

The history of the Castle

In 1550, it was decided that a castle should be built.

Sir Walter Raleigh named the castle after Queen Elizabeth I in 1600.

In 1642, the English Civil war broke out.

QUEEN ELIZABETH I



KING CHARLES II

Prince Charles came to Jersey to stay safe. He stayed at Elizabeth Castle for 10 weeks in 1645 and came back in 1649.

Prince Charles became King Charles II in 1650.

To say thank you to Jersey for helping him, King Charles II gave land in America to the island. This land was then called New Jersey.

In 1781, the Battle of Jersey took place in the Royal Square in St Helier.

Some soldiers were stranded at the castle because of the tide.

In 1848, Elizabeth Castle was at its strongest and had 64 cannon.



The army sold it to the States of Jersey for £1500, in 1923.

In 1940, German forces added bunkers, searchlights and gun emplacements to Elizabeth Castle.

About 100 German soldiers stayed in Elizabeth Castle until Liberation Day in 1945.

Now, Elizabeth Castle is looked after by Jersey Heritage.

Life in the Castle

Soldiers worked in the army and would protect Elizabeth Castle if it was attacked.

Eight soldiers would be in the same room. They also had to share beds.

After the army deducted money for food and living, soldiers didn't earn much money.



For breakfast, soldiers ate a salty, watery porridge called gruel.

The main meal was usually bread, potatoes, and a bit of meat.

Sometimes, soldiers were lucky enough to have Peas Pottage.



Soldiers would earn about 2 pence per day. They would use this to buy things like extra food or treats.

A loaf of bread would cost 1 penny.

One bar of soap would cost soldiers about 14 pence, one week's wages. This meant they didn't have many baths.

The surgeon worked in the hospital. If an arm or leg got infected, he would cut it off. If you got sick, the surgeon usually put leeches on your skin that would suck your blood.

A soldier would carry a special type of gun, called a musket.

Soldiers could load and fire their muskets four times in one minute.

Cannon were important at the castle.

To fire one cannon, eight people would have to work as a team.

Working together, they could fire their cannon two times in one minute.

The cannon at Elizabeth Castle could fire a cannon ball up to 1300 metres.

