DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY
R.S. Patton... Director

State: LOUISIANA

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic Sheet No. A-4772

LOCALITY

Lake Charles Deep Water Channel
(Intracoastal Waterway)

Calcasieu River-Calcasieu Lake to
Moss Lake.

1933

CHIEF OF PARTY

J.C. Ross...
View at Burton, looking north, showing confluence of Choupira Cut-off and Calcasieu River.
Taken from top of spoil bank

Black Bayou
Looking south from 0 NV.
Planet table set up on top of abandoned dredge.

Typical marsh

Taken at Burton, looking west. Tanker being towed.
SW along Choupirale Cut-off
Taken from top of spoil bank.
Same vessels as shown on No. 1
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY
TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET (FIELD) NO. A.

Instructions. The survey was made in accordance with the instructions from the Director dated March 22, 1933.

Limits. The limits of the area surveyed extend from Lat. 30° 09' to Lat. 30° 02' and from 90° 25' to 90° 15'.

Control. The control consisted of four triangulation stations, namely, Calsasieu, 1931 (first order) and Guy, Burton, and B.E. 6, 1932, (third order). Two additional points were used in making the subplan, A.P. B.E. 6, 1932 and Grand Lake (1931).

A Guy was not visible except at one small locality on Moss Lake because it was behind tall trees. It was used once for resection and as a check-point in a traverse.

Traverses. A traverse was run from O Ark to A Guy. The distance is two statute miles and the closing error ten meters, which was adjusted in accordance with the method shown on P. 53 of the topographic manual. It was not possible to start this traverse from A Guy because no other control point was visible for orientation from the triangulation station. The planetable was set up at B Burton and oriented on Calsasieu and B E. 6; a cut was taken to O Ark. "Ark" was then occupied, the sheet oriented by sighting back on B Burton, and O Ark was located by resecting from A Guy.

While the planetable work was being done, some engineers of the Union Sulphur Co. were measuring a baseline with steel tapes and transit. Some of their stations were located on the sheet and afford a check on the topography. The stations, the baseline, and the measured distances are shown on the sheet in green ink.

Landmarks. There are no outstanding landmarks on the entire sheet. The only object worth mentioning is the beacon in Mud Lake, which is 29 feet above mean low Gulf level. It is a red wooden structure in the shape of a truncated pyramid and was lighted by a kerosene lantern. The light, however, was discontinued on July 15, 1933. The position of the beam is O 30° 04' 544m., λ 90° 19' 625m.

Description. The land north of the north shore of Moss Lake is marsh and covered with tall cane grass, as far as the small stream north of O Olsen. From O Olsen to O Moss, the shore is a bluff clay bank with a maximum height of about 10 feet, except where marsh is indicated by symbol. Along this dry land are several homesteads and summer cottages. Balm's Pavilion is a pier with a dance hall built over the water; it is not in use and the building rather dilapidated.
The land east of the east shore of Moss Lake is also marsh and covered with tall marsh grass. Several narrow canals extend into the marsh but have no navigational importance. They were part of a reclamation project.

From O Mix southward, as far as the river, there is a low sandy spoil bank of sand, dumped there by dredges.

East of the east bank of the Calcasieu River, south of Moss Lake, is an expanse of marsh with tall cane grass.

The west bank of the river, however, is fast land, with the exception of three small marshy areas. Several houses stand near the river. North of the snell road, is a large snell pile, which is kept replenished by a contractor named W. T. Burton, for the surfacing of highways. South of the highway, the contractor maintains a small fleet of tugs, barges, and dredges. These dredges account for the presence of the various dead-end canals leading off from the river, as the canals were dug to obtain shell for the use on highways. The contractor's establishment is locally referred to as "Burton's Landing or Burton's Shipyard".

A little over a mile south of the southern end of Moss Lake, the Calcasieu River makes a sharp turn to the N. E. and flows around a sweeping curve into Calcasieu Lake. North of Calcasieu Lake proper, the river has a wide mouth, which is locally called Mud Lake.

Where the river makes the sharp turn referred to above, is the beginning of the Intracoastal Canal. The stretch of two and a half miles, between the Calcasieu River and the long east-west tangent, is called the Choupique Cut-Off. It crosses the Choupique Bayou in such a way as to coincide with one of the latter's curves for about one half statute mile. The south-east bank of the channel has a spoil bank, or levee, about 30 ft. high, covered with brush and grass. East of the spoil bank is marsh and tall marsh grass, as also along both banks of the Choupique Bayou. Between the bayou and the shell road leading to Burton's landing, is a flat area marked "grassy flats". This land is semi-marshy. It is marshy after rains but is covered with short grass and not with typical cane brakes.

The ship channel has an average width of 70 meters from bank to bank and was dredged to a bottom width of 125 feet. About one mile S. W. of Choupique Bayou is an old narrow canal, which leads to Mud Lake. It has a bottom width of 40 feet.

A short distance S. W. of the west end of the narrow canal, is a ferry across the ship channel. The ferry consists of a barge which is pulled back and forth across the channel along a cable, by means of a Diesel-operated windlass mounted on the barge. To permit ships to pass, the cable is slacked off until it lies on the bottom. The ferry, known as Ellender's Ferry, is operated by the state, is free, and makes a round trip every 20 minutes.

Midway between the ferry and the narrow canal, a high tension line crosses the channel by cable. Signs, reading "Cable Crossing, Do Not Drag Anchor", stand on both sides.

Both banks of Mud Lake have the tall marsh grass shore line.

Black Bayou flows into Calcasieu River about 400 meters west of O "Ay. It is a meandering stream, flowing through the marsh. O "Ay is the apex of the A-frame of an abandoned dredge, which rests in a small slip, dug to the dimensions of the dredge, on the north bank of the bayou.
The confluence of Black Bayou and the river is also the junction point of the Calcasieu R. - Vermilion R. section of the inland waterway. The canal cuts across Black Bayou several times.

The bridge across the canal and the bayou, near O'Bid, is a steel swing bridge. The channel goes under the northern half of the bridge span. The clearance was 55 ft. when measured but, since the bridge was located and measured by the topographer, it has been damaged and put out of commission by a tow of barges. It is at present undergoing repairs. If, in the repair work, any change in the clearance is made, a statement will be made in the report accompanying the hydrographic sheet.

The spar buoys in Calcasieu R. and Moss lake all mark the east edge of the ship channel. They should be red. The topographer was informed that the buoys were all placed by the parish and had never been painted.

The buoy shown on sheet B, a little south of the oil docks, also marks the east side of the channel.

Some photographs, which may be of use in supplementing this description, are enclosed with this report.

Names. All names shown on the sheet are well established locally; no new names were coined by the topographer.

J. C. Bose

J. C. Bose,
Topographer,
Chief of Party.

Applied to drawing of chart no. 592.
Jan. 9/35.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

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. A

REGISTER NO. 4772

State L O U I S I A N A

General locality Lake Charles Deep Water Channel

Locality Calcasieu River-Calcasieu Lake to Moss Lake

Scale 1: 20,000 Date of survey June 1933

Vessel Project HT-138

Chief of party J. C. Bose

Surveyed by J. C. Bose

Inked by J. C. Bose

Heights in feet above to ground to tops of trees

Contour, Approximate contour, Form line interval feet

Instructions dated March 22, 1933

Remarks:

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REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY No. 4772

Title (Par. 56) Lake Charles Deepwater Channel, Calcasieu River, Louisiana

Chief of Party J. G. Bose Surveyed by J. G. Bose Inked by J. G. Bose

Shipboard party Instructions dated Mar. 22, 1933 Surveyed in June 1933

1. The survey and preparation for it conform to the requirements of the Topographic Manual. (Par. 7, 8, 9, 13, 16.)

2. The character and scope of the survey satisfy the instructions.

3. The control and closures of traverses were adequate. (Par. 12, 29.)

4. The amount of vertical control that the Manual specifies for contours-formlines was accomplished. (Par. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.)

5. The delineation of contours-formlines is satisfactory. (Par. 49, 50.) None shown

6. There is sufficient control on maps from other sources that were transmitted by the field party to enable their application to the charts. (Par. 28.) None submitted

7. High water line on marshy and mangrove coast is clear and adequate for chart compilation. (Par. 16a, 43, 44.)

8. The representation of low water lines, reefs, coral reefs and rocks, and legends pertaining to them is satisfactory. (Par. 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.)

9. Rocks and other important details shown on previous surveys and on the chart were verified. (Par. 25, 26, 27.)

10. The span, draw and clearance of bridges are shown. (Par. 16c.)

11. Locations and elevations of summits are given. (Par. 19, 51.)

12. The tree line was shown on mountains. (Par. 16c.)

NOTE: Strike out paragraphs, words or phrases not applicable and modify those requiring it. Paragraph numbers refer to those in the Topographic Manual. Use reverse side for extending remarks.
13. The descriptive report covers all details listed in the Manual, in so far as they apply to this survey. (Par. 64, 65, 66, 67.)

14. The descriptive report also contains additional information required in aero-topography relative to type of photographs, method of compilation and type of ground control.

15. The descriptions of recoverable stations and references to shore line were accomplished on Form 524. (Par. 29, 30, 57, 67 except scaling of DMs and DPs, 68.) and plotting checked. Cir. No. 30, Dec. 24, 1933.

16. A list of landmarks for charts was furnished on Form 567 and plotting checked. (Par. 15d, e, 60.) No landmarks suitable for charting.

17. The magnetic meridian was shown and declination was checked. (Par. 17, 52.)

18. The geographic datum of the sheet is North American 1927 and the reference station is correctly noted. (Par. 34.) seconds in meters.

19. Junctions with contemporary surveys are adequate.

20. Geographic names are shown on the sheet and are covered by the Descriptive report. (Par. 64, 66k.)

21. The quality of the drafting is good. (Par. 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50.)

22. No additional surveying is recommended.

23. The Chief of Party inspected and approved the sheet and the descriptive report after review by

24. Remarks:

Reviewed in office by R. Christian, March 16, 1934.

Examined and approved:

K. D. Robertson
Chief, Section of Field Records

W. D. Proctor
Chief, Division of Charts

Examiners and approved:

R. D. Brown
Chief, Section of Field Work

Chief, Division of Hyd. and Top.