

GERMAN SPUR SETTLEMENT

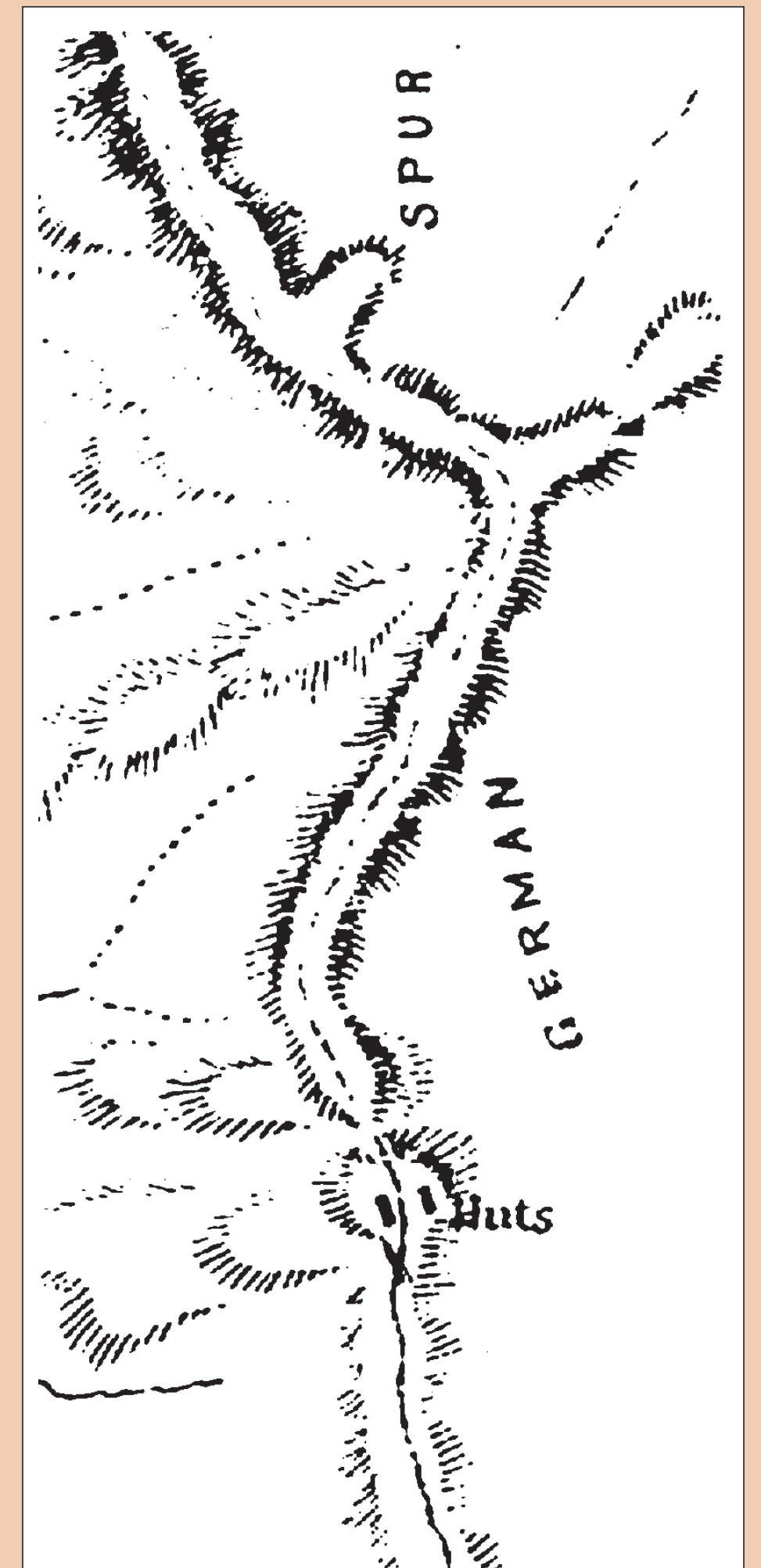
Little is known about this site apart from a mention on John Hardy's map of 1865 which recorded two large buildings. Archaeological works also suggest it was possibly a rest stop for travellers and horses along the Jamieson to Woods Point Track.

Following the discovery of gold, this area saw a rapid transformation. Suddenly there were hundreds of travellers and packhorses using the available tracks. The track from Jamieson to the gold workings on the far Upper Goulburn around Gooleys Creek and Woods Point evolved from steep and rugged bridle tracks to a road that was suitable for wheeled traffic resembling today's road via Gaffneys Creek.

This section between Knockwood and Frenchmans Gap was used in earnest for only a few years from 1861 to about 1865 but that was long enough for several accommodation and 'refreshment' shanties to exist. The crude, often half tent, half slab structures, with a puff of welcoming smoke emanating from their chimneys, would have been a welcome sight to weary travellers. Horses would also welcome a rest break in stables with a nose-bag full of feed.

Cherry's Dray Track

The main mode of transport along the German Spur was by packhorse or foot; however, Thomas Cherry and Patrick Perkins, storekeepers of Cherrys Point in 1861 had another idea. It occurred to them that, once on top of the range, the road levelled out considerably and could be made to accommodate wheeled vehicles thus making the cartage of goods easier and cheaper. Cherry set about clearing and widening the track from the Alpine Hotel to Cherrys Point. A wagon or dray was packed in pieces to the Alpine Hotel and reassembled. The storekeepers were then able to run their own wagon for 15 miles over the ridge. After that they only needed to pay for packing from the Jamieson side to the Alpine Hotel.



Excerpt of the 1865 John Hardy map depicting where two large buildings (huts) were located.

Source and Images:

Rudi Paoletti, Historian & Author

Tracks to the Wood's Point and Jordan Goldfields, R.W. Christie, 1989

West Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc.(www.westgippslandinc.com.au)

Luke Steenhuis for 'Ghost Towns of the Mountain Goldfields'