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October 7, 1959

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## RONGELAP FIELD STUDY

(446)

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It was most helpful in consideration of the future of the Rongelap and EMEI studies for me to spend 1 week on the Atolls at Rongelap Atoll, with the University of Washington personnel. The time selected was most appropriate since the ship was getting ready to leave Ebeye Islet to make stops at one or two islets per day on an exploratory collecting trip around the Atoll. We visited 11 islets, making collections of coconut crabs, plants, reef organisms and soil and observing conditions on the islets. A map of the Atoll is attached. The Atolls 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 Alote 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 1½ year absence from the Atoll.

Dr. Held 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, Duis, had prepared an impressive assortment of high quality native craft products and gave them to Dr. Held as gifts for his family.

During conversations with Neil Morris, the resident Agriculturist on Rongelap Islet, I became convinced that there had been nothing but friendly attitudes toward this mission and during the Sept 1 - Sept 25 period when Dr. Held and Mr. Morris were together on the Atolls 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 joint Army, Airforce, civilian mapping team (Kiran) was operating on Ebeye 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 Miron group. They did the very opposite of cleaning up on Eabellie. They were maliciously destructive, breaking up all glass and metal parts on the University of Washington Lysimeters, tearing down drain pipes from the Eabellie 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 Enewetak 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. Whitnash  
B. Weichold

OFFICE ►	BMES						
SURNAME ►	J. E. Wallen:dpb						
DATE ►	10/7/59						

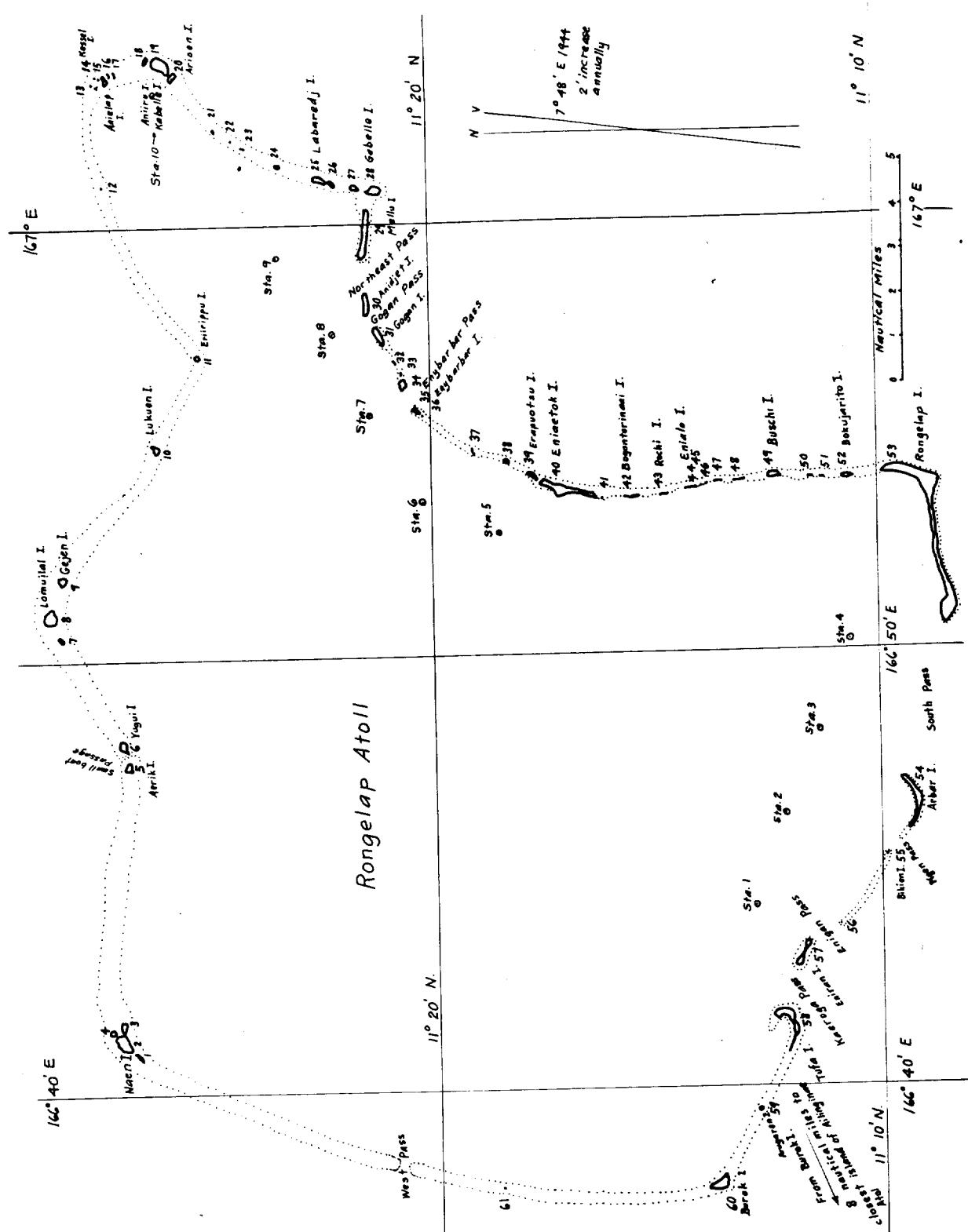
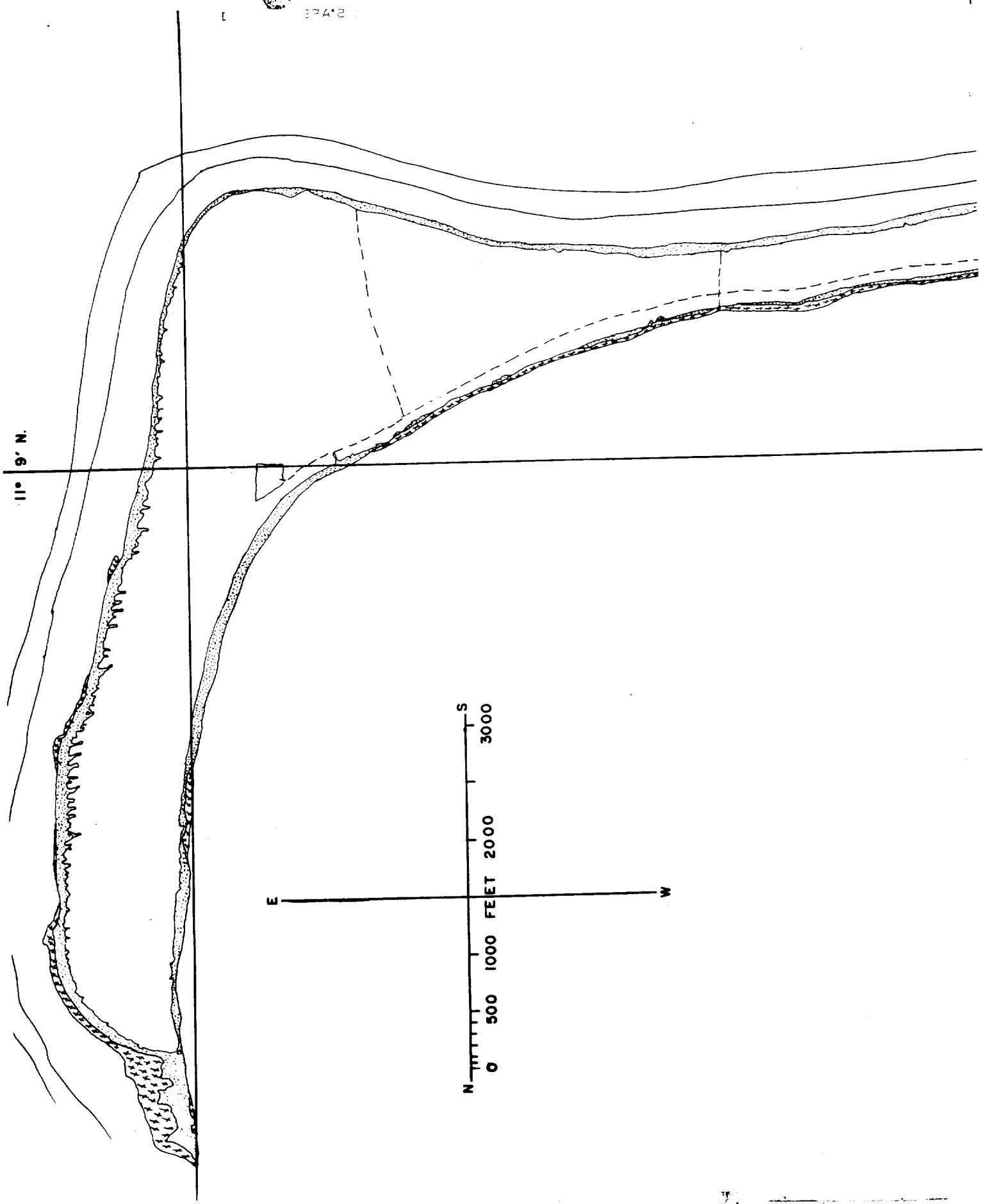
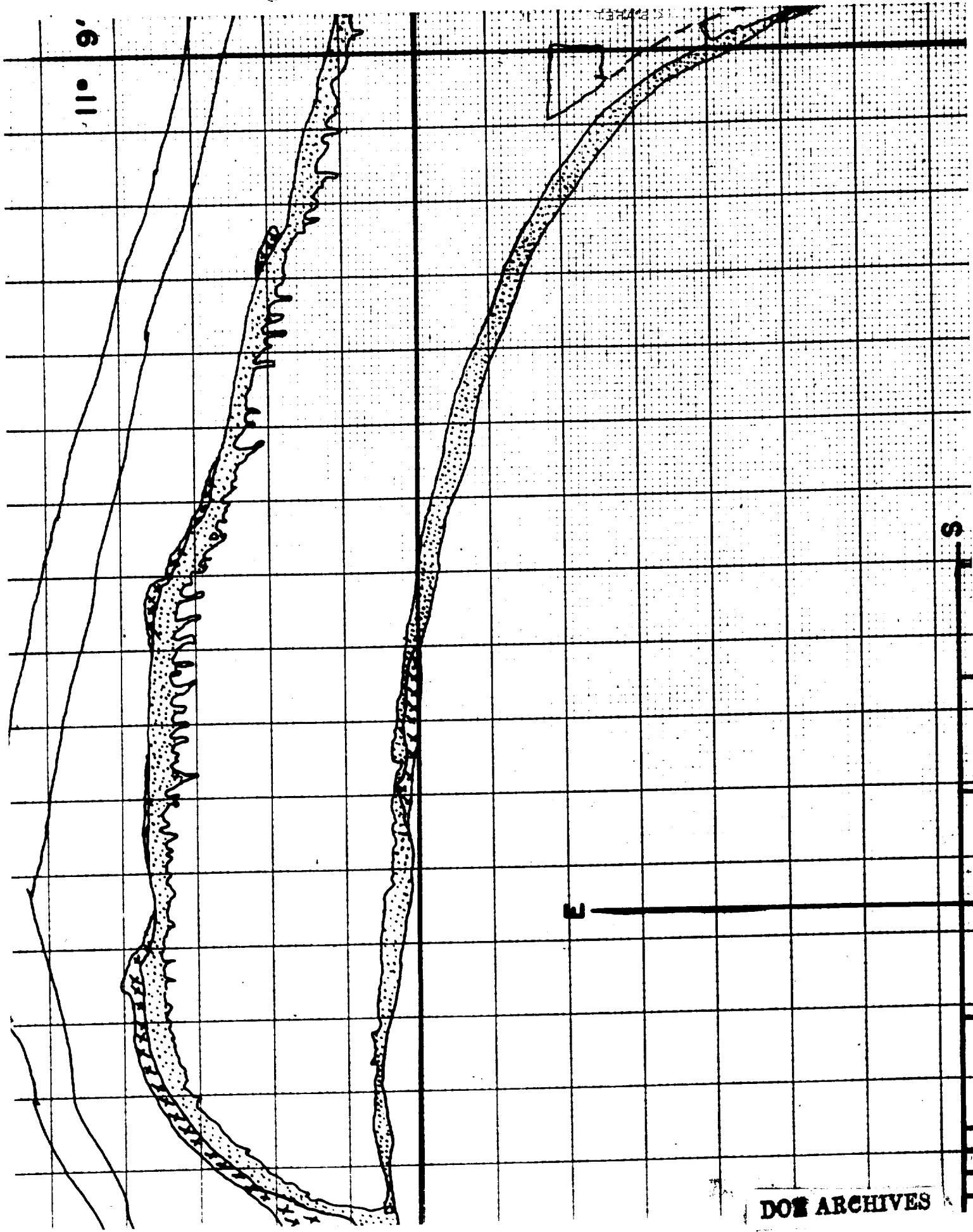


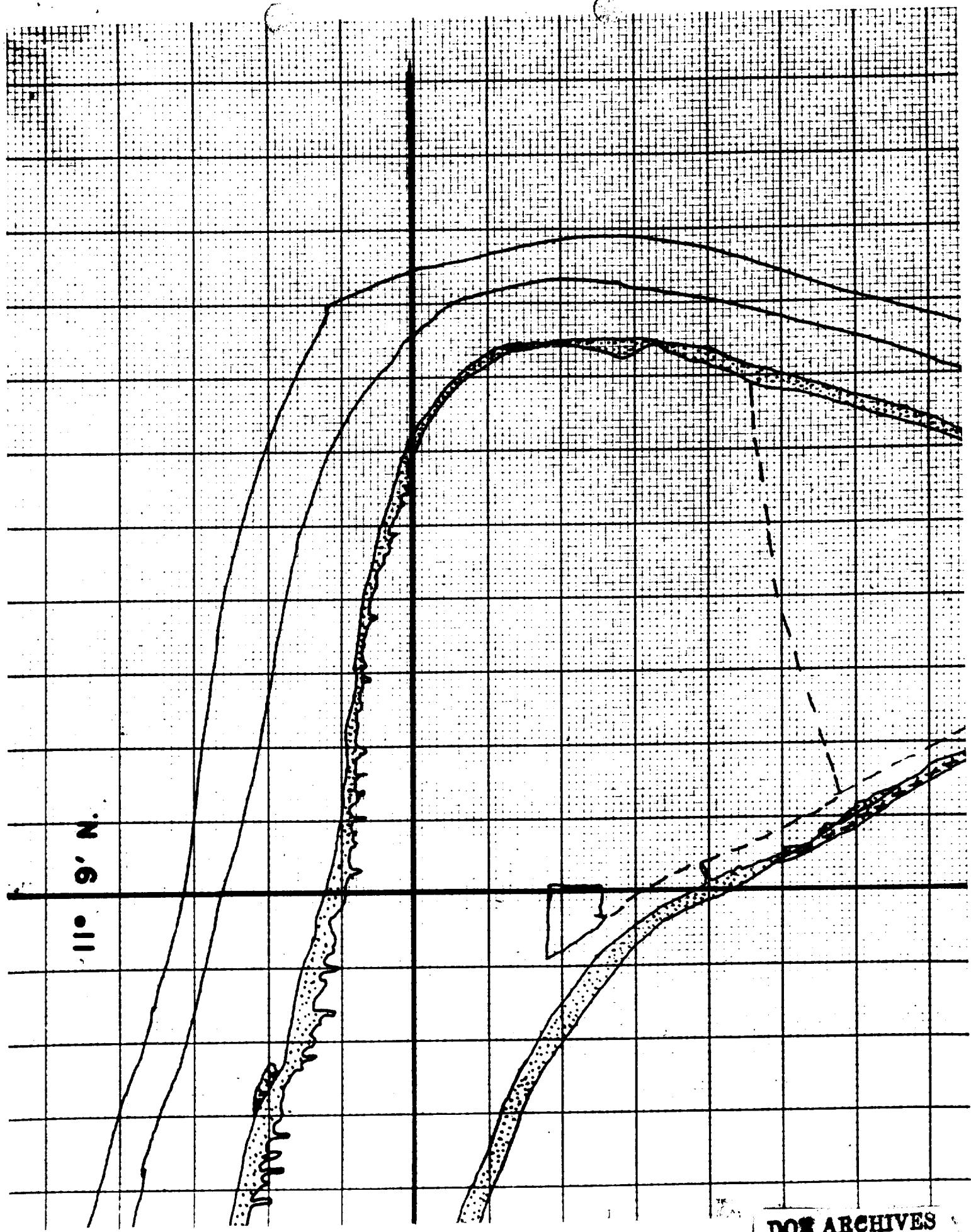
Figure 1. Map of Rongelap Atoll showing locations of ten plankton- and bottom-sampling stations in the southern and eastern portions.

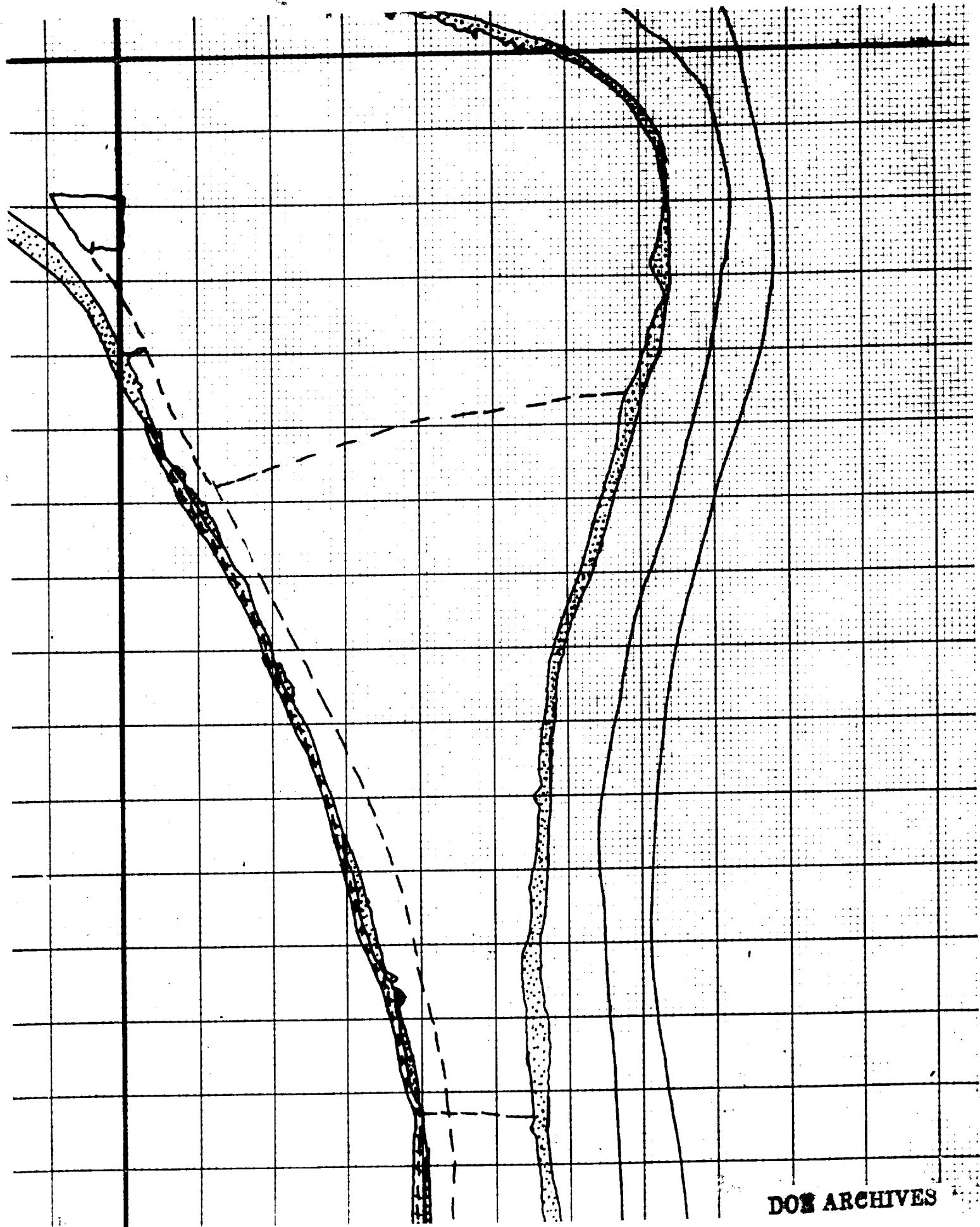
Key to Islands of Rongelap Atoll

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 Bokoen	58 Tufa
28 Gabelle	59 Arugaren.
29 Mellu	60 Burok
30 Anidjet	61 Pokoreppu
31 Gogan	

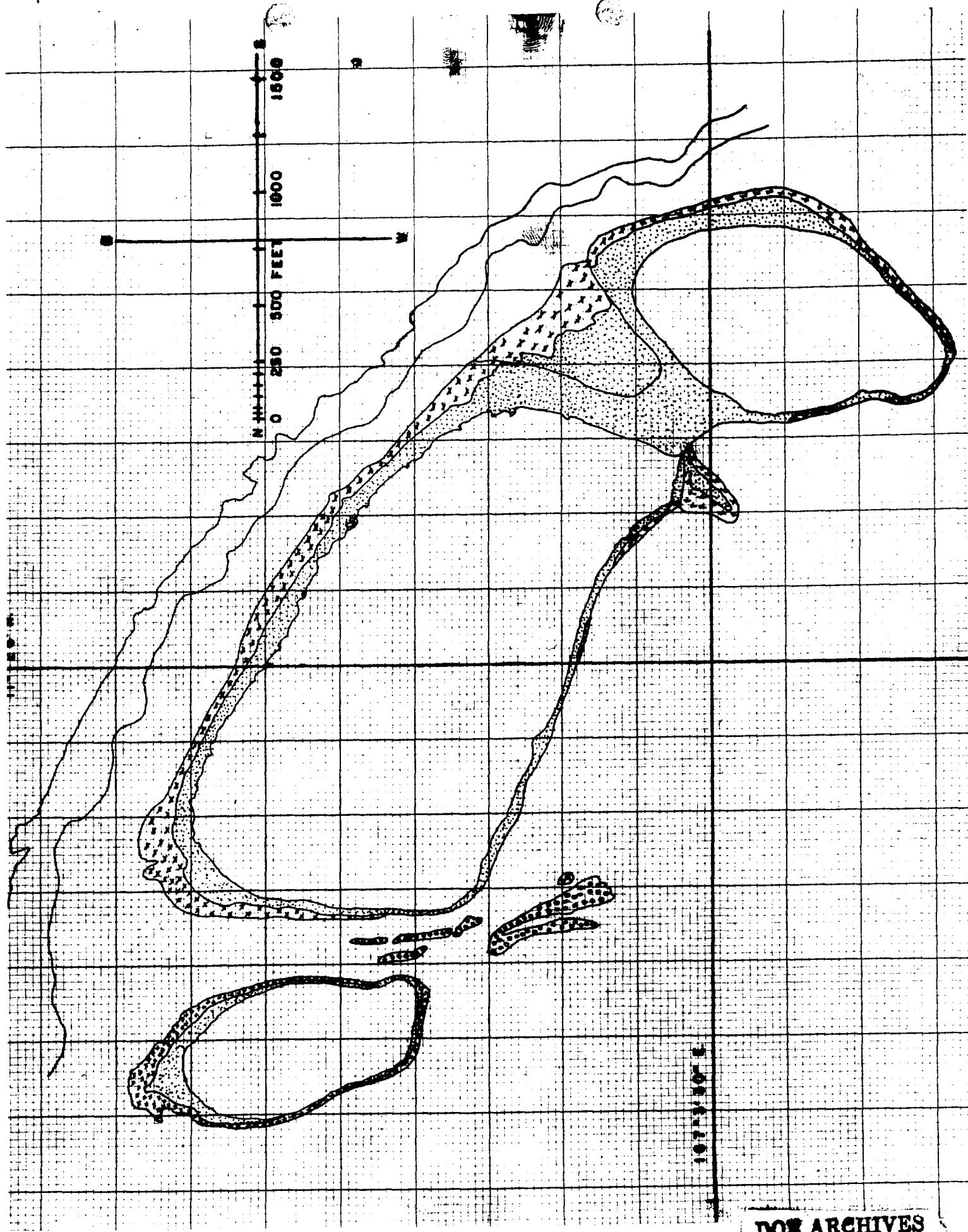


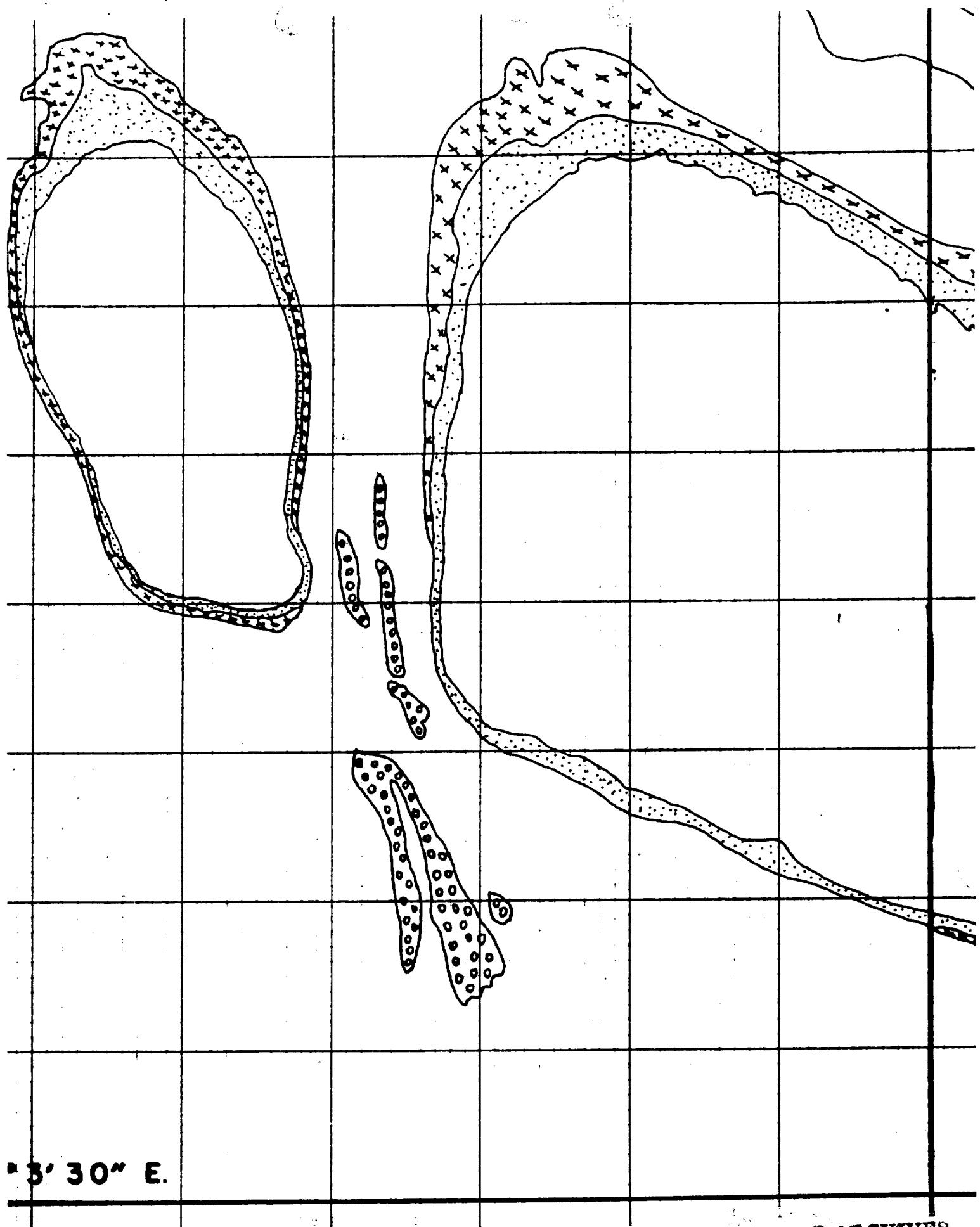


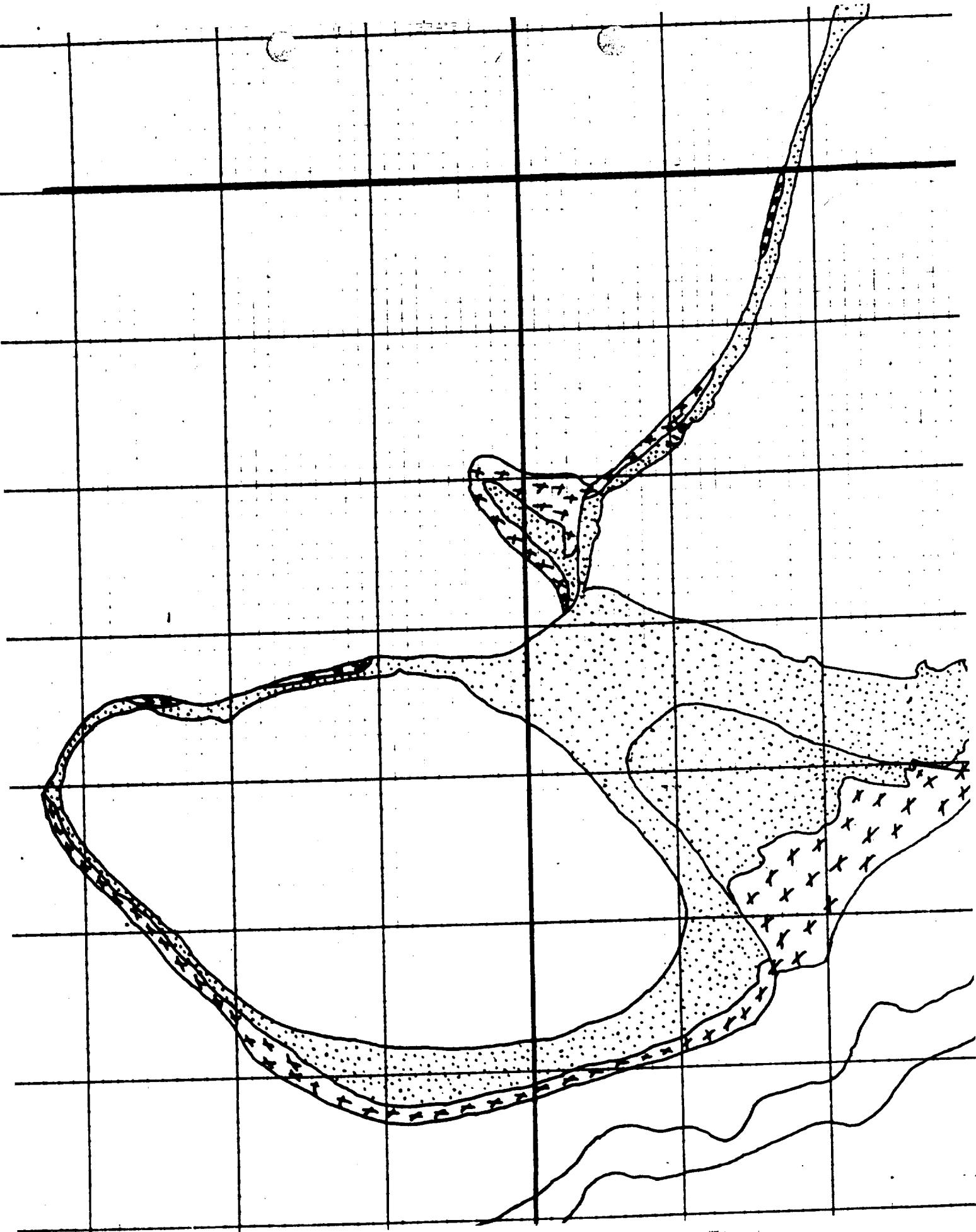


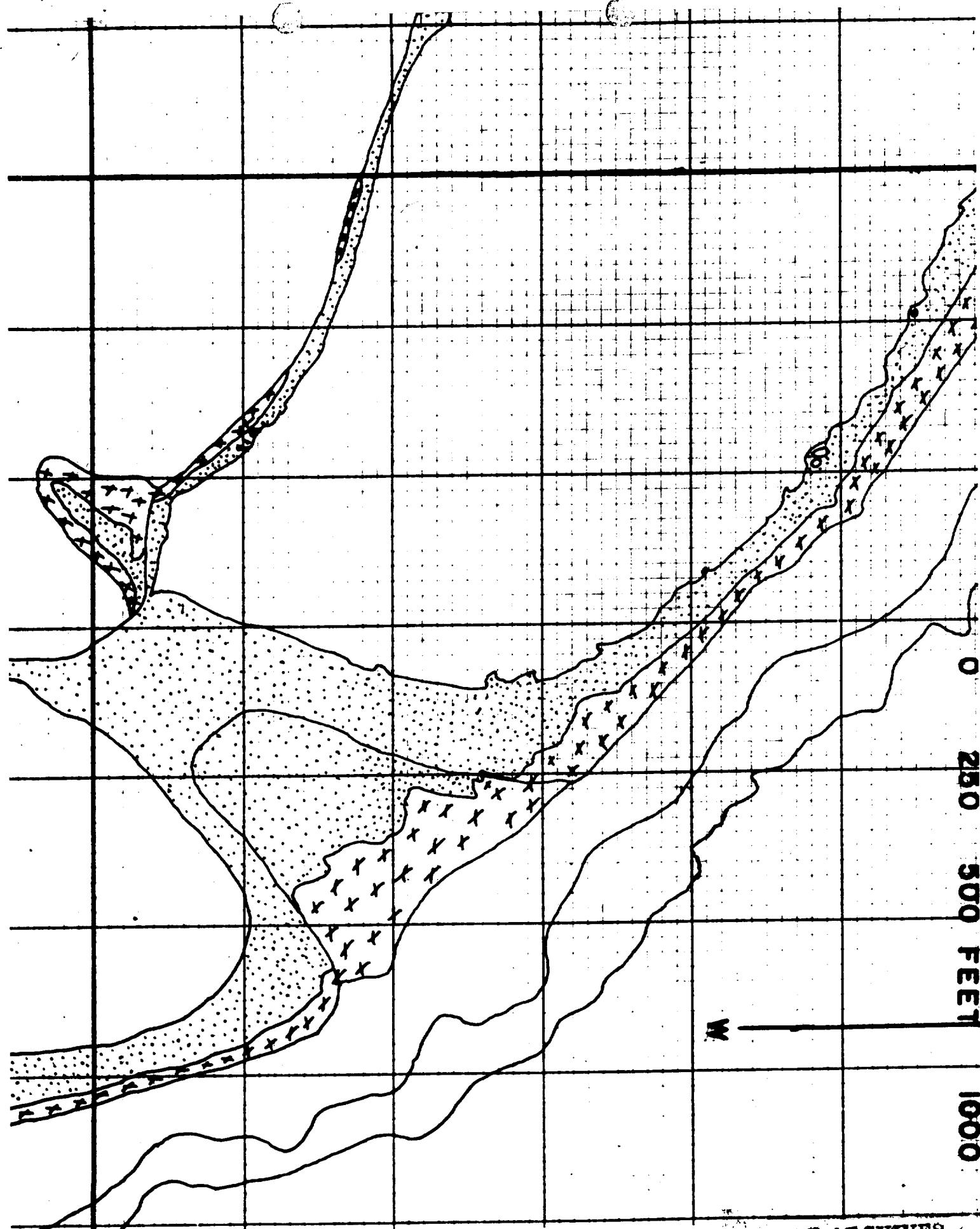




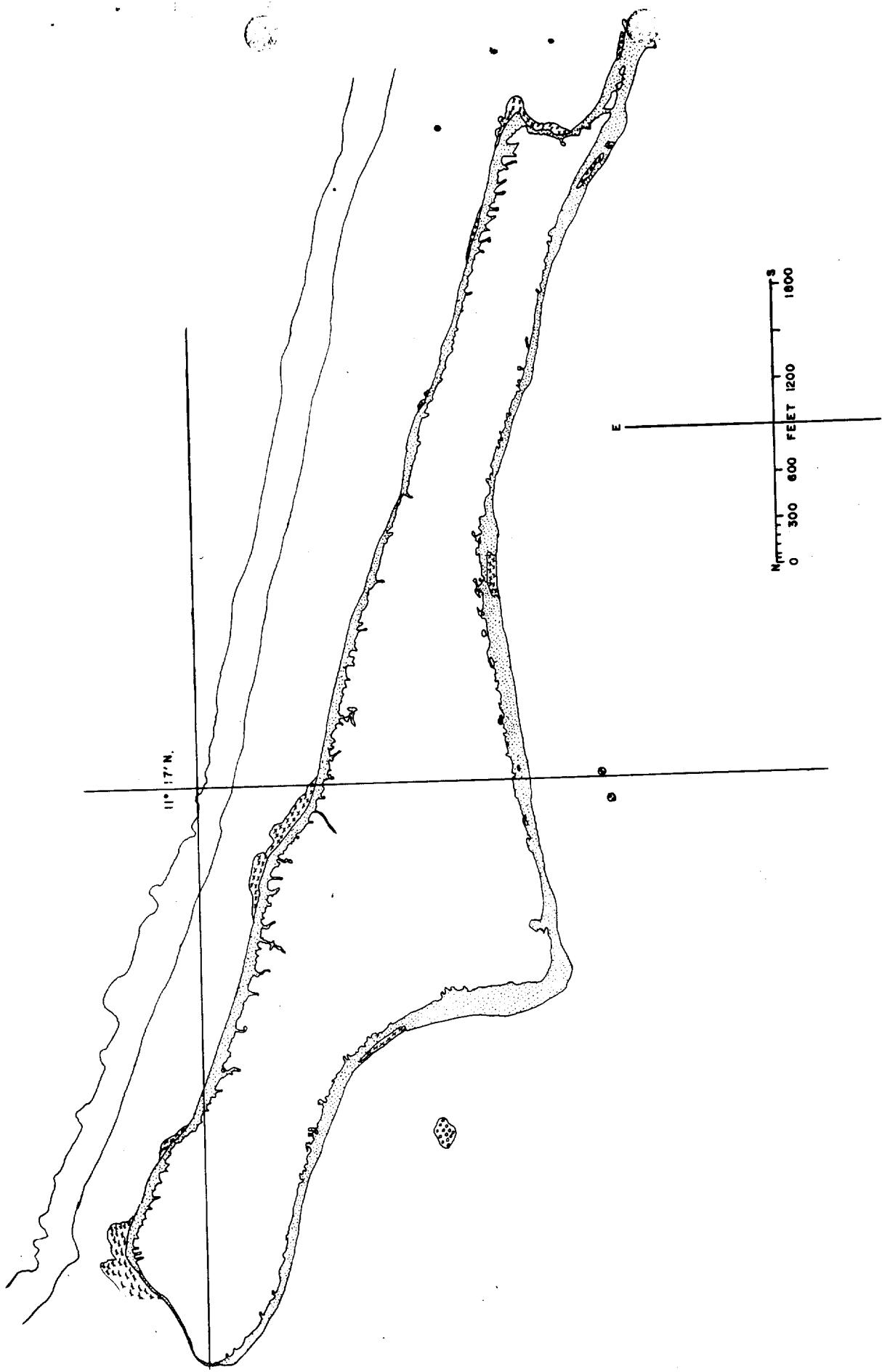


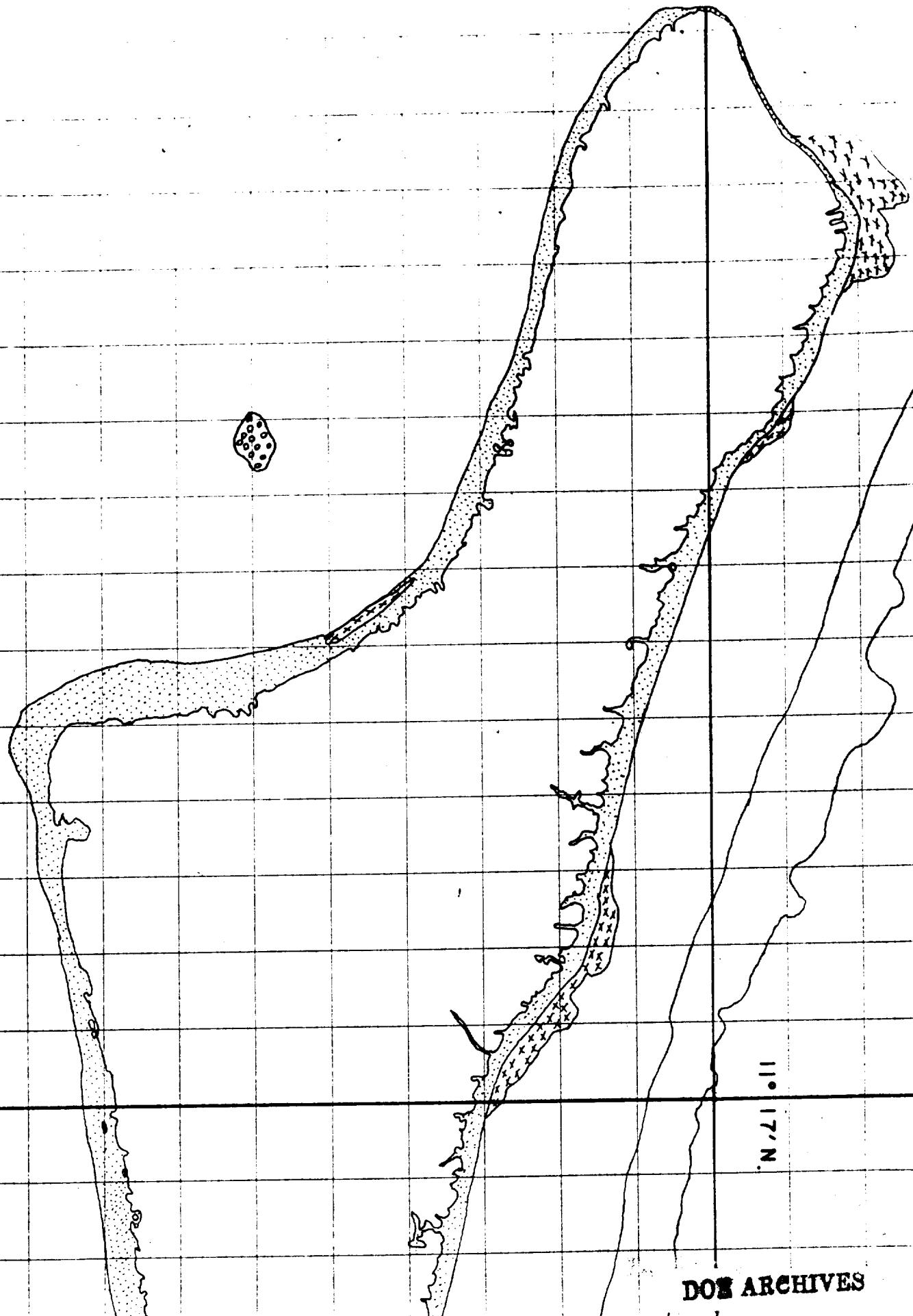


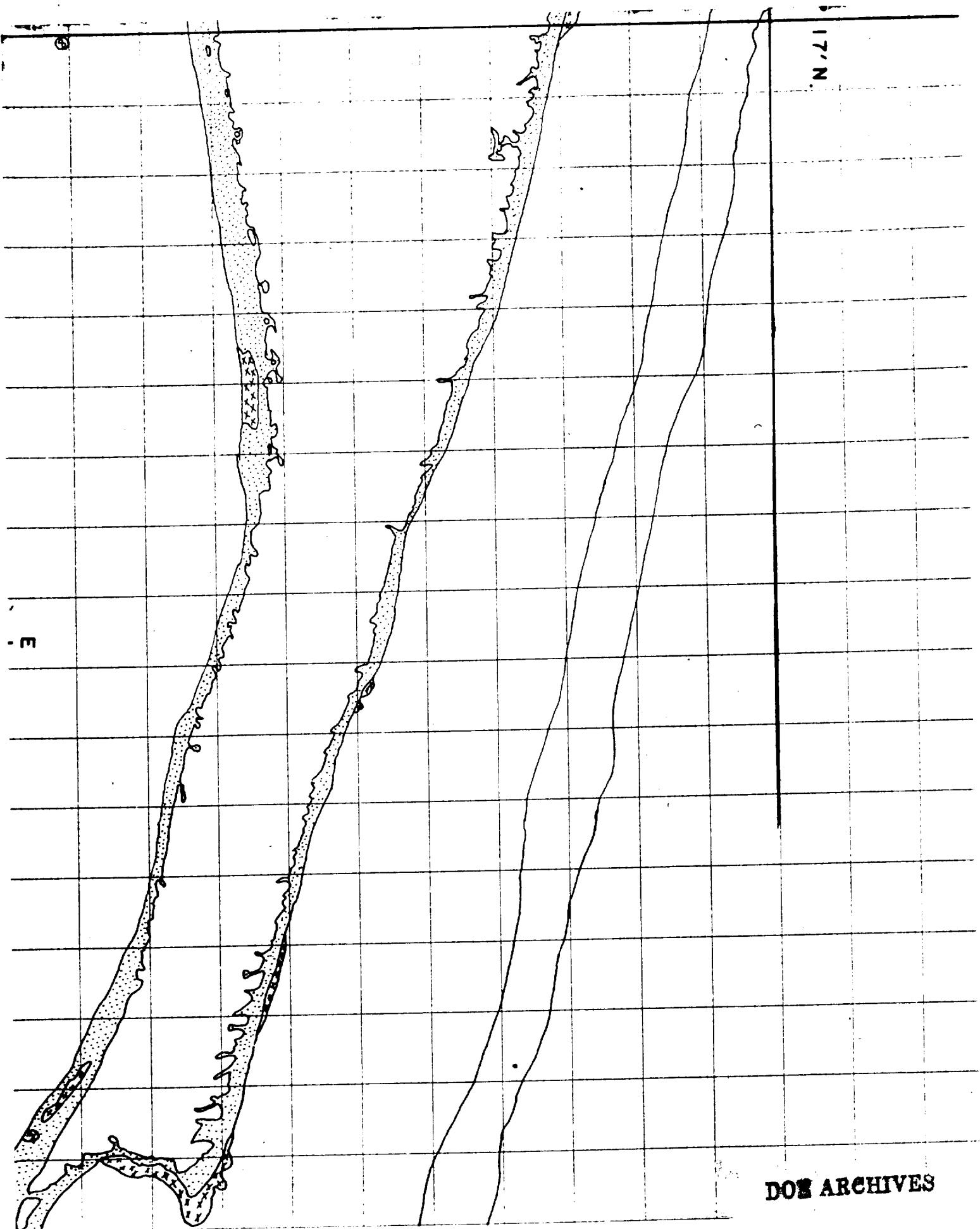




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