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COAST D, SECTOR IV

Preliminary Report

R.W. Packer

Geographical Bureau

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Coast D Sector IV

Sector IV comprises that part of the south coast of Foxe Peninsula which extends from approximately 76° 26' W. Long. to 76° 46' W. Long. and includes the Dorset group of islands and the coast along the mainland to the north. (See attached portion of Soper's map for names and locations. This map is not accurate and is only intended to serve as a guide).

- Maps-
- (1) National Topographic Series-8 miles to 1 inch - 36 SW and 36 SE (1947)
 - (2) Canadian Hydrographic Chart of Hudson Bay and Strait (1948) No. 5000.
 - (3) World Aeronautical Chart, U.S. Aeronautical Chart Service. Foxe Peninsula - 1/1,000,000 No. 83. 1948.
 - (4) Map of Foxe Peninsula, Baffin Island, N.W.T. by J. Dewey Soper 1928-29. 1 inch to 5 miles
 - (5) Geological map of the Dominion of Canada, 1 inch to 60 miles (1945) No. 820A.
 - (6) Sketch Map of Cape Dorset Post. J.L. Robinson 1944.
 - (7) Sketch map of Cape Dorset Harbour G. H. Mey. 1937.

Photographs-

- (1) Trimetrogon Air Survey Photographs: *20,000 feet.*
T205 - July 1, 1948. 1208-1229 hours EST.

R	G	L
178	179	179
	177	177
	175	175

- (2) Geographical Bureau Photo Library. Oblique Scenes- 4000 feet.

File No. 625.451

JLR 25 - 187 - 1944.

"	"	"	RCAP 84 (A-78)	RCAP 180 (RE 4289-54)	RCAP (432 REA 121-94)
"	"	"	" 85 (A-79)	" 181 (RE 4289-55)	RCAP (433 REA 121-95)
"	"	"	" 86 (A-80)	" 428 (REA 121-89)	
"	"	"	" 87 (A-81)		
July 1948	"	"	" 88 (A-82)		" (299 REA 121-106)
"	"	"	" 89 (A-83)	" 431 (REA 121-93)	

Sakkiak IslandShore and Islands-

The island is a low mass of metamorphic granite and gneiss about two miles long and one mile across, rising to about 200 feet at its highest point in the northeast headland. The structure has an East-West trend and is intersected by North-South joints. The northern shores of the island are generally higher than the southern and eastern ones. Low convexly rounded cliffs without a beach extend for one mile along the northwest coast to Inlet 'a', which is a small indentation with a narrow beach, possibly backed by a raised platform, which continues for another half mile to Inlet 'b'. Inlet 'b' appears to be quite deep and leads to a narrow V-shaped valley with steep sides. The northeast headland has a cliff coast which is steep and high on the north, low and rounded on the east. The shore is unbroken to Inlet 'c' which contains a small beach and give access to the centre of the island. A quarter of a mile south of Inlet 'c' is Inlet 'd', which has a sand and boulder beach and is surrounded by low bare rocks. The whole of the south coast of the island rises gently from the sea with a well developed beach at the shore and a raised beach inland. There are numerous small indentations but most of the shore is rather indefinite for there are shoals and boulders, which may be covered at high tide. The southwest headland has the same indefinite type of coast, with the exception of inlet 'e', which is very shallow and is almost dry at high tide. There is a small shoal just off Inlet 'e' which would make access to the inlet difficult. (Air Photo T 203 L-179).

Okilli Island. (Okilliltuk)

The island is about six miles long and two miles broad. It is a mass of red granite and gneiss rising to an average height of 200 feet, bounded by cliffs and numerous inlets. The rock is bare and reveals a rectangular jointed structure with the main trend lines in an East-West direction. There are many lakes contained in narrow valleys, which, though possibly of glacial origin, appear to be structurally controlled. As the coast is mostly cliffs, raised beaches are not frequent but rock benches showing land elevation are seen on all the coasts.

Along the north coast travelling in an easterly direction from the northwest headland, a distance of one and one half miles, there are precipitous cliffs rising

to 350 feet with no beach until Inlet 'a' is reached. Here there is a small sand and boulder beach at the back of a shallow inlet. A small stream enters the southwest corner of the bay. Cliffs, sloping gently up to 120 feet, continue for one half mile to Inlets 'b' and 'c', which are separated by a low rock mass. Inlet 'b' is about one quarter of a mile long and three hundred yards across. It leads to a flat-floored valley with a steep scarp slope on both sides. This valley extends across the island and joins Inlet 'h' on the south coast. Inlet 'c' is only about three hundred yards long. It has a beach of sand and boulders and is backed by a flat-floored valley, containing several lakes, which run across the island in a NW/SE direction to Inlet 'g' on the south coast. The northeast side of the valley is a steep scarp slope of about one hundred feet, while the southeast side is more gentle and not so high. Between inlets 'c' and 'd' are almost vertical cliffs up to 400 feet high with no beach even at high tide. Inlet 'd' is extremely shallow and bounded on both sides by steep cliffs. It also leads to a flat-floored valley which connects with East Bay on the east coast of the island. The coast from inlet 'd' to East Bay forms the northeast headland. This is a rocky hill rising to 200 feet with no beach surrounding it. East Bay contains three small inlets the longest one being one half mile, connected to Inlet 'd' over a sand and boulder beach and a rock floored valley. The central inlet has a rock bench around it. The southeast headland is a lower rock mass almost separated from the main island by a low valley which joins Inlet 'e' to East Bay. The low cliffs continue along the south shore of the island past Inlet 'g' to Inlet 'f'. Inlet 'g' is a narrow opening 100 yards across and 300 yards long. It has steep cliffs on both sides and a ravine-like valley in its northwest corner. The cliffs rise abruptly from the sea for half a mile along the coast. Then there is some trace of a beach in front of the low cliffs for another mile to Inlet 'h'. Inlet 'h' is shallow with a raised platform of marine erosion around it. It contains a peninsula which may become an island at high tide. Inland from this inlet the hills rise to 200 feet but in general this coast is lower than the east or north coasts. A peninsula, South Point, lies to the west of Inlet 'h'. It is low and rocky and is joined to the main island by a low col. Southwest from South Point gently sloping cliffs up to 80 feet continue past Inlet 'i'. Inlet 'i' is small but is connected by a low flat-floored valley, containing a large lake, to Inlet 'a' on the north coast.

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There may be a narrow beach along this shore running north along the west coast from the southwest headland. A low shore with a well-defined raised beach extends for three quarters of a mile to Inlet 'j' past a higher hill which rises to over 100 feet. Inlet 'j' is shallow and is almost devoid of water at low tide. Two low islands (50 feet) and five shoals with rock outcrops lie off Inlet 'j'. Rounded cliffs, ranging to 130 ft, with a rock bench at about 50 feet, continue to Inlet 'h'. This inlet, which is only about 300 yards long and 100 yards wide, is quite shallow and is surrounded by very steep cliffs. (Air Photos T 205-179 G, 179L R.C.A.F. A 78, 79, 80).

Tenstake Island

This island is roughly triangular in shape each of the sides being about one and a half miles in length. The island has three parts (i) a high hill of 250 feet extending from the Northwest Headland to the southeast headland; (ii) the southwest headland, consisting of a series of separated hills, rising to 120 feet in height; (iii) a low col at 60 feet, containing several lakes and stretching across the island from Bay 'a' to Bay 'b'. The only beach on the islands is in Bay 'a' and this is of the usual sand and boulder type extending only as far as the small inlet off the northwest headland which is dried out a low tide. The beach appears to be suitable for small boat landings. The rest of the coasts of the island are lined with steep cliffs through there is a possible raised beach at about 60 feet on the north shore. (Air Photos T 205C-179 R.C.A.F. A-79).

West Inlet Promontory

This promontory forms the mainland immediately north of Okilli Island. Inlet 'a', at the extreme southwest of the promontory, is ravine-like, having a narrow floor, and precipitous cliffs on both sides. It is shallow with a sand and boulder beach and is almost water-free at low tide. A rocky islet with a raised beach on its south side lies off the mouth of the inlet. For half a mile to the east of Inlet 'a' there are low sloping cliffs rising to about 120 feet inland behind a platform of present marine erosion. The west side of Bay 'a' has rather steeper cliffs until the main beach of the bay is reached. This beach is of the sand and boulder type with less boulders on the western side. The bay contains two islets, rising abruptly from the shallow floor, the smaller one being accessible at low tide. To the north of the bay is a small lake cut off from the

sea by a narrow rock bar about 20 feet high. Traces of a former beach can be seen around this lake. The east side of Bay 'a' consists of several low serrated rock islands or "near-islands", separated by a boulder strewn bay which dries out at low tide. All the islands of Island Cape appear to form part of a former erosion platform, now elevated about 50 feet, ending at a former cliff line which can be seen running inland from Inlet 'b'. Inlet 'b' has no beach and is surrounded by cliffs. These rise to 200 feet on the eastern side and continue to Inlet 'c'. Inlet 'c' is about 100 yards across and 400 in length. It is shallow, dries out at low tide and has a small stream bed running through the sand. The mile of coast between Inlets 'c' and 'd' is composed of rounded cliffs, rising to a level area at about 200 feet. There is no beach along this coast. Inlet 'd' is shallow and dries out at low tide. Cliffs rise abruptly from both sides of the inlet. From here to Inlet 'e' the cliffs are about 150 feet high but are not as steep as the ones to the west. Inlet 'e' is shallow with a small beach and is connected by a rocky eol, at a height of 60 feet, to Inlet 'f'. The coast between these inlets is formed by the steep edges of a rocky hill rising to 150 feet though it is somewhat lower at the east point. Inlet 'f' is shallow, dries out at low tide, is about 400 yards long and 250 yards across. (Air Photos T 2056-179 R.C.A.F. A-79,80,81,82).

West Inlet (West Coast).

To the north of Inlet 'f' is a rock shelf at 30 feet for about 100 yards in front of a cliff which rises up to 150 feet. The cliffs continue without break to Inlet 'g' past Point 'w', which is a low islet joined to the mainland by a rock and gravel bar. Inlet 'g', 150 yards across and 300 yards long, is shallow, dries out at low tide and forms the mouth of a trough-shaped valley which extends by a series of lakes to a lake north of Bay 'a'. The easternmost lake is cut off from the sea by a rock bar which is only a few feet above the high tide mark. Between Inlet 'g' and Shungakshuk Bay are two rocky promontories, the southern one rising to 60 feet, the northern to 200 feet. They are separated by a small cove which dries out at low tide exposing a gravel shore. Shungakshuk Bay has a broad sand and boulder beach which slopes steeply on the northern side and surrounds several large rock out crops. The beach gives access to a low eol which connects Inlet 'h' with Inlet 'i'. The eol rises only a few feet above sea level and has at both ends, 30 foot rock benches. The coast between the inlets follows the margin of

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of a rounded hill, which rises to over 300 feet in the south and has an average height of 200 feet. The cliffs rise from the waters of the inlet but a narrow beach is exposed at low tide. A low rocky islet, 50 feet high, lies off the northeast point of this coast. Inlet 'i' has a small sand beach, which slopes quite steeply, leading by a col to Inlet 'h'. For one half mile cliffs up to 150 feet continue to a small cove, which has an extremely small beach and is connected, by a narrow valley, to the lakes north of Bay 'a'. Two miles of cliffs up to 300 feet high stretch to Cove 'a'. A small rock bench at 60 feet may be seen at Point 'x'. Three narrow clefts with small streams break the coastline. Cove 'b' which is so shallow it dries out at low tide, marks a lowering of the cliffs which are only 180 feet high in three steps, at 50 feet and 90 feet. Cliffs of 180 feet continue to Inlet 'j' which is shallow and has an appreciable beach of the sand and boulder type. It is separated by a low ridge from Inlet 'k'. Point 'y', which lies between Inlets 'j' and 'k', is a rocky headland of about 80 feet in height and should be visible along most of the inlet. (Air Photos T 2050 -179 and 177. R.C.A.F. A-79,80,82,83).

Tessuokjuak Bay

This bay forms the head of West Inlet. Continuing from the west coast of West Inlet, Inlet 'k' is shallow and flat-floored. The tide goes out at least 300 yards from the narrow beach, which is backed by a rock platform at 50 feet. On the platform is a small lake which has an outlet just to the north of the inlet. Steep cliffs rising to 250 feet continue for one mile to the south shore of Bay 'b'. At this point there is a low valley, the floor of which rises to about 30 feet and is the outlet of several small streams. It connects with the lake to the west of Inlet 'k'. Half a mile of cliffs of lower elevation extend to a rather larger stream which forms the outlet of a lake. This stream has cut a deep cleft of at least 50 feet through a rock platform. The tide goes out about a quarter of a mile and exposes a steep sloping, pebble beach traversed by the braided channel of the stream. To the north of Bay 'b' is a conical hill rising, by moderately steep slopes to a rugged summit at about 500 feet and a lower hill (200 feet) separated from the conical hill by a small valley. The foreshore at low tide is a gravel beach which is completely covered at high water so that cliffs form the water's edge

around Tesseuckjuak Bay to Point 'z'. The cliffs are of the order of 100 feet high as far as the flat valley of the Aitken Lakes (about 50 feet ASL). A series of lakes covers a rock platform at this height as far as Bay 'c', where cliffs become steeper and higher, up to 450 feet, and continue around the head of the bay to Point 'z'. Along the cliff on the northeast of the bay, at a height of about 150 feet, is a well developed strand line, which marks the edge of a probable rock bench and slopes rapidly to the sea. This slope may be talus covered. If so, it is very extensive. Two small clefts containing small streams, flowing between steep walls, interrupt the cliff line along the southwest shore of the bay to Point 'z'. (Air Photos T 205C-175 R.C.A.F. A-82).

Point 'z' to Ice Point.

This coast is a continuation of the east side of Tesseuckjuak Bay. From Point 'z' the coast consists of relatively steep cliffs, from 50 to 150 feet in height, as far as Inlet 'l', a distance of a quarter of a mile. A sand and rock bar connects the mainland to North Island at low tide, but it may be covered at high water. Inlet 'l' has a shallow floor which dries out at low tide but has no beach except where a small stream enters. Cliffs up to 300 feet continue for over two and one half miles to Tadpole Island. Only a few feet above sea level at the foot of the cliffs, is a rock shelf which is especially prominent in a small cove, a quarter of a mile east of Inlet 'l'. On the foreshore is a series of rock outcrops or perhaps large boulders which are surrounded by sand and are visible at low tide. Tadpole Island is connected to the mainland by a sand and rock bar at low tide. The island rises to 250 feet at its eastern end while the western end is only about 100 feet. At high tide inaccessible cliffs comprise the coast but there is a small sand and boulder beach exposed just east of the sand bar at low tide. On the mainland the cliffs continue a further half mile to Ice Cape, where two low islands (40 feet), connected to the mainland by sand bars, retain some brash ice to the north. It is to be noted that these islands were nearly completely covered with snow on July 1, 1948. (Air Photos T205C - 175 R.C.A.F. A-83).

Tellik Bay

This bay continues the coast to the east of Ice Point. Inlet 'm' is in the form of an open-mouthed bay. It has a shallow sand and boulder floor which is exposed at low tide.

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At high water, a narrow beach rises gently to a rock bench, which contains several lakes, and which is backed by steeper cliffs. One and three quarter miles of steep cliffs, rising inland to heights exceeding 500 feet, extend to the head of Tellik Bay. An extremely narrow beach fills the head of the bay and behind it are shelves or platforms at an average height of 60 feet. Along the east coast of the bay low cliffs of small slope continue for half a mile to Inlet 'n' which has no beach but leads to a low flat-floored valley, which crosses Tellik Peninsula to East Inlet. Three quarters of a mile of lower cliffs (200 feet) form the west shore of the peninsula at the southern end of which are two small indentations with beaches. The cliffs continue around the head of the peninsula and up the west coast of East Inlet, a distance of one mile. At low tide only a narrow gravel beach exists at the foot of the cliffs and there is a rock platform of marine erosion about a quarter of a mile long extending across East Inlet to East Island. The head of East Inlet is surrounded by a sand and boulder beach which leaves only a small area of water in the inlet at low tide. The cliffs are low but rise inland. A sand bar across the head of the bay connects East Island with the mainland, though it may be covered at high water. The low cliffs continue across the head of Parketuk Bay except where a small cove leads to a lake on a flat rock platform. On the east coast of the inlet the cliffs of 200 feet extend for one and three quarter miles to a rocky headland off which are two small islets surrounded by shoals. (Air Photos T 205G - 175, T 205L - 175).

East Island

This island separates East Inlet from Parketuk Bay. It has two topographical divisions which are reflected by the coastal type. The larger south part of the island is a rounded hill rising to over 200 feet and is surrounded on the west, south and east by steep cliffs. The northern part is a lower area at about 50 feet with several lakes of indeterminate size and shape. It is edged by well developed beaches especially in the region of the sand bar which connects it to the mainland. (Air Photos T 205L - 175 REA 4289-55).

Parketuk Island

A sand and rock bar connects this island to East Island. To the east of the

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sand bar is a small cove which leads across a gravel and boulder beach to a narrow valley connected to the lake inland from inlet 'o'. Half a mile of cliffs, at least 150 feet high, join the cove to inlet 'o' around the coast. Inlet 'o' is very shallow and appears to be filled with sand and ice. It is backed by a lake in a wide trough-shaped valley which leads across the island to the west shore. A similar cove is seen to the east of inlet 'o'. Low cliffs extend for half a mile from the low inlet off the easternmost point. There is no true beach along the east or south coasts of the island but at low tide a sand bar connects it with a low rocky inlet to the south. The south coast cliffs are about 50 feet and lead to a triangular-shaped flat rock area, bespattered with lakes. To the west of this is a hill area (200 ft) which forms the coast at Hill Point and a portion of the west coast. The intervening coast has a rock bench at about 50 feet, the foreshore being limited to sand and boulders exposed at low tide. This rock bench recurs on the north coast of the island but is interrupted by the low valley which runs across the island from the west coast to inlet 'o'.

The two small island, Kikketukotok and an unnamed one, lie to the south of Parketuk Island and rise to about 60 feet. They have the same type of alternate, cliff and inlet with shallow floor, coast. (Air Photos T 205L - 175 R.C.A.F. 4289-54).

North Island

The coast of the island east of the sandbar, which connects it to the mainland, is of steep cliffs rising to 350 feet as far as Cove 'a'. Here a small stream, flowing from a lake contained in a narrowing valley with steep sides, reaches the sea. The valley continues across the island to Cove 'b' and does not rise much more than 60 feet. There is a low rock shelf at about 40 feet at the northeast point of the island but cliffs, at least 350 feet high, extend for about a mile of coast from Cove 'a'. The cliffs along the east coast of the island gradually become lower until at the south point they are only about 50 feet. There is a very narrow beach along this 600 yards of coast but it offers little or no access to the interior of the island. Just to the south of the southeast point is a small rocky islet separated from the main island only at high tide. To the west of this islet the coast remains rocky but of no great elevation as far as Cove 'b', a distance of half a mile. Cove 'b' is extremely shallow

and is filled with sand, mud and boulders and it is doubtful if it is flooded even at high tide. A sand and rock bar connects North Island with Centre Island just to the east of Cove 'b'. The presence of ice on the bar suggests that it may not be covered even at high tide. Centre Island rises to 100 feet at its eastern end and to 60 feet on the west. It is similar to Tadpole Island in shape and topography. Another sand bar joins Centre Island to Pentagon Island to the south. At the western side of Cove 'b', on North Island, is a small rocky islet a few feet above sea level joined to the island by a sand spit which is probably covered at high tide. For a quarter of a mile to the west cliffs slope gently up from the narrow beach as far as the col. This a flat floored rock valley with steep sides which extends across the southwest corner of the island. It has a maximum elevation of about 90 feet and cuts off, from the rest of the island, a rounded hill over 300 feet in height. The coasts on the south and west sides of the hill are steep cliffs with a rock bench, at 80 feet, visible on the south coast for a distance of one third of a mile. The western end of the col forms Cove 'c' which is generally shallow except on the south side and contains a small low islet, connected to the island at low tide by a sand and boulder beach. Cliffs at 300 feet continue uninterrupted round the northwest point and along the north coast to the sandbar. They are less steep than those to the south but do offer means of access to the island. (Air Photos T 205C - 175, 177 R.C.A.F. A-83).

Pentagon Island

The island is connected by a sand bar to Centre Island and by a rock bar to Malitjuak Island. The latter is permanent and not covered by water at any state of the tide. The island rises to about 120 feet and has no appreciable beach on its northwest, southwest or south sides. These have sloping cliffs on which a rock shelf at 50 feet can be seen. The northeast coast is more precipitous but it has a series of low sand and rock areas at the foot of the cliffs which hold in a certain amount of ice. On the east side of the island, from where the rock bar joins it to Malitjuak Island, the land rises gently from a gravel beach which retains a small lake. (Air Photos T 205C - 177 R.C.A.F. A-83).

Malitjuak Island (Mallik)

To the east of the sand bar which joins Pentagon Island to Malitjuak Island

cliffs rising to 100 ft form the coast west of inlet 'p'. A small cove with a sand divides this half mile of coast. The cliffs continue to the south nearly to the head of inlet 'p', where, on the south west side, is a rock bar cutting off a series of lakes from the sea. These lakes occupy a trough-shaped valley which crosses the island to the west coast at the head of inlet 'x', where another rock bar cuts it off from the sea. At high tide this area is very nearly an island. The head of inlet 'p' has a sand and boulder beach at low tide and is surrounded by cliffs which rise to 180 ft. The inlet narrows about three-quarters of a mile from its head and at this point has a very shallow floor. At low tide it would seem to be impassible even to small boats. To the north east of this shoal is a small cove with a narrow beach which is connected by two valleys to both inlets 'q' and 'r'. The valley to inlet 'q' is narrow and contains only one lake. The valley to inlet 'r' is one quarter of a mile broad, contains several lakes and its northern side has very steep cliffs, which are continued in the coast forming the north side of the cove. Here they have a narrow rock bench at their foot. The headland which completes the east side of inlet 'p' has low, concave sloping cliffs behind a narrow sand and boulder beach which continues round the shallow inlet 'q'. A series of three islands or "near-islands" forms the north east headland of Malitjuak Island. They are low, not more than 60 ft in height and are joined at low tide by sand and shingle beaches and rock bars. They form the north side of inlet 't' which has three smaller inlets at its head. The northern and central ones are extremely shallow and completely dry out at low tide. The southern one is separated from these by a rock headland (about 40 ft in height) and leads to the broad valley which connects across the island to inlet 'p'. For one mile east of this inlet the cliffs are much lower and are fronted by a narrow beach which continues to inlet 's'. Inlet 's' has a sand and boulder beach which is completely exposed at low tide. To the back of the beach the cliffs rise to 260 ft on the south side and 100 ft on the north, while to the west a flat-floored valley rising to 40 ft crosses the island to inlet 'p'. From inlet 's' in a southeasterly direction can be seen a former cliff shore line which continues to Dorset Harbour. To the east of

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of this line is a former beach now raised to about 60 ft upon which are several former islands, rising to 200 ft, which are now serrated and isolated rock masses. One of these masses remains as a small islet at the east point of the island though it is joined to the main island by a sand bar at low tide. The sloping cliffs continue round the east point a distance of half a mile to the north shore of Dorset Harbour. At the entrance to the harbour is a small islet (50 ft) joined at low tide by a sand bar to Malitjuak Island. For a mile to the west of this island is a sand and boulder beach at low tide only as far as the sand and rock bar which connects Malitjuak Island to Cape Dorset Island. Access to the island could be obtained across this beach by a small cove due north of the settlement of Cape Dorset. West from the point where the former cliff coast meets Cape Dorset Harbour, the cliffs rise to over 300 ft but lower again at inlet 't' to about 50 ft. Inlet 't' marks the edge of a scarp slope which continues in a W.N.W. direction across the island to the lakes at the head of inlet 'p'. The lower cliffs in headland and cleft form extend to inlet 'u' which marks the northern edge of another scarp line extending across the island to the headland to the south of Pentagon Island. This scarp fronts a hill mass rising to 520 ft. The bold and rugged cliffs forming the eastern edge of this hill continue for a mile and half to the south point of the island. There is a narrow beach along this coast only at low tide. It forms the western shore of Kepatu Strait. For the last half mile of the strait the cliffs rise to 400 ft and a rock bench can be seen on them at a height of about 50 ft as far as inlet 'v'. Inlet 'v' is shallow, dries out at low tide and contains a long, low, rocky islet. It is backed by a small lake in a narrow valley which extends across the island to inlet 'w'. The mile of coast round the south west point of the island has very steep cliffs up to 450 feet with no beach. In inlet 'w' is a narrow beach at low tide, giving steep access to the valley connected to inlet 'v'. Impenetrable cliffs up to 500 ft in height continue for two and a half miles to inlet 'x' forming the east coast of West Inlet. The same cliffs form the coast on the south side of inlet 'x' as far as the scarp slope which continues to inlet 'v', a distance of one third of a mile. East of the steep slope is a flat-floored valley containing lakes, cut off from the sea by a rock bar, at a few feet above the high tide mark. (Air Photos T 205C- 177 and T 205L - 177 R.C.A.F. A-79, Rea 4239-54,55).

Cape Dorset Island

The island lies to the south and east of Mallik Island. It is four miles long

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and three miles broad. Cape Dorset Harbour and settlement lie on the north-coast of the island to the east of the sand bar which connects it to Mallik Island. A low rocky shore extends for half a mile to the east. The land rises inland by three wide platforms to the hill 800 feet high (T. H. Manning G.J. July 1945) which traverses the island in a NW - SE direction. A small cove, with a sand and boulder beach and a small stream, offers access to a flat floored valley which lies to the north of the high land. To the east of the cove is a rocky headland (100 feet) separating it from the cove in which the settlement is situated. The buildings are on a 25 ft. raised beach (Soper G.R. 1930 p. 402) which contains three small ponds. The foreshore is a sand and boulder beach, the sand is fine and it is intermixed with boulders of all sizes varying to 5 ft. in diameter. The shore becomes rocky for half a mile as far as the R.C. Mission where there is a small beach. The northeast point of the island is a higher hill mass bounded by rock cliff slopes. Low rocky cliffs continue along the east coast of the island for one and a half miles, the only beach being in two small coves which lead to small valleys. For another two miles as far as inlet 'y' are precipitous cliffs at least 400 feet high. Inlet 'x' leads to a small lake filled valley which crosses the hook like projection which forms Cape Dorset. The land at this point rises to about 800 feet with its highest point on the north side off the east coast lie the dangerous shoals round Beacon Island (See Approaches). To the southwest of Cape Dorset is Pitulak Island. It is a large rock rising high from the water with a very small beach on its southeastern side. The high cliffs continue along the south coast of Cape Dorset Island a distance of one and a half miles as far as inlet 'x'. At inlet 'x' is a wide gravel beach at low tide only. The head of the inlet leads to two valleys one leading to the east to inlet 'y' and the other to the west to a large inlet off Kepatu Strait. The mile of coast between inlet 'x' and Kepatu Strait is steep cliffs rising to at least 500 feet but lowering in the vicinity of the large inlet. This inlet is surrounded by low cliffs but has a wide sand and boulder beach which dries out at low tide. The remainder of the east coast of Kepatu Strait as far as the sand and rock bar, which connects Malitjuk Island to Cape Dorset Island, is again steeply cliffed probably rising to over 500 feet in some places. (Air Photos T 205L -177: REA 121-91, JLR 4289-54,55).

Hinterland

Inland from the coast the country is high and rolling with lake-filled valleys

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which follow the structural trend in NW/SE direction.

"Above all the Dorset region is characterized by its high lands, high as compared with the territories east, west and north....The outstanding portion is that upon Dorset and Malitjuak Islands, with an extension beyond West Inlet and the head of Tesseuckjuak Bay. This, the Kingait Range, reaches an average elevation of about 750 feet ASL with conspicuous points attaining 800 to 850 ft.especially notable from the coast and islands to the east..... Still prominent and eye-arresting at a distance of thirty or forty miles. To the north of Dorset a long high coastal range, with a similar west-northwest trend, has an average elevation of about 800 feet, with isolated rounded domes reaching a probable height of slightly under 1000 feet. It is peculiar in having a long band of coarsely crystalline limestone, extending along its seaward face which continues brokenly past Amajuk Bay as far at least as Lake Harbour where it outcrops as several bands between 200 and 300 feet thick. This range is rolling with a gradual slope to the east and north". (Seper G.R. 1930 p. 400).

Also Manning reports "In travelling from Cape Dorset to Pingokjuak Hill, i.e. N.W., we passed through a jumble of hills intersected by valleys running toward the southeast coast."

Rivers

There are no large rivers in this sector but several small streams, probably of an ephemeral nature, occur along the coast and on the larger islands. Inland from the coast the drainage pattern is structurally controlled with the major trend in a NW/SE direction. Water bodies are for the most part elongated lakes extending for many miles without any well-defined boundary or outlet.

Shelter

Apart from Cape Dorset the Arctic Pilot offers no alternative harbour or inlet where ships may find shelter in this locality. Aerial photos would seem to indicate, however, that shelter might be obtained in West Inlet, Tesseuckjuak Bay, Tellik Inlet, Parketuk Bay, or in the lee of the various islands but no ship could enter any of these without running considerable risk as the area has not been adequately mapped or charted. They are all apparently very deep with shallow beach (sand and boulder) along the shore.

Coast D Sector IV

Anchorage then would be extremely difficult if not impossible.

Aircraft Landing Possibilities

Seaplanes probably could land in any of the aforementioned inlets in an emergency but would be ill-advised to do so until more complete information as to depths, tidal cycle, swell conditions, etc. are available. Canso Aircraft have landed without difficulty in Cape Dorset Harbour several times.

Landmarks

According to The Sailing Directions for Northern Canada (H.C. Pub. No. 77) "the Kingnait Range.....reaches its highest elevation on Dorset and Mallik Islands.... where there are summits 800 to 850 feet high. These hills are particularly conspicuous from the eastward, appearing as veritable mountains and are said to be still prominent at distances of 30 to 40 miles."

The Geodetic Survey erected three beacons consisting of two whitewashed gas barrels on three poles, two on Dorset Island and one on Mallik Island. (See sketch map Dorset Harbour by G.F. Hey for location of these beacons.)

SETTLEMENT

The following information has been taken from the Geographical Bureau Settlement Files and other sources where indicated.

Location

Cape Dorset - Astronomical Control Station - 64° 15' 52.2" N. Lat. 76° 32' 51.0" W. Long.

Settlement

- (1) Hudson's Bay Company Post operated by Post manager, Mr. James Dill, his wife, clerk and interpreter.
- (2) Independent Trader, Baffin Trading Company, Felix Conrad (1944) and assistant.
- (3) Roman Catholic Mission operated by Fathers Pafard and Pelletier (1944). This mission has no followers.
- (4) Anglican Mission. There is a native lay reader who numbers the entire population in this congregation. The Anglican missionary from Lake Harbour makes an annual visit in spring.

Buildings

- (a) H.B.C. - dwelling house, store and warehouse, coal shed, blubber house, native house, powder house.
- (b) B.T.C. - dwelling house and store, warehouse, native house.
- (c) R. G. Mission - dwelling house, greenhouse.
- (d) Anglican Mission - mission house.

(See accompanying sketch map - J. L. Robinson 1944 - for location of buildings
Photos Nos. REA 121-89, 93, 94, 106, RE 4289-54 and 187- 1944 J.L.R.)

Population

Whites - 7.

Eskimos - 329 in Cape Dorset (this seems to be an exceptionally high figure).

106 hunters.

29 at Post.

Water Supply

In summer a limited supply of fresh water is obtained from a nearby lake but as this lake tends to dry up to a certain extent, the water becomes stagnant and unpleasant to taste. In winter there is an unlimited supply of pure fresh water from the artificial melting of ice and snow. (J. L. Robinson, 1944).

Radio Communication:

Hudson's Bay Company (commercial) equipment. Call sign CZ4T. Frequency 4356KC with an output of 15 Watts C.W. Receiver is a National Model - MG-46. Power supply is a 32 volt D.C. vibrator pack operated by batteries with the batteries charged by a wind charger. The antenna is a single wire Marconi. Nottingham Island is the control station and communication is possible 90% of the time. Maximum range of equipment is from Albany River to Fort Ross. Stations normally worked include Port Harrison, Chesterfield and H.B.C. Stations.

Transportations and Supply.

Cape Dorset was formerly supplied by the H.B.C. ship "Nascopie" but since this vessel went down in 1947 off the cape, the "Bayrurpurt" will service the post. The B.T.C. ship "Marion Duffet" also calls once a year to supply the independent trader, and the R.C.M.P. boat "Lake Harbour" arrives in September or early October. Local boats included 1 Peterhead

Coast D Sector IV

owned by H.B.C; 4 other peterheads, 3 trap boats; 13 whaleboats with engine; 6 whaleboats without engine; 20 jelly boats; 4 boats with outboard engines 1946 (?).

The R.C.M.P. makes a regular patrol by sledge from Lake Harbour in late February or early March and the Anglican missionary from the same place arrives later in the spring. Sledge parties from Amadjuak and other outlying camps may turn up at Christmas or in early April.

Aviation Gasoline and Fuel Oil

Previously all fuel was brought in by the Nascopie. No record could be found of the amount of gasoline and fuel oil storage but a supply is kept by the H.B.C., Baffin Trading Co., and Roman Catholic Mission for their own Peterheads. In addition there should be a considerable supply of gasoline remaining from the supercargo of the Nascopie which was salvaged by the natives and the Hudson's Bay Company.

Cape Dorset Harbour:

The harbour is situated at the northeast corner of Dorset Island, being the cove occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company. (See sketch map of Dorset Harbour - C.H. Ney.)

Anchorage and Approaches

The approaches to this harbour have not been marked, neither have they been adequately charted, a fact demonstrated in the wrecking of the H.B.C. supply ship "Nascopie" on the reefs off Beacon Island, southeast of the harbour on July 21, 1947. Anchorage area is sheltered from all but easterly winds, lies east and west, and is approximately 1 1/2 miles long and one half to 3/4 miles wide. Anchorage is available 1/2 mile from the beach. The anchorage area is very poor with treacherous shoals and difficult approaches and should not be entered without sounding ahead. Manoeuvring is very difficult and dangerous. Though approaches to beaches before the settlement are good for shallow draft boats and vehicles. Obstacles in the form of boulders are encountered short distances from the high water line. "(U.S. Naval Observer 1946 report Eastern Arctic Patrol of the "Nascopie"). J. L. Robinson, (1944) / good anchorage, clay near the head of the harbour and submerged rock on the northwest side of the harbour opposite the H.B.C. Post. "There are several dangerous reefs and shoals principally

westward of the entrance to Dorset Harbour (Soper 1950 p. 400).

Aircraft

A PBX-5 landed at Cape Dorset in 1941, and the H.B.C. Canse flew in after the Nascopic was wrecked. Seaplanes should be able to land in the harbour quite readily, a NE-SW direction for landing and take-off being most suitable. There are no buoys for anchorage. The harbour ice is generally smooth in winter and planes equipped with skis should be able to land here. "There are no facilities for wheeled aircraft and the ruggedness of the terrain precludes any possibility of air strip construction in the vicinity of Cape Dorset." ()

Wharfs

None.

Beach

The Beach is rather flat with a foreshore of approximately 100 yards between high and low water. It is composed of sands intermixed with boulders ranging in size up to 3 feet in diameter. Landing of LCM's is feasible but care must be taken in selecting the landing spot to prevent hull damage." ()

Tides

Mean tidal range is 25 to 28 feet. Spring tides 40 feet. Currents up to 6 knots flow east or west according to the state of the tide. Local currents in and out of the harbour with the tides are less than 1 knot. Strong tide rips occur around Beacon Island.

Ice and Snow Conditions

(A) Break-up in this region generally occurs around the middle of May though the ice usually remains in the harbour until mid-July. J.L. Robinson reports snow patches still present on August 9, 1943. (See Photo 187-1944 J.L.R.) In Hudson Strait at Nottingham Island the ice has usually completely disappeared by Mid-July. Stringers of brash may flow back and forth in the strait with the currents, but for the most part the Strait remains open until the heavy pack from Foxe Basin comes down around the end of October.

Coast D Sector IV

(B) Freeze-up. About the end of October ice begins to form locally in the bays and inlets along the shores of the strait, gradually increasing into a broad coastal belt. At Cape Dorset this ice is usually completely solid by late November or early December. Hudson Strait is believed never to freeze solidly from shore to shore though the central channel is rendered practically impassable for about eight months of the year by great ice floes carried back and forth by the tidal currents (Sailing Directions Northern Canada - H.O. Pub. No. 77 - 1946 p. 305).

Weather

Prevailing winds are NW, 10 to 15 knots. The maximum wind experienced was NW about 50 knots. Strong winds do not spring up suddenly and are most prevalent during September and October. Temperatures range from -45° to 50° F with sea water temperatures ranging up to about 48° F (?) in summer and remaining constant at 28° during the winter. Heavy precipitation is very seldom experienced. Fog and low clouds are frequent during August and October. (The U.S. Naval Observer on the Summer Patrol of the Hascopic 1946 as obtained from H.B. Figures of the H.B.C. Post at Cape Dorset).

Winter Travel

Definite information as to conditions for winter travel in this locality is limited but the conditions are apparently quite good on the smooth sea ice east of Dorset though heavy loads of supplies must be taken "as the country is practically gameless in winter" (Soper- G.R. July 1930, P. 413) and sledge parties must be almost entirely self supporting. On a sledge journey to Dorset, April 30, 1924, from Amajuk "the trip was for the most part made well off-shore on the sea ice.....At Chorkbak Inlet.... a long detour was made necessary on account of the open water, the ebb and flow of the tide running so heavily as to keep the sea ice perpetually disturbed. It was found necessary to follow this fiord almost to its head before a crossing could be made". (Burwash, Major L. T., Southern Baffin Island, P. 59). This trip, however, was made at the end of April whereas the annual sledge patrols of the R.C.M.P. and the Anglican missionary from Lake Harbour (See Transportation) usually take place in March or early April when sea ice conditions are more favorable.

Vegetation

The vegetation of the Cape Dorset area is described as being "so poorly

Coast D Sector IV

developed.....that...one gets the impression that the land has only recently been laid bare for colonization by terrestrial plants. The whole phenomenon may in a large part be due to the exposed situation near the open sea. The hills, both large and small, are for the most part very poorly vegetated, owing their dark colour to the hue of the rock and the growth of lichens. The summits...tend to extreme barrenness, especially when rocky. However the rock surface almost always supports numerous crustaceous and other small lichens, and in crevices or pockets where comminuted material can accumulate, there are usually to be found a few higher plants.... The sides of the hills are....often either smooth and gently sloping or of broken cliffs. The former type generally shows a gradual amelioration in the vegetation as the valley is approached; the latter affords a foothold, on ledges and patches of soil or scree; and shelter, in crevices and behind blocks of rock, for a varying population of plant." (N. Pelunin, Bulletin No. 104 Nat. Mus. of Canada, 1948 p. 162). On the lowlands "Higher plants..... are largely confined to occasional individuals growing on patches of comminuted material between the rocks... Apart from *Rhaconitrium lanuginosu*, which is almost universally plentiful, even mosses may be little in evidence. Lichens on the other hand, are numerous and form most of the vegetation". (Op. cit. p. 165). In slight depressions in the "barrens" of the island, under more favourable conditions of shelter and winter snow covering, a mixed heath is developed, generally only 5-8 cm. in height. In the most favourable habitats, such as gravel and sand stream banks, or terrace angles, which have good water supply and drainage, winter snow cover and shelter from prevailing wind, is developed a closed grassy sward of mixed willows, heaths, sedges, and forbs (Op. cit. p. 168). Round the small ponds and lakes is a certain amount of marsh growth with saxifrages, juncus and mosses. (Op. cit. p. 169). The amount and type of vegetation depends to a great extent upon the dates and length of the snow-free season (op. cit. p. 171). On the foreshore *Juncus vesiculosus* clothes the large boulders, while there are luxuriant mats of *Puccinellia phryganodes*, well below the high tide mark. On the dry surfaced gravel or shingle beach, occurs *Elymus*, *Mertensia* and *peploides*. Further inland the vegetation becomes "barren" or salt marsh according to the location (op. cit. pp. 175-176).

New Names

The following new names are suggested and used for sector IV:-

North Island	The northernmost island of the Cape Dorset Group.
Centre Island	The island lies between North Island and Pentagon Island.
Pentagon Island	One of the Cape Dorset group shaped like a Pentagon.
Parketuk Island	The island at the mouth of Parketuk Bay.
Ice Point	A point at the entrance to Tellik Bay which retains some ice.
Tadpole Island	Shaped like a Tadpole; lies to the south of Ice Point.
East Island	The island east of East Inlet.
East Inlet	The inlet east of Tellik Bay.
West Inlet Promontory	The Promontory at the mouth of West Inlet
Island Cape	The south west point of West Inlet Promontory; there is a small island.

Remarks

In 1615 Baffin sailed between Mill Island and the north main but Capt. Luke Foxe, 1651, was the first to bestow the name Cape Dorset. There is however, considerable doubt as to whether or not he was referring to the cape so called at present. In the ensuing years such famous navigators as Parry (1821) Commander Gordon (1884) sailed in this region. Major L. T. Burwash, Northwest Territories and Yukon Branch, made a rapid reconnaissance survey of the coast from Andrew Gordon Bay to Cape Queen. The region was finally mapped by J. Dewey Soper 1928-29 (see Soper Map). In 1913 the Hudson Bay Company established a post on the northeast corner of Dorset Island, to be followed in 1938 by an Independent Trader of the Baffin Trading Company. The Roman Catholic Mission was inaugurated in 1939.



A 78
Okilli Island, looking
west.



A 79
Okilli Island,
Shungakahuk Bay
and West Inlet,
looking north.



A 80
Okilli Island and
West Inlet Promontory,
looking north west.



A 81
Bay 'a' on West Inlet
Promontory, looking
northwest.



A 82
 Bay 'a', West Inlet
 Promontory and
 Tessaukjuk Bay.



A 83
 West Inlet and
 Pentagon Island.



RE 4289-54

Dorset Harbour, Tollok
Inlet and Parketuk
Island, looking north.



RE 4289-55

Dorset Harbour and
Malitjuk Island,
looking north west.



REA 121-94

Dorset Harbour and
beach, looking east

PHOTO IN REA 121-94 CAPE DORSET



REA 121-95

Dorset Harbour and
island, looking south
west.

REA 121-95
PHOTO IN CAPE DORSET



REA 121-106.

Cape Dorset settlement,

looking south west

(1948).

J.L.R. 187-1944

Cape Dorset settlement

looking west (1944)



REA 121-89

Cape Dorset settlement
and Island, looking
south east.

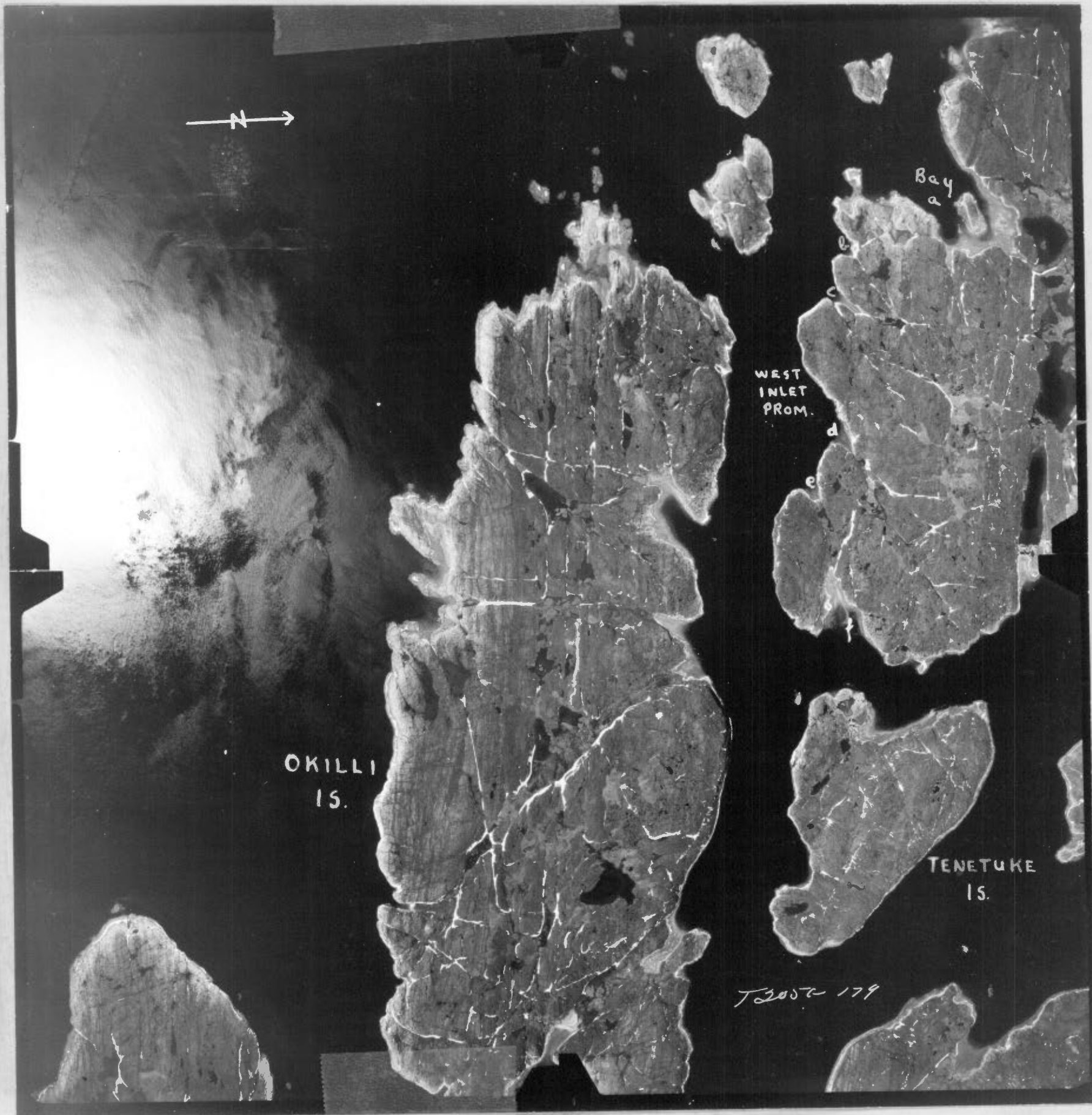
REA 121-88

Cape Dorset settlement
and beach, looking
south.



T 205 R - 178

Inlet 'a' on West inlet promontory to King Charles Cape,
looking west from 20,000 ft on July 1, 1948 at 1829 hours EST.



T 205 C - 179.

Okilli Island, Tenetuke Island and West Inlet Promontory. At 1229 hours E.S.T. on July 1 1948. From 20,000 feet.



T 205L - 179

Sakkiak Island, Okilli Island and Cape Dorset, looking east at 1229 hours E.S.T. on July 1, 1948. From 20,000 feet.



T 205C - 177

West Inlet, Malitjuak Island. Pentagon Island, Centre Island,
 North Island, North Island and Tadpole Island. At about 1228
 hours E. S. T. on July 1, 1948. From 20,000 feet.



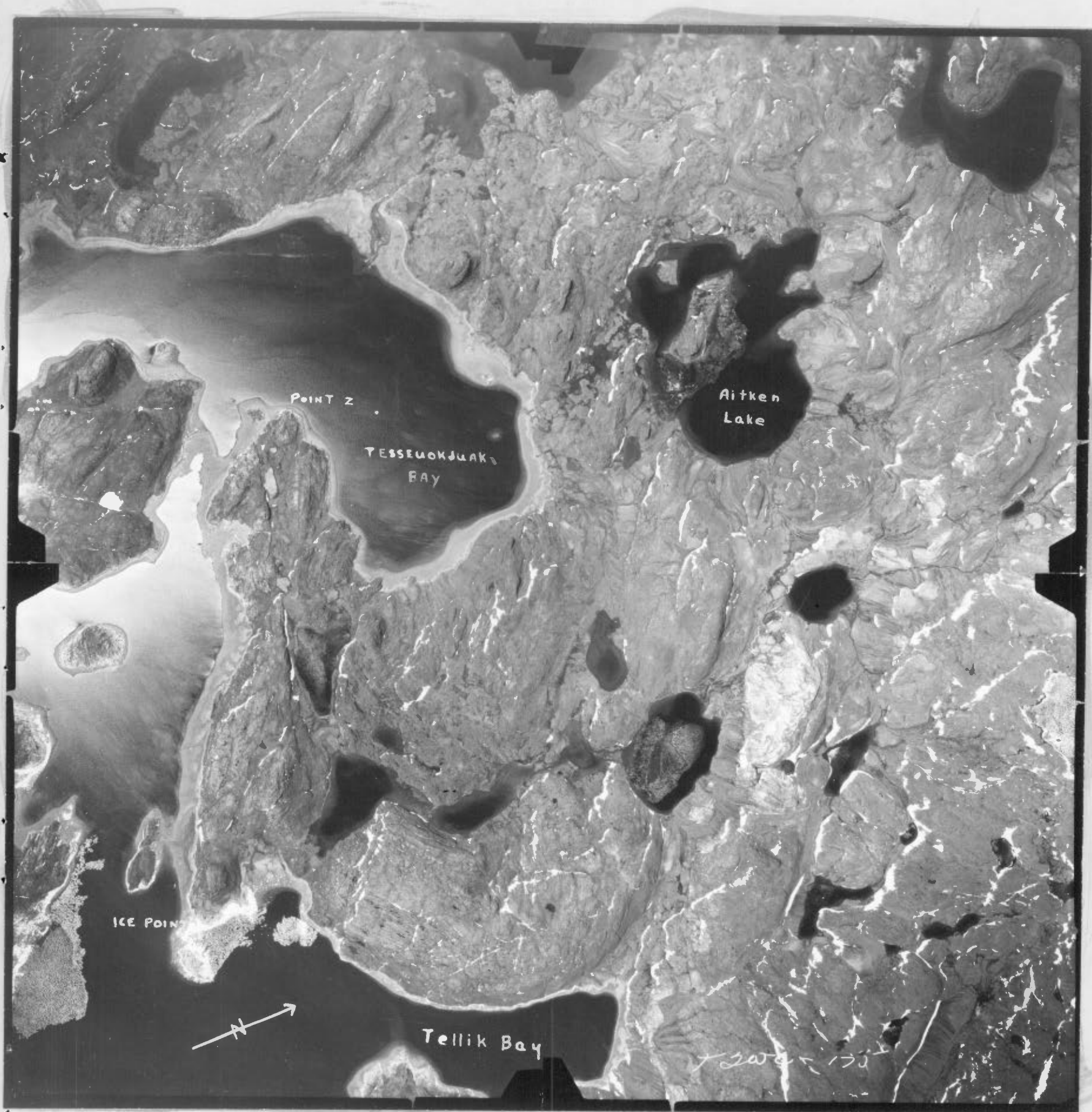
T 205 L - 177

Cape Dorset settlement and Island, Parketuk Island and Kepatu Strait looking east at about 1228 hours E.S.T. on July 1, 1948. From 20,000 feet.



T 205L - 175

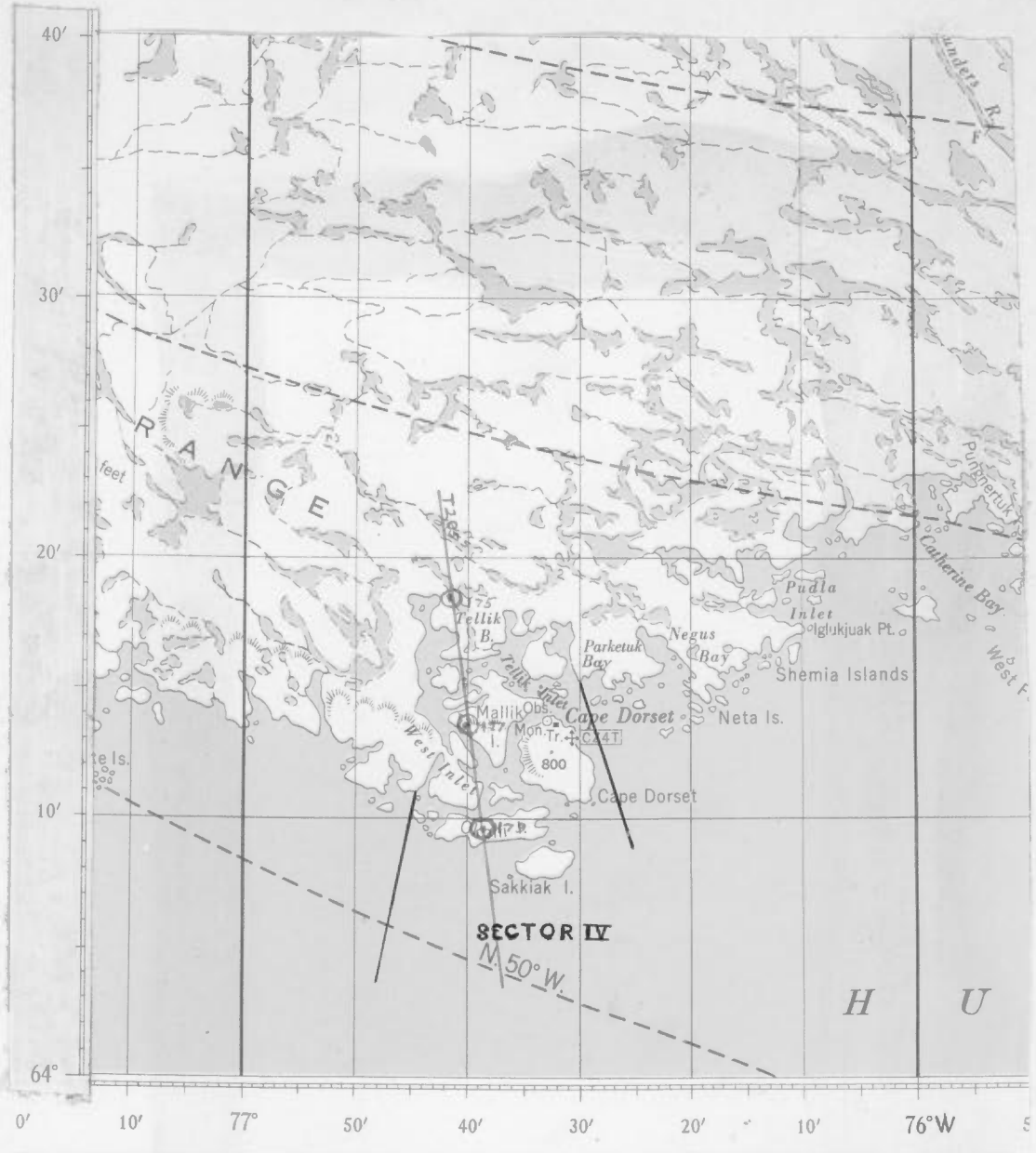
Tellik Bay, East Inlet and Parketuk Bay. East Island and Parketuk Island, looking east at about 1227 hours E.S.T. on July 1, 1948. From 20,000 feet.



T 205C - 175

Tesseuokjuak Bay, Point 'z' to Ice Point. Tellik Bay and Aitken
Lakes. At about 1227 hours E.S.T. on July 1, 1948. From 20,000 ft.

Coast D Sector IV



exploratory surveys and from air
 under unfavourable conditions; it
 is incomplete in the unmapped
 known sources elevations range
 feet.

(Hudson Strait West 35 N.W. and
AERONAUTICAL E
FOXE PENI
NORTHWEST TERF
 (PRELIMINARY EDIT

Scale 8 miles to 1 inch or
 Miles 8 6 4 2 0 8 16

Datum is mean sea level

Foxe Peninsula

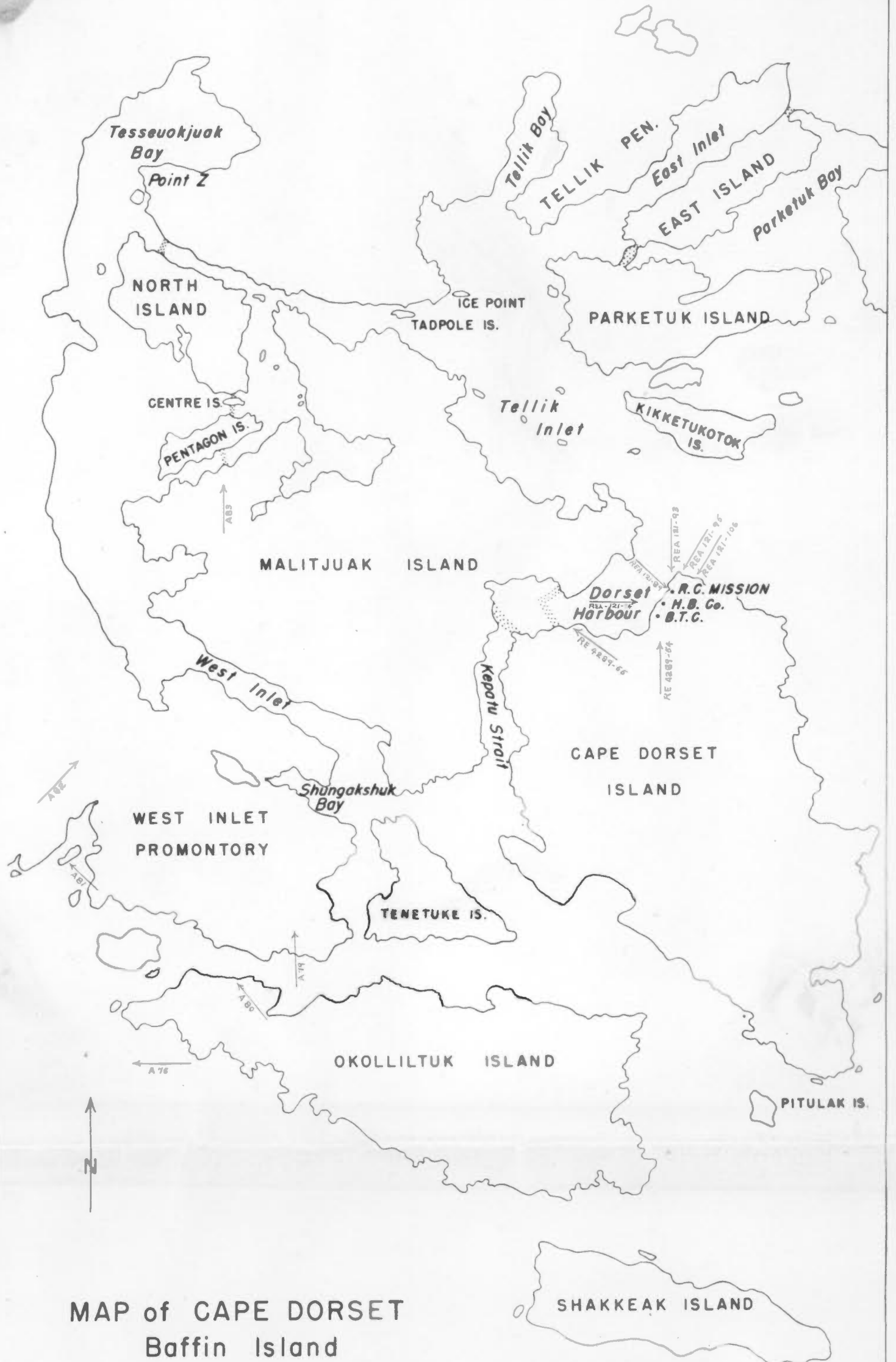
Sheets 36 S.W. and 36 S. E. 1947

—○— Air Survey Trimetregon Flight Lines and Photo Numbers

— Limits of sector

(For location of Oblique Scenic Air Photos see Soper's Map).

COAST D SECTOR IV



MAP of CAPE DORSET
Baffin Island

Scale in miles

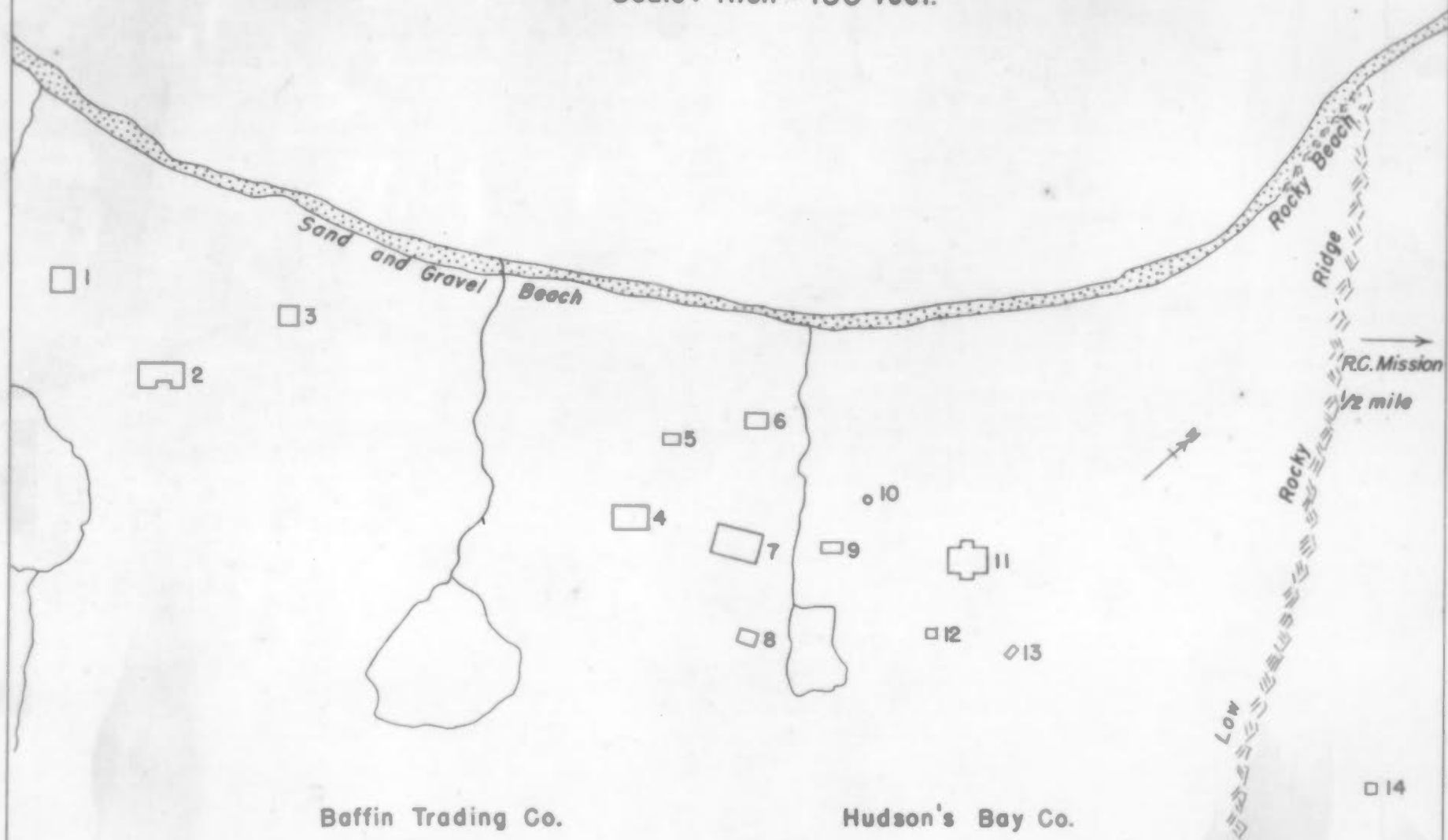


Tidal Bars

Source: J. D. SOPER

CAPE DORSET SETTLEMENT

Scale: Inch = 150 feet.



Baffin Trading Co.

- 1. Native House
- 2. Dwelling & Store
- 3. Warehouse

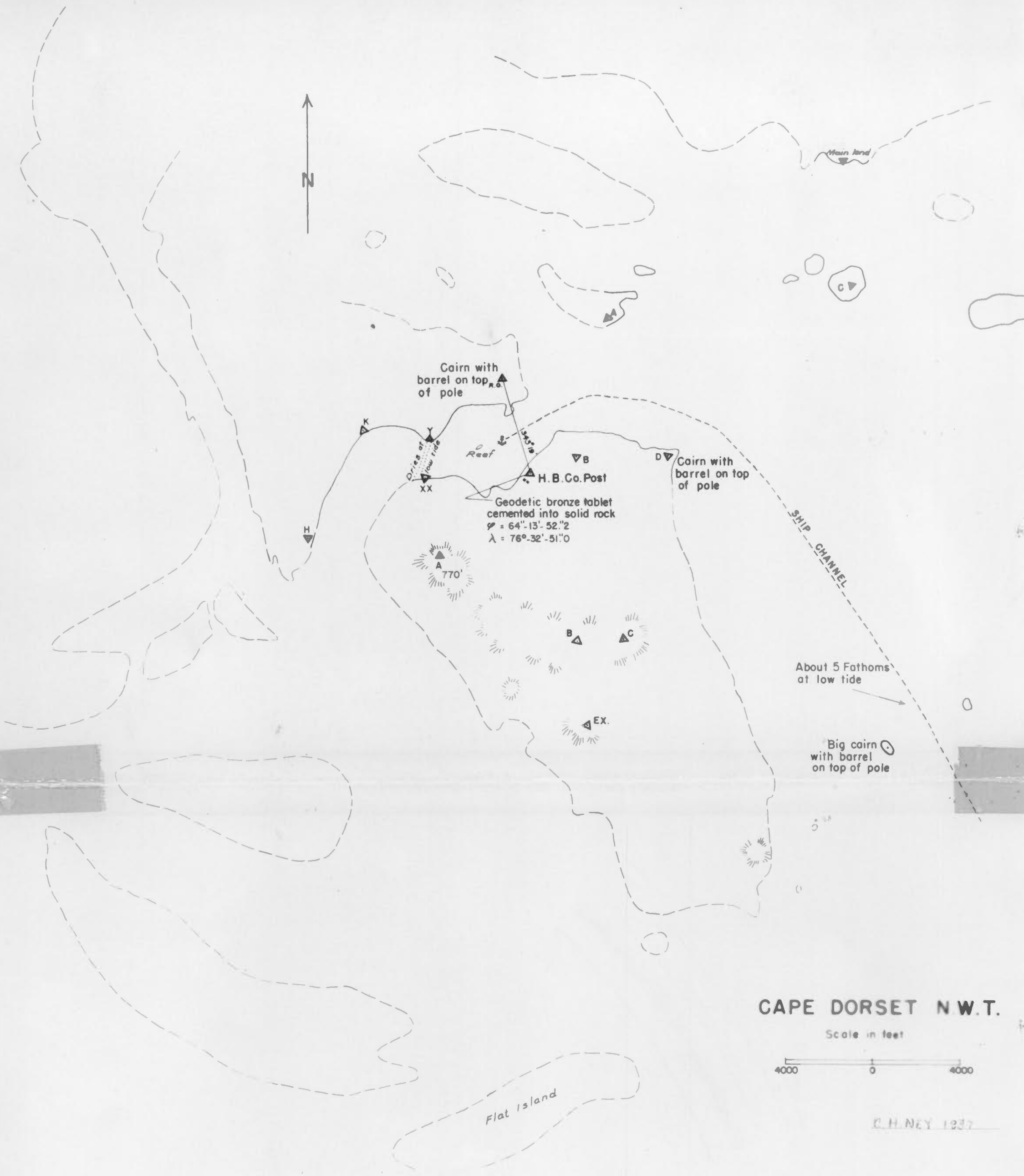
Hudson's Bay Co.

- 4. Warehouse
- 5. Oil Shed
- 6. Native House
- 7. Store
- 8. Coal Shed
- 9. Flour Shed
- 10. Flag Pole
- 11. Dwelling
- 12. Outhouse
- 13. Greenhouse
- 14. Powder Shed

J. L. R. July 1944

G.B. 49-16

GEOGRAPHICAL BUREAU APRIL 1949



Cairn with barrel on top of pole

H.B. Co. Post

Geodetic bronze tablet cemented into solid rock
 $\phi = 64^{\circ}-13'-52".2$
 $\lambda = 76^{\circ}-32'-51".0$

Cairn with barrel on top of pole

SHIP CHANNEL

About 5 Fathoms at low tide

Big cairn with barrel on top of pole

Flat Island

CAPE DORSET N.W.T.

Scale in feet



E. H. NEY 1937



- 500 ALT. IN FEET
- ☞ REEFS
- ▨ TIDAL BARS
- ⚓ ANCHORAGE
- ▲ CAIRNS

MAP OF
 CAPE DORSET, BAFFIN ISLAND.
 N. W. T. & YUKON BR.

SCALE IN STATUTE MILES



