

Chart SAN 59, 85 (INT 7550), 129

5.5 MBASHE POINT TO CAPE HERMES

(Reference points 2 to 3)

1. Between these two points the coastline is generally rocky, but interspersed with sandy patches at the heads of numerous small bays. For about 8 miles NE of Mbashe Point, as far as the mouth of the Bulungula River (32° 08' S, 29° 01' E), the coast is low, thereafter becoming higher and steeper. The hills within the coast are mostly covered with grass, but clumps of gum trees indicate the positions of kraals and trading stores.
2. The general aspect of the coast and the land within it changes markedly some 29 miles to the NE of Mbashe Point and 5 miles SW of Rame Head (31° 48' S, 29° 21' E) in the vicinity of the Mtakatye River. From here, as far as and beyond Cape Hermes and the entrance to Port St. Johns, it is generally bold and steep-to with many outstanding bluffs, the high land within the coast being intersected by numerous ravines through which rivers flow. The sides of these ravines are densely wooded, but the hills and ridges are generally grassy, except where forest reserves start close SW of Port St. Johns.
3. There is no sheltered anchorage along the coast between Mbashe Point and Rame Head (but see sections 5.5.45 and 5.5.52). Northeast winds are usually accompanied by easterly or southeasterly swells setting into bays which, being otherwise sheltered from the wind, might be considered safe for landing. It can therefore be asserted that any attempt to land during northeast winds would be extremely risky, if not impossible, and boats are warned not to attempt it even in an emergency.
4. With southwest winds, the swell usually comes from a southeasterly direction, or from a more southerly direction than that which occurs during northeast winds. Both sea and swell are much reduced inshore, so that landing may be possible under the lee of certain projecting points, but even at these places it should only be attempted in an emergency.
5. The closed mouth of the Mbhanyana River lies 9 cables N by E of Mbashe Point. This river has steep, heavily wooded banks and the ravine through which it flows is prominent when viewed from the SE. A bare hill, 73 m high and surrounded by forest on its lower slopes, is situated on the SW bank about a mile upstream.
6. At the head of a rock-fringed indentation between Mbashe Point and the Mbhanyana River, there is a sandy beach where landing would appear to be feasible during light SW winds (but see previous section). Behind this beach there are a few houses. Behind this the land is thickly forested, rising to an elevation of 108 m at a distance inland of 1,5 miles.
7. From the mouth of the Mbhanyana River a rocky, much indented coastline extends NE for 1,5 miles to Breezy Point. Halfway along this stretch there is a reef of submerged rocks which extends seaward for up to 2 cables.
8. Breezy Point, off which there are rocky ledges, is grassy and may be distinguished by a 66 m high bare hill close westward of it. A prominent line of white huts extends in a NNW direction from the point for some 3 cables to a beach at the closed mouth of the Kwa-Suku River.
9. The sandy bar of the closed Ntlonyane River, about 1 mile N by E of Breezy Point, is fringed with submerged rocks and provides no landing. The SW entrance point of this river is high and grassy, while the NE one is rocky and comparatively low lying. The grass-topped, with dark wooded cover close to the river, Hubeni Hill, 225 m high and prominent, lies 3 miles westward of the river mouth; Mpoleni Hill, 280 m high and situated nearly 4 miles N by W of the mouth, it is also prominent and has a speckled appearance with a few stunted trees at its summit.
10. Between the mouths of the Ntlonyane River and the Xora River, 3 miles to the NE, the intervening coastline is generally rocky but interspersed with several small sandy beaches. Halfway along this stretch, and 0.5 mile off the sandy, closed mouth of the small Nkanya River, there is a 0.75 mile long submerged reef which runs parallel with the coast. The sea nearly always breaks heavily over this, and the vicinity should be given a wide berth.
11. The Xora River mouth (32° 10' S, 29° 00' E) is normally closed by a sand bar, but it may break open after heavy rains. The low-lying southern entrance point is fringed with above-water rocks and has a number of white bungalows on it. A light green grassy hill, 72 m high, is situated 6 cables SW of the southern entrance point. On its summit there is a trigonometrical beacon which is prominent during the early morning. Close within the northern entrance point the banks become steep and covered with bush.
12. The mouth of the Bulungula River (32° 08' S, 29° 01' E), 1.5 miles NNE of the Xora River mouth, is closed by a sand bar. Within the entrance the banks are steep and sparsely wooded. Seven cables SSW of the southern entrance point there is a prominent bare conical hill, 48 m high, which serves to identify the locality.
13. A trading store, surrounded by a prominent clump of gum trees, is situated on an otherwise bare summit, 181 m high,

about 1.5 miles NNW of the Bulungula River mouth.

14. Between the mouth of the Bulungula River and Mbolombo Point (see below), 5.5 miles to the NE, there are two rivers the mouths of which are normally closed by sand bars. The first of these, that of the KuAmanzimnyama River one mile from the Bulungula River mouth, may be recognised by the boulder-strewn hillsides either side of it, and also because of the deep, wooded ravine behind it. The mouth of the Mncwasa River may be identified by the dark, wooded ridge stretching between the eastern entrance point and Mbolombo Point, 6 cables to the eastward. The western entrance point is low-lying.

15. The coast between the mouths of the Bulungula and KuAmanzimnyama Rivers is rocky and steep. Between the latter and the mouth of the Mncwasa River the coast is also rocky and steep for about 0.75 mile, thereafter it rises more gently and there are three stretches of sandy beach where landing would appear to be feasible in calm weather. The first two lie between the mouth of the KuAmanzimnyama River and Mpame Point, 1.5 miles SW of Mbolombo Point, which is low with an above-water rocky ledge extending southward from it for just under a cable. The second beach, which is close westward of Mpame Point, is the most prominent because of the white buildings of Nqakanga, a camping site close within it. The third and longest beach extends for just over 0.5 mile to the SW of Mncwasa River mouth.

16. At about a mile inland from this coast is the edge of a dense forest, within which there are two peaks which form an excellent landmark. The SW peak (215 m) is the more prominent when viewed from the NE, and the NE peak (201m) is more prominent when viewed from the SW.

17. The wreck of the Greek Passenger vessel OCEANOS (14 000 GRT) which sank on 4 August 1991, with a 70 m clearance over her, lies in position 32° 07'.23 S, 29°07'.26 E.

18. Mbolombo (Mncwasa) Point (32°05' S, 29°05' E) is fringed with rocks and projects boldly from the adjacent coast, being conspicuous when viewed from the SW or NE. It is comparatively low-lying for about a cable inland before rising to the previously mentioned dark, wooded ridge, which rises to an elevation of 68 m. On the eastern side of the ridge there is a prominent, bare, reddish-coloured patch close to the summit. On the hillside, close northward of the point there are more reddish-coloured patches. To the NW of the point there are further bare ridges which rise to heights of 94 and 164 m, respectively, at distances of 0.5 and 1.5 miles; at a distance of 2.5 miles in the same direction there is a prominent clump of trees surrounding the Zithulele Mission Hospital complex.

19. From Mbolombo Point a rocky coast extends northward for 0.75 mile to a sandy beach at the mouth of the small Lubanzi River, where there are several ruined houses. Thereafter as far as the mouth of the Mpako River, some 2 miles to the NNE, the coast consists of rocky ledges backed by steep cliffs from 75 to 90 m high.

20. Hole in the Wall (32° 02' S, 29° 07' E), a remarkable and prominent saddle-backed rock, 41m high, lies close to the mouth of the Mpako River, and is connected to its NE entrance point by a reef of submerged rocks and boulders upon which the sea breaks. The action of the sea has worn a natural archway of substantial size, right through the rock from one cliff face to the other. It was Captain Vidal of HMS BARRACOUTA who originally named the rock in 1823 during the course of Captain Owen's memorable survey of the African coast. The rock is held in superstitious awe by the local people.

21. A 58m high rock of similar formation lies close NE of the Hole in the Wall, and this is connected to the mainland by a 6 m high ridge. Two deep clefts toward the SW end of this rock give it the appearance of having three distinct summits.

22. Submerged rocks, upon which the sea breaks heavily, extend as much as 2 cables offshore, fringing the coast from about a mile SW of Hole in the Wall to abreast the 58m high rock.

23. There is a cluster of white buildings on a grassy hillside to the northward of the 58 m high rock. This settlement is prominent when viewed from the eastward.

24. A point known as Black Rock projects out from the coast about 1 mile NE of Hole in the Wall. As its name implies, this point has a dark-colored rocky extremity, and submerged rocks extend for over 2 cables to seaward of it.

25. There is a table-topped, grassy hill behind it. The intervening coastline is comparatively low-lying and rocky, with a sandy beach at the head of the indentation in front of the settlement mentioned in the last section.

26. From Black Rock a rocky coast extends for 3 miles in a NNE direction to the mouth of the Nenga River (see below). It consists generally of steep cliffs rising to bare heights of up to 170m close inland.

27. A rock awash at a distance of nearly 4 cables offshore, lies 2 miles NNE from Black Rock.

28. Coffee Bay (31° 59' S, 29° 09' E), one of the most popular holiday resorts of the Wild Coast, lies on both banks of the

Nenga River. It consists of a number of white houses and hotels, one of which is large and very conspicuous, being situated at the northern end of the beach on the northern side of the entrance to the river. Most of the houses are partially obscured by the Sugar Loaf. This conical hill, 50 m high, is covered with dark green vegetation and is situated on the rocky promontory between the mouths of the Nenga River and the smaller Ku-Bomvu River close to the southward. Both these mouths are closed by sand bars.

29. Coffee Bay is reputed to have derived its name from a ship from which, when she was wrecked there in 1863, a cargo of coffee beans was washed ashore. Apparently, so the story goes, some of these beans took root but failed to survive in an uncongenial location. (There is no official recording of such a wreck).

30. There is no sheltered anchorage along this coast between Mbashe Point and Rame Head but, during her survey of the coast during 1927, HMSAS PROTEA anchored off the mouth of the Nenga River on several occasions. Any ship attempting to follow her example must be prepared to weigh and proceed to sea at a moment's notice should weather conditions deteriorate.

31. Prominent landmarks in this vicinity are Crocodile Vlei, (31° 59.4' S, 29° 02' E) a 373 m high hill with a clump of bushes at its summit, which lies about 6 miles west, and the double-peaked Mapuzi Hill, 238 m high, lying 2.75 miles N by W, respectively, of Coffee Bay. This latter hill is grassy with bush on its SW side.

32. Mapuzi Point 1.25 miles NE of the Nenga River mouth, consists of a conical rock about 45 m high, with a clump of vegetation at its summit. This rock, which appears as an island to passing ships, has a ridge of submerged rocks extending NE from it for some 4 cables.

33. Close northward of the point there is a short sandy beach at the closed mouth of the Mapuzi River. Within its mouth the banks of the river are lined with cliffs for a distance inland of some 3 cables. These cliffs extend SW from the mouth, past Mapuzi Point, for about a mile, and for a similar distance to the NE as far as the southern entrance point of the Mtata River.

34. The southern entrance point of the Mtata River (31°57' S, 29°11' E), is, as mentioned above, rocky and formed of steep cliffs, and the western bank becomes low and marshy from about 0.25 mile within the mouth for as much as 2 miles upstream. To the south and west of this marshy area the land rises steeply to Mapuzi Hill (see previous section). The mouth of the river is normally closed by a sand bar. The northern entrance is low and sandy at first with a marshy patch close within it, but the land rises steeply later to a thick bushy ridge.

35. Whale Rock (31° 56'.6 S, 29° 13' E) is an above-water rock about 3 m high lying close off a low point 1.75 miles ENE of the Mtata River Mouth. This point has at its extremity a sandy beach fringed with drying rocks which merge into a reef of submerged rocks extending 4 cables to the SSE of Whale Rock. There are bush-covered sand dunes near the extremity of the point and the hills behind them, especially on the slopes of the Mtata River north bank, are generally grassy with occasional patches of bush and numerous African huts.

36. The resort of Umtata Mouth is situated midway between the mouth of the river and Whale Rock. Half a mile northward of this resort the land rises to a summit of 94 m. When viewed from the southward the road winding down from the heights to the resort is conspicuous. At the head of a small sandy bay between the resort and Whale Rock the white houses of the settlement of Tshani may be seen.

37. Whale Rock Point, 4 cables NNE of Whale Rock, is low and above-water rocky ledges extend for about a cable from it toward the NE.

38. A 23.5 m depth was reported, in 1968, to lie 0.75 miles ESE of Whale Rock. A rock awash lies about 5 cables offshore in a position nearly 2 miles NE of Whale Rock Point.

39. When lying-to for the night of 30 November 1979 at a distance of 2 miles off the coast, SA KUSWAG IV experienced a counter current running in a NE direction at 1 knot between Mbolompo Point and Whale Rock.

40. The closed mouth of the Mdumbi River (31° 56' S, 29° 13' E) lies about 0.5 mile to the NNW of Whale Rock Point. Both entrance points are low-lying and a beach extends from the southern one at which, in an emergency, landing might be possible (but see section 5.5.3). The south bank of the river is low-lying for a distance of 3 cables within the mouth, thereafter it becomes steep and wooded, and at a distance of a mile westward of the southern entrance point there is a red-roofed house at an elevation of 73 m. The northern bank of the river slopes more gradually.

41. Ubombo Head (31° 53' S, 29° 16' E) is a rounded hill, 75 m high, lying close within a rocky point 4 miles NNE of Whale Rock. A similar hill, 73 m high, lies just over a mile SSW of Ubombo Head. Between these two hills the Lwandilana and Lwandile Rivers enter the sea. The land between the two rivers is low-lying and is fringed with rocks except for small

sandy beaches at their closed mouths.

42. Between the mouths of the Mdumbi River and the Lwandilana River the coast is rock-bound with no distinguishing features, apart from a fairly prominent sand patch about a mile from the Mdumbi River mouth. Grass lands with a number of African huts lie within the coast. Wooded valleys along the courses of small streams intersect the grass lands.

43. Groups of white houses are situated close to the coast below the summit of Ubombo Head. The settlement of Lwandile lying to the SW and the resort of Presley's Bay, off which there are some dark above-water rocks, to the east.

44. A reef of submerged rocks, over which the sea breaks heavily, extends some 4 cables offshore in a SSE direction from the rocky point to seaward of Ubombo Head.

45. The Mtakatye River enters the sea 1.75 miles NNE of Ubombo Head. From its entrance the west bank is low lying for about 0.5 mile upstream in a northerly direction and also for 0.5 miles thereafter in a westerly direction. The eastern entrance point is sharply defined, rising steeply from a rocky coast to a summit of 69 m about 1 cable from the point. Northward from here the nature of the coast undergoes a marked change, becoming generally more rugged and steep to with high cliffs as described in section 5.5.3.

46. Hluleka Bay, 2.5 miles NE by N of Mtakatye River mouth, is entered between grassy cliffs to the NE and the prominent, rounded and partially wooded hill KuNgode, 64 m high, at the summit of a bluff to the SW. Within the entrance, on the north bank of the bay, some pink terrace houses may be seen. Extending SE for about 4 cables from the entrance to the bay there is a reef of submerged rocks which should be given a wide berth.

47. The coast NE of the Mtakatye River mouth consists of steep cliffs for about 0.75 mile as far as the small low-lying and sandy beach of Strachan's Bay. Thereafter as far as Hluleka Bay it is less steep but generally rocky. Inland, the coastal range of hills attains heights of up to 139 m.

48. Lucingweni Hill (31° 49' S, 29° 16' E), a conspicuous speckled hill, 235 m high, lies 2 miles westward of Hluleka Bay and serves to identify the locality.

49. The Mnenu River enters the sea through a narrow channel close to its steep northern entrance point. A sand bar extends across to this channel from the southern entrance point which is wooded and low-lying.

50. Rame Head (31° 48' S, 29° 21' E) is a bold and precipitous rounded headland 1 mile E by N of the mouth of the Mnenu River. The intervening coastline is also precipitous and rocky, rising to a height of 124 m two cables inland from a point halfway between the mouth and the headland. Rame Head stands out prominently when seen from either the SW or NE.

51. Half a mile to the NW of Rame Head the Mthonga River reaches the sea. Its mouth is closed by a sand bar. During SW winds, providing there was little or no onshore swell, it might be feasible to attempt landing here (see section 5.5.3). A patch of low marshy ground lies within the sand bar.

52. Mpande Bay (31° 48' S, 29° 21' E) is entered between Rame Head and Brazen Head some 5 miles to the NNE. The coastline of the bay is steep and fringed with rocky ledges except for the sandy beaches at the mouths of the Mthonga, Mpande and Sinangwana Rivers.

53. Sharks Point, 1.5 miles northward of Rame Head, is rocky and the ground within it rises steeply to a summit, 87 m high, which is bare except for a small clump of trees. A similar summit, 100 m high, lies 0.5 mile to the southward, midway between the point and the Mthonga River mouth.

54. The vicinity of the Mpande River, 2.5 miles to the northward of Rame Head, may be identified by the low ground and the sandy beach at its mouth, with high ground each side of it. There is a single white building behind the beach and two more clusters of smaller, less prominent buildings on either side of a small dark coastal hill close NE of the beach. A reef of above-water and submerged rocks runs parallel with the beach and about a cable off it.

55. The position of the closed mouth of the Sinangwana River, just over 3 miles N by E of Rame Head, may be identified by the low-lying land which lies between the high ground to the south and the steep cliffs to the north of it. The southern entrance point is low and grassy with a number of white houses on it, and a dark above-water rock close off it.

56. Mpotshotsho (285 m), a conspicuous dome-shaped hill of lighter colour than the surrounding country, lies about 2 miles to the westward of the Sinangwana River mouth. It shows up well from the southward and eastward, but is masked from the northward. Kunkulu (418 m), lying 2 miles westward of Mpotshotsho, is a flat-topped mountain with its summit broken by several hummocks.

57. Brazen Head (31° 44' S, 29° 24' E), 2 miles ENE of the Sinangwana River mouth, is one of the most conspicuous features of this part of the coast. From the low ground at the river mouth to the head, steep wooded cliffs rise to heights of some 150 m. Halfway along this stretch there is a wooded ravine where the small Ndluzula River reaches the sea. For about 3 cables SW and 4 cables northward of the head, the cliffs are bare and almost perpendicular. From the top of the cliffs at the head the ground slopes more gradually to Ndluzula Hill (242 m), about 4 cables to the WNW. There is a clump of trees at the summit of this hill which, from certain directions, gives the appearance of having a double summit.
58. A very small beach by an inlet into the cliffs about 6 cables to the north of Brazen Head might offer an emergency landing with a SW wind and no onshore swell, but it should only be attempted in case of absolute necessity.
59. Tyelimanzi, 5 miles NW of Brazen Head, is a flat-topped mountain, 495 m high, with a sharper peak, 436 m high, some 8 cables to the NE. Both these summits show prominently when not masked by Brazen Head, but the NE peak becomes indistinguishable when viewed from south of Rame Head.
60. Mngazi Bay is entered between Brazen Head and a steep rocky point a mile to the eastward of the Mngazi River and close southward of the westernmost of the two Green Peaks (see section 5.5.67).
61. Cliffs continue northward from Brazen Head to another steep headland only 4 cables away, the indentation between them being generally rocky. The emergency landing beach mentioned in the last section is close northward of this second headland. From here a lower and much indented rocky shore, with a few small sandy beaches, extends for just over 2 miles in a N by E direction to the mouth of the Mngazana River, at the southern entrance point of which is Black Pudding Hill, a prominent dome shaped hill, 62 m high. A group of holiday cottages may be seen on the ridge and in the valley close SW of it. A prominent ledge of dark above-water rocks extends southward from the base of this hill. A bushy hill, 80 m high, with a prominent sand patch on its southern side, is situated some 6 cables SW of Black Pudding Hill. This sand patch cannot be seen when viewed from the eastward or northward.
62. Within the entrance to Mngazana River, low marsh land and mangrove swamps extend for some 2 miles upstream and these stretch northward from the north bank for about 0.75 mile before the ground rises steeply to wooded hilly country. At one time it was proposed by the Transkei authorities to develop a port at the mouth of this river and plans were prepared by a French engineering consortium. The scheme is now in abeyance.
63. At the mouth of the Mngazana River there is a possible landing place at the sandy northern entrance point. As with all such reputed landing places along this coast, it should be used with extreme caution and then only in dire necessity.
64. From the mouth of the Mngazana River a sandy beach extends ENE for some 2 miles to the mouth of the Mngazi River. Midway along this stretch there is a rocky promontory close SE of which there is a rock awash. A flat-topped grassy hill lies close within the coast, its 120 m high summit being 4 cables NNE of the rocky promontory. On the NE spur of this hill there is a patch of bare earth.
65. As will be seen from the chart, there is a 3 mile long bank, over which the least depth is 27.5 m, lying about 2 miles off and parallel to the coast between Brazen Head and the rocky promontory mentioned above. Halfway between this and the prominent sand patch HMSAS PROTEA, during the course of her survey in 1927, anchored on several occasions in from 23 to 29 m of water, with Rame Head well open of Brazen Head. This provided fair shelter in moderate SW winds and she was able to remain at anchor throughout the night on more than one occasion. During easterly or NE winds, however, when a heavy swell sets into all the bays between Rame Head and Cape Hermes, there is no sheltered anchorage.
66. The low SW entrance point to the Mngazi River (31° 40' S, 29° 28' E) may be identified by the broad patch of unusually white sand there. The NW entrance point rises to high ground and the resort of Umgazi Mouth, with its hotel and holiday cottages, can be seen close within it. The mouth of the river is generally open close to its NW entrance point.
67. One mile eastward of the Mngazi River mouth is the western of the two Green Peaks (31° 40' S, 29° 28' E). These remarkable peaks, a little over 0.5 mile apart, are situated close within a steep rocky shore. The west peak, 161 m high, is covered with grass; the east peak, 199 m high, is thickly covered with vegetation on its south side with a vertical cliff close to a grassy summit. This summit appears light green when seen from the southward. Both peaks are more conspicuous when viewed from the eastward.
68. A steep coastline, rising from a rocky beach, continues for just over a mile E by N from the point close southward of the western Green Peak to Sugarloaf Rock, a conical rock about 8 m high, which is connected to the mainland by a causeway of sand and rock. It is prominent when viewed from close offshore to the SW or NE, but is difficult to distinguish from any great distance off the coast.
69. Between Sugarloaf Rock and Cape Hermes, some 4 miles to the NE, the coast remains generally high, the land rising steeply from rocky shores. There are, however, two low-lying inlets with excellent bathing beaches at their heads

known as Third Beach and Second Beach, respectively, at distances of 1.25 and 2 miles from Sugarloaf Rock and not far from Port St Johns. Second Beach might provide another emergency landing place. Between the two beaches there is a grassy coastal hill, 130 m high, which appears lighter than its surroundings. Two white houses are prominent above Third Beach, and at Second Beach there are several houses which can be seen when viewed from the eastward. Halfway between Second Beach and Cape Hermes there is a prominent dark gap or ravine in the cliffs, which here attain heights of about 105 m.

70. Cape Hermes (31° 38' S, 29° 33' E) (Reference point No 3) is a rocky point off which dark, above-water rocks, the highest being 2.5 m, extend eastward for 0.75 cable. Within the cape the land rises to a grassy summit, 134 m high. On the eastern slopes of this summit a light is exhibited at an elevation of 55 m from a *grey octagonal stone tower* with a *white dome* 13 m in height.

Chart SAN 60, 85 - INT 7550, 130

5.6 CAPE HERMES TO NORTH SAND BLUFF

(Reference points 3 to 4)

1. A bold coastline, with high cliffs backed by prominent coastal hills, extends for some 15 miles NE from Cape Hermes as far as the mouth of the Mkozi River. Numerous rivers flowing through wooded ravines intersect the coastal range, and these as a rule have sandy beaches at their mouths.
2. From the mouth of the Mkozi River the coast trends for some 3.5 miles in an E by N direction, the cliffs becoming regular and flat-topped, decreasing gradually in heights from about 75 to 55 m.
3. From Waterfall Bluff to Port Edward the cliffs along the coast are generally low with open grassland within them, the positions of the mouths of rivers being apparent from the thicker vegetation lining the ravines through which the rivers flow.
4. The strength of the Agulhas Current is felt closer inshore in the vicinity of Cape Hermes than elsewhere between the Mbashe River and Waterfall Bluff, probably because the edge of the continental shelf here is only between 3 and 4 miles off the coast. During the day, discolored water from the various rivers may assist the mariner in assessing whether the counter current is running or not, and if so, how close to the shore. At night a north-bound vessel should sound frequently and adjust course as necessary to avoid being set into the bight SW of Waterfall Bluff.
5. The landscape in the vicinity of Cape Hermes, Port St. Johns (31° 37' S, 29° 33' E) and the Mzimvubu River is most spectacular and easily identified from seaward. The river is entered between Cape Hermes and Porpoise Point about 0.75 mile to the northward. It runs through a deep ravine which, in the course of geological time, has worn through a tableland some 365 m high. On each side of this ravine there is a terrace about halfway up and above these, steep cliffs rise to the summits. The highest parts of these cliffs, known as The Gates, are about 2 miles upstream from Cape Hermes. Mount Thesiger (the western Gate) attains a height of 375 m, and Mount Sullivan (the eastern Gate) a height of 355 m. On the NW part of the latter there is a remarkable gap known as the Devil's Bite.
6. A rocky coast extends for 3 cables to the NW before turning to the northward and becoming sandy. This beach, which is inside the breakers over the bar, is known as First Beach and it extends for 5 cables to Camp Point where the width of the river is restricted to about 0.5 cable between drying sand banks. Landing is feasible at Paul's Cove at the southern end of this beach provided that the bar has been successfully negotiated. From Camp Point, for about 1 mile to The Gates, the banks of the river are so steep that small craft can lie alongside them. A wharf, in a bad state of repair, is situated on the SW bank just over 3 cables NW of Camp Point. According to a survey carried out by SAS NATAL in 1965, the wharf had a depth of 2.4 m alongside it, and the channel inside the bar had depths of from 1.5 to 4.8 m in it (see sketch plan). Depths remain fairly constant in the channel as far as The Gates, thereafter they become more irregular with several drying sand and mud banks as far as the Pondoland Bridge, some 2 miles upstream. The river is tidal for a distance of 12 miles from its mouth.
7. The bar, which extends right across the mouth of the river from the rocky coast NW of Cape Hermes to the coast about 0.5 mile eastward of Porpoise Point, is between one and two cables wide. The sea breaks heavily along its whole length in all weathers, especially after SW gales, when the rollers are high. Under average conditions the outer edge of the breakers is close within the 5 m line. The bar is of quicksand, and the channel across it is constantly shifting. In 1959 the bar was reported to be dry at all states of the tide. In November and December 1965, during the course of SAS NATAL's survey, the channel was on the western side, but there appeared to be very little water over it. During December 1979 it appeared that the channel was again on the western side, and it looked as if it might have a depth of about 1 m over it. In 1997 there were 3 channels, one to the W, one to the E and the main one in the centre.
8. No boat should attempt to enter the river without obtaining up-to-date information from the local Port St Johns authorities. Sharks are numerous both inside and outside the river, and should a boat be swamped in the breakers it could be extremely dangerous for the crew. During the flood tidal stream, which is regular, a strong counter stream normally sets southward close inshore along First Beach and the rocky shore towards Cape Hermes, and small craft are warned not to attempt to land at Paul's Cove (see above) except at slack water or on the ebb.
9. Port St Johns (31° 37' S, 29° 33' E), with its hotels, is a popular holiday resort on the west bank of the Mzimvubu River, and it is connected to the east bank by a ferry which crosses the river from close northward of Camp Point.
10. It is uncertain how the name Port St Johns originated. In 1552 a Portuguese galleon, the SAO JOAO, was stranded near the mouth of the Mtamvuna River, 47 miles to the NE, and it is possible that the site of the wreck was mistakenly thought to be at the mouth of the Mzimvubu River and the settlement became known by this name. The first known vessel to cross the bar was the British schooner ROSEBUD in 1846, and for a while the port was called Rosebud Bay. In 1878 an

agreement was made with the local Pondo chief and the harbour was ceded to the British when General Thesiger and Commodore Sullivan, in HMS ACTIVE, crossed the bar and hoisted the British flag near the present Camp Point. In 1884 the port and the surrounding territory was formally annexed to the Cape Colony. The last vessel of any size to cross the bar was the coaster BORDER in 1944.

11. Since then the bar has silted up considerably and several plans for opening up the port again were considered and later abandoned.

12. Gordon's Bay, which is entered between Cape Hermes and Bluff Point 2.5 miles to the NE, provides fair anchorage in a position 8 cables eastward of the lighthouse, in a depth of about 18 m, fine brown sand providing good holding. This is exposed, however, to winds from NE to WSW. More shelter might be found closer inshore in about 9 m of water with the lighthouse bearing WSW distant 4 cables (see sketch plan). Caution is always necessary when anchoring in the bay as the depths are liable to periodic change. Normally there is very little current at these anchorage's but, what there is, sets as a counter current in a NE direction. After rainy weather when the river comes down in spate, there is often a strong flow setting in a more easterly direction away from the land.

13. Porpoise Point, at the eastern entrance point to the Mzimvubu River, is fringed with rocks and is backed by a small conical hill 18 m high. Behind this hill, wooded land, upon which are several white houses, rises gently at first and then sharply to a grassy terrace backed by the Mount Sullivan massif.

14. Bluff Point (31° 36' S, 29° 36' E), some 2 miles NE by E from Porpoise Point, rises steeply from black rocky cliffs to a bare summit of 116 m. The intervening coast is rockbound except for a 4 cable long sandy beach close westward of the point. Towards the western end of this beach there is a line of small white houses close to the coast which extends westward for a further 3 cables. Except for the 116 m summit the rest of the coast is wooded.

15. St Johns Reef, consisting of two rocks awash joined by a submerged rocky ledge, lies one cable SE of Bluff Point. It is reported that there is clear water between this reef and the coast, but it would be most unwise for any small craft to attempt this passage without having local knowledge. A detached shoal, with a least depth of 10 m over it, is situated 13 cables SW of the point and 4 cables offshore.

16. From Bluff Point a rocky coast trends in a NE direction for 12 cables to the low southern entrance point of the Nkodusweni River, off which there is a ledge of black above-water rocks extending for about cable in a NE direction. Close within the point the ground rises to Poenskop, a light green grassy hillock, 41 m high, which shows up prominently against the darker green vegetation of the forested hills behind it. A low sandy beach, backed by scrub, extends for about 0.5 mile in a NNE direction from a 26 m high wooded sand hill at the northern entrance point of the Nkodusweni River. The river mouth is generally closed but may open after heavy rains.

17. Dome Bluff, a conspicuous, bush covered, rounded hill, 126 m high, rises steeply from the sea about a mile NE of Poenskop. It is prominent when viewed from the southward. For about a mile in the vicinity the coast is fringed with submerged rocks extending seaward for about a cable. Except during very calm weather, the sea breaks heavily over these rocks.

18. The Mtafufu River enters the sea about 13 cables NE of Dome Bluff. Both the southern and northern entrance points are low, and within the river the northern bank is marshy for a width of about 0.25 mile before the land rises rapidly in very thickly wooded slopes. A sandy beach, backed by scrub, extends for about 7 cables in a NE direction to a bluff point within which a bare slope rises to a grassy summit of 112 m. From here the coast is rocky and steep for a further 3 miles to the mouth of the Mzintlava River. There are two small sandy beaches, lying at the mouths of small streams, along this 3 mile stretch, and submerged rocks extend for about a cable offshore at several places. Dakane, a rounded hill 103 m high, is situated close to the coast between the two small beaches.

19. Mgoma Hill (31°31' S, 29°41'.5 E) is a prominent conical hill, 94 m high, which stands above the bluff eastern entrance point of the Mzintlava River. This hill is also bare with a number of stony outcrops on its slopes and, when viewed from the SE, it stands out well against the darker vegetation of the hills on the north bank of the ravine through which the river runs. A large cave in the southern part of the bluff close to the waterline further serves to identify it. The western entrance point, which is partially covered with scrub, slopes more gently to a bare summit, over 100 m high, upon which the white buildings of a trading store can be seen. Close to the south bank of the river just over a mile from the entrance, is Manthlonetchwa (257 m), a conspicuous bare hill with two flat summits.

20. During NE winds, landing might be possible on the beach at the mouth of the Mzintlava River close to the foot of Mgoma Hill.

21. Dark, steep cliffs extend for 7 cables in a N by E direction from the point south of Mgoma Hill to a small sandy bay at the closed mouth of the Mguga River. Close NE of this bay there are some black off-lying rocks and, at a distance of 1.5 miles

NE of Mgoma Hill, is the outcrop of Lityelentaka, a 9 m high black rock which shows up prominently against a light green grassy background. It is connected to the mainland by a rocky ledge, and submerged rocks extend for a short distance to seaward of it.

22. Montshe Point, lying nearly 2 miles NNE of Lityelentaka, consists of a rocky ledge extending southward from a grassy summit which is wooded in places on its southern side. Close WSW of the point is a low grassy headland at the NE entrance point of the Mzimpunzi River. The northern bank of this river is heavily wooded and rises to a summit of 194 m at a distance of 5 cables from the mouth. From the SW entrance point a sandy beach extends southward for about 2 cables. In general the coast in this vicinity is backed by thickly wooded hills with occasional bare grassy patches.

23. The low-lying mouth of the Mbotyi River, 8 cables N by E of Montshe Point, is easily identified by a group of white houses close to its eastern entrance point. There are also several houses and a store near the western entrance point, but these are not so prominent being partially obscured by bushes. The high, flat escarpment, which here is about 1.5 miles inland, gradually approaches the coast and merges into the cliffs which extend eastward to Waterfall Bluff (see below). Between the mouth of the Mbotyi River and that of the Mkozi River, about 2 miles to the ENE, there are bare grassy coastal hills fronted by sandy rock-fringed beaches.

24. Mgcagcama Hill (100 m), situated 7 cables E by N of the Mkozi River mouth, is a grassy coastal hill with an indentation on its south face. Behind this hill is the higher ground of the escarpment mentioned in the previous paragraph. Close westward of the hill there is a small sandy cove known as Drew's Camp where landing might be possible during NE winds. At the head of this cove there is a small terraced waterfall.

25. Waterfall Bluff, (31° 26' S, 29° 49' E) a bold cliff about 75 m high with numerous caves along its length, extends eastward from Mgcagcama Hill for some 3 miles before ending in a low rounded point about 7 cables further to the ENE. On the bluff there are two conspicuous waterfalls. The western fall drops sheer into the sea from a cleft in the cliff about two thirds of the way up it. The eastern fall, which is the more spectacular, drops in terraces. In dry seasons the falls are greatly reduced in size.

26. As mentioned in section 5.6.4, vessels bound to the northward at night should take precautions against being set into the bight to the southward of Waterfall Bluff. During NE winds less sea may be expected under the lee of the bluff than elsewhere and, it has been reported, small coasters used to occasionally anchor there, though this cannot be recommended except in an emergency. During southerly winds considerable swell sets into the bight.

27. The closed mouth of the Luphuthana River, 1.75 miles ENE of the eastern waterfall, is prominent because of the wooded ravine behind it through which the river runs. Elsewhere on both sides of the river the rock-bound coast is low and grassy, and that part of it between Waterfall Bluff and the river is covered with numerous white boulders giving it a speckled appearance. There is a group of white houses close to the NE entrance point.

28. It is reported that landing may be effected at the mouth of the Luphuthana River during SW winds provided that there is little swell. Normally, however, there is a heavy surf along this stretch of coast.

29. Between the mouth of the Luphuthana River and Goss Point, which is 2 miles to the NE, the coast is somewhat featureless, but the vicinity of the Mkweni River mouth is indicated by dark vegetation and a number of boulders close to its rocky SW entrance point. Otherwise the low cliffs along the shore line are backed by grassy plains. Goss Point is inconspicuous but a light brown patch at the head of a small indentation close westward of it might help to identify it.

30. As at the mouth of the Luphuthana River, precarious landing might, in an emergency, be made at a small sandy beach close westward of the Mkweni River mouth. The BBC CHINA ran aground on 17 October 2004. The stranded wreck is in position 31° 23' .30 S 029° 54' .28 E between Lambasi Bay and Goss Point. The length of the vessel is 122.23 metres.

31. Lambasi Bay (31° 23' S, 29° 55' E), 2.5 miles NE of the Mkweni River mouth, is a small indentation at the mouth of the Tezana River, which enters the sea through a deep bush-covered ravine. On the north side of the bay the houses of Port Grosvenor and a group of huts close ENE are noticeable from seaward. The southern entrance point to the bay is covered with bush in which there is an inconspicuous intrusion of sand.

32. Port Grosvenor is the site of what was possibly the most famous wreck along the Southern African coast. On 4 August 1782 the GROSVENOR, a British Indiaman on her way home, ran aground. Fourteen out of the 150 persons aboard were drowned. The remainder landed but, except for 17 known survivors, their fate was never known with any certainty. In 1790 an expedition set out to investigate some of the rumours concerning them and, in the vicinity of the Mngazi River, they found three old women, apparently English, living in a mixed community of some 400 persons of non-African origin who were thought to be descendants of shipwreck victims. During the course of this expedition the site of the wreck was visited but only a few fragments of wreckage were found. Later visitors discovered cannon that had been washed ashore together with a few gold and silver coins. Since then various syndicates from 1883 up to the present day have

unsuccessfully tried to locate the wreck and its treasure.

33. Grosvenor Hill, 338 m high and situated some 3 miles NNW of Port Grosvenor, is at the NE end and highest part of the flat range of hills extending from the escarpment in the vicinity of the Mkosi River and running parallel to the coast. It is quoin-shaped when viewed from the southward but appears rounded when bearing about 320° or less.

34. Kilroe Beach, 1.5 miles NE of Port Grosvenor, is a small sandy indentation close westward of a rocky rounded point. A few wooded sand hills close behind it and a lone white house within the point help to identify the locality. Apart from this, the remainder of the coast almost as far as the mouth of the Msikaba River, some 3 miles further to the NE, is rocky and comparatively featureless.

35. The entrance to the Msikaba River (31° 19' S, 29° 58' E) forms a noticeable indentation in the coastline, and the river itself is wider than most of the rivers along this part of the coast. Close to the SW entrance point of the river there is a reef of above-water rocks about 3 m in height and a cable offshore. From this reef a bar extends across the mouth of the river, over which the sea breaks. This bar would appear to be impassable but its configuration is liable to considerable change.

36. Extending southward from the SW entrance point there is a series of green grassy hills at the summit of one of which is South Sand Bluff Light (31°19'.6 S, 29°57'.7 E), which is exhibited at an elevation of 75 m from a white circular concrete tower with a *red* lanternhouse, 10 m high.

37. South Sand Bluff, a conspicuous 72 m high dome-shaped hill, lies close within the NE entrance point of the river. It is topped with dark vegetation and has a white sand patch covering its lower slopes. This patch cannot be seen when bearing less than 270°, when the domed summit of the hill appears sharper, resembling a pyramid.

38. On the north bank of the river close westward of South Sand Bluff is the headquarters of the Mkambati Leper Reserve. This consists of a number of buildings surrounded by tall trees, and is prominent when viewed from the southward. Less prominent is the small settlement of South Sand Bluff close to the SW entrance point of the river.

39. On the grassy coastal slope about 1.5 miles NE of South Sand Bluff and 0.5 mile inland there is a prominent patch of bush, and another similar patch 0.5 mile further north of that.

40. The Mgwegwe River reaches the sea at the head of a small inlet some 2 miles NE of South Sand Bluff. A holiday camp for lepers is situated at the river mouth, and just inside it there are patches of bush on each bank. Rocky ledges mark the southern entrance point of the inlet and there are low cliffs to the north of it.

41. The Mkambati River (31° 16' S, 30° 02' E) enters the sea over several low waterfalls about 1 mile NE of the Mgwegwe River mouth. The gap in the flat skyline caused by the gorge through which the river flows is noticeable when viewed from the eastward.

42. The position of the mouth of the Mtentu River (31° 15' S, 30° 03' E), 2 miles NE of the Mkambati River mouth, is indicated by the deep, wooded gorge behind it through which the river runs, and also by Quoin Hill, a 59 m high dark, bush-covered sand hill with a double summit, which lies 7 cables SSW of it. Quoin Hill provides a conspicuous landmark, particularly when viewed from the southward. A stretch of sandy beach, fringed with rocky ledges, extends from the base of the hill to the Mtentu River mouth.

43. A sandy bank between the Mkambati and Mtentu Rivers appears to be extending seaward. In recent years, during calm to moderate conditions of wind and sea, heavy breakers and increased swell were observed up to 5 cables offshore opposite Quoin Hill. Ships coasting in this vicinity are advised to preserve an offing of at least 1.5 miles.

44. At about 1.5 miles NE of the Mtentu River mouth the coast curves to the northward, forming a rounded point inside which there is a line of trees, which show up prominently when viewed from the southward. A bare hill, 74 m high and upon which there is a single dark bush, is situated close within the point.

45. The mouth of the Sikombe River (31° 13' S, 30° 04' E), 2 miles NE of the Mtentu River mouth, has low-lying banks. From the northern entrance point the coast again trends in a NE direction, becoming sandy and backed by low sand hills covered with thick vegetation as far as the mouth of the Kwanyana River 2.75 miles further on.

46. Between the two rivers there is a coastal range, partially grass-covered, which lies parallel to the coast and about 2 cables within it. The highest part of this range, 89 m, lies 1.25 miles NE of the Sikombe River mouth. Red Hill (31° 12' S, 30° 05' E) lying 0.5 mile further to the NE, consists of patches of bare red earth which show prominently amidst the surrounding dark bush at the NE end of the ridge.

47. The mouth of the Kwanyana River (31° 11' S, 30° 06' E)(see above) may be identified by a prominent patch of sand at

its northern entrance point. Cultivated lands may be seen close inland from the mouth.

48. From the mouth of the Kwanyana River a sandy coast fringed with rocky ledges extends NE for 6 miles to the mouth of the Mzamba River. Several rivers reach the sea along this stretch. The closed mouth of the Mtolane River, about 2 miles from that of Kwanyana River, is inconspicuous but may be located by a 77 m high wooded coastal hill close SW of it. When bearing NW the low-lying mouth is backed by a prominent gap in the skyline, and a solitary white house at the summit of an intermediate range of grassy hills.

49. The Mnyameni River reaches the sea some 2.5 miles NE from the Kwanyana River mouth. The southern entrance point to this river is sandy and that on the north has a bush-covered sand dune on it. The river runs through a ravine, the steep cliffs of which may be seen about a mile inland from the mouth.

50. The Mpahlanyana and Mpahlane Rivers reach the sea close to each other about 2.5 miles NE of the Mnyameni River mouth. There are numerous bush covered sand dunes and a large expanse of sandy beach in the vicinity of their mouths.

51. A prominent grassy hill, 81 m high and situated midway between the Mnyameni River and the two last mentioned rivers, is situated 6 cables inland. A trigonometrical beacon at its summit shows up well in the early morning sun.

52. The mouth of the Mzamba River (31° 06' S, 30° 10' E) is about a mile NE of that of the Mpahlane River. This river runs through a deep ravine the cliffs of which show prominently where they begin at a distance inland of about a mile. The southern entrance point to the river is wooded with a 16 m high hillock close within it. The northern entrance point is low and sandy, rising to a bright green hill, 75 m high and about 0.5 mile to the NNE. At its summit there is a trigonometrical beacon which, like the one 2.5 miles to the SW, shows up well in the early morning sun. Mzamba Beach, a cluster of white holiday houses, lies between the base of this hill and the river mouth.

53. The mouth of the Mtentwana River lies just over a mile N by E of the Mzamba River mouth. The intervening coast consists at first of a wide beach fringed with rocks, followed by a rocky point some 2 cables SE of the 75 m high summit and thereafter by another sandy stretch at the mouth of the Mtentwana River. The whole of this stretch is backed by thick bush.

54. A coastal range, lying about 0.75 mile inland from the Sikombe River, appears to extend in a northerly direction, being interrupted by various ravines, as far as Siratchweni (414 m) some 4 miles inland. This prominent hill is at the summit of a steep cliff which is part of the ravine through which the Mtamvuna River runs.

55. The Mtamvuna River (31° 05' S, 30° 12' E) forms the boundary between the Provinces of Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Its mouth, 2.75 miles SW of North Sand Bluff (see below), is always open, but the bar across it is not navigable even for small craft. A cantilever bridge close within the mouth is conspicuous. High, reddish-coloured cliffs, forming the river banks about 1 mile inland, are prominent.

56. The coast between the mouths of the Mtentwana and Mtamvuna Rivers is sandy, backed by a strip of bush covered dunes. Within the dunes there is a fine stretch of grassy downland. A large hotel complex has been built close southward of the river, providing a conspicuous mark. The NE entrance point to the river and its eastern bank are thickly wooded.

57. From the mouth of the Mtamvuna River to North Sand Bluff, the coast is sandy and backed by thick vegetation for the first 0.5 mile as far as the mouth of the small Zolwane River, thereafter the built up area of Port Edward lines the beach which is now fringed with rocky ledges.

58. North Sand Bluff (31° 03' S, 30° 14' E)(Reference point No 4), a conspicuous conical hill, 73 m high, is situated close to the southern entrance point of a fairly wide inlet at the mouth of the small Sandlundlu River to the north of Port Edward. 1.5 Cables off this southern entrance there is a rock awash.

59. North Sand Bluff is known locally as Tragedy Hill because of a massacre of Langeni tribes people by a Zulu raiding party in 1831.

60. North Sand Bluff Light is exhibited at an elevation of 38 m from a *white* circular concrete tower, 22 m in height with a *red* lanternhouse, situated 7 cables southward of North Sand Bluff.

61. Midway between the light and the bluff there is a prominent cluster of red-roofed terrace houses.

62. Nkulu Tumuli are two light coloured, conspicuous summits at the NE end of a range of hills extending from the upper reaches of the Mtamvuna River. The southern summit is about 3 miles NE of Siratschweni (see section 5.6.55) and 3.5 miles NW of North Sand Bluff.

CHAPTER 6

PORT EDWARD TO DURBAN

Charts SAN 4, 60, 85 (INT 7550), 130, 131, 135, 1029, 1030 (INT 7561), 1031 (INT 7562)

6.1	REFERENCE POINTS		
No.	Reference	Latitude	Longitude
			Distance
			S
	Between		
E			
1	North Sand Bluff	31°02'.5	
		30°13'.5	
2	Port Shepstone Light	30°44'.5	23
		30°27'.5	
3	Green Point Light	30°15'	34
		30°46'.6	
4	South Breakwater, Durban	29°52'	27
		31°04'	

6.2	LIST OF DANGERS		
No.	Danger	Latitude	Longitude
			Paragraph
			S
	No.		
E			
1	Shoaling - less than 10 m	30°59'	
		30°17'	
		6.4.13	
2	Shoal water - less than 7 m	30°57'	
		30°18'	
		6.4.14	
3	Protea Banks area	30°50'	
		30°28'	
		6.4.31	
4	Aliwal Shoal area	30°16'	
		30°50'	
		6.5.49	
5	5.4 m shoal	30°10'	
		30°50'	
		6.6.11	
6	Illovo Spit	30°09'	
		30°52'	
		6.6.16	
7	<i>Griqualand</i> -wreck with dangerous cargo	30°05'	
		30°56'	
		6.6.20	
8	The Dump	29°52'	
		31°05'	
		6.6.35	

Charts SAN 4, 60, 85 - INT 7550, 130, 131, 135

6.3 GENERAL

1. The coast between Port Edward and Durban, generally known as the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast, consists of an almost unbroken built-up ribbon of urban development. Numerous holiday townships and residential areas with prominent buildings provide a panorama that is unequalled elsewhere on the Southern African coast. In between the houses there are coastal hills covered with lush vegetation, sugar cane plantations and pine trees.
2. By day prominent road and railway bridges spanning the generally closed mouths of rivers provide convenient mile-stones for coastal traffic, as do the clusters of lights at each township in succession during the night.
3. These coastal resorts are beginning to encroach on each other and in most cases the buildings on the coastal line are continuous.
4. Within the ranges which run parallel with the coast at distances inland of between 4 and 8 miles, the summits of hills cannot always be distinguished from seaward because of the prevailing heat-haze along this part of the coast.
5. There are numerous *Norfolk Island Pine trees* on the coastal hills, many of which are very tall. When they can be seen, it is, with few exceptions, often difficult to distinguish one from another.
6. The shoreline consists of sandy beaches, some of which are clear of fringing rocks, and also some stretches where rocky ledges prevail, though these generally do not extend seaward for any great distance.
7. Depths increase rapidly out to the 30 m isobath which lies usually a mile or less offshore. Except for Protea Banks, 5 miles south of Port Shepstone, the dangerous Aliwal Shoal area 2.5 miles eastward of Green Point, and possibly Illovo Spit to seaward of the town of that name, there are no known dangers outside of a mile off the Natal South Coast.
8. Shark nets. Shark nets have been deployed off the KwaZulu-Natal Coast for many years. In 1997 they were installed at 44 beaches and consist of triple and double lines of nets. On average 110 m in length and having a 6.5 m depth they are laid outside the breaker line in approximately 11 to 15 m of water (200 to 300 m offshore). The lines are marked by two floats at each end. After heavy weather the nets are liable to move. Vessels entering a Shark net area could foul their propellers and rudders and it is therefore strongly recommended that a good lookout is kept off this coast and that vessels do not close the coast inside the 30 m isobath. (A list of resorts having shark nets is included in the *Annual Summary of Notices to Mariners*.)
9. Wrecks. 62 Vessels are on record as having been lost through stranding on the coastal area covered in this chapter. Most in the vicinity of Durban and approaches.
10. Cellular telephone masts. These masts proliferate along the KwaZulu-Natal North and South Coasts and many more are in the process of being erected. Where their presence will materially aid navigation they will be referred to and added to the charts. They are invariably fitted with *red* obstruction lights.

Chart SAN 60

11. The edge of the continental shelf, as defined by the 200 m isobath, lies about 5 miles off Port Edward, 7 miles off Port Shepstone and Scottburgh and 5 miles off Durban Bluff. The Agulhas Current is at its strongest in the vicinity of the shelf edge and between South Sand Bluff and Port Shepstone, where the average rate is about 2.5 knots in spring and autumn and slightly less during summer and winter. The rate decreases to the NE of Port Shepstone, and between Green Point and Durban a counter current may frequently be encountered within 2 miles of the shore. After prolonged SW winds in the vicinity of Durban, the counter current is often experienced further offshore. In poor visibility northbound vessels are warned against possible onshore sets between South Sand Bluff and Durban.
12. Southbound vessels normally keep further to seaward to take advantage of the current, but when a fresh NE wind is blowing with a falling barometer, and a change to SW winds has been forecast, they should stand in to cross the 100 m line in order to avoid possible damage from Abnormal Waves (*see Sailing Directions Volume 1 Section 3.6.15*).

Chart SAN 130

6.4 NORTH SAND BLUFF TO PORT SHEPSTONE LIGHT

(Reference points 1 to 2)

1. From North Sand Bluff (31° 03' .4 S, 30° 13' .5 E) as far as Margate, 13 miles to the NE by N, the coast consists of rocky ledges alternating with sandy bays most of which are situated at the closed mouths of rivers. Submerged rocks extend offshore as much as 2 cables in places, but outside these there are no off-lying dangers. The coast is steep-to generally, except off the mouths of certain rivers as will be described later.
2. From Margate to Port Shepstone, a further 9 miles in the same directions, several rivers enter the sea. Their mouths are generally closed except after heavy rains. Bridges close to the mouths of these rivers provide a ready means of identifying them.
3. Evango Cliff (30°49' S, 30°15' E), which is the most conspicuous summit in the vicinity, is a wedge-shaped mountain, some 7 miles NW of Margate, which extends in a northerly direction for about a mile, ending in a steep bluff. It is most conspicuous when viewed from the southward, becoming less so when seen from the NE. A 450 m summit, which is strewn with light-colored boulders, lies just over 4 miles north of the northern of the two Nkulu Tumuli (see section 5.6.63) and some 6 miles inland. None of the other summits in the vicinity is prominent.
4. From the inlet to the northward of North Sand Bluff (see section 5.6.59) there is a comparatively low rock-bound coast stretching for 0.5 mile to the mouth of the Ku-Boboyi River. This coast is clear of houses but, close northward of a bright green 65 m high hill about a mile inland, there is the prominent red-roofed estate of Sea View. The house is surrounded by smaller farm buildings and the typical pine trees of Natal. Between the farm and the coast there are sugar cane fields.
5. On the south ridge of the above inlet there are a number of large white houses which can be seen from the Eastward but which are otherwise not at all prominent. There are sugar cane fields on the north side of the river.
6. A sandy beach, free from off-lying rocks, extends for some 4 cables NE of the mouth of the KuBoboyi River.
7. With the exception of the small beach at Leisure Bay and the smaller Glenmore Beach (see below), the coast is rocky and backed by occasional low, brown cliffs as far as the mouth of the Tongazi River, 1.5 miles further to the NE. The built-up area extending between the two rivers is known as Leisure Crest.
8. Glenmore Beach lies at the head of a small bay between two rocky points at the southern entrance to the Tongazi River. The southernmost of the two points is composed of dark above-water rocks of which the outermost and highest is about 5 m high. Behind the beach of the resort of the same name consists of a number of large buildings though none are prominent.
9. Portobello, extending for a mile to the NE of the Tongazi River mouth, is a well-wooded residential township with a large number of substantial houses. The coast consists of a sandy beach with a few rocky outcrops outside which submerged rocks extend seaward for short distances of less than a cable.
10. The locality of the small Kandandlovu River to the north of Portobello may be identified by the very wide, low sandy beach at its mouth. The northern bank of this river is wooded and rises to a bare grassy-topped hill, 58 m high and 0.5 mile NNE of the mouth. About 3 cables from the river entrance on the north bank there is a caravan park with a number of small cottages. The coast below the hill is rocky at first before merging into the sandy stretch of Palm Beach, which continues past the low-lying mouth of the Mpenjati River (30°58' S, 30°17' E). The banks on either side of the river are part of a Nature Reserve and are not built up. There is a beacon, *white with a orange top*, on the beach at the southern extremity of the Trafalgar Marine Reserve which extends north to Boulder Rock at Marina Beach, but it is not conspicuous.
11. Behind Palm Beach the residential area of the same name is similar in appearance to and, apart from the wooded area close south of the above-mentioned hill, is virtually a continuation of Portobello.
12. Off the mouth of the Mpenjati River there is evidence that shoaling is taking place and depths of less than 10 m may extend up to 6 cables offshore.
13. From the low-lying coastline at the mouth of the Mpenjati River a rock-bound beach extends to the NE for about 1 mile to a rocky point off which shoal water, with depths of 7 m or less, extends for about 5 cables offshore.
14. The houses at Trafalgar, as the settlement within this coast is called, are somewhat obscured by trees, but there is a bare green hill, 103 m high and a mile inland, which is prominent and has some tall trees to the south of it.

15. From the rocky point mentioned above, a sandy beach extends in a northerly direction for some 8 cables.
16. Except for a small outcrop of low, above-water black rocks about 2/3 of the way along its length, this beach is clear of fringing rocks. Behind the beach the land is flat, bush-covered and marshy along the shores of the lagoon at the mouth of the Umhlangankulu River (not to be confused with the Mhlangankulu River 4 miles NE of Port Shepstone).
17. Trafalgar Marine Reserve. Only shore angling and fishing for certain pelagic fish is allowed between beacon N1 south of Centre Rocks and beacon N2 opposite the southern boundary of the Mpenjati Resort, extending one nautical mile seawards from the high-water mark. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife is the managing agency (Contact number: 031-274 1182/1186).
18. Boulder Rock, light-coloured and about 3 m high, lies at the northern end of a rocky stretch extending for about 2.5 cables NNE from the end of the beach mentioned in the last section. Marina Beach, which is clear of fringing rocks, extends from Boulder Rock for a further 4 cables to Black Rocks which as the name implies, is a stretch of dark-coloured rocks about 3 m high and a mile in length. Behind these rocks there is a prominent group of white terraced houses with red roofs.
19. A tidal pool has been constructed 3 cables south of Boulder Rock.
20. The township of Marina Beach is situated on fairly high ground behind Boulder Rock. Behind the beach itself there is a caravan park on low ground beside a lagoon at the generally closed mouth of the small Kaba River.
21. From Black Rocks a sandy beach, interspersed with several drying rocky ledges, extends NE for 1.5 miles to the rocky southern entrance point of the Mbizane River. The mouth of this river is normally closed by a stretch of sand some 2 cables in length, but a narrow channel occasionally opens to the sea at the southern entrance point. However, after severe floods the whole bar can be swept away and the mouth develops at the northern entrance point. When this occurs the sand bar begins to form on the southern bank, gradually migrating to the northward until the flood channel is closed. The lagoon then fills and eventually spills out at its normal southerly position. The town of Southbroom lies to the SW of the rocky entrance; it is generally wooded and has a number of tall pine trees, but in a clearing there is a fairly prominent building. An 86 m high summit, partly wooded and partly cultivated with sugar cane, lies behind the settlement at a distance of a mile inland.
22. The residential town of Ramsgate extends from close to the Mbizane River as far as the Mvutshini River just over a mile to the NE. A bright green rounded hill behind the town has, at its 101 m high summit, a trigonometrical beacon which stands out prominently in the forenoon sunlight but appears wooded in the afternoon.
23. The Mvutshini River has a road bridge across its sandy mouth. This bridge, together with the SW end of the Evango Cliff range in the background and some tall pine trees at the southern entrance point to the river, provides a prominent landmark.
24. Close northward of the Mvutshini River there is another small river spanned by a less prominent road bridge. At the mouths of these two rivers there are sandy beaches but elsewhere the rest of the coast between Ramsgate and Margate is generally rocky.
25. The town of Margate (30°52' S, 30°22' E) is one of the largest and most popular of the seaside resorts along the Natal South Coast. It has a fine beach, half a mile long between rocky points, which is backed by numerous blocks of flats, several hotels and large buildings which are brilliantly illuminated at night.
26. The rocky point to the SW of the beach has a stout double jetty built out over the rocks for the use of fishermen.
27. There is an Airport situated 1.75 miles NW of the above-mentioned rocky point.
28. The Vungu River reaches the sea 2 miles to the NE of the jetty. A narrow channel leads across the bar at its southern end. A large holiday apartment cluster is situated close to the southern entrance point, and a large brown multi-story block on the N bank provide good landmarks. There is a fishing jetty, of similar construction as the one at Margate, which extends over the rocks close to the southern entrance point. The southern shore is lined with a number of white holiday cottages. On the north shore of the river there is a large *brown* block of apartments which are conspicuous. Evango Cliff (see section 6.4.3) may be seen over the densely wooded river mouth when it bears WNW.
29. The town of Uvongo, between Margate and the Vungu River, is mostly residential and heavily built-over. The intervening coastline is generally rocky. The small indentation called Uvongo Beach is easily recognised by the large cluster of *white* apartments on the south bank and the large *brown* building on the north bank as well as the *dark green bush* between.

30. Protea Banks, a submerged sandy ridge 2.5 miles long and 0.5 mile wide, lies about 4 miles eastward of the mouth of the Vungu River and runs parallel to the coast. The least depth over the ridge is 27.5 m.
31. In 1974 a depth of 14.6 m was reported to lie 3 miles eastward of the Vungu River mouth.
32. The coast now forms a slight bulge between the mouth of the Vungu River and that of the Mhlanga River just over a mile to the NNE. It is generally sandy and fringed with *orange* coloured above-water rocks. Midway between the two mouths there are some low, 3 to 4 m high brownish cliffs. St Michael's-on-Sea (30° 50' S, 30° 24' E) lying behind the coast, is mainly residential. The 54 m trigonometrical beacon on the hill cannot be seen because of a cluster of tall *Norfolk Island Pines* which stand alone. There is a *green TELKOM mast* in the trees and another *red and white* cellular telephone mast close NE. Both display *red obstruction lights* and they will help identify the area.
33. The coast close southward of the Mhlanga River is comparatively low, and the position of the mouth is indicated by a tidal pool built on the rocks at its southern entrance. It protects the small sandy indentation of Surf Bay. A low 3 span road bridge close within the mouth shows prominently during the forenoon when the sun shines on it. A cluster of white buildings at the S end of the bridge will assist in identifying the river. To northward of the mouth the land rises gently to a low bushy hill upon which there are several large houses.
34. A rock-bound sandy beach extends between the mouth of the Mhlanga River and that of the Zotsha River some 2 miles further to the NNE. Shelly Beach, midway between the two rivers, is clear of rocks for some 3 cables and has a sea-side resort of the same name lying behind it. A cutting through which a road runs inland from this resort shows up prominently when viewed from the SE. Apart from this, the area is somewhat featureless, being so heavily wooded that the houses are by no means prominent. Half a mile to the northward of the resort and close to the shore there is the remains of a derelict drive-in cinema; the screen faces inland and in certain light its black-painted back shows up prominently.
35. There is a wide expanse of sand at the generally closed mouth of the Zotsha River. A 6 span arched rail bridge with a road bridge behind it may be seen close within the mouth. Near the southern entrance point there is a group of buildings known as Beach Terminus, as it is here that the narrow-gauge railway between Port Shepstone and Harding turns inland. Half a mile westward of the river mouth there is a prominent green coastal hill, 87 m high, which is bare except for a few solitary trees.
36. The 3.5 mile stretch of coast between the mouth of the Zotsha River and Port Shepstone is, apart from a 65 m high hill midway between the two, somewhat featureless. It is generally sandy with off-lying rocky ledges, but Oslo Beach, lying at the mouth of a small stream about one mile NE of the Zotsha River mouth, is clear of rocks. The road and railway bridges across this stream are not prominent. Two cellular telephone masts, one lattice and one tubular construction painted in *red and white bands* and showing red obstruction lights have been erected on a hill 6 cables N of Zotsha River Mouth.
37. Port Shepstone Light (30° 44'.5 S, 30° 27'.5 E) (Reference point No 2), situated on a dark-coloured low headland on the southern entrance point of the Mzimkulu River, is exhibited, at an elevation of 24 m, from a metal tower 8 m in height and *painted black and white in chequers*. The light structure does not always show up prominently from seaward due to the presence of buildings close inland. A lattice tower is situated on a slight rise close WSW of the lighthouse, it displays *red obstruction lights* at night.
38. The Mzimkulu River flows into the sea through a narrow channel close to its southern entrance point. It has, of recent years, been closed by a sandspit from which small fishing craft may put to sea provided that the weather is calm.
39. The river itself is wide and deep and, close within its mouth, it is spanned by a 15 span road and rail bridge which is prominent during the forenoon when the sun shines on it.
40. In the latter half of the nineteenth century the engineer William Bazley and a group of enterprising men opened the Mzimkulu River mouth to shipping and the first coaster entered the river on 8 May 1880. After this in 1882, harbour works were built and the town of Port Shepstone was laid out, being named after the Administrator of Natal, Sir Theophilus Shepstone. Thereafter a regular shipping service linked Port Shepstone and Durban until the opening of the railway from Durban in 1901, when the harbour as such fell into disuse.
41. Port Shepstone (30° 45' S, 30° 28' E) is, after Amanzimtoti, the largest town on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast. It has a number of large buildings of which a conspicuous red-brick convent, near the crest of a hill a mile to the westward of the light, is the largest. North Shepstone, the village on the opposite bank is smaller and difficult to see because most of the buildings are hidden by trees.
42. A radio tower, 114 m high and 0.5 mile WNW of the light, is *painted red and white in bands* and has a parabolic reflector near the top. *Red obstruction lights* are exhibited from the tower. Another radio tower, 204 m high and standing on an elevation of 699 m, lies 9 miles westward of the light. This tower exhibits *quick flashing and fixed red obstruction*

lights.

Chart SAN 131

6.5 PORT SHEPSTONE LIGHT TO GREEN POINT LIGHT

(Reference points 2 to 3)

1. This stretch of coast, some 34 miles in length, presents few conspicuous natural features. The mouths of the rivers which flow through ravines intersecting the wooded coastal ranges are nearly always closed by sand bars but, because of the bridges which span them, they may be readily identified. Ribbon development, a feature of the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast, is practically continuous and a number of conspicuous buildings mark the more popular resorts.
2. The mouth of the Mtentweni River, 2.5 miles NE by N of Port Shepstone Light, is spanned by a conspicuous railway bridge. The road bridge, about 1.5 cables upstream, is not prominent. A tall *brown and white* apartment building 2 cables NNE of the railway bridge is conspicuous. Close westward of the mouth the ground rises gently to a 75 m high wooded summit. The intervening coastline is generally sandy with a few rocky outcrops of which Sharks Rock, 0.75 mile from the Mzimkulu River mouth, is the most prominent.
3. The resort of Umtentweni, virtually a continuation of North Shepstone, lies close within the coast, many of its smaller houses being obscured by trees.
4. The Mhlangamkulu River reaches the sea 1.5 miles NE by N of the Mtentweni River mouth. The position of its mouth is easily recognized because of the conspicuous railway bridge which spans it, and the higher road bridge close behind it. Several electricity pylons in the vicinity also help to identify it.
5. The suburb of Sea Park lies between the two rivers behind a coastline which is sandy, the first half being clear of rocks but the second fringed with rocky ledges. At the halfway mark there are some quite large sand dunes, one of which is covered with grass. Behind these sand dunes there are some prominent white terraced houses.
6. The mouth of the Domba River, 1.5 miles further to the NE by N, is crossed by a low 2 spanned railway bridge. The road bridge behind it is higher and consists of a single arched concrete span which is more prominent. The sandy beach between the mouths of the Mhlangamkulu and Domba Rivers is fringed with rocky ledges.
7. At Anerley, close southward of the mouth, there is a large cluster of houses of similar construction all of which have red roofs. Anerley is situated at the northern end of, and, is part of the prominent township of Southport.
8. A prominent bare hill, 186 m high with a trigonometrical beacon on its summit, is situated some 2.5 miles WNW of the Domba River mouth.
9. A railway bridge spans the mouth of the Koshwana River, 7.5 cables further to the NNE. This bridge is not prominent when bearing more than 270° because of a rocky point close to the southward. Two *red and white banded* cellular telephone masts displaying *red obstruction lights* are located close W of the railway bridge.
10. A sandy beach clear of rocks extends for 4 cables in a NE by N direction from the above rocky point, thereafter rocky ledges occur off the beach for over a mile past the township of Melville as far as Phumula Rocks (see below).
11. Three cables northward of the end of the sandy beach and 2.5 cables inland there is a red-brick convent which has a wide sweep of grass in front of it, but which otherwise is surrounded by trees which effectively hide it except when it bears NW.
12. Phumula Rocks, consisting of low above-water ledges, lie off a prominent sandy point. The closed mouth of the Ntshambili River, about a cable NW of the extremity of the point, is spanned by road and rail bridges alongside each other. These are not prominent nor can they be seen when bearing more than 320°. The Ntshambili sandbar is a popular ski-boat launching site.
13. Kellerman Rocks (30°37'.5 S, 30°33' E) are also at the extremity of a prominent sandy point. They are brownish in colour and about 3 m high. Between the two rocky points there is a fine sandy beach clear of off-lying rocks.
14. At the summit of a rise 3 cables to the westward of Kellerman Rocks is the conspicuous St Elmo's Convent (close to the convent are two *red and white cellular telephone masts* with *red obstruction lights*). This large complex extends down the south side of the hill, but the main building at the summit is obscured by trees when viewed from the southward.
15. Half a mile to the northward of the convent a group of A-frame chalets extend from the summit of a 92 m high hill down its eastern side. These are particularly conspicuous when reflecting sunlight during the forenoon and at midday.

16. The 11 span bridge over the mouth of the Mzumbe River (30° 37' S, 30° 33' E), one mile to the northward of Kellerman Rocks, shows up prominently when viewed from the SE in the early morning. The intervening coastline is sandy with some fringing rocks. The suburb of Umzumbe is situated close within the coast and below the 92 m high hill mentioned in the last section.

17. Low-lying marshy land, which has not been built over, extends for some 0.75 mile from the Mzumbe River mouth before the ground rises gradually to grassy hills with patches of woodland on them. The sandy beach in front of this flat land is generally clear of off-lying rocks except for a few small patches. Splash Rock, 1.75 miles NE of the mouth, is a solitary black rock, 15 m high, on the shore close southward of the township of Wood Grange. From here the coast trends in a NNE direction for 0.75 mile to the mouth of the Mzimayi River, and is fringed with above-water and drying rocks.

18. The Mhlabatshane River mouth is spanned by road and rail bridges, the former being at a slightly higher level than and behind the other. A radio tower, 35 m high and from which *red* obstruction lights are exhibited, stands near the summit of an 116 m high wooded hill above the township and 6 cables to the westward of the river mouth.

19. The township of Hibberdene extends between the mouth of the Mhlabatshane River and that of the Mhlungwa River, 1.75 miles to the NNE. There is a prominent block of flats in the southern part of the town, and a row of pine trees between the railway line and the coast about 0.5 mile south of the Mhlungwa River mouth, otherwise there is little remarkable along this stretch of coast.

20. The railway bridge over the mouth of the Mhlungwa River is not prominent, but the locality may be identified by the low-lying land in the vicinity and by the green sugar cane fields inland. The river is crossed on the beach by a 5 spanned bridge. SW of the bridge the red soil of the new freeway cutting shows up well.

21. A sandy beach extends for a mile in a NE direction from the Mhlungwa River mouth. It is clear of rocks except for a few outcrops at about the halfway point. At the end of this beach a rocky shore curves round gradually to the mouth of the Mfazazana River, 8 cables further to the NE. The mouth of this river is spanned by a 2 spanned railway bridge behind which, at a slightly higher level, the 3 arches of the road bridge may be seen. A 109 m high hill, which in certain lights appears reddish, is situated 7 cables to the westward of the mouth.

22. Between a rocky point close south of the Mfazazana River and another rocky point 1.75 miles to the NE by N there is a slight indentation in the coast at the head of which is a wide sandy beach. The village of Turton, the only built-up area in the vicinity, lies well back from the center of the indentation. It is by no means prominent, though a number of electricity pylons may help to indicate its position, as will a lattice tower painted *red and white* and displaying *red obstruction lights* 4 cables NNW of the Kwa-Makosi river mouth. Kwa-Makosi River reaches the sea midway between the Mfazazana River mouth and Turton. Its mouth may be identified by a railway bridge over it and an embankment at the back of the beach. Between the two rivers there is a strip of dark vegetation close to the shore and, lying off the beach here, there are a few rocky outcrops.

23. The Mnamfu River mouth, 1.5 miles NE by N of the mouth of the Mfazazana River, may be recognised by a railway bridge which spans it, otherwise it is not remarkable.

24. The Mtwalume River (30° 29' S, 30° 38' E) reaches the sea some 3 miles NE by N of the mouth of the Mfazazana River. This is probably the most noticeable river on this part of the coast, having a wooded bluff behind its southern entrance point upon which is a long, low hotel with a light green roof which is obscured by pine trees when viewed from close inshore to the southward. Extending northward from this bluff there is a low, wide expanse of sand which normally closes the mouth of the river. However, the position of the channel, when it is open, changes considerably. Before 1940 it was always close to the southern entrance point, but during the period 1972-1974 the migration of the channel occurred over a distance of some 3 cables to the northward. In June 1976 it was at its extreme northerly position close to the northern entrance point. During December 1980, though it was closed. In 1996 it entered the sea at its southern bank and a large sand bar had developed from the northern shore to near the southern bank. Behind this, there is a long 13 span railway bridge and embankment which is conspicuous in the forenoon sun. The 6 span road bridge lies close behind the railway bridge. Within the mouth the river banks become steep and heavily wooded. Some 2.5 miles WNW of the mouth the cliffs of a ravine, through which the river runs, show up prominently over the wooded lower reaches. One mile NW of the mouth there is a prominent dome-shaped wooded hill, 101 m high.

25. Two cellular telephone masts have been erected in the town of Mtwalume close to the 75 m hill 5 cables SSW of the river mouth. They are both *red and white banded* with *red obstruction lights*. The southern one is of tubular construction and the northern one lattice.

26. Ski boats launch from the river mouth and there is a tidal pool 3 cables south.

27. The mouth of the Fafa River, 2 miles NNE of Mtwalume River mouth, is spanned by a prominent 9 spanned railway