

TERRITORY OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
BOX 1391  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

96-4

## PROPERTY EXAMINATION REPORT

IBACH PROSPECT, CORDOVA QUADRANGLE, COPPER

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November, 1956

KX 96-B

As a result of the writer's failure to find the old Ibach Prospect in the seasons of 1954 and 1955, Mr. Joe Ibach decided to personally investigate the matter. He found and relocated the prospect during the early spring of 1956. The undersigned visited the prospect for purposes of examination and sampling on 9 September 1956. The writer's conclusions as to lack of mineralization and conjectures as to the existence of the prospect in the two earlier reports (MI 96-2 and MI 96-3) should be disregarded. There is definitely a copper prospect on Ibeck Creek as Mr. Ibach had reported to the Department. However, more exploratory work is necessary before its possibilities can be fairly assessed.

As related in the earlier reports, access to Ibeck Creek, on which the prospect is located, is gained by landing on Ibeck Lake with a float plane. Takeoff space is marginal, so top performance is necessary for safety. The lake is about 10 minutes flying time northeast of Cordova. The prospect is about 2-1/4 miles up the creek as shown on the attached vicinity map. The elevation is 770 feet. It can hardly be missed if one travels in the creek bottom and watches the right hand bank going up stream. The geographical coordinates of the prospect are approximately 145°24'W longitude and 60°39.5' N latitude.

The rocks through which Ibeck Creek flows are mostly slates, graywackes, and some greenstone. These are probably of the Orca Group which is found around most of Prince William Sound. The Iback prospect consists of an adit about 70 feet long driven into an apparent shear zone along the strike. The portal is in the creek bank where the mineralized zone is exposed. It is shown in Figure 1. The zone is about 14 feet wide at this point and mineralized with chalcopyrite for perhaps a total width of 11 feet, there being barren areas or "horses" within the zone. Whether this is an average width could not be determined because the adit was driven on the strike and the width was not developed at any other point. The mineralization includes considerable pyrrhotite in addition to the chalcopyrite.

The nature of the zone within the adit changes little with the exception of a small area on the north rib near the face, where some injecting of barren quartz into the slate has taken place. Associated with this quartz is a dark-colored serpentine which shows evidence of some movement. The total amount of movement within the shear as a whole has been relatively small, but sufficient fracturing and shearing took place to open up channelways for the mineralizing solutions to circulate. The strike and dip are N 80°E and from 55° to 65°N respectively.

Samples were taken over four-foot widths at three widely separated locations within the adit, but they were all necessarily representative of practically the same portion of the shear because of the adit being driven on the strike. Going from inside the portal to near the

face, the results were 2.05%, 4.86%, and 5.69% copper respectively. The center sample was also assayed for nickel because it was particularly high in pyrrhotite, but the result was nil.

There was insufficient time for further sampling or geologizing. The writer had spent too much time prospecting the lower part of the creek for other copper mineralization reported by Mr. Ibach, and miscalculating the available time left in which to meet the plane, did not leave as much time as should have been utilized at the prospect. The adit goes into a bench in such a manner that there is little "back" over it, and this wouldn't be improved for some distance if the adit were driven further. It would seem that an effort should be made to trench the zone on top of the bench and trace it, if possible, toward the east side of the valley. However, there is considerable slide toward that side, and trenching might not be practical. No attempt was made by the writer to trace the zone across the creek, but looking in the direction of the strike to the west, one can see what appears to be an extension of the zone at a distance of several hundred feet. See Figure 2. Also on the strike, but at an elevation of something like 3500 feet, can be seen an outstanding gossan.

In conclusion, it is the opinion of the undersigned that the prospect as exposed thus far is somewhat small, considering its apparent grade. However, it could possibly be much more extensive. It is believed that further exploratory work will have to be performed to better outline and evaluate the mineralized zone, before its commercial possibilities can be properly determined.

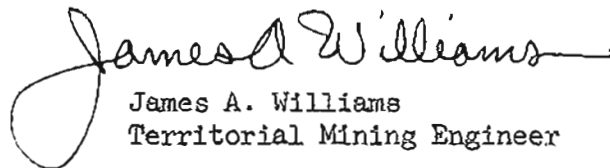
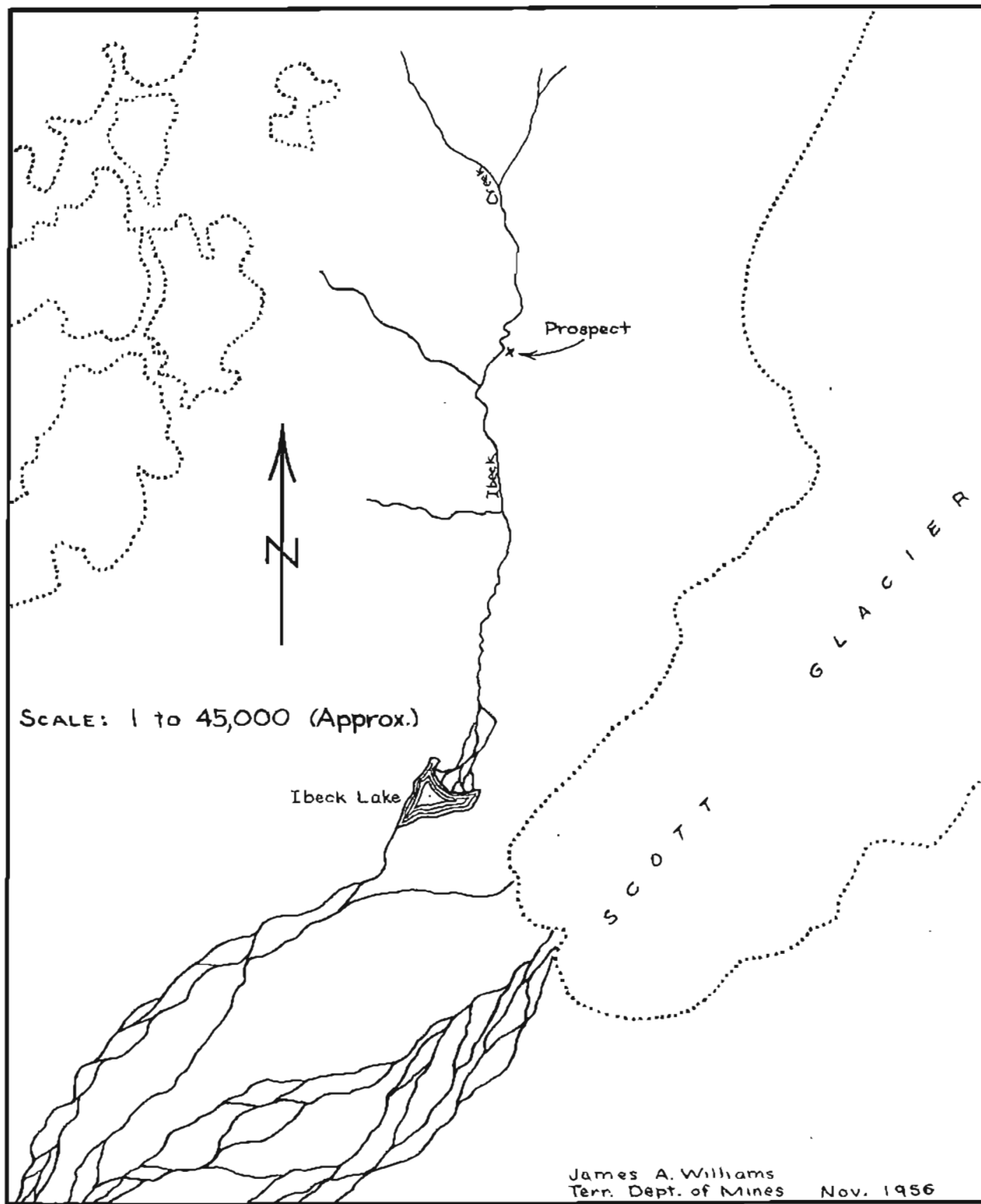
  
James A. Williams  
Territorial Mining Engineer



Figure 1. Ibach prospect portal looking N 80°E. Most of the exposed rock in place constitutes the mineralized zone.



Figure 2. Looking S 80°W from the portal. Possible extension of the shear (?) zone can be seen where nearer ridge is notched in upper center of photo. Large gossan area can be seen beyond and above this notch on the near side of the higher ridge.



### Ibeck Creek Vicinity Map

showing location of  
Ibach Copper Prospect

Adapted from aerial photo.