

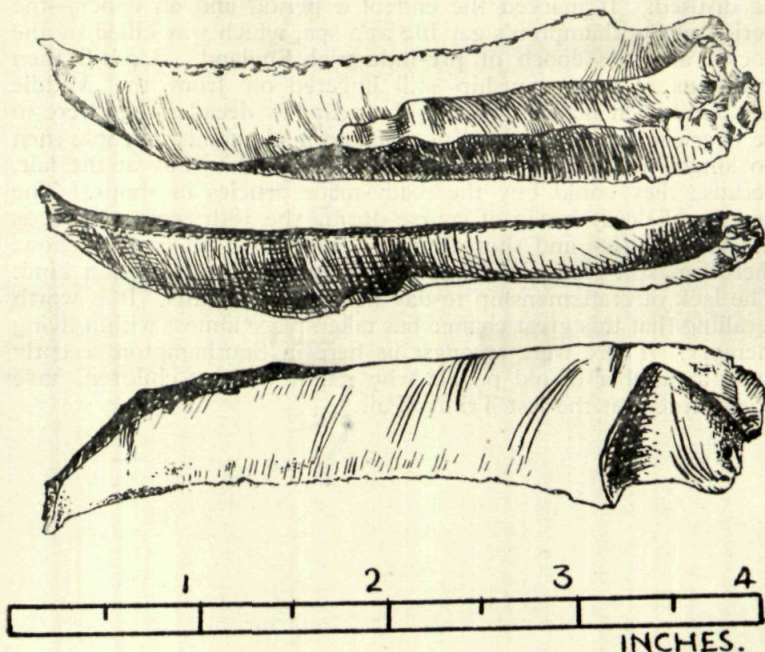
NOTES.

A FLINT FLAKE FROM GRAYSHOTT.

THE flake illustrated below was found during the ploughing of a field by the stream on Purchase Farm, Whitmore Vale, Grayshott, near Hazlemere, Hants. Mr. Lacaille, of the Welcome Historical Medical Museum, reports on the flake as follows :—

“A fine flake with serrated edges which, I believe, may confidently be assigned to a Bronze Age industry. This I judge more from the shattered scar of percussion than from the unpatinated state of the object. The denticulations appear to me to combine both retouch and wear. The edge still shows the signs of continuous utilization.”

G. L. CLAYTON.



STONE AXE FROM SOUTHAMPTON.

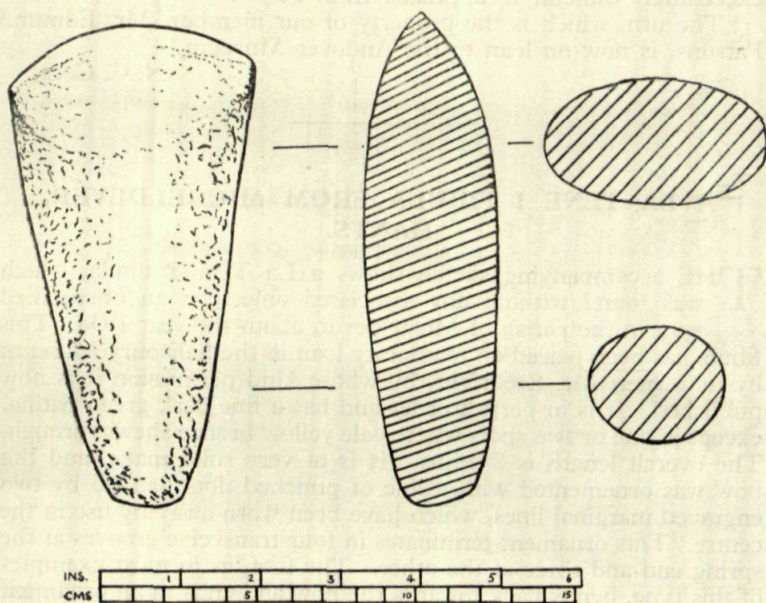
WHILE on holiday at Dartmouth in 1947, Mr. A. C. Vincent acquired a fine stone axe (fig. below) which had an old label on it which read, "Southampton 1899, in excavating a trench for a sewer, site of new buildings, St. Michael's Square."

These new buildings were almost certainly the Municipal Lodging House called "St. Michael's House," whose foundation-stone was laid in July 1898, and which is situated next door to Tudor House Museum.

The axe is 15 cms. long and is 7.8 cms. wide at the cutting edge. The type of stone cannot be determined without petrological examination, but it is certainly foreign to Hampshire.

The axe has been loaned by Mr. Vincent to Tudor House Museum.

N. C. C.



A LATE BRONZE AGE URN FROM COOMBE.

PLATE E is a photograph of a globular urn of the *Deverel-Rimbury* type, belonging to the late Bronze Age (8th to 7th centuries B.C.). Measurements :—

Height	-	-	-	11 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
Diameter of rim	-	-	-	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Diameter of bulge	-	-	-	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Diameter of base	-	-	-	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

It was found in September 1924 near the village of Coombe, on the south side of Walbury Camp, just on the 800ft. contour line (6in. maps, Hants, sheet 2. S.W., lat. 51° 20' 59", long. 1° 27' 44"). Mr. O. G. S. Crawford visited the site with the finder of the urn, Mr. John MacQuest, but a careful search failed to produce any evidence of an urn field, and there seems little doubt that this was an isolated single burial. The position of the find is noteworthy, for the hillside drops away from this point so steeply as to make it exceedingly difficult to approach from below.

The urn, which is the property of our member, Mr. Edmund Parsons, is now on loan to the Andover Museum.

N. C. COOK.

A LA TENE I FIBULA FROM MICHELDEVER, HANTS.

THE accompanying sketch shows a La Tène I fibula, which was found without any associated object, at an unspecified spot in the parish of Micheldever, about the year 1938. This fibula has been placed on temporary loan in the Salisbury Museum by its owner, Mr. Seebright, by whose kind permission it is now published. It is in perfect order and has a fine dark green patina, except in one or two spots where pale yellow bronze shews through. The overall length is 2.15ins. It is of very solid make, and the bow was ornamented with a line of punched dots flanked by two engraved marginal lines, which have been worn away by use in the centre. This ornament terminates in four transverse grooves at the spring end and three at the other. The foot, as in most examples of this type, bends back towards the bow and ends in an ornament not unlike the head of an insect, with two ridges at the neck and a pair of antennae which curve outwards in a circle and return to the head. The spring is twisted round a bronze axis of square section, with hammered ends to keep it in place, exactly like the example from Silbury Hill, published by Goddard in the *Wilt's Arch. Mag.*, Vol. XXXV, 400, fig. 15. Another very similar example was found on the site of St. Mark's Church, Salisbury,

PLATE E.

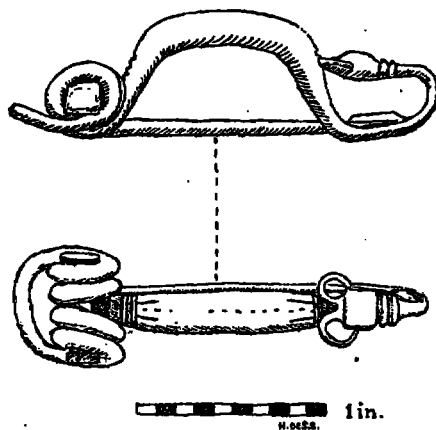


LATE BRONZE AGE URN FROM COOMBE.

To face p. 56]

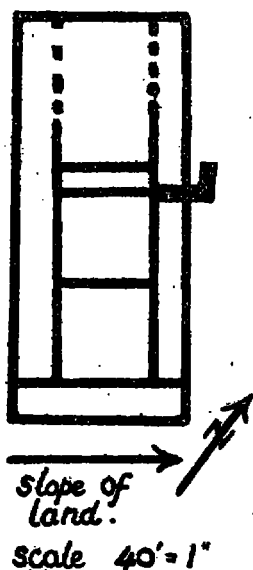
c. 1890, and was until recently in the possession of the late Mr. C. Scammell, of Salisbury. It was published by Stevens in the *Wilt Arch. Mag.*, Vol. XLVII, 285, with figure, but its present whereabouts are not known. The Micheldever fibula adds one to the total of three La Tène fibulae recorded by Fox as having been found in Hampshire, in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, Vol. LXXXII, 112 (1927), but the total for Wiltshire then stood at 24, without the St. Mark's specimen, out of a total of 68 for the whole of England. The ornamentation of the foot is paralleled by a Wiltshire example from Baydon, figured by Goddard and Fox *loc. cit.*, as well as the Silbury Hill example mentioned above, while the bow ornament may be seen in four other Wiltshire examples, from All Cannings Cross, figured by Cunningham in *All Cannings Cross*, pl. 18, 13, and Fox *loc. cit.*, Avebury, figured in the *British Museum Guide*, Early Iron Age, (1925), fig. 97, and Fox *loc. cit.*, West Kennet, figured by Goddard, *loc. cit.*, and Fox *loc. cit.*, and West Lavington Down, figured by Goddard, *loc. cit.* This bow ornamentation is usually associated with fibulae of Fox's phase A, but it was continued in phase B and the developed ornament on the foot places the Micheldever fibula in the second phase.

H. DE S. SHORTT.



THE ROMAN VILLA AT GRATELY, NEAR ANDOVER.

PERHAPS there is no longer any need to stress the point that some Roman villas had an upper storey. It is certain that this was the case; it is also certain that the stairs, where they existed, were of wood and so have perished; but there is indirect evidence for upper rooms in the thickened walls designed to support the extra height and in the narrow spaces, too small for serviceable rooms but wide enough to take a staircase, which are a frequent occurrence in the ground plans of Roman villas.



It is interesting to notice further such indirect evidence in the plan of the villa at Grately (see *Papers of the Hampshire Field Club*, Vol. VI, page 341). The walls are uniformly 18 inches thick except for a queer angle of foundations, three feet thick, in the centre of one side of the villa. Without this apparently irrelevant block, the incomplete plan can be filled in, conjecturally, but with a very high degree of certainty, to form a villa of the standard double-corridor type.

It is noticeable that on the original plan these 3ft. foundations do not appear to be of one build with the rest of the villa. At all the other angles, the hatching is continuous; but the hatching of the thicker foundations are lined off from the remainder as if the

draughtsman intended to convey the idea that they were not bonded into the wall against which they are built.

It is also to be noticed that this block stands at the north-eastern end of a narrow passage, only 4 feet wide, and that (perhaps the most significant fact of all) the site of the villa is on land that slopes downhill towards the north-east.

There are two conceivable explanations of this massive foundation which so blocks the eastern corridor. Either the 4ft. space was originally a passage connecting the two corridors and a staircase was added later, needing the buttress to take the added thrust of it and of the superstructure to which it led ; or else the buttress had to be added when the original wall was found to be unequal to the strain of supporting the upper room. It seems impossible to make a choice between the two suppositions ; in either case, the buttress is an emergency expedient and a necessity, and the obstruction of the corridor a lesser of two evils.

The shortness of the arm of the buttress which runs parallel to the length of the villa confirms what I have noticed in one or two other villas and which I believe to have been the common practice, that the upper floor did not cover the whole ground plan of the house, but consisted of only one or two rooms.

C. A. F. BERRY, M.A.

ROMAN BURIALS AT MIDDLE WALLOP, HANTS.

By STUART PIGGOTT, B.LITT., F.S.A.

AT the end of May 1939, while digging a pipe-line trench with a mechanical excavator during the construction of a new aerodrome at Middle Wallop, three graves, oriented north and south, were cut through. The site lies on top of the chalk downs north of the village, a few yards east of the main road and approximately half way along the boundary fence of the airfield.

On June 1st I was invited to excavate the graves, and found that two had been largely destroyed by the trench-digging (Nos. 1 and 2), but that the third was relatively intact. It was found that all were Roman in age, and probably formed part of a small cemetery.

Grave 1 measured originally 7ft. by 3ft. 3in. and was 3ft. deep. The legs only of the interment, lying on its back, had been left *in situ*, and it was found that there were a number of iron hob-nails at the foot, some single and some in clusters of three in the manner of those found at Rotherley by Pitt-Rivers. Three iron coffin-nails were found *in situ*, and others in the grave filling.

Grave 2, 6ft. 6in. by 2ft. 9in., was contiguous with the first, and four inches deeper. The lower limb-bones were *in situ*, but no hob-nails. Coffin-nails were found in the filling.

Grave 3, 6ft. 6in. by 3ft., and 3ft. deep, was almost intact. The skeleton was, however, very poorly preserved, lying on its back with the skull completely crushed. By the right side of the head was a flask and cup of New Forest ware, and at the neck an iron brooch. Eight coffin-nails were found *in situ*, and four small nails, one by the right and three by the left arm, also probably belonging to the coffin. There were a few iron hob-nails at the feet. (Fig. 1.)

The coffin-nails showed on their corroded surfaces clear traces of the grain of the wood with which they had been in contact, and from this, and from their positions in the grave, it is possible to reconstruct the now-vanished coffin in some detail. It must have consisted of two side boards of $\frac{5}{8}$ in. wood nailed to the two end boards of the same thickness by large nails, probably originally four inches long, driven in from the sides. There may have been two nails to each corner (as in an instance recorded by Pitt-Rivers), as nails were found in the grave-filling as well as those *in situ*, and showed wood grain, implying that they were used on the corners. The bottom of the coffin was made of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. planks, probably five or six of which, each about a foot wide, must have been used transversely and nailed on to the side boards from below with one nail at each end. In fig. 2 two corner nails are illustrated (Nos. 6

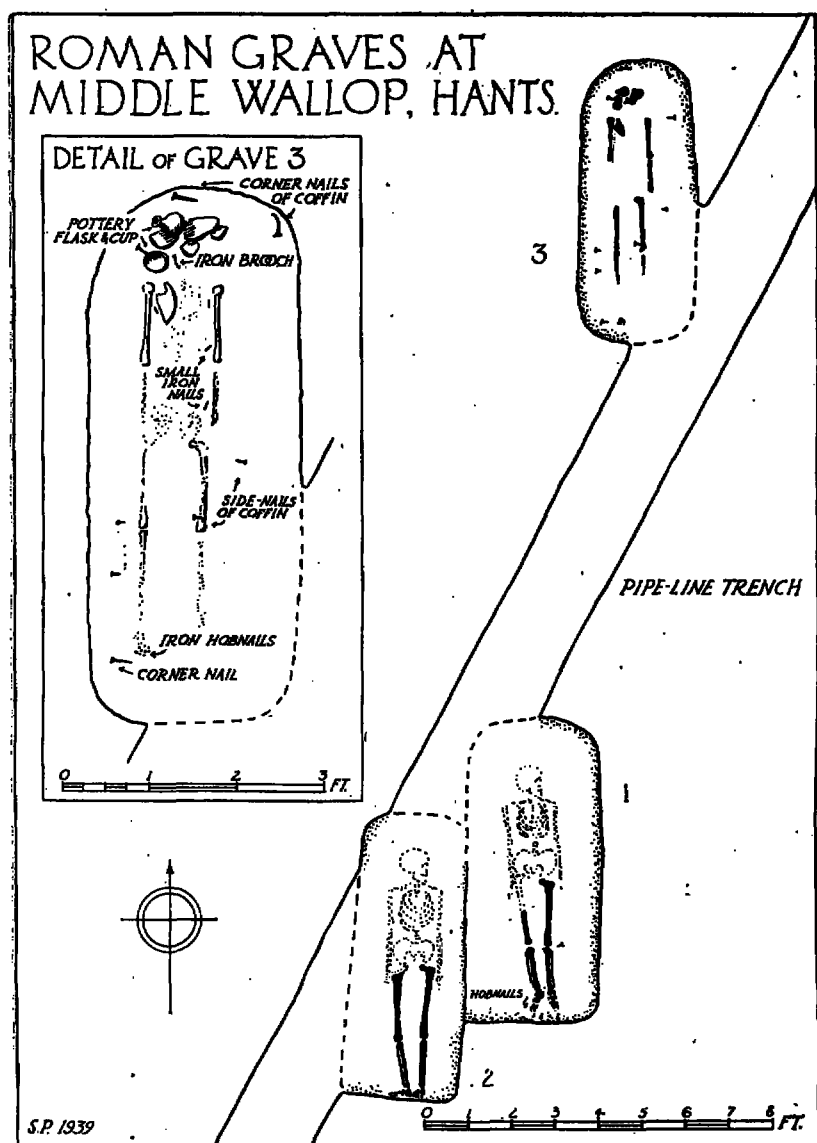


FIG. 1.

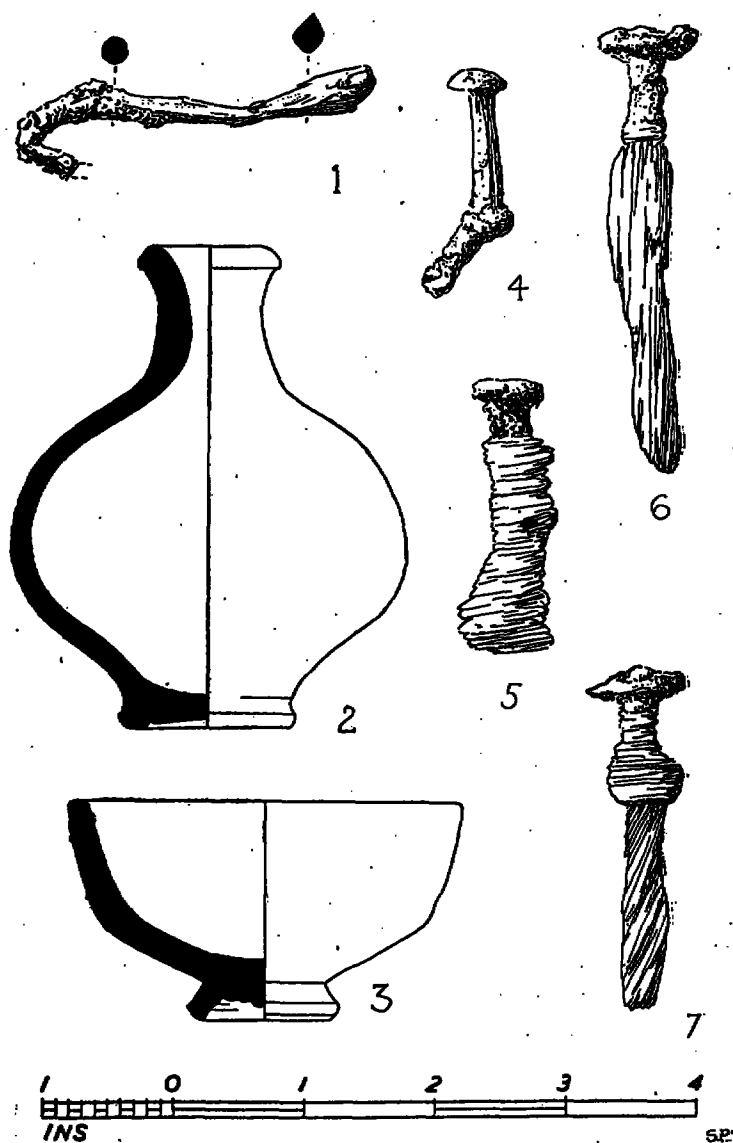


FIG. 2.

Iron brooch (1); pottery vessels (2, 3) and iron coffin-nails showing wood-grain, Grave 3 Middle Wallop.

and 7) and two nailing on the bottom (4 and 5), the latter showing the end-grain of the bottom and the lengthways grain of the side. There is no evidence of a lid to the coffin—if such existed it was not nailed on. A pictorial reconstruction based on the above evidence is given in fig. 3.

The burials fall into line with the 3rd—4th century inhumations found by Pitt-Rivers in his Romano-British villages on Cranborne Chase, which were also enclosed in wooden coffins of which the nails only survived, and generally had hob-nails at the feet. At Wallop, the New Forest ware vessels suggest a 4th century date: the iron brooch is of a simple and primitive type surviving from the Early Iron Age, and its presence here suggests the burial of poor members of a peasant community of Romanized Britons.

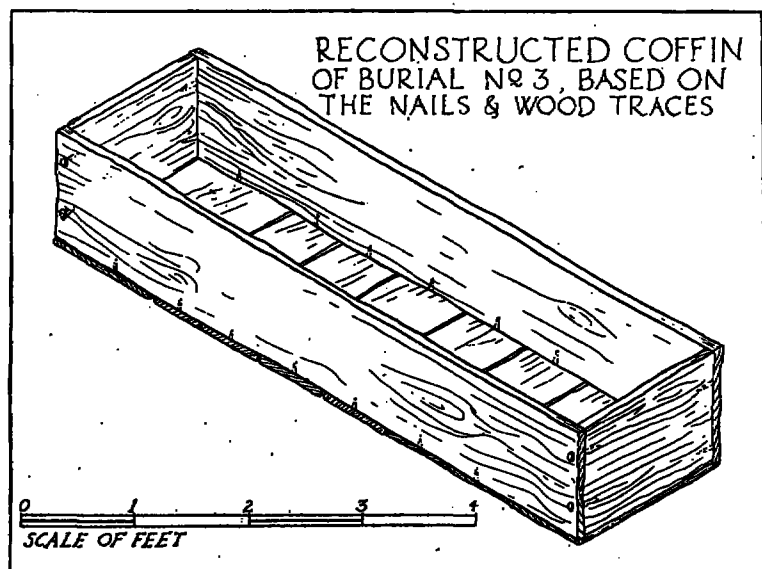


FIG. 3.

Coffin from Grave 3, Middle Wallop.

IRON "BRACELET" FROM BURSLEDON.

THE object illustrated below was dug up by Mr. G. K. Page in his garden at Upton Lodge, Bursledon. The diameter is 9·8 cms. and at its widest point the ribbon of iron of which it is composed measures 1 cm. There is a central boss beaten up out of the metal and a narrow mid-rib running around the "bracelet." Traces occur on the surface of a discontinuous pattern which may be a punched chevron ornament or which may simply be marks made by some coarse sacking-like material which has rusted on to the "bracelet."

The British Museum can suggest no parallel to this object and there are no indications as to its age.

N. C. COOK.

