

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 6 Feb 53 6/0913Z	2. LOCATION Rosalia, Washington (20 Min S. Spokane)
3. SOURCE AF Pilot	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3-5 Min.	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Round white light traveled at an est speed of 150-200 knots at approx 7000' alt. Maneuvers consisted of circling several times, flashing on & off, noticeable increase in speed, and disappearing in a S direction. Object was observed by pilot of P-36 a/c.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Visual	
7. COURSE SE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	COMMENTS: 1. Weather balloon probably in the area of sighting from Geiger Field Weather Bureau. See incident folder for explanation. 2. Weather records show balloon released from Geiger Field not Fairchild at 0900Z. Was lost in the clouds after rising to 3,000'. Could have very easily caused the sighting.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

UNCLASSIFIED

Rosalia, Washington

UNCLASSIFIED

R.m.d.

6 February 1953

STATUS Report # 10

I. Description of Incident

A B-36 aircraft was in flight in the vicinity of Spokane, Washington, when one round white omnidirectional light was sighted at 0913Z time. The light was at an altitude of approximately 7,000 ft. on a southeast course circling and rising as it proceeded. It was visually observed for a period of three to five minutes. The B-36 made 180° descending turn toward the light which was estimated to be moving at a speed of 150 to 200 knots. The aircraft was inbound to Spokane 15 miles out and located over Rosalia, Washington.

II. Discussion of Incident

ATIC determined that a scheduled pibal balloon released at 0900Z from the U.S. Weather Bureau Station at Fairchild AFB was in the immediate area of sighting. The sighting was from Rosalia which is 12.5 nautical miles S.E. of Fairchild AFB and to place a balloon in the area of the sighting winds would have to be out of the N.E. Winds aloft at 7,000 to 10,000 ft. were from 270° to 280° at 50 knots per hour. Therefore, by computation, it would take approximately 15 minutes for the balloon to be carried to Rosalia by the existing winds. Since the unidentified object was sighted 13 minutes after the balloon launch time, and the description (climbing, orbiting, balloons carry white running lights) closely parallels the maneuvers of a balloon, ATIC concludes that the object probably was the pibal weather balloon. All local air fields were checked by McChord AFB and no aircraft were in the area at the time of observation other than the B-36.

III. Conclusion

Probably balloon.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

R.m.d.

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UNCLASSIFIED

Witness

McChord Flt Sv Cen
McChord AFB, Wash

061000U Feb 53

Priority

Director of Intelligence
Hq USAF
Wash, D. C.

X

X

Air Technical Intelligence Center
ATTN: ATIAA-2c
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

04/0134PST
ROSALIA, WASH

Commanding General
Ent AFB
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Commander
FS
Wash, D. C.

Commander
MATS
ATTN: Intelligence Div
Wash, D. C.

FSC 06-B-2. FLIOBRPT

A. One round light; size ~~unkn~~; white; aerodynamic features unkn, no exhaust trail, no observed propulsion system; speed 150 to 200 knots; no sound was heard; flew south bound under AF 2708 B-36 at aprx 7000 ft, circled several times turned south heading 182 degrees Magnetic. Light commenced flashing 1 to 2 second intervals with noticeable increase of speed and disappeared on southerly heading.

B. Obj sighted 0134PST, 6 Feb 53, for aprx 3 to 5 minutes.

1 3

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 2 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

McChord Flt Sv Cen
McChord AFB, Wash

061000U Feb 53

Priority

X

X

FSC 06-B-2. FLICBRPT - [REDACTED] - CONT'D

- C. Manner of obs was visual from the air by a B-36, speed 150 to 200 knots at 7000 ft, visual obs only.
- D. Obj sighted at 47 degrees 20 minutes North, 115 degrees 30 minutes West, vicinity of Rosalia, Wash. AF 2708, B-36 inbound on south course of Spokane Range, 10 to 15 miles from sta descending fr 10,000 ft to 7000 ft, sighted obj approaching fr the North, dir of flt AF 2807 001 degrees magnetic. Dir of flt of obj aprx 182 degrees magnetic, altitude of obj aprx 7000 ft.
- E. Major Leo J Moffatt, AO 758603, 327th Bomb Sqd, Fairchild AFB, Spokane, Wash. Obs considered reliable.
- F. Weather: Fairchild AFB, Wash. measured 1200 ft broken, 9000 overcast, visibility 15 miles. Light drizzle, winds aloft 270 degrees, 50 knots, 10000 ft.
- G. No known conditions would account for sighting.
- H. Photographs: None
- I. Pilot of AF 2708 made 180 degree descending toward obj after turning toward light, the light started circling then headed south commencing to blink.

2 3

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AND DECLASSIFIED
DDC 2-1-2000

UNCLASSIFIED

McChord Flt Sv Cen
McChord AFB, Wash

061000U Feb 53 [REDACTED]

Priority

FSC 06-B-2. FLYOBRPT - [REDACTED] - CONT'D

J. A check with all agencies in this area indicates no other acft should have been in that vicinity.

K. Pilot of AF 2708 contacted at Fairchild AFB Operations.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

[REDACTED]

JOHN S BATTLE, Major, USAF

FSC

5200

Condg

UNCLASSIFIED

USA-MATS

IR-133-53

UNCLASSIFIED

Unidentified Flying Object Sighted Near Spokane, Washington

State of Washington, USA

Flight Service, MATS, 3800 Newark
Street, N. W., Washington 25, D. C.

12 February 1953

6 February 1953

B-2

Frank M. Allen, Lt Colonel, USAF

Major Leo J. Moffatt, AO758603

Teletype FLYCORPT 061800Z February by McChord Flight Service Center

B-36 number AF 2708 was in flight in the vicinity of Spokane, Washington, 6 February 1953, when one round white light was sighted, approaching AF 2708 from the North. The light was at an altitude of approximately 7,000 feet, on a south bound course, when it passed AF 2708. AF 2708 made a descending 180° turn toward the light, which was moving at about 150 to 200 knots. The light circled several times, then turned to a course of approximately 182° magnetic, began to flash at one to two second intervals, its speed increased noticeably, and it disappeared on a Southerly course.

The light was sighted at 0134PST, by Major Leo J. Moffatt, AO758603, 327th Bombardment Squadron, Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane, Washington, from aboard AF 2708, and was visually observed for approximately three to five minutes. AF 2708 was inbound, approximately 10 to 15 miles out on the South leg of the Spokane radio range (inbound course 1° magnetic), at the time of the sighting, descending from 10,000 to 7,000 feet. During sighting aircraft turned to proceed toward Rosalia, Washington (47°20'N, 117°30'W).

Weather report for Fairchild Air Force Base at time of sighting: Ceiling measured 1,200 feet, overcast above at 9,000 feet, visibility 15 miles, light drizzle, and wind at 10,000 feet above the surface from 270° at 50 knots.

Check of all area agencies revealed no aircraft which should have been in the area. No known conditions would account for the sighting.

Wind can't change 180° within 3,000
ft. span:

0134 PST
8
0934 Z

FRANK M. ALLEN
Lt Colonel, USAF
Intelligence Officer

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

Flight Service, MATS
3800 Newark Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

IR-133-53

2

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The following teletype report was received from McChord Flight Service Center, McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, Washington:

FSC 06-B-2. FLYOBRPT ATTN: ATIAA-2C at Wright-Patterson AFB, ATTN: Intelligence Division at Washington D. C.

A. One round light: size unknown: white: aerodynamic features unknown, no exhaust trail, no observed propulsion system: speed 150 to 200 knots: no sound was heard: flew south bound under AF 2708 B-36 at approximately 7,000 feet, circled several times, turned south heading 182° magnetic. Light commenced flashing 1 to 2 second intervals with noticeable increase of speed and disappeared on southerly heading.

B. Object sighted 0134PST, 6 February 1953, for approximately 3 to 5 minutes.

C. Manner of observation was visual from the air by a B-36, speed 150 to 200 knots at 7,000 feet, visual observation only.

D. Object sighted at 47° 20 minutes north, 115° 30 minutes west, vicinity of Rosalia, Washington. AF 2708, B-36 inbound on south course of Spokane Range, 10 to 15 miles from station descending from 10,000 feet to 7,000 feet, sighted object approaching from the north, direction of flight AF 2807 00° magnetic. Direction of flight of object approximately 182° magnetic, altitude of object approximately 7,000 feet.

E. Major Leo J. Moffatt, A0758603, 327th Bombardment Squadron, Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane, Washington. Observation considered reliable.

F. Weather: Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington measured 1,200 feet broken, 9,000 overcast, visibility 15 miles. Light drizzle, winds aloft 270°, 50 knots, 10,000 feet.

G. No known conditions would account for sighting.

H. Photographs: None.

I. Pilot of AF 2708 made 180° descending toward object after turning toward light, the light started circling then headed south commencing to blink.

J. A check with all agencies in this area indicates no other aircraft should have been in that vicinity.

K. Pilot of AF 2708 contacted at Fairchild Air Force Base Operations.

06/19-54 Feb JAFPM

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

Flight Service, MATS
3800 Newark Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

IR-133-53

3

3

Comments of Preparing Officer:

1. Sighting position of $47^{\circ}21'N$, $115^{\circ}30'W$ indicated by paragraph D of the teletype message is apparently in error, as this position is approximately 90 statute miles from position indicated by South leg of Spokane radio range and Rosalia, Washington. This position has been resolved to $47^{\circ}21'N$, $117^{\circ}30'W$.
2. Crew position of Major Moffatt, and/or position in AF 2708 at time of sighting, was not indicated.
3. Direction, number, and size of circles by the light, and whether at constant altitude, was not indicated.
4. No variation in intensity of the light, between approach and departure, or during circling, was reported. This indicates that the light was horizontally omnidirectional, instead of focussed like a landing light or jet exhaust glow. It is also noted that although AF 2708 was apparently constantly descending during the sighting, no change in light intensity was caused by this descent. This could indicate vertical omnidirectional light qualities.
5. Manner of disappearance of the light was not reported (whether extinguished, or diminished by distance) but message indicates that it faded due to distance.
6. The area in which sighting occurred is in an Air Defense Identification Zone, and any aircraft or flying objects should have been under radar surveillance. Positive statement that radar sites had not observed the incident is not included.
7. Although teletype message indicates that no propulsion system was observed, the correlation between flashing of the light and its increase in speed could indicate action of a propulsive system.

20 FEB 1953

10 00

This case include one (1) 8" x 10"
photograph and two (2) 16" x 13"
photocopied charts.

STATION	
SPokane, Wash. (HIGHER FIELD)	
47° 37' N	117° 31' W
LAT.	LONG.

WB Form 1118

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WEATHER BUREAU
WINDS ALOFT CO.
(LAND STATION)
WBA

Report for No. 127

Method of observation: Pilot

Minute	100 feet altitude (meters)	30 feet altitude (meters)	Other (feet) (meters)	Elevation angle	Azimuth angle	Distance from observ. point (meters)	Wind direction (true)	Wind speed (m.p.h.)	Wind speed (knots)	Minute
Sec										Sec
1	350	216		49.0	270	170		10.0	5.0	1
2	570	414		45.5	240	150		10.0	5.0	2
3	830	612								3
4	1,285	901								4
5	1,585	1,000								5
6	1,880	1,170								6
7	2,170	1,350								7
8	2,465	1,530								8
9	2,740	1,710								9
10	3,020	1,890								10
11	3,300	2,070								11
12	3,580	2,250								12
13	3,855	2,430								13
14	4,130	2,610								14
15	4,405	2,790								15
16	4,675	2,970								16
17	4,945	3,150								17
18	5,215	3,330								18
19	5,485	3,510								19
20	5,755	3,690								20
21	6,025	3,870								21
22	6,295	4,050								22
23	6,565	4,230								23
24	6,835	4,410								24
25	7,105	4,590								25
26	7,375	4,770								26
27	7,645	4,950								27
28	7,915	5,130								28
29	8,185	5,310								29
30	8,455	5,490								30
31	8,730	5,670								31
32	9,005	5,850								32
33	9,285	6,030								33

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF
NAVIGATION
COMPUTATION SHEET
(FORM NO. 1)

Date and Time				
Year	Month	Day	Time	
1953	Feb	6	0100	
G.C.T.	1953	Feb	6	1000

Elevation of observation point above M.S.L. 23.75 (feet) 7.1 (meters)

Minutes	Altitude			Elevation above M.S.L.	Azimuth deg.	Distance from observation point (meters)	Slant range R.A.M.I.R. (yards)	Wind dir. true etc.	Wind speed kt. or mi.	Minutes
	100 guise balloon (meters)	50 guise balloon (meters)	Other (meters)							
46	13,075	8,370								46
47	13,375	8,550								47
48	13,675	8,730								48
49	13,975	8,910								49
50	14,275	9,090								50
51	14,570	9,270								51
52	14,860	9,450								52
53	15,145	9,630								53
54	15,425	9,810								54
55	15,705	9,990								55
56	15,985	10,170								56
57	16,265	10,350								57
58	16,545	10,530								58
59	16,825	10,710								59
60	17,105	10,890								60
61	17,385	11,070								61
62	17,670	11,250								62
63	17,950	11,430								63
64	18,235	11,610								64
65	18,515	11,790								65
66	18,795	11,970								66
67	19,080	12,150								67
68	19,360	12,330								68
69	19,645	12,510								69
70	19,925	12,690								70
71	20,210	12,870								71
72	20,490	13,050								72
73	20,775	13,230								73
74	21,055	13,410								74
75	21,340	13,590								75
76	21,620	13,770								76
77	21,905	13,950								77

This block contains a large, dark, rectangular area that appears to be a photograph or a very dark scan of a document page. The content is mostly indistinguishable due to the low light and high contrast.

NOTE: This document contains information that is exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, because it is information that is exempt from release under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), and (b)(7)(F).

[illegible]

A black and white photograph of a large, rectangular, textured object, possibly a piece of fabric or paper, with a grid pattern of faint lines. The object is slightly curved and shows signs of wear or discoloration.A black and white photograph showing a 4x4 grid of 16 small, square, light-colored objects, possibly seeds or small stones, arranged in four rows and four columns. The objects are set against a dark, textured background.[illegible]

Station

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WINDS ALC
WBAI

Lat

Long

Altitude

STANDARD BASE DATA FOR TRANSFORMATION

STANDARD BASE DATA FOR TRANSFORMATION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Latitude (10-15)																									
Longitude (10-15)																									
Station (10-15)																									

100 level		100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
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WORLD WEATHER BUREAU

WFT GRAPH

4-20A

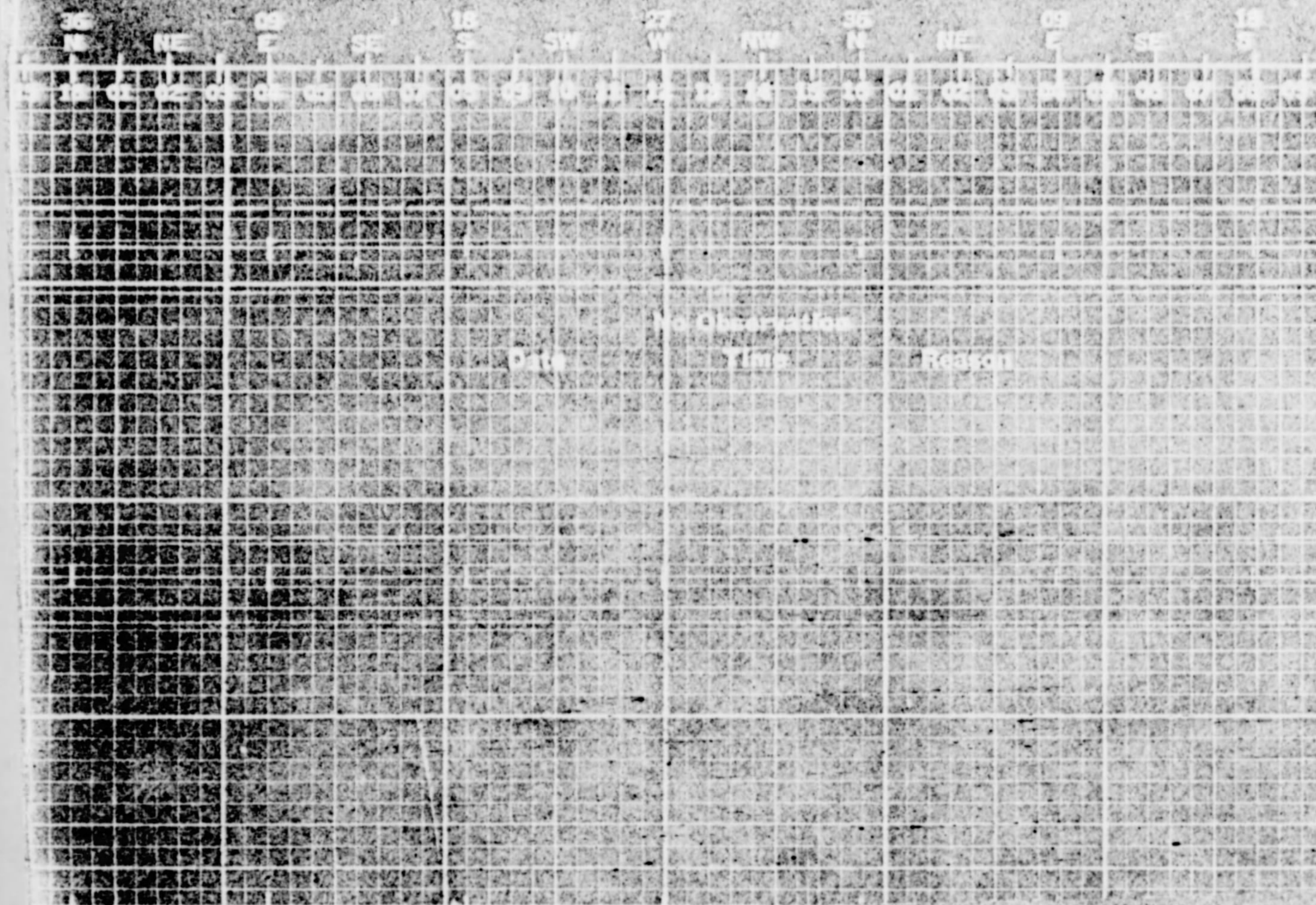
127

Release Date and Time

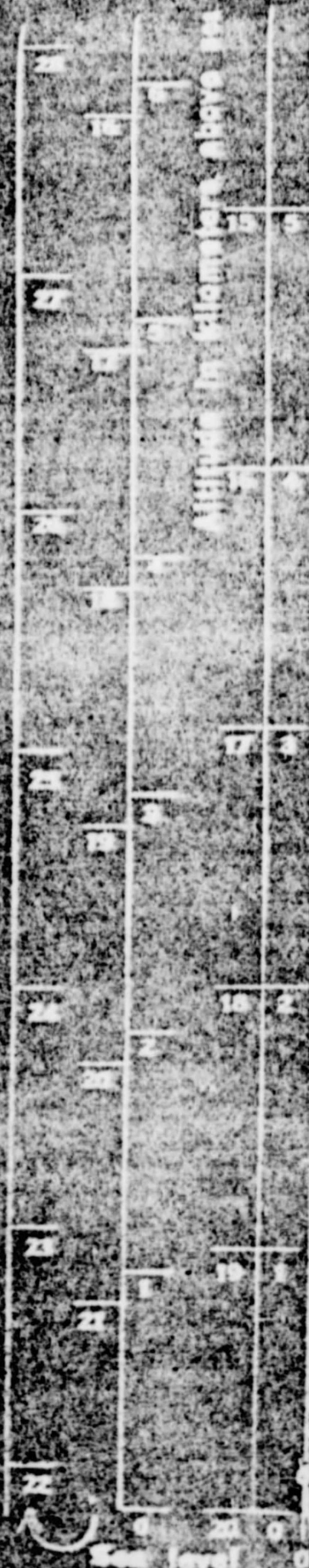
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20h Mer	1953	Feb	6	
GCT	1953	Feb	6	

TO PUNCHED CARDS

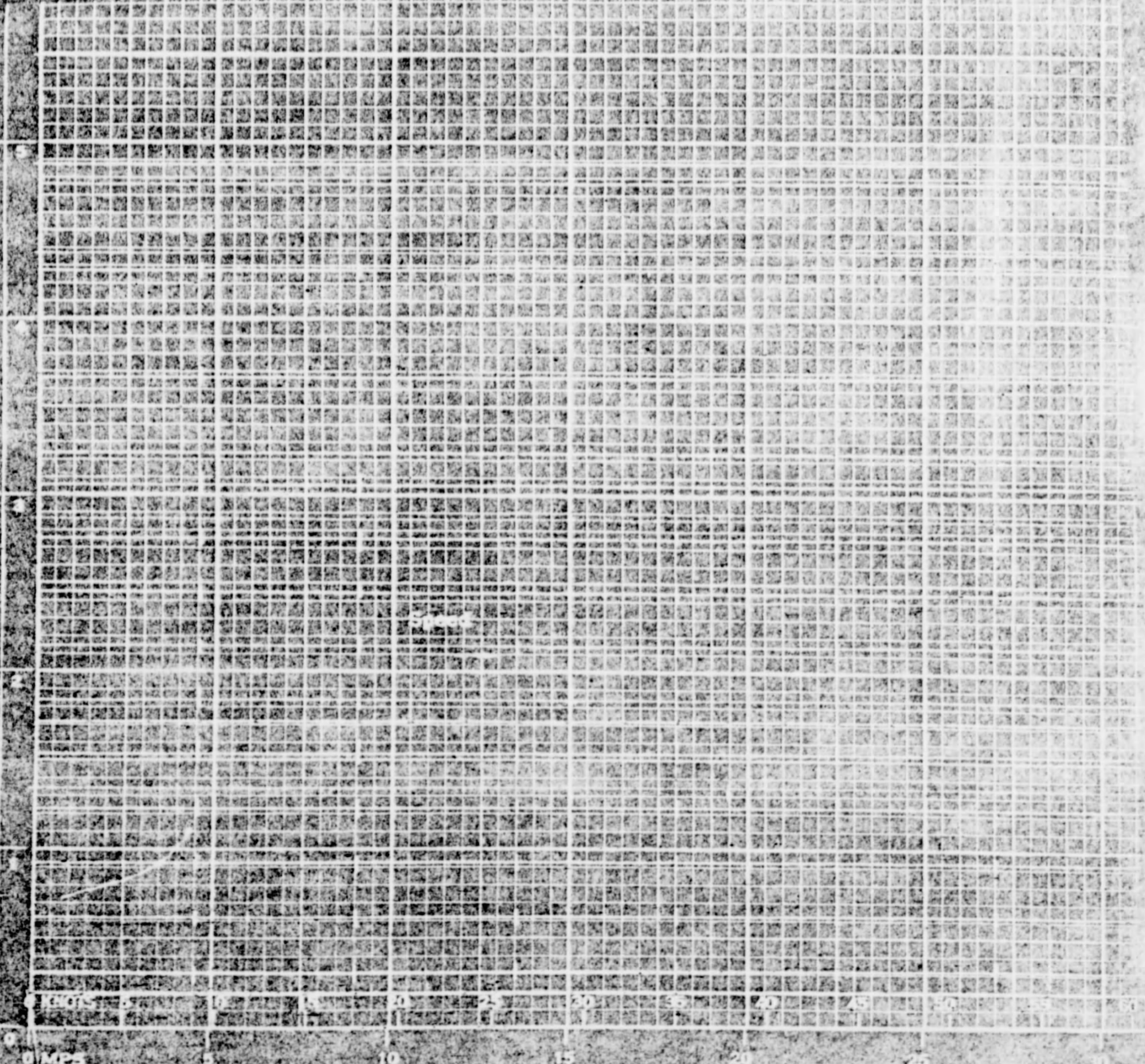
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Altitude in thousands of feet



Altitude in thousands of feet



U.S. WEATHER BUREAU

NET GRAPH

4-20A

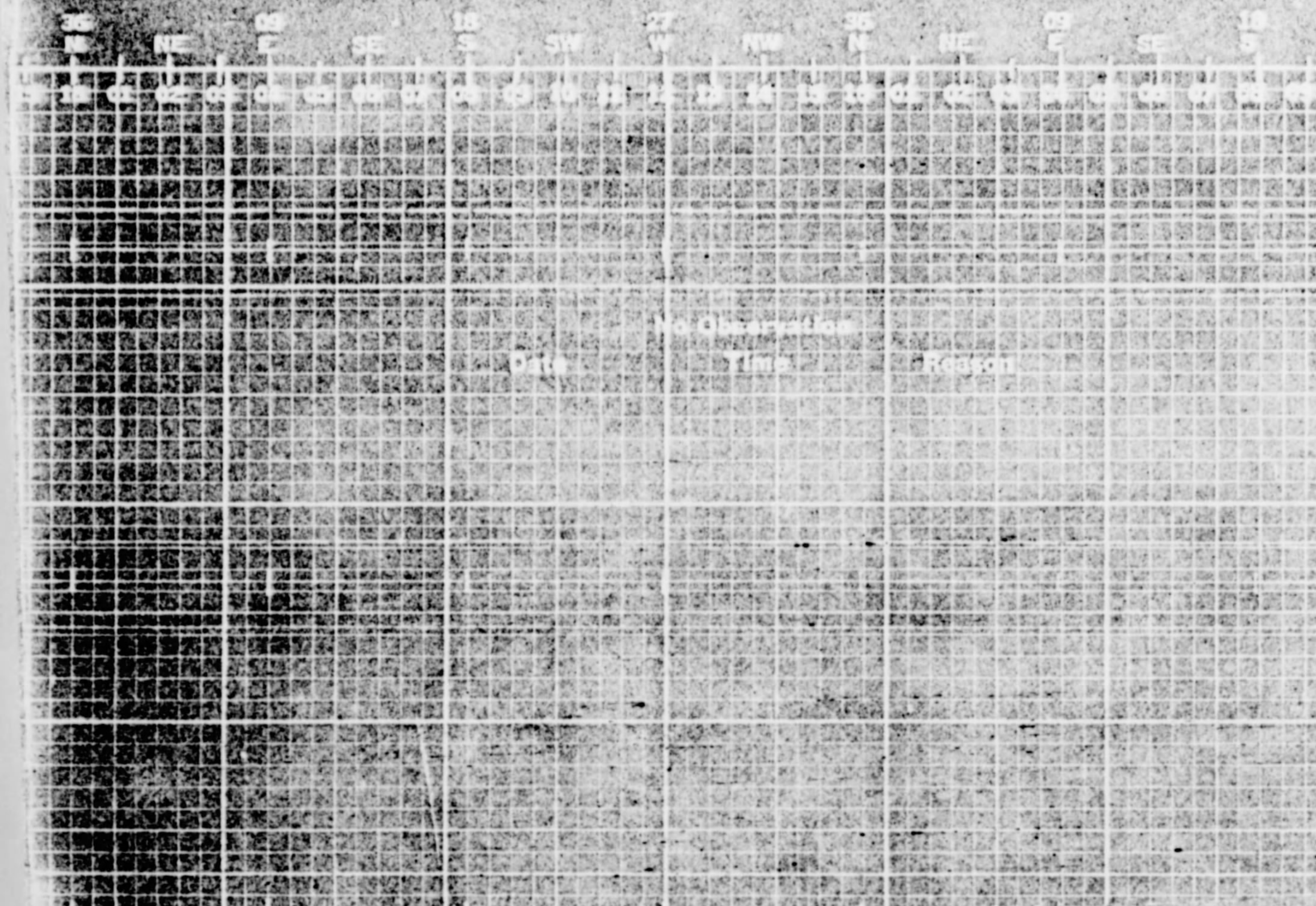
127

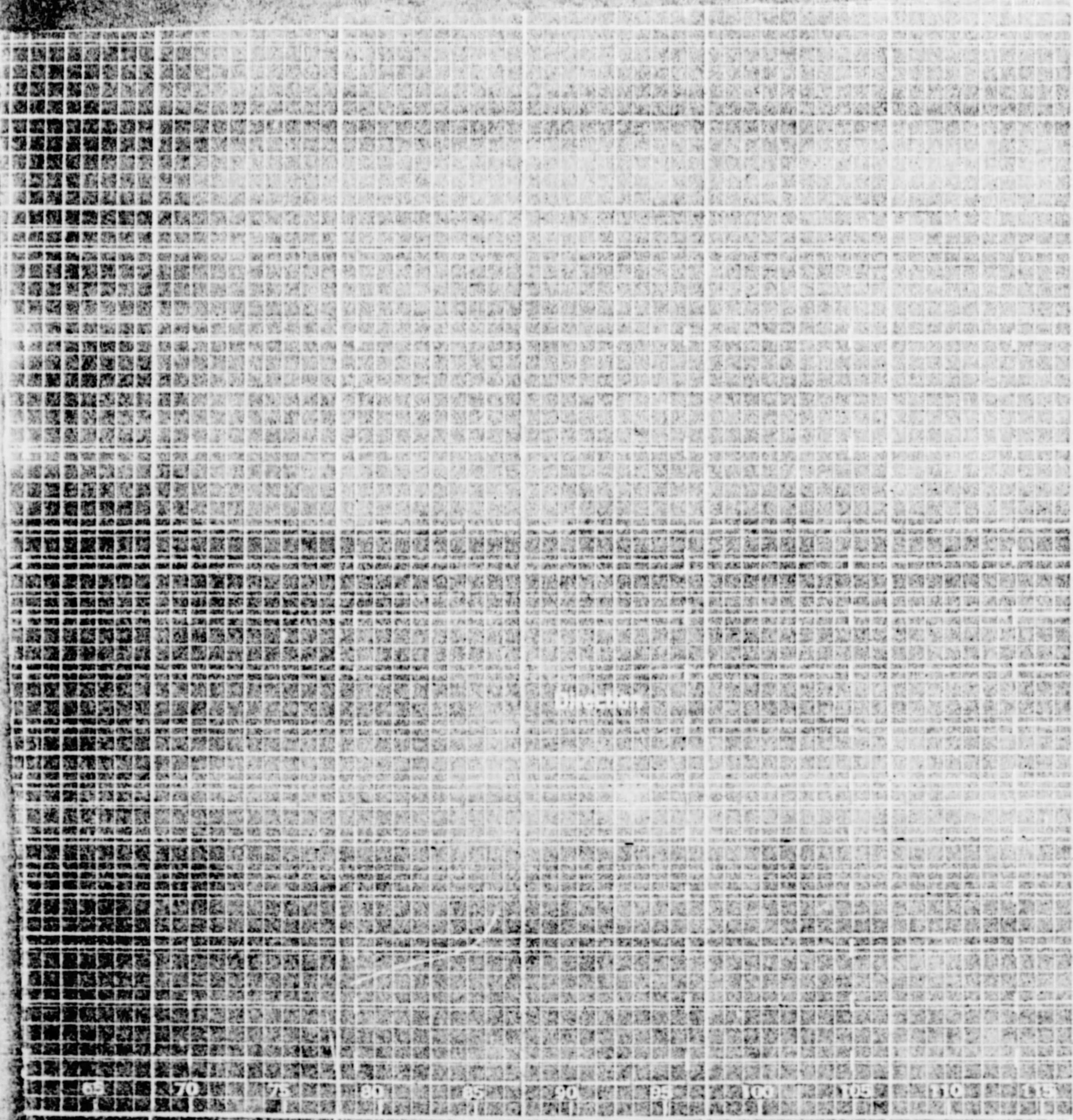
Release Date and Time

	Year	Month	Day	Time
24th Mar	1953	Feb	6	
GCT	1953	Feb	6	

TO PUNCHED CARDS

25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50





Altitude in thousands of feet above sea

Altitude in thousands of feet above sea

Prepared by

Verified by

N. L. ...



6 February 1953 - Rosalia, Washington B-36 Sighting Analysis:

Piball balloon released at 0900Z from U.S. weather bureau station at ~~Fairchild AFB~~. Track of balloon ESE.

Geigh Field.

Sighting was from over Rosalia 12.5 nautical miles SE of Fairchild. Wind at 10,000' was from approximately 270° to 280° blowing SE at 50 knots per hour.

$$\frac{60 \text{ minutes}}{50 \text{ nautical miles}} = \frac{X \text{ min}}{12.5 \text{ N.M.}} = 15$$

or the balloon would have covered the 12.5 nautical miles in 15 minutes.

Geigh Field.

Which means that the piball released at ~~Fairchild AFB~~ would have taken approximately 15 minutes to drift to the area of sighting; since the unknown object was sighted at 0913Z and by taking into account the winds aloft, it can be deduced that the object sighted by the B-36 and the piball balloon are probably the same object.

The time difference of 2 minutes can be ignored in that intangible factors such as different wind speeds at various altitudes ~~could~~
cause the difference.

R. Olson 11/11.

Note:

Ascension rate of a 30 gram standard 30 inch
diameter piball is 500 to 600 ft per minute;
thus
550 ft
15 minutes
8250 ft

the piball would be at the approximate
level (7,000 ft) of the sighting B-36 at 0913Z.

Weather Balloons and Saucers

In the early years of the saucer era balloons accounted for some 25 percent of the unidentified flying objects reported to ATIC. The pattern of these sightings is unmistakable, and the identity of balloon and UFO is often certain—as certain as any evidence can be. Nevertheless many such identifications are resolutely rejected by the saucer enthusiasts. It would be pointless to discuss all the UFO reports of this class, but we can summarize a few of the most famous. Major Keyhoe, a leading proponent of the interplanetary hypothesis, describes such a sighting: —

“On February 6, near Rosalia, Washington, a saucer had circled a B-36 bomber. During this maneuver the pilot saw a white light blink at two-second intervals. Before he had time to blink his own light in answer, the machine swiftly turned south and disappeared.”
[5, p. 240]

No evidence exists that the light was either a “saucer” or a “machine”; a great deal of evidence exists that it was a balloon. Investigators from ATIC determined the following facts:

At 1:13 A.M. on February 6, 1953, the pilot of a B-36 plane bound for Spokane, Washington, was near Rosalia when he sighted a round white light below him, circling and rising at a speed estimated at 150 to 200 knots as it proceeded on a southeast course. The B-36 made an 18-degree descending turn toward the light, which was in view for a period of three to five minutes, but the pilot could not identify it.

At 1 A.M., thirteen minutes before the sighting, the United States Weather Bureau station at Fairchild Air Force Base had released a pibal balloon. Winds aloft at altitudes of 7000 to 10,000 feet were from the northwest with a speed of about fifty knots. Computations showed that the existing winds would have carried the balloon to the southeast, and it would have been over Rosalia, which is 12.5 nautical miles southeast of Fairchild Air Force Base, in about fifteen minutes. The plane sighted the unknown near Rosalia thirteen minutes after the launching. The balloon carried white running lights which accounted for the “blinking” described, and the circling climb of the UFO is typical of a balloon’s course. Thus all the evidence supports ATIC’s conclusion that the UFO was a weather balloon. [2]

