APR 29 1939



Form 504 Rev. April 1935 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic] Hydrographic

Sheet No.6631



LOCALITY

& APPROACHES

SITKA HARBOR, HITTING JAMPOR SITKA, JAPONSKI I & VICINITY

1938

CHIEF OF PART

.C. Jones

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

	applied to reconstruction of that 8244-11/1/39- you Applied to Cht. 8281 Feb. 26, 1940 XP " " Reconstr " except where superseded. Jack Allen 1958
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

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 LetterA
REGISTER NO. 6631 T6631
State S. E. ALASKA
General locality SITKA HARBOR AND APPROACHES
Locality Down SITKA , JAPONSKI ISLAND AND VICINITY
Scale 1:5,000 Date of survey AY-AUGUST , 1938
Vessel. U. S. C. & G. S. S. MPLORER
Chief of Party G. C. JONES
Surveyed by J.E. J.
Inked by
Heights in feet aboveH to ground to tops of tree
Centour-Approximate contour Form line interval 20 fee
Instructions dated
Remarks:

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 6631

SITKA HARBOR, WHITING HARBOR

APPROACHES TO SITKA HARBOR

S. E. ALASKA

1938

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 6631

SITKA HARBOR, ...HITING HARBOR

APPROACHES TO SITKA HARBOR

S. E. ALASKA

1938

INSTRUCTIONS:

The topography on Sheet No. 6631 is a part of Project No. HT-220, the instructions for which were dated March 7, 1938 and May 5, 1938.

LIMITS AND SCALE:

This sheet was surveyed on a scale of 1:5,000. It covers the greater part of the city of Sitka. It extends on the northwest to Cascade Creek. It includes Battery Island, Line Island and all of Japonski Island except the eastern end where the Fleet Air Base is located. It also includes the Reshimosti Islands, the Nevski Islands, Smith Island, Stewart Island, Charcoal Island, Alice Island, Love Island, Harbor Island, Aleutski Island, Turning Island, and Alexander Rock. It includes the topography between Latitude 57°-02.0' Longitude 135°-21.0', Latitude 57°-03.2' Longitude 135°-23.5', Latitude 57°-04.5' Longitude 135°-21.85', Latitude 57°-03.3' Longitude 135°-19.5, and Latitude 57°-02.9' Longitude 135°-19.5', except for that area noted.

CONTROL AND SURVEY METHODS:

The control consisted of twenty-nine second-order triangulation stations, both main scheme and intersection. This triangulation was executed during the field season of 1938 and is based on the North American 1927 Datum.

Connection was made by topography to three General Land Office Marks. The requested the connection to U. S. R. L. M. No. 1 and U. S. I. M. No. 4. There are in all a total of four recoverable topographic stations established. Form No. 524 is submitted on each.

The usual plane table survey methods were used. The plane table positions were obtained by three point fix and resection methods. There are two traverses on the sheet. The first runs from a three-point fix at the 68-foot elevation in Latitude 57°-03.26′, Longitude 135°-20.56′ to the General Land Office Mark Cor. 4MC and returns. No errors were found in the traverse. The second traverse runs from topographic signal Aug westward down the highway to triangulation station CASCADE. No errors were found. The first traverse was run to locate the form lines in that area and Cor. 4MC which is one of the control points for the blueprint covering Sitka. The second was run for the location of the highway and elevations.

All of the off-lying features were rodded in. The low water line shown on the sheet was rodded in at low tide.

The rodded LW line as shown on the sheet extends outside the Hydrographic LW line in two places. In Latitude 57°-02.97°, Longitude 135°-19.87° the topo was done on a minus tide and since a small error in elevation makes a larger error in distance on this flat sand beach it is probable that the hydrographic LW line is correct. A sounding line was run along the north side of the rock reef extending to the westward from Griffith Island; this line in fact plots on the topographic low water line. There is a sharp break on the ledge and a small displacement of either low water line would cause the two to check. It is felt that in this case the topographer is more nearly the correct one.

FORM LINE:

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The elevations shown on this sheet are ground elevations. Where the elevations of the top of trees were determined, the estimated heights of the trees are shown in parentheses near the elevation concerned. The amounts deducted for the heights are based on several actual measurements of the heights of trees in this area.

All elevations were determined by an elevation angle or depression angle on the feature concerned. Proper corrections were applied including the height of of instrument which was determined in all cases by computing it from the actual stage of the tide. Those elevations whose position were determined by cuts with the alidade are a result of three or more closely agreeing elevations determined independently

when each cut was taken. All elevations are referred to mean high water unless otherwise indicated directly on the sheet. The form lines except in the vicinity of Sitka were drawn from off-lying features. The form lines in and back of Sitka were drawn with the table set up at various places in the area concerned.

The pencil elevations 141 and 177 feet, found near the northern end of the sheet, are transferred from Sheet No. 6637.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES:

The area for the most part consists of irregular shaped hills, covered, except in the vicinity of Sitka, with evergreen trees. The shore line is rocky and rugged in nature, with numerous indentations. There are many rocks and islets at varying distances offshore from the larger islands and the mainland. The larger islands are heavily wooded and they are difficult to distinguish at a distance as they blend with the background of land.

The city of Sitka has a population of approximately 1000 people both whites and natives. It is spread out mostly along the water front. There are four docks capable of handling the larger vessels that serve this port. The wharf in Latitude 57°-02.84', Longitude 135°-20.05' is in poor repair. It has been abandoned and the planking on the pier leading out to it has been removed. There are two floats for the use of fishing vessels. They are shown as dotted lines. Appropriate notes are given directly on the sheet. The smaller private docks are in fair repair and usable.

Beginning on the northwest, the first large dock southeast of triangulation station BOR is the Pyramid Packing Co. The next is the Conway Dock. This company is agent for the Union Oil Co. and the Alaska Steamship Co. The first large dock south of hydrographic signal Hobo is the Sitka Cold Storage Co. The dock where hydrographic Red is located belongs to the Sitka Wharf and Power Co. They are agents for the Northland Transportation Co. and have leased the smaller part of the dock on the northwest end of the Standard Oil Co. The

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float between the two docks is used as a terminal for the seaplanes serving this area. It is planned to fill in back of this float out to the three foot rock shown by the Cold Storage and make a park. Preliminary work had been started before the ship left Sitka.

McGrath's Dock is now abandoned. The planking on the approach to the dock has been removed. The piles and stringers remain. It is shown as a dashed line on the sheet, with the face shown solid as the face is still usable.

The boundary of the Old Russian Cemetery is indistinct and is generalized. It is now a park for tourists.

No attempt was made to survey the city in detail except for the first street and points where discrepancies in the blue print were found. The buildings along the waterfront were rodded in. A blue print of the city is submitted.

The control points for reducing this blueprint to the scale of the survey are three U. S. R. L. M. No. 1 and General Land Office Mark cor. 4MC are shown on this sheet. No marks were recovered after careful search on the eastern end of the blueprint. The intersection for the right-of-way of Lincoln and Jeff Davis streets was rodded in on sheet No. 6633. It is estimated that this point will not be in error more than one meter. These three points give a control point on each end. As a check the horizontal distances from the Coast and Geodetic Survey flagpole were measured to the corners shown on the blueprint and the flagpole was plotted on the blueprint.

The changes from the blueprint layout of the city are shown on the blueprint. The print was examined in the field and the discrepancies noted. In addition, where there is a major deviation the existing topography was rodded in on the sheet.

There is also submitted a tracing of the highway that runs from Swan Lake out by Cascade Creek. It is given for its entire length. It does not check with the highway as shown on this sheet exactly, but the highway shown is the

actual location. The blueprint gives the right-of-way. It Present survey might be possible to use this tracing in extending the road buyond beyond Cascade Creek to the road's end. The hard surface about 2 add, miles of the road averages 3 meters in width, and the width from difficult to file and ditch to ditch varies from 4 to 6 meters.

The Navy is planning at the present time to make a confidential survey of Japonski Island on a scale of one to 200 feet. This work will be done sometime this summer (1939). They are planning to use the Coast and Geodetic Survey triangulation for control. A blueprint of their survey can probably be obtained from them. They are planning on extensive improvements to the Fleet Air Base. These improvements will extend beyond the limits of the present base and affect part of the area shown on sheet No. 6631. Most of the proposed improvements in the area on sheet No. 6631 will be inside the highwater line.

In rodding in the buildings in the Indian Village only those that could be reached from the water front are shown. They follow the same general plan throughout the village on each side of both roads. The village extends from the Cold Storage to back of the main building of the Pyramid Packing Co.

Attention is called to the notes referring to letters that accomplish the topography in the congested areas in Sitka.

Note A indicates the radio mast of the U. S. Army Signal Corps radio station. The other mast is on the Federal Office Building near the flagpole. It is too close to show on the sheet.

Note B indicated the flagpole on Castle Hill. It is very close to the corner of the house.

Note C refers to five gasoline tanks of varying sizes as indicated, and they are enclosed by a barb wire fence. They belong to the Standard Oil Co.

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Note D refers to eight tanks of the Union Oil Co. They are in a double line, four to the line. They are 3.2 meters in diameter and are about $l_2^{\frac{1}{2}}$ feet apart at the closest points. Triangulation station UNION is over the finial of the southwest tank. The are enclosed by a barb-wire fence set well away from them.

MARSHES:

There is one marsh shown on the sheet. It is small. It is on the western end of Japonski Island. It is essentially a peat bog with a small pond in the center. Outside of the high water line the beach is rocky. The H.W.L. is definite and the marsh is only covered at storm high water.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

Comparison with Sheet No. 2150a This sheet has a note on it saying that it was destroyed but since a photostat was sent out a comparison has been made. Extensive changes have been made along the waterfront since the time of this survey. Beginning on the northwest, the building shown has been removed. No traces remain. U.S.I.M. No. 4 shown on the present survey is a relocation of the mark. The General Land Office Surveyor ran out his notes in 1938, failed to recover the old mark and set out a new one. The new one is shown. The channel has been changed. See Hydrographic Sheet No. 6351 for the location of the buoys. They differ slightly from that shown here, but as all buoys on this sheet were located by cuts on different stages of the tide, the topo portion might be in error by the scope of the buoy. Spindle Rock has a light on it and the light is now called Harbor Rock Light. Extensive repairs and changes have been made to the Pyramid Packing Company's wharf and adjacent buildings. The Sitka Packing Company wharf has been removed. There are several broken piles in the vicinity of hydrographic signal Lan. Lan is the only one projecting above the water at all times. The others bare about one foot at M.L.L.W. There are quite possible others in this area, although no evidence could be found by the topographer that any others than those shown exist.* Both Fishery Dock has been enlarged and rebuilt so that no similarity between the old and the new exists. It

* Area in which this wharf stood was cleared to within 18 m. of © Lan with an effective drag depth of 12 ft. on H-6357 (1938) W.D. There was also close development about © Lan on H-6352 (1938). Pling should be charted as shown on the present survey.

is now owned by Sitka Cold Storage. The old survey does not give much detail between the docks but the existing buildings are shown in detail and should supersede the old. The city dock is now owned by the Sitka Wharf and Power Co. and is known locally as Mill's Dock. They have added a smaller wharf on the northwest end which is leased to the Standard Oil Co. They have their pumps for supplying fuel to boats here. The tide gage is located in the southeastern end of the dock house. Extensive alterations have been made to the main dock also. The face of McGrath's Dock has been altered. The light shown on Castle Hill has been removed.

The H.W.L. and the rocks on the present survey were rodded in and are shown in more detail on the new survey. All rocks were found but they are larger in shape and are more numerous than shown on the old survey. The saw mill as shown on the new survey is larger and is given in detail. In making the comparison the common points like the Church Belfrey, Mill Stack, Pole on Island in Latitude 570-02.92', Longitude 1350-19.9', Russian Church Spire, Pole on Castle Hill, Spindle and Bor, were used and not the projection.

Comparison with Sheet No. T4013a. This survey was enlarged in the office from a 10,000 scale to a 5,000 scale.

Common points as explained above were used for comparison between the two surveys. Sitka Harbor Light has been removed. The same statements that were made about the topography on Sheet No. 2150a apply to this sheet also. In addition, on the new survey the distances between the docks seem to vary more. This is probably due to distortion on the photostat. The H.W.L. is shown in detail on the new survey. The rocks awash are more numerous than shown on the old survey. The positions check reasonably well. No evidence was found by the topographer of the outside rock of the group of three in Latitude 570-02.88', Longitude 1350-20.20'. The sunken rock by the Sitka Wharf and Power Company dock is shown on the hydrographic sheet. The 4-foot rock south of Castle Hill was the only rock seen in this area by the topographer.

The rocks off the east end of Harbor Island as shown on the new survey differ in position slightly and the topo-

grapher does not agree that they are all rocks awash. They were carefully rodded in and it is felt that the present location and shape as shown on the new survey is the correct one. No evidence was found by the topographer of the three Detail essentially rocks in Latitude 570-02.72', Longitude 1350-20.44 or the present survey. rock in Latitude 57°- 02.85', Longitude 135°- 20.40.

Comparison with chart No. 8244: A detail comparison with this chart could not be made in full due to the difference in scale. The buildings shown on the main land just east and southeast of Griffith Island are not there now. The boiler of the old mill and a house boat on piles is all that remains where the larger building is shown and given on the new survey. The two buildings northeast of Harbor Rock Light have been torn down. The layout of streets in Sitka have been altered as shown.

The islands, reefs and rocks on the present survey more or less fall in the same area as those shown on the chart. The shape, size of, and number of indentations in the larger islands differ from the old work. However, the present survey was made on a larger scale and in greater detail than the old survey on which this chart is based.

MAGNETIC MERIDIANS:

The magnetic meridians shown on this sheet are not accurate as they were observed on a board with iron screws. The standardization of the declinatoires used was also done on the same board. Therefore, since a small displacement of the declinatoire affects the value materially, the values were not scaled.

JUNETIONS:

This sheet joins Sheet No. 6633 by overlapping detail. Sheet No. 6631 was tied into two triangulation stations in this area, one of which falls on Sheet 6633 also. A satisfactory junction was obtained.

Sheet No. 6634 covers the Fleet Air Base on the eastern end of Japonski Island. A satisfactory junction with this

sheet was obtained at triangulation station NUT and at a point south of the West Radio Tower. The form lines on this sheet were drawn into the contours on Sheet Na. 6634.

For hydrographic purposes signals Vir, Gold, Sas, and mut were located on this sheet. These signals fall on Sheet No. 6635 with the detail of the islands. No detail was rodded in on Sheet No. 6631.

A junction with Sheet No. 6637 was made in the vicinity of Swan Lake. Although Sheet No. 6637 is essentially a form line sheet, in order to speed the work, detail in this vicinity was surveyed on Sheet No. 6637. A satisfactory check was obtained in all cases between the two sheets. Additional detail can be obtained from the blueprint submitted. Swan Lake, the centerline of the highway, and the centerline of the streets at the junction are shown on Sheet No. 6631 in pencil as they were transferred from Sheet No. 6637.

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This sheet joins Sheet No. 2149 at triangulation Discossed in review. station CASCADE.

LANDMARKS:

Landmarks to charts in this area is the subject of a Filed in Naut Chart Sect. separate report.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION:

There are two fixed aids to navigation on this sheet. Both are located by triangulation. They are:

- 1. Channel Rock Light.
- 2. Harbor Rock Light (Triangulation Station BOR-1938)

There are five floating aids to navigation on the sheet. The location of these aids is the subject of a separate report. Presumably the special chart submitted for use of the Lighthouse Service in locating buoys.

No other report on aids filed.

SIGNALS:

The names of triangulation stations and a General

Land Office Mark in Sitka could not be placed near the marks concerned without confusion. A number is placed near each symbol and a legend is given at the bottom of the sheet.

The following is a list of signals outside the H.W.L.

The following is a	1180 01 0182
HYDROGRAPHIC NAME	DESCRIPTION
Aug	Whitewash on face of a rock that bares 5° at M.H.W. Corner of a dock
Bor (BOR-1938)	Standard triangulation mark set in concrete base of Harbor Rock Light
Воу	Whitewash face of rock that bares 5' at M.H.W.
Chan	Standard triangulation mark on rock that bares 4° at M.H.W. (CHAN-1938)
Feb.	Whitewash on top of rock that bares 8' at M.H.W.
Норо	Corner of dock
Lan	Piling /
Nel (Channel Rock	k Light-1938) Fixed aid to havigation
Nepo (NEPO-1938)	Standard triangulation mark on rock that bares 4° at M.H.W.
Nov	Whitewash top of rock that bares 5 at M.H.W.
Pole	Flagpole on island
Vuse (U.S.E. Sta	tion No.1-1938) Chiseled cross on top of rock that bares 3° at M.H.W.

Range Finder on Japonski Island, near theroad, at north

eastern end of the rifle range is one of the proposed locations of the range finder station to be located on this island. At the time of the survey tests were being made by the Navy and a permanent location had not been decided upon.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES:

NAME SOURCE

Aleutski Island Chart No. 8244

Alexander Rock Chart No. 8244

Alice Island Chart No. 8244

Baranof Island Charts Nos. 8255 & 8281

Battery Island Charts Nos. 8255, 8281 & 8244

Cascade Creek Local usage and Baker's Geographic

Dictionary of Alaska

Castle Hill Local usage. This site was the

location of the old Baranof Castle.

Channel Rock Charts Ros. 8244, 8255, & 8281

Charcoal Island Chart No. 8244

Fritz Island Chart No. 8244

Fruit Island Chart No. 8244

Griffith Island Chart No. 8244

Harbor Island Chart No. 8244

Harbor Rock Chart No. 8244

Indian Village Charts Nos. 8244, 8255 & 8281

Japonski Island Charts Mos. 8244, 8255 & 8281

Line Island Charts Nos. 8244, 8255 & 8281

Love Island Chart No. 8244

Middle Channel Charts Nos. 8244 & 8255

Nepovorotni Rocks Chart Ho. 8244

Nevski Island Chart No. 8244

Reshimosti Island Chart No. 8244

Sitka Charts Nos. 8244, 8255 & 8281

Smith Island Chart No. 8244

Stewart Island Chart No. 8244

Swan Lake Charts. Nos. 8244, 8255 & 8281

Turning Island Chart No. 8244

Volga Island Charts Nos. 8244 & 8255

Latson Point Local usage. Hamed for a Captain

Watson, a retired English Officer, who settled on this point. Lived there for many years. Since dead.

Thiting Harbor Charts Nos. 8244, 8255 & 8281

It is recommended that the names shown on the charts be tetained. They are all used locally. The three new names are all used locally to designate the topography referred to. For this reason it is recommended that they be charted.

The names of the owners of the principal docks are also shown on the sheet in pencil.

STATISTICS:

- 12.3 Statute miles of shoreline.
- 3.3 Square statute miles of area.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph E. Waugh, Jr.,

Aid, C. & G. S.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

Chief of Party C. & G. S.

Remarks

Decisions

	Remarks	Decisions
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GEOGRAPHIC NAMES Survey No. T-6631		/.	ind of the local control of th	S. Mada	roje Poj igi	Mos	S. Cuide	And	2. in	/ خ
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Road McHolly Rives P.O. Gilde of Man **GEOGRAPHIC NAMES** Flori Red Side Survey No. 1-6531 #2 F Name on Survey G Alice Island Love Island Harbor Island Sitka Wharf Cascade Creek Indian Rock Sitka Harbor 8 Names underline in red approved OB 6/17/39 by L. Heck 10 11 12 13 14 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

M 2341/8

MEMORANDUM IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

SURVEY DESCRIPTIVE REPORT		registered June 22, 1939 verified
A CONTACT SOP OFFICE	No. T ⁻⁶⁶³¹	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

82 T. B. Reed

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Section of Field Records

REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 6631 (1938) FIELD NO. A

Sitka, Japonski Island and Vicinity, Sitka Harbor and Approaches, S. E. Alaska.

Surveyed in May-Aug., 1938, Scale 1:5,000 Instructions dated March 7 and May 5, 1938 (EXPLORER)

Plane Table Survey

Aluminum Mounted

Chief of Party - G. C. Jones Surveyed by - J. E. Waugh Inked by - J. E. Waugh

1. Junctions with Contemporary Surveys.

Junctions with T-6634 (1938) on Japonski Island, T-6633 (1938) on the southeast and T-6637 (1938) on the east are satisfactory.

- 2. Comparison with Prior Surveys.
 - a. H-1439 (1879), 1:15,000 (contains topography)

This is a reconnaissance survey, much inferior to the present survey in methods and detail, and is superseded by the latter in the common area.

b. T-2149 (1893), 1:20,000; T-2150 (1893), 1:10,000; T-2290 (1893-97), 1:40,000.

The first two of the above are shoreline surveys; the third is a formline survey with shoreline copied from the others. All are considerably generalized. Groups of islands agree fairly well in general outline and position with the present survey but differ in number and individual detail. Formlines on T-2290 are at 200 foot intervals and no elevations are shown. The present survey supersedes the old surveys in the common area.

c. T-2150a (1920), 1:5,000; T-4013 (1923), 1:5,000; T-4013a (1924), 1:10,000.

These are revision surveys of small areas along the Sitka waterfront and are discussed in considerable detail in the Descriptive Report. The present survey adequately covers all information which they contain and supersedes them in the common area.

- 3. Comparison with Chart 8244 (New Print of June 11, 1937)

 Chart 8255 (New Print of May 24, 1939)

 Chart 8281 (New Print of June 2, 1939)
 - a. Topography.

Within the area of the present survey the charts are based principally on surveys discussed in the foregoing

paragraphs. Some miscellaneous information is from the Sanborn map of Sitka, Land Office maps, etc. Such information is adequately covered by the present survey and should be disregarded in charting of the common area.

b. Aids to Navigation.

Locations obtained on the present survey for floating aids in the area in substantial agreement with charted positions and with the sextant positions on contemporary hydrographic surveys H-6351 and H-6352 of 1938.

Condition of Survey.

- a. The descriptive report is excellent.
- b. The field drafting is satisfactory except that crosshatching of the larger buildings instead of filling in the area with black ink would have added to the appearance of the survey. It is preferable that paragraph 4 of Field Memorandum No. 2. (1935) be followed in inking buildings.
- 5. Compliance with Instructions for the Project.
 Satisfactory.
- 6. Additional Field Work Recommended.
 None.
- 7. Reviewed by J. A. McCormick, September 12, 1939.
- 8. Inspected by H. R. Edmonston.

Examined and Approved:

T. B. Reed.

Chief. Section of Field Records.

Chief, Division of Charts.

Chief, Division of H. & T.