

6445

U. S. COAST & GEODETIC SURVEY  
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Form 504  
Ed. June, 1928

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

R. S. Patton, Director

State: WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

*Topographic* } Sheet No. K - 1935  
~~*Hydrographic*~~

LOCALITY

~~THE NARROWS, Vicinity of~~

~~GIG HARBOR & PT. DEFIANCE + Vic.~~

PUGET SOUND

1935.

CHIEF OF PARTY

Jack Senior

6445

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

REG. NO.

## TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

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 K - 1936

REGISTER NO.

State WashingtonGeneral locality Puget SoundLocality The Narrows, vicinity of Gig Harbor & Pt. Defiance <sup>Point</sup> + VicinityScale 1:10,000 Date of survey June, 19 35Vessel U.S.C. & G.S.S. EXPLORERChief of Party Jack SeniorSurveyed by H. F. GarberInked by F. S. ButlerHeights in feet above M.H.W. to ground ~~to tops of trees~~Contour ~~approximate contour~~ ~~horizontal~~ interval 50 feetInstructions dated March 29,, 19 34.

Remarks:

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT  
TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET "K" - 1935

PUGET SOUND - WASHINGTON

AUTHORITY:

This survey was made in accordance with the Director's Instructions, dated March 29, 1934, Project H.T. - 171.

LIMITS:

The area surveyed includes Gig Harbor and both sides of The Narrows from Point Defiance southward to Evans Point and the shoreline from Point Defiance southeastward towards Commencement Bay for one and one-half miles.

CONTROL:

The triangulation control is on the North American 1927 Datum, consisting of work executed in 1924 and 1935.

SURVEY METHODS:

Standard plane table practices were followed throughout. A closed traverse was run around Gig Harbor from triangulation station "Entrance" marking the set-ups, and the detail was rodded after the traverse had been closed.

CONTOURS:

Owing to the wooded nature of the country, the elevations and contours could not be determined as accurately as in open country. See descriptive report for Sheet "F" - 1935, for further explanation.

CHARACTER OF COUNTRY:

The area around Gig Harbor is wooded with small areas under cultivation, while the area south of Gig Harbor is entirely wooded. The area around Point Defiance is wooded within the limits of Point Defiance Park, while south of the park, the land has been recently logged off leaving numerous stumps and bushes.

The beaches are sand and gravel throughout, with those along The Narrows strewn with small boulders. The low water line at the entrance to Gig Harbor was carefully rodded at exactly M.L.L.W. The remainder of the low water line was transferred from the hydrographic sheet where it was definitely determined. In those places where zero or minus soundings were not obtained, the low water line was used as determined by the topographer.

A very prominent, abrupt dirt bluff arises around Point Defiance, continuing southward to the limit of the sheet. The bluff becomes more broken to the southward, with trees where the slope becomes less steep. On both sides of The Narrows at the vicinity of the transmission line, there is a series of broken bluffs with intermittent trees.

COMPARISON WITH CHART NO. 6460:

A detailed comparison of the shoreline was not made, owing to the small scale of the chart, but no important discrepancy in the shoreline could be noted. While there is some divergence in the location of the contours, the general trend of the chart and topographic sheet are the same.

The rock, just north of Evans Point Light, on the chart, shown by a simple cross above the low water line, is believed to be non-existing. The beach was examined at minus tide and no rock was visible. There is no local knowledge of its existence.

TOPOGRAPHIC SIGNALS:

The topographic signals shown between the high and low water line are targets on trees or logs fallen across the beach and are not of a permanent nature.

TRANSMISSION LINE:

The transmission line crossing The Narrows at the vicinity of Point Evans furnishes power for the City of Tacoma. The lines are supported on either side of The Narrows by two square steel towers, 320 feet high, the centers of which are shown by red circles and a triangulation symbol on the field sheet. The triangulation symbol marks a flashing red light for aero navigation. The ground elevation of the towers is, on the east side, 312 feet; on the west side, 252 feet. The head room for line clearance above mean high water was checked several times with clearances ranging from 204 to 208 feet, so that a clearance shown as 200 feet would be in order.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES:

✓ Dalco Passage: The body of water south of Vashon Island and Point Defiance. Known as shown on chart No. 6460.



✓ The Narrows: The body of water south of Point Defiance, where Puget Sound narrows to a width of about one mile for considerable distance. Known as shown on chart No. 6460.

✓ Gig Harbor: A land locked harbor at the south end of Colvos Passage. It is said to have been named in the early exploration days of Puget Sound. Unable to bring a sailing vessel through the narrow entrance, the examination was made with the ship's gig and was considered a haven for small craft. Hence the name Gig Harbor was applied.

✓ Gig Harbor: The settlement in the bay of Gig Harbor bears the same name. The town lies along the waterfront road from the entrance to nearly the head of the bay. The Post Office and municipal wharf are along the northwestern shore of the bay. Gig Harbor is principally a home port for fishing craft. The numerous small wharves with sheds are for the purpose of housing small boats, nets and various fishing gear. There are several small marine railways for drydocking the fishing craft for repairs.

The dolphins along the southwestern shore are for the purpose of mooring.

Three oil companies maintain wharves in Gig Harbor for gasoline and oil distribution.

✓ Salmon Beach: Salmon Beach is known as a settlement in the Narrows just north of the Union Pacific Railroad tunnel. The houses are of very poor construction, built on piles just outside the high water line and extending inshore to the face of the bluff. It is cut off from all communication except by water, and the dwellers have little visible means of support except occasional salmon trolling. Known as shown on the May, 1935 edition of Chart No. 6460.

✓ Point Defiance: Although it is the policy to have the word "point" follow the proper name, Point Defiance is so definitely known as such, it is recommended that the name "Point Defiance" be retained as shown on the May, 1935 edition of chart 6460, rather than "Defiance Point" as previously shown.

All local maps use the new form, the ferry boats operating in the vicinity have "Point Defiance" lettered on their sides, and the highway signs in and around Tacoma refer to it as "Point Defiance".

Evans Point: A rounding point on the west side of The Narrows, two and one-half miles south of Gig Harbor. By local usage, this is known as both Evans Point and Point Evans. It is recommended that the name "Evans Point" be retained to conform with the policy of geographic names.

Point Defiance Park: A recreation state park covering the area around Point Defiance. The limits shown on the topographic sheet are approximate. Roadways run through the park, but are not visible from the water.

Respectfully submitted,

*Harry F. Garber*  
Harry F. Garber,  
Jr. H. & G. E., C. & G. S.,  
U.S.C. & G.S.S. EXPLORER.

Approved and forwarded,

*Jack Senior*  
Jack Senior,  
Commanding Officer,  
U.S.C. & G.S.S. EXPLORER.

STATISTICS

TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET "K" - 1935

Statute miles of shorelines.....	12.6
Area, square statute miles.....	4.5
Statute miles of railroads.....	1.2
Statute miles of roads.....	4.2

## LANDMARKS FOR CHARTS

Seattle, Washington

October 28, 1935.

The positions given have been checked after listing.

**Jack Senior,**

Comdg. EXPLORER

Chief of Party.

This form shall be prepared in accordance with 1934 Field Memorandum, "LANDMARKS FOR CHARTS." The data should be considered for the charts of the area and not by individual field survey sheets. Information under each column heading should be given.

## Remarks

## Decisions

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6	<i>bay and town</i>	
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## GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Survey No. 6445

Name on Survey	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	K	
<u>The Narrows</u> ✓	*		-							1
<u>Dalco Passage</u> ✓	*		-				-			2
<u>Salmon Beach</u> ✓	*			-						3
<u>Point Defiance</u> ✓	*	-						-		4
<del>Evans</del> <u>Point Evans</u> ✓	*							-		5
<u>Gig Harbor</u> ✓	*		-	-						6
<u>Point Defiance Park</u> ✓				-	-				*	7
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Names underlined in red approved  
by [Signature] on 5/22/36

M 234

Names underlined in red approved  
by *[Signature]* on 5/22/36

# MEMORANDUM

## IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

~~SURVEY~~  
 DESCRIPTIVE REPORT } No. ~~H~~  
~~PHOTOSTAT OF~~ } No. T 6445

{ received APR 17 1936  
 registered MAY 18 1936  
 verified  
 reviewed  
 approved

This is forwarded in order that your attention may be directed to the matters as indicated below. Please initial in column 3 as an acknowledgement that your attention has been thus directed. The complete original records are available if desired. If you cannot give this your immediate attention, please initial, note, and forward to the next section marked, calling for the records at your convenience.

ROUTE		Initial	Attention called to
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RETURN TO

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C. K. Green



## REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY No. 6445

Title (Par. 56) *Point Defiance and Vicinity, Washington*Chief of Party *Jack Senior* Surveyed by *H.F. Garber* Inked by *F.S. Butler*Ship *Explorer* Instructions dated *March 29, 1934* Surveyed in *June, 1935*

1. The survey and preparation for it conform to the requirements of the Topographic Manual. (Par. 7, 8, 9, 13, 16.) ✓
2. The character and scope of the survey satisfy the instructions. ✓
3. The control and closures of traverses were adequate. (Par. 12, 29.)  
*No closures Listed*
4. The amount of vertical control that the Manual specifies for -contours-~~form lines~~ was accomplished. (Par. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.) ✓
5. The delineation of -contours-~~form lines~~ is satisfactory. (Par. 49, 50.) ✓
6. There is sufficient control on maps from other sources that were transmitted by the field party to enable their application to the charts. (Par. 28.) *None Submitted*
7. High water line on ~~marshy and mangrove coast~~ is clear and adequate for chart compilation. (Par. 16a, 43, 44.) ✓
8. The representation of low water lines, ~~reefs, coral reefs~~ and rocks, and legends pertaining to them is satisfactory. (Par. 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.) ✓
9. Rocks and other important details shown on previous surveys and on the chart were verified. (Par. 25, 26, 27.)  
*See Reverse Side*
10. ~~The span, draw and clearance of bridges are shown.~~ (Par. 16c.)
11. ~~Locations and elevations of summits are given.~~ (Par. 19, 51.)
12. ~~The tree line was shown on mountains.~~ (Par. 16g.)

NOTE: Strike out paragraphs, words or phrases not applicable and modify those requiring it. Paragraph numbers refer to those in the Topographic Manual. Use reverse side for extending remarks.



## Paragraph 9

### T2263 (1892)

This survey covers both sides of Point Defiance. The detail on this survey is not so good as on the present survey 6445. On the East side of the point the H. W. line appears to have made out as much as 50 meters in one place and receded up to 50 meters at other places. The 4 rocks shown on T2263 opposite <sup>Ref</sup> and close inshore, on T2263 do not appear on the present survey nor on chart 6460. They are not shown on the contemporary hydrographic survey H5933. It is thought that the cross marks on the survey of 1892 might have been meant for piles. The construction of the roadway has also filled in somewhat at this point.

### T2938 (1909)

This survey only covers a very small portion of the East side of Pt. Defiance. It does not show the rocks mentioned above under T2263 which is additional <sup>indication</sup> proof of their non-existence. The small portion of T2938 in common with the present survey is in good agreement.

### T1671-a (1877-78)

This survey is generally in fair agreement with the present survey. The rocks mentioned above fall within the L. W. line on this survey. Just North of Point Evans a rock is shown. According to the symbol used it is a sunken rock. This area was examined at a minus tide and no rock found. (See Page 2 of the Descriptive Report.) T6445 supersedes T1671-a, T2938 and T2263 in part.

A careful comparison of the present survey with Chart 6460 showed no important changes in shoreline detail with the exception of the rock mentioned. North of Point Evans. The non-existence of this rock was proven by the topographer. A comparison with Chart 6460 is made on page 2 of the Descriptive Report.



13. The descriptive report covers all details listed in the Manual, in so far as they apply to this survey. (Par. 64, 65, 66, 67.) ✓
14. ~~The descriptive report also contains additional information required in aero-topography relative to type of photographs, method of compilation and type of ground control.~~
15. The descriptions of recoverable stations and references to shore line were accomplished on Form 524. (Par. 29, 30, 57, 67 except scaling of DMS and DPs, 68.) *None Submitted*
16. A list of landmarks for charts was furnished on Form 567 and plotting checked. (Par. 16d, e, 60.) ✓
17. The magnetic meridian was shown and declination was checked, (Par. 17, 52.) *2 Meridians Shown - Declination Checks value on chart  
No note of having checked declinaire*
18. The geographic datum of the sheet is *N.A. 1927 (Adjusted)* and the reference station is correctly noted. (Par. 34.) ✓
19. Junctions with contemporary surveys are adequate. ✓  
*Joins T 6440 (1935) on the North Joins T 6444 (1935) on the East  
Joins T 6446 (1935) on the South*
20. Geographic names are shown on the sheet and are covered by the Descriptive report. (Par. 64, 66k.) ✓
21. The quality of the drafting is good. (Par. 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50.) ✓
22. No additional surveying is recommended. ✓
23. The Chief of Party inspected and approved the sheet and the descriptive report ~~after review by~~ ✓

24. Remarks:

Reviewed in office by *Chas. O. Bush Jr. June 29, 1936.*

Examined and approved:

*E. K. Green,*  
Chief, Section of Field Records

*L. O. Lobbut,*  
Chief, Division of Charts

*Fred. L. Peacock*  
Chief, Section of Field Work

*G. W. Wade*  
Chief, Division of Hyd. and Top.