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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES,

GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

RECORDS 1953 No. 71

REPORT ON TESTS OF
HELICOPTER -- MOUNTED
EQUIPMENT
FOR
RADIO -- ACTIVE SURVEYING

by

J. DALY

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- 3. Notes on the occurrence of urantum in certain Australian molybdenum deposits.
- 4. Notes on the economic aspects of helicopter survey work.

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ARSTRACE.

In the search for deposits of radio-active minerals the Eureau has used scintillometer equipment mounted in a D.C.3 aircraft with considerable success in suitable country. In order to investigate the possibility of extending the application of this type of survey to mountainous country, over which the D.C.3 could not be used, tests of similar equipment mounted in a helicopter have been made over three areas in New South Weles. The areas selected were at Carcoar, Tenterfield and Broken Hill.

The results of the tests indicate that a scintillometer mounted in a helicopter can be successfully used in almost any type of country. However, in areas of low relief, the D.C.3 alreraft is preferable, owing to its greater speed and to the fact that it can carry suxiliary equipment by means of which its position at any time can be accurately fixed. The helicopter will not give the rapid and complete routine coverage of large areas that is given by the D.C.3.

In rugged or mountainous country where the larger sircraft cannot be used the helicopter offers great advantages over other methods of prospecting for radio-active deposits. For this work it is best operated by following flight lines related to easily identifiable map features.

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TOTAL CONTROL OF THE STATE OF T

In connection with the use of airborne equipment for the detection of deposits of radio-active minerals, the Bureau has successfully used a D.C.3 aircraft for the rapid coverage of large areas. It has been frequently suggested that a helicopter would have the following advantages over a conventional aircraft under certain conditions:

- (1) It can fly safely at lower heights and slower speeds than an ordinary aircraft, thus obtaining greater sensitivity from the detecting apparatus.
- (ii) It can be used effectively and safely in mountainous areas. In which low flying by a conventional aircraft would be impossible.
- (iii) It would enable the observer to locate exactly and identify from the air any small area on the ground showing radio-activity.

In order to assess the performance of helicopters a programme of tests of helicopter-mounted equipment over selected areas in New South Wales was carried out during March, 1953. The areas selected were :-

- (i) Carcoar. This is a hilly area, but not timbered.
- (11) Wunglebung, near Tenterfield. This is a mountainous, heavily timbered area.
- (111) Proken Hill. This is a relatively flat featureless area.
- (iv) A test run was also made over Flen's deposit at Toongi, near Dubbo, in order to obtain a check on the sensitivity of the detecting instrument.

The survey techniques used and the results obtained in the several areas are discussed in detail below. Technically, the method showed to best advantage at Carcoar, where a picture of the distribution of redio-activity over a considerable area was obtained, a picture which probably could not have been obtained by any other method.

Results at Tenterfield were highly encouraging from a prespecting point of view, but drew attention to certain deficiencies in the detecting apparatus used.

at Broken Hill, although indications were observed over known deposits, results generally were not particularly striking, owing in part to the almost featureless topography, which made accurate positioning of the aircraft very difficult, and in part to peculiarities in the distribution of radio-activity in this area, which would probably affect the performance of any airborne instrument.

The aircraft used was a Sikorsky S51 helicopter made available by R.A.A.F., who also supplied the pilot and maintenance crew. A report by the pilot on the navigational espects of the operation is attached as Appendix 1. R.J.F. de Groot and L.E. Howard, geophysicists, were responsible for navigation and operation of the scintillometer during the tests.

2. DETAILS OF SOUTHWEST

The detecting instrument used was a Brownell Mark VI Scintilioneter. This instrument detects the presence of radioactivity by the scintillations produced by gamma rays in a crystal of sedium iodide activated with thallium. The scintillations are amplified by a photomaltiplier tube, and fed into a ratemeter circuit. Certain deficiencies in the Brownell instrument became apparent during the course of the survey. To appreciate these a rather more detailed description of the functioning of the instrument is desirable.

A schematic diagram of the instrument is shown on Plate I. Pulses from the crystal, already amplified by the photomultiplier tube, are further amplified by a two stage voltage amplifier and applied to a "one shot" multivibrator with adjustable bias. The tank circuit and indicating meter are included in the plate circuit of one of the multivibrator tubes. A choice of two indicators is provided -

- (1) A panel-meanted sicrosmeter.
- (11) An Esterline-Angus recorder.

The sensitivity of the panel-mounted micronmmeter may be varied by switching. No provision has been made for varying the sensitivity of the recorder.

alteration of the adjustable bias on the multivibrator alters the amplitude of the pulse necessary to trigger it, and thus discriminates against a certain range of amplitudes in the pulses received. This adjustment alters the sensitivity of the whole equipment in a manner very difficult to assess. The method of adjusting the equipment recommended by the maker is to adjust the bias, when the aircraft is in flight, so that the background reading is set to a standard figure. As this adjustment affects the sensitivity of the whole equipment, it is impossible to compare instrument recordings taken over areas in which the general level of activity is different. This would perhaps not be a serious effect in general, but has certainly affected the sensitivity of the instrument as used in the Broken Hill district.

In order to avoid this difficulty the equipment should be divided into two portions. These would be the detector and emplifier section and the ratemeter section, the response of each of which can be checked independently. The following modifications to the equipment are considered desirable and could easily be carried out:-

(1) The response of the retemeter section should be checked by a built-in fixed frequency pulse generator. The blas would be adjusted, when the crystal is not providing any pulses, so that the deflection produced by the pulses from the pulse generator is at a standard level. The stability of the bias setting could then be quickly checked at any time. The performence of the crystal and amplifying stages could be checked by flying a standard line, or by using a standard source of radiation placed at a standard distance from the crystal.

- (ii) Provision should be made for adjusting the sensitivity of the recorder by switched shunts. It would be necessary at the same time to switch resistance in series with the recorder, so that the effective plate load of the final tube remains constant.
- (iii) Provision should also be made for operating the squipment at maximum sensitivity over any area without regard to the level of activity present. This would involve switching standard backing-off currents through the recorder.

Under the conditions of the tests, the maximum sensitivity of the instrument was found to be high, and it is considered adequate to the requirements of this type of work.

CARCOAL WINDS

(a) Previous Mork.

The occurrence of uranism in the cobalt workings at Carcoar has been known for many years. The area surrounding the workings has been investigated by field parties from the Eureeu, and their reports contain details of the geology (Matheson, 1952a) and the level of radio-activity observed (Daly, Dyson and Pearce, 1951).

The known deposits occur in a relatively small area, which is a contact some between diorite and slates. Close traversing on the ground with portable deliger counters revealed small areas of high activity on the dumps, and a wide area over which some slightly high readings were obtained. It was hoped that when observed with a very sensitive instrument from a height of 100 feet the integrated effect from this area would be detectable, and would serve to characterize the area, and that other areas showing similar effects might be discovered. Such areas could be considered favourable for prospecting for deposits similar to those already worked.

(b) gethod of operation.

The area is hilly and lightly timbered in places. An attempt was made to fly parallel traverses 200 feet apart, using a truck as a marker at one end. Traverses 1 to 14 were flown in this manner and are shown on the map (Plate 2) in their theoretical position. However, it was found quite impossible to position these traverses with any approach to accuracy. The position of the actual flight paths probably differs considerably from that shown, but as the recordings on these traverses showed nothing of interest it was considered that re-flying was not justified.

For the remainder of the traverses a different method of surveying was used. The area was divided into sections. For each section a map feature, such as a road, a creek, or ridge, on each side was chosen, and traverses were flown between these features, the beginning and end of each traverse being identified on a map. The map used was a section of the Mayney i-mile sheet, enlarged to a scale of 8 inches to the mile. The distance of 200 feet between traverses was estimated (it will be noted from the map that distances were generally under-estimated). This method of location proved satisfactory, in that the actual points at which the map features were crossed could be located accurately in this type of country. It has the disadvantage that the direction of the traverses is controlled by the map features.

and cannot always be chosen to suit the strike of geological formations. It so happens that the general distribution of radio-activity along the western boundary of the area is best disclosed by the general east-west lay of the traverses. North-south traverses would be very difficult to fly in this area.

(e) Accuracy of positioning.

The position of traverses flown and a portion of the results are shown on Plate 2.

Inaccuracies in positioning are due to the following causes :-

- (i) The impossibility of maintaining constant ground speed in country of this type.
- (ii) The effect of wind, which cannot readily be allowed for with a helicopter, especially when flying in very hilly country.
 - (111) Inaccuracy of recording the beginning and end of each traverse.
 - (iv) Departure of actual flight length of traverse from the map length due to the aircraft following the slope of the country.

A measure of the effect of these may be seen in Appendix 2 which shows the overall chart length per mile of map covered along traverses 15 to 115 flown at Carcoar. It will be observed that the divergences are serious, although they tend to average out in a contour plot of a broad anomaly such as that shown, since each end of each traverse has been fixed with fair accuracy.

(d) Results.

In general, results over the area surrounding the cobalt workings were disappointing. Small definite anomalies were observed when the aircraft flow directly over the dumps, but no general effects were observed over this area. Very definite anomalies were observed on a number of traverses along the western boundary of the area surveyed. It was found possible to contour a number of the traverses, and this method of presentation of the results has been adopted in Plate 2.

So that the contours may present a picture of results as obtained, including insecuracies, smoothing and adjustment of the data has been kept to a minimum. It is considered that the displacement of the contours on traverses 64 to 68 shows the effect of inaccuracies of positioning. Traverses 1 to 47 were flown in one block, and contours derived are shown in full lines. Traverses 48 to 63 were flown on the most day and contours are shown in dotted lines. It will be noted that there is a slight break in level between the two sets of contours. This is due to a different adjustment of the background setting of the instrument.

(e) Thecks on eround.

Tests were made on the ground, using portable Geiger counters in order to correlate the observed anomalies with the geology. It was found, however, that the sensitivity of the

airborne scintillometer is so high compared with the portable instruments that it was difficult, without a very thorough examination, to observe sufficient range in the readings obtained on the ground and obtain definite results. The areas of high radio-activity in the neighbourhood of the cemetery appear to be associated with outcropping granite, on which readings up to twice background were observed. The long area of high readings on the western edge of the area could not be associated with any geological formation. This area lies on a very steep slope, and outcrops are very few. A generally high reading of up to twice background was observed over the soil cover. Becent geological mapping (Matheson, 1952a) indicates that this portion of the area consists of basic rocks, possibly sheared. It is considered that the readiest method of interpreting the results, would be to extend the survey by helicopter considerably to the morth and west and re-examine the geology in the light of the findings of the extended survey.

Typical records over the Carcoar area are shown on Plate 3.

The total amount of flying time on the Carcoar survey was about 7 hours.

(f) Assessment.

The results obtained at Carcoar show that the inaccuracies of positioning the aircraft are such that this method could not be used economically to search for small anomalies, such as those associated with the cobalt deposits. The results obtained over the western portion of the erea, however, show the method in a very favourable light. It appears that if it is desired to obtain a picture of the regional distribution of radio-activity over an area too hilly for the use of the D.C.3, and for which detailed photomosaic or map coverage is available, the use of helicoptermounted scintillometer equipment is superior in speed and sensitivity to any method of ground surveying.

Results of geological interest would certainly be obtained by extending the work at Carcoar to the north and west. It cannot, of course, be presumed at the present stage that such results would necessarily have any direct usefulness in the search for deposits of radio-active minerals of commercial value.

4. TOTERFILLD SUNTEY

(a) Previous work.

The Wunglebung area lies about 25 miles south-east of Tenterfield. Here, molybdenite has been mined from small pipe-like deposits adjacent to a contact of g ranite with porphyry. The deposits worked are described briefly by Andrews (1916), but owing to the extreme roughness of the country the area has not been theroughly prespected.

It was discovered during the programme of radio-active testing of specimens in mineral collections carried out by the Bureau during 1948 that molybdenite specimens from Wanglebung

showed radio-activity. A brief visit was paid to the workings by a geophysical party during 1948, and it was observed that the main spur upon which the workings lie shown general high activity readings on a portable Geiger counter ranging up to five times background. The area was selected as giving the opportunity of testing the performance of the helicopter in mountainous, heavily timbered country.

(b) Esthed of onecation.

Operations were seriously interfered with by bad weather. It appears that work in this area should be confined to the summer months. Versistent low cloud prevented any flying for two days, and only two flights to the Munglebung area were possible. The aircraft was based on Tenterfield, and a number of test flights was performed over various features in the neighbourhood of the town.

A feature of the Tenterfield area generally was the number and magnitude of the radio-active annualies encountered. A preliminary test flight was made over the Munglebung area, and it was found that over much of the area the recorder was continuously off scale. For the remainder of this flight the bias setting was adjusted to keep the recorder reading on scale. For more thorough coverage of the area near the workings a set of flight lines following the tops of the ridges was laid out, using a portion of the Tenterfield 1-mile map sheet, enlarged to a scale of two inches to the mile. These were flown, starting in each case from the highest point of the traverse. Flights were also made following the course of the main creeks. For these traverses, a shunt was fitted to the milliammeter for the purpose of reducing its response by one half. As resistors of the correct values were not available, the performance of the shunt was only approximately as designed, the sensitivity of the shunted recorder being rather lower than that aimed at.

(c) Results.

The lines flown are shown on Plates 4 and 5. The test flights around Tenterfield showed a number of very definite isolated anomalies. The positions of these are shown on Plate 4. Time did not permit of the location of these anomalies on the ground. Their significance is therefore not known, but it seems possible that some at least are associated with radio-active solybdenite veins. An attempt was made to locate the anomaly south of Bluff Rock during the return trip, as the traverse was flown along the road. Some hours were spent testing the area with portable Geiger counters, and readings of twice background were obtained beside the road for a distance of over a mile. It is considered, however, that these readings are insufficient to account for the observed anomaly. It is possible that the anomaly was due not to radio-active material below the aircraft, but to strong activity in the high ground south of Bluff Rock itself, which would be on a level with the aircraft in flight. Such anomalies would be best located by spotting the area of highest activity by maneguring the aircraft rather than by flying a definite course from a map.

High activity was observed in the Wunglebung area. The anomalies appeared as high readings along considerable lengths on the flight lines. The location of these anomalous areas is shown on Plate 5. The nature of the anomalies suggests the presence of large areas of low grade mineralisation,

rather than the known small, pipe-like molybdenite deposits. If it were possible to operate the scintillometer at maximum pensitivity, it might be possible to detect isolated anomalies superimposed on the main activity and due to molybdenite pipes. Without further geological examination and laboratory tests on samples, it is not possible to offer an estimate of the significance of the Sanglebung anomalies with any confidence.

(d) Assessment.

It is considered that the results obtained in the Tenterfield area give a very favourable impression of the capabilities of helicopter-mounted equipment in country of this type, much of which would be inaccessible to conventional aircraft. To utilise completely the possibilities of the equipment, the equipment modifications suggested earlier should be incorporated. All flights made followed the tops of ridges; however, around Tenterfield itself, semi-routine coverage, similar to that flown at Carcoar, would be possible. The most efficient use of a helicopter in this country would be as an adjunct to a full-scale geological survey party. The aircraft could then be used, either for routine coverage of a small area as required, or for prospecting flights on which actual anomalies could be spotted on to a photomosaic and investigated immediately.

Typical records from the Tenterfield area are shown on Plate 6.

Total flying time was about 8 hours.

(a) Previous work.

Tests were made over portions of the Broken Hill field as this area is very similar in physical characteristics to a large part of the Fre-Cambrian area of Australia. The general distribution of radio-activity in this area has been investigated on the ground by the Geophysical Section (Daly and White, 1952).

(b) <u>sethod of operation</u>.

Test flights were made over the following areas :-

- (1) The known radio-active deposits (Balaclava Copper Blow, Hen and Chickens, Great Western).
- (11) Patterson and Polkinghorme's prospect (a recently discovered radio-active occurrence).
- (111) Outcrops south of the racecourse, and in the Rockwell Paddock area, which had been found to show radio-activity rather greater than normal (Daly and White, 1952).

The positions of these areas are shown on the map (Flate 7). An attempt was made to cover the area around the Balaclava Copper Blow systematically, by flying north-south traverses 200 feet spart, marking the morthern ends by means of a truck. It was found, however, that it was quite impossible to locate the position of the aircraft with any accuracy in flat featureless country of this type.

(c) Results.

Anomalies were observed over all known deposits. As was expected, the largest anomaly was a narrow one over the Warren shaft at the Balaclava Copper Blow, where the main radio-active anomaly had been found on the ground. A feature of the Broken Bill district, previously noted by Daly and White (1952) is the general high level of radio-activity in the country rocks. This has affected the results in two ways.

- (1) When the bias setting of the instrument is adjusted so that the background reading is at the level recommended by the manufacturer, the sensitivity is lower than in normal country for reasons explained earlier. The effect of the high background may be seen in the strong negative anomaly obtained over Uncerumberka reservoir (see Plate 9, Sheet 5).
- (2) On all profiles, frequent small anomalies are present, due to the passage from outcrop to soil cover. These may be seen in the profiles over the racecourse, and the Nockwell area (Flate 9, Sheets 6 and 7). These complicate the records and could possibly obscure readings of greater significance. It is possible that results obtained using the D.C.3 aircraft will be affected similarly.

A prospecting flight to the south, along the border fence was made. The approximate course of this flight is shown on flate 8. No strong anomalies were encountered on this flight. The general level of activity along the border fence was rather less than that on the return flight, probably due to the fact that outcrops are fewer along the fence.

Examples of records obtained in the Broken Hill area are shown on Flate 9.

Total flight time was about 9 hours.

(d) Assessment.

The results obtained at Broken Hill drew attention to the difficulties of the operation in country of this type. Some of these difficulties are due to geological causes, which would probably affect any airborne equipment to some extent. Routine coverage is practically impossible with the helicopter. There is one possible way of covering the field in some detail. Most of the area has been carefully mapped by the geologists of Zinc Corporation Ltd., and maps are available on which all creeks of any importance are marked. If all these creeks were systematically flown with the helicopter, a fairly good general coverage of the known field would be obtained. This work could be completed in about three weeks, and it is possible that the results could be more readily correlated with the geology than results obtained from routine coverage with the D.C.3 aircraft. On the other hand, it should be noted that the country around Broken Hill is ideally suited to the operation of the D.C.3 with Shoran positioning, and any major anomalies would be located much more rapidly by this means than by the use of the helicopter.

In order to obtain definite information on the sensitivity of the scintillometer, a test flight was made over a deposit of trachyte, showing high radio-activity at Toongi, near Dubbo. The location of this area is shown on Flate 10. This outcrop, known as Flen's deposit, had been examined previously (Matheson, 1952b). The outcrop consists of a low hill approximately half a mile wide, which records about eight times normal background reading on a portable Geiger counter.

A very strong anomaly was observed over this deposit. Geveral profiles were run across the outcrop in different directions at heights up to 500 feet, using different bias settings of the scintillemeter. The results are shown on Plate 11.

on the return flight from Toongi to Slayney, a strong amomaly was observed about 4 miles south of Flen's deposit. (See Plate10). Profiles over this amomaly are shown on Flate 5. The region was visited and the radio-active area was located. It lies about a mile east of Salandool homestead, and consists of three considerable hills. Tests with a portable Geiger counter gave readings of about five times background generally over the surface of the hills. The rock in the area is identical in appearance to that at Plen's deposit.

This test was undertaken purely as a check on the performance of the scintillometer. It indicates that the helicopter could be used to search for other deposits similar to Plen's and the Sulandool deposit. However, such a search could be carried out such more rapidly in this type of country by using the D.G.] aircraft.

7 COACINGTONS

- (1) Results of geological significance at least were obtained in all areas tested. At Carcoer and Wunglebung these results could not have been obtained by any other method.
- (2) It appears that results obtained using a helicopter can be sore directly correlated with the geology than those obtained using a faster aircraft flying at greater heights.
- (3) The sensitivity of the Grownell Mark VI Scintiliometer used in an aircraft of this type is adequate to any requirement. Some modifications to the equipment are desirable to improve its performance.
- (4) The helicopter is unsuited to routine coverage of an area by straight, parallel traverses laid down arbitrarily. It is best operated by following flight limes related to easily identifiable map features.
- (5) The helicopter will not give the rapid and complete routine coverage of large areas that is given by the D.C.3 aircraft. It should therefore not be used over areas where the D.C.3 aircraft can be used.
- (6) While the mode of operation may vary in different districts, depending on the topography, the map coverage available, and the distribution of radio-activity, two main

modes of operation are possible.

- (a) Systematic voverage of an area: For this purpose, a crew of four would be desirable, consisting of a pilot, a co-pilot to act also as navigator and direct the pilot along the flight line, an instrument operator, and an observer keeping a detailed flight log.
- (b) Spotting of anomalies for later investigation on the ground: For this purpose, the crew would be reduced to three, consisting of a pilot, an observer, and an instrument operator.
- (7) The helicopter should be used as an adjunct to a geological party large enough to follow up amonalies immediately.
- (8) The results obtained in the Tenterfield area indicate the desirability of further geological work in this district. Some remarks on this, and on the general question of radio-active molybdenite deposits, are included in Appendix 3 as a guide to possible future work in areas of this type.
- (9) From a tentative estimate of costs given in Appendix 4, it appears that helicopter surveys could be carried out quite economically.

ACT TROTLED ONE HIS

It is desired to acknowledge the assistance rendered by the following :-

The R.A.A.F. authorities for making the helicopter evallable.

The pilot, Flying Officer S. A. Scott, and the maintenance crew of the aircraft.

The officers of the Lyndhurst Shire Council, Blayney and Tenterfield Shire Council.

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Notes on Flen's radio-active deposit at Toongi, south of Dubbo, N.S.F. B.K.R. Records 1952, 8.60.

Senior Geochysinist.

Selicours 21st July 1953.

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APPENDIX 1.

REPORT ON APPLICATION OF HELICOPTER

IN URANIUM SURVEY BY

FLYING OFFICER R. A. SCOTT

NO. 21 CITY OF MELBOURNE (F) SOUADRON

LAVERTON

1. Introductions

For the purpose of evaluating the Helicopter for use in locating Radio Active material, the Royal Australian Air Force, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bureau of Mineral Resources, has been operating a Sikorsky S 51 in the Carcoar, Tenterfield and Broken Hill districts of New South Wales. This is the first time in Australia that a Helicopter has been used for this purpose, and naturally several difficulties in the performance and handling of the aircraft were encountered.

- 2. The purpose of this report is to present these difficulties for guidance in any future operation of this type, and also, for the procurement of a more suitable type of Helicopter.
- To appreciate the limitations of Helicopter aircraft, several characteristics of Helicopter flying must be understood. To many, such aircraft must seem puzzling and complex machines, whereas they are no more difficult to understand than conventional types. Both rely for their support on the "lift" produced by airflow around the wings, and it is in the method by which this airflow is created that they differ.

4. Lift:

Basically, the rotor of a Helicopter is a large diameter propellor mounted with its axis vertical. The airflow created by the rotation of the rotor produces "lift" which acts directly against the weight of the aircraft. The aircraft will climb, hover or descend, depending on whether the lift is greater, equal to, or less than the weight of the aircraft. The lift produced by the rotors varies according to their speed of rotation, angle of attack to the airflow and the density of the air.

All control, apart from the directional control, is gained by varying the angle of attack of the rotors at different stages of their orbit. Due to aerodynamics considerations the angle of attack cannot be changed very much, and this limits the control of the Helicopter, particularly about the horizontal axis. The S51 Helicopter is unstable in all planes, and constant manipulation of the controls is necessary to control the aircraft.

6. Engine Pailure:

In common with conventional sircraft, the Helicopter is capable of gliding with power off. Provided the Pilot takes the appropriate action, the rotors will revolve under the air loads acting on them, and produce sufficient lift to enable the aircraft to make a slow descent. This property of the rotor is known as "autorotation."

- In the event of engine failure, it is essential that the angle of attack of the rotors be reduced, in order to put them in the autorotation pitch range, which decreases drag and permits high rotor R.P.M. to be built up. With this stored inertia in the rotor system, the aircraft can be glided until just above the ground where it is flared out and eased on to the ground.
- The higher the airspeed the greater the inertia of the rotor blades, and some speed is a very desirable feature when dealing with engine failure. Engine failure at reasonable forward speeds (50 60 knots) presents no problems, but if the failure occurs whilst hovering or climbing or descending vertically, a heavy landing, probably entailing complete destruction of the machine would result unless sufficient height was available to gain forward speed. To attain the desired speed a minimum height of 400 feet is required, so for this reason hovering or vertical flight below an altitude of 400 feet, except when close to the ground, is not normally carried out.

9. Ground Cushion :

The "ground Cushion" or "ground effect" is a very important feature of Helicopter flying. When the aircraft hovers with its wheels within 10 feet of the ground, the air driven downwards by the rotors becomes packed between the rotors and the ground. This packing increases the density of the air, and the dense air so formed beneath the aircraft is known as the "ground cushion" or "ground effect." It is very important when hovering at high altitudes or when heavily laden.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING PRE SURVEY

10. Tracking :

Accurate tracking presented the greatest difficulty throughout the survey. To cover the areas thoroughly, parallel tracks, 200 feet apart had to be flown. This called for a standard of course stearing which is impossible with the instrument aids fitted to the \$51 Helicopter. The only direction indicator fitted is a magnetic compass, and during turbulent conditions the compass rose oscillated up to 10 degrees either side of the correct heading. Wind drift, together with the characteristic of the Helicopter in being able to fly sideways even though the aircraft is pointed in the correct direction added to the difficulty of accurate tracking. At times tracks overlapped or were too far apart and had to be reflown.

The most successful method of tracking used was to fly one track as accurately as possible, and whilst doing so, note features on the ground 200 feet to one side. The next track was then flown over these selected features and further features hoted for the following track. This proved successful where prominent features existed and the traverses short. As the traverses lengthened, it became increasingly difficult for the pilot to fly accurately and select

and remember the pinpoints chosen. It would be advantageous to have a crew member sitting beside the pilot, concentrating entirely on map reading and selection of pinpoints. This is unfortunately impossible in the S51 due to its seating arrangement. The fitting of an electrically driven gyro direction indicator is necessary, due to the oscillating of the magnetic compass.

12. It should also be possible to carry some form of indicator (e.g. smoke generator) to be dropped from the aircraft at the end of each traverse, or to have indicators on the ground in charge of ground personnel. These indicators, however, would be successful in flat or gently undulating country only, as any large hills would obscure them from the pilot's view.

13. Speed :

Accurate airspeed was not a great problem, although it was necessary to keep it reasonably constant so as to help correlation of the recorder reading with the positions on a map. A speed of 50 - 60 knots was normally maintained as this gave a good rate of climb and also is the best speed in the event of engine failure. Turbulence effected the airspeed needle rather badly, but the normal procedure to maintain a constant ground-speed, of keeping the aircraft's attitude constant was carried out and proved successful.

14. Meicht:

As no instrument to indicate height above the ground is fitted to the S51 (a normal altimeter is fitted, but this indicates height above a pre-set altitude only) the required height (100 to 150 feet) was maintained solely by visual means. This was quite successful, and it is considered that no special instruments for height indication are required.

At times, the rate of climb of the Helicopter was insufficient to fly to the bottom of some valleys and then climb over the surrounding mountains, maintaining the required height, and sufficient airspeed to give control in the event of engine failure. Throughout the survey no attempt was made to fly the aircraft to its limit. This was due to the ever present realisation that it is the only Helicopter in the Royal Australian Air Force, and any manoeuvre which entailed more than the normal amount of risk, should not be carried out.

16. Weather :

The weather generally was good. The main difficulties experienced were:-

- (a) <u>High temmeratures</u>, which increased the density altitude at which the aircraft was operating and hence lowered its hovering ceiling (see Appendix "A").
- (b) Turbulance which made accurate flying difficult. It also produced strong and unpredictable air currents in the valleys and near the mountain crests.

17. In the Carcoar area, flying was begun at 0630 hours and ceased at 1130 hours to escape or minimise the effect of these weather conditions. In the Tenterfield area, early morning flying was prohibited by low mist and rain. Two days' flying was lost during the survey due to adverse weather.

16. Load :

The centre of gravity of the S51 is very sensitive to load changes, and great care must be taken in loading the aircraft. Ballast must be positioned in the aircraft to compensate for different loadings, and this ballast is dead weight which lowers the useful load carrying capacity of the aircraft.

19. Hoisting :

The S51 is equipped with an electrichydraulic hoist, and crew members could have been lowered to the ground to investigate high recorder readings. However, no hoisting was carried out during the survey due to :-

- (a) The aircraft was operating at or near its hovering ceiling.
- (b) The country was generally too heavily timbered for safe hoisting operations (a clearing of 30 feet diameter is required).
- (c) The two Geophysicists carried were not experienced in hoisting.
- (d) Immediately the person on the hoist touches or leaves the ground, the aircraft's centre of gravity moves. Ballast must be arranged prior to the flight to compensate for this movement.

20. issintenance:

The Royal Australian Air Force maintenance cycle consists of :-

- (a) A daily inspection, which takes approximately 40 minutes.
- (b) An inspection after every 25 hours' flying. This inspection usually takes 1 to 2 days.

Two men trained in Helicopter maintenance are required for these inspections. During the survey one day's flying was lost due to the aircraft being unserviceable.

21. Conclusions:

The pilot had carried out Helicopter flying in mountainous terrain previously, but never under such critical conditions. As a pilot training exercise it was excellent. It demanded great concentration to fly the aircraft, judge height, look for obstructions and select pinpoints, and it is considered that 4 to 5 hours' flying per day is the maximum a pilot could carry out without becoming fatigued.

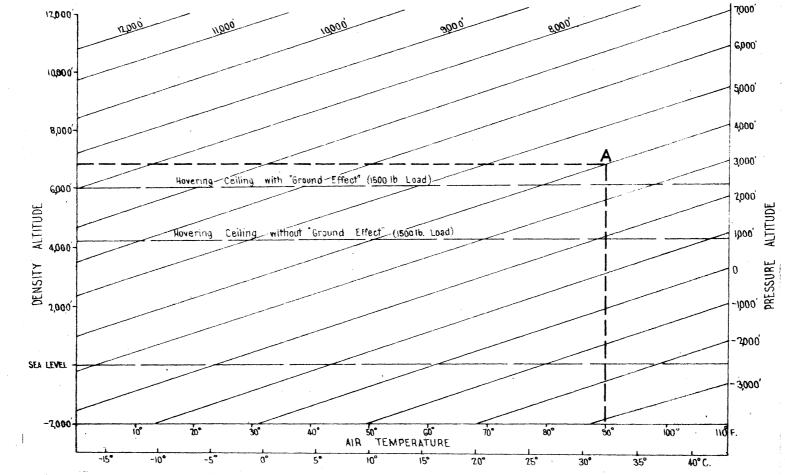
- 22. Mountain flying is perhaps the most difficult type of Helicopter flying, and pilots should have at least 100 hours flying on Helicopters before attempting this type of operation in rugged terrain.
- The country generally is unsuitable for a forced landing in the event of engine failure, and there would be a great danger of fire if a crash landing became necessary. Some form of automatic fire extinguisher fitted to the aircraft is required.
- 24. Bases from which the aircraft operates should be as close to the area to be surveyed as possible, so that travelling time, and hence the fuel load required can be cut to the minimum.
- 25. For extensive surveying, a Helicopter having a better performance is necessary. Improvements considered desirable are:
 - (a) Higher hovering ceiling.
 - (b) Greater rate of climb.
 - (c) Greater useful load.
 - (d) Passenger compartment capable of seating 5 passengers and also of carrying additional equipment such as cameras.
 - (e) Passenger compartment situated so that addition or removal of passengers or cargo does not effect the centre of gravity.
 - (f) Hoist situated so that hoisting operations do not move the centre of gravity beyond its limits.
 - (g) Provision for a crew member to sit beside the pilot to help in map reading.
 - (h) Greater range.
- 26. A Helicopter possessing the above characteristics could possibly transport all necessary equipment and personnel and carry out a survey without the aid of any ground vehicle.
- 27. The writer has studied the performances of all Helicopters manufactured to date, and the only aircraft which appear to fulfil the above requirements are the Bristol 173 and the Sikorsky 855. The Bristol 173, however, would probably prove too large and clumsy, particularly in steep mountains and valleys, and as it is still very much in the experimental stage, it probably would not be a worthwhile proposition.
- 28. The Sikorsky 355 is a proven aircraft which has been thoroughly tested in Korea. From all reports this aircraft is far easier to maintain than the S51, and it possesses all those characteristics mentioned in paragraph 25, which are considered essential.

A comparison of the performances of the 851 and \$55 Helicopters is included as Appendix "B".

The Sikorsky \$51 Helicopter, although not the ideal Helicopter, performed quite well and appeared to do the job reasonably successfully. In the writer's opinion, no other vehicle could cover the Tenterfield area or any other rugged area as quickly or as thoroughly as a Helicopter.

(Signed) R. SCOTT.

(R. A. SCOIT)
Flying Officer
G.D. Pilot
No.21 City of Melbourne (F) Squadron.



Example. Suppose it is desired to find the altitude (often referred to as "Denaity Altitude") equivalent to a pressure altitude of 4,000 feet at a temperature of 90°F. On slanting line marked 4,000 feet pressure altitude, locate point "A" directly above 90°F. in the temperature scale at the bettom. The equivalent denaity altitude of 6,800 feet is read on the scale at left on the same horisontal line as point "A". The "Si hovering ceiling with 1500 lb. load and without ground effect is normally 4,200 feet. However, due to the high temperature it would be above its hovering ceiling under the above conditions.

APPENDIX "B"

PEPFORMANCE FIGURES SIKORSKY S51 & S55 HELICOPTERS.

Detail	851	Sikorsky 855		
Seating Capacity	4	10 -	12	
Engine Horse Power	450	600		
Jseful load (includes Fuel)	1695	2400	lbs.	
Maximum speed	103	110	m.p.h.	
Maximum rate of climb	1000	1130	f.p.m.	
Dross weight	55 00	6800	lbs.	
Novering ceiling with ground effect (at maximum gross weight)	5000	5500	feet	
lovering ceiling without ground effect (at maximum gross weight)	3200	4200	feet	
iovering ceiling with ground effect (with 1500 lb. load)	6000	10600	feet	
lovering celling without ground effect (with 1500 lb. load)	4200	8000	feet	
fuel consumption (cruising)	24	36	g.p.h.	
laximum range	308	477	miles	

Extra tankage can be fitted to increase range to 1,000 miles.

Performances quoted are for the American built models. British versions differ slightly from the above figures.

APPENDIX 2.

THE CONSTRUCTOR OF THE DISTANCE SCALE ON THE

As a measure of the accuracy of surveying attained on the tests, the quantity length of record per mile of traverse is tabulated below for traverses 15-115 flown at Carcoar:

Traver se	Length of Record per wile (inch)	Traverse	Length of Record per mile (Inch)
15	5.5	64	2.7
18		62	
10			
17		92	
18 19 20 1 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 1 22 23 24 25 26 24 41	2.8	556788977727747767789888889999999999999999999999999	2.3
19	2.8	67	2.7
	2.7	68	
		Zá	
	2.2	22	
26	2.5	<i>Z</i> 4	
23	2.6	71	
24	2 4	72	
24	2.7	72	2 6
3 4	2.8	+X	
		42	
	2.7	<i>13</i>	2.5
20	2.9	70	2.0
29	3.2	77	2.2
26	3.5		2.3
		And the second	
	2.	6Z	
34			21
33	3 • 3	81	2.3
**	3.4	82	2.8
3.5		Řž	2.8
**		ăž.	
32	3.6 3.5 3.5	27	≛• ⊈
37	3 🚜	70	
38	3.5	91	2.3
70		Ġ2	2.4
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77		2.2	5%
*!		72	~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
42	2.9	95	2.4
42 43 44		96	2.5
4Ä		100	5 6
AC		<i>A</i> A	
45	2*!	X	
	2.0/	99	
47	2.9	100	2.5
43	2.4	101	3.3
40	2.4	102	3.
66	5.6	486	
	* 2		
22	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	107	€ •?
22		102	3 A
23		105	2 👫
54	2.5	107	3.2
55		tök	3
		170	and a
	. • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	127	2.3
Z		110	2-2
20	2.7	111	3.2
59	2.5	112	2.1
66	2.5	112	
ă i	5 6	442	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
Z .	**	445	
4784955152534556758966162	222222222222222222222222222222222222222	100 101 102 103 105 105 106 109 110 111 112 113	2.5 3.4 3.5 3.4 3.5 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.1

Traverses 84-88 inclusive were discarded due to uncertainty in positioning.

APPENDIX 1

Commence of the Control of the Contr

In the course of the Bureen's search for deposits of uranium minerals, the association of radio-activity with specimens of molybdenite has been noted on several occasions. The sascelstion is not by any means universal and such important deposits as the Allies and Glen Eden Mines, New South Wales, and the Everton Mine. Victoria. show no trace of activity.

Radio-active molybdenite specimens have been observed from the following localities :-

(1) Wolfram Camp, Queensland.

(2) Banford, Queensland. (3) Chalmers Claim near Ballandean, Queensland.

(4) Wunglebung, New South Wales.
(5) Kingsgate. New South Wales.
(6) Whipstick, New South Wales.
(7) Attunga, New South Wales.
(8) Carcoar, New South Wales.

Wolfrum Camp has been mined on a considerable scale, and Demford on a smaller scale. Weither has yet been tested for redio-activity on the ground. Chalmers Claim has been visited, and found to be of no importance. To high radio-activity was observed, and from the present appearance of the workings, very little molybdenite is promont. The maseum specimen of molybdenite from this claim showed visible flakes of torbenite.

The New South Weles deposits are sentioned by Andrews (1916), and the important pres described in detail. Kingsgate and Whinstick have each been mined on a fair scale. They have been tested with a portable Ceiger counter, but no high activity was observed. A sample of Whipstick ore has been examined by the Boreau. A molybdenite concentrate was prepared by flotation, and showed radio-activity consistent with a uranium content of 0.1%. As mentioned previously in this report, the Manglebung area has not been thoroughly prospected, but a feature of the deposits is the high level of activity encountered on the ground. This gives some reason to hope that the uranium content of the Ganglebung ore may be higher than that from Whipstick or Kingsgate. Hothing is known of the Attungs occurrence, beyond its approximate position. The molybdenite at Carcoar is a relatively unimportent associate of the cobalt deposits, which themselves appear to be small. However, some samples collected there show high activity, indicating that the uranium content of the molybdenite itself could be several per cent.

A great deal more information is required to assess the value of the deposits as sources of uranium. It appears, however, that molybdenite samples from the localities mentioned are definitely radio-active, that in some cases at least the activity is due to the presence of uranium, and that it is possible that the uranium content of a nolybienite concentrate could reach a significant value in a particular case. The difficulties of mining these deposits are notorious, and are discussed at length by andrews (op. cit.). It is considered, however, that the following preliminary steps are desirable, and would give a basis for deciding a policy for the investigation of deposits of this type :-

Any future production of molybdenite in Australia (1) should be carefully watched, and products tested continually for aranium content. (In this connection it is understood that it is proposed to re-open the Whipstick Mines.)

- (11) Efforts should be made to obtain samples of ore, large enough for concentration tests from Wanglebung, Wolfram Camp, Benford and Kingsgate.
- (iii) The Wolfram Camp, Bamford and Attunga deposits should be tested for radio-activity on the ground.
- (iv) A geological survey of the area surrounding Tenterfield, with particular attention to Wanglebung should be made, using helicopter-borne equipment as a guide in selecting radio-active areas.
- Tests using the equipment of the present survey should be made over Kingsgate and Whipstick. In order to see whether the information obtained would be of assistance in a geological survey, such as that which the New South Wales Department of Kines propose to undertake in the Whipstick area. It may be noted that all the deposits mentioned, with the exception of Careoar, are in sountainous country.

These notes are attached to the present report as it is considered that they should have some weight in determining the policy of the Eureau with regard to the use of helicoptermounted equipment.

Total on the Recognite State of Calleonian

The following figures are subsitted to enable a rough estimate to be made of the cost of helicopter surveys :-

(1) Capital Cost of Alreadt and Regiment.

The helicopter suggested as sout mitable to the Engrand's requirements it the dikorday 25%. This costs about 160,000(4). Considerable as could be made of the smaller disorday 35% as used on the present survey. costing 535,000(4). The use of a type smaller than this spall be so restricted as to become survey.

The purveying aquipment required would include a scintilloupter and recorder, a recording radio altimeter and miscelleneous special radio and other installations that would be required by the Department of divil Aviation refore they would issue a cartificate of mirrorthiness.

Total casitel cost is estimated to be !-

Alreielt	
leintlinester & lecorder	2,000
kadio plilestar	2,4377
Radio Installations	
Placellaneous, including	
•	
	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH

stood that the Salar and S

In order to obtain a seasonat more realistic estimate of the cost of operating a helicopter survey, the following dissection has been made of probable overall costs. This is based to a certain extent on the experience already gained by the Bareau in conducting airborns surveys but also takes into account the special requirements of the helicopter and the type of surveying an chick it would be used.

(1) Aircraft (11) Squisment 6,000 521

2

6.500

					<u>Ca</u>	i en
(b)		*	£			
	(±) (±1) (±1) (±1)	2 pilots 2 flight engineers 2 geophysicists 1 draftsman 4 tracers	3,500 2,200 2,500 1,000 2,800			12,000
(e)						·
	(T)	Carine servicing Engine and airframe	2,500			
	(111)	maintenance Radio servicing				5,700
(d)	Maria	g Costs :				
	(11)	Petrol and oil Recorder charts,	2,000			
	(111) (111)	pap er Maps, mosales, photos Rou te charges	100 500 200		•	
	(A)	Transport of aircraft (for surveys in resotables)	e 500			
	(AII) (AI)	Hire of 2 vehicles Travelling expenses	800			
	(viii)	(staff and crew) Miscellaneous				7.800
				Total	**	32,000

(1) Cost, mere house and more raide.

The above estimated cost of £32,000 per annua covers 900 hours of flying and represents a cost of about £35 per hour overall. At the average operating speed of 60 miles per hour this is about 12/- per mile for every mile flown, which is more than twice the figure given by the N.A.A.F. The difference is due to the fact that all aspects of the survey have been taken into account in the estimates presented in paragraph (2) above.

When the aircraft is used, as it may be, for systematic surveying along closely spaced lines over a given area, the amount of effective flying along these lines would be about 70 percent of the total miles flown. Therefore, for such flying the nett cost would be about 17/- per linear mile. However, the helicopter would need to fly along traverses spaced not more than about 500 feet spart, in order to ensure complete coverage. Therefore, the cost of systematic helicopter surveying per aware mile would be about £8. This compares with the cost of systematic D.C.; surveying of £2/16/- per linear mile, or about £14 per smare mile. The greater cost of the D.C.; operation is effect by the greater precision that is obtained in positioning the aircraft by Shoran, the greater speed in surveying and the fact that useful magnetometer records are also obtained.

The helicopter, however, has a more particular use in low-level spotting and identification of small radio-active anomalies. In this work it would fly back and forth over likely areas and sometimes fly particularly low for the purpose

of pin-pointing an outcrop. In these circumstances the amount of effective flying along traverse lines might average only 40 parcent of the total miles flown. The cost per mile of traverse would then be about £2/4/-.

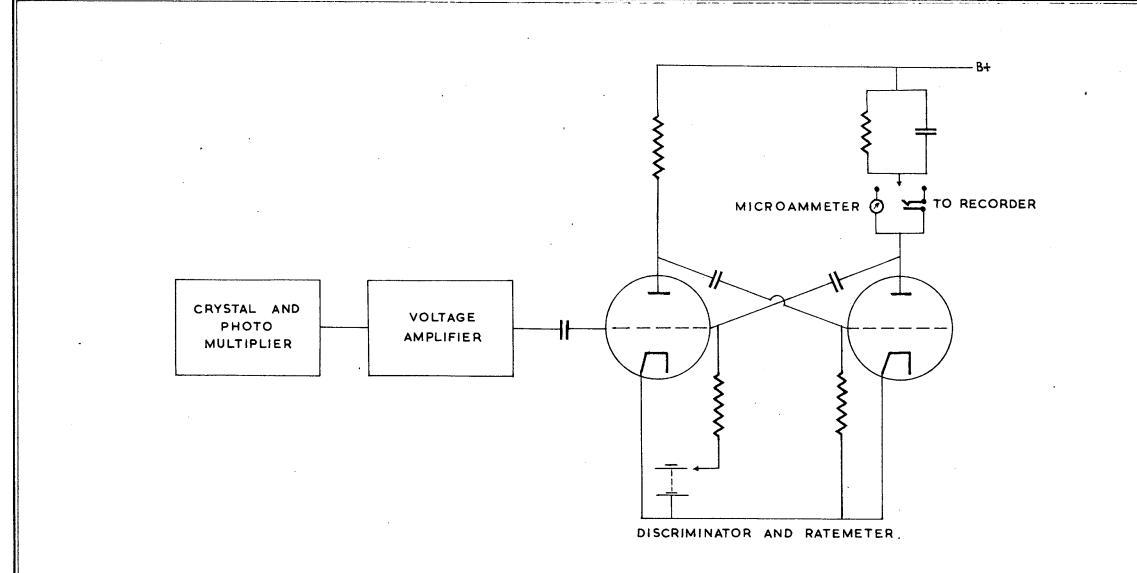
(4) Staff required.

It is assumed that an airline operating company, such as Trans-Australia Airlines Ltd., would be prepared to nominate pilots and flight and maintenance engineers for special training in the operation of a helicopter and would operate and maintain the aircraft for the Eureau. A pilot and co-pilot and two flight engineers would be required to accompany the helicopter on each survey.

Two geochysicists would be required to organize the surveys, operate the equipment and analyse the results. It is considered that one draftsman and four tracers would be required for computing and plotting results. The additional staff required in the Eureau would therefore be -

Geophysicist, Grade 3.
Draftsman, 1.
A Tracers (Female).

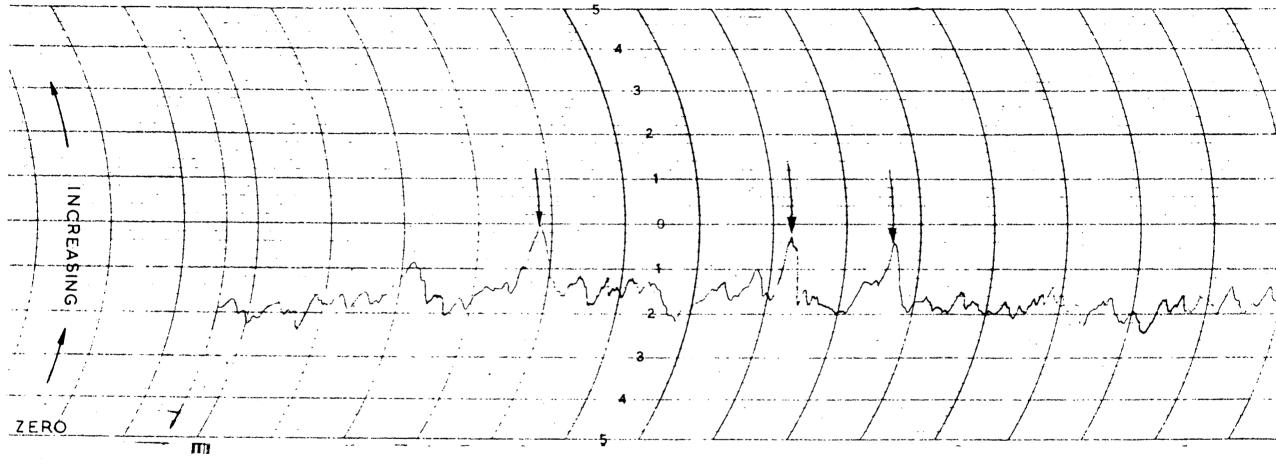
This group could operate under one of the existing Senior Geophysicists either in the Airborne or Radio-active Sub-sections.



BROWNELL AIRCRAFT SCINTILLOMETER MK.VI
SCHEMATIC CIRCUIT

Geophysical Section, Bureau of Mineral Resources Geology & Geophysics.

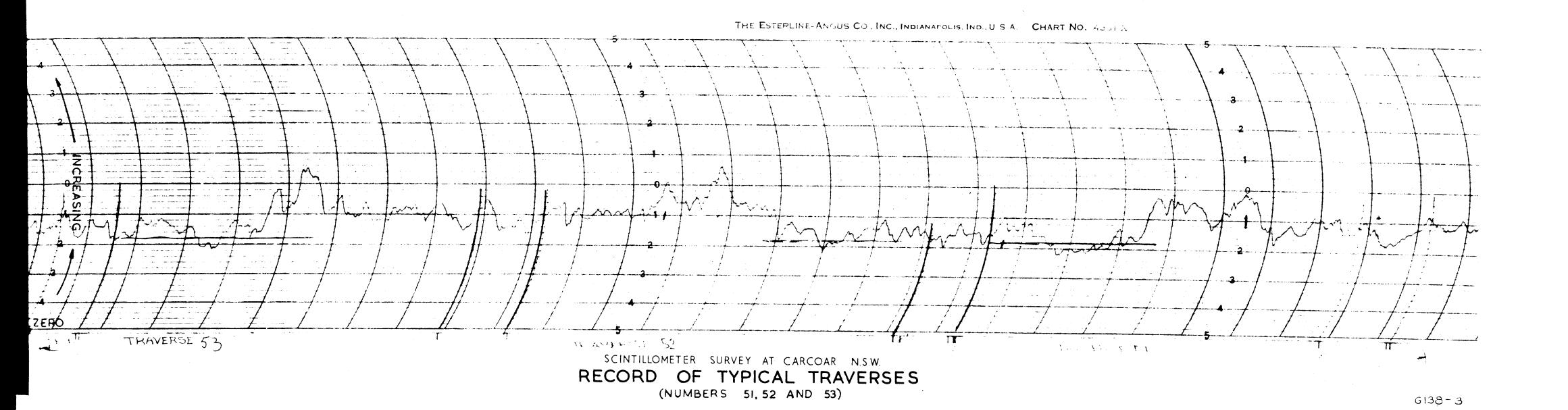




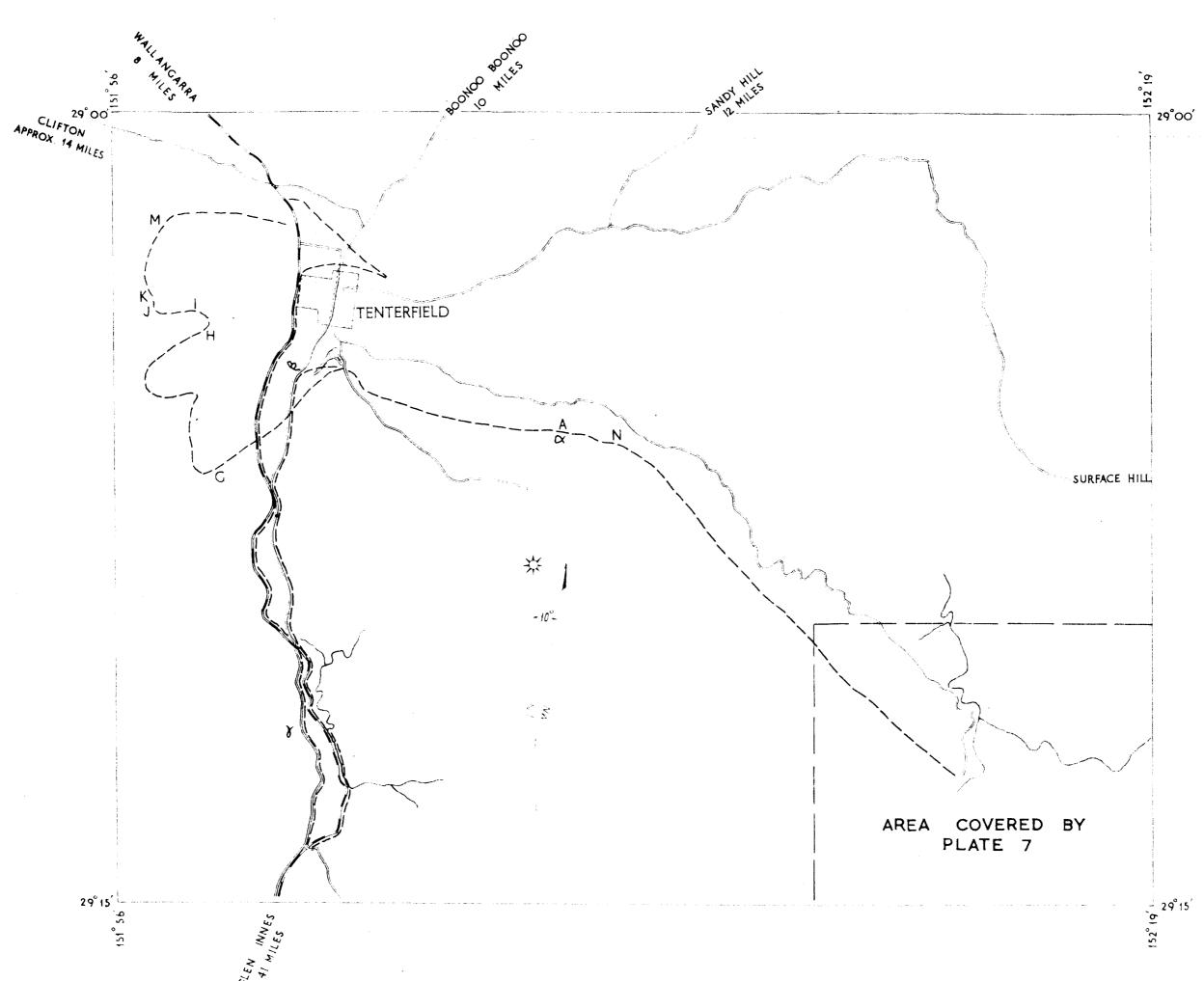
SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT CARCOAR N.S.W.

ANOMALY OVER COBALT WORKING G.

(REFER MATHESON 1952a)



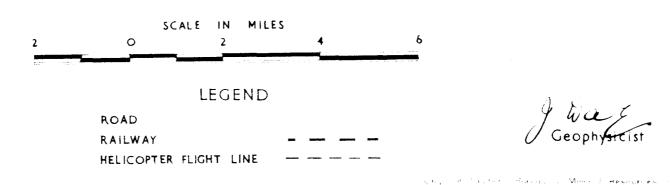
G 136-2

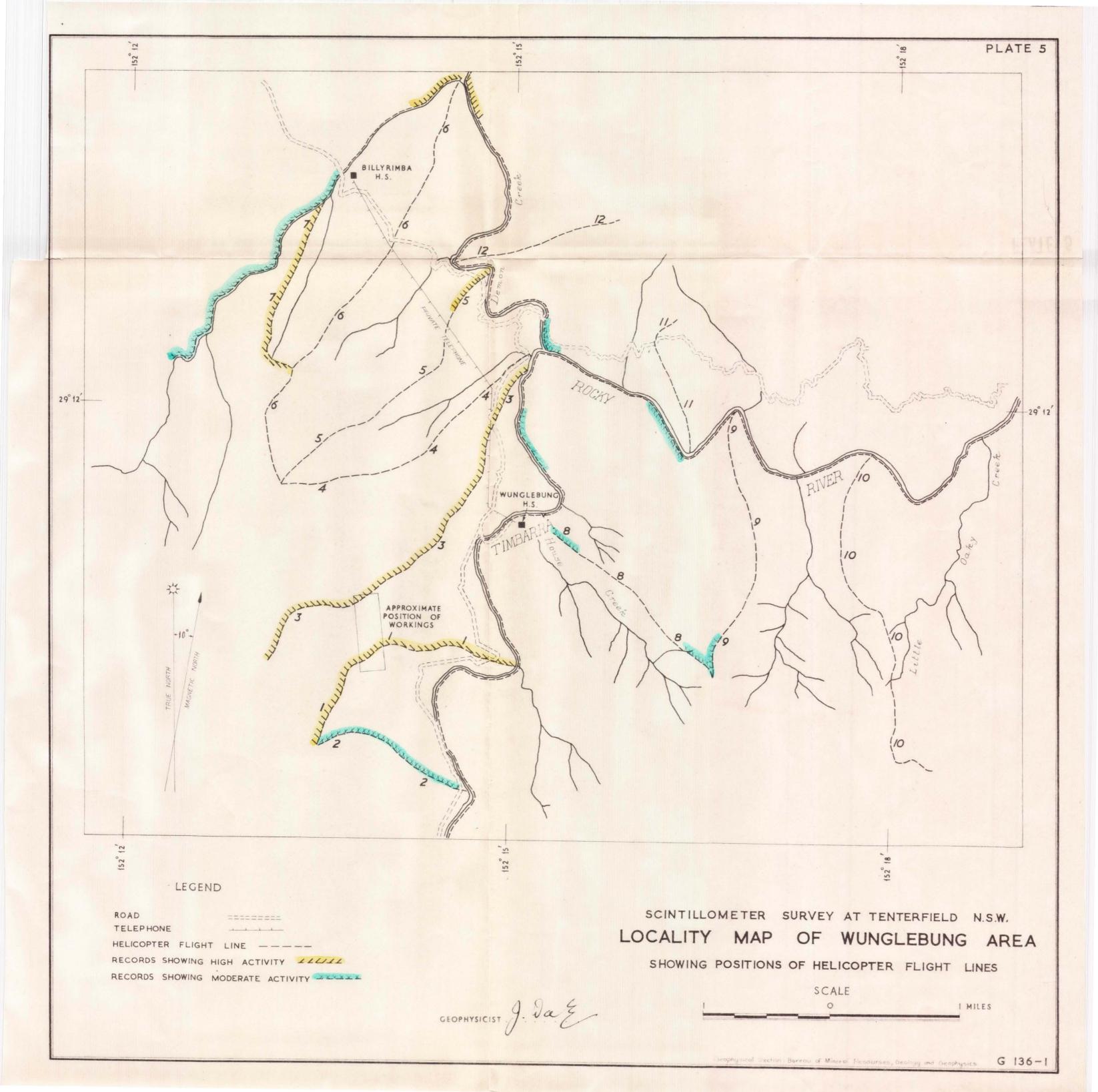


SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT TENTERFIELD N.S.W.

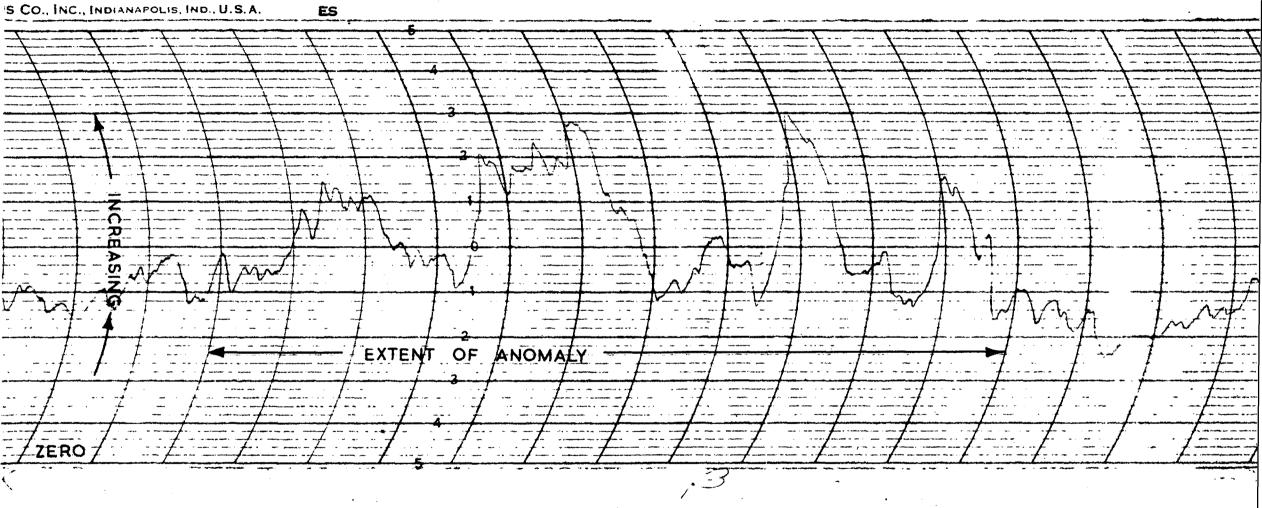
LOCALITY MAP

SHOWING HELICOPTER FLIGHT LINES AND POSITIONS OF PRINCIPAL ANOMALIES





G136-3



ANOMALY B

SCINTILLOMETER

SURVEY AT TENTERFIELD N.S.W.

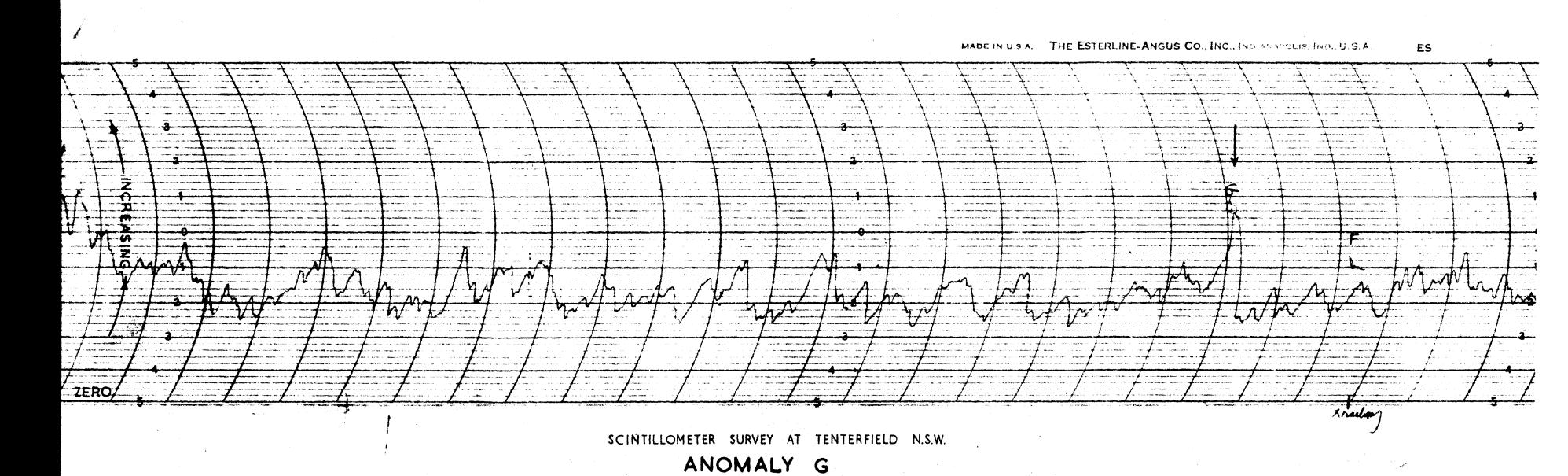
SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT TENTERFIELD N.S.W.

ANOMALY &

THE ESTERLINE-ANGUS CO., INC., INDIANAPOLIS, IND., U.S.A. CHART NO. 4331-X SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT TENTERFIELD N.S.W.

ANOMALIES A&N

G136-6



G136-7

SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT TENTERFIED N.S.W.

ANOMALY H

NAPOLIS, IND., U.S.A. CHART NO. 4331-X

SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT TENTERFIELD N.S.W.

ANOMALIES I, J&K

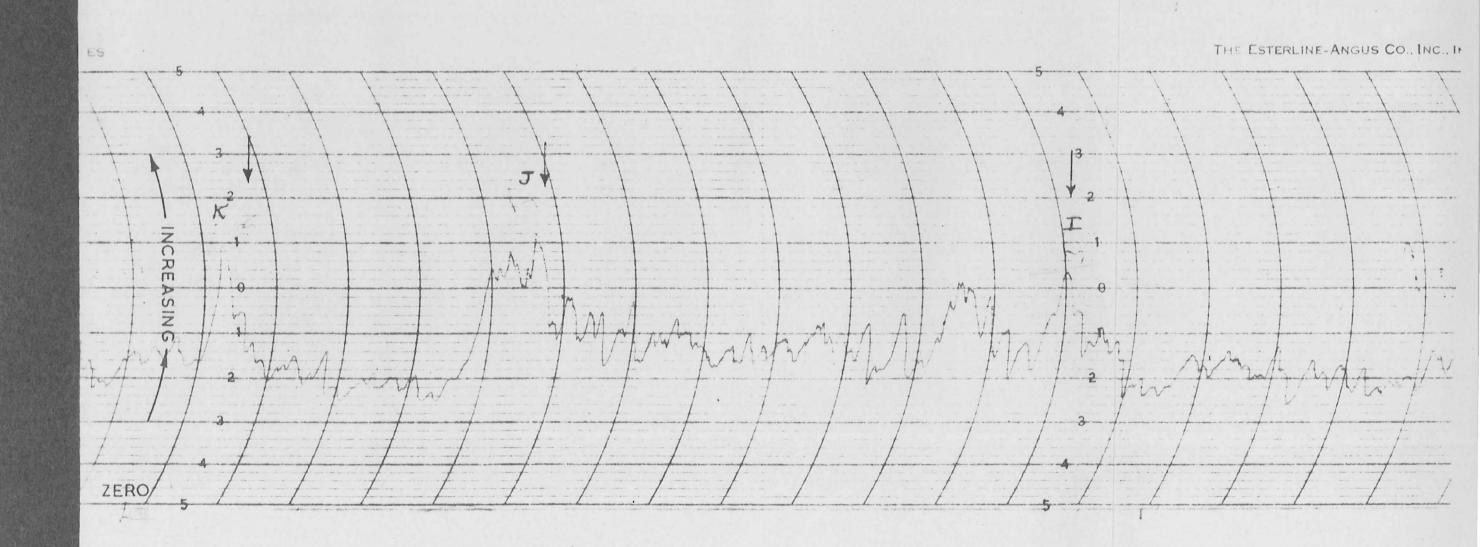
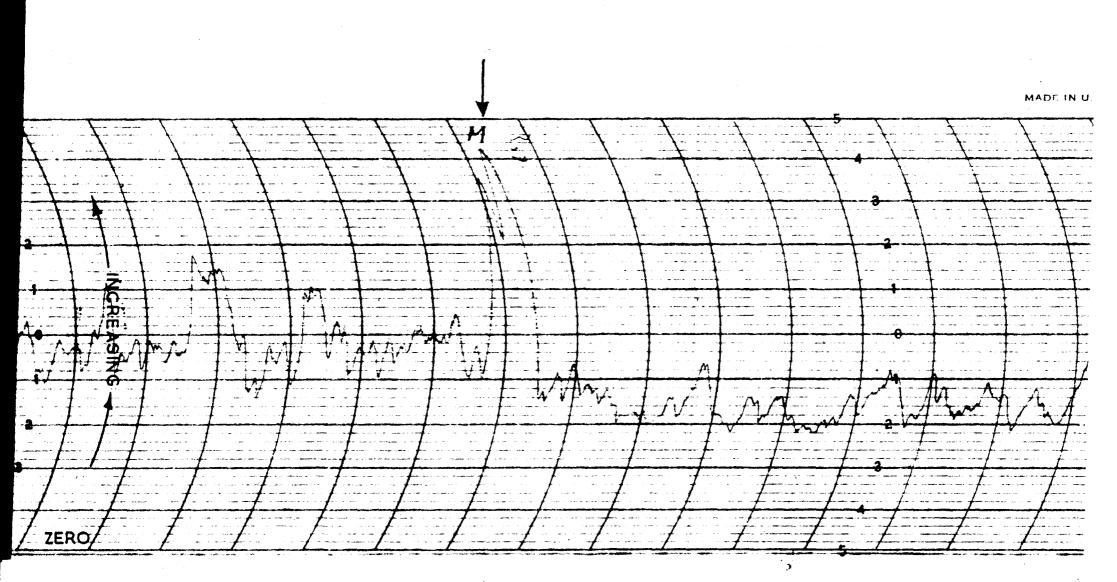
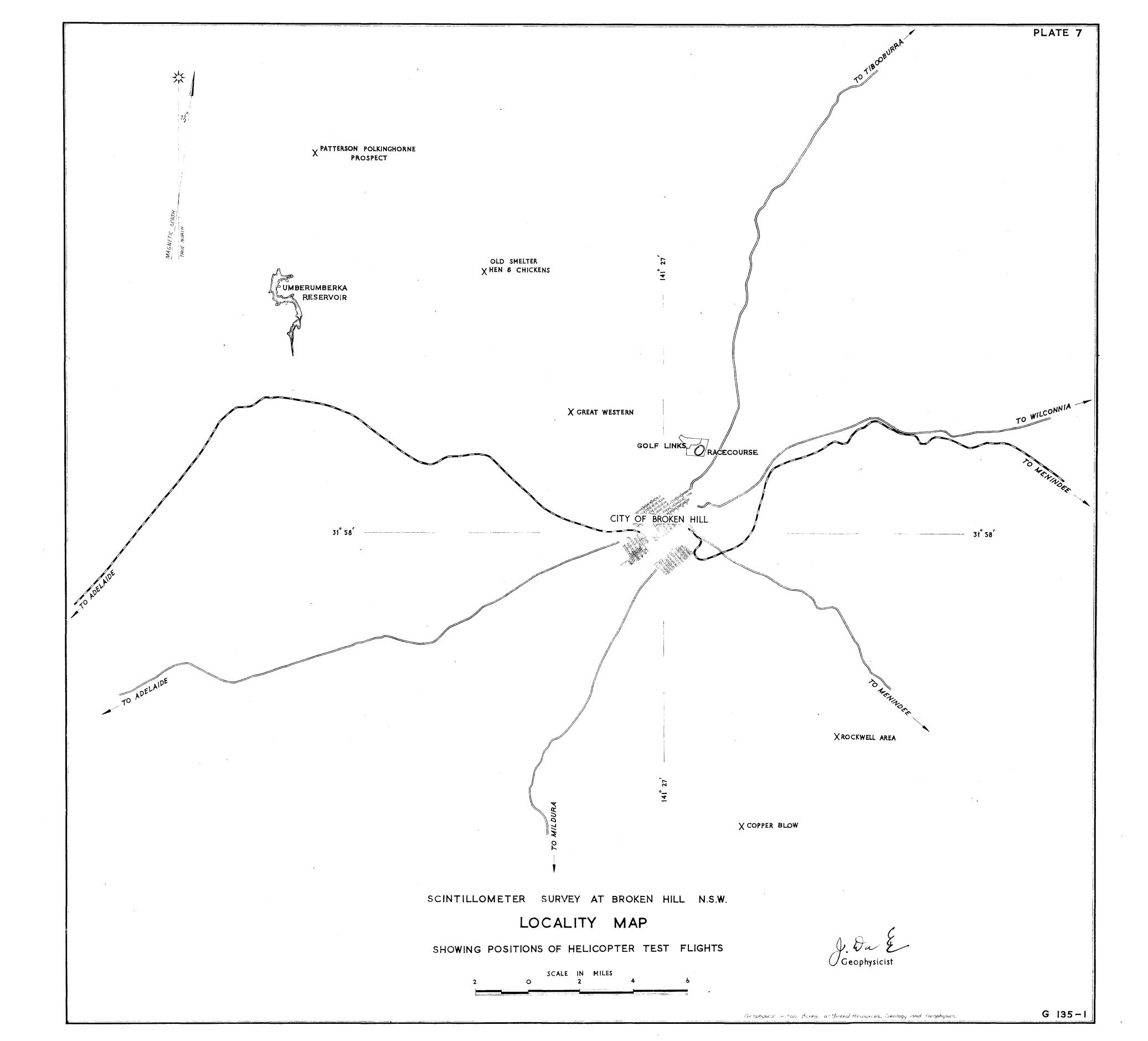
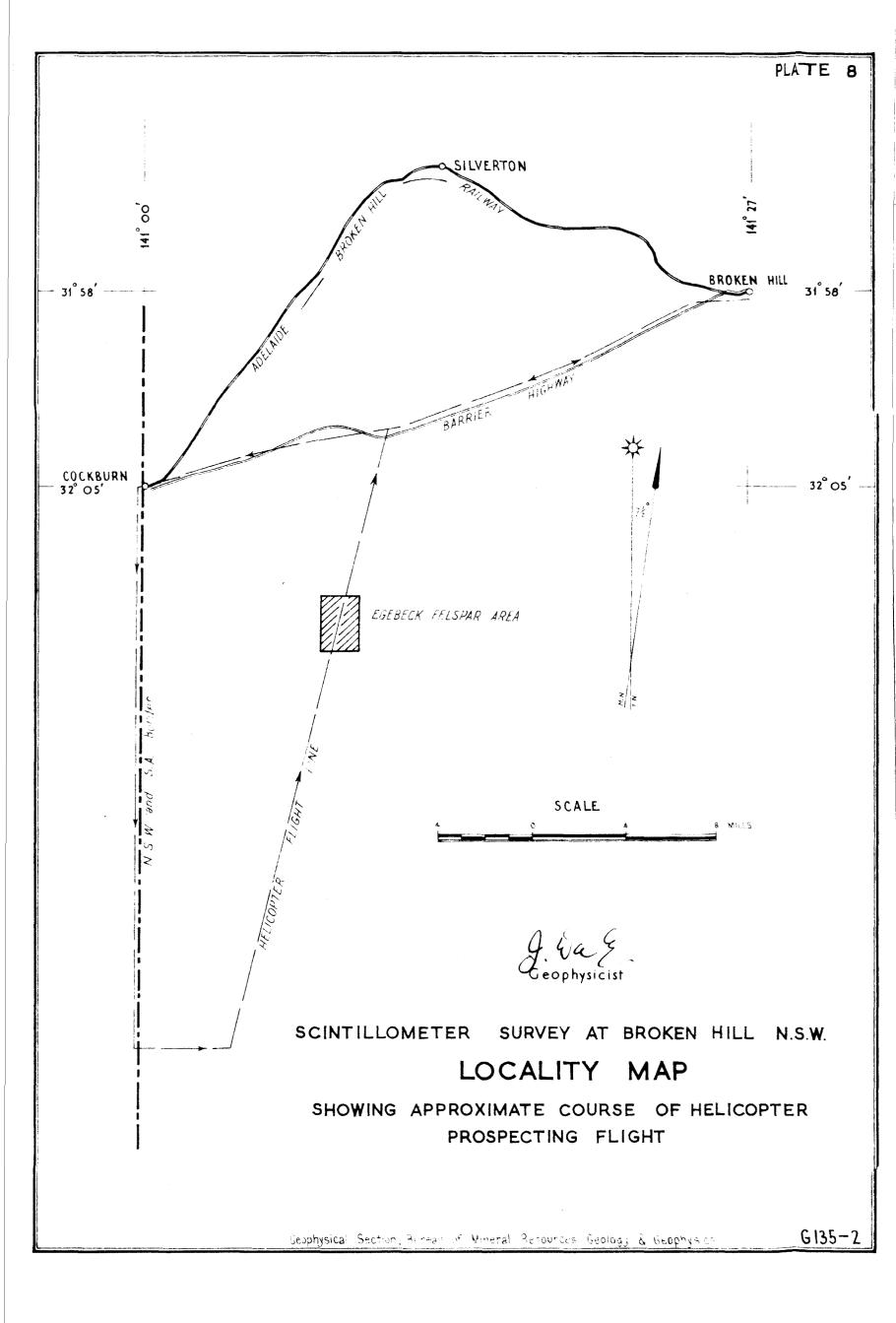


PLATE 6
SHEET 8.

SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT TENTERFIELD N.S.W. ANOMALY M





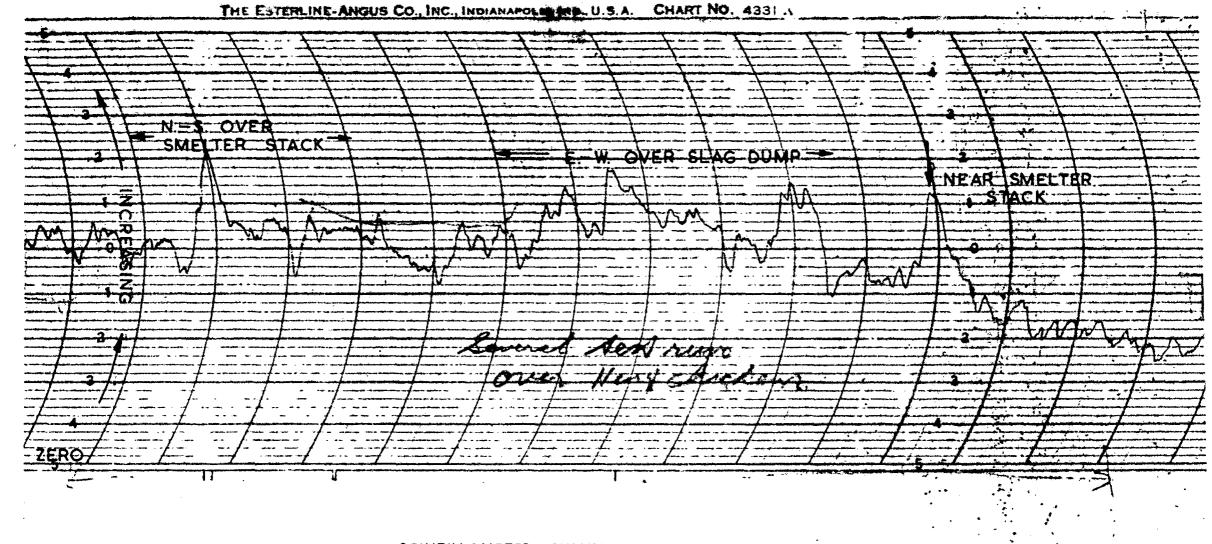


THE ESTERLINE-ANGUS CO., INC., SING PLATE 9

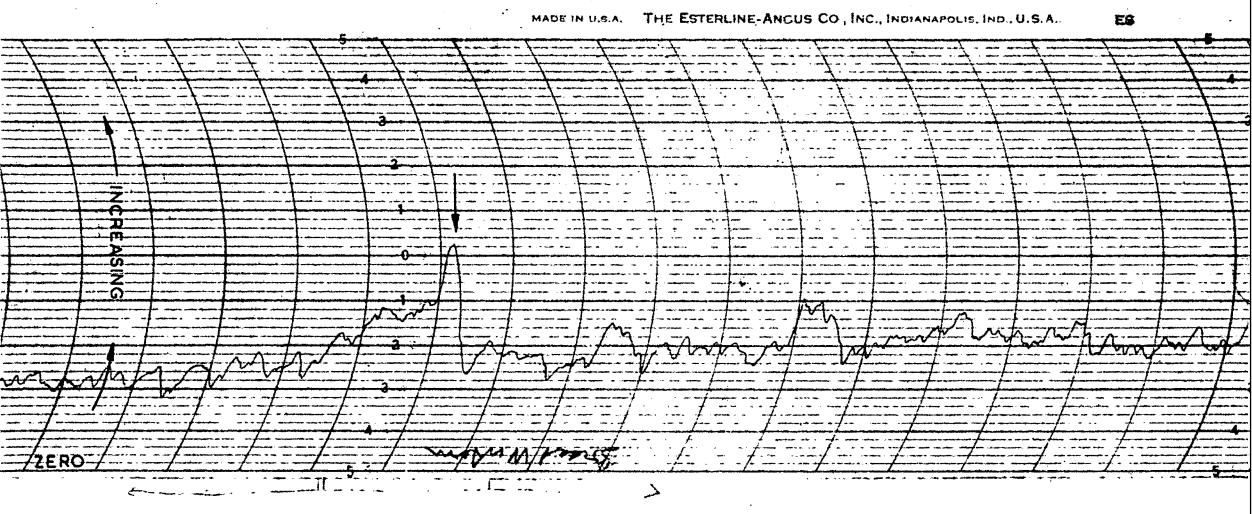
PROFILE OVER BALACLAVA COPPER BLOW

SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT BROKEN HILL N.S.W.

REPEAT TRAVERSES OVER LODE NEAR WARREN SHAFT

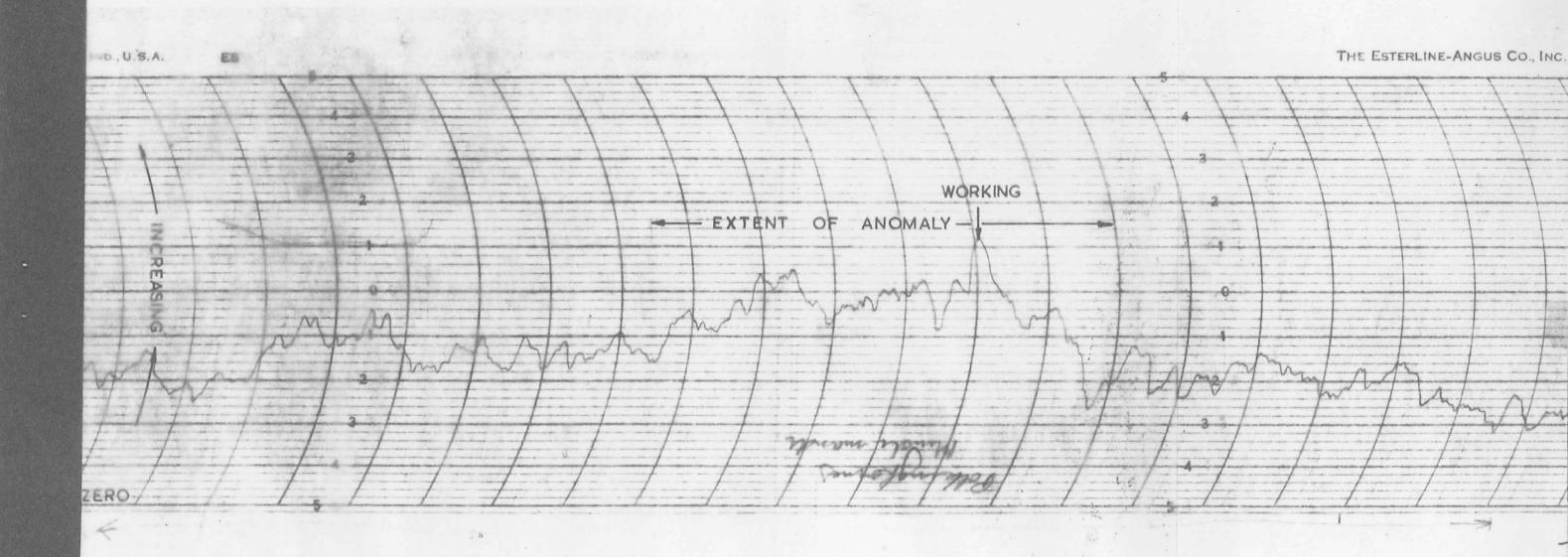


PROFILE OVER HEN AND CHICKENS

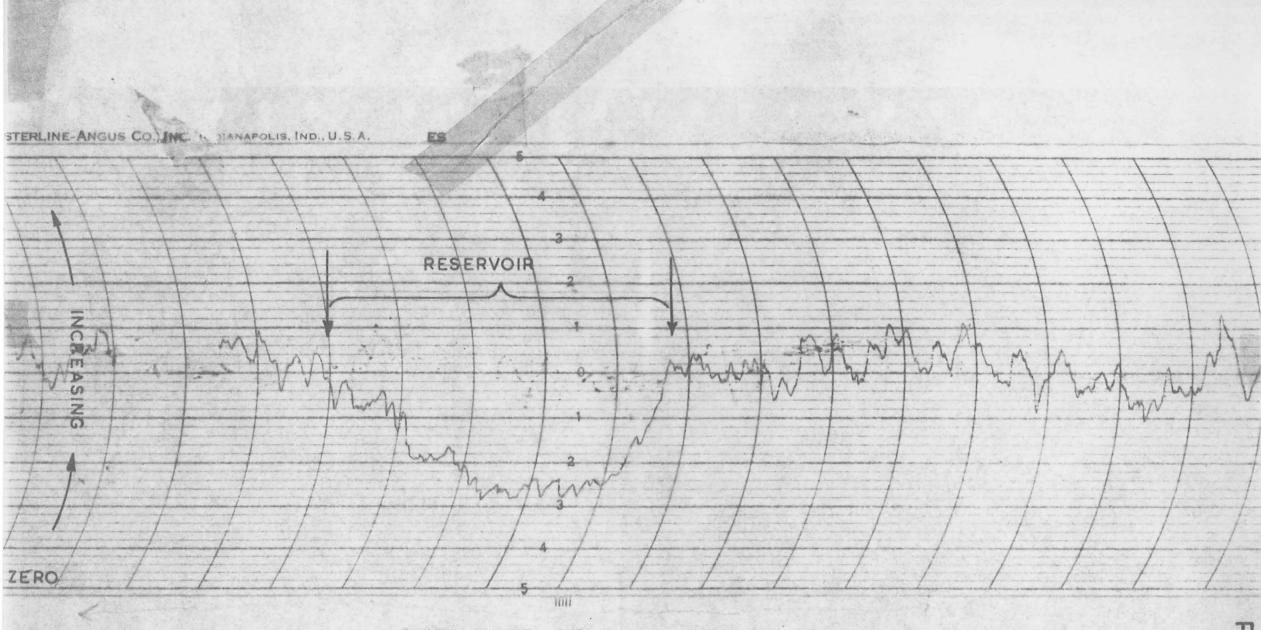


SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT BROKEN HILL N.S.W.

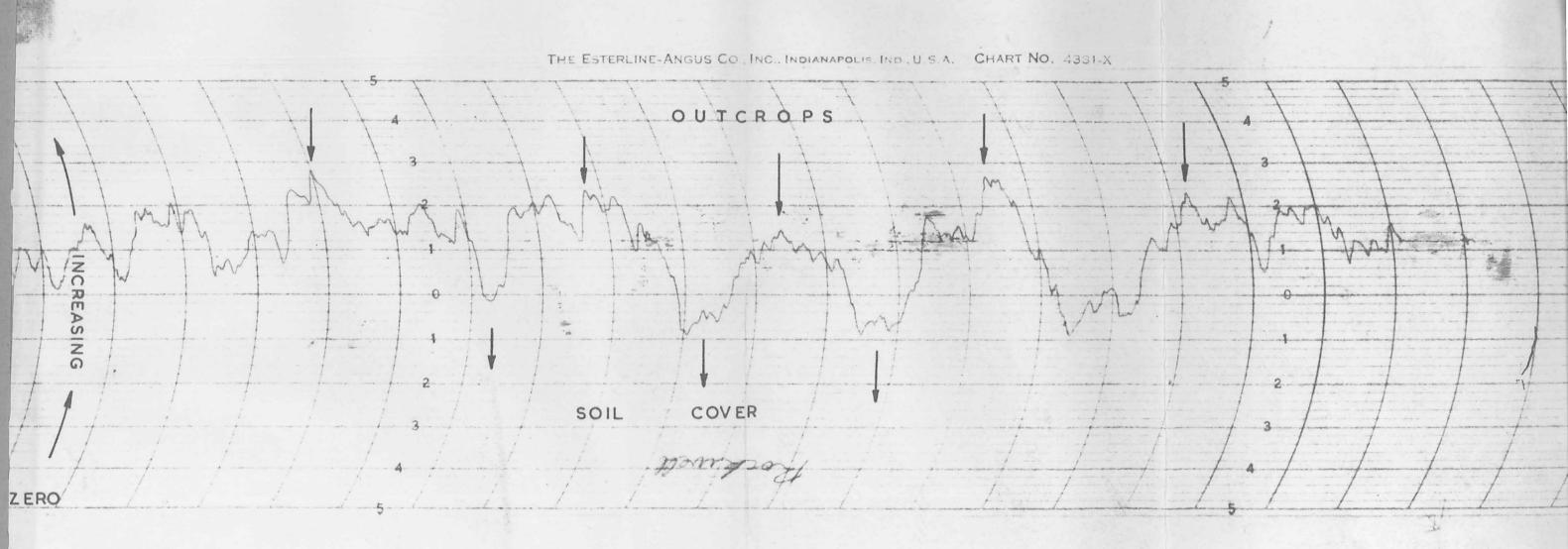
PROFILE OVER GREAT WESTERN



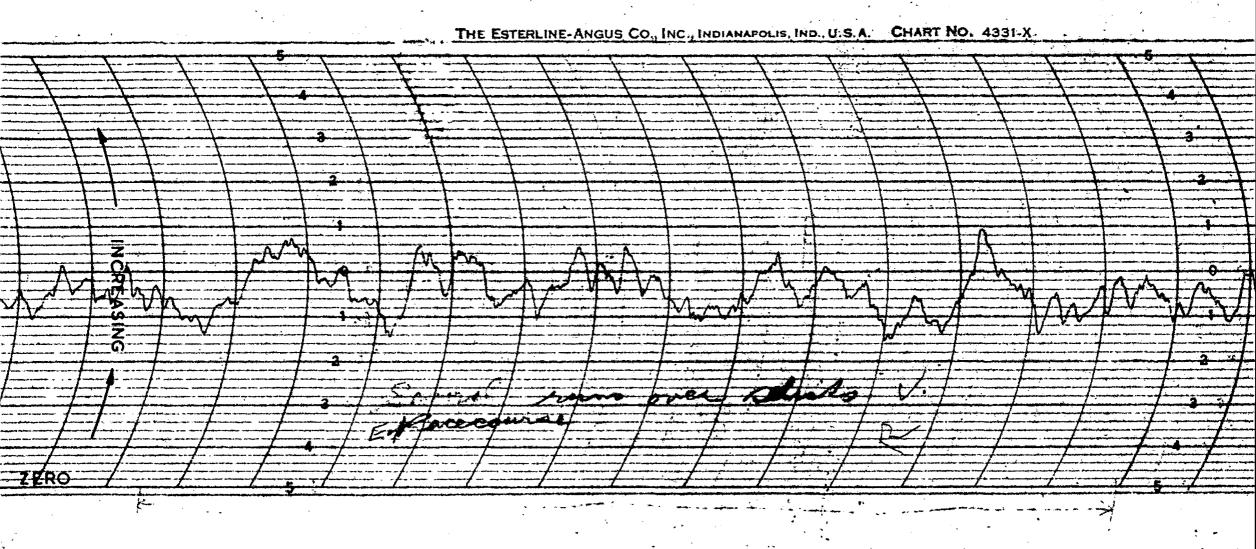
PROFILE OVER PATTERSON POLKINGHORNE DEPOSIT



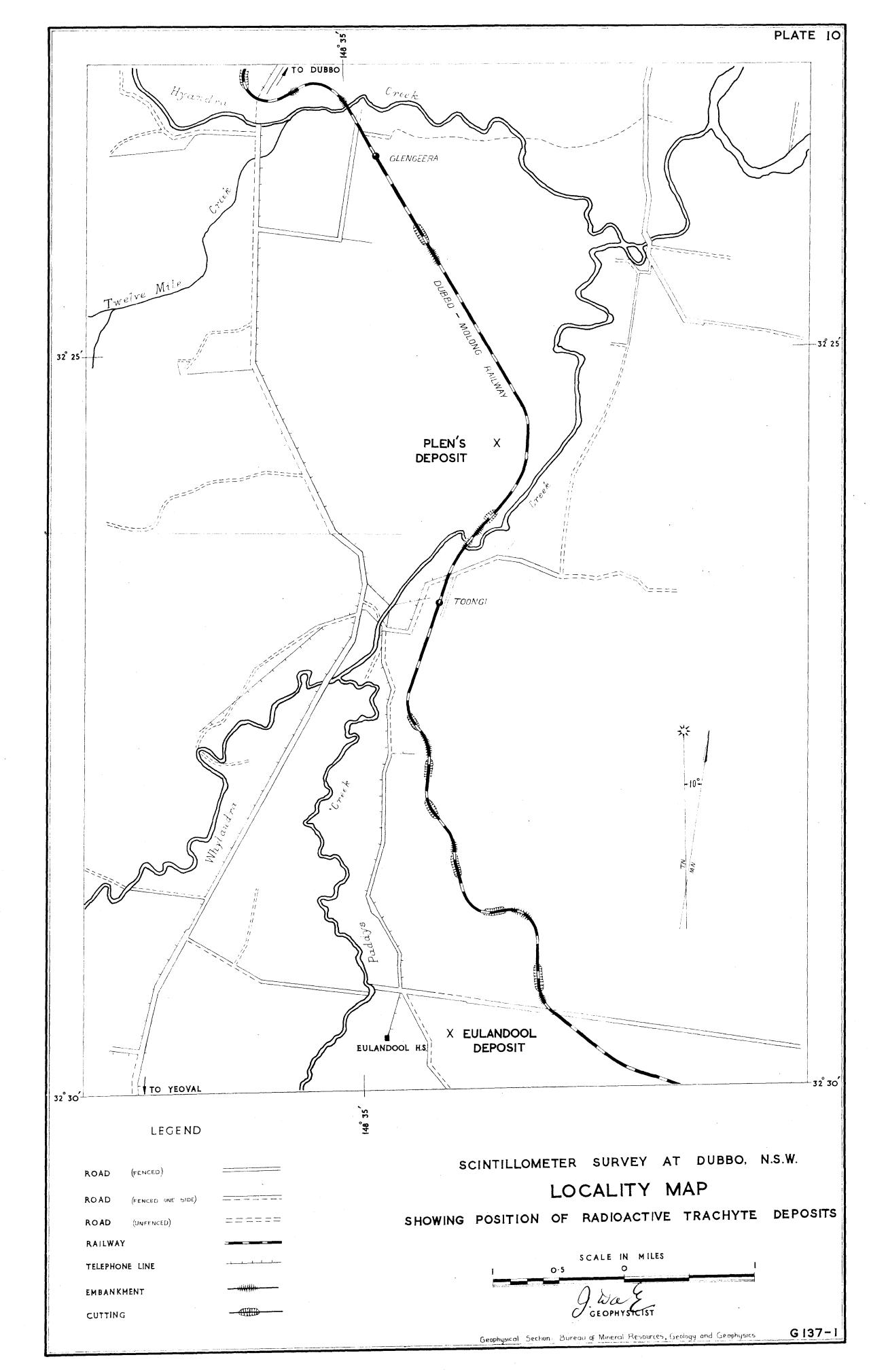
PROFILE OVER UMBERUMBERKA DAM



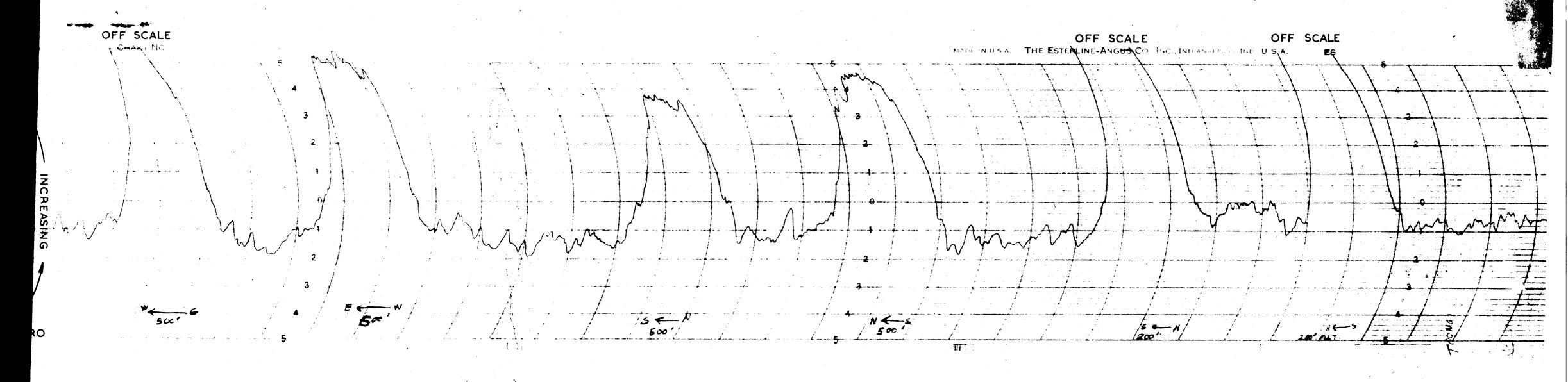
PROFILE OVER ROCKWELL AREA



PROFILE OVER OUTCROPS EAST OF RACECOURSE



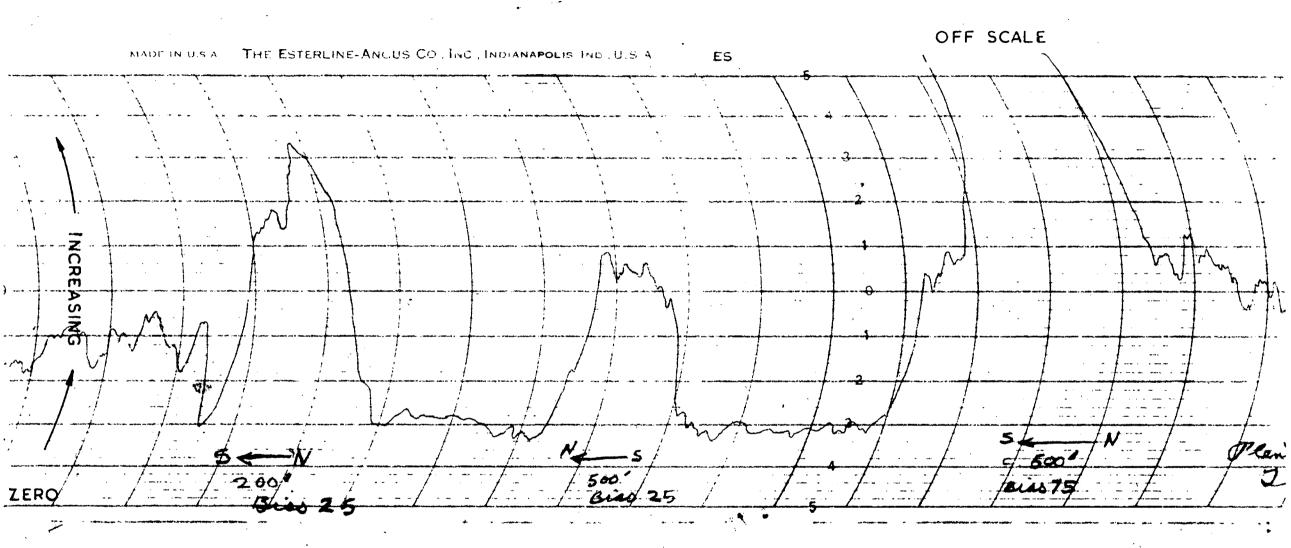




SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT DUBBO N.S.W.

ANOMALY OVER TOONGI DEPOSIT

REPEAT TRAVERSES OVER SAME AREA
AT 200' AND 500'



SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT DUBBO N.S.W.

ANOMALY OVER TOONGI DEPOSIT

SHOWING EFFECT OF VARYING BIAS REPEAT TRAVERSES OVER SAME AREA

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SCINTILLOMETER SURVEY AT DUBBO N.S.W.

ANOMALY OVER EULANDOOL DEPOSIT REPEAT TRAVERSES OVER SAME AREA

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