



The last patient leaves Dunraven Castle in 1945, where St John Ambulance members cared for 120 patients at a time during World War II.

Symphony

For one of the most memorable of all South Wales's castles the end was more brutally dramatic. And final. Dunraven Castle sat upon a cliff-top site among surroundings to make a poet pant. It made musical reality of that oft-uttered cliché, "a symphony in stone".

But in 1963 it went, its final year spent as a guest house.

The old owners wouldn't have liked that. Once it was the channel-viewing headquarters of the Irish earls of Dunraven but the site was occupied much earlier. Some people even claimed that the British chieftain Caractacus (Caradoc) lived in a fort there when the romans roamed. After its destruction by fire in 1059 it was hammered again 30 years later by Rhys ap Tewdwr.

Demolished

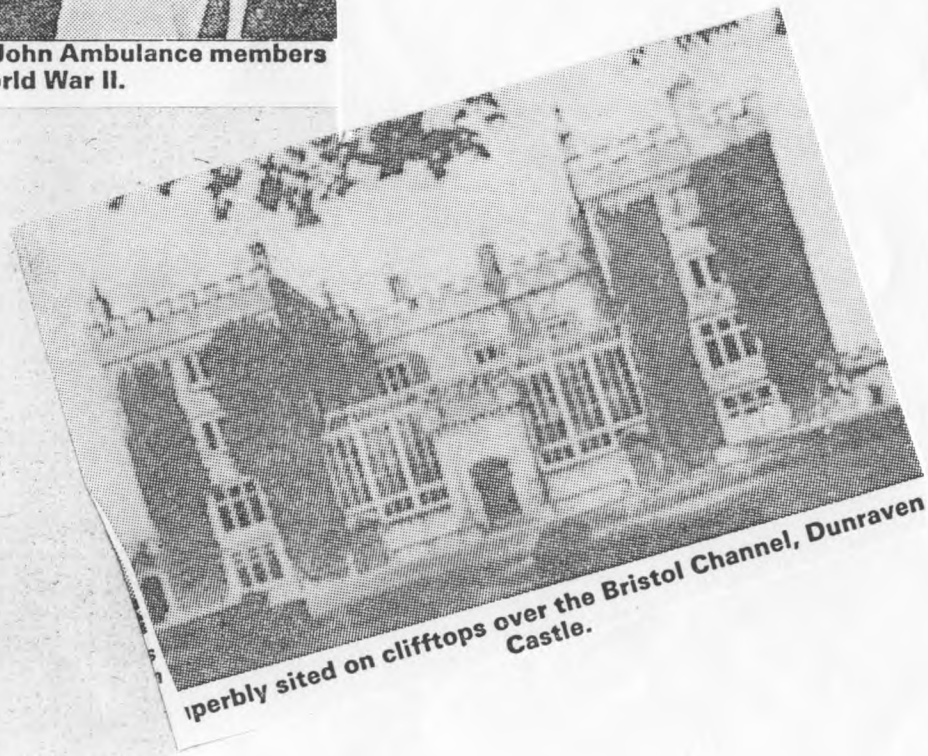
Never a man to let precedent stand in his way, Owain Glyndwr did a repeat job four centuries later.

Dunraven was, perhaps most famously, the home of the Vaughan family — when the wreckers were abroad. They tied lights to the heads of cattle grazing on the cliffs and raced down to plunder the ships following those lights to shore.

In 1824 the second Earl of Dunraven became the first to hold the title and the property and the Dunravens were there until 1939 when the castle became a military hospital. In the photograph you can see the last patient — unnamed —

leaving Dunraven and all those nurses in 1945.

Then there was Gattrell



Imperbly sited on clifftops over the Bristol Channel, Dunraven Castle.