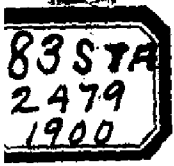


2479



51851

Descriptive Report

Topographic Sheet No.

Culebra Island, Porto Rico

THE HARBOR or GREAT HARBOR

(Ensenada Honda de Culebra)

1900

by J. B. Douteille
Assistant C. & G. S.

2479

Topographic Sheet No.

Culebra Island
Porto Rico

51851

The Harbor or Great Harbor, known locally as "Ensenada Honda de Culebra".

The survey of this harbor, made by request of the Navy Dept. to determine its capabilities as a Naval or Coaling Station, was executed during the months of Feb. Mch + April 1900. A base was measured near the head of of the harbor and the triangulation extended over the island of Culebra and outlying Cays and an astronomical azimuth observed. The geographic positions were computed depending on the position of Culebrita Lt. No. as published in "List of Lights of the World" Vol. I. H.O. 1898 viz:
 $\phi 18^{\circ} 18' 43''$ $\lambda = 65^{\circ} 13' 45''$. An astronomical latitude was afterwards observed by the party of Assist. Hodgkins on the U. S. S. Blake who was also to connect the triangulation with the longitudinal station at St. Thomas. When the results of this work are received by the Office the projection should be changed to correspond to the true position.

The Harbor is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long with an average width of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and is completely landlocked on three sides. The entrance has a large coral reef extending from both sides with an opening into the harbor of about 270 metres in width.

The shores of the harbor are hilly and largely covered with a dense growth of small trees and underbrush so thick that it can only be penetrated by cutting trails. Much of this wood is being gradually cleared away by the inhabitants for purposes of cultivation. On the eastern side of the harbor is a small village called "San Ildefonso" which has a native population of about 200. A small amount of supplies such as fruit, vegetables & eggs can be obtained here and there are several thousand cattle raised on the island and fresh beef can ^{be} had but not of very good quality. There is no fresh water on the island, what few streams, ponds and wells there are being all more or less brackish. This brackish water is used by the cattle & by some of the inhabitants when cistern water is not available. There are two large cisterns at San Ildefonso and a certain amount is dealt out to each one of the inhabitants every morning. The rainy season

at Culebra lasts from about June to October and during the rest of the year there is practically no rain at all.

The houses are mostly small "shacks" with sides of palm leaves & sometimes boards with thatched roofs - A few of them are built of boards entirely - The natives are all of the poorer class of "Porto-Ricanians".

Contours show diff. of elev. for every 10 metres
Heights where given are in metres.

J. B. Douthett
Assistant C. G. Survey
Chief of Party

The local spanish names, where obtainable, are written on the sheet in pencil.