



SURVEY OF HISTORICAL SITES ON
MARION ISLAND

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Report design and lay-out - A. Boshoff. Sponsored by AMC Cookware



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I N T R O D U C T I O N

The National Monuments Council was requested in 1996 by its representative on the Prince Edward Islands Management Committee, Mr Johan Loock, to compile a draft policy for cultural resource management on the island. Although the reports of Cooper and Avery (1986) and Tom Graham (1989) describes to some extent the historical remains on Marion Island, an up to date and comprehensive inventory of historical artifacts and sites was clearly necessary.

Representatives from the National Monuments Council (the statutory authority responsible for the protection of archaeological and historical sites) and the Cultural History Museum's maritime division (the designated curatorial institution for artifacts originating from the Island), were requested to inspect and carry out a survey of the historical sites and their associated artifacts.

The objective was to attempt, in the short period available during the take over on the island, an inspection of every known historical site, and to record photographically each site and its Artifacts. Recommendations for the conservation of the sites and artifacts would be made, and where information was available from previous attempts to record the sites, an assessment of deterioration of sites, and recommendations for future management made.

Archway Bay, Sealers' Beach and King Penguin Bay were not visited as there was not enough time. A reported grave site at Tweeling was not visited for the same reason.



HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Never inhabited on a permanent basis, Marion Island has an elusive past of intermittent interactions with sailors, and the sealers who exploited its natural resources throughout the nineteenth and the first thirty years of the twentieth century. The few remaining artifacts and sites scattered across the Island, and some limited documentary material is all that bear a testament to the Island's short period of involvement with the world and its economy.

Discovery

First observed in 1663 by a Hollander, Barent Barentz Ham from aboard the *Maerseveen*, (Cooper & Headland 1991) the Island eluded rediscovery until 1772 when Marion-DuFresne sailing with the *Mascarin* and the *Maquis de Casteries*, believing the land was part of a larger continent, named it *Terre d'Esperance*, and Prince Edward Island, *Ile de la Caverne*. Bad weather prohibited landing, and DuFresne sailed on to discover the Crozet Islands.

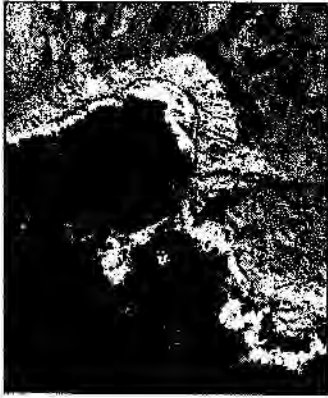
In 1776 the Islands were sighted by James Cook, who not realizing them to be those seen by DuFresne, named them the Prince Edward Islands, after the fourth son of King George the Third. Later, from the 19th century onwards, the name Marion was used by sealers for the larger of the two islands

Sealing

With the decline in the seal fur market during the nineteenth century, the primary resource that the Islands offered was Sea Elephant oil. The oil was produced by boiling the blubber of the Sea Elephant in large cauldrons, called *trypots*. This was carried out either on the beach - when gangs were landed for a longer period, or on board ship - when the ship remained off-shore. Records show that sealing gangs remained on the Island for periods ranging from days to a couple of years, dependant on the type of expedition (Webfoot 1871). The harvesting of seal fur and penguin skins for leather gloves appear to have been very much secondary to the oil industry.

There is no record of the first landing made on the Prince Edward Islands. The earliest documentary evidence of sealing relates to the landing of a gang of crew members from the *Catharine*, under the command of Henry Fanning, in December 1803 or January 1804 (Fanning 1924). At that time the islands were an important rendezvous of the sealers (Watson 1934). The Islands were exploited by sealers of different nationalities, including American, French, and British. The second half of the nineteenth century saw a rise in the number of Norwegian sealers, as well as sealers based in the Cape.

The first Cape-based sea elephant oil industry on the Prince Edward Islands was established in 1833 by John Curran, and operated until 1836 (Graham 1989). Curran's enterprise was superseded by that of John Jeary, who appears from shipping registers to have held the local monopoly on the Islands. Jeary worked the islands until the 1860s. In 1909, Irvin and Johnson's subsidiary company, The Southern Waling and Sealing Company was established and a group of 20 men placed on Island to harvest the sea elephant oil and skins. The final sealing expedition to the Island was made in November 1930 by the ship *SS Kildalkey*, when about 1450 seals were taken, ending 130 years of the seal industry on the Islands.



SHIP'S COVE

LATITUDE: 46°51'20" S

LONGITUDE: 37°50'38" E

Historical Background

Ship's Cove is the site of the wreck of the Norwegian sealing steam ship, *Solglimt*, which ran aground on 16 December 1908. John Marsh (1948) describes the event in his book, **No Pathway Here**. The *Solglimt* was one of the best fitted sealers of her time. Built in 1881 in Sunderland, she had a gross tonnage of 1810 tons, a length of 271 feet, and carried a crew of 70 men. Equipped for many months at sea, she carried large numbers of provisions, and an extra 900 tons of coal. On arrival at Marion Island on 15 October in fine weather, sealing operations began immediately, with the taking of all the elephant seals at the first landing site. The following day it was decided to move to a new site. At a distance of two miles from the island, the ship hit the tip of a rock, and began to take water. Rather than lose the ship at sea, she was rammed up the beach as far as she could go. The 70 men aboard managed to salvage 10 tons of provisions as well as much equipment - including ropes, timber and tarpaulin - which was used to construct a small village at Ship's Cove. The village consisted of a central storeroom and kitchen, and about 17 smaller huts which each slept four men. Within a month however, two schooners from Nova Scotia (*Agnes G Donohue* and *Beatrice L Corcom*) rescued the crew off the Island, leaving six of their own crew behind in their place.

In 1912, the sealing schooner, *Seabird*, owned by Irvin and Johnson dropped four men on Marion Island to serve as watch keepers and prevent poaching, while she went on to harvest elephant seal oil around Prince Edward Island. The following day the *Seabird* ran aground in heavy seas. 22 men, including the Captain, T.C. Hystad, eventually managed to land and find shelter in a cave. Finally, with rations depleted, the men crossed to Marion Island, where they inhabited the empty village at Ship's Cove built by the survivors of the *Solglimt*. They were rescued after having been marooned for six months.

Site Description

The site is situated about an hour's easy walk north from the main base. The Bay at Ship's Cove is considered the best landing site on the Island. The area consists of the main bay and beach with a smaller pebble beach north of it. This pebble beach is at the end of an old river mouth, forming a small valley containing the majority of the cultural remains.

Scattered wooden planks protruding from the peat are evidence that the *Solglimt* survivor's village extended up this valley. Careful examination reveal concentrations that could indicate individual huts. Towards the front and centre of the valley, stove remains and a large concentration of artifacts indicate the possible site of the cookhouse described as a large structure in a central location in the "village" (figure 1). In some areas wooden stakes are visible. These may be the remains for footings of huts.



1

FIGURE 1



Concentration of remains thought to be the cookhouse.
Scale, bottom right corner = 50cm.

2

In a rock overhang on the edge of the valley, a line of nails running above the opening (figure 2) indicate the possible attachment of a tarpaulin for protection. This overhang also contain hut foundations and a scattering of artifacts (figure 3).

3

4

Around the corner in the main cove, remains of huts also protrude from the peat embankment (figure 4). This could be remains of *Solglimt* survivor huts, but could also be earlier shelters of sealers working in the area.

On the sand beach is a trypot similar to whaling trypots found in South Australia (Kostoglou & McCarthy 1991). Other cast iron objects on the beach could either be part of the wreck washed up or remains of another trypot. Some timbers on this beach are clearly the remains from a ship and is probably from the *Solglimt* wreck.

Artifacts

Many pieces of wood and iron are visible within the valley and along the edge of the cove. The highest density of such visible artifacts are towards the centre of the valley. Coal and red lead (used for paint) was also apparent. Other artifacts easily visible are:

5

Bilge pump: Cast iron, the name Winston in relief. Situated in the rock shelter to the south of the access valley (figure 5).

Disc: In the above-mentioned shelter, a disc of about 700 mm diameter with flange and central spike is visible.

Collar: Wrought iron, hexagonal, with attachments.

Stove: Portions of a stove are visible towards the centre of the valley.

6

Trypot: A complete trypot is visible submerged in beach, two lugs (broken), lip cut away on one side, and folded open on the opposite to form overflow (figure 6). Diameter - 1015 mm. Flattened sides.

7

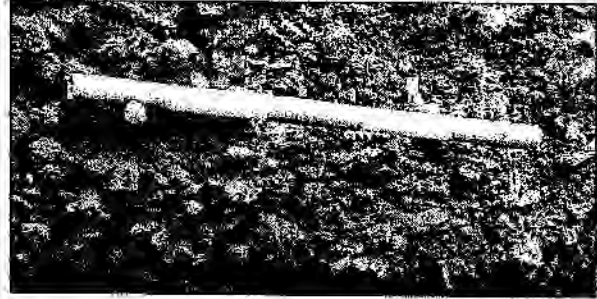
Iron sections: Near the trypot, are situated two curved sections of cast iron. One of these is punctured with three holes around what appears to be portion of a rim (figure 7). These pieces could be part of a second trypot, or part of a boiler.

Comparative descriptions of Artifacts

A small portion of the site was excavated by Tom Graham in 1989. There appears to have been little obvious change to the site since then. However, film footage taken at the time of annexation, and also photographs taken at that time clearly show the site to have deteriorated considerably since then, both through the removal of artifacts and in terms of the destruction of sealer and shipwreck huts.

2

FIGURE 2



Line of nails above overhang. Scale = 40cm

3

FIGURE 3



Hut remains under overhang. Scale = 50cm.

4

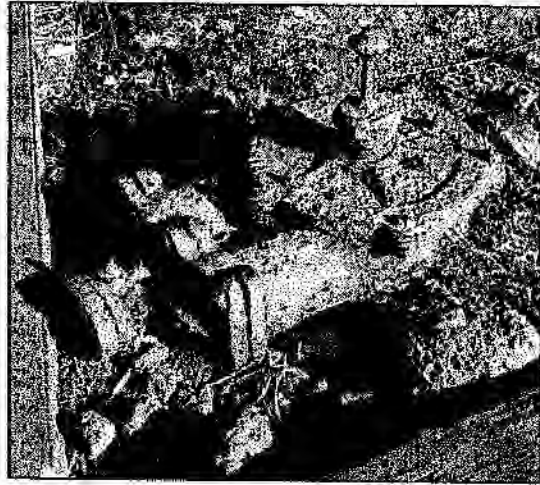
FIGURE 4



Hut remains visible in peat embankment on the beach. Scale = 50cm

5

FIGURE 5



Bilge pump in overhang.

6

FIGURE 6



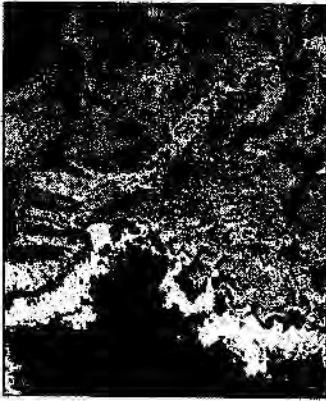
Trypot on the beach. Scale = 50cm

7

FIGURE 7



Large curved iron fragment.
Scale = 50cm



SEA ELEPHANT BAY

LATITUDE: 46°50'52"S

LONGITUDE: 37°48'34"E

Site Description

8

In the northern face of Long Ridge, some two hundred metres from the shore, is a large oyster shaped overhang sculptured from the grey lava (figure 8). The northern corner is partially obscured by a mound of vegetated rock and peat. In the centre is a huge pile of rock debris. Behind this within the overhang, protected from the northerly winds by the mound in front, are the remains of a dwelling. Four stone-packed walls, of about a metre high still stand - with a door opening facing northwest (figure 9). The back walls have in places fallen outwards. Pieces of dry peat are still visible within the structure of the wall (figure 10). The peat was possibly applied to the stone wall on the outside of the building after its construction in order to insulate it from the weather. It could also possibly have been used within the construction process. No floor was identifiable due to the mud and overgrowth within the building. There was also no sign of any roof structure. Pieces of wooden crates are scattered within the site.

9

10

Artifacts

Few artifacts remained at the site.

11

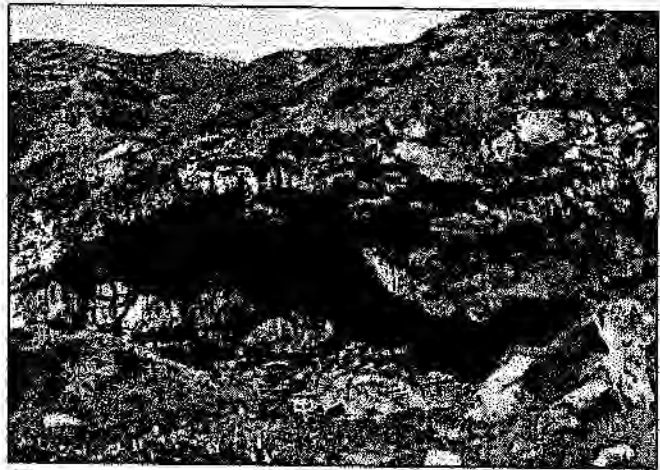
Hoop: A wrought iron open hoop with pointed ends, about 300 mm in diameter, found below the site (figure 11).

Pin: A solid metal pin, about 150 mm in length, is visible within the building.

Surprisingly not many artifactual remains were found on the surface. Test excavations in future will hopefully reveal more.

8

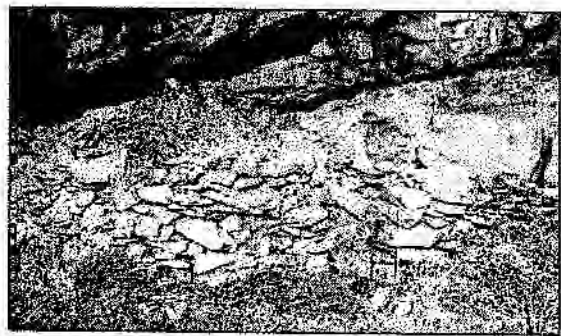
FIGURE 8



The overhang with the structure behind the mound of rocks.

9

FIGURE 9



Stone wall structure. Scale = 1 m

10

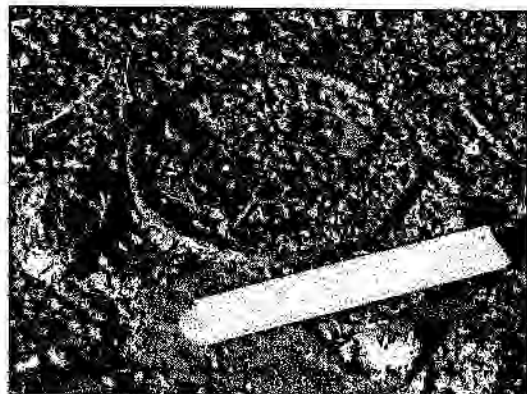
FIGURE 10



Peat applied to outside of wall.
Scale = 1 m

11

FIGURE 11



Wrought iron hoop. Scale = 25cm



C A P E D A V I S

L A T I T U D E : 4 6 ° 4 9 ' 2 8 ' S

L O N G I T U D E : 3 7 ° 4 1 ' 5 3 ' E

Site Description



The site is situated against a low overhang of volcanic rock on a small elevated plain above a cove (figure 12). Clearly visible are the remains of square posts that possibly formed part of a hut in front of the shelter (figure 13). Artifacts have been collected and placed within the shelter for protection. Many pieces of timber are partially visible from under the peat near the site.

The boulder cove below the site contains (figure 14) an exceptionally rich collection of driftwood that is clearly shipwreck remains (figure 15; 16). Other coves in the immediate vicinity were inspected, but were generally clear of such material. It is possible that the *Uxor* or another unidentified wooden ship was wrecked immediately outside this cove.

Artifacts



Kettle: Cast iron, similar to those at Swartkops and Rooks Bay (figure 17). This type of kettle was produced in 1900 in aluminium (Lantz, 1970). This means that the cast iron kettles found here could be earlier than 1900.



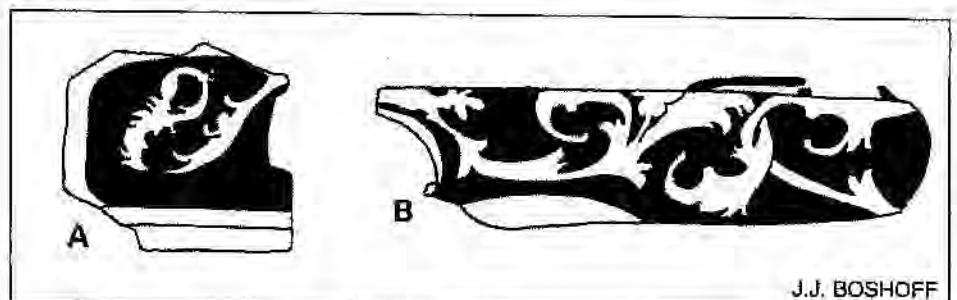
Stove: Portions of a cast iron stove (figure 18).



Stoneware: Shards of a stoneware jug (figure 19).

The carved piece of ships timber retained in the base was found at this site (figure 20). Interesting is that the design on the cast iron stove remains is similar to the design carved on the above mentioned timber. The sealers possibly carved this washed up ship's timber in their leisure time.

Figure 20



J.J. BOSHOFF

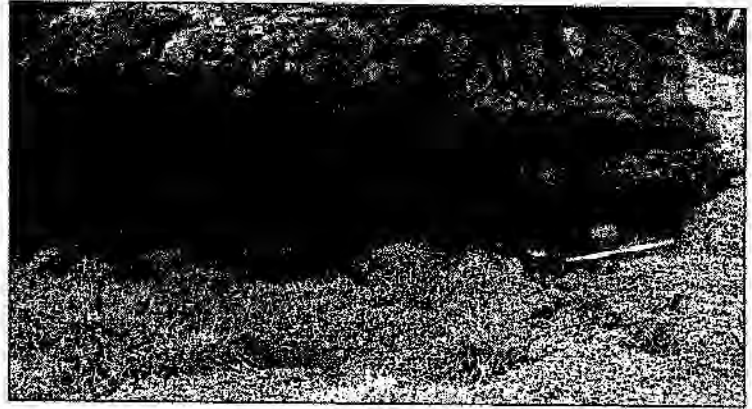
A. Piece of cast iron stove with design.

B. Ship's frame at base with similar carved design.

(not too scale)

12

FIGURE 12



Overhang containing artifacts.

13

FIGURE 13



Square wooden post that
formed part of hut.

Scale = 50cm

14

FIGURE 14



Small cove with driftwood remains.

15

FIGURE 15



Ship's frame with treenail. Scale = 50cm

16

FIGURE 16



Ship's frame with iron bolt. Scale = 10cm divisions

17

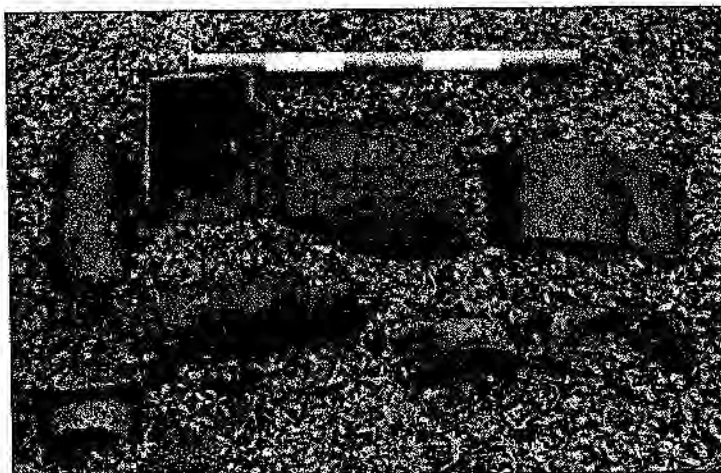
FIGURE 17



Cast iron kettle
and lid.
Scale = 50cm

18

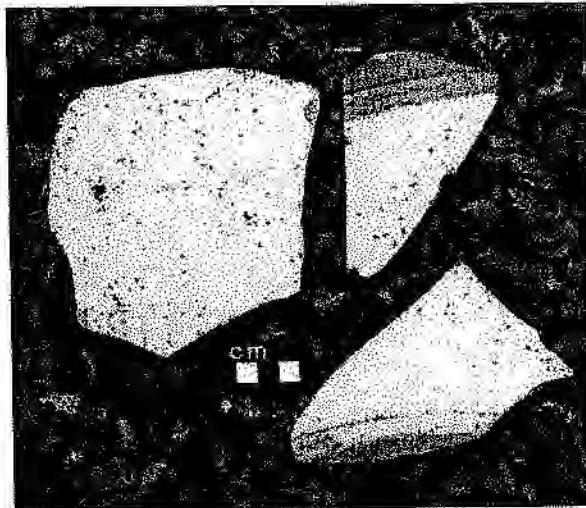
FIGURE 18



Cast iron stove fragments. Note design on center left piece. Scale 50cm

19

FIGURE 19



Stoneware jug fragments.



TRIEGAARDT BAY

LATITUDE: 46°52'01'S

LONGITUDE: 37°38'38'E

Site Description

Triegaardt Bay, lying half an hour's walk north of Mixed Pickle Cove, is largely walled by cliffs and treacherously steep slopes falling into the sea. However, its southern and northern ends are found in the coastal plain, and as such the many narrow volcanic coves in these areas are accessible by foot. Within one of these coves, towards the most southerly point of the bay, are the remains of a small wooden sailing boat.

21

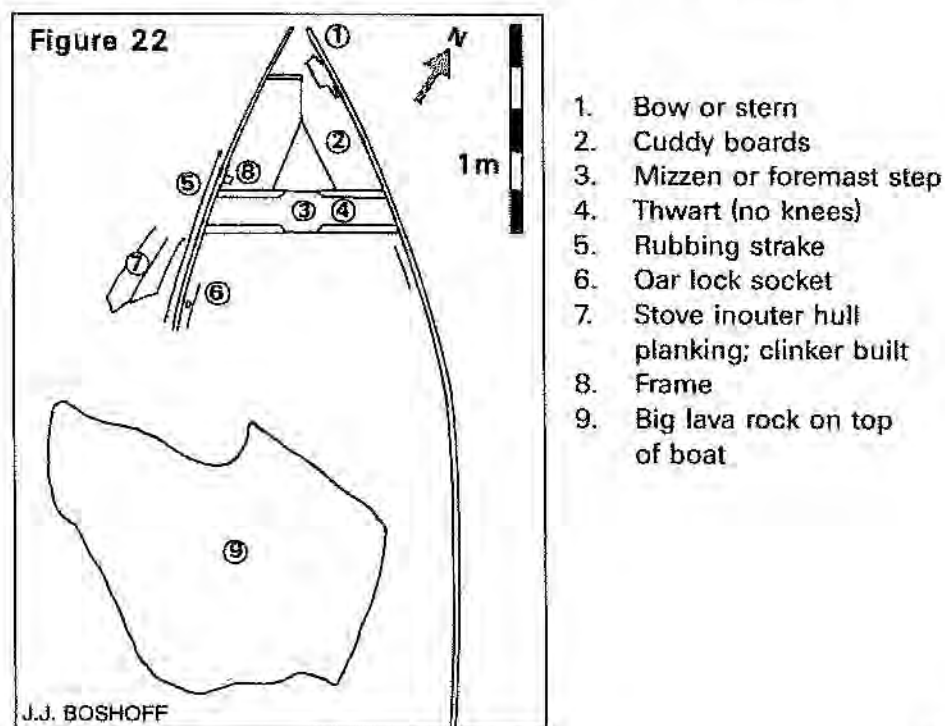
The boat appears to have been pulled up beyond the boulder ridden mouth of the cove, into a muddy area that is largely protected from the sea by an enormous boulder (figure 21). The boat is buried in mud on an even keel. The stern or bow section with portions of its gunwale and mizzen or foremast step is visible. It appears to be at least partially constructed from teak, and from initial examination is likely to be clinker-built.

It is possible that the rest of the boat is still under the deposit. Only excavation will reveal the precise type, construction and age of the boat.

In view of the proximity of the boat to Mixed Pickle Cove, and the absence of any further sign of sealing remains in the vicinity of the boat, it might be expected that this cove could have served as a landing for the activities at Mixed Pickle Cove.

Artifacts

Boat: Remains of small boat sunk in beach (figure 22).

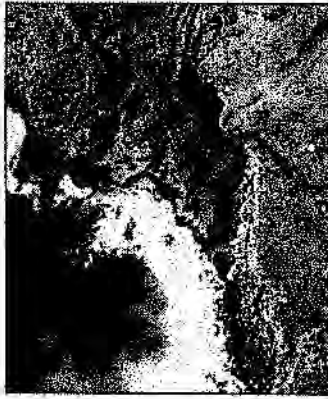


21

FIGURE 21



Remains of small boat at Triegaardt Bay. Scale = 1m



MIXED PICKLE COVE

L A T I T U D E : 4 6 ° 5 2 ' 2 0 ' S

L O N G I T U D E : 3 7 ° 3 2 ' 2 1 ' E

Site Description

The site is situated on a saddle between a narrow sea cove and a seal pool. The cove was formed probably as a result of a river flowing into the sea. Much of the terrain consists of loose black lava rocks embedded in mud. Although much of the site has been destroyed by human and seal action since it was photographed by Rand in 1951/52, it is possible to identify the approximate position of the hut by posts that still remain in situ (figure 23). Some artifacts and much wood lie scattered within a fairly discreet area around the position of the hut. It is evident that much of the site has been covered by a layer of soil and lava boulders compacted by seal activity. Excavation of the site would likely reveal considerably more artifacts.

There is some driftwood in the boulder cove below the site.

23

Artifacts

24

Posts: At least three wooden posts are visible, showing the position of the hut (figure 24).

25

Cartridges: 4 cartridges lay impressed in the soil (figure 25). Two bore the markings, ELEY 7M, the other two small cartridges' markings were not legible. The 7M cartridge is of a Mauser 7x57 made in England by Eley between 1895 and 1921.

26

Stopper: Glass, probably from a sauce bottle.

Bottle: Glass, light green, imbedded in mud slope (figure 26).

27

Sole: Front portion of a leather shoe sole (figure 27).

Peg: Wooden peg - possibly for stretching skins.

28

Stove: Various portions of a cast iron stove are visible (figure 28).

29

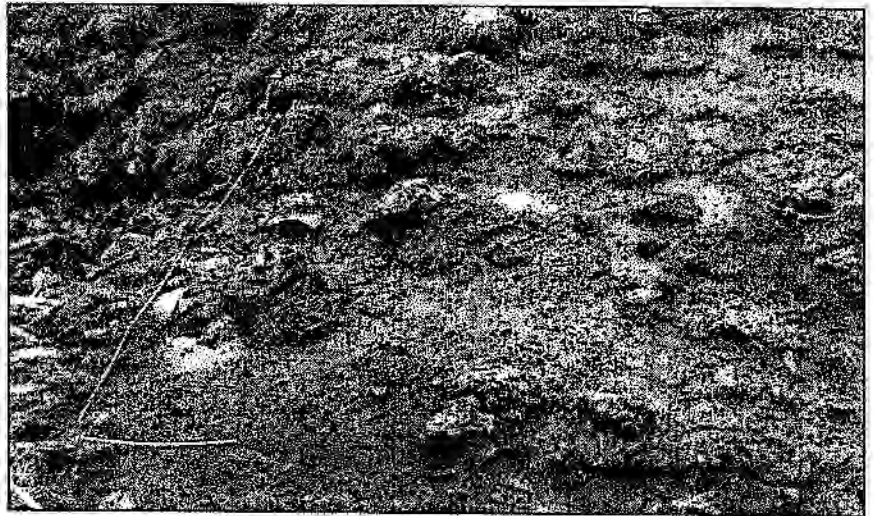
Cable: Three strand steel cable coiled around rock (figure 29).

Comparative Artifact Descriptions

Some artifacts were removed in the 1988 excavation by T. Graham (1989). These reside now in the SA Maritime Museum. The flat surface visible with the main artifact concentration could be the extent of this excavation.

23

FIGURE 23



Tape measure lined up showing possible extent of one wall of hut.

24

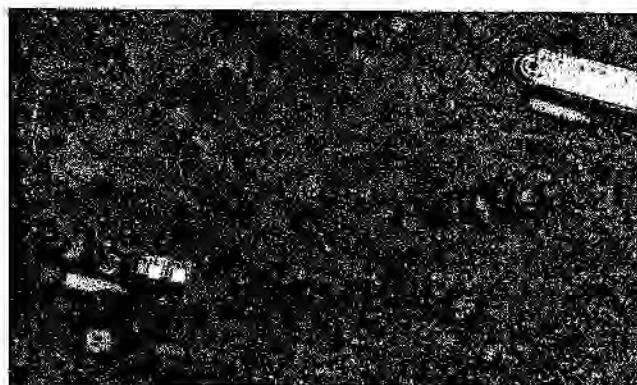
FIGURE 24



Corner post of hut.

25

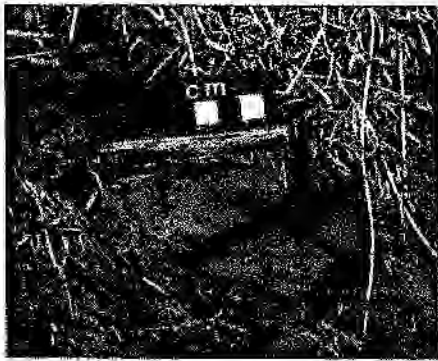
FIGURE 25



ELEY 7M cartridges in situ.

26

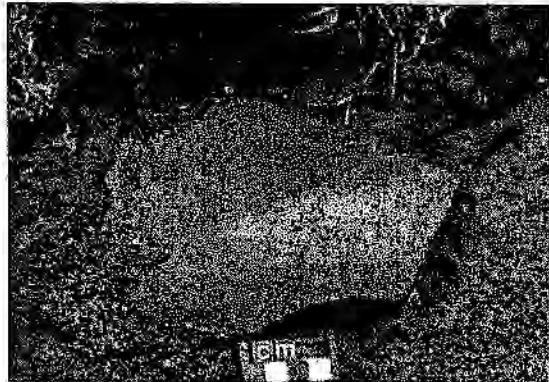
FIGURE 26



Glass bottle in peat bank.

27

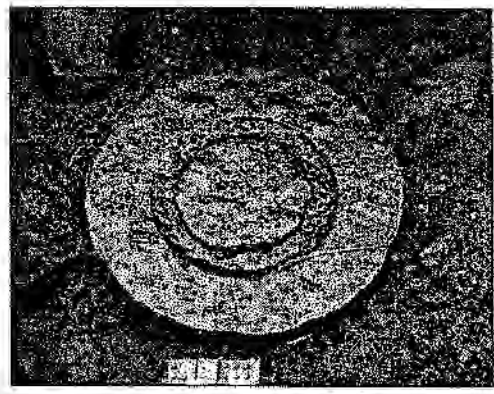
FIGURE 27



Shoe sole in peat bank.

28

FIGURE 28



Cast iron lid possibly from a stove.

29

FIGURE 29



Coiled three strand cable.



SWARTKOP POINT

L A T I T U D E : 4 6 ° 5 5 ' 3 6 ' S

L O N G I T U D E : 3 7 ° 3 5 ' 2 2 ' E

Site Description

Swartkop, as a volcanic cone half opened by the sea, creates a cove from which rises an amphitheatre of Sea Elephants, Fur Seals and Macaroni Penguins. The site in question is situated to the south of this cove, and comprises three small man made shelters excavated in the face of a cinder cone (figure 30). Two of the shelters are inter-leading. The smallest shelter is placed below the larger inter-leading shelters and to their west. This shelter is filled with deposit and could possibly be in an unfinished state.

30

In front of the two larger shelters are abundant remains of wooden planks (figure 31). It appears that a wooden structure could have been situated in front of the shelters. Some 5 metres below the shelters, is a further collection of wooden debris. A wooden peg is still in situ in this area. The only other fixed artifact apparent on the site is an iron hoop hammered into the top north corner of the southern shelter. The floors of the shelters appeared to have been lined with wooden planks.

31

Some 60 metres from the site, engraved in to the volcanic ash of the south facing cliff are the letters, T C HYSTAD (figure 32). This is the name of the captain of the *Sea Bird* which was wrecked in 1912 off Prince Edward Island. Hystad landed on Marion Island after the wrecking of his ship. A further inscription with indecipherable letters is located above the southern shelter.

32

There are also some driftwood on the pebble beach around the corner from the shelters. All other caves and shelters in the vicinity showed no indication of human activity.

Artifacts

The artifacts remaining in the shelters include:

33

Shelter A - (figure 33)

34

Kettle: Cast iron in lower and upper parts - joined along the waist and spout, swivel lid - with the letters ERJE in relief. No Handle. The figure '9' in relief on the spout. The end of the spout broken off (figure 34).
Height of body: 300 mm
Diameter of base: 240 mm
Diameter of lid: 160 mm
Estimated weight: 8 kg

35

Adze: Single bladed adze, 270 mm long, and 90 mm at its widest point. Diameter of shaft hole 60 mm (figure 35).

30

FIGURE 30



Shelters excavated in cinder cone. Wooden post at scale.
Scale = 50cm

31

FIGURE 31



Wood remains in front of shelters.
Scale = 50cm

32

FIGURE 32



T.C. HYSTAD engraved in cliff face.
Scale = 50cm

33

FIGURE 33



Swartkop shelter A interior. Scale = 50cm

34

FIGURE 34



Cast iron kettle.

35

FIGURE 35



Single bladed adze head.

36

Grindstone: Circular grindstone, sandstone, 0.25 mm grain size, square central shaft hole 30 mm square (figure 36).
Diameter: 300 mm
Depth: 60 mm

37

Revolver: Completely rusted lacking hammer spur, butt and parts of trigger and trigger gaurd (figure 37). It appears to be a Webley revolver designed and made in the United Kingdom in 1867. This revolver, generally known as the Royal Irish Constabulary Revolver, was widely used in the United Kingdom and the British Empire. The most common caliber was .450 or .455 inch (Whatley 1980, McFarland 1958, Lategan & Potgieter 1982). Imitations and variations of this revolver were sold in Europe by a mail-order firm in Hamburg at least up to 1911 (Alfa 21 1911).
Barrel length: 140 mm
Body length (to beginning of butt): 120 mm
Bore: 10 mm
Cylinder: 50 mm

38

Rifle: .22 calibre, in 3 parts (250 mm, 220 mm and 450 mm), chamber and recoil lug visible. Extremely corroded (figure 38).

39

Plate: White enamel plate, edge severely corroded (figure 39).
Diameter: 240 mm

Shaft: Wrought iron. 300 mm long, highly corroded.

40

Shelter B - (figure 40)

Peg: Wooden peg, 210 mm above floor level. (Possibly used for stretching skins)

Timber: Squared timber log with square nails
Length: 800 mm width
Depth: 200 mm

Shelter C

No artifacts present

Comparative Artifact Descriptions

R W Rand (1956) noted the presence of utensils, boxes, bags and three rifles at this site.

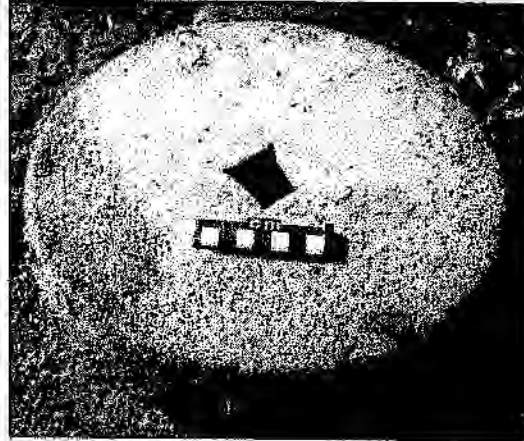
La Grange (1952) noted the presence of a further flintlock rifle

Cooper (1986) noted the presence of three wooden pegs

Graham (1989) - no difference to current inventory except for three pieces of earthenware removed at the time of his inspection

36

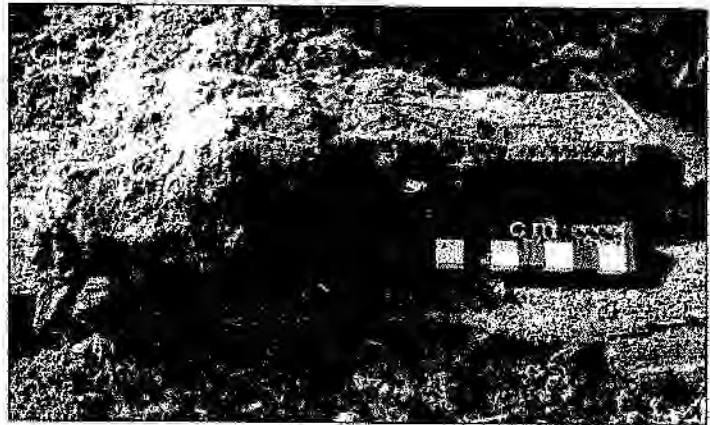
FIGURE 36



Circular grindstone.

37

FIGURE 37



Rusted remains of revolver.

38

FIGURE 38



Parts of .22 caliber rifle.

39

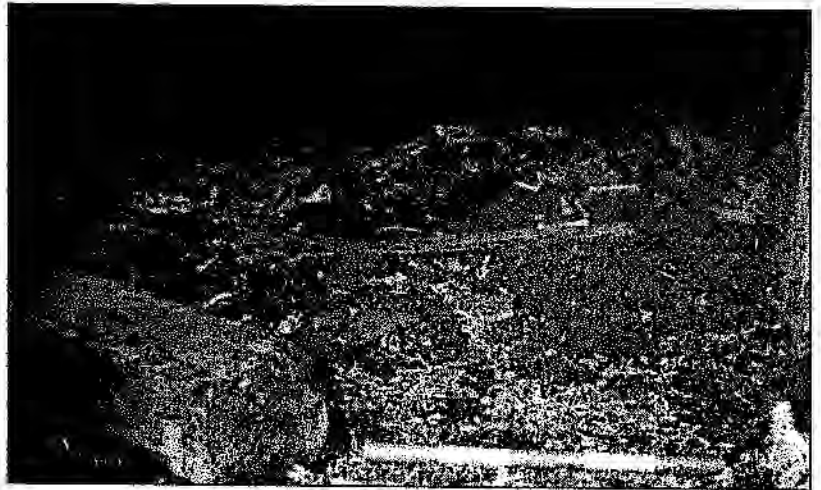
FIGURE 39



Corroded white enamel plate.

40

FIGURE 40



Swartkop shelter B interior. Scale = 50cm



R O O K S B A Y

L A T I T U D E : 4 6 ° 5 8 ' 1 3 ' S

L O N G I T U D E : 3 7 ° 3 9 ' 3 7 ' E

Site Description

The site is situated between two overhangs in a volcanic cliff facing the sea at Rooks Bay. The overhangs are about 100 metres from the high tide limit, situated on a small plain. There is no evidence as to any working of the stone within or around the overhangs. Some wooden planks lie within the overhangs (figure 41), which could indicate structures were present at some period. The site is currently inhabited by Fur Seals, and the base of the overhangs are an unwholesome brown swamp (figure 42).

This site was reported to be still operational as late as 1921. (Rand 1956)

41

42

43

44

45

46

Artifacts

Kettle: Without lid, otherwise identical to that found at Swartkops. Spout still remains in its entirety (figure 43).

Lid: Ornatly turned cast iron lid, with heavy iron pinnacle (figure 44).
Diameter at base: 300 mm

Disk: Cast iron disk, 270 mm diameter, with solid lug (possibly part of an iron stove) (figure 45).

Plank: Heavy plank with remains of carved roman numerals at end where joint is obvious (figure 46). These numerals could be carpenters marks. This is a custom dating back to Medieval times where roof structure timbers were marked in this way. Ships' and boats' timbers were also marked during the construction process to ease assembly by the shipwrights.

One of the team members of the 1996/97 team unknowingly did a small excavation and found ceramics and a cast iron ball and claw foot, which appear to have been part of a cast iron stove. Luckily the person covered up the artifacts again. They were not visible on our visit as we did not have a permit to excavate.

Comparative Artifact Descriptions

R W Rand (1956): Bell tents, food (tea, Beans), fuel and utensils against back of the shelters.

Cooper (1986): Timber, bottles, kettle (similar to Cape Davis) and remains of a stove.

41

FIGURE 41



Rooks Bay shelter with wooden hut remains visible.
Scale = 50cm

42

FIGURE 42



Artifact concentration at Rooks Bay.
Scale = 50cm

43

FIGURE 43



Cast iron kettle.

44

FIGURE 44



Ornately turned cast iron lid.

45

FIGURE 45



Cast iron object possibly stove remains.

46

FIGURE 46



Heavy plank with carved roman numerals.
Scale divided in 10cm intervals.



GOOD HOPE BAY

LATITUDE: 46°51'56" S

LONGITUDE: 37°42'13" E

Site Description

47 The site is situated east of the bay, in a deep overhang behind a King Penguin Colony. The site consists of a number of low stone walls built to enclose the overhang which is set against the sea face of a steep cliff (figure 47). It is possible that it could have been used as a shelter by sealers or possibly as a trap for culling penguins. The walls are generally no higher than 1 metre.

Artifacts

48 **Trypot:** Cast iron fragment, 800 mm in diameter, 400 mm in height (figure 48).

Plank: Wooden plank, 1.5 m x 0.23 m x 0.15 m



WATER TUNNEL

LATITUDE: 46°58'57" S

LONGITUDE: 37°45'03" E

Site Description

49 An overhang at the top of the escarpment rising from the coastal plateau to where the hut is situated (figure 49). The overhang has been partly enclosed with a low packed stone wall, and was possibly used as a lookout. There is no documentary reference to this site, as it is previously undiscovered.

47

FIGURE 47



Overhang containing sealer remains.

48

FIGURE 48



Artifacts in shelter.

49

FIGURE 49



Stone wall at
Water Tunnel.
Scale = 50cm



KILDALKEY BAY

LATITUDE: 46°58'00"S

LONGITUDE: 37°51'12"E

Site Description

The site is situated within a small overhang on the eastern edge of the main boulder beach at Kildalkey, and is largely obscured by a vast King Penguin Colony. The site takes the form of a pebble paved floor under the overhang (figure 50). A possible hearth or foundation is visible to the back of the overhang. A large piece of wood is situated near to the site on the beach, but appears to be storm debris. No further artifacts are visible.

50

A number of coves and cliffs to the east of Kildalkey were inspected, but showed no signs of human activity.



SEALERS' CAVE

LATITUDE: 46°56'58"S

LONGITUDE: 37°52'09"E

SITE 1

Site Description

Small three sided structure on top of a cliff facing the sea (figure 51). The structure is about a metre high, and constructed from loosely packed lava stones. The open side of the rectangular structure faces the sea. The rear of the structure face the prevailing wind. There is no evidence remaining of any roof structure. The ground level in the immediate vicinity of the structure is raised by about 200 mm and is covered in dense vegetation. It appears that it could have been used as a lookout post. The cliff below this structure is particularly high and steep, making access to Sealers' Cave below difficult.

51

SEALERS' CAVE 2

Site Description

Access to Sealers' Cave is difficult, and is achieved by means of ladders hung from the coastal plateau above. Sealers' Cave is a cave 26m long in ash flow tuff (figure 52). The depth to the dripline is ca. 20m and 10m to the end of the deposit. The lava flow deposit on top forms the ceiling. The floor has been worn smooth by seal activity. The cave consists of three sections with a low stone wall across the first two sections from the approach. The end of this wall has fallen down. This wall is 5.4m long, 1.5m wide and 50cm high. A small wall was erected across the furthest section at the approach to the beach below (figure 53).

52

53

50

FIGURE 50



Pebble paved floor.
Scale = 50cm

51

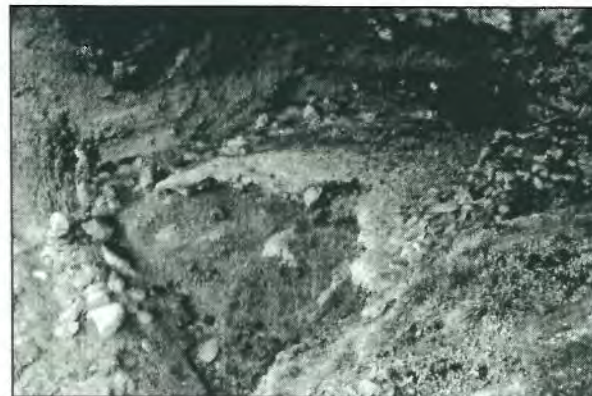
FIGURE 51



Sealers' lookout at
Sealers' Cave.
Scale = 50cm

52

FIGURE 52



Full extent of cave at
Sealers' Cave.

53

FIGURE 53



Stone wall in
Sealers' cave.
Scale = 50cm



BULLARD BEACH

LATITUDE: 46°55'27"S

LONGITUDE: 37°53'06"E

Site Description

To the south of the small boulder beach known as Bullard Beach lies the remains of a large cast iron trypot, in which are placed some metal and wood artifacts. No other sign of human activity is present.

Artifacts

54

Trypot: Cast iron (figure 54), two lugs at opposite sides, pronounced lip, two opposite sides flattened - into one of which a brass spout, 50 mm in diameter, has been rivetted. The spout is angled downwards, and as a thread at its end. There are 8 ribs running around the trypot. The casting seam is visible across these ribs. The trypot has a depth of 720 mm and open diameter of 1 metre.

54

FIGURE 54



Stand: Three identical metal objects, 930 mm long, with but ends (figure 55)

Pin: Metal pin, 510 mm long, tapered

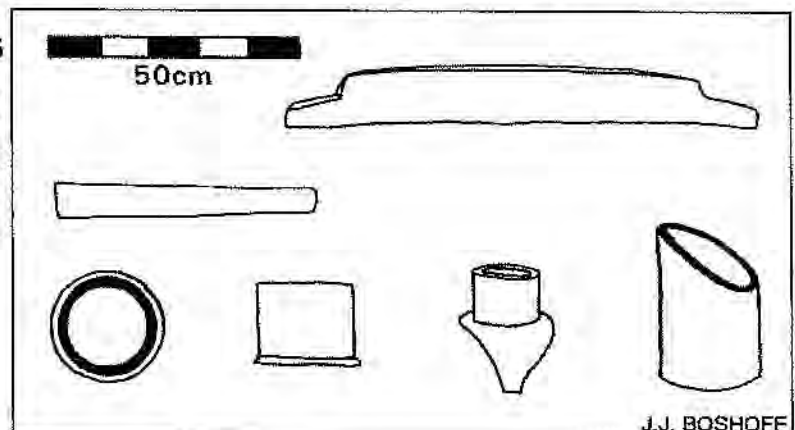
Pipe: Two sections of cast iron pipe remain with diameters of about 120 mm

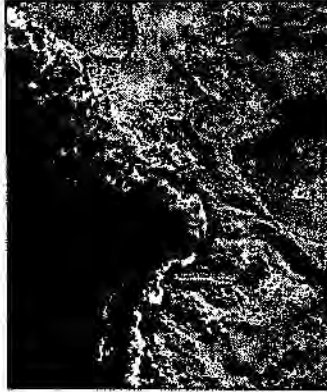
Comparative Artifact Descriptions

Cooper (1986) noted at Trypot, wooden hut foundations, and some rusted artifacts. A photograph taken by Crawford (1982) in 1948 shows two trypots in situ next to each other on what appears to be Bullard Beach.

FIGURE 55

Diagram of metal objects at Bullard Beach.





TRYPOT BEACH

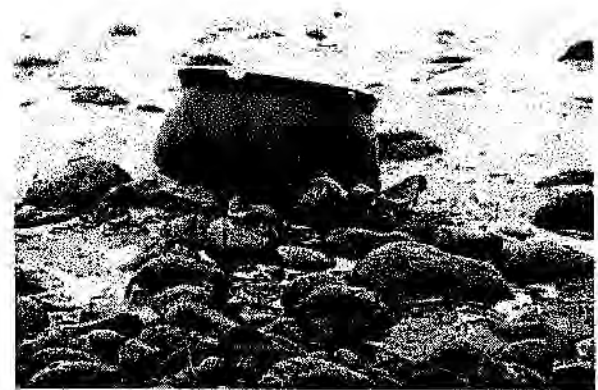
Site Description

56

This beach is situated 15 minutes walk away from the base. A trypot on the beach is the main feature (figure 55). Cooper and Avery report hut foundations to the back of the beach. It was not possible to investigate this site properly because of the breeding colony of Gentoo penguins in the area. The trypot has moved down to the surf zone in a storm prior to our arrival. A request was left with the Marion 54 team to move the pot further up the beach. There are rumours that this pot is not the original pot. The original was apparently removed by a previous captain of the *SA Agulhas*. He was instructed to return it, but it is unsure whether the original was returned.

56

FIGURE 56



TRANSVAAL COVE - MAIN BASE

Artifacts retained at Base

57

Rifle: Percussion Cap, found at Azorellaskop, 1988 (figure 57). In extremely corroded condition and requires urgent conservation. Presently it is mounted on wood and displayed in lounge. The rifle is unusual and rare because it has the lesser used back-action lock first made in England by George Lovell in 1831, a year which marks the transition from flintlocks to percussion locks (Blackmore 1961). This action was destined to be widely used in Brunswick military percussion rifles and a host of copies and imitations made in Europe and the USA. The rifle in the base has a small remnant of chequering which proves that it is a sporting rifle and not a military type. Allyn (1879) mentions loosing his rifle on a visit to Marion Island in 1843. His description of the area sounds very much like the Western side of Marion close to Azorella Kop.

58

Anchor: Wrought Iron, 5 prong grapnell anchor, corroded (Displayed in bar) (figure 58).

59

Anchor: Admiralty pattern anchor (figure 59). The flat or round crown pattern anchor was introduced in 1816 from a design by Perring. In 1841 they were produced in iron and wooden stock versions. The stock is designed to fold away for easy storage especially on small boats. (Displayed in bar)

60

Plumbing: A number of brass pipes and a tap removed from the Solglimt. (Displayed in bar) (figure 60).

61

Timber: A large ornately carved piece (on one side only) of ship's timber, iron pins, some dry rot at back (figure 61). This timber was removed from Cape Davis. (Suspended above bar in lounge)

Cartridges: A number of cartridge were kept in the general laboratory. The following markings could be identified: Swartklip 12 SP 12; U45 V13; SAKO 30-06; U45 V11; ELEY-KYNOCH 410

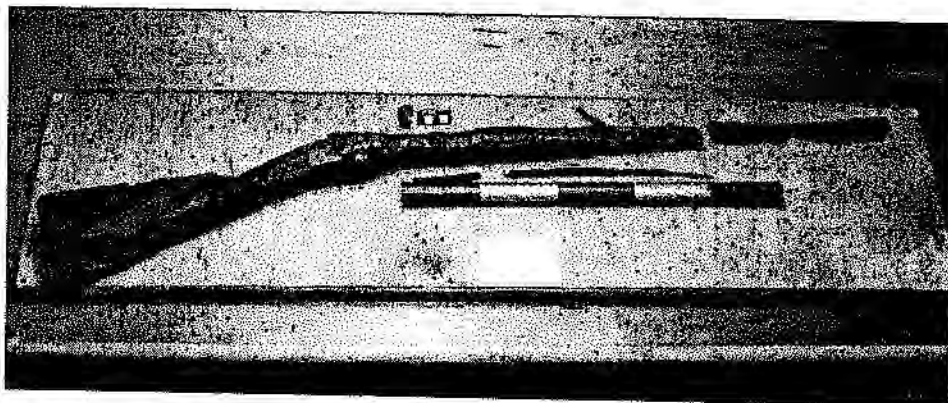
Bottles: Markings on various bottles include
ZIMANS THE PROPERTY OF ZIMANS BROS LTD
CLARION PRODUCTS
THIS BOTTLE IS THE PROPERTY OF SCWEPPE
(SA)LTD AND IS NEVER SOLD

Pottery: Two shards with inscriptions: 1942 G IV R, ROYAL STAFFORD and CRESENT AND SONS, GEORGE JONES AND SONS, G IV R, 1942

Tin: Cigarette Tin, SPRINGBOK CIGARETTES

57

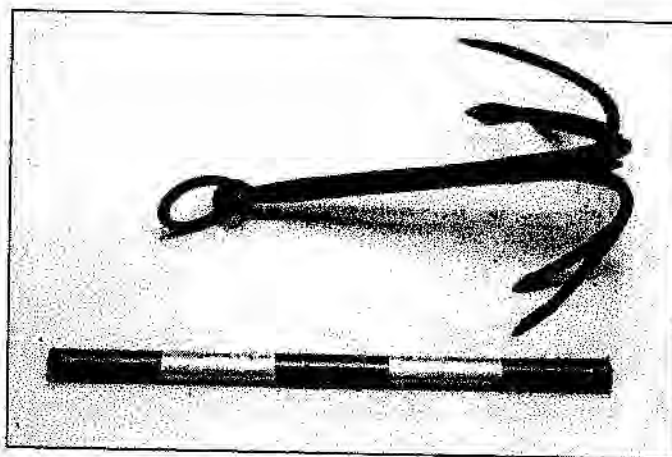
FIGURE 57



Rifle found at Azorrella Kop. Scale = 50cm

58

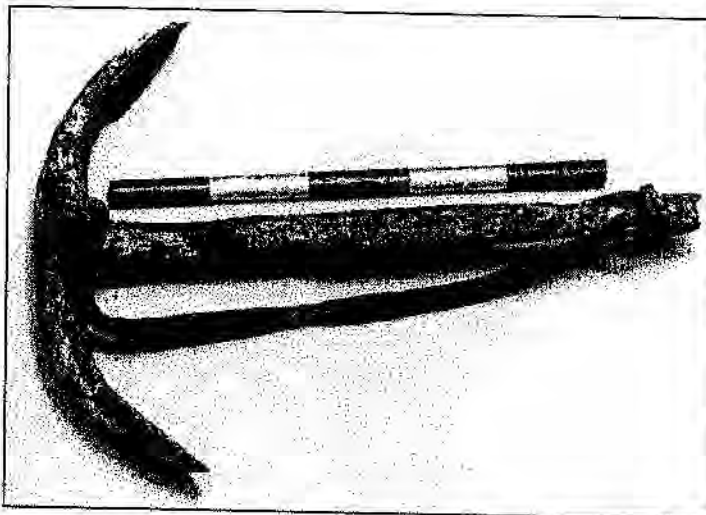
FIGURE 58



Grappnel anchor Scale = 50cm

59

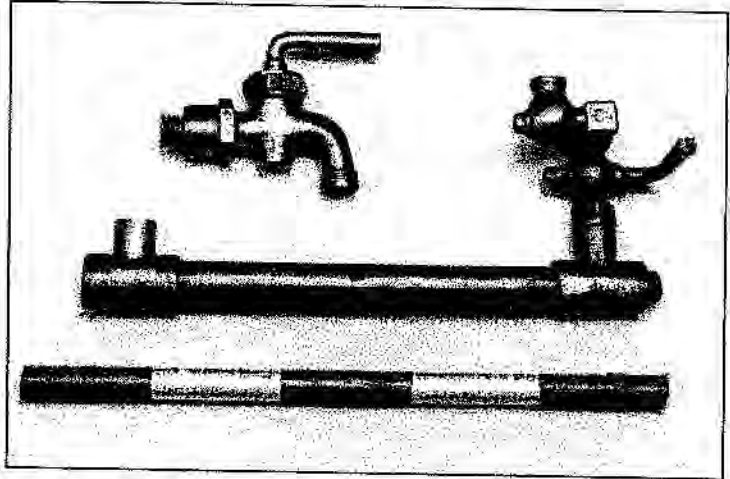
FIGURE 59



Admiralty pattern anchor Scale = 50cm

60

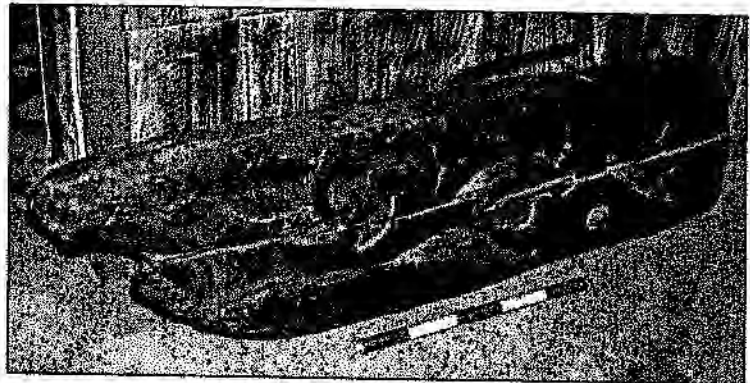
FIGURE 60



Some of the brass pipes from the wreck of the *Solglimt*. Scale = 50cm

61

FIGURE 61



Carved ship's frame from Cape Davis. Scale = 50cm

The cartridges, bottles, pottery and cigarette tin have now been removed to the SA Maritime Museum for safe keeping.

MISSING ARTIFACTS

From what could be seen from the sites there were no artifacts removed from the time of T. Graham's visit to the present (Graham only visited Mixed Pickle Cove, Swartkop, Trypot beach and Ship's Cove). This is commendable and a compliment to the teams active in this period on the island. Unfortunately not the same can be said of the artifacts housed at the base.

This is probably due to a lack of proper display facilities and secure storage. It is also easier for souvenir hunters to remove something from the base than the historic sites which is not visited that often. It also suggests that the artifacts were removed during takeover periods and not by the teams staying on the island.

Artifacts Missing from Base

The following artifacts recorded by T.Graham (1989) when he visited the Island in 1988, are missing and could not be traced:

- 1 anchor
- plank with inscription :
'MET OFFICER SNOEKTOWN ??
COOPERATIVE?? 4436 HQ
SOUTH ARM TABLE BAY DO'
- pick without handle
- metal wheel
- metal handle
- leather sole
- metal leg from cast iron stove
- butt end from rifle
- 3 nuts
- 1 nail
- 1 metal bracket

These artifacts were housed previously in the room loosely referred to as the 'museum' (Graham 1989).

Artifacts missing from General Laboratory

The artifacts housed here were collected by J. Cooper from the old rubbish dump just down from the micro biology laboratory. They were also recorded by Graham, and the items mentioned above are part of this collection. All the artifacts recorded by Graham however were not there.

The missing artifacts are:

- Beer bottles, brown 5
- 1 old milk bottle
- 1 mineral water bottle
- 1 brown wine bottle
- 1 brown screw top bottle
- 1 Oros bottle
- 1 large clear bottle
- 1 Peanut butter jar
- pouring spout from measuring jar
- 1 bulb with white powder
- 1 small glass jar



C O N C L U S I O N

The sealing remains on Marion Island are evidence of the complex interaction between man and nature in the past. This was continued to some extent into the future with the annexation in 1948 albeit with a lesser impact than before. There is however an imbalance when it comes to the conservation of the two resources. The natural environment has been studied for many years and conservation measures have been in place for nearly as long. The same is not true of the cultural remains. Australia, for example, is far more advanced in the archaeological exploration of the sealing sites on Maquarie Island (Townrow 1987, 1988). The situation has definitely improved in the last few years with the establishment of the management plan for the islands. This survey is a step in the right direction.

There is however, still a lot to be done. For most of the sites the dating is uncertain. The duration of usage of the sites has also not been established. The South African exploration of seals on the island by John Curran in the 1830's and John Jeary later in the 19th century has not been investigated in depth. This can be linked with research of sealing activities on the coastal islands in South Africa. The investigation of the historic impact of sealing on seal populations can lead to better understanding of the fluctuation and recuperation patterns.

The enthusiasm of the teams staying on the islands in cleaning the base environment tends sometimes to have a negative impact on the cultural environment. This is evident in the disappearance of the hand winch dating to the 1948 annexation. Graham (1989) cautioned against the disappearance of this item. In defence of the teams one must say that no guidelines were left by Graham or anyone else. At the end of our exploration we drew up a short list of guidelines for the team cautioning against the disturbance of the historical sites. It is vital that the teams staying behind get a historical orientation as part of their preparation for the island.

The artifacts exposed to the elements are corroding at an alarming rate. It is also true of the artifacts housed at base camp, for example the corrosion on the anchors and rifle displayed in the lounge. This is because of the unacceptable way in which these artifacts are displayed.

Takeover personnel must also be made aware of the importance of historic sites. This is especially true of high impact sites like Ship's Cove. Here it is not necessarily because of souvenir hunting, but also the danger of unknowingly destroying the site by trampling.

We therefore recommend the following:

1. - The sites are investigated in more detail as part of an ongoing research programme. This should answer the following questions:
 - The determination of the dating, usage and re-usage of the various sites by systematic archaeological investigation.
 - The involvement of Cape based sealing companies in sealing on Marion Island.
 - The historic interaction between man and nature. An assessment of the impact of sealing on seal populations.
 - The comparative studies of sealing on the Prince Edward Island group with other Sub Antarctic islands like Maquarrie.
2. The artifacts in need of conservation be collected for treatment in Cape Town.
3. A leaflet should be produced on the importance of the historic sites.
4. An orientation programme/lecture should be included in the education programme of the teams staying on the island.
5. A section on the importance of the historic sites is included in the orientation lecture given to takeover teams on the *SA Agulhas*.
6. An orientation display should be set up on the base. The creation of a small 'museum' room is a possibility if space can be found. Otherwise, display cases and posters could be set up in the lounge area. At the moment the manner in which the items are currently displayed is unacceptable.

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