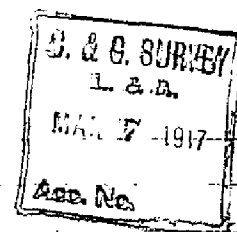


3649



Form 504
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: ALASKA

11-5613

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 3649

LOCALITY:

Prince William Sound

North side of Orca Bay

Orca Military Reservation

1916

CHIEF OF PARTY:

E. E. Smith

3649

Descriptive Report
to accompany Topographic Sheet
North Side Orca Bay
Orca Military Reservation
E. E. Smith Chief of Party
E. S. Walker Topographer
June - August 1916

Extent of Sheet:

This sheet embraces the area north of Orca Bay from Sheep Bay on the west to long. 145 - 40 on the east, and north to lat. 60 - 42.

Description of Country:

The area east of Simpson Bay is made up of three ridges extending in a N.E.-S.W. direction. The ridge adjacent to the coast of Orca Bay is comparatively smooth on top and has no prominent peaks. On its S.W. slope this ridge is thickly wooded up to about 1500'. Above this elevation the woods becomes thinner until near the top are only a few scattered clumps of dwarfed trees. On the northern slope the timber line is at about 1500' with dwarfed trees here and there above this elevation. The area extending out to Bomb Point is composed of a main ridge whose crest is near the southern shore. The south side of this ridge is steep while the north side has a more gradual slope below 300'. The lake shown affords good trout fishing, and is frequently visited in season by sportsmen from Cordova. They approach it from the south side landing at the two houses shown on the southern shore. The area of this peninsula is all wooded. The western end near Bomb Point has open spaces here and there of small extent.

The middle of the three ridges referred to above is the highest. The eastern end of this ridge is very rugged. The southern side is wooded to about 1500' elevation. Above this elevation are a few clumps of scrubby bushes. Its northern slope is barren and rough. Snow above 2500' remains in the depressions about all summer.

The northern ridge is comparatively flat and bare on top, from its western end to meridian 46'. East of this are barren rugged peaks. The middle of the southern slope of this ridge is very steep, so steep in fact that few trees can exist on its slope. The S.W. end of this ridge is wooded up to about 1500'. Between this ridge and the middle ridge is a narrow gorge with small falls and rapids. There are two pools or ponds of noticeable size in this gorge. The upper end of this gorge is wider and flatter than the lower end. The northern side of this ridge is wooded up to about 1500', and with scrubby growth up to about 2000' where conditions are favorable.

The peninsula between Sheep and Simpson Bays consists of one ridge whose crest is nearer Simpson Bay. The eastern slope is steep while the western is more gradual. The crest of the ridge maintains a fairly uniform elevation. The area is generally wooded. The crest of the ridge is thinly wooded with dwarfed trees.

The area on the west side of Sheep Bay is mountainous with very steep slopes. The area is wooded up to, about 1000', with scattered trees above that.

Practically all trees on the entire area are fir and spruce.

Shore Line:

Shore line shown dotted is as transferred in the office from the work of a previous season.

The shore from Simpson-1 to Sheep Point is irregular and, in general, rocky with short stretches of gravel beach here and there. A gravel beach extends east from Sheep Point for about one-third mile. The shore line extending north around Sheep Point is low with gravel beach and rocks.

Sheep Point is wooded and has no prominent features.

Signal Bite is on the end of a rocky wooded island, that is about 15' high.

The bight just north of the 8' bare rock has a gravel beach at its head and forms a good landing place for small boats.

The next bight, just south of 15' island, has a wide gravel beach, with fresh water at its head, thus making a suitable place to camp.

The large bight south of signal Hid has gravel beach at its head. The long narrow inlet leading N.E. can apparently be entered at all times by small boats.

Signal Hid is on a rocky wooded island. It is an island at high tide only. The shore line from here on is made up of both rock and gravel beach interspersed.

The western shore of Sheep Bay is rocky with rocky beach, except for a short stretch extending about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north from station Sheep-2, which is gravel and boulders.

The islands in Sheep Bay are rocky and wooded.

Islands:

Hanks Island is wooded and rocky. Elevation to surface = 25'.

Channel Island is wooded and has rocky shore. On its S.E. shore are vertical cliffs. Height of ground = 220'. An unwatched flash light is located on its southern end.

North Island is a rocky wooded island. Elevation of surface = 110'. N.E. of this island is a rock that covers at about half tide, upon which is a fixed whitelight supported by an iron pipe.

Streams:

There are numerous streams in this area, but almost all of them are small and unimportant.

At the head of Simpson Bay is a fair sized stream, that can be entered at high tide with small boat. At the head of the eastern arm of this bay are several small streams, none of which can be entered by small boat.

At the head of Sheep Bay are two streams that can be entered by row boat for a short distance at high tide.

Thousands of Salmon may be seen around the mouths of these streams during the spawning season.

Inhabitants:

This entire area is practically uninhabited. Some Indians and two white fishermen live one mile north of Bomb Point. There are a couple of houses N.E. of Channel Island on the mainland.

Method of Survey:

The survey was made with the Plane Table. All the triangulation stations shown on the sheet were recovered and signal erected. From these stations cuts and elevations angles were taken on objects within the area to be contured. Many other set-ups were made and position determined by the three point solution, and cuts taken. Vertical angles were obtained by the Alidade using the Stride Level. Elevations were computed in the field by the Hypsograph. All elevations that were determined are shown on the sheet. With these elevations as control the contours were sketched in the field.

Nearly all elevations were determined from shore stations. It was necessary to ascend the middle of the three ridges east of Simpson Bay to an elevation of 3000' in order to obtain certain controlling elevations and to sketch area not visible from shore. There was a great loss of time due to the clouds that hung so continuously over the mountains.

All elevations are to the ground. Where the ground was not visible the elevations were taken to tree tops and reduced by estimate to the ground.

The lake shown north of Channel Island is located approximately. The Plane Table was set up at an approximated location on the sheet and oriented by compass, and so much of the shore line as is shown by full line was run in. Owing to the time it would have required to run a traverse to it from the coast, it was deemed inadvisable to do so.

Contour interval = 50ft.

Scale of sheet = 1 / 20000.

Respectfully submitted

R. S. Walker
Ass't C. & G. Survey
Topographer