Note on the ancient sites in the area occupied by the British Salonika Force during the campaign 1916-1918
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Citer ce document / Cite this document :

doi : 10.3406/bch.1916.1479
http://www.persee.fr/doc/bch_0007-4217_1916_num_40_1_1479

Document généré le 17/05/2016
NOTE ON THE ANCIENT SITES
IN THE AREA OCCUPIED BY THE BRITISH SALONIKA
FORCE DURING THE CAMPAIGN 1916—1918 (1).
(Pl. X).

Most of the ancient sites in the area occupied by the
British army in Macedonia during the campaign of 1916-
1918 are shown on the archaeological map produced by
the Archaeological Section of the Armée d’Orient. There
remain, however, a few sites not shown on this map. These
I have dealt with in full in the Annual of the British
School at Athens, Vol. XXIV. At the suggestion of M.
Picard, Director of the French School at Athens, I have
drawn up for publication herein a brief account of these
sites in order that there should be no hiatus in the com-
plete archaeological survey of the area occupied by the
Armée d’Orient.

1. The Langaza Valley. In the western extension of
this valley which lies between the valley of the river
Galiko and the west end of Lake Langaza and is divided
into two parts by the rocky scarp of Deve Kran, there
are five sites which belong to the group shown on the
map as Baldza, Guvezne and Aivatli. These sites are
located as follows: (2)

(1) [La Rédaction du BCH remercie l'École Anglaise d'Athènes, qui
a bien voulu lui adresser cette note; elle est destinée à compléter —
pour la zone orientale de la Macédoine, occupée d'Octobre 1915 à
Septembre 1918 par l'Armée Britannique,—les renseignements contenus
dans l'article de M. L. Rey (ci-dessus, p. 257 sqq.). Le carton de la
planche X a été établi d'après la carte des sites de la Macédoine
(pl. VIII-IX). Les emplacements qui y sont portés ne sont pas, toute-
fois d'intérêt uniquement protohistorique; certains de ces sites n'ont
été habités qu'à l'époque du plein développement de la civilisation
grecque.

(2) The coordinates given in each case refer to the military map
produced by the French Service Topographique and the British 8th
Field Survey Coy. conjointly, of the scale 1:50,000.
(a) Drimiglava. (Point 1462/1408). On the Northern side of the village is a large flat topped mound upon which several houses are built. At its Western end, which falls abruptly to the hollow along which the Drimiglava-Guvezne track runs are two windmills. Large quantities of pottery cover the site, consisting for the most part of prehistoric hand-made and pebble-polished wares. I could find no trace of classical remains.

(b) At the 20th kilometre stone on the Salonika-Serres Road. (1) (Point 1506/1425). A small flat topped mound rises from the plain at this point on the west side of the road. It is of the same type and contains the same pottery as the mounds at Drimiglava, Tumba and Saraj in this valley.

(c) Yenikeuy. (Point 1473/1472). Just North-West of the little hamlet of Yenikeuy on the Northern slopes of Deve Kran there is a small flat-topped mound in a commanding position overhanging the gorge of the Kuru Dere and astride the road that connects the Vardar valley with the Northern part of the Langaza valley. The mound is of exactly the same type as the preceding. In addition to prehistoric wares, however, I found Hellenic and Roman pottery on the surface of the mound and it is evident from its position that this site was a place of some strategic importance.

(d) Gnoina. (Point 1492/1444). On the West side of the hamlet of Gnoina or Paleohora is a large flat-topped mound of the same type as all the preceding mounds. It was used as an advanced redoubt in the original lines of defence of Salonika and was heavily entrenched. Prehistoric hand-made and unpainted wares are abundant but Hellenic wares are also common. Several large Hellenic pithoi were unearthed in the trenches.

(1) This mound is identical with that given by Mr Wace in B. S. A. XX. p. 129 as B. 23.
(e) *Near kilometre stone 34 on the Salonika-Serres road.* On the South side of this road near this point is a flat-topped mound. I was, however, unable to visit the mound and cannot therefore give its actual position. I have no record of anything found there.

2. **The Struma Valley.** I was only able to examine this valley in detail on the South-West side of the river Struma. The upper part of the valley between Lake Butkovo and the Salonika-Serres road is, as might be expected, almost devoid of ancient sites. In the lower part of the valley, on the other hand, there are many sites and there are a few in the central part of the valley between Serres and Orljak. These sites from the upper to the lower end of the valley are as follows:

(a) *Dragos.* (Point 1728/1738 approximately). There are three small grave mounds, probably of the classical period just west of the village.

(b) *At the 70th kilometre stone on the Salonika-Serres road.* (Point 1776/1658). On the West side of the road at this point is a very large walled town-site several acres in extent (1). On the East side of the town facing Serres is a gate of Hellenic squared masonry. On the South-west side is a small postern or water-gate opening on to the stream which runs from Saltikli to Sakavča. Large numbers of coins were found on the site. For the most part they were of Roman date of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. Several coins of the 1st and 2nd centuries B.C. both of Thessalonika and of Amphipolis were, however, found (2).

The walls of this site are for the most part of Byzantine date. At the East end of the site are the foundations of a small church with a large apse. But a large amount of

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(1) [C'est sans doute celui qu'a signalé Cousinéry, Voyage, I, p.145].
(2) Most of these latter were of the period between 168 and 88 B.C. One bronze coin of the period of Semiuncial Reduction was found. (See the British Museum Catalogue of Coins «Macedonia», p. 112).
Hellenic black-glazed ware is scattered on the surface and the site may be that of the ancient city of Berga. So far no prehistoric remains have been found.

(c) Mekes. (Points 1792/1650 and 1790/1646). About a kilometre North of this village are two burial mounds probably of classical date, situated as shown by the coordinates given above. Both were dug into to a certain extent but beyond a few boars’ tusks nothing was found. In Mekes churchyard is an inscription of the time of Tiberius which was brought from site (b) above and it is probable that the mounds can also be associated with that site.

(d) Kopači. (Point 1818/1599). About a kilometre West of this village there is a large flat-topped mound overhanging the Kopači Dere. Prehistoric hand made wares and Hellenic wares are both common on the site.

There is a flat-topped mound near the village of Berovo in the valley at a point below the 41st kilometre stone on the Salonika-Seres road. This mound I saw from a distance but was unable to visit. It seems probable, however that the mounds at Kopači and Guvezne, with the Berovo and k. 34 mounds as a link between them, indicate a short prehistoric route between the Struma and Langaza valleys by way of the valleys of the Langaza Caji and the Kopači Dere. This route is important in that it provides a shorter lateral connection between the Struma and Vardar valleys alternative to the longer route that later became the Via Egnatia.

Of the other sites in the Struma valley I was unable to get precise information. There are prehistoric mounds at Serres and Tumba and classical sites at Neohori (Amphipolis) and in the Ilidze Dere.

Other sites. Two other sites remain to be mentioned that are not recorded on the French archaeological map.

(a) Near Causiča station on the Salonika-Constantinople railway. (Point 1203/1738). On a low mound just
north of the station a large cemetery was opened in 1917. It contained graves both of the prehistoric and of the classical period. Unfortunately no accurate stratification was obtained. A large series of bronze ornaments of the Bronze-Age was found including a number of "spectacle fibulae" and armlets of an earlier type than those found some years ago at Pateli near Sorovitch on Lake Ostrovo (now at Constantinople). Of the classical period a large number of undecorated Greek vases and iron spear-heads were found in stone slab graves and there were as well several burials of the Roman period, in which coins of the 3rd century A. D. were found. The site may perhaps be that the ancient town of Calindoea. This name seems to be preserved in the modern name Kilindir, which belongs to a village in the neighbourhood.

(b) Near Aivasil. (Point 1603/1264 approximately). A very important series of burials was opened here in 1916. The site is on the foothills of Mount Kotos above Lake Langaza. A gold bead and plaque, bronze "spectacle" rings, iron knives and an amber bead were found together with a greek cotthon of an early type in one of the graves.

No other important sites than the above remain to complete the list. The rarity or non-existence of ancient sites in some areas is suggestive. Thus in the Lendza valley below Suho no ancient sites were found and the greater part of the Krusha Balkan seems to have been very sparsely inhabited in antiquity.

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