

4491

Form 504
Ed. June, 1928

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

_____, Director

State: Virginia

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic
Hydrographic

Sheet No.

4491

LOCALITY

Norfolk and Portsmouth
Elizabeth River - Western and
Eastern Branches

1929-1930

CHIEF OF PARTY

R.F.A. Studds, H.E. Finnegan

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

to accompany the
Topographic Sheet "B" 4491
Project No. 43

MAR 27 1930

Acc. No.

Introduction:-

Original instructions dated July 20, 1929, and supplemental instructions dated September 30, 1929, which covered this work, were altered verbally from time to time as a result of conferences between the Division of Charts, the cartographer compiling the chart and the Chief of Party in charge of this survey.

Extent:-

The topography on this sheet covers the shore line of the Elizabeth River from Lamberts Point on the northeast side and from Lovetts Point on the southwest to the entrance of the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River; the shore line of the Eastern Branch to the Norfolk Western Railway Bridge; the bulkhead on the north side of the Eastern Branch above the Campestello Bridge; the Western Branch of the Elizabeth River as far west as Sternes Creek.

Control:-

The topography up the Elizabeth River and the Eastern Branch was controlled by triangulation which had been located by previous surveys. The topography up the Western Branch was controlled by a scheme of third order triangulation executed by the party.

Methods:-

The greater part of the topography on this sheet was accomplished by traversing between triangulation stations and three point locations.

On the Western Branch offset traverses were run up the sloughs on both sides of the river.

Starting at Δ Rail a closed traverse was run to the head of Baines Creek. The traverse was in error 35 meters in azimuth and 20 meters in distance. It was thought by the topographer that most of the error lay in the back traverse, but due to orders to close field work, time was not available to check up this error. The survey of this creek, unadjusted, compared very favorably with a topographic by the U.S.E.D., a blueprint of which had been forwarded to the Washington Office.

A closed traverse was run to the head of Sternes Creek, starting at Δ Rail and checking on U.S.E.D. stations.

Discrepancies in chart 400:-

The water front of the Elizabeth River and the Eastern Branch was found to agree with that shown on chart 400 except in a few places as follows;

Lamberts Creek on the northeast side of the Elizabeth River has been allowed to fill in above the foot bridge. This area is filled with marsh grass and is bare at low water. Above the R.R. bridge the whole area has been filled in and is covered with marsh grass.

Smith Creek at the head of its northeast arm has a stone bulkhead built across it about at the place where the middle crossing is shown on chart 400 and the area in back of the wall is filled in with dirt. side

The dock on the north of Eastern Branch, through which meridian 76° - 17' passes, is dilapidated and the building itself looks as though it had been entirely abandoned as it is rapidly falling to pieces.

On the north side of the Eastern Branch above the Campostello Bridge a bulkhead has been built. Chart 400 shows this bulkhead but the area in back of the bulkhead has been filled in by using the spoil taken from the river when it was dredged. The fill comes within two feet of the top of the bulkhead. There are several soft spots in this area which is covered with marsh grass, but in general this fill is solid.

On the Berkley side of the Eastern Branch east of the Imperial Tobacco Co.'s docks is an area which is much fouler than is shown on chart 400. Stub piling is dotted all through this area, evidently the remains of old docks.

Pescara Creek above the R.R. bridge has been filled up by a growth of marsh grass. It is impossible to pass under the railway bridge as no provision has been made for anything to pass under it. Chart 400 shows water above the bridge.

In the Western Branch at Port Norfolk the N.Y.P. & N.R.R. Co. have removed all their ferry slips except one and have taken up the tracks leading up to these slips. The east side of the dock and the east half of the front of the dock is delapidated.

The bridge of the V.E. & P. Co. has been abandoned and the rails removed from the structure. At present only the wooden frame work remains and parts of this has been broken away. The draw has been swung open and made fast in this position.

Above the West Norfolk Bridge on the north side of the river are three sunken barges which are visible at high water. These barges have been in their present location for some time - judging from their present condition. The dolphins just to the west of these barges are used by barges to make secure to while being loaded with piles. The beach in this vicinity is strewn with piling that has washed ashore.

At Lovetts Point there are more piling than is shown on Chart 400.

Dangers:-

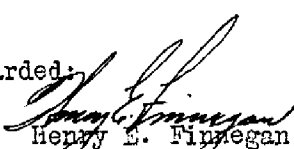
On the Portsmouth side of the Elizabeth River, latitude 36° - 50' - 874.3 meters, longitude 76° - 17' - 1433.0 meters, is a wreck which is visible at high water. This wreck is not shown on chart 400.

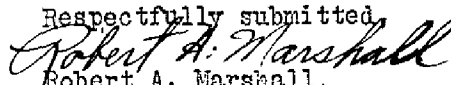
Remarks:-

No attempt was made to obtain any detail. Only the high water line was surveyed in accordance with instructions. In the sloughs the edge of the marsh line was taken as the high water line. Numerous rod readings were taken in these sloughs and no sketching was done.

It has been noted by the topographer that in some places quite a difference exists between his work and that of the previous surveys. The difference is believed to be due to the natural filling out and receding of the shoreline due to changes in course of the channel of the river. This is especially true in the sloughs where they are not used any longer as waterways and have been allowed to fill in. These sloughs are in general filled with marsh between the high water line of the last survey and that shown on this sheet.

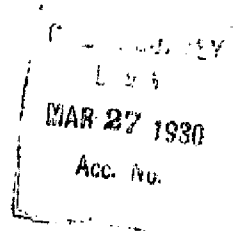
Forwarded:


Henry E. Finnegan,
Jr. H. & C. E., U.S.C. & G. Survey,
Chief of Party.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Marshall,
Deck Officer, U.S.C. & G. Survey,
Topographer.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET



REG. NO. 4491

The Topographic Sheet should be accompanied by this form, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

Field Letter "B"

REGISTER NO. 4491

State Virginia

General locality Norfolk and Portsmouth
~~Norfolk, Va. - Western Branch Eliz. River~~

Locality Eliz. River, Western and Eastern Branches

Scale 1:10,000 Date of survey Sept. '29 to Jan. '30

Vessel Launch #65

Chief of Party R.F.A. Studds - Henry E. Finnegan

Surveyed by Robert A. Marshall

Inked by R.A.H.

Heights in feet above to ground to tops of trees

Contour Approximate contour Form line interval feet

Instructions dated July 20, 1929 & Supp'l Instr. Sept. 30, 1929.

Remarks: