



SEVENTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT

GENERAL INFORMATION

RELATING TO THE

LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION

ST. PAUL



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Address reply to:
COMMANDER
Seventeenth Coast Guard District
P.O. Box 3-5000
Juneau, Alaska 99801

* 3262
1 March 1968

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

1. This letter promulgates a Loran Station Information Book for each of the nine Seventeenth District Loran Stations. These books are designed to provide information to commands and staff components concerned with the stations logistic support, operation and administration, and to training commands to familiarize themselves and their students with station equipment, environment, problems and routines. The books purposely omit unnecessary details. Additional information regarding any phase of the stations operation, equipment, or plant can be obtained from Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District, Juneau, Alaska.
2. Loran Station Information Books will be reviewed periodically and new additions issued as the need arises.


J. R. SCULLION

DISTRIBUTION: (SDL 86)

B: a (OAN) (4) b (COMWESTAREA) (2) c (CCGD17) (8) e (2) g (6) h (2)
n (2)
C: 1 (3) (CCGD17)

U. S. Coast Guard Loran Station

St. Paul

General Information Book

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information about St. Paul	Page 1
Climatological Data	Page 1
Chartlet of St. Paul Island	Fig 1
The Island Community	Page 2
Island Facilities	Page 2
The Loran Transmitting Station on St. Paul	Page 3
Photographs	Fig 2
Coast Guard Recreation	Page 5
Photographs	Fig 3
Information for New Arrivals	Page 6
Items Needed Upon Reporting to St Paul	Page 7
Photograph	Fig 4
Loran Coverage Charts	Fig 5 and 6

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ST PAUL

St. Paul Island is located on the Pribilof Islands in the central-southeast Bering Sea area, 850 miles southwest of Anchorage, Alaska. The island is mostly flat with a few hills scattered about the island and measures about seven by five miles. Several small lakes are also found on the island with one large lake located at Northeast Point.

The island is composed of volcanic rock and volcanic ashes called "Ascoria". A thin covering of tundra is spread over the island. There are sandy beaches, rocky beaches and cliffs bordering the sea on St. Paul.

St. Paul was discovered near the end of the eighteenth century by the Russian Navigator Gerassin Pribilof in search of breeding grounds of fur seals. The Russians administered the islands until the Pribilofs were sold to the United States in 1867. The Russians had imported Aleut Indians from the Aleutian Island chain to kill fur seals and process the pelts. The Aleuts still populate St. Paul and St. George, the other Pribilof Island, and still supply the manpower for the seal kill. The islands are now administered by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries under the U. S. Department of Interior.

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

St. Paul has a typical Maritime climate; considerable cloudiness, heavy fog, high humidity and narrow daily temperature. In fact, the differences between the average minimum temperatures for the year are around seven degrees. The highest temperatures in the summer rarely exceed fifty degrees and the lowest in the winter seldom get to zero.

The summer is characterized by cloudiness and heavy fog and the winter by cloudiness and high winds.

THE ISLAND COMMUNITY

The town of St. Paul contains about three hundred and fifty inhabitants. Their culture is Aleut - Russians and their religion is Russian Orthodox, while the spoken language is mainly English. The only non-Aleuts that are residents of St. Paul are the BCF officials, the school teachers, the weather bureau employees, the USPHS Doctor and the Coast Guard.

The basic occupation of the population is centered around killing and processing fur seals each summer. This is the only reason for the existence of any native population on the island.

ISLAND FACILITIES

St. Paul is equipped with many fairly modern public facilities such as a post office, commissary and general-store type canteen. At present, the post office is in part of the commissary store but will be in a new modern building by 1 January 1968. There is one Russian Orthodox Church and one Assembly of God Chapel on the island and in addition, Navy Chaplains periodically visit St. Paul via logistics flights.

The island community also has an elementary school, hotel, coffee house and recreation hall. Movies are periodically held in the recreation hall as well as dances, basketball games and volleyball games. There is also a rough park where softball is played in the summertime.

Medical-wise, St. Paul is very fortunate in having a resident U. S. Public Health Service Doctor in residence on the island. The doctor handles all cases of a routine nature while evacuation by either Coast Guard, Navy or Reeves Aleutian Airways aircraft or Coast Guard ship assures any emergency patient of prompt specialized

attention. The Coast Guard Station is also assigned a HM who can assist in all medical cases.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries is in charge of the island and runs the power plant, shops and construction equipment. A BCF ship, the PRIBILOF, makes logistics runs to the island three times a year and stays for several weeks per trip. General supplies, food, heavy equipment and vehicles are mainly the cargo. Once at St. Paul, the ship makes several runs to St. George for cargo delivery and mail service. Normally, St. George gets mail only when it is dropped from Coast guard aircraft.

The Aleut population does have an island community council which is scheduled to eventually take over the administration of the island. Incorporation as a fourth class city is pending at the state level.

Reeves Aleutian Airways supplies mail service to the island once per week year round and are usually very dependable. A Reeves landing causes the most excitement of any event on the island and most of the island population turns out to greet the mail plane. Reeves also provides comfortable passenger service to Anchorage as well as the Aleutian chain from St. Paul.

THE USCG LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION ON ST. PAUL

The USCG Loran-C Station is located on the south-eastern part of St. Paul Island about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the St. Paul Airport. The station is on relatively flat ground and surrounded by tundra grass and ponds. All grounds and roadways on the station are Ascoria fill. The complement of LORSTA St. Paul is two officers and twenty-two enlisted men.

St. Paul is the Master Station for rate SL2 and also serves as the SL2 chain monitor. Electronically, St. Paul Loran is equipped with AN/FPN-42 Transmitters and AN/FPN-41 timers. The loran tower is 625 feet high and is the tallest object, natural or manmade on St. Paul Island. Loran Station St. Paul also maintains a radio-beacon as a navigational aid for commercial as well as Coast Guard aircraft. The Electronics Department has a complement of 6 ET's, who stand a continuous 24 hour watch as well as perform maintenance on the electronic equipment.

Station power is supplied by three 300KW Caterpillar D-397 Diesel-Electric Sets. The station also supplies power to the Weather Bureau Station on the island and for the lighting at the St. Paul Airport. Station refueling is undertaken once a year and fuel supplies include AVGAS for Coast Guard Aircraft.

The station is equipped with four vehicles for transportation, aircraft unloading and construction. These include a Ford crew-cab pickup, a Dodge crew-cab powerwagon, an International tractor and a Tucker Sno-Cat. The Sno-Cat is used mainly when drifting snow makes roads unpassable to conventional vehicles.

Loran Station St. Paul consists of three buildings; the Barracks building, the Signal-Power building and the Transmitter building. All three buildings are of reinforced concrete and are extremely sturdy. The Barracks building is divided into living quarters, the galley, recreational spaces, sick bay and officers. The CO and EMO occupy a Wardroom and separate staterooms and a lounge area. The rest of the crew are berthed two to a room in six connecting cubicles. Interior room arrangements are left to the individual's taste within reason. Furniture throughout the station is modern and very comfortable.

The Signal-Power building houses the engine room, engineering garages and workshops, engineering storeroom, the timer room, the ET workshop and storeroom and the radio room. The Transmitter building houses the AN/FPN-42 Transmitters and is at the base of the 625 foot transmitting tower.

COAST GUARD STATION RECREATION

The highpoint of station life is the nightly movie. Movies are received twice per month via logistics flight from Kodiak and many are less than one year old while the others are usually screen classics or foreign imports. Whether old or new, the movies are enjoyed by all hands.

Other indoor entertainment is furnished by the ping pong and pool tables that are located next to the galley. Most crew members become experts at one or both of these games. The station recreational gear also includes card games, puzzles and box games for entertainment when bad weather precludes outside recreation.

Loran Station St. Paul also operates a ham amateur radio station - KL7DNE. The ham gear is used for amateur contacts, listening entertainment and for phone patches to the states. Foreign countries with few exceptions may be contacted as well as hundreds of stations throughout the states. Other loran stations and installations of other services have been contacted also in the initial years of KL7DNE operation.

Station personnel quite often challenge the townspeople to basketball, volleyball and softball as the Aleuts are very sportsminded. The Aleuts as well as the Coast Guard are also interested in beach-combing, hiking, iceskating and hunting. Except for the summer months when no shooting is allowed, hunting for Hair Seal, Fox (December and

January only) and Sea Lion is quite popular. The cost of a hunting license is ten dollars and one may be obtained on the island. There is also a Reindeer herd on St. Paul but is off limits to all hunters except when it becomes overpopulated. The Fur Seal is, of course, always off limits to hunters.

The annual Fur Seal kill will be extremely interesting to all station personnel and especially to the camera bug. Seals of a certain age and size are selected during the summer and driven a short distance inland. They are then killed with one swift blow from a long club wielded by an expert native. Another Aleut follows whose sole job is to slit the fur hide. A group follows that strips the dead seal of his hide. The hides are then cleaned and treated and then placed in barrels for shipment to the mainland. The carcasses are used for mink food or in the preparation of cosmetics.

The herd can also be observed from designated areas at other times than the seal kill or photographed as extremely interesting wildlife.

INFORMATION FOR NEW ARRIVALS

Loran Station St. Paul is an isolated duty station and therefore there is no liberty or authorized regular leave. Recreational absence is granted for one six hour period, two four hour periods and periods under four hours at the discretion of the Commanding Officer to each man per month. Emergency leave can be granted by Headquarters for serious family illness, death in the immediate family or other emergencies. Evacuation of personnel due to illness or injury can usually be accomplished within twenty-four hours depending, of course, on the weather.

The station has two washers and two dryers for laundry facilities. Ironing boards and irons are also available. There is no dry cleaning facility on the island. The station is equipped with a sewing machine

for clothing repairs.

Loran Station St. Paul operates a modest local cash and carry PX for sale of cigarettes, soap, shaving supplies, hygenic items, film and candy. Soda and beer (limited) are also sold for station consumption. Other special items may be ordered through the Navy PX in Kodiak, Alaska but a waiting period of several months may be required before the item is received. Mail order houses, such as Sears, are usually used to order items such as boots and other special items. Service is fast but postage is usually quite high.

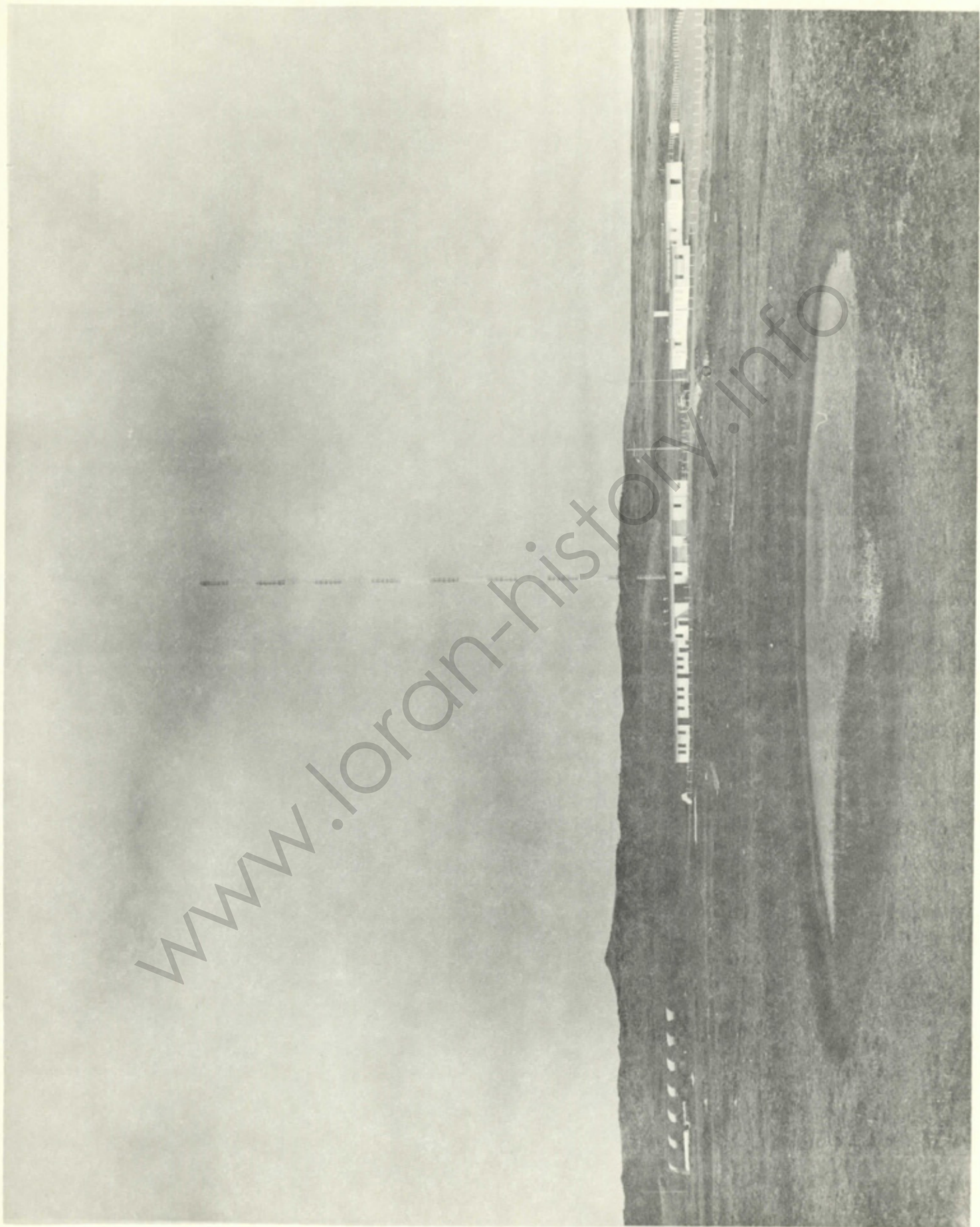
ITEMS NEEDED UPON REPORTING TO LORAN STATION ST. PAUL

A government license is considered necessary for all engineering rates and an advantage to all others since obtainment of one after arrival is usually a lengthy process. A ham license is also very advantageous for all hands. A home phone or a telephone company credit card will allow you to make phone patches back to the "Lower 48".

A complete seabag is needed except for whites which are not worn in the Seventeenth District. Plenty of work clothes are a must and some civilian clothing may be brought for recreational absence. A warm set of boots are very helpful as well as several sets of insulated underwear.

A camera, light shotgun or .22 and a tape recorder come in very handy while at St. Paul. Tape recorders are extremely helpful for taping letters back home. A checking account is also useful and necessary for officers for payment of monthly meals which run about \$50.00 per month.

www.loran-history.info





• A SOLITARY BULL AWAITING THE FEMALES



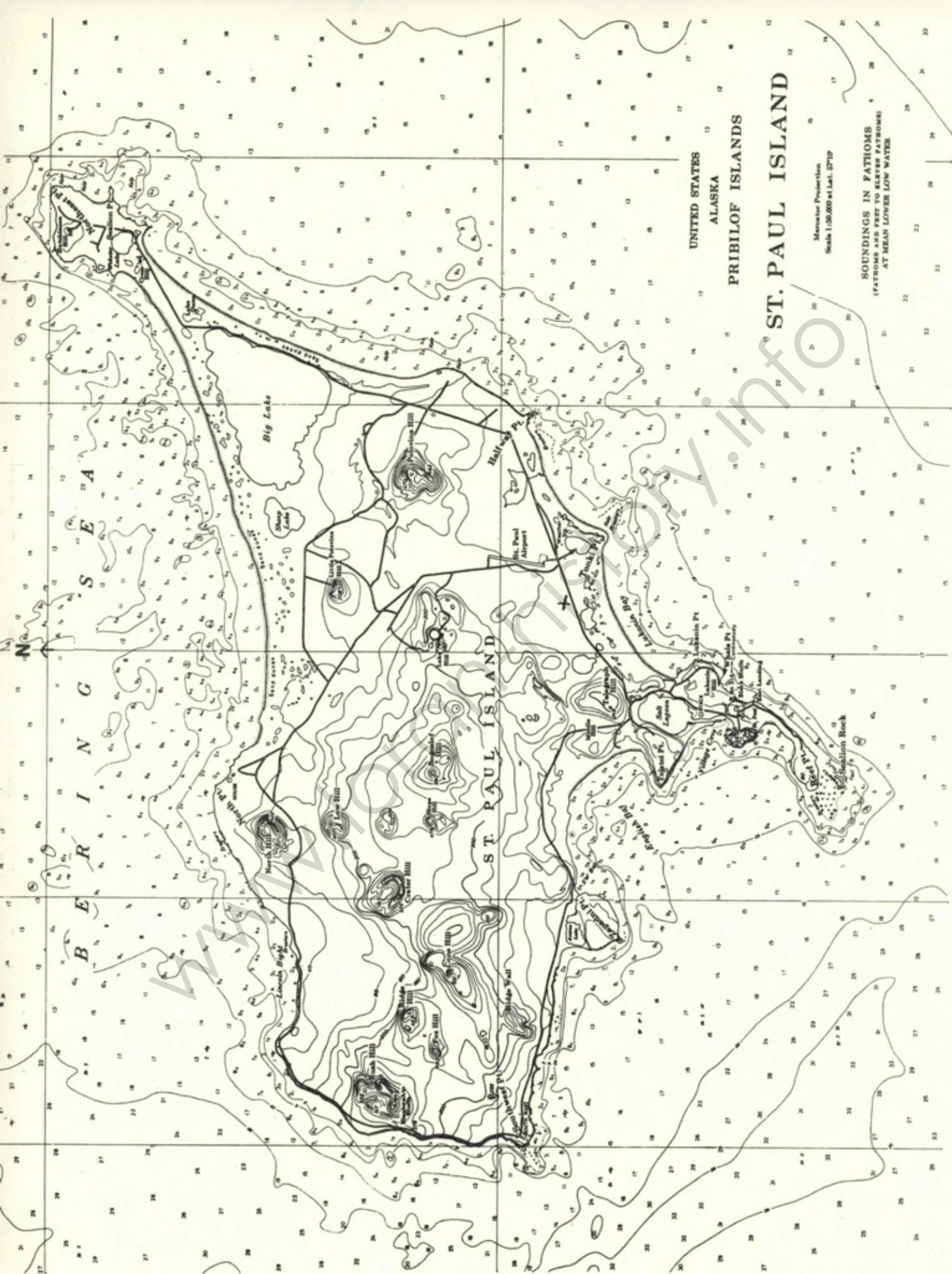
• THE REINDEER HERD ON ST. PAUL ISLAND



• THE U. S. COAST GUARD LORAN TRANSMITTING
STATION - ST. PAUL ISLAND, ALASKA



• A SMALL PART OF THE FUR SEAL HERD



UNITED STATES

ALASKA

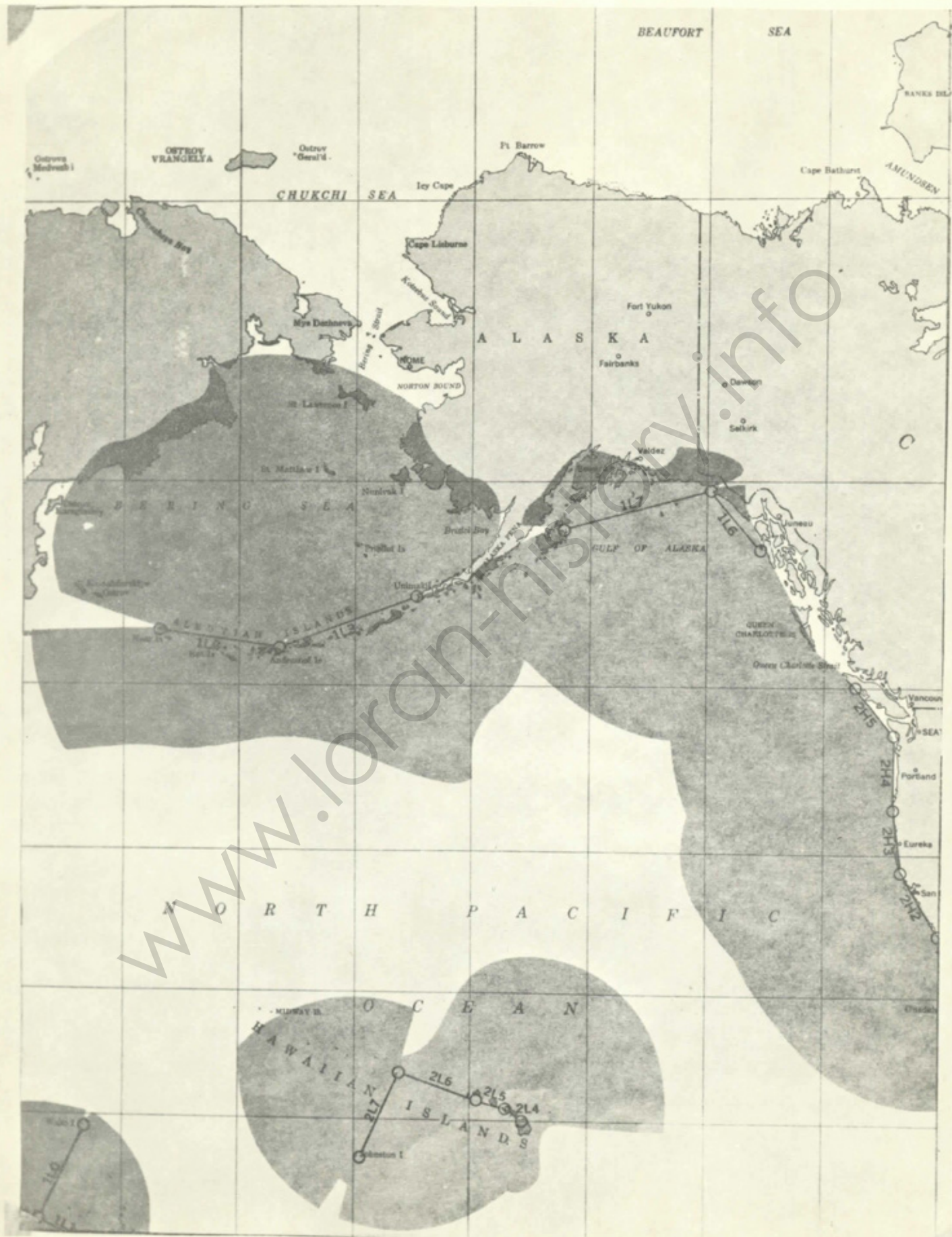
PRIBILOF ISLANDS

ST. PAUL ISLAND

Marine Production

Scale 1:50,000 at Lat. 57°00'

SOUNDINGS IN FATHOMS
(FATHOMS AND FEET TO ELEVEN FATHOMS)
AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER





www.loran-history.info