PROJECT 12073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 23 September 1951	LOCATION LONG BEACH [redacted], California	12. CONCLUSIONS ☒ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0755PDST GMT	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE F-86 Pilots	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Shape was round. Color was silver. It is believed the pilots saw a radiosonde balloon.

SEE CASE FILE

11. COMMENTS

Evaluated as a balloon.

Appendix VII

MARCH AFB - 23 September 1951

On 23 September 1951 at 0810 PST, an unidentified object was sighted over Long Beach, California. Four F-86 aircraft were scrambled and the object was sighted by them over Muroc, California. On attaining an altitude of 42,000 ft. the F-86's reported the object to be orbitting March AFB at an estimated altitude of between 50,000 ft. and 55,000 ft. The object appeared to be a swept wing, fighter type aircraft.

Weather

Unavailable at this time.

Status of Investigation

Radiosonde balloons were released from San Diego, Long Beach and Santa Maria, California at approximately 0700 PST. All of these weather stations were checked by OSI personnel and although the balloons were released all weather station personnel stated that it would be very doubtful if their balloons would have traveled the course that the object traveled.

All of the major aircraft factories and installations conducting experimental flight tests were contacted. No experimental aircraft airborne at the time of the sighting.

Additional information has been requested as to additional details of the incident such as times and locations during the attempted interception by the F-86's and other possible balloon launchings.

[redacted]

Status Report No 2

UNCLASSIFIED

Appendix IV

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE - 23 September 1951

I. DISCUSSION OF INCIDENT

The first report of this incident, which appeared in Status Report No. 1, proved to be incomplete and misleading. Further investigation has corrected the discrepencies and the following account of the incident is considered to be accurate.

At approximately 0700 PDST, two F-86 aircraft were scrambled from George Air Force Base, California, on a routine mission. The flight was vectored to 118° 40'W - 33° 50'N by GCI. (See inclosed overlay.) The flight orbitted the position and took up a heading toward Long Beach Radio. At approximately 0755 PDST the flight reported to GCI that they observed an unidentified object high at 12 o'clock. The flight was 30 seconds out of Long Beach Radio at this time. The object appeared to be in a left orbit at about 50,000 ft. The object could not be picked up by the ground radar, however, visual contact was maintained. The object continued a left orbit and passed over the two aircraft. Attempts were made by the F-86's to identify the object but they were unsuccessful due to the altitude of the object and a fuel shortage. At approximately 0810 or 0815 the flight was released by the ground controller and they returned to George Air Force Base. The object appeared to be an aircraft with 45° swept wings and bright silver in color. When last seen the object was in a left orbit, or circling to the left. The pilot's opinion was that it was a swept wing type aircraft.

At approximately 0800 PDST four additional F-86 aircraft were scrambled from George AFB to relieve the two above mentioned F-86's. The four aircraft split into two, two-ship elements, denoted as Flight 2-A and 2-B on the inclosed overlay. Flight 2-A was vectored to a position at 117° 30'W and 30° 30'N. They arrived at this position at approximately 0810 and sighted the object high at 1: o'clock at what appeared to be over Muroc AFB. A steady climb was made to 43,000 ft. and the object was found to be near March AFB. The object appeared to be in a controlled orbit to the right and left at 50,000 to 55,000 ft. The two aircraft stayed in the area for 10-15 minutes before breaking off the intercept due to a fuel shortage and landed at 0845 PDST. The object appeared to be a swept wing aircraft.

The second element of the group, noted as Flight 2-B on the overlay, observed the object soon after take-off. The object appeared to be going south. The flight made a series of climbing turns under the object as they climbed to 42,500 ft. The object was in a wide right turn. At approximately 0925 PDST the aircraft broke off the attempted intercept and returned to their base. This flight reported that the object appeared to be round and silver.

No more intercepts were attempted. At no time was the object observed on the radar screen nor was it reported to be observed visually from the ground. The F-86's, however, were contin ally tracked by radar.

UNCLASSIFIED

The F-86's were unable to climb to the estimated altitude of the object due to the fact that they were carrying external fuel tanks and elected not to jettison them.

II. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

At 0700 PDST a radiosonde balloon was released from the Long Beach Municipal Airport. This balloon was lost at 0743 PDST, eight miles from the airport on a bearing of 95° true, due to a malfunction of the tracking equipment. (See Point A on overlay.) At this time the balloon would have been at approximately 40,000 ft. The winds above 40,000 ft. are unknown but it is logical to assume that at this altitude they will be relatively constant in direction. Assuming a relative constant direction of 270° and an average velocity of 30 knots above 40,000 ft. (the wind at 40,000 ft. was 280° at 21 knots) the possible flight path of the balloon can be plotted on the overlay.

The original sighting by Flight 1 could very possibly have been the balloon as their heading was toward Long Beach Airport. The altitude of the F-86's at the time of the sighting is unknown but was probably below 40,000 ft. At 0751, the time of the original sighting, the balloon would be at 50,000 to 55,000 ft. and approximately ten miles directly ahead of the two aircraft. The apparent orbitting of the balloon cannot be explained. The balloon would make a gradual turn due to wind shifts but these are so gradual that it is doubtful if the movement would be apparent from an aircraft as fast as an F-86.

Referring to the ground track of Flight 2-A, if a 30 knot wind at 270° is assumed, at 0810, the approximate time the F-86's sighted the object from a 355° TC, the balloon would be at B on the overlay. The balloon would probably be at an altitude of 60,000 ft. and nearly straight ahead of the aircraft. Due to the size of the balloon, the distance could have been misjudged and the balloon could have appeared to be near Hurco. Once again the orbitting of the object cannot be explained.

The attempted intercept by Flight 2-B cannot be explained. If the ground track given by the leader of Flight 2-B is correct it is very doubtful that the flight was observing a balloon. The time that they sighted the object is not known but if it is assumed that they flew beneath the object for 30 minutes, it is highly doubtful that a wind shift of nearly 360° could occur above 60,000 ft. to give the illusion of a turn.

The possibility of this object being an experimental aircraft from some southern California aircraft plant, naval airfield, or from Edwards Air Force Base was checked with negative results. No other balloons were released in the vicinity.

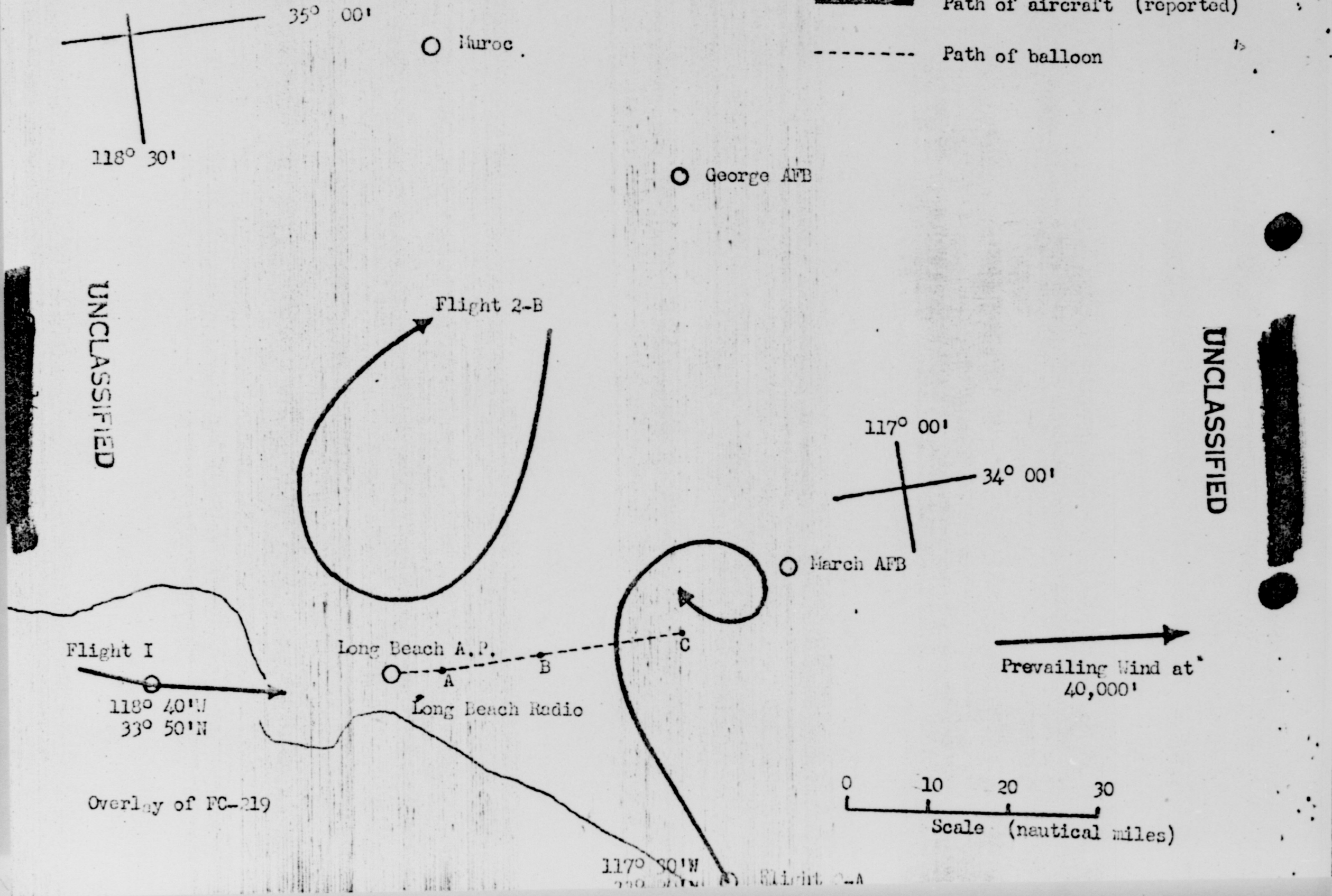
III. CONCLUSIONS

With the information available, it cannot be concluded that the object was definitely the radiosonde balloon released from Long Beach Municipal Airport. However, since the balloon was near the flight path of two of the F-86 elements, and assuming that the orbitting of the object was an illusion due to the relative motion between the balloon and the aircraft, it can be concluded that the unidentifi object was very possibly a radiosonde balloon.

The third attempted intercept, the one in which the object was followed in a wide turn, cannot be explained.

It is not believed that further interrogation would produce any additional significant details due to the fact that some of the personnel involved have been transferred overseas and due to the time since the incident.

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

15

SODEMAN

Cafe Files

TD-E/Lt Col Friend

Request for UFO Information (Dunz Sodeman)

17 MAY 1962

Hq USAF
SAFOI-3b (Major Hart)
Wash 25 DC

1. The attached letter from Mr. Dunz Sodeman requests information regarding 14 sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena.

2. The following information regarding the sightings referenced in Mr. Sodeman's letter is provided to assist you in preparing an answer to him. The order of the information corresponds to that provided in the attachment.

3. The Laredo AFB, Texas, sighting which occurred on 4 December 1952 was evaluated as an aircraft sighting.

4. At 1446 on 22 July 1952 the weather observer of the local airport at Uvalde, Texas, sighted an object which he described as being large and round, but displaying no aerodynamic features. The object was reported to be silver in color and estimated as 50 feet in diameter and to be at an altitude of 20,000 feet. The observer estimated the objects speed as in excess of 1000 mph. The object traveled from east at approximately 40° elevation to the southwest. The movement was described as gyrating and the object was in sight for 45 seconds. The object seemed to be climbing and disappeared behind a large cumulus cloud. The observer was not aware of any sound. This case is classed as unidentified in the files. However, it should be noted that an object at 20,000 feet which made an angle of approximately 90° in 45 seconds would have a speed of approximately 530 knots. If the object were at 3000 feet or closer to the cloud base, it would have a speed of only 60 knots. The available information is not sufficient to eliminate conventional solutions to this case, but it is highly probable that the misidentification of a conventional object was the cause for this sighting.

5. On 23 September 1952 two pilots of [illegible] California, observed an unidentified flying object. Contact was unsuccessful and the object identified as a weather balloon.

6. On 3 August 1952 at 1615 PST two objects were observed with binoculars from Hamilton AFB, California. The objects were observed for one hour and 15 minutes and were described as circular or globular in shape and silver in color. They were estimated to be 60-100 feet in diameter and possessing speeds of 400-450 mph. The objects were estimated to be at 12,000 and 18,000 feet. The object at 18,000 feet was reported to have dived at the lower object and maneuvered much the same as a fighter during a dog fight. During

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

Air Force Base,Calif.,Aug. 5,1952; in the north case at Patrick Air Force Base,Fla.,on July 10,1952; In the north the canal at Goose Bay Air Force Base,Labrador on Dec.15,1952; at Aircraft and Warnings Station in Michigan on July 29,1952; and or rather in the area of Northern Michigan on Nov.24,1951; and the foreign sightings at Japan on Dec.29,1952; and on April 19,1952 in the morns on Sept.26,1952; a Texas sighting on Feb. Feb.11,1953; and in the Korean War sightings on ... been confined by my Air Force ... very much.

P.S. Sirs: I would also like to know if I could have the result since one must sign after he has seen an "Unidentified Flying Objects". Thank you.

UNCLASSIFIED

Appendix IV

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE - 23 September 1951

I. DISCUSSION OF INCIDENT

The first report of this incident, which appeared in Status Report No. 1, proved to be incomplete and misleading. Further investigation has corrected the discrepencies and the following account of the incident is considered to be accurate.

At approximately 0700 PDST, two F-86 aircraft were scrambled from George Air Force Base, California, on a routine mission. The flight was vectored to 113° 40'W - 33° 50'N by GCI. (See inclosed overlay.) The flight orbitted the position and took up a heading toward Long Beach Radio. At approximately 0745 PDST the flight reported to GCI that they observed an unidentified object high at 12 o'clock. The flight was 30 seconds out of Long Beach Radio at this time. The object appeared to be in a left orbit at about 50,000 ft. The object could not be picked up by the ground radar, however, visual contact was maintained. The object continued a left orbit and passed over the two aircraft. Attempts were made by the F-86's to identify the object but they were unsuccessful due to the altitude of the object and a fuel shortage. At approximately 0810 or 0815 the flight was released by the ground controller and they returned to George Air Force Base. The object appeared to be an aircraft with 45° swept wings and bright silver in color. When last seen the object was in a left orbit, or circling to the left. The pilot's opinion was that it was a swept wing type aircraft.

At approximately 0800 PDST four additional F-86 aircraft were scrambled from George AFB to relieve the two above mentioned F-86's. The four aircraft split into two, two-ship elements, denoted as Flight 2-A and 2-B on the inclosed overlay. Flight 2-A was vectored to a position at 117° 30'. and 30° 30'N. They arrived at this position at approximately 0810 and sighted the object high at 1 o'clock at what appeared to be over Muroc AFB. A steady climb was made to 43,000 ft. and the object was found to be near March AFB. The object appeared to be in a controlled orbit to the right and left at 50,000 to 55,000 ft. The two aircraft stayed in the area for 10-15 minutes before breaking off the intercept due to a fuel shortage and landed at 0845 PDST. The object appeared to be a swept wing aircraft.

The second element of the group, noted as Flight 2-B on the overlay, observed the object soon after take-off. The object appeared to be going south. The flight made a series of climbing turns under the object as they climbed to 47,500 ft. The object was in a wide right turn. At approximately 0915 PDST the aircraft broke off the attempted intercept and returned to their base. This flight reported that the object appeared to be round and silver.

No more intercepts were attempted. At no time was the object observed on the radar screen nor was it reported to be observed visually from the ground. The F-86's, however, were contin ally tracked by radar.

UNCLASSIFIED

The F-86's were unable to climb to the estimated altitude of the object due to the fact that they were carrying external fuel tanks and elected not to jettison them.

II. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

At 0700 PDST a radiosonde balloon was released from the Long Beach Municipal Airport. This balloon was lost at 0747 PDST, eight miles from the airport on a bearing of 95° true, due to a malfunction of the tracking equipment. (See Point A on overlay.) At this time the balloon would have been at approximately 40,000 ft. The winds above 40,000 ft. are unknown but it is logical to assume that at this altitude they will be relatively constant in direction. Assuming a relative constant direction of 270° and an average velocity of 30 knots above 4 ,000 ft. (the wind at 40,000 ft. was 280° at 31 knots) the possible flight path of the balloon can be plotted on the overlay.

The original sighting by Flight 1 could very possibly have been the balloon as their heading was toward Long Beach Airport. The altitude of the F-86's at the time of the sighting is unknown but was probably below 40,000 ft. At 0754, the time of the original sighting, the balloon would be at 50,000 to 55,000 ft. and approximately ten miles directly ahead of the two aircraft. The apparent orbitting of the balloon cannot be explained. The balloon would make a gradual turn due to wind shifts but these are so gradual that it is doubtful if the movement would be apparent from an aircraft as fast as an F-86.

Referring to the ground track of Flight 2-A, if a 30 knot wind at 270° is assumed, at 0810, the approximate time the F-86's sighted the object from a 355° TC, the balloon would be at B on the overlay. The balloon would probably be at an altitude of 60,000 ft. and nearly straight ahead of the aircraft. Due to the size of the balloon, the distance could have been misjudged and the balloon could have appeared to be near three. Once again the orbitting of the object cannot be explained.

The attempted intercept by Flight 2-B cannot be explained. If the ground track given by the leader of Flight 2-B is correct it is very doubtful that the flight was observing a balloon. The time that they sighted the object is not known but if it is assumed that they flew beneath the object for 30 minutes, it is highly doubtful that a wind shift of nearly 360° could occur above 60,000 ft. to give the illusion of a turn.

The possibility of this object being an experimental aircraft from some southern California aircraft plant, naval airfield, or from Edwards Air Force Base was checked with negative results. No other balloons were released in the vicinity.

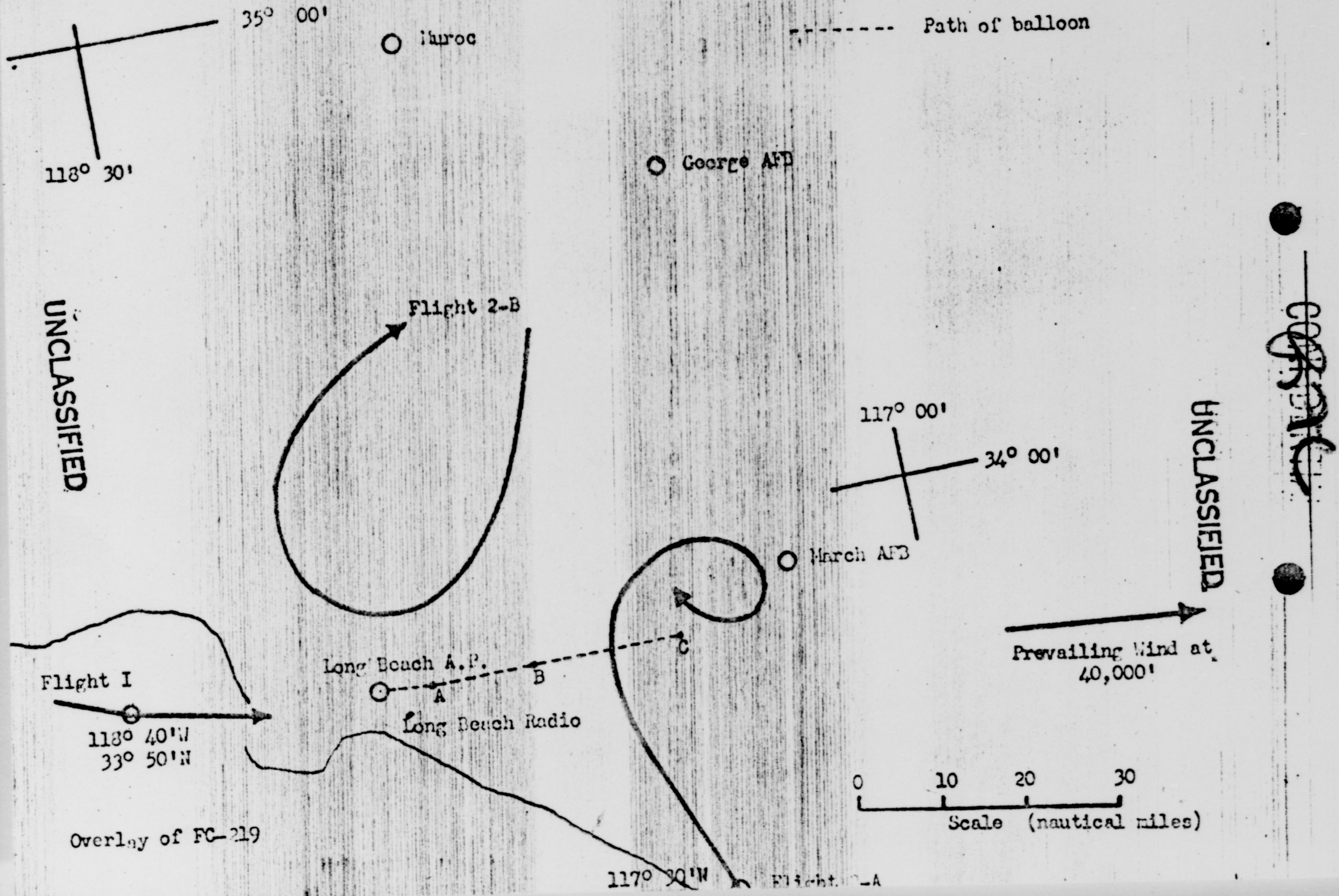
III. CONCLUSIONS

With the information available, it cannot be concluded that the object was definitely the radiosonde balloon released from Long Beach Municipal Airport. However, since the balloon was near the flight path of two of the F-86 elements, and assuming that the orbitting of the object was an illusion due to the relative motion between the balloon and the aircraft, it can be concluded that the unidentified object was very possibly a radiosonde balloon.

The third attempted intercept, the one in which the object was followed in a wide turn, cannot be explained.

It is not believed that further interrogation would produce any additional significant details due to the fact that some of the personnel involved have been transferred overseas and due to the time since the incident.

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

Appendix VII

MARCH AFB - 23 September 1951

On 23 September 1951 at 0810 PST, an unidentified object was sighted over Long Beach, California. Four F-86 aircraft were scrambled and the object was sighted by them over Muroc, California. On attaining an altitude of 43,000 ft. the F-86's reported the object to be orbitting March AFB at an estimated altitude of between 50,000 ft. and 55,000 ft. The object appeared to be a sweot wing, fighter type aircraft.

Weather

Unavailable at this time.

Status of Investigation

Radiosonde balloons were released from San Diego, Long Beach and Santa Maria, California at approximately 0700 PST. All of these weather stations were checked by OSI personnel and although the balloons were released all weather station personnel stated that it would be very doubtful if their balloons would have traveled the course that the object traveled.

All of the major aircraft factories and installations conducting experimental flight tests were contacted. No experimental aircraft airborne at the time of the sighting.

Additional information has been requested as to additional details of the incident such as times and locations during the attempted interception by the F-86's and other possible balloon launchings.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TAB	SUBJECT
A	Intellengence Report dated 5 Oct 1951 (S)
B	OSI Report dated 30 Oct 1951 (S)
C	Reinterrogation of Pilot dated 11 Dec 1951 (S)
D	Balloon Data, 4 December 1951
E	MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE (S)

AE FORM 112—PART I
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

[redacted] 10/01
By Auth CG 27th Air Div (Def)

COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
USA	1	

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT: High Flying Unidentified Object

AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)
Long Beach, Muroc, and March Air Force Base, California	CG 27th Air Division (Def), Norton AFB, Calif.

DATE OF REPORT	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION
5 October 1951	23 September 1951	F-6

PREPARED BY (Officer): Willis F. White
1st Lt. William F. WHITE, Director of Intelligence

SOURCE: Report to CG, 27th Air Div from Controllers, ADCC and 669th AC&W Squadron

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)
ADC Letter 200-1, dated 11 April 1951 and TWX from CG 27th Air Div (Def)-Norton AFB-Calif dated 25 September 1951

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

0710 PST

At 1610Z, 23 September 1951, an object was sighted and reported over Long Beach, California, at 50,000 feet. Four (4) F-86 were dispatched to investigate and sighted object over Muroc, California. Attaining an altitude of 43,000 feet, F-86 sighted object to be in a constant orbit in the vicinity of March Air Force Base, California, at an altitude between 50,000 feet and 55,000 feet. Object appeared to be a swept-wing, fighter-type aircraft.

Santa Maria, San Diego and Long Beach are regularly scheduled to release weather balloons which can easily rise to 50,000 feet, may have a kite attached that can give off reflection, and can expand greatly if they are 350 gram balloons.

0100 - 0600 - 1200 - 1900
0700 1300

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

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)
[redacted]
THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U.S.C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.
REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.
INTELLIGENCE USE ONLY
NOT TO BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1950—O—18321

EPW [redacted] 7/10/57
By Auth CG 27th Air Div (Def

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

[redacted]
(CLASSIFICATION)

UNCLASSIFIED

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES
CG 27th Air Division (Def), Norton AFB, California	1	

The inclosed report was received by Captain J. R. STEELE, Chief Controller, ADCC, from Major LEO MELZER, Operations Officer, 750th AC&W Squadron. The report was read back and verified by Major MELZER.

Major MELZER checked Edwards AFB Flight Dispatcher and Control Tower Operator concerning aircraft from Edwards AFB in flight. No jet or conventional aircraft had taken off from Edwards AFB. The Operations Officer confirmed that no experimental aircraft to his knowledge were scheduled for flight. Edwards AFB Flight Dispatcher checked Nellis AFB, Inyokern, and George AFB Operations and reported that no flight had been airborne at the time that would approximate descriptions given.

Major MANUSSIER, CO of the 750th AC&W Squadron, asked General BOYD, OG of Edwards AFB, whether he knew of any flight to which General BOYD replied in the negative. General BOYD suggested that North American Company at Los Angeles International Airport be checked. Major MELZER checked Bell Aircraft, N.A.C.A., Douglas, North American and Northrup, but only an MP at Northrup answered any of these calls and reported that there had been no activity all morning. Bell has been experimenting with X-1 and X-5; N.A.C.A. with the XF-92; Douglas with the D 558; and Northrup with the X-3.

Edwards AFB Weather Station reported that Santa Maria, San Diego and Long Beach are regularly scheduled to release weather balloons which can easily rise to 50,000 feet and can expand "like a house" if they are 350 gram balloons. Balloons released by Santa Maria usually drift over Long Beach and Riverside, the flight that was reported as sighted. A kite may be attached to the balloon as a "sounding set" and may give off reflection.

Major MELZER also spoke to Captain HARVEY, one of the pilots who sighted the object (see inclosed statement), who stated the object appeared to be orbiting when he sighted it and not going "too fast." This was in the March AFB area.

UNCLASSIFIED
[redacted]
IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN [illegible] AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF
[illegible] AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.
[illegible] CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENCE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U.S.C.
* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1950—O 813175

[redacted]

[redacted] 8/10/09
By Auth CG 27th Air Div (Def)

UNCLASSIFIED

S T A T E M E N T

23 September 1951

On 23 September 1951 at approximately 0810 ST a bogie was sighted about 50,000 feet over Long Beach. I, Captain James H Harvey and my flight of four were dispatched by Kill Deer to investigate this bogie. When we sighted this bogie he appeared to be over Murec. When we reached an altitude of 43,000 feet this object was in the vicinity of March Air Force Base.

From 43,000 feet this bogie appeared to be between 50,000 and 55,000 feet and also appeared to be a swept-wing, fighter-type aircraft. He was also noted to be in a constant orbit.

James H Harvey

JAMES H HARVEY
Captain USAF

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

515-148735

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

20 November 1951

93 Sept 51

SUBJECT: Sighting of Unidentified Object
Over Long Beach, California
on 23 September 1951
SPECIAL INQUIRY

[redacted]
Auth. CG, USAF
Init. RAS
Date 20 NOV 1951

TO: Commanding Officer
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: ATI

1. Attached hereto for your information are two copies of the report of investigation by Special Agent FRED T. RAGSDALE, 18th OSI District, file 24-129, dated 30 October 1951, subject as above.

2. No further investigative action is contemplated in this case, and the files of the Office of Special Investigations are considered closed in instant case.

3. Attention is invited to paragraph 7, AFR 205-1, dated 14 March 1949, which prohibits the disclosure of classified information to unauthorized personnel.

Reagan A. Scurlock

REAGAN A. SCURLOCK
Lt Colonel, USAF
Acting District Commander

1 Incl (in dup)
R/I, DO #18, dtd 30 Oct 51

Copy to:
Hq OSI w/o abv incl

When Inclosure No. 1 is withdrawn or not attached, the classification of [redacted] on this correspondence will be downgraded to [redacted] in accordance with paragraph 25e, AFR 205-1.

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

51S-167440

AIR FORCE-WPAFB-L-9 APR 51 15M

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hq USAF 18D 24-129, Subject; Sighting of Unidentified Object

27ADDI 360.1 (30 Oct 51) 1st Ind

HQ 27TH AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE) Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California

NOV 1 1951

TO: CO ATIC Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio

Forwarded herewith is the Report of Investigation requested by your Headquarters, reference ATIAA-2 Grudge.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl:
n/c

E P Washington

E. P. WASHINGTON
2ND LT USAF
Asst Air Adj Gen

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

S-19-1615-29-A

(3-4PP)

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

Hq USAF 18D 24-129, Subject: Sighting of Unidentified Object

27ADDI 360.1 (30 Oct 51) 1st Ind

HQ 27TH AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE) Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California

NOV 1 1951

TO: CO ATIC Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio

Forwarded herewith is the Report of Investigation requested by your Headquarters, reference ATIAA-2 Grudge.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl:
n/c

E. P. WASHINGTON
2ND LT USAF
Asst Air Adjutant

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

515-16 1529-A

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

WASHINGTON

[redacted]

Auth. CS. U.S.A.F.
Lt Col
30 Oct 51

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF

18th DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

AF SPECIALIZED DEPOT, BOX 310, MAYWOOD, CALIF.

18D 24-129

30 October 1951

SUBJECT: Sighting of Unidentified Object
Over Long Beach, California,
On 23 September 1951.
SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Commanding General
Headquarters, 27th Air Division (Defense)
Norton Air Force Base
San Bernardino, California

1. Reference is made to your letter of 22 October 1951, entitled "High Flying Unidentified Object", your file number 27ADDI 360.1, requesting this District Office to conduct an investigation concerning the sighting of an unidentified object over Long Beach, California, on 23 September 1951.

2. Attached is the original and one copy of a report prepared by Special Agent FRED T. RAGSDALE, which sets forth the results of our investigation pertaining to this matter.

3. This District Office anticipates conducting no further investigation on this case unless so requested by your Headquarters.

[redacted]
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

1 Incl:
Rpt of S/A FRED T. RAGSDALE,
dtd 30 Oct. 1951 (in dup.)

cc: Hqs OSI (w/incl)

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

515-161529-A

SMAMA—Jun 50—654

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] Auth. CS, U.S.A.F.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

UNCLASSIFIED

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 24-129

DATE 30 October 1951

Lt Col 30 Oct 51 mew

REPORT MADE BY
FRED T. RAGSDALE

REPORT MADE AT
DO #18, Maywood, California

PERIOD
25, 26, 30 October 1951

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
DO #18, Maywood, California

STATUS
CLOSED

TITLE
Sighting of Unidentified Object
Over Long Beach, California,
On 23 September 1951

CHARACTER
SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE
TWX to Hqs OSI, dated 26 October 1951

SYNOPSIS

The Commanding General, 27th Air Division, Norton AFB, San Bernardino, California, requested an investigation concerning the sighting of an unidentified object over Long Beach, California, on 23 September 1951. The object was sighted at 0810 hours at 50,000 feet. Four F-86's were dispatched to investigate and sighted object over Muroc, California. Attaining an altitude of 43,000 feet, the F-86's reported object to be in constant orbit in the vicinity of March AFB, California, at an altitude between 50,000 and 55,000 feet. Object appeared to be a swept wing fighter type aircraft. A check with aircraft manufacturers in the Southern California area revealed that none had scheduled test flights of experimental aircraft on the date object was seen. Weather balloons are released by three weather stations in Southern California, which rise to a height in excess of 50,000 feet. It was found that all three of these stations released a balloon on the morning of 23 September 1951. The operators of these stations said that there was a possibility that the object sighted was one of the balloons which had been released just prior to the time this object was reportedly seen.

DISTRIBUTION

~~CG~~, 27th Air Div (action copies) 2

Hqs OSI (AIRMAIL) 2

File 2

Local (2-10 pp)

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO

Commanding General
27th Air Division (Defense)
Norton Air Force Base
San Bernardino, California

APPROVED

KEEFE O'KEEFE
Colonel, USAF
District Commander.

FILE STAMP

UNCLASSIFIED

AFHQ FORM 15 JAN 49 0-208 Replaces AFCSI Form 4, 23 Jul 48, wh[redacted]

16—57744-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

515-161529

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

18D 24-129

DETAILS:

1. The investigation of this matter was predicated upon a letter from the Commanding General, Headquarters, 27th Air Division, Norton AFB, San Bernardino, California, dated 22 October 1951, requesting this District Office to make an investigation concerning the sighting of an unidentified object over Long Beach, California, on 23 September 1951.

2. At the time this matter was referred to this office, the 27th Air Division furnished an Intelligence Report which sets forth the following information.

"At 1610Z, 23 September 1951, an object was sighted and reported over Long Beach, California, at 50,000 feet. Four (4) F-86 were dispatched to investigate and sighted object over Muroc, California. Attaining an altitude of 43,000 feet, F-86 sighted object to be in a constant orbit in the vicinity of March Air Force Base, California, at an altitude between 50,000 feet and 55,000 feet. Object appeared to be a swept-wing, fighter-type aircraft.

"Santa Maria, San Diego and Long Beach are regularly scheduled to release weather balloons which can easily rise to 50,000 feet, may have a kite attached that can give off reflection, and can expand greatly if they are 350 gram balloons.

"The inclosed report was received by Captain J. R. STEELE, Chief Controller, ADCC, from Major LEO MELZER, Operations Officer, 750th AC&W Squadron. The report was read back and verified by Major MELZER.

"Major MELZER checked Edwards AFB Flight Dispatcher and Control Tower Operator concerning aircraft from Edwards AFB in flight. No jet or conventional aircraft had taken off from Edwards AFB. The Operations Officer confirmed that no experimental aircraft to his knowledge were scheduled for flight. Edwards AFB Flight Dispatcher checked Nellis AFB, Inyokern, and George AFB Operations and reported that no flight had been airborne at the time that would approximate descriptions given.

"Major MANUSSIER, CO of the 750th AC&W Squadron, asked General BOYD, CG of Edwards AFB, whether he knew of any flight to which General BOYD replied in the negative. General BOYD suggested that North American Company at Los Angeles International Airport be checked. Major MELZER checked Bell Aircraft, N.A.C.A., Douglas, North American and Northrup, but only an MP at Northrup answered any of these calls and reported that there had been no activity all morning. Bell has been experimenting with X-1 and X-5; N.A.C.A. with the XF-92; Douglas with the D 558; and Northrup with the X-3.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

515-161529

UNCLASSIFIED

"Edwards AFB Weather Station reported that Santa Maria, San Diego and Long Beach are regularly scheduled to release weather balloons which can easily rise to 50,000 feet and can expand "like a house" if they are 350 gram balloons. Balloons released by Santa Maria usually drift over Long Beach and Riverside, the flight that was reported as sighted. A kite may be attached to the balloon as a "sounding set" and may give off reflection.

"Major MELZER also spoke to Captain HARVEY, one of the pilots who sighted the object (see inclosed statement), who stated the object appeared to be orbiting when he sighted it and not going "too fast." This was in the March AFB area."

"S T A T E M E N T

23 September 1951

"On 23 September 1951 at approximately 0810 ST a bogie was sighted about 50,000 feet over Long Beach. I, Captain James H. Harvey and my flight of four were dispatched by Kill Deer to investigate this bogie. When we sighted this bogie he appeared to be over Muroc. When we reached an altitude of 43,000 feet this object was in the vicinity of March Air Force Base.

"From 43,000 feet this bogie appeared to be between 50,000 and 55,000 feet and also appeared to be a swept-wing, fighter-type aircraft. He was also noted to be in a constant orbit.

"s/t
JAMES H. HARVEY
Captain USAF

"CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/ Ethel F. Hoffman
ETHEL F. HOFFMAN
Major, USAF "

3. The Air Defense Command suggested the possibility that this object was an experimental aircraft which was being test flown for one of the aircraft manufacturing concerns located in this area.

4. From the information set forth above, it will be noted that this object was first sighted over Long Beach. The F-86's, after being dispatched to investigate, sighted the object over Muroc, California, which is some 100 miles due North of Long Beach. Captain HARVEY, the flight leader, said that when the F-86's attained an altitude of 43,000 feet, the object was sighted in the vicinity of March AFB. The March AFB is some

UNCLASSIFIED

515-1615-29

UNCLASSIFIED

125 miles South and East of Muroc. Therefore, after being first sighted, the object appeared to travel due North for some 100 miles and then Southeast for approximately 125 miles.

5. Special Agent ARTHUR J. MAIKOSKI made inquiry at the following aircraft companies in an effort to determine if they were test flying any experimental aircraft on 23 September 1951.

Northrop Aircraft Company
Hawthorne, California

North American Aviation, Inc.
Inglewood, California

Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc.
El Segundo, California

Lockheed Aircraft Company
Burbank, California

Hughes Aircraft Company
Culver City, California

It was found that none of these companies was test flying experimental aircraft on the date this object was seen. The above companies are under contract to build aircraft for both the U. S. Air Forces and U. S. Navy.

6. Special Agent THOMAS J. McARDLE made inquiry at the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, San Diego, California, and they advised that, although they were presently working on experimental aircraft, they did not have a flight scheduled for 23 September 1951.

7. Colonel C. E. JACKSON, Air Force Engineering Field Office, 5504 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, advised that he knew of no experimental aircraft which was being test flown on the date this object was seen. He stated that practically all USAF experimental aircraft are test flown at Edwards AFB, Muroc, California. In this respect, it will be noted that the 27th Air Division made inquiry at Edwards AFB and they reported that no experimental aircraft was scheduled for flight on 23 September 1951.

8. Special Agent MEDFORD M. LEAKE interviewed Major KENNETH T. BROOKS, Detachment Commander, Weather Division, Long Beach AFB, Long Beach, California. He claimed that a weather balloon is released by his station approximately every six hours. He said that his records show that one was released between the hours of 0645 and 0745 on the morning of 23 September 1951 and that due to mechanical difficulties, contact with the balloon was lost at 42,900 feet. The rate of ascent of this balloon was 1000 feet per minute and was traveling in a general North Easterly and

UNCLASSIFIED

515-16-15-29

UNCLASSIFIED

later Westerly direction.

9. Lt. OLIVER A. WAGGONER, Forecaster at the Long Beach Weather Station, advised that, in his opinion, the balloon could not have been more than eight miles from point of release at Long Beach at the time his office lost contact with it.

10. Major BROOKS said that this balloon at 43,000 feet would be about 20 feet in diameter and the size and shape would be determined by the wind currents and the wind speed. Twenty feet below the balloon on a cord is attached a red paper parachute which is connected to a radio transmitter encased in a small white glossy cardboard box approximately 1' x 8".

11. Special Agent HENRY O. CHAPPELL interviewed Mr. P. R. NELSON, General Services Meteorologist, Hancock Field, Santa Maria, California, and he advised that his station released two weather balloons on 23 September 1951. One was released at 0300Z hours (1900 hours Pacific Standard Time, 22 September 1951), and one was released at 1505Z hours (0705 Pacific Standard Time, 23 September 1951). The one which was released on 22 September 1951 attained an altitude of 78,000 feet and was contacted for 68 minutes by radio. The one which was released on 23 September 1951 remained in the air 74 minutes and attained an altitude of 100,000 feet. He said that the course of the balloons would depend upon the wind velocity and that the average winds from Santa Maria are traveling in a Southeasterly direction. He stated that it was doubtful that one of the balloons which was released at Santa Maria, which is some 175 miles North and West of Long Beach, could have traveled from Santa Maria South to Long Beach then North to Santa Maria, and then South and East to March AFB. A description of the balloon at an altitude of some 50,000 feet was the same as that furnished by Major BROOKS.

12. Special Agent THOMAS McARDLE was advised by Lt. Commander D. C. WEST, Weather Station Officer, Naval Air Station, San Diego, California, that his station released a balloon at approximately 0700 hours PST on 23 September 1951. He claimed that the balloon attained an altitude of some 60,000 feet before it burst. San Diego is approximately 150 miles South of Long Beach.

13. All of the above weather officers stated that there was a possibility that the object sighted was one of the balloons which had been released, however each stated that it was doubtful because of the course which the sighted object reportedly traveled.

14. This matter was coordinated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles, The Office of Naval Intelligence in Los Angeles, and San Diego, and the Counter Intelligence Corps, Fort MacArthur, California. None of these agencies had received any information relative to this matter.

- CLOSED

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

5-15-1615-29

INSERT OFFICE SYMBOL AND FULL SIGNATURE IN APPROPRIATE BLOCK

CG, CO OR DEPUTY

INSPECTOR GENL'S OFFICE

PUBLIC INF. OFFICE

COMPTROLLER

PERSONNEL & ADM.

RESEARCH & DEV.*

INTELLIGENCE

SUPPLY AND MAINT.

PROC. & IND. MOB. PLNG.*

OTHER

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED ATIAA-2c/EJR/vs

IN REPLY REFER TO:
AFOIN-ATIAA-2c

28 NOV 1951

SUBJECT: [redacted] High Flying Unidentified Object

TO: Commanding General
27th Air Division (Def)
Attention: Director of Intelligence
Norton Air Force Base
San Bernardino, California

1. Reference is made to AF Form 112, #1, dated 5 Oct 1951, subject: "High Flying Unidentified Object", in which the incident of an unidentified object sighted over March Air Force Base on 23 Sept 1951 is reported.

2. The possibility of this object being a weather balloon released from San Diego, Long Beach, or Santa Maria or that it was an experimental aircraft has been investigated. It is highly doubtful if the object was a balloon, and it was not an experimental aircraft. Consequently, further investigation of the incident is warranted.

3. It is requested that the following information be obtained as soon as possible and forwarded to Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Attn: ATIAA-2c, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

a. From what location was the original sighting of the object made? The report states that it was sighted over Long Beach. How was it located, visually or by radar?

b. From what base did the F-86's take off? What was the time of take-off?

c. The report states that the object was first sighted by the F-86's over Muroc. What was the time and location of the F-86's at the time of this sighting? How did they determine the object was over Muroc?

d. The report states that when the F-86's reached an altitude of 43,000 ft. the object was over March Air Force Base. Did the F-86's have the object in sight during its run from Muroc to March Air Force

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

*AREA COMMANDS WILL LINE OUT ORGANIZATIONAL TITLE NOT APPLICABLE WHEN ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED IN COORDINATION BLOCK	ORIG. FILE COPIES TO RECORDS SEC. AGD HQ. BR. ☐ LAB. BR. ☐	INITIALS	EXTRA COPY RETAINED	OFF. SYMBOL	INITIALS

AMC Form No. 8
Rev 1 Apr 48)
(Formerly AMC 10-7)

WF-L-15 APR 49 2 Mil

CENTRAL FILES COPY

OFFICE SYMBOL AND FULL SIGNATURE IN APPROPRIATE BLOCK

CG, CO OR DEPUTY

INSPECTOR GENL'S OFFICE

PUBLIC INF. OFFICE

COMPTROLLER

PERSONNEL & ADM.

RESEARCH & DEV.*

INTELLIGENCE

SUPPLY AND MAINT.

PROC. & IND. MOB. PLNG.*

OTHER

AMC Form No. 8
(Rev 1 Apr 48)
(Formerly AMC 10-7)

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

ATIC, AFOIN-ATIAA-2s, Subject: [redacted] High Flying Unidentified Object

28 NOV 1951

Base or did they lose it and sight it again over March Air Force Base? What was the time when the object was sighted over March AFB?

3. Were any types of balloons launched from either Norton AFB or March AFB several hours prior to the time of the sighting of the object over March AFB?

4. In addition to the above specific points, it is requested that the F-86 pilots be reinterrogated and a detailed statement of their attempted interception be submitted. It would be very helpful to include with these a Sectional Chart with the flight path of the F-86's and times of significant occurrences marked.

5. It is realized that due to the time that has elapsed since the incident it may be difficult to get data but it is requested that every effort be made to obtain information that is as accurate as possible.

6. The Air Technical Intelligence Center wishes to express its appreciation for the cooperation received by your Command and the Office of Special Investigations in regard to this incident.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

S. H. KIRKLAND, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Technical Analysis Division

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted] INITIAL

*AREA COMMANDS WILL LINE OUT ORGANIZATIONAL TITLE NOT APPLICABLE WHEN ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED IN COORDINATION BLOCK	ORIG. FILE COPIES TO RECORDS SEC. AGD HQ. BR. ☐ LAB. BR. 2	INITIALS	EXTRA COPY RETAINED	OFF. SYMBOL	INITIALS

WF-L-15 APR 49 2 Mil CENTRAL FILES COPY

[redacted]

By [redacted] 27th CG 27th Air Div (Def) 2/12/57

HEADQUARTERS 27th AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)

NORTON AIR FORCE BASE

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

UNCLASSIFIED

In Reply Refer To:
27ADDI-360.1

DEC 21 1951

SUBJECT: (Restricted) High Flying Unidentified Object

TO: Commanding General
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

1. Reference is made to your letter AFCIN-ATIAA-2c dated 28 November 1951. In compliance with your request, the following information is submitted in answer to the questions contained in paragraph (3) of your letter.

a. Original sighting of object was made visually at 0715 PST from position over Santa Monica Bay as indicated on attached map overlay.

b. Element making original sighting took off from George Air Force Base at 0700 PST.

c. Reports that object was directly over Muroc and March Air Force Base were apparently in error, resulting from the difficulty of making a land fix at high altitude. (Based on later interrogation of pilots by DI of First Fighter-Interceptor Wing, when reports indicated both sightings at the same time.)

d. Paragraph 1 c above applies.

e. Norton Air Force Base and March Air Force Base were queried as to the launching of any type balloon, or any other object that might have had the appearance of the object in question, from those bases. Norton Air Force Base replied in the negative; March Air Force Base has not replied to date, and their reply will be forwarded to your headquarters immediately upon receipt. However, the orbit of the object, as compared with the prevailing winds indicated, seems to preclude the possibility of the object being a free balloon.

[redacted]
UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

515-189758

[redacted]

27ADDI-360.1, Subject: [redacted] High Flying Unidentified Object

2. Attached are statements of reinterrogation of those pilots still available for questioning, and Sectional Chart indicating significant occurrences, as submitted by the 94th Fighter-Interceptor Wing. (A correction of Captain Reichman's statement was later made verbally to the DI of the Wing: The nature of the scramble was an Air Defense mission, not to intercept an unidentified object as originally stated.)

3. Also attached is a statement by the Commanding Officer of the 669th AC&W Squadron, which indicates that the object was never picked up by radar.

4. It is believed that this data presents as accurate a report as can be obtained. However, if further investigation is desired, this headquarters will make every effort to obtain additional information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

E. P. WASHINGTON
2ND LT USAF
Asst Air Adj Gen

3 Incls.
1. Cy 27 ADIV ltr 360.1 dtd 7 Dec 51, w/1st Ind fr CO, 669th AC&W Sq dtd 13 Dec 51.
2. Cy ATIC ltr AFOIN-ATIAA-2c dtd 28 Nov 51
3. Rpt & Interrogation, High Flying Uniden Object, quad.

[redacted]

515.189758

HEADQUARTERS 27th AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)
NORTON AIR FORCE BASE
SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA

UNCLASSIFIED

DEC 7 1951

In Reply Refer To:
27ADDI-360.1

SUBJECT: (Restricted) High Flying Unidentified Object

TO: Commanding Officer (Kirtland Desk)
669th AC&W Squadron
Fort MacArthur
San Pedro, California

1. This headquarters has received a request for further investigation of the unidentified object sighted on 23 September 1951, and reported upon by 2nd Lt. Lorimer W. Hay-Chapman of your command.

2. It is requested that the following information be forwarded as soon as possible:

a. Original sighting: how received, time and position.

b. Time and position of later sightings, indicating whether visual or by radar.

c. Detailed report of action taken, including scramble order.

d. If feasible, a Sectional Chart showing flight paths and times of significant occurrences.

3. A detailed report of the interceptor action is also being requested through the 1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing. By correlating the two reports, it is hoped a complete history of the incident may be obtained.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HUTCHINSON:

UNCLASSIFIED

E. P. WASHINGTON
2ND LT USAF
Asst Air Adj Gen

(268)

Hq 27th AD (DEF) 360.1 Subject: High Flying Unidentified Object

669th AC&W Sqdn 360.1 (7 Dec 51) 1st Ind 13 Dec 51

669th AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON, Fort MacArthur, California

TO: Commanding General, 27th Air Division (DEF), Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California

1. In reference to Par. 2a basic letter the following is submetted.

a. Original sighting: received by VHF from Swanee Brown leader at 0755 PDST. The object was over San Pedro, California.

b. Time and position of later sightings: Swanee Brown leader last saw the object near March Air Force Base, California. All sightings were visual, the object was not picked up by radar.

c. Swanee Brown flight was on an Air Defense mission when the object was sighted. Swanee Brown was unable to intercept the object because of its high altitude and speed. The ADCC Controller was notified of the incident and our attempt to intercept the craft.

d. It is not possible for this Headquarters to show the flight path of the object. It was under surveillance by the pilot for approximately fifteen (15) minutes. The flight path was erratic but in an easterly direction.

JAMES H. DAVIS
Major USAF
Commanding Officer

Incl #1

669-874

STATEMENT [redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

11 December 1951

1. Captain Harold E. Guthrie States: On the 23rd of September I was piloting an F-86E A/C in a flight of four. I took off from George Air Force Base at 0800, 23 September, 1951 for a scramble interception of an unidentified Bogie over the Los Angeles area. At approximately 0810 I sighted an unidentified object over San Antonio PEAK California, (117degrees 40' W-34 degrees, 20'N). It appeared to be at 40,000 feet altitude, moving South. This object appeared to be travelling at a slow speed. It was oval shaped with a silverish color,like aluminum. It had a level flight but orbitting right. The flight attempted to intercept; however, at 43,900 feet altitude we broke off because of low fuel. Object sighted was still above us.

2. Q. What action did you take with ACDU when you observed fuel low and had to break interception ?

A. Kill Deer was contacted and informed of our low fuel level. Our flight was released for Pancake.

Q. Did Kill Deer acknowledge your message ?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you hear any further alerts being directed by Kill Deer ?

A. No.

Q. What time was this ?

A. Approximately 0925.

Q. Did you see any other military A/C in the vicinity ?

A. None.

Q. Were you in Radio Communication with any other military A/C in the vicinity ?

A. No.

Q. Who else, in your particular flight, observed this object ?

A. Captain Harvey, Major Buchanan(transferred to Korea), and Captain Coberly(also now in Korea).

Q. What was the nature of your discussion airborn, when the object was sighted ? [redacted]

A. We discussed its altitude, speed, and direction of flight.

A'(GUTHRIE) [redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

Statement Cont'd. (Guthrie)

UNCLASSIFIED

A. Cont'd. Kildare asked us to indentify, and we found that impossible to do.

Q. Why couldn't you?

A. Object was too high and we were suffering from a fuel shortage.

Q. Direction. Had this object maintained a Southerly direction during your attempt to intercept it?

A. It had maintained "Orbit to Right."

Q. Your position at 0925 was where and what altitude?

A. In the vicinity of SAN ANTONIO PEAK, Alt: 43,500ft.

Q. Do you know if there were any other Interceptors air borne on or about the L.A. area, when you were On Intercept Scramble?

A. Yes. Two others from George A.F.B.

Q. Separate flights?

A. Yes, a separate flight.

Q. Do you know if they were aware of the proximity of this object?

A. No. However, they had sighted it at Long Beach and they had sighted it before us.

Q. Can you give the sequences of Vectors if any given you by ACW or any other such agencies?

A. There were no Vectors given by Kildare because object was not reflected in the radar scope.

Q. Do you know if your flight was observed Kildare scope?

A. I don't know. But I presume they did.

Q. Have you ever requested a Fix from them?

A. Yes, and they have given us a position Fix.

Q. What do you think your object sighted could have been, bearing and its behaviour?

A. It is my opinion it was a free weather balloon, influenced by upper air currents.

Harold E. Guthrie

HAROLD E. GUTHRIE
Captain USAF
Intelligence Officer

UNCLASSIFIED

"A"

HEADQUARTERS
1ST FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR WING
NORTON AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF.

[redacted]

SUBJECT: WEATHER REPORT.

Winds Aloft — 23 Sept 51

UNCLASSIFIED

The following information was extracted from record files maintained by Base Weather Station, Norton AF Base, San Bernardino, California. Major Harmon USAF, Weather Squadron Commanding Officer.

WINDS ALOFT. 23 Sept 51- 1500Z= 0700 hrs Pacific Time

200 M.B. = 40,200 ft. Los Angeles Area

Long Beach— Wind from due West 270 degrees at 20 knots.

Phoenix— " " " " 270 " " 35 " .

Las Vegas— " " " " 280 " " 20 " .

Indicating these winds were constant from West to East

(Note) a. This is at variance with Guthrie who reported object orbitting to right.(item free balloon).

b. Reichman reported "object" orbitting left would be more correct.(item free balloon)

c. Harvey's report--object over M.A.F.B. could not, or at least eliminates (item free balloon)

WINDS ALOFT--12 hours later. ie. 0300Z 24th or 1900 Pac Time 23 Sept 51.

Winds change to N.W. with no appreciable increase in velocity, except Tuscon..winds up to 45 knots.

TEMPERATURES--aloft were MINUS 55 degrees generally in both cases.

CHAS. F. CASEY
Major USAF
Intelligence Officer
1st. Ftr-Intcp. Wing.

UNCLASSIFIED

"D"

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
94TH FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON
George Air Force Base, California

11 December 1951

SUBJECT: Investigation of high flying Unidentified Object.

TO : Commanding General
1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing
Norton Air Force Base,
San Bernardino, California

1. Reference letter 27 ADD1-360.1. The attached reports are submitted herewith.

a. Statement of pilots making observation

b. Map

c. Overlays

d. Weather Rept. Winds Aloft. Extract Records 23 Sept 51 C.F.C.

2. Pilots were interrogated by Major Charles F. Cleveland, C.F.C. Intelligence Officer of the 1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

HAROLD E. CUTHRIE
Captain USAF
Intelligence Officer

Incls:
A. Statements by:

Capt. James H. Harvey
Capt. Harold E. Cuthrie
Capt. Omer J. Reichman

B. Map

C. Overlays

D. Weather Rept. Winds Aloft. Extract records 23 Sept 51 C.F.C.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

11 December 1951

1. On 23 September 1951 at approximately 0810 ST a bogie was sighted about 50,000 feet over Long Beach. I, Captain James H. Harvey and my flight of four were dispatched by Kill Deer to investigate this bogie. When we sighted this bogie he appeared to be over Muroc. When we reached an altitude of 43,000 feet this object was in the vicinity of March Air Force Base.

From 43,000 feet this bogie appeared to be between 50,000 and 55,000 feet and also appeared to be a swept-wing, fighter-type aircraft. He was also noted to be in a constant orbit.

2. Q. When you were Vectored by the Long Beach area, were you able to Fix your position?

A. Yes, at approximately 117° 30 W. 33° 20 N.

Q. Did you see this object?

A. Yes.

Q. What position was it, in relation to you?

A. 12% and very high.

Q. What was your heading at that time?

A. 340° Compass Heading. (355° True Azimuth & Deviation)

Q. Did you alert the rest of your flight?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. By what method?

A. Radio.

Q. Were you on the same comm. channel as Kill Deer?

A. Yes.

[redacted]

"A" (HARVEY)

UNCLASSIFIED

Q. Did your flight Roger your information?

A. Yes they did.

Q. Were you sure Kill Deer read you also?

A. Right, because Kill Deer knew of object.

Q. Did you question Kill Deer if they could read object on the scope?

A. I did not, but Captain Reichman did.

Q. Were you over Muroc at any time?

A. Negative.

Q. Did you attempt to intercept object?

A. Yes I did with my three companions.

Q. What happened. Were you able to intercept?

A. No——because we had external tanks, and 43,000 feet was the highest we could get. Plus fuel shortages. If we had dropped our tanks, I believe we could have attained higher altitude.

Q. Did you ask permission to drop tanks?

A. No.

Q. Did Control instruct you to do so?

A. No.

Q. Did you lose sight of object at any time?

A. No.

Q. How long did you remain in area with object?

A. I don't know exactly, but at least 10 to 15 minutes. Not being able to climb higher, we broke off the intercept, because of the fuel shortage, and returned to Base.

Q. Did Kill Deer release you, or what comm did you have with Control?

A. Yes, when informed of our position.

Q. Did Kill Deer inform you a new interception was in progress?

A. No.

[redacted]

"A"

UNCLASSIFIED

Q. Were you at any time over or near March Base?

A. Yes, within 10 miles, altitude 43,000ft.

Q. Did you see this object then?

A. Yes, it appeared, from angle we were at, to be directly over March AF.Base.

Q. Any noticeable manuevers?

A. No, just an orbit——varied between left and right.

Q. Would you say it was a controlled orbit?

A. Yes, it appeared so; the turn was held in. by controller.

Q. Did you hear March Tower talk at any time?

A. No. I was on a different frequency.

Q. Can you describe the object?

A. It appeared to be a swept back wing, bright silver color. In size prospection, it would fit within the radii of a gun sight.

Q. What altitude do you estimate object was at?

A. 50-55,000 feet.

Q. Your altitude at this time was 43,000 feet.

A. Yes, it was.

Q. That would indicate approximately 12,000 feet difference between you and the object?

A. Yes.

A. What was the weather and visibility?

A. Clear and unlimited.

Q. In your own opinion Captain, what do you deduce it(the object) could have been?

A. It could have been a free ballon.

Q. Did you discuss this object with your co-pilots.

A. Yes. We were not quite definite, but it was an unidentified object.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Q. What time did you land?

A. At about 0845.

[redacted]

James H. Harvey
JAMES H. HARVEY
Captain USAF

"A"

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

STATEMENT

[redacted] 11 December 1951

1. Captain Omer J. Reichman states: On the morning of ~~23~~ 23 September, 1951, I was one of an element of two that Scrambled at approximately 0700 hours. [The nature of this crambe was to intercept unidentified object.] We were Vectored over Long Beach Bay, arriving there at 0715 at approximately 30,000feet. I was in a port orbit over position (118° 40 W—33° 50 N). I took up a Vector to Long Beach range at approximately 80° heading. At a period 30 seconds from Long Beach Range, I saw this object at 12 o'c high above me. It appeared to be in a left orbit of an undeterment speed, at above 50,000feet altitude. It continued on a left orbit and passed directly over me, port to starboard. It appeared to have swept back wing of 45° and a very bright silver coloring—like sun reflecting on water. The prospection of the object seemed very far away.

2. Did the pilot of your element also see this object?

A. Yes. (Name Jack G. Rico't, ~~Captain~~ Lt.) Now TDY MAXWELL Fld.

Q. Did you attract his attention to the object?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you satisfy yourself he saw and recognized object pointed out?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. How did you accomplish this?

A. Over the radio, V.H.F.

Q. Is that on the same channel as Kill Deer?

A. Yes. I called this information into them. They Rogered but they did not have object on the radar scope.

Q. [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

"A" (REICHMAN)

UNCLASSIFIED

Q. Could they, or was Kill Deer tracking you?

A. Yes.

Q. You are quite certain Kill Deer Rogered you, but it could not Roger object?

A. Right. At the time I called in my position.

Q. What was your position at the time?

A. 30 seconds from Long Beach, heading 80 degrees. Probably making

Q. Did you notice any manuevers from this object?

A. No. It continued in a left orbit.

Q. Were you in vicinity of Nurse at any time?

A. I passed within 20 miles going out and returning. Did not see object there.

Q. Did you try to intercept it?

A. No. The shortage of fuel and altitude of the object prevented me from doing so.

Q. Are you positive Kill Deer was aware of object, and also of your fuel shortage?

A. Yes, they were, because they had Vectored the next flight into the vicinity and released us.

Q. In your own opinion, what do you think the object could have been?

A. I am of the opinion it was an A/C of some sort, being in a state of burn.

Q. Have you discussed this object with others who also saw it, and if so, who?

A. Yes, because of curiosity and attempting to resolve it. I also reported it on landing. Capt Harvey made a written report.

Q. Did you lose sight of the object.

A. No. I left because of fuel shortage, and object was still in a port orbit, altitude approx. 50,000 ft.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Q.- What time approximately did you break off?

A. About 0810 to 0815.- Heading directly to Base at a 33° heading.

OMER J. REICHMAN
Captain USAF

"A"

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

35°

118°-30'

117°

GAFB

Bronze at intercept at 0925

TRACK OF OBJECT

GUTHRIE ORBIT TRACK - CLIMBING

GUTHRIE
0810 - 23 SEPT. 51
FOLLOWED OBJECT
ORBITING BENEATH
BOGIE

WINDS ALOFT
40,200 FT.
TEMP. -55°

34°

10 MI.

MARCH FIELD

117°

0810

0715

43000

REICHMAN
0715
30000

80° HEADING
SIGHTED 12°/c HIGH

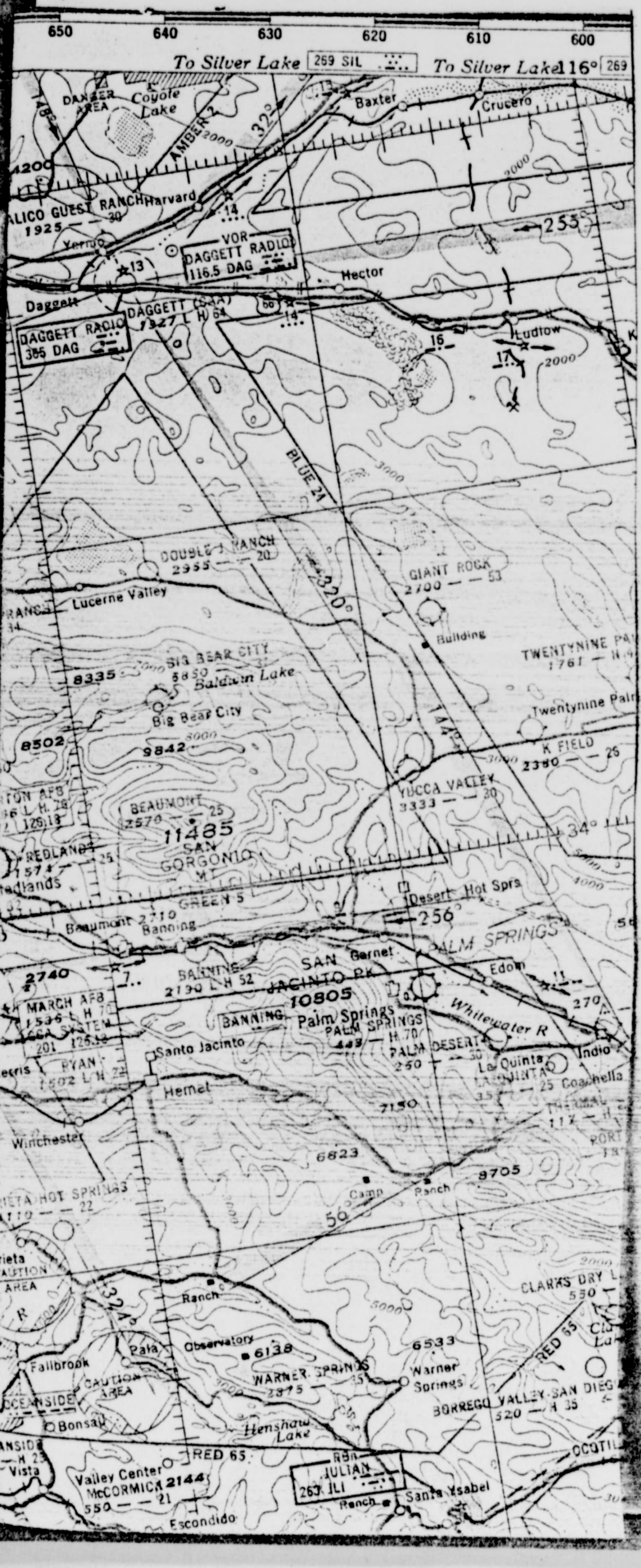
43000 FT
HARVEY OBSERVES
OBJECT SEEMINGLY
OVER MARCH AFB

34°

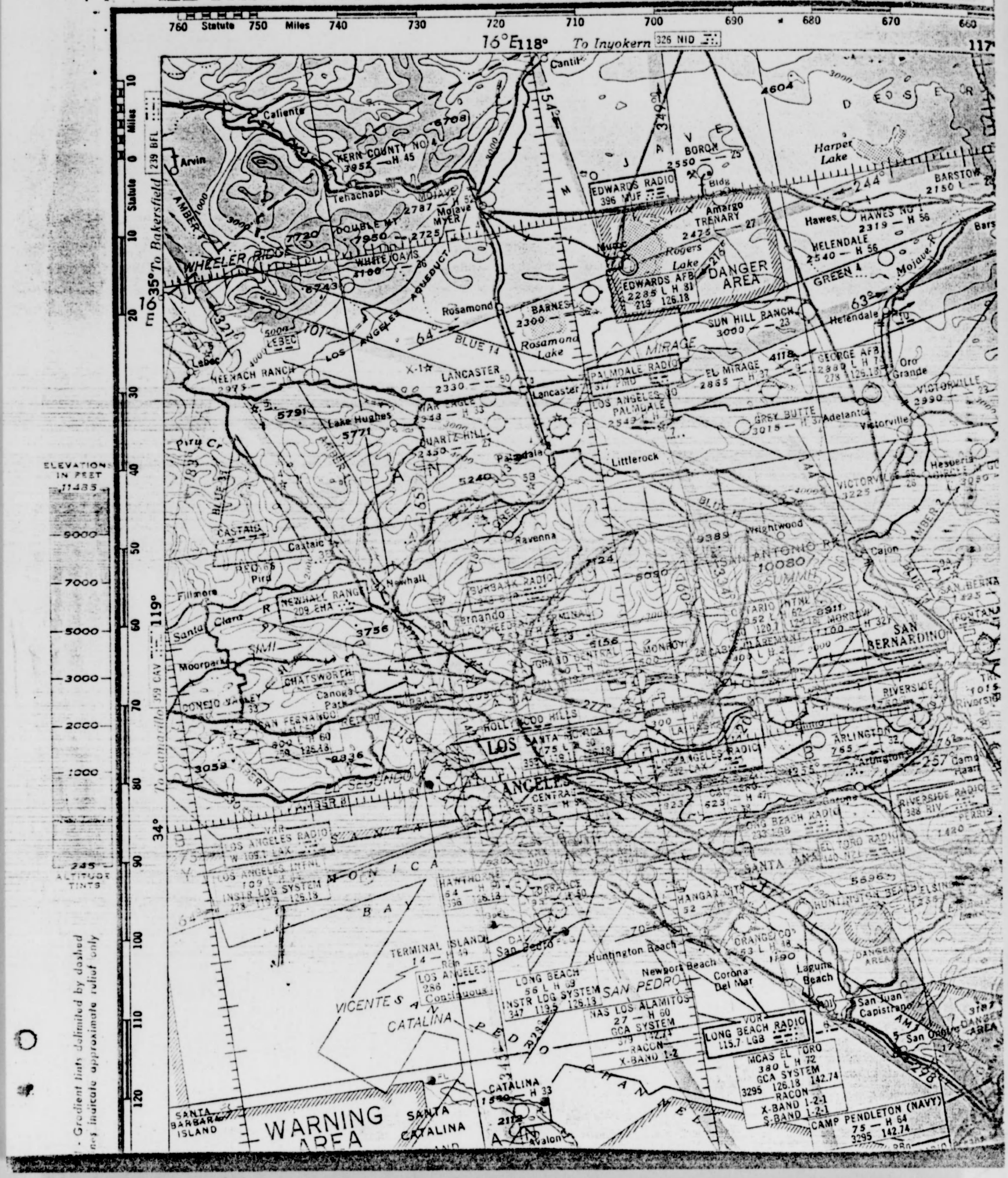
UNCLASSIFIED

HARVEY 0810
23 SEPT. 51

MAP EL PASO - LOS ANGELES
FC 219.


650
640
630
620
610
600
To Silver Lake
269 SIL
To Silver Lake
116°
269
DANGER AREA
Coyote Lake
AMBER 2
32°
Baxter
Crucero
4200
ALICO GUEST RANCH
1925 — 30
Harvard
14
2000
255
VOR
DAGGETT RADIO
116.5 DAG
Yermo
13
Hector
Daggett
DAGGETT (CIVIL)
1927 L H 64
DAGGETT RADIO
385 DAG
14
16
Ludlow
17
2000
PLUE 24
3000
DOUBLE J RANCH
2955 — — 20
320°
GIANT ROCK
2700 — — 53
Lucerne Valley
Building
TWENTYNINE PA
1761 — H 4
8335
BIG BEAR CITY
5850
Baldwin Lake
Big Bear City
Twentynine Palms
8502
9842
K FIELD
2380 — — 26
YUCCA VALLEY
3333 — — 30
BEAUMONT
2570 — — 25
11485
SAN GORGONIO MT
34°
REDLANDS
1574 — — 25
Redlands
GREEN 5
Desert Hot Spgs
256°
Beaumont 2710
Banning
PALM SPRINGS
2740
BANNING
2130 L-H 52
SAN JACINTO PK
10805
Garnet
Edom
MARCH AFB
1536 L H 70
Palm Springs
PALM SPRINGS
443 — H 70
Whitewater R
270
Santo Jacinto
PALM DESERT
250 — — 30
Indio
Perris
RYAN
1502 L-H 22
Hemet
La Quinta
LA QUINTA
35 — — 25 Coachella
7150
Winchester
6823
9705
Camp
Ranch
50
ARIETA HOT SPRINGS
1710 — — 22
CAUTION AREA
Ranch
CLARKS DRY L
550 —
Observatory
6138
6533
Fallbrook
Pala
WARNER SPRINGS
2975 — — 35
Warner Springs
RED 65
OCEANSIDE
CAUTION AREA
BORREGO VALLEY SAN DIEG
520 — H 35
Bonsall
Henshaw Lake
OCOTIL
Vista
RED 65
RBN
JULIAN
263 ILI
Valley Center
McCORMICK 2144
550 — — 21
Ranch
Santa Ysabel
Escondido

EL PASO TO LOS ANGELES, U. S. A. FC 219



ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CO, ATIB

TO: Commanding Officer
Air Force Weather Squadron
Long Beach Municipal Airport
Long Beach, California
RADNOTE

INFO: D/I, Hq USAF, Washington 25, D. C.
RADNOTE

DATE-TIME GROUP	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
301845Z Nov 51	

PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION	INFORMATION
	Routine	

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☒ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION	CLASSIFICATION

ATIAA-11-3Z. This Center has been informed that your station launched a weather balloon between 0645 and 0745 PST on 23 Sept 1951, and that it was lost at 42,900 feet. It is requested that note exact details be forwarded by mail as soon as possible for use in high priority classified project. Information needed is:

a. Exact time of launch.

b. Ground track of balloon until it was lost.

c. Time and location when balloon was lost.

d. Winds aloft.

e. Rate of ascent.

f. Type of balloon.

In reply refer to Project Grudge.

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION [redacted] 1 OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

Lt E. J. Buppelt/vs

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

SYMBOL
ATIAA-3z

TELEPHONE
2261

OFFICIAL TITLE
KENNETH T. PIECH, Capt, USAF
Asst Air Adjutant General

DD FORM 1 OCT 49 173 REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49. WHICH MAY BE USED.

16—58923-3 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DETACHMENT 10-6
10TH WEATHER SQUADRON
LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

4 December 1951

SUBJECT: Flight of Weather Balloon (Project Grudge)

TO: Commanding Officer
ATIC Wright Patterson AFB
Ohio

1. Reference your TWX 30 November 1951, The following information is submitted:

a. Launching time 0700P.

b. Ground track of balloon is shown in enclosed graph.

c. Balloon lost at 0743P, eight (8) miles east of this station, bearing ninety-five (95) degrees.

d. Winds Aloft:

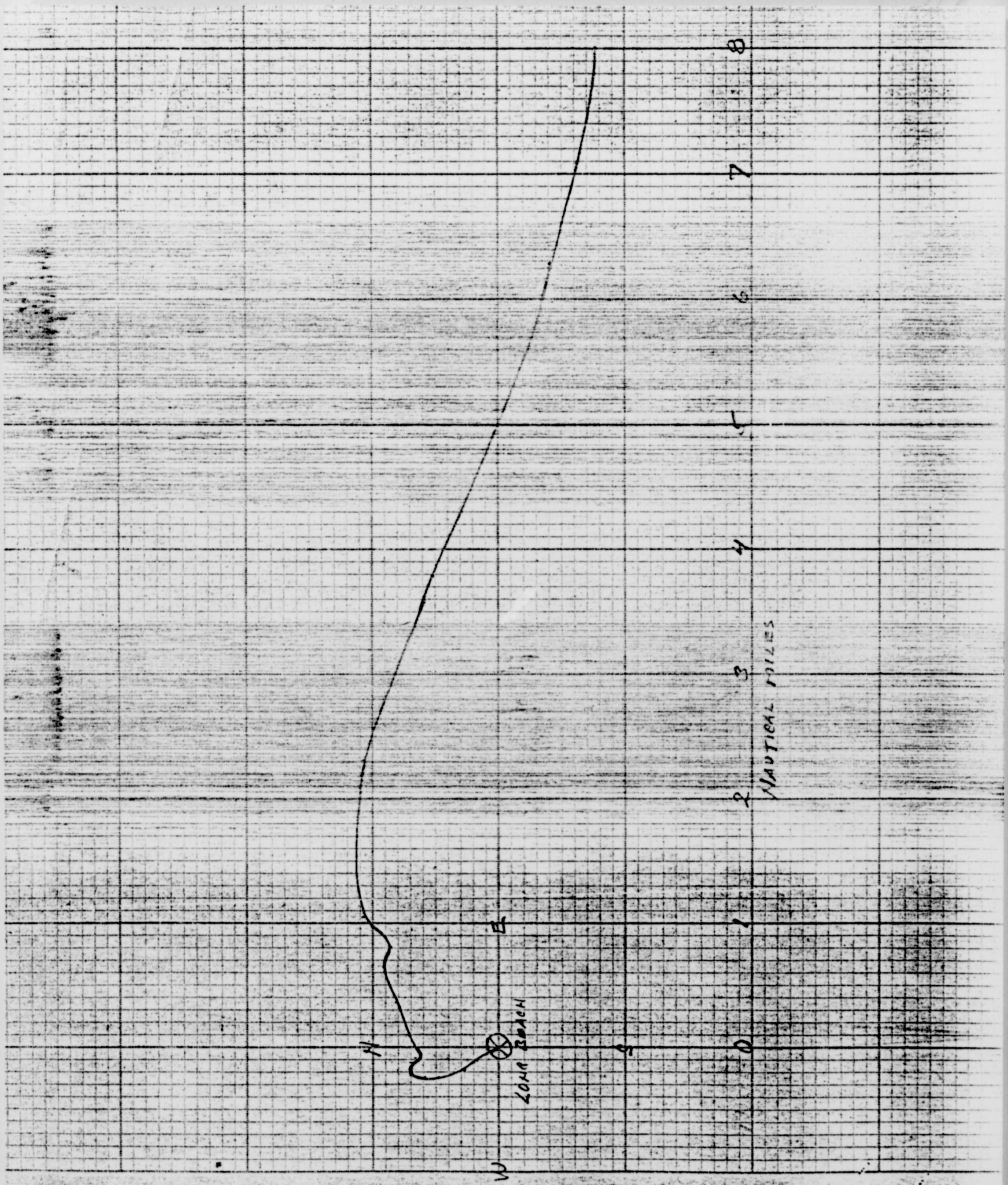
Height	Direction	knots
SFC	160 deg	02
1000	140	04
2000	140	05
3000	140	07
4000	160	07
5000	170	05
6000	180	06
7000	200	07
8000	270	04
9000	310	03
10000	320	03
12000	240	05
14000	250	09
16000	250	09
18000	290	05
20000	230	10
25000	270	15
30000	290	19
35000	290	32
40000	280	21

e. Rate of ascent was 1000 feet per minute.

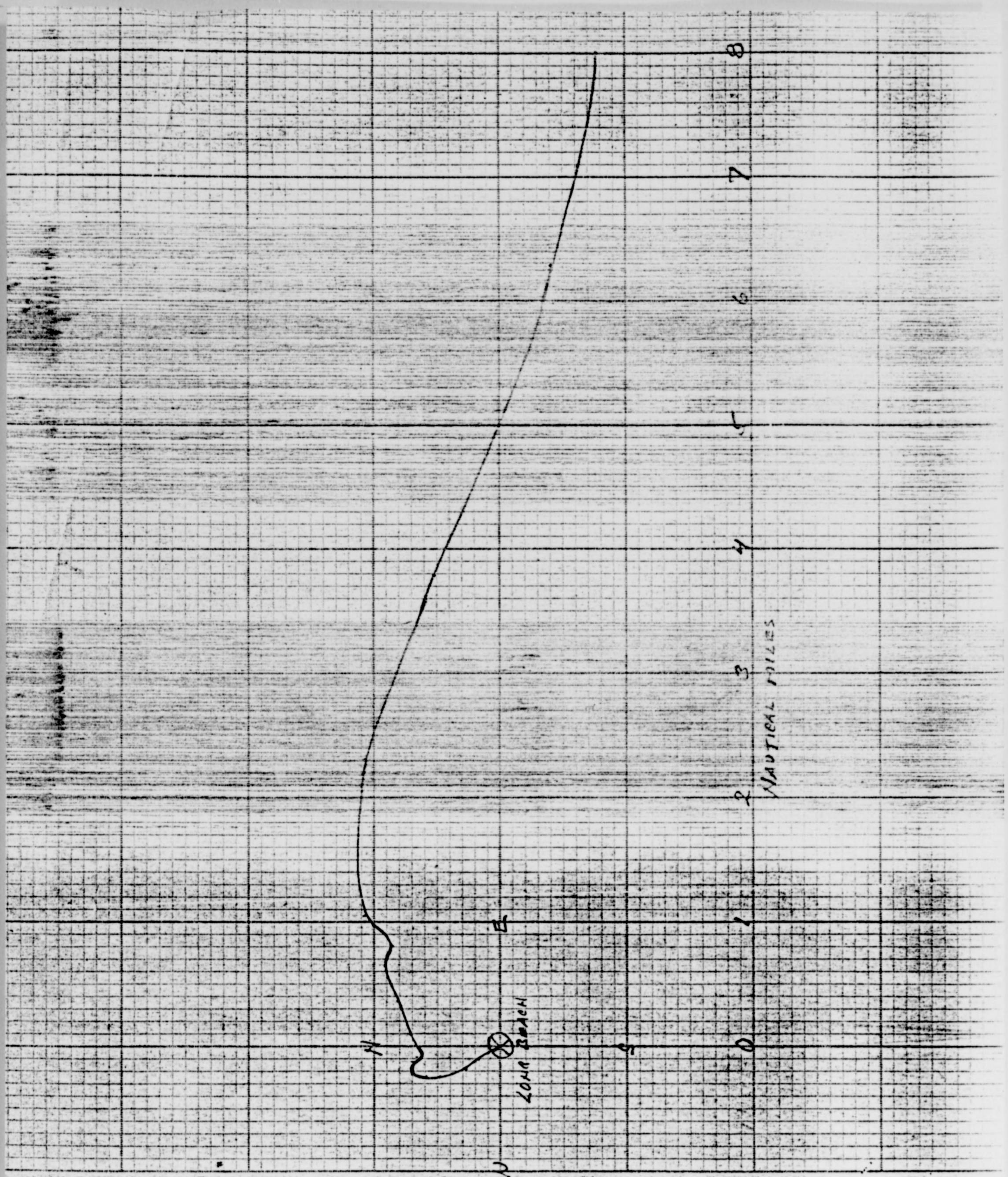
f. Type of balloon used was ML-391.

Kenneth T. Brooks

KENNETH T. BROOKS
Major, USAF



"PERFECT" CROSS SECTION
10 X 10 = ONE INCH
EUGENE DIETZGEN CO.



"PERFECT" CROSS SECTION
10 X 10 = ONE INCH
EUGENE DIETZGEN CO.

Santa Maria Winds - 23 September 1951 - 1000 EST (0700 PST)

Surface	Calm
1,000'	100° - 2K
2,000'	130° - 2K
2,500'	200° - 3K
4,000'	340° - 6K
4,500'	340° - 7K
6,000'	340° - 7K
7,000'	340° - 7K
8,000'	330° - 4K
8,500	240° - 2K
10,000'	190° - 8K
12,000'	220° - 14K
14,000'	220° - 13K
16,000	230° - 6K
18,000	240° - 6K
20,000	230° - 6K
25,000	270° - 10K
30,000	270° - 5K
35,000	270° - 7K

Long Beach Winds - 23 September 1951 - 1000 EST

Surface	80°	-	10K
1,000'	90°	-	10K
4,000'	190°	-	14K
4,500'	190°	-	15K
6,000'	200°	-	24K
6,500'	190°	-	31K
8,000'	180°	-	33K
8,500'	180°	-	33K
10,000'	190°	-	34K
12,000'	210°	-	34K
14,000'	250°	-	33K
16,000'	280°	-	34K
18,000'	270°	-	42K
20,000'	270°	-	48K

Chanute Winds - 23 September 1951 - 1600 EST (1500 CST)

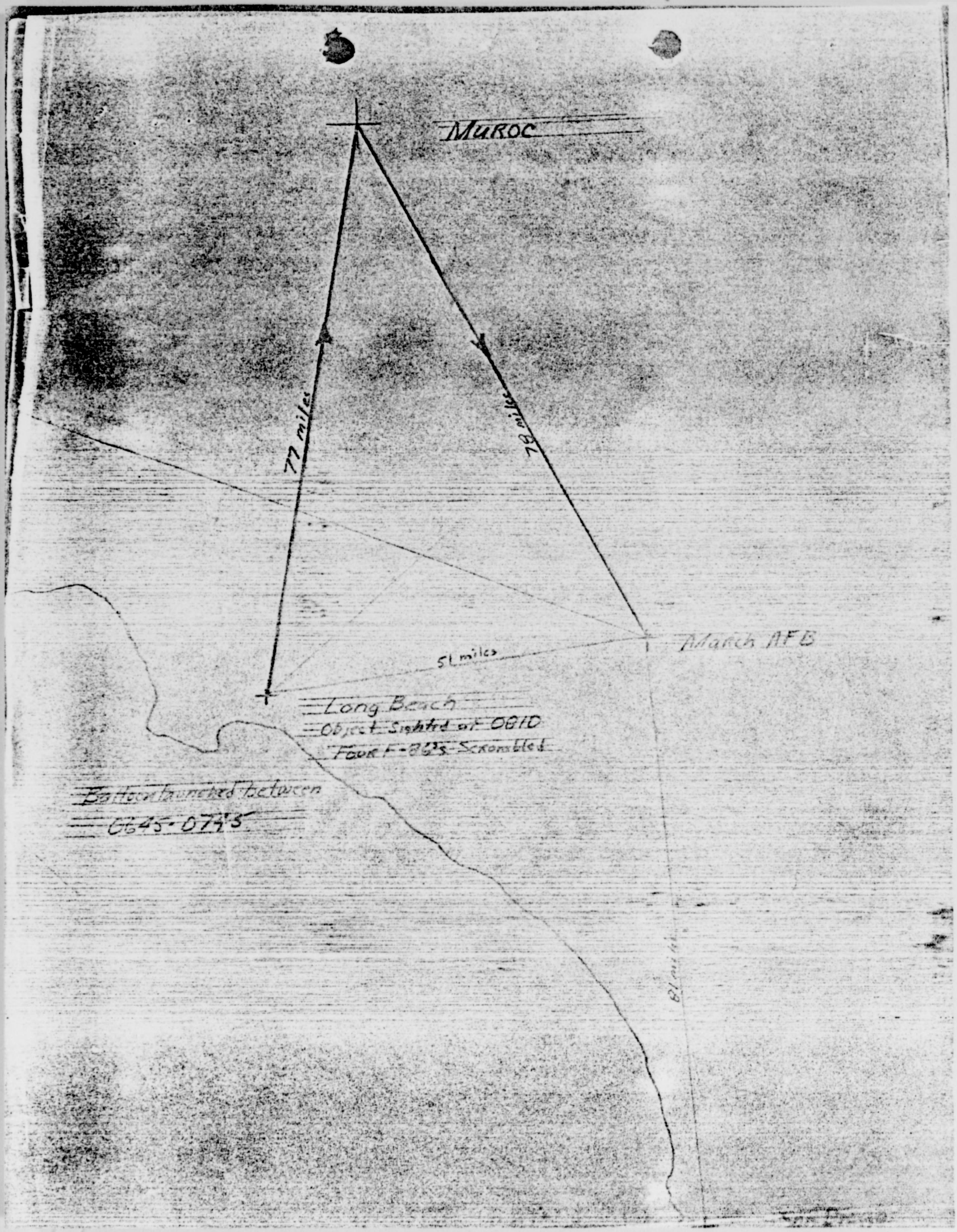
Surface	270° - 3K
1,000'	270° - 4K
2,000'	300° - 8K
2,500'	330° - 5K
4,000'	350° - 7K
4,500'	100° - 8K
6,000'	360° - 7K
6,500'	360° - 7K
8,000'	360° -11K
8,500'	360° -15K
10,000'	360° -17K
12,000'	360° -20K
14,000'	360° -22K
16,000'	360° -27K
18,000'	360° -34K
20,000'	360° -36K
25,000'	1° -45K
30,000'	1° -51K
35,000'	2° -74K

Balloon Released
0705

Santa Maria

196 miles

33°00'


MUROC
77 miles
78 miles
March AFB
51 miles
Long Beach
Object Sighted at 0810
Four F-86's Scrambled
Balloon launched between
0645-0715

[redacted] 1951 SEP 26 01:03 UNCLASSIFIED

PARAPHASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

JM

NBR 17 26 SEPTEMBER 51 HB

1-AT1 — ACTION
2-AT1 INFO
3-
4-MCAGXM21

C-1 [redacted] ROUTINE

[redacted]

TO CG AMC WPAFB DAYTON OHIO

Info to AT1

CITE 27 ADDI 1318.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF ADC LETTER 200-1, DTD 11 APRIL 1951, THE FOLG INFO ON UNCONVENTIONAL UNIDENTIFIED HIGH ALTITUDE ACFT IS REPORTED. AT 1610Z, 23 SEP 1951, AN OBJECT WAS SIGHTED AND REPORTED OVER L BEACH CALIF, AT 50,000 FT. 4 F-86S WERE DISPATCHED TO INVESTIGATE AND SIGHTED OBJECT OVER MUROC CALIF. ATTAINING AN ALTITUDE OF 43,000 FT, F-86 SIGHTED OBJECT TO BE IN A CONSTANT ORBIT IN THE VICINITY OF MARCH AIR FORCE BASE AT AN ALTITUDE BETWEEN 50,000 AND 55,000 FT. OBJECT APPEARED TO BE A SWEPT-WING, FIGHTER-TYPE ACFT. WRITTEN REPT TO FOL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAR 5A (2) OF ABOVE CITED ADC LETTER

[redacted]

ACTION COPY [redacted]

515-138292-1

UNCLASSIFIED

5193

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

AT-7807

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)
CO, ATIC

DAT[redacted]

TO: Commanding General
Edwards Air Force Base
Muroc, Califomnia

INFO:

PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION	INFORMATION
	Routine	

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☒ YES ☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION: Cite 27 ADDI 1318 CLASSIFICATION: [redacted]

Following teletype message from 27th Air Division, Norton AFB, California, is quoted in part in reference: At 1610Z, 23 Sep 1951, an object was sighted and reported over Long Beach California, at 50,000 ft. Four F-86 were dispatched to investigate and sighted object over Muroc, California. Attaining an altitude of 43,000 ft, F-86 sighted object to be in a constant orbit in the vicinity of March Air Force Base at an altitude between 50,000 and 55,000 ft. Object appeared to be a swept-wing, fighter-type aircraft. Advise by teletype concerning any aircraft in the vicinity of Murcc from 1400 to 1700Z, 23 Sep 51 which corresponds to quoted sighting. Cite ATIAA-2a Grudge.

JM

PARAPHASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

INFORMATION COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

51S-138222-A-2

[redacted] SECURITY CLASSIFICATION [redacted] PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)
Lt. Jerry W. Cummings

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

SYMBOL: ATIAA-2a

TELEPHONE: 65376

OFFICIAL TITLE: MURRAH S. STURGIS, Capt, USAF
Air Adjutant General

DD FORM 1 OCT 49 173 REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49. WHICH MAY BE USED.

16—68923-3 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

[redacted] 1951 SEP 29 19:28

ACTION COPY
UNCLASSIFIED

NR 05 30 SEPT 51

C-1 [redacted] PRIORITY **PRIORITY**

TO ANC WPAFB OHIO

FTR -9-22E

PARAPHASE NOT REQUIRED, SEE CRYPTO-CENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

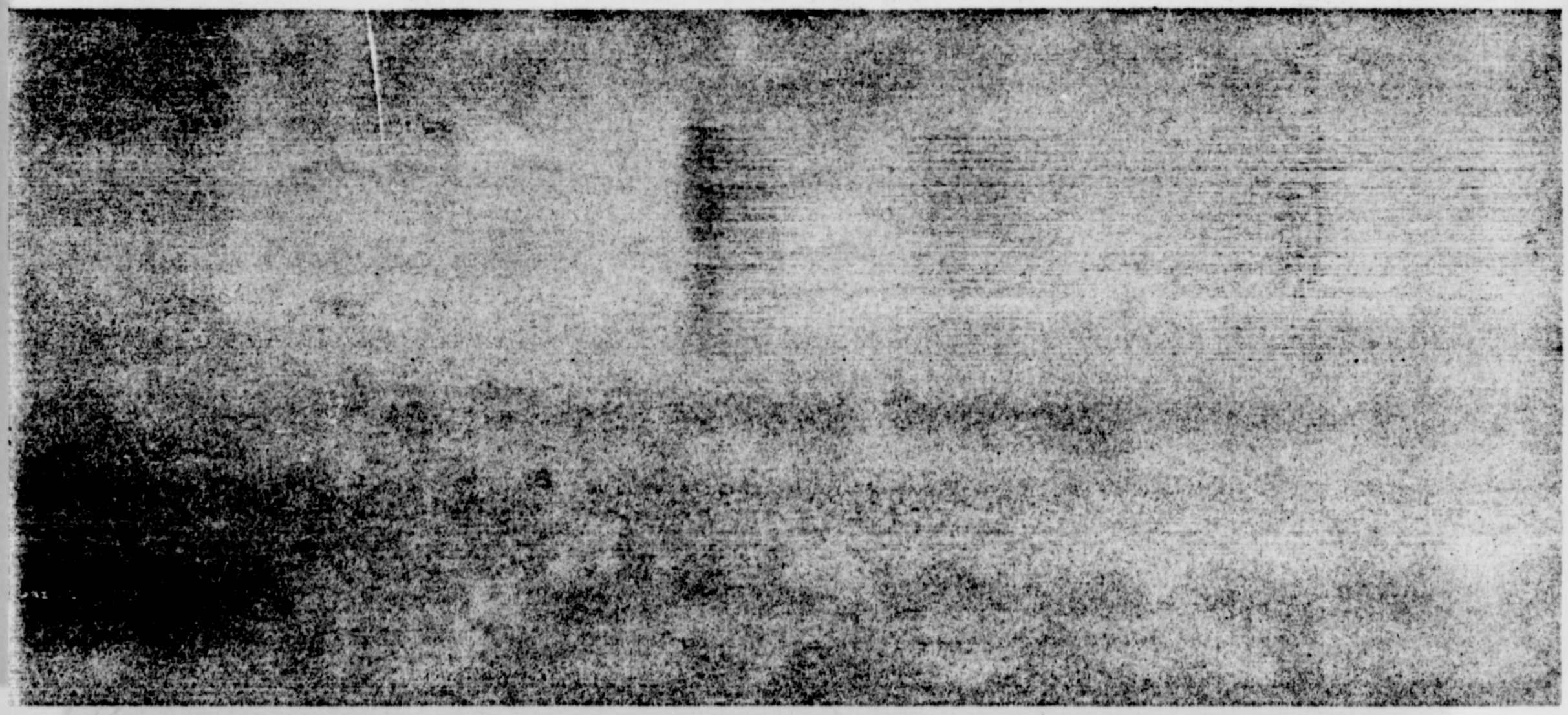
REUR AT-7807. THERE WERE NO RPT NO ACFT FLYING TO OR FROM EDWARDS AFB DURING THE HOURS FROM 1400 TO 1700Z, 23 SEP 51. NO RPT NO ACFT FROM THIS BASE WERE AIRBORNE DURING THAT PERIOD AND THERE WERE NO RPT NO ACFT OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF THIS BASE BY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THIS STATION.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Col Willis called and left the following message:

"We have a cable from Maywood Calif., No. 85128, concerning a sighting at Oakland, Calif. on 23 September 1951." You are to be at the teleconference this afternoon between ATICand Capabilities Branch with enough information concerning this sighting on 23 September 1951. If possible, have the evaluation of it.



UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

COG ATIC

241730Z Oct 51

Routine

Commanding Officer
Norton Air Force Base
San Bernardino, California

RADNOTE

X

818002 Oct 51 [redacted]

AFOIN-ATIAA-10-15Z. Please advise when information can be made available to this Center, in regard to our previous teletype 818002 Oct 51, citing 27 ADDI 1318. In reply cite AFOIN-ATIAA-2 CRUDOS.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted] 1 1

Lt. H. Metschar/peg
ATIAA-2a 65376

MURRAH S. STURGIS, Captain, USAF
Air Adjutant General

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

818002 Oct 51

Priority

CO, ATIC

Commanding Officer
Norton Air Force Base
San Bernardino, California

Cite 27 ADDI 1318 [redacted]

Request you contact OSI District Office Number 18 at Maywood, California, for complete field investigation to compliment information in cited teletype. It is desired that OSI, in addition to their ordinary procedure, check the possibility of experimental aircraft originating from any of the California airframe manufacturers. We have eliminated experimental aircraft from Muroc AFB. In reply cite ATIAA-2 GRUDGE.

543

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

51S-138292-C

1 1

Lt. Jerry W. Cummings

ATIAA-2a 65376

MURRAH S. STURGIS, Captain, USAF
Air Adjutant General

UNCLASSIFIED

CO, ATIC

171600Z Oct 51

Routine

Commanding Officer
Norton Air Force Base
San Bernardino, California

X

16/2143Z Oct 51 Unclassified

AFOIN-ATIAA-10-10. Reference your teletype 16/2143Z Oct 51 JWPNT. Teletype Number 17, Cite 27 ADDI 1318, classified Confidential.

UNCLASSIFIED

1 1

Lt. H. Metscher
ATIAA-2a 65376

MURRAH. S. STURGIS, Captain, USAF
Air Adjutant General

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE DIVISION

INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED, NOTIFY CRYPTOCENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

PRIORITY

JM

FROM: DO 18TH OSI MAYWOOD CALIF

TO : CSAF WASH DC ATTN OSI

NR : 18D OSI 26 Oct 51

[redacted]

This dist in receipt of req from CG 27 Air Div Norton AFB San Bernardino Calif requesting investigation concerning the sighting of an object over Long Beach Calif on 23 Sept 51. Req made by letter received this office 25 Oct 51. At 0010 hours 23 Sept 51 an object was sighted over Long Beach at 50,000 ft, 4 F-86's were dispatched and sighted object over Muroc Calif. Attaining an altitude of 43,000 ft, F86's sighted object to be in constant orbit in vicinity of March AFB Calif at an altitude between 50-55,000 ft. Object appeared to be swept wing fighter type aircraft. Air Defense Command has requested we check possibility of experimental acft originating from airframe manufacturers this area. They also suggested possibility of this object being a weather balloon which are released by 3 weather stations this area periodically. This district handling this inquiry on priority basis and we are contacting acft manufacturing concerns in Southern Calif to determine if object could have been experimental acft. Also checking possibility that object could have been weather balloon. This office would appreciate receiving advice your Hqs as to any policy which may have been established on the handling of matters such as this, other than the established policy concerning the handling of unconventional acft type cases.

ACTION: CSI

INFO: CIG, CDS OSI

CAF IN: 85128 (27 Oct 51) RBS/hnk

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

COPY No.

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

AFHQ FORM 15 APR 49 0-309 B

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—56692-2

H. Ruppelt 2C

D140

1951 OCT 28 16 11

FPC174

XYB205JWPML 177

8PX 44

A1C

RR JEDAG

DE JWPNT 33G

R 271715Z

FM CG 27TH ADIV DIF NORTON AFB CALIF

TO CO ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB DAYTON OHIO

27ADDI 1973 PD

REF YOUR MSG AFOIN-ATIAA-10-15E CMA 18 DIST OSI ADVISE THAT CASE

BEING HANDLED ON PP BS PD RPT W/B SUBMD THRU THIS HQ O/A 30 OCT 51

PD END

27/1800Z OCT 8PX

Col. Willis here Monday

CSAF ITEM 13/[redacted]

TT-272
31 Oct 51
CSAF ITEM 13
ATIAA/RUPPELT

REFERENCE ATIC ITEM 8 THIS TT. [redacted]

THESE SIGHTINGS APPEAR TO BE THE SAME. WHAT IS YOUR EVALUATION? YOU WILL NOTE THAT COMPLETE CABLE FROM OSI WAS FORWARDED EARLIER IN THIS TT, WHICH IS VERY SIMILAR TO ATIC REFERENCED ITEM.

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION

UNCLASSIFIED

END CSAF ITEM 13/[redacted]

RA072E

WPA045

RR JEDWP ZOV JEDTTTTTT

XYA047

JWPML 48

8PX 12

RR JEDAG

DE JWPNT 31G

R 200040Z

FM CG 27TH ADIV DEF NORTON AFB CALIF

TO CG ATIC WRIGHT PAT AFB OHIO

/R E S T R I C T E D/27

D I 0515 REF LTR AFOIN-ATIAA-2C

REF LTR THIS HQ 27ADDI 360 PD 1 CMA DTD 21 DEC 51 PD IN REPLY TO PAR ONE EASY OF CITED LTR CMA MARCH AFB SBMD NEG REPT PD 29/0130Z

1. ATIAA
2. ATIA
3. Central Files

No Balloons launched from March AFB

ITEM 8 AMC [redacted]

TT-272
31 Oct 51
AMC ITEM 8
ATIAA/RUPPELT

ATTN COL WILLIS

ATIC HAS NO INFO ON SIGHTING AT OAKLAND CALIFORNIA ON 23 SEPT 1951. ONLY REPORT WE HAVE IS SIGHTING OVER MARCH AFB ON 23 SEPT. IN THIS INSTANCE F-86 ATTEMPTED TO INTERCEPT CLIMBED TO 43,000 FEET BUT OBJECT WAS AT AN ESTIMATED 50 TO 55,000 FEET. APPEARED TO BE SWEPT WING TYPE FIGHTER.

UNCLASSIFIED

INFORMATION

END ITEM 8 MAC [redacted]

ITEM 9 AMC [redacted]

TT-272
31 Oct 51
AMC ITEM 9
ATIAA/RUPPELT

FROM LT RUPPELT
TO ATTN COL WILLIS

REF: CSAF ITEM 13

UNCLASSIFIED

ATIC IS CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION. EDWARDS AFB CONTACTED AND NO EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT WERE IN THE AREA. WEATHER BALLOONS ARE LAUNCHED AT 0700 PST BUT IS IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE BALLOON WOULD RISE TO 50,000 FEET IN 10 MINUTES. AS TIME OF SIGHTING WAS 0710 PST. THE TYPE OF BALLOON LAUNCHED RISES AT ABOUT 1,000 FEET PER MINUTE. ANY OTHER INFO DESIRED. ATIC IS STILL INVESTIGATING - 18TH DISTRICT OSI ADVISES THAT FULL REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED ABOUT 30 OCT 1951.

INFORMATION

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

END ITEM 9 AMC [redacted]

ITEM 10 AMC [redacted]

TT-272
31 Oct 51
AMC ITEM 10
ATIAA/RUPPELT

REF CSAF ITEM 4

IN REGARD TO POLICY, ATIC UNDERSTOOD THE POLICY WAS FOR ATIC TO CONTACT OSI DISTRICTS DIRECT AND REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION ON SIGHTINGS. ATIC DOES NOT CONTACT OSI ON ALL SIGHTINGS, ONLY THOSE THAT APPEAR TO BE IMPORTANT. WE REALIZE OSI HAS OTHER DUTIES. THEY HAVE BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL IN THE PAST

UNCLASSIFIED

INFORMATION

END ITEM 10 AMC [redacted]

PRIORITY BASIS AND WE ARE CONTACTING ACFT MANU-
FACTURING CONCERNS IN SOUTHERN CALIF TO DETERMINE
IF OBJECT COULD HAVE BEEN EXPERIMENTAL ACFT.
ALSO CHECKING POSSIBILITY THAT OBJECT COULD
HAVE BEEN WEATHER BALLOON. THIS OFFICE WOULD
APPRECIATE RECEIVING ADVISE YOUR HQS AS TO ANY
POLICY WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED ON THE
HANDLING OF MATTERS SUCH AS THIS, OTHER
THAN THE ESTABLISHED POLICY CONCERNING THE
HANDLING OF UNCONVENTIONAL ACFT TYPE CASES."

END CSAF ITEM 4/ [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

CSAF ITEM 4 [redacted]

TT-272
31 Oct 51
CSAF ITEM 4
ATIAA/RUPPELT

ATTN: RUPPELT FM AFOIN-V/TC WILLIS

THE FOLLOWING IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION

AND ACTION:

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION

"FROM DO 18TH OSI MAYWOOD CALIF. THIS DIST IN RECEIPT OF REQ FROM CG 27 AIR DIV NORTON AFB SAN BERNARDINO CALIFORNIA REQUESTING INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE SIGHTING OF AN OBJECT OVER LONG BEACH CALIF ON 23 SEPT 51.

REQ MADE BY LETTER RECEIVED THIS OFFICE 25 OCT 51. AT 0810 HOURS 23 SEPT 51 AN OBJECT WAS SIGHTED OVER LONG BEACH AT 50,000 FT.

4 F-86'S WERE DISPATCHED AND SIGHTED OBJECT OVER MUROC CALIF. ATTAINING AN ALTITUDE OF 43,000 FT, F86'S SIGHTED OBJECT TO BE IN CONSTANT ORBIT IN VICINITY OF MARCH AFB CALIF AT AN ALTITUDE BETWEEN 50-55,000 FT. OBJECT APPEARED TO BE SWEPT WING FIGHTER TYPE AIRCRAFT.

AIR DEFENSE COMMAND HAS REQUESTED WE CHECK POSSIBILITY OF EXPERIMENTAL ACFT ORGINATING FROM AIRFRAME MANUFACTURERS THIS AREA. THEY ALSO SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF THIS OBJECT BEING A WEATHER BALLOON WHICH ARE RELEASED BY 3 WEATHER STATIONS THIS AREA PERIODICALLY.

THIS DISTRICT HANDLING THIS INQUIRY ON

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted] 1951 NOV [redacted] 00:37

JM

NDR 60 1 NOVEMBER 51

PARAPHASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

C-1 [redacted] PRIORITY UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

1 - ATI - ACTION
1 INFO
2 - ATI -
3 -
4 - MCAGXM-1
Dupe to ATI

TO CO ATIC WPAFB DAYTON OHIO

CITE 27 ABBI 2047

PRIORITY

13 DIST OSI ADVISE THAT UNCONVENTIONAL ACFT POSSIBLY WEA BLN,

REPT OF INVESN FOLS VIA A/M

[redacted]

513-160198-1

ACTION COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]