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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State: *Alaska*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topo Sheet No. *3227*

LOCALITY:

Goodnews Bay,
Bering Sea.

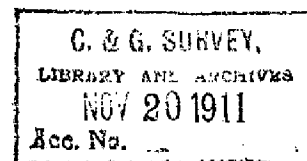
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CHIEF OF PARTY:

A. H. Rhodes

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & LABOR

COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY

O.H. TITTMANN, SUP'T.

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET OF GOODNEWS BAY, ALASKA.

scale 1:20,000.

Aug. SEPT., 1911.

STR. EXPLORER

H.W. RHODES, ASST.,

T.J. MAHER, ASS'T.

COM'D'G.

TOPOGRAPHER.

3227

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,

O.H.TITTMANN, SUP'T.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO

ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET OF GOODNEWS BAY, ALASKA.

AUG.SEPT., 1911.

H.W.RHODES, ASST.

Ch. of party.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET OF
GOODNEWS BAY, ALASKA.

This sheet is incomplete, the topography being carried on when the weather was unsuitable for reconnaissance and triangulation. It represents five days work. The portion indicated by dotted lines is sketched from notes made by myself when on reconnaissance, and Red Mountain, south of the entrance to the bay, is thus shown.

This mountain, or ridge, is about three or four miles long, extending in a N. and S. (magnetic) direction to Chagvan Bay. It derives its name from the appearance it presents from off shore. A triangulation station is located on the highest point (1905 ft.), from which the ridge slopes gradually to the southward. It is a good landmark for Goodnews Bay. The beach at the base of the mountain is sandy with the exception of a small boulder patch extending about 100 meters off shore and distant about one mile southerly from the triangulation station.

Northwesterly from Red Mountain the ground is low with a sandy beach terminating at a distance of about 6-1/2 miles from the mountain in a sand spit, on the outer coast of which, and south one mile from the north end of the spit, lies the wreck of the Elvina Johnson, a schooner of about thirty tons registered from Port Townsend. This wreck has been there for some time and will continue as a landmark until natives destroy the hull for the wood it is made of. It will probably last for a number of years though.

A few small drainage streams empty into the sea but are not available as a water supply for ships, but useful for camping parties.

This spit shows a series of undulations marking old beach lines. With the exception of Red Mountain there are no characteristic landmarks; though a low bluff, from 20 to 30 feet, extends NW'ly about 2-1/2 miles beyond the mountain.

North from the south spit a similar spit runs south from the north shore of the bay forming an entrance 3/4 of a mile wide. E.N.E. from the middle point of a line joining the ends of the two spits, close to the entrance, the EXPLORER anchored.

The north spit is similar to the south spit; is low, and presents no land falls. These spits are narrow -- less than half a mile in width and enclose the bay like two arms. On the inshore side the south spit is about 2-1/4 miles long, and the north spit about 2-3/4 miles. The bay at its widest part is about 6-3/4 miles.

Westerly about 2-3/4 miles down the north part of the north spit a low bluff varying from 50 to 90 feet in height extends in a N.NE'ly direction from the Behring Sea side across the spit forming the north shore of the bay. The outer shore from the north end of the spit, NW'ly is marked by a low bluff decreasing in height from 100 feet at the southern end to 15 or 20 feet further north. It varies in color from white to reddish sand. North from where the bluff commences, about a distance of two miles, is a lake about one mile in diameter, which empties into the Behring Sea. It has been stated that a launch or whaleboat could enter the lake and proceed through sloughs and streams to the bight inside Carter's Spit to the northward. The time for survey work was too short to permit a verification of this statement.

At the inner and southern end of the south spit a stream flows into Goodnews Bay. The approaches to it are unnavigable. In some places the stream is thirty feet wide, but shoal. It forms at or near the base of Red

Mountain. Its general direction shown dotted, is indicated from sketches drawn from Red and Hump mountains. The shore of the bay on the south side, follows a N'E' E. direction and is marked by a low sandy bluff, except in the vicinity of, and a little to the westward of, Goodnews where a slate formation outcrops. The bay, to the southward, from a line joining Goodnews with the north point of the south spit, is shoal, and a considerable portion bares at low water. From the north and inner end of the north spit the shore line ^{to} of Baluka Mountain is similar to the south shore. Baluka Mountain is the most prominent feature in the vicinity. It is 886 feet high. The topography was not carried to the mountain, the dotted portion indicating an area sketched from the top of Baluka Mountain. Two streams are shown in this portion, from either of which at high tide water could be obtained with row or whaleboats. On the bluff, above the more easterly stream, are several small buildings occupied by prospectors.

Baluka Mountain is the southern extremity of a series of hills extending to the northward and to the eastward, varying heights from 400 to 2000 feet. With the exception of Netch Mountain, to the northward, readily distinguishable from points to the southward, none of the hills present characteristics which would render them of service to the navigator unfamiliar to the territory. The western extremity of these hills lies at a distance varying from seven to ten miles from the outer shore, and to reach them it is necessary to cross a tundra country, interspersed with marshy areas. Netch Mountain falls beyond the area shown on the sheet. Three

Three streams empty into the head of the bay. A trader in the vicinity stated that the local names were, "Tumulip, Kerohak, and Mumtrak"; the names in the order of azimuth of their mouths. The greater part of the bay bares at low waters and the channel formed by these rivers is clearly

distinguishable. It passes from one half to three quarters of a mile to the southward of Baluka Mountain following a southwesterly direction to the entrance. Much information about the depth of these streams could not be obtained, and there was not any time to investigate. Prospectors use Columbia River boats, and the streams are probably navigable for small launches. Mumtrak is an Esquimaux village at the head of the bay. A large white building situated there has been located by triangulation outs. Prospectors were working in the neighborhood, but no reports of strikes were made.

Red mountain, Hump mountain, and others occupied by reconnaissance parties do not present a solid rock formation, but are sand or a loose sandstone with numerous broken stones and boulders scattered over them.

The country is treeless, barren and tundra-covered, and the peaks during August and September were frequently obscured by clouds. Water and wood for camp use were difficult to obtain. The topography was executed in the usual manner by plane table. Triangulation signals were out in from base stations and distances later verified by triangulation. Set ups were located by three point problem and intermediate points were rodded in. Contours and heights were determined from outs. The low hills and sides of the high ones are tundra covered; present a rounded appearance, with no distinguishable points which caused a little difficulty in getting contours of the accuracy required.

To show the general appearance of the country within the area contained on the sheet, contour areas and sketches made while on reconnaissance are shown dotted. The contour interval is fifty feet.

Respectfully submitted,


Assistant, C. & G. S.

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