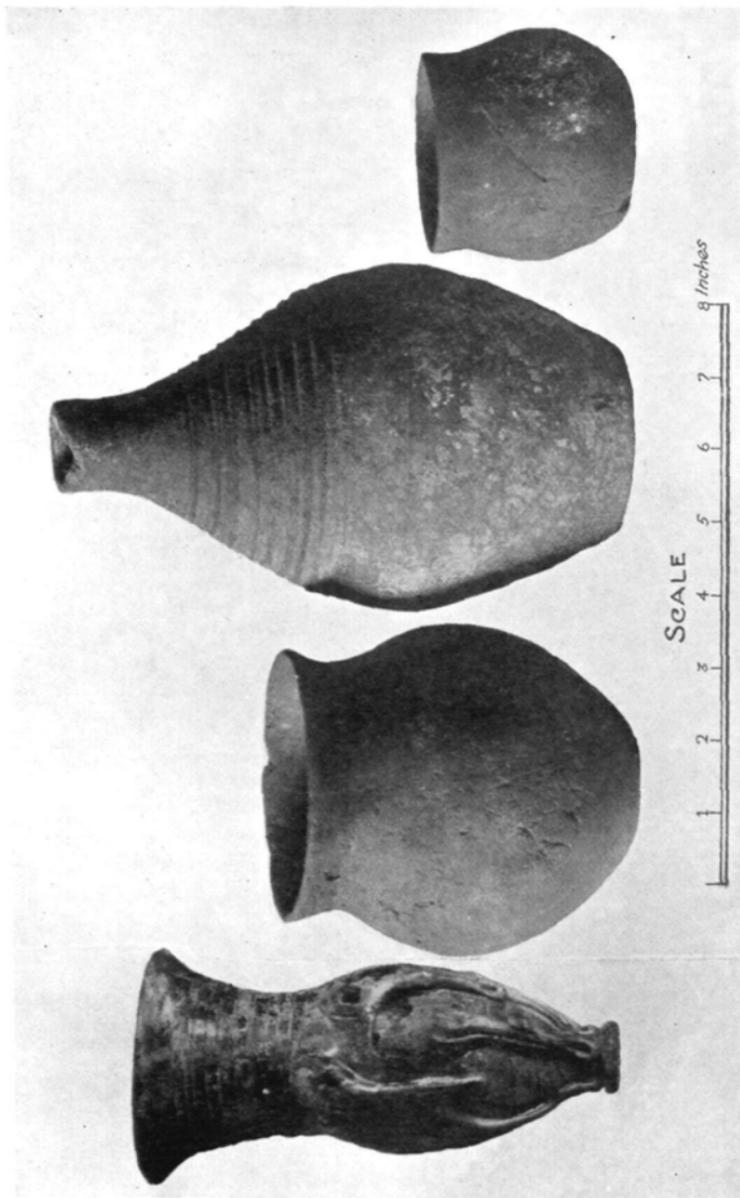


JUTISH CEMETERY NEAR FINGLESHAM, KENT.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE, BY W. WHITING.

To Mr. Percy W. Steed, of Finglesham, near Deal, must be given the credit of preserving for posterity not only many valuable relics of an age of which only too few are kept in the county where they are mostly found, but also for considerable help and self-sacrifice in enabling the burial ground on his farm to be explored. He has on several occasions mentioned to the writer that bones were dug up near a chalk pit adjoining one of his fields, and in the autumn of 1928 he asked if an investigation could be made, the matter being somewhat urgent owing to the fact that much chalk was at the time being removed for road-making purposes in the vicinity. A man trained by Colonel Hawley in such work at Ospringe was therefore sent to try to find and expose a complete burial, and an appointment was made for Mr. Reginald Smith, of the British Museum, to visit the site and pass his opinion on the date of the bones.

The grave numbered in the following record as E.1. was the one he happened upon, and the bottle there mentioned at once gave the clue to the importance of the discovery. It was decided to excavate thoroughly a strip of the field all around the edge of the chalk-hole to ensure that the removal of further chalk should not lead to the unseen dispersal of any more bones or relics without proper examination. The Council of the Kent Archaeological Society were meeting, fortunately, the very next day and they granted £5 towards the expenses, two members quietly passed along an individual donation (one of them being the late Mr. Arthur Finn, of Lydd), and within ten days no less than £70 had been given or promised towards the cost of the work.



1. Glass Drinking Vessel,
Grave D3.

2. Beaker,
Grave C1.

3. Redware Flask,
Grave E1.

4. Earthenware Beaker,
Grave A1.

JUTISH GLASS AND POTTERY FROM FINGLESHAM

Two more ex-service men were promptly changed from dole-receivers to relic-hunters and honest wage-earners, measuring points were fixed, the necessary tools and paraphernalia got together and under the superintendence of Mr. W. P. D. Stebbing, F.S.A., of Fiveways, Upper Deal, an excellent plan and most complete record have been made. Mr. Cecil Knox, another local archæologist, rendered valuable and voluntary assistance, and it was with regret that the bitterness of the weather and the bleakness of a quite unsheltered site caused the work to cease at Christmas. Since then both Mr. and Mrs. Stebbing have personally excavated a few more graves which are described in his report, and it is to be hoped that on their return from abroad next year they may be able to continue their research and ensure that no more links with this page of our country's history are left hidden only a few inches below the soil.

At the time of writing this note the contents of the graves are in course of arrangement for exhibition on loan in the Maison Dieu Museum, Ospringe, within a mile of the spot where the only collection of like date and nature which may be considered to surpass this in scientific value and interest was found. As is well known, the royal jewellery from the King's Field at Faversham, some of which is similar to the finds in this latest discovery, forms the backbone of the collection in our National Museum in London, while separate collections made by numerous private individuals from the same site have found their apparent last resting place in such diverse places as the Ashmolean at Oxford and the Walker Art Gallery at Liverpool, while one is often finding an odd brooch or such article "from Faversham" in an unexpected corner or case in a most unlikely museum. Is it too much to expect the town of Deal to found its own little Museum, to make easier of access the pots at present stored in its Town Hall—into which the writer has never been able to get, because, when he has had holiday or leisure to try an entry, the officials at Deal always seem to be off duty, or on holiday at the same time? Once more we plead for an improvement in museum service and would suggest that a place so rich in

relics of many past ages should have its properly sorted and dated antiquities made easily accessible to the student from afar, made useful for the local historian and made easily understandable by the young people of to-day; then may a neighbourhood be considered worthy of retaining and caring for its evidences of its history, and then may it be considered as teaching its young to take that proper local pride which in itself encourages the attainment of higher things.

REPORT BY W. P. D. STEBBING, F.S.A.

THIS site, which only came under observation at the end of October, 1928, it is now known has been progressively destroyed for many years past. The situation is at the highest part of a promontory and rather above the 100 foot contour line. The land which is open arable, is not dominated by any higher ground within a quarter mile. The formation is chalk covered with about seven or eight inches of soil on a few inches of rubble chalk. The site of the cemetery is bounded by the road which runs direct from Betteshanger to the hamlet of West Street, and here, at the highest point, is a roadside chalk pit from which chalk is spasmodically dug under payment of a royalty of a shilling a load to Lord Northbourne.

The northern part of the chalk-pit comes within a neighbouring farmer's land, and at time of writing research has been restricted somewhat in this direction.

As there is so little surface soil on the down, the face of the chalk-pit on Mr. Steed's land is a vertical one varying from 7 ft. 8 ins. to 9 ft. 5 ins. in height. These heights make it impossible to investigate the graves from the floor level. The graves seem to have been dug under no plan and no definite interval separates grave from grave. The orientation also varies from grave to grave, although the head as a rule lies about S.W. (The compass used gave true N.) It may be noted here that the sea is in plain view to the East.

As the chalk-pit has been extended the graves have been exposed in the face of the excavation as rectangular hollows filled with rather browner chalk rubble which has packed fairly firmly. To an accurate observer the filling of these hollows is quite distinct from the slight red clay-filled piping which may be seen in this as in other pits, as it is paler in colour and almost free from the many flints which occur in the pipes.

The depth of the graves below the surface of the chalk varies from 9 inches to 3 ft. 1 in., and the dimensions of the graves from a minimum of 1 ft. 5 ins. and 5 ft. 4 ins. in width and length to a maximum of 2 ft. 6 ins. by 8 ft. 3½ ins. The angles of bottom and sides are generally slightly rounded and the head end raised. The thickness of the soil above the chalk is 7 to 8 ins., and has not been included in the depths given.

Owing to the porous nature of the chalk and the slight depth of the graves below the surface, the bones in most cases are highly decayed, even in several cases almost dissolved away. The skulls are generally much crushed and the thinner bones missing. In only a few cases, notably that from Grave No. E3, is the skull in anything like a perfect condition.

As a minor point it should be recorded that the underground lime-loving snail, *Stenogyra (Caecilioides) Acicula*, occurred plentifully inside the skulls.

The following list gives the objects found in each grave and their position with regard to the body.

Grave No. A1. The skeleton here lay with head to the W.S.W. and measured about 5 ft. 4 ins. in length. The feet end of the grave had been cut away in the quarrying. The bones were much decayed and lay in a grave cut about 15 ins. deep in the chalk with a width of 1 ft. 5½ ins. The objects found were a black coarse-ware pot, hand fashioned, with a flat bottom. The rim was missing. This lay in a hollow cut in the side of the grave on the left side of the pelvis. On the right side in line with the arm lay a knife. A belemnite was also found, but this was probably a chance object.

Grave No. A2. The body buried here with head to the S.W. was that of a big man—nearly 6 ft. in height as far as could be judged—with the bones in fair preservation in spite of the shallowness of the grave. The skull has been preserved with the right femur and tibia. The only object found was a narrow-bladed knife which lay beside the pelvis. The body lay curved with the legs pointing N.N.E. The grave hollow measured 7 ft. 6 ins. by 1 ft. 10 ins. at feet and 2 ft. at head. The bones have been sent to Professor F. G. Parsons.

Grave No. A3. This should have proved an interesting interment but presumably from its importance it had early received attention from grave robbers. A grave mound may have singled it out. The dimensions were 7 ft. 5 ins. long by 2 ft. 6 ins. wide at the head end and 2 ft. 7 ins. at the feet. The depth was only 1 ft. 7 ins. but many large flints were found in the grave which from their position looked as if they had been used for lining it. The orientation was W.S.W. At the N.W. corner of the grave lay fragments of a flat-bottomed black pot, and a knife lay at the right side in a line with the femur. Of ornaments only one amber bead and one glass bead were found.

Grave No. A4. A good deal was expected from this grave from its dimensions and depth, but it proved almost barren of contents. The dimensions were 7 ft. long by an average of 23 ins. wide with a greatest depth of 22 ins. in the chalk. The head rested at a slightly higher level. At 2 ft. from the western end and on the northern side there had been cut a semi-circular bay 21 ins. wide and 15 ins. deep. Its floor was 2 ins. above the rest of the grave. Careful excavation failed to discover any objects in this hollow and the grave as a whole only yielded a small piece of round iron 1 in. long (? the tang of a knife) and, scattered through the soil, four or five small pieces of soft red brick or pottery. The skeleton which lay with head between W.S.W. and W., was very fairly well preserved and the skull, pelvis, sacrum, both femurs, tibia and fibula and many of the bones of the hands and feet, have been handed over to Professor F. G. Parsons. The body lay extended at full length.

Grave No. B1. Here the burial had been partly disturbed before attention was drawn to the cemetery, and objects buried with it may have been removed. The body lay with head pointing between W. and W.S.W. and in an excavation 2 ft. 2 ins.

deep in the chalk. The bones were fairly well preserved, although the skull was crushed and damaged in the first disturbance. (The left femur and much of the skull have been saved.) No objects were found here. The skeleton from base of head to heel measured about 4 ft. 4 ins. The quarrying away of the chalk prevented any grave measurements being taken.

Grave No. C1. In this case the grave, which measured 4 ft. 8 ins. long and was 1 ft. 9 ins. deep, had been mainly cut away in the quarrying operations, and what was left showed as a shelf only 11 ins. wide at the western end, tapering to 5 ins. at the eastern end. The body must have lain approximately with the head to W.S.W. Before excavation started, Mr. Steed of Finglesham Farm, who farms the land, had secured a coarse black-ware hand-made pot which seems to have lain at the feet. This pot, excavated in fragments, has a turned-out rim and a rounded bottom. The excavation of the remainder of the grave resulted in the recovery of a knife which must have lain close to the right arm.

Grave No. C2. This was a shallow excavation, being only 10 ins. deep, the other dimensions being 6 ft. 8 ins. by 2 ft. 2 ins. The skeleton had largely disappeared, but in the position of the breast lay a bronze ring brooch with the pin missing. The grave contained also an iron ring 2 ins. in diameter. This may have carried a key such as was found by Dr. A. W. Rowe in 1922, with the key attached, in his Jutish cemetery outside Margate.

Grave No. D1. The excavation of the chalk here had exposed the head end of the grave, with the result that the skull was missing and only a few teeth of the lower jaw were recovered. The skeleton was fairly complete, but the bones much decayed. The orientation in this case was between W.S.W. and S.W. The dimensions of the grave were 5 ft. 10 ins. by $27\frac{1}{2}$ ins., with a depth in the chalk of 14 ins. No articles were found in this grave.

Grave No. D2. In this case again, chalk quarrying had cut away a slice of the side of the grave, which was of considerably greater length and depth than most. On clearing the filling the only bones found were fragments of a small skull much decayed which lay on rubble chalk, 8 ins. from the surface of the chalk. There was no trace of any grave furniture.

Grave No. D3. As the flooring in D2 still seemed to be rubble, it was decided to excavate below the fragmentary skull,

and this clearing exposed a lower and much more important burial with many objects. The dimensions of the grave were 8 ft. 3 ins. by 2 ft. 7 ins., with a depth of 33 ins. below the surface of the chalk. The head, with the lower part decayed away, lay to the S.W. Unfortunately, this grave had to be left only partly cleared at the week-end, and Sunday vandals must have started digging and exposed the shield which seems to have been placed above the head. This was removed and only fragments of the iron binding have been recovered. The complete exploration of this grave exposed the main part of the skeleton lying full length but with the left leg diverging from the right. To the right of the head and rather behind it, was lying a tall amber glass beaker with a small base. (Cf. *B.M. Anglo-Saxon Guide*, Fig. 54, d.) Parallel with the right leg was placed a double-edged sword, 28½ ins. long over all with blade 17¼ ins. (? a weaving batten), while over and round the body was a necklace of glass pottery and amber beads, round and long, with three gold bracteates with loops for suspension. The centre disc is rather larger than the two side ones, and all have an embossed debased-horse type of design. The jewellery also included two small bronze duck-like brooches, inlaid with garnets and three large fibulae with "chip carving," the largest with an iron pit, the others "radiated type" with bronze pins. The cloak in which the body was buried seems to have been fastened with a leather belt which had two shoe-rivets and a bronze buckle. The grave objects also included a knife, a thin bronze tube, 2¾ ins. long by ⅔ ins. diameter, with a thin wire ring for suspension, and various iron fragments. (The bronze is a silver white bronze.)

Grave No. D4. This interment was of a simple type, with the bones almost wholly decayed away. At the left hip lay a small knife (blade 3 ins. long) and fragments of what looked like an iron fibula. The dimensions of this grave were 6 ft. 6 ins. by 1 ft. 9 ins., with a depth of 1 ft. 3 ins. The body lay with head to the W.S.W.

Grave No. D5. This was presumably the grave of a child, as it only measured 3 ft. 7 ins. long by 17 ins. wide, with a depth of 9 ins. Nothing remained of the skeleton beyond a few fragments of bone, and there were no other objects.

Grave No. D6. This grave seems never to have been finished, as it was only 7 ins. deep. The length was 5 ft. 4 ins. Nothing was found.

Grave No. E1. In this case again the quarrying had cut away part of the head end of the grave, so that the upper part of the skeleton was missing. On exposure of the grave from above an unbroken example of a Jutish bottle in brown ware with a spiral pattern round the shoulder, was found lying on its side above the feet. The rim was missing, as seems commonly to be the case, but otherwise it was perfect. The greatest extent of this grave was 5 ft. 3 ins. long by 1 ft. 10 ins. wide. Its depth in the chalk was 19 ins. The head lay W.S.W.

Grave No. E2. This was a large hollow in the chalk, measuring 7 ft. by 3 ft. 5 ins., but only 9 ins. deep. It was evidently made for two interments, as there were the slight remains of a child's skull to the N. of the main burial. The orientation here was to the S.S.W. The contents of this grave were a very fine gilt-bronze brooch with a meerschaum boss, with garnet centre and a setting of two garnets at the end (cf. *B. M. Anglo-Saxon Guide*, Fig. 57), a pair of smaller brooches with garnets, a small circular gilt brooch with meerschaum and garnet centre, a heavy bronze buckle, two shoe rivets and a circular rose one for the belt.

Grave No. E3. A deeper than average excavation in the chalk, but so narrow that the body had to be placed in it sideways, resting on the right shoulder with the left arm raised up. The length of the grave was 7 ft. 7 ins. and width 15 ins. to 16 ins. at the bottom. The depth was 21 ins. in the middle. The head end was slightly shallower and at the foot end there was a platform 1 ft. 6 ins. long and only excavated 9 ins. deep. The body was under 5 ft. 6 ins. long and with the left femur measuring 15 $\frac{3}{4}$ ins. over all, but the articular surfaces were decayed away, so preventing an exact measurement. The skull is well preserved, with the exception of the upper jaw. There was no trace of any objects having been buried with the body. Compass points were W.S.W. and E.N.E. The skull has been sent to Professor F. G. Parsons, who has since sent it to the Royal College of Surgeons. It is hoped to obtain a report.

Grave No. F1. The interment here was very much decayed, and no bones were recovered. No trace of grave furniture was found. The depth was 1 ft. and length and width 6 ft. 6 ins. by 1 ft. 8 ins. The angles of the bottom of the grave were distinctly rounded. The orientation was between S.S.W. and S.W.

Grave No. G1. This grave, on the edge of Mr. Steed's land, was orientated with head to the N., and measured 6 ft. 6 ins. by 2 ft. The skull was in a fair state of preservation and has been saved. With the burial was a finger ring of twisted silver wire (cf. *B. M. Anglo-Saxon Guide*, Fig. 45), a fragment of glass, a thin iron rod $2\frac{2}{3}$ ins. long and a hexagonal bead of green glass. This skull is now in the hands of Professor F. G. Parsons.

Grave No. G2. This interment is in some ways the most important that has been opened up. The grave measured 8 ft. $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. by 33 ins. at the head and 30 ins. at the feet. With a depth of 3 ft. 1 in., the contents were better preserved than in any other, the only important part of the skeleton really missing being the skull. This was represented by a few teeth. Its destruction seems to be due to the fact that the owner's large wooden shield braced with iron, with bronze covered rivets, and with its iron umbo, also with five similar rivets, had been placed over the head. The iron handle by which the shield was grasped lay under the umbo. The thickness of the shield at the boss was something like $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. No jewellery was found in this grave, but along the right side of the body—which was lying on its left side—lay a broad double-edged sword in its wood scabbard with a horn-mounted hilt. This measured $35\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long over all, with a blade of 31 ins. Above the body on this side lay the spear with traces of the wooden shaft and the long pointed ferule. The head lay close up against the warrior's head. Where the cloak was fastened on the right side by the elbow, lay an ornamented bronze buckle, and in a line with the pelvis the usual small knife. In addition there was a second rather smaller knife. The body lay with head between S.S.W. and S.W.

Grave No. G3. The grave hollow here measured 5 ft. 8 ins. by 1 ft. 8 ins., with a depth of 16 ins. The skeleton was very fragmentary. It lay W.S.W., with a perfect knife, $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins. over all, between the legs. Bronze fragments in the shape of a small strip and a minute rivet were also found.

Grave No. G4. This interment was laid full length with head to W.S.W., in a hollow in the chalk 1 ft. 2 ins. deep and 7 ft. 10 ins. long by 2 ft. 6 ins. wide. The skeleton was fairly perfect with the exception of the feet and hands. The skull was in a good enough state to preserve, but no other bones could be moved. A knife was the only object found.

Grave No. G5. This was a very small hollow, 12 ins. deep and 4 ft. 10 ins. long by 12 ins. wide. No trace of the interment remained and no objects seem to have been buried with the body. The orientation was S.S.W.

Grave No. G6. Here again there were only fragmentary remains of the skeleton, which had been laid between S.W. and S.S.W. in a grave 5 ft. 10 ins. by 29 ins. wide at the head and 31 ins. at the feet. It was 18 ins. deep. The contents were traces of a shield in the form of two bronze-faced rivets, a spear head and a small knife $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. long in the blade.

Grave No. G7. This was a fairly wide and deep excavation but only parts of a few of the long bones remained with the front of the upper part of the skull, a part of the lower jaw and thirteen teeth. Nothing seemed to have been buried with this body, which was buried full length. Dimensions were 6 ft. long by 19 ins. wide by 2 ft. deep, with a wide splaying out of the walls at the feet end. The compass points were W.S.W. and E.N.E.

Grave No. H1. This burial was placed W. and E., and was a small, narrow excavation with only traces of the skeleton. It cut into red clay at both ends. The grave furniture consisted of a knife, an iron ferule and a few other iron fragments. It seems to have been dug after H2, as it cut across the lower end of the latter grave. Dimensions (in solid chalk), 5 ft. 5 ins. by 1 ft. 6 ins. by 1 ft. 8 ins. deep.

Grave No. H2. This grave was orientated S.W. and N.E., and was 2 ft. wide by 5 ft. long on the centre line to where it had been cut into by H1. The depth was 1 ft. 2 ins. Contents were an almost complete narrow-bladed knife, $5\frac{1}{4}$ ins. long, an oval bronze buckle $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. by $\frac{3}{8}$ ins. with an iron pin, and some iron scraps.

Grave No. H3. This was a wide and long excavation, and of a distinctly dramatic type. On thorough exposure it was seen that two bodies occupied it, the lower and right hand one presumably being that of a man, the upper one that of a woman. The lower body was laid out lengthways with the head raised and with a spear by the side. The other body had then been laid close to the other on its right side and with its head almost touching that of its companion. As the head of the lower body had been raised, the two thus were close together and at the same level. Besides the spear there was a sword knife or

scramasax, $9\frac{3}{4}$ ins. long, a knife, an iron buckle, a pair of bronze tweezers, an iron pin with a bent end and a broken bronze rivet.

Grave No. H4. This grave only retained traces of the skeleton and was bare of other objects. The orientation was between S.W. and S.S.W. The dimensions were 6 ft. 1 ins. by 2 ft. in width ; the depth was not taken.

June, 1929.