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Diag. Chart No 5530-1

Form 504
Ed. June, 1928

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

....., Director

State: California

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

~~Topographic~~ } Sheet No.
~~Hydrographic~~ }

LOCALITY

Reconnaissance of Mare

Island Strait

19.1850⁴⁹

CHIEF OF PARTY

W. P. McArthur

236

See letter of June 11, 1930 from T. D. C.

ADDRESS THE DIRECTOR
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

AND REFER TO NO. 41/VFB

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

WASHINGTON August 17, 1922.

To: Lieut. Commander, G. T. Rude,
Chief, Division of Tides and Currents.

From: L. P. Shidy, Computer.

Subject: Planes of References on Hydrographic Sheets 236 and 544.

In accordance with your verbal instructions of the 15th instant, I have examined the sounding records for hydrographic sheets 236 and 544, Mare Island Strait, California, and submit the following report.

On hydrographic sheet 236, there was originally no date, and some one has added in red pencil the year 1850; but from the volumes of soundings and tides, I find that the work was done in November, 1849, and the date on this sheet should be corrected. The soundings were reduced to the mean of 11 low waters, including 5 lower low and 6 higher low waters, which would make approximate mean low water, as stated on this hydrographic sheet. In order to reduce the soundings to our present plane of reference, mean lower low water, subtract 1.0 foot from each sounding on sheet 236.

On hydrographic sheet 544, the work was done in April and May, 1856, the date on this sheet being correct. The soundings were reduced to the mean of 17 lower low waters, and the expression on this sheet "The mean of the lowest low water of each 24 hours" is to be considered as having the same meaning as "Mean lower low water". No change is required in the soundings on hydrographic sheet 544.

I transmit herewith hydrographic sheets 236 and 544.

L. P. Shidy

Computer.

aug. 17, 1922.

*Referred to the Section of Field Records,
approved.*

G. T. Rude

Chief, Division of Tides and Currents

June 11, 1930.

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET No. 236.

The tide reducers for Hydrographic Sheet No. 236, Mare Island Strait, Calif., by party under command of Wm. P. McArthur in 1849, have been examined and appear to accord with the note entered on the sheet, "Soundings in feet and reduced to mean low water".

In order to reduce the soundings approximately to the plane of mean lower low water, subtract 1.0 feet from the soundings plotted on the sheet.

Prepared by the Division of Tides and Currents.

L. A. C.

Recd Jan 19th 1850
Edisto.

444

TT

U. S. Surveying Scho. Learning
San Francisco Bay

Nov 28 1849

Dear Sir,

Your letter dated August 22, 1849 was received by the last mail. In this letter you limit the joint expenses of Capt Williams & our party should not exceed \$10,000 jointly. I have informed Capt Williams that one third of that amount would meet my expenditures during the period presented in your letter viz from July 1st 1849 to July 1, 1850. As for himself & his party, they can always find a home on board the Survey. I have frequently told him so & he has spent much of his time with us.

Captain Williams writes to you by this mail and has expressed his views fully with regard to expenditures necessary to carry on the Survey here - in Oregon I regret to say that the prospect of carrying on work is no better in fact it is still within the influence of the "Golden Era" the cost of men and provisions being as great there as here.

+ We have just completed a small survey of more Sound Strait made at the request of Col J. L. Smith Senior officer of the joint commission for selecting sites for fortifications along the Pacific Coast. The survey was made with a view to ascertain the availability or otherwise of the Strait as

Copy of letter from Wm O. McArthur to Supt. of Coast Survey.
The 3rd par. refers to C & G. S. Hy. of Sheet # 236.

a site for a Navy Yard. I enclose Col Smith's letter
to myself on the subject, with my answer.

In a former letter I wrote to you that if ever an individual
in the crew committed the outrage on board this vessel were brought to pun-
ishment that the effect would be most salutary. The event has justified
the prediction - The punishment was prompt & lenient but necessary.
I have no further to state; nor do I anticipate any.

We are now ready for a start & I shall sail in two or
three days for the purpose of making a flying reconnaissance of
the coast towards Columbia River. Should the weather however
prove too inclement and unfavorable I may go at once to
the Sandwich Islands - ship as many men as we require and
be ready for work at a more favorable season. On the subject
of these men [&] I have conferred freely with Sr Wash Beck
who is now here & witnesses my perplexities. He thinks it the
best thing I can do under the circumstances.

Capt Pruser is here on the Lawrence & is very competent
we should take his vessel - He is in much trouble; the Officers
have resigned & many of the crew have gone.

Gold still continues to be found in immense quantities &
the whole country is still in as great a tumult as ever.

Ships still continue to arrive, and to judge from the frequent
accidents which occur to them it appears probable that there is
now a place requiring a Survey more, or perhaps so much as San
Francisco Bay. Indeed I cannot urge this fact to your consideration
too strongly.

I cannot conclude this letter without saying that since my arrival we have received the utmost kindness and attention from Commodore Jones, who has aided us whenever we required aid. He seems to be very much impressed with the importance of a survey of this coast and the necessity of having it done immediately.

Actg Master A. G. Rhind of this vessel has exchanged with actg master James H Moore of the Schooner of War St Mary's - the exchange was desired by both parties.

I forward an application of St W. A. Bartlett for leave of absence.

Wishing to hear from you by every opportunity

I remain most respectfully & truly

Yours

Wm. M. Arthur St. Mary's

U. S. Coast Survey

Professor A. S. Bach

Superintendent U. S. Coast Survey,

Washington

D. C.

Recd. Jan. 19. 1850
Eolisto. (Copy)

413

U. S. Surveying Schs. Bering,
Bay of San Francisco.

Dear Sir,

Your note dated Sept. 24th 1849, having for its object a survey of Man's Island Straits, was received, and I immediately conceived that it would be proper to survey it, and as the Commission deemed it important to obtain information on this point, I have made, by the assistance of Capt. J. D. Williams & St. Blunt, U. S. N., with the hydrographical party under my command, a survey of Man's Island Straits, and submit the result to you. — I keep a copy which shall in due season be transmitted to the Superintendent, U. S. Coast Survey.

It will always give me pleasure to afford you any information in connection with the important duties in which the Commission is engaged. I cannot but hope that the information you will receive from me will be all that you desired.

Wishing yourself and the Commission the success which the importance of your labors deserves,

I am respectfully & truly,
your no.

Wm. McArthur Lt. Comdr. U. S. Navy
East St. Coast Survey.

Col. John T. Smith, Jr.
Senior Member of Commission
of Fortifications, Navy Yards &
U. S. Pacific Coast.

Acknowledgement of letter on p. 412. The result of this survey is Hyd. Sheet #236, in archives of U. S. Coast Survey.

Recd. Jan 19: 50 (copy)

Edisto.

412

U. S. Ship Massachusetts.

Bevina Sept 20th 1849

To. Lt. Wm. P. McArdle U.S.N.

Candy U. S. Scho. Ewing.

My dear Sir,

The commission of Naval and engineer officers for the examination of the Coast of the United States on the Pacific have just learned from Lt. Blunt (one of its members) that in the prosecution of a portion of their duties which had been assigned to him & Lt. Leadbetter he had examined the Strait of Mame Island, & has reason to believe five fathoms may be carried into them to the distance of two or three miles from the Straits of Parkman, but of this he has not full confidence, as his means for making the examination were very imperfect.

The commission deeming it of importance to obtain accurate information on this point and having no means at their disposal which could be used for that purpose have desired me to suggest it to you as one of the objects that may be within your scope of duty, and whether it be so or not to ask you as they have entire confidence in your disposition to assist them, to give your attention to it, and forward them with the result.

I am, Your Obedt. Servt.

John D. Smith Capt.
Senior Professor of the
Commission

Copy of letter from Commission of Naval & Engineer of
Officers for the examination of the coast of the U. S. on
the Pacific requesting survey of Mame Island Strait.
Photostat of original in archives of U. S. Coast & Geodetic
Survey, Vol 4, 1849, p. 412.