

Fields of conflict: progress and prospect in battlefield archaeology

Abstracts

From the conference held in the Dept. of Archaeology, University
of Glasgow, April 2000

Proceedings published under the title

Fields of conflict: progress and prospect in battlefield archaeology

Edited by

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**Proceedings of a conference held in the
Dept. of Archaeology, University of Glasgow, April 2000**

under the auspices of the

Dept. of Archaeology, University of Glasgow,

Scottish Centre for War Studies, University of Glasgow

and the

Dept. of Archaeology, SACOS, University of Liverpool

1 Urban combat at Olynthos, 348 BC

John W.I. Lee

Abstract

This paper combines literary and archaeological evidence in an attempt to reconstruct the mechanics of urban combat during the Macedonian capture of Olynthos (348 BC). Diodoros Siculus (16.53.2-3), our major source for the event, relates only that Olynthos was captured by treachery. Yet analysis of the hundreds of lead sling bullets and iron arrowheads scattered throughout the site suggests that substantial intramural fighting was required before the Macedonians could secure the city. These small missile objects turn up throughout the site, especially within house courtyards and internal rooms, in a manner which implies not accidental dropping, but deliberate use. Just as small domestic finds (e.g. loom-weights) have been used to reconstruct the uses of various rooms in a Greek house, these missiles help show where fighting took place in the city. Furthermore, because some of these missiles are inscribed with the names of Macedonian or Olynthian commanders, and because a marked discrepancy in weight exists between Macedonian and Olynthian sling bullets, it may be possible roughly to determine the positions of attacking and defending forces during this fighting. This archaeological evidence, when combined with the often-examined literary evidence, helps provide a clearer picture of what happened at Olynthos one hot summer twenty-four hundred years ago.

2 The Archaeology of a mass grave from the battle of Towton, March 29, 1461

Anthea Boylston

In September 1996 building work on a garage extension in the village of Towton, near York, necessitated a rescue excavation which revealed a mass grave dating to the battle of Towton which took place on Palm Sunday 1461. Thirty-seven burials were recovered and the human remains were subsequently examined in the laboratory. The results of age, sex and stature estimation are discussed and the evidence for trauma and the effects of disease on the bones is presented.

3 The Rings of the Lords: Non military artefacts as battlefield indicators

Tim Sutherland

Abstract

Post-medieval battles can generally be distinguished from those of the medieval period by the widespread adoption of firearms. This is also reflected in the archaeological evidence recovered from the sites of such conflict: later battlefields often produce abundant ballistic assemblages whereas the identification of earlier battlefields is difficult due to a lack of such evidence. However, a need for the positive identification of all battlefields has become increasingly important due to the threat of development on these sites.

Current research into the location of medieval battlefields therefore began with the search for the equivalent of medieval ammunition, in the form of scatters of ferrous arrows-heads, using geophysical survey techniques. It soon became apparent that although these artefacts are occasionally found on

medieval battlefields, they are more often outnumbered by large quantities of modern ferrous objects, which mask the presence of earlier artefacts. However, it has been found that the close quartered nature of medieval combat means that greater quantities of non-ferrous artefacts, which are not normally associated with a battle, mark these sites. For example, the identification of dense clusters of medieval objects such as finger rings, buttons, and badges from the battlefield at Towton 1461 (North Yorkshire), suggests that these were dislodged from the clothing or bodies of the combatants during the fighting.

It was therefore confirmed that a survey aimed at the location of non-military, non-ferrous artefacts, - rather than military ferrous objects- would be more appropriate for the location of a medieval battlefield. However, in order to maximise the information to be gained from the analysis of a battlefield, an integrated historical and archaeological approach has been applied.

4 Flodden Field: the sources and archaeology of '*a marvelouse greate conflict*'

Patrick J.F. Parsons

Abstract

The Battle of Flodden in September 1513 is without question the greatest and bloodiest encounter in the centuries of Anglo-Scottish border warfare. Representatives from every important noble and gentry family in Scotland and northern England were present alongside their retainers. Within a few hours of desperate hand-to-hand combat thousands of Scots were dead or dying. Included among them was the charismatic warrior king, James IV, and virtually an entire generation of the Scottish political and religious élite. The number of surviving letters and despatches, printed news pamphlets, ballads and narrative accounts concerning the fight is further testimony to its considerable importance. Historians have struggled to explain why the Scots were defeated 'despite their many great advantages'. Archaeologists, however, have shown very little interest in the site of Scotland's 'national catastrophe', despite the records of early discoveries. This paper highlights the rich body of historical documents available for the study of the battle and their value in reconstructing the action. Using documentary evidence the position of the major 'units' can be identified, while a number of finds made last century suggest the most likely locations and concentrations of material remains. Together with the relatively untouched nature of the landscape, Flodden Field offers some very exciting potential for a multi-disciplinary investigation of one of Britain's major late medieval military sites.

5 Battlefield Archaeology: patterns of combat in the American Indian Wars

Douglas D. Scott

Abstract

The last 15 years have seen archaeological investigations occur at over ten battlefields of the American Indian Wars of the C19th. Each project has had interesting results that have elucidated and enhanced the history of each battle under study. Each investigation has been a particularistic endeavour, as necessitated by the single site approach. However, in cross-comparing several research efforts it is apparent that patterns of combat employed by the opposing forces are emerging. Culture continuity is evident in the US Army's combat tactics, while Native American tactics are, predictably, less formal and more opportunistic, but are never-the-less visible in the archaeological record. The paper will use examples from several American Indian War sites: Apache Pass (Arizona, 1862), Sand

Creek (Colorado, 1864), Little Big Horn (Montana, 1876) and Big Hole (Montana) to elucidate the points.

6 The post-Civil War battlefield pattern: a Modoc War example.

Gerald R. Gates & Susan Bain

The 'post-Civil War battlefield pattern' was postulated by Scott *et al* in *Archaeological Perspectives on the Battle of the Little Big Horn* (1989). Examples from military sites created during the Modoc War of 1872-1873 are examined in the light of this pattern. However, rather than 'battle sites' per se, these first examples are encampments occupied by the military during the pursuit of the Modoc forces after the Battle of Dry Lake. Field work involved plotting and sketching numerous rock fortifications and the use of metal detectors to search systematically for military related artifacts deposited in May 1873.

7 Relocating the 'Battle of Scorpion Point'. A Passport in Time Project - 1998

Gerald R. Gates

Abstract

During the Modoc War of 1872-1873, fought in the lava beds of north-eastern California, one of the engagements was waged on 7 May 1873, in the vicinity of Scorpion Point, south of Tule Lake. Here a band of Modoc warriors attacked a group of three supply wagons and 40 escorting troops. A brief battle ensued before the Modocs once again disappeared into the lava beds, leaving at least three troopers wounded. In the 1920s the Forest Service marked the location with an enamelled sign, assisted by a participant of the battle. The sign and post have long-since vanished and the location was lost. Using Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers with metal detectors the Forest was able to re-locate and confirm the battle site. This presentation highlights that project, the methods used, and the materials recovered. It will also present a possible alternate 'history' of the event. Battlefield Archaeology: patterns of combat in the American Indian Wars

8 Archaeological views of the Mescalero Apache Indian War period of the American south-west⁴

Christopher D. Adams and Diane E. White

Abstract

During the last four years, archaeological investigations have been conducted at two Mescalero Apache Indian War battle sites in south-eastern New Mexico (USA). The Lincoln National Forest Heritage program has been conducting research on the Apache Indian War Period. Both projects have contributed new insight on Mescalero Apache battlefield tactics,

strategic Apache site placement and US Military campaign tactics. By combining both the historic record and the archaeological record, new discoveries have shed information on the Mescalero Apache Indian War Period. The paper will focus on the archaeological investigations of the Dark Canyon (1860-1865) and the Last Chance Canyon (1869) battle sites.

9 "Book Archaeology" of the Cowpens battlefield

Lawrence E. Babits

Abstract

After the successful Little Big Horn battlefield archaeology, analysis of the Battle of Cowpens (17 January 1781) was attempted. While precise duplication of the early work was not possible, archaeological analysis of the documents alone led to a better understanding of the spatial and chronological episodes composing the engagement. The patterning predicted for the battle's material culture was detected in a variety of documentary sources including reports, memoirs, pension applications and secondary sources. When compiled by unit, commander, battlefield location and wounds, it was possible to predict locations on the landscape. The terrain features identified by participants are still extant but contrast dramatically with traditional accounts of the battle. After the existing landscape was factored into the documentary materials, it was possible to reinterpret the battle and then propose archaeological work.

10 The official explanation versus the archaeological record of a US - Mexican War battle

Charles M. Haecker

Abstract

Palo Alto, the first battle of the US-Mexican War (1846-1848), was a testing ground for a new generation of US officers. It was here that West Pointers Ulysses S. Grant, George G. Meade, James Longstreet, and other future Civil War generals first witnessed the equalizing value of well-employed field artillery against a numerically superior force. Palo Alto was essentially an artillery duel that pitted the newly developed US 'flying' artillery against Mexican batteries of antiquated cannon. The Americans rapidly deployed at will two horse-drawn field batteries, while advancing slow-moving but powerful siege guns. In contrast, Mexican batteries lacked the manoeuvrability and range needed to check their aggressive adversary. Although the Mexican army attempted flanking attacks on the US line, they were always repulsed with heavy losses. Unable to manoeuvre, confused and bloodied after standing all day under accurate artillery fire, the Mexicans withdrew. Analysis of Mexican and US documents and maps, conjoined with the archaeological survey of the battlefield, identified a significant discrepancy between US and Mexican versions of battle events. The archaeological data conclusively indicated the US version - ironically, not the one normally encountered in historical accounts regarding this war - more closely approximates what actually occurred at Palo Alto.

13 Guns or ploughshares: significance and a Civil War landscape

Martha Temkin

Abstract

The concept of 'significance' in archaeology has far-reaching effects on the management of archaeological resources. Archaeologists have struggled with the definition of this concept within the profession and as defined by others, ie. the National Register in the US. The significance concept is especially important when dealing with an historic battlefield site. These sites tend to be complex in terms of the kinds of archaeological resources they contain. In order to examine this issue, I first look at how archaeologists have dealt with significance, via a review of the literature of the topic. Then using a case study approach, I explore how different interpretations of 'significance' will impact on the management of the archaeological resources of the Best Farm, a property contained within Monocacy National Battlefield (1864, Maryland).

14 The Little Big Horn of Africa ? The Battle of Isandlwana and the Anglo-Zulu War Archaeological Project.

Tony Pollard & Len Van Schalkwyk

The Anglo-Zulu War of 1879 saw the worst defeat ever inflicted upon a British imperial army by a technologically inferior indigenous force. On 22 January 1879 the main British invasion column camped at the foot of Isandlwana mountain was attacked by a Zulu *impi* some 20,000 strong and within the space of a morning the camp had been completely over-run and more than 1200 British and colonial troops killed (the number of Zulu dead is unknown but likely to have been much greater). As demonstrated by commemoration events held at the site on the battle's 120th Anniversary in January 1999 the battle represents one of the proudest moments in Zulu history. It has passed down into British military history as a noble defeat, characterised by heroic last stands and as such can perhaps be described as an African Little Big Horn.

The Anglo-Zulu War Archaeological Project is a joint initiative between the Dept. of Archaeology, University of Glasgow, Heritage KwaZulu-Natal and the University of Natal, and is geared toward the archaeological investigation of a number sites related to the conflict, including the British fort at Eshowe (see Pollard, this volume). The hub around which the entire project revolves is the Isandlwana battlefield, which today survives as perhaps the most dramatic site of its type anywhere in the world and is protected as a battlefield reserve. The archaeological investigation of the site will begin in August 2000 and is expected to extend over 4 or 5 annual seasons. This paper will provide an introduction to the Anglo-Zulu War Archaeological Project while also outlining the research aims of the investigation of the Isandlwana battlefield.

16 'Beyond military archaeology': battlefields as a research resource

John and Patricia Carman

Abstract

The Bloody Meadows Project seeks to understand historic battlefields as particular kinds of places, both in the past and in the present. It treats them as particular kinds of landscapes where people came together in the past to do certain kinds of things, and which carry meaningful associations from that past into the present. In doing so, the project draws upon ideas from archaeology concerning the understanding of locales as culturally-constituted places.

The Project takes advantage of recent advances in battlefield archaeology and the worldwide recognition of battlefields as sites of cultural importance. It does so by treating battle itself as a particular cultural form varying in style, intensity and significance from time to time and culture to culture, and treating the places of battle as the chosen arenas where those cultural forms were given material expression. By investigating these particular kinds of places, it seeks to gain an insight into how the peoples of past cultures understood their relationships to landscapes, life, death, violence and identity, among other things. Ultimately the aim is to explore the cultural value of battlefield sites by emphasising their rôle as the source of new research agendas for the future.

17 Towards a research agenda for battlefield archaeology.

Andy Brown

In 1995 English Heritage published a Register of Historic Battlefields. This paper will explain the genesis of the Register and will chart its successes and failures to date. The main aim of the paper, however, is to look ahead rather than back. Some progress has been made in managing English battlefields for visitors, but the structures for managing their research potential are ill-developed, and it is this issue which will form the substance of the presentation.

The system of archaeological resource management in England puts archaeologists within planning authorities at the centre of decisions about how the archaeology of a battlefield should be managed. Yet with battlefield archaeology so immature in England, few decision-makers are familiar with the research potential of battlefields, so resource management takes place in a vacuum. Progress towards a research agenda is urgently needed to fill this vacuum. How might this happen ? How wide should the constituency be which is represented on the agenda ? Who can co-ordinate it, update it and promulgate it ? As much a call for ideas as a presentation, bring your thinking caps !

18 Preserving Scotland's battlefields: powers, practices and possibilities

Ann MacSween

Abstract

Historic Scotland is currently reviewing the most appropriate way to protect Scotland's battlefield sites. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) allows only for the protection of the physical remains of such sites. Recent planning guidance (NPPG18), however, encourages consideration of the importance of the historic environment to be taken into account in the preparation of local development plans and in the development control process. In order for this to be effective, the compilation of a non-statutory register of Scotland's battlefield sites is being considered, similar in certain respects to that which exists for England. The register would provide a baseline of information which could be used in the planning process and in interpreting and presenting these historic sites.

This paper will outline some of the issues involved in compiling a battlefields register. Many clan battles, especially in Highland areas, for example, had far-reaching implications, but could not be classed as much more than skirmishes, while the location or precise boundaries of many battlefield sites are imprecisely known or disputed. Given such limitations, case studies will be used in a consideration of the content of the proposed register, and the ways in which this information could be presented.

19 The preservation of smaller battlefields: skirmishes in the planning system.

Hugh McBrien

There have been advances in the protection of major battlefields in recent years, but should the sites of lesser conflicts also be protected ? If so, how can it be done when it is difficult to preserve even the most famous of battlefield sites from development pressure ? Can the sites be identified on the ground ? Who cares about them ? If no-one cares about them, should anyone care for them ?

Sites of lesser conflicts are remembered by and continue to be important to many different constituencies. The curation of these sites is one, of the most difficult tasks for the archaeological resource manager. Often the social-historic or mythic significance of a site outweighs its known or potential archaeological importance. Indeed, public outrage can arise from a threat to the site of a battle which may never have taken place.

A site's perceived importance may wax and wane over time, but provides the justification for its preservation. I would contend that it is impossible to formulate consistent policies specifically for the protection of the sites of lesser conflicts. The only feasible way to protect such sites is to harness public opinion and rehearse arguments in favour of their preservation in whatever forum, such as the planning system, which can be of use as and when a threat arises.

20 Conservation of Historic Battlefield Terrain: Drafting the Vimy Charter

Natalie Bull and David Panton

Abstract

At the Canadian National Vimy Memorial and the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial, two Canadian WWI memorials in France, the battlefield terrain (craters, shell holes and trenches) was an important component of the original commemoration of the sites in the 1920s by the governments of Canada and Newfoundland. Preserving the physical evidence of the battle on the land was a relatively new idea and it reflected a sense of the inadequacy of traditional war monuments in the face of the huge loss of human life in the Great War. The original decision to retain battlefield terrain was motivated by a desire to have an impact on those who would visit the site. This implies that the sites were not intended to be pretty or necessarily attractive but should have an 'edge', a slightly disturbing undertone.

With the passage of time the battlefields have softened both physically and visually to the point that at times they appear 'bucolic', and less legible due to natural forces such as erosion and deposition, as well as visitor impact, sheep traffic, and inappropriate maintenance practices. Although the rate of deterioration is unknown, significant profile has been lost since 1918 and it appears that within 25 to 40 years the site will have been impacted even more by this process of natural levelling. This loss of legibility is coupled with the fact that now, some 80 years after the war, the visitor has a more tenuous connection with the meaning of the site than earlier visitors had. As our society moves away from the event commemorated and the ability to respond emotionally to the sites, we need to be even more aware of the importance of that 'edge' and the effect of its weakening or loss.

21 Robin Hood at the Ebro: social movements and the preservation of historic sites in southern Catalonia.

Edmon Castell & Lluís Falco

On Sunday, 20 February 2000 the streets of Barcelona were the scene of a large protest against racism and xenophobia. Near the end of the march, the voice of Marina Rossell brought the melodies of 'Crossing the Ebro' to every corner of the Plaça de Sant Jaume. In the present context of a Europe threatened by the increase in fascist attitudes, with political representatives of Nazi parties in governments such as Austria, and with a very significant rise in votes for fascist and xenophobic parties in Italy or France, it is not surprising that democratic society of Catalonia is using its own cultural legends to combat the phantom of fascism.

The fact is that the Battle of the Ebro is not just a wartime event related to a series of variables such as logistics, war devices, military manoeuvres, etc. For 60 years and to the present day, it has been part of our democratic itinerary. It is a cultural phenomenon which has transcended its time-space co-ordinates to become a legend. It is a point of reference, still quite vivid, of the international fight against fascism. This mythification has appeared since 1938 in the different forms of expression of popular culture: in literature, cinema and songs.

We also find vestiges of this cultural phenomenon on the scenes of combat, on the very grounds of the battlefield. The Franco regime tried to appropriate the memory of the Battle of the Ebro and change its meaning. From 1938 to the present, the countryside and towns along the Ebro have been the active spaces where the Franco doctrine and its detritus have fought for hegemony

against the philosophy of democratic reason. During the years of Franco's dictatorship, this combat was very unequal, and the world vision of the victors was not only imposed on the citizenry, but also physically represented on the terrain in a very visible manner.

The transition to democracy has not led to recovering the memory of the struggle against fascism. Nonetheless, signs are appearing from the regions near the Ebro that would indicate that this period, based on the amputation of part of our past, is about to end. In the last few months, new books, doctoral theses now underway, diverse museological proposals are digging deep into the past of local society and politicians. Some of these proposals are an attempt to make historic sites comprehensible and give democratic reason hegemony at the Ebro. On the other hand, other initiatives rooted in the philosophy of the transition period take a sidelong glance at the past, with vague messages and the avoidance of historical knowledge.

This paper attempts to make the basis of these initiatives known, the way in which they contrast or relate to one another and their perspectives for the future. Above and beyond these initiatives, it is surprising to discover that a legendary figure has come to the mountains of Cavalls, Pindols, La Fatarella and El Montsant. Robin Hood appeared on the past 19 February in Poboleda (Priorat, Catalonia, Spain), joining in the struggle being carried out by the *Platforms for the Rational Implementation of Eolic Energy* in southern Catalonia against the indiscriminate installation of windmill energy stations. These irrational projects for the implantation of a great deal of large wind power generators are threatening to destroy the historic sites of the Battle of the Ebro and the natural surroundings.

The manufacturers of the past, following on the heels of our friend from Sherwood Forest, have had to leave their archives in order to face social reality. They have understood that developing a comprehension of the Battle of the Ebro on the actual sites themselves will only be achieved through social struggle. Robin Hood, hidden and alert in the underbrush of the sacred mountains of southern Catalonia, will not leave until the historical integrity of the battlefields of the Ebro are guaranteed.

22 The archaeology of the early-modern siege

Paul Courtney

Abstract

This paper will present an overview of the archaeology of the siege in the early-modern period (c.1500-1775) using examples from NW Europe and Colonial America. The potential of studying closely-dated archaeological features and deposits associated with sieges offers archaeologists unique opportunities to examine human behaviour. In particular there are excellent opportunities to compare and contrast historical and archaeological sources. Aspects examined will include siege tactics, fortifications, weaponry, burials and the every-day life of garrisons. The physical impact of sieges on towns and the problems facing

urban archaeologists in tackling extensive and poorly preserved siege lines will also be discussed.

23 The defenses of The Alamo as found by archaeology.

James E. Ivey

Abstract

Since 1966 archaeological work at The Alamo has found traces of the defenses of the fort. This paper examines the results of the archaeology carried out over the last 34 years, and compiles the information into a plan and evaluation of the defenses of The Alamo. One result of this analysis is the determination that, of all the varied plans drawn depicting the Battle of the Alamo, only one portrays the fortifications located by archaeology.

24 Bomarsund: archaeology and heritage management at the site of a Crimean War siege

Viveka Löndahl, Neil Price & Graham Robins

Abstract

The Crimean War of 1853-1856, fought between the Russian Empire and the allied forces of Britain, France and Turkey, is best known through its Black Sea theatre and engagements such as Balaklava (which included the famous 'Charge of the Light Brigade'). Less familiar is the northern front of the war, and the struggle for control of the Baltic shipping lanes. Russian presence in this area centred on the Åland Islands, situated between Sweden and Finland, and especially on the massive fortress of Bomarsund with its artillery and garrison of 2500 men. On 13 August 1854 this was subjected to a naval bombardment by 40 British warships, following which some 12,000 French assault troops were landed. After three days of fighting the garrison surrendered, marking the end of Russian strategic superiority in the Baltic. Following the battle, the victors used explosives largely to demolish the remains of the fort, leaving only ruins.

As part of on-going heritage management, public access and conservation programmes implemented at Bomarsund by the Åland Board of Antiquities, archaeological excavations are being conducted to investigate aspects of the 1854 siege. This paper presents preliminary results of the work and discusses the presentation of the site to visitors.

25 Before the battle: undeployed battlefield weaponry from the Spanish Armada, 1588

Colin Martin

Abstract

Excavations on post-medieval shipwrecks have yielded extensive evidence of contemporary weaponry. Much is specific to naval warfare, but a substantial number of items have been recovered which are applicable to combat ashore or afloat, or come from consignments of military equipment lost in transit. Material from dated shipwrecks is usually of guaranteed chronological precision, and normally carries unequivocal attributes of association and context.

The 1588 Spanish Armada was essentially an invasion fleet afloat, and a major collection of late C16th weaponry has been recovered from the wreck of *La Trinidad Valencera* off Donegal. This includes part of the Armada's siege-train, close-combat incendiary devices, and weapons, equipment, and clothing belonging to the troops on board. Prepared materials for siegeworks and field defences were also found. These items are given added significance by the rich resource of associated documents which survive in Spain.

26 Culloden: the battlefield as palimpsest - changing interpretations 1746 – 2000.

Ross MacKenzie

Culloden, the scene of the last pitched battle fought on British soil is a highly charged and emotional site even today, more than 250 years later. Currently looked after by the National Trust for Scotland, this paper seeks to show how each generation has interpreted the site and the battle, how the interpretations differ and how they may change given political developments in today's Scotland. Also, why do we preserve this battlesite ? From ideological revolutionaries to rebel scum, and from an England v. Scotland rematch of Bannockburn to civil war, do these 180 acres of Inverness-shire moorland tell us of the enduring divisions in Scottish society or has protection turned the battlefield into a prime tourist resource. Why preserve at all?

27 The archaeology of attack: battles and sieges of the English Civil War

Glenn Foard

Abstract

Archaeology can make a major contribution to the understanding of battles and sieges, especially through the systematic study of unstratified artefact scatters, but this has not been generally recognised in England. Through two English Civil War case studies, the Battle of Naseby (1645) and the minor siege of Grafton Regis, the potential is explored for the integrated study of artefact distributions and historical topography with the historical documentation for the actual events. Minor engagements are likely to be of as great a significance for the development of the methodology of battlefield archaeology as the major battles where complex patterns of overlapping action may need to be untangled. This is however a very vulnerable archaeological resource which is being destroyed at an exceptional rate, particularly by unrecorded or poorly recorded metal detecting surveys. Given the effective management of much of the rest of the England's archaeology it is remarkable that there are no measures in place to conserve this resource, even on our major battlefields. A research agenda and effective methodology must be defined for the archaeological investigation of all battlefields in England and, if effective conservation cannot be achieved very rapidly, then there must be an urgent programme of rescue recording before it is too late.

28 Geology as an interpreter of Great War Battle sites

Peter Doyle

Abstract

Geology is arguably one of the most important terrain factors with a direct influence in the outcome of the battles of the Great War. As a largely static, fortress-siege warfare, fought by opposing sides in direct contact with the earth, geology was of overriding importance: in the construction of defensive positions, both above and below ground; in offensive mining operations and; in the control of ground conditions during protracted offensives. While historians and archaeologists have long accepted the importance of terrain in the key battles of the Great War, few have sought to define the relative importance of the one factor which ultimately controls the formation of that terrain, namely, geology. In battlefields as diverse as Gallipoli, Salonika and the Western Front it is possible, using a combination of accurate contemporary mapping and reassessment of the battle sites, to determine the relative rôle that geology had in the development of specific battles. In all these examples, the rôle of geology has been so far underplayed. This paper examines these battlefield sites and demonstrates that in the siege warfare of the Great War, geology was an important factor and that in any re-interpretation of these sites, its rôle should be taken into account.

29 The Battle for Britain: WWII and the larger than life battlefield

Michael J. Anderton

Abstract

The term battlefield implies a limited, fixed spatial and temporal area within which a military engagement occurred in earnest. However, in the case of WWII this definition is transcended in terms of time and space to describe the effects of a 'globalised' war upon the whole of the United Kingdom. From the war in the air to the military installations on the ground a system of static and mobile defences were established that fortified the UK land mass for the battle to come. I am currently employed on a project (funded by English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme) that has, in its prime rôle, used contemporary and modern aerial photographs to ascertain the survival and destruction rates of certain categories of military sites used during this 'battle'. However, it has also resulted in questions being asked of why documentary, oral, photographic and contemporary physical evidence do not always match each other in their details; and how we may be able to provide a 'social life' for these presently empty, hollow, battlefield sites.

In this paper I will explore the need to ensure that all of the sources described above are used in order to establish how we can look into the human-face of a 'battlefield' that existed on this vast scale. Many of the military operations and social elements of military remains are no longer visible through either the earthworks, shells of buildings or official histories of the period. Documentary sources such as Unit War Diaries and the like do not always give accurate accounts of the apparatus and events at, or near, a site during that period. Oral histories from people manning these sites often differ from (i) the perceptions and evidence given in official documents of the way these sites functioned; and (ii) from the currently available physical evidence. Finally, other oral accounts of the 'Battle for Britain' indicate strong elements of subversion upon this battlefield, in both official and unofficial forms, that are rarely, if ever, visible in the physical record.

30 The materiality of conflict and identity in C20th Ireland.

Jeffrey T. McGovern

By placing into historical context the materiality of armed conflicts, such as sites from the conflicts, artefacts from the conflicts, and markers to the events and/or participants, an understanding can be gained of how identities are constructed, deconstructed and reconstructed. When these identities have as their focus conflicts of nationalist goals, they give insight into how a nation is perceived and constructed at the local, regional and national levels. In Ireland, the War of Independence (1919-1921) and the Civil War (1922-1923) are direct antecedents of the current 'Troubles' in the north of Ireland. Examining two sites in County Cork, Ireland, one witnesses the ebb and flow of nationalist ideology through time and in relation to the problems occurring in the north Ireland. Through the use, reuse or lack of use as sites and markers, the material culture of conflict can be used to reconstruct past and current Irish national identities.

31 Airfields as battlefields, aircraft as an archaeological resource: British military aviation in the first half of the C20th.

Vince Holyoak

Abstract

With the fall of France in the summer of 1940 Britain's Fighter Command airfields became the front line. As the war progressed emphasis began to turn towards offensive operations, so that by 1944/45 the UK's 700 military airfields provided a base for the world's largest combined tactical and strategic air forces. Wartime airfield construction had a major impact upon the landscape and represented Britain's second largest scheme of civil engineering, eclipsed only by the building of the motorway network in the post-war era. Despite their significance, as a class of military remains airfields have remained comparatively neglected in conservational terms, in part due to their physical size. Yet they have real value: their design, installations and architecture provide a unique and readily visible record of advances in aeronautical engineering, changing military strategies and in times of war, the progress of air campaigns. Using as a basis case studies, the paper discusses the nature of the resources, demonstrates how the history of an airfield can be understood using the physical remains and outlines English Heritage's response to the problem of conservation.

Thousands of military aircraft were lost in and around the UK in WWII as a result of combat or accidents. All of them, British, American or German are automatically covered by the Protection of Military Remains Act (1986) making it illegal to disturb their crash sites without first obtaining a licence from the Ministry of Defence. However, licensing makes no restrictions on the grounds of rarity or historical importance and is primarily intended to prevent the disturbance of human remains or live ordnance. As a result amateur excavation has severely depleted what is archaeologically and historically a valuable resource. Despite this, military aircraft crash sites remain poorly understood by Britain's professional archaeologists and largely absent from archaeological databases. The second half of the paper therefore discusses the background to aircraft crash sites, their character, potential and the significance of the remains. It concludes by discussing how English Heritage hopes to foster a more informed approach to their future management.

Once the war is over

Lyn Dore

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of Australia's involvement in wartime activities and the potential for linking these historical events with tourism. The paper is concerned with the transformation of battlefield landscapes over time and their nexus with tourism. This paper represents preliminary research into the realm of pilgrimage; battlefield tours and the transformation of war related landscapes over time to meet the ever-changing needs of society.

"Made in Scotland ?": sword-making in Scotland in the C15th and C16th in the context of recent archaeological evidence

Jones

Abstract

Relatively little work has been done on the technical examination of early Scottish weapons. Even less work has been undertaken in setting them into the context of the bloomeries and smithies that produced them. Despite a long tradition in iron making in Scotland, it has been assumed that already from the 1400s most sword blades were produced in 'Europe' and imported *en masse* into Scotland, only their hilts made and fitted locally. A rare opportunity arose to test this long standing assumption when permission was granted to examine chemically and metallographically two hand-and-a-half (bastard) swords dating to the C15th and C16th respectively and a C16th dagger from the collection of the Glasgow and Ayr Museums with the aim of establishing whether some of them might have been produced locally from local ores. The large analytical data that is now available from the excavation and technical characterisation of bloomery mounds in the Scottish Highlands and metalworking installations in the Lowlands makes this provenance study possible, albeit with suggestive, but not necessarily, always conclusive results. This report suggests that the two hand-and-a-half blades could well have been produced locally thus raising the need to qualify the question of mass imports. The dagger despite its Scottish typology might be an import. Irrespective of origin all three objects are hardly ceremonial and would have served their owners well in the battlefield, being well made functional steel blades, perhaps reflecting local workshop/clan smithing traditions.

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Implicit obedience and resistance: a post-processual archaeology of the American Civil War.

The American Civil War is one of the most popular subjects in the United States and has more literary volumes devoted to it than any other historical event in North American history. These studies include general histories of the war, particularistic examinations of battles, and biographies of

famous generals and political figures. We know how battles were won and lost and about the lives of famous military leaders, but historians and archaeologists have done little work concerning the lower ranking soldiers who fought and died in these historic events.

As anthropological archaeologists, we have yet to make a serious contribution to the study of the American Civil War. The study of military sites has focused primarily on proving or disproving the historic documentation of major military activities. Archaeology conducted on American Civil War sites tends to centre on establishing the exact location of battle-lines, artillery positions, and entrenchments. Archaeologists conducting these surveys do little more than identify the material culture they excavate, thus losing significant insights into the culture of the occupants of the site.

The use of post-processual theory, which contextualizes the site culture into a larger social context, will significantly enhance the study and understanding of specific power relations between participants in the American Civil War. Through an examination of military artifacts which have been misused and altered by soldiers, I strive to demonstrate that military archaeological remains are not mute. Rather, they speak of soldiers stricken of their personal identities who fight the military norms placed upon them. While historians focus on the conflicts arising between feuding armies, this archaeological study illustrates the disharmony which existed between members of the same military organisation. Further, the application of post-processual theory to the archaeology of the American Civil War may become relevant to the study of other military events in American and World history.

The archaeology of Roman conflict

Jon Coulston

No Abstract