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Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State: _____

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

27

Sheet No.

LOCALITY:

Prochins

191

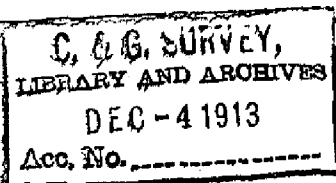
CHIEF OF PARTY:

Patton

11-1645

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Coast and Geodetic Survey

O. H. Tittmann, Sup't.

Topographic Sheet No. 3415

(Field Sheet No)

Kuskokwim Bay, Cape Peirce to Cape Newenham,

A L A S K A

Steamer EXPLORER

R. S. Patton, Assistant, Chief of Party.

July 1913.

Scale 1-40,000.

Topography by A. Joachims, Ass't.

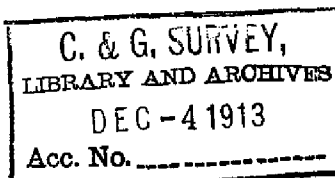
Topography Inked by A. Joachims, Ass't.

STATISTICS

Shore line Statute Miles 22.5

Area square " "

3415



PLANE TABLE SURVEY OF THE SHORELINE BETWEEN CAPE
NEWENHAM AND CAPE PEIRCE.

Str. EXPLORER

R. S. Patton, Ass't. Comdg.

Instructions were given by the Chief of Party to locate Cape Peirce by means of a Plane Table Traverse, starting with a known point "Sharp" which was located in 1912 on the Security Cove Plane Table Sheet. A cut from the triangulation station "Tell" was taken to this point to check the latter in azimuth. As the object of the survey was to locate Cape Peirce within a limited amount of time, contouring was to be neglected.

From "Sharp" a traverse was carried south to a point of the shoreline and from there on down the beach to Cape Peirce. Returning to this point on the beach the traverse was continued in the opposite direction toward Cape Newenham, and was carried up as far as "Gap" mountain. From here to signal "Table", the shoreline was cut in from the Ship, a stretch of five miles, which is made up of steep rocky bluffs and exposed to the open swell of the sea.

The nature of the shoreline varies greatly for so short a stretch. Beginning at "Table", the bold bluff rises up from the water's edge to a height varying from about 200 ft. to 2,000 ft. There is no beach under these bluffs as they drop sharply off into the water. East of "Gap" mountain the shoreline is not so high and rugged, ranging about 150 ft. in height and having a rocky beach.

About four miles east of Gap, the shoreline recedes into an open bay formed by the projecting arm of Cape Peirce. It has a broad sandy beach and is subject to the open swell of the sea. No protection can be had here from SE ly weather, though at the east side of the bay an apparently clear channel opens back into a large lagoon affording good anchorage for small boats. The entrance to this lagoon is rather difficult to find, as sand bars reach out on either side of the channel one of which is dry at low water. A rock, about 25 ft. high, is located just off the entrance to the lagoon and south of the channel. The lagoon has a small stream at its head where native fishermen frequent during the fishing season. The land back from the bay is low and marshy tundra, running back for about three miles, where it gradually rises to rolling hills.

Cape Peirce forms the east shore of the bay and extends about two miles south of the entrance to the lagoon, is about 200 ft. high, rather flat, and from seaward appears to be almost square at the end. In back of the cape the land is made up of low hills, covered in summer with tundra.

No distant off shore rocks or reefs were seen during the survey, and from what knowledge could be gained the coast seemed to be clear, except close in on the west side of Cape Peirce. Here breakers can be seen near the entrance of the lagoon, already described. No protection can be had for a ship from SE ly weather between Cape Peirce and Cape Newenham.

Joachim, Asst. S. S.
Ass't. C. & G. Survey.