

# THE BRITISH STRONGHOLD OF ST. GEORGE'S HILL, WEYBRIDGE.

BY

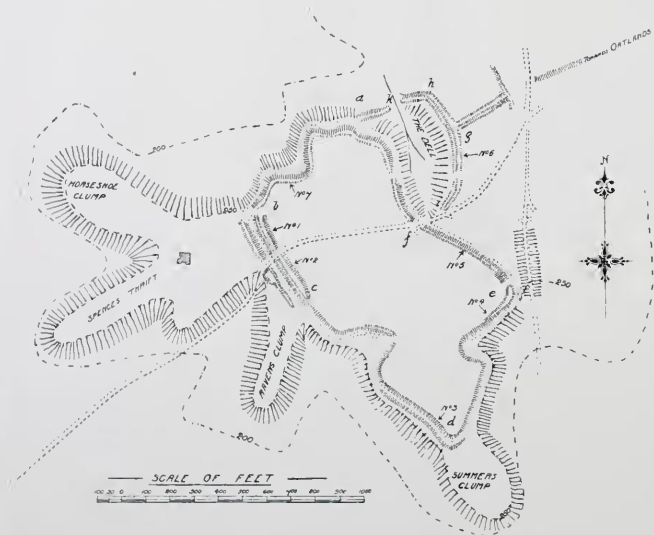
ERIC GARDNER, M.B. CANTAB.

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IN the centre of St. George's Hill, between Cobham and Weybridge, is an area some 200 acres in extent which lies above the 200 ft. contour. This raised ground is a flattened ridge, running approximately north and south, and sloping steeply on either side. Its southern end is prolonged into four spurs, formerly called Horseshoe Clump, Spence's Thrift, Raven's Clump, and Summer's Clump, whose flat tops and steep sides are rather suggestive of the "tips" of slag which disfigure the country in the neighbourhood of iron mines. At the extreme southern end of the main ridge—here 255 ft. above sea level and 220 ft. above the Thames—before it has broken up into the four spurs just mentioned, is the great British Stronghold of St. George's Hill.

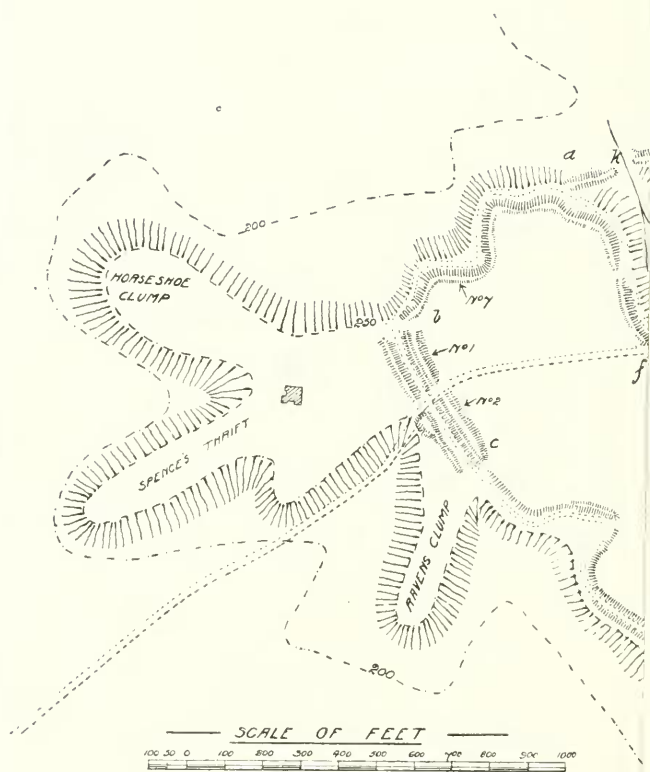
*General Description.* The total area of the Camp is between 13 and 14½ acres. Its extreme length is 440 yards, the medium breadth 195 yards, and the whole circumference about three-quarters of a mile. It is roughly rectangular in shape; but on the north-east side, outside the main rampart, is a deep dell protected by a rampart and ditch. On the north-west and south-east, the main rampart accurately follows the contour of the hill, but on the north-east and south-west it is adapted to conform to certain local features which will

PLATE I.



PLAN OF THE CAMP.

PLATE I.



PLAN OF THE GAME

be considered in detail. A ditch, which formerly encircled the base of the rampart, appears at one time to have been provided with a counter-scarp, but for the most part this has been levelled and thrown into the ditch, filling it up and forming a broad path.

By the kindness of Mr. Egerton, the owner of St. George's Hill, I have been allowed to make a few sections which have been most instructive. The ramparts for the most part are constructed of a sandy gravel, but that on the north-west contains no stones and consists merely of fine compact sand very difficult to dig. The rampart of the Dell is also pure sand, but coarser and not nearly so hard. The whole of the Camp is now densely planted with fir trees, which greatly interfere with the view, and in summer it is not easy to obtain a satisfactory idea of the ramparts owing to the dense mass of bracken which covers them.

A reference to Plate I, and to the careful sections (Plate II) prepared by Mr. Butcher under the supervision of Mr. Crawshaw, the district surveyor, (to both of whom I am deeply indebted) will save much needless repetition, and will convey a clearer impression than any written account; but the following particular points must be noted:—

*The North-West Side. Plate I, a, b.*

On this side is a bold rampart rising 17 ft. above the level of the path which now represents the ditch. The path here can best be described as a shelf, one edge of which touches the base of the rampart while the other descends abruptly over the steep side of the hill. The bottom of the ditch was found by excavation (*see* Section 7), to be 2 ft. 9 ins. below the surface of the path, and the top of the rampart was 19 ft. 9 ins. above it; but as several points along this side are at least 3 ft. higher, this makes the vertical height of the rampart above the bottom of the ditch no less than 23 ft., even when no allowance is made for denudation, which, on a sand bank, must be considerable.

*The South-West Side. Plate I, b, c, d.*

This side is very interesting, for it is here that the line of the rampart crosses the bases of the three spurs which join the hill between *b* and *c*. Horseshoe Clump and Spence's Thrift become one before they join it; Raven's Clump joins a little to the south-east, separated from Spence's Thrift by a deep gully, up which a road runs to enter the Camp. It should be remembered that the flat tops of these spurs are approximately level with the Camp. From *c* to *d* the defence is similar to that of the north-west side; a high rampart follows the contour of the hill, and consists of a small inner scarp towards the Camp (not everywhere very apparent) and a steep outer scarp running down into the filled-in ditch, which is provided near *d* with a counter-scarp. Between *c* and *d* the hill side slopes steeply away from the ditch, but between *b* and *c* the defence is specially adapted to meet any attack which might be delivered from the top of one of the spurs.

Along the line where these spurs join the hill, that is to say, from *b* to *c*, the normal arrangement of a single rampart is abandoned, its place being taken by two separate and distinct ramparts which join at *c*. As a further defence, another strong rampart has been constructed outside the ditch and parallel to it, and this also ends opposite *c*. Sections Nos. 1 and 2, are taken to show this arrangement, but although the ramparts look insignificant on the plan, it must be borne in mind that they are composed only of sand, and have consequently weathered considerably, and moreover, the intervening ditches are correspondingly filled up: it is hardly fair to compare them with the ramparts of the South Downs, which are made of hard chalk. Besides this, it is very difficult to obtain a section where the ramparts are all equally high: for the highest points are invariably buried in the heart of impenetrable clumps of Rhododendron and it is only possible to take accurate measurements at those places where the ramparts are clear, that is to say just at those spots which have been worn

down by the feet of many generations of pleasure seekers. It should also be remembered that these ramparts were almost certainly defended by palisades built along their crests.

Both the double rampart and the outer rampart are intersected by a road which enters the stronghold from the depths of the gully between Spence's Thrift and Raven's Clump, and the point where it cuts the outer rampart is important: for on the left-hand side (as one enters) this rampart is single, but on the right it also is double, and the two members of which it is here composed incline towards each other and join, ending opposite *e*, outside the ditch. Lying parallel to the roadside is a low bank which unites the extremities of the two divergent arms into which this outer rampart divides. The Rev. E. A. Downman, who was kind enough to visit the Camp with me, expressed the opinion that this was undoubtedly the main entrance, conforming to a type frequently found in other parts of the country.

*The Southern Angle. Plate I, d.*

The southern angle of the Camp is raised into a kind of platform commanding the whole of the flat top of Summer's Clump, which runs out from this point.

*The South-East Side. Plate I, d, e.*

This side is simply a continuation of the normal arrangement of steep rampart and ditch already considered, on the north-west side. The gap in the angle at *e* is interesting and may be an entrance: on either side of it the rampart is splayed and the part on the east is considerably raised: on the west, however, it has unfortunately been quarried, so that it is not possible to ascertain its original height. Opposite this possible entrance is a mound which may have been one of the gate defences: but it has been too much destroyed by a recent gravel pit for any definite statement to be made concerning it, and I do not wish to press the suggestion that it is important.

Running past this eastern corner of the Camp is a sunk road known in 1835 to the first Lord Ellesmere as "the Old Coach Road." It certainly never was a mail-coach road, but it may have been an old highway. In Lindley's *Survey of Surrey* (1790) it is shown as part of a road connecting Walton with Cobham; and its course through the steepest part of the hill, with a delightful disregard for easy gradients, gives it some claim to be an old road if not a very old one. It is probably the road mentioned in Gibson's edition of *C Camden's Britannia* (1695) as running from Walton to the Camp. At the present day it has no connection either with Cobham or Walton.

*The North-East Side. Plate I, e, f, a.*

This side must be considered in two parts. The first part, *e, f*, consists of a bold, straight rampart, with an inner scarp towards the Camp and an outer scarp running into the ditch. Beyond the ditch the ground is level and appears to offer an admirable position from which an attack could be delivered. Probably, however, a sufficient number of defenders could man the big rampart to deal effectively with any danger that might threaten from this side; and moreover the first part of the rampart of the Dell is so constructed that it would command the flank of an enemy attacking the straight rampart, *e—f*. The second part of this side runs from *f* to *a*, and the normal arrangement of rampart and ditch is maintained, the outer edge of the ditch running down into the Dell.

*The Rampart of the Dell. Plate I, f, g, h, k, a.*

This anomalous rampart leaves the Camp at *f*, and after encircling the deep hollow—the Dell—returns to it again at *a*. It has an inner scarp towards the Dell and an outer scarp running into the ditch, which is provided with a counter-scarp. On the north side of the ditch the ground is level. It is dangerous to theorise about the relative ages of different parts of an earth-work, but a careful study of this rampart will show that

it differs from the other ramparts of the Camp in several particulars. It is narrower, the angle of its outer scarp is different, it is of a different shape, and the Stronghold is quite complete without it; moreover the sand of which it is composed seems to be coarser and less binding than that found elsewhere, and it has the appearance of having weathered badly. But the differences are greater than can be altogether explained by weathering, and I should like to put forward the suggestion that this is an addition to the Stronghold and of a later date than the rest of it.

Its object is to protect a stream which once ran along the bottom of the Dell. The course of this stream can still be clearly traced, and there is running water in it in winter, supplying Dead Man's Pool half-a-mile down the hill-side. Even at the end of July, in the dry summer of 1911, the ground in its bed was quite wet, and water was found below the surface. In former days, when the rainfall was greater, there is little doubt that it was much bigger, for there is certainly not sufficient water running in it at the present time, to account for the very definite channel that can be traced in the bottom of the Dell. That part of the rampart that runs from *h* down to the bed of the stream is very indistinct, but this is almost certainly due to weathering, as it is composed only of coarse sand containing no stones, and its position on the face of a steep slope has undoubtedly contributed to its destruction. The same remarks apply to that part of the rampart which rejoins the Camp.

There is now no rampart across the bed of the stream, but with the help of Mr. Crawshaw I obtained some most instructive sections in this part of the Camp.

Section (1). *In the bed of the stream, above k, where the rampart apparently crossed it.*

Here we found 9 ins. of loose peaty soil on the surface; below this the bed of the stream, composed of gravel, and below this sand.

The section was taken down for 5 ft. 6 ins.



Section (2). *In the bed of the stream, at k, where the rampart crossed it.*

Only 3 ins. of peaty soil, then nearly 2 ft. of stiff clay mixed with some sand, and below this a bed of sand.

Section (3). *In the bed of the stream below the rampart.*

The curve of the stream bed was very definite and it was filled with sand mixed with a certain amount of clay. It suggested that the stream was filled with clay and sand washed down from above.

Section (4). *On the left bank of the stream inside the rampart.*

Only sand, no clay at all.

Section (5). *On the right bank of the stream in the ditch, exposing the face of the rampart.*

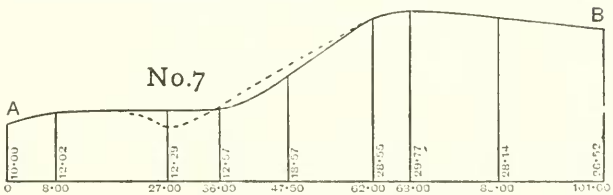
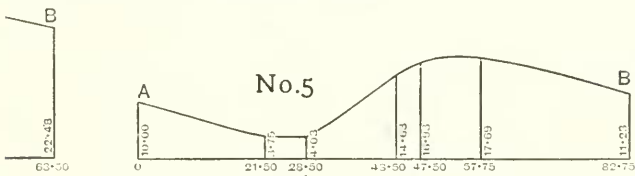
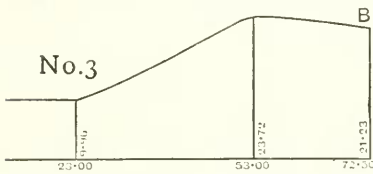
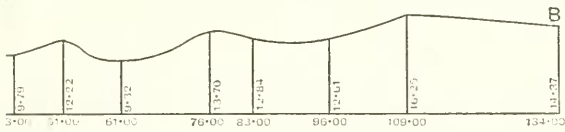
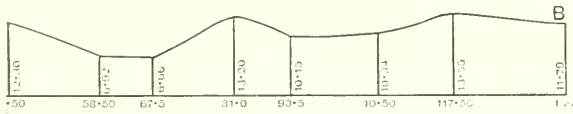
Only sand was found in the ditch, but cropping out from the base of the rampart were lumps of clay.

These sections seem to lend weight to the supposition that the rampart formerly crossed the stream, and that the base of this rampart was clay, and it is conceivable that this was used for the purpose of damming the stream and forming a reservoir in the bottom of the Dell.

One more point must be mentioned. At *g* the counter-scarp of the ditch is broken by a trench, which runs into it at a right angle, deep enough to shelter a man. Traced away from the Camp, this trench is found to be intersected by five or six parallel trenches (only one is shown on Plate I) which cross it obliquely; beyond these trenches, there begins a low rampart and ditch—it is only 4 ft. 6 ins. from the summit of the rampart to the (excavated) bottom of the ditch—and this rampart can be traced for nearly two miles towards Oatlands following the contour of the hill.

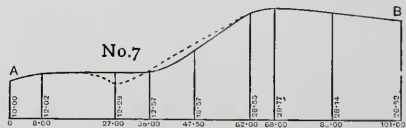
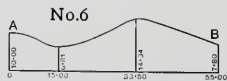
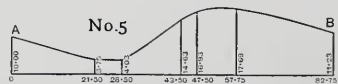
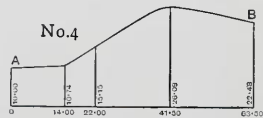
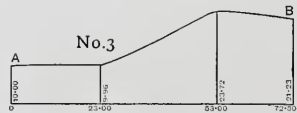
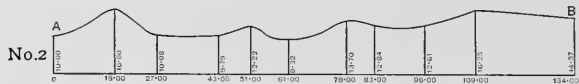
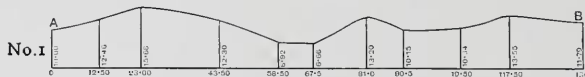
The trench running into the ditch surrounding the Dell is, I believe, part of the plan of the Camp. The

PLATE II.



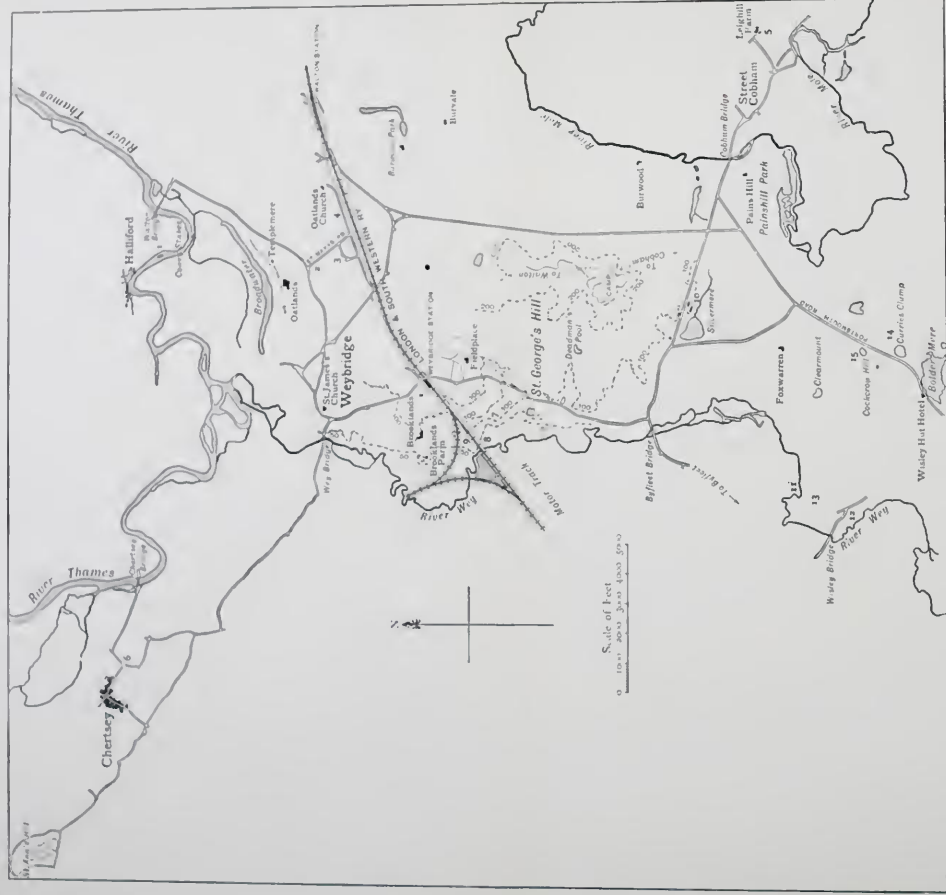
S THROUGH THE RAMPARTS.

case A is outside and B inside the rampart.)



SECTIONS THROUGH THE RAMPARTS.

(In each case A is outside and B inside the rampart.)



Ernest Walker & Co.

ST. GEORGE'S HILL AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

little rampart running towards Oatlands is certainly not a fortification, but Aubrey and others have made so much of it that it must be mentioned. Colonel Brown showed it, in a survey prepared for the Duke of York in 1802, continuous with one side of the trench that enters the ditch round the Dell, but he ignored the parallel trenches: perhaps they were made after his time: they may be iron workings—there are plenty on the hill—and the Weybridge Iron Mills were still working ten years after his survey was made.

As far as can be ascertained, no implements have ever been found on St. George's Hill, nor with the exception of the few sections made by myself, has any systematic excavation of the Stronghold been attempted. It has of course been called a Roman Camp: but it is certainly older, and the statement on the Ordnance Survey that it is a "British Camp occupied by Caesar before crossing the Thames at Cowey Stakes" is a graceful but quite unmerited concession to local tradition. However, the situation of the Stronghold is exceedingly curious, and the local prehistoric finds are fairly numerous: so that it may be worth while to consider whether any conclusion can be deduced from a study of the positions (shown by numbers on Plate III) and nature of these discoveries.

St. George's Hill is bounded by three rivers, the Thames, the Mole and the Wey. The only approach to the Camp that does not necessitate the crossing of a river is from the south-west, where a narrow neck of land, barely a mile wide at its narrowest part, lies between the Mole and the Wey. It is proposed to consider in detail what has been found at the fords over the three rivers in question and on the lines joining these fords to the Camp. The story is by no means complete, but it does appear to be a fact that a large number of implements and urns, dating from the Bronze Age, have been discovered in the immediate vicinity of some of the fords and on what may possibly be tracks leading to the Camp from the fords. If the occurrence of implements and burials in these situations

is admitted as some evidence of the existence of definite paths leading to the Camp, then the latter Romano-British discoveries of the 1st century B.C. that have been made on or near these paths is perhaps some confirmation of the idea that they were used also by a later people. The majority of the discoveries made on them can undoubtedly be assigned to the Bronze Age, which ended in this part of the country about the 5th century B.C., and may give a clue to the date of the Camp. The suggestion that the rampart of the Dell is a more recent addition to the Stronghold has already been put forward; and though the date of its construction is incapable of proof, it is interesting to find that side by side with the Bronze Age discoveries are the remains of a people who flourished in the 1st century B.C., whose settlement was at Cobham, and whose cremated remains have been found in urns at Brooklands and Wisley.

*The Thames Ford.* Without opening up the vexed question of the Cowey Stakes, we can be very certain that there was a ford in the neighbourhood of Halliford, a few hundred yards higher up the river. In 1848 a "bronze sword" 2 ft. long was dredged up near the Stakes, and sold at public auction.<sup>1</sup> It may or may not have been a Bronze Age weapon, but a flanged celt (palstave) of that period was found last year on the little eyot just below Halliford. Plate III (1).

Between the Camp and the ford a remarkable series of Bronze Age urn burials has been discovered. Five urns were found in St. Mary's Road (2), some five or six in Woodland Grove, Oatlands (3), and eight more at a spot I have been unable to identify, between St. Mary's Road and Oatlands Church (4). I have not seen any of these urns, as most of them were sold out of the village, and one that remained crumbled to pieces. Two men who saw them have independently told me that they contained fragments of burnt bones and were composed of unbaked clay (partially burnt clay would probably be more correct); they were all undoubtedly hand-made and

<sup>1</sup> *Chronicles of Oatlands*, published at Oatlands, by E. North.

(1)



CINERARY URN FOUND AT OATLANDS.

Height, 15 ins.

(2)



CINERARY URN AND ACCESSORY URNS FOUND AT WISLEY.

Height : 3½ ins.

10 ins.

5½ ins.

not made on a potter's wheel. Plate IV, Fig. 1, is a photograph of one of the eight found between Oatlands Church and St. Mary's Road, and is a good example of a Bronze Age cinerary urn.

*The Mole Ford.* A ford formerly crossed the Mole at Cobham, at or near the site of the present bridge, from which a track—shown in *Lindley's Survey* (1790)—ran to the Camp. I have heard of no prehistoric remains being discovered either between the Camp and the ford, or at the ford itself, but a Bronze Age cinerary urn has been found (with other remains of the same period) at Leigh Hill, Cobham [Plate III (5)], a little to the north of the Stoke d'Abernon road, about a mile on the further side of the river. Not far from the urn were the extensive remains of a Romano-British settlement, dating from the 1st century, B.C.<sup>1</sup>

*The Wey Ford.* A bridge over the Wey at Weybridge was certainly in existence, and probably at the site of the present one, at the time of the *Domesday Survey*, and may date from the foundation of Chertsey Abbey, A.D. 666, if not before. It is probable that the ford was at or near the bridge. "The ford over the Wey" became impassable in 1710 owing to the recently constructed Wey Navigation Canal having deepened the bed of the river.<sup>2</sup> There is some evidence that there was once a ford about 200 yards below the bridge, which may have been approached by Mackford Lane (now Minorea Road), leading out of the main village street, but this is not certain; and a ford seems to be indicated just below the bridge in a drawing, dated 1810, a copy of which is preserved in the Weybridge Museum. It is therefore probable that the whole reach below the Wey Bridge was provided with a good hard bottom and was fordable at several places.

An old man, who has been employed for the last forty years dredging ballast on the Wey, tells me, that

<sup>1</sup> *S. A. C.*, Vols. XXI and XXII.

<sup>2</sup> Weybridge Vestry Minutes.



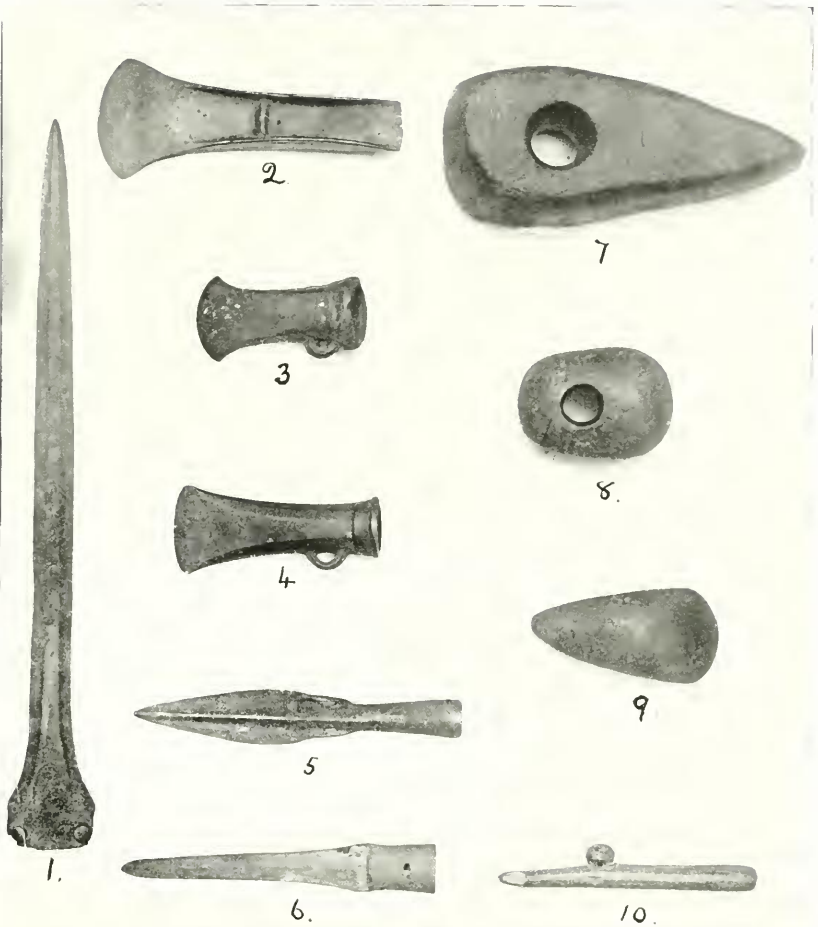
though he has found Neolithic celts, and at one curious spot a quantity of Roman, Romano-British and Mediaeval pottery, he has never seen or even heard of a bronze implement being found in the river above the Wey bridge. But in the reach below the bridge he himself has dredged up (and disposed of) "dozens of bronze weapons," and during the last few months I have been successful in collecting for the Weybridge Museum the Bronze Age weapons illustrated in Plate V, all of which were found in this reach.

The course of the track leading from the Camp to the Wey ford is mere speculation: the following route, however, is suggested; for not only does it take a convenient line across the lower slopes of Brooklands, but a later generation has made use of it and (except where it crosses the motor track) a path lies along it nearly the whole way.

Leaving the Camp it follows the line of a path down a gully to Dead Man's Pool, and, just beyond, enters between the 50 ft. and 100 ft. contours (*see* Plate III), a position it maintains throughout its course. It crosses the Byfleet road and the lower slope of the hill (now the members' enclosure in the motor track) on which, in 1907, a Bronze Age celt was found [Plate III (7)]. Then having crossed the railway it passes between Brooklands House and Brooklands Farm, and by means of Brooklands Lane finds an easy way to the open ground by the Wey bridge. Just before this track reaches the railway it passes the place (8) where the Bronze bucket, dating from the 7th century B.C., was found in 1907:<sup>1</sup> and in the triangle formed by the three railways (9) I obtained the shattered remains of a cinerary urn of the 1st century B.C.

It may be of importance, and is certainly worth noting, that a fairly direct road runs from the Wey bridge to St. Anne's Hill, where are the remains of one of the ramparts of a large camp following the contour of the hill. Very little of this Stronghold

<sup>1</sup> *S. A. C.*, Vol. XXI.



IMPLEMENTS FOUND NEAR THE WEY BRIDGE.

1. BRONZE RAPIER, 14 ins. long.
2. BRONZE CELL (Palstave).
3. 4. BRONZE CELTS (socketed).
5. BRONZE SPEAR HEAD (looped and socketed).
6. BRONZE KNIFE (socketed, with rivet hole).
7. 8. 9. IMPLEMENTS OF OPHITIC DIABASE.
10. PERFORATED ORNAMENT OF STAG'S HORN (? part of necklace).

remains, but there is sufficient to identify it as being of similar construction to the one on St. George's Hill. Between St. Anne's Hill and Chertsey Bridge (6) a number of urns have been discovered, which I am told were similar to those found at Oatlands.

### *The Land Approach.*

The entrance to the Stronghold on this side has already been noticed. From the southern side of the Camp several deep gullies run down towards Silvermere, but there is little to guide one in ascertaining which was selected as a track by the inhabitants of the Camp: this is especially true in summer, when the hill-side is completely obscured by an impenetrable undergrowth of bracken. About 200 yards immediately north of the house called Silvermere is a point where two shallow gullies diverge. I have been unable to trace them from the Camp itself, but they both run south, one passing to the east and the other to the west of the house. Probably they are both only dry water-courses: the second ends on the lawn just to the north of the Silvermere lake, while the first runs into the stream that supplies it.

It is the second—the western one—that is rightly or wrongly considered to be part of an ancient “sunk way.” On the north of the road it is simply a straight trench, which may be an iron-stone working, though it is somewhat out of the line of the other workings on the hill and there are no others near it. Between the road and the Mere it is a curious winding path deeply sunk between high banks. It passes round the east end of the Mere to the south side, and there I have traced it, by the difference in the character of the grass covering it, through a parched hayfield. A hundred yards south of the water it enters a deep, straight trench, in which it runs for about 200 to 300 yards, but in this part of its course other trenches run parallel to it. These are undoubtedly iron-stone workings. That the trenches south of Silvermere are not mentioned in the Parliamentary

Survey of 1650,<sup>1</sup> which deals with a boundary running along their course, is almost certain evidence that they were not there at that date, because in this particular survey the surveyors have definitely mentioned no less than three other "deep trenches" as convenient landmarks in other parts of the estate.<sup>2</sup>

It is also probable that an ancient track did pursue its way along the principal trench, for not only does the parish boundary follow it, but it is actually referred to in the survey just mentioned, as "an old way or road now overgrown with heath." At the end of the trenches the parish boundary turns westwards, and before the Enclosure Act of 1800 the track in question followed it, through what is now Fox Warren Park, and so straight on to Wisley Common, passing south of Clearmount to the narrow neck of land already mentioned, bounded by the Wey on one side and by the Mole on the other.

On this land approach to the Stronghold several important discoveries have been made. At Silvermere (10)

<sup>1</sup> Record Office, *Parliamentary Surveys, Surrey*, 6.

<sup>2</sup> These trenches can be traced from Weybridge Heath, near the station, running in a southerly direction through St. George's Hill to a point about half-a-mile south of Silvermere, where they turn off to the west, through Fox Warren Park, and spread out fanwise over the face of Red Hill, some reaching as far as the middle of Ockham Common. They vary in number from three or four in some places to as many as eighteen in others, and in depth from about a foot on Weybridge Heath to five feet or more south of Silvermere, while near Dead Man's Pool they are still deeper. Lord Ellesmere, in 1835, was told by the local people that they were surface workings for iron-stone, and this seems to be the most reasonable suggestion. I have found quantities of ore throughout their course, and at one point within a few yards of them is a layer of iron-stone three inches thick only two or three feet below the surface. Some of the householders on Weybridge Heath have had to break through this stratum of iron-stone under their houses in order to keep their cellars dry.

It is hardly possible that the trenches can be the outward and visible sign of the Digger movement of 1649, though the suggestion has often been made. The Diggers seem to have confined their attentions to the Walton side of the hill, and it is not reasonable to associate the agricultural operations of a small body of men, apparently not more than twenty in number, working for only nine months and subject to many interruptions, with a series of trenches extending across the country for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles.



CINERARY URN FOUND AT SILVERMERE.

19 ins. high.

itself a barrow was opened in 1830, which contained three urns filled with incinerated bones: two of these have been lost or destroyed, but the third is still at Silvermere, a magnificent Bronze Age urn 19 ins. high (Plate VI). The clay of which it is made is so soft, and of such a natural colour, that it is difficult to believe that it has been subjected to heat, but no unburnt urn would survive for nearly 3,000 years, and it was probably baked before an open fire. It is hand-made and it is possible to distinguish the individual pieces of which the sides are built up and to notice where they have been pressed together, and what appears to be a crack on one side is merely the separation of the various members of which it is composed. The heavy overhanging rim is decorated with a pattern, obviously produced by two pieces of grass twisted together and pressed against the wet clay, and the whole surface seems to have been covered at one time by a thin veneer of what is probably a carefully worked clay. At Wisley, a prehistoric dug-out canoe, which *may* be a relic of the Bronze Age, was found by Mr. Harry Howard in the river bed (11). On a mound (12) overlooking the river, Mr. Howard found also three urns (Plate IV, Fig. 2) lying in a bed of charcoal. The largest, 10 ins. high, was full of burnt bones; the two smaller ones were empty: they date from the 1st century B.C. and are contemporary with the British settlement at Leigh Hill. In a field (13) between these two finds Mr. Howard has collected a number of Neolithic implements, as well as some rather curious weapons made of sandstone. There are two mounds on either side of the Portsmouth Road. The larger, Currie's Clump (14), is a conical mound rising about 25 ft. above the ground and is surrounded by a low rampart and ditch about three hundred yards in circumference; it is almost too big for a barrow and would probably repay investigation. The other hillock, nearly opposite it, is known as Cock Crow Hill (15) and is much smaller: it has not been excavated yet, but it is very suggestive of a barrow. The whole of Wisley Common offers a most promising field for

research, situated as it is on the main approach to the Camp.

There is one more point to be considered, in connection with the Camp itself. How much of the country did the Stronghold command?<sup>1</sup> To the north-west, it commanded the whole of the Thames Valley to Windsor; to the south-west, the Wey Valley to Guildford; to the south-east, the Mole Valley to Leatherhead; but to the north—nothing. The flat level top of the ridge on which it is built obscures any command in this direction, but on the lower slope of this plateau, as it falls towards the Thames, there was formerly another camp which was levelled when the ninth Earl of Lincoln was laying out his estate at Oatlands in the reign of George II. This Earl concerned himself chiefly in making The Broadwater and with that end of the property which was situated between Oatlands House and Walton; the Weybridge end of the estate for the most part was developed by his father. It is tempting to surmise that the Oatlands Stronghold may have been on the commanding little knoll on which Templemere is now built.

It is, of course, extremely improbable that an early British stronghold was situated on such low ground near a river; but it should be remembered that the old Surrey historians persistently linked the two strongholds together, and there is also the question of the little rampart and ditch, which so impressed Aubrey, and which even now runs from just outside the St. George's Stronghold towards Oatlands. However, this is so small and insignificant that it could have played no part in the fortification of the hill, and it is perhaps safer to leave it altogether out of consideration.

In spite of its low situation it is just possible that the Oatlands Camp, though probably of more recent date, may have had some connection with the one on the hill top; for placed as it was on the "blind" side of the hill, it would not only guard the ford over the

<sup>1</sup> "Command" is here used to imply that a view of the country is obtained extending from a distant point right up to the foot of the hill.

Thames, but would command just that part of the country that was hidden from the defenders of the upper stronghold. This is a question that will never be answered, for the Oatlands Camp has been as effectually destroyed as if it had never existed. It remains to be seen whether the developer of modern estates will have more respect for ancient earthworks than the Earl of Lincoln, or whether he will destroy one of the most important prehistoric monuments now remaining in the County of Surrey; for at the time of writing St. George's Hill, with its nine hundred acres of woodland, is passing into the builder's hands, and the fate of the old British Stronghold is not yet decided.

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NOTE.—It is difficult to know how much importance should be attached to the little rampart and ditch which runs from the Camp towards Oatlands. I have recently found part of it in a garden in the Ellesmere Road, nearly two miles from the Camp. In Plate III only the beginning of it is shown leaving the north side of the Dell, but from there it is possible to trace it more or less continuously, following the 250 ft. contour in the first part of its course nearly to the word "Western" in "London and South Western Railway" (see Plate III). Throughout its course the ditch is on the west side of the rampart. Several points of interest in connection with it have recently come to light, and it may be worth while to note them in a future number of the Society's *Collections*.

After a diligent search extending over some years, I have at last seen one of the urns found at Oatlands [Plate III (4)]. It is in the possession of Dr. Frank Corner of Poplar, and is identical with the one figured in Plate IV, Fig. 1. It is a hand-made urn, 15 ins. high, composed of clay mixed with a quantity of coarse grit; some 4 ins. below the rim is a band of clay which has been pressed by a finger into a series of ridges, and similar ridges are to be seen on the inner surface of the rim. So narrow are these indentations that it is reasonable to suppose that the vessel was made, or at least ornamented, by a woman's hand.

I should like to record my thanks to Mr. Seth Smith of Silvermere for the great assistance he has given me and for permission to reproduce his urn.