

TR5-98-100

MAGNETITE DEPOSITS AT LOYETEA

by T. D. Hughes

ABSTRACT

Lumps of magnetite are visible in a road cutting two miles south of Loyetea in north-western Tasmania. The tonnage available is expected to be small.

LOCATION

Mr. G. Nalder of Penguin drew the attention of the Department to a deposit of magnetite near Loyetea. This is located on the edge of the road, south from Loyetea about two miles from the Post Office and just before the road crossing of Redwater Creek. The road descends fairly steeply from the plateau down to the creek valley and before the bridge is reached, a small alluvial flat is crossed. Just before the flat is reached, in the road cutting, may be seen boulders and fragments of magnetite and a huge boulder several tons in weight lies in a mass of blackberries just below the bank.

GEOLOGY

Just north of the Redwater Creek bridge, quartzites of Ordovician age are intruded by Devonian granite. The actual contact cannot be seen and the junction may be a faulted one. To the east of the road and masking the older rocks, including their possible contact, is a small flow of Tertiary basalt. However in the road cutting itself for a distance of over 200 feet are intermittent outcrops of magnetite concentrations in a matrix of clay.

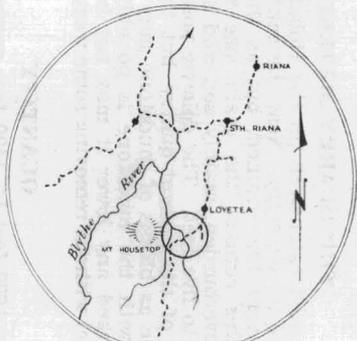
IRON OXIDE

The form of the iron oxide is magnetite, although at the surface there is local weathering to limonite. Magnetite deposits in other parts of north-western Tasmania appear to be associated with granite intrusions and are often located near the intrusive contact of the granite and sediments. The deposit here is local and quite small and any possible extension would be concealed below the basalt cover. It is not considered that the basalt contributed to the

MAGNETITE DEPOSIT — LOYETEA.

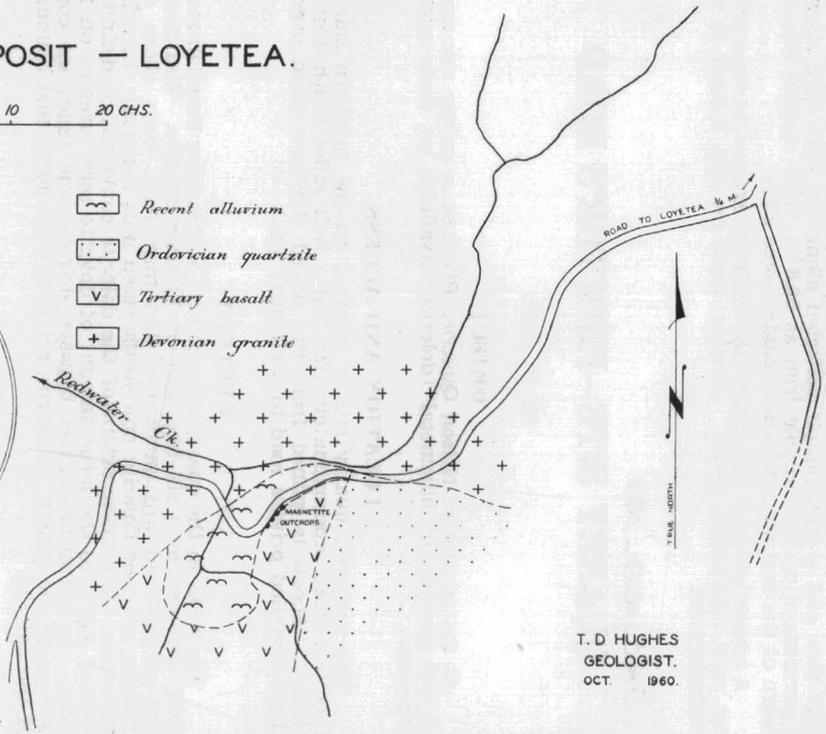
0 10 20 CHS.

-  *Recent alluvium*
-  *Ordovician quartzite*
-  *Tertiary basalt*
-  *Devonian granite*



LOCALITY MAP

0 2 4 MILES



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5 cm

FIGURE 20.

formation of the magnetite. Certain lumps of the magnetite are very pure and a grab sample collected along the road edge showed a percentage of HCl soluble iron as 58.8%. This sample was not taken of the best material and included some clay.

A trench has been put in near the material exposed in the cutting but only intersected basalt. Further work on this deposit is not recommended.