

***ZUFTDORP 1702-1712***

Report to the Director and Head of Division on underwater and other work  
conducted during the period April 1986 to April 1988.

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March 30 1988

Sections:

- (A) Aims
- Results
- Uncompleted Work
- Recommendations
- Field work summary April 1986 - April 1988
- Costings to March 10, 1988
  
- (b) Video Presentation (30 minutes)

## AIMS

1. The recovery of visible attractive material on site to lessen the wrecks attraction to divers and local fishermen.
2. When (1) above is not possible due to inclement site conditions to.
  - (a) assess the whole of the site other than the coin rock and to recover material from same
  - (b) to examine and search the areas to seaward of the site
  - (c) to examine the area under the reef platform adjacent to the site
3. When operating from land ~~and~~ <sup>using</sup> 1 and 2 above are not possible to:
  - (a) <sup>TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING</sup> assess with the aid of consulting specialist archaeologists the evidence of human activity on shore opposite the site, to ascertain its origin and if Dutch, to record, analyse and report on the deposits.
  - (b) to search for other evidence of Dutch occupation and to assess the possibilities postulated by Playford and others re movement of the Dutch survivors (if any) from the site. This involves the location of all nearby waterholes and soaks.
  - (c) to return the land site opposite the wreck to close to its original state by the removal of the devices constructed by the WA Museum and other evidence of its activities since 1971, e.g. A-Frames, bulldozed tracks, debris etc.
4.
  - (a) to collate all written, audio visual and oral material on the wreck
  - (b) to begin a series of reports and publications on the above as a base for future work on site and for public information
  - (c) to develop a workable management plan for the site(s) in association with other bodies, CALM, APB, Station owners and Tourist bodies.
  - (d) to make sufficient video material available to enable a short documentary type film (of use publicly and in museum displays) to be made and as an accepted archival record

- (e) to liaise with display and branch staff to update and upgrade displays on the *Zuytdorp* at Fremantle and Geraldton

## RESULTS

### BY SEA:

1. A substantial recovery of excellent and varied coin from the coin rock area and in particular a region lying just inshore of the 'old carpet of silver' now known as the 'armoury concretion', being a source of visible coin and artefacts apparently more diverse than those in the 'carpet' region. Allied to these recoveries the recording of same on a site plan and the recovery of concretions and amazingly fragile material from the same area, e.g. ceramic and glass ware; musket fragments and accoutrements; brassware; pewter plate; ivory combs and personal items.
2. The recovery of 1 x 8 pounder? cannon and 1 x 14'6" (4.5 m) anchor, the latter showing clear signs of damage during the loss of the vessel in now the largest anchor to be recovered by this Department and is of significant display potential.

### Note:

From observations conducted since April 1986 and the compilation of data on dives since 1964 it is clear that the *Zuytdorp* site is subject to seasonal scouring of summer sand deposits. These serve in spring, summer and autumn to cover substantial deposits known to contain lead ingots, very rich concretions, cannon and other items. These lie apart from the area known as the 'carpet of silver' at coin rock that have received most attention to date and which only rarely lies covered in sand but which suffers in being undiveable on most occasions.

1/KGOTD.

This 'new' area of interest lies to seaward and in deeper (and therefore safer) water to that in which the 'carpet of silver' lies.

Unlike the coin area, it normally becomes ('at risk' by uncovering) only in the late autumn and early winter i.e. at the end of the rock lobster season, i.e. late April early June - it is however, rich, accessible and to date, only briefly assessed and when visible, allows an alternative and safer area for work on site.

### Land

- (i) The excavation and investigation of all nearby and known 18th Century land sites resulting in the recovery of a wide range of 18th century material from previously heavily worked deposits indicating human and most likely, wreck survivor activity. (Weaver, F. in press)
- (ii) The identification of midden sites as Aboriginal of a date  $4630 \pm 87$  BP and  $4000 \pm 78$  BP. (Morse, K., 1987)
- (iii) The location of previously unknown gnammas holes near the site capable of holding water supplies.
- (iv) The location and assessment of wreck material on the reeftop south of the site and inland.
- (v) The location and examination of 'lost' soaks and waterholes capable of sustaining life.
- (vi) The beginning of an aerial photographic based plan of the area involving a surveyor and other government agencies.
- (vii) The near completion of a site clean up of Museum debris etc
- (viii) The development of an adequate management plan discussion document.

#### **PUBLICATION/DISPLAY/PUBLIC ISSUES**

With displays of material recently recovered have been effected and further is anticipated. Two major publications are envisaged and agreement in principle has been made between the contributors Green, Playford, Wilson, de Heer and McCarthy with input expected from Weaver, Morse, Kimpton, Carpenter and MacLeod. Smaller articles and reports are underway.

The Kalbarri townsfolk are very much with us in spirit and have assisted greatly. Our public image is excellent and the assistance given is being returned in full.

A good relationship has been established with the CALM area manager with a view to facilitating a viable land site management plan.

#### **COMPILATION OF AVAILABLE DATA ON *ZUFTDORP***

Film of visits (including one colour/bw of 1939) conducted to the present day has been copied, as have all press releases and most of the early

'pioneers' have been interviewed. Unfortunately, Robinson and Pepper are deceased.

Early site plans including those of Brady, Bingham and Robinson are also available. A past and current (i.e. 1970-1988) photographic collection is also being amassed.

### **FURTHER RESEARCH**

Dr Playford is continuing research begun in 1954 and suspended in 1959 on the *Zuytdorp*. This is being funded as part of the overall project budget though an approach to Dutch authorities through ANCODS may be required to facilitate same. Wilson and McCarthy of this Department are also working on their respective areas of research and report.

### **CONCLUSION FROM THE RESULTS OBTAINED**

The *Zuytdorp* is a site rich in all its aspects and worthy of continued funding and effort in all the areas noted above. It is one of 104 VOC vessels lost of 4730 outward bound from Holland and of the 4 lost on these shores, is unique in that it was lost without trace and was not salvaged. The associated land and sea remains are then doubly of importance and worthy of more than the application of salvage methods and philosophies.

The results above confirm that. It is clear the assessment of the site as one of the worlds most difficult still holds however.

We now have the luxury of very fast and efficient sea transport and the backing of local fisherfolk however and these have been major factors in our success to date.

### **UNCOMPLETED WORK**

#### **Coin Area:**

The team has not completed the recovery of visible coin around the coin rock area.

#### **Site plan and archaeological analysis of the ingot area: recovery of ingots**

The area to seaward of the coin rock (stern) and toe rock (bow) has not yet been fully assessed though the area is known to clear in the late May

early June period thus placing the 80 or so ingots, concretions, coins etc. trapped underneath at risk.

These ingots are more easily available than the concreted coin as they can be easily hoisted aboard any fishing boat.

### Video Record

This recording medium is undoubtedly of great working and archive value but rather surprisingly has only been used on this and the *Xantho* site by Museum staff and on the *Lively?* site by a visiting volunteer. Unlike the last two sites there is still no video or film record of *Zuytdorp* underwater. In the light of the excellent above-water record to date and the possibilities of a fine documentary and display film, this is a major failing.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the project be allowed to continue to the logical conclusion of the original conditions set, i.e. the recovery of visible attractive material in the coin rock area.
- (ii) That the archaeological public site management proposals and endeavours outlined above be allowed to continue to their logical conclusion.
- (iii) That all future on-site endeavours be set for the months of April/May/June beginning 1989 for reasons associated with the seasonal scouring in late autumn, early winter. This allows the whole site to be worked and not just the shallow water coin deposits and thus allows for greater temporal and financial efficiencies. By this means also, all the ingots and material trapped underneath that comes at risk in May-June will also be recovered.
- (iv) The project budget be set at \$10-15000 per annum to facilitate the above with an estimated 1 month spent in the period late April, May and early June each year.
- (v) An underwater amphibious video be purchased to facilitate the completion of the project. Costs of housing and light ~~\$2741.53~~ to fit existing Human Studies Unit.

5911.53

## SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK TO MARCH 10, 1988

1986

27/4/86-13/5/86

Land Site

Sea Site

Preliminary surface assessment and recording, searches inland and in gullies to north and south of site.

2 familiarization dives on snorkel from land small recovery of coin and other artefacts. Conditions marginal, undiveable on air.

Artefacts recovered: ZT 3275 - ZT 3313

Feasibility survey completed, report made and decision made in December 1986 to proceed further.

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1987

22/2/87-26/2/87

NIL

Unsuccessful attempt to dive from land therefore undiveable.

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1/3/87-3/3/87

NIL

1 dive on air from land Site found to be completely covered in sand with nothing visible.  
Conditions: marginal

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10/3/87-14/3/87

Surface recording and examination of European and Aboriginal land sites and soaks adjacent to the site

4 dives completed on snorkel resulting in the recovery of coin, ceramics, leather and other materials. Site plan begun despite substantial sand cover. Conditions marginal.

Artefacts recovered ZT 3314 - ZT 3339

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18/4/87-14/5/87

Excavation over 1 month of visible European land site and examination of nearby Aboriginal sites. Site(s) plans begun, further search for inland sites and beginning made on aerial mapping.

1 dive on snorkel, finding the site clearing of sand with ingots becoming visible for the first time. Conditions marginal

Artefacts recovered ZT 3410 - ZT 3907

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21/5/87-26/5/87

NIL

To site by sea in 18' museum workboat accompanied by fishing boat *Jolly Roger*. Dive on site abandoned due to heavy swell and poor visibility. System proved workable however. Conditions undiveable.

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29/5/87-4/6/87

NIL

(a) 1 dive on air from land. Moved 6 ingots to deeper water. Conditions marginal

(b) Recovered 13 ingots to a total weight of 1000 kg and secured same on LFB *Jolly Roger* whilst en route fishing grounds 50 nm north. Navigational dividers and concretions containing coin, timber, pewter and other material under the ingots over two dives conducted on air. Conditions marginal - reasonable.

Artefacts recovered ZT 3341 - ZT 3409 + ZT 3970 - ZT 3972

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**1988**

1/2/88 - 5/2/88

NIL

2 dives on air from Museum 18' workboat with LFB *Thunder Bay* acting as escort over a 3 day period. The site was unfortunately covered in 2-3 metres of sand with nothing visible of the ingots, cannon, anchors etc. seen in April/May 1987 till day 2, when some cannon began to appear as sand levels dropped. Further work on site plans complete, inconclusive searches of the area to seaward of the site were conducted but severely hampered by the sand cover. Substantial recovery of material from stern section of wreck 1 cannon removed from site as the building swell prevented further work on the stern area.

Artefacts recovered ZT 3927 - ZT 3969 + ZT 4080 - ZT 4083

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9/2/88-14/2/88

NIL

To site in 18' workboat. Undiveable on site, underwater electrochemical analysis conducted on gun removed to seaward of the site.

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17/2/88-23/2/88

NIL

Sailed 36' museum workboat *Henrietta* from Fremantle to Kalbarri via the SS *Kancho* site. *Zuytdorp* site undiveable but the cannon was recovered and sent to Fremantle for conservation. Workboat retained on mooring at Kalbarri for future heavy lifts.

Artefact recovered ZT 3926

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4/3/88-9/3/88

NIL

to site over 2 days in 18' workboat with LFB(s) *Thunder Bay and Waitara* on call. Sand cover dropping but ingots and most guns still not visible. Substantial recovery of material from stern sections some of a most fragile nature. Further work on site plan.

Artefacts recovered ZT 3973 - ZT 4031

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14/3/88-22/3/88

NIL

To site LFB *Waitara* in company. Substantial recovery of material from armoury concretion. When swell began building moved to assess possibility of recovering anchor(s). Moved 1 of 3 suitable in poor conditions to the deep water dump. Sailed up in 36' boat *Henrietta* and recovered same.

Artefacts recovered ZT 4035- ZT 4076

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**EXPENDITURE TO MARCH 10, 1988**

	1987/88 FINANCIAL YEAR TO MARCH 12 1988
Services and incidentals	250.00
Diving and field allowances	5007.00
Expendable non-field stores	49.89
Expendable field stores	252.00
Durable field stores	1062.96
Stationary	79.26
18' workboat costs	742.71
36' workboat costs	1038.63
Vehicle running	2325.00
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<b>Total</b>	<b>10807.45</b>