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EXPERIMENTAL "VIBROSEIS" SURVEY. SOUTH-WEST VICTORIA.



by

Seismograph Service Limited.

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FINAL PROGRESS REPORT

ON AN

EXPERIMENTAL "VIBROSEIS" * SEISMIC SURVEY

conducted in

THE PORTLAND AREA OF THE OTWAY BASIN

SOUTH-WEST VICTORIA

for

BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

bу

SEISMOGRAPH SERVICE LIMITED

during

MAY - JUNE 1964

* A Trademark of Continental Oil Company

LESTRICTED

SYNOPSIS

An Experimental Vibroseis Seismic Survey was conducted in the Portland Area of the Otway Basin in South-West Victoria by Seismograph Service Limited, Party 243 on behalf of the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics. The survey occupied 33 working days during the period from 11th. May to 24th. June, 1964.

The broad objective of the survey was to assess the Vibroseis method on the basalt cover of the Portland Sunklands where conventional shot hole methods had previously produced poor results.

The survey consisted of three projects, Volcanics 1, 2 and 3. The areas of these projects were selected on the basis of availability of previous seismic data, well control, accessibility and pertinance to future oil prospecting proposals.

The Volcanics 1 Project was designed as an initial test of the Vibroseis method in an area of no basalt cover where good conventional seismic data had been obtained. The location selected was in the immediate vicinity of Pretty Hills No. 1 bore; a continuous velocity log and a synthetic seismogram from this bore were available.

The Vibroseis results in this area were good and compare favourably with the conventional results.

The Volcanics 2 Project comprised the major part of the survey and was located in an area of thick basalt cover where previous conventional seismic work had given extremely poor results. All the detailed experimentation was carried out in this area with the objective of establishing the optimum field technique.

The Vibroseis technique which was developed produced good results and is considered to be a satisfactory solution to the seismic problem in this area.

The Volcanics 3 Project was conducted with the objective of testing the identical technique developed on the Volcanics 2 Project in another area of basalt cover within the Portland Sunklands. The site selected for this project was near Heywood approximately 20 miles to the west of the Volcanics 2 location.

The Vibroseis results were generally fair but the reflection continuity was intermittent. This deterioration in the continuity may be partly attributed to the high ambient noise level caused by the heavy traffic and the densely wcoded road verges.

SYNOPSIS Contd.

This Final Progress Report is based on a preliminary study of the results obtained. A final interpretative report will be submitted upon the completion of the entire experimental survey of which this Volcanics Project forms a part.

GEOLOGY AND PREVIOUS GEOPHYSICAL WORK

GEOLOGY. The Volcanics Projects were undertaken in the Portland Sunklands area of the Otway Basin around the eastern and northern boundaries of the Tyrendarra Embayment.

The area surveyed is covered by basalts with Tertiary sediments exposed to the south and west and pre-Mesozoic sediments to the north. The thickness of the underlying pre-Tertiary strata increases to the south and is controlled by a series of faults running parallel to the coast and down-throwing towards it. The faults are not seen in the Tertiary which dips to the south and is affected mainly by movements which began at the end of the Lower Cretaceous and whose final stages probably precipitated the Tertiary volcanic activity.

Basalt layers cover the surface together with extensive beds of tuff and scoria and are underlain by alluvial deposits and Tertiary sediments. The latter consist of limestones and marls above quartzose and conglomeratic sandstones; further basalt layers probably occur within the sequence.

The Upper Cretaceous is represented by glauconitic sands and carbonaccous shales below which a mudstone occurs which grades into the Lower Cretaceous sandstones and greywackes. Beneath the latter lies the important Otway Group of course sandstones which have a thickness of 3040 feet in the Pretty Hills No. 1 bore and over 7200 feet in the Eumeralla No. 1 bore. The Otway Formation has the lithology of a good reservoir rock and fluorescence has been detected in it on several occasions. Further sands occur below the Otway Group before the base of the Mesozoic section is found resting upon Cambrian diabase.

GEOPHYSICS

Saveral isolated magnetic traverses have been made by the Bureau of Mineral Resources aircraft but the results proved difficult to interpret and this method is not considered an effective exploration tool in the Otway Basin.

Gravity surveys have been carried out by the Bureau of Mineral Resources and Frome-Broken Hill Co. Pty. Ltd.; gravity work has generally been unsuccessful in outlining specific Mesozoic and Tertiary structures within the areas covered by volcanics in south-west Victoria. However the gravity results do suggest that a thick sedimentary section probably exists almost as far as Hamilton in the north and Hawkesdale in the east, the margins being indicated by fairly steep gradients.

The Bureau of Mineral Resources carried out the first seismic tests mainly on the areas of basalt cover near Heywood in 1956. Since 1956, Frome-Broken Hill Co. Pty. Ltd. have conducted extensive conventional seismic surveys largely over the coastal non-basalt areas of the Portland Sunklands. The seismic results were good in many areas, however, there are large areas with Volcanic cover where only poor reflection data has been obtained to date.

The area for the experimental Vibroseis seismic survey was chosen in view of the interest in the extension of the sub-basin under the volcanic cover to the north of the Pretty Hills No.1 bore.

PROGRAMME

The locations of the three Volcanics Projects are shown on the Locality Map (Enclosure No.1).

Volcanics 1. This traverse was situated two miles to the south of Orford on the Port Fairy - Macarthur road in the Shire of Belfast. Approximately 2 miles of line was vibrated equidistantly about the Pretty Hills No. 1 bore.

The line was firstly traversed using a transposed method and this part of the programme occupied two days; two days were then worked retraversing the line using a 10-fold common depth point technique.

Volcanics 2. This project was conducted approximately 12 miles south of the township of Hamilton on the Mount Napier road in the Shire of Dundas. The major part of the experimental work was performed at the northern end of this traverse where the basalt cover was considered to be the thickest. A total of 18½ days were occupied on the detailed experimentation, 5½ days on transposed production recording and 2 days on retraversing a part of the line using a 10-fold common depth point technique.

<u>Volcanics 3.</u> This traverse was located about 6 miles to the north-east of Heywood on the road between Heywood and Hamilton in the Shire of Portland. The only experimental work carried out on this second area of basalt cover was a noise spread and this was followed by $2\frac{1}{2}$ days of transposed production recording and $1\frac{1}{2}$ days of 10-fold common depth point recording using the methods previously developed as a result of the experimental programme of the Volcanics 2 Project.

RESULTS.

The Results obtained are presented in Variable Area Section form as enclosures to this report. Appendix "A" is a complete list of enclosures to the Progress Reports submitted during the course of the Survey, to which reference may be made for the details of the various experimental techniques employed. These Progress Reports together with the enclosures which accompany them are available at the office of the Bureau of Mineral Resources.

Volcanics 1. These results are shown in cross section form as enclosures 3 and 4 respectively for the transposed and common depth point methods. The transposed section does not possess the definition and continuity of the reflections that are shown on the common depth point section.

The basement reflector is well defined and appears at a time of 1.7 seconds at V.P. 97. This location is chosen for reference as it is the closest to the Pretty Hills No. 1 bore. By comparison with the synthetic seismogram of this bore the reflector at 0.76 seconds may be identified as originating within the Otway Merino Formation and above this at 0.58 seconds a horizon may be similarly identified as originating within the Lower Wangerrip Group. An unconformity is evident between these two horizons. The Pretty Hills Sands reflector indicated on the synthetic seismogram is evident on the Variable Area Section at a time of 1.36 seconds. The Sonic Log of the Pretty Hills bore indicates good reflecting conditions at the top of the Upper Wangerrip Group, however, reflections from this region are not apparent on the soction as the Vibroseis technique employed was designed to enhance. the deeper events and, as a consequence, the low average velocity combined with the spread geometry resulted in an attenuation of the shallow events due to normal move out cancellation.

Volcanics 2. The cross sections for this part of the Survey are included as enclosure No. 2 for the transposed and in line work and No. 3 for the part of the line retraversed by the 10 fold common depth point method.

The section of the transposed and in line work is a composite of parts of the various sections submitted with the Progress Report and the numbers of the field tapes on which each profile was recorded are shown at the bottom of the section as a reference to the particular field technique employed. Complete details of these techniques are in the Progress Reports.

At the northern end of the section between V.P.s 199 and 196 the poorer results are probably due to disturbed geological conditions and the section suggests faulting in this region.

From V.P. 196 to 192 in-line technique was used and the results are compatible with the transposed method used from V.P. 192 to the south. The ringing appearance of the records produced with the in-line technique is due to the use of a sweep frequency bandwidth of only one octave (28-57 cps) over this part of the line.

Between V.P.s 196 and 188 a small syncline is revealed whose axis lies at V.P. 193. From V.P. 188 to 183, the quality is poor although a low amplitude event provides continuity at a time of approximately 0.8 secs. Between V.P.s 183 and 184 there is evidence of faulting and from here to the south the record character changes and a high amplitude reflection can be followed which shows good continuity to the southermost end of the section at V.P. 164. This event shows a marked anticlinal reversal centred at V.P. 167. A good character correlation can be made between this strong reflection and the basement reflection recorded on the Volcanics 1 Project. however, there is some evidence, particularly between V.P.s 169 and 165, of deeper alignments. It should be noted that the interface at which this reflector originates lies at a depth of approximately 1500 ft. under V.P. 167. Hence the lithology in this region could be confirmed by drilling.

The section showing the results of the common depth point method has a greater horizontal scale than the transposed being increased by the ratio of the trace interval, i.e. 132 ft. to 88 ft. or $1\frac{1}{2}$ times.

The Common Depth Point method has produced an improvement in continuity between V.P.s 188 to 185. On the transposed section, between V.P.s 185 and 184 a possible fault zone is indicated and disturbed geological conditions to the south from V.P. 184 to 183. The Common Depth Point method does not define this zone as clearly as the transposed.

A weathering survey using a shot hole method was carried out concurrently with the Vibroseis programme and was conducted by the Bureau of Mineral Resourses. The results obtained show that no radical changes occur in the weathering that may seriously affect the stacking of Common Depth Point results or the compositing of individual signals from large source or geophone arrays.

The optimum transposed technique developed from the experimental work was:-

Gaophone pattern - 400 x 200 ft.

No. of Gaophones - 400

Vibrator pattern - 400 ft. in line

No. of sweeps per trace - 10

Spread length - 880 ft.

Offset - 880 - 1760 ft.

Sweep frequency - 20 - 57 cycles per second.

The common depth point technique used was:-

Goophone pattern - 264 ft. - in line
No.of Goophones - 40 per trace
Vibrator pattern - 264 ft. in line
No. of sweeps per trace - 10
Spread length - 1320 ft.
Offset - 660 - 3300 ft.
Sweep frequency - 20 - 57 cycles per second
Sub-surface sampling - 10 fold.

Volcanies 3

The same techniques were used on this project as for the transposed and common depth point traverses of the Volcanies 2 Project. The overall record quality is poorer although at each end of the transposed section (enclosure No.7) the quality is good. An event at 1.3 secs. can be picked with reasonable continuity from V.P. 199 at the northern end to V.P. 192. Continuity is then poor to V.P. 187 where the horizon re-appears and shows strong south dip. Several shallower horizons exist but the results are less reliable than the deeper information.

The common depth point method has improved the continuity of the event at 0.6 secs. at V.P. 94 to a point midway between V.P.s 92 and 93, at this point the continuity is broken. A continuous event showing south dip exists from V.P. 92 to the southern end of the section emerging at a time of 0.7 secs.

A good correlation can be made between the interval time of the seismic reflections at 0.9 and 0.5 seconds at the northern end of the transposed section and the time interval between the primary reflections shown on the synthetic seismogram of Jumeralla No.1 bore at times of 0.4 and 0.8 seconds. This bore is situated about 20 miles south east of the traverse. The Vibroseis record section shows a deeper reflection at 1.3 seconds which should correspond to a bed within the Otway Group. However the sythetic seismogram at Dumeralla No.1 also indicates the probability of first order surface multiples at this reflection time.

CONCLUSIONS

The major objective of the survey was to assess the merits of the Vibroseis method over the northern part of the Portland Sunklands where difficult seismic reflection conditions are encountered due to the presence of extensive near surface basalt layers.

The extreme velocity contrasts existing at the upper and lower interfaces of these high velocity basalt layers form a screen through which it is difficult to transmit seismic energy into the deeper geological section.

It is considered that the results of the survey demonstrate that the Vibroseis method is capable of penetrating the near surface basalt and can provide reliable structural information on the deeper formations.

On the Volcanics 2 section, the strong reflector recorded at times ranging from (.5 to 1.0 seconds shows good correlation with the basement reflector recorded at Pretty Hills No.1 bore and this probably accounts for the fact that few deeper alingments are shown on this section.

Using the transposed method adopted as the optimum technique for this survey area, the production rate was 20 profiles per day giving a sub-surface coverage of 1.7 miles. The comparatively short spread length of 880ft. was used in order to minimise the cancellation of reflected energy due to the effects of steep dip and normal move out. These effects were emphasised by the low average velocities that are associated with the region.

The results from the short part of the Volcanics 2 line vibrated with an in-line technique indicate that the production rate could be further improved without any appreciable reduction in the quality of the data by using either an in-line method or a transposed method of lower effort.

With the 10-fold common depth point method employed on the Volcanics 2 and 3 Projects, sub-surface coverage was produced at the rate of 1 mile per day. The results show that it is possible to successfully effect the stacking of the widely dispersed surface samples obtained with this method. It is therefore considered that variations in the weathered layer and lateral changes of average velocity probably do not constitute a major problem in this area as was presupposed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The information in the section of Geology and Previous Geophysical Work has been abstracted from the Geophysical Preview Report on the Experimental "Vibroseis" Survey in the Otway and Sydney Basins by F.J. Moss. This Preview Report is an internal, unpublished document of the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics.

29th July 1964.

T.L. Kendall, Party Chief,

Seismograph Service Limited

DISTRIBUTION

Bureau of Mineral Resources - Melbourne - 6 copies
Seismograph Service Limited - London - 1 copy
Seismograph Service Limited - Melbourne - 1 copy
Party 243 - 1 copy

LIST OF ENCLOSURES

- 1. Locality Map
- 2. Location Map
- 3. Variable area section Volcanics 1 VP 96 99
- 4. Variable area section Volcanics 1 VP 96 99 (10-fold common depth point)
- 5. Variable area section Volcanics 2 VP 164 199
- 6. Variable area section Volcanics 2 VP 88 91
 (10-fold common depth point)
- 7. Variable area section Volcanics 3 VP 186 199
- 8. Variable area section Volcanics 3 VP 91 94 (10-fold common depth point).

APPENDIX 'A' - LIST OF ENCLOSURES TO PROGRESS REPORTS.

APPENDIX A.

LIST OF PROGRESS REPORT ENCLOSURES AVAILABLE AT THE BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES :-

```
Variable Arca Section Volcanics 2 Noise Spread No. 1
    Combined Pattern Response Curves.
2.
    Time -depth plot - Volcanics 2 Noise Spread No. 1.
    Response - Wave Number Plot - Volcanics 2 Noise Spread
                                                 l.
                                             No.
                                                           17
             - Frequency
                                                           1:
                                        " 2
    Frequency - Wave Number"
6.
    Variable Area Section Volcanics 2.
                                          VP 196-199
                                          VP 88- 91
8.
                                      2.
9.
                                      2.
                                          VP 163-173
10.
                                      2.
                                          VP 173-183
11.
                       11
                                 "
                                      2.
                                          VP 183-188
12. Plot of Pretty Hill Velocity Function.
13. Time-depth Elot - Volcanics 2 Noise Spread No. 2.
.14. Response - wave number Plot - Volcanics 2. Noise Spread
                                                 No.
15. Response - frequency
                                           2.
16. Frequency - Wave Number "
                                           2.
17. Variable Area Section Volcanics 2
                                        VP 185-199
                                     2 VP 190-193
18.
19.
                                     2
                                        VP 193-199
                                     2
                               Ħ.
20.
                                        VP 195-199
21.
                                        Velocity Profile
22.
                                         8-Fold C.D.P.(Profile
                                                      180N.)
23.
                                        Noise Spread No. 3
                                         (Transposed)
24.
                           Volcanics 3
                                        Transposed
25.
                       "
                                        Noise Spread
26. Time-depth Plot - Volcanics 3 Noise Spread
27. Response - wave number Plot-Volcanics 3 Noise Spread
28.
               frequency
29. Frequency - wave number "
30. SP Location MAP (Weathering) - Volcanics 2.,
31. Weathering Profile - Volcanics 2.
32. Diagram of Field Layout For 10-fold C.D.P. ( spread
                                                  offset)
33. Tables of experimental field techniques.
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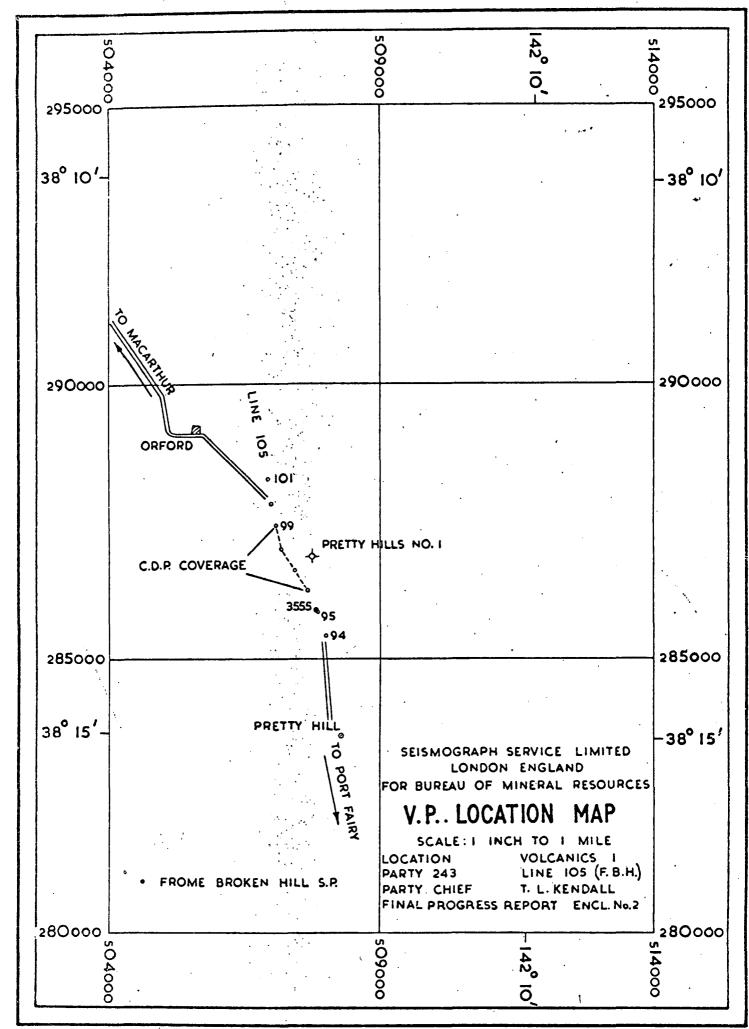


FIG. I

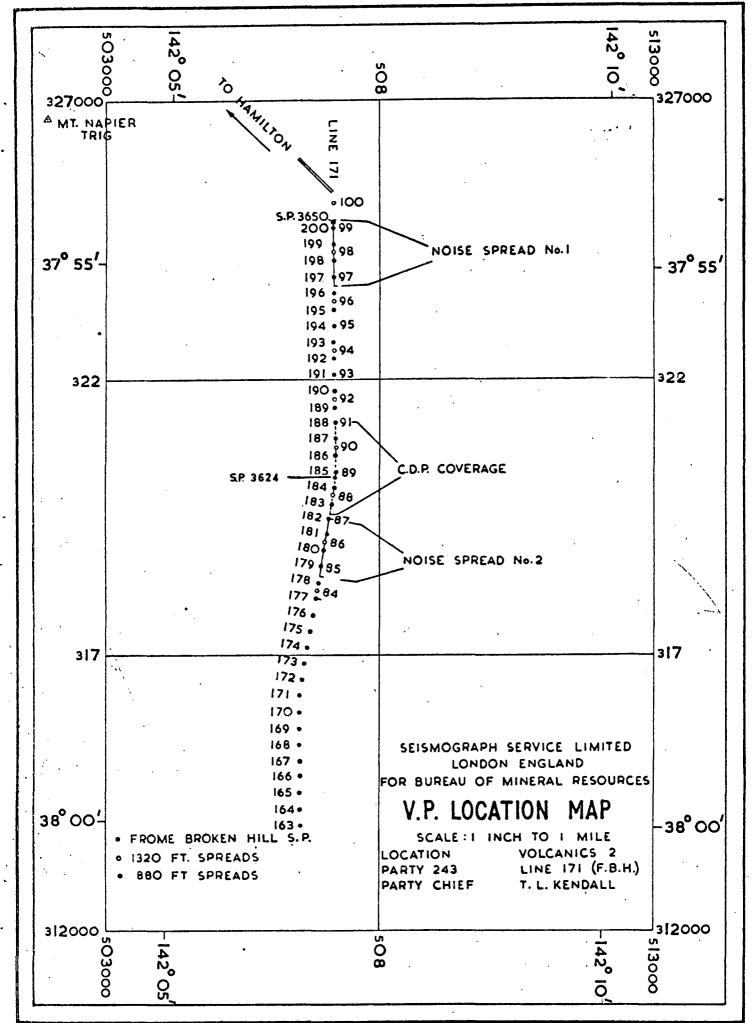


FIG. 2

Plake 2

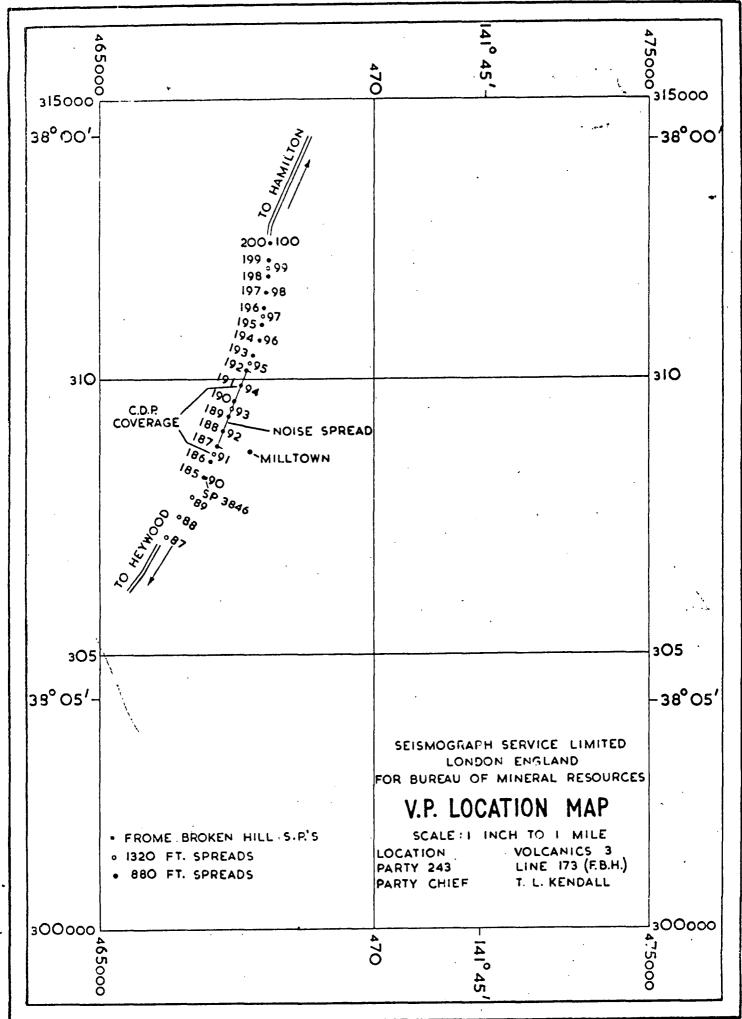
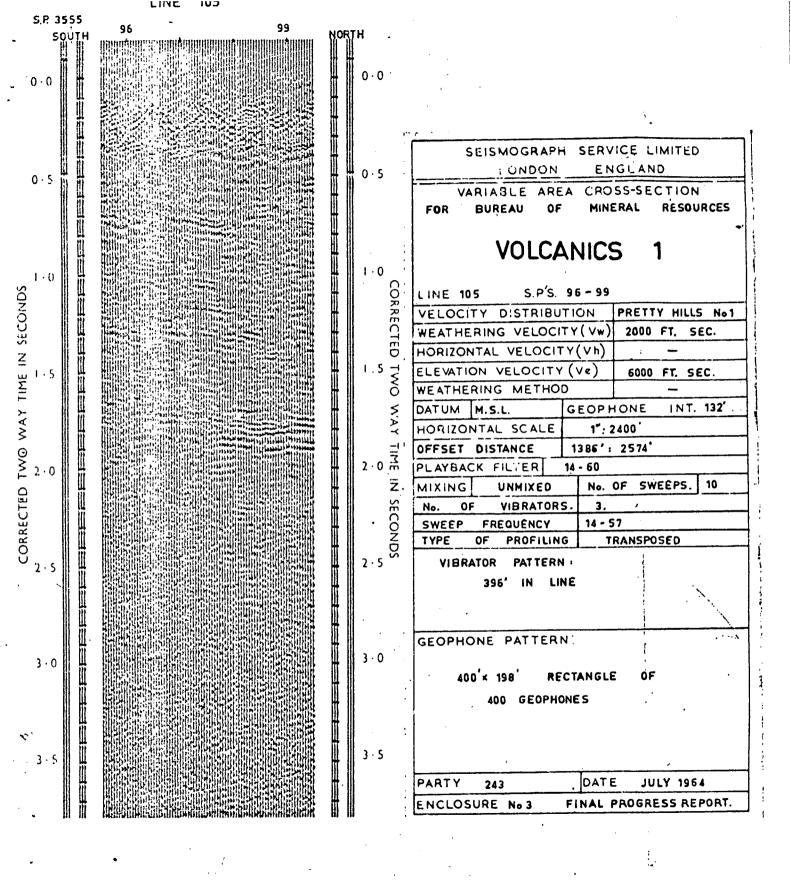
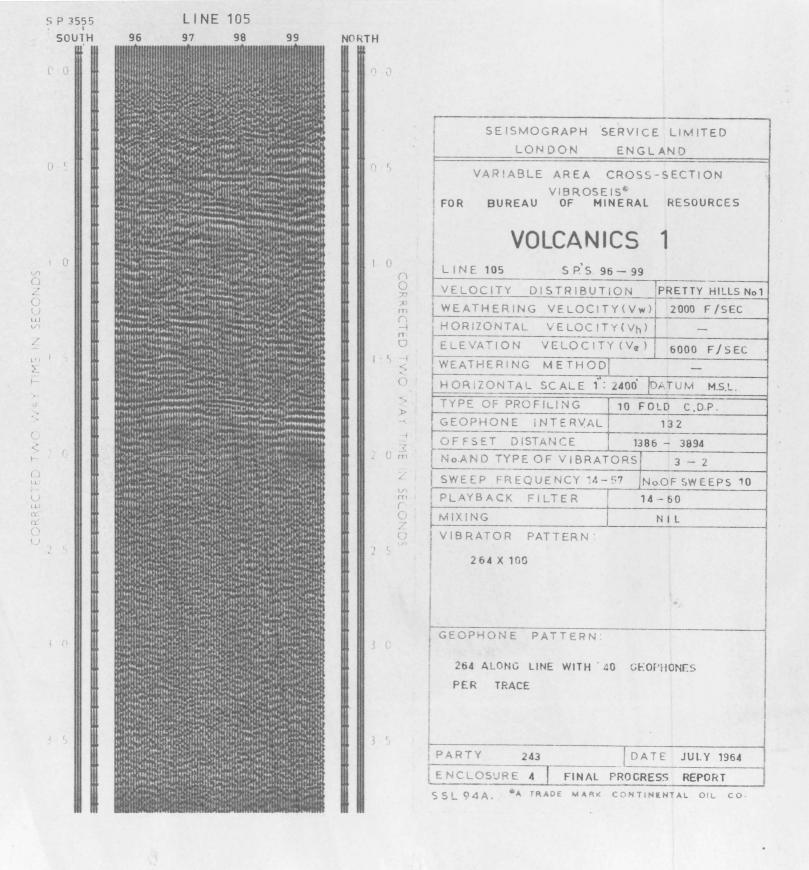
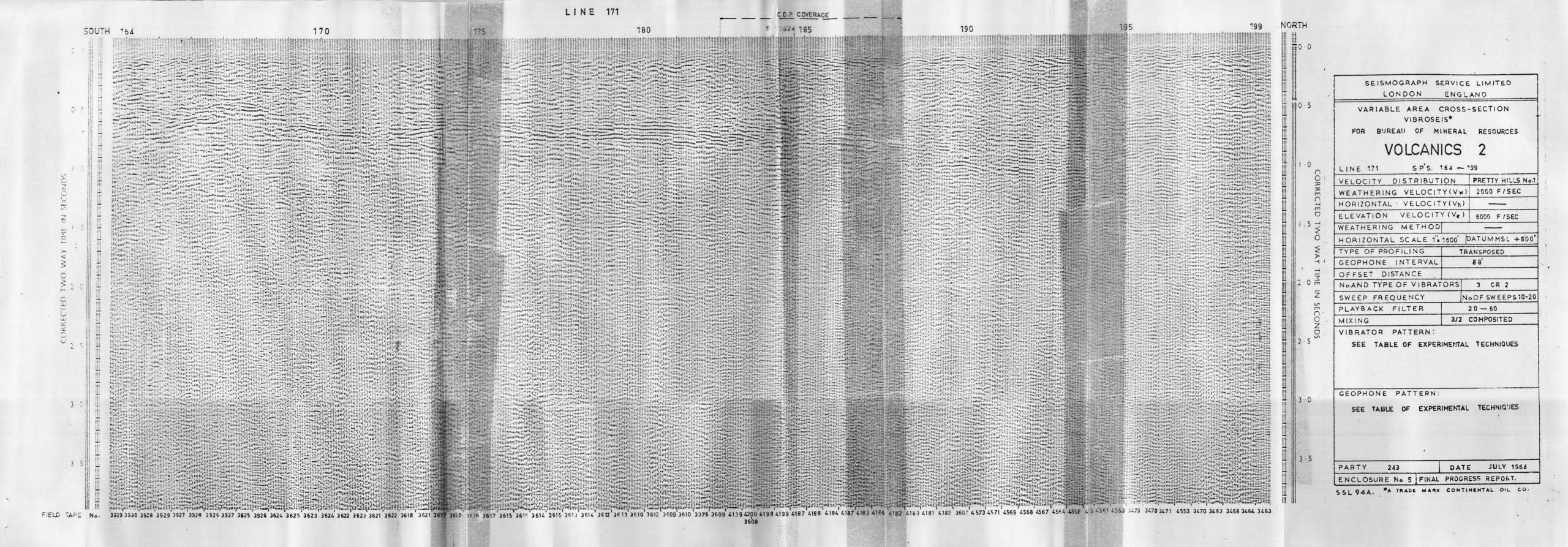
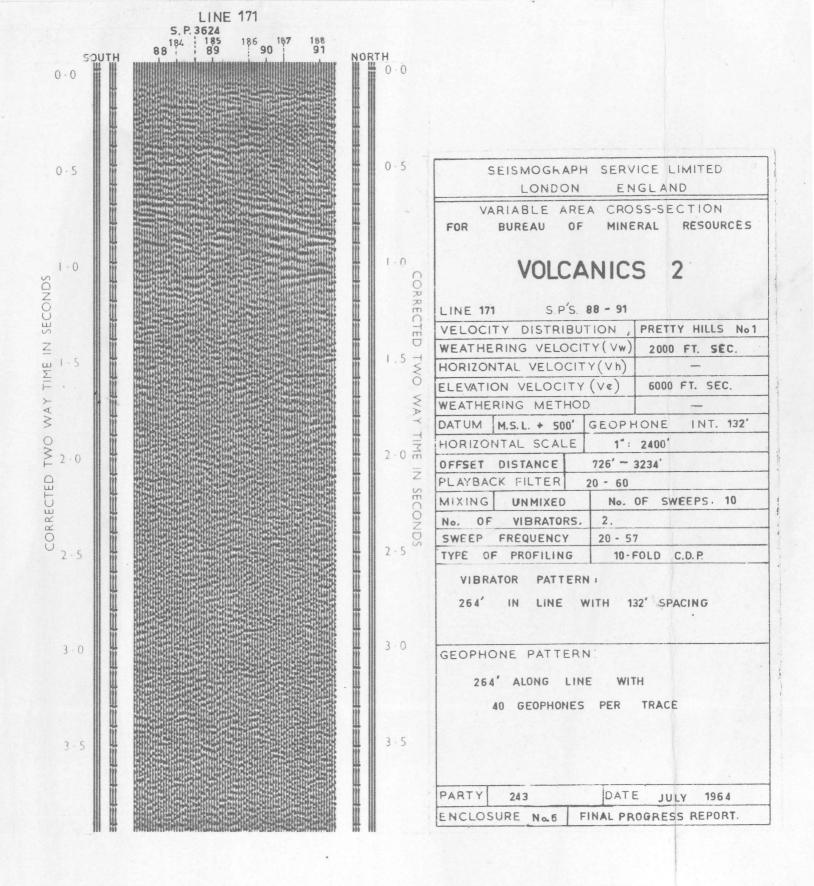


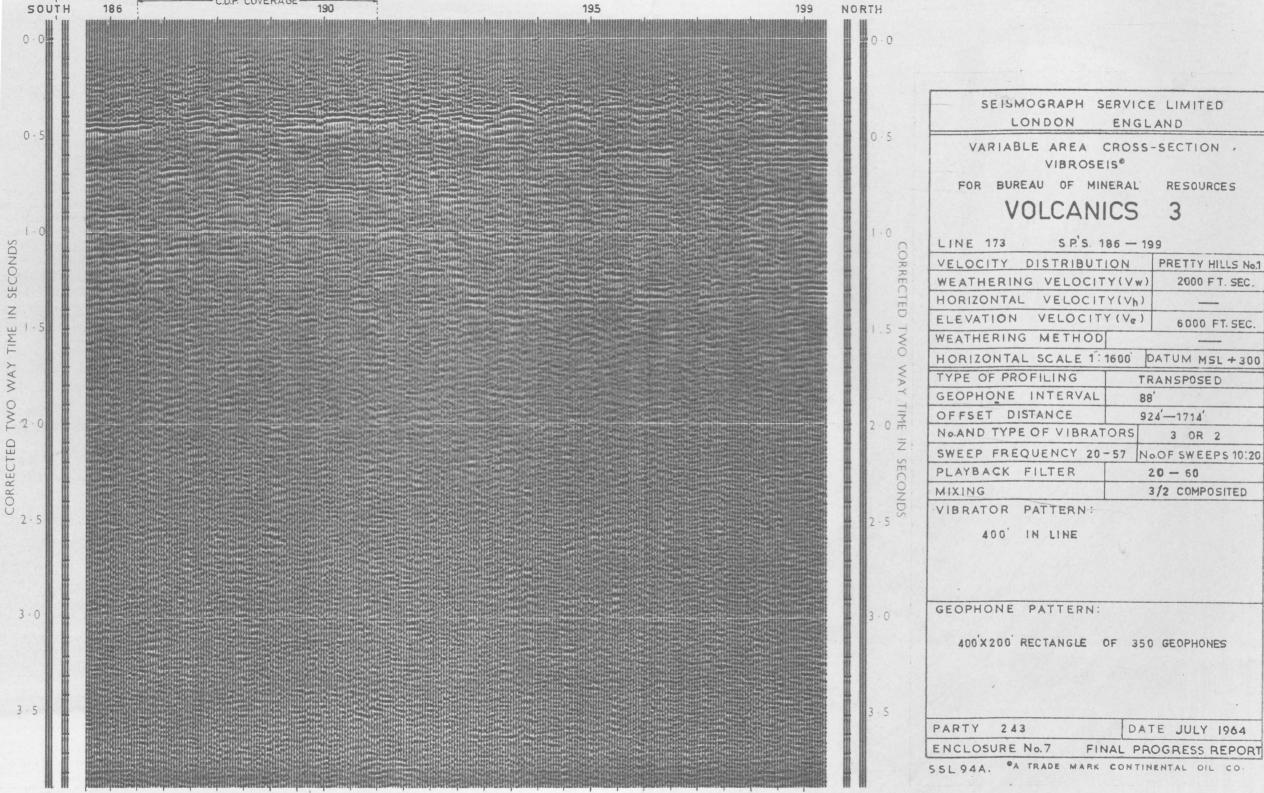
FIG. 3











FIELD TAPE No.3810 3809 3811 3810 3812 3811 3813 3812 3814 3813 3815 3814 3816 3815 3817 3816 3818 3817 3818 3818 3820 3819 3821 3820 3822 3821 3823 3822

LINE 173

S.P. 3846

