



KC4DX
Navassa Island DXpedition
1972

Genesis

- SEDXC Meeting, October 1971
- No one had ever organized a DXpedition
- How hard could it be?
- Where to go?
- Draw a 2,000 mile circle around Atlanta
- What's the rarest entity inside the circle?

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Why Navassa?



Why Navassa?

- Rarity

Why Navassa?

- Rarity
- Within “range affordability”

Why Navassa?

- Rarity
- Within “range affordability”
- Hospitable climate

Navassa Island

- 2 square miles, uninhabited
- Ownership US, disputed by Haiti
- Phosphorite mined by Navassa Phosphate Company of Baltimore from 1865 to 1898
- Uprising in 1889 killed five white supervisors
- Mining abandoned

Navassa Island

- 162' manned lighthouse erected in 1917
- Converted to automatic operation in 1929
- Lighthouse dismantled in 1996
- Supervision transferred from USCG to USFWS in 1997
- No more ham activity since then

The “Naysayers”:

- “You can’t go to Navassa. The USCG controls access and they won’t give permission.”

The “Naysayers”:

- “You can’t go to Navassa. The USCG controls access and they won’t give permission.”
- So I applied for permission and it was granted.

The “Naysayers”(2):

- “Well, then, the FCC won’t give you a call sign for Navassa Island.”

The “Naysayers(2)”:

- “Well, then, the FCC won’t give you a call sign for Navassa Island.”
- So I applied for **KC4DX** and it was granted.

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What next?

- Recruit a team
- Develop a plan
- GO!

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The Challenge

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Jamaican help

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Lloyd Alberga, 6Y5LA

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Chris Brennan, 6Y5CB

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The Team

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Rick Feld, K3FPY

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Ray Cobb, K4PGM

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Skip Staub, K4TMA

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Wayne Green, W2NSD/1 and Don Kasten, WB4SST

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Chaz Cone, W4GKF

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Phil Latta, W4GTS

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Steve Smith, WA4VWV

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Neil Stone, WB4UPC

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Bill Donovan, WB4WMG

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- Why were there *ten* of us?

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- Why were there *ten* of us?
- Because that's how many the boat would hold!

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- Why were there *ten* of us?
- Because that's how many the boat would hold....
- ...and the boat was the most expensive component of the trip.

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The boat

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The Tycoon.

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The Crew

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Captain "Busha" Jarvis

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Richard

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Joseph

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**We
Sail..**

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- We sailed at midnight

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- We sailed at midnight
 - I barfed while inside the harbor

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- We sailed at midnight
 - I barfed while inside the harbor
- The seas were eight feet, bow-on
 - I barfed even more

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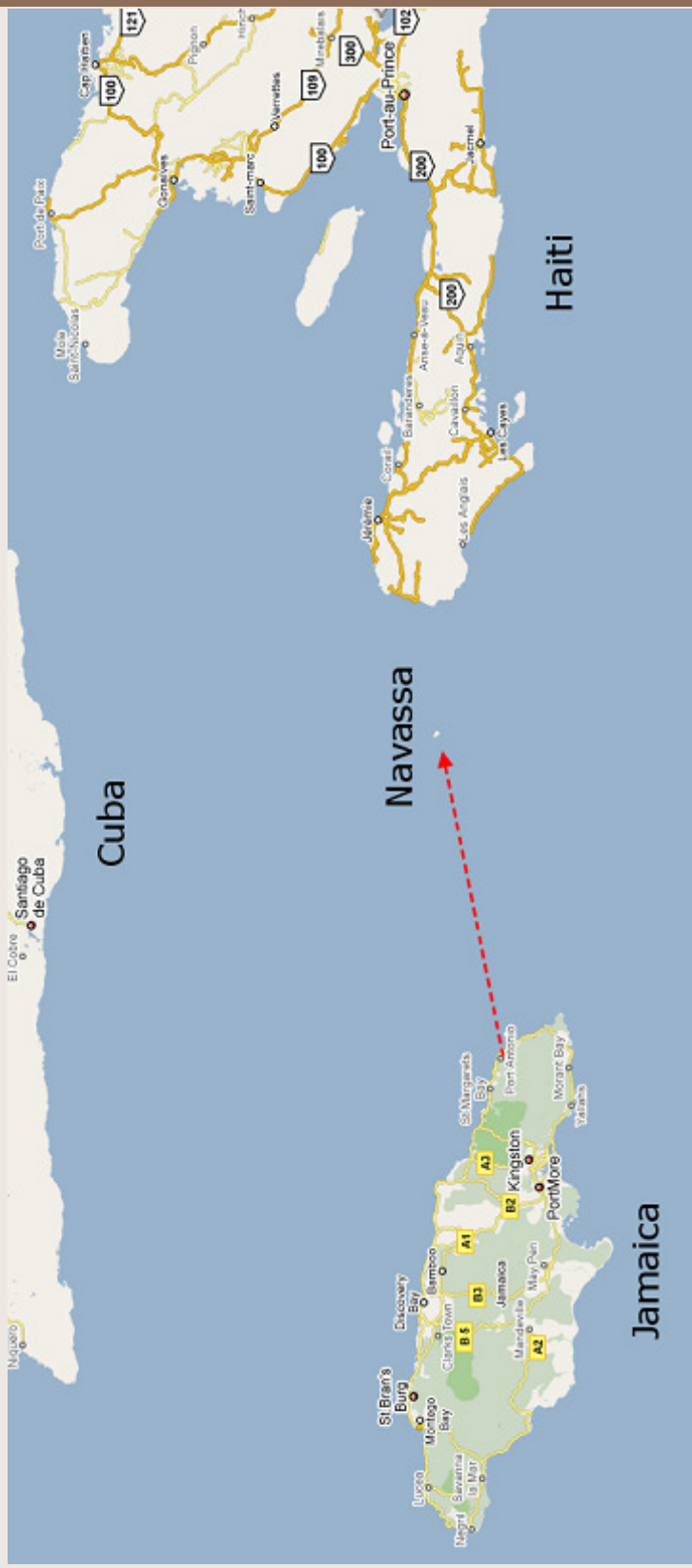
- We sailed at midnight
 - I barfed while inside the harbor
- The seas were eight feet, bow-on
 - I barfed even more
- The trip was twelve hours in length
 - I barfed, constantly, throughout

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I am *not*
a good
sailor..

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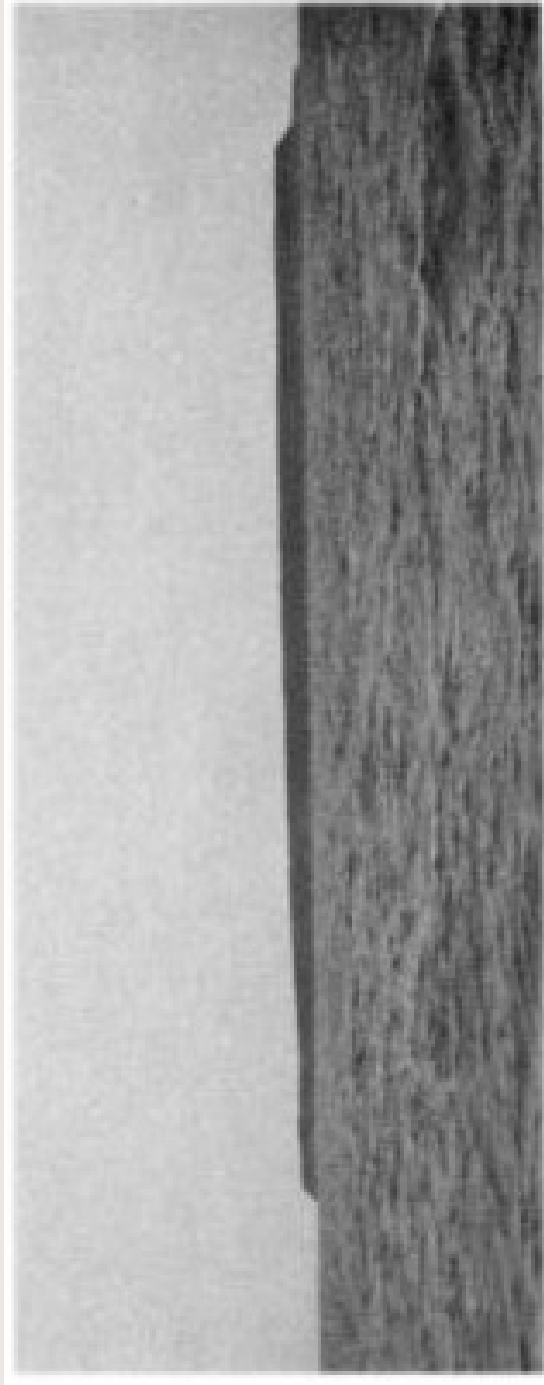
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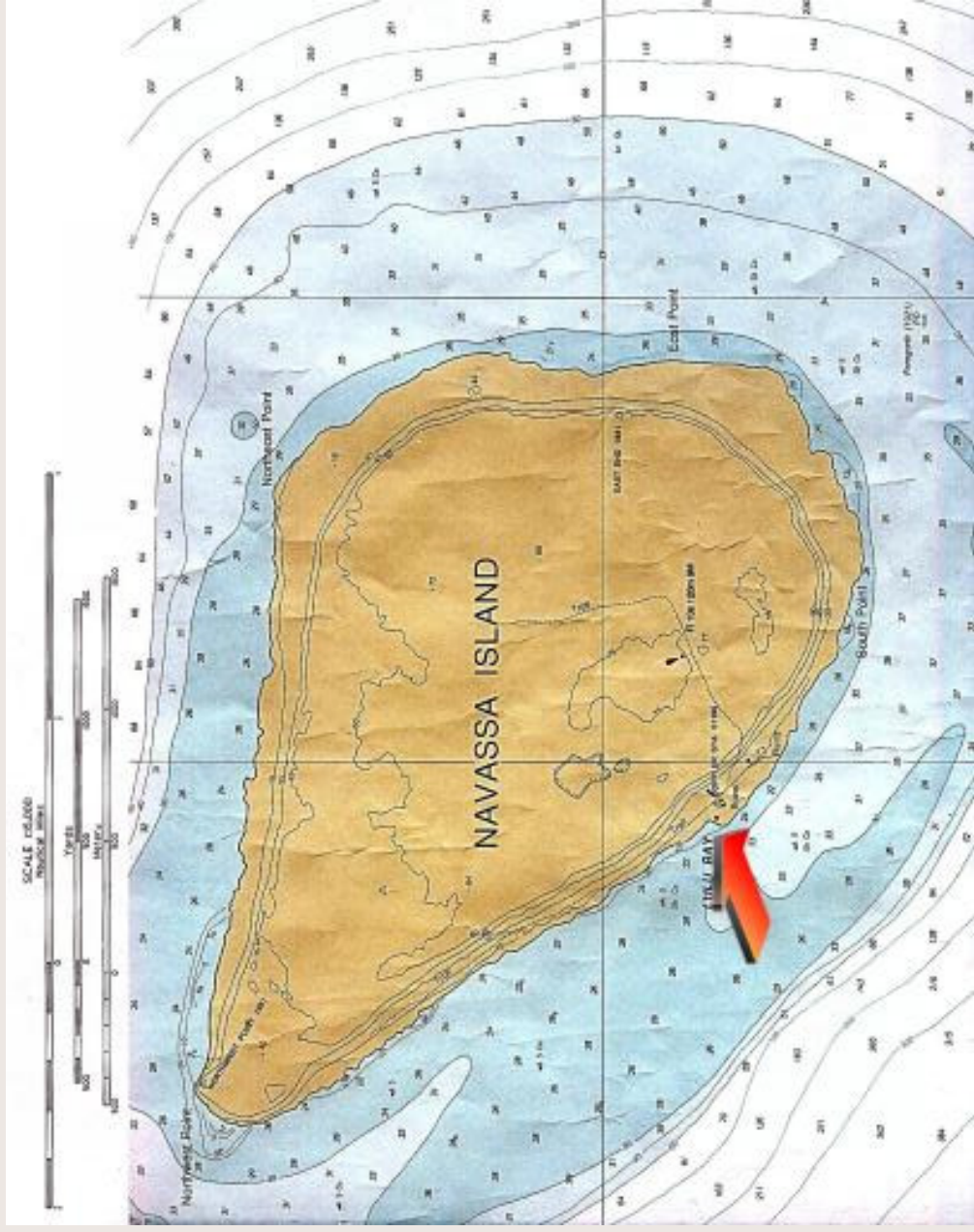
The Landing

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Making Camp

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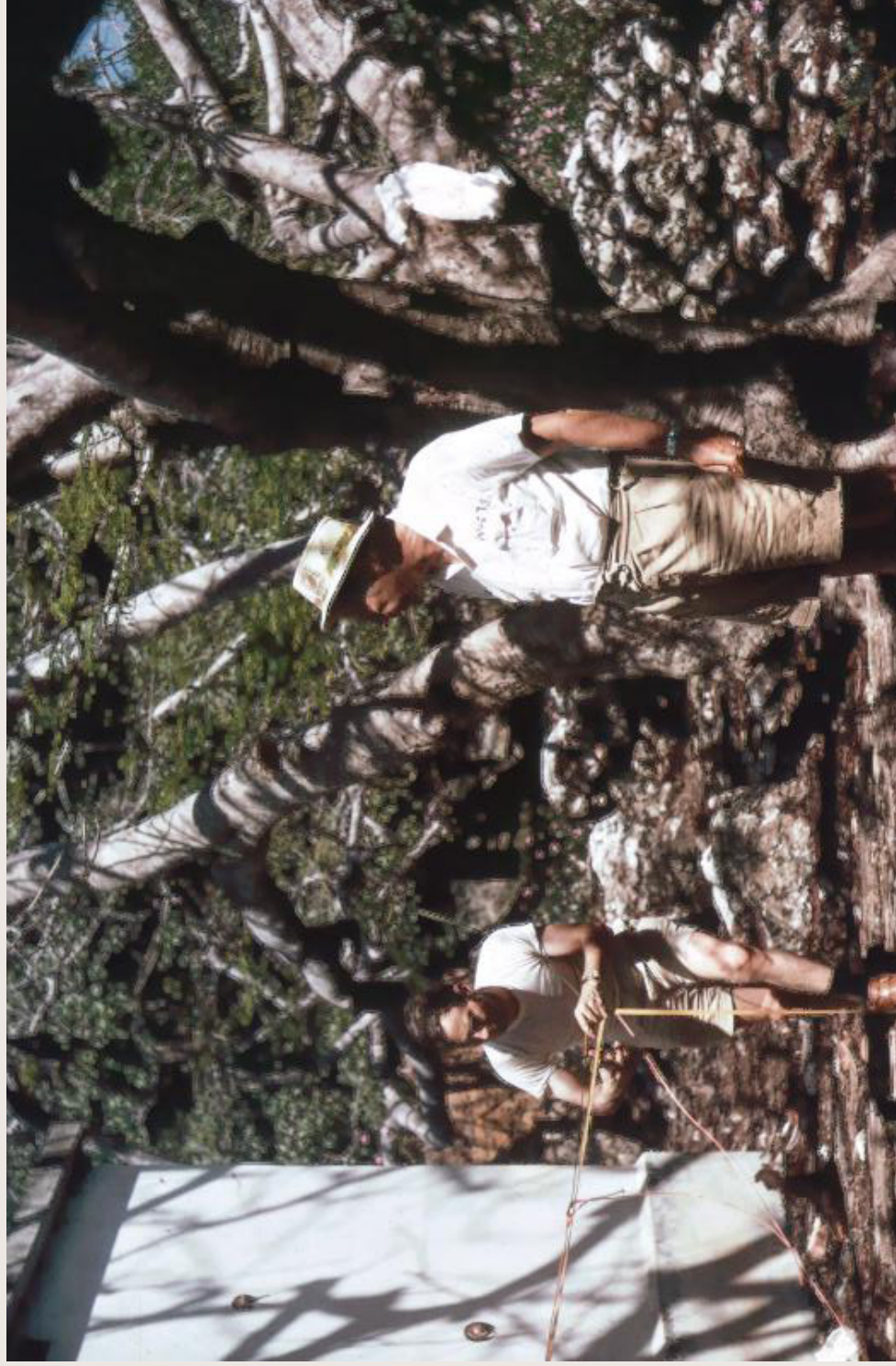
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The Rigs

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On the
AIR!

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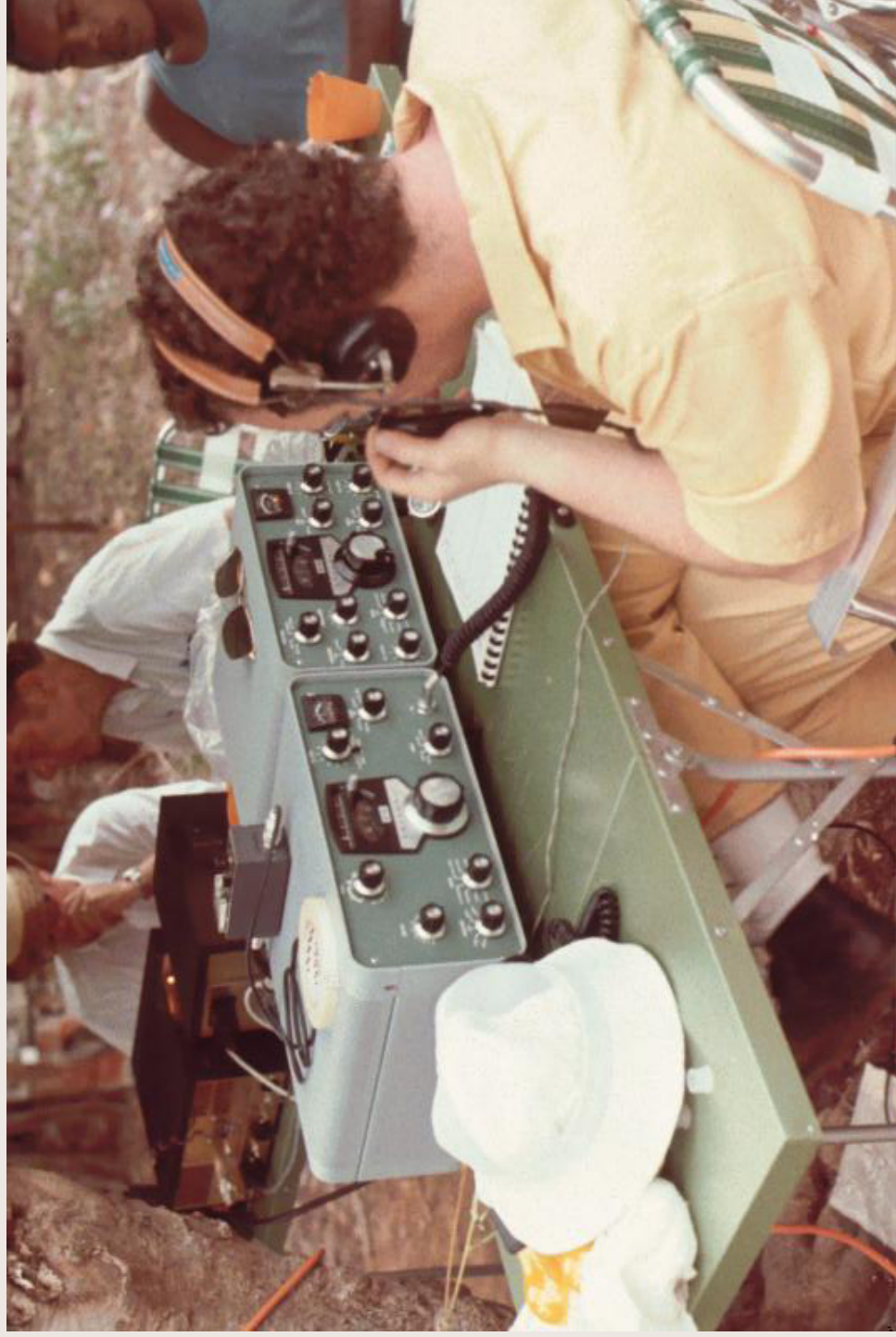
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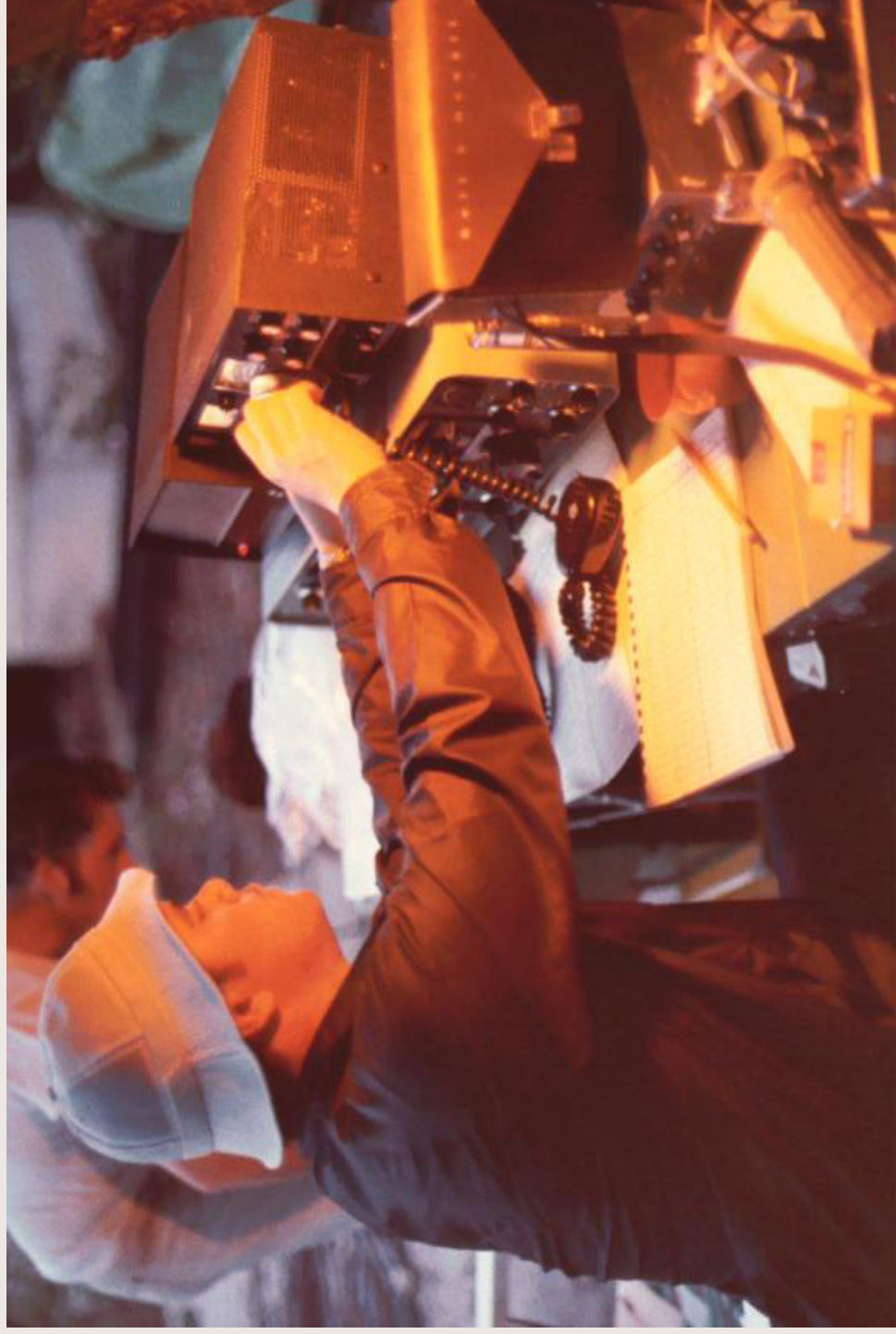


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Excitement!

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Excitement!
(In the middle of the night..)

..it was dark..

..it was dark..

.. really dark ..

..it was dark..

.. really dark ..

.. really, really dark ..







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Exploring the Island

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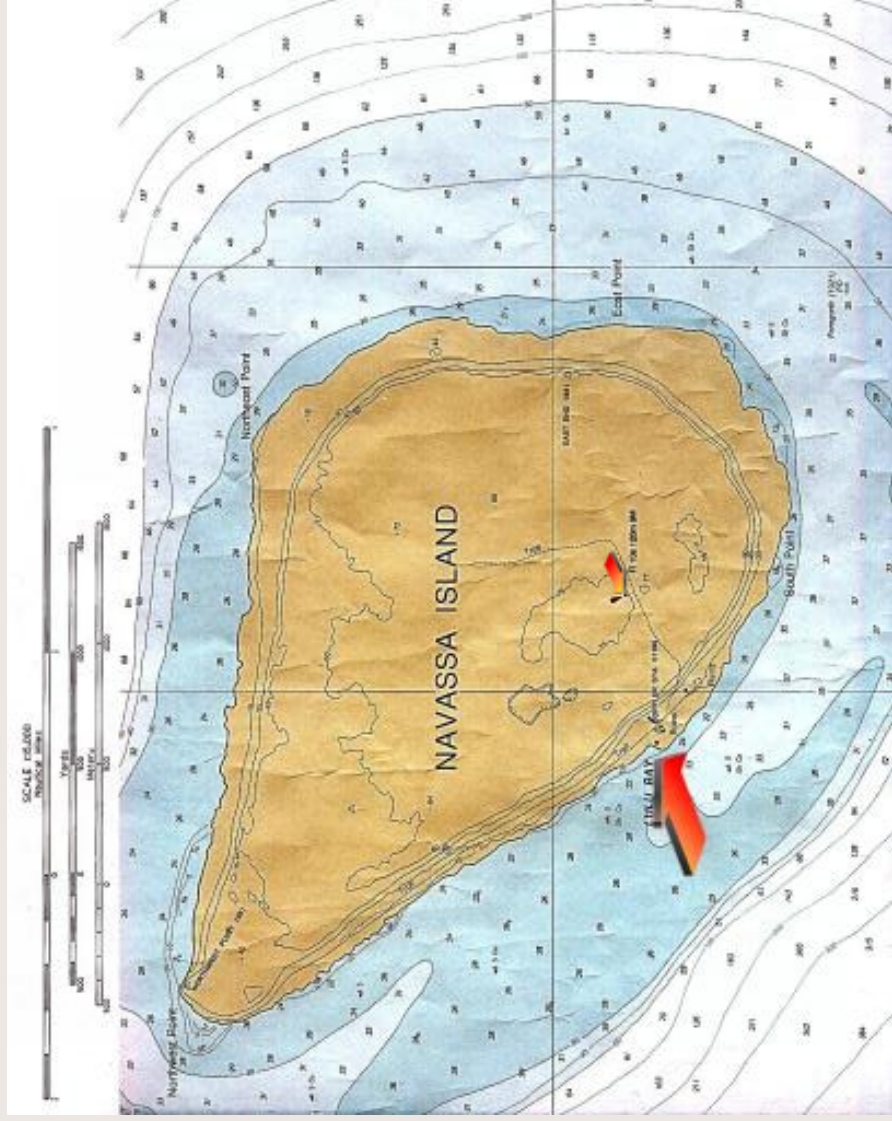


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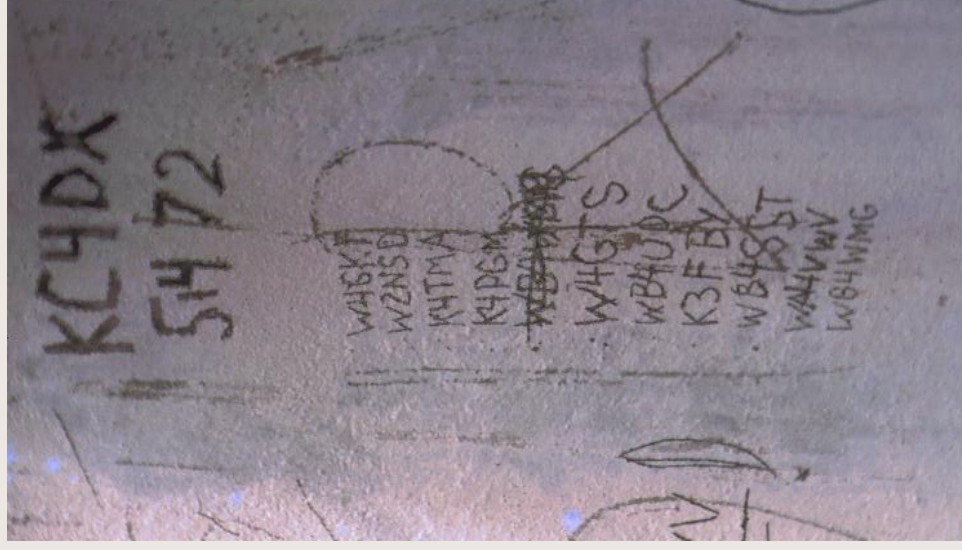
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Going
Home!

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- Results
 - On the air for only 54 hours
 - 5,500 QSOs
 - Nobody got hurt

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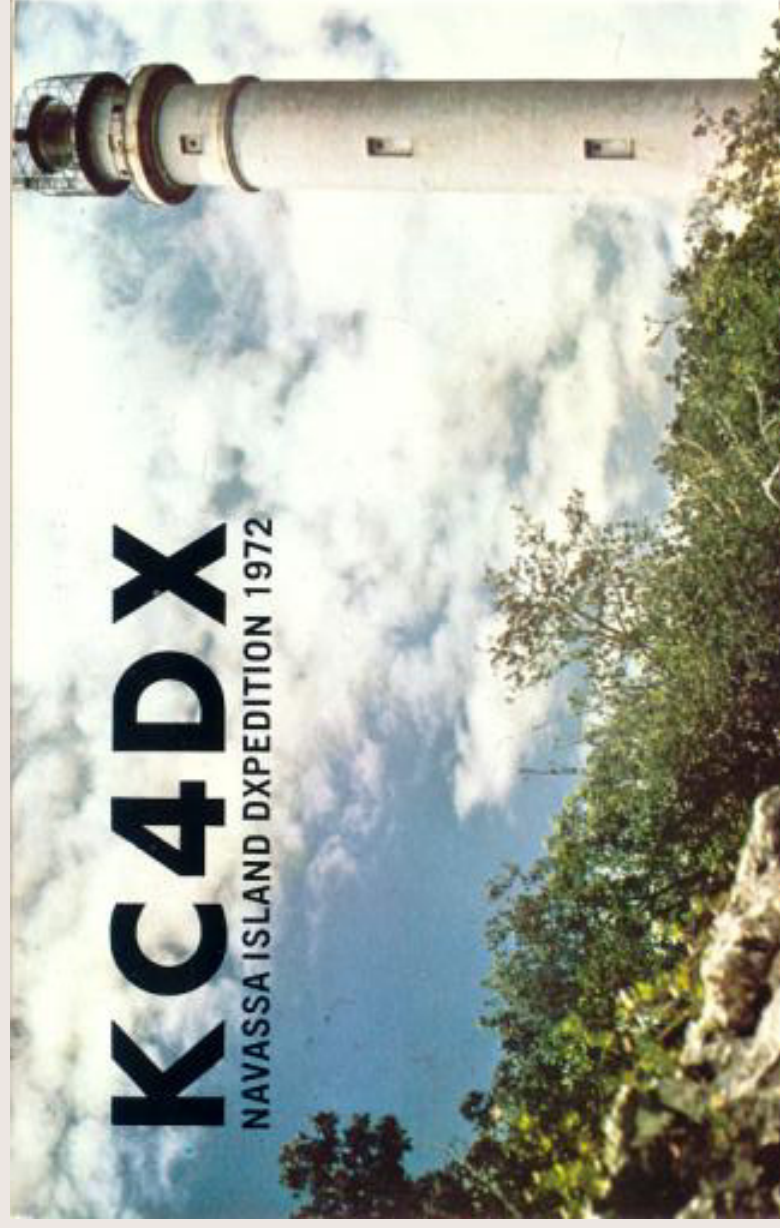
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- Results
 - On the air for only 54 hours
 - 5,500 QSOs
 - Nobody got hurt

Total cost: \$5,000

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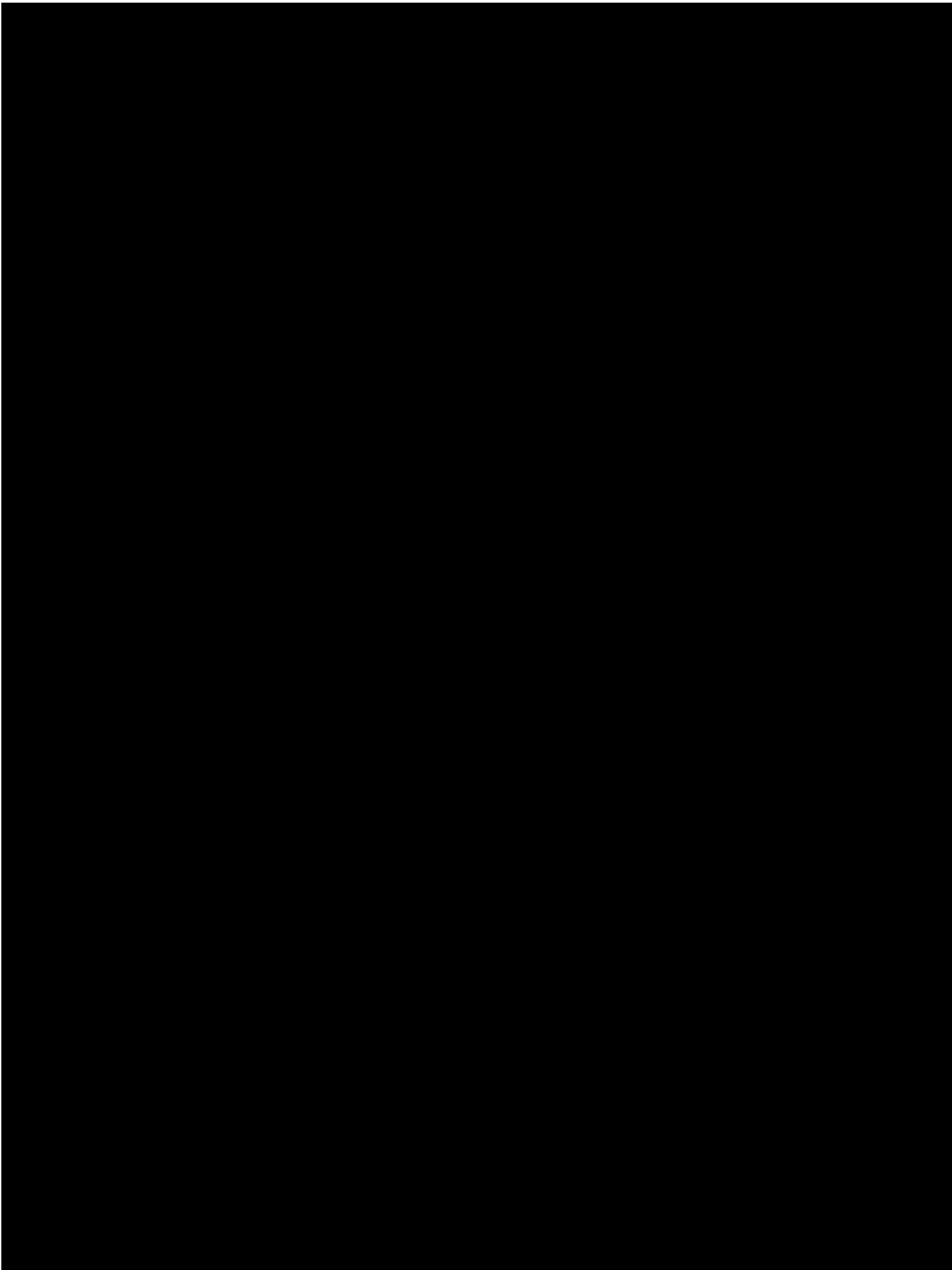
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The Movie

