T.2, 3, 8, 10, 14 and 15 are polygonal (apparently 5-faceted); the forms of the rest could not be determined. The towers, which are also built of large well-cut limestone blocks, vary considerably in size.¹⁵ T.8 has an arched doorway 1.60 m. (5 ft. 4 ins.) wide in the Wall, and similar doorways were noted for T.7, 9 and 11. Immediately above the southern jamb of T.11 are five courses of secondary brickwork in the east face of the Wall.¹⁶

T.12 and T.13 stand at the north-west and south-west corners respectively of a small fort (here called D) against the inner face of the Wall. Much of the fort, to judge from a wide strew of bulldozed debris, was destroyed recently when the road was built across it. Traces of the south wall of the fort were clear, as well as what appeared to be the north

¹⁴ T.13 is intrusive in the series, being associated with the fort described below. Schuchhardt recorded round towers in the southern sector and suggested that there might be towers in the central sector; Oreshkov, whose account however, is very confused, noted square towers in the northern sector.

¹⁵ T.5 projects 3.50 m. (11 ft. 8 ins.) from the Wall and has an overall width of 11.20 m. (37 ft. 4 ins.); T.7 is about 7 m. (23 ft.) square; T.8 has an internal width of 4.80 m. (16 ft.) and an internal length, including the polygonal bay, of 7.60 m. (25 ft. 4 ins.).

¹⁶ These bricks are only 3 cm. (1.2 ins.) thick, with 5 cm. (2 ins.) mortar beds. This was the only use of brick observed by us in the Wall itself.

and east walls. The plan is oblong, about 55 m. (180 ft.) from north to south by 20 m. (66 ft.) from east to west; its narrowness is determined by the ground which falls away steeply on the east side. The south jamb of a gateway in the Wall between T.12 and T.13 still stands. Traces of slighter walls over a considerable area immediately south-east of the fort suggest a small settlement. Within the area of the fort were found several stamped bricks of 6th-century Constantinopolitan type and a little pottery ranging from the 6th to the 10th centuries.¹⁷

An outer ditch was found at four points. It is unmistakable at Derviş Kapı itself, where it is crossed by the modern road. Opposite T.2 its inner lip lies 27 m. (90 ft.) west of the Wall, its width is 10 m. (33 ft.), its depth 2.50 to 3 m. (8 to 10 ft.), its sides slope at about 45°, and it has a flattish bottom 3 to 4 m. (10 to 13 ft.) wide; there appears to be some upcast on the inner lip. Opposite T.9 the ditch is about the same distance from the Wall, but it is here somewhat wider and has a shallow V-profile. The ditch was also found opposite T.17, where, however, it stops. Opposite the fort-gateway there was no sign of the ditch.

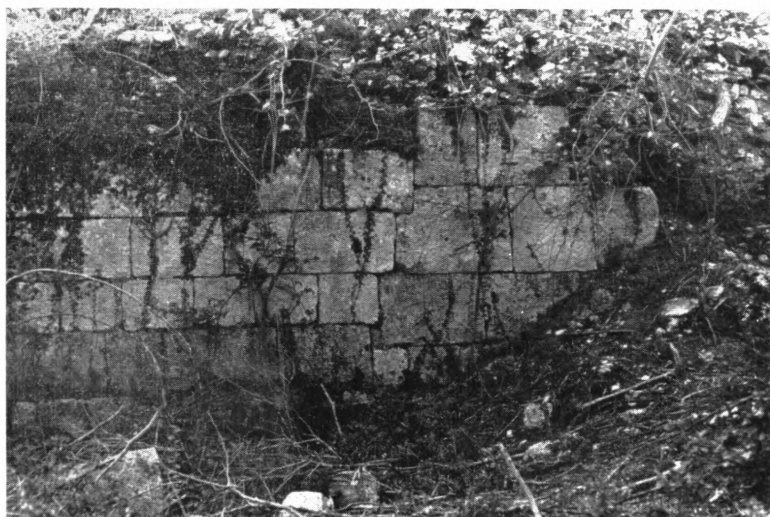
North from Derviş Kapı

The Wall, even more thickly overgrown in this sector, was followed for about 5 km. (3 miles) north from Derviş Kapı. At four points attempts were made to find ditch and towers, but without success. At about 1 km. ($\frac{2}{3}$ mile), where there is a break in the Wall due to recent stone-robbing, its outer face is well displayed; the lower course in the photograph (pl. V 1) is 0.36 m. (14 ins.) high, the upper course 0.50 m. (20 ins.). At about 2 km. ($1\frac{1}{3}$ miles) the inner face of the Wall is again exposed, standing to a height of over 4 m. (13 ft.), and here four large courses are surmounted by six smaller ones which are capped by a large course (pl. V 2).

¹⁷ Bricks nearly 5 cm. (2 ins.) thick, stamped +KOC/TAN; this stamp was also noted in a detached fort near Karacaköy by Schuchhardt, *loc. cit.* The few sherds were dated by Dr. J. W. Hayes.



1. Inner face of Wall, about 150 m. south of Derviş Kapı



2. Inner face of Wall with joggled masonry, about 750 m.
south of Derviş Kapı



1. Outer face of Wall, about 1 km. north of Derviş Kapı



2. Inner face of Wall, about 2 km.
north of Derviş Kapı

On a rise at about 3 km. (2 miles), where the Wall swings westward to cross a valley, the inner face has a continuous arcade of at least six blind arches built into it. The pilasters are 1.50 m. (5 ft.) wide, 1.45 to 1.50 m. (5 ft.) deep, and 2.65 m. (8 ft. 10 ins.) apart, and the Wall at the back of the arches is 1.75 to 2 m. (5 ft. 10 ins. to 6 ft. 6 ins.) thick.¹⁸ The arches spring from capstones with a plain cavetto moulding beneath a narrow fascia.

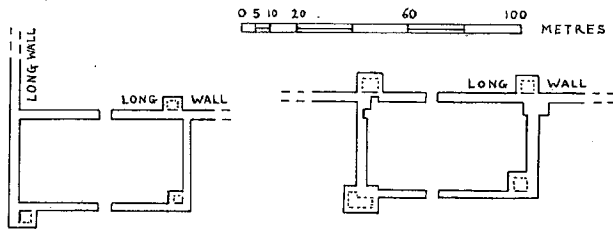


FIG. 2. PLANS OF FORTS C (LEFT) AND B (RIGHT), AFTER SCHUCHHARDT

Schuchhardt, and Dirimtekin after him, gave plans of two forts on the Wall (fig. 2), called Büyük Bedesten (Large Bazaar) and Küçük Bedesten (Small Bazaar). These are the local names—bazaar because they have masonry arches like Turkish bazaars, large and small not of area but of height of standing remains. They are here called B and C respectively; fort A is one noted by Schuchhardt near the Black Sea.¹⁹ B is the substantial fort, commanding a fine view westward, at about 5 km. (3 miles) from Derviş Kapı; C appears to be identical with confused overgrown remains about 0.75 km. ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile) from Derviş Kapı. Schuchhardt's plans were confirmed insofar as walls remain visible.

A detailed survey is an urgent requirement, and initially

¹⁸ A similar scheme of blind arches, to support the parapet walk, occurs at Madauri (Mdaourouch) in Algeria, in a fort dated ca. 535; cf. S. Gsell, *Les Monuments Antiques de l'Algérie* (Paris, 1901), II, p. 378, figs. 164-5. (I owe this reference to Mr. A. H. S. Megaw.) This expedient is also found much earlier in the walls of Side in Pamphylia: cf. A. M. Mansel, *Die Ruinen von Side* (Berlin, 1963), pp. 27 ff., figs. 15-17.

¹⁹ Dirimtekin (1955), fig. 9, includes a sketch-plan of this latter fort.

the bill-hook will be mightier than the spade. The structural phases (and there are several to be accounted for) could probably be elicited without excavation, and limited soundings would resolve the question of original date. There is no doubt, too, that the southern half of the Wall could be traced, and it should be possible to identify supply roads and supporting bases.²⁰

²⁰ There are traces of what looks like a "Military Way" behind and parallel to the Wall just south of Fort B.