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ANNUAL REPORT  
 THE ALBERTON GOLD FIELD

**MICROFILMED**

M.R. Bendall

AMG REFERENCE POINTS ADDED

THE ALBERTON GOLDFIELDINTRODUCTION

The goldfield was discovered in 1883 at the northern foot of Mt. Victoria one hundred years ago and was interminantly worked up until 1925. Over one hundred reefs were discovered in the area of which five major lodes were worked on a large scale. They were the New River, Ringarooma United, Mercury, Long Struggle and Mt. Victoria mines. The workings on the field have been extensively mapped by Hughes and provide excellent information about the structure of the workings and Hills (1923) gives a comprehensive account of the geology and value of the known lodes.

On the 25th May, 1983 Oceania Tasmania Pty. Ltd. took up an 8 skm exploration licence upon the area. A caravan was set up with 240v power and water as a base camp, on Stingles land within the exploration licence over the full year of exploration. This provided excellent access to the prospect and reduced the cost but increased the efficiency of exploration.

The accurate detailed reports by Reid, Thureau, Twelvetrees and Loftus Hills provided excellent and cross checked assays and lode details for the whole area. From following up these maps and reports, clearing of old tunnels, the cutting of main access tracks, bridge mending, study of aerial photos and 1:100000 maps a good understanding of the nature and potential of the field was gained. Use of electromagnetic gear was also entailed and proved very accurate in pinpointing shears in the Mathinna beds. A mortar, dolly pot and pan were also used as the main tools to determine the value of discovered lodes and alluvial ground.

REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The lower Devonian Mathinna beds are the major rock type in the area and are part of a 76 km anticlinal structure. This runs from Waterhouse to Mangana defining the line of auriferous reefs, the major lodes being in shear zones associated with the intrusion of the Devonian granite, at Alberton outcropping 5 km to the east of the lodes. Mt. Victoria the major geographical feature of the area is to the south of the reefs. It is capped by jurassic dolerite, underlined by lower Permian beds then founded upon the lower Devonian Mathinna beds. Running north from Mt. Victoria are the Dorset and New Rivers defining the ridge that contains mineralization and them themselves containing prospects of fine alluvial gold.

FIELD GEOLOGY

At Alberton the anticline is dipping on average at 15° striking at 330° to 345° varying with the undulating pitch of the anticline. The arms of the anticline dip on average at about 60° to the east and west.

Faulting and shearing of the anticline was later followed by mineralization along the parts of least resistance within the Mathinna beds. Apart from a 7 metre wide granite dyke at the Ringarooma United mine there are no igneous rocks near the lodes. There is almost the complete Mathinna sequence represented at Alberton, from the graphitic shales at the bottom to yellow

argillaceous sandstones and brown slates, to blue grey slates with interbedded quartzites and sandstones to the top sequence of quartzites sandstones and feldspathic sandstones.

The richest reefs are in the lower sequences of graphitic slates, although good gold contents extend up into the higher members of the sequence in places of extensive shearing and faulting, though no lodes are found in the top feldspathic sandstones of the sequence. The important lodes are all near or on the axis of the anticline and in the case of the Long Struggle mine it is a classic fracture lode as seen in diagram (1) (the axis of the anticline is visible in the entrance of the Caxton adit).

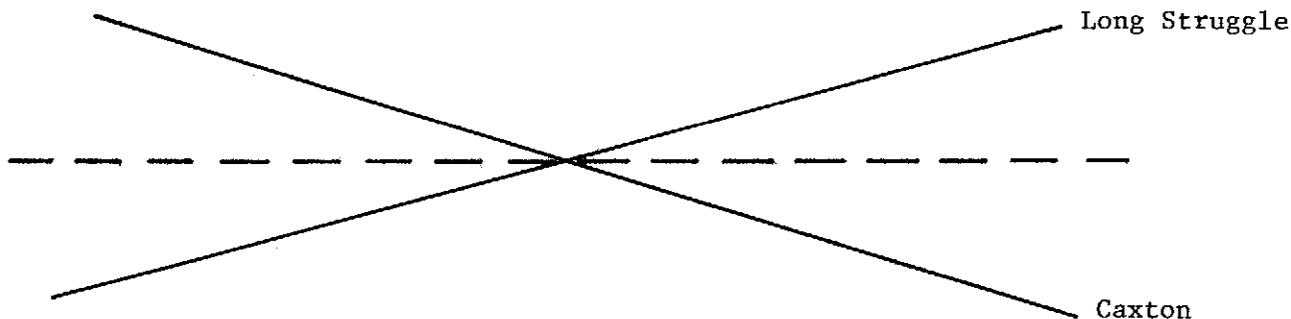


Diagram 1 Showing Long Struggle Lodes.

#### ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

The lodes vary from simple fracture fills and saddles to high pressure implacements witnessed by laminated quartz lodes and embayed country rock similar to that of the Bendigo field in Victoria (e.g. cannon lode). The large lodes are where the pitch and strike of the anticline varies, opening up large fractures with quartz reefs up to three metres in width and charged

with sulphides of zinc, lead, copper iron and arsenic as well as free gold (Diagram 2).

The major lodes of economic importance are about one metre in width and usually about fifty metres long tapering out into stringers but generally increasing in width at depth.

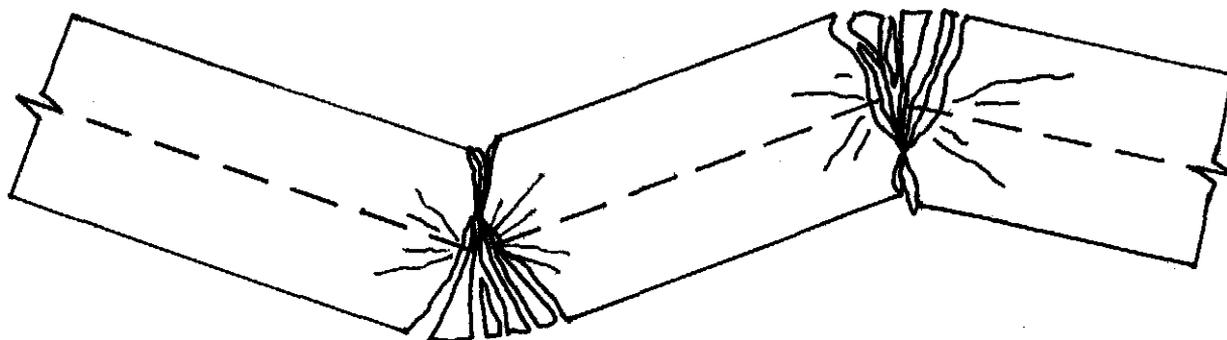


Diagram 2. Stylized Fracture Pattern of Anticline

The scope for hard rock mining is enormous, considering that a grade of 8 gms/tonne would justify development in any lode over one metre in width. The fact that there are lodes already opened up (1.6m Ringarooma lode 30gm/tonne, 1.3m Mercury lode 30gm/tonne) is very useful as development will be straight on to the lode with no initial tunnelling necessary only use of existing adits and shafts. Historically speaking no lode was worth working if it was not at least 25gm/tonne and of fair width. Witness to this are the caxton and Long Struggle lodes which run overhead and underfoot for 30 metres at a width of one metre and have not been extensively stoped or sunk on at all yet they assayed 7 to 21gms/tonne and 42gms/tonne respectively (Hills 1923). Also Pennefathers lode a shaft 40 metres in depth on .3 metre lode assayed 35gms/tonne upon cessation of operation due to ventilation troubles. The Drunkards Dream was said to assay 85gms/tonne

with a width of 1 metre and strike length of 22 metres. Many more impressive assays are mentioned by Hills and these have been checked by myself and found to be accurate.

The assays I have taken are included in the folder attached to this report and confirm my belief that the field is of excellent value and deserving of closer attention. To this end, further attention in the next year will be paid to starting a small scale milling operation in conjunction with a similar program being put into operation upon the Scamander Goldfield.

The area also has potential in its alluvial deposits which in both the New and Dorset Rivers are over ten metres deep and two kilometres in length. In the New River gravels, tin is present from the Mt. Rex and Star of Peace granite tin deposits as well as alluvial gold from the Alberton lodes. The Dorset River above the old Alberton township holds the best alluvial prospect as a natural rock bar holds back a lot of gravel which if one can take the abundance of lodes in the immediate catchments as an indication should prove a rich bit of ground. Initial prospecting of this ground has turned up colours of gold within the fine gravels between the Ringarooma shingle. Further prospecting will have to be carried out with an excavator and will be pursued in the coming summer period.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PLAN OF EXPLORATION

There are two main thrusts which appear from the last years exploration. They are the development of existing lodes and of the alluvial deposits. The opening up of the Ringarooma mine will be completed in the coming

summer period with a diesel bobcat with scrubber. This will be pursued as the upper levels which we have cleared in the last year showed potential from the channel sampling, the results of which are included. The Mercury mine has also a quite impressive lode formation which will address quite a lot of attention in the coming year. The results of the Long Struggle will also hold interest, as from that and the Caxton the immediate pilot mill operations will commence, eventually ore coming from the Ringarooma United and Mercury mines will feed the mill.

REPORTS

Mt. Victoria Goldfield, G. Thureau, 1882.

Mt. Victoria Goldfield, G. Thureau, 1883.

North Mt. Victoria Goldfield, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1900.

Mt. Victoria Goldfield, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1904.

Mt. Victoria Goldfield, Dr. Loftus Hills, 1923.

Preliminary Report on Forest King and Alberton Mines, A. McIntosh Reid, 1923.

Wardlaw Prospect (Alberton), A. McIntosh Reid, 1923.

The Properties of the Ringarooma Gold Mining Company, Alberton, Tasmania,  
A. McIntosh Reid, 1925.

Notes on the Boring Campaign at the Northern End of the Alberton Field  
(New River), J.B. Scott, 1933.

Boring at Long Struggle Mine, F. Blake, 1938.

Heathorns Gold Prospect, New River, H.G.W. Reid, 1951.

The Alberton Goldfield, T.D. Hughes, 1952.

Proposed Boring, Long Struggle Area, Alberton, T.D. Hughes, 1952.

Alberton, Stannon Engineering, 1976.

PLANS

Mercury

Ringarooma

New River

ALBERTON GOLDFIELD EL23/82

## Alluvial Gold Sampling.

1.	Grey tailings and coarse sand tailings	deep	show
2.	Grey tailings	deep	show
3.	Shallow wash slate		color
4.	Grey tailings		show
5.	Deep alluvial wash		paydirt
6.	Deep alluvial wash		color
7.	Shallow wash slates		show
8.	Shallow wash slates		color
9.	Worked alluvial ground slates		barren
10.	Shallow wash slates		show
11.	Shallow wash slates (axis of anticline)		show
12.	Worked alluvial ground slates		color
13.	Worked alluvial ground slates		color
14.	Shallow wash slates		barren
15.	Shallow wash slates		barren
16.	(Deep Ringarooma shingle and coarse grits		color
17.	{ Interbedded, depth unknown		barren
18.	(Gold confined mainly to quartz beaches		color
19.	{ In Ringarooma shingle		show
20.			show

## Gold

Barren	0	grains
Color	1 - 5	grains
Show	5 - 20	grains
Paydirt	> 20	grains

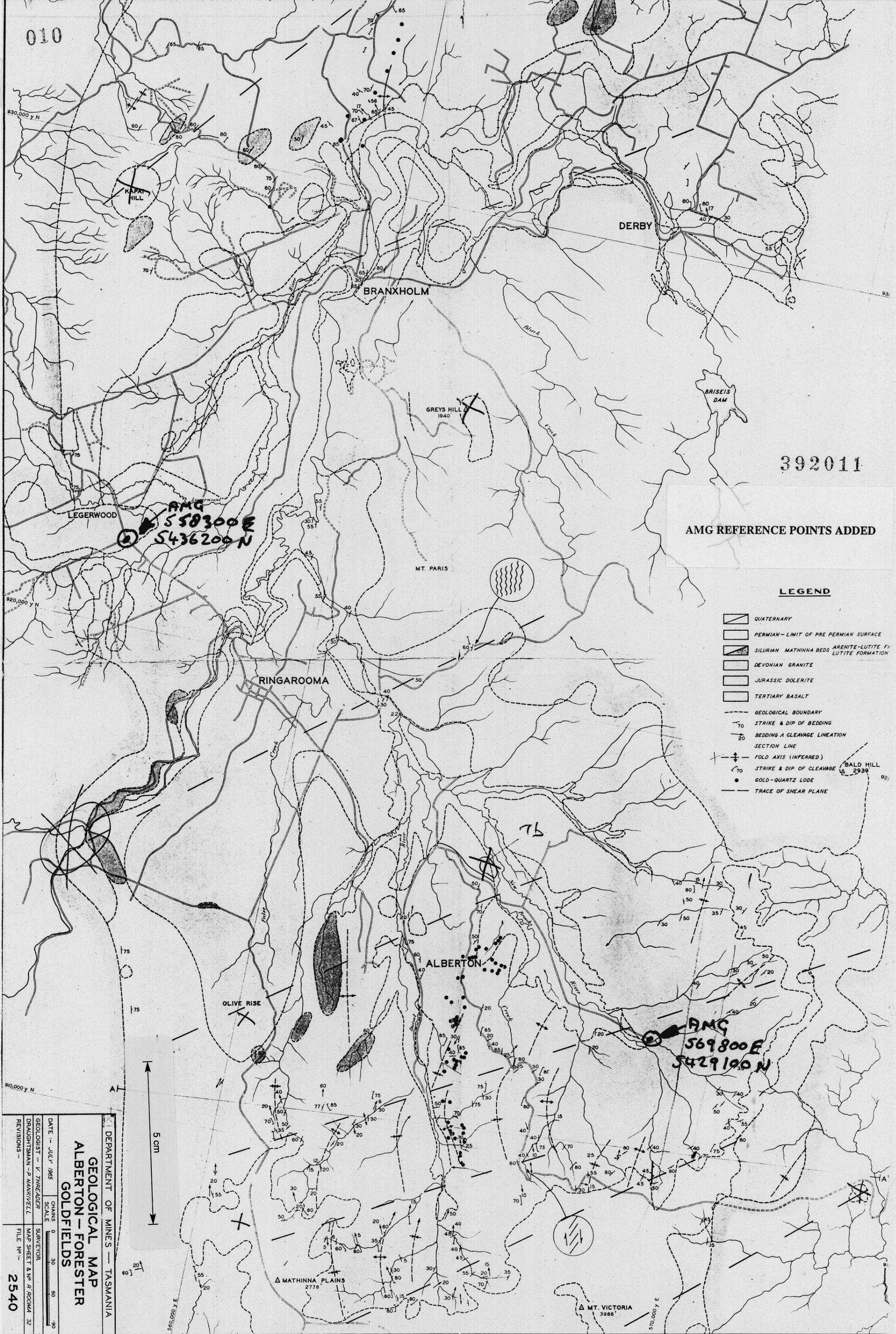
## Depth

Shallow	alluvial wash	less than 1 metre deep
Medium	alluvial wash	between 1 and 2 metres in depth
Deep	alluvial wash	over 2 metres in depth

ASSAY RESULTS FOR ALBERTON FIELD 1984 EL 23/82

			gm/tonne
A	-	Rosalind Adit	- 0.01
			- 0.01
			- 0.08
B	-	Premier Adit	- 0.63
			- 0.09
			- 0.09
C	-	Hannah Adit	- 0.09
			- 0.01
			- 4.60
D	-	Mercury Adit 1	- 2.96
		2	- 19.4
		3	- 0.3
E	-	Crosslode 1	- 0.28
		2	- 0.19
		3	- 3.30
		Dump	- 0.30
F	-	Cannon	- 0.06
		Cannon	- 0.93
G	-	Battery lode	- 0.54
H	-	Telegraph Adit	- 0.20
I	-	Point Adits	
		North	- 9.1
J		Middle	- 1.38
K		South	- 0.61
L	-	Mill Site	- 1.54
M	-	Drunkards Dream	- 0.50
N	-	Mt. Victoria Adit	- 1.53
O	-	Mt. Victoria Adit	- 1.40

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AMG REFERENCE POINTS ADDED

AMG  
 558300 E  
 5436200 N

AMG  
 569800 E  
 5429100 N

LEGEND

- QUATERNARY
- PERMIAN - LIMIT OF PRE PERMIAN SURFACE
- SILURIAN MATHINNA BEDS ARENITE-LUTITE FORMATION
- DEVONIAN GRANITE
- JURASSIC DOLERITE
- TERTIARY BASALT
- GEOLOGICAL BOUNDARY
- STRIKE & DIP OF BEDDING
- BEDDING A CLEAVAGE LINEATION
- SECTION LINE
- FOLD AXIS (INFERRED)
- STRIKE & DIP OF CLEAVAGE
- GOLD-QUARTZ LODGE
- TRACE OF SHEAR PLANE

DEPARTMENT OF MINES - TASMANIA  
**GEOLOGICAL MAP**  
**ALBERTON - FORESTER**  
**GOLDFIELDS**

DATE - JULY 1965  
 GEOLOGIST - V. THRELDER  
 DRAUGHTSMAN - P. WANKIVELL  
 REVISIONS -  
 CHAINS 0 30 60 90  
 SCALE  
 SUPERVISOR  
 MAP SHEET & No. R ROOMA 32  
 FILE No. - 2540

5 cm

910,000 y N

A

560,000 y E

570,000 y E

△ MATHINNA PLAINS 2776

△ MT. VICTORIA 3986

△ BALD HILL 2939

ALBERTON

RINGAROOMA

BRANXHOLM

DERBY

GREYS HILL 1940

MT. PARIS

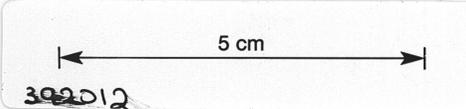
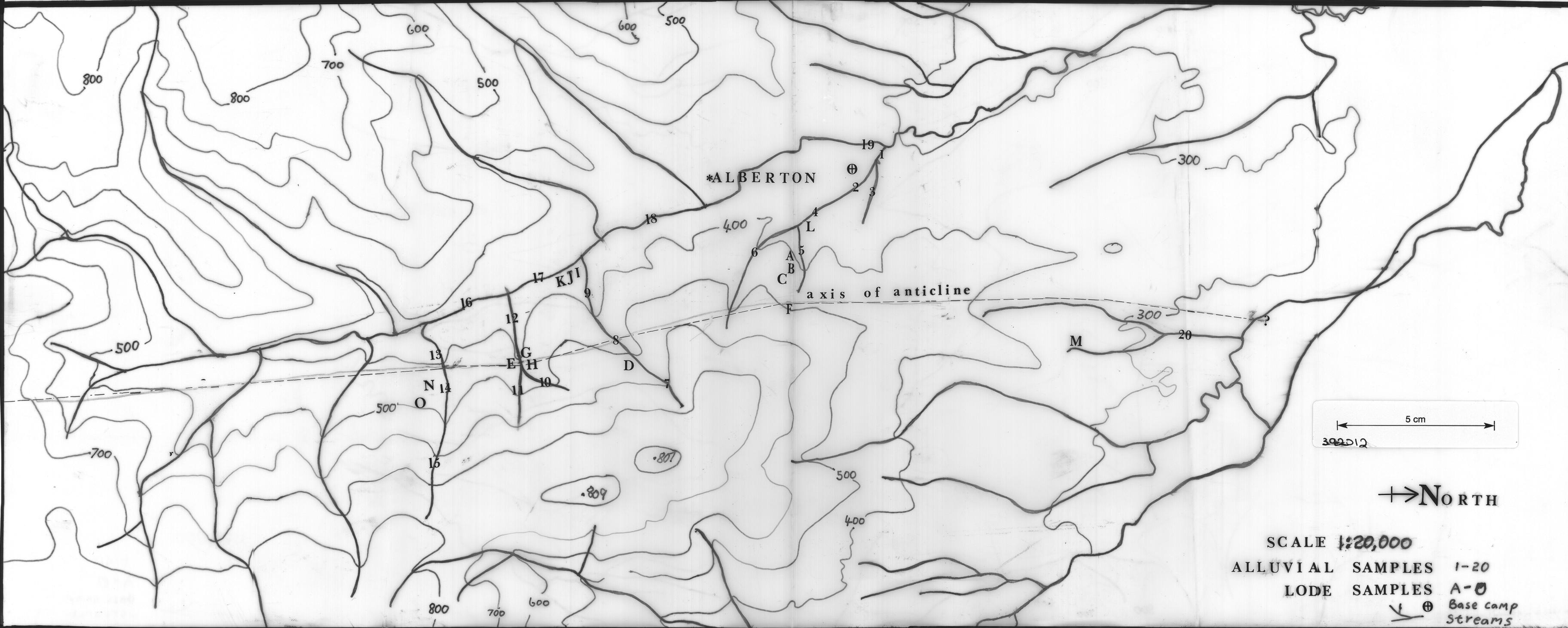
LEGERWOOD

KAPAT HILL

BRISEIS DAM

OLIVE RISE

# ALBERTON GOLDFIELD EL23/82



→ NORTH

SCALE 1:20,000  
 ALLUVIAL SAMPLES 1-20  
 LODGE SAMPLES A-O  
 Base camp ⊕  
 Streams ↘