

Plan 89: R-S-T,10-11-12 - Overview

No remains of Strata 5, 4 or 3C were found in this area; the settlements of those periods did not extend this far to the W.

Remains of Stratum 3B are the earliest in the area. These consist of a stretch of the great offset-inset wall, a revetment and a moat. These defenses reach a maximum width of almost 15 m and could have stood 13 m above the base of the moat. The offset-inset wall continues in use into Stratum 2.

The only other feature on the plan is a pair of partially preserved rooms. Their thick S wall may indicate a fragmentary piece of a small tower. Its relationship to the offset-inset wall is uncertain. It may be either cut by the wall, which would make it 3C or earlier, or reach the wall, in which case it is 3A or later.

There were no certain remains of Stratum 2 or 1.

Evaluation -

This area was excavated in parts of two seasons. A test trench was dug up against the offset-inset wall, from W to E, in 1927. The top of the wall, and the area inside the wall was cleared in 1929 as Badè traced the circuit of the walls while looking for the town gate. There is only one photograph (P 789) which shows the area inside the walls; this is from a distance, there are no detail shots. There are several photographs (e.g. P 479) which shows the W-E trench. Elevations are fairly plentiful along the top of the wall, but there are no base levels; excavation seems to have only proceeded deep enough to define the top of the wall. This seems to have been the case all along the wall

from Z11-12 to R12-13. It is possible that more intramural features, such as drains, would have been uncovered had excavation continued down. There is one elevation inside the walls, but it is higher than for the wall itself, and so must be considered an error. There are enough elevations outside the wall to give an idea of the slope of the defenses.

Building 89.01: Rm 295 and Rm 296 -

Rm 295 and Rm 296 (on Plan 90) are parts of two rooms of a thick walled building. It may be seen in P 789. Its S wall is ca. 1.5 m wide and preserved for 5.0 m in length. The thick E-W wall is deeply founded, surviving to at least five courses. Further excavation might have revealed more. P 790 seems to show it almost, but not quite reaching the town wall. The wall separating the two rooms is preserved for a length of 2.5 m, and only survives one course high. P 789 shows it standing on its own debris pedestal. There is no evidence for a corner at the E end of the thick wall in T13, nor any parallel cross wall to the N which would have closed off Rm 295 and Rm 296 to the E.

Dating of Building 89.01 -

If these rooms are built on the fill between the casemate-like wall and the offset-inset wall these rooms must be Stratum 3A, or later. However, since excavation did not reach bedrock, it cannot be proved that the thick E-W wall does not predate the town wall, as the massive intramural towers to N and S do. The 1947 report placed Rm 295 in the latest part of its Stratum I, but without elaboration.<sup>696</sup>

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<sup>696</sup>I, 183 n. 15.

Function of Building 89.01 -

It is also not clear what function these chambers served. The E-W wall is only a little thinner than the walls of tower Building 123.01 and tower Building 73.01. If its foundations continue to bedrock this might be a 3C extramural defense tower which was partially destroyed by the construction of the 3B offset-inset wall. It is difficult to imagine another use for it.

The Offset-Inset Wall -

As mentioned above, a test trench was dug from W to E, up to the outer face of the offset-inset town wall. This trench was ca. 10 m wide and 20 m long. The excavation revealed a ca. 2.0 m wide moat and an 8.8 m wide revetment/glacis. The wall itself ranges from ca. 3.8 to 4.8 m wide in this area. Thus the total width of the defenses then varies from ca. 14.6 to 15.6 m. Elevations taken on bedrock W of the moat range from 771.11 to 771.50, the ground then slopes down to the W. The bottom of the moat ranges from 769.36 to 769.70. This is a drop of ca. 1.8 m from bedrock to the W; certainly ground level was higher than bedrock, so that the functional depth of the moat was more likely ca. 2.0 m, or more.

The revetment/glacis slopes upward to 776.37 and 776.40, a ca. 6.7 vertical meters over a horizontal distance of 8.8 m. The wall is preserved only a little above the revetment, e.g. 776.83, but would have risen much higher. If the wall had stood 6.0 m above the top of the revetment, the total height of the defenses would have been around 13.0 m.

The lower half (section) of fig. 45 from the 1947 report shows a

depression in the bedrock labeled "Grave." There is no mention of it anywhere else. The plan and section do not look like a grave; perhaps it is an extramural agricultural installation.

The Survey Map published in the 1947 report shows the revetment/*glacis* revealed in this trench extending N to the tower in P12 and S to the tower in AK18. There is no certain evidence that Badè cleared the outer face of the wall to this depth along this entire stretch. It seems that the draftsman, instead of using a light line to indicate a theoretical continuation of this feature, used a heavy line, which gives the impression that all these defenses were actually uncovered. However, it is quite possible that these continuations do exist for short sections of them were found along the W and E sides of the town, though they are not found on the S or N (except for the moat on the N).

It is remotely possible that the S wall of Rm 295 extended over the stump of the 3B offset-inset wall, but has not survived. This would put Rm 295 and Rm 296 in Stratum 1. Save for this possibility, there is no evidence for later walls built over the town wall, such as is seen in Plan 106, Plan 123, Plan 140, Plan 141 and Plan 158. Perhaps buildings of Strata 2 and 1 did not exist here, or have not survived at all.