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AVDE-47MH-A

SUBJECT: Combat Operations - After Action Report

(2) The operation commenced at 222215 hours July with the deployment of the 3-34th Artillery (-) from Dong Tam to establish FSBs COLT and LARIAT in the vicinity of XS584154 and XS48262 respectively. On the morning of 23 July, the Brigade conducted waterborne assaults southeast of BEN TRE in accordance with OPORD 61-68. The 3-10th and 1-10th Regt, 7th ARVN Division initiated airmobile and waterborne assaults in AO MAIN, and moved north to sweep the area of the B-52 strike. As assault boats of River Division 91 was deploying the 3-60th Infantry down the RACH BEN TRE, the riverine column was ambushed in the vicinity of XS589260. The two lead ASPBs, one monitor, and one ATC were engaged and hit with B-40 rocket, automatic weapons and recoilless rifle fire; two Navy men were killed and ten others were wounded. The boat captain and a crewman of ASPB 91-4 were killed when the ASPB received direct hits from a recoilless rifle. The boat was endangered of sinking until another crewman was able to beach it. Elements of the 3-60th Infantry beached in the area, after the enemy fires were suppressed by the assault boats and gunships. During its sweep of the area, the 3-60th Infantry located a VC base camp and apprehended 21 detainees in the area; one of which was immediately classified as a VC. The battalion (-) embarked ATCs and proceeded without incident to beach at 1400 hours in the vicinity XS620225, C/3-60th Infantry remained in the vicinity of XS597257 to provide security for the assault craft which was damaged by hostile fire. The 3-60th Infantry (-) beached unopposed and attacked south. The 4-47th Infantry, initially beach at 0825 hours to establish a PZ in the vicinity of XS555315 for subsequent airmobile operations. Airmobile assets could not be made available to the battalion because of heavy contact established by the 1-10th ARVN Regt. Consequently, the 4-47th Infantry backloaded on ATCs and moved south east down the BEN TRE River. At 1415 hours, the embarked battalion and assault boats of river Division 112 were briefly engaged with B-40 rocket and automatic weapons fire. The enemy fire was quickly suppressed, and no U.S. casualties or damage to the boats were sustained. The aero rifle platoon from D/3-5th Cav was inserted at XS615215 where it engaged an unknown number of VC; two VC were killed and three VC were wounded. The aero rifle platoon pursued the wounded VC, and at XS614215 another VC was killed and one POW apprehended. The 3-60th Infantry and 4-47th Infantry established night defensive positions and occupied ambush sites in the AO.

(3) On 24 July, the Brigade continued its operation, conducting beach assaults and reconnaissance in force operation southwest in the AO. The ASPB that was partially sunk yesterday was raised and evacuated. During the day A/3-60th Infantry established contact in the vicinity of XS626140. Elements of the company were engaged with heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire; a light fire team of D/3-5th Air Cavalry supported the company in its engagement. During the brief engagement, the company commander was killed; enemy losses were undetermined. The 3-60th Infantry established night defensive positions and remained in the AO. During the day, the 4-47th Infantry attacked northwest from its night location. The battalion located and destroyed 40 bunkers, and captured enemy supplies and equipment throughout the area. C/4-47th Infantry found a PW Camp which had been destroyed by artillery and 31 pounds of documents in the vicinity of XS580258. The battalion embarked ATCs at 1700 hours and returned to the MRB.

(4) On the morning of 25 July, the 4-47th Infantry departed the MRB at 0645 hours and beached at XS593135. The battalion established a PZ and subsequently conducted multiple airmobile insertions in the AO. The 3-60th Infantry initiated saturation patrols in the vicinity of its night location. B/3-60th Infantry founded and captured 40 detainees hiding in a church; subsequent initial interrogation of the 40 detainees classified 13 as confirmed VC. During the day, the 3-60th Infantry apprehended a total of 53 detainees and destroyed 20 bunkers. Five VC were killed during the day as elements of the 4-47th Infantry conducted airmobile insertions throughout the AO. C/4-47th Infantry killed four VC and apprehended two detainees in the vicinity of XS609187. E/4-47th Infantry destroyed 45 bunkers during the day.

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Both infantry battalions terminated their operations in the evening and returned to the MRB. Results of the three day operation were 12 VC KIA, 20 POWs, numerous bunkers (282) and a substantial amount of VC equipment and supplies destroyed. Friendly losses consisted of two U.S. KHA, two USN KHA, nine U.S. WHA and ten USN WHA. Completing operations in KIEN HOA Province, the MRF commenced its transit to VINH LONG, for subsequent deployment to CAN THO. On 30 July the MRF, terminated operation TRUONG CONG DINH (Phase II) and initiated offensive operations in CHUNG THIEN Province.

12. RESULTS:**a. Enemy personnel losses:**

<u>OPORDS</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>POW</u>	<u>DETAINEES</u>
31-68	040245 thru 071808 April	85	5	9
32-68	100900 thru 121845 April	3	0	23
33-68	140400 thru 151645 April	16	0	8
34-68	170440 thru 181944 April	93	0	0
39-68	230400 thru 241445 April	61	0	0
41-68	270115 thru 301500 April	0	0	38
42-68	012400 thru 031515 May	1	0	38
43-68	062300 thru 111400 May	21	1	43
44-68	132300 thru 161033 May	57	4	37
48-68	252115 thru 271907 May	41	4	0
49-68	290500 thru 301645 May	15	1	102
50-68	312245 May thru 021730 June	14	0	9
51-68	092305 thru 111936 June	45	1	46
52-68	130315 thru 132000 June	0	0	18
53-68	170335 thru 211450 June	84	5	22
57-68	070220 thru 091305 July	6	2	12
58-68	092350 thru 121530 July	5	12	128
59-68	150440 thru 171810 July	61	2	56
60-68	201330 thru 221225 July	2	3	59
61-68	230200 thru 252000 July	12	20(+)	0
	TOTAL:	622	60(+)	648

b. Friendly casualties:

<u>OPORDS</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>
31-68	040245 thru 071808 April	39	166
32-68	100900 thru 121845 April	0	1
33-68	140400 thru 151645 April	0	18

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OPORDS	Inclusive Dates	KHA	WHA
34-68	170440 thru 181944 April	4	49
39-68	230400 thru 241445 April	1	9
		4	3 USN
			27 VNMC
41-68	270115 thru 301500 April	1	7
			13 USN
42-68	012400 thru 031515 May	0	1
43-68	062300 thru 111400 May	2	41
44-68	132300 thru 161033 May	7	17
48-68	252115 thru 271907 May	3	26
		2	24 USN
49-68	290500 thru 301645 May	0	0
50-68	312245 May thru 021730 June	8	19
51-68	092305 thru 111936 June	0	10
			10 USN
52-68	130315 thru 132000 June	0	1
53-68	170335 thru 211450 June	5	44
57-68	070220 thru 091305 July	0	3
58-68	092350 thru 121530 July	0	1
59-68	150440 thru 171810 July	3	18
60-68	201330 thru 221225 July	0	12
61-68	230200 thru 252000 July	2	9
		2	10 USN
TOTAL:		83	539

13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: None

14. SPECIAL TECHNIQUES: One new technique which was employed successfully was the JITTERBUG. The JITTERBUG Concept is a four-step procedure used to locate, fix, develop and finally destroy an enemy target. With absolutely no pre-reconnaissance, the Command and Control (C & C) aircraft of the maneuver element and an LFT enter an AO. Working as a team, they attempt to confirm intelligence target locations or locate new targets. When a target is located, five of the troop-lift aircraft (already loaded and airborne) are inserted to engage the target. If contact is made or enemy movement out of the area is detected, a second set of five lift ships is inserted to block enemy evasion tactics. As the situation develops, additional troop lifts of five or ten aircraft are inserted. By not committing the airmobile maneuver elements until a definite target has been located, troop strength is conserved and the flexibility to react to any enemy move is retained.

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15. COMMANDER ANALYSIS:

a. Thus far, Phase II of Operation TRUONG CONG DINH has required the Brigade to initiate offensive operations throughout the Mekong Delta, seeking the enemy to destroy him prior to his initiation of another major offensive. The 2nd Brigade, as a part of the Mobile Riverine Force, has been successfully employed in Strike operations in many Provinces of the Delta region because of its ability to move anywhere aboard ships of Task Force 117 and complementing Assault Helicopter Companies. The combination of river assault craft landings and airmobile assaults demonstrated and substantiated the conclusion that airmobile and riverine tactics represent logical complements to one another. Concurrently with the conduct of beach assaults, infantry elements were employed in inaccessible areas by airmobile means to locate and destroy the enemy. On several occasions, the employment of Assault Helicopter Companies and Air Cavalry Troops have had predominant influence in obtaining the desired tactical advantage.

b. The salient limiting factors in the conduct of Strike operations by the Mobile Riverine Force are troop physical limitations and assault boat maintenance. The wet season of the Mekong Delta has made increased demands on men and material endurance. In spite of the limiting factors, the tempo of operations remained considerably high. With the addition of the Brigade's third infantry battalion afloat, the Brigade will then be capable of selecting more targets and intensifying its operations within the Mekong Delta.

c. It would be remiss if this report did not mention the contribution made by the superb fighting qualities of the American soldier and sailor. Together and on isolated occasions, the men of the Mobile Riverine Force have fought exhibiting great courage, dedication and initiative. During this phase of Operation TRUONG CONG DINH, the MRF's reaction, planning and execution of all inclusive operations were successfully accomplished only as the result of the "River Raiders" desire to destroy the enemy.

16. RECOMMENDATIONS: None

FOR THE COMMANDER:

DENNIS N. WORKMAN

1LT, Infantry

Adjutant

Inclosures:

1. Task Organization
2. Overlay to OPORD 31-68
3. Overlay to OPORD 32-68
4. Overlay to OPORD 33-68
5. Overlay to OPORD 34-68
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TASK ORGANIZATION

1. OPORD 31-68 (Period 040245 thru 071808 April)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. B/1-84th Artillery Battalion
- e. Troop, 7-1st Air Cavalry
- f. Assault Helicopter Company
- g. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion

2. OPORD 32-68 (Period 100900 thru 121845 April)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- e. Troop, 7-1st Air Cavalry
- f. Assault Helicopter Company

3. OPORD 33-68 (Period 140400 thru 151645 April)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. C/7-1st Air Cavalry
- e. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- f. Assault Helicopter Company

4. OPORD 34-68 (Period 170440 thru 181944 April)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- e. D/3-5th Air Cavalry
- f. Assault Helicopter Company

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TASK ORGANIZATION

5. OPORD 35-68 (NOT IMPLEMENTED)
6. OPORD 36-68 (NOT IMPLEMENTED)
7. OPORD 37-68 (NOT IMPLEMENTED)
8. OPORD 38-68 (NOT IMPLEMENTED)
9. OPORD 39-68 (Period 230400 thru 241445 April)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- e. 2nd Battalion, VNMC

10. OPORD 40-68 (NOT IMPLEMENTED)
11. OPORD 41-68 (Period 270115 thru 301500 April)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 2nd Battalion, VNMC
- e. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion

12. OPORD 42-68 (Period 012400 thru 031515 May)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3/34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. Assault Helicopter Company
- e. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- f. 2nd Battalion, VNMC

13. OPORD 43-68 (Period 062300 thru 111400 May)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- e. Assault Helicopter Company
- f. 2nd Battalion, VNMC

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TASK ORGANIZATION

14. OPORD 44-68 (Period 132300 thru 161033 May)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- e. D/3-5th Air Cavalry
- f. Assault Helicopter Company

15. OPORD 46-68 (Period 210200 thru 221910 May)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion
- b. 4-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion

16. OPORD 47-68 (NOT IMPLEMENTED)

17. OPORD 48-68 (Period 252115 thru 271907 May)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion (-)
- b. 3-60th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- e. B/7-1st Air Cavalry

18. OPORD 49-68 (Period 290500 thru 301645 May)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion
- b. 3-60th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- e. D/7-1st Air Cavalry

19. OPORD 50-68 (Period 312245 May thru 021730 Jun)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion
- b. 3-60th Infantry Battalion
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- e. D/7-1st Air Cavalry

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TASK ORGANIZATION

20. OPORD 51-68 (Period 092305 thru 111936 Jun)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion
- b. 3-60th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. D/7-1st Air Cavalry
- e. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion

21. OPORD 52-68 (Period 130315 thru 132000 Jun)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion
- b. 3-60th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. Assault Helicopter Company

22. OPORD 53-68 (Period 170335 thru 211450 Jun)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 3-47th Infantry Battalion
- b. 3-60th Infantry Battalion (-)
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. 1/D/15th Engineer Battalion
- e. C/7-1st Air Cavalry
- f. Assault Helicopter Company

23. OPORD 54-68 (NOT IMPLEMENTED)

24. OPORD 57-68 (Period 070220 thru 091305 July)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

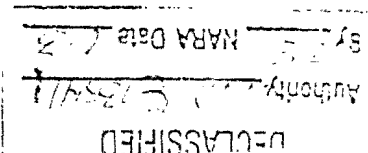
- a. 4-47th Infantry Battalion
- b. 3-60th Infantry Battalion
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. D/3-5th Air Cavalry
- e. Assault Helicopter Company

25. OPORD 58-68 (Period 092350 thru 121530 July)

HEADQUARTERS, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division

- a. 4-47th Infantry Battalion
- b. 3-60th Infantry Battalion
- c. 3-34th Artillery Battalion (-)
- d. D/3-5th Air Cavalry
- e. Assault Helicopter Company

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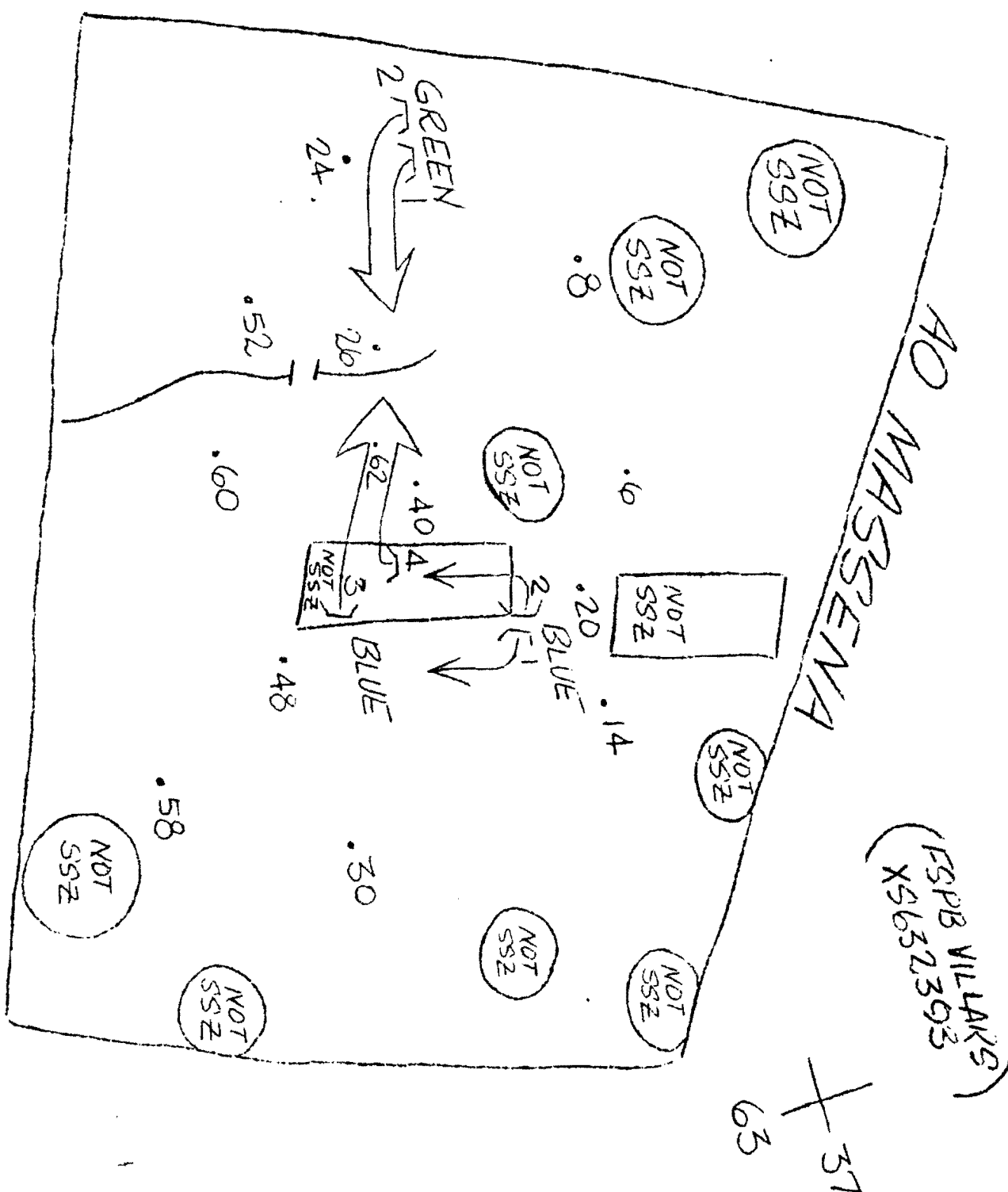


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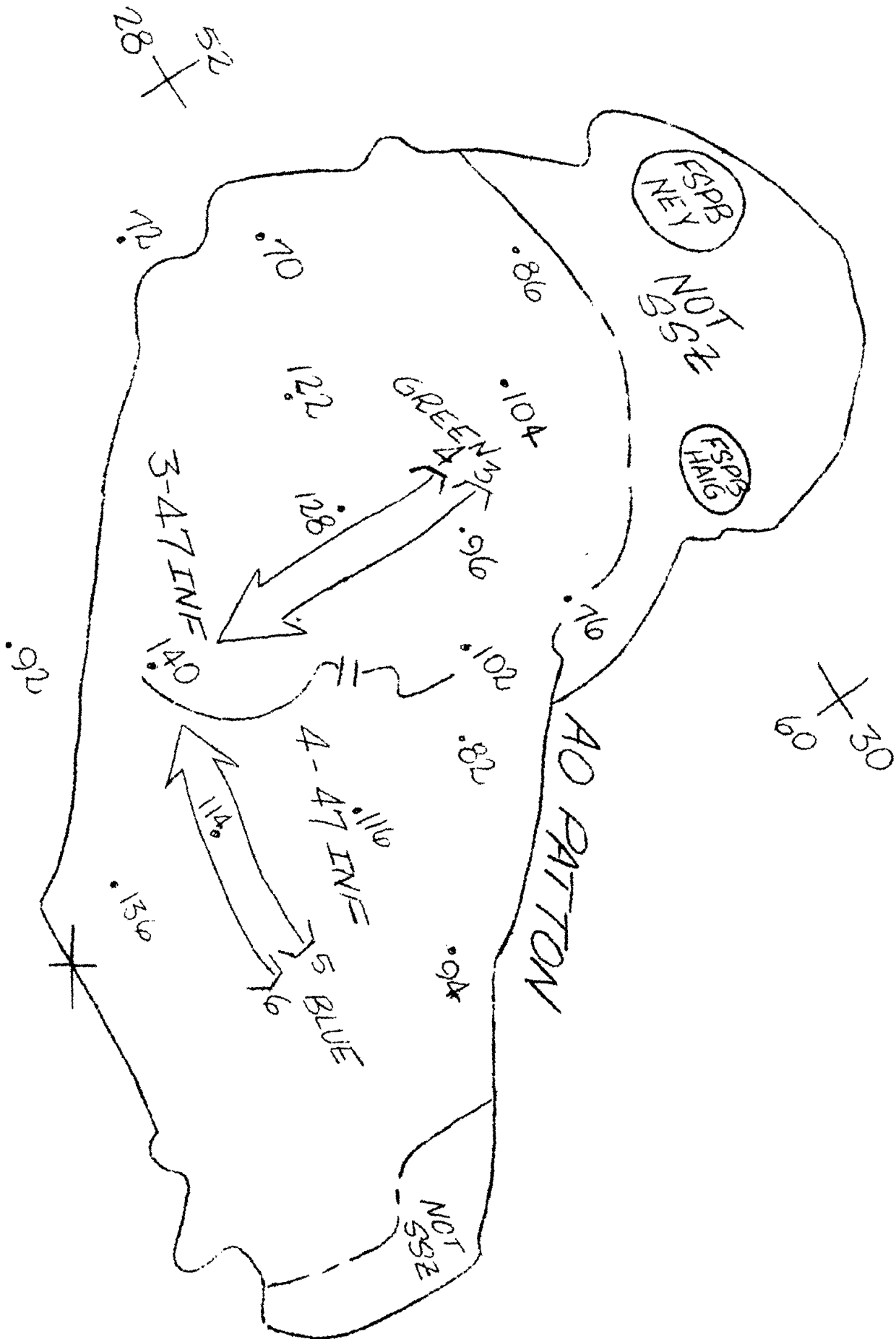
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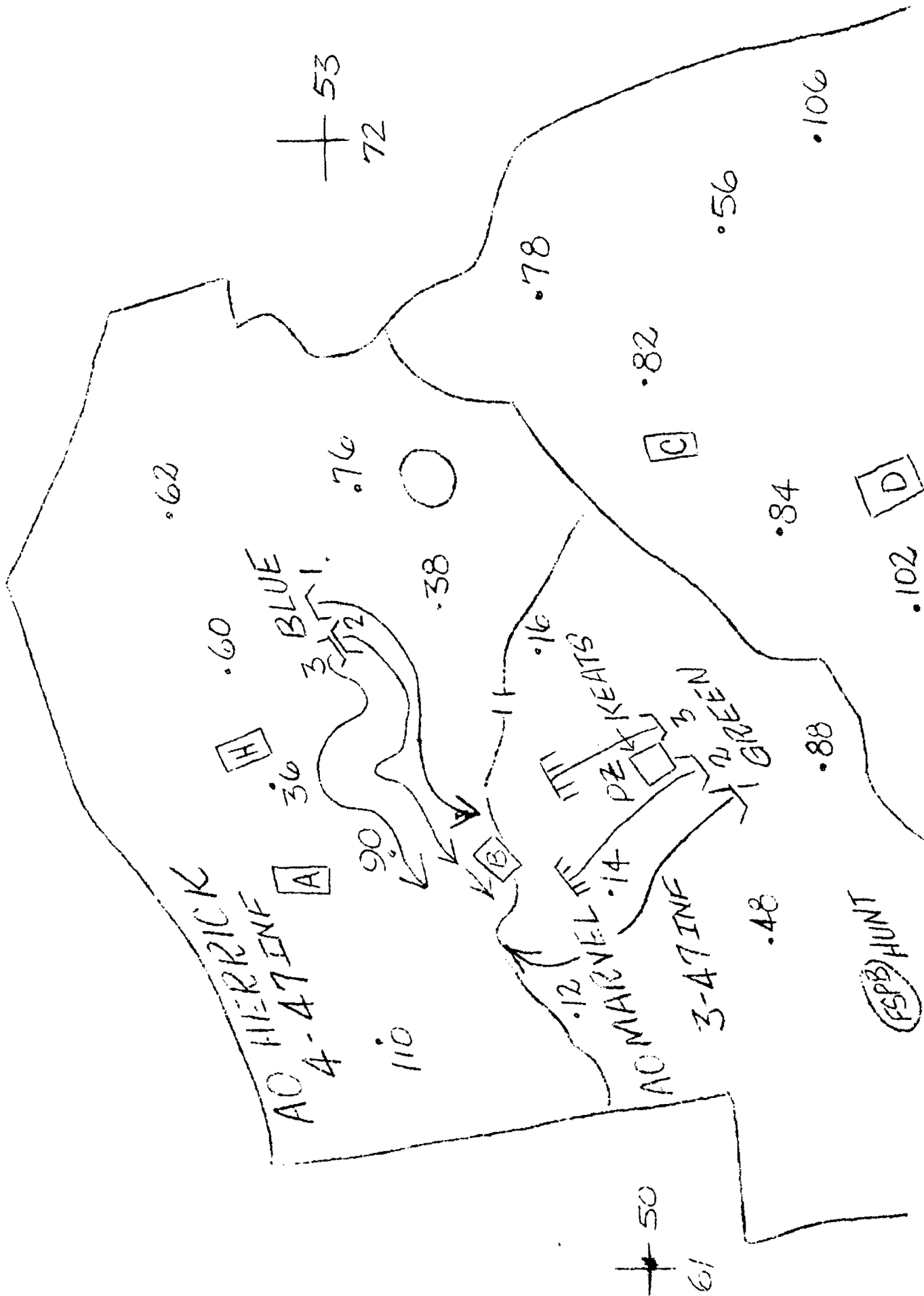
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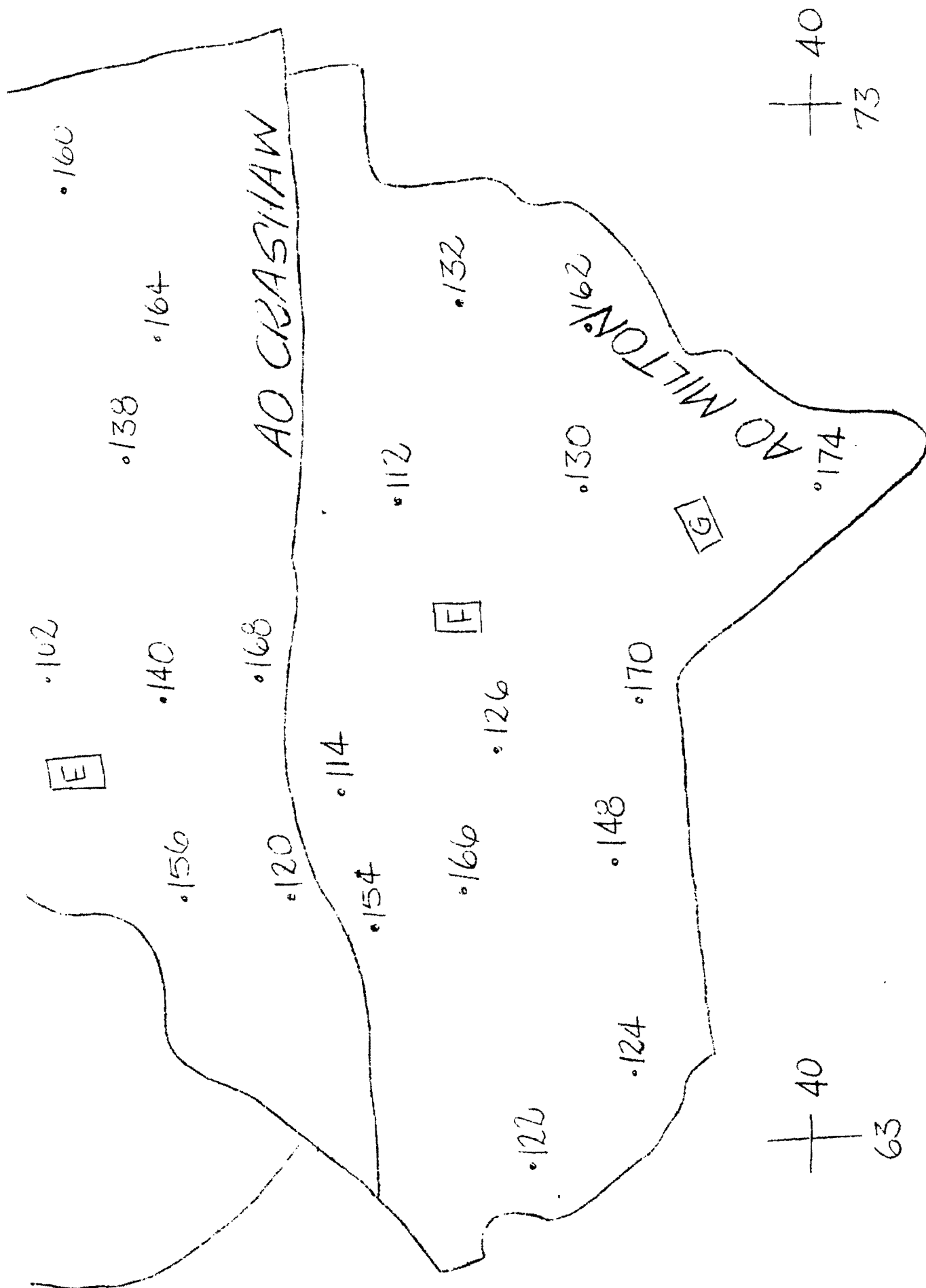
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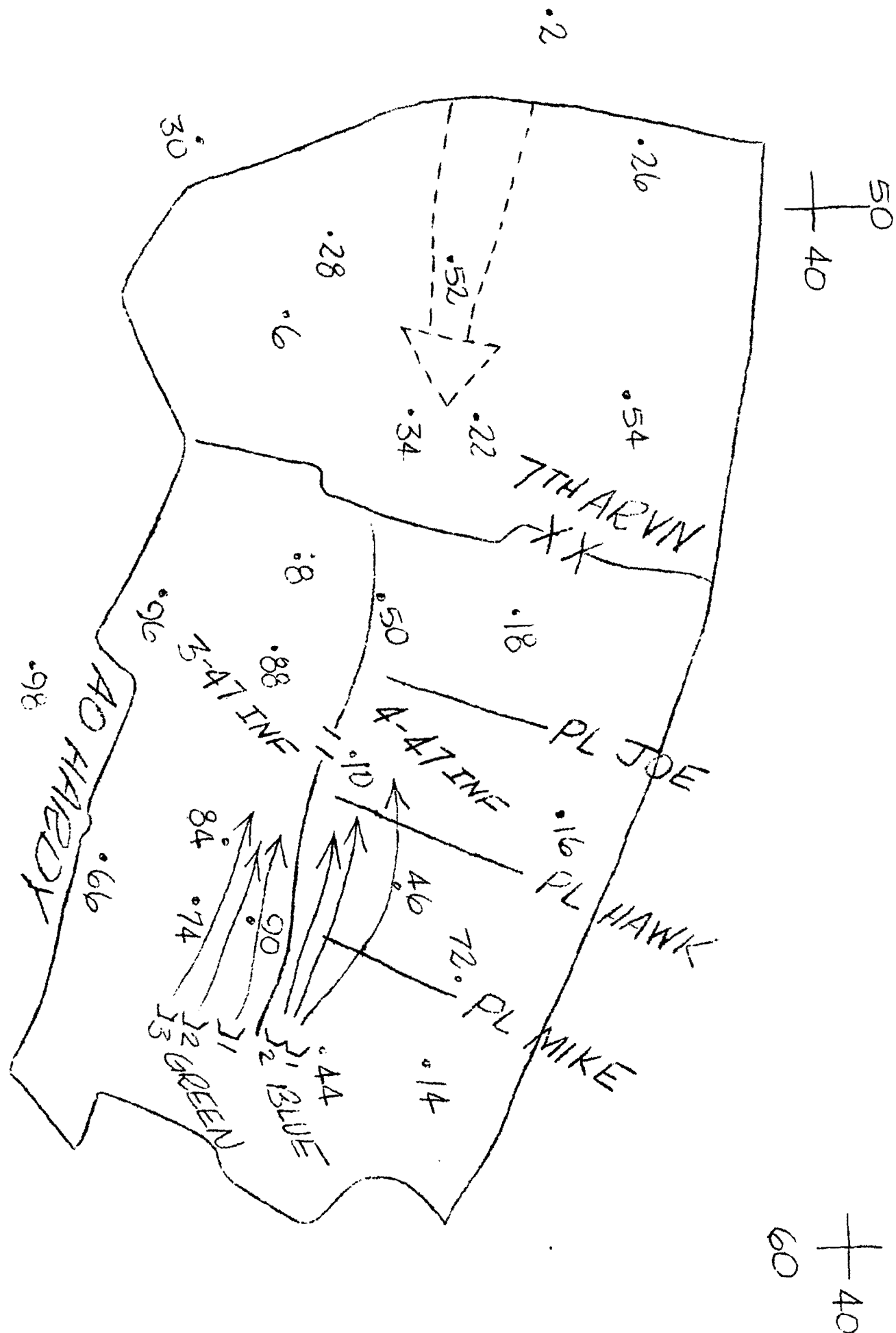
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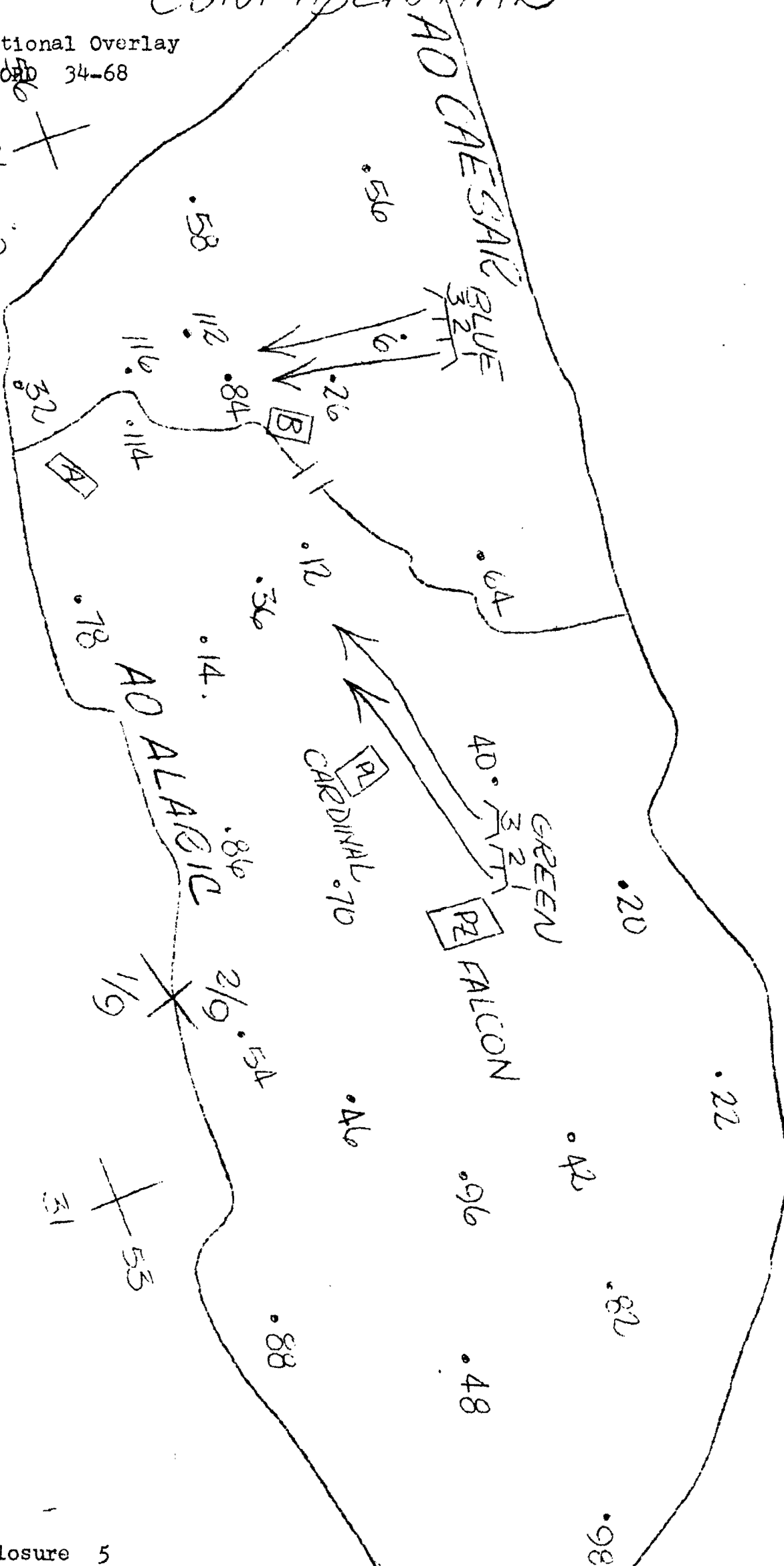
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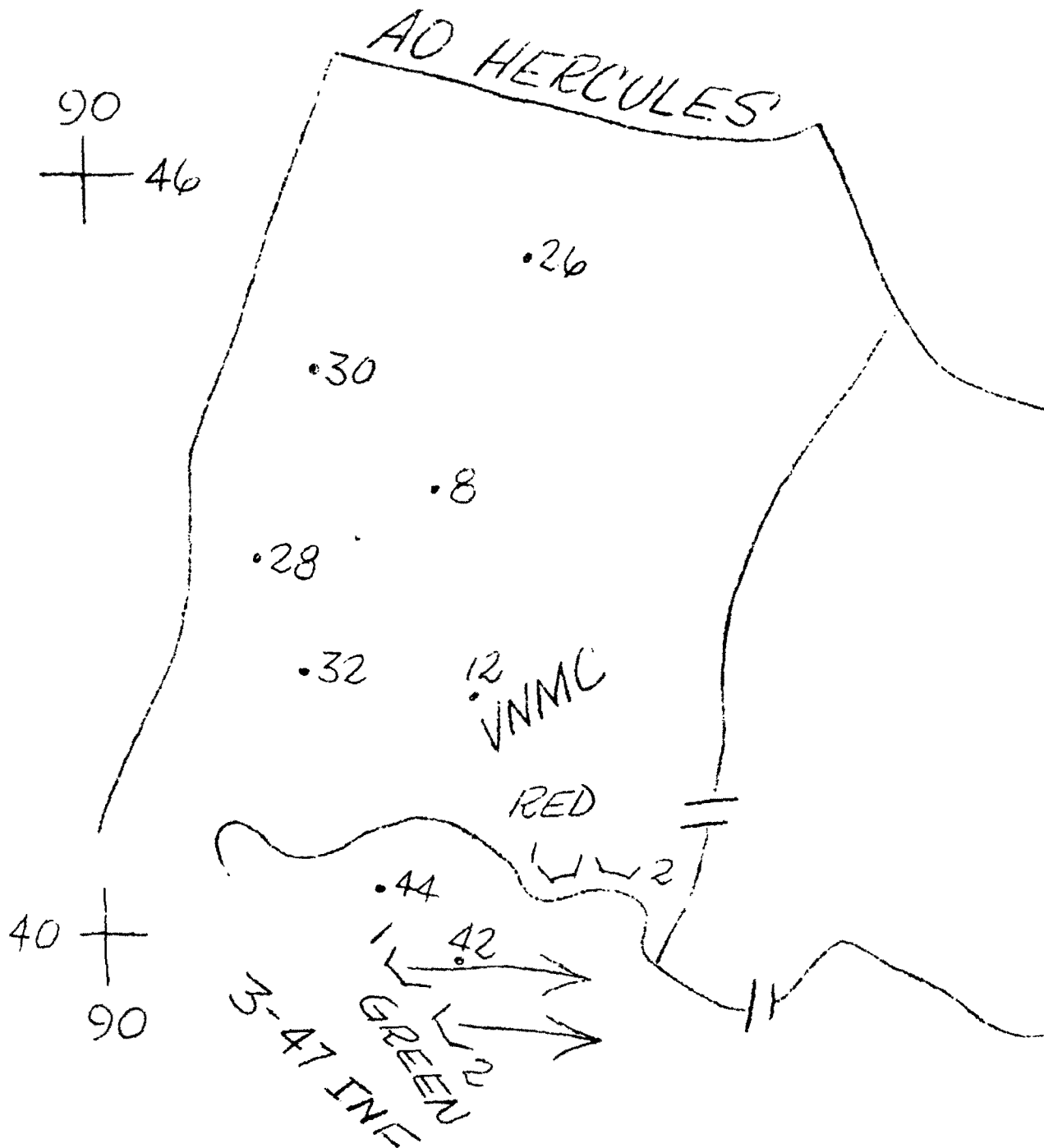
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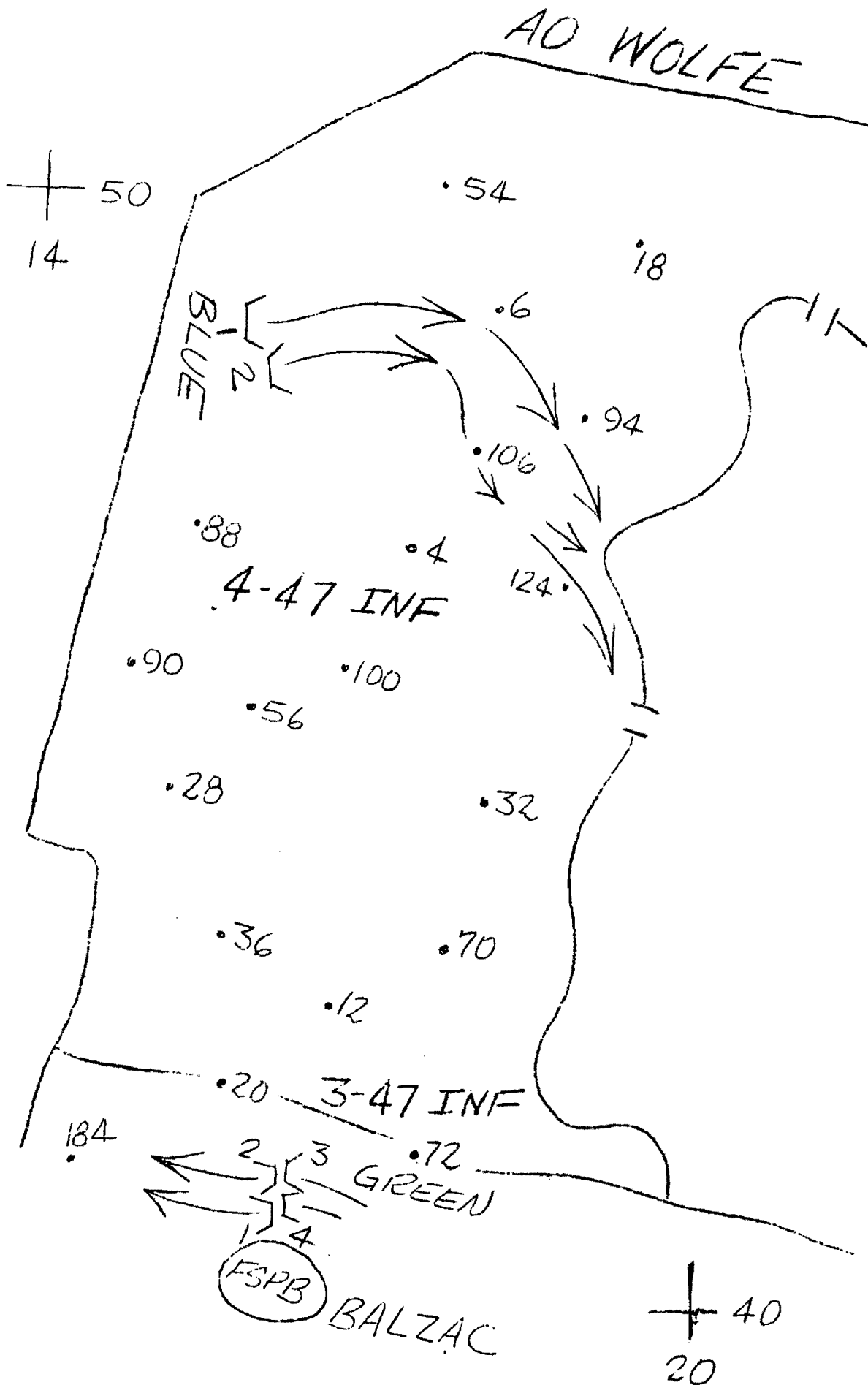
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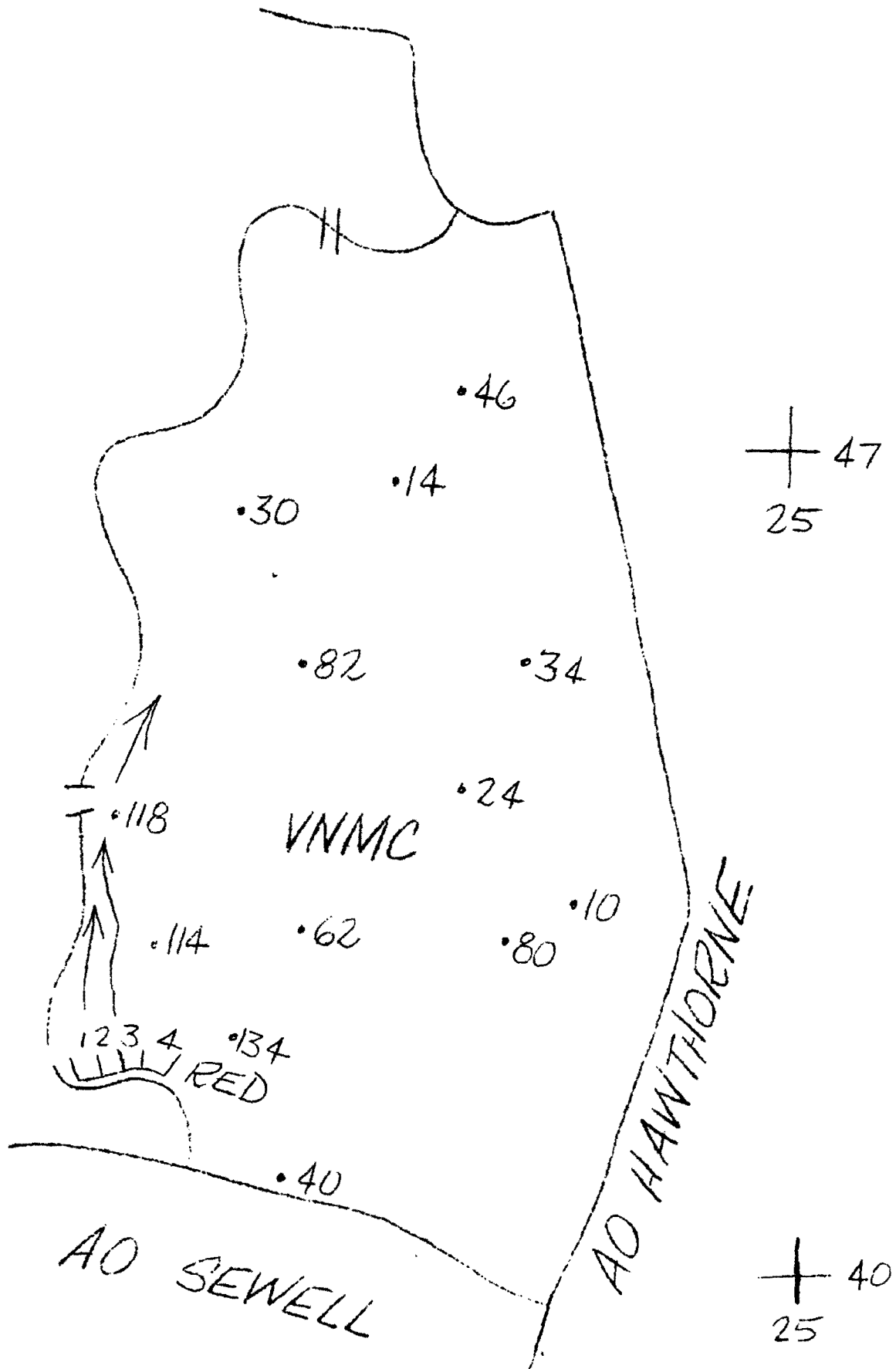


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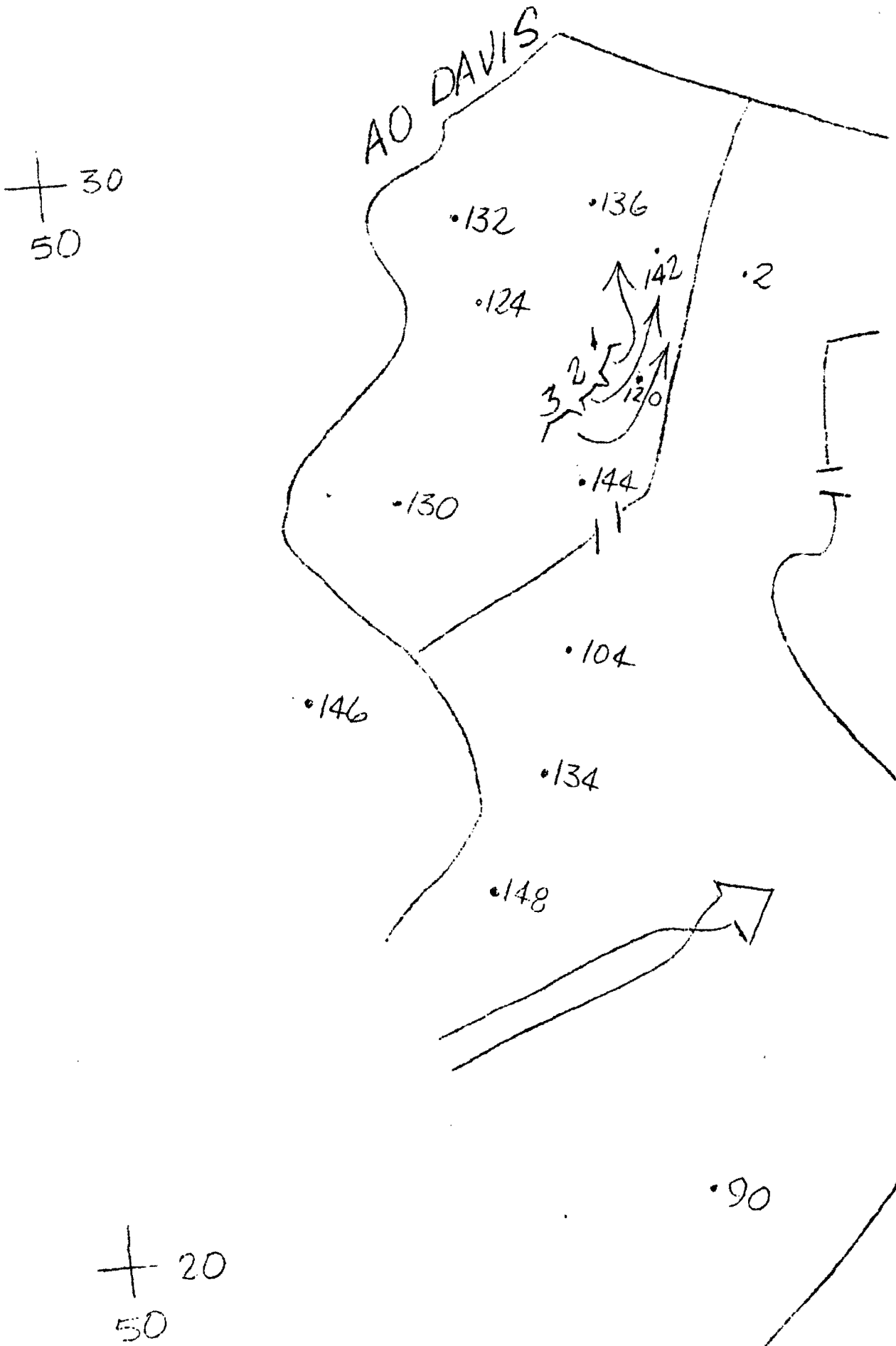
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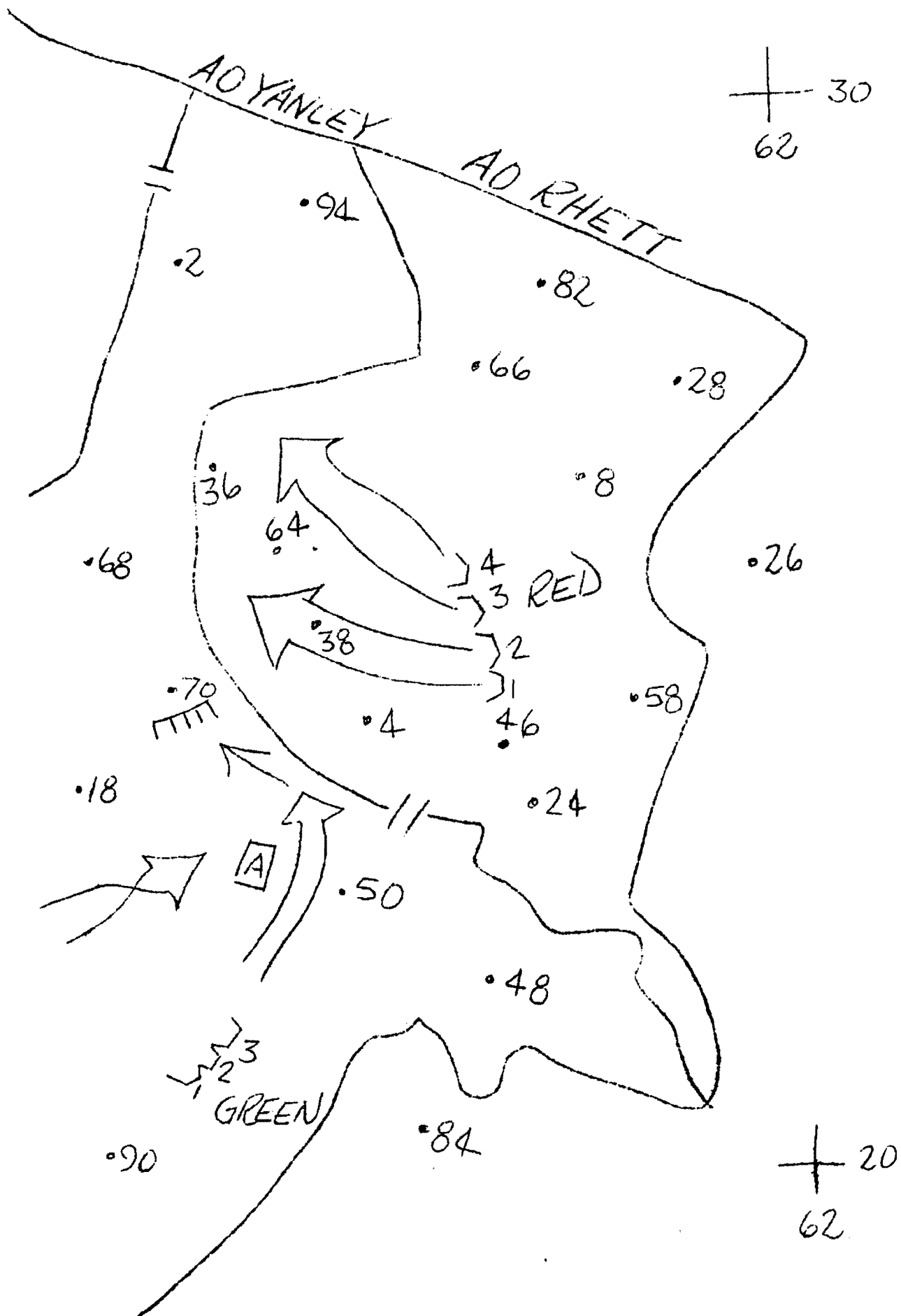
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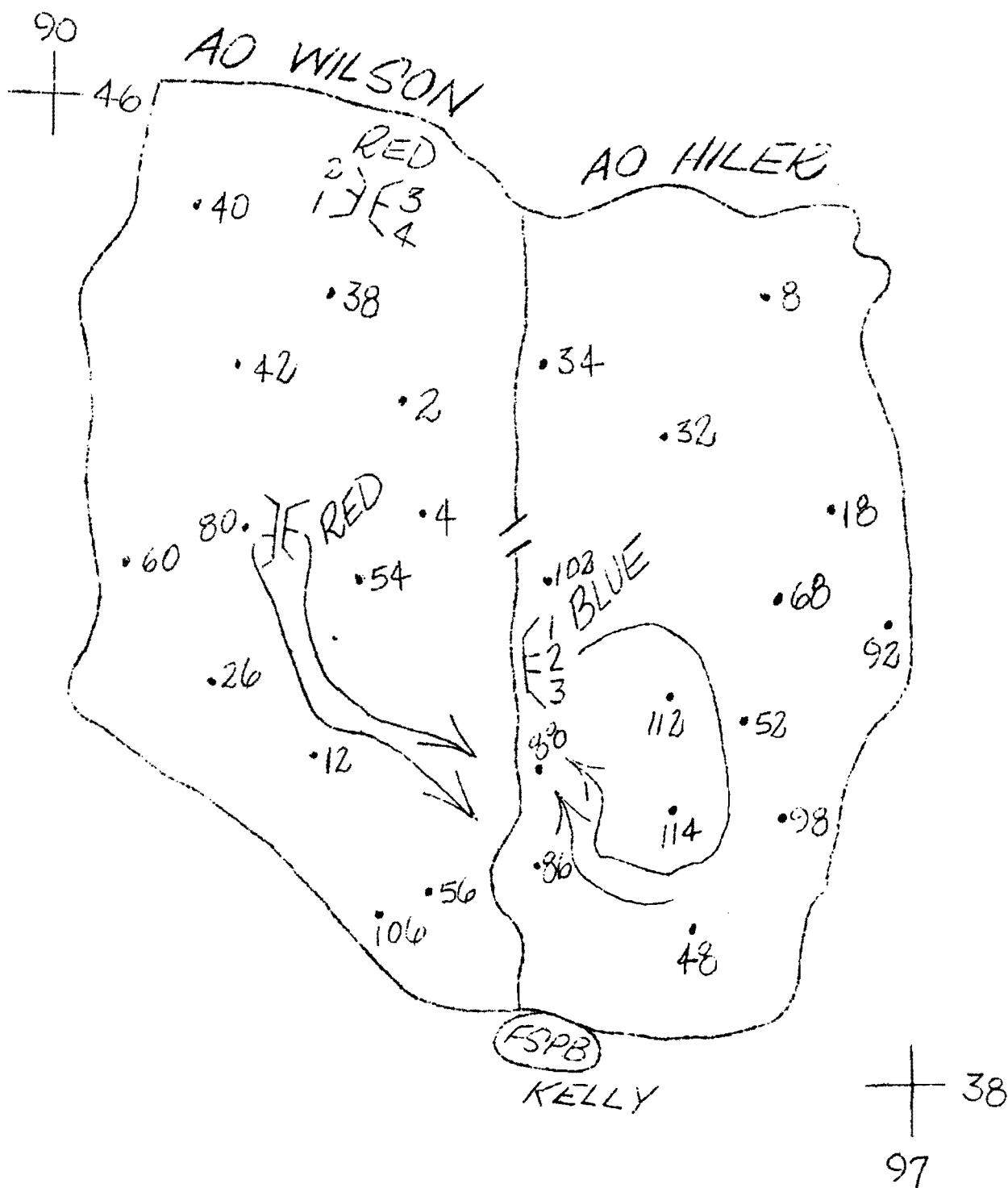


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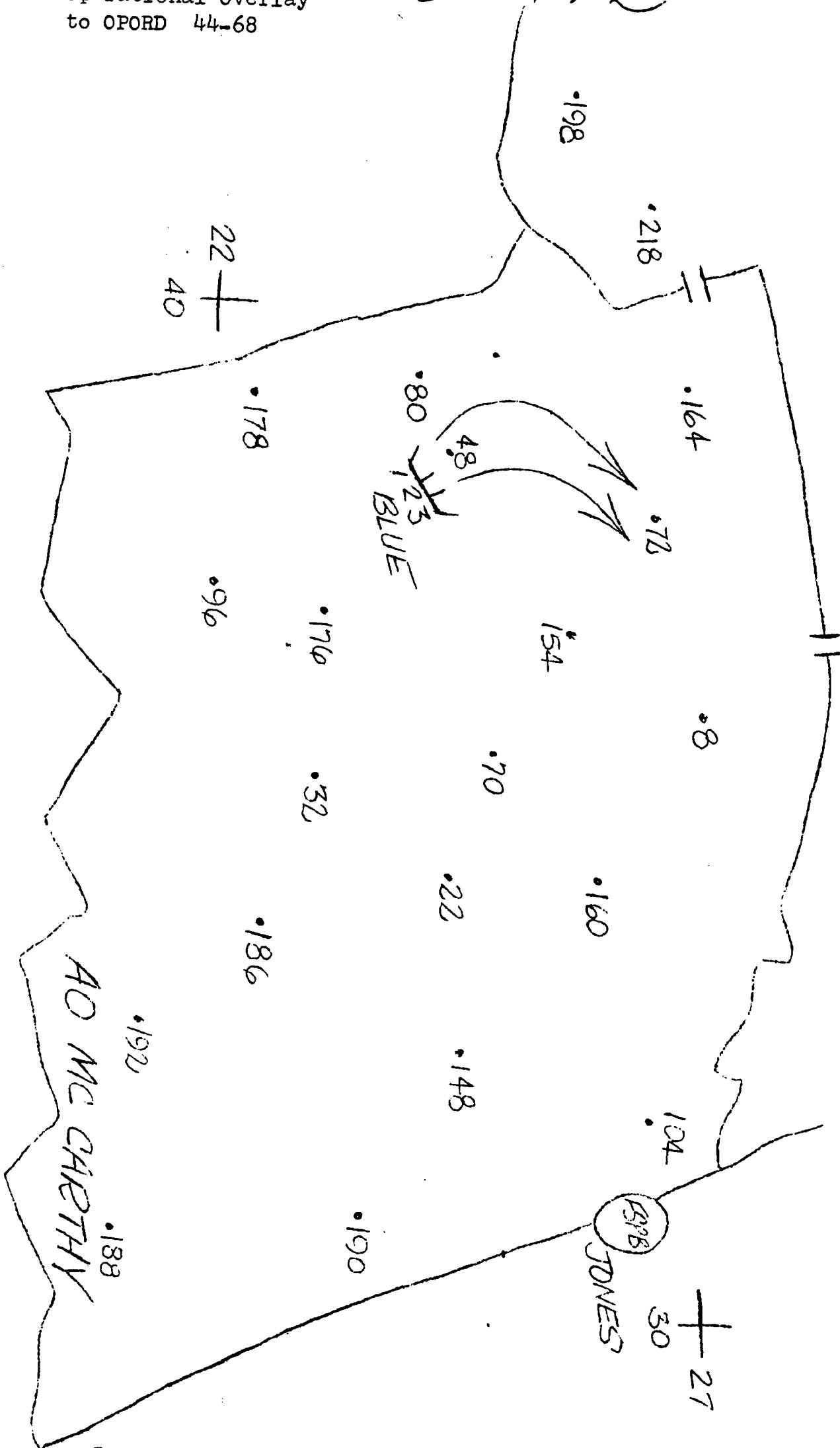
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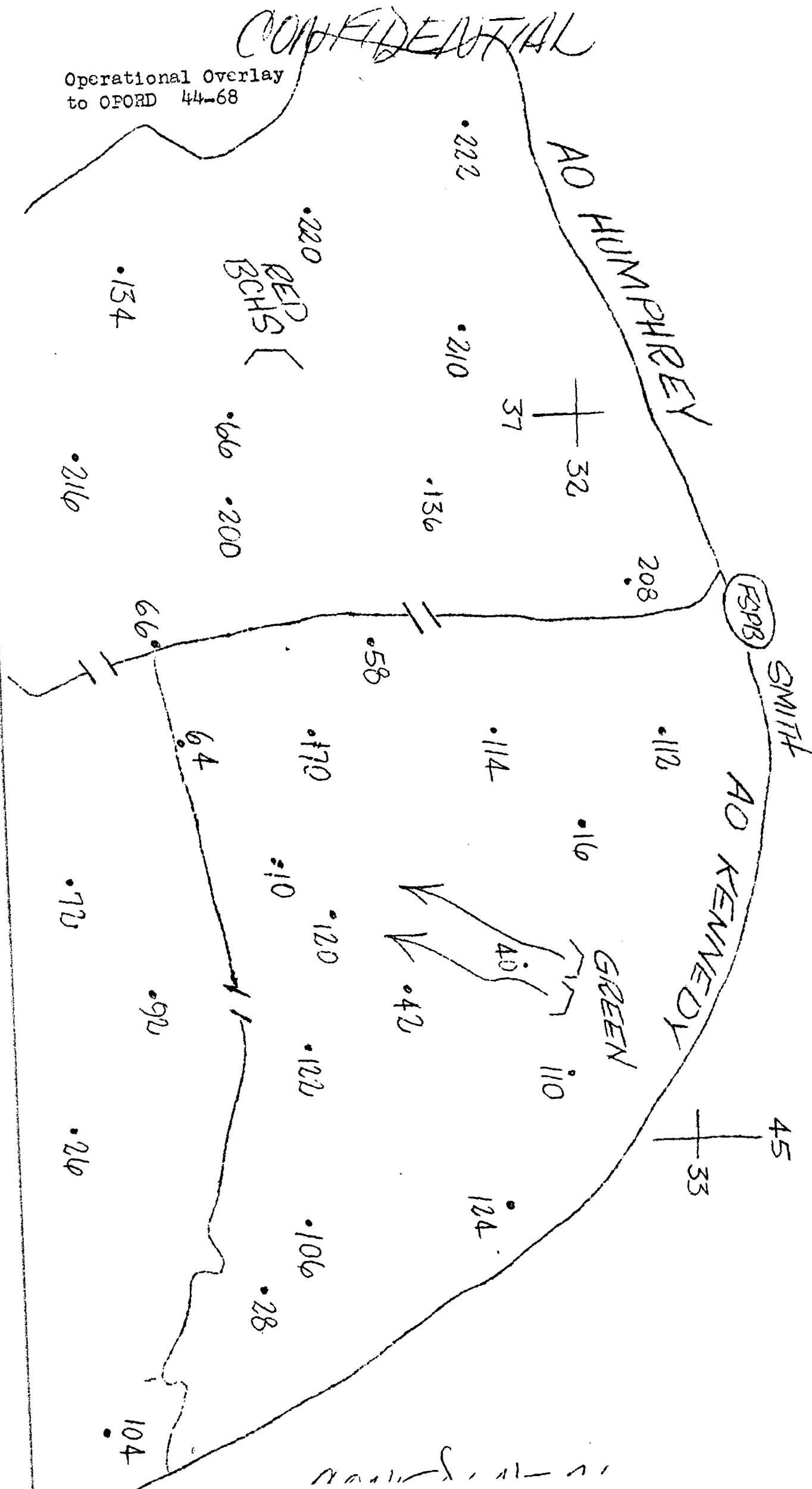
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to OPORD 44-68



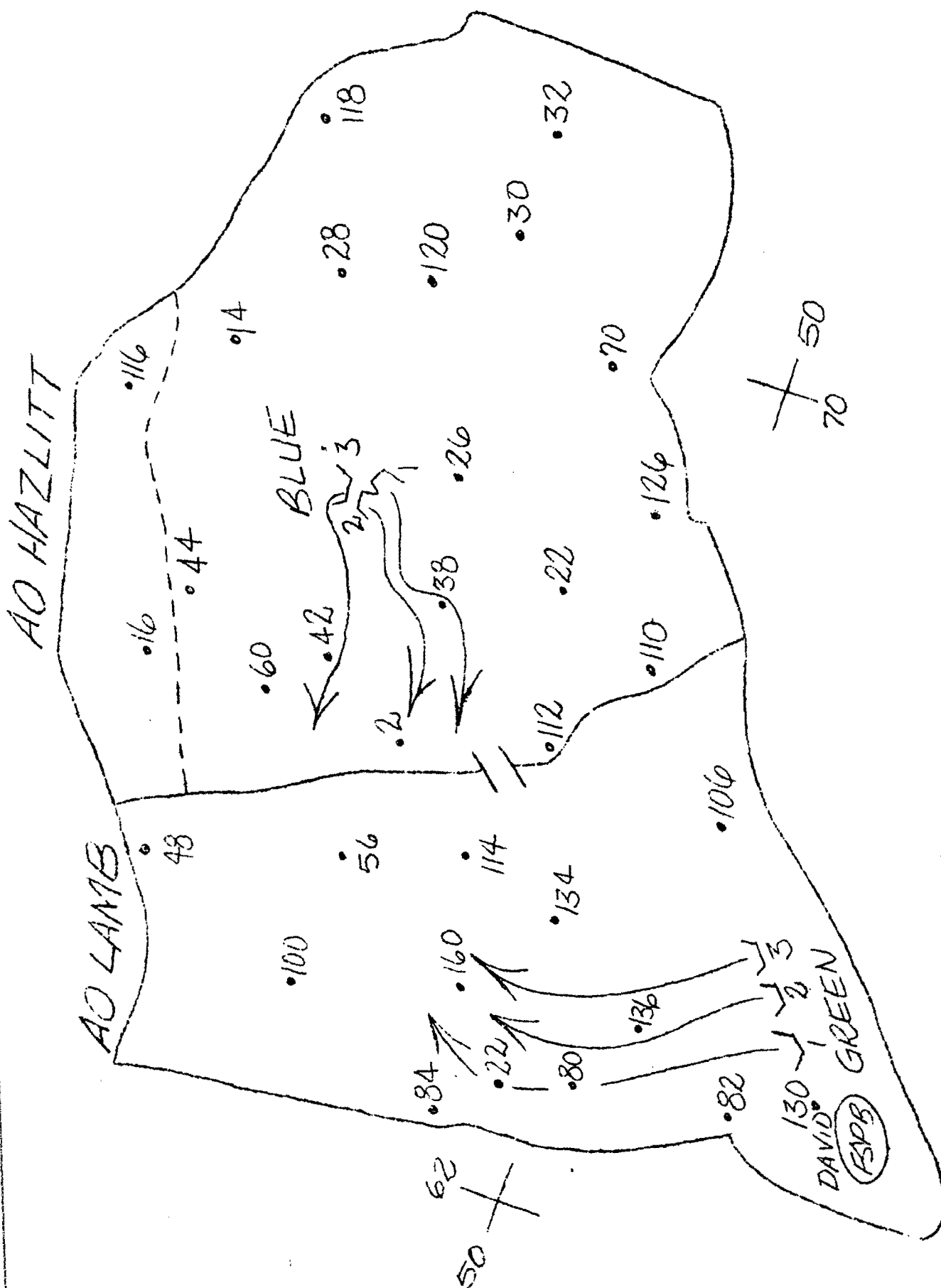
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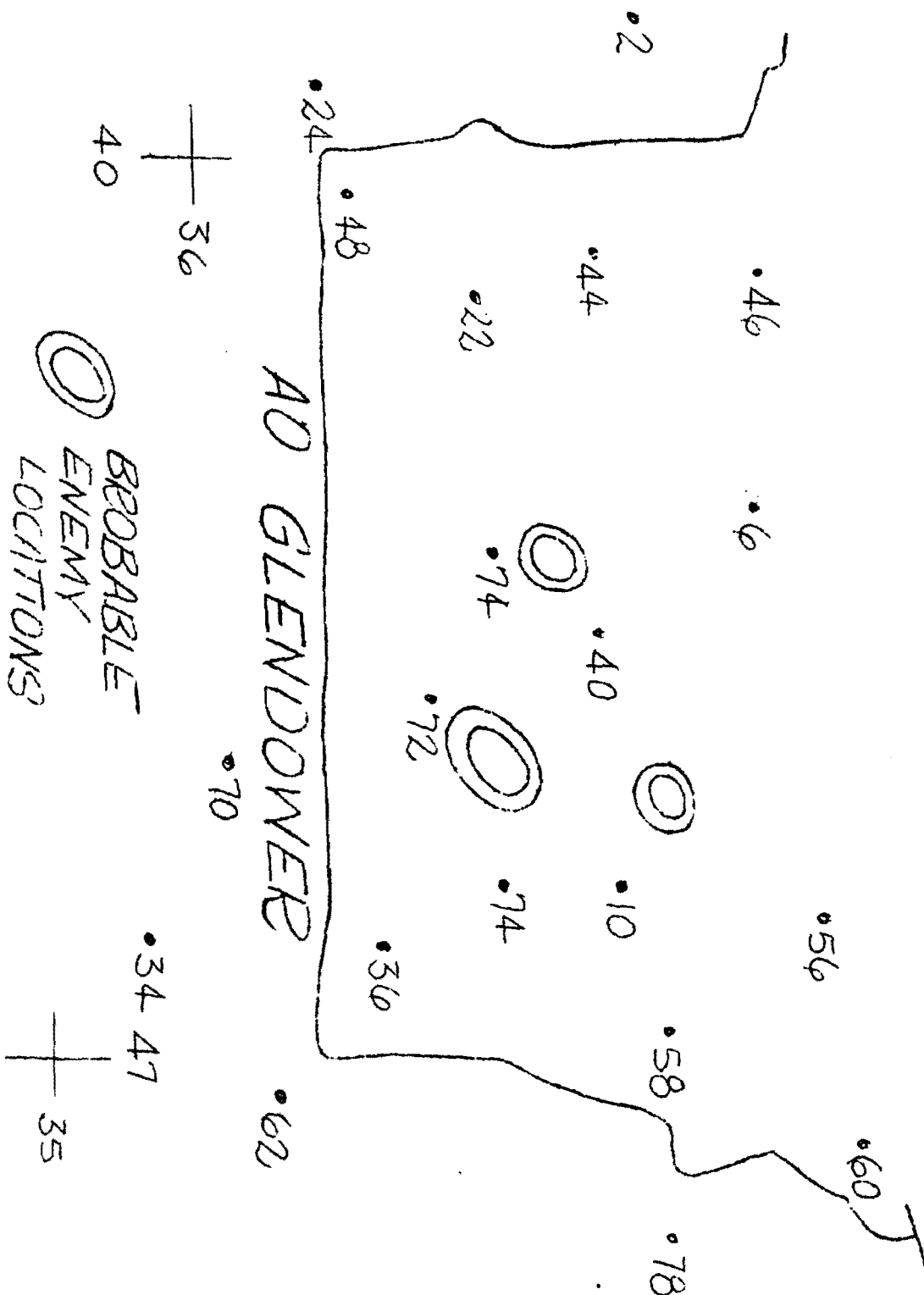
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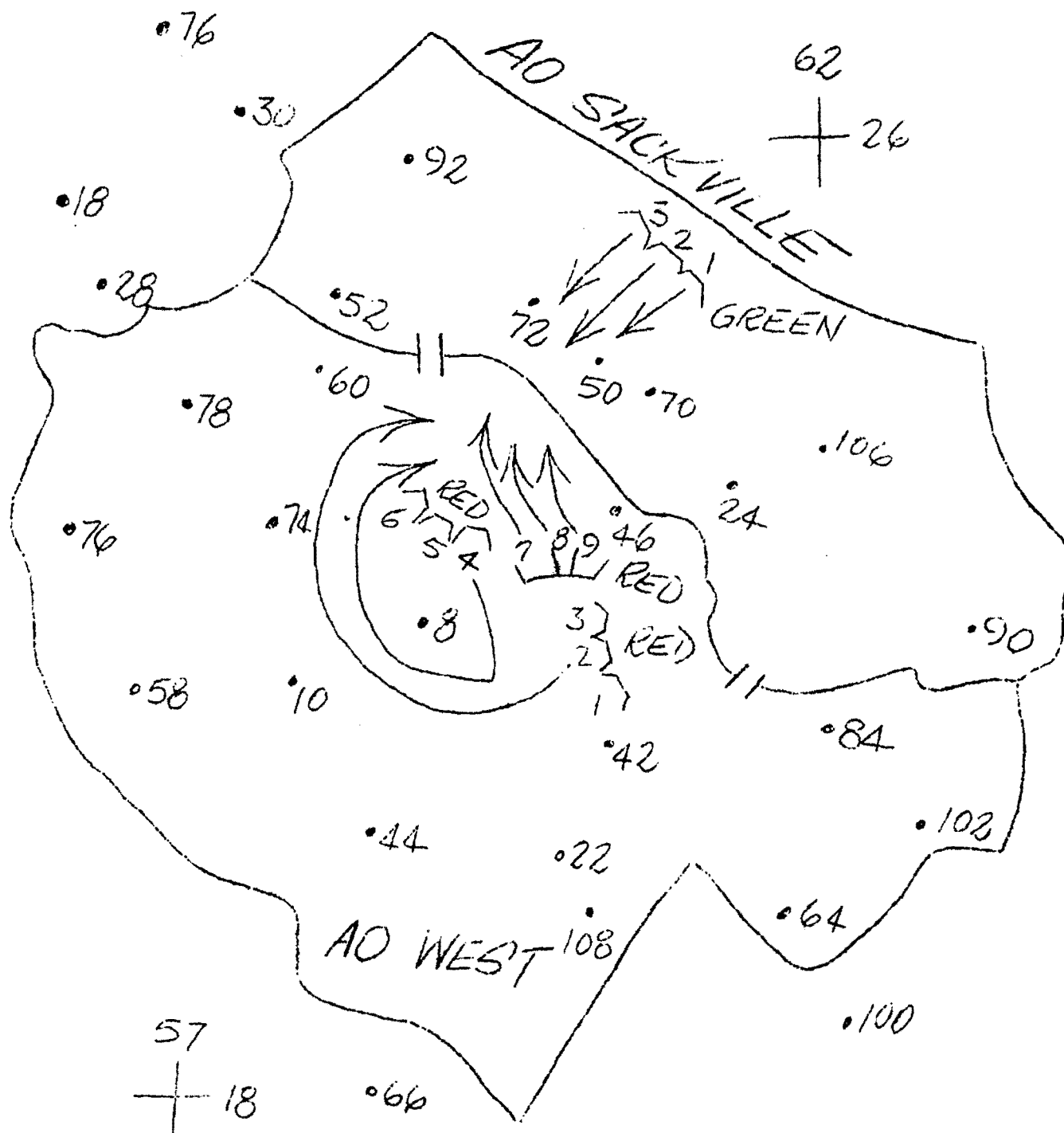
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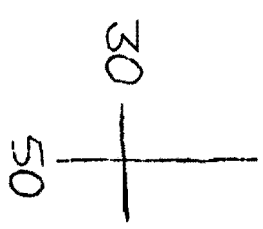
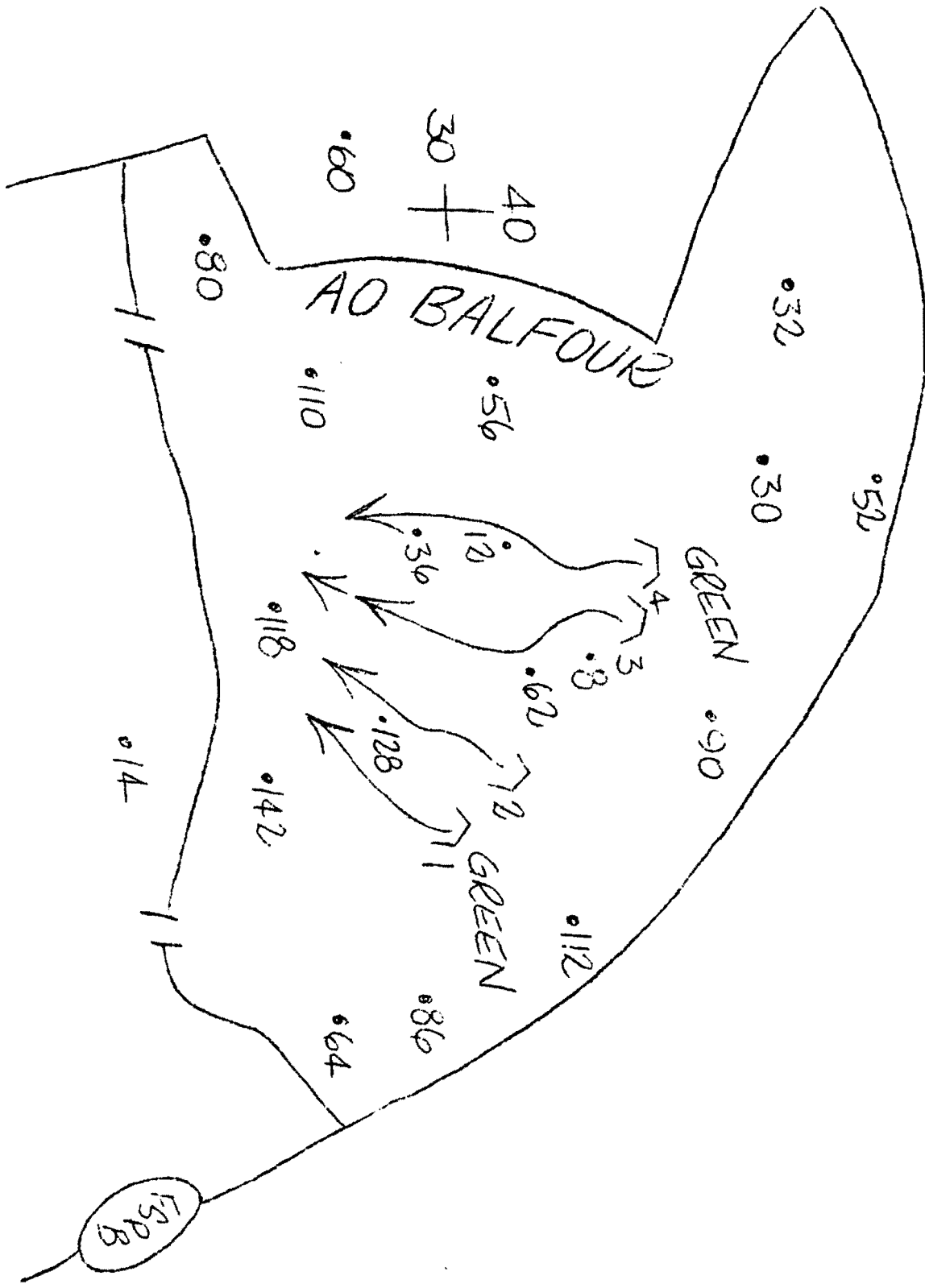


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Operational Overlay
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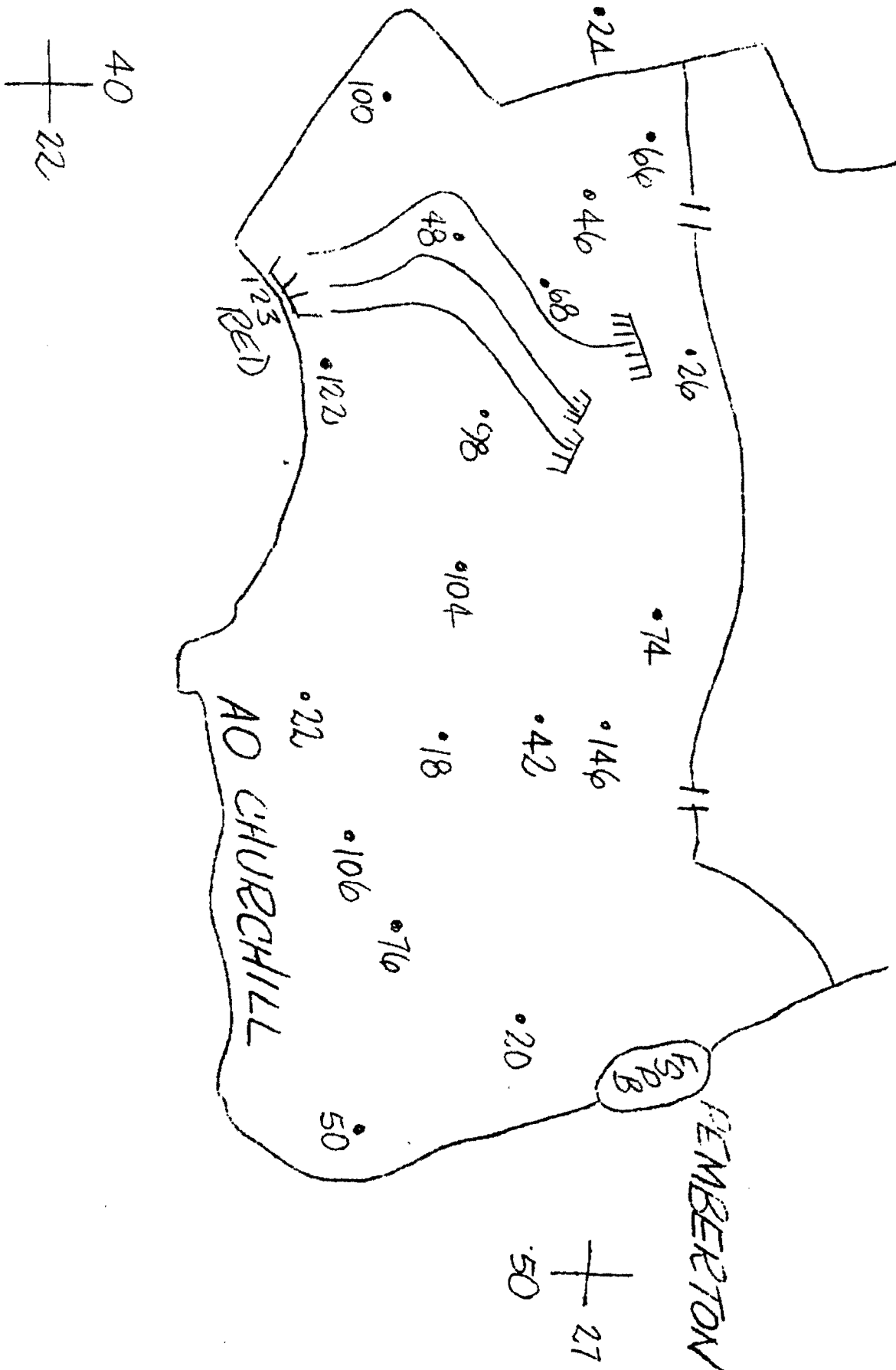
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Operational Overlay
to OPORD 49-68



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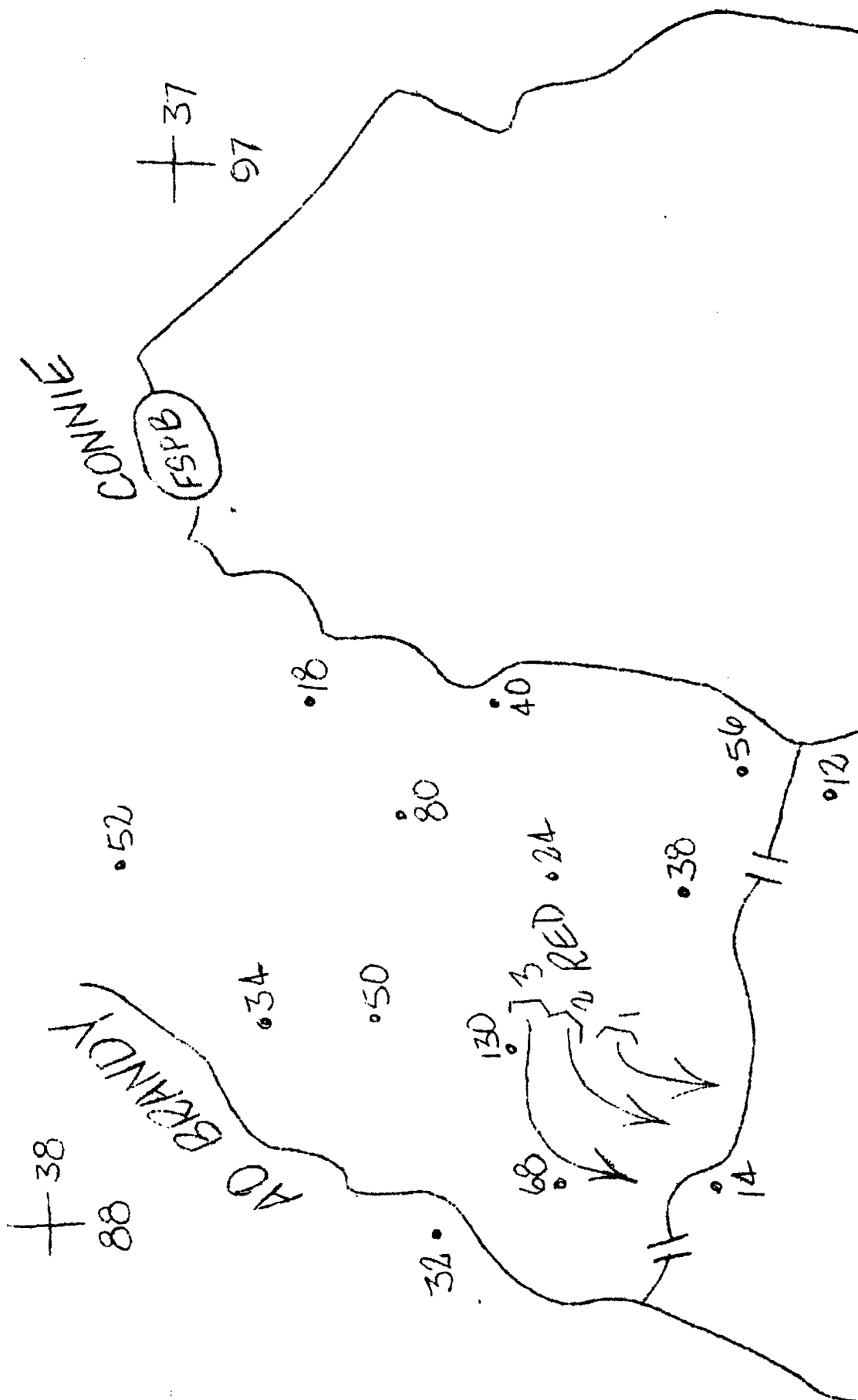
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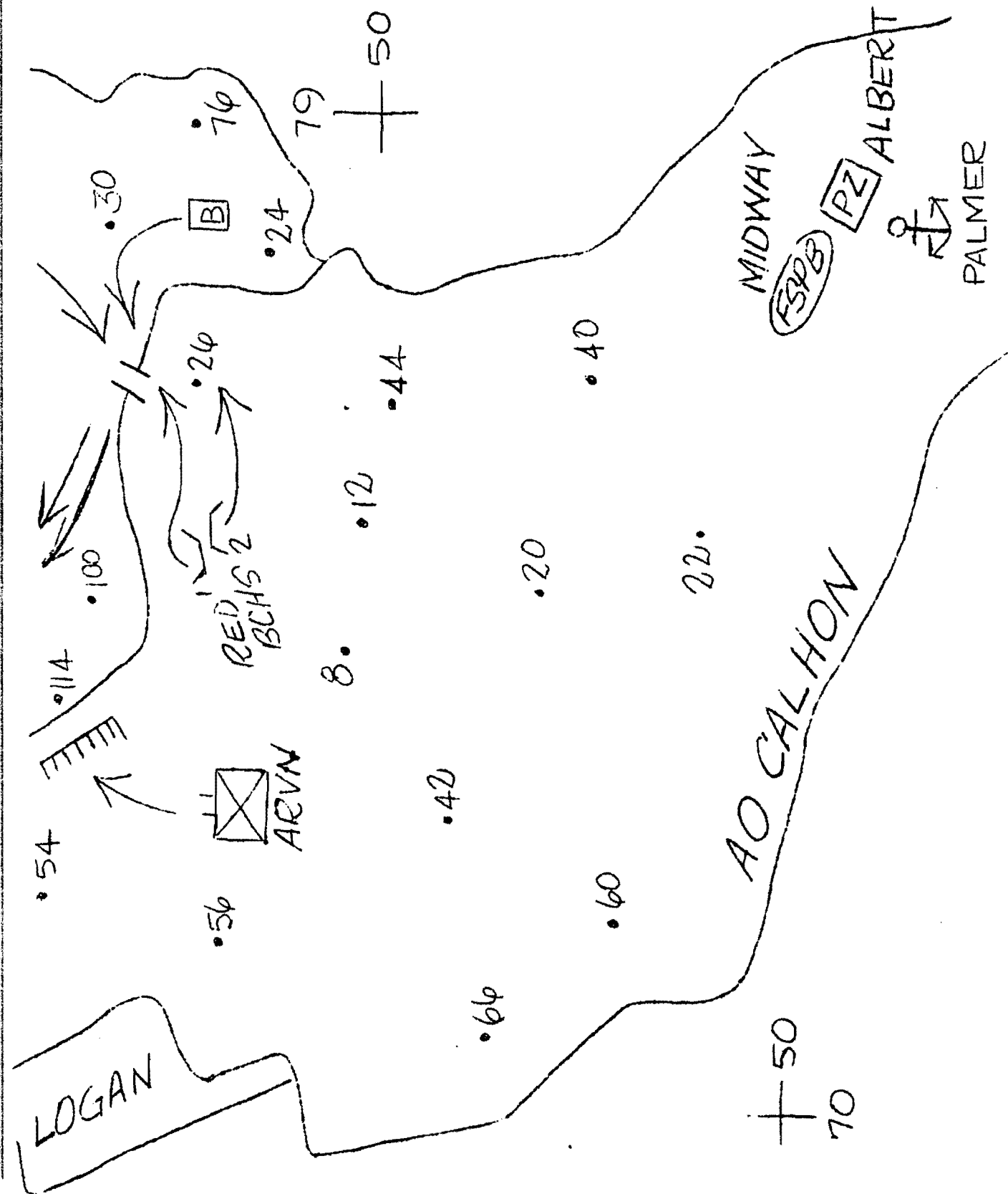
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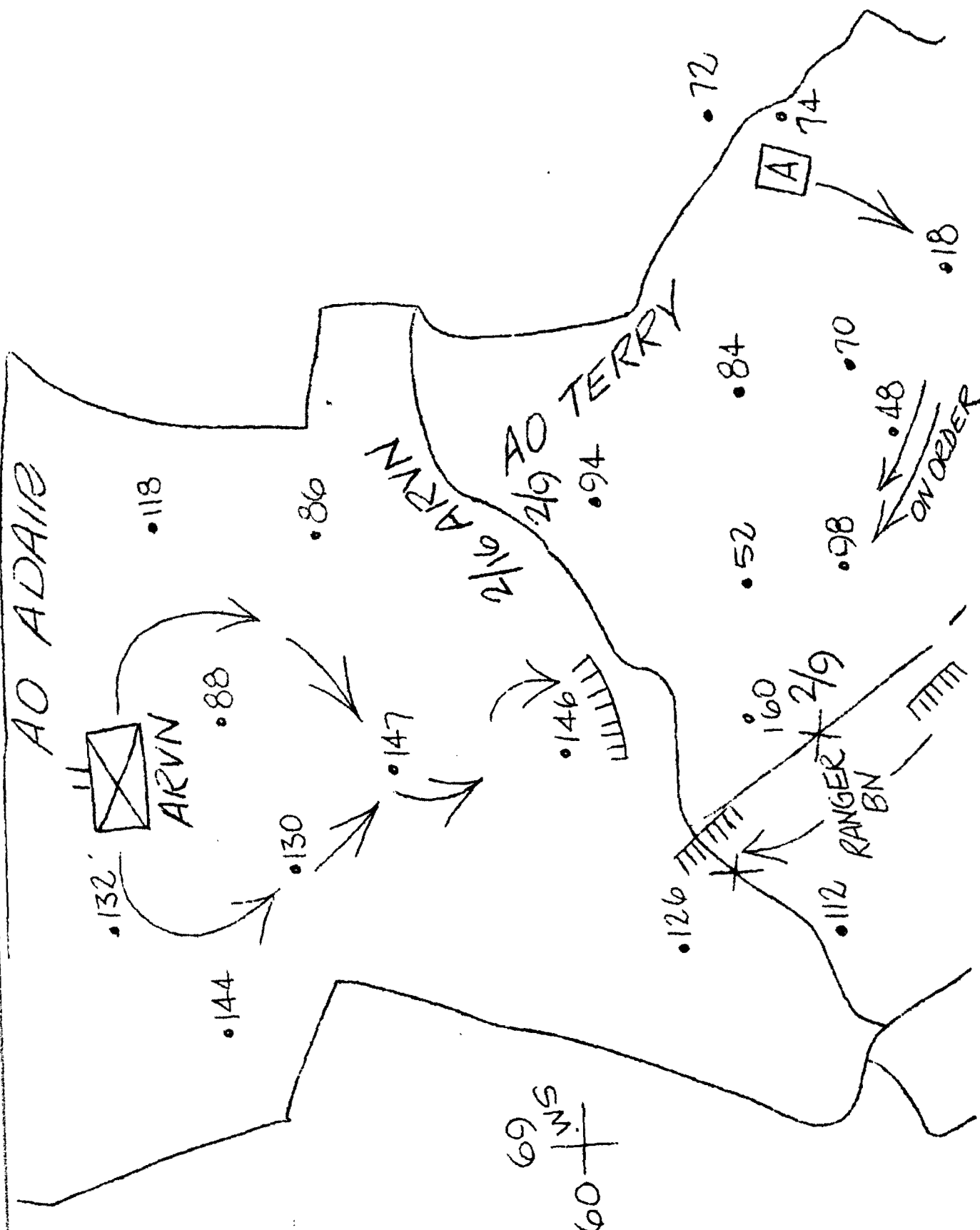
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By: JLE NARA Date 6-3

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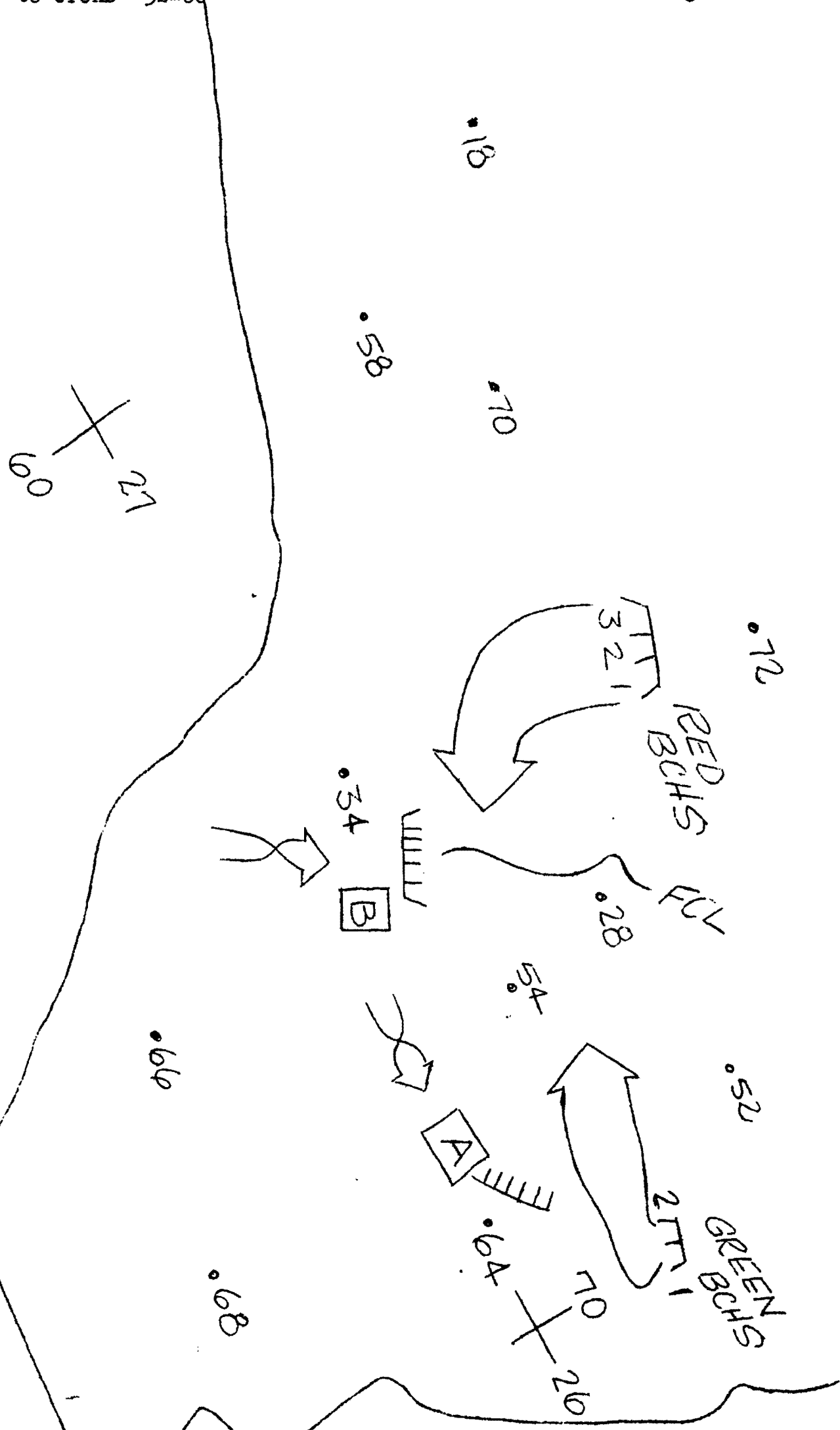
Operational Overlay
to OPORD 51-68



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Operational Overlay
to OPORD 52-68

6.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: 135411

By: TE NARA Date: 6-3

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Operational Overlay
to OPORD 52-68

80
+ 33

OK CORRAL
(508) [02]

8

40

10

(508) BAD WATER

40

44

70

72
+ 35

4

10

42

AO PALOMINO

Noted on AI

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: 1.0 57354/1

By: IE NARA Date: 6-3

(L300) **CONFIDENTIAL**
60164

• 24 Operational Overlay
to OPORD 53-68

• 28

• 20

+ 94
98

• 46

• 4

• 44

• 82

• 54

• 48

• 56

+ 90
90

• 50

• 88

• 52

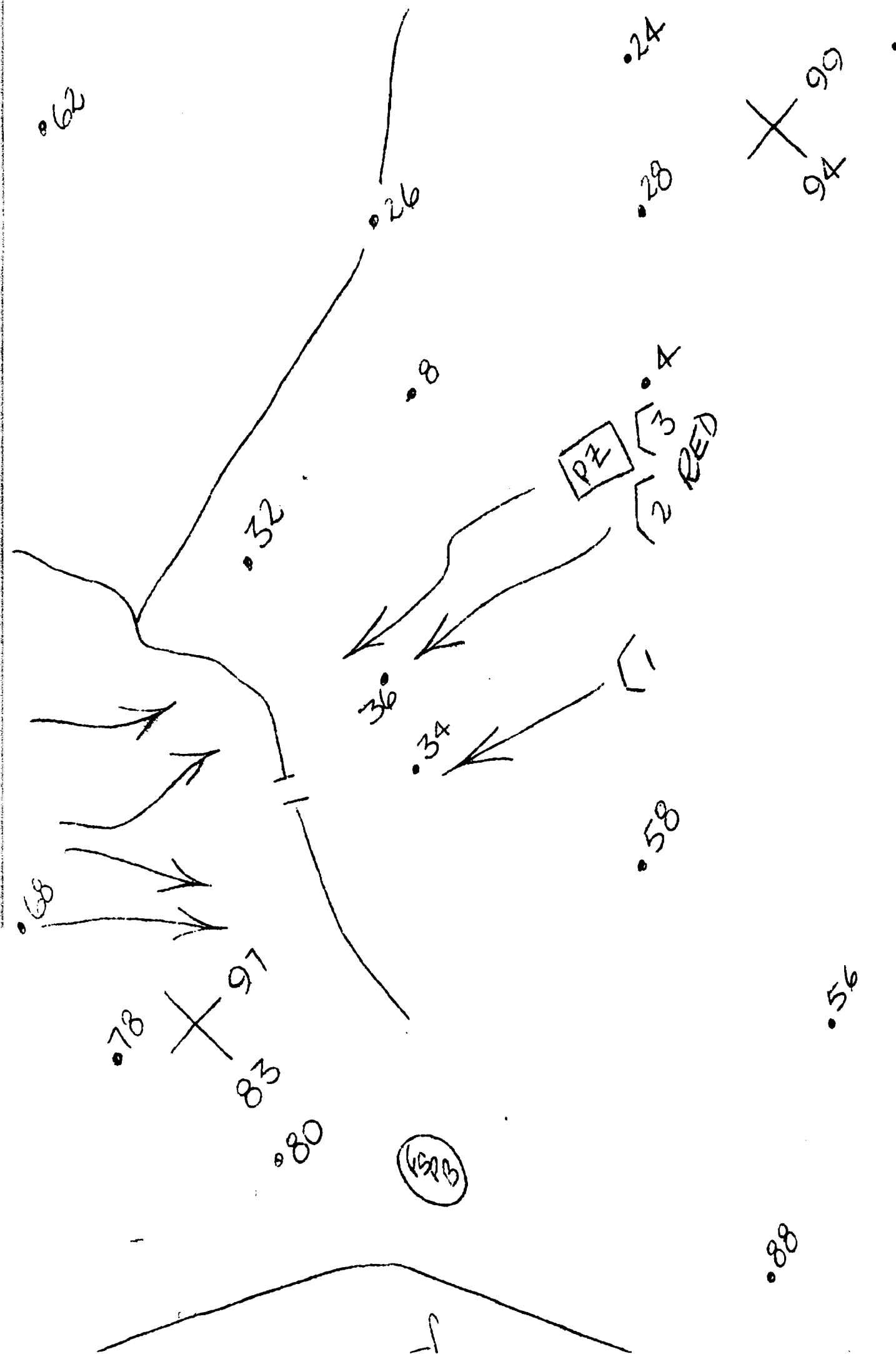
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By JE NARA Date 6-3

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Operational Overlay
to OPORD 53-68



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Authority: EO 13526

By: IE NARA Date: 6-3

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Operational Overlay
to OPORD 53-68

