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U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY  
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FORM 501  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: *Alaska*

11-5813

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

*Map* Sheet No. *3641*

LOCALITY:

*Prince of Wales Id. U E Coast.*  
*Vicinity Whale Passage*

1916

CHIEF OF PARTY:  
*C. G. Swilham*

3641

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

and a

LIST OF PLANETABLE POSITIONS FOR SHEET NO

WHALE PASSAGE

S. E. ALASKA

Surveved by Party of Str. PATTERSON -----1916

C. G. Quillian, Commanding.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO.

WHALE PASSAGE      S.E. ALASKA      Scale 1:20,000

Limits: This sheet extends from north latitude 55 59 to 56 06, and from west longitude 132 55 to 133 08. It covers all but the northern part of Whale Passage; also, Indian Creek, the north shore of Stevenson Island, and the lower half of the east shore of Thorne Island. It joins on the east with Sheet Register No. 2746; on the north with Sheet No. surveyed by H. T. Kelsh, Assistant, of same party.

General Description of Coast: The shore line is thickly wooded throughout and is devoid of any special features. Sand and gravel beaches show along the shores at low water. <sup>*alternated with rocky shores.*</sup> Along the mouths of the larger streams and in the deeper indentations of the shore there are low, grassy stretches suitable for camp sites. The country immediately back of the coast is thickly wooded, low and undulating.

Landmarks: There are no conspicuous landmarks. The southern entrance to Whale Passage cannot be picked up till close at hand. The northwest point of Stevenson Island is <sup>*about 20 ft. rather*</sup> high and precipitous ( $\Delta$  Whale), and is at southern entrance to Passage. A little grassy islet with a single low spruce tree on it ( $\odot$  Log), just off the southeast point of Thorne Island, makes a good mark for entering from the south. There is a low wooded island in the middle of southern entrance, but cannot be distinguished from the country immediately back of it.

Dangers, and necessary Precautions: A hydrographic survey has been made this season of Whale Passage. This passage can be used by small boats only. There are numerous rocks and ledges, covered at half tide and unmarked by kelp scattered in mid-channel as well as near shore. One not acquainted

with channel should feel his way through with caution. The east shore of Thorne Island and the north shore of Stevenson Island have rocky ledges, bare at low water, extending for several hundred meters from shore, but these shores are marked by thick kelp throughout. Indian Creek is sometimes <sup>used</sup> by small gas boats in going between Lake Bay and Whale Passage. A passage is only possible near high tide, and <sup>at N.W.</sup> near slack ~~water~~. There are two dangerous rapids, with rocks in the middle of them, to be crossed. Only those with local knowledge should attempt this passage.

Anchorage: Whale Passage should afford good shelter for small boats in any kind of weather. No very severe weather was encountered while making survey, but on several occasions when a stiff breeze was blowing in Kasevarof Passage, the waters inside Whale Passage were entirely calm. Anchorage for small boats can be found in any of the bights. The best anchorage is in the sandy bay on west shore of Passage, known locally as "Whale Bay" (outside limit of this sheet). The bight west of small island, where passage changes in direction from east and west to north and south is a well sheltered anchorage. This bay is known locally as "Rocky Bay" because of the numerous rocks in it. On the east shore of Thorne Island, just south of  $\Delta$  Cam is a small sandy bay with a stream at the head of it, which could serve as a temporary protection for small boats. There are some rocks near the north entrance. The direction of the current in Whale Passage is various. The flood comes in at both entrances; is strongest at the northern entrance; is negligible near the middle. Tide rips were noticed inside southern entrance.

Other useful Information: There are numerous small streams in Whale Passage, but the smaller ones go dry in summer. The best stream is the one on the west shore of "Rocky Bay", inside Fib. This locality also affords

a good camp sight. There are several fishermen's huts in "Whale Bay" and two fish traps belonging to the Lake Bay Cannery. Some clearing has been done in this locality.

Survey Methods: Whale Passage was surveyed by means of plane table triangulation and traverse, the signals being put up in advance. Indian Creek was traversed by C.T. Russell, Aid, of same party. <sup>C.P. 9-1916</sup> Triangulation stations Cam and Whale were used as starting points and the survey run west and north to  $\odot$  Odar and  $\odot$  Fall. The rest of the passage was run from the northward with triangulation control from the north. The error of closure on above two signals was 70 meters and was thrown into the shoreline south of above two signals, being distributed in proportion to shore-line run. The outer coasts of Thorne and Stevenson Islands had sufficient triangulation control to make any subsequent adjustment unnecessary. Elevations are taken to tops of trees. Heights of trees are pretty uniform and may be taken as 60 feet. Contours are sketched from shore and are only approximate.

Magnetic Survey: The declinatoire was used frequently in running survey. It was never used as a means of orientation, but did serve as a check against gross errors. The direction of the magnetic needle was found to be fairly uniform throughout.

Local Names:

Whale Bay: sandy bay on west side of Whale Passage in lat. 56 06; long. 133 07.

Rocky Bay: rocky bay on west side of Whale Passage in lat. 56 03; long. 133 07.

Respectfully yours,

*Jack Senior*  
Aid, C. & G. S.

PLANETABLE POSITIONS

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>LATITUDE</u> | <u>D.M.</u> | <u>LONGITUDE</u> | <u>D.P.</u> | <u>MARKER</u> | <u>REMARKS</u>    |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| <u>Toy</u>  | 56 02           | 1024<br>882 | 132 58           | 362<br>712  | hyd.          | signal on dolphin |
| <u>Lee</u>  | 56 02           | 1350<br>506 | 132 58           | 624<br>354  | hyd.          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Rod</u>  | 56 02           | 1758<br>98  | 132 58           | 240<br>792  | hyd.          | signal on tree    |
| <u>Mig</u>  | 56 02           | 1834<br>22  | 132 59           | 212<br>826  | C.M.          | w.w. cliff        |
| <u>Luna</u> | 56 02           | 1464<br>392 | 132 59           | 917<br>131  | bolt          | w.w. cairn        |
| <u>Feet</u> | 56 02           | 1830<br>26  | 133 01           | 1020<br>8   | disk          | w.w. cairn        |
| <u>Nail</u> | 56 02           | 1493<br>363 | 133 02           | 608<br>430  | C.M.          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Node</u> | 56 02           | 1429<br>417 | 133 03           | 2<br>1006   | C.M.          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Odd</u>  | 56 02           | 1240<br>616 | 133 03           | 528<br>510  | C.M.          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Sex</u>  | 56 02           | 1088<br>773 | 133 03           | 982<br>49   | hyd.          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Net</u>  | 56 02           | 849<br>1007 | 133 04           | 87<br>951   | C.M.          | w.w. boulder      |
| <u>Yes</u>  | 56 02           | 241<br>1615 | 133 04           | 353<br>686  | hyd.          |                   |
| <u>Rage</u> | 56 02           | 872<br>984  | 133 04           | 489<br>549  | hyd.          | flag              |
| <u>Pain</u> | 56 02           | 978<br>378  | 133 04           | 1028<br>10  | hyd.          | w.w. cairn        |
| <u>Lace</u> | 56 02           | 1204<br>552 | 133 05           | 572<br>460  | hyd.          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Fib</u>  | 56 02           | 1586<br>170 | 133 05           | 702<br>386  | hyd.          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Hell</u> | 56 02           | 1490<br>366 | 133 04           | 246<br>792  | C.M.          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Tab</u>  | 56 02           | 206<br>1550 | 133 04           | 400<br>638  | disk          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Rin</u>  | 56 02           | 1224<br>622 | 132 37           | 382<br>657  | C.M.          | w.w. rock         |
| <u>Pit</u>  | 56 02           | 1196<br>660 | 132 58           | 907<br>131  | hyd.          | w.w. cairn        |
| <u>Log</u>  | 56 02           | 891<br>965  | 132 59           | 150<br>828  | disk          | pole              |

| NAME        | LATITUDE | D.M. | LONGITUDE   | D.P.   | MARKED     | REMARKS          |
|-------------|----------|------|-------------|--------|------------|------------------|
| <u>Fun</u>  | 56       | 03   | 424<br>1432 | 132 58 | 877<br>161 | hyd. w.w.cairn   |
| <u>Rib</u>  | 56       | 03   | 432<br>1424 | 132 58 | 297<br>741 | hyd. w.w.cairn   |
| <u>Non</u>  | 56       | 03   | 982<br>874  | 132 59 | 706<br>332 | hyd. w.w.boulder |
| <u>Ink</u>  | 56       | 03   | 965<br>891  | 133 00 | 274<br>764 | bolt w.w.cairn   |
| <u>Are</u>  | 56       | 03   | 1385<br>471 | 133 00 | 524<br>514 | hyd. w.w.cairn   |
| <u>Bit</u>  | 56       | 03   | 1513<br>343 | 133 01 | 52<br>986  | bolt w.w.cairn   |
| <u>Cub</u>  | 56       | 03   | 1400<br>456 | 133 02 | 80<br>958  | bolt w.w.cairn   |
| <u>Dew</u>  | 56       | 03   | 1489<br>367 | 133 02 | 594<br>444 | C.&N. w.w.rock   |
| <u>Pot</u>  | 56       | 03   | 1513<br>343 | 133 03 | 50<br>988  | hyd. w.w.rock    |
| <u>Elm</u>  | 56       | 03   | 1218<br>638 | 133 03 | 137<br>901 | C.&N. w.w.rock   |
| <u>King</u> | 56       | 03   | 885<br>971  | 133 02 | 932<br>106 | C.&N. w.w.rock   |
| <u>Fill</u> | 56       | 03   | 784<br>1072 | 133 02 | 1032<br>6  | hyd. w.w.rock    |
| <u>Dry</u>  | 56       | 03   | 340<br>1516 | 133 02 | 401<br>637 | C.&N. w.w.cairn  |
| <u>Hat</u>  | 56       | 03   | 261<br>1595 | 133 03 | 273<br>765 | C.&N. w.w.cairn  |
| <u>Zo</u>   | 56       | 03   | 693<br>1163 | 133 03 | 455<br>533 | C.&N. w.w.rock   |
| <u>Vim</u>  | 56       | 03   | 855<br>1001 | 132 03 | 893<br>143 | hyd. w.w.rock    |
| <u>Pail</u> | 56       | 03   | 1514<br>342 | 133 04 | 357<br>681 | hyd. pole        |
| <u>At</u>   | 56       | 03   | 574<br>1288 | 133 00 | 848<br>190 | bolt w.w.cairn   |
| <u>Bow</u>  | 56       | 03   | 457<br>1399 | 133 01 | 260<br>778 | bolt w.w.cairn   |
| <u>Tab</u>  | 56       | 03   | 306<br>1550 | 133 04 | 400<br>638 | disk w.w.rock    |
| <u>Van</u>  | 56       | 03   | 1065<br>791 | 133 04 | 763<br>275 | hyd. w.w.cairn   |
| <u>Pod</u>  | 56       | 03   | 1122<br>734 | 133 04 | 855<br>183 | hyd. pole        |
| <u>Game</u> | 56       | 03   | 992<br>864  | 133 04 | 996<br>40  | hyd. pole        |
| <u>Dime</u> | 56       | 03   | 309<br>1547 | 133 05 | 65<br>1791 | hyd. pole        |

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>LATITUDE</u> | <u>D.M.</u> | <u>LONGITUDE</u> | <u>D.P.</u> | <u>MARKED</u> | <u>REMARKS</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| <u>Hire</u> | 56 08           | 560<br>1296 | 133 05           | 536<br>502  | hyd.          | w.w.rock       |
| <u>Evil</u> | 56 08           | 1596<br>260 | 133 05           | 910<br>128  | hyd.          | w.w.rock       |
| <u>Kit</u>  | 56 04           | 792<br>1064 | 133 06           | 321<br>717  | hyd.          | pole           |
| <u>Odar</u> | 56 04           | 1078<br>778 | 133 06           | 905<br>133  | hyd.          | pole           |
| <u>Darn</u> | 56 04           | 584<br>1272 | 133 04           | 759<br>279  | hyd.          | pole           |
| <u>Fall</u> | 56 04           | 1070<br>846 | 133 04           | 204<br>834  | hyd.          | pole           |
| <u>Said</u> | 56 04           | 1474<br>382 | 132 58           | 815<br>223  | hyd.          | pole           |
| <u>Pig</u>  | 56 04           | 35<br>1821  | 132 58           | 803<br>235  | C.&N.         | w.w.cairn      |
| <u>Mob</u>  | 56 05           | 110<br>1746 | 133 04           | 985<br>53   | hyd.          | flag           |
| <u>Six</u>  | 56 05           | 460<br>1896 | 133 04           | 820<br>218  | hyd.          | pole           |
| <u>Juda</u> | 56 05           | 842<br>1014 | 133 05           | 25<br>1013  | hyd.          | w.w.cairn      |
| <u>Kiln</u> | 56 05           | 708<br>1158 | 133 04           | 814<br>224  | hyd.          | w.w.rock       |
| <u>Kink</u> | 56 05           | 1150<br>706 | 133 07           | 455<br>583  | hyd.          | pole           |
| <u>Kind</u> | 56 05           | 1260<br>596 | 132 59           | 960<br>78   | hyd.          | pole           |
| <u>Mall</u> | 56 05           | 100<br>1756 | 132 59           | 72<br>966   | hyd.          | w.w.cairn      |
| <u>Exit</u> | 56 06           | 223<br>1633 | 133 00           | 253<br>734  | hyd.          | pole           |

3 Legend

C.&N.: nail in cement

bolt: copper bolt in cement

disk: regular topographic disk mark in crevice

hyd.: not marked, used by hydrographic party.