

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

by

Anton C. van Vollenhoven BA, BA(Hons), DTO, NDM, MA(UP), MA(US), DPhil(UP)

Anton J. Pelser BA, BA(Hons)(UWits)

Frank E. Teichert BA, BA(Hons)(UP)

Archaeos
P.O. Box 31064
Wonderboompoort
0033

Tel: (012) 335-2117
083 415 1862
Fax: (012) 320-2742

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OPSOMMING

Die mees noordelike buitepos van die Steinaecker's Horse militêre eenheid, is vir 'n tweede maal opgegrawe. Die doel daarvan was om sekere onbeantwoorde vrae, wat na die eerste opgrawingsseisoen ontstaan het, op te klaar. Vyf addisionele opgrawings is gedoen en twee opgrawings van die vorige seisoen is voltooi.

'n Groot hoeveelheid artefakte is blootgelê. Hieruit is afgelei dat die bevindinge van die eerste seisoen korrek was, naamlik dat daar duidelike tekens van sosiale differensiasie tussen blanke en swart inwoners op die terrein gevind kan word. Dit gee ook 'n beeld van hulle dieet, daaglikse aktiwiteite en lewenswyse. Hutoorblyfsels dui daarop dat daar van meer permanente strukture op die terrein gebruik gemaak is as wat voorheen vermoed is.

SUMMARY

The northernmost outpost of the Steinaecker's Horse military unit was excavated for a second field season. The aim was to find answers to questions that arose after the first season. Five additional excavations were dug and two from the previous season were completed.

A large amount of artifacts were uncovered. From this it was concluded that the findings from the first season, namely that there was a social division between white and black inhabitants on the site, were correct. It also gave an indication of their diet, daily activities and way of life. Hut remains suggest that more permanent structures were used on the site than was previously believed.

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1. Background to the project

The Steinaecker's Horse military unit was a volunteer unit that fought on the side of the British during the Anglo-Boer War (1899- 1902). They operated mainly in the Lowveld and Swaziland (Pienaar 1990:343).

The northernmost, or Letaba outpost, was one of several outposts manned by them in order to safeguard the area from the Boers. It is currently the only one of these outposts that have been located and therefore contains unique information about the daily lifestyle and routine of the inhabitants of such a military site (see for instance Pelser & Van Vollenhoven 1998).

The site was located during a field survey in 1996 (Van Vollenhoven et. al. 1996:2-5). During 1997 parts of the site were excavated. This resulted in more questions than answers, specifically concerning the role local black people played at the site (see Van Vollenhoven et.al.1998a:58-61; Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998b:119-120). It was therefore decided to have a second season of excavations on the site in order to illuminate these aspects. As one of the researchers (the project leader) was not employed by the National Cultural History Museum any more (he moved to the Pretoria City Council), it was decided to manage the project under the name of a privately constituted company, Archaetnos cc, however not for profitable purposes.

Permission to continue the research was obtained from the South African National Parks. An archival survey was done in Skukuza in November 1999 and excavation on the site commenced in August 2000.

2. Problem formulation

The excavation of the site in 1997 showed a clear discrepancy between the artifacts excavated from the two large middens on the site. Although the type of artifacts were more or less the same, there was a clear distinction in the frequency of the different artifacts. However the sample from the central midden was much larger than that of the southwestern midden, as more excavations were done at the former.

The second field season's research was therefore conducted to make these samples more or less equal in order to be able to make more correct deductions from the site. This would enable the researchers to determine if there really is a discrepancy between the two middens and the extent thereof.

Excavations were also conducted on those parts of the site where hut debris were identified, in order to determine their origin, as this could prove to be signs of more permanent shelter. If this proved to be the case it could mean that the site was far more important than was believed previously

3. Hypothesis

The research was done to determine if there was any social differentiation between the white and black soldiers on the site.

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The collection of historical information relating to the Steinaecker's Horse unit and specifically the Letaba outpost.

3.1.2 The collection of archaeological data from the site.

3.1.3 The comparison of excavated material from the central midden with that from the southeastern midden.

3.1.4 The archaeological investigation of clay debris on the site.

3.2. Research strategy

The research has universal interest as it falls within the Anglo-Boer War, which centenary is currently being commemorated. With the participation of black people in the war one of the most important aspects of this war being investigated currently, (this was neglected for a long time) the research is seen as also being extremely relevant.

Archaeological investigations has never before been done on an Anglo-Boer War site in order to specifically investigate the role black people played. Furthermore the Anglo-Boer War was declared one of the legacy projects of the National Government - therefore it is also of national importance.

4. Motivation for the research

4.1 The importance of the Steinaecker's Horse unit in the history of the Lowveld was clearly stated in the first report (Van Vollenhoven et. al. 1998a:3), which deals with the excavations on the site in 1997. It should however be noted that the unit played an important role in the establishment of the Kruger National Park, although indirectly.

4.2 The washing away of the middens, a big concern since the rediscovery of the site in 1996, had become a real threat after the heavy rainfall in the area during 1999/2000. It was calculated that the site lost between 7,5 and 16cm of topsoil during this period and with it probably numerous artifacts.

4.3 The uniqueness of the site, being the only known site of this unit that had been physically

identified makes it a very important site to be investigated.

4.4 The marketing of the site as being part of the Kruger National Park and that the Park is concerned about more than the natural environment, but also the cultural environment, is of great importance. It shows a holistic approach to conservation. It also forms part of the South African nation's legacy, being part of the Anglo-Boer War centenary which was declared a national legacy project by the National Government.

5. Location

The northernmost or Letaba outpost of Steinaecker's Horse, is situated more or less 15 kilometres northeast of the Letaba rest camp in the Kruger National Park (figure 1). It lies off the tourist route as it is in an ecologically sensitive area. To reach the site via road a detour has to be taken, making the distance from Letaba to the site approximately 35 kilometres. The GPS coordinates of the site is 23°43' 08"S and 31°36' 59"E on the map 2331 DA, Shilowa, of the South African 1:50 000 topographic series.

6. Site description

After the heavy rains of 1999/2000 the site was completely overgrown with grass that was almost thigh high. In contrast with 1997 no area was cleared and it was difficult to re-locate the site, even with the help of a GPS instrument. It should also be noted that the USA made certain corrections to their satellites after 1997, making coordinates taken before this date problematic.

Most of the trees on the site are small, indicating some form of disturbance on the site at a certain stage. These are mostly mopani and sickle bush. Large trees, specifically fever trees, are found alongside the Makhadzi spruit which flows more or less 500 metres from the site.

As a result of the long grass it was still impossible to determine the exact perimetres of the site, as was the case in 1997. The Makhadzi spruit, which was dry during 1997, was now in full flow and a temporary bridge, made of branches, had to be erected in order to move from the research vehicles to the site. It was therefore easy to imagine the inhabitants of the site making use of the spruit to swim, bathe, fish and as a source of drinking and cooking water.

Because of the long grass it was difficult to see the depressions of the 1997 excavations, but this was determined by making use of a dumpy level before the excavations commenced. The middens was also cleared of vegetation before this season's excavations was measured out. It should be mentioned that the heavy rains also proved the friend of the excavators, as new areas containing cultural deposits were washed open. It was one of these, although only discovered at the end of the first week after considerable moving around on the site, that contained the most important find of the second field season.

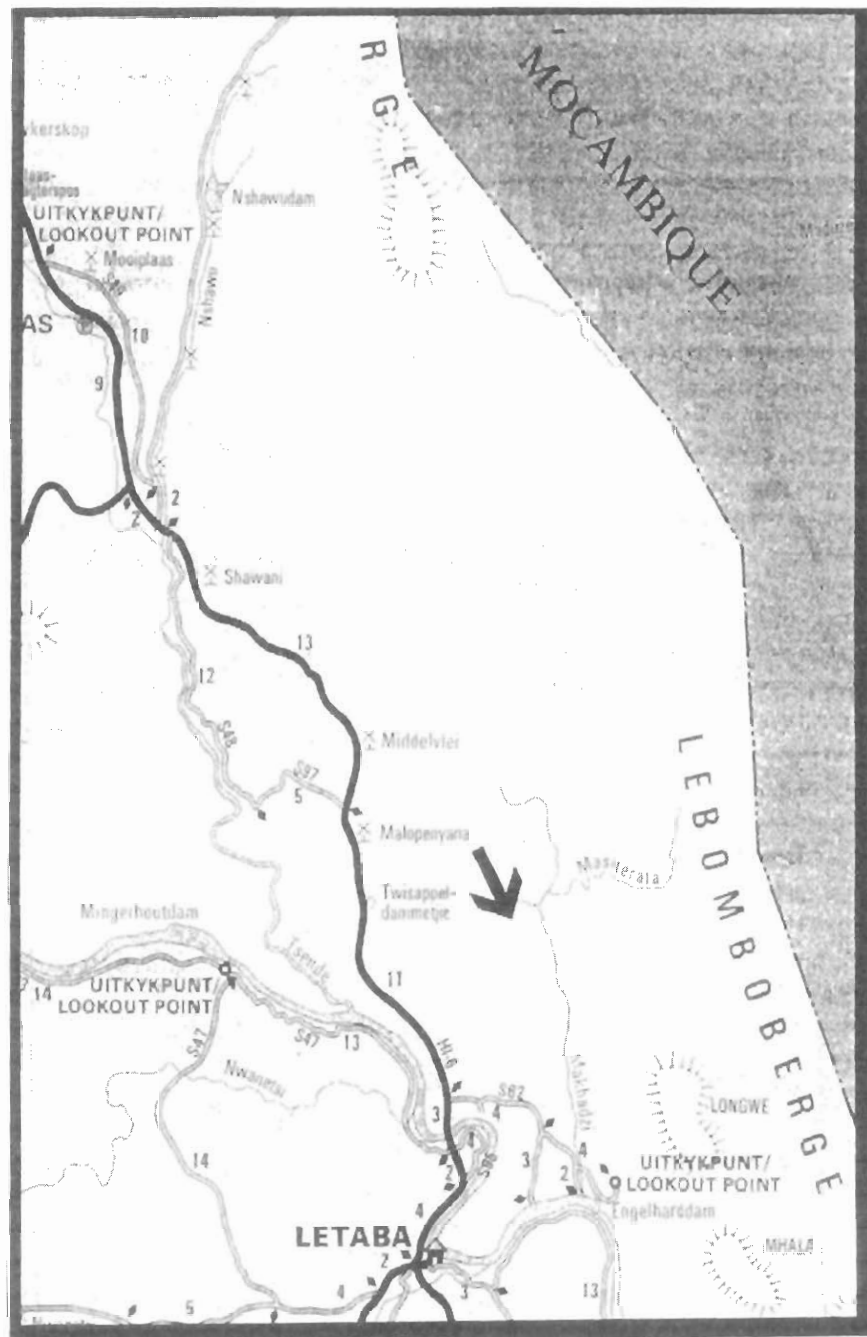


Figure 1 Location of the site.

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

On the northeastern side of the site a rocky outcrop, the highest point in the vicinity, is found (figure 2). The site is however basically flat with a gentle slope towards the Makhadzi spruit to the south and east thereof. Approximately 8 kilometres to the east of the site the Lebombo mountain range can be seen.

Because of the density of the vegetation it was impossible to locate more refuse middens than the four found previously. Cultural material was however found scattered over a large area. The central refuse midden has a diameter of approximately 15 metres, whilst the southwestern midden is about 30-40 metres in diameter. These are the two largest and most important middens on the site as it seems to contain information on the different groups that occupied the site. They are approximately 70 metres apart. The two smaller middens are found respectively 50 metres to the southeast and 20 metres to the northwest of the central midden with a diameter of more or less 4 metres each.

Hut clay was found at three spots. The first was 10 metres to the south-west of the central midden and was excavated in 1997. The second was 15 metres to the south of the first. Both these patches were only 1 meter in diameter. The last spot was 30 metres to the south-west of the central midden and was much larger than the other two, being 2,25-4,5 metres in diameter. The latter two were excavated during this field season and revealed an important find.

7. Historical background

As this aspect was covered in the previous report (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a), it will only be dealt with briefly. New found information will however be included.

The Northernmost Outpost of Steinaecker's Horse, is one of a number of outposts established by the Steinaecker's Horse military unit. The unit was formed by Francis Christiaan Ludwig von Steinaecker, a former Prussian-German soldier with vast military experience (Van Vollenhoven et.al.1998a: 6; S.A. National Museum of Military History: 920, D.R. Forsyth: 20-23). He came to Southern Africa in 1886, working as a cartographer in German South West Africa, after which he settled in Natal in 1890 (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:6-8). He became a British subject and when the Anglo-Boer War broke out in 1899, he joined the Colonial Scouts.

After impressing general Buller and participating in a series of successes against the Boers, he was permitted to raise his own cavalry unit, called Steinaecker's Horse. He was promoted to the rank of major and his unit had a strength of 450 men, mostly consisting of local inhabitants of the Lowveld region. They operated in the Lowveld and Swaziland and although they did not experience much action, they were involved in a few skirmishes against the Boers (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:8; S.A. National Museum of Military History: 920, D.R. Forsyth: 20-23; Paynter 1986: 48).

The most important of these was the Battle of Fort Mpisane (figure 3), the last of the

conventional military actions between Boer and British forces in the Lowveld. The battle took place on 7 August 1901 when Boer forces attacked the fort which was occupied by members of Steinaecker's Horse (Hamilton 1930: 3) as well as some local pro-British black people. The British eventually surrendered to the Boers. Although the battle had obviously no effect on the outcome of the Anglo-Boer War, it did seriously damage the operation of Steinaecker's Horse in the region (Pelser 1999:54-57).

The battle did however had an influence on the outcome of the history of the park. Captain H F (Farmer) Francis was killed in the battle (J. Stevenson-Hamilton 1930:7). Only five days before the battle he wrote a letter in which he stated that he is interested in the position of Ranger for the park, for which he was recommended. He also wrote that he had much success in stopping the black people from hunting, especially close to Steinaecker's Horse's outposts (Skukuza archives: Letter from H.F. Francis to Lieutenant Pasement, 02.08.1901).

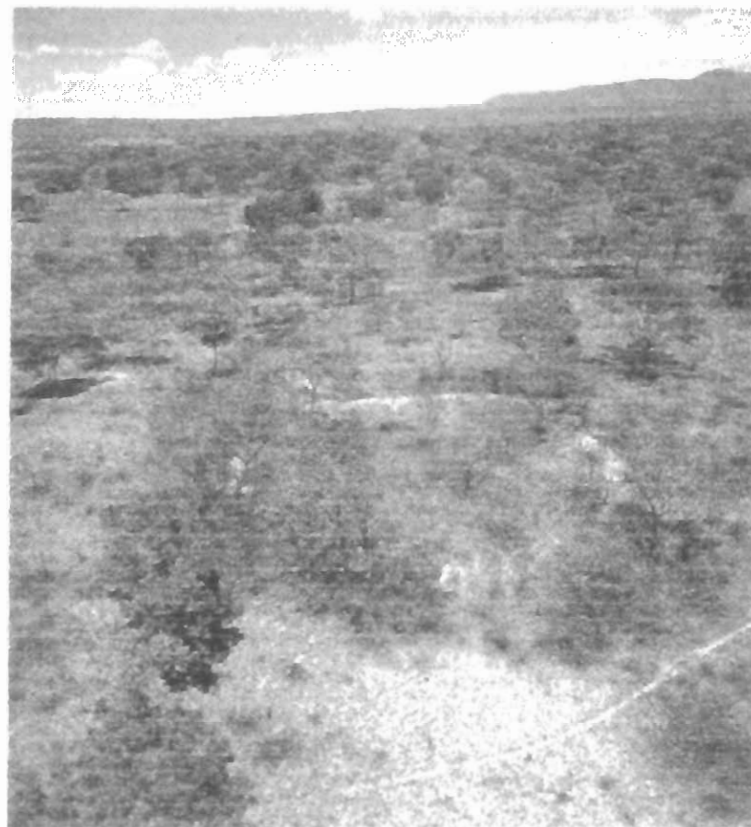


Figure 3 The remains of Mpisane's fort today (Pienaar 1990: 348).

Their main function, however, was to act as a border guard, in order to prevent the Boers from making contact with pro-Boer people in the Portuguese territory (Mozambique). For this purpose a number of outposts were established, of which the one under discussion was the northernmost (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:8-10). Unfortunately no specific information on this outpost has thus far been found in historical records.

A map drawn by Stevenson-Hamilton in 1903 does show some old picquettes, but the only one close to the area of investigation seem to be on the banks of the Letaba River (Skukuza archives: J. Stevenson-Hamilton, Game preservation document, 13.10.1903). It is however possible that this map is not very accurate. In this case it could provide (inaccurate) information on the location of other of Steinaecker's Horse's outposts. At least three other old picquettes are shown on the map. Some of these picquettes may also have been used as rangers picquettes after the Anglo-Boer War and were visited on a regular basis by the white rangers (Skukuza archives: Rangers diary of section Shingwedzi south, 08.09.1929-20.09.1929).

It is however known that on 1 August 1902, a few months after the war ended (31 May 1902) the members of Steinaecker's Horse still manned four posts. These consisted of roughly forty white men and 150 natives (Skukuza archives: Report of Government Game Reserve, 29.11.1903). In a letter to the Native Commissioner on 6 February 1903, Stevenson-Hamilton again states that Lieutenant-Colonel Steinaecker's corps were still not disbanded (Skukuza archives: Letter from major J. Stevenson-Hamilton to the Native Commissioner of Lydenburg, 06.02.1903). This was because Steinaecker (unsuccessfully) tried to establish his unit as a permanent border guard.

Steinaecker's Horse first had their headquarters at Komatipoort (figure 4a &b), but later moved it to Sabie Bridge where they erected a block house at the southern end of the temporary bridge (J. Stevenson-Hamilton 1930: 7; S.A. National Museum of Military History: 920, A.P. Cartwright: 1).

Some of the members of Steinaecker's Horse were later employed as game rangers in the park as they knew the area and the local natives well. Major James Stevenson-Hamilton, first warden of the park, indeed stated this in his annual report for 1902 as a pre-requisite for becoming a ranger. These included E.G. (Gaza) Grey - appointed 12 August 1902 (Skukuza archives: Annual report 1902; List of Rangers, 1902-1903), H.C. (Harry) Wolhuter - appointed 15 August 1902 (Skukuza archives: List of Rangers, 1902-1903; Staff of the Government Game Reserve, 1904) and S.H. (Harold) Trollope - Ranger of Malelane between 1925 and 1928 (Skukuza archives: Unnumbered photograph; Pienaar 1990: 347).

The second-in-command of Steinaecker's Horse, major A. Greenhill-Gardyne, also wrote a report about the preservation of the wild life in the area, which was used as a guide when the park was started. He also stated that clear rules were set out to the members of Steinaecker's Horse to stop them from indiscriminate hunting of wild life (Skukuza archives: Report by major A. Greenhill-Gardyne, 03.06.1902).



Figure 4a Group of Steinaecker's Horse's non-commissioned officers at Komatipoort, 1902 (Skukuza archives: Unnumbered photograph).



Figure 4b Members of Steinaecker's Horse at Komatipoort, shortly after the war in 1902 (Skukuza archives: Unnumbered photograph).

8. The excavations

As was the case during the first field season, no grid was laid out as specific features on the site were to be excavated. Datum points that were established in 1997 were located by GPS as these were shown on the site map. These were adapted due to the correction made by the USA to their satellites after 1997. They were used as fixed points from where excavations were measured out and measurements taken.

Five excavations were carried out and the second layer of two of the previous excavations were completed. These were layers 2 of excavation 2 and 5, respectively on the central and southeastern refuse middens. Two new excavations were done at the central midden and one at the southwestern midden. The other two excavations were measured out at two different areas containing hut debris. These were numbered excavations 6 to 10 with the first five having been excavated in 1997.

A small amount of cultural material was also collected from the surface. This include material from the surface of the excavations as well as a general surface collection.

8.1 The central refuse midden

8.1.1 Excavation 2

This excavation was placed in an east-west direction, through the central part of the midden. The first layer, which was excavated previously, was removed as a unit as this was filled after the previous season. This layer was 15cm deep at it's deepest point, proving 7,5cm shallower than in 1997. This is probably a result of the heavy rainfalls of 1999/2000.

The second layer was excavated in order to complete the excavation and was 8cm deep until sterile soil were uncovered (Figure 5). The texture of the soil was soft, ashy and fine and it consisted of a mixture of light grey and light brown soil. The sterile soil was clearly dark brown.

A large concentration of ash was visible at the northern edge of the central part of the excavation, where it meets excavation 6. This does not seem to have any particular significance.

Cultural material that were found here included pieces of bottle glass, porcelain, Iron age type pottery, pieces of tins, nails, bones, shell, glass beads and a hammer stone. The tip of a badly corroded fountain pen was also recovered in this excavation (see section 9).

8.1.2 Excavation 6

This was an excavation of 1 x 1m placed on the highest point of the midden, between excavation 1, 2 and 8 (figure 6). As this was believed to be the main core of the midden, it was thought that the excavation could indicate the total depth of the midden.



Figure 5 Excavation 2, layer 2, from east to west.

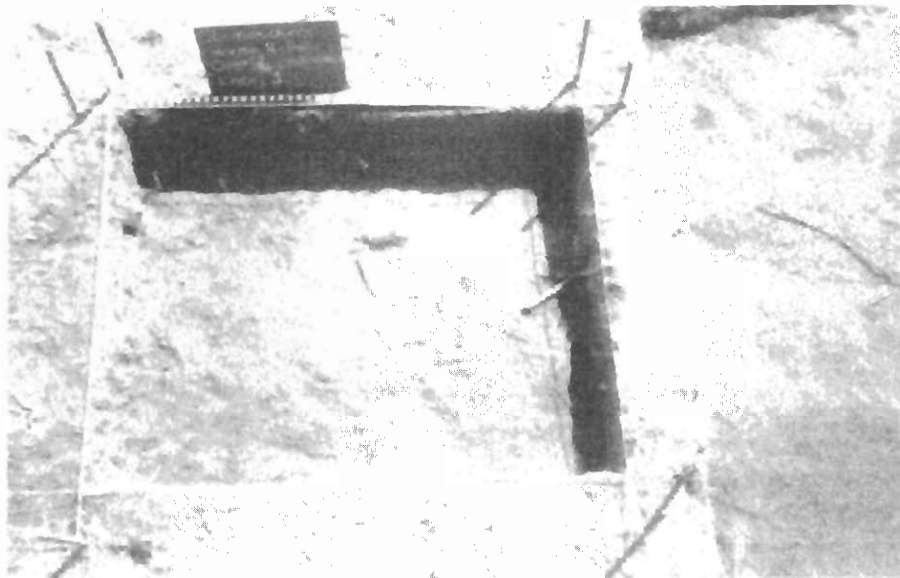


Figure 6 Excavation 6, layer 1, from east to west.

The soil was fine, grey and ashy throughout the excavation, which consisted of only 1 layer. Patches of charcoal were also uncovered. At a depth of 15cm sterile dark brown soil was found.

A fairly large amount of cultural material were recovered from excavation 6, with a total of 524 artifacts found in the top half of the layer and 370 artifacts in the bottom half. Cultural material consisted of glass, metal, bone, shell and ceramics (see section 9). Various types of bottles (non-alcoholic liquor, wine, beer, medicine) and wine glasses are represented by the glass, while the ceramics can be divided into porcelain and Iron Age type ceramics. Metal artifacts include tins, nails, buttons, spent cartridges, and other unidentified objects. A fair amount of identifiable and unidentifiable bone and shell were also recovered, as well as glass beads (similar to those typical of the Iron Age) and buttons made from mother-of-pearl.

8.1.3 Excavation 8

This excavation was measured out more or less in a north-south direction after the midden was cleared of vegetation. It's measurements are 4 x 1m. This excavation was deemed necessary as it covers the central part of the midden and therefore had potential of uncovering a higher density of artifacts. It possibly contained the oldest artifacts, therefore those more definitely linked to Steinaecker's Horse's occupation of the site, whereas those on the fringe of the midden had a higher chance of being associated with later occupants. This is due to fact that later occupants probably would have thrown their refuse on the fringes of the existing midden.

Because it was conducted on a midden, the surface was obviously not level. To level the excavation, layer 1 was of uneven depth, being 4cm on the southern end, 13cm at it's deepest level and 6cm at the northern end (figure 7). Signs of burrowing by animals were visible throughout the excavation.

At the two ends of the excavation, the soil was dark brown and sterile, but in the central part it was light grey. The texture was fine and ashy and concentrations of charcoal were also found. A large ashy concentration was found in the centre of the excavation (figure 8).

As the excavation cuts through excavation 2, it was actually divided into two separate parts. The northern part of layer 2 was 5cm deep until dark brown sterile soil was uncovered. The soil was light brown throughout the layer. In the southern part the soil was also light grey, fine and ashy. It was 7cm deep until the sterile soil was reached. This means that both the excavation and the midden were approximately 20cm deep (figure 9).

Excavation 8 produced much the same types of cultural material as excavation 2 and 6. The results from the analysis of the material will be discussed in greater detail later on in this report (see section 9).

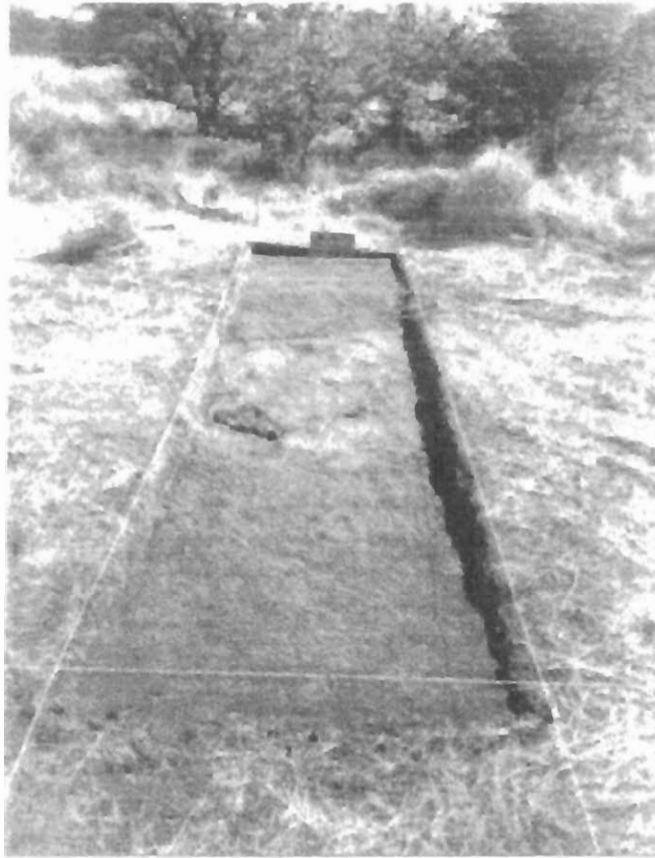


Figure 7 Excavation 8, layer 1, from south to north.



Figure 8 Detail of ashy concentration in excavation 8, layer II.

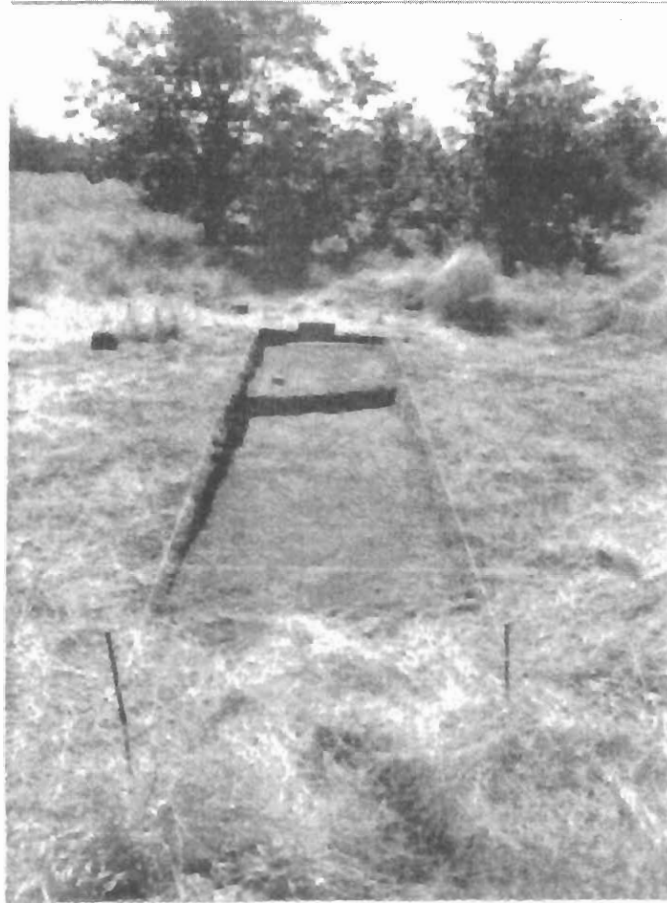


Figure 9 Excavation 8, layer 2, from south to north.

8.2 The southwestern refuse midden

8.2.1 Excavation 5

This was a trench of 4 x 1m, measured out in a north-south direction. The aim was to complete layer 2, which was started in the previous excavation season.

Only about 7cm of fill was removed, proving that almost 16cm of top soil (layer 1) was washed away by the rain. Layer two was 20cm deep until sterile dark brown soil was found. The layer consisted of fine grey ashy soil (figure 10). The northern end of the excavation was sterile from top to bottom, showing that this part was actually just adjacent to the midden.

Little cultural material was found. It consisted Little cultural material was found. It consisted of pieces of bottle glass, porcelain, Iron Age type ceramics, pieces of tins, nails and other metal artifacts, animal bone, shell, stone tools and Iron Age type glass beads (see section 9).

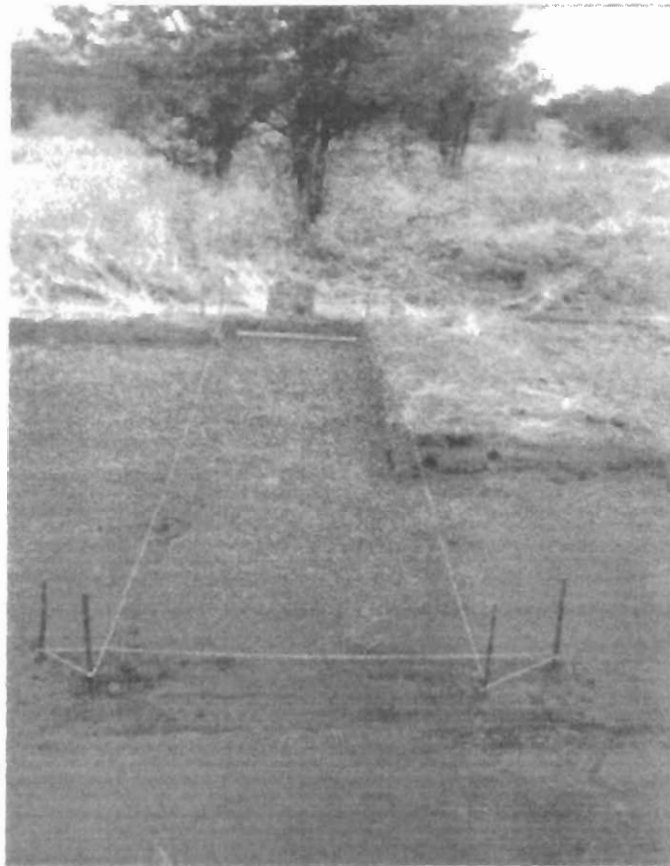


Figure 10 Excavation 5, layer 2, from south to north.

8.2.2 Excavation 7

This was a large excavation and aimed at removing an almost equal amount of deposit from this midden as from the central one. This would provide a more or less equal sample of artifacts from the two middens and would result in a better comparison between the two.

The excavation was of uneven shape, in order to also get an indication of the contents of the midden at different sections. One part of it had an L-shape with the legs measuring 5 x 1m (north-south) and 4 x 2m (east-west) respectively (figure 11). At the northwestern part of the east-west leg, the excavation was extended with a square section of 2 x 2m, placed perpendicular to the first section. The excavation also included part of the previously dug excavation 5.

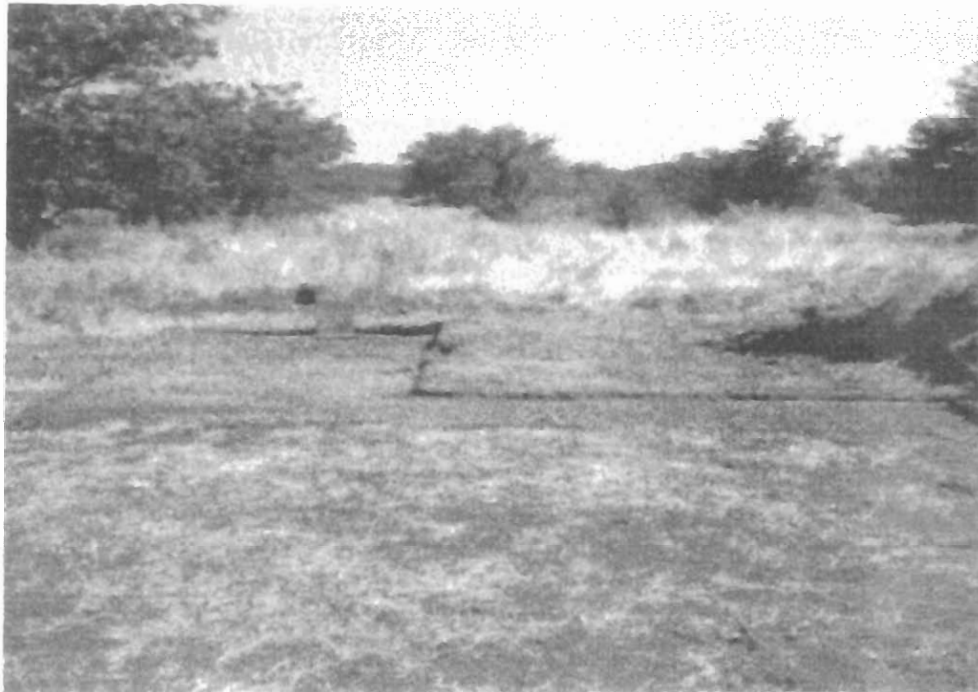


Figure 11 Excavation 7, layer 1, from east to west.

The first 3 metres to the north of the original excavation was 5cm deep and sterile. The soil colour was dark brown, proving this to be on the edge next to the midden (figure 11). Layer 1 was used to level the excavation in the midden. It's depth therefore varies in the east-west section between 3 and 16cm. The colour of the soil was light grey and it was fine and ashy. The soil at the eastern side was a mixture of grey and brown soil. A large part of the excavation, especially where it cuts through excavation 5, also shows signs of burrowing by small animals such as cane rat.

The excavation was only deepened in the areas where sterile soil were not reached. This comprised of a 3 x 2m section at the southwestern end. Layer 2 was 10cm deep. The soil was fine, grey and ashy, after which sterile dark brown soil was reached. Signs of burrowing continued throughout the layer. Against the northern side of the excavation a more ashy section was uncovered. This was 20cm deep in total, but had no specific significance (figure 12).

The extension of excavation 7 seemed to be on the core of the midden. Layer 1 was 3-7 cm deep and consisted of grey ashy soil, although the northwestern part was dark brown and sterile (figure 13). In the central part of the section a 40cm large ashy area was found.

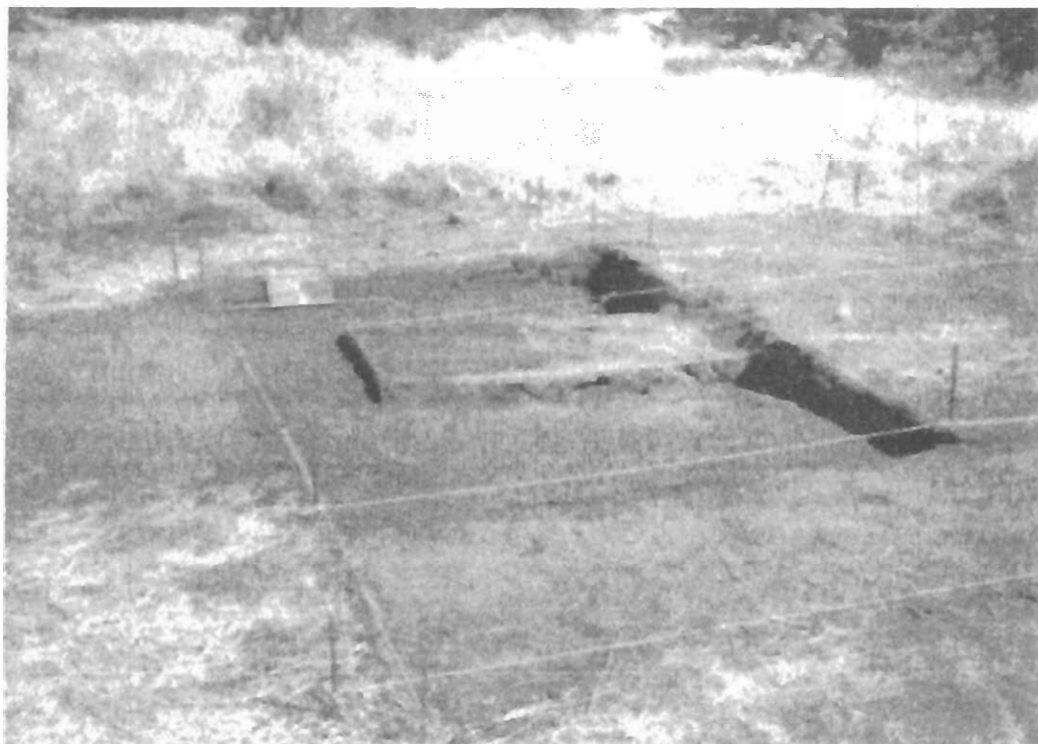


Figure 12 Excavation 7, layer 2, from east to west.

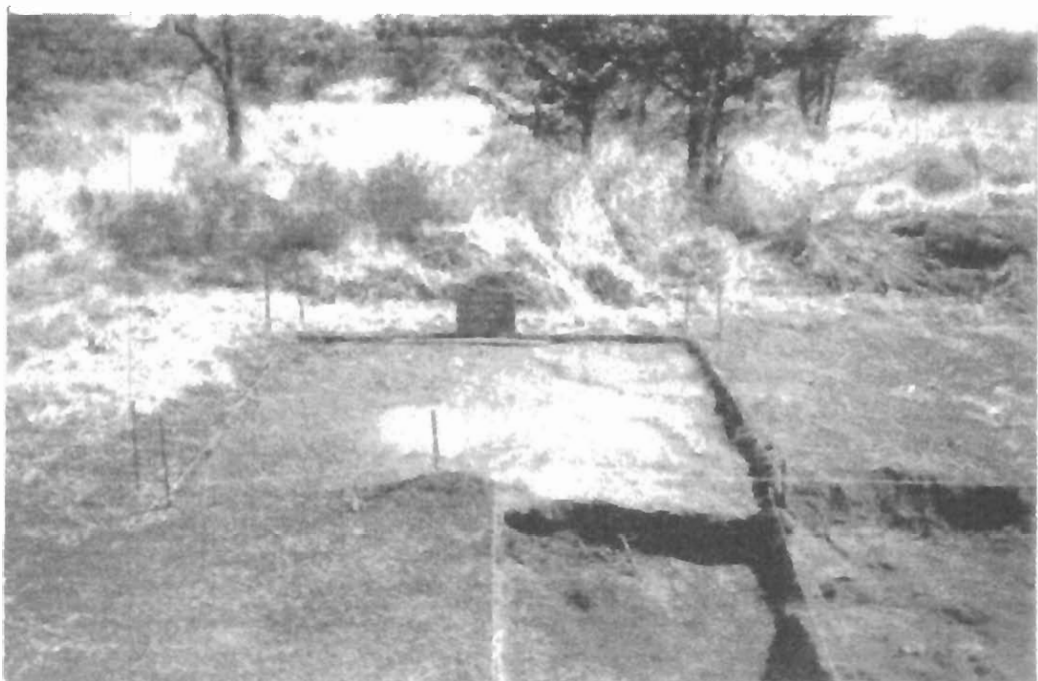


Figure 13 Excavation 7 extension, layer 1, from south to north.

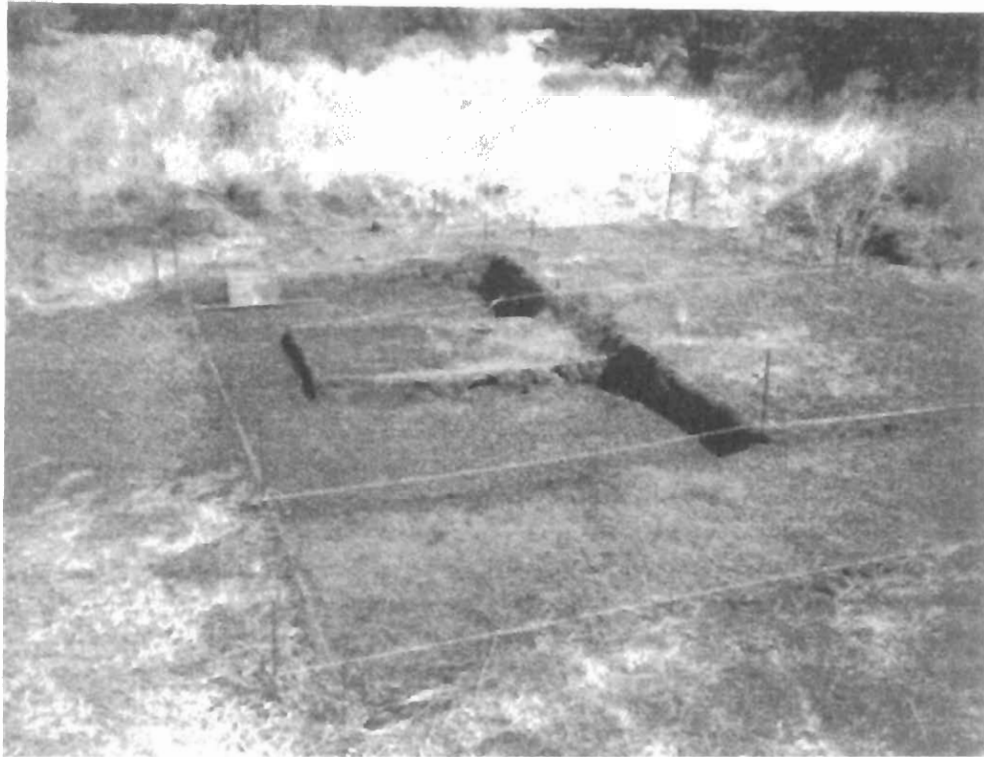


Figure 14 Excavation 7 extention, layer 2 from east to west.

Layer 2 was 23cm deep of which the first 10cm was fine, ashy and grey. This was followed by a mixture of grey and brown soil, until sterile soil was found (figure 14). The midden seem to be approximately 24cm deep.

Cultural material (see section 9) recovered from this excavation are fairly similar in type to that found in the other excavations done on the middens at the site, but the amount far exceeds those of the others, with more than a third of all the artifacts found during the 2000 field season coming from excavation 7. This is not surprising, as it is a very large excavation in comparison to the others.

Another distinction which is far more significant, is the fact that Iron Age type ceramics and glass beads are much more abundant, with Iron Age type ceramics dominating the ceramic sample. Bone and shell are also much more prolific. This points to a clear difference between the two large middens excavated at the site. This aspect will be highlighted more clearly later on.

8.3 Clay debris

8.3.1 Excavation 9

This was a large excavation measuring 5 x 5 m. It was measured from a northeastern to a southwesterly direction in order to cover the total concentration of hut debris.

Layer 1 was 10cm deep at the northern edge, but only 1cm deep in other parts, due to the natural slope of the surface which had to be levelled. The soil was dark brown with pieces of red clay in between (figure 15). The vague outline of a hut could be seen, but was to be investigated further in layer 2 (figure 16-17).

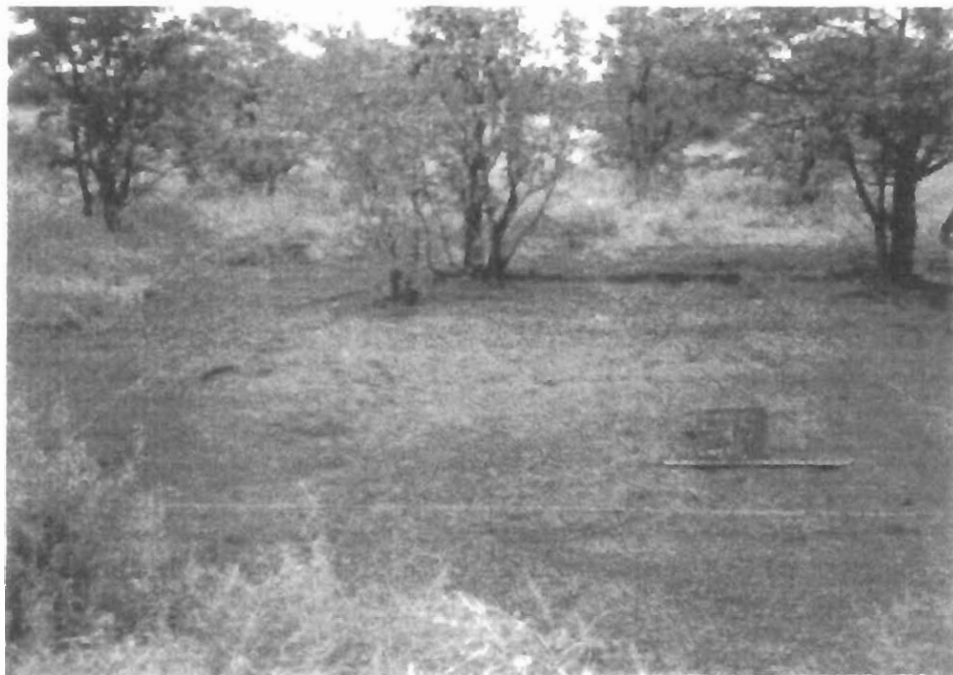


Figure 15 Excavation 9, layer 1, from south to north.

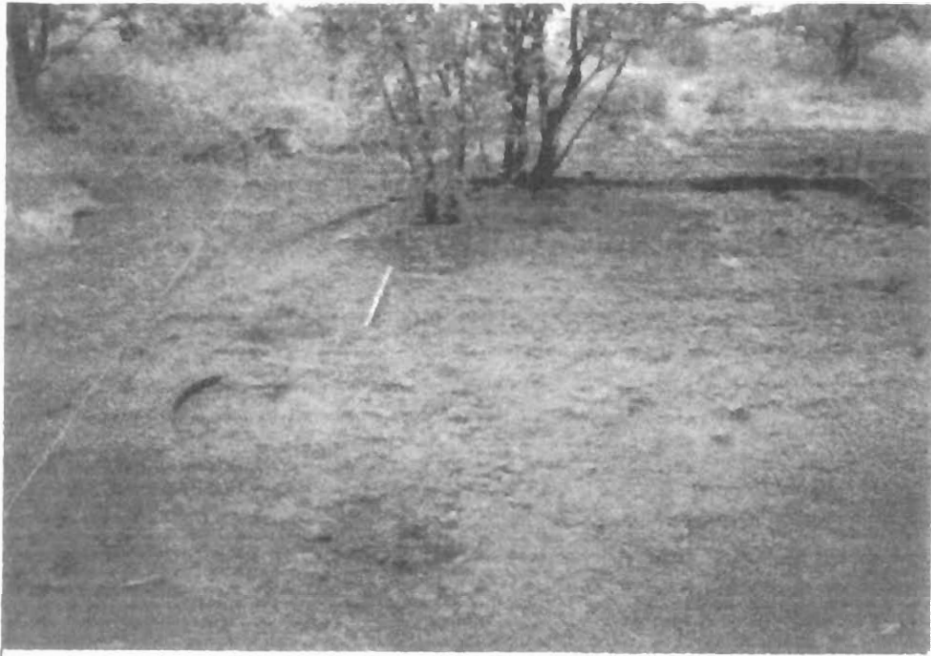


Figure 16 Detail of excavation 9, layer 1, from south to north.



Figure 17 Detail of excavation 9, layer 1, from south to north.

The colour of the soil in layer 2 was reddish-brown, because of the amount of clay, and was also 10cm deep. It clearly showed a hutfloor made of smeared clay (or dung), parts of the collapsed wall and remains of the burnt poles of a door (figure 18-19). The skull of a blue wildebeest was found on top of the burnt poles and it is possible that it was originally fixed to the door (figure 20).

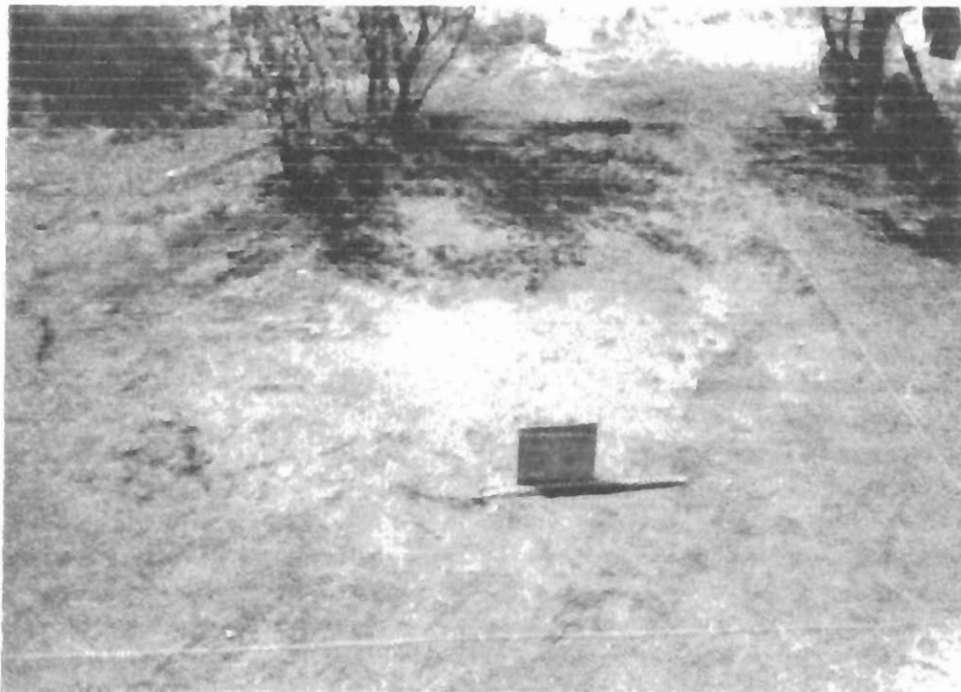


Figure 18 Excavation 9, layer 2, from south to north.

A sample of the charcoal was taken in order to do a C-14 dating. The analysis resulted in a radiocarbon age of 60 ± 50 years BP (Pta-8347). This is calibrated to a most probable calendar date of AD 1900. This means that the hut was used during the time of the occupation of the site by the members of Steinaecker's Horse. The cultural material will shed further light on the use of the hut (see section 9).

Potsherds, an ashy section (probably a fireplace), a metal hoop, a tin and stone tools were found in layer 1. Other cultural material from both layers included pieces of possible window glass, decorated and undecorated Iron Age type ceramics, nails and glass beads, while a spent shotgun cartridge and a metal button were found in layer 2.

Figure 19 Plan of excavation 9, layer 2.

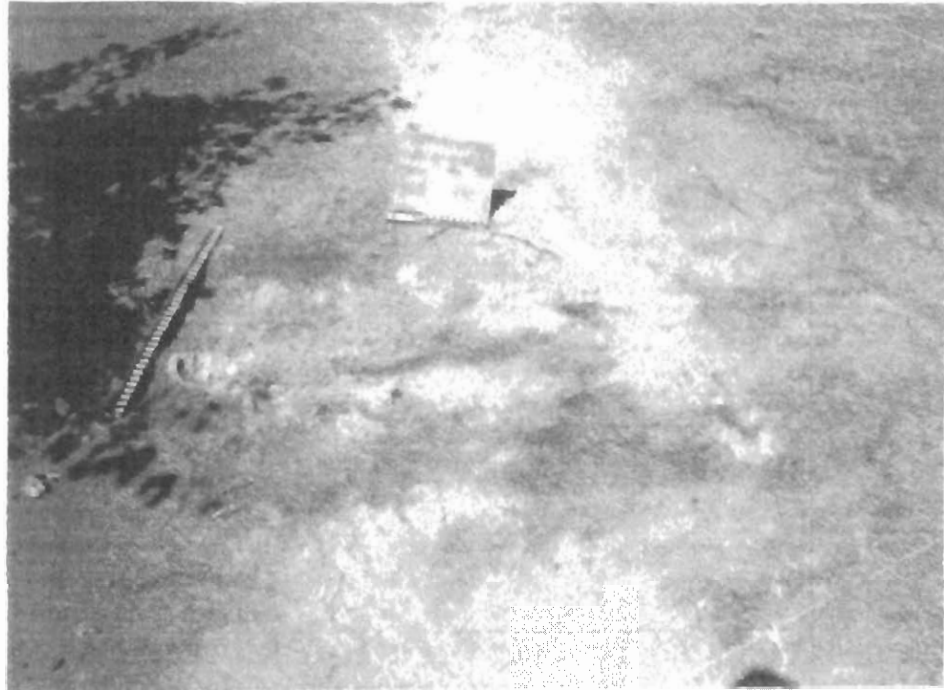


Figure 20 Detail of excavation 9, layer 2 from north to south. See the burnt poles and skull of a blue wildebeest.

8.3.2 Excavation 10

This was a 4 x 2 m rectangular trench, measured out in an east-west direction. At first the area was only brushed in order to get a better indication of the contents thereof (figure 21). Only one layer was removed. Layer 1 was 3cm deep and apart from hut clay it contained very little cultural material.

It also showed some patches of clearly burnt soil and clay (figure 22). On the removal of the clay, the remainder of the layer was sterile

The debris seemed to lie in almost a halfmoon shape, giving the impression of it possibly being a wind break for a cooking area (figure 23). It should however be said that it consisted of very fragmentary pieces of clay and that it could only be debris washed down from another source. This corroborates with a similar patch of hut debris, excavated in 1997.

Artifacts uncovered over and above the hut clay (some of which clearly shows pole marks), includes a piece of bottle glass, a piece of porcelain, nails, a piece of lead and some unidentified metal pieces

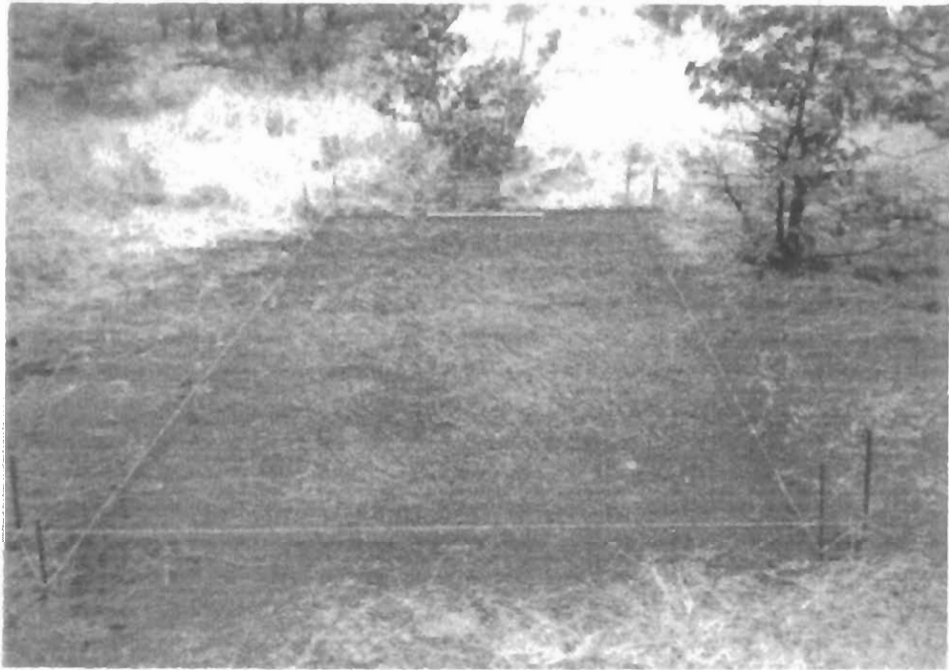


Figure 21 Surface of excavation 10, from east to west, before excavation



Figure 22 Excavation 10, Layer 1, from east to west

XCAVATION 10



Figure 23 Plan of excavation 10, layer 1.

9. Cultural material

A total number of 3 133 artifacts were recovered during the 2000 excavations. Of these, 6 were collected on the general surface, 898 recovered from excavation 6, 1276 from Excavation 7, 381 from Excavation 8, 349 from Excavation 9 and 15 from Excavation 10. Excavation 2 and 5's layer 2 were also done (layer 1 was done in 1997) and produced 84 and 124 artifacts respectively. The sample is made up of ceramics, glass, metal, bone, shell and other artifacts such as hut clay and stone tools.

9.1 Ceramics

A total number of 293 pieces of ceramics were found, comprising pieces of porcelain, stoneware and Iron Age-type potsherds (Table 1). Ceramics make up 9.51% of the archaeological sample.

9.1.1 Porcelain

Porcelain pieces numbered 28, including fine porcelain and hard baked porcelain, or ironstone. Some of the pieces are decorated, and identifiable as parts of specific functional types. The porcelain are similar to that recovered during the 1997 excavations, dated to the late 19th - early 20th century (Van Vollenhoven et. al 1998a:26-28).

Three pieces of porcelain and 1 piece of ironstone, representing 3 individual plates or saucers were collected on the surface of the site (figure 24). Two of these are decorated, 1 with a moulded shell pattern and the other with a wide blue band and blue flowers on and beneath the rim (underglazed). Decorated porcelain were also recovered from excavation 8 (16 pieces) and excavation 2, layer 2 (1 piece). Two vessels are represented by these pieces, and both are decorated with single gold bands on and triple gold bands just beneath the rim. The vessel from excavation 8 also has a single gold band on its inside base.

Pieces of plain undecorated porcelain and ironstone vessels were also found, some identifiable to functional type. Excavation 6, layer 1 contained 2 pieces of undecorated porcelain, while layer 2 produced 1 piece of a large ironstone dinner plate (figure 25). An undecorated piece of fine porcelain was found in layer 1 of excavation 7, 1 small rim piece of an undecorated porcelain plate/saucer in excavation 10 and 2 undecorated pieces of porcelain in excavation 5, layer 2.

9.1.2 Stoneware

Only 1 piece of stoneware was recovered from excavation 6, layer 2. It is part of the base of a container, most probably one for some sort of ointment or salve (figure 26). Similar pieces of stoneware were also found during 1997 and was dated to the late 19th - early 20th century (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:29).

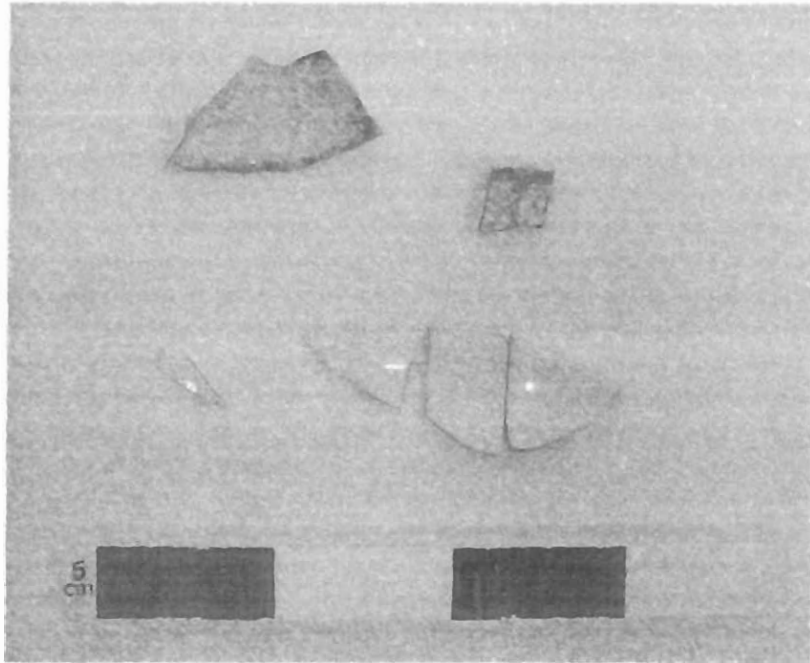


Figure 24 Porcelain from the site. The first piece shows a moulded shell pattern and the second a wide blue band and blue flowers on and beneath the rim. The other pieces were excavated at the central midden and represent two vessels, both decorated with gold bands.

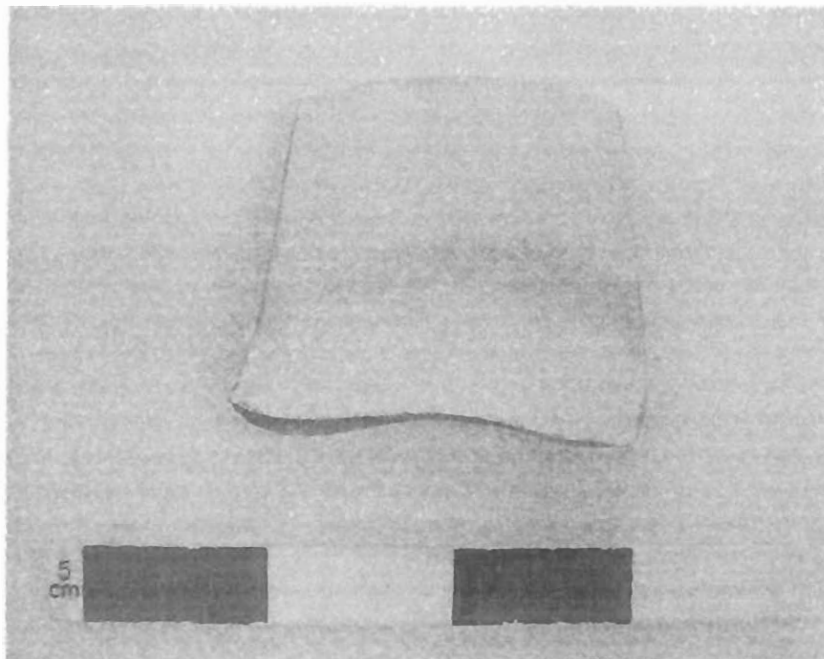


Figure 25 Part of a large ironstone dinner plate from the central midden.

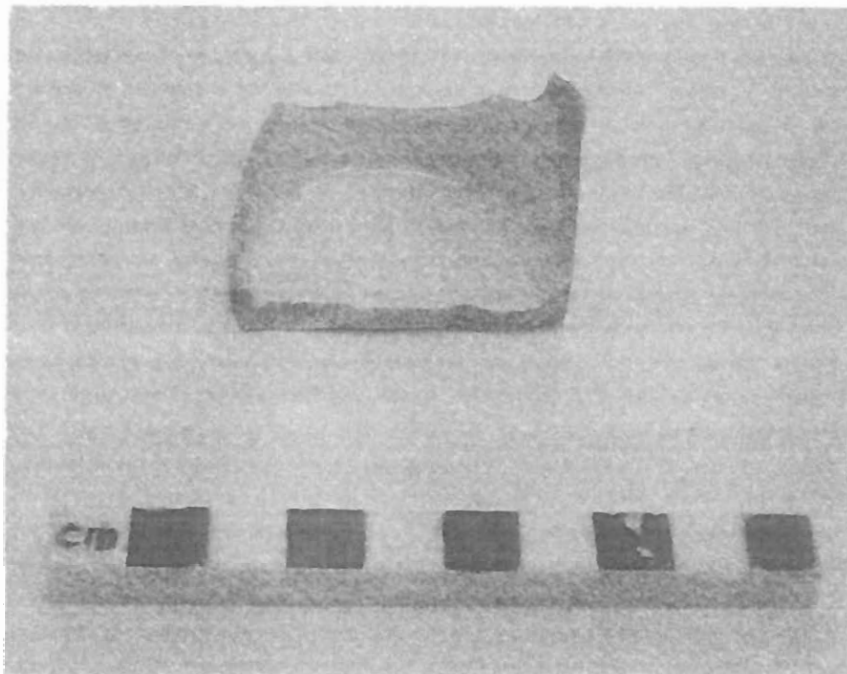


Figure 26 Part of the base of a container, most probably one for some sort of ointment or salve, made from ironstone.

TABLE 1 CERAMICS FOUND AT THE SITE

TYPE	EXCAVATION							
	surface	6	7	8	9	10	2, layer 2	5, layer 2
Porcelain/ Iron-stone	4	3	1	16	0	1	1	2
Stoneware	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iron Age Pottery	0	15	195	4	34	0	1	1

9.1.3 Iron Age-type potsherds

A fairly large amount of these were found, numbering 264 pieces in total. Most of these are undecorated, and only a few are identifiable to functional types such as pots or bowls. The undecorated pieces were found as follows:

- 9 pieces in excavation 6, layer 1. Of these, 3 are lip pieces, and approximately 4 individual vessels are represented

- 6 pieces from excavation 6, layer 2
- 7 pieces from the surface of excavation 7
- 142 pieces were found in layer 1 of excavation 7. Various vessels are represented. One of the pieces have a rounded edge, and could possibly have been used as a pottery scraper or burnisher
- 13 lip sherds, probably representing 7 vessels, were found in excavation 7, layer 1 as well. Both bowls and pots are represented
- 33 body sherds and 2 lip pieces representing 2 vessels from excavation 7, layer 2
- 4 pieces from excavation 8
- Excavation 9, layer 1 produced 9 undecorated body sherds, 2 lip sherds from 2 individual vessels and 8 body and lip sherds that fit together to form one bowl. All of these were found on top of a hut floor, covered by hut debris. In layer 2, 14 body sherds and 1 lip sherd were uncovered
- 1 lip sherd and 2 body sherds were found in excavation 2, layer 2, while 8 pieces were recovered from layer 2 of excavation 5

Only two decorated Iron Age potsherds (figure 27) were found, and include the following:

- 1 fragment of a potsherd from excavation 2, layer 2 with only partial decorations visible. The decoration consists of vertical & slanted incised lines and horizontal incised lines above and below it.
- 1 piece of a body sherd from excavation 5, layer 2 with partial decoration consisting of vertical incised lines bordered above and below with horizontal incised lines.

Because of the fragmentary nature of the decorated pottery and the fact that the decoration is only partially visible, it is very difficult to determine to which cultural group or time period they belong to. They could however possibly date to the same time period as those identified during the 1997 excavations. These were identified as belonging to the Shilowa industry, which is dated to 900 A.D. (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:31).

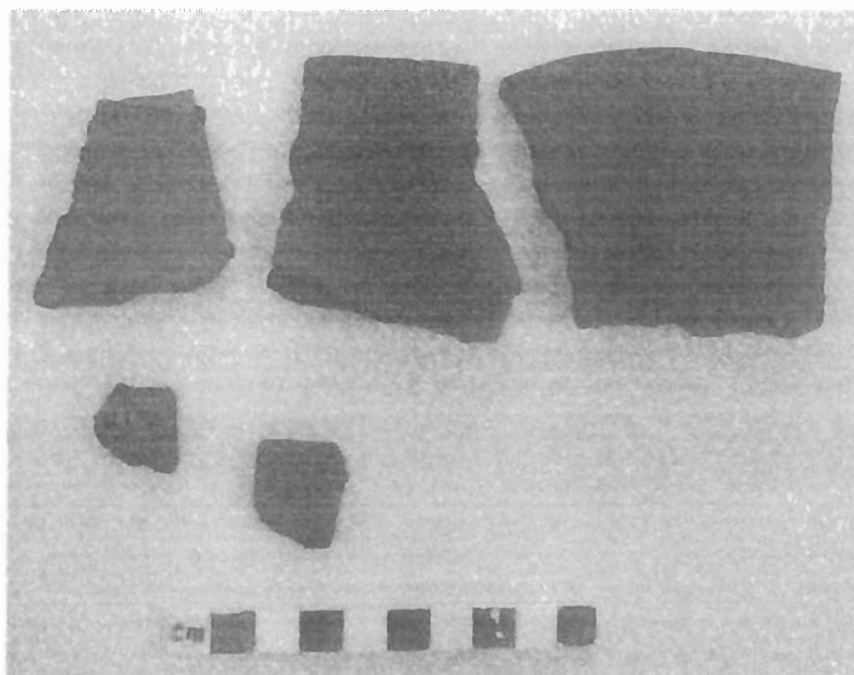


Figure 27 Decorated Iron Age type pottery from the site.

9.2 Glass

TABLE 2 GLASS ARTIFACTS FOUND AT THE SITE

TYPE	EXCAVATION							
	surface	6	7	8	9	10	2, layer 2	5, layer 2
Bottles/ fragments of bottles & other containers	1	180	91	91	0	1	19	7
Other - including bottle stoppers & wine glass	0	16	8	0	50	0	1	1
Iron Age glass beads	0	12	174	1	28	0	9	14

A total number of 706 glass artifacts, or 22.5% of the total sample, were recovered. These were mainly from glass bottles and other glass containers and include a large number of Iron Age-type glass beads (Table 2). Of these 332 artifacts are identifiable to specific categories, while 374 pieces are representative of all categories. Last mentioned are mostly fragments with no identificatory marks or features such as necks or bases. Individual bottles and other glass objects represented by the glass sample numbers approximately 311 (figure 28). The identifiable artifacts represent the following categories:

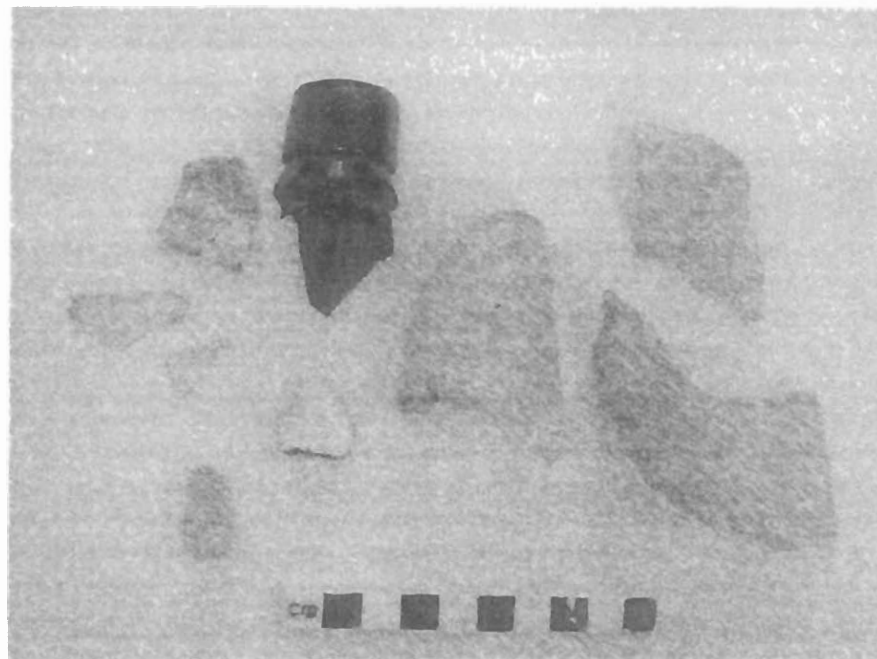


Figure 28 Glass artifacts from the site

9.2.1 Alcoholic Beverages

Although there are only a few pieces of glass specifically identifiable to liquor and other alcohol containers, some of the other fragments of glass also probably belonged to these types of containers (bottles). These are similar to those found during the previous excavation season (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:32). The identifiable pieces are as follows:

- 1 olive-green coloured bottle neck and 2 olive-green coloured bottle bases, all from excavation 6, layer 1. They belonged to either rum, gin or wine bottles.
- 2 bottle necks, also olive-green coloured, from excavation 6, layer 2. It represents rum, gin or wine.

- 6 portions of bottle necks from 5 bottles from Excavation 7, layer 1. Its colours are light-green, olive-green and brown. Some of these represent rum or gin and beer.
- Excavation 7, layer 2 produced 1 portion of an olive-green coloured bottle top, representing either a rum or gin bottle.

9.2.2 Non-alcoholic Beverages

Non-alcoholic beverages, such as sodawater and mineral water are also represented by the unidentifiable glass fragments, with only 1 piece specifically identifiable to a certain type of bottle. This is a piece of a Rose's Lime Juice bottle found on the surface of excavation 6. It is identifiable through the characteristic markings of these bottles, still used on them today. These bottles were already in use in 1900.

9.2.3 Medicinal

Only a small number of glass pieces were recovered that are identifiable to this category, but it is not impossible that some of the other unidentifiable glass fragments from the sample are related to the medicinal category. The identifiable pieces are similar to pieces found during 1997 (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:34) and are:

- 1 piece of milk-coloured glass from excavation 6, layer 1. It is probably part of some salve, cream or other ointment container.
- 1 piece of a milk-coloured glass salve/cream/ointment container from excavation 7, layer 1.

9.2.4 Household

This category is represented by a variety of food, sauce and other preserve bottles and jars. A few of these could also be represented by the unidentifiable pieces of glass. The identifiable pieces were again similar to those excavated in 1997 (Van Vollenhoven et.al.1998a:34).

- 1 base part of a Bovril bottle from the general surface of the site. The makers mark/ trade name 'Bovril' is partially visible on the piece.
- Part of another Bovril bottle was found in excavation 8, layer 1 as well.
- A portion of a glass bottle stopper, possibly for a 'Worcestershire' sauce bottle was recovered from layer 1 of excavation 7.

9.2.5 Table ware

A few pieces of glass table ware were found during the 2000 excavation season, similar to those recovered during 1997.

- 11 pieces of thin, clear glass from excavation 6, layer 1. These are parts of one or more wine glasses, with 1 piece decorated with thin, narrow line just beneath the rim. This decoration is similar to that found on pieces from the 1997 excavations, and was identified as 'Woodstock' pattern decoration, dating to the late 19th/early 20th centuries (Van Vollenhoven et.al, 1998a:34).
- 1 rim piece of a possible wine glass, from excavation 6, layer 2.

9.2.6 Personal items

This category includes items for personal adornment, such as the Iron Age-type glass beads, as well as objects associated with personal hygiene.

- In excavation 2, layer 2, two pieces of milk-glass were found. These probably represent and 'Odol' mouthwash (peppermint flavoured) bottle. Similar pieces were found in layer 1 during 1997, and dates to the late 19th/early 20th century (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:35).
- A total of 238 Iron Age-type glass beads were recovered, from all the excavations except excavation 10 (figure 29). This is more than 5 times the number found in 1997. The largest portion (174 beads - 73%) were found in excavation 7. A bigger variety in colours are also represented. They are as follows:

(i) Light blue (51)	(ii) Dark blue (89)	(iii) Pink & White (1)	(iv) White (25)
(v) Turquoise (1)	(vi) Red (1)	(vii) Red & White (6)	(viii) Pink (54)
(ix) Gold/Yellow (3)	(x) Green (6)	(xi) Purple & White (1)	(xii) Black (1)

In Iron Age societies each colour had a particular significance, but this changed over time and according to the availability of certain colours. This resulted in glass beads having a complex meaning relating to trade and cultural preferences.

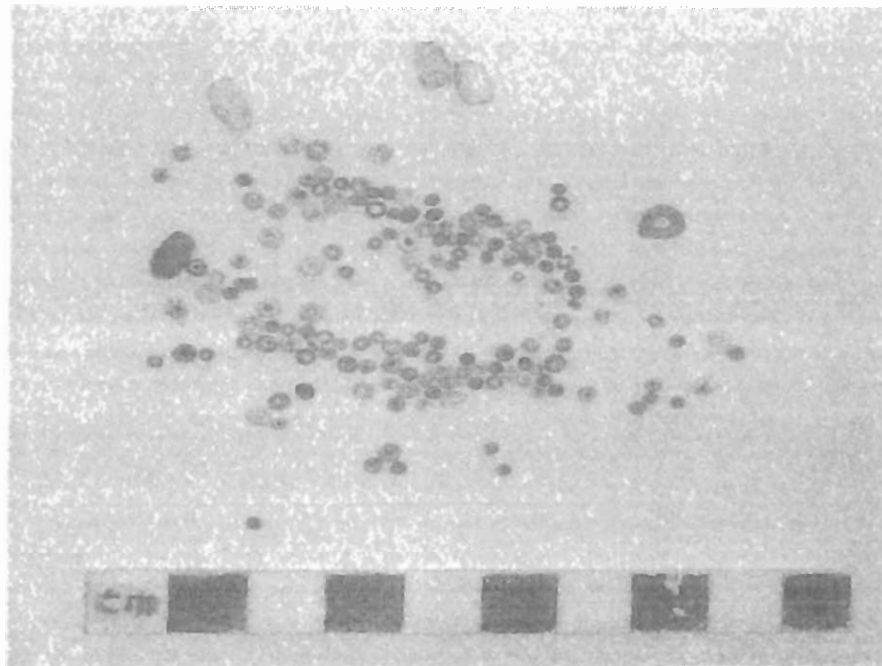


Figure 29 Glass beads found at the Letaba outpost of Steinaecker's Horse.

9.2.7 Architectural elements

This category includes the following:

- 29 pieces of clear, flat glass from excavation 9, layer 1 (hut). These are probably pieces of window glass. Unfortunately it is impossible to definitely identify these as window glass, which would be a strong indication of the hut being occupied by a white soldier as it is very unlikely that black people would have installed windows in their huts at this moment in time. A further 21 pieces were recovered from layer 2 of this excavation.

9.2.8 Unidentifiable, miscellaneous items

These are objects not related to any of the other categories, or unidentifiable objects. They are as follows:

- 4 pieces of a cylindrically shaped object made from very thin glass from excavation 6, layer 1.
- 7 pieces of glass from excavation 7, layer 1. These are possibly part of either a mirror or glasses (spectacles).

- 1 piece of a similar object to that found in excavation 7, was also recovered in excavation 2, layer 2, as well as another piece from excavation 5, layer 2.

9.3 Metal

Metal artifacts make up the largest portion of the archaeological sample, totalling 1278 objects (approximately 41% of the sample). Not all of these were identifiable and are only fragments of artifacts (Table 3).

TABLE 3 METAL ARTIFACTS FROM THE SITE

TYPE	EXCAVATION							
	surface	6	7	8	9	10	2, layer 2	5, layer 2
Food tins & parts of tins	0	335	184	194	197	0	12	10
Spent cartridges & other ammunition	0	6	30	0	2	1	1	0
Fish hooks	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Nails	1	67	88	16	12	3	9	10
Other	1	41	42	6	0	1	10	3

Metal are divided into the following categories:

9.3.1 Personal items

This category includes objects used for personal adornment. The following artifacts were uncovered:

- 1 brass cuff-link from excavation 6, layer 1.
- 1 brass or copper tip of shoe laces from the same excavation (figure 30).
- 1 possible uniform button, with a piece of cloth still attached, from excavation 6, layer 1.
- Excavation 6, layer 2 produced a piece of an Iron Age-type bracelet.

9.3.3 Fishing

This category includes a number of fishing hooks and parts of hooks, all found in excavation 7, layer 1 (figure 30). A total number of 4 complete hooks and pieces of hooks were recovered.

9.3.4 Food service

Food service include objects such as cutlery, food tins and cast-iron cooking pots. The following were unearthed:

- 1 leg of a cast-iron cooking pot from excavation 7, layer 1.
- A very large amount of remains of food tins, mostly fragments but also some lids, bottoms and nearly complete tins, were also found (figure 31). These were found on the surface and in all the excavations. The types of food represented are bully beef, ham, sardines and probably other canned fruits and vegetables.
- 10 metal keys with which, for instance bully beef tins were opened, were also recovered (figure 31). In all, 879 pieces of tins, lids, bottoms and more complete tins were retrieved.

Metal artifacts representing cutlery were also found. These include the following:

- 1 silver-plate teaspoon on the surface of the site (figure 31). It is in a very good condition, with REG.TARA SILVER PLATE incised on the back of the handle of the teaspoon. An arrow forms part of this trademark.
- 1 handle of a tablespoon found in layer 1 of excavation 6. There is a shell pattern decoration on the handle (figure 31). This is similar to one found in 1997 (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1997:41). Cutlery with this type of decoration were distributed to the British Army during this time (Army and Navy Stores Catalogue, 1907:215).

9.3.5 Household articles

Household articles included the following:

- 1 lid of a paraffin/oil lamp from excavation 6, layer 1.
- 1 lid of a possible shoe polish tin from excavation 8, layer 2.
- 1 rim/strip of a large metal drum or wooden vat from the floor of the hut in excavation 9, layer 2.

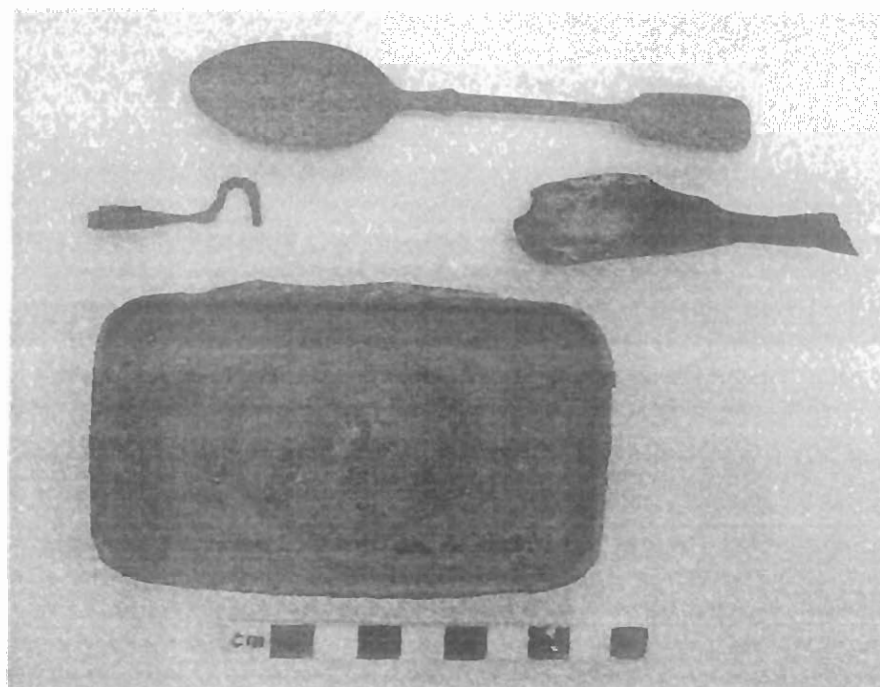


Figure 31 A tea spoon, part of another tea spoon and parts of metal food tins, found at the site.

9.3.6 Tools & Equipment

This category includes the following artifacts:

- A large number of nails, and pieces of nails, 205 in total, of various sizes (figure 30). These were found in all the excavations. Some of the nails seem to have been handmade, possibly on site.
- 1 small screw from excavation 7, layer 2.
- 14 pieces of copper and other wire from excavations 6 & 7.
- 6 gas (CO₂) canisters used for making sodawater (figure 30). Similar artifacts were found and identified as such in 1997 (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:43).
- 2 tent sail 'eyes' and part of a similar object from excavation 7, layer 1.
- the tip of a small pick or pick-axe from layer 1 of Excavation 7.

- 1 piece of a possible paperclip from the same excavation.
- From excavation 7, layer 2 a peg, possibly for a tent, were recovered (figure 30).
- Part of an Iron Age-type hoe or adze from excavation 8, layer 1.

9.3.7 Ammunition

The following artifacts relating to this category were found during the excavations (figure 30):

- 18 shotgun pellets from excavations 6, 7 and 5, layer 2.
- 5 pieces of spent lead from excavations 6, 7, 9 and 10.
- 1 rifle calibre cartridge, no visible markings, and 1 shotgun cartridge ELEY NO.12 LONDON, from excavation 6, layer 1.
- Excavation 7, layer 1 produced the most spent cartridges, 13 in total. Of these 6 are shotgun and 7 revolver calibre cartridges. Most of these have visible markings. Three are KYNOCH GASTIGHT NO.12, two ELEY NO.12 LONDON, one ELB NO.12 ELEY LONDON and four ELEY .450. Three of the revolver cartridges are unmarked.
- 1 spent .450 revolver cartridge from excavation 7, layer 2.
- 1 shotgun ELEY LONDON NO.12 cartridge found on the floor of the hut in excavation 9 (Layer 2).
- 1 spent .450 revolver cartridge recovered from excavation 5, layer 2.

Similar spent cartridges were also found during the 1997 excavations (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a: 43-48).

For more details on the spent cartridges, see J. Loock's expert analysis (Appendix A).

9.3.8 Building components

The only artifacts falling under this category are part of a small to medium-sized lock: from excavation 7, layer 1 (figure 30). A similar, but larger, slide-action doorlock was found in excavation 5, layer 1 during the 1997 excavation season (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1998a:48).

9.3.9 Recreational

A number of artifacts related to this category were recovered during 2000. They are as follows:

- 1 tip of a fountain pen. R. ESTERBROOK & Co s 314 RELIEF inscribed on it (figure 30). Found in excavation 7, layer 1. A badly corroded tip of another fountain pen was found in excavation 2, layer 2.

The other artifacts connected with this category are the pieces of and complete lead seals of liquor and other bottles (figure 30). A total of 34 pieces and complete ones were recovered from excavations 6, 8 and 2, layer 2. Only one of these has a visible makers' or bottler's mark, namely THOMA BREWERY OHLSSON'S CAPE BREWERIES LIMITED JOHANNESBURG. A lead seal from the same company was found in 1997 (Van Vollenhoven et.al. 1997:51). This company operated between 1892 and 1902 (Lastovica & Lastovica, 1986:99).

9.3.10 Unidentifiable & Miscellaneous metal artifacts

There were a number of these, namely:

- 1 round-shaped artifact that could be part of a button. It was found in excavation 6, layer 1.
- 3 unidentifiable brass/copper and 1 other metal artifact from the same excavation.
- 1 unidentifiable artifact from the surface of excavation 7. It could possibly be part of a bracelet.
- 1 unidentifiable ring-like brass artifact from layer 1 of excavation 7.
- 1 cylindrically shaped, heavy, artifact and 1 rod-like object, also from excavation 7, layer 1.
- 2 brass plaques from excavation 7. It looks like part of the lock of an object such as an ammunition case. On the front of one (both look the same) are the British Coat of Arms, as well as the words LEVER PATENT.
- 1 unidentifiable brass/copper hook-like artifact from excavation 7, layer 2.
- A bracelet-like artifact From excavation 7 layer 2.
- 1 thin, nail-like artifact and 1 brass strip from excavation 8, layer 1.
- 1 corroded staple from excavation 5, layer 2 and 1 spring-like artifact from the same excavation and layer.

9.4 Organic material

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

9.4.1 Skeletal material

Skeletal material includes unidentifiable as well as identifiable pieces of bone and teeth. All the excavations, except excavation 10, produced skeletal material. A total of 1 445 skeletal pieces were recovered (see Appendix B).

9.4.1.1 Unidentifiable

Unidentifiable skeletal material includes, as mentioned above, pieces or fragments of bone and teeth. In total 949 unidentifiable pieces were found. Some of these pieces show clear signs of burning, with some showing carnivore gnaw marks.

9.4.1.2 Identifiable

Identifiable means that the skeletal material are identifiable to a specific skeletal part or to the species, age and/or sex of the animals the bone or teeth are from. A total number of 496 identifiable skeletal parts were found during the excavations. Both domesticated and non-domesticated animals are represented, with a relative big number of fish and rodent bones being recovered. The results of the analysis of the identifiable skeletal material are discussed in Table 4 and Appendix B.

TABLE 4 FAUNAL ANALYSIS OF IDENTIFIABLE SKELETAL MATERIAL FROM THE SITE

SPECIES	EXCAVATION				
	2	5	6	7	8
<i>Panthera pardus</i> leopard				x	
<i>Felis serval</i> serval		x		x	
Carnivore small				x	
Carnivore medium				x	
<i>Equus burchelli</i> Burchell's zebra			x	x	x
<i>Equus asinus</i> donkey				x	
<i>Equus</i> sp.				x	
<i>Bos taurus</i> cattle				x	

<i>Ovis aries</i> sheep				x	
<i>Ovis Capra</i> sheep/goat			x	x	x
<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i> common duiker				x	
<i>Aepyceros melampus</i> impala			x		
Bovidae I		x		x	
Bovidae II	x		x	x	x
Bovidae II non-domestic				x	
Bovidae III			x	x	
<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i> greater canerat	x	x	x	x	
Rodent small			x	x	
<i>Lepus saxatilis</i> scrub hare				x	
<i>Francolinus</i> sp. francolin	x		x	x	
<i>Numida</i> sp. guinea fowl		x		x	x
Bird				x	
<i>Geochelone pardalis</i> leopard tortoise		x		x	
Tortoise				x	
<i>Varanus</i> sp. monitor		x		x	x
<i>Pyxicephalus adspersus</i> bullfrog				x	
Frog small				x	
Reptile small		x			
Reptile medium	x			x	
<i>Clarias</i> sp. barbel				x	
<i>Clarias Synodontis</i> barbel				x	
Fish small	x		x	x	
Fish medium		x	x	x	x
Fish large				x	

<i>Achatina</i> sp. land snail	x		x	x	
Terrestrial gastropod				x	
<i>Melanoides</i> sp. freshwater gastropod				x	
<i>Aspatharia</i> sp. freshwater mussel				x	
<i>Corbicula africana</i> freshwater mussel				x	
<i>Unio/Aspatharia</i> freshwater mussel		x	x	x	

9.4.2 Worked bone

This category are represented by objects that was worked by means of human activities, such as needle or awls, etc.

- 1 piece of a needle and 1 piece of a broken point/link shaft, from excavation 6, layer 1.
- 1 piece of a link shaft, an incomplete bone tool, a polished rib and a fragment of an awl from excavation 7, layer 1.
- From Layer 2 of the same excavation another, section of a link shaft was collected.

All these worked bones could possibly be associated with earlier Iron Age inhabitants of the site (see Appendix B).

9.4.3 Shell

In this category we have egg-shell (species/type unidentifiable), freshwater mussel or land snail, as well as possible tortoise shell. These are:

- 12 pieces of egg-shell and freshwater mussel and land snail shell from excavation 6, layer 1 and 17 similar pieces from layer 2.
- 20 pieces of egg-shell and freshwater mussel shell recovered from Layer 1 of excavation 7, as well as 7 complete small land snails and 4 pieces of 1 large freshwater mussel (*achatina* sp.).
- 1 piece of egg-shell from excavation 9 (hut), layer 1.
- 1 piece of egg-shell found in excavation 2, layer 2.

- 3 pieces of freshwater mussel shell from excavation 5, layer 2.
- 6 pieces of tortoise shell, also from layer 2 of excavation 5.

Personal items made of either mother-of-pearl or some other type of shell were also recovered, and are as follows:

- 3 buttons from excavation 6, layer 1. One of the buttons has a metal stud attached to it.
- 2 buttons from excavation 7, layer 1.
- 1 button from excavation 8, layer 1.
- 1 button from excavation 5, layer 2.

9.5 Anorganic material

This category includes hut debris, stone tools and objects made of materials other than that discussed earlier.

9.5.1 Hut debris

This consist of the following:

- 4 pieces of vitrified thatch from excavation 9 (hut), layer 1.
- 1 piece of hut clay and 1 piece of vitrified thatch from layer 2 of the hut. Only one piece of hut clay were taken from the hundreds of pieces that were uncovered during the excavation of the hut.
- 1 sample of charcoal, which formed part of burnt doorpoles from the hut. A C14 (carbon) date of AD1900 was obtained from the analysis of this charcoal sample (Pta-8347).
- 8 pieces of hut clay from excavation 10.

9.5.2 Stone tools

During the 1997 excavations stone tools were identified in the area, as well as in the excavations. The 2000 season was no exception.

- 2 Middle Stone Age (MSA)/Late Stone Age (LSA) flake-scrapers from the surface area of excavation 7.

- A possible Iron Age grinding stone from the surface of excavation 7.
- 2 pieces of a possibly cut/used sandstone object, also from the surface of excavation 7.
- Excavation 7, layer 1 produced 7 MSA/LSA stone flake-tools and cores, while layer 2 produced 1 flake-scraper.
- 3 MSA/LSA core-scrappers and flakes were found in layer 1 of Excavation 9 (hut).
- 1 Iron Age-like hammer stone was found in excavation 2, layer 2.
- 3 MSA/LSA stone flake-tools from excavation 5, layer 2.

9.5.3 Miscellaneous

This category includes the following:

- 1 piece of bakelite, probably part of a battery from Excavation 6, layer 1. Another, more complete, bakelite battery was found in excavation 8, layer 1.
- 1 white-coloured bead, oval-shaped from excavation 6, layer 1. The material has not been identified.
- a small piece of cloth recovered from layer 2 of excavation 6.
- 1 white, plastic button, and 1 of either wood or bone from excavation 7, layer 1.
- 1 bead, out of crystal, and 4 beads (3 white and 1 black) of unidentified material from excavation 7, layer 1. These 4 beads are similar to the one found in excavation 6, layer 1.

10. Discussion & conclusion

In order to fully understand the meaning of the excavated material from the site, the information of both season's excavations should be combined. This gives a full report on the excavated artifacts from the site.

In this regard it is important not to complicate the issue by listing the artifacts according to the excavations, but according to site features. For a holistic picture, the excavations are only mentioned (Table 5-7).

Most of the dateable artifacts that were found, represent the period of the late 19th to the early 20th century. The C14 date from the site coincides with this period, being 1900. The Anglo-Boer

War was fought between 1899 and 1902. Therefore the site provides more than enough evidence that it was occupied during this period. Historical information that was obtained, indicate that the site was one of the outposts of the voluntary British military unit, Steinaecker's Horse (see section 7).

The information on this unit also show that it frequently made use of the local black community as servants. It is therefore not far fetched to assume that that these people stayed with the members of Steinaecker's Horse at the site. It also is not impossible that members of some of the black military units, such as the Native Police and Black Watch, were present at the site. Members of the Native Police were indeed employed by the park as game watchers after the war (Skukuza archives: List of Native Police or watchers 1902-1903), perhaps as a result of their knowledge of the area.

The artifacts that were found are in corroboration with these assumptions. A large amount of so-called European ceramics were unearthed. This includes porcelain, stone and earthen ware. Glass artifacts such as fragments of bottles are further prove of this. The metal artifacts from the site clearly indicate a military presence at the site. Parts of spoons with a shell pattern, typical of those issued to the British army, were found. The tinned foods, issued as rations to members of the army, were represented by a large amount of tins. A large amount of the ammunition found in the excavations were clearly of a military origin (see Appendix A).

However, a large amount of artifacts without any military or European origin were also found, confirming the presence of local black people at the site. The most important of these were Iron Age type ceramics and glass beads, as well as some metal tools associated with Iron Age people.

Artifacts from the excavations of the 1997 season suggested a difference in the composition of the material remains in the two large refuse middens on the site. This was allegedly formed by a social (racial) differentiation at the site during the time of it's occupation. The 2000 excavation season focused on removing an almost equal amount of deposit from the two middens, therefore providing a more equal sample for comparative purposes.

From tables 5-7 it is clear that the central midden produced a larger amount of artifacts for comparative purposes than the southwestern midden. It also had a much larger sample of European artifacts than the latter.

Table 5 deals with the ceramic sample from the site. Porcelain from the central midden amount to 87,4% of the total sample, whereas the southwestern midden produced a mere 4,6%. A percentage of 66,7% of all the stone and European earthen ware were found at the central midden, with the southwestern midden only producing 2,3%. It is interesting that the small midden that was excavated in 1997, produced 31% of this sample, confirming that the area may have been used as a cooking area as was suggested after the 1997 excavations.

TABLE 5 CERAMICS FROM THE STEINAECKER'S HORSE NORTHERN OUTPOST

PLACE

TYPE		Surface	Central midden	South-western midden	Small middens	Clay debris	Hut floor	Total	% of total ceramic sample
			Exc. 1, 2, 6, 8	Exc. 5, 7	Exc. 4	Exc. 3,10	Exc. 9		
Porcelain & Ironstone	No. of artifacts	4	76	4	2	1	0	87	14,9
	% of porcelain	4,6	87,4	4,6	2,3	1,1	-		
Stone & Earthen ware	No. of artifacts	0	28	1	13	0	0	42	7,4
	% of stoneware	-	66,7	2,3	31	-	-		
Iron Age Pottery	No. of artifacts	0	99	230	79	0	34	442	77,7
	% of Iron Age pottery	-	22,3	52	18	-	7,7		
Total	No. of artifacts	4	203	235	94	1	34	571	100
	% of total ceramic sample	0,7	35,5	41,1	16,5	0,2	6		

The southwestern midden however had the largest total of the total ceramic sample, being 41,1%. The central midden only produced 35,5% of the total. This is due to the fact that Iron Age type ceramics dominate the ceramic sample from the southwestern midden. It contained 52% of the sample of Iron Age ceramics, whilst the central midden contained 22,3% of the sample. Again the above mentioned small midden produced a relatively large amount of the sample, being 18%, again confirming it's function as a cooking area.

The dominance of non-European ceramics at the southwestern midden confirms that it was mostly used by the black inhabitants of the site. In contrast with this the sample of ceramics with a European origin and Iron Age type ceramics at the central midden is almost equal. This could mean that the white soldiers either had no preference in the use of ceramics or that their servants simply cooked their meals in these non-European type of pots and discarded broken vessels where they used it, in this case the central midden. It probably also means that the non-European soldiers did not have the luxury of using porcelain plates and other crockery. The above mentioned deductions could also explain the dominance of Iron Age type ceramics.

From an old map it was found that the Ba-Hlengwe was the tribe who used to live close to the site. Although the map is not dated, it was probably drawn before 1903 as most of the tribes moved out of the park area between August 1902 and August 1903 (Skukuza archives: Unnumbered map, Approximate distribution of Low-veld tribes). It is therefore not unreasonable to suggest that these people were present at the site during the Anglo-Boer War.

Table 6 confirms the evidence from the ceramic sample. The central midden is dominated by glass bottles (79,8% of the sample) and other types of glass with a European origin (51%). The southwestern midden in comparison produced 15,3% and 15,2% respectively of these samples. In this case the bottles are by far the largest collection of glass from the site, resulting in the central midden having 62% of the total glass sample. The only category in which the southwestern midden provided the bulk of artifacts, is Iron Age glass beads. It produced 72,2% of the sample with the central midden producing only 15%. This clearly corroborates with the information from the ceramic sample.

It is interesting to note that the hut floor produced 33,1% of the sample from the category of other glass and 9,7% of the glass beads. This is quite a large sample in comparison with the rest as the amount of deposit removed from this excavation was much less than at the two middens. This can probably be explained due to a hut being a living area where lots of activities took place. The hut floor also produced 7,7% of the Iron Age type ceramics excavated at the site. This means that it had a good mixture of artifacts from a European and non-European origin. The hut floor will be discussed more in depth at a later stage.

TABLE 6 GLASS FROM STEINAECKER'S HORSE NORTHERN OUTPOST

TYPE		PLACE							Total	% of total glass sample
		Surface	Central midden	South-western midden	Small middens	Clay debris	Hut floor			
			Exc. 1, 2, 6, 8	Exc. 5, 7	Exc. 4	Exc. 3,10	Exc. 9			
Bottles/ fragments of bottles & other containers	No. of artifacts	1	683	133	38	1	0	856	66,1	
	% of bottles	0,1	79,8	15,3	4,4	0,1	-			
Other - including bottle stoppers & wine glass	No. of artifacts	0	77	23	1	0	50	151	11,7	
	% of other	-	51	15,2	0,7	-	33,1			
Iron Age glass beads	No. of artifacts	0	43	208	9	0	28	288	22,2	
	% of Iron Age glass beads	-	15	72,2	3,1	-	9,7			
Total	No. of artifacts	1	803	364	48	1	78	1295	100	
	% of total glass sample	0,1	62	28,1	3,7	0,1	6			

The metal artifacts from the various excavations also give the same indication as the above mentioned (Table 7). Food tins make up of 96% of the total metal sample. Of this 70% comes from the central midden with only 16,7% from the southwestern midden. Again the hut floor had a relatively large sample, being 12% of the total. As food tins dominate the metal sample and as the bulk thereof were found at the central midden, it is not surprising that this midden produced 68,6% of the total metal sample.

The exception to the rule is the sample of spent cartridges. At the central midden only 36,7% of the sample was found, while the southwestern midden produced 55,8%. It however needs to be mentioned that this figure only represents 25 and 38 artifacts respectively, meaning that the difference is not that much. Historical information do state that the black people, employed by Steinaecker's Horse, were armed with Martini Henry rifles (Skukuza archives: Report of the Government Game Reserve, 29.11.1903).

Most of the cartridges dates to the period of the Anglo-Boer War, confirming that the site was occupied during the war. Both middens produced some .450 Webley revolver cartridges, which was issued to officers therefore seemingly contradicting the information obtained from the other artifacts. Shot gun cartridges are also found at both, confirming the evidence from the faunal material as remains of small animals and birds were found at both. All other types of military cartridges from the period of the war were found at the central midden. A .380 cartridge that was found at the southwestern midden also dates from this period, but was not used by the military and probably belonged to a private individual (see Appendix A).

A small amount of the cartridges found clearly post-dated the Anglo-Boer War. These were mostly found at the central midden confirming the re-use of the site at a later stage. These cartridges were manufactured up to 1920, but may have been used for a long time after this date. It is known that a certain chief Makuba's followers hunted lots of wild on the Tsende flats where they lived close to the Tsende and Makhadzi rivers. They however left the park on 3 November 1923 (Skukuza archives: Rangers diary of section Shingwedzi south, 03.11.1923 & 18.03.1924). Although this does not mean that they stayed at this site, it does prove that the area was still used by humans after the Anglo-Boer War.

The ranger for Shingwedzi south, C.R. Crous, wrote in his diary that he camped alongside the Makhadzi on 16 February 1930 and that they were pestered by lions the whole night (Skukuza archives: Rangers diary for Shingwedzi south, 16.02.1930). This is perhaps the best indication found in historical sources that the site might have been re-used at a later stage. He also stated that he camped on the upper Makhadzi on 10 March 1930, on the (Tsende) flats between Silowe's and Makuba's old kraals on 18 March 1930 and that they followed the course of the Makhadzi up to Makuba's old kraal on 14 August 1931 (Skukuza archives: Rangers diary for Shingwedzi south, 10.03.1930, 18.03.1930 & 14.08.1931). These inscriptions prove that Makuba's kraal were on the banks of the Makhadzi river and that there is a good chance that the site was re-used after the Anglo-Boer War.

TABLE 7 MOST FREQUENT METAL FROM STEINAECKER'S HORSE NORTHERN OUTPOST

TYPE		PLACE							T o- t a l	% of total metal sam- ple
		Surface	Central midden	South- western midden	Small middens	Clay debris	Hut floor			
			Exc. 1, 2, 6, 8	Exc. 5, 7	Exc. 4	Exc. 3,10	Exc. 9			
Food tins & parts of tins	No. of artifacts	0	1160	277	21	0	197	1655	96	
	% of food tins	-	70	16,7	1,3	-	12			
Spent cart- ridges & other ammu- nition	No. of artifacts	0	25	38	2	1	2	68	3,9	
	% of ammu- nition	-	36,7	55,8	3	1,5	3			
Fish hooks	No. of artifacts	0	1	5	0	0	0	6	0,1	
	% of fish hooks	-	16,7	83,3	-	-	-			
Total	No. of artifacts	0	1186	320	23	1	199	1729	100	
	% of total metal sample	-	68,6	18,5	1,3	0,1	11,5			

A total number of 6 fish hooks were excavated of which 5 (83,3%) were from the southwestern midden. Although the amount is quite small it does indicate that the black people at the site (associated with the southwestern midden) were more likely to supplement their diet of tinned rations with that of fresh fish. The amount of fauna from this midden were also much higher than that from the central midden, again indicating a greater tendency towards the supplementing of

their diet.

The fauna material from the site reveals something of the supplementing of the diet of its inhabitants and of their daily activities. Mostly the diet of the people consisted of the tinned rations issued by the British Army. Tins of bully beef, ham and sardines were unearthed. Historical sources show that tinned fruit and vegetables were also issued to them (Wolhuter 1973: 50). This was supplemented by eating the meat of domesticated and non-domesticated animals. From historical sources it is known that the members of Steinaecker's Horse herded the stock from the local people in order to use it as food (Stevenson-Hamilton 1952: 14-15). This included sheep, goat and cattle for meat as well as for milk. Faunal remains of these species were found at both middens. The only other domesticated species that was identified is donkey, but this was not necessarily used as a source of food. It is known that donkeys were used as pack animals during the Anglo-Boer War.

A large variety of non-domesticated species were identified. At the central midden this included Burchell's zebra and impala. According to major Stevenson-Hamilton's report for 1903 the members of Steinaecker's Horse "...got their meat almost entirely from the game which they shot." The members of the unit however did stop the local black people from shooting in their vicinity and in the neighbourhood of Sabie Bridge. Species such as (blue)wildebeest, impala, zebra and warthog are mentioned and he states that in some areas some of the antelopes were almost completely exterminated. These practices only ended during the first half of 1903 when most of the natives left the park (Skukuza archives: Report of the Government Game Reserve, 29.11.1903).

At the southwestern midden the following species were found: leopard, serval and other unidentified carnivore, zebra and duiker. It is documented that local black people sometimes ate serval, but it is unknown if they also would have eaten other carnivorous species. Stevenson-Hamilton states that all the natives that were employed by Steinaecker's Horse were armed with Martini Henry rifles and that they were killing animals more irresponsibly than the white men. He also states that very few carnivore were shot (Skukuza archives: Report of the Government Game Reserve, 29.11.1903).

Species like canerat, scrub hare and other rodents may have ended up in the deposit after the site was abandoned, but could also have been used to supplement the diet of its inhabitants. Some species of bird that were identified consisted of francolin and guinea fowl which, even today are seen as a delicacy.

Unidentifiable parts of reptiles were also found at both middens. Different species of tortoise, a well known food source, and frogs were identified at the southwestern midden. The latter was probably used as bait for catching fish. Fauna material from fish were identified at both middens, with barbel specifically found at the southwestern midden.

Land snails and freshwater mussels were found at both middens, as were egg shell. However in

all these cases much more material were identified from the southwestern midden than from the central midden, indicating that the black inhabitants of the site more frequently supplemented their diet than did the white soldiers.

Faunal material were also used to make impliments that were used as tools for activities such as the mending of clothes. Bone needles and awls were excavated at both middens.

Other artifacts, indicating that the central midden is associated with the white soldiers, were also found. These consist of the remains of wine glasses, ceramics from mouth wash bottles, window glass, a cuff link, metal buttons, cutlery, a shoe polish tin, a part of a lamp, and the lead seals from alcoholic beverages. Of course some of these artifacts may have landed in the archaeological record at a later stage, as clear indications were found that the site was again used after the war. The most important of these are porcelain dating to the 1920/30's, and bakkelite and a battery from a later period. A map from 1909 on which Ranger stations and Native Police posts are marked, shows one of the latter close to the Makhadzi. Unfortunately it is not possible to determine if this indeed is the same post as the one investigated (Skukuza archives: Hamilton 1909: 65).

Artifacts found at the southwestern midden, indicating it's association with non-European people are an earring and a pick-axe. It is however not a clear cut case as numerous artifacts such as medicinal bottles, wire, bracelets and pieces of clothing were found on both middens. There are also artifacts to be associated with one group found at the other's midden, such as an Iron Age type hoe/adze at the central midden and parts of locks and the tip of a fountain pen at the southwestern midden. It also needs to be mentioned that tent pegs and the metal eyes from tent sails were only found at the southwestern midden.

Other indications of the diet of the site's inhabitants that were found are that they consumed alcoholic beverages. Glass from alcoholic drinks as well as the lead seals of these bottles were excavated. CO2 cannisters, used to make soda water was also found. Fragment of Rose's lime cordial glass and wine glasses were also uncovered. The only other indication of what they ate, came from parts of Bovril bottles that were excavated.

It has already been mentioned that the hut floor (excavation 9) produced artifacts from both a European and a non-European origin. This included a metal hoop from a barrel, possible window glass, a metal button, a shot gun cartridge, nails, glass beads and Iron Age type ceramics. Coupled with the C14 date from the hut, it is clear that it was used during the occupation of the site by the Steinaecker's Horse military unit. At this stage it is however not possible to say if the hut was used by the white members of the unit or the black people. Further investigation is therefore needed to determine if any other huts were built on the site. The blue wildebeest skull that was fixed to the door of the hut, may be an indication that it was used by Europeans, as it is common practice amongst hunters to attach such an object on a prominent place to serve as a trophy. The stone tools on the other hand may indicate that the hut was used by non-Europeans. A fireplace that was identified in the hut may be prove that it was once used by local people as

this is common practice among them. It however is still possible that the white soldiers used the hut after occupying the site.

It is interesting that a block house was erected at the headquarters of Steinaecker's Horse at Sabie Bridge. After September 1902 it was used by Stevenson-Hamilton as his office (Stevenson-Hamilton 1930:7; Skukuza archives: photo album nos. 1, 4 & 5). No signs of the remains of a block house was identified at the Northern outpost. The most important reason for this would be that the Sabie train bridge had to be protected against attacks from the Boers. This was one of a number of reasons why block houses were erected (Van Vollenhoven 1995: 87). As there was no strategic installation to be protected at the outpost that was investigated, a block house was probably not regarded as an asset.

Excavation 10 revealed hut clay and burnt patches of soil, as was the case with excavation 3 in 1997. Again, this is interpreted as being a cooking shelter where food was prepared.

Finally it can be concluded that there is no doubt that the site was occupied by members of the Steinaecker's Horse military unit during the Anglo-Boer War. People from the local black community lived with the soldiers at the site and may even have been there before it was occupied by the military. Members of black military units also may have been present at the site. The site was re-used at a later stage, probably by a game warden who was a former member of Steinaecker's Horse. Historical information shows that some members of the unit became wardens in the park and that they played an important role in the establishment of what is today known as the Kruger National Park.

11. Recommendations

1. Because of the location of the site, between two rivers, flooding poses a great danger to the material remains. As indicated, approximately 16cm of soil were washed away between 1997 and 2000. If this trend continues very little would remain of the site in the next few years. As important aspects (see recommendation 3) has not yet been clearly illuminated, **further work on the site is of the utmost importance** in order to clear this aspect up before it is lost for ever.
2. In the unfortunate event of the area around the site being burnt down, it would be the best time for the archaeologists to visit the site. **As the grass will be short it would enable them to see features thus far hidden by the vegetation. In this way the real parameters of the site could be established.** It would therefore be appreciated if Archaeos could be contacted as soon as such an event occurs.
3. The most important features still to be identified are other **signs of permanent settlement**, such as other hut floors. This would provide important knowledge as to the way of life of the site's occupants, something that has never been described on any site from this period.
4. More historical information on the site was gathered since 1997. The information

however still seem to lack specific information on this outpost. *Any information in this regard that comes to the attention of someone should be directed to the researchers* in order to include it into the total history of the site and Steinaecker's Horse.

5. *A display of the site is recommended at a nearby camp.* As members of the Steinaecker's Horse unit played an important role in the establishment of the Kruger National Park, this would be an appropriate way to remember these pioneers. It will also show the park's involvement in the conservation of its cultural heritage, but also the cultural heritage of the area. Such a display will also provide the visitor to the park with an additional heritage experience.
6. *The map drawn by major J. Stevenson-Hamilton on 13.10.1903 should be used as a guide to try and discover the other sites where Steinaecker's Horse had outposts.* If successful, this would enable the researchers to do comparative studies in order to write the full story of this unit. Because of the environmental factors working against the preservation of these sites this project should commence as soon as possible.

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13. Project team

Dr. Anton C. van Vollenhoven (project leader)
Anton J. Pelser
Frank E. Teichert
Johan H. van Vollenhoven
Jaco van der Walt
J. André Strydom
Tharina van Vollenhoven
J.P. Celliers
Willem Steyn
Salome Theart-Peddle
Graham Peddle

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Appendix A

The ammunition from the Northern outpost of Steinaecker's Horse

by Johan Christiaan Loock

**THE AMMUNITION FROM THE
NORTHERN OUTPOST
OF
STEINAECKER'S HORSE**

by

JOHAN CHRISTIAAN LOOCK.

2001

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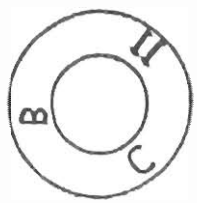
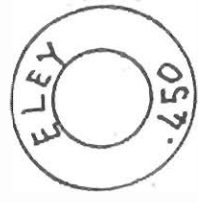


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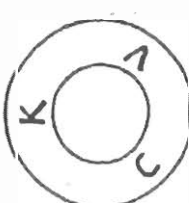
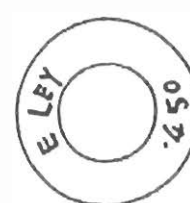
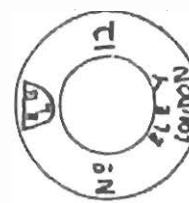
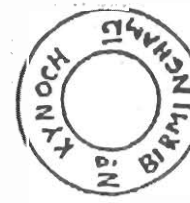
1. INTRODUCTION

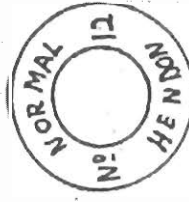


The National Cultural History Museum and the City Council of Pretoria instructed the author to examine a collection of fired cartridge cases uncovered during 1997 and 2000 at the northern outpost of the Steinaecker's Horse in the Kruger National Park. The majority of the cases date from the period of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902.



2. INTERPRETATION OF HEADSTAMPS AND IDENTIFICATION OF AMMUNITION



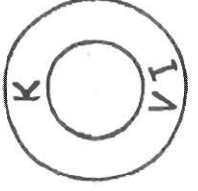
The archaeologists who conducted the excavations carefully recorded the stratigraphic position of each fired case found. In the tables the cases are listed according to their stratigraphic position. For each case the headstamp is depicted and explained and remarks added where necessary.

NO	HEAD-STAMP	MANUFACTURER	FIREARM	REMARKS
1997 EXCAVATIONS				
EXCAVATION 2 LAYER 1				
1		Birmingham Metal and Munitions Company	Any rifle chambered for the .303 British cartridge	Cordite, Mark II. Bullet: round nose, cupro-nickel, jacket
2		Eley Brothers, London	.450 Webley revolvers	Bullet: round nose, lead
3		Eley Brothers, London	12 bore shotgun	
EXCAVATION 2.1 LAYER 2				
4		Probably Kynoch Limited, Birmingham	12 bore shotgun	Greener manufactured rifles and shotguns; not ammunition

NO	HEAD-STAMP	MANUFACTURER	FIREARM	REMARKS
EXCAVATION 1 SURFACE				
5		Kynoch Limited, Birmingham	Rifles chambered for the .303 British cartridge	Cordite, Mark V. Bullet: Round nose, hollow point, cupro-nickel jacket
6		Eley Brothers, London	.450 Webley revolvers	Bullet: round nose, lead
7		Eley Brothers, London	12 bore shotgun	
8		Kynoch Limited, Birmingham	12 bore shotgun	

NO	HEAD-STAMP	MANUFACTURER	FIREARM	REMARKS
9		EXCAVATION I LAYER I Not identified	12 bore shotgun	Loaded with "Normal powder", a propellant developed at an unknown date before 1910
10		Eley Brothers, London	12 bore shotgun	4
11		Birmingham Small Arms, Birmingham	Maxim machine gun in .577/.450 Martini-Henry calibre	Machine gun made by Maxim Arms Company, London. Bullet: round nose, cupro-nickel jacket

NO	HEAD-STAMP	MANUFACTURER	FIREARM	REMARKS
EXCAVATION 5 LAYER 1				
12		Kynoch Limited, Birmingham	12 bore shotgun	
13		Eley Brothers, London	.450 Webley revolvers	<p>5</p> <p>Bullet: round nose, lead</p>

NO	HEAD-STAMP	MANUFACTURER	FIREARM	REMARKS
14		<p>2000 EXCAVATIONS EXCAVATION 5 LAYER 2</p> <p>Eley Brothers, London</p>	<p>.450 Webley revolvers</p>	<p>Bullet: round nose, lead</p>
15		<p>EXCAVATION 6 LAYER 1</p> <p>Eley Brothers, London</p>	<p>12 bore shotgun</p>	<p>6</p>
16		<p>Kynoch Limited, Birmingham</p>	<p>Rifles chambered for .303 British cartridge</p>	<p>Mark VI bullet, round nose, cupro-nickel jacket. Military Cartridge made from 1904 to 1906</p>

HEAD-STAMP

MANUFACTURER

FIREARM

REMARKS

EXCAVATION 7 LAYER 1



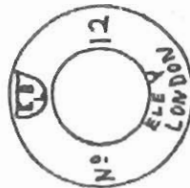
Eley Brothers, London

12 bore shotgun



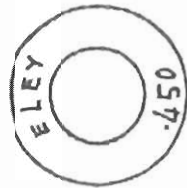
Kynoch Limited, Birmingham

12 bore shotgun



Eley Brothers, London





12 bore shotgun



Eley Brothers, London

.450 Webley revolvers

Bullet: round nose, lead

IO	HEAD-STAMP	MANUFACTURER	FIREARM	REMARKS
21		Eley Brothers, London	.450 Webley revolvers	Bullet: round nose, lead
22		Eley Brothers, London	.380 Webley revolvers	Bullet: round nose, lead
23		Eley Brothers, London	.450 Webley revolvers	Bullet: round nose, lead
24		Eley Brothers, London	12 bore shotgun	EXCAVATION 9 LAYER 2
EXCAVATION 7 LAYER 2				∞

3. NOTES ON MANUFACTURERS

3.1 Birmingham Small Arms, Birmingham

This company used to be famous for airguns, rifles and bicycles. On occasion they contracted to supply cartridge cases to small arms manufacturers.

3.2 Birmingham Metal and Munitions Company, Birmingham

This company delivered huge quantities of .303 British ammunition to the British Army between 1897 and 1919. Cases and complete rounds are commonly found on Anglo-Boer War battlefields.

3.3 Eley Brothers, London

During the latter half of the 19th century this company supplied percussion caps, black powder and ammunition to the trade and the military. During the Anglo-Boer War they manufactured .303 British and .455 Webley Revolver cartridges for the British Army. Eley amalgamated with three other companies in 1920 to form Nobel Industries. In turn Nobel later became the well-known Imperial Chemical Industries. The trade mark ELEY was retained in the headstamp of centre-fire cartridges for a number of years after 1920.

3.4 W.W. Greener, Birmingham

Greener and other companies e.g. Rigby were rifle and shotgun manufacturers. Cartridges bearing their names were made by contractors, usually Kynoch.

3.5 Kynoch Limited, Birmingham

Kynoch made enormous quantities of centre-fire military and sporting ammunition between 1888 and 1963. During the Anglo-Boer War and later World Wars they manufactured .303 British ammunition for the government.

3.6 Maxim Arms Company, London

The chief supplier of machine guns to the British Army before, during and after the Anglo-Boer War. The most common calibres were .303 British, .577/.450 Martini-Henry and the 37 mm Maxim-Nordenfeldt ("Pom-Pom").

Ammunition for the first two machine guns were supplied by contractors, usually BSA.

It is important to note that the Maxim Company also sold .577/.450 Martini-Henry machine guns to the Boer Republics.

4. NOTES ON CARTRIDGES

4.1 .380 Revolver

A little used cartridge designed about 1870 for a Webley revolver of that calibre. This has never been a military cartridge. The revolver may have been the private property of an individual.

4.2 .450 Revolver

The first revolver cartridge adopted by the British Army in 1868. During the Anglo-Boer War the cartridge was used in .450 Webley revolvers. Fired cases and even complete rounds are occasionally found on battlesites and around camps.

It must be stated that the headstamp seen here was more common between 1900 and 1920.

The more powerful .455 revolver cartridge was the official round for Webley revolvers from 1897 onwards to about 1945. But this did not deter many British officers from carrying Webleys and other revolvers chambered for the older .450 cartridge.

The .450 cases described in this report are probably related to the war but the researcher must, however, take note of the above remark on the headstamp.

4.3 .303 British

Mark II Cartridge. This "work-horse" of the Anglo-Boer War was manufactured from 1893 to 1903. It is the common "ball" round made by the Royal Laboratory and a number of contractors. After the war stockpiles remained behind for use by occupation troops.

Mark V Cartridge

This round with a hollow-pointed bullet was introduced in 1899 and declared illegal and withdrawn by the British Army late in the same year. This cartridge incorrectly but popularly referred to as a "dum-dum", was nevertheless used by both sides during the war, but obviously in limited quantities.

Mark VI Cartridge

This type was adopted early in 1904 to coincide with the introduction of the Mark III Short Magazine Lee-Enfield Rifle. Large quantities were manufactured up to 1910 when the Mark VII cartridge with the spitzer bullet was introduced. Occasionally collectors came across Mark VI rounds bearing the 1926 date code.

It is a simple matter to determine that the specimen described in this report was made between 1904 and 1906 because the British Army compelled contractors to use a two-digit date code as part of the headstamp from 1907 onwards.

Archaeological and historical evidence must be used when interpreting the presence of this specimen at the outpost.

4.4 .577/.450 Martini-Henry

Martini-Henry rifles and carbines were used by both sides during the Anglo-Boer War. In addition both sides used ammunition supplied by the same British manufacturers.

The cartridge described here is a very rare and interesting example because it was used in the .577/.450 Maxim machine gun sold to both the British Army and the Boer Republics.

4.5 12 Bore Shotgun

The relatively large percentage of shotgun cartridges is interesting and at the same time puzzling. We will use three different methods to date the examples from the outpost:

a) **Headstamp Type**

This type of headstamp bearing a large and sometimes superfluous amount of information and advertising was common from 1890 to 1910.

b) **Use of the term "gastight"**

Although all Boxer-type cartridges are by definition gastight, the term was in common use by British and German firms as a sales-gag a century ago. This is proven by numerous advertisements in a German Catalog of 1911 and also by fired cases picked up near old farmsteads where middens can be dated by using glassware, spongeware crockery and cases of other centre-fire cartridges.

c) **Comparison with cases from known Anglo-Boer War sites**

The author's extensive collection from British camp sites at the Orange River Station east of Hopetown, contains specimens identical to those listed as numbers 7, 8, 10 and 19 of this report.

INTERPRETATION: We can thus safely assume that the 12 bore cartridges date from the time of the war. A century ago 12 bore shotguns were solely used for hunting and sporting purposes. This raises a problem as we now have to explain of 12 bore cases at a military site.

The following interpretation is offered:

Some British officers (and gentlemen!) came out to South Africa sporting shotguns which they used to shoot pigeons, other game birds and even small antelopes.

The author owns 12 bore shotgun cases from British camps at the Orange River Station, as described above, and also other examples from a camp at Matjiesfontein.

Some historians will no doubt find it rather difficult and inconvenient to describe certain members of Steinaecker's Horse as "gentlemen".

5. SUMMARY

a) Cases which definitely belong to the period of the Anglo-Boer War

.303 British: Mark II and Mark V (Specimens 1 and 5).

.577/.450 Martini-Henry: The Maxim case (Number 11).

b) Cases which may belong to the time of the war

.380 Revolver: Specimen 22.

.450 Revolver: All the specimens of this calibre listed.

c) A case which post-dates the Anglo-Boer War

.303 British: Mark VI (Specimen 16).

6. CONCLUSIONS

The majority of the cases dates from the Anglo-Boer War, 1899-1902.

Some specimens cannot be dated with certainty.

One case post-dates the war.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) At all excavations every single scrap relating to rifle and guns must be collected and their stratigraphic position recorded. By these items the following is meant: ammunition, fired cases, bullets, cartridge clips and all components of rifles e.g. butt-plates, screws and foresight protectors.
- b) In the area with a radius of at least 300 m from a site all surface scatter must be likewise collected and the exact position of artifacts recorded.

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Appendix B

Fauna material from the Northern outpost of Steinaecker's Horse

by Ina Plug and Shaw Badenhorst

Steinaecker's Horse Northernmost Outpost of the South African War: a faunal perspective, Kruger National Park.

Shaw Badenhorst*, Ina Plug**, Anton J. Pelsers*** & Anton C. van Vollenhoven****

*Human Origin and Past Environments
Vertebrate Unit
Transvaal Museum
PO Box 413
Pretoria
Republic of South Africa
0001

**Research Associate
Department of Archaeology
University of Newcastle
Newcastle upon Tyne
United Kingdom

***National Cultural History Museum
Department of Archaeology
PO Box 28088
Sunnyside
0132

****Fort Klapperkop Heritage Site
City of Tswane Metropolitan Municipality
PO Box 1454
Pretoria
0001

Abstract

Faunal remains from the 2000 archaeological excavation at the Northernmost military unit Steinaecker's Horse in the Letaba district, Kruger National Park, were analysed. The site was inhabited during the South African War (1899-1902), and the analysed bone sample provided information about the various economical strategies which the inhabitants employed such as hunting, herding, gathering, snaring and fishing.

Keywords: Historical archaeology, South African War, Faunal analysis, Kruger National Park

Introduction

Location of the site

The northernmost or Letaba outpost of Steinaecker's Horse is situated approximately 15 kilometres northeast of the Letaba rest camp in the Kruger National Park. The coordinates of the site are 23°43'08"S and 31°36'59"E on map 2331DA Shilowa, of the South African 1:50 000 topographic series. The site was located during a field survey in 1996 (Van Vollenhoven et.al., 1996:2-5). Archaeological excavations at the site commenced in 1997, with a second field season

carried out in 2000.

Historical background

Steinaecker's Horse was a volunteer military unit that fought on the side of the British during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). They operated mainly in the Lowveld and Swaziland (Pienaar, 1990:343). Their Letaba outpost was one of several established by them in order to safeguard the area against Boer infiltration and activity. The unit was formed by one Francis Christiaan Ludwig von Steinaecker, a former Prussian-German soldier with vast military experience (Van Vollenhoven et.al., 1998: 6; S.A.National Museum of Military History, no: 920, D.R.Forsyth: 20-23). He came to Southern Africa in 1886, working as a cartographer in German South West Africa, where after he settled in Natal in 1890 (Van Vollenhoven et.al., 1998:6-8). He became a British subject and when the Anglo-Boer War broke out in 1899, he joined the Colonial Scouts.

After impressing General Buller and participating in a series of successes against the Boers, he was permitted to raise his own cavalry unit, called Steinaecker's Horse. He was promoted to the rank of major and his unit had a strength of 450 men, mostly consisting of local inhabitants from the Lowveld region. Although they did not experience much action militarily speaking, they were involved in a few skirmishes against the Boers (Van Vollenhoven et.al., 1998:8; S.A. National Museum of Military History, no: 920, D.R.Forsyth: 20-23; Paynter 1986:48). The unit's main function was to act as a border guard, in order to prevent the Boers from making contact with pro-Boer people in the Portuguese territory (Mozambique). For this purpose a number of outposts were established, of which the one under discussion was the northernmost (Van Vollenhoven et.al., 1998:8-10).

The archaeological excavations

During 1997 five (5) excavations were carried out. Two of these were on the central refuse midden (Excavation 1 and 2); one on the southwestern refuse midden (Excavation 5); one on a smaller midden (Excavation 4) and a fifth excavation on a area with hut clay (Excavation 3). From analysis of material found during these excavations it was concluded that the central midden was probably associated with the European soldiers of the unit, with the southwestern midden possibly related to the black soldiers and servants of the unit. One of the main reasons for the 2000 excavations were also to find more evidence of this apparent social (racial) division prevalent at the outpost.

During the 2000 field season a further five (5) excavations were carried out, while layer 2 of both Excavation 2 and 5 were also completed. Excavations 6 (2 layers) and 8 (1 layer) were on the central midden, with Excavation 7 (2 layers) conducted on the southwestern refuse midden. The other 2 excavations were on a hut floor (Excavation 9, Layer 1 & 2) and an area with hut rubble (Excavation 10, 1 layer) respectively.

A large amount of cultural material, including faunal remains, were recovered during 1997 and 2000. For the purpose of this article, however, only faunal material from the 2000 excavations were utilized.

The faunal sample

The faunal remains from the 2000 archaeological excavations at Steinaecker's Horse were:

identified at the Transvaal Museum. The sample was small (Table 1) and consisted of 1445 bone and shell fragments with a total mass of 1259,4 g, of which 496 or 34,3% of the total sample was identified to species level or size class. Each square and level was analysed separately but for this presentation, Squares 2, 6 and 8 with their individual layers were combined as they were close together in the same refuse midden. For a similar reason the individual layers of Squares 5 and 7 were also combined. Unidentified bone fragments consist of enamel-, skull-, vertebrate-, rib-, miscellaneous- and shaft flake fragments. These were counted and weighed separately for each layer and square, and combined for Table 1. The species list follows the classification presented by Meester *et al* (1986) for mammals, Maclean (1993) for birds, Branch (1988) for reptiles and Connolly (1939) for molluscs.

Although a variety of archaeozoological quantification methods exist which are used in various ways by scholars, two of the most commonly employed methods, Number of Identifiable Skeletal (or Specimen) Parts and Minimum Number of Individuals, were used in this faunal report, recognizing their limitations (Reitz & Wing, 1999). Although many of the excavated squares are not adjacent to one another, the remains were quantified, particularly in the case of MNI calculations, as a single unit per excavated midden. This was done because of the short habitation period of the site and the relative close proximity of these excavated squares to one another within the same refuse midden.

Results

Species present and sample size

Despite the small sample size, a large variety of species were identified, which are listed in Table 2. The 2000 archaeological excavations at Steinaecker's Horse yielded a similar range of species than the 1997 excavated faunal remains (Pelser & van Vollenhoven, 1998). These included guinea fowl, francolin, sheep, sheep/goat, steenbok, zebra, impala, tortoise, serval, cane rat and scrub hare.

The combined Squares 2, 6 and 8 contained 89 (32,5%) identified fragments or NISP with 185 unidentified bone fragments, and Squares 5 and 7 yielded 407 identified fragments, or 34,8%, and 764 unidentified fragments.

Taphonomy

Human caused damage was limited. Only 13 bones with cut and 11 with chop marks were recorded.

One large freshwater mussel, *Aspatharia* sp. from Square 7 layer 1 was used as a tool. The shell surface and the rim are smoothed. Another three freshwater mussel fragments from the same unit, possible also from the same individual also show signs of modification. The rim of one of these fragments indicate similar utilisation, whilst the surfaces of all three fragments are also smoothed. Another freshwater mussel fragment was modified to a square shape (Square 6 layer 2) and displays similar surface wear as the other modified shell fragments.

Modified bone material was also identified from the submitted faunal sample:

- ▶ Square 6 layer 1: A flat pointed slender object, probably the tip of an object such as a matting needle is 6,4 mm wide and only 3,2 mm thick. The length of this fragment is 97 mm. The surfaces are polished smooth.

- ▶ Square 6 layer 1: From the same square and layer a small circular broken point or link shaft with a diameter of 2,4 mm and a length of 22 mm was recovered. Its original length is unknown.
- ▶ Square 7 layer 1: A modified bone, possible a large link shaft, is polished with the manufacturing facets still visible. Small flakes were removed from both ends probably to facilitate hafting. It is circular in cross section, has a length of 58 mm with a diameter of 6,9 mm.
- ▶ Square 7 layer 1: An incomplete bone tool with faceted sides still in preparation before polishing were also from the same location, with a length of 59 mm.
- ▶ Square 7 layer 1: A large rib, from a bovid III size animal is polished at both ends into a chisel like shape, with the inner bone surface also smoothed. It has a length of 105 mm, a maximum breath of 21,6 mm and a width of 7,1 mm.
- ▶ Square 7 layer 1: A point or an awl fragment, with a circular section from the tip of the point to approxamitly two-thirds down the shaft. Thereafter it flattens towards the base, where it is completely flat and marrow cavity remnant can still be seen. This polished bone has a length of 120 mm, and a mid diameter of 4,0 mm.
- ▶ Square 7 layer 2: A point or a link shaft with one end snapped and flattened, while the other end is broken off. It is circular shaped, burnt black with a length of 26 mm and has a diameter of 4,1 mm.

A single bone fragment from Square 7 layer 1 is weathered to a greater extent than the rest of the sample. This suggests that this fragment has been exposed on the surface for a longer period than the rest of the sample.

Carnivore gnawing is visible on two bone fragments. One of these bones has a punctations mark on the bone surface.

A guinea fowl humerus was gnawed by a small rodent the size of a mouse or small rat. These parallel scrape like gnaw marks are of recent origin.

A total of 367 fragments or 25,4% of the total faunal sample from the site were burnt. Various colour variations, indicative of fire temperature, were noted and include shades of pink, dark brown, black, grey and white.

Rootlet etching was noted on 849 or 58,8% of the bone fragments. These etch marks are randomly orientated, U shaped and sinuous depressions on the bones (Lyman, 1999).

Age categories, sexing and skeletal parts representation

Because of the small sample size, very few teeth fragments could be assigned to age classes. Nonetheless, the different age classes for sheep/goat are listed in Table 3. Most teeth fall into age classes IV and V. The only cattle tooth, an upper second premolar, was assigned to age class VIII. A sheep/goat pelvis fragment was that of a male. The bovid sample was too limited to justify bovid skeletal representation calculations.

Discussion and conclusions

Small faunal samples hamper reliable interpretations. Nonetheless, the faunal remains from Steinaecker's Horse provides us a glimps into the lives of people on a military outpost

during the South African War.

Various subsistence strategies were employed as means of acquiring meat for the inhabitants of the site. Such strategies includes hunting, herding, snaring, gathering and fishing. The samples are too limited to determine their relative importance.

It is not clear to what extent, if any, certain species identified from the sample contributed to the diet, for example the leopard, serval, bullfrog and land snail. These species could have been opportunistically utilised as protein sources. Leopards are known for preying on domestic stock and dogs and can be threatening humans (Smithers, 1983). Renowned game ranger Harry Wolhuter mentioned a leopard killing his dog in the area of the present day Kruger National Park (Wolhuter, 1948). It therefore seems plausible to assume that the leopard represented in the faunal sample was killed because it was threatening man and beast rather to suggest it was killed for its meat. Bullfrogs and land snails aestivate during certain months of the year and their presence in the archaeological context has always been ambiguous. The zebra, cattle, sheep, sheep/goat, duiker, impala, cane rat, hare, francolin, guinea fowl, tortoise, monitor, barbel, other catfish and freshwater mussels were all most probably protein contributors to the diet.

Stevenson-Hamilton (1938) described the diet of these military outposts. He mentions that pickles, whiskey and groceries were conveyed on a weekly basis by ox wagon to the various military outposts, while game provided the soldiers of meat. He also mentioned that the large herds of cattle of the local African people were kept at the different military outposts, protecting them against a possible Boer raid. These cattle supplied the soldiers with milk.

This pattern can be observed in the identified faunal remains. A variety of wild animals as well as domestic stock are present. Both hunting and herding have been part of the economic strategies of this area for a long time. Herding was practised since the first Iron Age people arrived in this area. Later on, European settlers also settled there with their flocks. Periodically tsetse fly, causing nagana in cattle, prohibited herding practices in the South African lowveld, but during the period when Steinaecker's Horse was inhabited, tsetse flies were absent from the vicinity. Domestic animal remains have a low frequency though. Hunting practices intensified rapidly after the introduction of rifles into the lowveld. The main purpose of the hunting activities were obviously to obtain meat, but it also proved to be a popular recreational past time (Pelser & van Vollenhoven, 1998). Continued exploitation of wildlife resources by the soldiers and farmers led to the virtual demise thereof by the end of the South African War (Wolhuter, 1948).

Since larger game were continuously harder to locate close to the site, it may be assumed that smaller animals were subsequently exploited such as cane rats, francolin, guinea fowl, hare, tortoise and monitor lizards to compliment the diet.

The river, flowing close by the site, further provided the soldiers with protein. Barbel, other catfish and freshwater mussels were all utilised as food sources.

The small rodent, small frog, terrestrial gastropod, freshwater gastropod and small freshwater mussel were probably not exploited as food sources. These species are too small for such a purpose. The small rodent remains are fresher than the rest of the sample and were most probably self introduced into the deposit. This could also have applied to the terrestrial

gastropod, the small freshwater mussel and small frog.

All the wild species identified from the site occurred in the Letaba district in historical times, whilst some of these still occur there up to the present day (Du Plessis, 1969; Smithers, 1983; Maclean, 1993; Branch, 1988; Passmore & Carruthers, 1995).

The presence of the donkey fragment deserves some comment. These animals were frequently used in the vicinity of the site as pack animals (Stevenson-Hamilton, 1938; Wolhuter, 1948). Donkeys are poor draught animals, since the pace of a donkey wagon is very slow. The animals are suited for hostile environments such as those in the early days of the Kruger National Park. (Stevenson-Hamilton, 1938). Donkeys are not frequently found in the archaeological context since the animals were introduced into the subcontinent by European settlers during the last 500 years (Plug & Badenhorst, 2001). It is not clear from the sample if donkeys were utilised for their meat.

Cut and chop marks, like those noted on the faunal remains, are a consequence of butchering activities. Stevenson-Hamilton (1938) mentions that butchering activities were mainly the duty of the African servants. Cut marks are generally associated with skinning and defleshing of an animal, whilst chop marks are the result of dismembering of the skeleton into smaller manageable pieces.

Burnt bone colour variations are directly linked to the time, temperature and proximity of the heat source in relation to the bone material. The colour variations of the Steinaecker's Horse bone fragments represent most of the different colour assortments, varying from the light pink colour to chalky white, the latter indicating temperatures above 420°C (Gilchrist & Mytum, 1986).

The fresh small rodent skeletal material and the fresh gnaw marks on a bone fragment, the small toad and terrestrial snails indicate some disturbance of the deposit after the site was abandoned.

Carnivore activity was low. This may explain the high amount of bird remains. Settlements where carnivore activity is relatively high, for instance at Late Iron Age sites, bird remains do not occur that frequently, since these delicate bones are easily consumed by the inhabitants dogs. The two chewed bones could be the result of carnivores scavenging exposed bone refuse.

The faunal remains from Steinaecker's Horse were poorly preserved and heavily fragmented. Generally, Iron Age deposits are ashy, conducive to good bone preservation. Ash was absent from the excavated refuse midden, resulting in greater fragmentation of the bones. Grass also tends to grow better on non-ashy deposits, hence the large quantity of bones with grass rootlet etching.

The age profile of the fauna can not be interpreted as the sample is too small.

The bone tools are few but varied. The matting needle was probably used in the weaving process of grass or sewing with leather thongs. The large polished rib could have been used as

a scraper, possibly for leather. Link shafts and bone points would have been parts of an arrow. The modification of the large freshwater mussels is a relative common procedure. These shells were used to smooth clay objects or as scoops. This were noted, for example, by Badenhorst & Plug (2000a, 2000b) at two Late Iron Age sites: Biotsemagano near Rustenburg and Simunye in the Swaziland lowveld.

The excavators of the site suggested elsewhere (Pelser & van Vollenhoven, 1998) that there was spatial differentiation between the European soldiers and African servants and police troops. Results from the 1997 excavation strongly indicated that the soldiers were concentrated around the central midden (Squares 2, 6 and 8), while the African inhabitants were located at the southwestern refuse midden (Squares 5 and 7). Various artifacts from the site were used to formulate such an hypothesis, such as pottery, glass, metal and ceramics. Faunal remains however, are not always subject to such differentiations, since various processes can and do affect the spatial distribution of faunal remains on site, although faunal remains can be used to interpret successfully spatial distribution. If the spatial allocations by Pelser and van Vollenhoven are excepted, remains from the site certainly indicate a much larger variety of species from the African section than the European section, but interpretations from this is tenuous. The distribution of bone tools illustrates the dangers of using small faunal samples as primary indicator of spatial distribution. The majority of modified bone and shells are concentrated in the areas associated with the African inhabitants of the site. However, modified bone and shell, though in a lower quantity which can be ascribed to the small sample, are also present from the European area of the site, even though modified bone and shell are not generally denoted to Europeans. Therefore we conclude to suggest that even though faunal remains have been conclusively used to determine spatial distribution in the past, the present sample is too small to provide evidence for racial division on this site.

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Table 1: The total faunal sample from Steinaecker's Horse

	TOTAL	MASS (g)
UNIDENTIFIED BONE FRAGMENTS		
Enamel	44	12,0
Skull	7	16,7
Vertebrate	19	26,1
Rib	98	75,4
Miscellaneous	604	318,4
Bone flakes	177	208,9
SUBTOTAL: UNIDENTIFIED BONE	949	657,5
TOTAL IDENTIFIED BONE	496	601,9
PERCENTAGE IDENTIFIED BONE (%)	34,3	
TOTAL BONE SAMPLE	1445	1259,4

Table 2: Steinaecker's Horse identified bone per NISP/MNI.

Species present	Square 2, 6 and 8	Square 5 and 7
<i>Panthera pardus</i> leopard		7/1
<i>Felis serval</i> serval		6/1
Carnivore small		1/-
Carnivore medium		2/1
<i>Equus burchelli</i> Burchell's zebra	2/1	3/1
<i>Equus asinus</i> donkey		1/1
<i>Equus</i> sp.		3/-
<i>Bos taurus</i> cattle		1/1
<i>Ovis aries</i> sheep		1/1
<i>Ovis/Capra</i> sheep/goat	6/2	21/4
<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i> common duiker		1/1
<i>Aepyceros melampus</i> impala	2/1	
Bovidae I		14/-
Bovidae II	4/-	12/-
Bovidae II non domestic		1/1
Bovidae III	1/1	3/-
<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i> greater cane rat	22/2	42/3
Rodent small	4/1	6/1
<i>Lepus saxatilis</i> scrub hare		4/1
<i>Francolinus</i> sp. francolin	13/3	1/1

<i>Numida</i> sp. guinea fowl	3/1	17/2
Bird		1/-
<i>Geochelone pardalis</i> leopard tortoise		34/1
Tortoise		1/1
<i>Varanus</i> sp. monitor	1/1	33/1
<i>Pyxicephalus edulis</i> (<i>adpersus</i>) bullfrog		1/1
Frog small		1/1
Reptile small		5/-
Reptile medium	1/-	4/-
<i>Clarias</i> sp. barbel		14/2
<i>Clarias/Synodontis</i> catfish		5/2
Fish small	4/1	36/-
Fish medium	2/1	105/1
Fish large		1/-
<i>Achatina</i> sp. land snail	22/1	1/1
Terrestrial gastropod		1/1
<i>Melanooides</i> sp. freshwater gastropod		1/1
<i>Aspatharia</i> sp. freshwater mussel		1/1
<i>Corbicula africana</i> freshwater mussel		6/3
<i>Unio/Aspatharia</i> freshwater mussel	2/1	9/-

Table 3: Sheep/goat age classes from Steinaecker's Horse.

AGE CLASS	NISP/MNI
I	-
II	1/1
III	-
IV	2/1
V	6/2
VI	-