

HALCOTRACK, TRACK MOUNTED AIR DRILL

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

BRUKUNGA

Hd. Kanmantoo

by

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FIGURES

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G.S. No. 3710
D.M. 305/67

31st May, 1967

DEPARTMENT OF MINES
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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HALCOTRACK

TRACK MOUNTED AIR DRILL

- ORIENTATION PROGRAMME -

BRUKUNGA

Hd. Kanmantoo

ABSTRACT

Use of the Halcotrack, track mounted air drill is confined to easily accessible, almost flat areas with dry subsurface conditions. Compact, indurated rocks are best drilled. Hole locations must be closely spaced, and holes preferably vertical. This is not a versatile machine and would not suit specifications for a Department of Mines exploration tool where versatility is of primary importance.

INTRODUCTION

Purchase of a Halcotrack, track mounted air drill in 1967 was contemplated and following delivery, at the end of March, for a trial period, a programme of orientation and testing was initiated with Brukunga, the venue of operations.

The project began on Tuesday 14th March and finished on Wednesday 22nd March, 1967. Machine repairs occupied the 16th and 17th. Holes 82A, 49A, 49B and two shallow trial holes were drilled on sections 5278 and 5280, hundred of Kanmantoo. Samples from holes 82A and 49A were compared with core from diamond drill holes 82 and 49. Comparison was confined to assays of equivalent sections, for Fe, S, Cu, Pb, Cn, Zn and V.

Suitability of the Halcotrack for Mines Department work was examined as to:

1. Mobility of the machine to the site and on site

2. Rate of penetration
3. Effect of inclination of holes
4. Effect of water content of formation
5. Deviation of hole with depth
6. Problems of sample collection
7. Geological information obtained
8. Comparison of assays with those of diamond drill holes
9. Average cost per foot of drilling

Finally the type of work the drill is suitable for was determined.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME AND RESULTS

Mobility of the Halcotrack

The Halcotrack drill and compressor were transferred to Brukunga by an E. & W.S. low loader, while the return trip was accomplished by a five tone truck using a loading ramp. Many sites, especially in hilly areas would be inaccessible to a five ton truck towing a five ton compressor.

On location the drill must tow the compressor to within 50ft. or the length of available air hose, of the drill hole site. Difficulty is experienced in climbing 10° slopes. Therefore, sites on the sides or top of steep hills or surrounded by rough ground, are inaccessible.

The top speed of the machine is 1½ m.p.h. If drill hole sites are even only a few hundred yards apart, shifting time is greatly increased.

Once in position, drilling can commence almost immediately, as setting up time is reduced to , essentially, setting up the sampling equipment.

Rate of Penetration

Rate of penetration during drilling averaged 20 feet per hour. A maximum rate of 30 feet per hour could be expected with proficient drillers under dry subsurface conditions. Slower rates were experienced in softer formations due to cushioning of the hammer blows. Maximum penetration was obtained in moderately indurated unweathered rocks.

It was noticed that the air exit holes on the bottom of the bit were further from the bit face than usual. Coarse cuttings were not immediately lifted, resulting in fine cuttings at the surface and a slower rate of penetration.

Deviation of Hole with depth was not tested since the maximum depth penetrated was 85 feet.

Inclination of Hole

Hole 49A was drilled at an angle of 30° to the horizontal and four feet north of DDH 49. The only difficulty encountered was in forming an air tight seal at the collar. (See Plate 3). The high air pressures used by the drill necessitates a strong seal at the collar. Therefore areas with gravel, sand or soft overburdens are difficult to drill due to blow by and associated widening of the hole near the surface.

Holes drilled in rock strata with wide fissures, especially if another hole is nearby, show a lowering of air pressure and loss of cuttings at the surface.

Drilling Below the Water Table

Where minor quantities of water were encountered below the water table few cuttings came to the surface. This may be overcome by using water circulation (if possible with this machine), however, washing of soft or brecciated zones then occurs and bad contamination results. Sample procedure has to be altered and is time consuming.

Sample collection

With dry subsurface conditions, coarse fragments are lost at the collar of the hole and fines are blown out of the cyclone. Refinement of equipment may eliminate this.

Under wet subsurface conditions the sample has to be collected by settling and then dried and split. Quartering may be possible while wet but drying is still time consuming.

Geological Information is confined to colour changes, diagnostic mineral changes, mainly using binocular microscope, and assay changes. Therefore little geological information is obtained compared with diamond drilling cores.

Comparison of assay results with those of diamond drill core

Fig. 3 shows a good comparison of Fe and S assay results from holes 82 and 82A. On the average, at low sulphide contents, diamond drill cores assay higher than the Halcotrack cuttings, which at high sulphide contents, the opposite is true. This is probably due to two factors. At low sulphide concentrations, loss of fines by Halcotrack sampling equipment has little effect but bars of coarse sulphide grains at the collar causes a lower sulphide assay. At high sulphide concentrations the effect of the errors is reversed and higher sulphide assays are obtained. Refinement of equipment may eliminate this. Therefore, assay results from air drill samples are essentially comparable with diamond drill hole results.

Results for 49 and 49A show a poor comparison. This may be due to irregular dispersion of elements in the oxidized zone, and a cross cutting fault in lower parts of the holes. This also applies to minor element comparisons (Fig. 4). Difficulty was experienced with contamination of samples from upper portions of Hole 49A, especially below water level.

Drilling Costs

The average cost per foot of drilling was approximately

\$2.50; assuming a bit life of 300 feet. With more efficient drillers and techniques, a cost of \$2.00 is possible. However, if plant hire is included a figure of \$3.00 per foot is about right (assuming plant hire of \$100 per day). This compares rather unfavourably with diamond drilling cost of \$400 per foot.

CONCLUSIONS

The Halcotrack drill is a cheap method of putting a hole in the ground, in a short period of time to obtain assay information. It is easy to set up but the low speed of locomotion from one site to another may affect this advantage.

Its use is limited to readily accessible, nearly flat areas where dry subsurface conditions exist. Holes with an inclination of less than 30° to the horizontal cannot be drilled. Collaring of the hole is difficult in porous and on soft surface formations. Sample collection is not perfect and limited essentially to dry subsurface conditions. Sites must be closely spaced to make use of small setting up time required.

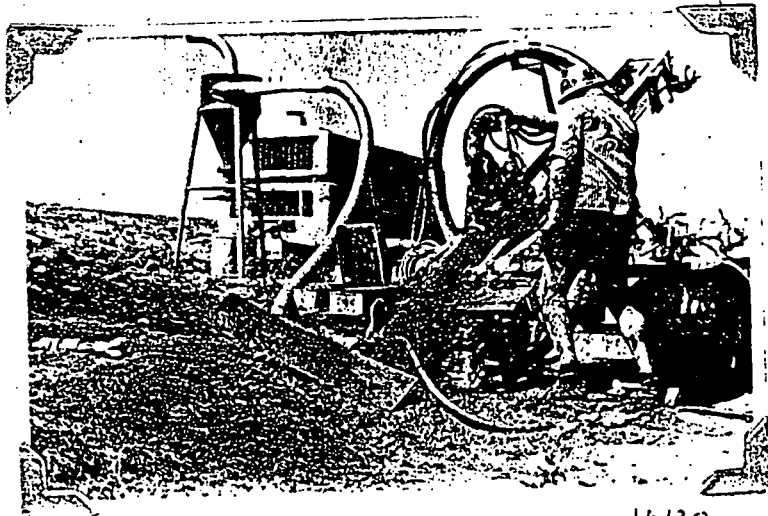
Assay results are fairly comparable to diamond drill results ($\pm 1.0\%$), for minerals in concentration 5-20% of rock). Geological information is low and holes must be controlled geologically by previous information.

This drill would be geologically economical under only a few specialized projects carried out by the Mines Department.



MGM:CM
31.5.1967

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KANMAN TUD

16130

Halcotrack drill in operation showing layout of equipment. Type ; of bit used shown at left centre. Difficulty being experienced in sealing the collar of the hole (especially when water level out) due to soft stony soil at surface.

Abstract

Hole No. 49A

R.L. 1,303ft.

Hun. Kanmantoo

Co-ordinates: 3884N 1484E

Angle from horizontal: 30°

Direction: 305°T

Sample Nos: A1362/67 to A1377/67

<u>Geological Remarks</u>	<u>Depth (feet)</u>		<u>Average Assays</u>	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>% S</u>	<u>% Fe</u>
	5.0	10.0	0.15	3.1
	10.0	15.0	1.14	11.8
	15.0	20.0	3.40	14.9
	20.0	25.0	4.15	12.9
	25.0	30.0	1.23	9.1
	30.0	35.0	0.66	8.15
	35.0	40.0	1.17	6.9
<u>41ft. limit of oxidation</u>	40.0	43.5	3.75	6.45
	43.5	45.0	5.0	6.65
	45.0	50.0	5.3	7.35
	50.0	55.0	3.1	4.8
<u>58ft.</u>	55.0	60.0	2.9	5.4
	60.0	64.0	1.4	9.9
	65.0	70.0	5.3	6.75
	70.0	75.0	5.5	5.3
<u>78ft. Water Level</u>	75.0	80.0	5.4	5.95

Co-ord. 3880N 1484E

Machine: E1000

Ref: AN 2640/67

Sample Nos: A1410/67 to A1421/67

Also carried out by Nairne Pyrites Pty. Ltd.

<u>Geological Remarks</u>	<u>Depth (feet)</u>		<u>Average Assays</u>	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>% S</u>	<u>% Fe</u>
	0	5	0.03	4.6
	5	10	0.04	2.4
	10	15	0.09	2.4
	15	20	0.74	10.9
	20	25	0.80	14.9
Oxidized	25	30	2.81	16.1
Zone	30	35	0.65	4.2
	35	40	0.02	1.6
	40	45	0.79	10.2
50ft.	45	50	5.10	17.9
	50	52	13.2	14.4
Waste	52	60	8.0	8.4
Zone	60	65	5.0	5.4
	65	70	2.4	4.7
74ft.	70	74	4.8	5.3
	74	79	1.27	5.4
Fault Zone	79	83	0.72	13.8
83ft.				

Note: Hole 49A on same strike and elevations but HOLE NO. 49 4ft. Nth. Therefore, footages essentially equivalent.

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Average Assay Results of % S and % Fe

Project: Nairne Pyrites Pty. Ltd. Sect. 5280 Hole No: 82A
Feature: Timmin's Hill Hundred: Kanmantoo R.L.: 1.245ft.
Location: Brukunga Co-ordinates: 3628N 1230E Angle from
Horizontal:
Drilling: 15 March 1967. 90°
Machine: Halcotrack Air Drill

Carried out by S.A. Alexander AMDEL Ref. AN.2389/67 Date: 4 Apr. 67

Sample Nos. A.1341/67 to A.1352/67

<u>Geological Remarks</u>	<u>Depth (feet)</u>		<u>Average Assays</u>	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>% S</u>	<u>% Fe</u>
Oxidized Zone	5.0	7.5	0.25	6.0
	7.5	10.0	1.63	4.7
	10.0	12.5	2.42	5.7
	12.5	15.0	3.85	6.3
	15.0	17.5	3.80	6.8
17ft.				
Waste Zone	17.5	20.0	4.75	6.6
	20.0	25.0	4.35	7.0
	25.0	30.0	5.85	8.3
30ft.				
No. 1 Ore Zone	30.0	35.0	12.2	13.6
	35.0	40.0	16.0	16.6
	40.0	45.0	15.4	17.2
	45.0	50.0	14.2	15.8

Co-ordinates: 3620N 1230E R.L. 1245 feet Hole No. 82

Start: 26 Jan. 67. Finish: 27 Jan. 67 Angle from Horizontal: 90°

Assays carried out by: Nairne Pyrites Machine: Diamond Drill
Pty. Ltd. E1000

<u>Geological Remarks:</u>	<u>Depth (feet)</u>		<u>Average Assays</u>	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>% S</u>	<u>% Fe</u>
Oxidized Zone	3.0	5.5	0.72	3.1
	5.5	8.0	0.14	6.8
	8.0	10.5	2.5	4.6
12ft.	10.5	13.0	2.8	5.4
Waste Zone	13.0	15.5	3.9	4.7
	15.5	18.0	5.3	6.2
	18.0	23.0	4.4	5.4
	23.0	28.0	5.25	7.1
	28.0	30.5	3.92	6.29
30.5ft.				
No. 1 Ore Zone	30.5	35.0	10.8	12.9
	35.0	38.0	14.7	15.7
	38.0	45.0	14.9	16.3
	45.0	49.5	12.5	14.2

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APPENDIX 3

SEMI QUANTITATIVE SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Project: Nairne Pyrites Pty. Sect.: 5278 Hole No.: 49A
Ltd.

Feature: Timmin's Hill Hd.: Kanmantoo R.L. 1303

Location: Brukunga Co-ordinates: 3884N 1484E

Angle from Horizontal: 30°

Direction: 305° T

Carried out by N.V. Johnston AMDEL Ref.: AN.2496/67 date: 4 Apr.
67.

Samples: A.1362/67 to A.1377/67

Depth (feet)		Results in p.p.m.				
FROM	TO	Cu	Pb	Zn	Cn	V
5.0	10.0	50	50	25	100	25
10.0	15.0	150	250	25	100	40
15.0	20.0	60	200	20	30	20
20.0	25.0	50	200	20	30	40
25.0	30.0	80	400	30	30	40
30.0	35.0	80	300	20	50	150
35.0	40.0	80	120	30	50	50
40.0	43.5	100	150	50	30	400
43.5	45.0	60	100	100	30	60
45.0	50.0	100	200	200	100	120
50.0	55.0	80	150	150	50	80
55.0	60.0	120	150	120	50	200
60.0	65.0	80	120	60	20	20
65.0	70.0	150	500	300	100	400
70.0	75.0	150	500	300	200	400
75.0	80.0	120	250	200	150	250

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APPENDIX 3

SEMI QUANTITATIVE SPECTROSCOPIC ANALYSIS

Project: Nairne Pyrites
Pty. Ltd.

Sect.: 5278

Hole No.: 49

Feature: Timmin's Hill

Hd.: Kanmantoo R.L.: 1303ft.

Location: Brukunga

Co-ordinates: 3880N 1484E

Angle from Horizontal: 30°

Direction: 305° T

Carried out by: N.V. Johnson AMDEL Ref.: AN.2388/67, AN.2390/67.

Sample Nos.: A.1331/67 to A.1340/67, A.1315/67 to A.1330/67

Date: 4th Apr. 1967.

Depth (feet)		Results in p.p.m.				
FROM	TO	Cu	Pb	Zu	Cn	V
0	5.0	40	70	20	50	100
5.0	10.0	40	60	20	60	50
10.0	15.0	30	80	20	60	40
15.0	20.0	100	120	40	40	40
20.0	25.0	120	200	60	20	40
25.0	30.0	50	250	25	20	40
30.0	35.0	40	200	25	50	25
35.0	40.0	6	40	20	120	40
40.0	45.0	100	40	70	30	40
45.0	50.0	40	100	150	15	15
50.0	52.0	100	250	70	30	150
52.0	60.0	120	400	50	30	30
60.0	65.0	120	300	500	50	150
65.0	70.0	80	200	30	50	120
70.0	74.0	150	250	20	150	400
74.0	79.0	100	150	30	40	100
79.0	83.0	80	70	80	12	40

SERIAL No. 710/12

LOG OF DIAMOND DRILL HOLE

PROJECT NAIRNE, PYRITES, PTY LTD. SECTION ~~300A~~ 5280.

R.L. 1245. . . . FEET

FEATURE .TIMMINO. HILL

HUNDRED. KANMANTQO.

ANGLE FROM HORIZONTAL 90° .

LOCATION, BRUKUNGA

CO-ORDINATES, 3620N, 1230E.

DIRECTION -

ROCK TYPE		DESCRIPTION OF CORE	LIFT, CORE LOSS	CORE SIZE, DEPTH	LOG	FRACTURE LOG	STRUCTURES	WATER	WATER PRESSURE TESTS			
DEGREE OF WEATHERING SHOWN IN CORE			%	IN. FT.			JOINTS VEINS SEAMS SHEARED, CRUSHED ZONES	LEVEL CASING WATER LOSS	PERMEABILITY IN LUGONI UNITS			
			2060			1 4 16 64			.10	.20	.30	
									.40	.70	1.00	
CAMBRIAN - KANMANTOO GROUP NAIRNE PYRITE FORMATION	Nº1 ORE ZONE	<p>NO CORE</p> <p>GRANOFELS - CALCOSILICATE Gray - fine to medium grained, 10% brown phlogopite, 50% Fe²⁺-poor, 50% actinolite, little quartz - tremolite?</p> <p>NO CORE</p> <p>GRANOFELS - CALCOSILICATE Light gray-medium grained less 3% Fine Fe sulphide 70% plagioclase, 20% actinolite, tremolite - little quartz.</p> <p>GNEISS - METASILT - Pale grey Medium grained - 10% Fe sulphides mainly pyrite - 10% fine grained pale plagioclase, 50% quartz Rest feldspar.</p> <p>Sulphide content increases to 12-15% mainly pyrite Higher grade due to coarse grained bands 2-5mm thick 10-100mm apart</p>					<p>Possible Fault Zone</p> <p>Possible Fault Zone</p> <p>Zone breccia coarse prism dry second ary mineralization Anastomosing vein system Basalite Fault Zone</p>	<p>No Crinoidosity</p> <p>Veins spaced 0.5 to 2.0 ft apart, mainly parallel to layering, 1.5mm thick, open, iron oxide coated, 1.5mm thick.</p> <p>Layering nodular, phenocrysts at top to bottom of core at 50 ft layers 1.5mm apart.</p>				
END OF HOLE TO 51'												
									NOT TESTED.			

END OF HOLE 435F

NOT TESTED

FRACTURE LOG

1 4 16 64 . . . Breaks in core per foot or . . .

12 3 3/4 3/16 inches Equivalent Diameter

WEATHERING

FR — Fresh
SW — Slightly weathered
MW — Moderately " "
HW — Highly " "
CW — Completely " "

X Gneiss
 ~ Schist
 II Calcisilicate
 Metabolt
 Layering Trend
 Braccia Zone

1

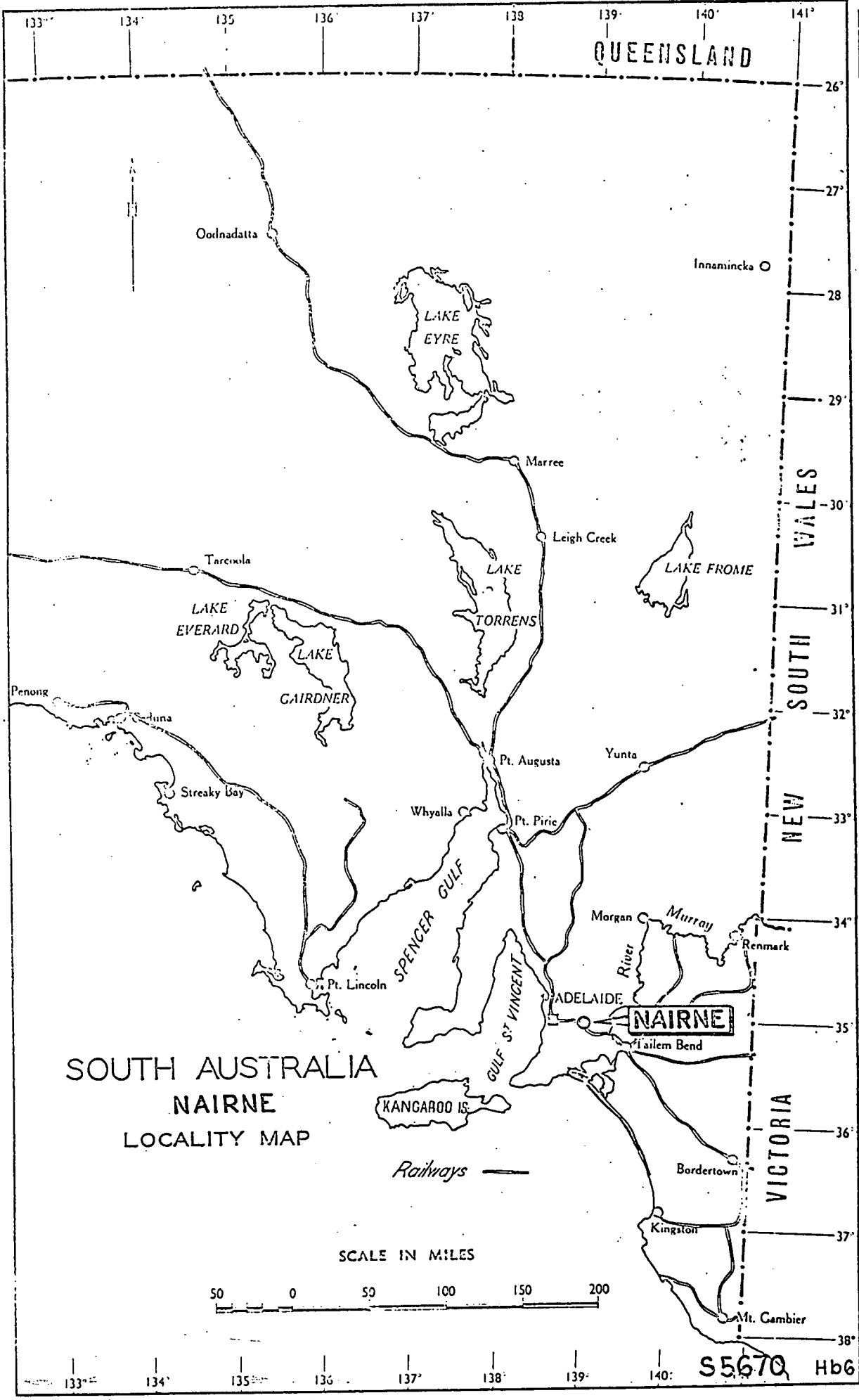
Diameter of fragments in feet

Major Joint

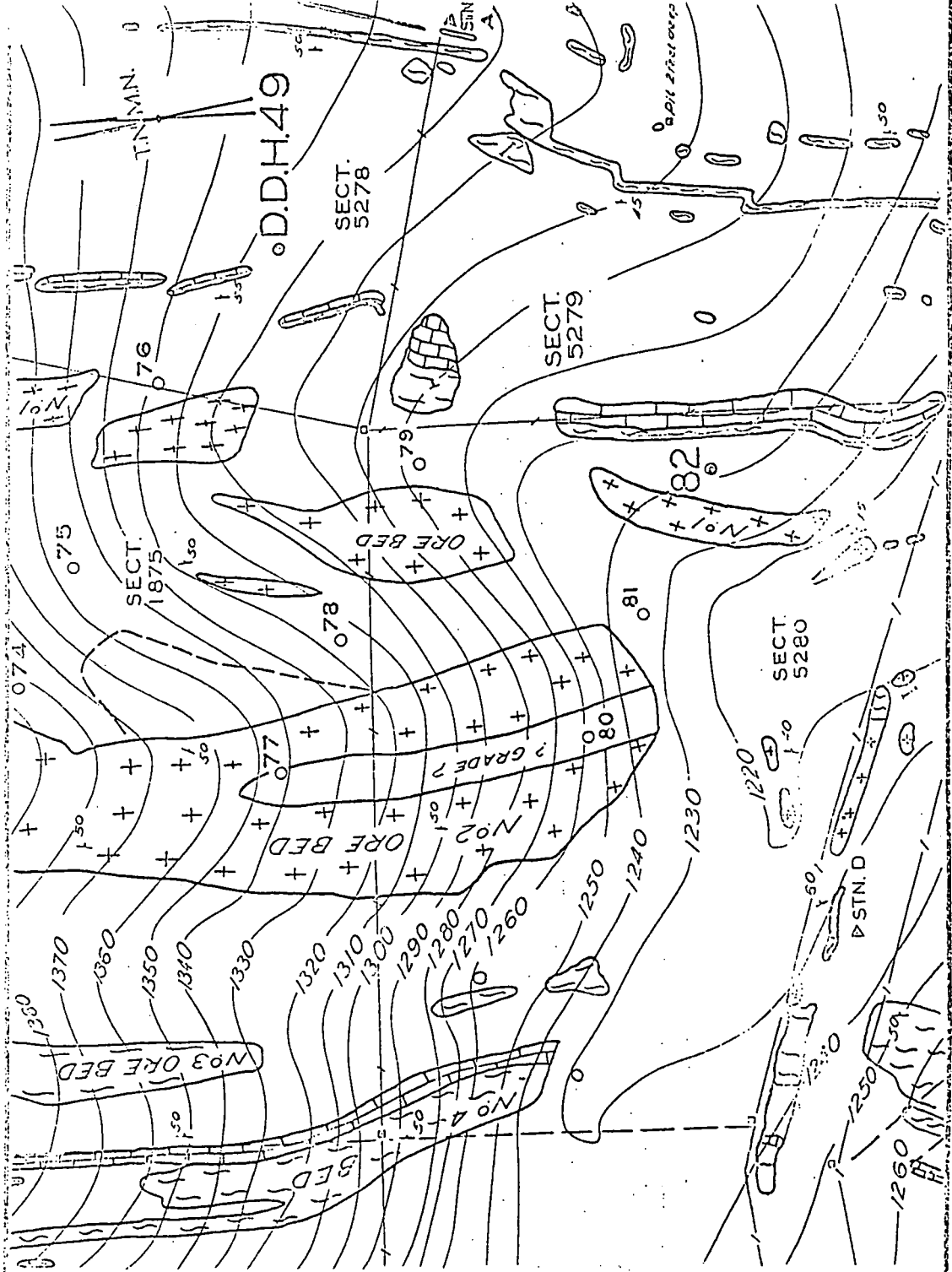
ENGINEERING GEOLOGY
SECTION

DRILL NO. LOGGED M.G.M.
TYPE E1000 DATE 1 Feb '67
DRILLER JAGVIS DRAWN M.G.M.
START 26 Jan '67 TRACED A.M.D.
FINISH 27 Jan '67 CHECKED L.V.W.

DRG. No.	55705 HB
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S5670 Hb6



KANMANTOO GROUP
NAIRNE PYRITE MEMBER

+	+	GNEISS - quartz, phlogopite, feldspar and pyrite
+	+	
+	+	
+	+	SCHIST - quartzite, phlogopite, feldspar and pyrite
+	+	
+	+	
+	+	GRANOFELS - CALCSILICATE plagioclase, tremolite, actinolite
+	+	
+	+	

74 Diamond drillhole location

SCALE 100 0 100 FEET

FIG. 2

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<p>Drawn by: M.G.M.</p> <p>Ted. G.M.</p> <p>Ch. J.L.W.</p> <p>Eng.</p>	<p>GEOLOGICAL PLAN</p> <p>SHOWING DRILL HOLE LOCATIONS</p> <p>SECTS 5278, 5280, 1875 H^oKANMANTOO</p> <p>(TIMMINS HILL)</p> <p>NAIRNE PYRITES PTY. LTD.</p>	<p>SCALE: 100 feet to inch</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">55797</p> <p>Hb 6</p> <p>DATE: 18.4.67</p>
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○ Assay Results for Hole 82A
 — Assay Results for Hole 82
 Note: x ft Hole 82A (x-1-8) ft Hole 82

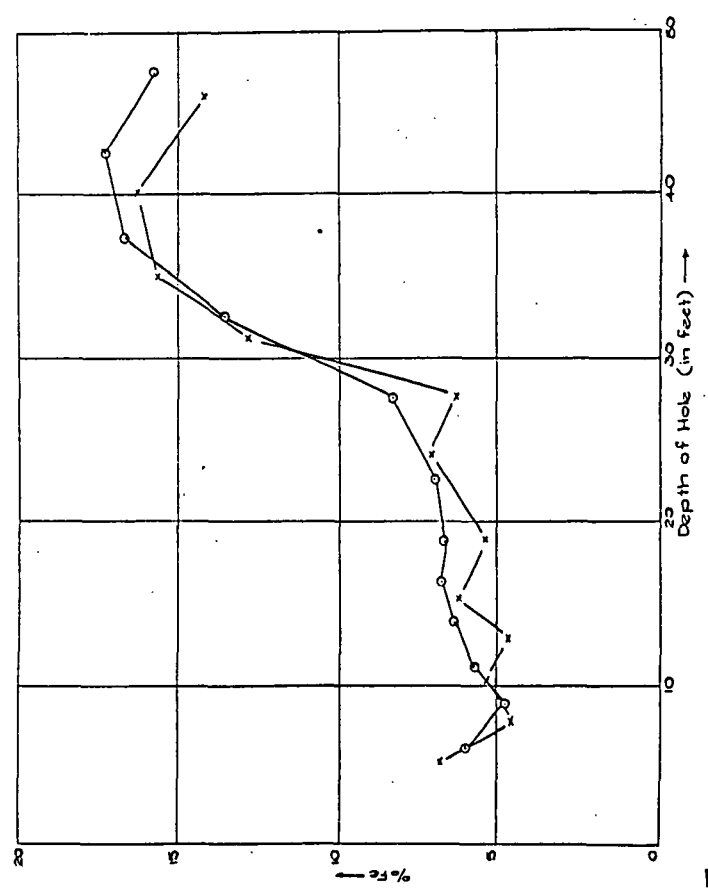
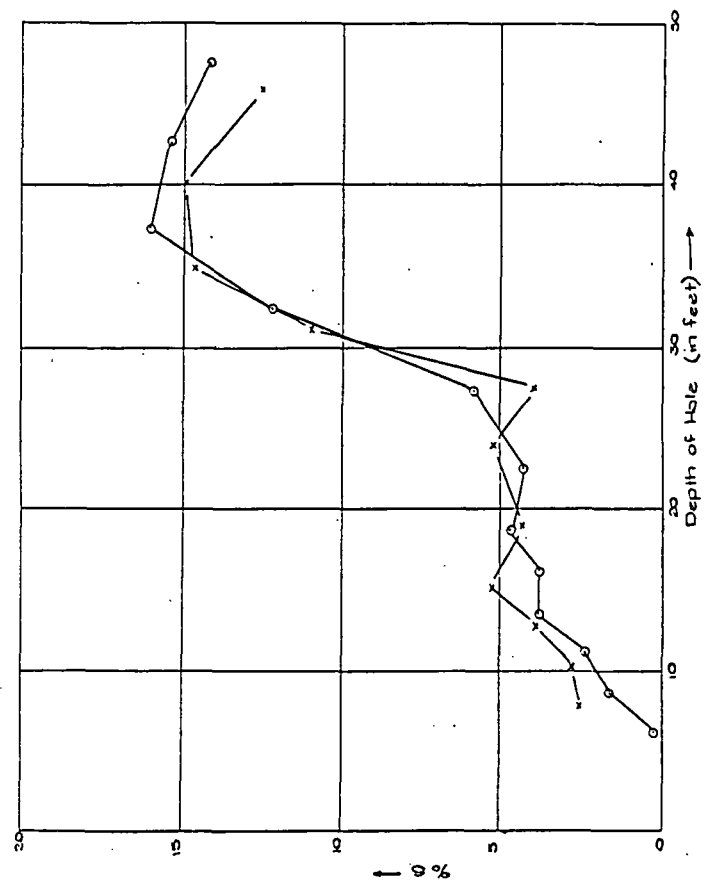
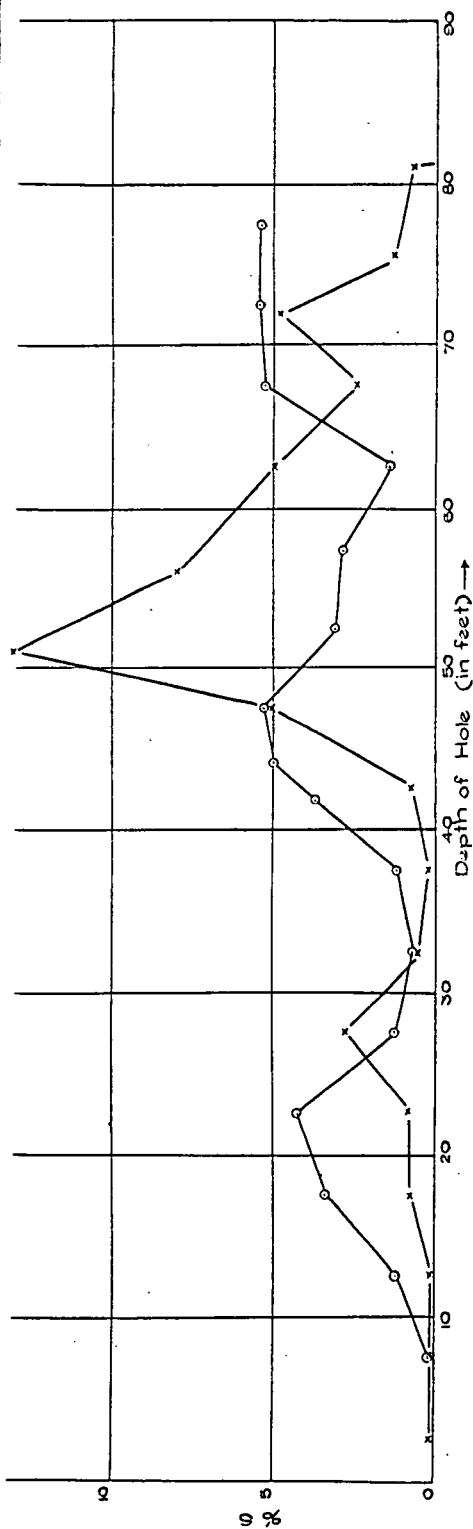


FIG:3a

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	Drn.M.M.	HALCOTRACK DRILL HOLES 82 AND 82A, SEC. 5260 HD. KANMANTOO - TIMMINS HILL COMPARISON %S AND % Fe WITH DEPTH	SCALE: As shown
	Tcd.A.M.F.		55887 H68
	Chd.L.V.M.		
	Exd.		DATE: 2-6-67



○ Assay Results from Hole 40A
 x Assay Results from Hole 49

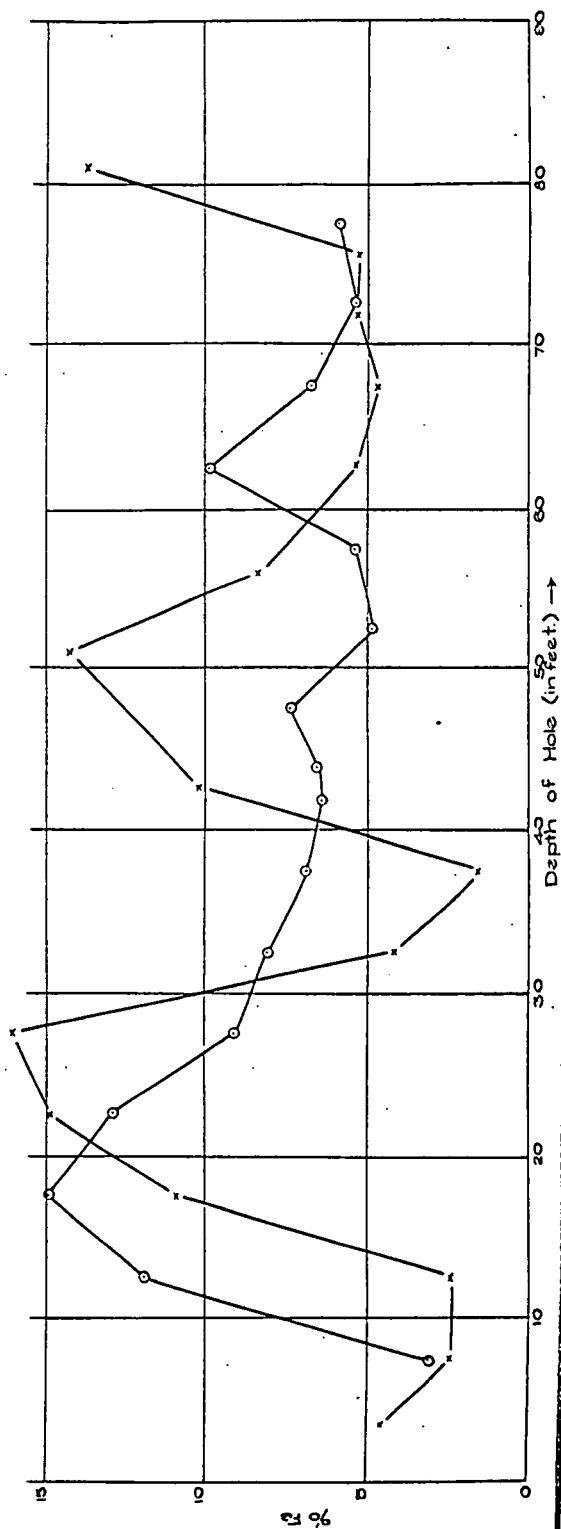


FIG: 3b.

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Dra. MM Ted. AMFD Ckd. LYW Exd.	HALCOTRACK DRILL HOLES 49 AND 49A. SEC. 5278 HD. KANMANTOO - TIMPINS HILL	SCALE: As shown 55888 HbG DATE: 2-6-67
	COMPARISON %S AND % Fe WITH DEPTH	

a Cr
 x Pb
 --- Hole 49A
 --- Hole 49
 --- Hole 48

Note: Similar, irregular comparison with V, Cu, and Zn.

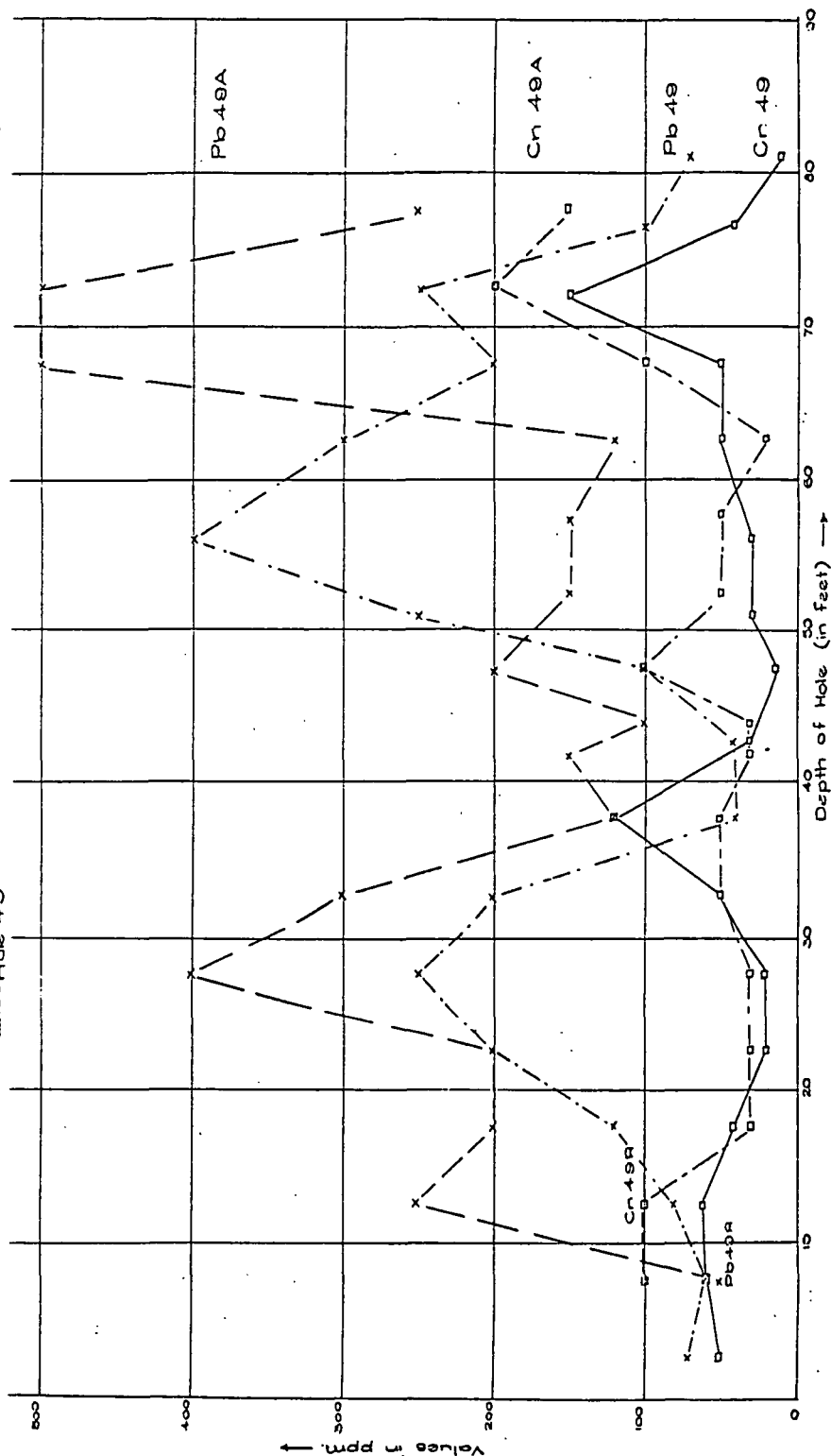


FIG. 4.

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Dr. MM
 Ted. AMF
 Chd. LVM
 End.

HALCOTRACK DRILL
 HOLES 49 AND 49A. SEC. 5278
 HD. KANMANTOO - TIMMINS HILL
 COMPARISON Cr AND Pb (ppm) WITH DEPTH

SCALE: As shown

55889 H66

DATE: 2-6-87