

II

INTRODUCTION

The Bass Basin is a separate and distinct geological province covering some 25,000 square miles and lying offshore between the Gippsland Basin on the east and the Otway Basin on the west.

The Tertiary stratigraphy of the Bass Basin, as seen in the wells Bass-1 and Bass-2, is similar to that of the Gippsland Basin in that the Lower Tertiary section is a delta complex which comprises the principal reservoir objective of the basin. In both basins the reservoir rocks are overlain by a marine sequence which provides both cap and potential hydrocarbon source rock.

After the drilling of Bass-1 and Bass-2, considerable information was available regarding the stratigraphy of the northeastern portion of the Bass Basin. However, little was known of the geology of the southwestern portion of the basin. Bass-3, located some 29 miles southwest of Bass-1, was partly designed to provide this much-needed information. The well was drilled on the crest of a seismic anticlinal closure, located on the southwestern side of the basin axis.

The well was in the optimum position to evaluate -

- (1) Lithology of the entire sedimentary section to basement on the southwestern flank of the basin.
 - (2) Regional stratigraphy and structure of the southwestern flank of the basin.
 - (3) Presence or absence of hydrocarbons in several closed prospective horizons, namely sand developments within the Lower Tertiary deltaic complex.
 - (4) Partial hydrocarbon potential of the basin.
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