DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

Topographic | Hydrographic
Sheet No. 6637

State: S.E. Alaska

LOCALITY

- Harbor of Sitka, Sitka
- Sitka to Mount Verstovia Sound
- Sitka, Alaska

1938

CHIEF OF PARTY

G. C. Jones
Applied to reconstruction of Chart 8244 - 11/13/37 - 274

8281  Feb. 26, 1940  XR
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.____________________________

REGISTER NO. 6637. T6637

State _______________________________
S. E. Alaska

General locality _______________________
Sitka, Alaska

Locality ______________________________
Sitka to Mount Verstovia

Northward of Sitka Harbor & Sitka Sound

Scale 1:10,000 Date of survey August, 1938

Vessel _______________________________
U.S.C. & G.S.S. EXPLORER

Chief of party _________________________
G. C. Jones

Surveyed by __________________________
John C. Ellerbe

Inked by _____________________________
John C. Ellerbe

Heights in feet above M. H. W. to ground to tops of trees

Contour, Approximate contour, Form line interval 100 feet

Instructions dated _____________________
March 7, 1938

Remarks: _____________________________

______________________________
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET ACC. NO. 6637

U. S. C. & G. S. S. EXPLORER

PROJECT NO. HT-220

1938

G. C. Jones, Chief of Party, C. & G. S.
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
TO ACCOMPANY
TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET ACC. NO. 6637
U. S. C. & G. S. S. EXPLORER
PROJECT NO. HT-220
1938

AUTHORITY:

This survey was executed under authority granted in Director's instructions for project No. HT-220, dated March 7, 1938.

EXTENT:

This survey is essentially a form line survey of the area to the northward of Sitka Harbor and Sitka Sound. Incidentally, several other features, such as Swan Lake, Indian River, and a small amount of road were included. The sheet extends from Cascade Creek on the west to Arrowhead on the east.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The area covered by this sheet consists generally of three long, narrow, steep-sided ridges, from 2100 to 3300 feet high, running in a general northeasterly direction from Sitka Sound, and having deep valleys of considerable extent between them. The brow of the easterly ridge is known locally as Mt. Verstovia, and a short distance beyond is a 3354 foot peak known as Arrowhead. Northeast of Sitka is a long, shallow valley, extending well back inland, and rising fairly precipitously at its outer edges to the ridges on either side.

Cascade Creek rises well back in a long, rather steep, valley almost 2000 feet high at its inner end - bound on either side by ridges from 2600 feet to 3000 feet.

The area south of the 100 foot form line is low and comparatively flat. It is described in the reports for topographic sheets Nos. 6631 and 6633.

CONTROL:

Control for this survey was triangulation executed by G. C. Jones, in 1938.
SURVEY METHODS:

Since it was practically impossible to run traverses into the interior of Baranoff Island, all of the elevations shown on this sheet were obtained by intersections of cuts from various triangulation stations. The stations occupied were "BATTE", "JAP", "DON", "NAVY", "ALEUT", "CHIP", and "TWIN".

Swan Lake and the adjacent road was rodded in from a traverse beginning at a three point fix in the Pioneer's Cemetery and carried along the road to the south end of the lake, thence northwestward to a junction with topographic sheet No. 6631.

Another traverse was begun at a three point fix just south of the Mission School and carried along the road to the foot bridge across Indian River, where a junction was made with a traverse run up the river on topographic sheet No. 6633. This traverse was run for the special purpose of locating as much as possible of Indian River, and no other features along its route were located on this sheet.

All traverses connected within the specified limits.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS:

Previous form line surveys in this vicinity were scanty and not very accurate; therefore a thorough comparison could not be made.

Only two discrepancies of note were found in the elevations observed - Arrowhead, instead of being 3216 feet high, as charted, is 3354 feet, and Mt. Verstovia, instead of the charted 2597 feet, is only 2385 feet. Both of these elevations were checked by cuts and vertical angles from several points, and are correct.

The present survey should be taken as correct in its entirety, should any other discrepancies occur in comparing this sheet with sheets not available to this party.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES:

Arrowhead - This peak is shown as Mt. Verstovia on Charts 6244, 8252, 8255, and 8261. According, however, to local usage, Arrowhead is the correct name for it, and it is recommended that the name be changed accordingly.
Mt. Verstovia - The lower shoulder on the southwest side of the ridge of which Arrowhead is the highest peak, so called locally because its height approximates a verst (Russian unit of length). This peak is shown on Charts 3244, 3255, and 5281, as Cross Mountain, but locally Cross Mountain is a peak with a cross of snow at its summit, situated several miles to the southeastward. It is recommended that the charted name of this peak be changed to Mt. Verstovia.

Gavan Hill - This name is in use locally and is found on charts of the area. It is recommended that the name be retained.

The origin of all other names appearing on this sheet is included in the reports for topographic sheets Nos. 6631 and 6633.

CHANNELS, ANCHORAGES, ETC.

Since this sheet is essentially a form line sheet, no data on these features was recorded. Such information is contained in reports on adjacent topographic sheets.

MAGNETICS:

A comprehensive magnetic survey of Sitka Harbor was attempted with the declinometer on this sheet, but trouble was encountered at several stations in obtaining the same magnetic meridian on different parts of the sheet. Subsequent investigation revealed that the plan table board was held together by iron screws, which made the observations worthless. Therefore, the stations concerned were reoccupied with the compass declinometer. A separate report has been submitted on this work.

The magnetic meridians by declinometer were preserved and inked however, as a matter of curiosity. They may easily be removed from the sheet if desired.

Compass declinometer No. 182 was used for these observations, but as the standardization was performed on one of several boards containing iron screws, no positive error could be computed. All declinometer observations by this party during the season are considered worthless for the above reason.

HYDROGRAPHIC STATIONS:

No marked hydrographic stations were established.
DISTORTION:
No distortion was noted on this sheet during the field work.

STATISTICS:
- Statute Miles of Shoreline (Lake and river) 1.7
- Statute Miles of road 1.2
- Number of elevations 87
- Area in square statute miles 9.2

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
John C. Ellerbe,
Jr. H. & G. Engr., C. & G. S.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

[Signature]
G. C. Jones, H. & G. Engr.,
Chief of Party, C. & G. S.
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Note: The handwritten note in the table reads: "Heck c. 17/36."
MEMORANDUM
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

SURVEY
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
PROPOSAL

No. T-6637

received April 29, 1939
registered June 22, 1939
verified
reviewed
approved

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
Section of Field Records

REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 6637 (1938)
Sitka to Mt. Verstovia, Sitka, S. E. Alaska
Surveyed in August, 1938, Scale 1:10,000
Instructions dated March 7, 1938 (Explorer)

Plane Table Survey

Chief of Party - G. C. Jones
Surveyed by - J. C. Ellerbe
Inked by - J. C. Ellerbe

Aluminum Mounted

1. Junctions with Contemporary Surveys.

The present survey overlaps T-6631 and T-6633 of 1938 for form lines and a small amount of detail in the vicinity of Swan Lake and Indian River. The overlaps are satisfactory except in Lat. 57°02.5', Long. 135°16.4' where several elevations on the present survey conflict with those on T-6633 (1938). Present elevations should be disregarded in this vicinity.

2. Comparison with Prior Surveys.

a. H-1439 (1879), 1:15,000 (contains topography)

The old survey is lacking in form line detail which is the principal feature of the present survey. Elevations of 3216 and 2597 feet (both charted) on Mt. Verstovia and the shoulder to the southwest compare with 3354 and 2365 feet on the present survey. The outline of Swan Lake resembles that on the present survey but covers considerably more area. The present survey is much superior to H-1439 in methods and detail and supersedes it in the common area.

b. T-2290 (1893-97), 1:40,000.

Like the present survey, T-2290 is primarily a form line survey. There is a similarity to the hill patterns on the two surveys but the 100 foot form line intervals and the numerous elevations on the present survey are much superior to the 200 foot interval on the old survey. Elevations undoubtedly were obtained on the latter but none are shown. The present survey supersedes T-2290 in the common area.

3. Comparison with Chart 8244 (New Print of June 11, 1937).
   Chart 8255 (New Print of May 24, 1939)
   Chart 8281 (New Print of June 2, 1939)

Within the area of the present survey the charts are based on surveys discussed in the foregoing paragraphs.
4. **Condition of Survey.**
   Satisfactory.

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

6. **Additional Field Work Recommended.**
   None.


8. Inspected by - H. R. Edmonston.
   
   Examined and approved:

   ![Signature]
   T. B. Reed  
   Chief, Section of Field Records.

   ![Signature]
   K. T. Adams  
   Chief, Division of Charts.

   ![Signature]
   Fred L. Peacock  
   Chief, Section of Field Work.

   ![Signature]
   Chief, Division of H. & T.