

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 12 Oct 60		2. LOCATION Sweetwater, South Carolina		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical Meteor <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <i>no. 10073-10073</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 12/2400Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    Physical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 7-3745-456 MADE FROM RECORD INCIDENT</i>		

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) **AI [REDACTED]**  
an Air Surveillance Technician at the 801st 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 East 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 WFO sighting can conclusively be explained as a meteor sighting by an untrained observer, with fright a contributing factor toward a lack of objectivity.

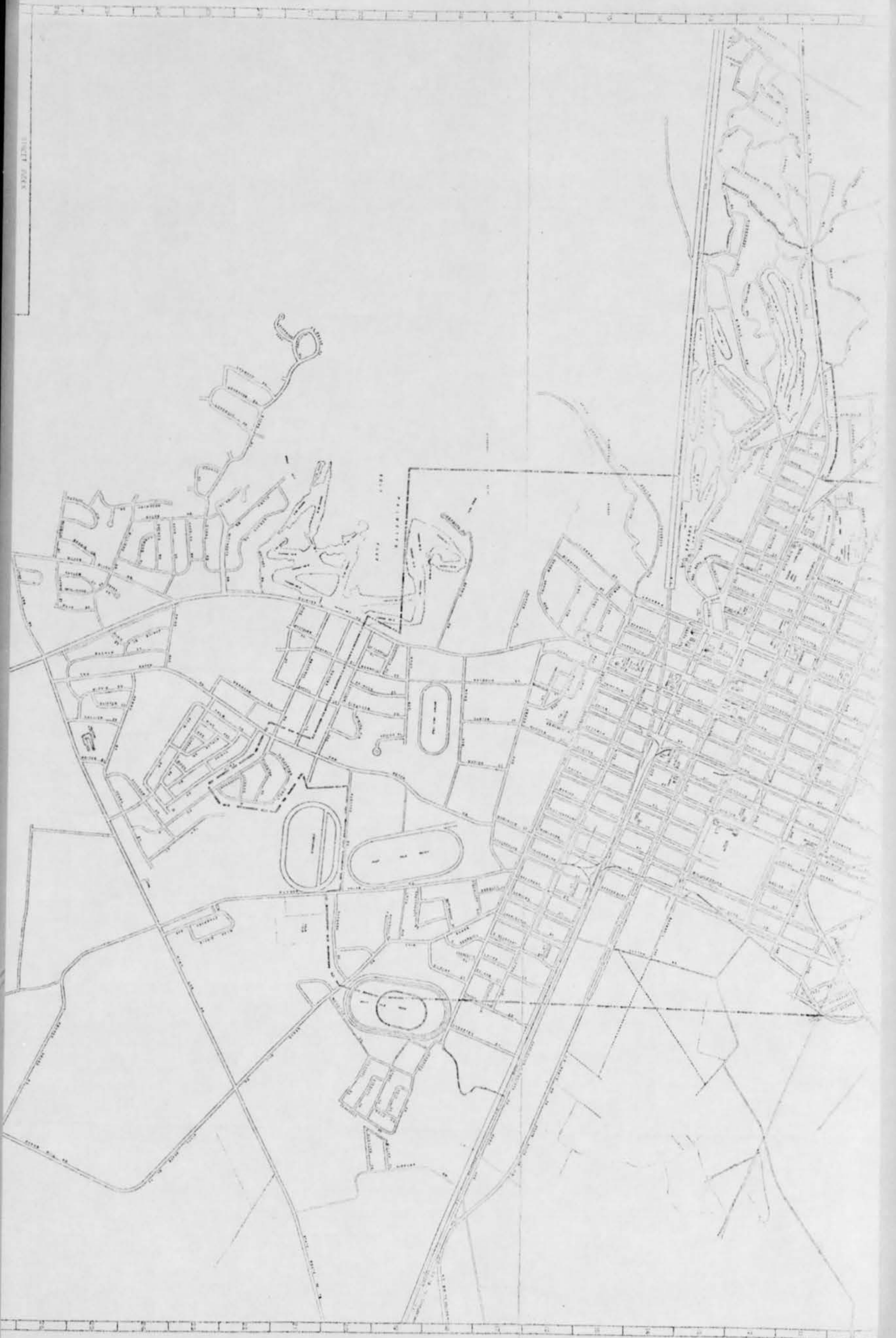
*Norman J. Pinardi*  
NORMAN J. PINARDI  
1st Lt., USAF  
Investigating Officer

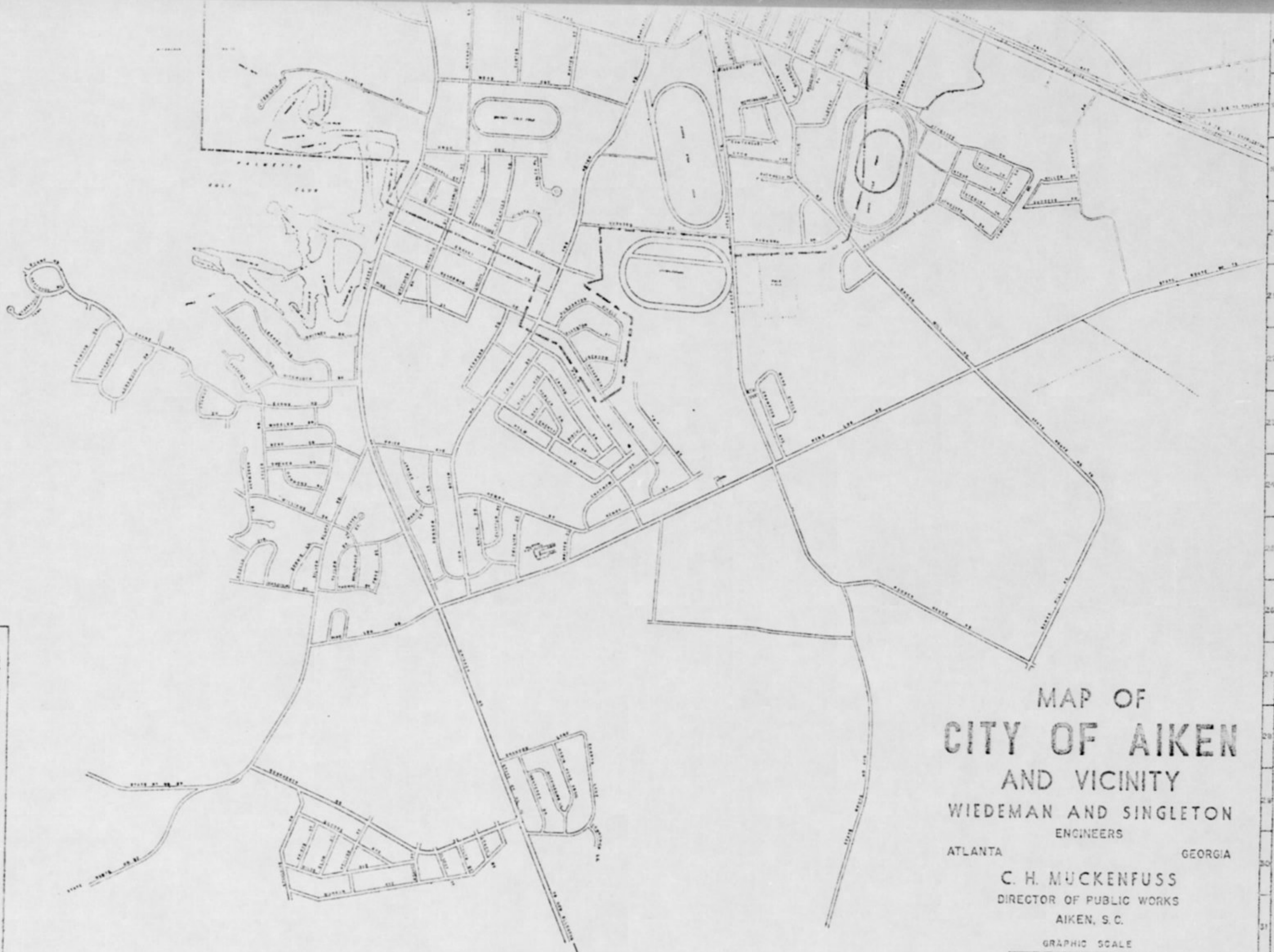
THIS CASE INCLUDES  
A PHYSICAL SPECIMEN  
IN SEPARATE ENVELOPE  
AND A NEGATIVE 4X5 IN.



As observed by  
[redacted]

As observed by  
[redacted]





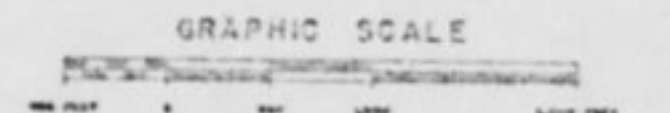
STREET INDEX	
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MAP OF  
**CITY OF AIKEN**  
 AND VICINITY

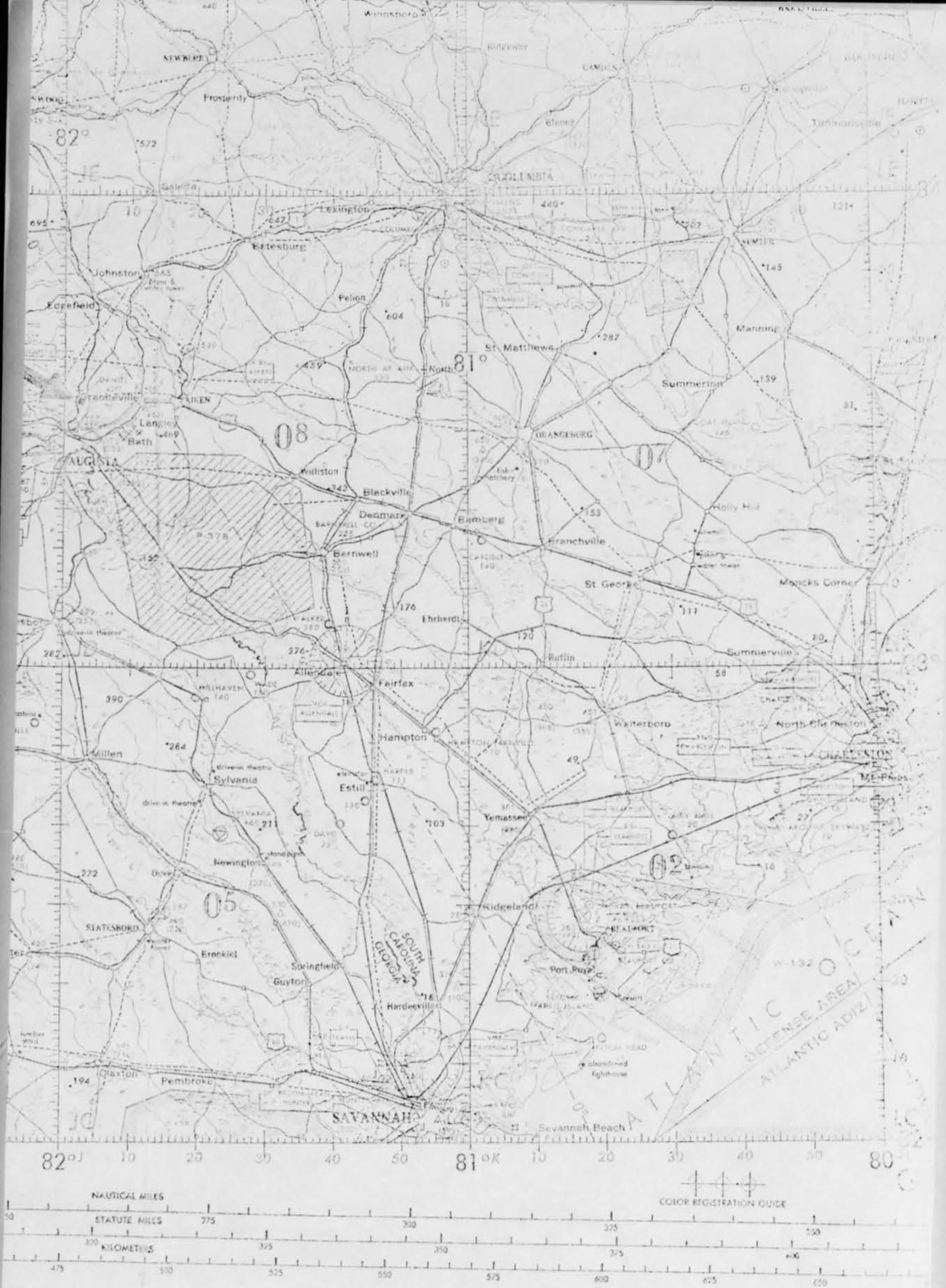
WIEDEMAN AND SINGLETON  
 ENGINEERS

ATLANTA GEORGIA

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



REVISED DECEMBER 1, 1924



**CAUTION**  
 ALL INFORMATION CURRENT THROUGH  
 18 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

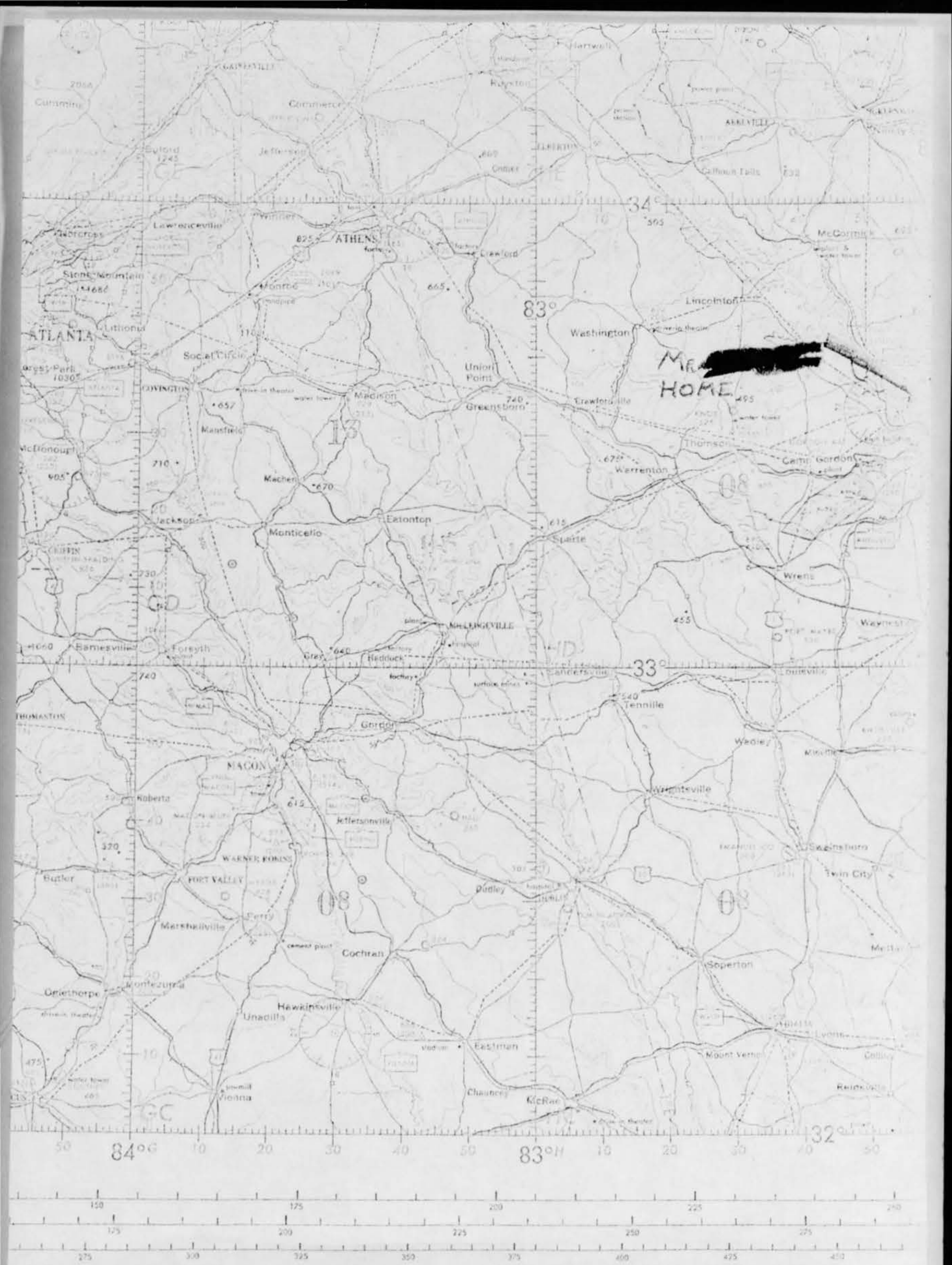
UNITED STATES  
**ONC 409**  
 SCALE 1:1,000,000

2nd EDITION

LINE OF EQUAL MAGNETIC VARIATION FOR 1950  
 (Annual Rate of Change - No Change)

BASE 110  
 BASE INFORMATION JUNE 1949 (ACIC 28)  
 Revised OCTOBER 1959  
 SPEC. NO. ONC-A-2  
 Unpublished by G. I. 140

14 24 37 30  
 8 9  
 A. Aeronautics  
 and  
 N. 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.

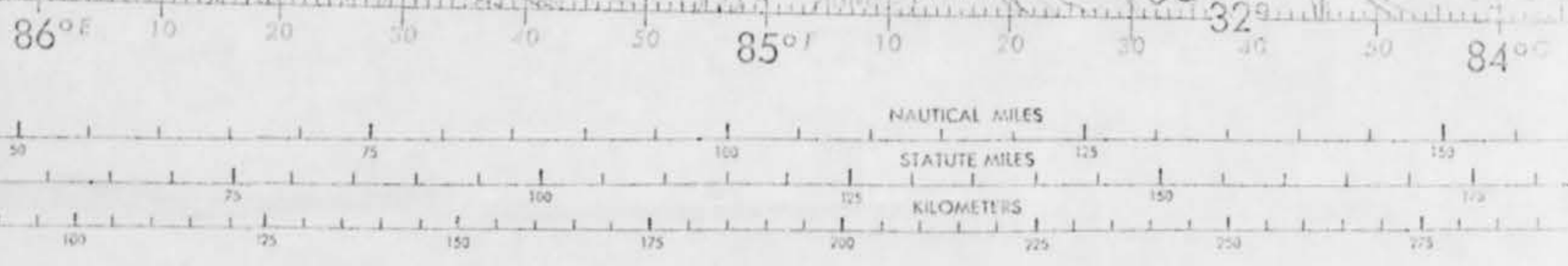
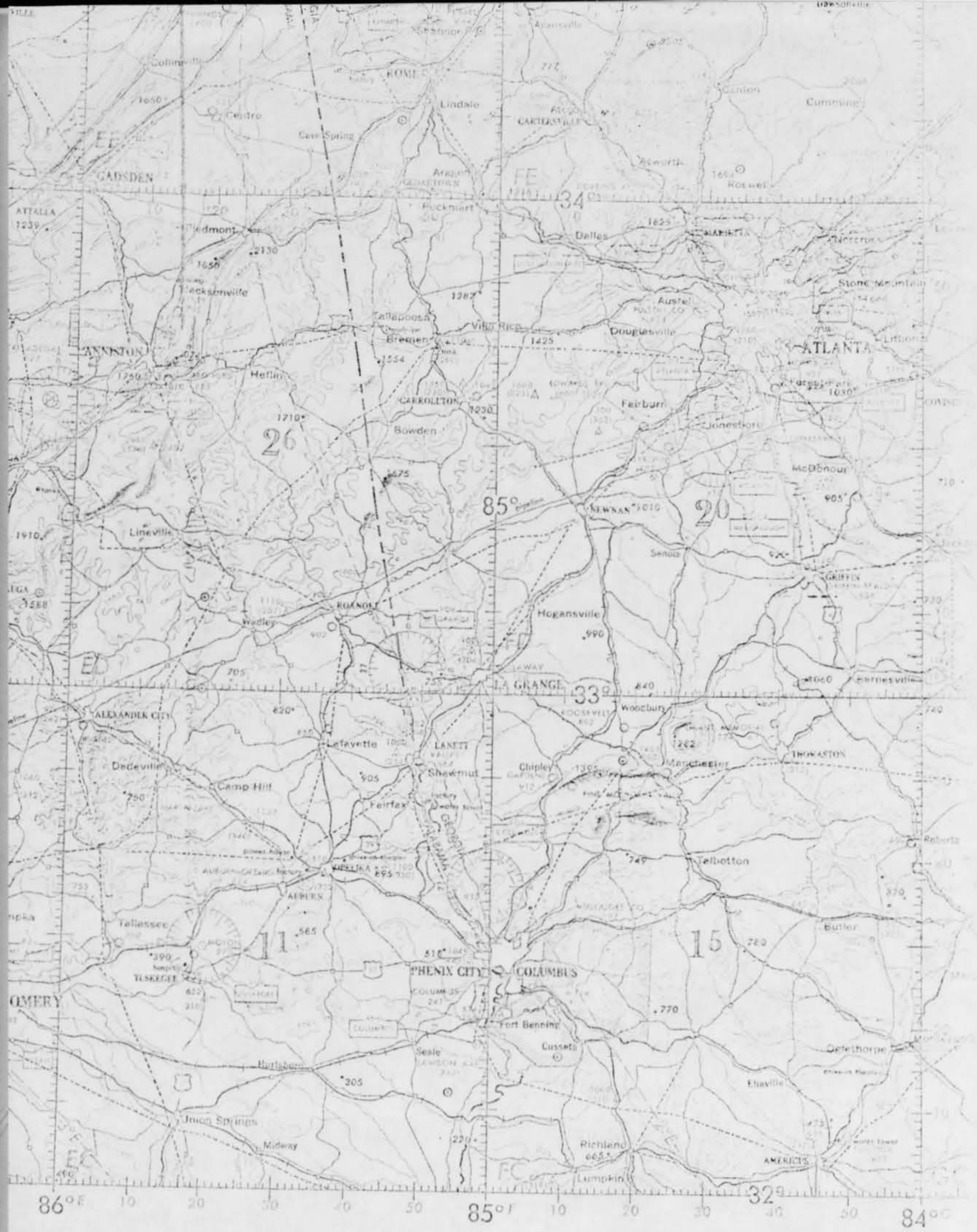
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection  
 Standard Parallels 32°40' and 35°20'  
 Convergence Factor 55/34



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







ADJOINING SHEETS

358	
409	410
466	

WORLD LEAD REFERENCE SYMBOLS (MILITARY)

1. [Symbol] - [Description]

2. [Symbol] - [Description]

3. [Symbol] - [Description]

4. [Symbol] - [Description]

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50. [Symbol] - [Description]

# USAF OPERATIONAL

PUBLISHED BY THE AIR FORCE  
 AIR PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTER  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

57% vertical error  
 250 feet  
 Approximate or estimated maximum  
 are indicated by addition of the  
 word "approx" (not "est").  
 Critical elevation.....2850  
 Lake elevation.....100  
 Stream elevation.....100

**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 OBSTRUCTIONS.  
 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 INFORMATI  
 ON IS INADEQUATE.

3100 feet.....31  
 6100 feet (estimated)..61-

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

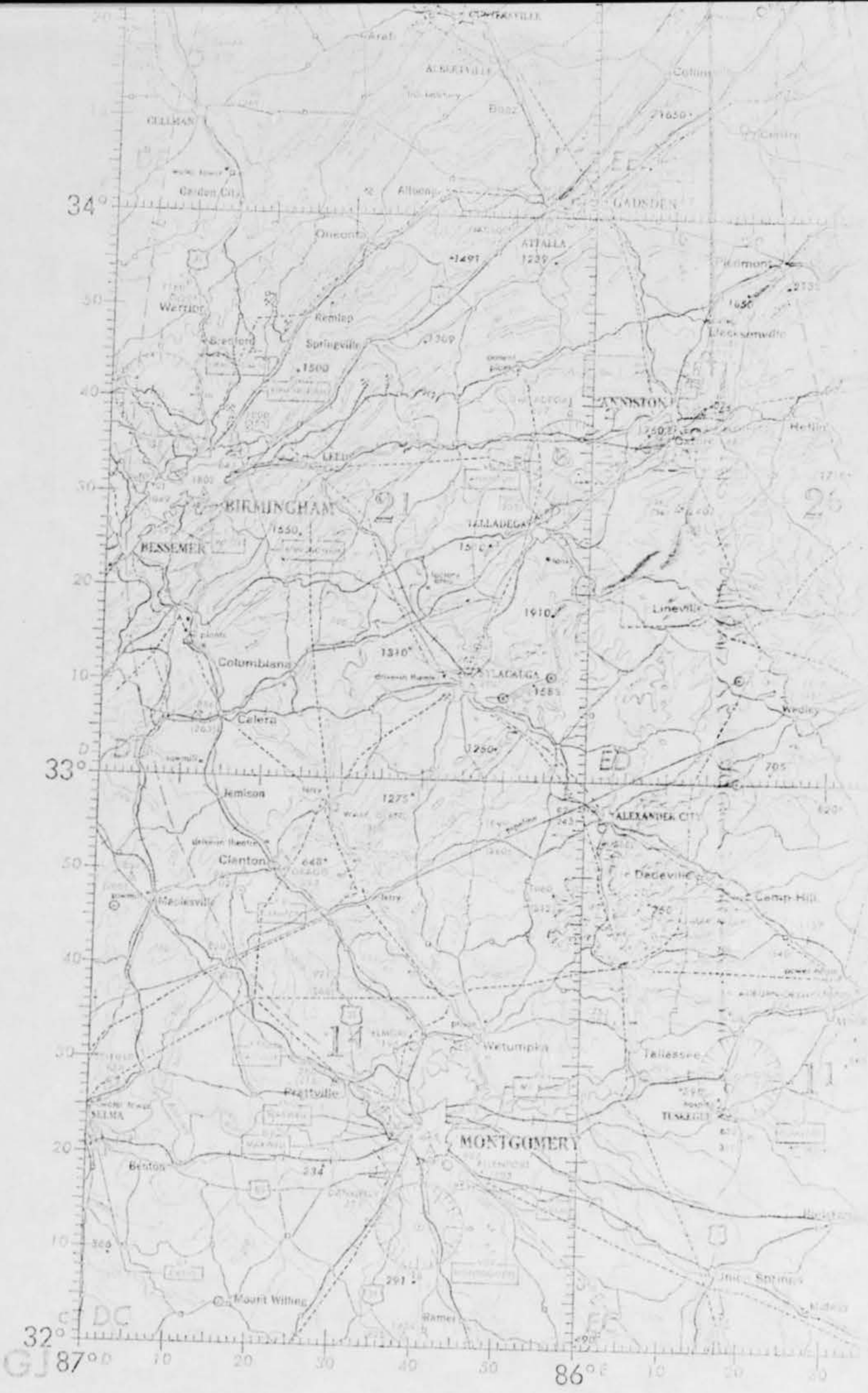
**PICTORIAL  
 SYMBOLIZATION**  
 NONE SHOWN ON THIS CHART.

**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  
 BOMBER EXCLUDED  
 OR WARNING AREA

ALL NUMBERS INDICATED INTERNATION  
 ALLY RECOGNIZED NUMERICAL IDENTI  
 FICATION  
 SUMMARY OF VERTICAL  
 OBSTRUCTION DATA  
 Elevation of obstructions and equi  
 valents of heights shown are generally  
 variable. When directly measured  
 obstructions exist, those of lesser  
 height have been omitted.



INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEETS

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ONC 409

ONC 409

STUDY THE LEGEND  
KNOW YOUR TOOLS

**LEGEND**

**RELIEF PORTRAYAL**

Elevations are in feet. HIGHEST TERRAIN elevation is 6684 feet located at 35°45'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 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 OBSTRUCTIONS. 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 INFORMATION IS INADEQUATE.

3100 feet ..... 31

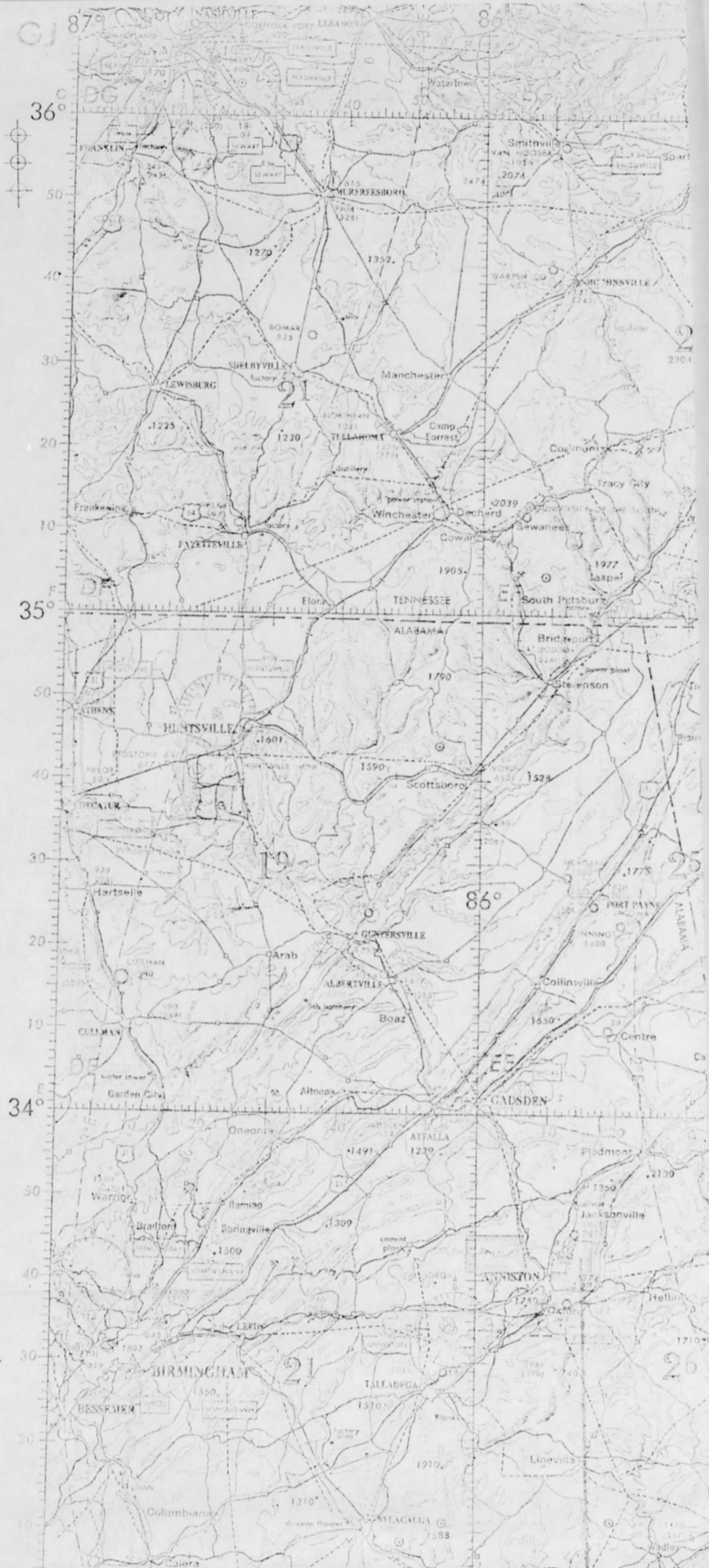
6100 feet (estimated) ..... 61

**CULTURE**

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

**PICTORIAL SYMBOLIZATION**

None shown on this chart.



UFO ANALYSIS SHEET

Location SWEETWATER, SOUTH CAROLINA

Date 12 Oct 1960 Hour (Z) 2400

WX Clear - VISB UNLIMITED CEILING. Thunderstorms in Area.

Description Bright light lit up the sky

Direction of Motion ESE - WNW

Satellite: (AFCIN-4F3, 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 MESSAGES 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 CUFF PROVIDED FROM A "ROLL-ON" DEODORANT.





MR. WRIGHTS  
HOME





THE WITNESS MISJUDGED THE DISTANCE AND  
THE SPEED OF THE OBJECT ... IT IS  
NOT UNUSUAL FOR THESE EXCEPTIONAL  
MATTERS TO HAVE SUCH STARTLING SPEED  
AND IF THE OBSERVER, 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 HYNNE

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 320 Air Division (SAGE) ATTN: Lt. Rose-Intelligence-  
Dobbins AFB, Georgia

1. Mr. [REDACTED], an employee at [REDACTED], turned over to GWO 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 Korlisk 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 arm's 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.

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. ██████████ 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. Ifeal the tree would not have hampered vision enough to hamr view of the object as it was described to me. The field is ringed by trees.

(2) Mr. ██████████ 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) b. lca)

(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 maneuvers.

(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



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 deformed 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 buoyant. 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 AFIC. 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 Ben 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 phenomena, 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 AFSSA, S. C., stated that about 1900 EST (2000Z) on 12 Oct, he saw what he described as a meteor. Capt. [REDACTED] said several people were standing outside Maygood 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).