Docket

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Minerals Exploration
So. 157 Howard Street
Spokane 4, Washington
June 22, 1960

Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of Field Operations, OME

From: Acting Field Officer, Region I

Subject: Application examination, Docket No. OME-6089 (Copper)
Harold C. Lambert, et al., Gauntlet Claim Group
Custer County, Idaho

INTRODUCTION

Harold C. Lambert, Agent and Copartner, applied for OME assistance to explore for copper on the Gauntlet group of claims in Custer County, Idaho. He proposed to explore for copper-bearing veins by driving a 450-foot crosscut adit at an estimated total cost of $169,402.50.

On June 4, 1960, about 6 hours was spent on the property examining and mapping the workings and surface showings. The examination was made in the company of Mr. Lambert. Inspection of a 10-foot deep winze, a 6-foot pit, and the open-cut at the portal of the only adit was hampered by packed drift snow and water. The rest of the area was free from snow, but the trenches were badly sloughed and full of debris that was carried in by snow creep or washed in during the spring thaws.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is concluded that some ore-grade material has been shipped from small replacement lenses in quartzite and limestone, but that, on the basis of what could be seen, the chance of making a significant discovery is poor.

The applicant plans to do some more work this summer which might result in additional information that could alter this conclusion. It is therefore recommended that the application be denied without prejudice.

See Plate 1
in Envelope

LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

The property comprises four unpatented claims, the Gamebet, Gamebet No. 2, Gamebet No. 3, and Gamebet No. 4. It is located on the east side of the Star Hope Canyon in the Copper Basin Mining District; more specifically it is in sec. 31, T. 5 N., R. 21 E. B.M.

Although the property is only a little more than 20 air miles southwest of Mackay, Idaho, it is 60 miles from that town by road. For most of the distance the roads are good, ranging from paved highway to graveled county highway and Forest Service road. The last 2 or 3 miles to the property however are over an unimproved Forest Service trail and mine access road. It is doubtful that the property would be accessible during part if not most of the winter months.

GEOLOGY

A brief description of the Copper Basin District is given by Joseph B. Umpleby in "Geology and Ore Deposits of the Mackay Region, Idaho" (U. S. Geol. Survey Prof. Paper 97, 1917). The following summary of the general and local geologic setting is based on that paper.

A thick series of Paleozoic sedimentary rocks comprising bluish-gray fine-grained quartzite, gray to blue siliceous limestone and white fine-grained quartzite with a few interbedded layers of black quartzite were intruded by granite or quartz monzonite in late Cretaceous or early Eocene time. Tertiary volcanics, principally andesites, occupy erosion valleys of an older topography. In places the sedimentary rocks have been intruded by granite aplite dikes.

Rocks seen on the Gamebet claims are beds of white and blue-gray fine-grained quartzite, gray to blue siliceous limestone, and at one locality an aplitic rock, probably a dike. In general, the sedimentary beds strike N. 10°-20° E. and dip 10°-30° SE. One apparent exception to the general strike of the beds was noted near the east end of the adit where the strike is N. 24°-28° W. and the dip is 20°-36° NE. (pl. 1). It is possible that the apparent change in strike is due to some local magnetic attraction. This possibility is strongly suggested by the strike of the beds, as nearly as it could be determined, at the collar of the 10-foot winze where it is about N. 10° E. The aplite material is exposed in the west side of the 6-foot pit near trench 3, where it appears to strike nearly parallel to the beds and to dip vertically to 80° SE.

ORE DEPOSITS

According to Umpleby, ore deposits in the Copper Basin District comprise lead-silver veins and garnetiferous copper deposits, the latter being closely associated with granite aplite dikes. The most important copper property is the Reed and Davidson group located about 6.5 air miles northeast of the Combat claims. Since the Reed and Davidson claims were located in 1888 about $65,000 was spent developing the property and as a result, $40,000 to $45,000 worth of ore was shipped. The deposits occur adjacent to granite aplite dikes in sedimentary beds as well as along particular beds in the sedimentary rocks well removed from any known igneous rock. The ore clearly shows replacement phenomena in the quartzite, in that stringers of ore lead off along joint and bedding planes, in places opening into bunches of ore irregular in shape and uneven in size. The copper occurs chiefly as chrysocolla cut by veinlets and blebs of azurite and malachite. It is associated with considerable amounts of magnetite, garnet, and diopside. The ore is porous and vuggy to the 180 level, the lowest yet opened, indicating that leaching has been extensive. Although no secondary deposition has been found, it could be expected at greater depths.

The application indicates that there are four mineralized veins on the Combat claims. Vein 1, reported to be in the cut leading to the tunnel portal, was completely covered by a remnant of drifted snow (pl. 1). No evidence of its existence could be found in the exposed upper few inches of the walls of the cut or on the nearby surface. The applicant states that a sample of this vein assayed 6.33 percent copper and 1.6 ounces silver per ton over a width of "about 2 feet."

A winze said to be 10 feet deep was covered by a remnant of drifted snow 2-3 feet thick. The winze is reported to be on Vein 2. A small opening was made through the snow, but the winze was full of water and could not be entered. No evidence of the vein could be seen in or near the winze, but material on the dump included fragments of limestone in which chalcopyrite and chrysocolla filled small stringers.

The tunnel, started just east of Vein 1, was driven easterly about 116 feet thence northeasterly about 30 feet. Near the northeast end of the adit a spur was driven northwesterly about 10 feet. Apparently, the target was the downward extension of the vein in the winze.

Vein 3 is shown on the sketch accompanying the application as being east of Vein 2 and crossing the road. Mr. Lambert indicated on the ground where he remembered the vein as being in a shallow road cut, but no trace of it could be found.

Vein 4 was reportedly disclosed in trenches extending eastorly from a stripped area. Trench 1 had been bulldozed to bedrock, but creep had left it full of debris. A narrow trickle of water from melting snow east of the trench had cleaned off a few small patches of bedrock, but no mineralization was exposed.

Trench 2, originally about 5-7 feet deep at the eastern end was partially filled with debris. At the east end of the trench a dog hole had been driven about 4 feet to the south, but it was partially filled by caved debris and the back was bad so it was not entered. Although some ore is said to have been taken from the dog hole, no evidence of how it might have occurred could be found. The upper part of the trench walls were minutely examined, but no evidence of copper mineralization could be found. Ore was also reportedly taken from near the entrance to the cut, but the hole from which it came was full of water, snow, and debris.

Trench 3 was said to have yielded some ore, principally from a water-filled pit said to be about 6 feet deep near the western side of the cut. The trench floor was covered with debris. The walls of the trench, up to 3 or 4 feet high, were carefully examined and occasional weak stains of copper oxide were seen. At the west side of the 6-foot deep pit was an aplitic rock (granite aplite?). It could not be traced for any distance nor could its width be determined because of the debris, but from its exposure in the pit, it appeared to strike about N. 13° E. and to dip vertically to 85° SE.

Small muck piles in front of Trenches 2 and 3 contained quartzite and limestone fragments that were interlaced with hairlike stringers of chalcopyrite, chrysocolla, and other copper oxide minerals. No sample was taken, but it is doubtful if the ton or so of material in the muck piles would average much more than 1 percent copper.

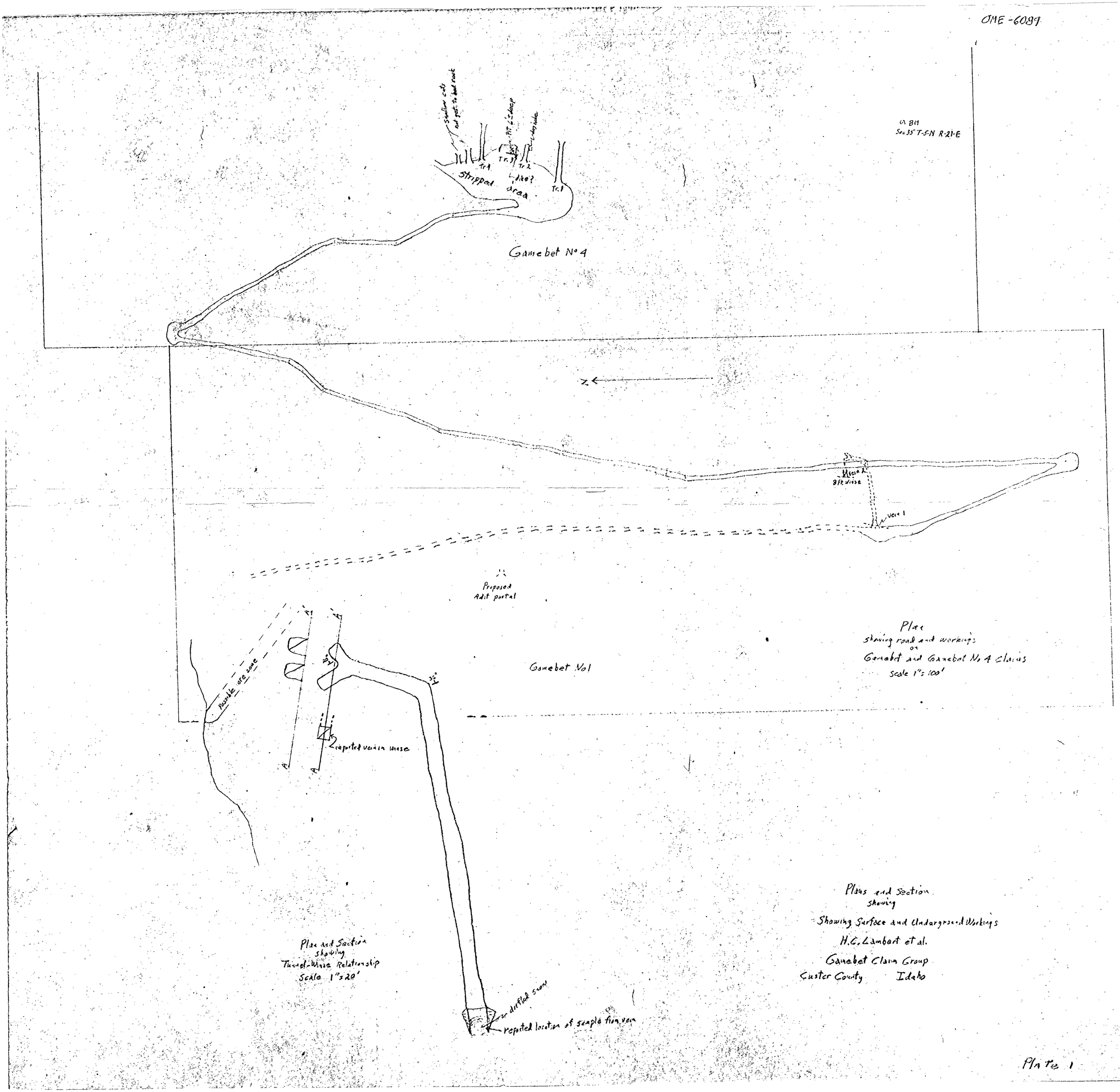
Considering the material remaining on the dumps at the mine and at the trenches, it is quite probable that the shipments reported in the application came from these localities as follows:

Location	Tons	Ag oz/T	Cu %
Vein 2 (winze)	11.773	1.6	8.96
Vein 4 (trenches)	48.694	1.23	2.74
Total	60.467	1.32	3.93

From Mr. Lambert's description of the ore occurrence and from what could be seen there were apparently a few small lenses of chalcopyrite-bearing rock in the vicinity of the trenches. Veins 1 and 2 will have to be exposed and more trenching and general cleaning out of the existing trenches will be necessary before any exploration on the property with Government funds could be justified. Mr. Lambert expects to do this, and to extend the adit about 15-20 feet easterly this summer. If the results are encouraging and he should request reconsideration of his application, another examination should be considered.

Enclosure
Distribution:
OMF(3)
USGS(SRO)
MacLaren
Docket

OME-6089


Shallow cuts not quite to bed rock
Pit 6' deep
Ledge side
Tr. 1
Tr. 3
Tr. 2
Tr. 4
Stripped area
dike?
Gamebet No 4
BM
Sec 35 T-5-N R-21-E
N
Vein 2
8 ft wide
Vein 1
Proposed Adit portal
Gamebet No 1
Plan
showing road and workings
on
Gamebet and Gamebet No 4 Claims
Scale 1" = 100'
Possible ore zone
reported vein in wase
drifted some
reported location of sample fine vein
Plan and Section
showing
Tunnel-Wase Relationship
Scale 1" = 20'
Plans and Section
showing
Showing Surface and Underground Workings
H.C. Lambert et al.
Gamebet Claim Group
Custer County Idaho
Plate 1