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PREVIOUS WORK AND MINERAL OCCURRENCES

The first attempt at exploration and prospecting of this area was made during the 1890-1910 period when the Macquarie Harbour-Port Davey track was established. This was an era of vigorous prospector activity in which Zeehan, Mt. Bischoff, Mt. Lyell and many other small metalliferous deposits were discovered on the west coast. Similarly, south of Macquarie Harbour numerous small shows were recorded along the track to Port Davey, such as the Birthday Bay copper prospect, Spero River asbestos, Cypress Creek - Mainwaring River gold traces, Penders Copper prospect. The small shafts and trenches observed near the Lewis River prospect probably date back to this period.

In the 1920-1930 period government geologists began mapping the more accessible areas of south-west Tasmania. Nye, P.B. and Howard C. (1926) described both quartz vein and pyritic mineralization during a short inspection of the Low Rocky Point district in 1926.

Prior to January, 1955 an Airborne Scintillometre Survey was conducted along the south-west coastline by a Dakota aircraft for the B.M.R. A total of four runs were flown and a second order anomaly (2-3 times background) was detected in the Lewis River area on all runs.

The Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Company - Electrolytic Zinc Exploration (L.E.E.) joint venture carried out an extensive aeromagnetic survey over E.L. 13/65 during 1957 - 1958. The Lewis River area was flown in 1958. The aeromagnetic survey was successful in delineating the Hibbs Ultrabasic belt, Spero Ultrabasics and in the area under discussion, there is a sharp demarcation between the Mainwaring Group and the Lewis River Volcanics - Osmund Conglomerate. The Lewis River Volcanics generally reflect a flat magnetic profile however several discrete anomalies were identified near the Lewis River and investigated later by B.H.P. Co. Ltd.