

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 18 Dec 52	2. LOCATION ITAZUKE AFB, JAPAN	12. CONCLUSIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 18/0826I 17/2328Z GMT	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Radar Operators	<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 9 min	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other In sufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Five plots were observed on radar scope from 0826I-0831I. Average speed was 710 knots & course from initial plot was 270° varying to 312° at final plot. Temperature inversion noted at 6000' at 6°C.		
11. COMMENTS <i>for Comment of Radar Officer RADAR ANALYST: REFLECTION DUE TO INVERSION</i>		

[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

Date of Inci: 18 Dec 52 Location: Northern Kyushu

A radar target was picked up on this date by the 527th AC&W Group in Northern Kyushu. Description of the target: target size approximately that made by B-29 type aircraft. There is no evidence of target trace or trail. Target was tracked for a period of 9 minutes and appeared to be going 300 knots on initial pickup and estimated 1040 knots on the last pickup.

Air traffic present at the time of sighting consisted of five other targets which were identified as USAF aircraft. This sighting is an unknown.

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

ATIC DOCUMENT NO. 107986

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NBR 9618

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24/12 1. Atta
2. Attaa
3. Atta
4. C. file

C-1 OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE SECRET
FM 527TH AC AND W GRP ITAZUKE AFB KYUSHU JAP
TO CS HQ USAF WASH DC ATTN D/I
ATIC WPAFB OHIO
ADC ENT AFB COLO
JAPAN AIR DEFENSE FORCE HONSHU JAPAN
FEAF JAPAN
CITE INT 366-12

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER
BEFORE DECLASSIFICATION. UPGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNIDENTIFIED TRACK RECD FROM RADAR PLOTS AT DET 7, WJPF 0497, SOUTHERN DEF AREA OF JADF ON 18/0828I AND IS RPTD IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFL 200-5. 5 PLOTS WERE RECD BY DT 7 RADAR OPR FROM 0828I TO 0837I. AV SPEED OF UNIDENTIFIED WAS 710 KNOTS AND COURSE FROM INITIAL PLOT WAS 270 DEGREES VARYING TO 312 DEGREES OF FINAL PLOT. ALT UNKNWN. NO INTCP ATTEMPTED. OPERATION OF RADAR EQUIP WAS NORMAL. OBJECT PAINTED AV ON RADAR SCOPE. WEATHER ALONG TRACK AREA VARIABLE, CLOUD COVERAGE 5/10 TO 7/10, BASES 4000 TO 5000 FT TOPS 6000 FT. STRONG SUBSIDENCE INVERSION AT 6000 FT WITH TEMPERATURE AT 6 DEGREES CENTIGRADE. TIME AND COORDINATES SO OF EACH INDIV PLOT AREAS FOLS: TIME-0828I, COORDINATE-WJLD4615; 0830I, WJLD3514, 0833I, WJLD0718, 0835I, WJKD2837, 0837I, WJJE5802: REPORTED BY OFFICE OF INT, 527 AC AND W GP. FOL UP REPORT ON AF FORM 112 WILL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 72 HRS.

18/173 02 DEC

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) I/0 527th AC&W Gp APO 929	REPORT NO. IR-6-52	PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
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1. Description of Target: Target size approximated that made by B-29 type aircraft. There was no evidence of target trace or trail. Target was tracked for a period of 9 minutes, with five plots registering over the Northern Kyushu area. Successive tracks indicated an increase in speed ranging from 300 knots on initial pickup to an estimated 1040 knots on 4th pickup.

The following information identified as track #6 was forwarded this headquarters:

RANGE	AZIMUTH	GEOREF COORD	TIME	EST SPEED
185	223	WJLD 4515	0828I	---
190	225	WJLD 3514	0830I	300
205	230	WJLD 0718	0833I	490
220	240	WJKD 2837	0835I	1060
230	277	WJJE 5602	0837I	1040

2. Sighting Data: Object was detected at 0828I and remained on scope for 9 minutes.

3. Manner of Observation: Radar Scope presentation (AN/MPS-5).

4. Location of Observer: WJPF 1432.

5. Identifying Information: A/3c [REDACTED] reliability and proficiency have been rated high by the detachment commander.

6. Weather: Weather along track area variable, cloud coverage 5/10 to 7/10; bases 4000 to 5000 feet, tops 6000 feet; strong subsidence inversion at 6000 feet temperature at 6 degrees centigrade.

7. Other activity that might account for sighting: None.

8. Physical Evidence: None.

9. Interception: None attempted.

10. Air Traffic: There were a total of five other targets visible at time of sighting each one being in the WJLF sector.

COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER: In view of existing atmospheric conditions it is believed that refraction of radar waves could have accounted for unusual phenomena and speed.

Claude J. Rizzo

CLAUDE J. RIZZO
1st Lt, USAF
Ass't Intelligence Officer

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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D/I FEAF COMMENT:

1. Contact has not been confirmed as a bona-fide target.
2. Refraction through the strong inversion at 6000 feet, combined with time errors in plotting of a normal friendly aircraft return may account for the unusual speeds reported.

for *George D. Hastings*
GEORGE D. HASTINGS *Colonel* *USAF*

Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence Requirements

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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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S T A T E M E N T

At 0800 hrs Item time 18 December 1952, I was assigned to report targets on the PPI console in radar operations. The scope I was reading covers the range from one hundred miles to two hundred and thirty miles. At 0820 hrs Item, an initial track appeared at 230 degrees at 185 miles. I called this to the plotting board. At 0830 hrs Item, I noticed by the position of the target that he was traveling comparatively fast. After the second move he seemed to increase speed and after his third move I turned the range markers off to make sure that he was actually moving as fast as he seemed to be. I brought this to the attention of A/2c Jimmy P. McCoy who is my crew chief. When this target left my scope I estimated his speed as over one thousand miles per hour. There was no weather on my scope and no other presentation that would impair the accuracy of my reading the scope. This target appeared as an ordinary aircraft would appear if it were a B-29 or other large type aircraft.

Ronald L. Keene
RONALD L. KEENE
AF 13347922
A/3c, USAF

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Incl #1

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