



COBUS DREYER

Pr. Archaeologist/Heritage Specialist

**P.O. Box 12910
Brandhof
9324
dreyerj@telkomsa.net**

**Tel: 051-444 1187
Fax: 051-444 4395
Cell: 083 357 7982**

28 July 2004

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS AT SUBDIVISIONS 20 & 24 OF THE FARM LILYVALE 2313, BLOEMFONTEIN

INVESTIGATION

The proposed area for residential developments on subdivisions 20 & 24 of the farm Lilyvale 2313, Bloemfontein, was visited and inspected on 27 June 2005. Dr Johan du Preez and Neil Devenish of Cebo Environmental Consultants, Bloemfontein, accompanied me to the site and indicated the layout and borders of the specific land. The site was again visited on several occasions afterwards to investigate the finds.

The area was examined for possible archaeological and historical remains and to establish the potential impact on any cultural material that might be found. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRA), (25 of 1999) and under the Environmental Conservation Act, (73 of 1989).

LOCALITY

The proposed residential developments are planned on Subdivision 20 & 24 of the farm Lilyvale 2313, Bloemfontein (Surveyor-General O.F.S. 1973). The land borders on the N1 main road in the west and adjoins De Bruin Avenue in the south (2926AA) (Map 1).

The following GPS coordinates (Cape scale) were taken:

Corner of N1 & De Bruin Ave (29°03'55"S 026°11'32"E Altitude 1437m).

Corner with N1 (A) (29°42'06"S 026°11'52"E Altitude 1406m).

Fence (B) (29°03'48"S 026°11'56"E Altitude 1403m).

Entrance gate (29°04'02"S 026°11'57"E Altitude 1410m) (Fig.2).

The land is grass covered with trees and shrubs and patches of *Rhus ciliata* (Klein-suurtaaibos) (Fig.6). It is possible that this specific kind of vegetation could indicate areas where the soil surface had previously been disturbed.

FINDS

A substantial variety of Anglo-Boer War remains were found on the site (Fig.36). The relics range from cartridge shells (Figs.31-33) and beef and milk tins (Figs.10-12,37) to stone structures in the form of a Sangar (Fig.24) and an 8m diameter half-circle (Fig.34), which could represent the possible remains of extensive military activities such as lookout post or even a gun post during and after the Anglo-Boer War.

About 12 graves were located in the low-lying area near the N1 main road (29°03'50"S 026°11'39"E Altitude 1426m) (Fig.25). One of the graves has the name of Godfry Sebattelo inscribed on a fragment of slate stone (Fig.26). Several glass containers have been placed on some of the graves (Fig.27).

The area was surveyed on foot and all cultural material, building remains and other structures were plotted by GPS and recorded on camera. The finds are listed below.

Heap of stones next to N1 (29°03'51"S 026°11'37"E Altitude 1429m) (Fig.1).

Stone wall in water flow (29°03'06"S 026°12'20"E Altitude 1425m) (Fig.5).

Ash heap (29°03'54"S 026°11'46"E Altitude 1426m) (Fig.3).

Stone foundation (29°03'56"S 026°12'44"E Altitude 1429m) (Fig.7).

Anglo-Boer war remains (29°04'00"S 026°11'40"E Altitude 1435m) (Fig.10).

Stone-walled structure (29°04'00"S 026°11'41"E Altitude 1433m) (Fig.).

Circular stone paving (4m diam.) (29°03'59"S 026°11'41"E Altitude 1432m) (Fig.9).

Button & bullet (29°04'00"S 026°11'43"E Altitude 1436m) (Fig.17).

Sangar (klipskans) (29°04'01"S 026°11'46"E Altitude 1430m) (Fig.24).

Half circle of stones (8m) (29°03'58"S 026°11'47"E Altitude 1430m) (Fig.35).

Stone base (29°03'58"S 026°11'44"E Altitude 1434m) (Fig.).

Graves (29°03'50"S 026°11'39"E Altitude 1426m) (Fig.).

Stone base and paving of rectangular structure (29°03'06"S 026°12'20"E Altitude 1381m) (Fig.).

The sangar or klipskans appear in the form of a cluster of rectangular stone structures (Fig.24).

A piece of metal that, according to the inscription, came from a Porcupine barbed wire roll (Fig.22) was found. It is not clear if this find dates from the time of the War, if it was used during a later date.

Some of the porcelain fragments are identified as sponge ware, which had been known to be very popular amongst European women in the former British colonies. Sponge ware decorated crockery had been manufactured at Staffordshire, England, for distribution in the different British colonies, including South Africa. The fragments from the site could therefore, date from a period well before, during and even after the Anglo-Boer War (Trehaven 1996, Dreyer 2001) (Fig.16).

A stone-walled rectangular structure (Fig.28), possibly a house, is located below and to the south of the sangar (29°04'02"S 026°11'46"E Altitude 1425m). The entrance visible is clearly visible and indicated by two upright slabs of stone (Fig.29).

DISCUSSION

The site produced an elaborate collection of finds of military origin, indicating that this area outside Bloemfontein was largely exploited during previous martial activities. It is tempting to accept that this could all link up to the military base at Tempe, which is quite nearby.

However, it is not clear what role this area played during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). It is known that Tempe as a military base for the British garrison was established during the War. It was only after the Anglo-Boer War when the Tempe base developed into an important stronghold of the British occupational

forces. This remained the case until the majority of the British troops had been withdrawn from South Africa until the outbreak of WWI in 1914.

It is not certain if there was a lookout post in the region or what specific role the area played during the Anglo-Boer War and the occupation of Bloemfontein afterwards. From the old maps compiled by the Colonial Survey Section (1913) it is learnt that there were, "cantonments" on the adjacent farm Tempe (Map 2), but no records could be found to explain the military importance of the land in question.

The headstamps on the cartridge cases collected at the site give the following information: (Λ = broad arrow)

| | |
|--|--------------|
| RAL C II (Royal Laboratories, Woolwich) Anglo-Boer War | (1899-1902). |
| RAL C II (Royal Laboratories, Woolwich) Anglo-Boer War | (1899-1902). |
| RAL C IV (Royal Laboratories, Woolwich) Anglo-Boer War | (1899-1902). |
| RAL C V (Royal Laboratories, Woolwich) Anglo-Boer War | (1899-1902). |
| B C II (Birmingham Metal & Munitions Co.) Anglo-Boer War | (1899-1902). |
| KN C VI (Kings Norton Metal Co. Birmingham) | 1904-1906. |
| RAL VI (Royal Laboratories, Woolwich) | 1904-1906. |
| RAL 09 VI (Royal Laboratories, Woolwich) | 1909. |
| DAC 1911 VI (Dominion Arsenal, Quebec, Canada) | 1911. |
| K23 VII (Kynoch, Birmingham) | 1923. |
| K28 VII (Kynoch, Birmingham) | 1928. |

The time covered by the head stamps of the cartridge cases started from the outbreak of the War in 1899 and lasted until 1928. This period extends past the outbreak of World War I, The reason for this is not clear.

The graves could not be dated and it can only be accepted according to the single inscription that the graves represent people who were employed on the original agricultural holdings in the area, or could have been in military service.

The finds at Lilyvale 2313 joins up with finds from other places in the immediate vicinity, such as Lilyvale 2913 (Dreyer 2004) and Boven Tempe 203 (Henderson 2004).

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the developers should preserve the stone sangar walls. This specific feature should be incorporated into their planning of the residential area. Exceptional care should also be taken to protect the structure at all times, particularly during the construction phase.

I also recommend that the area of the ash heap should be preserved by inclusion into an open area. The ash heap should be covered and placed under lawns or should be covered by paving. Likewise should special care be taken to protect the feature during the construction phase.

The graves must be fenced and should be planned to become part of an open area.

Judging from the variety of finds on the surface it is accepted that a considerable amount of Anglo-Boer War and other material will be discovered during trenching and building activities at the site. It is therefore, important to keep in mind that every archaeological and historical site is unique and should be treated as a non-renewable commodity. All efforts should be made to avoid any unnecessary disturbance or destruction of the features or the environment.

It is stressed that in case of the discovery of any historical remnants of Anglo-Boer War origin or archaeological finds in the form of stone tools, pottery and other archaeological material of significance during the course of the work, all activities should temporarily be stopped for inspection by the present archaeologist and other specialists from the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein.

MITIGATION

Concerning the area for the proposed development the ash heap, the sangar and other stone-walled structures near the hill, will need mitigation measures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr Johan du Preez and Neil Devenish of Cebo Environmental Consultants for taking me to the site. I also owe gratitude to Johan Loock of Bloemfontein for comments on the finds and the identification of the ammunition found at Lilyvale 2313 and surroundings.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:

BESTER, R. et al. 2003. Small Arms of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902. Brandfort. Kraal Publishers.

CLOETE, P.G. 2000. The Anglo-Boer War: - a chronology. Pretoria: JP van der Walt.

DEACON, J. 1992. Archaeology for Planners, Developers and Local Authorities. Cape Town: National Monuments Council.

DREYER, J. 2000. Mountains and Rivers of the Free State - Manual for field research / Berge en Riviere van die Vrystaat – Handleiding vir veldnavorsing. Bloemfontein: University of the Free State, Department of Anthropology, Occasional Paper No. 2.

DREYER, C. 16.8.2004. EIA Report on the archaeological and historical investigation of the proposed Rayton Estate Township, on subdivision 29 of the farm Lilyvale 2913, Bloemfontein. Bloemfontein: Spatial Solutions.

HENDERSON, Z. 2004. Report on the archaeological survey of Subdivision 7, Remainder and Portion of Subdivision 25, of the farm Lilyvale 2313, Bloemfontein. Bloemfontein: National Museum.

HUMPHREYS, A.J.B. 1986. Searching for the past. Cape Town: David Philip.

HOGG, I.V. 1982. The Cartridge Guide. The Small Arms Ammunition Identification Manual. London: Arms & Armour Press. pp. 192.

JONES, H.M. & M.G.M. JONES, 1999. A gazetteer of the second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). Buckinghamshire: The Military Press.

MAGGS, T.M. 1976. Iron Age Communities of the Southern Highveld. Pietermaritzburg: Natal Museum.

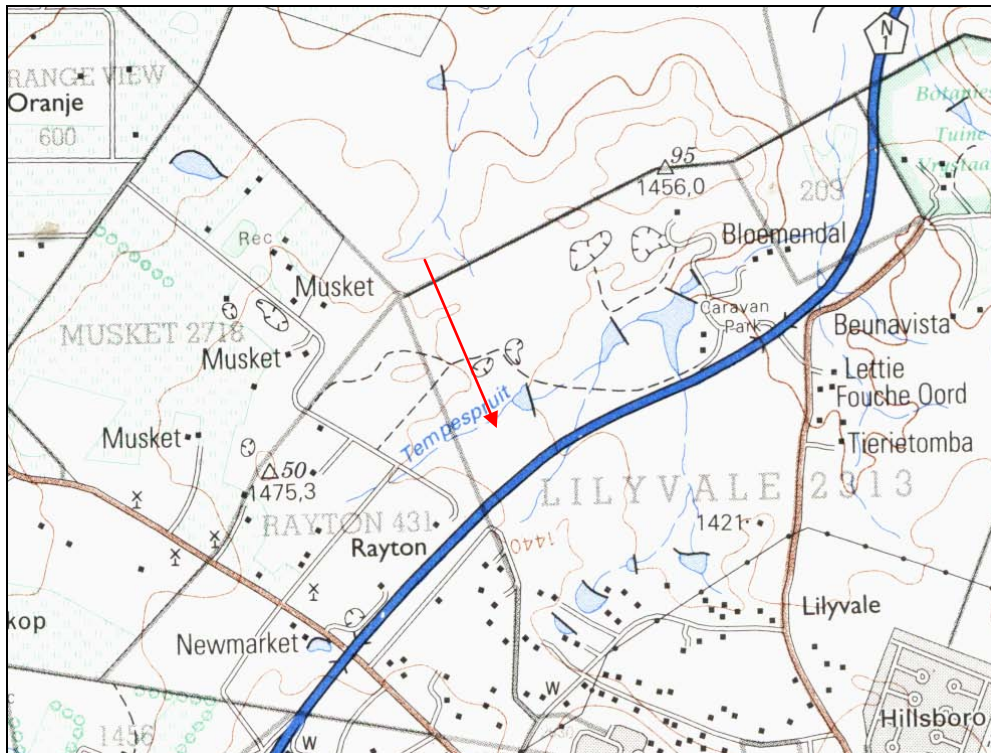
PAKENHAM, T. 1997. The Boer War. Johannesburg: Jonathan Ball.

PISTORIUS, J.C.C. 1994. Eskom Archaeological Site Identification Guide. Johannesburg: Eskom.

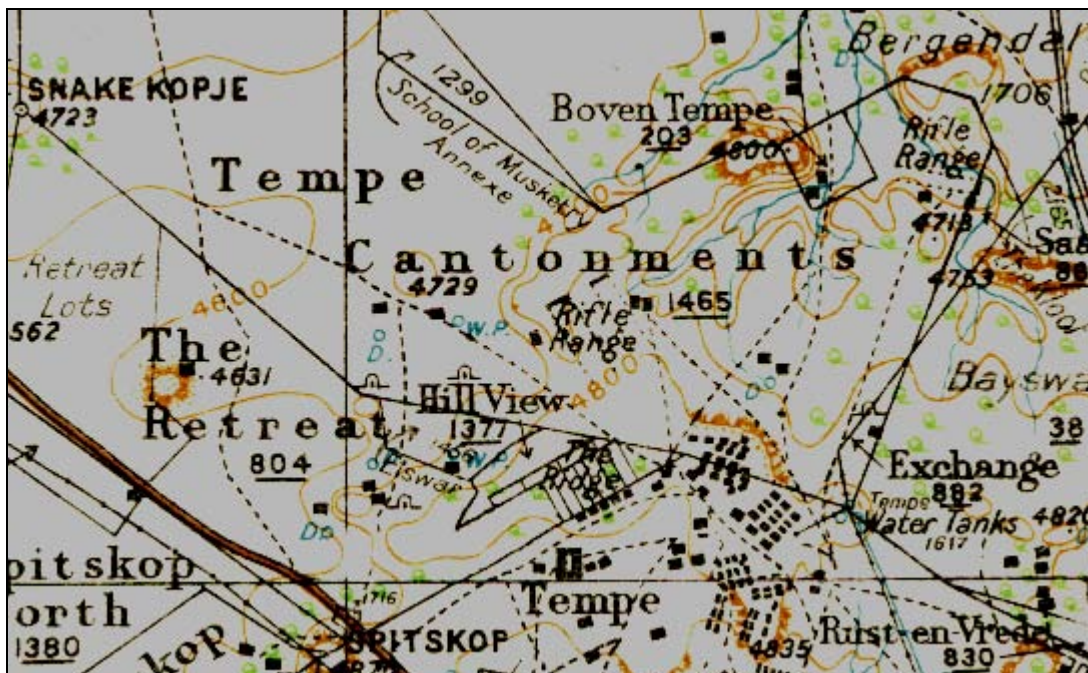
SCHOEMAN, K. 1980. Bloemfontein – die ontstaan van 'n stad. Kaapstad: Human & Rousseau.

SURVEYOR-GENERAL O.F.S. 1973. Index of Orange Free State Farms. Bloemfontein.

WAR OFFICE. 1915. Treatise on Ammunition. London: His Majesty's Stationary Office. 10th Edition pp.592.



Map 1 Locality of the land adjacent to the N1 (2926AA).



Map 2 Locality of the Tempe Cantonments.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS:

Fig.1 A heap of stones near the N1 facing the south western corner of the property.



Fig.2 A view across the proposed land from the entrance gate facing north.



Fig.3 Possible remains of an ash heap at the site.



Fig.4 A view across the site towards the houses on Rayton Ridge.

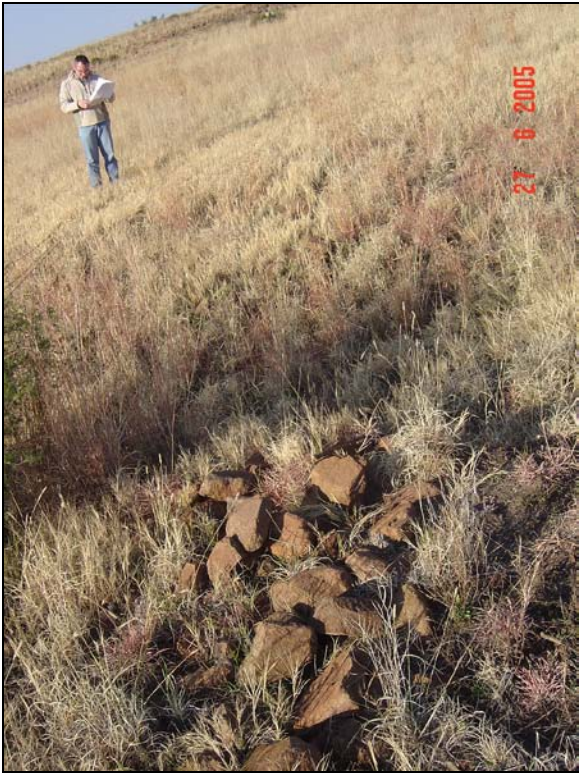


Fig.5 A stone wall through the little stream bed near the N1.



Fig.6 There is a tendency that patches of *Rhus ciliata* (Klein Suurtaaibos) occur where the soil had been disturbed.



Fig.7 Prearranged stones occur in patches at the site.



Fig.8 More stones at the site.



Fig.9 Remains of stone-paving on the surface. The feature is about 4m diameter.



Fig.10 Remains of Anglo-Boer War utensils on the surface.



Fig.11 A tin can dating from the Anglo-Boer War. The heavy soldering is characteristic of this period.



Fig.12 Soldered condensed milk can from the Anglo-Boer War.



Fig.13 A piece glass and a porcelain fragment from the site.



Fig.14 A piece of glass and a clay potsherd found at the site.



Fig.15 More glass fragments from the site.



Fig.16 The inner piece of a mouth organ and a sponge ware decorated crockery sherd.



Fig.17 A round nose ,303 bullet and a military button from the site.



Fig.18 A set of spurs found at the site.



Fig.19 A metal object of unknown purpose.



Fig.20 Soldered Anglo-Boer War tin food can from the site.



Fig.21 A flat piece of galvanized sheet used for target shooting.



Fig.22 Metal end of a Porcupine barbed wire roll.



Fig.23 Beef tin can with heavy soldering characteristic of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902).



Fig.24 Sangar on the high point overlooking the area.



Fig.25 Several graves with a single inscribed head stones were found near the N1 main road.



Fig.26 Inscribed head stone from the grave near the N1.



Fig.27 Glass containers from the grave neat the N1.



Fig.28 A rectangular stone-walled building at the foot of the hill below the lookout post.



Fig.29 The entrance in the long east-facing wall of the rectangular stone structure.



Fig.30 An exceptional horse shoe and the metal heel of a military boot. Note the interesting hook on the two ends of the horse shoe.



Fig.31 Several damaged ,303 cartridge cases from the site.
Head stamps read from left to right: K28 VII, K C II, K C II, B C II, RAL09 VI, R Λ L C VI.



Fig.32 Cartridge cases of ,303 calibre. From left: Unfired RAL C II cartridge, Unfired R Λ L C II Blank cartridge, Fired Blank cartridge R Λ L C IV, KN C VI, RAL C II, K28 VII, DAC 1911 VI.



Fig.33 Cartridge shells from the site: ,303 Round nosed bullet, RAL C II, Unfired R A L C II Blank cartridge, Unfired RAL C II bullet, ,303 cartridge clip WWI (1914-19).



Fig.34 Two different kinds of tent pegs from Lilyvale 2313.



Fig.35 Remains of a half-circle of stones of about 8m diameter. This feature could be the remains of a gun post.



Fig.36 Randomly collected objects from the site at Lilyvale 2313.



Fig.37 Food tin inscribed: PAULTON & NOEL 402 LONDON BEEF & VEGS. RATIONS. Note the coarse soldering on the rim.



Fig.38 A British Military Dixie from Lilyvale 2313.