UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #215

3 Dec 1948

Fairfield-Suisun AFB, Calif.

Tower Operator

Type to go Apld

2015 PST

White Light

400 mph to 200 mph

Circular

400 mph to 400 mph

Tubular

30' Diameter

500' to 20,000'

25 Sec.

Ground

Rapid but erratic climb - like change of prop.

UNCLASSIFIED

U/I

UNIDENTIFIED

Incident No. 215 -- 3 Dec. 1948, 2015 Hours, Fairfield-Luisan Air Force Base, California.
The base control tower operator saw for 25 seconds a bright white light in the air. It came into view two miles away at 500 to 1000 ft, climbing slowly at 400 MPH; at 1500 ft it slowed for a few seconds to 200 MPH; at this time, it undulated or bounced; rose vertically to 3000 ft and immediately afterwards climbed quickly to 20,000 ft and was lost to sight.

AMC Opinion: There is no logical explanation for this incident that fits the available evidence.

Incident #215 -- Fairfield Suisun AFB, California -- 3 December 1948

If the observations were exactly as stated by witnesses, this "ball of light" could not have been a fireball. However, astronomers receive such outlandish reports about fireballs that they are prepared for almost any kind of a story.

Even trained observers are sometimes greatly fooled by the illusion of closeness; cases are on record of fireballs which were reported to have fallen in adjacent fields, but actually came to earth some 200 miles away.

A fireball would not come into view at 1000' and rise to 20,000'. If this observation is correct, an astronomical interpretation for the incident can be ruled out. Under unusual conditions a fireball might, however, appear to rise somewhat, as a result of perspective as it slants into the earth's atmosphere.

Absence of trail and sound definitely does not favor the meteoric hypothesis, but, as in many other cases, does not rule it out with finality.

It does not seem likely that any known meteorological or auroral phenomenon would have been as bright as this object was reported to be.

In the almost hopeless absence of any other natural explanation, one must consider the possibility of the object's having been a meteor, even though the description does not fit very well.

3 Dec

No. 215: Very high winds 60-70 M.P.H. from SW at all levels, definitely would have prohibited any balloon from making any southerly motion. Also, last scheduled released time was three hours prior to sighting at 1,000 feet. No time in sight given so cannot compute rate of climb to 20,000 feet. Fairly conclusive, not a balloon of any kind.

HEADQUARTERS
AIR WEATHER SERVICE
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington 25, D. C.

In Reply
Refer To: AWS DSS

11 May 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO : Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXO-3

1. Reference is made to letter from your headquarters, MCIAXS, dated 9 March 1949, subject "Unidentified Flying Objects," and first indorsement thereto by this headquarters, dated 31 March 1949.

2. The incident summaries 173 through 233 have been checked against routine weather-balloon ascents made by the Air Force, Navy and Weather Bureau. Comments based on this review are inclosed.

3. It is recommended that the "Guide To Investigation Of Unidentified Aerial Objects" be changed as follows: Item 13, "Direction of Flight of Object," should be clarified so that vertical and horizontal motions are distinguished if possible, and so that motion is specified as the direction towards which the object appears to move. "Relative to Radar Settings" should include a statement of the type of radar set used.

FOR THE CHIEF, AIR WEATHER SERVICE

/s/ W. A. West
W. A. WEST
Lt. Col., USAF
Adjutant General

2 Incls:
1 - Incident Summaries
2 - Comments 173 thru 233

3 Dec 48

With 194 incidents thus eliminated, there remain thirty-four which contain some evidence but have no apparent ready explanation. This statement is true only under the assumption that the evidence is accepted as reliable and accurate. When psychological and physiological factors are taken into consideration, all of these incidents can be explained rationally, as pointed out by Rand Corporation and Dr. Fitts of Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (see Appendix "F" and "G").

Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (Dr. Paul M. Fitts 212 Incidents considered)

There are sufficient psychological explanations for the reports of unidentified flying objects to provide plausible explanations for reports not otherwise explainable. These errors in identifying real stimuli result chiefly from inability to estimate speed, distance, size.

All of the remaining 34 incidents are treated in detail in this report. These incidents form no pattern in regard to area of sighting, type of object, or manner of performance. There are indications, however, that some sightings were influenced by earlier reports. Most probably would not have been considered unusual or reported had there been no publicity.

APPENDIX I

Project Grudge

Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

VII. Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

The remaining unexplained incidents (see Appendix "I") exhibited few common characteristics. Two of them, by statements of the reporters, would not have been made had the witnesses not read of the Mt. Rainier incident (Incident No. 17). Most were distributed without pattern throughout the United States. A few were outside the U. S. No two descriptions of appearance or performance were exactly alike. The reported sightings occurred at various times of day and year.

APPENDIX I

In the following section of this report, each remaining unexplained incident is considered separately. It is not the intent to generally discredit the character of observers, but each case has undesirable elements, and these cannot be disregarded. The numerical designation is merely the categorization order of the incident in the project files.

1, 10, 17, 21, 29, 35, 37, 40, 51, 58, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84,

111, 122, 134, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 236.

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:
#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:
#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.

Cite 061830Z

Report sighting unidentified a/c at Fairfield-Suisun AF Base, Calif. at 2015 hrs 3 Dec 48.

Weather: 2/10 at 3000 feet, 15 mi vis. wind W at 5 mph.

Control tower personnel on duty sighted object at 10,000 feet N of field in a 5° climb heading SE. Over field it started rapid climb at 4 to 500 mph to 20,000 feet. Climb seemed erratic. Like change to pace.

INCIDENT NO. 215

1. Date of Observation 3 Dec 1948 Date of Interview _____

2. Exact time (local) 2015 hours Pacific Standard Time

3. Place of Observation Fairfield Suisun AFB Control Tower - 5.5 miles east of Fairfield, Calif - 38° 16' N Lat 121° 56' W. Long.

4. Position of observer Control Tower

5. What attracted attention to object & : light and motion

6. Number of objects 1

7. Apparent size About size of 30" diameter searchlight

8. Color of object white light

9. Shape round

10. Altitude 500 to 1,000 ft when first sighted to approx 20,000 ft

11. Direction from observer

12. Distance from observer 500 to 800 yards

13. Direction of flight of object(s) NNW to SSE

14. Time in sight 25 seconds

15. Speed Varying - from 400 MPH then slowed to approx 200 MPH and climbed at 400-500 MPH out of sight

16. Sound and odor No sound heard

17. Trail No trail observed

18. Luminosity Object shone with brightness of a high-intensity runway light

19. Projections None observed

20. Maneuvers Rapid but erratic climb - like change to pace

21. Manner of disappearance Object climbed out of sight

22. Effect on clouds N/S

23. Additional information concerning object A winds aloft balloon released 3[illegible] to 45 minutes prior to sighting. Balloon lost to view 10 minutes after [illegible]

24. Weather conditions 15 mile visibility. Wind west [illegible] MPH. 1[illegible]

(over)

Name and address of observer: [redacted]
Fairfield-Suisun AFB, Calif

Occupation and hobbies: Control Tower Operator
PFC, USAF

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s): Considered fully reliable and a competent airman. Sighting also witnessed by [redacted] Sgt AF [redacted] AACS OIC considers them high type individuals fully qualified both mentally and physically for control tower duty. Considered competent, reliable observers psychologically stable.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

Object first shot into view about 2 miles north of the Control Tower flying at low altitude between 500 & 1000 ft, climbing on a low trajectory with a speed estimated in excess of 400 MPH. Immediately after sighting PFC [redacted] rushed to east side of tower. By this time object was estimated to have not more than 1500 feet altitude and its speed had slowed for several seconds to perhaps 200 MPH. At this state object had a very slight undulating or bouncing motion. When its position oriented with a line between the tower and the air freight terminal, but a slight distance east of the terminal, the object took an almost vertical rise or climb and leveled off again at an estimated 3000 ft. At this point Sgt [redacted] continued watching as PFC [redacted] attempted to summon the AACS Operations Officer. Sgt [redacted] reported the object almost immediately afterward started a fast climb toward the south-southeast and reached about 20,000 ft at which point he lost sight of it. PFC [redacted] never saw the object again after leaving to phone.

Object was viewed thru 8-power binoculars. All that could be seen was a circular light one to 2 feet in diameter. It had the intensity of a Ramp floodlight and was so bright that it blanked out any silhouette (if any) when sighted in binoculars. In size it was comparable to one of Fairfield-Suisun AFB's high-intensity runway lights. No sound was heard nor was any exhaust trail observed. The light was clearly seen with the naked eye It was brilliant but by no means blinding. Observer (PFC [redacted]) was convinced it was not an aircraft navigation light. The night was clear, and the wind indicated southwest at 10 MPH on tower instruments. A weather balloon had been released 45 to 35 minutes previous to sighting but was lost ten minutes after release.

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

RESTRICTED

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

INCOMING MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

PRIORITY

PRIORITY CH 07/2507Z

FROM CG 124 AAGS SO FAIRFLD SUISUN AFB FAIRFLD CALIF

A6163/2

TO CG AMCNPO ATTN MAIAXD DASH THREE

WRD SO ONE EIGHT ZERO ONE AAGS ST HAMILTON AFB

ATTN SUGAR DASH TWO

REPORT SIGHTING UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT AT FAIRFLD SUISUN AFB

CMA CALIF AT TWO ZERO ONE FIVE HRS PST THREE DECEMBER FOUR

EIGHT PD WEATHER SKOLH TWO SLASH TEN AT THREE THOUSAND CMA ONE FIVE

MILES VISIBILITY CMA WIND WEST FIVE MPH PD CONTROL TOWER

PERSONNEL ON DUTY SIGHTED OBJECT PD FIRST SIGHTED OBJECT AT

ONE TO TWO THOUSAND FEET NORTH OF FIELD IN ABLE FIVE DEGREE CLIMB

HEADING SOUTHEAST PD OVER FIELD STARTED RAPID CLIMB AT ABOUT FOUR

TO FIVE HUNDRED MPH TO TWENTY THOUSAND FEET PD ALL LAPS SEEMED

ERRATIC CMA LIKE CHANGE TO PACE PD TOWER PERSONNEL PUT EIGHT

SET 07/2002Z FAIRFLD 07/0[illegible]

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[redacted]

INCL #215

This copy will be safeguarded with the greatest care until action is completed, at which time it will be prepared for destruction in accordance with Section IV, Hq. Office Instruction No. 11-2.

MCAG Form No. 22A
(Rev 25 Oct 48)

[redacted]

[redacted]

WE-L-16 NOV 48 10M

[redacted]

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE [redacted] CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

INCOMING MESSAGE

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POWER BINOCULARS ON OBJECT CMA ALL THAT COULD BE SEEN WAS A CIRCULAR LIGHT ONE TO TWO FEET IN DIAMETER WITH INTENSITY OF ABLE RAMP FLOOD LIGHT PD LIGHT SO BRIGHT THAT IT BLANKED OUT ANY SILHOUETTE IF ANY WHEN SIGHTED IN BINOCULARS PD WEATHER BALLOON REVERSED FOUR FIVE TO THREE FIVE MINUTES PREVIOUS TO SIGHTING BUT WAS LISTTEN MINUTES AFTER RELEASED PD PERSONNEL INSIDE TOWER COULD NOT HEAR ANY SOUND CMA NO EXHAUST TRAIL

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215

This copy will be safeguarded with the greatest care until action is completed, at which time it will be prepared for destruction in accordance with Section IV, Hq. Office Instruction No. 11-2.

MCAG Form No. 22A (Rev. 25 Oct. 43)

WF-L-16 NOV 48 10M

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]

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18

HEADQUARTERS
Fairfield-Suisun Air Force Base
California

D/AC/dwm

14 January 1949

M-1523

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXC-3

1. Reference is made to letter, Subject: Project "SIGN", from the MCIAXC-3 office, Headquarters Air Materiel Command, dated 17 December 1948.

2. Pursuant to paragraph two of letter cited above an investigation of the unidentified flying object has been made by the Intelligence Division, Fairfield-Suisun Air Force Base using the Essential Elements of Information Form as a guide. The EEI together with three enclosures thereto is transmitted herewith.

3. All interested personnel have been advised to avoid publicity in this matter and the report has been classified Confidential.

4. Future incidents of this nature occurring on the Base will be reported by this office regardless of organization making the observations.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Arthur Conradi Jr.
ARTHUR CONRADI JR.
Major, USAF
Chief of Intelligence

1 Incl.
EEI with 3 Incls

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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215

[redacted]

9

[redacted]

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

(Re Sightings of Unidentified Aerial Objects)

PROJECT "SIGN"

1. Date of Sighting:

3 December 1948

2. Time of sighting
(Zonal by 24 hr clock)

2015 hours Pacific Standard Time

3. Where sighted:

a. Ground:

(1) City, town:

Object was sighted by personnel in the Fairfield-Suisun AFB Control tower.

(2) Distance and direction from city or town road, intersections, etc.

Fairfield-Suisun AFB Control tower is located in the center of the AF Base and 5.5 miles east of the town of Fairfield, California.

(3) From building (story), yard, etc.

Personnel sighted the object while standing inside the control tower 50 feet above ground level.

(4) Map coordinates (if feasible) showing latitude and longitude:

North latitude 38° 16'
West Longitude 121° 56'

b. Air

(1) Type aircraft, speed, altitude, direction of flight:

Not applicable

(2) Distance and direction from city or town or known landmark:

Not applicable

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(3) Clock position of object from observer's aircraft:

Not applicable

(4) Latitude and longitude:

Not applicable

c. Sea

(1) Latitude and longitude:

Not applicable

(2) Proximity to land:
(Name city, country, etc)

Not applicable

4. Number of objects:

a. Formation type (if any)
(sketch if possible)

One object was sighted.

5. Distance of object from observer:

a. Laterally or horizontally:

The object was first sighted at a distance of two miles; it proceeded toward the observer and passed within 500-800 yards of the tower, then climbed out of sight.

b. Angle of elevation from horizon:

Approximately 20° when first sighted, then it climbed out of sight.

c. Altitude:

Altitude was 500 to 1000 feet when first sighted, then it climbed out of sight at approximately 20,000 feet.

6. Time in sight:

Approximately 25 seconds.

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7. Appearance of object:

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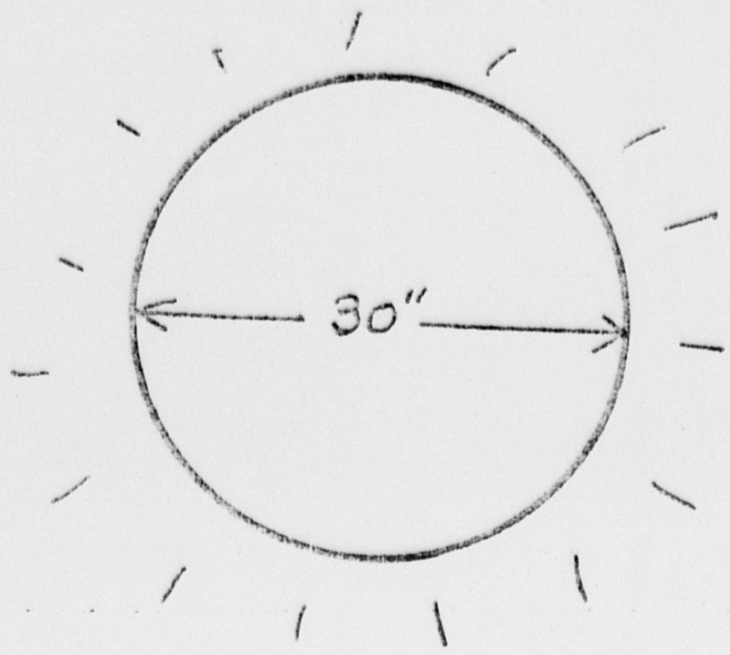
a. Color:

Object was a colorless white light

b. Shape (sketch if possible):

Round light 30 inches in diameter.



c. Apparent construction (translucent):

Looked like a searchlight with the light intensity of a runway light.

d. Size:

(1) Estimated size:

Approximately 30 inches diameter.

(2) Size as it appeared from observer's view:
(Compared to known object)

About the size of a 30" diameter searchlight.

8. Direction of flight:

NNW to SSE

9. Tactics or maneuvers:

a. Vertical ascent or descent, horizontal, oscillating, fluttering evasive, aggressive, erratic, etc.

Came over horizon from altitude of 500 to 1000 feet and when opposite the control tower seemed to slow down then climbed to about 3,000 feet, seemed to hesitate again and then climbed almost vertically out of sight at an altitude estimated to be 20,000 feet. See

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

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description contained in statement in paragraph 8 of the General section below.

10. Evidence of exhaust:

a. Color of smoke:

No exhaust was observed.

b. Length and width:

None observed

c. Odor (if any):

No odor was detected by the observers inside the control tower.

d. Rate of evaporation:

None.

e. Does trail vary with sound (spurts):

No trail observed.

11. Effect on clouds:

a. Opened path thru clouds:

No clouds were present where the object climbed.

b. Formed cloud or mists:

No cloud or mists were formed.

c. Reflected on cloud:

No reflections were observed.

d. Shown thru cloud:

No clouds were between observer and object at any time.

12. Lights

a. Reflected or attached:

The object itself resembled a light.

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[redacted]

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b. Luminous:

The object shone with the brightness of a high-intensity runway light.

c. Blinked on and off in relation to speed:

Object was a steady light.

13. Support:

a. Wings:

No wings were observed on the object.

b. Aerodynamic lift of fuselage:

No fuselage was observed.

c. Vertical jet:

No jet was observed.

d. Rotating cylinder or cone:

No cylinder or cone was observed.

e. Aerostatic lift (balloon or dirigible):

No aerostatic lift cordition was observed.

14. Propulsion:

a. Propeller or jet:

No propeller or jet was observed.

b. Rotor:

No rotor was observed.

c. Aerodynamic vanes (flapping or oscillating) (KatzWayer effect):

No aerodynamic vanes were observed.

d. Visible exhaust or jet openings:

No exhaust or jet openings were observed.

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[redacted]

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15. Control and stability:

a. Fins:

No fins were observed.

b. Stabilizers

No stabilizers of any kind were observed.

16. Air Ducts:

a. Slots:

No slots were observed.

b. Duct openings:

No duct openings were observed.

17. Speed-MPH:

Came over the horizon from NNW at approximately 400 MPH slowed to approximately 200 MPH and then climbed at 400-500 MPH out of sight.

18. Sound:

a. Continuous whine or buzz:

No sound of any kind was heard by the observer.

b. Roar, whistle, whoosh:

No sound was heard.

c. Intermittent:

No sound was heard.

19. Was any radio antenna to be observed, i.e., (any projections or extensions that might presumably be construed as such):

No radio antenna of any description was observed.

20. Manner of disappearance:

a. Explode:

The object did not explode. UNCLASSIFIED

(1) Possibility of fragments: [redacted]

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[redacted]

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No fragments were observed or could be found from the object.

(2) Other physical evidence:

No other physical evidence of the object could be found.

b. Faded from view:

The object climbed out of sight.

c. Disappeared behind obstacle:

The object climbed out of sight in a clear sky.

Relative to the Observer

1. Names of observers:

[redacted]
Sgt [redacted]
Honorably discharged from the service 6 December 1948.

[redacted]

2. Address:

[redacted]
[redacted] Ballston Spa
New York

[redacted]
1901st AACS Squadron
Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California

3. Occupation

[redacted] - Unknown

[redacted] Control tower operator

4. Place of business:

a. Employer or employee:

[redacted] - Unknown

[redacted] - USAF

5. Hobbies:

a. Time engaged in hobby (experience)
Is observer amateur astronomer, pilot, engineer, etc.

[redacted] - Unknown

[redacted] - Pfc [redacted], prior to military service, was for three years a radio announcer and was well trained as an announcer of sporting events. No other hobbies are engaged in by Pfc [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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6. Ability to determine:

a. Color:

Both observers are required by high physical requirements to know colors.

b. Speed of moving objects:

Observers are constantly required to estimate the speed of moving aircraft in the course of their normal duties.

c. Size at distance:

Observers are constantly required to estimate the size and distance of objects in the course of their normal duties.

7. Reliability of observer:

a. Sources:

(1) Neighbors:

Both observers are considered fully reliable, competent airmen by their fellow NCO's.

(2) Police Dept:

No police record on the observers.

(3) FBI records:

No FBI records on the observers.

(4) Employer:

AACS officer in charge of the observers consider them high type individuals fully qualified both mentally and physically for control tower duty; they are considered competent, reliable observers psychologically stable.

8. Notes relative to observer on:

a. Sightings in general:

Both observers are considered competent, reliable and psychologically stable.

b. How attention was drawn to objects:

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[redacted]

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(1) Sound:

No

(2) Motion:

Yes

(3) Glint of light:

Yes

9. Witnesses:

a. Addresses:

No other witnesses could be found. The object was in view too short a time to obtain the observations of other personnel.

10. Comments of interrogator re intelligence and character of person interrogated:

Both observers are considered competent, reliable and psychologically stable. Pfc [redacted] has a General Classification Test Score of 143.

Relative to Radar Sightings

No radar sightings of the object were made or could be obtained.

GENERAL

1. Teletype sequences of local weather conditions:

3 December 1948 at 2030 Pacific Standard Time, Fairfield-Suisun Air Force Base, Ceiling 3000 feet scattered 15 miles visibility, 1014.6 millibars, temperature 44°, dewpoint 32°F, wind 10 MPH from the west, Altimeter setting 29.95 inches.

2. Winds aloft report:

Winds aloft sequence for 032315Z December 1948 follows: SUU 21 02312 2513 22809 3109 43213 3016 63017 3019 82920 2923 03022 23017 42823.

3. Local flight schedules of commercial, private and military aircraft flying in vicinity at the time:
(Check Canadian activity if close to that border)

No flying was scheduled or observed in the vicinity of the Fairfield-

[redacted]

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Suisun Air Force Base at the time of the observation.

4. Possible releases of testing devices in vicinity sent aloft by Ordnance, Navy, Air Force, Army, Weather Units, Research Organizations or any other:

A winds-aloft balloon was released 35-45 minutes prior to the sighting and was lost from view 10 minutes after release.

5. If object contacted earth, obtain soil samples within and without depression or spot where object landed (and then presumably departed) for purposes of making comparison of soils:

Object made no apparent contact with the earth and no contacts could be found.

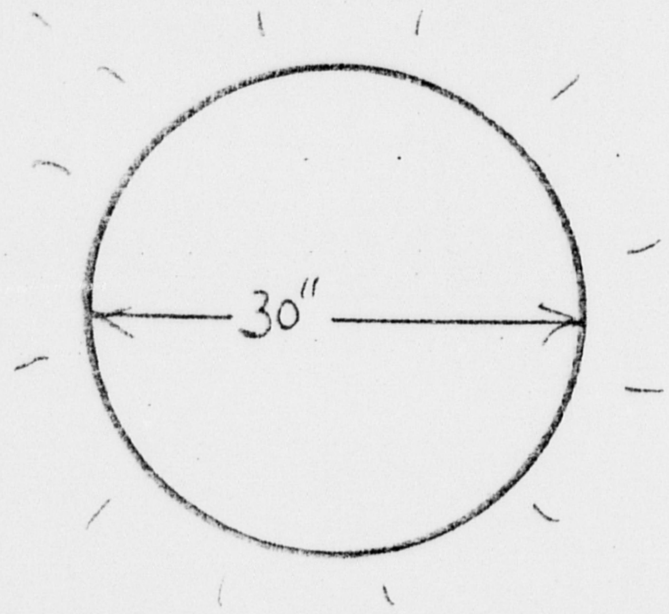
6. If object came sufficiently near other aircraft or known objects, check surfaces with Geiger counters for possible radioactivity. Make comparisons with other unaffected aircraft objects, etc.

Object did not come sufficiently near known objects to obtain radioactivity readings.

7. Obtain photographs (or original negatives) where available; if not, secure sketches of:

a. Object:

Object appeared to be a round light 30 inches in diameter.



b. Surrounding terrain where object was observed:

Annotated photographs and diagrams of the Fairfield-Suisun Air Force Base are attached as enclosures 1 and 2 to this report.

c. Place where object contacted earth (if this happened):

Object did not contact the earth.

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[redacted]

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d. Maneuvers:

The object maneuvered as described in statement contained in enclosure #3 and indicated in enclosures #1 and #2 to this report.

c. Formation (if more than two):

One object was sighted.

8. Secure signed statement:

Statement attached as enclosure #3 to this report.

9. Obtain fragments or physical evidence where possible:

No fragments or other physical evidences of the object were obtained.

Arthur Conradi Jr

ARTHUR CONRADI JR.
Major, USAF
Chief of Intelligence

3 Incls.
1. Photograph
2. Diagram
3. Statement

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[redacted]

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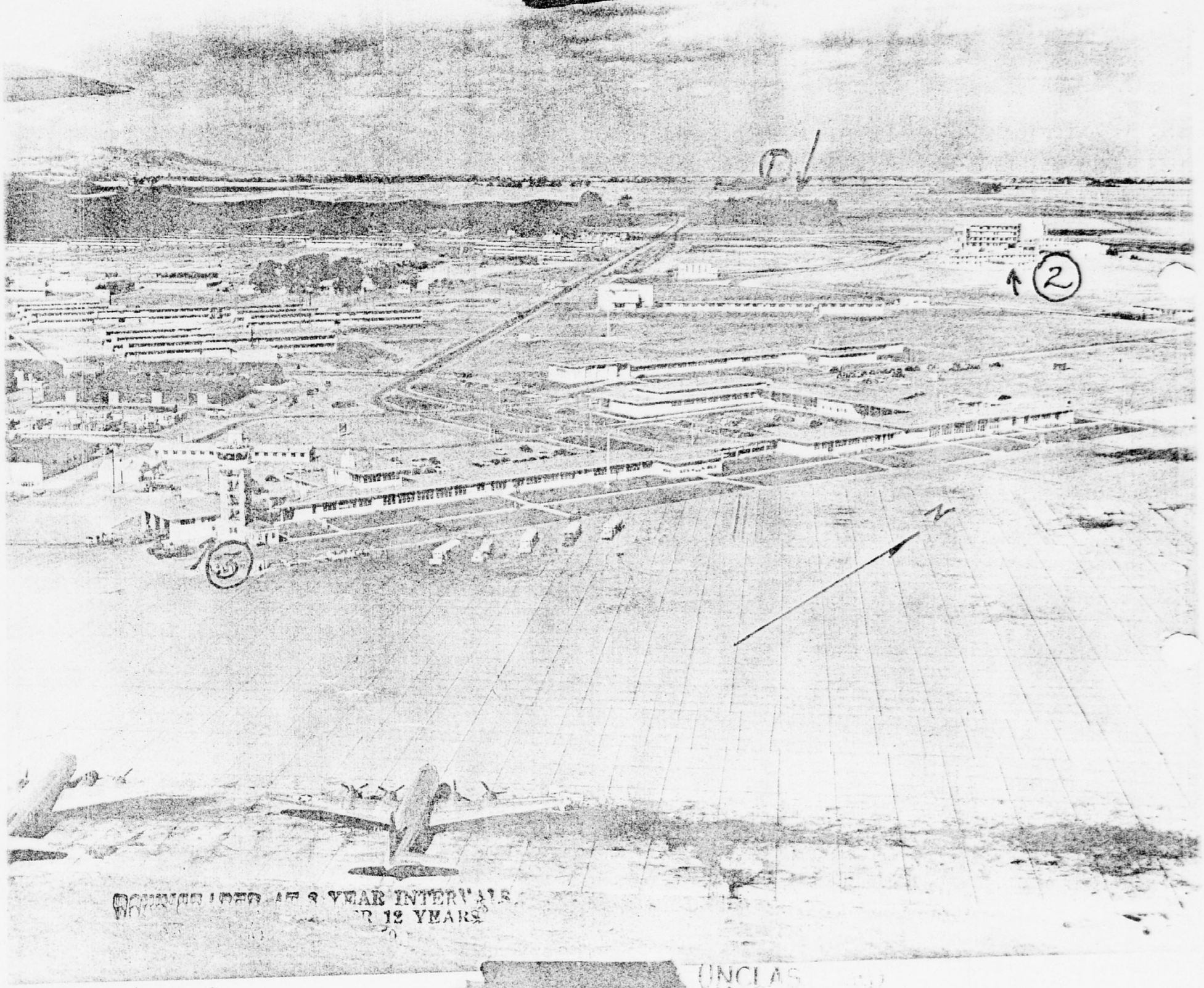

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Incl #1

[redacted]

-STATEMENT-

UNCLASSIFIED 12 January 1949

At the request of Chief of Intelligence, the undersigned wishes to describe as accurately as possible his impressions of the brief appearance of an unknown illuminated object which appeared over Fairfield-Suisun AFB at 2015 PST on 3 December 1948. The object first shot into view about 2 miles north of the control tower, flying at a low altitude between 500 and 1000 feet, climbing on a low trajectory, with a speed estimated at something in excess of 400 miles per hour. Immediately after sighting, this observer rushed to the east side of the tower. By this time the object was estimated to have not more than 1500 feet of altitude and its speed had slowed for several seconds to perhaps two-hundred (200) miles per hour. The observer can recall that at this stage the object had a very slight undulating or bouncing motion. When its position oriented with a line between the tower and the air freight terminal, but a slight distance east of the terminal, the object took an almost vertical rise or climb and levelled off again at an estimated three thousand feet. At that time the other control tower operator on duty continued watching the object while this observer telephoned the AACS operations officer residing on the base in hopes he might be able to get a look at it. The other tower operator reported the object almost immediately afterwards started a fast climb toward the south-southeast and reached about twenty thousand feet, at which point he lost sight of it. The undersigned never saw the object again after going for the telephone.

Pertinent information is that the light was clearly seen with the naked eye, brilliant but by no means blinding. In size it was comparable to one of Fairfield-Suisun AFB's high-intensity runway lights. The observer is convinced it was not an aircraft navigation light. The night was clear, and the wind was indicating southwest at 10 miles per hour on tower instruments.

I certify and affirm that the information herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and ability.

[redacted]

[redacted]nd
PFC, USAF
1901 AACS Squadron
Fairfield-Suisun AFB, Calif.

UNCLASSIFIED
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

Incl 3

[redacted]

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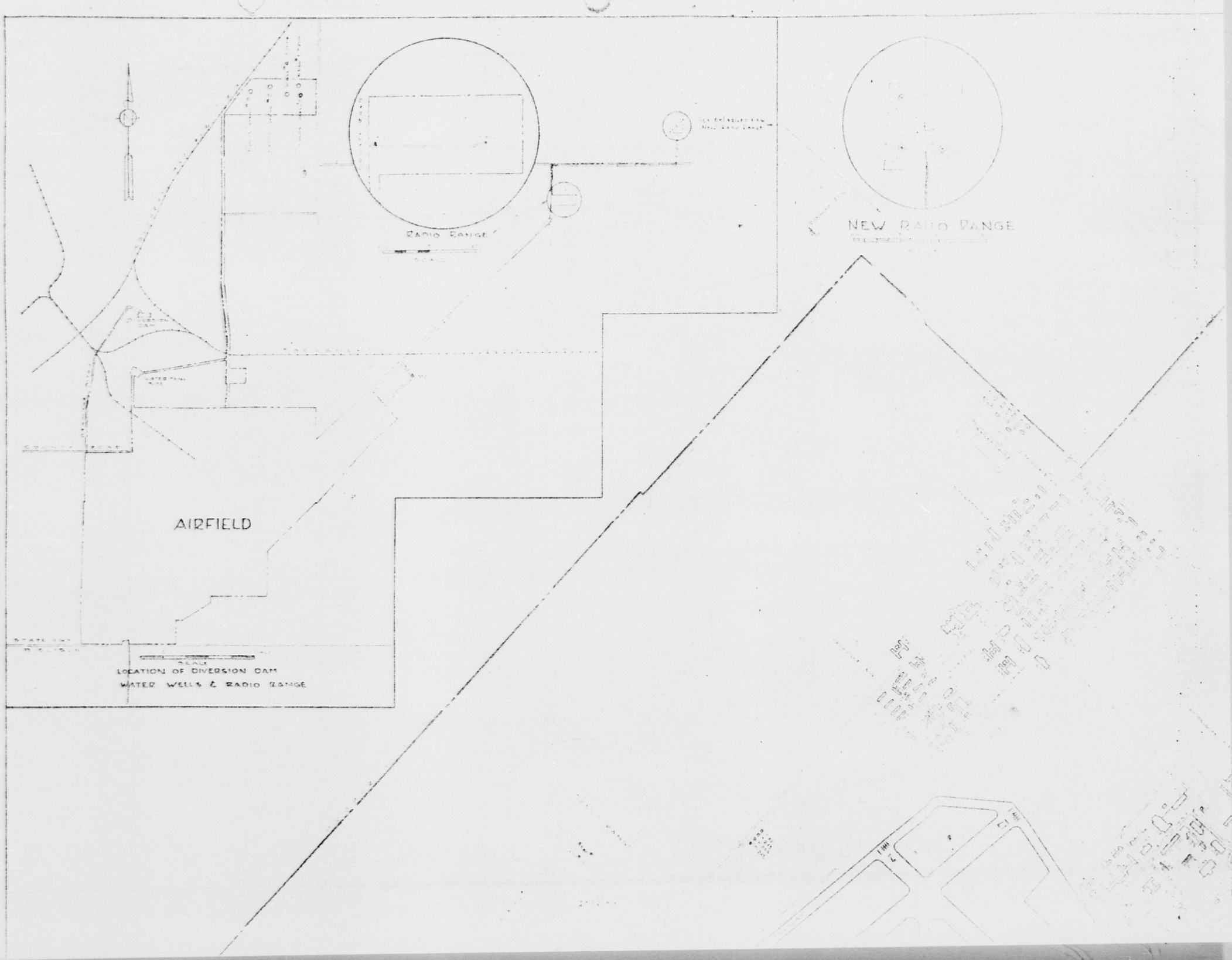
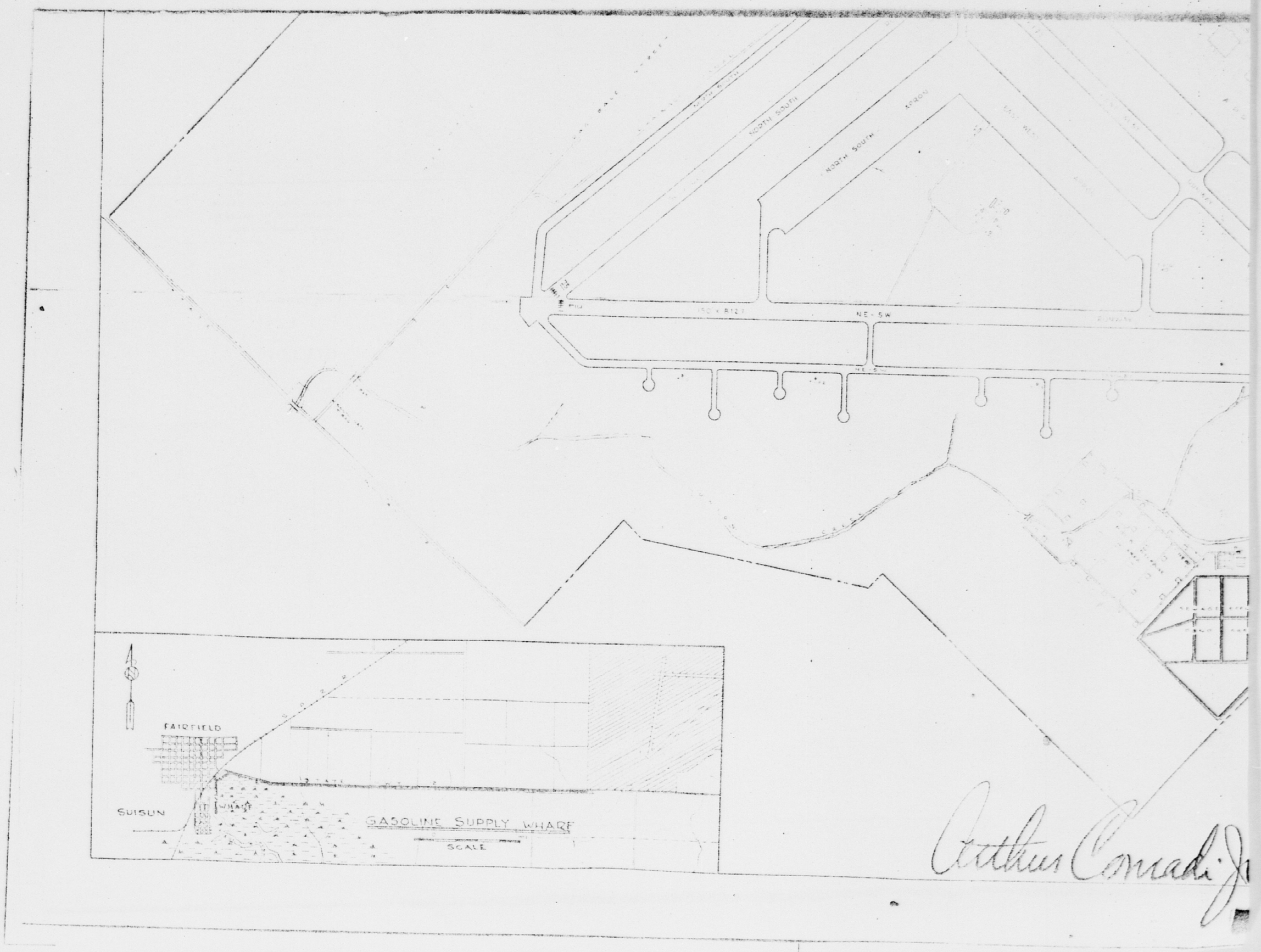
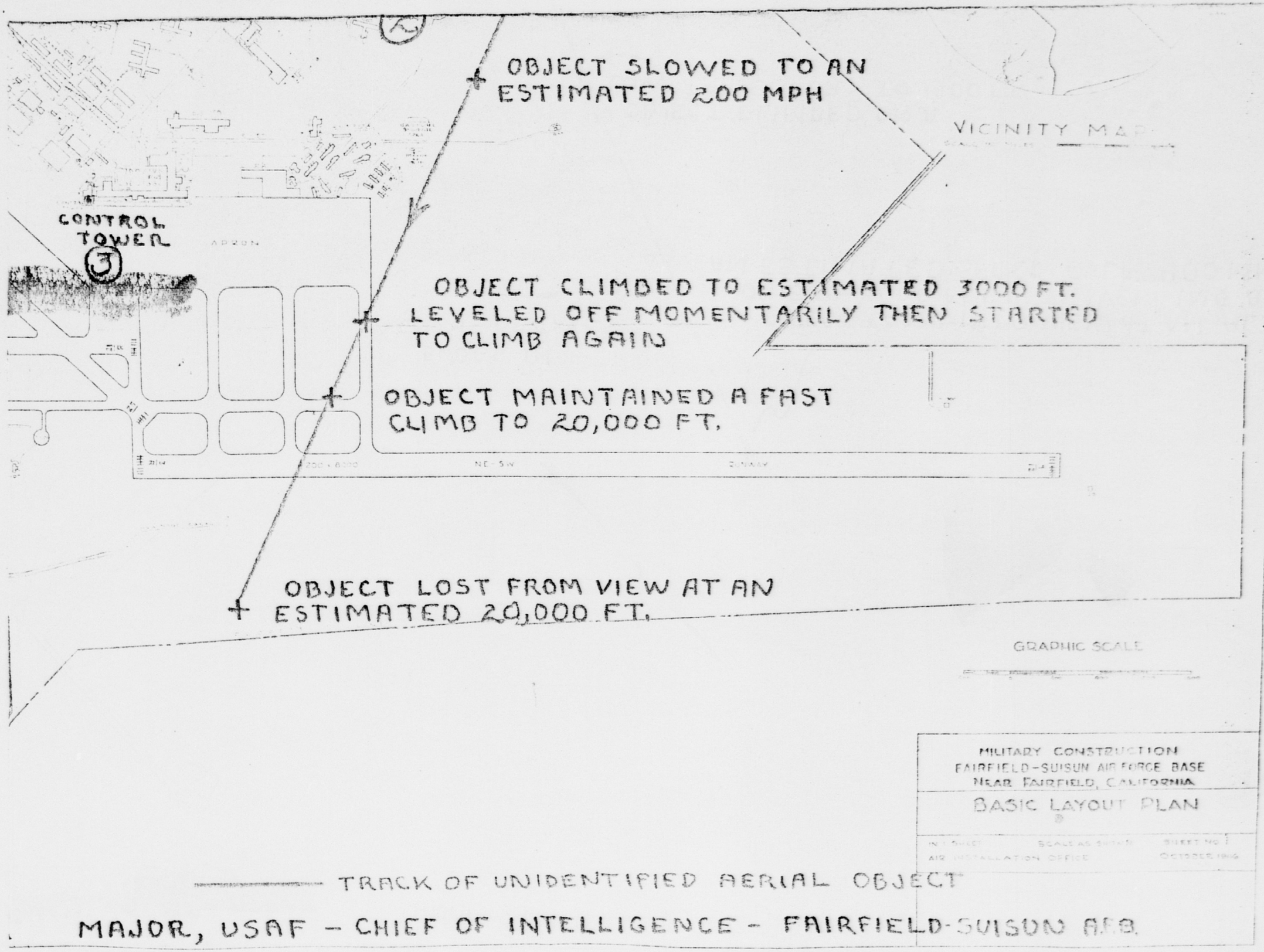

RADIO RANGE
NEW RADIO RANGE
AIRFIELD
LOCATION OF DIVERSION DAM
WATER WELLS & RADIO RANGE



Arthur Conrad Jr



MAJOR, USAF - CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE - FAIRFIELD-SUISUN A.F.B.

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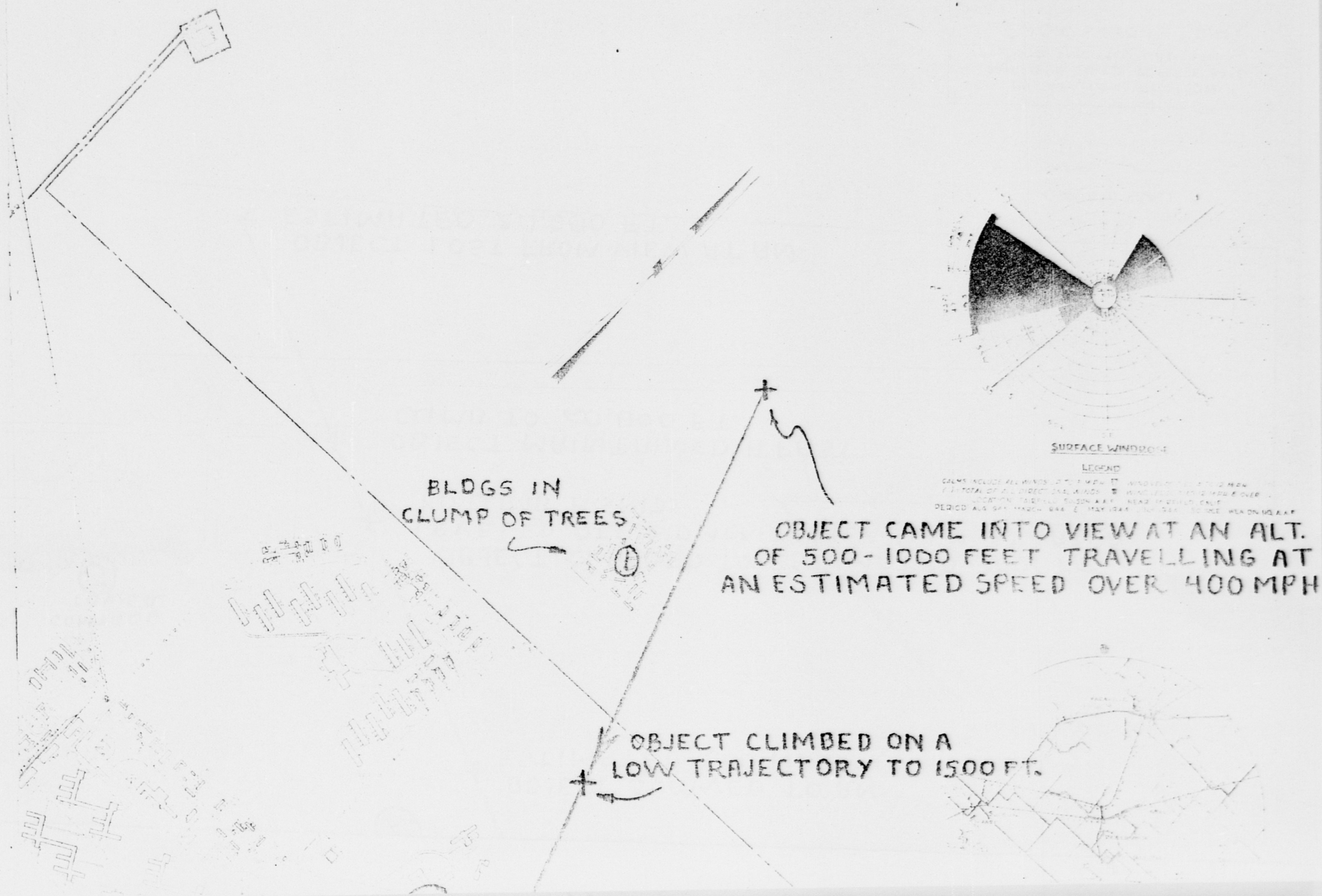
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