

Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

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TREATMENT REPORT

Date December 30, 1998

TPA No. 913

Object Guerrero Battalion flag

Catalog No M-5-80

Client Texas State Archives
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711-2927

Contact Christopher LaPlante
Phone (512) 463-5467 FAX (512) 463-5436

REPORT OF EXAMINATION

Object submitted for examination.

DOCUMENTATION

6 Kodachrome 25, 35mm color slides were taken before and after treatment.
Analysis: See attached report.

Description

Size Leading edge 58" Fly 60"

The flag is constructed of one layer of silk fabric in three vertical sections of red, white, and green, respectively. A 27" by 29" embroidered decoration on the center (white) section depicts the national arms of Mexico. The arms consist of an eagle (with a snake held in beak and one claw) with its head turned toward the leading edge and its wings outstretched sitting on a cactus. The cactus grows from a rock protruding from water in which there are several water fowl. A half circle of olive branches surrounds the scene on the bottom and sides. Across the top is a 2 3/4" ribbon with the unit designation "Pe. BATALLON Guerrero." This translates as: Permanente designates it as the regular army, and Guerrero is the name of a hero from the first Mexican Revolution. The embroidery is worked with silk and metallic threads. The embroidery is finished on the reverse side, except for the lettering

white and green over the green. The layers were attached by sewing through the voids. Fragments of silk and the unraveled lettering were aligned and sewn around their perimeter to hold them in place. Care was taken to eliminate sewing through the fabric where possible but in large areas with no damage, the fabrics were secured with random rows of vertical running stitch through all three layers. Sewing was carried out with thread pulled from the Stabiltex. The flag was photographed on both sides after encapsulation (see photos 3-4).

Preparation for Exhibition

6. A buffered, acid-free panel² was prepared then covered with nonwoven polyester batting³ and a previously washed, unbleached, airwing grade, fine cotton fabric⁴.

7. The flag was attached to the padded panel with one row of stitching across the top. Attachment was made through the Stabiltex to avoid additional stress on the flag. The flag was photographed on the panel (see photo 5).

8. Ultra-violet filtering OP-2 Acrylite was laid over the flag, applying a light pressure to the fabric. The entire unit was placed in a silver colored wooden frame from Ivy Industries⁶ (Item #Q-5/Finish #221). An aluminum insert was added to the frame to increase its strength and stability and an aluminum backing was constructed for support.

9. A final photo was taken and a treatment report prepared (see photo 6).

PROGNOSIS

The object should be exhibited under less than five foot-candles of light. Because any light is damaging, it is recommended that the piece be rotated between exhibit and storage, or covered with a dense cloth when not being viewed. Maximum effort should be made to reduce the total exposure to light. Care should be taken to avoid aiming lights directly on the case, which can cause a "greenhouse" effect, or heat build up within the unit.

To best preserve the object, the temperature and humidity level should be kept fairly constant, with temperatures of less than 70 degrees Fahrenheit and a relative humidity of 45% plus or minus 5%. Avoid hanging the object against an outside wall, or place spacers between the wall and the frame to prevent humidity transfer.

If this object is ever stored, it can be placed flat or vertical. We recommend storage in the frame, since it is part of the conservation treatment and will provide a

more stable environment.

HANGING THE FRAME

There are two metal tabs along the top of the frame for hooking onto a screw or bolt.

CARE OF THE PLEXIGLAS

The plexiglas is soft and may scratch so care must be taken during handling. Plexiglas should not be cleaned with ammonia based window cleaners. Either plexiglas cleaner should be purchased, or water with a drop of liquid dishwasher detergent can be used along with very soft rags (diapers or gauze). If paper towels are used they should be extremely soft.

Total treatment hours: 77

Signed: Fonda G. Thomsen Date: 12/30/98

Fonda Ghiardi Thomsen, Fellow AIC,
Director, Textile Preservation Associates, Inc.

Work on the object was carried out by Cathy Heffner, Conservation Technician, Textile Preservation Associates, Inc. under the supervision of Fonda G. Thomsen, Conservator.

Reference list of materials used in the conservation of this object.

1. Stabiltex, a sheer, multifilament, plain weave, polyester: Talas, 568 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 (212) 219-0770.
2. Corrugated Board, buffered, acid free: Holinger Corporation, P.O. Box 8360, Fredricksburg, VA 22404 (800) 634-0491.
3. Batting: "Jasztex" a thermo bonded polyester batting: Museum Services Corporation, 1107 East Cliff Road, Burnsville, MN 55337.
- "Poly-fil Traditional Batting" a non-woven, needle punched batting: Fairfield Processing Corporation, 88 Rose Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT. 06810.
4. Cotton, a 100% airwing grade fabric: Fox Reich Textiles, Inc., 54 Danbury Road, Suite 228, Ridgefield, CN 06877 (914) 533-2445.

5. Acrylite OP-2, a colorless cast ultraviolet filtering acrylic sheet: Cyro Industries, P. O. Box 950, 100 Valley Road, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856 (416) 675-9433.

6. Ivy Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 7747, Charlottesville, VA (800) 446-1600.

TPA # 913
Cat. # M-5-80

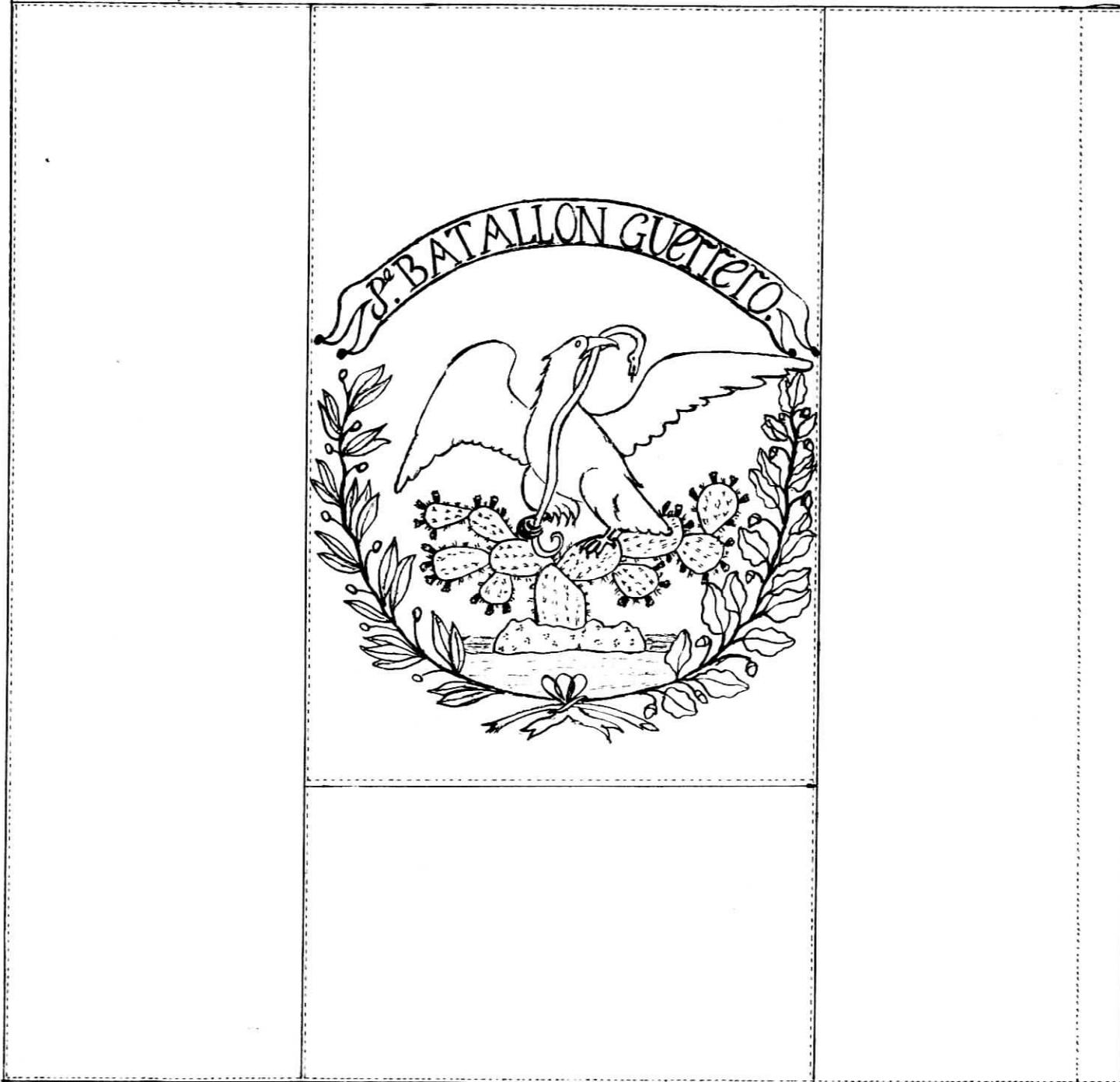
Guerrero Battalion Flag
Scale: 1" = 8" 0 2 4 6 8 = inches

REVERSE

Drawing # 1
CONSTRUCTION

← 60" →

↑
58"
↓



TPA # 913
Cat # M-5-80

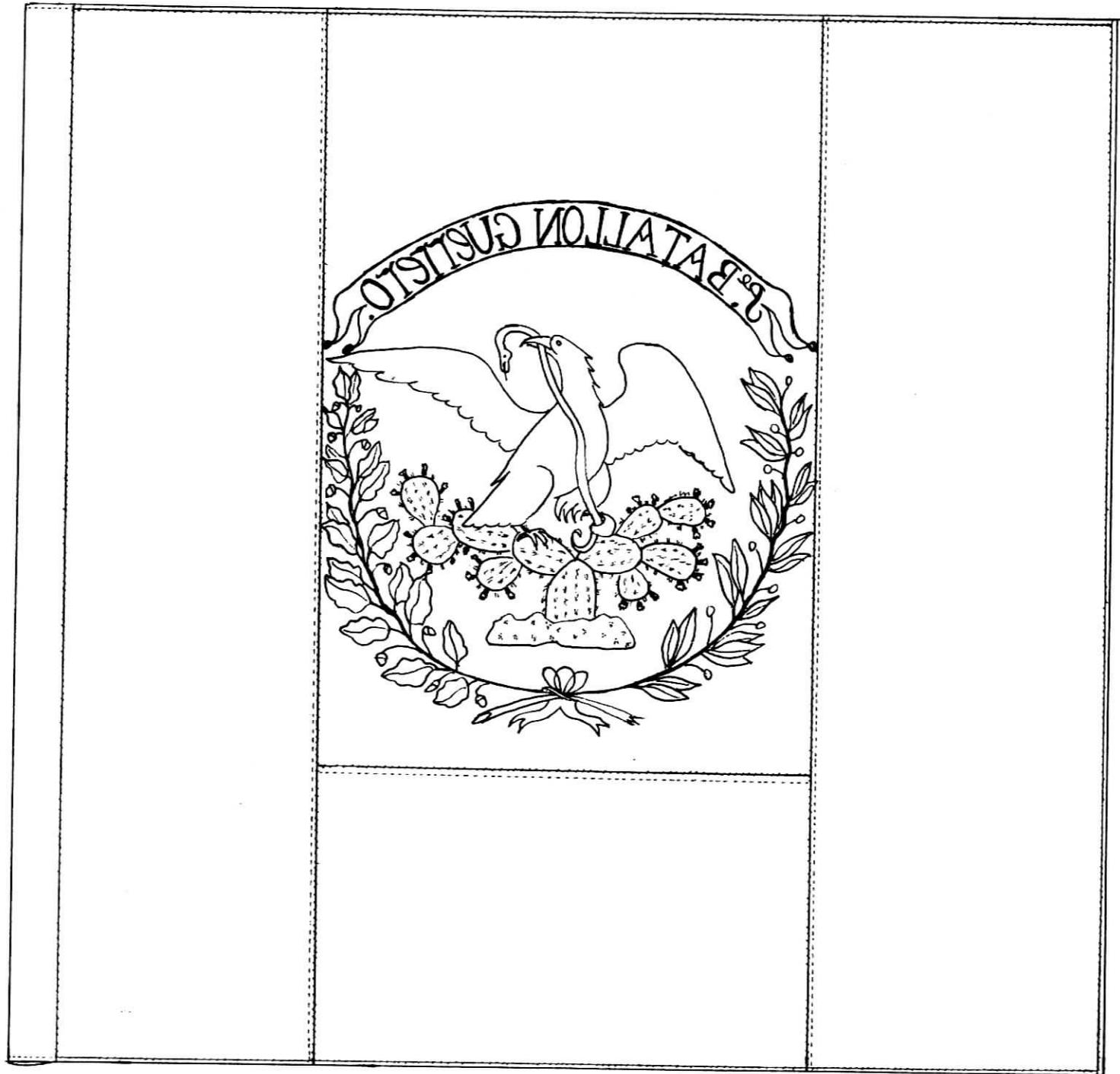
Guerrero Battalion Flag
Scale: 1" = 8" $\overbrace{0 \quad 2 \quad 4 \quad 6} = \text{inches}$

OBVERSE

Drawing # 2
CONSTRUCTION

58"

← 60" →



TPA # 913
Cat # M-5-80

Guerrero Battalion Flag
Scale: 1" = 8" 0 2 4 6 = inches

OBVERSE

Drawing # 3
SELVAGE EDGES

← 60" →

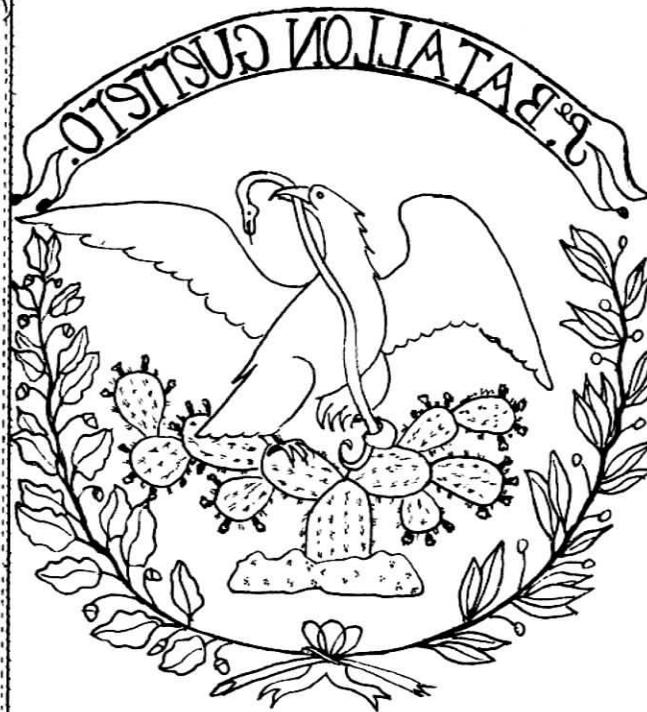
↑
58"
↓

SE - Green

(3 Rows of 6
white threads each)

SE - White
(inside seam)

SE - Red - No pattern



SE - (inside seam)
Pattern - 3 rows
of 6 white threads
each row

SE - No pattern

TPA # 913

Guerrero Battalion Flag

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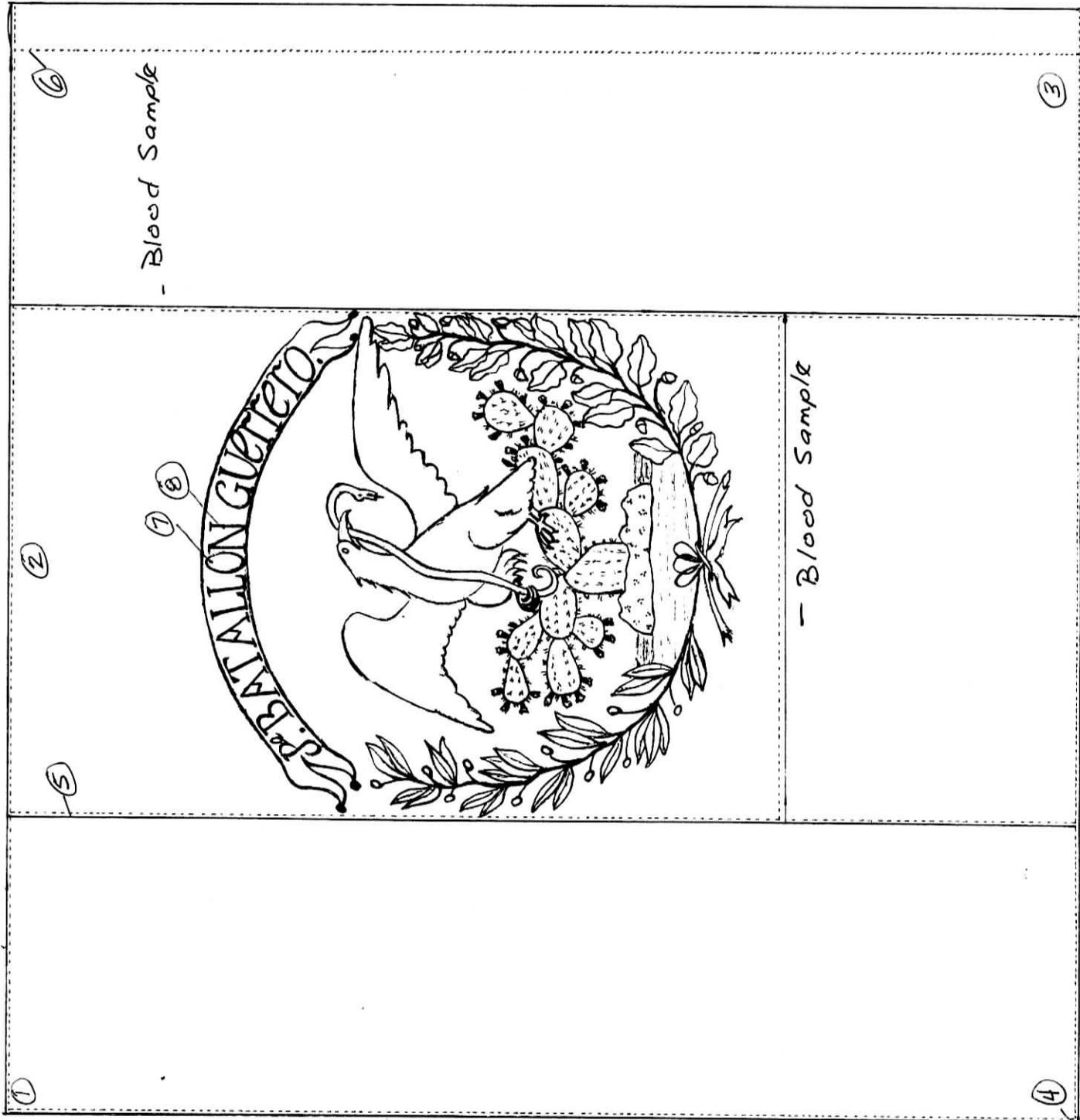
Scale: 1" = 8" 0 2 4 6 8 = inches

REVERSE

Drawing # 4
SAMPLING

← 60" →

↑ 58" ↓



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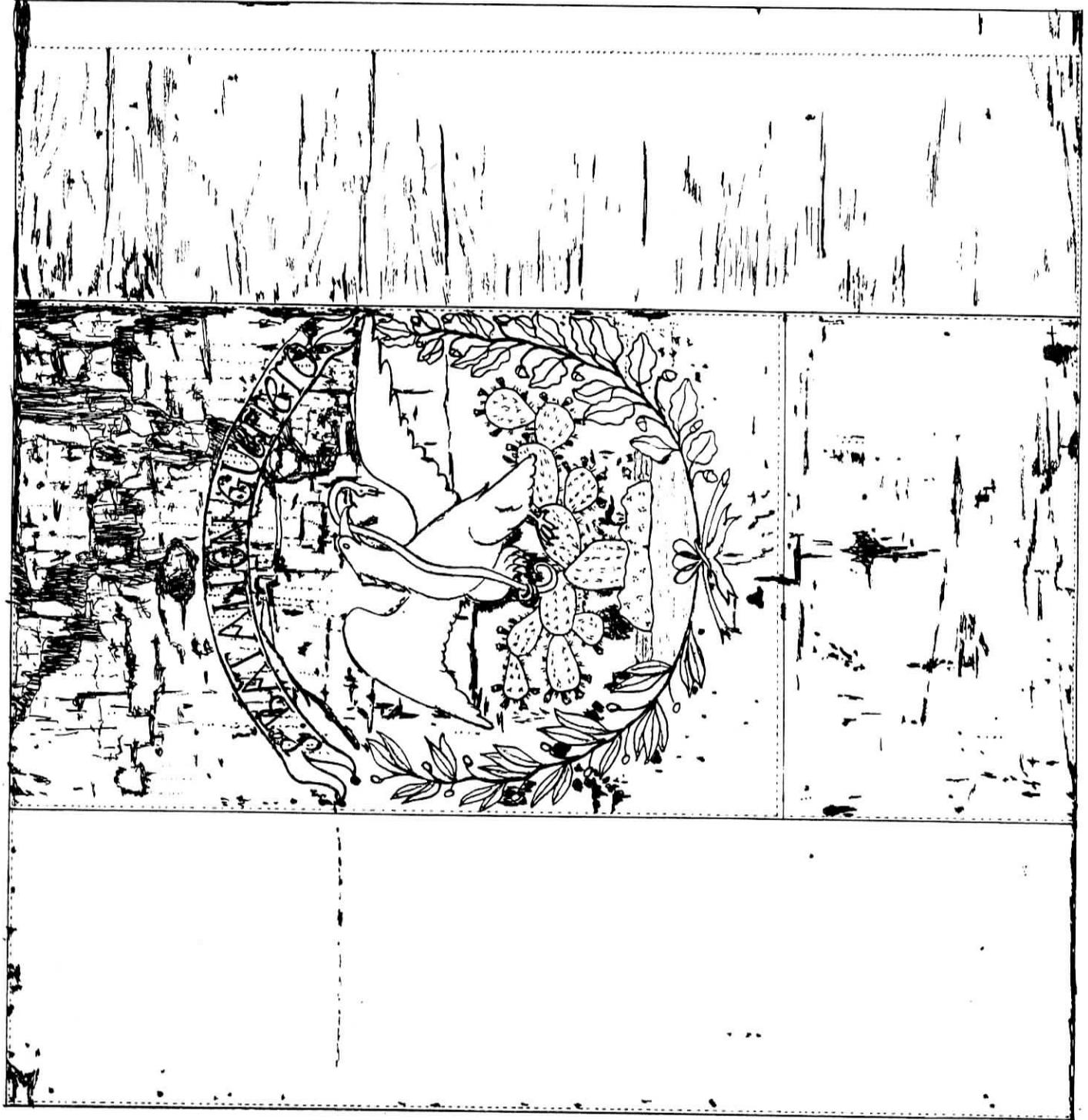
Scale: 1" = 8"

0 2 4 6 8 = inches

REVERSE

Drawing # 7

CONDITION



↑ 58" ↓

← 60" →

TPA # 913

Guerrero Battalion Flag

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Scale: 1" = 8" 0 2 4 6 8 = inches

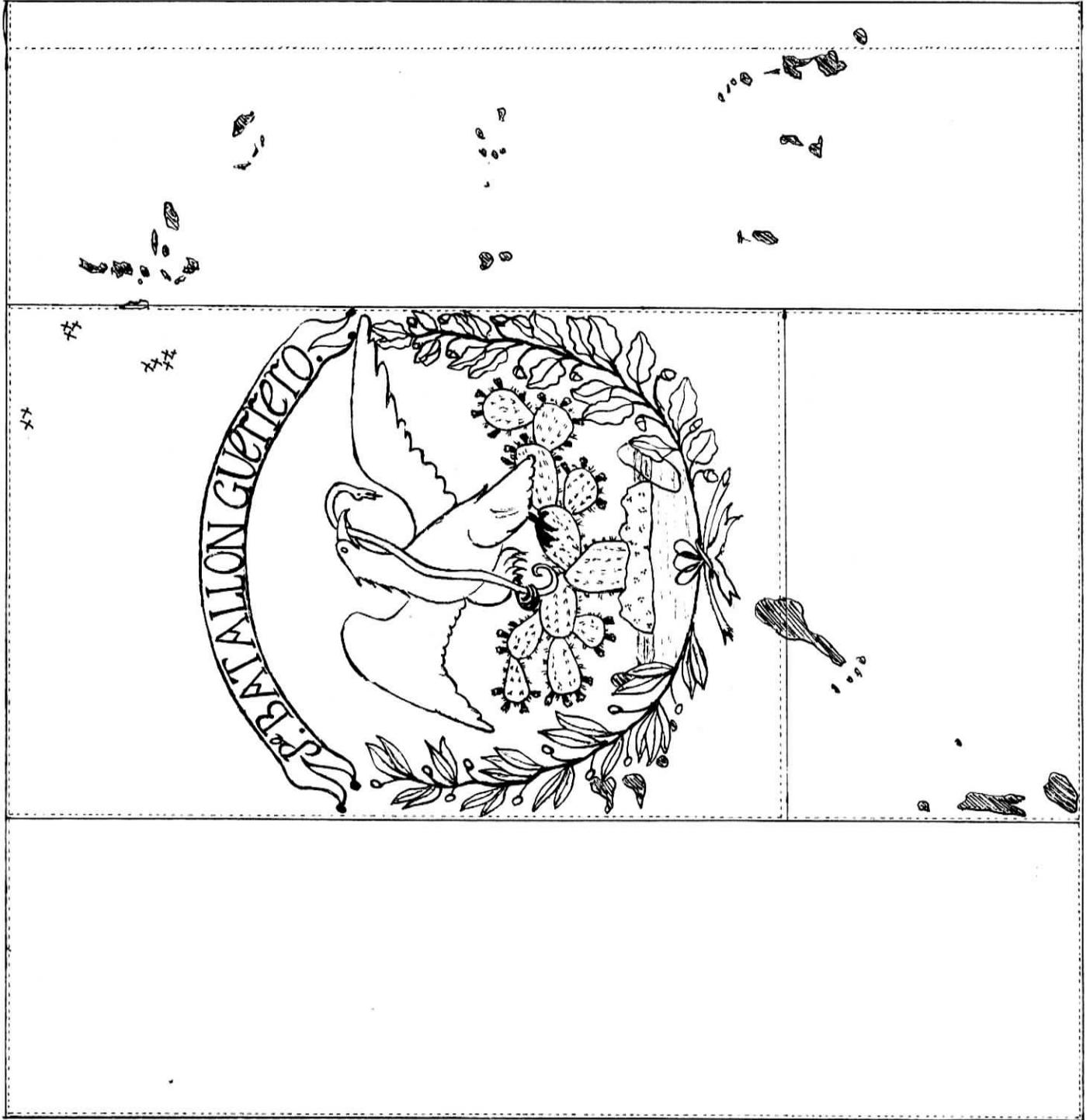
REVERSE

Drawing # 8

STAINING

← 60" →

↑ 58" ↓

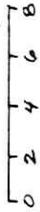


TPA # 913

Guerrero Battalion Flag

Cat. # M-5-80

Scale: 1" = 8"



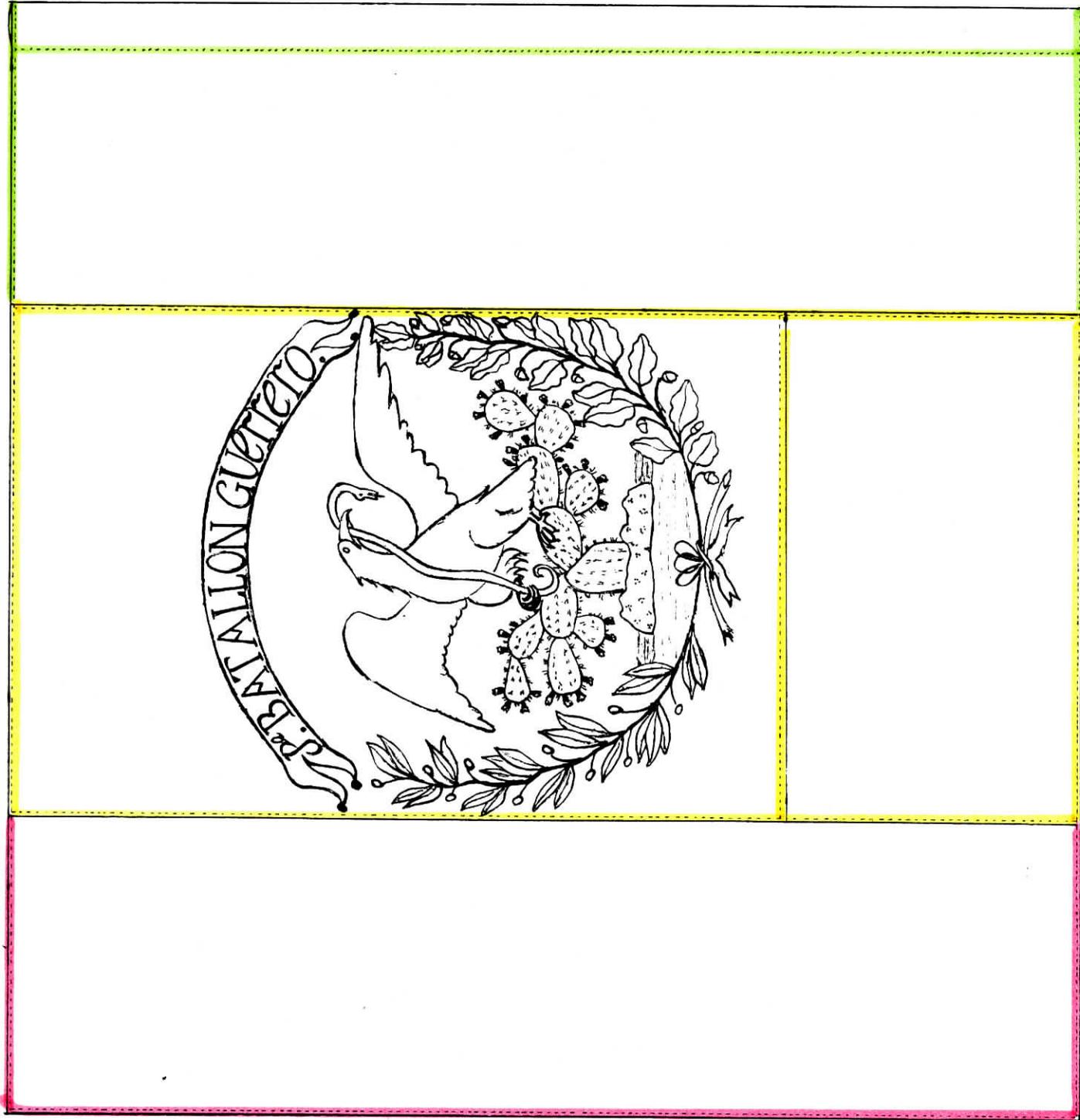
← 60" →

REVERSE

Drawing # 5

SEWING THREADS

- 2 Ply S silk - RED
- WHITE
- GREEN (8/16)



↑ 58" ↓

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Guerrero Battalion Flag
Scale: 1" = 8" 0 2 4 6 = inches

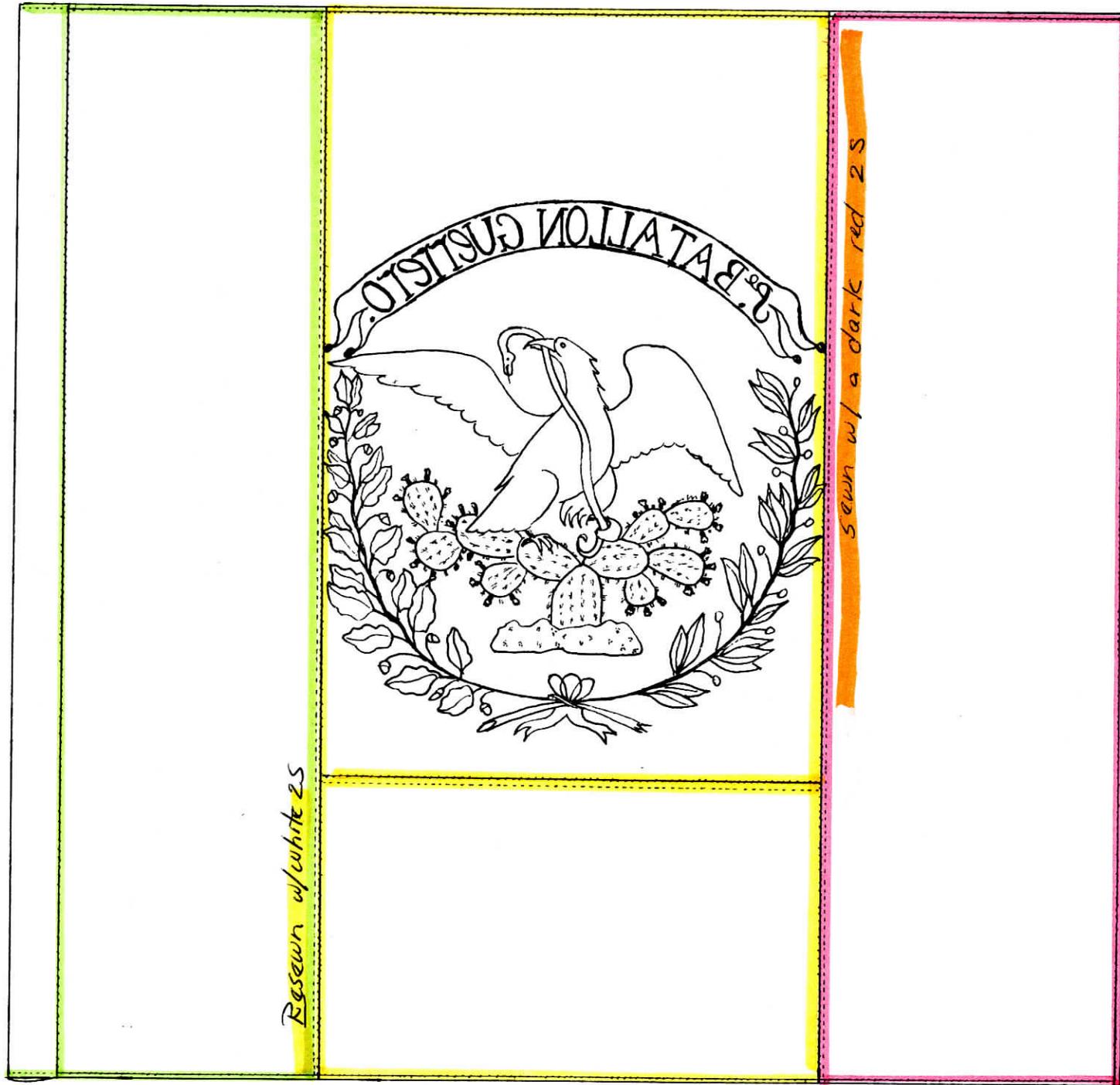
OBVERSE

Drawing # 6
SEWING THREADS

2 Ply 5 Silk - RED
WHITE
GREEN (Blue)

← 60" →

↑
58"
↓



Resewn w/white 25

sewn w/ a dark red 25

which is finished only on the obverse.

Condition

Previous Treatment

The flag had been previously treated by hand stitching the white and green bars between two layers of netting. The red bar was stitched without netting. The treatment was documented and removed by Panhandle Plains in 1980 prior to arrival at Textile Preservation Associates.

Present Condition

The red fabric is mostly intact with only tiny, 1/4" or less, holes throughout. The top edge which is the exception, has two 1" holes. There are also seven tack holes along the top edge. The green fabric is weak and badly faded. There are numerous horizontal splits throughout and a 1/2" to 1" section of the top edge is missing. The white fabric is badly fractured throughout with many detached pieces. Approximately 5% of the fabric in the area above the embroidery is missing. Some of the green dye has bled onto the white silk. The majority of the embroidery is intact but some areas have unraveled, especially in the word "Guerrero". The flag is soiled and stained throughout. Some of the stains tested positive for blood.

REPORT OF TREATMENT

Documentation

1. The flag, as received, was photographed on both sides (see photos 1-2).
2. The fibers, fabrics, and sewing threads were analyzed. Information about the construction of the flag, and any evidence of alterations to the original were noted. Scale drawings were made of the flag and an analysis report was prepared. Particle samples were taken for the files.

Stabilization

3. The flag was vacuum cleaned to remove all airborne particles and loose accumulations of soil.
4. To relax the fabrics and remove creases and distortions caused by the previous treatment, the flag was humidified by light misting with distilled water. When relaxed, the fabrics were flattened and dried under glass weights. Separated pieces were returned to their original location.
5. The flag was sandwiched between two layers of appropriately colored Stabiltex¹, a multifilament polyester crepeline. Red was placed over the red stripe, ecru over the