



3628

Form 504	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
JAN 4 1917	
Acc. No.	
State: _____	
11-5413	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.	
Top Sheet No. 3628	
LOCALITY:	
191	
CHIEF OF PARTY:	

3628

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

to accompany  
Topographic Sheet No. (B.) 3628.

EAST SHORE PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

RATZ HARBOR to COFFMAN COVE

S. E. ALASKA

Work done under instructions from the  
SUPERINTENDENT dated February 26, 1916

Season of 1916, May to JULY

Wire Drag Party No. 3

John A. Daniels, Assistant

Chief of Party

Topography by W. K. Doolittle

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT to accompany Topographic Sheet  
No. *B.* , East Shore of Prince of Wales Island, Ratz Harbor  
to Coffman Cove, S. E. Alaska.

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#### SCALE, LOCALITY

The topography on this sheet is done on a 1 - 20,000  
scale and is included between parallels 55°-51' N. and  
56°-02' N., and between meridians 132°-34' W. and 132°-51' W.  
The sheet includes 29.5 statute miles of shoreline.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The portion of Prince of Wales Island included on  
this sheet consists of low hills leading up to the higher  
hills and snow-capped mountains farther back from the shore.  
It forms the western boundary of Clarence Strait. For a  
greater part of the coastline here shown the hills are  
in ranges paralleling the shore. The shore itself is quite  
straight in its central part; with steep dark colored rocks  
leading from treeline to water's edge. On the northern and  
southern ends low valleys cut back into the hills and at  
these places are bays with rocky shores and in the case of  
Coffman Cove with a rock-strewn area.

## FLORA and FAUNA

The forests which cover Prince of Wales Island up to an elevation of about 2,000 feet are very thick and consist mainly of Spruce and Hemlock with a little Cedar. The undergrowth within them is heavy and it is rendered still more difficult to travel thru by the partially decayed trunks and branches of fallen trees. This forest is typical of Southeastern Alaska.

The game observed consisted of deer, bear and mink. Trout, and in spawning season salmon, inhabit the streams. Snipe, several varieties of duck, geese and gulls are common, and ravens, crows, bluejays and bald eagles were often seen.

## SETTLEMENTS. RESOURCES. COMMERCE

The works of man make no considerable part of the features of this part of the island. A few scattered shacks, notably one by the stream which enters Ratz Harbor and one by Clear Creek, are all the buildings of any permanence. Fishing is at present the main industry. The timber has not been touched as yet, <sup>except hand logging near beach,</sup> but will <sup>probably</sup> eventually be used for wood pulp, being of low grade. This stretch of coast is fortunate in having two harbors of good size, either one of which may attract settlers in the future. Nearly all

of the commerce in that latitude passes near the harbors at the present time.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Coffman Cove which forms the northern limit of the sheet is formed by Coffman Island and the widening of the mouth of a small stream which enters it from the south. It is characterized by a fairly clear southern part offering a good anchorage for small vessels, and a northern part filled with a mass of rocks and reefs many of which are covered at high water, making it highly dangerous for ships of any size. Coffman Island is oval in general shape and on the outside or northeastern shore is ragged with offshore islets and reefs. On the southwest side are more islets and reefs. This is the side which bounds the rock-strewn area of the cove.

The southern side of the cove has low shores, covered with grass toward the head of the bay where the stream enters and changing to coarse gravel or boulder beach as the entrance is approached.

Immediately to the south of the cove is a small bight notable for the extent of its low water area, a sand beach of about three hundred meters width. South of this point

about one mile begins a stretch of fairly straight shore with a boulder beach about one hundred meters wide. After continuing for about two miles this character of shore gives way to a ragged shore with offlying islets and reefs, extending off shore a quarter of a mile in one instance.

At  $\Delta$  Luck the shore becomes steeper and less foul. A mile below is a rocky islet off shore about 400 meters and inshore from that the mouth of a stream known as Clear Creek to the fishermen. This site has been preempted for a fish trap and a shack built. No fishing was in progress when the locality was surveyed. From a point about two miles from  $\Delta$  Luck the shore extends southward for about five miles without deviating more than 200 meters from a straight line, a remarkable circumstance in this country of lava flows and ragged shores.

At  $\Delta$  Ratz begins the change in character of the shore due to the aforementioned valley cutting back into the hills. Two remarkable indentations occur. The first, Ratz Harbor, is formed by the widening of the mouth of a stream which flows down the valley from the west. It is very clear of obstructions and is suitable for anchorage. The entrance is hardly visible from the strait, therefore has been marked with a day mark by the Lighthouse Service.

that owing to the few signals located and the distance across the strait it was necessary to have the shoreline run fairly close to the edge of the sheet, thus excluding the areas whose contour would be an aid to navigation. Also, it was found impracticable to obtain contours from the shore as it was run because of the nearness of tall trees to the table. Thus it was found uneconomical to attempt contour work on this projection.

The projection was made and all signals plotted in advance of the work. Rod readings averaged 500 meters for the longest reading for any one station. Under favorable conditions one reading of 1050 meters was taken.

#### NEW PLACE NAMES

(a) Well established local name. CLEAR CREEK.

#### TABLE of STATISTICS

Statute miles of shoreline - - - - -	29.5
Square statute miles - - - - -	3.5
Recoverable positions located- - - - -	none

Respectfully submitted,

*William K. Doolittle*

Aid, C. & G. Survey

*Approved,*

*John A. Daniels*  
Chief of Party.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Register No. 3628

State ALASKA

General locality S. E. ALASKA

Locality East Shore of PRINCE of WALES ISLAND  
RATZ HARBOR to COFFMAN COVE

Chief of party John A. Daniels, Assistant

Surveyed by W. K. Doolittle, Aid

Date of survey May to July, 1916

Scale 1 = 20,000

Heights in feet above Mean Sea Level

Contour interval . . . . feet.

Inked by W. K. Doolittle lettered by W. K. Doolittle

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs,  
☒ K. Doolittle

Descriptive report, Horizontal angle books, Field computations,

Data from other sources affecting sheet ☒

Remarks: