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M. PENNEY + PARTY
Diary at Uquhart River &
Cypress Creek Camps
14.12.1957 to 19.2.1958

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Uquhart R + Cypress Ck Camps

A.G.E. 25/2/58

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MICROFILMED

25th February, 1958

To. G.F. Hudspeth.

M. PENNEY & PARTY

DIARY AT URQUHART RIVER & CYPRESS CREEK CAMPS

14th December, 1957 to 19th February, 1958

Members of party are
 Marshall Penney,
 Ronald Hall,
 Trevor Burrell.

Saturday, 14th December, 1957

Arrived on button plains, one mile approximately from Urquhart River. Time of final arrival of supplies, 11 a.m. Made recce of area. Carried supplies to small creek. Had mid-day meal of steak. Chose camp site on north side of small creek in edge of heavy timber. Fire on button lighted for smoke signal to helicopter still burning at 10.30 p.m. despite light rain. Erection of tent necessitated falling considerable scrub. Plentiful supply of green manuka firewood in the area. Tea was eaten at 7.30 p.m. Discussion on charts and photographs. Supper at 10.30.

Sunday, 15th December.

Heavy rain during the night. Went to sleep 2 a.m. Rain continued till mid-day. Improved camp. Cleared landing ground for helicopter and cut track to same 100 yards from tent. After lunch dish samples were taken from small creek near camp site, watershed of Urquhart River. These showed small colours of gold and quantity of iron and pyrites. Sample retained for future reference. Track was commenced in direction of Urquhart River, approximate direction S.S.W. Scrub encountered consisted of some bauera and heavy horizontal. Two dish samples taken on route proved identical to those taken near camp site. One rock sample taken from creek bed (525). Returned to camp at 6.15.

Monday, 16th December.

Left camp at 7.30 a.m. to continue track to Urquhart River. Encountered very heavy scrub, mainly horizontal. Several dishes of dirt were washed but only iron pyrite. At 11 o'clock met with large outcrop of mineralised rock from which samples were taken (522). Had lunch on creek which our track follows. Noticed large lumps of mineralised quartz in creek bed which were not water-worn. After lunch proceeded up creek for fifty yards and found large waterfall. Rock face here was similar stone

from which previous samples were taken. Here, however, large veins of white quartz were running through the rock face. Several samples were taken (523). The whole area here is covered with dense horizontal scrub which makes travel very difficult. Continuing down the creek with the track, our progress was very slow. However at 4 o'clock we met with what appeared to us to be the main body of the Urquhart River. The wash in this stream was much darker in colour than in the tributary we had been following. One dish sample was taken. then we returned to camp. Arrival time 5.30. Approximately 9 hours have now been spent cutting a mile and one half of track.

Tuesday, 17th December.

Left camp at 7 O'clock to resume track cutting towards Urquhart River. En route we obtained another sample from top of waterfall mentioned previously. Lunch was had on second tributary of Urquhart River, from which rock sample 524 was taken. As on two previous days scrub encountered was very heavy horizontal, bauera, leatherwood, laurel, myrtle, etc.

Wednesday, 18th December.

Left camp at 7 O'clock and proceeded with track cutting and prospecting operations down the Urquhart River. Timber and scrub met with were very heavy and progress most difficult. At mid-day arrived large tributary to Urquhart River. Lunch was had here. Numerous rock samples (526) were taken. The rock strata being clearly defined, running north and south and dipping approximately 10° west. This area appeared more mineralised than any area previously noted. Track cutting operations were resumed and track is now 2 hours walk from base. One further rock sample (527) was taken from a small creek, 30 minutes walk from lunch place. One sample contained in tin was included with 526. At 4 o'clock decided to return to camp, return trip taking $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

Thursday, 19th December.

Left camp 7 o'clock with two days rations and two man tent to proceed down river towards sea coast. Encountered heavy scrub and myrtle timber. Country was extremely rough with steep gorges and almost perpendicular hill sides. Camped on river in deep gorge approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from coast.

Friday, 20th December.

Left tent 6 a.m., proceeded down stream with difficulty the track mostly following the river bed as cliffs in places were too dangerous to negotiate. Several rock samples were taken. From furthestmost point which was reached down stream numbering back upstream (528: 529: 530: 531: 532: 533). Returned to tent, made breakfast and leaving tent pitched proceeded back upstream towards base camp. A fault in the rock strata noticed when coming down stream was investigated. The rock strata on left bank coming upstream was striking North 17° E, dipping west 10° . On right hand bank strike was 95° , dipping south 25° . Bulk samples were taken from both sides of river. Width of fault approx. 30 feet. 534 taken from right side coming upstream.

535 from left side coming upstream. Here a quartz vein was noticed in the strata. Coming back on track above river, 536 was taken from small watercourse on top side of track. Coming back to what we call Surprise Creek gossan outcrop was noted. Sample 537 was taken from here. 538 was taken from small creek crossing track between Surprise and Dinner Creeks. Continued back to base, arrived at 5 p.m. Have gained good knowledge of the country to date. Work is slowed down greatly owing to the need to do much track cutting through the dense scrub. Many areas are yet to be investigated.

Saturday, 4th January, 1958.

Arrived base camp (Urquhart River) in the morning. After putting supplies in camp and clearing up mess left by tiger cats, lunch was taken; during the afternoon dish prospects were taken along track, nothing of commercial value was won, traces of ilmenite? only.

Sunday, 5th January.

Third member of party (R. Hall) arrived 7 a.m. Rain prevented work during morning, dish samples taken close to base camp during afternoon few (very few) fine colours of gold, also ilmenite? Helicopter arrived with balance of supplies and radio, made short survey flight over headwaters, Urquhart River, no sign of camp site in area. Made contact Birch Inlet (force 3) at 17.30 and 19.00 hours, receiver working well.

Monday, 6th January.

Left camp 7.00 a.m. and proceeded down track cut previously, due to the uncertainty of our position in the Urquhart Valley we decided to make for the coast at the mouth of the river. Arrived at previous campsite during the afternoon where we collected two man tent; continuing downstream we encountered heavy scrub so where possible we kept to the river bed in many places. Along this the walls of the river valley are very steep. Noticed a few quartz reefs intruding, decided to sample these on the way back. Arriving at the mouth we selected a campsite then examined rocks on the coast, these appear to be of a highly silicified schistose appearance. Strike is approx. N, dip W (56°), although folding does occur. Time for trip $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours approx.

Tuesday, 7th January.

Headed back having decided to camp at Surprise Creek and investigate same on the following day. About half a mile from the mouth we took a sample of a quartz reef, one foot wide, strike E dipping 30° N (539) outcrop occurs on N. side of river. All dips, strikes and distances in this report will, due to the difficulty in pinpointing our position, be approximate only. Two hundred yards further along sampled another quartz reef 3 feet wide, strike N.W., Dip N.E. 45° also on northern hand (540). The next sample was also a quartz reef two feet wide strike E.W., dip N 50° (541) again on northern hand. On the opposite side of the stream sample 542 was taken. Three

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hundred yards further on a large mass of quartz about 10 feet wide was sampled (543) strike NW, dip NE 75°. Twenty yards from this another quartz reef was sampled (544). At sample 545 a log was blazed to mark its position. Next was a quartz reef 3 feet wide plainly visible on both sides of river also traced on bank on south side of stream this (546) strikes NS, dip is almost vertical towards east. Location is 200 yards west of large landslip. Also included sample of country rock. Twenty yards from this a further quartz reef noted (547) strike and dip approx. parallel to previous sample. Shortly afterwards we arrived at Surprise Creek where we made camp. Should any of these samples require further investigation we suggests that towards the mouth (approx. 300 yards from same) it would be possible to land a helicopter in river at low tide and during fine weather.

Wednesday, 8th January

Marshall Penney returned to base camp basically because during the previous day's travel, the heels of his boots parted company with the rest. R. Hall and self proceeded along Surprise Creek, forty yards from mouth on a waterfall, sample (548) was taken, strike N, dip W, almost vertical, dish used but nothing of interest noted in same. Five hundred yards further along (549) was taken, strike N, dip steeply to the W. Sample (550) again striking N, dipping steeply to W about 250 yards from previous sample. Next was sample (551) strike N, dip W, (552) was a quartz reef 12 inches wide strike N, dip W. (553) Strike N, dip W. (554) also a quartz reef containing pyrite, strike N, dip almost vertical, located 200 yards below rapids. (555) below waterfall or rapids, strike N, dip vertical. (556) cliff face strike N, dip vertical. (557) located 100 yards above rapids, strike N, dip vertical. (558) 10 yards above previous sample. Final sample (559) few yards above second waterfall, strike N At this stage time was running short and we were forced to cease operations in this area. Arrived back at base camp at 5.10. Lot of iron stained quartz wash in Surprise Creek. Intend to spend further time there within a few days.

Thursday, 9th January.

Morning spent cutting short track to east for recce. survey. During afternoon improved on top end of Urquhart River track - no samples taken during day.

Friday, 10th January

Weather prevented work during morning, high winds and drizzle. Afternoon spent on track cutting towards headwaters of Urquhart River.

Saturday, 11th January

Left early in morning, destination first major creek north of Surprise Creek. Arrived at same at 7.30. First sample obtained below waterfall (561), strike N, dip W. Two hundred yards above falls sample (562) taken, again strike N, dip W. (563) again with northerly strike, dip almost vertical. Next sample taken with dish (564), couple fine colours, gold and black sand. (565) very twisted rock, strike appears to be NW. Fifty yards along from this (566) obtained, strike N, dip W?

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(567) strike N, dip W. approx 100 yards from previous sample. Next (568) strike N, dip W, just above small waterfall. (569) 400 yards from last one, strike N, dip E. (570) strike N, dip W. (571) strike N, dip W. (572) strike N, dip W. (573) strike N, dip W. Last few mentioned all fairly close together. (574) strike is N, some doubt about dip. (575) obtained at furthest point reached also dish samples taken, occasional colours of gold (minute specks). Vegetation along this creek is particularly thick mostly horizontal.

Sunday, 12th January

R. Hall and self endeavoured to reach headwaters of Urquhart River, unfortunately all we got was the experience. Very heavy scrub encountered, two rock samples were taken both with N strike (576,577). Very difficult to locate small creek on photographs. During the afternoon "Sycamore" arrived with supplies, rest of time available spent stowing same.

Monday, 13th January

Left camp early, walked to mouth of Surprise Creek, collected two man tent, proceeded upstream, had lunch just past point which we reached previously. First sample (578) strike N, sample (579) 50 yards further along, (580) alongside (579). (581) doubtful strike and dip. At this stage decided to make camp, left Marshall for that purpose. Ron and I went a short distance upstream. Sample (582) large outcrop on N. side of river (583) also a large outcrop on northern bank, strike and dip of these two difficult to ascertain. (584) occurs in bed of creek. (585) is a floater; curiosity about greenish mass in quartz prompted this sample being taken, found in a small steep creek with a lot of quartz of similar appearance in it. Climbed up creek hoping to find where it originated from but thick horizontal prevented us penetrating very far. Returned to camp.

Tuesday, 14th January

Continued upstream, first sample (586) found in large flat area. Bedrock does not show up as often as before. (587) large mass outcropping above small waterfall lower end of small gorge. (588) 50 yards from previous sample. (589) taken from final point reached. Creek here flows from SE possibly northern end of fault zone. All dish samples taken contained black sand and once or twice a fine (very fine) colour of gold. These samples were not retained (nothing to carry same in).

Wednesday, 15th January

Climbed to top of ridge behind camp. One sample taken (590) from only outcrop located. Followed ridge down to track at mouth of Surprise Creek, no rocks visible on this journey. R. Hall and self climbed down into Urquhart River itself and three samples taken. (591,592) occurred alongside each other in the river, strike N, dip steeply to the W. (593) taken about 100 yards south of these. On the way home to base camp various soaks and small creeks dished with similar results as before.

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Thursday, 16th January

Day spent investigating creek to east of camp. Dish samples (594) taken, it appears that this stream is part of the headwaters of the Urquhart River. Marshall developed rash on arms, is apparently allergic to something in this bush. Ron has a sore leg due to fall when negotiating steep slopes of Urquhart yesterday.

Friday, 17th January

Hoped helicopter would move our camp today, but the gods will otherwise, prepared what gear we could for likely shift tomorrow. 5.30 Wally asks us to build a timber platform for "Sycamore" which will arrive Saturday morning. This job kept us busy till almost 9 o'clock.

Saturday, 18th January

Carried gear to "heliport", shortly afterwards aircraft arrived. Three trips needed to move accumulated gear. When we arrived at new area naturally enough it decided to rain. Finally, however, 'midst much cursing, etc. tent was pitched and supplies carted in. Sky cleared and everyone prophesying a fine day, a definite trap for those uninitiated to local weather conditions.

Sunday, 19th January

Rain, rain and still more bloody rain, all plans for reconnaissance shelved, all agree with Robert Burns about the plans of mice and men. Occasional respites allowed us to get enough wood to keep going, without getting too wet.

Monday, 20th January

Climbed terrace to east of camp in morning to attempt to locate possible fault zones, difficult to make certain of the positions of the same. Commenced cutting track into scrub during afternoon, again some heavy scrub, no horizontal, but extra bauera made up the deficiency. No rock outcrops found and no dish samples taken, everyone saturated due to previous day's rain. Ron's leg not too bright but cannot persuade him to rest it.

Tuesday, 21st January

Went along edge of scrub to the north looking for suitable place to commence main crosscut track. During afternoon Marshall and self prospected along track cut yesterday. 2 dish samples taken, both in one detonator tin (597). At first large creek sample (595) taken. At first prospect hole sample (596) taken from the bottom. (598) conglomerate on small bank on middle of flat. At third creek across again at the bottom of prospect hole sample (599) containing pyrite obtained.

Wednesday, 22nd January

Left camp 7 o'clock in the morning. Headed north along plain for approx. 2 miles then commenced cutting track on E-W traverse, providing we are able to continue on this bearing, should eventually find ourselves in the headwaters of Surprise Creek and so link up with our previous work. Bauera was found to be particularly heavy in this section and consequently slowed the work down considerably, however we were well satisfied with the day's toil. Only one sample (1400) obtained from the only outcrop seen during day located in small creek 500 yards from start of track 2 or 3 small soaks crossed which will be dished later. Didn't arrive back at base camp until 6.45. Ron's leg still giving him trouble.

Thursday, 23rd January

Back on track No. 1, weather does not look so good so decided against yesterday's track. Bauera encountered today was the largest seen by any member of the party. Sample (1401) strike N, doubtful about dip. (1402, 1403) taken south of (1401) in river, this appears to be a possible fault zone. (1404) dish sample taken from river close to (1403). At the end of the day track was on low ridge, appears to drop down into long straight gorge, more will be known tomorrow.

Friday, 24th January

Continued track down into river, steep cliff face on western bank. While Marshall and Ron went ahead with track over this I went upstream a short distance. Sample (1405) strike N, dip W, taken 75 yards from foot of cliff, river then turns to NE and further sample (1406) strike N, taken. Returned to cliff face and collected sample (1407), strike N, dip W. (1408) strike N, dip W, taken from small creek on top of ridge. Returned to base 6.30, found that the 'copter had left axe handles etc.

Saturday, 25th January

Ron and self went down plain to south of camp hoping to be able to locate a spot in this mat of scrub which could be recognised. As expected we were unable to do so. One large tiger snake sighted, unfortunately no weapons in sight, so were unable to make our presence felt. In the afternoon continued with the track, bauera seems to get thicker and thicker, also fair bit of ti-tree scrub intermingled with it, progress is rather slow for every hour of track cutting one only takes five minutes to retrace one's steps. No samples collected today. Home ten to seven.

Sunday, 26th January

Further investigation along cliff at Mainwaring River. Sample (1409) taken from foot of cliff, (1410) from river itself. From top of cliff in small stream to the south outcrop of pyritic body, 8-10 feet in width located (platy structure). Sample (1411) strike is N, dip almost vertical, country rock also included in this. Sample (1412) taken just below (1411). Traced this one for approximately 100 yards. Helicopter arrived with food supplies today.

Monday, 27th January

During morning Marshall and Ron collected samples (1413) from small creek on top of cliff, strike N, dip W (fairly steep). (1414) taken from third creek from cliff, strike N, dip W. (1415) 200 yards from (1414). (1416) fifty yards from previous sample. (1417) chloritic schist from Gum ridge at end of track. I went up to other track and collected tools, one whipsnake joined his illustrious ancestors. In the afternoon, "Guests" arrived, Dr. Scott and Capt. Holyman.

Tuesday, 28th January

Spent long day on track cutting, bauera and scrub still very thick, country appears to flatten out considerably. Compass apparently affected by something here, difficulty encountered in taking bearings. Secretly suspect the bauera of being the cause of this trouble, because track always heads for the densest part of same. All hands returned home tired.

Wednesday, 29th January

More track cutting, similar scrub, compass still causing trouble, sp to satisfy ourselves put down three holes, earth very stained. Did not bring samples in, intend to collect same later in their proper sequence. Have decided that it is too far for one day jaunts now so whilst Marshall is away Ron and I will camp out for a few days.

Thursday, 30th January

Helicopter collected Marshall and Ron and self went out along track, camped at end of same. No samples collected today. Discovered that 45 lb. is a bit heavy through this sort of going.

Friday, 31st January

Commenced track cutting, progress pretty slow. Have now moved to a westerly course. Compass still causing Ron a bit of trouble. During day (late afternoon) found small stream and decided it would do for a campsite. So retraced our steps to packs and brought them down, set up camp, dinner was served at 8. Coffee (no liqueurs) taken in the lounge.

Saturday, 1st February

Why does it always rain when we decide to camp out. Very sleepless night, tent leaks, sleeping bags, lilo etc. all in a nice soggy state. Rain cleared off about lunch time, so back to track work after our meal. Work ceased about 6 o'clock, returned to camp very, very wet. A large fire improved matters.

Sunday, 2nd February

Left camp fairly early for day of sampling. There are no outcrops on this track so we had to dig holes for each of these samples (1435) and (1434). Found a floater which appears to contain native copper, did not give this a number, but have a sample for Dr. Scott.

- (1443) Dish sample from creek at campsite.
 - (1442) 20 yards from dish sample, no dip or strike.
 - (1441) 50 yards from previous sample, no dip or strike.
 - (1440) 50 yards from previous sample, no dip or strike.
 - (1439) 70 yards from previous sample on small rise in flat.
 - (1438) 70 yards from previous sample in flat.
 - (1437) 150 yards from previous sample, strike N, dip almost vertical.
 - (1436) 50 yards from previous sample at beginning of burnt patch.
 - (1435) 20 yards from previous sample, clay from flat.
 - (1434) 30 yards from previous sample, on ridge, no dip or strike.
 - (1433) 50 yards from previous sample, on ridge, no dip or strike.
 - (1432) 50 yards from previous sample.
 - (1431) 70 yards from previous sample, schist, strike N, dip almost vertical.
- Returned to our two man tent, tired but happy.

Monday, 3rd February

Back to sampling again, first one a dish sample from same site as (1431) few colours of gold in same.

- (1430) Dish sample.
- (1429) 50 yards from previous sample, strike N, unsure of dip.
- (1428) 100 yards from previous sample on ridge.
- (1427) 25 yards from previous sample.
- (1426) 50 yards from previous sample, strike N, dip W.
- (1425) 30 yards from previous sample, no strike or dip.
- (1424) 50 yards from previous sample opposite side of ridge.
- (1423) 100 yards from previous sample, strike N?

Due back at base for 5.30 sched. so left short section for tomorrow.

Tuesday, 4th February

Wally informed us that there was a possibility of our going to Birch during the afternoon so made a fast trip to complete this section.

- (1422) 200 yards from previous sample, 2 rocks included.
- (1421) 200 yards from previous sample underneath uprooted tree.
- (1420) 40 yards from previous sample.
- (1419) 100 yards from previous sample, clay containing pyrite.
- (1418) 150 yards from previous sample.

Wednesday, 12th February

Arrived Cypress Creek camp from Birch. Ray Martin with us for few days in place of Marshall Penney.

Thursday, 13th February

Proceeded out to camp on creek near end of track, continued with track cutting for rest of day. Fine patch of bauera encountered.

Friday, 14th February

Quite an eventful day, found larger stream than usual, possibly one of the tributaries of Cypress Creek. Other events included finding one reasonable Tiger Snake. He saw us first and retreated. Ray cut his head, fortunately not seriously.

Saturday, 15th February

Spent day sampling along track.

- (1461) End of Track.
- (1460) Small creek 100 yards from previous sample.
- (1459) Dish sample from same creek.
- (1458) 150 yards from previous sample, contains pyrite.
- (1457) 200 yards from previous sample, underneath uprooted tree.
- (1456) 100 yards from previous sample, near small creek.
- (1455) In, large stream (gossan).
- (1454) 10 yards from creek, in soak on track.
- (1453) 30 yards from (1454).
- (1452) Dish sample from near (1454).

Sunday, 16th February

Again spent day collecting samples.

- (1451) 100 yards from previous sample.
Floater found containing native copper.
- (1450) 80 yards from previous sample, strike N, dip almost vertical.
- (1449) 200 yards from previous sample, strike N, dip almost vertical.
- (1448) 200 yards from previous sample, strike N, dip almost vertical, on ridge.
- (1447) 50 yards from previous sample, strike N, dip almost vertical.
- (1446) 50 yards from previous sample, strike N, dip almost vertical.
- (1445) 300 yards from previous sample, strike N, dip W, beneath uprooted tree.
- (1444) 150 yards from previous sample, contains native copper.

Returned to main base.

Monday, 17th February

Helicopter arrived to take Ray Martin to his own camp and brought Marshall Penney back. Crushed and dished gossan samples.

Tuesday, 18th February

Rolled out the red carpet and Dr. Scott duly arrived. Took him on a conducted tour of track, inspected all rocks in sight and some that

weren't (where prospect holes were full of water). Camped out overnight and as usual it rained, tents are not entirely waterproof. However with aid of large fire we managed to get a few hours sleep.

Wednesday, 19th February

Ron and Marshall returned to base with varied collection of tools, whilst Barry and I gave the rest of the track the once over, rained most of the time. We then returned to Base, a rather unpleasant journey.