

Death of Massunguine

Johann Oelofse – Ranger Mooiplaas

“Monday evening around gate closing time I received a message from Shingwedzi reception that a visitor reported a dead elephant in the road along the S-144 near a dam somewhere. I motored out first thing on Tuesday morning and just south of Dzombo-west windpump I indeed came across a dead elephant lying on it’s left side right on the road surface.

I approached the elephant from behind and as I drew alongside the carcass I immediately realized that this was one of our prominent tuskers. The dead animal’s tusks appeared huge. I estimated the carcass only two days old at most and



two holes, one behind the right shoulder and the other high up on the left side of the neck, indicated the elephant may have been killed by another elephant bull.



A closer study of the dead elephant brought me to the conclusion that it had to be the carcass of Massunguine. I took a series of photos of this animal at Middelvlei windpump during March this year and I recognized the chipped point of

his left tusk where the worn through “ball” at the tip of his “working tusk” had broken off. The scraggly little tail tuft also conformed to that of the elephant at Middelvlei. Another “Great One” will not be tramping his way around Kruger anymore. Another living monument has moved on to the Great Green Pasture.”

