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JUL 11 1912  
Acc. No

Department of Commerce and Labor  
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State *Canal Zone*

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Top.* Sheet No. *3253*

LOCALITY:

*Panama - Bay of  
Panama - Playa Chame  
and Ctoque Id and  
vicinity*

1902

CHIEF OF PARTY:

*H. A. Rhodes*

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1912

# 3253

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET  
OF OTOQUE ISLANDS AND PLAYA CHAME, PANAMA BAY.

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General Description

The most prominent point seen in approaching the Otoque group of islands is the Peak of Bona Island, 685 feet high. A close second to this is that of Otoque. Bona Island rises to one peak, but Otoque has two lower hills which, with the main peak present quite a symmetrical sky line from the north or south.

There are two small villages on Otoque. The people fish and raise a few fruits, mostly pineapples. In the areas enclosed with black lines pineapples are grown; except where cultivated, the island is wooded.

Bona Island is nearly round with an arm reaching out on the north side forming a small bay. The island is wooded. Estiva Island is low and wooded.

Outlying Rocks.

Midway between Otoque and Bona is a group of rocks. Three of them stand about ten feet above high water. Several others bare at low water.

Description of Sho<sup>re</sup>.

Around Otoque the shore consists of ledges or heavy shingle. The shore line of Bona is either precipitous or ledges. Estiva has a rocky cliff, but it is rather low on the east side.

Anchorage.

There is anchorage for ships in the bight in the south side of Otoque in 11 fathoms, mud bottom Island. Small boats can find shelter from prevailing north winds in the little bay in Bona Island. At the village on the east side of the island is an opening through the ledge about a fathom wide. This leads into a small bight bare at low tide. It is sandy. The natives keep their boats here.

PLAYA CHAMEGeneral Description.

On the west side of Panama Bay abreast Otoque Island, a long point of land projects into the Bay, the end of which is known as Chame Point. It points like an index finger to the northeastward. The south side is almost straight and has a wide sand beach. The north shore is more irregular, but the low water line is nearly straight for several miles. At three places the sea enters the mangrove swamp extending lengthwise through the center of the peninsula to about a mile from its end. Outside of the swamp the land is flat and sandy, overgrown with sparse grass and trees. West from the point where work ceased on the north side is a mangrove swamp. Not very many meters west of the limit of the sheet on the south side is the mouth of a lagoon.

There are two small villages on the spit. They are of little importance. The inhabitants produce nothing. They exist on a few vegetables, fruits and fish.

Lights.

There is a white wooden light house about eight feet square and thirty feet high at the end of Chame Point. It has a small fixed white light.

Methods of Survey.

Positions of Chame, Otoque, Bona, Islet and Ot were computed and plotted on projection. From plane table positions located by these triangulation stations, signals on the south side of Otoque, the north side of Bona and on some off lying rocks were located.

A traverse was carried around Otoque from  $\odot$  Swift around to the north or right checking at  $\triangle$  Ot and  $\odot$  Tax. In the same way a traverse was carried around Bona and Estiva beginning at signals Sab and Islet, respectively.

Traverse began at  $\triangle$  Chame and ran to the south west on either side of the Cape to the limit of the sheet.

*List of Plane table positions  
Otoque group of Islands  
and  
Chame Point.*

Signal	Lat.	Metres	Long.	Metres	Description
Swift	8° 35'	1174 669	79° 36'	1379 454	White wash mark on point
Jef	35'	1765 78	36'	512 1321	" " " " rocky bluff
Nan	35'	1420 423	35'	1723 110	" " " " " "
Tax	35'	1115 728	35'	1224 609	W.W. on large rk. East side of head.
Bun	8° 35'	1722 121	35'	1446 387	WW " rocky bluff.
Anchor	8° 36'	317 1526	35'	1346 487	WW " " "
Tower	36'	1211 632	35'	1592 241	WW " point
Ben	36'	1037 806	79° 35'	1739 94	WW " "
El	36'	1408 435	79° 36'	479 1354	Banner and flag in tree.
Toc	36'	1528 315	36'	946 887	" " " "
Iron	36'	827 1016	36'	1021 812	N. gab. of N. ho. in row of 4 houses
Top. Flg.	36'	482 1361	36'	1407 426	Small flag. Plane table station.
Twin	8° 36'	269 1574	36'	807 1026	Higher of two palms showing prominently against the sky.
South	8° 35'	231 1612	36'	1526 307	W.W. South end Estiva Island
Rock	35'	130 1713	79° 36'	1594 239	Rock south of Estiva. Highest point.
Hy	35'	458 1385	79° 35'	901 932	Highest point on westernmost of three rocks.
Tan	8° 36'	414 1429	35'	796 1037	W.W. highest point on easternmost of three rocks.
Sab	8° 34'	1510 333	79° 35'	696 1137	WW. on rock N. of Bona Id.

*On Otoque Island.*  
*On outlying rocks.*

On Bona Island.

On Chame Point

Signal	Lat.	Metres	Long	Metres	Description
Peb	8° 34'	404 1439	79° 35'	934 909	Highest point large white rock.
Con	34'	291 1552	35'	1101 732	Small " "
Tam	34'	717 1126	35'	1747 86	WW on point of rock
Wo	34'	1173 670	35'	1471 362	WW " "
Sap	38'	483 1360	43'	1385 448	Banner on pole
Square	38'	580 1263	43'	703 1130	Highest palm in grove
Bud	38'	1665 178	42'	1331 502	Banner in tree
Poor	38'	649 1194	42'	351 1482	" " "
Tin	38'	386 1457	41'	1721 112	Banner and flag on pole
Gold	38'	1660 183	42'	351 1482	" " " " "
Hot	38'	913 930	42'	1141 692	" " " " "
Frio	37'	1730 113	43'	558 1275	" " " in tree.
Dry	37'	784 1058	43'	1733 100	" " " " "
Wet	37'	43 1800	44'	837 996	" " " "

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1137

WW. on rock N. of Bona Id.