

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
BOX 1391
JUNEAU, ALASKA

October 23, 1953

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

RECONNAISSANCE TRIP, ENDICOTT RIVER AREA, -K 112-102
JUNEAU QUADRANGLE

Phil R. Holdsworth
James A. Williams

The following is a report on a trip up the Endicott River to investigate an area of mineralization noted from the air and to check on the existence of a reported high grade copper deposit. The trip was made by Phil R. Holdsworth, Commissioner of Mines, and the undersigned. The inclusive dates were August 24 to 28, 1953. No minerals of interest were found.

Clell Hodson, prospector from Elfin Cove, had been in the area under investigation many years earlier. He had reported to Holdsworth that the area was highly mineralized and wanted to go prospecting there. He further reported that a Jim Burnett, former partner of his, had sampled a 12-foot vein or zone of copper in the area, and that the sample assayed 14%. The area is in the vicinity of the upper part of the first tributary entering the Endicott River from the north. (See the attached vicinity map). The location is in the Juneau Recording and Mining Districts, and the coordinates are 135° 28' W longitude and 58° 52' N latitude. The high grade copper vein was reported to be exposed in the bottom of the main valley of the tributary.

In order to check on Hodson's report of widespread mineralization in the area, as well as to reconnoiter the country in general, Dean Goodwin's plane was chartered by Holdsworth, and Hodson was taken on the flight. The area looked very promising with much reddish color which appeared to be caused by copper minerals. As a result of this trip, it was decided that Hodson should go into the country first, cut a trail, and stake any claims he desired to. The Department would then go in and examine the showings. Hodson left town for the Endicott on about the 5th of August.

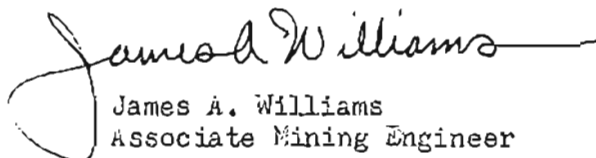
after trying to cross Lynn Canal in the Department's skiff and finding the water too rough, passage was obtained for the complete outfit on the ferry "Chilkoot" which dropped us off at the mouth of the Endicott. Hodson was found there, and it developed that he had not reached the mineralized area because of various difficulties. The river turned out to be a moderately braided stream, quite swift, and with numerous shallow bars which made it impossible to ascend it with the motor on the boat. It is not a deep straight stream as represented on the U.S.C.S. quadrangle. The three of us "lined" the skiff up the river to the mouth of the tributary, then Hodson remained behind while Holdsworth and the writer walked on up the tributary. The going was quite difficult, and it took considerably longer than anticipated, leaving only half a day for prospecting the area because of the meeting agreement with the ferry "Chilkoot". The foot traveling was done on the west side of the tributary. Because of bad weather and the desire to travel light, cameras were not carried on this trip.

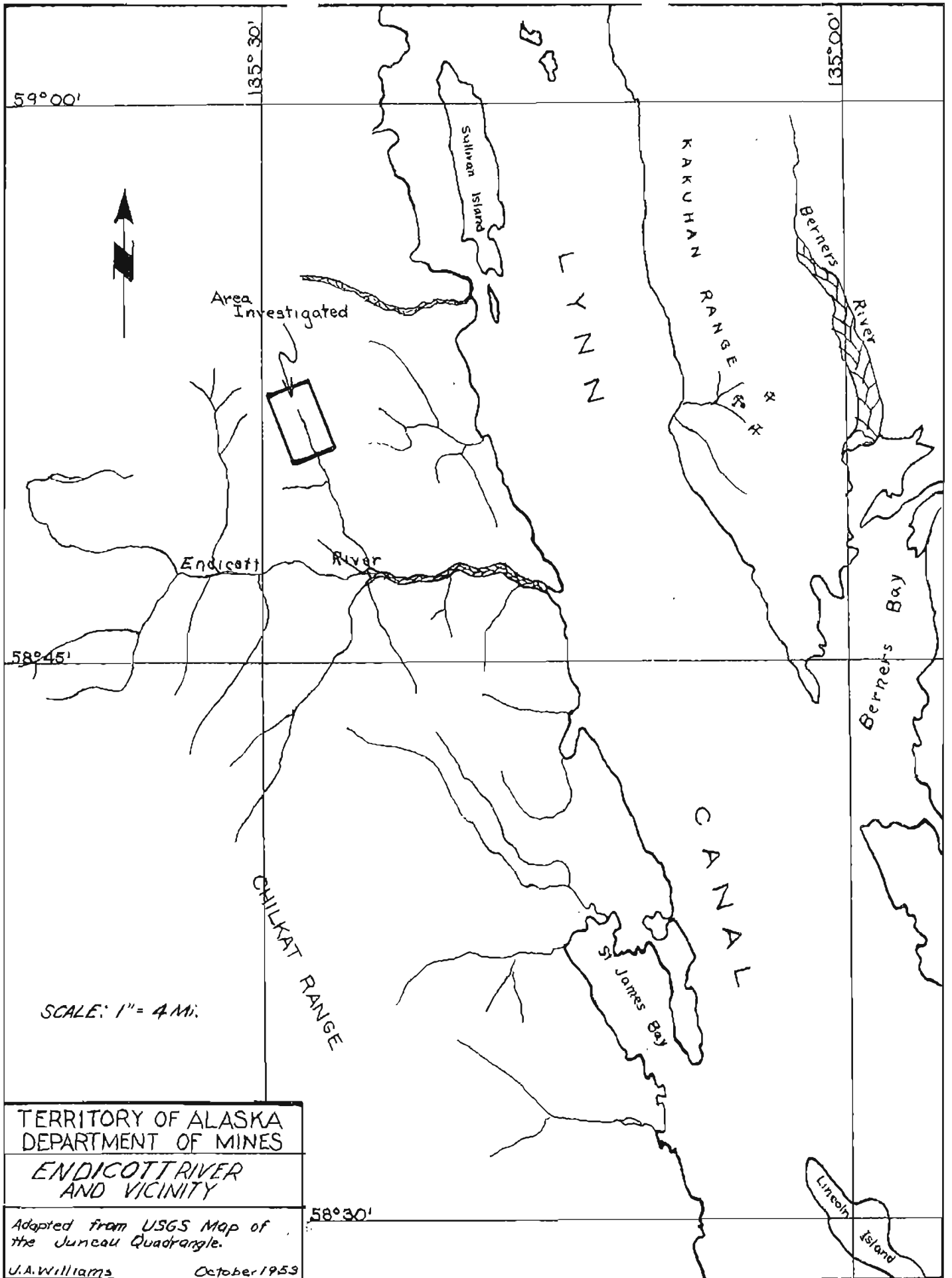
Upon finally reaching the area, the valley was fairly well searched for promising float. Time did not allow the reconnoitering of any of the small canyons coming into the valley, but the valley itself at this point opens up to where everything can be easily seen, and it is not likely that good float from these smaller tributaries would have been missed. The small glacier at the head of the valley was also traversed, and the canyon walls on both sides of it were prospected.

Nothing of commercial interest was found. The reddish coloring that is so widespread in that country was found to be the result of the weathering of fine disseminated pyrites in a fine grained siliceous rock. No trace of the reported high grade copper structure could be found. This, of course, is not proof that it does not exist.

The distance traveled was six miles to the mouth of the tributary and another six up the tributary. Going up required two long days of hard travel with many stream crossings. Coming out required only one day. We floated down river in the skiff, jumping out often to push it off a bar. The ferry picked us up on schedule. Hodson abandoned his plans for prospecting the country and left for Juneau in his boat a day or two later.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Williams
Associate Mining Engineer



59°00'

135°30'

135°00'

58°45'

58°30'

Area Investigated

Endicott River

River

Sullivan Island

KAKUHAN RANGE

RANGE

Berners River

Berners Bay

CHILKAT RANGE

CANAL

St. James Bay

Lincoln Island

Island

SCALE: 1" = 4 Mi.

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DEPARTMENT OF MINES

ENDICOTT RIVER
AND VICINITY

Adapted from USGS Map of
the Juneau Quadrangle.

U.A. Williams

October 1953