

## RANGER 9 HITS MOON 4 MILES OFF TARGET; TAKES PHOTOS SEEN LIVE ON TV

The Ranger 9 crashed in the Alphonsus crater near the center of the moon early in the morning of March 24, only 4 miles off its original target point. Launched from Cape Kennedy, Florida, on March 21, the spacecraft took 64 hours and 31 minutes to complete the journey. During its last 18 minutes of flight its six television cameras took 6,000 pictures. Millions of Americans were able to follow the final minutes of flight through live television pictures transmitted from Ranger 9 to commercial television networks.

Ranger 9 was 1,300 miles (2,080 kilometers) out from the moon when the first pictures were taken. The final ones, a few seconds before impact, defined objects as small as 10 feet (3 meters) across.

These photos were taken during the last 10 minutes of flight. On all, view with shadows to left. North is at the top.

1. Picture taken by Camera B at 9 minutes 18 seconds before impact. Altitude above moon 775 miles (1,240 kilometers).

Photo shows slightly more than half of three major craters: Ptolemasus at the top without central peak, Alphonsus on the left with rille system and a central peak which rises 3,300 feet (1,100 meters) above floor and Albategnius with 4,500 feet (1,500 meters) central peak. (65-1341)



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