DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

State: S.E. Alaska

11-1925

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.
Topographic Sheet No. 4162a+b

LOCALITY:
East Coast of Baranof Island

From Pt. Conclusion to Port Walter (a)
Port Armstrong, Little Port Walter (b)
Big Port Walter

1925

CHIEF OF PARTY:
F.B.T. Siems
This topographic survey which was made under the Director's instructions of February 14, 1925 joins the topographic survey Register # 4074 on the south end and extends north to a point one mile north of Port Walter. The topography of Port Lucy was left unsurveyed at this time because of its relative unimportance with the other ports along the coast. Detail surveys made on a special scale of Port Armstrong (1:10,000), Little Port Walter (1:5,000) and the narrow channel into Big Port Walter (1:10,000) accompany the sheet.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF COAST: The east coast of Baranof Island is steep and rocky, falling off sharply into deep water. A narrow line of kelp along shore marks the limits of shoal water. The shoreline in the various ports is also steep with very few rocks lying offshore.

PORT CONCLUSION: There are two salteries in Port Conclusion. One not at present in operation is located in Ship's Cove. The docks and buildings are fast falling into decay. The other saltery at the head of the bay is now in operation and the dock is in good condition.

PORT ARMSTRONG: The entrance to Port Armstrong is narrow but the shores are steep and the channel is clear and deep. A reef on the south side of the entrance extends about 200 meters in an easterly direction from Pt. Eliza. Vessels coming from Port Conclusion should keep well out from this point. The old whaling station in Port Armstrong has long been abandoned and many of the buildings have been improved and are now in use by the herring saltery operated by Buchan & Heinen Packing Co.

LITTLE PORT WALTER: This survey was made on a scale of 1:5,000 to show the detail of the narrow channel at the entrance. (For information of depth of channel see hydrographic descriptive report.) A large combined salmon cannery, herring saltery and reduction plant is in operation in this harbor. The cannery is owned and operated by the Alaska Herring and Sardine Co. A large stream flows into the west end of the harbor.

BIG PORT WALTER: is a small settlement on the north side of Port Walter. A herring saltery and reduction plant is in operation there. The docks are in good condition.
BIG PORT WALTER is a large deep bay leading off from the eastern end of Port Walter. The narrow entrance is deep and clear of obstructions. Its shores drop off quickly into deep water. A large herring saltery is located in Big Port Walter and is operated by water power from a natural falls near by. The bay is surrounded by high hills and mountains rising abruptly from the water's edge.

SURVEY METHODS: The topography was surveyed by plantable based on a number of predetermined triangulation stations. Excepting on the outside coast the signals were located by plantable cuts from triangulation stations. All traverses were closed within the required limits and all necessary adjustments were made.

Lights and Bouys: Various lights along the coast were located either by triangulation or topography. They are shown on the topographic sheet as the following named signals: Eli, Light, Red and Ll.

NEW NAMES: Various names not shown on the existing charts which are in local use are hereby recommended. They were obtained through the fishermen and canneries and captains of the canneries tenders in the vicinity.

Miner's Cove is the name applied to the little one half mile north of Port Armstrong and approximate latitude 56° 18' 33", longitude 143° 38' 00". This name came into use from the fact that a miner had a cabin and mining claim in the cove for a number of years.

John's Bay is the name locally applied to the bay on the north side of Port Conclusion. Approximate latitude 56° 16' 46", longitude 143° 40' 00". The origin of this name is not known.

The Graveyard. This name is locally applied by fishermen to the bigat just south of Point Conclusion. Approximate latitude 56° 16' 00", longitude 143° 38' 15". The name came to be used at the time when the old whaling station was in operation in Port Armstrong. At this time quantities of whalebone used to drift in there and stay, the place being a natural catch-basin for flotsam.

Little Port Walter: The name given for this harbor in the new Coast Pilot is "Inner Port Walter." The name Little Port Walter however seems to be the one in common use. The name Inner Port Walter is not used by any of the people living there. It is strongly recommended that the name Little Port Walter be used for charting or that further investigation be made of the two names.

Approved:

H.W. Tyler, Lt. (j.g.)
Topographer.

F.B.T. Sims, Lieut.
Chief of Party.

*"Inner Port Walter" should be dropped as a misnomer. "Big Port Walter" is really the inner part.*
December 14, 1926.

Return to H. & T. Div. for filing

To: Commanding Officer,
Coast and Geodetic Survey,
Ship EXPLORER,
202 Burke Building,
Seattle, Washington.

Through: Inspector, Seattle Field Station.

From: Director, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Subject: Erroneous Symbol on Topographic Sheet.

There is enclosed a photostat copy of a section of
topographic sheet 4162b, showing a survey made by Mr. Tyler under
your direction in 1925. Please note that where the symbol is used
to show a building on this sheet that only one-half of the build-
ing has been shaded. This is not in accordance with the convention-
al symbol for this use as shown in the planetable manual. The
cartographer, in preparing the chart, understood that the limit of
the building was shown by the shaded section. This was corrected
upon review of the sheet and the chart. As it is not known whether
Mr. Tyler has used this symbol incorrectly on other topographic
sheets, it is requested that you confer with him and have him advise
this office of any sheets in which the symbol was used in the same
manner.

This matter is also called to your attention as an
illustration of the need for careful review of field sheets by the
Chief of Party.

[Signature]

Director.
To:         Director, Coast & Geodetic Survey,  
            Washington, D. C.

Through:   Commanding Officer, U. S. S. EXPLORER, 
            Seattle, Washington.


Subject:   Erroneous symbol on Topographic Sheet 4162b.

December 21, 1926.

Referring to your letter (No. 10-LE) to the  
Commanding Officer of the EXPLORER, regarding the shading of  
one half of each building on the topographic sheet, I have:  
made careful note of the error. I probably did this to show  
the direction of the gable of the roof. Another sheet which  
might be affected by this erroneous symbol is the one of the  
west coast of Baranof Island from Point Conclusion to Port  
Herbert of the same season. The buildings in Port Conclusion,  
Big Port Walter and New Port Walter may also be shown incorrect-  
ly. The photostat of Little Port Walter which was used for an  
illustration has been corrected to show the exact extent of  
the buildings and is enclosed herewith.
January 13, 1927.

To:      Commanding Officer,
         U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey,
         Steamer EXPLORER,
         202 Burke Building,
         Seattle, Washington.

From:    The Director,
         U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Subject: Erroneous symbol on topographic sheets Nos.
         4162a and 4162b.

Reference: (a) Director's letter, No. 10-LE, December 14, 1926.
           (b) Letter from Lieut. (j.g.) H. W. Tyler, December 21, 1926.

The receipt is acknowledged of reference (b), forwarded through you, on the subject above.

The areas covered by buildings shown on T. 4162b have been amended to agree with the photostat section that accompanied Mr. Tyler's letter.

The structures shown on T. 4162a, referred to in reference (b), are correctly delineated.

(Signed) R. L. Fausa

Acting Director.
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. 4162a
State: S.C. Alaska
Locality: East Coast, Baranof Island
Locality: Port Walter

Surveyed by: H.W. Tyler
Date of survey: July - August 1925
Scale: 1:20,000 (Sub-sheet 1:10,000 & 1:5,000)

Heights in feet above mean sea level
Contour interval: .100. feet
Inked by: H.W.T. Lettered by: H.W.T.

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

Remarks: The detail survey made on a larger scale is made on a separate sheet and is forwarded with the main sheet and combined in one descriptive report.