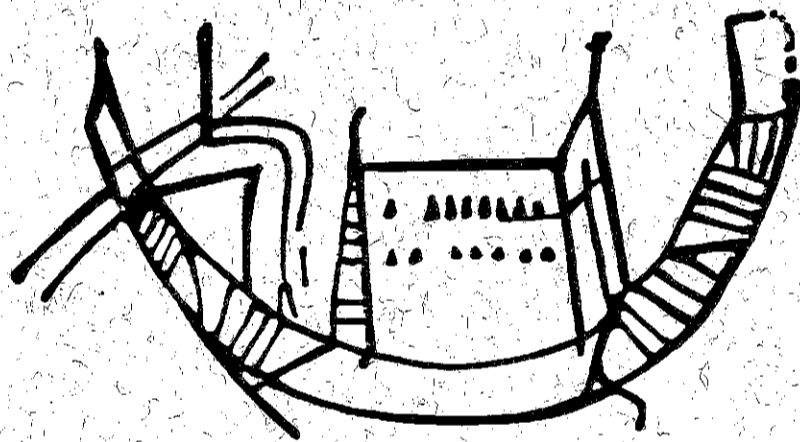


THE
JOINT HADD
PROJECT



SUMMARY REPORT ON THE SECOND SEASON

NOVEMBER 1986 - JANUARY 1987

THE SOUNDINGS NORTH OF RJ-2

Two test trenches, TT2 and TT3, and a 2 x 2 meters square (SEC) were excavated north of RJ-2 excavation. The aims were to evaluate the extension of the Bronze Age settlement to the North, between RJ-2 and RJ-3 mounds, to define the type of occupation, and to establish a stratigraphy.

The top of a large midden deposit, covered by a *ca.* 40 cm thick surface sand layer, has been cleaned along a north-south 25 m long trench, extending from the northern edge of RJ-2. We have no stratigraphic link with the mudbrick building of RJ-2 since it lays on a sand level sintered by water circulations. This layer stops at the southern end of the TT2 trench, about one metre away from the beginning of the midden deposit. The midden itself is located on the same general sand level, unsintered at this place.

In a 2.40 m deep sounding located at the northern end of TT2, the midden deposit is 1.05 m thick, with a south to north dip. A midden is also found in TT3, the second test trench (a hand-dug 2x1m deep sounding) 20 m north of TT2. In both cases the deposit is a mixture of fine sand, ashes and unburnt elements like stones, fishbones, mussels and shells, the beds and lenses being only differentiated by the amount, fragmentation state and burning degree of these elements. In the section of TT2, some alignments of contiguous, pluricentimetric, burnt stones can be considered as firing places, in comparison

with the structures excavated in the adjacent SEC square. Few artefacts have been collected in TT2 and TT3, but they all date back to the last part of the IIIrd millennium B.C. : cream ware sherds and black slipped Indus sherds, large flaking products of nummulitic flint, a worked *Conus* and fragments of mudbricks. In TT2, the midden deposit is lying under a sandy layer, at least 40 cm deep, interbedded with two mussels middens and an ashy lens.

SEC is a square adjacent to the east of TT2. Here, the top of the midden is a deflation pavement made of small stones, covered by a *ca.* 40 cm thick sand layer. Fifteen cm deep in the midden, a large dished firing place partially covered by decimetric more or less burned stones has been excavated. The immediately above sandy deposit and the primitive combustion lens were full of ashes, fragmented fishbones and mussels. In the related layer were found 46 sherds of cream ware and black slipped Indus ware identical to those of the mudbrick building area, together with a fragment of a shell hook and a fragment of a rectangular bronze item. Just behind it, five small circular firing places have been identified by a distinct darkening of the sediment, a concentration of small burning marks like fragmented fishbones and shells, and burned stones structures. The best preserved is completely covered with small stones and a black slipped Indus sherd was found inside the structure.

Report by Sophie Méry



Fig. 25 - RJ-2 : Fireplaces in square SEC.



Fig. 24 - RJ-2 : view of Test Trench 3

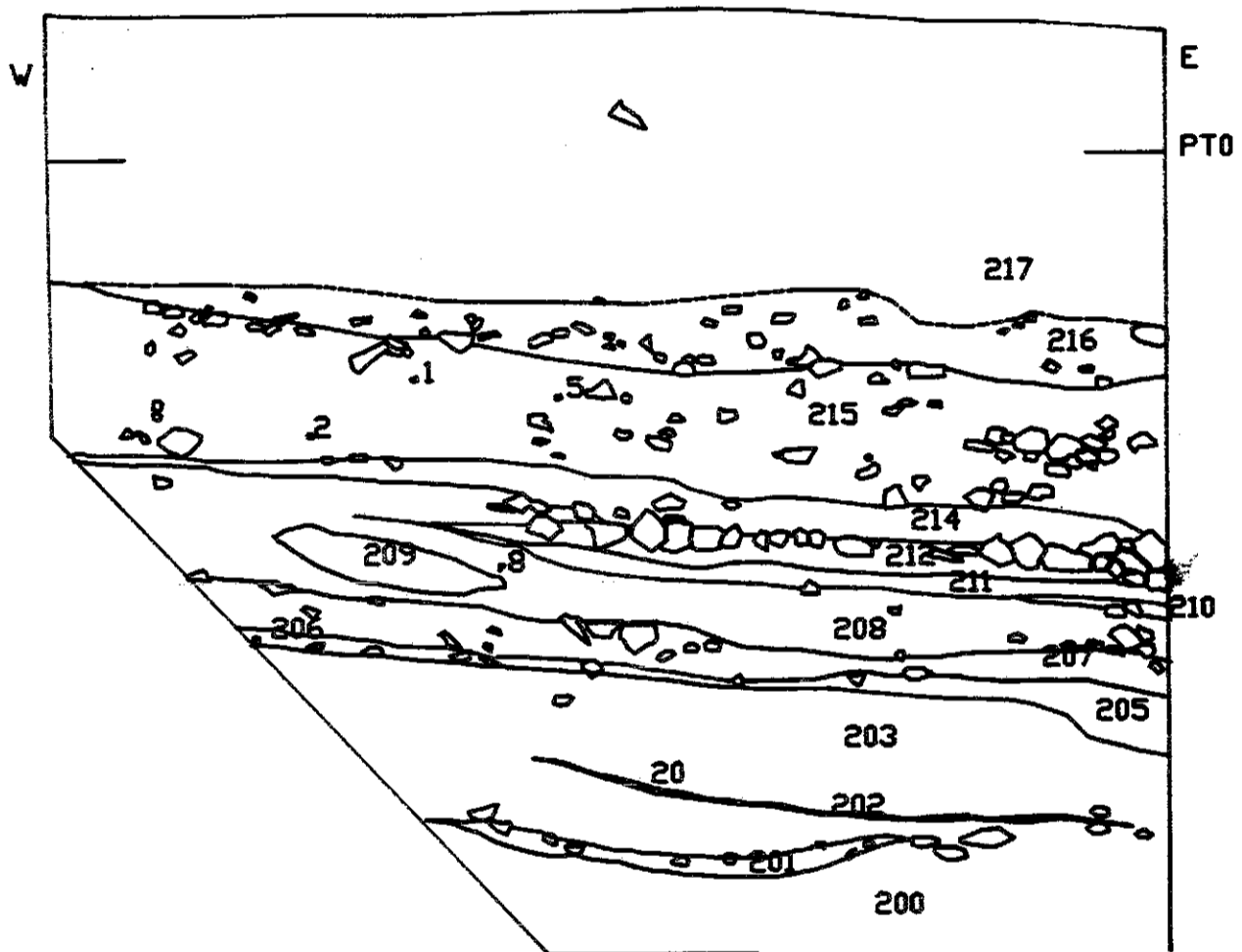


Fig. 26. - RJ-2, TT2 : Northern section of deep part of the trench.