

Treasure Talk

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

Second Quarter 2004 Tweede Kwartaal

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



Victorian Gold Locket



Join our NEW International Metal Detecting Group – see inside for details

Letter from the Editor / Brief van die Redakteur

Dear reader

The sad news is that this will be the last issue of *Treasure Talk*. After Lukas van der Merwe started *Treasure Talk* and published two issues, I took over as editor at the beginning of 1999. After publishing approximately 24 issues, the editorship and publishing of *Treasure Talk* are now open to anyone that is interested.

The good news however, is that we have started a new international metal detecting group with our own forum where all metal detecting hobbyists are very welcome. Instructions how to read and post messages on this forum are supplied on the last (inside) page of this issue of *Treasure Talk* - Please join us online at <http://members3.boardhost.com/Charles.C/>

Kind regards and a big thank you to **Santam Ltd** as our sponsor since 1999 and everyone that contributed to *Treasure Talk* – you all know who you are...

Pierre Nortje
Editor

Beste leser

Die slegte nuus is dat hierdie die laaste uitgawe van *Treasure Talk* sal wees. Nadat Lukas van der Merwe twee uitgawes gepubliseer het, het ek oorgeneem as redakteur in 1999 en ongeveer 24 uitgawes van *Treasure Talk* gepubliseer. Die redakteurskap en publiskasie daarvan is nou beskikbaar vir enige persoon wie daarin belangstel sou stel.

Die goeie nuus is dat ons nou 'n nuwe internasionale metaalverklikking groep gestig het met ons eie forum – almal is meer as welkom. Op die laaste bladsy word inligting verskaf hoe u boodskappe kan lees en stuur op die forum by <http://members3.boardhost.com/Charles.C/>

Vriedelike groete en 'n groot dankie aan **Santam Bpk** as ons borg sedert 1999 en almal wat bygedra het tot *Treasure Talk* deur die jare – julle weet wie julle is ...

Pierre Nortje

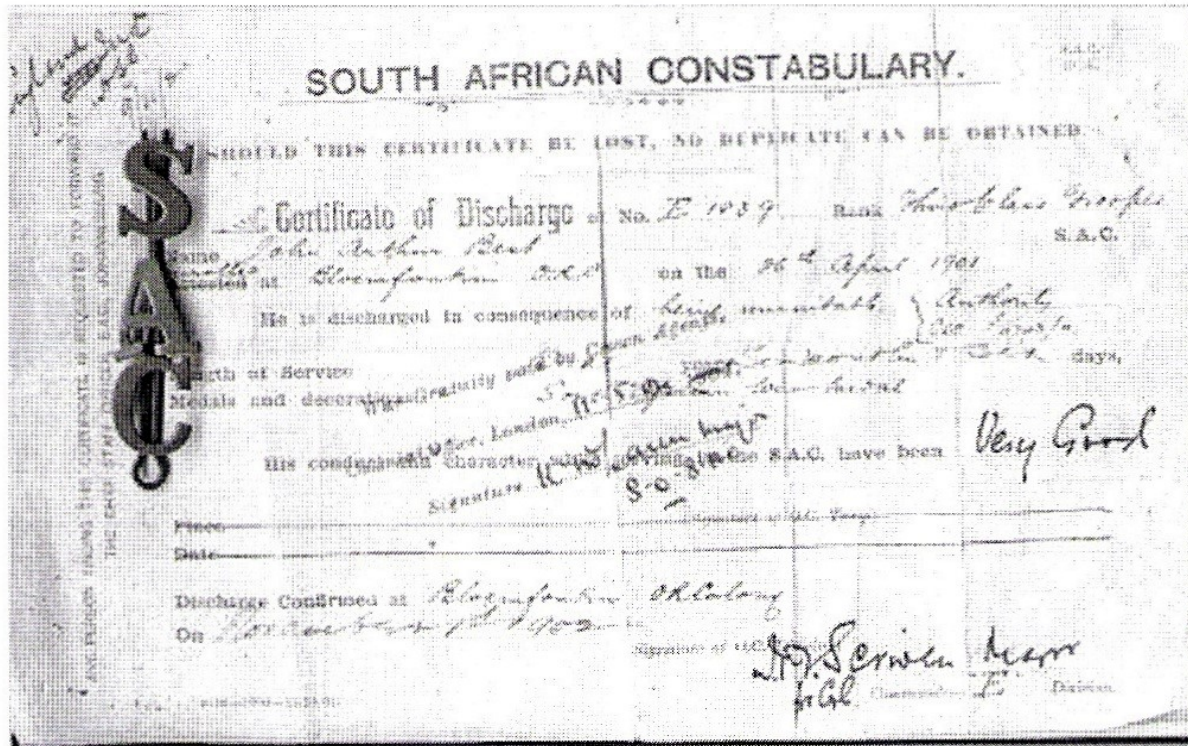
Redakteur

Treasure Talk. PO Box 816, Durbanville, 7551, South Africa
Tel / Fax (021) 9762260
E-Mail: Nortjem@iafrica.com

Letters from our Readers // Briewe van ons lesers

Hello Pierre

I enjoy hearing from you and look forward to seeing your post on Sir Charles forum It has been great hearing about you and your friends detecting trips to some of the battle sites. I guess the reason I am so interested in South Africa is because my wife's great uncle fought in the Boer war. I enclosed a pic of his discharge papers and his brass from the South African Constabulary.



HH God Bless

Harold L Baker
Nova Scotia
Canada

Hi Pierre

My name is Stephan Munro, I am 23 years old and I am interested in metal detecting. I found out about Treasure Talk from the coins and banknote catalogue I got at the SA Mint.

I live in Centurion and I am looking for people (or a club) to contact in Gauteng that can help me. I would also like to know where I can buy a metal detector and how much I can expect to pay. I am just sorry I am not close to a beach, so I would love to know about places you may know of where I can go.

I have always wanted to do metal detecting and hope to in the near future. I enjoyed the Robinson Lake article and hope to have the same results doing metal detecting.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Stephan Munro
Centurion

Letters from our Readers / Briewe van ons Lesers

Hi Pierre.

I have a Garrett got it in Pretoria some time ago and did fool around with it for some time. Got some Bullets and casings from the Anglo-Boer war at Rooihuyskraal (PTA) then moved to Cape town 4 years ago. I still sometimes take it to Blouberg beach to try and see what we can find--so far lots of beer tins , bottle caps, a piece of shipping, and that is it. I am interested in this as a hobby and maybe we can have a chat some time.

Keep up the good work

Johan Sevenster
Durbanville

Hi Pierre

Many thanks for the useful and very interesting links and for allowing me to contact you at your home address over the holiday weekend. I have just spoken to Phil (my gunsmith/dealer friend) and he has supplied me with the following information. There are two Mausers that I have asked him to set aside for me. One is a carbine and the other a rifle and both were supplied to the Boer forces in 1897.

CAVALRY CARBINE:

Manufacturer: DWM (Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabrik)

Serial No: 6643

Calibre: 7x57 mm

Shipped: 28 August 1897

Ship: "Europa"

Accepted: Pretoria 7 October 1897

Inscription (carved into left fore end): "G. J. (reversed) J (reversed).

BRITS"

RIFLE:

Manufacturer: DWM

Serial No: 4018

Calibre: 7x57 mm

Shipped: 6 June 1897

Ship: "Kruger"

Accepted: Pretoria 16 August 1897

Inscription: "P.M." over "Wy 42"

Note: The reversed "J" s referred to above – imagine that the curved part at the bottom of the letter faces to the right instead of to the left and you will have a good idea of what they look like

Note: It has been suggested to me that the "Wy 42" refers to the Commando group number (?) in which case, the rifle was originally issued to a member of that Commando with the initials P.M.

I hope all this helps, Pierre, and look forward very much to hearing from you again. Wouldn't it be incredible if between us we could identify the Boer combatants who actually carried these weapons and find out what happened to them? I'd love to be able to contact their descendants to see if any old photographs have survived and to send them pictures of their ancestors' rifles. A bit of a long shot, I admit, but isn't that what the Boers and their Mausers were famous for?

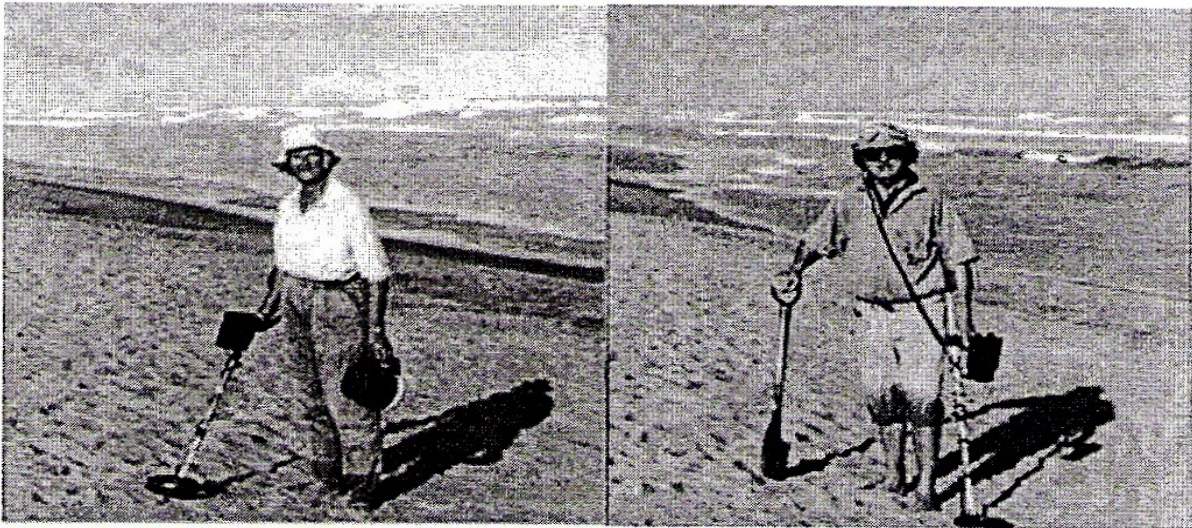
Kindest regards and have a lovely Easter break. Speak to you soon.

Brian
England

Two South Africans Detecting in Canada

Posted by Pierre (South Africa) on 19/2/2004, 11:53 am

Two friends of mine, John and Erica Mulder – both retired - recently returned from an extended metal detecting holiday in Canada after visiting their son who stays in Northern America. Of interest is that John was a coin dealer here in SA before his retirement a few years ago. Here is a picture of them taken locally at their favourite detecting beach...



John wrote me an article in Afrikaans about their visit, which I tried to translate in readable English. Here goes...

“We recently returned from a visit to Canada where we detected over a period of five months. There are a few things that one must consider when you detect in Canada, which is not related to the police problems we had during our detecting holiday in Spain two years ago.

1. In Canada there are thousands of metal detectorists that have detected almost every possible location with potential very thoroughly.
2. The people do not loose the amount of jewellery as they do in South Africa as in Canada there are hardly any waves as in our seas that “help” people to loose their valuable jewellery items.

The result is that the Canadians have another approach to detecting as some of us in SA do not have – that is that they very highly rate the cultural and historical items and artefacts that they find – which is a proud feather in their cap.

Other things that we found fascinating were when we visited a MD club gathering, a guy entered a few bottle tops (with the old-time cork inside) for the find of the month competition. Concerning coin-shooting, they are very proud

(like us) if they find coins from the early 1900s.

The issue of research that is so often mentioned in the Western and Eastern Treasures Magazine is a necessity, as in North America there are very few public areas that have not been detected.

In the five months that we detected in Canada, we only found one gold ring (Erica did), a few silver rings, lots of junk jewellery and many toys (see photo).



Some “eyes-only” toy finds

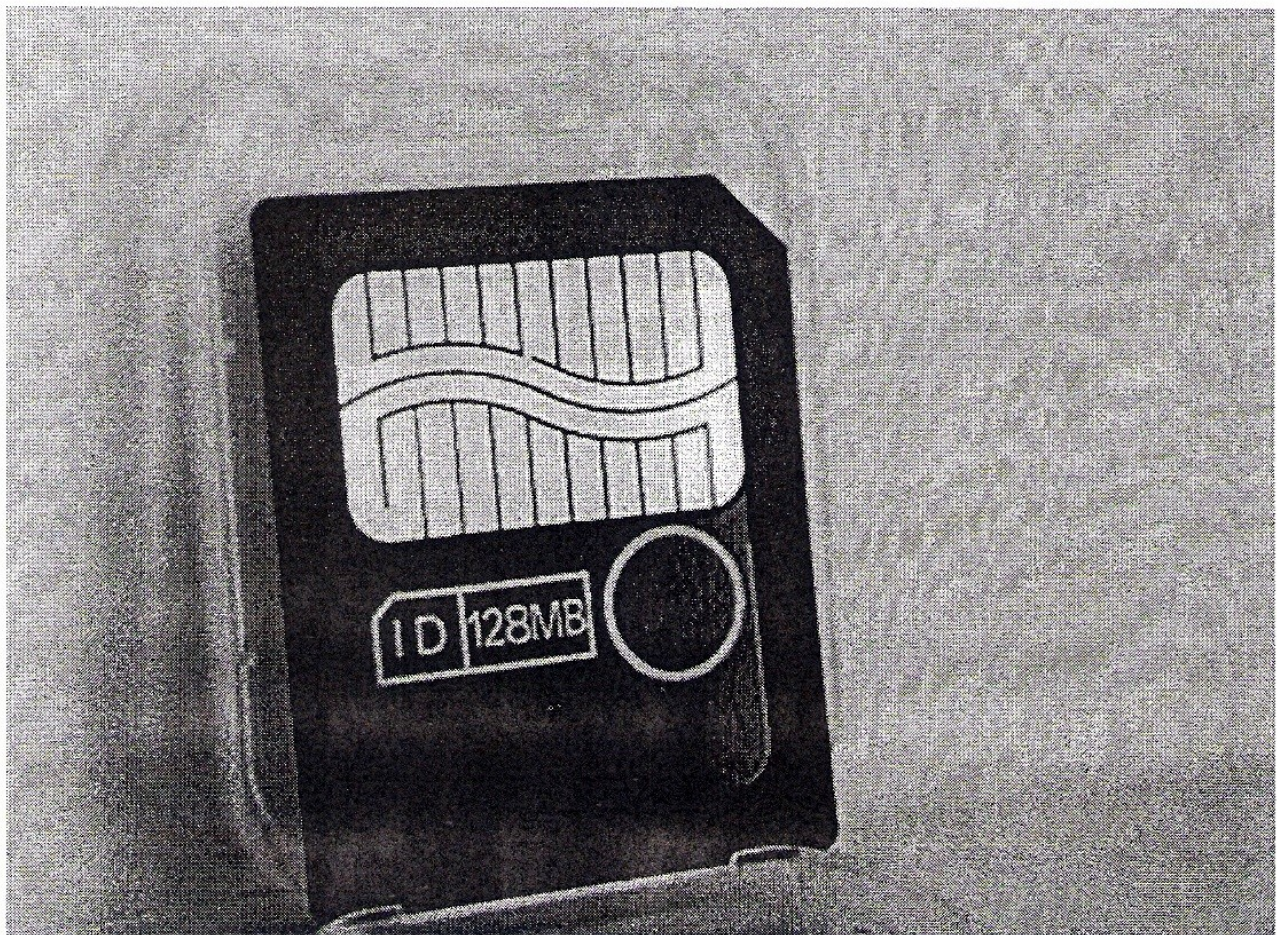
On average we found 12\$ per day and also the following items – list not complete: -

- Two cell phones
- Three purses
- A valuable pen and pencil set
- A laser light
- Two walky talkies
- Thirty sunglasses
- Five woman’s watches – the best being Gucci and Citizen (of which three were later stolen from our baggage!)
- A digital camera memory card, 128 megabytes - value 70\$ – see photo
- Two British pounds
- One 5\$ gambling chip – see photo

- Six early Canadian one cents: 1935 to 1952 – see photo
- One silver George Rex V 1918 five cent piece
- Three USA Wheat cents
- Lots of keys, etc, etc



Canadian cent dated 1935 and an unknown token



A digital camera memory card, 128 megabytes - value approx \$70

The best DAILY coin finds of the trip were 50\$, 46\$ and 30 \$ respectively.

I enclose a few photos as well as a competition circular from the Club in Kelowna.

Regards

John and Erica Mulder
Back in warm South Africa

And a last pick of the gambling chip – sorry we could not use it to make a few million dollars at a Canadian Casino!!

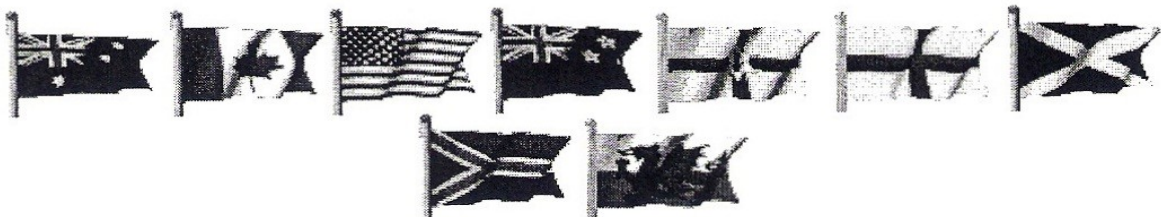


The International Metal Detecting Group

Welcome to the International Metal Detecting Group.



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WE SHALL PASS THROUGH THIS WORLD BUT ONCE, ANY GOOD THING THEREFORE THAT WE CAN DO, OR ANY KINDNESS WE CAN SHOW TO OUR FELLOW CREATURES, LET US DO IT NOW, DO NOT DEFER OR NEGLECT IT FOR WE SHALL NEVER PASS THIS WAY AGAIN"

<http://members3.boardhost.com/Charles.C/>

EERSTE BOEK IN AFRIKAANS OOR METAALVERKLIKKING

FIRST BOOK IN AFRIKAANS ON METAL DETECTING

John Mulder, een van ons gereelde bydraers tot *Treasure Talk* deur die jare, het vanjaar 'n boek oor metaalverklikking in Suid Afrika die lig laat sien. Dit is 'n eerste vir Suid Afrika en sal sekerlik oor 'n aantal jare as ware Africana beskou word. Slegs 500 kopieë is gedruk.

Die boek het 'n Christelike tema en vertel staaltjies van John en sy vrou Erica se metaalverklikking wedervaringe en avonture by Plettenbergbaai en ander strandoorde aan die Suid Afrikaanse suidkus.

Die boek het oor die honderd bladsye en is pragtig geset. Dit is beskikbaar teen R50 (alle kostes ingesluit). Stuur u tjek of kontant asook u posadres aan Pierre Nortje (nie *Treasure Talk* nie) by Posbus 816, Durbanville 7551 of skakel (021) 976-2260

English readers that can read Afrikaans must also please order a copy of this wonderful book - for R50 (all costs included), this is a real bargain for those that are interested in our great hobby.

Hierdie boek is ook 'n uitstekende geskenk vir vriende en familie wat hou van Christelike literatuur.

WONDERWERKE EN SKATTE VAN DIE LEWE

MATT. 7:7-

Soek en julle sal vind

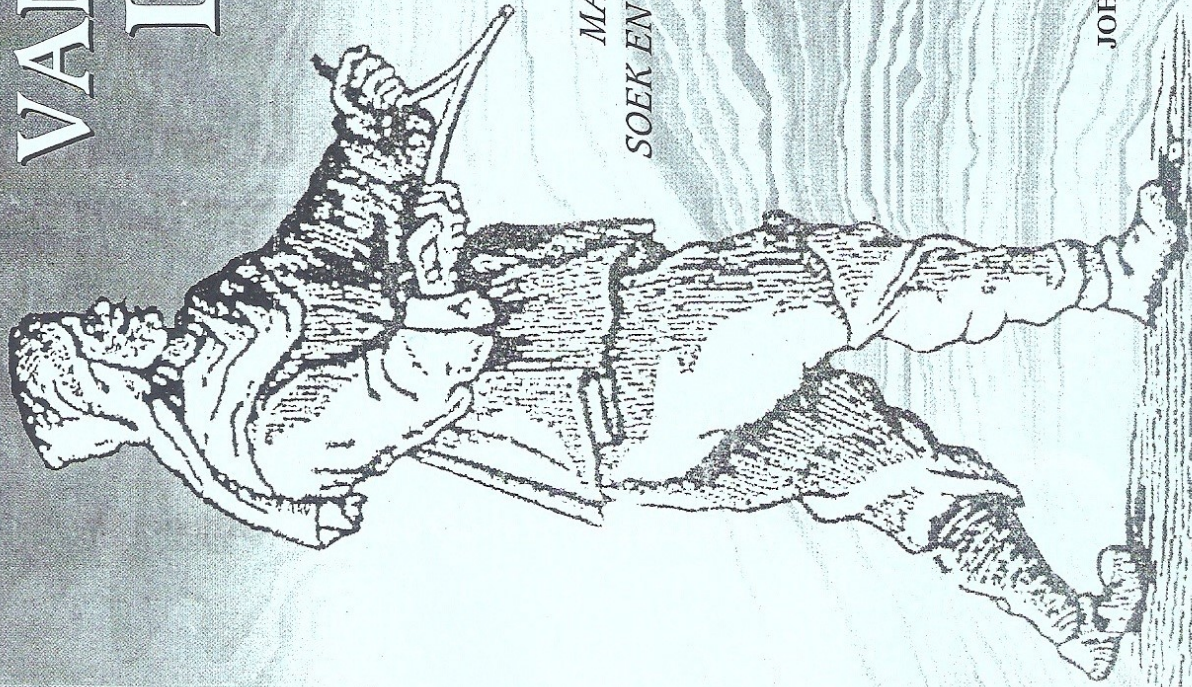
Deur John en Erica Mulder

Sien keersy van hierdie bladsy vir die voor en agterblad van die boek (die oorspronklike is in vol-kleur)

Please see opposite side of this page for the front and back page of the book (the original is in full colour)

Bestel asseblief vandag // Please order today

WONDERWERKE EN SKATTE VAN DIE LEWE



MATT. 7 : 7 -
SOEK EN JULLE SAL VIND

JOHN & ERICA MULDER



Victorian Gold Locket Found with Pictures

By Pat Cassidy

Here is a find that I am very proud of. It was found at Fish Hoek beach near Cape Town on Saturday. It is a Victorian solid gold locket circa approx 1875. Inside were two photos – one of a man and the other of a woman, but unfortunately the latter crumbled into dust when the jeweller opened it.

Here are two photographs of the locket



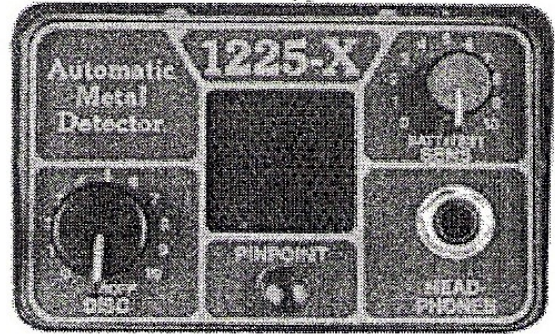
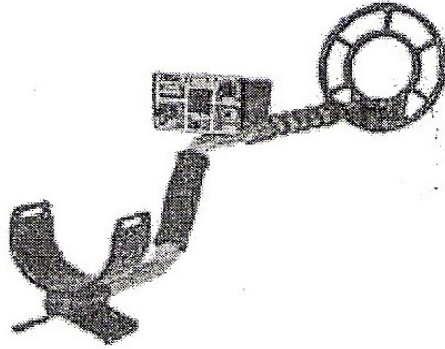
The locket



Locket opened

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Compilers of the South African Coin and Banknote Catalogue

🇳🇿 A Wild Goose Chase – and five gold rings later!



Posted By: Andy - South Africa <khandys@mweb.co.za> (netcache6.is.co.za)
Date: Wednesday, 3 March 2004, at 10:58 a.m.

A few years back I saw an advertisement in a local travel magazine advertising a resort in the East London area (That is the South African coastal city – not London in the UK!). The hotel is situated in a very small town of Haga-Haga 70 Km north east of East London. What caught my eye was that there was a tidal pool just in front of the hotel on the photograph. Every time some one would mention East London this ad would come to me.



Pic 1: The add that got the whole thing going

A short while back I decided to take some leave and go off in this direction. When the idea came up I immediately thought of the pool at Haga-Haga. Now Haga-Haga is about 1,100 kms from Cape Town and I had to make as many inquiries as I could about the area and pool. During these I was introduced to Clarence Coetzer from East London who is an avid detectorist and his son Andrew also does Scuba Detecting.

Well, apart from the one pool at Haga-Haga I learned that there were five other potentially diveable pools in the area. This all sounded great and on 19 February 2004 we headed off on our little expedition. We left home at 3:00 a.m. and arrived in the East London area at around 2:00 p.m.

The first thing I did, before going to Haga-Haga to check in, was to check out as many of the pools as possible so I could work out a dive program for the next few days. After this we headed to one of the resorts at Haga-Haga where we arrived late the afternoon. Nick and Cindy welcomed us at their small pub and we first had a few ice-cold beers before being shown to our chalet.



Pic 2: The Hotel prepares a Braai (Barbecue) on our arrival.

We were up at six the next morning and headed back to the pools in the East London area. The first pool I searched was the pool at Leaches Bay. I was very surprised at the amount of coins I was finding, a total of 72. Eleven of these came in one wallet. Many of the coins were from our previous series and I knew I was probably in virgin territory, there were signals all over. I was also quite surprised to find two gold rings, both 9 ct gold, the first 3,2 grams and the other 4,7 grams.

The second dive of the day was far less fruitful. We headed further West to a pool at Kidd's Beach (See photo below). The pool was murky and the sand was thick, I gave up after about a half-hour and only found one coin.



Pic 3: The tidal pool at Kidd's Beach

The following day I met up with Clarence and Andrew at a pool at Water World where we did a dive together.



Pic 4: A very large tidal pool at Water Word – East London



Pic 5: Left to Right - Myself, Clarence Coetzer and Andrew Coetzer



Pic 6: Andrew on his way to the pool

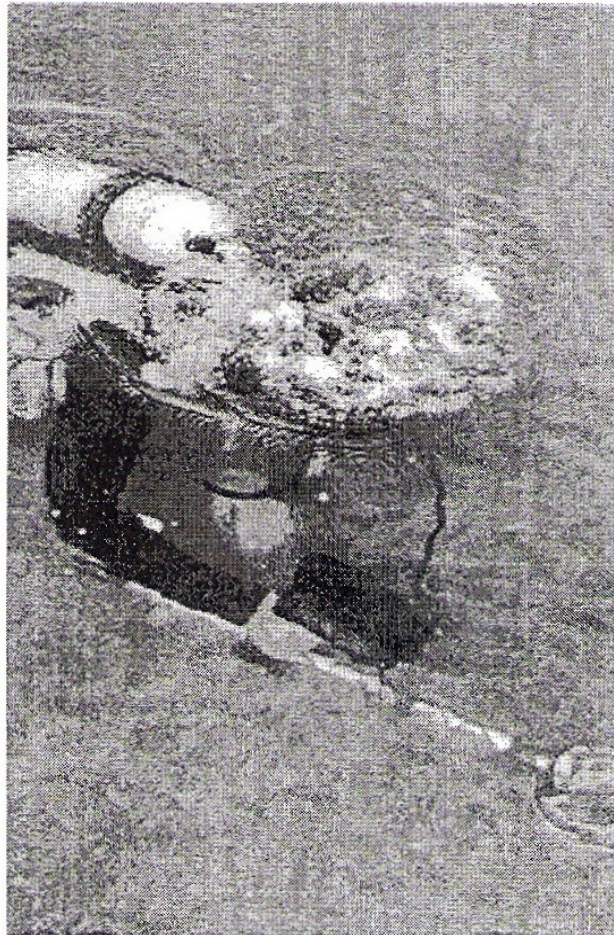
Andrew uses a Fisher Impulse as opposed to my Fisher CZ-20, but our finds were very similar. Andrew found 18 Coins and I found 16 coins. I also found a 9-ct gold ring of 4,3 grams.



Pic 7: A photo of myself at the Water World Pool

After the dive we said our good byes and I headed back to Leaches Bay pool. This time there was no gold, but I did manage to find a further 46 coins.

Sunday morning I finally dived in the pool at Haga-Haga, the very reason for my being there! But alas the cupboard was bare; not even a single coin was found. There were two more pools that I did not dive, the one at Gonubie (which has a concrete bottom and is emptied at every low tide) and the pool at Cintsa West (I just thought there was too much sand).



Pic 8: Myself while diving at Haga-Haga

So after the dive in the pool at Haga-Haga we packed and headed back to Port Elizabeth about 400 west of Haga-Haga.

Monday morning I dived in a pool at Willows Caravan Park in Port Elizabeth, but the area had been plagued by some thing we refer to as "Red Tide". This is when there is a sudden fluctuation in the sea temperature and millions of organisms die and cause the sea to turn red in colour. As result the oxygen levels fall and further sea creatures and plants are affected.

The pool was partially filled with kelp that had been washed into the pool as a result of the Red Tide. This made diving very difficult and I only found 8 coins.



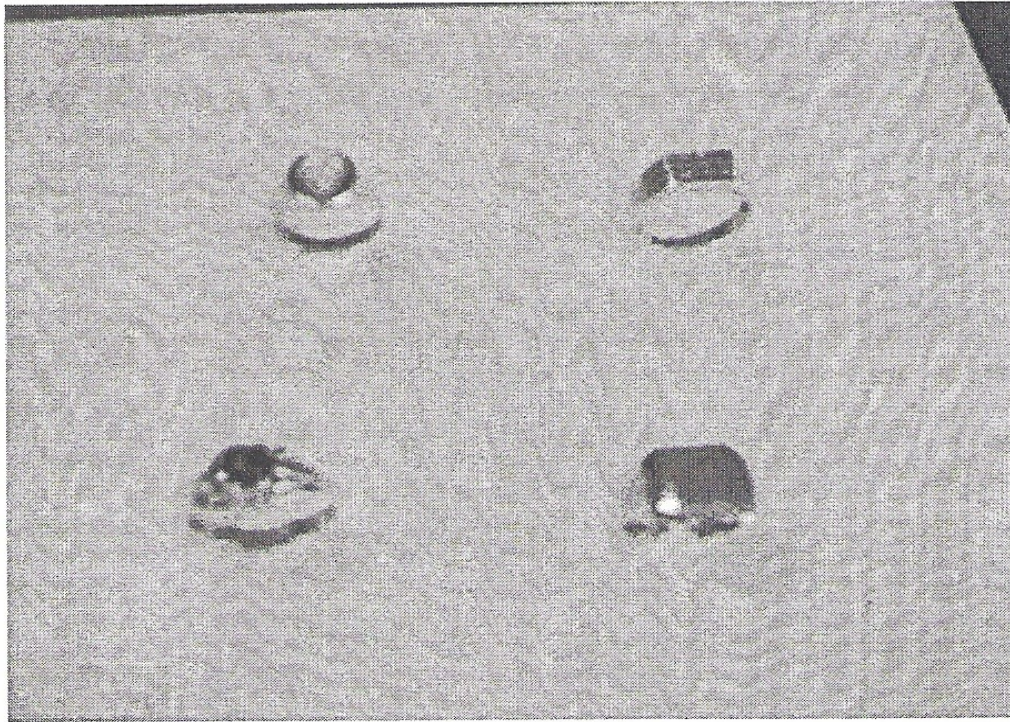
Pic 9 : After my dive at Willows Caravan Park

The other pool, also at the park was totally out for diving due to an incredible amount of the washed up kelp (see photo below).



Pic 10: The second tidal – See the red tinge to the water and dead kelp.

On Tuesday we were awaked by a terrific electric storm, the lightning and thunder was all around and so close. We had already decided to return home, but I had to do one more dive – storm or no storm. After a while the storm moved on and gave me the gap I was waiting for. I dived in an un-named pool further west. There was an amazing amount of junk, but I did manage to find a few coins and one 9-ct gold ring, set with a red stone, 4,1 grams.



Pic 10: The four gold rings found in East London & Port Elizabeth

And so it was back home, not entirely empty-handed. After a day of rest at home I went out for a dive on home ground and low and behold I found one more ring, a 9-ct gold 3,9 grams.

No matter how one looks forward to these trips, it is always good to be home!

There is an Afrikaans proverb which goes as follows – “Oos, Wes, Tuis, Bes” Translated it means “East, West, Home, Best!

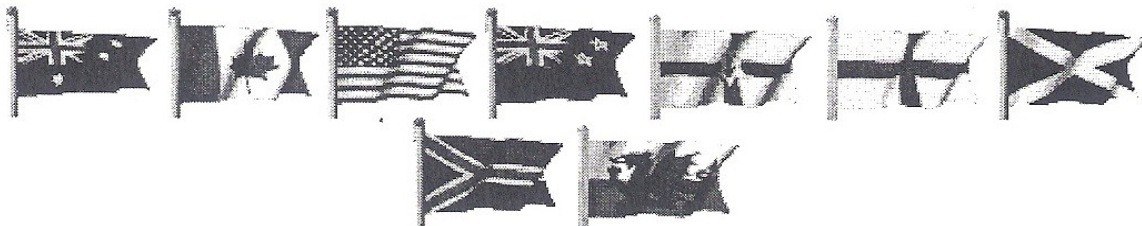
Regards

Andy (South Africa)



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Detecting Potchefstroom

Posted By: Lukas van der Merwe

Potchefstroom is a fairly large town in the Transvaal province in North Eastern South Africa. Located in a fertile farming region, Potchefstroom is the centre of one of the world's richest gold-mining districts. Uranium is also mined. The town has malt factories and timber and metal industries.

The oldest town in the Transvaal, Potchefstroom was founded in 1838 and served as capital of the Transvaal until 1860. The fort where British forces were defeated during the Transvaal rebellion of 1880-81 is now a national monument.

The British captured Potchefstroom during the South African War of 1899 to 1902.



Three generations of fighting boers (farmers)

The advanced troops of Big-Gen B.T. Mahon's 10th divisional cavalry occupied the town on 11 June 1900; it was entrenched for defence and garrisoned. It was evacuated on 8 August, the garrison marching to Rietfontein after destroying surplus and ammunition; the Boers reoccupied it.



Loading British wounded onto a carriage – see more on this later in this post

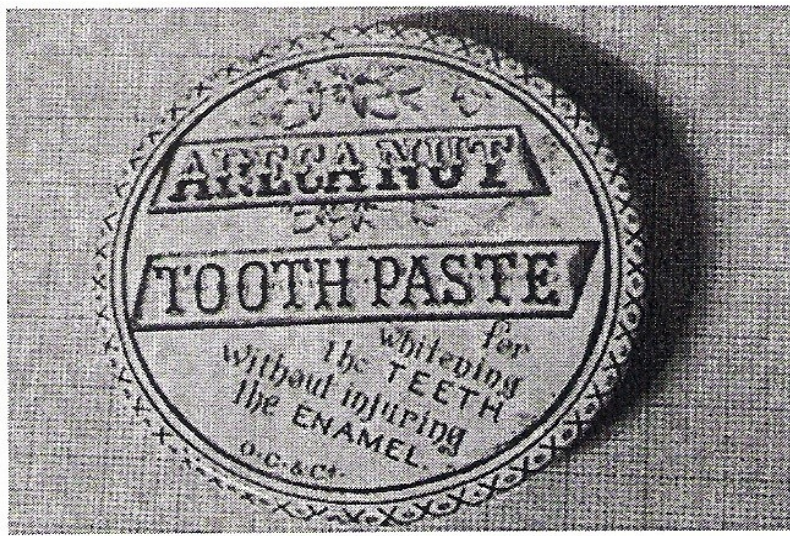
During this period it was visited by Chief-Comdt C.R. de Wet. On 10th September 1900 the town was surrounded by Maj-Gen A.F.Hart's column and 78 burgers taken prisoner; he evacuated the temporary garrison, which he had left there on 15 September. By January 1901, it was a base for the refitting and resupply of British columns operating in the western Transvaal.

Last Friday, myself and a few metal detecting friends decided to drive the 200 kilometres from Johannesburg to Potchefstroom for the weekend to do some searching on old British military sites from the Anglo Boer war era (1899 – 1902). Pierre wanted to join us, but could not get a short notice flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg.



Making ready for the hunt in the African veldt

To cut a long story short, we had a fantastic time ... Friday afternoon started off with me finding a Royal Engineers button, and whilst digging it, out came a Ceramic toothpaste lid - what a welcome find – see photo... We were camping next to the town dam and that night had a wonderful barbeque and finds were shown all around.



Ceramic toothpaste pot lid

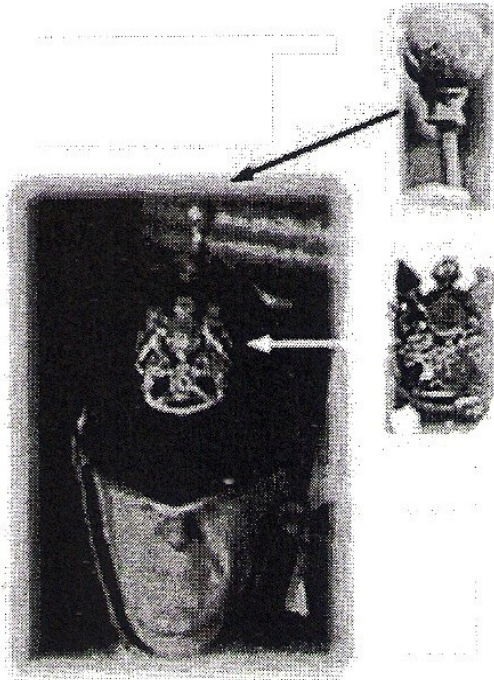
The next morning as the African sun came up, the detectors were already humming. One after the other, old buttons, spurs, regimental badges, etc came to light after more than a century in the ground. (The area were earmarked for low cost housing for black people so we would be the last people to detect this spot before modernisation took over)



Regimental badge



Edward VII badge – post 1902



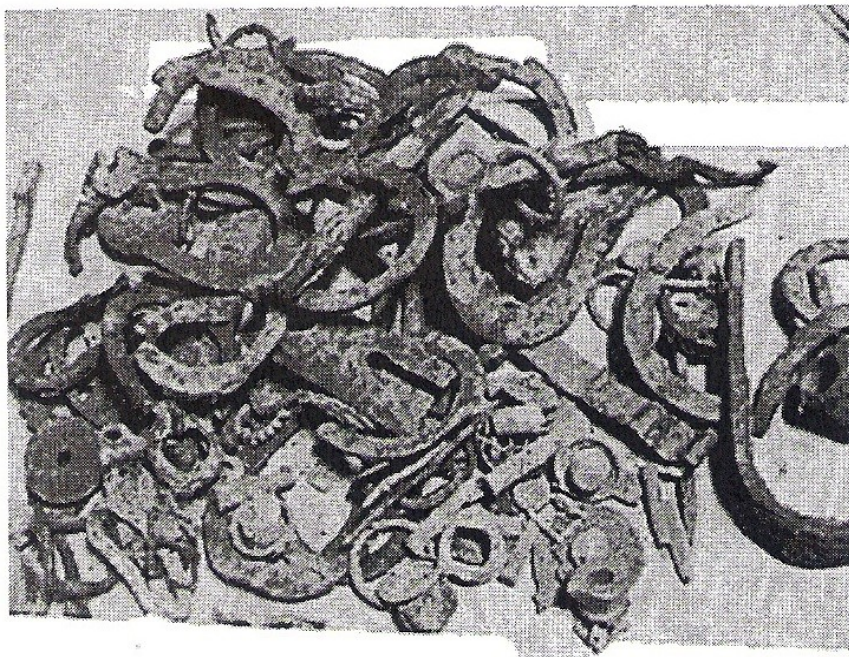
Where did what fit?

My second signal that morning was an Anna coin from India dated 1899 – probably bought over from India by an English soldier.



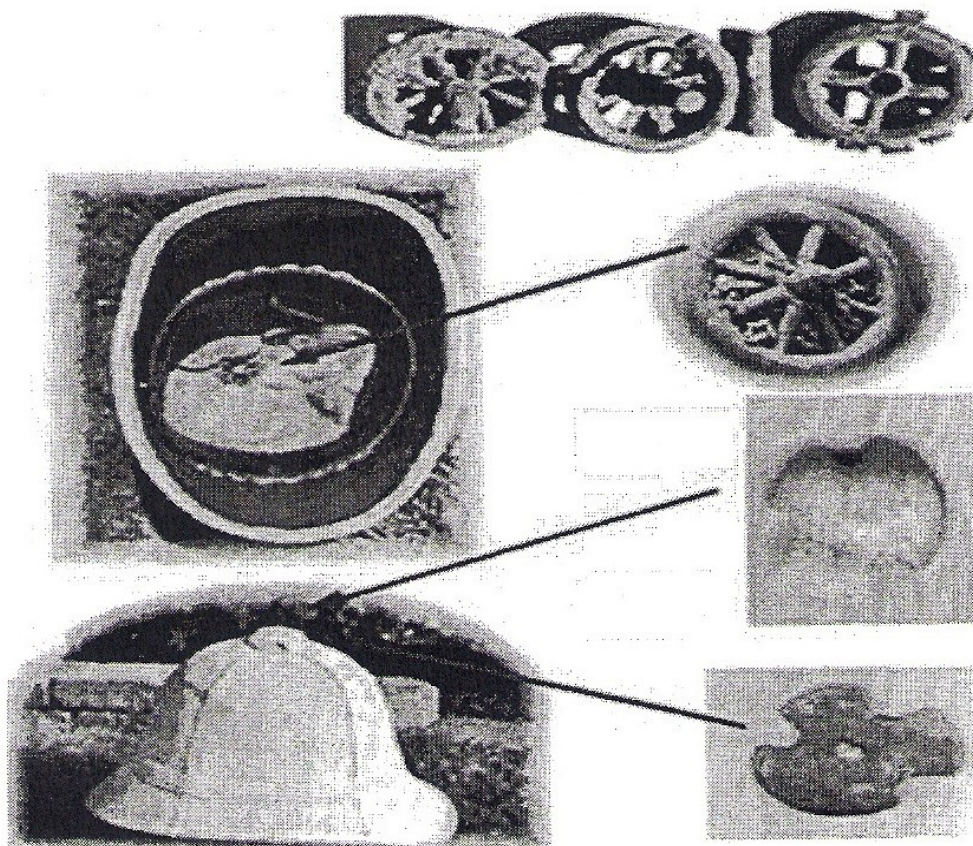
Belt buckle fitting

Then we stumbled on an old ash pit where hundreds of metal artefacts came to light – we think that it must have something to do with a military hospital, because “as the wounded came in, their uniforms were ripped from them and flying coins and buttons were the last thing on everyone’s mind as they treated the poor soldiers – the bloody uniforms were thrown on mail wagons and dumped at a near by ash pit “

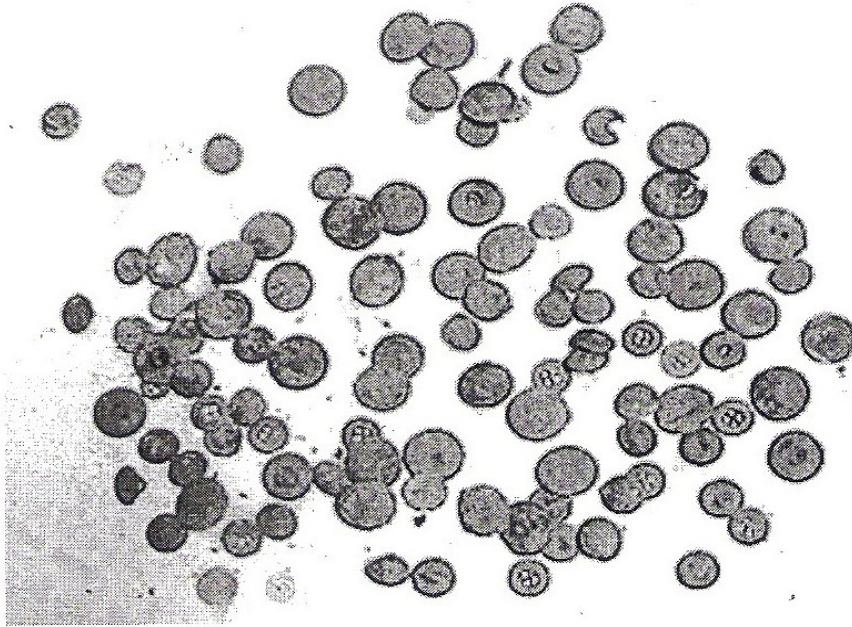


Some finds from the ash pit

Sunday morning really started well with us finding 60 British military buttons in no time.



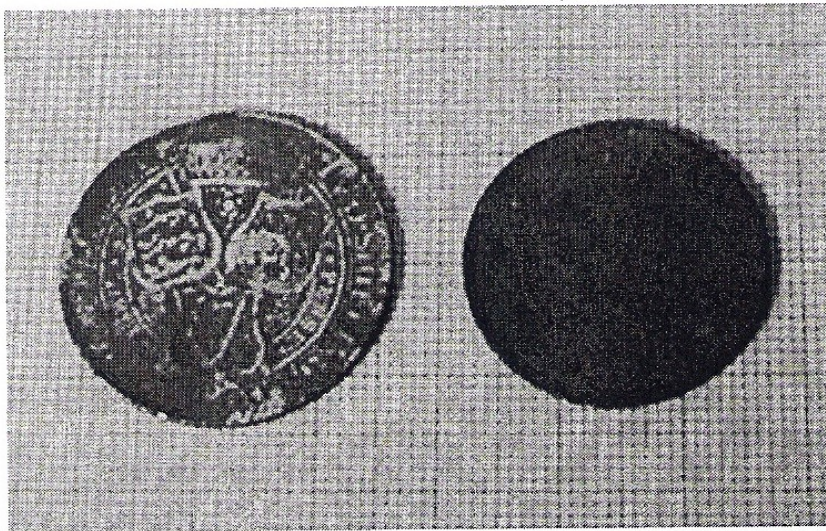
British Helmit Fittings found



Buttons aplenty

That afternoon we had a big barbeque (braai) in the veldt with 14 people attending of which 7 joined in the "diggings" When the sun started to set, we took the long trip back to Johannesburg – what a fantastic weekend and what a wonderful hobby!!

Here are a few more finds that we made



Unidentified coin – British shilling perhaps?



Regimental button

Hope you enjoyed this photo trip... Regards from Lukas

A Short History of Britain's Anglo-Saxon Settlements

By Charles Cater (Wales)

Much has been written of our Anglo-Saxon ancestors and our association with them. I would like to bring further reading to your notice and hoping that it will interest you. There has been several encouraging contacts regarding my writings on ANCIENT MEOLS, some saying that it is not usual for them to read of such things, but I suppose that it is all down to the fact that it is 'something different' to read, if you know what I mean. The recipient can make additions to this as long as it is relevant to the script. It also can be used for a school project keeping alive as to where we are originally from.

Some of us today have Saxon blood in us, somewhat diluted but nevertheless our forbears were never expelled from the island. Geologically, Britain presents two distinct parts; that is a line drawn from the mouth of the Tees to the mouth of the Exe. This divergence explains the different course of development in each region until the Industrial Revolution, which exploited the minerals and altered the traditional economic balance. In the prehistoric age of Britain it formed part of the northern plain of Europe, and it was a geological accident that had turned a river bed into the English Channel, the lowlands of Southern England have their counterpart in the lowlands of Northern France and, historically speaking, they have never been separated.

Far from being a serious barrier, although it was always useful to repel any would be invaders, the channel has always been easy means of communication, far simpler to cross than mountain ranges or forestlands or swamps. It must be borne in mind that, to those who came from the eastern shores of the North Sea, the channel gave access equally to the lands on either side. The successive waves of Celtic peoples crossed the narrow seas, as before them some of the Neolithic peoples had done. On both sides of the Channel the Belgic Celts had made their settlements before Caesar made his two armed invasions in 55 and 54 b.c. To the Germanic tribes who occupied the northwest provinces of the Roman world, both north and south coasts of the Channel were similarly exposed. Many Britons, who had been driven from Britain, found shelter in Armorica, and the language spoken in Brittany was basically that which was spoken in Cornwall until the eighteenth century.

It is not surprising that the Romans should look beyond the channel to the lowlands of England. In the event this gently undulating country with very few hilly districts no more than six hundred feet, accessible in most parts, very fertile soil, was no obstacle to the Roman armies after the Claudian invasion of 43 a.d. Resistance was overcome very quickly and work on the pacification completed they built forts that were constructed in the first stages of conquest which must have been abandoned at an early stage, there are only now slight traces seen of their existence. So the lowland zone became an area of civil occupation, in which the process of romanisation could be exerted to its fullest. The mountain chain from Cornwall to North Scotland presented a very different problem, to which a very different answer had to be given. Probably Claudius, so the history books tell us, and certainly Agricola, had thought that the subjugation of the whole of Britain was feasible, and for a time it must have seemed that success would have been possible.

The Dumnonian peninsular of Devon and Cornwall gave no trouble and, as we know, the Romans did not hesitate to establish villa estates around the coast, though they left the hills and moorlands to the Celts. Wales had been brought under control by the time Agricola became governor in 77 and on the whole remained so thereafter, and a score of forts were erected to keep it under supervision. It seems that these were abandoned during the second century. The Pennine Dales did not escape their attention; once the hill fortresses of the native tribes had been overcome the surrounding countryside could no longer offer resistance. The advance along the Cheviots, however, met with vacillating fortune. Agricola in 83 marched into Perthshire, defeated the Caledonians at Mons Graupus, and constructed garrison-forts at those strategic points where the Grampian passes came upon the Scottish plain.

Whatever plans he had made to further conquer Caledonia, as Wales had been conquered before it, we can only surmise, as imperial politics brought about his recall to Rome. No succeeding period proved to be so suitable and favorable for such an enterprise, and the northern frontier of Roman Britain swayed back and forth between later constructed walls; it retreated from the Scottish lowlands in 122 a.d. to Hadrian's wall, which formed a seventy three mile cordon from the Tyne to the Selway Firth; it went forward again in 139-142 to the Antonine Wall, stretching thirty-seven miles across the other slender waist of Britain between the Forth and the Clyde; it returned about 180-185 a.d. to Hadrian's Wall, where it remained until that line of defense eventually collapsed, or, more probably, was abandoned on strategic grounds in 383 a.d.

The absorbing interest of the Roman Occupation lies in watching the Roman political genius at work in shaping the provincial government, we seem enclosed in its effect to this day, for it is the impact of their coming that reaches out in most of which we hold sacred. There must have been some influence in the way in which the Roman Empire was administered, which molded itself into the British way of life. We only need to look around us to see the legacy they encumbered upon us. From the political point of view the northern military zone can be left out of the argument. It is not that romanisation did not take place there. A certain measure was inevitable, for the army bases and depots attracted many hangers-on and called for a busy commerce, which was evidently not restricted to the south side of the wall alone. As the practice of drafting troops from abroad was dropped gradually from the beginning of the second century in favor of local recruitment, the native soldiery on their discharge from service carried their knowledge of Roman ways with them to the farms on which they were settled outside the forts. The urban life proper did not flourish, and only as late as the 1930's had there been found near Durham the remains of a Roman villa beyond the neighborhood of York. Romanised life remained necessarily superficial and, associated as it was with the army; it also disappeared with the army. Rome could be no more than an intruder in a predominantly Celtic environment.

The position was quite different in the civil zone of Southern Britain. We cannot appreciate the principles that directed Roman policy unless we first ask ourselves how many foreigners were imported into the country and what proportion of the total number of inhabitants did they form. Obviously this question cannot be addressed except in its broadest sense; still, however much the more learned ones may vary in their estimates, the general conclusion seems to be beyond cavil. Including the soldiers, who were early drawn away to guard the northern frontier, and the administrative and financial officials of the central government, and the traders, the immigrants did not exceed 100,000 in an area whose native population had been placed at around a million. The Romans were too wise and experienced to believe that they could remain simply a ruling class for too long, holding down resentful subjects by force.

That could be no more than an initial stage if their regime was to endure. Therefore, after they had, as it were, 'advertised' their wares by showing the Britons four examples of romanised life on a level comparable with that of other parts of the Empire by building the 'coloniae' of Colchester, Lincoln, York and Gloucester, they set themselves to seek the co-operation of the Britons. Roman influence had been strong in the south of Briton before the invasions, and the rapid development of Roman civilization would have been impossible except on the basis of co-operation, and this co-operation, accepted for their part by the Britons, permitted them to make their own contributions so that the final result was not pure Roman but Romano-British. The relative distribution of population and romanization was settled by geography, and the Romans made no determined effort to become the masters of their physical environment.

When the sites of excavated villas are plotted on the map, it can be shown that they appear as a U-shaped tract, extending from Lincolnshire through Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex to Kent, westwards along the counties between the Thames and the Channel coast as far as Dorset, and northwards through Somerset and along the Cotswolds into the Severn valley. Within this tract lay the Midlands, which at that time was covered in forestlands and marshlands, which naturally was the most thinly populated part of the lowland zones. It is evident that, though these lands already laid under contribution in pre-Roman times were more intensely cultivated to meet Imperial demands, little attempt was apparently made to extend the acreage of arable and pasture, and the long and arduous fight against nature was left to be the unspectacular and magnificent achievement of the Anglo-Saxons Centuries later. Apparently only in the fenlands did the Romans apply their engineering skill to construct great catch water drains to reclaim land for the plough? The region of Norfolk and Suffolk, isolated by the Fens; the forest of the Weald in Kent; the swamps of the lower Ouse and Upper Trent around the Humber estuary; such continued always to repel settlement.

🚩 Beach-nights can be full of Platinum Surprises 📷

By: Dave and Wendy (South Africa)

Another spring tide with the full moon shining over the sea. I stood on the Umhlanga Beach on the subtropical south east coast of South Africa. It is an hour before low tide. My wife Wendy and I had driven from Durban to check the beach. I could see Wendy busy detecting further along the high water mark.

We had been finding coins but as the beach had washed down they were mostly rusty coins as well as one silver ring. With one more glance at the moon I moved down into the wet sand. I started a pattern in the wet sand opposite the swimming area. Out came a Five Rand coins followed by a few one rand coins.



South African Five Rand coins – our highest denomination coin

Suddenly my Impulse gave a hard signal. I dug into the sand and threw the sand onto the beach. A flash of silver in the moonlight – was this another coin? I picked it up and as the sand fell away a thrill of excitement ran down my spine. In my hand lay a silver ring with the sparkle of a stone reflected in the moonlight. I held the ring up in the moonlight. Why was it not gold? Surely it must be a cheap silver ring with Zirconia's! I called to Wendy and she hurried over to me "What do you think of this ring?" I asked. Wendy had a look and replied, "It looks like cheap metal with zirconia's" "Well, we will have another look at home" I said as I put it in my collecting bag.



A couple enjoying a swim at Umhlanga beach

One of the greatest lessons I have learned about night detecting is that not to try and assess finds on beaches at night. Once home and in good light the proper assessment can be made. After another hour and some more coins we decided to head for home.

At home after washing and sorting our coins I then concentrated on the ring. It certainly was a bright silver colour. Too bright to be silver. When I looked at the main stone through my magnifying glass I noticed that the main facet was unscratched and the edges sharp and not burred. "I think this is a diamond" I said, "and maybe we are looking at a Platinum ring " Wendy, who like myself, had never found a platinum ring said "I'm not so sure, it still looks like cheap metal"

We weighed the pros and cons and I became convinced that the stone was a diamond. Wendy became very excited and insisted we take the ring first thing in the morning to be tested. Next morning Wendy paced impatiently whilst I finished my breakfast. Off we went and the jeweller confirmed it was a .65-carat diamond with four small diamonds on each side of the main stone set in Platinum. Their estimated value was R8000 – R10 000 (more than a 1000 USA dollars).



A Pic of the Platinum Ring

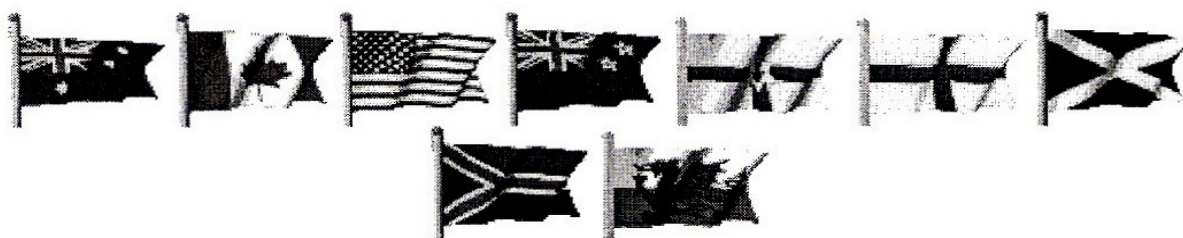
What a pleasant surprise from a moonlight night on the beach. Finds like this is what makes detecting such a gripping hobby. Who knows what will turn up next?

Keep swinging that coil – you may be next!

Regards

Dave and Wendy van Rensburg
Durban
South Africa

How to join and participate in the The International Metal Detecting Group



Instructions how to read and post messages on the FORUM at

<http://members3.boardhost.com/Charles.C/>

| <i>English Instructions</i> | <i>Afrikaansê Instruksies</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. Type the website address (see above) into your internet website address block and click on “enter”. <u>You do NOT have to pay anything or register.</u> That is all! You can now view posts and pictures from other metal-detecting hobbyists from around the world.</p> | <p>1. Tik die webtuiste adres (sien hierbo) in jou internet adres blokkie en klik op “enter”. <u>Dit is gratis en jy hoef NIE te registreer nie.</u> Dit is al! Jy kan nou ander metaalverklikker entoesiaste se briewe, fotos en artikels van reg oor die wêreld lees.</p> |
| <p>2. If you wish to post yourself it is very easy – just follow the following steps</p> <p>2.1 Click on [<u>Post a Message</u>]</p> <p>Type in the following blocks the relevant information: -</p> <p>Your Name: Your Email (this is optional): Subject: Message:</p> <p>2.2 Click on the “Post” button – that is all!</p> | <p>2. As jy self wil pos is dit baie maklik – volg bloot die volgende maklike stappe:-</p> <p>2.1 Klik op [<u>Post a Message</u>]</p> <p>Tik in die volgende blokkies die relevante inligting:-</p> <p>Jou Naam: Jou e-pos (dit is opsioneel): Onderwerp: Boodskap:</p> <p>2.2 Klik nou op die “Post” knoppie – dit is al!</p> |

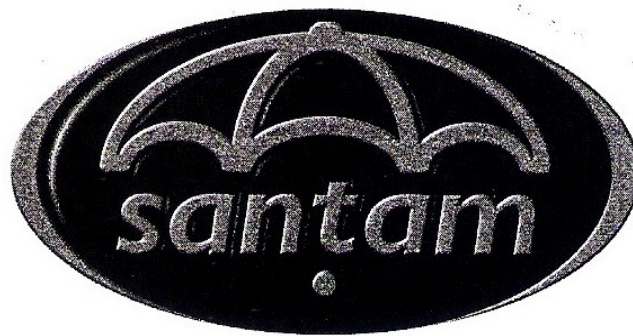
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