

Keith McKay

The building of the war prison.

Tyrwhitt's connections with the Navy down in Plymouth led to opportunities, clearly, that he spotted, in that we were at war with France and many prisoners were being taken and he clearly thought that I can use this opportunity, where the hulks down in Plymouth were overflowing with prisoners, to create a prison of war prison, and he went into discussion, presumably with the Government and the Prince of Wales and leased the land and set about, through an architect called Alexander Daniel [Daniel Alexander] to plan Dartmoor war prison. It was a big undertaking and clearly an architect was involved, he settled on a circular enclosing stone wall within which were constructed blocks to house in the order of 1,500 men in each, and they were set out, these blocks, in a radial form such that the centre of the circle was the hub from which these spokes, these blocks radiated.