

tions for the peristyle. The nave (5) and the north aisle (6) were exposed in the church. Two plastered floors, one about 0.25 m above the other, were also uncovered.

Originally there was a rock-cut cult place on the spot where the Byzantine cistern was eventually dug. Later, a Greek temple was erected, which incorporated in the adyton the rock-cut cult place and which continued in use until the Hellenistic period. In the first half of the 4th century CE, a church was erected on the ruins of the temple, some of whose walls served as foundations for the new construction. This church was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt on the same plan in the later 4th or early 5th century CE.

*(Communicated by C. Dauphin)*

#### DOR, UNDERWATER FIND

During an inspection dive on behalf of the Department of Antiquities off Tantura in January 1983, a bronze mortar gun of Spanish manufacture bearing five inscriptions was brought up from the sea. The mortar was cast on December 12, 1793, the year when Spain went to war against France because of the execution of Louis XVI. Perhaps the mortar was captured as war booty by the French, and was brought to our coast at the end of the eighteenth century by Napoleon's army.

*(Communicated by S. Wachsmann and K. Raveh)*

#### HORVAT 'EN ZIQ

Salvage excavations were undertaken intermittently during March-May 1984 on behalf of the Department of Antiquities at H. 'En Ziq. The work was directed by R. Cohen, District Archaeologist, Southern District, assisted by Y. Israel, Y. Lender, M. Heimann, B. Steltzer and D. Nahlieli. I. Watkin, V. Shor, Nelly Steltzer and Rahel Graf were responsible for the surveying. Pupils at the secondary school of Midreshet Sede Boqer, led by A. Katzir, and at the "Denmark" school in Jerusalem, led by Shulamit Cohen, participated in the work.

The site is situated on a flat elongated hilltop near the south bank of Nahal Ziq (map ref. 1363/0238) and is one of the larger Middle Bronze I settlements in the Negev hill country. It was first surveyed in 1983 by a survey team headed by D. Nahlieli and Y. Israel, as part of the Negev Emergency Project. The settlement covers an area of about 20 dunams and contains about two hundred rounded structures. Four areas were excavated.

*Area A*, on the west. Ten structures (diam. 2.5–5.0 m) were exposed, with walls standing to a height of 0.5–0.7 m, and a pillar supporting the roof in the center. A few Middle Bronze I sherds were found on the floors of hard-packed earth. A small bowl, a cooking pot with spout, a jug and a store jar were found in one structure (22), while a juglet was found in another (13). Two graves were exposed at the north end of the area, one of which contained five skeletons and some beads.

*Area B*, in the north, west of Area A. Twenty-five structures were investigated, including a unit consisting of three structures (57, 58, 62) around a common courtyard, each 5.0 m in diameter, and a pillar in the center. Installations and hearths were found near the entrance, while grinding