Tangier and Gibraltar.

BY J. HOUGHTON SPENCER.

ALTHOUGH both these names are connected with the suburbs of Taunton, the former is much more familiar to its inhabitants, as the site of the Gas Works, than the latter, which is now but the name of a portion of a field belonging to Long Run Farm. Both are in the parish of Bishop's Hull. The district known as "Tangier" is near, and to the west of, Taunton Castle, and only separated from it by the mill-stream; while the field bearing the name "Gibraltar" is on the right bank of the River Tone, rather less than a mile to the north-west of the Market House.

It is known how "Tangier" obtained its name, and that, and other circumstances, may afford a clue, as suggested by Major R. Stuart Clarke, to the origin of the local "Gibraltar."

"The second regiment of foot, of which the notorious Kirke was colonel, and which was in the battle of Sedgmoor, and marched with him to Taunton, was formed from four regiments disbanded at Tangier, where they had been in garrison, and was called 'The Tangier Regiment'" (Savage's *History of Taunton*, p. 541). . . . . "When Jeffreys opened his bloody commission at Taunton, this regiment composed his guards, and was cantoned on the piece of ground west of the Castle, which has, ever since, been called *Tangier*, from the name of this regiment" (*ibid*, p. 542).

These particulars given by Savage are not quite accurate, for there were two Tangier regiments, both of which were

stationed at Taunton, but not at the same time; that commanded by Kirke was ordered away before the judge and his fellows arrived, although it is possible an escort might have been left behind, as explained by Colonel John Davis, F.S.A., in his *History of the Second Queen's Royal Regiment, now the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment*, 1895, from Vol. II of which the following extracts are taken:—

"As a matter of history, it was the Queen Consort's Regiment, now the 4th King's Own, that was ordered to escort Jeffreys on his circuit. This regiment was called the 2nd Tangiers Regiment, and this, therefore, explains the common error of confounding it with Kirke's Regiment—one was 'Queen Dowager's Regiment,' the other the 'Queen Consort's Regiment,' and both were Tangiers Regiments." . . . . .

"The Queen Consort's Regiment was, on the 29th August, ordered to march from Portsmouth to Taunton. The order, sent to Colonel Charles Trelawney, directed him to start on Tuesday, 1st September (O.S.), for Southampton, fifteen miles; 2nd, Dunckton, thirteen miles; 3rd, Salisbury, eight miles; 4th, to rest; 5th, Shaftesbury, eighteen miles; 6th rest; 7th, Wincanton, ten miles; 8th, Ilchester, eleven miles; 9th, Langport, nine miles; 10th, Taunton, ten miles" (p. 44).[1]

From these extracts it will be seen that Kirke's regiment was the "Queen Dowager's Regiment," the second, Queen's Royal Regiment, now the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. Trelawney's was the "Queen Consort's Regiment," now the 4th King's Own. Both regiments were at Sedgmoor, and the former remained at Taunton until the end of August, but left before Jeffreys arrived; and was succeeded by Trelawney's regiment, which was ordered, on 29th August, 1685, to march from Portsmouth to Taunton, to form Jeffreys' escort.

Tangier, it will be remembered, is a seaport of Morocco, on a small bay or inlet of the Straits of Gibraltar; it was

1. Marching Orders, Vol. II, pp. 26-27.

part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza, infanta of Portugal, whom Charles II married in 1662, and was held by England until 1683.

If we now turn our attention to "Gibraltar," it will be found that in the map attached to Toulmin's "History of Taunton," dated 1791, the name appears near the River Tone, in the position before indicated, in connection with a building. In the ordnance map dated 1809, the name appears as *Gibralter*, and a building with small enclosure is shown on the river bank, with a branch road leading to it from the main road from Taunton to Wellington.

In a tracing from a map dated 1835, in the possession of Mr. H. R. Goddard, a field adjoining the river, with an adjacent pond (see Fig. 1), is numbered 386, which is the number in the tithe apportionment of the parish of Bishop's Hull, 1842, of a meadow named "Gibraltar," which is described as follows :—

			A.	R.	P.
386	Gibraltar ...	meadow ...	1	1	20
	Pit	waste ...		1	18
			1	2	38

and in the deed of conveyance of Long Run Farm to Mr. Gillham, dated 29th December, 1900, the following is the description of the two parts :—

		A.	R.	P.
386	Gibraltar and the Pit ...	1	2	38

The name "Gibraltar" is still retained on the farm, but the original S.W. fence of the meadow has been removed and an iron fence erected, on a different line, so as to include a part of the meadow 385 with 386. The name, therefore, can be traced from at least 1791 to 1911—a period of 120 years.

A workman in Mr Gillham's employ states that his father told him that he remembered a mill in this locality, which had since been pulled down ; and Samuel Thomas told Major

Clarke that he understood the mill was a flax mill ; and close by is a ford where he himself had crossed the river with horse and waggon. The small island, shown in Fig. 1, does not now exist as an island, but its position can be identified, and the river is now fordable between it and "Gibraltar" at more points than one.

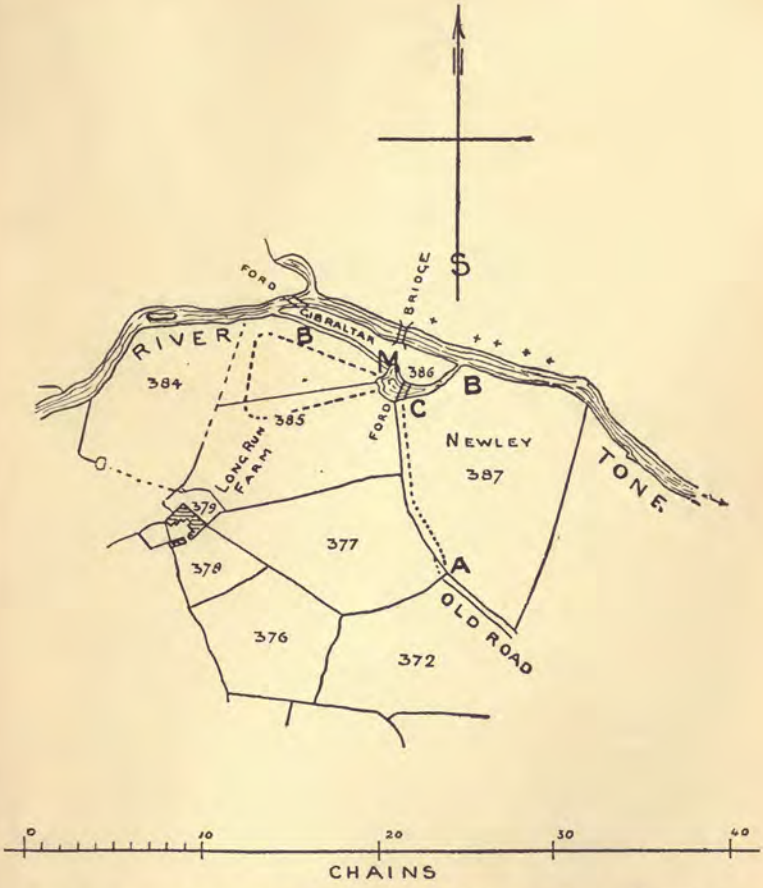


Fig. 1. Sketch from the map of 1835, to which have been added the continuation of the old road from A to C, the Fords, the Mill-stream forming one boundary of "Gibraltar," and the approximate line of the fosse ; also, tentatively, the position of the Bridge, Mill (M), and other buildings (B. B).

Miss Jacobs, of Bishop's Hull, whose parents occupied Roughmoor Mill, situated on the Norton brook, but now disused, remembers her mother, who died at an advanced age about eleven years since, telling them as children about a little old mill which stood on Long Run Farm, and they used to cross over to it on a plank from their side of the river, *i.e.*, its left bank.

Mr. Jacobs, of Angersleigh, brother of Miss Jacobs, also told Major Clarke that he remembers the road or ford across the river at "Gibraltar," where his parents told him a mill once stood and a bridge crossed the Tone there,—probably a foot-bridge. They told him that it was carried away in a flood and replaced by a plank, which he himself remembers; he points out the exact spot on the Roughmoor side, where a slight hollow now marks where he considers the bridge crossed the river and remembers the posts which indicated the position of the bridge. It was customary well within his time for waggons and horses to cross by the ford.

These statements are supported by the fact that a building is shown upon the two older maps before referred to; and in the case of the map of 1809 a road is shown running to the river, from the direction of the main road, adjoining the enclosure in which the building is situated. This road, which may have been used in connection with the ford before alluded to, does not now extend beyond the gate leading to Long Run Farm-house; the portion from A to C, Fig. 1, which is suggested was the original line, does not now exist as a road.

The map of 1809 also shows a road running from Roughmoor Farm-house to a point near Frieze Hill by Weir Lodge, which is an old farm-house altered and improved by the late Mr. Thomas Taylor, who resided there. It seems highly probable that the road passed between Weir Lodge and Frieze Hill Cottage, where a cartway still exists leading from the main road to the fields.

Weirfield House, which has been built within the last fifty

years, probably occupies a portion of the site of the old road leading to Roughmoor. This road, which cannot now be traced distinctly in the direction of the town beyond the field known as Great Roughmoor, at one time, when the bridge stood and the ford was frequently used, must have formed a shorter way, in conjunction with the "Gibraltar" lane, from the Bishop's Hull road to Staplegrove and Norton Fitzwarren on the one hand, and the northern part of Taunton on the other.

The eleven and a half acre field adjoining "Gibraltar," numbered 387 on the tithe map, is named "Newley," and in 1830 belonged to the Roughmoor estate. In the tithe commutation award, 1843, it is described as belonging to and occupied by William England. It must have been severed from the Roughmoor estate between these two dates, leaving "Gibraltar" as the only field belonging to that estate on the *right* bank of the river.

Eli Baker, who commenced working at "Gibraltar" fifty-four years ago, pointed out the line which he was told the old road leading from the main road from Taunton to Wellington took, from where it now ends at the gate leading to Long Run Farm, through "Newley," and by a ford across the tail of the mill-pond. He also pointed out the place where he was told the mill stood, and thinks it probable that the mill stream, following the existing depression on one side, with the river on the other, made "Gibraltar" an island. This is confirmed by an old map, undated, of "the Country seven miles round Taunton," upon which "Gibraltar" is shown as an island.

He also pointed out the place where the river was forded by the tenant of Roughmoor Farm, when "Gibraltar" belonged to that farm, and he carried the hay from it across the river.

With regard to the position of the bridge, he considers that it was nearer the site of the mill than where Mr. Jacobs placed it, and some masonry still existing close to the left

bank of the river and the foundations, apparently, of a pier in the stream, pointed out by the Rev. H. G. Rogers, the owner of Roughmoor Farm, would tend to confirm this.

The pier, the foundation of which was clearly visible when the water was low (17th October, 1911), was probably built as a central support to the bridge, but, owing to the action of the current on the left bank, the foundation is now nearer the right bank than the left; and by the same means a mass of masonry, which may have formed part of a retaining-wall in connection with the bridge, has been detached from the left bank and overturned.

Major Clarke has also ascertained from Mr. Gillham that there were remains of masonry on his side of the river, which he himself had had removed, so that on both banks and in the stream traces of building have been found.

It appears probable from the old maps and from the uneven state of the ground that there were other buildings besides the mill in this immediate neighbourhood. They are marked tentatively thus: M. for mill, and B.B. for the other buildings in Fig. 1.

In the Exchequer of Taunton Castle are preserved, amongst other records of the Manor of Taunton Deane, those of the tything of Hull, in which tything both "Tangier" and "Gibraltar" are situated.

In a "surrender" into the hands of the lord of the manor, dated 8th August, 1834, by the Rev. Loftus Anthony Cliffe, of Woodbine Cottage, within the parish of Bishop's Hull, certain land, apparently the site of Woodbine Cottage, is said to be bounded on the east by a "road or way leading from the turnpike road from Taunton to Wellington, to "Gibralter;" and in another "surrender," dated 7th June, 1833, by John Petten, of Rumwell, a similar description is given of this road, thus showing that at that time "Gibralter" was of more importance than the house, which was much smaller than the present one, upon Long Run Farm. "Gibralter" is also

mentioned in connection with this road in earlier documents, dated 1803 and 1805.

Woodbine Cottage is a house situated at the corner formed by the junction of the road leading to "Gibraltar" with the main road to Wellington, and now marked on the ordnance map as Woodbine Lodge.

"Gibraltar" was a part of the Roughmoor estate until about 1860, when it was sold, because it was the only part of that estate then remaining on the right bank of the river. In a valuation by Mr. John Easton, dated 5th November, 1830, it is referred to as "Gibraltar plot—meadow," and no reference is made to any building there, or in the adjoining field named "Newley," which was then in the hands of the same owner, so that the inference is that the mill or other building must have been pulled down between 1809—the date of the ordnance map which shows a building—and the valuation of 1830, which does not mention any building as standing upon "Gibraltar" or "Newley." At the present time there is a nearly triangular plateau adjoining "Gibraltar," the pit or pond forming its apex; and there are indications that it may have been entirely surrounded by a fosse, as sketched approximately in Fig. 1.

Between this fosse and the river there are signs of another fosse which was the mill stream, marking the south-west boundary of that portion of the field which still retains the name "Gibraltar."

It is unlikely that the name "Gibraltar" was originally restricted to the acre and three-quarters (nearly) to which it is now applied; but it is likely that it would include the plateau, which was adapted for defence and was entrenched, and probably occupied as a military work during the siege of Taunton; and, as there is a ford near, it might have been a post to guard the ford, as suggested by Major Clarke.

Mr. H. St. George Gray, having visited the spot, has given it as his opinion that there are traces of artificial work there,

and that the various irregularities in the surface are not natural, thus supporting the suggestion that it may have been a military post with fosse. There is a difference of about eight feet between the level of the plateau at its north-west corner and the present bottom of the fosse, which was, no doubt, deeper originally, and has become silted up.

In the adjoining field, No. 384, and on the opposite side of the river near the island, the surface of the ground is irregular. There are also some hollows in the ground on the other side of the river near its left bank, which were at one time much deeper, of which Mr. Jonathan Barrett, of Taunton, says that he was told by his father some sixty years ago that they were made at the time of the siege of Taunton, and that they extended formerly much further than they do now in the direction of Tangier. They are indicated thus, + +, in Fig. 1.

Could these have been shelter pits, a first line of defence from which musketeers might retire by the bridge to an entrenched position which even now exists at "Gibraltar," and probably then existed also at "Tangier?" It is suggested that the mill having been pulled down, the bridge swept away and the road, consequently, leading to them and the ford falling into disuse, this earthwork being then the most important feature, as the original Long Run Farmhouse was only a small building, gave its name, "Gibraltar," to the locality generally. The question will be asked why the earthwork should have been thus named.

Major Clarke, who first drew attention to the subject, suggests the following as an explanation:—The Tangier Regiment, or Regiments, fresh from Tangier, and from its proximity to Gibraltar, with a vivid recollection of "the Rock" in their minds, which, at that time, although not in British hands, was regarded throughout Europe as impregnable, occupied as we know, the ground ever since called from that circumstance "Tangier," which is almost surrounded by the River Tone and the stream leading to the Town Mills. They would, therefore,

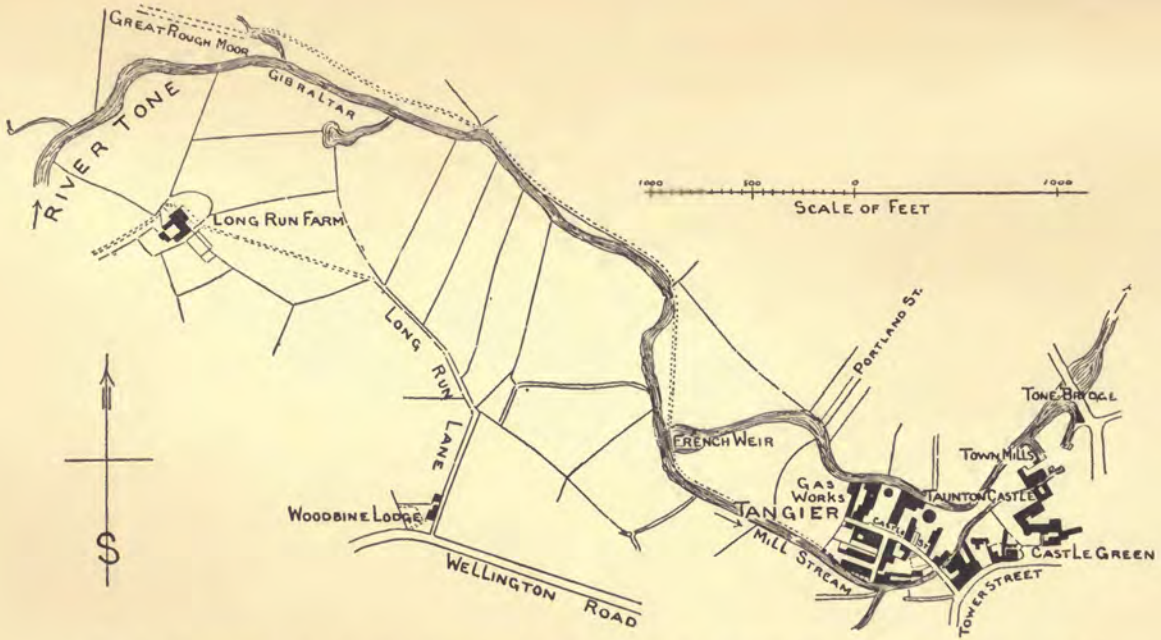


Fig. 2. Sketch Map showing the relative position of "Tangier" and "Gibraltar"; also the position of the Wellington Road with regard to the latter.

have looked across the waters of the Tone, which here bends considerably, to the next fortified point, which would remind them of Gibraltar.

A reference to Fig. 2 will show the relative positions of the two posts and the connection of "Gibraltar" with the Wellington Road.

When the camp was formed at "Tangier," steps would naturally be taken for its safety, and as there was a ford across the river a little distance up stream, it would be considered advisable, strategically, to place an outpost there, to guard against any surprise from that point, as a road from the main road on the south led to the ford; and as the position would be considered suitable, an earthwork, either constructed then, or an earlier one dating from the time of the Civil War, when the Castle was besieged, would be utilized for the purpose, and it is quite conceivable, under the circumstances before explained, that such a name as "Gibraltar" would suggest itself, as the position must have been one of some importance.

It is a matter of some surprise that a part of an old road leading from the main road from Taunton to Wellington, to a bridge and ford, thus giving convenient access to the northern portion of the town from the south, should have been obliterated, leaving only that part open which leads to Long Run Farmhouse. And this is the more remarkable as the want of a more direct line of communication from the Bishop's Hull road, to the northern portion of the town has been felt in subsequent years, and an endeavour made to supply that want by so laying out Portland Street on one side, and St. John's Road on the other side of the Tone, that they might eventually be joined by bridging both the river and the mill-stream.

The land lying between these two water-courses, to the west of the Gas Works, belonged to Messrs. J. and E. Hardwill, and upon their selling a portion of it to the Gas Company some years ago, it was arranged that the new boundary should

be in a segmental line so as to afford a convenient means of connecting Portland Street with a prolongation of St. John's Road. The ordnance map, scale six inches to one mile, clearly shows this intention.

The ford remains and considerable traces of an earthwork, but both mill and bridge have disappeared, and the road leading to them cannot now be traced beyond the entrance gate to Long Run Farm, so that, of this at one time not unimportant place, the name only is now retained in a portion of one field which is called "Gibraltar plot."

The following may be given as a possible reason for the closing of this road:—

When the branch of the Grand Western Canal was made, leading from the main canal to the river below French Weir, it must have cut in two the old road from Roughmoor to Frieze Hill; and the bridge at "Gibraltar" having been swept away, and the mill pulled down, there would not have been the same reason for replacing the bridge as there was before the canal was made, for, since then, direct access to Frieze Hill by this road was not possible.

This being the case the road adjoining *Newley* would no longer be required and, consequently, the land occupied by it would be thrown into that field when it was separated by sale from the Roughmoor estate.