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28. On a Remarkable Feature in the Entrenchments of Knap Hill Camp, Wiltshire.

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

Australia.

With Plate D.

Roth.

**Australian Huts and Shelters.** By Walter E. Roth, Local Correspondent of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

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The huts illustrated in Figs. 1-3, Pl. D, were originally designed for withstanding rain but are now devoted to indiscriminate uses. They are almost always constructed on a piece of high ground, any little hillock or mound, so as to insure the more rapid dispersal of the water. The framework is made of two naturally bent saplings fixed opposite to one another below, but locked in a fork on top; logs rest against this arch on both sides, a somewhat larger intermediate space between two of these ultimately constituting the entrance. In the intervals in the framework are placed and intertwined some light bushes, the foliage downwards. These are followed by tussets of grass, and a coating of mud, and, last of all, another layer of bushes is added. The ground-space enclosed by the hut-wall is roughly circular in the smaller kinds, but somewhat elliptical in the larger. The level of the ground inside is not purposely lowered, although constant use and treading often give it the appearance of being so, but in huts designed especially for warmth and use in the winter months the floor space may be excavated to a depth of 18 inches. While the wooden troughs, bags, boomerangs, &c., of the occupants may be kept, when not in use, on the ground, inside or outside, it remains to be noted that all spears are always stuck vertically, with their butt-ends downwards, in the hut walls.

Where the local "cabbage-palm" is plentiful, nothing can give more grateful shade than a hut, thatched with its leaves. Fig. 4 represents such a hut, from the hinterland of Princess Charlotte Bay. It was tenanted by the two wives of the leading man of the tribe. This cabbage-palm is of great economic value to the natives, as a very fine and strong fibre can be obtained from it. The picture also shows two domestic implements which are rapidly falling into disuse,—a mallet and water-carrier. This type of mallet in shape resembles a cricket bat. It consists of an elongated flattened body, and a shorter circular handle, with the demarcation between them distinct. One of the principal uses to which it may be put is to break open the hard-shelled nuts of the screw palm. The bark water-carrier, at the right of the kneeling figure, is made from the gnarled excrescence on the butt of a certain species of gum-tree. Such a bulging knot, at suitable seasons of the year, is hacked around at the base; a pointed stick is used to loosen its edges and its bark shell is thus bodily removed. The roughnesses within are scooped away by charring with fire and then scraping with shell or stone, while any cracks, splits, or holes are mended with a cement substance.

To obtain shelter from the rain the most primitive artificial structure is a long sheet of bark bent mid-way and fixed at both ends into the sand (Fig. 5). An advance is the addition of some upright canes along one of the open sides, up against which foliage or more bark may be placed, the shelter thus developing from a temporary to a more permanent structure (Fig. 6). A very simple kind of wind-break is made of a sheet of bark fixed lengthways in the ground and propped up with two or more sticks.

W. E. ROTH.

England: Archæology.

Cunnington.

**On a Remarkable Feature in the Entrenchments of Knap Hill Camp, Wiltshire.** By (Mrs.) M. E. Cunnington.

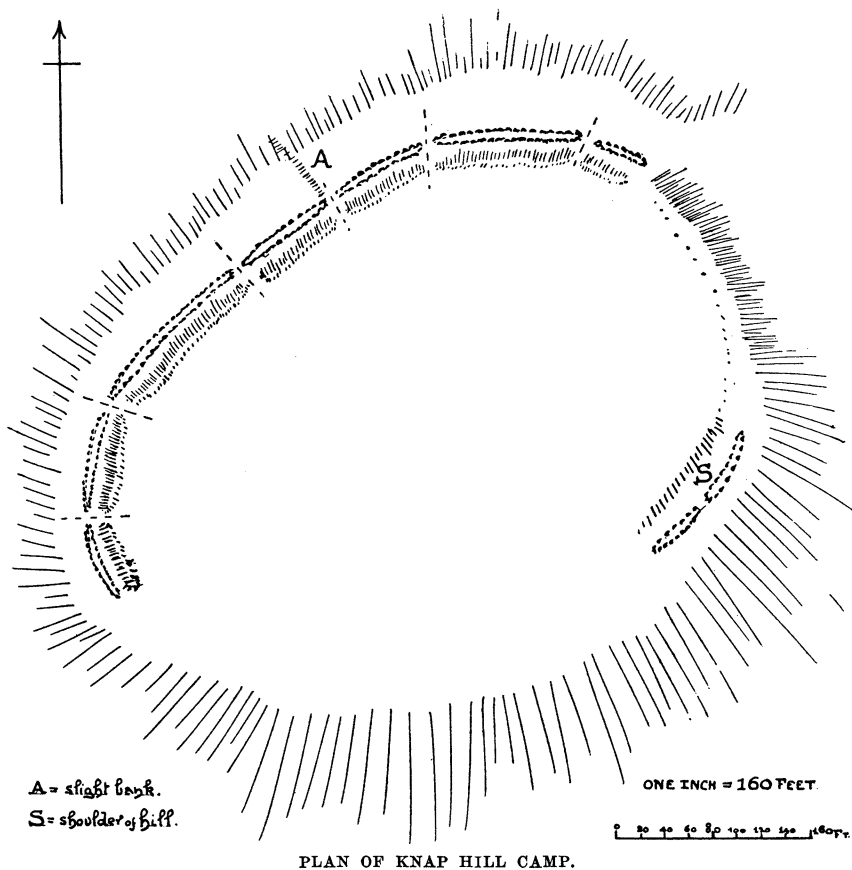
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Recent excavations (1908\*) on the site of the small entrenchment known as Knap Hill Camp in Wiltshire revealed a feature which, if intentional, appears to be a method of defence hitherto unobserved in prehistoric fortifications in Britain.

\* The excavations were carried out by Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Cunnington, of Devizes, with the kind permission of landlord and tenant.

Knap Hill is a bold conical-shaped hill, one of the series of capes or promontories standing out on the edge of the chalk plateau that borders, to the north, the Vale of Pewsey. On the south side, overlooking the valley, the hill is very steep and descends in one continuous slope from the summit to the level of the valley below, and on this side there is no evidence of defence, except that afforded by the natural steepness of the hill. But round the other side, where the hill slopes more gradually back to the level of the Downs that spread out behind it, is an entrenchment consisting of a single rampart and ditch, and this forms what is known as Knap Hill Camp.

The ditch has become silted up level, and there are six openings or gaps through the rampart. It was thought at first that, as often happens on ancient banks, some of these gaps were due to cattle tracks, or possibly had been made for agricultural purposes.



There was, however, a certain regularity about them, and it was difficult to see why on such an isolated spot so many tracks should have been made.

The difficulty of accounting satisfactorily for these breaks in the rampart and for the ridges corresponding to them that were noticeable on the surface of the silted-in ditch suggested excavation at these points, and thus led to the discovery of the remarkable features to which it is desired to draw attention.

These excavations clearly showed that none of these gaps in the rampart are the result of wear or of any accidental circumstance, but that they are actually part of the original construction of the camp. The proof that the gaps are not the result of accident is that outside of, and corresponding to, each gap the ditch was never dug; that is to say, a solid gangway or causeway of unexcavated ground has been left in

each case. Thus the entrenchment, consisting of the rampart and ditch, instead of being continuous, except for what might be deemed reasonable provision for ingress and egress, is broken up into short and irregular sections.

The ditch of the main entrenchment is divided into seven sections. The unexcavated ground forming the causeway between each section is of a uniform width of 18 feet, although the length of the various sections of the ditch vary considerably. The first section, from the west, is 46 feet in length; the second, 92 feet; the third, 121 feet; the fourth, 98 feet; the fifth, 98 feet; the sixth, 122 feet; the seventh, 42 feet.

The main entrenchment ends on the eastern side of the hill at the seventh section of the ditch; this eastern side has been a good deal cut about by later settlers on the spot, and the rampart may originally have been carried further round the hill, but there never could have been a continuation of the ditch at this point.

But some little distance further round the hill, where the hill juts out and forms a shoulder, the ditch begins again, and there is a noticeable rampart. From end to end the shoulder is only some 130 feet in length, yet even here the ditch is not continuous, but is divided into two sections with a causeway of unexcavated ground between them of the usual width of 18 feet. The two sections of the ditch measure respectively 65 feet and 45 feet in length.

Given the need for an entrenchment at all, it seems at first sight inexplicable why these frequent openings should have been left, when apparently they so weaken the whole construction.

It has been suggested, by way of explanation, that the work of fortification was never furnished, that the ditch was being dug and the rampart piled up by gangs of men working in sections, and that for some reason the work was abandoned before the various sections were completed, with the result now to be seen.

There is, however, considerable evidence in favour of these causeways being an intentional feature of the original design of the camp.

It is too improbable that on the isolated shoulder, as well as on the other side of the hill, the causeways should have been left accidentally as the result of an unfinished undertaking, and the position of the shoulder on the very steep side of the hill quite forbids the idea of an entrance there in any ordinary sense.

In every case the causeways are cut at a slight skew to the corresponding gap in the rampart, so that standing on or just outside the causeway, only an oblique view can be obtained into the camp. A line drawn through the gaps and out across the causeways indicates on the plan in which direction in each case the skew lies. The uniform width of the causeways alone almost affords sufficient proof of design.

The fact, also, that similar causeways have been noticed on several other sites, though not yet proved by excavation, strongly points to the conclusion that they were left for some definite purpose. It has been suggested that, as General Pitt-Rivers thought of the wide flanking ramparts at Winkelbury Camp (*Excavations*, II., 234), the causeways were intended in cases of emergency to admit a large number of cattle as rapidly as possible to the interior safety of the camp. But it would certainly be easier, and therefore quicker to drive a number of cattle through one or two wide openings than over half-a-dozen such narrow bridges as these.

It is then impracticable to regard these breaks in the entrenchment as due to an unfinished undertaking, or as entrances in any ordinary sense, and the only other feasible theory seems to be that they had some distinct purpose in the scheme of defence; that they were, indeed, a strengthening and not a weakening factor in this seemingly not very strongly defended place.

The causeways may have been left as platforms from which to enfilade the ditch, the defenders being stationed upon them for this purpose. The distance from one

causeway to another is not greater than would be within reach of hand thrown missiles. Any determined attempt to scale the stockade with which the rampart was presumably strengthened could probably be more effectually prevented from the gangways than if the defenders were themselves shut up behind the stockade, or forced to come out from some more distant entrance at risk of having their retreat cut off. These causeways would be, in fact, sally ports admirably adapted for defence of the ditch. Even if the top of the rampart were not stockaded the same method of defence could have been adopted. A stockade or paling carried across each causeway on a line with the outside edge of the ditch would have served to shut out the enemy, and to protect the men standing on the causeways. The gaps in the rampart need not have been barricaded, but could have been left open to allow the defenders to pass readily to and fro as they were needed at different points.

There is no sign of a beaten track leading to either of these causeways, but there is a much worn roadway leading to the eastern side of the hill, and it is thought probable that the main entrance to the camp was on this side to which the old road leads, but that the features of the actual entrance have been obliterated by the later people who are known to have lived on the spot.

Flint flakes and rude pottery have been found on the floor of the ditch, and it is believed that the camp is of early date, that it belongs to the bronze, or even to the late neolithic period.

The possible use which the gangways may have served is put forward with all diffidence, and any suggestion on the subject would be welcomed.\*

M. E. CUNNINGTON.

### Australia: Totemism.

Lang.

**Mr. Gason and Dieri Totemism.** *By A. Lang.*

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In Mr. Frazer's *Totemism* (1887, p. 74) we read, "In some Australian tribes sons take their totem from their father and daughters from their mother." The totemism of the Dieri is then described briefly, and, "if a dog man marries a rat woman, the sons of this marriage are dogs and the daughters are rats." A footnote says, "Letter of Mr. S. Gason to the present writer."

The later researches of Mr. Howitt and the Rev. Mr. Siebert are understood—I doubt not correctly—to have demonstrated that Mr. Gason was wrong on this point. He was not a trained *savant*, he was merely an officer of police who was intimately acquainted with the Dieri before their present melancholy decline, and it is not denied, I think, that he knew their language. Thus it may be guessed that the unscientific policeman did not invent his account wholly without provocation or excuse. Can the cause of his error be found in this most important and rather neglected statement of Mr. Howitt? "A step further" (in the great step from reckoning descent in the female to reckoning in the male line) "is when a man gives his totem name to his son, who then has those of both mother and father. This has been done even in the Dieri tribe. Such a practice leads directly to a change in the line of descent" (Howitt, *Native Tribes of South-East Australia*, p. 284).

Mr. Howitt cites no authorities, and here mentions no tribes of female descent save "even the Dieri," in which this practice existed. He had, I think, hit on a most important fact—he was the last man to record it without good evidence—a fact showing how the change of line of descent would naturally arise. He does not tell us how the young man of two totem names behaved towards his two totems. Could he, as of his father's totem name, marry into his mother's phratry?

\* It is hoped that a further exploration of the site will be found possible, and that a fuller account will appear later.