

Files

October 7, 1959

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ROMANIAN FIELD STUDY

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It was most helpful in consideration of the future of the Rongelap and Rongerik studies for me to spend 1 week on the Alets at Rongelap Atoll, with the University of Washington personnel. The time selected was most appropriate since the ship was getting ready to leave Ebolihe Islet to make stops at one or two islets per day on an exploratory collecting trip around the Aolls. We visited 11 islets, making collections of cocoon crabs, plants, reef organisms and soil and observing conditions on the islets. A map of the Aolls is attached. The Alets had an excellent skipper and the University of Washington scientists were on the go all seven days that I accompanied them. We ended our tour on the night before I left by beaching the Alets on Rongelap Islet for a final look at the many experimental areas and to pick up film badges, x-ray film and small equipment preparatory to the 1 1/2 year absence from the Aolls.

Dr. Wald went ashore on landing and was greeted by many natives who seemed to be completely at ease with him and to hold him in high regard. One of the native leaders, Bulo, had prepared an impressive assortment of high quality native craft products and gave them to Dr. Wald as gifts for his family.

During conversations with Bell Morris, the resident Agriculturist on Rongelap Islet, I became convinced that there had been nothing but friendly attitudes toward this invasion and during the Sept 1 - Sept 25 period when Dr. Wald and Mr. Morris were together on the Alets they became good friends and each respected the other's ability.

One very unfortunate incident by a Navy crew will be reported through channels. It goes approximately thus: A jetec Army, Airforce, civilian sapping team (Marine) was operating on Ebolihe in March when the University of Washington spring visit was made. Although this group was apparently not cleared through the Trust Territory, they were quite helpful and did not destroy any of the projects or equipment used in the Rongelap study.

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In May the natives reported to Neil Morris that LST 748 (USS Clark County??) was inside the Rongelap Lagoon. No clearance had been obtained from the Trust Territory and this ship was apparently ordered to clean up behind the Miran group. They did the very opposite of cleaning up on Kabella. They were maliciously destructive, breaking up all glass and metal parts on the University of Washington Lysimeters, tearing down drain pipes from the Kabella cistern and ripping out markers and experimental plots whenever located. The littered beer cans looked like the remains of a large two weeks party on the beach. The monetary loss was considerable and valuable data was lost forever.

The Trust Territory has been informed of this incident and Henry Schlacks of the Eniwetok AEC office is making a report through Ray Emens, Branch Manager, and their channels.

I would strongly advise continuation of the Rongelap study as soon as clearance to do so can be obtained from the Trust Territory. Invaluable information is being collected concerning atoll ecology as well as a continuous surveillance of radiation decay in the islets.

Attachment:

Atoll maps

cc: Dr. Shilling
 Mr. Whitnah
 B. Weichold

OFFICE ▶	BMES					
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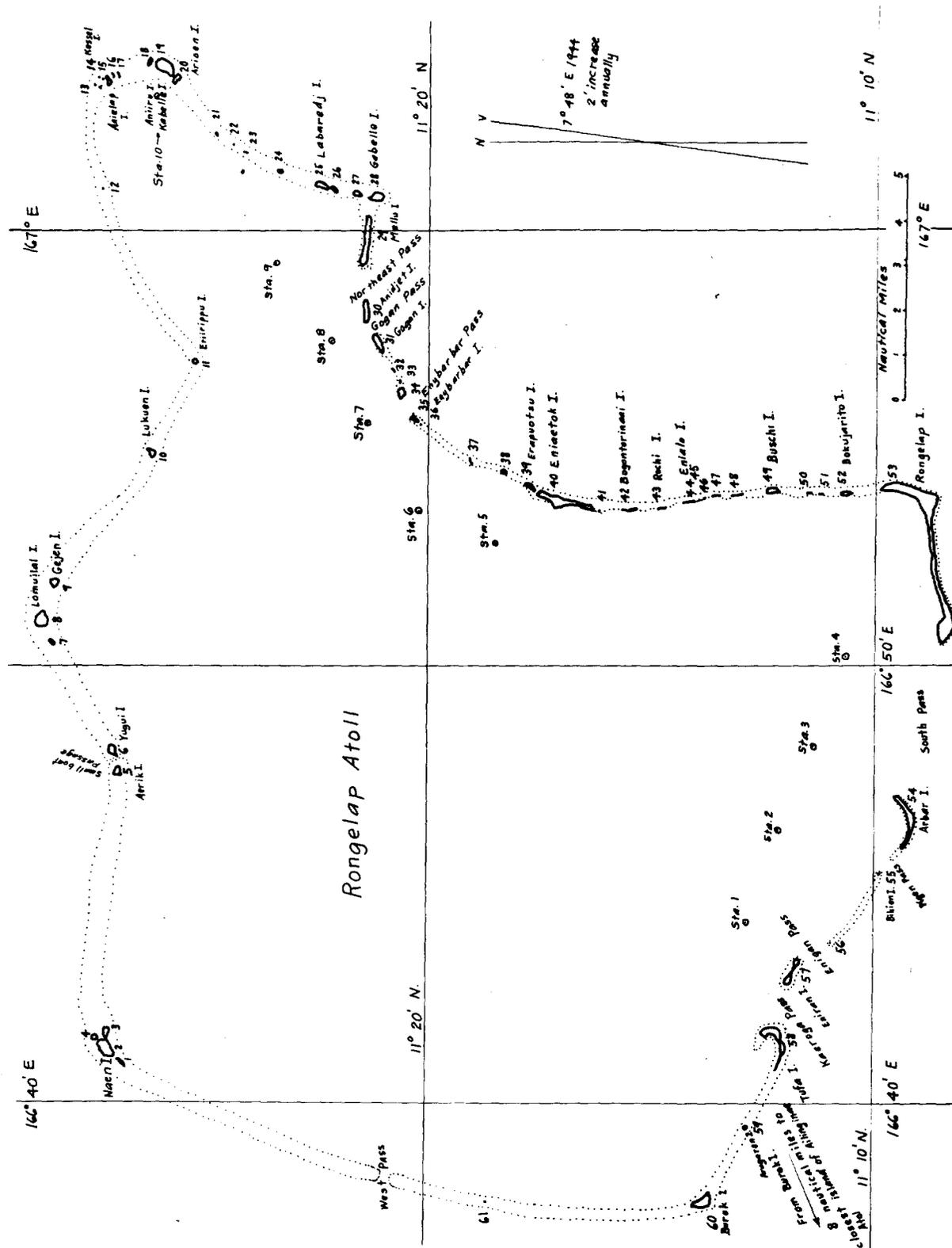
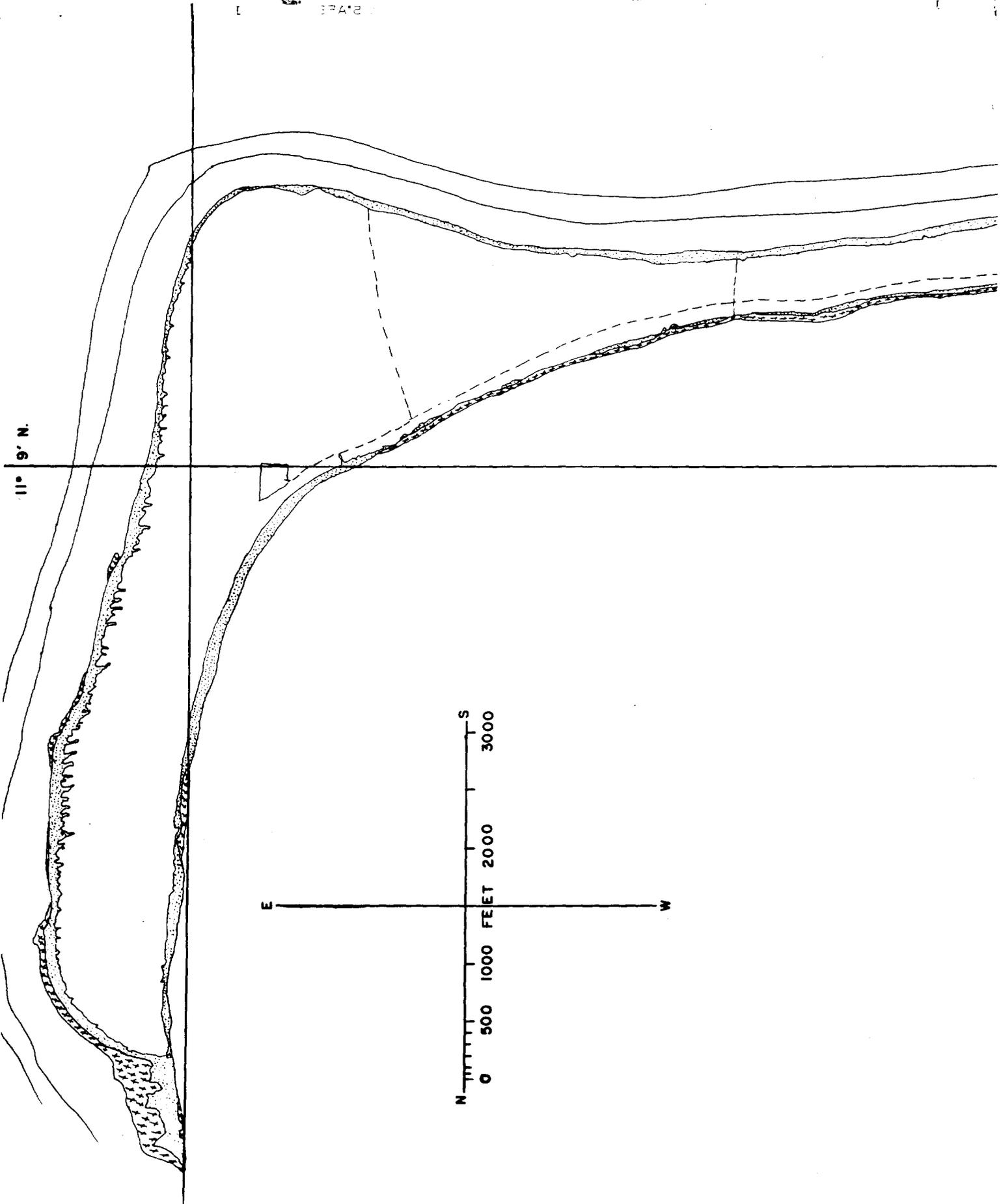


Figure 1. Map of Rongelap Atoll showing locations of ten plankton- and bottom-sampling stations in the southern and eastern portions.

Key to Islands of Rongelap Atoll

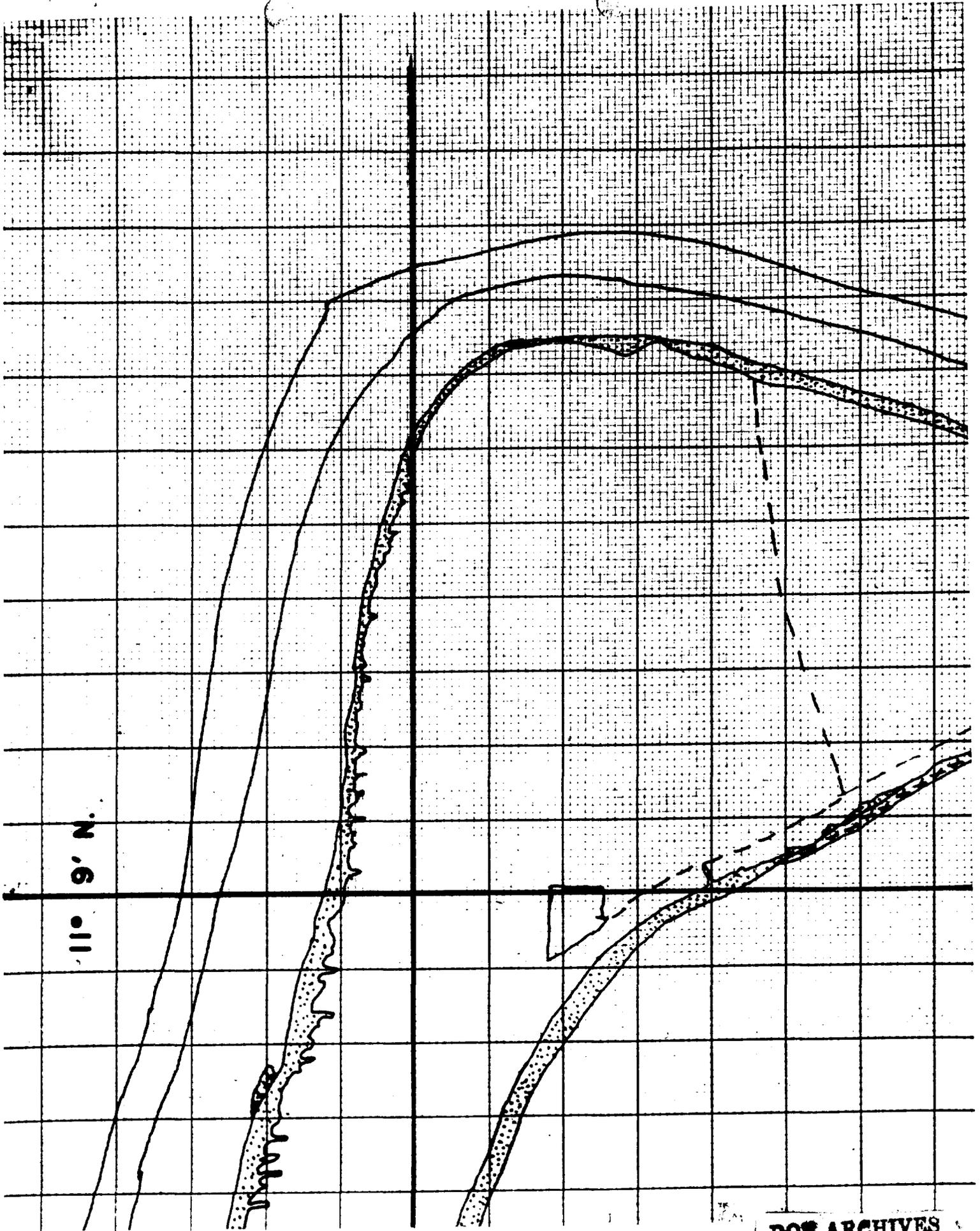
1		32	
2	Naen	33	
3	Yugui	34	Kieshiechi
4	Piganiyaroyaro	35	Enybarbar
5	Aerik	36	
6	Yugui	37	Bigannuo
7		38	
8	Lomuilal	39	Erapuotsu
9	Gejen	40	Eniaetok
10	Lukuen	41	
11	Eriirippu	42	Bogontorinaai
12		43	Rochi
13		44	Enialo
14	(Kessel)	45	
15	Anielap	46	
16		47	Rigonman
17		48	Weobiji
18	Aniiru	49	Busch
19	Kabelle	50	Roggutsu
20	Namoen	51	
21	Mejatto	52	Bokujarito
22		53	Rongelap
23	Yuzugan	54	Arbar
24	Ribiyurigan	55	Bikien
25	Labaredj	56	Eniroruuri
26		57	Eniran
27	Bokoan	58	Tufa
28	Gabelle	59	Arugaren.
29	Mellu	60	Burok
30	Anidjet	61	Pokoreppu
31	Gogan		

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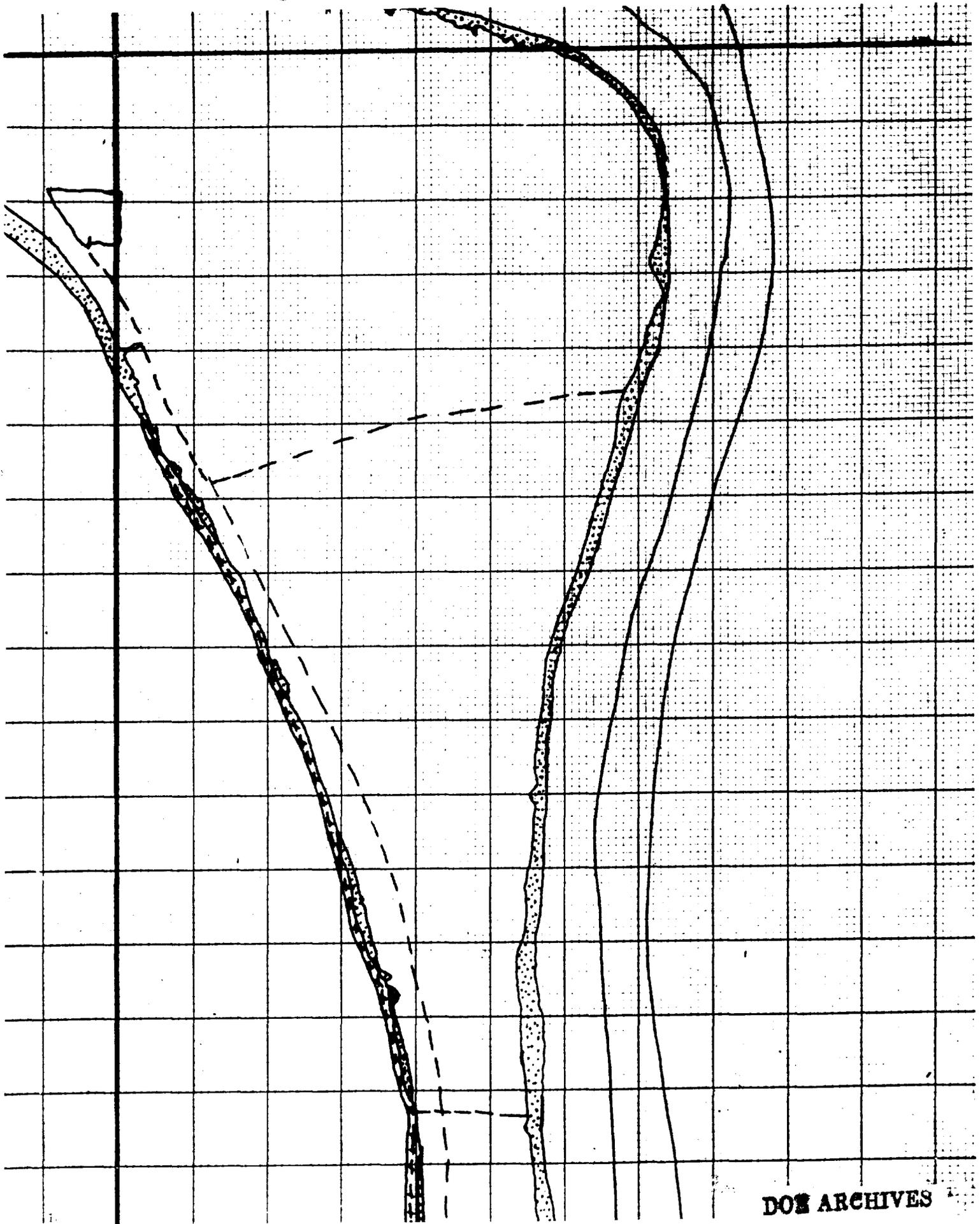


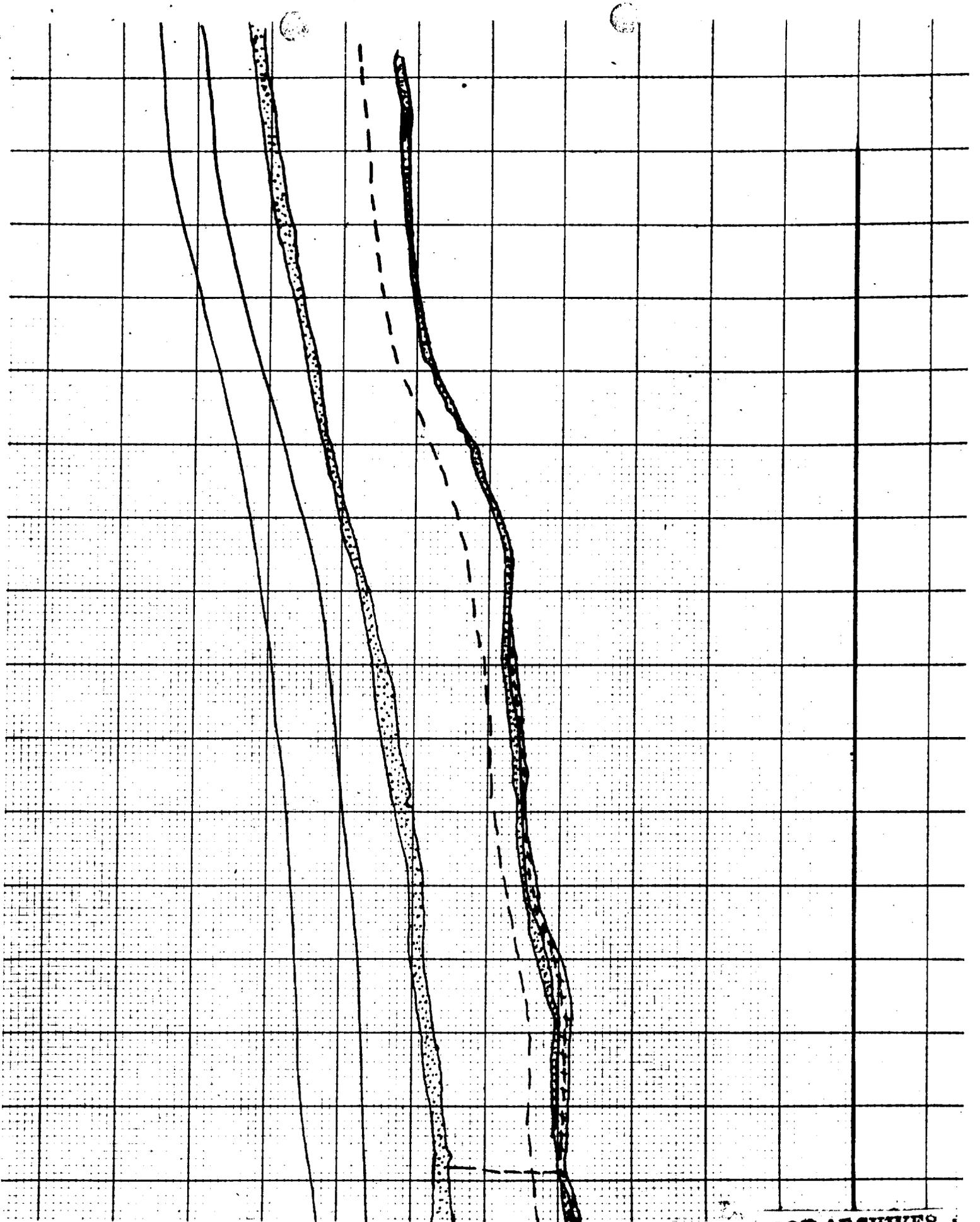
11. 9.

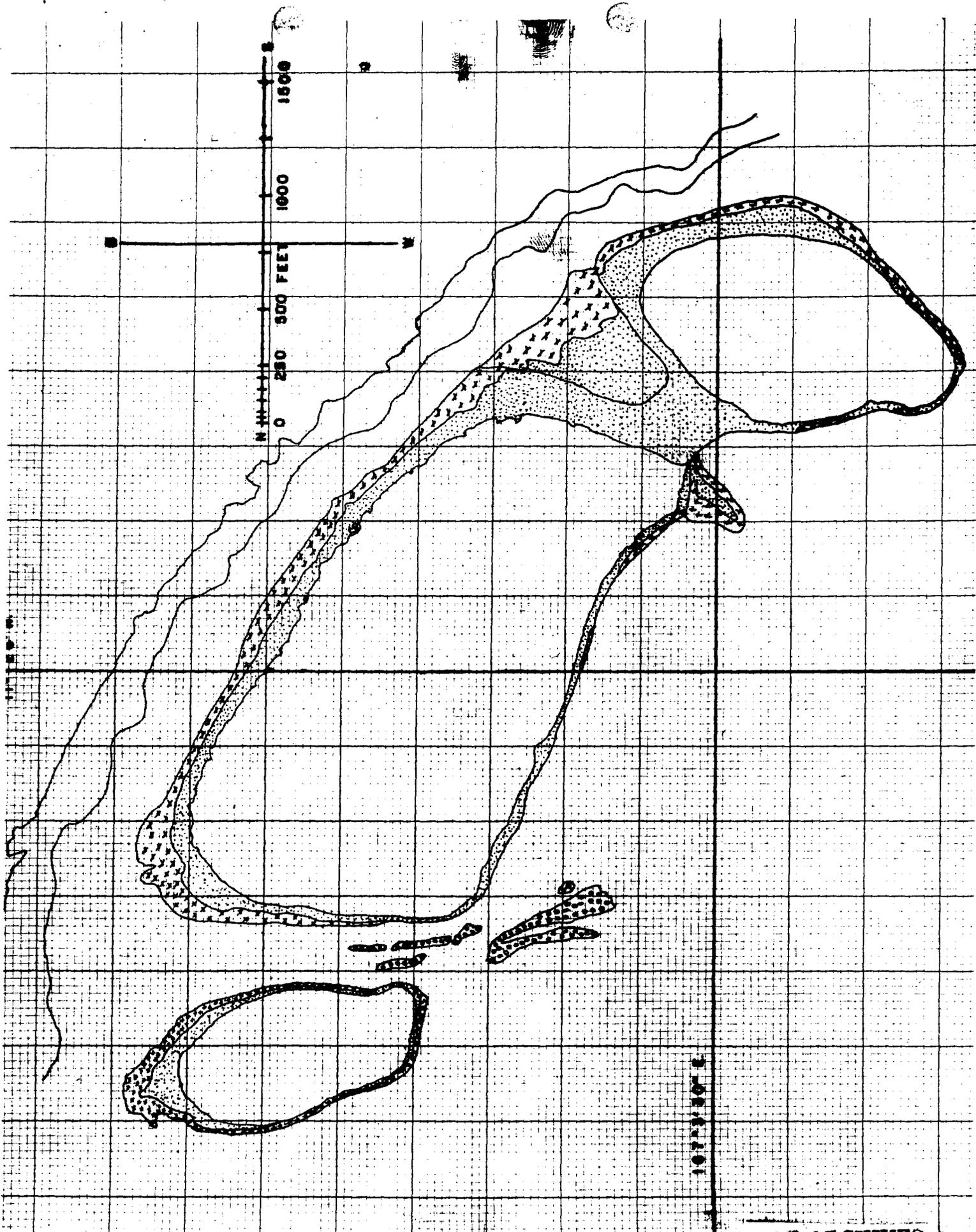




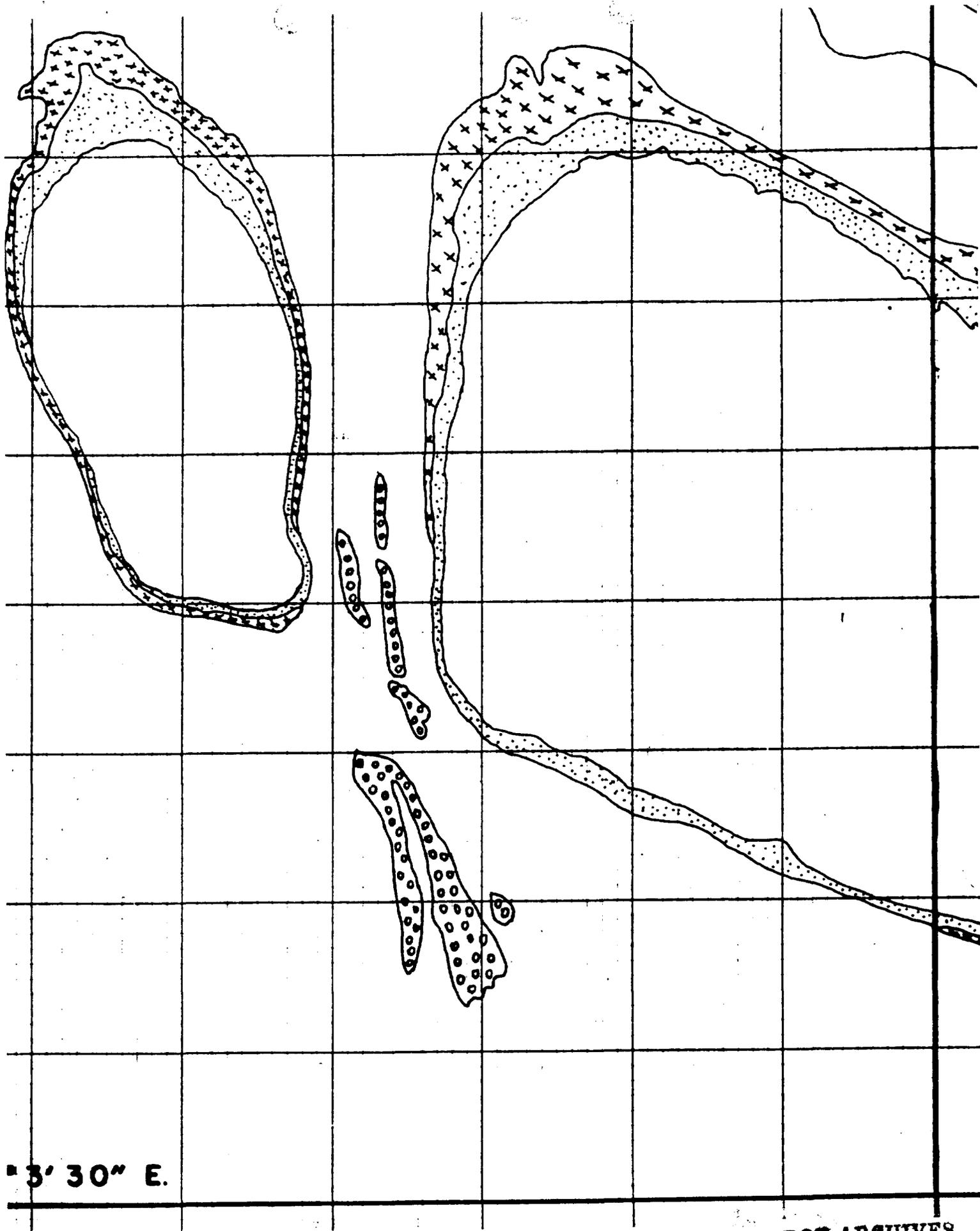
11° 9' N.



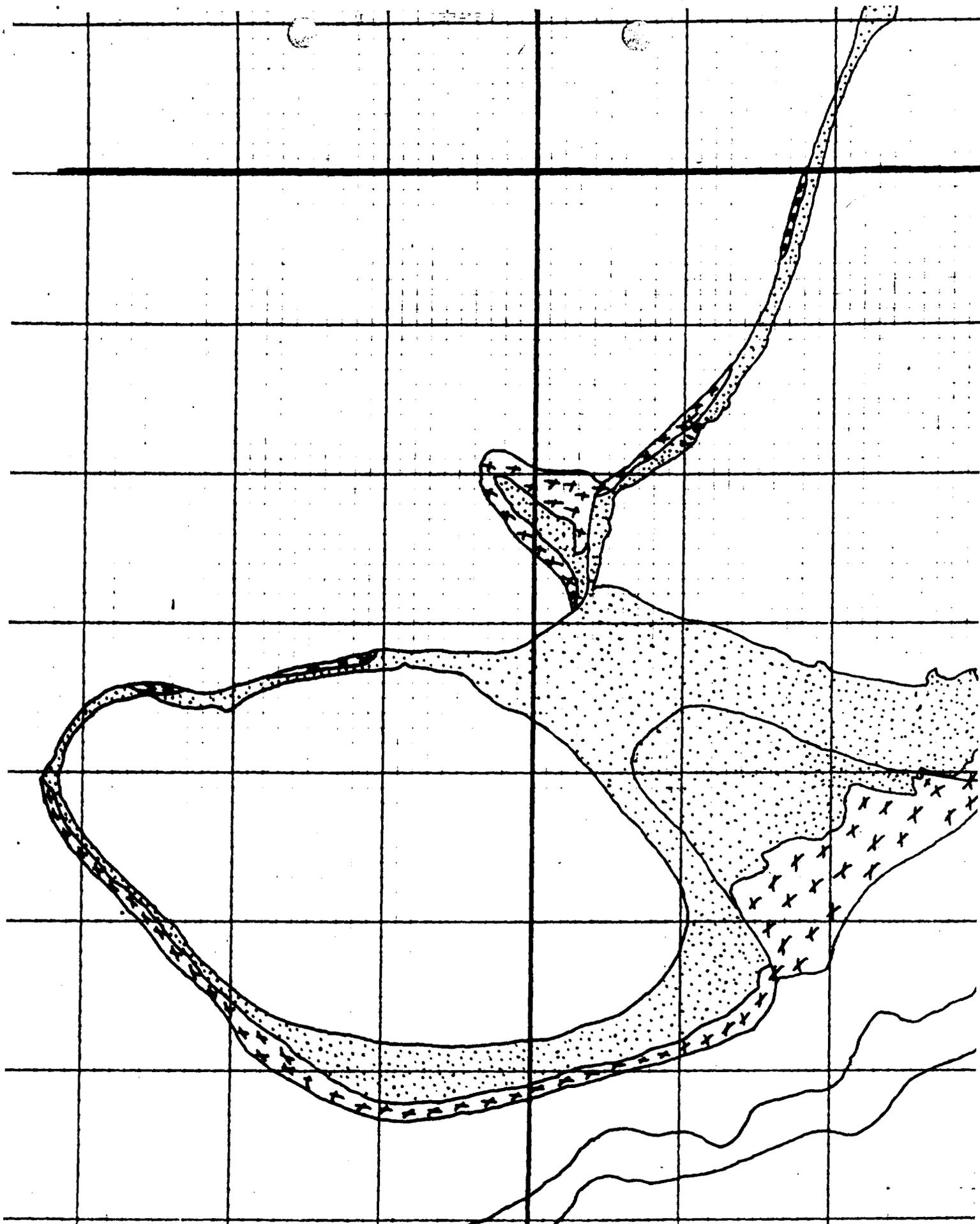


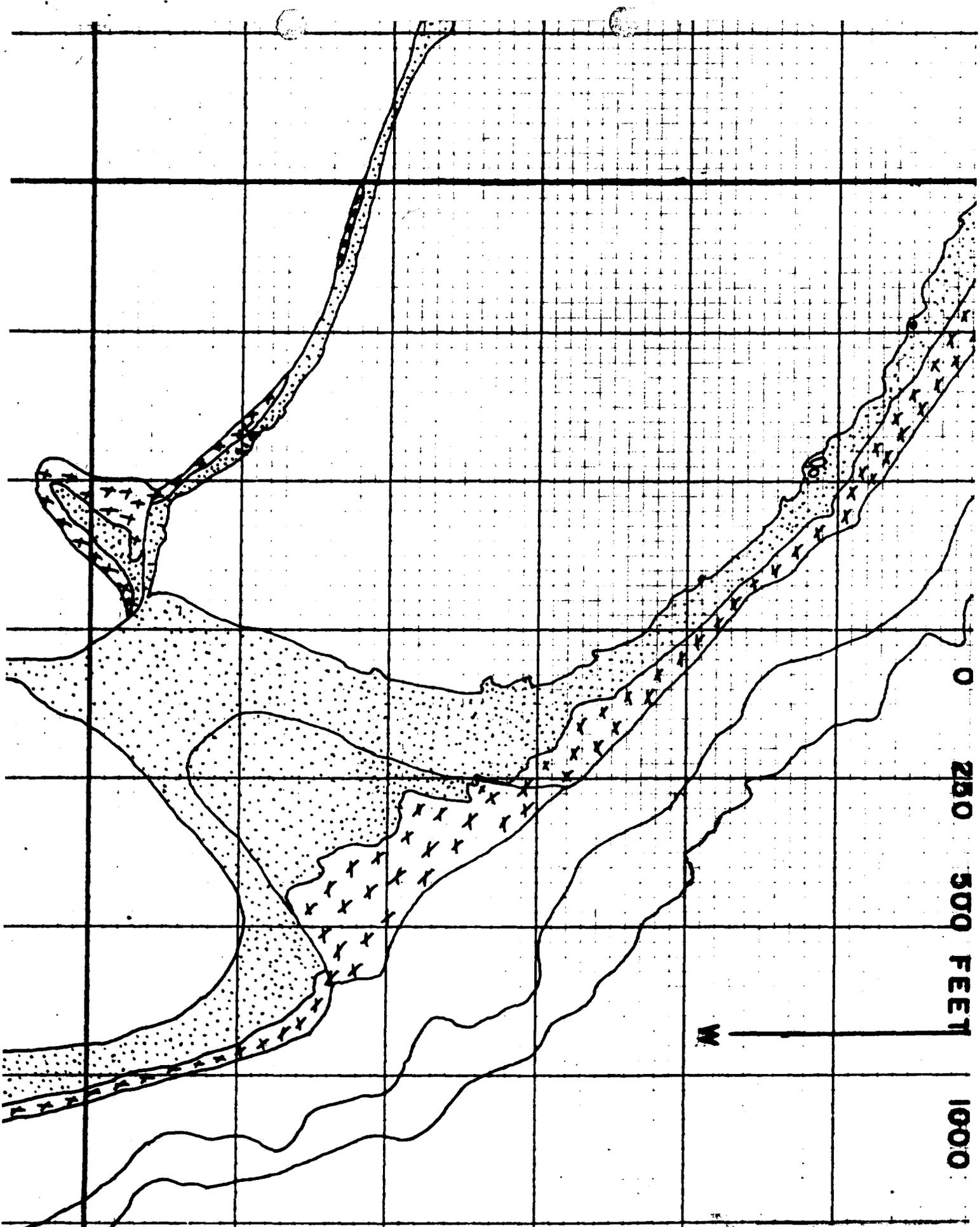


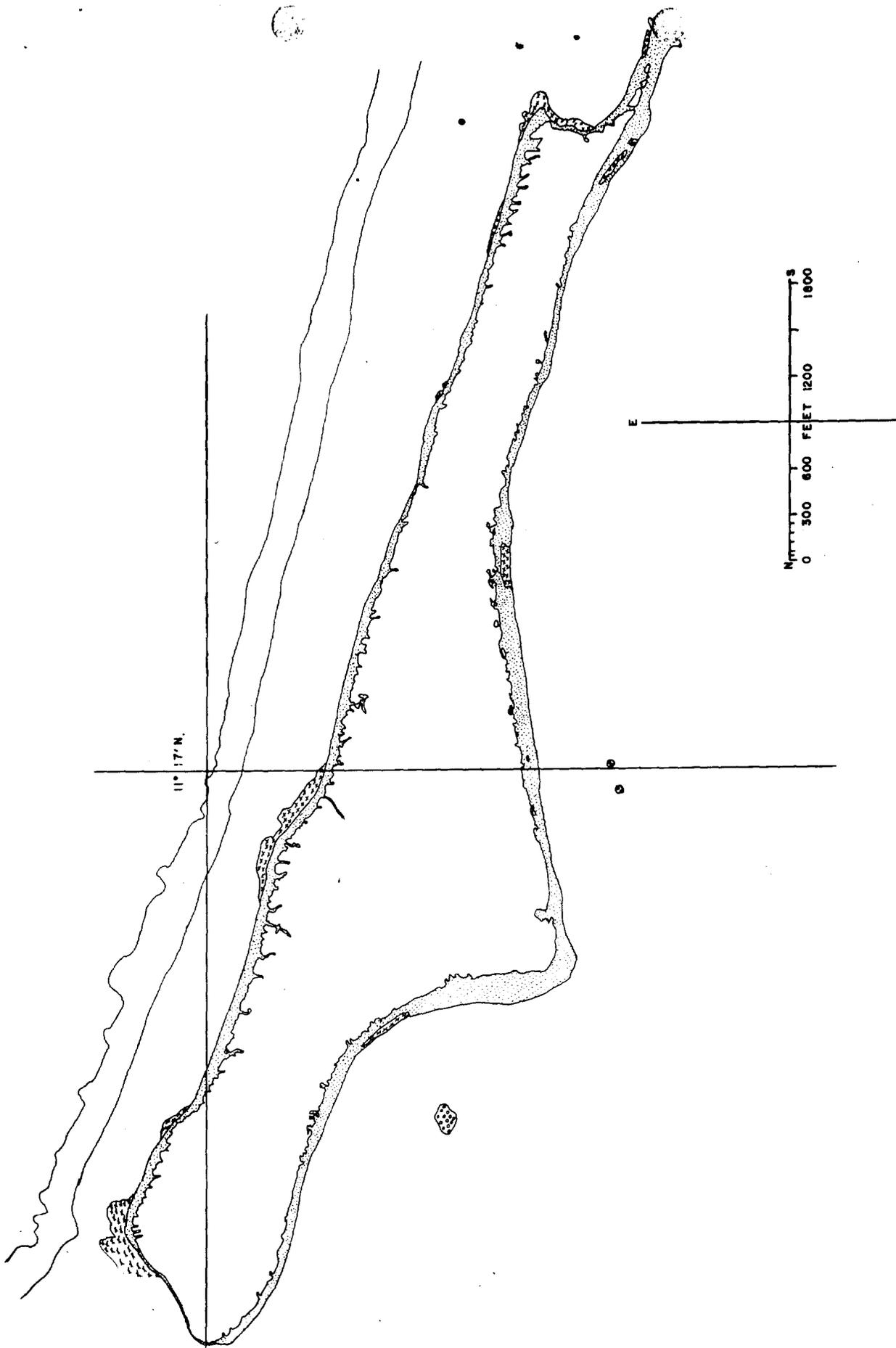
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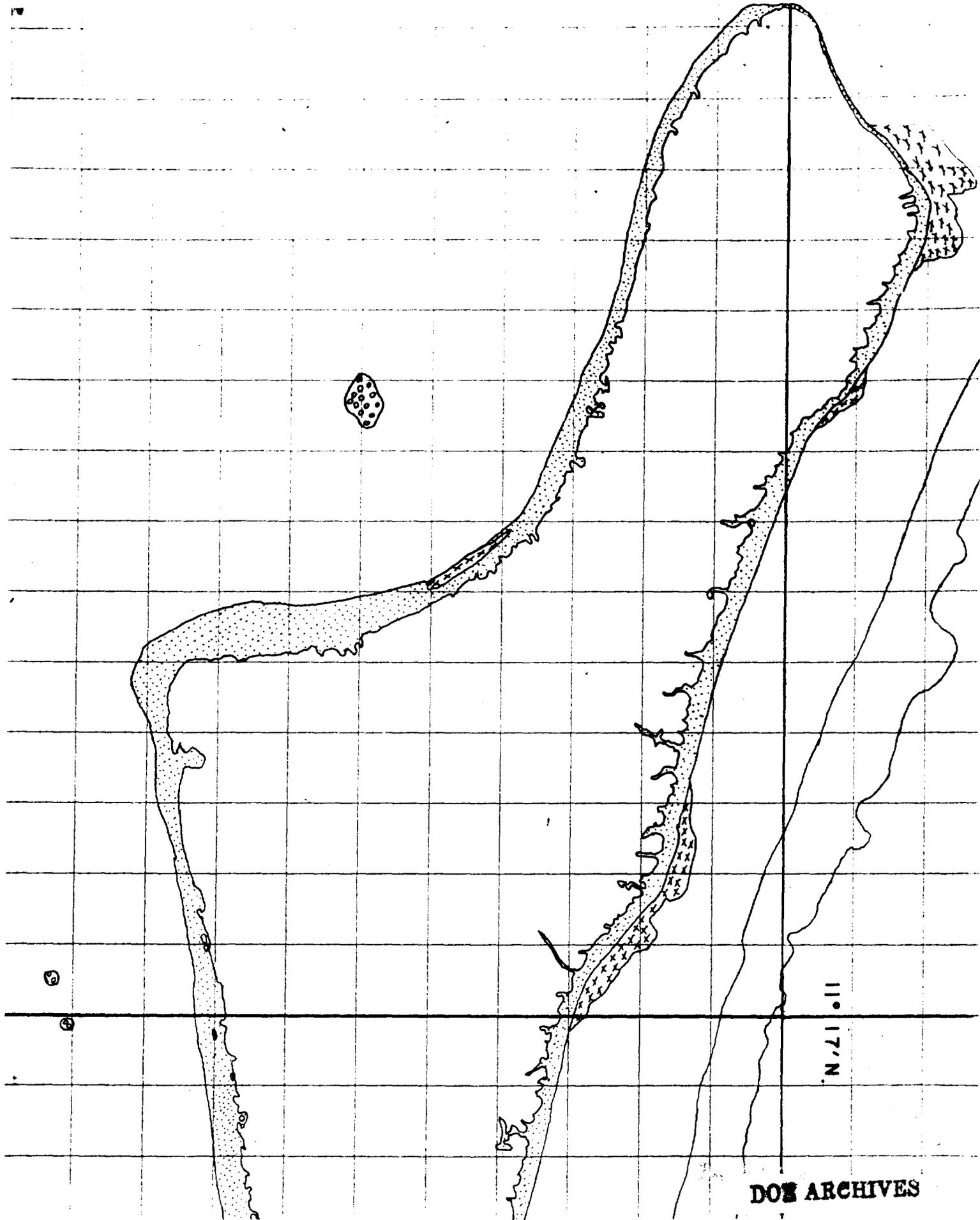


3' 30" E.



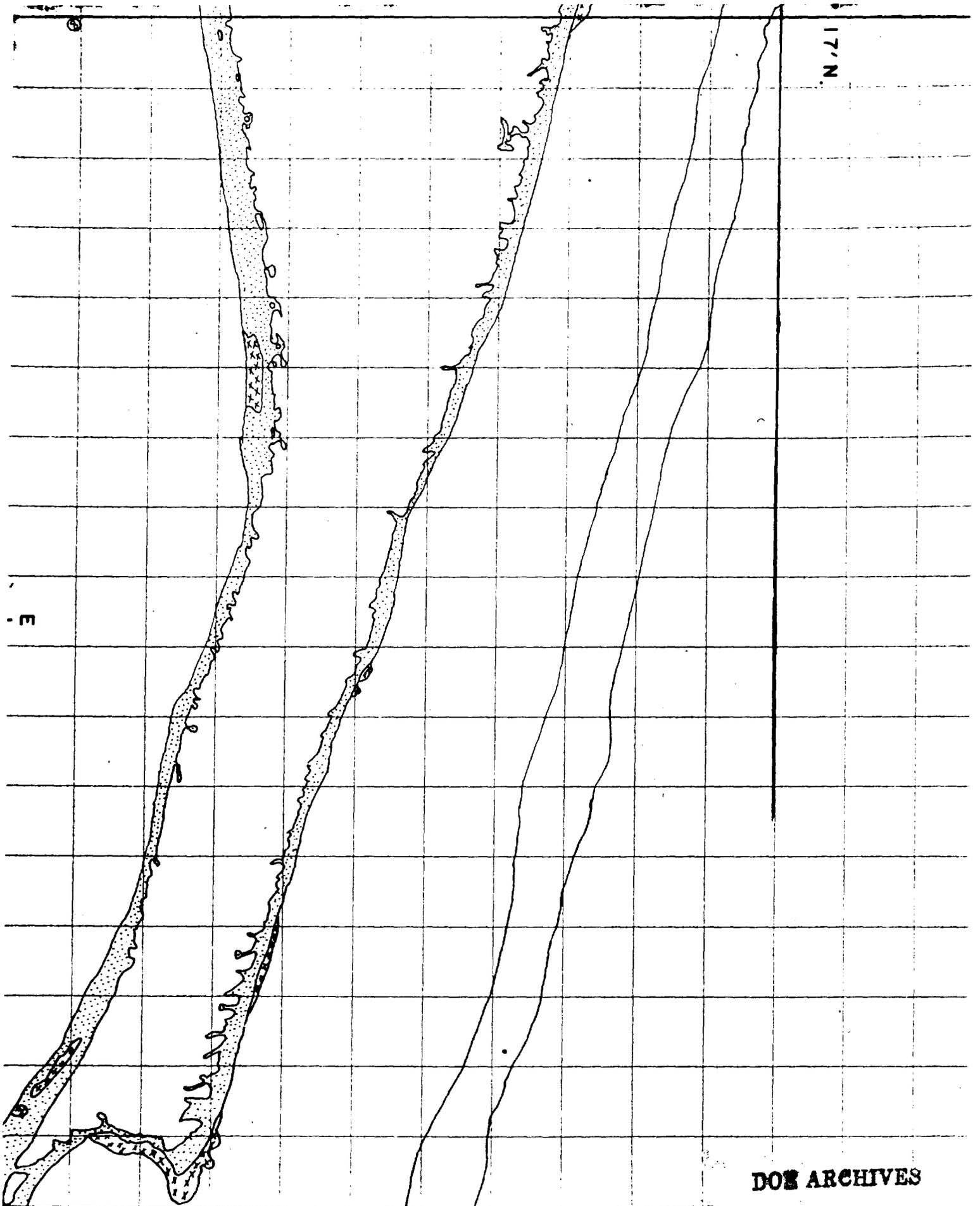






11. 17' N.

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17' N.

E.