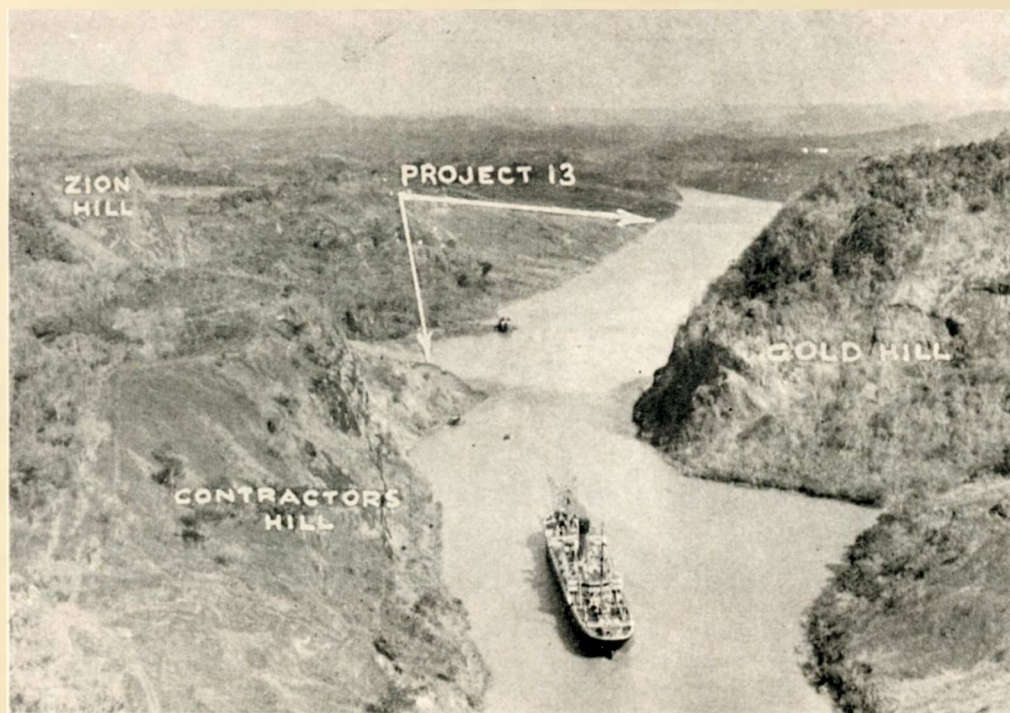


## Tecon Contract Extended To Include Removal Of 250,000 Yards Of Material In Project 13



PROJECT 13 is well defined in this picture taken before Tecon Corporation started work on Project 13-A (Contractors Hill). A total of 250,000 cubic yards of material are to be removed as part of Project 13. The arrow in the foreground marking the limits of this 20-year project marks where this tip of Cucaracha formation juts out into the Canal channel.

The completion of Project 13 on which work has been in progress intermittently for the past 20 years may not be many months away.

This project, authorized in 1934, provides for the widening of the entire section of Gaillard Cut known as Culebra Reach to a bottom width of 500 feet. It is now approximately 96 percent completed. The remaining part is approximately 900 feet long on the north side of Contractors Hill and involves approximately 437,000 cubic yards of material.

A supplemental agreement has been reached with Tecon Corporation to remove this spur which juts out into the Canal channel down to near the water level as an extension of its work on the Contractors Hill project. This will involve the removal of approximately 250,000 cubic yards of Cucaracha formation.

Also under consideration is a proposal to have the contractor blast the 187,000 cubic yards of material below elevation 90 feet to bottom depth. This would complete Project 13 except for the removal of the blasted material which could be done

later by wet excavation.

### Two-Month Extension Granted

A two-month extension has been added to Tecon's contract for Project 13-A (the Contractors Hill work) since the additional excavation will be done as a part of the main contract. However, the Contractors Hill project is well ahead of schedule and it is presently estimated that both projects could be completed by the end of August.

The extension of the contract to include the Project 13 work will be advantageous and economical since the contractor has the necessary equipment at the site and the excavation can proceed concurrently

with that on Contractors Hill. It also eliminates the hazard of having one contractor working independently of another in the confined area.

All of the 250,000 cubic yards of material to be removed on Project 13 will be dumped in the same area as the spoil from Contractors Hill which is being hauled to the old Rio Grande water reservoir for disposal.

All work done on Project 13 up to the present has been accomplished by the Dredging Division forces. The work has been done on a low priority basis and has included blasting and sluicing. The material was removed by dipper dredges and hauled by scows to dump areas in Gatun Lake.

### Most Of Work Done

Nearly one and a half miles of channel of Culebra Reach has already been widened but the spur of Cucaracha material which remains and projects into the channel opposite Gold Hill greatly reduces the usefulness of the completed section for a distance of 1,500 to 2,000 yards. The spur is at a point in the channel where vessels make an abrupt change of course and the completion of the project will be of special benefit to northbound traffic by improving visibility coming into the reach and removing the hazard of a vessel taking a sheer in the change of course as it passes Gold Hill.

The work on Contractors Hill is now entering its final phase and at the end of April it was reported that Tecon had excavated a total of 1,235,000 cubic yards of rock, and 410,000 cubic yards of Cucaracha formation. Rapid progress has been made by the contractor during the dry season with efforts being concentrated in recent weeks on the excavation of the Cucaracha, or shale, which is difficult to handle during rainy season.

In accomplishing the excavation to date the contractor has used 544,000 pounds of explosives in blasting the rock and shale, and has drilled a total of 75 miles of holes.