5.1.2 Cuni Area

The first recorded systematic exploration of the Cuni Cu/Ni or Pb/Zn fields was in 1928 when the Imperial Geophysical Experimental Survey made electrical (equipotential line, A.C. potential ratio and high frequency EM methods) and magnetic surveys over the northern section (Broughton-Edge and Laby, 1931). Resultant anomalies were tested by boreholes and trenches sunk by the Tasmanian Department of Mines in 1930 and 1939-40. Holes 2, 3 and 4 were to the northeast of Genet's Winze, holes 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were near the South Cuni Shelf, holes 9 and 19 were east of Genet's Winze and holes 11 to 17 were near Vaudeau's shaft (Taylor and Burger, 1952). This drilling showed the Cu/Ni ore occurred as shoots along the footwall (western) of the eastern basic intrusion. These shoots were 20 to 50 metres long, up to 2 metres wide but less than 60 metres in depth (Blake, 1952).

This increased potential for the area resulted in the BMR conducting self potential and electromagnetic surveys in 1952-53 around the Cuni North and Cuni South shafts. Five strong SP anomalies were located and recommended for further investigation (Keunecke, 1952). Eagle Metals and Industrial Products drilled four of these anomalies (EM1 to EM4) in 1953 (Figure 9) with inconclusive results due to poor core and sludge recovery. EM5 was abandoned and the option over the Montana Silver Lead N.L. leases was allowed to lapse.

Montana Silver Lead continued the evaluation of the geophysical anomalies by drilling 18 holes (M6 to M23 drilled by the Tasmanian Mines Department) and digging numerous trenches in 1955-57. Holes M6-M9 were drilled at North Cuni (Figure 9), M10-M12 at Deveraux Prospect (Figure 10), M13-M22 at Nickel Prospect (Figure 11) and M23 in the serpentinite belt south of Nickel Reward (DRG No. K555-33). This drilling and