

812483

Excerpt from R. E. Legg memo to Evan Just, dated
9-17-53:

"One of the geologists of the C.G.S. was up
Indian Arm a short while ago and I have been told
that there is no activity on the Britannia claims.
This would indicate to me that the early optimistic
reports were unfounded. The Britannia geologist,
Thurber, who was apparently responsible for these
statements, is away in another area."

Original in Kluane Range, Yukon Territory, SF

B.C.

REC'D SEP 1 1953
Action Date

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

A C		
E J	1	98
H K		
L W C.		

FROM: R. E. Legg

CITY: Vancouver, B.C.

DATE: Aug. 28/53.

TO: Evan Just

A = Action C = Comment
I = Information

SUBJECT:

I made enquiries yesterday at the local office of the B.C. Department of Mines to see if there was any further news from Indian Arm, where Britannia are carrying out prospecting work on their claims. They have heard nothing. No further news has been reported in the local press during the past month.

R. E. Legg
R. E. Legg

RECD. JUL 31 1953		
ANSD.		BY
RI	N TO	
PLEASE REPLY		
HSM	PKW	SGM
HTM	RWM	GOC
JLB	BWS	LWW
GDD	KKW	LCA
CWS	LP	ALD
EW	SAS	

Evan Just

New York


7/29/53

R. E. Legg

Indian Arm

I am sorry to note in your memorandum of July 23 that you were disappointed in your observations of Indian Arm. However, reviewing the developments in this situation, I do not feel that an error in judgment was made at any particular step in the proceedings, despite the disappointment.

However, now that we have the claims, I suppose that a limited amount of prospecting is appropriate. I shall be interested to hear what assay you got on the mineralized zone observed. *



 Evan Just

EJ:CM

* Now in hand - not promising

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

REC'D JUL 29 1953
Action Date

A	C	
E	I	
H	K	
L	W	DATE: 27/7/53

FROM: R. E. Legg CITY: Vancouver, B.C.

To: Evan Just

A = Action C = Comment
I = Information

SUBJECT: Indian Arm, B.C.

Attached hereto is a claims map of the claims we have staked at Buntzen Lake in the Indian Arm area. The location of this lake in relation to Indian Arm is shown on the map I sent to you with my memo of July 6th.

Although the man I engaged to do the staking actually staked 24 claims, he was able to record only eleven. I had to restake the Lakeshore group, which I did and which I will record within the next day or so. We thus have a total of 19 claims, which are the Lakeshore 1 to 8 inclusive, the L.K. 1 to 8 inclusive, and the L.L. 1, 7 and 8. The balance of the L.L. claims could not be recorded. The ground covered by these claims had been staked a few days previously, but had not been recorded at the Mining Recorder's office in New Westminster, when A.F.Kent, who did our staking, paid a visit there on July 7th for the purpose of seeing which ground was open. When he went back to record the claims we staked, he found that the ground covered by L.L.2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 was then shown on the Recorder's map as staked. Kent said he never saw any claim posts, but that is not surprising in view of the very heavy underbrush. The ground covered by our claims L.L.2, 3 and 4 had been previously been staked by Mining Corporation of Toronto.

Kent made a technical error in staking the Lakeshore group, so I went out and restaked them.

In my memo to you of July 23rd I told you what I thought of the Britannia discovery in the light of further information obtained. There is a chance that I may be wrong, but I do not think so. I will try and get further information during the next few weeks, but until I know something definite, I would recommend that we make no expenditures. I told you that I took two samples from a mineralized zone on our ground (on the Lakeshore No.6 claim). I had these assayed and obtained the following results.

Sample No.1	Surface outcrops of granodiorite fairly well mineralized with fine pyrite.	0.20 oz. Ag. Nil Nickel Nil Copper Nil Cobalt
" " 2	Gossan float	0.10 oz. Ag.

These two samples could well have come from a mineralized shear zone in the granodiorite.

If the Britannia shear extends as far as Buntzen Lake, it should cover our ground. A long tunnel connects Buntzen and

(over)

REC'D JUL 29 1953
Date Action

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Cooquitlam lakes for water diversion. This is a two and a half mile tunnel, and it really acts as a long crosscut. Kent told me he examined the large dump at the Buntzen Lake end and he could not find any trace of mineralization. If there had been any ore bodies out, then I think the fact would have been known. This diversion tunnel is shown on the map I already sent you.

In view of the facts now known, a "wait and see" policy is indicated.

R. E. Legg

Attached hereto is a claims map of the claims we have in the Indian Arm area. The location of the Indian Arm is shown on the map I sent to you with my memo of July 27th.

Although the man I engaged to do the staking actually staked 24 claims, he was able to record only eleven. I had to re-stake the Lakeshore group, which I did and which I will record within the next day or so. We thus have a total of 19 claims which are the Lakeshore 1 to 8 inclusive, the I.K. 1 to 8 inclusive, and the I.L. 1, 7 and 8. The balance of the I.L. claims could not be recorded. The ground covered by these claims had been staked a few days previously, but had not been recorded at the Mining Recorder's office in New Westminster, when A.F. Kent, who did our staking, paid a visit there on July 7th for the purpose of seeing which ground was open. When he went back to record the claims we staked, he found that the ground covered by I.L. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 was then shown on the Recorder's map as staked. Kent said he never saw any claim posts, but that is not surprising in view of the very heavy underbrush. The ground covered by our claims I.L. 2, 3 and 4 had been previously been staked by Mining Corporation of Toronto.

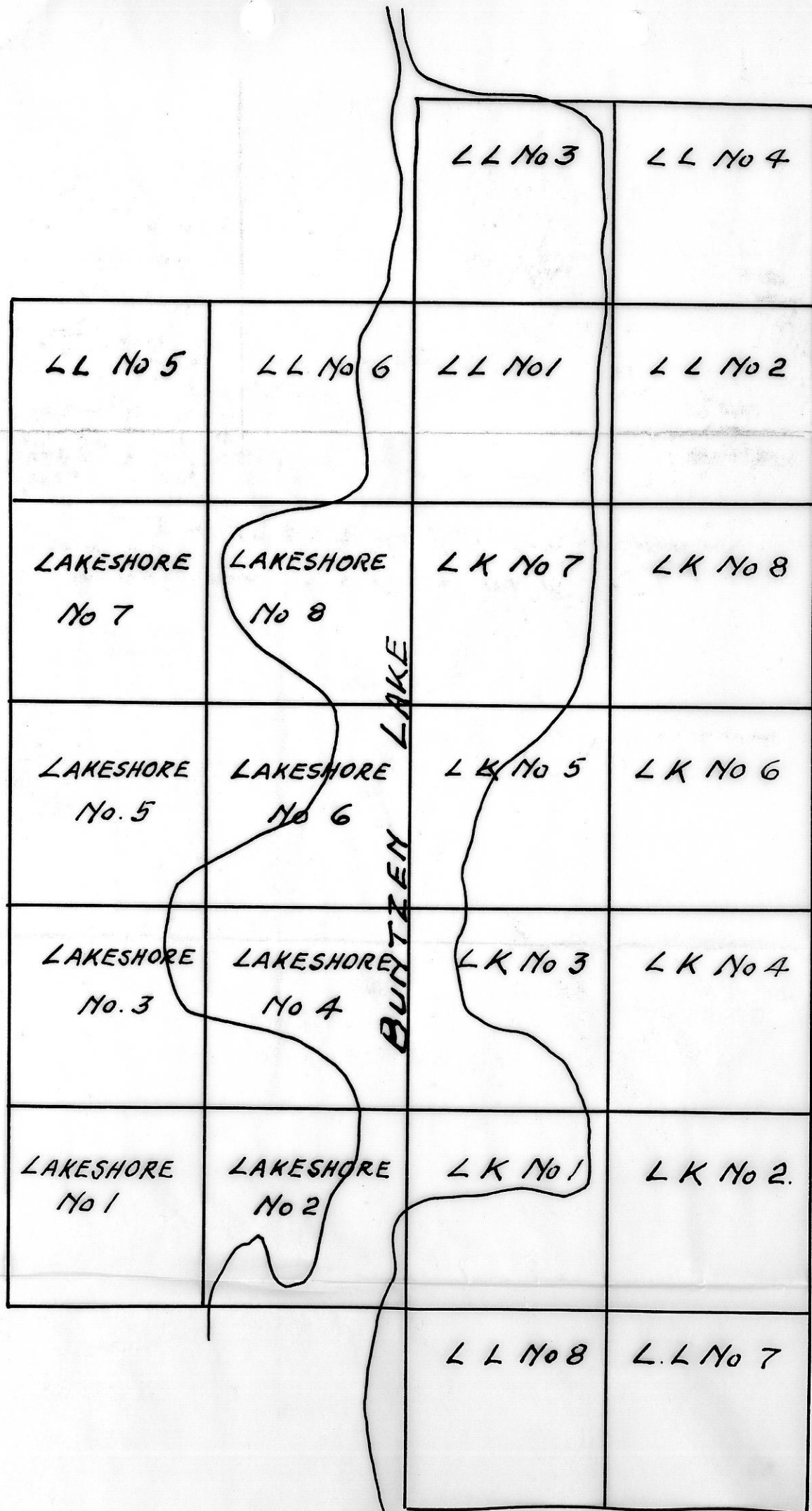
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		Nil Copper
		Nil Cobalt
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NORTH ASTRO

PLAN
OF
CLAIMS STAKED
IN
LAKE BUNTZEN
AREA

SCALE 1 INCH = 1000 FT. JULY 1953

A. F. KENT.

REC'D JUL 27 1953

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

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	A	7-28
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L W		

A = Action C = Comment.

FROM: R. E. Legg

CITY: Vancouver, B.C.

DATE: July 23/53

To: Evan Just

SUBJECT:

I spent yesterday in the Indian Arm area looking over some of our claims, and rectifying the staking of one of our groups.

This morning I took in two samples to our assayer, who, incidently, has been doing some assaying for Thurber, Britannia geologist who is in charge of their Indian Arm work. As a result of this conversation I have come to the conclusion that Thurber is - to use the expression - "all wet". I feel that he has been responsible for the very optimistic statements which have appeared in the press - not official statements by the Britannia Company but nevertheless not denied by them. It is my opinion that Thurber has reported to his company that a very large ore body exists on the projection of the Britannia shear. He told me himself that copper was of secondary importance and inferred that other valuable minerals had been determined. I learned that he had submitted samples for mercury analysis and the result was nil. Then he claimed tin was in the ore. Previously it was cobalt. He brought in to the assayer a sample of massive pyrite and stated it was not pyrite. The assayer, whom I know very well, tried to convince him it was nothing but pyrite but could not convince him. He then ran an assay for the iron content and obtained an iron content of 46% which is the theoretical iron content of pure pyrite (46.6% to be exact). The assayer stated definitely to me that he felt Thurber was groping to find something to justify himself.

It is undoubtedly on the strength of these press reports that Granby, Mining Corp. and others, including ourselves, have staked ground in the area. I took the view that a solidly established company like Britannia would put a man in charge of such exploration work who would know what he was doing. This does not seem to be the case. Britannia must have spent several thousand dollars to date on staking, camps, etc.

I found a mineralized zone on our claims, and it could be a wide one. However, the samples only looked to contain fine pyrite. As a precaution I asked our assayer to run them for nickel, cobalt and silver. We are staked on both sides of Buntzen Lake. On the opposite side of the lake and just to the east of our claims on open ground, I did notice what appeared to be a reddish coloured cliff which I will investigate. The country is extremely difficult to move about in, owing to the dense underbrush. However on our particular claims it would be a relatively easy matter to provide access.

R. E. Legg

 R. E. Legg

BC - Indian Arm

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

REC'D JUN 22 1953
Action Date

A C		
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FROM: R. E. Legg

CITY: Vancouver, B.C.

DATE: 18/7/53

To: Evan Just.

SUBJECT: Indian Arm.

A = Action C = Comment
I = Information

Attached is a letter to you dated August 6th, which I forgot to mail to you before leaving Vancouver on July 8th. It concerns Britannia's copper discovery at Indian Arm, and action which I had taken and contemplated.

Since then we have acquired 22 claims. Frankly I do not know if they are any good. I will be spending this coming week in the area to see what I can find out.

The attached newspaper clipping headed "Copper Strike Reported" appeared in the press when I was away. Our claims are along the shores of Lake Buntzen, which is mentioned in the clipping.

Newmont are interested in the area. One of their men phoned me the other day to ask if I was told to get off the Britannia ground. I was away, but I was surprised at the question which was put to my partner Hensworth. Britannia's geologist, whom I met in the area, was very agreeable to me, but he just was not giving out any information.

As Cyprus is not registered in B.C. and does not have a Free Miner's License, I will arrange to have the claims transferred to my name, and I will hold them for Cyprus. This is the practical thing to do.

R. E. Legg
R. E. Legg

July 9, 1953

Copper Strike Reported

The possibility of a rich new copper discovery within a one-hour drive of downtown Vancouver was disclosed by mining men Wednesday.

Favorable returns on samples taken from the area directly behind Ioco and around the Lake Buntzen area have sparked the search for the metal right at the "back door" of this city.

Mining recorders in Vancouver and New Westminster reported Wednesday that over 75 claims have been filed on property in that area during the past three weeks.

TOP FIRMS

Several big companies, which include Granby Consolidated Mining Company and Britannia Mines, are believed to have staked claims in the area as well as dozens of individual prospectors.

Extent of the "strike" will not be immediately known. But mining men feel it could be one of the richest strikes in the province.

The claims take in the area just behind Ioco and stretch up to the head of Lake Buntzen and beyond across the Indian arm. There has also been approximately 50 claims filed on property in Seymour Park.

Britannia Mines set off the rush when they reported a rich copper strike along the Indian arm.

WIDE BELT

Mining officials believe the ore belt stretches across Burrad Inlet, through Seymour Park and along the shores of Yake Buntzen.

Early reports to the BC Chamber of Mines show that the grade of ore so far has not been very high, but prospectors state there is definitely a strong showing.

Big companies in the field have not made any official announcements.

REC'D

JUL 10 1953

Action Date

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

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A = Action C = Comment

I = Information

FROM: R. E. Legg

CITY: Vancouver, B.C.

DATE: 7/7/53

TO: Evan Just

SUBJECT: Indian Arm

I thought I would confirm that I have engaged Kent to stake some claims at Indian Arm. I have explained to him what is required. It will be a cheap way to get some ground, which we can look over after we have it staked. Kent paid a visit to the mining recorder's office in New Westminster today and found there was available ground south east of where Mining Corporation staked. However, it is possible that the ground I propose to cover is already staked, but not recorded, but this is the chance we have to take.

Kent is a former manager of the Estella mine. He is thoroughly reliable. I am paying him \$30.00 per day for about a week. He will take my son and another young chap along with him.

I will be writing you in eight or nine days time when I have returned and learn what has been accomplished.

R. E. Legg
R. E. Legg

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: R. E. Legg

CITY: Vancouver, B.C.

DATE: 7/6/53

TO: Evan Just

SUBJECT: Indian Arm, B.C.

I paid another visit today to Indian Arm. I met my son and his companion as prearranged, and I also met Thurber, Britannia geologist, who is in charge of their work. He was not too communicative, but I did glean a lot of information which I will pass on to you.

Apparently copper is now considered of secondary importance. Thurber did state this. He said it took them a month to determine that they had other values on their claims. Bill Cockfield of the C.G.S. in Vancouver told me they had found Cobalt with good silver values. I have no idea of what the average values might be, and I would judge that Britannia has no real evidence on this matter as so little work has been done.

To give you the picture I might say that at the Britannia mine, which lies some 16 to 20 miles in a north west direction from Indian Arm, there is a major shear, known as the Britannia shear. The Britannia geologists have projected this across to Indian Arm and they picked it up there. The Britannia company has staked claims in a south easterly direction from the Britannia mine to cover this shear as far as they have been able to. They had to stop staking when they came into the watershed for Greater Vancouver. For the same reason they can only stake so far from Indian Arm. The attached map shows their staking north west of Indian Arm. There have been claims staked recently to the north west of their ground, but these have been disallowed. All the area draining into Seymour creek is in the watershed. My boy and his companion found the Britannia claim posts right up near Fannin Lake, and they stated that other staking was further to the north west, but the mining recorder's office in Vancouver shows no claims as having been officially accepted. Thurber told me that he tried to stake over Fannin Lake, but was refused by the Mining recorder.

So the only hope lies in staking ground to the south east of Indian Arm. Well Granby some time ago staked the ground under the arm, and Britannia has now covered a block south east of Granby. Then Thurber tells me that Mining Corporation of Toronto has staked south east of them.

Now if this major shear keeps on going to the south east, it soon reaches Port Coquitlam and one is in farming country. So the ground is limited. I am going to investigate what claims have been staked, and this has to be done through the mining recorder's office in New Westminster. The dividing line between the Vancouver mining division and the New Westminster mining division is

the center line of Indian Arm. Mining Corp's. claims would all be recorded in New Westminster, although they have 14 days after they stake in which to record. So it is possible that at this date they have not recorded any claims.

I have to leave Vancouver on the morning of June 8th and I will be away for a week. However, I will contact a reliable man tomorrow and explain the situation to him and ask him to carry on the investigation. Both my partners are away, otherwise I would ask them to do so. This man's name is Kent and he has had considerable mining experience and his brother told me today that he was looking for a job. If there appears to be a block of potential ground still open, then we may as well tie it in.

Thurber told me that in his opinion it was necessary to have a favourable structure as well as being on the Britannia shear. The rock types were not so important. At Britannia the copper values are in the old sedimentaries, whereas at Indian Arm the copper and cobalt mineralization occur in highly sheared granite.

It is very difficult to assess the situation when no information is made public. I do not think Britannia will give out any news. It is not to their advantage to do so. Thurber says it is a very important find. He is a relatively young man and is not well known. He showed me a number of specimens today, which offhand I would have said contained pyrite. He said it was not pyrite. He did not want me to have any specimens. I could see no resemblance to either smaltite or cobaltite.

One more point. You might wonder where the shear would go if it continued past Coquitlam. Well, then it would go into the wide Fraser valley, where mining would be out of the question.

It will be a week before I can write you again. My boy reported that they had a very difficult time to move around. The ground was everywhere very steep and they spent 8 to 10 hours every day climbing, and with their hands to a great extent.

With best regards,

R. E. Legg
R. E. Legg

Evan Just

New York

7/6/53

R. E. Legg

Indian Arm Copper Prospect

I am entirely in accord with your plans to investigate this
area.

Evan
E.J.

Evan Just

EJ:CM

REC'D

JUL 2 1953

Action Date

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

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B.C.		

DATE: 6/29/53

A = Action C = Comment

I = Information

FROM: R. E. Legg

CITY: Vancouver,

TO: Evan Just

SUBJECT: Indian Arm, B.C.
Copper Prospect

I learned today from Dr. Cockfield, head of the Canadian Geological Survey in Vancouver, that Britannia Mines are quite encouraged with the results they are obtaining on their property west of Indian Arm, which is a branch of Vancouver's harbour (Burrard Inlet). He mentioned copper values across a width of 1500 feet, which does seem fantastic, and he further said that the silver values were encouraging.

I wrote to you a short time ago about this prospect. I intend to make further investigations. The country is rough and mountainous and travelling is very arduous. I propose to send my young son and a friend up there to try and locate the showings. These are lads of 18 and rough going is nothing to them. I would not want to send one of the boys by himself, in case he met with an accident. I will take them up Indian Arm on July 2nd and outline what I want done. They can take sleeping bags and a little grub, and I know they will cover the country. Then after they come out I intend to go in myself, provided they have located Britannia's claims. I propose paying these boys \$7.00 a day and their food supplies.

Dr. Cockfield has described the geology to me. It is somewhat complicated and different to that of the Britannia mine itself. Once I get a slant on it, I will try and cover some country which is not staked. I will show the boys the type of formation in which the values occur and then let them go to it. They might be two or three weeks doing the job, and possibly longer if we find anything.

Britannia has been very secretive about their work. They are in virgin country in spite of its proximity to Vancouver.

R. E. Legg
R. E. Legg

3e REC'D JUN 10 1953
Action Date

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

E J	1	6-13
H K		
L W		

FROM: R. E. Legg
TO: Evan Just

CITY: Vancouver, B. C. DATE: June 8/53
A = Action C = Comment
I = Information

SUBJECT: Indian Arm near Vancouver, B. C.

A short time ago there appeared in the press an article that Britannia Mines had located a major copper deposit at Indian Arm which is an arm of Vancouver's harbour. I have investigated this and I have learned from the local office of the Canadian Geological Survey that there has been located a mineralized zone up to 300' in width. Preliminary sampling suggests a copper content of 1%.

Britannia did not give out any news about their discovery but it leaked out and it was printed in the newspapers. I took a boat up to Indian Arm a couple of days ago to size up the situation and I was able to locate some of the claim posts. The showings occur on extremely rugged terrain. It strikes me that this is a showing which could only be handled by Britannia. They could mine cheaply by open cut methods and load their ore on barges and haul same to their mill at tidewater on Howe Sound some 50 miles distance. The apparant strike of the mineralized zone leads onto the watershed for the city of North Vancouver. Britannia have staked the ground away from the watershed and even onto the watershed. When I learned that the ore only seemed to run 1% copper I cooled off. There would be little if any profit in mining such a grade of ore today in the high mountains in the coast range.

A topographical map showing the location of the discovery is enclosed. - Back of File

R. E. Legg
R. E. Legg

REL:FE
Encl.