Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Superintendent.

State: Canal Zone

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Top Sheet No. 3252

LOCALITY:
Panama Bay, Vique

1962

CHIEF OF PARTY:
W. H. Rhodes
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Coast and Geodetic Survey

O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent

Topography

of

West Shore of Panama Bay, Republic of Panama

Scale: 1: 20 000

Surveyed in March 1912 by party on board the Steamer PATTERSON

H. W. Rhodes, Assistant,

Chief of Party.
General Description of Shore Line

The southern part of the shore line shown on this sheet, from Chame Bay to latitude 7° 48' North, is formed by wooded hills rising from the water to elevations of from 200 to 600 feet. Further inshore for a distance of two miles the hills increase in height with elevations of probably a thousand feet.

At a distance of from 10 to 12 miles inshore in the vicinity of "High Mountain" and "Jag" (as shown on the Progress Sketch) there are elevations of several thousand feet. About 1 1/2 miles inshore abreast Ensenada Island is a conspicuous projection or pillar rising from the summit of the wooded ridge. The ridge, or series of hills, is probably 600 ft. high at this point, and this remarkable rock rises sheer to an elevation of probably 100 or 150 feet more; it is apparently about 150 ft. in diameter at the base, 50 ft. at the top, and inclined at an angle of about 10 degrees to the south; it is dark in color and has been named "Thumb" in the field records. It is a conspicuous mark when the hills are not obscured.

Northward from latitude 7° 48' the immediate shore line is lower but in general it is heavily wooded. Inside of Steep Island (probably Gallo Id. of chart 1019) there is a high plateau and then to the northward around as far as the promontory where Swing is located, the shore is comparatively low and wooded.

Tabor Island is low and flat, heavily covered with trees and undergrowth and with a conspicuous grove of cocoanut palms near the middle of its east shore.
2.

Ensenada Island has a smooth rounded surface and is largely grass covered.

Pan de Azucar Island is steep and conspicuous.

Mandinga Island is rolling, about 250 feet high, grass covered, with some trees. It is not easily distinguished from the mainland at a distance.

Patterson Island was at first mistaken for Mandinga Island and the triangulation station on it carries the name "Mandinga". The Island is about 100 feet high, partly wooded and partly under cultivation. It stands well off shore and is conspicuous.

The promontory on which Swing is located is the most prominent one in this corner of the Bay, rising to an elevation of about 400 feet. Although not shown on the sheet, it is known to the Chief of Party that there are conspicuous strips of white sand at or near high water mark in the four bights immediately west of the promontory on which Swing is located.

DANGERS

Excepting small native sail boats and launches, there is no navigation along this stretch of the shore line.

The north channel of the Chama River lies between Tabor and Ensenada Islands and there are numerous sand shoals in this vicinity, bare at low water.

Northward from Mandinga there are extensive mud banks and reefs from, baring at low water, to a distance of from 1 to 2 miles off shore. None of the rivers shown on this sheet are accessible except by means of small boats at high water.
INHABITANTS

Northward from Mandinga Island, around to the limits of the sheet, there are scattered native dwellings with small clearings under cultivation.

SURVEY METHODS

The positions of signals O Blunt, A Swing, O Stuck, O Steep and Mandinga were determined by the triangulation and plotted on the projection, and from them a plane table triangulation was expanded to control the work. As the shore line for the most part was inaccessible except on the top of high water, a large part of it was run in by locating numerous points by intersections, and sketching in between them.

As the control was rigid there would be no accumulative errors, and probably no appreciable errors at any point.

There is a discrepancy in the shore line northwest of signal "Blunt" as located on this sheet and on that executed by Assistant Heck's party. The shore line shown on this sheet has been checked at that point and is correct.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Assistant, C. & G. Survey,

Chief of Party.
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West Side Panama Bay

List of plane table positions of Topographic Sheet

Banner
WW Rk
Banner on rock
Ho. Tabor Id. NW point
Highest part small island
Flag in dead tree
Banner

High, leaning rock
Banner

Pinnacle Rock
WW east side Pan de Azucar
Highest part
Queer rock
Hut
WW
Ho. Tabor Id. NW point

Tree
Old Shack
Flag
Banner on ridge, Ensenado Point
Shack
WW, N. point Id.
Banner W. side Tabor Id.

C. & G. Survey
Library and Archives
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