

KKK to RUPERT'S HOUSE  
via  
Oskelaneo, Chibougama, Mistassini, Marten River, Nemescau

Maps Required: For best overall picture of route; though not needed for travel: Map Distribution Office, Mines and Technical Surveys, 615 Booth Street, Ottawa

Scale: 8 miles to the inch: Chibougamau-Roberval 32 SE  
Mistassini NW 50/76  
Rupert House NW 50/80

For travel the following are needed:

From Mines and Technical Surveys:

Scale 1:250,000 or 4 miles to the inch:

Gouin Reservoir 32 B

Chibougamau 32 G

Assinica Lake 32 J

Scale 1:50,000 or 1 mile to the inch (these are not absolutely necessary, since territory is covered on above series, but are quite useful in difficult territory.)

Chibougamau 32 G/16W and 32 G/16E

Lac Boisvert 32 G/9W and 32 G/9E

From Department of Lands and Forests, Quebec

Scale 3 miles to 1 inch:

Roberval - Sheet #4 North

Scale 6 miles to 1 inch:

Abitibi and Mistassini, both sections, east and west

Lands and Forest, Quebec also puts out maps covering the remainder of the trip, but maps from Mines and Technical Surveys are more accurate -- when available -- and it is unnecessary to carry the others, but they are:

Scale: 3 miles to 1 inch:

Saint-Maurice both east and west sections

Abitibi - Sheet # 3 North

Reserve of Fish and Game Chibougamau

Maps from Mines and Technical Surveys are 50 cents a sheet. Those from Lands and Forests 50 cents a sheet on plain paper or \$1.00 a sheet on linen. Sheets on Abitibi and Mistassini available only on regular paper. East sheet is supposed to be out of print and is hard to obtain.

Quebec Lands and Forests maintains Fishing Camps along the route where they can charge \$2 a day rod fee within an undetermined number of miles of each camp. Permission to pass through Waconichi without paying the fee should be obtained well in advance from Director, Parks and Reserves Service, Quebec by indicating that there will be no fishing on Waconichi. There is not supposed to be any camping on the lake either. There is a second camp at Mistassini Post and another at the mouth of the Rupert. The manager at the first did not try to interfere, and the second is never reached. There is an outpost camp being established at the tip of the Big Crossing of Mistassini. Maybe both areas might be included in the letter of permission.

### T Station to Oskelaneo --

Baggage car loaded by 9 pm (Daylight) for shipment to Englehart on freight. Passengers supposed to leave at 2:52 am, but train was late. Transfer at Englehart or Swastika; makes no difference. Arrive Noranda at 8:30. Get off at Rouyn -- walk to CNR Station about 1/2 mile along tracks toward Noranda -- to walk back is longer. Leave CNR Station at 4:05. Short stop at Senneterre to pick up Cochrane train. Arrive Oskelaneo 10:45. Car had to be unloaded; though there is a possibility that it will be shunted off. Loading spot for start of trip 100 yards further on tracks than station and then either right or left of tracks to water -- we went left. Slept in cabin near station offered by local outfitter. Wabun slept in sheds to left of tracks. Could tent on either right or left of tracks near water -- but poles would be a problem. Bay store closed several years ago. A store located about 300 yards north of tracks on river, but has practically nothing. Ranger station 300 yards further north for travel permits. Made out all the way to James Bay. Fishing licenses at Post Office across tracks from station and next to closed Bay Post.

### Oskelaneo to Last Lock on River --

Paddle north on river -- quite wide and easy going -- land slightly drowned, but lunch sites pretty easy to locate. Just after narrow part of river starts -- about 8 - 10 miles from town is a lock dam -- rocky chute on right can't be run. Lock won't work -- carry 15 yards over board platform on left. River winds a fair amount afterwards. Just before Baie du Sud is another old sluice way that can be run or let down on left.

Campsite on left in grassy area near old fishing camp -- another camp or ranger station on right. Water pretty deep off campsite and swimming possible.

### Oskelaneo River to Baie du Nord --

On entering Baie du Sud, high sand bank on island appears to north -- head for it. If no wind keep to center of lake; if wind is present, there is supposed to be a channel through on the west shore -- but we went down the center.

Be careful at head of lake to get into correct Bay to paddle into North Bay -- we got into wrong one through drowned land and had to lift over a narrow sand beach into North Bay -- no loss of time -- just an extra effort.

Camped on east side of second island in middle of arm leading out of Bay -- pretty small, but ok, though swimming does not look good and no dry wood on island -- plenty of trees, but all green.

### Baie du Nord to Island just past narrows into Sandy Beach Lake --

Take left channel out of Baie du Nord.

Obiduan Post fairly large -- saw mill. Nice frame houses for indians -- pretty deserted in summer as indians go off to work for pulp company -- they come in during winter -- Bay Post right on tip of point with reservation behind.

Follow map carefully through islands and points -- shore line fairly well drowned and campsites hard to find -- We used rocky shore on North-west corner of large island just past narrows -- not very good tent sites, but the rest was fine.

### Narrows to Dubois --

About 16 miles up to stream to Dubois -- land drowned slightly and few good possible campsites -- follow map closely. Mines and

Technical Surveys quite accurate with almost every island included -- Narrows into Verreau looks like best place to look for campsites

Indian site on point just before stream might be best. There is also another indian site back in bush, but pretty dirty

There are two streams taking out in corner of bay -- look for 2nd one -- 1st is wrong and most obvious -- there are portage trails out of dirty indian site -- don't follow, they go on indefinitely to nowhere.

Paddle up stream -- deep water, easy current and winding for about 1-2 miles to falls, or cascade. Portage 50 yards on left. -- Next carry should go into adjacent lake -- supposed to be 800 yards and carry out should be 200 -- we pulled up stream, which is not good on canoes -- should carry twice on the pull ups; each 50 yards -- 1st on left out of an open stretch -- next on right -- Then carry 300 yards on left, put back in just below logging road (being built) and paddle 1/4 mile to last carry of 400 yards on right to Dubois.

Campsite at trapper's cabin on left before 800 yard carry to adjacent lake.

Campsite on last carry to Dubois about 200 yards in from Dubois -- good tent sites, but water pretty far away and no indian trail to stream! A few tent sites at Dubois, but rough for a section.

#### Dubois to Normandin --

Portage to 1st pond takes out of left corner of last bay after passing through shallow narrows about 5 miles down lake -- about 1 1/2 miles to portage past narrows.

There is what looks like a cabin on south shore of Dubois about 2 miles from start of lake; we did not investigate.

The islands in Dubois might make campsites, but we did not stop. Also possible site at start of portage out.

Carry to pond about 1000 - 1100 yards. A good bit of muskeg. Old logs across this pretty well broken down and a good bit of the muskeg section has no walks built. Carry crosses logging road about 25 yards to right of where it enters road.

Marshy landing on pond -- Next carry takes off almost directly across pond -- goes up hill and then carries on top of ridge for 3/4 mile. Excellent walker all the way. Trail follows ridge and about halfway over a pond can be seen to the right in a valley (you don't put in or even get close to it). Old broken down cabin at end of carry; we camped in front of it because of threat of rain, but site is poor, really, though would make a good lunch site -- water in front shallow and muskegy.

#### Normandin to River at north end of Buade --

Turn right on leaving foot of carry and pass through grassy creek; there may be a beaver dam or two to break through. Then pass through rest of lake and take bay on right to river leading out -- Lake is not particularly attractive, but it might be possible to cut a campsite.

Stream has one little swift at top into small pond. Then two rapids -- 1st run pretty much down the middle. 2nd let down a few yards on right and run the rest of the way on right -- A 400 yard portage is marked on map that bypasses the series, but we never looked for it.

First part of Petit Lake Buade is flooded, but after that it gets more attractive. Might be possible to cut a campsite on one of the islands. Turn left before foot of lake and up to logging company dam at start of river -- lift over on right side of dam --

-- either on mud beach at right of dam or right next to log chute in center.

River pretty attractive. 1st rapid -- run down center -- then fairly long paddle to next one -- run down center -- 3rd rapid immediately below around a slight bend -- top is just a horse race -- rest is rough -- top can be run, but foot seems to run out, so we carried -- could probably be run, but turns are tricky -- carry on right about 150 yards. Foam Falls (old abandoned power dam and plant) carried 300 yards on right. There is a boom across the river just above the dam -- go over boom and take out on right directly at dam -- trail goes past power plant, so don't turn off there -- put in down steep bank with loading spot for only one canoe.

Cut campsite on Buade about 1/2 to 1 mile from dam on island on right.

Buade nicest looking lake thus far. Paddle right up middle -- through islands, and into attractive narrows with some rocky shore.

We camped just before turn to Poutrincourt on right at rocky point -- rather poor, but it was pretty late. Pretty good swimming and fishing right off campsite.

#### Buade to Nikabau --

Rapid at head of Buade easy run to right of huge rock.

Islands below rapid might be made into campsites.

Campsite cut on Poutrincourt just at end of narrows on west shore -- looks ok.

2 rapids occur fairly soon out of Poutrincourt -- easy runs.

3rd rapid narrows down with good power swells -- had to be carried 100 yards on left on good trail -- rapid could be run in lower water. Look over from portage trail. Pretty good campsite on trail -- about in middle with tent sites strung out on trail.

Rest of river pretty wide -- though shallow in places until rapid just before deep bay at foot of Nikabau -- easy run.

Bay of Nikabau drowned with snags

Lumber depot on right at foot of lake.

Road and railroad run up east shore of lake.

Campsite in poplar on west shore about 2 miles down lake -- on 1st big point. Pretty good -- tent sites excellent -- swimming ok off sloping sand, gravel beach.

#### Nikabau to 80 Yard Portage on Creek to Obatogamau --

1st little riffle out of Nikabau paddled -- rest of shore of Nikabau looks rough for campsites.

Old lumber camp on right just before Jourdain would make a campsite.

Rapid just before Jourdain pulled up -- left side a little easier than right.

About 5 more rapids to be pulled up to Malo portage -- all short, but it may be necessary to get wet to pull up successfully. Some can be paddled.

Portage to Malo in sort of circular pond between two rapids -- poorly marked, so look carefully -- trail is 800 yards, pretty good, with a little muskeg at start and one spot in middle -- otherwise good -- lunch site on far side.

No campsites on Malo evident -- banks very wooded -- so are islands -- hard even to find lunch site.

Portage out takes out on left side of creek just before 1st

swift on grassy bank where ancient trapper's cabin is located -- carry 3/4 mile to Height of Land Lake -- filled with muskeg, particularly in 1st half -- cross stream on logs about 1/2 way across -- many rough windfalls in last half particularly.

Portage to next pond takes out in creek-like bay at right foot of pond -- trail 800 yards -- fairly good -- some muskeg and a few windfalls.

Paddle stream out of left foot of pond for about 300 yards or so to 80 yard portage on right around beaver pond -- campsite at head of portage, pretty fair, but small. Water at beaver dam pretty deep -- cold -- and ok for swimming.

#### 80 Yard Portage to Obatagama Lake --

Paddle stream for about 1/4 mile to 1/2 mile -- then 3/4 mile portage takes out on right and cuts across bend in river -- fairly good walker -- little muskeg, but lots of windfalls.

Paddle stream for about a mile -- have to break through a few beaver dams in process -- 1/2 mile portage starts where stream comes in on left and main stream turns right -- main stream starts going over rocks in rapids -- portage takes out on apex of Y formed by stream coming down, and these branches -- trail has good bit of muskeg -- at end go left along stream for about 20 yards until water is deep enough to put in.

3rd portage about 1/2 - 1 mile further on on left -- good trail; 300 yards -- goes around rapids too shallow to run -- lots of rocks in river between 2nd and 3rd portages.

4th portage about 1/2 mile further on after passing under concrete bridge on road down to a mine -- takes out on left at old bridge -- 100 yards at most -- watch trail -- a little hard to follow with old road in way.

Road at 4th portage could be used as a campsite if necessary.

Obatagama has rocky points on shore and looks as much like Temagami as anything we have seen -- be careful going through islands -- be guided by south shore line after about first couple miles.

Good looking rock island just before narrows -- had clubbers on it as we came through.

Campsite on point on south side of narrows -- in poplar -- large site with good tent sites well cut -- swimming off point on a few rocks.

#### Obatagama to Devlin Point on Chibougamau --

Follow map carefully to north end of Obatagama -- islands and bays are tricky.

Paddle up stream a mile or so to 1st portage (there is a small blind bay on left of entrance to stream from lake) -- portage takes out on obvious grassy landing and campsite on left long before any rapids are seen -- don't bother going up to rapids; they can't be climbed -- carry about 1200 yards on excellent trail -- though it is clay based and would be slippery if wet -- puts in at top of dam in wide stretch of river -- another campsite at this end also.

After paddling wide stretch of river and then twisting stream for about 2 miles, stream finally narrows down to rapids that can't be pulled up -- logging road crosses just past place to take out on left -- last part of twisting stream is full of rocks -- we had to go up over one beaver dam and get out to pull up one very narrow shallow rapid just wide enough for a canoe -- scout trail first; it stays on left side of stream, but logging

operations have obscured the 1st part -- 200 yards -- good, except part where logging roads have cut it up.

Then paddle another mile of wide stream to carry of 50 feet over rapids on left.

Final pond has carry at north end near road -- portage goes along lumber road perpendicular to main road about 75 yards, crosses road (there is a sign there) and down to top of creek -- ok, but has some muskeg at end. 500 yards. Crosses Height of Land.

Go left after paddling down little creek -- under railroad track -- through circular culvert and follow to Inlet Bay -- about 4 miles away -- no portages, but there may be a beaver dam or two.

There are several possible campsites cut out on way down, if wanted. One campsite on left just after Inlet Bay is reached. Excellent site on left about 1 mile from tip of Devlin Point. Good tent sites back from water -- excellent swimming rock in front (land canoes on south side of little point).

#### Devlin Point to Chibougamau --

Head north west leaving Devlin Point -- there is a white tower visable on Gouin Peninsula -- head north of it. Part way across 2 mines on Ile du Portage become visable -- head south of them into Eaton Bay, or Commencement Bay -- there is a mine in Eaton Bay and a good looking campsite on island about 3/4 mile off shore on northern point -- we went north on shore line and camped in cleared area near road just north of rapid separating Gouin Peninsula and Ile du Portage -- it is about 8 miles to town from site -- would be better closer down for transportation, but we could not find another site from the first mine on up.

#### Chibougamau to Head of Last Carry before Waconichi --

Two mines located on Ile du Portage -- we visited 1st mine and had a tour above ground -- could have gone down in mine they said if we had gotten permission from main mine a day ahead of time -- Campbell Mines -- they operate all shafts in area -- main mine back nearer town and has only refining plant -- mine has shafts under lake and if trip is made down into mine, it will probably be pretty wet.

Possible campsites after mines on Ile du Portage at Copper Point and at tip of island -- a couple other possible sites before 1st portage.

Follow map to portage to Blondean Lake behind Asbestos Island (bald rock island devoid of vegetation on high part of it) in McKenzie Bay. Carry 1200 yards goes up a pretty steep hill for 1st half -- good walker, though would be slippery if wet.

Lunch site at far end ok, but not great

2nd portage takes out on north side of Blondeau about 75-100 yards before east end of lake on grassy landing -- 400 yards to Lake Oreille -- good walker with a little muskeg -- grassy landing at far side with good lunch site -- Campsite on point on left after narrows leaving end of portage

Lake Oreille very irregular in shape. Turn left after narrows from portage, then right up creek (or bay). Follow creek to bay on right just before reaching road (you can see road ahead). 3rd portage takes off in left corner of bay (there is a pretty wide expanse of water to right which does not show on map which you do not want). Portage 600 yards good trail -- crosses road to Waconichi after 1st 75 yards -- There is a barrier and house

about 200-300 yards to left of where portage crosses. Go straight across road and then very slightly to right across cleared area and pick up trail again -- Grassy, swampy landing at end.

4th portage just across moose pond and just slightly to right -- swampy take-out spot -- 600 yards -- ok trail.

After last portage we had to unload and lift over two large beaver dams.

As a result lake above was quite drowned. Ancient trapper's cabin on left just after last dam -- not much good.

Portage to Waconichi takes off behind island to right center of lake -- we made a campsite out of nothing, but it's still not worth very much!

#### Portage before Waconichi to Portage after Waconichi --

From campsite portage leads 1200 yards, mostly down gentle hill on excellent trail which has a very slight bit of muskeg and some clay which is slippery in wet weather -- puts in at good landing in Route Bay of Waconichi

Campsite at far end quite small and not much better than one we used

Government Camp headquarters on south point at narrows into main part of lake -- Road terminates on lake shore opposite narrow. there is a small saw mill there -- letter from Quebec allowing us to go through gave no trouble -- though manager cautioned us about not fishing -- letter said no camping -- which he emphasised

Follow south shore of lake all the way after narrows -- if wind permits -- lunch sites fairly few and no cut campsites that we saw -- boats from Government Camp seemed to be fishing lake trout from the way they were acting -- there is one prominent pyramid shaped mountain that can be seen as you start down lake -- you will pass to the right of it -- it has a fire tower on it which can't be seen until you get close

At extreme end of lake 1st little riffle can be run into pond-like expanse

Next narrows is a large falls passed by 600 yard carry on right -- wide trail with a lot of rock -- campsite at top of carry bigge and better than one at foot -- we got two speckled out of very top of falls

#### Portage after Waconichi to Mistassini Post --

After portage stream or river widens in places and narrows in others with a few spots of good current for 2-3 miles

At foot of river, just before Baie du Post, there are two chute passed by portages on the right -- 1st 50 yards and 2nd 100 yards -- both good trails -- each has a log skid for pulling boats over. On 2nd follow portage trail that goes to right of log skid just after start of carry rather than following boat rails; trail is longer, but footing is much better

On Baie du Poste pass to left of long thin point that angles out from east shore and then swing to north east to hit bay leading to Post -- beware of deep bays to north west

Post lies on south side of point at main dock

Good campsite used by Chibougamau Indians when they come up opposite the Post on point. Pretty exposed to wind and rain, however. Also possible island site just a bit further up just to south west of narrows up lake. Space is pretty limited though.

Mistassini Post --

Population almost 1200. If they are all in -- which it

is -- Bay Post fairly well stocked, but could not suffice for

warning

Mistassini Post --

Indian population almost 1200, if they are all in, which they were not

Bay Post fairly well stocked, but could not outfit without warning

Free trader named Macleod may or may not be open -- he was not when we were there

Large white church behind post is Anglican

Village in two parts separated by board walk over marsh between sections. Most Indians in tents with permanent wood siding. Houses being built at the rate of about 10 a year.

Saw mill just north of 2nd part of village on narrows leading north

On highest ground -- white houses, green roofs -- Indian Agent Nurse, School, etc.

On point just to west of narrows, Government tourist camp. Is supposed to charge \$2 a day rod fee for fishing, but present man felt he could not stop people passing through -- Waconichi is same operation, but government man there feels differently -- there are also government camps at mouth of Rupert and up on Lake Albanel. Some buildings being put up at Big Crossing. Local manager has been at post 10 years and knows nothing about either the Rupert or the Marten

Lands and Forests have small station just to north of Government Camp in narrows.

Radio-telephone at Indian Agent's, if wanted

There is a road in the process of being constructed that will eventually go to the head of the lake from Chibougamau. Right now it comes up from Chibougamau, past Waconichi, to the foot of Baie du Poste. It should be at Mistassini Post in another year

Mistassini Post to Point at Big Crossing --

Leave post by narrows between Government Camp and Post -- pass by saw mill

As end of narrows comes on left there is a collection of skulls and moose antlers tacked on trees -- Indians believe that if dogs get these parts of animals, hunting will be poor

Several campsites along way -- route is attractive -- shores well wooded

On tip of Point at Big Crossing there are several tent houses of Government Camp

We camped just around point on next outcropping of land -- not very good

Big Crossing to Entrance to Rupert --

Jump 2 miles to next island -- does not appear to have a very good campsite, but could probably be used with a little cutting if desired.

Head west across lake -- if using compass, head west-north-west -- or somewhat north of west to take into account declination of compass

There are several campsites on far shore opposite crossing. Either evening or early morning best time to cross. It takes about an hour and a half from last island to far shore.

Follow shore line up to entrance to Rupert

Campsite on point on left just as turn is made into islands at entrance to Rupert -- excellent tent sites, but rocky shallow landing and poor swimming -- but water is too cold anyway!

Rupert Turn to First Fast Water after Lake Like Section of River -- Follow map so that islands on edge of big water are just on your right -- leaving campsite, head down open water leaving little tiny islands to right also -- after view of big water through islands, follow long thin island on left to its end -- jump little stretch of open water to next island on left -- follow this island, leaving it on the left -- leave irregular shaped crooked island on right -- shortly thereafter -- about a mile -- bear left into bay and then take sharp right to portage

There is a pretty good campsite at start of portage

Carry 200 yards to bay off river -- paddle bay -- 1/2 mile -- to river and follow current to lake like area

Keep to north shore of lake and follow to river again -- be careful not to go too far south in the process -- heading is pretty close to due north -- then pick up current again -- east channel comes in at end of lake

Campsite on right just as river swings to left at top of fast water -- good trout fishing -- maybe anchor in middle of fast water -- or go past campsite to fast water on other side of island

First Campsite on Rupert to Spot on River about 2 hours past 300 Yard Portage --

All during day route is very difficult to follow on map. River often splits around islands and about only way to stay on course is to guess which way to go from map and check by observing current

Just below campsite is a rapid too steep to be run -- portage 50 yards on left. Take out on grassy landing; good walker; put in on same kind of landing

About 2 miles down is muskeg portage of 900 yards around a cascade. Trail starts on grassy landing on right well above fast water and leads back from river so that cascade being carried is never seen. Put in on grassy area at other end. Indian campsite at start of carry well back in bush and in a hollow. Trail dry and rocky at start and at end with muskeg in middle. Many trails in middle -- all end up the same place, but some are slightly drier than others.

About 2 miles on river splits around an island with main volume of water going right. Carry starts in middle of island before either section of fast water can be looked over -- don't bother -- Trail rocky, good walking, 150 yards. There are a couple swifts to run just before island

Up to now there have been several rapids or swifts to run. One or two need to be looked over

Two miles past island portage there is one swift with good power to it and just below -- 300 yards -- is one too powerful to touch -- portage 200 yards on left -- grassy landing, good walker -- absolutely terrible steep rock loading spot with current of river bouncing canoe as it is loaded

Two miles of relatively calm water and a fairly long, 400 yard, rapid which starts on left, has calm section, run left and back to right at foot.

After rapid turn hard left in river to stay out of deep bay straight ahead and try to follow current.

Campsite at end of lake like stretch of water (with fingers going south on map) on left just as water starts to swing north -- very flat, quite clear in sparse spruce stand -- Good spot if you have to end up here

Indian Site to 2 Rapids before 20' Chute --  $\frac{1}{2}$  day --

Leaving lake with finger-like bays reaching southward, 1st rapid appears about a mile later -- top has good run on right, but afterwards river splits several times around islands -- we ran little tiny side trickles -- better to try to stay in main channel, if possible -- probably Chivers' rocky lunch site is just below.

River now turns north through lake-like stretches and at top turns west again -- after 5-6 miles -- stay out of bay on left after turn -- there is a large campsite on west shore of bay if wanted.

1st rapid out of lake run on far right shore at top and then across rapid in middle and run out on left.

Next rapid we took a run in a channel on far right which probably only existed because of high water -- portage is supposed to be 50 yards on left.

Good campsite on rock ledge on right. Trout in rapids just below campsite and out in center in eddy behind stones.

2 Rapids before 20' Chute to Marten Turn --

Rest of rapid on which we camped was run on left side and back to right at foot.

1 more rapid before 20' Chute -- 150 yard portage on left -- good walker with fairly steep loading spot at far end and some rocking from the chute -- Chute split into 2 parts; that on the right more spectacular than on left.

River relatively calm for about 2 miles and then a good rapid run on the right.

2 miles further 10 foot chute has portage on right -- 100 yards over rocks.

Indian campsite on left about a mile below 20' Chute and another on right before 10 foot Chute. 10 foot Chute is really attractive with a lot of rock showing -- might be a good place to camp and fish.

Several mild rapids to a 5' drop -- we ran on right, but could be portaged on left across a point about 25 yards.

Catch eddy just below on left -- a really powerful eddy -- and unload and lift over about 10 feet on rocks just on left of 4' falls.

Rest of rapid run on left -- has a good number of rocks

A fairly calm stretch follows and then a mile of rapids to Marten Turn -- starts with a rough rapid -- run on right with tough swells, out to the left and back to the right --

Then an easy run to lake-like expanse for Marten Turn -- as you come off the last rapid bear slightly left -- into lake-like section -- Indian winter site located on right about  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile after lake starts -- as lake opens up to the south, on the west side of the lake is a high hill -- Mount Miskittenau so called -- It shows rocky ledge through the brush that covers it -- It looks as though mountain will be on your left, but as soon as lake is reached, it will be seen that lake passes to the east of the mountain, and mountain will be on your right as you go down lake Sky line will look like:  
toward mountain.

Campsite at Indian site -- on a point with main part of campsite on side as you approach, but point goes back and has a sand beach on south side.



Marten Turn to Lake de l'Hirondelle --

Instead of turning down lak on normal route, we continued down Rupert. Normal route goes south on Lake Boisfort, turns west at narrows and carries to Lake Canotaicane. Then either south around point and carry to de l'Hirondelle, or north around point and carry to de l'Hirondelle.

Our route (better it is believed) goes on river. Rupert goes out to right just before large island and has several sections of fast current to west end of large island where there is a powerful rapid which might be run in lower water. We portaged 50 yards on left on little used trail -- poor loading and unloading spots full of stone. In low water run would probably be on left in chute.

Just after branch of river comes in on right there is another heavy rapid. Portage 75 yards on left on bushy trail. Take out spot ok, but loading is tough due to swells from rapid.

3' rapid about a mile further on was run -- has pretty good swells though -- on left.

After small lake-like expanse river curves sharply to right and another heavy rapid is passed by approaching island in center carefully, letting down on right side of island -- lifting over about 10 yards at the tip of the island, and running the rest.

From here to lake, the rest of the rapids can be run. Stream from Lake Canotaicane enters on left one rapid past isladd lift over -- view from bald rock near entrance pretty good. Could be used as a campsite.

Last rapid before lake has two runs -- on either side of an island. Follow map carefully to portage. There will be a deep bay on right after rapid is finished. Then a finger-like bay is passed on the left, and then another curved bay on left is passed. Turn left after this bay into what will be the third bay on the left and follow all the way to end. There is a long island on the right as you come down the bay and at the foot of the bay it will look like there is no way to go around the foot of the island. On left at foot of bay there is what looks like a stream that will swing to the right behind the island which has a high rocky hill on that end. Follow this small stream-like body of water, and just as you can see the lake again on the far side of the island there is a little bay on the left where the portage starts on right about 10 feet short of end of bay. Area through here was burned not too long ago and has not recovered. Trail is not well used and a little hard to follow, there being no blazes, but goes in an almost straight line to Lake de l'Hirondelle. Trail follows on right of a dried up creek bed about half the way, crosses creek bed in middle and goes to lake. At creek bed crossings trail crosses creek at same angle as you approach it -- each time -- there are two crossings. At end best loading spot is to left of what looks like main trail. 400 yards and really a pretty good walker despite lack of use and bushy undergrowth.

Narrow bay of de l'Hirondelle was also burned over and has no good campsites -- and the last couple miles before the carry had none. We cut out a campsite on point on right just after narrow bay ends about 1/2 mile from the carry, but it is terrible. Point about 1/4 - 1/2 mile further on left looks to have better possibilities and is past burned area.

de l'Hirondelle to Montmort --

Straight paddle down de l'Hirondelle -- one narrows to pass through with shallow water. Follow right shore when lake widens -- opening around narrow point is very small -- and shallow right out from point.

North and west shores of Lac de la Passe burned quite recently and burn extends, in patches, all the way down to first part of Montmort.

There are two small rapids to be run coming down narrow river section of Lake de la Passes -- at foot of second one, just into lake is a sand beach and deep pool that looks like a good fishing spot.

On narrow section just before 1st part of Montmort there are four short rapids very close together -- stream twists more than map shows so that no more than one section can be seen at any given moment -- First two can be run -- 1st pretty much in center, 2nd way over on left shore. 3rd and 4th are too steep and rocky. Portage is on left -- about 150 yards. There is no real trail, but it is easy to devise one; bush is sparse and walking easy. Best loading spot is about 20 yards down stream from last of 2nd rapid. Best unloading spot is about 20 yards above 1st pitch. Carry both drops at once; there is no point in loading and unloading in the small pond between -- though 2nd drop can not be seen from foot of 1st.

Camped on sand beach on right side of 2nd half on Montmort just before lake widens. Beach drops off very quickly, so swimming is good. Tent sites just back from sand area. Not very well protected from a storm from the south, but otherwise quite good. There is an old surveyer's camp just to south of sand beach. Walleye hole just around point to south of surveyer's camp.

Montmort to Rock Campsite half way between Little Loon and Courseron--

At exit from Montmort there is a rapid that splits around an island. Left side has rock across the foot. Right side was let down on left side of rapid. There is a portage across island if desired -- would be about 50 - 75 yards. Both loading and unloading spots would have room for only one canoe. Indian campsite at top of island. Pool at foot looks trouty.

There are several old indian sites coming down Montmort, but none as good as the one we used at the top of the lake.

One more rapid right afterwards was run to lake-like section before Little Loon

Then 3 or 4 rapids to Little Loon -- all run. A good rocky lunch site on right at 3rd rapid -- trout in rapids -- might make a campsite if desired.

Montmort, lake-like pond before Little Loon and Little Loon all have sand beaches in spots.

Go to top of Little Loon and make sharp turn to left around point after narrows and into river again.

5-6 rapids run to rock campsite about half way to Courseron on left in calm stretch between two rapids -- excellent site in all respects though some tent sites are rocky. Trout in lower of 2 rapids between which the site lies.

Campsite before Courseron to Camousitchauane --

Long rapid below campsite can be run on right part way down -- catch eddy -- then a difficult run on right to eddy at top of last part -- let down on right and run to foot. There is a portage trail around whole rapid on left -- little used.

Next rapid almost immediately below -- behind an island -- run right to eddy and let down on right

3rd rapid just below also needs a short let down on right.

Last little rapids can be run -- all are very short -- lake is just ahead

Water looks quite trouty -- one caught on way down in 2nd rapid might not be a bad idea to cut a campsite just at foot of stream -- looks quite possible -- and fish stream working back up.

Courseron is a very attractive looking lake with numerous sand beaches. At many of these ground lies on a level about 10 feet above the beach, and it looks as though good campsites could be cut in many places. There is an indian site on right on 2nd point before 1st deep bay to right at west end. There are several indian sites at very top of lake before river starts -- on both right and left side -- left (there are two) look best.

One or two little riffles as river starts -- down to stream from Lake Villon and pond afterwards river is fairly straight and shallow with some current and major obstacles sand and rock bars.

Soon after pond is only rapid -- with good power swells -- run on right.

After rapid, river is deep, but very twisty and it seems as though lake will never appear. Country is low; there is some current. Otherwise quite dull. Campsites would be quite poor. There is one possible place on a rock shore about an hour after rapid on left and another a half hour further on on right as river swings left. Otherwise selection is poor. There are several indian sites at exit of river and several more on left shore as you come down point.

Our campsite on rock point just before bay coming down point -- about half way down -- good cooking and swimming, but tent sites not great and no dry wood to be found -- plenty of green spruce.

#### Camousitchouane to Cache --

A couple possible campsites near point where turn is made back to the north. One on point itself, but looks to be a better one on island just to east of point.

Surveyer's camp in bay on right just as narrows start at top of lake.

Two patches of fast water leading up to rapid marked on map. Run is fairly easy on right side.

Follow map closely going down to Cache Lake. A couple spots of fast water on the way -- no real rapids

Campsite on 1st part of Cache just as turn is made back to north on flat rock with good landing. Tent sites are on moss on rock pretty much. But better than site used previous night.

Leaving point water is much narrower than map shows and there is some current.

Just before 2nd part of Cache is reached there is an island shown on the map choking the the channel. We took left side and struck a chute we could not run. Maybe in lower water it would be possible. Portage is on left -- about 100 yards -- starts back in bay before rapid and takes out over brush, alders, and creek bed. Trail does not become obvious until blazes on trees are picked up on smooth rock about 30 yards from shore. At foot of carry, best loading spot is to the left part of area.

Probably much better to run right of island in the first place. Foot of run looks like it can be done.

After island there is a bay-like area and then another rapid at

narrows. There is a small island in center. Either run has to be made straight through the swells -- but pretty easy. Right run is straight and has most water. Left run has less water, but starts toward left shore and then turns to right through swells to miss rocks.

Campsite chosen in rain on right shore at narrows in Cache just before opening between last island shown on map and left shore. On right in old indian site -- picked in desperation.

#### Cache Lake to Weakwater --

One shallow spot just after last campsite between island and main land where it was possible to let canoe through by getting out on rock shore -- shallow rocks

Follow map across top of Le Cordier taking channel out of west end -- portage of 800 yards at start of channel to avoid rapids. Portage starts about 30 yards to right of river in bay. If enough time is available, look over rapid. Top part might well be run, but it goes around bend and trail is back from river so it is hard to look over. There is a pool after first 2/3 of rapid and it might be possible to run to pool and carry bottom part, if it can not be run -- trail runs not too far from pool. Carry is not too hard -- cut out recently by surveyers. There is a tiny campsite at lower end of carry -- looks like good spot to cut one, if desired, on right about 1/4 - 1/2 mile from foot though.

Next two miles or so of river is calm until just before Weakwater. There is a portage on right after running down about 100 yards on right. There are two parts to rest of rapid. 1st can be run tight on right shore around a small rock point. Next part can be run starting on right and moving to center and running just to right of a group of three rocks together near foot. After passing rocks tight to right, pull left behind them to avoid another stone partially under water just below. Tight run, but it can be done. If portage is taken, it is better to start at head of 1st part of real rapid -- about 300 yards. To cut back in to trail at head of 2nd part would not be very easy.

Rapid puts out into Lake Weakwater. There is some current between big island about 3 miles down and shore to right -- in fact several channels around islands not shown on map.

Weakwater very attractive lake with high hills at start on north side. Several rock campsite points on left just before wide part of lake, some sand beaches toward foot of lake, and hills at west end with relatively sparse growth of trees.

Rapids start almost immediately after lake. All have good looking flat rock nearby for possible campsites. First couple little runs easy. Then a group of islands stretch across river making several channels -- falls or chutes at each one. Best lift over is toward right shore across right tip of one of the islands. If there is enough water this chute can be run -- its a sudden drop.

We camped at head of next part of rapid -- also split up by islands -- on east side of island. There is also a campsite just below rapid on left. Ours is probably better for reaching the various rapids for fishing. If lower one -- which is more roomy -- is used, leave a canoe or two at the top of the carry.

Trout through all of rapids. Best above the rapids in fast water at the top.

Below Weakwater to pond just off Bruton before 14' Falls --

We carried from the campsite around rapid over trail that goes across point. Carry is not well used, but is blazed and goes across rock a good part of way. Therefore probably easier than carrying a shorter distance across boulders. About 250 yards

There is a fisherman's tent camp about 500 yards further down on right.

A couple swifts left of the rapids and nothing serious.

Two small rapids between Tesecau and Poncet -- one just after Tesecau and the other near foot of bend up toward Poncet.

Tesecau is a large lake stretching to south and pretty attractive.

Poncet has good looking sand beaches on north shore

Leaving Poncet there is a mild rapid into pond with two islands

Leaving pond it looks as though turn should be made to right around large island in next pond. Opening will be narrow though. We turned left and went around island. There is a horse race at top of island and another a little heavier at foot.

Nothing more from here to Bruton. Campsites look easy to come by through Tesecau and Poncet. After Poncet next one would be on right at turn into Bruton in old indian site.

Follow map closely through Bruton. We took west channel out. Maybe east is better?

There is a horse race rapid at narrows out of Bruton. Very shallow with a line of rock at the foot. We ran, but scraped a good number of rocks.

Campsite on left on rock shelf shortly after turn around point in pond after Bruton -- not bad if all you want is a place to stay -- which we did because of rain threat

Pond after Bruton to 27' Falls --

Lake-like river until other section of river joins. Just after junction there is a 14' Falls -- actually a rapid, a heavy chute, and another very steep rapid. Portage takes out on left 100-200 yards before junction of 2 parts of river -- watch closely for start of carry. 350 yards -- pretty well used and fairly good walker. Puts into a quiet bay off to the side of the last steep rapid.

Shortly there is a rapid worth looking over. An island at the top splits it into 2 sections. Our run was on the right -- starting very close to shore until course of river turns to left and then out to center running out to left of white water.

About 1-2 miles further on there is another large rapid. We ran next to right shore almost all the way down. There is one heavy swell around rocks on right close to top.

There is fast water in spots and little riffles from 14' Falls all the way here.

After this rapid link connecting a long bend in the river takes off to right. It has a small opening -- looking like a creek -- with a smooth rock in the middle of the entrance. It will take off at right angles to river as river turns to left. If continuing too far, river narrows and starts to run, with just fast current, between rocky shores.

Link has a pond after narrow opening, a very shallow narrow rapid or swift -- a rather large shallow pond, and a wider shallow stream with shallow rapids into main river again.

Link joins main stream just after a 4' chute on river which would have to be carried if link were not taken. There is an excellent looking campsite on point where link joins main stream and water looks like good trout water.

After 4' chute river runs with some current to a large island. Split to left is supposed to have a 10' chute. Split to right looks like a grassy bay at start and is composed of very shallow rocky rapids. If water is high, take right side. If water is low, try carrying the 10' chute. If you had any trouble at all coming through the link, water is too low to try right side unless you feel like wading and dragging canoes.

About 1-2 miles after foot of island is 27' falls. Carry is 300 yards on right. There are a couple little islands at top of falls -- stay to right of all of them to portage. There will be some temptation to run as far as possible -- top starts easily -- don't. Carry stays to right of small stream which is part of rapid. Actually it is possible to run down about 15 yards more and take out on flat rock, but there is nothing gained.

Campsite at top of carry pretty good. Falls are spectacular -- take a look especially at foot and both from rocky island in middle and from far side.

### 27' Falls on Marten to foot of 30' Falls on Rupert --

About 2 miles below 27' falls there is an easy rapid to run. About 1 mile further there is a heavy cascade or falls carried on left -- 250 yards -- easy trail

About a mile further on -- or less -- there is a heavy rapid that ends up running through a narrow opening almost at the foot. There is supposed to be a 500 yard carry on right, but we never found it. Try left, if carried. We ran staying close to right shore all the way through the narrows.

Just below is another rapid filled with islands. We ran to right of first island -- there are falls to left. Then down to a group of small islands where we had to lift over the west or left side of the last one to bypass a falls -- about 10 yards. Then ran out out the foot going to the left. There is supposed to be a 200 yard carry on left, but we did not look for it at all.

This is last rapid on Marten. A half mile ahead the delta starts -- stay to left of large island. Rupert will join about two miles further on. There is a noticeable current to the Marten and Rupert, but nothing to get excited about.

A mile past the junction is the "Cascade" -- supposed to be carried 300 yards on left. It could also be carried on rock on right if desired. We ran taking V angling toward center from right shore -- passing over boil at foot of falls -- good left pull needed -- and running straight down to foot. Run can easily be seen from high rocks on right before taking it.

4 miles down river with some current is 30' Falls 00 a magnificent cascade -- passed on right with carry of 800 yards that starts 100 yards back in quiet grassy bay at top of falls. Stay close to right shore approaching, but there are numerous eddies to throw you around. There is a camp ground at head of carry about 25 yards up trail -- excellent walker -- tent sites at foot are back up trail 25 yards from water -- cooking on rocks at water. Possible to bath, though not really swim.

### 30' Falls to Nemiscau --

For a mile or so after 30' Falls there are small rapids -- i.e. small for a big river. Run close to right shore at all white water spots. There are some good swells through this section.

There is a good looking spæulous indian site on right at foot of this white water -- probably the start of the carry if going up stream.

From here to Nemiscau the river flows with some current. Follow outline of north shore, though there are little low islands at places that can be skirted. There is more or less of a channel straight down -- shallow sand bars in some places off the channel -- probably the current is stronger in channel also. We fought a wind all the way and so had lunch about 4 miles before the Post. Without wind, we would probably have made Post about 12 - 12:30; leaving 30' Falls at 8:30

Follow 1963 Rupert River Report from here with these exceptions and/or additions:

Nemiscau to Campsite 6 miles below junction with main river --

Point that hides river's start is about a mile after narrows between island and main land (it looks like a point on map). Follow right shore after this narrows. There is a rocky island ahead as you turn into correct bay.

1st rapid can be run more or less right down center if water level is high.

There is a small indian campsite on right before last rapid on linking section of river.

Carry around last rapid should take out way before rapid as river makes a right angle turn to right. At head of rapid there are two large stones visible from where carry should start -- rapid is out of sight.

'48 campsite overgrown -- would have to be recut.

'62 campsite never was any good and still is poor

6 miles on to Rupert to Oatmeal --

Nothing much cut for campsites until western tip of large island just before Oatmeal where there is a surveyer's site, but site at foot of Oatmeal is better and more convenient. Campsite at foot of Oatmeal is much more roomy than thought -- there are three tent sites on river side of section of campsite on trail at top of steep hill to water. Trail is bushy, but good -- except on a wet day!

From previous campsite to Oatmeal there are 4 rapids: (1) at eastern end of 1st long island. Run is either in center or on left shore. (2) at western end of 1st island. Run is on right. (3) at western end of 2nd large island. Run is next to large island (there is a small island in the channel not shown on map). (4) just before Oatmeal. Run is on right. After tip of 2nd island cross gradually to right shore before rapid -- there is a bay on left shore that should be avoided.

Oatmeal to Top of Fours --

30 yard carry after Oatmeal should be lifted over on rocks at point rather than taking clay portage. Its shorter and easier. Perhaps canoes could be lined down tight to rock, but its probably just as easy to unload and lift over.

Carry on rapid after this chute (counting next 300 yarder as part of chute) could be avoided by running rapid -- but look over from foot if it is to be run.

Campsite at top of Fours poor in burned area on trail about 25 yards from water. Grassy tent sites ok, but not really a very attractive place.

There is no campsite at foot of 1st carry on Fours, though it is a good lunch site and it is possible to pitch a tent or two to the right of the trail at foot.

Top of Fours to Bottom of Fours --

View of 1st cascade from south-east shore of 1st island is worth trip over -- then paddle up to sand beach -- rock landing on island to east -- up stream. View from rocks on north side of island is good. It might be possible to cut a camp ground on 1st island, but looks poor on 2nd.

There is an indian campsite at head of 700 yarder. Last half of portage is wet and decent to water at end is tough.

Unloading spot at start of 1 1/3 is best on rocks right at head of falls -- there is then no steep hill to climb at start -- but careful there is room for only one canoe at a time at the rocks. There is an indian camp site just back of rocks with trail up from rocks that joins main trail.

Foot of Fours to Foot of 450 yard Portage between Cat and Plum Pudding  
150 yard portage just below foot of Fours has no run even in high water unless it might be possible to investigate left shore, but it looks improbable.

Surveyer's camp pretty well overgrown.

Trees on landing at top of Cat have been cut away, but there are still wind falls in spots along trail -- particularly 1st half. Trail is wet in spots for 1st half also -- 2nd half pretty good.

Campground at foot of 450 yard portage is pretty good, but small. Campground at foot of Cat is very large, but trees have all been cut out in tent area and its pretty exposed to sky -- though sheltered from river.

Foot of 450 Yard Portage to Rupert's House --

Creek or river split behind 2nd island at head of Plum Pudding is found before west end of 1st island. There is a small island on left shore about 1/2 to 1 mile before turn and there are three islands across river just a little past. In high water at least traces of white water can be seen before turn and noise of Plum Pudding can be heard faintly at least.

Landing at start of Plum Pudding should be about 15-20 yards down stream of grassy clay landing to avoid wet spot in trail.

Carry turns left in campsite if clay landing is used. Campsite not in very good shape -- large windfall across major tent area. End of carry goes down clay bank and is a little tough.

Top of rapids below is rough in high water -- stay on left shore as much as possible. Bottom is not much different, though there is more swift water leading up to the final pitch. Hard to look over either part in high water.

Smoky Hill Portages -- 2nd is shorter than 1st. In high water landings on moose pond are wet and there are wet spots in trails. There is a one tent campsite at end of 1st and a larger site at start of 2nd, but one at lower end would be much better. There is also a campsite on top of hill before last landing, but it would be hard to get water. Rapid at campsite is really too shallow to run unless water is very high, and even then loading would be in shallows. Better to take trail to right through campsite and then through tall brush to little creek. In finding end of carry be sure you can see river before dropping canoe -- there may be a little pond before hand depending on water level.

Paddle down to last rapid before Rupert's House takes 2 - 2 1/2 hours.

Last rapid probably better be portaged. If top part is to be run, look over very carefully first. There are large stones in

principal run.

Campsite at Rupert's House made smaller by a new shed belonging to Indian Affairs. Tents of Indians being moved back on hill behind Post so area on river's edge has nothing but buildings. Radio Phone located in Anglican mission house just behind Anglican church which is to west of Post.