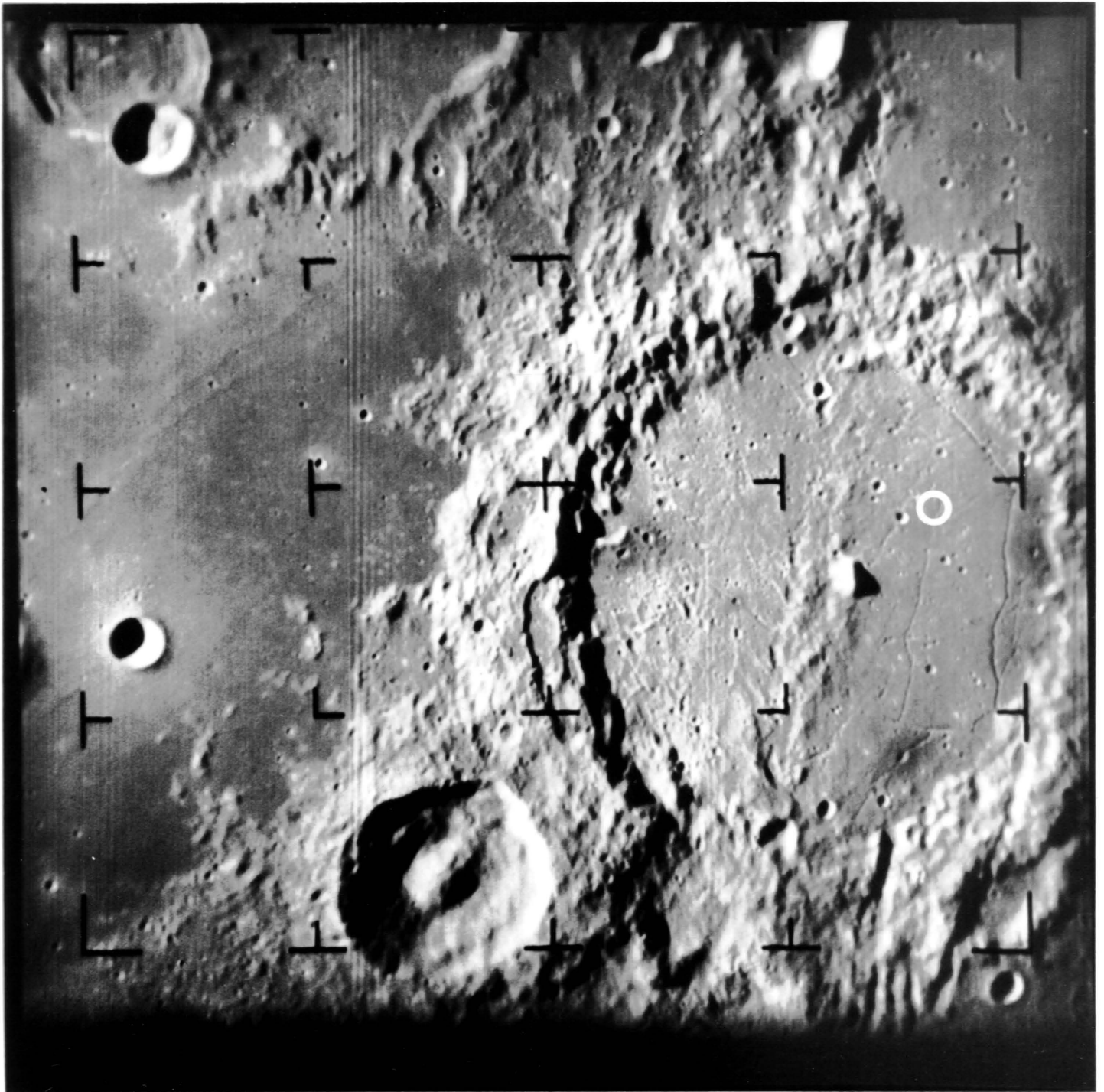
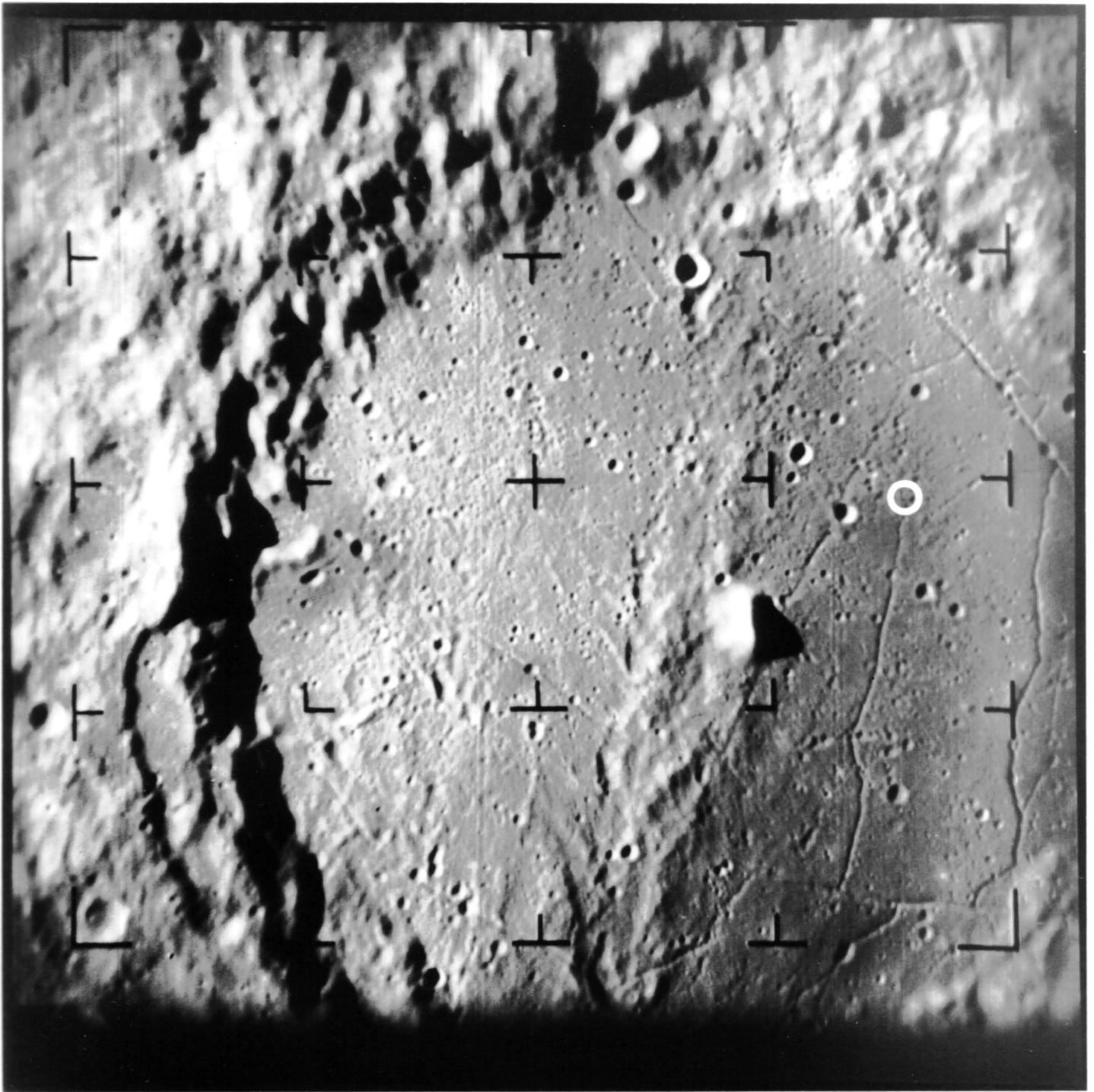


The area photographed by Ranger IX's six television cameras is depicted on this lunar map. The total coverage is 600,000 square miles. The larger area outlined represents the first picture taken by Ranger's A camera, the smaller area the first picture taken by the B camera. The four P cameras photographed areas within the coverage of the A and B cameras. Ranger IX returned 5814 pictures to Earth on Tuesday, March 24, 1965. The cameras were commanded into warm-up by the spacecraft's central computer and sequencer at 5:48:13 a.m. PST. The first picture was taken at 5:49:33 a.m. PST, at an altitude of 1405 miles above the lunar surface. The final picture was taken at an altitude of 0.38 mile. Impact in the crater Alphonsus occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST. Spacecraft velocity at impact was 5979 mph. Ranger IX, the last of the Ranger series, was launched from Cape Kennedy at 1:37:02 p.m. PST, Sunday, March 21, 1965. Rangers VII, VIII, and IX returned a total of 17,259 pictures of the lunar surface.

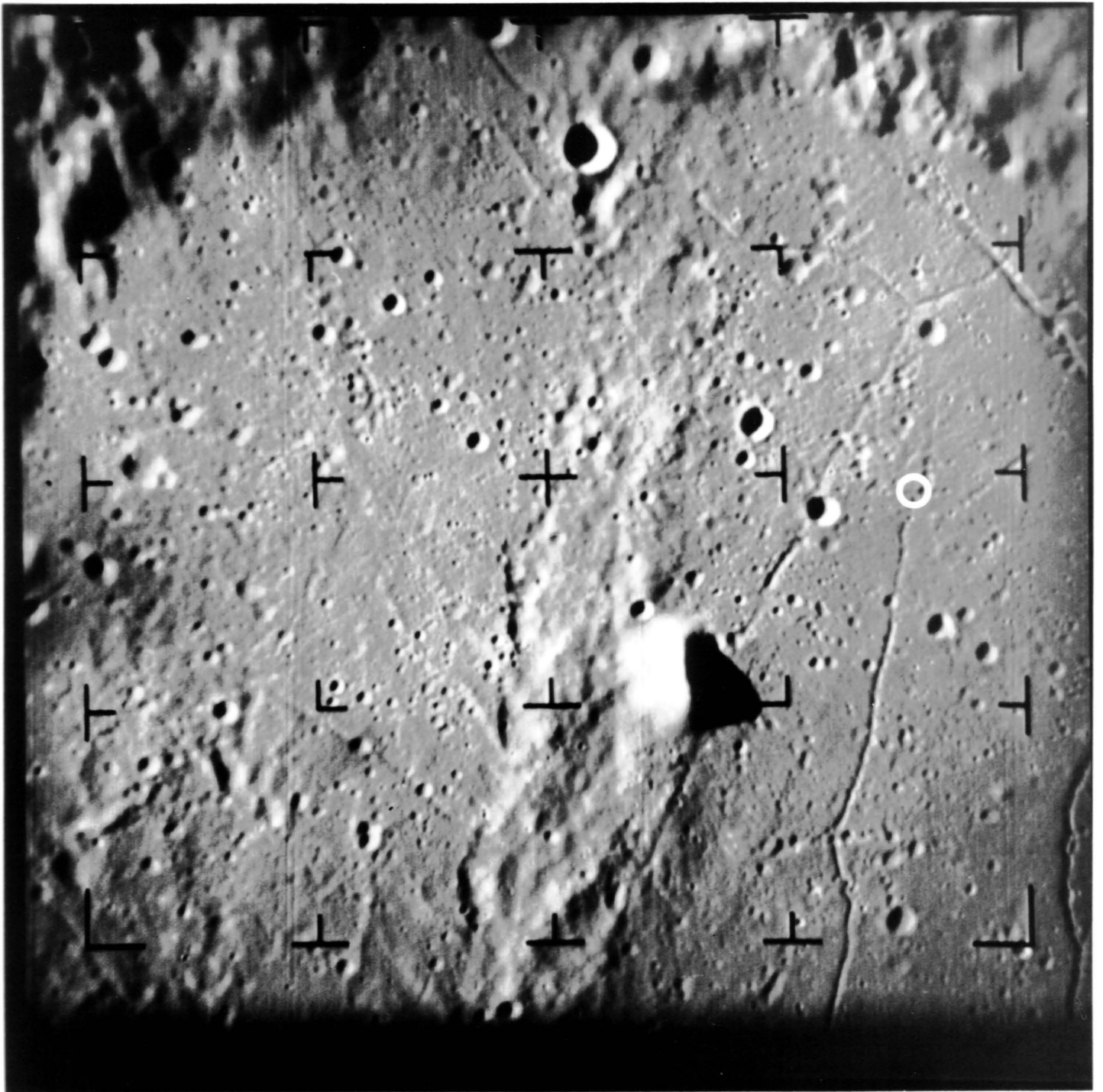


THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF EIGHT PICTURES FROM THE A CAMERA, NUMBERED 2 THROUGH 9

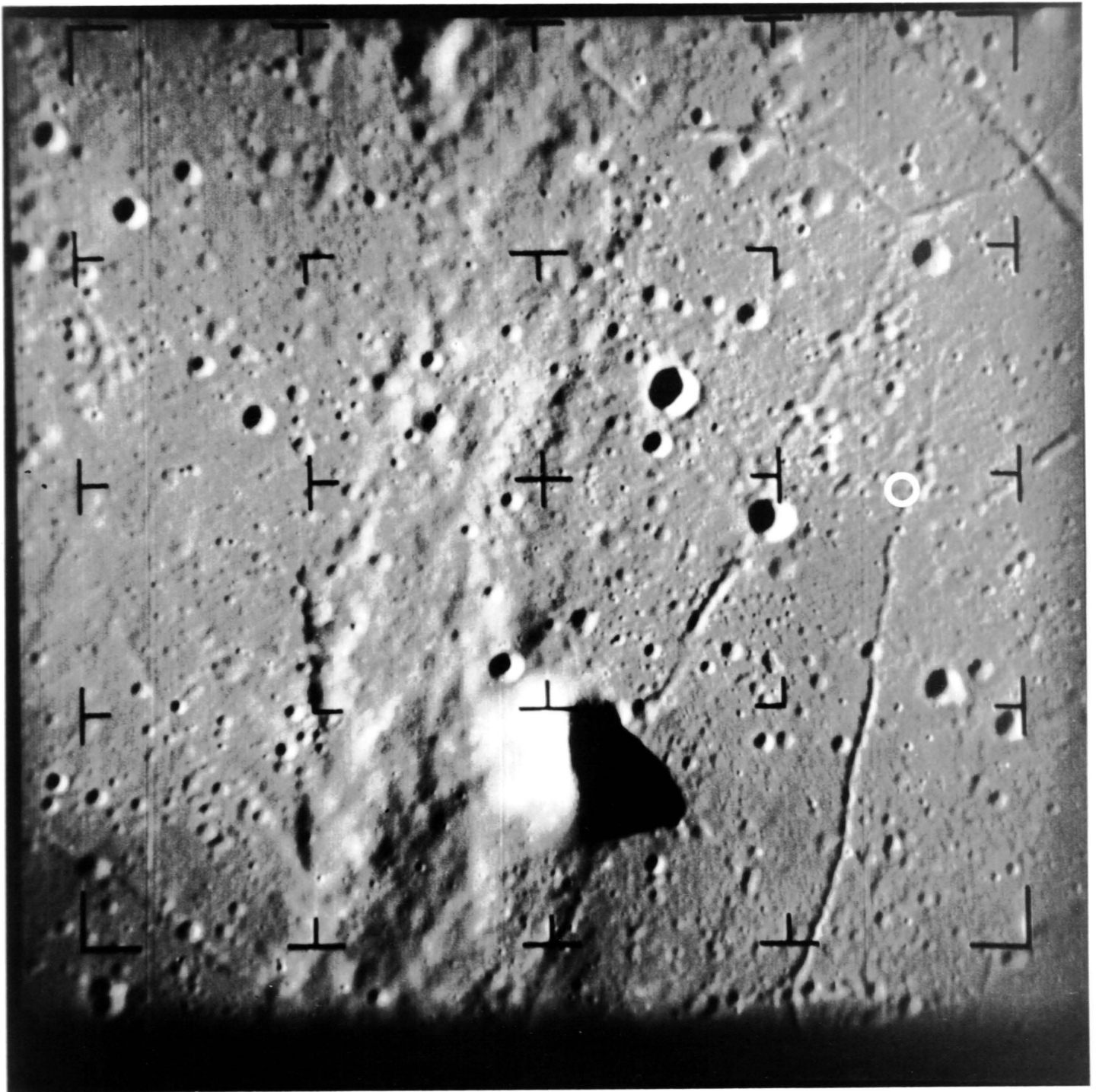
Photograph taken by Ranger IX at an altitude of 265 miles above the lunar surface, 3 minutes 2 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. The impact point is circled. Impact occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, March 24, 1965. This picture covers an area 126 miles across and 133 miles from top to bottom. The target crater Alphonsus fills the right half of the picture. The crater Alpetragius, with a broad central mountain, is near the lower left. The crater Davy A is at top left. The floor of Alphonsus shows an intricate pattern of ridges and rilles. Eight craters with dark patches are seen near the crater wall. The floor of Alphonsus has a higher crater density than the adjacent Mare Nubium at left. North is at the top.



Photograph taken by Ranger IX at an altitude of 140 miles above the lunar surface, 1 minute 35 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. The impact point is circled. Impact occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, March 24, 1965. This picture covers an area 67.5 miles across and 62 miles from top to bottom. Note the detail becoming visible on the crater floor in this and succeeding pictures in the series as the spacecraft altitude decreases. North is at the top.



Photograph taken by Ranger IX at an altitude of 95.5 miles above the lunar surface, 1 minute 4 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. The impact point is circled. This picture covers an area 46 miles across and 43 miles from top to bottom. Impact occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, Wednesday, March 24, 1965. North is at the top.



Photograph taken by Ranger IX at an altitude of 65.4 miles above the lunar surface, 43.9 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. The impact point is circled. This picture covers an area 31.4 by 28.8 miles. Ranger IX impacted the Moon at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, Wednesday, March 24, 1965. North is at the top.



Photograph taken by Ranger IX at an altitude of 50.3 miles above the lunar surface, 33.7 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. The impact point is circled. Impact occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, Wednesday, March 24, 1965. This picture covers an area 24 miles across and 22 miles top to bottom. North is at the top.



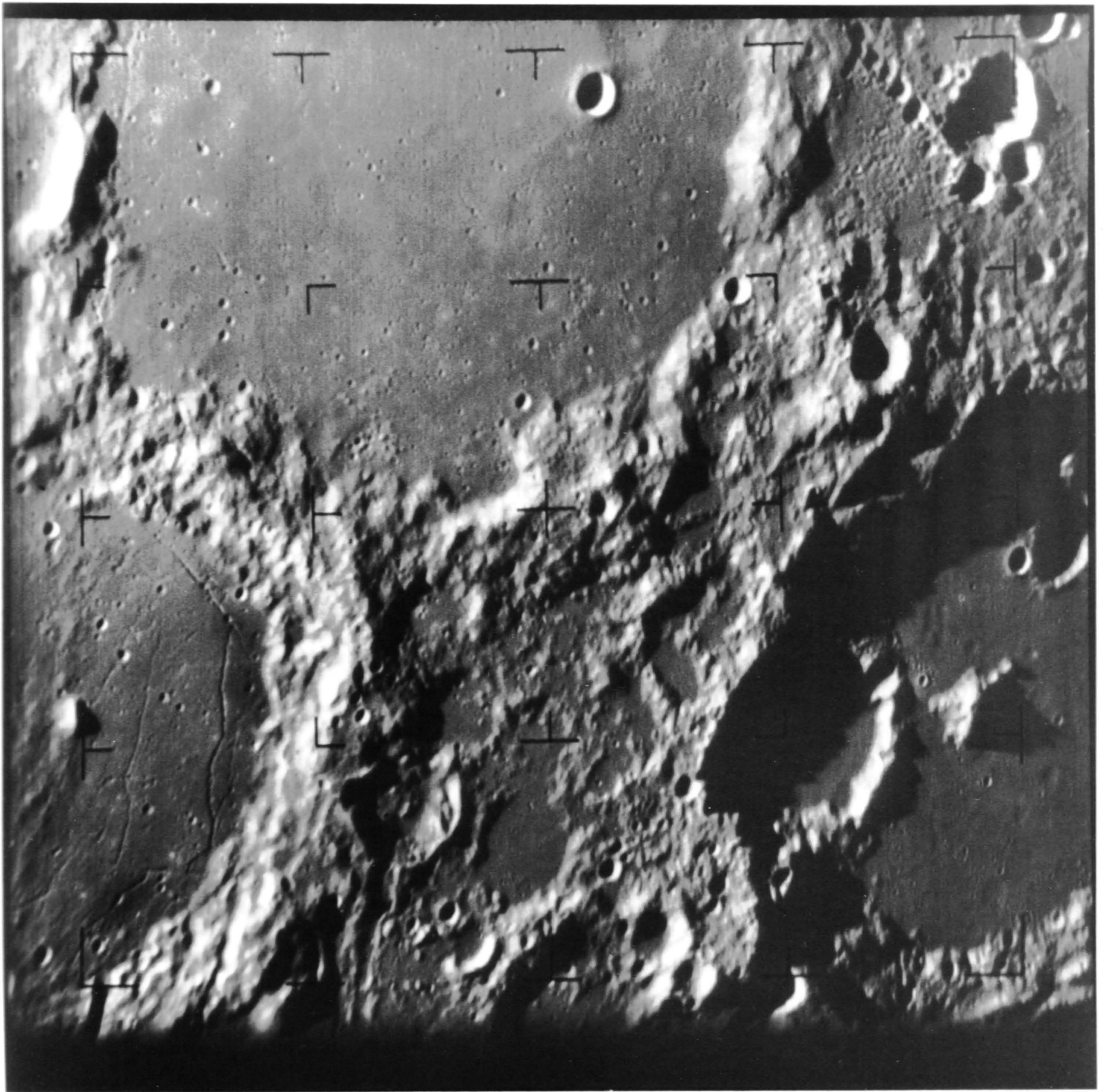
Photograph taken by Ranger IX at an altitude of 35 miles above the lunar surface, 23.5 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. The impact point is circled. Impact occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, March 24, 1965. This picture covers an area 16.9 miles across and 15.5 miles from top to bottom. North is at the top.



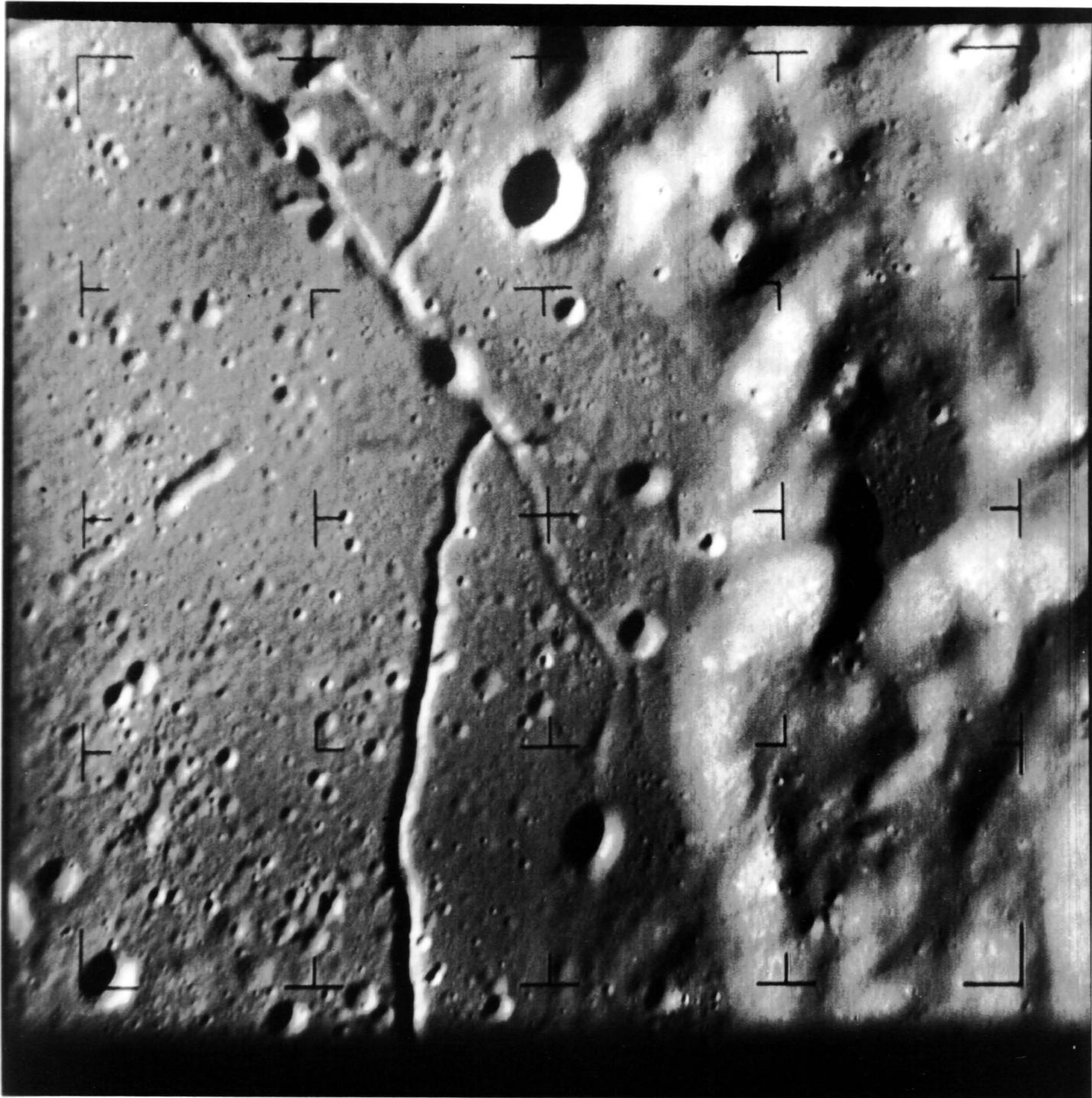
Photograph taken by Ranger IX at an altitude of 12.2 miles above the Moon, 8.09 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. The impact area is circled. Impact occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, March 24, 1965. This is the next-to-last picture from the A camera and covers an area 5.8 miles across, 5.3 miles from top to bottom. The large crater near the left margin is 1.6 miles in diameter and is situated on a shallow rille running upward. A second rille near the right margin is resolved as a string of chain craters. North is at the top.



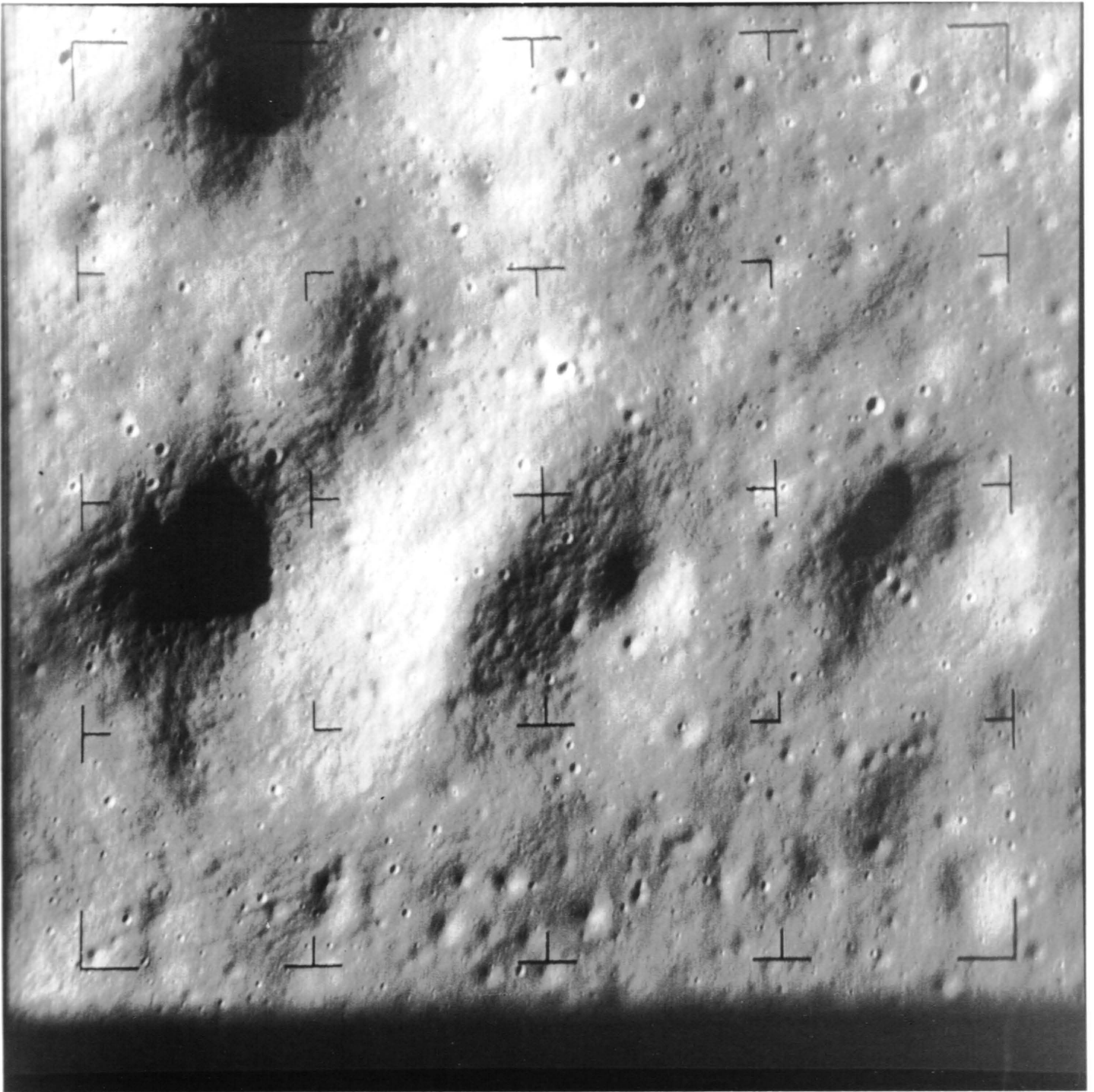
Photograph taken by Ranger IX at an altitude of 4.5 miles above the lunar surface, 2.97 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. Impact occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, March 24, 1965. This is the last picture taken by the A camera. The impact point is circled. The picture covers an area 2.1 miles across and 2 miles from top to bottom. The smallest craters visible are 40 feet in diameter. Several large shallow depressions are shown with "tree-bark" texture in their walls. Dimple craters are visible near the top and at the lower left margin. North is at the top.



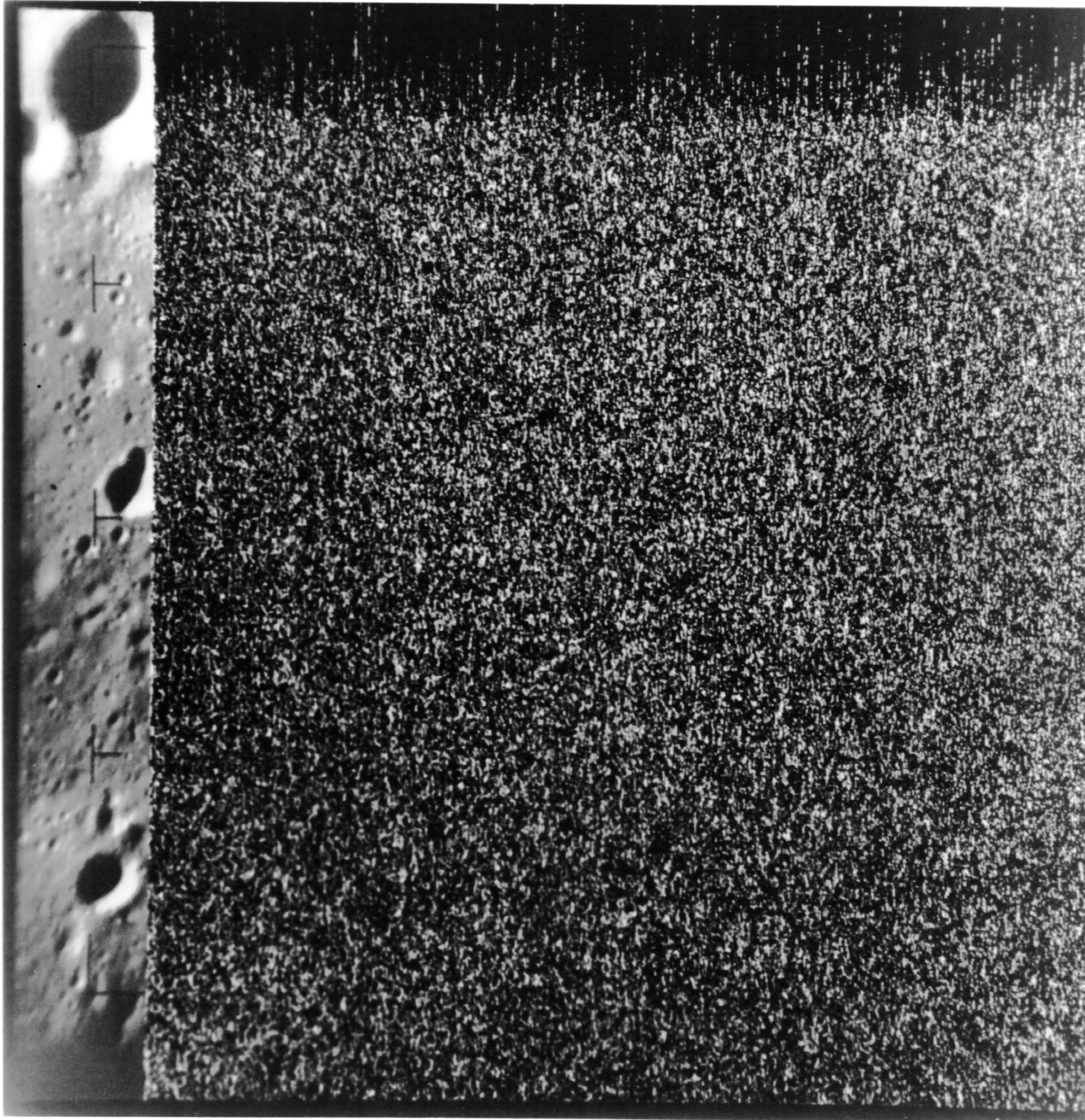
Photograph taken by the B camera on Ranger IX at an altitude of 785 miles above the Moon, 9 minutes 29 seconds before impact at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, Wednesday, March 24, 1965. This picture covers an area 149 miles across and 124 miles from top to bottom. Portions of three major craters are visible: Ptolemaeus at the top without a central peak, Alphonsus on the left with a rille system and a 3300-foot-high central peak, and Albategnius with a 4500-foot-high central peak. North is at the top.



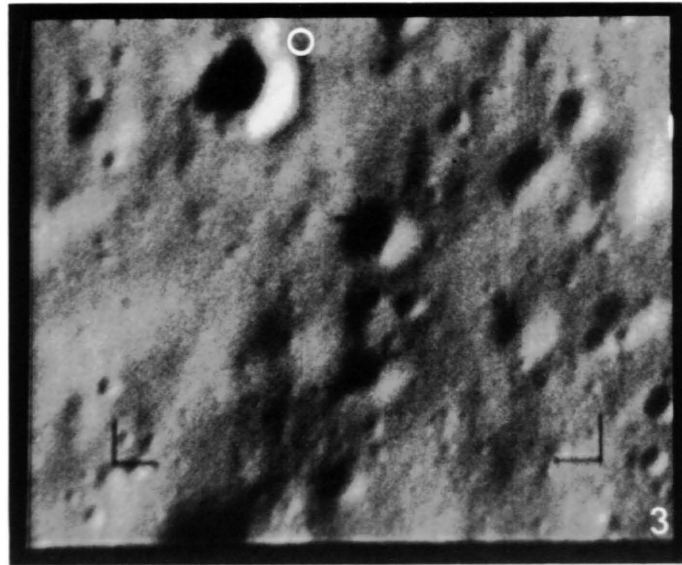
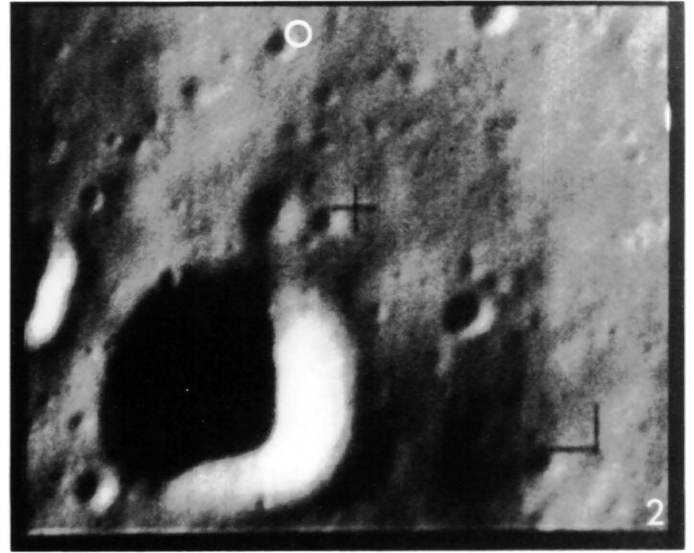
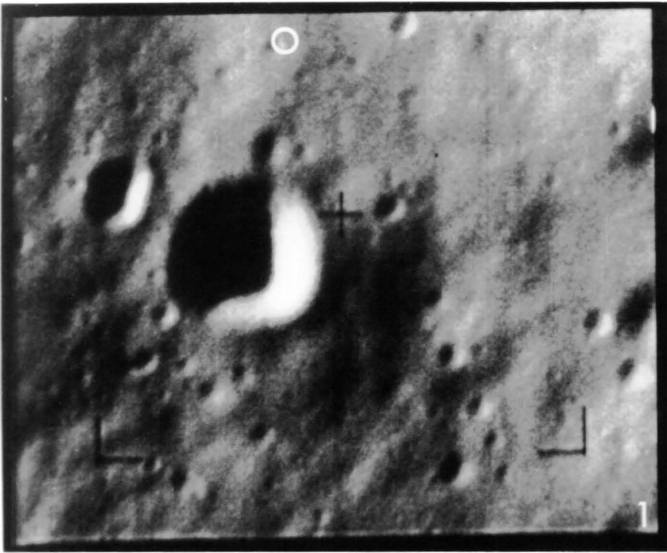
Photographs taken by the B camera on Ranger IX at an altitude of 107 miles above the lunar surface, 1 minute 12 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. The impact area is not visible. Impact occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, Wednesday, March 2, 1965. The area covered is 20.8 miles across and 17.7 miles from top to bottom. The east edge of Alphonsus is visible, with part of the surrounding wall at the right of the picture. The crater floor is cut by prominent rilles that are partly covered by dark, halo-type craters. The crater walls have soft contours and are almost featureless. North is at the top.



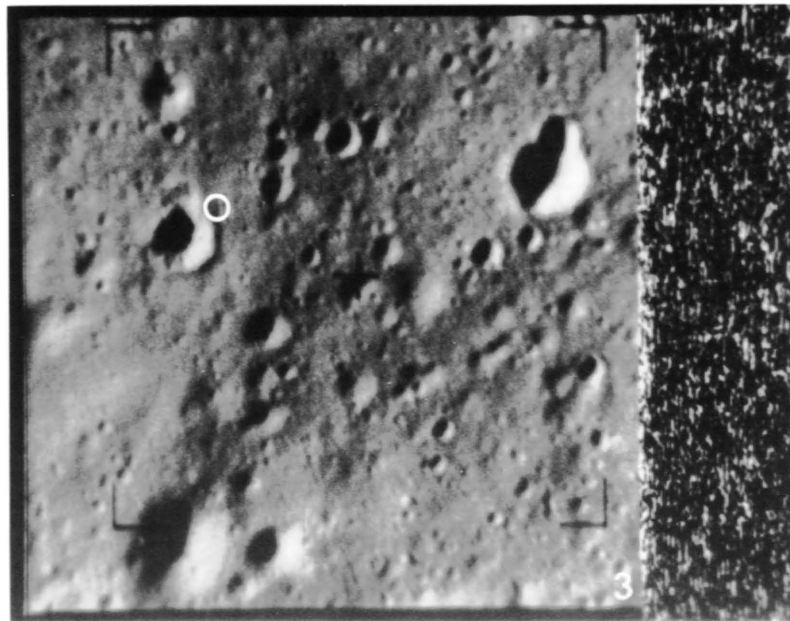
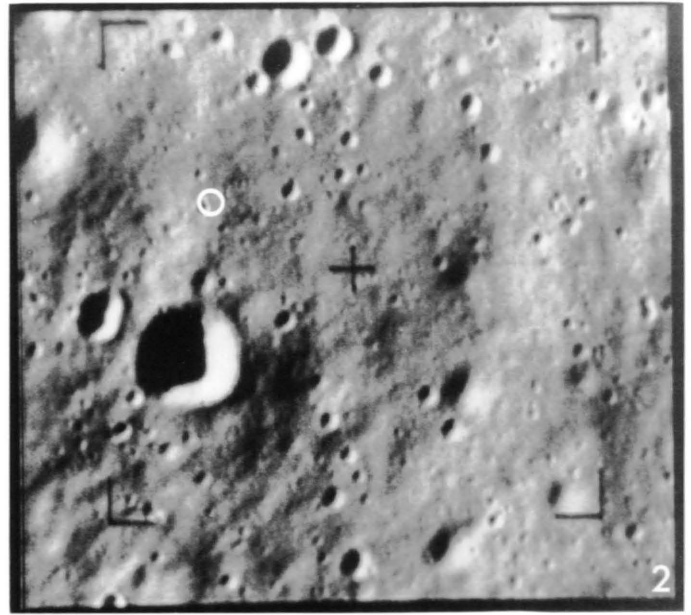
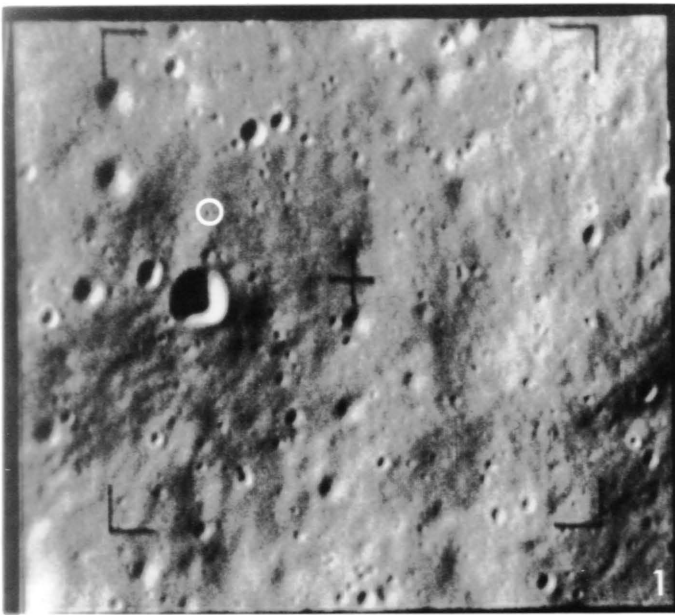
Photograph taken by the B camera on Ranger IX at an altitude of 8.3 miles above the lunar surface, 5.5 seconds before impact in the crater Alphonsus. The impact point is not visible in this picture. Impact occurred at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, Wednesday, March 24, 1965. The area covered is 1.6 miles across and 1.4 miles from top to bottom. The picture shows several shallow depressions with numerous dimple craters and fine structure in the shadowed area. The smallest craters visible are approximately 30 feet in diameter. North is at the top.



Last photograph taken by the B camera on Ranger IX just before impact at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, Wednesday, March 24, 1965, at an altitude of 0.6 mile above the Moon. The spacecraft impacted in the crater Alphonsus before the entire picture could be transmitted to Earth. The area covered is 545 feet from top to bottom and 76.5 feet across. The wide band to the right of the picture is radio noise. The impact area is not visible. This picture shows lunar features as small as 10 inches in diameter, the highest resolution attained by Ranger IX. North is at the top.



The last three photographs taken by Camera P₁ on Ranger IX. Picture 3 was taken at an altitude of 0.68 mile, 0.453 second before impact. The impact point is circled on each photograph. The final picture covers an area 154 feet across by 125 feet from top to bottom. The impact point is on the edge of a 25-foot crater. The smallest crater visible is 2.5 feet across. North is at the top. Ranger IX impacted in the crater Alphonsus at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, Wednesday, March 24, 1965.



The last three photographs taken by Camera P₁ on Ranger IX. Picture 3 was taken at an altitude of 0.37 mile, 0.25 second before impact, and covers an area 253 feet across and 226 feet from top to bottom. This was the last picture taken by Ranger IX. Craters as small as 18 inches in diameter are visible. The spacecraft impacted before the entire last picture could be transmitted to Earth. The impact point is circled. The band at the right edge of the picture is radio noise. North is at the top. Ranger IX impacted the Moon in the crater Alphonsus at 6:08:20 a.m. PST, Wednesday, March 24, 1965. Velocity at impact was 5979 mph.