

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 2 May 1957		2. LOCATION <i>See also: Film 7-3745-343</i> Edwards AFB, California		12. CONCLUSIONS ☒ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 02/1455Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☒ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 25 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE Easterly	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One aluminum or metallic disk shaped object the size of a basketball at arm's length. Object had translucent glow. Object traveled in an easterly direction for 25 minutes. <i>See Also: Film 7-3745-343</i> SMC				11. COMMENTS Confirmed balloon. See case file. K 2113.6012-1 2 May 1957 RETURN TO: Director Aerospace Studies Ins ATTN: Archives Branch Maxwell AFB, Alabama	

EDWARDS AFB CALIF

2 MAY 1957

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d. Edwards AFB Case (2 May 1957):

This case received nation-wide publicity because the UFO was observed over the so-called "United States secret testing grounds", and had been photographed officially by high-speed cameras, specially designed to track aircraft and missiles, by AF personnel.

The object was observed by the camera crews, who, took a series of photographs after it had moved some distance away. They later described it as disc shaped to interrogators, after they brought the matter to the attention of others. A study of 32 photographs taken, and highly magnified disclosed the object to the size of a match head, but changing shape from round to elliptical, as the early sun's rays played upon its surface. A wind plot, correlated with the reported speed and movements of the object, practically coincided. This pointed to the object being a balloon. Further investigations not only disclosed that a balloon was released in the vicinity, but precise theodolite measurements coincided with the observer's report as to times, elevations and bearings.

This case is considered as having been improperly handled. It did not come to the attention of AFIC until well after the press had received it; the Edwards AFB PIO officer made statements to the press that it was "unknown", when investigations disclose that he was informed it was a balloon; and the local commander could have solved the case by making local inquiries of his various units.

SUBJECT: Detailed Analysis of Edwards AF Base UFO Sighting - 2 May 57

length. A simple demonstration will quickly indicate that a basketball held in front of one's eyes at this distance will cover almost half of the visible sky, and would be an indication that the object would be tremendous in size, if as stated, observed at 5,000 feet distance. The object, in actuality, would be almost 1/2 mile wide.

b. Belief in "Flying Saucers"

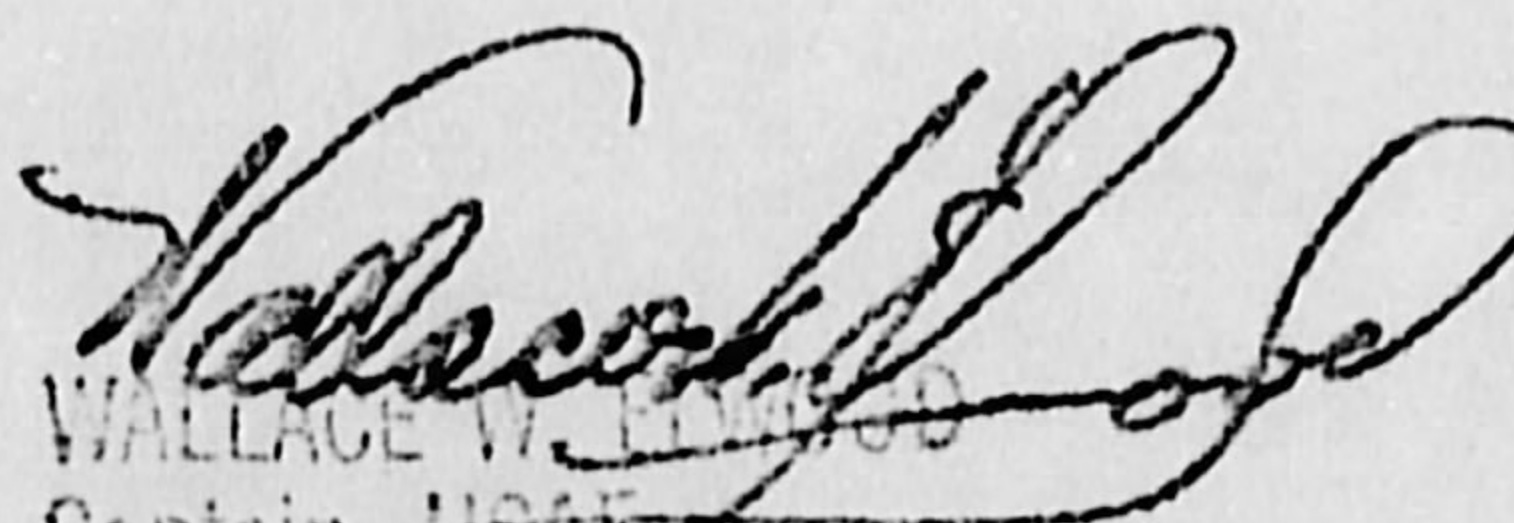
- (1) One observer has given strong indications that he is a believer in the so-called "flying saucers."
- (2) Stated that he observed a "disc" almost half the size of a football field hanging over a house for twenty minutes. Time and place was Rosamond, California, 0930 p.m. in January '50. Files disclose no report within that general time and area.
- (3) No comment is considered necessary regarding an object that size over a small town for almost one-half hour and not being seen by any other persons or aircraft, or by radar that scans that area 24 hours a day.
- (4) The observers were specialists in a field of photography. It should therefore be apparent to them that even a previously known object would be difficult to estimate as being 60 miles, much less it appearing as a readily identifiable object on the prints if it could be photographed at that distance with the equipment used.

5. Conclusions: Therefore, on the basis of the above, and particularly in consideration of the factual data presented, singly or collectively, there is no compelling reason to conclude that the object was other than the balloon released only a few minutes prior to the sighting.

6. This Center considers it unfortunate that its knowledge of this incident was third-hand; it was brought to both the public and press's attention days before an unofficial UFO organization queried this Center on the sighting. Experience has proven that a denial or explanation is never given the same publicity or attention as the original story.

6 Incls

1. UFO Rpt, dtd 14 May 57
2. UFO Questionnaire (dup)
3. Photos, 25 prints
4. Time-track plot
5. Balloon Check, Edwards AFB
6. Analysis of Photos


WALLACE W. EDWARDS
Captain, USAF
AFORN-4X2a

COVER SHEET										SUSPENSE				
ORIGIN OF BASIC										DATE				
										ASSIGNED BY				
DATE 27 May 1957					TYPE letter					NO.				
SUBJECT Detailed Analysis of Edwards Air Force Base UFO Sighting - 2 May 1957														
ROUTING														
Initial "IN" column to denote review prior to action. Initial "OUT" column to denote review of completed action. (X for action; ✓ for coordination.)														
IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT
	OIN-1			OIN-2			OIN-3			OIN-4			AFOIN	
	OIN-1X			OIN-2X			OIN-3X			OIN-4X			AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X1	
													AFOIN-X2	
													AFOIN-X3	
													AFOIN-X4	
													AFOIN-X5	
													AFOIN-Z	
													CABLES	
													FILE	
													DISPATCH	
TO: AFOIN-X1 (Mr. <del> </del>)										DATE 27 May 1957				
FROM: AFOIN-4E4										COMMENT NO. 1				
COMMENTS (Use reverse, if necessary)										AFOIN-4E4/Capt Gregory/ Ext: 70246				
1. <u>General</u>: This analysis is based on a careful review and study of all facts and pertinent information submitted on this case. The analysis is in three basic parts: a. Study of the observer's UFO questionnaire, the official UFO report from Edwards AFB, airborne objects known to have been in the area at the time, geographical factors, and the elements of time, elevations, bearings and meteorological conditions pertinent to the sighting. b. Analysis of theodolite photographs submitted, with correlation to the known facts. c. Evaluation of the sources (observers). 2. <u>Analysis of UFO Report and Questionnaire Data</u>: a. UFO report, photographs, and questionnaire as accomplished by the observer was not received by this Center until 23 May 1957, (see inclosure #1, #2, and #3) and a considerable time after the incident had reached both the press and the public. b. Reference page 3, item (11)(a) of UFO report. The attempted analysis of this sighting by the officer preparing the report to the effect that the object could														

SUBJECT: Detailed Analysis of Edwards AF Base UFO Sighting - 2 May 57

not have been a balloon is not valid. In fact, the data supplied throughout the report (exact geographical locations of balloon site, observers' positions, metro data, precise computations as to angles or elevation, bearings and altitude, among others) indicate that it is highly improbable that the object was other than a balloon.

c. A comparative analysis of the data from the UFO questionnaire and the data derived from scientific instruments and actual official time-tracks of the balloon launched indicate the following:

- (1) Testimony given by both observers is that the time of their sighting was between 0755 and 0820 (see attached copy of UFO Questionnaire, Form 164).
- (2) A rawinsonde balloon was released by the Edwards AFB weather station, west of the observers, at 0740 hours and accurately tracked until 0820 hours (UFO Report, 14 May 1957).
- (3) Observers both estimate the bearing of the object to be 75 degrees when it first appeared, presumably at 0755.
- (4) Official time-tracking of the balloon (UFO Report, 15 May 57) was as follows:
 - (a) 0750: True Bearing - 70 degrees
 - (b) 0800: True Bearing - 80 degrees
 - (c) 0810: True Bearing - 60 degrees
- (5) Therefore, interpolating for the first two time-tracks, the bearing is exactly 75 degrees. Using an average of all three, the results are 70 degrees.
- (6) Observers' state that when first observed, their estimated angle of elevation of the object was 45 degrees, and 15 degrees when it disappeared.
- (7) A trigonometrical treatment of the data in the official UFO Report (paragraph 1a(11)) indicates that the angle of elevation during the periods given by the observers was approximately 30 degrees and 23 degrees respectively.

d. It has been repeatedly proven that without accurate instruments and devices, a person seldom can estimate angles of elevation against the sky within 10 to 20 degrees of the actual elevations, particularly in areas other than directly overhead or on the horizon.

e. Therefore, allowing for the known inability of the average person to correctly estimate angles and time, the officially computed times, bearings and elevations of the balloon released, almost perfectly coincide with the figures given by the observers.

SUBJECT: Detailed Analysis of Edwards AF Base UFO Sighting - 2 May 57

f. Further factual data to support hypothesis that object was balloon:

- (1) Reference balloon launching site and observers' location given in UFO report. These two points are approximately 20,000 yards apart. It is significant to note that the observers were almost due east and slightly south of the balloon launching site (see sketch, inclosure #4).
- (2) Reference winds aloft in UFO report. The prevailing winds at that time were blowing due east.
- (3) Reference paragraph 1a(2), azimuths of first sighting. If a time-track of the balloon released, due east, is plotted from the weather station to and east of observers' location at the time given in the UFO report (which states the observers first saw the object at due north) the object would have passed exactly due north of their location (see sketch, inclosure #4).
- (4) Reference paragraph 1a(11)(d) of UFO report. Object traveled in easterly direction at all times. It appeared to stand still, change shape and pulsate. These are the typical characteristics of balloons, and supported by hundreds of UFO reports found to be balloons.

g. At 1030 hours, 24 May 1957, M/Sgt O. D. Hill, NCOIC, Aerial Phenomena Group, contacted Detachment #21, 4th Weather Group, Edwards AFB, regarding further details on the balloon aspects of the case. In conversations with Major Wininger, the following were disclosed:

- (1) The balloon released at 0740 on that date measures approximately 6 to 7 feet at launching, and can expand to 70 to 90 feet at 60,000 feet.
- (2) Major Wininger stated that the alleged UFO was obviously this balloon.
- (3) Further, Major Wininger stated that this information was given to the Information Services Officer of Edwards AFB. (M/Sgt Hill's report is attached as inclosure #5).

h. Of significance is the fact that the radar unit for that locality reported that there was no unidentified object in the air at that time.

3. Analysis of Theodolite Photographs of UFO: Based on a study and analysis of the series of theodolite photographs submitted to this Center, the following are considered comments pertinent to the incident:

a. In the UFO questionnaire, both observers report that the object was about 150 to 175 feet in diameter. Yet the object on the photographs, after being photographed and the photo enlarged 7 diameters, was scarcely larger than the width of the cross hairs.

SUBJECT: Detailed Analysis of Edwards AF Base UFO Sighting - 2 May 57

b. It is difficult to understand why it was decided to photograph an object that was in sight for almost 30 minutes, after it was a mere speck in the sky.

c. Both observers state object 5,000 feet away when first seen, and approximately 60 miles away when last seen. A photo analysis based on the image sizes on the photos, known magnifications, focal lengths of lenses, and other data, using standard optical formulas and equations for distances up to 60 miles show that an object must be a minimum of 92 feet in diameter to be seen even as a speck at a 60 mile distance, assuming ideal atmospheric conditions and the ability of the lens to resolve the image.

d. Using a more realistic distance, 9 to 12 miles, the object would need be a minimum of 5 to 7 feet in diameter. This correlates with the diameter of the balloon actually released. (Analysis of the theodolite photography is attached; see inclosure #6).

e. It should be noted that practically half of the image sizes are .013 of a foot at their longest dimension. Plotting a number of points along the .013 line, from 60 down to 6 miles, indicates that the minimum object size discernible, ranges from approximately 80 feet to 6 feet. This correlates well with the data given this Center by the 4th Weather Group at Edwards AFB. See paragraph 2f(3) above.

f. A study of 25 consecutive enlargements reveal that the tiny white object alternately changes from elliptical (described as a disc by observers) to round in shape. No clear features are discernible. The changing shapes are generally similar to photographs taken of balloons over desert or bright daylight areas. It should be noted that the sun was due east at this time and not too far above the horizon. The effects of specular reflection of light on rounded surfaces is well known. Weird and unusual appearances can be created.

4. Comments Regarding Sources: Consistent with the principles of commenting on the source in any UFO analysis or conclusions, the following points are considered pertinent:

a. Inconsistencies

- (1) In their personal report as given in the UFO questionnaire, both observers state the object was at a bearing (azimuth) of 75 degrees when first seen, and when it disappeared.
- (2) The UFO report from Edwards AFB quotes the observers as saying that they first observed the object at due north, (0 degrees azimuth) and that when it disappeared, it was also at due north. All points have been resolved satisfactorily, except the last, in which both observers state (in their questionnaire) that the object disappeared to the east.
- (3) In both the official UFO report and their questionnaire, they stated that the object was the size of a basketball held at arms

Film

MAY 2, 1957

Edwards AFB, Cal.

Gettys - Bittick

File # 1003460

In custody of Audio-Visual Division

JTTPD HAV SPJOMPI

1665 SEP 2

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4. Edwards AFB Case (2 May 1971)

This case received nation-wide publicity because the UFO was observed over the so-called "United States secret testing grounds", and had been photographed officially by high-speed cameras, specially designed to track aircraft and missiles, by AF personnel.

The object was observed by the camera crews, who, took a series of photographs after it had moved some distance away. They later described it as disc shaped to interrogators, after they brought the matter to the attention of the AFIC. A study of 32 photographs taken, and highly magnified disclosed the object to the size of a match head, but changing shape from round to elliptical, as the early sun's rays played upon its surface. A wind plot, correlated with the reported speed and movements of the object, practically coincided. This pointed to the object being a balloon. Further investigations not only disclosed that a balloon was released in the vicinity, but precise theodolite measurements coincided with the observer's report as to times, elevations and bearings.

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4. ACCOUNTING AND FUNDING DATA	
Project 65/E-400	TERMINATION

16. TRANSPORTATION VIA MATS OR MSTs CHARGEABLE TO										17. SPECIAL HANDLING			
RECAPITULATION OF SHIPMENT	18. ISSUED BY	TOTAL CONTAINERS	TYPE CONTAINER	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL WEIGHT	TOTAL CUBE	19. RECEIPT	CONTAINERS RECEIVED EXCEPT AS NOTED	DATE	BY	SHEET TOTAL		
	CHECKED BY							QUANTITIES RECEIVED EXCEPT AS NOTED	DATE	BY	GRAND TOTAL		
	PACKED BY								DATE	BY	20. RECEIVER'S VOUCHER NO.		
								POSTED					
				TOTAL									

EDWARDS AFB, CA

2 MAY 57

CASE CONTAINS 35 mm

FILM IN FOLLOWING FOLDER

1003459

SUBJECT: Detailed Analysis of Edwards Air Force Base UFO Sighting - 2 May 57

TO: Directorate of Intelligence
Headquarters, USAF
ATTN: AFOIN-X1
(Mr. Sanderson)

1. General: This analysis is based on a careful review and study of all facts and pertinent information submitted on this case. The analysis is in three basic parts:

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b. Analysis of theodolite photographs submitted, with correlation to the known facts.

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and place was Rosemond, California, 0930 P.M. in Januray 50. Files disclose no report within that general time and area.

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6. This Center considers it unfortunate that its knowledge of this incident was third-hand; it was brought to both the public and press's attention days before an unofficial UFO organization queried this Center on the sighting. Experience has proven that a denial or explanation is never given the same publicity or attention as the original story. ~~Where denials and explanations, supported by facts, are attempted, they are often found to be unacceptable.~~

GEORGE T. GREGORY
Captain, USAF

COORDINATION:

AFOIN-4D2a

H. W. Pruden
Maj William F. Willner

DATE

27 May '57

AFOIN-4E4

Dr Henry A. Miley

DATE

← suggest slight rewrite

AFOIN-4E

Col H. K. Gilbert

DATE

AFOIN-4X1

Mr. F. A. Arcier

DATE

443

3 May 57
Only

~~████████████████████~~
Denver 8, Colorado
August 20, 1957

Dear Sir:

I am a member of the NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA, and my interest in flying saucers is very great.

About the sighting of a UFO photographed at Edwards Air Force Base May 3 by two theodolite operators at the test center. Officials at Edwards have admitted the UFO was tracked by special camera equipment, and that the films were immediately dispatched to Air Technical Intelligence Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Well, to me, the films of the UFO should be sensational. I would like to know what ATIC thinks about the films? If they do show that UFO's exist when will the public be told?

Also I have learned that well-known magazine writer was assigned by a national magazine to do an unbiased, objective and straightforward reporting piece on the truth about flying saucers from the standpoint of the Air Force. But he was turned down by ATIC at Dayton.

I just can not understand why ATIC turned down the offer to print "the truth about flying saucers?" For once the public could have got a break and learned some "true facts" about the saucers, for this new evidence of an official censorship on UFO information is getting to be more fantastic than the UFO's. My "god" when will the American public ever be "told" the tremendous facts concerning the UFO?

Most Sincerely,

~~████████████████████~~
~~████████████████████~~

AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

C O P Y

FILE CLASS: _____
 OFFICIAL FILE COPY
2-5
 OFFICE OF RECORD

29 AUG 1957

AFCIN-4X3/Mr Hieatt/dmt/55266

Mr. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Street
 Denver 8, Colorado

Dear Mr. [REDACTED] -

The UFO photographed at Edwards Air Force Base in May was a balloon which had been released at a nearby launching site.

The Air Force does not have sufficient personnel to furnish detailed information from thousands of case files to the many persons who wish to write for profit on the subject of UFO's. Any attempt to furnish such details would seriously curtail the essential operations of our intelligence units, and would require an unwarranted expenditure of public funds. You may recall however, that some time ago the Air Force, in the interest of public information, cooperated with the national magazines, Life and Saturday Evening Post, in the preparation of articles on the subject of UFO's.

Sincerely,

WALLACE W. ELWOOD
 Captain, USAF
 Assistant Adjutant

COORDINATION:

AFCIN-4X3

DATE

28 Aug 57

AFCIN-4E

AFCIN-4E4

DATE

28 Aug 57

AFCIN-4F

OTHERS

PERM	
TEMP	
90 DAYS	
INITIAL	

ROUTING	COORDINATION
	AFOIN-4
	AFOIN-4X2b
	AFOIN-4X2c
	AFOIN-4X3
	AFOIN-4X4
	AFOIN-4A
	AFOIN-4B
	AFOIN-4C
	AFOIN-4D
	AFOIN-4E
	AFOIN-4F
	OTHERS

C O P Y

FILE CLASS: _____
 OFFICIAL FILE COPY
Int 2-5
 OFFICE OF RECORD

29 AUG 1957

AFCIN-4X3/Mr Heatt/dmt/55266

Mr. *[redacted]* Street
 Denver 8, Colorado

Dear Mr. *[redacted]* -

The UFO photographed at Edwards Air Force Base in May was a balloon which had been released at a nearby launching site.

The Air Force does not have sufficient personnel to furnish detailed information from thousands of case files to the many persons who wish to write for profit on the subject of UFO's. Any attempt to furnish such details would seriously curtail the essential operations of our intelligence units, and would require an unwarranted expenditure of public funds. You may recall however, that some time ago the Air Force, in the interest of public information, cooperated with the national magazines, Life and Saturday Evening Post, in the preparation of articles on the subject of UFO's.

Sincerely,

WALLACE W. ELWOOD
 Captain, USAF
 Assistant Adjutant

COORDINATION:

AFCIN-4X3

DATE

28 Aug 57

AFOIN-4E

AFCIN-4E4

DATE

28 Aug 57

DISPATCHED

AFOIN-4F

OTHERS

PERM	
TEMP	
90 DAYS	
INITIAL	

1957

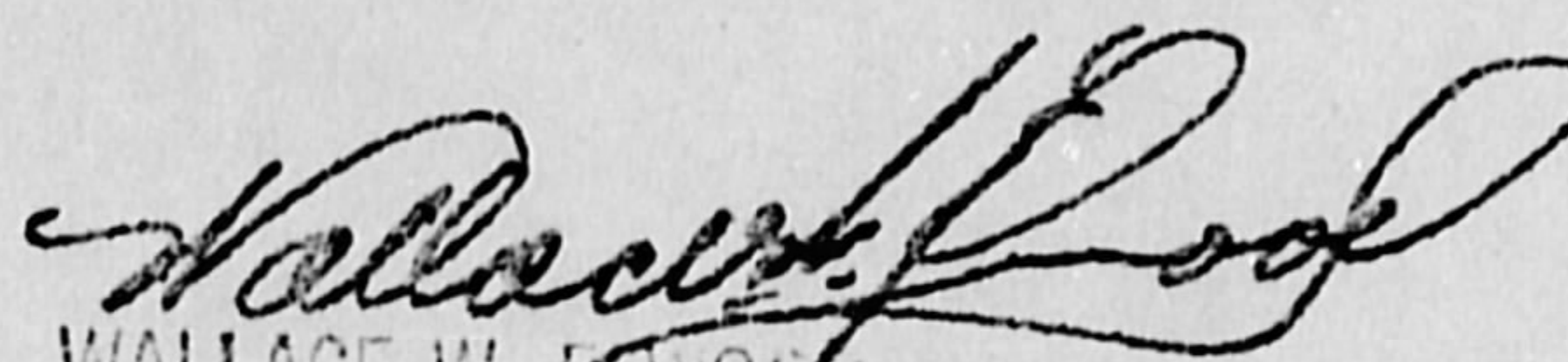
COVER SHEET										SUSPENSE				
ORIGIN OF BASIC										DATE				
										ASSIGNED BY				
DATE					TYPE					NO.				
SUBJECT Suggested Reply - Letter from "Flying Saucers - International" on Edwards AFB Incident														
ROUTING														
<i>Initial "IN" column to denote review prior to action. Initial "OUT" column to denote review of completed action. (X for action; ✓ for coordination.)</i>														
IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT	IN	OFFICE	OUT
	OIN-1			OIN-2			OIN-3			OIN-4			AFOIN	
	OIN-1X			OIN-2X			OIN-3X			OIN-4X			AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X1	
													AFOIN-X2	
													AFOIN-X3	
													AFOIN-X4	
													AFOIN-X5	
													AFOIN-Z	
													CABLES	
												M	FILE	
												R	DISPATCH	
TO: AFOIN-X1, Maj Byrnes										DATE 4 June 1957				
FROM: AFOIN-4										COMMENT NO. 1				
COMMENTS (Use reverse, if necessary) AFOIN-4E4/Capt G.T. Gregory/69216 1. Reference D/I-ATIC conference, 5 March 1957, on the UFO Program, regarding the recommendations made by your office that UFO correspondence of potentially dangerous or controversial nature, publicity wise, should be reviewed by the Directorate, and that it be released over the signature of Headquarters USAF, preferably the Office of Information Services. 2. Accordingly, attached is a suggested reply to subject UFO organization's request for the film and information on the recent Edwards AFB incident. It is interesting to note that the Center did not receive the photos and UFO reports, until more than two weeks after the date of the request. 3. A detailed analysis of this case was just completed, and forwarded to your office. The original film is in repository with the UFO files. Any decision to release the film and detailed data to this organization must come from higher levels. In our opinion, any exception made in favor of one individual or organization will undoubtedly result in a flood of requests from the others. The suggested reply was drafted with this in mind.														

AFHQ 0-86, 4 Jun 57, Subj: Suggested Reply - Ltr fr "FlyingSaucers - International"
on Edwards AFB Incident

4. Please be informed that Mr. [REDACTED] the director of this organization has just completed a book entitled "Flying Saucers," which is now on the market. It is particularly vitriolic, and contains a statement by a former UFO project officer, Capt Ruppelt repudiating the Air Force findings. A copy with appropriate comments and notations will be forwarded.

1 Incl

Draft - Suggested Reply


WALLACE W. LEWOOD
Captain, USAF
AFOIN-4X2a

3 MAY 58
C 411F
SAFIS-3/Maj Tacker/jd/73328

14 April 1958

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Captain Marley has requested that we answer your letter of 11 March 1958, since some of the information you request is in our area of responsibility.

First, regarding your request for the procedure to procure stock footage from the military services for motion picture films -- footage may be purchased by representative of recognized motion picture and television agencies, on the basis of scripts submitted to the Department of Defense and approved in advance of film production. Approved scripts are forwarded to the appropriate film depository where the producer may select for purchase such footage as is commensurate with the production of the specific script.

I should caution you again, that good motion picture footage of UFO is not available from any official sources. As was pointed out in earlier correspondence, exhaustive research was conducted by and for the producers of the Armstrong Circle Theatre with no success in finding even a small piece of film that would register on a television screen.

If you will re-read your correspondence, dated 11 June 1957, from Major Robert F. Spence, you will note that there is not any mention of motion picture footage of the Edwards incident. I should also add, since you cited Mr. Ruppelt's book, that it was cleared only for security purposes and in fact a disclaimer for factual accuracy was made at that time by the Department of Defense.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Mr. [REDACTED]
Director
Flying Saucers International
[REDACTED] Drive
Los Angeles 19, California

✓ COMEBACK-SAFIS-3
READER-SAFIS-1
STAYBACK-SAFIS-3

1420 S. Suggs Ave.
Los Angeles 19, Calif.

March 11, 1958

Captain Wallace C. Marley, USA
Production Branch
Audio-Visual Division, OPI, OASD(PA)
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Captain Marley:

Thank you for your cordial and informative communication of 28 February. Your continued cooperation - and patience - is appreciated.

Naturally, I shall keep in touch with your office as the script to my projected documentary progresses. However, the narrative will gradually develop as the material for the production is successively screened, edited and timed. Therefore, much of script of this post-narrated film will depend precisely on what film is available, including the stock footage to be made available by the Department of Defense.

So you can see that I am in a rather nebulous position at the moment. But I am certain that time will resolve everything. I would wonder if you would be kind enough to tell me just what the purchase of stock footage entails? Thank you.

There is another point that I wish you would clarify. With reference to my inquiry into the availability of four motion pictures of UFO's reportedly in the possession of the Air Force, you responded: "...The specific footage that you have requested has been checked by the Department of the Air Force and there is no record of its existence."

This reply has me a bit mystified. One of the films about which I inquired was allegedly taken by a cine-theodolite crew at Edwards AFB, Calif., on 3 May, 1957, and I have a letter from Major Robert F. Spence, USAF, describing the film in some detail.

As to the gun-camera shot near Wright-Patterson AFB on 20 August, 1952, let me here quote the caption to frames from this movie as reproduced in True Magazine for December 1952: "Hovering object that was scanned by radar and seen by ground watchers was caught on film by a climbing jet pilot. These unretouched frames released to TRUE by the Air Force,

*May Spence says
he never would
let the gun camera
film info.*

1420 S. Kingsley
Los Angeles 19, Calif.

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Production Branch
Audio-Visual Division, OPI, OASD(PA)
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Washington 25, D. C.

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As to the gun-camera shot near Wright-Patterson AFB on 20 August, 1952, let me here quote the caption to frames from this movie as reproduced in True Magazine for December 1952: "Hovering object that was scanned by radar and seen by ground watchers was caught on film by a climbing jet pilot. These unretouched 35 mm. gun-camera movie frames, released to TRUE by the Air Force, were taken at 30,000 feet, near Wright Field, at 11 a.m. on August 20, 1952." From the appearance of the enlarged frames, I believe the movie was shot on 16mm and not 35mm film.

And the White Sands cine-theodolite films were referred to by Edward J. Ruppelt, Capt., USAFR, former chief of Project Blue Book in his book, The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects (p. 279: "...We had or knew about four strips of movie film that fell into the 'Unknown' category. Two were the cine-theodolite movies that had been taken at White Sands Proving Ground in April and May of 1950..."). Capt. Ruppelt's book was supposedly cleared by DOD Security and Review on 5 December, 1955.

Captain Marley-- Page 2

Again, thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

*May James says
he never saw it
better giving any
such info.*

9 MAY 57

CALIF.

11 June 1957

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

We are in receipt of your letter dated 10 May 1957 requesting photographic prints and a copy of the photo-analysis report made on a UFO recently reported over Edwards Air Force Base, California.

We feel certain that you will understand that it would be extremely difficult to make exceptions for one person by granting him access to official files, reports and photographic material on this subject without making them available to all.

Any attempt to meet the individual demands of the hundreds who may desire specific reports and material would be an almost impossible undertaking; the man hours and cost would be exorbitant; and, most important, the constant interference with the Air Force's normal missions and operations would be unjustified.

Notwithstanding this, reply to your correspondence was withheld pending a complete study of the photographs and other data from investigations, in order that we may give you some general results of our findings. Briefly, please be informed of the following:

a. The alleged UFO was conclusively identified as a balloon released from a weather unit a few miles west of the observer's location.

b. This was corroborated by an independent report which disclosed that this balloon was being tracked at that time with precision recording devices. The data show that the balloon passed the observer's location at almost the precise time, bearings, elevations and speed reported by them.

c. The radar unit for that area reported that there was nothing unusual or unidentified in the air over Edwards Air Force Base at the times in question.

d. Objects in the photographs, even after magnification, were found to be small white specks, alternately changing from elliptical

SAFIS-3c/Maj Spence/jmd/55809

to round in shape. These are typical of a number of similar reports received by the Air Force, which upon investigation were found to be balloons, the odd appearances being caused by specular reflection of sunlight and other atmospheric conditions peculiar to desert regions.

It is the opinion of the Air Force that any attempt to attribute anything unusual or mysterious to the incident is unwarranted and not supported by the facts.

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. SPENCE
Major, USAF
Deputy Chief, Operations Branch
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Mr. [REDACTED]
Director
Flying Saucers International
[REDACTED]
Los Angeles 35, California

02VL
OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES

021 700 11 13 35

2

001

pls
COMEBACK-SAFIS-3c
READER-SAFIS-1
STAYBACK-SAFIS-3c

FLYING SAUCERS INTERNATIONAL

P. O. Box 35034 — LOS ANGELES 35, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE WEBSTER 8-9990

May 10, 1957

Brigadier General Harold E. Watson
Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Dayton, Ohio

Dear General Watson:

On Thursday, May 9, 1957, The Los Angeles Times reported the following:

"AIR FORCE STUDIES PHOTOS --- Cameras Track Flying Object Over Desert ---

"Camera Studies of an unidentified flying object photographed at Edwards Air Force Base last Friday are being analyzed by the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, O., The Times learned yesterday.

"Spokesmen at the secret desert test center north of Los Angeles would say only that the object was spotted by two civilian photo theodolite operators.

"They tracked the object and took pictures with the specialized camera equipment. Films and information were dispatched immediately to the intelligence center.

"Unofficial reports said the object appeared round, that it caught the morning sun and that it moved but not at any great speed. There was no estimate as to its size or altitude.

"Edwards officers would not hazard a guess as to what the object was, although one said it could have been a weather balloon.

"This desert air does crazy thing," he said."

A request is hereby made for prints from the negative film shot of the UFO. If this is prohibited by costs, I will compensate the Air Force for the expense involved for such duplication. If the ATIC wishes to retain the film, I will be happy to observe it on a short-loan basis, or through the local USAF OPI.

Also, the writer hereby requests a copy of the photo-analysis made - or to be made - by ATIC of this film. I feel that such cooperation between the Air Force and a civilian may initiate better public relations and create or enhance the public's understanding of USAF with reference to UFO research.

"I will show wonders in the heavens . . ." —JOEL 2:30

[REDACTED] to General Watson (ATIC)---2.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

An early reply will be gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,



Director
FLYING SAUCERS INTERNATIONAL

Information Only
Source: CSI Bulletin # 20, 25 July 57

3 May 1957
Edwards AFB, Calif.

EDWARDS AFB PHOTOGRAPHS UFO *11/2/57*

May 3, 1957: An unidentified object was spotted by two civilian photo-theodolite operators at Edwards Air Force Base in California. They tracked the object and took pictures with the "specialized camera equipment;" results were dispatched immediately to Wright-Patterson AFB at Dayton, Ohio. Unofficial reports said the object appeared round, that it caught the morning sun, and that its speed was not great. There were no estimates as to its size or altitude. Edwards

officers would not hazard a guess as to what the object was, although one said it could have been a weather balloon. "This desert air does crazy things," he added. — L. A. Times, 5/9; N. Y. Journal-American, 5/10 (INS). (Credit: Mrs. Idabel Epperson, of L.A., for California clipping.)

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	
1 NAME OR TITLE <i>Mr. Arcier</i>	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>AFON-4X</i>	DATE		COORDINATION
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE
REMARKS 1. Per your instructions "Immediate attention" tag given this. 2. This completes the last of the 5 UFO cases requested by D/I. 3. Request <u>pre</u> -coordination of drafts to preclude retyping after official coordination by intermediate channels have been made. 4. Desirable that the ~~answer~~ answer get to D/I together with the analysis of the Edwards AFB Case, as they are related topics. 5. Edw. AFB analysis was prepared in accordance with standard ATIC format - but was inadvertently typed on a HQ USAF cover sheet.			
FROM NAME OR TITLE <i>Capt G.T. Gregory</i>		DATE <i>7/24/59</i>	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>4E4</i>		TELEPHONE <i>69216</i>	

DD FORM 95
1 FEB 50

Replaces DA AGO Form 896, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

16-48487-4 GPO

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	
1 NAME OR TITLE	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
Maj Willner	AWP		
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE		COORDINATION
4D2a	20 May '57		1-4
2			FILE
Dr. Miles	Am		5
	5/28		INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
Col Gilbert			
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
Mr. Arcier			
			SIGNATURE
4X1			
5. Capt Gregory 4E4 1. The Edwards UFO Case which has been given publicity by the press and wire services, and in which Gen. Lewis personally requested AFON-X to have ATIC get on it immediately. The press has given CBSAF two separate instances on this case. 2. Coordination signature blocks on last page of top copy.			
FROM NAME OR TITLE		DATE	
Capt Gregory			
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION		TELEPHONE	
4E4		70246	

DD FORM 1 FEB 50 95

Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

10-43487-4 GPO ☆

OFFICE OF RECORD

ROUTING	COORDINATION
	AFOIN-4
	~~AFOIN-4X2a~~ Incident
	AFOIN-4X2c
	AFOIN-4X3
	AFOIN-4X4
	AFOIN-4A
	AFOIN-4B
	AFOIN-4B
	AFOIN-4B
	AFOIN-4C
	1. the recom dangerous AFOIN-4C preferabl
	2. request f interesti AFOIN-4E not mor
	3. office. release t AFOIN-4F undoubted was draft
	OTHERS

Reply - Letter from "Flying Saucers - International" on Edwards AFB

AF0IN-X1, Maj Byrnes

4 June 1957

AFON-4

2-1

AF01N-4E4/Capt G.T. Gregory/69216

1. Reference D/I-ATIC conference, 5 March 1957, on the UFO Program, regarding the recommendations made by your office that UFO correspondence of potentially dangerous or controversial nature, publicity wise, should be reviewed by the AFOSI, and that it be released over the signature of Headquarters USAF, preferably the Office of Information Services.

2. Accordingly, attached is a suggested reply to subject UFO organization's request for the film and information on the recent Edwards AFB incident. It is interesting to note that the Center did not receive the photos and UFO reports, AFDN-4E more than two weeks after the date of the request.

3. A detailed analysis of this case was just completed, and forwarded to your office. The original film is in repository with the UFO files. Any decision to release the film and detailed data to this organization must come from higher levels. ~~AEON~~ opinion, any exception made in favor of one individual or organization will undoubtedly result in a flood of requests from the others. The suggested reply was drafted with this in mind.

PERM	
TEMP	
90 DAYS	
INITIAL	

EDWARDS AFB CASE

2 MAY, 1957

FILE CLASS: _____
OFFICIAL FILE COPY

OFFICE OF RECORD

4 Jun 57, Subj: Suggested Reply - Ltr fr "Flying Saucers - International"
on Edwards AFB Incident

Please be informed that Mr. [REDACTED] the director of this organization
has just completed a book entitled "Flying Saucers," which is now on the market.
AFOIN-4X2a particularly vitriolic, and contains a statement by a former UFO project
officer, Capt Ruppelt repudiating the Air Force findings. A copy with appropriate
comments and notations will be forwarded.

AFOIN-4X2c

AFOIN-4X3

Suggested Reply

WALLACE W. ELWOOD
Captain, USAF
AFOIN-4X2a

AFOIN-4X4

AFOIN-4A

AFOIN-4B

AFOIN-4C

AFOIN-4D

AFOIN-4E

AFOIN-4F

OTHERS

PERM	
TEMP	
90 DAYS	
INITIAL	

TWX

Det 21, 4th Weather Group
Hqs Air Force Ft Test Center
Edwards AFB, California

Request information concerning any balloon launchings between 0700 to 0830 hours on 2 May 1957 involving large plastic balloons of 45 to 75 foot size. Information available here indicates your unit may use, or have knowledge of tests involving such balloons. Also winds aloft, data from your records from 1500 to 5000 ft for this time period, to include knowledge of any other balloons released, or known to have been in your area. Weekly track charts from 1110 Sup Gp, Hedcom, USAF, show balloon S-321, from Vernallis, passed north your area, moving west to east on same date. Immediate reply desirable.

~~~~~  
*Long-distance phone call made to this unit by M/Sgt Hill, NCOIC, Aerial Phenomena Group at 1020 hrs, 24 May 1957. Report on results of query attached. See attached report by M/Sgt Hill.*  
*GLH*



4 2. THE SIGHTING OF A UFO PHOTOGRAPHED AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, MAY 3, BY TWO THEODOLITE OPERATORS AT THE TEST CENTER. OFFICIALS AT EDWARDS HAVE ADMITTED THE UFO WAS TRACKED BY SPECIAL CAMERA EQUIPMENT, AND THAT THE FILMS WERE IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED TO AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER, DAYTON.



# U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U. S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes, and will be regarded as confidential material. Your name will not be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that, if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

2 May 1957  
Day Month Year

2. Time of day: 07 55  
Hour Minutes

(Circle One): (A.M.) or P.M.

3. Time zone:

(Circle One): a. Eastern  
b. Central  
c. Mountain  
(d. Pacific)  
e. Other

(Circle One): (a. Daylight Saving)  
b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

Edwards Air Force Base

Nearest Postal Address

California  
City or Town

State or Country

Additional remarks: Ballistic Test Facility

5. Estimate how long you saw the object. 0 25 0  
Hours Minutes Seconds

5.1 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 5.

(a. Certain) c. Not very sure  
b. Fairly certain d. Just a guess

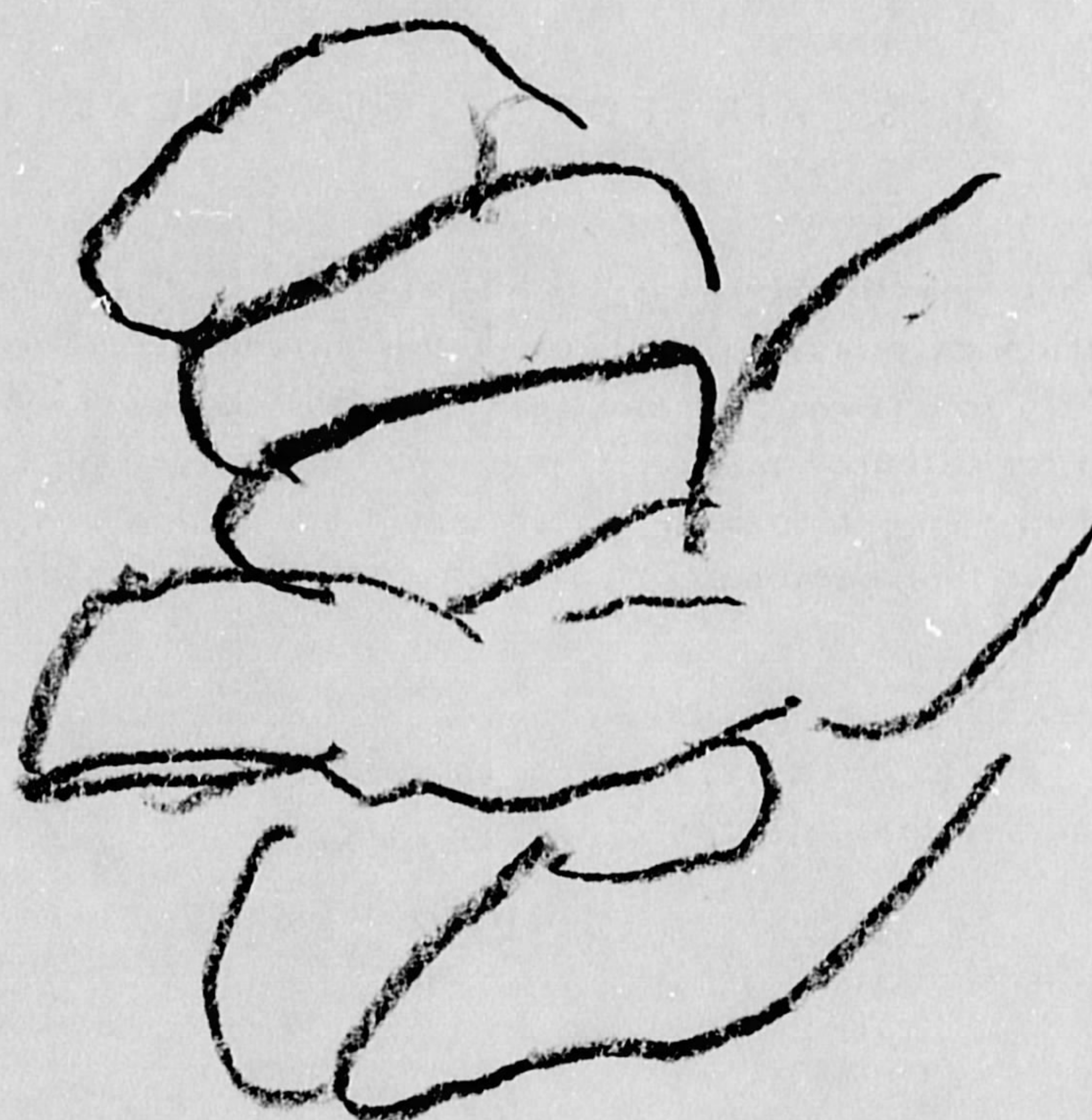
6. What was the condition of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Bright daylight  
(b. Dull daylight) d. Just a trace of daylight  
c. Bright twilight e. No trace of daylight  
f. Don't remember

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(Circle One): a. In front of you  
b. In back of you  
(c. To your right) d. To your left  
e. Overhead  
f. Don't remember







8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN; what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS (Circle One):

- a. None
- b. A few
- c. Many
- d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON (Circle One):

- a. Bright moonlight
- b. Dull moonlight
- c. No moonlight — pitch dark
- d. Don't remember

9. Was the object brighter than the background of the sky?

(Circle One):

(a. Yes)

b. No

c. Don't remember

10. IF it was BRIGHTER THAN the sky background, was the brightness like that of an automobile headlight?:

(Circle One) a. A mile or more away (a distant car)?

b. Several blocks away?

c. A block away?

(d. Several yards away? )

e. Other

11. Did the object:

(Circle One for each question)

- |                                                 |       |      |            |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|------|------------|
| a. Appear to stand still at any time?           | (Yes) | No   | Don't Know |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | Yes   | (No) | Don't Know |
| c. Break up into parts or explode?              | Yes   | (No) | Don't Know |
| d. Give off smoke?                              | Yes   | (No) | Don't Know |
| e. Change brightness?                           | Yes   | (No) | Don't Know |
| f. Change shape?                                | Yes   | (No) | Don't Know |
| g. Flicker, throb, or pulsate?                  | (Yes) | No   | Don't Know |

12. Did the object move behind something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One):

Yes

(No)

Don't Know.

IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind:

13. Did the object move in front of something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One):

Yes

(No)

Don't Know.

IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved in front of:

14. Did the object appear: (Circle One):

(a. Solid?)

b. Transparent?

c. Don't Know.

15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

- |                 |       |      |               |                                  |    |
|-----------------|-------|------|---------------|----------------------------------|----|
| a. Eyeglasses   | Yes   | (No) | e. Binoculars | Yes                              | No |
| b. Sun glasses  | Yes   | (No) | f. Telescope  | Yes                              | No |
| c. Windshield   | (Yes) | No   | g. Theodolite | Yes                              | No |
| d. Window glass | Yes   | (No) | h. Other      | Askania Camera Scopes - 15 power |    |



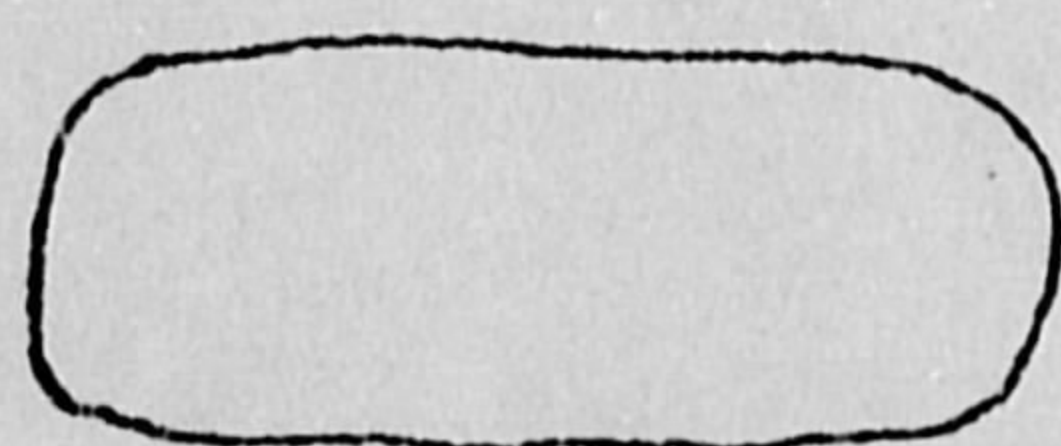
16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound N one

b. Color A bright Metallic color

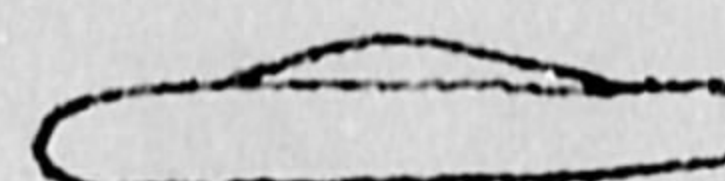
17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

At first



Overhead

15 minutes later



east

18. The edges of the object were:

- (Circle One):
- a. Fuzzy or blurred
  - b. Like a bright star
  - (c. Sharply outlined)
  - d. Don't remember

e. Other \_\_\_\_\_

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? Just one

Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.



20. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.

B



A

21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.  
150 feet.

22. How large did the object or objects appear as compared with one of the following objects held in the hand and at about arm's length?

(Circle One):

- a. Head of a pin
- b. Pea
- c. Dime
- d. Nickel
- e. Quarter
- f. Half dollar

- g. Silver dollar
- h. Baseball
- i. Grapefruit
- (j. Basketball)
- k. Other \_\_\_\_\_

- 22.1 (Circle One of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 22.

- (a. Certain)
- b. Fairly certain
- c. Not very sure
- d. Uncertain

23. How did the object or objects disappear from view? It just finally got too far away to see.

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, we would like for you to imagine that you could construct the object that you saw. Of what type material would you make it? How large would it be, and what shape would it have? Describe in your own words a common object or objects which when placed up in the sky would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

Aluminum  
 150' diameter  
 Disk  
 Saucer



25. Where were you located when you saw the object?  
(Circle One):

- a. Inside a building
- (b. In a car )
- c. Outdoors
- d. In an airplane
- e. At sea
- f. Other \_\_\_\_\_

26. Were you (Circle One)

- a. In the business section of a city?
- b. In the residential section of a city?
- (c. In open countryside?)
- d. Flying near an airfield?
- e. Flying over a city?
- f. Flying over open country?
- g. Other \_\_\_\_\_

27. What were you doing at the time you saw the object, and how did you happen to notice it?

Driving pickup truck. It was so low and a companion brought it to my attention.

28. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

28.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

- |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North     | c. East      | (e. South)   | g. West      |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

28.2 How fast were you moving? 35 miles per hour.

28.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

29. What direction were you looking when you first saw the object? (Circle One)

- |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North     | (c. East)    | e. South     | g. West      |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

30. What direction were you looking when you last saw the object? (Circle One)

- |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North     | ✓ (c. East)  | e. South     | g. West      |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

31. If you are familiar with bearing terms (angular direction), try to estimate the number of degrees the object was from true North and also the number of degrees it was upward from the horizon (elevation).

31.1 When it first appeared:

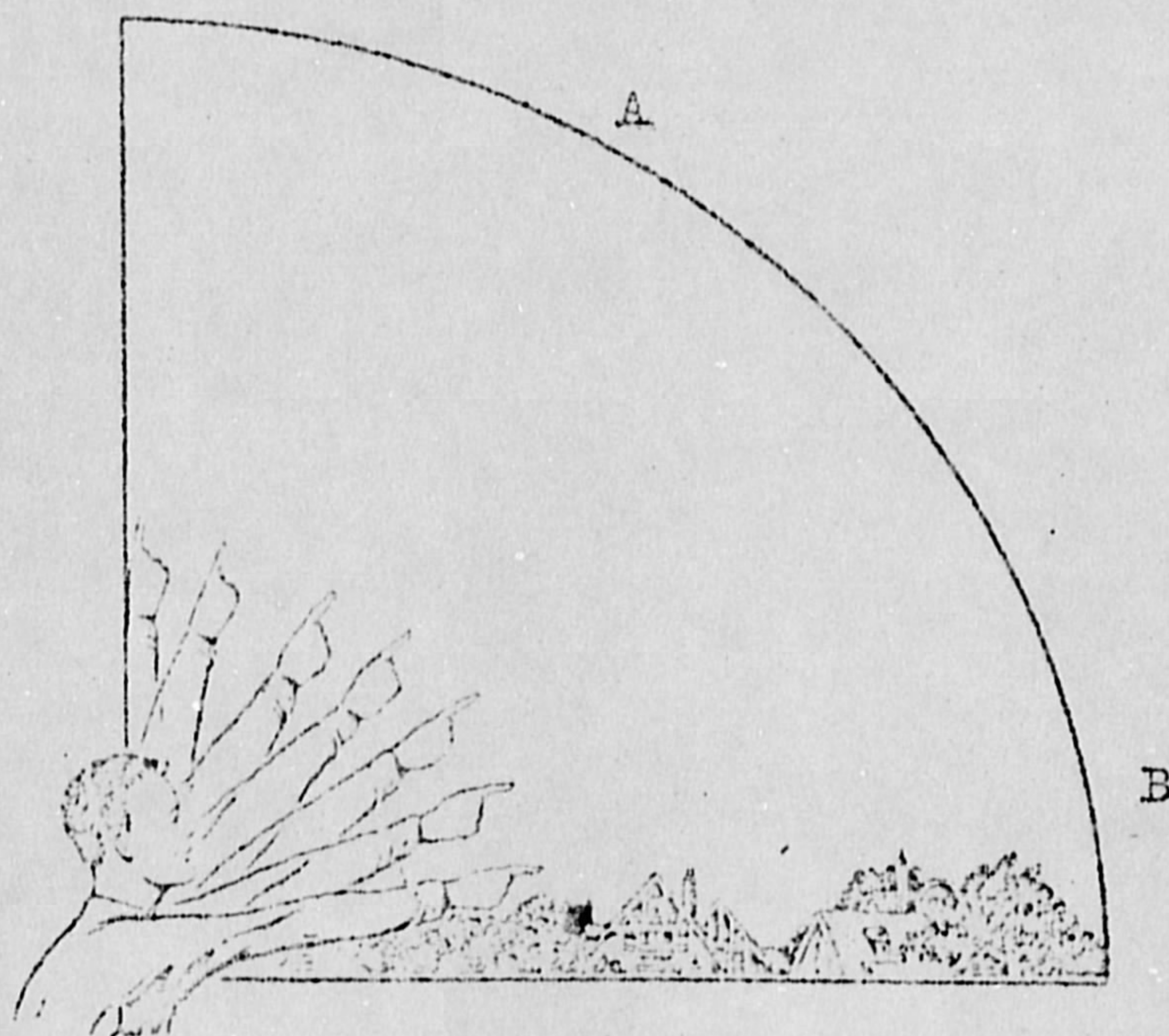
- a. From true North 75 degrees.
- b. From horizon 45 degrees.

31.2 When it disappeared:

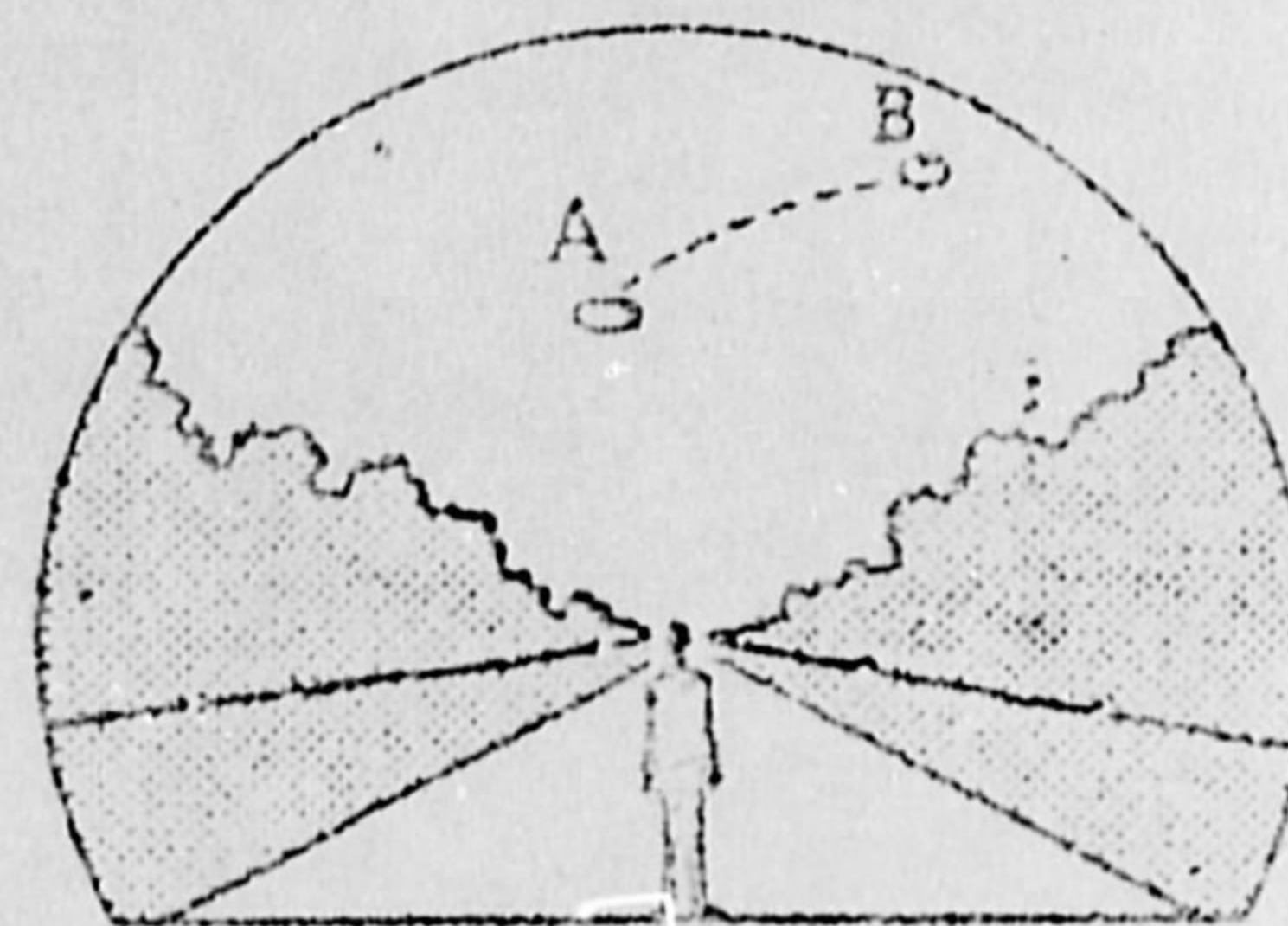
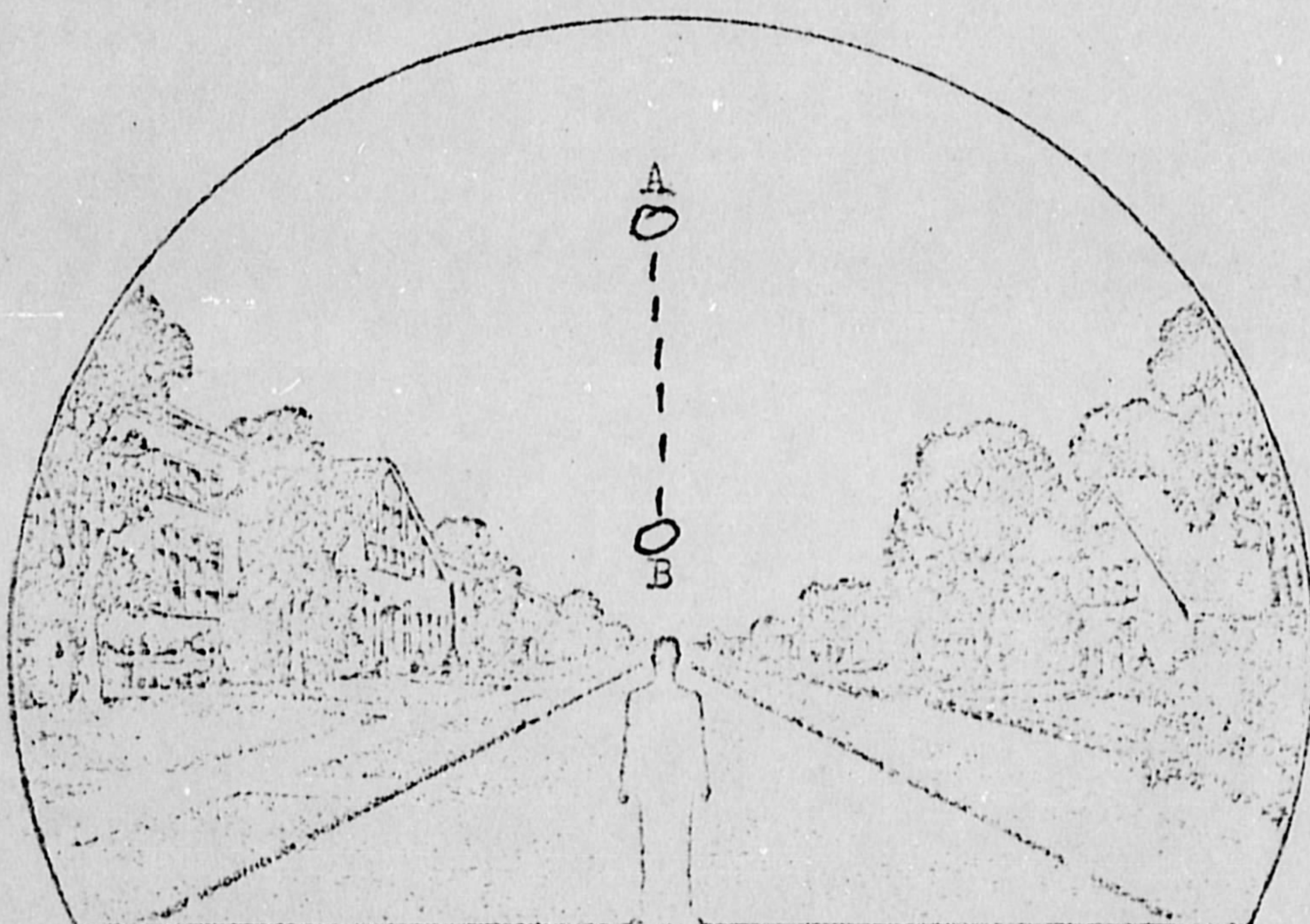
- a. From true North 75 degrees.
- b. From horizon 15 degrees.



32. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the same curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it.



33. In the following larger sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you *first* saw it, and a "B" at its position when you *last* saw it. Refer to smaller sketch as an example of how to complete the larger sketch.





34. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

34.1 CLOUDS (Circle One)

- a. Clear sky
- (b. Hazy)
- c. Scattered clouds
- d. Thick or heavy clouds
- e. Don't remember

34.2 WIND (Circle One)

- a. No wind
- (b. Slight breeze)
- c. Strong wind
- d. Don't remember

34.3 WEATHER (Circle One)

- (a. Dry)
- b. Fog, mist, or light rain
- c. Moderate or heavy rain
- d. Snow
- e. Don't remember

34.4 TEMPERATURE (Circle One)

- a. Cold
- (b. Cool)
- c. Warm
- d. Hot
- e. Don't remember

35. When did you report to some official that you had seen the object?

2 May

May

1957

Day

Month

Year

36. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object?

(Circle One) (Yes)

No

36.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too?

(Circle One) (Yes)

No

36.2 Please list their names and addresses:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] J-12  
Lancaster, California

37. Was this the first time that you had seen an object or objects like this?

(Circle One) Yes

(No)

37.1 IF you answered NO, then when, where, and under what circumstances did you see other ones?

West of Rosamond - January 1950 - Large disk (150'0 hung over the house  
at 300' for 20 minutes at 2130 hours.

38. In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it?

I don't know



39. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate?

Very, very slow m.p.h.

40. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was?

5000 feet. at first  
60 miles at last.

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

ADDRESS

Street

City

Zone

California

State

TELEPHONE NUMBER

Rosamond

What is your present job?

Instrument Mechanic and Operator

Age 32

Sex Male

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

a. Grade school ☒

e. e. Technical school

b. High school ☒

(Type)

c. College

f. Other special training

d. Post graduate

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

2

Day

May

Month

1957

Year



# U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

## (SUMMARY DATA)

In order that your information may be filed and coded as accurately as possible, please use the following space to write out a short description of the event that you observed. You may repeat information that you have already given in the questionnaire, and add any further comments, statements, or sketches that you believe are important. Try to present the details of the observation in the order in which they occurred. Additional pages of the same size paper may be attached if they are needed.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

(Do Not Write in This Space)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

CODE:

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

2 May 1957

We were traveling south in a pickup truck to Askania Camera Station #4. At 0755 hours 2 May 1957 we turned east and \_\_\_\_\_ called the object to my attention. It was hanging stationary almost overhead. I stopped the vehicle and got out to look at it, and then we headed for the camera station. By the time we got the camera uncovered, loaded and ready, ten minutes had elapsed. The object was heading due east from us at about 1500'. It was about 150 feet in diameter and had a translucent glow, very bright. After shooting some film manually, we tracked it further away, then shot some more film of it. It was estimated to be 40 to 50 miles away when film was taken, and about 60 miles when it disappeared. End

?

?

1. 0805 to 0825 = 20 minutes.
2. Object went from a stand still position to 60 miles in 20 minutes.



# U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U. S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes, and will be regarded as confidential material. Your name will not be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that, if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

2 May 1957  
Day Month Year

2. Time of day: 07 55  
Hour Minutes

(Circle One): (A.M.) or P.M.

3. Time zone:

(Circle One): a. Eastern  
b. Central  
c. Mountain  
(d. Pacific)  
e. Other

(Circle One): (a. Daylight Saving) ☒  
b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

Edwards Air Force Base

Nearest Postal Address

Edwards

City or Town

California

State or Country

Additional remarks: At Ballistic Test Facility

5. Estimate how long you saw the object.

Hours

25

Minutes

Seconds

5.1 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 5.

(a. Certain) c. Not very sure  
b. Fairly certain d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Bright daylight  
(b. Dull daylight)  
c. Bright twilight

d. Just a trace of daylight  
e. No trace of daylight  
f. Don't remember

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(Circle One): a. In front of you  
b. In back of you  
(c. To your right)

d. To your left  
e. Overhead  
f. Don't remember



8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS (Circle One):

- a. None
- b. A few
- c. Many
- d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON (Circle One):

- a. Bright moonlight
- b. Dull moonlight
- c. No moonlight — pitch dark
- d. Don't remember

9. Was the object brighter than the background of the sky?

(Circle One):

(a. Yes)

b. No

c. Don't remember

10. IF it was BRIGHTER THAN the sky background, was the brightness like that of an automobile headlight?:

(Circle One) a. A mile or more away (a distant car)?

b. Several blocks away?

c. A block away?

(d. Several yards away?)

e. Other

11. Did the object:

(Circle One for each question)

- |                                                 |       |      |            |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|------|------------|
| a. Appear to stand still at any time?           | (Yes) | No   | Don't Know |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | Yes   | (No) | Don't Know |
| c. Break up into parts or explode?              | Yes   | (No) | Don't Know |
| d. Give off smoke?                              | Yes   | (No) | Don't Know |
| e. Change brightness?                           | Yes   | (No) | Don't Know |
| f. Change shape?                                | (Yes) | No   | Don't Know |
| g. Flicker, throb, or pulsate?                  | (Yes) | No   | Don't Know |

12. Did the object move behind something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One):

Yes

(No)

Don't Know.

IF you answered YES, then tell what

it moved behind:

13. Did the object move in front of something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One):

Yes

(No)

Don't Know.

IF you answered YES, then tell what

it moved in front of:

14. Did the object appear: (Circle One):

(a. Solid?)

b. Transparent?

c. Don't Know.

15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

- |                 |       |      |               |                          |      |
|-----------------|-------|------|---------------|--------------------------|------|
| a. Eyeglasses   | Yes   | (No) | e. Binoculars | Yes                      | (No) |
| b. Sun glasses  | Yes   | (No) | f. Telescope  | Yes                      | (No) |
| c. Windshield   | (Yes) | No   | g. Theodolite | Yes                      | (No) |
| d. Window glass | Yes   | (No) | h. Other      | Askania Scope - 15 power |      |



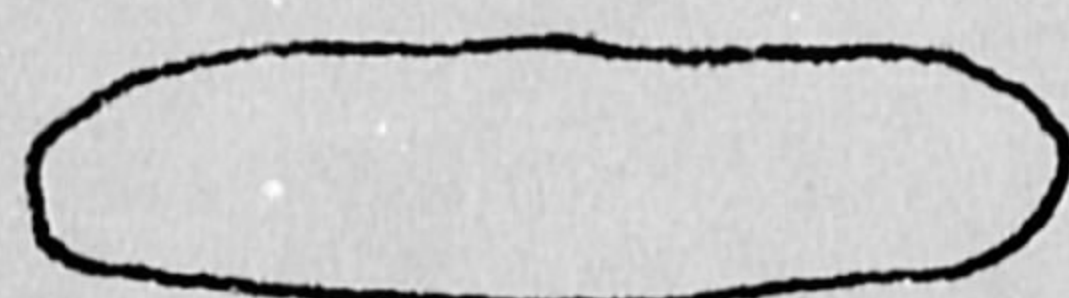
16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound None

b. Color Bright Metallic color

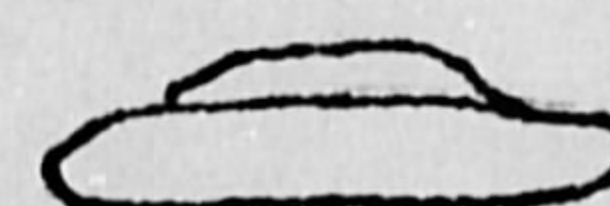
17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

At first



Overhead

15 minutes later



east

18. The edges of the object were:

- (Circle One):
- a. Fuzzy or blurred
  - b. Like a bright star
  - (c. Sharply outlined)
  - d. Don't remember

e. Other \_\_\_\_\_

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? Just one

Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.



20. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.



21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.  
150-175 feet.

22. How large did the object or objects appear as compared with one of the following objects held in the hand and at about arm's length?

(Circle One):

- a. Head of a pin
- b. Pea
- c. Dime
- d. Nickel
- e. Quarter
- f. Half dollar

- g. Silver dollar
- h. Baseball
- i. Grapefruit
- ( j. Basketball )
- k. Other \_\_\_\_\_

- 22.1 (Circle One of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 22.

- (a. Certain)
- b. Fairly certain

- c. Not very sure
- d. Uncertain

23. How did the object or objects disappear from view? It finally went too far out.

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, we would like for you to imagine that you could construct the object that you saw. Of what type material would you make it? How large would it be, and what shape would it have? Describe in your own words a common object or objects which when placed up in the sky would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

Aluminum color  
 150-175 feet in diameter  
 Disk shape



25. Where were you located when you saw the object?  
(Circle One):

- a. Inside a building
- (b. In a car )
- c. Outdoors
- d. In an airplane
- e. At sea
- f. Other \_\_\_\_\_

26. Were you (Circle One)

- a. In the business section of a city?
- b. In the residential section of a city?
- (c. In open countryside?)
- d. Flying near an airfield?
- e. Flying over a city?
- f. Flying over open country?
- g. Other \_\_\_\_\_

27. What were you doing at the time you saw the object, and how did you happen to notice it?

I was riding in a pickup to one of the Askania stations and I just happened to  
look up in the sky.

IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

28.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

- |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North     | (c. East)    | e. South     | g. West      |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

28.2 How fast were you moving? 35 miles per hour.

28.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

29. What direction were you looking when you first saw the object? (Circle One)

- |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North     | (c. East)    | e. South     | g. West      |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

30. What direction were you looking when you last saw the object? (Circle One)

- |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North     | (c. East)    | e. South     | g. West      |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

31. If you are familiar with bearing terms (angular direction), try to estimate the number of degrees the object was from true North and also the number of degrees it was upward from the horizon (elevation).

31.1 When it first appeared:

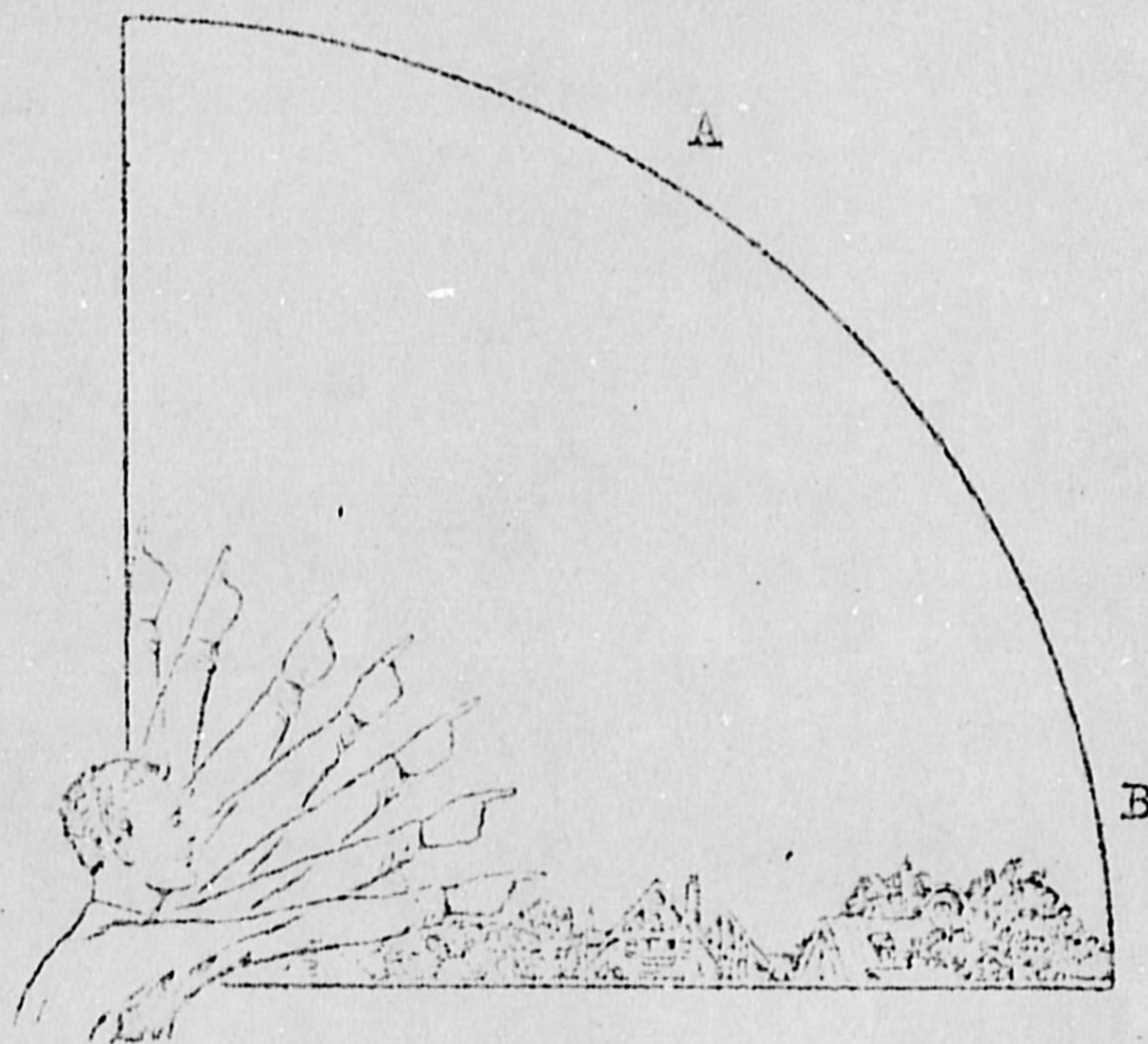
- a. From true North 75 degrees.
- b. From horizon 45 degrees.

31.2 When it disappeared:

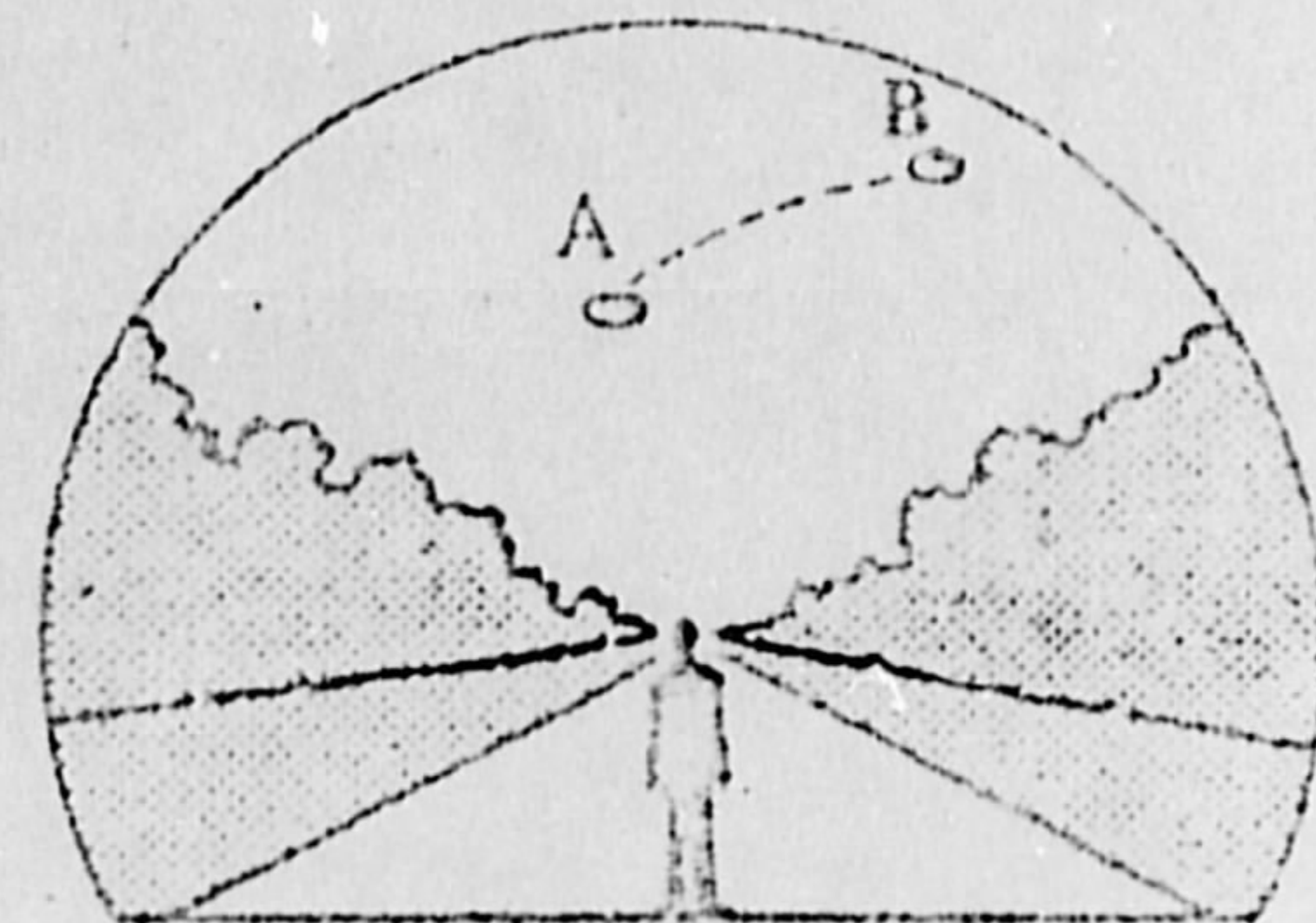
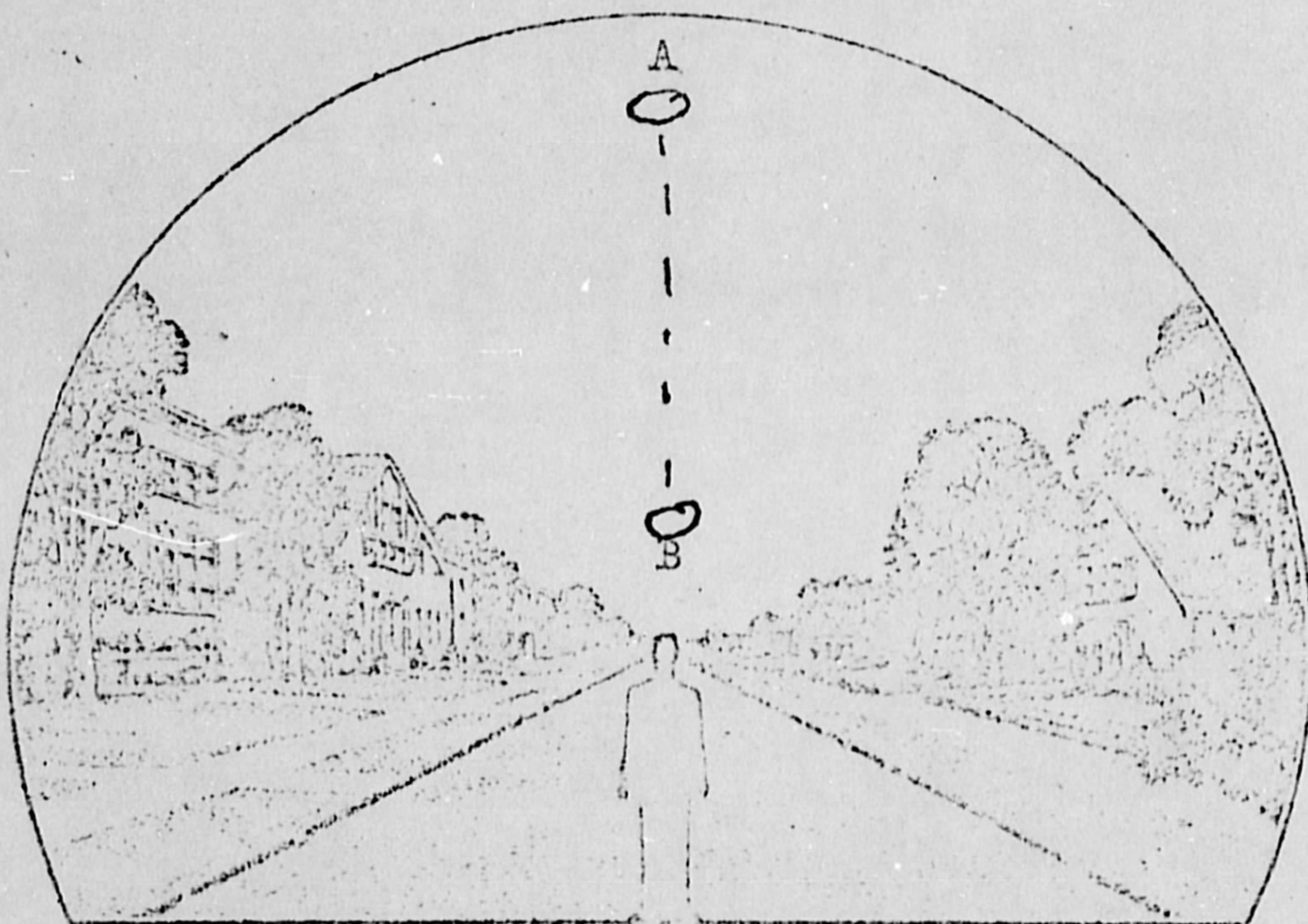
- a. From true North 75 degrees.
- b. From horizon 15 degrees.



32. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the same curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it.



33. In the following larger sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you *first* saw it, and a "B" at its position when you *last* saw it. Refer to smaller sketch as an example of how to complete the larger sketch.





34. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

34.1 CLOUDS (Circle One)

- a. Clear sky
- ☒ b. Hazy
- c. Scattered clouds
- d. Thick or heavy clouds
- e. Don't remember

34.2 WIND (Circle One)

- a. No wind
- ☒ b. Slight breeze
- c. Strong wind
- d. Don't remember

34.3 WEATHER (Circle One)

- ☒ a. Dry
- b. Fog, mist, or light rain
- c. Moderate or heavy rain
- d. Snow
- e. Don't remember

34.4 TEMPERATURE (Circle One)

- a. Cold
- ☒ b. Cool
- c. Warm
- d. Hot
- e. Don't remember

35. When did you report to some official that you had seen the object?

2

Day

May

Month

1957

Year

36. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

36.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

36.2 Please list their names and addresses:

  
P.O. Box  Rosemond, California

37. Was this the first time that you had seen an object or objects like this?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

37.1 IF you answered NO, then when, where, and under what circumstances did you see other ones?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

38. In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it?

Do not have any idea



39. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One) Yes (No)

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate? \_\_\_\_\_ m.p.h.

40. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One) (Yes) No

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was? \_\_\_\_\_ 5000 feet at first  
60 miles at least

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Name

ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ave.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street

Lancaster  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zone

California  
State

TELEPHONE NUMBER Whitehall \_\_\_\_\_

What is your present job? Instrument Mechanic and Operator

Age 29 Sex Male

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

- |                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. Grade school _____  | e. e. Technical school _____    |
| b. High school _____   | (Type) _____                    |
| c. College _____       | f. Other special training _____ |
| d. Post graduate _____ | _____                           |

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

2  
Day

May  
Month

1957  
Year



U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET  
(SUMMARY DATA)

In order that your information may be filed and coded as accurately as possible, please use the following space to write out a short description of the event that you observed. You may repeat information that you have already given in the questionnaire, and add any further comments, statements, or sketches that you believe are important. Try to present the details of the observation in the order in which they occurred. Additional pages of the same size paper may be attached if they are needed.

NAME [REDACTED]  
(Please Print)

(Do Not Write in This Space)

CODE:

SIGNATURE (not available for signature)

DATE 2 May 1957

We left the master station heading south for one mile then turned east for Askania station # 4. After heading east for 100 yards I looked thru the windshield and saw the object at about 1500 feet up in the air, just hanging there. The driver and myself continued to the Askania station and uncovered and loaded the camera. From the time first seen till camera was loaded 10 minutes had past. We started taking pictures of the object with the camera manually. We took approximately 40 frames. We saw the object for approximately 25 to 30 minutes before it went out of sight.



d. Edwards AFB B Case (2 May 1957):

This case received nation-wide publicity because the UFO was observed over so-called "United States secret testing grounds", and had been photographed officially by high-speed cameras, especially designed to track aircraft and missiles by AF personnel.

The object was observed by the camera crews, who, took a series of photographs after it had moved some distance away. The sighting was apparently released to the press, directly or otherwise, prior to official AF investigation. A study of 32 photographs taken and highly magnified, disclosed the object to be the size of a match head, but changing shape from round to elliptical, as the early sun's rays played upon its surface. A wind plot, correlated with the reported speed and movements of the object, practically coincided. This pointed to the object being a balloon. Further investigations not only disclosed that a balloon was released in the vicinity, but precise theodolite measurements coincided with the observer's reports as to times, elevations and bearings.

This case is considered to have been improperly handled. It did not come to the attention of ATIC until well after the press had received it; the Edwards AFB official made statements to the press that it was "unknown" when investigations disclose that they had been informed that it was a balloon; and the local commander could have solved the case by making local inquiries of his various units.



d. Edwards AFB Case (2 May 1957):

This case received nation-wide publicity because the UFO was observed over the so-called "United States secret testing grounds", and had been photographed officially by high-speed cameras, specially designed to track aircraft and missiles, by AF personnel.

The object was observed by the camera crews, who, took a series of photographs after it had moved some distance away. They later described it as disc shaped to interrogators, after they brought the matter to the attention of others. A study 32 photographs taken, and highly magnified disclosed the object to the size of a match head, but changing shape from round to elliptical, as the early sun's rays played upon its surface. A wind pbt, correlated with the reported speed and movements of the object, practically concided. This pointed to the object being a balloon. Further investigations not only disclosed that a balloon was released in the vicinity, but precise theodolite measurements coincided with the observer's report as to times, elevations and bearings.

This case is considered as having been improperly handled. It did not come to the attention of AFIC until well after the press had received it; the Edwards AFB PIO officer made statements to the press that it was "unknown", when investigations disclose that he was informed it was a balloon; and the local commander could have solved the case by making local inquiries of his various units.



BALLOON CHECK ON EDWARDS AFB CASE

As per telephone conversation with Major Wininger, Detachment 21,  
4th Weather Group, Edwards AFB, California.

Major Wininger is aware of the facts of this case and he stated,  
(quote) "On the morning of 2 May 1957, 7:40 PDT they released a  
Rawinsonde balloon which at release measures ~~800~~ <sup>5</sup> or 5 to 6 feet,  
in diameter, which reaches <sup>4</sup> diameter of 75 to 90 ft. at 60,000 ft.  
altitude." Major Wininger also stated that this sighting is quite  
obviously the balloon they released. This information was given to  
the information officer at Edwards AFB.

*Oliver D. Hill*  
OLIVER D. HILL  
M/Sgt, USAF



PRESS RELEASE APPROVED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-10-2001 BY 60322 BUC/STW

WANTS. EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF., MAY 9<sup>1957</sup> (INS) OFFICERS AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE TODAY WERE STUDYING FILMS MADE OF A PURPORTED "UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT" SEEN OVER THE BASE.

THE OBJECT WAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY TWO CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS WHO USED SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO TRACK AND RECORD IT.

UNOFFICIAL SOURCES SAID THE OBJECT APPEARED CIRCULAR AND GLINTED BRIGHTLY IN THE MORNING SUN WHEN OBSERVED LAST FRIDAY.

HOWEVER, INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AT EDWARDS BASE, A HUSH-HUSH AIR FORCE TEST CENTER, WOULD SAY ALMOST NOTHING OF THE INCIDENT.

AN AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT EDWARDS BASE WAS STUDYING THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND WOULD FORWARD THEM TO THE CONTINENTAL AIR DEFENSE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AT COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO., FOR FURTHER CHECKING.

CY-MZ105PPD..

2 ATIC REC'D FROM ADC

GM (In all major newspapers in U.S.)

Gen. Watson wants the story on this



AISOC

1st Ind

Hqs 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron (ADC), Ent Air Force  
Base, Colorado

16 MAY 1957

TO: Commander, Air Technical Intelligence Center, ATTN: AF01N 4E4,  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Forwarded for your information and necessary action. WFOB  
Index Card (AISOP Form No. 5) will be forwarded when prepared.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

6 Incls  
n/c

13 545  
JOHN D TAYLOR JR  
Major, USAF  
Adjutant



HEADQUARTERS  
AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER

AIR RESEARCH and DEVELOPMENT COMMAND  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
Edwards Air Force Base California

FTOOB

14 MAY 1957

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Report

TO: Commander  
Air Defense Command  
Attn: 4602d AISS  
Ent Air Force Base  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

1. In accordance with paragraph seven, Air Force Regulation 200-2, the following reported sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object is forwarded for necessary action. Report is being submitted in letter form due to non-availability of Air Force Form 112:

a. Report follows prescribed format (par 7d, AFR 200-2).

(1) Description:

- (a) Disk shape.
- (b) Size compared to basketball.
- (c) Aluminum or metallic in color.
- (d) One.
- (e) N/A.
- (f) Object was estimated to be 150-175 feet in diameter. It was sharply outlined and was shaped like a saucer.
- (g) None.
- (h) No sound.
- (i) Had translucent glow.

(2) Description of course:

- (a) Observers first sighted object at a very low altitude while traveling to the Photo Theodolite Station in a truck.
- (b) Elevation: 45° Azimuth: 0°
- (c) Elevation: 85° Azimuth: 0°



FTCOB, Hq AFFTC,

, Subj: Unidentified Flying Object Report

(d) Object traveled in an easterly direction at all times. At times object appeared to stand still and change shape or pulsate. Object was at an estimated altitude of 1500 feet. Velocity of object was unknown.

(e) Object disappeared from sight due to extreme distance.

(f) Length of time in sight was approximately 25 minutes.

(3) Observation:

(a) Ground visual.

(b) Object was tracked by a 15 power scope which is a portion of the Photo Theodolite equipment.

(c) N/A.

(4) Time and date:

(a) 1455Z to 1520Z, 2 May 1957.

(b) Day.

(5) Location: Approximately 34° 53' 30" N - 117° 40' 30" E.

(6) Observers:

(a) [REDACTED], Civilian  
32 Years  
[REDACTED] Rosamond, California  
Instrument Mechanic and Operator

(b) [REDACTED]  
29 Years  
[REDACTED] West Avenue [REDACTED] Lancaster, California  
Instrument Mechanic and Operator

(7) Weather and Winds:

(a) Scattered clouds estimated to be at 6000 feet. The sky condition was dull daylight. Surface winds were light.

(b) Winds: Surface - 360/09  
6,000 - 270/17  
10,000 - 260/29  
16,000 - 260/37  
20,000 - 270/38



FTOGB, Hq AFFTC,

, Subj: Unidentified Flying Object Report

30,000 - 280/53  
50,000 - 260/29  
80,000 - 290/07

- (c) Ceiling - None.
- (d) Visibility - 30 miles.
- (e) 2/10 total cloud coverage  
1/10 cumulus at 4500 feet  
1/10 cirrus at unknown altitude
- (f) No thunderstorms.
- (8) Sharp tropopause inversion at 42,500 feet MSL.
- (9) N/A.
- (10) Negative.
- (11) Preparing Officer and comments:
  - (a) Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations.

(b) Weather stations at Palmdale Airport, George Air Force Base, Mojave MCAAS, and China Lake Naval Air Station were queried as to whether any weather balloons had been released at or about the time of sighting. Reply in each case was negative. A rawinsonde balloon was released by the weather station at Edwards Air Force Base at approximately 0740 hours Pacific Daylight Time, 2 May 1957. The following information on the release of subject balloon:

0740 hours. . . Balloon released at Edwards (34° 54' 30" N - 117° 52' 00" E).  
0750 hours. . . 13,287' elevation, 8038 yards from station on a true bearing of 70°.  
0800 hours. . . 22,802' elevation, 16,295 yards from station on a true bearing of 80°.  
0810 hours. . . 34,448' elevation, 27,668 yards from station on a true bearing of 60°.  
0820 hours. . . 44,291' elevation, 38,603 yards from station on a true bearing of 40°.

Based on the above track made and the location of the observers at the time of sighting, the weather balloon released at Edwards could not have been the unidentified object reported.

- (c) Probable cause of sighting is unknown.

*Note:*  
Actual  
thermite  
track  
balloon  
released.  
Almost  
precisely  
matches  
data  
from  
sources



FTOGB, Hq AFFTC,

, Subj: Unidentified Flying Object Report

(12) Attention is invited to the attached photographs of the reported sighting. Photo enlargements represent every other frame of the attached negatives (inclosures five and six). Reference photo enlargements in inclosure three. Subject photographs were taken beginning at approximately 0807 Pacific Daylight Time at the rate of two frames per second. Photo enlargements on inclosure four were taken beginning at approximately 0815 Pacific Daylight Time at the rate of four frames per second. Photographs were taken with a single photo theodolite camera which consisted of 84 inch lense and a 15 power scope for tracking purposes.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

6 Incls.

1-ATIC Form 164-

2-ATIC Form 164-

3-Photo enlargements  
from negative 1 (2 cys)

4-Photo enlargements  
from negative 2 (2 cys)

5-Negative 1 (forwarded under  
separate cover)

6-Negative 2 (forwarded under  
separate cover)

*Raymond P. Klein*  
RAYMOND P. KLEIN

Lt Colonel, USAF

Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations

ALSOC

1st Ind

Hqs 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron (ADC), Ent Air Force  
Base, Colorado

16 MAY 1957

TO: Commander, Air Technical Intelligence Center, ATTN: AFOIN 4E4,  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Forwarded for your information and necessary action. UFOB  
Index Card (ALSOP Form No. 5) will be forwarded when prepared.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

6 Incls

n/c

*John D. Taylor, Jr*  
JOHN D. TAYLOR, JR

Major, USAF

Adjutant



## JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED FOR CATEGORY B ENCRYPTED  
ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES TO GROUP  
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION  
REFERENCE IF THE DATE-TIME GROUP IS QUOTED

02160

|                 |                   |                   |                    |                             |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| PRECEDENCE      | TYPE MSG (Check)  | ACCOUNTING SYMBOL | ORIG. OR REFERS TO | CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE |
| ACTION PRIORITY | BOOK MULTI SINGLE |                   |                    |                             |
| INFO            |                   |                   |                    |                             |

FROM:

COMDR ATIC

TO:

INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICE  
AIR FORCE FLIGHT TEST CENTER  
EDWARDS AFB, CALIFORNIA

FROM: AFOIN-4E4.

FOR: MAJ McINTOSH

REQUEST ~~AND~~ INFORMATION REGARDING UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT OVER  
all available ~~8/2~~

YOUR BASE REPORTED BY INS WIRE SERVICE, 9 MAY, QUOTE: OFFICERS  
AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE TODAY WERE STUDYING FILMS MADE OF A  
PURPORTED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SEEN OVER THE BASE. THE  
OBJECT WAS PHOTOGRAPHED BY TWO CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS WHO USED  
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO TRACK AND RECORD IT. UNOFFICIAL SOURCES SAID  
THE OBJECT APPEARED CIRCULAR AND GLINTED BRIGHTLY IN THE MORNING  
SUN WHEN OBSERVED LAST FRIDAY. HOWEVER, INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AT  
EDWARDS BASE, A HUSH-HUSH AIR FORCE TEST CENTER, WOULD SAY ALMOST  
NOTHING OF THE INCIDENT. AN AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT  
EDWARDS BASE WAS STUDYING THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND WOULD FORWARD THEM  
TO THE CONTINENTAL AIR DEFENSE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AT COLORADO  
SPRINGS, COLORADO, FOR FURTHER CHECKING. UNQUOTE.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DDI, DLE 5200.10

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

ENCODED

Initials bm  
Time 170800  
Checked By 2

Classification Cancelled

Auth. Director  
By Justman  
Date 3 MAY 1957  
AFR 2054, Part 27  
3 Jan 68

DATE 17 TIME 0800  
MONTH MAY YEAR 1957

|        |                                               |       |                    |   |          |                                   |  |                    |               |  |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|---|----------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------|--|
| WRITER | SYMBOL                                        |       | AFOIN-4E4          |   | RELEASER | SIGNATURE                         |  | ROBERT E. O'CONNOR |               |  |
|        | TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required) |       | Capt G. T. Gregory |   |          | TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE |  | ROBERT E. O'CONNOR |               |  |
|        | PHONE                                         | 69216 | PAGE NR.           | 1 |          | NR. OF PAGES                      |  |                    | Captain, USAF |  |
|        | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION                       |       |                    |   |          |                                   |  | Assistant Adjutant |               |  |



## JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

FROM:

COMDR ATIC

UNCLASSIFIED

ALSO, EXCERPT FROM L.A. TIMES, SAME DATE, STATES "PHOTOS WERE DISPATCHED IMMEDIATELY" TO THIS CENTER.

THIS CENTER HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OR RECEIPT OF REPORT OR PHOTOGRAPHS. HOWEVER, MATTER NOW OF SOME CONCERN IN VIEW OF QUERIES REGARDING INCIDENT, PARTICULARLY FROM AN UNOFFICIAL "UFO RESEARCH ORGANIZATION" DEMANDING ANSWERS, FACTS AND PHOTOS FROM AIR FORCE. ~~DESIRABLE~~, <sup>POTENTIAL</sup> BOTH FROM PUBLIC INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE STANDPOINT TO GET FULL FACTS BEFORE ANY STATEMENT MADE TO PUBLIC, SINCE IT IS KNOWN THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE GIVEN AIR FORCE SOME ADVERSE PUBLICITY REGARDING UFOS. <sup>3CA</sup>

DESIRABLE THAT ACTION BE INITIATED TO DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICALLY:

1. WERE BALLOONS RELEASED DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGHTING? IF, AS ALLEGED, PHOTOS STUDIED BY YOUR SPECIALISTS, WHAT WERE YOUR FINDINGS, OPINIONS, OR CONCLUSIONS?
2. WERE CIVILIANS TAKING THE PHOTOS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE BASE AREA, AF EMPLOYEES WORKING ON PROJECT INVOLVING TRACKING AIRCRAFT, OR PRIVATE CITIZENS NOT CONNECTED WITH YOUR BASE?
3. WERE AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA?
4. ANY OTHER DATA THAT MAY PROVIDE FIRM CONCLUSIONS.

IF INFORMATION AND PHOTOS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED, STILL REQUEST SUMMARY OF PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS INCIDENT, PENDING RECEIPT OF FULL DETAILS.

COORDINATION: AFOIN-4E

AFOIN-4E4

DATE

DATE 17 May 52

DATE 17 May 52

SYAFOIN-4X1

DATE

PAGE

NR

NR OF

PAGES

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

INITIALS

AFOIN-4E4

5/17/57

2

2

DD FORM 173-1

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955-352234



UNCLASSIFIED

23 MAY 57

AC PRIORITY

FM COMDR AFFTC EDWARDS AFB CALIF  
TO COMDR ATIC WPAFB OHIO  
BT

1/ CITE FTM-5-1-E. REF IC40365 AFOIN-4E4.

COMPLETE REPORT AS REQUIRED BY AFR 200-2 FORWARDED BY LETTER 14 MAY 1957 TO ENT AFB, OFFICE OF ORIGIN FTTOB. BRIEF SUMMARY AS FOLLOWS:  
2 CIVILIAN WORKERS ENROUTE TO THE ASKANIA CAMERA STATION AT APPROXIMATELY 0720 PDT SAW UFO AND TOOK PICTURE OF SAME WITH 35 MM ASKANIA CAMERA. INFORMATION IN PRESS RELEASE MADE TO LOS ANGELES TIMES UPON THEIR QUERY BY ISO EDWARDS AFB UNDER PROVISIONS AFR 200-2.

BT

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 580.10

UNCLASSIFIED



JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

PRIORITY!

108C  
24/18482

|                 |                   |                   |                    |                             |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| PRECEDENCE      | TYPX MSG (Check)  | ACCOUNTING SYMBOL | ORIG. OR REFERS TO | CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE |
| ACTION PRIORITY | BOOK MULTI SINGLE |                   | mt                 |                             |
| INFO            |                   |                   |                    |                             |

FROM:

COMDR ATIC WPAFB Ohio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO:

COMMANDER, 750TH AC&W SQUADRON  
BORON AIR FORCE STATION, BORON  
BORON, CALIFORNIA

MAY 57 17 49z RJWPLB

(UNCLASSIFIED) FROM: AFOIN-4E4 5-718-E

Reply  
ASAP  
to  
1/E

REQUEST CHECK OF RECORDS TO DETERMINE IF ANY UNKNOWN OBJECTS SHOWN ON YOUR RADAR BETWEEN 0700 TO 0830 HOURS, 2 MAY 1957 AND TRAVELLING WEST TO EAST IN DIRECTION, OR OVER EDWARDS AFB. ALSO, IF AIRCRAFT OR OTHER KNOWN RETURNS IN AIR AT THAT TIME, AND GENERAL DIRECTION AND SPEED. IMMEDIATE ANSWER DESIRABLE.

COORDINATION

AFOIN-4E4 H. A. Miley DATE 24/5/57  
Dr. H. A. Miley

|       |     |      |      |
|-------|-----|------|------|
| DATE  | 24  | TIME | 1130 |
| MONTH | MAY | YEAR | 1957 |

|                                               |                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| SYMBOL                                        | AFOIN-4E4                                   |
| TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required) | Capt G. T. Gregory <u>George T. Gregory</u> |
| PHONE                                         | 69216                                       |
| PAGE NR.                                      | 1                                           |
| NR. OF PAGES                                  | 1                                           |
| SECURITY CLASSIFICATION                       | UNCLASSIFIED                                |

SIGNATURE

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE

WALLACE W. ELWOOD  
Captain, USAF  
Assistant AdjutantDD FORM 173  
1 MAY 55

REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED



RF149

WPA171 XYD180JBA103JBF004

PP RJEDWP

DE RJWPJB 4F

P 242000Z

FM COMDR 750TH ACWRON BORON CALIF

TO COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

BT

UNCLAS 7500P5 0395. ATTN: AFOIN. REFERENCE MESSAGE 4E4 5-713-E.

NEGATIVE.

BT

24/2000Z MAY RJWPJB

Local Radar in The Area states  
nothing in The locality at That Time. And  
in The empty desert Regions, highly  
unlikely radar would miss anything.

GTF



TWX

Det 21, 4th Weather Group  
Hqs Air Force Ft Test Center  
Edwards AFB, California

Request information concerning any balloon launchings between 0700 to 0830 hours on 2 May 1957 involving large plastic balloons of 45 to 75 foot size. Information available here indicates your unit may use, or have knowledge of tests involving such balloons. Also winds aloft, data from your records from 1500 to 5000 ft for this time period, to include knowledge of any other balloons released, or known to have been in your area. Weekly track charts from 1110 Sup Gp, Hedcom, USAF, show balloon S-321, from Vernallis, passed north your area, moving west to east on same date. Immediate reply desirable.



BALLOON CHECK ON EDWARDS AFB CASE

As per telephone conversation with Major Wininger, Detachment 21,  
4th Weather Group, Edwards AFB, California.

Major Wininger is aware of the facts of this case and he stated,  
(quote) "On the morning of 2 May 1957, 7:40 PDT they released a  
Rawinsonde balloon which at release measured ~~800 grams~~ or 5 to 6 feet,  
in diameter, which reaches at diameter of 75 to 90 ft. at 60,000 ft.  
altitude." Major Wininger also stated that this sighting is quite  
obviously the balloon they released. This information was given to  
the information officer at Edwards AFB.

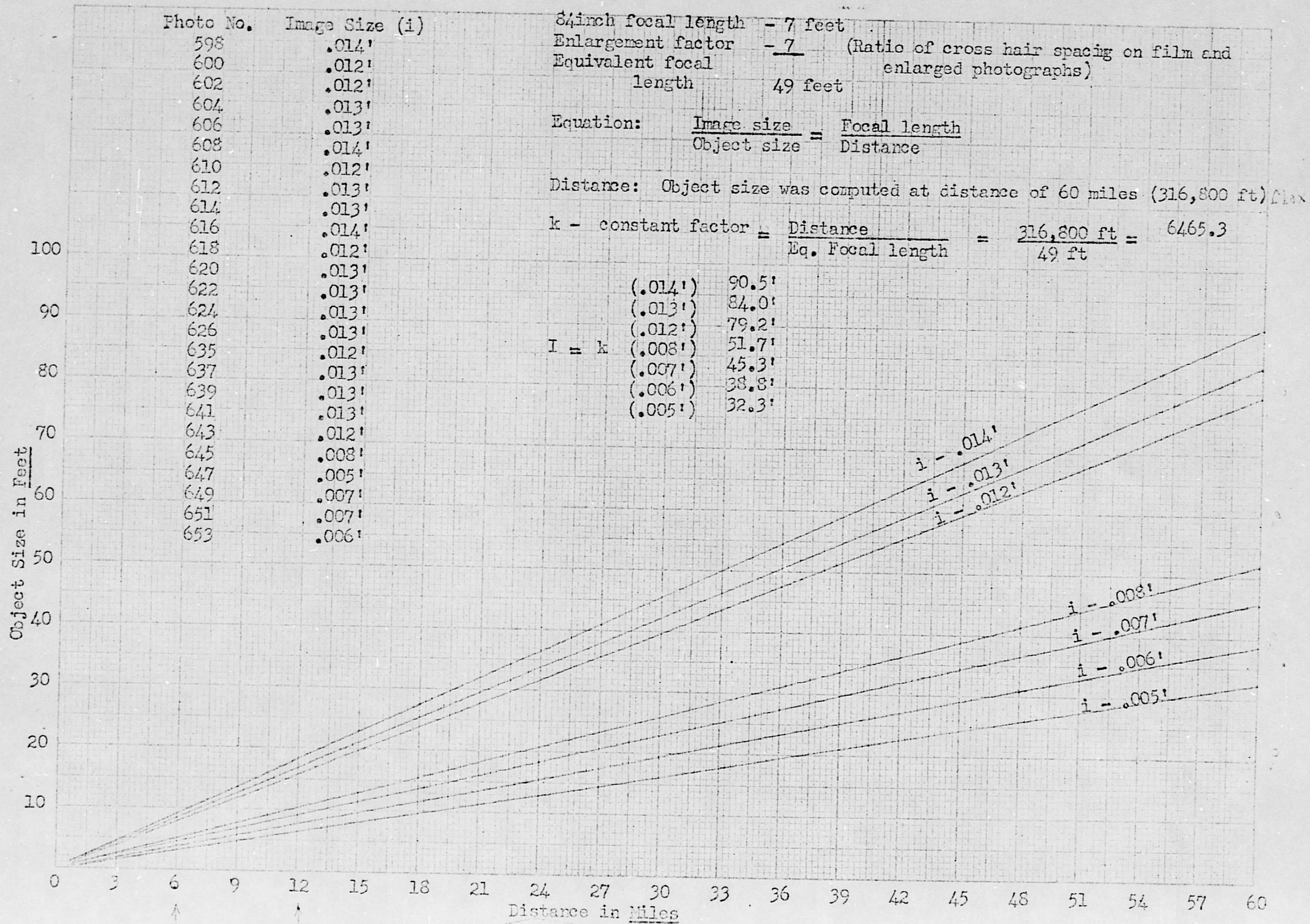
*Oliver D. Hill*

OLIVER D. HILL  
M/Sgt, USAF



# Analysis of theodolite photography of unidentified object.

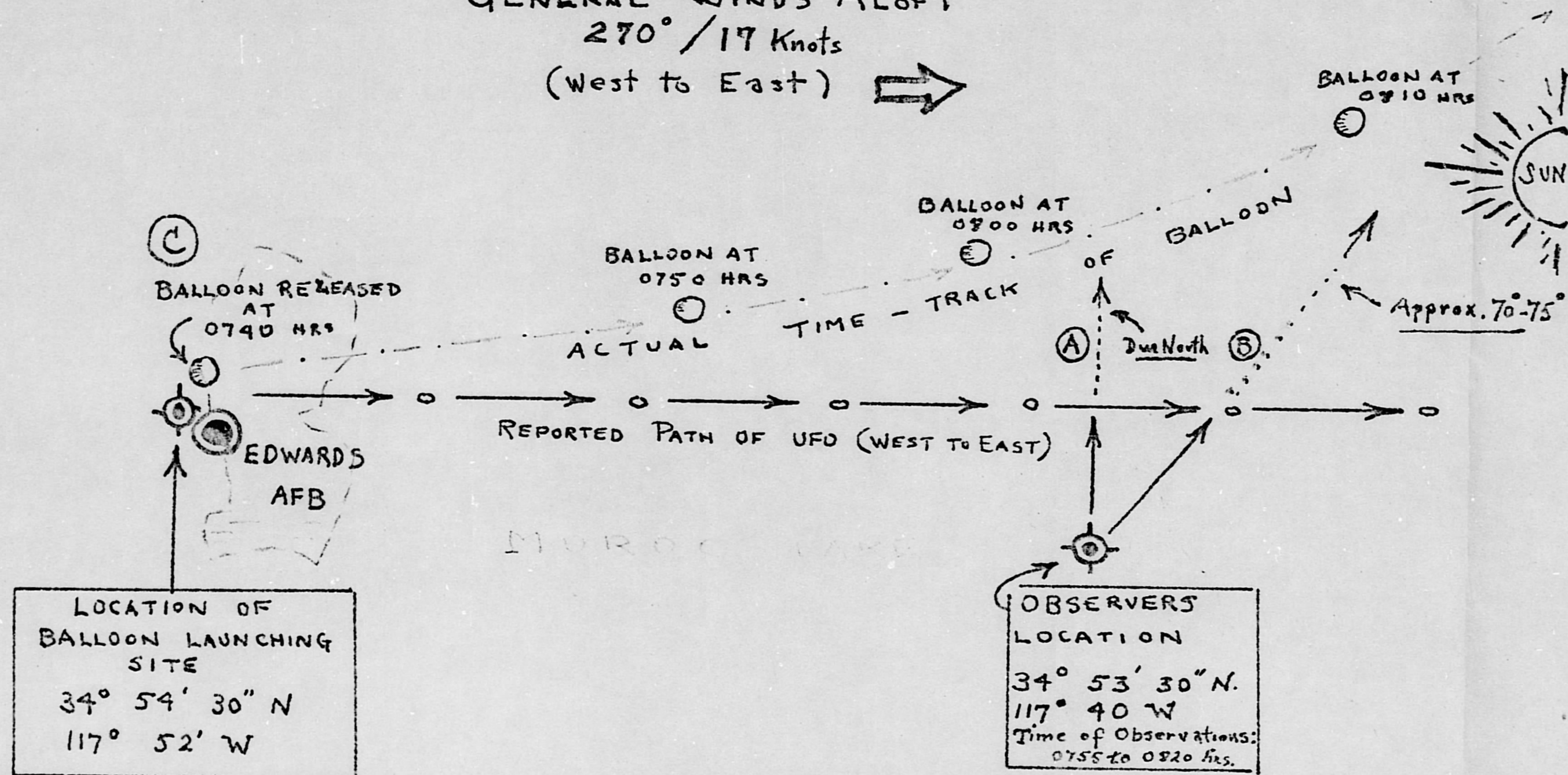
22 May 1957





# TIME-TRACK-BEARING PLOT — BALLOON RELEASED V. UFO OBSERVED

GENERAL WINDS ALOFT  
270°/17 Knots  
(West to East) ⇒



- ① Observers First Report UFO at Approximately 0° Azimuth (Due North) - See attached UFO Report, Edwards AFB
- ② Observers Both State Object Last Seen at 75° Azimuth - when Last Seen - See Attached USAF UFO Questionnaire, Form 164.
- ③ From Data Taken by Edwards AFB Weather Station During Track by Precision Meteorological Devices. See Par. 1a.(11) AFFTC Ltr, 14 MAY 1957



22 ONLY 8X10  
GLOSSY PHOTOGRAPHS  
OF UFO SIGHTED AT  
EDWARDS AFB, CALIF.

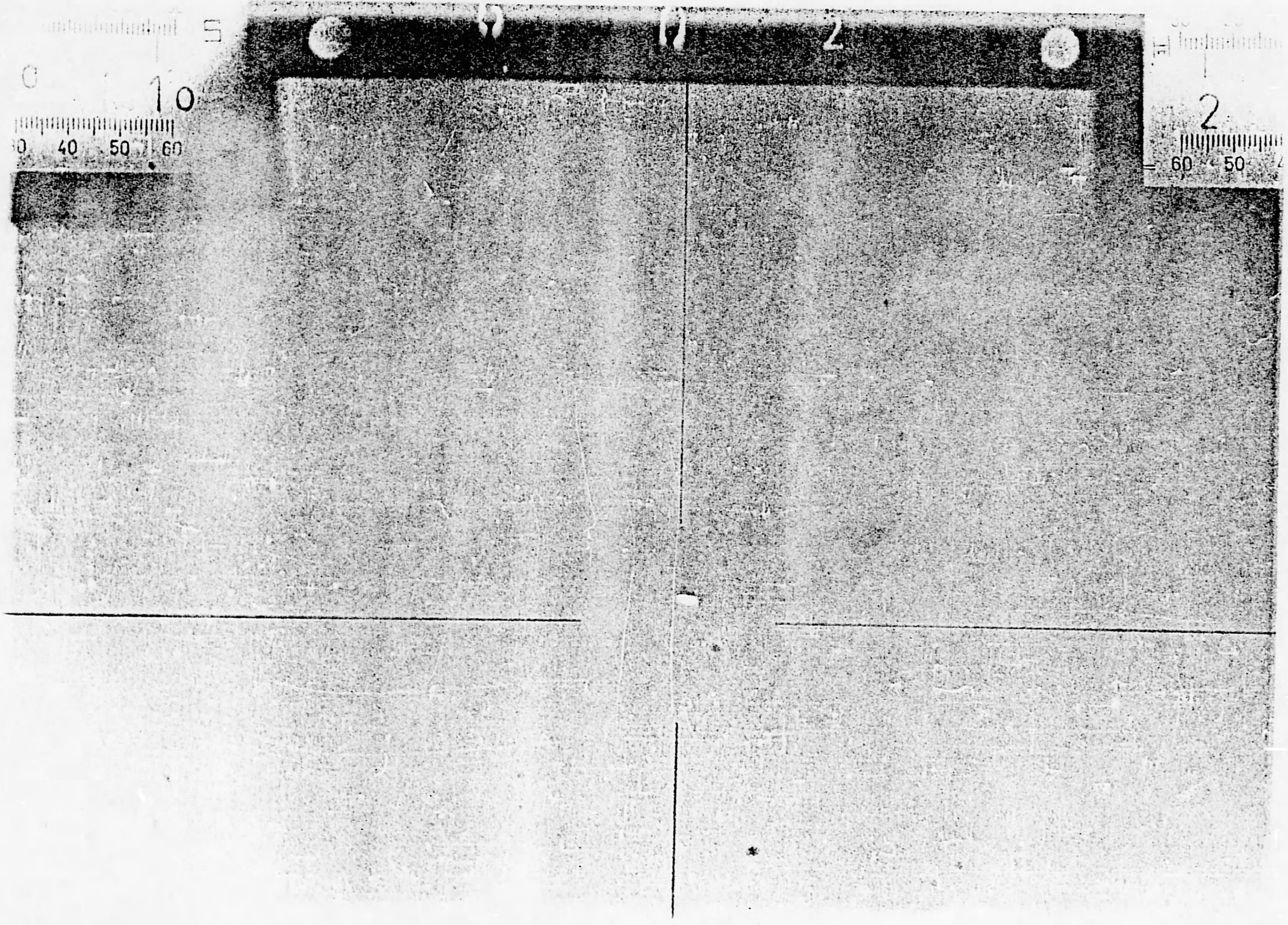
UNCLASSIFIED



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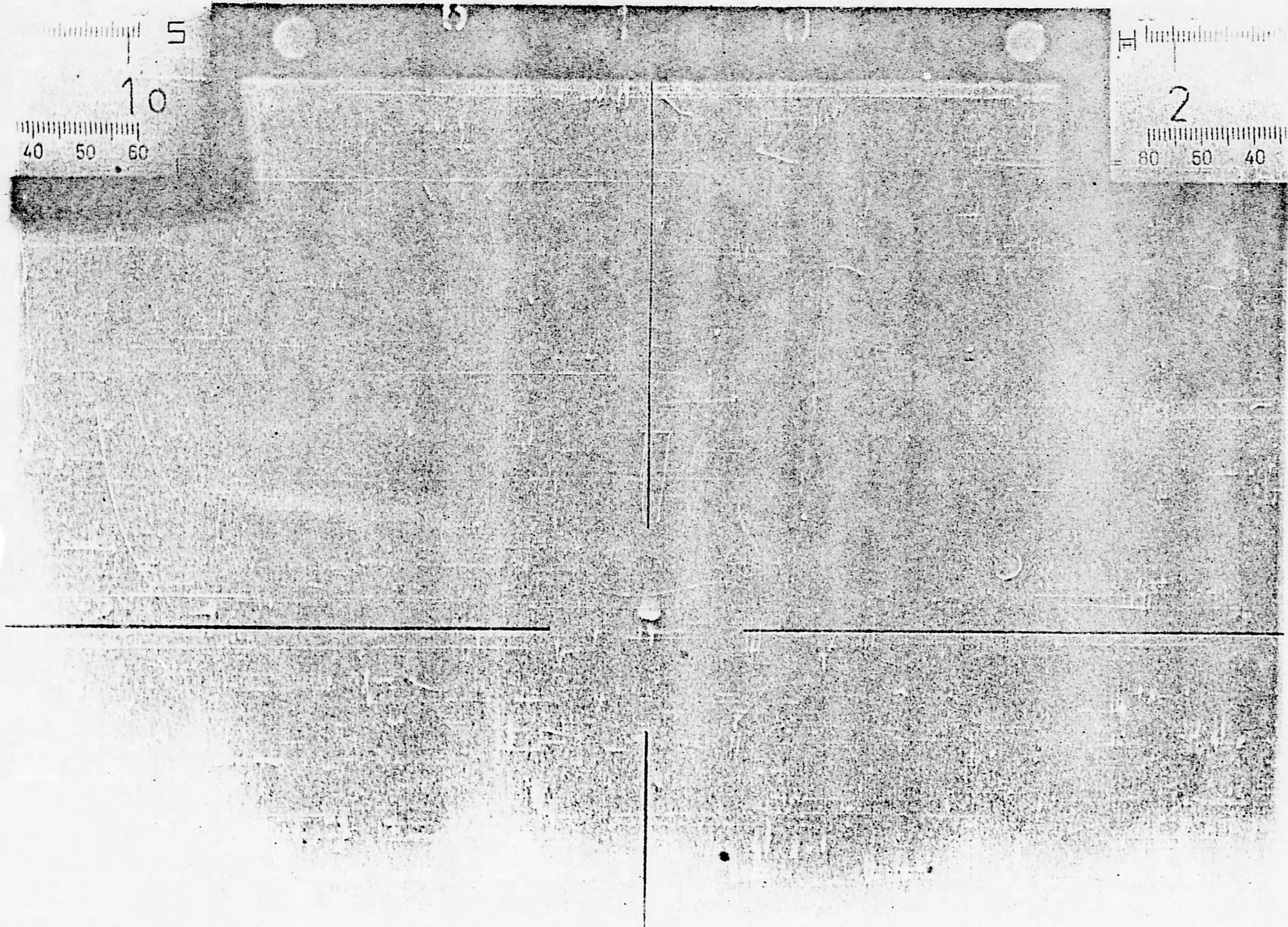
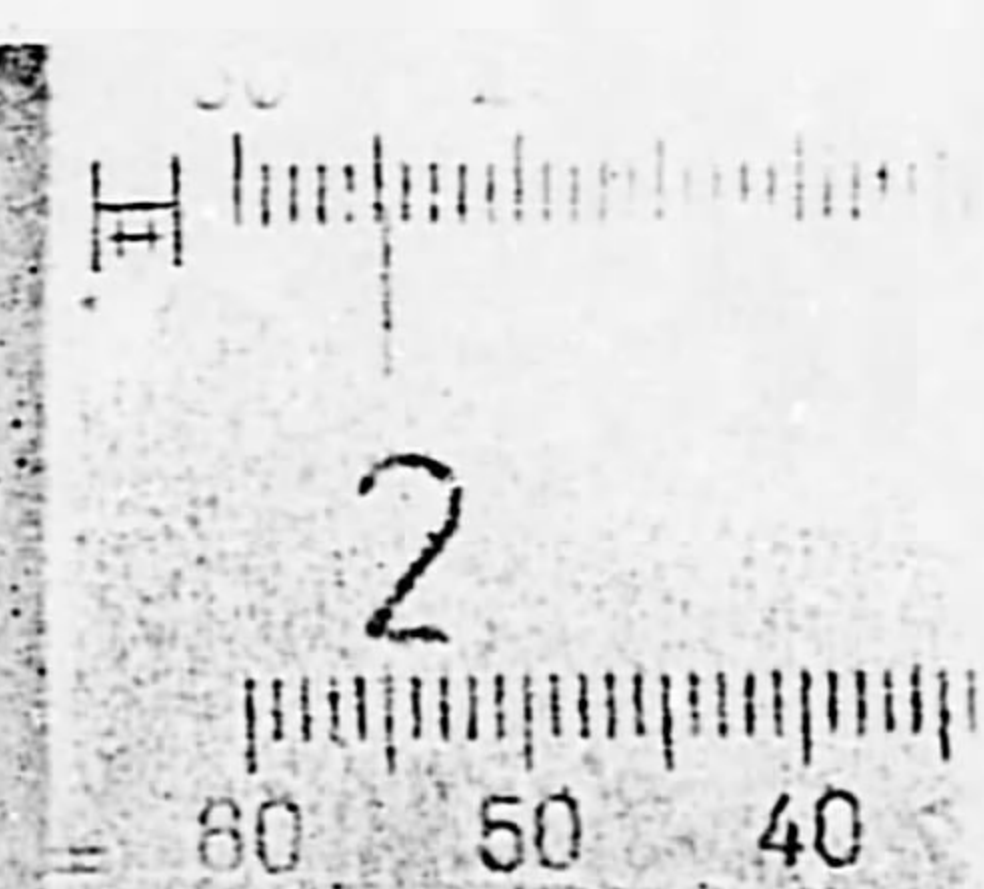
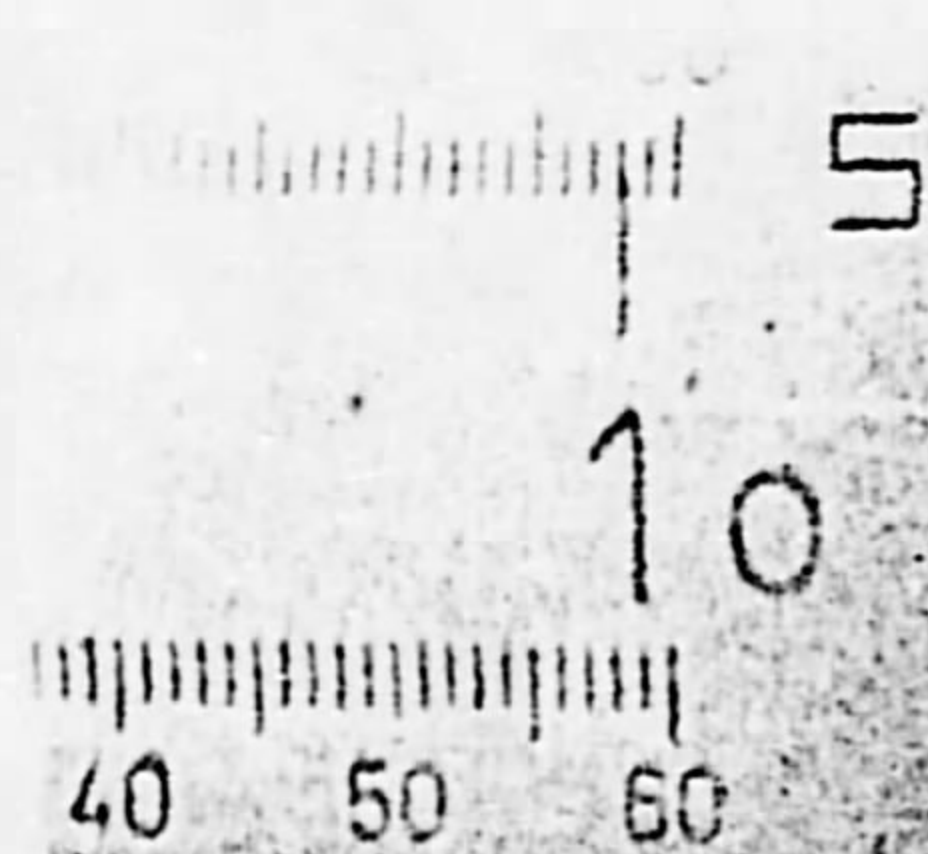




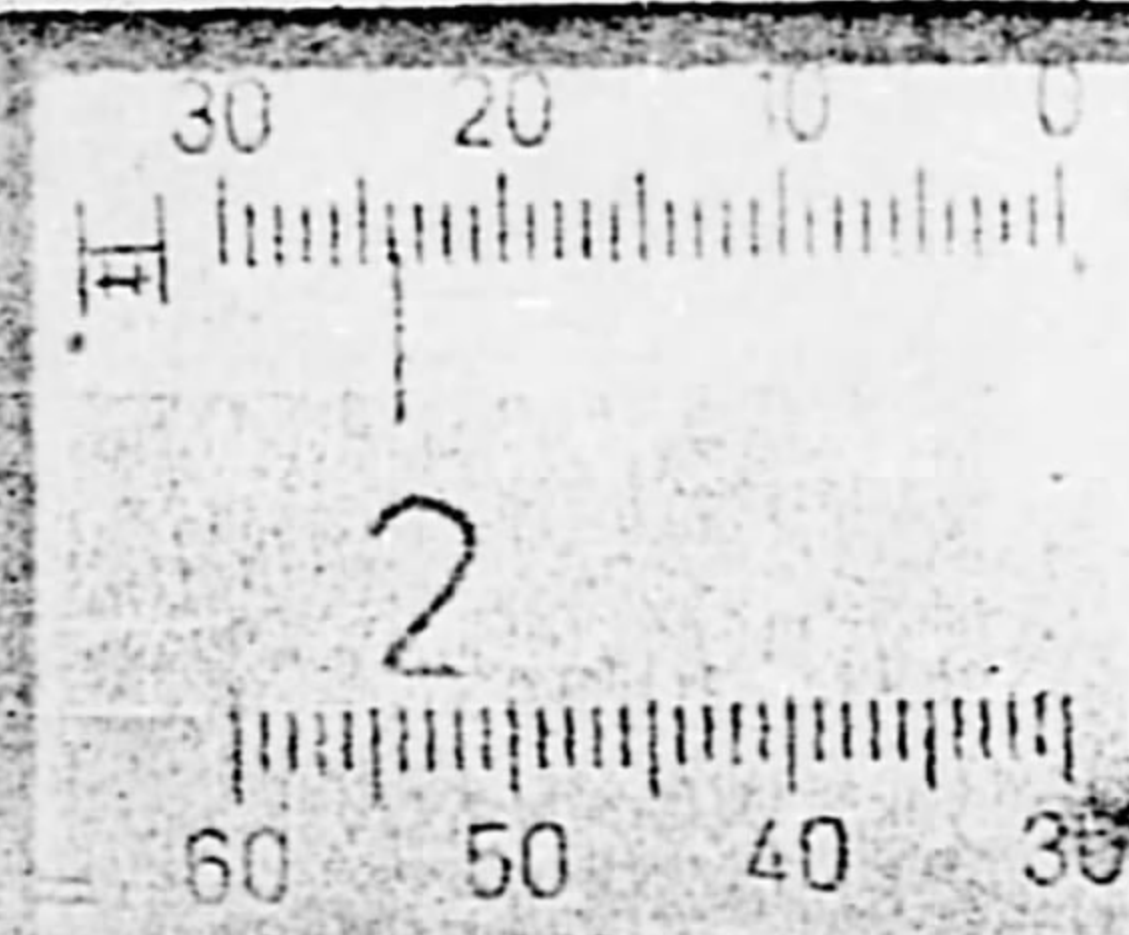
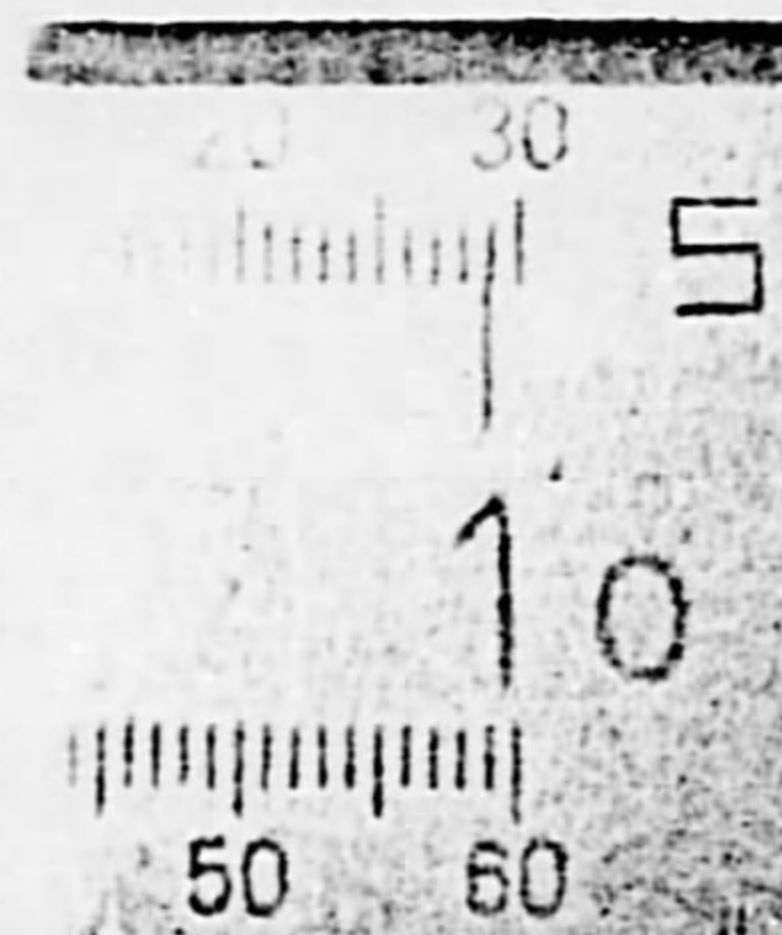
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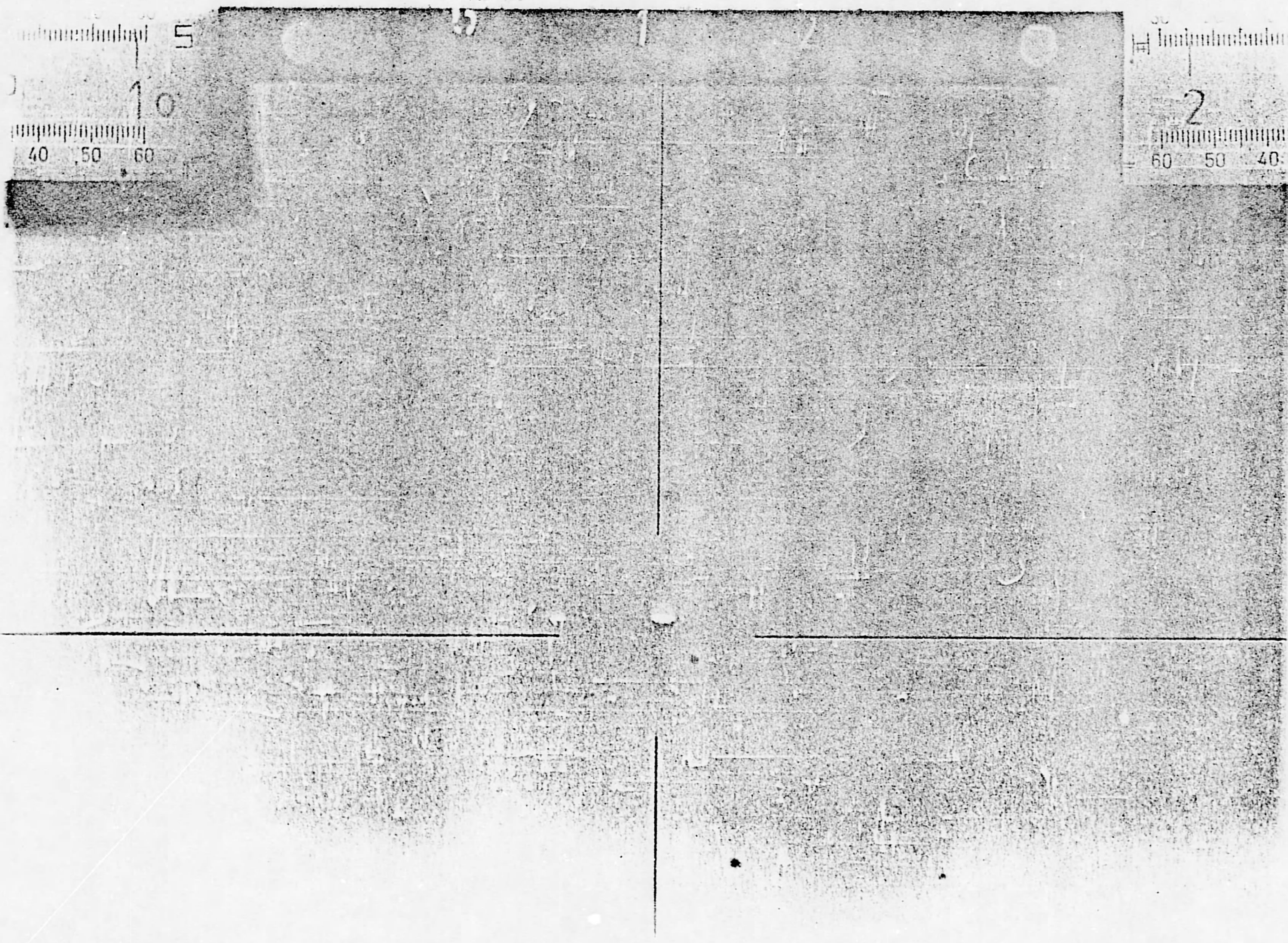




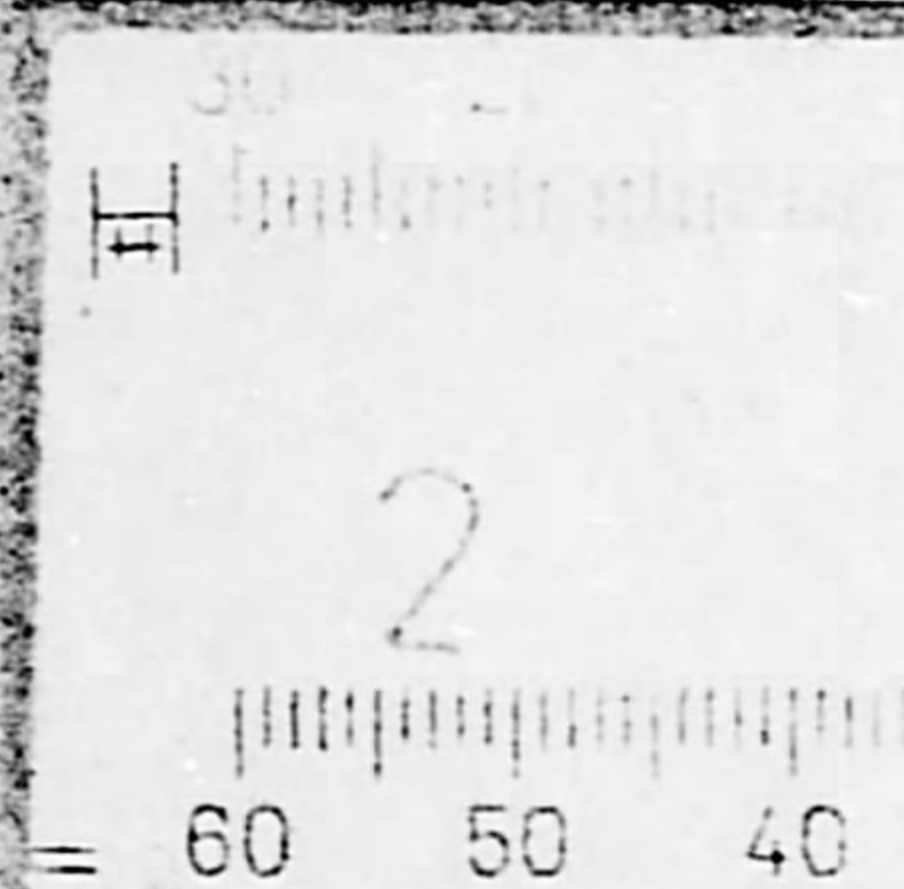














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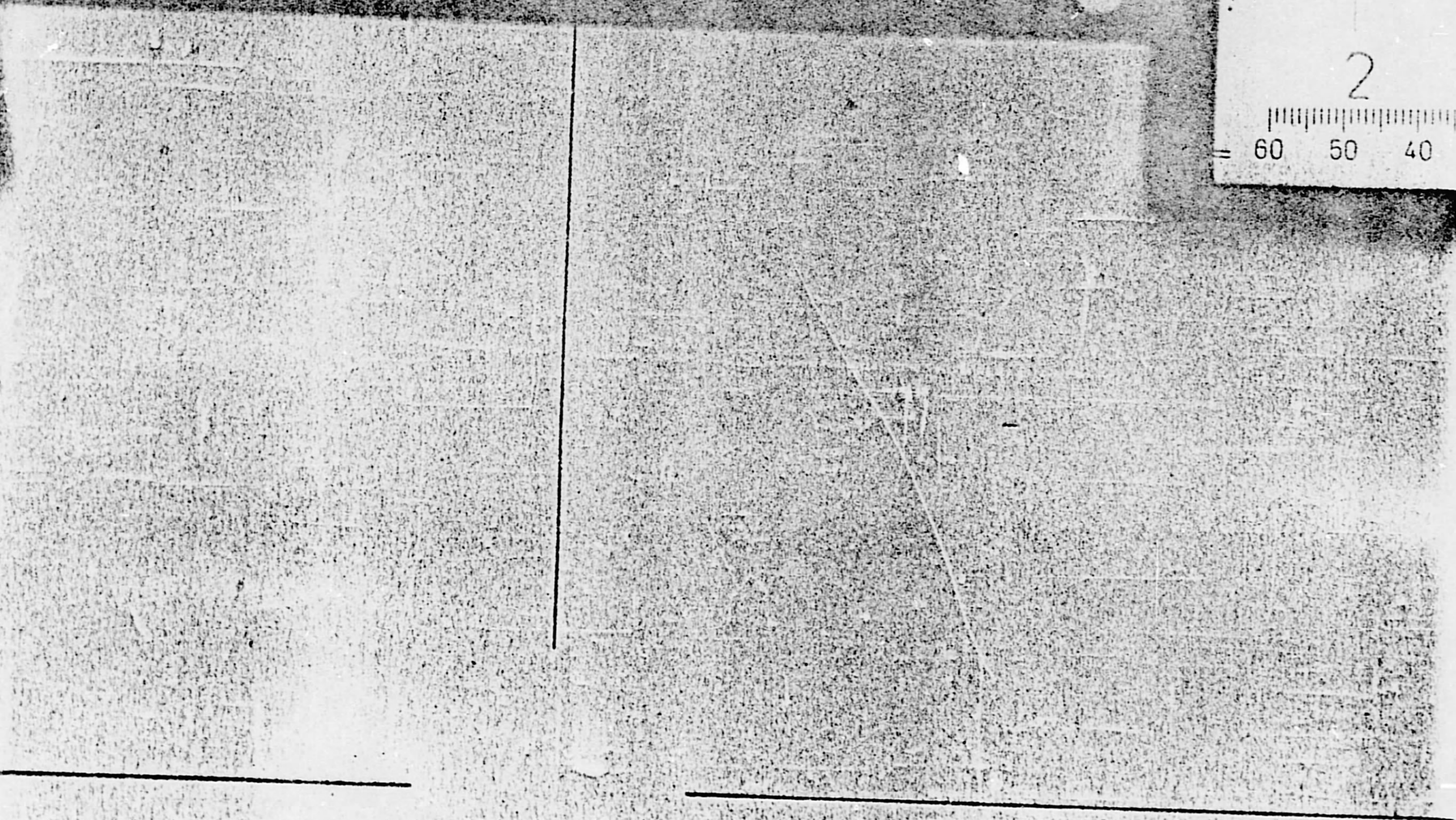
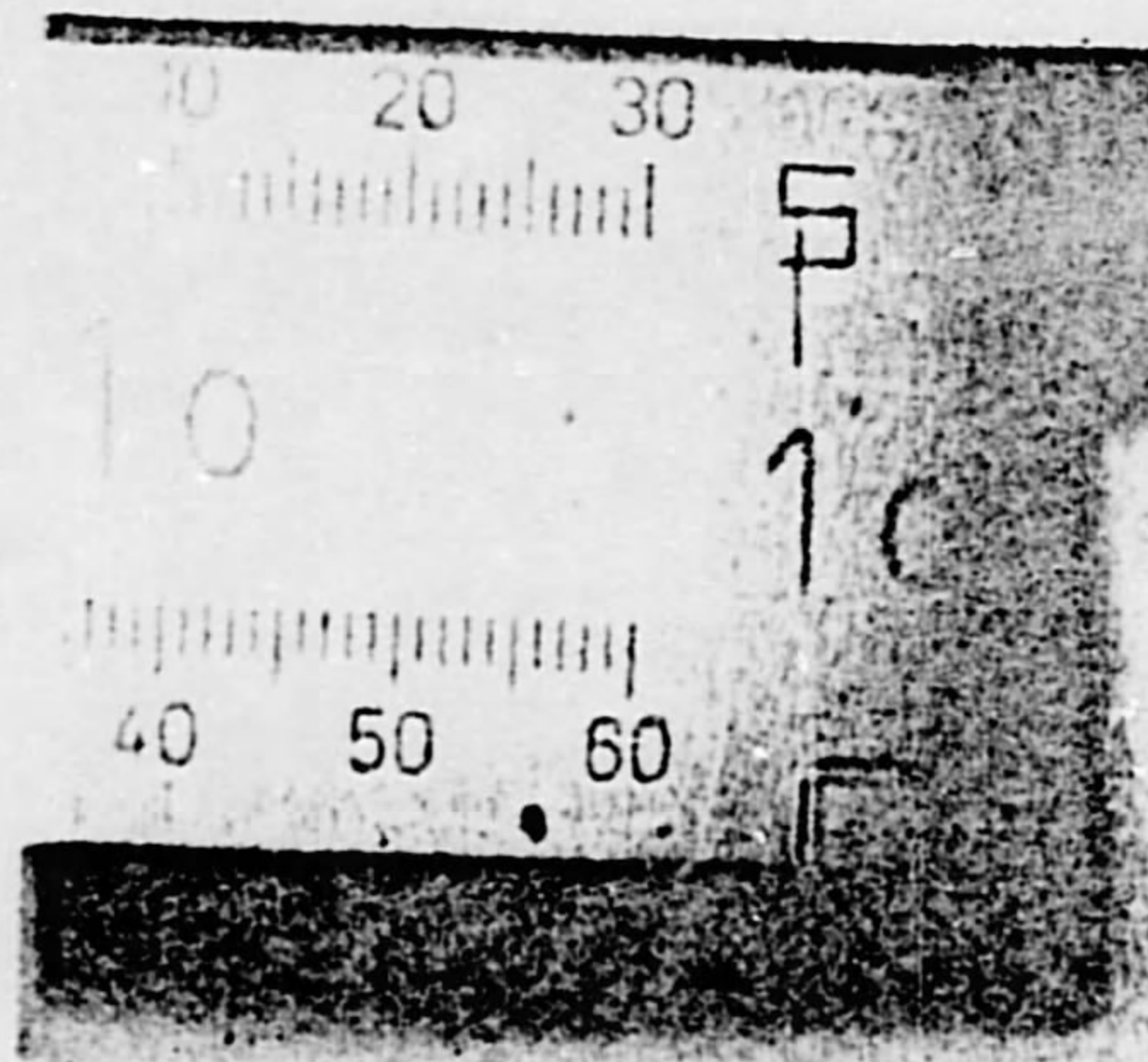


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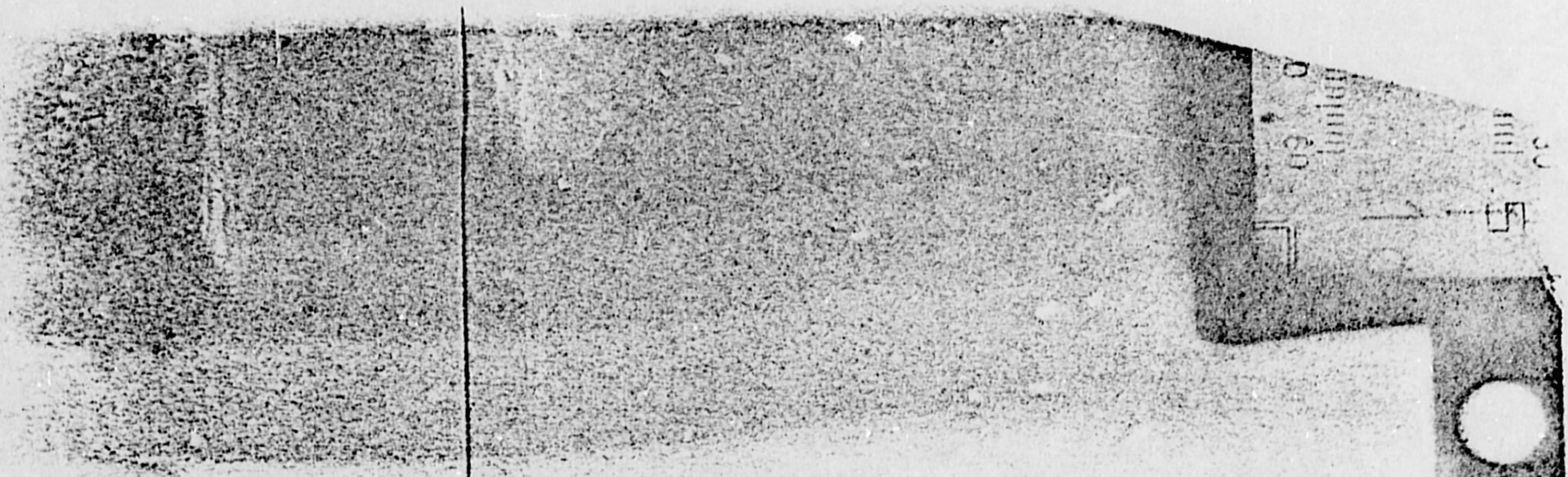
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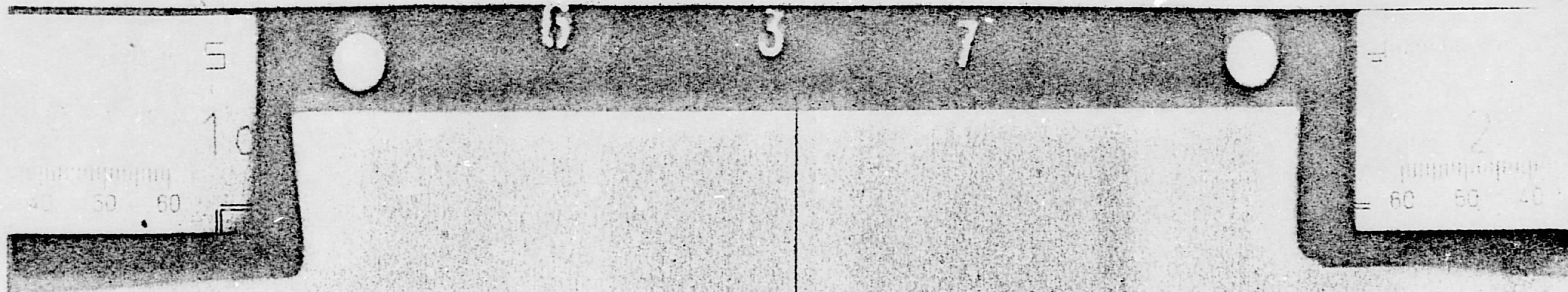


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10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19  
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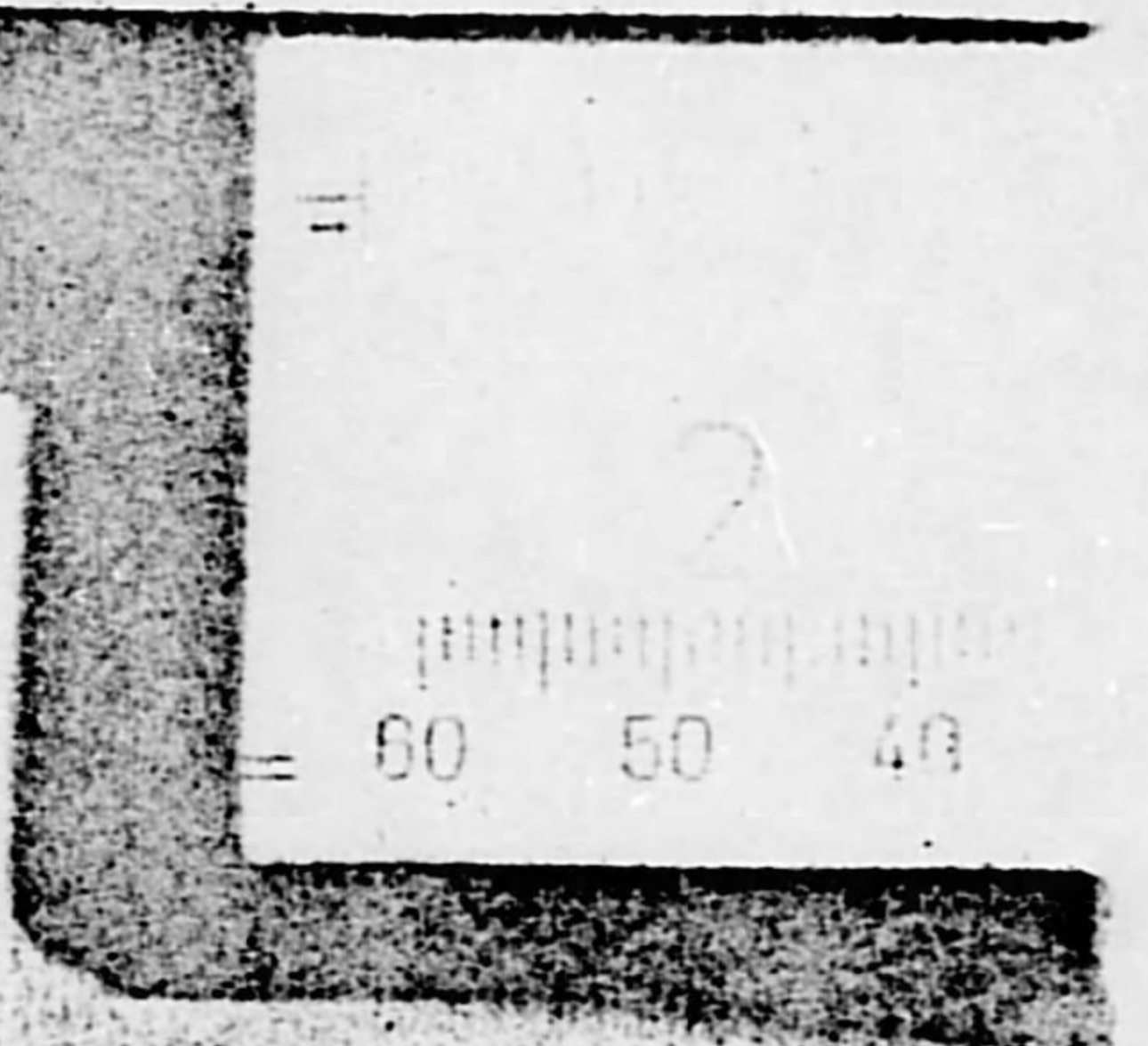
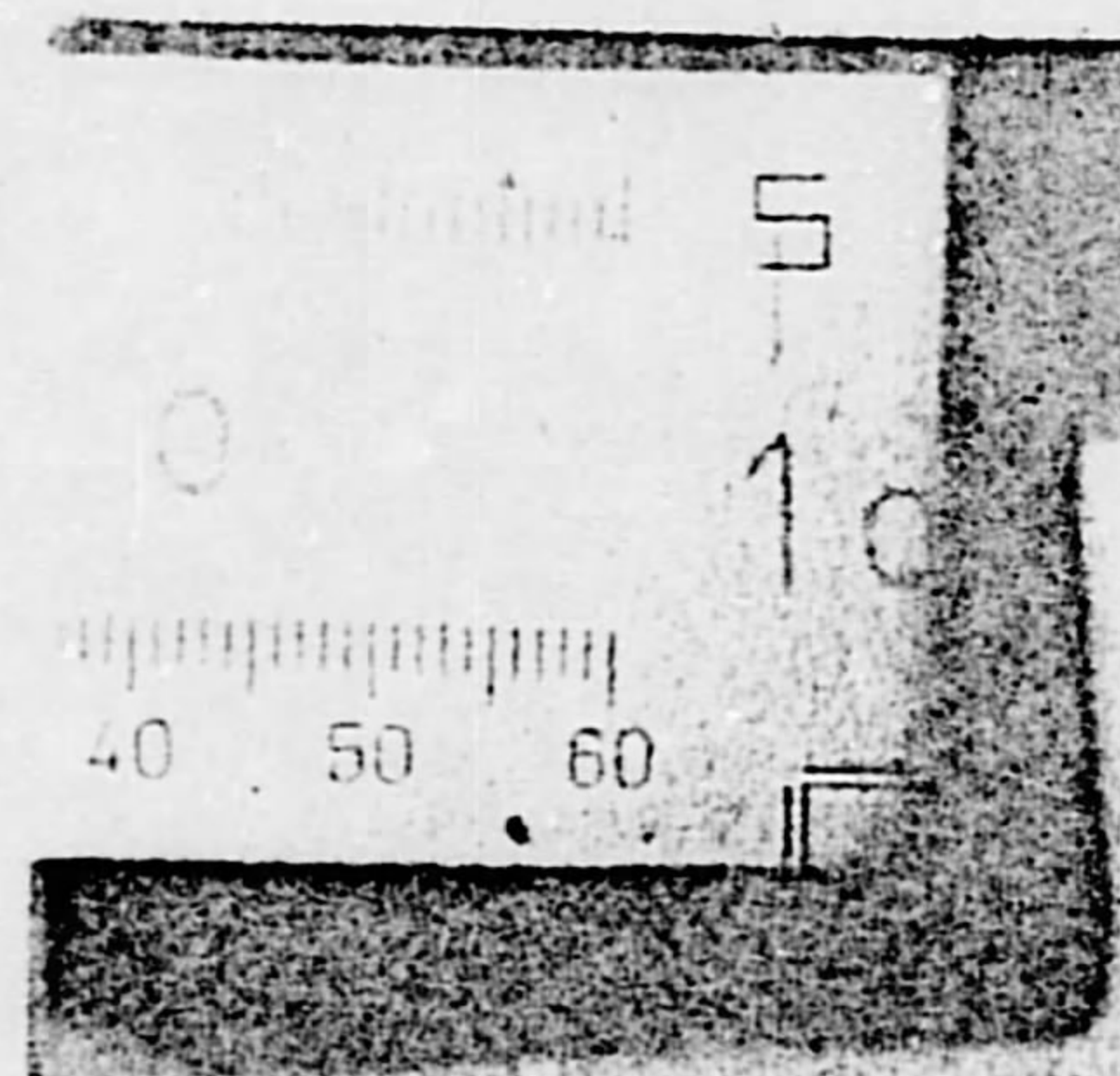


Incl #42

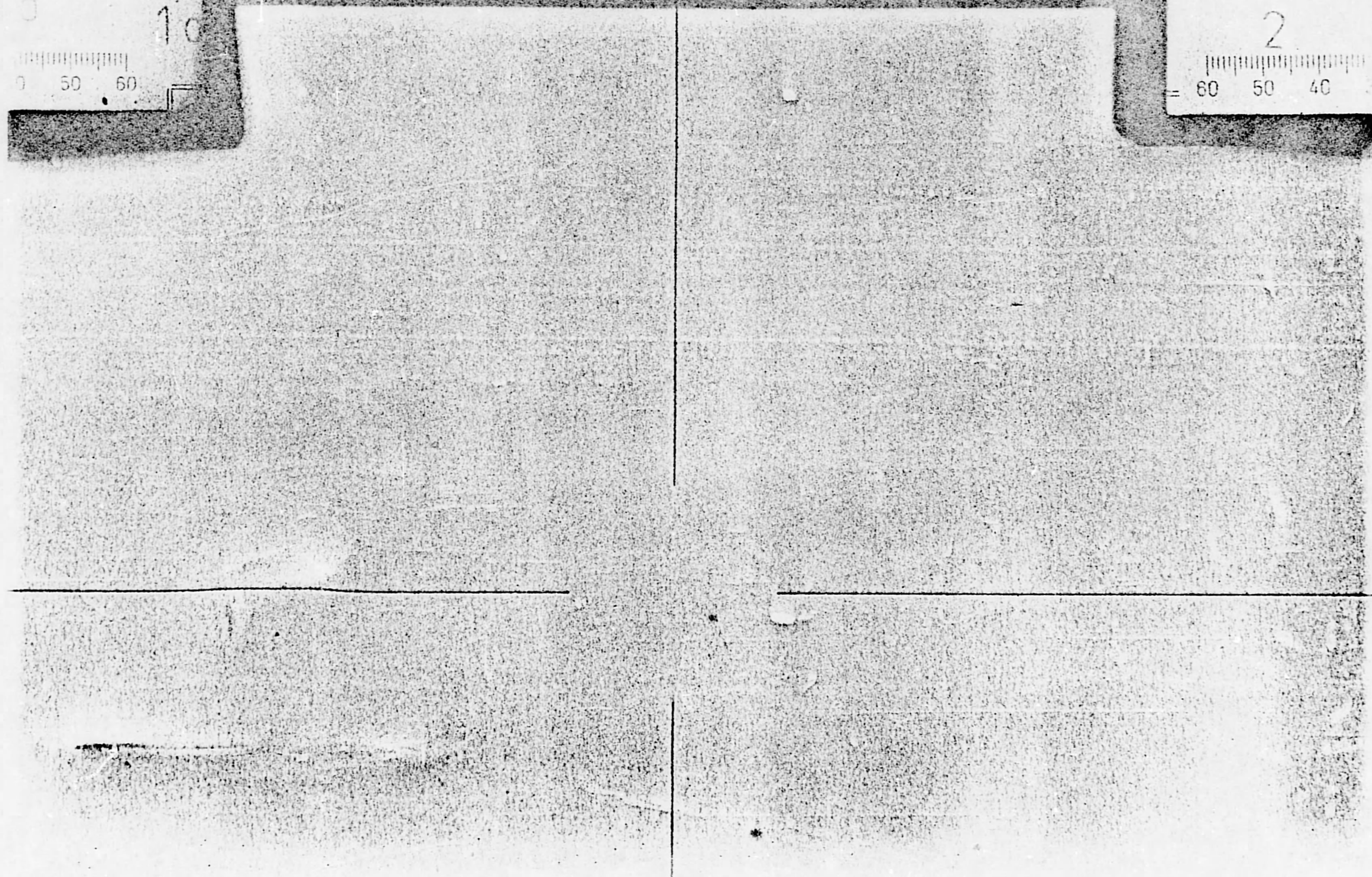
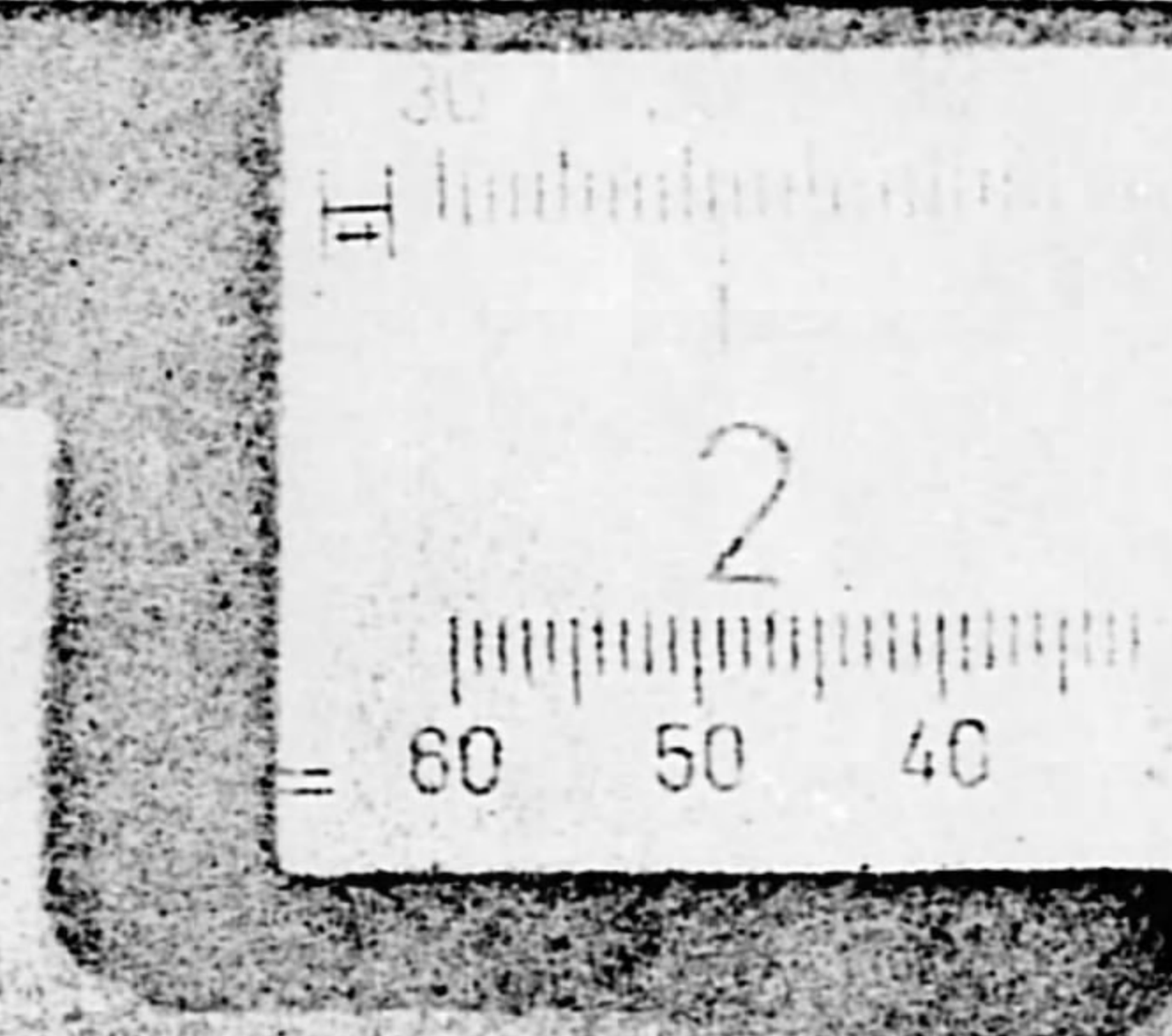
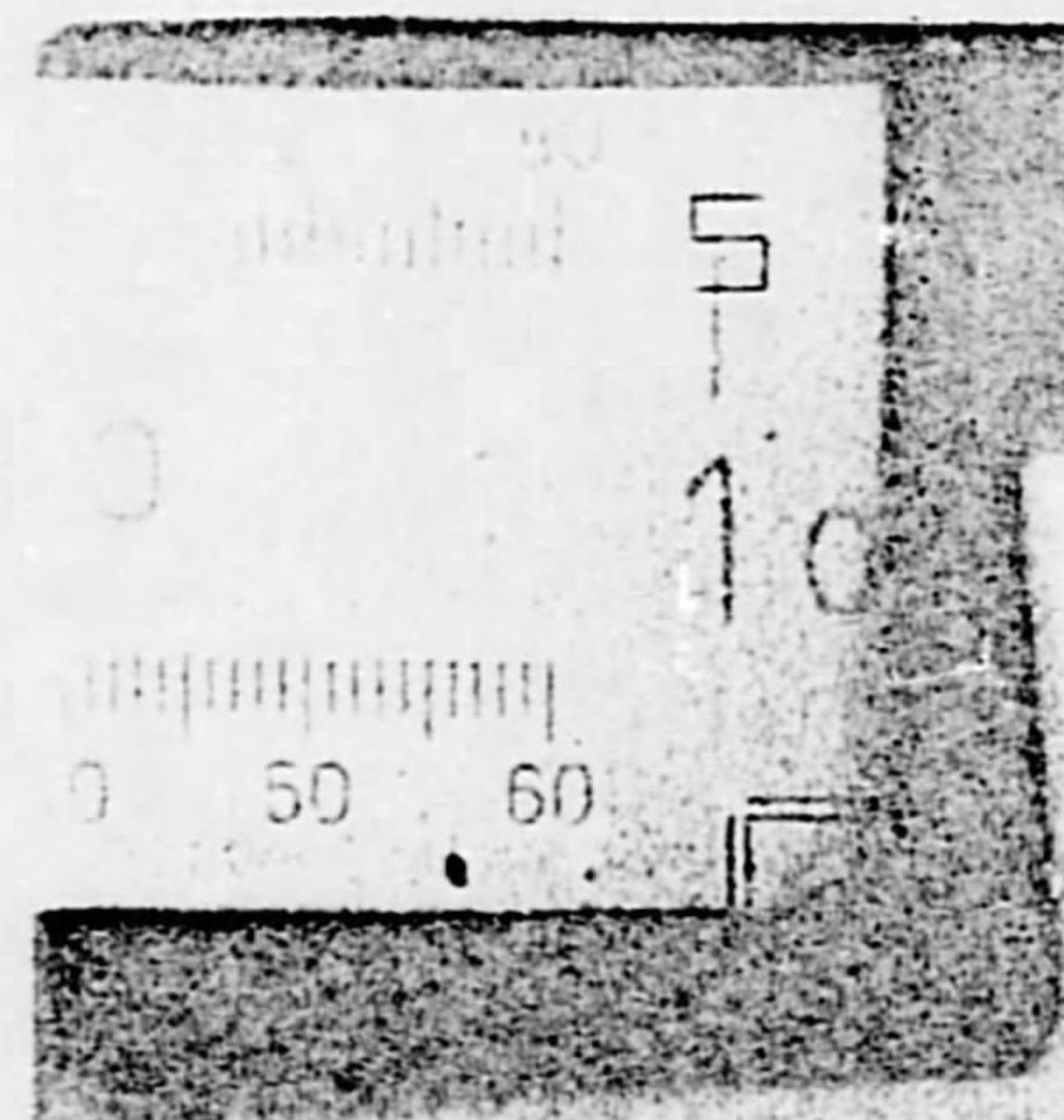




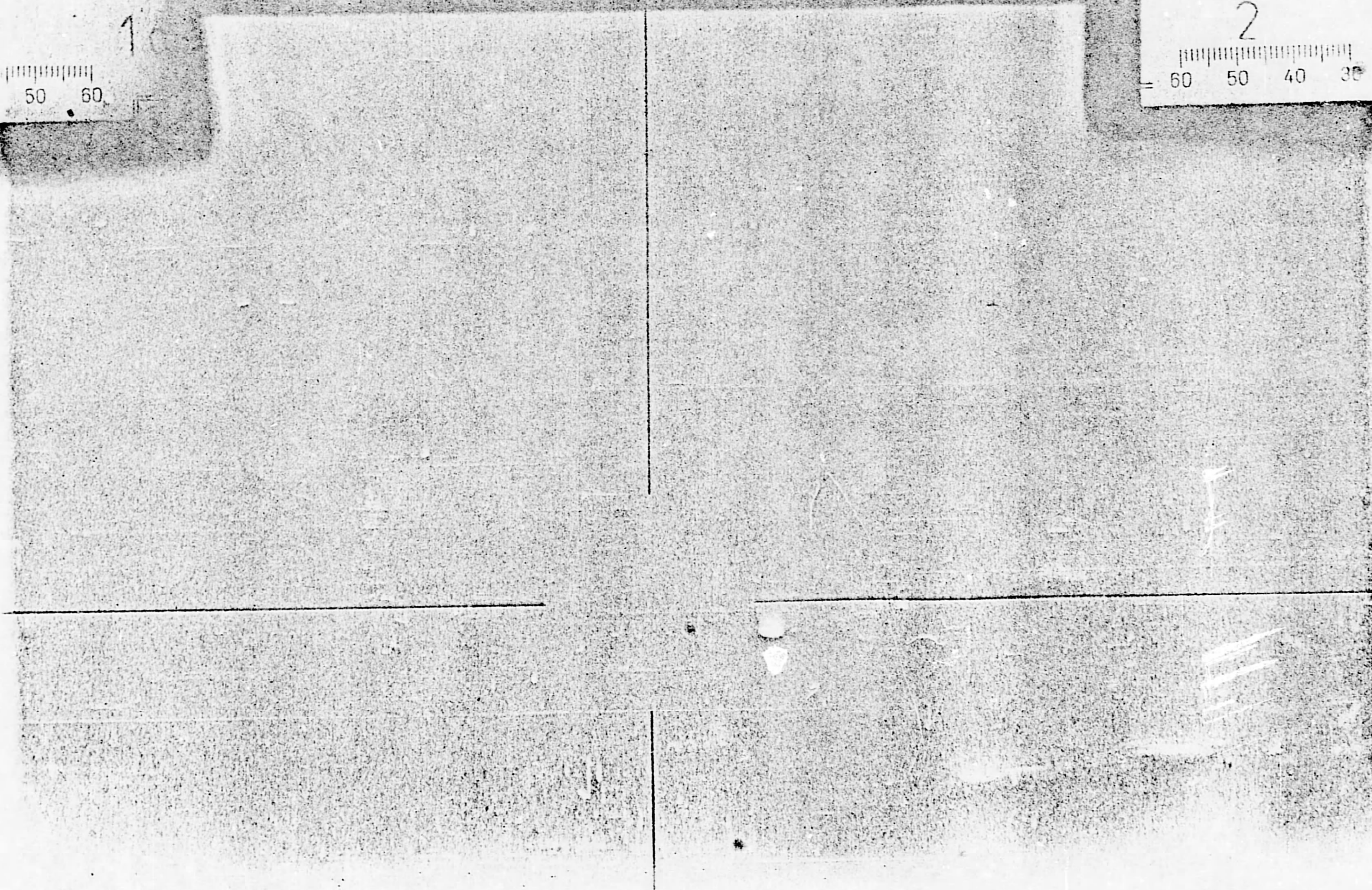
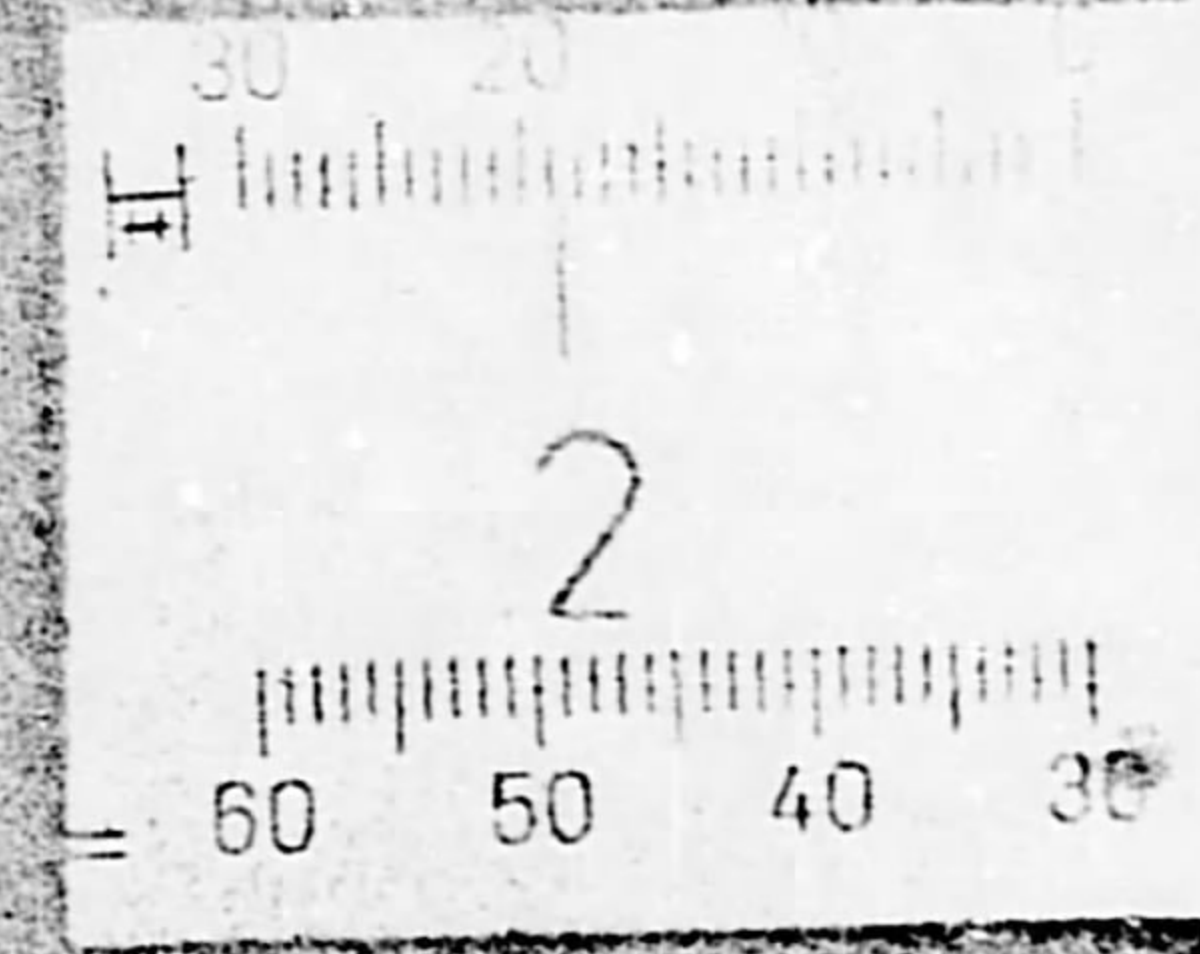














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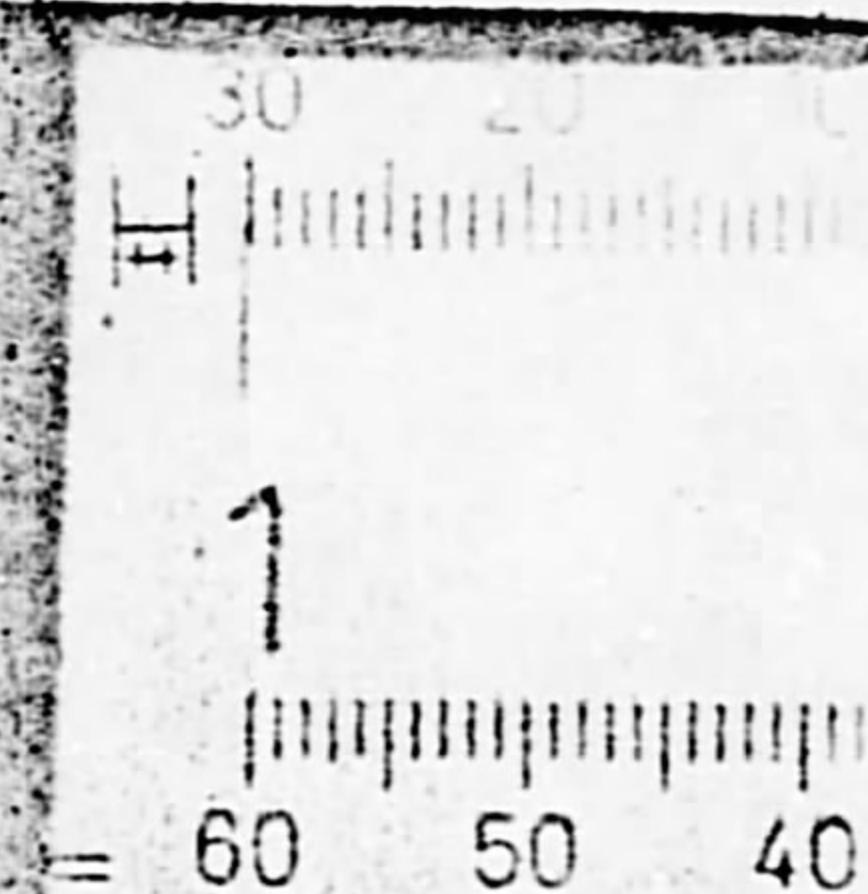
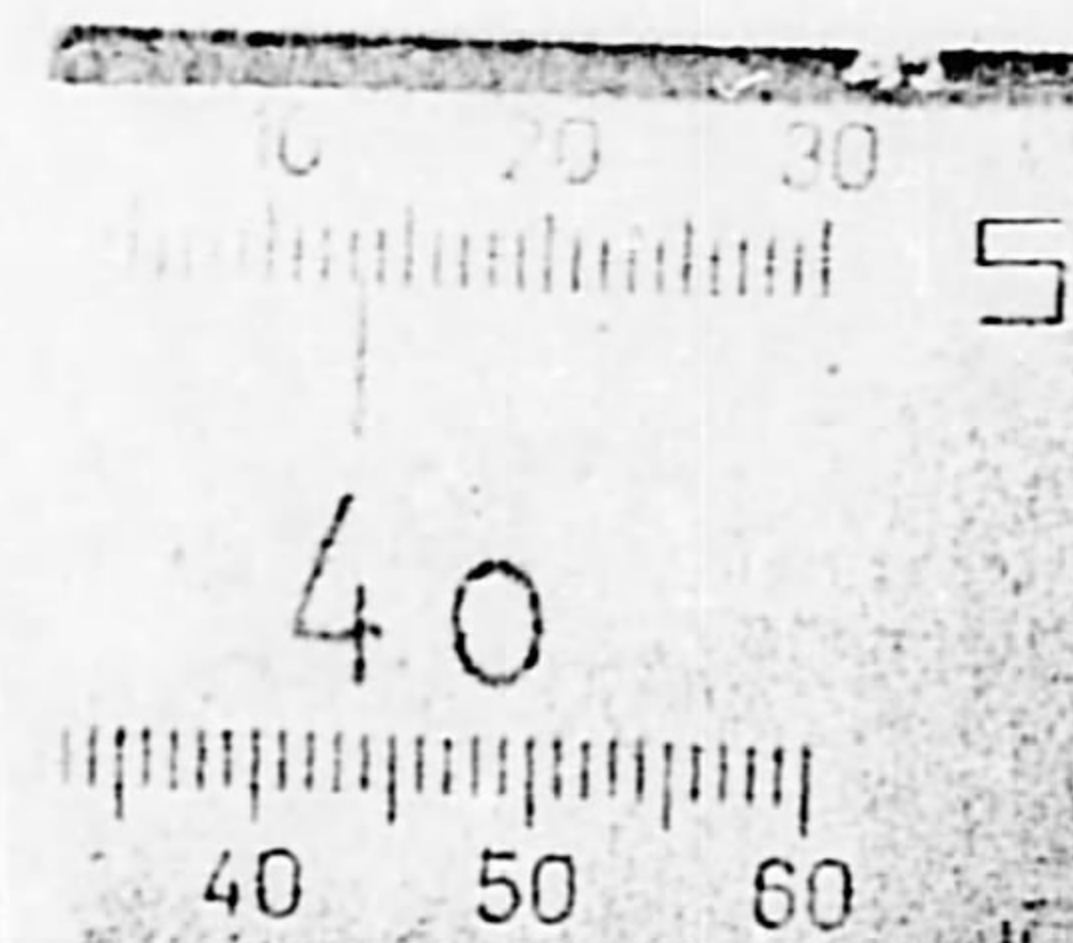
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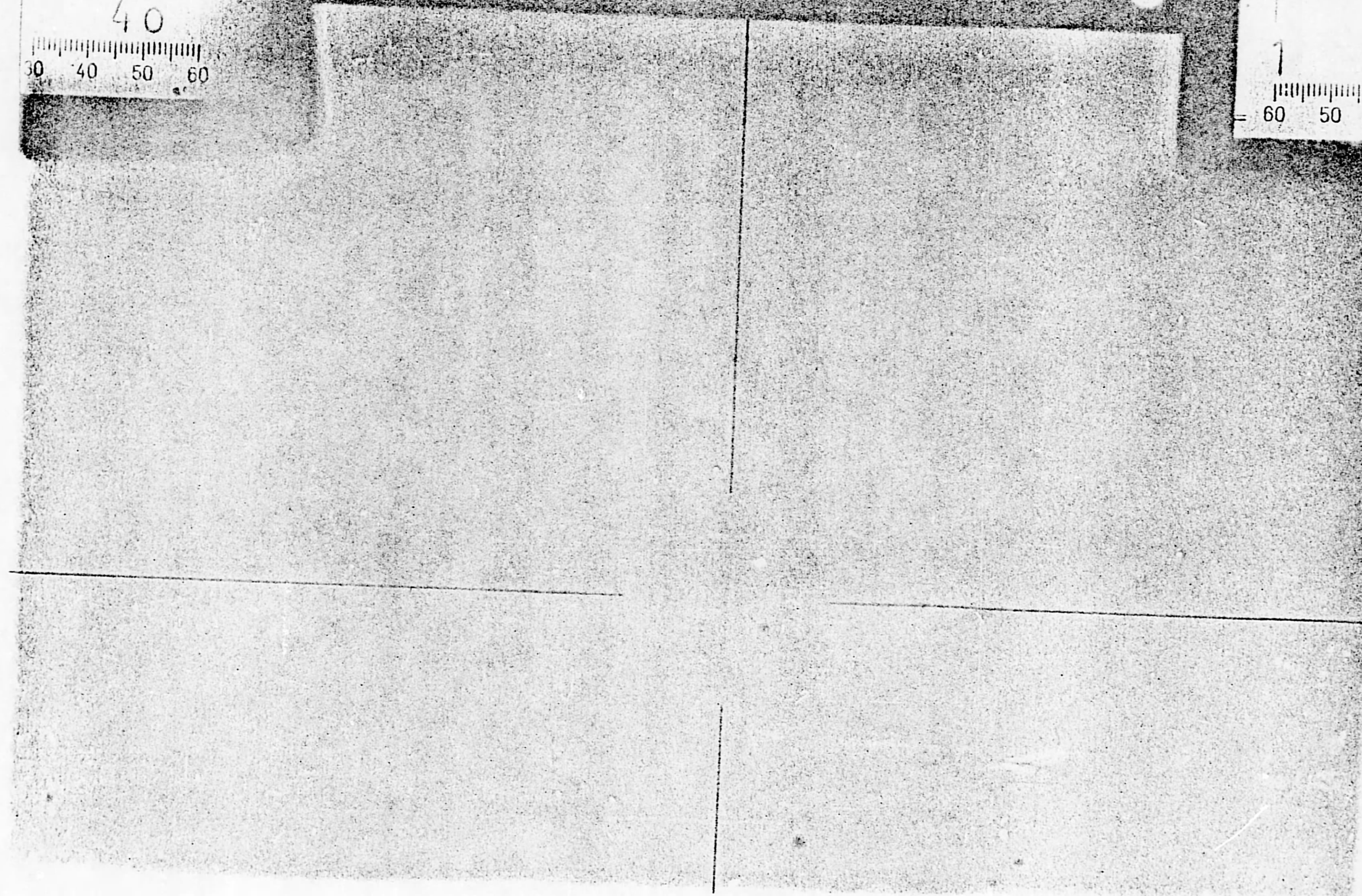
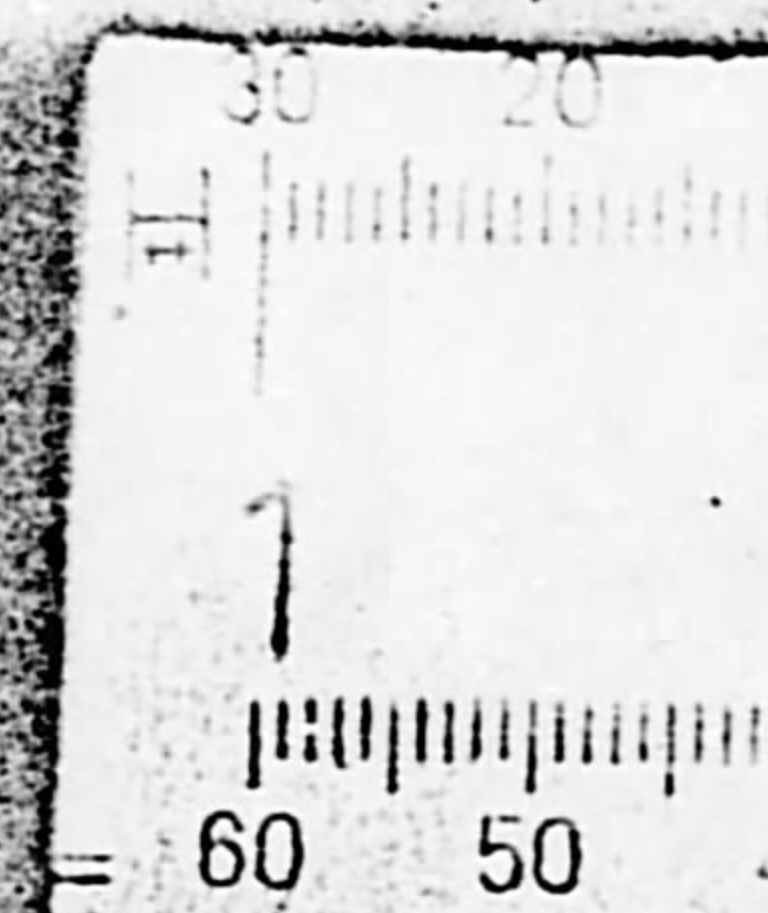
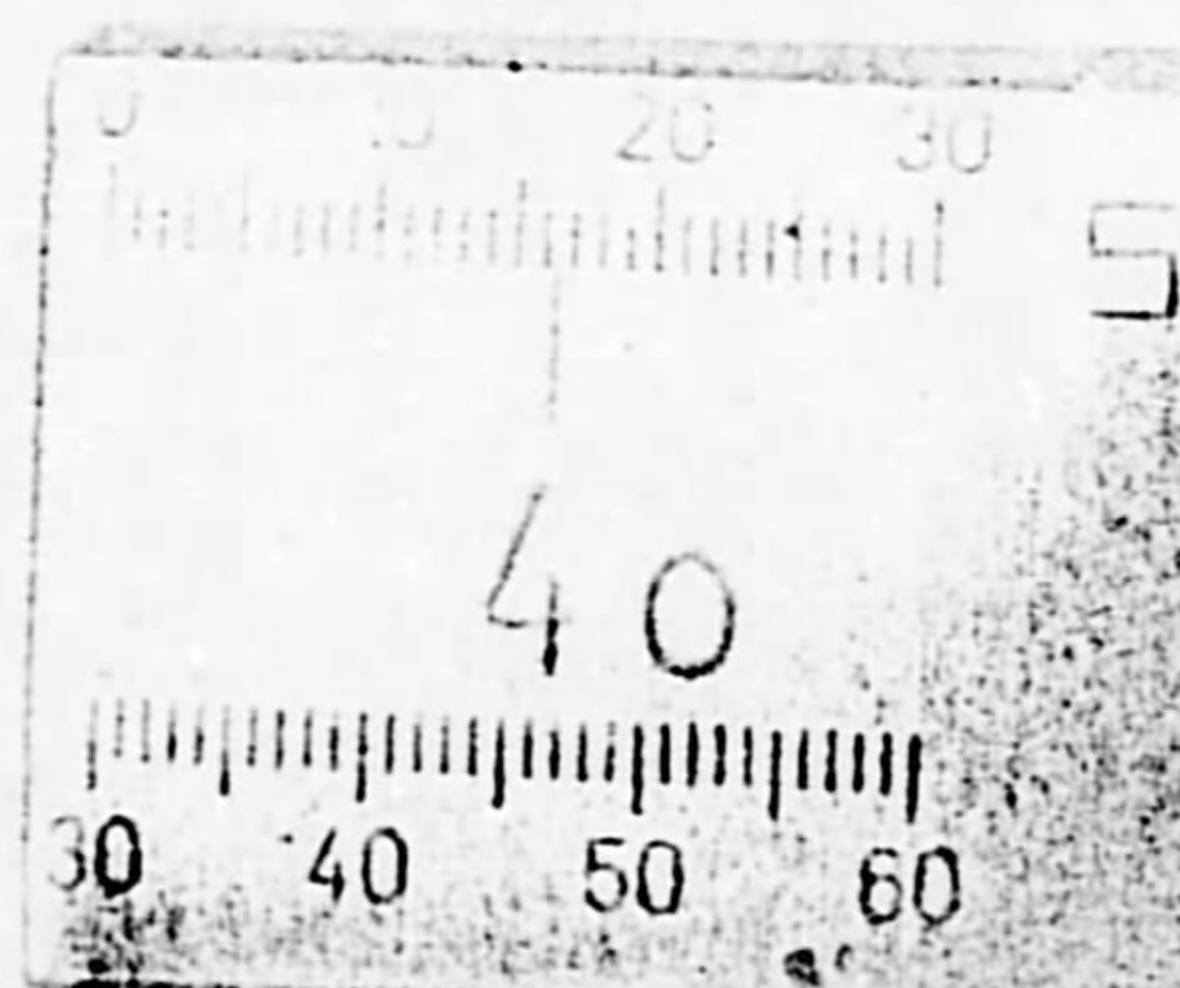


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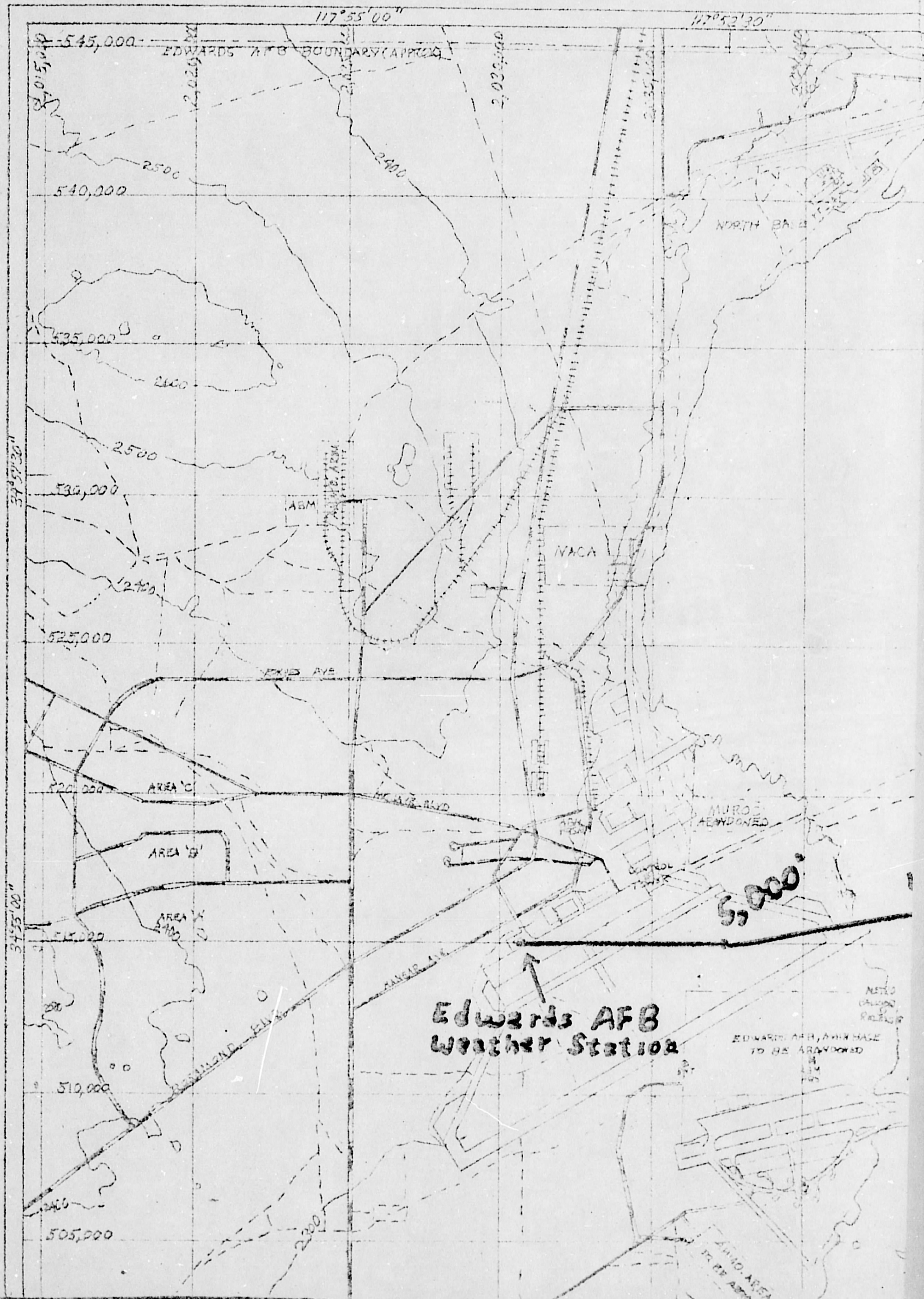
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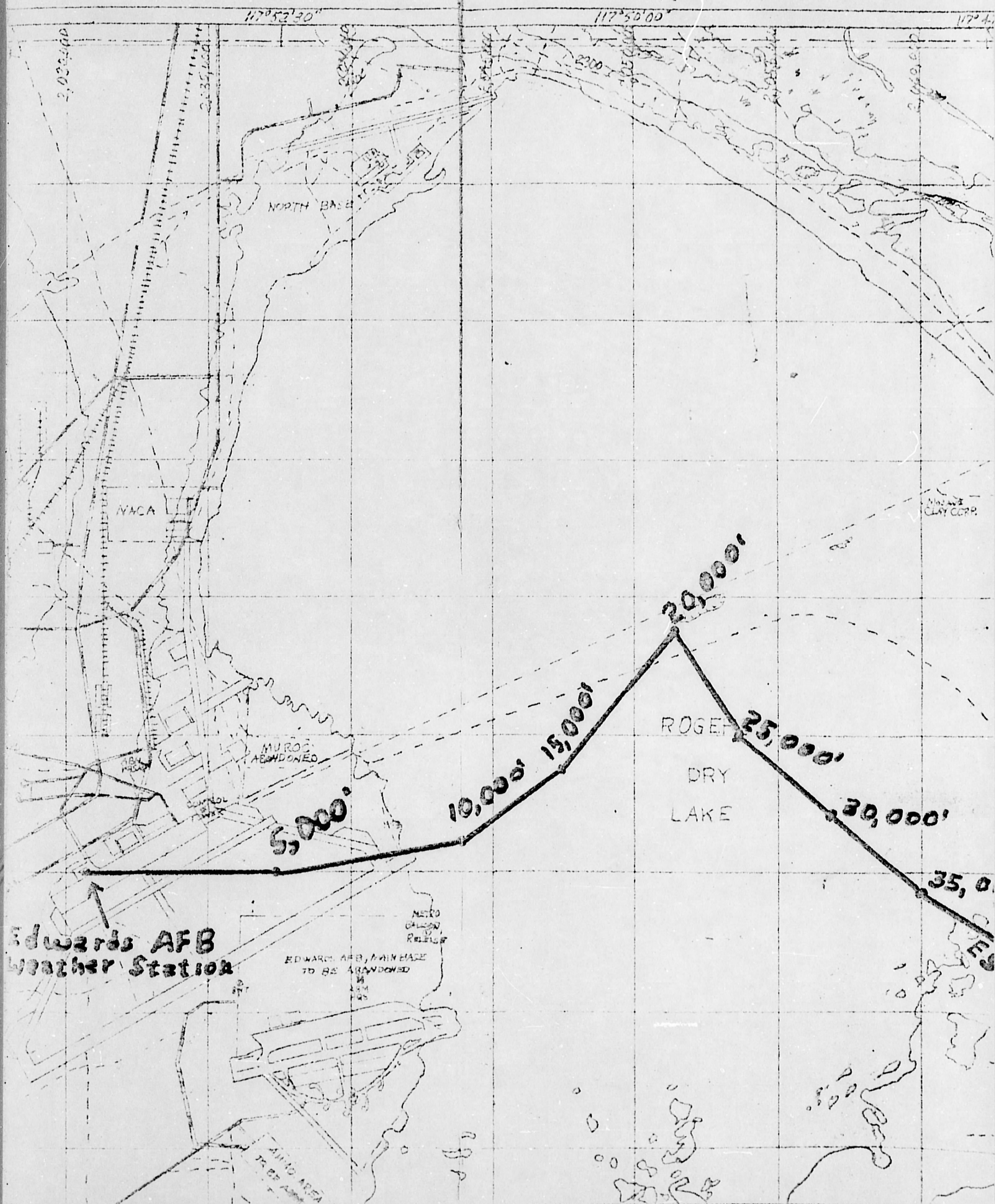












Edwards AFB  
Weather Station

EDWARDS AFB, MAIN BASE  
TO BE ABANDONED

ROGER  
DRY  
LAKE

ABANDONED  
AREA



117° 47' 30"

117° 45' 00"

117° 42' 30"

2,042,000

2,065,000

2,070,000

2,075,000

2,080,000

2,075,000

2,070,000

MAINE  
CLAY CORP.

4 d. 215

ROCKAT

2,000'

35,000'

Estimated Path of

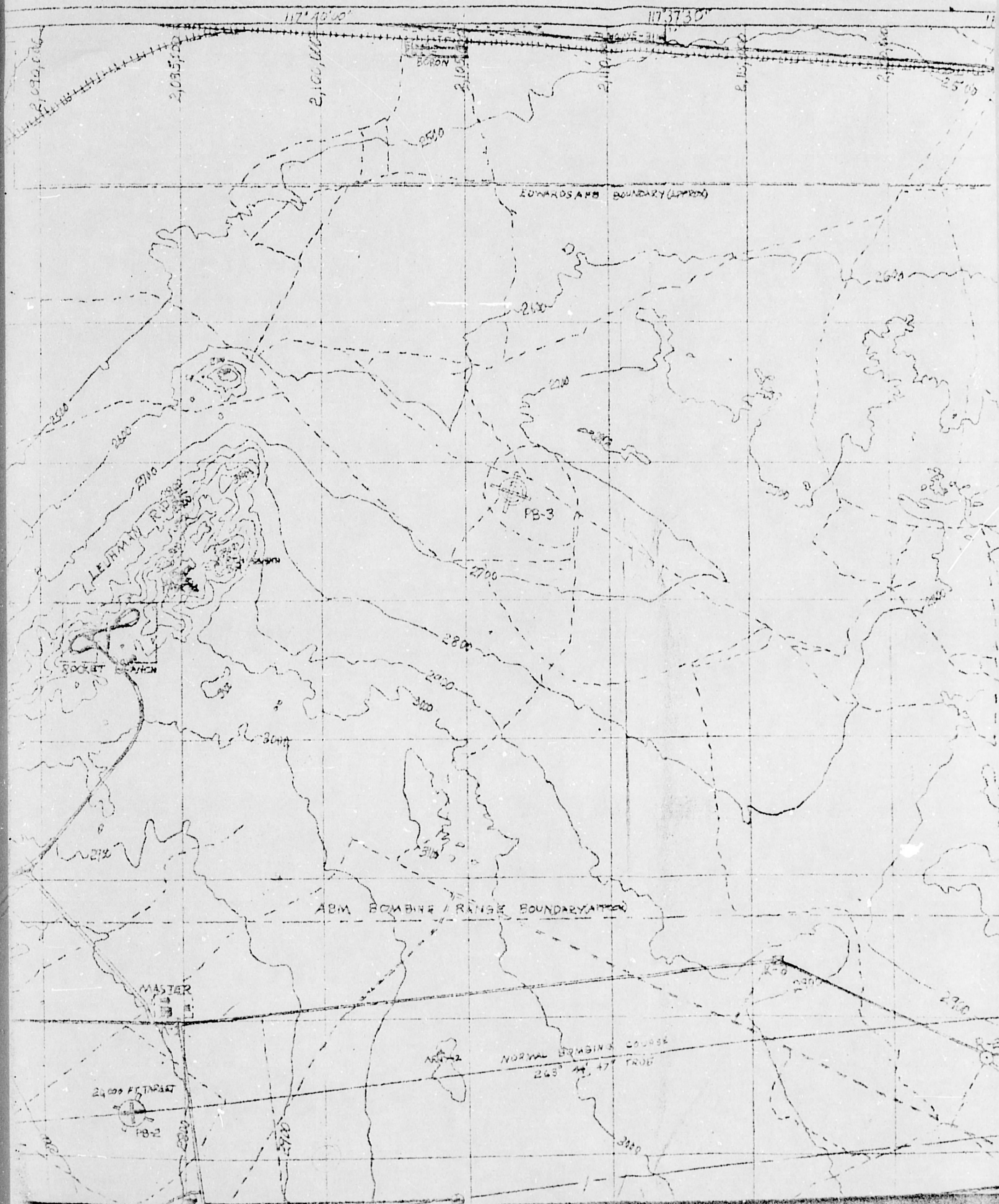
40,000'

INVERSION

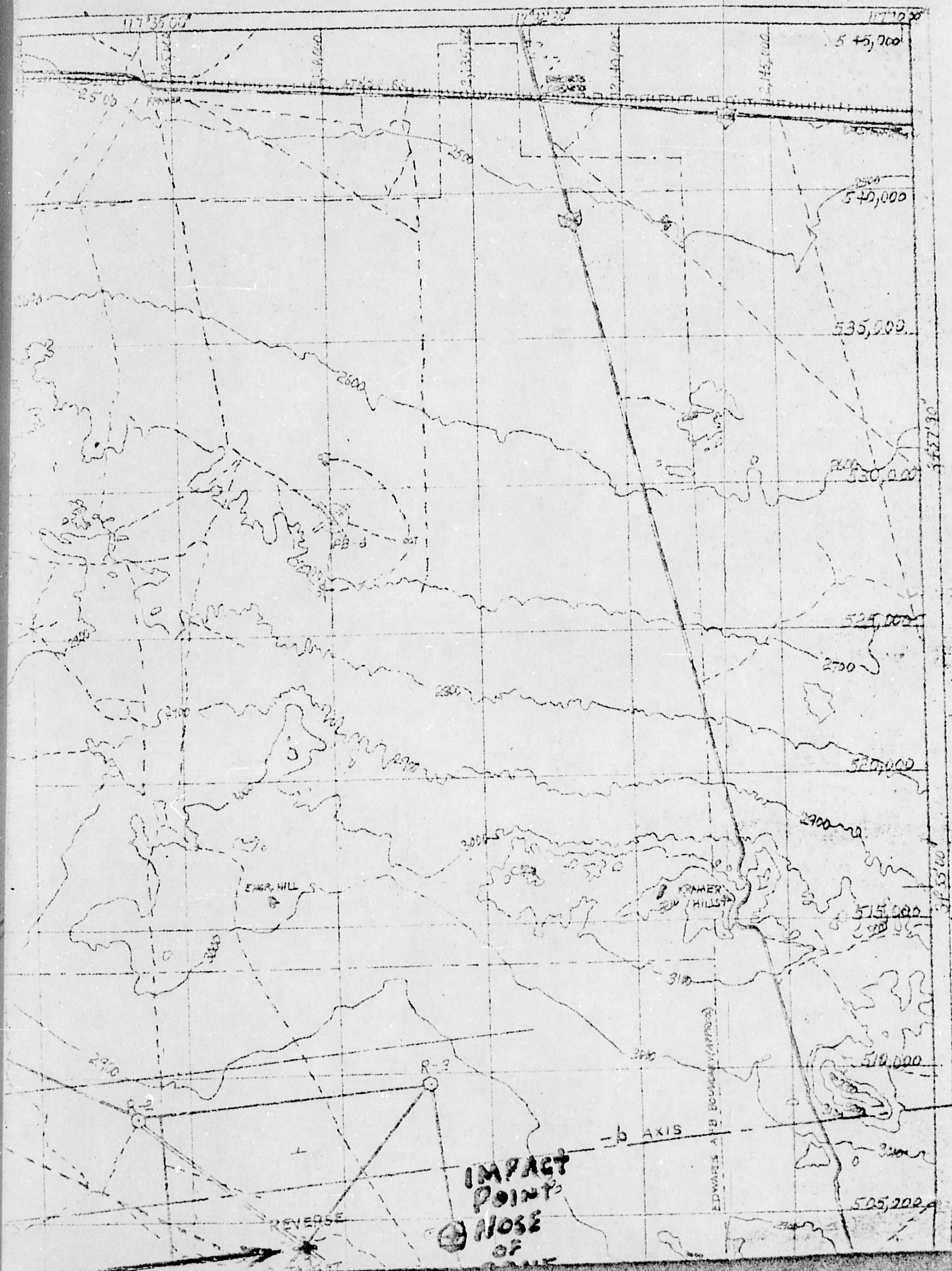
2400

1000 FT TARGET







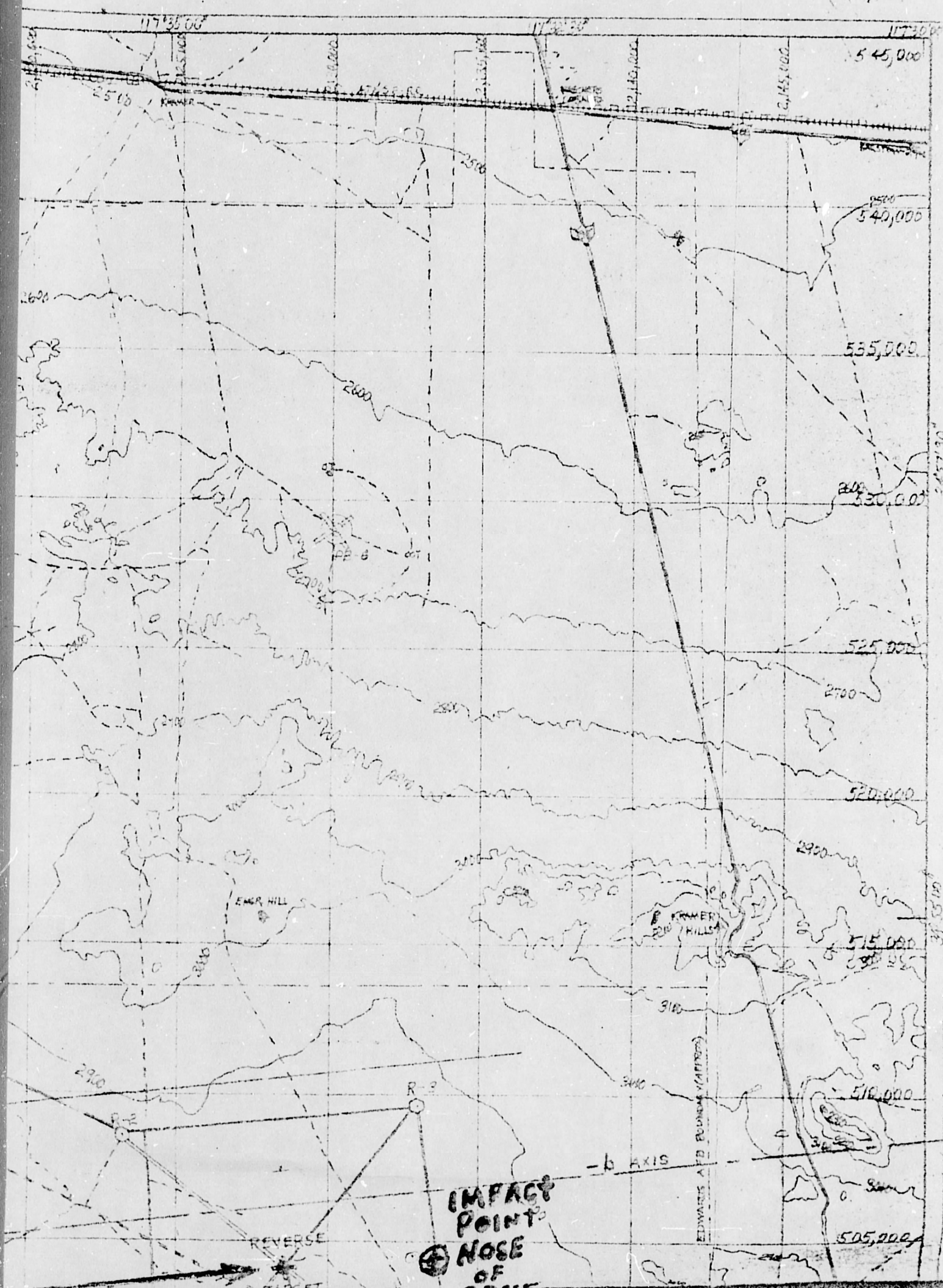




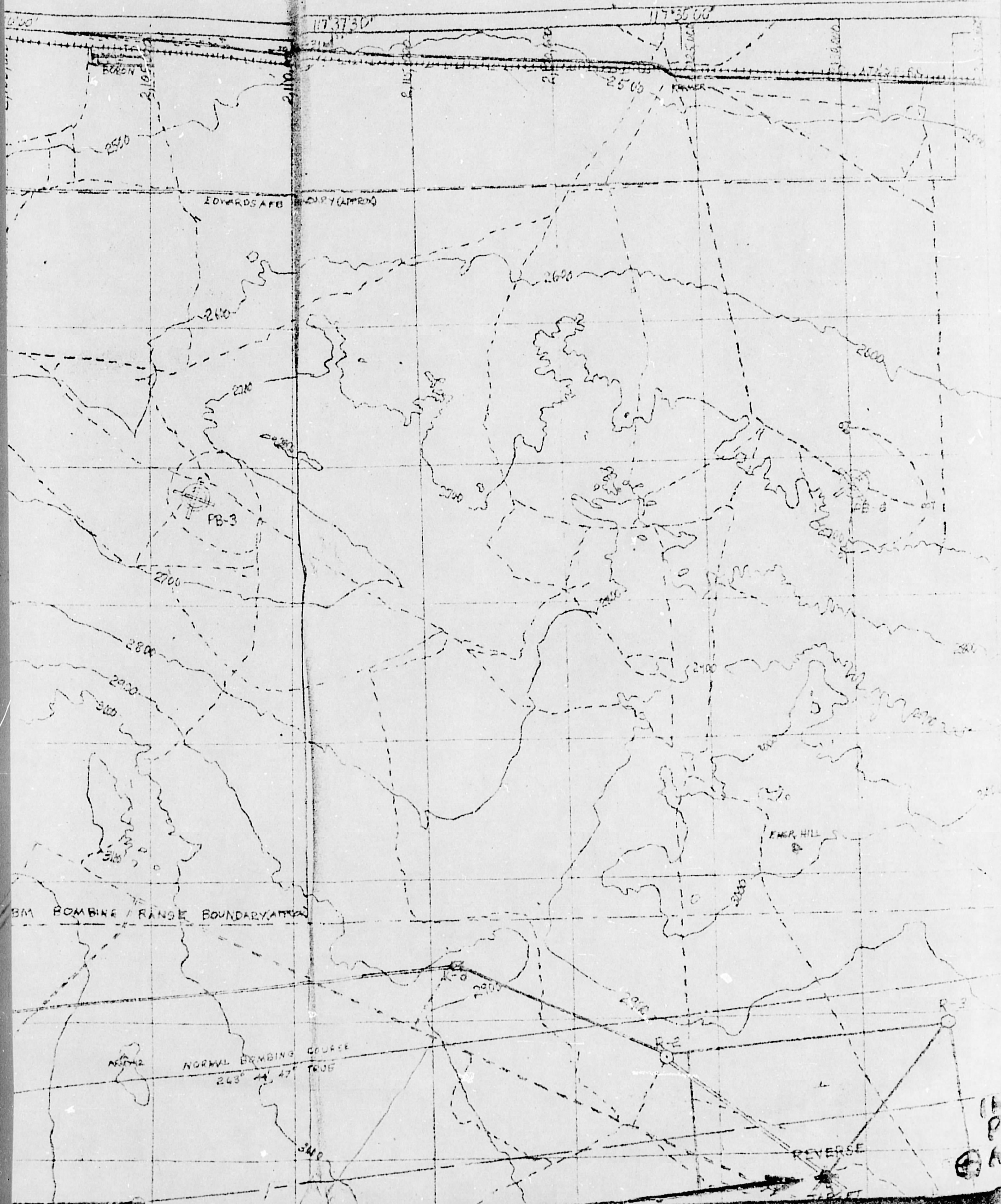
22 ONLY 8X10  
GLOSSY PHOTOGRAPHS  
OF UFO SIGHTED AT  
EDWARDS AFB, CALIF.

UNCLASSIFIED

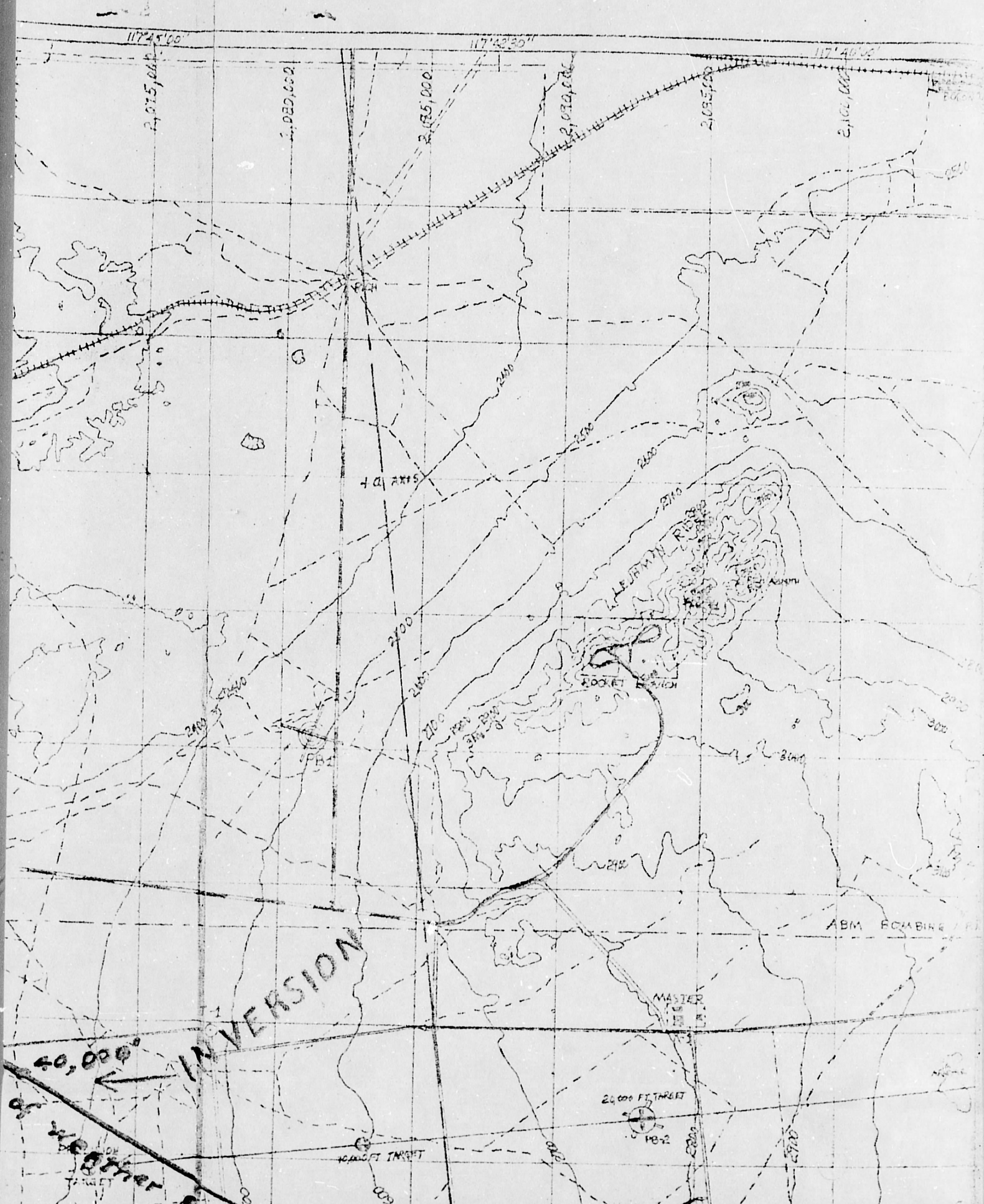




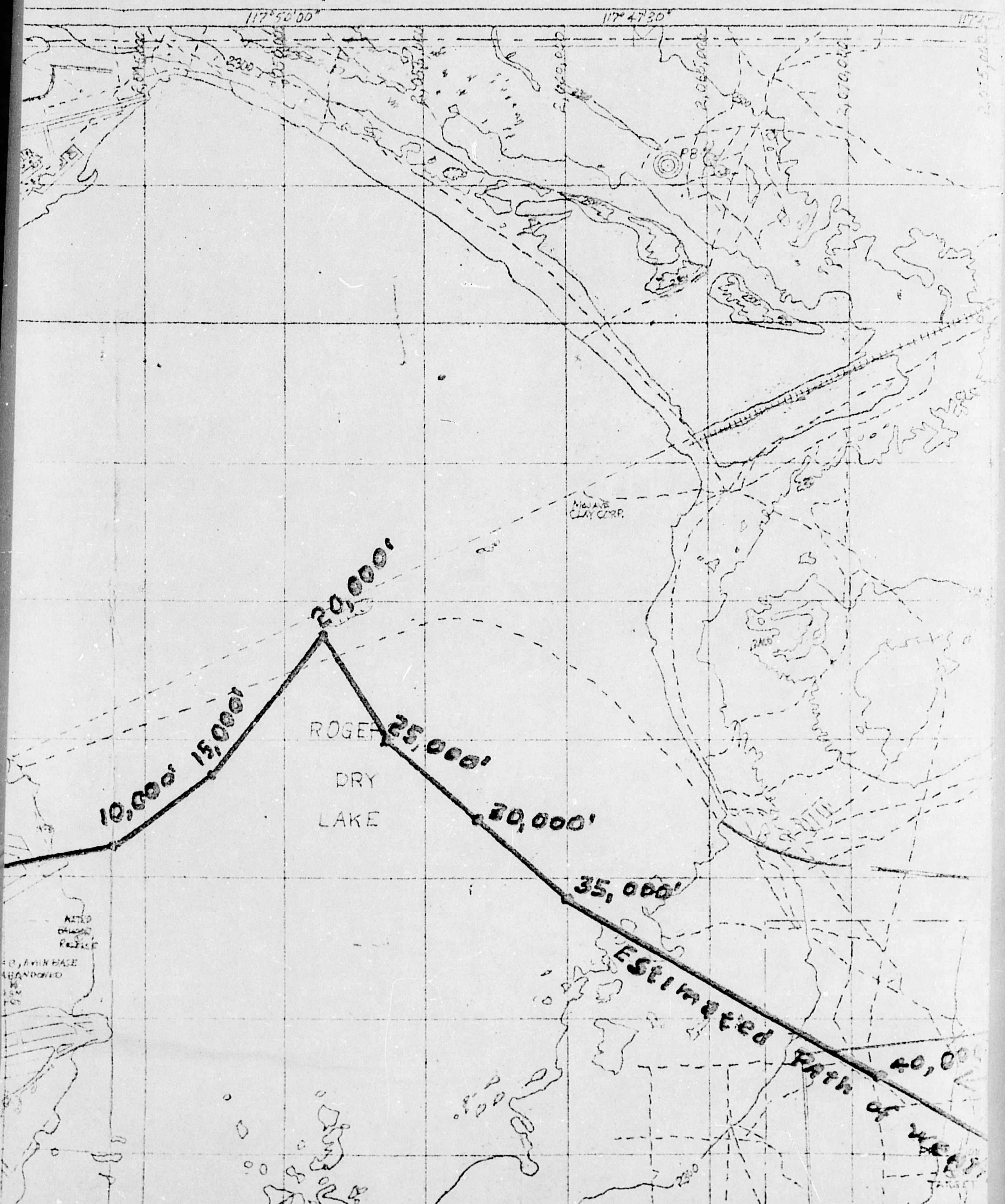












117°50'00"

117°47'30"

117°45'00"

10,000'  
15,000'  
20,000'

ROGER  
DRY  
LAKE

25,000'  
30,000'

35,000'

ESTIMATED PATH 40,000'

ABANDONED  
BASE



