

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402			Restricted (CLASSIFICATION) Security Information		AF580524	4
AF FORM 112 APPROVED JUNE 1948	USAF memo 7/31/78 WB Lewis 7/18/79		REPORT NO. 28 IR-5-53 W		(LEAVE BLANK) AF580524	
United States of America						
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT						
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Object Report						
AREA REPORTED ON Mono Lake Area, California			FROM (Agency) Dir of Intel, 28th Air Div (Def), Hamilton Air Force Base, California			
DATE OF REPORT 31 August 1953		DATE OF INFORMATION 20 August 1953		EVALUATION C-3		
PREPARED BY (Officer) Ko S. Sameshima, Captain, USAF			SOURCE USAF TB-29 Crew members			
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AF Letter 200-5; 4th Radar Calibration Sqdn CIRVIS Amplify FLYOBRPT msg, 21 Aug 53; 28th AD msg 280ID 6890, 29 Aug 53, CIRVIS						
SUMMARY (Write 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.)						
<p>1. This report pertains to reported sightings of an unidentified flying object by the left and right scanners of a TB-29 assigned to the 4th Radar Calibration Squadron, WADF, Hamilton AFB, California, during the course of flight over the Mono Lake area, California, on 20 August 1953.</p> <p>2. The left scanner reported making four separate sightings of the unidentified object between the hours of 2105Z (1405PDT) and 2115Z (1415PDT), all in the same general direction of ten to seven o'clock. The object was described to be of indefinite shape and dark-greyish color. On the first pass, the object appeared to be making a direct approach to the TB-29 at 9 o'clock with a trail of smoke behind; on the second and third passes, the object appeared to travel from 10 to 7 o'clock in a course parallel to and reciprocal of that of the TB-29, with no smoke; the fourth pass appeared from 10 to 7 o'clock at which location the object appeared to split into two vertical formations and disappear in that stationary position. In all cases, the object appeared to fade away gradually. The duration of sightings varied from two to four minutes.</p> <p>3. The right scanner reported observing a flying object at 9 o'clock when the left scanner aroused his attention (on left scanner's third sighting). The object was described as oval and spherical and of a transparent dull grey color. The duration of sighting was four to five seconds.</p> <p>4. None of the other crew members reported observing these objects.</p> <p>5. The left scanner is considered to be usually reliable; the reliability of the right scanner was not appraised.</p> <p>6. Taking into consideration various factors, it is considered probable that the reported sightings were jet aircraft viewed at considerable distance, or possibly that they were single-engine conventional aircraft on local flight, viewed under conditions of atmosphere which could have affected the sightings.</p>						
3 INCLS.			APPROVED:			
1. Statement by Airman			ORVILLE E. BIXEL			
2. Statement by Airman			Major, USAF			
3. Chart			Director of Intelligence			
			28th Air Division (Defense)			
DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR						
1 copy Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center ATTN: ATIAA-2c Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio						

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1. Two crew members of TB-29 4076, 4th Radar Calibration Squadron, Hamilton Air Force Base, California, state that they sighted unidentified flying objects on 20 August 1953 from 2105Z (1405PDT) to 2115Z (1415PDT) between Georef coordinates EJA2350 and EJB2147 (Mono Lake area, California) on a heading of 096D and altitude of 15,700 feet. Weather was reported by the TB-29 crew to have been clear over a layer of haze; visibility, 60 miles.

2. Statements summarizing information, provided during the course of interview of the TB-29 crew on 28 August 1953 by an Intelligence Officer, 28th Air Division (Defense), Hamilton Air Force Base, are attached as inclosures to this report.

3. Crew members present during the interview by Intelligence Officer included the following:

Capt JAMES TILMAN	AO-782751	Aircraft commander
1/Lt G. A. WEHRHAN	AO-1911186	Pilot
Capt MARVIN A. LICHTTENEGGER	AO-754435	Co-pilot
2/Lt NEAL R. MCCAULEY	AO-2224005	Navigator
T/Sgt LORENZO HUMPHREY	AF-15337775	Left scanner
S/Sgt BOBBY L. DIENER	AF-15236200	Right scanner

4. The left scanner, T/Sgt Humphrey, stated that he had more than two thousand hours of flying time. Intelligence Officer, 4th Radar Calibration Squadron, stated that Sgt Humphrey was regarded highly by members of the squadron. His normal observations are considered to be reliable. The right scanner, S/Sgt Diener, stated that he had five hundred hours of flying time. His reliability is not generally known. Both men appeared to be sincere in relating their experiences.

5. Other than the left and right scanners, none of the crew members reported observing the flying objects. The co-pilot stated that the left scanner called him about "fighters", but that he did not observe or make a particular attempt to observe the "fighters".

6. In a separate interview, the navigator stated that he and the aircraft commander saw at about 2200Z on the return trip of the TB-29, at Georef coordinates EJBH3530, four objects at approximately EJBH2237, in two formations of two each at an altitude of from 10 to 12,000 feet. The navigator stated he believed they were single-engine civilian aircraft. The aircraft commander stated he was positive that they were single-engine conventional F-51 type aircraft (civilian or military). Both agreed that the objects appeared dark grey to black in color and that they were slow-moving.

COMMENTS BY THE PREPARING OFFICER:

1. It is generally known that there is considerable jet aircraft activity in the general area encompassing the course and field of vision of the TB-29 when the reported sighting took place.

2. The course of the TB-29 during the period of reported sightings was from 30 to 60 nautical miles from the town and air-strip of Bishop, California. The four aircraft observed at the later hour were approximately 20 nautical miles from the same town.

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3. The unidentified flying objects were observed in a direction which generally coincided with the atmospheric area above Mono Lake, California.

4. It is probable that the unidentified flying objects described in the above report were jet aircraft viewed at considerable distance, and it is possible that they were conventional aircraft on local flight. Atmospheric conditions and direction of view could have combined to make exact sightings difficult. It is remotely possible that these same factors could have created an optical illusion.

Ko S. Sameshima
KO S. SAMESHIMA
Captain, USAF
Intelligence Officer

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S T A T E M E N T

While in flight as left scanner on TB-29 4076 assigned to the 4th Radar Calibration Squadron, Hamilton Air Force Base, California, on 20 August 1953, I observed flying objects from 2105Z (1405PDT) until approximately 2115Z (1415P) between EJA2350 and EJB2147 (on a heading of 096D) at an altitude of 15,700 feet, as follows:

At 2105Z I sighted at 9 o'clock an object which I assumed to be a fighter because we had been warned by the aircraft commander before our take-off to be on the look-out for interceptors. The object was of no definite shape that I can describe and was of dark-greyish color with a smoke trail of similar color. The object appeared to be coming directly at our aircraft, remaining in the 9 o'clock position and at an altitude which I estimated to be the same as ours. I called the co-pilot of the aircraft and informed him of the approaching "fighter". The object then gradually faded away at 9 o'clock. I estimate the period of sighting to be about two minutes. I viewed the object from different angles to insure that blisters were not responsible for the sighting.

A few minutes later I sighted at 10 o'clock an object the shape of which I cannot describe. The object was dark-greyish in color; however, I noted no smoke-trail at this time. The object headed in a course parallel to and in a track reciprocal to that of our aircraft over a period of about three to four minutes and finally faded at 7 o'clock. The object appeared to be ten to twenty miles distant.

A few moments later I sighted a similar object at 10 o'clock which also remained in sight until it faded at 7 o'clock. When the object was at 9 o'clock, I brought it to the attention of the right scanner who acknowledged that he sighted an object which he described as being of oval-shape.

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By WGLewis Date 7/18/79

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Statement (continued)

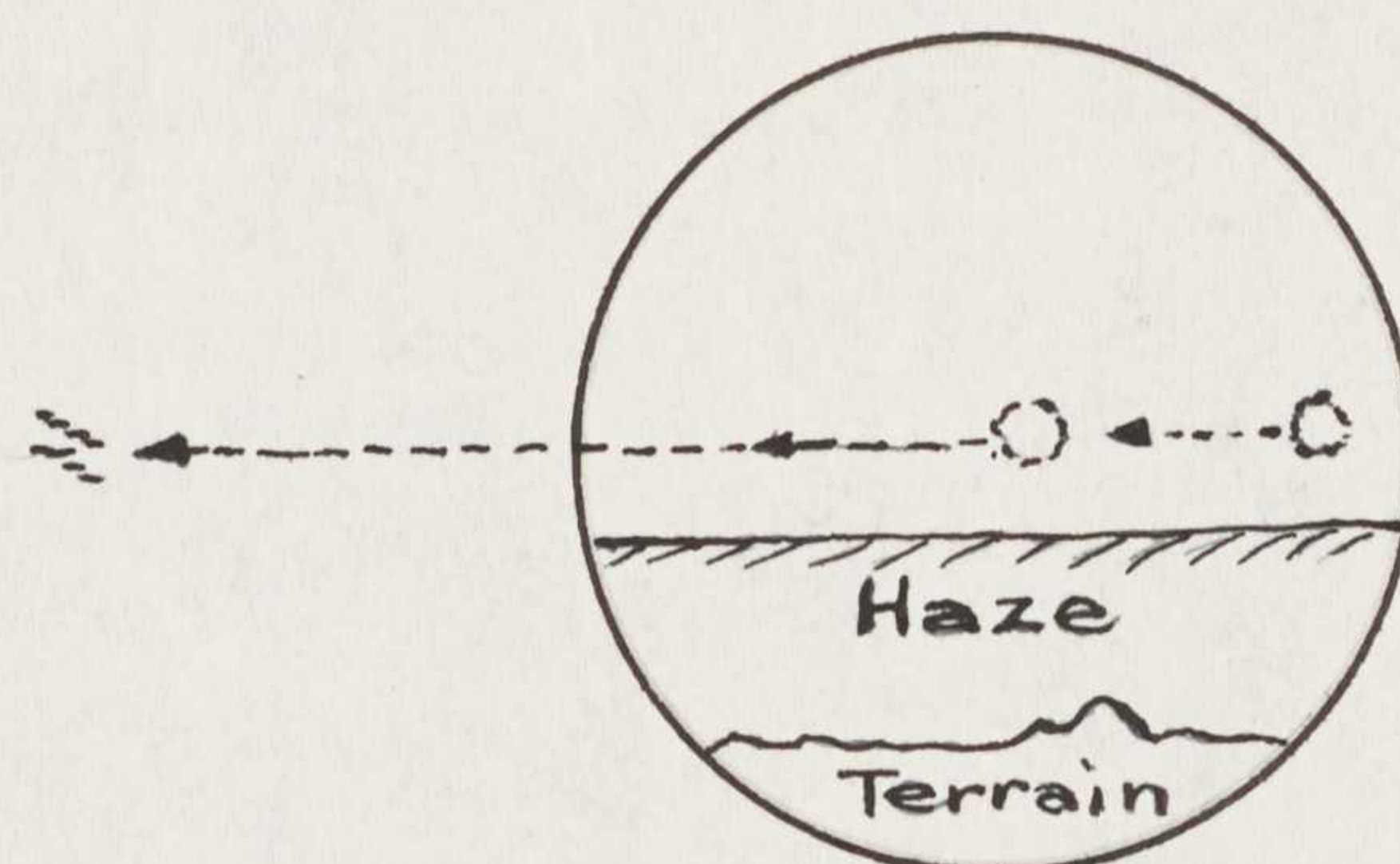
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A few minutes later I sighted for the fourth time, an object of color and description similar to those I had seen previously. This time, however, the object moved from 10 o'clock to 7 o'clock where it stopped, then suddenly split up into two vertical formations after which they gradually faded away in that position. I cannot estimate the time that elapsed during this sighting. I called the object to the attention of three AFROTC cadets who were on the plane, but they could not locate the object.

The weather during the time of sightings was clear over a layer of haze.

The fourth sighting is described by the following sketch.



The above is an accurate summary of the information I gave Captain Ko S. Sameshima during the course of an interview held on 28 August 1953 in the Navigation Room of the 4th Radar Calibration Squadron, Hamilton Air Force Base, California.

Lorenzo Humphrey
T/Sgt Lorenzo Humphrey

AF 15337775

Left scanner, TB-29 4076 (20 Aug 53)
4th Radar Calibration Squadron

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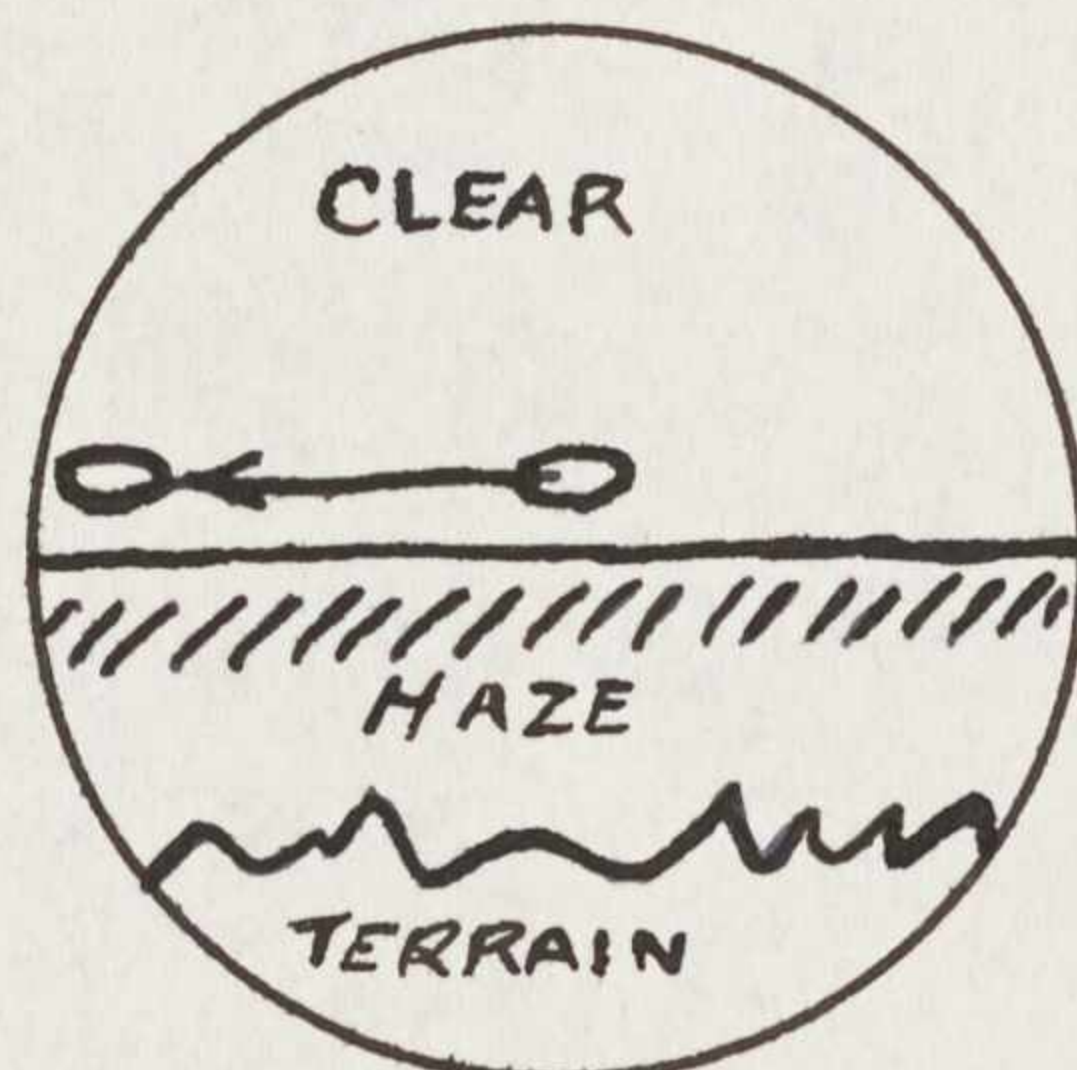
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STATEMENT

While in flight as right scanner on TB-29 4076, assigned to the 4th Radar Calibration Squadron, Hamilton Air Force Base, California, on 20 August 1953, I observed a flying object at about 2112Z (1412PDT) at about EJBH0048 at an altitude of 15,700 feet, as follows:

At approximately 2112Z (1412PDT), the left scanner called to my attention an object which he claimed to have sighted. I observed at 9 o'clock an oval-shaped spherical object of transparent dull grey color at an altitude which I estimated to be the same as ours. The object moved in a course which was parallel to and the reciprocal of our course until it disappeared at between 7:30 and 8 o'clock. The duration of the sighting was four to five seconds.

The object which I saw is described by the following sketch:



The above is an accurate summary of the information I gave Captain Ko S. Sameshima during the course of an interview held on 28 August 1953 in the Navigation Room of the 4th Radar Calibration Squadron, Hamilton Air Force Base, California.

Bobby L. Diener

S/Sgt Bobby L. Diener
AF 15236200
Right scanner, TB-29 4076 (20 Aug 53)
4th Radar Calibration Squadron

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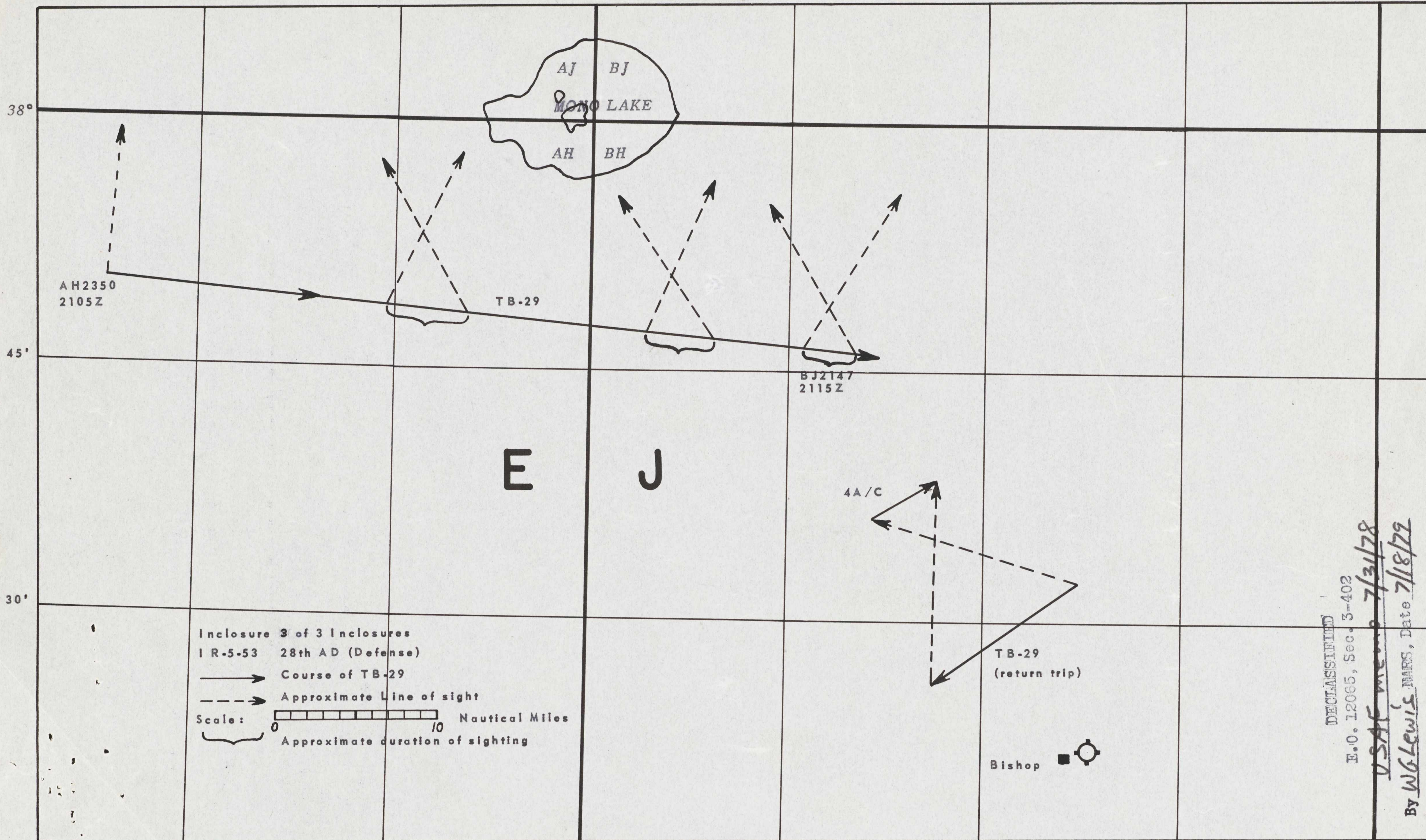
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By W. G. Lewis NARS, Date 7/18/79

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 By WGLewis MAFS, Date 7/18/72