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Form 504	
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY	
State: Louisiana	
11-5812	
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.	
(Naval Air Service)	
Topog.	Sheet No. (5) 4050
LOCALITY:	
Miss. River Delta	
Southeast Pass to South Pass	
1922	
CHIEF OF PARTY:	
G. C. Mattison	

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC

Sheet #5.

This sheet is a compilation from airplane photographs. The photographs were made by personnel of the Navy Air Service in April and May 1922.

The construction of mosaics and pantographic reduction was done by H. C. MacNab, Draftsman. The data were transferred to the sheet by G. C. Mattison. The sheet was inked by H. C. MacNab. The office work was started in April 1923, and completed in November 1923. The work was carried on with the work of constructing the five other sheets, and was not continuous.

This sheet comprises the area known as "The Crevasse", lying between South Pass, Pass a Loutre and Southeast Pass. It was formed when the break occurred in the bank of Pass a Loutre and filled Garden Island Bay. Old Balize Bayou is also included on the sheet, marking the eastern limits.

Triangulation on this sheet is all based on the datum used for the field computations of the 1921 triangulation. All 1922 stations used have been re-computed and plotted on the 1921 datum.

The whole area is marshy, the only solid ground being close to the banks of the passes, and that within the levees at Port Eads. Patches of cane and grass cover the area. Willows are numerous as shown on the sheet.

SOUTH PASS is the pass used by practically all vessel entering and leaving the river. Its banks are becoming very narrow, and cuts have been made as shown in the narrow places, for the purpose of depositing mud, and strengthening and widening the banks.

Just west of the mouth of the pass is a shoal and sand-spit, built up by the cross current in the Gulf running in a south-westerly direction. A group of buildings near the entrance marks the pilot station, headquarters of the bar pilots.

PORT EADS about 2 miles above the entrance, is the settlement comprising the personnel employed in the maintenance of the pass. A levee around the place keeps out the waters from the river and from the Gulf. There is a small store here. Opposite Port Eads is the lighthouse, depot and South Pass light.

About 5 miles up the pass is an abandoned settlement known

as Oysterville. The river bank is cutting away rapidly here, and the houses here are being dismantled and moved to a safer locality.

Near the head of the pass is a small cluster of houses used by laborers when engaged in work in the vicinity necessary for the maintenance of the pass.

Cattle graze along the banks of the pass wherever there is solid enough ground.

Almost the whole area comprising the sheet is retained by the state as a duck hunting ground. There is some trapping done here, hunting is allowed under supervision, and a few oyster beds have been planted. A club house is maintained by the state at the point formed by the junction of Johnson and Dennis Passes.

There was considerable difficulty in plotting this sheet, as the mosaics did not overlap each other accurately. The photographs were among the first ones made by the aviators, and did not give as good results as the later photographs.

Some of the photographs showed the effects of motion of the plane, causing a larger scale in photographs in the direction of flight than was obtained in the photographs in the direction normal to the flight. Adjoining mosaics fell short in overlapping areas by 40 meters in some cases.

Whenever discrepancies were found, only the center line of the photographic mosaic was used for control, and the rest of the detail adjusted to fit the various control lines. It is believed that this method eliminates much of the error, as experience has proven that the center line of a mosaic is a fairly accurate reproduction of the ground features, even if tilt or distortion is present.

It is a safe estimate to state that no point on this sheet is in error more than 40 meters with relation to the nearest control point.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

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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. 5 4050

State . . . Louisiana

General locality . . Mississippi River Delta

Locality . . Southeast Pass to South Pass
~~The Grassy area~~

Chief of party . . . G.C. Mattison

Photographed by
~~Surveyed by~~ . . Naval Air Service

Date of survey . April and May 1922.

Scale . . 1/20,000

Heights in feet above

Contour interval feet.

Inked by J.C. MacNab . . Lettered by J.C. MacNab

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs,

Descriptive report, Horizontal angle books, Field computations,

Data from other sources affecting sheet

Blueprint of Louisiana State Conservation Survey used for
names on sheet.

Remarks:

The negatives of the aerial photographs are already on file
in the archives. The photographs, pantographic reductions and notes
will be forwarded at the completion of the work.