

MINE

① any excavation (subterranean) for the purpose of exploring for or extracting minerals.

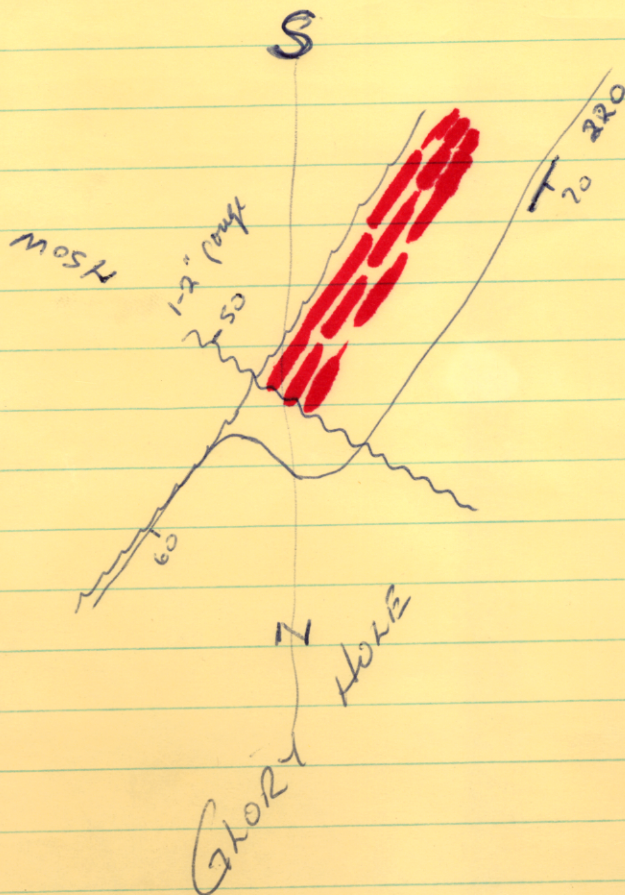
② any opening or excavation in, or working of the ground for the purpose of opening up, developing or proving any mineral or mineral bearing substance.

③ any land in which any mineral deposit is mined for its mineral content.

AT PREMIER.

SEPT 8 1959 to report on the condition of the road to Big Missouri and to the Premier.

Aug. 29 & 30 1960 examined the property accompanied by Bel Smithmeyer report published in An Dept MM 1960-8



ore 4' wide  
35' strike length  
± 100 depth on  
the side of fault

The ore lies to the north of a crosscut driven S.E. on the 100 level. possibly <sup>some</sup> the mineralization shows in the level but the high grade is to the N.E.

Aug. 23. 1961 spent day at the property - at which time the Silbak company were mining in the glory hole area - for another vein found by closely spaced diamond drilling - our engineer Dr. Carr spent a week at the property

104B054-0



Aug. 22 - Sept. 3 1962 at Premier mine camp -  
road worked out during winter ) 1961-62  
reconnaissance ) mine and area to the north

Aug 26-30 . 1963 in Stuart area and at the mine  
for a day . this was preparatory  
to setting up a long range study of the  
region-

April 25, 1963.

Mr. L.E. Munn, Secretary,  
Bermah Mines Limited,  
525 Seymour Street,  
Vancouver 2, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. T. McQuillan requesting me to express my opinion regarding Bermah Mines' operation at Silbak Premier. It seems to me that this best can be done by outlining the progression of mining first by Premier Gold Mining Company and subsequently by Silbak Premier Mines Limited.

In the first several years of operation, 1917-20, high-grade ore was shipped from surface workings and from the No. 1 adit level which were located where the "Glory Hole" is at present. By the latter part of 1920 a small concentrator was under construction and ore was being mined from No. 1 level and from a shaft sunk 60 feet below it.

In 1921 No. 2 adit level had been driven, ore was being mined above No. 2 level and No. 4 adit crosscut was directed toward the Premier vein zone, to be used as the main haulage.

By 1923 mining was being carried on in No. 3 level as well as the upper two.

In 1926 a new concentrator was completed and ore from the upper levels was being handled through No. 4 level crosscut which remained the main haulage level for the life of the mine.

By 1929 all mining was still largely above No. 4 level and exploration on No. 5 and No. 6 levels had been disappointing.

In the 1930 Annual Report of the Minister of Mines, British Columbia, opposite page 110 there is a vertical section which shows how extensively the Premier vein-zone, above No. 4 level had been stoped. Also it is stated, page 110, "New ore is being picked up from time to time in small high-grade shoots lateral to the main zone between No. 2 and No. 3 levels. These lateral shoots are an important adjunct to the ore reserves and additional possibilities of this category still remain to be explored on the lower horizons ... Intensive search for new lateral zones has been carried on with three diamond drills on the higher altitude ground, crosscutting the formation east of the main ore zone, but so far nothing of importance has been discovered".

Mr. L.E. Munn

April 25, 1963.

In the Annual Report, Minister of Mines, 1932, p. 60: "Diamond drilling exploration of the footwall side of the north-east zone between No. 2 and No. 3 levels has been continued."

In the Annual Report, Minister of Mines, 1934, p. B25: "The main ore shoot is considered bottomed slightly below the fifth level, with a few shoots of commercial grade persisting down in the eastern end of the sixth level. Subsidiary lateral ore shoots occur in the hangingwall and particularly the footwall of the ground adjacent to the main zone, and more recent exploration has been devoted to discovery and development of these shoots between No. 2 level and the surface. During 1934 an ore shoot lying in the footwall of the main structure between No. 1 level and the surface was discovered and developed."

In 1935 Silbak Premier Mines Limited took over the assets of Premier Gold Mining Company and B.C. Silver and Sebakwa Mines. Mining in the footwall of the main ore zone continued.

The Annual Report, Minister of Mines, 1936, p. B3: states that "Normal production has continued from Premier Mine, Stewart, a feature of which operation has been the bulk-blasting of a block of about 65,000 tons of ore from pillars between No. 1 and No. 2 levels." This operation and subsequent drawing of ore led to the development of the "Glory Hole" and the destruction of all the old levels and access to workings in that particular section of the vein from No. 3 level through to the surface.

The Annual Report, Minister of Mines, 1947, p. A75: states "After the consolidation the initial exploration by Silbak Premier Mines Limited was directed toward developing orebodies above 1350 level to the northeast of the Premier workings, along what is known as the 'north-east zone'. Several ore bodies of moderate size found or previously known in the B.C. Silver section were mined from 1350 to 1670 levels ..... However, by 1939 most of the ore available above 1350 level had been mined and interest turned to lower levels".

In the Annual Report, Minister of Mines, 1948, p. A69: it is stated that "Most of the ore mined came from stopes in the central area, north of the old Premier workings ..... All the ore was hoisted to the 1350-foot (4) level and trammed to the mill."



From July 1948 to mid 1949 the mine was closed by strike action. It was reopened in 1949 and operated to February 1953 when it closed again, this time because of low metal prices. All ore mined was from the bottom levels.

When exploration was begun again <sup>in</sup> 1955, attention was again paid to the lower levels accessible from the Premier Border shaft, which was dewatered so that diamond drilling could be undertaken. Production was resumed in September 1956 and ceased when the concentrator was destroyed by fire on November 20, 1956. "Approximately 10,000 tons of ore was mined in the Silbak workings. Stoping was concentrated on 9F and 9H stopes on the 940 level, 10A stope on the 1060 level, and 79B stope on the 790 level."

There is no doubt in my mind that the old, upper section of the mine from No. 3 level to the surface, in the vicinity of the "Glory Hole" was thought by the officials of the old Premier company to have been thoroughly explored by 1935 and to be devoid of any further exploration chances in the main ore zone when the "big blast" was set off in 1936. This effectively destroyed surface access to the ore zone in this section and can only mean that they had decided that no further exploration or mining in that section was warranted. In effect that section of the mine was abandoned by the company.

All work at the property subsequent to 1936 bears this out. Mining from then on was undertaken on the lower levels, below No. 4, and it is significant that despite the fact that it was directed by several different engineers, there was never any thought or indication that more ore might be found in the older upper workings. This is true of the present management of the company who indicated by their mining during the short period in 1956 their disinterest in the "Glory Hole" section of the vein zone. All the recent work by the Silbak Premier Company had been in the deeper levels of the mine and there is no doubt in my mind that a continuation or extension of their operation after the fire would have been attempted below No. 4 level and not above it.

The discovery of high-grade float in the summer of 1959 by Julian Berkosha and the subsequent discovery of the vein from which it came was in my opinion a new discovery. Although the vein is close to the footwall of the main ore zone it is not connected with it. It is another of the small veins similar to those which had been

*a discovery of a new vein*

found during the several years prior to 1936 when extensive exploration had been undertaken. It had been missed largely for the reason that the spacing of drill holes in the footwall of the main ore zone had been too wide normally to expect to intersect shoots whose strike length was no more than 30 feet. The discovery in effect was of a new, unmined vein in a section of the mine which had been abandoned since 1936. Furthermore it is my belief that the Silbak Premier Company would have done no further work to date at the property if this discovery had not been made.

Yours truly,

S.S. Holland,  
Geologist.

SSH:ln

cc: Mr. T. McQuillan.



Year 7 peak production 1925-28. and a decline  
 had set in which was partly stemmed by  
 the amalgamation in 1936 and the formation of  
 the Silbak Premier Company - Ore was derived from  
 the Silbakve and B.L. Silben ground adjoining.  
 The mine was closed by strike action in <sup>July</sup> 1948 & 1949  
 reopening in 1949 and operated to 1953 when it  
 closed again because of low metal prices. All ore  
 mined at that time was from the bottom levels.

Exploration was begun again in 1955 and ore was  
 developed in the lower levels accessible from the Premier  
 Border shaft - which was de-watered. Production was  
 resumed in September 1956 and terminated in Nov 1956  
 when the old concentrator was destroyed by fire.  
 At that time 10000 tons was mined in the Silbak workings.  
 "Stopeing was concentrated on 9F & 9H stopes on the 940 level,  
 10A stope on the 1060 level and 79B stope on the 790 level

790 level = #6  
 1345 " = #4 - main haulage

Dividends paid continuously 1921-1946  
 and in 1952

last P.M. was 1930 then decreased halved - to  
 1938 & then further reduced to 25.00 the  
 final payment.

The really profitable period of mine operation was 1921-  
 30 then a decline of dividends to 1938 when  
 a further cut was made. The profitable period  
 corresponds to the mining of the vein above the  
 #3 level or 1555 foot level.

grade of the last ore mined in 1953 was

As 0.13 oz	in 1956	0.015 oz
Ag 1.7 oz		0.9 oz
Pb 2.2		3.4 %
Zn 2.8		3.3 %