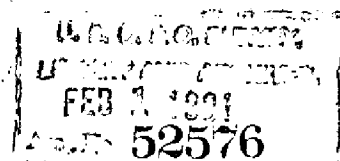
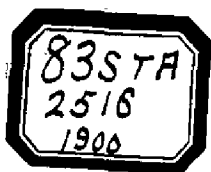


2516

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Form 504	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT	
Type of Survey	<i>Topographic</i>
Field No.	Office No. <i>2516</i>
LOCALITY	
State	<i>Alaska</i>
General locality	<i>Northern</i>
Locality	<i>Coast Beving Sea</i>
<i>1900</i>	
<del><i>194</i></del>	
CHIEF OF PARTY	
<i>J. F. Pratt</i>	
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES	
DATE	



U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY,  
DR. HENRY S. PRITCHETT, SUPERINTENDENT.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT  
OF THE  
TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET, SCALE 1/40,000.  
EMBRACING  
THE  
SHORE LINE AND CONTIGUOUS TOPOGRAPHY  
FROM  
ONE MILE WEST OF TAPKOK HEAD TO CAPE NOME.  
NORTHERN SHORES  
OF  
BERING SEA,  
ALASKA.

BY THE PARTY UNDER CHARGE OF J. F. PRATT, ASSISTANT.  
JULY - 1900.

TOPOGRAPHY BY R. L. FARIS, ASSISTANT, C. & G. S.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT  
TOPOGRAPHY FROM ONE MILE WEST OF  
TAPKOK HEAD TO CAPE NOME, INCLUSIVE.

SCALE, 1/40,000.

PLANE TABLE SURVEY BY R. L. FARIS, ASSISTANT.

JULY AND AUGUST, 1900.

The first portion of the season of 1900 was an unusually dry one, consequently the tundra became very much like and as inflammable as dry punk. The entire country was overrun with mining prospectors, whose camp fires spread to the tundra, so that the entire stretch from Golofnin Bay to Nome City was enveloped most of the time, for about five weeks, in the dense smoke from the smouldering tundra.

In starting the season's work it was expected that the triangulation would keep ahead of the topography and hydrography, so that the positions of the signals could be computed and plotted on sheets with projections in advance, but the tundra smoke made this an impossibility, so that in order to keep the work progressing as rapidly as the weather would permit, it became necessary to execute the topography by forward telemeter distances on rough field sheets, which naturally became exaggerated in scale, at the same time determining topographically the triangulation signals.

Then after the triangulation had been computed and the points plotted on the projections to transfer the work from the field

sheets, adjusting it at the same time, by making the work conform to the triangulation points common to both, <sup>which</sup> ~~entailing~~ a very large amount of additional work, which should be taken into consideration.

Cape Nome Promontory, which abruptly rises about five hundred feet from the shore line, is the land mark for making this position of the coast, and is the only headland between Tapkok and Nome City, which lies 11-1/4 miles to the westward of it.

Safety Sound, extending from Cape Nome to Solomon River, is a very shallow stretch of tide water. Its eastern entrance is narrow and crooked. Its westerly entrance, Port Safety, has sufficient water on the bar (6 feet at low tide) for the smaller class of local coast wise vessels.

A separate resurvey, on a scale of 1/10,000, was made of Port Safety. This place has a few wooden buildings and at times a floating population of one to two hundred souls.

Solomon, or Solomon City, at the mouth of Solomon River, was destroyed by high water during one of the gales of September last. This is a small, distributing settlement for the Solomon River mining country. There was supposed to be two or three hundred miners scattered along this stream and its tributaries.

Pack trains and two or four horse wagons are driven from Nome City along the beach to Cape Nome, then over the promontory, then along the sand spit to Port Safety, where the horses are swam across and the freight and wagons ferried, then along the sandy island to Solomon City, where the swimming and ferrying again occurs, then

then up the bed of Solomon River to the divide, then down one of the tributaries of the Neuckluck to Council City.

The long narrow island, extending from Solomon to Port Safety, is principally of sand with marshy places along its inshore edge. All the back country, with the exception of the summits of the higher hills is covered with tundra.

The surface of the sumit of Cape Nome is principally covered with irregular broken granite, which is largely covered with a dark umbilical lichen.



Assistant U.S.C & G. Survey,

Chief of Party.