




# AMS CHRONICLE

## IPMS DENVER ROB WOLF CHAPTER APRIL 2019

	2019 OFFICERS	2019 OFFICERS EMAILS														
	<p><b><u>NEXT MEETING:</u></b></p> <p>01 MAY 2019 1900</p> <p><b>AT COLPAR EAST</b></p>	<table> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Bob Pridemore</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice President</td> <td>John Taylor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Matt Oursler</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chapter Contact</td> <td>Cliff Davis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Bob Nixon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contest Chairman</td> <td>Eric Cain</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter Editor</td> <td>Wayne Cassell</td> </tr> </table> <p>Club contest: Special Theme: NAFTA</p> <p>Special Category: Grab Bag</p>	President	Bob Pridemore	Vice President	John Taylor	Secretary	Matt Oursler	Chapter Contact	Cliff Davis	Treasurer	Bob Nixon	Contest Chairman	Eric Cain	Newsletter Editor	Wayne Cassell
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### **EDITOR RAMBLINGS FROM THE BUNKER**

CommieFest was fun. I do not have a final count but John Everett did well and I believe won BEST OF SHOW. I took a FIRST in commercial with my civilian Holt Tractor and also took BEST OF AUTOMOTIVE plus a few other awards. I have a few more commercialized military vehicles in the queue thanks to BlackDog.

Class has been time consuming. The Russian Civil War is complicated and confusing. Most of my students understand this and are appreciative. Plus I know I cannot please everyone as I AM NOT PIZZA. I think my next class may be an easier subject like Quantum Physics.

Nikto ne Zabyt  
Nichto ne Zabyto

### **A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

If Bob sent something I missed it . My apologies.  
Bob Pridemore

## **MONTHLY MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY**

- No contest and no presentation this meeting
- Annual kit auction was held
- Officers reports:
  - Treasurer – Bob Nixon
    - funds in the bank and cash on hand total about \$8500.00
  - President – Bob Pridemore
    - Response from Rocky Mountain Train show organizers suggest we hold a clinic at the next show (March 2020). Clinics are held in area that gets more traffic. Suggests and ideas for subjects will be discussed at our September meeting
    - Located a company which will print a customized 3ft by 5ft banner for about \$35.00
    - Club contest will be held next month at Colpar at starting at 7:00 pm
      - Volunteers needed to set up, please arrive around 5:30 pm to help
      - Members of IPMS USA and local clubs can enter models
  - Other business
    - Mike McTeague has more models for sale, mostly armor, look for his e-mail which will list the items available

## ...2019 MONTHLY CONTEST THEMES

Month	Theme	Description
January	Uncharted Waters	Subjects representing the first use of a design concept or technology
February	<u>At Least a Dozen</u>	<u>Any subject with engine(s) of 12 or more cylinders. 2 engines with 6 cylinders does not count.</u>
March	Twins	Any subject with 2 major design elements. Examples: F-82 Twin Mustang, ZU-23 twin gun anti-aircraft.
April	Club Kit Auction	Get rid of your trash and buy my treasure!
May	<p><b>Club contest:</b> <b>Special Theme: NAFTA</b></p> <p><b>Special Category: Grab Bag</b></p>	<p><b>Theme: Any Canadian or Mexican subject. May be manufactured in either country or in national markings.</b></p> <p><b>Category: Entries from the December Grab Bag Exchange</b></p>
June	Recon	Any subject specifically designed or used for reconnaissance
July	The Eagle Has Landed	In honor of the 50 year anniversary of the moon landings, any real space subject
August	In Memoriam	Remembering the departed through kits or subjects from departed members / friends / family
September	Worst Kit Ever!	The worst kit you have tried to build, finished or not. <b>Must be at least 50% built</b> + must explain reason why it's the worst kit
October	Tank Killers	Any subject with the primary role of destroying tanks, <b>but not a tank itself</b> . A/C designed with a primary anti-tank mission.
November	Monochrome	Any subject where the majority of the color scheme is black and/or white.
December	Cut Throat Gift Exchange	It's better to give than receive, but even better to steal what someone was given!

**NO CONTEST CLUB AUCTION**

**FASCINATING IMAGES OF SS NORMANDIE, THE WORLD'S  
LARGEST AND FASTEST CRUISE LINER**

- **From 'floating palace' to the scrapyard: Fascinating images of SS Normandie, the world's largest and fastest cruise line until a clumsy welder destroyed it in a blaze**
- **The colossal 1,000ft 'floating palace' was the height of luxury and the fastest across the Atlantic in the world**
- **The SS Normandie made her maiden voyage from Le Havre in France to New York in just over four days**
- **The majority of her passengers travelled in First Class and enjoyed the luxuries of the grandest hotels**
- **She had a swimming pool, dance floors, numerous bar and a dining room which had doors rising 20ft high**

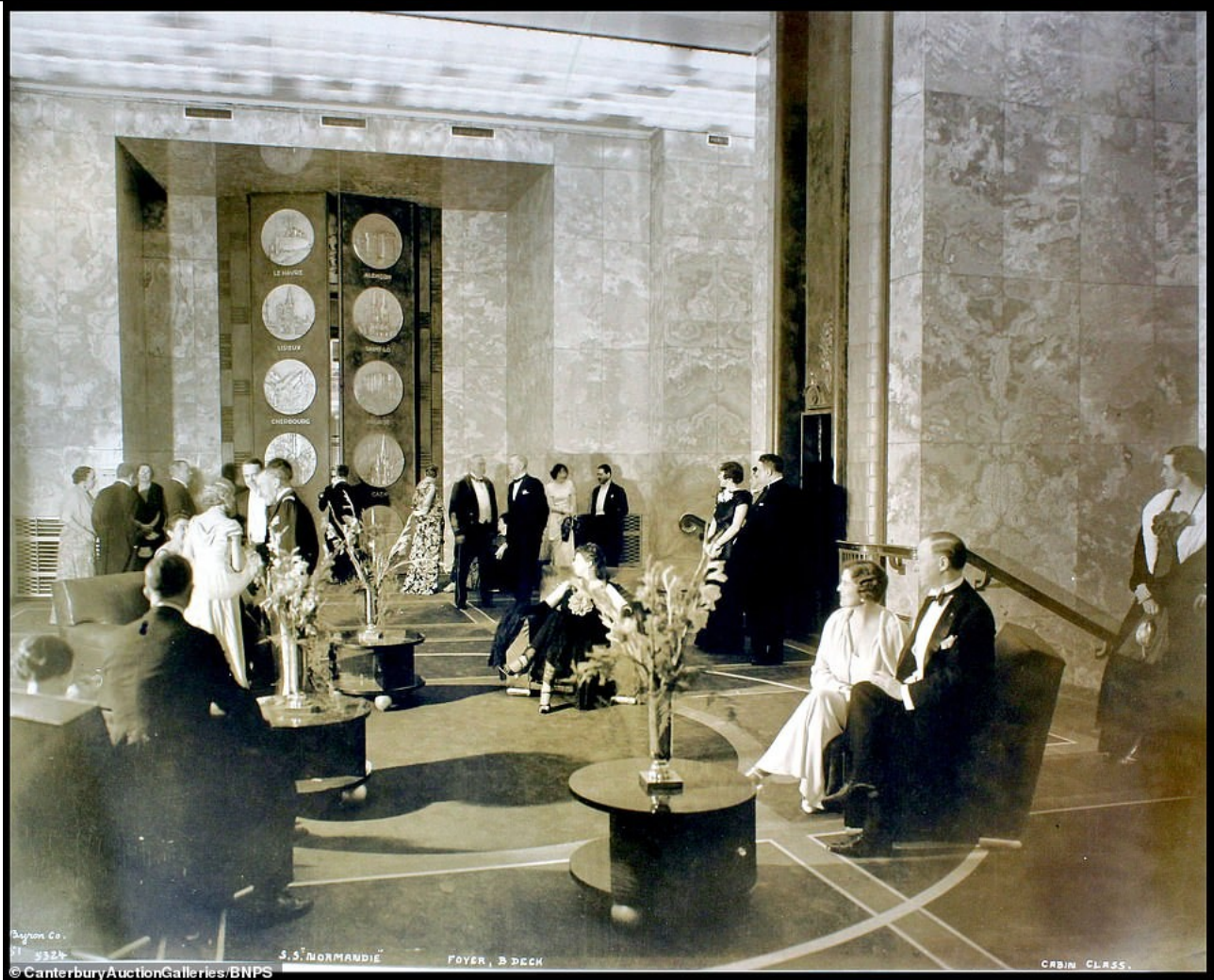
Remarkable photos of the record-breaking cruise liner SS Normandie at the height of her glamour show the 'floating palace' before she was destroyed by a hapless American welder.

The 1,000ft French passenger ship was the largest and fastest liner in the world when she made her maiden voyage from Le Havre to New York in 1935.

The SS Normandie made 139 crossings before she was confiscated by the Americans at the advent of World War Two.

After Pearl Harbour was attacked by the Japanese, she was renamed USS Lafayette and was to be converted into a troop ship.

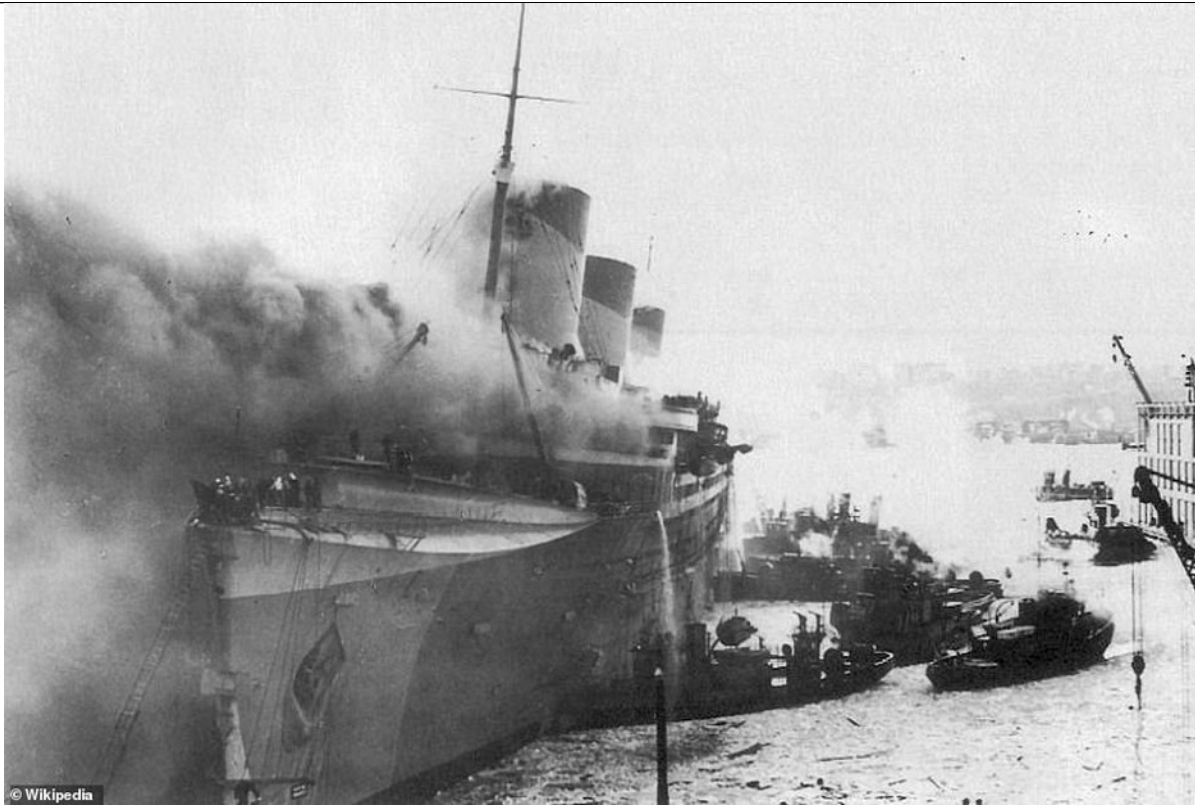
However, with work almost completed, a spark from a welder's torch ignited a bale of lifejackets and the liner was destroyed in the blaze.



Guests of the SS Normandie chat before dinner in the foyer of deck B dressed to the nines, the men wearing dinner jackets, while the women wear the flapper dresses of the era. As they prepare to enter, a waiter can be seen cracking open the colossal 20ft doors to the dining area to check on dinner preparations



The SS Normandie is anchored and visited by a U.S. mail ship as she waits to enter New York harbour, with the iconic skyline of Manhattan just visible through the fog of the sea. Some 100,000 people are thought to have lined New York harbour to witness the rapid ship coming into dock



The SS Normandie burning in New York Harbour in February 1942.

Sparks from a welding torch are said to have ignited life vests which were highly flammable causing the fire to spread rapidly. The SS Normandie was commandeered by the US Navy when World War Two began and work was planned to convert it into a troop ship called the USS Lafayette, but those plans were scuppered early into the work when the fire began

MANY MORE PICTURES

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6876263/From-floating-palace-scrapyard-Fascinating-images-SS-Normandie.html>

## RUSSIA LAUNCHES BELGOROD THE WORLD'S LONGEST SUBMARINE

The Belgorod will carry out underwater spy missions and launch Poseidon nuclear torpedoes.

By [Kyle Mizokami](#)

Apr 24, 2019



OLEG KULESHOVGETTY IMAGES

Russia launched the world's longest submarine today, the special mission submarine *Belgorod*. Designed to support a variety of military missions, including the Poseidon long-range strategic nuclear torpedo, the sub is far larger than anything operated by any other naval force, including the U.S. Navy. The six hundred foot long submarine displaces more water than a World War I battleship and can dive to a depth of 1,700 feet.

The submarine was launched today, April 23rd, at the Sevmash shipyards in Russia, with Russian President Vladimir Putin [reportedly](#) watching via satellite.

Officially known as Project-09852, the submarine was originally an Oscar II-class cruise missile submarine that the Russian government ran out of funds to complete. The submarine hull sat unfinished until Moscow decided to complete it as a special mission submarine.

The hull was lengthened to approximately 184 meters (604 feet) and the ship's displacement ballooned to 30,000 tons submerged--more than fifty percent greater than the U.S. Navy's



*Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarines. The result of an unfinished hull the *Belgorod* is a one-off, and there will not be another one like it.

**BELGOROD** Project 09852 Special Mission Submarine

KC-139 *Belgorod* (КС-139 "Бенгород") is an OSCAR-II cruise missile submarine which is being modified to serve as a Special Missions host submarine. It will be crewed by the Russian Navy but operated under GUGI, the secretive Main Directorate Deep Sea Research organization. In order to conduct covert special missions, it will carry a deep diving midget submarine, large payloads and the new Poseidon (KANYON) strategic nuclear torpedo.

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**SHELFS (ШЕЛЬФ) ATGU**  
The ATGU (Automated installation of the nuclear turbine generator) will be used to power underwater sensor network known as HARMONY

The ATGU has an integral Pressurized Water Reactor, a small-sized turbine generator installation, a simple thermal-hydraulic circuit and the minimum of ancillary equipment. It is enclosed in a cylindrical "Energo kapsule" which is 14m (45ft) long and 8m (26ft) in diameter.

**Harpsichord-2P-PM (Клавесин-2P-PM)**  
Belgorod can carry the Harpsichord family of Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV). These probably have side-scan sonar and other sensors and can operate down to about 2,000m (6,000ft)

The Project 09852 *Belgorod* submarine project was featured in the "Status-6" strategic weapon "leak" of November 2015.

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Labels on the cutaway diagram: Towed sonar array tube, Twin screws, Double-hull construction, Scoop inlets for nuclear reactor cooling, Hull insert, Escape capsule, Remodeled sail, Belgorod will have 6 x heavyweight torpedo tubes, SHARK GILL sonar.

**Losharik (пр. 10831)**  
Belgorod can carry nuclear-powered Deep Submergence midget submarines, termed a deep nuclear station (AGS in Russian). These submarines dock with the underside of *Belgorod* and are used to place the ATGU and other payloads on to the sea floor down to about 1,000m (3,000ft). Losharik is constructed from 7 spherical titanium hull sections.

**Poseidon (Посейдон) / Status-6 / KANYON**  
Belgorod will carry up to six Intercontinental Nuclear-Powered Nuclear-Armed Autonomous Torpedoes. The weapon is twice the size of a SLBM and about 30 times the size of a regular heavyweight torpedo.

### Belgorod, AKA Project 09852.

The nuclear-powered *Belgorod* is neither an attack submarine nor a ballistic missile sub. A special mission submarine, *Belgorod* will be a mothership to other undersea vessels. The sub can carry a payload on its back, behind the sail, or a *Losharik* class mini-submarine that attaches and detaches to the bottom of the hull.

According to [Hi Sutton](#), noted authority on undersea warfare, *Belgorod* will be crewed by the Russian Navy but operated by GUGI, the secretive Main Directorate Deep Sea Research organization. Sutton, who has been watching *Belgorod's* development from afar, tells *Popular Mechanics*, "Belgorod was originally laid down as an Oscar-II class cruise missile submarine, but work stopped when the Russian economy caught up with the submarine building program. Work restarted years later in her modified form. So she is already older than many of her crew."



**Poseidon** intercontinental nuclear-powered nuclear-armed autonomous torpedo  
Status-6 / Skif . NATO: KANYON  
Посейдон / Статус-6 / Скиф

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### Poseidon long range nuclear torpedo.

“The modifications are likely to be extensive, and may include some latest technology, but underneath she is still an earlier generation of submarine, and likely to be less stealthy than the latest generation.”

Sutton’s observations from afar have largely been correct but he also warns some details will be wrong. “Russia has generally been more successful than the US at protecting her latest submarines from unwanted cameras,” Sutton explained. “Just this week documents allegedly leaked of a nuclear triad briefing for President Trump included a cutaway of the as-yet unbuilt *Colombia* class ballistic missile submarine. For Russia's latest boats we are still guessing many details.

“Defense observers can piece together a few sources and rumors with traditional analytical techniques to second guess what *Belgorod* is like. The cutaway (above) represents a best guess before any photos of *Belgorod* post-modifications emerged.”

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/navy-ships/a27243915/russia-launches-belgorod-the-worlds-longest-submarine/>

## 26000 POSSIBLE NEW MODEL KITS OFFERINGS ON DISPLAY AT 2018 RUSIAN ARMAMENTS EXPO

[26000 different weapons on-display at army 2018 russian-armaments expo](#)  
[EnglishRussia.com](#) ^ | 25aug18 | tim

Lots of pictures at link.





## HOW TO STORM A CASTLE

There's perhaps no military action older than castle storming. Whether you're talking about paleolithic Scotland, medieval France, or the fictional kingdoms of Westeros, the pattern appears to be the same: As soon as people had any possessions at all, other people have coveted the lands and possessions of their neighbors.

And so, the people with lands and possessions built castles for protection. Siege warfare against those castles is brutal and blunt. It's a style of fighting characterized by a combination of ungodly long, boring waits punctuated by short spurts of terrifying action.

There is a lot more to besieging a walled fortress than simply running around with ladders. A lot more.

### Castle Basics

It takes more than a forbidding appearance for a castle to keep attackers at bay. The first castles were merely earthen heaps surrounded by a wooden palisade wall. But they quickly got much better. Over time, a body of castle-building knowledge arose and all good castles more or less followed the same rules.

For example, a well-designed castle is never square. The corners on a square castle are vulnerable to attack because the ninety degree angle makes it difficult to mass defenders at those points, so any good field general would concentrate his attacking forces there. To counter this, castle designers erected protruding towers at intervals, giving defenders a redoubt where they could shoot downward with a wide field of view.

In addition, those towers were built as tall as possible. When hurling machines like catapults and trebuchets are forced to shoot in high arcing trajectories, they lose much of their effectiveness. Plus, when defenders drop rocks from high elevations, they have a lot more smashing power.

Typically there was an elevated walkway just behind the top of the castle walls called a rampart. There were openings in the upper walls, accessible to the men on the ramparts, called embrasures, through which archers could shoot.

The main way into a castle, of course, was through the gate. Gates were always exceedingly well protected. Typically, large strong towers flanked both sides of the gates, and the towers were always manned with defenders. The entrance to a castle was often a steel grate called a portcullis, a walkway, and then another portcullis. Above the walkway were the "murder holes," openings through which rocks and spears could be thrust down on attackers trapped between the portcullis grates.



Casterly Rock

Casterly Rock, with its multiple towers and textbook perfect lines-of-fire, appears to be a good example how to design a castle. Dragonstone, on the other hand, is something of an architectural nightmare. Its multitude of thin projecting walls provide unintended cover for attackers below, and its utter lack of towers and bastions are inexcusable.

#### Pitched Battles vs. Sieges

Prior to the age of modern, mechanized warfare, there were but two major kinds of military action: the pitched battle and the siege. A pitched battle was just what it sounds like, with soldiers, mostly on foot, advancing on the enemy as quickly as possible. Frontal assaults, flanking maneuvers, and ambushes—these were the simple tactics employed in pitched battles from the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC continuing through the time of the Roman Empire, into the Middle Ages, and beyond.

We've seen this kind of thing in the show numerous times already. Daenerys' horde of Dothraki ambushed the Lannister loot train and routed them in the previous episode. In season 6's "Battle of the Bastards," Ramsay Bolton's army manages to flank and then encircle Jon Snow, at least until reinforcements come.

The other type of military action is a siege, and ever since season 1, *Game of Thrones* characters have been worried about them (King Robert Baratheon wisely explains the foolishness of meeting the Dothraki in a pitched battle as opposed to hiding behind the castle walls.) When one side had a big advantage over the other side in terms of manpower or equipment, the other side could choose not to meet the enemy on the field of battle, but instead retreat to a walled city or fortress. Here, within thick protective fortress walls made of limestone or sandstone or flint, the defenders could hole up for months. Depending on the supply of food and water within, those inside could often outlast the enemy encamped beyond the walls.

It was incredibly hard to capture a castle, but plenty have tried both in fiction and in real history. The attackers could try to outwait the defenders and force them to surrender by starving them out. They could use some kind of subterfuge against the enemy. Or they could lay siege.



Modern-day Stirling Castle  
Getty Images

### Early Tactics

So, what were the tools and tactics that commanders could use to lay siege and conquer a castle? There were several well-known techniques, but none of which were guaranteed to be successful or easy to use. One method was the blockade, which involved simply surrounding the castle with troops and ships to prevent any food or supplies from getting in. A blockade sometimes worked, but often the garrison (the group of soldiers within a fortress or castle) was usually better supplied than the attacking army and could outlast the besiegers, at least until a relieving army could fight its way in.

Another technique was to talk their way through the castle walls. Messengers would try negotiation and compromise, but threats, coercion, and bribery often worked better. The concepts of loyalty and national identity were somewhat more fluid in ancient and medieval times than they are now. A commander sometimes could be persuaded to change sides—or maybe to at least sit this one out if the attackers made their threats fearful enough or bribes big enough.

For example, during a 12th century siege of a castle in Crema, Italy, the attacking army took captured soldiers, cut off their heads and then tossed their heads like footballs in full view of the besieged castle. It didn't work this time. The defenders within the castle went mad with rage and took their prisoners and ripped them limb from limb on the castle ramparts.

Conversely, the castellan (the commander of the castle and the king's loyal man) might capitulate if certain promises of safety, payment, and bounty were provided. It was the rare castellan who was truly loyal and couldn't be bribed, but in those cases, an attacker's fallback strategies might include using spies or inciting a mutiny among the rest of the defenders.

### Storming Your Castle

If starvation, negotiation, and threats were unsuccessful, then the only remaining option was to

attack the castle. Enter the siege weapons. In time, catapult bombardment could reduce even a thick wall to rubble. Day after day, night after night, the great swinging arms of the siege machinery outside the walls would pound the stone walls of the castle. And often, from inside the walls, great stone balls would answer back from the defender's own catapults, aimed directly at the attacker's stone throwers.

Eventually, the walls would start to break apart under the onslaught of rock missiles. First a crack, then fracture, then a hole. Once openings appeared that were large enough to move a soldier through, the main frontal assault could begin. On the commander's order, the troops would rush towards the castle, shouting a war cry. An attack on a castle or fortress involved a short, but furious battle, with soldiers attacking holes in the walls with picks and hammers and rushing through as soon as the openings were large enough to squeeze through.

Sometimes, instead of catapults or trebuchets, the attacking army would use miners. These were men who worked underground, spending weeks or months digging tunnels with shovels underneath the walls of the castle. As they dug, they would prop up the walls of the tunnels with timbers to prevent the walls from collapsing. When it was time to attack, soldiers could then go underneath the walls and surprise the besieged by popping up in the middle of the castle grounds.

Another tactical ploy was for the miners to dig away the earth directly under the heavy castle wall. When enough dirt was removed, the weight of the rock walls would collapse it into the hole, allowing the besiegers to rush into the breach.

If the walls held up to bombardment and mining, then the only option was escalade—climbing the walls. For foot soldiers, escalade just plain sucked. This was perhaps the deadliest, most intense form of ancient warfare. With their shields held overhead, soldiers would climb ladders held against the walls or rush through breaches, their arms furiously swinging two-handed broadswords and battle-axes or charging forward with long sharp pikes in front of them. Hot sand, boiling water, and rocks rained down upon the attackers, adding to the chaos and confusion. On the ramparts, defending archers would cut loose a cloud of iron-tipped arrows, raining them down upon the broken heads and bodies of the luckless attackers below them.

Now, if the attackers had enough time and money, they could build large moveable stairways called siege towers. For the infantry, these were a big improvement from the suicidal scaling ladders. The idea was that the wheeled towers could be moved up against a castle wall and then soldiers could stay protected by the tower walls until it made contact with the ramparts, at which point soldiers could simply run out onto the parapets.

Siege towers were quite popular during the time of the Crusades. Consider for example the [Siege of Acre](#) during the Third Crusade. Despite the harassment from Saladin's troops, the Christian Franks continued the siege in earnest. English King Richard the Lionhearted and his French counterpart set their soldiers to work building three huge, movable siege towers with which to attack Acre's walls. These towers were said to be 60 cubits (90 feet) tall and covered with skins which were treated in vinegar, mud, and fire-resistant substances. (It didn't help, they burned down anyway.)

The golden era of siege warfare was over by about the year 1500 AD, but elements of it lasted much longer. With the rise of gunpowder weapons and military aircraft, the defensive advantages provided by the thick walls of a castle waned, and with them so did the popularity siege warfare.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/military/weapons/a27701/game-of-thrones-season-7-episode-3-how-to-storm-a-castle/>



