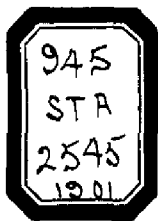


2545



U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

O. H. Fittmann, Superintendent.

State: Alaska

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Type. Sheet No. 2545  
and Hays 2541 to 2544

LOCALITY:

Akutan id and  
part of Akun id.  
(Akutan id. passes)

1901

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. J. Gilber

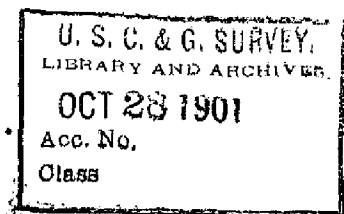
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DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.  
SHEET NO. 2.



Sheet No.2 .-Akutan Island and part of Akun Island.

I am somewhat in doubt which should be designated as "North Head", whether the point to the West, or that to the East of Open Bay:- that to the West is the true North point, and I have placed the name there,

Lava Point is the N.W. point of extensive lava beds, over which it was torture to travel. The surface is covered with lava in all shapes, and twisted, and thrown up leaving all most uneven:- underneath the surface the lava has crystalized into basalt columns. The face of the lava cliffs, for more than two miles, is perpendicular, and ranges, in height, from 40 to 80 feet.

A little more than two miles from Lava Point, (S. by W.) is the most extensive and most dangerous reef we discovered.-it extends about one mile off shore, and except in very quiet weather, there is a heavy break throughout its length. - it is well marked with kelp.

Red Bluff is conspicuous for brilliant coloring;-in which red is predominant.

There is a group of big rocks in the water, under the highest part of the bluff,-evidently they have rolled down from the cliff at some time.

Cape Morgan is the point, of Akutan Island projecting furthest toward Unalga Island,-and is at the narrowest part of Akutan Pass.

The Pass is made even narrower by the three small rocks lying about one fourth mile off shore.

These rocks,-the "Triplets", are low and small, the North one is about eight meters in diameter, and twelve feet high,-the middle one

is somewhat smaller and about half as high, and the South rock is about fifteen Meters long, by ten wide, and ten feet, or less, above tides.

The tidal currents are very swift about these rocks, and the heaviest tide rips are about one mile West of these rocks.

Cascade Bay is named so because three fine waterfalls are conspicuous, on the N.W. shore.

It was very rough in Broad Bight when I landed there to run the shoreline, and we were nearly swamped, but there is a large stream at the N.W. end of the beach, deep enough to enter, and there I was able to land with comfort.

Liberty Cap, -the headland between five and six miles S. by E. from Cape Morgan, is one of the most notable headlands in this whole region, -it is about 1600 feet high, and we had a signal on the top, which could be seen from Cape Morgan around to Akun Island.

The sea face is bold, and the outermost break is about one quarter of a mile off shore. It is safe to run close to the point, say  $1/3$  to  $1/2$  mile,

There is a remarkable cavern in the cliff, into which a steam launch may safely run, and, inside, it opens out like a great rotunda, about 100 feet in diameter, and as many in height. -Part of the roof has caved in and leaves a large hole in the face of the cliff.

The top peak of this headland much resembles, in shape the ancient Roman Liberty Cap, whence the name.

This Head was pictured in early editions of Bulletin 37 as Cape Morgan.

Vulcan Cove is a safe anchorage in Northerly weather, but there is a swell from the Pacific at all times.

The shores Eastward from Vulcan cove is safe, outside the kelp, which covers a large field, just beyond Box pinnacle.

*Coast?*

Ball Point is a high round head at West end of Akutan Island;- it is 600 feet high, and off it is a large reef covered and fringed with Kelp.

Nearly a mile North of Ball Point is Pond Point, off which is a reef with many of the rocks above tides.- It is the West side of Akun Pass.

Akutan Harbor is well known, and a safe anchorage.

Ridge Point, is a noticeable formation;- on the North it is a perpendicular cliff, and slopes, steep, but unbroken, to the South, -the profile against the sky is deeply serrated, like saw teeth.

Hot Springs Bay is open to N.E. winds and swells. We did not have the time to visit the springs.

While not particularly recommending the use of Akun Pass, I am satisfied that it is free from dangers, and entirely safe, -the minimum depth is about 8 fathoms, and the clear pass is more than half a mile wide. There are heavy tide rips in the pass most of the time, but while dangerous for small boats or launches, would hardly bother a large vessel, -one advantage is the short distance to go to get out of current and sea.

Surf Bay, on Akun Island is not desirable as an anchorage.

Lost Harbor, not referred to in any text I have seen, nor appearing on any chart, is one of the best harbors in these waters, it is commodious, and, toward the head well landlocked, -we did not feel the heavy swells of Bering Sea at all, when anchored there.

The land is low, and the distance short, across to Akun Cove.

Respectfully Submitted.

*J. J. Gilbert*  
Assist: C. & G. Survey,

Chief of Party.