Trench TB, Level 1
July 5, 1976

Drawing by G. Branco, copied by B. Comstock (Dimensions approx., not to scale)

PI69 (el 19.70)

Grid:
- Grid line
- a, b, c, d, e = existing sand top level

The trench appears perfectly flat right under the hillside.

Levels were taken (by G. Branco and B. Comstock) on 3 corners of the 7 x 7m clearing (NE, SE, SW) and on the top of the bench mark.034 cm. from the NW corner of the trench. (Note: the limits of the trench were later moved approximately 1 m to the west. See description, page 43.) The trench then took a level on the top of the wall discovered in 1975 and a distance from the top of the wall to the grid line (further to the stake at the NW corner of the trench) and another to the N-S grid line (see sketch.)

In addition, G. Branco made a rather detailed drawing of the remains of the wall possible in the face of the hill. The area of the wall and its relationship to the ridge below have been the subject of this morning's discussion. We wanted to take distances and levels before the wall was obliterated.

While G.B. was drawing the wall, the trench was moved perhaps 10 m to the north of the first line. Over the ridge and the location was moved far to the next of the ridge as the digger.

As mentioned above, no sherds are being found in the surface layer of sand (level 1). Sherds begin to appear at the level of
The soil (level 2). (File number: K76 A Tr 1B p 40, Level 2. File 1.)
Top of soil level:

First reason: to be consistent with the policy of working within the demarcated area and trial trenching in various areas, to attempt to determine the possibilities of the site. The second reason: to place a trench near the wall on the W slope, the wall discovered in 1975. This wall may eventually be covered by the flimsy roof trench 1B.

Cut stone, brick, and blocks can be seen in the slope, with 2 mudbrick and pottery fill on the S side of this wall.

G. Blancos took samples of soil and mudbrick from the area of the wall (samples were put in an excavation envelope, labelled, and included with the contents of File K76 A Tr 1B p 40, Level 2, File 1.)

As cleaning continues, sherds continue to appear only when the level of the soil is approached, although it is difficult to say whether 2-3 at what level sherds were found.

Shards so far are generally coarse and grey. There was one blackpainted sherd found, and one small shell was collected from this level.
The new schedule is
scheduled as follows:
1. 7:00 AM - 
2. 8:00 AM - Breakfast
3. 9:00 AM - Tutorial
4. 10:00 AM - Seminar
5. 12:00 PM - Lunch
6. 1:00 PM - Tutorial
7. 3:00 PM - Seminar
8. 5:00 PM - Tutorial
9. 7:00 PM - Dinner
10. 8:00 PM - Seminar

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Within perhaps 30-40 cms from the surface, as the workers approach the E end of the trench, the top B level 2 appears to slope gradually up toward the knoll or top, toward the SW. Very few stones appearing as the limit of the trench was approached, and the workers turned W to finish the clearing.

Slattering of stones continues, as SW corner is approached. On way back scraped the soil near the E end of the trench in two places and remark that the soil near the SW corner was more like true earth than the soil at a point near the center of the trench, which he judged to be harder, "Red Ash." By the end of the day, surface sand had been cleared from about 90% of the FM area.
6 July 1976

After a day for a birthday, with no results producing most interesting and significant remains. In archeological terms the site has already come close to proving itself.

3A - continuation in the 2½ x 2½ at the NB end of the property produced some pottery of an early MM date (rushed, i.e. not banded) in a mixed bedrock context. After reaching certain bedrock the trench was abandoned and is now being drawn and photographed.

4A - mainly cleaning, measurement, and photography. The fine threshold mentioned in yesterday's report appears to have been used as the top of a bench in the latter part of its career. The facade and bench are being cleared now.

2A - further work in the rock fill of this area proves most profitable, with floor levels being ascertained on both north and south. A fine hard limestone slab of sidecopedicus separates the two areas from each other - the surrounding wall construction remains unclear. The stone fill being removed carefully, a handful without some hesitation near the construction of the latest phase appears quite rough and ready - we prepare for the final planning of both floors, which appear to be extremely rich in LIA III materials, in the near future. At the end of the day a "brazier" with its contents is removed from its position within a small stone-lined enclosure.

1B - cleaning operations continued to level 2. No
significant finds were made in the upper sandy layers. At the end of the day the trench was
laid into the area cleared and excavation of the ancient stonework, which may house con-
siderable depth, was about to begin. The choice of site and first excavation of the
sandwa were supervised by H.G. and B.J. The
director's duties being many, however, and
the demands of a complex trench being
all-important, the trench was turned over to
the competent hands of B.C. and Z.J.
who will begin the sounding on the morrow.
Therefore this trench, 1B, will continue
to be reported on in the daily summary, but
the detailed description of progress will
be recorded in notebook 3.

Some comments on the factual report above
can be made. Tr. 3A, without architectural
remains, continues to appear as an anomaly,
at least from my point of view. Only 80
metres or so from the seashore cliff, the
latter having an occupation extent of at
least 150 metres, it seems strange that
the room did not spread that far to the
east. Have we perhaps been excavating
within a cell or an open area? At
least one trench, a bit to the west, and
within our property line, would help to
explain the absence of architecture at
this point.

Tr. 4A may serve as our first indication
of the type of architecture to be encoun-
tered at Kommos. From the point of view
of layout, structures are oriented N.S.-E.W.
as are the buildings at nearby Vasilis
Triadha. Materials, with the exception of
corinthian imported from elsewhere, are
local limestone slabs joined by mud
masonry, the "wedge-shaped" technique being commonly used on facades, with rubble in the interior walls. From that we can see in this structure, porous blocks were not common locally (a few reused blocks, however, are visible in the 2A area to the south) nor was the technique of dowelling. Lime plaster and gypsum slabs also do not appear so far, we must note, however, that floor levels have not yet been reached.

2A solas seems to be providing the most unusual material. No doubt further excavation will produce both significant architectural and cultural material that is rare if not unique in domestic contexts in the Huaca—tombs, the LM period (Kalyvia, Gandics) have been excavated, but I do not recall building of the same period, save some scraps at Djaistos, that have been excavated in the Huaca. Complete recording of all phases, therefore, may well prove to be crucial to our understanding and future publication; the trend will also be expanded when the time comes in a few weeks. VW & JM will, I am sure, handle the recording in an exemplary manner.

A meeting this morning between VW and DB in Potidea introduced the matter of the cataloguing and handling of potteries. Further discussion, now that John Hayes arrived late in the afternoon, will continue. B.C. will be responsible for the maintenance of the apothecary, as well as matters of security. She will also handle a major proportion of the inventory work.
Records of the day's activities seem to be under control. Mrs. G. does all the photographic work (color, B&W, and Polaroid film being exposed at all important stages). Individual excavators record sections, plans, details in their notebooks. G. B. is very busy with sections, plans, and both formal and informal sketches. She also does all the formal levelling work and, now that Mrs. G. is not setting out the formal trench boundaries, is responsible for maintaining control of the grids. The cataloguing and registration, as well as storage matters, will remain to be dealt with now that the material (!) is beginning to appear.
7 July 1976

A curious building contained. New developments are - the beach in front of the building on the east, is quite a high one and lies in front of it a pavement of beach pebbles. The facade continues to be cleared, however, so its complete appearance from that side is already known. The material - blocks, slabs, rounded stones in front of it, however, does suggest that we are dealing with a building that was once quite high, that there may have been a second story is further suggested in the interior of the rooms being covered on by the presence, below a very thick layer of fallen rubble, slabs, and blocks, of numerous slabs of stone as thin as those normally used for flooring - in some places they lie cantilevered, stacked like cards in position that shows they have fallen from above. This rather extensive layer of slabs must be cleaned and photographed before removal and any penetration of the final, sealed layer below.

AA continued to provide more pottery of the Th III type, especially entire briefermentary pots on the floor to the south. The incense tube still remains in place - its context remains unsure yet - the likelihood of keeping it at the site overnight, despite our having a night guard, is most unnerving.

This anxiety is further heightened today by a last minute discovery of a most curious and undoubtedly
most important object in Trench 5B, begun by T. E. and continued by P. B. and
2.1. This is a long and quite large lidded—
like bowl with a long, thick handle that
is perforated. Its original shape is unsure
as well as its exact context, but it is certain
that underlying it is a layer of volcanic
pumice. Surely it must be related, even
indirectly, to the third eruption and we must
document this valuable discovery tomorrow.

Morning when excavation on a more enlarged
scale around the object resumes. Samples
of the pumice will be sent for analyses

tonight.