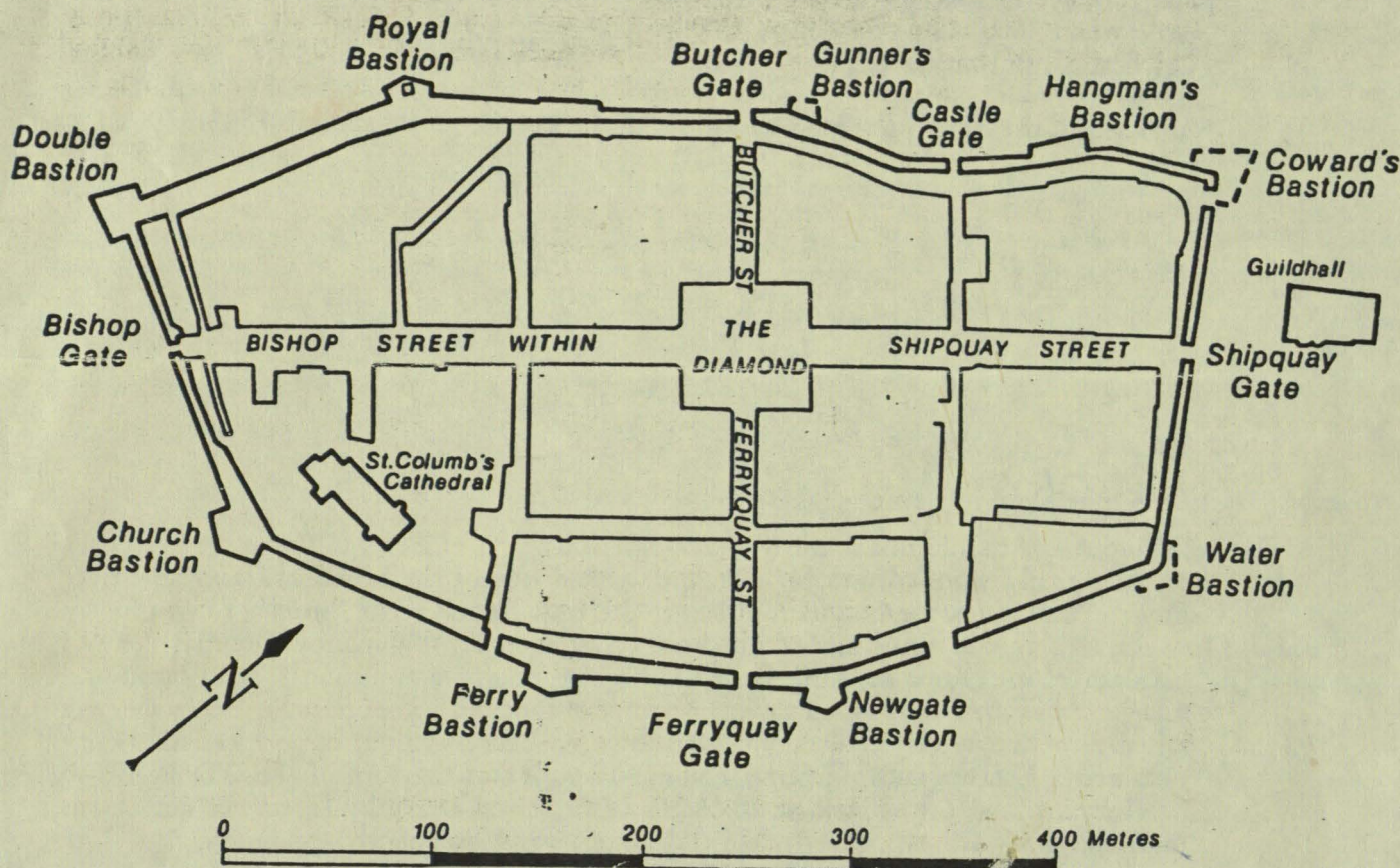


# LONDONDERRY CITY WALLS

POL 35/14



The walls of Londonderry were built 1613-18 at the expense of the City of London: the modern streets inside perpetuate the original town plan. The defences were designed as a stone-faced and parapeted earth rampart, broken only by four gates with at intervals angular bastions for artillery defence. This system of fortification, evolved in Italy in the 16th century, was to influence the art of military engineering in the western world for some 300 years. The four original gates, Shipquay, Ferryquay, Bishop and Butcher gates, have all been rebuilt and three new gates added. Bishop Gate was the first to be rebuilt, in 1789 from a design by Henry Aaron Baker of Dublin and is distinguished for its carved keystones and panels by the sculptor, Edward Smyth.

The following tour of the walls starts at the Guild Hall and proceeds in a clockwise direction. The visitor mounts the walls by passing through Shipquay Gate and turning left to the steps, whence is reached the east corner of the city, the site of the now-demolished Water Bastion\* (Governor of the Plantation's Bulwark). Beyond a modern breach of the walls at Newmarket Street, Newgate Bastion (London Bulwark) is reached, followed by Ferryquay Gate and Ferry Bastion (Lord Deputy's Bulwark). Crossing New Gate, note stone watch tower on left and on right St. Columb's Cathedral (1728-33). Church Bastion (King James' Bulwark) follows, with another watch tower beyond, then, Bishop Gate and the Double Bastion (Prince Charles' Bulwark) at the west corner of the city. The last bastion received its name from a dividing wall built in 1689; here is now mounted Roaring Meg, an 18 pounder gun presented to the city by the Fishmongers' Company of London in 1642 and renowned during the Siege for the violence of its discharge. From the Water Bastion to the Double Bastion, the walls were formerly fronted by a wide ditch; hereafter, the natural slope allowed this feature to be discontinued.

Looking north, the position of the Royal Bastion (Lord Docwra's Bulwark) is marked by the tall monument erected 1826 to commemorate the Rev. George Walker, Governor of Londonderry during the Siege of 1689; note here three cannon presented to the city in 1642. There follows a platform, a shallow projection for mounting guns, then Butcher Gate, with just beyond the site of the destroyed Gunner's Bastion (Mayor of Londonderry's Bulwark). The next feature, after crossing Castle Gate, is another platform, the

\* The names given are those in use at the time of the siege of 1689; earlier names are shown in brackets.