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C. & G. SURVEY  
L. & A.  
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: \_\_\_\_\_  
11-5513

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

T Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_

LOCALITY:

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191  
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CHIEF OF PARTY:

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REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 3642.

ORCA INLET, ALASKA.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 3642.

ORCA INLET, ALASKA, FROM ENTRANCE TO CORDOVA.

The shore line on the north side of the inlet is a planetable traverse by Mr. E.S.Walker. This work is part of the survey of the Military Reservation. The season closed before it was completed. The contour lines on Hawkins Island shown in ink were sketched from planetable cuts and elevations made from triangulation stations Girl, and Trade and from plane table stations at Gravel Point and at the entrance to Boswell Bay, and from photographs made at Peak I, triangulation stations Maud, Camp, Kitty and Hey and from Peak 52. All photographs used were made with a photo-topographic camera by the party of Mr. Homer P. Ritter in 1898 and 1899. They are apt of the archives. The shore line west of that part surveyed this summer is assumed to be correct except where hydrographic work showed it to be otherwise. The contour interval is one hundred feet.

The traverse along the shore from Point Whitshed to Cordova was run chiefly by Mr. P.F.Benedict, Mummy Island and that part from the wireless telegraph station to Big Point I did myself. This work was done in weather when outside work was not permissible and the mountains were obscured by clouds. On the <sup>B</sup>/<sub>P</sub> big point forming this side of Orca Inlet the mountains follow close to the outer shore. The high land terminates at Point Whitshed, though rolling hills extend to the wireless station. The eastern side of the range rises directly from the shore in rather steep slopes. The water fall near Peak I is a prominent land mark seen for several miles over the mud flats

and shows weell when the peaks and higher land is cloud covered.

On the west side the ridge descends to rolling wooded upland a mile or so wide before arriving at Orca Inlet shores. The contours are sketched from photographs made at triangulation stations Joe, Peak 52, Camp, Maud, Peak I and Grass and from a camera station a mile south of triangulation station Pin.

Mummy Island is 425 fett high. It is irregular in outline and has a number of islets, generally wooded, near its east point. It is thickly wooded with larke knarled and twisted spruces apparently of great age. Clam giggers have established themselves in small houses hid among tle trees. The island is surrounded by extensive mud flats and at low tide is approached only through the slough at the eastend.

The small island a quarter of a mile southwest of Mummy Island has two steep ends, about 75 feet high, with a low flat strip between and is easily recognized. The islet a mile west of Mummy Island is <sup>by</sup>ounded in outline and in profile. No name could be obtained for either of these.

Thereis a small rock a few feet above high tide 200 meters south of the last mentioned islet. A mile southwestward is a small rock in the mud flats which bares a little before half tide. It was located by triangulation. No trace could be found of the rock shown on the pencil reduction furnished by the office a quarter of a mile about south, true, from signal Gin, Mummy Islad. However, there seems to have been a general displacement of Mummy Island and neighboring shore. The shore line in general conforms to thatwhich was transferred in the Washington office from former surveys but lays about 150 meters southwestward. This might be due to changing the datum of the triangulation.

The ridge of Hawkins Island lays near the Orca Inlet side and falls away toward Orca Bay. The country is wooded to the 1000 foot contour. Tangent cuts shift the west entrance point of Conoe Pass 200 meters westward. That part of the island west of Conoe Pass has one high point, Peak 50, from which the ground breaks away into lesser hills on all sides, running off to the westward in a long slope broken by a few knolls. It seems that contours could be extended around the west side of the island from photographs made in Hawkins Island Cut Off at triangulation stations Kitty, Hey, Rube, etc. This part of the island is low.

The towers of the wireless station, shown as triangulation stations Tall, Mid and South, show well from a distance only when the sun strikes them. Topographic sheet 2423 expresses the topography of this vicinity, using the dotted or hachured lines as 100 foot contours.

Most of the area included in this sheet outside of the high water line is composed of mud flats and shoals through channels and sloughs run as developed by the hydrographic sheets.

Orca is not a post office. The residents obtain their mail from Cordova.

Respectfully submitted

*E. E. Smith*  
Asst. C. & G. Survey.

## List of plane table positions to accompany Topographic Sheet No. \_\_\_\_\_

Orca Inlet, Alaska. 1916. E.E.Smith, Chief of Party.

Station	Lat.	Met.	Long.	Met.	Remarks.	Recoverable.
Biscuit	60 27	1182	145 58	242	The small rock 200 meters off the wireless station. It is the outermost one bare at all tides.	easily
Less	27	154	59	86	Tree in mud.	no
Air	27	722	58	888	" " "	no
Wire	27	1354	58	410	" " "	no
Shag	27	1510	58	652	Highest point of Shag Rock which is 500 meters off of wireless station toward Mummy Id.	easily
Eastern	27	932	59	790	About fifteen feet high. Easternmost of rocks about Mummy Id. It is a quarter of a mile from the east point of the id.	easily
Haystack	27	1323	59	725	A rock about 30 feet high, rounded, grass covered, 100 meters south of the high, tree covered islet off the east point of Mummy Island.	easily
Cin	27	1024	146 00	745	Highest tree in highest point of Mummy Island.	yes
Lost	27	1590	03	55	Not Triangulation Sta. Lost. but a rock 150 met. south of the islet which contains the station.	easily
Tok	27	1611	02	848	Tree at S.E. part of same islet	possibly
White	28	21	145 58	6	Whitewash mark on point at foot of 100' bluff near wireless station. The point is the outermost projection of the point about 50 met. from the waterfall.	easily
Tide	28	260	57	704	Tide gauge	no
Wash	28	510	57	368	Whitewash mark 8' above high tide on outermost projection of Gravel Point.	easily
Fac	28	862	56	685	Outer gable of clam factory	easily
Rex	28	1149	56	512	White wash mark on rock	no
Ship	30	800	53	635	Tree in mud.	no
Slu	30	492	53	356	" " "	no
Dog	30	836	52	862	" " "	no

Shore line by E.S.Walker, P.F.Benedict and E.E.Smith.

Fall	60 26	1670	145 50	788	Water fall, top, Pt. Whisked	unmistakeable
Scar	30	1404	58	590	Mark on bluff	no
Cath	32	1035	45	437	Spire Catholic Church Cordova	yes

# NAMES USED LOCALLY.

- Government Rock. The rock at Point Whitshed about 30 feet high on which is located triangulation station Whitshed. It is rounded in outline, is easily distinguished from east and west and is well known by this name.
- Big Point. Is commonly used for the point on the east side of Orca Inlet two miles from the wireless station.
- Bluff Point. The next point toward Cordova from Big Point.
- Saddle Point. The two miles from Cordova toward the wireless station.
- Shag Rock. The rock ten feet above high water a quarter of a mile off shore from the wireless station towards Kummy Island. The vessels frequenting this passage know this rock as they pass between it and the mainland.
- Twin Rocks. Two rocks in the mud flats a mile south true from the wireless station.
- "The Wireless". One of the most important points in the locality, that occupied by the Navy wireless station, is unnamed. Cannery men, fishermen and clam giggers refer to it as "The Wireless" and understand each other.
- Gravel Point. A small point in Orca Inlet half a mile from the wireless station.

Waterfall on Point Whitshed, about 150 feet fall.

Government Rock. At Point whitshed. 30 feet high and rounded in profile.

Pinnacle Rock. a mile south of Mummy Island. There are two large steep rocks. The southern one about 75 feet high rises to a sharp point. The channel from the wireless station to Boswell Bay passes close to them.