

UNCLASSIFIED

VERIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

LMR-6-11-79
EMS 2-11-81

REF ID: A66000

PUBLICLY RELEASABLE

Per LMR ³⁻⁴⁻⁹³ FSS-16 Date: DSG-93-106
By M. Balligan CIC-14 Date: 5-16-96

SPECIAL RE-REVIEW
FINAL DETERMINATION
UNCLASSIFIED, DATE: 2-11-81

Classification changed to UNCLASSIFIED
by authority of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission,

Per ILPR, TID-1381 ¹²⁻³¹⁻⁷¹
By REPORT LIBRARY ⁷⁻³¹⁻⁷²

IA - 531

April 2, 1946

C.2

This document contains 139 pages

JULY 16th NUCLEAR EXPLOSION:
SPACE-TIME RELATIONSHIPS

VERIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

Per LMR 6-11-79
By M. Balligan 5-16-96

WORK DONE BY:

- B. C. Benjamin
- N. Bifano
- R. B. Bloom
- B. Brixner
- M. Caldes
- R. L. Conrad
- G. A. Economour
- F. E. Geiger
- W. L. Kudlacik
- D. C. Livingston
- R. Loevinger
- J. E. Mack
- T. S. Needels
- E. S. Palevsky
- J. A. Schwartz
- K. J. Shue
- G. W. Thompson
- J. P. Wahlen
- E. D. Wallis
- E. N. York

DO NOT CIRCULATE
Retention Copy

REPORT WRITTEN BY:

J. E. Mack

LOS ALAMOS NATL. LAB. LIB.
3 9338 00330 3632
NOV 19 1988
SCANNED

UNCLASSIFIED

000000
000000

-1-

Page

| TABLE OF CONTENTS INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS | | |
|---|---|----|
| | ABSTRACT | 2 |
| I | INTRODUCTION | 3 |
| | Purpose | |
| | Photographs included in this report | |
| | Equipment (refer to Table I, Appendix I) | |
| | Coordinates and notation | |
| | Measurement methods | |
| | Recommendations for future tests | |
| II | GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPLOSION Fig. 1 | 5 |
| III | DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE THE GROUNDSTRIKE ($6.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$ seconds) | 7 |
| | Radius proportional to the two-fifths power of the time | |
| | Hot, pinched bottom - Figs. 2,3 Eqs. (1), (2) | |
| | Blisters - (Table II) | |
| | Spikes - (Table III) | |
| | Time of groundstrike | |
| IV | DEVELOPMENTS APPARENTLY CONSEQUENT UPON THE GROUNDSTRIKE | 14 |
| | Skirt - Figs. 4,5,6,7 | |
| | Curtain of light | |
| | Hot V in the skirt | |
| | Belt, or Mach front - (Table IV) | |
| V | OTHER DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE 10^{-2} SECONDS | 16 |
| | Irregular curvature | |
| | Hot spots | |
| | Area boundaries | |
| VI | DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN 10^{-2} AND 10^{-1} SECONDS | 18 |
| | Separation of the shock front from the ball of fire | |
| | Dark front - Fig. 8 | |
| | Departure of the shock velocity from the two-fifths power law - Eqs. (3), (4) | |
| VII | REFRACTION BY THE SHOCK FRONT AT 10^{-1} SECONDS | 21 |
| | Fig. 9 | |

UNCLASSIFIED

U.S. GOVERNMENT
 PRINTING OFFICE

UNCLASSIFIED

-ii-

| | | |
|--------------|---|----|
| VIII | MASS MOTION OF THE AIR AT $3 \cdot 10^{-1}$ SECONDS- Fig. 10 | 23 |
| IX | DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN 10^{-1} SECONDS AND 1 SECONDS | 24 |
| | Partial envelopment of the ball by the skirt | |
| X | DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN 1 and 10 SECONDS | 25 |
| | Transition from the ball-of-fire stage to the smoke-cloud stage | |
| | Stoppage and resumption of the ascent of the top of the ball | |
| | Torus | |
| | Neck Formation | |
| | Convection stem | |
| | Formation and rise of the smoke cloud - Fig. 11 | |
| | Change of shape of the smoke cloud | |
| | Persistence of the torus in the smoke cloud | |
| | Expansion of the smoke cloud - (Table V) | |
| XI | DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN 10 AND 10^2 SECONDS | 31 |
| | Cloud ring formation - (Table VI) | |
| | Glow | |
| | Condensation | |
| | Stem twist | |
| XII | DEVELOPMENTS AFTER 10^2 SECONDS | 34 |
| | Smoke pall | |
| APPENDIX I | EQUIPMENT - (Table I) | 35 |
| APPENDIX II | MEASUREMENT METHODS | 36 |
| APPENDIX III | RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE TESTS | 39 |
| | Time of day | |
| | Following the shock wave further by cable motions | |
| | Improvements in time resolution during the early stages | |
| | More space reference marks | |
| | Increased number of motion picture cameras | |
| | Fixed position required for spectroscopy | |

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS (see page iii)

U.S. GOVERNMENT
 PRINTING OFFICE

UNCLASSIFIED

| Viewpoint | Time | Scale |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | 10 ⁴ N time exposure | 1: 4,400 |
| 2 | 800N W 0.10-0.94 ms | 1: 2,000 |
| 3 | 800N W 1.03-1.93 | 1: 2,000 |
| 4 | 800N 2.18-4.98 | 1: 2,000 |
| 5 | 10 ⁴ N 6 | 1: 2,000 |
| 6 | 800N 5.69-8.66 | 1: 2,000 |
| 7 | 10 ⁴ N 16 | 1: 2,000 |
| 8 | 10 ⁴ N 15.1-26.0 | 1: 10,000 |
| 9 | 800N 18.1-21.1 | 1: 2,000 |
| 10 | 10 ⁴ N 25 | 1: 2,000 |
| 11 ^a | 10 ⁴ N 34 | 1: 2,000 |
| 12 ^a | 10 ⁴ N 44 | 1: 2,000 |
| 13 ^a | 10 ⁴ N 53 | 1: 2,000 |
| 14 ^a | 10 ⁴ N 62 | 1: 2,000 |
| 15 ^a | 10 ⁴ N 72 | 1: 2,000 |
| 16 ^a | 10 ⁴ N 81 | 1: 2,000 |
| 17 ^a | 10 ⁴ N 90 | 1: 2,000 |
| 18 ^a | 10 ⁴ N 100 | 1: 2,000 |
| 19 ^a | 10 ⁴ N 100 | 1: 2,000 |
| 20 | 10 ⁴ N 109 | 1: 2,000 |
| 21 | 10 ⁴ N 116 | 1: 2,000 |
| 22 | 10 ⁴ N 127 | 1: 2,000 |
| 23 | 10 ⁴ N 0.2 sec | 1: 2,000 |
| 24 | 10 ⁴ N 0.5 | 1: 2,000 |
| 25 | 10 ⁴ N 1.0 | 1: 2,000 |
| 26 | 10 ⁴ N 1.5 | 1: 2,000 |
| 27 | 10 ⁴ N 2.0 | 1: 2,000 |
| 28 | 110 ⁴ N 2.5 | 1: 2,000 |
| 29 | 10 ⁴ N 3.0 | 1: 2,000 |
| 30 | 10 ⁴ N 4.0 | 1: 2,000 |
| 31 | 10 ⁴ N 5.0 sec | 1: 2,000 |
| 32 | 10 ⁴ N 10.0 | 1: 2,000 |
| 33 | 10 ⁴ N 0.118- 0.214 | 1: 10,000 |
| 34 | 10 ⁴ N 0.01 - 0.50 | 1: 1,000 |
| 35 | 10 ⁴ N 0.21 | 1: 1,000 |
| 36 | 10 ⁴ N 0.34 | 1: 1,000 |
| 37 | 10 ⁴ N 5.00 | 1: 1,000 |
| 38 ^b | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW 11.5 | 1: 100,000 |
| 39 ^b | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW 14.5 | 1: 100,000 |
| 40 ^b | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW 18.1 | 1: 100,000 |
| 41 | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW 8.1-18.1 | 1: 100,000 |
| 42 | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW _L 8.1 | 1: 50,000 |
| 43 | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW _L 11.5 | 1: 50,000 |
| 44 | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW _L 14.8 | 1: 50,000 |
| 45 | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW _L 18.1 | 1: 50,000 |
| 46 | 10 ⁴ N 1 | 1: 10,000 |
| 47 | 10 ⁴ N 2 | 1: 10,000 |
| 48 | 10 ⁴ N 3 | 1: 10,000 |
| 49 | 10 ⁴ N 4 | 1: 10,000 |
| 50 | 10 ⁴ N 5 | 1: 10,000 |
| 51 | 10 ⁴ N 6 | 1: 10,000 |
| 52 | 10 ⁴ N 7 | 1: 10,000 |
| 53 | 10 ⁴ N 8 | 1: 10,000 |
| 54 | 10 ⁴ N 9 | 1: 10,000 |
| 55 | 10 ⁴ N 10 | 1: 10,000 |
| 56 | 10 ⁴ N 11 | 1: 10,000 |
| 57 | 10 ⁴ N 12 | 1: 10,000 |
| 58 | 10 ⁴ N 13 | 1: 10,000 |
| 59 | 10 ⁴ N 14 | 1: 10,000 |
| 60 | 10 ⁴ N 15 | 1: 10,000 |
| 61 | 10 ⁴ N 16 sec | 1: 10,000 |
| 62 | 10 ⁴ N 17 | 1: 10,000 |
| 63 | 10 ⁴ N 18 | 1: 10,000 |
| 64 | 10 ⁴ N 19 | 1: 10,000 |
| 65 | 10 ⁴ N 20 | 1: 10,000 |
| 66 | 10 ⁴ N 21 | 1: 10,000 |
| 67 | 10 ⁴ N 22 | 1: 10,000 |
| 68 | 10 ⁴ N 23 | 1: 10,000 |
| 69 | 10 ⁴ N 24 | 1: 10,000 |
| 70 | 10 ⁴ N 25 | 1: 10,000 |
| 71 | 10 ⁴ N 30 | 1: 10,000 |
| 72 | 10 ⁴ N 35 | 1: 10,000 |
| 73 | 10 ⁴ N 40 | 1: 10,000 |
| 74 | 10 ⁴ N 50 | 1: 10,000 |
| 75 | 10 ⁴ N 60 | 1: 10,000 |
| 76 ^c | 4-10 ⁴ NW 30-40 | ~10 ⁻⁴ |
| 77 ^c | 4-10 ⁴ NW 50 - 60 | ~10 ⁻⁴ |
| 78 ^c | 4-10 ⁴ NW 80 - 90 | ~10 ⁻⁴ |
| 79 ^c | 4-10 ⁴ NW -2 min | ~10 ⁻⁴ |
| 80 | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW ~5 min | ~10 ⁻⁴ |
| 81 | 3.3-10 ⁴ NW ~10 | ~10 ⁻⁴ |
| 82 ^d | 10 ⁴ N 40 | ~10 ⁻⁴ |
| 83 | Vertical 28 hrs. | 1: 10,400 |

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

^aHigh contrast copy.

^bVectograph (stereo print); use the viewer in pocket.

^cCourtesy of Stanley Frankel; the time and space scales of these pictures are not known. Color print.

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED

12

Abstract

Fig. 1 is a compilation of almost all the data.

Except for the extra brightness and retardation of a part of the sphere near the bottom, a number of blisters, and several spikes that shot radially ahead of the ball below the equator, the expansion of the ball of fire before striking the ground was almost symmetric, following the relationship, $R \propto t^{2/5}$, where R is the radius and t is the time in seconds.

Contact with the ground was made at 0.65 ± 0.05 milliseconds. Thereafter, the ball became rapidly smoother. From 1.5 to 32 milliseconds the time dependence of the radius followed closely the relationship, $R \propto (t + 4 \cdot 10^{-4})^{2/5}$. At 3 milliseconds there appeared at the bottom of the ball an irregular line of demarcation, below which the surface was appreciably brighter than above; this line rose like the top of a curtain until it disappeared near the top of the ball at about 11 milliseconds. Shortly after the spikes struck the ground there appeared on the ground ahead of the shock front a wide skirt of lumpy matter, and within and above the skirt a smooth belt (interpreted as the Mach wave), originally brighter than the main front but rapidly growing dimmer.

Two successive visible fronts dropped behind the well-defined shock front. The brighter but less sharply limited ball of fire fell behind it at about 0.016 seconds. At about 0.032 seconds there appeared immediately behind the shock front a dark front of absorbing matter, which traveled slowly out until it became invisible at 0.65 seconds. The shock

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED

U.S. AIR FORCE
 REPORT

-2A-

front itself became invisible at about 0.10 seconds, but was followed until 0.39 seconds, first by its light-refracting property and later by the impulse it imparted to a balloon cable. The mass motion of the air could be determined from a study of the motion of the vapor of the balloon cable.

The ball of fire grew ever more slowly to a radius of about $3 \cdot 10^2$ meters, until the dust cloud growing out of the skirt almost enveloped it. The top of the ball started to rise again at 2 seconds. At 3.5 seconds a minimum horizontal diameter, or neck, appeared one-third of the way up the skirt, and the portion of the skirt above the neck formed a vortex ring. The neck narrowed, ^{and} the ring and the fast-growing pile of matter above it rose as a new cloud of smoke, carrying a convection stem of dust up behind it. A boundary within the cloud, between the ring and the upper part, persisted for at least 22 seconds. The stem appeared twisted like a left-handed screw. The cloud of smoke, surrounded by a faint purple haze, rose with its top traveling at 57 meters per second, at least until the top reached 1.5 kilometers. The later history of the cloud was not quantitatively recorded.

U.S. AIR FORCE
 REPORT

UNCLASSIFIED
 43-
 OPEN

JULY 16TH NUCLEAR EXPLOSION - SPACE-TIME RELATIONSHIPS

1. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to make a detailed description of the events consequent upon the explosion, as determined by the analysis of photographs. Approximately 10^5 photographic exposures were made, almost all of them motion picture frames. The report does not include any spectrographic or radiometric results; these are in separate reports ^{1,2}. A great deal of the material contained here is presented less quantitatively but more graphically in a series of motion picture titles³ and edited motion pictures⁴.

Photographs included in this report

Eighty-three prints are included at the end of this report. They are listed in the table of contents in tabular form, showing the viewpoint, the dimensional scale of the print, and the time, for each. Among the prints are several composites, four stereo prints (for which a stereo viewer is included), and one color print. There is some departure from chronological order for the sake of continuity of the sequences. In order to avoid a confusing array of references in almost every sentence, all reference to the prints is avoided in the body of the report.

¹ D. Williams and P. Yuster, LA - 353.

² F. E. Geiger, J. E. Mack, and S. Nicholson, LA - 589

³ Cf. J. E. Mack, LAMS - 373

⁴ On file in Group M - 8.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
 OPEN

DECLASSIFIED

-4-

Almost everything mentioned in the report is illustrated by at least one of the prints included here. The pertinent prints can usually be found easily by searching for prints belonging to the appropriate time.

Equipment

Appendix I contains, in Table I, a compilation of the principal equipment used for producing the pictures measured for this report, together with all the most important data regarding the equipment and the pictures.

Coordinates and notation

Measurements were made in terms of a coordinate system whose cardinal directions are N, W, S, and E, where N is, according to an engineering survey, $21^{\circ} 56'$ west of north, and W, S, and E are successive intervals of 90° counterclockwise. When a point is referred to by latitude or azimuth, the origin is the explosion center, the latitude is an angle measured positive upward from the horizontal, and the azimuth is measured counterclockwise from the direction N. The four principal camera stations were all nearly (within 10 minutes of arc) in cardinal azimuthal directions from the origin, viz., at 800 and 10^4 yards N and W. The stations are usually designated by distance in yards and direction, e.g., 800 N is approximately 800 yards in the direction N from the gadget center. A station called $3.3 \cdot 10^4$ N₁ had two cameras at azimuths $25\frac{1}{3}^{\circ}$ and $26\frac{2}{3}^{\circ}$, called $3.3 \cdot 10^4$ N_{1L} and $3.3 \cdot 10^4$ N_{1R}, respectively. Reference points for determining distance were the centers of four billboards ten feet square, centered 200 meters from the vertical line through the center of the gadget in the

SECRET

-5-

directions N, W, S and E.⁵ Time intervals were measured with reference to the period of a 1000-cycle tuning fork. The origin of the time scale was fixed at approximately the time of the nuclear explosion by extrapolating the radius of the ball of fire backward to zero (cf. Fig. 2 below). Numerical values appearing after the sign \pm in this paper are estimated probable errors.

Measurement methods

The details of the methods used in determining the space-time relationships shown in the graphs are given in Appendix II.

Recommendations for future tests

Recommendations for future tests are given in Appendix III.

II. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF EXPLOSION

The significant space-time relationships that we have measured from the photographic records are shown in the graphs, Figs. 1 to 11. Fig. 1 is a compilation of almost all the data.

Except for the extra brightness and retardation of a part of the sphere near the bottom, a number of blisters, and several spikes that shot radially ahead of the ball below the equator, the expansion of the ball of fire before striking the ground was almost symmetric, following the relationship, $R \propto t^{2/5}$, where R is the radius in meters, and t is the time in seconds.

Contact with the ground was made at 0.65 ± 0.05 milliseconds.

⁵Surveying details may be found on page 47 of LA notebook number 884.

SECRET
TOP SECRET

-6-

Thereafter the ball became rapidly smoother. From 1.5 to 32 milliseconds the time dependence of the radius followed closely the relationship $R \propto (t + 4 \cdot 10^{-4})^{2/5}$. At 3 milliseconds there appeared at the bottom of the ball an irregular line of demarcation, below which the surface was appreciably brighter than above; this line rose like the top of a curtain until it disappeared at the top of the ball at about 11 milliseconds. Shortly after the spikes struck the ground (about 2 milliseconds) there appeared on the ground ahead of the shock front a wide skirt of lumpy matter, and within and above the skirt a smooth belt (interpreted as the Mach wave), originally brighter than the main front but rapidly growing dimmer.

Two successive visible fronts dropped behind the well-defined shock front. The brighter but less sharply limited ball of fire fell behind it at about 0.016 seconds (105 meters). At about 0.032 seconds (150 meters) there appeared immediately behind the shock front a dark front of absorbing matter, which traveled slowly out until it became invisible at 0.85 seconds (375 meters). The shock front itself became invisible 0.10 seconds ($2.4 \cdot 10^2$ meters), first by its light-refracting property and later by the impulse it imparted to a balloon cable. The mass motion of the air could be determined from a study of the motion of the vapor of the balloon cable.

The ball of fire grew ever more slowly to a radius of about $3 \cdot 10^2$ meters, until the dust cloud growing out of the skirt almost enveloped it. At 2 seconds the top of the ball started to rise again. At 3.5 seconds a minimum horizontal diameter, or neck, appeared one-third of

SECRET
TOP SECRET

DE
SECRET

-7-

the way up the skirt, and the portion of the skirt above the neck formed a new vortex ring. The neck narrowed, and the ring and the fast-growing pile of matter above it rose as a new cloud of smoke, carrying a convection stem of dust up behind it. An approximately horizontal boundary within the cloud, between the ring and the upper part, persisted for at least 25 seconds. The stem appeared twisted like a left-handed screw. The cloud of smoke, surrounded by a faint purple haze, rose with its top traveling at 57 meters per second, at least until the cameras lost its relationship to the horizon at 1.5 kilometers.

III. DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE THE GROUNDSTRIKE ($6.5 \cdot 10^{-4}$ seconds)

Radius proportional to the two-fifths power of the time.

Within the limits imposed by our best resolving time of about 0.1 milliseconds, the observed value of the radius during the early expansion of the ball of fire (Figs. 1, 2, 3), was proportional to the 0.404 ± 0.008 power of the elapsed time. The relationship can be expressed, within the accuracy of the observations, as:

$$R = 616 t^{2/5} \quad \text{Eq. (1)}$$

where R is the radius in meters, and t is the time in seconds. This agrees with Taylor's theoretical relation $R \propto t^{2/5}$. After 1.5 milliseconds the expansion was slightly slower, following a two-fifths power law with a shifted zero of time:

$$R = 564 (t + 4 \cdot 10^{-4})^{2/5} \quad \text{Eq. (2)}$$

Eq. (2) was followed from 1.5 to 32 milliseconds. Three weaknesses of the

SECRET

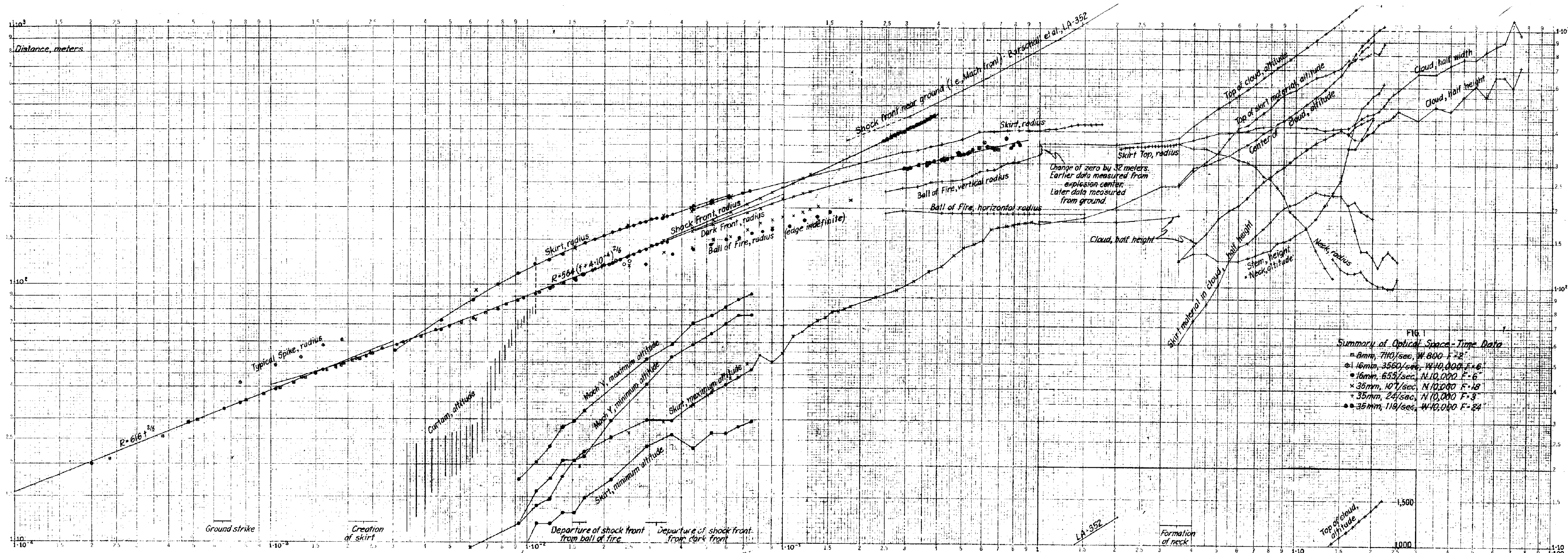
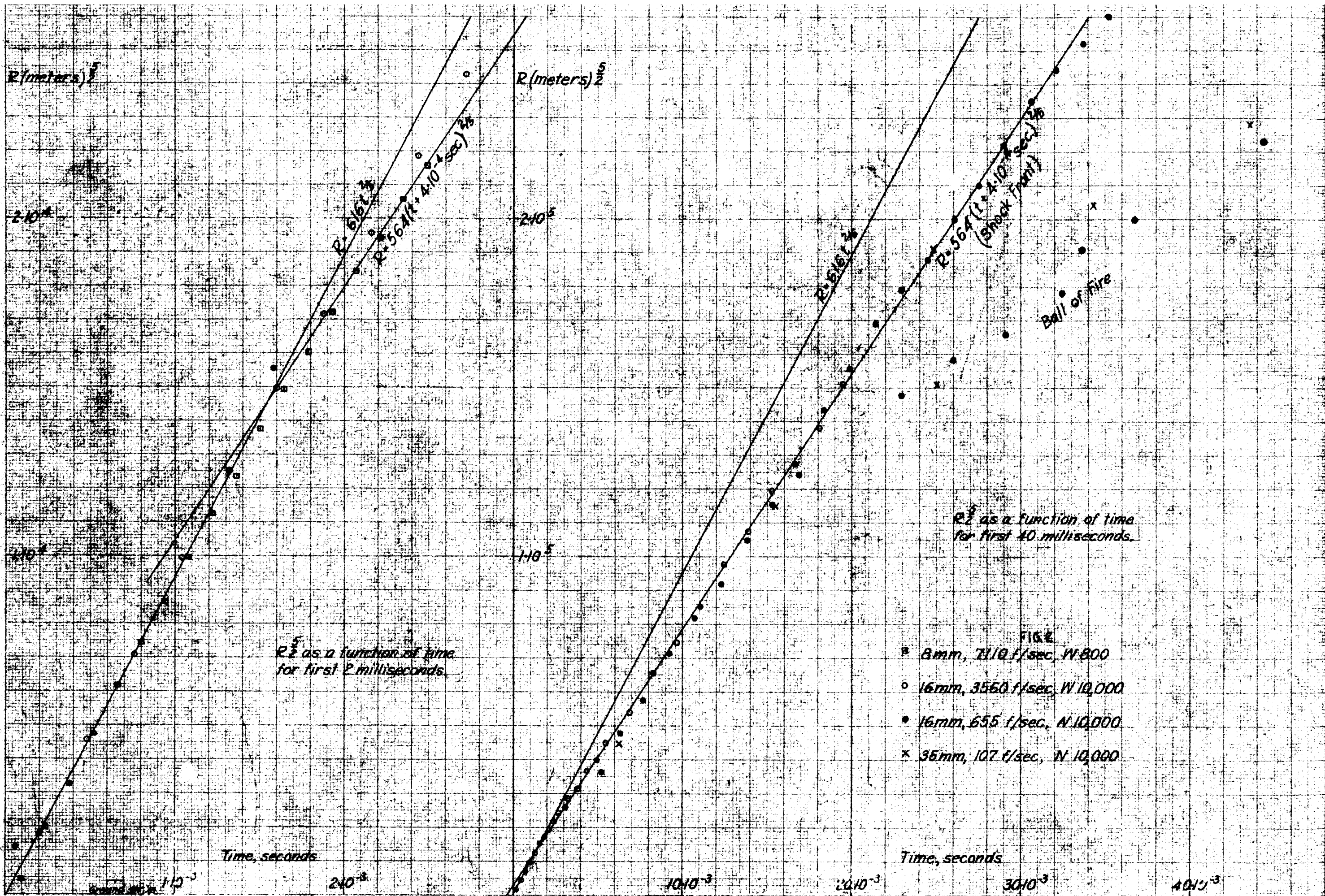


FIG 1
 Summary of Optical Space-Time Data

- 8mm, 710/sec, W 800 F-22
- 16mm, 3560/sec, W 10,000 F-6
- 16mm, 655/sec, N 10,000 F-6
- × 35mm, 107/sec, N 10,000 F-18
- 35mm, 24/sec, N 10,000 F-3
- 35mm, 119/sec, W 10,000 F-24

STANDARD CROSS SECTION
ENGRAVING 300 MILLIMETER



R^5 as a function of time
for first 2 milliseconds.

R^5 as a function of time
for first 40 milliseconds.

FIG. 2

- 8mm, 7110 f/sec, W 800
- 16mm, 3560 f/sec, W 10,000
- 16mm, 655 f/sec, N 10,000
- 35mm, 107 f/sec, N 10,000

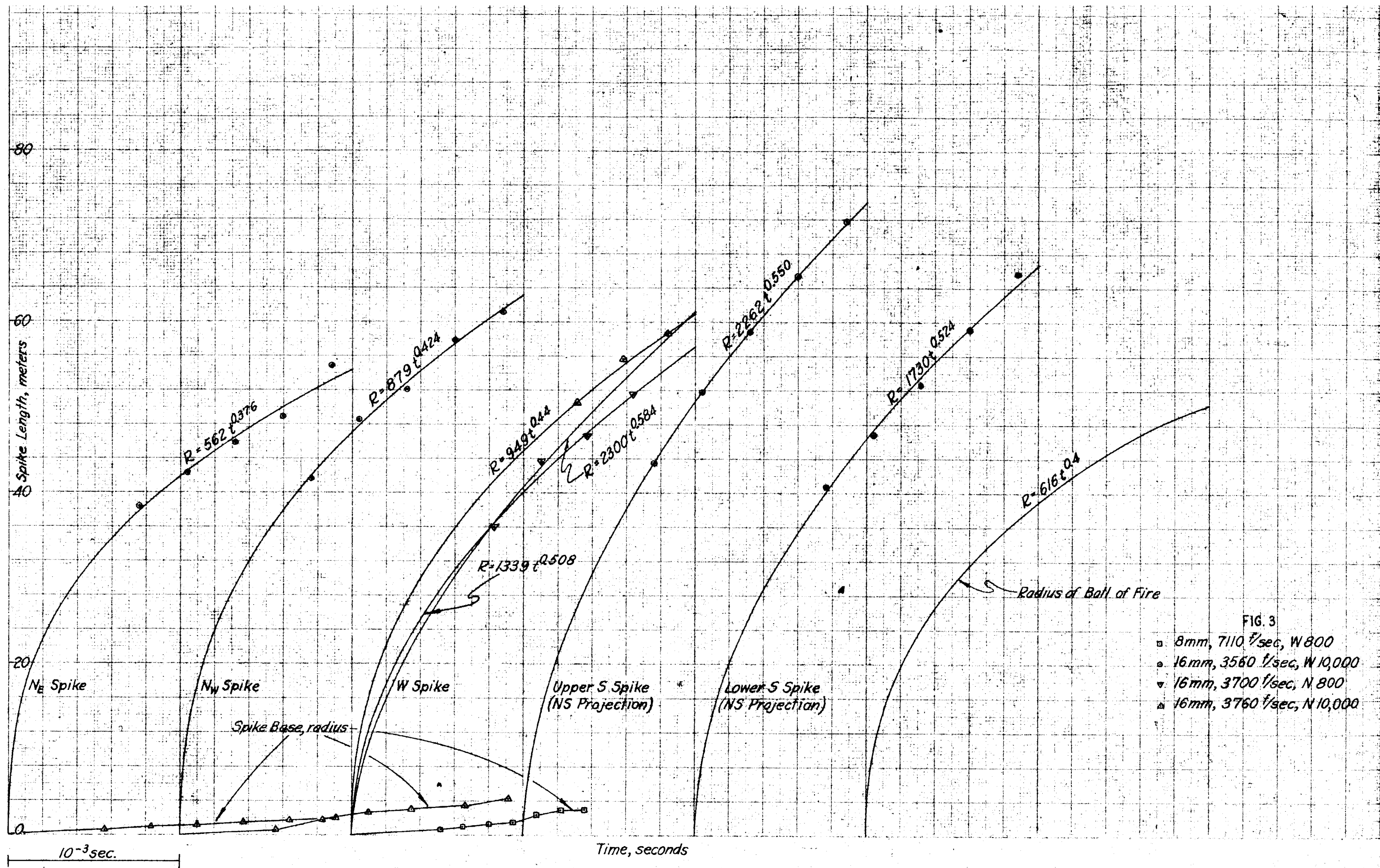


FIG. 3

- 8mm, 7110 f/sec, W 800
- 16mm, 3560 f/sec, W 10,000
- ▽ 16mm, 3700 f/sec, N 800
- △ 16mm, 3760 f/sec, N 10,000

U.S. GOVERNMENT
 PRINTING OFFICE

-8-

analysis ought to be pointed out: First, the time scale of all the other cameras is fitted to that of the slow 16mm Fastax at 10^4 N (#209), so the abscisses for all the points other than the solid discs are valuable only for their internal consistency. Second, the time is not independently known relative to the nuclear explosion; our zero was determined by extrapolation in Fig. 2. Third, with regard to the radius measurements, which for the 8 and 16mm cameras were all determined from horizontal diameters, it was necessary to decide what to interpret as the extent of the ball, in view of the blisters (cf. Blisters, below): the measurements were made to the extremes of the ball, except that the limit in the direction W was taken at the base rather than the outer surface of the compound blister, a policy that brought fair agreement between pictures from N and W.

Bethe has pointed out the usefulness of the early radius-time relationship in the determination of the total energy released in the explosion, and Fuchs⁶ has given detailed consideration to this aspect of the data.

Est. pinched bottom

The slight information that we have for the first 0.1 milliseconds indicates that at the end of that period there was a uniformly bright body, spherically symmetric except for an approximately uniform retardation

⁶K. Fuchs, LA - 516.

of about 30 percent in radius within a zone extending about 50 degrees from a polar axis directed about 10 degrees N of the nadir. By 0.2 milliseconds the retarded portion was brighter than the rest, and surrounded by a sharp demarcation line⁷. At 0.5 milliseconds the zone boundary was still retarded about 20 percent, but the polar region had a radius indistinguishable in magnitude from the horizontal one. The strike occurred at (0.65 0.65) milliseconds. The bright zone persisted until it was covered by the skirt at about 2.0 milliseconds.

These phenomena have been attributed by Peierls to the steel-supported wooden platform on which the gadget cradle rested. The floor was 1.1 meters below the gadget center, and extended symmetrically in a 4.65 meter square. The platform consisted of a steel frame of mass $1.48 \cdot 10^3$ kilograms and an oakwood floor of $1.17 \cdot 10^3$ kilograms. Above the platform there were $1.45 \cdot 10^3$ kilograms of steel, in addition to the sheet metal house of $0.68 \cdot 10^3$ kilograms⁸.

⁷Possibly the absence of evidence of any earlier line arises from insufficient time resolution during the initial high-speed expansion, which was at the rate of about 68 km per sec. at 0.1 milliseconds and only 16 km per sec. at 1 millisecond. The period of the pertinent camera was $1.4 \cdot 10^{-4}$ sec. Since more than half the field of an 8mm Fastax camera is exposed for 55 percent of the period (cf. record of experiments by T. J. Walker, in the files of the Optics group), the boundary line could have moved about 5 meters, or more than enough to hide it by blurring, during a single exposure at 0.1 milliseconds.

⁸The data on the tower components is based upon information supplied by P. W. Anderson.

U.S. GOVERNMENT
 PRINTING OFFICE

-10-

Blisters

By about 0.2 milliseconds, between thirty and forty blisters (the numerical estimate is based on two views at right angles) had formed on the ball. They were approximately hemispherical and of roughly the same order in size, with radii of about 1 to 2 meters. By 0.5 milliseconds they covered surface regions with about two or three times their original diameters, but they protruded slightly less than originally. After that time they subsided rapidly, until at 1 millisecond most of the surface of the ball was exceedingly smooth. The only especially noticeable blisters remaining then were one compound one and four or five others, which will be described below.

Pointing slightly above the horizontal and almost straight W, there grew early an exceptionally prominent blister (latitude $+15^\circ$, azimuth 88°) surmounted by a second one slightly below its center (latitude $+10^\circ$, azimuth 95°) that from 1 to 4 milliseconds appears thermally isolated and considerably cooler than the main ball; almost diametrically opposite was a rather large blister that lasted until about 1 millisecond. The dimensions of the compound blister are given in Table II.

U.S. GOVERNMENT
 PRINTING OFFICE

U.S. AIR FORCE
 AIR FORCE

-11-

TABLE II

DIMENSIONS OF THE COMPOUND BLISTER AT LATITUDE 10° , 13° , AZIMUTH 88° , 93°

All distances are given in meters.

| Time, milliseconds | 0.2 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 5 | 8 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------|
| Base blister, radius | 4 | 8 | 11 | 30 | (gone)* |
| Extent from spherical surface | 3 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0* |
| Superposed blister, radius | 1 | 3 | 6 | (gone) | |
| Total extent from spherical surface | 5 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 0* |

* That is, the extent is too slight for accurate measurement in the small-scale Fastax images, (~ 1 meter). It is still noticeable at 10 milliseconds; of. Sec. V, Irregular curvature.

Three rather prominent blisters (and possibly a fourth, to the S of E where it can be seen only from the cameras in direction N, and hardly from them) grew at latitude about $+60^{\circ}$, at irregularly spaced azimuths. For the second quarter millisecond they made the ball appear flat-topped. One of them (at latitude $+70^{\circ}$, azimuth 6°) appears quite isolated, as though it were a completely separate oblate spheroid set into a dimple in the main ball. From the outset it was cooler than the sphere; the brightness contrast increased until about 1 millisecond. It grew in equatorial radius from 3 meters at 0.2 millisecond to 6 meters at 1 millisecond. Thereafter it flattened out, remaining distinctly identifiable for almost 10^{-1} seconds (of. Sec. V, Hot spots, Area boundaries).

U.S. AIR FORCE
 AIR FORCE
 APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

44 . . . [REDACTED]

spikes

0110
0110

Before 0.5 milliseconds, V-shaped spikes started to appear ahead of the expanding front. Whenever a spike appeared against the ball, it appeared very dark. Five spikes could be seen on the three-fourths of the sphere visible from the cameras. They struck the ground between 2.0 and 2.4 milliseconds. All occurred at nearly the same latitude, about -30° , near the boundary of the pinched region. In azimuth, two projected almost straight N and one almost straight W; and although the other two could not be seen in stereo, they appeared to be nearly S. Fig. 3 shows the length and base radius, or projected length, of each spike. For these measurements, the base is taken as the intersection of the spike with the ball of fire, and the length is measured from the center of the sphere even though there is evidence that the spikes are not radial. Table III shows some of the other details for each of the spikes. It is clear from Table III that each of the three spikes that was observed in stereo originated near a vertical cardinal plane through the center of the gadget, and that it traveled in a direction better approximated by a line parallel to that plane than by a radius.

TABLE III

SPIKES

"Early" and "late" refer to the times of the two entries in the azimuth columns.

| Name of spike | Latitude | Azimuth at | | | | Displacement of vertex from central vertical cardinal plane | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|--------|--------|---|-------------------|
| | | 0.52 ms | 0.78 ms | 1.2 ms | 1.3 ms | early | late |
| N _E | -33° | | 354.6° | | 355.4° | 3.6, | 3.7 meters E of N |
| N _W | -24° | | 2.5° | | 2.0° | 1.8, | 1.8 meters W of N |
| W | -29° | 84.5° | | 86.0° | | 2.9, | 3.3 meters N of W |
| Upper S (NS projection only) | -28° | (not determinable) | | | | (Not determinable) | |
| Lower S (NS projection only) | -36° | [REDACTED] | | | | [REDACTED] | |

0110
0110

U.S. AIR FORCE
 OFFICE

-13-

Six wires and two associated cables ran to the ground from points on the tower near the gadget. Two coaxial cables ran to the ground, one at approximately 200 feet N (latitude -32°), and the other just west of it at approximately 300 feet N (latitude -21°). One guy wire supported each of these cables, two guy wires extended approximately S, and one each extended approximately east and west⁹. The systematic arrangement of the spikes in both azimuth and latitude points to a probable relationship between them and the guy wires. The geometric relationship between the two N spikes, as seen from the N cameras, is in qualitative agreement with that between the two coaxial cables. The observed cone shape would be expected if the velocity of the shock front along the cable were several times the velocity of the consequent shock front in the surrounding air. The absence of any spike to the east, the orientation of one spike toward W instead of west, and the ball-like end of the W spike at late times in contrast with the pointed ends of the others, are not yet accounted for by the cable hypothesis of the spikes' origin.

Time of the groundstrike

By interpolation, the time of the groundstrike has been determined to be $(6.5 \pm 0.5) \cdot 10^{-4}$ seconds.

⁹The information given here regarding the guy wires east, S, and west was reported orally several months after the explosion, from the memory of H. S. Allen, who was in charge of the rigging at the tower, and of one of the riggers. It absolutely verifies, in J. E. M.'s opinion, the existence of a guy wire running in the general direction of east or E, but does not absolutely exclude the possibility that the guy wire reported as running west actually ran W.

III. DEVELOPMENTS APPARENTLY CLOSE TO UPON THE GROUNDSTRIKE

Skirt

Shortly after the groundstrike there arose from the ground, and advanced ahead of the ball, a skirt or mass of matter that persisted until it turned into, or was succeeded by, the great cloud of dust that eventually almost enveloped the ball. Unlike all the other elements of the early post-explosion stages, the skirt presented a lumpy, rather than a smooth, surface. The hot lumps were brighter than than the ball of fire itself during the first few milliseconds of its existence, and equal to it in brightness at 30 ± 1 milliseconds, after which they cooled rapidly.

The extent of the skirt is shown in Figs. 1, 4, 6, and 7, and the velocity, in Fig. 5.

While the travel of the outer border of the skirt along the ground agrees qualitatively with that of the expected ground shock, the early vertical extent of the lumpy material is puzzling.

Curtain of light

Starting at 3 milliseconds, an irregular boundary line appeared above the skirt. Below the line the ball was considerably brighter than above it. The boundary rose at a rate that increased, then decreased, until the boundary disappeared near the top of the ball at about 11 milliseconds. The ball appeared to be enveloped in a rising curtain of light. No satisfactory explanation has been given for this phenomenon.

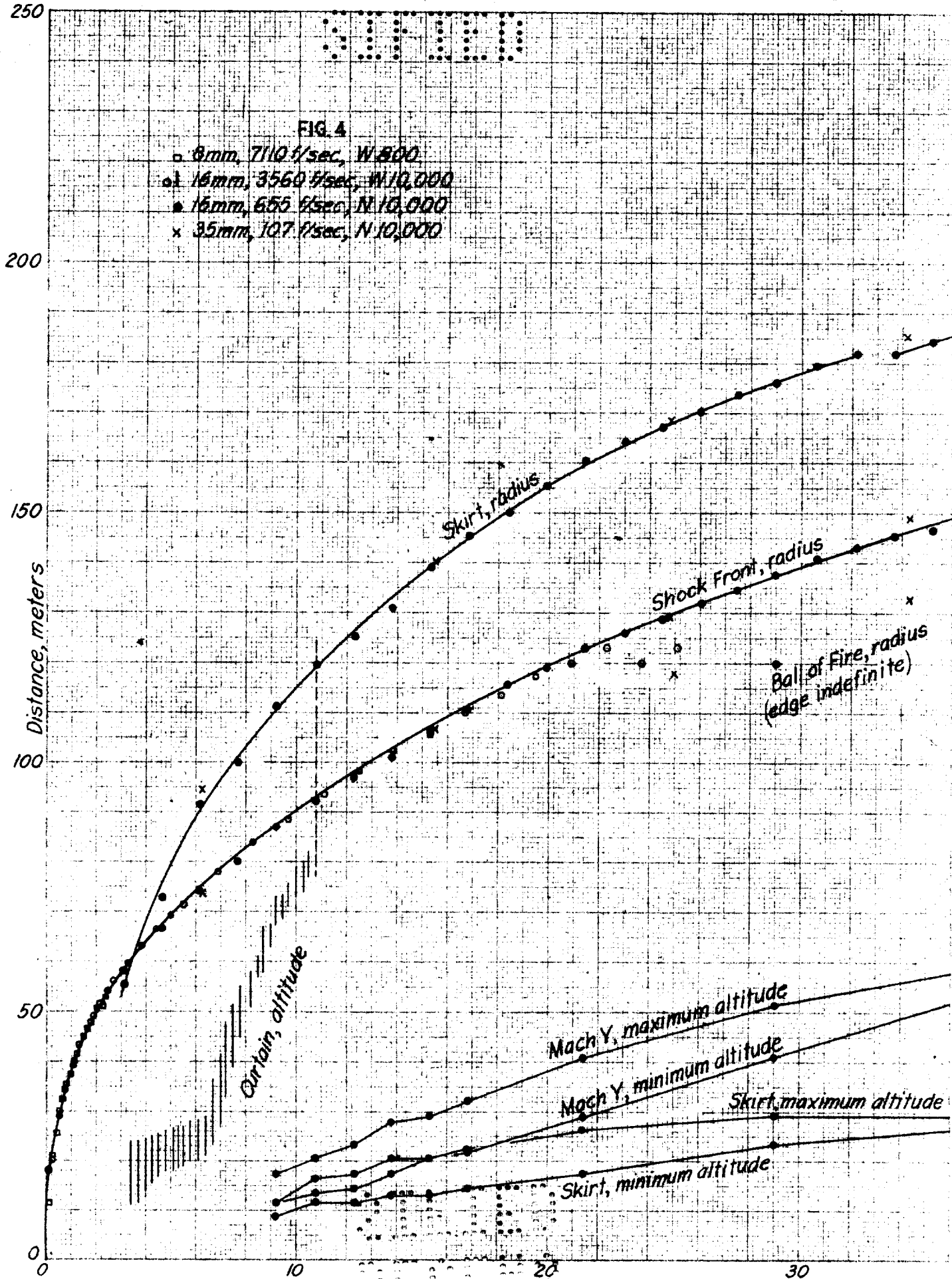
Fig. 4 shows the altitude of the curtain as a function of the time, and Fig. 5, the vertical velocity. Each vertical line in Fig. 4 extends from 1 meter above the maximum height to 1 meter below the mean height, as measured in a frame. The dashed line at 10.8 milliseconds indicates that the curtain was indistinguishable from this point on, but undoubtedly reached the top of the ball.

CONFIDENTIAL

FIG. 4

- 8mm, 7110 f/sec, W 800
- 16mm, 3560 f/sec, W 10,000
- 16mm, 655 f/sec, N 10,000
- x 35mm, 107 f/sec, N 10,000

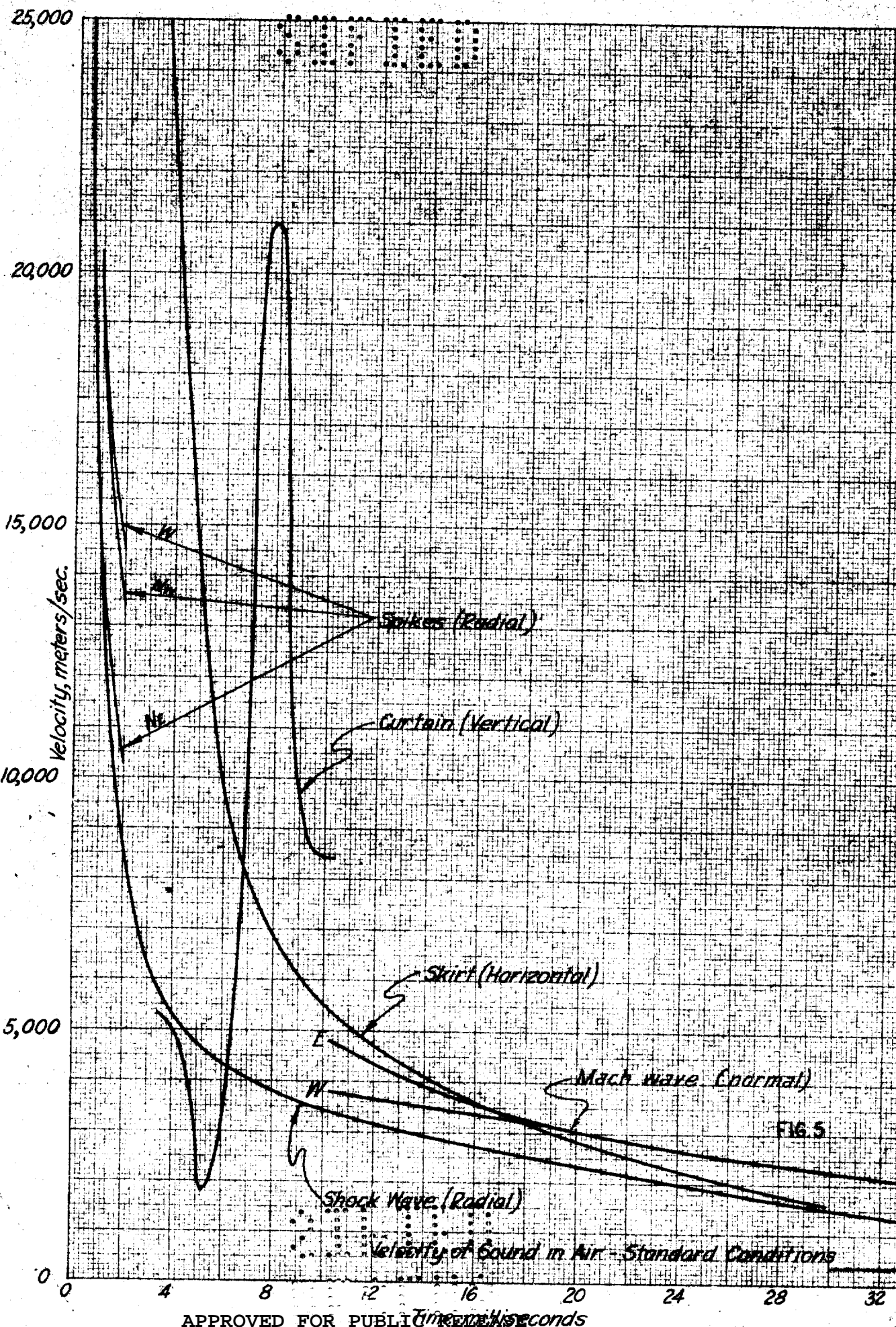
CHARLES BRIDGES COMPANY, INC. NO. 700-M
Subsidiary of the General Electric Company



SECRET

DATA SHEETS

CHARLES BRUNING COMPANY, INC. WP. 700-M
Millimeters, 10th lines heavy



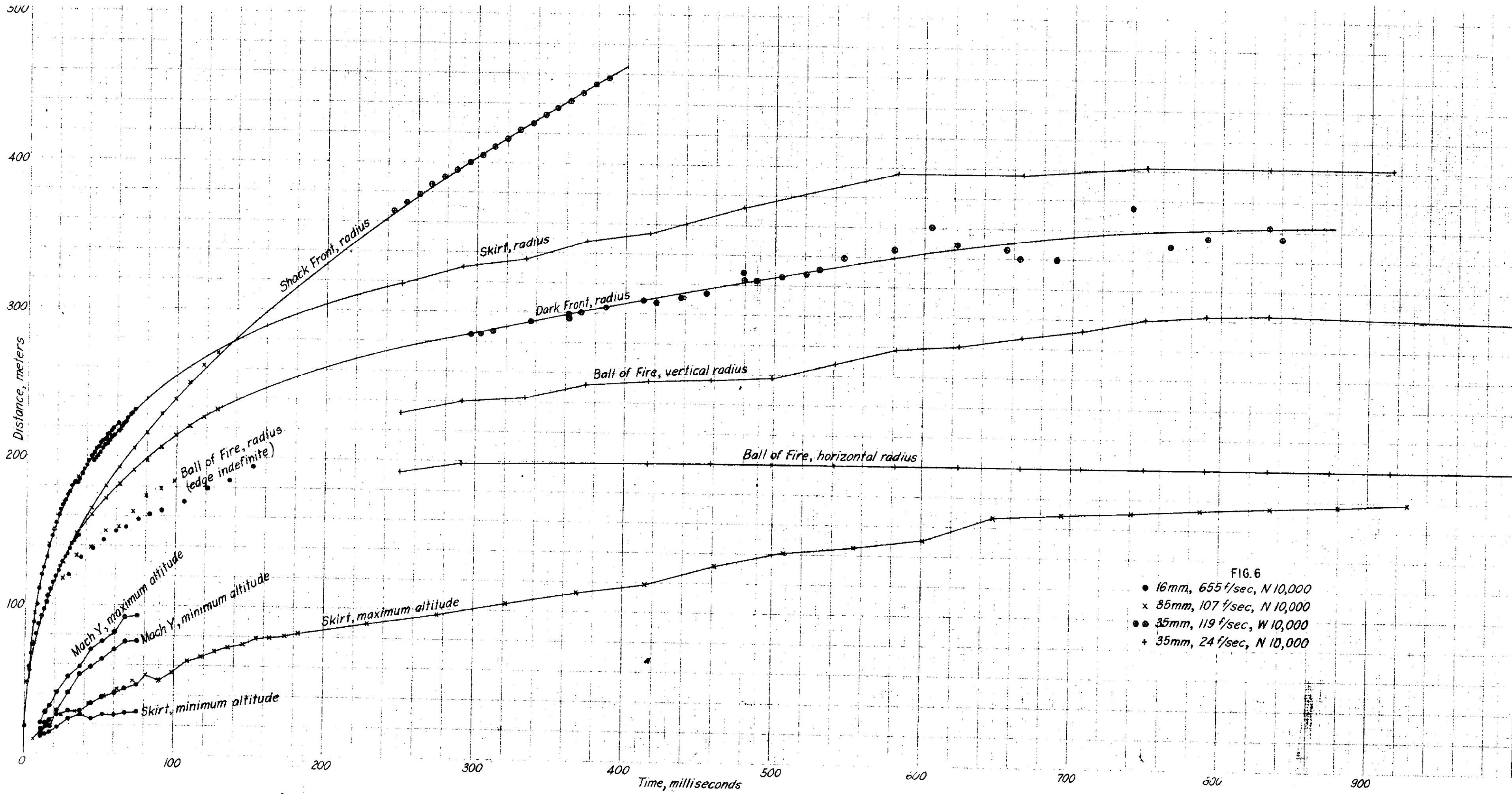
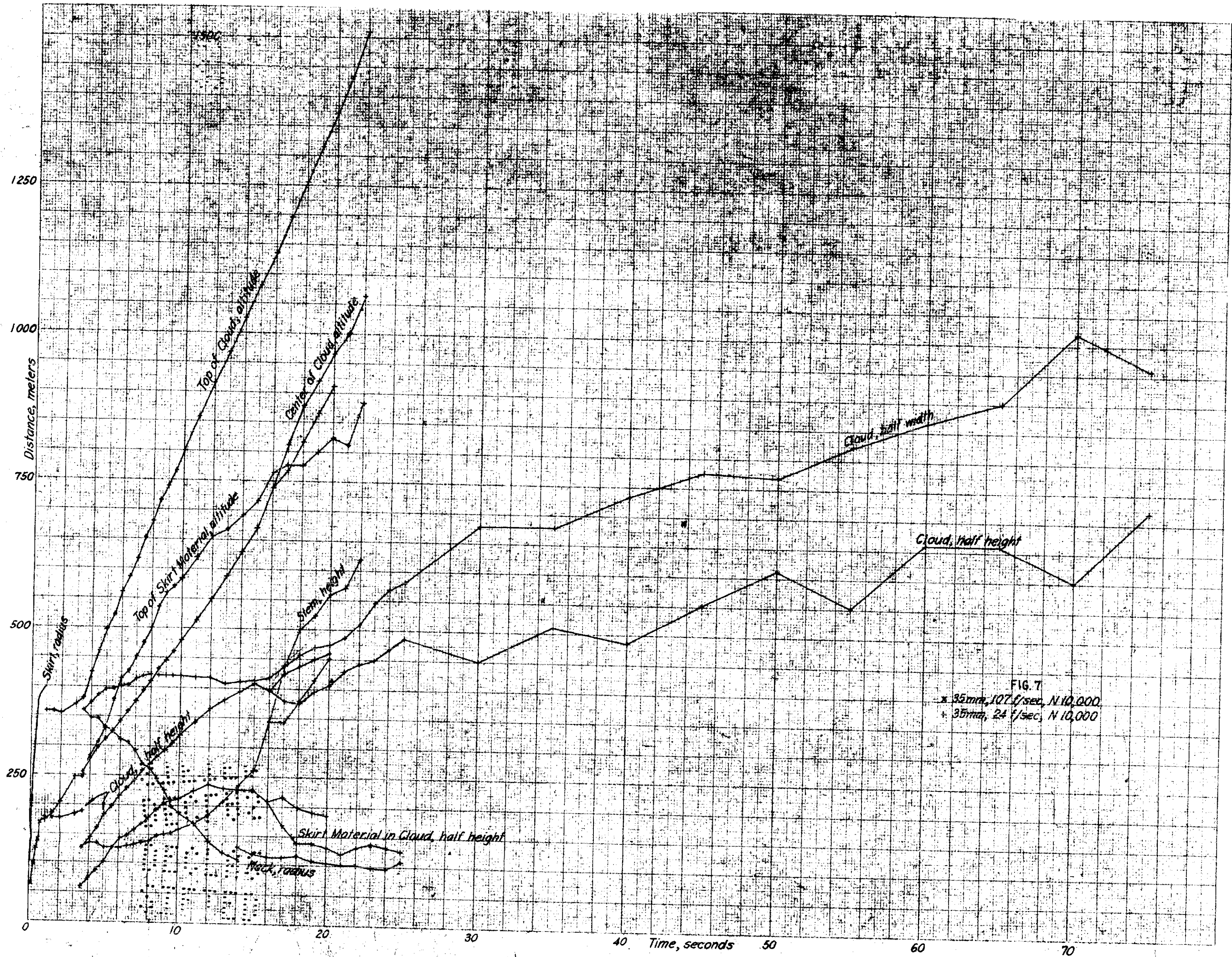


FIG. 6
 ● 16mm, 655 f/sec, N 10,000
 × 85mm, 107 f/sec, N 10,000
 ○ 35mm, 119 f/sec, W 10,000
 + 35mm, 24 f/sec, N 10,000

PHOTOGRAPH DELIVERED BY THE AIR FORCE



U.S. GOVERNMENT
OFFICE

-15-

Hot V in the skirt

In very nearly the direction N, where two coaxial cables extended obliquely from the gadget to the ground and where two spikes struck the ground at about 2 milliseconds, a V-shaped portion appeared at the birth of the skirt. Its apex rose from the ground to an altitude of about 10 meters in 40 milliseconds. During the early history of the skirt it was much hotter than the rest of the skirt; the difference became noticeable at 5 milliseconds and was very prominent in some lumps between 25 and 65 milliseconds, after which the V cooled rapidly. At about 30 milliseconds an indefinitely defined dark spot, evidently consisting of smoke, appeared immediately above it, and after 40 milliseconds, more of the V itself than of its surroundings was hidden by smoke. After the V cooled, there appeared, where the V had been, a relatively clear radial path in the smoky skirt region, that persisted for several seconds as though the combustible material near the spikes had been completely exhausted by burning while the V was especially hot.

Belt, or Mach front

At 3.6 milliseconds there appeared above the skirt a discontinuity in the orientation of the shock front. The belt below the break appeared to be a segment of a new, smooth, near-spherical surface with its center slightly below the ground, intersecting the old, spherical shock front. All the observations upon this belt are consistent with its being interpreted as the Mach front, and hereafter, it will be assumed that the belt was the Mach

U. S. G. O.
S. I. T. I. N.

-16-

wave front and that the break was the Mach "Y". The altitude of the Y was a slightly variable function of the azimuth. Previous to the separation of the shock wave from the ball of fire, the Mach front was considerably brighter throughout than the spherical shock front. After 19 milliseconds the part seen against the ball of fire appeared relatively dark until the boundary disappeared entirely at about 0.1 seconds, but even after 19 milliseconds the part that was viewed almost tangentially appeared bright in contrast with the spherical shock front. These observations indicate that the Mach front was more opaque, and hotter, than the spherical shock front. At about 0.04 seconds several approximately horizontal lines appeared within the region occupied by the Mach front. No explanation has been given for these lines. Table IV gives certain other details of the Mach front. Figures 4 and 6 show the time dependence of the altitude of the Y, and Fig. 5 shows its velocity during part of its history.

V. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE 10^{-2} SECONDS.

Irregular curvature

The ball continuously approached sphericity in shape as long as its surface remained distinct. While at 1 millisecond the view from N showed concavities, especially near the compound blister and its opposite point, at 10 milliseconds the most prominent formerly concave segments were almost flat, and at 20 milliseconds, the surface was convex throughout, above the belt. At 10 milliseconds the contour of the ball appeared more like a

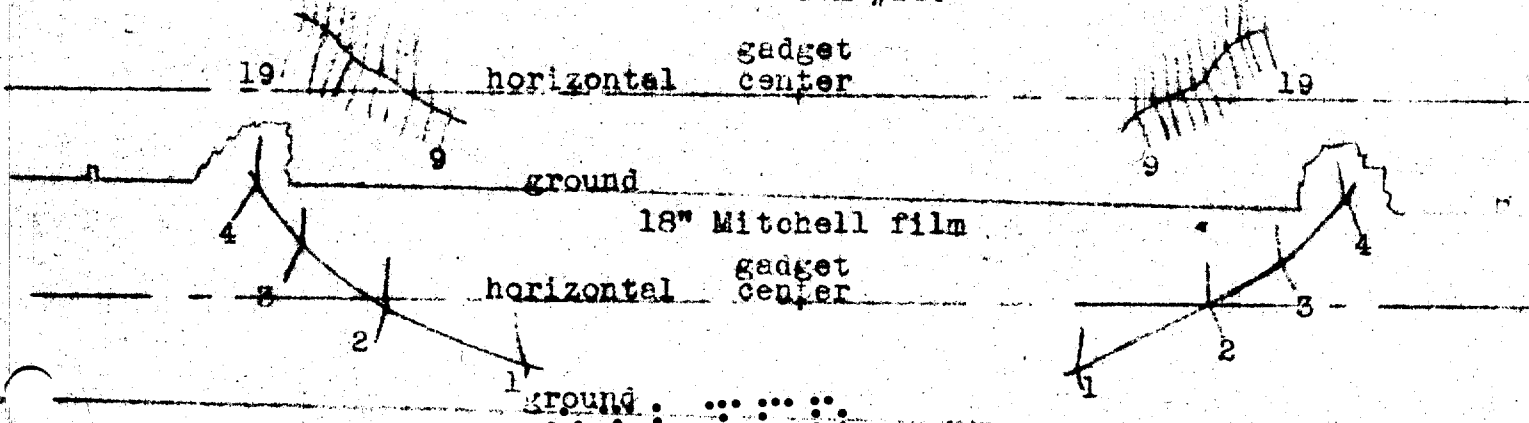
U. S. G. O.
S. I. T. I. N.

TABLE IV
MACH FRONT

All readings were taken on the original tracings, below.
 Angles are measured with respect to the horizontal.
 Positive angle means, velocity has an upward component.
 Angular tolerances, unless specified: Fastax film #209, $\pm 2^\circ$.
 18" Mitchell film, $\pm 1^\circ$.

| Frame no. 18" #209 | Time, ms | Radius, meters | Angle, main wave normal | | Angle, Mach wave normal | | Angle, trajectory of Mach "Y" | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------|
| | | | E | W | E | W | E | W |
| 1 | 6.3 | 74 | -13.4° | -14.0° | +12° ± 3° | +14° ± 2° | +16° | +22° |
| 9 | 13.9 | 99 | -4 | -3 | 20 | 21 | 25 | 35 |
| 10 | 15.4 | 103 | -2 | -1 | 19 | 23 | 25 | 33 |
| 2 | 15 | 109 | -1.1 | 0.0 | 15 ± 1 | 24 ± 2 | 29 | 30 |
| 11 | 16.9 | 107 | -1 | 0 | 19 | 18 | 31 | 25 |
| 12 | 18.4 | 111 | +1 | +1 | 19 | 18 | 35 | 22 |
| 13 | 20.0 | 115 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 21 | 28 | 25 |
| 14 | 21.5 | 119 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 24 | 29 | 44 |
| 15 | 23.0 | 123 | 5 | 5 | 24 | 25 | 37 | 48 |
| 16 | 24.5 | 127 | 6 | 7 | 23 | 25 | 41 | 45 |
| 3 | 25 | 130 | 6.0 | 5.0* | 25 | 26 | 46 | 36 |
| 17 | 26.0 | 131 | 8 | 8 | 17 | 21 | 36 | 30 |
| 18 | 27.5 | 134 | 9 | 8 | 22 | 21 | 35 | 22 |
| 19 | 29.0 | 138 | 9 | 9 | 22 | 20 | 33 | 18 |
| 4 | 34 | 148 | 12.0 | 11.3 | 34 | 23 | 58 | 51 |

Fastax film #209



SECRET
SECRET

-17-

polygon than like a circle, with several edges about two-fifths as long as the radius.

Hot spots

From about 5 to 40 milliseconds many bright spots appeared on the surface of the ball. About 200 could be seen in one view. Almost all were from 1 to 3 meters in radius, but two were outstandingly large. A spot at latitude $+20^\circ$, azimuth 19° , was 8 meters in radius when it faded into the background at about 30 milliseconds. Another hot spot is discussed under "Area boundaries", below.

Area boundaries

Mild differences in brightness between different parts of the surface became evident at about 1 millisecond, and persisted until the shock wave became dark. The boundary lines were sharp and smooth. A little while after the separation of the shock wave from the ball of fire, the contrast between areas became unnoticeable, but the lines became darker than the areas they bounded and appeared to be in or close to the shock wave.

A hot spot at latitude $+62^\circ$, azimuth 8° , evidently related to a blister previously described (Sec. III, Blisters), grew in radius from 4 meters at 16 milliseconds to 12 meters before it faded out of sight at about 100 milliseconds. It went from noticeably cooler to noticeably brighter than its background at about 5 milliseconds, and dimmer again at about 50 milliseconds. It was surrounded by an area that was somewhat brighter than

SECRET
SECRET

SECRET
TOP SECRET

-18-

its surroundings until about 30 milliseconds. This roughly circular area grew in radius from 20 to about 40 meters between 16 and 100 milliseconds. It was not possible to trace the hot spot and boundary surely between 5 and 15 milliseconds, but from the fact that at 2 milliseconds the blister was 8 meters in radius and growing at the rate of 2 meters per millisecond, it appears that the boundary of the blister became the area boundary, and the hot spot was a sort of nucleus.

The boundaries mentioned here, which were relatively static in azimuth and latitude, are not to be confused with the pre-groundstrike boundary of the hot bottom, the boundary of the curtain, or the boundary between the Mach front and the spherical shock front.

VI. DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN 10^{-2} AND 10^{-1} SECONDS

The interval from 10^{-2} and 10^{-1} seconds was characterized by the breaking up of the heretofore single front into three fronts.

Separation of the shock front from the ball of fire

Before 16 milliseconds only one front was discernible on the photographs. With the exception of the local irregularities listed above, the image of the shock front appeared as a uniformly bright disc. After (16 ± 1) milliseconds a slight darkening of the limb was noticeable and thereafter the relatively faint but sharp outer surface of the sphere, which we shall identify hereafter as the shock front, continued to expand according to Eq. (2), while the bright center region fell farther and farther behind it (Figs. 1, 2, 6). At any fixed time thereafter while it was measureable, the bright central region, which we shall identify as the

SECRET

-19-

ball of fire, decreased gradually in brightness with increasing radius. As a consequence the ball of fire, unlike the shock front, was not susceptible to unique measurement. The disagreements among the values of the radius of the ball of fire in the figures are to be attributed not to disagreements in measurements, but to differences in exposure conditions among the several cameras, with consequent differences in the region of greatest contrast, (i.e., density gradient), which was arbitrarily taken to measure the approximate extent of the ball.

The ball of fire expanded with decreasing velocity to a radius between $2 \cdot 10^2$ and $3 \cdot 10^2$ meters (cf. Sec. IX, Partial envelopment of the ball by the skirt).

Dark front

At (32 ± 3) milliseconds there split off behind the shock front a dark front, which progressed thereafter more slowly than the shock front (Figs. 1, 6, 8). The contrast at the dark front was originally almost the same as that at the shock front, but decreased more slowly than the contrast at the shock front, so that while the shock front became invisible at 10^{-1} seconds, the dark front offered strong contrast at 10^{-1} seconds and was noticeable until almost 1 second.

The dark front evidently consisted of absorbing matter. Probably it was a compound from the material of the damp air, produced by the thermodynamic conditions within the shock wave. It is evident that the formation

SECRET

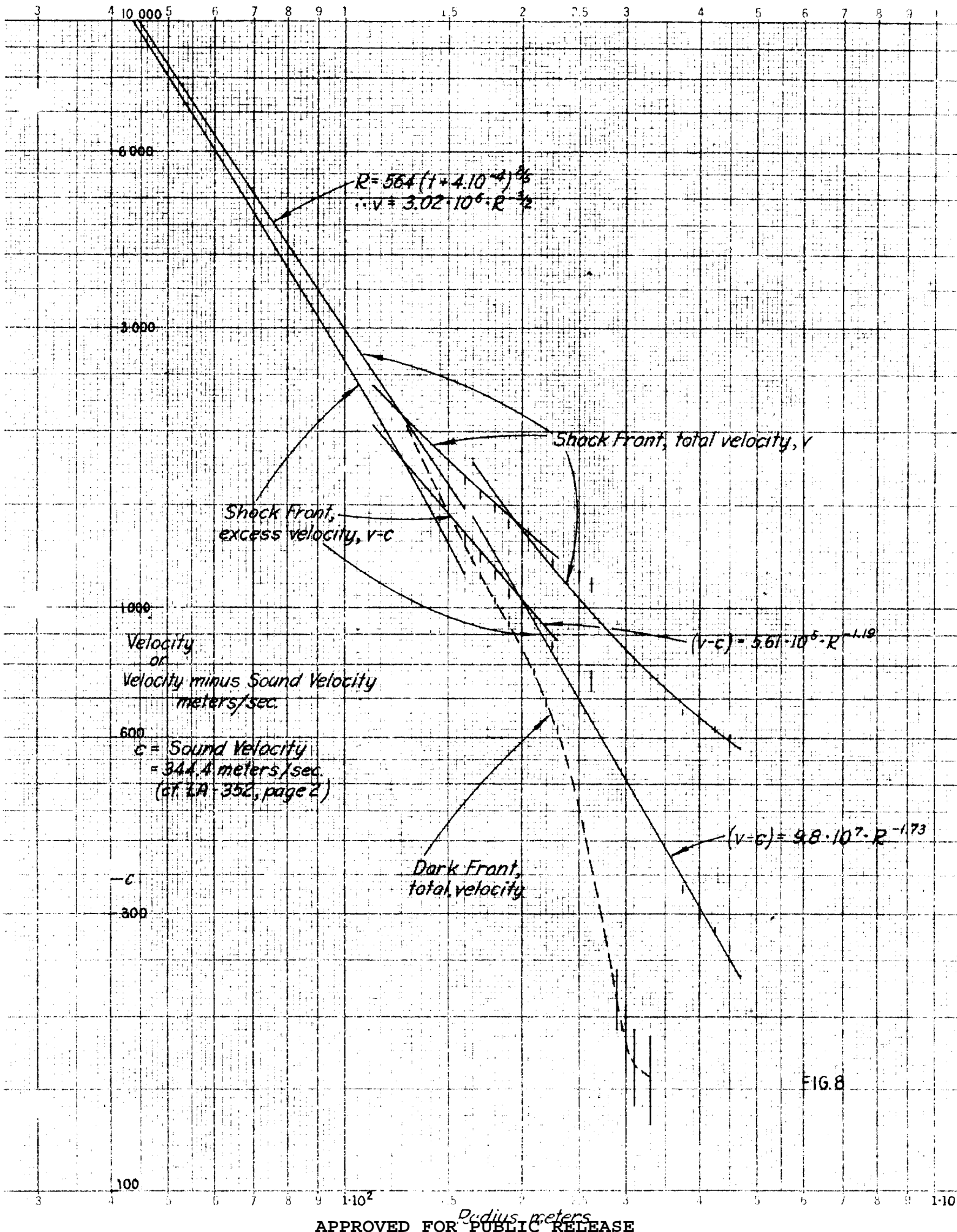


FIG. 8

U.S. GOVERNMENT
 PRINTING OFFICE

-20-

of the compound required an increasing amount of time as the pressure and temperature within the shock wave decreased. A more detailed hypothesis of the dark wave is in preparation ¹⁰.

Departure of the shock velocity from the two-fifths power law

Whereas the shock front followed the two-fifths power law up to the point of departure of the dark front from it (32 ± 3 milliseconds, 143 ± 6 meters), both fronts departed from the two-fifths power curve near the point of separation: the shock front traveled ahead of it and the dark front behind it (Figs. 1, 6, 8).

Very soon after the separation, the excess velocity, i.e., the shock front velocity v minus the sound velocity c (where $c \approx 344.4$ meters per second¹¹) followed the law:

$$v-c \approx 5.61 \cdot 10^5 R^{-1.19} \quad \text{Eq. (3)}$$

where the exponent -1.19 is accurate to about ± 0.05 . Near 0.07 seconds ($2.0 \cdot 10^2$ meters) there appears to be another change in the velocity, to

$$v-c \approx 9.8 \cdot 10^7 R^{-1.73} \quad \text{Eq. (4)}$$

with an accuracy of about ± 0.1 in the exponent. The data for this last break, and Eq. (4), are less reliable than our information on the earlier stages. In fact, our points in the neighborhood of the break indicate

¹⁰A. L. Turkevitch, LA report in preparation.

¹¹H. H. Barschall, R. W. Davis, W. P. Elmore, G. E. Kappelman, and G. Martin, LA - 352, Table II.

SECRET

-21-

that Eq. 3 is followed to 0.11 seconds ($2.6 \cdot 10^2$ meters), after which there is a gap extending to 0.25 seconds ($3.7 \cdot 10^2$ meters); the value $R = 2.0 \cdot 10^2$ meters for the break is used principally to avoid the necessity of postulating a more complicated law for the interval after the break.

The two-fifths power law, in the region where one may neglect the small additive time constant of Eq. (2), implies a velocity proportional to $R^{-3/2}$. The apparent simultaneity of the shock wave's marked departure from that law with the separation of the shock wave from the slower dark front points to a causal relationship between the two phenomena. It has been suggested by McGee that the unexpected high velocity of the shock wave in this region may arise from the absorption by the shock wave of radiant energy that originated in the ball of fire and was transformed in the dark front from the ultraviolet or visible into the infra-red; the coincidence of the split-off point between the two fronts with the point of departure of the shock front from two-fifths power dependence lends weight to McGee's suggestion.

The phenomena of the formation of the dark front and the enhancement of the velocity of the shock front deserve intensive further study.

VII. REFRACTION BY THE SHOCK FRONT AT $\sim 10^{-1}$ SECONDS.

All the space-time phenomena discussed in this report other than the one described in this section are believed to be real, i.e.,

U. S. G. O.
S. I. D. E.

-22-

the light is believed to have traveled in a substantially rectilinear path from the object to the camera, so that measurements on the film, with the application of proper geometric factors, can be considered tantamount to measurements on the objects. On the other hand, the apparent cable breaks referred to in this section are a pure optical phenomenon, arising from the refraction of light at and within the shock front on its way from the object to the camera.

One of the balloon cables extended upward, leaning slightly toward the tower from a point of attachment on the ground displaced 213.2 meters W, 216 meters S from the point directly under the gadget. Light traveling from the cable to the cameras in the direction N, after the shock wave had expanded $2.0 \cdot 10^2$ meters, traversed the shock front. Points seen through the wave appeared farther from the center than they actually were, and points that in the absence of refraction would have appeared within about 2 meters of the edge, were not seen; instead, the image of the cable appeared hooked, with points between 2 and 4 meters from the edge appearing twice. Incidentally, since the shock front in this region was invisible the cutoff point made the only convenient point for the measurement of the radius.

Evidently in the earliest Mitchell camera pictures of the refraction hook (0.072 seconds), the refraction took place in the Mach front, and in all the later pictures, in the spherical shock front; for a circle with its center at the image point corresponding to the original gadget center, and radius equal to the distance of the cutoff point, lies tangent to the extreme part

SECRET

-23-

part of the hook in all pictures except the first. In the first picture the circle intersects the hook.

Fig. 9 shows the displacement as a function of distance within the shock wave for each of the eight Mitchell frames in which the phenomenon appears. From these data an attempt will be made in a later report to deduce the density as a function of distance within the shock wave.

VIII. MASS MOTION OF THE AIR AT $3 \cdot 10^{-1}$ SECONDS

The pictures in which the balloon cable is shown being pushed aside by the shock front yielded an opportunity for a determination, not only of the shock front velocity, but of the actual motion of the matter displaced in the shock wave. The motion of the vapor can be considered to be the same as that of the air if the cable is assumed to have been vaporized before the arrival of the shock front, and if one neglects the density difference between the air and the least dense particles of the visible remains of the balloon cable, as well as any inhomogeneity arising from the presence of the high-temperature vapor.

Fig. 10 shows the motion of the vapor front subsequent to the arrival of the shock wave, in the cases of several elements of volume originating at different distances from the center of the explosion. Since measurements were made only on the front, the velocity values given are those of the fastest accelerated particles only. In every case there is an almost continuous stream of particles behind the front and in a few instances there are streams back to almost undisturbed particles evidently much more dense than the surrounding air. The apices, which are our extrapolated

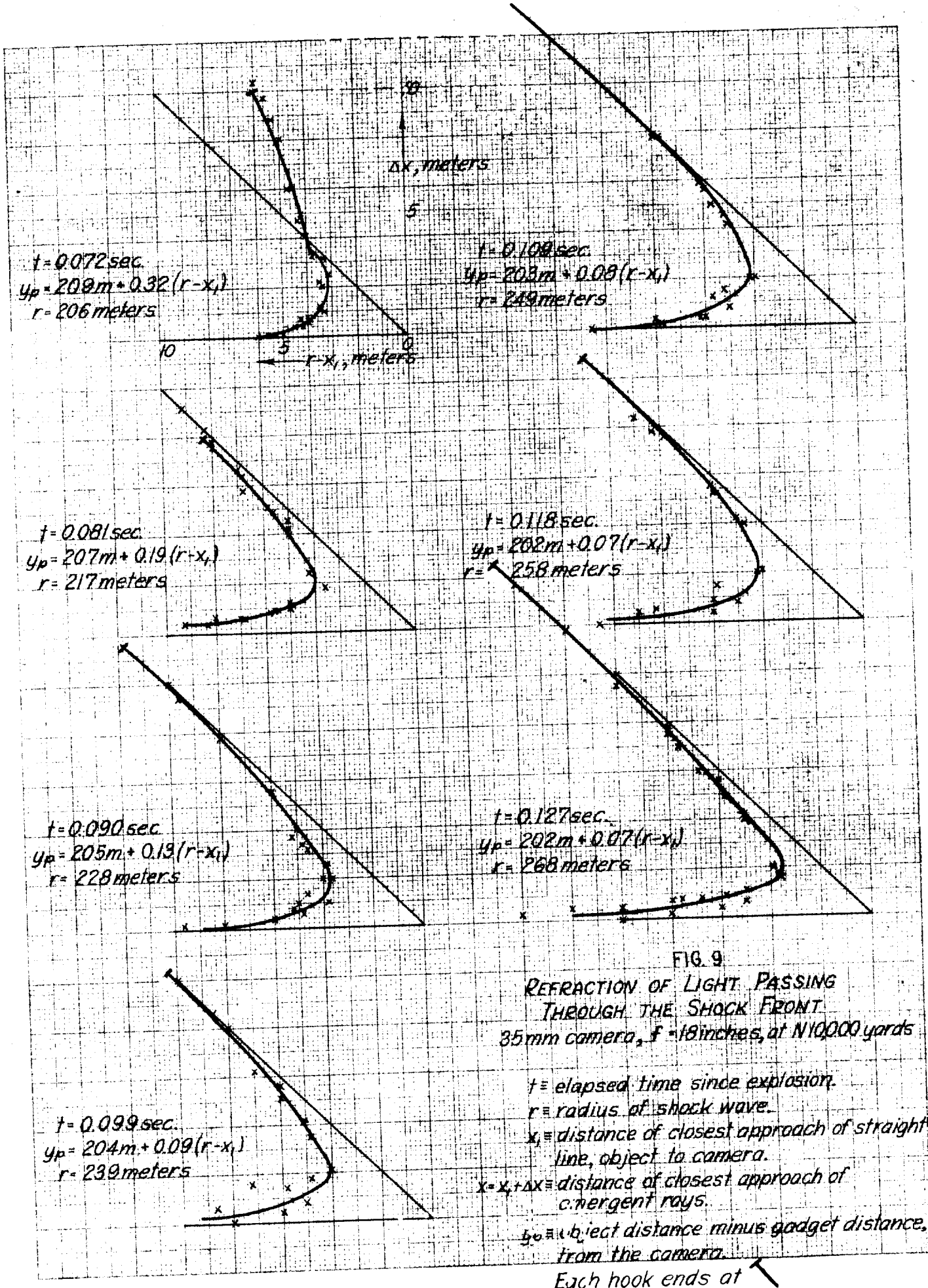
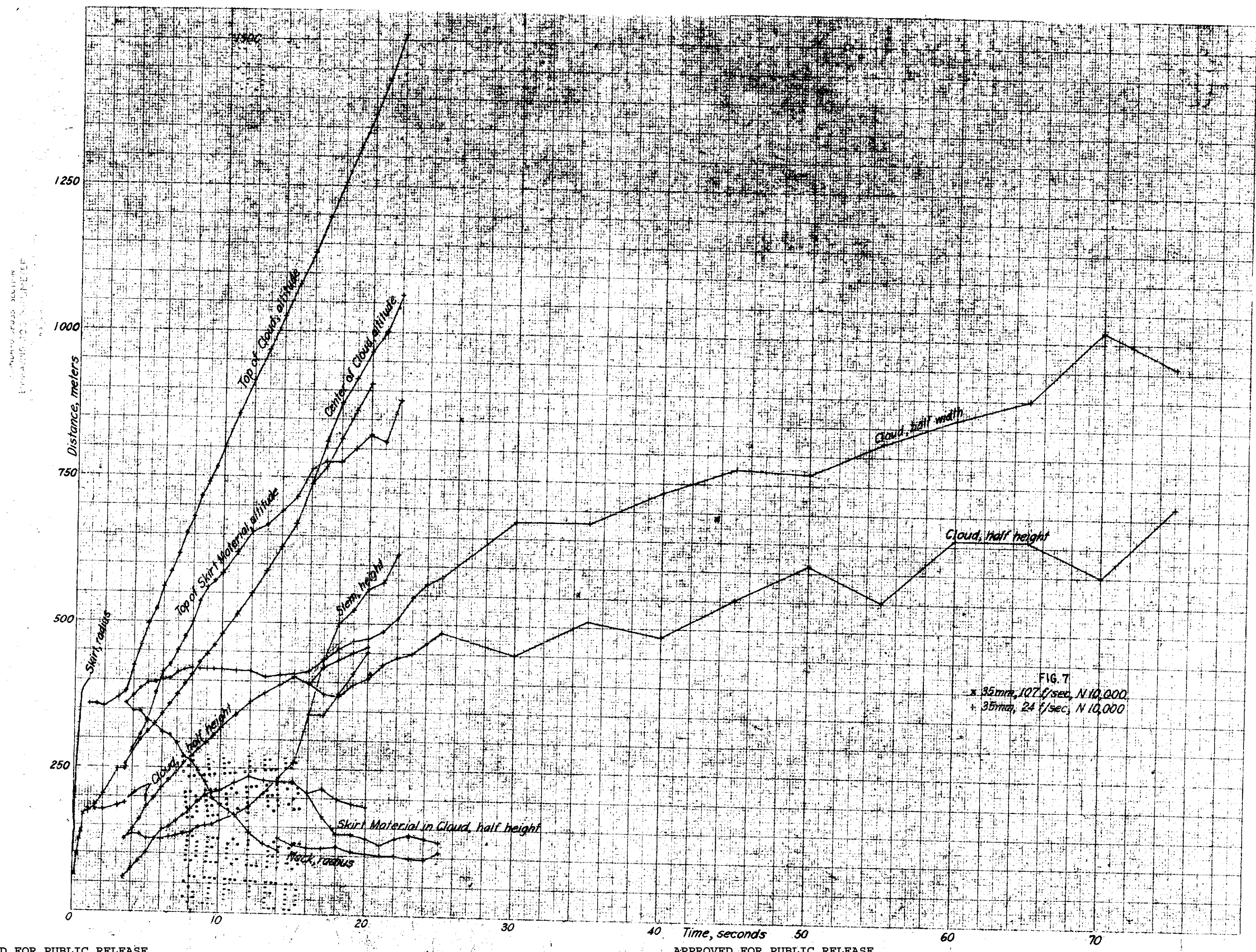


FIG. 9
REFRACTION OF LIGHT PASSING
THROUGH THE SHOCK FRONT
 35mm camera, $f = 18 \text{ inches}$, at $N10000 \text{ yards}$
 t = elapsed time since explosion.
 r = radius of shock wave.
 x_1 = distance of closest approach of straight line, object to camera.
 $x = x_1 + \Delta x$ = distance of closest approach of convergent rays.
 y_p = subject distance minus gadget distance, from the camera.
 Each hook ends at ↖

KEUFFEL & ESSER CO., N. Y. NO. 35-11
 Multipurpose 5 gram, times density 1.40, color black
 MADE IN U. S. A.



U. S. G. O.
 O F I O

-24-

values of the material velocity in the shock front itself, are from 10 to 30 per cent greater than the calculated values¹². The spread probably represents a random error of about 10 per cent in our velocity values, which depend sensitively upon the choice of curves through our experimental space-time points. The average excess of 20 per cent in our values over the calculated values may arise, at least in part, from the inhomogeneity of the atmosphere consisting of hot cable vapors and hot air.

IX. DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN 10⁻¹ SECONDS AND 1 SECOND.

Partial envelopment of the ball by the skirt

Between one-tenth second and one second the dust skirt grew in height until it hid most of the ball of fire, and there occurred the preliminaries to the great convection movement by which the original ball of fire and the upper part of the dust skirt coalesced into a body that eventually became the new cloud of smoke.

The horizontal radius of the ball of fire itself reached a practically constant value of $(2.0 \pm 0.2) \cdot 10^2$ meters at about 0.15 seconds, while the upper radius, probably on account of the incipient convection movement, continuously increased throughout the first second until the end of that period, when it was $3.2 \cdot 10^2$ meters. The indefiniteness of the edge of the ball of fire continued to make a unique measurement of the radius impossible until the indefinite ball began to be replaced by definitely outlined flames

12 Brinkley, Kirkwood, and Richardson, OSRD-3550, corrected and referred to the Trinity sound velocity (cf. ref. 11.).

U. S. G. O.
 O F I O

000000
000000

-25-

that allowed quantitative consideration of size again, after approximately one second.

X. DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN 1 AND 10 SECONDS.

Transition from the ball-of-fire stage to the smoke-cloud stage

At 1 second the character of the material left by the explosion was changing rapidly. At this instant the material consisted primarily of two portions; a ball of fire, which had become somewhat elongated vertically, and only the upper part of which could be seen from our ground positions; and a skirt of dust, which had grown vertically until it almost hid the ball of fire. In the interval between 1 and 3.5 seconds a new cloud of smoke formed from the ball of fire and the upper part of the skirt, and gradually changed shape until by about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds it had become almost a sphere, a shape it retained for several minutes. The necking of the dust skirt with the formation of a torus and a stem, and the variations in upward motion, described in this section, are all minor phases of the formation and rise of the cloud of smoke.

Stoppage and resumption of the ascent of the top of the ball

After rising steadily throughout the first second, the top of the ball of fire, i.e., the highest point on the whole ensemble, remained at a substantially constant altitude of (358 \pm 1) meters from 1.0 to 2.0 seconds. It then acquired an upward velocity, almost all of it between 3.5 and 4.0 seconds (cf. Formation and rise of the cloud of smoke, below).

000000

000000
000000

-26-

Torus

The top of the skirt material had suddenly slowed down at 0.7 seconds from a vertical velocity of about $2 \cdot 10^2$ meters per second to one of about one-fifth of that value. During the pause in the rise of the top of the ball of fire, the skirt material continued its rise, gathering about the material of the ball of fire until the top of it formed an almost plane surface, much wider than the ball of fire and almost high enough to hide it. From two to four seconds the shape of the upper part of the skirt rapidly became that of a torus or vortex ring, presumably on account of the incipient strong upward convection at its axis. The outer radius of the skirt remained approximately constant, and the top of the skirt continued its slow rise.

Neck formation

As the top of the ball or cloud resumed its rise, the sides of the flat-topped portion of the skirt material became steeper, and at (3.5 ± 0.5) seconds, when the top of the skirt material was at 390 meters, an actual minimum or neck formed in the skirt material at an altitude of (128 ± 3) meters. Thenceforward, the radius of the neck steadily decreased, going from 360 meters at 3.5 seconds to 99 meters at 23 seconds. The altitude of the neck, after remaining within 10 meters of its original value until 7 seconds, began an increase that attained a maximum rate of about 90 meters per second at 16 seconds. Thereafter, at least until its contact with the ground was lost at 22 seconds (820 meters), the neck rose at a lower rate, averaging about 30 meters per second.

Convection stem

The neck was followed in its rise by a great stem, apparently of solid matter, ~~caught up by the rising fire~~ ~~which~~ ~~was~~ ~~narrowest~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~neck.~~

U.S. GOVERNMENT
 OFFICE

-27-

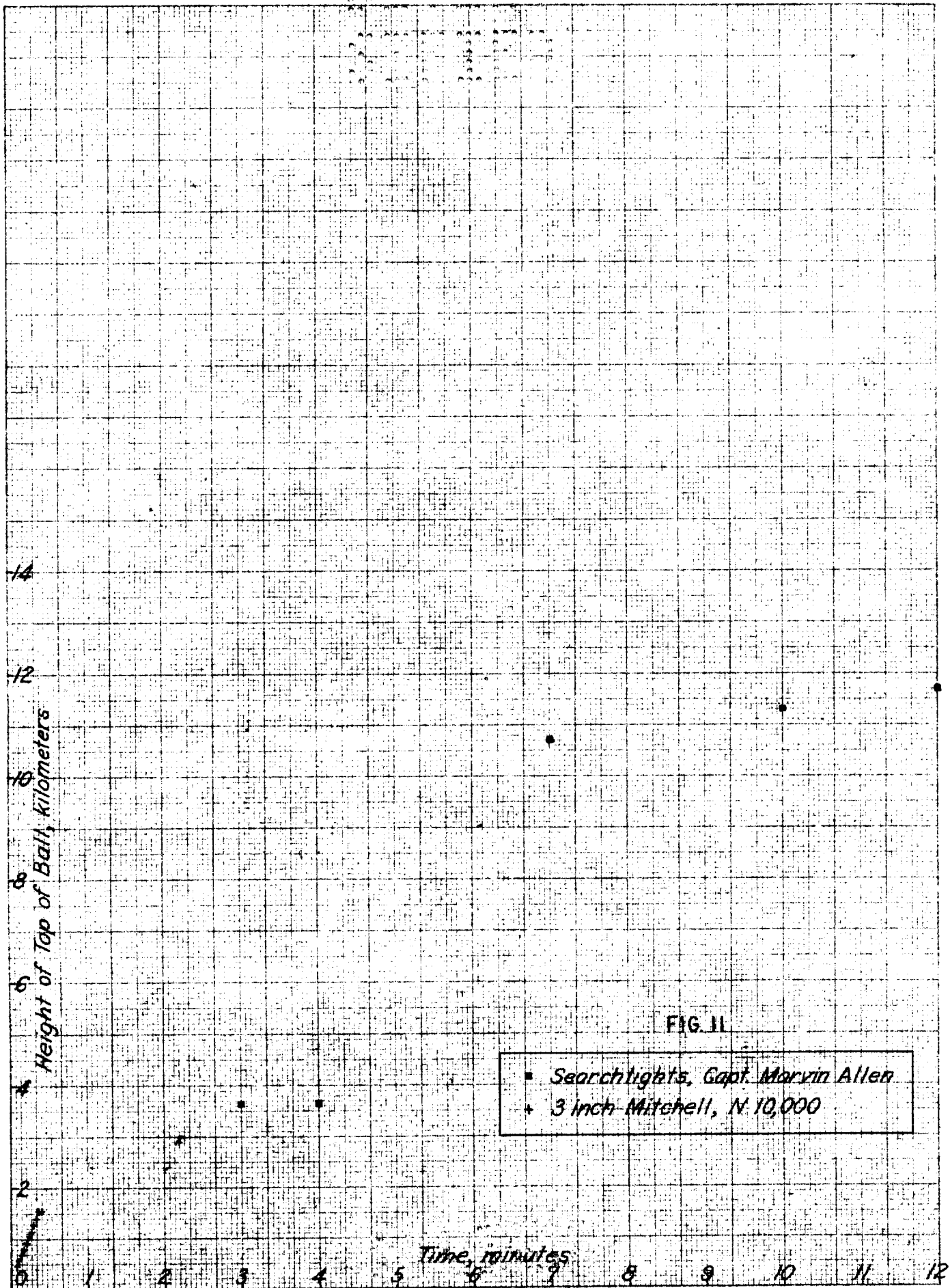
Its sides were concave upward, reaching the ground tangentially. While this tangential structure prevented an accurate measurement of the bottom radius after 1.8 seconds, it can be stated that the radius of the stem at the ground was of the same order of magnitude as the radius of the cloud. Turbulence near the neck gave rise to a minor branch in the upper part of the stem, leading to ambiguities in the measurement of the height of the stem and related quantities, between 14 and 20 seconds.

Formation and rise of the smoke cloud

While these changes were going at the periphery of the skirt, a considerably more violent process was starting inside it. Matter from within and below the torus spilled over the top of the torus, and a new ball or cloud of smoke, consisting of the torus and the superposed matter, began to rise. The second, convective rise of the top of the ball, beginning at 2.0 seconds, was quite different in character from the first rise, which was part of the original symmetric expansion. This time the boundary was evidently that of a body of incandescent material, or later, of smoke, carried in a convective movement. In the half second between 1.5 and 2.0 seconds the measured displacement of the top was 1 meter downward, and in the half second between 3.5 and 4.0 seconds it was 43 meters upward: thus the average upward acceleration during this two-second interval was 4.5g. Thereafter, the rate of rise decreased somewhat, and after 5 seconds it was nearly constant at 57 meters per second, at least until the camera lost its relation to the ground at 1500 meters (fig. 11).

DATA SHEETS

CHARLES BRUNING COMPANY, INC. NO. 100-4
2511 1/2 University Ave. Bldg. 7



100-4

000000
000000

-28-

Change in shape of the smoke cloud

At the time of formation of the smoke cloud, it consisted of the torus of skirt material with a relatively small volume of matter piled over its center. For a few seconds this pile grew without greatly affecting the torus, although the half-height of the torus increased considerably. By 8 seconds the portion above the torus was shaped something like a thimble, with sloping sides. From 10 to 15 seconds the whole gradually changed shape to very nearly a sphere. After 15 seconds the shape was approximately that of an increasingly oblate spheroid, with its axis vertical. At 60 seconds the ratio of horizontal to vertical diameters was approximately 4 to 3. The near-spherical shape persisted for many minutes.

Persistence of the torus in the smoke cloud

During the early part of the rise of the smoke cloud, the torus, which constituted the lower part of the cloud, maintained its identity within the cloud. The boundary of the torus was definite as an approximately horizontal circle until about 22 seconds, after which it gradually became harder to distinguish.

The vertical half-height of the torus itself, after increasing rapidly from 60 meters at 3.5 seconds to 210 meters at 10 seconds, remained approximately constant until 15 seconds and then decreased to a nearly constant value of about 130 meters at 18 seconds, which it maintained as long as it was distinguishable, although the cloud itself continued to grow in height.

000000
000000

SECRET

-29-

Expansion of the smoke cloud

The approximate volumes of the torus and the whole cloud are given in Table V. No attempt is made here to calculate the actual accretion of material in the cloud, which would have to take into account not only the nature and temperature of the matter in the cloud but also the meteorological conditions encountered during its rise¹³.

Matter began streaming upward along the axis of the vortex ring at 2.0 seconds. Evidently the first material in this convection stream, which was exceedingly hot, originated near the center of the explosion. A consideration of the volume of the cloud shows that most of the matter in it must have originated a considerable distance from the center and have been swept near the center on its way to the cloud in the convection stream.

¹³J. M Hubbard et al, LA - 357, p. 10.

SECRET

SECRET

000000
000000

-30-

TABLE V

VOLUME OF THE SMOKE CLOUD

(The values given are crude estimates from the vertical and horizontal extent: the shape of the torus, or the cloud, is taken as an ellipsoid of revolution except that for 3.5 and 5.0 seconds the non-skirt material is treated as a spherical segment bounded by a plane.)

| Time, seconds | Volume of torus, cubic kilometers | Volume of cloud including torus, cubic kilometers |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 3.5 | 0.033 | 0.051 |
| 5.0 | 0.068 | 0.102 |
| 10 | 0.15 | 0.23 |
| 15 | 0.16 | 0.30 |
| 20 | 0.17 | 0.37 |
| 30 | | 0.87 |
| 40 | | 1.1 |
| 50 | | 2.0 |
| 75 | | 2.8 |

000000
000000

U.S. AIR FORCE
 REPORT

-31-

XI. DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN 10 and 20²SECONDS

Cloud ring formation

Meteorological observations showed that while the humidity was 77 per cent at the surface, it decreased with increasing altitude to a constant value of about 50 per cent, until at more than 2500 meters it increased to saturation value¹³.

Photographs taken at 3.3 second intervals show that as the rarefaction following the shock wave passed through layers at 3.3, 4.2, 4.4 and 5.2 kilometers, it produced clouds at these altitudes. Details are given in Table VI. A discussion of this phenomenon has been given by Reines¹⁴.

Glow

The average brightness of the cloud gradually decreased as the cloud rose. After 15 seconds most of the light from the cloud itself was from localized flames that progressed through the cloud as one would expect in a cloud which had gathered up a great deal of finely divided, incompletely burned material. At about 20 seconds the light from the flames had died down to such an extent that a dim glow beyond the surface of the cloud showed relatively prominently. This glow was brightest at the surface of the cloud itself and decreased in brightness with increasing distance from the cloud,

¹⁴F. Reines, LA - 448.

U.S. AIR FORCE
 REPORT

U.S. AIR FORCE
 REPORT

-32-

TABLE VI.

CLOUD RINGS

Distances are given in kilometers, ± 0.1 kilometer unless specified.

Times are given in seconds, ± 0.3 seconds.

Angles are azimuth, measured counterclockwise, and are given in degrees, $\pm 2^\circ$.

Numbers in the body of the table are maximum radii.

| Altitude at maximum radius | Maximum vertical extent | Time | 8.4 | 11.4 | 14.7 | 18.1 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|-----|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3.3 \pm 0.1 | 0.3 | | m | 1.7 ^e | 4.0 ^g ₁ | 5.0 ^g ₂ |
| 4.2 \pm 0.2 | 0.6 | | m | | 2.4 ^g ₁ | 3.9 ^g ₂ |
| 4.4 \pm 0.3 | 0.2 | | | | 1.1 ^e | 3 ^g |
| 5.2 \pm 0.3 | 1.0 | | | | | 2.8 ^e |

m Noticeable trace of scattering from mist at approximately this altitude.

^g Probably a cap or disc; possibly a ring with its aperture invisible from the camera positions.

^g₁ Incomplete ring, with scattered wisps extending in azimuth from 164° to 209°, and solid cloud from 209° to 49°.

^g₂ Incomplete ring, with solid cloud extending in azimuth from 219° to 352°, and scattered wisps from 352° to 20°.

^g₁ Symmetric, complete ring.

^g₂ Complete ring, heaviest toward S; still weakest toward NE and W.

^g Incomplete ring, without strongly predominant azimuth, but with incomplete portions; partly hidden by lower clouds.

U.S. AIR FORCE
 OFFICE

-33-

until at about 100 meters from the surface it became invisible. In our slowest motion picture camera record, which could be expected to record brightness down to about 35 candles per square meter, the glow was noticeable for (75 ± 5) seconds. In a snapshot taken by Stanley Frankel, the glow appears to be several times as bright as the light from the cloud itself. From its position in a sequence of pictures, this picture appears to have been exposed for a few seconds during the time interval between 60 and 90 seconds.

Condensation

At 60 seconds, where an extrapolation of the cloud-top altitude curve (Fig. 11) indicates that the cloud was at an altitude of about 3.7 kilometers, there is evidence of a halo of cloud or condensation in a thin ring about the main cloud near its top. It will be noticed that the altitude of the cloud was approximately that in which the 8.1-second aero camera picture showed a faint mist. The halo formed in the presence of the cloud had approximately the extent of the glow and can be presumed to have been caused by ionization.

Stem twist

The convection stem at 60 seconds appeared as though it had been twisted into the form of a left-handed screw with $3 \cdot 10^2$ meters pitch.

U.S. AIR FORCE
 OFFICE

000000
000000

-34-

XII. DEVELOPMENTS AFTER 10^2 SECONDS.

Before the explosion, after the explosion time schedule had been adjusted from 4:00 a.m. to 5:30 a.m., the cameras were readjusted for daylight operation and, unfortunately, the daylight was slightly too faint for following the cloud after losing its self-luminosity until about 15 minutes after the explosion. Even after it was light enough to see the cloud ball, an overcast sky prevented the following of anything except the stem. Therefore we have no quantitative data on occurrences after 10^2 seconds.

Smoke pall

For more than an hour after the explosion, the neighborhood was covered with a pall of smoke. A color picture which was taken at 40 minutes shows this pall.

000000
000000

REF ID: A7100

APPENDIX I

EQUIPMENT

Table I is a complete list of the cameras and auxiliary equipment used for producing the pictures upon which this report is based, together with all the pertinent photographic, geometrical, electrical, and timing data, and the file numbers under which the original negatives will be kept with the archives of Group G-11 (now M-8).

REF ID: A7100

REF ID: A66000

-36-

APPENDIX II

MEASUREMENT METHODS

With the exceptions listed here, all measurements for this report were made by direct readings upon negatives. The usual procedure with motion picture frames was to place directly upon the emulsion a scale which could be read directly to 10^{-1} millimeters and easily interpolated to 10^{-2} millimeters, a distance that in most cases corresponded to a distance of the order of decimeters in object space. The magnification was determined in almost every case by direct measurement of the distance in the image between the centers of the billboards, 400.0 meters apart in object space.

For the measurement of the refraction by the shock front, measurement upon prints turned out to be more practical rather than measurement upon the original, because of the desirability of using construction lines that would have spoiled the original and would have had to be drawn with the impractically close spacing of several lines per millimeter.

In the measurement of the shock front radius and dark front radius after their separation, it was not practical to use the originals because of the lack of contrast as well as the necessity of determining the image point corresponding to the gadget center for diagonal measurements.

For these two kinds of measurements, prints were made that enhanced the contrast of the features to be measured, and the measurements were made upon these prints. For each frame several prints were made on double weight paper, and air-cooled along with pieces of the same kind of paper that had

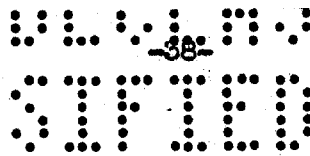
SECRET

-37-

been treated similarly, except that several circles accurately drawn on various parts of the surface by a compass replaced the photographic image. Measurements upon the circles indicated that the stretch or shrinkage in these prints was well within one per cent and that the inhomogeneties in the dimensional changes were considerably less than this. On each print the distance between billboard centers was measured, and the resulting correction factor applied to all measurements made on that print.

The measurements of the shock wave and dark wave radii and the mass motion of the air between 280 and 530 meters were made from the 24" Mitchell camera record. The absence of any scale marks on any frames of this camera made the direct measurement of distances impossible. Two almost wholly independent and indirect but rigorous methods for distance measurement were worked out: one graphical method and one analytical method. The final result of these two methods on the shock wave points agreed, on the average, within about one meter; for the dark wave, only the analytical method was used. The basis of both methods was the determination of the positions of certain points on the balloon cable, e.g. the bottoms of the balloons themselves, a bright spot corresponding to the explosion that was to release the balloons, and an aluminum cylinder attached to the cable, with the aid of the time exposures from the 2-meter cameras, each of which showed at least some of these points as well as the pair of billboards. After the determination

SECRET



of the scale with the aid of these time exposures, the graphical method made use only of the standard methods of descriptive geometry, and the analytical method made use only of the methods of solid analytical geometry plus the approximation of the portion of the cable under consideration by a straight line.

The points finally used for the shock wave were the result of the analytical determination.

The dark wave in the region beyond 230 meters offered so little contrast that it was difficult to detect, except upon a moving image. The position of the dark wave was determined by running a positive film in a "Moviola" projection machine with its shutter removed, and tracing the position of the wave after watching the image move into place. Several runs were made and averaged. The two kinds of symbols representing the dark points represent two independent sets of runs.

For convenience, the image positions for the shock front and mass motion data from the 24" camera were determined also with the aid of a "Moviola" projector.

In the measurements upon the curtain, successive outlines of the ball of fire and the curtain were traced upon a single sheet of tracing paper with the aid of the "Moviola" projector, and subsequently measured. Two runs were made by different observers.

The measurements upon the Mach front recorded in Table IV were made by tracing boundaries from film #209 by projection and from the 18" Mitchell from 1:2000 scale prints upon the tracing paper reproduced in Table IV.



SECRET
SECRET

-39-

APPENDIX III

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE TESTS

Time of day

Whatever the circumstances under which future tests are made, photographic work of great importance will clearly have to be done over an object distance of the order of 10 to 100 kilometers. The two principal optical hazards of long distance photography are haze and irregular refraction ripples. Experiences at the Trinity test showed that conditions for photography were the most important factor in the choice of time of day for the explosion. It is important that the time of day for any future explosion be chosen only after a study of contrast and resolution at the expected object distance, as functions of the time of day, preferably during the season of the year in which the test is to be made, so that the time may be chosen for optimum conditions. The success of the photography of the July 16th explosion was due in no small measure to our selection of the time of day. Fortunately, the delay of an hour and a half did no harm.

Following the shock wave further by cable motion

The accidental photography of the balloon cable allowed us to follow the shock front and the mass motion of the air behind the shock front past 450 meters. The means with which we had intended to follow the shock front photographically, viz., the photography of explosions set off by shock switches, failed completely on account of fogging from the main flash and

SECRET
SECRET

SECRET

-40-

possibly also, in some instances, on account of disturbances of the arming circuit and melting of the shock switch apparatus, if we can judge by the experiences of others with apparatus within one kilometer of the explosion center. It is recommended, therefore, that the photography^{of} cables or other objects with ordinary cameras be used hereafter to replace the more elaborate shock switch signals planned for the July 16th explosion.

Improvement in time resolution during the early stages.

Theoretical interest in the early stages of the expansion has been greatly enhanced since the July 16th explosion. An increase in the order of magnitude of the frame frequency for a short interval during the early stages would require some development but is a problem already solved for somewhat different experimental conditions. The Marley camera exposures that we originally planned, but abandoned, would have yielded 10^5 frames per second for 50 frames. The fixed short focus and low quality of the lenses would probably have made the Marley camera pictures useless. The rotating mirror, Kerr-cell apparatus that has taken a series of about 60 exposures at 10^{-6} second intervals would be difficult to control remotely, but it has the advantage of free choice of lens. There are other possible schemes, for which the development would be confined essentially to the problems of remote control and instrument protection. All the setups with higher frame frequency than the Fastax appear to require a considerable amount of development and ought to be considered only if their use is strongly encouraged by the theorists.

SECRET

SECRET
SECRET

More space reference marks

Several unexpected opportunities for measurements emphasize the paucity of our reference points and the great importance of the reliable ones that we had. Our inner stations at 50 meters turned out to be useless, possibly because of the difficulty of the erection and checking in the field of surfaces with the proper space orientation. A series of sets of surface at fixed distances from 10^2 to 10^3 meters would be relatively cheap insurance against loss of distance standards. The photography of a drop over water introduces new difficulties that need study.

Increased number of motion picture cameras

It was as much by good fortune as by foresight that a fairly complete record of the first minute after the explosion was obtained with the aid of only 12 Fastax and 4 Mitchell cameras. Several important phenomena, such as the dark wave, the cable refraction and the shock velocity and mass velocity from the balloon cables, were properly photographed only through sheer good luck. Increasing the number of stations and using several times as many high-speed and 35mm motion picture cameras as we used would require no development work and would greatly enhance the probability of complete successful coverage.

Fixed position required for spectroscopy

It is clear that much further spectroscopic study will be required. The exceedingly narrow field of a slit spectrograph demands that, for any direct spectrographic study of the object itself, the position of the

SECRET
SECRET

SECRET



object be well known. Therefore, it is to be hoped that at least some future tests will be made with fixed-position bombs and that full advantage will be taken of the opportunities offered for spectroscopy at any such fixed-position test. One of the fields in which further spectroscopic study is urgently needed is that of the dark wave. It is possible that significant information as to the nature of the dark wave can be obtained by aiming a sufficiently large number of spectrographs (perhaps one will be sufficient) in the neighborhood of an approximately predicted drop location.



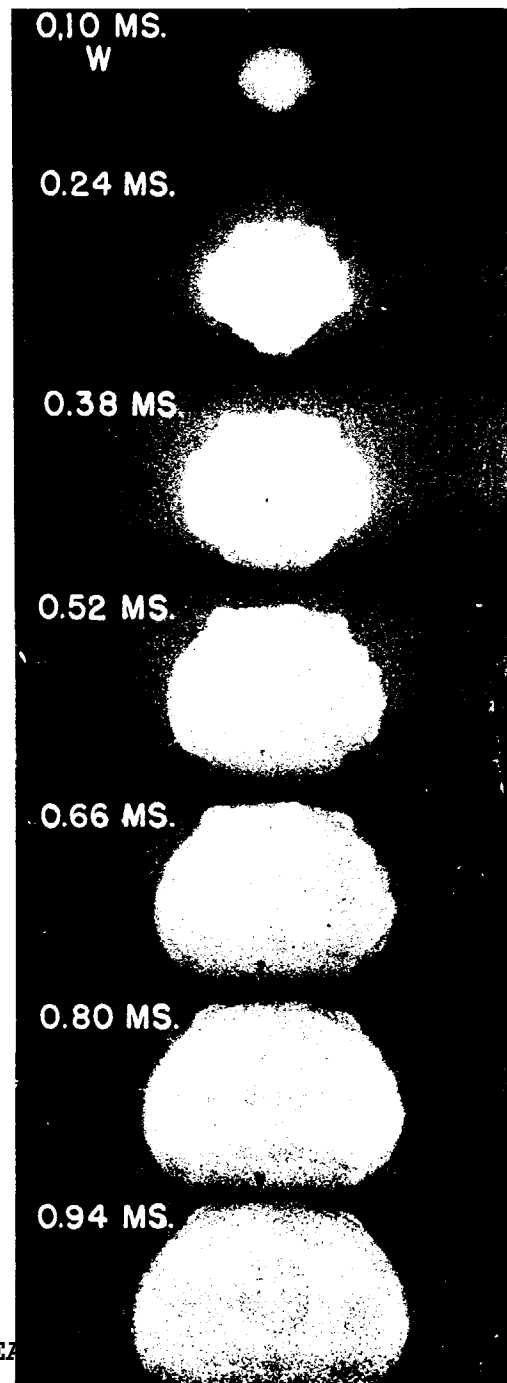
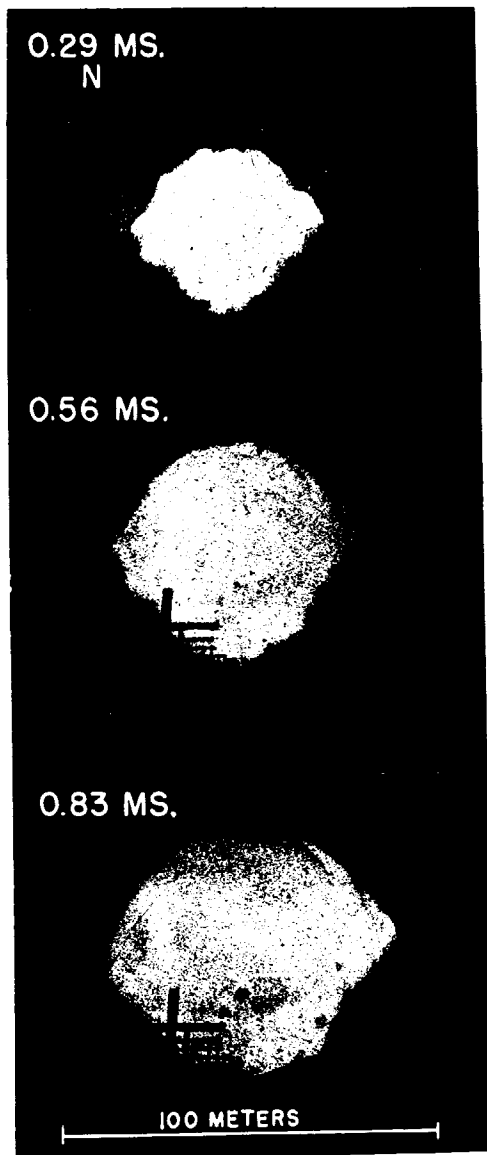
SECRET

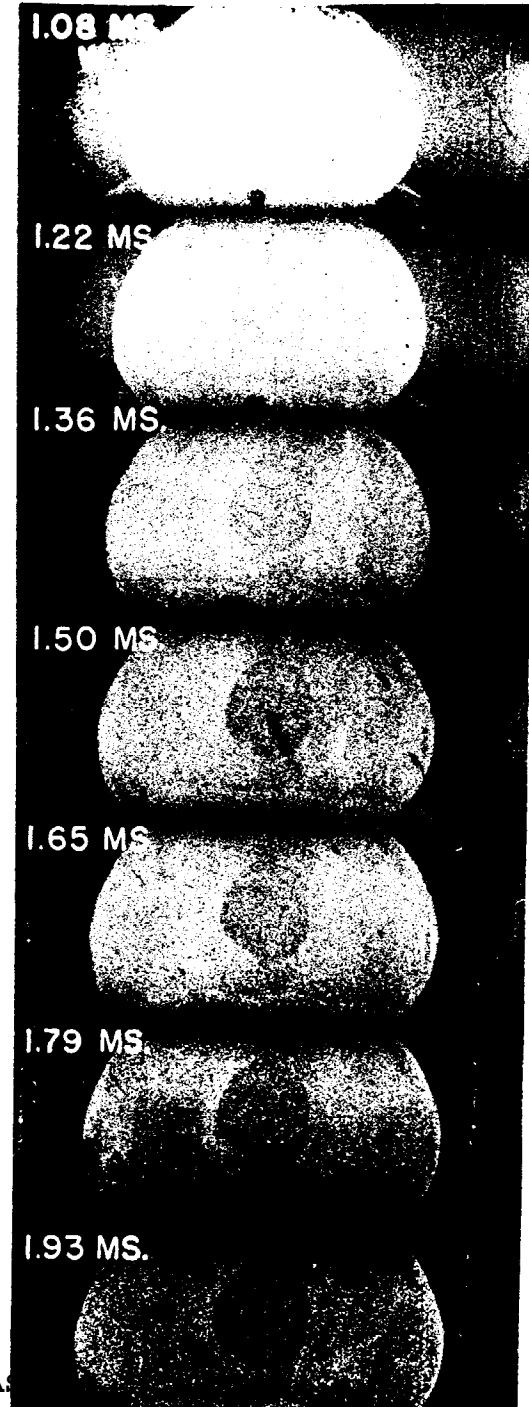
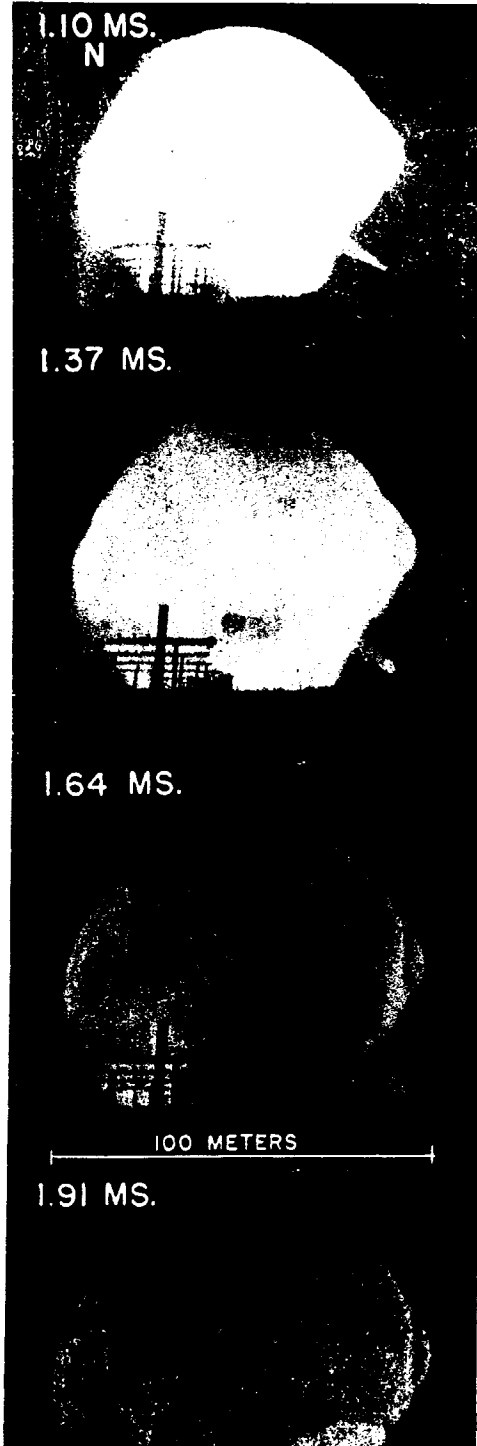


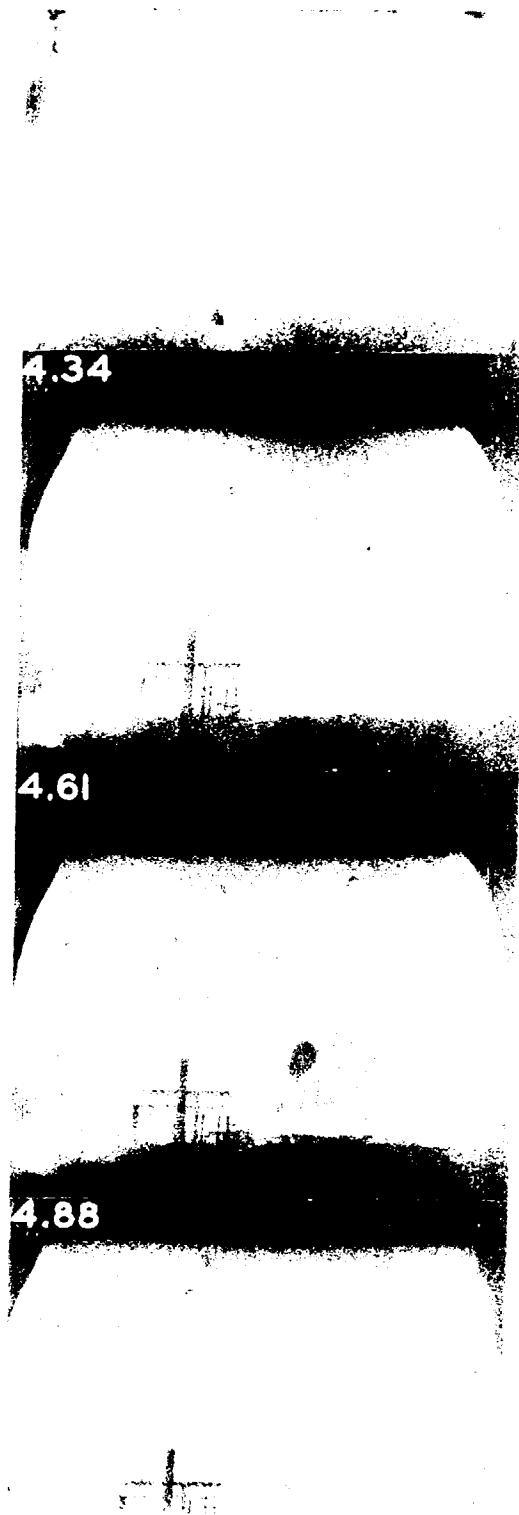
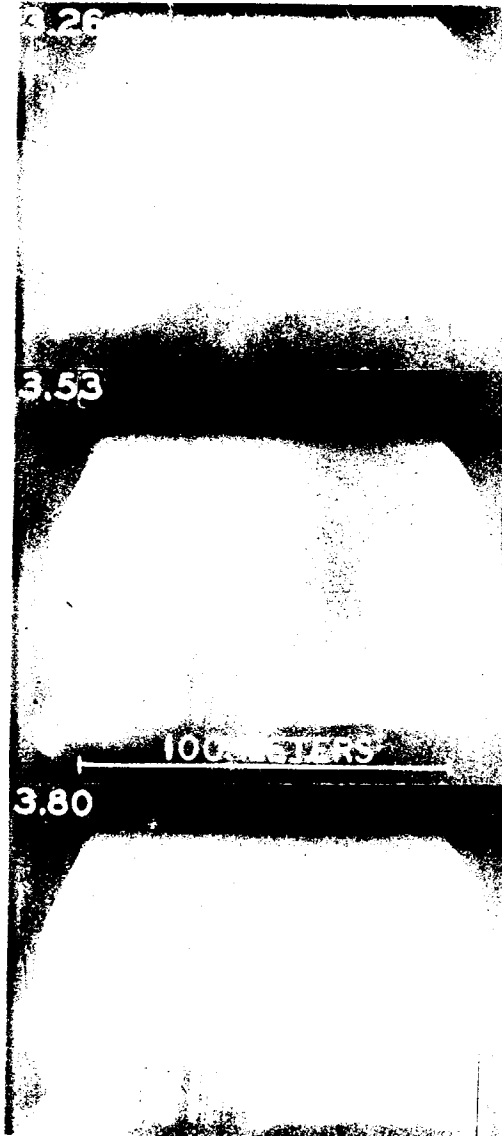
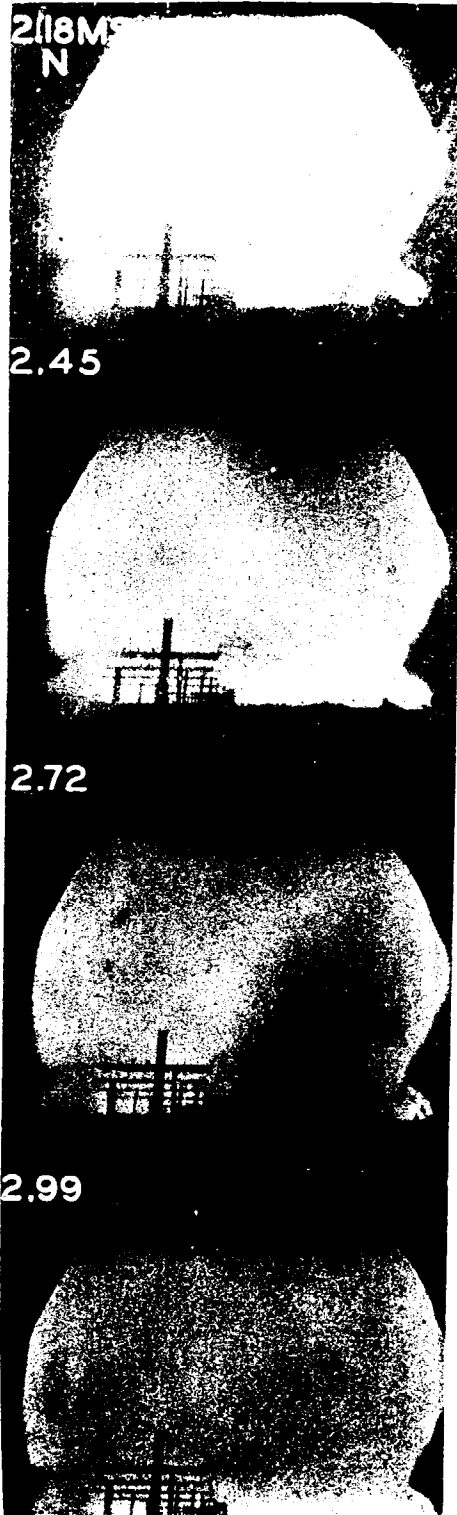
TIME EXPOSURE
0 TO 5 SEC.
N

100 METERS





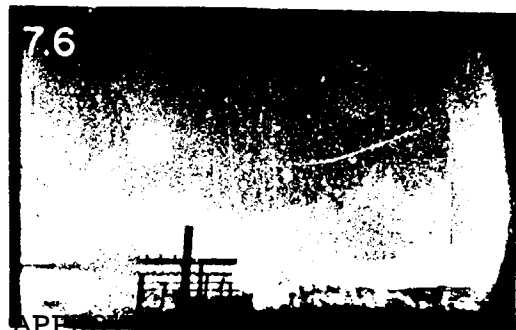
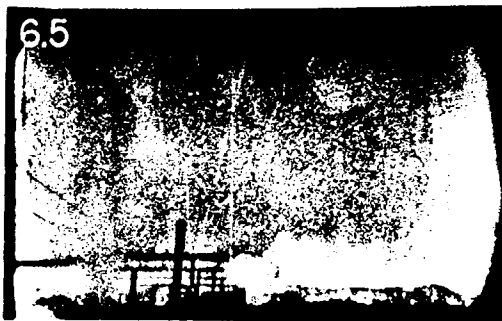
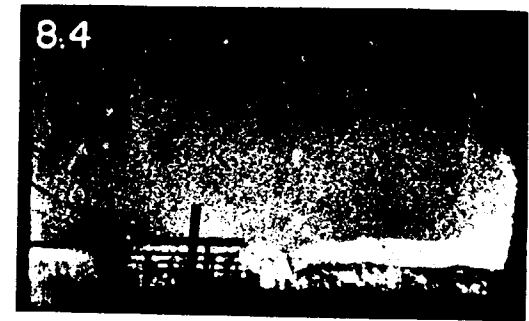
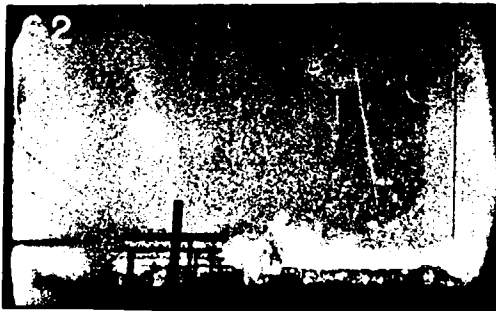
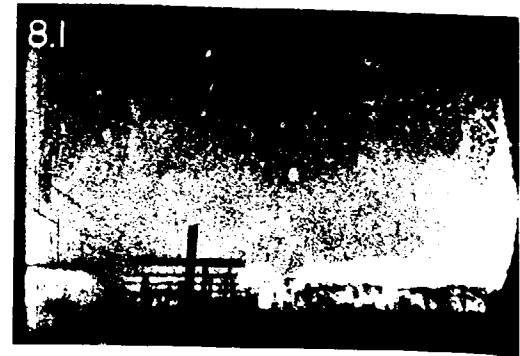
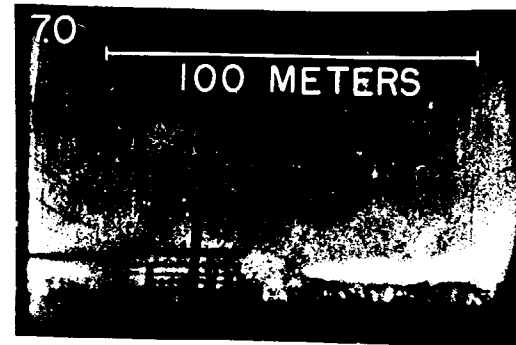
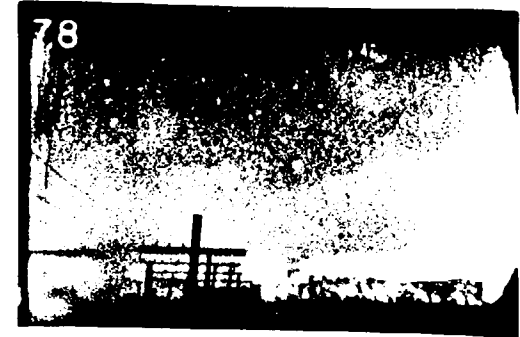
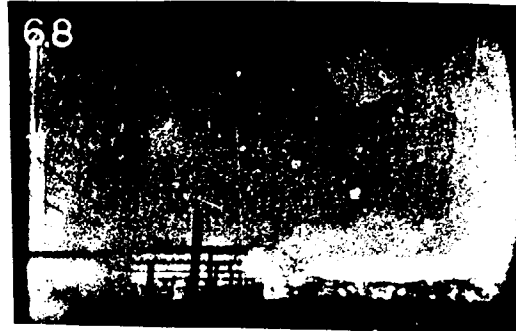
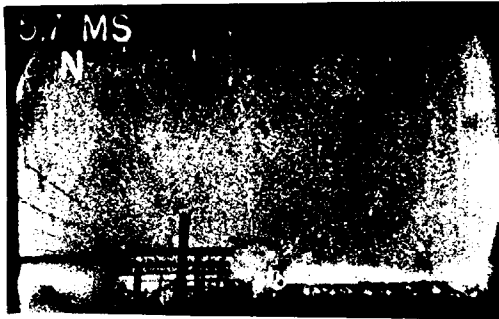


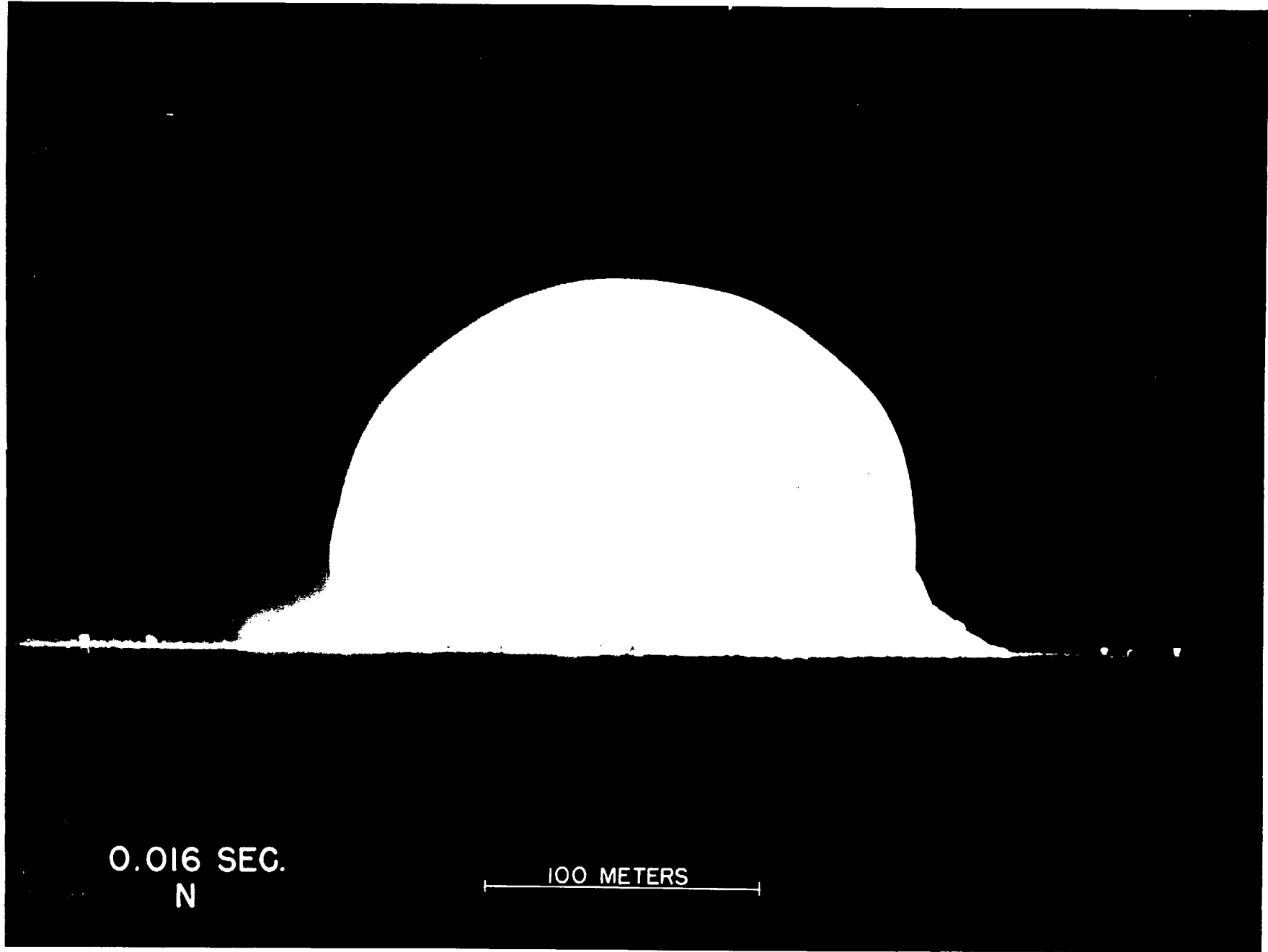




0.006 SEC.
N

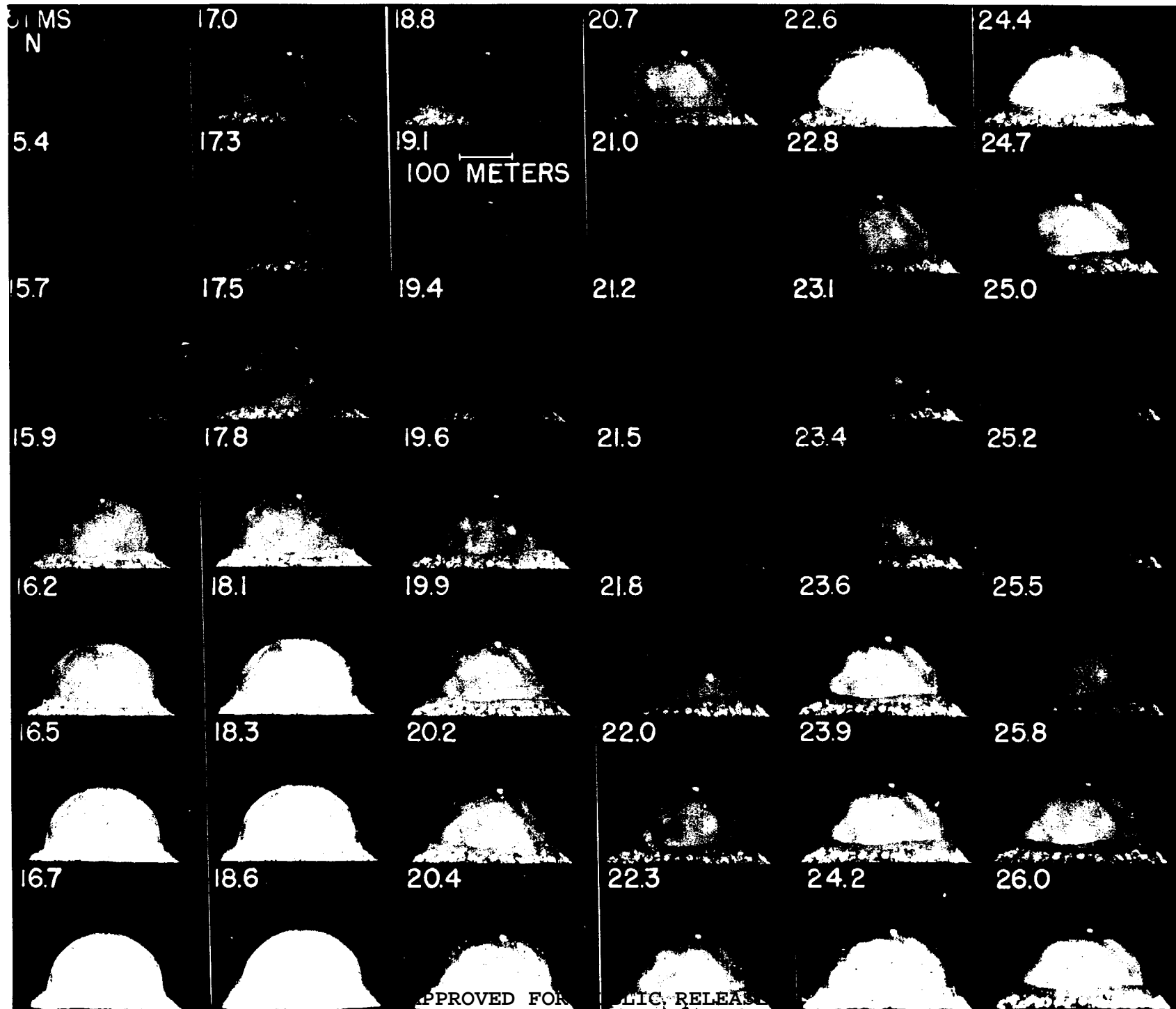
100 METERS

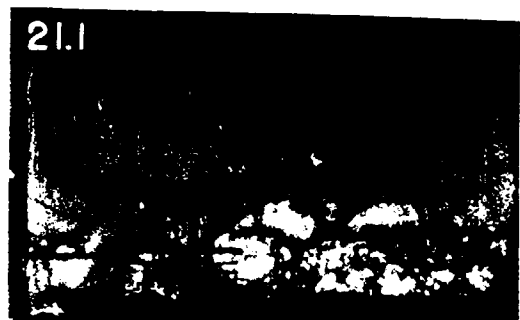
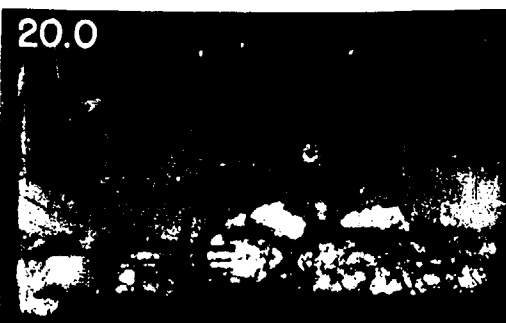
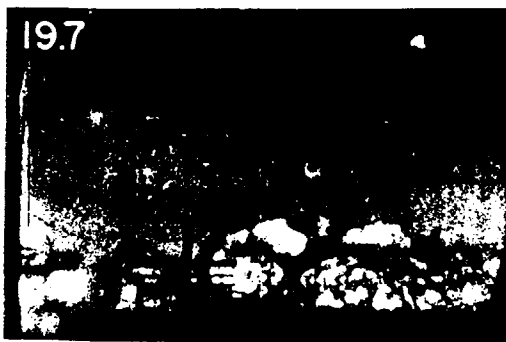
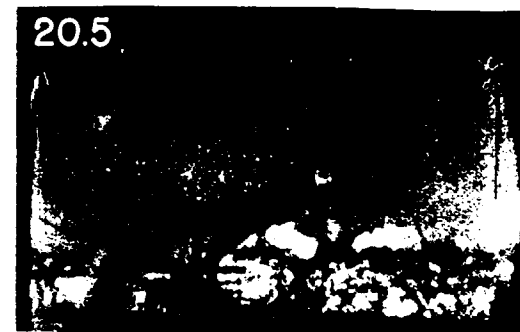
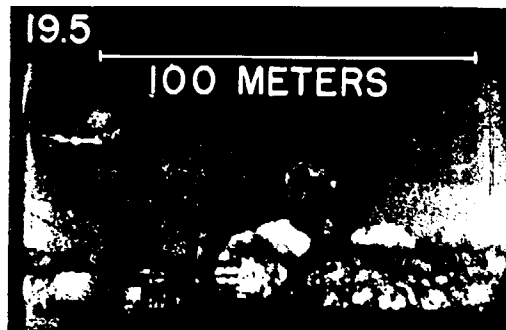
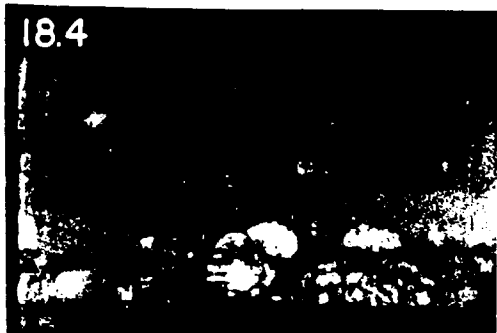
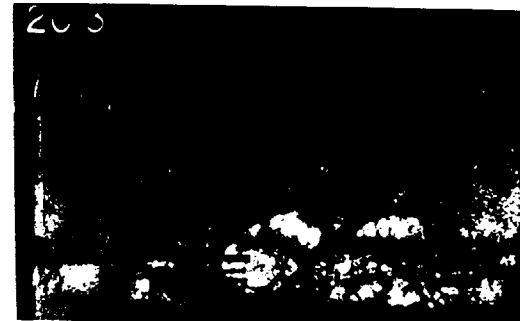


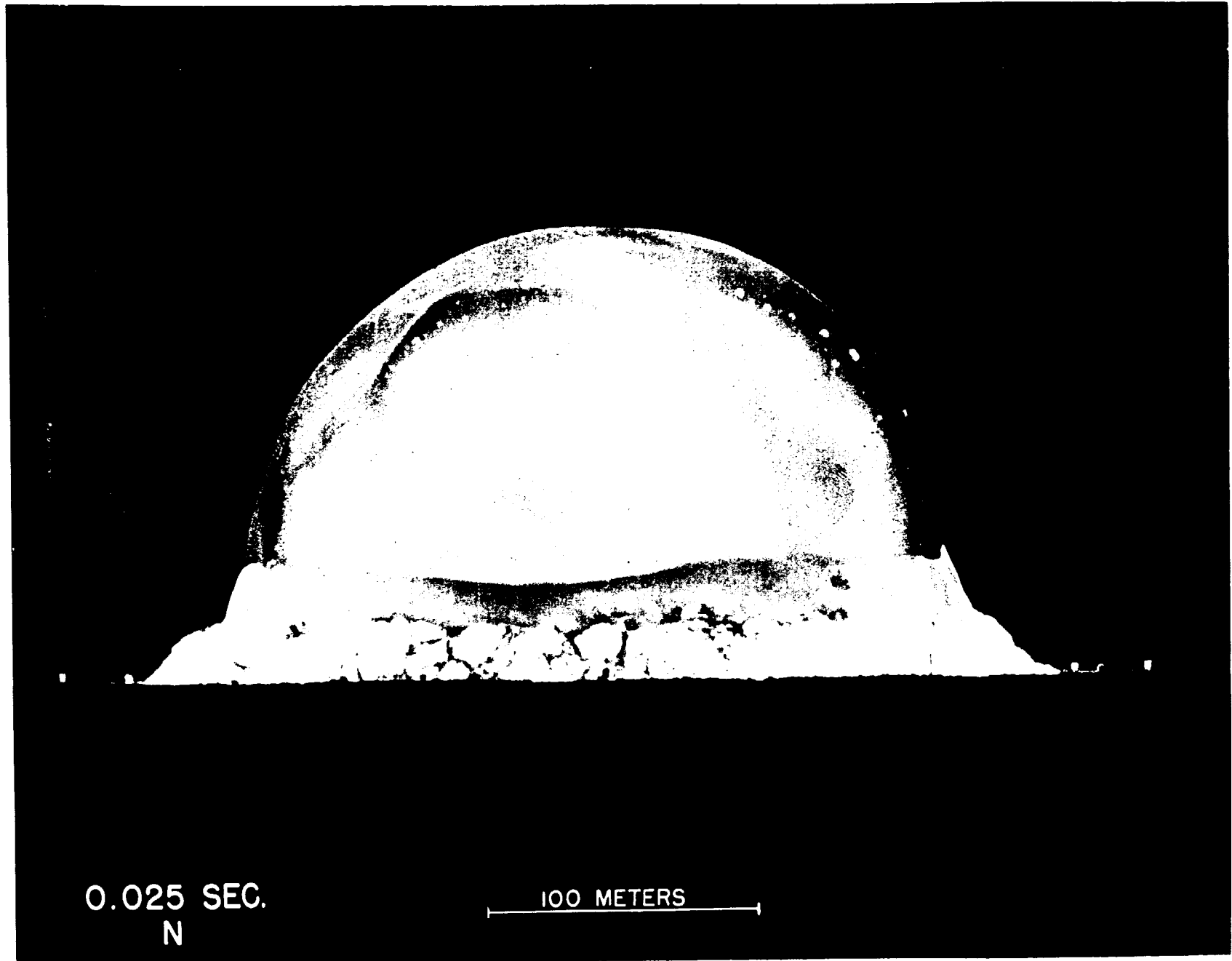


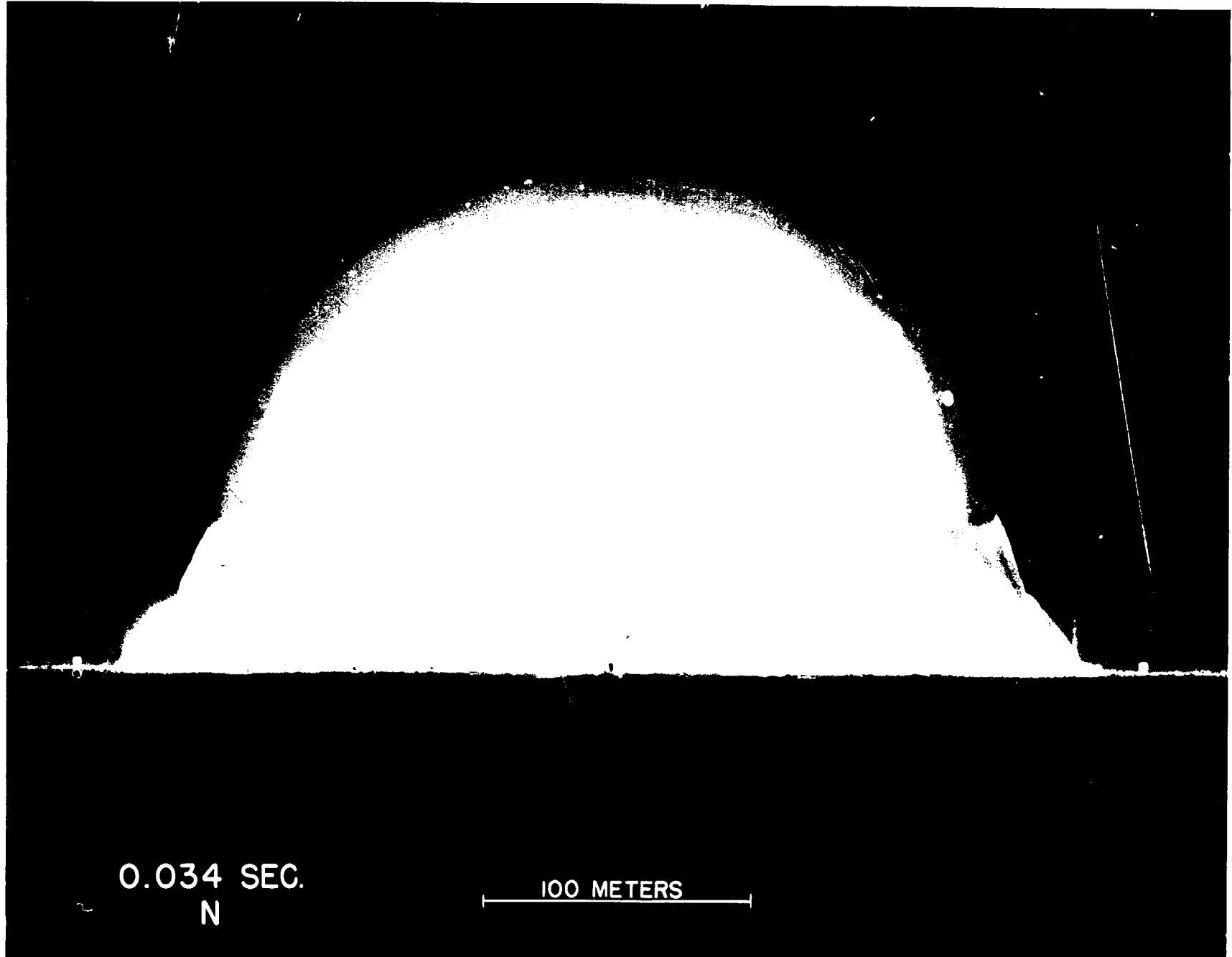
0.016 SEC.
N

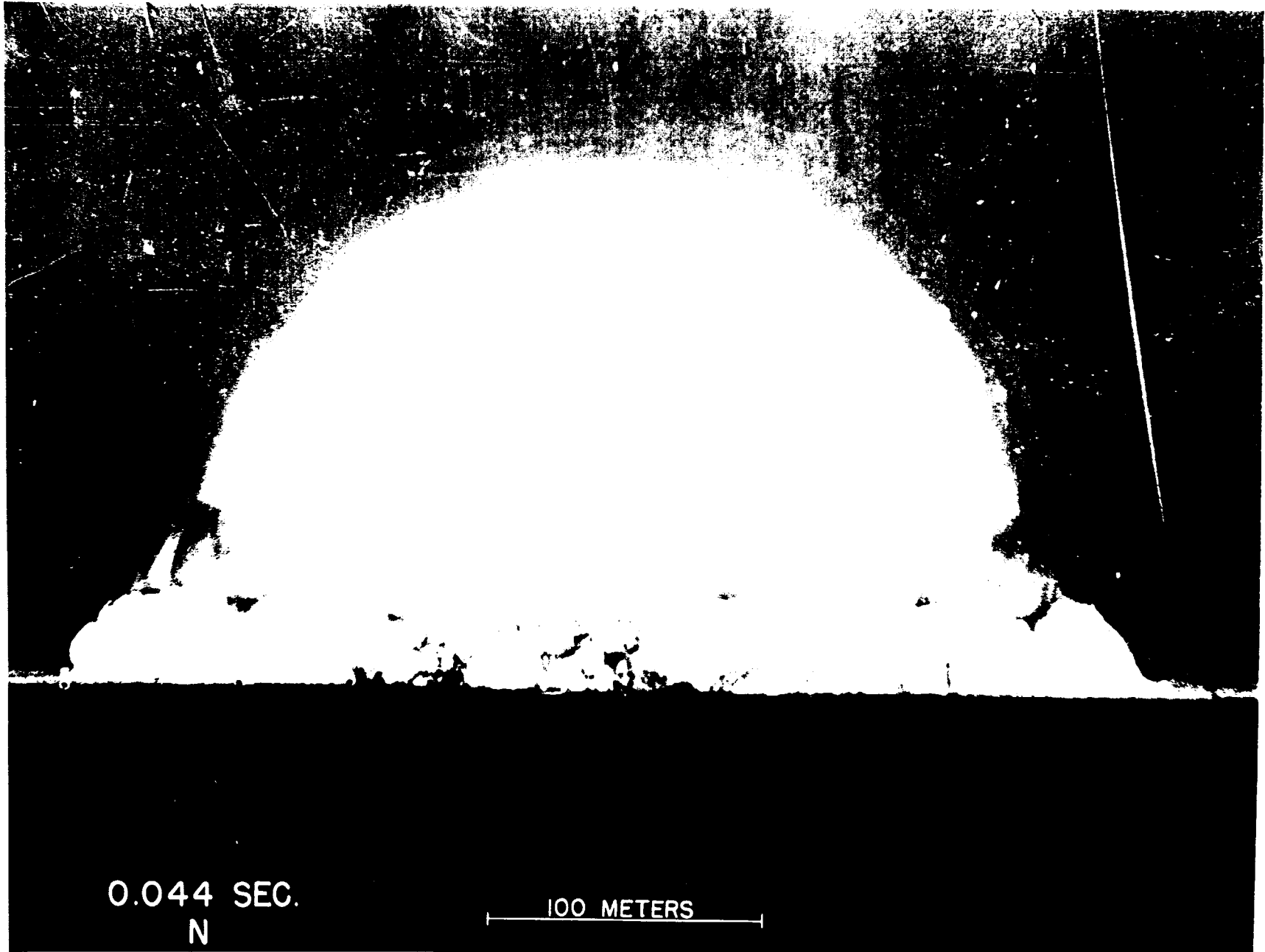
100 METERS





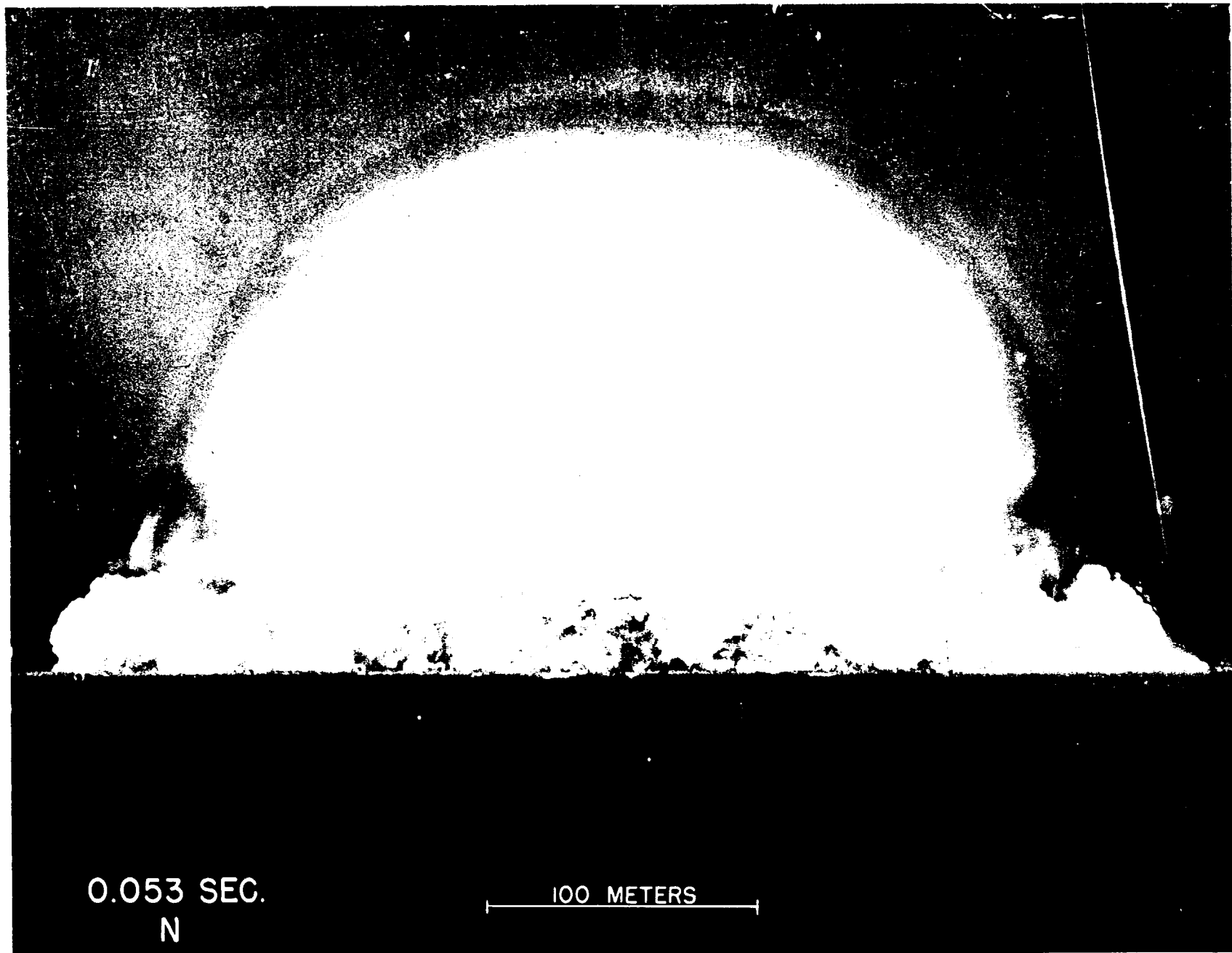






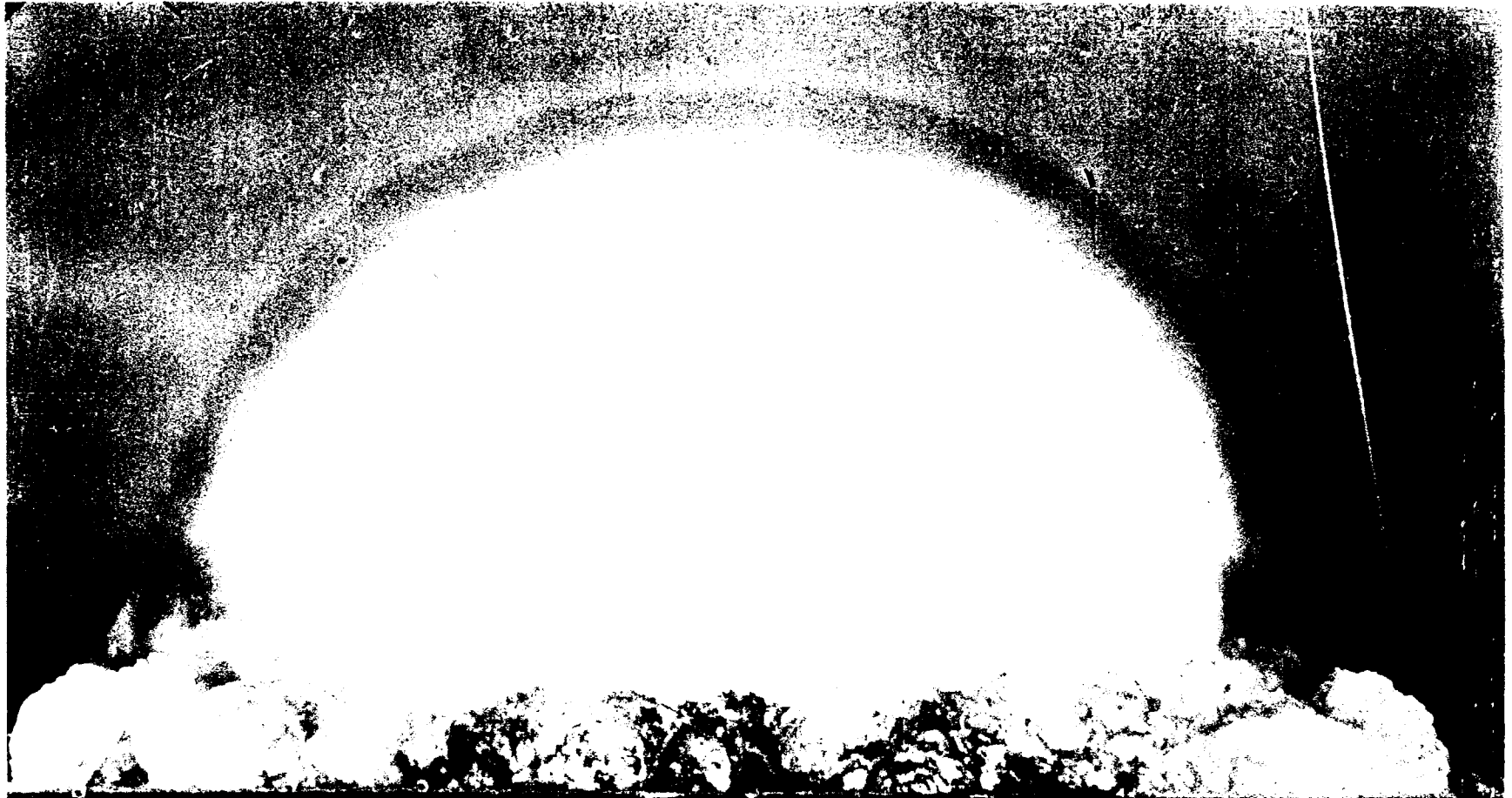
0.044 SEC.
N

100 METERS



0.053 SEC.
N

100 METERS



0.062 SEC.

N

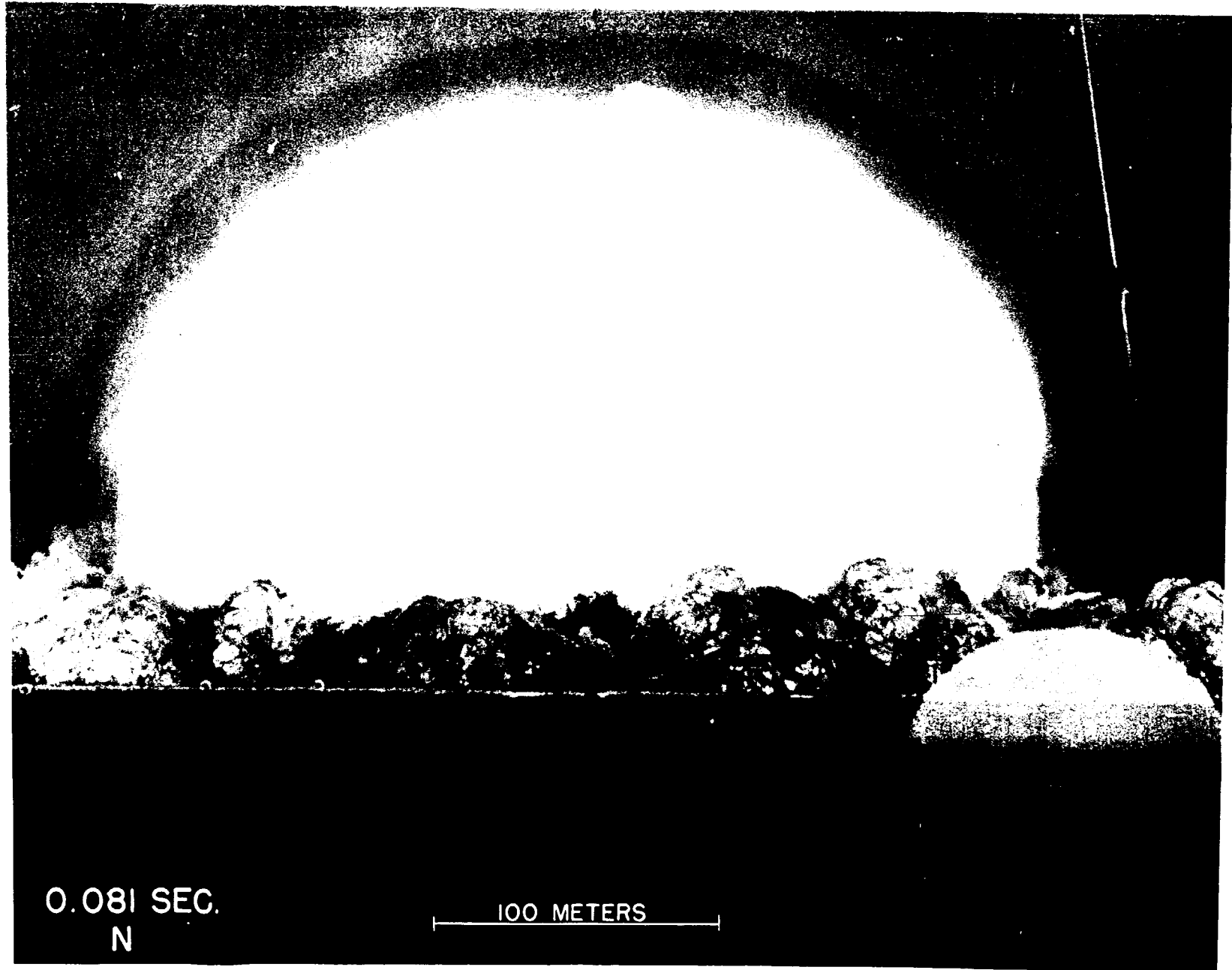
100 METERS



0.072 SEC.

N

100 METERS







0.100 SEC.
N

100 METERS

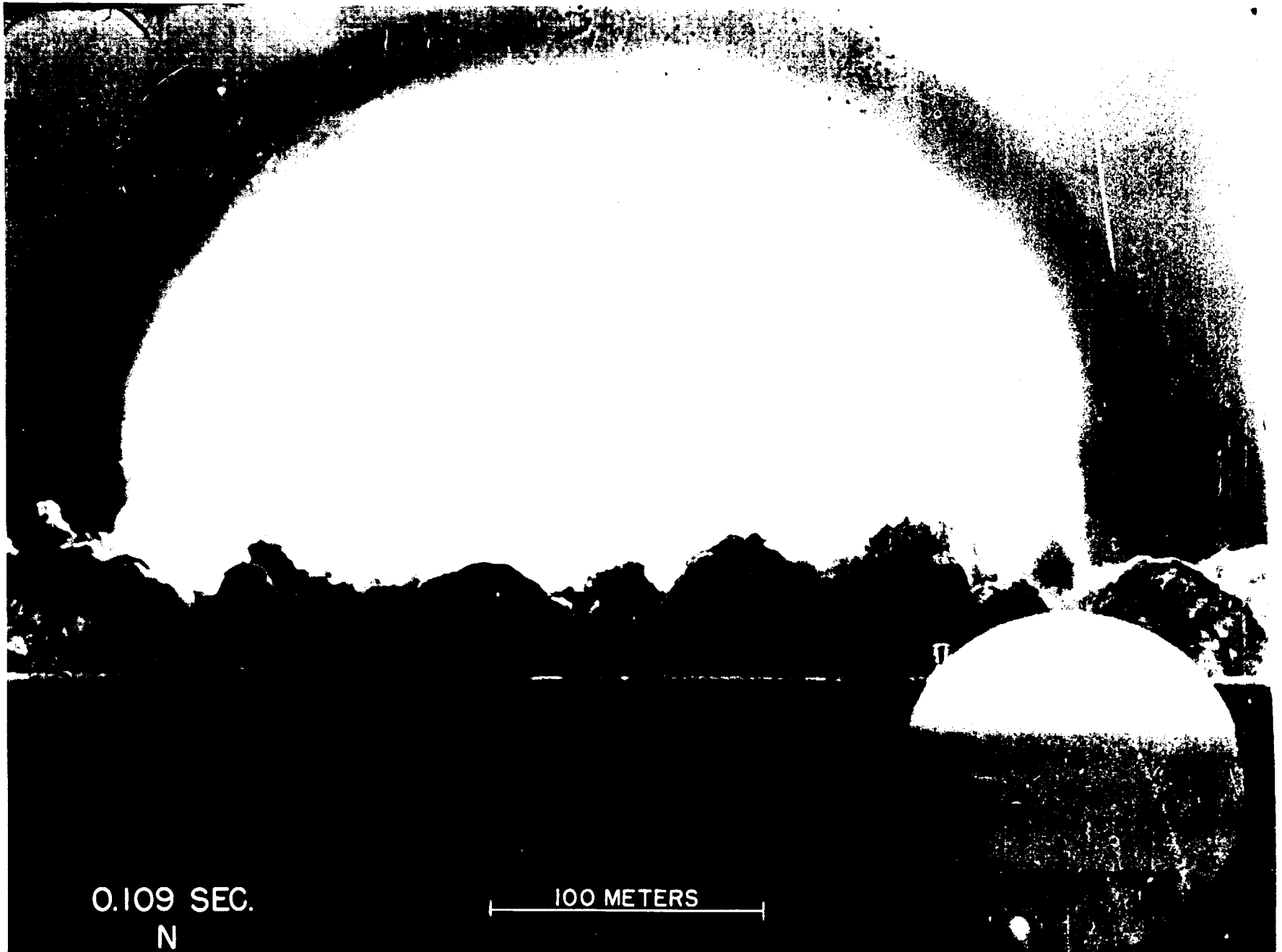
C

19



0.100 SEC.
N
HIGH CONTRAST

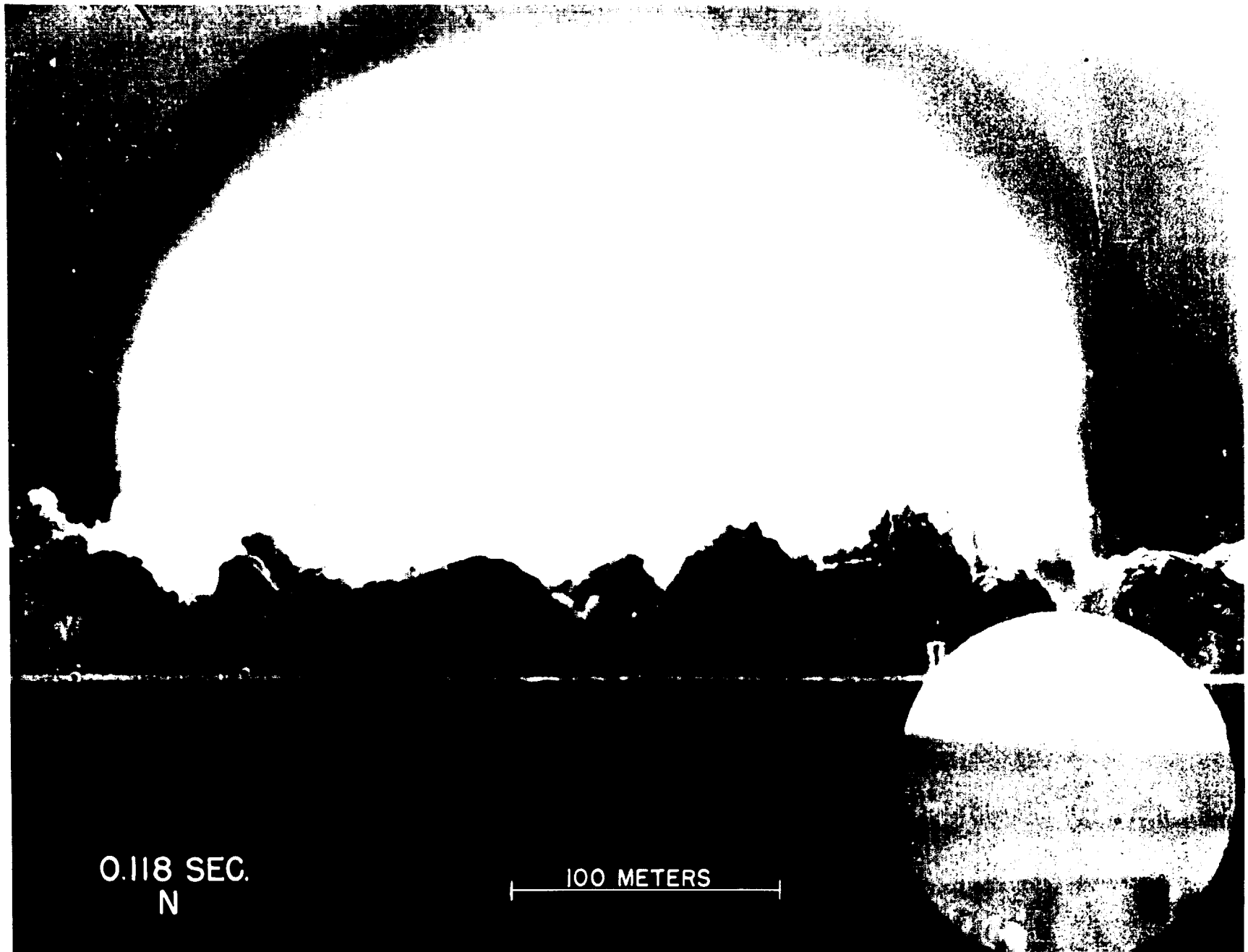
100 METERS



0.109 SEC.

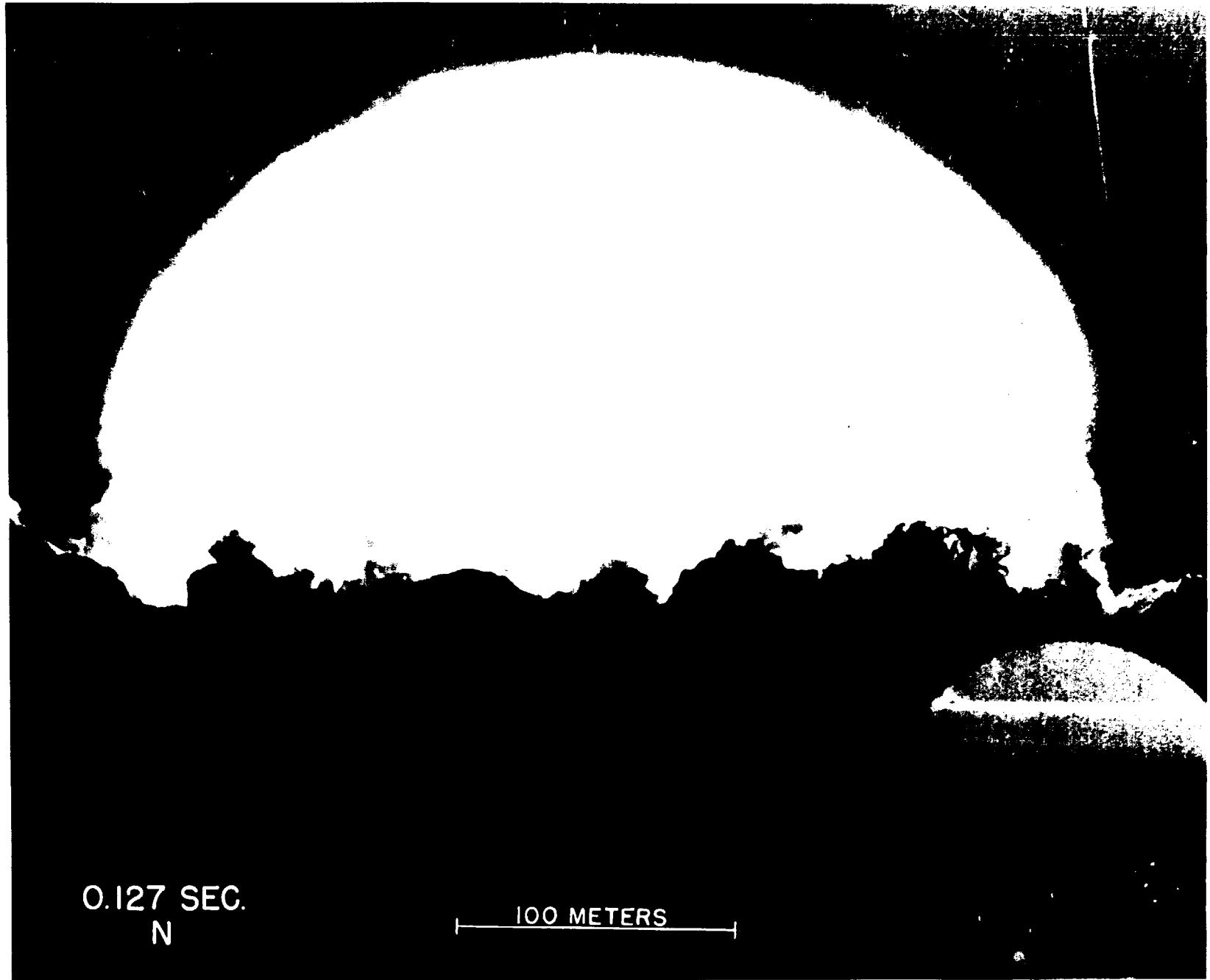
N

100 METERS



0.118 SEC.
N

100 METERS

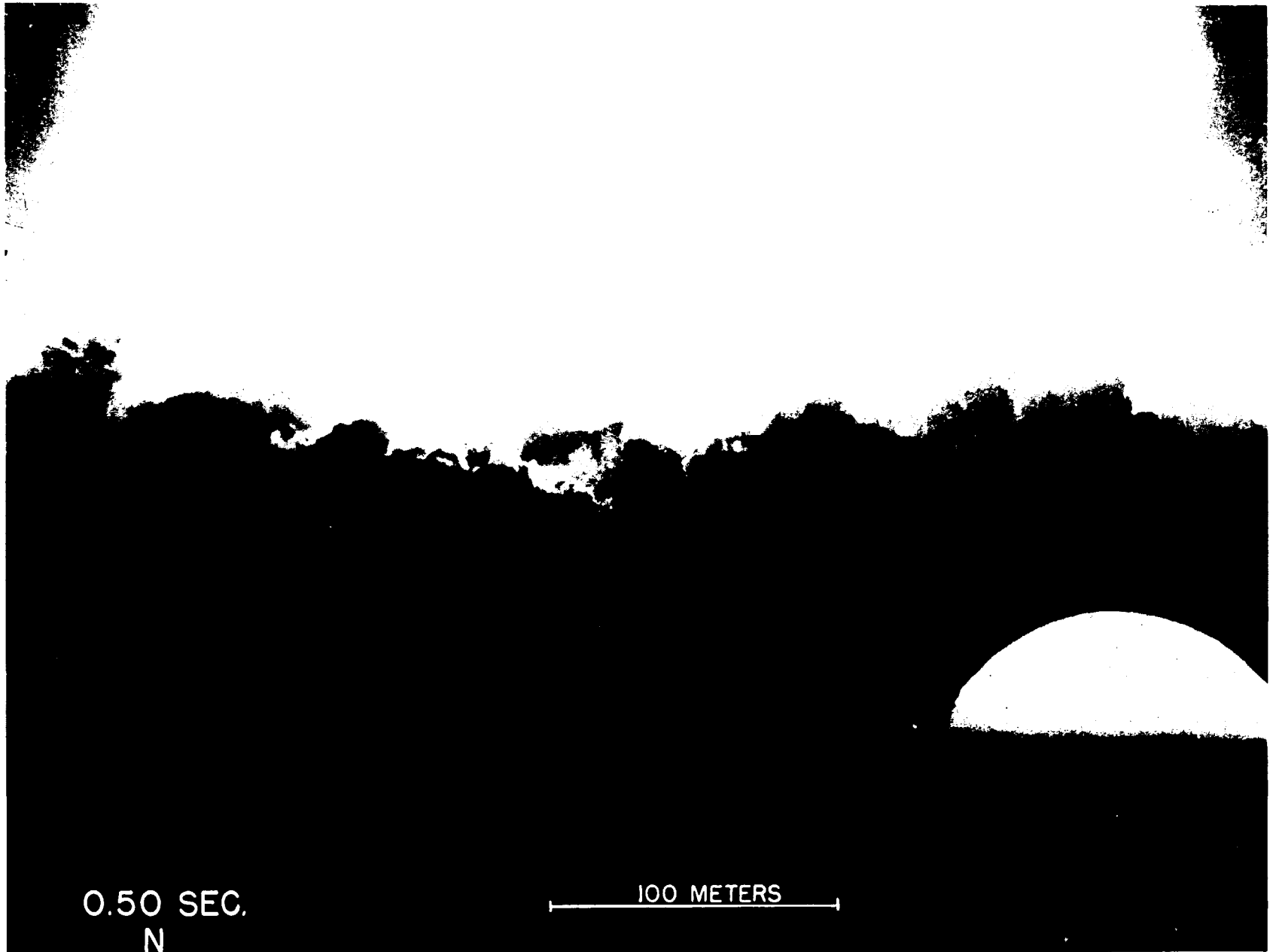




0.20 SEC.

N

100 METERS





1.0 SEC.

N

100 METERS



1.5 SEC.

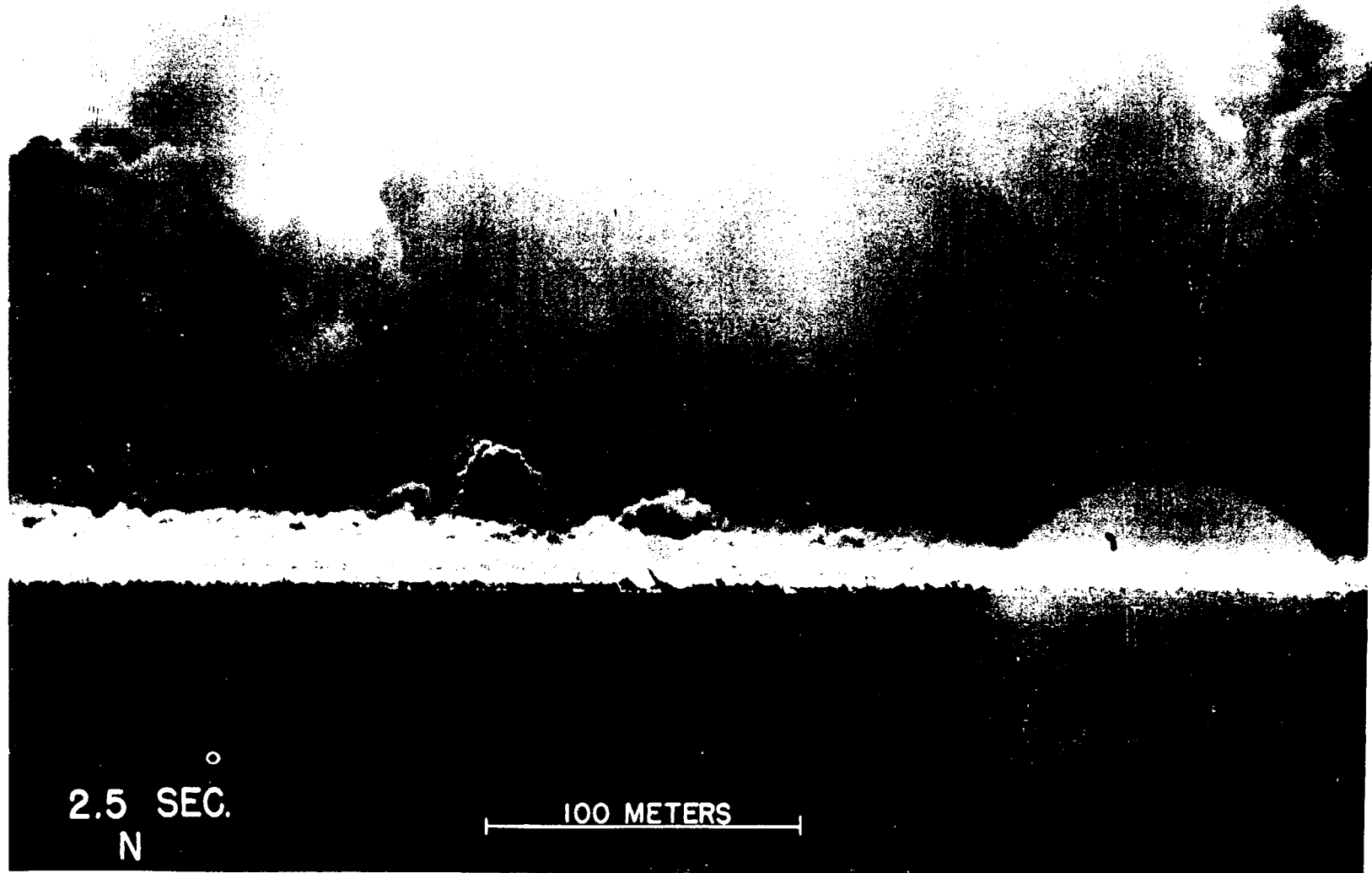
N

100 METERS



2.0 SEC.
N

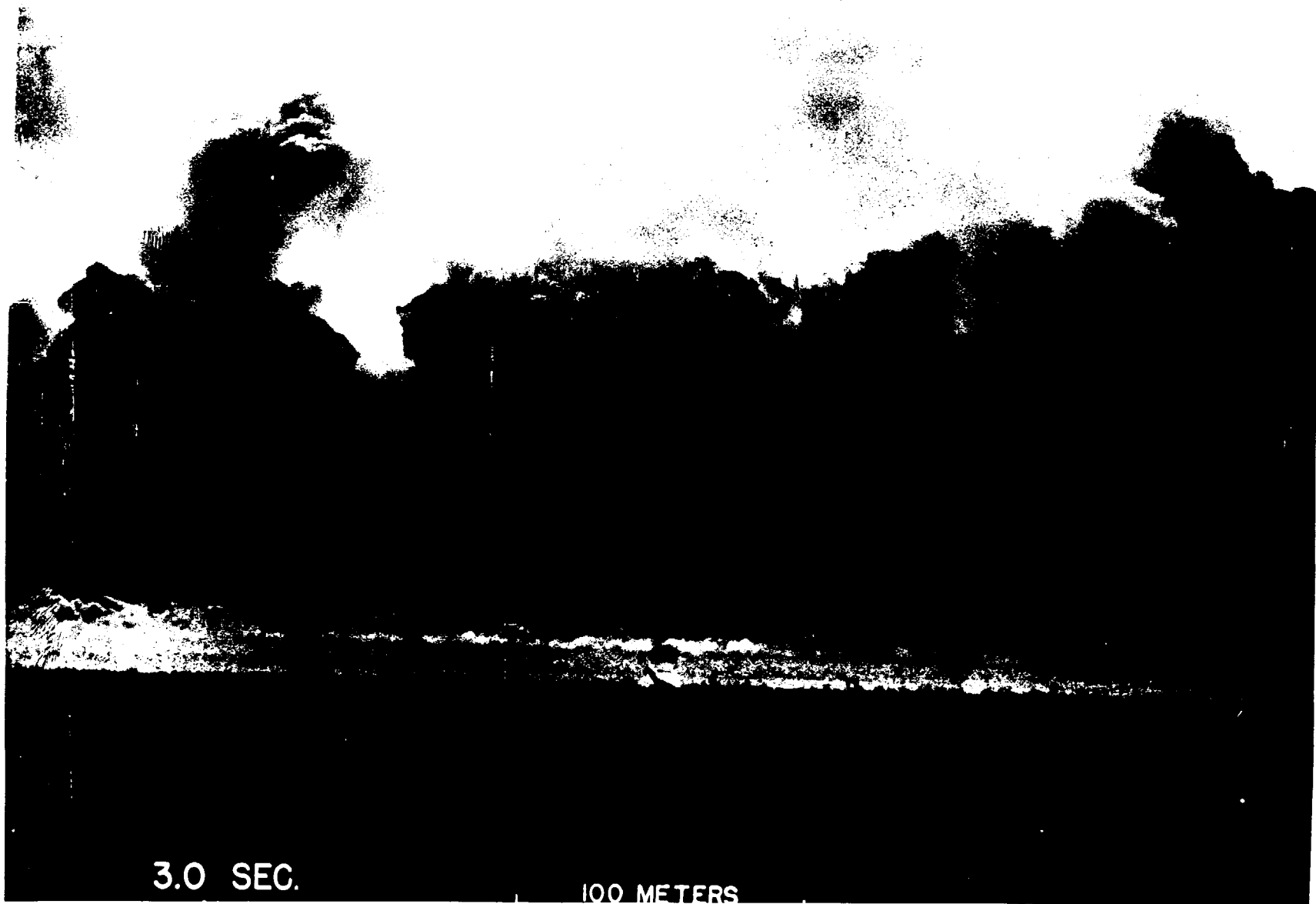
100 METERS



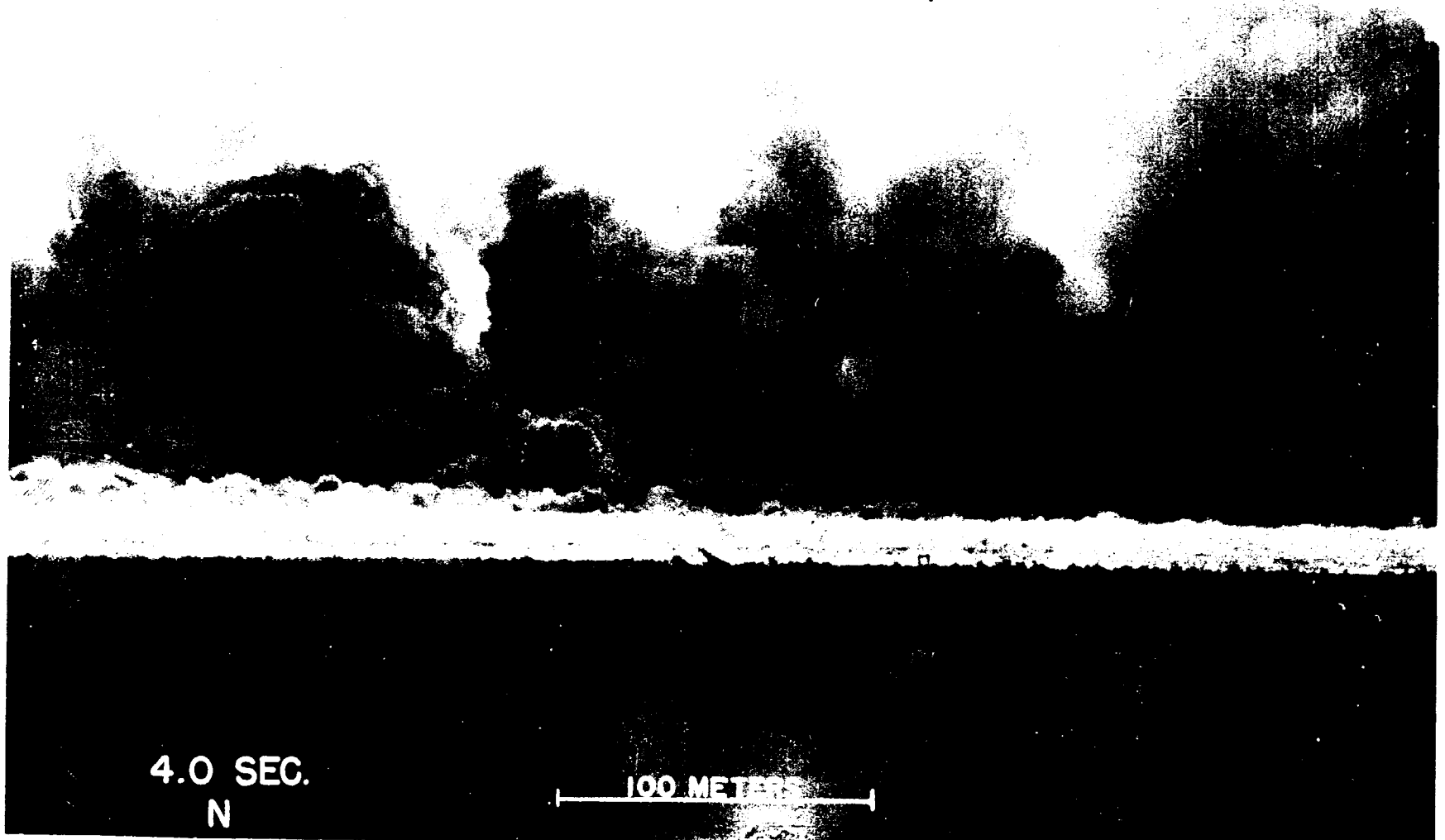
2.5 SEC.
N

100 METERS

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE



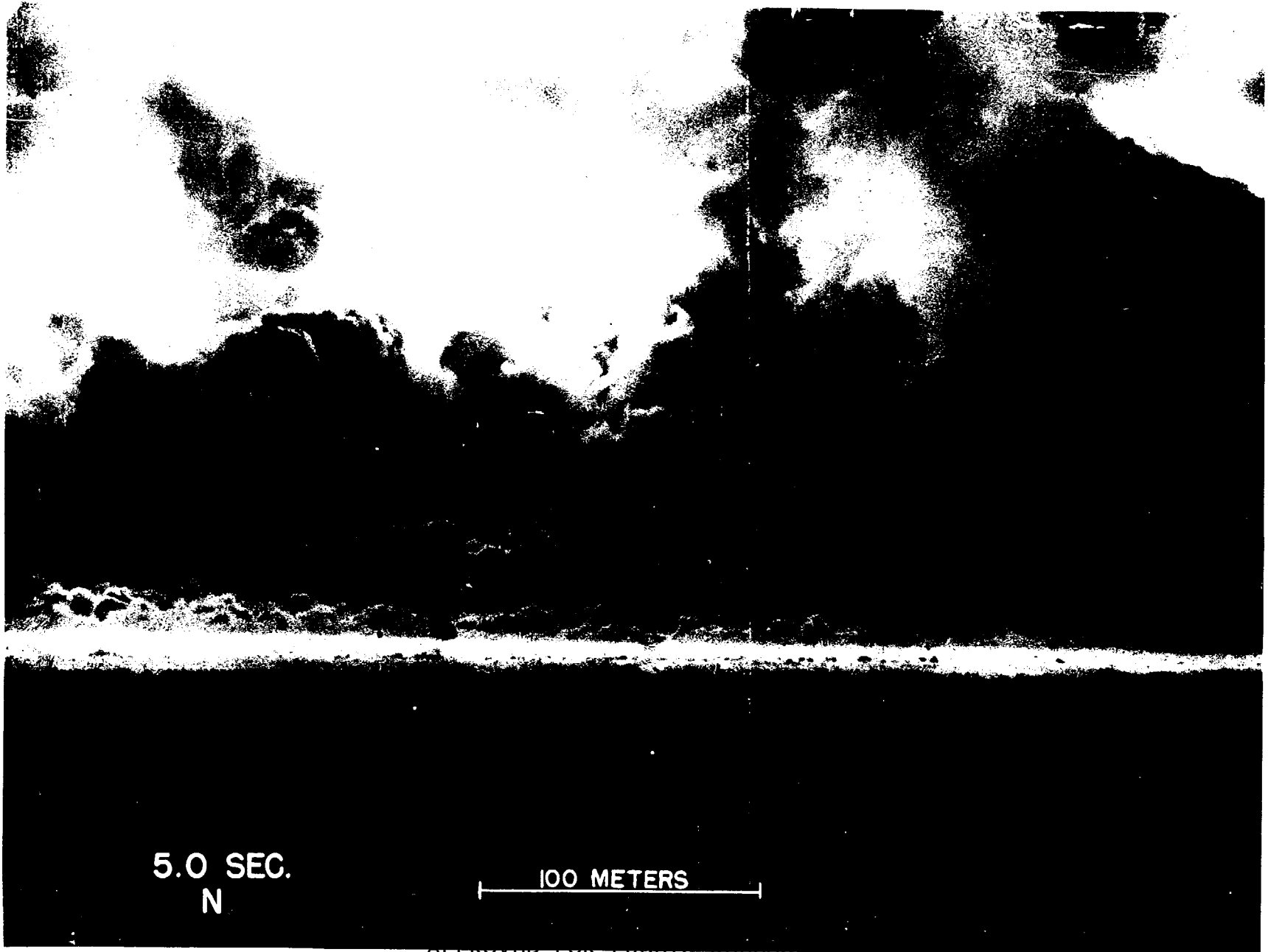
APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

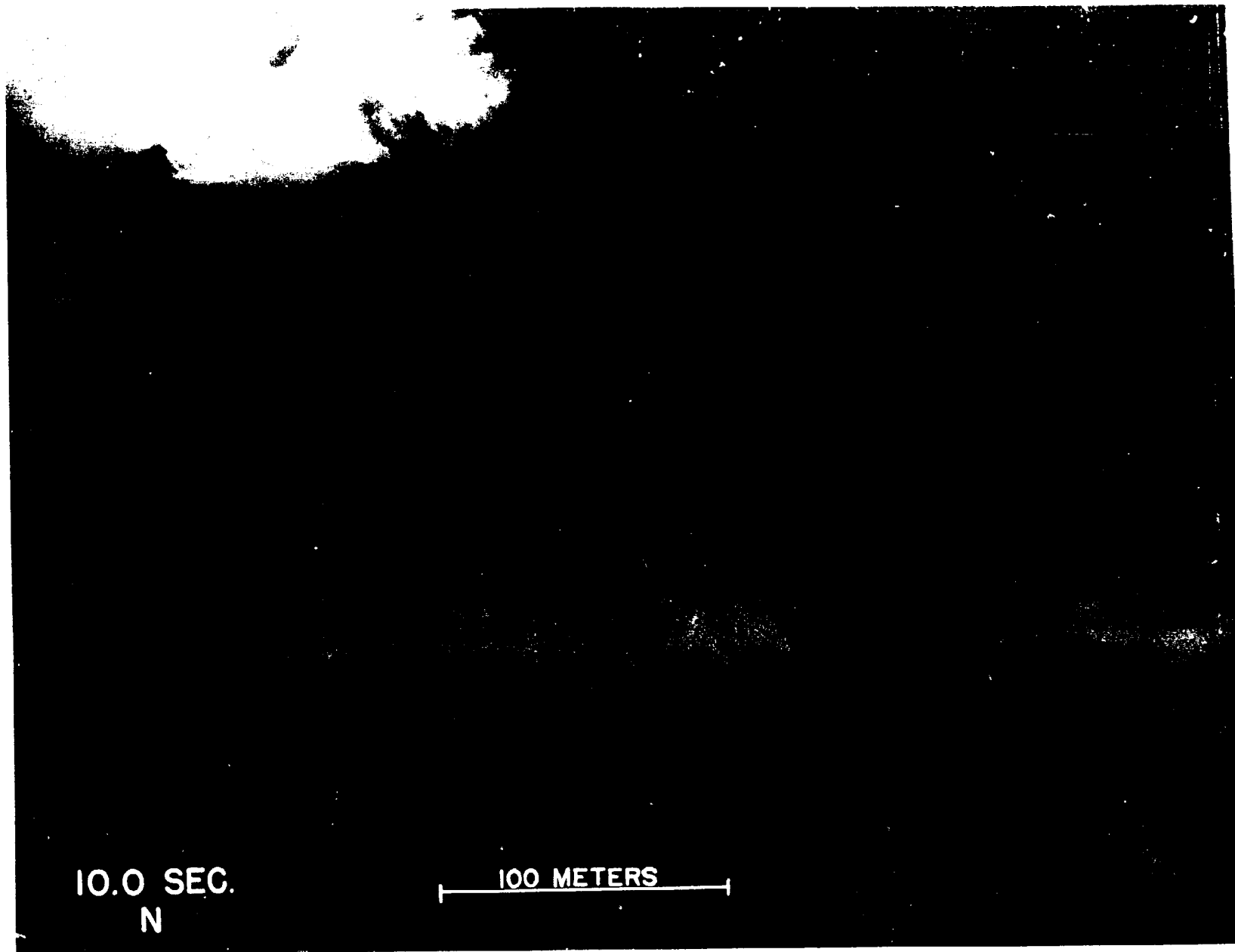


4.0 SEC.

N

100 METERS

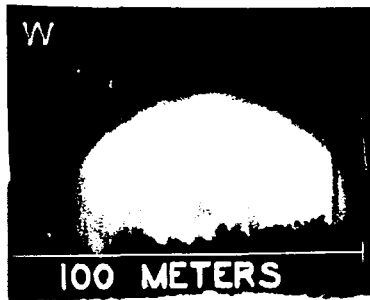


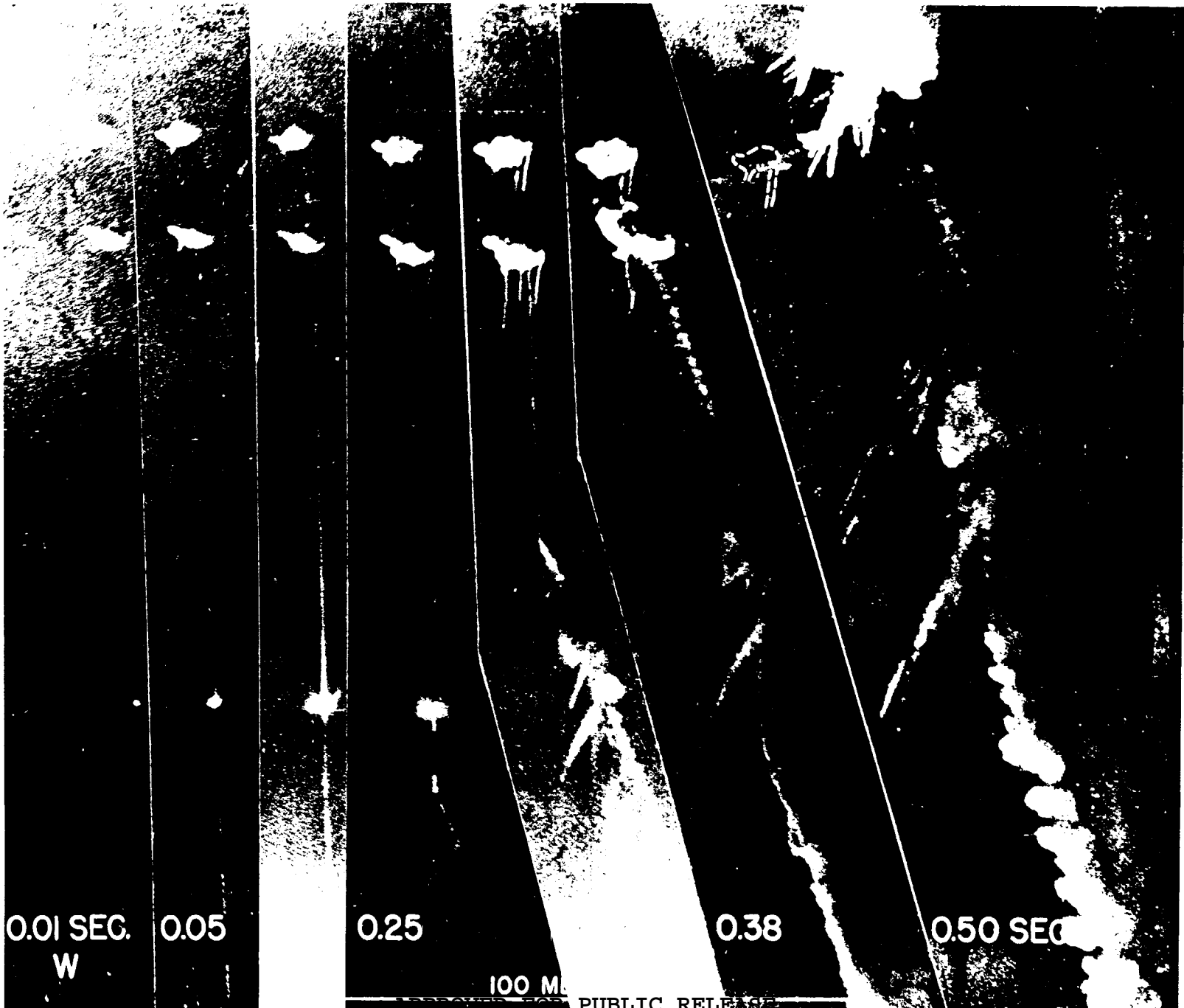


10.0 SEC.

N

100 METERS





0.01 SEC.

0.05

0.25

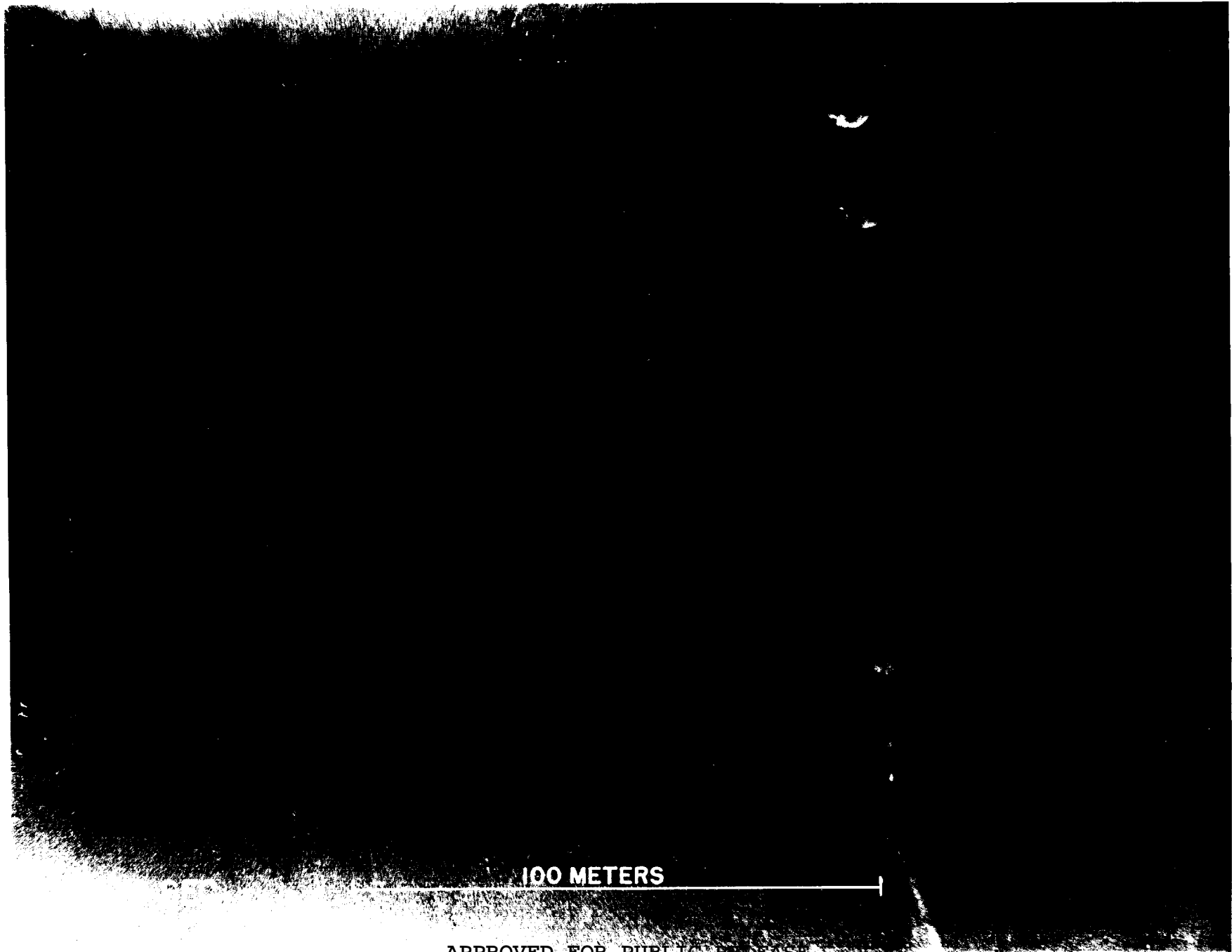
0.38

0.50 SEC.

W

100 M

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE



100 METERS

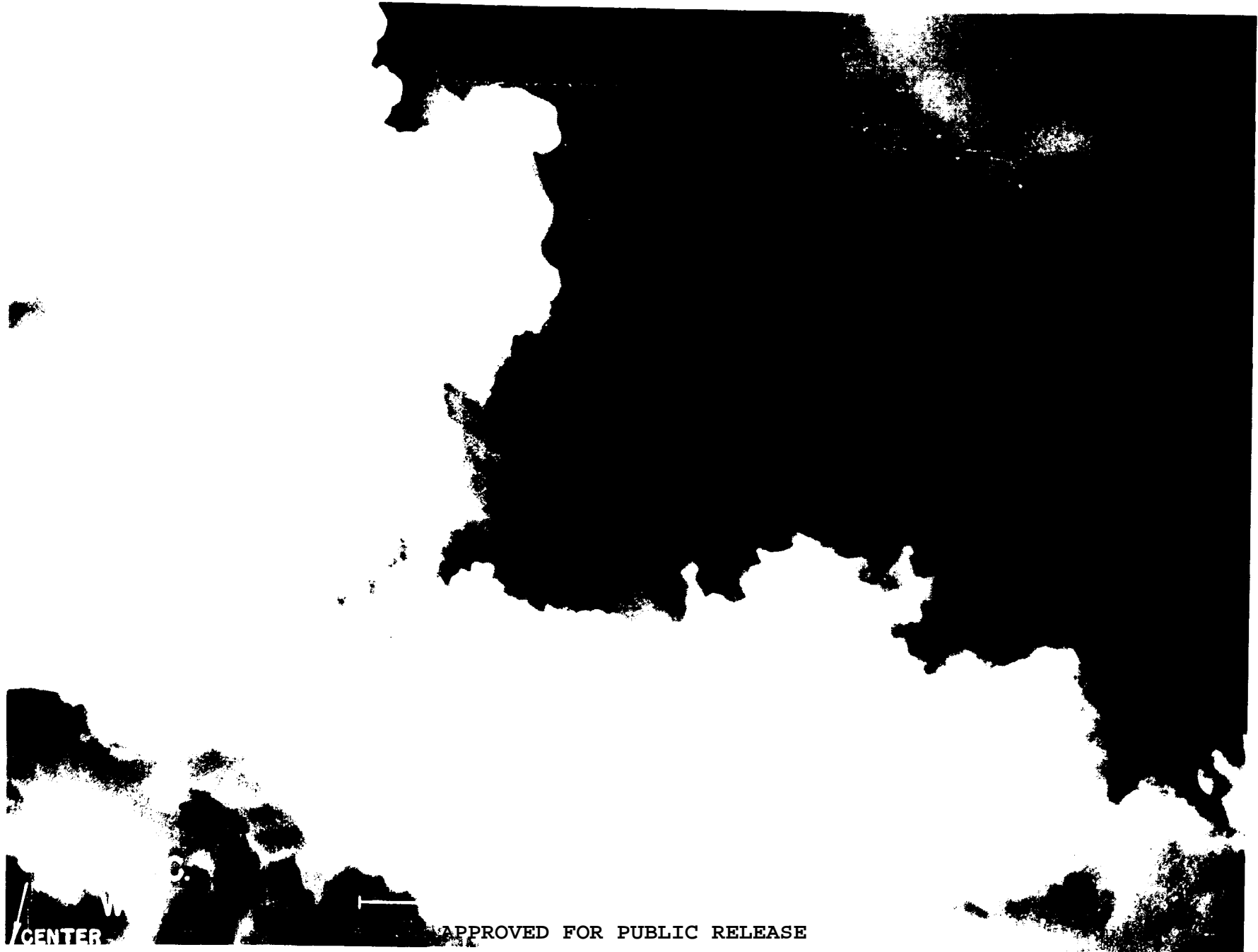
APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

0.34 SEC.

100 METERS





CENTER

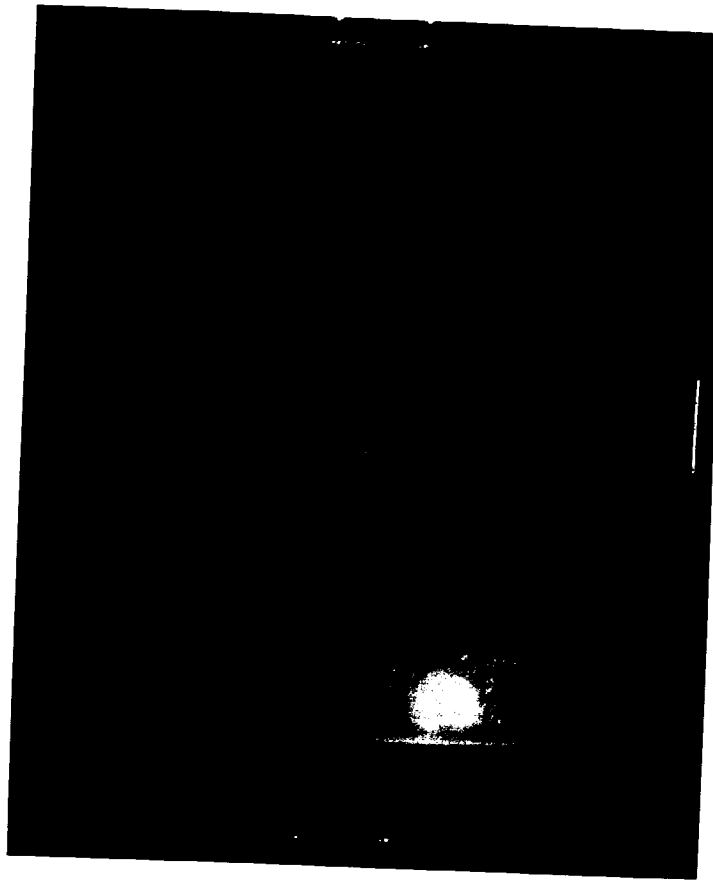


Fig. 38
11.5 seconds NW

Note: For this and succeeding two vectographs use viewers in pocket.

— — — —
100 meters

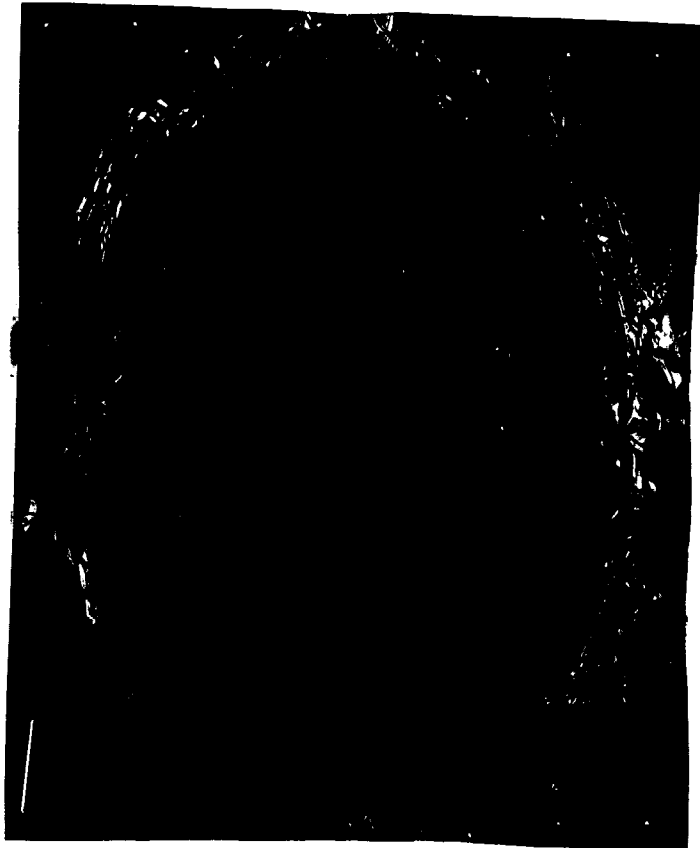
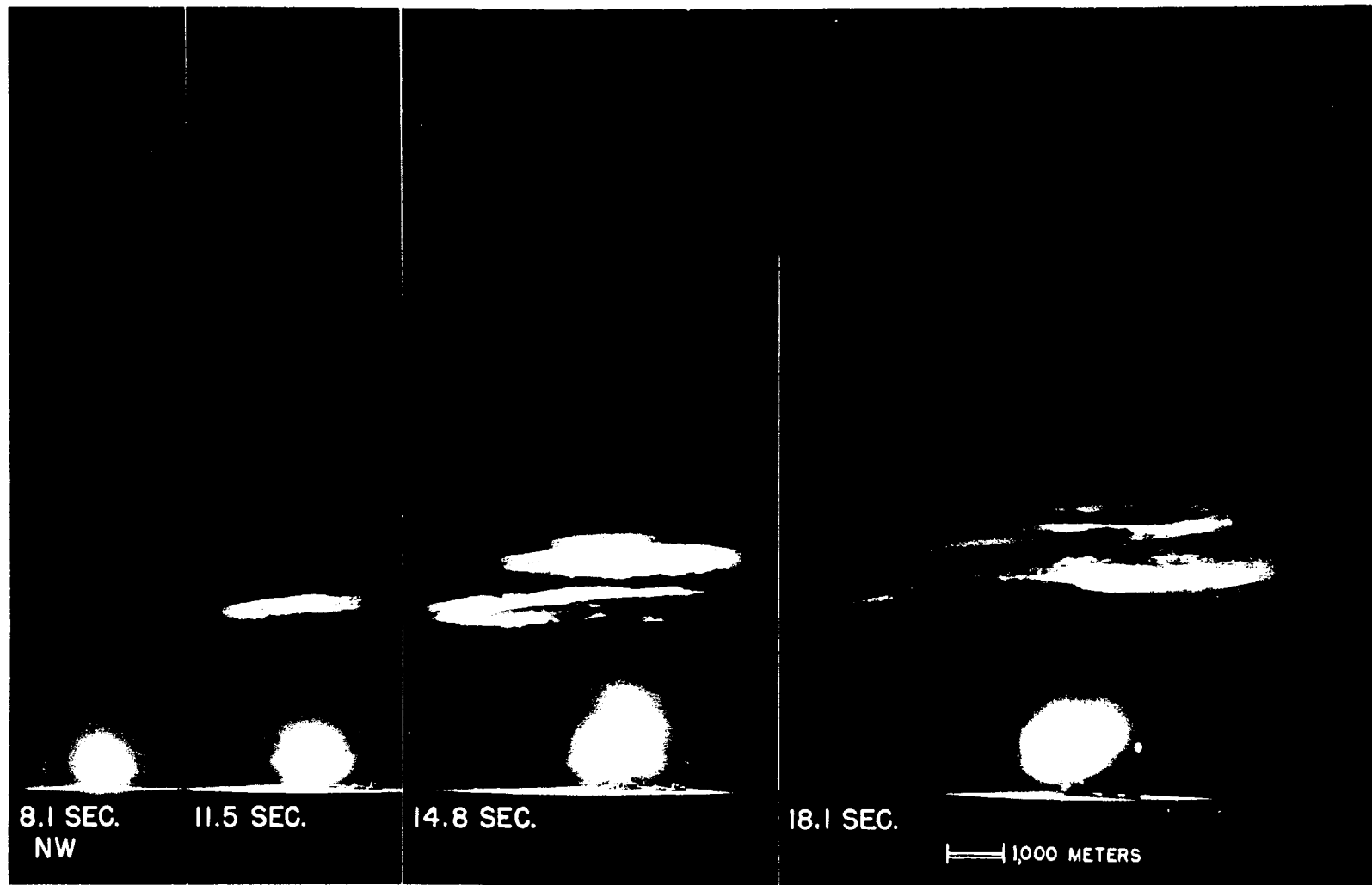


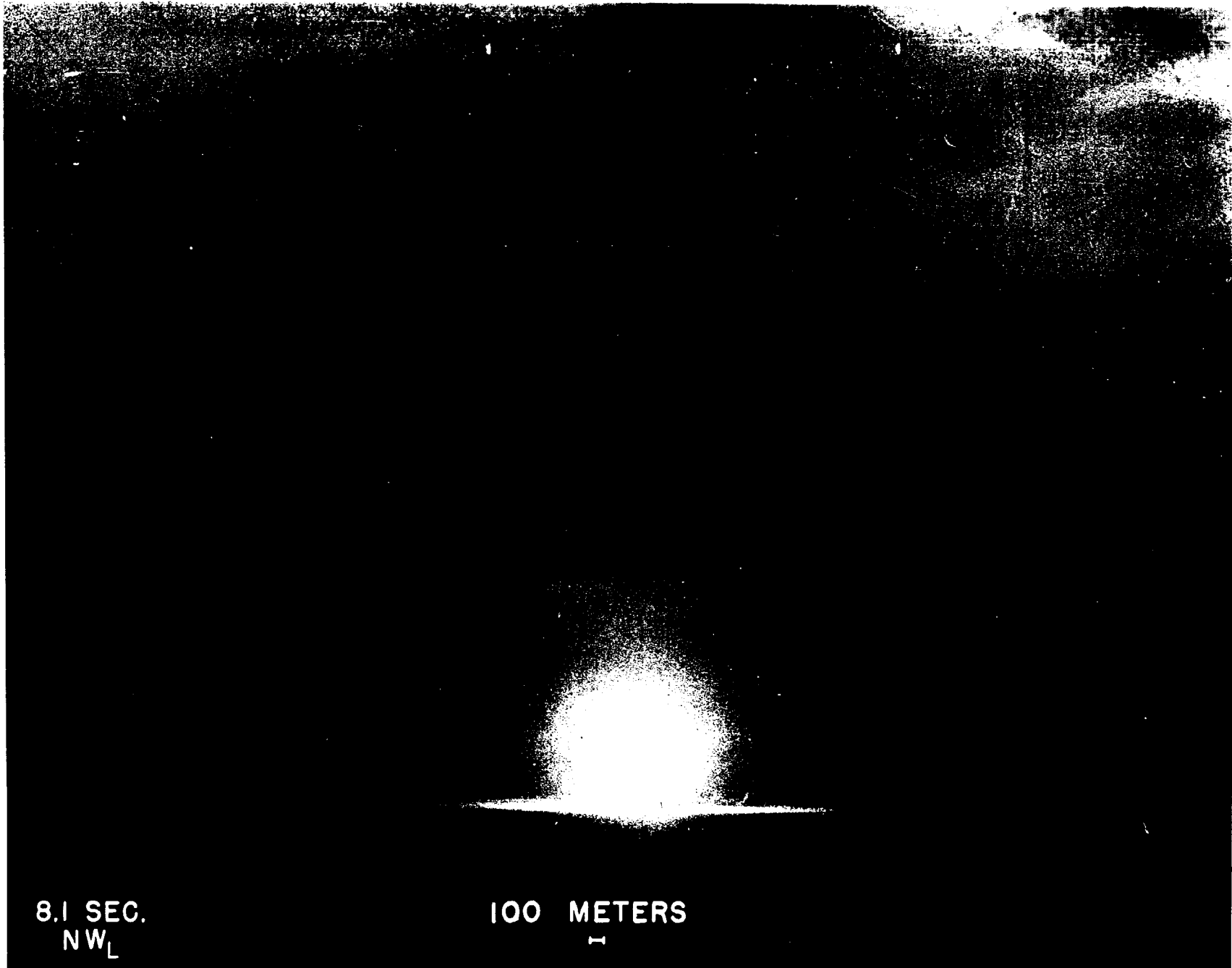
Fig. 39
14.8 seconds NW



Fig. 40
18.1 seconds NW

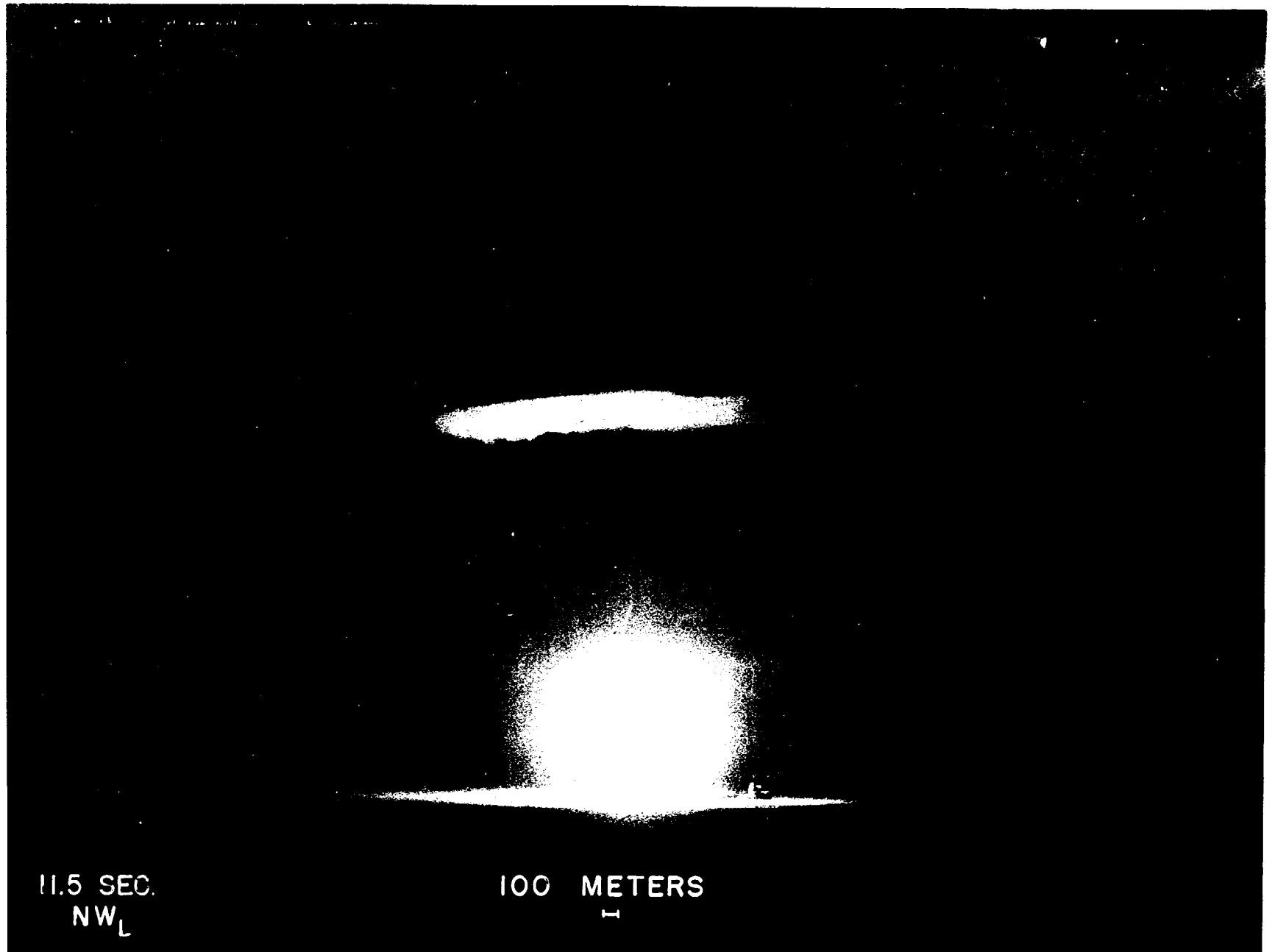
—|—
100 meters

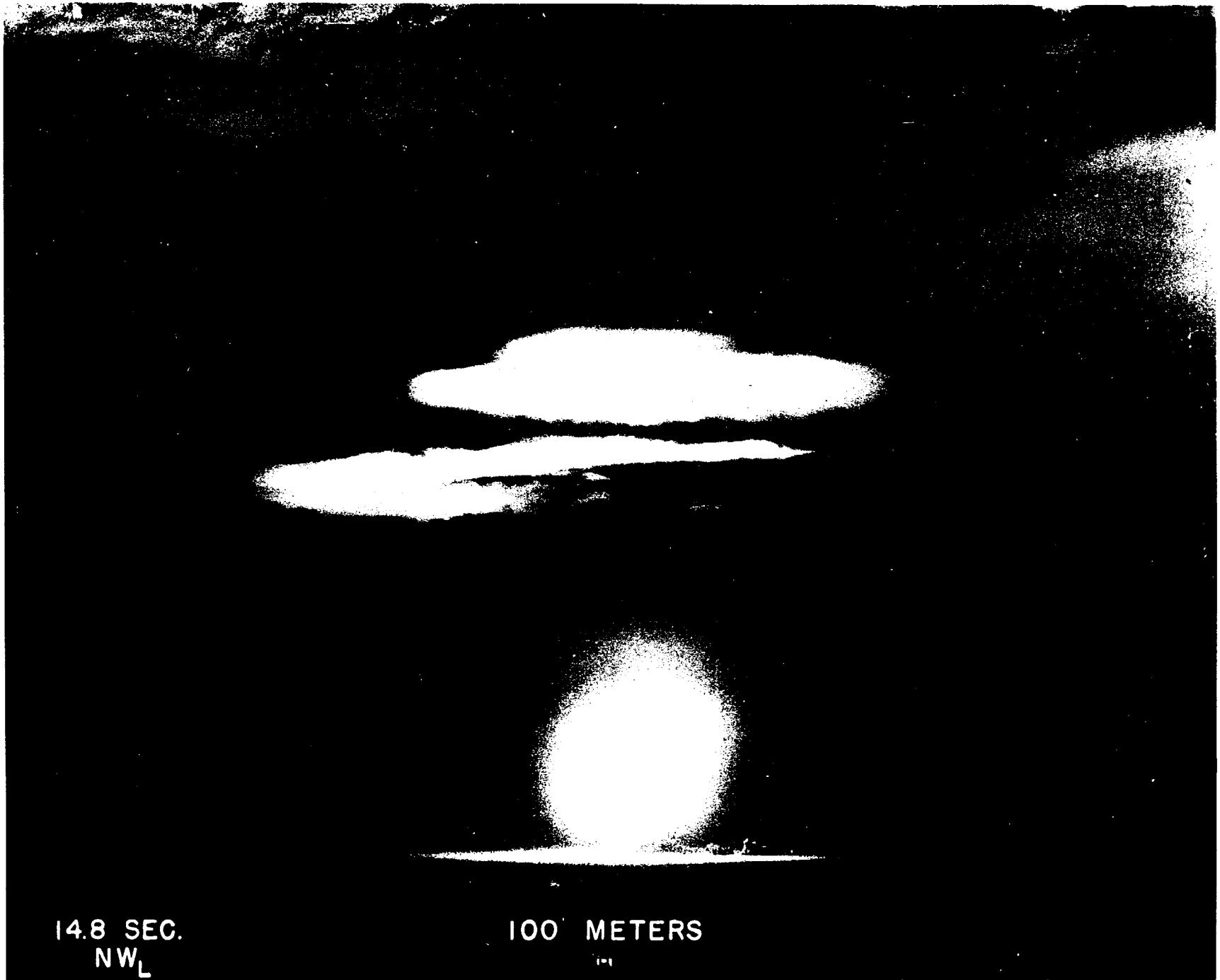




8.1 SEC.
NW_L

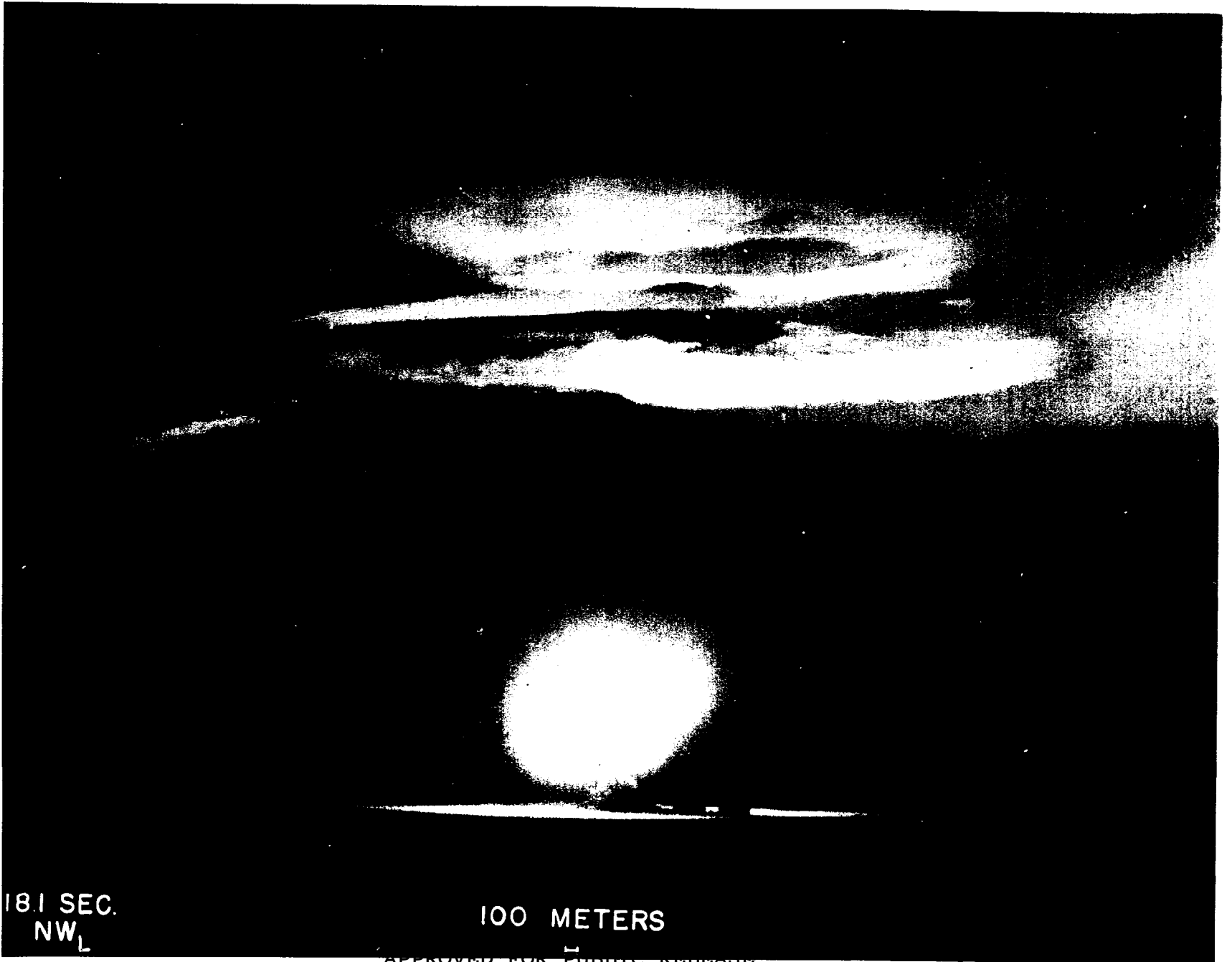
100 METERS
—





14.8 SEC.
NW_L

100 METERS



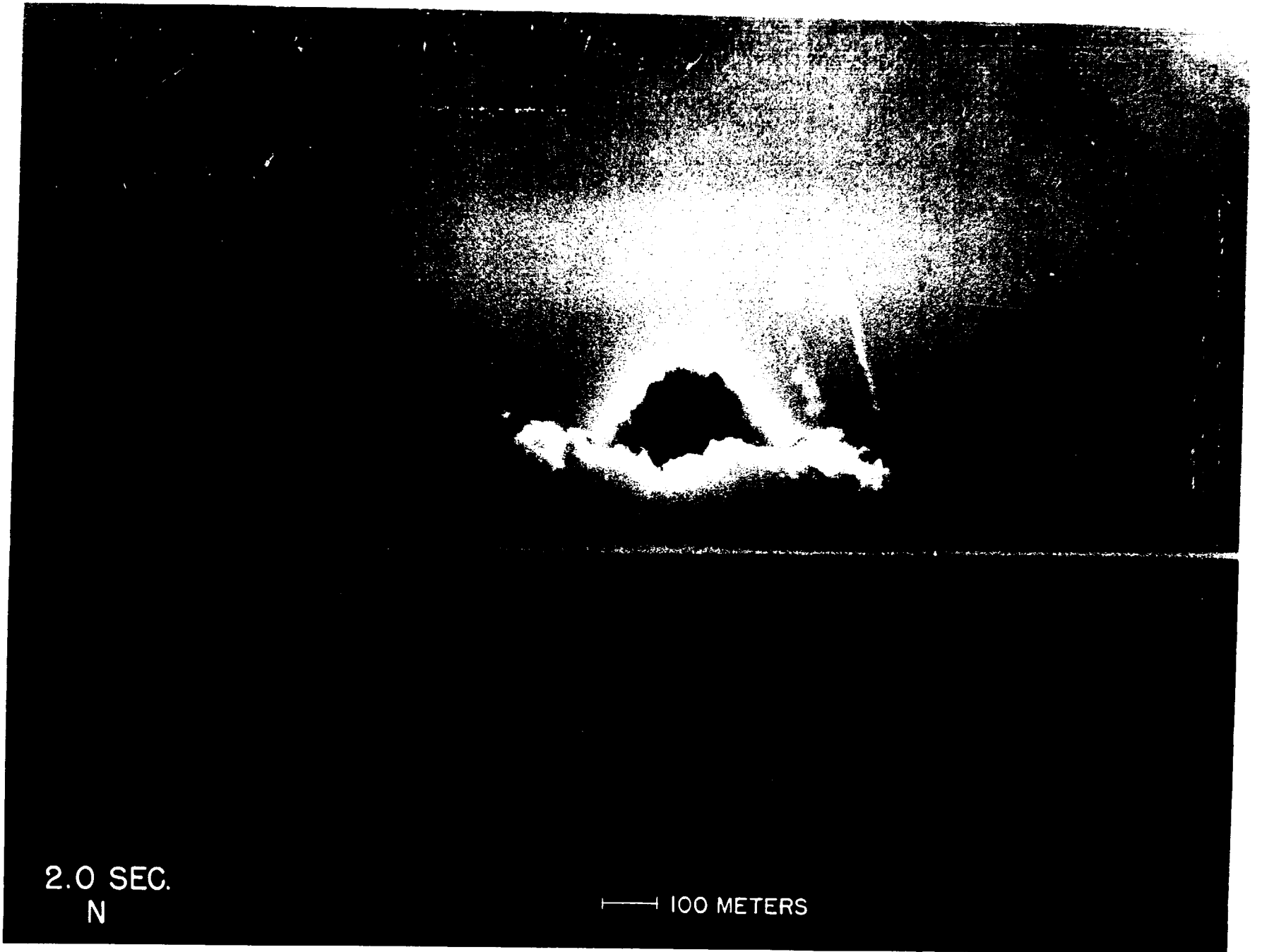
18.1 SEC.
NW_L

100 METERS



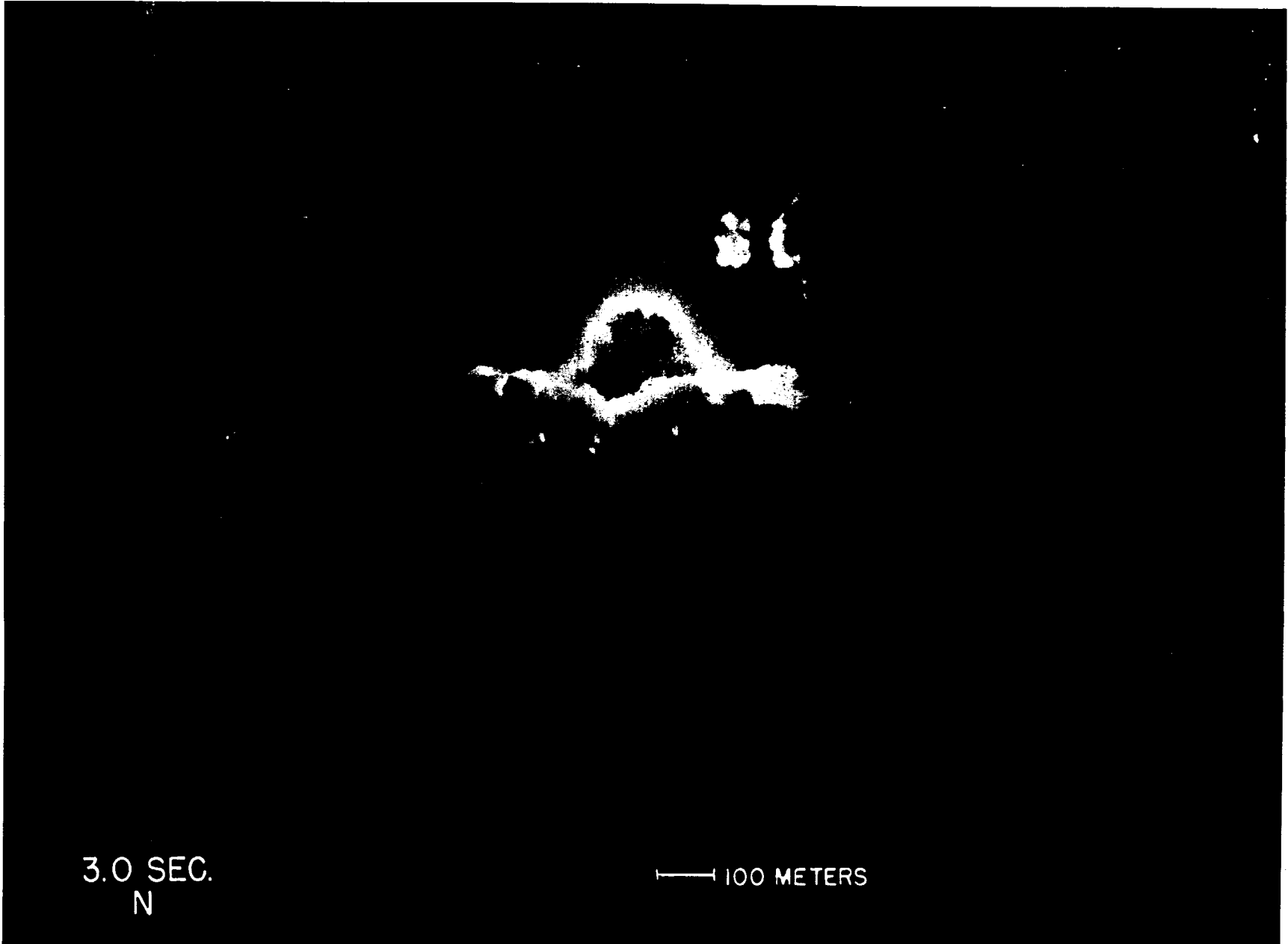
1.0 SEC.
N

— 100 METERS



2.0 SEC.
N

—|— 100 METERS



3.0 SEC.
N

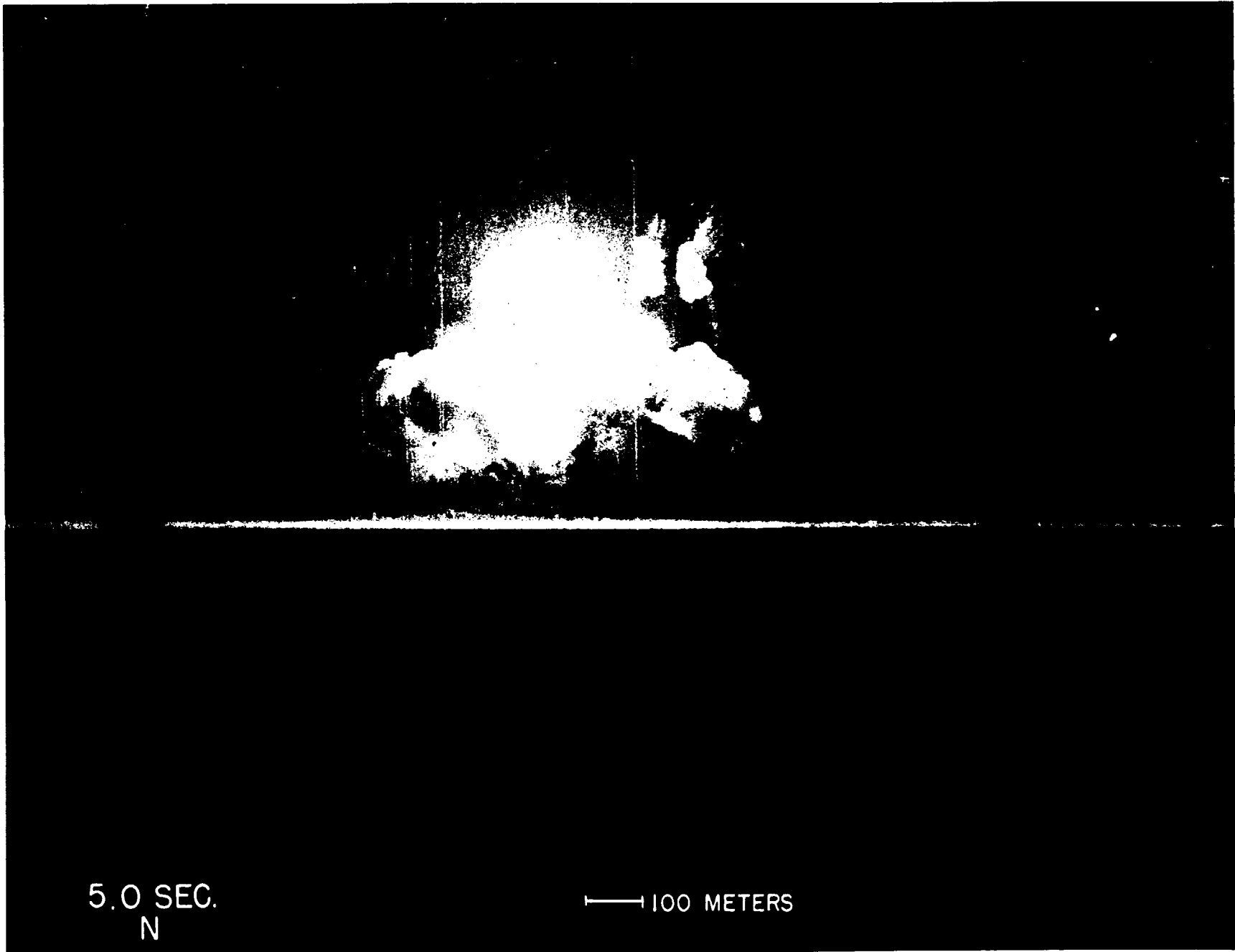
— 100 METERS



4.0 SEC.
N

— 100 METERS

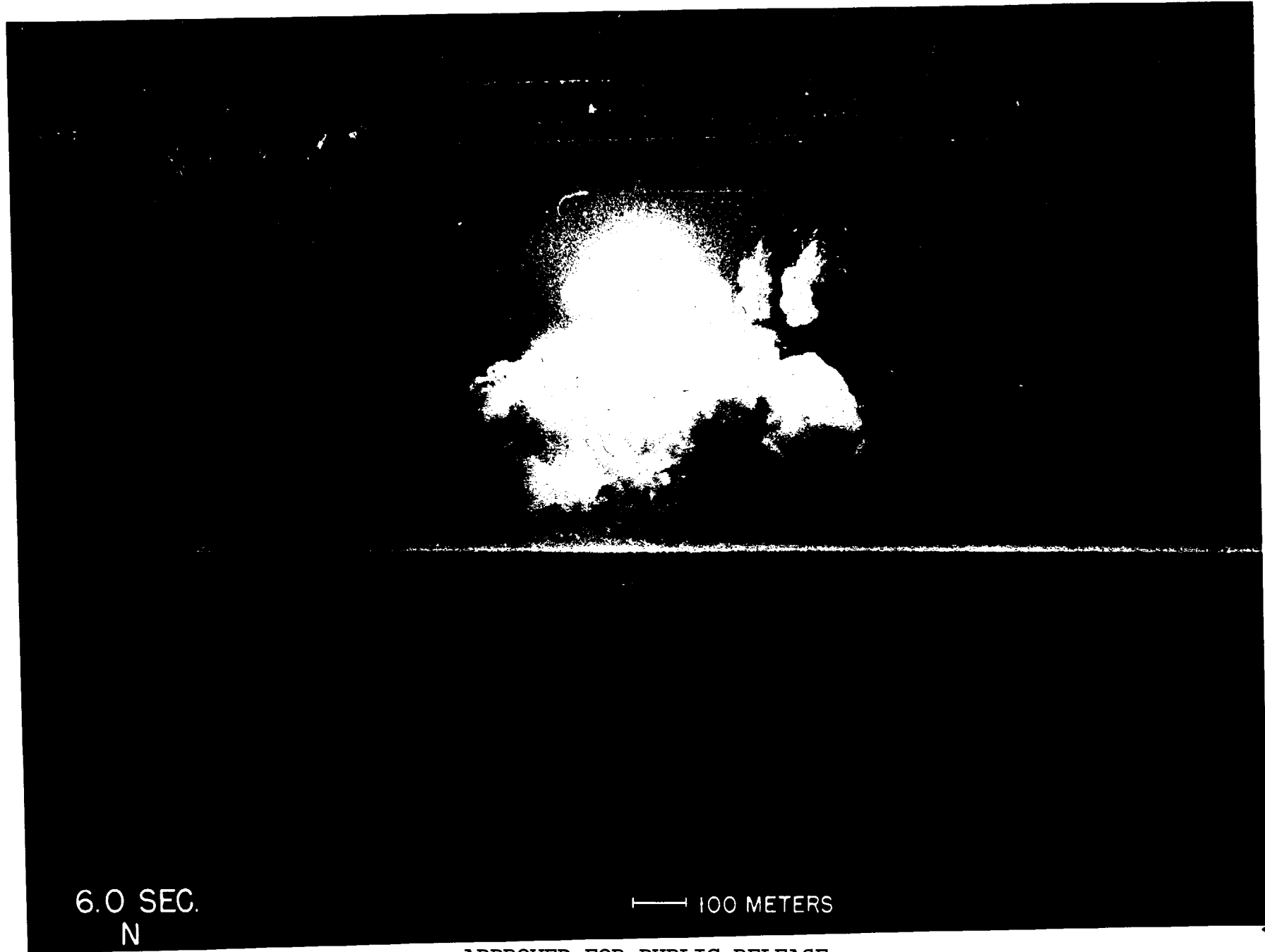
49



5.0 SEC.
N

—| 100 METERS

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE



6.0 SEC.

N

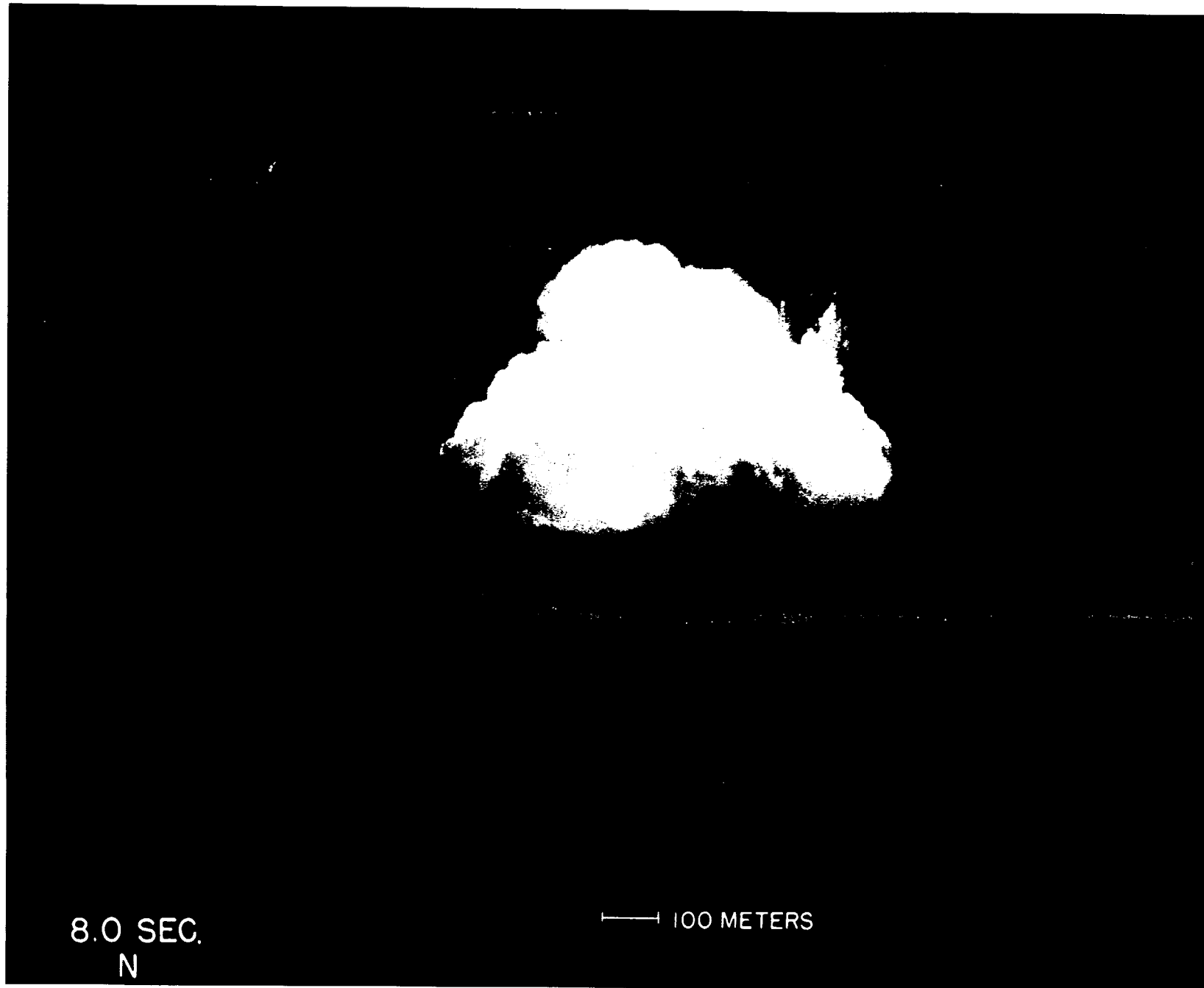
— 100 METERS

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE



7.0 SEC.
N

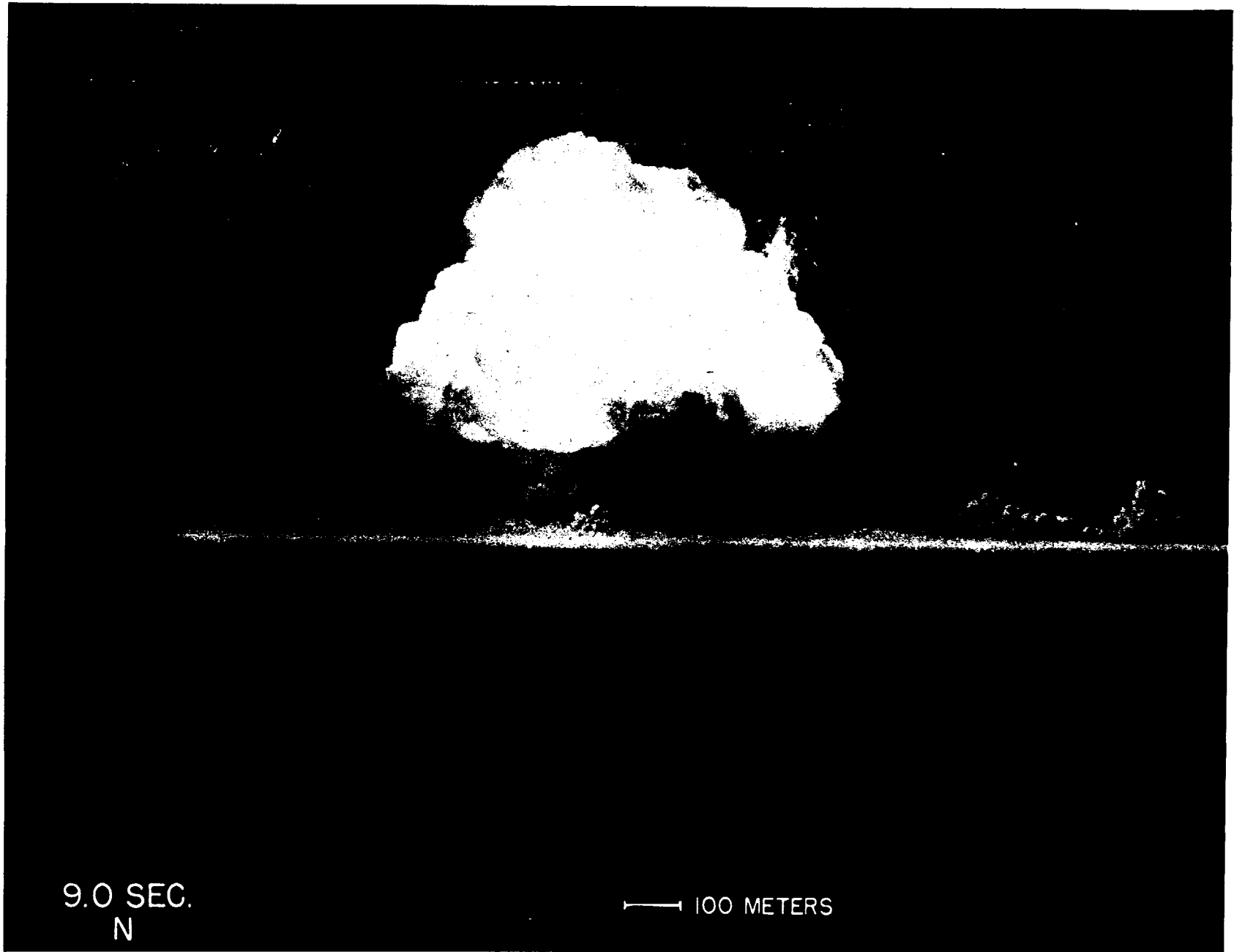
— 100 METERS



8.0 SEC.
N

— 100 METERS

SEP
1949



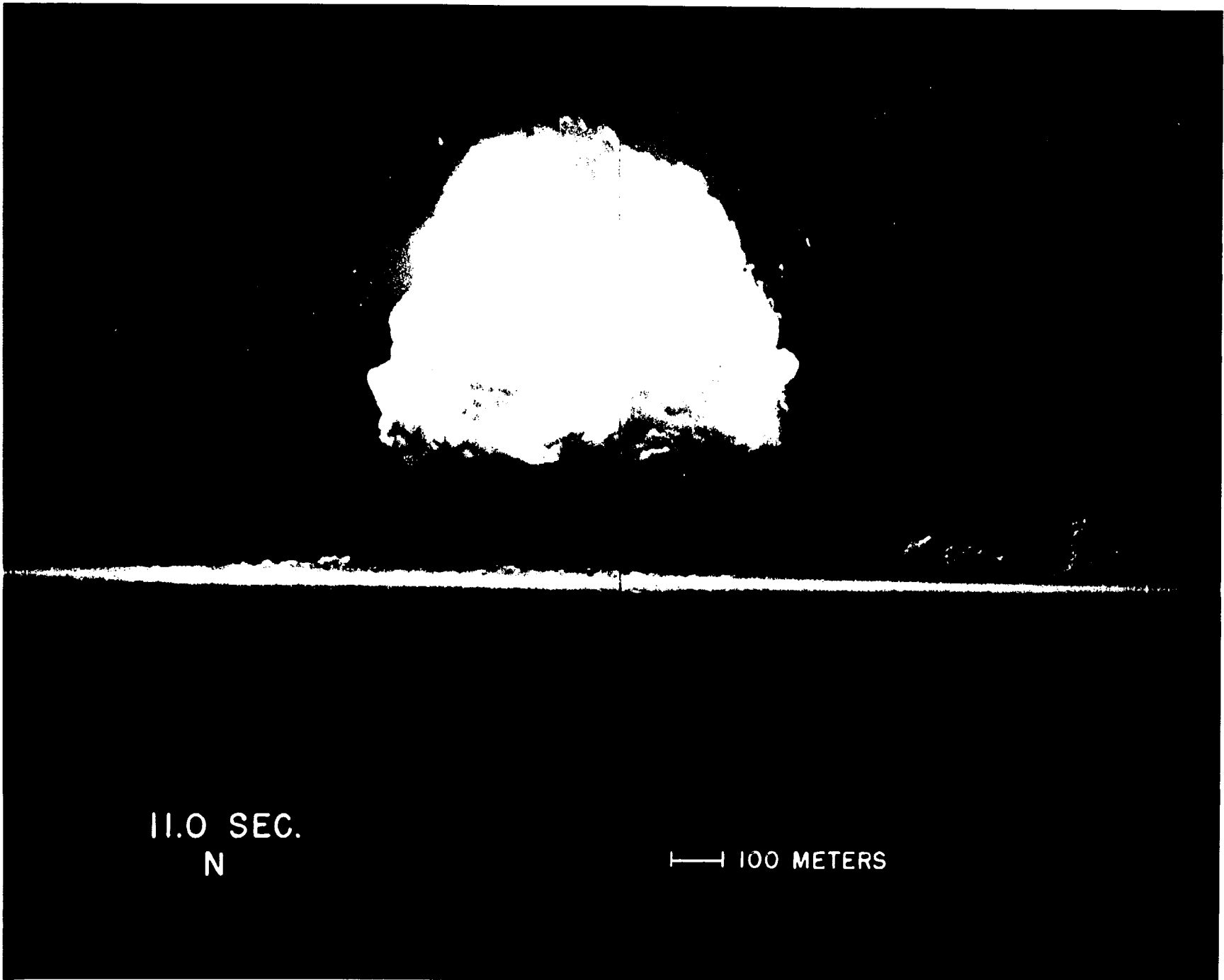
9.0 SEC.
N

— 100 METERS



10 SEC.
N

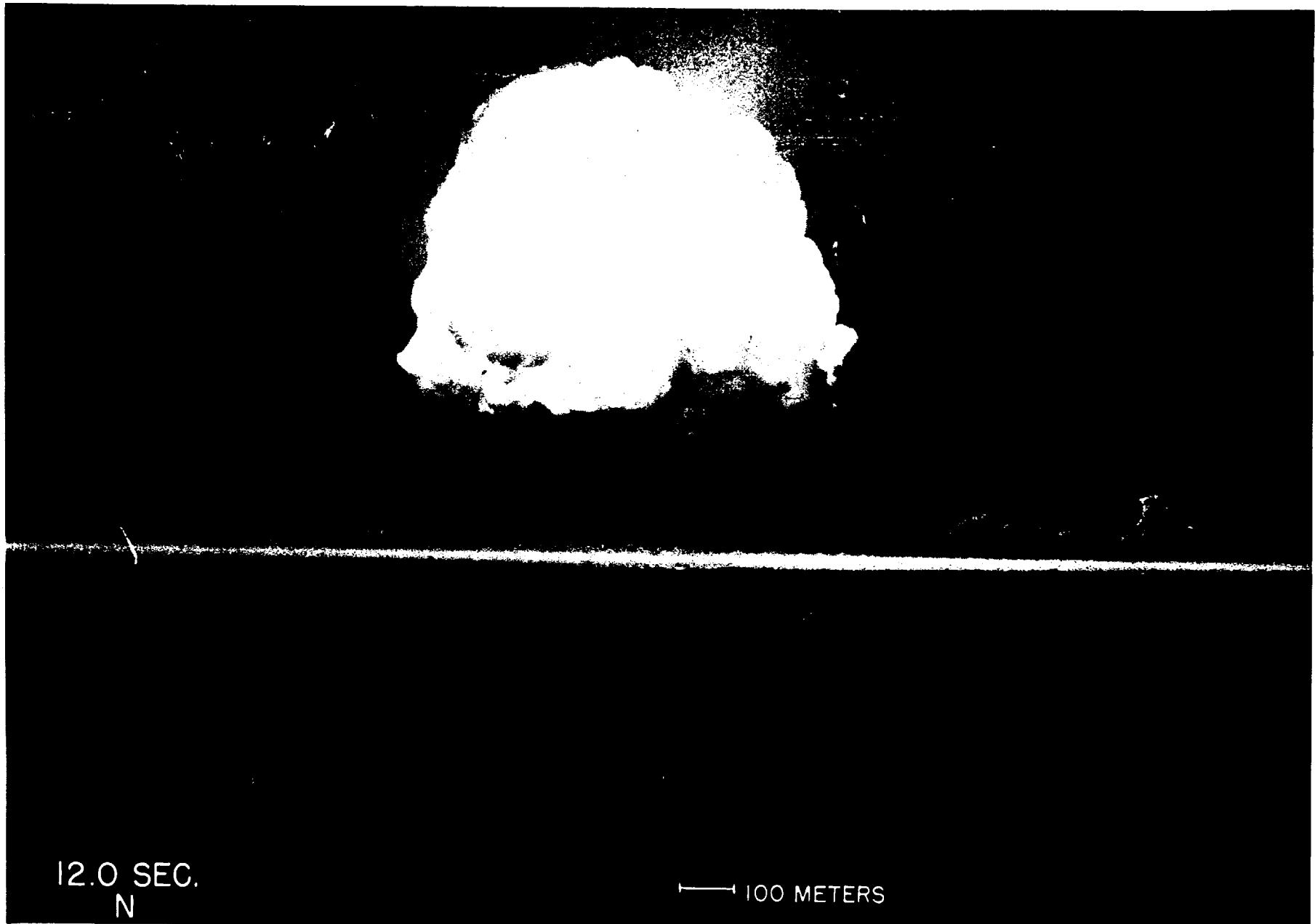
— 100 METERS



11.0 SEC.

N

— 100 METERS



12.0 SEC.
N

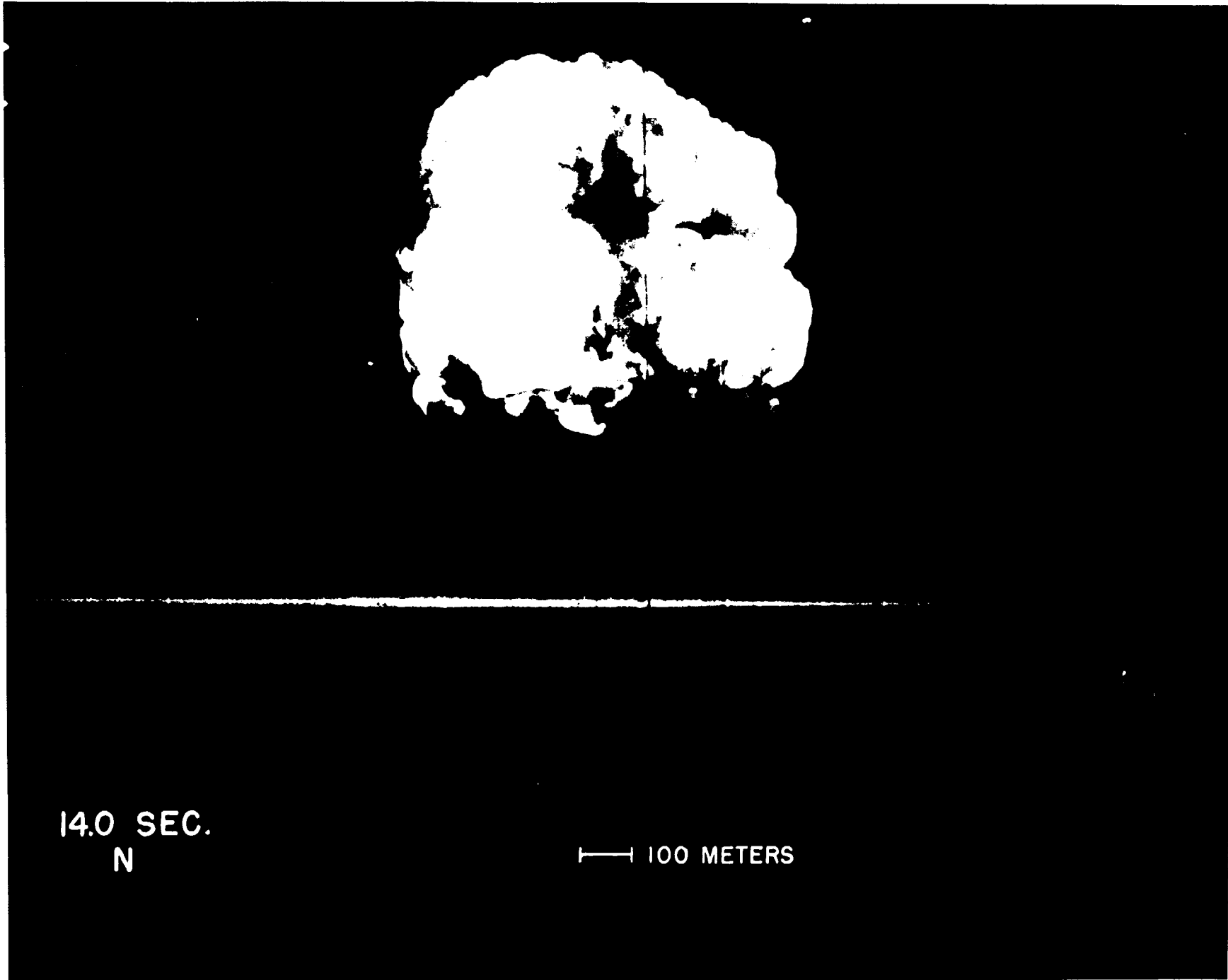
— 100 METERS

57



13.0 SEC.
N

— 100 METERS



14.0 SEC.
N

— 100 METERS



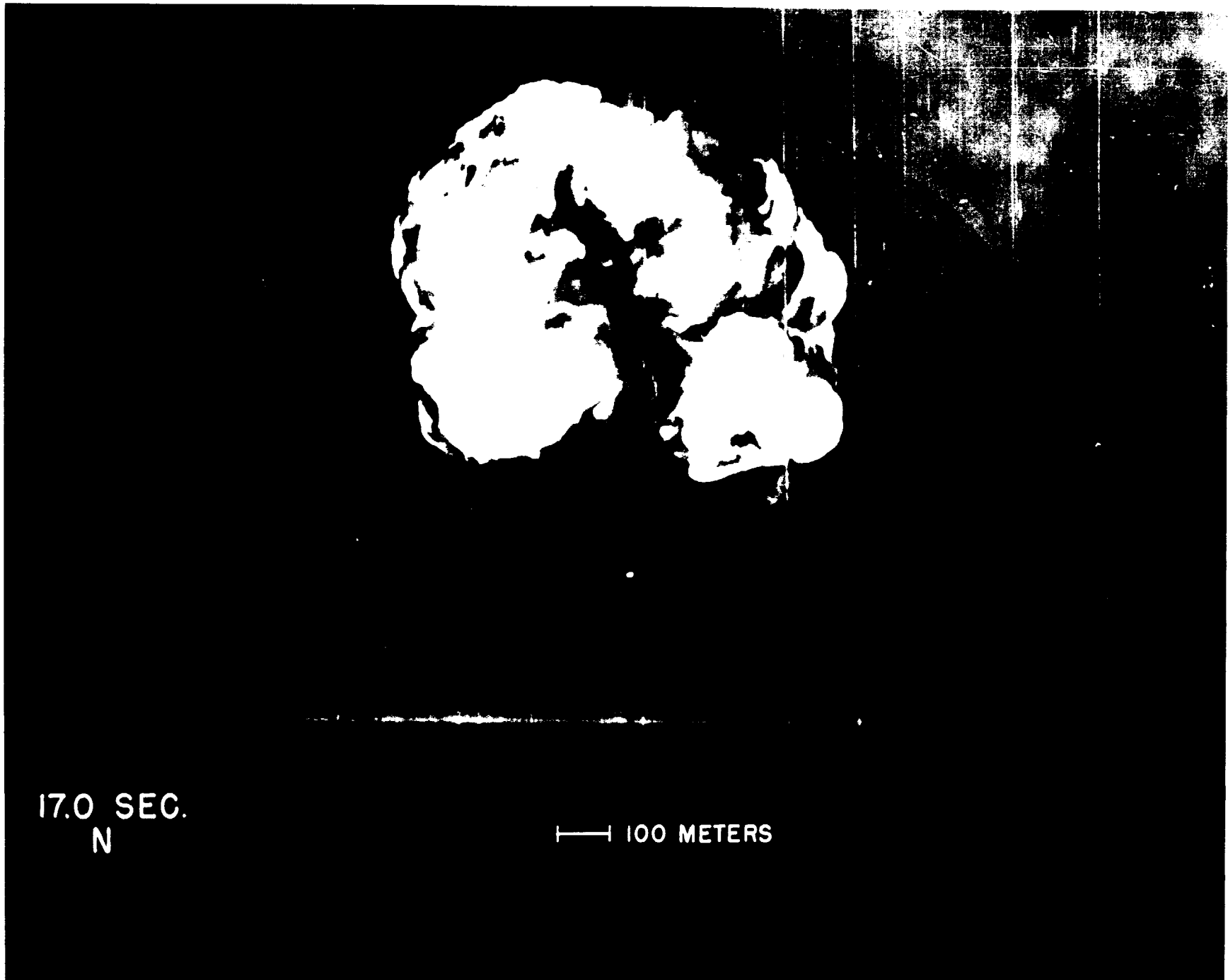
15.0 SEC.
N

— 100 METERS



16.0 SEC.
N

—| 100 METERS



17.0 SEC.
N

—| 100 METERS



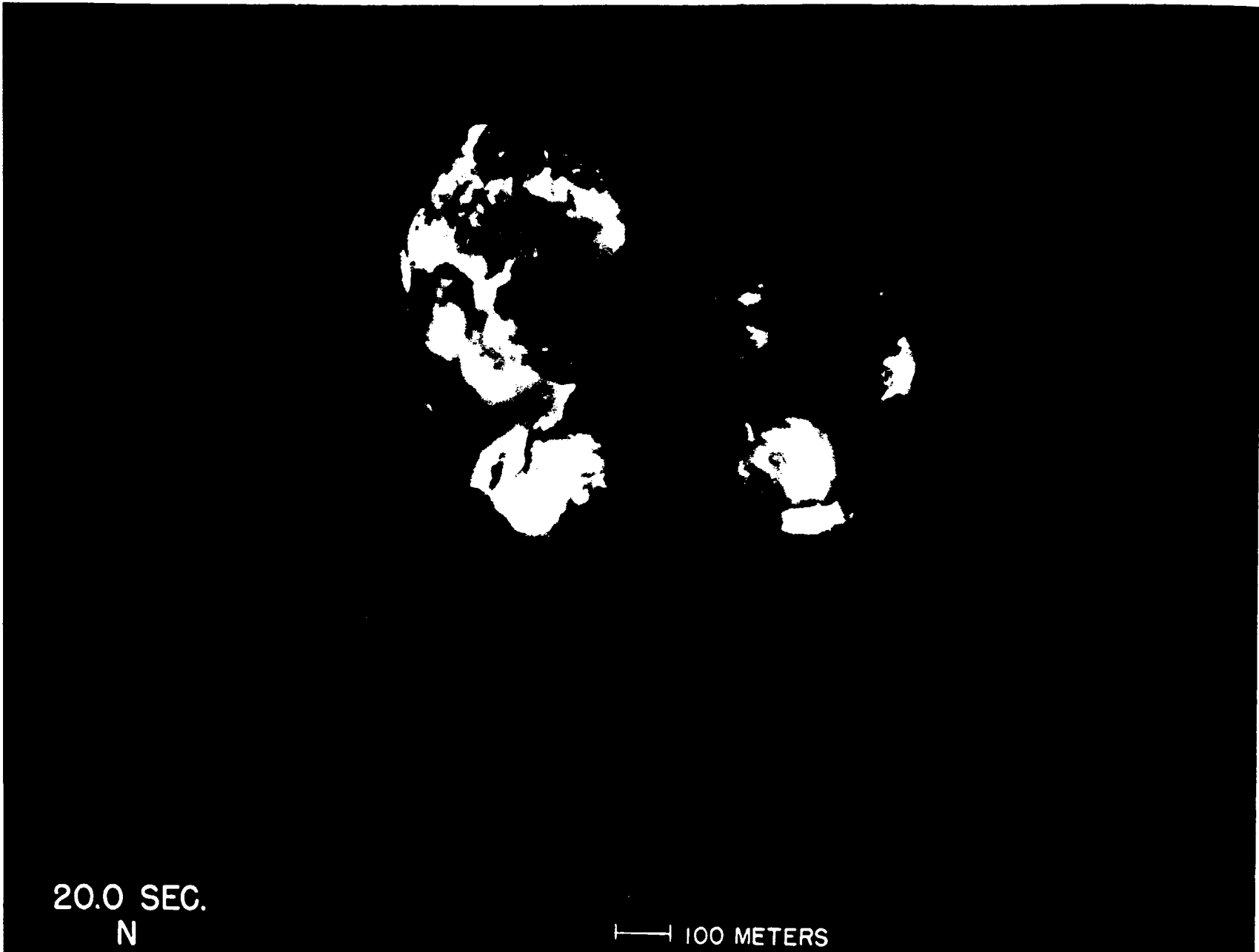
18.0 SEC.
N

—| 100 METERS



19.0 SEC.
N

—| 100 METERS



20.0 SEC.

N

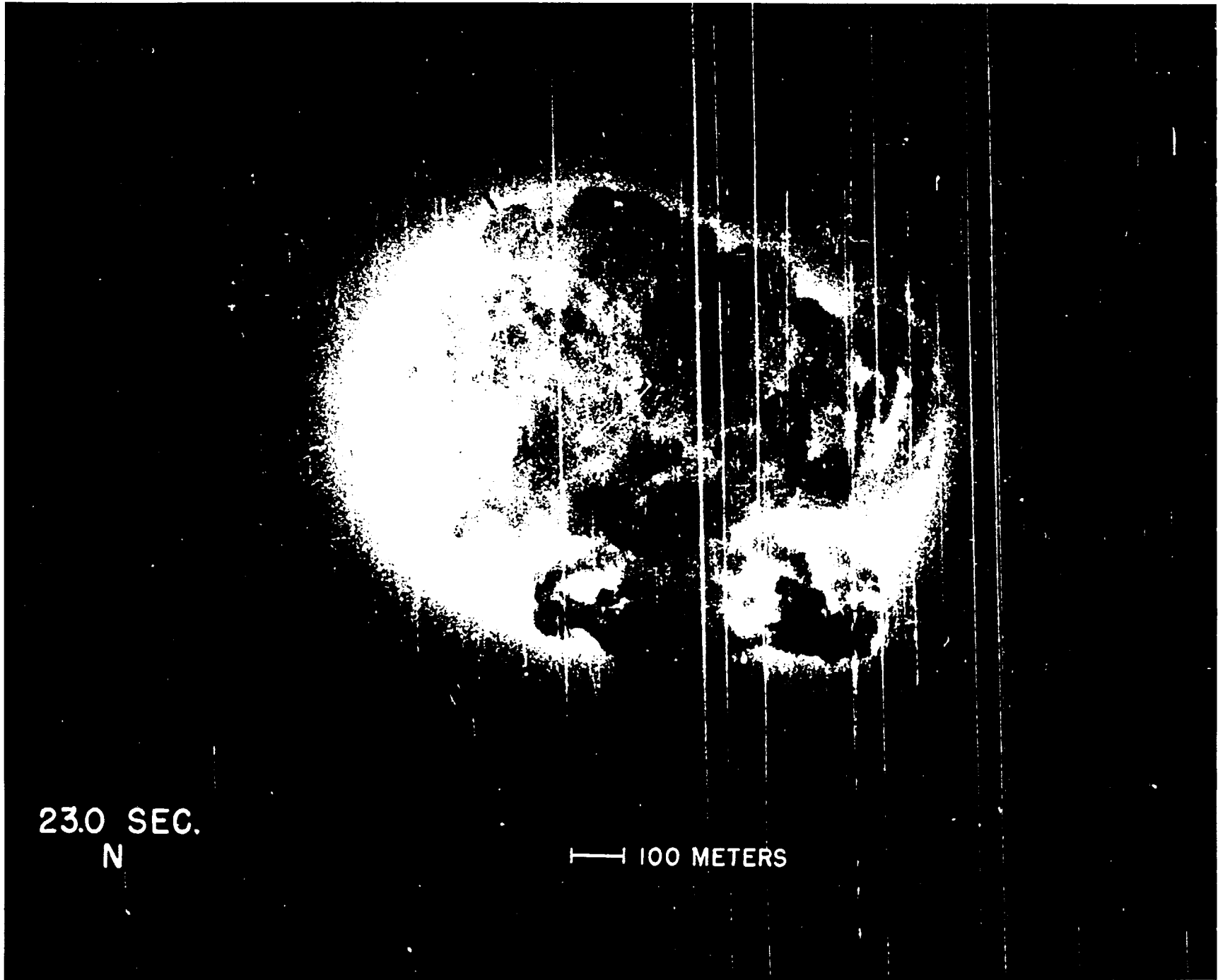
—| 100 METERS





22.0 SEC.
N

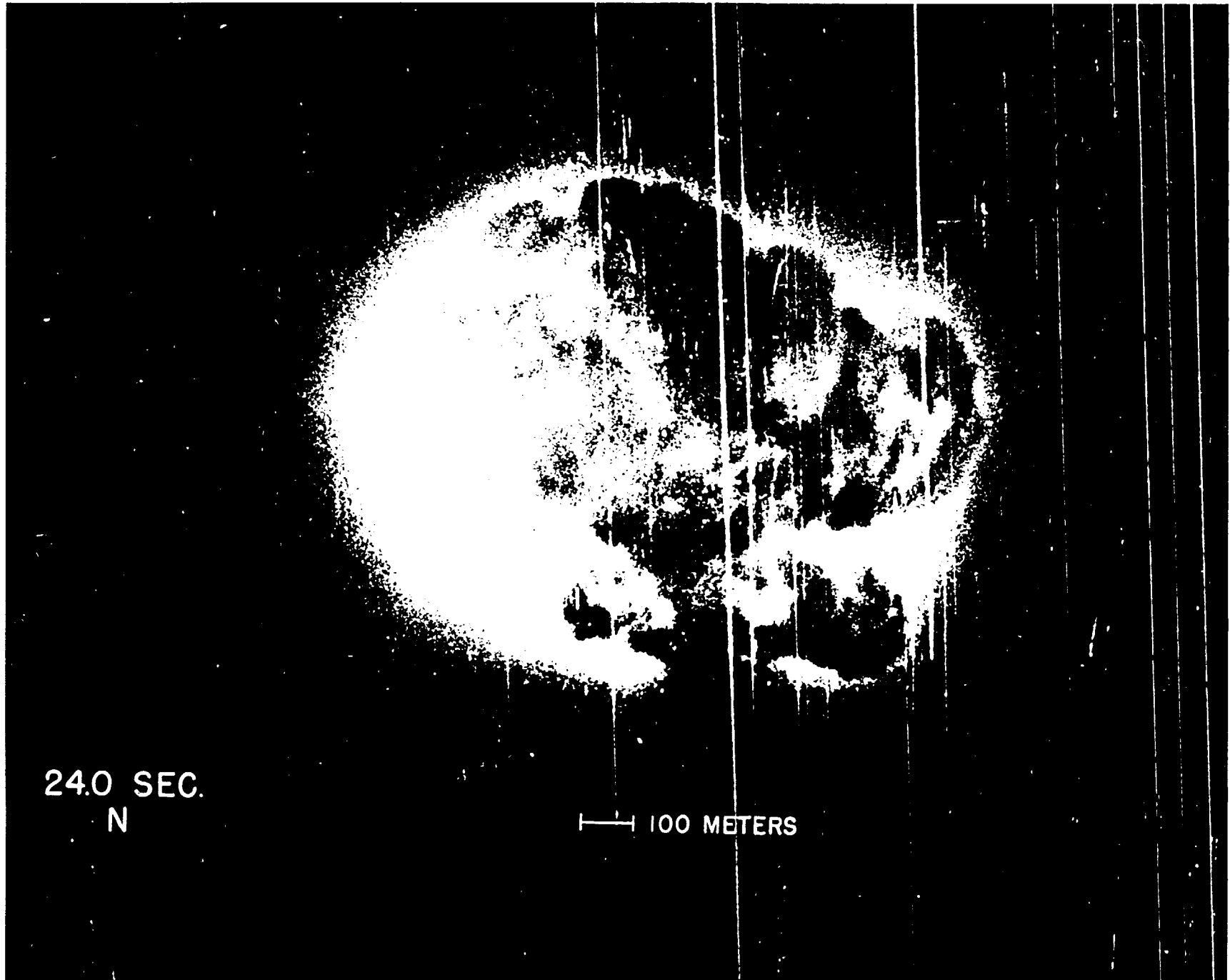
100 METERS



23.0 SEC.
N

— 100 METERS

66



24.0 SEC.

N

— 100 METERS



25 SEC.

N

100 METERS



30 SEC.
N

— 100 METERS

71

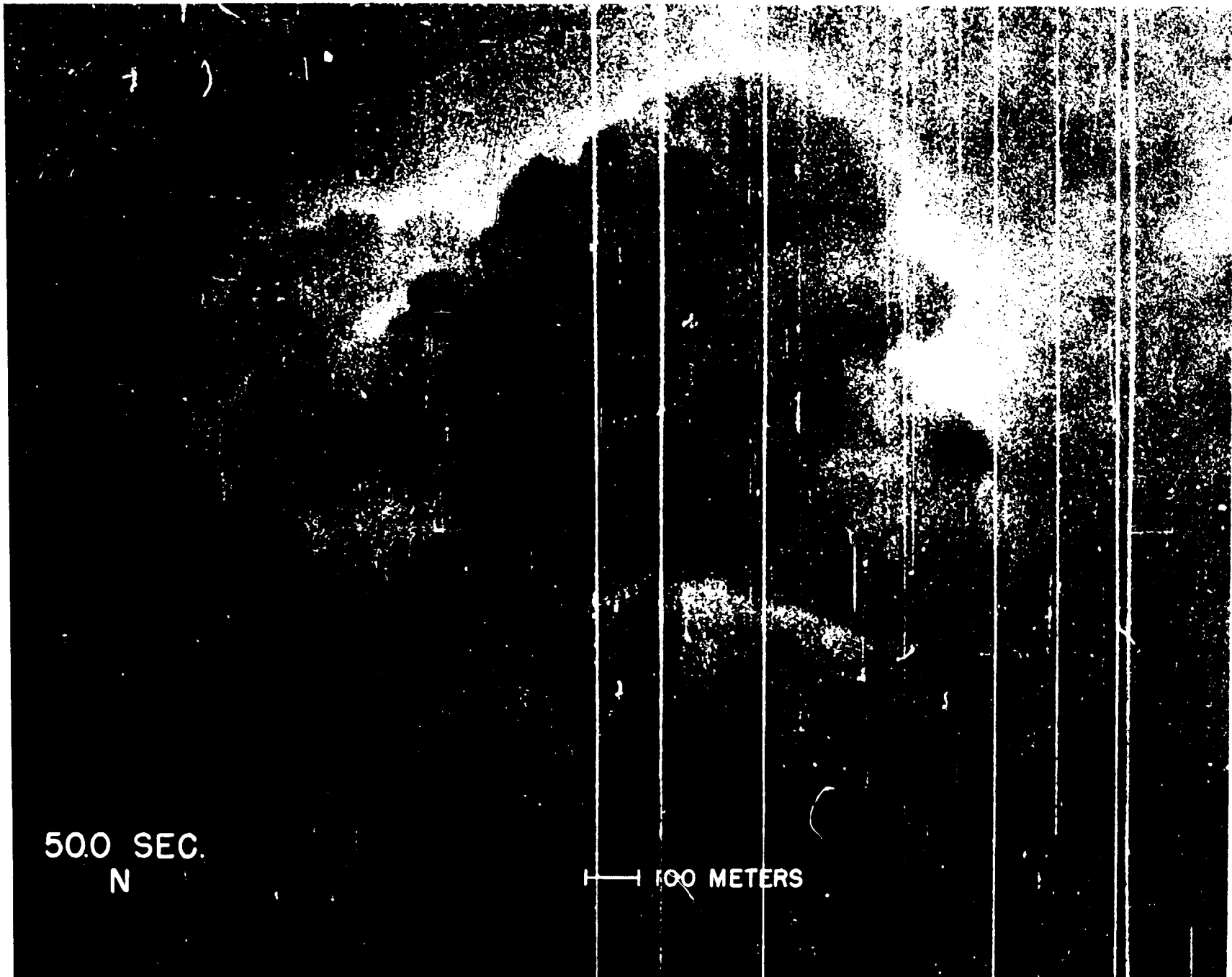


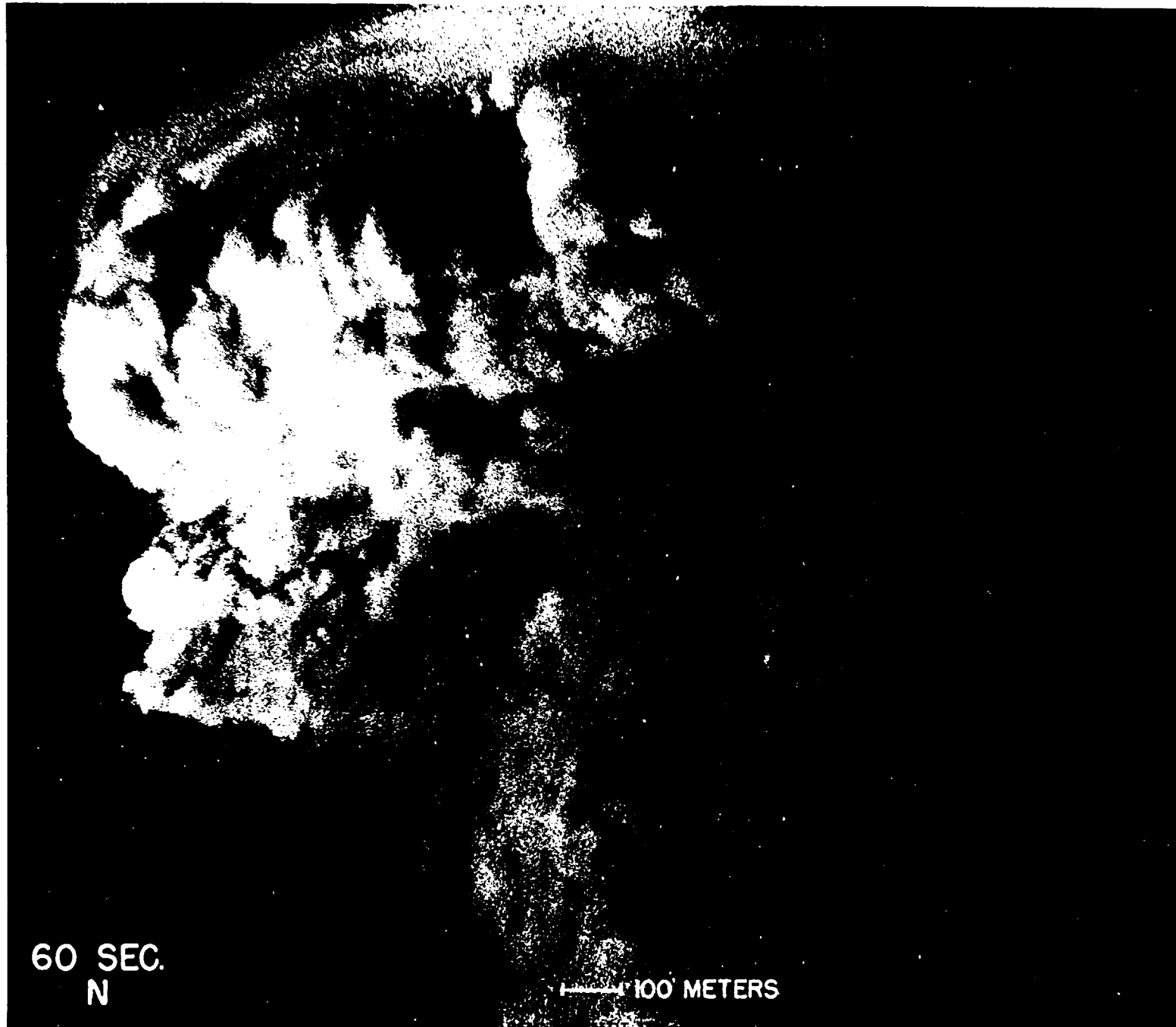
3.5 SEC.



100 METERS







60 SEC.
N

100 METERS

CA. 30-40 SEC.
NW

COURTESY S. FRANKEL

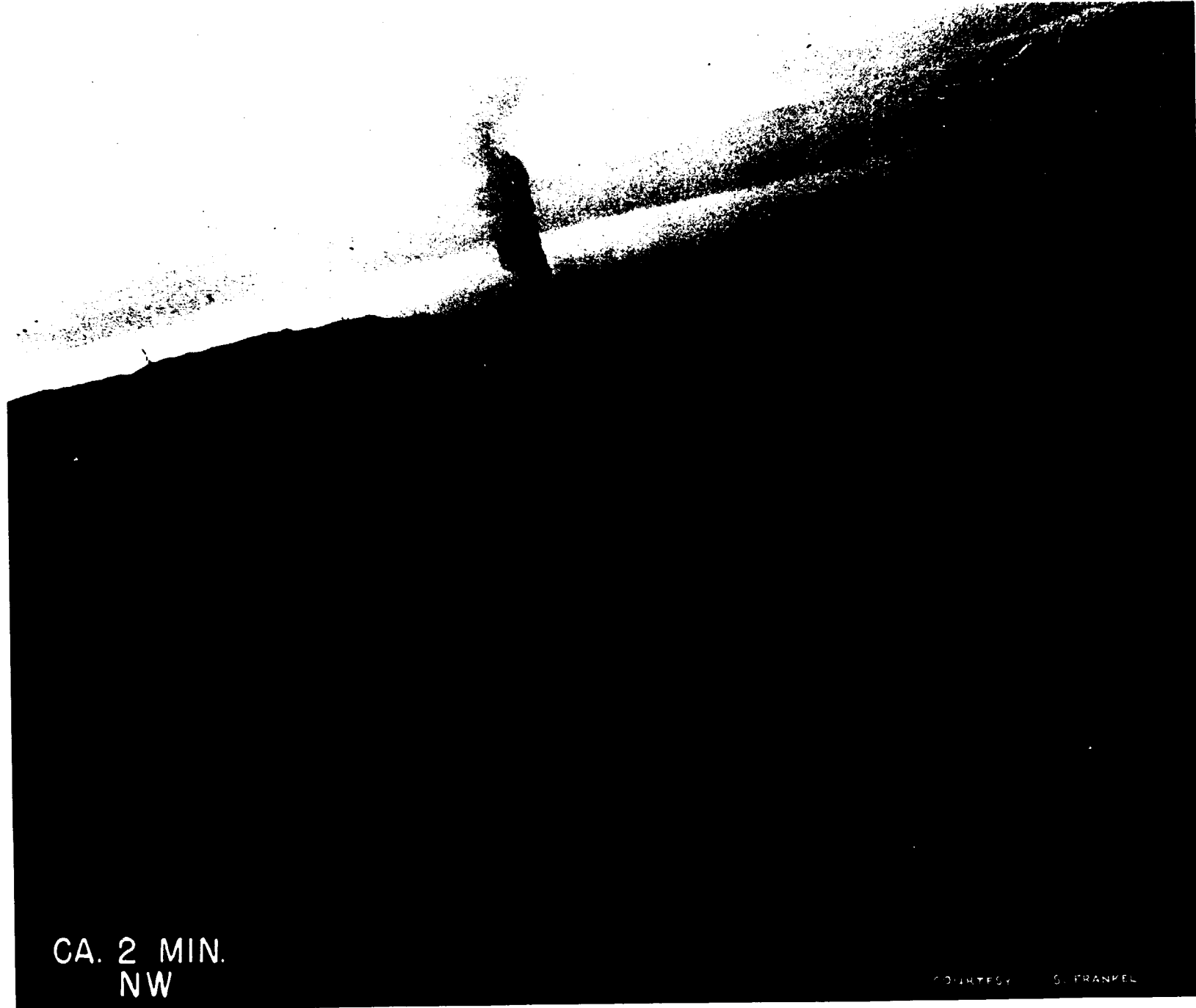


CA. 50-60 SEC.
NW



CA. 80-90 SEC.
NW

COURTESY S FRANKEL



CA. 2 MIN.
NW

COURTESY S. FRANKEL



35 MIN.
NW



~ 10 MIN.
NW



Fig. 82
40 minutes W

