



**HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
OF THE NORTHERNMOST OUTPOST
OF STEINAECKER'S HORSE
LETABA DISTRICT, KRUGER NATIONAL PARK**

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Date of Investigation: September 1997

Date of Report: February 1998

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

1.	BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT	1
2.	HYPOTHESIS	1
3.	PROBLEM FORMULATING	2
	3.1 Problem	2
	3.2 Aims	2
	3.3 Research strategy	2
4.	MOTIVATION	2
5.	LOCATION	4
6.	DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE	4
7.	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	6
	7.1 A short biography of Col. F.L. von Steinaecker	6
	7.2 Steinaecker's Horse's Unit	9
8.	THE EXCAVATIONS	12
	8.1 The central refuse midden	12
	8.1.1 Excavation 1	12
	8.1.2 Excavation 2	16
	8.2 Hut debris	18
	8.2.1 Excavation 3	18
	8.3 Southeastern refuse midden	21
	8.3.1 Excavation 4	21
	8.4 Southwestern refuse midden	23
	8.4.1 Excavation 5	23
9.	CULTURAL MATERIAL	26
	9.1 Ceramics	26
	9.1.1 Porcelain	26
	9.1.2 Stoneware	29
	9.1.3 Earthenware	29
	9.1.4 Potsherds	31
	9.2 Glass	31
	9.2.1 Liquor	32
	9.2.2 Non-alcoholic beverages	32
	9.2.3 Medicinal	34
	9.2.4 Household	34

	Page	
9.2.5	Table ware	34
9.2.6	Personal items	35
9.2.7	Architectural elements	35
9.3	Metal	35
9.3.1	Ligthing device	37
9.3.2	Personal items	37
9.3.3	Toilet articles	37
9.3.4	Fishing & Hunting	37
9.3.5	Food service	37
9.3.6	Household articles	41
9.3.7	Tools & Equipment	43
9.3.8	Ammunition	43
9.3.9	Transportation	48
9.3.10	Building component	48
9.3.11	Recreational	48
9.3.12	Miscelaneous	51
9.4	Organic material	51
9.4.1	Skeletal material	51
	9.4.1.1 Unidentifiable	52
	9.4.1.2 Identifiable	52
9.4.2	Shell	54
9.4.3	Worked bone	55
9.4.4	Miscelaneous	55
9.5	Anorganic material	55
9.5.1	Hut debris	55
9.5.2	Stone tools	55
9.5.3	Miscelaneous	58
10.	DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION	58
11.	RECOMMENDATIONS	62
12.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	64
13.	REFERENCES	65

1. **BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT**

The existence of a voluntary military unit called Steinaecker's Horse, which operated in the Lowveld during the Anglo-Boer War (1899 - 1902), is well known (see for instance Bornman 1994:29; Pienaar 1990:343; Paynter 1986:48-49). It is also known that this unit established a number of outposts, in what today is known as the Kruger National Park. The historical background to this unit will be discussed later on (see part 7).

However, in the decades following the Anglo-Boer War, the story of colonel Von Steinaecker, his unit and their activities became shrouded in the mists of time, especially to people living outside the Lowveld area. For a number of years the localities of the different outposts in the Kruger National Park were also unknown. In 1990 however, Pienaar (1990:349) published a photograph, taken on 17 July 1984, of artifacts found at a site known to be the location of Steinaecker's Horse northernmost outpost.

During 1995/6, two researchers of the National Cultural History Museum, did a survey on the remains of British blockhouses in the former Transvaal (see Van Vollenhoven and Van den Bos 1997). This included a survey of military-historical sites in the Kruger National Park. Only one person of the present staff in the park, chief ranger B. Bryden, had a vague idea of where the particular site was. With his help and that of district ranger J. Oelofsen, the site was located in February 1996 (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1996:2-5). The state of preservation at the site concerned the researchers. The refuse middens showed signs of being washed away by rain water and burrowing by small animals also damaged the deposits. This was one of the main reasons for initiating an archaeological investigation of the site. Permission was obtained from the National Cultural History Museum and the National Parks Board, and excavation of the site started in September 1997.

2. **HYPOTHESES**

The research was done to draw a relation between the historical information and the archaeological evidence regarding Steinaecker's Horse. A comparison between the material culture and remains of Steinaecker's Horse and that of conventional

British military units such as those at Pienaarspoort and perhaps a British site near the Kruger National Park could also be drawn.

3. **PROBLEM FORMULATING**

3.1 **Problem**

Colonel Ludwig von Steinaecker was an important historical figure in the Lowveld, who left a clear impression on the area and its people. The history of his unit, Steinaecker's Horse, is filled with legend and controversy. However, little is known about the everyday life and circumstances of the unit. The historical and archaeological investigation of the northernmost outpost, the only outpost associated with Steinaecker's Horse where refuse middens were identified, could shed light on this. Artifacts found here can also serve as comparative material with conventional British military units at similar outposts.

3.2 **Aims**

The aim of the study was

- 3.2.1 Collection of historical information relating to the presence and activities of Col Ludwig von Steinaecker and his military unit.
- 3.2.2 Collection of archaeological data from the northernmost outpost occupied by Steinaecker's Horse in the northern part of the Kruger National Park.
- 3.2.3 Comparison of material recovered from the excavations at the site with other archaeological material from sites outside the Kruger National Park occupied by conventional British military units.

3.3 **Research strategy**

With the centenary celebrations of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) in mind, the research was to be of mainly universal interest.

4. **MOTIVATION**

- 4.1 During investigation of the site in February 1996 it was noticed that the four refuse middens was being washed away. The burrowing of small animals, such as porcupines, at the site was also disturbing the deposits. Information, preserved by the refuse middens, was therefore in danger of being destroyed.

- 4.2 Col Ludwig von Steinaecker was an important historical figure. His famous military strategy and unit forms an important part of the history of the Lowveld and specifically of the Kruger National Park. For instance, the famous game ranger Harry Wolhuter was a member of Steinaecker's Horse. Therefore, by excavating at the site, additional information regarding the unit's activities in the Kruger National Park could be obtained.
- 4.3 The northernmost outpost of Steinaecker's Horse is the only site, occupied by the unit, where refuse middens were identified. The other sites in the Kruger National Park has already been disturbed by development. Although this site is not in danger of being destroyed by development, it is extremely important to research such a unique site.
- 4.4 Steinaecker's Horse was not a conventional British military unit, but a voluntary unit. A comparison of excavated material from its northernmost outpost with material from sites where conventional units were stationed (for example Pienaarspoort) might point out social differences between the two types of unit. These differences, already shown by the historical research, could be verified by the archaeological record. The research could possibly also lead to the reconstruction of the social circumstances of a military unit in an isolated area during the war.
- 4.5 With the centenary celebrations of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) around the corner it is a very relevant research subject, through which not only the Kruger National Park, but also the National Cultural History Museum will be actively involved. An exhibition of excavated material in the Letaba rest camp, where the Museum's name will be mentioned, will also be a good marketer for the National Cultural History Museum. It will introduce the Museum to other provinces as a service rendering organisation and with it contribute to countrywide participation in the commemoration of the Anglo-Boer War and possibly future museum related projects.

5. **LOCATION**

The northernmost outpost of Steinaecker's Horse is situated approximately 15 kilometres north-east of the Letaba rest camp in the Kruger National Park. It falls in the Mopani game ranger's district, which forms part of the Letaba district (figure 1). The GPS (Global Positioning System) coordinates of the site is 23°43'08" S and 31°36'59"E. It is found on map 2331 DA, Shilowa of the South African 1:50 000 topographic series. The site is located about 1 kilometre north of the Zombe water hole and a few hundred meters from the northbank of the Makhadzi spruit. Although it is accessible by road it is not on the tourist route and can only be reached by certain types of vehicle.

6. **DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

It is clear from the vegetation that the site was disturbed. Large open patches of ground are found between the grass throughout the area. At most of these patches cultural material were found. Small trees, especially sickle bush and mopani, are found which is an indication that the site was disturbed (personal comment: A.Morton). Large trees are only found alongside the Makhadzi spruit, which runs more than 300 metres to the north and east of the site. The open patches seem to end in a radius of 50-80 metres from the central refuse midden, which could be an indication of the extent of the site. Here the grass stands about 1 metre high. It will only be possible to determine the exact perimeters of the site when the grass is considerably shorter.

On the northeastern side of the site a rocky outcrop is found. This is the highest point in the vicinity of the site and a few fragments of glass were found here. The site is basically flat, but gently slopes down towards the south-east, where the Makhadzi spruit is situated. As the area is quite open, there is a clear view over the whole surrounding area. The Lebombo mountain range, approximately 8 kilometres to the east, is clearly visible from the site.

The nearest water source is of course the Makhadzi spruit, which is a non-perennial river. During the research period the river bed was dry. The river runs in a semi-

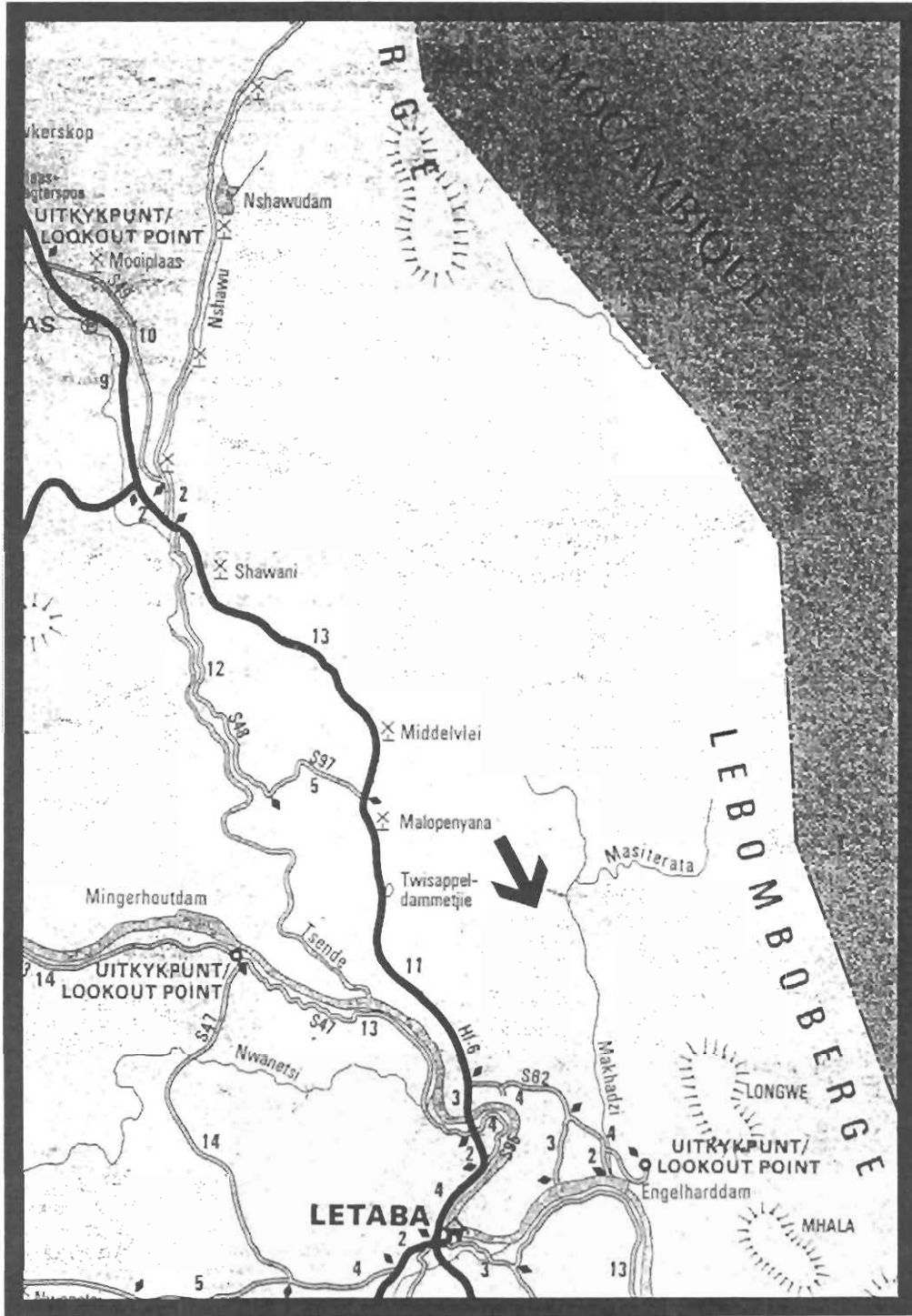


Figure 1 Location of the site.

circle around the site, from the north-east, through the east and south to the south-west.

Four refuse middens were located, but there could even be more. Cultural material is scattered over a large area, giving the impression that refuse were not only discarded on the middens, but that it was thrown away anywhere it suited the occupants of the outpost. A reason for this might be the fact that Steinaecker's Horse was a voluntary unit, lacking the discipline of a conventional British military unit, where one would expect an orderly disposal of refuse. Another reason for the widespread scatter of cultural material could be that over the years artifacts were washed away from the refuse middens to where they are found now.

The first midden is almost centrally located on the site (figure 2). It has a diameter of approximately 15 metres. The second is a small midden about 50 metres to the south-east of the central midden. It is almost 4 metres in diameter. The third midden is situated 20 metres to the north-west of the first and is also 4 metres in diameter. The last midden is the largest, between 30 and 40 metres in diameter, and approximately 25 metres to the south-west of the central midden.

Hut clay is found to the south of the central midden, 10 metres away. At some of the open patches grinding and hammer stones were found. Middle Stone Age tools were also identified on the site. Cultural material found on the surface includes pieces of metal, fragments of ceramics, glass and shell.

7. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

7.1 A short biography of Col. F.L. von Steinaecker

Francis Christiaan Ludwig von Steinaecker was born on 28 September 1854 in Berlin (TAD, MHG 32062). He was the son of Colonel Baron von Steinaecker and Baroness Von Thumen of Liegnitz. He began his military career in 1871, when he entered the Prussian Army (Leiz Grenadiers). Eight years later he resigned and joined the ruling prince of Battenberg (Bulgaria), Prince Alexander in his military voyages. During the years 1886-1888 he was in German South West Africa where he led an exploring expedition and made a map of the country (Conway 1978:30).



Figure 2 Site plan of Steinaecker's Horse Northernmost Outpost.

He settled in the Port Shepstone District, in Natal in 1890 and having become a British subject, joined the Colonial Scouts at the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War in 1899. General Buller became impressed with him and gave him authority to try his hand at the Lourenco Marques line (the railway line from Pretoria to Delagoa Bay). He made his headquarters near the Selati Railway line on the south bank in a gangers hut (Forsyth 1972:21).

With seven men and one pack mule laden with dynamite they rode through Swaziland. They found the Great Komati Bridge too heavily guarded for interference, but on 17th June 1900 they went on to blow up a culvert near Malelane, wrecked a goods train and halted traffic for fourteen days. The number of men increased from seven to forty and became known as *the Forty Thieves*. Steinaecker fled back into Swaziland where he ambused a small party of Boers in the kraal of the petty Chief Mbudla. Several Boers were killed and one, Commandant van Dam of the State Artillery (ZAR), was taken prison (Diespecker 1996:98).

Steinaecker then moved away to Lubombo (Swaziland) where he pitched his camp 96km south of Komatipoort along the Lebombo Mountains. After the above mentioned incident Steinaecker was promoted to Major. This unit became known as "Steinaecker's Horse" with a strength of 450 men. He made as much nuisance in Swaziland and the border country at Bremersdorp (Mazini) as possible by stealing jewellery and gold coins (Jones 1994:103). He stayed at Bremersdorp for six months, until the Boers under command of Tobias Smuts and Hans Grobler surrendered his unit. Steinaecker left for Barberton, leaving his men to defend the village as best they could. Four hundred cattle and fifty horses were among the loot taken by the Boers (Matsebula 1972:88).

Towards the end of the War, Steinaecker tried to have his Corps retained as a permanent border guard, but it had served its purpose. He vanished from the scene after the Anglo-Boer War. In 1907 he spent some time after his discharge trying to raise a permanent commission (TAD, SNA 321). He eventually tried his hand at cotton and grain farming which failed (TAD, TPD 540). Afterwards he became a handyman on a farm near Acornhoek but became abusive to his employer when

the First World War broke out, and was asked to leave. Soon afterwards he poisoned himself with strychnine at the farm Castle in the Lydenburg District on 30th April 1917. He is buried near Acornhoek in the Lowveld (TAD MHG 32062).

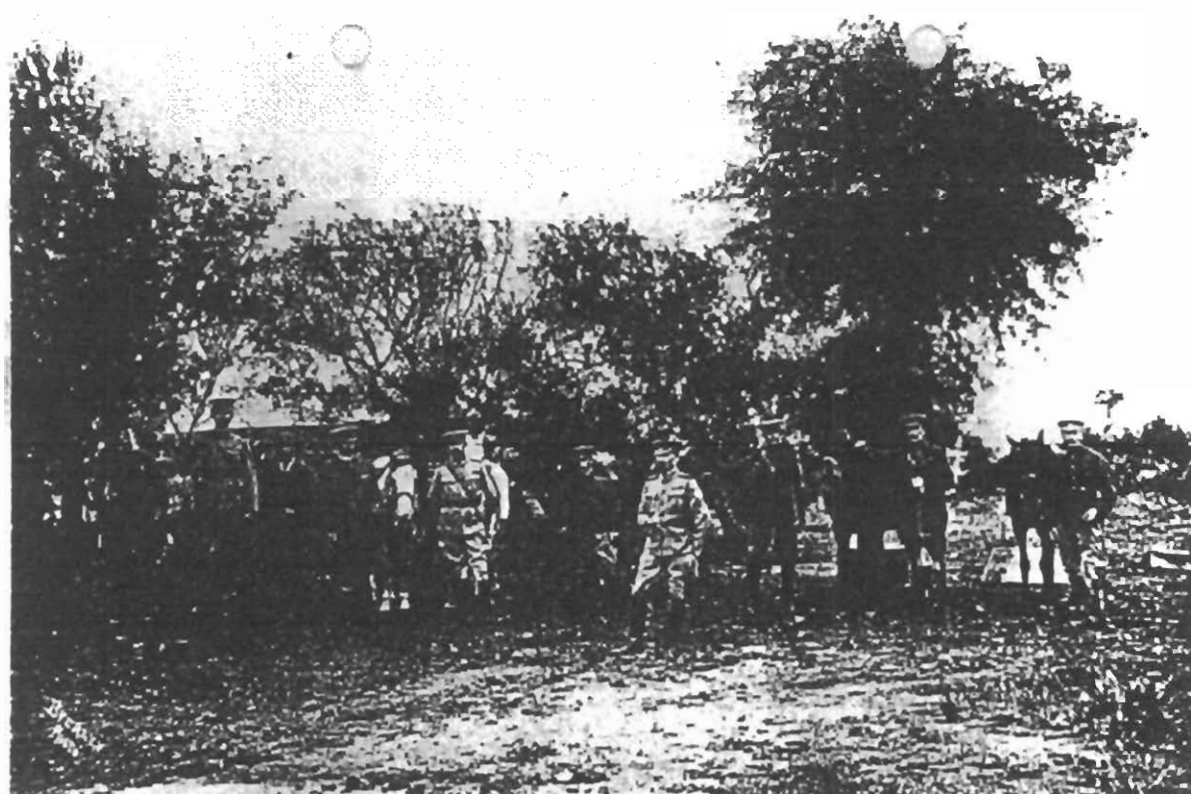
7.2 Steinaecker's Horse's Unit

The headquarters of the unit was at Komatipoort and a series of outposts were manned. These were over a 200 km stretch along the Mozambique border, from Swaziland northwards. The war had little effect in the Lowveld, resulting in a comfortable life for the soldiers of Steinaecker's Horse (Paynter 1986:48).

At a time during March 1900 the unit included Sergeants JA Lawson, CS Carmichael and Meissner, Corporal AE Grey, Acting Quartermaster-Sergeant Munro. Troopers S Smart, R Chambers, B Duncan, O Engerstrom, G Gaines, W Halpin, H Wolhuter, Sergeant-Major AR Colborne and seven blacks (Cartwright 1975:ix; Conway 1978:3).

A large quantity of weaponry were ordered in 1900 by Steinaecker's Horse. This included one hundred thousand rounds of carbine, Maxim and revolver cartridges. Two Maxims with belts, fifty carbines with buckets and bandoliers, fifty revolvers, a tripod Maxim and a Mountain gun and six mules for carrying ammunition (Jones 1994:108).

Steinaecker's Horse, an irregular unit that commonly attracted only incorrect and flippant attention (figure 3-4). While the story is still incomplete in all its detail, enough is not known to illustrate the importance of British plans to disrupt supplies through Delagoa Bay across the borders of Mozambique at the different outposts, which includes the so-called Northernmost outpost. Unfortunately no specific information on this outpost was obtained.



Weld-Stock. Major Edwards Moon Stollart Markema No. 11
60.

Figure 3 A photograph of Steinaecker's Horse taken in 1903 (J v.d. V Scholtemeyer).



Figure 4 Steinaecker's Horse Uniform with the badge "SH" (Steinaecker's Horse).

8. THE EXCAVATIONS

No grid was laid out as specific features were to be excavated. Base points were established and the GPS were used to locate them on the site plan. This will enable the researchers to locate these in future. Only one fixed base point was established. This was done by driving a metal peg in between two large fixed rocks, in order that it could not endanger any wildlife. The coordinates of this base point were also established by means of the GPS. All other base points were relayed back to this one so that it could be relocated in future.

Only five excavations were carried out, less than what was planned, as the weather did not play along. Almost a third of the fieldwork time was lost due to rain. Two trenches were excavated at the central refuse midden and one each at the first small midden and the largest midden. The hut debris, 10 metres to the south of the central midden, was also excavated. A collection of surface material was also carried out as much of this material were in danger of being washed away during the next big rain storm.

8.1 The central refuse midden

8.1.1 Excavation 1

The excavation was measured out from north to south and was 8m x 1m in extent (figure 5). A collection of surface artifacts were made, whereafter the excavation was brushed in order to remove the thick layer of loose soil on top. Artifacts retrieved from this topsoil were also placed in the surface collection.

The main aim with layer 1 was to find cultural material and to level the surface of the excavation. The extent and depth of the midden needed also to be determined. The layer was mostly light brown in colour, although patches of grey was found throughout the layer (figure 6). The texture of the soil was very fine. Where the midden was at its highest (the centre part of the excavation) the soil was soft and ashy and was easily removed. This area is also nearly in the centre of the refuse midden, and the fair amount of ash here makes sense, as this is probably the point where the dumping originally started. Gradually less ash occurs as you move away from the centre. Although ash would have been washed away from the centre over

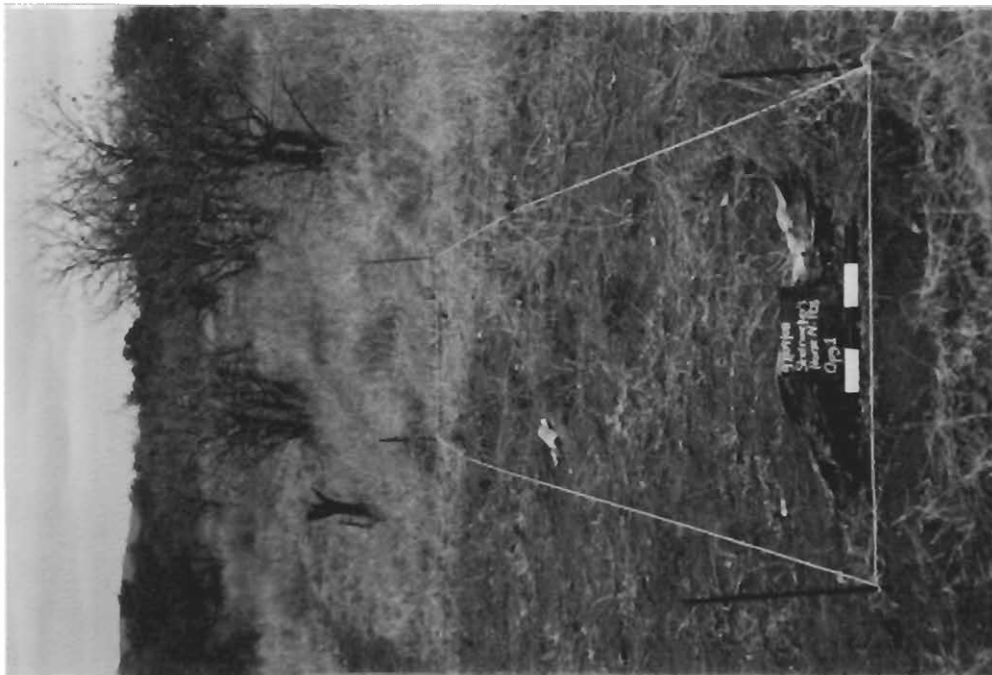


Figure 5 Excavation 1 before excavation.



Figure 6 Excavation 1, layer 1.

the years, the amount of ash at the edges of the refuse midden would have remained less than at the centre.

Charcoal was found frequently, although not in large concentrations. Traces of burrowing by small animals into the midden was also found regularly, as was tiny pieces of unidentifiable bone. These are probably the bones of small animals such as rats and other rodents, which died of natural causes and whose remains landed on the refuse midden after occupation of the site ceased. A fair amount of rodent faeces was also found throughout the excavation, supporting this assumption.

After completion of the layer its depth was measured at regular intervals. As layer 1 was mainly used to level out the excavation, it was not equally deep at all points. The depth of the layer varied from less than 1cm to 19cm at its deepest. As it was clear that no stratigraphy existed, it was decided that layers could be excavated arbitrary.

Cultural material retrieved from layer 1 consisted of glass, ceramics, metal, bone and other artifacts such as eggshell and pearl shell and a Middle Stone Age tool.

Excavation 1 was now extended down to layer 2, which was approximately 15cm deep (figure 7). In layer 2, the southern part of the excavation (the first 1.5m) was dark brown in colour and extremely hard. This was clearly sterile soil. The remainder of layer 2 consisted of a mixture of redbrownish soil and a light grey ashy soil. The bottom 2cm of the layer was dark brown and hard - a clear indication that sterile soil and the bottom of the refuse midden was reached. The refuse midden was 32cm in depth, with the excavation extending to 34cm deep.

Layer 2 contained far less cultural material than layer 1. Most of it was found in the centre part of the excavation. Layer 2 cultural material also consisted of glass, ceramics, metal, bone and other material such as shell.



Figure 7 Excavation 1, layer 2.

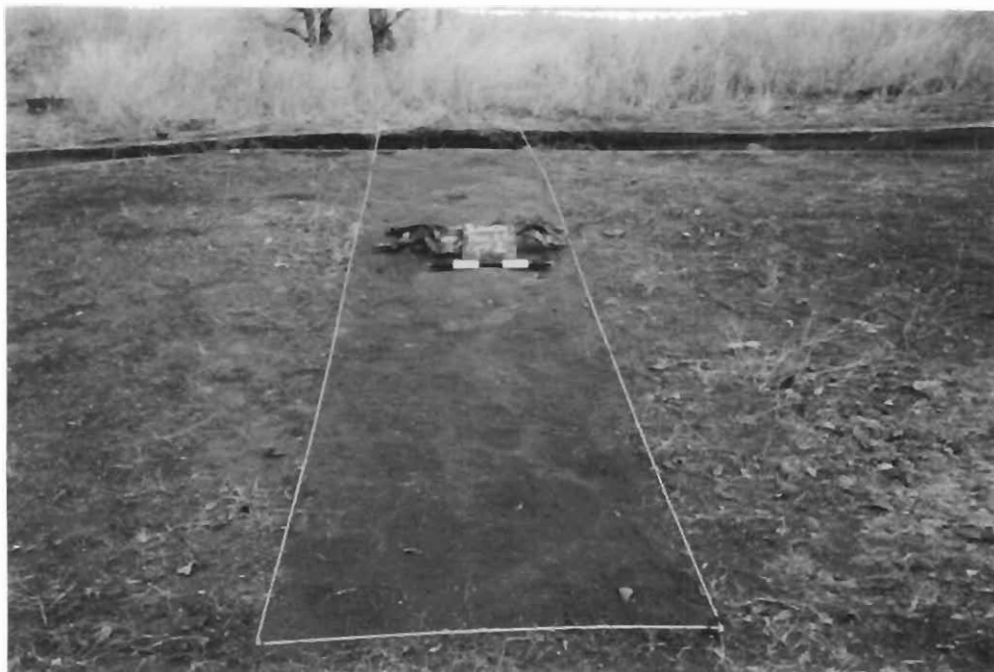


Figure 8 Excavation 2 before excavation.

8.1.2 Excavation 2

This excavation was placed perpendicular to Excavation 1 and more to the centre of the refuse midden, in a east-west direction. It measured 6m x 1m in extent (figure 8). Again the loose top soil was brushed away before excavations commenced, but in this case no surface artifacts were collected.

The main reason for conducting excavation 2 was the recovering of more cultural material that could link the refuse midden with the Steinaecker's Horse occupation of the site. More information on the midden itself needed to be obtained, such as its maximum depth and extent and also the makeup of its contents (types of material, etc.). Again the first layer had to be levelled out and it was dug down to the level of layer 1, Excavation 1 (figure 9).

As with Excavation 1, layer 1, the depth of the layer was measured at regular intervals, from west to east and was between 22,5 and 3,5cm, decreasing in depth moving away from the centre of the midden. The soil colour of layer 1 alternated between light brown and light grey. The texture of the soil was soft, ashy and fine. Charcoal was found throughout, but again not in concentrations. In the eastern part of the excavation the soil was light brown in colour, very hard and clearly sterile.

Again cultural material found in layer 1 consisted of glass, ceramics, metal, bone and other. Other in this case included hut debris, a plastic button and a button made of mother-of-pearl, as well as pieces of shell.

With time lost due to rain, the whole of Excavation 2 could not be extended down to layer 2. It was therefore decided to only work on a small section, Excavation 2.1, measuring 0,5m x 1m (figure 10). Excavation 2.1 was situated in the western part of excavation 2, near to where Excavations 1 and 2 met. This section was excavated to a depth of about 8cm, when sterile soil was found. The soil colour of this layer again alternated between light brown and light grey, with the sterile soil dark brown in colour. Traces of burrowing by small animals were also detected. The depth of both the refuse midden and excavation was 30,5cm.



Figure 9 Excavation 2, layer 1.



Figure 10 Excavation 2.1, layer 2.

Few artifacts were found in layer 2, consisting of a metal fragment, a spent shotgun cartridge and 3 unidentifiable pieces of bone.

8.2 **Hut debris**

8.2.1 Excavation 3

In order to get a clear picture of the feature it was cleaned by removing all grass, weeds, leaves and loose soil before an excavation was measured out. Hut debris, in the form of burnt clay, covered an area of approximately 4m (east to west) x 2m (north to south). The excavation itself was 2m x 1m in size (east to west) (figure 11).

The aims of the excavation was to find a hut floor, if it existed, as well as to find cultural material that could link the structure to the occupation by the garrison of Steinaecker's Horse. Layer 1 was only 2cm deep, and was used to clear the excess surface debris. The soil was reddish, probably because of its clay content, and was extremely hard to remove.

Burnt pieces of clay and pieces with clear pole marks were found (figure 12). An interesting artifact is a very hard piece of soil or clay, which could be the remains of a reed or pole with which the hut was constructed. The only explanation for this artifact is that when the reed started to decay, the soil or clay inside it hardened in the shape of the reed, probably as a result of being burned and remained long after the reed had already disappeared.

In layer 2 further hut debris were removed. This layer was approximately 5cm deep. The soil was reddish in colour, sandy and very hard. Dark brown and black patches, some parts ashy, were uncovered in this layer (figure 13). This could be an indication that fire was made inside the hut, or that this could have been a cooking shelter. Except for the pieces of burnt clay, some with pole marks, and another impression of a reed on clay, with signs of burning, no other cultural material were found.



Figure 11 Excavation 3, layer 1.

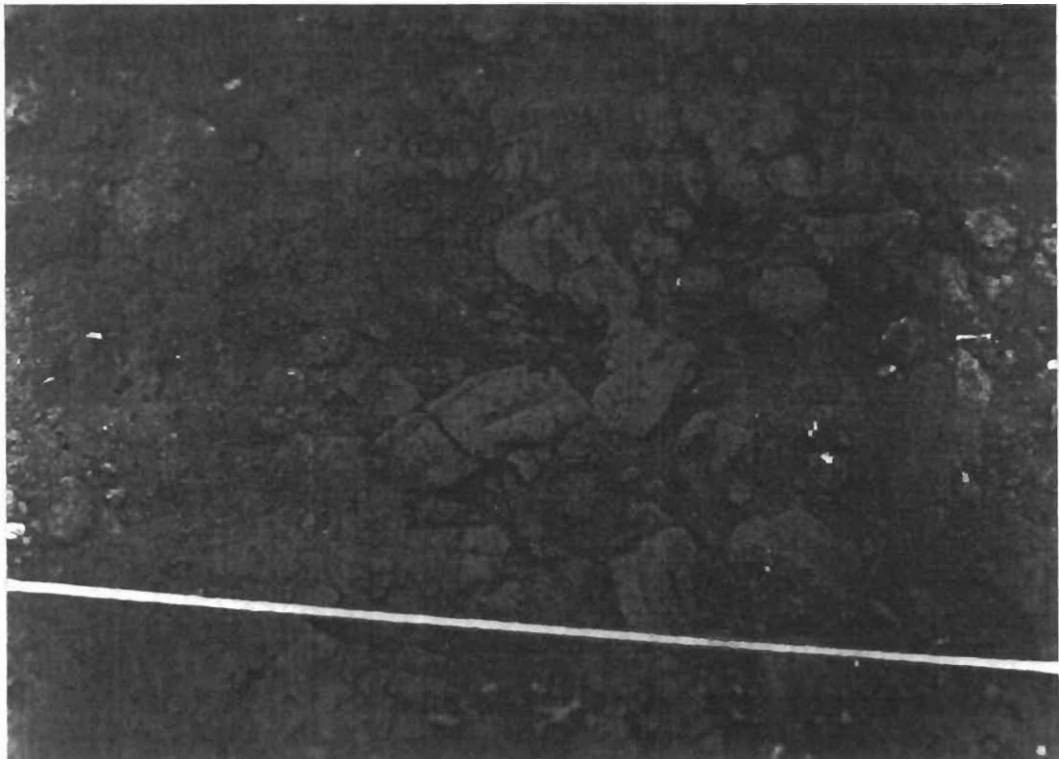


Figure 12 Detail of the hut debris in Excavation 3.

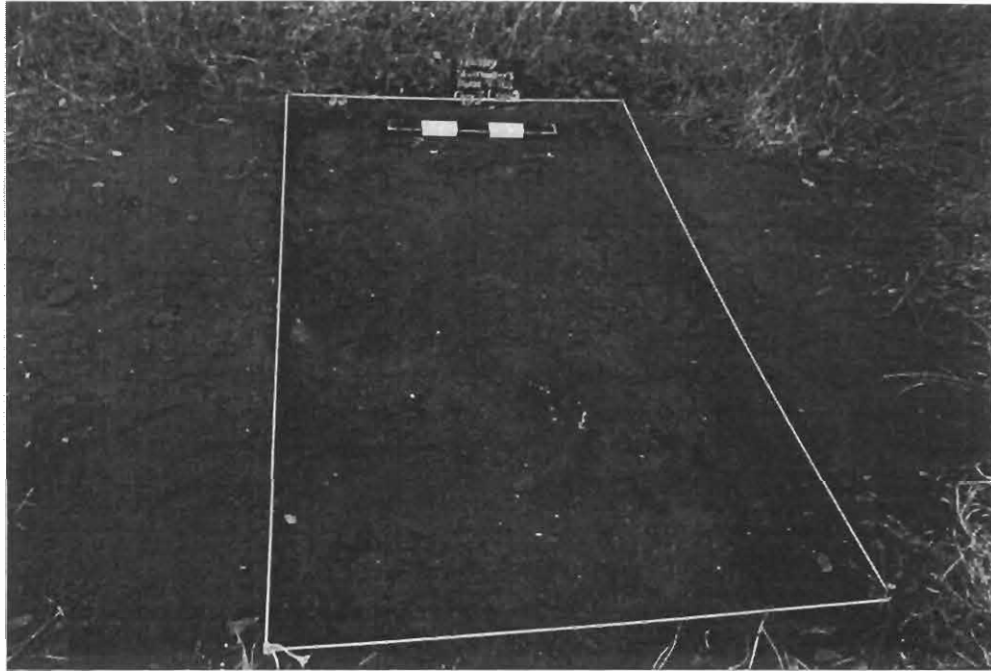


Figure 13 Excavation 3, layer 2.

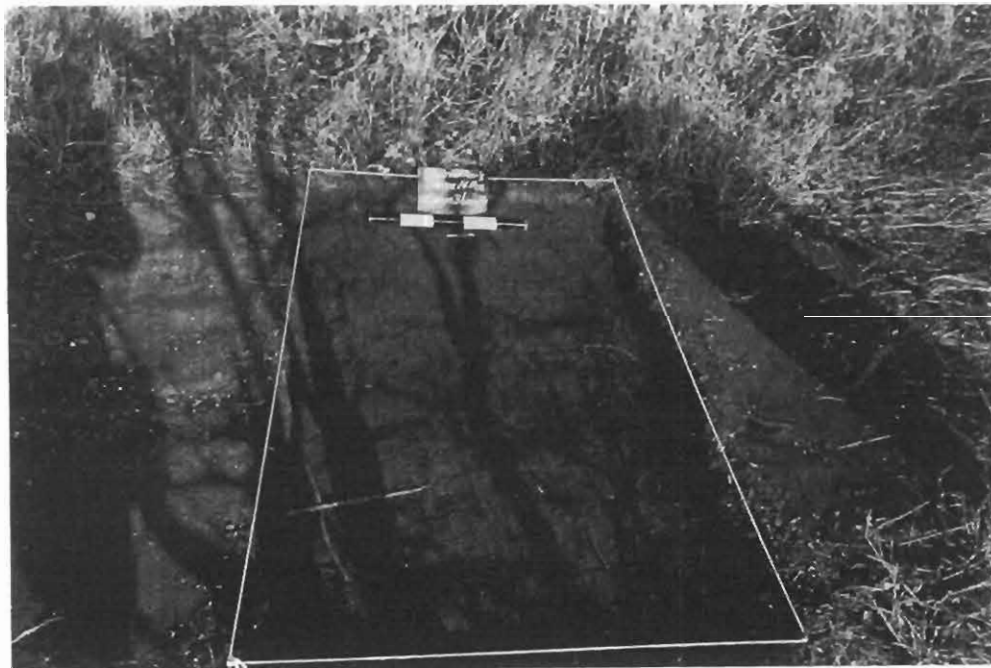


Figure 14 Excavation 3, layer 3.

A third layer, 2cm in depth, was also excavated (figure 14). Sterile soil are found just beneath this last layer of debris. The soil was very hard and dark brown with red patches. Pieces of burnt clay, pole marks visible on some, were removed from this layer as well. One nail, the only artifact other than hut debris to be recovered in the whole excavation, was also found.

As no indication of a hut floor was found in the excavation, it is suggested that no floor existed. It seems as if the structure only had walls and that the original ground surface was used as floor. The hard red, clayish soil, are probably the result of the walls of the structure collapsing and falling onto the "floor" surface. Over the years the clay on the surface further hardened, maybe caused by veldfires. Because no cultural material such as glass; ceramics or metal, other than the one nail, was recovered, it is not possible to say whether this structure was occupied by the men of Steinaecker's Horse. As mentioned above it is also possible that the structure could have been used as a cooking shelter, although this could not be proved without a doubt. The total depth of the excavation and debris was 9cm.

8.3 Southeastern refuse midden

8.3.1 Excavation 4

This excavation is situated approximately 50 metres south-east of the central midden. It was measured out from north-west to south-east and was 2m x 1m in extent (figure 15). Before excavating commenced, the area was cleared of leaves, weeds, grass and loose surface soil. All cultural material found on the surface was also collected. This included a number of metal artifacts that suggested that the area could have been used as cooking area. This included pieces of a cast-iron cooking pot and the lid of a kettle or coffee pot.

The main aim with Excavation 4 was to investigate the possibility of it being a refuse midden associated with an activity area such as that mentioned in the previous paragraph. The fairly large number of artifacts concentrated on a relatively small area also prompted excavating the area. Layer 1 was an arbitrary layer of roughly 10cm deep (figure 16). The soil was dark brown with charcoal patches in it, but it was not ashy. Pieces of bone, some burnt, and potsherds were

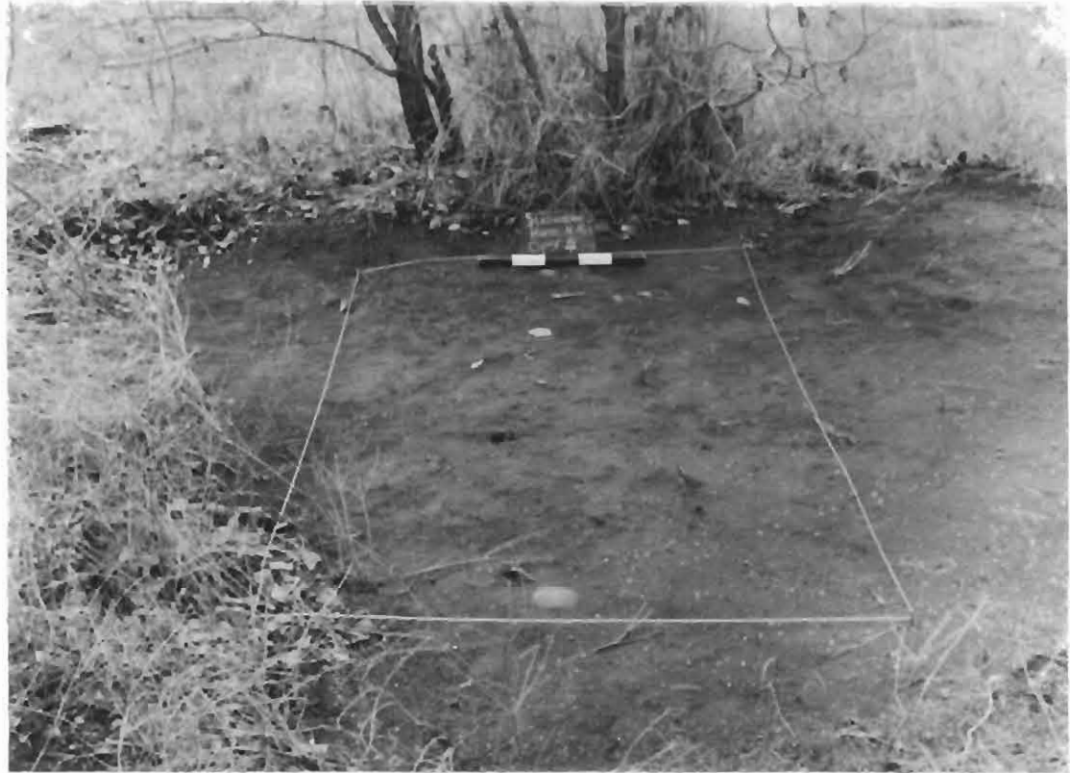


Figure 15 Excavation 4 before excavation.

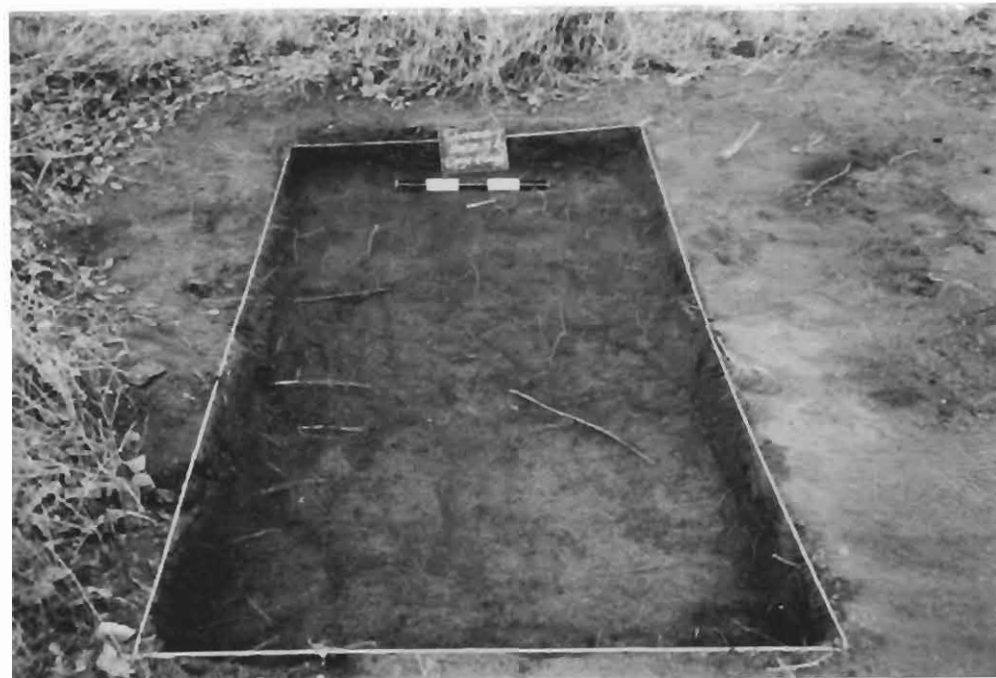


Figure 16 Excavation 4, layer 1.

found frequently. Other cultural material included glass, ceramics, metal and other artifacts such as pieces of shell and a Middle Stone Age tool.

Layer 2 was 5cm deep and ended on sterile soil (figure 17). The soil was very fine and dark brown in colour. Only a few artifacts were found, which included 3 pieces of Iron Age-type pottery and fragments of bone. In total, this small refuse midden, and the excavation was 15cm deep.

8.4 **Southwestern refuse midden**

8.4.1 Excavation 5

This excavation, on the largest of the refuse middens, was measured out in a north to south direction, roughly in the centre of the midden, and measured 4m x 1m (figure 18). The aim was to determine the extent and depth of the midden, as well as to obtain cultural material. Before excavation commenced, cultural material on the surface were collected.

As was the case with Excavations 1 and 2, layer 1 was used to level out the excavation. The soil was a mixture of light brown and light grey, but dark brown on the northern side (figure 19). The soil was quite hard and the northern part contained considerably less artifacts than the rest of the excavation. After completion of the layer the depth was measured at regular intervals. The depth varied between 2,5 and 23cm.

Cultural material that was unearthed consisted of glass, ceramics, metal, large numbers of bone and other material such as pieces of ivory, pieces of shell (mother-of-pearl, egg and ostrich eggshell) and Iron Age-type glass beads.

It was decided to excavate a second layer in order to determine the maximum depth of the refuse midden. Because of the lost time due to rain, only a small section of the excavation was taken down to layer 2. This section, excavation 5.1, measured 0.5m x 1m (figure 20). Layer 2 continued for a further 20cm until sterile soil was reached. The colour of the soil in the layer alternated between light brown and light grey, with grit found in the sterile soil. The soil was also a bit darker than that of



Figure 17 Excavation 4, layer 2.

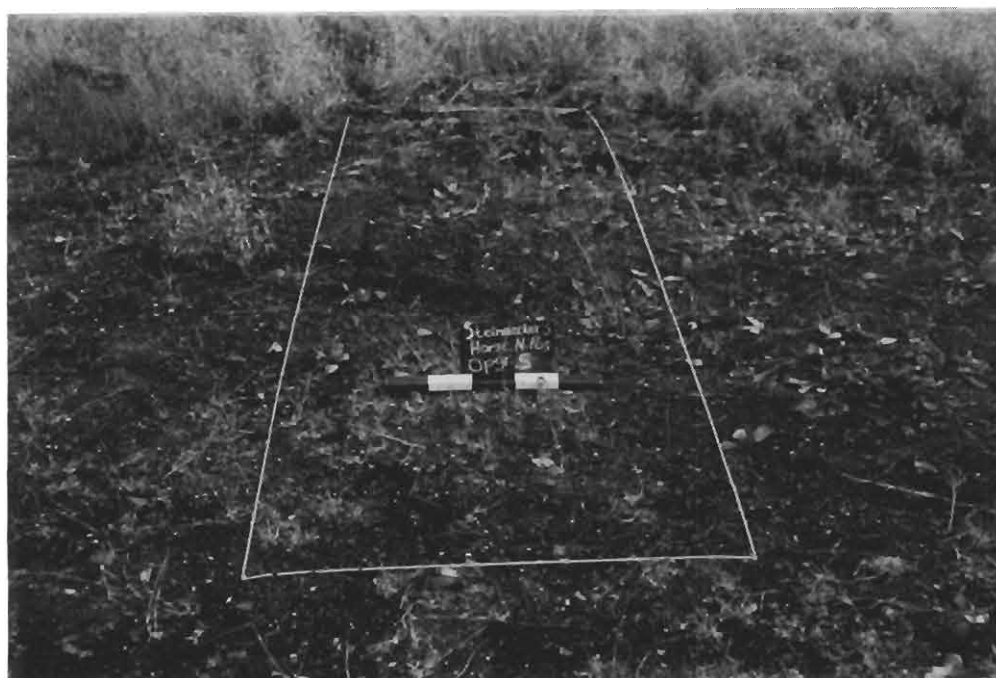


Figure 18 Excavation 5 before excavation.



Figure 19 Excavation 5, layer 1.

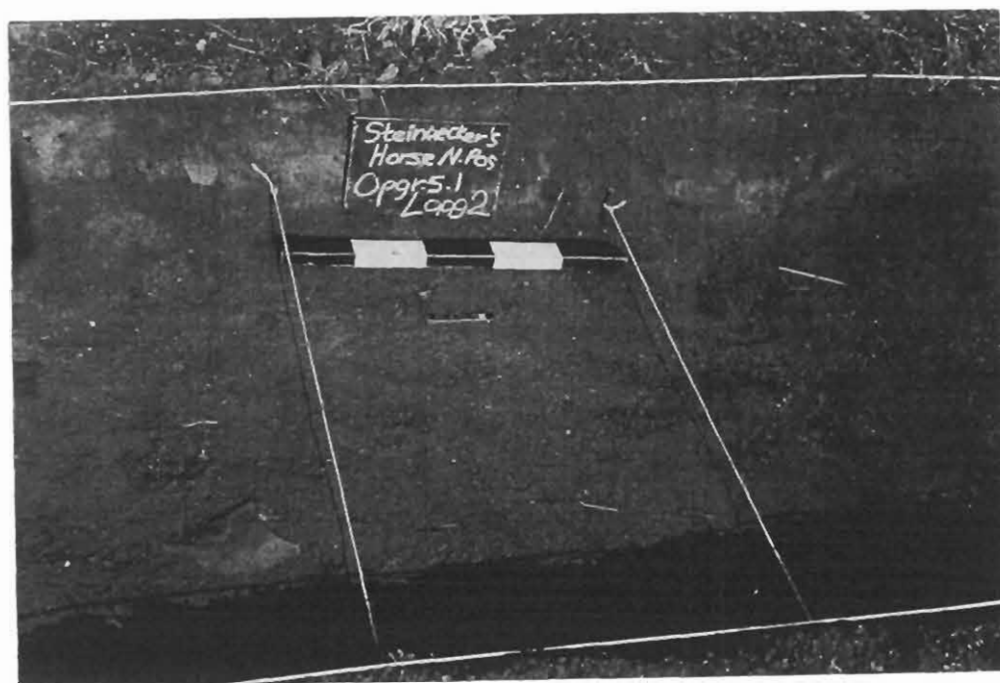


Figure 20 Excavation 5.1, layer 2.

layer 1 and was quite soft. Traces of burrowing was also found here. The depth of this refuse midden and of Excavation 5 was 43cm.

Cultural material from this layer included a few pieces of glass and ceramics, metal and large numbers of bone.

9. CULTURAL MATERIAL

A total number of 3112 artifacts were retrieved during the investigation of the site. Of these, 126 were collected during the general surface collection, 1284 recovered from excavation 1, 521 from excavation 2, 109 from excavation 3, 316 from excavation 4 and 745 from excavation 5. The collection is made up out of ceramics, glass, metal, bone and other artifacts such as shell and hut debris.

9.1 Ceramics

A total number of 320 pieces of ceramics were found, comprising pieces of porcelain, stoneware, earthenware and potsherds.

9.1.1 Porcelain

The number of porcelain pieces found were 77, including fine porcelain and hard baked porcelain (iron stone). Most of the pieces were undecorated. Some could be identified as parts of specific functional types. Identifiable porcelain fragments are as follows:

A fair amount of fine white porcelain were found, decorated with a single or triple gold line, or a combination thereof (figure 21). These are dated to the late 19th - early 20th century (Personal comment: C. Meyer) and consist of:

- a piece of a cup ear with single gold line through the middle, found on the surface,
- five pieces of a saucer or small plate, one piece decorated with a thin gold line on the rim and three gold lines beneath this. Four of the pieces has a moulded shell pattern. These were all collected on the surface.
- six pieces, part of one cup, decorated with three gold lines just beneath the rim, found in layer 1 of excavation 1.

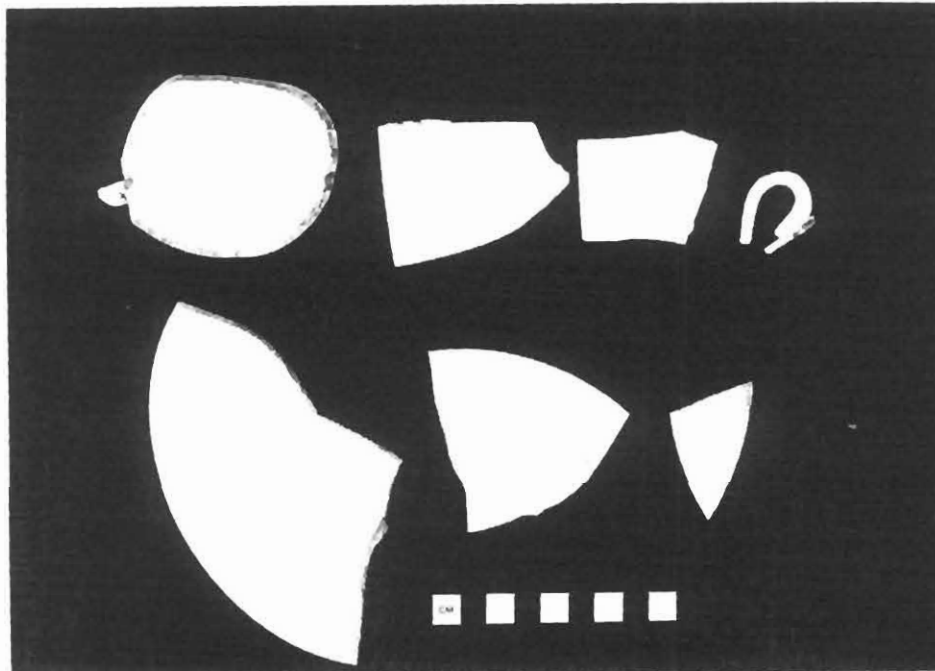


Figure 21 Fine white porcelain excavated at Steinaecker's Horse's northernmost outpost.

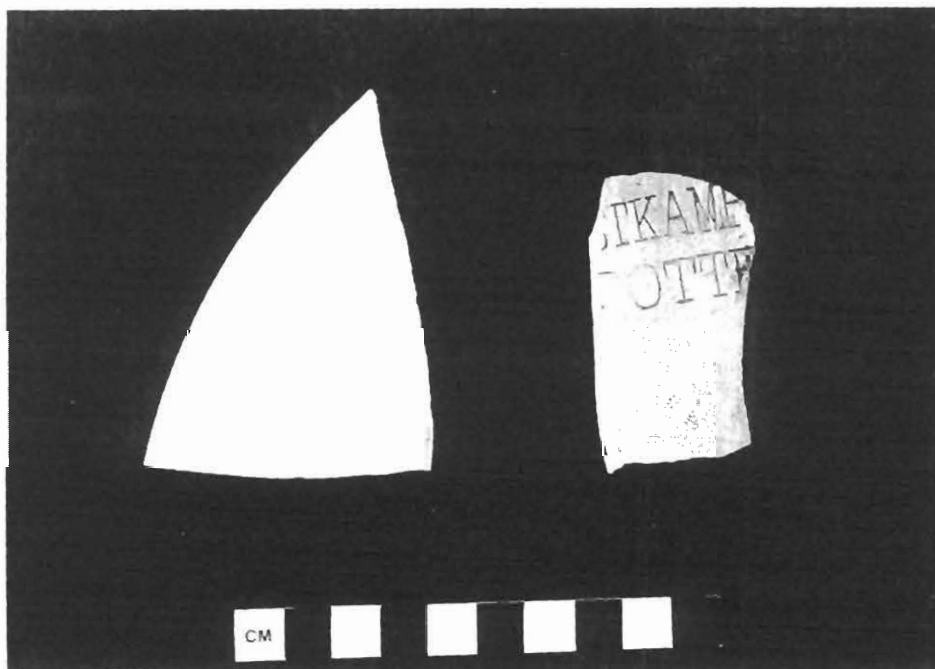


Figure 22 Stoneware artifacts from the site.

- one piece from excavation 1, layer 2 with a gold line on the rim and three just beneath that. It is part of a small plate.
- three pieces from excavation 2, layer 1, with three gold lines just beneath the rim, all parts of small plates.
- a piece of a cup, with a gold line beneath the rim and three further gold lines just beneath that, from excavation 1, layer 2.
- eight pieces of the same cup, including the ear, decorated with three gold lines just beneath the rim, recovered from excavation 2, layer 1.

Some undecorated fragments of fine white porcelain were also identified as belonging to a specific functional type. These are;

- thirteen pieces of cups, plates and saucers from excavation 1, layer 1.
- a piece, part of the base and body of a tea cup collected on the surface.
- a piece of a cup from the surface collection of excavation 4.
- a piece of a cup from excavation 4, layer 1.
- a piece of the rim of a cup from excavation 2, layer 1.
- sixteen pieces of saucers and plates from excavation 1 and 2, some dated to the early 20th century (Personal comment: C. Meyer).

The identifiable iron stone (hard baked porcelain) pieces are the following:

- a piece of a plate, cream coloured and handpainted with red and blue stripes on and below the rim and with a blue flower pattern, all underglazed. It is dated to between the mid 19th and early 20th century (Personal comment: C. Meyer). It was found on the surface of excavation 4.

Undecorated pieces of iron stone that could be identified as table ware are:

- a piece of a large plate, dated to the early 20th century (Personal comment: C. Meyer), collected on the surface.
- a piece of the rim of a large dinner plate from excavation 1, layer 1.
- a piece of the rim of a large plate, dated to the early 20th century (Personal comment: C. Meyer) from excavation 1, layer 2.
- a large rim piece of a large plate from excavation 2, layer 1.
- a piece of a cup from excavation 5, layer 1.

9.1.2 Stoneware

A total of 11 fragments of stoneware were found, none of them decorated. All of the pieces are parts of beverage containers. They are the following:

- a piece of cream coloured glazed stoneware, part of a gin or ginger beer bottle, dated to the late 19th/early 20th century (Personal comment: C. Meyer), collected on the surface.
- two pieces of cream coloured glazed stoneware, part of a gin bottle, from excavation 4, layer 1.
- eight pieces of cream coloured glazed stoneware, parts of a gin bottle, from the surface of excavation 4. One of the pieces shows a partial makers' mark, namely **HULSTKAMP & Zn & MOLYN** (figure 22). It dates to between the late 19th and early 20th century (Lastovica & Lastovica, 1982: 38).

9.1.3 Earthenware

A total of 30 pieces of earthen ware were recovered (figure 23). All of these were undecorated. Pieces identified as household artifacts are as follows:

- two lip pieces of the same dark brown container of coarse earthenware, found on the surface.
- a piece of black coloured, glazed earthenware, part of a small bowl, dated to the early 20th century (Personal comment: C. Meyer), also collected on the surface.
- seven pieces of glazed earthenware, dark brown in colour and part of the base of the same small bowl or plate. Found in excavation 1, layer 1.
- seventeen pieces of dark brown, glazed earthenware, part of the base of the same bowl, dated to the 1920s/30s (Personal comments: C. Meyer & A. Malan), recovered from excavation 1, layer 1 and one piece from excavation 1, layer 2.
- two pieces of the lid of a jar. These are dark brown, glazed earthenware. One piece found on the surface of excavation 4 and one in layer 1 of the same excavation. It was part of a medicinal or other household container (Personal comment: A. Malan).
- a piece of dark brown, glazed earthenware, part of a bowl, found in excavation 5, layer 1. It is similar to the seventeen pieces found in excavation 1. It is also dated to the 1920s/30s (Personal comments: C. Meyer & A. Malan).

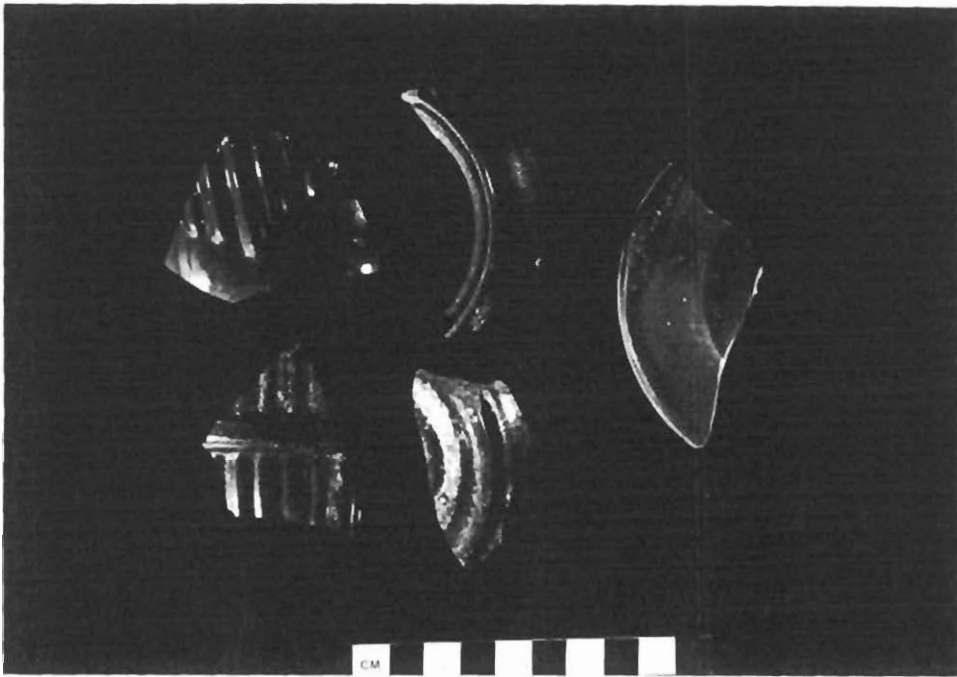


Figure 23 Earthenware from the site.

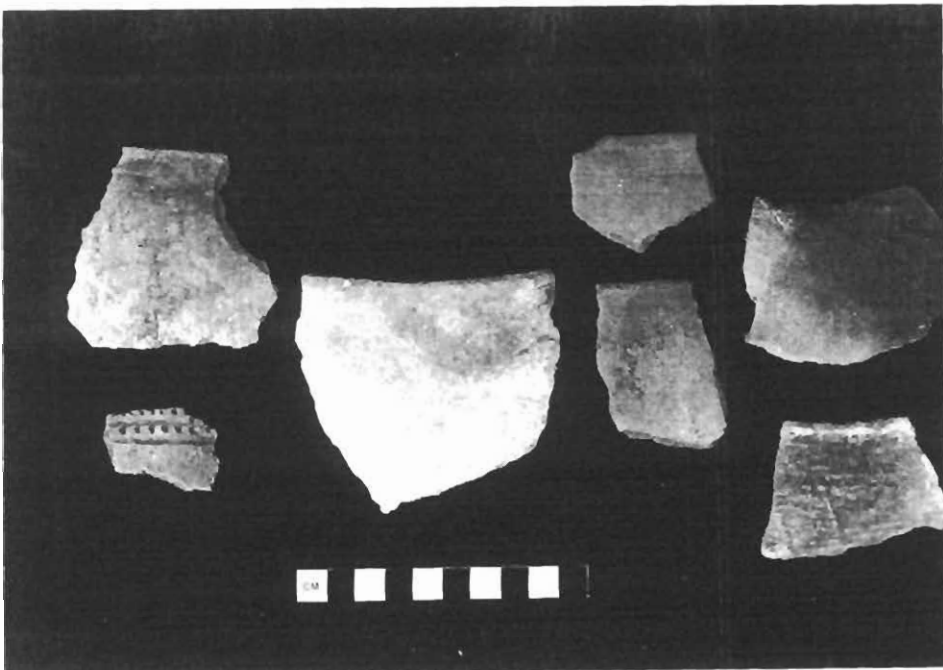


Figure 24 Decorated and undecorated potsherds found at the site.

9.1.4 Potsherds

A total number of 202 potsherds were recovered, mainly undecorated (figure 24).

The undecorated pieces were found as follows:

- four pieces on the surface, of which 1 is the lip part of a small bowl.
- two pieces on the surface of excavation 1.
- twenty one pieces were recovered from excavation 2, layer 1. Two of these fit together and seem to be part of a cooking or beer pot dating to the late 19th century (Personal comment J. van Schalkwyk).
- forty three pieces, again from excavation 2, layer 1. Three pieces fit together and are part of the rim of a small bowl. Three others also fit and seem to be parts of a cooking pot (Personal comment: J. van Schalkwyk).
- three undecorated pieces were found on the surface of excavation 4.
- seventy five pieces recovered from layer 1, excavation 4. Nine of these are lip pieces from different vessels.
- three pieces in excavation 4, layer 2.
- three pieces on the surface of excavation 5.
- two pieces found in excavation 5, layer 2.

Decorated potsherds were found as well and include the following:

- thirteen pieces from excavation 1, layer 1, with clear signs of being burnished and polished. One of these are the rim piece of a pot or a bowl.
- one lip piece with stamped decoration found on the surface, dated to 900 A.D. (Personal comment: A. Meyer).
- thirty two pieces of which most has been smeared and burnished with either silver or black graphite. Some of these fit together and some show signs of burning.
- one piece with incised decoration found on the surface, dated to 900 A.D. (Personal comment: A. Meyer).

9.2 Glass

A total number of 660 glass artifacts were found. These were mostly from bottles and other glass containers and includes glass beads. Of these 249 artifacts are identifiable to specific categories, while 411 pieces are representative of all categories. Last mentioned are mostly fragments with no identificatory marks or

features such as necks or bases (figure 25). Individual bottles and other glass objects represented by the glass collection numbers 167. The identifiable artifacts represents the following categories.

9.2.1 Liquor

- two bottle tops, one brown and the other olive green coloured. It was part of beer (brown) and wine or rum bottles. Surface collection.
- eight bottle necks, olive green colour. Represents 5 individual bottles, rum and/or wine and was found in excavation 1, layer 1.
- twelve pieces of white milk-coloured glass. It is part of a Schnapps or gin bottle and was found in excavation 1, layer 1.
- one bottle neck, olive green in colour, part of rum bottle found in excavation 1, layer 2.
- two bottle tops, olive green colour, parts of rum and/or wine bottles from excavation 2, layer 1.
- one bottle top and one bottle base. Both are olive green colour. Represents rum and/or wine, found on the surface of excavation 4.

9.2.2 Non-Alcoholic Beverages

- two bottle tops, with light green colour. Soda or mineral water bottles are represented. It was recovered during surface collection.
- two pieces of a **ROSE'S LIME JUICE** bottle, light green in colour from the surface collection.
- one complete mineral water bottle. **FLORIDA WATER SUPERIOR QUALITY. R. REIMANN** is embossed on the bottle. It was found on the surface of excavation 1 (figure 26).
- one bottle top, light green in colour from a soda or mineral water bottle. Part of the top was deliberately sheared off. It was found on surface of excavation 4.
- twenty two pieces of light green coloured glass, all part of the same soda or mineral water bottle from excavation 4, layer 1.



Figure 25 Glass bottle stoppers and fragments, found at the Northernmost outpost of Steinaecker's Horse.

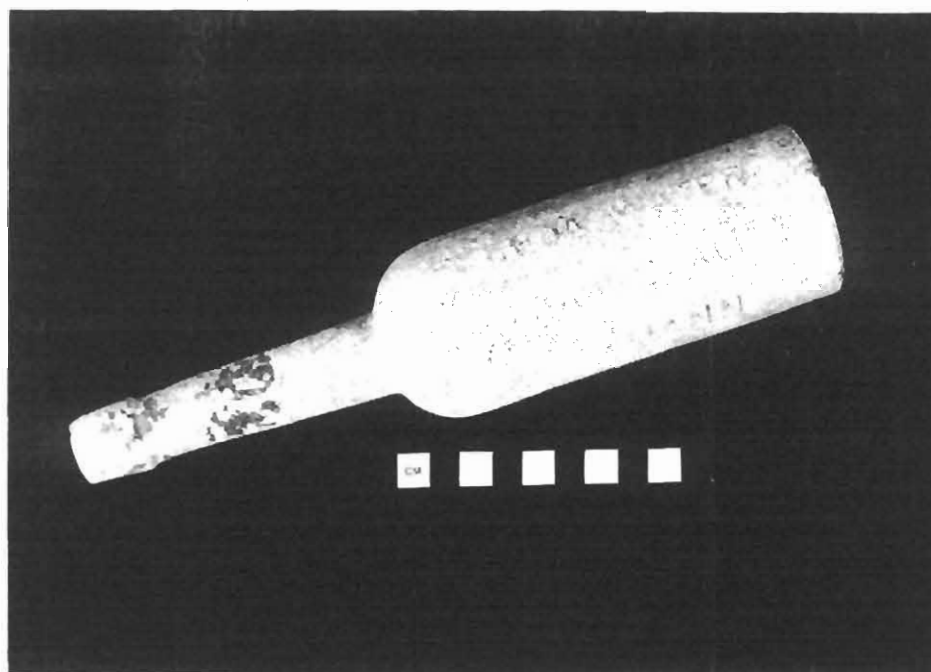


Figure 26 Complete glass bottle which contained some non-alcoholic beverage.

9.2.3 Medicinal

- one piece of milk-coloured glass which was part of the lid of some salve or ointment container. This piece was found during the surface collection.
- one piece of a small medicine bottle base of clear glass. It was found during the surface collection.
- one brown coloured bottle top. It was recovered from the surface of excavation 1.
- one light green coloured bottle top, from excavation 1, layer 2.
- fourteen pieces of a bottle made of clear glass. Some of the pieces fit together. The pieces include the bottle top. It has an indistinguishable label embossed on two fitting pieces. These pieces were recovered from excavation 2, layer 1.
- six pieces of milk-coloured glass, forming part of the lid of a salve or some ointment container. It was also found in excavation 2, layer 1.
- one piece of milk-coloured glass, part of the lid of a salve or other ointment container, from the surface of excavation 5.

9.2.4 Household

- one piece of a **Worcestershire sauce** bottle. The makers' mark **HOLBROOK & Co.** is embossed on it. It was found during the surface collection.
- one large glass stopper, used in a jar or food preserve container. It has an intricate logo embossed on it. It is also from the surface collection.
- two fitting pieces of a Worcestershire sauce bottle and one bottle stopper. **HOLBROOK & Co.** is embossed on it. It was recovered from excavation 1, layer 1.
- one piece of a bottle neck and body, brown in colour. A partial embossed label visible on it, namely **2 OZ BOV...LMI...** It probably refers to Bovril Limited. This was found in excavation 1, layer 1 (figure 25).
- one bottle top, with a wide mouth. It represents some kind of sauce or preserve food container. It was also found in excavation 1, layer 1.

9.2.5 Table ware

- fifty three pieces of thin, clear glass. They were parts of one or maybe more wine glasses. Decorated in **Woodstock** pattern (engraved lines and circular patterns). It

dates to the late 19th/early 20th century (Personal comment: C. Meyer) and was recovered from excavation 1, layer 1.

- two pieces of a wine glass. It is also Woodstock and dates to the late 19th/early 20th century (Personal comment: C. Meyer). It was found in excavation 2, layer 1.

9.2.6 Personal items

- fifty two glass beads, similar to glass beads dating to the Iron Age, were found in total. Light and dark blue, turquoise, pink, brown, white and green coloured beads are represented. They were found in all the excavations, except excavation 3, and during the surface collection (figure 27).
- thirty two pieces of milk-coloured glass, of which some pieces fit together. The spout of the container can be totally reconstructed. They are part of a peppermint flavoured **ODOL** mouthwash liquid bottle that date to the late 19th/early 20th century (Lastovica & Lastovica, 1982: 50). This artifact was found in excavation 1, layer 2 (figure 28).
- three pieces of milk-coloured glass, part of a similar **ODOL** bottle like that found in excavation 1, layer 2, and recovered from excavation 2, layer 1 (figure 28).
- one piece of milk-coloured glass which also represents an **ODOL** bottle. This was recovered from the surface of excavation 5 (figure 28).

9.2.7 Architectural elements

- one piece of plate glass, which was possibly part of a window, from excavation 4, layer 1.
- a similar piece, from the surface collection of excavation 5.
- eleven pieces of plate glass, possibly window glass, from excavation 5, layer 1.

9.3 Metal

Metal artifacts numbered 1098 in total, although not all of these were identifiable and are only fragments of artifacts. Metal are divided into the following categories.

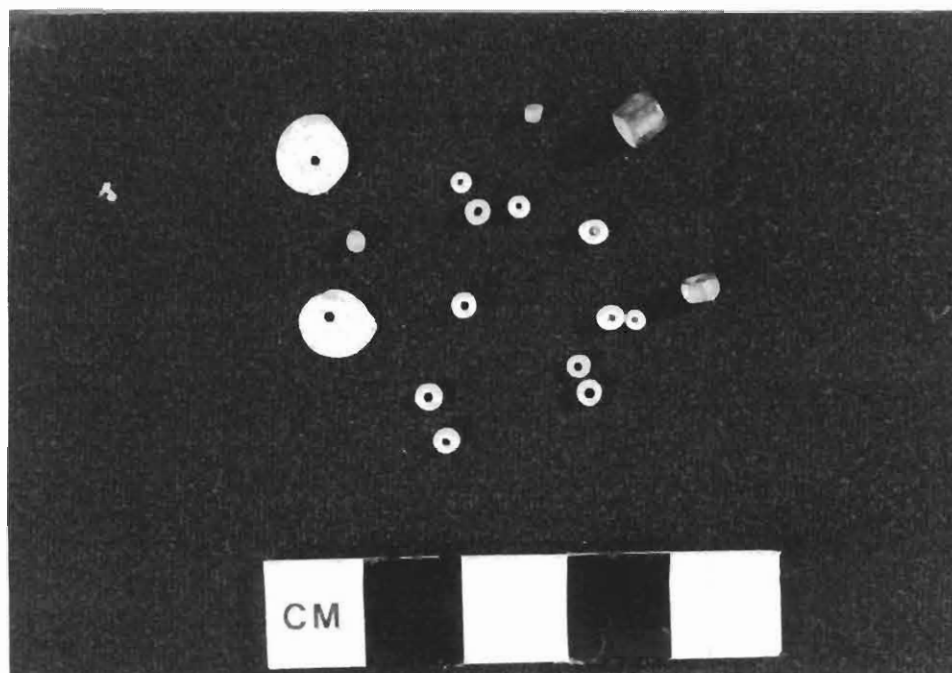


Figure 27 Glass beads and shell, found at the site.

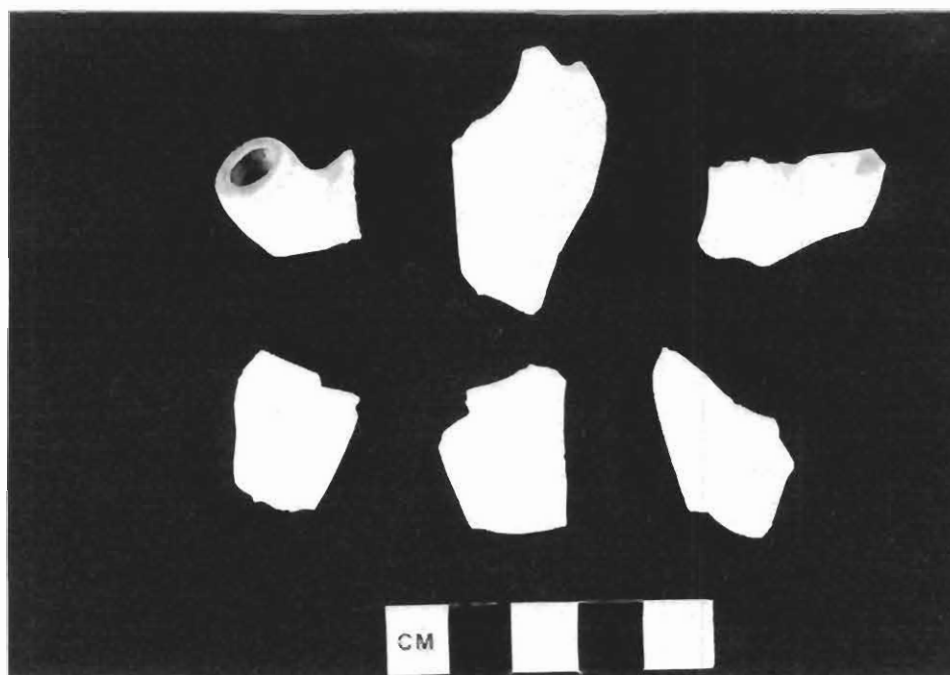


Figure 28 Glass fragments representing odol mouth wash bottles.

9.3.1 Lighting device

Part of a paraffin lamp was found during the surface collection (figure 29). It is the copper device or cog with which the wick of the lamp is turned higher or lower.

9.3.2 Personal items

A number of personal items, used mostly in clothing, was also recovered. They include the following.

- three belt buckles, differing in size and material (iron or brass) were found on the surface (figure 30).
- brace buckles, 3 from the surface of excavation 5 and 1 from excavation 5, layer 1 were also retrieved (figure 30) (Personal comment: A. Malan).
- brass and other metal buttons, possibly military, were found as well. One was found in layer 1 of excavation 1; another in excavation 4, layer 1 (with an anchor as embossed logo) and one from the surface of excavation 5 (figure 31).
- one small shoe eye (where shoe laces pass through), made of brass, was recovered on the surface of excavation 5 (figure 30).
- a metal artifact found in layer 1, excavation 2, which is possibly the ear of a pair of glasses.

9.3.3 Toilet article

- two barber's scissors were found close together in excavation 5, layer 1 (figure 32) (Personal comment: A. Carelsen).

9.3.4 Fishing & Hunting

- two fishing hooks, one brass were found. They were recovered respectively from excavation 1, layer 1 and from excavation 5, layer 1 (figure 33).
- one iron arrow was found on the surface of the site as well (figure 34).

9.3.5 Food service

- twenty five pieces of cast-iron cooking pots, some clearly the typical "driepoot" pots, were found at various locations on the site. Some of the pieces fit together physically (figure 29). These pieces were found during the surface collection and on the surface of excavation 4 & 5.



Figure 29 Cog of a paraffin lamp, parts of cast-iron cooking pots, the lid of a paraffin can and the lid of a coffee pot found at the site.



Figure 30 Belt and brace buckles, the eye of a shoe and a small aluminium object found at the site.

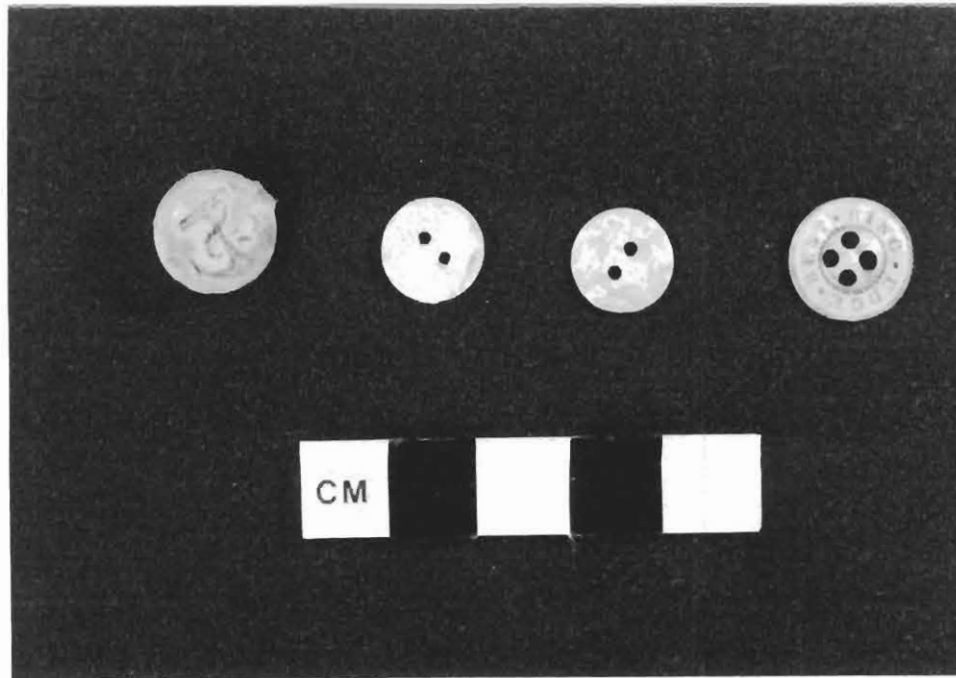


Figure 31 Metal buttons found on the site.

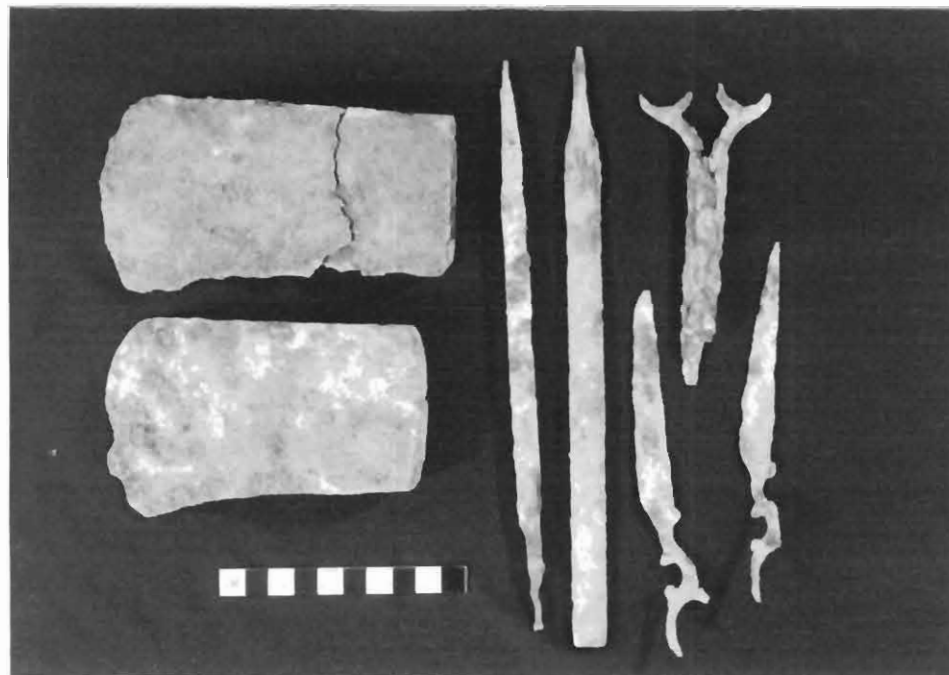


Figure 32 Two axe heads, two files and two pairs of scissors, found in close proximity to each other in excavation 5.

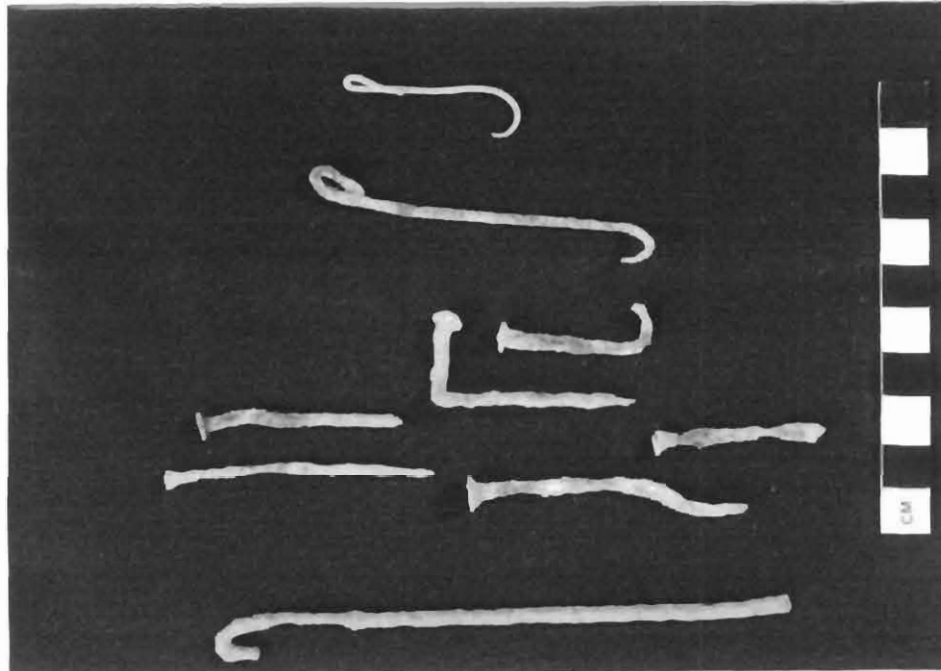


Figure 33 Two fishing hooks and nails found on the site.

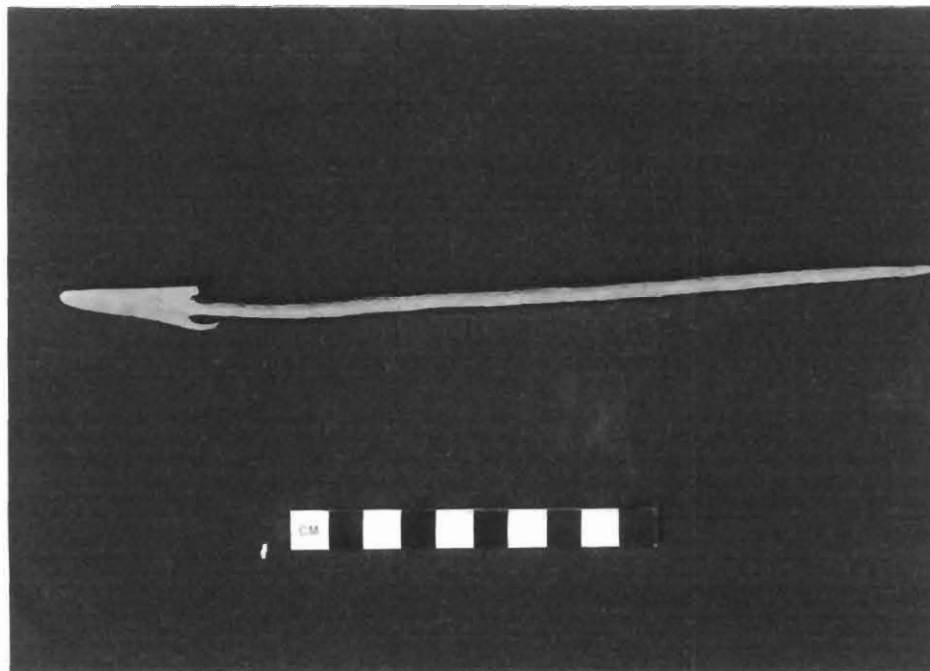


Figure 34 An arrow that was found on the surface of the site.

- a large amount of remains of food tins, mostly fragments but also some lids, bottoms and nearly complete tins, were also found (figure 35). These were found on the surface and in all the excavations except excavation 3. The types of food represented are bully beef, ham and sardines. Metal keys, 17 in total, with which these tins were opened, were also recovered. In all, 731 pieces of tins, lids, bottoms and more complete tins were retrieved. On only one small lid a makers' mark were distinguishable. It is **CROSSE & BLACKWELL LONDON PATENT**. It was possibly a baking powder tin (Personal comment: A. Malan).

Metal artifacts representing cutlery were also found (figure 36). These include the following:

- three pieces representing 2 forks, 1 piece from the surface collection and 2 pieces of the same fork from excavation 2, layer 1. The haft and part of the tip remains. Both probably had bone or wood covered hafts.
- four pieces of spoon handles (representing 2 spoons, 1 a teaspoon), were recovered, 3 pieces from excavation 4, layer 1 and 1 from excavation 5, layer 1.
- one piece of the handle of a tablespoon. It is decorated with a shell pattern. Cutlery with this embossed logo were distributed to the British Army (Army and Navy Stores Catalogue, 1907: 215). It was found in excavation 1, layer 1.

9.3.6 Household articles

Household artifacts included the following.

- part of a blue & white enamel bowl, found on the surface.
- the handle of a can, possibly paraffin, from the surface of excavation 4.
- a lid of a paraffin can, **1 GALLON** on the handle, from the surface of excavation 4 (figure 29) (Personal comment: A. Malan).
- one lid of a coffee pot or kettle (Personal comment: A. Malan) was found on the surface of excavation 4 (figure 29). Part of another coffee pot or kettle lid was found on the surface of excavation 5.
- part of a corkscrew and a bucket handle was found in excavation 4, layer 1.
- the lid of possibly a small medicine bottle was recovered from excavation 2, layer 1.



Figure 35 Parts of food tins found at the site.



Figure 36 Pieces of cutlery excavated at the site.

9.3.7 Tools & Equipment

This category includes the following artifacts.

- a large number of nails, including horseshoe nails, of various sizes (figure 33). These were found in all the excavations. Some of the nails could have been handmade (Personal comment: J. Middeljans).
- pieces of wire were found in excavations 1, 2 and 4. One of the pieces has its tips flattened and was possibly used as some kind of tool.
- two iron tentpegs were found during the surface collection.
- a small brass part of a lock (Personal comment: A.Malan), found on the surface of excavation 5 (figure 37).
- two axe heads were found together in excavation 5, layer 1 (figure 32).
- two files, for metal and/or wood working, were also found in excavation 5, layer 1 (figure 32). It is interesting to note that the two barber's scissors, the axe heads and files were all found together in layer 1 of excavation 5.
- nine small pear-shaped metal artifacts, were recovered from excavation 1, 2, 4 and 5 (figure 38). They are the gas (CO₂) bulbs/cannisters used in the bottles or flasks for making sodawater (Personal comment: A. Malan) (Army and Navy Stores Catalogue, 1907:519).

9.3.8 Ammunition

The following cartridges and bullets were found on the site (figure 39):

Surface collection:

Shot gun cartridge

Eley London, no 12 EBL (Eley Brothers, Limited).

This cartridge was used from 1842 until late in the twentieth century (\pm 1970) mainly for hunting (Hoyem 1985:xii).

If rifle artifacts would have been found in the vicinity of the cartridges during excavation, dating would have been easy. Unfortunately the precise dating in this case is impossible.

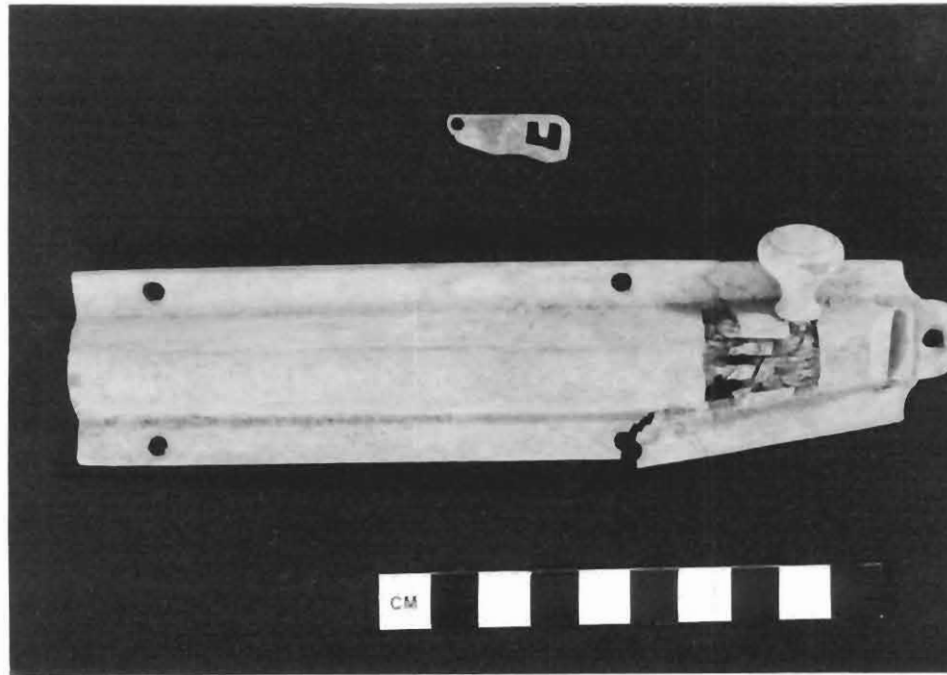


Figure 37 A small brass part of a lock and a slide action door lock.



Figure 38 CO2 cannister for making soda water.

Shot gun cartridge (basis)

WW Greener, no 12 (William Wellington Greener)

The Greener family were well-known ammunition manufacturers and gunsmiths. In 1869 WW Greener took over the firm in Birmingham. They carried on manufacturing weaponry and ammunition until 1920 (Editor 1987:xii).

Shot gun cartridge

Kynoch, Birmingham no 12

The Kynoch company existed from 1862 and production of this cartridge (marked Kynoch) like the above mentioned case (Eley Brothers Limited) existed until the late twentieth century (Editor 1987:xii).

9-11 mm cartridge

Marked B IV (Birmingham, Mark IV)

Most probably a .303 Lee Enfield Mark IV which was used during the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War and replaced by a Mark II in 1900 (Simpson 1982:26).

Excavation 1, Surface

Shot gun cartridge

Eley London, no 12 EBL (stand for Eley Brothers, Limited).

This cartridge was used from 1842 until late in the twentieth century (\pm 1970) mainly for hunting (Hoyem 1985:xii).

Shot gun cartridge

Kynoch, Birmingham no 12

The Kynoch company existed from 1862 and production of this cartridge (marked Kynoch) like the above mentioned case (Eley Brothers Limited) existed until the late twentieth century (Hoyem 1985:xii).

11mm cartridge (marked B G/C?)

Birmingham,

Most probably a .303 Lee Enfield. Date unknown.

Eley .45 revolver cartridge

This cartridge was used in the .45 Webley and Colt Revolvers (Editor 1980:12). The .45 revolver cartridge was commonly used during the twentieth century. Webley revolvers were used during the Anglo-Boer War by British and Boer soldiers, and usually issued to officers.

Excavation 1, layer 1

.450/577- solid case cartridge

Maxim (short neck)

This cartridge was used in the Martini-Henry Maxim gun. Maxims (1888-model) among others were used by the State Artillery from 1896 and were brought into the Transvaal via Mozambique and were used during the Anglo-Boer War by the Boers and British soldiers (Nöthling 1989:69). In 1904 a new model with a smaller calibre was manufactured (Smith 1973:103).

Shot gun

Hendon, Normal no.12

Shot gun

Eley, Gastight no. 12

This cartridge was used during the 1870s and 1880s, but they and their competitor, Kynoch continued to produce coiled case ammunition well into the twentieth century (Hoyem 1985:xii).

Part of cartridge

Excavation 2, layer 1

.577-cartridge basis

This was either a Boxer cartridge dated back between 1866 to 1871, and was used in the Snider rifle, the forerunner of the breech loader, or even a Martini Henry rolled or solid case cartridge which was used from 1871 onwards. The solid case was used during the Anglo-Boer War until 1900 or even later in 1918 (Fuller 1983:60).

Eley .45 revolver cartridge

This cartridge was used in the .45 Webley and Colt Revolvers (Editor 1980:12). The .45 revolver cartridge was commonly used during the twentieth century. Webley revolvers were used during the Anglo-Boer War by British and Boer soldiers, and usually issued to officers.

Two lead bullets

Most probably bullets of a .45 revolver cartridge.

Long lead bullet with hollow point

This bullet could fit a variety of cartridge cases, namely .303, 7mm-11mm.

Shot gun no 12

Eley, London

Eley London, no 12 EBL (stand for Eley Brothers, Limited).

This cartridge was used from 1842 until late in the twentieth century (\pm 1970) mainly for hunting (Hoyem 1985:xii).

.303-cartridge

C, B, II (Cordite, Birmingham, Mark II)

Smokeless cordite was introduced in 1888. By 1905 four different were in used in small arms, indicated as special cordite (Hoyem 1985:xvi).

Excavation 2.1, Layer 2

Shot gun cartridge

Kynoch, Birmingham no 12

The Kynoch company existed from 1862 and production of this cartridge (marked Kynoch) like the above mentioned case (Eley Brothers Limited) existed until the late twentieth century (Hoyem 1985:xii).

Excavation 4, Layer 1

.577/450 Martini-Henry rolled cartridge

Was used during 1869-1871. After 1871 the solid case was manufactured.

Shot gun cartridge no. 20
Use for hunting. Manufacturer unknown.

Excavation 5. Layer 1
Two Shot gun cartridges (same)
Kynoch no 12 Gastight
This cartridge was used in the Paradox ball-and-shot guns which were used during 1920-1930 (Hoyem 1985:30).

Eley .45 revolver cartridge
This cartridge was used in the .45 Webley and Colt Revolvers (Editor 1980:12).
The .45 revolver cartridge was commonly used during the twentieth century.
Webley revolvers were used during the Anglo-Boer War by British and Boer soldiers, and usually issued to officers.

9.3.9 Transportation

This category is represented by two heavy metal artifacts, one part of the undercarriage and the other a part of the axle of a small wagon or cart (figure 40).
The axle looks as if it has been tapered at both ends. Both artifacts were found on the surface of excavation 4.

9.3.10 Building component

One brass/copper, slide action door lock was found in excavation 5, layer 1 (figure 37).

9.3.11 Recreational

- one Jew's Harp (trompie in Afrikaans) was collected on the surface of excavation 5 (figure 41).

The other artifacts connected with this category are the pieces of and complete lead seals of liquor bottles (figure 42).

- thirty three pieces and six complete ones were found in excavation 1, layer 1.
Three of these has the following embossed makers' mark **M.B.FOSTER & SONS**



Figure 39 Cartidges found on the site.

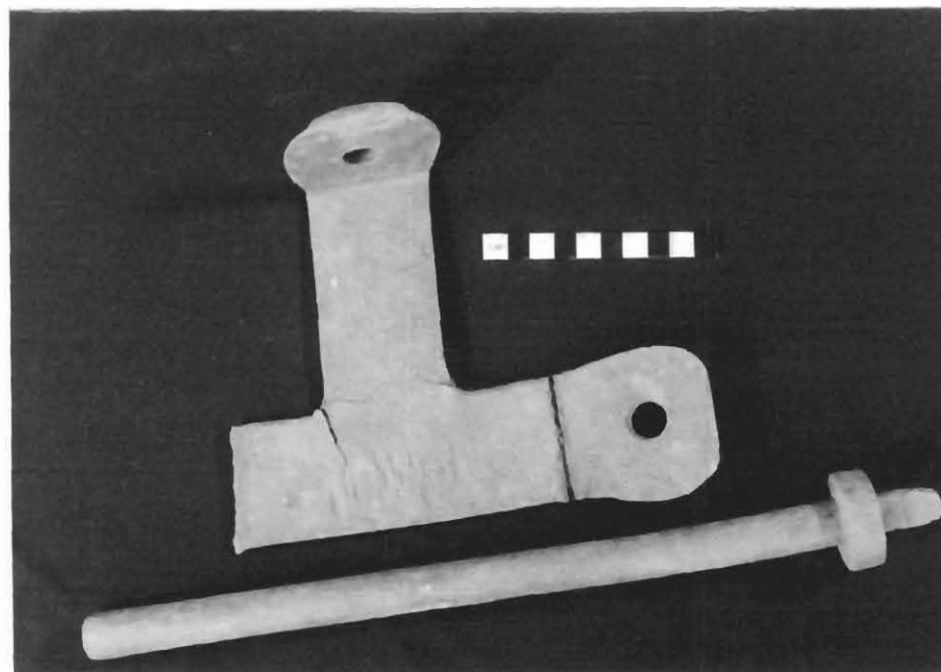


Figure 40 An axle and part of the undercarriage of a small cart.



Figure 41 A Jew's harp excavated at the site.



Figure 42 Lead seals of liquor bottles.

LIMITED LONDON. This company bottled ales and stouts, which they then distributed to the army (Army and Navy Stores Catalogue, 1907: 60).

- another eight pieces were recovered from layer 2 of excavation 1, with two being **M.B.FOSTER & SONS LIMITED LONDON** again.
- sixteen pieces and six complete seals were found in excavation 2, layer 1. Four of these has maker's marks. Two has star logo's, one **UDOLPHO WOLFES SCHIEDAM SCHNAPPS** and one **THOMA BREWERY JOHANNESBURG**. Last mentioned company was in operation between 1892 and 1902 (Lastovica & Lastovica, 1986:99).

9.3.12 Miscellaneous

This category includes all those metal artifacts (except fragments) that could not be identified to a particular function.

- a blue & white enamel lid collected on the surface.
- one small and one medium sized metal lid from excavations 1 & 2, both found in the first layer.
- three metal strips and an iron object with flattened tips was collected on the surface.
- two small brass rings found in excavation 1, layer 1.
- one thin piece of copper and a lead seal with the letters **H & V** on it. It was recovered from excavation 1, layer 2.
- another lead seal, with letters **H & V & S** on it, from excavation 2, layer 1.
- two copper rods and a small aluminum object (figure 30). All three artifacts were retrieved from excavation 5, layer 1.

9.4 Organic material

This category is divided into skeletal material, shell, worked bone and miscellaneous.

9.4.1 Skeletal material

Skeletal material includes unidentifiable pieces of bone and teeth, as well as identifiable pieces. Skeletal material was found in all the excavations (except

excavation 3), with more than half of the total of 856 skeletal artifacts from excavation 5.

9.4.1.1 Unidentifiable

Unidentifiable skeletal material includes, as mentioned above, pieces or fragments of bone and teeth. In total 726 unidentifiable pieces of bone and teeth were found, again most of it in excavation 5. Some of the unidentifiable pieces of bone has been burned, while others show clear signs of cut marks or carnivore or rodent gnawmarks, although this was not encountered regularly.

9.4.1.2 Identifiable

A total number of 130 identifiable skeletal parts were found during the excavations. Both domesticated, although small in number, and non-domesticated animals are represented by the skeletal material. The results of the analysis of the identifiable skeletal material are discussed in table form.

TABLE 1 IDENTIFIABLE SKELETAL MATERIAL FROM STEINAECKER'S HORSE NORTHENMOST OUTPOST ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Skeletal part	Species	Age	Provenance	Total
Os nasale	Bov. III Non-domest.		Excav. 1, layer 1	1
Tibia	Bov. II		Excav. 1, layer 1	1
Tarso-metatarsus	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	1
Tibio-tarsus	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	3
Ulna	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	2
Radius	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	4
Phalanges	cf. Francolin		Same as above	1
Carpo-metacarpus	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	1
2nd digit 2nd phalanges	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	1
Right astragalus	Bov. II, cf. Ovis/Capra		Excav. 1, layer 2	1
1st phalanges	Steenbok		Same as above	1
Pelvis	Bov. I		Same as above	1
Ulna	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	1
Coracoid	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	1
Rib	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	1

Skeletal part	Species	Age	Provenance	Total
Humerus	Bov.III, Ovis aries		Excav.2, layer 1	1
M2 (molar)	Bov.II, Ovis/Capra		Same as above	1
p2 (premolar)	Bov.II, Ovis/Capra		Same as above	1
Tibio-tarsus	Medium bird		Same as above	1
Intermediate carpal	Zebra, Equus burchelli		Same as above	1
Humerus	Bov.III		Excav.4, layer 1	1
Femur	Small bird		Same as above	1
1st phalanges	Bov.II, Impala		Same as above	1
2nd phalanges	Bov.I, Steenbok		Excav.4, layer 1	1
Metapodial	Small rodent		Same as above	1
Skull	Small fish		Same as above	1
Distal metapodial	Bov.I		Excav.5, layer 1	1
Distal metapodial	Bov.II		Same as above	1
Rib, vertebrae and skull parts	Fish		Same as above	18
Horn core	Bovidae	Juvenile	Same as above	1
Humerus	Bov.II		Same as above	1
Lower right mandible	Ovis/Capra	Juvenile	Same as above	1
Plastron, carapace, scapulae, vertebrae parts	Tortoise		Same as above	19
Sesamoid	Bov.II		Same as above	1
Molar fragment and an incisor	?		Same as above	2
Metatarsal	Felis serval, Tierboskat		Same as above	1
Incisor (2 pieces)	Small rodent		Same as above	1
Maxilla with incisors and cheek teeth	Cane rat		Same as above	1
Calcaneum	Scrub hare (Kolhaas)		Same as above	2
Distal calcaneum	Small carnivore		Same as above	1
Proximal ulna	Cane rat		Same as above	1
Metapodial	Cane rat		Same as above	2
Humerus	cf.Rodent	Juvenile	Same as above	1
Tibia	Cane rat	Juvenile	Same as above	1
Radius	Bov.II		Same as above	1
Tibio-tarsus	cf.Guinea fowl		Same as above	2
Coracoid	cf.Guinea fowl		Same as above	1
Tarso-metatarsus	cf.Guinea fowl		Same as above	2

Skeletal part	Species	Age	Provenance	Total
Ribs and vertebrae	Fish		Excav.5.1, layer 2	24
Carapace	Tortoise		Same as above	1
Scapula	Tortoise		Same as above	1
Sesamoid	?		Same as above	1
Radius	cf. Guinea fowl		Same as above	1
Mandible	Cane rat		Same as above	1
Fin fragment	Fish		Same as above	1

Although the skeletal material sample is too small to make clear-cut conclusions, we were able to make some assumptions. Only a few pieces of identifiable bone of domesticated animals were found, most of it from excavation 1 and 2. These include sheep and goat. Guinea fowl sized bird dominates the bone sample of these two excavations, while steenbok and zebra was recovered as well. Excavation 4 & 5 are dominated by non-domesticated animals, with only one bone of a goat found. Steenbok, impala, fish, tortoise, cane rat and guinea fowl are the best represented, while rare occurrences are tierboskat and scrub hare.

From excavation 1 and 2, possibly associated with the officers and white troops, it seems as if domesticated animals, together with bird such as Guinea fowl, were mainly consumed. Excavation 4 and 5, associated with native servants and Native Police troops, shows a difference in that non-domesticated animals dominate. Fish were only found in these two excavations, possibly pointing to the fact that these native servant and troops supplemented their game diet with fish. The white members of the garrison would have supplemented their tinned rations with the occasional sheep or goat, and sometimes game. Further excavations should be undertaken to produce a larger bone sample, which would help verify these assumptions regarding the diet of the different members of the garrison.

9.4.2 Shell

In this category we have egg shell (including ostrich egg), mother-of-pearl and river or land snail (*achatina* sp.).

fifty eight pieces of pearl and other shell were recovered in total, from all the excavations except excavation 3, as well as during the surface collection (figure 27).

- fifteen pieces of thin egg shell were found in total, at excavation 1, layer 1; excavation 2, layer 1 and excavation 5, layer 1 (figure 43).
- five pieces of ostrich egg shell were retrieved from excavation 5, layer 1 (figure 43).

Personal items made of shell were also found on the surface and in some of the excavations. This include the following.

- six buttons made of mother-of-pearl.

9.4.3 Worked bone

This category is represented by three of the most interesting artifacts found at the site. It is three pieces of bone, filed flat and with two holes bored in each of them (figure 43). They were probably part of some necklace worn by an important hunter, warrior or headman, and were intended to resemble the dew claws of a lion (Personal comments: A. Schreiber, J. van Schalkwyk & I. Plug).

9.4.4 Miscelaneous

This category is only represented by one small piece of an apricot pip that was found in layer 1 of excavation 2.

9.5 **Anorganic material**

9.5.1 Hut debris (figure 44)

- one small piece, with a pole mark, was found in excavation 2, layer 2.
- all the other pieces of hut debris, totalling 108, were recovered from the three layers of excavation 3. Most of these have pole marks, while some have been burnt. Two small pieces of mud core (of reeds?) were also found in this excavation.

9.5.2 Stone tools

Stone tools were identified all over the area and the presence of these artifacts on the site are therefore not unexpected. Stone tools found in the excavations are:

- a Late Stone Age flake from excavation 1, layer 1.
- a Middle Stone Age flake found in excavation 4, layer 1.



Figure 43 Egg shell and worked bone resembling the dew claws of a lion.



Figure 44 Hut debris, found at excavation 3.

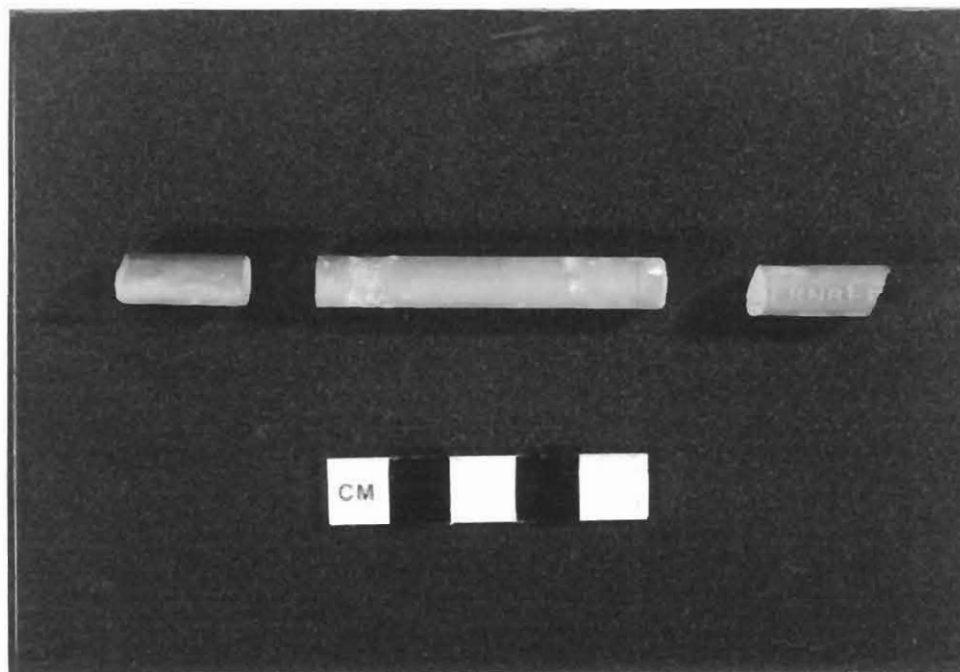


Figure 45 Pieces of bakelite found at the site.

- and a Late Stone Age core tool recovered from excavation 4, layer 2.

9.5.3 Miscellaneous

This category includes the following.

- a small plastic heart-shaped artifact, turquoise in colour. It could possibly have been part of a necklace. It was found during the surface collection.
- one small white coloured plastic button was found in excavation 2, layer 1.
- pieces of bakelite, 1 from excavation 2, layer 1 and 3 from excavation 4, layer 2 was found as well (Figure 45). They are silindrical, rod-like objects and their function is unknown. On one piece the following lettering are visible **FRNBFR** and **MAKE C.CONRADT**.

10. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

From what was found at the site it is clear that it had been occupied by man since the Stone Age. Evidence of Early Iron Age settlement was also found. The extent of cultural material dating to the historical period clearly shows that the site was more recently used extensively for a shorter period of time.

Features on the site mainly consist of refuse middens, with only two areas where hut debris were found. This leads to the conclusion that the site was occupied only for a short period and that little or no permanent shelter was erected. Tent pegs found at the site seem to strengthen this argument.

The number of refuse middens and the size of some of them clearly shows that a fairly large number of people were stationed at the site during the presence of Steinaecker's Horse in the area. The difference in artifacts from the various middens suggests some kind of social differentiation, e.g. soldiers from the Native Police concentrated on the part of the site close to the southwestern refuse midden, officers (and men) of Steinaecker's Horse close to the central midden and the cook close to the southeastern midden and areas of hut debris. These are concluded respectively from a larger number of Iron age-type pottery found at excavation 5, more 19th and 20th century ceramics, glass and metal from excavations 1 and 2 and burnt patches of soil at excavation 3 and 4. The large amount of bone found

at excavation 5, in contrast to what was the case at the other two excavations, could possibly also be evidence of this. Although the social differentiation idea is suggested, conclusive evidence for these assumptions were not found, thus asking for further research.

With cultural material found not only in the refuse middens but also scattered on the surface over a wide area on the site, a picture of an untidy and fairly undisciplined garrison comes to mind. It is easy to imagine both officers and men of Steinaecker's Horse and Native Police troops lazing around, eating and drinking and throwing their bottles and empty bully beef tins just where they were at that moment. The untidyness witnessed here is something not to be expected at a site with a military nature. We know however that Steinaecker's Horse was a voluntary military unit and that most of the characters recruited for service in the unit were of low social standing or just people looking for adventure. The usual military strictness of the British Army would not have held fast here. Future research may reveal more of this nature of Steinaecker's Horse's unit at this particular outpost and will also help with comparative studies of other British military outposts.

The hut debris found at excavation 3 were identified as parts of walls, clearly shown by the pole marks. Evidence that the poles could have been reeds was found in the form of impressions of it in pieces of burnt clay. No signs of a floor was found at excavation 3, while burnt patches of soil were uncovered. It is therefore suggested that the structure was not permanent and that it was probably used as a cooking shelter. As a relatively large number of people occupied the site, it is also possible that more than one cooking area existed, therefore explaining the other hut debris that was found as well as the burnt patches of soil in excavation 4. An indication of the number of people stationed at these outposts are found in historical sources. From this we know that at the Sabi Bridge (Skukuza) post 20 men (referring to the white troops), together with a number of native servants and police boys were stationed (Stevenson-Hamilton 1952: 16). It is therefore not unreasonable to suggest a similar amount for the Letaba outpost.

The cultural material found at the site revealed some expected, but also unexpected evidence. Most of the glass and ceramics are dated to the late 19th and early 20th century, coinciding with the dates of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902), the period in which Steinaecker's Horse operated in the area. The presence of fine porcelain at the site seems to indicate that although the unit was a voluntary force, they were supplied with their provisions through a conventional army commissariat. The lead bottle seals, with M.B.Foster & Sons Limited, bottlers of ales and stouts on it, also indicates this fact. This company bottled these products which they then supplied to the British Army (Army and Navy Stores Catalogue 1907:60). Historical sources also show that they received their provisions through an army commissariat. Pickles and whiskey, together with the groceries, were drawn from an army commissariat, while game provided meat for all outposts and all other rations were conveyed weekly by ox wagon to the outposts (Stevenson-Hamilton 1952:14).

Some of the earthenware was positively identified as belonging to the period 1920-1940. This was unexpected and probably gives evidence of the site being utilized at a later stage, after the Anglo-Boer War, possibly by a game ranger. From historical sources it is known that former members of Steinaecker's Horse became game rangers in the newly established game reserve, such as Harry Wolhuter, Gaza Gray, Harold Trollope and others (Pienaar 1990:347). Because they would have known about the existence of the outpost, it is not unreasonable to suggest that they would have used the site again in later years.

Potsherds, of non-western origin, were also found. They show similarities with pottery of Late Iron Age communities and were probably used by the native servants and Native Police, a black unit commissioned by the British Army, part of which are known to have been deployed with Steinaecker's Horse.

The ammunition found at the site seem to indicate the same. A number of the cartridges clearly date to the period of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). However, quite a large number of cartridges found are from a later date, indicating the re-use of the site.

A large amount of artifacts associated with the consumption of alcoholic beverages were found. These include fragments of liquor (rum, gin, beer and wine) bottles, seals of bottles and CO2 cannisters for making soda water. This is in accordance with historical sources stating that similar products were supplied to the various outposts of Steinaecker's Horse (Stevenson-Hamilton 1952:13; Pienaar 1990:345).

Some excavated artifacts were of military origin and confirmed the nature of the site. These include metal buttons, spent cartridges and part of a table spoon which was identified as a type being issued to the British Army.

Artifacts, further stressing the fact that native servants and the Native Police were present at the site, included glass beads and parts of a necklace of worked bone, intended to represent the dew claws of a lion.

Artifacts such as the Jew's Harp, and maybe even the files and axes, shows that the troops stationed at the outpost had time for recreational activities, such as making music and filing the bone to make fake lion's claws. The files and axes would also have been used in the day-to-day activities of the garrison, including chopping fire wood. The barber's scissors could have a military significance, such as keeping the hair of the men short, but could also have been used for tailoring. Without further research this can however only be speculated about.

The diet of the garrison included the usual military rations of bully beef, sardines and ham, clearly shown by the large amount of tins found on the site. Historical sources also indicate a well rationed unit, with tinned fruit and vegetable also being issued (Wolhuter 1973: 50). But, not only tinned foods were consumed. Skeletal material of both non-domesticated and domesticated animals were found in the refuse middens. These include guinea fowl, cane rat, zebra, steenbok, impala, tortoise, goat and sheep. Unusual to find is the scrub hare and tierboskat skeletal material. Fish also supplemented the diet, as both bones of fish and fishing hooks were found at the site. Historical sources indicate that both game and domesticated animals were utilized in the diet of Steinaecker's Horse. The natives' cattle were herded at the various outposts, for fresh milk and because they could not sustain

themselves on a diet consisting mainly of game (Stevenson-Hamilton 1952: 14). We also know that Steinaecker's Horse were notorious for their indiscreet hunting, and for a time the many outlying posts of the corps lived largely on buck-meat. Major Greenhill-Gardyne, the second in command of the unit tried to put a stop to this senseless hunting by issuing a memo in this regard. Because of this they had to gather more domesticated animals (Stevenson-Hamilton 1952:15; Pienaar 1990:347).

The reasonably large amount of pearl shell can not be explained at this stage. Future research may shed light on this and other questions that came to the fore thus far. One of these are why the two axe heads, files and scissors were found in close proximity to each other.

The final conclusion from the archaeology of the site is therefore that it was definitely occupied by a military unit. This unit consisted of members of local black communities (native servants), Native Police troops and members of Steinaecker's Horse although the archaeological record could not determine conclusively that it was Steinaecker's Horse. The historical information on the other hand states that it was members of Steinaecker's Horse and the Native Police occupying the site. Further archaeological research is needed to verify all the historical information and to strengthen the archaeological evidence, found thus far.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The aim of the study was firstly to collect historical information regarding Col. L. von Steinaecker and his military unit. A large amount of information was collected. No specific information on the northernmost outpost was however found. **It is therefore recommended that the archives of the Kruger National Park at Skukuza should be thoroughly worked through by a historian, in order to retrieve possible information in this regard.**

11.2 The second aim of the study was to collect archaeological data from the site. This was successful, but aroused more questions on the site than it answered. These questions are as follows and needs further investigation:

- i. The possibility of social differentiation between the officers and soldiers of the Steinaecker's Horse and between them and soldiers of the Native Police.
- ii. The re-use of the site after the Anglo-Boer War.
- iii. The connection between the Native Police and non-combatting inhabitants of the area.
- iv. Although skeletal material of domesticated animals were found at the site, the amount was disappointingly low. Further archaeological excavations can reveal much more and can shed more light on the garrison's diet. A kraal, where domesticated animals were kept was not found and may also be uncovered by further research.
- v. The explanation of certain finds, such as reasonably large amounts of pearl shell and the association of certain artifacts with each other.
- vi. Archaeological verification of the historical information, definitely linking the site to occupation by Steinaecker's Horse.

It is recommended that further archaeological excavations take place on the site in order to elucidate the above mentioned.

- 11.3 The last aim of the project was to compare the archaeological material with those of other British military sites. This is in process and will result in the eventual publication of reports and articles. **No recommendation is deemed necessary.**
- 11.4 The dangers threatening the deposits on the site are still present. **Therefore it is recommended that archaeological research continue, to obtain as much information as possible from this unique and important site before the deposits are demolished completely.**
- 11.5 **An exhibit of cultural material from the site should be erected in the Kruger National Park, preferably at the Letaba rest camp. This will serve as a reminder of the Kruger National Parks' (National Parks Board's) involvement with the research and conservation of cultural resources in their care. It will also promote the National Cultural History Museum as a service rendering organisation and can be linked with the centenary commemoration of the**

Anglo-Boer War, which is expected to bring a large number of foreign tourists to South Africa over the three year period of commemorations (1999-2002).

- 11.6 It is recommended that the site be incorporated in the Kruger National Parks' **future planning for the development of cultural resources. Detailed recommendations in this regard can be discussed if and when the National Parks Board find this a viable option.**

12. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The researchers wish to thank the following people and organisations:

Mr. J. Verhoef of the National Parks Board for his assistance in the planning and organisation of the project.

Dr. U.S. Küsel, Director of the National Cultural History Museum, for his approval and support.

Dr. J.A. van Schalkwyk, head of Anthropology and Archaeology at the Museum for his guidance and assistance.

Mr. A. Schreiber and J. Oelofsen, district game rangers of Letaba and Mopani, for their support during the project.

All the assistant game rangers for providing security and peace of mind while we were working at the site.

Mr. C. Knox, assistant camp manager of Letaba for his hospitality.

Colleagues, friends and game ranger students who assisted with the excavation of the site.

Prof. A Meyer, Dr. I. Plug, Mr. J. Middeljans, Mr. A. Malan, Mrs. C. Meyer, Mrs. A. Carelsen and Mrs. D. Beukes for rendering assistance in the analysis of

excavated material, Mr. W. Harley for redrawing the site map and Mr. F. Dreyer for taking photographs of some of the artifacts and developing the pictures taken on-site.

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