

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 12 Oct 60		2. LOCATION Sweetwater, South Carolina		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☒ Probably Astronomical Meteor ☐ Possibly Astronomical <i>W.O. R. 10/16/60</i> ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 12/2400Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes Physical ☒ No Specimen		6. SOURCE Civilian		1.	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 8-12 sec		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE ESE-WNW 2.	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Very intense white light which lit up the sky and field. Had straight flight path, brightened and dimmed. Appeared to hit ground, emitting bright flash of sparks in all directions just before disappearance. Estimated speed 40-50mph. See specimen 7-3745-456 (OBJECT IN PHYSICAL SPECIMEN FILE)				11. COMMENTS Description coincides with that of the classic meteor of "fireball" type. Several other persons in area reported seeing such an object at same time and date. <i>Physical Specimen with Ball on</i> <i>MAILED FROM RAILWAY INCIDENT</i>	

UFO ANALYSIS SHEET

Location SWEETWATER, SOUTH CAROLINA

Date 12 OCT 1960 Hour (Z) 2400

WX CLEAR - VIS-B UNLIMITED CEILING. THUNDERSTORMS IN AREA.

Description BRIGHT LIGHT LIT UP THE SKY

Direction of Motion ESE - WNW

Satellite: (AFCIN-4E3, Phone 69219) CHECKED

Astronomical Phenomena (Meteor, Comet, Planet, etc) POSSIBLY

METEOR -

Radar Analysis (AFCIN-4E1) N/A

Natural Phenomena (Ball Lightning, etc) ---

Aircraft, Balloons, Airships, etc. ---

Other ---

Evaluation of Source Reliability PROBABLY GOOD

Analysis and Conclusions: THE DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT COINCIDES WITH THAT OF THE CLASSIC METEOR OR THE "FIREBALL" TYPE. SEVERAL OTHER WITNESSES IN THE AREA REPORT SEEING SUCH AN OBJECT AT THE SAME TIME AND DATE. THE PLASTIC OBJECT WHICH WAS FORWARDED BY THE INVESTIGATOR IS IN REALITY A PLASTIC BALL AND QUITE PROBABLY FROM A "ROLL-ON" DEODORANT.

THE WITNESS MISJUDGED THE DISTANCE AND
THE SPEED OF THE OBJECT ... IT IS
NOT UNUSUAL FOR THESE EXCEPTIONAL
MOTORS TO HAVE SUCH STARTLING SPEED
UPON 1ST TIME OBSERVED. MR WRIGHT
WAS PROBABLY QUITE HONEST IN HIS BELIEF
THAT THE OBJECT LANDED IN HIS FIELD—
WHEN ACTUALLY IT DISAPPEARED OVER
HIS HORIZON.



ARTIFACT # 341-14-428

Located in ARTIFACT Room

COPY TO DR HYMAN

861ST AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON
United States Air Force
Aiken Air Force Station
South Carolina

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 861000

SUBJECT: Report of Alleged Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Sighting.

TO: Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC)
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
Information 32D Air Division (SAGE) ATTN: Lt. Hose-Intelligence-
Dobbins AFB, Georgia

1. Mr. [REDACTED], an employee at [REDACTED], turned over to CWO Stripling at the Investigative Branch, Post Provost Marshall Section, an object about the size of a marble. Object was in a paper drinking cup with about three inches of sand. The whole was encased in a two-pound sugar bag. Mr. [REDACTED] told Mr. [REDACTED] that a neighbor of his, a [REDACTED] had described an object falling out of the sky into a field near his home. Mr. [REDACTED] said he went to the area with Mr. [REDACTED] and searched the area where [REDACTED] said the object fell. They observed the object mentioned above and scooped it into the drinking cup with their toes, fearing to touch it.

Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] scratched into the soil with a twig and found another object which appeared to be a burned and slightly deformed copper or brass ring, similar to a washer. They did not include the ring in the paper cup, but did mention it to Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] produced the ring when the investigating officer asked for it.

Mr. [REDACTED] called Major [REDACTED], acting commander of this squadron, and asked that the Air Force conduct the investigation. Major Korinek appointed First Lieutenant Norman J. Pinardi, a Weapons Controller and Information Officer, as investigating officer. Lt. Pinardi's report, including the two objects in question and a flight map marking the position of the observer is forwarded.

2. This report is submitted in accordance with AFR 200-2, as amended. Format is in accordance with the outline in paragraph 15 of AFR 200-2.

- a. (1) Observer described the object as follows: "The top half was round, and all the light came out of the bottom side."
- (2) Observer described the object as "about the size of an Army officer's big hat." He said it was about the size of a large pea or "black-eyed pea" held at arms length.
- (3) Object was described as emitting a very intense white light. Due to darkness he could determine no color to the object itself. He said the light frightened him when he saw it-- it

lit up the sky and field outside the house.

(4) There was only one (1) object.

(5) N/A

(6) He could discern nothing except the fact that it appeared round "at the top half."

(7) Observer said he saw no tail.

(8) Observer said he could hear no sound as he watched the object fall. He also heard no sound when it appeared to hit the ground. Mr. [REDACTED] said he stepped outside the door as soon as it fell to listen for an aircraft, but he could hear nothing.

(9) None, except as described in b. (5) below.

b. (1) Observer was sitting at the window facing the field listening to the radio. A bright light lit up the sky and the field outside the window. The light startled him and he stated he was "very frightened" by it. The field outside the house was sparsely covered with dead corn stalks, spaced far apart and giving the appearance of an open field. The field is approximately 150 feet deep and 100 yards wide. Stalks of corn would not block his vision, but a small peach tree in front and to the right of the window as you look out partially hampered vision. Ifeel the tree would not have hampered vision enough to harm view of the object as it was described to me. The field is ringed by trees.

(2) Mr. [REDACTED] looking through the window observed the object at an elevation of about 25 degrees from the horizon toward the North-north-east. He first saw it near the top of a tree nearby.

(3) Observer said object was below the horizon about minus 05 degrees straight out from the window (Northwest) when it disappeared. Witness said it disappeared when it appeared to be about two feet above the ground. At this point the light went out. (See (5) below)

(4) Flight path was a straight line from his upper right to a point almost directly in front of him about 100 feet away. Object made no manievers.

(5) Object continued emitting a very bright light until it came close to the ground. It then became dimmer. At a point about two feet above the ground the observer said the object emitted a bright flash of "sparks" in all directions, and then suddenly the light went out. It was as if the object expended a last burst of energy before disappearing.

(6) Observer estimated the object was visible eight to twelve seconds. He said object was not traveling swiftly. He estimated a speed of about 40 to 50 miles per hour.

c. (1) Ground visual. No optical aids used.

d. (1) Observer said he wasn't sure of the day, but a check with Mrs. [REDACTED] (wife of [REDACTED] mentioned in basic letter) and an unidentified Negro farmer nearby, set the date/time group at approximately 1900 EST (2400 Zulu time) on 12 October. Neither Mrs. [REDACTED] nor the farmer saw the object Mr. [REDACTED] described, but both said he had discussed it with them the next day, 13 October. Observer had no clock, but said it had just got "good and dark, good and black," when the object appeared.

(2) Dark until the object lit up the sky and the field.

e. (1) Observer was seated at window at Northwest corner of his house. Location is 33 degrees 33 minutes North, 81 degrees 58 minutes West. Georeff Grid GJJEO233. Community of Sweetwater, S. C. The cornfield outside the window slants at a slight grade down away from the window.

f. (1) Civilian

Name: [REDACTED]

AGE: 67

Mail: c/o [REDACTED]

Sweetwater, S. C.

occupation: Farmer and handyman.

(2) Investigating officers Estimate of Reliability. Observer is reportedly an illiterate according to three local persons interviewed, but Mr. [REDACTED] was able to spell his name for the investigating officer. He impressed me as being very sincere and anxious to give correct information. I failed to cross him up on three attempts while cross checking his story. His story did not change. With all respect to the individual, he did not appear intelligent enough to invent such a story, and he was quite willing to admit his fright at sighting the object. The story he told Mr. [REDACTED] checked with the story he told me. Mrs. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] grocery and general store in Sweetwater, and a resident of

the area for at least 30 years; and an unidentified man in her store described him as an honest and hard worker but poor and "illiterate" who lived in a squallor with his crippled wife and three children. Mrs. [redacted] description coincided with Mrs. [redacted] description. Mrs. [redacted] says he has infrequently asked for credit to buy groceries and has always paid his debts to her promptly. No one considered him eccentric or likely to fabricate the story. They said he tended to keep to himself, which would tend to disprove any claim that he was seeking publicity. Although his character is without blemish as far as honesty and sincerity are concerned, Mr. [redacted] is obviously far from a trained observer or qualified to report objectively on the incident. His admitted fright at the occurrence is a factor which would tend to contribute toward inaccurate judgment and a false impression of the events as they occurred.

It is my opinion, however, that Mr. [redacted] did see the light and that he did see the light emitted by the object. The investigating officer will admit the possibility but must remain doubtful of the accuracy of his description of the object, and the probability that the object fell into the field 100 feet from his house.

c. (1) Clear night. No clouds.

(2) Wind direction/velocity at:	6,000	030	05
	10,000	250	05
	16,000	230	05
	20,000	280	10
	30,000	230	15
	50,000	220	20

(3) Ceiling unlimited

(4) Visibility 8 miles.

(5) Cloud cover. 1/2 of 1/10

(6) Thunderstorms in area - location. None.

(7) Temperature gradient. 5 to 10,000 ft. -3° 3 per 1,000 ft.

h. (1) Meteorological or astronomical conditions which may explain the sighting. None.

i. None.

j. None.

k. See 3 below.

1. (1) Mr. [REDACTED] at first was too frightened to go out into the field and examine the area where he said the object fell. He went to bed, but could not rest, so he got up and went out into the field about mid-night. He could find nothing in the dark. The next morning (13 October), he went to the house of Mr. [REDACTED] an employee at Fort Gordon, Ga., and told him about it. Mr. [REDACTED] accompanied him to the field about noon on the 13th and examined the area. He saw a small object about the size of a marble, imbedded in the sand. Mr. [REDACTED] scooped it into a paper cup with the toe of his shoe. They scratched a few inches into the soil with a twig and found a thin, burned and disformed metal ring, similar to a washer. These objects have not been examined by a laboratory, but the "marble" is very light in weight. It is not quite bouyant. It appears to be glass or plastic and has what appears to be an air bubble inside it. The marble and the ring, which appears to be copper or brass, are forwarded with this report to ATIC. The sand originally scooped up with the "marble" is included. The ring was about one inch deep in the soil when found, and the marble was imbedded in the soil, but visible.

Although subsequent examination may prove the objects to be from a source unknown to the investigating officer, it appears that the marble may be from a roll-on deodorant and the ring may be a washer long buried in the soil. A pile of junk and garbage is scattered over a wide area extending about 50-75 feet up the grade of the hill from the point where the object was found. Mr. [REDACTED] has lived in the house for six years, and he stated on questioning that no one in his house uses a roll-on deodorant and never has to his knowledge. It is possible that a prior resident discarded a used up roll-on applicator some time ago. The ball in a Ban deodorant applicator has the same appearance, and the same type of air bubble inside it.

3. It is the opinion of the investigating officer that the reported UFO sighting was definitely an observation of a natural phenoma, in this case the object being either a meteor or the return from orbit of a satellite or a derelict launching vehicle which burned up on re-entry. The following testimony is submitted in support of this conclusion:

(1) Capt. [REDACTED], Radar Maintenance Officer of the 861st ACW Squadron, Aiken AFSTA, S. C., stated that about 1900 EST (2400Z) on 12 Oct, he saw what he described as a meteor. Capt. [REDACTED] said several people were standing outside Haygood Stadium in Aiken, S. C., when the meteor lighted up the sky. The others called his attention to it. Capt. [REDACTED] said the object burned with various colors, all on the blue side of the spectrum, (blue, green, purple).

He said the object emitted sparks at irregular intervals. When it sparked, it became brighter and gradually dimmed until it sparked again, when it again brightened. It followed the same pattern as long as it was in view. It followed a straight line course as it crossed in a Northwesterly direction. He said it went out before it left his view. He also stated that he faced North as he watched the meteor.

(2) Air [REDACTED]
an Air Surveillance Technician at the 861st ACW Squadron, stated that on the same night at about the same time, he observed what he described as a shooting star which crossed from East-south-east to West-north-west. He said it sparkled a lot, and it got dimmer and brighter alternately. He sighted it at an elevation of about 55-60 degrees to the ESE, and watched it until it was about 20 degrees off the horizon, in the WNW, at which point it "went out".

The similarities of the time of the occurrence, the "sparkling" described by all three [REDACTED] and the intense light described by them, and the tapering off and re-intensifying of the light leads me to the conclusion that the object Mr. [REDACTED] sighted was either (1) a meteor or (2) a satellite or derelict booster rocket burning up on re-entry.

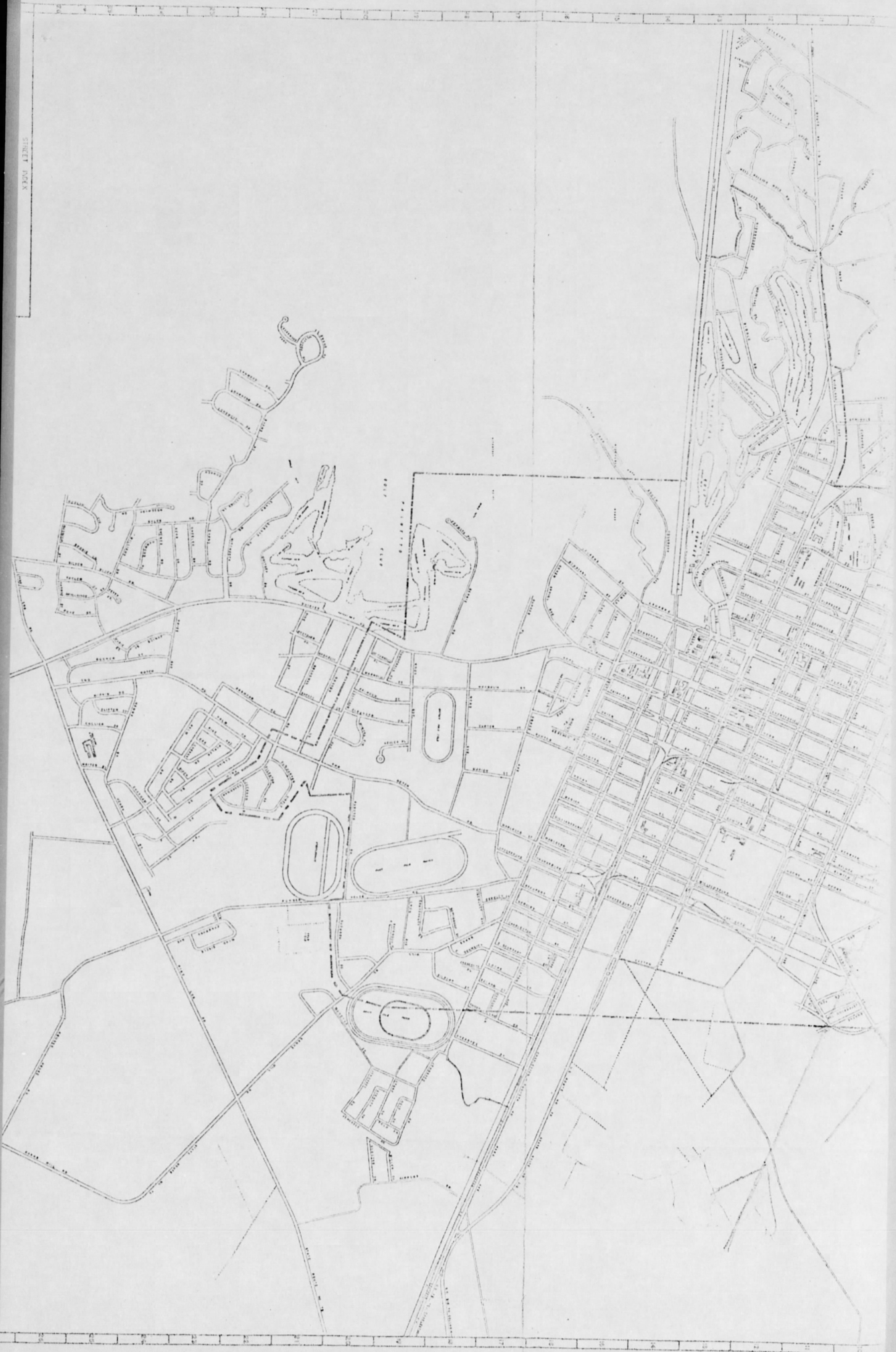
Assuming the object was a meteor, as to the possibility that the object landed in Mr. [REDACTED] field, all the evidence leads to a negative conclusion. The two witnesses both said the meteor crossed to the Northwest or WNW. Mr. [REDACTED] home is West of Aiken. The investigating officer believes Mr. [REDACTED] saw the same meteor described by Capt. [REDACTED] except Mr. [REDACTED] did not see it until the last few seconds of its life because it was hidden from view by the roof over his head. When its brightness lighted up the sky and the ground it came to his attention. His admitted fright apparently caused the impression that the object landed in his field. One possibility exists that, assuming the object was a meteor, the object completed disintegration just a few feet before striking the earth in the field but the lack of sound would tend to indicate the object was no where near Mr. [REDACTED].

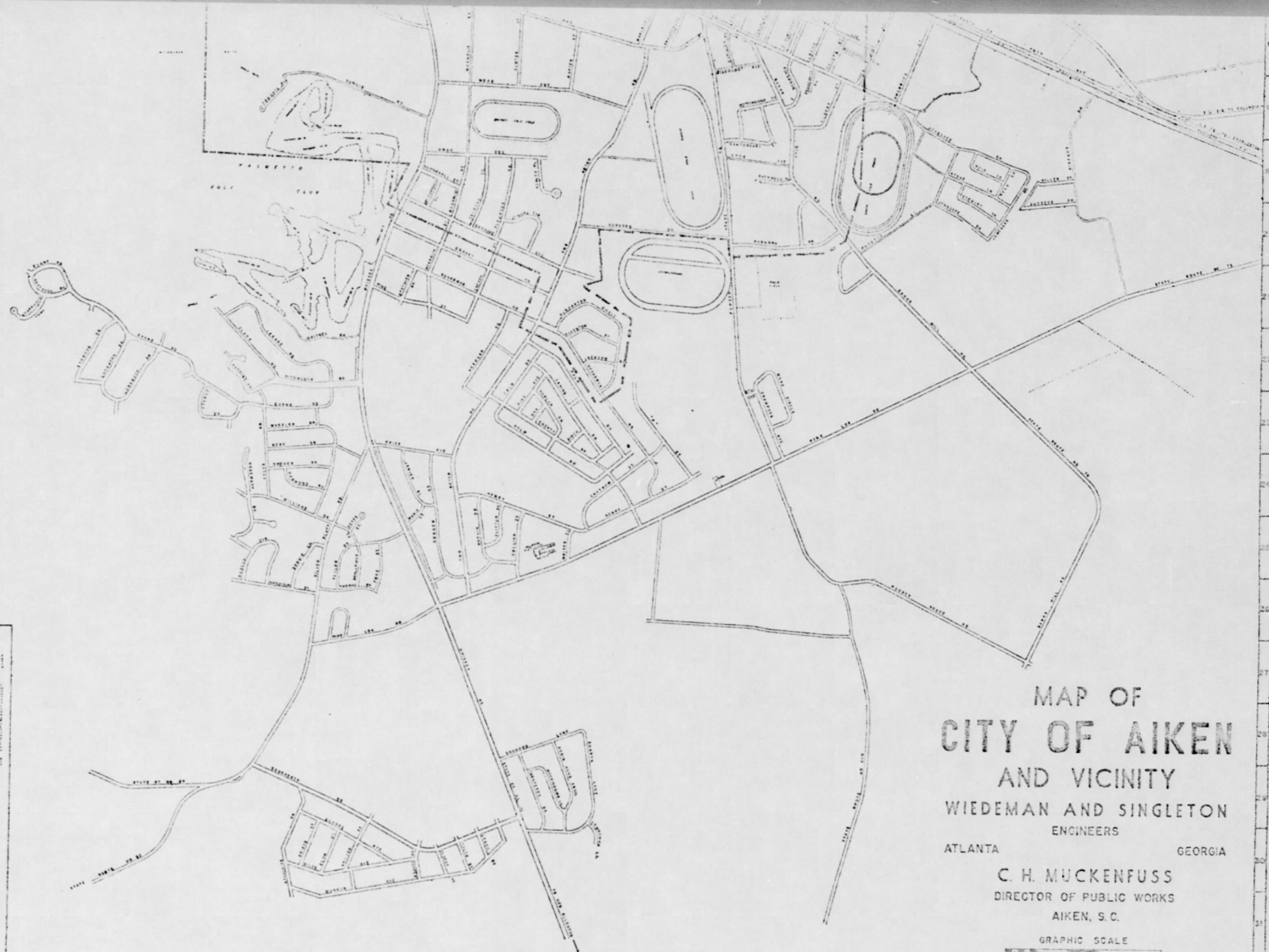
The investigating officer draws the conclusion that the UFO sighting can conclusively be explained as a meteor sighting by an untrained observer, with fright a contributing factor toward a lack of objectivity.

Norman J. Pinardi
NORMAN J. PINARDI
1st Lt., USAF
Investigating Officer

THIS CASE INCLUDES
A PHYSICAL SPECIMEN
IN SEPARATE ENVELOPE
AND A NEGATIVE 4X5 IN.







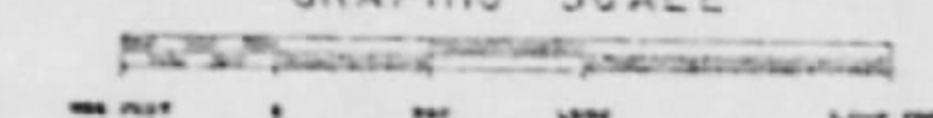
MAP OF
CITY OF AIKEN
AND VICINITY

WIEDEMAN AND SINGLETON
ENGINEERS

ATLANTA GEORGIA

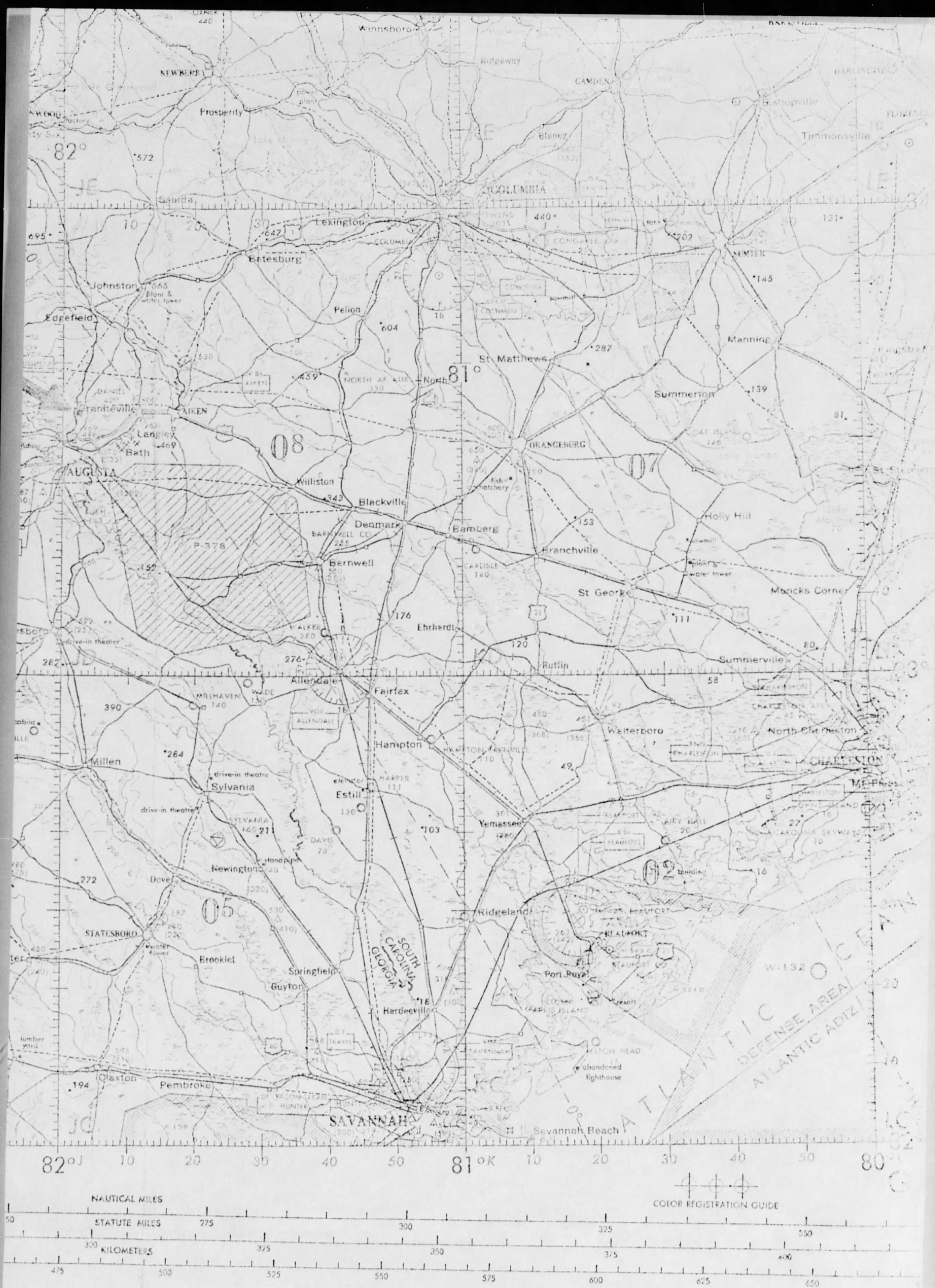
C. H. MUCKENFUSS
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
AIKEN, S. C.

GRAPHIC SCALE



REVISUO DECEMBER 2, 1960

STREET INDEX[illegible]



CAUTION

AIR INFORMATION CURRENT THROUGH
19 OCTOBER 1959
Aeronautical Information shown in this
color is subject to frequent changes.
The rate of change of air information
precludes revision of this chart to insure
currency. Consult NOTAMS, USAF/
USN Flight Information Publication
and ACIC Bulletins for the latest infor-
mation.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

UNITED STATES

ONC 409

SCALE 1:1,000,000

2nd EDITION

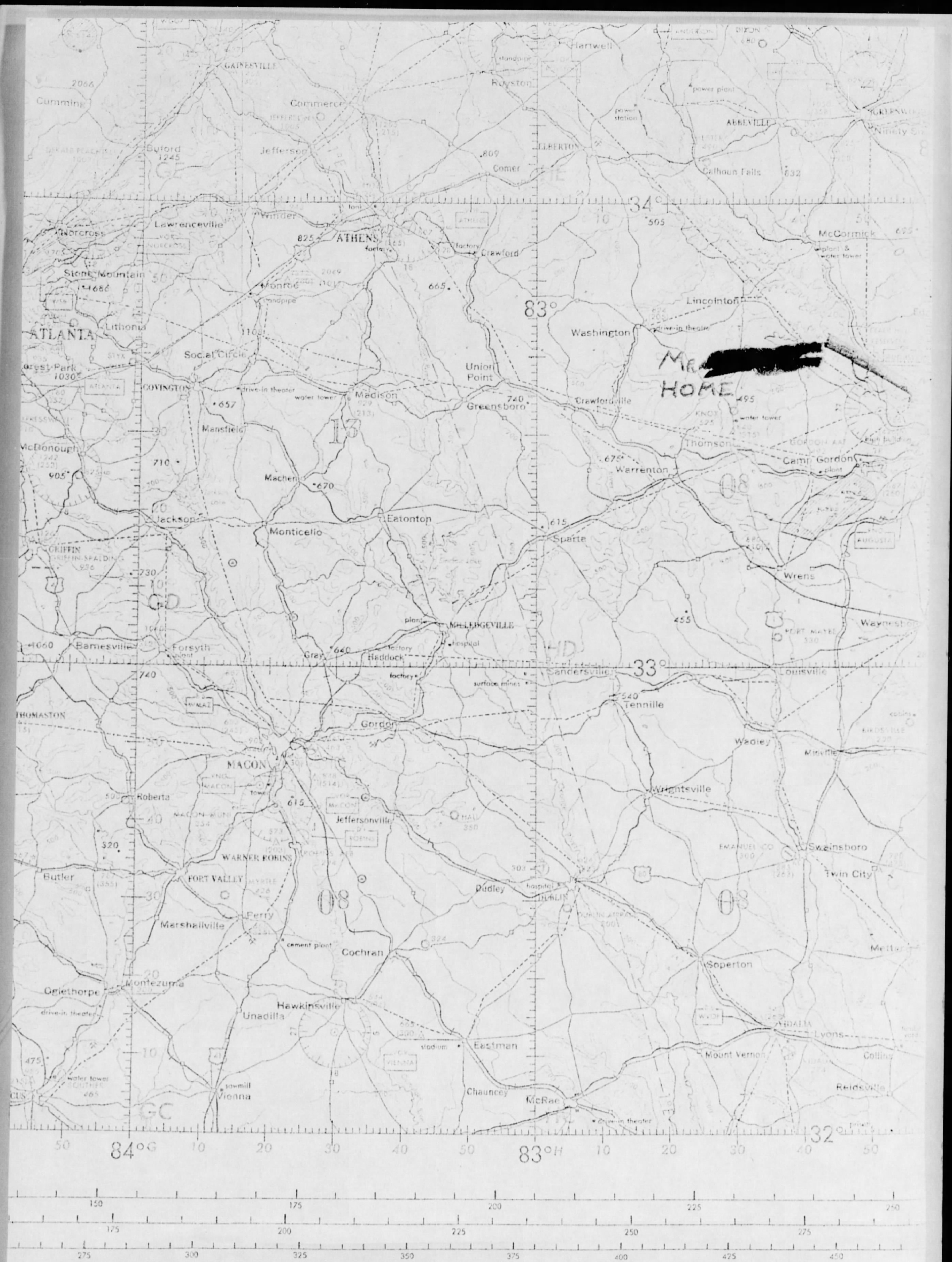
LINE OF EQUAL MAGNETIC VARIATION FOR 1955
(Annual Rate of Change - No Change)

1st EDITION of ONC 409
is obsolete.

BASE 110
BASE INFORMATION JUNE 1958 (ACIC-AR)
Revised OCTOBER 1959
SPEC. NO. ONC-A-2
Lithographed by G. L. 3-60

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T. LOUIS

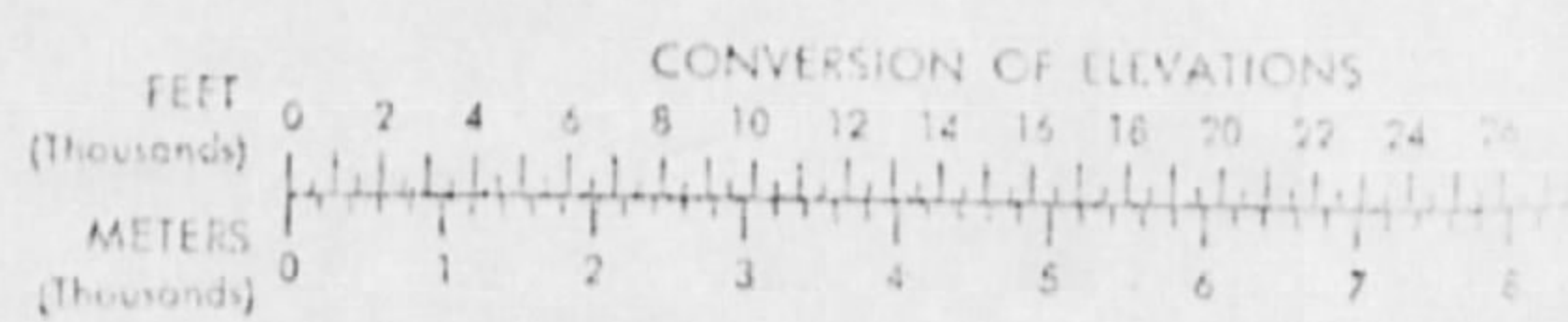


OPERATIONAL NAVIGATION CHART

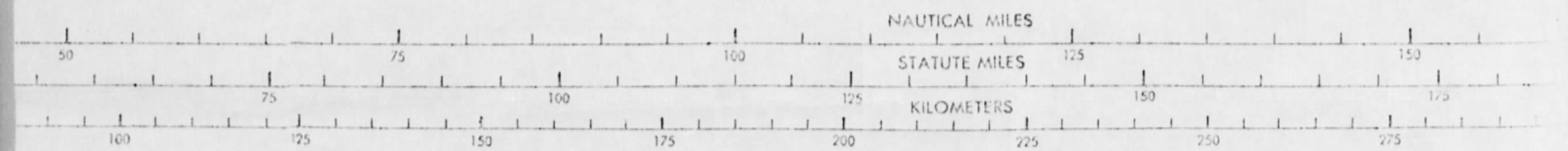
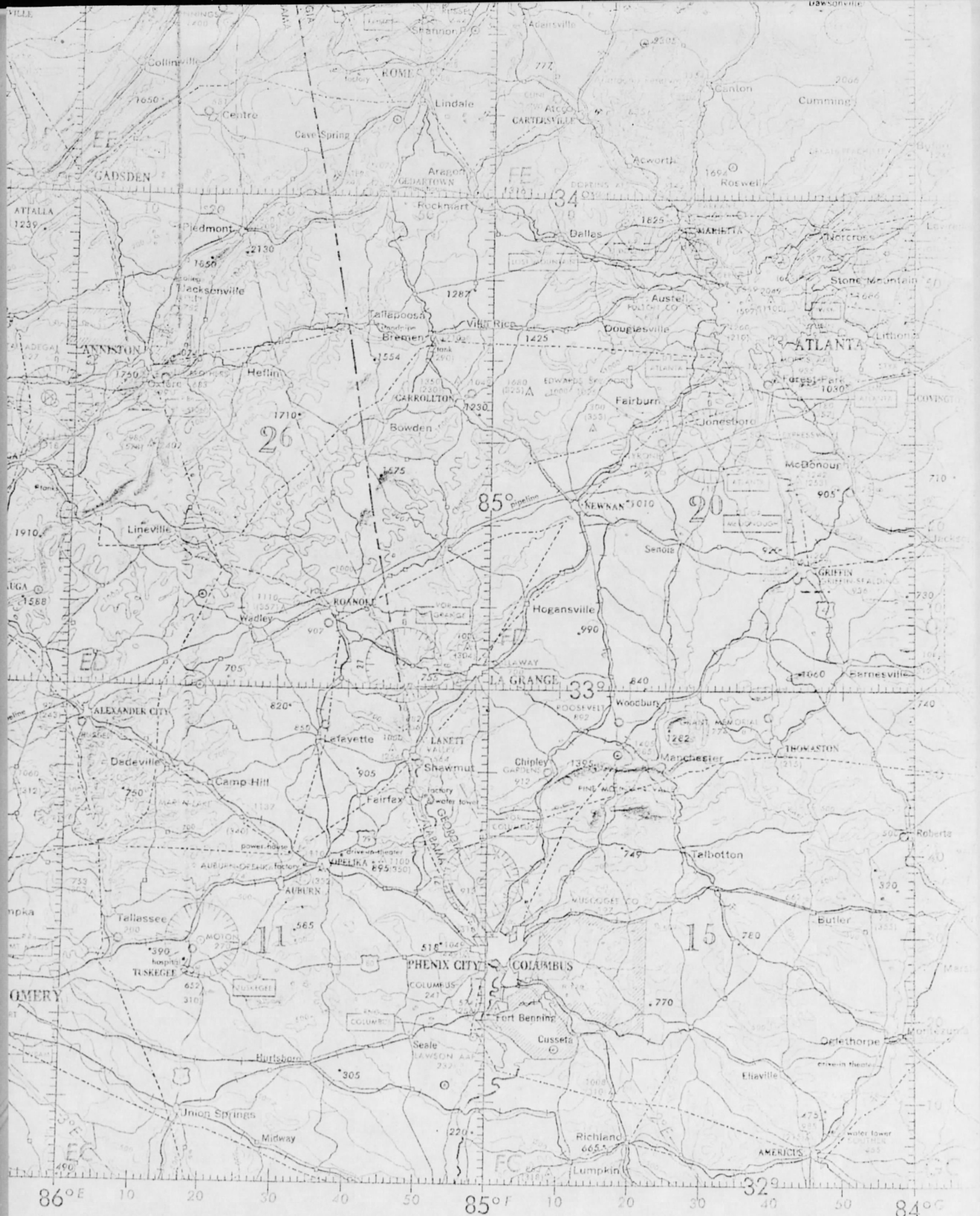
PUBLISHED BY THE AERONAUTICAL CHART AND INFORMATION CENTER,
AIR PHOTOGRAPHIC AND CHARTING SERVICE, (MATS)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, ST. LOUIS 18, MO.



Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
Standard Parallels 32°40' and 35°20'
Convergence Factor: 55524



NOTE: It is requested that all users of this chart mark their
corrections and additions which come to their attention by
mail direct to COMMANDER, AERONAUTICAL CHART AND
INFORMATION CENTER, SECOND AND ARSENAL, ST. LOUIS
18, MISSOURI.



ADJOINING SHEETS	
358	410
409	466

WORLD GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE SYSTEM (BLU)	
SAMPLE AREA (DEGREES)	SAMPLE POINT (MINUTE)
20	30
10	20
0	10
-10	0
-20	-10
-30	-20
-40	-30
-50	-40
-60	-50
-70	-60
-80	-70
-90	-80
-100	-90
-110	-100
-120	-110
-130	-120
-140	-130
-150	-140
-160	-150
-170	-160
-180	-170
-190	-180
-200	-190
-210	-200
-220	-210
-230	-220
-240	-230
-250	-240
-260	-250
-270	-260
-280	-270
-290	-280
-300	-290
-310	-300
-320	-310
-330	-320
-340	-330
-350	-340
-360	-350

USAF OPERATIONAL

PUBLISHED BY THE AERONAUTICAL PHOTOGRAPHIC UNIT, UNITED STATES

Note: Vertical error
 250 feet x 9700
 Approximate or doubtful locations
 are indicated by omission of the
 point locator (dot or "X").
 Critical elevation 9850
 Lake elevation 1050
 Stream elevation 240

MAXIMUM ELEVATION DATA
 Maximum elevation figures, centered in
 the area bounded by ticked lines of
 longitude and latitude, indicate the
 HIGHEST TERRAIN ELEVATION within
 that area. These figures include the
 maximum possible vertical error of
 elevations, BUT DO NOT INCLUDE
 ELEVATION OF VERTICAL OBSTRU-
 CTIONS. A minus sign (-) following the
 figure indicates that the figure is
 based on an estimated elevation.
 MAXIMUM ELEVATION FIGURES ARE
 OMITTED IN UNSURVEYED AREAS
 AND AREAS WHERE RELIEF INFOR-
 MATION IS INADEQUATE.

3100 feet 31

6100 feet (estimated) .. 61-

CULTURE
 Actual city outline
 Towns and villages
 Landmark features
 (unillustrated) unlabeled symbols
 indicates roadtrack
 Dual lane road
 Other roads
 Tracks or trails
 Multiple track RR.
 Single track R. R.
 Power transmission line
 International
 boundary

PICTORIAL
 SYMBOLIZATION
 NONE SHOWN ON THIS CHART.

AERONAUTICAL
 INFORMATION

Major aerodromes
 Runway pattern and 6000 foot diameter
 circle is shown at 1:500,000 scale.
 Center of circle represents true position
 of airfield.

Major aerodromes,
 runway pattern not
 available
 Jet facilities available
 Minor aerodromes
 Seaplane base

Vertical obstructions
 (unlabeled obstructions are towers)

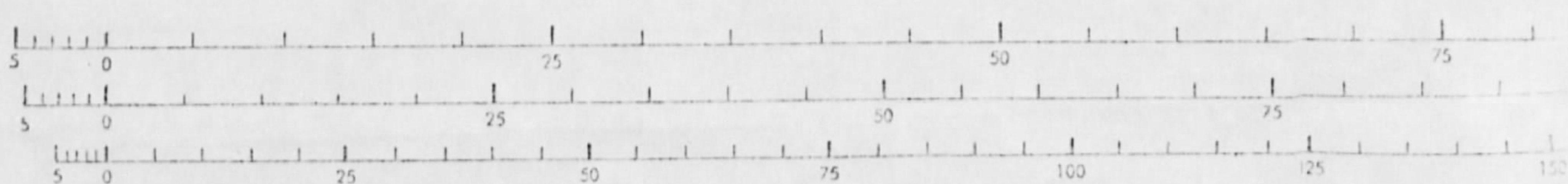
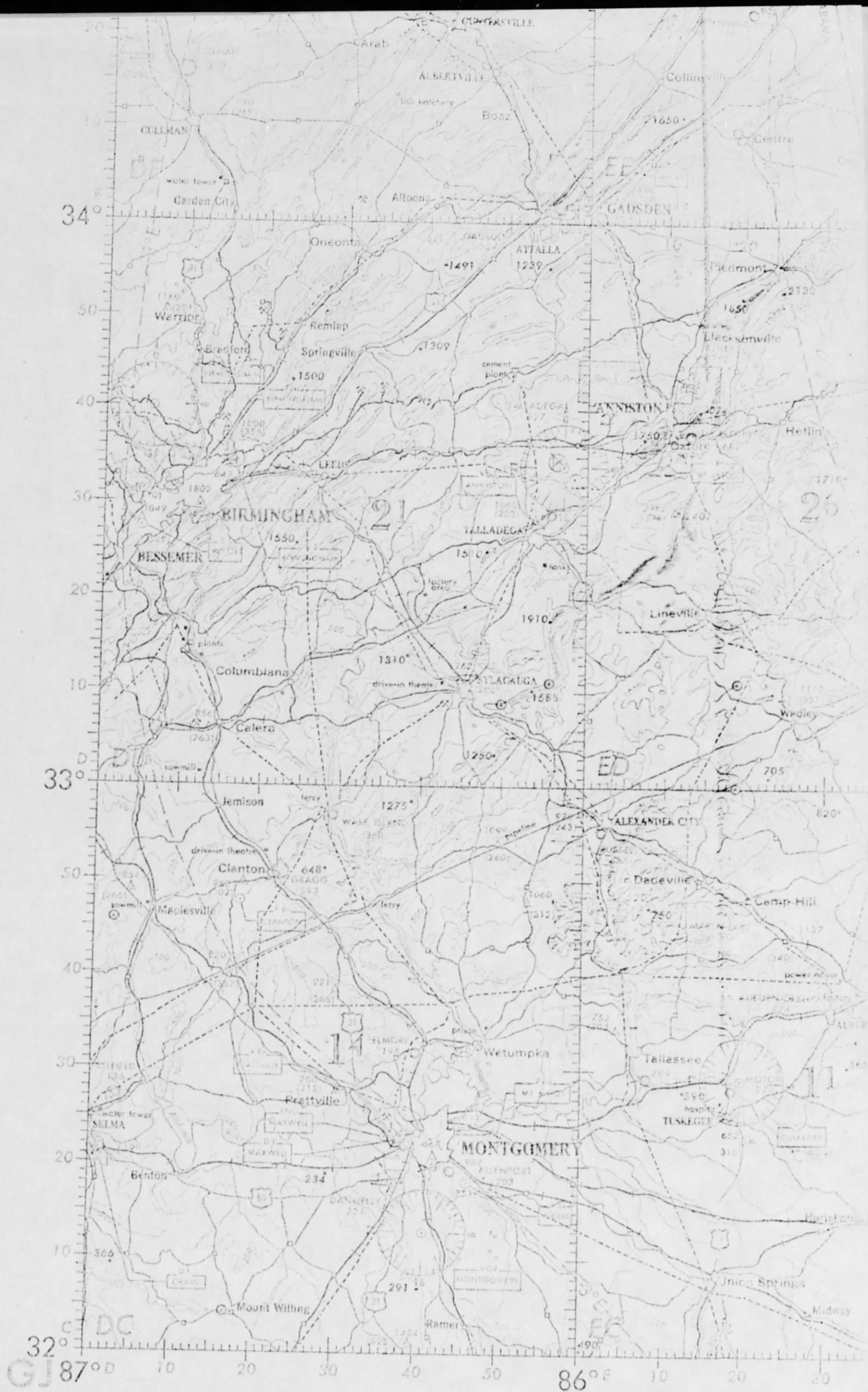
Vertical obstructions with
 landmark significance
 (black square indicates location)

Numerals adjacent to obstruction indi-
 cate elevation of top of obstruction
 above mean sea level. Numerals in
 parentheses indicate height above
 ground.

PROHIBITED AREA CAUTION AREA
 DANGER RESTRICTED
 OR WARNING AREA

P 16 NUMBER INDICATES INTERNATION-
 ALLY RECOGNIZED NUMERICAL IDENT-
 IFICATION

RELIABILITY OF VERTICAL
 OBSTRUCTION DATA
 Existence of obstructions and accu-
 racy of heights depicted are generally
 reliable. Where closely grouped
 obstructions exist, those of lesser
 heights have been omitted.



INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEETS			
359	358		410
408	UNITED STATES 409		
467	466		

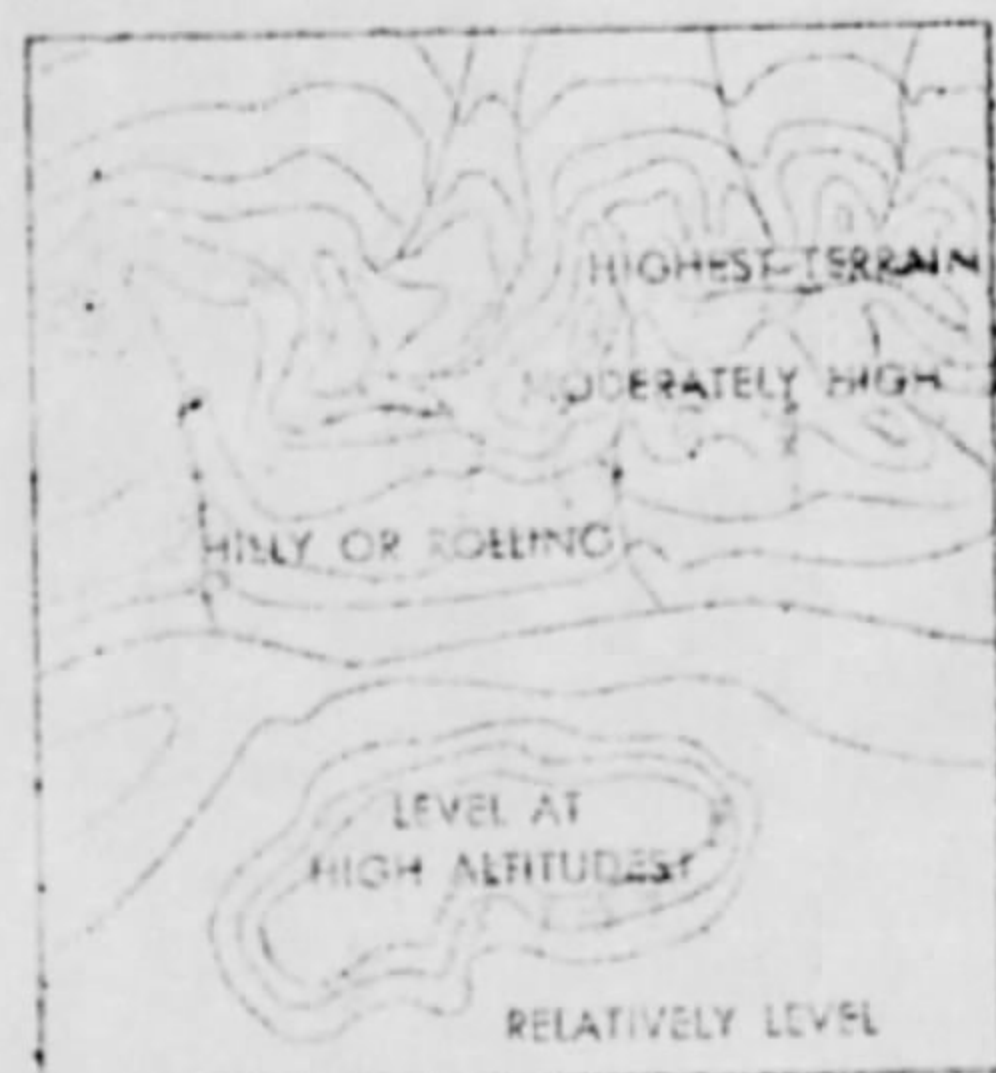
STUDY THE LEGEND
KNOW YOUR TOOLS

LEGEND

RELIEF PORTRAYAL

Elevations are in feet. HIGHEST
TERRAIN elevation is 6684 feet
located at 35°46'N 82°16'W

TERRAIN CHARACTERISTIC TINTS
(areas of unreliable relief
are devoid of tint)



Land forms are shown by contours,
three dimensional shading, and terrain
color tints. Green indicates flat or
relatively level areas in the lower
elevations. Flat areas at higher
elevations, such as plateaus, are shown
by a yellow/green. The light buff and
yellow colors indicate hilly and rolling
to mountainous terrain. Two bands of
yellow are used at higher elevations to
help identify mountain ranges and/or
critical tops.

CONTOUR INTERVAL

1000 feet with intermediates at
500 feet

(Auxiliaries are shown at intervals
of 200 feet)

Contour

Intermediate

Auxiliary

Dashed contours indicate approximate
alignment.

SPOT ELEVATIONS

Elevations and position accurate,
maximum vertical error 100
feet. 2285

Position accurate, maximum possible
vertical error
250 feet. x 9700

Approximate or doubtful locations
are indicated by omission of the
point locator (dot or "x").

Critical elevation. 9850

Lake elevation. 1050

Stream elevation. 740

MAXIMUM ELEVATION DATA

Maximum elevation figures, centered in
the area bounded by ticked lines of
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ELEVATION OF VERTICAL OBSTRU-
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OMITTED IN UNSURVEYED AREAS
AND AREAS WHERE RELIEF INFOR-
MATION IS INADEQUATE.

3100 feet. 31

6100 feet (estimated). 61-

CULTURE

Actual city outline.

Towns and villages.

Landmark features.

(unillustrated) unlabeled symbols

Dual lane road.

Other roads.

Tracks or trails.

Multiple track RR.

Single track R. R.

Power transmission line.

International

boundary.

PICTORIAL

SYMBOLIZATION

None shown on this chart.

