DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Form 504
Rev. April 1939
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Topographic | Sheet No
Hydrographic | Field No
74A-33

State: Alaska
Aleutian Islands

LOCALITY
Aleutian Is. Council
Unalak Island - Vicinity Cape Tanak

1938

CHIEF OF PARTY
A. M. Sobierski, H.&G.E.
Applied to new compilation Chart 8561 - Jan 1942 - JPT.
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 Letter QA-38

REGISTER NO. T4948

State

Aleutian Islands

General locality

Umnak Island

Locality

Vicinity Cape Takan

Scale 1:120,000

Date of survey July, Aug., Sept., 1938

Vessel

U.S.C.&G.S.S. Surveyor

Chief of Party

A. M. Sobieralski

Surveyed by

A. M. Sobieralski and J. G. Tison, Jr.

Inked by

J. G. Tison, Jr.

Heights in feet above M. H. W. to ground

Form line interval 100 feet

Instructions dated February 3, 1938

Remarks: Form lines only shown on this sheet. No shoreline surveyed.
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

to accompany

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET FIELD No. QA-38 T-4948

UMNAK ISLAND, ALASKA - VICINITY CAPE TANAK

PROJECT HT-218

Season 1938

INSTRUCTIONS:

The work was executed in accordance with the Director's
Instructions dated February 3, 1938.

EXTENT OF SURVEY:

No shoreline was surveyed on this sheet. It covers the
land area of Umnak Island south of Cape Tanak included between Longi-
tudes 167° - 56.7' W. and 168° - 05.0' W., and lying north of a
broken southern limit line in vicinity of Latitude 53° - 26' N.

PURPOSE OF SURVEY:

This survey was made in order to "form line" the interior
portion of Umnak Island lying between those areas covered on Topo-
graphic Sheets Field No. UJ-36 and Field No. Q-36; so providing a
chartable picture of the general land configuration which exists
southward from Cape Tanak to the first high ground encountered in
the interior of the Island.

Form lines submitted on this sheet, together with those
submitted on Sheet Field No. Q-36, are intended to supersede all
form lines shown on Sheet Field No. N-35.

GENERAL DESCRIPTIONS AND COMMENTS:

The land area shown on this sheet is characterized by a
smooth gentle rise from the shoreline southward for a distance of
about 4½ nautical miles. This gentle slope appears flat from offshore
and is about 4 miles wide between higher ground lying to east and west.
The entire area appears to be an old lava bed, now grass covered, but
strewn with large fantastically shaped lava masses, plainly visible
from off the coast. The old lava flow probably issued from the narrow
valley or gorge situated about midway between triangulation stations
"Crater 1936" and "Trick 1936", which appears to be a break in the
eastern rim of a huge crater-like formation. The only smoking vol-
cano on Umnak Island is located near the western side of this same
formation. The large stream emptying to northwest of triangulation
station "Texas 1936" has its source in the above mentioned crater,
and flows out through a deep canyon or gorge located on the north
side of the 1790 ft elevation shown in Lat. 53° - 28.10' N. and
Long. 168° - 05.16' W. The stream has cut a deep ravine throughout
its entire course, and the general trend, as it traverses the old
lava bed, is visible from offshore.

South of Latitude 53° - 29' N. there is a steep grass
covered slope rising southward to the high ridge on which triangula-
tion station "Trick 1936" is located. The highest peak or projection
near the northern part of the ridge is at triangulation station
"Trick 1936" and is fairly prominent from offshore.

The 815 ft. elevation in Latitude 53° - 32.22' N. and
Longitude 168° - 04.36' W. is the highest point at the eastern tan-
gent of a steep semi-circular grass and rock bluff, which bounds the
lava flow on the west. From the north this point resembles a sharp
rock teeth at a cliff top and is very prominent from offshore.

Ashishik Pt. The old village site indicated on the point of land called
"Hidden Point" by the survey party covers a considerable area and
was probably at one time the site of a fairly large settlement.
Great numbers of red foxes were sighted in the vicinity.

CONTROL:

This survey was controlled entirely by second and third
order triangulation stations and topographic signals located on
Topographic Sheets Field No. N-35 and Field No. UJ-56.

SURVEYING METHODS:

Except for the area in vicinity of the steep bluff located
near the northwest corner of the sheet, the entire sheet was form
lined from observations made from offshore, using the sextant for cuts
and vertical angles. Points along the above mentioned bluff were
located by means of planimetric and triangulation cuts.

TRAVERSES:

No traverses were run on this sheet.

ELEVATIONS:

The following elevations shown on this sheet were trans-
ferred from Topographic Sheet Field No. UJ-36:

1192 ft. at topographic signal "Cos".
320 ft. in Lat. 53° - 30.95' N. and Longitude 167° - 57.40' W.

The following elevations were transferred from Topographic
Sheet Field No. N-35:

127 ft. in Latitude 53° - 33.30' and Long. 168° - 02.30'.
103 ft. in Lat. 53° - 33.30' N. and Long. 168° - 04.50' W.
The following elevations were located by means of triangulation and planetable cuts and computed from two or more vertical angles taken with the planetable or theodolite:

3190 ft. at triangulation station "Trig 1936".

All elevations shown north of Latitude 53° - 31' N. and west of Longitude 168° - 04.5' W.

All other elevations shown on this sheet were located from sextant angles taken from offshore positions; supplemented by an occasional single triangulation cut. Computations were made from two or more vertical angles taken with the sextant and supplemented by an occasional single vertical angle taken with a theodolite.

FORM LINES:

Form lining was attempted to the general limit of good visibility from offshore. All form lining was done in conjunction with the Chief of Party from observations and sketches made from offshore positions.

JUNCTIONS WITH ADJACENT SURVEYS:

This sheet joins Topographic Sheet Field No. UI-36 on the east. A slight revision of form lines as originally submitted on that sheet north of Latitude 53° - 30' N. was necessary in order to effect a satisfactory junction, but otherwise no difficulty was experienced.

On the west this sheet joins Topographic Sheet Field No. Q-38 along Longitude 168° - 06' W. and also for a short distance west of that Longitude along Latitude 53° - 28' N. A satisfactory junction was accomplished; form lining on the two sheets being done simultaneously.

Beyond the southern limit of this sheet no surveys have been made.

The northern portion of the area covered by this sheet was originally form lined on Sheet Field No. N-36, but form lines on this sheet, and on Sheet Field No. Q-38 are intended to supersede all such work; the later form lines being thought more representative of the land configuration.

COMPARISON WITH EXISTING CHARTS:

No detailed chart is available for comparison.

NAMES:

The names "Bering Sea", "Umnak Island", and "Cape Tanak" are from Chart 8802.
The name "Hidden Point" was transferred from Topographic Sheet Field No. N-35. ASHISHIK POINT is the approved name of this feature.

No new names were assigned during the course of this survey.

STATISTICS:

Statute miles of shoreline............. 00.0
Area in square statute miles........... 33.6

Respectfully submitted

JAMES C. TISON, JR.

Forwarded:

RAY L. SCHOFFE, H.&G.E.
Commanding Officer
U.S.C.&G.S.S. SURVEYOR
APPROVAL SHEET
to accompany

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET FIELD No. QA-38

Topographic Sheet Field No. QA-38 and its accompanying
descriptive report have been reviewed and examined and are hereby
approved.

It is recommended that form lines shown on this sheet (T-4978-1933)
and on Topographic Sheet Field No. Q-38 supersede all form lines
originally submitted on Sheet Field No. N-35. F 6 549 (1938-3)

A. M. Sobieralski
A. M. SOBIERALSKI, H.G.E.
Chief of Party
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Names underlined in red app'd by GHE 7/24/39
MEMORANDUM
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

SURVEY
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
PHOTOGRAF

received May 8, 1939
registered June 14, 1939
verified
reviewed
approved

No. T-4948

This is forwarded in order that your attention may be directed to the matters as indicated below. Please initial in column 3 as an acknowledgement that your attention has been thus directed. The complete original records are available if desired. If you cannot give this your immediate attention, please initial, note, and forward to the next section marked, calling for the records at your convenience.

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RETURN TO

82  T. B. Reed

[Signature]
Section of Field Records

REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 4948 (1938) FIELD NO. QA-38

Vicinity of Cape Tanak, Umnak Island, Aleutian Islands
Surveyed in July, August, September 1938, Scale 1:20,000
Instructions dated February 3, 1938.

Plane Table Survey
Cloth Mounted

Chief of Party - A. M. Sobieralski.
Inked by - J. C. Tison, Jr.
Reviewed by - Leo S. Straw.
Inspected by - H. R. Edmonston.

1. Junctions with Contemporary Surveys.

The junctions with T-6550 (1936) on the east and
T-6555 (1936) on the west are satisfactory.

No discrepancy exists between the form lines of the present
survey and the shoreline of T-6599 (1935-37) and
T-6550 (1936).

2. Comparison with Prior Surveys.

T-6599 (1935-37) scale 1:20,000, aluminum mounted.

This survey falls within the limits of the present
survey from long. 168° 05' eastward and from lati-
tude 53° 30' northward. The condition of the survey
is discussed in paragraph 1 of the review (T-6599
(1935-37)). The shoreline is sufficiently accurate
for charting purposes, but the form lines are far
below the standard of accuracy and as recommended by
the chief of party, should be superseded by the form
lines on the present survey within the common area.

3. Comparison with Chart 8802 (latest print dated
Dec. 21, 1939).

Topography.

Within the limits of the present survey the charted
shoreline is from T-6599 (1935-37) and T-6550 (1936).
No elevations are charted from T-6599 (1935-37).
However, the two elevations, 3190 feet in latitude
53° 27.25', longitude 168° 03.07', and 3318 feet in
latitude 53° 25.9', longitude 168° 02.9' were charted
from the present survey prior to review.


This is a form line survey, consequently the shoreline
is shown by a dashed black line and is from T-6599
(1935-37), and T-6550 (1936). The parallel dashed black line extending from the shore inland represents the course of streams which have cut ravines or canyons through the lava bed which covers this area.

The descriptive report is comprehensive and contains a good description of the area.

Form Lines.

The form lines are based on about three-fifths of the number of elevations, including those transferred from other surveys covering the same area, as required by paragraph 21 of the Topographic Manual; however, considering the scale of the chart they are adequate for charting purposes.

Field Drafting.

The field drafting is satisfactory.

5. **Compliance with Instructions for the Project.**

   Satisfactory.

6. **Additional Field Work Recommended.**

   No additional work is required.

7. **Superseded Surveys.**

   T-6599 (1935-37), *(Form lines only).*

Examined and approved:

T. B. Reed,  
Chief, Section of Field Records.

K. T. Adams  
Chief, Division of Charts.

Raymond P. Egan  
Chief, Section of Field Work.

Chief, Division of H.&T.