

technique and form to the older ceramic group γ , and are particularly valuable on account of the remains of painting which they bear. To the same layer (+24.75 feet) is to be referred the broken pot of ordinary technique and probably also the erect stone mortar whose lip stood at +25 feet 10 inches. Whatever occurs below this must equally belong to the older culture; therefore the four skeleton graves, together with their burial gifts of copper and bead ornaments, are of especial value as being the first burials of the older culture to be found.

The only question that could arise is whether the pottery fragments found in the succession of layers may not invalidate their evidence. In terrace II, as well as in terraces I, IV, and V, the upper layer abounded in fragments of the red and gray monochrome ware of group x , and fragments of the γ group were relatively rare. As we dug deeper the relation between these two varieties changed, until at last they were reversed. The red monochrome ware occurred only in isolated cases below +26 feet. Still, it is remarkable that in terrace II this isolated occurrence of the group x reaches somewhat deeper than in terraces I and IV, and the group disappears wholly only below +22 feet 5 inches. This circumstance might be explained by the accidental falling of fragments during the excavation; but it is also possible that in ancient times they by chance became buried deeper here than elsewhere. A third explanation would be that the skeletons at +22 feet 5 inches were younger than the pithoi *in situ*. In this case the skeleton graves with their burial gifts would have to be assigned to the younger

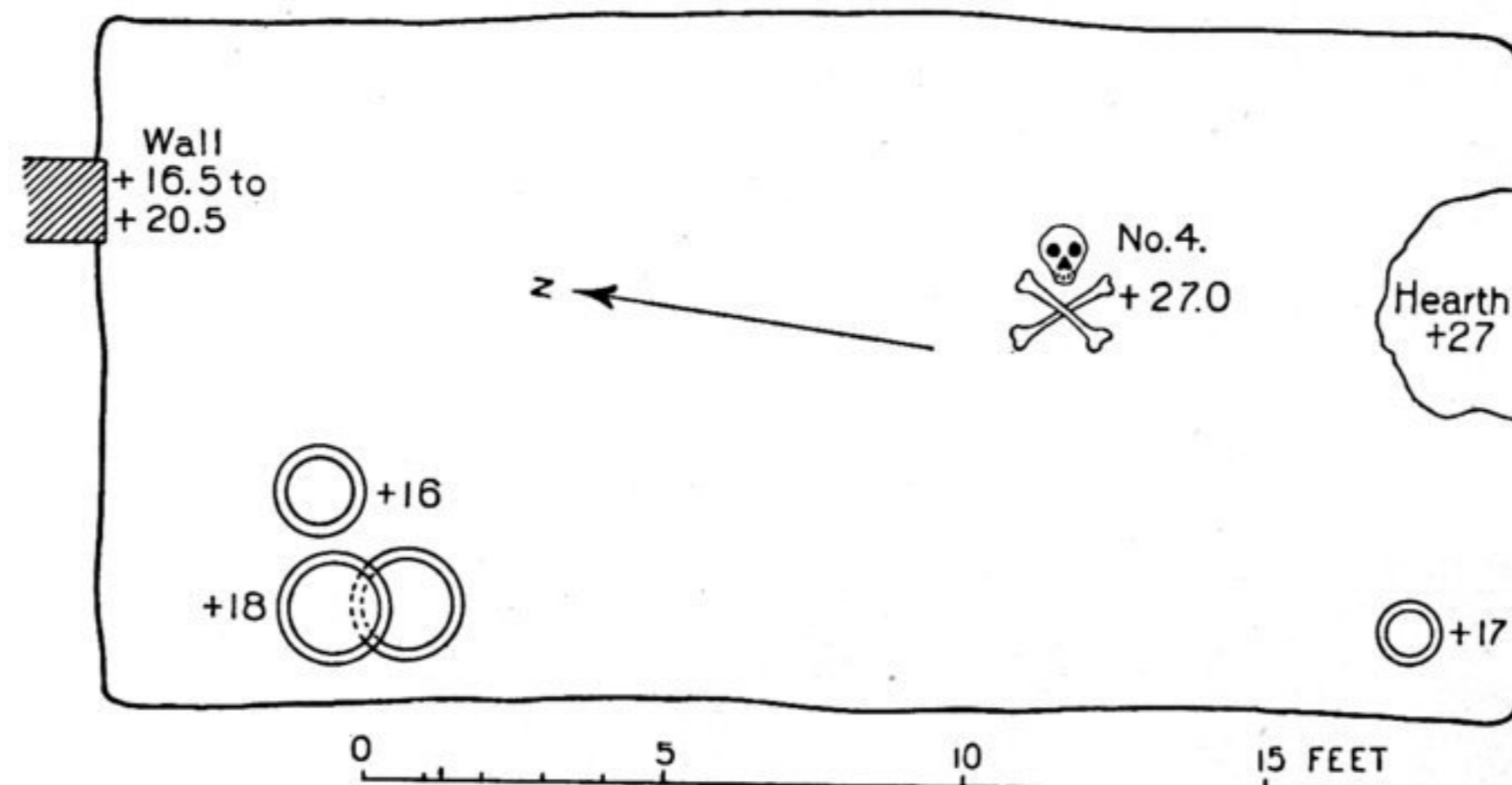


Fig. 32.—Plan of Terrace III.

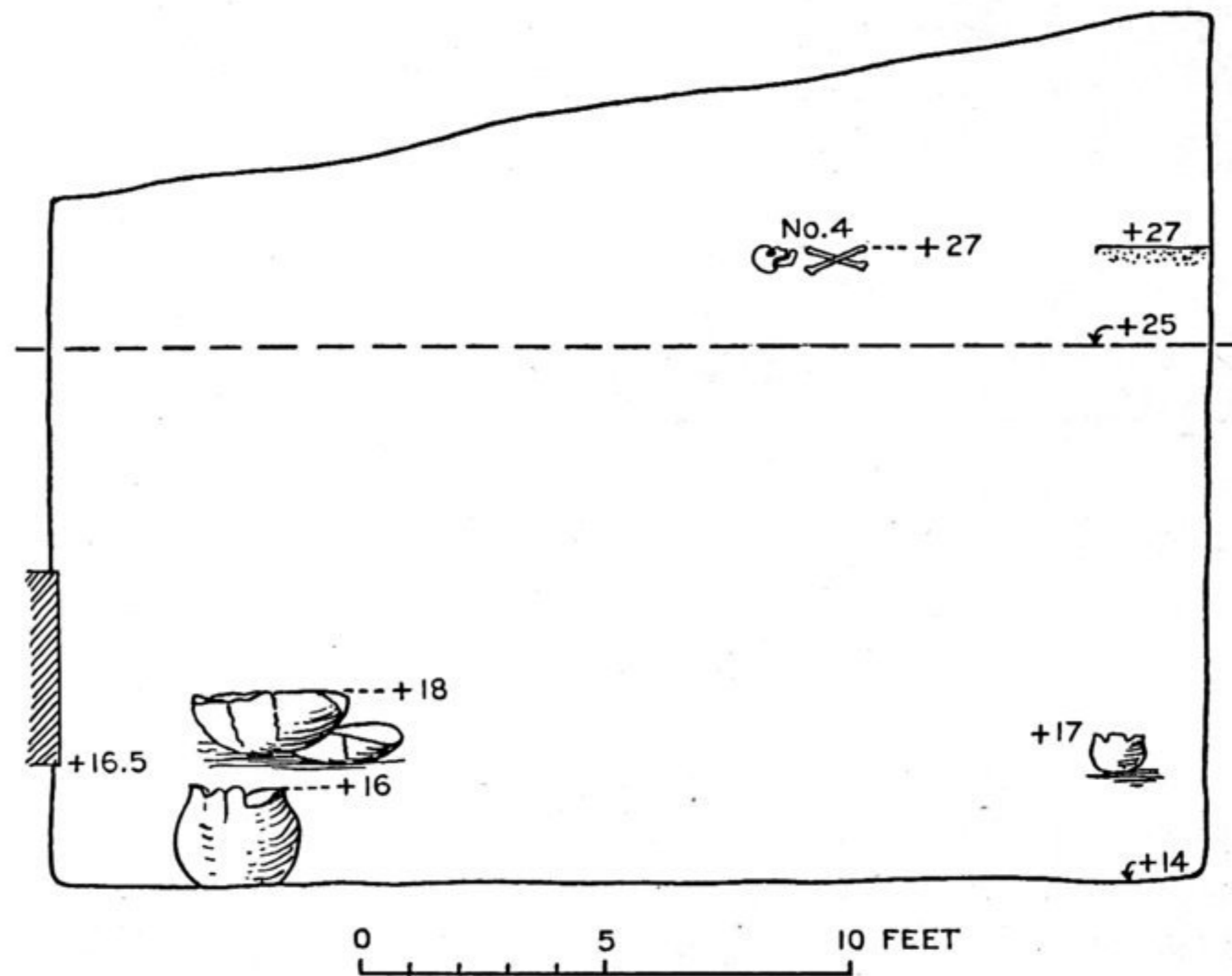


Fig. 33.—Vertical Section and Projection of Finds, Terrace III.

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