STATE: S.W. ALASKA

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

LOCALITY

SANAK ISLANDS, SOUTHERN ALASKA
INTERIOR
CENTRAL PART OF SANAK ISLAND

1937-38
1938

CHIEF OF PARTY

Ray L. Schoppe
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. "M" 1936
REGISTER NO. T - 6650

State S.W. ALASKA
SANAK ISLANDS

General locality Sanak Island, S. W. ALASKA

Locality Central part of Sanak Island

Scale 1:20,000 Date of survey Seasons of 1937 & 38

Vessel DISCOVERER

Chief of party Ray L. Schoppe

Surveyed by E. B. Lewey and Ira T. Sanders

Inked by Ira T. Sanders

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

Contour approximations Form line interval 100 feet


Remarks:

Project H. T. 208

Except for some revision of form lines along the junctions with sheets done this season, the field work on this sheet was done by Lieutenant (j.g.) E. B. Lewey in 1937.
DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
to accompany
TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET FIELD LETTER "M" 1938
REGISTER NO. T - 6650
CENTRAL PART OF SANAK ISLAND
S. W. ALASKA

Ray L. Schoppe, Chief of Party
Season of 1938
INSTRUCTIONS:

The work done on this sheet was authorized by the Director’s Instructions for Project H.T. 208, dated March 30, 1936, Supplemental Instructions dated March 30, 1937.

LIMITS:

This sheet was laid out to cover form lines only in the central part of SANAK ISLAND, since the topographic sheets around the island, as laid out, failed to include all the area of the island. The sheet covers a narrow central strip about 2 miles wide and 8 miles long, including the southern and western slopes of Sanak Mountain.

CONTROL:

The work on this sheet was controlled by a scheme of triangulation executed by the Str. DISCOVERER’s parties in 1936. The station positions were computed on the Unalaska Datum, and are unadjusted.

SURVEY METHODS:

The field work on this sheet was done by Lieutenant (j.g.) E. B. Lewey in 1937. All cuts, orientation lines, notes, etc., were erased by him and the detail left in pencil ready for inking. The indicated junctions with sheets Registry Nos. T - 6503, T - 6606 & T - 6608
were selected from bromides or tracings of those sheets. No junctions were indicated by Lieutenant Lewey.

Due to the lack of notes by Lieutenant Lewey, it is assumed that the usual plane table methods were used for the determination of elevations.

All of the elevations on the crest of Sanak Mountain, and all of the others along the junctions with sheets Register Nos. T-6651 and T-6652, which could be identified, were checked and only minor adjustments found necessary.

The southern and western slopes of Sanak Mountain are shown on this sheet as the work was already shown in pencil by Lieutenant Lewey. Additional cuts to the pass or saddle and the location of elevation 280 southward from GRANITE necessitated changes which can be detected from a close examination of this area. The land rises in a smooth slope from the long ridge southward from SANAK PEAK, with no knobs or points possible of identification from different set-ups. Hence the scarcity of elevations in this area. Tangents to the foot of the slope (as indicated by the 100 foot form line) were taken on sheet Register No. T-6653, and transferred to this sheet.

The lake one mile south of Station PAW was rodded on sheet Register No. T-6651, and transferred to this sheet. For a discussion of other lakes and drainage see heading below:

**COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS:**

The only previous survey in this area is the Plane table Survey, Register No. 2553, made in 1901. Considering the scale and the control of the 1901 survey, this survey agrees reasonably well as to form line detail. The lakes and drainage details differ so widely that no attempt will be made to enumerate them. It is obvious that Lieutenant Lewey sketched
these details very roughly in the area he covered, since all were indicated by dashed pencil lines. In the area immediately south and west of Sanak Mountain no effort was made to show lakes or drainage. It was estimated that to show this detail would require 6 days of good working weather. All available good working weather was used toward completing the shoreline survey to junctions with the 1936 and 1937 work.

It is believed that this inland detail is not of sufficient importance to warrant the expenditure of 6 days working time, for a party of seven men.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

SANAK ISLAND lies approximately 14 miles (naut.) South-east-ward from Cape Pankof which forms the easternmost point on Unimak Island. From this distance Sanak Mountain shows prominently in clear weather. Much of the time, however, the 737 foot elevation (GRANITE) is the only thing visible. It appears as a small conical hill and serves as a land mark for the Sanak Islands group. On approaching the islands from seaward they gradually appear as a low dark mass extending out from the base of Sanak Mountain.

The climate on the Sanak Islands is milder than that of the islands and the mainland to the northward, consequently the grasses appear there much earlier in the spring. Heavy snows are infrequent, except on the mountain. In fact, many winters go by with no snow on the low lands. Cattle make a good living the year round with no commercial feed. It is estimated that there are between 2 and 3 hundred head of cattle on the islands, but the quality of the beef is generally poor.

Luxurient grasses grow throughout the islands, and occasional small clumps of stunted willow and alder are to be found in the more sheltered places.

Sanak Mountain has an elevation of 1740 feet, and slopes toward the
southeastward, terminating in a long flat ridge. This ridge is 1237 feet high at the east end and drops off sharply toward the lower ground west of Pavlof Harbor. In summer the grass extends to the tip of Sanak Mountain, except for small areas of exposed rock near the top.

Except for Sanak Mountain the island is made up of low ridges and hummocks, mostly under 100 feet in elevation, with numerous lakes between. The highest single elevation off the mountain proper is 237 feet at Station MIDDLE. About 3/4 mile southeast of MIDDLE is another small bump with 229 feet elevation.

**GEOGRAPHIC NAMES:**

All geographic names which appear on this sheet are from Chart 8860, and are locally accepted names.

**MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS:**

No magnetic observations were made within the limits of the work inked on this sheet.

**APPROVED:**

Ray L. Schoppe,
Lieut. Comdr., C&GS,
Chief of Party.

Respectfully submitted,

Ira T. Sanders,
Lieut. (j.g.), C&GS,
Ship DISCOVERER

**FORWARDED:**

G. C. Jones,
Lieut. Comdr., C&GS,
Commanding DISCOVERER.
Area surveyed in square statute miles: - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -20
Statute miles of shoreline: - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -None
Number of elevations determined: - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -70
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* Don't Ink.
* Outside limits of work.

J.A.M.
11/27/34

L Heck 6/29/39
MEMORANDUM
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

SURVEY DESCRIPTIVE REPORT
\[\text{No. T -6650}\]

\{received \text{May 3, 1939}\}
\{registered \text{June 17, 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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Section of Field Records

REVIEW OF TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY NO. 6650 (1937-38) FIELD NO. M

Interior of Sanak Island, Sanak Islands, S. W. Alaska.
Surveyed in 1937-38, Scale 1:20,000
Instructions dated March 30, 1936; March 30, 1937 (DISCOVERER)

Planes Table Survey.

Chief of Party - R. L. Schoppe
Surveyed by - E. B. Lewey; I. T. Sanders
Inked by - I. T. Sanders

Aluminum Mounted.

1. Junctions with Contemporary Surveys.

The present survey joins satisfactorily with T-6508 (1936) on the southeast; T-6506 (1937) on the south; T-6608 (1937) and T-6654 (1938) on the west; T-6653 (1938) on the northwest; and T-6652 and T-6651 of 1938 on the northeast.

2. Comparison with Prior Surveys.

T-2553 (1901), 1:40,000.

The descriptive report, pages 2 and 3, is concise and to the point in its comparison of T-2553 with the present survey. Briefly, the form lines on the two surveys are in fair agreement. Drainage detail differs considerably, that on the present survey admittedly being generalized and shown mostly in dashed lines. That on T-2553 is probably as much or more generalized, but is shown solid. The present survey is adequate for the type of terrain involved, and supersedes T-2553 in the common area.

3. Comparison with Chart 8860 (New Print of July 13, 1939).

Topography charted in the area covered by the present survey is from surveys discussed in the foregoing paragraphs.


Satisfactory.

5. Compliance with Instructions for the Project.

Satisfactory.

6. Additional Field Work Recommended.

None.


8. Inspected by - H. R. Edmonston.
Examined & Approved:

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

Raymond A. Ingram
Chief, Section of Field Work.

K. T. Adams
Chief, Division of Charts.

W. C. B. Reifs
Chief, Division of H. & T.