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

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Type of Survey Topographic
Field No. Office No. 2478

LOCALITY
State Puerto Rico
General locality Fajardo
Locality Harbors

1950

CHIEF OF PARTY
John B. Bontelle

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
DATE
Descriptive Report—
Topographic Sheet No.

FAJARDO Harbor
Porto Rico

Coast from "Playo de Fajardo" to Cape San Juan
and outlying Cays.

Chief of Party
J. A. Routelle
Assistant C. G. S.
Descriptive Report

Topographic Sheet No. 51849

Fajardo Harbor - Porto Rico

Coast from the "Playa de Fajardo" to Cape San Juan and outlying cays.

A preliminary survey to develop the harbor of Fajardo and determine the position of the Laja Shoal, a coral reef near the mouth of the harbor. The triangulation was extended from Culebra Is. by the party of C. S. Byrnes (U.S.S. Blake) to determine Cape San Juan St. No. and a station on Palomino's Is. and from there as a base a local s.w. was made to furnish points for the topog- and hydrography. Owing to an error in the data furnished, which was not discovered until the topographic sheet was nearly completed, the topography was plotted and inked on a fair sheet after correcting the data. The original sheet (in pencil) accompanies this.

As at Culebra the geographic position depends on the position given for Culebrita St. No. (φ = 18° 18' 43" λ = 65° 15' 45") and when the results of
Aast. Hodgkin's connection with his latitude station at Calébou and the longitude station at St. Thomas are received, the projection should be changed to correspond.

The harbor and "Playa de Fajardo" is about 3 miles south of Cape San Juan, Port Rico. The town of Fajardo lies about 1/2 mile inland over a fine "military" road. It has a population of about 3000. Its chief exports are about 3000 hds. of sugar, annually, all of which goes to the U. S. and about 3000 puncheons of molasses most of which goes to Canada. Its imports are, lumber, machinery, cooperage and salt fish from the U. S. and Canada. The post of entry is Huanacax, about 25 miles to the south.

Supplies: Water of very poor quality can be had from the small river at this place at $1 50 (92c) per puncheon (120 qts) delivered alongside. A limited amount of ships stores can be had at about 30 per cent. above New York prices. No coal can be had.

Pilots: 70 cts. (92c) per foot up to 15 feet. Over 15 feet $1.00 (10c) per foot. Night piloting double. To signal for pilot boat: national colors at the fore.

There is a fairly good anchorage for vessels drawing not over 15 feet in front of the "Playa" under the lee of two small cays, "Obips" and...
"Zancudo". Holding ground is soft and the anchorage is exposed to the north. Anchorage for heavier draft ships can be had in front of the harbor under the lee of Calominos and Jones Cays, but a very heavy swell sets in here especially in a northwest or northeaster.

The shores between the "Plaza" and Cape San Juan and generally around the Cays are lined with coral reefs making landing with a boat difficult.

J. B. Boulelle
Assistant U.S. I.