

Chapter Two

THE NARRATED HERITAGE

This chapter focuses on the context of the fort of Magazine Hill, more commonly known as Fort Commeline. It poses to reflect on the narrative of the precinct and aims to contribute as an informative tale reiterated throughout the passing of time.

*Figure 2.1
The ruins of Fort Commeline
(Author, 2018)*

2.1 Pretoria during the War

Several violent conflicts between the Boers and the British took place between 1850-1902. The first conflict occurred when a Boer rebellion (under command of Commander P.A. Cronjé) attacked the British Fort in Potchefstroom (Van Wyk, 2012). Towns that were attacked by the Boer rebellion included Pretoria, Standerton, Wakkerstroom, Lydenburg, Rustenburg and Marabastad (near Polokwane) (Van Vollenhoven, 1992)

2.1.1 The Narrative

In November 1880, reportedly on the eve of the First Freedom War, the British governor entered the Transvaal, Colonel W.O. Lanyon or Sir Owen, as he was well-known, weakened his defence in Pretoria further when he had to provide 160 men from Pretoria to Potchefstroom to maintain law and order due to the Bezuidenhout disorder (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57).

The British authorities did not expect the Boers to offer any resistance since Lanyon was convinced that the vast majority of Whites were in favour of the annexation and completely disregarded the news of the defeat near Bronkhorstspuit on 20 December 1880 (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).

Colonel W. Bellairs, Commander of the Imperial forces in the Transvaal during the siege, was again in favour of the withdrawal of the troops at Rustenburg and Marabastad. He argued that "having at our disposal a stronger body of troops at Pretoria is of greater importance than maintaining the military outposts referred to." (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57).

This false assurance combined with the view that the Boers were not prepared to fight for their independence, the British authorities and Lanyon in particular, were ultimately staggered by the outcomes. Where the 'Transvalers' were initially divided to contest the annexation, a need for independence awoke over time.

The feeling was enhanced by the various popular meetings held in April 1877 (i.e. after the date of annexation) to undo the annexation. By the end of 1880, this surge among the 'Transvalers' reached a peak when at the meeting at Paardekraal on 8th December 1880, it was decided to restore the former republic.

One of the main consequences of this decision was to reverse the British administration in the Transvaal by invoking the various garrisons in the above-mentioned villages or towns and forcing them to surrender, while strengthening from the south would prevent the Boer rebellion from reaching the British.

Because of the lack of the necessary shovels, there were two aspirations for the Boers to overwhelm the garrisons, namely to overwhelm them or storm them in numbers. The latter method would lead to the least casualties and this is probably the reason why the Boers concentrated on it. The siege therefore became a characteristic of the brawl in the Transvaal.



Figure 2.2
The British Garrison Office and Staff
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.3
The British 'Colours'
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.4
Commissariat and transport
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.5
The eastern view over Pretoria in 1880
(Du Val, 1880-1881)

2.12 The First Anglo Boer War



Figure 2.6
Pretoria Rifles in the Convent Redoubt
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.7
Early morning in the Convent Redoubt
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.8
Hay-making outside the Camp
(Du Val, 1880-1881)

On the 15th of December 1880, just before the Boer forces or rebellions, as they were named, called to arms for the siege of Pretoria, the residents, according to a conveyer, Sarah Heckford, was "in a state of suppressed panic, with most shops and businesses closed." (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57)

'tension rose again when Thursday - December 16 - Dingaan's Day - dawned but it passed without event in Pretoria, despite frequent rumours that the Boers were riding through the hills above the town'

Sarah Heckford (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57)

The state of anticipation in Pretoria continued until Friday 17th of December 1880, when Commander Hendrik Schoeman at eleven o'clock the evening claimed Pretoria's surrender on behalf of the 'new' Transvaal government. He gave Lanyon 24 hours to consider the matter before Pretoria was attacked (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57).

These arrangements were partially completed when Schoeman's ultimatum expired on Sunday 19th of December 1880. Preliminary measures were taken to protect and control residents of Pretoria. All residents were moved to the military camp along the Heidelberg Road, on the west side from the town, then and now known as Pretoria (Van Wyk, 2012).

Tents were erected to house soldiers and all weapons, gunpowder and ammunition were gathered and stored in the military camp. Several homes were used as temporary fortifications.

Tunnels and trenches were dug in the town as well as Church Square (Kerkplein). On 21 December 1880 all preparations were completed. It is also on this date that the Boer rebellion, with 800-1000 men, commenced the attack on Pretoria (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).

The Boer rebellion's initial strategy was to surround the town through various camps around the town, with the aim of restrict the British from their logistic supplies or assistance from other British forces. This was also considered as the result of the victory of the Boer. The most important camps were those at Doornkloof (Irene); Zwartkopje along the Pienaars River, in the east of the village; Elandsfontein in the west; and 'Wonderboompoort' in the north (Van Vollenhoven, 1992)

Figure 2.9
The Pretoria Carbineers in the 1880's
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.10
The Nourse's Horse in the 1880's
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.11
Cattle guard at Elandsfontein ridge
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.13
Volunteers of the Pretoria Rifles and
Woodcutting (Du Val, 1880-1881)



2.13 The Second Anglo Boer War



Figure 2.14
Members of the Boer rebellion in 1900
(le Roux, 2018)



Figure 2.15
The heavily armed British forces utilising
French armament (le Roux, 2018)



Figure 2.16
Members of the Boer rebellion in 1900
(le Roux, 2018)

Pretoria was seized by the British on 5 June 1900 under the command of Lord F.S. Roberts. Henceforth fortified posts at strategic points across the main regions of South Africa were erected, in order to protect routes such as railways and roads. Although the blockhouses were an important part of Britain's tactics to restrain the Boers, they have achieved less success in practice (Van Wyk, 2012). Additional fortifications were erected surrounding Pretoria and it was converted into a memorable fortified city.

This emphasized the importance of Pretoria, which, as a capital at its time, would be protected no matter the cost. Ironically, the fortifications of Pretoria did not play such an important role during the Second Anglo-Boer War, except that it served as a deterrent. The war is therefore only considered as the context in which the fortification of Pretoria took place. Most traditional historical sources make virtually no mention of the fortifications at the time (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).



Figure 2.17
The Lee Enfield .303 rifle that the Boer rebellion obtained from the British in the Second Anglo-Boer War (le Roux, 2018)



Figure 2.18
The Lee Enfield .303 rifle that the Boer rebellion obtained from the British in the Second Anglo-Boer War (le Roux, 2018)

Figure 2.19
The British firing the Maxim gun in the
Second Anglo-Boer War (le Roux, 2018)





Figure 2.20
The tragedy of the Second Anglo-Boer War. Photograph was taken after the battle of Spioenkop (le Roux, 2018)

2.2 The Guardians of Pretoria

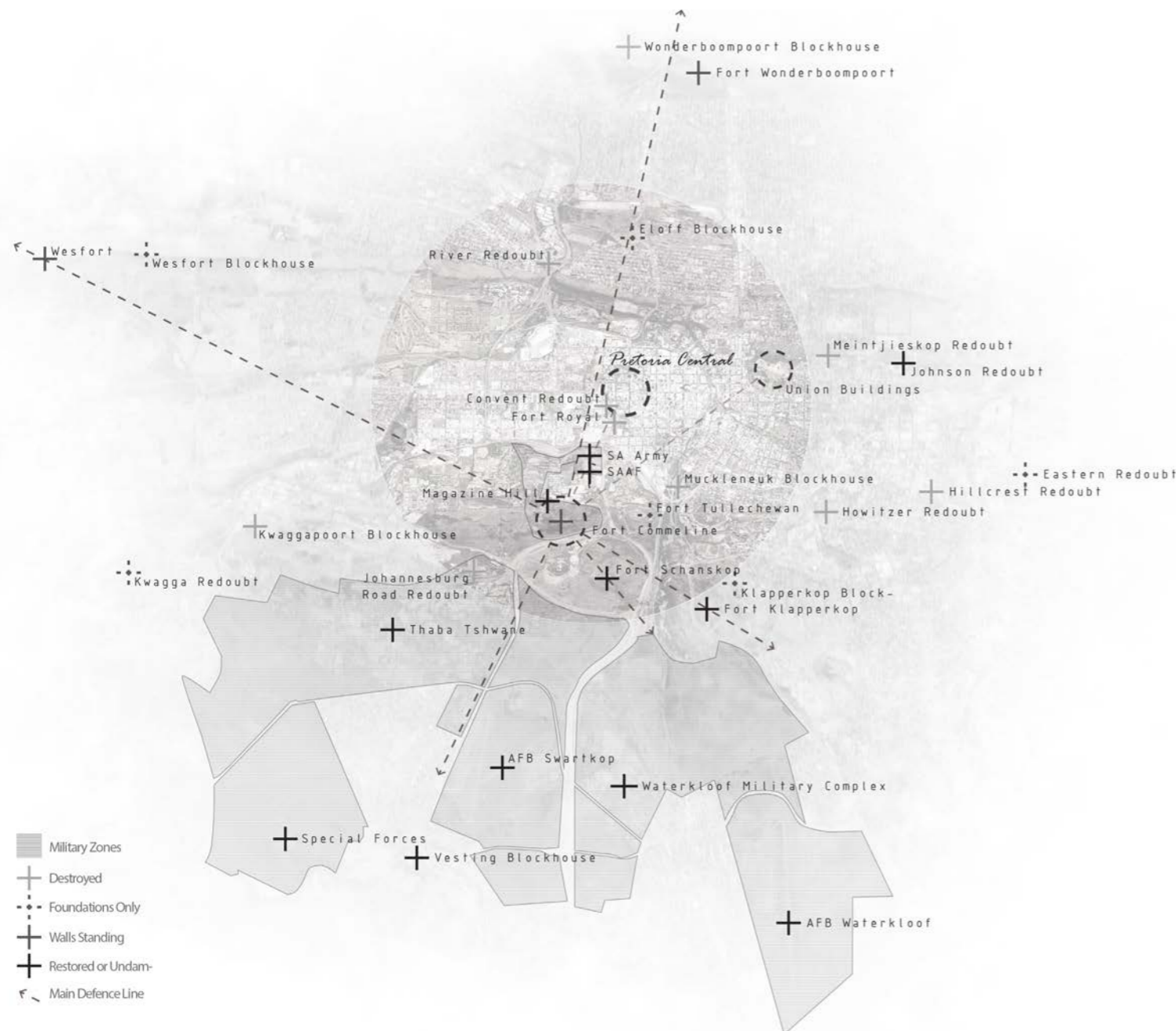
Through the literature review there is a clear indication of three predominant phases in which Pretoria was fortified as a result of the First Anglo Boer War and the Second Anglo Boer war.

2.2.1 The Initial motive

It was believed that the surrounding mountains could provide sufficient protection for the small town of Pretoria in 1880. 'Daspoortrand' to the west and the Timeball Hill series to the south protected Pretoria. Shortly after the Bezuidenhout incident on Potchefstroom, preparations have been made for a possible Boer attack on Pretoria. Military reinforcements were called from Marabastad and Lydenburg. Major Le Mesurier has been appointed to draft a defence plan for Pretoria (Muller et al., 1955).

All ammunition and supplies had to be kept in the military camp in the central warehouse and the guns had to be placed in suitable positions to protect the town and the camp. These fortifications were introduced and erected as a network of sanctuary against the prevailing British enemy forces (Van Vollenhoven, 1992). Although all three phases of fortification fell heavily on the establishment of military defence structures, it did not play a decisive role during the wars. These phases are fully discussed in the forthcoming sections.

Figure 2.21
The defensive plan of Pretoria in relation to Fort Commeline: illustration by Author and with assistance of Warwick Manley



2.2.2 The First fortification of Pretoria (1880-1881)

The first fortification of Pretoria took place during the First Anglo Boer War. It is important to state that by this time Pretoria was considered to be under British authority and therefore mainly occupied by the British forces. These fortifications were therefore utilized to defend the town against the Boer rebellion (Laband, 2014). This phase is also the period on which this study is mainly conducted on.

The Transvaal was seized by Britain on April 12, 1877. After the unsuccessful attempts to converse the annexes of the town by negotiation, the Boers passed an armed resistance against Britain in December 1880. Pretoria was besieged by the Boers and the British fortified the town in order to guard Pretoria against the Boer rebellions (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).

According to Van Vollenhoven, the information as provided by the sources, differs slightly from one another, although there is occasional clarity on the fortifications. The three forts, Fort Royal, Fort Tullechewan and Fort Commeline were built as reinforcement for the existing military camp, jail and monastery. Van Vollenhoven also indicates that a blockhouse on the north side of Pretoria was erected at the 'Eloff-deurgrawing' north of the town (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).

Unexpectedly only Fort Tullechewan was ever involved in any conflict against the Boer rebellion, namely when the cannon fired from the fort on the Boers on 17 January 1881 (Saks, 1985: 1-12).

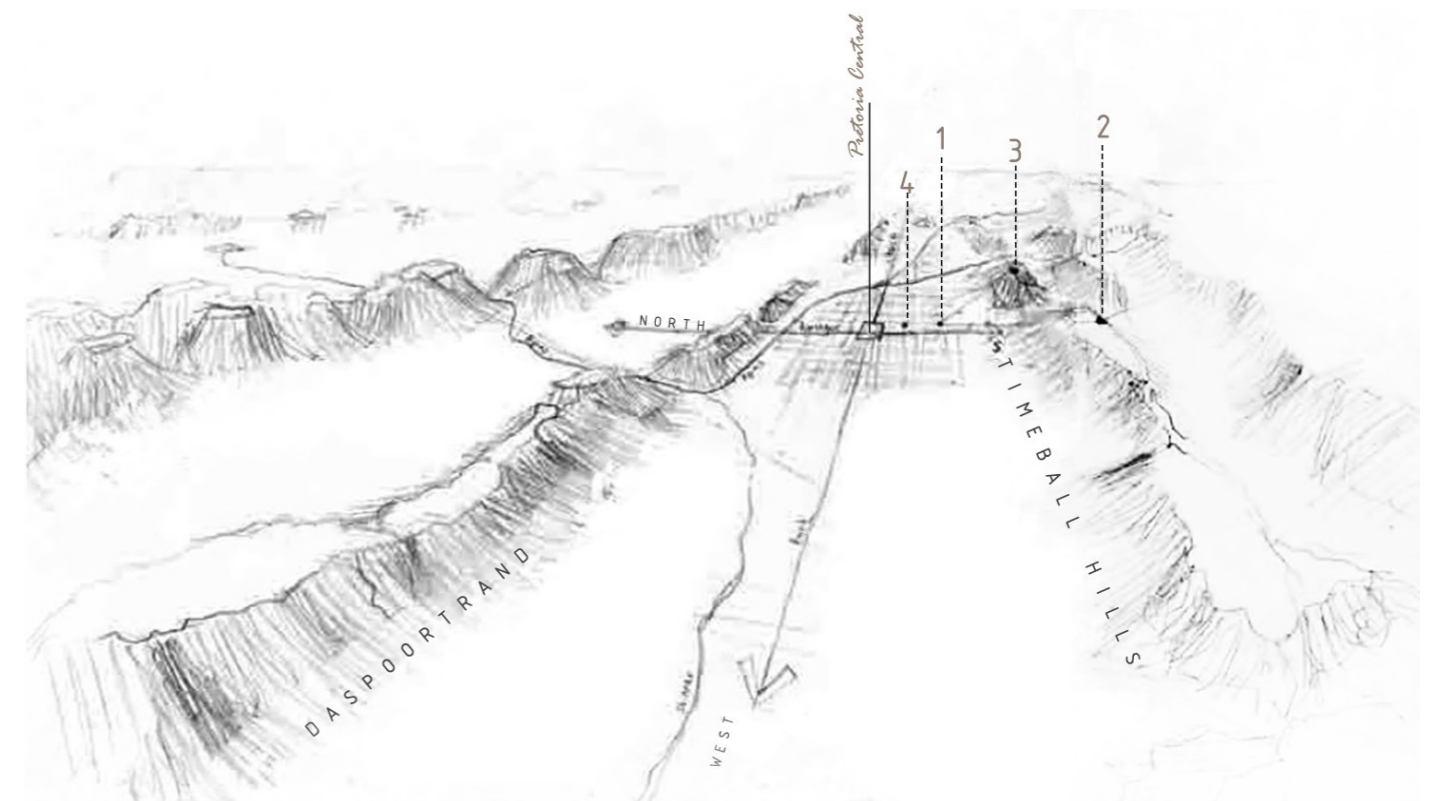
The war ended with the victory of the Boer rebellion at Amajuba on 27 February 1881, when Commander General Piet Joubert's powers conquered the British forces under General Sir George Pomeroy Colley. By this time the Boer republic has recovered its independency again. This glorious battle is described and admired to this day (Giliomee, 2013).

The First Anglo-Boer War probably did not affect South African history to such an extent as the Second Anglo-Boer War. It was largely considered as the prelude or consequence to the Second Anglo Boer War (Laband, 2014). The works that deal with the war, reported by way of excepting the fortifications of Pretoria.

However, this information is unclear, and information of the forts are limited. Therefore, an investigation into these fortifications is still required (Van Vollenhoven, 1992). More information on these forts and the proposed study precinct are to follow.

Figure 2.22
Bottom: Fortifications of 1880-1881: original drawing obtained from (Van Wyk, 2012): Illustrated and reinterpreted by the (Author, 2018)

During the first fortification, the following structures were erected:
1 - Fort Royal
2 - Fort Commeline
3 - Fort Tullechewan
4 - Convent Redoubt



2.2.3 The second fortification of Pretoria (1896-1898)

As far as the fortifications of the Second Anglo-Boer War are concerned, information is even more limited. The amount of fortifications that were erected and appeared during this war is proof of its importance in the history of South Africa. Unfortunately, the significant role of the fortifications during this war, is not even revealed or relevant in most sources. It is referred to as nothing more than a mere coincidence (Pagnagos: 1-7).

The second fortification of Pretoria occurred shortly before the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer War. The circumstances and purpose that gave rise to these majestic structures, are discussed in the mentioned by Van Vollenhoven as well as Laband and Van Jaarsveldt. According to these sources, it was especially the Jameson invasion that the government of the ZAR pursued to fortify the capital of the Transvaal (Fordred, 1996: 1133-1137).

The attack on Pretoria by the Boer rebellion ended 98 days after the Peace Treaty was signed and the Boers could re-occupy Pretoria. Ploeger (Ploeger, J & Botha, 1968) stated that the Jameson Raid of 1895-1896, together with the riotous foreigners in Johannesburg, could be the main reason behind the ZAR's fortification of Pretoria.

On New Year's Day 1896, Commander D.E. Schutte and Commander-General Piet Joubert, requested to patrol the roads between Johannesburg and Pretoria. All Commanders of the Republic were instructed to surround Johannesburg.

The situation flared when a secret map of Pretoria was discovered in the chest pocket of a British spy, Captain Robert White (from Vollenhoven, 1995: 50).

It was therefore clear that the capital of Pretoria had to be fortified. J.M.A. Wolmarans, supported by Captain P.E. Erasmus was responsible for the fortification plan (van Vollenhoven, 1995: 50). The plan was drafted by former French artillery officer Leon Grunberg (Ploeger, 1968: 14). Grunberg armed the revolving armoured and coiled towers with artillery and was placed at strategic points.

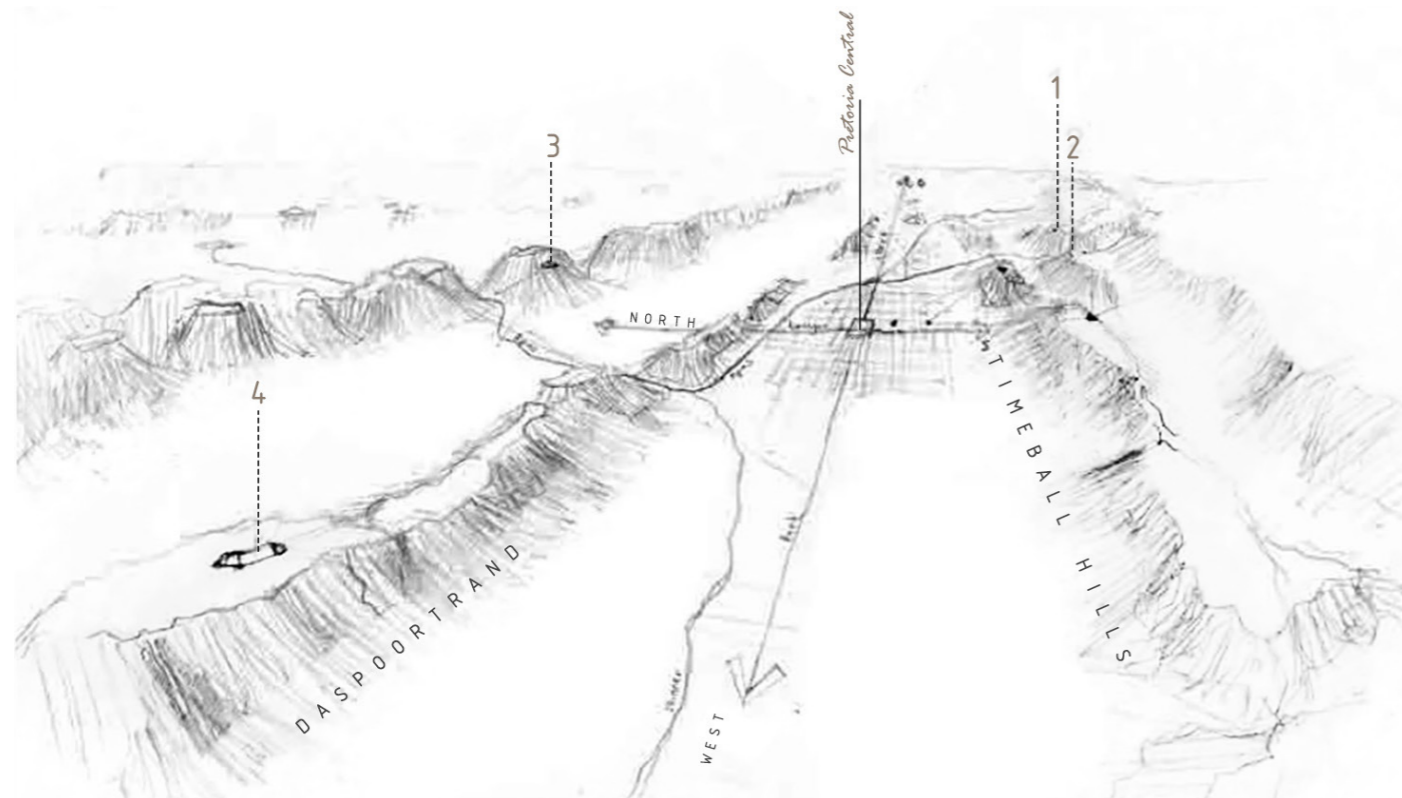
According to Ploeger, the Jameson invasion was considered as an unsuccessful attempt by British forces to take over the government of the ZAR (Ploeger, J & Botha, 1968). Four major forts were erected surrounding Pretoria between 1896 and 1898, while another four were planned, but since there was a shortage of infrastructure, it was not erected. The four forts are Fort 'Schanskop', Fort 'Wonderboompoort', Fort 'Klapperkop' and Fort 'Daspoortrand' (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).

According to van Vollenhoven and Laband, the Boers intentionally decided not to protect Pretoria as they believed that the company and gunpowder could prove to be more efficient in the field. Pretoria was overrun by British forces on 5 June 1900 without any resistance.

Figure 2.23

Bottom: Fortifications of 1896-1898: original drawing obtained from (Van Wyk, 2012): Illustrated and reinterpreted by the (Author, 2018)

- During the second fortification, the following structures were erected:
- 1 - Fort Klapperkop
 - 2 - Fort Schanskop
 - 3 - Fort Wonderboompoort
 - 4 - Fort Daspoortrand



2.2.4 The third fortification of Pretoria (1900-1902)

After the British forces besieged Pretoria, it was fortified for a third time. The purpose of this phase of fortification by the British would transform Pretoria into an incredible fortress as it aided in the deficiencies of the second (incomplete) fortification.

Though as tension between the Boer and the foreign forces was the main reason to the fortifications of Pretoria, these fortifications went through a lot of transformation due to other European influences (Meyer and Van Vollenhoven, 1993).

According to Van Vollenhoven there is limited information of any of these British fortifications and other influences suggesting its existence (Van Vollenhoven, 1992). Information on these fortifications would mostly be obtained from magazines and newspaper articles, from old maps and archival documents.

Information about sixteen fortifications has been found. They are the following: Cable Hill, Johnston, Eastern, Magazine, Quagga, Howitzer, Johannesburg Road and River Redoubt as well as 'Fortress', Westfort, 'Klapperkop', 'Kwaggapoot', 'Wonderboompoort', 'Meintjieskop', Hillcrest and Muckleneuk blockhouse (Van Wyk, 2012).

Figure 2.24

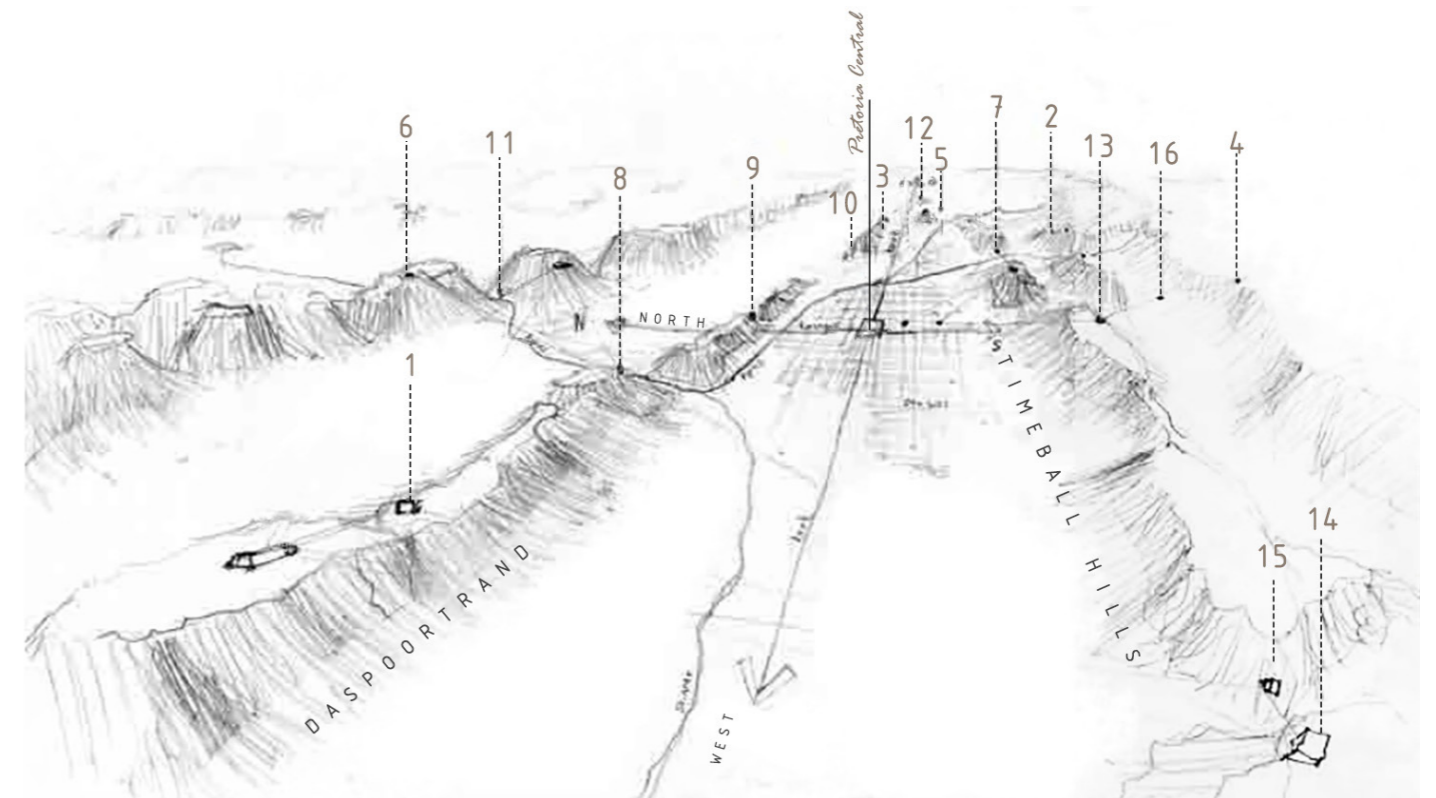
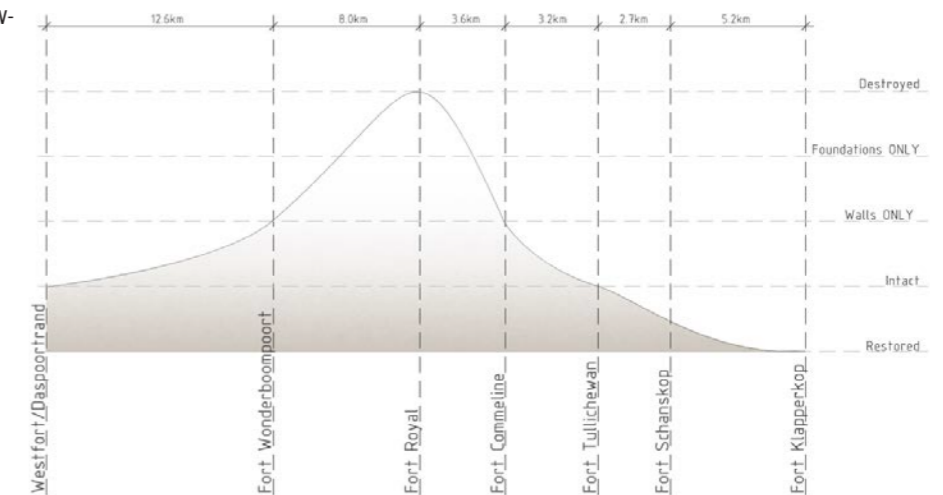
Top: Parti-diagram illustrating the current condition of the fortifications (Author, 2018)

Figure 1.25

Bottom: Fortifications of 1900-1902: original drawing obtained from (Van Wyk, 2012): Illustrated and reinterpreted by the (Author, 2018)

During the third fortification, the following structures were erected:

- 1 - Westfort Blockhouse
- 2 - Klapperkop Blockhouse
- 3 - Johnson Redoubt
- 4 - Vesting Blockhouse
- 5 - Hillcrest Blockhouse
- 6 - Cable Hill Redoubt
- 7 - Muckleneuk Blockhouse
- 8 - River Redoubt
- 9 - Eloff Cutting Blockhouse
- 10 - Meintjieskop Blockhouse
- 11 - Wonderboompoort Blockhouse
- 12 - Eastern Redoubt
- 13 - Magazine Redoubt
- 14 - Quagga Redoubt
- 15 - Kwaggapoot Blockhouse
- 16 - Johannesburg road Redoubt



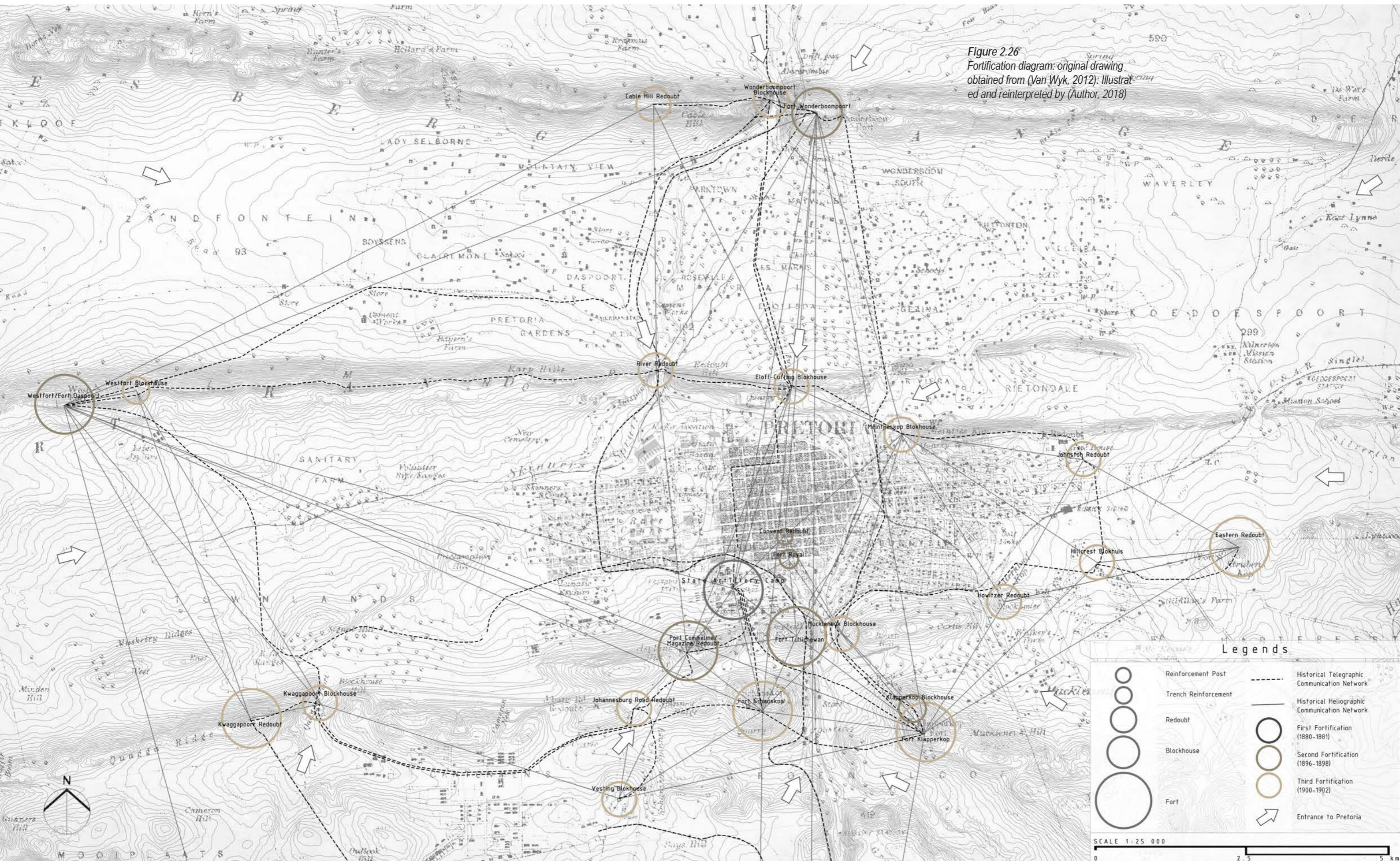


Figure 2.26
Fortification diagram: original drawing
obtained from (Van Wyk, 2012): Illustrated
and reinterpreted by (Author, 2018)

Historical Map of Pretoria
FORTIFICATION NETWORK

2.3 The First Anglo Boer War

The fortifications discussed below are considered as the main reinforcement of the British fortification in Pretoria at the time of the First Anglo Boer War and were manned by members of the British garrison. Note that the remaining two, namely the Convent Redoubt and the Civil Laager, were occupied by residents during the siege of the First Anglo Boer War in 1880. Their existence is therefore not certain as it was most probably destroyed at the time.

2.3.1 The Military Camp

The military camp was strengthened to form the main area of the French military, later British Military. It was located in the area where the current Defence Headquarters in Potgieter Street resided. The camp consisted of several scattered huts, connected through walls, trenches and improvised hedges and housed more than 5000 men. An internal and external defence existed. The external part was constructed using wire fences and the internal barricade was constructed out of walls, sandbags, boards and barrels (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57).

Several tents were also pitched in the camp. A magazine storing gunpowder on the west side was set as the main vantage point to protect the camp. The armament the British utilized consisted of an aged French cannon (Mitrailleuse), four small four-pound (1.82 kg) Krupp cannons and a three-pound (1.36 kg) cannon. Sanction that belonged to the ZAR and after annexation fell in British hands (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57).

Additionally, there was the N-Battery of the 5th British Artillery Brigade who was manned with two nine-pound (4.08 kg) cannons. The ensemble of the 21st Regiment was armoured with a seven-pound (3, 18kg) cannon. It was also fitted with a signal cannon that was fired at 12:00am every day to indicate the exact time at noon. The site currently houses the Defence Chief of the SADF (South African Defence Force). It has been cultivated to such an extent that no remains of this period exist.

2.3.2 The Prison camp

The prison camp was located east of the old Mint, now Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History, and was also converted into a fortress. It was reinforced with barriers and sandbags. A wall was built around the prison and a barricade of sand bags were built on the roof and was guarded by night. A hospital was also erected here.

A Bastion or Martello tower (a circular, tower-like fort with armaments on the top) was erected on the south-eastern side and a four-pound (1.82 kg) Krupp cannon was placed on it. It was manned by the Transvaal Artillery Corps with the aim of protecting the Convent Redoubt and the prison army with the help of the Pretoria Rifles. Today there are contemporary buildings residing on these sites in Visagie Street and no remnants would be found of its existence (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57).

2.3.3 Fort Royal or Fort Campbell

Fort Royal was erected on 4 December 1880 by C.E. Commeline, where the building of the Department of Co-operation and Development and the NZASM buildings is currently situated, on the corner of (at the time) Jacob Mare and Paul Kruger Street (Laband, 2014).

Fort Royal was a fortification erected 600 yards east of the military camp and commanded the entrance on the side between Fort Commeline, Fort Tullichewan and the town (Sandeman, 1875: 124). The fortress, also known as Fort Campbell, by analogy with its commander captain A.D. Campbell, of the 94th Regiment, was manned by 80 men and a 4-pound Krupp cannon (Laband, 2014).



Figure 2.27
The Royal Scots Fusiliers
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.28
Western view of the Military Camp
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.29
View over Pretoria with the Military Camp
in the left corner (Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.30
Fort Royal with the British Garrison in
front (Du Val, 1880-1881)

2.3.4 Fort Commeline and Fort Tullichewan

Just south of the military camp, enters the road connecting south Pretoria and Heidelberg is the pass known as the 'Skietpoort'. These two hills, namely Magazine Hill and Monument Hill formed the gateway to Pretoria. During the siege of Pretoria these two forts provided the defence for the military camp against the Boer rebellion. In order to prevent attacks from the south, two forts, Fort Commeline and Fort Tullichewan where erected (Laband, 2014).

Fort Commeline's ruins remains on the hilltop of Magazine Hill just behind the Ammunition Depot, west of the SAPS Radio Technical Unit. Fort Tullichewan is built on the hill just east of Freedom Park (opposite the University of South Africa).

Fort Tullichewan was named after colonel Gildea's father-in-law (Sir George Campbell of Dumbarton in Scotland), Tullichewan Castle. Both these forts were built with coarse stone and partially covered with zinc plates (Saks, 1985: 1-12).

Furthermore, both were provided with a garrison of 25 men and a 4-pound Krupp cannon. Fort Commeline and Tullichewan were very strategically located. Although the 'Skanskop' and 'Klapperkop' hills further south offered somewhat better observation than the hills with the above-mentioned forts, the company was beyond shooting distance from the latter hills (Meyer and Van Vollenhoven, 1993).



Figure 2.31
Fort Commeline
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.32
Fort Tullichewan
(Du Val, 1880-1881)

2.3.5 Convent Redoubt ('Gaol Laager') and Civil Laager

The Convent Redoubt, also known as the 'Gaol Laager' (an old English term for jail), derives its name from the fact that the local jail on the corner of Visagie and Bosman streets was connected with the monastery or Loreto House on the corner of Skinner and Bosman streets. According to T.F. Carter, it was still under construction when the First Anglo Boer War broke out.

The Convent Redoubt was erected 369 meters north from the Fort Royal, which was constructed after 21 December 1880. A number of residents were advised to complete it. Where the 'Civil Laager' was only used to provide housing to married residents, the volunteers were gathered in the 'Convent Redoubt' to protect the north western flank and the military camp (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57).

In addition to the walls, they had to build the bastion on the southwestern corner of the jail. The bastion would be used as a foundation in this phase, but according to Carter the space was restricted in such a way that:

"one must (not) run away with the idea that the dimensions of the new tower are such as would afford lunatics, or even a 'swinging cat', room enough to move with comfort. The person who originated the idea that the new tower would answer such a purpose is likely, I should imagine, to find good quarters there at not very distant date if the merits of his scheme are considered by rational men possessing the usual quota of brains unturned. The tower would make a capital dungeon or cell, in which a lunatic would soon end his days, but not a lunatic asylum."

T.F. Carter (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57)

Carter also proclaimed that a temporary platform was erected on telephone poles while the jail was under construction. Seeing that the platform was equipped with a cannon, it seems that the tower was erected to protect the lower southern flank while the jail was completed. After the jail was completed, the platform was not removed, as Carter declared 'it remains to this day' (Van Jaarsveldt, 1981: 45-57).

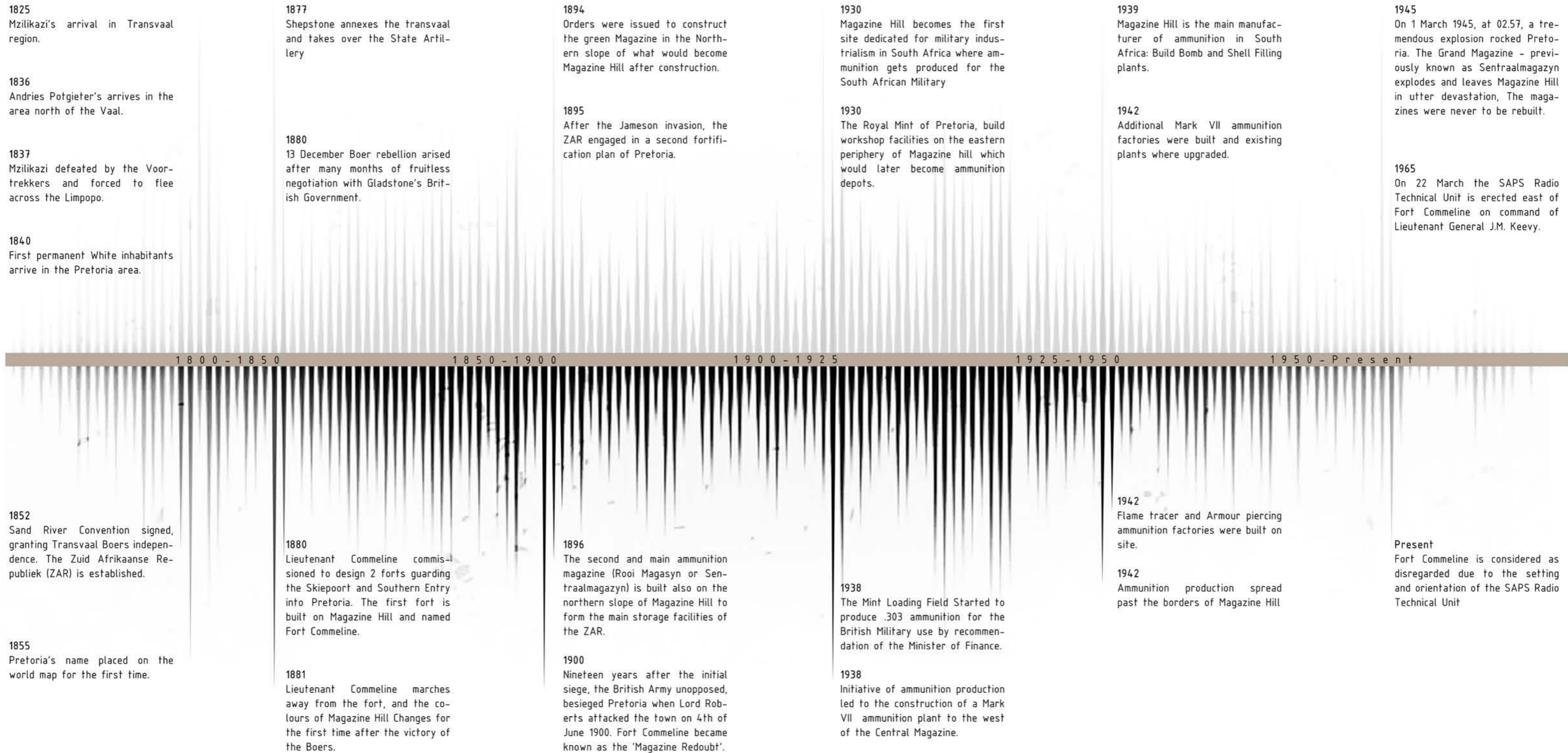
The Loreto Convent (today Loreto Convent School) was established after the annexation of Transvaal by Bishop Jolivet's sister, Sister Margaret Mary Jolivet, formed the northern front of the fortification. The trees around the monastery were cut down and the fences were dropped.

Furthermore, the building itself was hedged with sandbags. The monastery and prison were linked with wood barriers to form a Laager or redoubt. (According to J. Nixon, boards for one side and wooden vessels for the other are used). The barriers were then secured with sandbags and provided with sliding holes. Inside the camp tents and loggers were erected to provide sleeping and dining facilities to the volunteers. Convent Redoubt or 'Gaol Laager' since then, became the old Mint and would be defined today as the Ditsong National Museum of Cultural History.

Figure 2.33
The British Mounted Infantry with Fort Commeline on the hill behind
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.34
Time Line of Fort Commeline that birthed
from Magazine Hill (Author, 2018)



History of Magazine Hill
TIME LINE



Figure 2.35
News of the Camp headquarters
(Du Val, 1880-1881)

2.4 News of the Camp

The publications of 'News of the Camp' was issued under the editorial partnership of two writers namely, Charles (Du Val, 1880-1881) and Charles William Deeker during the First Anglo-Boer War.

News of the Camp was perhaps considered as the only volume containing albumen prints taken with a field camera during the time of the siege of Pretoria in 1880. These photographs, most of which measured approximately 190 x 140mm, was captioned written beneath in the hand of Charles Du Val. It is believed that after the war, Du Val had 200 copies of the complete issue bound up with the distinct title page.

According to the Cambridge University, in some cases, photographs were bound in, and the Royal Commonwealth Society copy appears to have the greatest number of prints. Other copies mentioned in the revised edition of Mendelssohn's 'South African Bibliography' have between fifteen and thirty-five prints inserted (Du Val, 1880-1881). These documented photographs of this time are represented throughout the study as motivated documentation of the heritage of the fortifications during 1880-1881.

Figure 2.36
Right opposite: The front page of *News of the Camp* (Du Val, 1880-1881)

THE NEWS OF THE CAMP.

A JOURNAL OF FANCIES, NOTIFICATIONS, GOSSIP, AND GENERAL
CHIT CHAT, PUBLISHED IN THE MILITARY CAMP OF HER
MAJESTY'S FORCES DEFENDING THE BELEAGURED
INHABITANTS OF PRETORIA.

EDITED BY

CHARLES DU-VAL AND CHARLES DEECKER.

MOTTO.—"CRIBBED, CABINED, CONFINED, BOUND-IN."



"NEWS OF THE CAMP" EDITORIAL AND PRINTING OFFICES.
(From a Photograph by H. F. Goss, Pretoria.)

PRINTED AT THE MILITARY CAMP, PRETORIA, DURING THE TRANSVAAL WAR OF 1880-81.



Figure 2.37
Above: Du Val and his team leaving
Durban, Natal, en route to the Transvaal
in 1880 (Du Val, 1880-1881)

Figure 2.38
Right: The preface of News of the Camp
(Du Val, 1880-1881)

PREFACE.

THE Editors, in presenting to their Subscribers the bound Edition of the full files of the "NEWS OF THE CAMP," think it but fair to themselves to ask their readers, when donning their caps of judgment to sit upon its imperfections, to consider well the difficulties under which the issuers of the journal were placed. Surely never was paper printed under such singular auspices—a bungalow for a Printing Office, with canvas thrown over its unfinished roof, through which the rain freely penetrated, a gentle waterspout running down the compositor's back as he stood with a bandolier of Martini-Henry cartridges over his shoulder, his white apron for a uniform, composing-stick in hand, and his rifle lying suggestively near his printing frame—none of these assistants to getting out a paper comfortably; the Editors' quarters—an army bell-tent and a transport wagon, the space between ingeniously roofed in with a tattered sail, stretched on telegraph poles. Their work, editing a paper by day, and on guard up to the knees in mud at night, or sleeping in a pair of leather-breeches, long boots, and jack spurs, a bandolier instead of a wife's arms as a necklace, a bag of cartridges for a bolster and a Snider carbine for a sleeping partner—peculiarities not conducive to the satisfactory wording of editorials or the manufacture of news. With these manifold disadvantages to contend against, the Editors believe that "THE NEWS OF THE CAMP" still contains sufficient details of the war in the Transvaal, as well as the incidents occurring within beleaguered Pretoria, to render it both instructive and amusing, as a memento of the siege of a hundred days, from the 18th December, 1880, to the 28th March, 1881.



The Chief Editor, in his War Paint.
Y4055A3

Figure 2.39
Right opposite: The news page of News of the Camp (Du Val, 1880-1881)

THE EDITORS.



The Chief Editor in his quiet mood.
Y4055A4

retired to the position evacuated by the troops, where they are still. Our loss appeared fearful at the commencement, as our soldiers fell everywhere. At daybreak the stragglers came in, but a heavy mist and rain prevented many from returning to the camp. The doctors went with a white flag to the battle-field and established a hospital at a farm. Throughout the whole night, in spite of heavy rain, they searched for the wounded and tended them as far as possible. It was first thought that all officers were killed, but now we know that many are wounded and taken prisoners. It is impossible to mention their names. It is known that Capt. Mando of the 57th and Lieut. Wower, Naval Brigade, are dead. Commander Bomilly has been brought in severely wounded. Several officers are prisoners in the Boer camp, among whom Col. Stewart and Major Fraser. Capt. McGregor has to thank his escape to the impassableness of the ground. No reliable information can be given of the dead and wounded. There are still men coming in, the loss of the 57th (58th?) is therefore reduced to 93 wounded and missing. The Boers treat the wounded with great kindness and the prisoners most politely. They took the body of Sir George Colley to the laager but will deliver it up at the request of the commanding officer. The order has been sent up and the body will be here to-night. The fight was brisk, but the Boers were too numerous and fired so well that the troops could not avoid being conquered, particularly as the cartridges were exhausted. The death of General Colley has caused great sadness. He was very much liked by his people. The Boers have taken possession of the hill and have a good force there as a guard. They are very obliging with regard to the burial of the parties. The wounded are brought in. There were 40 bodies in one grave, but I do not know the number in the others. The casualties of the Naval Brigade are estimated at 14 dead and 13 wounded. Some were made prisoners.

Maritzburg, March 1, 1881.

35 officers and 696 men were in the deplorable action at Amajuba's Kop, near Langes Nek, on Sunday. Of these 3 officers and 83 men were killed, 9 officers and 122 men wounded, and 7 officers (among whom Col. Stewart) and 50 men prisoners in the camp of the rebels. One officer is still missing, and there are 12 wounded who have not yet been conveyed to the British camp. Lieut.-Col. Stewart is prisoner, but not wounded. Surgeon Major Cornish died to-day. Major Fraser has turned up at Mount Prospect Camp, unhurt.

Dr. Mason, an eye-witness, says that the General was wounded at first when a boer, within four yards, blew out his brains. Times correspondent confirms the idea that the shot was fired at close quarters. The same correspondent had an interview yesterday with Joubert, who was accompanied by Aylward, the former Editor of the Witness. They promised to deliver up the body of the General if the request was made by the head officers of the camp, but refused it to the chaplain. Joubert says there is only one boer killed and 5 wounded on Sunday. Our casualties in dead, wounded and prisoners not more than 250.

Maritzburg, March 2.

Wood is expected in the camp to-morrow. The Boers intend to bring the prisoners to Heidelberg. An officer went over this morning with a flag of truce; the enemy treated him well. Dr. Landon died during the night of his wounds. The camp of the 57th (58th?) has been moved further on (forward) close behind the fort which commands the road to the Nek, where the hospital tents are pitched. Arrangements will have been made for the interment of General Colley, which shall take place towards the evening.

NEWS OF THE CAMP, APRIL 1, 1881.

Capetown, March 2.
Lieut.-General Smyth is soon to proceed to Natal to take command of the troops.

Sunday, March 6.
From Gen. Wood, Mount Prospect, to President Brand, Bloemfontein.

Have much pleasure to inform you that Joubert and I have signed agreement for an armistice for 8 days.

I have permission to send 8 days provisions to all garrisons. Joubert giving escort and the 8 days armistice commences at the garrisons on the arrival of the provisions. I will be obliged if you could inform the foremen at Potchefstroom and garrison there of this, and to explain to them that there is no cessation of hostilities before the provisions arrive at the garrisons. Be kind enough to assure yourself of a faithful conveyance of this message.

NAMES OF THE PRISONERS OF WAR AT HEIDELBERG.

- Lt.-Col. Herbert Stewart, 3rd Drag. Guards Head of the Staff.
- Capt. A. D. McGregor, } 92nd
- Lieut. H. Wright, } Highlanders.
- 2nd do. H. H. McDonald, }
- 2nd do. G. Stanton, }
- Capt. C. L. Hornby, 58th Regt.
- 2nd Lieut. C. L. Miller, (wounded) 94th Regt.
- Conductor F. H. Field, (wounded) Com. Department.
- Sergeant Holderness, 15th Hussars.
- 58th REGIMENT:—Quarter Serg. Gilla, Corporals: Potts, Wallace, Philips, Harvey, Privates: S. King, P. McAriffie, G. Bennet, W. Rice, J. Dillon, G. Carrington, J. Jolly, (wounded and sent back), Batters and Davidson.
- 3rd 60th RIFLES:—Sergeant Clements; Privates: J. Moore, H. Baker, W. Parr, W. Boiley, J. Preston, A. Snell, F. Batten, J. Caswell, C. Maidstone and R. Neil.
- 92nd HIGHLANDERS:—Serg. J. Morrison, 2nd Serg. Robb; Inn.-Corporals Gordall and Grig; Privates: John McKenzie, D. Gattansell, W. Coulston, H. Strud, D. Brown, H. Goodwin, M. Reilly, (wounded), Geo. Morgan, Rich. Lloyd, L. Adamson, Jas. Smith, John Simpson, A. Shaw, Jas. Thomson, S. Reid, Jos. Williams, Jas. Patterson, Geo. Smith (wounded and sent back Natal).
- NAVAL BRIGADE:—Privates: Dan, Mortimer, James Pafford and Charles George.

L. J. Lithauer
WILL HOLD HIS USUAL
COMMISSION SALE
THIS MORNING,

When an endless assortment of everything will be submitted to competition.

Latest Intelligence.

G. REDPATH,
HAVING recovered from the effects of Martial Law, will hold a SALE OF EVERYTHING to suit EVERYBODY, on
SATURDAY,

at 11 o'clock a.m., on the 2nd of April, 1881.

Of course 'tis CASH, send what you want sold and fetch what you buy.

NOTICE.

In the Intestate Estate of the late THOMAS HENRY SIMPSON.

ALL persons having claims against or being indebted to the above Estate, are requested to file or settle the same with the undersigned within six weeks from this date.

EDWD. F. SIMPSON,
Executor Dative.

Convent Redoubt,
Pretoria, 22nd March, 1881.

I. J. LITHAUER,
AUCTIONEER

TO THE PEOPLE
AND THE
COMING GOVERNMENT.



OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

NOTICE.—His Excellency the Administrator directs it to be notified for general information that from a communication received, His Excellency has learnt with profound grief of the death of His Excellency Major-General Sir GEORGE POMEROY COLLEY, K.C.S.I., C.B., C.M.G., Her Majesty's High Commissioner for South Eastern Africa. The death of this distinguished officer took place at the fight with the Boers at Spitzkop, on Sunday, the 27th February last.

His Excellency, in publishing this sad intelligence, knows that his grief will be shared by the inhabitants of the whole of South Africa, who have by Sir G. POMEROY COLLEY'S death lost the advantage of the counsels of an officer whose eminent abilities, extensive local knowledge, and wide experience of military and civil affairs, would at the present juncture have been of great service in the settlement of pending questions.

Figure 2.40
Fort Commeline with its Garrison in 1880
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



2.5 Fort Commeline

In this study, the emphasis is however placed on the first fortifications of 1880 and due to this aim, the British fort known as Fort Commeline is analysed. Contrary to the traditional historian that emphasize on events, this study aims at studying the structure and architectural history of Fort Commeline as well as the narrative it conveys.

Fort Commeline is considered as one of the first fortifications of Pretoria. Today, only a portion of its remains are still to be found on Magazine Hill, north west of the Voortrekker Monument. This Fort was once the protector of the valley between Magazine and Monument hills southern entrance to Pretoria, also known as the "Skietpoort" or 'South Poort' (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).

2.5.1 The History

With the reluctant citizens of Pretoria under the British control in 1880, the military immediately pushed out and strengthened their defences. In order to cover the main routes entering Pretoria, which was surrounded by the hills, a number of fortifications were built. To secure the southern approach, Fort Royal was erected at the 'Skietpoort', Fort Tullichewan was erected on the hills to the east of the "Skietpoort" (a narrow pass) and Fort Commeline to the west. (Laband, 2014)

"The Road into [the south of] Pretoria ran along the top of a reef of iron-stone for several miles and was [especially an unpleasant] riding. The town itself [where] surrounded by hills on all sides, and we [suddenly came] into view of [Pretoria] as we reached the bottom of a long [stretch] down-hill, and then passed through a narrow opening between two ridges into the plain upon which Pretoria is laid out. The tents of the 13th[regiment], on the outside of the town [edge]; the fort, situated on a rising ground above them, with the British flag, and the red coats of the sentries, gave it a [distinct] military appearance as we rode on past the camp down a wide street opening into the town square."

E.F. Sandeman - Eight Months in an Ox-waggon: Reminiscences of Boer Life (Sandeman, 1875: 124)

The first fort is initially mentioned when Sandeman and his hunting partners arrived in Pretoria through the 'Skietpoort' in 1878. Sandeman states that their wagons passed a fort. At the time of the Siege of Pretoria in 1880/1881, this fort was known as Fort Royal (Sandeman, 1875: 124). At this time, Pretoria had no other defences apart from this fort (Fort Royal) and the Artillery Camp. After months of unsuccessful negotiations with Gladstone's British Government, the Boers finally chose to rise in rebellion on the 13th of December 1880.

The British forces, also known as the "garrison" was commanded by Colonel Gildea of the 21st regiment and the Royal Highland Fusiliers, that gave order to the Royal Engineer, Lieutenant Charles Ernest Commeline to build two forts.

Due to this predicament, Lieutenant Commeline erected two forts on the southern hills of the town (Van Wyk, 2012). The main fort known as Fort Commeline was built on 4 December 1880, positioned south of the military camp on what was later to become known as Magazine Hill to the east of the 'Skietpoort' commanding the road leading into the town and the second was erected on the hill to the south of the 'Skietpoort', known at the time as Timeball Hill (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).

The first stronghold would be the first structure of the fortification plan and be considered as the first building on Magazine Hill (Muller et al., 1955). Fort Commeline was later named after its former Lieutenant whom had also commanded the small detachment of soldiers at this fort. After the succeeding battles of Bronkhorstspuit, 'Laings Ne'k, 'Ingogo' ('Schuinshoogte') and finally Majuba in 1881, the British forces were swiftly humbled as the Boers regained their Republic. According to Panagos, as a result, lieutenant Commeline and the garrison he previously commanded marched away, abandoning Fort Commeline (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).



Annotated in the photo above:
A - Military Camp B - Fort Commeline
C - Loretto House Convent D - Convent Redoubt

Figure 2.41
The Convent Redoubt and the 'Tronk'
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Annotated in the photo above:
A - Fort Commeline B - Military Camp

Figure 2.42
The Convent redoubt Garrison
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



Figure 2.43
Fort Tullichewan
(Du Val, 1880-1881)

Figure 2.44
Members of the Royal Engineers
(Du Val, 1880-1881)



2.5.2 Significance

Fort Commeline is considered as one of the first fortifications that served in protecting the south of the Transvaal. Although it never served as the icon it had been intended for, it served as the foundation of heritage birthed from Magazine Hill.

As gunfire could reach the military camp, the purpose of the fort was to prevent the Boer rebellion from occupying the southern mountain range. From here there was also a good view of the surrounding area (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).

In addition, the purpose of the fort was also to guard the south-west and to support Fort Tullichewan to the east as well as serving as one of the main guarding posts for the 'Skietpoort' range. Fort Commeline served as the main communication point that utilised signals to communicate with the military camp to the North of Magazine Hill. Therefore, the fort was also used as a signal station. Messages were sent to and from the military camp by heliography.

From these hills, the forts and garrisons had a very good view of Pretoria and the surrounding area further south so as they were also used as viewpoints. During the day there where communicated via heliography as well as flags and at night, lamps were utilised (Fordred, 1996: 1133-1137).

The heliography used the sun during day time, to signal messages to the different guarding posts. According to Du-Val, this type of communication was described as 'the brilliant flashes of the heliograph, as it caught the sun's rays, and flickered and glittered its dazzling' dots and dashes 'were picturesque in the extreme' (Ploeger. J & Botha, 1968).

Figure 2.45
Fort Commeline's original floor plans and sections by the Royal Engineers (Van Vollenhoven, 1992)

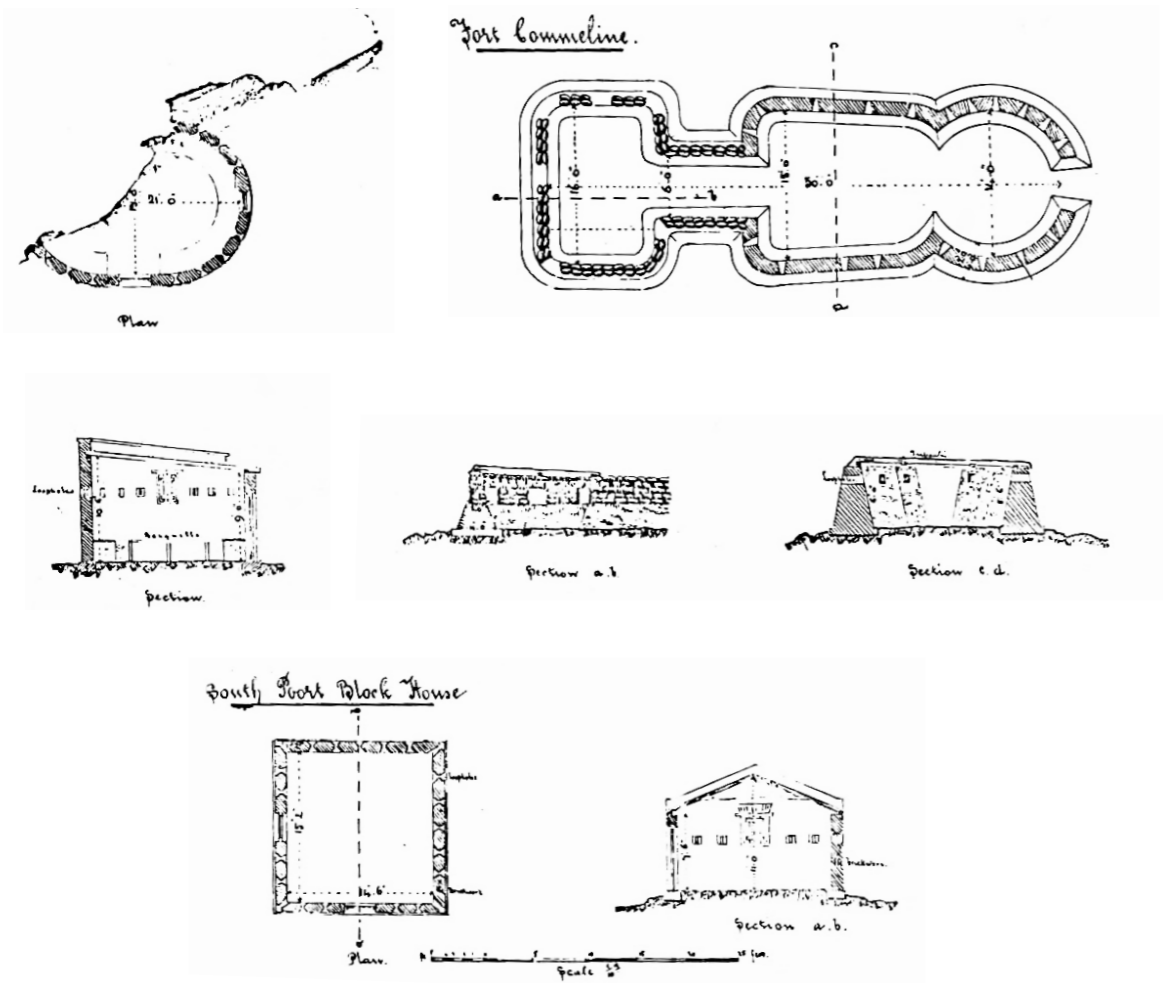


Figure 2.46
'The covered way': Parallel stone trench walls leading from the magazines to Fort Commeline (Panagos, 1991).



Figure 2.47
A depiction of heliography used during the wars of 1880-1902 (le Roux, 2018)

2.5.3 The Structure

Fort Commeline was mainly considered as a small, rough stone fortress that consisted of rough field works and stone foundations. It also constituted of a blockhouse for twelve men to guard the entrance to the 'Skietpoort' (pass) (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).

The fortifications were well protected and reinforced with soil and sandbags (Van Vollenhoven, 1992). The fort observed the west for possible danger and kept watch over the Rustenburg Road leading into the 'Skietpoort'. The fortress housed twenty-five men and was manned by the Royal Scots Fusiliers. Additionally these fortifications were also armed by a four-pound (1.82 kg) Krupp cannon for artillery defence (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).

The forts had a 'chevaux de frise' (protective barrier) a barricade made of thorn bushes set in a low stone wall or trench which may also have been bound together with barbed wire. These trenches can still be seen on the east of Fort Commeline (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).

Later a blockhouse was erected in the Gate itself and connected to the two forts by means of stairways to provide protection to the guards. Furthermore, wire barriers were placed around the blockhouse at night.

The remains consist of a neatly built square stone structure with a rough oval-shaped stone wall around it. Excavations are essential to determine whether the remains are part of Fort Commeline and whether it is only the Magazine Redoubt. Plans can be drawn from this and can be compared with the existing plan of Fort Commeline, to solve the problem.

It is assumed that the Fort was most probably deserted and partially destroyed during the Second Anglo Boer War when the Magazine Redoubt was erected. Today only the foundations and rock formations of fort Commeline, the Magazine Redoubt as well as the Green Magazine serve as confirmation that the fort ever existed (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).

It is important to state that the information in terms of proposed plans, data and built works thereof, is not accurate. This thesis is therefore aimed at documenting and analyzing the structure architecturally as well as archaeologically. See chapter on The Magazine Redoubt.

Figure 2.48
Right opposite: The conceptual and topographical analysis of the ruins of Fort Commeline (Author, 2018)

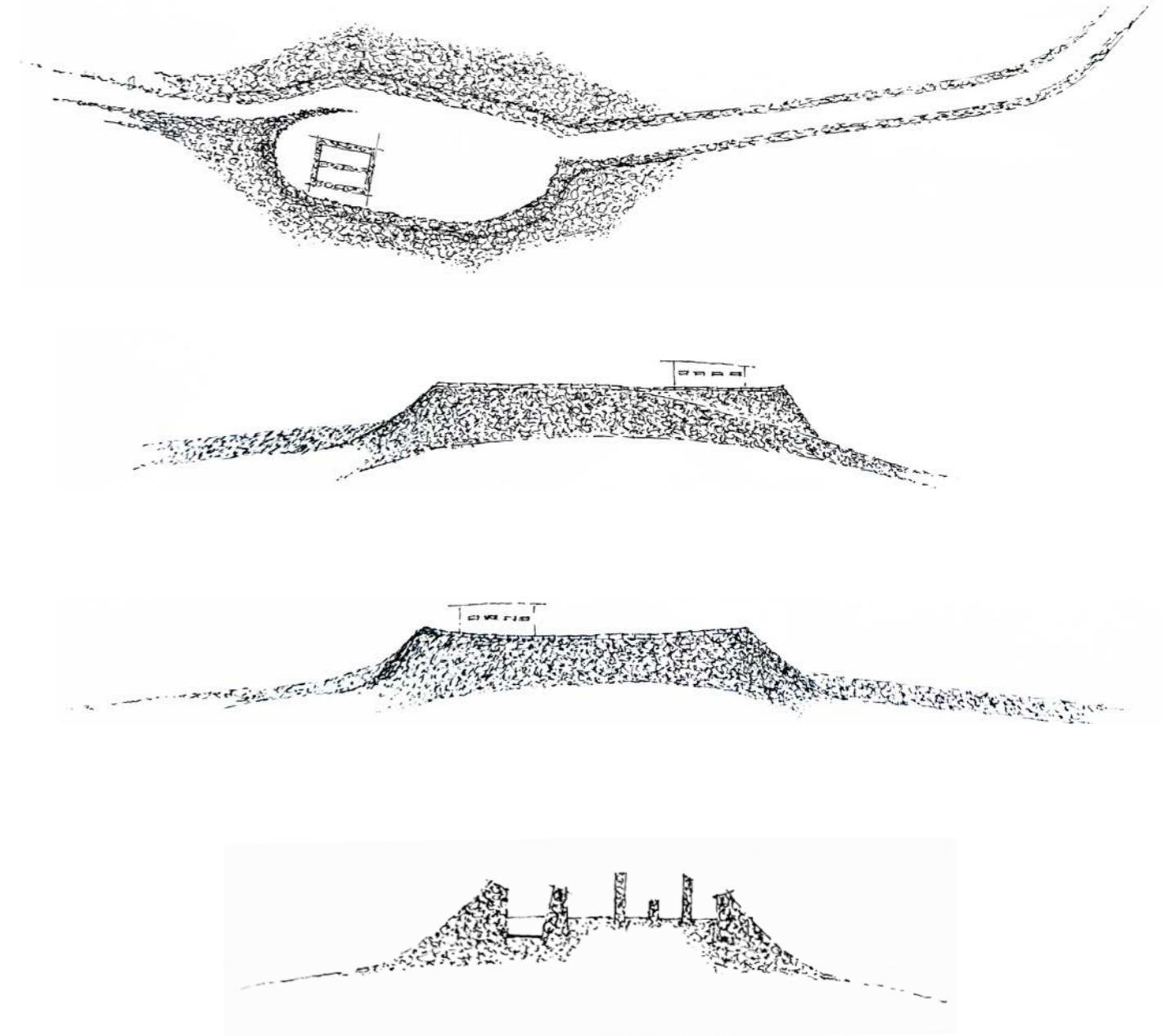


Figure 2.49
The ruins of Fort Commeline (Author, 2018)

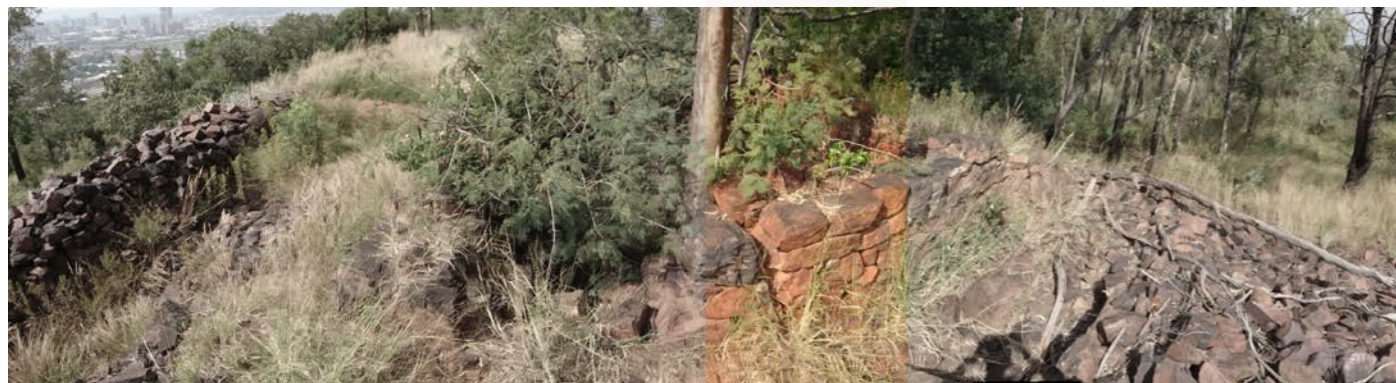
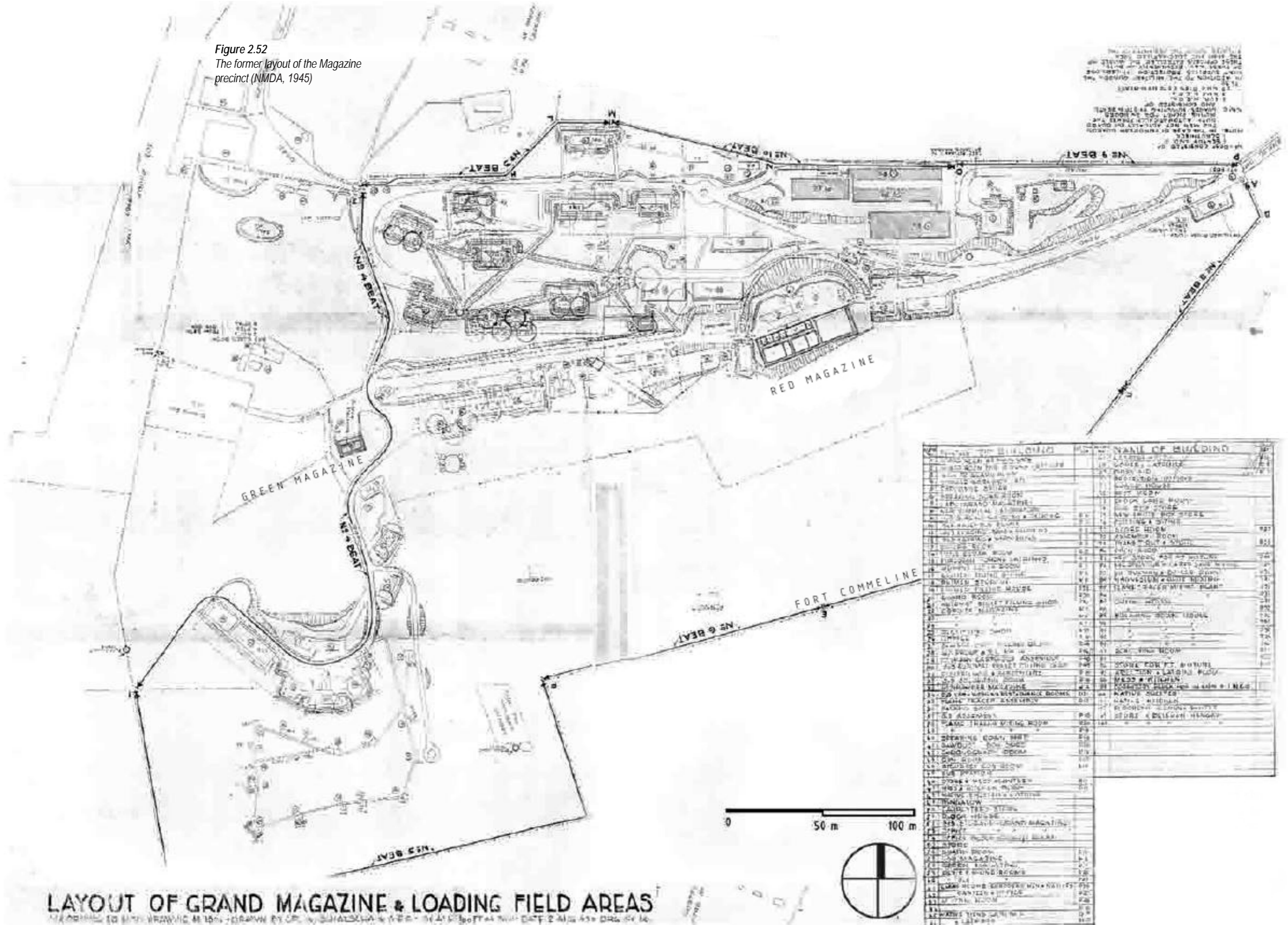


Figure 2.50
The redoubt structure of Fort Commeline (Author, 2018)



Figure 2.51
The remnants after the explosion of the
Grand Magazine (NMDA, 1945)

Figure 2.52
The former layout of the Magazine precinct (NMDA, 1945)



2.6 An untold narrative of Magazine Hill

The Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) required additional armaments and it was therefore in need of an ammunition magazine. The Green Magazine (now part of the museum of the Military Defect Centre) was erected in 1894 on the western side of what was later to become known as Magazine Hill.

This area previously indicated as the part of the previous Military Camp and better known today as 'Salvokop', was utilized as the headquarters of the 'Transvaal Staatsartillerie Regiment' (later to become the SANDF headquarters). According to Panagos, it was due to the unsuccessful attempts of the Jameson Raid in 1896, that motivated this programme of arming the ZAR. The result would in effect serve as importation of 'field and siege guns' from firms in France and Germany (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).

The need for a larger store quickly became an essential addition to house the ammunition supply. This was known as 'The Sentraalmagazyn' (Central Magazine) also referred to the "Red Magazine" (Panagos, 2006: 1-7). The Central magazine was erected at the foot of the hill on the western side and east of the Green Magazine.

2.6.1 The Precinct

Magazine Hill quickly became a vital asset to the ZAR and it was particularly important to protect these nodes from attacks from the south. The need for the guardian was called for again and Fort Commeline was restored. It was connected by a long trench-like pathway running up the northern side of the hill and ran from the magazines up to the fort. These 1,5-meter-high walls served as protection against potential rifle fire and enabled cavalries from the magazine detachment to assist the garrison at the fort in the event of an attack (Van Vollenhoven, 1992).

To this day it is still assumed that this pathway was initially part of Fort Commeline, defining the redoubt area and connecting itself with the Camp, though it is argued that Lieutenant Commeline never had enough resources, time or the strategic requirement to erect these two parallel walls. Consequently, Fort Commeline didn't just change its colours, but transformed through the years.

It is argued that due to its setting, Fort Commeline was concealed by Monument Hill and as a result, it did not serve its role as protector of Pretoria. Nineteen years after the initial siege, the British Army unopposed, besieged Pretoria when Lord Roberts attacked the town on 4th of June 1900. According to Panagos, this ordeal's activity was centered on the present Asylum and Military Hospital, and where the 'Staatsartillerie' of the ZAR had positioned its field guns.

That following morning as the British garrisons marched into the town along the 'Skietpoort', four forts of the ZAR was seized: 'Klapperkop', 'Skanskop', 'Wonderboompoort' and 'Daspoortrand'. All built between 1896 and 1898. The British soon advanced into the rest of Pretoria seizing eight additional redoubts in the town. As a result, Fort Commeline became known as the 'Magazine Redoubt' (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).

2.6.2 The Magazine Redoubt

The Magazine Redoubt (former Fort Commeline) was again re-appropriated by the British and a stone wall perimeter was built circling the fort at approximately 6,5m in diameter, integrating the primary structure. These ruins are still visible although a modern water reservoir was constructed right in the center of the fort. It is self-evident as heritage worth is disregarded by engineers as the elevation or hill was selected for their needs.

Fort Commeline or in this case, The Magazine Redoubt, was the third fort to stand on Magazine Hill. Shortly after January 1901, Fort Commeline had once again changed its colours as the British Army reformed the fort, such as the other seven, by adding a corrugated iron blockhouse to its structure. The Magazine Blockhouse had a ventilated cellar and was defined as a ridged 2m-high square mortared stone foundation that supported the wooden floor. According to Panagos, this fort was the fourth and last fort to be constructed, where Lieutenant Commeline's initial fort was erected. So far none of the fortifications erected on the hill had been involved in any enemy conflict.



Figure 2.53
The newspaper article reflecting on the tragic explosion (NMDA, 1945)



Figure 2.54
The remnants after the explosion (NMDA, 1945)



Figure 2.55
The remnants after the explosion (NMDA, 1945)



Figure 2.56
The remnants after the explosion (NMDA, 1945)

2.6.3 Turning to ruins

On the 1st of March 1945, at roughly 03:00am, an unexpected and devastating explosion almost brought the 'Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek' (ZAR) to its knees. The Grand Magazine (Central Magazine), also formerly known as the 'Sentraalmagazyn' exploded with a thunderous growl that shook Pretoria. The ammunition magazine's steel and concrete roof, as well as the ammunition of with shells and cartridges discharged unexpectedly (NMDA, 1945).

The reason for this devastation was at first considered as a possible sabotage, but it was later verified that it was most probably the result of lack of maintenance and negligence of storage that had resulted in the aging and decomposition of the ammunition and had in some way ignited.

The explosion was referred to by witnesses as a sudden intense red/blue flame subsequent to a two-fold explosion (Panagos, 2006: 1-7). It is stated by Panagos that the steel I-beams from the Magazine's roof flew in different directions. One was recorded landing on top of the hill next to the Magazine Redoubt.

By this time, Fort Commeline was recorded missing its blockhouse. Approximately 730 meters from the explosion, a second beam was recorded landing on the Second World War Medical stores building (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).

The markings on this beam mentioned above, indicated that it was made by Roechling steelworks in Germany. Roechling is still in existence today, now a financial bank. Other markings such as the 'NR 28' was an indication of steel grade and indicated the I-beam's tensile strength (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).

Unfortunately, at this time, workers from the nearby buildings known as the Mint Loading Field resulted in additional casualties. The explosion took 34 lives, these included young women who was working shifts in the night.

This loading field produced .303 rifle rounds. Cartridges were filled with gunpowder and produced as field-ready ammunition. War in Europe ended two months later. Since that fateful night, Fort Commeline was believed to be at peace...

The Grand Magazine (Red Magazine) explosion casualties:

Deaths	34
Mint Loading Field Buildings (west)	31
Prison reserve (adjacent)	3
Injuries	231

(Panagos, 2006: 1-7)



Annotated in the photo above:
The beam marked "ROECHLING NR 28"

Figure 2.57
The steel I-beam that landed next to the fort on the hill (Panagos, 2003).



Figure 2.58
The devastation after the explosion (NMDA, 1945)



Figure 2.59
The devastation of the Hospital after the explosion (NMDA, 1945)



Figure 2.60
The stairwell running up to the Grand Magazine (Author, 2018)



Figure 2.61
A structure west of the Red Magazine that burned down (Author, 2018)



Figure 2.62
The re-roofed flame-tracer building west of the Red Magazine (Author, 2018)

GRAND MAGAZINE EXPLOSION VICTIES.

EUROPEANS.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Where Killed.</u>
BOUYSEN, J. J.	Male	19	Soldering Room p9
HUBERTZICK, D.G.E.	"	19	Soldering Room p9
DE VRY, M.J.C. (Miss)	Female	18	Booker (Cap & Var.) pl.
DE WAAL, M.L. (Mrs)	"	43	Capping & Varnishing pl.
DUNCAN, E.W.C.	Male	40	Soldering Room p9
HEENTRO, M.S. (Miss)	Female	17	Loading Section p2
LE GRANGE, J. (Sister) (Mrs.)	"	34	Near First Aid Room.
LEWIS, M.D. (Mrs)	"	40	Composite Room p3
PRINSLOO, M.G.A. M. (Mrs.)	"	54	Composite Room p3
SCHROEDER, A.L.E. (Miss)	"	34	Loading Section p2
VAN LOM, J.M. (Miss)	"	19	(Worked at Loading Field but killed at 68 Prison Reserve).
VAN MEKORCK, C.D. (Mrs)	"	50	Composite Room p3
VAN MEKORCK, J.E. M. (Mrs)	"	33	Capping & Varnishing pl.
VILJOEN, J.H.P.	Male	7	Prison Reserve.
VIBAGIE, C.S. (Miss)	Female	36	Capping & Varnishing pl.
VESPER, J.S.E. (Miss)	"	27	Loading Section p2.
<u>NATIVES.</u>			
RATHLOLO, J.	Male	15	(Worked at Loading Field but killed at 58 Prison Reserve.)
LUBISI, G.	"	25	H.M.C. Guard.
MOTSEKI, G.H.	"	35	Soldering Room p9
MAHABELLA, J.	"	36	Capping & Varnishing pl.
MAPOSA, J.	"	30	Composite Room p3
MARAKE, L.	"	20	Packing Room p4
MASHLANGU, K.	"	35	?
MATHELA, B.	"	21	?
MATSEPANE, W.	"	26	Soldering Room p9
NKABINDA, S.	"	28	?
MONGWIE, H.	"	26	Soldering Room p9
MOUNDI, A.	"	28	Soldering Room p9
MALULEKA, T.	"	35	Capping & Varnishing pl.
MEZAZI, S.	"	24	Soldering Room p9
RAMETSI, W.	"	23	Packing Room p4.
SEDIRA, J.	"	26	Packing Room p4.
SECCER, J.	"	25	Soldering Room p9

Figure 2.63
The "Grand Magazine Explosion Victies" (NMDA, 1945)

Figure 2.64
The Munitions Defect Exhibition and Museum west of the Flame-tracer Building and former Grand Magazine
(Author, 2018)



Figure 2.65
The Munitions Defect Exhibition and Mu-
seum west of the Flame-tracer Building
and former Grand Magazine
(Author, 2018)



Figure 2.66
One of the Magazines munition stores at
the northern foot of the hill, north of the
Flame-tracer Building (Author, 2018)



Figure 2.67
One of the Magazines munition stores at
the northern foot of the hill, north of the
Flame-tracer Building (Author, 2018)



2.6.4 'Poésie de la Communiqué'

On the 22nd of March 1965 the South African Police Service (SAPS) Radio Technical Unit was erected by the commissioner of the South African Police, Lieutenant General J.M. Keevy.

At this time, it served as the main Police Academy of the Radio Technical Units. This unit was known as the headquarters of the south and served as the central communication point for the police units. Surprisingly it was romantically placed east of the former Fort Commeline and disregarded only the south-eastern viewpoint over the 'Skietpoort' (Paschke, 2018).

The Radio Technical unit is currently still active and provides its service to South African Police Service (SAPS) as technical workshop and offices concentrating on radio communication, sirens and emergency lights of SAPS vehicle units (Paschke, 2018). The old communication tower could be found on the top of the hill. Though it doesn't serve any use to the Radio Technical unit today, it is still an effective signal tower used for Internet communication (Aylward, 2010).

While this unit is situated on the top of Magazine Hill, it is perceived as its own community. North of the Radio Technical unit, the six residential flats house staff of the Radio Technical unit as well as members from the SA Army. The main residential home (ideally intended for the high-ranking authority) would be found in the north-western corner, meeting the fort's tranches. According to Lieutenant Colonel O.G. Paschke, management of the residence are controlled by one of the main staff of the Radio Technical unit (Aylward, 2010).

As it was never intended to be affiliated with the fort, it disrupted the existence of character the fortification once whispered. It is as if Fort Commeline's inherent value and its heritage of narration it once had, would now be considered as a fenced-off mystery. Today the fort and the Radio Technical unit are both associated with the sensitive and isolated historical narrative of which is slowly disappearing among the abandoned landscape of Magazine Hill (Paschke, 2018).



Figure 2.69
The SAPS Radio Technical Unit in 1965: obtained from the office (Author, 2018)



Figure 2.70
The SAPS Radio Technical Unit today (Author, 2018)



Figure 2.68
The SAPS Radio Technical Unit entrance insignia (Author, 2018)



Figure 2.71
The SAPS Radio Technical Unit plaque: obtained from the office (Author, 2018)



2.6.5 The Horror

For the following narrative, the narrator wished to remain unknown and the author therefore kept the names of the characters anonymous. All the information that follows is regarded as true events that happened on Magazine Hill at the time of August 2007.

They will therefore be referred to Miss Amy, attendant and resident of the South African Radio Technical Unit and narrator of the story at the time of the interview, as well as a male, Mister John, an ex-convict from the Pretoria jail to the North of Magazine Hill (Anonymous, 2018).

On a warm sunny day in August, Amy went to walk her dog. As usual, Amy new about the ruins of Fort Commeline and frequently visited the ruined site in her free time after work. As she arrived home after her afternoon walk, her dog's paws were quite filthy it seemed and as a result the dog mused the floor. Amy at first thought it might just be mud the dog walked into her room. However, on closer inspection, Amy found blood (Anonymous, 2018)..

Amy ignored the blood at first as she thought it might be the dog's as he would frequently get injuries due to his curious nature. After noticing an unfamiliar young male entering the Radio Technical Unit, Amy was asked if she might possibly have seen his father. Only then did Amy question the blood found in her residence. Amy decided to inspect the route the dog followed earlier that day. What they found was not what one would expect. On further inspection, the young male found his father (Anonymous, 2018).

Mister James, an ex-convict from the Jail near Magazine Hill used to come to the fort to clear his head. But this time Mister James executed himself in the fort, clearing more than just his head. This was however not the only incident of suicide on Magazine Hill. A few years later, a man was found northeast of the entrance to the Radio Technical unit, hanged from a tree...

Figure 2.72

A representation of the horrific suicide event (Author, 2018)

2.7 The Vision

As the initial intentions of this fortification was to protect the greater public of Pretoria from the possible threats of the south, it only seems fit that the Magazine Hill precinct should continue its legacy. However, now the intention must be to withstand a new modern threat of historical loss, isolation and fragmented history.

Understanding the brutal consequences of isolation and abandonment, it is alarming to see how the conditions at Fort Commeline and the Magazine Hill precinct have only deteriorated. With the main focus on the effective rehabilitation of Fort Commeline as well as the adjoining Radio Technical Unit, both will be included in the conceptual vision as a holistic entity.

Important view points/relations:

- A | View of the western entrance of the 'Skietpoort'.
- B | View of the Voortrekker Monument.
- C | View of the Amphitheater.
- D | View of the eastern entrance of the 'Skietpoort'.
- E | View of Freedom Park and the former Fort Tullichewan.
- F | View of Pretoria Central and the former Fort Royal and Military camp.
- G | View of Pretoria-west and Westfort.

Figure 2.73
 Opposite: The precinct mapping illustrating the important heritage relations as well as the soft and hard landscapes of the precinct: Illustration by (Author, 2018)

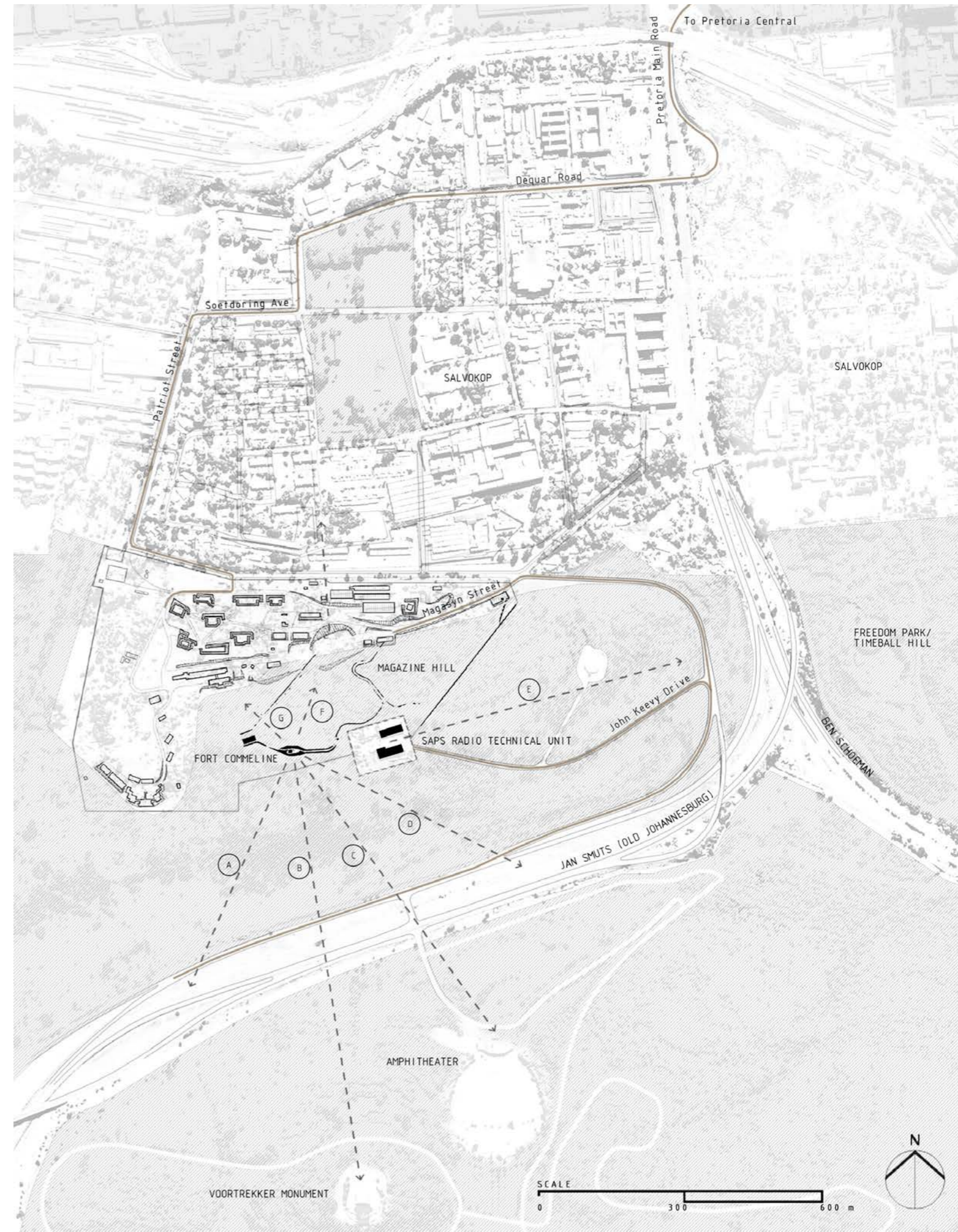


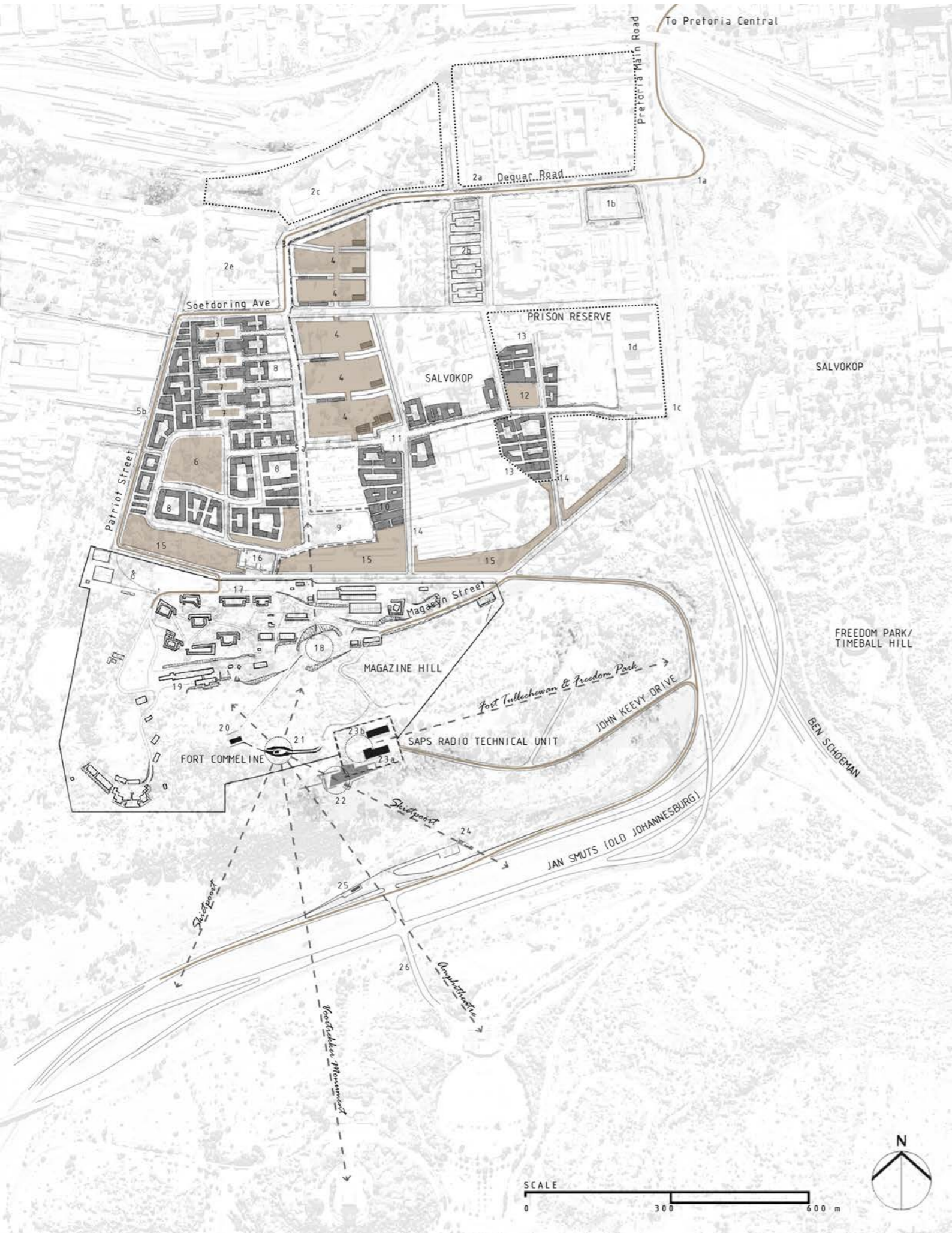
Figure 2.74
 View over Voortrekker Monument as perceived from the RTU (Author, 2018)



Figure 2.75
 View over Pretoria central as perceived from Fort Commeline (Author, 2018)

2.7.1 Proposed Precinct Framework

The presented framework is considered as a collaboration with Cliff (Gouws, 2012) and attempts to mediate the proposed precinct framework as holistic entity in the knitting of space:



- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1a The existing entrance into the precinct (Dequar Road). | 6 The existing open space, proposed parade ground network. | 18 The Red Magazine crater and fort trench walls leading up the hill to Fort Commeline. |
| 1b Existing open fields: Proposed as new military parade grounds. | 7 Proposed smaller formation parade ground network. | 19 Existing Flame Tracer Building (the proposed site of Cliff Gouws). |
| 1c A new proposed entrance into the precinct (Klawer Street). | 8 Military formation and brigade residential zone (high density). | 20 The former Fort Camp as proposed as the new Memory Wall. |
| 1d Pretoria Correctional Services. | 9 The proposed parade ground network. | 21 Fort Commeline: Main site with respective views. |
| 2a The existing SA Army Administration Headquarters. | 10 New proposed military institutional buildings (high density). | 22 The new proposed Historical Performance Centre: Secondary site. |
| 2b The Proposed Indoor shooting facilities (SANDF projections). | 11 Proposed multi-functional intersection/parade space. | 23a The existing SAPS Radio Technical Unit proposed as the new Performance School: Tertiary site. |
| 2c Military vehicle repairs. | 12 Proposed parade ground network for the Prison Reserve. | 23b The existing SAPS Radio Technical Unit residential zone (low density). |
| 2d SAAmy Health Depot. | 13 New proposed military institutional buildings. | 24 The proposed Funicular leading up the hill. |
| 3 The proposed main road into the precinct (Dequar road). | 14 New Access road to 'Magasyn' Street. | 25 Proposed as vehicular access from the south of Magazine Hill. |
| 4 The existing military recreational grounds, proposed parade ground network. | 15 Urban Agricultural belt serving as part of the prison and Military reserve. | 26 Proposed as link and access to the Voortrekker Monument and the existing Amphitheater. |
| 5a Experiential view of Fort Commeline and the former Red Magazine crater on Magazine Hill. | 16 The proposed Parking structure by Cliff Gouws. | |
| 5b The existing 'Magasyn' street, proposed as alternative route to Magazine Hill - Tree lane as urban guide to the foot of Magazine Hill. | 17 Existing entrance into the Magazine Hill precinct. | |

Figure 2.76
Opposite: The proposed precinct vision presented as collaboration with Cliff (Gouws, 2012):
Illustration by (Author, 2018)

2.7.2 The Client

With emphasis on the transformation of narrative through rehabilitation, the following will be considered as the main drivers in allocating the appropriate vision for the design proposal: the client, the program, and the vision as a transformation as a result of time. The proposed vision for the Magazine Hill precinct is therefore to rehabilitate the site to a new state of significance, that would not only be affiliated with its haunted narrative, but that would represent a beacon of continuity and belonging.

To secure the future value of this heritage mound, it is of great importance to ensure the relation of the current inhabitants. The framework proposes an upliftment program with the main intentions to reflect on the narrative, to restore the value of the Magazine hill precinct where the fort resides as protector of the South.

For the stakeholders to actively participate in the advertising of this new phenomenon, it is however important to first instill in them a collective interest, pride and awareness within and around the current community of Magazine Hill. This will ensure the successful transition from the former to the new.

The aim however is rather to manage and assist both the defined and undefined stakeholder. Each of whom has a different perspective on how to engage with the barriers of the ruins.

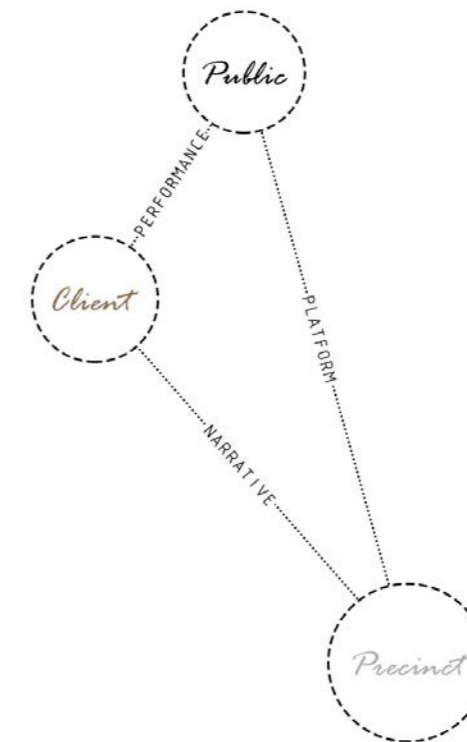


Figure 2.77
The diagrammatic representation of the Public, Client and Precinct relation proposed by the Intercession (Author, 2018)



Figure 2.78
The aerial photo of the proposed study area: not to scale (Author, 2018)

2.7.3 The Main Program

With contingency of narration, it is well known that the site is rich in heritage value. The proposed program therefore aims at re-establishing the relationship between heritage of architecture and time. Subsequently it is proposed as a Historical Performance Centre that would not only facilitate for the precinct's known heritage but would encourage contextual event architecture as 'live museum' and would serve as network of heritage nodes.

Consequently, the performance, education and representation of history and art would result in the celebration of the existing normative, serving as a mediator between man and ruin of history. Facilitating for the restoration and revival of the relationship between the narrated architecture that would form an inclusive construct of the layering of memory, a product restricted by time.

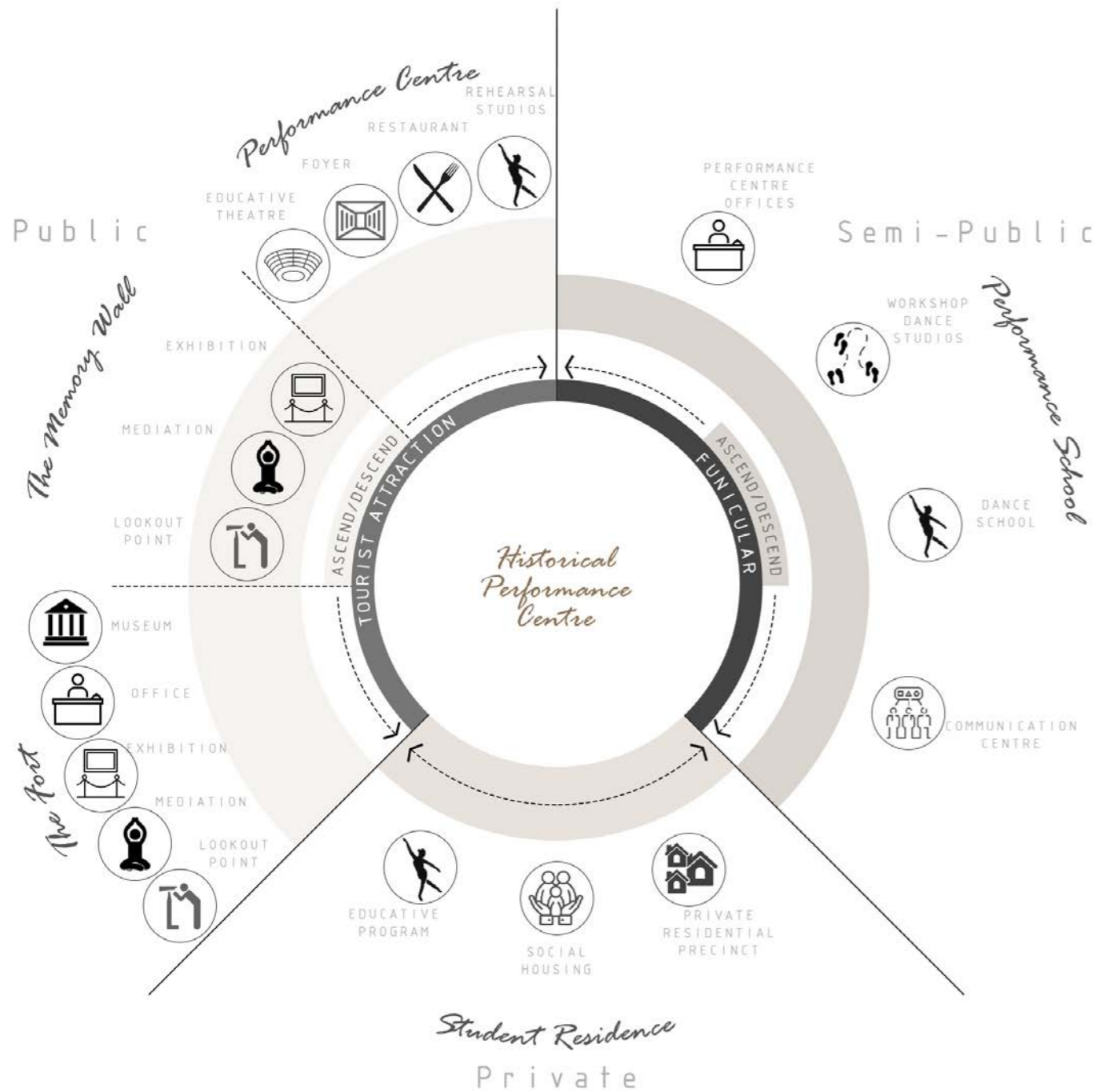


Figure 2.79
The diagrammatic representation of the Historical Performance Centre's main program (Author, 2018)

2.7.4 Macro Vision

With the RTU boundary cutting through the old fort access roads and trenches, it is proposed to re-establish the macro connection from the foot of the hill to the peak of the fort. These access roads would serve as anticipation and accent of the landscape by foot and ensure passive program linking the pedestals throughout the site.

Subsequently, connecting from the south where the fort triumphs over the 'Skietpoort', the connection from the R101 route and the amphitheater of the Voortrekker Monument is proposed to lead the user from the southern foot of the hill, up the incline to the theatre by funicular. Additionally, it is proposed to serve as advent from the existing Military Defect Centre Museum in the north where the former proposal of (Gouws, 2012) is situated.

2.7.5 Micro Vision

It is ideal to utilize the built fabric from the former Fort Commeline, to restore it to the original appearance with the rehabilitation of the existing vernacular as main priority. Though due to the current state of the site, utilizing the ruins as substance may perhaps be considered as the ideal approach to restoring the ruin.

As the fortification would serve as the main advent in the precinct, the anticipation to this particular site is vital. The trench walls would serve as chapter for the user, leading conversely from north-west to north-east, passing through the old fort camp, proposed as the new memory and finally arriving at the fort, serving as pedestal and exhibition space.

It is proposed that the existing ruins of the Fort Commeline and the Radio Technical Unit (RTU) would serve as the bridge and provide the foundation to craft the new. This is where the performance school and poetic theatre of the Historical Performance Centre would theatrically cut through the hill. Mediating space as well as structure.

The RTU and adjacent residential unit would respectively be re-established as offices, rehearsal areas and student accommodation. Lastly, the existing communication tower would serve as beacon to the precinct, networking as lighthouse at night. Reflecting back to the former heliographic communication utilized in the 1880's, introducing the mediation of the precinct at a macro-scale.

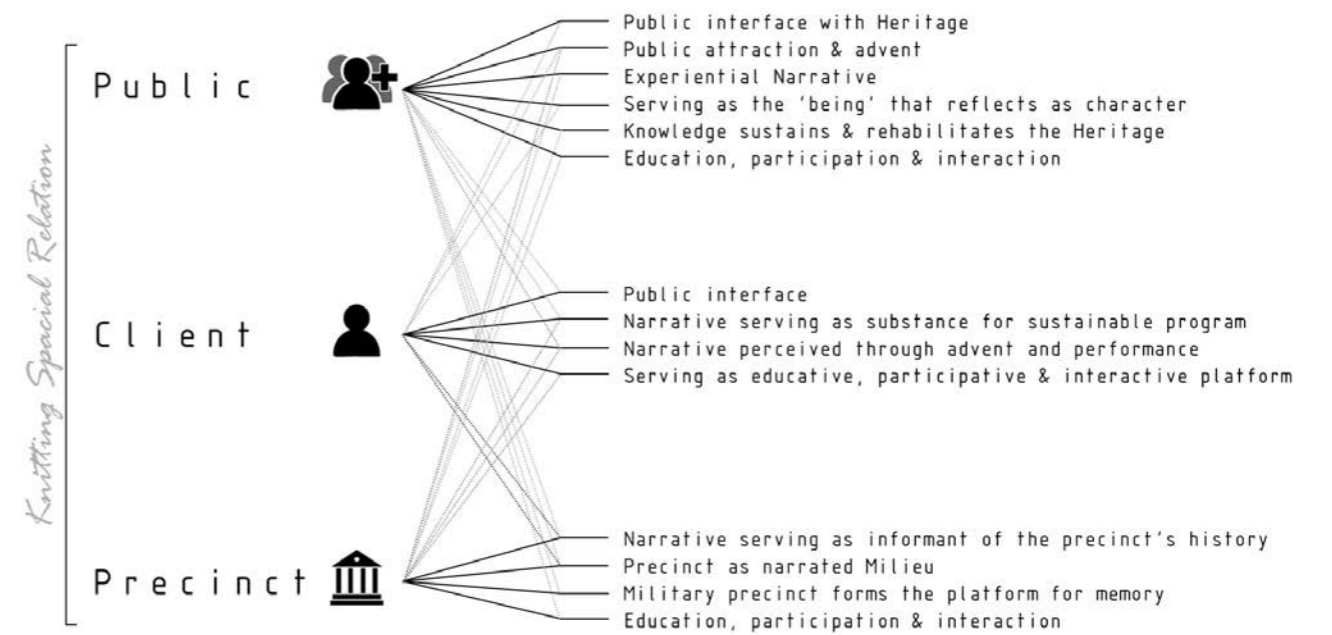


Figure 2.80
The diagrammatic illustration of the knitting of spacial relation of the Public, Client and the Precinct (Author, 2018)

 2.8 A fear of ruination

Today it can easily be assumed and stated that very few people know of the narrative the hill conveys and even less so of Fort Commeline or in this case also known as, the Magazine Redoubt. As Lieutenant Colonel O.G. Paschke, high ranking authority of the Radio Technical unit stated:

"I have heard people say there are ruins, but I never knew it was a fort..." (Paschke, 2018)

The perception of forgotten heritage sites, and especially those of which remains hidden, often have an excursive effect on its surrounding narrative.

As a result, these isolated nodes become fragmented urban fabric detrimentally affecting surrounding urban and cultural connectivity from its heritage (Jacobs, 2016: 89-100).

It hereby identifies the fragmented narrative as theory of architecture and contributes to these skeletons serving as the substance to reclaim these historical landscapes and narrative initially birthed from its setting. Positioning itself among the poetic and historic valued theme of contextual architecture considered as the origin towards an evolution of urban decay and built fabric.