2957

Diag. Cht. No.

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: N. Y.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Hydrographic *Sheet No.* 2957

LOCALITY:

See Topo.

2871 Diag. Cht. Nos. 369-4, 1215-2

1908

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. W. Manspin

2957

881 - 1/49 HK

Top[C] 2871. Hyd[C] 2957.

Ref under Topo.

Department of Commerce and Labor
COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. Tittmann
Superintendent.

State: N. Y.

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT.

Topographic Sheet No. 2871

LOCALITY:

Rockaway Inlet

1908

CHIEF OF PARTY:

J. W. Maupin

2871
2957

Top[l] sheet 2871 + Hyd[l] sheet 2957

2957

Hydrographic Sheet

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

O. H. TITTMANN, Superintendent.

ROCKAWAY INLET

Hydrographic Survey by John W. Maupin, Asst., and F.B.T.Siems, Aid.

John W. Maupin, Asst., in charge

1908

Scale: 1/10000

Top[C] 2871

ASSISTANT IN CHARGE

FORM 65.—Field Letter.

DRAWING AND ENGRAVING

Post-Office Address: Office

Telegraph Address:

Express Office:

Hyd[C] 2957

11—644 Department of Commerce and Labor

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Washington D.C.

November 1908

Mr O. H. Tittmann
Superintendent C & g. Survey
Washington D.C.

Sir;

(1) I have the honor to submit the following Descriptive Report of field work - topography and hydrography - executed by the party under my direction, vicinity of Entrance to Jamaica Bay, Long Island, New York during Season August 13 - to October 24 - 1908.

This work comprises an area, covered by hydrography, of about fourteen square miles, and extends from Coney Island Pier, on the west, to Barren Island on the East, and from Plum Beach and Manhattan Beach, on the north, to an irregular semi circular curve extending from Coney Island Pier to about two and a half miles East of Rockaway Point, with

its extreme southern ordinate extending to Latitude 40° 32½'.

The topography, which is mostly shore line, only covers an area of about four square miles, but the shore line extends from Coney Island Pier to Barren Island along the main shore, and from Rockaway Point to Longitude 73° 47' along the Rockaway Beach Shore, including both shore lines north and south.

The actual field work began August 13-1908 and continued until October 24-1908. The Launch Rudy was used on this work, and, owing to the poor condition of her machinery, occasioned considerable loss of time by break downs etc.

The weather conditions were extremely bad. Dense fogs and smoke, from forest fires in New York and Pennsylvania States, enveloped the vicinity very frequently and the hydrographic signals could not be seen for days at a time. For this reason, more topographic work was performed than would have, otherwise, been done, during intervals when the signals for hydrographic work could not

be seen.

The topography is low, flat, sandy, and marshy. There are a few small sand dunes and the marshes are grown over by marsh grass several feet high. The outer shore line of Rockaway presents an unbroken line, while the northern or inner shore line and also the shore line from Sheepshead Bay Entrance to Barren Island is indented by many streams and marshes.

The hydrography is, for the most part regular and smooth with sandy bottom. There is a shoal projecting about a mile off shore to the southwestward ~~of~~ from and contiguous to Barren Island. Across the channel about one half mile West south west and on a line nearly half way between Rockaway Point and Point Breeze another shoal begins and extends about two miles in a south westward direction. This shoal is bare at low water at its north eastern extremety and flattens out gradually at its southwestern extremety to normal depth. There is a shoal about one half mile south of Rockaway Point which breaks very heavily in moderately rough weather. There is also considerable shoal

water about one mile south of Rockaway Point.

The most important topographic changes are the following— The shore line between Barren Island and Sheepshead Bay has shifted inland about thirty meters. The shore line between Coney Island Pier and Manhattan Beach Hotel has moved back about two hundred meters, apparently by reason of removal of the bulkhead. Rockaway Point has grown about three hundred meters to the westward, and on the outer shore line of Rockaway Beach the change varies from about ten meters to about fifty meters.

There are many small hydrographic changes but they are so widely diffused an adequate report of same would be difficult. All of these hydrographic changes will appear on the hydrographic sheet.

The channel, which is now used by steamboats going into Jamaica Bay from the west, is the channel about mid stream and half way between Rockaway Point Hotel and Point Breeze. This channel is well buoyed, and ten feet of water can be carried through at mean low water. The channel between Rockaway Point and the long shoal about a quarter of

a mile west of Rockaway Point has practically fallen into disuse save for launches and small fishing craft. It was the intention of the party to spend several days more in developing this channel but the engine of the launch broke down and field operations were closed. The high pressure piston broke in several pieces, and, as considerable time would have been taken for repairs, the season was closed October 24th according to the Superintendents instructions, and preparations were made for the return of the party to Washington.

The army Engineers are making an extensive and detailed survey of this locality and can, no doubt, supply any additional information that may be needed.

Very Respectfully
John W. Mauprin
Asst C & G Survey
Chief of Party.

for topo. 2871

For list of Topographic Signals, see bound volume on Library shelves shelf marked as follows:
851 SX 1908 M 62260

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
"SUPERINTENDENT, COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY,
WASHINGTON, D. C."

Plane-table Positions.

Department of Commerce and Labor

COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

Washington

STATION	Remarks.	LATITUDE °	LATITUDE '	D.M. Meters	LONGITUDE °	LONGITUDE '	D.P. Meters
Dream	Center of Tower	40	34	788	73	58	846
Twin	S. or outer cup.	40	34	1012	73	57	921
Tank	Center	40	34	1161	73	57	878
Swing	Center	40	34	1198	73	57	813
Mar	West Pole Wireless	40	34	1576	73	57	595
Coni	East Pole	40	34	1592	73	57	510
Steep	Tallest Cupola	40	34	1020	73	57	26
Bulk	Banner Sig	40	34	1503	73	55	1354
Point	Banner Sig	40	33	1010	73	55	470
Beach	Banner Sig	40	33	754	73	54	211
Hot	Center Hotel Rockaway Pt	40	33	1630	73	54	1036
Hut	Centes.	40	33	927	73	53	884
Sand	Banner Sig	40	33	1050	73	53	496
Church	Center of Steeple	40	34	1037	73	50	1292
Box	Center of Tower	40	34	1488	73	53	573
Smoke	Center of Stack.	40	35	55	73	52	932
Shore	Banner Sig.	40	33	1606	73	52	480
				1			

STATISTICS FOR HYD. #2957

Department of Commerce and Labor

DATE	LETTER	VOLUME	POSITIONS	ANGLES	SOUNDINGS	MILES OF SOUNDINGS	BOAT	
							LAUNCH	RUDY
Sept. 15, 1908	a	1	40	80	228	6.5	"	"
" 16, "	b	1	52	104	272	8.0	"	"
" 17, "	c	1	7	14	37	1.2	"	"
~~" 18, "~~	~~d~~	~~1~~	Cruising over ground				"	"
" 21, "	e	1	114	228	673	17.0	"	"
" 26, "	f	1	37	74	183	6.0	"	"
" 29, "	g	1	39	78	202	6.5	"	"
" 30, "	h	1&2	124	248	675	20.0	"	"
October 1, "	j	2	121	242	700	16.0	"	"
" 5, "	k	2	72	144	403	8.0	"	"
" 16, "	l	2	37	74	234	6.7	"	"
TOTALS		2	643	1286	3607	95.9	TOTALS	

Plotted by field party
Inked & verified by R.L. Johnston

No. 205
(Ed. 4-20-06—500,000.)

V.E.C.
Nov.24,1908.

D.E.Div.

HYDROGRAPHIC SHEET NO. 2957.

Rockaway Inlet, New York, by Assistant John W. Maupin in 1908.

TIDES.

	Manhattan Bulkhead ft.
Mean low water, or plane of reference on staff	1.0
Lowest tide observed " "	0.2
Highest " " " "	6.8
Mean range of tide	4.8

Hydrographic Sheet 2957

The weather conditions were "extremely bad" (D. R.) and for that and other reasons the work does not meet the requirements.

The descriptive report states that "The hydrography is for the most part regular and smooth with sandy bottom"; which makes it difficult to reconcile the widely varying soundings in close proximity, whether crossing on different lines or successive soundings on the same line.

Variations from the probable depth of several feet to several fathoms were found frequently and without a note of explanation, though the soundings were plotted by the field party.

In the deeper areas it appears that the lead did not reach bottom and where shoaler the soundings are equally erratic.

The speed was too great for launch work and

The time interval between soundings was too short, very often. The speed (velocity of boat relative to bottom) was frequently 5 knots, with a maximum of about 6 knots. During the season 3607 soundings were taken and of these 3605 in depths of 1 to 10 fathoms, many on very steep slopes, were at 30 seconds interval and only 2 soundings of 1 minute interval.

Two important areas, Rockaway Inlet Channel and the outer Bar, were neither developed nor defined. The latest Engs survey shows about ten feet through the former and the descriptive report for this sheet gives same depth, this survey (2957) shows about 15 ft.

The record is not satisfactory. In vol II., 2012 soundings, character of bottom was not entered. Position numbers are not continuous. Rejected work included in statistics. No reason given in record

for rejection of work - Attention not called to sudden and improbable changes in depth, such as should be examined and verified in field and so noted -

J Gill

12-16-08

For confirmation of foregoing see Engrs Rpt No. 12714.

J Gill

3-29-09

Department of Commerce and Labor

Memorandum

In view of the appended Criticism of the verifier and the fact that this Sheet. No. 2957. is more or less incomplete in its essential hydrography it would have been well to have left the curves in pencil. I cannot recommend the approval of this Sheet in its present State. More work should be applied & render it suitable for chart correction.

C. Bradford
Act. Insp. A. & L.
12.26.08

No. 205
Ed. 5-4-08—200,000