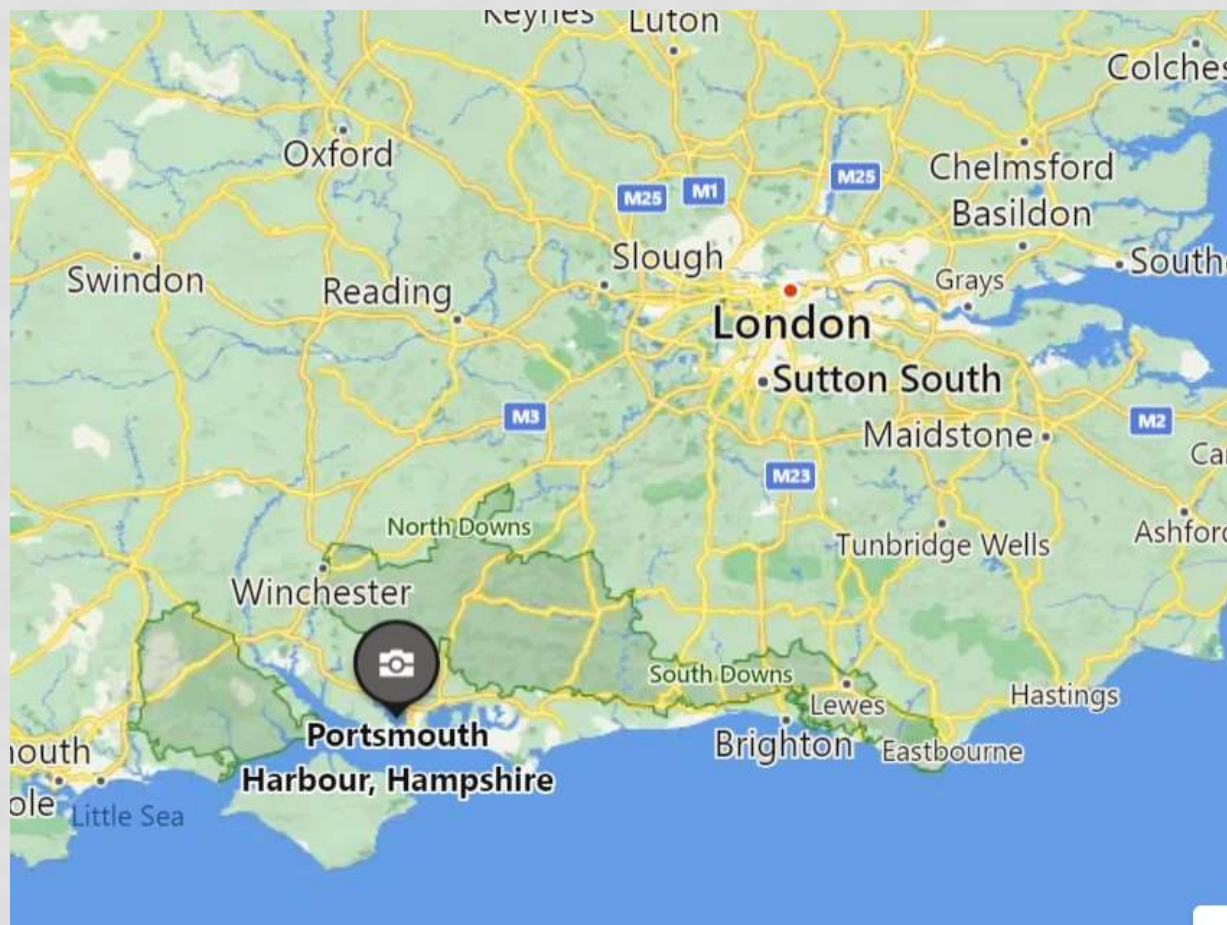


PORTCHESTER CASTLE'S BLACK FRENCH PRISONERS OF WAR



PORTCHESTER CASTLE LOCATION

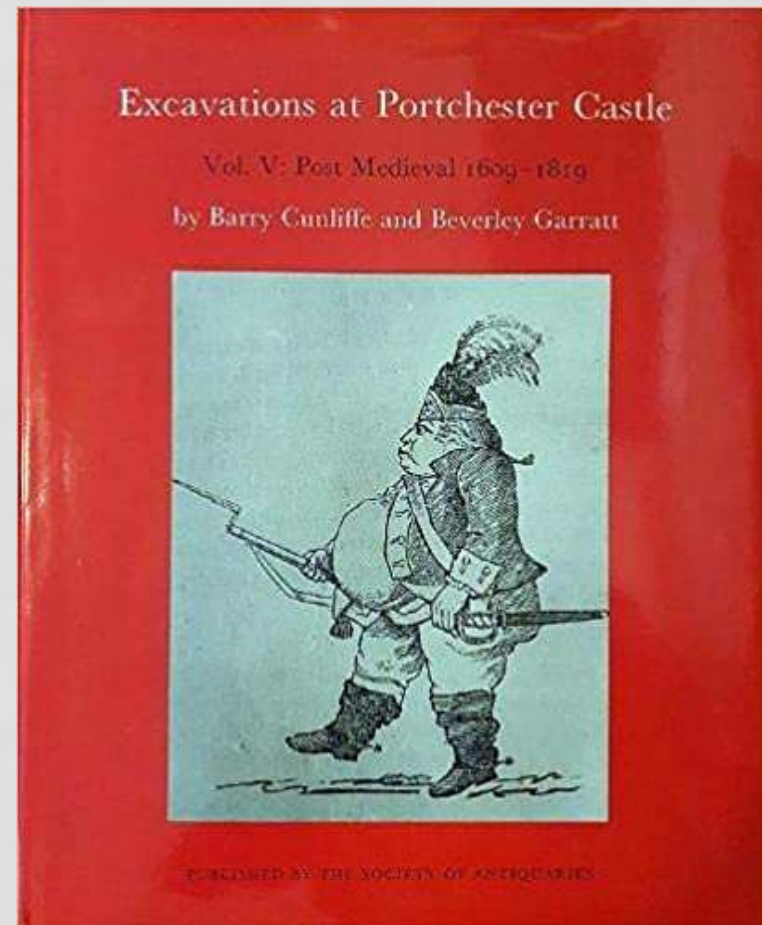


PORTCHESTER CASTLE LOCATION



PORTCHESTER CASTLE THE RESEARCH

- Long history - Researchers have focussed on Roman & Saxon periods
- Prison history seen as niche, of little interest
 - Antiquarian & local histories, excavation reports
 - Provided the initial direction towards the Black prisoners
 - Prison period – 17th - 19th centuries – global and colonial period of history
 - Mass movements of people



PORTCHESTER CASTLE PRISON HISTORY

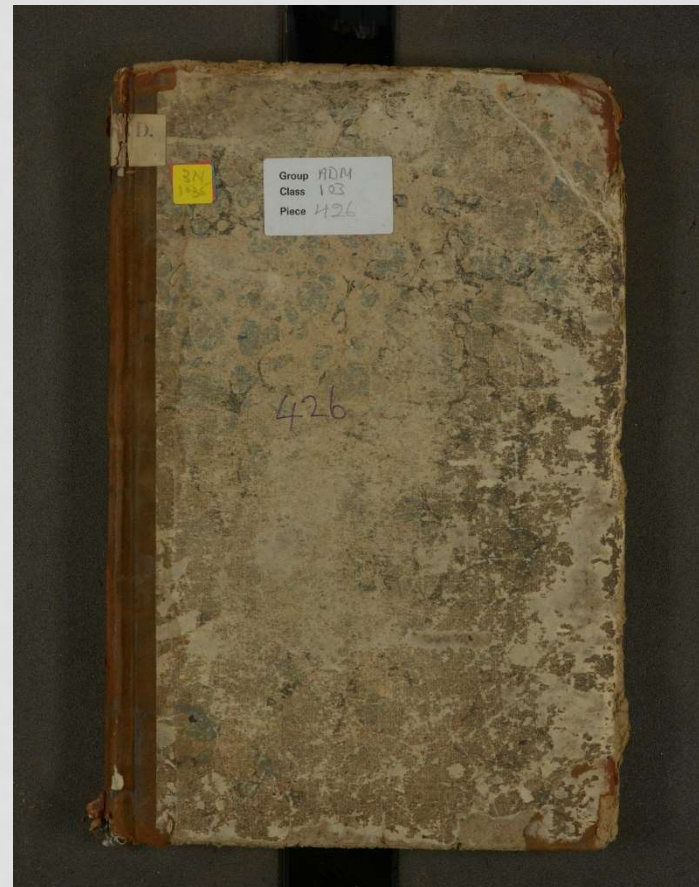
- Prison for PoWs
 - Second Anglo-Dutch War 1665-67
 - War of the Spanish Succession 1701-12
 - War of the Austrian Succession 1740-49
 - Seven Years War 1756-63
 - French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars 1793-1815

Multi-national communities
of soldiers, sailors, civilians



PORTCHESTER CASTLE THE PRIMARY SOURCES

- The National Archives, Kew:
 - British state documents: Admiralty and War Office Letters, reports, prison registers
 - Other sources:
 - Admiralty files held at the Royal Museums Greenwich, Caird Library
 - Local records offices
 - French archival sources
 - Duplication



PORTCHESTER CASTLE THE RECORDS

- Other sources - excavation archives
 - 1960s -1980s excavations, Professor Barry Cunliffe
 - Prison material culture
 - Prison graffiti
 - Archival research
 - Objects from excavations on Google Arts & Culture



PORTCHESTER CASTLE BLACK FRENCH PRISONERS OF WAR



- October 1796 2,500 French prisoners arrive at Portchester
- Majority Black/mixed-race
- Captured fighting on St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenada May-June 1796
 - Bataillon des Antilles
 - Bataillon des Sans Culottes
 - Garde National
- Officers, lower ranks, ordinary soldiers
- All recorded by the prison

PORTCHESTER CASTLE BLACK FRENCH PRISONERS OF WAR

- Others in the group
 - Civilian administrators of the French State
 - French medical staff – French hospitals on the islands cleared
 - Civilians thought to be a threat – political exiles?
 - Merchants
 - Business owners
 - Wives, relations, children

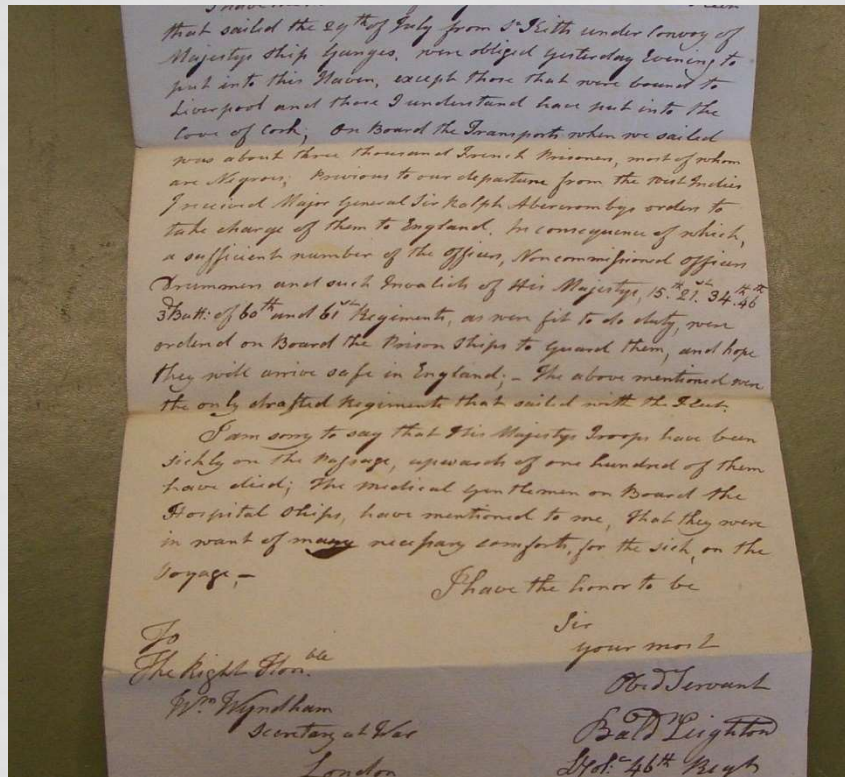


PORTCHESTER CASTLE THE PRISON REGISTER

Current Number	By what Ship, or how taken	Time when	Prisoners Names	Regiment	Company	Prisoners Names	Quality	Time when received into Custody	Ex. D. D.D. or E.L.	Time when	How disposed of, and by what Order
125	1st Dec 1796	16 May 96	P. Lucas	Des. d'Artillerie		Charles Deulanger	Sergeant	12 Oct 96	D	17 Dec 96	Captivity
						Marie P. Lucas	"	"	"	"	"
						Louis Desvignes	"	"	"	19 Dec	Captivity
						Henri Maguel	"	"	"	"	"
30						Michel Pucelle	"	"	"	16 March 97	Bothies
						Pierre Marcant	"	"	"	19 Dec	Captivity
						Louis Saint	"	"	"	"	"
						Pierre Cassin	"	"	"	19 Dec	Captivity
						Alex Haultier	"	"	"	"	"
						Joseph Blanchard	"	"	"	"	"
5	1st Dec 1796	16 May 96	J. Lucas			Philip La Cope	Soldier	"	"	15 Aug 97	Captivity
						Louis Simon	"	"	"	19 Dec	Captivity
						Peyron	"	"	"	16 March	Bothies
						Al. Ancelettes	"	"	"	"	"
10						Phillip Castet	Corporal	"	"	19 Dec	Captivity
						Henriette La Fite	Soldier	"	"	15 Aug 97	"
						Hubert Dubois	Corporal	"	"	19 Dec	Captivity
						Louis Simon	"	"	"	"	"
						Jeanne Villiers	Soldier	"	"	"	"
5						Nicholas Bussac	Junior	"	"	19 Dec	Captivity
						Thomas Bras	Sergeant	"	"	15	Bothies
						Pierre Huet	Junior	"	"	"	"
						Jeanne Mequan	Soldier	"	"	19 Dec 96	"
						Pierre Mequan	"	"	"	19 Dec	Bothies
50						Lothar Joffe	Commandant	"	"	22 Oct	Bothies

PORTCHESTER CASTLE

THE JOURNEY TO BRITAIN



- Put on British transport ships
- Left St Kitts July 1796
- Re-provisioned in Ireland, September 1796
- Arrived Portchester 11th October 1796
- 200+ French and British soldiers died on voyage

PORTCHESTER CASTLE BLACK PRISONERS

- The numbers:
 - 333 white French men
 - 2080 Black/mixed-race French men
 - 99 white, Black and mixed-race French women & children
 - 5 children born after arrival
 - Free French men, women and children, not slaves
 - Race not always recorded



PORTCHESTER CASTLE OUTSIDE THE PRISON

- Hampshire Parole towns 1795-1799
 - Bishops Waltham
 - Alresford
 - Petersfield
- 100 sent to live in the community
- Communities of French colonial life
- Bishops Waltham – hotbed of French Republicanism



PORTCHESTER CASTLE OUTCOMES



- What happened to them?
 - Released and sent to France
 - Enlisted in the British army and navy
 - Returned to the Caribbean
 - Other outcomes?

PORTCHESTER CASTLE

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

- Portchester Castle only PoW prison in Britain at the time with a large population of Black and mixed-race men, women and children.
- Estimated 10,000-15,000 Black and Mixed-race people in Britain, + smaller numbers of other races.
- Important addition to the history of race in Britain and elsewhere.
- Rare – recorded in the archives & includes women and children.
- The potential – link to overseas archives, biographies
- Allows us to re-think other archival sources to go looking for other groups.
- Lascars, native Americans, muslims, Jews, people from India etc - numerous



PORTCHESTER CASTLE INTERPRETATION AND OUTREACH



- Permanent exhibition at the castle
- Castle guidebook and online articles
- Arts projects: Sound installation, National Youth Theatre play 'The Ancestors'.
- Outreach work: Caribbean and British communities
- All achieved through the documents and archives at Kew.

PORTCHESTER CASTLE

WWW.ENGLISH-HERITAGE.ORG.UK/PORTCHESTER



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HISTORY AND STORIES: PORTCHESTER CASTLE

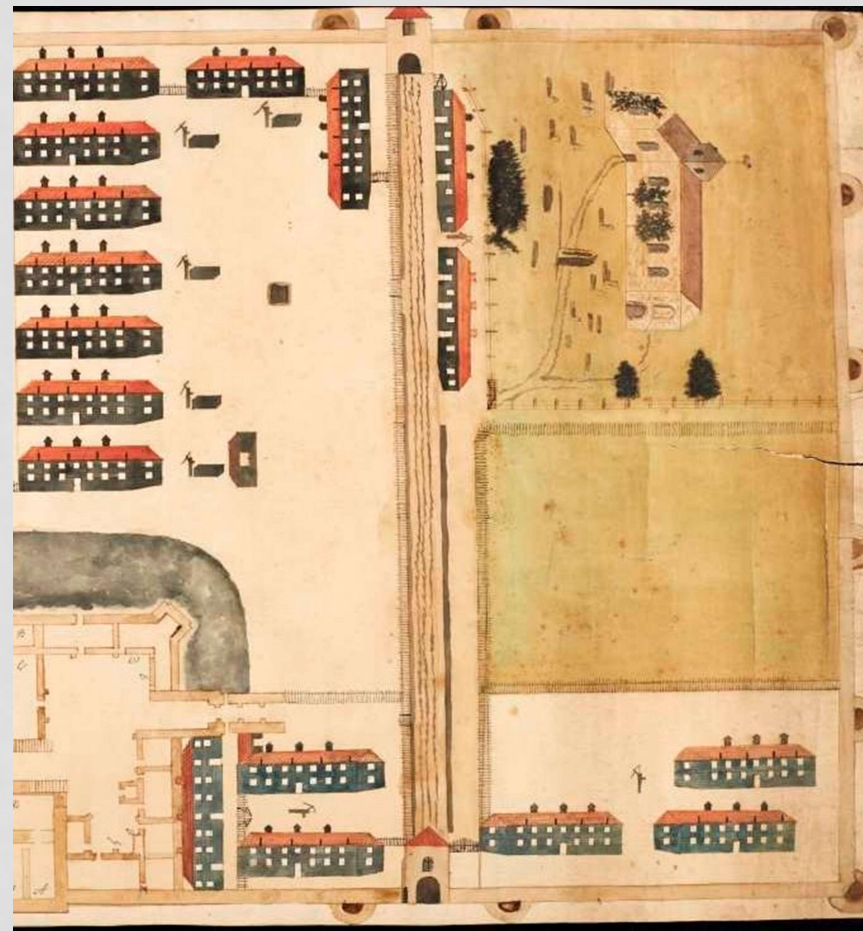
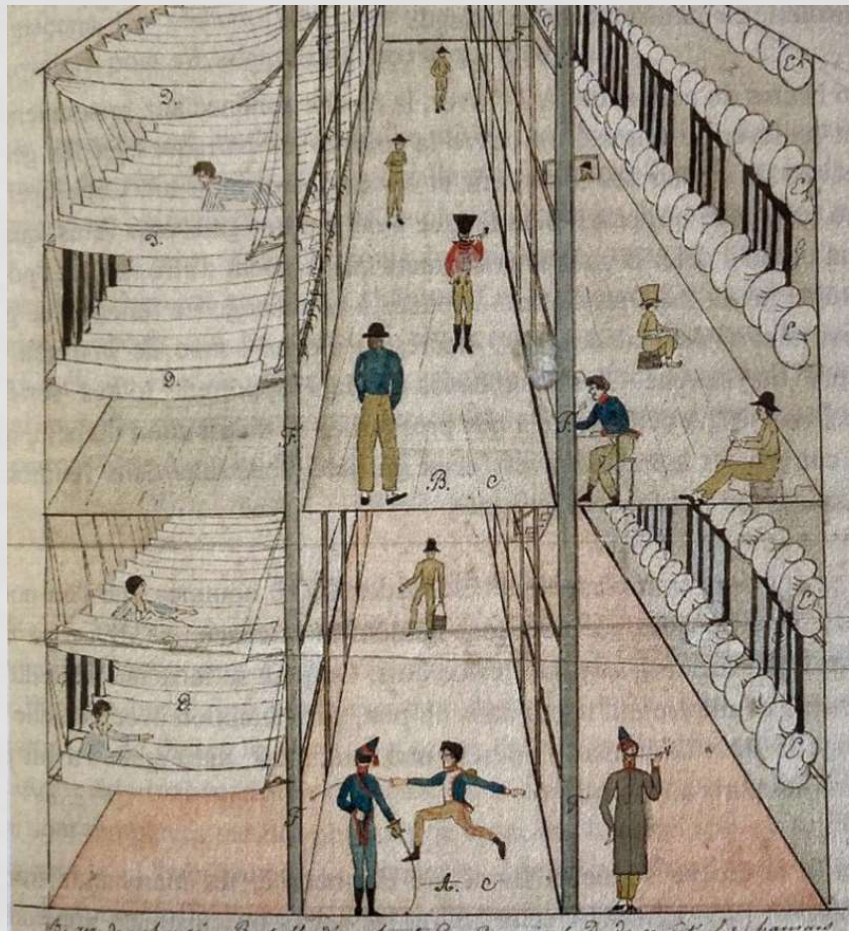
Portchester Castle's remarkable history begins in the 3rd century AD when the Romans built a vast fort here. In the 5th century this waterside fortress was transformed into a Saxon settlement, and after the Conquest of 1066 it became a Norman castle. For medieval kings it

PORTCHESTER CASTLE

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

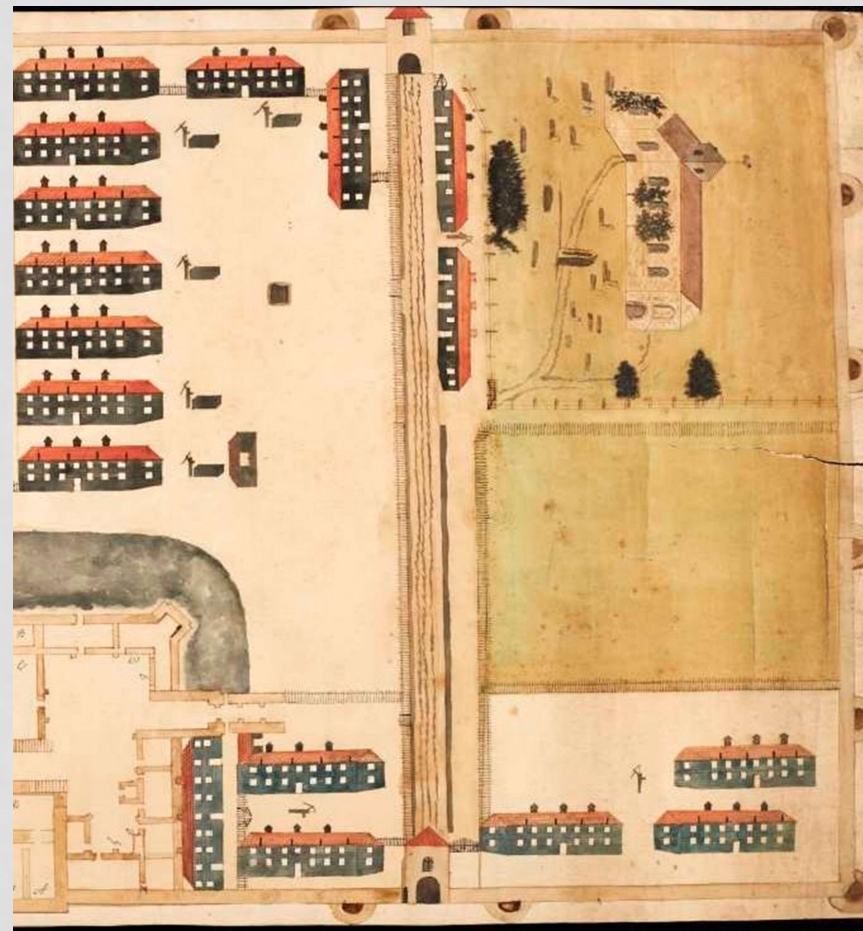


PORTCHESTER PRISON



PORTCHESTER CASTLE

THE PRISON



PORTCHESTER'S PRISONERS IN FRANCE

- Gradually sent to France between 1797-1800
- Large group arrive in France August - November 1797
- Sent to Île-d'Aix
- Demoted, living in tents on a 'freezing sandbank'



PORTCHESTER PRISONERS

LOUIS DELGRÈS ON GUADELOUPE



PORTCHESTER
NEW RESEARCH NEW PROJECTS

