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PLATE I.

BIGBERRY CAMP.
Southern Rampart (Cutting 15) with the Stour Valley in the distance.

Photo by the courtesy of Photopress, Ltd.

EXCAVATIONS AT BIGBERRY CAMP, HARBLEDOWN.

REPORT BY R. F. JESSUP AND N. C. COOK.

AN excavation at Bigberry Camp, Harbledown, was undertaken in the autumn of 1933 and in 1934, the work being made possible by many generous donations to a fund raised by the Bigberry Excavation Committee under the Presidency of Lord Conway of Allington. This Committee had the valued support of the Kent Archæological Society.

Mr. A. B. Gracie and Mr. Lloyd Hubble, the landlords concerned, kindly gave every facility for the excavation and took much interest in its progress. The following Members and friends took an active part in the work :— Mrs. Cook, Miss Barbara Laidler, Messrs. D. Barrett, A. C. Boyd-Wallis, J. M. Brander, H. F. Burton, Sir Edward Harrison, Messrs. V. F. James, Alan R. Martin, G. W. R. Monckton and Stuart Piggott. Mrs. Cook has drawn Fig. III and Mr. Stuart Piggott drew Fig. II. The field work in connection with the new plan (Fig. I.) was carried out by Mr. Brander and Mr. Jessup, and Mr. Thorold Bennett, F.R.I.B.A., kindly gave assistance with several difficult problems. To Mr. Christopher Hawkes and Dr. R. E. M. Wheeler we are indebted for much advice and help in dating the pottery.

Dr. F. W. Hardman and Dr. Gordon Ward, two of our members, have been good enough to furnish a brief etymological note for this report. They both concur in saying that the name Bigberry is nothing more or less than what it purports to be, that is, " the big bury ". Dr. Wallenberg has suggested a derivation from the personal name " Big " (J. K. Wallenberg, *Place Names of Kent* (1934), 499) but Dr. Gordon Ward informs us that Bigberry is not very likely to have been a possession of the Bigge family who held land at Milton in 1044, although Milton parish

borders the River Stour and comes within half a mile or less of the camp. The variations of the name given by Dr. Hardman and Dr. Ward are : Beggebery (1226), Beckeberri (early thirteenth century), Bygbérye (1591), Bigberry (1790).

The full account of Bigberry Camp which has been given by one of the present writers (Jessup, *Archæological Journal*, LXXXIX (1932), 87-115)¹ makes it unnecessary to include in this Report a detailed description of the general features of the Camp and of its supposed historical importance in Caesar's Second Invasion, nor is it necessary to include here a description of the early discoveries made by the gravel diggers within the earthwork. In 1933 the work, which was greatly impeded by dense woodland, was chiefly exploratory in nature, but in 1934, when part of the wood on the north side of the Pilgrim's Way was cleared, it became possible to examine the main rampart and the ditch in detail. It may be well to state again that both the original entrances to the Camp have been badly mutilated and in great part destroyed by the modern road which passes through them ; it was found that excavation of these entrances would be quite impossible without removing the metalled road-way and this was a task for which we were not equipped.

The actual excavation work consisted of a series of long cuttings through the main rampart of the Camp on its northern and southern sides, and close to the western entrance. Three areas along the crest of the rampart extending into the exterior of the Camp were examined, and two cuttings were made in the annexe in an endeavour to ascertain its relationship with the main earthwork. Several trial trenches were dug at points both inside and outside the enclosure for the purpose of examining certain small banks which were suspected of being wood-boundaries, and in all cases excavation confirmed the suspicion that these banks and their accompanying shallow ditches were not of prehistoric origin, in spite of a small sherd of Early

¹ To the bibliography, therein given, add O. E. Ruck, *Royal Engineers Journal*, IV (1906), 353.

BIGBERRY CAMP

HARBLEDOWN

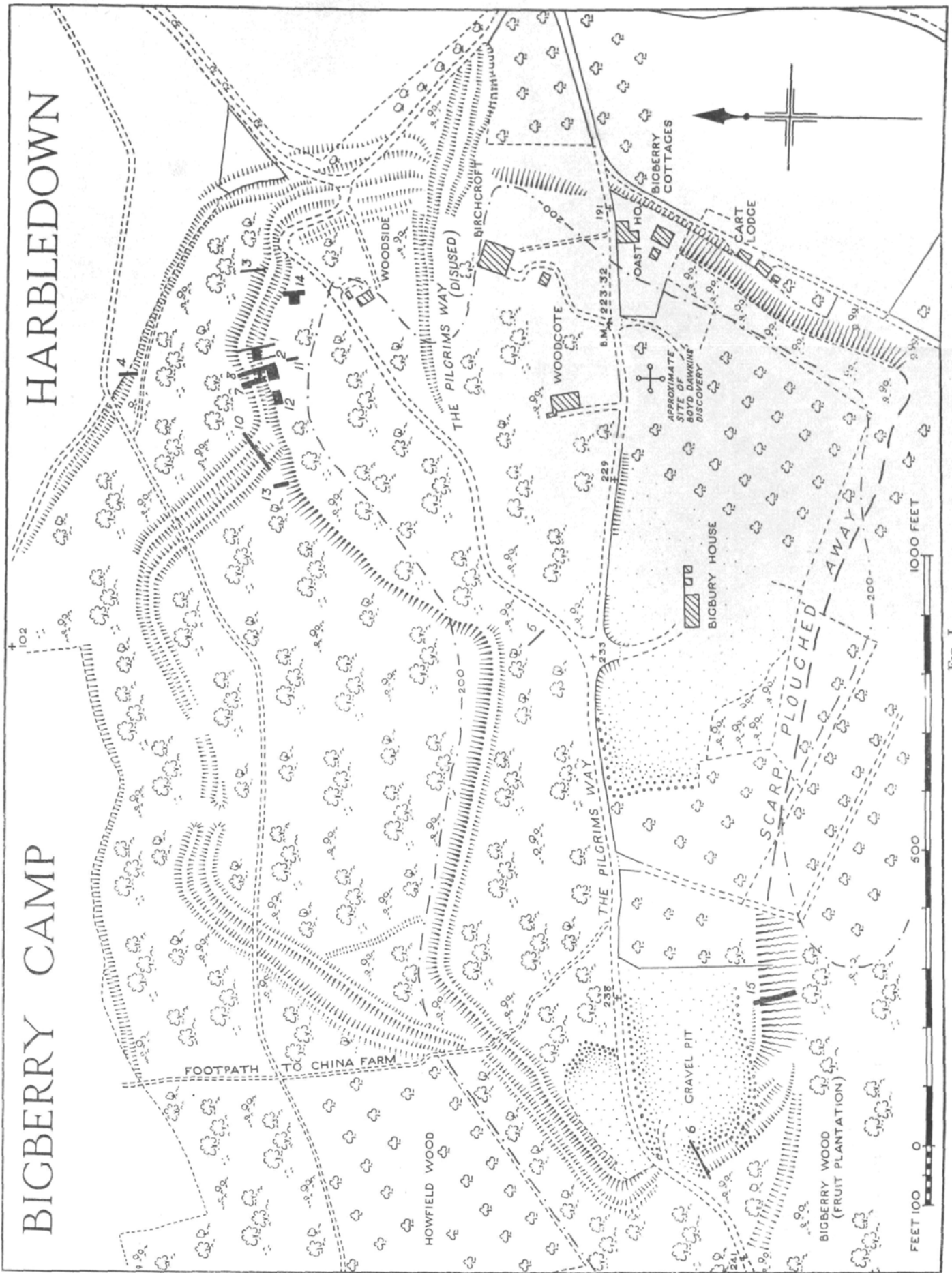


Fig. 1.

Iron Age pottery being found in one of the banks by Mr. Gracie's foreman.

The sites of the various cuttings will be evident from the plan.

THE RAMPART.

In 1933, two sections, C1 and C2, were made in the direction of Magnetic North through the rampart on the northern side of the Camp, 174 feet from the Pilgrim's Way at a point 195 feet from the inner bend of the road at the eastern entrance, thus exposing sections through the rampart and its accompanying outer ditch (Fig. II.) The intervening sector of the ditch was cleared down to the natural sand. There was no true counterscarp bank as might be expected, but advantage had been taken of the outcrop of Thanet Sand which occurs at this level on the hill-side to form a slight irregular scarp. The hill here has a natural gradient of 1 in 3, and it was no doubt thought that a single ditch and bank provided sufficient defence. It is very likely that the rampart was protected by a palisade, and a scarp that may indicate the position of such a work was visible in each cutting. No confirmatory evidence in the shape of post-holes or of a turf or timber revetment was forthcoming in these sections, and the scarp itself was not visible in any of the subsequent sections: at the same time we feel that the scarp, which was not a natural feature, is difficult to explain in any other way.

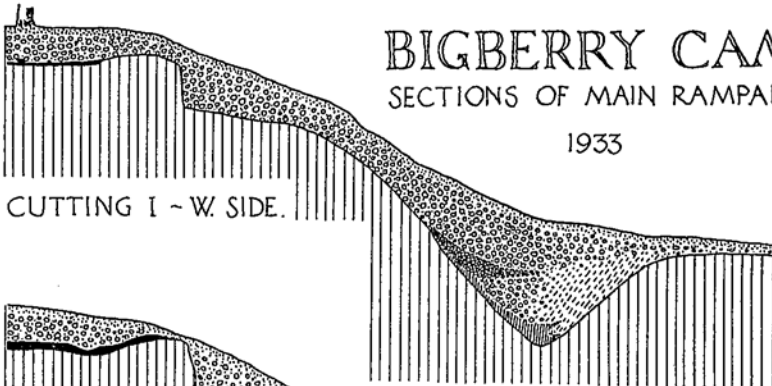
The ditch was found to have a rounded V-shaped section, and at its deepest point was 17 feet below the summit of the rampart. The filling, which was excavated in spits, contained much pottery together with charcoal of oak, gorse and alder.

These two cuttings also exposed an occupation layer which underlay the rampart and extended for an indeterminate distance into the interior of the Camp. An isolated post-hole, 6 inches in diameter and 8 inches in depth, was found under the rampart penetrating to the bottom of the occupation layer, and the layer itself yielded pieces

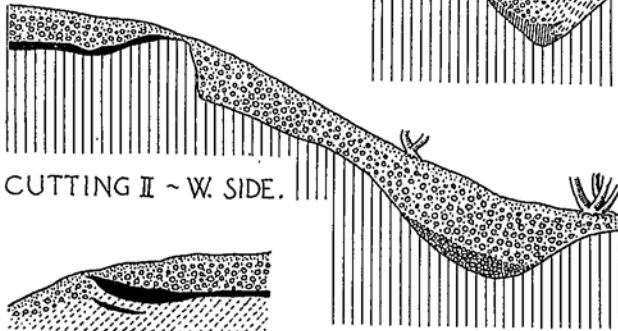
BIGBERRY CAMP

SECTIONS OF MAIN RAMPARTS

1933



CUTTING I - W. SIDE.



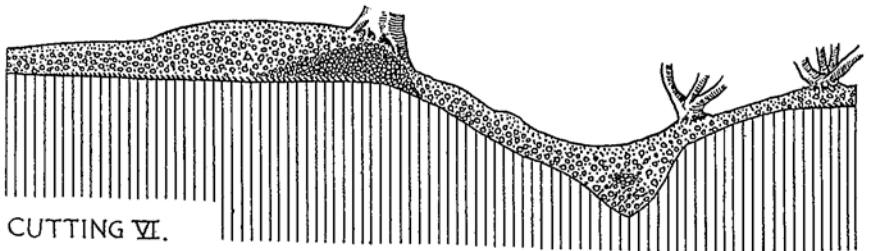
CUTTING II - W. SIDE.



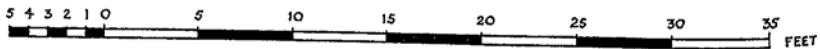
CUTTING II - E. SIDE.

SYMBOLS

- TOP SOIL AND PEAT
- LOAMY GRAVEL
- COMPACT GRAVEL
- COARSE DARK GRAVEL
- SANDY LOAM
- OCCUPATION LAYER
- OLD SURFACE LINE
- UNDISTURBED



CUTTING VI.



S.P. MENZ ET DEL. 1933-34.

FIG. II.



Photo by R. F. Jessup.

NORTHERN RAMPART (CUTTING 8) SHOWING OCCUPATION LAYER.

PLATE II.

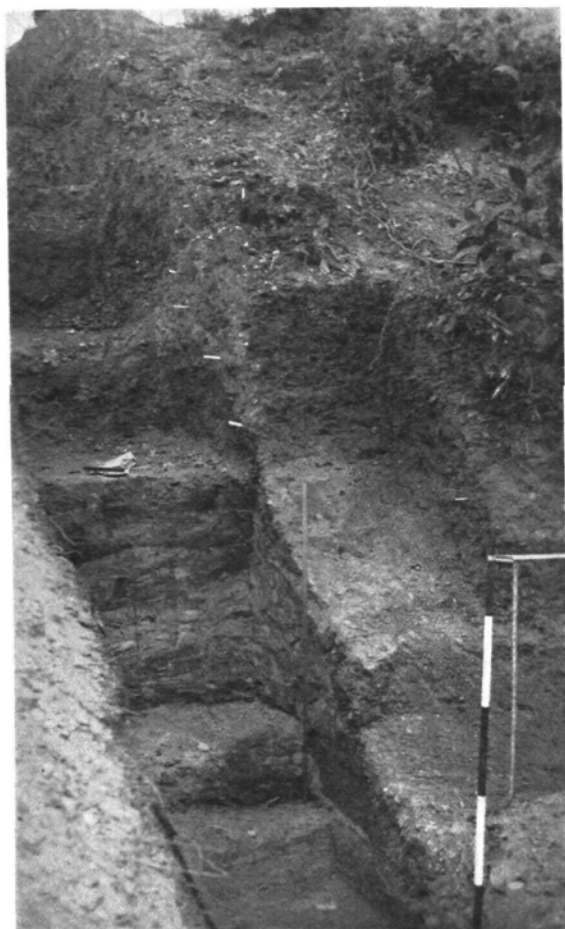


Photo by Fisk-Moore.

NORTHERN RAMPART (CUTTING 8), SHOWING
INNER LIP OF DITCH AND PRIMARY SILTING.

PLATE III.

of daub, a small block of iron-stone, and pottery which presented a startling association of early and late features. (See Fig. VI.)

It was this surprising and hitherto unrecorded association of Belgic pottery with vessels bearing clear indications of Iron Age A influence that led us to a more detailed examination of the ditch filling and the occupation layer in 1934. Accordingly Cutting 8, (Fig. III), 62 feet in length and 5 feet in width, was made through the rampart and ditch 12 feet to the west of Cutting 2. The section exposed was very similar to that of 1933, except that the supposed revetment for a palisade did not appear. The rampart itself was found to be a very unimposing structure of loamy gravel (Plate II), and its smallness is no doubt accounted for by the steep slope of the hill-side. Under the crest of the rampart, an occupation layer again appeared, out-cropping below the bank and extending into the interior of the Camp for 21 feet; this was further examined by an extension of the main cutting and is discussed below.

The ditch was 16 feet in width, its southern or inner lip being somewhat eroded, and it was cut down into the natural sand to a depth of 5 feet at its deepest point, which was 16 feet below the crest of the rampart (Plate III). The bottom of the ditch was filled with compact vegetable matter; this was followed by a primary silting of 2 feet of compact gravel and sand, and a filling of sandy gravel to within 4 inches of the surface, to which depth the humus and peat extended. No turf layers were present in the filling, which was purely a natural one.

A similar cutting (Cutting 7) was made 8 feet to the westward, and the two cuttings joined along the line of the ditch, the ditch filling being excavated in layers, and each find being referred to a datum so that it could afterwards be projected on to a plane section (Fig. III). The contour of the ditch was rounded, and no palisade holes were present in its bottom.

From the primary silting at the bottom of the ditch came two fragments of heavy gritted pottery, the first

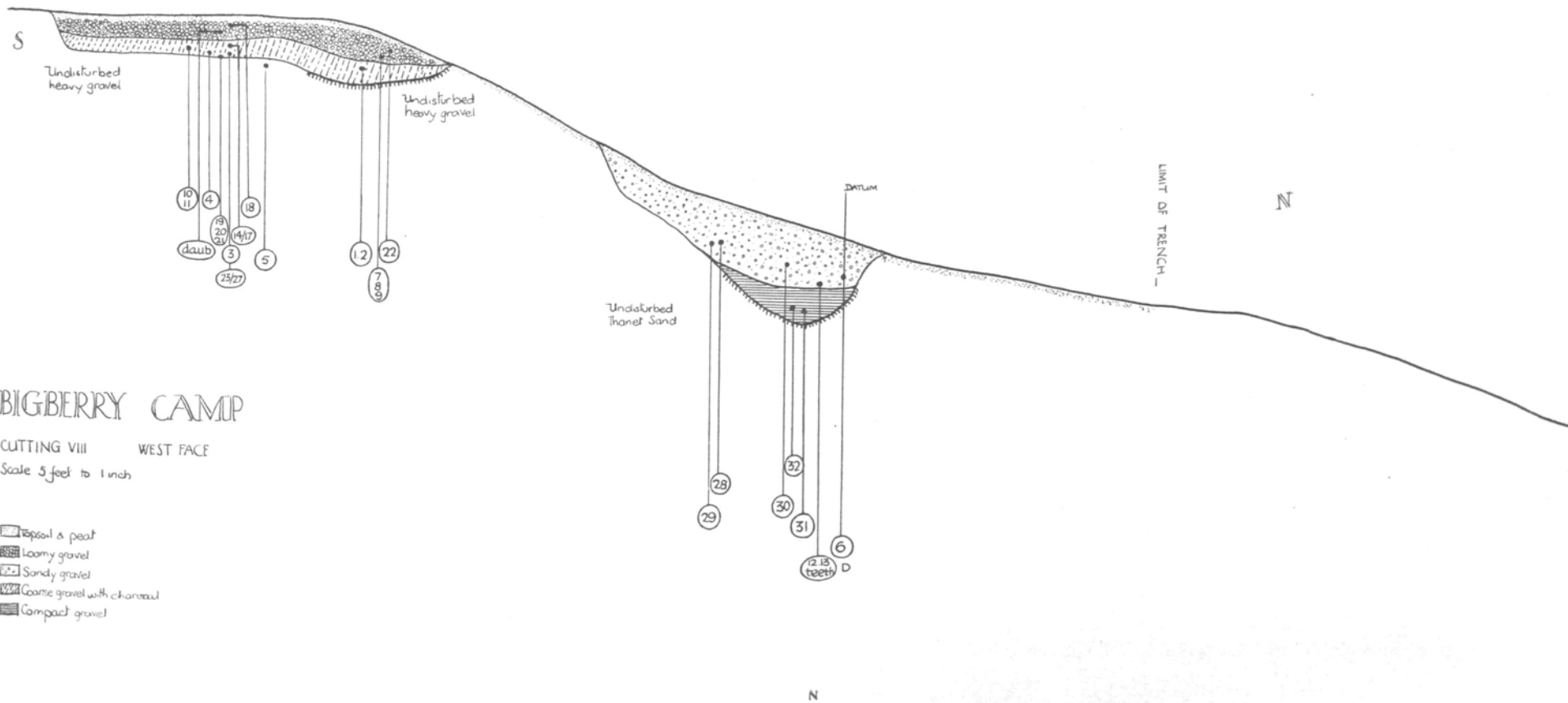
having a smoothed black interior and bright red surface in the tradition of some of the early Hallstatt wares.

The sandy gravel filling yielded six fragments, all of which were of brown or black fabrics with varying admixtures of grit and varying textures, and which would be usually recognized as Iron Age A wares. The notable exceptions were the flat rim (Fig. V, 22) of well-made light brown gritted pottery, smoothed on the cork-like surface, with a slight constriction below the rim, for which cf *Trundle 1928 Report* Pl. x. 69, there dated Hallstatt—La Tène I; and the base of a reddish-brown jar tempered with bits of broken pot. Two decayed teeth and a small piece of a long bone of a horse were found almost at the junction of the sandy and compact gravels. It will be noted that the whole of this ditch section was poor in its yield of pottery, a fact which argues for its having silted up quite slowly by the natural downhill creep of the material overlaying the occupation layer above. Both siltings contained a large amount of fragmentary hawthorn and oak charcoal.

RAMPART AREA.

The cutting at its southern end cut through the occupation layer observed in 1933, and to examine this in more detail the cutting was extended westward along the line of the rampart to cover an area of 20 feet by 20 feet, and the whole area was stripped layer by layer down to the undisturbed heavy gravel. Each find was referred to a datum as before and plotted on to a plane surface (Fig. III).

Here we hoped to find traces of hut emplacements and post-holes but although the area produced a fair quantity of pottery and charcoal and some soot-covered daub (particularly in the layer of coarse gravel), there were no more definite signs of dwelling places. The southern margin of the layer ended abruptly against the undisturbed heavy gravel, (a trial trench, Cutting 11, in line with Cutting 8 showed that there was no occupation layer 20 feet to the southward),



BIGBERRY CAMP

CUTTING VIII WEST FACE
Scale 5 feet to 1 inch

- Top soil & peat
- Loamy gravel
- Sandy gravel
- Coarse gravel with charcoal
- Compact gravel

BIGBERRY CAMP

CUTTING XIV EAST FACE
Scale - 5 feet to 1 inch

- Top soil & peat
- Sandy gravel
- Occupation layer
- Natural sand

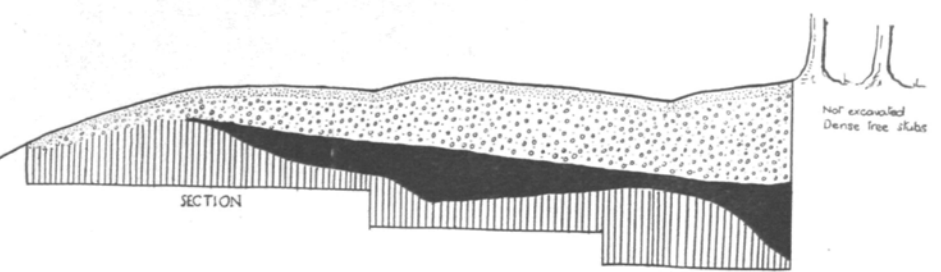


FIG. III.

and its northern edge outcropped below the rampart; its east and west limit was indeterminate. A small hearth was found under the layer and on the top of the undisturbed heavy gravel immediately under the rampart; it yielded no relics apart from calcined flints.

While the layer as a whole, consisting of dark coloured coarse gravel with plentiful charcoal, daub, potsherds, and occasional pot-boilers must be regarded as a dwelling site, and the position of at least one fire hearth is clear enough, the lack of precise evidence of dwelling places is disappointing. The charcoal remains, in which hazel and oak predominate, may give a hint in this direction and it may be that the wattle huts with oak posts and hazel raddles were burnt to the ground. It is significant, too, that much of the pottery from the occupation layer was covered with soot, and this together with the presence of lumps of conglomerated mud and charcoal seems to suggest something more than the remains of an ordinary domestic fire. The preponderance of hazel charcoal might also be held to represent evidence of a hazel thicket which, bedded in a shallow trench, played the part of a palisade in protecting the rampart; there was, however, no direct indication of such a trench.

The pottery from this layer is of interest. One piece of gritted ware with smooth surface showing signs of burning in a fire, found a few inches down in heavy gravel, had evidently worked down from the occupation layer above. The occupation layer itself (the coarse gravel with charcoal) yielded a variety of gritted wares, some few pieces with a rough reddish surface, others having a well-smoothed surface, and varying in colour from light brick red through brown to black. In the fragments there was nothing from which a pot could be reconstructed but the general inference based on examination of fabric and technique would be that the vessels represented are strongly in the tradition of Iron Age A. There are two other sherds of special interest. The first is a piece of "furrowed" (combed) ware; the significance of this ware at Bigberry has already been

noted (*Arch. Journ.* LXXXIX, 102) and it will be sufficient to say here that it is unknown until the time of the pedestal-urn culture but is common on Belgic sites of first centuries B.C. and A.D., and lasts well into the Roman period. The second piece for notice is a hand-made pedestal base (Fig. V, 23) of fine and hard sparsely gritted dark grey clay; the base is low and flat, and the pot to which it belonged could not have been made before the second century B.C. at the very earliest. The layer of loamy gravel yielded exactly the same type of gritted ware, and the only sherd which calls for particular notice is the flattish outbent rim of smooth and slightly gritted dark grey clay (Fig. V, 21), which probably dates late in the first century B.C.

RAMPART NEAR WESTERN ENTRANCE.

A disused gravel pit on the south side of the road at the western entrance provided a convenient opportunity for examining all that is left of the rampart and outer defensive ditch; it is clear that the usual single ditch was doubled at the entrance for additional security, and at the time of the Ordnance Survey in 1871, both ditches were complete. A single bank and ditch could also be traced right along the south side of the Camp.

Cutting 6 (Plate IV and Fig. II) made through the rampart and the mutilated ditch revealed a ditch 15 feet wide and $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. The rampart here consisted of two different materials. One of these was obviously material excavated from the ditch, and this had been supplemented by a deposit of loamy gravel scraped up from the surface within the earthwork. As there was no turf facing between the two tips, and the line of demarcation did not suggest that the surface of the smaller tip had remained uncovered for any length of time, it is clear that the rampart was constructed in one operation. Most of the ditch filling had been removed for use as potting soil before our excavation, and no relics whatever were found in this section.



Photo by R. F. Jessup.

RAMPART AND DITCH AT THE WESTERN ENTRANCE (CUTTING 6).
PLATE IV.

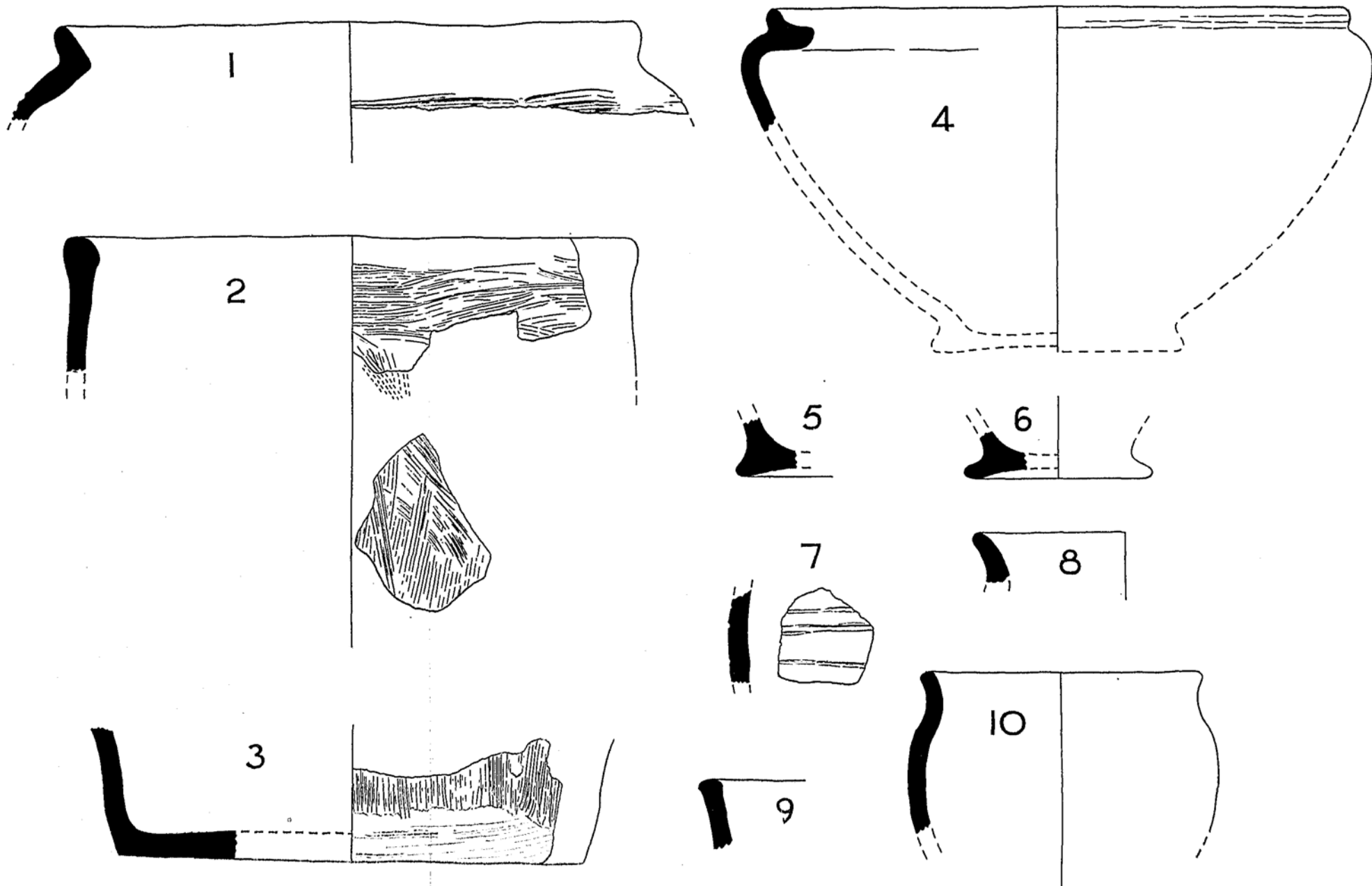


FIG. IV. POTTERY FROM THE OCCUPATION LAYER. ($\times \frac{1}{2}$)

RAMPART ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

The whole of the southern side of the camp has been ploughed over, except for one small area adjoining the gravel pit at the western entrance (Plate I), and as this was about to be brought under cultivation immediately, Mr. Gracie kindly suggested that we should make a trial trench before his men commenced work.

A cutting 5 feet wide (15) was therefore made in the direction of magnetic north, 315 feet south west of the orchard gate; it was continued for a distance of 40 feet southward, sufficient to prove the presence of the ditch, but as time was then an important factor, the ditch was not excavated. An occupation layer was found 9 inches below the surface of the ground; it was barely 6 inches in depth and was therefore dug in one spit. As on the northern side of the camp, there was here no rampart of any size, but in view of the much less steep contour of the ground a defensive palisade would have been required, though the trench showed no evidence of one in the usual position.

The pottery from the occupation layer is of great interest. It included several pieces of "furrowed" ware (see above) with careful combings, pieces of the base and sides of a very heavy Belgic type storage-jar (Fig. V, 16), many indeterminate fragments of coarse gritted ware of various colours ranging from brown to black, and several pieces of the sides of a large well-made pot of hard sandy brown clay. Although the Belgic store-jar is distinctive, most of the other sherds have features in common with Iron Age A pottery, and this is the more emphasized by a fragment of a dark brown gritted bowl with pie-crust markings on the rim (Fig. V, 14). Such decoration belongs to Hallstatt—La Tène I at the Trundle (*Sussex Arch. Colls.* LXX, 54, Plate XI, 133), and occurs at St. Catherine's Hill, a hill-fort which was abandoned early in La Tène II (Hawkes, Myers and Stevens, *St. Catherine's Hill*, Fig. 11e 53). Finally there is a fragment of the almost flat rim of a straight sided vase of light brown gritted clay with

a roughish surface (Fig. V, 15); the shape of the rim is an early feature, but the fabric is one found frequently with Belgic pottery.

THE OCCUPATION LAYER.

The areas of occupation so far examined had been small in extent, and it was therefore determined to make a further excavation along the crest of the rampart in the only two regions which had been left untouched by previous generations of gravel diggers.

The first, Cutting 12, situated 90 feet west of Cutting 8, was a rectangular area of 19 feet along the rampart and 10 feet into the interior; it was impossible to extend further east and west without removing large trees, and further work towards the interior of the camp was made impossible by the old gravel holes.

The small and quite insignificant rampart of loamy gravel again overlaid an occupation layer of 1 foot maximum thickness which yielded a quantity of pottery, pieces of daub, and much charcoal. The rampart material was first removed in two spits. The only relics were four fragments of rough gritted ware, all very much abraded as though they had been exposed to the weather whilst lying on the surface of the ground and afterwards scraped up with the rampart material. They are indeterminate in shape, but one fragment coated with oxide of iron is likely to be of Iron Age A date.

With great hope, the surface of the occupation layer was brushed and scraped in the hope of finding post-holes, but none existed, and the layer was then carefully removed in two spits of 6 inches. The deposit was homogeneous and quite clearly all of one period: the pieces of the vase illustrated in Fig. V, 11, were found at several levels and there was no stratification.

Eight or nine pieces of daub were found, one of them showing impressions of the withies. There was much charcoal, and from representative samples Mr. J. C. Maby has identified young hazel and oak.

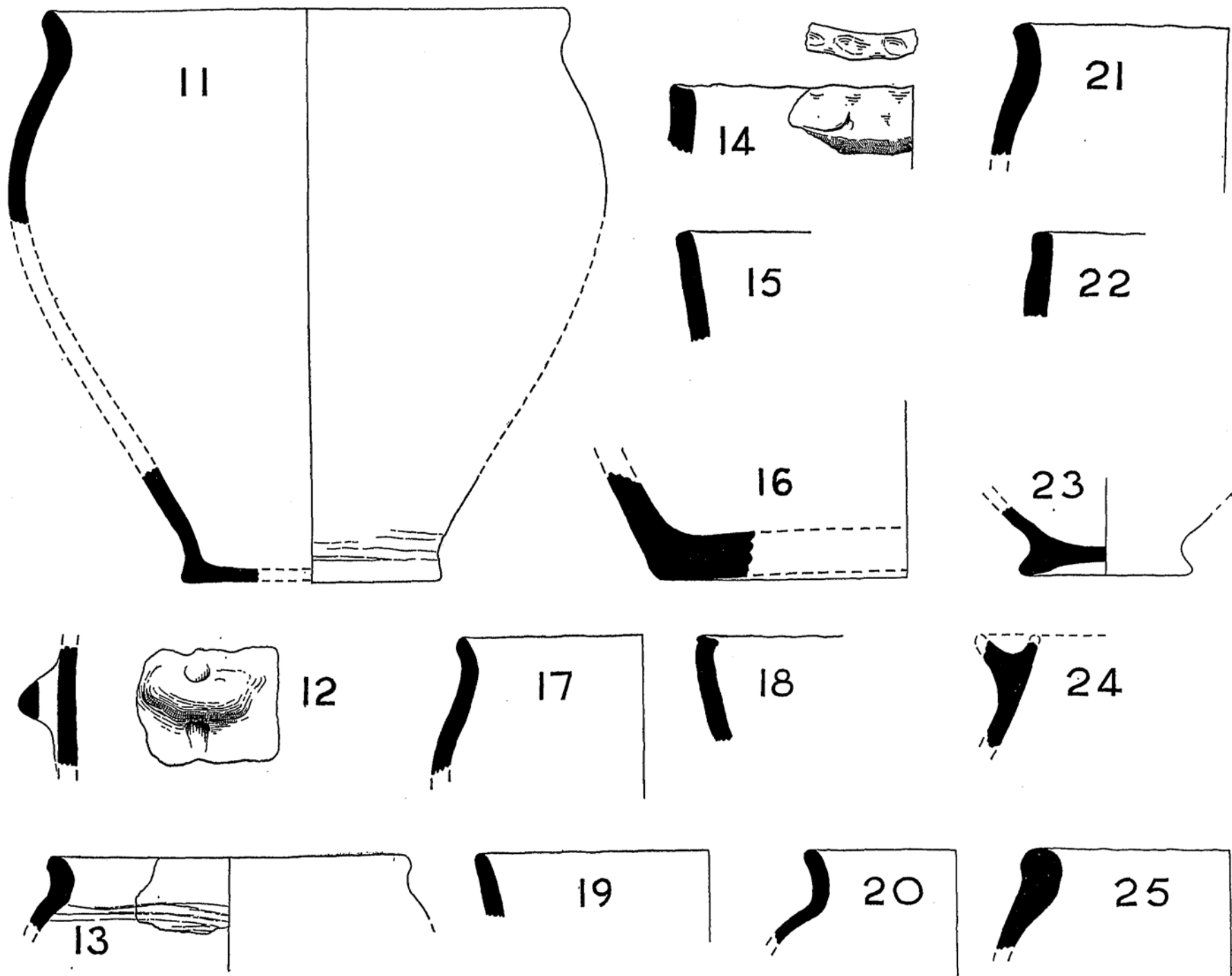


FIG. V. POTTERY FROM RAMPART, DITCH FILLING AND OCCUPATION LAYER. ($\times \frac{1}{2}$)

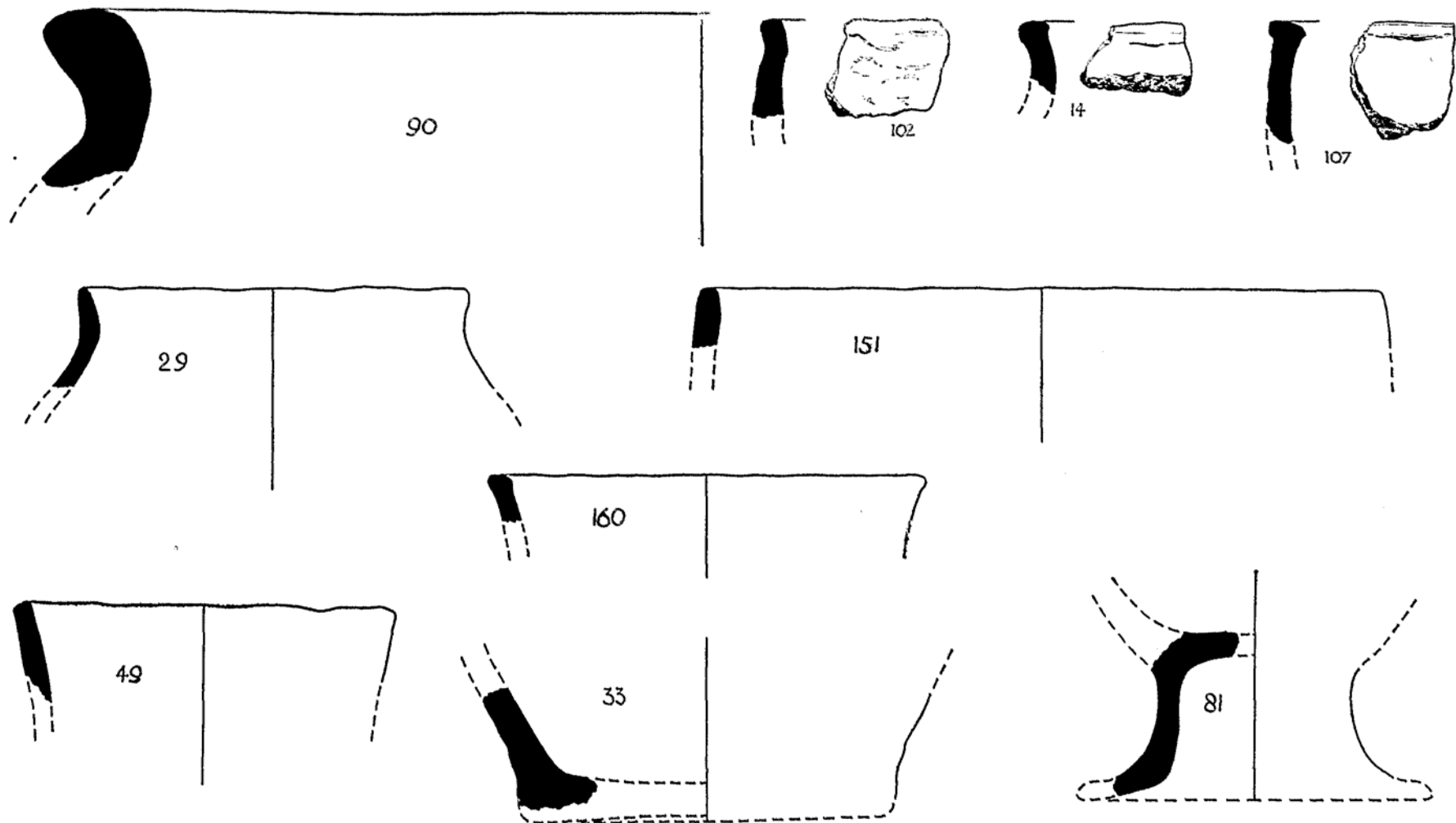


FIG. VI. BIGBERRY CAMP. Pottery from Trial Excavation of Occupation Layer. ($\times \frac{1}{2}$)
 Note the association of flat rims with a pedestal base and other traits of Belgic pottery.

Among the pottery selected for illustration is a fine vase (restored in Fig. V, 11) of hard dark brown clay; the fabric has very little grit and the surface is slightly burnished in patches. This pot belongs to a series that is well recognized, and at The Caburn in Sussex it is dated in La Tène II (*Sussex Arch. Colls.*, LXVII, Pl. IX, 59).

The layer contained a great deal of fragmentary pottery; most of it was rough and heavily gritted, varying in colour from black to light chocolate, but there were occasional sherds of good quality ware with a smooth surface, and fragments of furrowed ware.

Another feature usually characteristic of La Tène II potting is the internal bevel to the rim, and this is exhibited in the rim of an almost straight-sided pot (Fig. V, 18). The fabric, however, is a rough and gritted red clay much more akin to the native La Tène III wares in Kent. The shape of the bowl is not certain, but one from the Trundle (*Sussex Arch. Colls.*, LXXII, Pl. X, 2) dated in La Tène II is closely related to it. A similar fabric is found in a fragment (Fig. V, 12) with a vertically pierced lug. Such lugs are typologically an early feature e.g. at Swallowcliffe Down (*Wilts. Arch. Mag.*, XLIII, Pl. VI, 5 in reprint) and in a La Tène I context at Meon Hill (*Proc. Hants. Field Club*, XII, Pl. 2, 149). A thin sharp rim of hard smooth ware characteristic of an early date is illustrated in Fig. V, 19; there is hardly sufficient of the rim to define the pot. Then comes a series of rims all distinctly of Iron Age C provenance; 25 is closely matched, Mr. Hawkes tells us, at Colchester: 13 is the rim of a wheel-turned vessel but dates probably before the Conquest rather than after it; and 20 is a typical native Iron Age C rim from a well-made reddish-grey vase of Kingston Buci Class D (*Sussex Arch. Colls.*, LXXII, 202, Fig. 29, 31), but without decoration, and Park Brow La Tène III Site (*Arch.*, LXXVI, p. 23, Fig. 19).

Finally, the damaged rim with a cover rest (Fig. V, 24) calls for special notice. This is soft heavily gritted ware with black interior and dark reddish brown exterior with a

smoothed but not polished surface, as though an attempt had been made, but not altogether successfully, to imitate the red-coated ware of All Cannings Cross. Indeed that site provides a very close parallel to the Bigberry rim (*All Cannings Cross* Pl. 36, 1a and p. 175), and although the All Cannings example bears decoration which is here absent, there can be little doubt that both of these are forerunners of the more usual Belgic variety, an example of which from cutting 14 is noticed below.

On the west face of the cutting, a small cooking pit was cut through. The presence of large tree roots prevented proper excavation but the pit was found to contain a great deal of small charcoal, some large calcined flints and vague traces of a clay lining: it yielded no pottery whatever.

CUTTING 14.

As Cutting 12 was limited in area, a further examination of the occupation layer was made by means of a 5 feet trench which was opened on the crest of the main northern rampart 37 yards from Cutting 8 and extended for 33 feet into the interior of the camp.

The black occupation layer first appeared at a depth of 14 inches below the ground and its surface, which was very regular, dipped to the south at an angle of 5° (Fig. III). The layer presented a curious lenticular section, its maximum thickness being 2 feet 4 inches, while at a point 27 feet along the horizontal datum line it was only just over 6 inches in thickness and then immediately reached its maximum depth of 3 feet 3 inches at the south end of the cutting. Although the cutting was not extended further southward, it is certain that the base of the occupation layer which rested on undisturbed Thanet Sand did not reach a greater depth. Above the occupation layer was the usual deposit of sandy gravel which contained no pottery and very little charcoal. The northern edge of the occupation layer did not in this area outcrop on the surface.

On the west side of the trench a rectangular area of 15 feet by 25 feet was then laid out and the recently deposited

sandy gravel removed until the first trace of the occupation layer appeared at a depth of 16 inches. Excavation was then carried on down to the undisturbed sand in a series of five spits, the first of 18 inches and the other four of 12 inches each, the surface of the occupation layer being brushed and scraped in the hope of finding post-holes and gullies. No constructional features whatever could be observed. The boundaries of the layer on the south, east and west were not reached in the section, and the northern margin was an irregular line with no designed purpose, the whole suggesting an area of spasmodic habitation defined only by the periphery of the hill-top. The material of which it was composed, gravel and sand mixed with charcoal dust and with here and there masses of charcoal of mature hazel and common oak, was homogeneous throughout with absolutely no visible stratification, and the area was quite large enough to have exposed the plan of any hut site that had existed.

Pottery Spit I.

A great deal of fragmentary pottery came from this spit. Many sherds are indeterminable, though apparently in the tradition of Iron Age A potting. Those which could be regarded as of value for dating purposes are illustrated in Figs. IV and V.

A heavy straight-sided jar (2) is of light brown sandy clay free from grit. The swollen rim has a slight internal bevel and the jar is decorated with furrowings irregularly made and more pronounced on the body than immediately under the rim: what may very probably be its flat base (3) was found in spit II. This heavy flower pot type is now well known in southern Britain, though it is usually of gritted fabric, as a characteristic product of early La Tène II, though its earliest occurrence and its later development have not yet been fully stated. It is known specifically at Park Brow (*Arch.*, LXXVI, p. 21, Fig. 13) and the regular tooled line decoration on several jars from St. Catherine's Hill (*St. Catherine's Hill*, AR 1, AR II, Fig. 13), may indicate the

source of inspiration for the later furrowed decoration which has equally been regarded as a Belgic trait.

(5) A fragment of a low pedestal base, wheel turned or finished on a hand turn table ; sandy fabric with flint grit.

(4) Rim of a wheel-made shouldered bowl with a cover rest ; hard well-baked pottery with smooth black surface and few minute grits. The restoration of the foot is conjectural. This is a very much more developed rim than that from Cutting 12 (Fig. V, 24) and more akin to the Swarling cinerary urn, type 33 (*Swarling Report*, Pl. IX, 33, S. of Antiq. 1925).

Spit II.

(3) The base of (2) described above. (8) Fragment of a thin rim, cf. (Fig. V, 11). (17) Thin outbent rim with fine and hard smooth surface, chocolate brown in colour and with very little grit. This vase is of much the same type as 11 Cutting 12, thus it would usually be ascribed to La Tène II. This spit also produced a quantity of fragmentary pottery that does not admit of close dating.

Spit III.

(1) Rim of a heavy jar of similar paste and technique to (2) above : part of the rim was found in spit IV. There is the beginning of a zone of furrowed decoration below the lip which has a pronounced internal bevel.

Spit IV.

(6) A wheel-turned Belgic pedestal-base of typical good quality black-coated paste. This is a low base of plain type quite unlike the more striking highly arched or splayed "quoit" types. This simple type of foot in which the interior of the pot has neither kick nor sag, and the pedestal is low and almost unsplayed, is absent from the well-known cinerary series of Aylesford, Swarling, and Deal, the absence emphasizing its pure domestic nature.

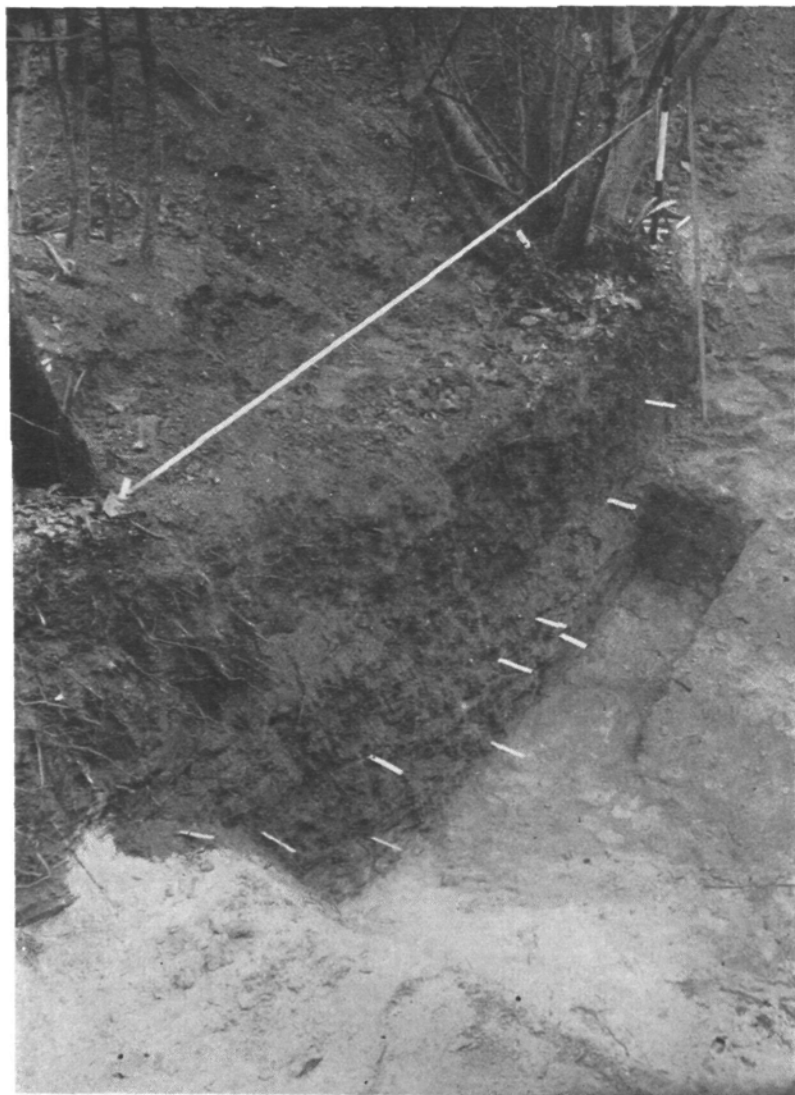


Photo by R. F. Jessup.

ANNEXE: THE SHALLOW DITCH (CUTTING 13).

PLATE V.

Spit V.

(7) Fragment of the body of a jar of rough light red clay with black interior and mixed tempering of calcined flint and pounded pottery. It is decorated with deeply scored horizontal lines much more reminiscent of the Hallstatt—La Tène I sharply-incised decoration than the shallow pencilling of La Tène II.

(9) Piece of a flat rim of hard well-baked gritted ware with black surface: the pot was almost straight-sided.

(10) Small jar with a flattish everted rim of similar fabric.

THE ANNEXE.

The Annexe is an irregular pentagonal area of some 7 or 8 acres in extent marching with the north side of the camp and covering more than three-quarters of its length. It is bounded by an irregular ditch with a bank on each side; the ditch is 40 feet wide over all at the point of our section on the east side, and as much as 65 feet wide at a point on the west. The land slopes away very rapidly from the rampart of the camp (200 feet) to the bottom of the annexe (102 feet) where there is often standing water: it is difficult to follow the line at this point owing to the dense undergrowth, but there appears to be at least one original entrance of a plain and straightforward type.

A Cutting (10) was made across the eastern bank of the annexe as close as possible to its junction with the main rampart. The cutting was continued down to the undisturbed Thanet Sand, and the ditch was found to be but one foot deep with a negligible quantity of silt: the banks which were merely heaps of sand were 4 feet in maximum height and measured 40 feet from crest to crest. There were no relics either in the ditch or in the banks, and no trace of a palisade; this, however, is not surprising if our view of the function of the annexe is correct.

To determine the relationship between the annexe and the main rampart, cutting 13 (Plate V) was made within the

annexe on the estimated line of the ditch. It soon intercepted the ditch which is here only 3 feet in depth, and this progressive shallowing of the ditch as it approaches the annexe is fairly conclusive evidence that the annexe and main camp had been planned as a complete unit.

The evidence of the section also provides an answer to a point which is not very clear upon the ground. It is now clear that the annexe does not cut into the ditch at the foot of the rampart: the bank of the annexe ended on the brink of the ditch and therefore the annexe is not likely to be later in date than the main camp, or the ditch would have been filled in and the annexe built over it.

The significance of the annexe may be found in a study of the main rampart and its relation to the form of the ground (Fig. I). In following the natural contour of the hill top it bends appreciably to the southward in order to keep to the higher ground, thus leaving a re-entrant angle consisting of a small coombe. The annexe provided a means of incorporating this awkward and vulnerable triangular piece of ground within the camp, and it provided easy access from the interior of the camp to the stream at the foot of the hill. Very probably these advantages enabled it to be used as a cattle compound. The small transverse ditch in the south-west corner has no obvious explanation.

CONCLUSIONS.

Although the great majority of the pottery recovered from the excavations shows more affinity with the domestic wares of Iron Age A than with wares of the Aylesford—Swarling series, there is no reason to think that any of it (with the possible exception of a few fragments of haematite-coated pots) was made before the period of the Belgic invasion. What we have to recognize, however, is the long survival of Iron Age A in Kent, and in particular of the pottery tradition which with very little improvement went on into Belgic times: in Kent, the Iron Age B culture is not prominent, and confined in the main to coastal sites.

The habitation area, which extended beneath the rampart, and is consequently earlier in construction, yielded sherds of precisely the same character as those from the ditch filling. There is no proof that the site represents a settlement of the earliest Iron Age A people that was subsequently occupied by the Belgæ: the few sherds of red-coated ware are far too slender a piece of evidence for that conclusion. On the contrary, the pottery evidence suggests that the site was selected by the Belgæ soon after their arrival in Kent and that the descendants of the original Iron Age A inhabitants were settling down amicably with the invaders. The virtual absence of Romano-British pottery and the scarcity of bead-rim pottery suggest that the settlement of the site did not last much more than a century, but too little is really known of these coarse wares so prominent at Bigberry to determine whether they represent a duration of habitation or a series of spasmodic settlements. In view of the lack of structural remains, the idea of desultory habitation is perhaps the better. The hasty and insignificant ramparts were perhaps a late measure of defence against the Roman invasion.

APPENDICES

CHARCOALS.

<i>Ulex sp</i>	Gorse	Sandy ditch filling ++. Occupation layer +.
<i>Quercus sp</i>	Common	Primary ditch silting +.
	Oak	Occupation layer ++++.
<i>Corylus sp</i>	Hazel	Occupation layer +++++.
<i>Pyrus sp</i>	Apple, Pear, etc.	Sandy ditch filling ++.
<i>Crataegus sp</i>	Hawthorn	Occupation layer ++.
		Sandy ditch filling +.
? <i>Platanus sp</i>	Plane	Occupation layer +.

The above table is abstracted from a report by Mr. J. C. Maby, B.Sc., A.R.C.S. The relative quantities are

indicated by symbols. With the exception of *Platanus*, all these woods have been identified on other Early Iron Age sites in Britain. The introduction of the plane is usually ascribed to Francis Bacon at the end of the sixteenth century: the fragment here may really be atypical beech or cherry.

In the main, the assemblage indicates a "dry oak-wood" vegetation, agreeing with the present day coppiced woodland of the Eocene beds in North Kent, where hazel is sometimes found as an associate in the more chalky regions.

IRONSTONE.

Mr. Ernest Straker, F.S.A., kindly reports:—

"The specimen is not a true slag,—i.e. produced by heat—but a deposit of iron oxide with fragments of other material imbedded. It matches very well with specimens from camps on the South Downs. It is very vesicular, and the specific gravity low. It might be caused by the rusting of iron debris, or it *might* be cinder from forging impure iron."

MOLLUSCA.

Mr. A. S. Kennard, F.G.S. kindly reports that the samples of ditch filling submitted to him contained nothing of interest.