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## DU Team 3 Final Report, 2001

Eastern Korinthia Archaeological Survey

Eleni Drakaki

August 2001

Eleni Drakaki was training as a fieldwalker and assistant team leader under the general supervision of David Pettegrew at the start of the season. She acted as a team leader on June, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2001.

Team 3 was assembled on June, 25th, 2001 with the following members:

Eleni Drakaki/Team Leader

Loren Sparling/Assistant Team Leader

Emma Bate/Fieldwalker

Katie Glover/Fieldwalker

Robert Tate/Fieldwalker

Ben Rothaus/Fieldwalker

### Summary of Team 3 Activity

**Monday, June 25th 2001:** The training session at Rachi Boska/Perdikaria started with an introduction by the senior staff members regarding the procedures and objectives of the survey; the introduction was then followed by a walking exercise for each of the team members and fieldwalkers to define how many steps constitute 10 meters (the regular spacing interval).

Following that, the members of Team 3 surveyed two DUs (3003 and 3004) that were defined within the elongated cultivated olive grove located to the NW of the geodetic marker of the hill of Rachi Boska; these fields yielded many artifacts, the majority of them being pottery sherds and tiles that witness a multi-period presence in the area; 20 lithics (mainly obsidian)-a few of them, bladelets-were collected from both DUs.

**Tuesday, June 26th 2001:** All three DU teams were present at Vayia for the mapping of the architectural and other features of the area, which followed a brief *in situ* introduction in mapping carried out by Richard Rothaus.

Team 3 was assigned to the eastern terraced slope of the hill, just to the SE of the geodetic marker. Two large rubble/rock piles (approximately of trapezoidal shape) define the northern and southern borders of the area. Between them (from SE to NW) are three rectangular stone structures and a wall. Moving from SW to NE, we named the southernmost rock/rubble pile as Rubble/Rock Pile 1 (RP 1), and the northernmost rubble/rock pile as Rubble/Rock Pile 2 (RP 2). The wall (Wall 1) springs off from the north edge of RP 1 and runs SW to NE to meet the SE corner of Structure 1 (S 1). For its most part, Wall 1 runs along the western edge of the modern dirt road and appears to be collapsed. Its middle section is more well preserved (standing to average height) and its

west face is constructed by large limestone boulders and cobble. Wall 1 springs off from the northern edge of RP 1 and runs S to N to meet the SE corner of Structure 1 (S 1), which is also the larger in size of the three structures mapped in this area. Further to the north are located Structure 2 and Structure 3 (S 2 and S 3), which are in very close vicinity and it is our assumption that S 3 had an auxiliary function in relation to S 2. There appears to be a possible entrance in the E wall of S 2; S 3 is significantly buried and is at present probably used as a dump area. Mostly judging by the appearance of the walls of S 1 and S 2, these structures have double faced walls constructed mainly of large sized boulders-particularly for cornerstones-with cobble for fill with no presence of mortar or clay.

*Wednesday, June 27th 2001:* We continued working in our designated area at Vayia by laying out and surveying DUs around and within the previously mapped structures and features that are located along the eastern terraced slope of the hill. The DUs are as follows:

**DU 3005**

**DU 3006**

**DU 3007**

**DU 3008**

**DU 3009** (this DU contains S 3; the fieldwalker surveying it is advised not to enter the interior space of the structure but rather to go round it)

**DU 3010** (this DU contains S 2; the fieldwalkers surveying it are advised not to enter the interior space of the structure but rather to go round it)

**DU 3011** (this DU contains S 1; the fieldwalkers surveying it are advised not to enter the interior space of the structure but rather to go round it)

**DU 3012** (this DU reflects the interior space of S 3)

**DU 3013** (this DU reflects the interior space of S 2)

**DU 3014** (this DU reflects the interior space of S 1)

**DU 3015** (this DU reflects RP 1 and the collected artifacts come from its surface)

**DU 3016** (this DU reflects RP 2 and the collected artifacts come from its surface)

**DU 3017** (this DU contains W 1)

After completing the work over at the eastern terraced slope of the hill of Vayia, Team 3 continues by laying out and surveying DUs at an area south of the geodetic marker, which is bordered to the south by massive limestone bedrock outcrop and the road that leads from Vayia to Lychnari. The investigated DUs are as follows:

**DU 3018**

**DU 3019** (abutting the SE part of this DU is a rectangularly defined area, that is filled with large sized cobble and the four corners of which are marked by large boulders; could

be that this area represents an older collapsed rectangular structure, however no artifacts were observed within its space)

**DU 3020** (this DU contains the almost flat and apparently ancient olive grove that is bordered by the road from Vayia to Lychnari and a ravine)

**DU 3021** (this DU reflects the easternmost oval-shaped cairn of the two that are located along the western half of the E to W border between DUs 3018 and 3020; the artifacts collected come from its surface)

**DU 3022** (this DU reflects the westernmost oval-shaped cairn of the two that are located along the western half of the E to W border between DUs 3018 and 3020; the artifacts collected come from its surface)

**From Team 3 work at Vayia the following were designated/declared as LoCAs:**

**LoCA 9036** (includes the following DUs 3008-3017)

**LoCA 9037** (DU 3015 of RP 1)

**LoCA 9038** (DU 3016 of RP 2)

**LoCA 9039** (DU 3021 of the easternmost cairn along the border between DUs 3018 and 3020)

**LoCA 9040** (DU 3022 of the westernmost cairn along the border between DUs 3018 and 3020)

**N-LoCA 8034** (DU 3019 including the rectangularly shaped stone feature that abuts the SE part of the DU)

**Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001-Friday, July, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

On July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Team 3 moves-along with the other two teams-at the area of Kyras Vrissi and of Rachi. At the area of Kyras Vrissi, to the north and south from the section of the paved road that runs along the ravine and leads to Kyras Vrissi, we investigate seven DUs (3046-3051) and declare one more unsurveyed (3045). Of particular interest, are two DUs (3050, 3051) located on the south slope, below the top of the Rachi hill where the excavated Late Classical-Hellenistic site of Rachi is. These two DUs are of extremely high density in concentration of artefacts that appear to be Late Roman; many fragments of groundstones are also noted and collected as well as remains of walls that are measured and described in the regular DU forms. It is very possible that all these artefacts constitute a “fall” from the top of the Rachi hill. The last DU investigated on July, 17<sup>th</sup>, DU 3052, is located on the flat area on top of the Rachi hill. Tom Tartaron acts as a fieldwalker walking the southernmost swath along the edge of the top and collects Mycenaean sherds among the rest of the artefacts. On Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001, we continue our work on top of the hill of Rachi where the excavated Late Classical-Hellenistic site is located moving from E to W and along the modern paved road. We investigate DUs 3056-3065 where we come up with mostly later material; however, as it was initiated the previous day by the findings of Tom Tartaron, a few Mycenaean sherds made their appearance on the swaths walked along the southern edge of the top of the hill. Again, Manuel Guterres accompanies the team as an additional fieldwalker.

### ***Fifth Week: Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>-Friday, July, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001***

On Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> we resume our work in the area of Rachi and in particular in the areas of Rachi Tsigkou and Rachi Marias where we investigate DU 3066 and DUs 3067-3077 respectively. On Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, Team 3 also starts mapping the area of the military installations of Rachi/Rachi Tsigkou that was previously investigated in DUs and declared a LOCA by Team 2. Manuel Guterres is again with Team 2 that day with the task to describe the features/military installations in order to produce the appropriate LOCA form (refer to his report). ED, BR, and KG are occupied with the task of regular mapping, while LTS and EB scout ahead for further features; MG works with RT in measuring, describing and photographing all the features. On Wednesday, July, 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Team 3 completes the mapping of the military installations on Rachi/Rachi Tsigkou; however, it is Andy Davis who takes the place-and task-of MG that day and accompanies the team.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001, ED maps/lays down DUs-without the presence and consultation with a geomorph intern-for experimental purposes in the area of Perdikaria, to the south of Rachi Boska and along the paved road that leads from Hexamilia to Kyras Vrissi. The experimental DUs (4006-4022; with 4021 and 4022 declared unsurveyed) are investigated the next day, on Thursday, July, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001 with Andy Davis being present in the field, monitoring and recording the whole process (refer to his report).

During the second half of Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup> and the first half of Friday, July, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Team 3 moves to the area of Ayia Paraskevi (between the modern paved road that connects Xylokeriza to Kenchreai and the dirt road that moves N to S and leads to the “Summer Fun” water/amusement park. At Ayia Paraskevi, we investigated all the mapped DUs and declared two of them unsurveyed (DUs 3078-3087; DUs 3088-3089 declared unsurveyed). The overwhelming majority of the DUs are characterized by a high concentration of artefacts, dated mostly from the Roman period although there is evidence for a multi-period presence in the area. Of great interest in particular are DUs 3078 and 3079 that are characterized by a very dense concentration of pottery sherds and tiles along with a lot of cobble thus presenting a picture similar to that of a “destruction level”, since it appears that all this material came forward on the surface probably as a result of ploughing. A LOCA (no: 10,000; 8000) has already been declared for this area since July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2000. The new number assigned is that of 9121 and the LOCA, according to ED’s assessment and designation, is now comprised by DUs 3078-3081, 3083-3087. It has to be noted that for the second half of the day on Thursday, July, 26<sup>th</sup>, Team 3 is accompanied in the field of Ayia Paraskevi by Tom Tartaron and Andy Davis who are, respectively, collecting important grab samples and helping with the team’s digital photos and photo journal. At 10:00 am, Team 3 joins the other teams in a collective cookie/wine/karpouzi break with lots of happenings.

### ***Monday, July, 30<sup>th</sup>-Friday, August, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2001***

During this week, all the fieldwalkers are gone and team leaders stay to complete the databases, rectify any problems, process the data, do GIS work and put together their final reports. ED works with Lee on the digitizing of all the LOCAs and structures mapped by Team and digitizing on the topographic map of the military installations mapped by the team at Rachi/Rachi Tsigkou. Lee’s amazing contribution to the process must be recognized.

## ***Conclusions***

During the EKAS 2001 Season, Team 3 was extensively employed into mapping the structures in the areas of Vayia and the World War II military installations at the site of Rachi/Rachi Tsigkou. The only advice that we feel we can offer to future mappers of structures is to use benchmarks that are located as close as possible to their structures (preferably up to 30 meters); they will have better chances for their bearings to correspond to the points of the structure they saw, if the distances from the benchmarks are not very long.

Team 3 was also extensively employed into the laying out and investigation of LOCAs defined within small areas/rooms of structures. ED has already expressed her opinion on how this work should be conducted and organized, but what needs to be added at this point is that it is her experience that it might be preferable and more efficient for the team that has worked on a certain area to also continue the work and map its structures and lay out and investigate the LOCAs within: in this case, many misunderstandings and misinterpretations can be avoided as well as a lot of time saved.

Team 3's surveying experience involved a part of the area of Vayia, where we tried to clarify along with the other two teams the situation regarding this SIA.

A significant-although not exclusive-Late Roman presence can be asserted from our surveying work in the area of Kyras Vrissi/Rachi and this should definitely be considered and related with the presence of the excavated Late Classical-Hellenistic site on top of the Rachi hill.

The presence of Mycenaean artefacts in the DUs investigated at the area of Rachi/Rachi Tsigkou is really a challenging one in terms of interpretation: are we to assume that a Mycenaean settlement was already present and established on the top of the Rachi hill and its structures were 'obliterated' by the later presence of people of the historical periods?

Very random cases of Mycenaean artefacts were noted during the investigation of the DUs in the area of Rachi Marias along the ravine (can they be interpreted as 'falls' from the upper/higher areas?); the finds witness to a multi-period presence with their majority dating from the Roman period.

A multi-period presence is also witnessed by the record of finds from the investigation of the DUs at Ayia Paraskevi, although it is our impression that the majority of them date from the Late Roman period. We think that it will be of great importance to try and clarify the relation of the area with the location and ruins of the church of Ayia Paraskevi.

We shall be greatly anticipating the results of the experiment conducted in the area of Perdikaria.