



HISTORIC SCOTLAND
ALBA AOSMHOR

ST ANDREWS CASTLE

LARGE PRINT AUDIO GUIDE SCRIPT



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1. WELCOME: EXTERIOR / OUTSIDE WALLS

SFX: MUSIC

FEMALE VOICE [CONTEMPORARY, KNOWLEDGEABLE, FRIENDLY]

Welcome to St Andrews Castle – The site of some of the most dramatic events in Scottish history.

SFX: CRASHING OF WAVES, CRY OF GULLS

Sitting atop a rocky promontory, the castle dominates its surroundings.

Steep cliffs to the north and east overlook the sea while a deep defensive ditch, cut through solid rock, protects the approach from inland.

It's the perfect location for a castle, which is why there has been one here since the twelfth century.

SFX: GREGORIAN CHANTING

St Andrews, then home to the most important cathedral in the country, was at the heart of Scottish religious life. For hundreds of years powerful bishops and archbishops called this Castle their home.

Over time St Andrews Castle has been destroyed, rebuilt and renovated, so little of the original castle remains. Most of what you see today dates from between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries.

SFX: SIXTEENTH CENTURY MUSIC

Look above the archway at the far end of the wooden bridge. Find the four carved roundels with a flower in their centre.

This is the badge of Archbishop John Hamilton, who was responsible for bringing the castle back to life in the mid-1500s after a violent and bloody siege.

It was during a period known as “The Protestant Reformation”.

This religious, political and cultural upheaval challenged the authority of the Catholic Church and its interpretation of the Bible.

Throughout Europe, followers of the new “Protestant” faith risked persecution, torture and even death for what were considered acts of heresy.

SFX: MAN PREACHING TO A CROWD

By the 1530s Protestant preachers were travelling through Catholic Scotland, spreading a message that would ultimately transform the entire country.

In 1546 one met a fiery end outside these very walls.

SFX: DRAWBRIDGE IS LOWERED, PORTCULLIS RAISED

The story of the siege of St Andrews is one of faith, bloodshed, vengeance and renewal.

Cross the bridge and experience it in the company of one who was there, James Hamilton, 3rd Earl of Arran.

It is 1559

SFX: MUSIC FADES UP AND OUT

2. ENTRANCE PEND /GUARD CHAMBER 1 (on the left as you enter)

2D

HAMILTON [CULTURED SCOTTISH MALE LATE 20S]

My apologies for receiving you in the guardroom. It's 1559 - Scotland may no longer be at war but security is still of the utmost importance.

I am James Hamilton 3rd Earl of Arran – Proud Protestant, captain of The Scots Guard in France and the former suitor of Queen Elizabeth of England.

I was present during the siege of 1546 and, as we are both here as visitors, would be happy to share my memories with you as we take a look around.

[SMILING] I warn you, my recollections can be quite vivid... It may even seem as though you were there yourself.

It is very generous of the Archbishop to grant us access to the Castle today. My time here was complicated and... wait, I think I hear somebody approaching...

3D

SFX: DOOR CRASHES OPEN BEHIND LISTENER

SFX: TWO GUARDS MARCH IN ONE SET OF STEPS COMES TO A HALT AT THE RIGHT OF THE LISTENER, ONE TO THE LEFT

GUARD ON RIGHT

The Archbishop welcomes you to his residence, my lord.

GUARD ON THE LEFT [SPEAKING PARROT FASHION WHAT HE'S BEEN TOLD TO SAY]

He hopes you will find your stay... [PAUSES WHILE TRYING TO REMEMBER] [THEN PLEASED WITH HIMSELF WHEN HE DOES]... enlightening.

Will you need to be shown around my lord?

HAMILTON [STANDING IN FRONT OF LISTENER]

[SMILING] I know my way around this castle only too well I first came here in the 1540s as a young child. – A guest [WRYLY] or some might say “a hostage” - of the infamous Cardinal David Beaton.

SFX while Hamilton is speaking: HAMILTON WALKS TO THE FRONT OF THE ROOM, PICKS UP A GOBLET AND POURS HIMSELF SOME WINE

WALKS TO THE RIGHT OF THE LISTENER

TAKES A SIP OF WINE

Cardinals of course are senior leaders – some say “Princes” of the Catholic Church. Beaton was particularly well known for his harsh opinion of Protestants and the English King Henry VIII.

SFX: HAMILTON WALKS AROUND LISTENER

At the time, my father was Regent of Scotland – until 3 years ago, he managed the country's affairs on behalf of our good Mary Queen of Scots until she was fourteen years of age.

He'd recently converted from the Protestant faith to Catholicism and by placing me in the cardinal's care was, I think, showing Beaton that he was loyal and could be trusted.

Beaton's hospitality was renowned and he welcomed me to the castle.

He kept a good table and was lively company – [LAUGHING] he also kept a mistress, Marion Ogilvy who bore him eight children.

SFX: PUTS GOBLET ON A TABLE

But I fear I'm keeping you both from your duties.

GUARD ON LEFT [NOT USED TO BEING TALKED TO AT SUCH LENGTH BY A NOBLEMAN]

ER ...Very good my lord

SFX: GUARDS MARCH ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE LISTENER TO THE DOOR

As welcoming as he was, when it came to dealing with his enemies, Beaton could be ruthless.

Take for instance the execution of a Protestant preacher named George Wishart outside the castle walls.

[REMINISCING] His death by fire lit a blaze that would engulf us all.

SFX: DOOR CREAKS OPEN BEHIND LISTENER THEN SLAMS SHUT

SFX: HAMILTON SPEAKS SOFTLY INTO THE LISTENERS LEFT EAR

[TO HIMSELF] There is so much to remember.

3. DEATH OF GEORGE WISHART. (listened to in the Pend)

2D

HAMILTON

They burnt George Wishart outside the castle walls – I was told that he died well.

The protestant preacher had been travelling through Scotland denouncing the papacy and had already survived two attempts upon his life. As protection he began to be accompanied by a sword wielding bodyguard named John Knox.

The two men paused in their travels to rest at the village of Ormiston near Edinburgh. When Beaton learned of their location he immediately ordered Wishart's arrest.

As he was being taken away the preacher ordered Knox to escape saying "*One is sufficient for one sacrifice*",

At first Wishart was held in Edinburgh but he was moved to the cardinal's base here at St Andrews Castle. Charged with heresy, his trial was a formality. Wishart answered all the questions put to him by his accusers with quotes from the bible but when he refused to renounce his Protestantism, his fate was sealed.

Death by fire!

SFX: EXTERIOR, CROWD MURMURING.

SFX: SOMBRE TOLLING OF BELLS

Standing upon the scaffold, Wishart spoke to the onlookers, telling them not to be afraid of the torments he was about to undergo but to see them as an example of devotion to God.

Then with his back to the stake the executioner tied a rope around his neck and wrapped a metal chain around his waist.

I was kept inside the castle during the execution so did not see his final moments. John Knox who himself was some miles away, later told me his version of what transpired next.

[ASIDE] Some say his account is fanciful and ascribes fine words to his master that were never said.

I however prefer to imagine the scene exactly as he related it.

3D

SFX: EXTERIOR, CROWD MURMURING.

WISHART MALE EARLY 30S, PASSIONATE, ZEALOUS [SHOUTING TO THE CROWD]

O thou Savior of the world, have mercy upon me! Father of heaven, I commend my spirit into Thy holy hands.

Forgive them that have, from ignorance or an evil mind, forged lies of me: I forgive them with all my heart.

SFX: CRACKLING OF FLAMES AS FAGGOTS BEGIN TO BURN

MALE VOICE (SHOUTING FROM THE CROWD)

Be of good cheer master Wishart, God will forgive your sins.

WISHART [SHOUTING IN DIRECTION OF VOICE]

This flame occasions trouble to my body, indeed, but it hath in no ways broken my spirit. [STARTS CHOKING AS HE'S GARROTTED]

SFX: CRACKLE OF FLAMES RISING HIGHER

2D

HAMILTON

I take comfort from the fact that the executioner drew the rope tight around Wishart's neck before the fire took hold - choking the life from his body and sparing him the agony of the flames.

SFX ANGRY MURMURS OF THE CROWD.

SFX CRACKLING OF FLAMES CONTINUES

George Wishart was a popular man and many of those that witnessed his brave death hardened their hearts against Cardinal Beaton.

Although he did not then know it, the Cardinal's days were numbered.

4. KITCHEN TOWER

SFX: GENERAL BUSY KITCHEN SOUNDS, POTS CLATTERING, WATER BUBBLING, LOTS OF SHOUTING AND MOVEMENT

HAMILTON [REMINISCING]

After the execution of George Wishart, life at the castle returned to normal.

My education in Cardinal Beaton's household continued and when I wasn't at my books I was free to spend my time as I pleased.

I always loved the kitchens – what youngster doesn't?

SFX: BLAZING FIRE, CRACKLE OF COOKING MEAT, CREAK OF SPIT

Huge chunks of meat revolved on a spit before a roaring fire.

It was hot, noisy and full of mouth-watering smells - if I was lucky perhaps I could steal a morsel or two.

Cupboards carved into the walls were always full of herbs, seasonings and other tasty ingredients.

I had yet to become a soldier but in many ways, I remember it resembling the chaos of a battlefield.

3D

SFX GENERAL KITCHEN CHAOS, MALE AND FEMALE VOICES SHOUTING ACROSS THE ROOM.

"DO YOU CALL THESE DUMPLINGS?"

"LEEKs.... I'VE RUN OUT OF LEEKS"

"BOILING WATER! FETCH ME SOME NOW!"

SFX: CRACKLING OF MEAT TURNING ON A SPIT

HEAD COOK [MALE, 50s, BRUSQUE, HARASSED]

Are you the new “Spit Boy” young master Hamilton? You’re a little puny to turn a whole hog over the fire but if you enjoy sitting next to the flames perhaps you’ll last the day.

PAUSE AS YOUNG HAMILTON SHAKES HIS HEAD

You’re not?... Then get out from under my feet.

[TO ANOTHER COOK,] Have you never cooked a salmon before? Go to the cupboards and fetch Rosemary, Parsley and Thyme [SHOUTING] and don’t forget vinegar and ale.

SCULLION [MALE 13, BUSY, TIRED, FEARFUL]

[SHOUTING] Stand aside, slops! [ASIDE TO HAMILTON] if I spill this bucket of dripping and fish heads before I pour it down the sink, cook will have me whipped.

SFX: SPLASH AND GLUG OF BUCKET BEING EMPTIED.

HEAD COOK [TO YOUNG HAMILTON]

Make yourself useful master Hamilton and, help the baker’s lad at the bread ovens [LAUGHING] He’d rather be kneading the pastry of a sweet pie but he’d end up putting more fruit in his mouth than in the dish.

SFX: DOUGH BEING KNEADING, OVEN DOOR SWINGS OPEN, WOOD SLIDING ON STONE, CRACKLE OF FIRE

[TO HAMILTON] Take hold of the bread peel, boy – the wooden paddle just there. When the dough on the oven shelves has risen, just slide it underneath the loaves and pull them out.

[SHOUTING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOM] I need neeps, carrots and venison for the pottage, can nobody in this kitchen make a decent stew.

5. SEA GATE

SFX: CRY OF GULLS, FLAP OF SAIL, RATTLE OF ANCHOR CHAIN, HAMILTON

One of the advantages of being a castle with its back to the sea is that supplies can be brought in by ship.

This gate leads down to St Andrews Bay. I remember Scottish merchant vessels returning from Europe dropping their anchors here.

SFX: CRY OF SAILORS, CREAK OF ROPES, FLAP OF SAILS

[REMINISCING] I'd watch the crew hauling in the sails, opening the hold and rowing the cargo across the surf.

SFX: FEET HURRYING DOWN STONE STEPS

Servants from the castle would hurry down and return carrying barrels and crates up through the gate and down into the cellars below the kitchen.

Goods from all over Scotland could be brought here by sea much faster than if they had been transported overland.

But it wasn't just home grown cargos that arrived in St Andrews Bay.

Fine wines from France, sherry from Spain, tapestries and cloth from Flanders or Italy – Cardinal Beaton's wealth meant that he could enjoy the luxuries of half of Europe.

6. KITCHEN CELLARS

SFX: WOODEN BARRELS BEING ROLLED ALONG A STONE FLOOR

HAMILTON

As it does today, a household as large as the archbishop's required much to keep them in comfort and safety.

Most of the things they needed were stored here in the cellars below the kitchen.

SFX: RATTLE OF FIREWOOD BUNDLES

It's not just food and barrels of ale that's kept fresh down in the cold but there's also space for other household essentials, like bundles of firewood.

In times of siege, a full cellar can be the difference between life and death.

SFX: LAUGHING OF CHILDREN RUNNING

With the other children I sometimes played hide and seek here, crouching in the shadows behind a pile of sacks or a row of barrels.

I remember the Larderer who kept a tally of everything stored in these vaults was not the sweetest natured of men. Woe betide anyone he caught in here without permission.

3D

YOUNG HAMILTON [WHISPERING TO ANOTHER CHILD] CLOSE TO RIGHT EAR

The cellar is my hiding place.... go and find your own

SFX SCUFFLING OF FEET CREEPING AWAY [FROM THE LEFT EAR]

LARDERER MALE 30S, OFFICIOUS, HIGHLY STRUNG,

[CALLING TO POTENTIAL CHILDREN HIDING] If I find anyone playing the fool in my undercroft, I shall tell the archbishop.

[TO ASSISTANT] Have you finished taking stock? I'll not be accused of running out of anything on account of you.

SFX: UNROLLING AND STUDYING A PARCHMENT.

YOUNG ASSISTANT [MALE TEEN]

[READING, SLOWLY] Twenty barrels of Rhenish wine, thirty sacks of grain, a brace of partridge, ten barrels... three of boiled apples and seven of ale.

SFX: SNATCHES LIST FROM HIS HANDS

Give me that list or we'll be here all day.

[LOOKING DOWN LIST] The boats have had a good catch today so we'll have plenty of fish to salt, but what about venison?

YOUNG GIRL [YOUNG HAMILTON'S FRIEND] WHISPERS RIGHT EAR

There's nowhere else to hide, can I stay here?

YOUNG HAMILTON

No, you'll make a noise and they'll find us.

YOUNG GIRL

No, I wont

LARDERER [TO ASSISTANT]

Go speak to the huntsman and ask him what he's killed this morning and then run to the kitchen garden and make sure they've no more baskets of vegetables lying around.

SFX: CLATTER IS STONE BOTTLE IS KNOCKED OVER [RIGHT EAR]

YOUNG GIRL [WHISPERING]

Oops

ASSISTANT [SCARED/NERVOUS]

I think there's something in here with us in the cellar, sir!

LARDERER [WALKING AROUND AWAY FROM AND BEHIND THE LISTENER]

[TO ASSISTANT] Don't be daft, boy. And how many times have I told you - stop calling this a Cellar!

SFX: VOICE MOVES AWAY, AROUND AND BEHIND THE LISTENER.

If a chamber contains fine wines it's a "Bottlery", if it holds meat, fish, vegetables and fruit it's a "Pantry", and if it contains, anything else it's a "Storeroom".

SFX: VOICE SUDDENLY APPEARS RIGHT NEXT TO THE LISTENER'S LEFT EAR

[HOPEFULLY MAKING THEM JUMP] Got you!!

7. THE GREAT HALL

SFX: MUSIC AND SOUNDS OF REVELRY

HAMILTON

If a building can be said to have a heart then the Castle's lay in the Great Hall.

It was where the day to day business of governing and politics was conducted – such as the sentencing of criminals, collection of rent and the imposition of taxes.

It was also where lavish receptions and great feasts were held.

As his position dictated, the archbishop lived in splendour and maintained his household in great style. Many a windswept traveller who enjoyed the comfort of this room thought themselves lucky to have a seat at his table.

SFX: ANIMATED CHATTER, CLATTER OF PLATES, SOUNDS OF FEASTING.

Whenever I was here – sweating in front of the roaring fire - I'd always be in awe of the brightly coloured tapestries hanging from the walls and the valuable gold and silver plate, displayed for all to see.

SFX: BLAZING FIRE, PEWTER MUGS CLASHING TOGETHER

Beaton, I remember, would sit upon a canopied chair at the centre of the “high table” – clearly enjoying the lively conversation of his guests as they ate and drank their fill.

Occasionally, the Cardinals mistress, Marion Ogilvy would stand and address the room.

3D

MARION [FEMALE LATE 40S, TIPSY]

[ADDRESSING THE ROOM] Be of good cheer for the blessings of God are surely upon us.

SFX: MUSIC SWIRLS AROUND LISTENER

Thanks to the Cardinal, a dangerous heretic has now been reduced to ashes!

SFX: CHEERING AND CLAPPING IS HEARD TO THE RIGHT OF THE LISTENER

BEATON [ARROGANT, CONFIDANT, DRUNK]

[TO THE ROOM IN FRONT]

Raise your cups my friends to the downfall of a great evil for whom one wife is not enough..... Henry Tudor.

SFX: DRUNKEN CHORUS OF HOORAHS

MARION [ASIDE TO BEATON]

My love, if I may be so bold, many were filled with rage at the death of Wishart and no doubt wish you ill, do you not fear acts of vengeance?

BEATON [ANGRILY]

I fear nothing, my power comes from God and Parliament and none shall contradict it.

MARION

But what of the Earl of Rothes's son, Norman Leslie? He has prior grievances with you and Wishart's death can only add to his ire.

BEATON

Leslie is a protestant and a supporter of the English king, we disagree on almost every matter.

-[LAUGHING] He has no love for me nor I him.

MARION

Do you not think that with your harsh treatment of Protestants like Wishart, Leslie may feel that his own arrest and trial is imminent? He may want to strike first.

BEATON [WITH CONTEMPT]

Let him try! Behind these walls, I am under the Lord's protection.

8. THE MURDER OF CARDINAL BEATON

HAMILTON

See the tall building to the left of where you came in - that is called The Fore Tower. That's where the old apartments of Cardinal Beaton were.

As he slept safe in his bedchamber during the early morning hours of the 29th of May 1546 he was blissfully unaware of events taking place that would change, many lives – including mine.

Norman Leslie had both personal and ideological grievances with Cardinal Beaton. The death of Wishart was the final indignity – he'd decided that it was time to act.

He and his men had come secretly to St Andrews the previous day - his uncle, John Leslie, had brought more supporters with him that night. None in the town were aware of their arrival.

SFX: EARLY MORNING STILLNESS, BIRDSONG

They struck before first light, splitting into two groups.

The first led by Norman, dressed themselves in the rough clothes of labouring men and joined a team of stone masons who were working at the castle.

SFX: LOWERING OF DRAWBRIDGE

The porter lowered the drawbridge to allow them entry and they passed through the archway.

SFX: RUNNING FEET, JINGLE OF WEAPONS, HEAVY MALE BREATHING

As they assembled in the courtyard the second group led by John made their way towards the castle.

Seeing them armed and looking threatening the porter made to raise the drawbridge...

SFX: GRUNTS OF A STRUGGLE, STIFLED CRY AS MAN IS STABBED

....but before he could complete his task he was overpowered, viciously stabbed and his body thrown into the ditch outside the castle walls.

The stone masons were sent away – they would not be needed this day.

SFX: HURRIED FEET ON FLAGSTONES, MALE WHISPERING, RUSTLE OF CLOTHING.

Leslie's men crept from chamber to chamber rousing the servants and household staff from their slumber and urging them to flee.

I, of course although rudely awakened was kept behind. Once the Leslie's realised they had the song of the Regent in their hands, I was too important a bargaining tool to be allowed to go free.

[SADLY] I had been brought to the castle to demonstrate my father's loyalty, now I was a hostage to be used against him.

SFX: RUNNING FEET ON WOODEN DRAWBRIDGE

Around one hundred and fifty people hurried across the drawbridge before it was closed and the portcullis lowered – the castle had fallen and no alarm had yet been raised.

The Cardinals mistress, Marion Ogilvy, had left the castle early - before the intruders arrived - so while all this was occurring, Beaton slept. alone.

SFX: CLANG OF LOWERED PORTCULLIS

Finally awoken by the noise, Cardinal Beaton was horrified to learn that he was now in a castle commanded by his enemies.

In fear, he and his servant barricaded the bedroom door.

Presently there came heavy footfalls in the corridor outside and the banging fists of John Leslie demanding entry – which were refused.

BANGING FISTS ON WOODEN DOOR

Beaton tried to get Leslie to promise him, on his honour, that if he opened the door he would let him live.

Leslie ordered that burning coals be brought, to set the door alight.

SFX: CREAK OF DOOR OPENING, SCUFFLE

On hearing this Beaton let them in, adopting a high-handed tone in order to cower the men into submission. Throwing out his chest, he haughtily demanded an explanation for the disturbance - this resulted in a violent scuffle and he fell, wounded into a chair.

In desperation the cardinal begged for his life saying *“I am a priest, I am a priest... you will not slay me.”*

SFX: SWORD DRAWN FROM SCABBARD

One of the men - James Melville - drew his sword and declared that they were not common murderers, but rather instruments of God's justice.

“It is neither hatred of thy person nor fear of thy power which moveth me to strike” he said, *“But it is because thou has been an obstinate enemy of Christ and the holy gospel”*

SFX: SWORD THRUST, GROAN OF PAIN

With that, he thrust his sword through the cardinal's body, ending his life.

As news of what had occurred became known, alarm bells rang and townsfolk began to assemble before the castle walls.

SFX: CREAKING OF ROPES, BUMPING OF BODY AGAINST STONE

With blood still pouring from his fatal wounds, the naked body of Cardinal Beaton was wrapped in his bedclothes and hung immodestly from the battlements.

In fear and shock the people returned to their homes but for the men who had taken command of the castle and perpetrated this violent deed there was no way out.

The “Castilians”, were now under siege...and I – a boy not even ten summers old, was their hostage.

9. BLOCKHOUSE – SCOTTISH SIEGE (listened to above the entrance archway)

SFX: MEDIUM BORE CANNON BOOM

HAMILTON

When I was a boy I always used to love coming into the castle blockhouses and watching the gunners with their ramrods and their shot.

Beaton had ordered two of them built at each end of the south wall back in the 1520s. The days of the longbow and the trebuchet were over – this was the age of gunpowder – and the castle needed modern defences.

When the “Castilians” found themselves besieged they took charge of the Cardinal’s cannon and prepared to use them in their defence, by firing on their own countrymen.

SFX: BALL ROLLING DOWN CANNON BARREL.

In the early days of the siege the Lesliees and their fellow nobles were joined by other supporters who crossed the ditch to offer assistance.

By the beginning of June, a month after the siege began, the crown declared them all traitors, excommunicated them from the church and confiscated their property.

Parliament ordered that none should sell or provide any supplies to the castle. In his role as Regent, my father, the Earl of Arran, proclaimed that all local men capable of bearing arms should assemble before the castle walls to prevent anyone from leaving or entering.

SFX: MEN ASSEMBLING, RATTLE OF PIKES AND BLADES

Although he was in charge of the forces which now laid siege to the castle, my father was well aware that his young son also sheltered behind its walls.

A stray cannon ball from without or the brutal whim of a captor from within could spell my doom. He endeavoured to tread carefully but firmly.

As the reality of their situation became apparent, the Castillians smuggled messages to the English King Henry VIII in London, asking for support.

Henry was no friend of the Pope and it was hoped that he would send food, ammunition – even armed men.

While we in the castle waited, my father imposed a tax on all the local monasteries to pay for its retaking.

SFX: RUMBLE OF WHEELS ON COBBLES, NEIGHING OF CARTHORSES, CREAK OF ROPES.

In October he brought two heavy cannons named “Crook-mow” **[RHYMES WITH “COW]** and “Deaf Meg” to bombard those inside.

He offered terms for my release and the surrender of the castle which were emphatically refused.

SFX: HUGE CANON BOOM, CRASH OF BALL HITTING STONE WALL.

The great cannons bombarded the castle from the west while gunners peppered the battlements with musket balls and shot from the east. It was dangerous but the thick walls provided the defenders with shelter

SFX: RATTLE OF MUSKETRY

SFX: DISTANT CRY OF PAIN

Inside the blockhouses however the gunners had a clear view of “Crook-Mow” and “Deaf Meg” - who had no such protection

**SFX: FIRING OF MEDIUM BORE CANNON, CHEER AS IT HITS IT
TARGET**

From this position their return fire killed and wounded many of my father’s artillerymen.

10. MINE/COUNTERMINE

SFX: CREAK OF A METAL DOOR OPENING

HAMILTON

As well as using the heavy cannon - which proved unsuccessful – my father also tried another tactic to bring down the castle's walls.

SFX: SOUNDS OF DIGGING, SPADES THROUGH EARTH, PICKAXES ON ROCK

In the November of 1546 his engineers began work on a mine – a tunnel cut through the bedrock beneath the gatehouse which, when filled with gunpowder and detonated, would cause it to collapse.

SFX: RUBBLE IS TIPPED INTO SACKS, PACKHORSES SNORT AS THEIR HOOVES CLOP ON STONE

Working with pickaxes and shovels the miners crept inexorably towards the castle walls - packhorses carrying the quarried rock up to the surface.

It became clear that if something wasn't done to stop them this underground assault would bring about the Castle's downfall.

On the other side of the walls, Leslie's men needed to dig a mine of their own – a "Countermines" to intercept the attackers tunnel and prevent its completion.

But first they had to find it.

SFX: FLAGSTONES LIFTED, EARTH IS SHOVELLED

Shafts were dug so the defenders could listen for the sounds of the approaching mine being excavated.

Two abortive attempts were made - you can still see them in the guard rooms - before they were sure of the right direction.

Time was running out. The attackers had had months to construct a high, wide gallery with carved stone steps.

The countermine however was small, airless and tight, dug in a fury of desperation.

In the flickering candlelight of its confines, dirt-caked Castilians strained their ears as they tried to find their enemies below the earth.

3D

SFX: PICK AXES CHIPPING ROCK, HEAVY BREATHING OF MEN, FLICKERING CANDLES.

DIGGER 1

Whisht! I think I hear them.

SFX: DRIP OF WATER, SHALLOW BREATHING

SFX: CLANG AS SOMEONE DROPS A PICK

No noise curse you! they're close

SFX: FAINT CHIPPING AND MURMURED CONVERSATION.

DIGGER 2

Aye, It's them alright, but where?

SFX: FAINT CHIPPING AND MURMURED CONVERSATION.

DIGGER 1

They're beyond that wall, break through it and we'll be on them. Are you ready?

SFX: MUMMERS OF ASSENT

Then Dig!

**SFX: FRENZIED DIGGING, ROCKS TUMBLING AS WALL IS
BROKEN THROUGH.**

**SFX: ANGRY CRY FROM BEYOND THE WALLS “ITS LESLIE’S
MEN, THEY’VE FOUND US”**

DIGGER 2 [SCRABBLING THROUGH THE HOLE]

[SHOUTING OVER HIS SHOULDER] C’mon lads, no mercy.

**SFX: MUFFLED SOUNDS OF A SAVAGE HAND TO HAND
STRUGGLE**

[SAVAGELY] You’ve got axes. Use them.

**DIGGER 2 [GRUNTING WITH EFFORT AS HE WRESTLES AN
OPPONENT]**

There’s no room, I can’t see.

DIGGER 1 [STABBING DOWN WITH A KNIFE]

If it’s in front of you then stab it, drive them back

**SFX: MORE SOUNDS OF VIOLENCE, FEET RUNNING AWAY DOWN
A STONE CORRIDOR.**

DIGGER 2

[BREATHING HEAVILY]

The tunnel’s empty, they’ve run back to their siege lines.

Now the castle’s safe, we can stop being moles and return to being men.

I’ll tell you lads, I never thought I’d see the sun again.

11. THE WELL – THE TRUCE

SFX: BUSTLING COURTYARD, NEIGHING OF HORSES, CLANGING OF BLACKSMITH HAMMERS, SERVANTS SHOUTING TO ONE ANOTHER.

HAMILTON

The courtyard of a castle is rarely still. Servants, traders, visitors, and men at arms are all busy going about their respective duties, horses are stabled, hounds run free and sometimes children play.

SFX: LAUGHING CHILDREN, RUN PAST.

In late 1546 however, there was little reason to smile.

SFX: CREAK OF WELL ROPE RAISING A BUCKET OF WATER

This well kept us all from dying of thirst – though most here preferred ale.

After six months of siege, the promised supplies from King Henry had yet to arrive, food was scarce and what we had was so bad it was almost inedible.

SFX: MAN COUGHING SPASMODICALLY

Men grew weak and sick, some succumbed completely to the poor diet, spirits became low and tempers frayed.

For the first time I began to be fearful of my captors – scared of their desperation and anger and of the disease that many carried.

I saw some around this well fighting like animals over a tiny morsel of food while others leaned against it coughing and retching until they could no longer stand.

Everyone prayed for help from England, a few muttered that by murdering a cardinal they were now damned to an eternity of hell.

It certainly felt like it.

SFX: QUILL PEN SCRATCHING ON PARCHMENT

My father – whose own forces were weakened by illness - said he would appeal to the Pope on the Castilians behalf, requesting their absolution for the murder of Cardinal Beaton. This was offered on the condition that If the Pope agreed, those within the castle would surrender peacefully.

With both parties not wishing to suffer through a harsh freezing winter, an uneasy truce was agreed until the answer was received.

SFX: DRAWBRIDGE CLANKS OPEN

For the first time in many months the castle opened its doors and those who had been trapped within had an overdue taste of freedom – unfortunately I was not among them.

Supporters of the Castilians who had hitherto been unable to join them arrived to increase their numbers.

SFX: BOTTLE SMASHES

Unfortunately, some of the men newly released from the horror of the siege found their freedom intoxicating.

SFX: LAUGHING DRUNK MEN, WINDOWS BREAKING

Forgetting the tenets of their faith, they rampaged, lawlessly through the town.

SFX: NEIGHING HORSES, BURNING THATCH, SOBBING

Some, it was said, attacked local farmsteads, burning what they couldn't steal.

SFX: SOLEMN BELL TOLL.

In January 1547 Henry of England died and the promise of troops died with him.

In April, John Knox, the fierce bodyguard of George Wishart joined the Castilians – agreeing to become their chaplain.

SFX: ANGRILY SHOUTING MAN

He harangued those who were abusing local people, saying that God's law would not be defied and their evil behaviour would be punished.

SFX: DRUNKEN MEN SCORNFULLY TELLING HIM TO "GO AWAY"

SFX: GALLOPING HORSE REINS IN TO A HALT

When news arrived that The Pope had agreed to absolve the murderers of Cardinal Beaton, my father demanded that the Castilians surrender and return me to his care – as they had agreed.

SFX: CRASH OF PORTCULLIS LOWERING

They refused, not trusting the wording of the Pope's proclamation.

Ready again for war, they retreated back behind the walls of the castle with renewed vigour and closed the doors.

The truce was at an end.

11. BOTTLE DUNGEON

SFX: CLANG OF CELL DOORS, RATTLE OF CHAINS

HAMILTON

As a hostage during the siege I wasn't the only person to have been held at St Andrews against their will.

In Cardinal Beaton's day, the castle had a reputation as one of the most feared prisons in all of Scotland.

The chamber on the ground floor of this tower was used as a cell, with prisoners passed food through a carved slit in the wall next to the door.

They, however were fortunate in their accommodation, as the most terrifying place for a prisoner to be kept was beneath our feet, in "The Bottle Dungeon."

Cut into solid rock, the dungeon got its name from its shape, thin at the top and opening out at the bottom – like a bottle.

Prisoners were lowered into the cell on a rope – once the rope was hauled up, there was no way out.

SFX: DISTANT SCREAMING FROM BELOW GROUND

I used to dream of being left alone in the cold and the dark, totally cut off from the world outside and then awake wide eyed and trembling.

Apparently, some prisoners lost their minds and began screaming and raving. I heard a rumour that Cardinal Beaton then had them hanged.

The guards were always scaring me with dark tales of the prisoners who languished here. There was the friar John Rogers who was only held in the bottle dungeon for a few days before his body was found at the foot of the castle walls. Beaton said he died "While trying to escape."

Despite my fear, I was fascinated by what lay down there and during the siege asked one of the guards to lower me down so I could see the bottle dungeon for myself.

He agreed and although at the time there were no prisoners in its depths that doesn't mean to say that it was empty.

3D

SFX: CREAK OF ROPE AS BOY IS LOWERED DOWN.

YOUNG HAMILTON

[NERVOUSLY] It's dark, will there be rats?

TURNKEY MALE 40S, BORED AND MALICIOUS

VOICE SEEMS TO COME FROM ABOVE THE LISTENER

You wanted to know what it was like down there master Hamilton. Keep a tight hold on the rope or you'll fall, and it's a long way down for a bairn.

YOUNG HAMILTON

[ECHO'S] I've reached the bottom. Swear on your honour you won't leave me here.

DRAMATIC SILENCE

[TERRIFIED] Are you still there?

TURNKEY [SHOUTING FROM ABOVE]

[LAUGHING] Of course, I am boy, although I've precious little honour to lose. Feel around with your hands, master Leslie may have left a little surprise down there.

YOUNG HAMILTON

SFX: HANDS GROPING ON THE STONE FLOOR

[SEARCHING] I can't find anyt..wait what's this?Its cold, like metal....but such a strange shape.

TURNKEY [SHOUTING DOWN THROUGH OPENING ABOVE]

When they killed old Beaton they had nowhere to bury him and what with it being summer they didn't want him lying around stinking up the place in the heat.

YOUNG HAMILTON

So?

TURNKEY

So, they covered his body in salt, wrapped it in lead and threw it down there where it's nice and cold.

Say hello to the Cardinal boy.

YOUNG HAMILTON

[IN SHEER TERROR] Arghhhh!! Pull me up, pull me up.

TURNKEY [LAUGHING HEARTILY]

I wish I could have seen your face.

2D

HAMILTON

The irony is that the floors above the bottle dungeon contained fine apartments where those of high rank were imprisoned.

Spacious rooms, a roaring fireplace and even a wardrobe overlooking the sea where prisoners could "sit at ease" knowing that any foulness would soon be washed away by the tide.

Comfort above and squalor below – just like heaven and hell.

12. SEA TOWER

SFX: CRASH OF WAVES, CALL OF GULLS

HAMILTON

After the Leslie's reneged on their agreement to surrender and shut themselves, their followers and me back behind the castle walls I spent a lot of time here atop The Sea Tower.

Many cast their gaze across the waves hoping to spot English vessels bringing much needed support.

The Scottish navy however had blockaded the approach to St Andrews so help from that direction was not forthcoming.

To add to our hardships, plague had taken hold and a blanket of sickness enveloped us all.

SFX: CRIES OF "SAILS ON THE HORIZON" FLAP OF CANVAS

A fleet of around twenty warships was seen bearing down at full sail but the jubilation was short lived when it became apparent these were French vessels sent to assist my father and the Scottish Parliament.

SFX: WAVES CRASHING, GULLS CALLING, BOOM OF CANNONS FROM A DISTANCE.

For two days the French fleet, commanded by an Italian admiral of great renown named Leone Strozzi, bombarded the castle walls.

SFX: TUMBLING AND SHATTERING OF SLATES

They achieved little but the dislodging of some roofing slates.

SFX: BOOM OF CANNON CRY OF "WE'VE GOT ONE, SHE'S TAKING IN WATER"

My captors on the other hand once again demonstrated their gunnery skills by damaging several of the attacking galleys and injuring many of those who then tried to storm the castle by land.

On the 30th of July, however, fourteen months after the siege began, everything changed.

3D

SFX: QUIET DAWN, COCK CROWS

GUARD 1

[QUIETLY, NERVOUSLY] Something's going to happen, I can feel it.

Why did that wily devil Strozzi wheel his cannon through the town and then mount one on the steeple of St Salvator's college and another on the cathedral tower?

GUARD 2 [CYNICAL]

So he can shoot down on us as he pleases, that's why.

GUARD 1

More fool the Regent for not thinking of that sooner – he could have done that months ago - and more fool us for not knocking them down when we had the chance. Now we're easy prey.

SFX: MASSIVE CANNONADE, EXPLOSION, CRASH OF MASONRY

[SHOUTING IN ALARM] They're targeting the tower, get below, they'll bring it down.

SFX: CLANG OF ALARM BELLS

JOHN KNOX [SHOUTING OVER THE BOMBARDMENT]

It's the judgment of God, did I not say that your evil ways would not go unpunished?

GUARD 1

Shut your mouth Knox

SFX: CONTINUED CANNON FIRE, EXPLOSIONS, CRASHES OF MASONRY, SHOUTS OF MEN.

“PICK YOUR TARGETS, DON’T WASTE POWDER”

“FILL THE BREACH, TWENTY MEN TO THE EAST WALL”

“TAM’S DEAD”

“GOD HELP US”

[FADES] TO INDICATE THE PASSAGE OF TIME

SFX: RATTLE OF MUSKETRY, COUGHING, GROANS OF WOUNDED MEN.

GUARD 2

[EXHAUSTED] Ten hours they’ve been at it, [INCREDULOUSLY] Ten hours! Between them the French and the regent have pounded this place into rubble.

Months we held out and now we’re reduced to this in less than a day.

SFX: BOOM OF THUNDER, HISS OF TORRENTIAL RAIN.

GUARD 1

That’s all we need. At least the rain means the guns will stop firing for a while.

WILLIAM KIRKCALDY MALE 20s

We can’t go on, call for parley, [TO THE MEN AROUND HIM] throw down your weapons, it’s over.

Open the gate! Tell the regent we surrender to his mercy.

GUARD 1 [TO YOUNG HAMILTON]

Looks like you'll be going home after all, master Hamilton. I wonder what they'll do with the rest of us.

13. COBBLED AREA/SEA WALL/BUILDING RANGE

SFX: CLINK OF CHAINS, SHUFFLING FEET

HAMILTON

I'll never forget the siege of 1546 and even now thirteen years later, I can still feel how relieved I was when it was over and I was safe.

When the Castilians surrendered those that were still alive were arrested. Most thought they'd be hanged but instead they were sent as prisoners to France.

SFX: CREAK OF OARS, BEAT OF DRUM, CRY OF GULLS, SURGE OF WAVES

Principle figures like Norman Leslie were immediately imprisoned on land while those of lower rank - including John Knox - were put to work rowing the oars of French war galleys before they too were taken to more permanent cells.

The castle had all but been reduced to rubble during the bombardment. Much of what remained was unsafe. If St Andrews Castle were to flourish again as the seat of archbishops it needed to be almost completely rebuilt.

The man who took that task upon himself was Archbishop John Hamilton, Beaton's successor and my father's illegitimate half-brother.

He began a long and costly period of refurbishment, repairing the walls and making the apartments even grander than before.

SFX: SOUNDS OF CONSTRUCTION, HAMMERING, STONE CHISELLING, CREAK OF ROPES HAULING STONE

Everywhere was the sound of men at work, stonemasons, carpenters, blacksmiths – over the next ten years the castle came back to life.

As you can see, Archbishop Hamilton made certain to put his stamp on his new home constructing an impressive new frontage for the entrance – topped with his coat of arms and armorial badge.

These are luxurious additions to the castle buildings and, I believe, are influenced by Italian architecture in their design. They certainly have their own passageway which links them directly with the chapel.

He may not be as zealous as his predecessor but Hamilton is still a staunch opponent of Protestantism. The magnificence of this castle sends a powerful message to those who may doubt the papacy.

[CAREFUL ASIDE] You are aware I trust that John Knox was released from his French imprisonment in 1549 and has spent the last four years preaching Reformation on Scottish soil?

[MUSING TO HIMSELF] I wonder if his dream of a Protestant Scotland shall ever be realised.

14. FAREWELL. Outside the Castle Walls

FEMALE VOICE [FROM INTRODUCTION]

Before the end of 1560 John Knox's dream did come true.

Parliament voted to no longer recognise the authority of the pope, forbade the celebration of mass and made the Protestant faith the country's official religion.

Knox died in 1572. An epitaph written by the new regent of Scotland, James Douglas read "*Here lies one who never feared any flesh*".

Archbishop John Hamilton was imprisoned by a Protestant Parliament in 1563. Upon his release he continued as a passionate supporter of Mary Queen of Scots.

He was hanged for conspiracy to murder one of her rivals in 1571. His mistress, Marion Ogilvy died just four years later, in 1575, at Melgund Castle and was buried in the Ogilvy aisle in Kinnell Church.

As for James Hamilton, witness to the siege as a child, soldier, fugitive and suitor to Queen Elizabeth I, the conversion of Scotland to Protestantism was a source of great joy.

Many members of the Hamilton family however – including his mother and aunts appear to have suffered from what doctors would now recognise as mental health issues.

By 1563 James had also began to exhibit symptoms. Some historians believe that were he being treated today, he'd be diagnosed with a form of bipolar disorder.

Fade music up – A Passing Age

At first, he was cared for in his father's house at Kinneil, but one day he climbed out of an upstairs window and ran away, travelling alone through Scotland, increasingly consumed by paranoia.

Living in a world of witches and devils where every man was his enemy, he began making wild unfounded, accusations about those he considered his opponents.

Declared insane, he spent the remainder of his life in confinement – ironically some of that time was spent here at St Andrews Castle - he died in 1609.

The castle never regained its former importance. Although it continued to be regarded as the official Archbishop's residence, it was usually occupied by a succession of Constables on their behalf.

By the 1690s the title Archbishop of St Andrews had been abolished and the castle had fallen into disrepair and ruin.

A bleak and foreboding destination for sightseers during the next century, in 1801 much of the eastern side collapsed into the sea.

Fade music/end music

The country finally acknowledged the historical importance of St Andrews castle in the 1870s and began a programme of preservation and archaeological research that continues to this day.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit. Please return your audio guide to the visitors' centre on your way out.