

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 157

"Tunnel" in Triton Shaft

WHO FOUND	Dan Blankenship Dan Henskee
WHEN FOUND	1974
WHERE FOUND	In Triton Shaft at about 101' 6"
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	Dan Blankenship's "Report on Oak Island Operations" dated April 18, 1974
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	Probably a natural water course in glacial till?

April 18, 1974

Report on Oak Island Operations:

Progress has indeed been slow in sinking our shaft. Some of this has been due to mechanical problems with equipment, additional water problems and some sickness. All of us have had head colds all winter and mine after getting into my chest laid me up for about ten days, when I couldn't even go into the shaft.

The actual measurement of the bottom of our steel shoe from the top of the "deck" is 98'6". From this depth, we dug inside of the shoe, staying well away from the edge so as not to undermine same.

About three feet down, we came up on what appears to be the top of a tunnel running to the north. The earth is collapsed in a semi-circle on top with a void of approx. 4" to 5" high and 12" to 14" wide. Water is coming in on top (which is what created the void) at approx. 12 to 15 g.p.m. This water is quite salty, but not as salty as the ocean.

David and Dan Henshee dug into and followed this tunnel for about 6 to 7 feet, without cribbing. Monday, April 15th I went down into it and examined it very carefully, but couldn't determine if it was man made or not. In the meantime the tunnel was collapsing and had reached to the bottom of the shoe on the north. Also, the side on the west had gone under the shoe about two feet, but this was still about three feet below the shoe. In other words, the shoe is sitting on hard ground for the next three feet on that side, however the center of the shoe is hanging free on the north side where they tunneled.

So, had we undermined the shoe and jacked it down for another foot we would be actually in worse shape than if we left it as is. The only safe way being in adding another 8 to 10 feet of timber. Then if something doesn't show up in the bottom of the hole we can follow the salt water with a cribbed tunnel safely. The water was actually pouring in above our heads and work in the bottom of the shaft is virtually impossible. The water ~~runs~~ runs over our jacking timber making it quite difficult to undermine the shoe. Over night the shaft is making about 25 to 30 feet of water. For the last two weeks, the boys have been taking turns pumping around the clock every six hours. Seeing that I was laid up at this time it was quite rough on the boys to say the least. In order to pump with our air driven pump, you must stay right there and hold a touch on the air chamber, otherwise it freezes up and won't work. The only choice we have now is to get another type of pump or to wait until some of this ground water is gone. The shaft is wet from six feet below the surface to the bottom. We have had the normal spring rains and this created our basic problem which is too much water coming in above us.