

Finding a Treasure Trove of Information

Part 4 (continuation)

by Paul and Barbara Kayfetz

1 – 1/2d (Photo No. 62) – The numbered plate is as described for the 1/4d.

(Photo No. 63) – The lower pane for the numbered pair, however, contains significant traces of a reddish ink. Otherwise, this plate is similar to that described in the 1/4d.

(Photo No. 64) – The upper numbered pane similarly contains significant traces of reddish ink. Otherwise, it is similar to the 1/4d upper pane No. 1.

2d (Photo No. 65) – The unnumbered plate is generally the same as that described in the 1/4d. This plate does not contain the row of vertical pillar lines above the top row of stamps found in the other values of this issue.

However, there is a single numbered pane of 120 images laid out as the other panes of 10 rows of 12 stamps (Photo No 65A). The plate number “1” appears as a solid letter with a circular line around it in four positions. It is in the top margin and the bottom margin between the first and second stamps at each end of the top and bottom rows.

2 – 1/2d (Photo No. 66) – The unnumbered plate is as described for the 1/4d above.

(Photo No. 67) – The plate number “1” bottom pane is as described for the 1/4d. The image for row 1, No. 8 has been replaced.

(Photo No. 68) – The upper pane of the numbered plate is as described for the 1/4d. Row 1, No. 8 has been replaced.

3d (Photo No. 69) – The unnumbered pane is as described for the 1/4d.

(Photo No. 70) – The bottom pane is also as described for the 1/4d. The back of the plate contains a greenish form which has been glued on and mostly torn off. It appears to be an imprinted impression from an overprinting plate which contained the word: “Cancelled” at a 45-degree angle at normal stamp spacing for a smaller pane with larger stamps than that contained in this issue. The only printing on the paper is the pattern of the word “Cancelled”.

(Photo No. 71) – The upper pane is similar to that of the 1/4d value.

4d (Photo No. 72) – The unnumbered plate is similar to that of the 2d. As with the 2d, it does not contain a row of material pillar stripes above the top row of stamps. This plate, for a two-colour stamp, contains a blank recess in the area of each vignette portrait. These were added by the Key Plate. There has been extensive replacement of stamps on this plate. These involve:

Row 1, No. 6; and, Row 2, No. 7; and, Row 3, No. 8; and, Row 2, No. 2.

A block of three replaced at one time involves: Row 3, No. 11 and No. 12 along with Row 4, No. 12.

A similar large block includes the following: Row 5, No. 7; and Row 6, No. 6, No. 7, and No. 8; and Row 7, No. 6, No. 7, and No. 8; and Row 8, No. 6, and No. 7; and Row 9, No. 6, and No. 7.

Also replaced was: Row 10, N. 10. (See Photo No. 73 which shows the back of this plate).

Our retired De La Rue printer relates that the removal of defective clichés was sometimes done on a small routing machine with a fine cutting tool. Othertimes handcutting with a "fret type saw" was used after a small starting hold was drilled.

(Photo No. 74) – As with the 2d, the other printing plate for this issue is a single-pane with four plate numbers "1" in the positions described for the No. 2.

4 – 1/2d (Photo No. 75) – The unnumbered plate is as described above for the 4d and 2d. In it row 1, No. 2 has been replaced.

(Photo No. 76) – The other printing plate for this value is a single plate with four plate numbers as described above for the 2d and 4d. It, however, is mounted on a mahogany backing board. It is not possible to ascertain whether any of the stamps have been replaced due to the presence of the backing board.

6d (Photo No. 77) – The unnumbered plate is as described above for the 2d, 4d and 4 – 1/2d.

(Photo No. 78) – The numbered printing plate is as described above for the 2d, 4d and 4 – 1/2d. It contains the four plate numbers. It is also mounted on a mahogany board composed of three pieces assembled with splines. This plate is profusely covered with a bright-red, carmine, or magenta ink remnant.

Shilling Values

Artist's Engraved Dies

1/- (Photo No. 79) – This die is generally similar to that described for the pence values for this issue. The major difference is that the shilling values were printed by the recess process. Therefore, the dies contain recessed areas wherever colour is to appear on the stamp. It is of 5mm thick steel, and 114mm wide and 87mm high. It contains the die number: "12584" at the top. At the far left it contains the hole. For the single-colour one shilling value this die shows the entire stamp. The die has been defaced with two heavy lines scribed through the stamp image.

There are border duty dies for each of the remaining values. These are each on 5mm thick steel plates measuring 75mm × 102mm. The orientation varies according to whether the stamp is horizontal or vertical. All have been defaced as above. Details are as follows:

1/6 – Die No. 12587 at the top with the hole on the opposite side.

2/- – Die No. 12585 with the hole at the right-hand end.

2/6 – Die No. 12588 with the hole at the opposite end.

3/- – Die No. 12589 at the top with the hole at the opposite edge.

5/- – Die No. 12586 with the hole at the right-hand side.

10/- – Die No. 12590 (12690?) with the hole at the opposite edge.

The vignette dies are on similar 5mm plates 89mm × 97mm in size and are similarly defaced. Again, the orientation is a function of the orientation of the stamp design. These dies contain a neatly engraved die number rather than the roughly-punched, larger die number of the border dies. The various dies are as follows:

1/6 (Photo No. 80) – Die No. 10665 with the hole on the opposite edge.

2/6 – Die No. 10670 with the hole on the opposite edge.

2/- – Die No. 10667 with the hole on the opposite edge.

3/- – Die No. 10669 with the hole on the opposite edge.

5/- – Die No. 10668 with the hole on the opposite edge.

10/- – Die No 10665 also with the hole on the opposite edge.

Transfer rollers are present for each of the border and vignette dies described above. (Photo No. 81 shows examples.)

Printing Plates

Plates exist for the complete 1/- stamp, and for the border duty and vignette images respectively for the other shilling values. Each is contained in a large brown folder with a notation such as that for the 1/-: “Malta Postage & Revenue Stamp – 1/- complete 80 on – no 37371”. These plates are surface printing copper plates 3mm in thickness. The printing face is highly polished. The actual printing face is 400mm wide and 370mm high. At the bottom there is a flange bent at a 90-degree angle toward the back of the printing plate. It is 10mm high and has eight gaps cut into it. At the top there is a flange which is bent toward the back of the plate at about a 5-degree angle. It is 20mm high and contains 4 gaps. At the two right-hand edges of the printing surface within 5mm of the side and 8mm of the end margins are holes 7mm in diameter. There are similar holes in the corners of the slightly-bent flange. The plate contains 10 rows of 8 stamps each.

1/- (Photo No. 82) – Above the upper left-hand corner of the stamp in row 1, No. 5, is the number “37371” in neatly engraved letters 2 to 3mm high. A space of 16mm separates these letters from the top of the nearest stamp. Immediately below these letters there is a faint hairline which surrounds the entire block at a distance of 15mm from the image. At the corners these lines develop and extend 20mm beyond the rectangle thus formed. At each corner there is a heavier inscribed registration mark consisting of lines approximately 10mm long meeting at the corner with each line some 10mm from the edge of the block of stamps. These lines in some corners overlap slightly where they meet. Similar heavily inscribed registration lines exist as single lines perpendicular to the center of each side of the block of stamps beginning some 15mm from the edge of the stamped images with a dot and extending some 10mm out toward the edges. There is a registration cross some 4mm × 4mm in size on the center of the pane and a registration line some 4mm long just within the block of stamped images in the border mid-way along each of the four sides of the block. The “Waterlow Son’s Printing, London...” imprint appears below the center of the pane.

1/6 (Photo No. 83) – The border duty plate is numbered “37377”. Otherwise, it is identical to the description provided above.

(Photo No. 84) – The vignette plate for this value contains the plate number 35630 both roughly punched on the flange and engraved in smaller letters some 28mm above the top of the vignette image for the stamp at row 1, position 6. This plate contains a registration line that is slightly stronger than a hairline midway along each of the four edges of the pane beginning approximately 30mm from the image of the vignette. A hairline extension of this

registration line appears adjacent to the scepter on the left side of the stamp at row 1, No. 6.

2/- (Photo No. 85) – The border plate number is 37375. Otherwise, it is similar to the description above.

(Photo No. 86) – Vignette place No. 35631 appears roughly stamped on the flange, and also 25mm above the top of the vignette image of the stamp at row 1, No. 6. Opposite the center of each side of the image beginning at 20mm from the top of the vignettes in bottom and top rows and some 25mm to the sides of the vignettes at the side are registration lines perpendicular to the edge of the pane of stamps.

2/6 (Photo No. 87) – The border plate number is 37374. Other, it is similar to those preceding. In this plate rather than a cross in the center of the block of stamp images there is a slightly disconnected “T” with the stem of the T toward the bottom of the plate.

(Photo No. 88) – This vignette plate is numbered 35632 on the flange only. There is no number on the face of the plate. There is a very fine line beginning approximately 25mm from the edge of the image mid-way on the previous vignette plate (the 2/-).

3/- (Photo No. 89) – This envelope is labeled “3/- Casement”, as are those, with appropriate respective values, for the other duty plate borders.

As with the 2/6, the center cross within the plate is a “T”. There is also a short line below the T alongside row 5, No. 6 adjacent to the word “Postage”.

(Photo No. 90) – The vignette plate number is 35633. The plate is identical to that described above. It contains no edge marks or registration marks of any sort. The plate number appears only in the angled flange in rough hand stamping. It does not appear, as on the other plats, immediately adjacent to the image in engraved form.

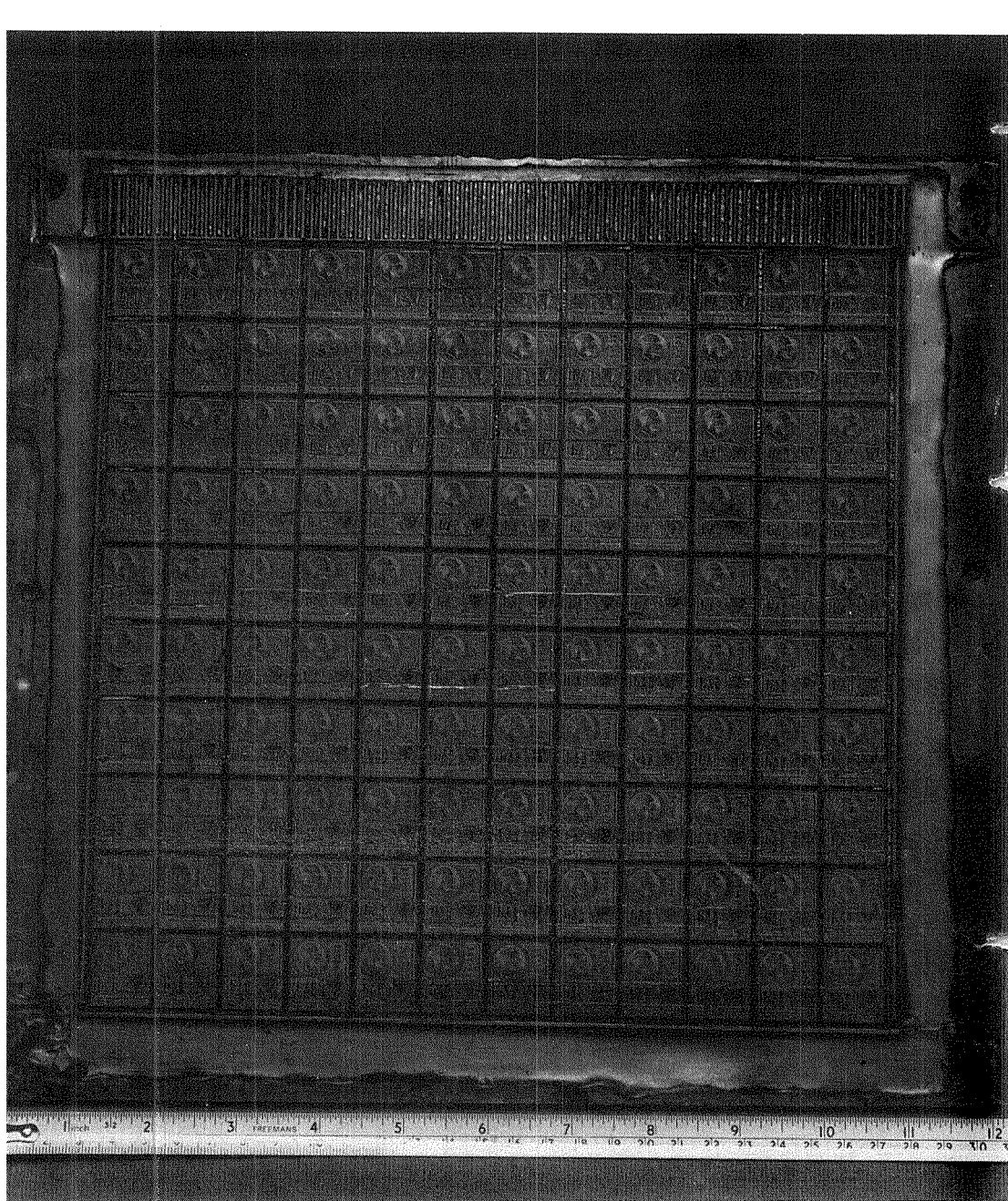
5/- (Photo No. 91) – This border plate number is 37376. This plate contains the “T” at the center of the block of images rather than the cross.

(Photo No. 92) – The vignette plate is numbered 35634 in rough hand-punched numerals on the flange only. Inscribed by hand in a heavy scratching is the notation “5/- Vig. Malta Stamp/Top” at the very top of the printed portion of the plate. The plate number is not inscribed on the printing surface. There are hairline registration lines beginning approximately 30mm from the image perpendicular to each edge. At the top, as on some of the other plates, there is an irregular area approximately 3mm high of engraved marks some 1mm wide at the end of the registration line closest to the image. In row 3, immediately below the vignette at position 4, there is a vertical line in the plate. Adjacent to that line some 2mm from it is a 1mm-long horizontal mark.

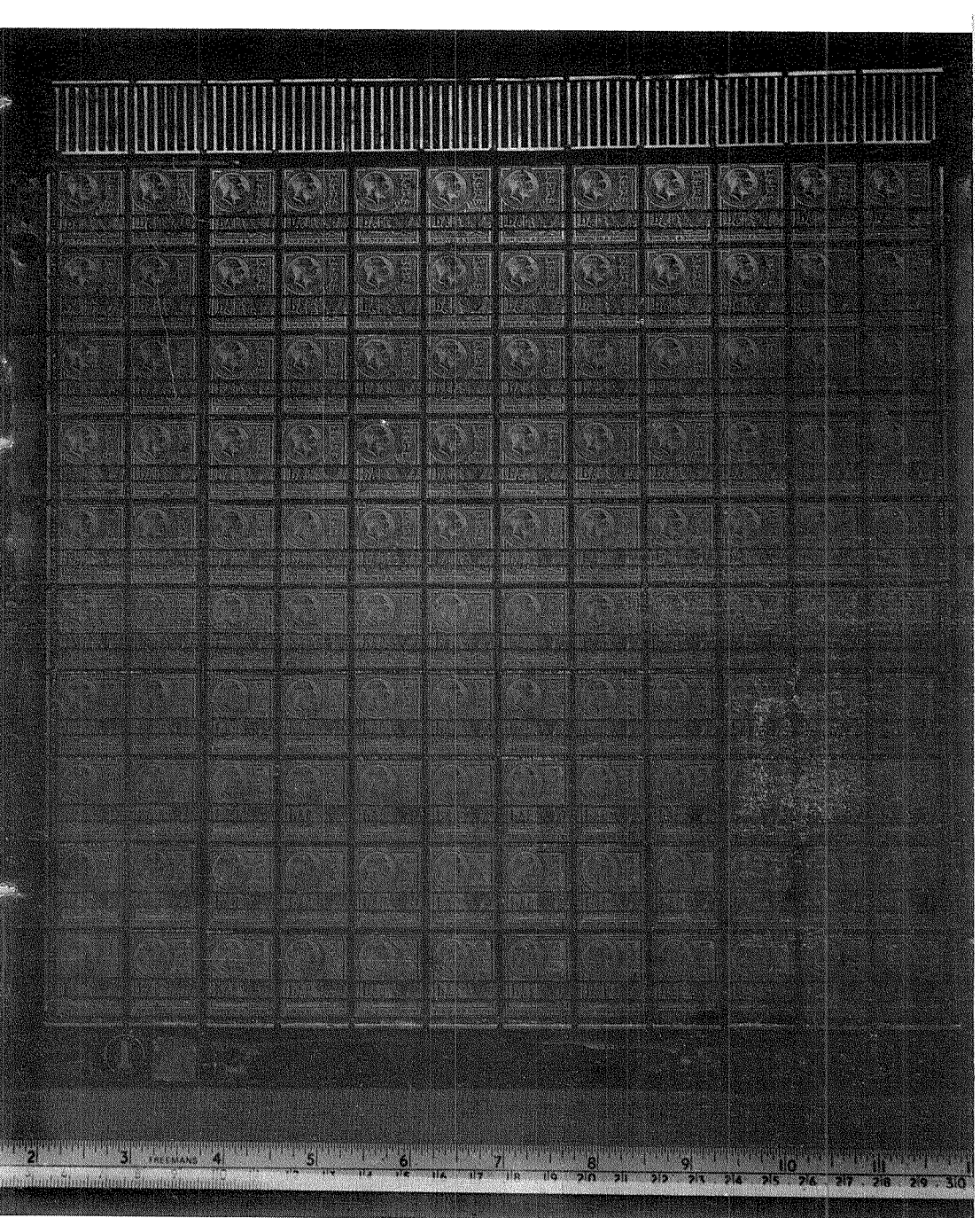
10/- (Photo No. 93) – This border plate is numbered 37373. It contains the cross at the center of the block of images rather than the “T”.

(Photo No. 94) – This vignette plate is numbered 35635, both roughly on the flange and in engraved numerals above the 6th stamp in row 1. There is a faint registration line mid-way along each edge perpendicular to the center. The mark at the bottom extends completely into the image of the vignette crossing the letter “S” at the beginning of the inscription.

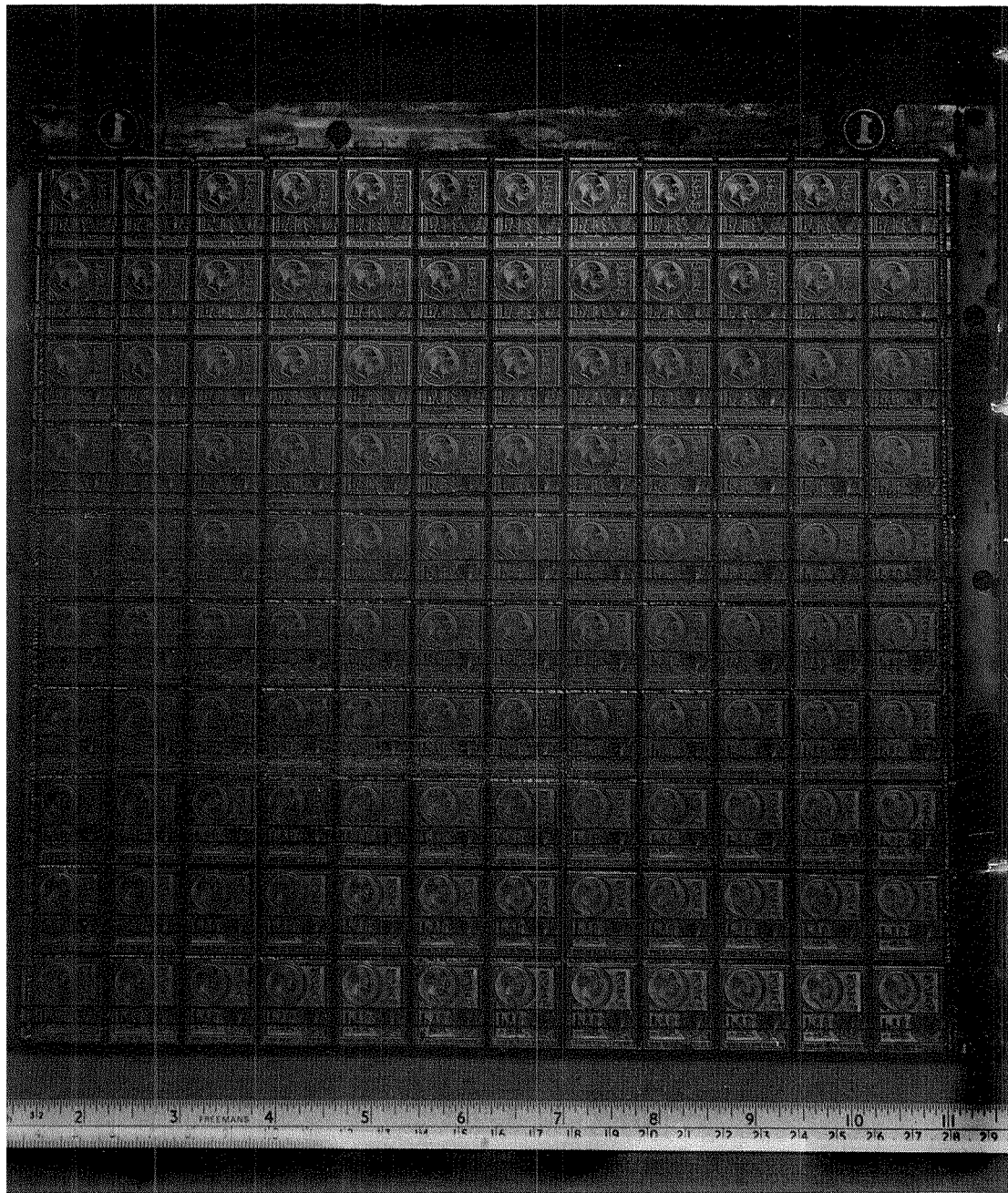
to be continued



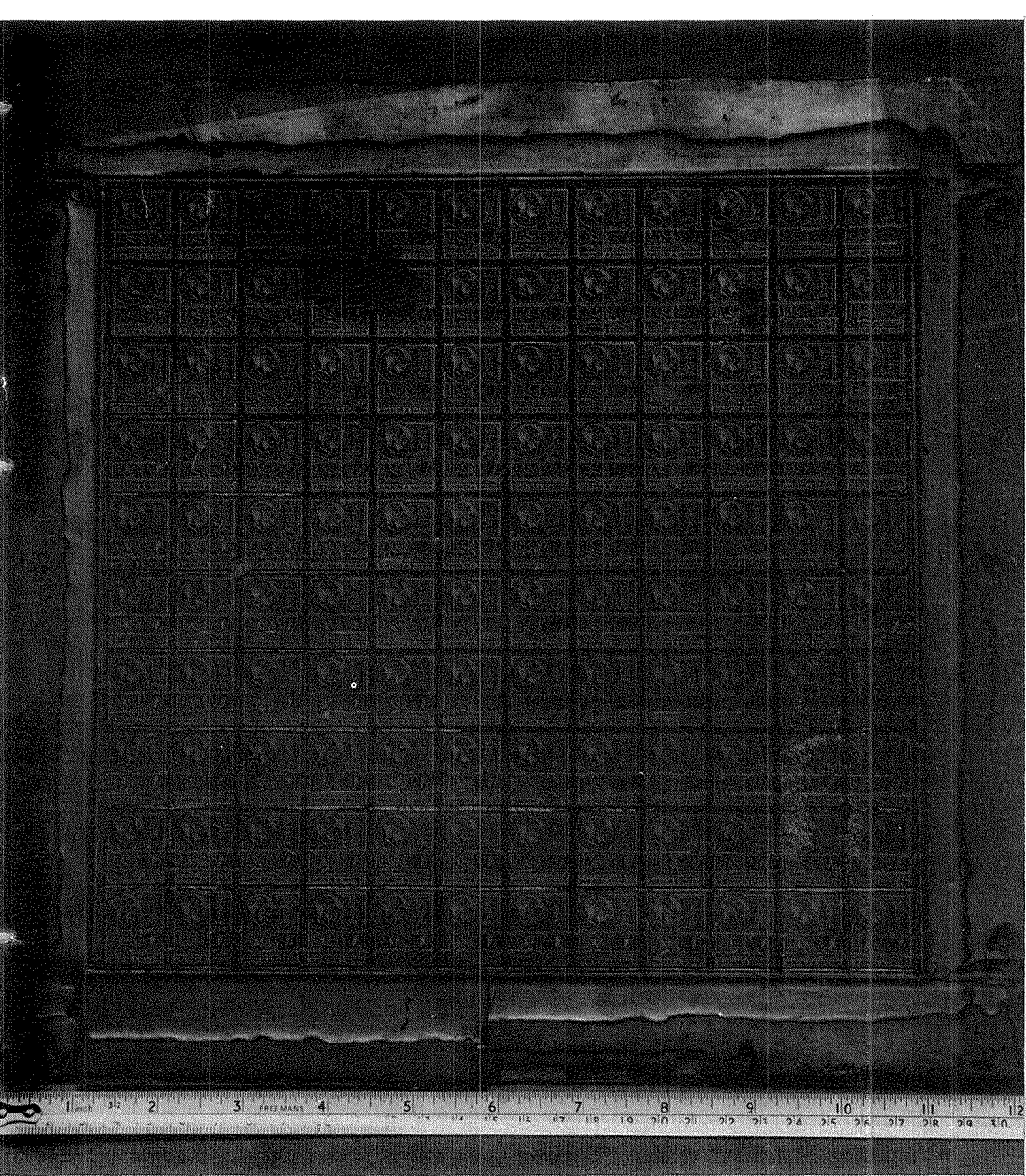
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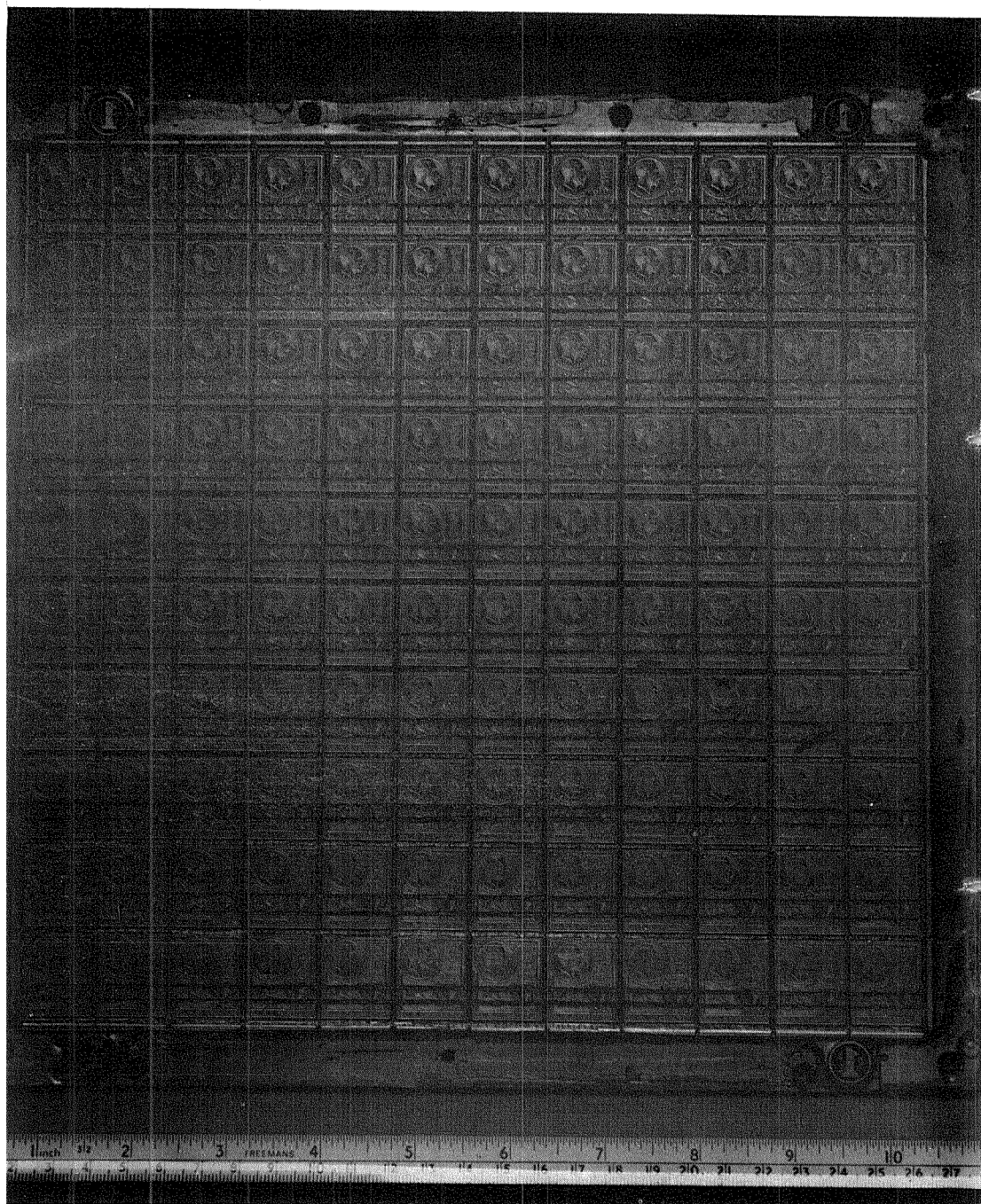
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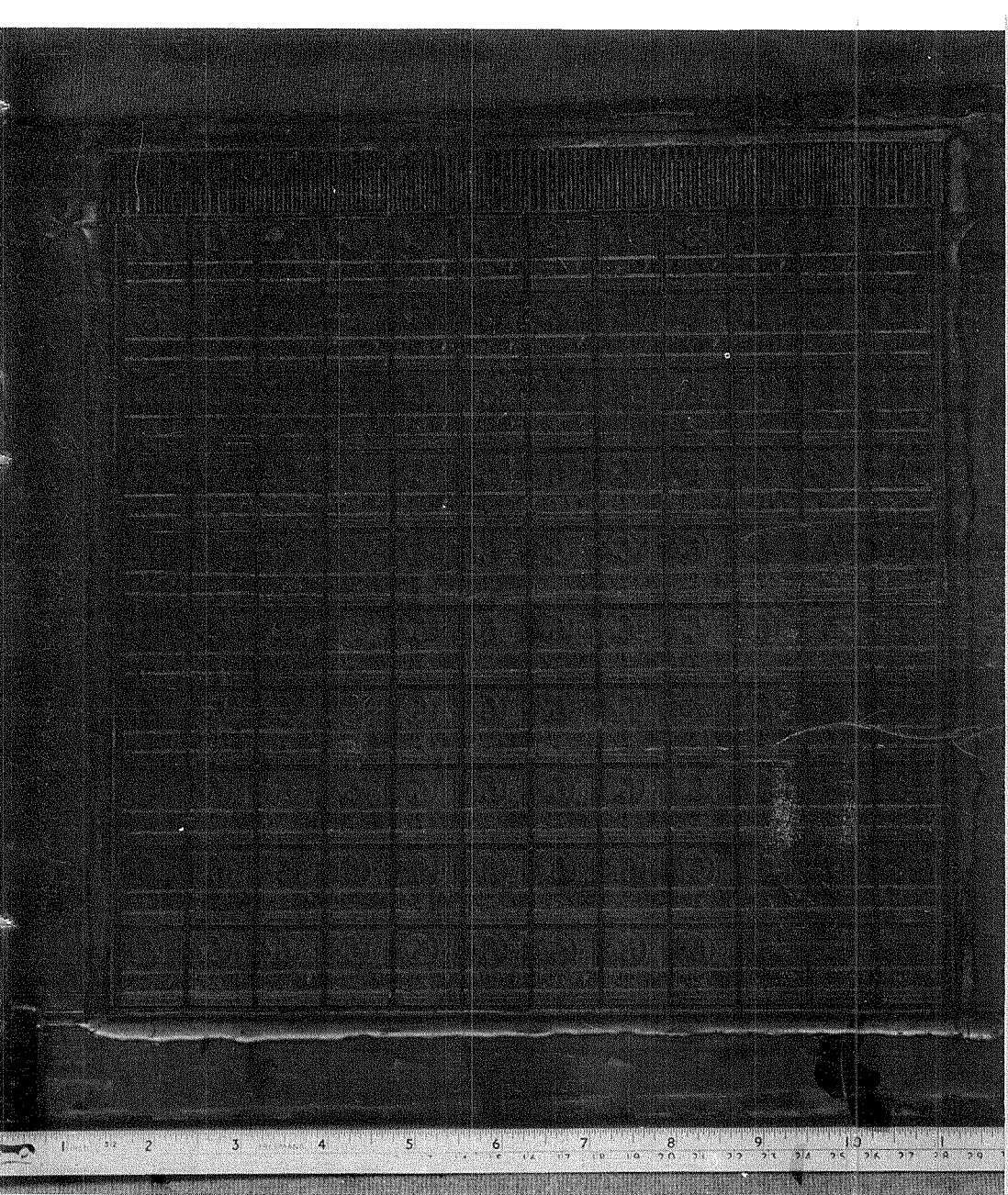
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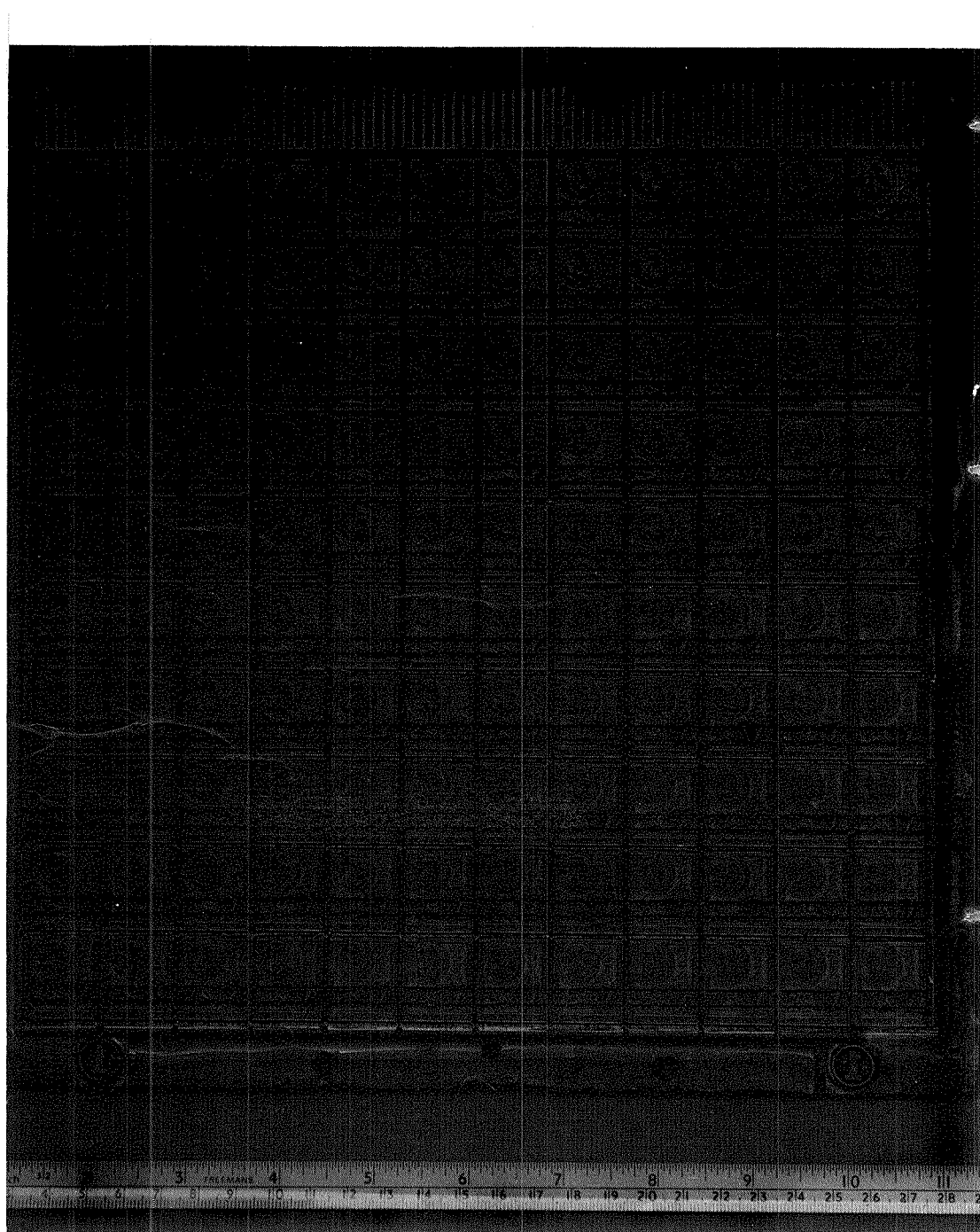
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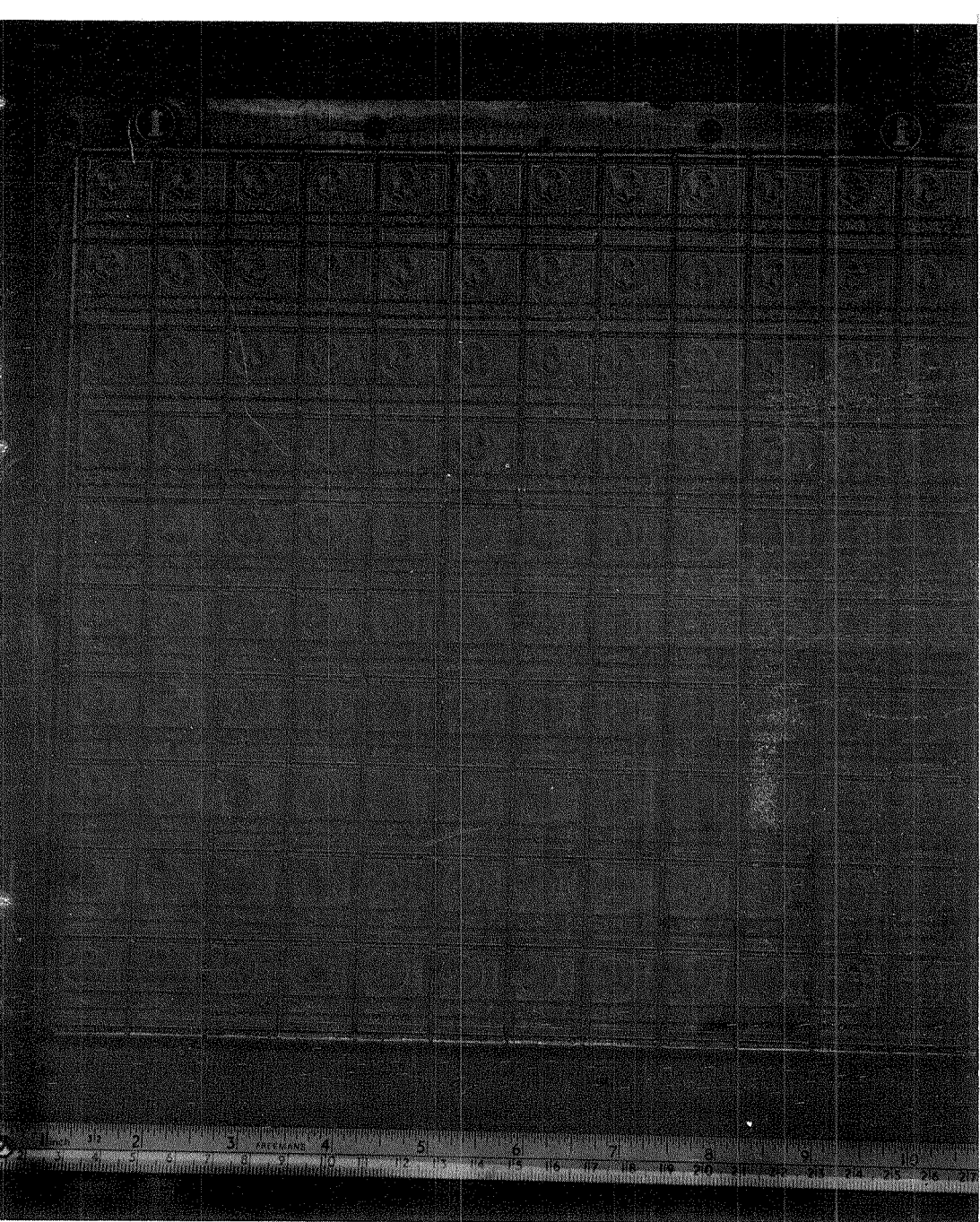
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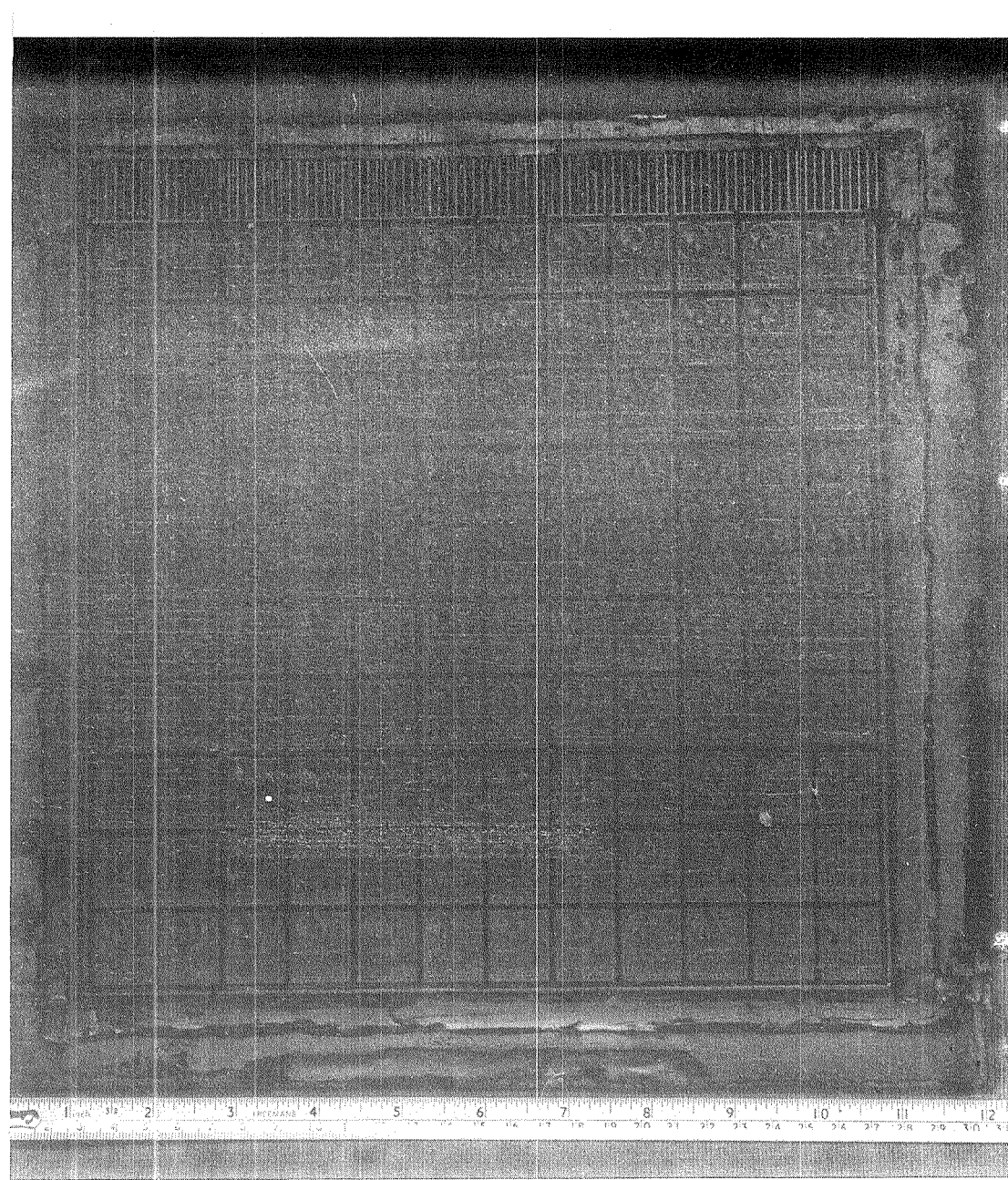
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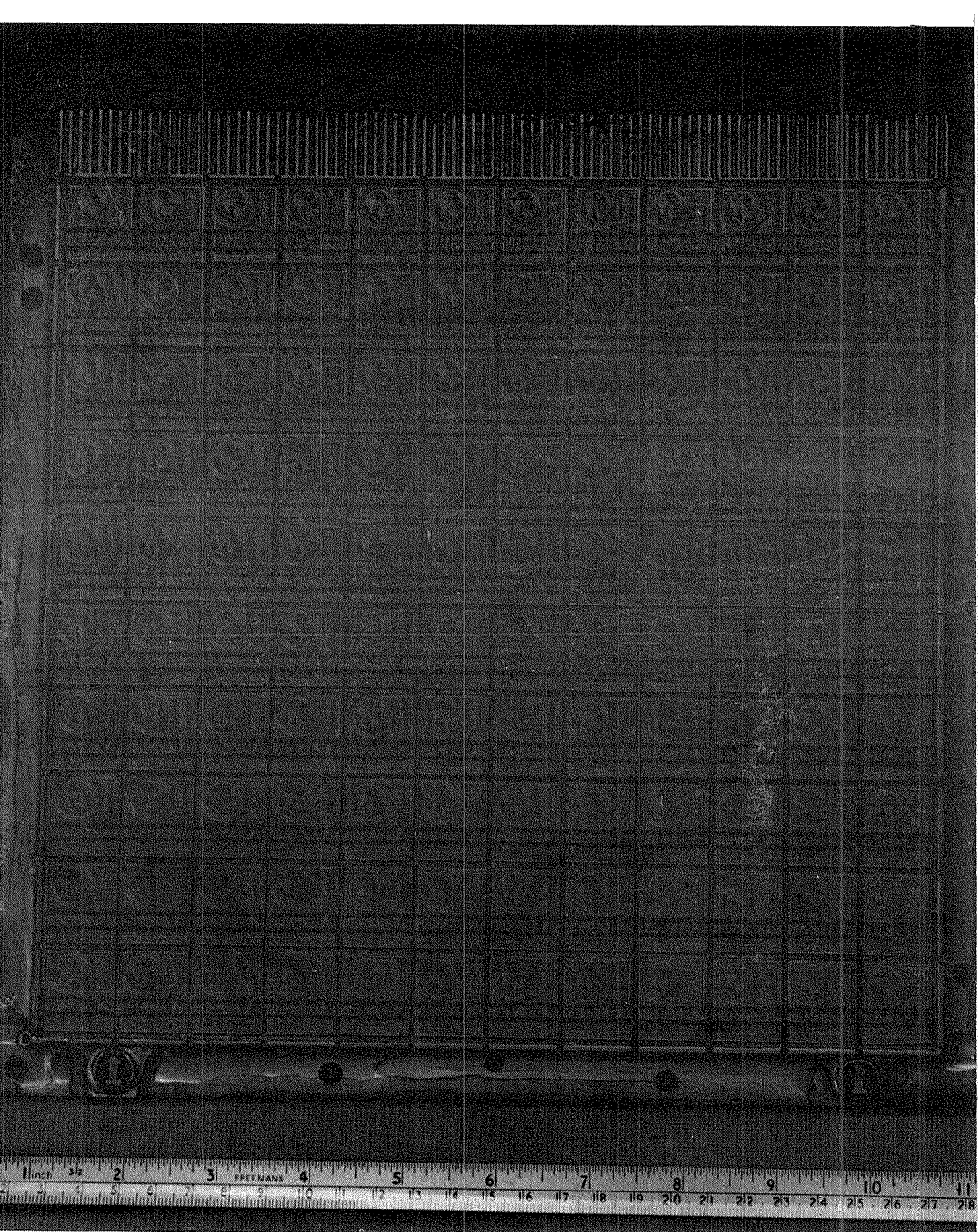
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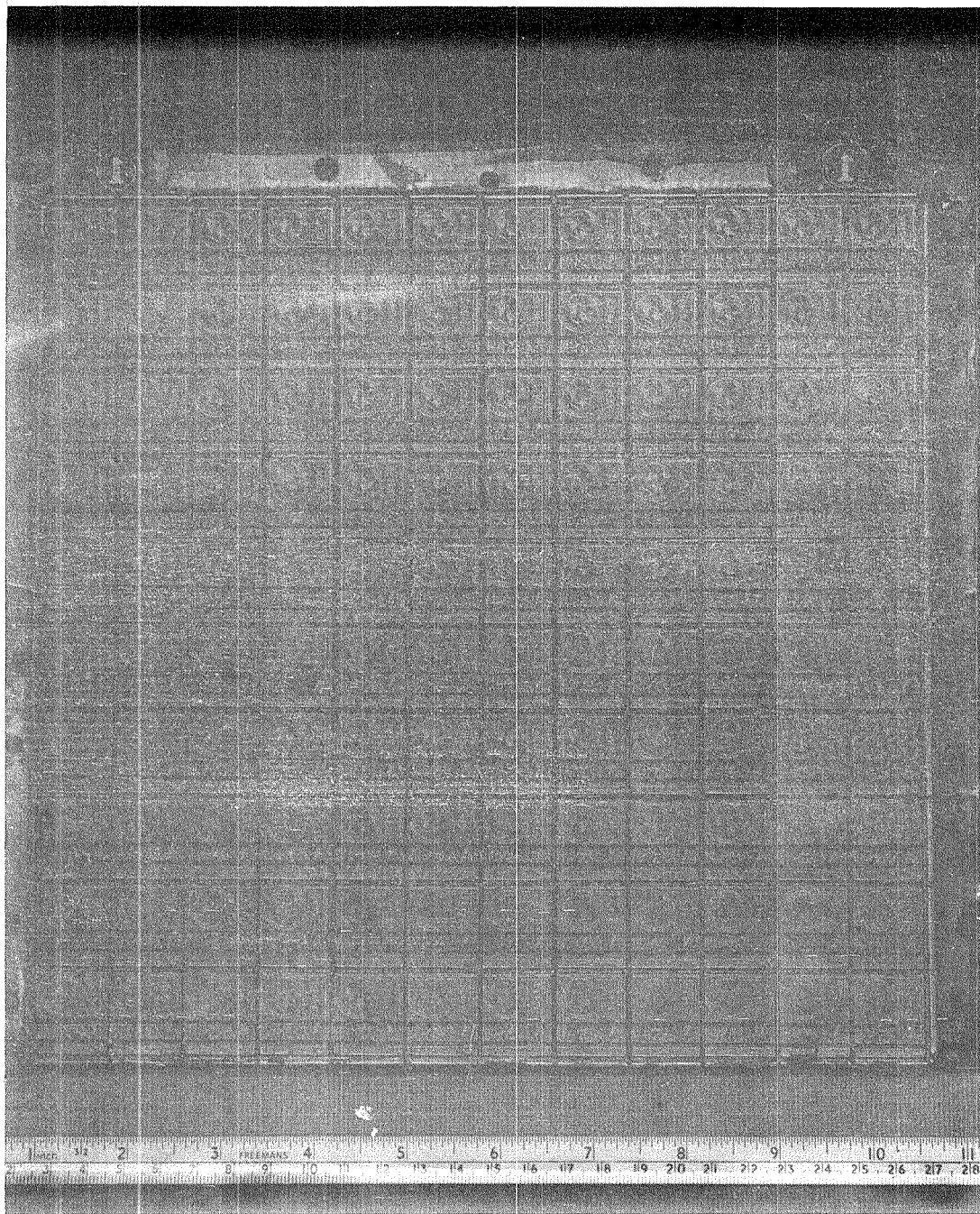
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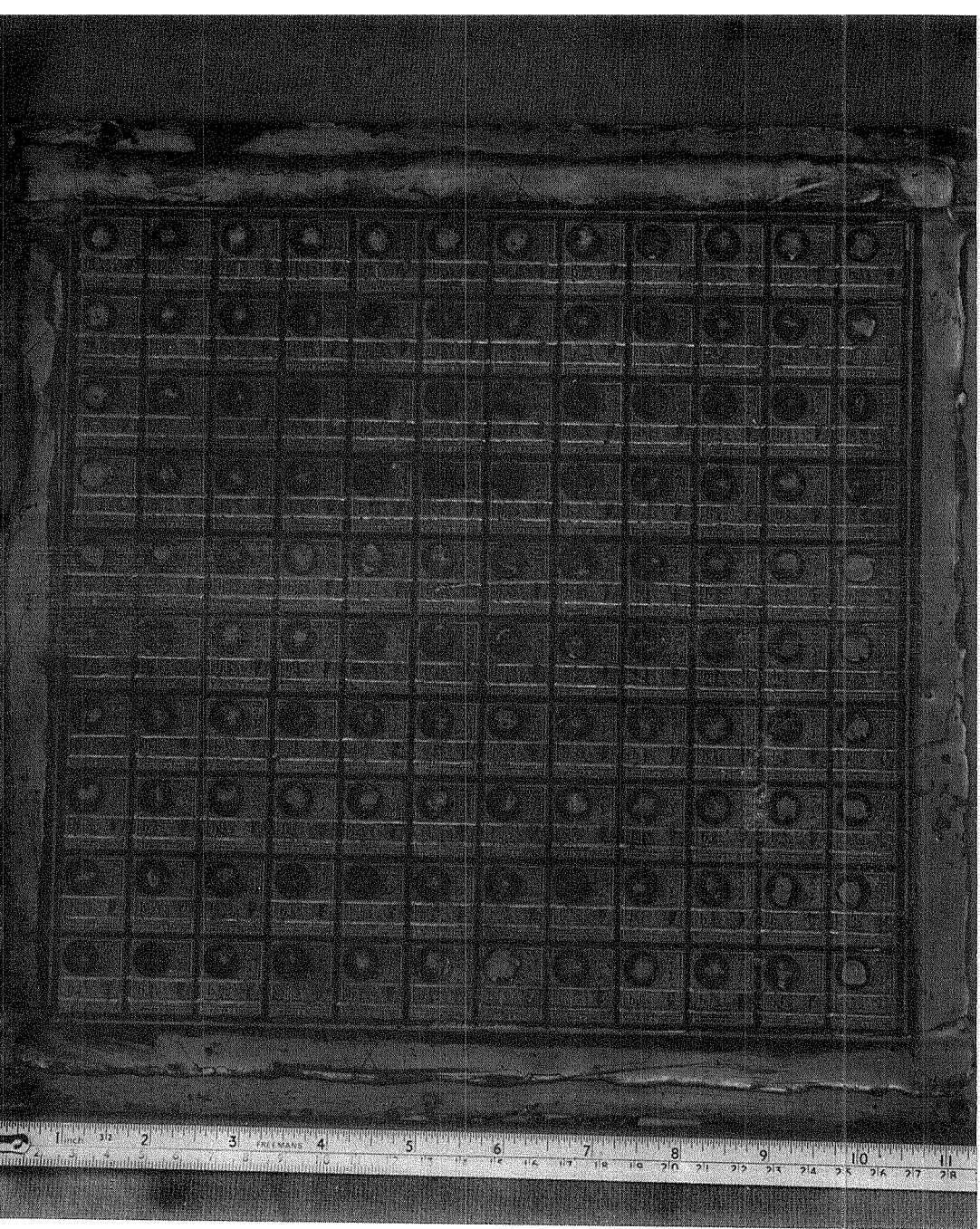
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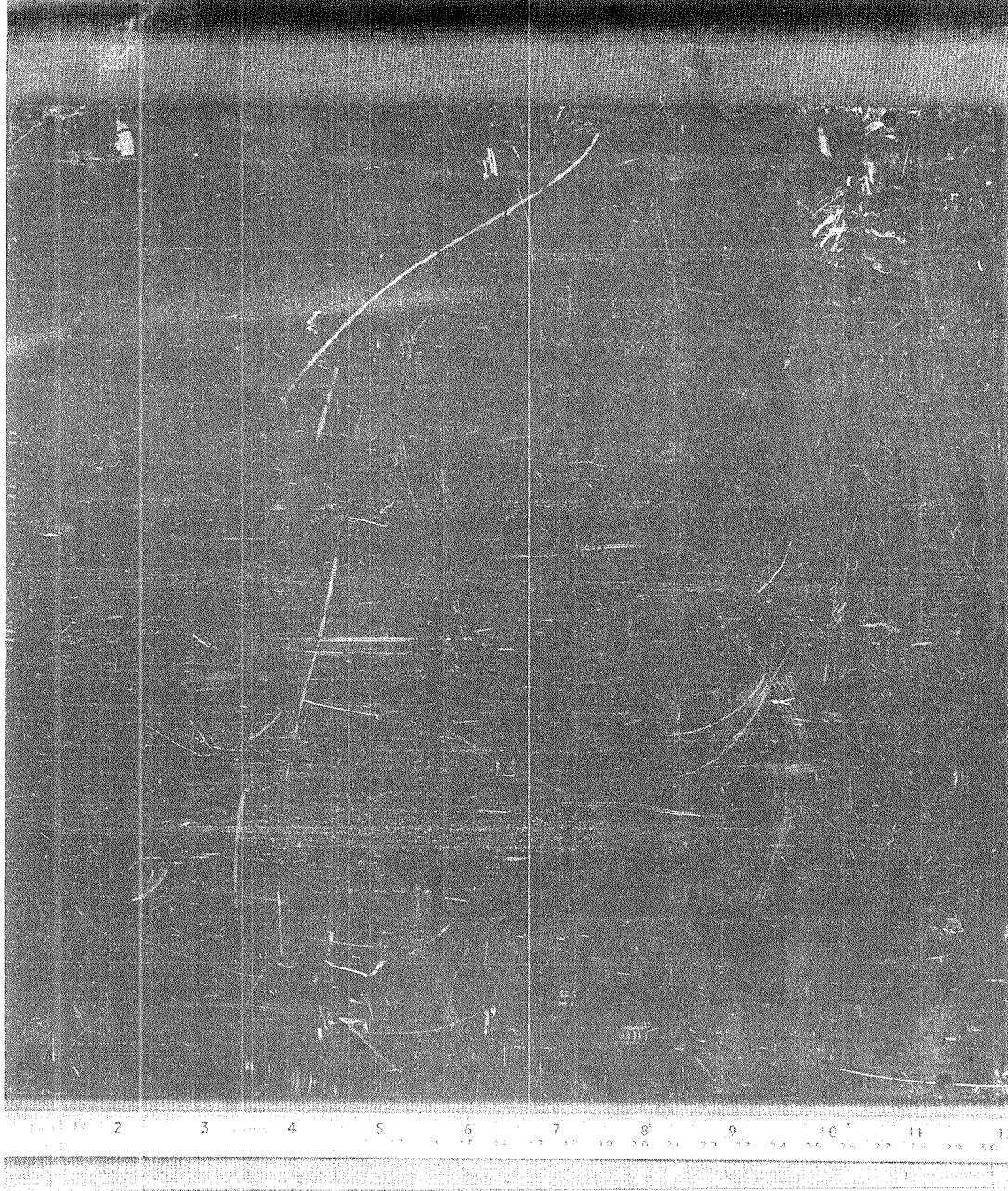
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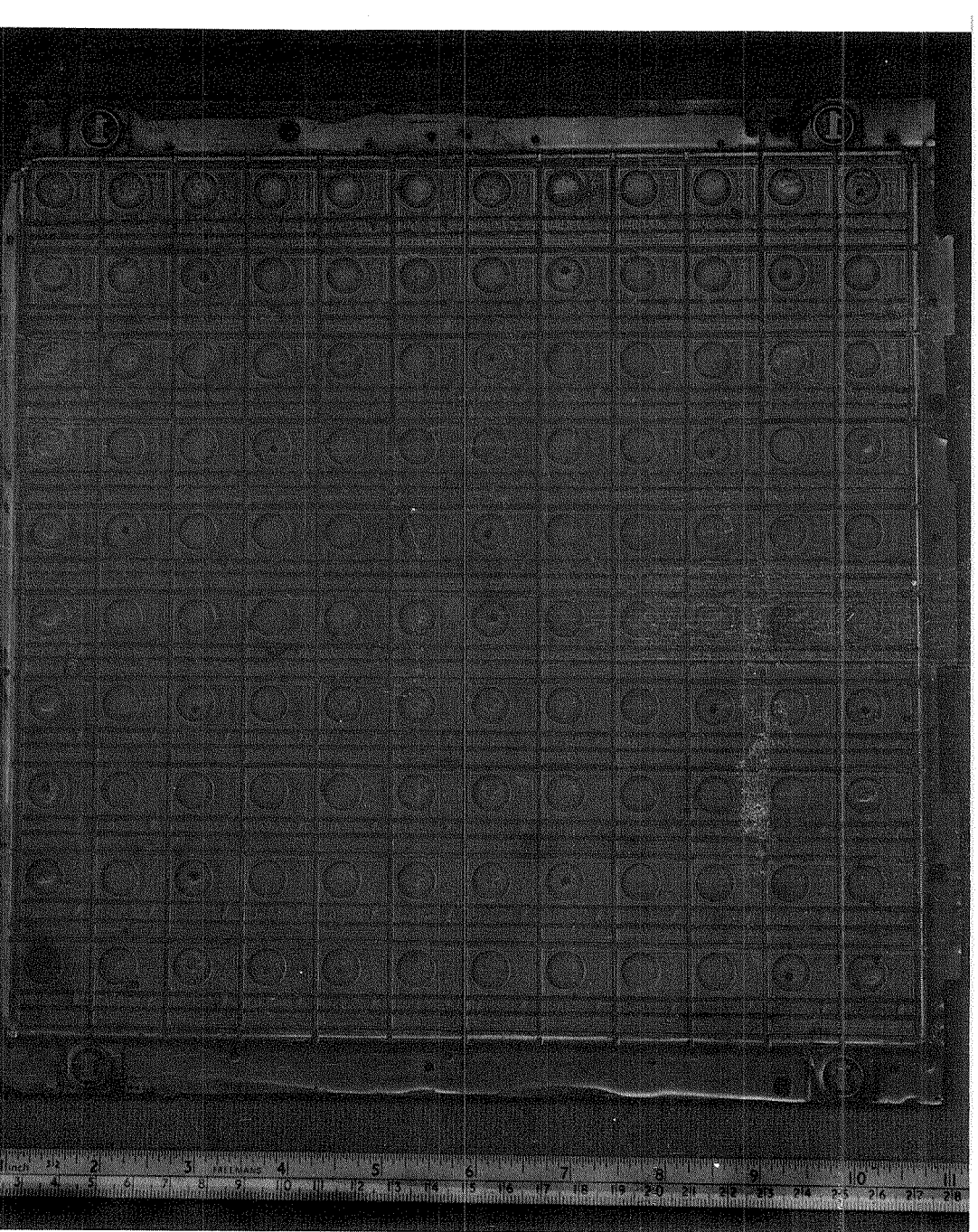
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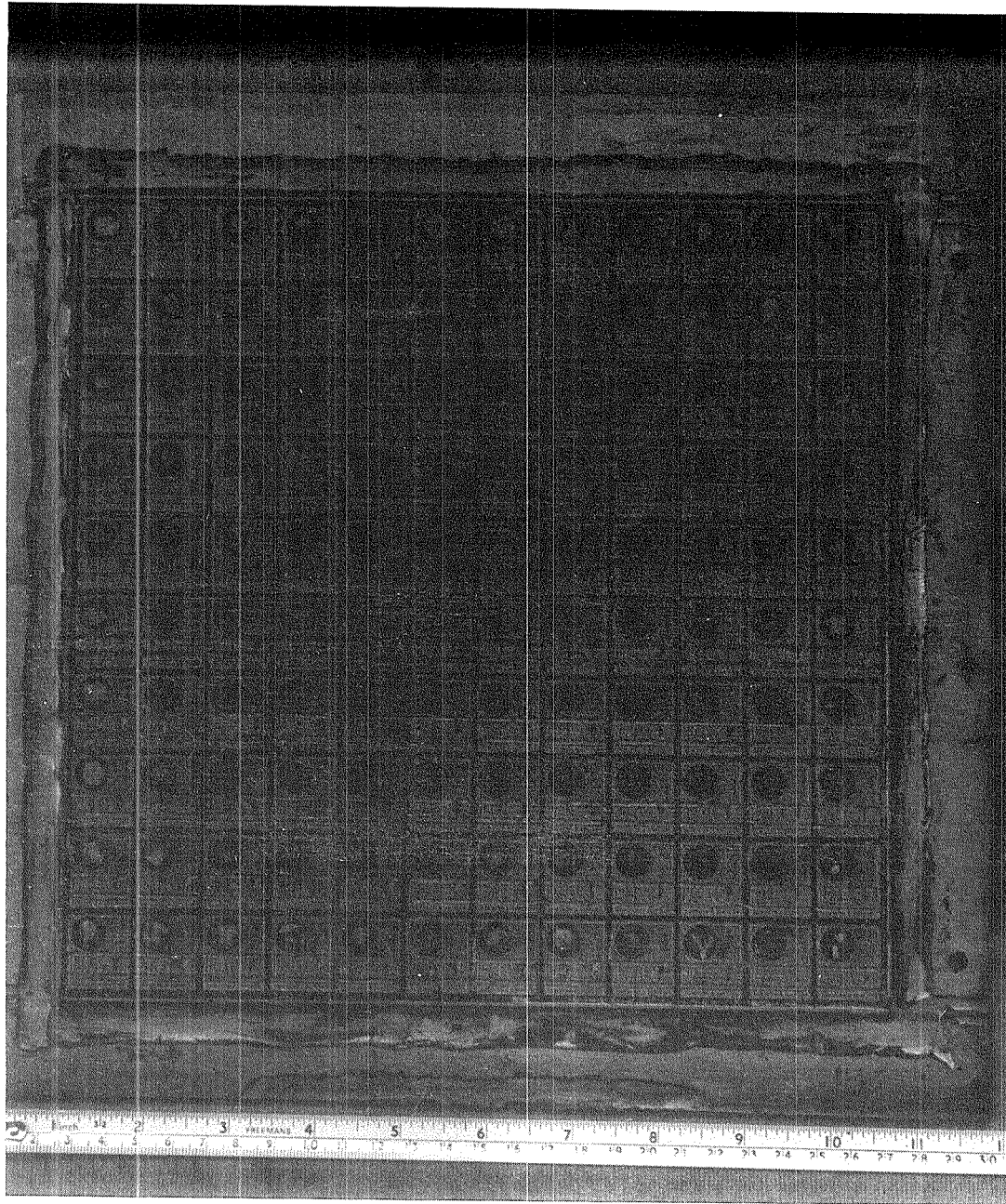
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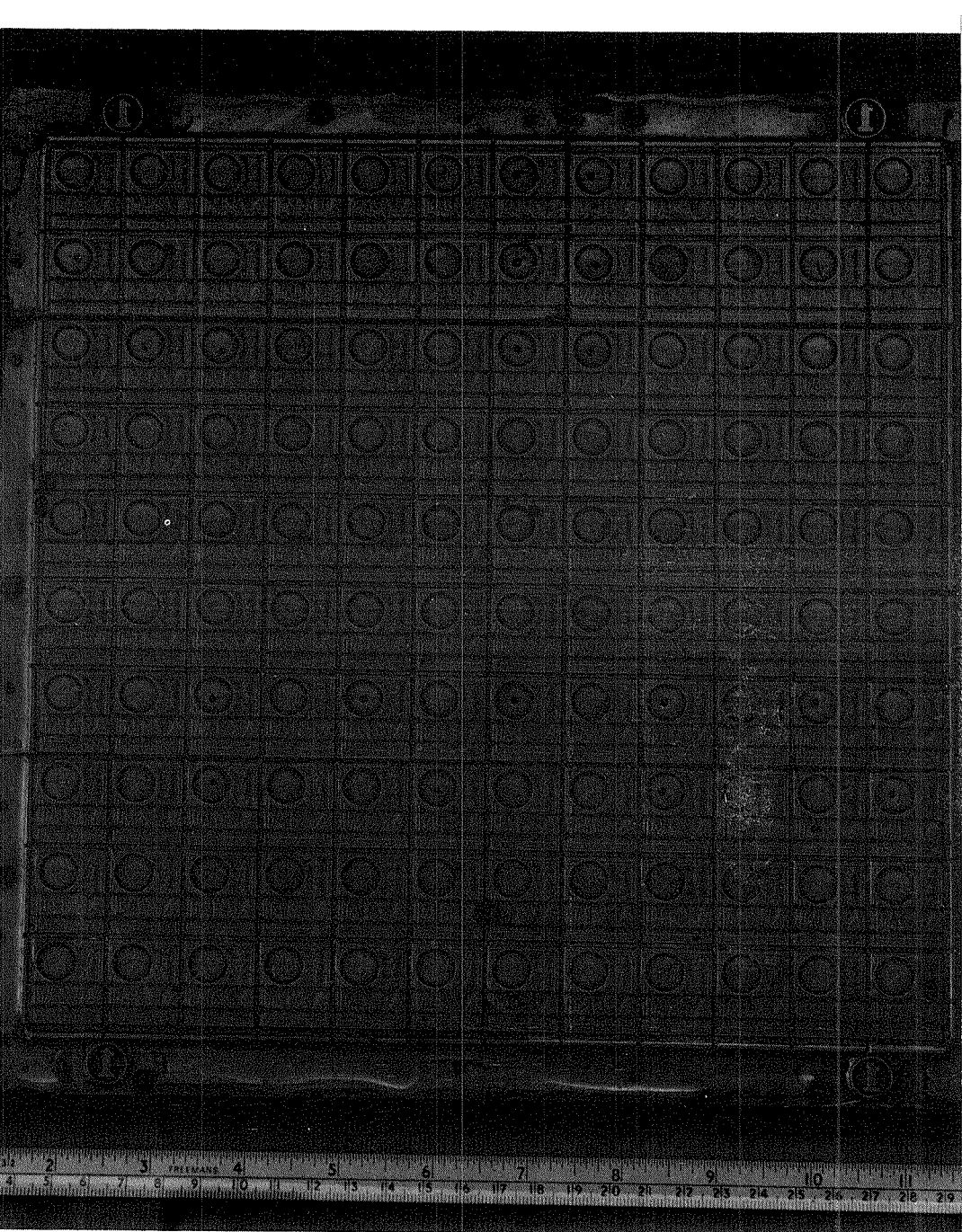
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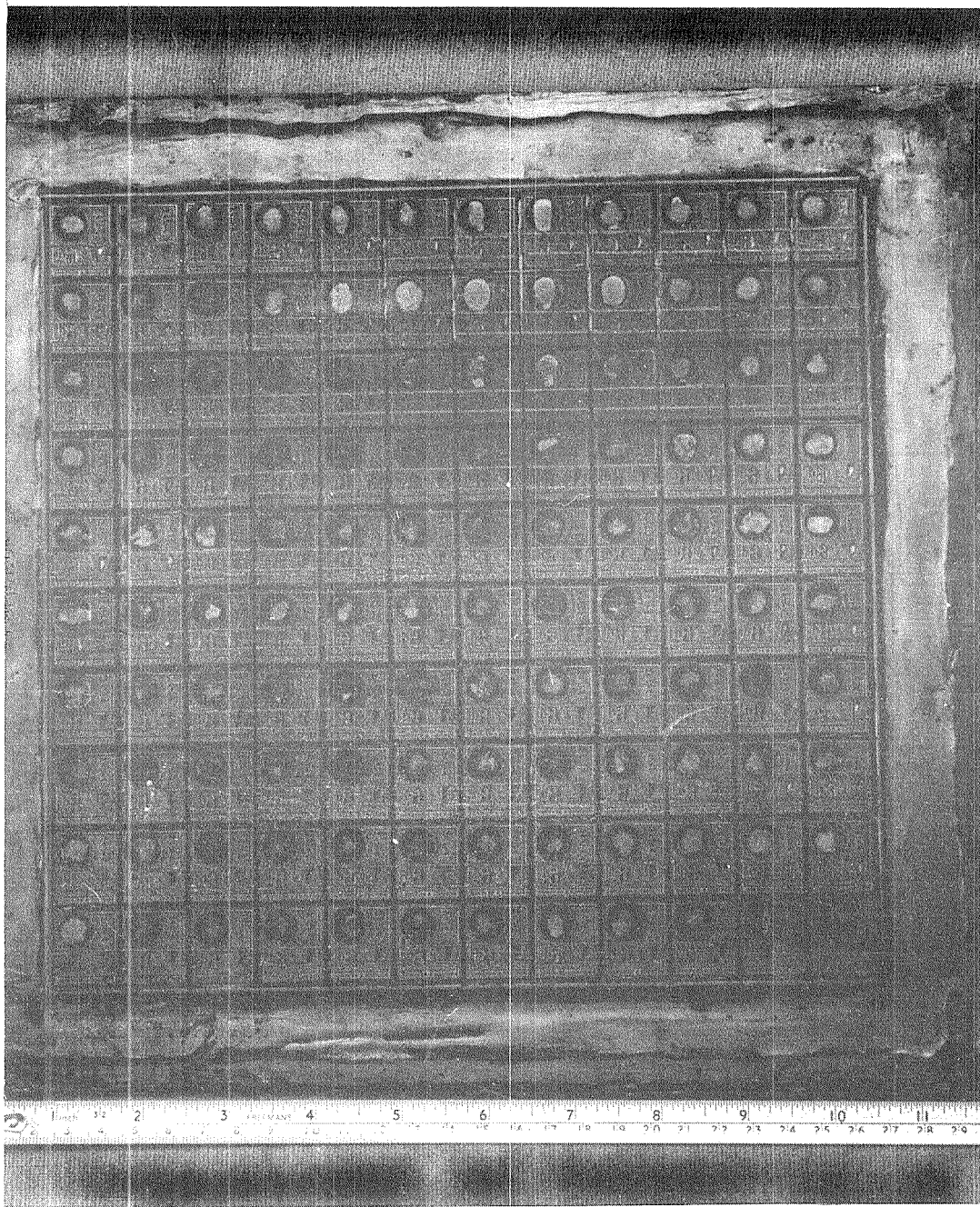
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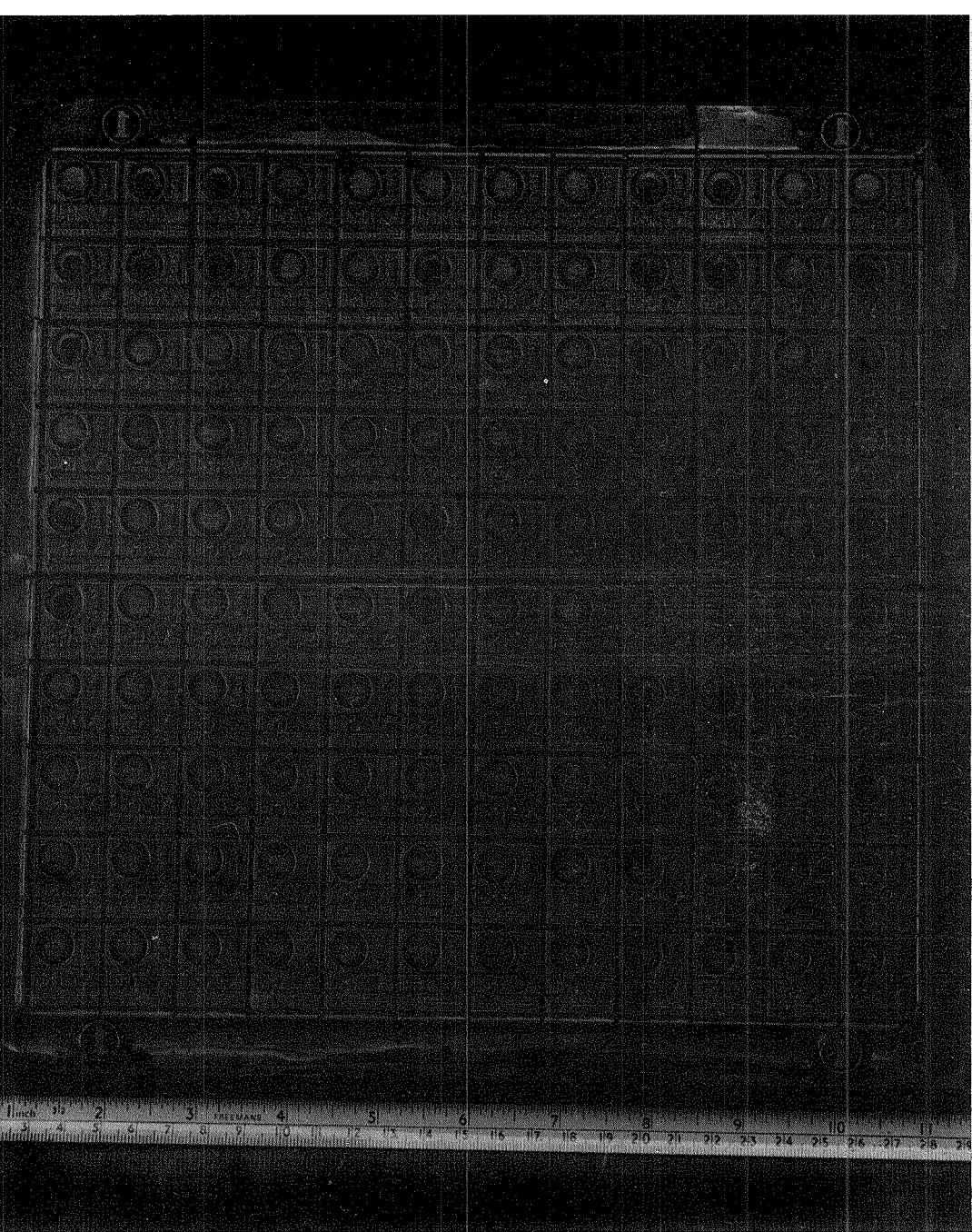
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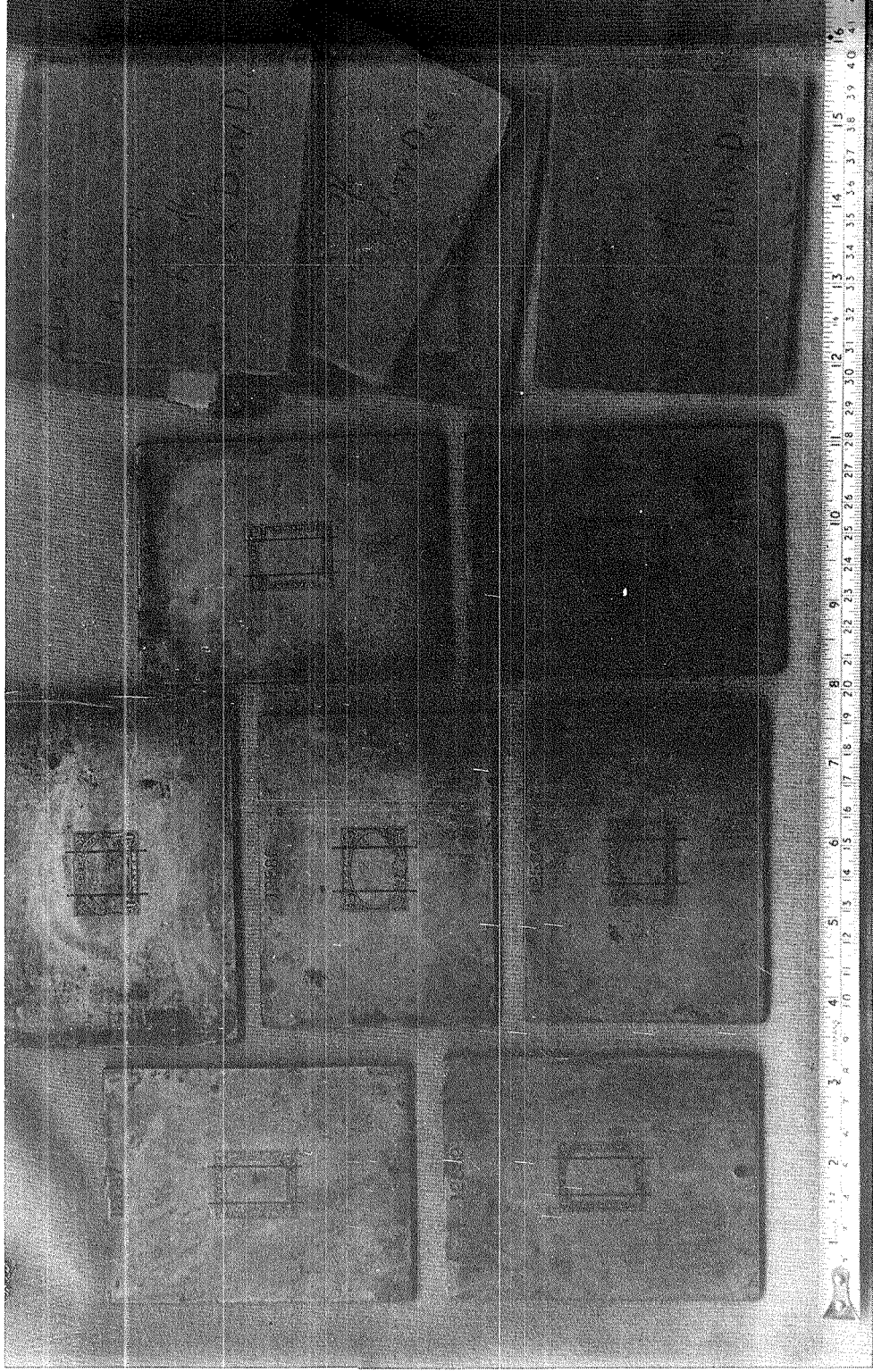
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(Photo No 77)



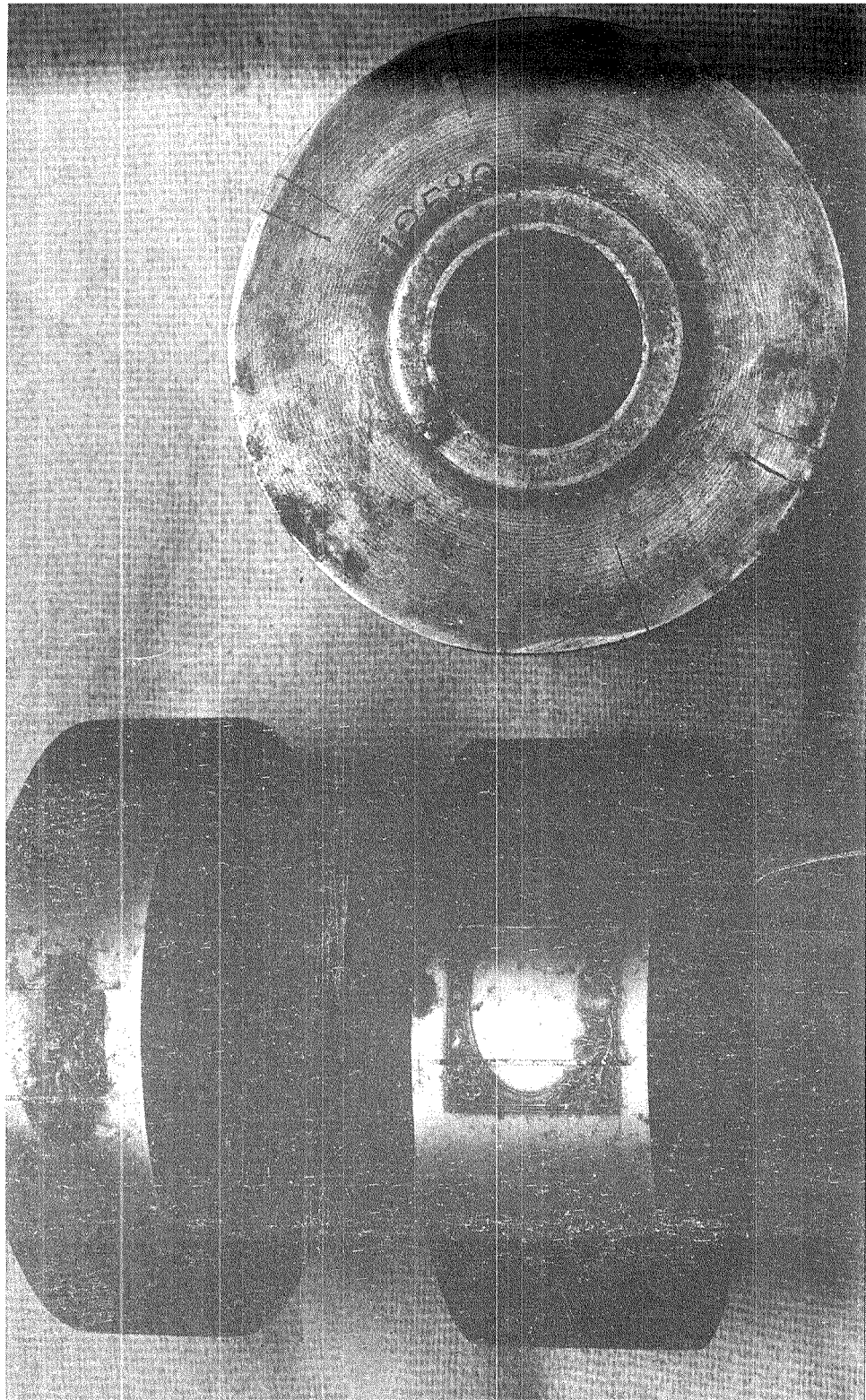
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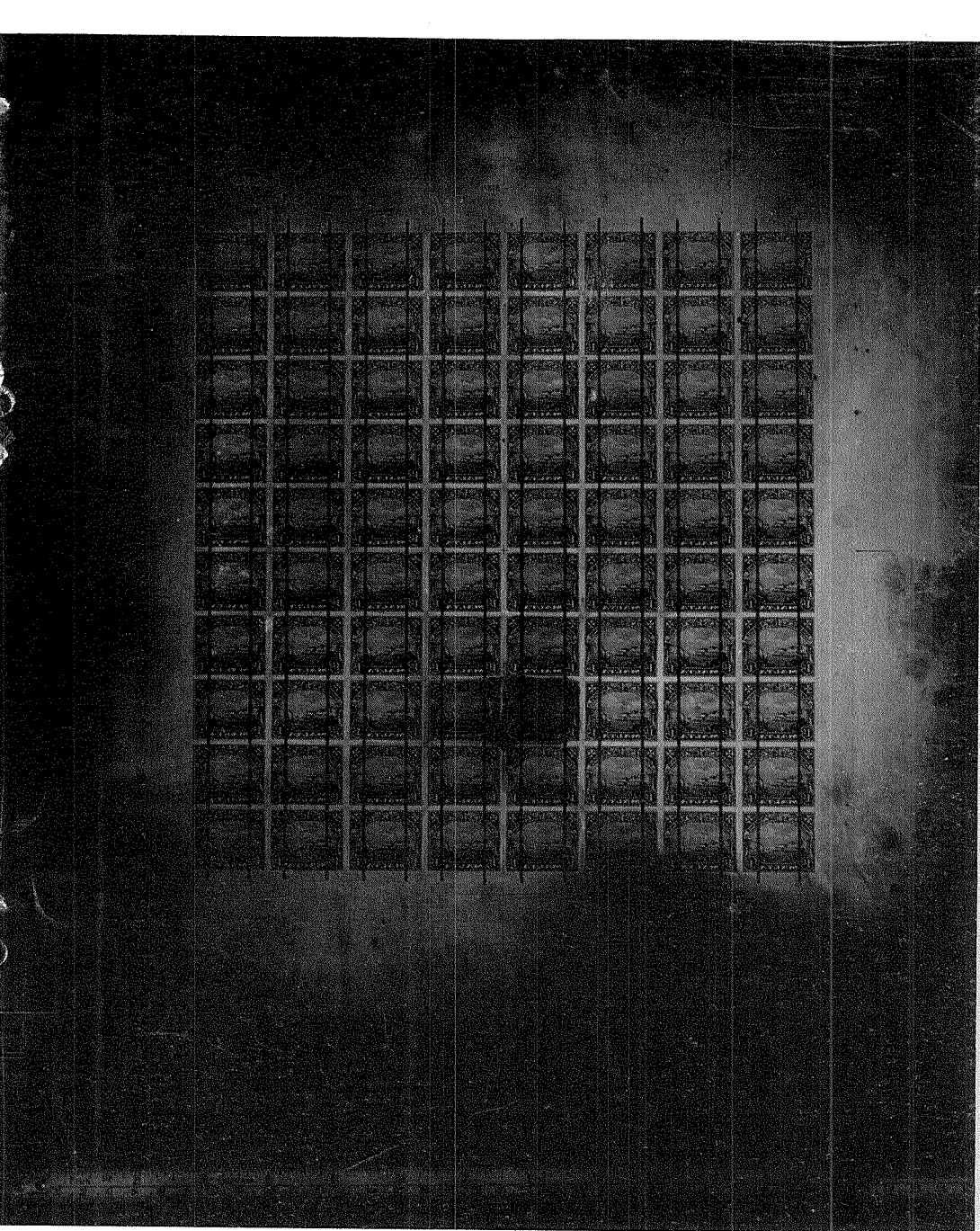
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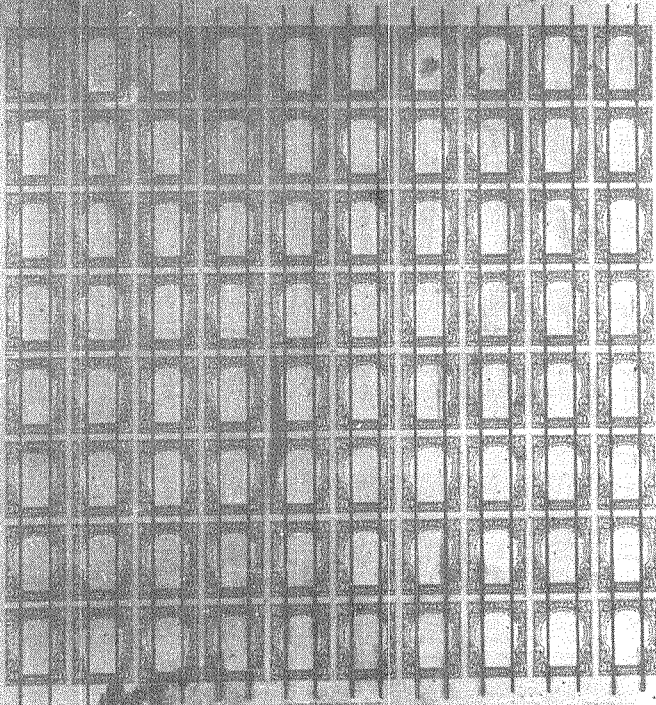
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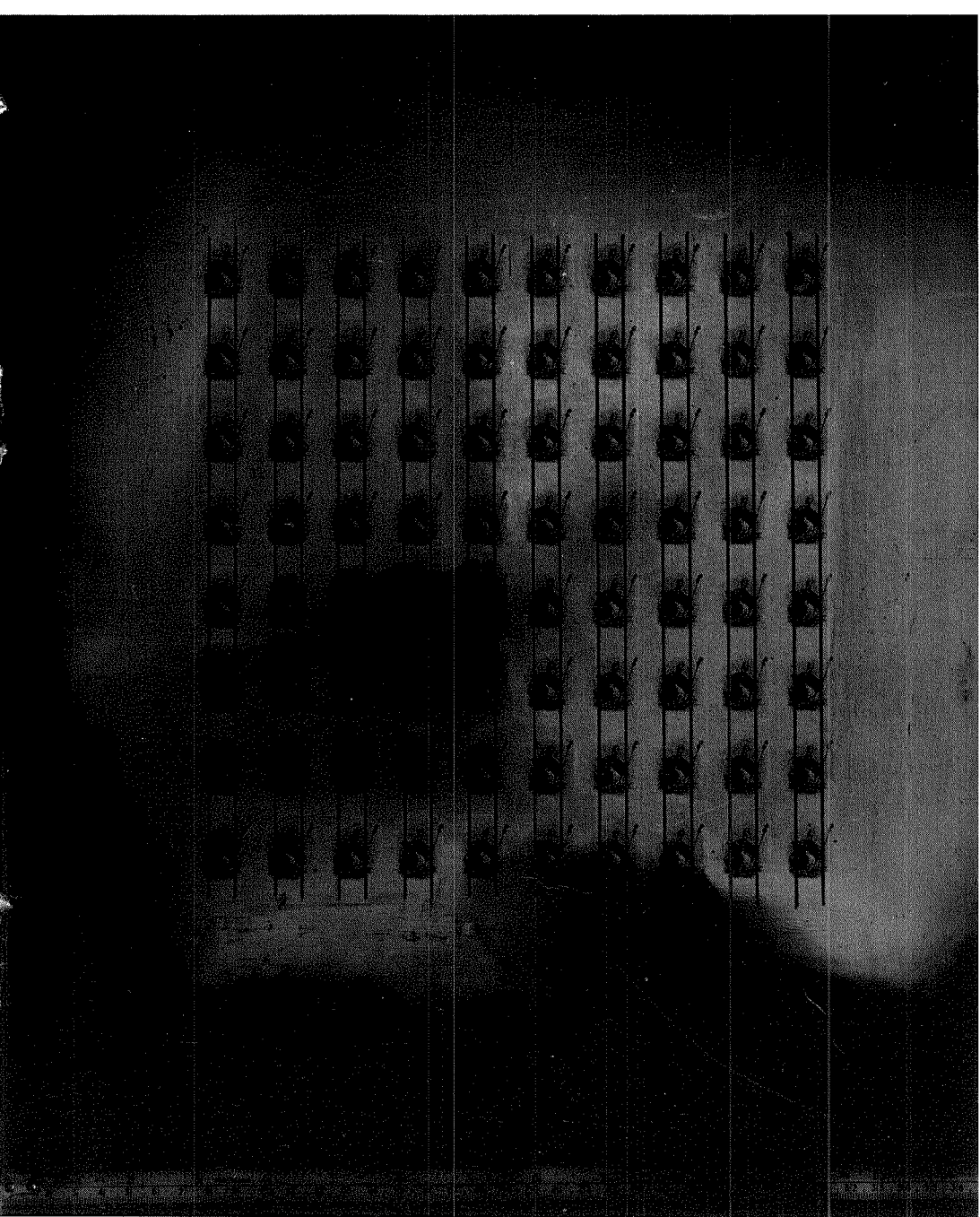
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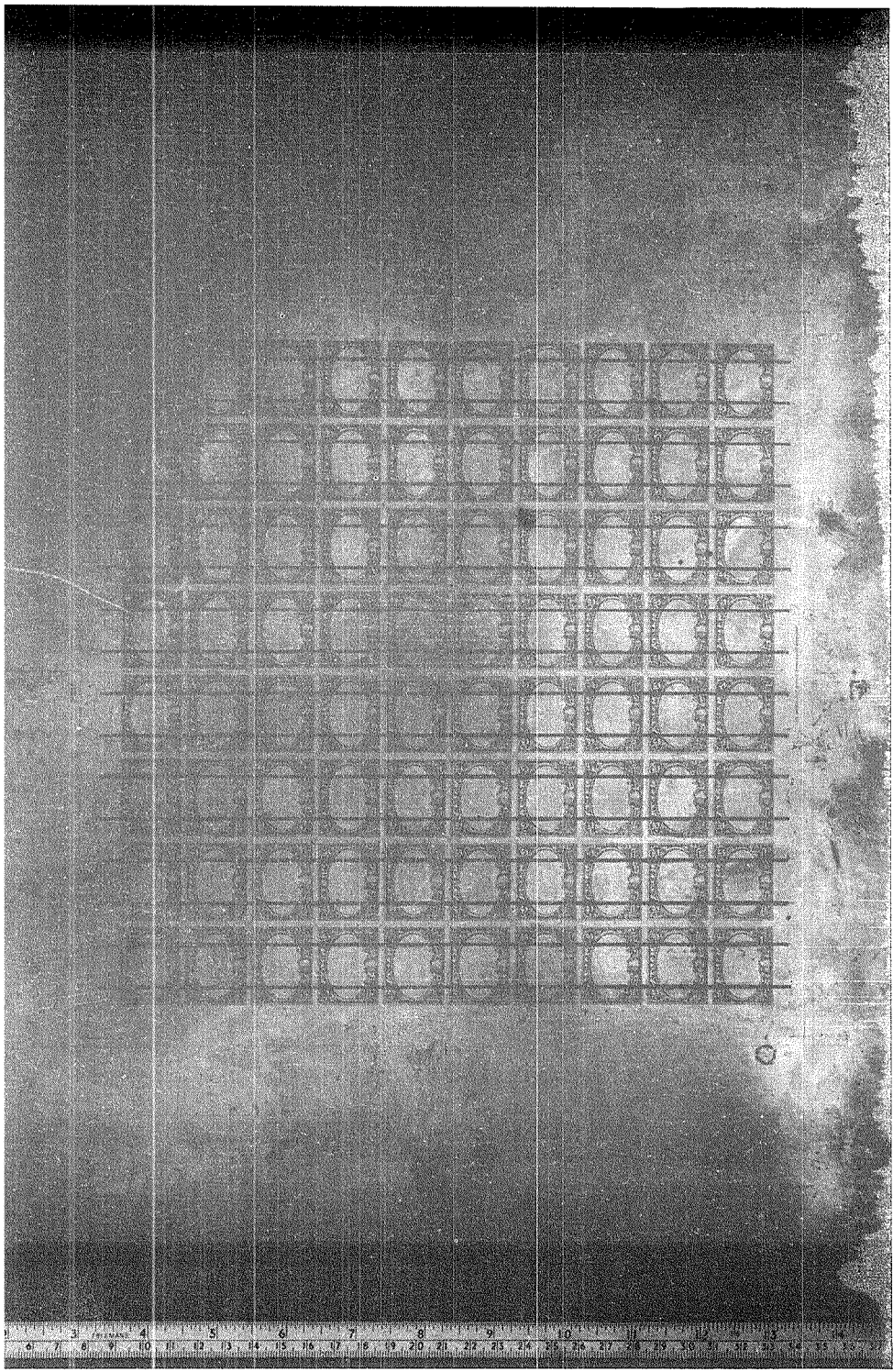
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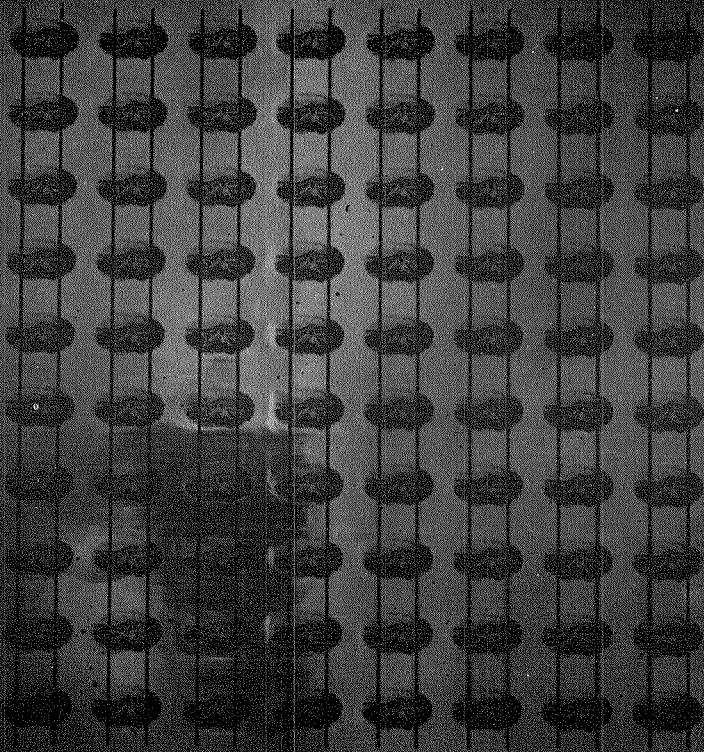
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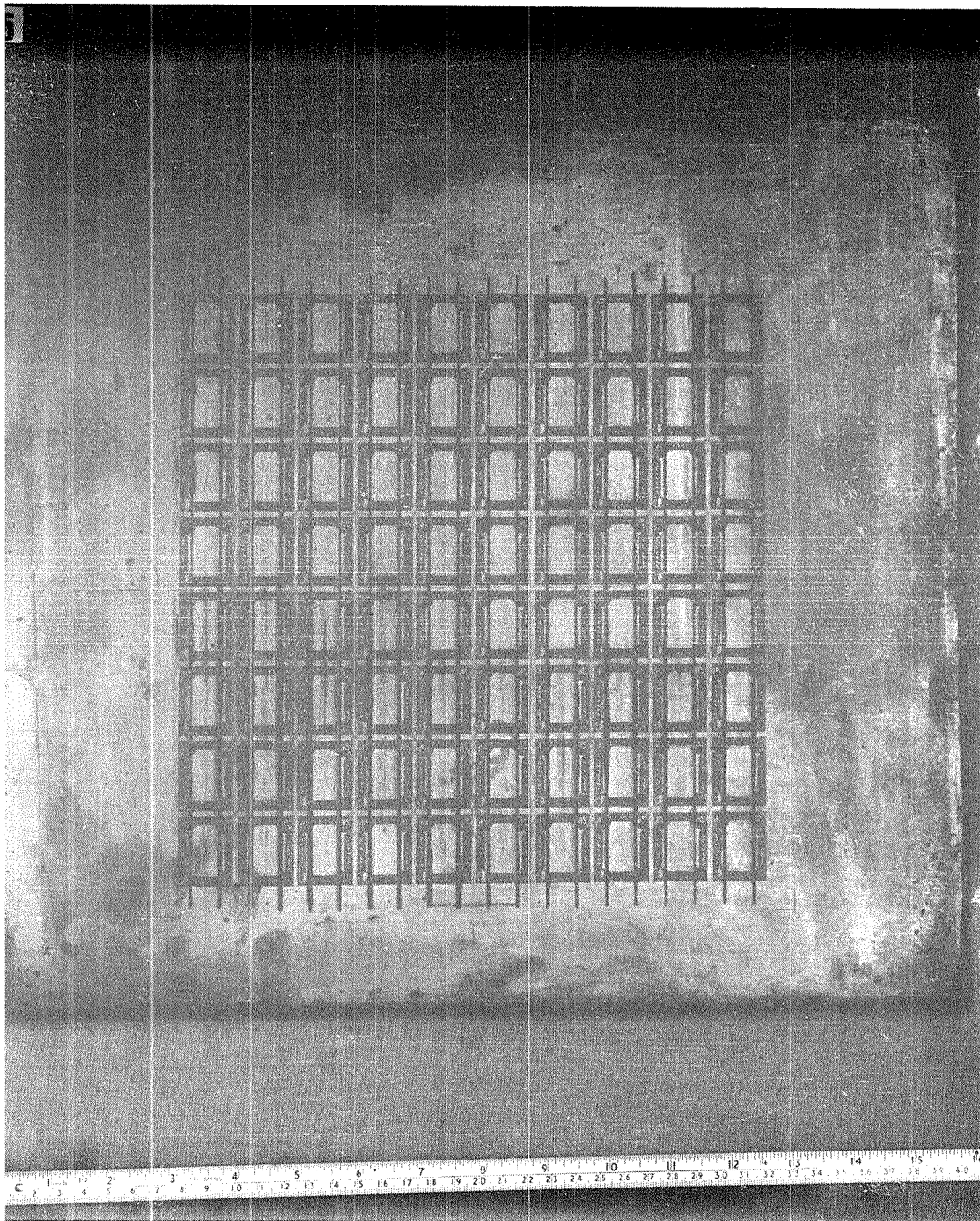
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(Photo No 85)



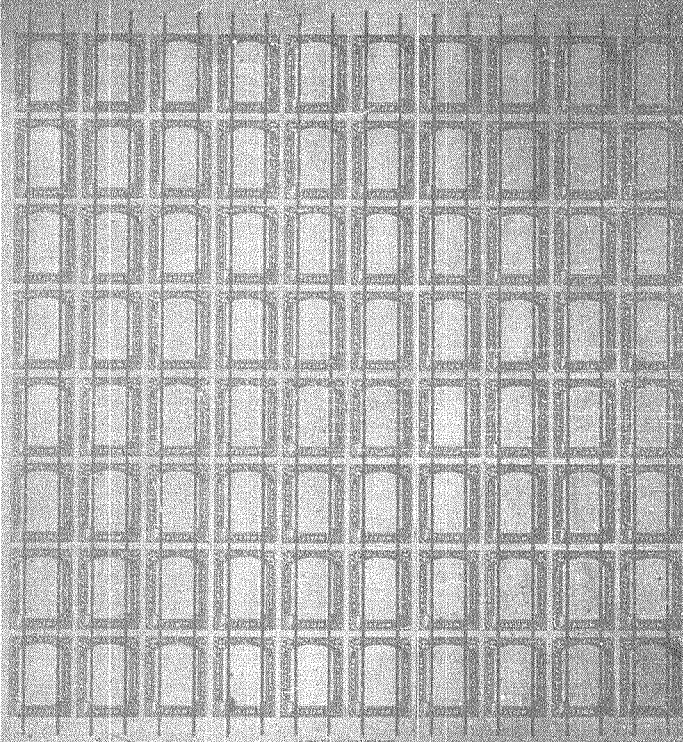
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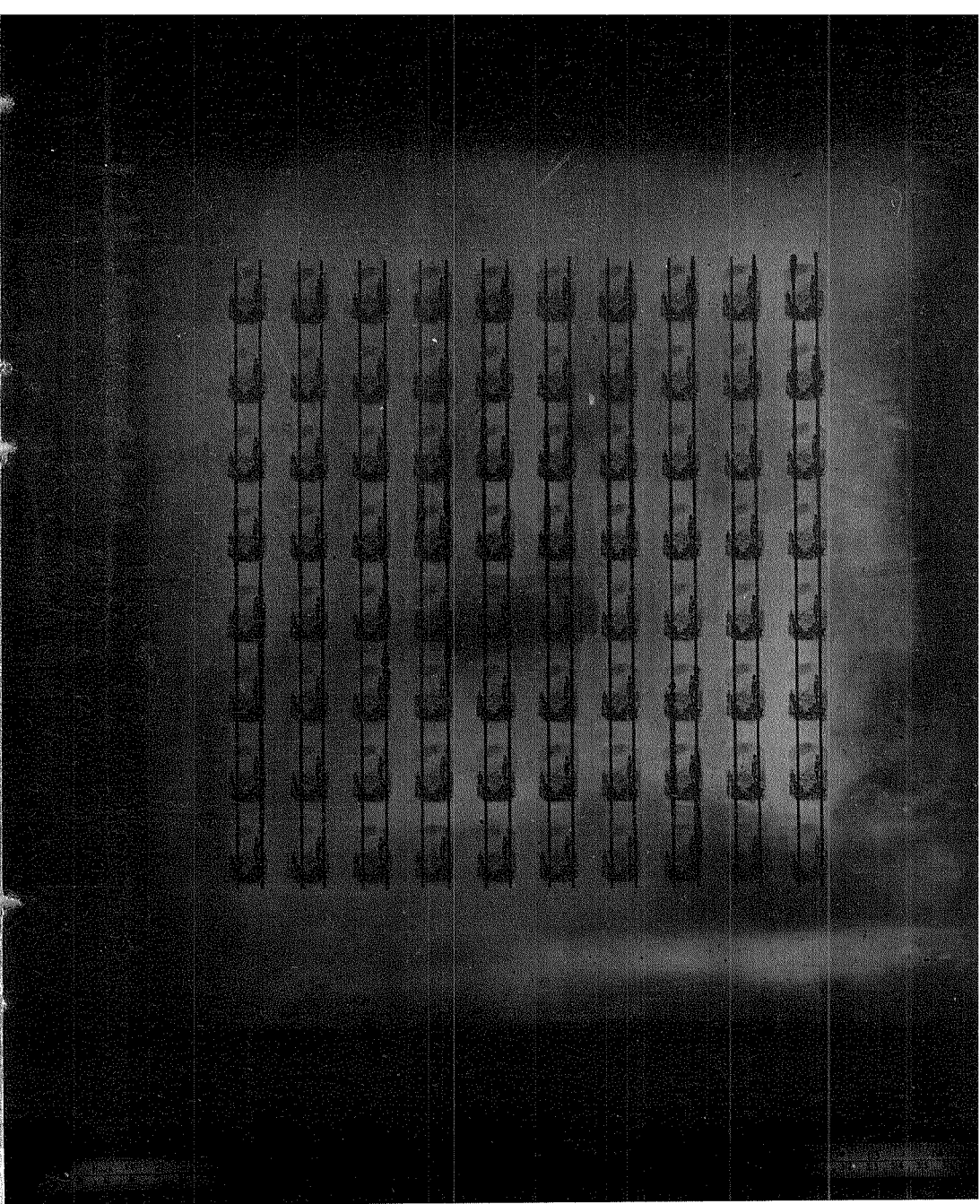
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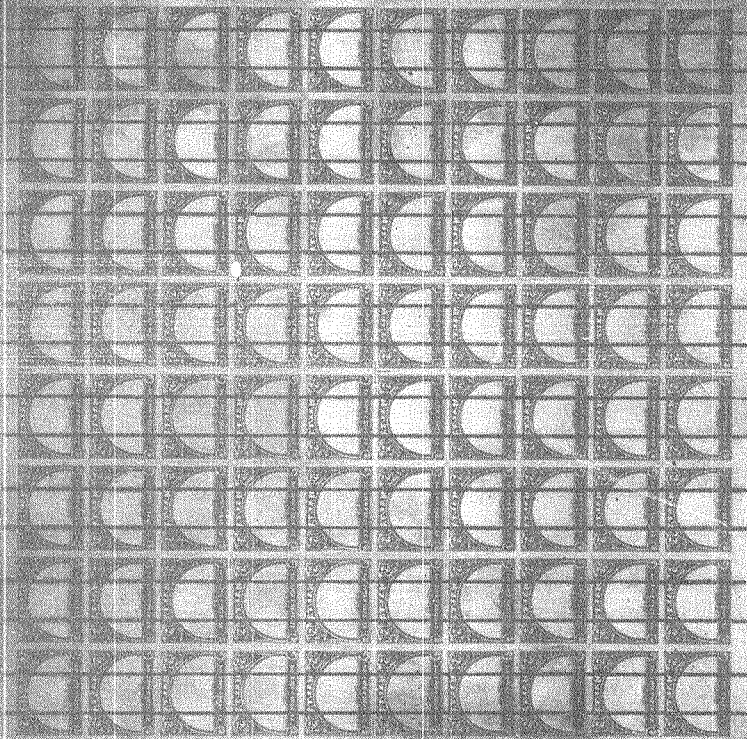
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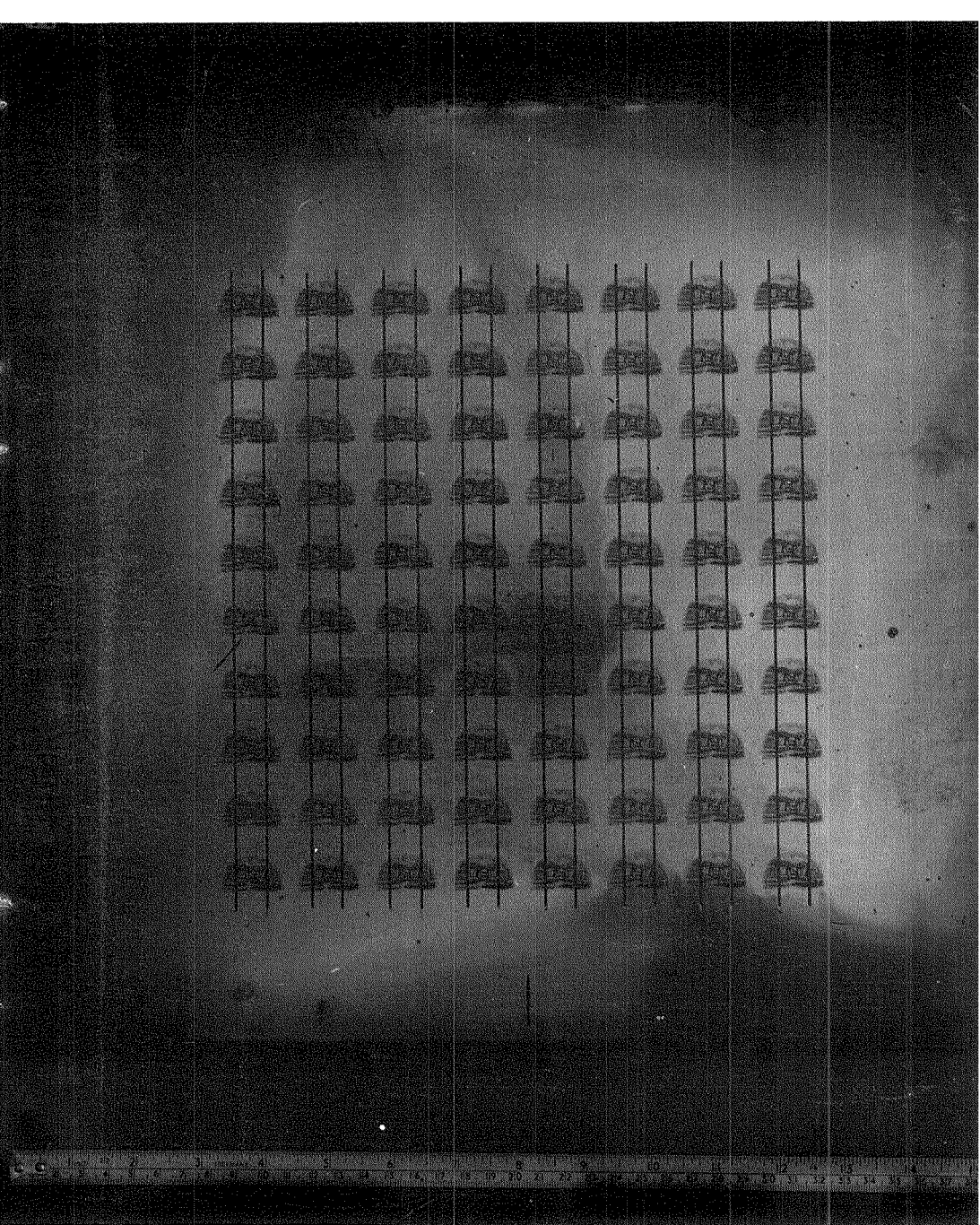


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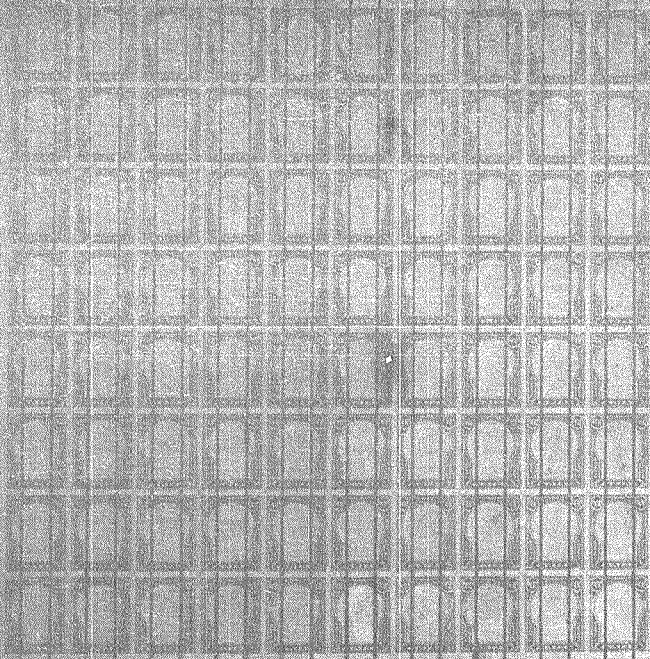


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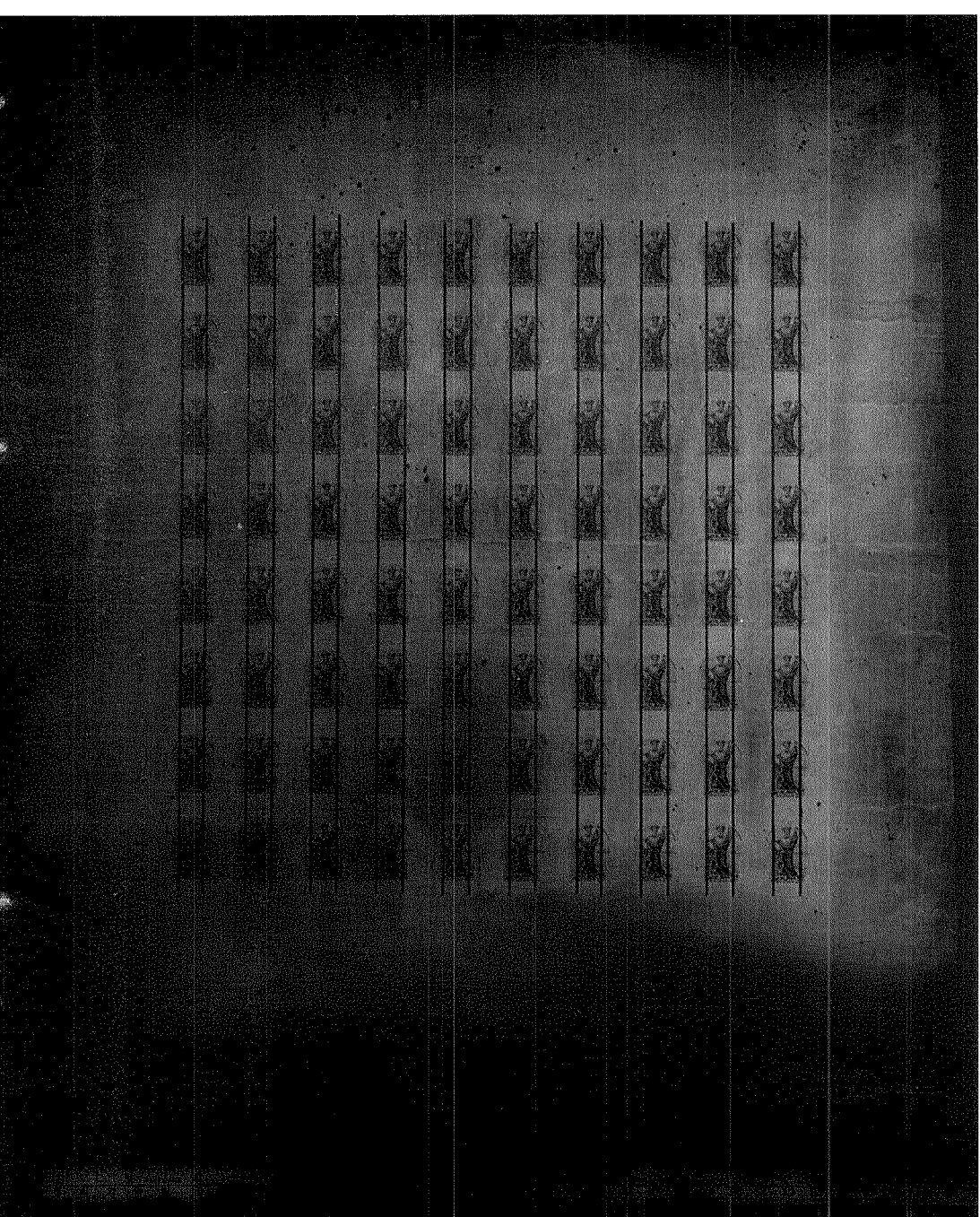




(Photo No 92)



(Photo No 93)



(Photo No 94)