

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
BOX 1391
JUNEAU, ALASKA

MI-096-03

MINERAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

IBECK CREEK, CORDOVA QUADRANGLE, COPPER KX 96-8

James A. Williams
December 1955

MI
96-3

This is a follow-up of the writer's report of the same title, File No. MI 96-2, dated March 1955, concerning a search of Ibeck Creek on October 1, 1954. Subsequent correspondence with Mr. Joe Ibach made it seem advisable to make another search for his old copper prospects on Ibeck Creek. Accordingly, a second reconnaissance was made of the creek on September 24, 1955, but again with negative results. A third attempt is not recommended.

As before, a landing was made on the small lake (named "Ibeck Lake" by the writer) with the Cessna 180 of Cordova Airlines piloted by Cal Ward of Cordova. Elevation of the lake is about 350 feet. The location is in the Cordova C-4 quadrangle, 15 or 20 miles northeast of Cordova. Geographical coordinates are 145°25' W longitude and 60°37-1/2' N latitude. Mr. Art Daily of Miami Copper Co. accompanied the writer on the reconnaissance.

When a copy of the report on last year's search was sent to Mr. Ibach, he replied with more and different information than given previously, and marked on the report map where he now remembered the prospects to be. Since the locations given this time were further up the creek than before indicated, and further up than the writer had

searched, it was decided to try again. For the record, a copy of Mr. Ibach's letter and a copy of the map from last year's report (Figure 1) with his information on it are attached. Figure 2 is a new vicinity map made from an aerial photograph obtained since the first trip.

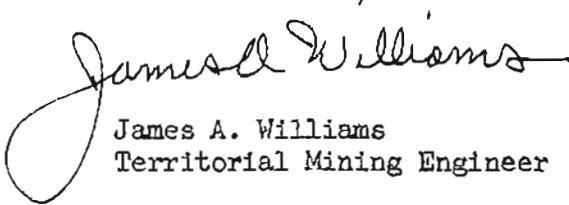
The reconnaissance was made up the creek bed, except for short stretches where the banks were too steep, to a point well beyond where Mr. Ibach indicates the upper vein. On the way upstream, the cabin was found where he remembered it to be, though now only a few rotten logs remain, and the rusted remains of a forge and a few other metal objects. It was also found that the locations of the two tributaries as marked by him on the previous map were substantially correct. The cabin is at an elevation of 635 feet and the upper limit of the reconnaissance was at 850 feet. Returning downstream, the search was conducted between the creek and the bottom of the slopes on the left limit side until the cabin was again reached as shown in Figure 2.

Float was carefully watched at all times for evidence of copper mineralization or sulfides, but none was found. In fact, no indication of ore mineralization of any kind was found. No trace of veins, adits, dumps or any signs of old workings was discovered. All rock faces at creek level were carefully examined, though there were few. Along the toe of the left limit slopes above the cabin the surface was all covered with talus or overburden, and no exposures of rock in place could be found. The adits may be buried under this slide material.

The 300-foot band of greenstone mentioned in Mr. Ibach's letter was not in evidence, though greenstone was often encountered in the float. Other rock types of the area are greywackes, slates, phyllites and a

cherty-appearing material. Occasionally a fine-grained basic rock that had weathered a little reddish was observed. The valley floor is mostly slide rock (or talus) and glacial debris through which the creek has cut to varying depths, leaving benches of unconsolidated material on either or both stream limits. There is no place in the vicinity Mr. Ibach indicated where a prospector would drive a tunnel under the present geological conditions.

Because of the accuracy of Mr. Ibach's memory on the location of the cabin and the tributaries, there is no doubt as to the general location being correct. There is no doubt, either, that the tunnels were driven as he says they were, and the evidence could easily be covered and obliterated in the intervening 45 or 50 years. But if there was originally some good copper mineralization, it seems almost impossible that some trace of it would not be found somewhere in the area. Whether the writer's conclusions on this latter point are right or wrong, it is recommended that the Department not engage in a third search of Ibach Creek for the old Ibach copper prospects.


James A. Williams
Territorial Mining Engineer

C O P Y

C O P Y

4-21-55

Phil R. Holdsworth
Commissioner of Mines
Juneau

Dear Phil:

The creek looks natural enough. Seems funny tho if that picture was taken from a plane why it does not show the creek I have drawn coming into Ibach Creek from the west, opposite the tunnel. Also looks as tho Scotts Glacier has shoved out instead of receding, as I remember the face of said glacier was almost due east from the lake. When last there in 1913 there was about 300 yards of granite outcropping in front of the ice. There was a blazed trail over that on the right side going up. Keep on the right side until you come to greenstone formation then cross the creek valley about 200 yds. and in the hemlock timber about 100 ft. back we built a cabin 14x16 ft. Forge, drills, anvil, and a lot of other junk was left there. Altho it was strongly built of hemlock and whipsawed lumber for the roof and floor it may have caved in. Anyhow, if you find that you will be on the right creek.

It's about 15 minutes walk from the cabin to where the tunnel is. Follow the creek and the vein sticks out like a sore thumb. There is several feet of tunnel opposite the cabin in the greenstone. The vein on the divide between Power and Ibach Creek is at about 2200 ft. elevation. Never did any work on it. The main outcrop in the creek is 300 ft. elevation, and can be worked any time of year. In 1907 Harrington and Storm, two Geologists and assayers from Valdez, explored the vein. There was 60 ft. of tunnel and crosscuts. They chipped across every six feet and it assayed \$32.50, \$2.50 in gold the rest copper. With copper and gold as of today should be close to \$50. It's all solid ore and it don't take much to make a ton. We did not abandon it on account of a shortage of ore as it was just as rich in the face of the tunnel as where we started. Trouble was money to carry on. Could I turn back the hand of time I sure would be there, for if there is not a mine there you can pass up Gravina Bay, Fidalgo Bay, Boulder Bay, Sheeps Bay, and all the other lumps and stringers along Prince William Sound. There is a three foot vein of sulfides about halfway between Scotts and Sheridan Glaciers about three miles back of Bear Lake. There are several gas seepages in Bear Lake. May be swamp gas. There are whitefish in the lake and if you leave a line set in an airhole overnight there will be just a skeleton on the hook by morning. When it gets around zero the ice bulges over the gas seepages and to see some fireworks we would punch a hole and light up. The flames would go up 15 or 20 ft. I have marked on the chart where two of the largest were. As this is not a novel will close. Rex Beach used to say it's easy to tell when a feller is getting old--he gets gaby.

Kind regards from Muz and Joe.

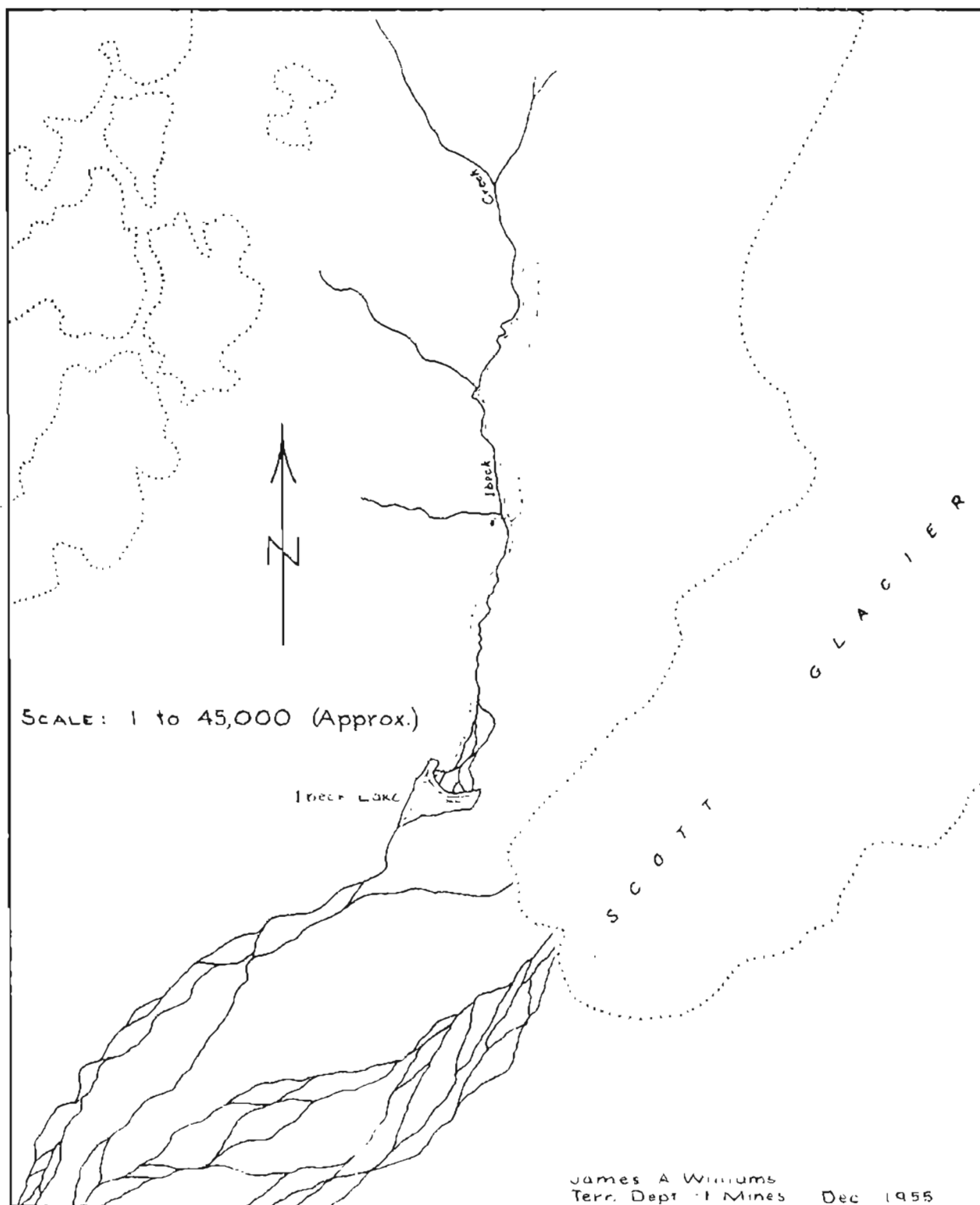


FIGURE 2. Ibeck Creek Vicinity Map
showing route followed in searching for old
Ibach prospects in 1955.
Adapted from aerial photo.

