

ANGLESEY
and
NORTH WALES
COAST PILOT

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PART 2

MENAI STRAIT From PENMAENMAWR and PUFFIN ISLAND to CAERNARVON BAR

BEAUMARIS BAY

54. **General Description.** The north-eastern section of the Menai Strait is formed by the head of Beaumaris Bay, and extends from Penmaenmawr and Puffin Island to Bangor, where the strait becomes constricted to the narrow middle reaches. This extensive area, 4 miles across from the mainland coast to the Anglesey coast and 6 miles deep south-westward to Bangor, dries into a wide expanse of sand intersected by channels and swatchways. The main channel, however, which forms the navigable fairway, holds to the Anglesey shore.

55. South-westward from Penmaenmawr, whose quarry-scarred precipices form a prominent, though decapitated, landmark, the mainland shore runs flat and low to the outskirts of Bangor. Behind the shore the ground soon begins to rise, and finally sweeps upward to the heights of the mountains around Snowdon.

56. **Llanfairfechan**, a small town, has a slipway for small boats. Extensive sandbanks make the approach from seaward possible only in fair weather and at high water.

57. **Aber Ogwen.** The River Ogwen, after flowing through Dol Ogwen, within the park of Penrhyn Castle, passes, at Capel Ogwen, under a bridge, between wooded banks, and enters the sea at the head of Beaumaris Bay, between Pen-y-Coed Point, on the east, and Bath Point, on the west. At low water the river mouth lies in the vicinity of No 7 black conical buoy off Gallows Point, situated about 7 cables south-westward from Beaumaris. The river channel may be navigated by small boats at half tide as far as the bridge, care being taken to avoid the old Ogwen fish weir, which extends 4 cables north-eastward from the shore at Bath Point. The foreshore is low, and consists of shingle, with seaweed and a few large boulders. From the buoy off Gallows Point the course lies south-east to the head of the fish weir, and thence southward on a line drawn between the bridge at Capel Ogwen and the tower of Beaumaris Church.

58. **Puffin Island**, or Ynys Seiriol, also called Priestholm, is an insulated mass of rock, having its longer axis lying north-east and south-west, some 6 cables in length, by 2 cables in width, and rising, at its highest point, to nearly 200ft above sea level. The island is situated 4 cables north-eastward from Trwyn Du, the eastern extremity of Anglesey, but shoals at the island's south-western extremity reduce this distance to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables at l w s. In the middle of the island rises an old tower, forming a prominent landmark from seaward. At the north-eastern end of the island are the ruins of an old semaphore signal station. The cliffs of the island are precipitous and of greatest prominence at Castle Rock, midway along the south-

eastern coast. Ivy Cliff forms an escarpment at the south-west end of the island, where a steep path ascends from a small shingle beach, which is the best landing place on the island. At low water the foreshore of the beach is rough and covered with loose boulders.

59. **West Spit.** For the most part the island is steep-to, with depths of about a fathom close under the cliffs, except at the north-eastern extremity, where a drying ledge runs out north-eastward for $\frac{1}{2}$ cable, and at the south-western extremity, where the rocky West Spit, 1 cable in width, extends south-westward for $2\frac{1}{2}$ cables to Perch Rock. The western point of West Spit is formed by Bottle Rock, 1 cable northward from Perch Rock.

60. **Puffin Island Beacon**, sometimes known as Perch Rock Beacon, and erected on Perch Rock, marks the south-western extremity of West Spit and the eastern side of the entrance between Puffin Island and Trwyn Du. The beacon is conical in shape, painted in red and white vertical stripes, and has a square topmark.

61. **Causeway.** A tail of reef, drying at l w s, extends south-south-eastward for a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cables from the south-eastern extremity of West Spit, and rises again in a small patch, called South Causeway Patch, drying at l w s, a further $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables south-south-eastward, and marked, close westward of the shoal, by No 2 red can buoy, sometimes known as the Causeway Buoy.

62. **Trwyn Du**, the eastern extremity of the Isle of Anglesey, slopes gently down from the hills of Penmon, terminating in a low sharp point of dark rocks. Drying ledges extend northward and eastward from the point for a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ cable, with small outliers lying a farther 80 yards northward from their extremities; the former, named Low Tide Rock, drying at l w s, $\frac{1}{4}$ cable northward from Trwyn Du Lighthouse; the latter, covered to a least depth of 2ft, $\frac{3}{4}$ cable south-south-eastward from the lighthouse.

63. **Trwyn Du Lighthouse** (Fl W ev $5\frac{1}{2}$ sec, vis 13 M), a round castellated tower painted white with three black bands, stands about $\frac{1}{2}$ cable from the northern extremity of Trwyn Du, at the end of a causeway. Light-keepers' houses are conspicuously situated at the eastern extremity of Trwyn Du, about 300 yards southward from the lighthouse. Close south-westward of the light-keepers' houses are a flagstaff and a few small buildings, including an old lifeboat house and ruined slipway.

64. **Lighthouse Cove**, affording shelter in southerly winds, is situated close westward from the northern extremity of Trwyn Du, and provides temporary anchorage for boats in from 1 to 2 fathoms at l w s, with Trwyn Du Lighthouse, on with the eastern fall of Ivy Cliff, Puffin Island, bearing 62° and the light-keepers' houses bearing 140° .

65. A **Pier** for coasters loading stone from Dinmore Park Quarry is situated $\frac{1}{2}$ mile westward from Trwyn Du.

66. **Dinmor Point**, situated 6 cables westward from Trwyn Du, is steep-to, rising to 50ft above sea-level from depths of over 1 fathom at lws close inshore.

67. **Penmon Point**, a 50ft cliff, is situated about 4 cables south-westward from Trwyn Du. The shore between the old slipway and Penmon Point dries out for about 300 yards at lws.

68. **Penmon Bay** extends for about 6 cables south-westward from Penmon Point to Trwyn-y-Pentrhyn, and dries out for a distance of 2 cables seaward of the chord of the bay. Situated at the head of the bay is a short jetty.

69. **Dinmor Bank**, with a least depth of 5ft, extends parallel to the coast from Dinmor Point to Trwyn Du and at a distance from it of about 2 cables. The eastern end of the bank is, however, only 1 cable north-westward from Low Tide Rock, the small outlier off the northern extremity of Trwyn Du. There is plenty of water for a small vessel to cross over the bank except for the 5ft patch, but in rough weather there will be a breaking sea. The western end of the bank is marked by a black conical buoy.

70. **Ten Feet Bank** is of similar extent, and lies roughly parallel to Dinmor Bank, from which it is distant 6 cables north-north-eastward. The bank has a least depth of water over it of 2 fathoms, but causes a breaking sea in rough weather. The western end of the bank is marked by a buoy (R W H S sphere). The eastern end of the bank lies 6 cables north-westward from the north-eastern extremity of Puffin Island.

71. **Puffin Island Sound**, dividing Puffin Island from Trwyn Du, has a least width of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables at lws, between the 2ft shoal, close eastward of Trwyn Du, and Perch Rock. There is a depth here of 7 fathoms at lws, but 2 cables southward the water shoals to $2\frac{1}{4}$ fathoms over a narrow ridge, to the south of which lies the Outer Road, or Anchorage.

72. **Irishman Spit** forms the northern extremity of the large area of sandbanks lying in the head of Beaumaris Bay. It is a triangular sandy shoal, drying 4ft, whose western border, at first running roughly parallel to, and 2 cables distant from, the south-eastern side of Puffin Island, afterwards trends southward to a point some 6 cables eastward from Penmon Point and about 1 cable eastward from South Causeway Patch. The base of the triangle is formed by Midlake Swatch, a depression dividing it from Dutchman Bank to the southward.

73. **The North-west Entrance** to the Menai Strait provides the easiest, best marked, and therefore safest, course. The leading marks are Puffin Island Beacon in line with Penmaenmawr Peak bearing 137° , which leads between Dinmor and Ten Feet Banks. When, with the beacon bearing 137° , Trwyn Du Lighthouse bears 215° , the course may be altered to south by east, so as to pass between the beacon and the lighthouse and, leaving the Causeway Buoy on the port hand, enter the Outer Road.

74. **West, or Inshore Passage**. Approaching Puffin Island Sound from the west an inshore passage leads to the south of Dinmor Bank, with least depths of 2 fathoms at lws. The only points of danger to small vessels are the 5ft patch on Dinmor Bank and Low Tide Rock, 50 yards northward from Trwyn Du Lighthouse.

75. **The Leading Marks** for the inshore passage are Puffin Island Beacon, just open northward of Trwyn Du Lighthouse. On approaching within a cable's length of the lighthouse, however, it will be necessary to sheer out slightly to avoid Low Tide Rock. The beacon bearing 115° leads close along the southern edge of Dinmor Bank and clears Low Tide Rock to northward.

76. **Clearing Marks**. The northward fall of Table Head (2 miles west of Dinmor Point) in line with Dinmor Point clears Low Tide Rock to northward and the eastern end of Dinmor Bank to southward. The 5ft patch on Dinmor Bank will be close abeam (when on the 115° bearing) anywhere between lines drawn from Dinmor Point and the pier of Dinmor Park Quarry to the northward fall of Puffin Island.

77. **The North Passage** leads to eastward of Ten Feet Bank and to westward of Puffin Island, and is, under favourable weather conditions, the easiest approach from the north-east. The leading mark for the North Passage is Trwyn Du Lighthouse on a bearing of 215° , on which there is a least depth of 6 fathoms at lws. The entrance to the passage will have been reached when, with the lighthouse bearing 215° , the north-eastern extremity of Puffin Island bears 117° , giving a position of about $2\frac{1}{4}$ cables west-north-westward from that point. At a point about 1 cable north-eastward from the lighthouse the course intersects that for the North-west Entrance, Puffin Island Beacon in line with Penmaenmawr Peak.

78. **The North-east Entrance** leads to eastward of Puffin Island and to westward of Irishman Spit, and is comparatively shallow, having a least depth of about 1 fathom at lws. Before the Outer Road can be reached, however, the channel is divided by South Causeway Patch into two narrow passages, namely: Causeway Swatch on the west, with a least depth of 1 fathom; and East Swatch on the east, with a least depth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms.

79. **Leading Marks and Bearings**. Approaching from seaward the North-east Entrance will have been reached when, with the Causeway Buoy bearing 212° , the north-eastern extremity of Puffin Island bears 297° at a distance of 1 cable, thence by either Causeway Swatch or East Swatch.

80. **By Causeway Swatch**: with the Causeway Buoy as a leading mark, proceed until Trwyn Du Lighthouse is well open to southward of Puffin Island Beacon, the latter bearing 317° , when steer to leave the Causeway Buoy on the port hand.

81. **By East Swatch**: with the Causeway Buoy as a leading mark, proceed until the beacon is in line with the lighthouse. Then alter course to south-south-west (mag), and proceed until the Causeway Buoy is nearly abeam and about 2 cables distant to starboard, when alter course so as to leave No 4 red can buoy to port.

82. **Landing on Puffin Island**. Approaching the island from the south-west with a view to landing, proceed with the north-eastern extremity of the island just open to the westward of the Causeway Buoy, leaving the latter close on the starboard hand. (These marks may also be used when proceeding seaward by the North-east Entrance.) When Ivy Cliff is abeam, alter course for the shore.

83. **Anchorage**, in about $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms at lws, may be found with Puffin Island Beacon in line with the lightkeepers' houses on Trwyn Du.

84. **Penmaen Swatch and the Pool** divide Dutchman Bank from Lavan Sands, and form a passage for small craft, within an hour or two of high water, from the main channel of the Menai Strait to the sea front at Penmaenmawr and the entrance to Conway River. Proceeding from Beaumaris to Conway, after leaving No 6 red can buoy to starboard, sail on a line drawn between the wireless mast at the head of Lleiniog Bay and Penmaenmawr Peak, with the wireless mast bearing 292° . Continue on this course until the western entrance to the Pool is reached, when Puffin Island Tower bears 353° and the seaward tip of Great Ormes Head bears 052° , then steer due east for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile through the Pool, after which alter course for the Fairway Buoy.

For the reverse course from Conway to Beaumaris steer a course of 242° from Conway Fairway Buoy, with the buoy and the south-eastern fall of Great Ormes Head in line astern. Continue on this course until the eastern entrance to the Pool is reached, when Puffin Island Tower bears 342° and Llanfairfechan bears 143° , then steer due west for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile through the Pool, and when on a line drawn between Penmaenmawr Peak and the wireless mast at the head of Lleiniog Bay bearing 292° , alter course for the wireless mast. When No 6 red can buoy is nearly abeam, alter course to leave the buoy to port and enter the main channel of the Menai Strait.

85. **The Main Navigable Channel** of the Menai Strait in Beaumaris Bay runs roughly parallel to the Anglesey shore from 2 to 3 cables off the points of the bays. Its south-eastern side is formed by the north-western edge of Irishman Spit, Dutchman Bank and Lavan Sands. The channel is buoyed as far as Gallows Point, the starboard-hand buoys (B con) being numbered 1, 3, 5 and 7, and the port-hand buoys (R can) being numbered 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12. From Gallows Point the strait is not buoyed until a point below Port Dinorwic is reached.

86. **The Anglesey Shore**, between Trwyn Du and Gallows Point, extending south-westward for a distance of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, is low with a hilly and sparsely wooded hinterland, and is indented by shallow bays which, for the most part, dry out beyond their entrance points. The foreshore is of sand and shingle, littered with boulders of all sizes.

87. **Lleiniog Bay** extends from Trwyn-y-Penrhyn in the north-east to Trecastell Point in the south-west, a distance of 1 mile. A wireless mast, situated about 500 yards back from the head of the bay, forms a conspicuous landmark. The foreshore dries out about 1 cable beyond the chord of the bay.

88. **Friars Bay** extends for about 1 mile from Trecastell Point in the north to Battery Hill Point in the south, with a depth, from the chord to the head of the bay, of 2 cables, and dries out almost the whole of that distance. In the northern part of the bay, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ cables south-westward from Trecastell Point, is situated a lifeboat station and slipway, the latter extending seaward for a distance of 1 cable to a point just beyond the low water line. Close northward of Battery Hill is a private slipway, Friars Roads, the part of the navigable channel lying off Friars Bay, affords anchorage, but is exposed to north-easterly winds, which send in an uncomfortable swell when the banks are covered.

89. **Beaumaris** is situated 4 miles south-westward from the northern entrances to the Menai Strait. From the midst of the town rises the square tower of St Mary's Church, forming as conspicuous a landmark

as the keep of Penrhyn Castle on the opposite shore. The frontage of the town extends for nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, a portion forming an open promenade from which a pier advances some 200 yards into deep water.

90. **Anchorage.** Good anchorage is afforded, and moorings laid down, on the edge of the fairway on either hand of the pier, but more particularly on the west side, in about 1 fathom at l w s, on a line drawn from the head of the pier to Gallows Point. Vessels may also dry out on mud and sand near the high water line to westward of the pier.

91. **Gallows Point** is a sharp spur of flat land, projecting about $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables south-eastward from the shore, $5\frac{1}{2}$ cables south-westward from Beaumaris Pier. The spur dries out a further $\frac{1}{2}$ cable south-eastward, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables southward, at l w s, the southern extremity being marked by No 7 black conical buoy. A yacht builder's yard is situated on Gallows Point. The north-eastern shore of the spur forms a small bay where boats can be beached and drawn up. The navigable channel narrows between Gallows Point and the south-western extremity of the Lavan Sands to a width, at l w s, of only 200 yards, and the stream is strong.

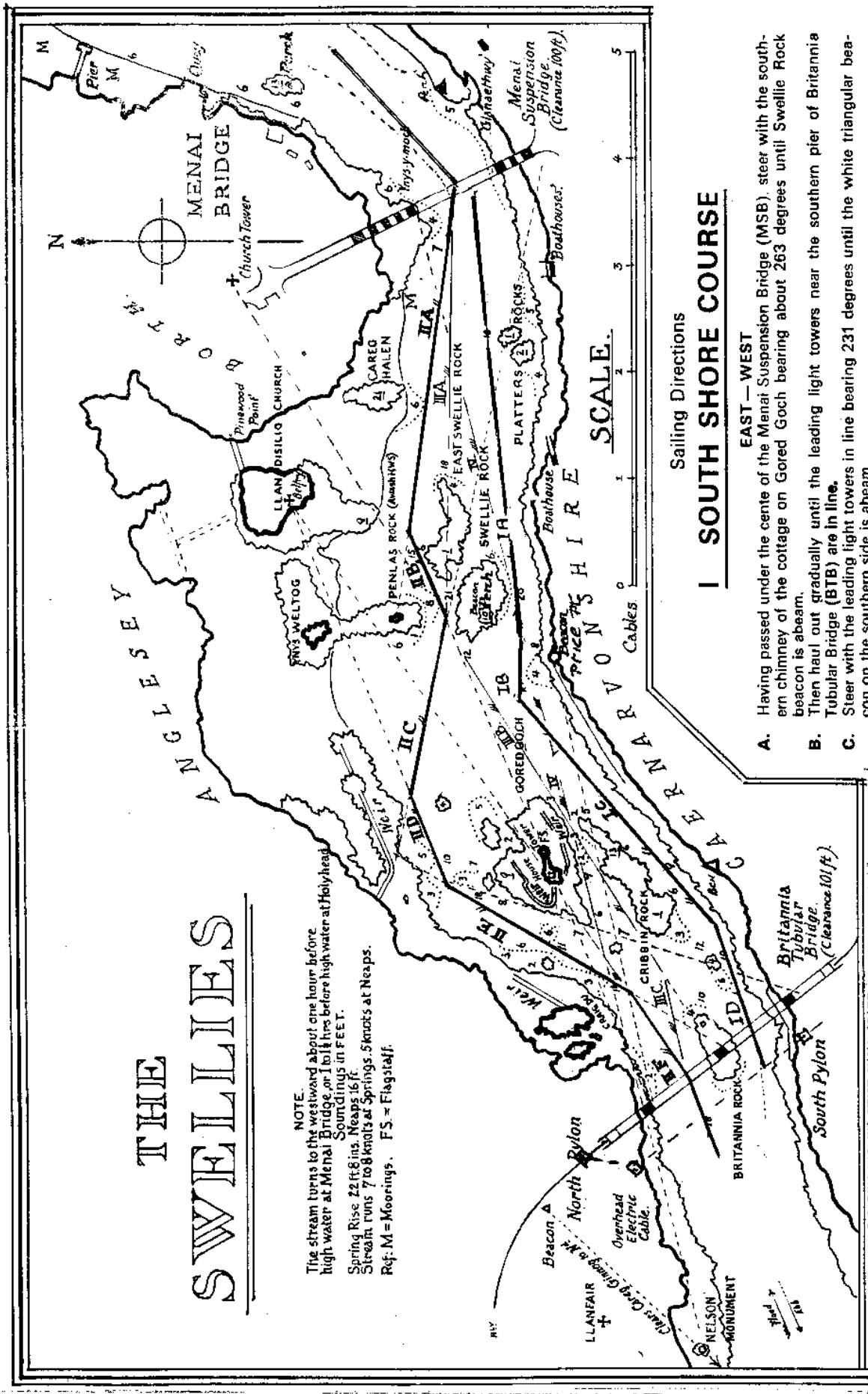
92. **Bangor** is situated in a fold of the steep foothills of the mountains around Snowdon, on the south-eastern shore of the Menai Strait, at the very head of Beaumaris Bay. As first seen from the north-east, it is the tall square tower of the university which forms the most prominent feature of the city. About a mile eastward of Bangor is situated Penrhyn Castle, in the midst of an extensive park lying between the Rivers Ogwen and Cegin. Off the park the foreshore, consisting of mud and sand, dries out for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile over Bangor Flats, on which two long fish weirs are situated. At the mouth of the River Cegin is Port Penrhyn, with two long stone piers. Between Port Penrhyn and Garth Point, the northern suburb of Bangor $\frac{1}{2}$ mile westward, extends Porth Penrhyn, where vessels may dry out on mud. On this frontage are a sailmaker's loft and marine chandler's, and a yacht builder's yard with two slipways, the larger one available for vessels up to 13ft draught.

93. **Bangor Pier**, about 500 yards in length, extends north-westward into the channel from the extremity of Garth Point. A sloping stone landing jetty lies close eastward of the pier. The foreshore dries out to within $\frac{1}{2}$ cable of the head of the pier. For a mile south-westward from Garth Point the foreshore dries out to a line drawn from the head of the pier to Redfield Point, opposite Cadnant Creek. A small group of rocks, covered at high water, lies 1 cable east-south-eastward from the northern extremity of Garth Point, and $\frac{1}{4}$ cable offshore.

94. **Garth-y-Don** is a small point situated on the Anglesey shore opposite Bangor Pier. The coast here is rocky in character with low cliffs backed by a steep wooded slope rising to an elevation of over 250ft. The foreshore is narrow and consists of rocks and coarse shingle. A sloping stone landing jetty extends south-eastward in continuation of the point for a distance of about 60 yards, about three-quarters of which cover at h w s. Moorings are laid down to east and west of Garth-y-Don.

95. **Anchorage.** The main anchorage is on the edge of the fairway to eastward or westward of Bangor Pier. In Bangor Pool, extending for 1 mile westward from the pier, there are depths of over 5 fathoms at l w s.

Regret that page 15 (Bangor to Menai Bridge) is missing and will be included when it comes to hand.



southerly bend at Menai Bridge, makes a slight northerly bend between the bridges. The southern, or Caernarvonshire, shore is steep and thickly wooded, and the narrow rocky margin is continuous, but on the northern, or Anglesey, shore, at the head of the bend, the shoreline is broken by small islets and rocks, between which the shore shallows gradually, and recedes north-eastward into the creek bounding the tree-clad western slope of Borth Promontory.

102. Entering the Swellies from the east, at 1 w s, the low Platters Rocks will be seen close to the south shore, between two boathouses situated at the high water line, while on the north shore Careg Halen rises steeply out of the mud. About 3 cables westward from the bridge, in mid-channel, lies East Swellie Rock, a long low ledge running east and west. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ cables north of this rock stands the little church of Llandisilio, situated on a rocky islet with low tide ledges running down to the water's edge. Close westward of East Swellie Rock, and almost closing the channel, stand Swellie Rock, with its beacon, and Penlas Rock; the former situated near the south shore and drying 10ft, the latter, the highest point of which is awash at h w s, extending northward to join the small low islet of Weltog. An area 2 cables square and free from shoals now lies to the westward. On the south shore, just at the head of the bend and marked by the white-painted Price's Tower, a small spit runs out about $\frac{1}{4}$ cable, while along the northern shore extends an old fish weir. In the western part of the Swellies the channel is once again almost closed by the island of Gored Goch, sometimes known as Whitebait Island, and Cribbin Rock. The former supports a whitewashed cottage and square tower and a flagstaff, and is bounded by a fish weir. The latter lies near the south shore, rising to a sharp pointed summit 13ft above l w s, and extending north-east and south-west for about $1\frac{1}{4}$ cables. Finally, in midstream, the Britannia Rock supports the centre pier of the Britannia Tubular Bridge.

103. **Landmarks.** On the south shore, close eastward of the suspension bridge, stands a conspicuous red brick house called 'Glanaethwy'. Close westward of the tubular bridge, on either bank, rise the metal pylons supporting an electric cable across the strait. About 2 cables westward from the latter bridge, on the north shore, stands the Nelson Monument, a figure of Nelson, carved in stone, on a stone plinth. These, together with such conspicuous features as the buildings on Gored Goch, Llandisilio Church, the boathouses on the south shore, the islets and weirs on the north shore and the piers of the bridges themselves, form useful landmarks for the navigation of the Swellies. In addition, there are several beacons, namely: a red post beacon (Fl R ev sec) situated 1 cable north-eastward from the southern pier of the suspension bridge and at the low water line of the shore under 'Glanaethwy'; a white post beacon with white triangular topmark on the Swellie Rock; Price's Tower (Fl W R ev 2sec) situated at the head of the bend on the south shore; a white triangular stone tower on the south shore 1 cable east-north-east of the southern pier of the tubular bridge; and two white lattice-work towers exhibiting fixed green lights form leading marks situated on the south shore under the tubular bridge, and on a bearing of 231° which clears to the southward of Cribbin Rock.

104. **Tidal Information.** Slack water high at the Swellies occurs 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr before high water at Holyhead and 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ hr before high water at Liverpool, at which time the stream commences to flow to the

westward, and continues to do so for $6\frac{1}{2}$ hr. The period of slack water is about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr at neaps and $\frac{1}{4}$ hr at springs, but these periods may be lengthened or curtailed by the strength and direction of the wind, a westerly wind holding the water up and an easterly wind causing the stream to turn to the westward earlier by about 10min. The stream runs at 8 knots at springs and 5 knots at neaps.

105. During the flood tide the stream divides round Britannia Rock, and runs strongly along the south shore, with eddies close north-eastward of Britannia Rock. On the north shore the stream divides round Gored Goch, forming eddies north-eastward of that islet. The stream runs swiftly over or about the Swellie Rocks, and an eddy is formed close eastward of Penlas Rock. Under the suspension bridge the stream is strongest on the south shore, and a strong eddy forms close north-eastward of the northern pier of the bridge.

106. During the ebb tide the stream runs strongly under the suspension bridge, and an eddy is formed on the north shore close westward of the northern pier of the bridge, and on the south shore close inshore of the Platters. The stream runs strongly over or round the Swellie Rocks, and an eddy is formed close westward of Penlas Rock. At Gored Goch the stream divides and runs off very strongly on either hand, the southern stream running over the Cribbin Rock, the northern stream running hard off the northern point of the island, forming an eddy along the western side of the island, and, striking the north shore at Craig Du, sets strongly on to Britannia Rock. There it divides again, one branch joining the southern stream and together running under the southern span of the tubular bridge, the other branch passing close northward of Britannia Rock, forming eddies at the western end of the rock and on the north shore, under the northern span of the bridge.

107. **Sailing Directions.** The passage of the Swellies is most easily made within an hour of slack water high, when, with the exception of the highest points of the Swellie and Cribbin Rocks, the shoals are well covered. In small craft it is then possible to vary the course considerably, according to circumstances, while the areas of open water close westward of the Platters, Swellie and Cribbin Rocks form, if necessary, corridors of communication between the north and south shores. During the strength of the tide it is dangerous to attempt the passage of the Swellies without previous experience. The high wooded banks cause the wind to be uncertain in strength and direction. Detailed sailing directions are given on Map 5.

108. **South Shore Course.** This is the more usually chosen course, and, although passing close to the two main points of danger, the Swellie and Cribbin Rocks, is probably the quickest. After passing under the suspension bridge, the course lies to northward of the Platters Rocks and, holding to the south shore, passes to southward of the Swellie and Cribbin Rocks and under the southern span of the tubular bridge.

109. **North Shore Course** holds over to the north, or Anglesey, shore, passing to northward of the Swellie Rocks, and between them and Penlas Rock (which lies awash at h w s, and for which the islet of Weltog, 1 cable northward, should not be mistaken). Thence the course lies round the northern and western sides of Gored Goch and under the northern span of the tubular bridge.

110. **Middle Course** should only be attempted by small craft at or near slack water high, and holds to the middle of the strait, passing over East Swellie

Rock and through the narrow passage between Gored Goch and Cribbin Rock, and thence under the northern span of the tubular bridge.

111. **Bee Line Course** should only be attempted by small craft at or near slack water high, and passes northward of the Platters Rocks, southward of Swellie Rock, and between Gored Goch and Cribbin Rock.

112. **The Strait** between the tubular bridge and Port Dinorwic makes a broad sweep between the wooded slopes of Vaynol Park on the mainland and Plas Newydd on the Anglesey shore, where a private dock and slipway are situated. Ty Glo, a small summerhouse with stone wall and jetty, is situated on the point of Vaynol Park.

113. **Pwllfanog** is a small creek, which dries, situated on the Anglesey shore $\frac{1}{2}$ mile westward from the tubular bridge. An old slate works stands on the west bank of a small stream, at the entrance to the creek, where the shore has been built up to form a quay. Two cottages, situated close westward of the old factory, form a conspicuous landmark.

114. **Careg Ginnog** is a small rocky shoal, which dries at l w s, situated $\frac{3}{4}$ cable offshore from the point of Vaynol Park, 2 cables northward from the Ty Glo summerhouse and 1 mile south-westward from the tubular bridge. A triangular white board, situated on the railway embankment on the west side of the tubular bridge, when brought in line with the Nelson Monument clears Careg Ginnog to westward.

115. **Port Dinorwic** is situated about 3 miles south-west of Menai Bridge, at the end of the narrow middle reaches of the strait, and where the strait begins to broaden towards Caernarvon. Here the strait makes a wide southerly bend, with Port Dinorwic on the south-eastern shore. Wooded promontories close the extremities of the waterfront, which extends for a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

116. **Vaynol Dock**, with lock gates and dry dock, is constructed at the mouth of a small ravine, at the north-eastern extremity of the waterfront. Yachts can be laid up in the dock.

117. **Town Quay and Dock**. Half the remaining waterfront is occupied by the Town Quay and Dock, or Tidal Basin. At half tide soundings give $2\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms just outside the entrance to the dock, with $1\frac{3}{4}$ fathoms in the entrance and $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms just inside. Inside the dock there is an average depth of about 1 fathom at half tide, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms in the centre and alongside the quay opposite the entrance, shoaling to $\frac{3}{4}$ fathom at the old slipway situated in the south-western corner of the dock. At l w s the dock dries about 3ft.

118. **A Landing Jetty**, drying 2ft at l w s, is situated close south-westward of the Town Quay. The remainder of the waterfront is open foreshore, consisting of sand, mud and gravel, drying out a distance of $\frac{3}{4}$ cable at l w s.

119. **Anchorage** off the town is to be found in the tideway, in about 2 fathoms at l w s, on a line drawn between the gate in the park wall, close northward from the entrance to Vaynol Dock, and Dinas, the steep point forming the southern extremity of the beach.

120. **Moel-y-Don** is a small hamlet, situated on a low point of land, on the Anglesey shore, opposite Port Dinorwic. Small vessels may dry out at the head of the little bay to eastward of the point. A landing slip projects about 50 yards from the extremity of the point, but at l w s the foreshore dries out for a further 20 yards. From the point sandbanks extend south-westward for about a mile.

121. **Anchorage** in the vicinity of Moel-y-Don may

be obtained, in about $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms at l w s, outside the low water line of the small bay to eastward of the point, and about opposite the entrance to the dock at Port Dinorwic, with the conspicuous cottages at Pwllfanog on with the stone wall of the Ty Glo summerhouse. The stream runs here at about $3\frac{1}{2}$ knots at springs, and the muddy shore is steep-to at the low water line.

THE SOUTH-WESTERN END of MENAI STRAIT

122. **General Remarks**. The strait, south-westward from Port Dinorwic, gradually broadens out to twice its former width, and assumes a more open aspect, the Anglesey shore, more especially, becoming low and less densely wooded. Sandbanks take the place of the rocky shoals of the Swellies. At Aber Menai, however, where the Menai Strait again enters the sea, the width is constricted to 2 cables between Belan Point and Aber Menai Point. Outside this narrow entrance extend the sands of Caernarvon Bar. The distance from Aber Menai to Port Dinorwic is about 6 miles, and the total length of the strait from Aber Menai to Puffin Island is 18 miles.

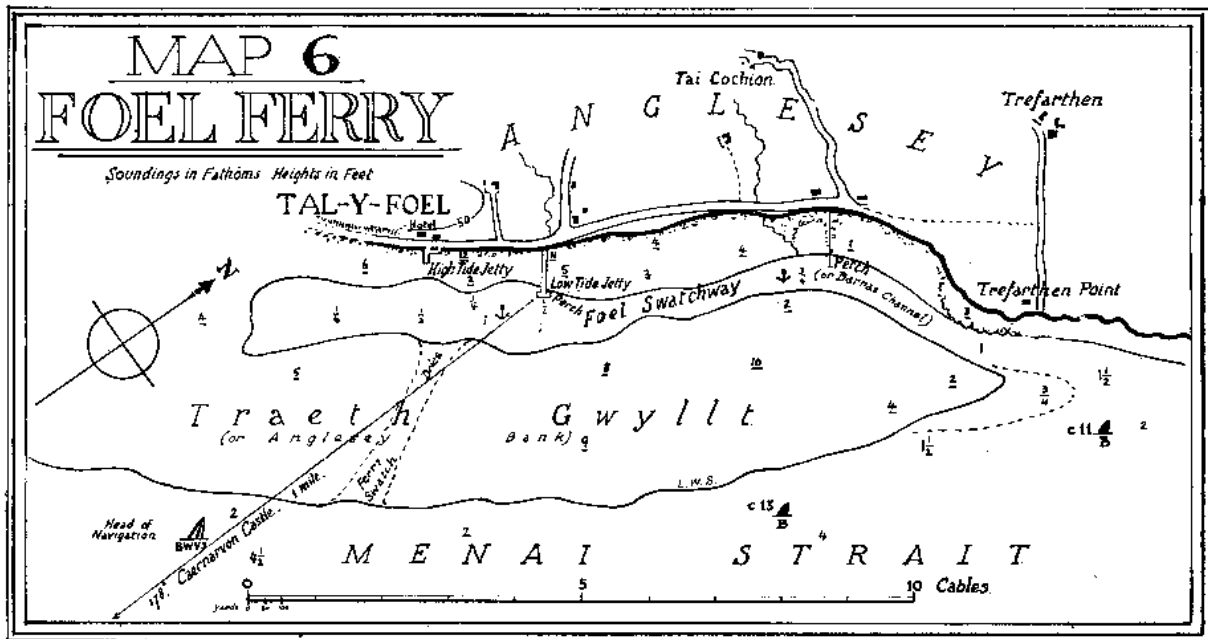
123. **The Fairway** between Port Dinorwic and Aber Menai, in general, holds to the Caernarvonshire shore, except off Llanfair-is-Gaer, $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles south-west of Port Dinorwic, where it trends over towards the Anglesey shore for a mile. After returning to the Caernarvonshire shore a mile south-westward from Llanfair-is-Gaer, the fairway is bounded on its north-western side as far as Aber Menai by the drying sands of Traeth Gwyllt and Traeth Melynog.

124. **Buoys**. Caernarvon is considered the head of navigation in the Menai Strait. Therefore, the buoys from Port Dinorwic to Caernarvon are a continuation of the buoys from Puffin Island to Gallows Point. There are three starboard-hand buoys (B con) numbered 9, 11 and 13, and one port-hand buoy (R can) numbered 14. Off Caernarvon there is a 'Head of Navigation' buoy (B W V S), south-westward of which the buoys are numbered from seaward from Caernarvon Bar. From Aber Menai to Caernarvon there are two starboard-hand buoys (B con) numbered 7 and 9, and three port-hand buoys (R can) numbered 8, 10 and 12.

125. **Llanidan Anchorage**. $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west-south-west from Port Dinorwic, on the Anglesey shore, is situated an old landing slip. The anchorage lies in 2 fathoms about a cable's length offshore, and on a line between the old slipway and the tall chimney of a brickworks, forming a conspicuous landmark on the south shore, situated about 3 cables south-westward from Llanfair-is-Gaer Point.

126. **Llanfair-is-Gaer Anchorage** lies opposite Llanidan, and if winds are strong from the south shelter may be obtained, in from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms, about 1 cable offshore, in the lee of Llanfair-is-Gaer Point.

127. **Traeth Gwyllt** is a large sandbank, drying to upwards of 10ft, and occupying the middle of the strait. It extends for 2 miles from Trefarthen Point, 1 mile south-westward from Llanidan, in the north-east, to a point opposite the estuary of the River Seiont, at Caernarvon, in the south-west. Below this point drying sands continue to fill the northern side of the strait almost as far as Aber Menai. Traeth Gwyllt constricts the width of the strait by more than half, the main channel running to the south-east of the bank, but a narrow swatchway runs behind the bank, along the Anglesey shore, leading to Foel Ferry



128. **Foel Ferry**, with ruined ferry landing jetties and a small hotel, is situated on the Anglesey shore, 1 mile south-westward from Trefarthen Point and 1 mile northward from Caernarvon, and at the foot of an earthy cliff. The ferry no longer operates. The High Tide Jetty, opposite the hotel, dries out about 2ft. The Low Tide Jetty, 2 cables north-eastward, extends out south-eastward from the high water line for 150 yards. The head of the jetty is marked by a broken perch. At lws there is $\frac{1}{2}$ fathom of water at the head of the jetty, with 1 fathom about $\frac{1}{2}$ cable southward in mid-channel of Foel Swatchway.

129. **A Perch** with inverted triangle topmark, marking the eastern extremity of a line of boulders running out at right angles to the shore, is situated in Foel Swatchway, about 1 cable offshore, 2 cables south-westward from Trefarthen Point and 4 cables north-eastward from the Low Tide Jetty.

130. **Foel Swatchway**, or **Barras Channel**, about $\frac{3}{4}$ cable in width at lws, extends for a distance of about 1 mile between Traeth Gwyllt and the Anglesey shore, with depths varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 fathom at lws, to north-eastward from Foel, but shoaling rapidly to south-westward of the High Tide Jetty. The entrance to the swatchway lies between the northern extremity of Traeth Gwyllt and Trefarthen Point. Approaching from the main channel of Menai Strait, No 11 black conical buoy provides a useful leading mark, and should be left on the port hand, whence a course may be laid for the perch described above. Leaving the perch on the starboard hand, steer for the western peak of Yr Eifl ('The Rivals', a conspicuous triple-peaked mountain situated 15 miles south-westward), until the head of Low Tide Jetty is abeam to starboard.

131. **Ferry Swatchway**, a narrow channel which dries, and the position of which is liable to change, crosses Traeth Gwyllt from Foel Swatchway to the main channel of Menai Strait off Caernarvon. At present (1970) it lies on a line drawn from a point midway between the Low and High Tide Jetties to the oil storage tanks at Caernarvon.

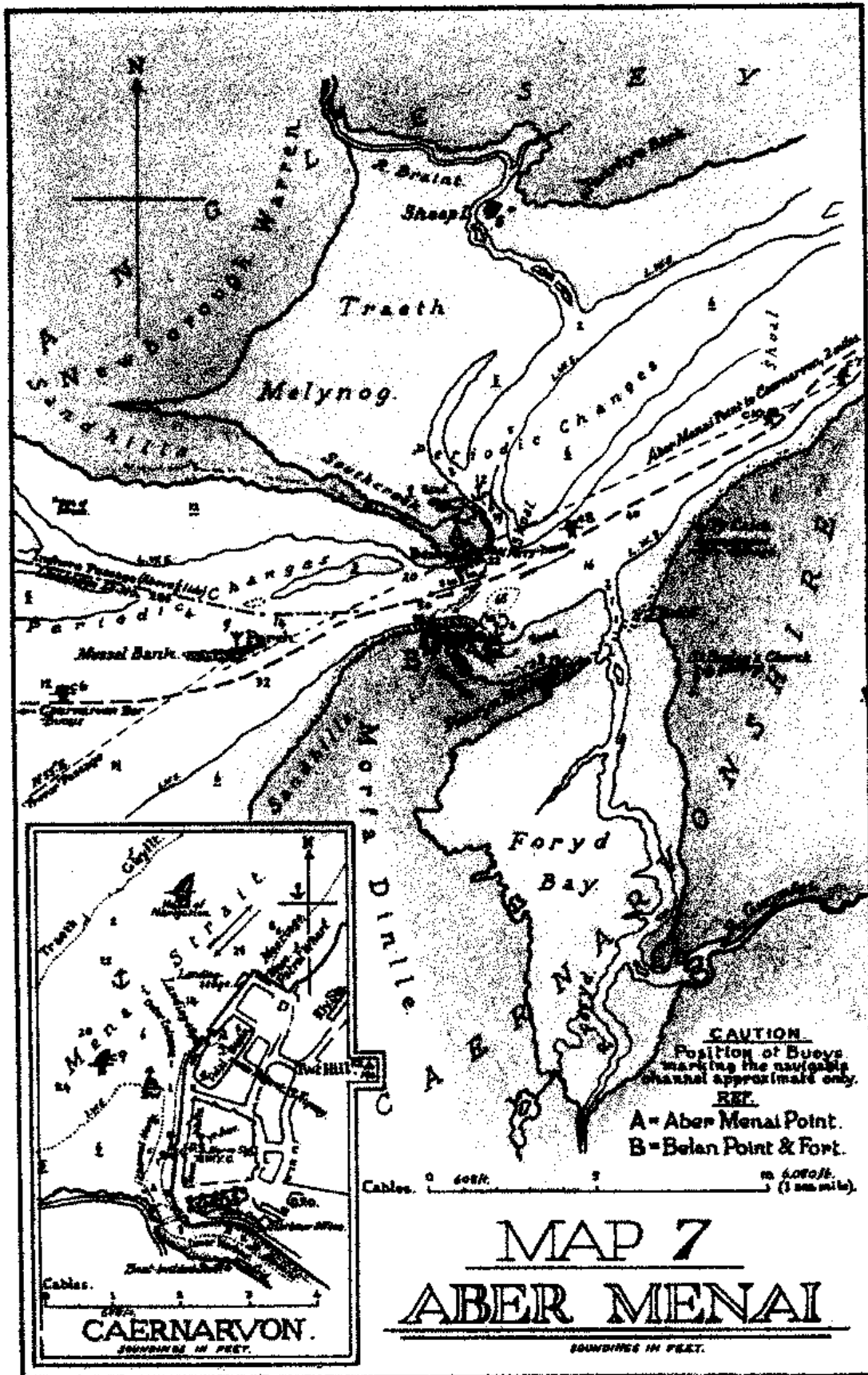
132. **Anchorage**. Foel Swatchway affords anchorage for small craft either close southward of the perch with inverted triangle topmark, in about $\frac{3}{4}$ fathom at lws, or about $\frac{1}{2}$ cable southward of Low Tide Jetty, in 1 fathom at lws.

133. **Caernarvon** is situated on the southern side of Menai Strait, about 2 miles from its south-western entrance, and on the right bank of the estuary of the River Seiont. In the south-western angle of the town rise the castle and town walls, prominent from seaward. North of the town wall is situated a large open dock, or tidal basin, with landing steps and slipway, and which dries from 3 to 6ft. North-east of the dock is an oil wharf.

134. **Inner Harbour** lies to southward of the castle, being formed by the estuary of the River Seiont. A quay, known as the Slate Quay, extends for a distance of about 600 yards along the right bank of the river. On the left bank of the river there is a short length of quay fronting a boat builder's shed, but elsewhere the foreshore consists of soft mud, except for a strip of hard, where vessels can be beached at high water, between the short quay and the bridge. At low water the harbour dries out except for the bed of the river, which has a depth of about 2ft. The channel runs close to the Slate Quay.

135. **The Entrance** to the Inner Harbour is between the piers of the Aber swing bridge which has now been removed.

136. **Outer Entrance to the Inner Harbour**. From the point of land close westward of the river entrance, a spit of sand and gravel runs out northward for a distance of about 2 cables, the northern extremity of which is marked by a buoy (B W H S spher) with a triangular topmark. The outer entrance lies between this buoy and the town walls, a little to the south of the entrance to the tidal basin. The channel runs parallel, and close, to the town wall, with a width of about 15 yards and a depth of from 1 to 2ft at lws. The western edge of the channel is marked by three floats, which should be left close on the starboard hand when entering the river. A stone groyne project-



Note: The topmark on the perch marking the Mussel Bank has been changed from an inverted triangle to a square.

ing into the eastern side of the channel is marked by a red post beacon with a basket topmark, which should be left to port.

137. **Anchorage.** The main anchorage is off the town, in the fairway, in about 4 fathoms. Small craft may anchor more out of the tide closer inshore. Tidal streams can be strong and the holding is not too good, unless a position is obtained close inshore.

138. **Aber Menai,** the south-western entrance to Menai Strait, is situated 2 miles south-westward from Caernarvon. The entrance lies between Aber Menai Point, the southern extremity of Newborough Warren, on the north, and Belan Point and Fort, the northern extremity of Morfa Dinlle, on the south. The passage between these points is 2 cables in width. Tidal streams flow through the narrow entrance strongly, attaining a rate of about 5 knots at springs. Inside the entrance, and sheltered from onshore winds by South-crook, the slender terminal arm of Newborough Warren, and by the low-lying point of Morfa Dinlle, lie two sandy estuaries, that in the north being the estuary of the River Braint, and forming the sands of Traeth Melynog, and that in the south being the estuary of the Rivers Foryd and Gwyrfaï, and forming Foryd Bay. The channels of these rivers may be ascended by dinghies for about a mile at high water.

139. **Aber Menai Point** consists of low grass-covered sandhills. On the south side of the point is a white post beacon (Fl R G ev 3½sec). Close northward of the beacon is a ruined ferry house, and on the north-eastern side of the point is a small brick hut, partially obscured in the dunes.

140. **Anchorage.** A convenient position for anchorage on the north side of the entrance, where a vessel will ride at all states of the tide, lies just inside Aber Menai Point and close inshore by its north-eastern edge, about 1 cable northward from the brick hut, in about 2 fathoms at l w s. The anchorage should be approached from due south and close inshore, as shoal water extends over the tail of the sandbank to westward of No 8 red can buoy.

141. **Belan Point** is surmounted by Belan Fort, a low grey stone building with a prominent flagstaff, and consists, like Aber Menai Point, of low sandhills.

142. **Belan Dock.** A private landing jetty and open dock for small vessels is situated close eastward of Belan Fort. The dock, which is about 80 yards in length, dries out.

143. **Penryn Mulfran,** a narrow point of land consisting of low sandhills, extends about 3 cables eastward from Belan Point.

144. **Anchorage.** On the south side of the entrance to Menai Strait the small bay close eastward of Belan Dock affords anchorage for small craft at all states of the tide. The foreshore, consisting of mud near the dock and sand farther eastward along Penryn Mulfran, shelves gradually from stony patches near the high water line, but, at the low water line, slopes steeply into depths of from 1 to 5 fathoms. The anchorage extends from a point about ¼ cable off, and in line with, the entrance to the dock, for about 3 cables eastward. A swell sets into the anchorage for an hour or so either side of high water when, during onshore gales, there is a heavy sea running on Caernarvon Bar. Vessels tend to sheer about at this anchorage due to a complex system of eddies set up by the strong tidal streams flowing through Aber Menai.

CAERNARVON BAR

145. **General Remarks.** Menai Strait is entered from the south-west through the head of Caernarvon Bay, where the channel over Caernarvon Bar leads up to the narrow entrance at Aber Menai. The coast is low and sandy, and the extensive warrens of Newborough, in the north, and Morfa Dinlle, in the south, form the flanks of the approach. Conspicuous features in the approach are formed by Llanddwyn Island and Lighthouse in the north-west, and by Dinas Dinlle, a green mound with yellow cliffs, in the south-east. Caernarvon Bar extends between these two points, a distance of 3 miles. The sandbanks group themselves into two main areas: the North and South Sands, with the navigable channel running between them. The sandbanks dry as much as 6ft in some parts, and are constantly shifting, and the positions of the buoys marking the channel are sometimes altered, while even in the channel there is sometimes as little as ½ fathom of water at l w s. The mouth of the navigable channel lies about a mile south of Llanddwyn Island Lighthouse. Llanddwyn Island provides a convenient anchorage, in plenty of water off its south-eastern coast, should it be necessary to await the tide.

146. **The Fairway** over Caernarvon Bar to Aber Menai is marked by three starboard-hand buoys (B con) numbered 1, 3 and 5 and three port-hand buoys (R can) numbered 2, 4 and 6. The red can buoys marking South-west Rock and South-east Rock, off Llanddwyn Island, should not be confused with the channel buoys. From the mouth of the channel, between No 1 and No 2 buoys and about 1 mile south of Llanddwyn Island Lighthouse, the fairway lies north-eastward to No 3 buoy, where it turns sharply to the south-east along the seaward edge of North Sands. At No 6 buoy the fairway bears more to the east, and, passing to the south of Aber Menai Perch, enters the Menai Strait at Aber Menai.

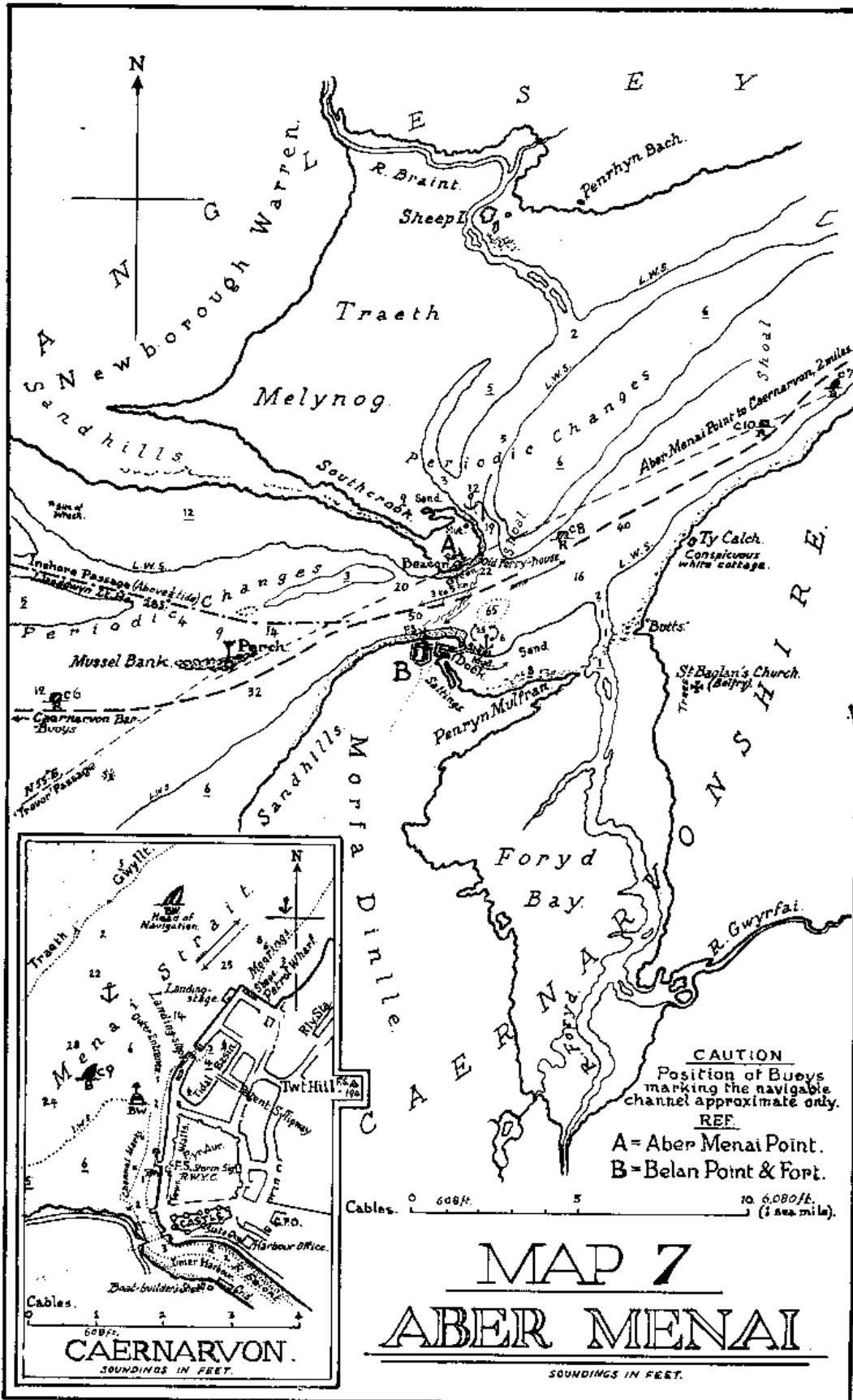
147. **Aber Menai Perch,** with square topmark, is situated 6 cables westward from Belan Fort, and marks the south-eastern edge of a mussel bank, which extends from the perch north-eastward for ½ cable and westward for 1½ cables.

148. **South Sands Passage.** After a long spell of easterly winds a channel opens up through South Sands, but subsequent onshore gales soon cause this channel to silt up. Under ideal conditions, and within an hour or so of high water, small vessels making up from the direction of Trevor or Porth Dinllaen sometimes make use of this elusive passage, the leading mark being Aber Menai Perch on a bearing of 55°. As a general rule, however, it is advisable to make use of the buoyed channel.

149. **The Inshore Passage** between Aber Menai and Llanddwyn Island may be taken by boats of shallow draught, under suitable weather conditions and above half tide, when there should be a depth of 1½ fathoms on this course. The course lies roughly parallel to the shore of Newborough Warren, passing about 1 cable north of Aber Menai Perch, and thence on a line drawn between a conspicuous pointed sandhill, situated close westward from Belan Fort, and Llanddwyn Island Lighthouse. The course on this line is 285°.

150. **Caution.** In strong onshore winds or ground swell it is inadvisable to approach Caernarvon Bar.

ANGLESEY AND NORTH WALES COAST PILOT



Note: The topmark on the perch marking the Mussel Bank has been changed from an inverted triangle to a square.