DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: Alaska

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

To: Sheet No. 4149

Locality:
Aleutian Is.
Nazan Bay - Atka L.

1925

Chief of Party:
G.C. Jones

DECLASSIFICATION BY NOAA
Pursuant to DOC Systematic Review Guidelines as described in Section 3.3 (a), Executive Order 12356
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET

FIELD NO. B, '25.

Nazaan Bay, Atka Island, Aleutians Islands, Alaska.

Instructions dated February 13, 1925.

C. C. Jones, Chief of Party.

The high land and bold coast general throughout this section holds for this immediate neighborhood and is especially marked when making landfall for entering Nazaan Bay; see illustration No. 1. The mountains rarely show as well as in that picture, at least not during the summer months. Cape Kidugmak and the landmarks in the Bay are described in the Coast Pilot notes, a copy of which accompanies this report.

No outlying dangers are known, and little is known of the extent of tide rips and breakers. Tide rips are known to be in Amlia Pass, south of this bay but do not extend far enough north to be seen by vessels entering. No strong currents were noted on this sheet; further than that no information regarding currents is available.

The control for this survey was furnished by a scheme of triangulation somewhat better than reconnaissance. A base about 360 meters in length was measured three times with an ordinary steel tape. None of the measurements differed by more than 1 part in 4,000 from the mean. This was expanded with a 4" theodolite with a fairly strong scheme to the line Pal-Reef.

The low-water rock charted on the present plan was searched for but not found. It is considered certain that this rock does not exist as a rock mass in the exact position shown.
Intersections to points along the coast East of Palisades Point and to whitewash marks at various points in the bay were observed and the positions computed.

The topography is mostly sextant or plane table. East of Palisades Point no traverse was run but objects capable of identification were cut in (at average intervals of about 600 meters) and the intervening shoreline sketched. South of Profile Point the shoreline is sketched.

Practically all elevations were determined by vertical angles with a 4" theodolite. As the land in general is very rough the elevations determined are sufficient for drawing form lines.

The new names ascribed to certain places are all descriptive and are useful in writing sailing directions.

1. Flat Point is so named because of the low rock extending well out from the foot of the bluff.

2. Cone Islands are a group of small islands the largest of which is made up of three cones about 80 feet high. The present name "Conical Rocks" is made to apply to only one island but as all three are nearly the same size it is thought proper to include all as one group.

3. Profile Point is an unusually shaped point jutting out into the south side of the bay. From the proper angle a nearly perfect profile shows on the bluff.
Cape Kadugnak is the northern point of the bay and is 192 feet high sloping about uniformly from the 2340 feet mountain, 2 miles northwest. From here Uyak Island, about 100 feet high, on the south side of the harbor entrance may be seen, or in case of fog the island may be picked up before the cape is lost. In foggy weather the harbor will often be found clear when there is fog at the cape. The northern part of the harbor is large and unprotected from the east; it is about 1-1/2 miles across with depths of 15 to 20 fathoms.

The inner harbor lies in front of the village and is small and protected, with depths from 6 to 12 fathoms. Conical Islands are a group of three islands lying north of the inner harbor. The north-easterly island of the group is composed of three conical rocks, the highest 80 feet. There is foul ground around and between the three islands.

Bolshoi Islands are a group lying along the south shore of Nasaan Bay and the largest, elevation 220 feet, from the southeastern shore of the inner harbor. There is a narrow passage between the group and the shore which may be used by vessels up to 100 feet in length. Vessels of that size can find good anchorage in the passage and between the Bolshoi Islands, notably south of the largest. Four fathoms can be carried through the passage.
The large bight south of the Bolshoi group is not recommended due to one known rock and indications not fully developed. Also that bight is not fully protected from easterly weather.

The settlement consists of Aleuts and half-breeds. There are two stores and a government school conducted by a white teacher. There are no mail facilities; the only communication with the outside being by trading schooners to Unalaska. There is a herd of reindeer on the island, which is also farmed for foxes by the natives.

DIRECTIONS FOR ENTERING THE HARBOR

After making Cape Rudugnak, clear by 3/4 nautical mile and steer 270 degrees true (wxs mag.). This course should clear Uyak Island on the north by about 1/3 mile and the 5 fathom spot 0.7 mile east of Uyak Island by the same distance. If the village opens up north of Uyak Island before the large waterfall is shut out by the cliff on the most southerly island of the Bolshoi Seikan group, the course is safe to miss the 5 fathom shoal. When abreast of Uyak Island steer 257 degrees true (SW x W 7/8 W) mag. with the highest of the Cone Islands (60) feet right ahead. Hold this course for 1 mile, when Cone Island will be about 500 yards distant, then steer 215 degrees true (3SW x 1/8 W mag.) 5/8 mile to anchorage in 12 fathoms of water and bottom, midway between the bluff on the point and the rocky ledge at the point of Bolshoi Island. The anchorage is 500 yards in extent. A vessel not desiring to come to the inner harbor may find anchorage, though not fully protected anywhere northward of Cone Islands. Fresh water can be obtained from a stream south of the village.
1. Mountains on Atka Island north of Cape Kudynsk.

2. Flat Point.
3. Waterfall 2 miles south of Atka village. Referred to in Coast Pilot notes for danger range to clear 5 fathom spot east of Uyak Island.

4. Same waterfall as above.
6. Rocks on north-east island of Cone Island group. The rock on the left is to seaward.

6. Palisades Point.
7. Rock at foot of cliffs on Palisades Point.

8. Same rock as above, elevation 70 feet.
Birdseye view of Atka Village.

10. Rear view. Note church (cross) on right, silo on left, school building (with flagpole) near left, native store in left foreground.

12. Fishrack, church, and one of several cemeteries.

14. The largest of the Bolshoi Islands group; Uyak Island in distance on left.
15. Cliff on Profile Point.

16. Rock just east of cliff on Profile Point. A Ale on right.
The hydrography on this sheet consists of a few outside soundings and a fairly complete examination of the inner harbor.

A depth of 5½ fathoms was found about two thirds of a mile east of Uyak Id, and two spots, north of the largest of the Bolshoi Islands, with a least depth of on half a fathom each. A line of soundings was run to verify the low water rock, which is shown on the chart just south of the Cone Islands. It was not found and the chief of party is of the opinion that it does not exist.

Names of signals located by the plane table should have been inked in red instead of black.

R. L. Johnston

The record of the hydrography on this sheet is contained in the sounding volumes filed with Hyd 4501.
Chief of Party, G. C. Jones.

Surveyed by G. C. J.

Protracted and soundings plotted by G. C. J.

Verified and inked by R. L. Johnston.

Topography inked and lettered by G. C. J.

1. This sheet is principally a topographic reconnaissance with a fair hydrographic development of the anchorage off Atka Village, Nazan Bay.

2. The shoreline from Palisades Pt. to Profile Pt. was run in by planctable and sextant. East of Palisades Pt. prominent objects on shore were cut in by triangulation about every 600 meters. East of Profile Pt. the shore was sketched.

3. The survey conforms to the requirements of the specific instructions.

4. There is a fair hydrographic development of the anchorage off Atka Village.

Additional soundings should have been taken in the vicinity of the sunken rock charted approximately 200 meters south of the southernmost of the Conical Rocks. Although not found by this party, in the absence of further information, the rock should be retained on the charts.

5. The survey, while not complete, gives valuable information of dangers not heretofore charted. Some of the most important ones are the following:
a. The 5 4/6 fathom shoal about 3/4 mile east of Uyak Island. This spot was not sufficiently developed owing to lack of time and it is quite probable that less water exists here. It is to be noted that no soundings are at present charted in this vicinity and the present edition of the Coast Pilot gives the direction for entering Nanan Bay as passing very close to this rock if not directly over it.

b. Several rocks and reefs to the north and N. x W. of Cape Utes were located that are not shown on the present chart.

c. Outer rock was found to be about 1/2 mile further offshore than at present charted and Uyak Island is also further to the eastward.

d. There is an indication of a shoal just north of Profile Pt. 7 3/4 fathoms was found. Development here is incomplete.

6. The topography of this sheet was done on celluloid and transferred to the smooth sheet afterward. The transferring and inking was done by the field party.

7. The elevations shown were cut in by theodolite and plotted graphically.

8. There are no adjoining surveys.

9. The survey is adequate for the purpose, but further work will be required. The drafting is fair.


Addenda to Review of T. 4149

Attention is called to the fact that H. O. chart 2147 giving the results of a reconnaissance made in 1902 contains information not given on T. 4149 nor on C. & G. S. chart 9196. It is therefore recommended that H. O. chart 2147 be used in correcting the present C. & G. S. chart. Of the additional information contained on this chart (2147) the following is the most important:

a. Several 5 fathom soundings in the vicinity of the sunken rock off the southwestern of the Conical Rocks. This supports the recommendation made in Paragraph 4 of this report that the rock should be retained on the charts.
b. The H. O. chart also shows a 2 1/2 fathom sounding in lat. 52° 12' 750 meters, long. 174° 10' 990 meters (position based on C. & G. survey) where this sheet shows 4 fathoms. It is recommended that the 2 1/2 fathom sounding be charted.

It is also to be noted that what is now called Outer Rock on C. & G. S. chart 9196 is called Vnachni Rock on the H. O. chart.

Attention is further called to the fact that the lat. of Nazan Bay as given on C. & G. S. chart 9196 and also on H. O. chart 2147 differs from the present survey (T. 4149) by about 1 1/2 minutes.
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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 No. 9

REGISTER NO. 44149

State. Alaska

General locality. Aleutian Is.


Scale 1:20,000 Date of survey. July-August. 1925

Vessel. Reconnaissance Party

Chief of Party. G. C. Jones

Surveyed by. G. C. Jones

Inked by. G. C. J.

Heights in feet above MTL to ground to tops of trees

Contour, Approximate contour, Form line interval 100 feet

Instructions dated. February 23. 1925

Remarks. Hydrography shown on topographic sheet.