

## Analysis of German UFO Photos and Video Films

by

Manfred Kage and Rolf-Dieter Klein

### 1. Some Identified German Photos

Of the many UFO photos published in Germany, only few can lay claim to being genuine. As an example, none of the photos published by DUIST were ever submitted to an analysis by experts or to an examination by MUFON-CES.

Following are some samples of newspaper photos, allegedly showing UFOs, whose real nature could be clarified:

1. In 1980 a group of teenagers in a suburb of Nuremberg observed several yellow-white lights appear suddenly in a north-easterly direction in the sky near the horizon. They remained visible for 2-3 minutes and then disappeared, only to reappear again in another location.

We found out that the lights originated at a distance of more than 40 km. They were due to luminous ammunition fired from Grafenwoehr, Europe's largest military training center. The ammunition was suspended from parachutes and slowly drifted to the ground. No motion was visible at a distance of 40 km (Fig. 1).

2. In 1982 a photographer made single shot pictures of the winter landscape with his Bolex 680 super-8 movie camera. The camera was mounted on a tripod. Since the eyepiece was not closed, the street lights behind the camera were projected onto the film and superimposed on the regular pictures (Fig. 2).

3. The landscape of the Black Forest was filmed out of the window of a moving car in 1983. Several frames of the developed film showed a reddish object and a metallic device that seemed to float in the air. This did not turn out to be a UFO but a post at the end of the street, carrying a traffic sign and a bell for warning cars of approaching trains. Due to the car's speed the post did not register on the film (Fig. 3) (see also I. Wieder, *The Willamette Pass Oregon UFO Photo Revisited: An Explanation*, Journal of Scientific Exploration, Vol. 7, 1993, 173-198).

4. Very bright lights are sometimes reflected by the rear lens surfaces, producing images on the film (catadioptric effect). This is the way a signal light on a police car was superimposed on the image of the Michaelis Church in Hamburg, producing the image of a red, transparent "domed disc" (Fig. 4).
5. During sunset a photographer took pictures of the landscape. The film was not transported between shots, resulting in a quadruple exposure of the sun. On the developed film this gave the impression of four "luminous landed spherical UFOs" (Fig. 5).

The five cases above are examples of "UFOs in the broader sense", printed in German UFO-journals and purporting to show true UFOs. Following is a summary of 3 cases in which photos and video films have been analyzed with care and stand a reasonable chance of being genuine.

## 2. The "Wedel" Photo

On March 7, 1977, Walter Schilling of Hamburg photographed a flying disc at about 2 p.m. in the vicinity of Wedel, near Hamburg. His camera was a 28×28 mm Kodak Instamatic 133-X with a 43 mm objective, loaded with Kodacolor X-126, 20 DIN film. The aperture was f:11 and exposure time was 1/80 sec.

He was about to take a picture of the landscape when a violet-colored rotating flat disc at an altitude of 30–40 meters hissed past him with a speed of about 100 km/h, emitting a loud whining sound. Schilling succeeded in getting the object on film. By following it with his camera, the background turned out blurred, but the object itself was in focus. It cast a shadow on the pasture. Inspection of the site four months later showed that no dark spot or object was responsible for the dark area on the film (Figs. 6 and 7).

At 2 p.m. the sun was at an altitude of 26.8 degrees above the horizon. Its azimuth was 206.7 degrees. The camera's line of sight pointed west at an azimuth of 270 degrees.

The photograph was thoroughly analyzed in 1977 by Adolf Schneider (A. Schneider in *Strahlenwirkungen in der Umgebung von UFOs*, MU-FON-CES, 1978, p. 84–105). The shadow in the photograph agrees with the position predicted on the basis of the time of observation (Fig. 8).

The upper edge of the shadow is located at a distance of  $150 \pm 50$  m, the front edge is  $80 \pm 20$  m away. The spread of the shadow is due to the UFO's movement and the swinging motion of the camera. From the blurred appearance of the grass, Schneider concludes that the camera was swung through a horizontal angle of 72 degrees. The height of the object above ground was estimated at  $29 \pm 13$  m, and its size at  $9.5 \pm 3$  m. The witness had estimated the object to be 15 m in diameter. Whatever the object was, it was so large that its construction would have exceeded the financial means of a hoaxer.

W.H. Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch has also evaluated the Wedel photo. He had at his disposal only a small section of the picture, showing the object in full but only a very small portion of the background. Since the UFO was sharp and the background blurred, he concluded that the photo was a hoax. This combination is indeed typical of a small, nearby object, on which the camera is focussed while everything else is out of focus. The complete photo, however, shows very clearly that the blurring of both foreground and background is due to camera movement and not to poor focussing.

### 3. The "Lucifora" Photos

Guiseppe Lucifora lives in Solingen, Germany. On June 19, 1987, he was on a visit to Comiso, Sicily (Fig. 9). He owns a Polaroid camera with which he took pictures of his house under construction. In the distance he noted a slowly moving object in the sky that was neither a balloon nor an airplane. Lucifora looked through the viewfinder of his camera and took a picture of the object. As the craft approached, he followed it in the eyepiece and took five more pictures during the next 2-3 minutes without taking his eye off the camera (Figs. 10 and 11). Finally, without making a sound, the object disappeared behind the roof of his house.

Lucifora sent the film to the Polaroid Company in Offenbach, which did not detect any irregularities in the 600 ASA/29<sup>0</sup> DIN film material. Subsequently, he sent the 6 pictures to the organization of UFO skeptics CENAP, who judged the authenticity of the pictures "by feel". Klaus Webner of CENAP estimated the object's size to have been several centimeters and threatened the witness with "public prosecution" because of the hoaxed photos and the "commercial interests of exploitation". Webner urged Lucifora to write an apology!

In spring of 1993 we received the photos for analysis. The first author, who heads an institute for scientific photography, found a ratio of

blurred edge to image size indicating a large object at a great distance. The picture of a small (less than 1 m) nearby object would have had a sharp edge.

An additional photo analysis of the pictures was performed by the second author (Figs. 12 and 13). This showed that the color shift in the processed photos is also visible in the original polaroid pictures and is consistent with the environment. The inside of the object is darker than the sky, so that a double exposure is excluded. Furthermore, the lighting is consistent with the sun's position. The distribution of shadows on the object's surface indicates a large size and not a small one. Contrast enhancement and highpass filter analysis reveal scratches but no trace of a supporting string or wire. Regrettably, it was too hazy for shadows of the object to be seen either in reality or on the photos.

A 3-dimensional computer-aided reconstruction of the object is presented in Fig. 14. To our knowledge, there exist no other reports on objects of this shape. Work on producing an animated film of the reconstructed object's movement is in progress.

#### 4. The "Greifswald-UFOs" Filmed by Three Independent Witnesses

Five weeks before the German unification, several hundred German and Russian experts at the Greifswald atomic power plant near Rostock (Fig. 15), saw two groups of bright objects in the sky at 8:40 p.m.

Ludmilla Ivanova (Fig. 16), a medical doctor, and her husband, the project engineer Nicolai Ivanov, filmed the objects from their third floor balcony with an Orion video camera (LP 11.7 mm/sec, Fuji Super HG EF-30, VHS-PAL).

The interpreter Valery Vinogradov (Fig. 17) took a photo from the second floor at the moment a fourth (Fig. 18) and fifth object joined a formation of three lights already present (Camera: Zenit-E; objective: Industar 50 mm; film: SweMA-G5Gost, 18<sup>0</sup> DIN).

Group (A), Figs. 19 and 20, formed a ring of 5 luminous spheres. Another group (B) of 4 lights was higher up and much farther away. In the beginning it was not clearly visible. Group (A), which was clearly visible, disappeared after a few minutes in a northerly direction with extreme rapidity. At the same time, group (B) became sharp and clear. Ludmilla Ivanova filmed for about 4 minutes (Fig. 21). Group (B) was visible for a total of about 10 minutes, after which it flew out to sea in a north-easterly direction. The objects seemed to rotate about their



axes.

At first, there were only 4 objects in group (B), forming a cross. Then 2 more came shooting towards it. A little while later a 7th object made its appearance between two of the upper lights. During the time of observation a flash appeared about 100 m to one side of the formation, most likely resulting from a shot fired by the Russian military (Figs. 22 and 23).

Now Valery Vinogradov also took out his new video camera (a Sony 225; zoom 8.5–68 mm; 4 lux; 1/50 sec; VHS–PAL) and filmed this second group of objects (Fig. 24). We received his video film in August, 1992, when he came from Nizhniy Novgorod to visit us. A third movie was taken by the married couple Mr. and Mrs. Kaiser of Putbus on the Isle of Rügen, about 30 km to the north of Greifswald (witness Nr. 3) (Fig 25).

This is the first time, as far as we know, that the same group of UFOs was filmed by three independent witnesses from three different locations (Fig. 26). Still photographs of the UFOs were also taken. Triangulation revealed that the objects hovered 5–8 km north of Peenemünde, the former production facility of V–2 rockets and now a Russian military base.

Group (A) was at a height of  $5 \pm 0.5$  km and 24 km away from Greifswald. Group (B) first hovered at a height of  $7 \pm 0.8$  km and then came down to  $5.6 \pm 0.6$  km. Its distance from all who filmed was 25 km.

In addition to the observers mentioned, a group of 40 schoolboys and teachers saw the UFOs from a distance of about 30 km. The boys were spending their vacation in Murkau on the Isle of Rügen. Objects in group (B) were not stationary but performed movements of their own. One of the boys confirmed that some objects had moved back and forth between groups (A) and (B) (Fig. 27).

Assuming no blurring of the images on both the photos and the video films, one can estimate the diameter of the objects to have been  $18 \pm 1.3$  m.

We have contacted the meteorological institutions and police stations in Rostock and Greifswald. None of them knew who was responsible for the display of lights. Detlef Menningmann (Hamburg) contacted the Greifswald People's Police and also army headquarters. They informed him that no military maneuvers had been scheduled in the area on the

date in question. Neither German nor Russian military personnel admitted to having fired at the unknown objects, although this is clearly seen in Ludmilla Ivanova's video film. A former high-ranking army officer informed us that the objects were tracked on radar.

We received 4 photographs from Mr. Rainer L., taken on August 24, 1990, at Trassenheide (Isle of Usedom) showing the objects. The photos prove that both groups were located below the cloud cover. Figure 28 shows the two groups photographed free-hand at about 9 p.m. The photo in Fig. 29 was taken at about 9.30 p.m. The lights of group (B) are reflected in the water.

We are presently at work combining the 3 films into a single one, bridging the gaps resulting from pauses and from taking pictures at different times. Interestingly enough, the combined film shows that objects approaching groups (A) or (B) or receding from them disturb the formation of these groups. A possible cause of this effect might be a field of force surrounding each object and interacting with the other luminous spheres.

A comparison of the Greifswald photos with those of the well-known Utah film leads to the conclusion that in both instances the same kind of objects may have been filmed (Fig. 28):

At 11:10 a.m. on July 2, 1952, Delbert C. Newhouse, chief petty officer of the US Navy and an experienced aerial photographer was driving down a highway 11 km north of Tremonton, Utah, when suddenly his wife called his attention to something strange in the sky. Newhouse stopped the car, stepped outside and watched 12 to 14 (!) objects "milling around" at an estimated distance of 3000 m, forming a loosely clustered group (Jerome Clark, *UFO Encyclopedia*, Vol. 2, Omnigraphics Corp., Detroit, 1992). He took 75 seconds of 16 mm film. At one point a single object left the formation and headed east. Newhouse held the camera fixed so that the UFO crossed the field of view. He repeated the procedure three or four times. After the last departure the object disappeared in the east while the rest was lost from sight over the western horizon.

An analysis by Ground Saucer Watch (GSW) revealed that the objects were about 8-11 km away and had a diameter of about 15 m. They were thus half as far away as the Greifswald objects and Newhouse could clearly make out their shape, although the film only shows bright spots. They looked like "two pie pans, one inverted on top of the other". It is possible that the Greifswald objects had the same shape.



Fig. 1:

"UFO" over Grafenwoehr:  
Luminous ammunition  
visible from a distance of  
40 km (in this photo the  
distance is about 5 km).



Fig. 2:

"UFO lights", filmed with a  
super-8 camera: The bright  
blobs are street lights  
behind the camera projected  
onto the film through the open  
eyepiece.







Fig. 3. "UFO" filmed from a moving car: The object turned out to be a traffic signal (cf. Willamette Pass UFO photo).





Fig. 4. "Domed disc", photographed in Hamburg: The object next to the church tower is a lens reflection of the light on top of the police car.



Fig. 5. "Landed UFOs": Multiple exposures of the sun during sunset.



Fig. 6. Photo by Walter Schilling at Wedel near Hamburg, March 7, 1977, at about 2 p.m.



Fig. 7. Picture taken on July 17, 1978, from the same place from which the Wedel photo was taken 16 months earlier.

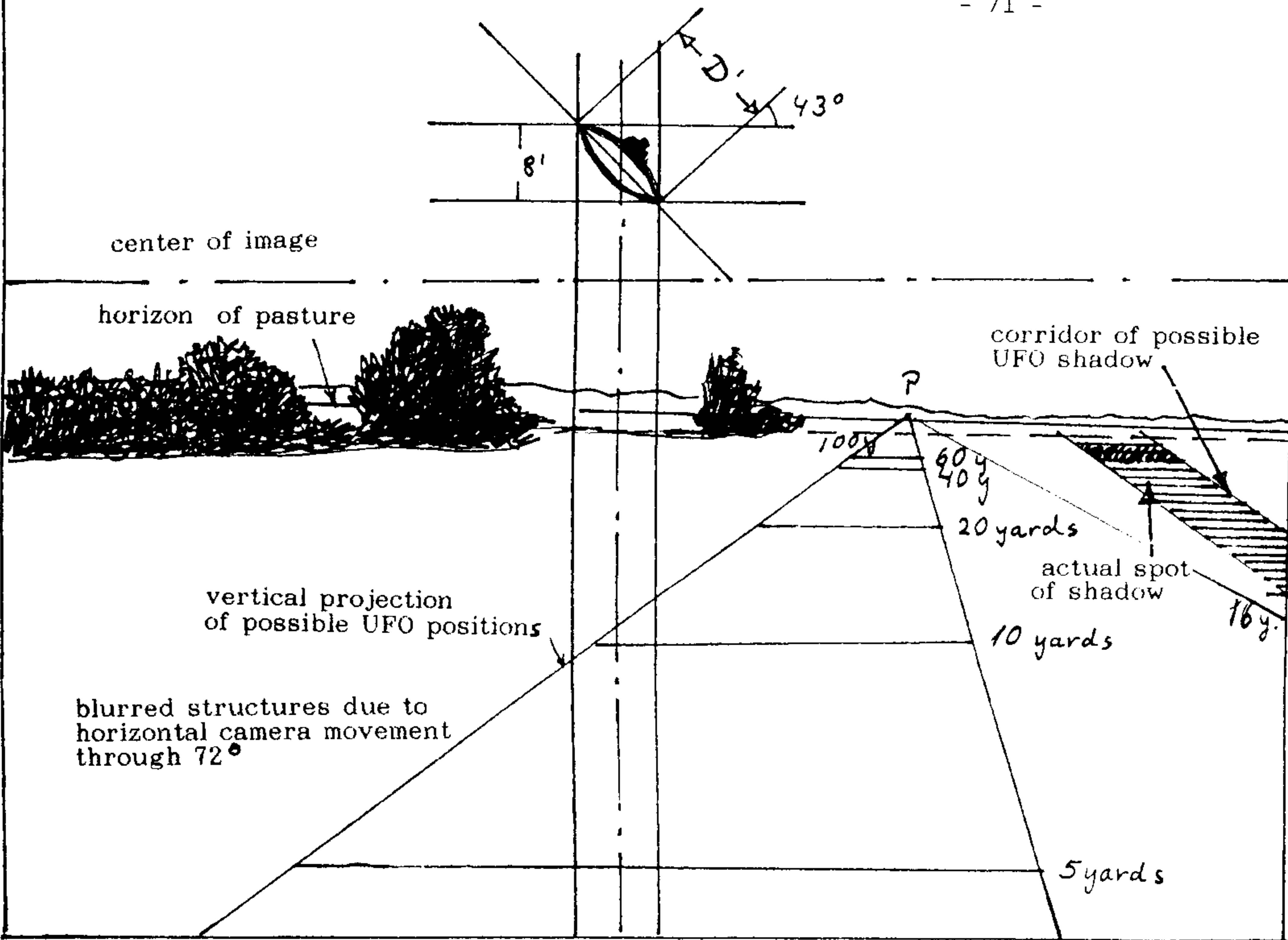


Fig. 8a. Corridor of possible shadow zones.



Fig. 8b. Small section of the Wedel photo given by von Kevicky to William H. Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch for analysis.



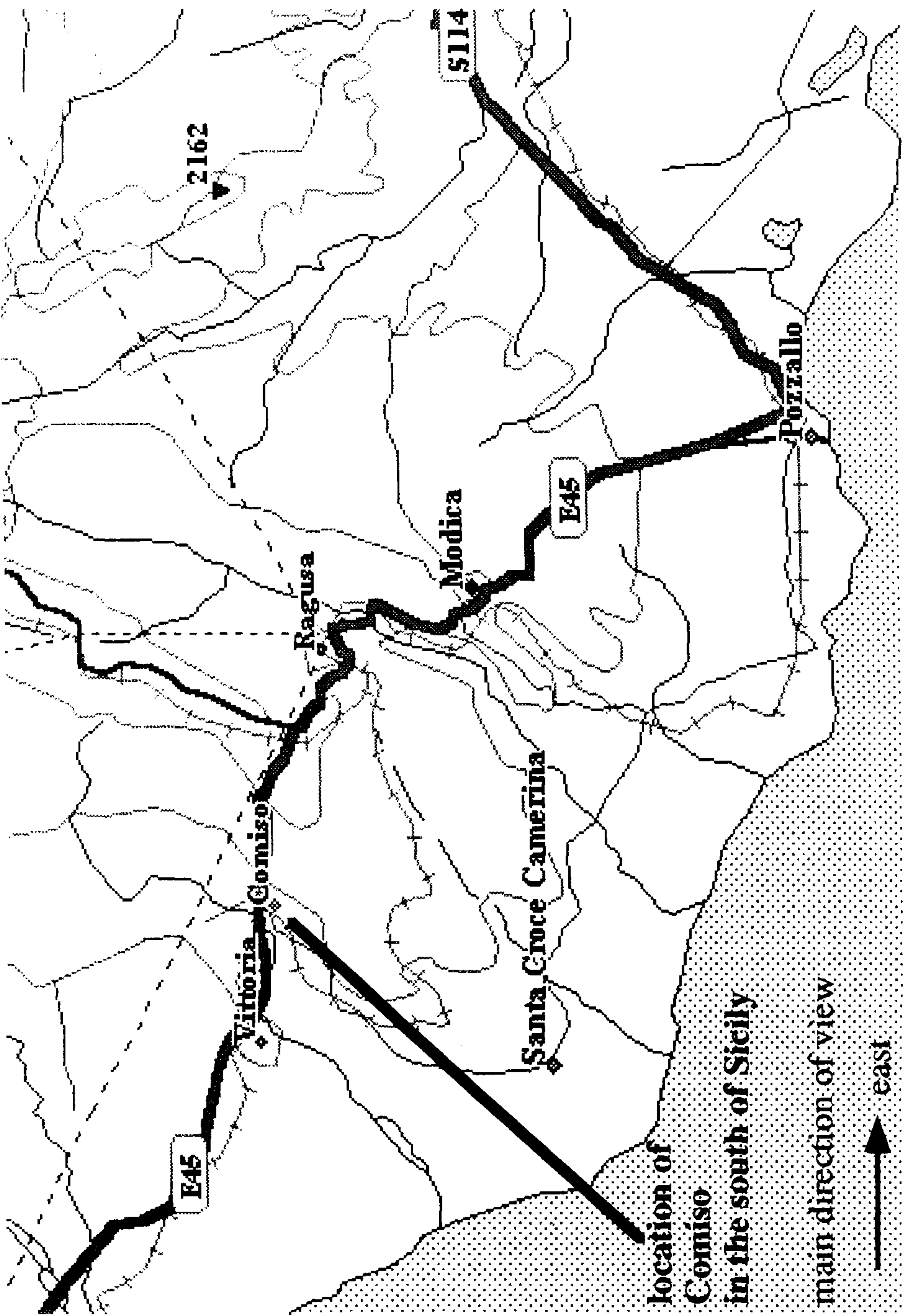
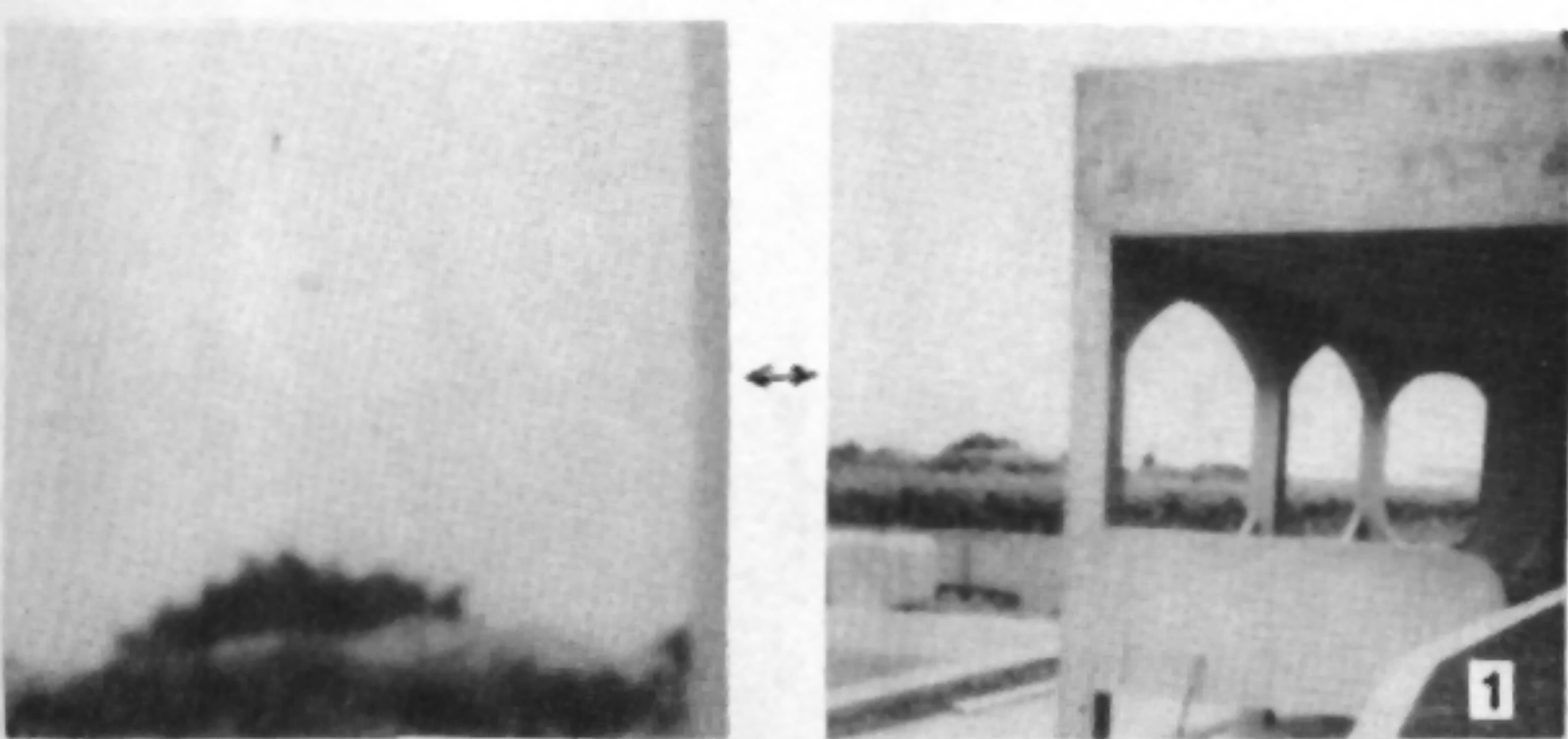
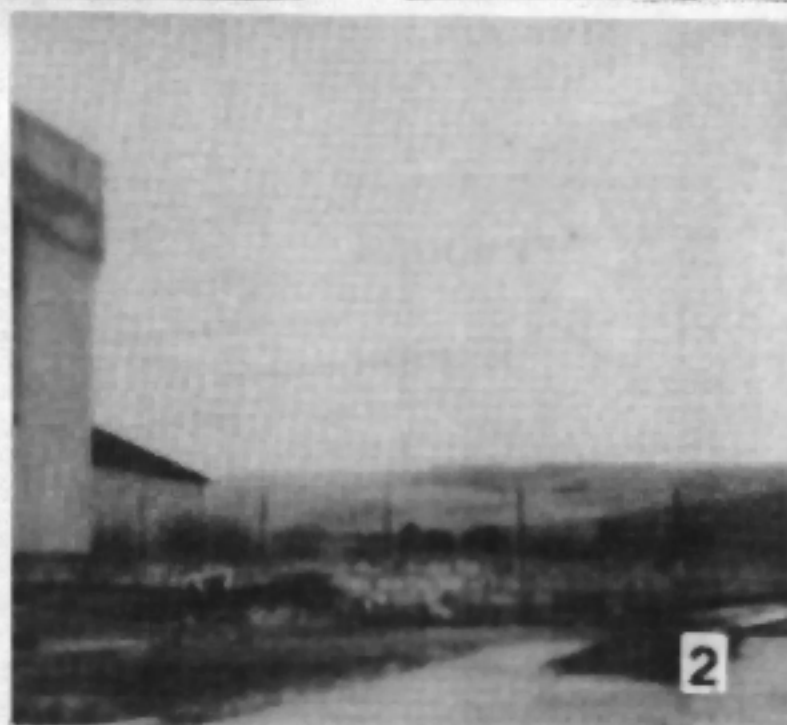


Fig. 9. Map showing Comiso and its sourroundings



Enlargement



Enlargement

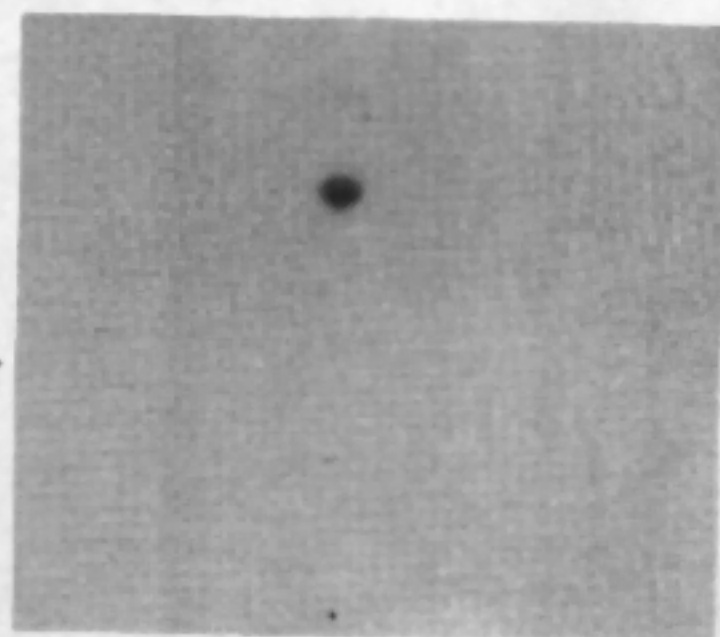
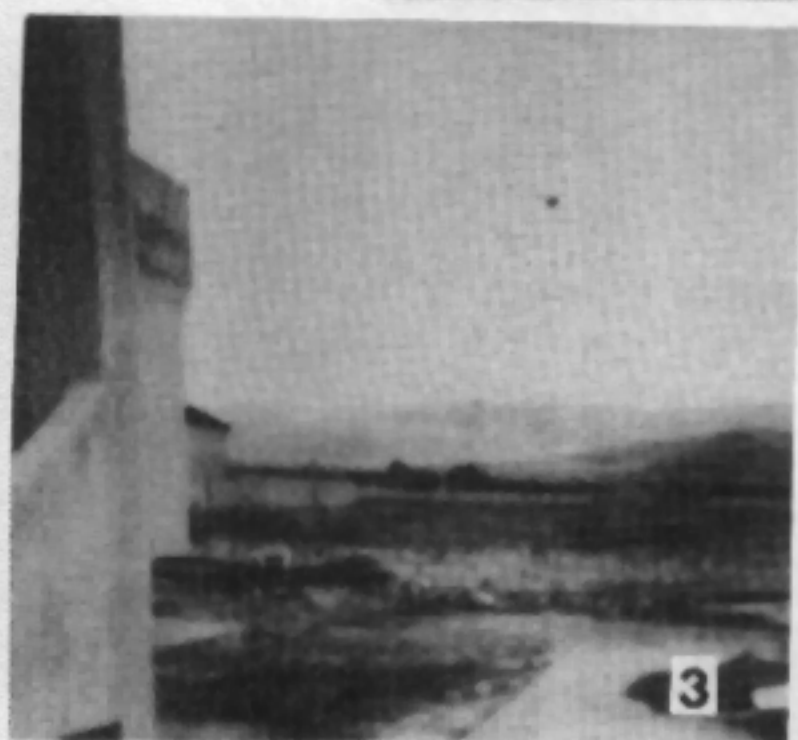
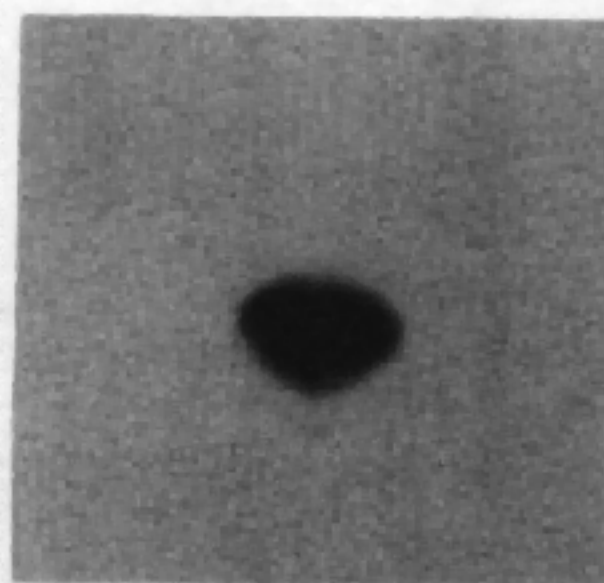
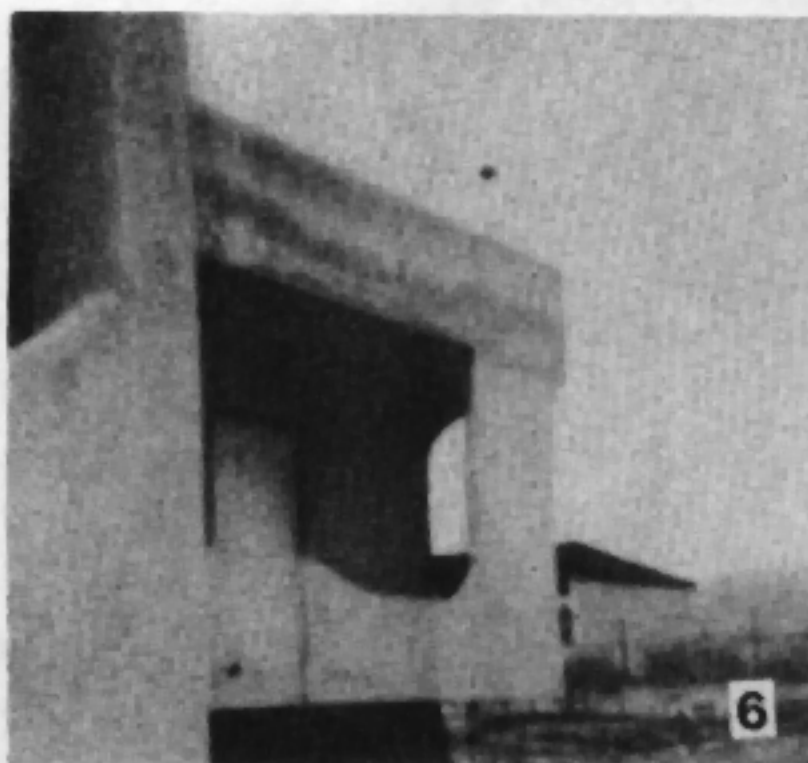
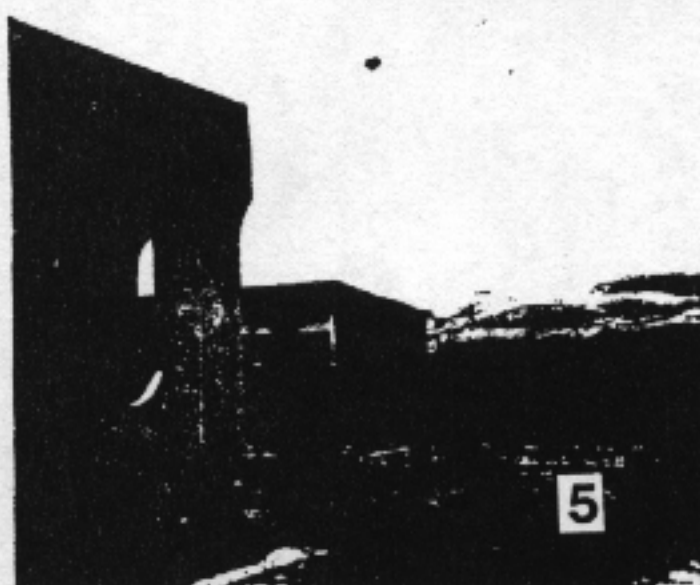
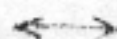


Fig. 10. Three of the 6 pictures of an unidentified flying object Giuseppe Lucifora took in Comiso, Sicily, at 2:30 p.m. on June 19, 1987. He followed the object by looking through the eyepiece of his Polaroid camera.



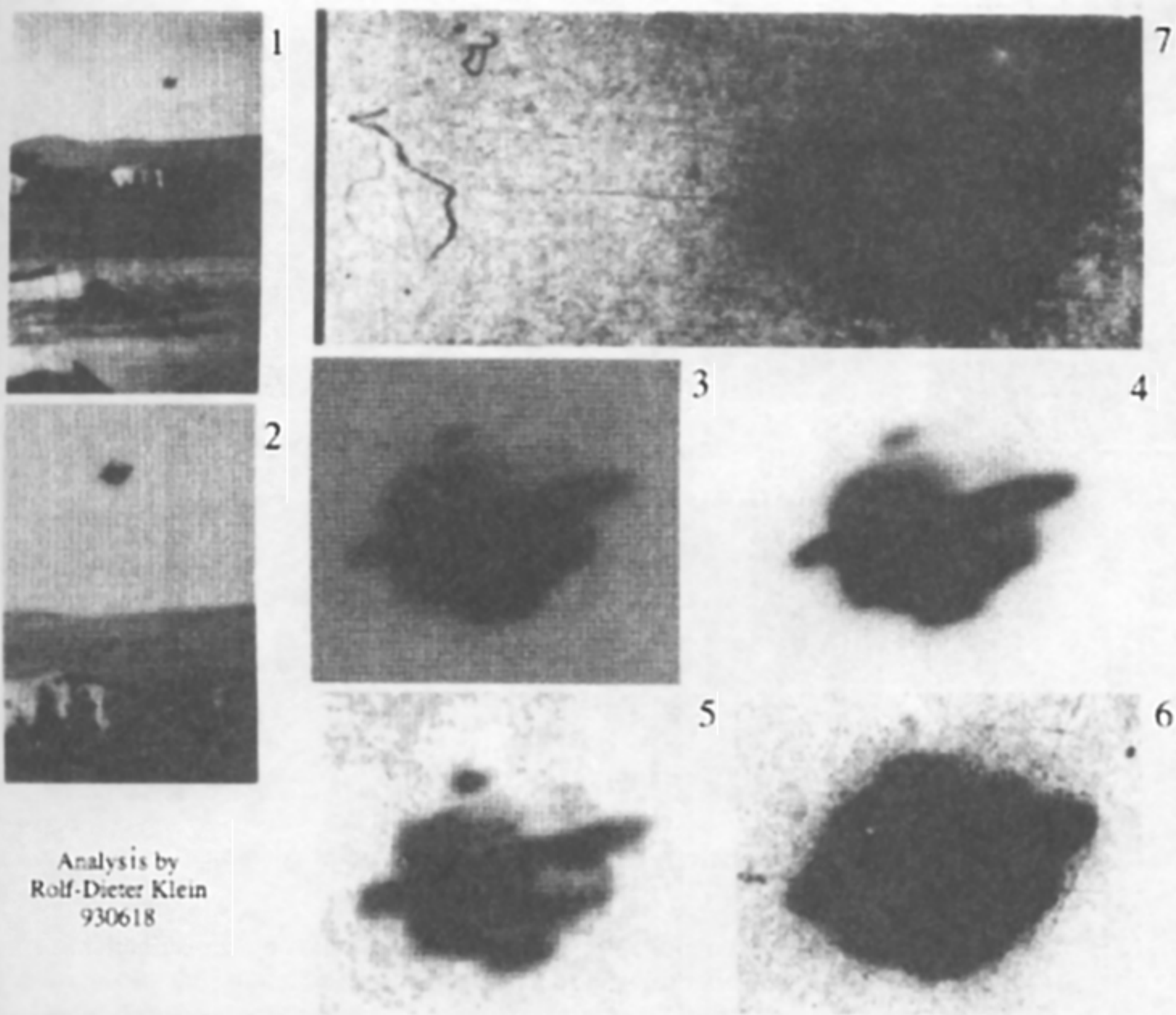
Enlargement



Enlargement

Fig. 11. The last 3 Comiso photos. Only a printed copy exists of photo No. 5; the original has been lost.





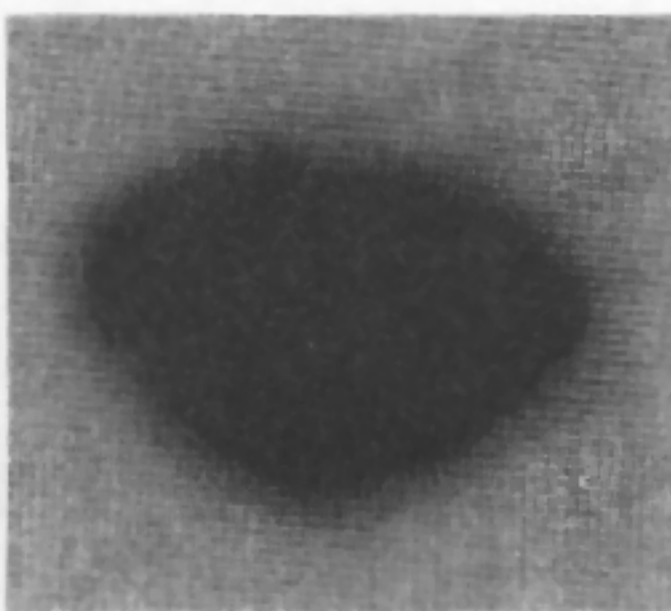
Analysis by  
Rolf-Dieter Klein  
930618

**Fig. 12.** Analysis of the Comiso photos (with use of Quadra 950, with Adobe Photoshop®, version 2.5 + photo CD plugin).

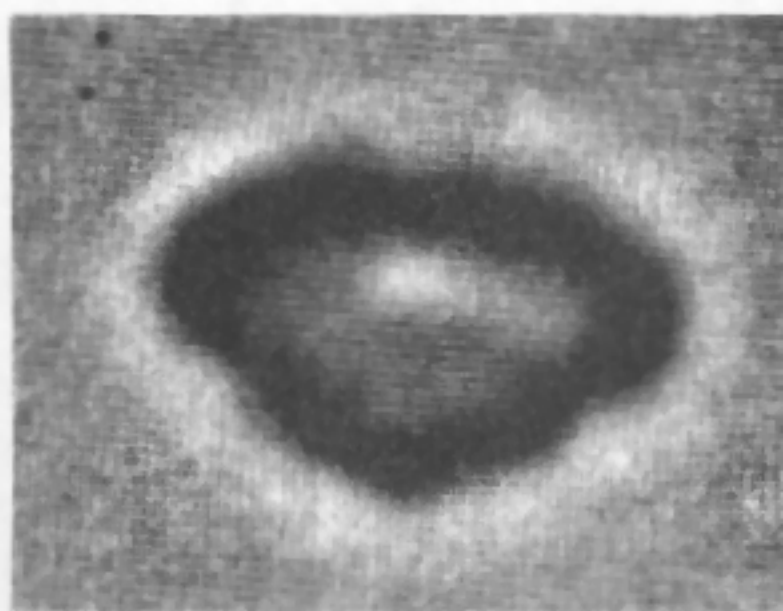
1. Polaroid photo No. 4, Fig. 11, transferred to a photo CD from a 35 mm slide.
2. Enlarged portion of (1).
3. Enlarged portion of (2). The color shift in the picture is also seen in the original polaroid pictures and is consistent with the environment.
4. Contrast enhanced version of (3).
5. False color representation of (3) and contrast enhancement.
6. Scratches on the photographic surface. All polaroid photos are slightly scratched.
7. Scratches and the surrounding area.
8. Relief processed pictures.
9. Picture run through a highpass filter and contrast enhanced.



1



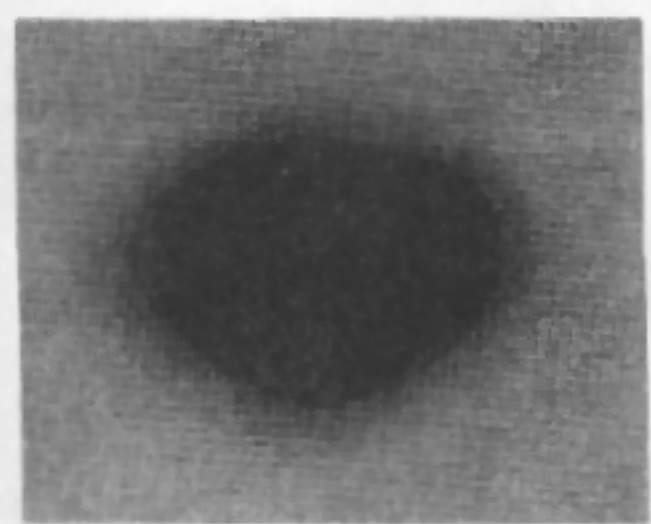
3



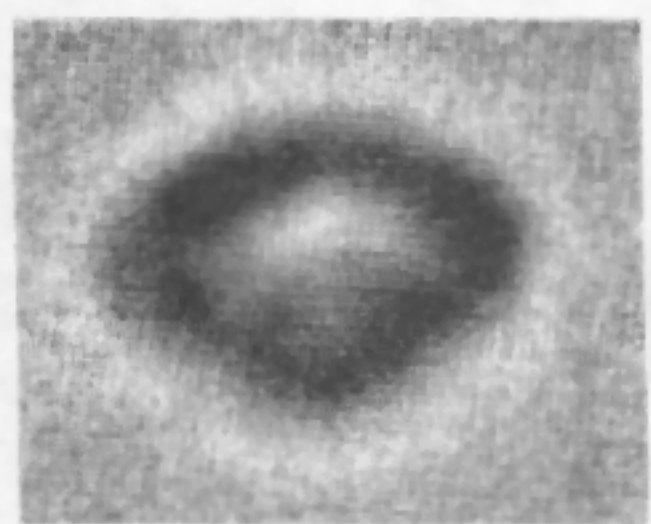
Analysis by Rolf-Dieter Klein 930618



2

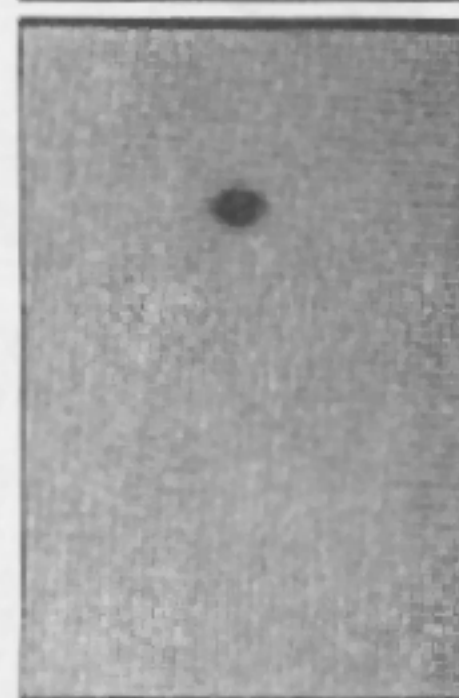


6



7

**Fig. 13.** Analysis of the Comiso photos (same equipment as in Fig 12).



5

1. Polaroid No. 6, Fig. 11, showing the object over building after transfer to a photo CD from a 35 mm slide produced from the original photo.
2. Enlargement of (1).
3. Enlargement of (2).
4. Picture run through a highpass filter and contrast enhanced.
5. Polaroid showing the object in a different position.
6. Enlargement of (5).
7. picture run through a highpass filter and contrast enhanced.



8



10

8. Color shift of polaroid No. 6 shown by changing gradation.
9. Color shift also visible on the top of the building. The same enlargement shows the same amount of color shift.
10. Color shift of the object in (5) is the same as that of polaroid No. 6.

9

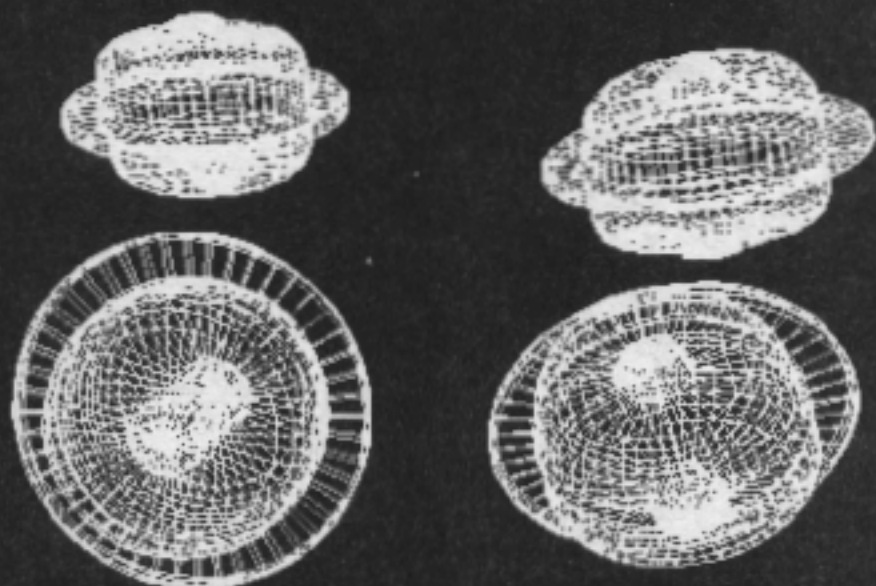
1

**Fig. 14.** 3-dimensional reconstruction of the Comiso flying objects (with use of Infini-D™ 2.0 on Quadra 950).

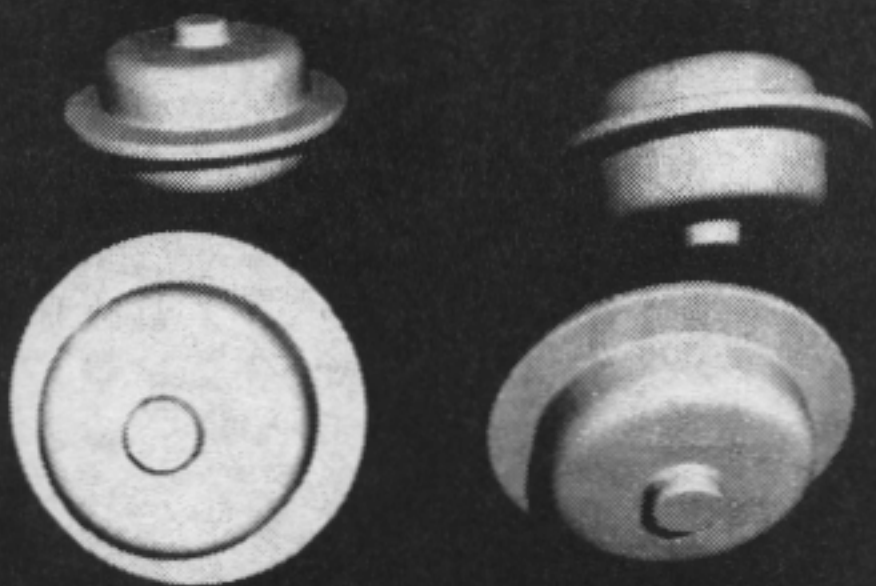
1. Original enlarged picture
2. Wire frame showing the object in different positions.
3. Ray-traced, flat shaded pictures of the object.

Analysed by Rolf-Dieter Klein 930618

2



3





**Fig. 15. Map of Greifswald and surroundings.**



Fig. 16. Some of the witnesses who saw two groups of lights in Greifswald on August 24, 1990, at 8:45 p.m. [1] Dr. Ivanova (now living in Moscow), who took 4 minutes of video film of the objects. [2] Mr. Mennigmann who investigated the case.



Fig. 17. Valery Vinogradov (now living in Nizhniy Novgorod), right, during a visit to Germany. He took a photo of UFO group (A) and filmed group (B).

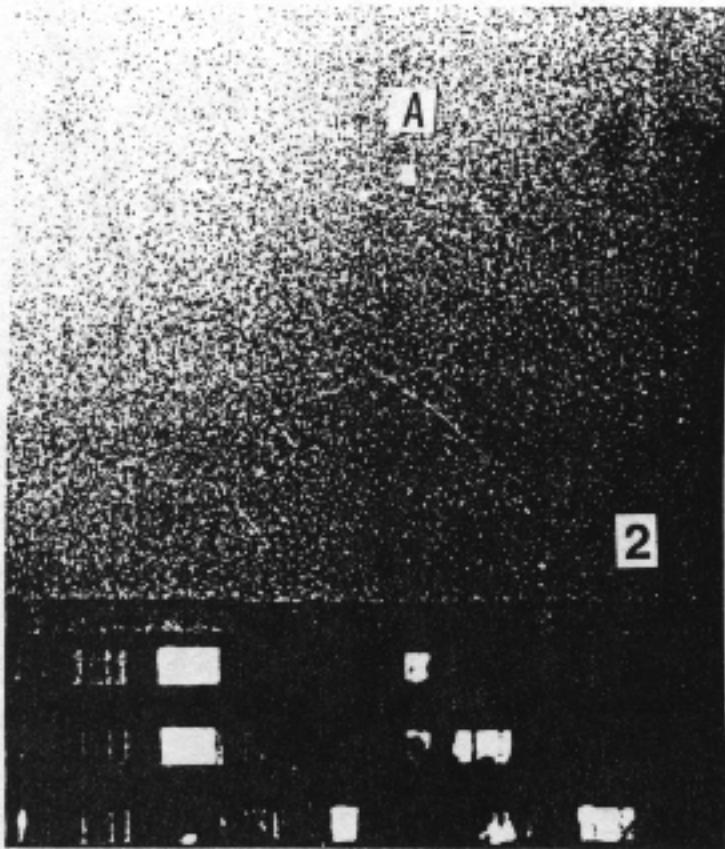


Fig. 18. Photograph of 4 luminous spheres in group (A), taken by Valery Vinogradov.

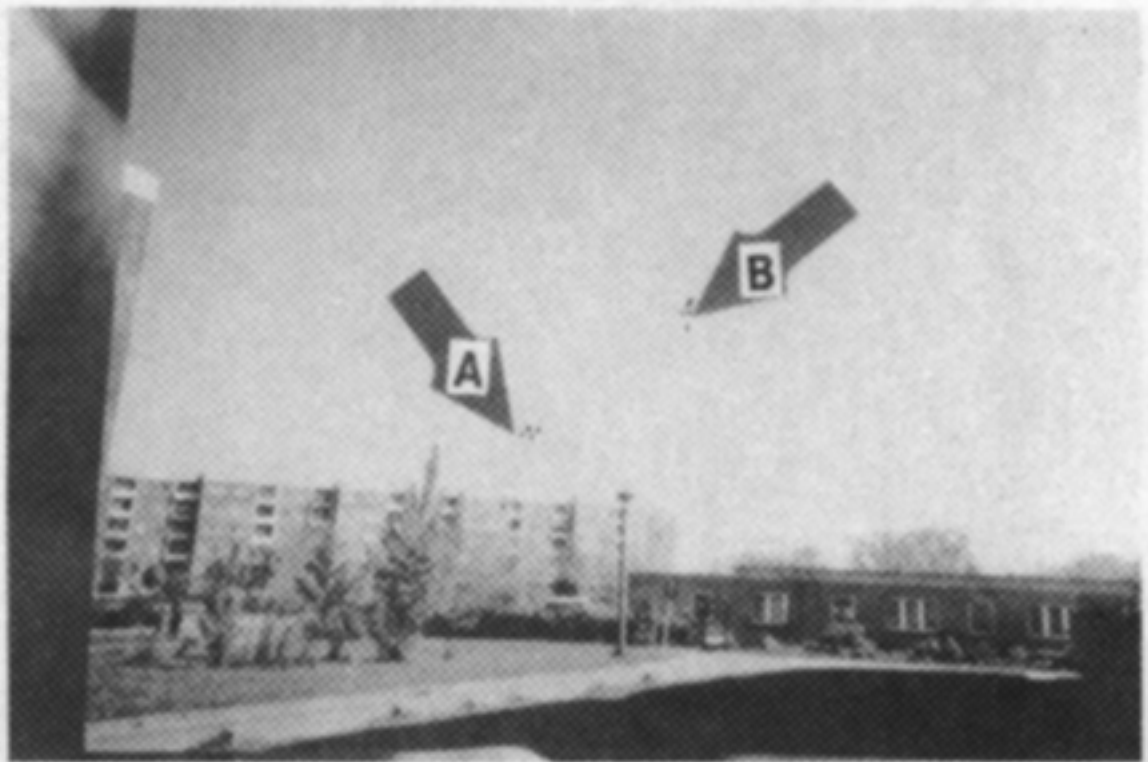


Fig. 19. Position of UFO groups (A) and (B).



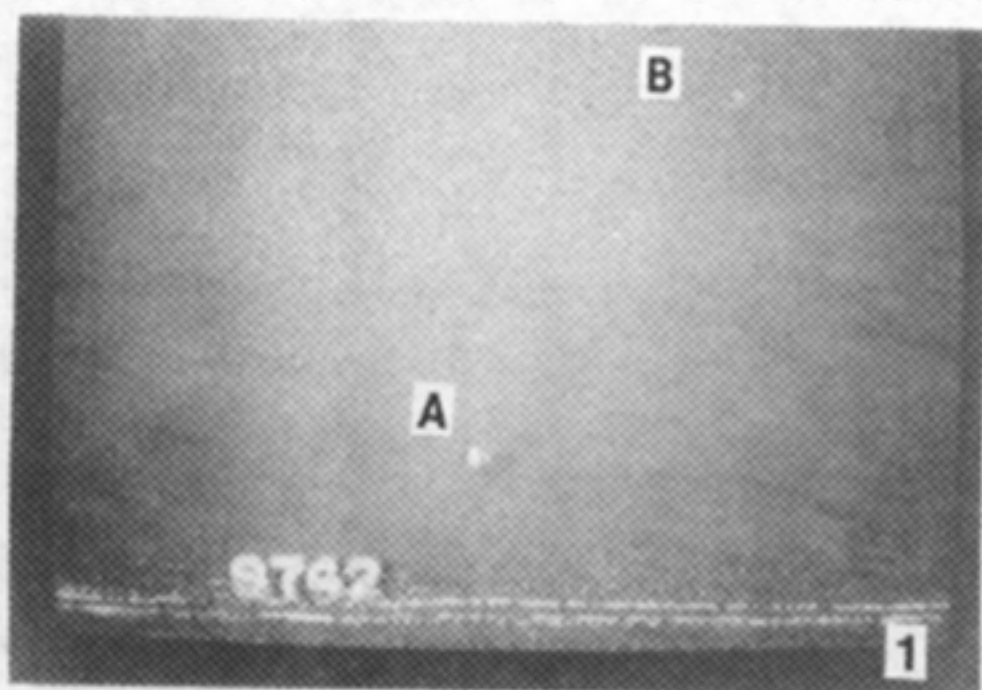


Fig. 20. Position of UFO groups (A) and (B), reproduced from a TV-screen.

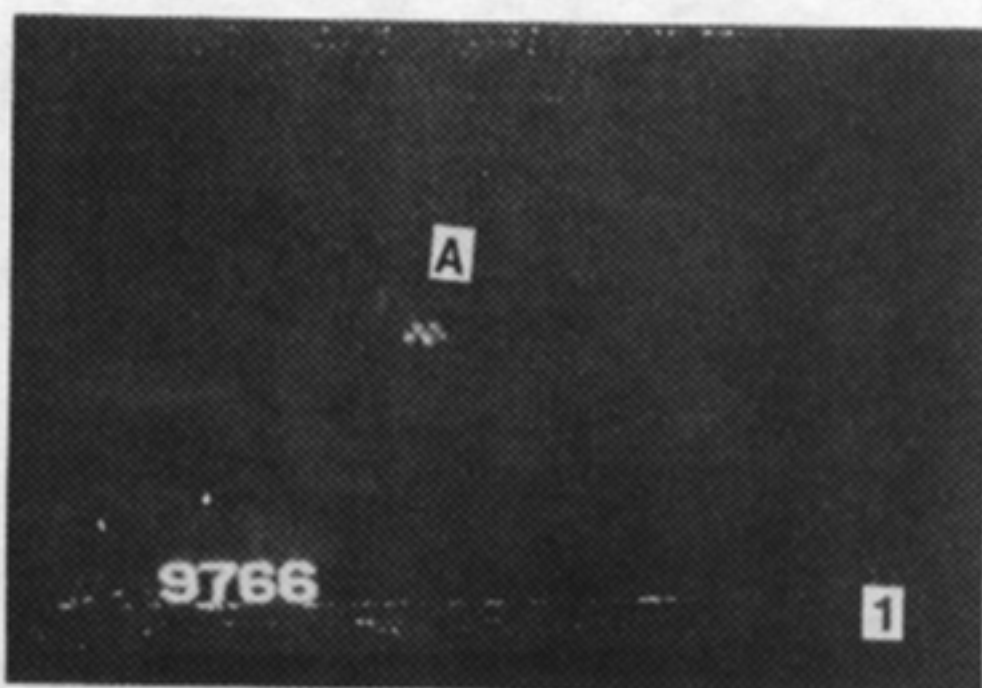


Fig. 21. Photo of 5 luminous objects, in group (A), video filmed by Dr. Ivanova and reproduced from a TV-screen.

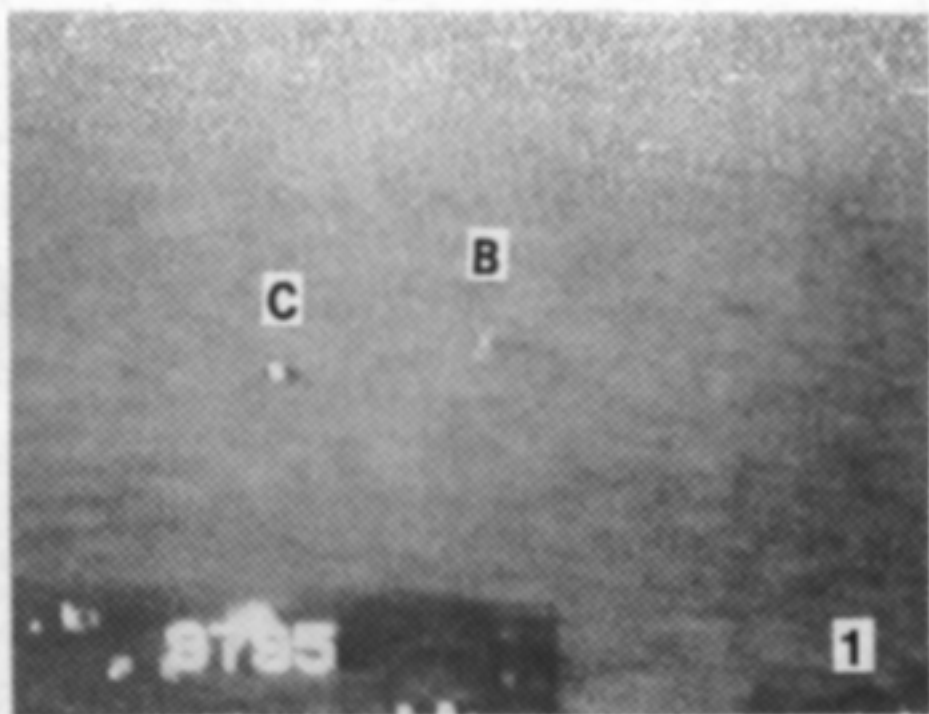


Fig. 22. A small explosion near group (B). The flash (C) lasted for  $1/8$  of a second. Reproduced from a TV-screen.

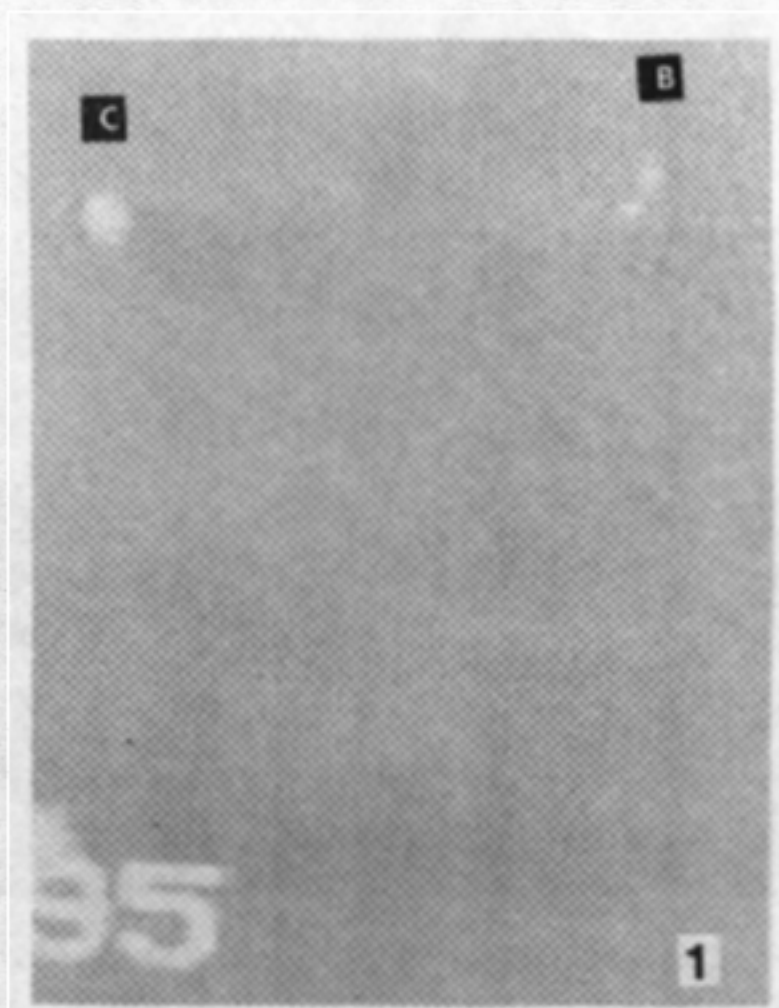


Fig. 23. Enlargement of the flash and UFO group (B) shown in Fig. 22.

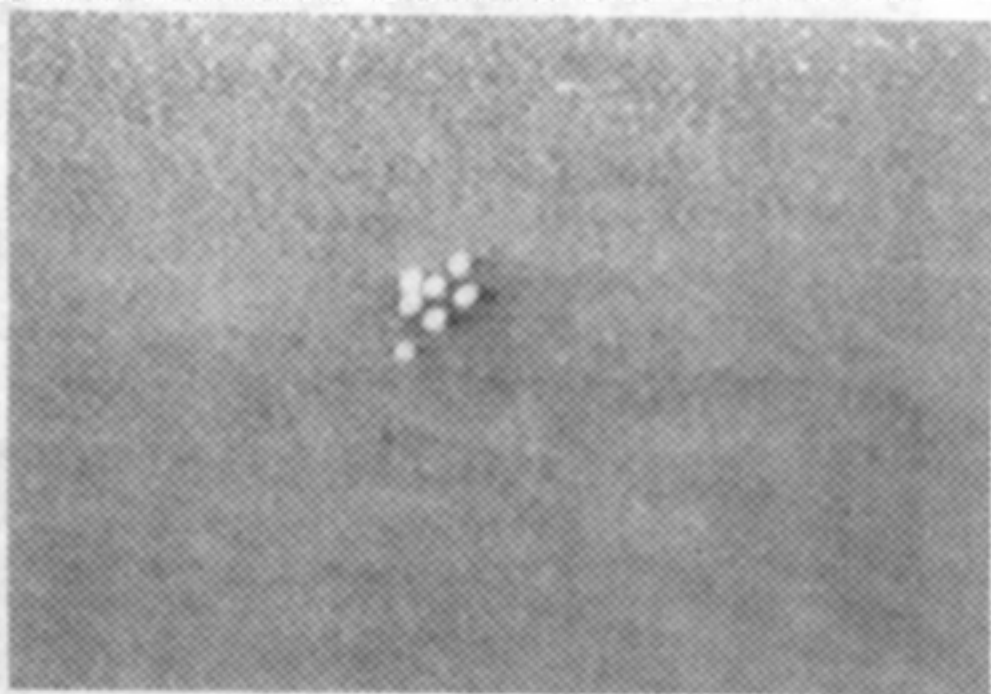


Fig. 24. Configuration of 7 objects in group (B), filmed by Valery Vinogradov.

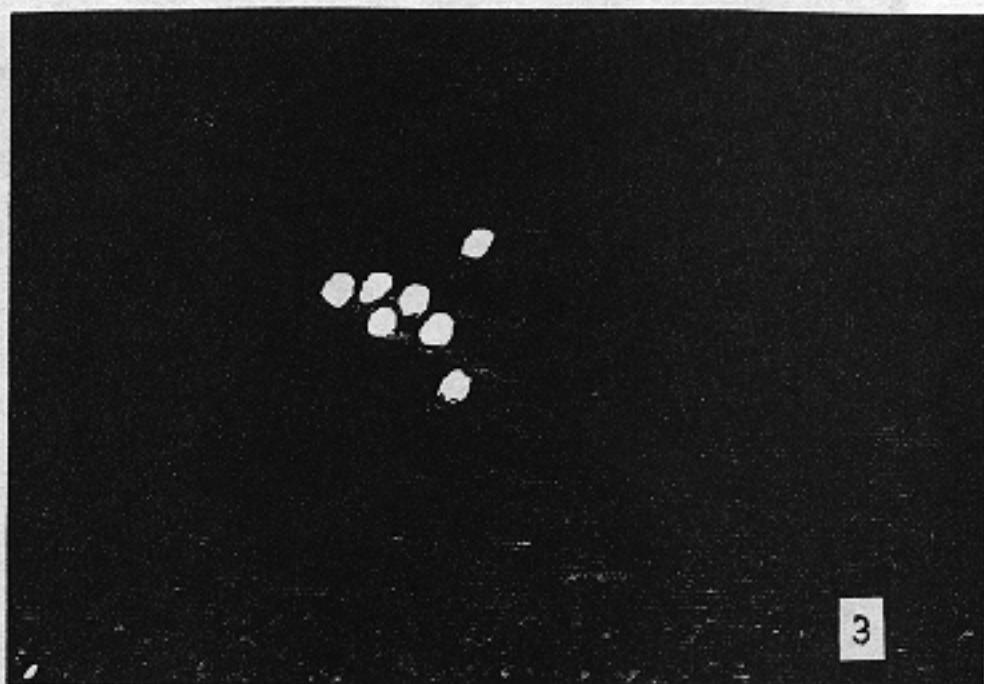


Fig. 25. Configuration of the same group of 7 objects as in Fig. 24, seen and filmed by Mrs. Kaiser in Putbus (cf. Fig. 15).



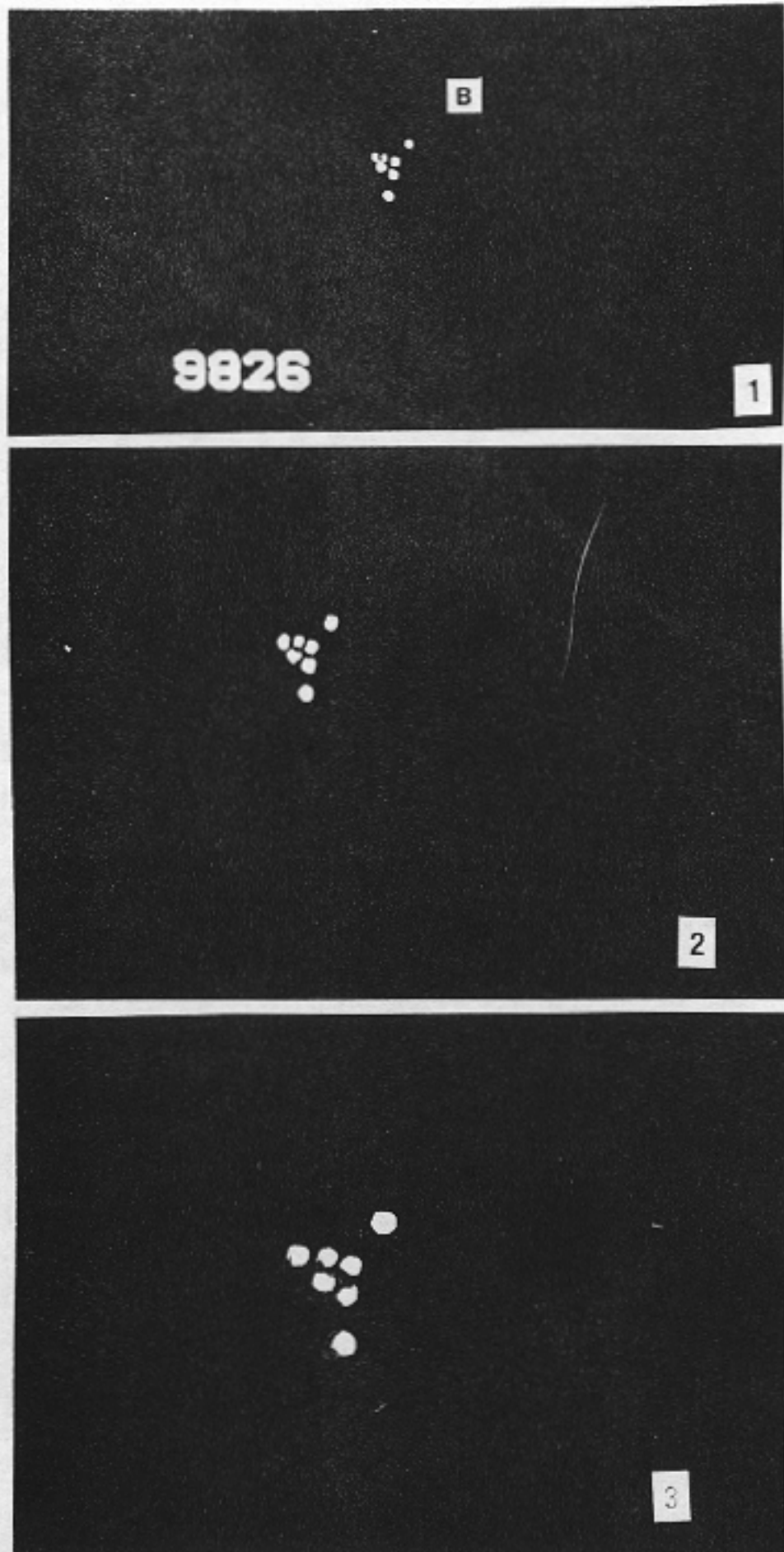


Fig. 26. The same formation of 7 objects in group (B) as shown in Figs. 24 and 25, filmed by 3 independent witnesses. [1] and [2] filmed from Greifswald, [3] filmed from Putbus.

(B)

(A)

(C)

Fig. 27. Two groups of objects seen by about 40 schoolboys from the town of Murkau (Isle of Rügen) on August 24, 1990.

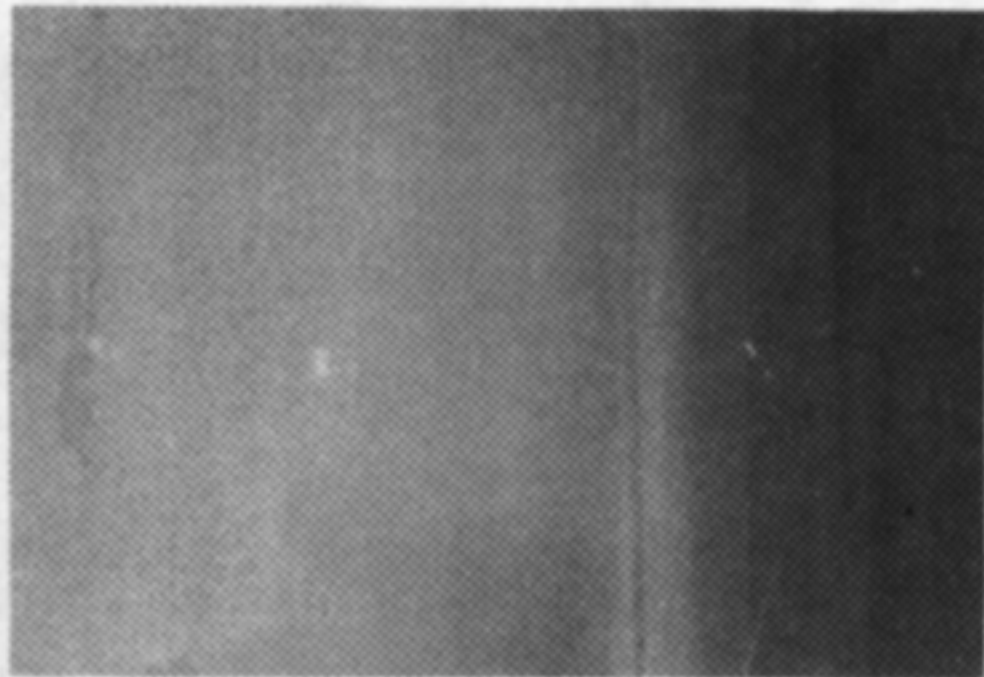


Fig. 28.

Both groups of objects photographed from Trassenheide (Isle of Usedom) at about 9 p.m.

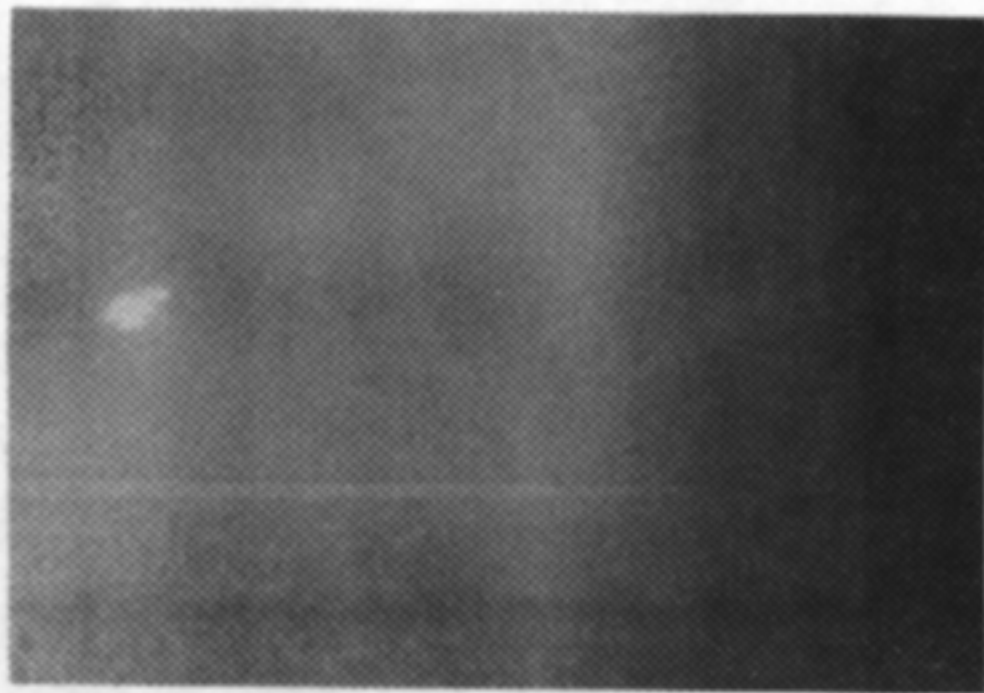


Fig. 29.

Free-hand photograph of group (B) taken at about 9.30 p.m. The light is reflected in the sea.



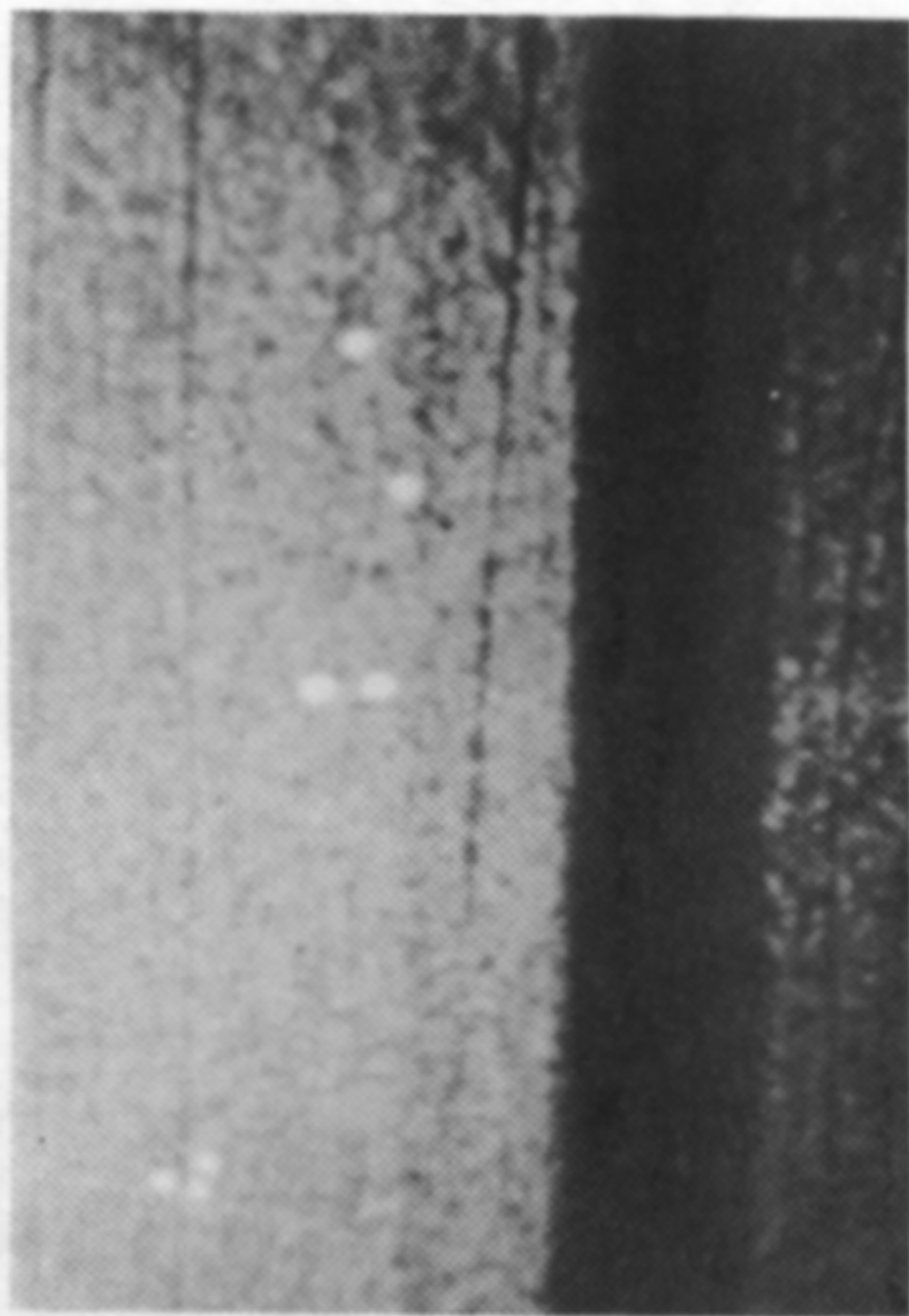


Fig. 30. Two groups of objects filmed by D.C. Newhouse near Tremonton, Utah. There is a remarkable similarity between these objects and the ones filmed in Greifswald.

