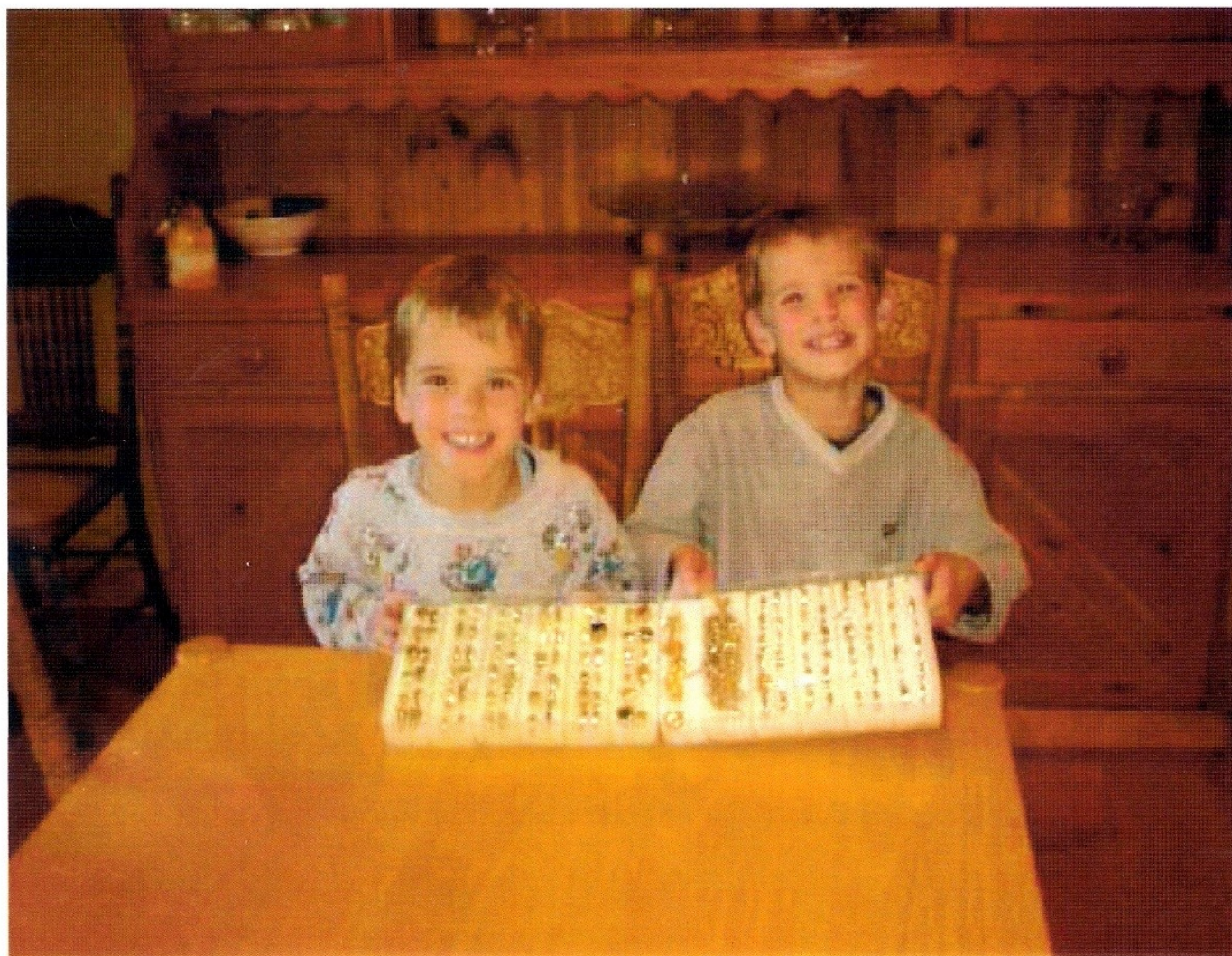


Treasure Talk

NEWSLETTER FOR SOUTH AFRICAN METAL DETECTING ENTHUSIASTS
NUUSBRIEF VIR SUID AFRIKAANSE METAALVERKLIKKER ENTOESIASTE

First Quarter 2004 Eerste Kwartaal

(Sponsored by **SANTAM Ltd** ons Borg)



Some Gold Finds from Cape Town's Beaches

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Ever // Application for F.I.N.D.S.

Letter from the Editor / Brief van die redakteur

Dear reader

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas season and holiday and am well rested for the year ahead.

Due to part time studies this year on my part, the remaining three issues of *Treasure Talk* for 2004, will not be published in "magazine" format. It will still be send to you on a quarterly basis, but in true newsletter format – that is to say short newsworthy snippets and letter from our readers. You are therefore kindly invited to send us short metal detecting related articles and letters that you would like other readers to enjoy.

You are also invited to join our international metal detecting society (F.I.N.D.S.) - please see enclosed application form.

Hope you have a fantastic 2004 and may the finds be plenty!

Pierre Nortje
Editor

Beste leser

Ek hoop u het 'n vreugdevolle kersseisoen en vakansie agter die rug en is lekker uitgerus vir die jaar wat voorlê.

Weens my deelydse studieverpligtinge hierdie jaar, sal *Treasure Talk* se oorblywende drie uitgawes vir 2004 nie in "tydskrif" formaat verskyn nie. Dit sal egter nog steeds kwartaaliks aan u ge-pos word, maar in ware nuusbrief formaat – d.w.s. kort en bondige beriggies en briewe wat ons van mede lesers ontvang. U word dus vriendelik versoek om vir ons nuuswaardige metaalverklikking-bydraes te stuur wat ons kan publiseer in ons nuusbrief.

U word ook vriendelik uitgenooi om by ons internasionale metaalverklikking vereeniging (F.I.N.D.S.) aan te sluit – sien aansoekvorm in hierdie uitgawe.

'n Voorspoedige 2004 word u een en almal toegewens.

Pierre Nortje (Redakteur)

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Tel / fax (021) 9762260
E-Mail. Nortjem@iafrica.co.za

Letters from our Readers // Briewe van ons lesers

Dear Pierre

Many thanks for the latest Treasure Talk.

I finally made my first trip to the beach in three years and certainly covered a few kilometers. I came away with R5.70 and an intention to investigate the possible recycling of ring-pulls! It has become clear that I must re-learn the characteristics of my old C-Scope if I am to be more successful.

May I this time pay tribute to that sterling character of the South African detecting fraternity Clarence Coetzer. It was he who firstly fixed a problem with my C-Scope, and has given me much advice and background on the area, and it is thanks to him that I became aware of Treasure Talk and given me a renewed interest in the hobby.

Sincerely

Geoff Bickers
Mooiplaas

Hello Pierre

Thanks for your letter...

..and HELLO way down there in South Africa...I am a great fan of the writer, Wilbur Smith, who has written extensively on your part of the world. Looking forward to reading that article you gave me the link for. Do you get much of a chance to do any relic hunting in your part of the world...I'd be interested in hearing about it! Thanks for getting in contact, and good hunting!

Ed Fedory
USA

Hi Pierre

Many thanks for a brilliant article by Dave van Rensburg (Khaki Hill) that you posted on the forum. That really fired my imagination and also for posting the link to the Compass site. I will contact them to ask about a replacement search coil as I really used to enjoy detecting before the bugger broke and would love to get it repaired if possible.

I never really found anything exciting – no Roman or Celtic gold for example - but I did find lots of bullets and live Martini-Henry cartridges on some local open ground that must have been used for training the Volunteer force. I also used to find modern coins and rings on our local beaches. Now that I've taken up shooting and own an 1899 Magazine Lee Enfield ("Long Lee") I am particularly interested in the Boer War period. Breaker Morant is one of my favourite movies.

I'm hoping to buy a Martini-Henry next and reload ammunition so I can use it at the range. The problem is that good ones cost around £1000 now. Phew! My mate has one and with 85 grains of black powder they kick like a mule! The cartridge looks particularly evil.

I'd love to receive your magazines in future.

Brian Thornton
Dorset, England

Letters from our Readers // Briewe van ons lesers

Beste Pierre

Eers weer dankie vir die Drie-in-Een kompetisie wat ek gewen het. En dat jy die pryse aan my gestuur het.

En dankie vir die artikel oor die strande van die Kaap wat jy aan my gepos het - ek het dit waarlik geniet en baie interresant gevind.

Hier gaan dit nie so goed met die weer nie. Seker die langste winter wat ons in jare en jare gehad het. Ek dink die somer wanneer hy regtig kom, sal ons bars! Ons het baie koue winde hier op die oomblik en as jy op die strand staan slaan die sand jou. Van die strand gepraat - oor die laaste drie maande was hier 'n paar vakansiegangers met metaalverklikkers. Hulle het ook nie veel gekry nie, maar die laaste bietjie munte wat nog op die strande was, is nou uitgehaal!

Neem nou 'n strand soos Margate. Loop jy en 'n paar ander vir 2 weke elke dag so 3 tot 4 ure, kan jy mos nie anders as om skoon te maak nie. Ook omdat dit so koud is het die mense min anders om te doen as om met hul verklikkers op die strande te loop. 'n Paar het al by my kom kla dat hulle amper niks kry nie. Dan sê ek maar onthou dit is 'n stokperdjie wat ons moet geniet! Anders moet jy maar liewers van jou metaalverklikker ontslae raak.

Ek weet dit is lekker om geld uit te haal, veral silwer, maar weer sê ek eerste geniet dit. Al die ander wonderlike goed kom later.

Vriendelike groete

Oom Dawie Berg
Shelley Beach

Hello Pierre

Fame at last eh!!

May I thank you very much for the magazine which arrived in good condition this morning. It was a surprise to me at seeing a pic of Marie and I at the club dinner recently. I showed it to her and she gasped and asked how it got there. I told her, of course, that because of my popularity in the detecting world it deserved a place in the magazine. She looked at me and said nothing and walked away, I wonder why I got this reaction !!!.

Any way Pierre, thank you for bringing a little sunshine into our lives.

Oh yes and by the way, although I expect it has been picked up, certainly Marie did. She ask me how long we had been married, which was an odd thing to ask because I sometimes have to be reminded myself. I said 57 years, "Oh I see" she said, "then would it be right if I point out that our next Anniversay is NOT out Golden but it is our Diamond". I could have dropped my detector when she said that. Too late now I'm afraid. Maybe nobody will notice.

Cheers for now mate and thanks once again. I have read that story of your trip to the Czech Republic till I know it back to front. Very interesting.

Best wishes from Charles Cater
United Kingdom

🇳🇿 A “Beach Bum” on a Victorian 🇬🇧 Battlefield in Africa 📷

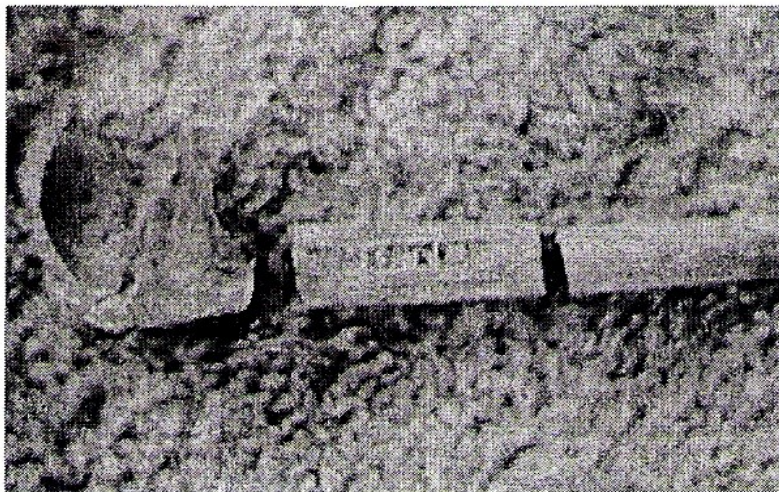
Posted By: Dave van Rensburg (South Africa) (netcache6.is.co.za)

Date: Tuesday, 27 January 2004, at 12:15 a.m.

About a month or two ago, my friend Mike Conradie wrote a posting for the forum on our visit to the old Victorian Boer/Brit battlefields near Colesberg in South Africa.

Here is my own take on the same visit...there are many pics, so if some show up as little red blocks, just right click on your mouse and then on “show picture”

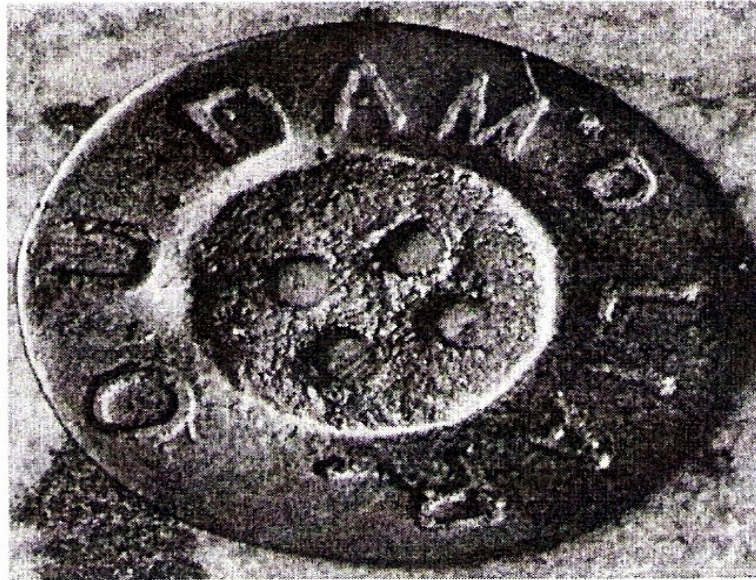
I swung my coil and received a hard signal on my detector. With bated breath I chopped my digger into the soil. My digger, an old survival knife blade welded onto a pipe handle, jarred my arm as it penetrated the soil. What a difference from beach digging! This was certainly not like digging beach sand. Here I was, a “beach bum” in the Karoo digging at Arundel, near Colesberg where a British camp was situated during the Anglo-Boer war (1899 – 1902). I had never been out with a group of detecting enthusiasts before and I was really very excited to be here.



Broken “thistle” clay pipe – an “eyes only” find

A big difference from detecting on Durban beaches. Here before my eyes history was about to unfold. Mike Conradie and I had made the long trek from Durban to Colesberg and this was a new experience for me. We had often discussed Colesberg and especially the British campsite, “Slingsfontein”. Now it had become a reality.

I swung my detector over the hole I had dug and there was the signal again. I dug into the bottom of the hole and out came a round oversized brass button about 1 and a half inches in diameter. I picked it up and rubbed the soil off the metal surface. Inscribed on the button was the following “O. U. DAM’D LIAR”. What a thrill to uncover this unusual artefact. Excitedly I called to Johan; one of our group, and went over to show him.



Button with "O. U. DAM'd LIAR".

As the morning progressed we found several tether spikes, tent pegs and some tunic buttons. The strange button I had found was really unique and to think it had been lying hidden for over 100 years. Yes, this was everything I thought it might be, this uncovering of history on the path of the Boers and the Brits. I looked up and saw the rest of our group spread over the area all busy detecting.

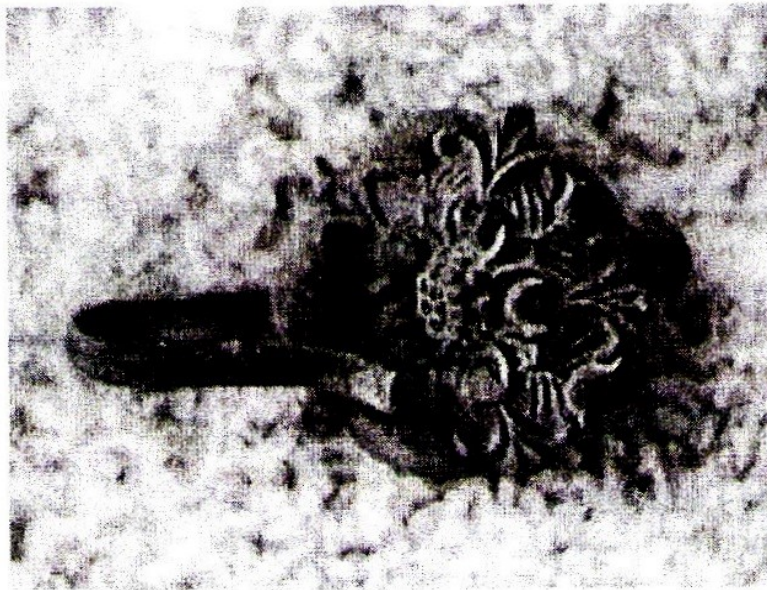


Tent peg

This was the first morning and I had awoken to the songs of the birds. What a change from the usual early sounds of buzz bikes, cars and voices of the frenzied populace of Durban where I live. Fresh air and new opportunities, what more could one ask for?

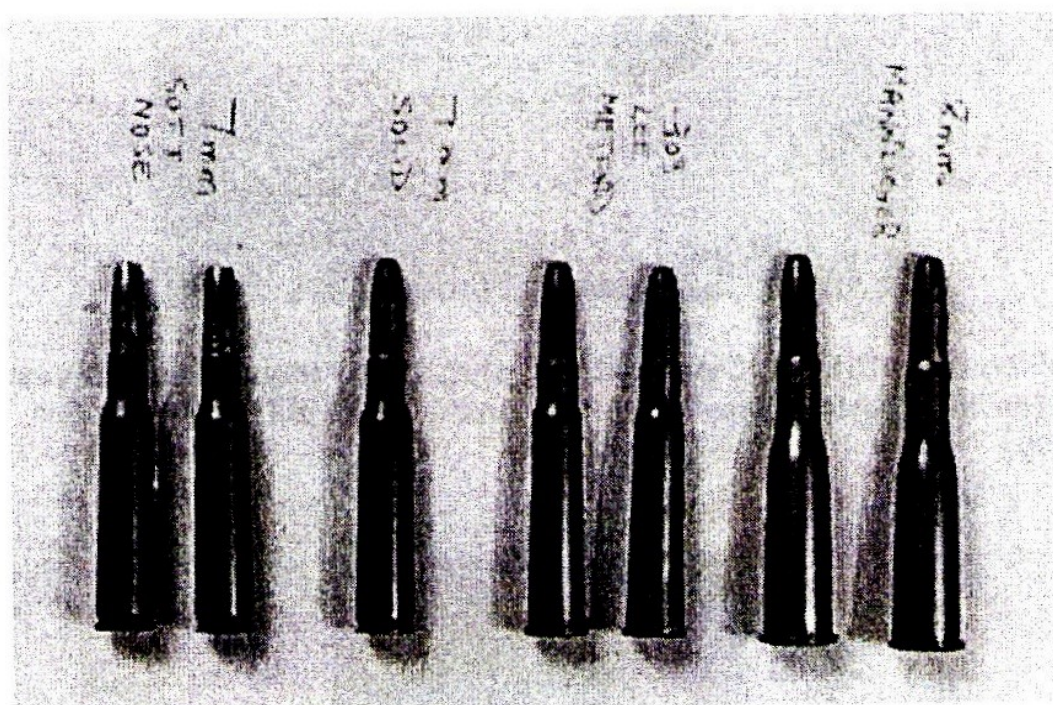
Our first stop at Arundel revealed that we had been working a cavalry camp. Plenty of tether pegs, tent pegs and horseshoes proved this. Mike discovered the camp ash pit and with the aid of some of our younger members, did what he does best, opened and dug out its contents. The pit revealed about 53 horseshoes, a stirrup, clay pipes, and some bottles. This established beyond

doubt that we had searched a Victorian cavalry camp at Arundel on the line of the old rail.

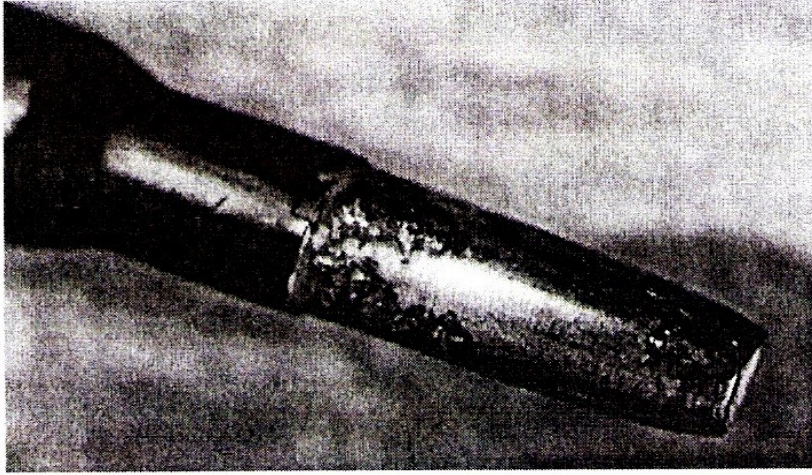


Bridle fitting

In our four days we visited Arundel station, Vaalkop, Norvalspont Concentration Camp, sangers and schanzes overlooking the Orange River Rail Bridge, Slingsfontein camp and Coleskop. I personally really enjoyed my stay at Colesberg and made some interesting finds. At Vaalkop inside a Sanger I found three 7 mm Mauser cartridges. All of these soft nose bullets (hunting bullets?), which reminded me of the controversy of the use of dum dums in this war.

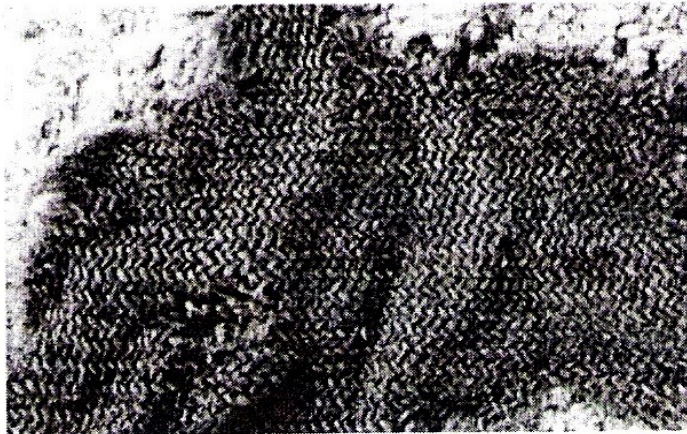


Some bullets – see descriptions on picture

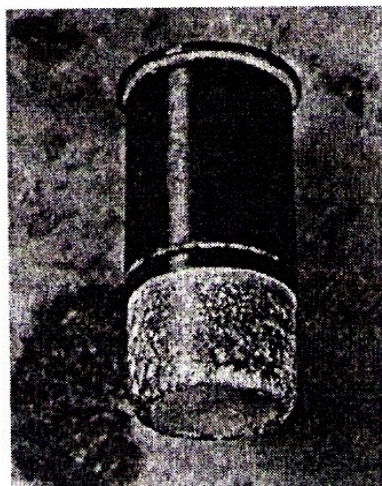


Soft nose hunting bullet 7 mm

Near the sangers and schantzes overlooking the rail bridge over the Orange River we discovered a place where some tunics and a pair of boots had been buried. All the buttons were retrieved, some still with pieces of Khaki material attached. Amazing, after all that time and still fabric attached, even more amazing was one of the boots. The first boot found had disintegrated into three pieces. The second boot we discovered was still in one piece. We gently dug it out and it was a complete boot after being in the ground over 100 years, It is now safely in Lukas's private museum.



Unbelievable – British Khaki material serge after more than 100 years in the scorching African sun and in the next picture a Dum Dum .450 Webley

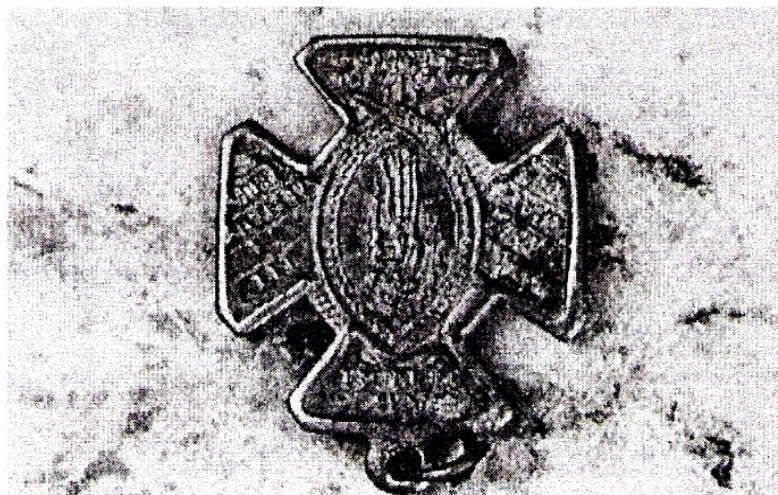


Bertie Rietfeld found a 1901 silver three pence of Queen Victoria lying on the surface as if had been lost yesterday. Amazing to think it had been lying there for so long and still visible on the surface. Slingersfontein camp was as interesting as I imagined it would be. On studying an old black and white photograph of the camp I headed for the place where I believed the tents had been pitched.



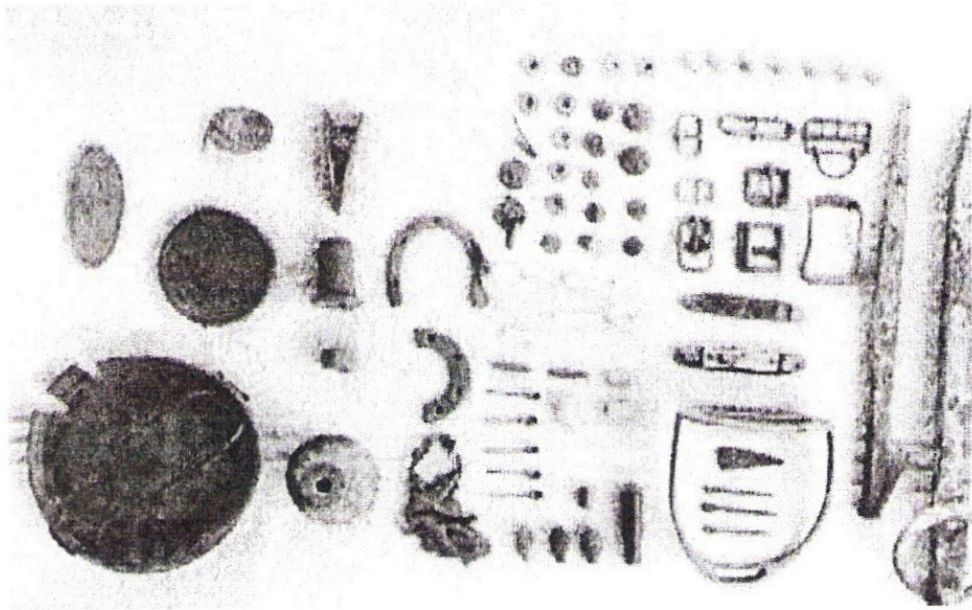
An unknown badge or fitting of some kind – Bulpitt & Sons – 1899 – Birmingham

I started detecting and it was not to long I dug up a silver chain (Lanyard) with a loop on it. We later established that it was a lanyard used for igniting charges in the field guns. Soon after this I dug up a medallion. A copper cross with one of the saints imposed on it and bearing the logo "*I promise with the grace of God to abstain from all intoxicating drinks*". Was this medallion lost or conveniently discarded? We'll never know...



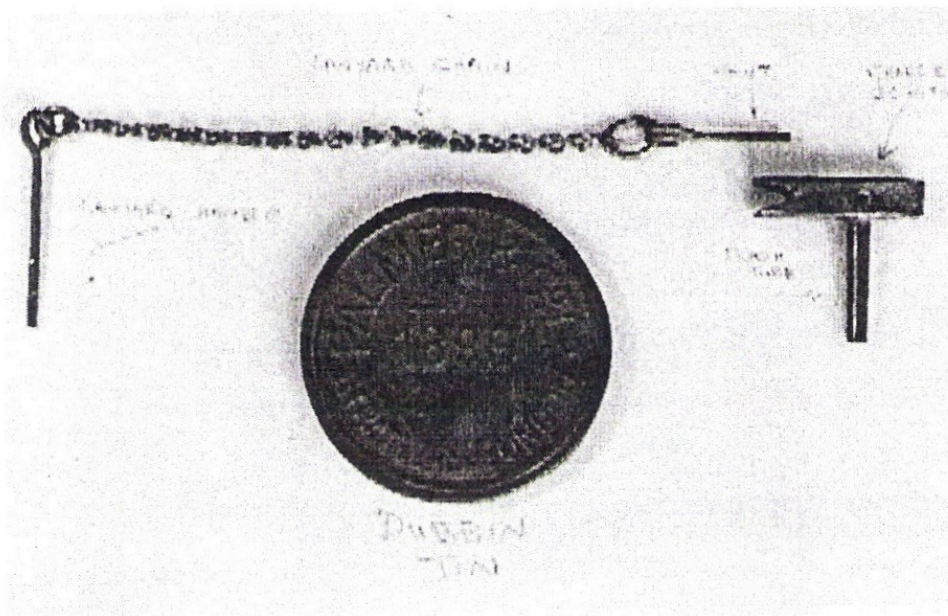
No drinking medallion

I also found an 8 mm Mannlicher cartridge case and a 7mm Mauser cartridge. Later on I found a .450 Webley revolver cartridge. Of interest here was that it was a hollow point Dum Dum. Colesberg Kop (hill) was a test for my 63 years old knees and I am happy to report passed the test by reaching the summit. Here we found the British gun positions and pins & firing mechanisms. Also some Lee Medford casings and one Martini Henry casing.



What a Herculean effort to drag those guns to the top! What a wasted effort when De Larey became fed up with the shelling of the Boer camps and chased the British of Colesberg Kop (hill). Tumbling the guns down again!

It was a lovely outing with veldt-barbeques in the evenings and many experiences & tales for the telling. It was great team effort with every one pulling their weight. Our stay on the farm "Ventersfontein" (fontein = fountain) was really well organized and comfortable. Special thanks to Lukas van der Merwe for organizing the outing and I really look forward to the next one.



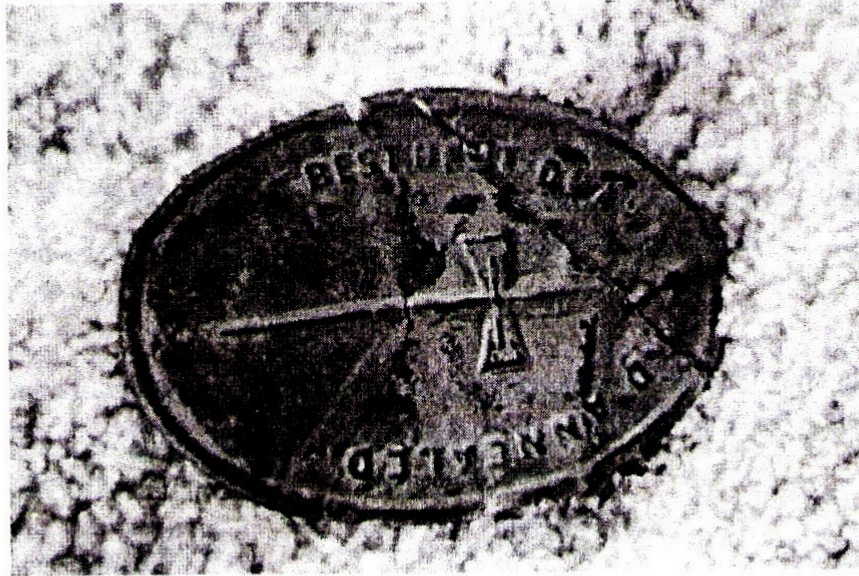
Lanyard chain, Charge ignitor and Dubbin Tin dated 1899 – the first year of the war

Beaches are interesting, ever changing and always surprising but can at times be a bit disappointing. Not so the old battlefields & historical sites and the "Beach Bum" will always heed the call to walk in the footsteps of the Boers and the Brits.

Thanks you Lukas for a wonderful outing and thank you Kobus, Danie, Bertie, the two Johan's and Mike for good company and sharing the trip into military history.

Dave van Rensburg
South Africa

...and lastly a what-is-it? Stating "Best Best Dried and Annealed" Something to do with tobacco perhaps?



Thanks Dave!

As our readers shall see in this issue of Treasure Talk – Dave wrote us THREE excellent articles on his metal detecting experiences. All three stories were posted with colour pictures on the International Metal Detecting Forum and accolades were received from quite a few continents!

(As some of the articles were received just before publication, the names thereof are unfortunately not printed on the front page under "In This Issue")

Dankie Dave!

Soos ons lesers in hierdie uitgawe van Treasure Talk sal sien, het Dave vir ons DRIE uitstekende artikels geskryf oor sy metaalverklikking ondervindings. Al drie die stories is met kleurfotos op die Internasionale Metaalverklikking Forum geplaas en lof is ontvang van lesers van verskeie kontinente!

(Aangesien sommige artikels net voor publikasie ontvang is, word die titels daarvan ongelukkig nie op die voorblad onder "In Hierdie Uitgawe") gepubliseer nie.

Sien / See w.w.w.findsinternational.org

F.I.N.D.S. International

One Dive - Four Gold Rings

Posted By: Andy - South Africa <khandys@mweb.co.za>

(proxy.cpt.mweb.co.za)

Date: Saturday, 24 January 2004, at 12:10 a.m.

One Dive – Four Gold Rings

Went for a dive yesterday. The tide was very low so I took a walk on the beach first for about two and a half hours, but maybe I should just stick to the water as I did not do too well at all. I only found 7 coins totaling about \$1 (US). As the tide came in there was enough water for me to dive.

A rather uneventful dive so I had plenty of time just to do a bit of thinking. I started to grade the gold rings I find on 1 – 5 Scale. (I would like to hear your opinions).

1 - O well at least I am not going home empty handed.

How to tell: These are 9-ct with no hope of avoiding the scrap metal dealer. Or you hide them when your friends come. They are kept in a separate box. No body wants to be seen dead wearing them. The ring goes straight into the bag.

2 - OK

How to tell: 9-ct with a reasonable design – some one should buy. Nice to keep. You may look at it for a short while before it goes into the bag.

3 - That's nice!

How to tell: 9-ct with very good design easy to sell or maybe an 18-ct band, will definitely keep. There is normally a bit of (under water) chuckling.

4 - WOW!

How to tell: 18-ct with good design and small stone, wife may even like. Or 9-ct over 10 grams. You take a good look before it goes to the bag. You may even be tempted to look at it again later. Plenty of chuckling.

5 - Holly

How to tell: 18-ct with good design and good stone, wife will definitely like. 22-ct ring. Gold Coin. You usually start to tremble when you find one of these.

Well having said that I did manage to find 15 Coins (\$4 US) and four gold rings. All four were rated (1). The first was a smallish ladies signet ring 9-ct (1,6 grams) the second is a 9-ct gent's band (4,5 grams). The third is a ring that once held a small coin (possibly those Mexican coins). The coin was long gone. 9-ct (4,5 grams). The last gold ring was a more solid looking ring 9-ct (5,4 grams). This one could maybe be a (2).

Well I can't wait to find my next (4) or (5).

Andy Naude (From Down Under [the water])!

Detecting Cape Town

Posted By: Pierre (South Africa) <Pierre_nortje@santam.co.za>

(netcache6.is.co.za)

This is in reply to the question by Colin (Toxicsox) on the F.I.N.D.S. forum detecting in Cape Town and what one can expect in terms of finds over here.

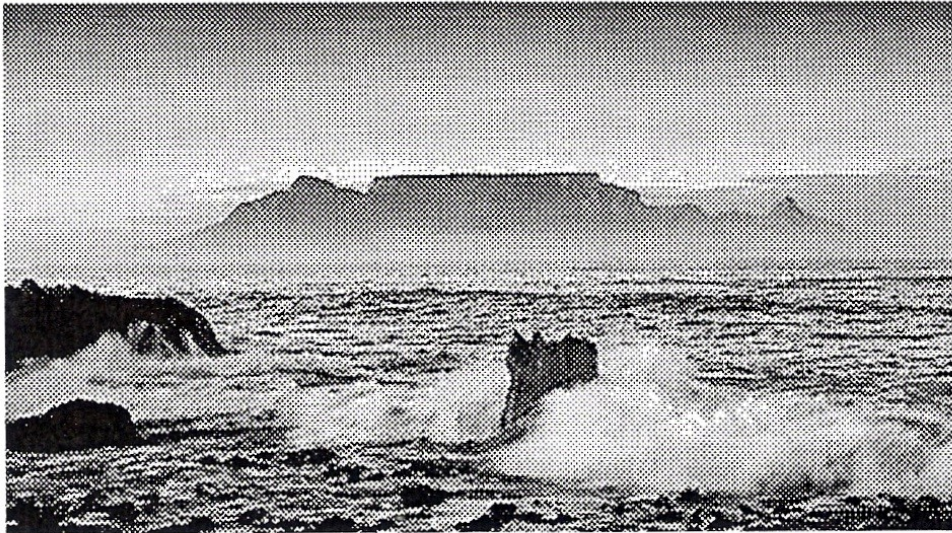
Let me start by saying that SA is, like the USA, Canada, Australia and new Zealand, fairly "new" countries as our western history only goes back a few hundred years. No Roman, Celtic or even hammered coins on the detectorist menu over here. I know of one single hammered coin being found in South Africa – a German 1/24 thaler dated 1618 – 34 years older than the founding of Cape Town in 1652! I wonder how it got here...

So relic hunting (the four B's - buttons, buckles, bullets and badges) are not really high on the detecting agenda although some of us have searched old inland sites like the battle of Blueberg (1802) and some local farms like our old family wine farm founded in 1688. Old coins and other stuff were found but nothing to write home about. I know of no one that found Dutch VOC coins from the 1600 or 1700s whilst relic hunting over here. But VOC (Dutch East India Company) coins have been found on some beaches.



Old wine farms like these have been searched on and off but nothing really spectacular has been found – but who knows what future searches will bring?

Speaking of beaches – now that is a total different story with gold and silver jewellery aplenty – with our long summers and relative short winters the beaches are crowded to capacity for many months. With SA the capital of gold and diamond producing countries, our jewellery are proudly worn, but also sadly lost – sometimes it seems at the same rate as it was purchased!



Blueberg strand with Table Mountain on the other side of Table Bay - a popular beach to detect

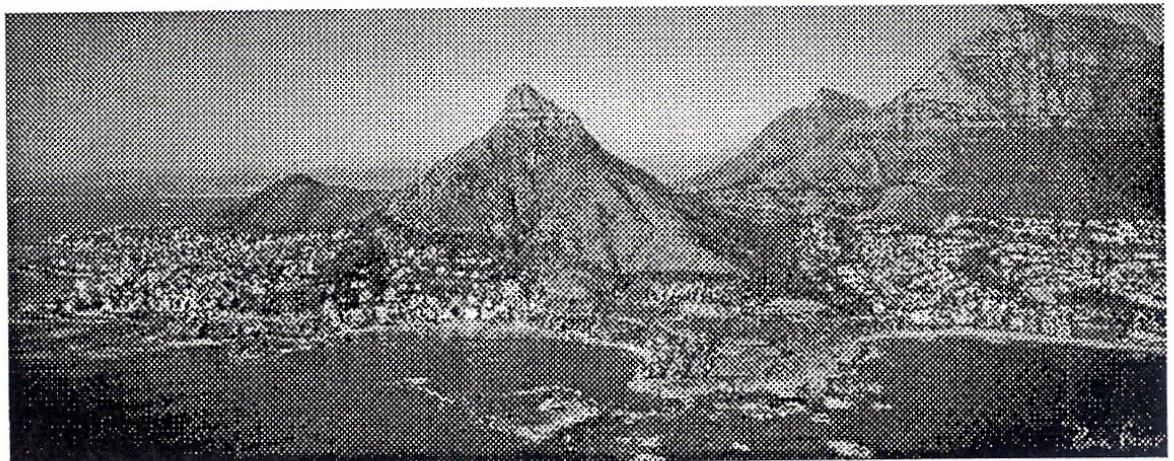
So let's start with the beaches on the Atlantic Ocean side of Cape Town. Firstly there is **Melkbos**, 5 kilos north of Blueberg. This beach opens up once or twice a year at around Christmas time with plenty of old coins and jewellery. But you never know which day it will be so usually it is a waste of time. I seldom go there anymore.

Then **Blueberg** is next with its two beaches Small bay and Big Bay. Both are good beaches to detect with diamond rings not too scarce.

Then **Table View** which is a tanning rather than a swimming beach. I very seldom go there, as I do not like to search dry sand.

Then **Milnerton** at the lighthouse where I have found plenty of silver jewellery but no gold. I think the reason is that it is a teenager beach for the young surfers and their groupies.

Next is past the Victoria and Alfred waterfront to **Seapoint**, which is possibly the oldest "holiday" beach in SA. Plenty of old silver pre-decimal coins and sometimes gold sovereigns but scarce in jewellery. It is mostly a rocky area with little swimming beaches but try it out as a VOC coin or two has been found here.



Seapoint – old coins are almost always found here

Then **Clifton** and **Camps bay** which again is tanning and beach sports beaches rather than swimming areas, as the water can be very cold. Plenty of modern coins on Clifton with a piece of jewellery here and there. Not much "old" stuff although the beach has opened up once and the pickings were out of this world.

Then to **Llandudno** and the nudist beach at **Sandy bay** where again mostly dry sand pickings will be made. Then **Hout Bay**, which is rather dirty with lots of junk that drives you mad. Then **Kommetjie** and the beaches along Cape Point where we seldom go – try it but don't expect too much as a large part is owned by Cape Nature Conservation and I doubt if people ever swim here.



Cape Point – largely a national park

Now to the Indian Ocean side on to **Simon's town** where old coins from the British era (pre 1923) can be found. Then **Fish Hoek** and **Muizenberg** which is really prolific beaches with lots and lots of jewellery and coins. These two beaches are "must visit" beaches with your detector. You must pay a small fee to enter the beach at **Fish Hoek**

Then **The Strand**, which is a 25-minute drive further, and probably THE beach to detect. It is my favourite beach where I have found more than 10 000 coins and countless "keepers". Gold and silver aplenty as this is an upmarket area for holiday makers.



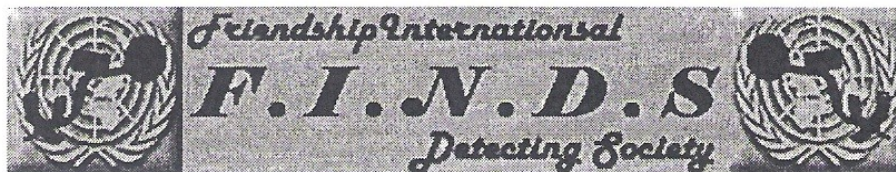
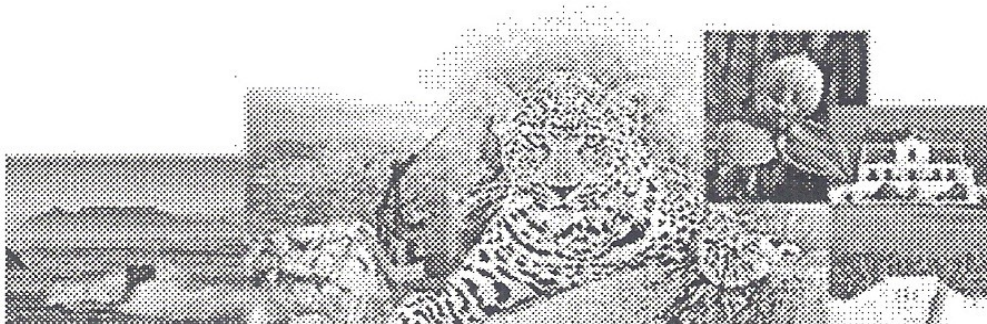
The Strand – my favourite detecting beach



Two "keepers" found at The Strand. Believe it or not, but they were found in the same month (May 2000) on the same beach – about 200 meters (600 feet from each other)

Lastly **Gordon's Bay**, which with hardly any waves stays the same from season to season with almost no movement of the sand. But sometimes you can be lucky in the dry sand and at low spring tides between the exposed stones.

Well Colin, that's the beaches of Cape Town – contact me by e-mail when you will arrive here in December and I will come and pick you up for a morning's or two detecting.



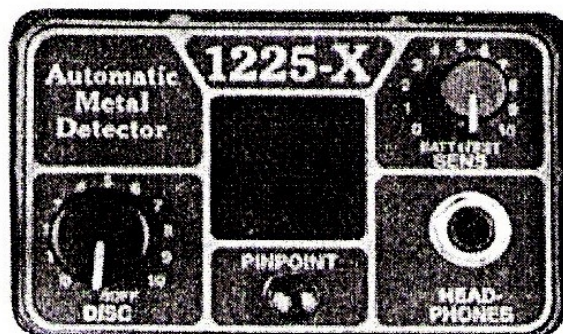
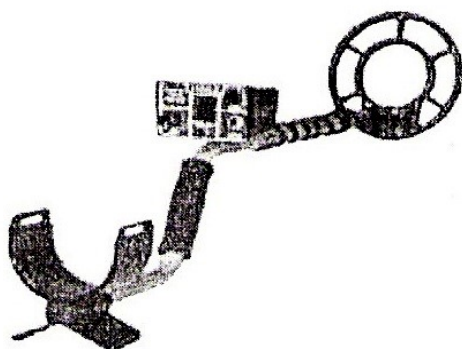
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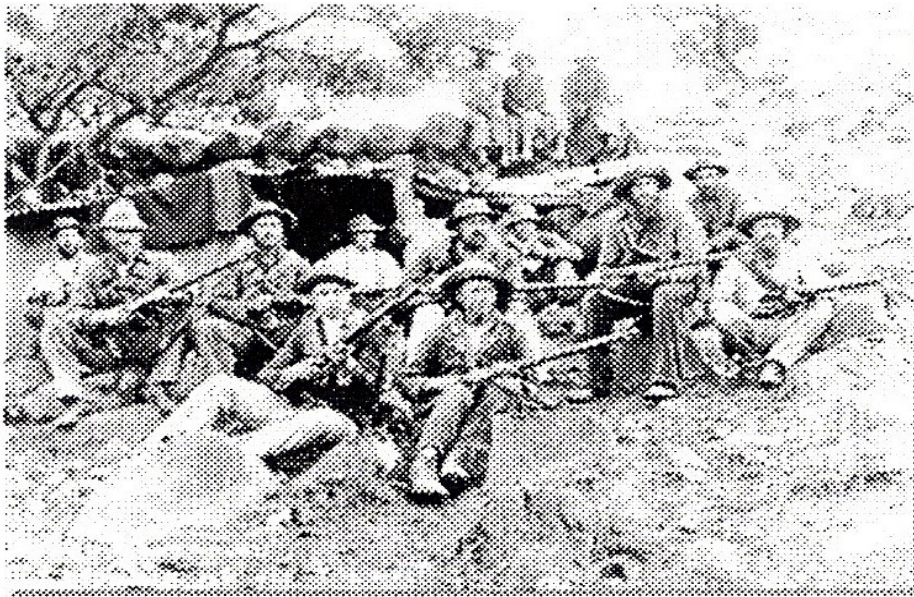
🇬🇧 Khaki Hill: Fact or Fiction? 🇬🇧📷

Posted By: Dave van Rensburg (*netcache6.is.co.za*)

Date: Wednesday, 15 October 2003, at 2:18 a.m.

Note: During the Anglo Boer War (1899 – 1902) the British soldiers were called "Khaki's" by the South Africans because of the colour of their uniform. The British called the South Africans "Boers" which means "farmers".

"Yes, that is Khaki Hill up there!" said my cousin Peter. I stood in the valley and looked up the steep mountain slope at the jumble of rocks overlooking the valley. "Why is it called Khaki Hill?" I asked. "During the Boer War the Boers took up positions on that hill. When the British soldiers approached the Boer positions the Boers shot quite a few soldiers before withdrawing on horseback" replied Peter.



Boers with their trusted German made Mauser rifles

I looked up at the hill... was this another wild story or was it true? Having already visited several places on the strength of such stories I was dubious about Khaki Hill – too often one follows up on these local stories to be disappointed.

I was visiting in Garstlands valley in the Cradock district (Eastern Province South Africa). I knew that there had been skirmishes in the area and so decided to seek further information on Khaki Hill. The hill itself lay on the boundary of my cousin Peter's farm and the farm next door. I went and chatted to some of his neighbours who knew the history of the area. According to them a British patrol was coming up Garstlands Valley and local Boers (farmers) in the vicinity received information concerning this patrol. The Boers hastily saddled up and ascended the mountain on their horses to take

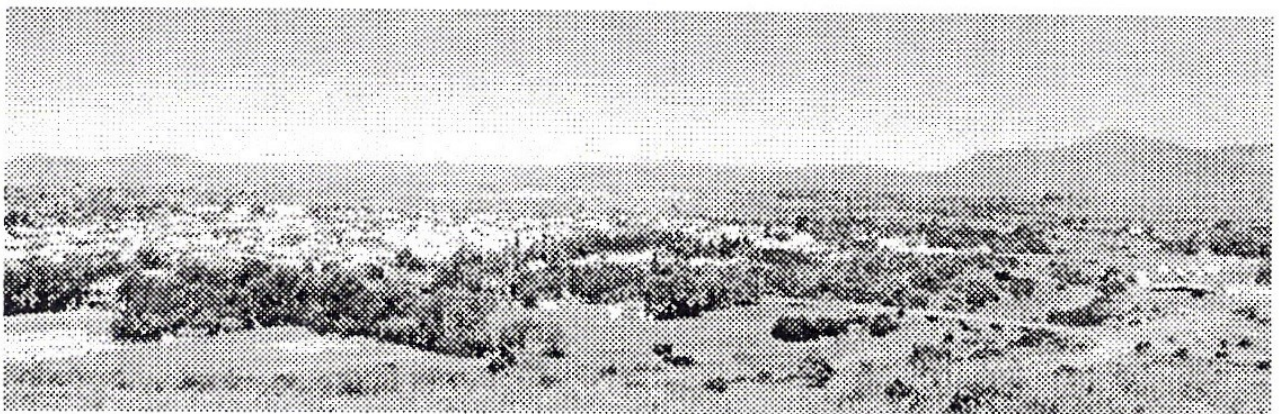
positions on Khaki Hill. Here they kept a watchful eye on the approaching British Patrol.



British soldiers in their Khaki uniforms – they learnt their lesson two decades earlier when they wore red coats during an earlier African war and were walking (red) targets in the African bush

Now, as often happens in war, a fatal decision by the British patrol played right into the hands of the Boers. The officer in charge looked up at the Khaki Hill and decided it would make a magnificent lookout position. The patrol was halted and the officer instructed half the patrol to climb the mountain on foot and scout the surrounding area for signs of Boer movement.

The Boers concealed on the hill could not believe their eyes. The British soldiers now on foot, were climbing straight up the mountain slope beneath their positions. The Boers simply remained in concealment and waited until the British were in range and then opened fire. The British suffered heavy casualties as they went to ground on the exposed slopes. The casualty rate mounted as they tried to find cover.

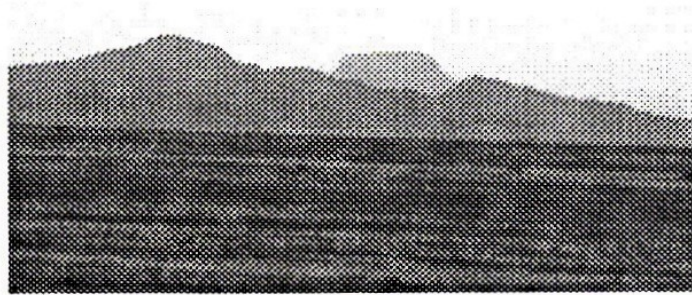


A modern day picture of the town of Cradock with some hills in the back ground

Meanwhile, in the valley below, the British Officer was agitatedly pacing as the drama unfolded. A Sergeant in the patrol said "Sir, take cover or you may be shot" The British officer, inexperienced in fighting Boers, laughed, "Don't be silly. No one can hit a man at that distance!" had no sooner said this when

a bullet hit him in the chest followed by the sharp flat report of a Mauser rifle shot. He slumped to the ground mortally wounded.

The Boers in the meantime, having done damage to the British withdrew on their horses to avoid being outflanked by the rest of the patrol.



Typical Karoo Hill

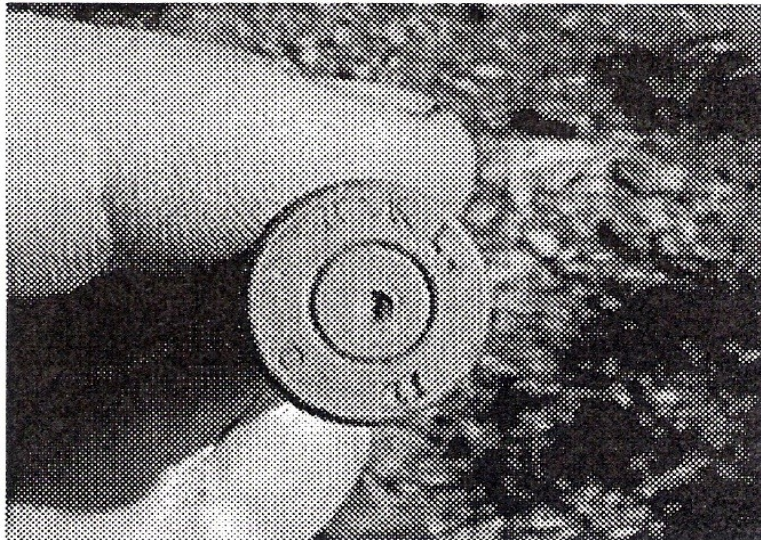
What a story! It had a ring of authenticity to it and I decided to take my metal detector and check Khaki Hill out. Early next morning I set out with my detector. After a long climb I reached the mountaintop. In the distance ahead I could see Khaki Hill. I approached the Hill and saw a typical Karoo Hill with flat stones packed one on top of the other in a jumble of all sizes. A perfect place to watch the valley below without being seen.



British live bullets and a bully beef tin

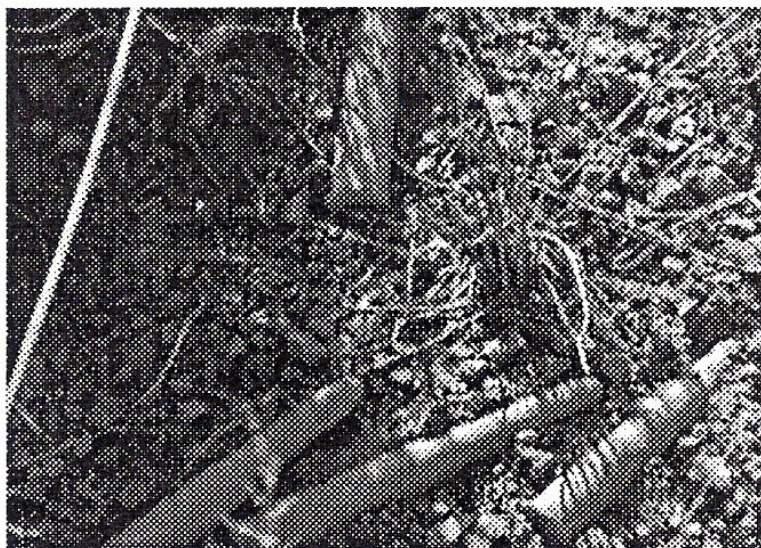
I started detecting and immediately picked up signals - rusty wire from a fence nearby. I moved amongst the rocks and found nothing. Was this

another wild goose chase? I moved nearer the boundary fence that ran through a cleft in the formation. At the fence the hill turned at right angles overlooking another small valley. I searched next to this cleft and suddenly; under a Broom bush I got a signal. I scratched in the shallow soil under the bush and out came a Lee Metford (or Lee Enfield?) cartridge casing. With my heart beating I spat on the base of the .303 casing and rubbed it clean on my pants. Yeas, there it was – markings from the era of the Boer war.



Definitely British but Lee Medford or Lee Enfield? - The initials "RA" refers to Royal Labatories

Now my interest was quickened. This was definitely a casing from the Boer War era (1899 – 1902). I scaled the fence and followed the other side of the hill overlooking the valley. I started to look for typical sites a Boer would use – narrow clefts with dead ground behind to facilitate safe withdrawal and offering good cover. The first cleft, only two foot wide immediately yielded several cartridge casings, all with Boer war era markings on them. I pushed the detector into crevices, which opened up under the position – more signals and more casings followed. These had fallen into the crevices during the engagement.



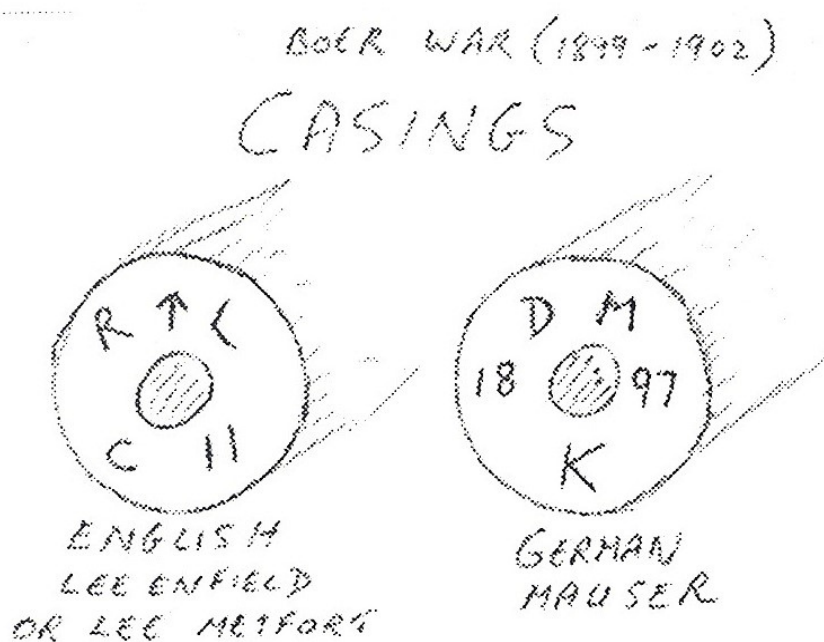
Live rounds dropped by a soldier 100 years ago

I found seven different firing points and all of them yielded casings (.303). On the furthest point out came one Martini Henry casing, the only one I found. I still had not found Mauser casings to corroborate the story of the slain officer. It must have been a horrible experience for the British to be trapped on those bare slopes with virtually no cover from the riflemen above.



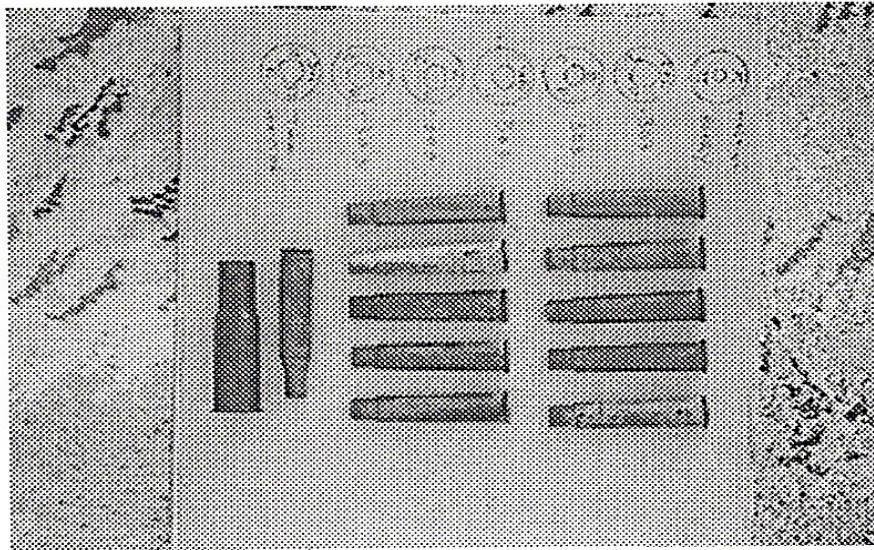
British tunic button

I felt good knowing I had proved that Khaki Hill was indeed a place where a skirmish had occurred. I climbed over the fence and moved back to the original cleft where the fence plunged down the slope below. I saw a place lower down where a Boer could have hidden himself. Down I went and immediately got a signal. I dug into the soil between two slabs of rock. Out came a 7 mm Mauser cartridge casing. I checked the marking – it was from the Boer war era.



English casing markings left and German Mauser markings (used by the Boers) right

I put my detector down and sat on a flat rock. Looking at the Mauser casing in my hand – I thought that it fitted in with the story of Khaki Hill There is no way of knowing if this was the casing of the bullet, when fired by a Mauser rifle, that killed the British officer, but it will always be significant in my eyes.

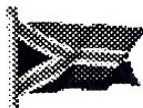


Casings – see drawn markings

This is exactly what makes metal detecting so interesting and that little brass cylinder will always bring back to mind what was supposed to have taken place on that day more than a hundred years ago. I put the casing in my bag, picked up my metal detector and made my way down the mountain again. I thought about all that had taken place and hope that I had proved the truth of Khaki Hill....

Regards and thanks to Lukas for some of the pictures and Pierre for posting this for me.

Dave van Rensburg
Durban
South Africa



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Raar maar waar - the big picture

Dit is voordeling om met die plaaslike mense te praat alhoewel ons nie altyd die volle betekening besef van wat hulle sê nie.

So byvoorbeeld is die volgende wyskede reeds voorheen aan ons meegedeel:-

- A. Toe ons destyds met die metaalverklikker begin loop het, was daar ongeveer 'n dosyn *locals* wat die strande gefynkam het opsoek na enigiets wat uitspoel, oopspoel of oopwaai, van skulpies tot geld en juweliersware.

Eendag het die oupa onder hulle aan Erica gesê "dit is beter om te soek waar die nat sand hard is want in die sagte sand kry jy niks."

So het ons ook geleer dat *sagte sand* beteken 'n nuwe laag spoelsand wat die fondse in die onderste lae bedek.

- B. Eendag hoor Erica ook hoe hulle onder mekaar gesels, en dieselfde oupa sê vir die groep "noudat die oubaas met daai toorstok hier loop, kan ons maar by die huis bly, hy gaan al die geld en ringe optel."

Nou ja, so het dit ook gebeur want vir die laaste paar jaar sien ons hulle nooit meer op die strande nie.

- C. Die eienaar van die restaurant en woonstelle by Buffelsbaai sê op 'n dag vir ons dat die strand eers weer sal wegspoel wanneer die riviermond oopspoel en toe wonder ons hoe bring hy die kloukie by die oortjie, want die Goukamma Riviermond is 'n goeie paar kilometer wes van die strand en die strand front oos terwyl die rivier wes front.

Na ses jaar van oop oë fortuinsoek op die strande het ons geleer dat koue fronte die direkte oorsaak is van groot deininge, soos op die TV weervoorspelling gesê, en dit maak 'n rowwe see en groot branders wat die strande oopspoel - maar indirek is koue fronte ook die oorsaak van groot reëns wat rivier in vloed afbring en wat riviermonde sal oopspoel. So, sy voorspelling was tog reg.

- D. Soortgelyks, soos ek voorheen opgemerk het, ondervind ons groot strandverspoelings wanneer die ooste deining wit breek teen die agterkant van Robberg, en ons het ook geleer dat die ooste deining veroorsaak word deur intense laagdrukstelsels wat aan die ooskus uitwoed naby Durban.

Nog 'n raar maar waar teken:

Toevallig het ons ses jaar laas sulke toestande hier ondervind, en sedertdien het ons fondse geleidelik afgeneem tot die huidige *droogtes* sodat ons R5 of minder per soektog vind.

En nou vestig ons ons hoop op die koue fronte van die komende winterseisoen.

Die langtermyn weervoorspellings praat ook van 'n El'Nino wat ons weer gaan oorheers teen die einde van die jaar en ons vermoed dat sy invloed op skattejag groot opwinding kan meebring.

Nog 'n deel van the big picture. Ons sal oor ses maande weet wat gebeur het.

F.I.N.D.S. International

🚩 Silver Bonanza on an African Beach 📷

Posted By: Dave van Rensburg (*netcache6.is.co.za*)
Date: Friday, 23 January 2004, at 7:39 a.m.

Big ones, little ones, black ones, brown ones and noisy ones all enjoying Garvies beach. The doggy beach of the Bluff, Durban, on the subtropical east coast of South Africa, were all the frustrated dogs from the Bluff are let loose to do their thing. So many times we had also walked past these pavement specials and never regarded this beach as more than an unspoiled place to exercise dogs.

Then one day I viewed the beach with a new outlook. One of the local residents mentioned that, many years ago, there was a hotel on the beachfront. Alarm bells started ringing. A hotel meant people and people meant a viable detecting beach. One low tide I took my Impulse detector to went down to Garvies beach.



Garvies Beach – a Hotel stood here in the middle of the previous century with hundreds of beach goers frequenting the beach daily

After an hour of detecting I ran into a small patch of wet sand that yielded some 1c and 2c pieces. The old bronze ones when South Africa change (no pun intended) to metrification in the 1960s. I found in total about 5 coins and nothing more. Very disappointed and I put Garvies beach out of my mind as a no-no for detecting. Recently I was visiting friends who live right on the edge of Garvies beach. They mentioned that someone had picked up an old worn silver two-shilling coin on the beach.

Once again alarm bells started ringing. I went down to the beach to have a look. The current spring tide had washed a bank of approximately two feet cut along the high water mark. I decided that this was definitely worth another try with my Impulse.



With my Impulse on the beach

The next day, an hour before low tide, I was on the beach. I checked an area about 100 meters (300 feet) up the beach. I started all along the base of the bank. No signal was forthcoming and I started having doubts again. Too many stories and no proven facts. I moved further along the bank, still nothing and I was started to feel despondent.

Suddenly my Impulse gave a signal and an old Van Riebeeck head copper cent appeared. This was much better and my interest returned. I moved very slowly along the bottom of the beach and more signals started coming thick and fast. More old 1c coins, then silver three and six pence's. In one small patch out came eight silver old 3 pence's. Then the odd penny came to light and also half pennies and farthings (pre 1960). Three silver shillings and one silver two-and-a-half shilling (half crown).

This was more like it and I patterned an area 40 meters (120 feet) in length. Obviously this was where an old beach was situated all those years ago. Out came the coins in a never-ending stream. I was amazed how many coins where in the beach area.



A handfull of coins

In total I dug 105 old 1c coins, 40 old 2c coins, one 1923 George V half crown, 6 pennies dated 1918, 1925, 1939, 1940, 1943 and 1950, 24 silver 3 pence's dated 1926 up to 1953, 21 silver sixpences dated from 1932 up to 1958, 4 one shilling silver pieces dated 1942, 1950, 1952 and 1955, 5 farthings dated 1944, 1950, 1952, 1955 and 1957, 4 old half cents, 2 copper cents, one half penny (1941) and two interesting exotic coins – a German Reich Pfenning dated 1908 and 1 German East African Heller also of 1908.

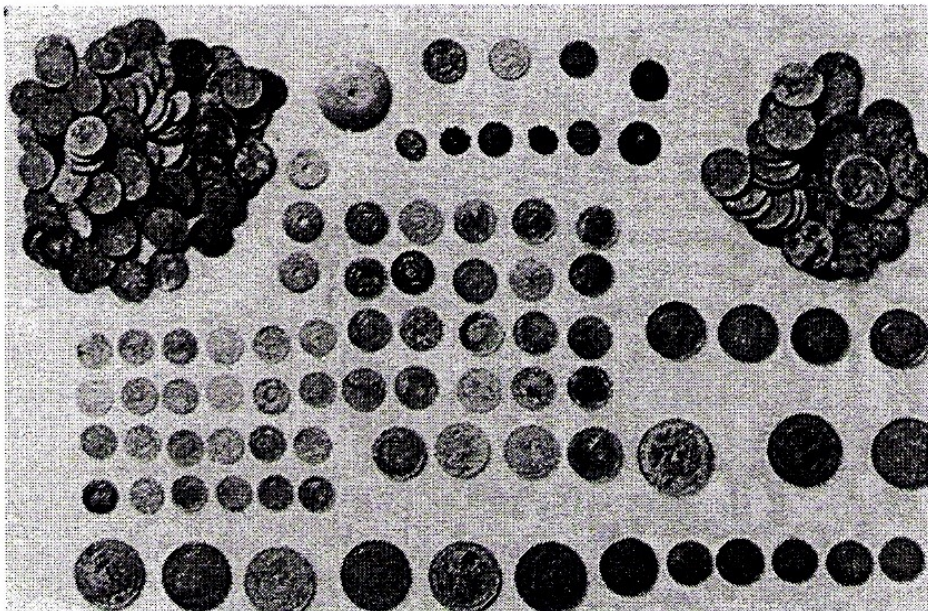


A German East African coin dated 1908



George V silver half Crown dated 1923 – the first year the Union of South Africa started minting its own coins

What an amazing find and as the coins keep popping up out of the sand I could not help but feel that this was every detectorists dream. A secret beach where no other machine has ever been before. Old coins, yes, occasionally I have found them but NEVER in such concentration as this! An old hidden beach waiting to be discovered and I the lucky one to make the discovery.



Coins found

Keep swinging those coils, your hidden beach must also be out there.

Kind regards from a subtropical and hot Durban (South Africa)

Dave van Rensburg

🇺🇸 My Ten Best Finds Ever 🇺🇸📷

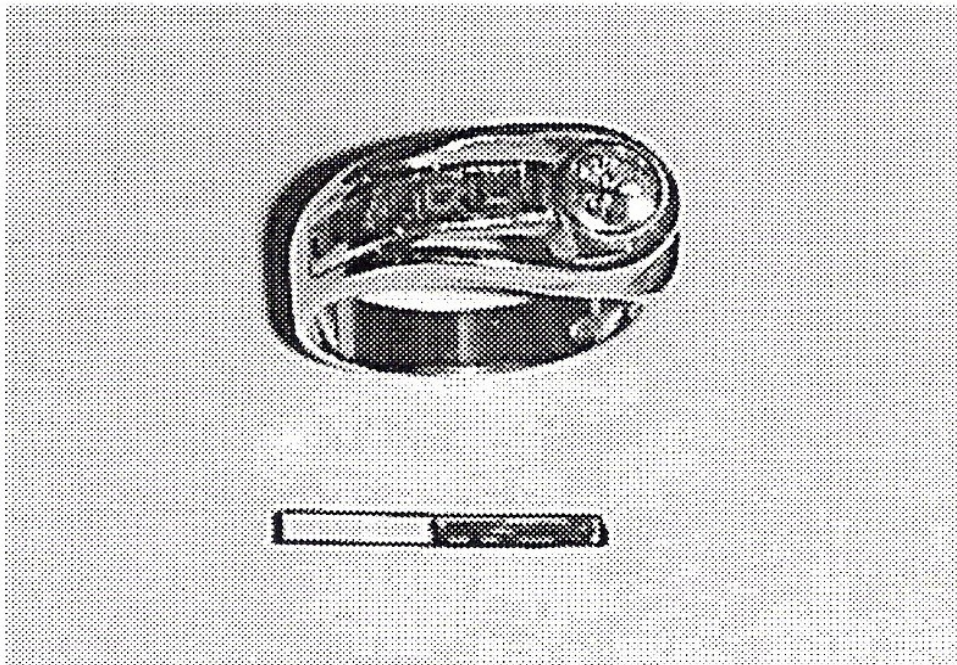
Posted By: Pierre (South Africa) (*netcache6.is.co.za*)

The word "best" (as in best finds) can have many meanings for different detectorists. It could mean "most valuable", "oldest", "scarcest", "most beautiful", most unexpected", etc.

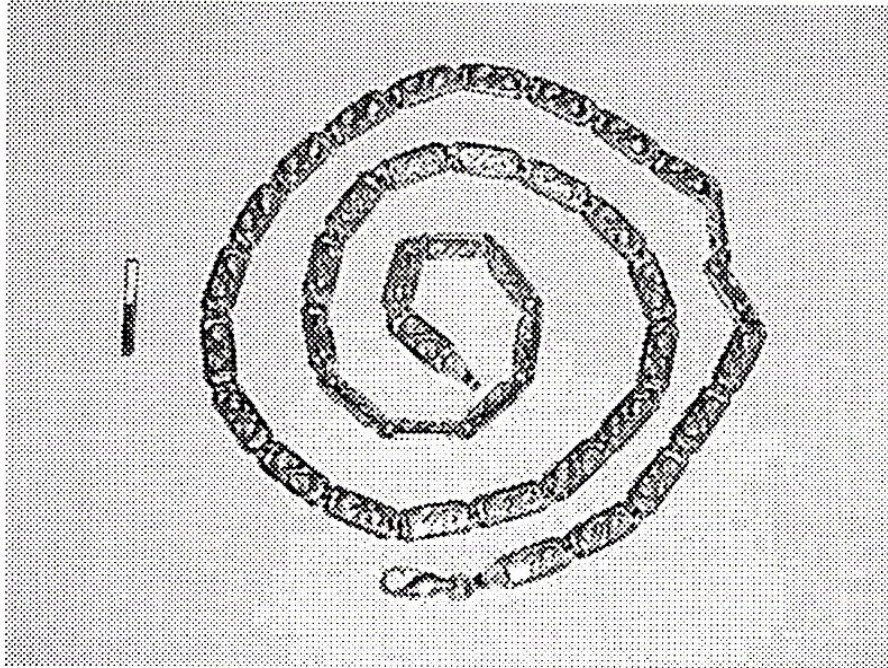
So just for myself, I have graded my ten "best finds" in the following ten categories: -

1. Most expensive item
2. Most expensive gold item (other than a ring)
3. Most unexpected gold find
4. Best silver jewellery piece
5. Best coin
6. Oldest coin
7. Best artefact
8. Most unexpected find
9. Best coin find in another country
10. Best artefact found in another country

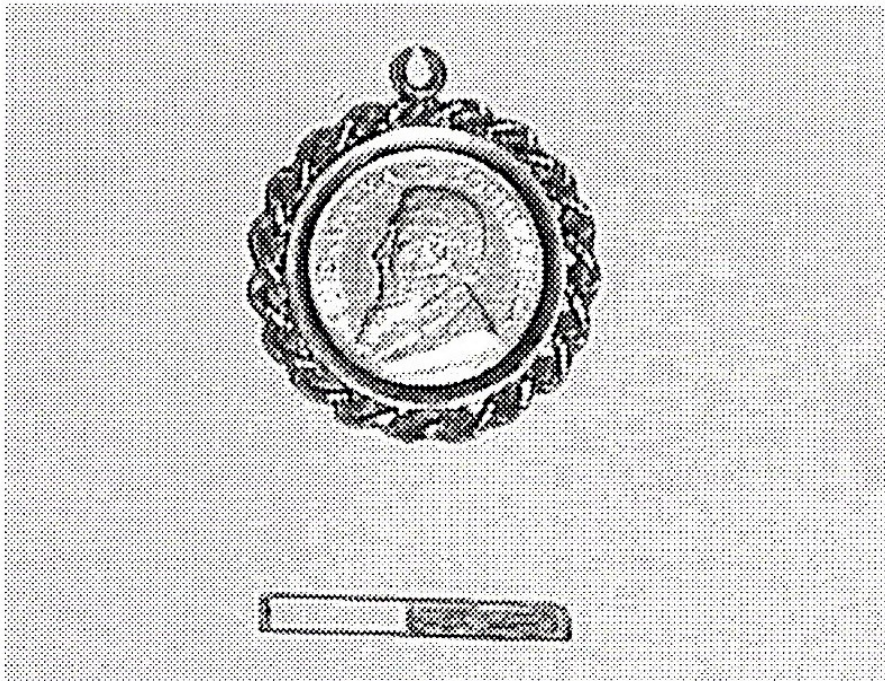
Here are pictures and short descriptions of the above-mentioned ten items: -



Item 1 : Most expensive item I found this 18ct gold engagement ring in May 2000 in The Strand in the wet sand. Two friends of mine found 11 gold rings there the previous day and I rushed off on the Sunday to see if anything was left - and I found this magnificent gold ring set with a brilliant .63 carat diamond and five 2mm rubies. I would guess the value at around 3000 USA dollars.



Item 2 : Most expensive gold item (other than a ring) Found at the same beach was this 24 inch (60 cm) 64 gram 14ct (525) gold neck chain. It was pitch dark the night and I was hurrying back to the car when I heard a faint signal and this beauty came to light. As 14ct is a most irregular carat grade in our country, I called my friend Andy on my cell phone to ask what 525 meant. "That's 14ct he said – did you find a ring?" he asked. "No" I said "a 24 inch gold chain as thick as a pencil..." I won't repeat what Andy's reply was...



Item 3 : Most unexpected gold find As I have up to that stage never found a gold coin – even one set as a piece of jewellery, I was pleasantly surprised to find (in a matter of one week) my first; being a Mexican gold peso set in a gold mans ring and then this 22ct one-tenth Kruger Rand set in a gold pendant.

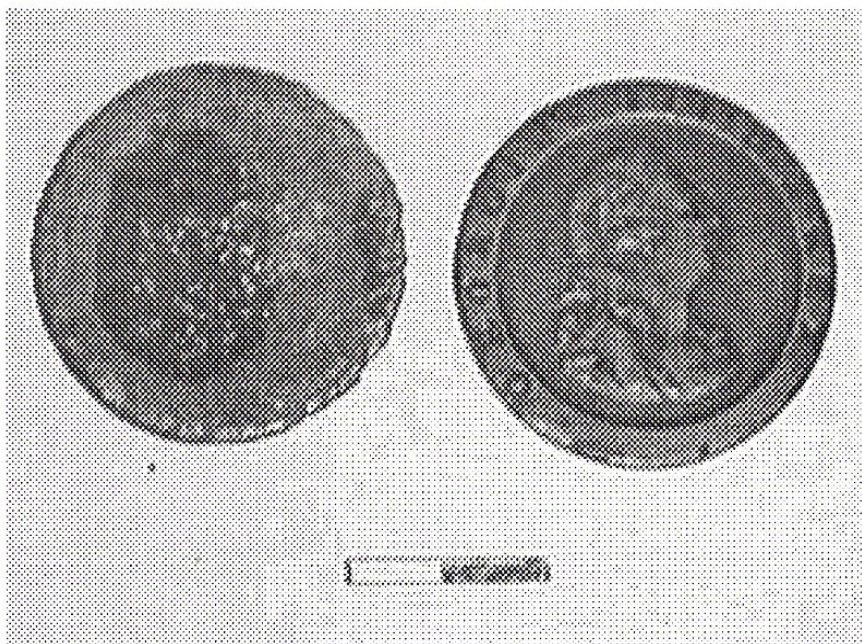


Item 4 : Best silver jewellery piece This sterling silver arm chain is a true piece of Africana as the 18 silver charms (with a very few exceptions) all have South African themes. This also makes the dating of the chain fairly easy being from around the late 1940s.



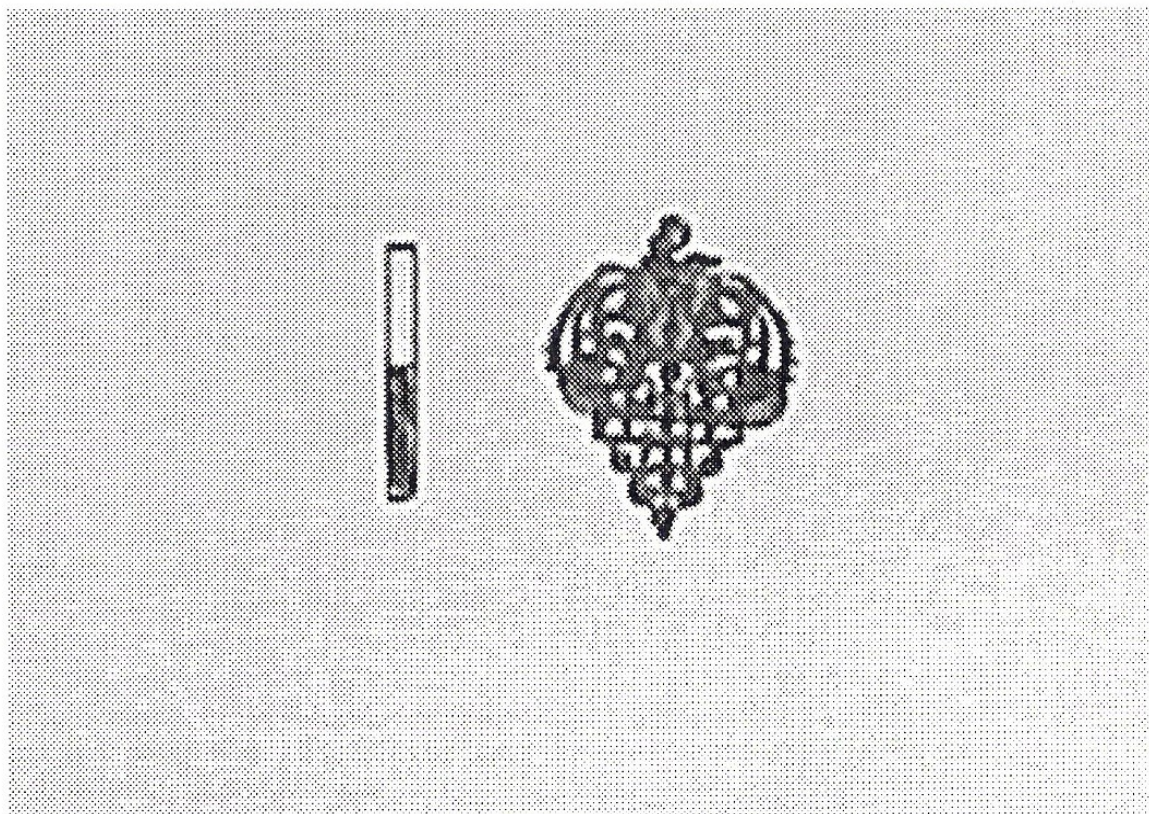
Item 5 : Best coin Of the pre-decimal South African coin series, I have found the whole series being the Farthing, Half-Penny, Penny, 3 pence, 6 pence, Shilling, Florin and Half-Crown but I have NEVER found the full (silver) Crown until the day this 1952 example popped up. Although it being holed, it is still my "best" SA coin find up to date. Hopefully I will one day find the two gold coins in the series (half and full sovereign). The coin on the left is not a

detector find but from my private collection and just shows the exact reverse of the crown I found.



Item 6 : Oldest coin My oldest coin found in SA was this huge British copper cartwheel penny of George III dated 1797. Unfortunately it is very worn. The coin on the right is one from my private collection and are much more clear – it shows the head of the last American King – George III of England.

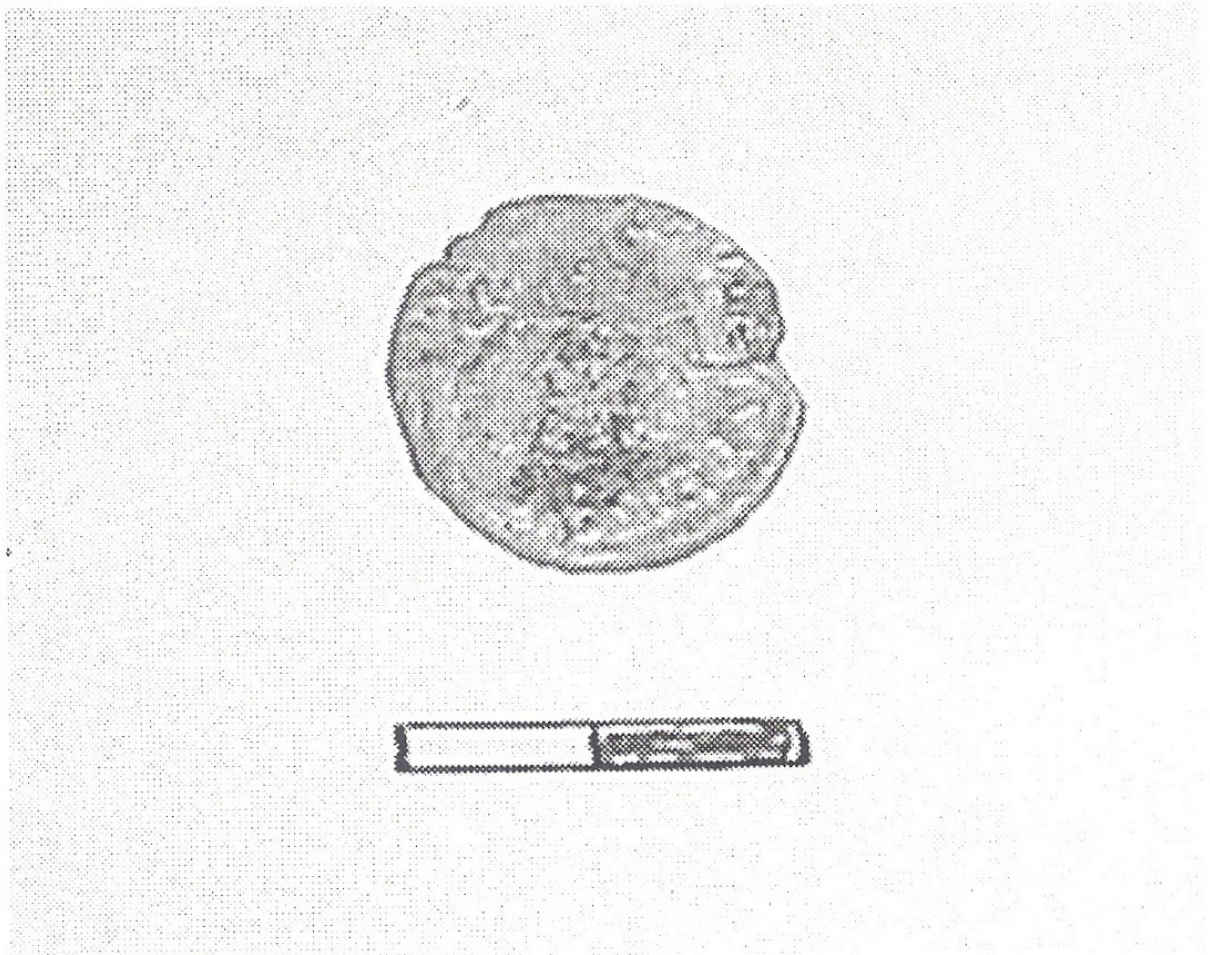
Is said that these huge coins were often find in old graveyards as it was used to close the eyes of dead slaves on burial. Mine was found on the beach so hopefully no ghosts will haunt me for finding it.



Item 7 : Best artefact (non- coin or jewellery) As I am not much of a relic hunter, this is a very difficult choice to make. Let's settle on this very small and delicate military badge (?) found in a British military camp dating from the Anglo-Boer war era (1899 – 1902).

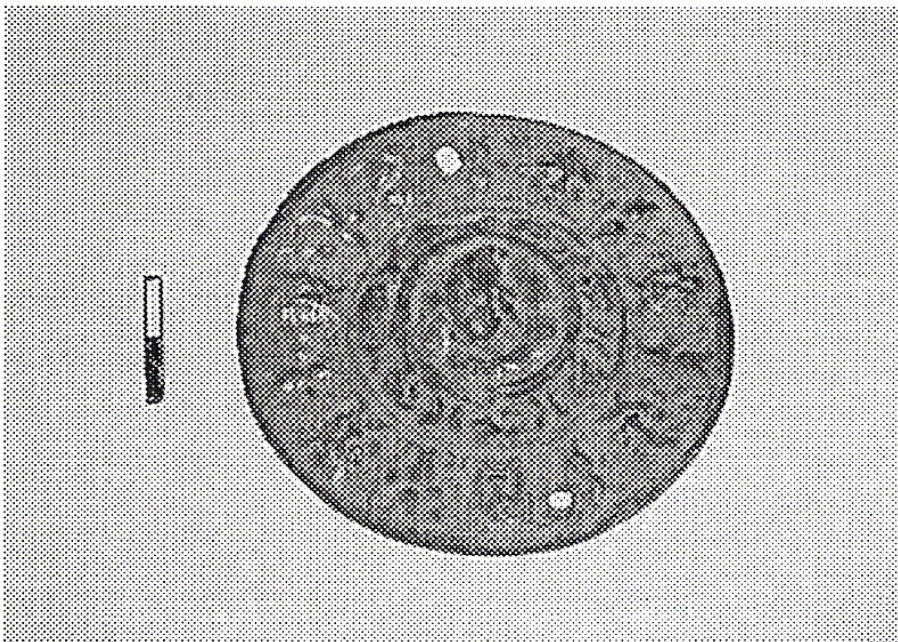


Item 8 : Most unexpected find This find was made in the Czech Republic about 5 weeks ago being a ring set with a small blue stone. This is my first ring in approx. 750 that was NOT found near a swimming area. ...and it being found thousands of miles from home, and on another continent, is the cherry on top! Sorry for the quality of the picture.



Item 9 : Best coin find in another country Found in Norfolk, England, it is described as an Antoninimus. Debased Silver. Postumus. 259 - 268 AD. I wrote an article for our local Treasure Talk newsletter on my 4-day hunting experience in Norfolk in 2000 and this is what I had to say on finding this coin...

The field that I hunted the whole morning was a 10-minute walk from the tent where our lunch was waiting, and considering my sparse finds, I decided to push through without eating. It must have been one of the best decisions I have ever made, because digging in the soft wet soil after a good signal, I recovered a small coin. Cleaning the soil from it, I immediately recognized it as a ROMAN COIN! . I was completely stunned. I got up from my knees, looked at the coin, and slowly kneeled down again, my mouth opening and closing without a whisper. The coin was later identified as an Antoninimus - Debased Silver. Postumus. 259 - 268 AD

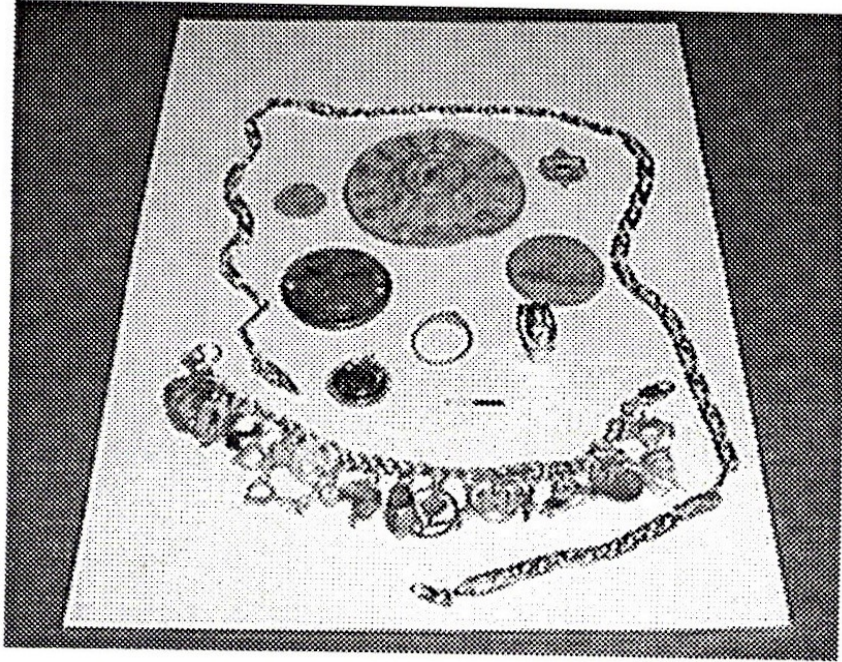


Item 10 : Best artefact found in another country Also found in England, this is a horse bridle mount... This is what I had to say in the abovementioned article in our local newsletter ...

"...I suddenly got a solid, but very deep signal. After digging down for almost 12 inches, I nearly gave up, but a last scoop of soil produced a strange artifact that I could not identify. It was disc shaped, dark green with age, and about 6 centimeters in diameter. There were also some strange markings/figures on it. Carefully rubbing the soil from it I saw to my amazement that some gold colored gilding was visible. I dropped my detector and quickly made for the (finds-) tent to get some expert advice. It was immediately identified as a 17th century gilded bridle boss - a decoration that was put on the forehead of a ("special") horse in the olden days. It was one of the best finds of the day!"

Here is its description by a British Museum ..."Post Medieval. Gilded cast copper alloy bridle mount. Circular bossed at center. Intricate molded decoration. A hooded/helmeted figure appears within a circular field on the top off the boss. The sides of the boss are decorated with flowers and scrolls. The flange is decorated with alternating foliate heads and double acanthus motifs. Opposed holes in flange for attachment pins. Diameter 67mm. 17th century.

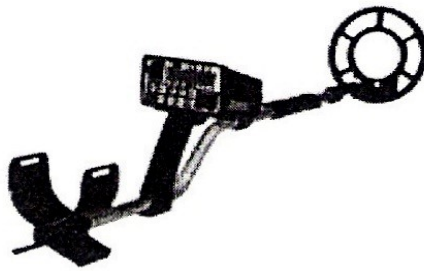
And a last picture of the ten finds...hope you enjoyed them !



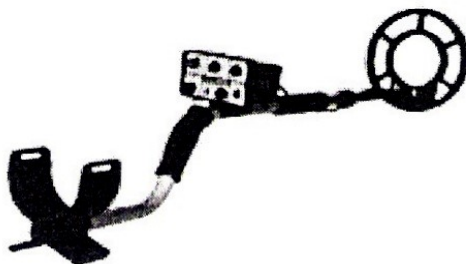
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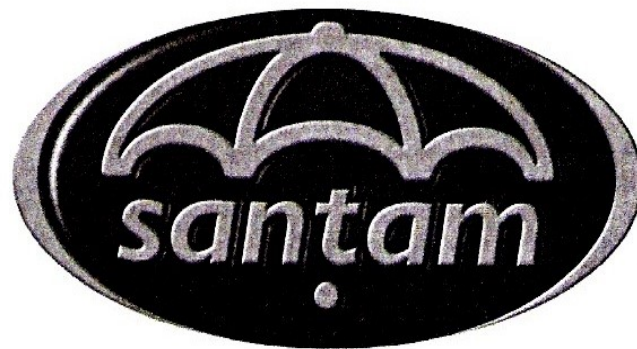


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