DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: Southwest Alaska

LOCALITY:
S.W. Alaska, Shelikof Strait
Portage Bay
Shelikof Straits
Southwest Alaska

1911
1923

CHIEF OF PARTY:
H. A. Seran
I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

1. The Mountains.

Portage Bay lies between Cape Igvak on the West and Cape Kanatak on the East. The shore line from Cape Igvak to the head of the bay runs generally true North and South; from Cape Kanatak to the head of the bay generally true Northeast and Southwest.

Cape Igvak is the first landfall; it is the southerly end of a prominent range of mountains extending in a northerly direction. The lowest peak on the cape is about 1200 feet high. The range rises directly behind and to the north to 2000 feet, thence to Mt. Becharof (a break in which lies Kanatak Lagoon intervening) at 3400 feet. From here the mountains lower to 2500 and 2000 feet, swinging around to the eastward behind the head of the bay. The mountains at the head of the bay are about one mile back from shore.

On the flat land at the foot of the mountains lies the village of Kanatak. Swinging around to a southeasterly direction, and just to the east of the village of Kanatak, the mountains form a prominent inshore bluff about 1050 feet high, rising to the south. Just east and southeast of the bluff are two heights of 1600 and 1650 feet, gently sloping at the top; the last decreasing gradually in altitude toward Cape Kanatak, a bluff of about 30 feet. The land from Cape Kanatak rises gradually in a northwesterly direction from 30 feet to the aforementioned 1600 feet in a distance of about two miles. Clouds usually hang over the mountains around PORTAGE BAY at an elevation of about 1000 feet.
2. The Shoreline.

The shoreline is generally bold and rocky and very steep except at Cape Kanatak and the head of the bay where lies the village. At Cape Igvak the mountains slide down steeply into the water. There are off-lying reefs, rocks, and ledges. Between Cape Igvak and Kanatak Lagoon are two valleys with two plainly visible stream entrances in each. Between the last valley and the entrance to Kanatak Lagoon is a conspicuous waterfall; the valley here is very steep and the mountains on either side prominent. A small island lies off a point surrounded by rocky ledges just south of the entrance to Kanatak Lagoon. There is no passage to the westward between the island and the mainland. The entrance to the lagoon lies to the north of the island. Another small island lies off the north shore of the entrance to Kanatak Lagoon. The reef is bare at low water between this island and the mainland.

From Kanatak Lagoon to the head of the Bay the shore is bold with rocky ledges and boulders. The north shore of the bay is a sand and gravel beach where the village lies. On the northeast shore of the bay is a promontory with two peaks about 100 and 150 feet high. Off the promontory and stretching in a southwesterly direction is an kelp bed, covering rocks awash at extreme low water to a distance of about one half mile. The kelp bed swings back in closer shore, and follows a bold rocky coast to Cape Kanatak. Just around Cape Kanatak lies a double small cove with sand beaches at the heads.

The shoreline in Kanatak Lagoon is steep sloping mountain sides except at the head of the inlet where there is considerable valley. There are two waterfalls on either side and a stream at the head of the lagoon. On the south shore rocks frequently slide down the mountain sides into the water. A ship can obtain water here by means of boats.

II. THE TOWN OF KANATAK.

KANATAK was originally a native Aleut village on the south bank of Kanatak Creek, below the entrance of Little Kanatak Creek. Just behind the native village is a church and cemetery. There are two groups of houses built by settlers which represent the present town. One group, the old town, lies to the west of the native village and Little Kanatak Creek. The other, the proposed new town, lies to the east of the Little Kanatak.

At present (August 1923) there is considerable activity at Kanatak on account of the prospective oil fields behind the mountains. Two wagon roads and a trail lead to the fields. Tractors are driven over the roads. The westerly road pass is about 800 feet high; the easterly about 500 feet.

There is a Post Office at Kanatak, a steamer calling regularly once a month. Food, clothing and provisions to a certain extent are available. There is no provision for fueling or supplying water to ships. There are no docks or wharves.
III. NAMES.

The people at Kanatak refer to the inlet on the west shore of the bay as Kanatak Lagoon. It has therefore been so named. The prementory mentioned in this description is recognized in Kanatak when refered to as Kelp Point. It has therefore been so named.

IV. SURVEY METHODS.

Survey methods as prescribed in General Regulations, and in instructions refered to in this report.

V. INSTRUCTIONS.

Instructions to Commanding Officer, Steamer "Discoverer", February 21, 1923.

Respectfully submitted

Fred E. Jochel,
Lieut. j.g.

[Signature]

[Initials]
The following is a list of recoverable planetable positions used for hydrography:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>D.M.</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>D.P.</th>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Approx.</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post Office</td>
<td>57 34</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>156 01</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Post Office is in Madison's Gen. Mica Store.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross</td>
<td>57 34</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>156 02</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Native Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit Center</td>
<td>557333</td>
<td>12552</td>
<td>156 02</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>House stands alone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluff Light</td>
<td>57 33</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>156 02</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Clearly visible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Waterfall</td>
<td>57 32</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>156 02</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet Waterfall</td>
<td>57 29</td>
<td>1465</td>
<td>156 03</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REPORT ON TOPOGRAPHIC SHEETS 4031, 4032 AND 4033

WIDE AND FORTESS BAY, ALASKA

Surveyed in 1923

Date of Instructions, Feb. 21, 1923

Chief of Party, R. A. Berman.

Surveyed by J. A. Bond (4031), P. H. White (4032) and F. E. Jokal (4033)

Inked by J. A. Bond, P. H. White and F. E. Jokal.

1. The records of all three sheets conform to the requirements of the General Instructions.

2. The plan and extent of development fulfill the requirements of the General Instructions. It should be noted, however, that none of the sheets and descriptive reports give any indication of the character of the forest growth.

3. The plan and extent of the survey satisfy the specific instructions.

4. The field drafting was completed to the extent prescribed by the General Instructions.

5. The junctions of the sheets are satisfactory.

6. Map of Seward Peninsula a useful landmark for ease should have been taken to the coast.

7. No further surveying is required within the area covered by these surveys, except that there is a deficient area in the form lines on Cape Kayaklat which should be supplied when work is resumed to the eastward.

8. The character and scope of both the surveying and field drafting is good.


Approved.

[Signature]
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

TOPOGRAPHIC TITLE SHEET

The finished Topographic Sheet is to be accompanied by the following title sheet, filled in as completely as possible, when the sheet is forwarded to the Office.

U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.
Register No. 4033

State . . . . SOUTHEAST ALASKA . . . . . . . . . . . . S.W. Alaska
General locality . . SHELL KOPT STRAIT
Locality . . PORTAGE BAY
Chief of party . H. A. BERAN
Surveyed by . FRED E. JOSEPH
Date of survey . . . JUNE AND JULY 1923
Scale . . . . 1 TO 20,000
Heights in feet above . . . MEAN SEA LEVEL
Contour interval 100 . . . . feet.
Inked by Fred E. Jocelyn. Lettered by Fred E. Jocelyn

Records accompanying sheet (check those forwarded): Photographs, Descriptive report, Horizontal angle books, Field computations,
Data from other sources affecting sheet

Remarks: