UFOB INDEX CARD

AISS-UFOB-209-55

1. DATE 11 ~~12~~ July 1955	2. LOCATION China Lake NAS, 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 GMT 12/0510Z July 1955	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☒ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Military	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Twenty to thirty (20-30) Minutes	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One (1)	9. COURSE E and W

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

One (1), round, orangish-red object, the size of a dime held at arms lenght, was observed from the tower of the above NAS. Sixty (60) power and eight (8) power binoculars were used by observers. The object seemed to have a tail four (4) times the length of the object. A/c scrambled but failed to conta ct anything.

11. COMMENTS: ~~Investigation Authorized~~

This sighting is receiving a follow-up investigation by Flight 1-C, 4602d AISS. Results of this investigation to be recorded on this card after receipt of AF Form 112 on this case.

BALLOON WITH PACKAGE

AISOP Form 5 (15 Oct 54)

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE

11 Jul 55

2. LOCATION

China Lake NAS, California

3. DATE-TIME GROUP

Local _____

GMT 12/0510Z

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION

☒ Ground-Visual ☒ Ground-Radar

☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS

☐ Yes

☒ No

6. SOURCE

military

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION

twenty - thrity mins

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS

one

9. COURSE

E to W

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

One round, orangish=red obj, size of a dime held at arms length, was observed from tower of the above NAS. Sixty power and eight power binoo-lars were used by observers. Obj seemed to have a tail four times the length of the obj. A/C scrambled but failed to contactt anything.

11. COMMENTS

Balloon with package.

12. CONCLUSIONS

☐ x Was Balloon
☐ Probably Balloon
☐ Possibly Balloon

☐ Was Aircraft
☐ Probably Aircraft
☐ Possibly Aircraft

☐ Was Astronomical
☐ Probably Astronomical
☐ Possibly Astronomical

☐ Other_____
☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
☐ Unknown

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Multi

ACTION IN 16

201 7

12 JUL 55 08 05 12 JUL 1955 07 34

V TPA 34 IDC 34 MIA 61 MID 3 MIL 12 SHF

CHINA

LATIA

3ATIG

4 file

DE JPFR 532

O 12 0557Z

FM JCSDS WASH DIT SV CINCLANT AFB CALIF

TO JCSM/CSUSA WDC DIT AFB CALIF

JCSM/CSUSAFFIS TWIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JCSM/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH D C

JCSM/COMDR 27TH AIR DIV NORTON AFB CALIF

DT

(1) DESCRIPTION:

(A) ROUND

(B) DIM

(C) ORANGISH RED

(D) SIZE

(E) SHAPE

(F) INTERMITTENT TAIL FLASHING OF RED WITH MAROON STREAKS.

G TAIL APPEARED 4 TIMES LENGTH OF OBJECT WHEN VISIBLE AND

TAPERED

(H) NIL

FACTS TO BE FURNISHED

(I) NIL

(2) DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

(A) TOWARDS REPORTED FLASH OF LIGHT TO CLEAR LAKE P.D.C. TYPE

(B) 2 DEGREES ELEVATION 24 DEGREES AZIMUTH N.W.

(C) 2 TO 25 DEGREES ELV 277 DEGREES AZIMUTH

(D) FLYING 24 DEG TURNED TO 3 DEGREES TURNED TO 24 THEN 277 AND

DISAPPEARED

(E) LEVEL FLIGHT AND FAST AWAY

(2) DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

(A) EDWARDS REPORTED FLASH OF LIGHT TO CHINA LAKE N.A.S. TOWER

(B) 2 DEGREES ELEVATION 29 DEGREES AZIMUTH MAG.

(C) 2 TO 25 DEGREES ELEV 277 DEGREES AZIMUTH

(D) FLYING 24 DEG TURNED TO 3 DEGREES TURNED TO 24 THEN 277 AND DISAPPEARED

(E) LEVEL FLIGHT AND FADED AWAY

(F) 2 TO 3 MINUTES

(3) MANNER OF OBSERVATION

(A) GROUND VISUAL

(B) TWO PAIR 7 POWER AND ONE PAIR 6 POWER BINOCULARS

(C) NOT APPLICABLE

(4) TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

(A) 12 51 Z

(B) DARK NIGHT

5 LOCATION OF OBSERVER (S)

CHINA LAKE N.A.S. INYO. CALIF.

(6) IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVER(S)

(A) [redacted] AC2 USN TOWER OPERATOR

(B) [redacted] ATOR RUSS O.I. CIC USN DUTY OFFICER

PAGE THREE JMPHR 63D

NOT RELIABLE

(7) WEATHER AND WINDS-ALOFT CONDITION AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTING

(A) ALL CLEAR 15 MI VISIBILITY

(B) SURFACE

[illegible] - DEG 26 KT1

[illegible] - DEG 21 KT 12

[illegible] - DEG 31 KT 2

[illegible] - DEG 31 KT 2

[illegible] - DEG 3 KT 4

[illegible] - DEG 26 KT 2

[illegible] - DEG UNK KT

(C) [illegible]

F1 , ' - DEG 21 KT 12

1C, ' - DEG 31 KT 2

2 , ' - DEG 31 KT 2

3 , ' - DEG 3 KT 4

5 , ' - DEG 26 KT 2

8 , ' - DEG UNK KT

(C) NONE

(D) PLUS 15

(E) NONE

(F) NONE

(.) NONE KNOWN

(9) 2 F86D SCRAMBLED FROM GEORGE AFB UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ANYTHING

(10) NONE KNOWN TO BE IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY

(11) DUTY OPERATIONS OFFICER MARCH FLT SERVICE CENTER MARCH AFB, CALIF. UNABLE TO MAKE ANALYSIS.

(12) NONE

ET

12/ 7157 JUL JIPRA

AF FORM 112—PART I
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
USA	IC-UFOB-11-55	

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT
UFOB

AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)
Inyokern, California, USA	Flight 1-C, 4602d AISS

DATE OF REPORT	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION
30 July 1955	11 July 1955	

PREPARED BY (Officer)	SOURCE
PATRICK O. SHERE Captain USAF	See contents below

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)
AFR 200-2, March FLT SV CEN TT MSG DTD 120715Z JUL 55 WB 55-5 DTD 4 FEB 55 ICI

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.)

I. CONTENTS

PART ONE: Description of sighting by CWO Carl E. Russ, China Lake Naval Air Facility, China Lake, California (EJCF 1707).

PART TWO: Description of sighting by AG2 Richard F. Lundy, China Lake NAF, China Lake, California.

PART THREE: Description of sighting by ACAM Charles P. Chitwood, China Lake NAF, China Lake, California.

PART FOUR: Supplementary Investigative Efforts.

PART FIVE: Comments of Preparing Officer.

II. SUMMARY: One unidentified flying object was sighted near CHINA LAKE NAVAL AIR FACILITY, CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA, at 120510Z JUL 55 (2210 hours PDST 11 July 1955). The information in this report was obtained from the persons seeing this object and from the investigation conducted to determine the possible cause of this sighting.

III. INVESTIGATOR: S/Sgt JOHN T. FICKEN, AF 16 371 953

PATRICK O SHERE
Captain USAF
Officer in Charge

APPROVED:

JOHN M WHITE JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

1 INCLS. (See Individual Parts)

AIR 23321 4

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

D/I, USAF; Comdr, ATIC; D/I, 27ADiv; Comdr, 4602d AISS; OIC, Flight 1-C, 4602d AISS

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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PART ONE
Flight 1-C, 4602d AISS	1C-UFOB-11-55	PAGE 2 OF 20 PAGES

I. SOURCE: [redacted] CWO, USN

Age: 42

Length of Service: 20 years

Duties: Naval Air Facility Officer (Administration)

Education: 12 years

Station: China Lake Naval Air Facility

II. RELIABILITY: When interviewed SOURCE was very cooperative with a positive attitude toward the questioning. He was very friendly, though serious, and supplied concise and detailed answers to questions. When speaking, SOURCE used good English with an excellent choice of words. His grammar and spelling on ATIC Form "A" were good. SOURCE appeared to be of above average intelligence. He presented a business-like appearance and seemed to have a good observance of details. Although completely familiar with air traffic procedures SOURCE could offer no explanation as to what the object might have been and was insistent that the object was of a nature not normal to the Air Facility. In view of SOURCE's sincerety, familiarity with air traffic procedures, length of service, and rank, he may be considered as usually reliable. Since two other individuals simultaneously observed the object, information contained in this report should be evaluated as "1".

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT:

1. SOURCE was on duty as the Naval Air Facility Duty Officer on the evening of 11 July 1955. He received a call from control tower operators who said that an unidentified flying object was in sight. SOURCE immediately reported to the tower.

2. The object first appeared in the northwestern sky at 306 degrees from true north and approximately 10 degrees from the horizon. It was moving on a course of approximately 240 degrees. Object stayed on this course for approximately seven (7) minutes and then suddenly reversed course. It was on this original line of flight before the change in direction that the object disappeared about six times always reappearing close to the point of disappearance but always in its flight line.

3. The object appeared round with fuzzy and/or blurred edges. SOURCE reported the distance too great to determine the exact shape. There was but one object and its size approximated that of a pea held at arm's length.

4. After observing the object for several minutes with the naked eye SOURCE employed 8 X 50 binoculars. The object was no clearer with the binoculars than with the naked eye. It appeared as an orange glow or like an open flame.

5. During its course after the reversal object seemed to speed up. Course of this second line of flight was approximately 80 degrees. When object almost reached the point of the initial sighting it again rapidly changed course and assumed a heading of approximately 240 degrees.

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6. The object seemed to lose altitude slowly as it faded away. There was no sudden disappearance. Object was last sighted at a measured 277 degrees from the Naval Air Facility tower.

7. SOURCE could offer no explanation for the object. This was the first unusual sighting SOURCE had ever witnessed.

8. SOURCE had no idea of speed or altitude of the object.

9. The weather was clear and cool with fifteen miles visibility. It was pitch dark with a few stars. There was just a slight breeze.

2 Incls:
1. Statement by SOURCE
2. SOURCE'S memory sketch of object's flight line

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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Flight 1-C, 4602d AISS	1C-UFOB-11-55	PAGE 4 OF 20 PAGES

Incl #1 PART ONE, Rept 1C-UFOB-11-55
Statement of CWO [redacted]

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

As the Naval Air Facility duty officer, I was called to the field control tower to observe an orange colored light in the sky that appeared to be moving. I first observed this object at about 2215 (PDST) without visual aids. I then looked at it through 8 X 50 binoculars and observed it moving in a westerly direction. The object then seemed to reverse course and gain altitude during this maneuver. It traveled at high speed. It then again reversed course moving slowly again in a westerly direction on a slight descent - disappearing in the west.

/s/ [redacted]
CWO

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

A TRUE COPY:

PATRICK D SHERE
Captain USAF

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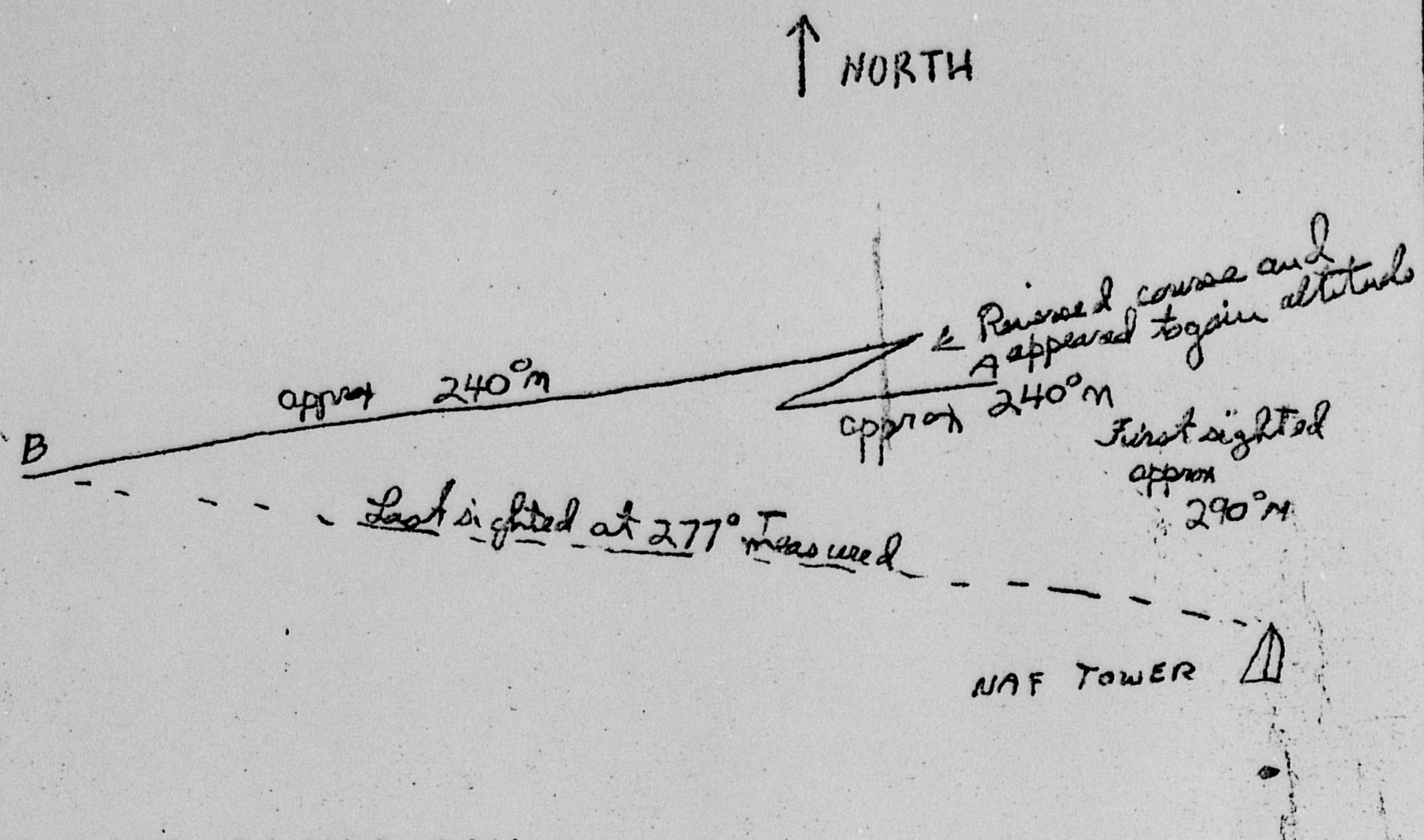
Incl #2, SOURCE'S Memory Sketch of Object's Flight Path



"A" indicates point of initial sighting
"B" indicates point of disappearance

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PART TWO
Flight 1-C, 4602d AISS	1C-UFOB-11-55	PAGE 6 OF 20 PAGES

I. SOURCE: RICHARD F. LUNDY, AC2, USN

Age: 23

Duties: Control Tower Operator

Education: 12 years

Qualifications: Six months duty as a control tower operator.

Station: China Lake Naval Air Facility

II. RELIABILITY: When first observed SOURCE was on duty as a control tower operator. He continued at his duties until the other individuals who had seen the object were located. While at his job SOURCE appeared to be well-acquainted with his job. SOURCE was familiar with air traffic procedures. He was quick, alert, and aware of everything happening on the airfield although it seemed to be a nervous energy that kept him on the move. He constantly smoked, and at times seemed a little impatient. Although he answered all questions readily he didn't "go out of his way" to volunteer information. SOURCE appeared to be little concerned about the sighting. His observations of the object were probably casual. SOURCE appeared to be of average intelligence. In spite of obvious nervousness and impatience SOURCE might be considered fairly reliable. His information, while not confirmed completely by other SOURCES, should be evaluated as "3".

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT:

1. SOURCE was on duty at the China Lake Naval Air Facility when his attention was called to the object by another tower control operator. The other tower control operator had been alerted by a telephone call from Edwards Air Force Base to look for an object in the northern or southern sky.

2. The object first appeared as a reddish orange ball about the size of a dime. The object appeared solid with the edges similar to those of a bright star.

3. The object was first sighted in the northwestern sky at an approximate angle of 305 degrees. The object was moving at a high rate of speed on an angle of approximately 110 degrees. It suddenly reversed course and moved on an approximated course of 290 degrees. The object finally disappeared by fading out at a measured angle of 277 degrees from the tower at the China Lake Naval Air Facility. This measurement was determined by using theodolite.

4. The object appeared at times to stand still. It also disappeared several times but not during its easterly course. SOURCE stated that the object might have moved behind the mountains to the west of the Air Facility. The object would change brightness but not in a regular pattern. It was in sight for approximately 23 to 25 minutes.

5. When SOURCE observed the object through binoculars and a telescope it appeared to have a faint conical tail four or five times the length of the object. This tail pointed away from the direction of flight.

6. SOURCE stepped out of the tower to observe the object out of the light and noticed at that time that there was no sound whatsoever.

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7. SOURCE was not knowledgeable of the speed or distance of the object. The altitude was also unknown to SOURCE although he estimated the object to be between 10 and fifteen degrees above the horizon at all times.

8. The weather was warm and dry with a slight breeze blowing. The sky was clear with fifteen miles visibility. There were a few stars but no moonlight.

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Incl #1 PART TWO, Rept 1C-UFOB-11-55
Statement of AC2 Richard F. Lundy

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

When this object was sighted it was moving rapidly to the east. This object would appear and disappear. It faded as we lost it. It appeared to move easterly when we saw it. It was spotted with a theodolite on a bearing of 277 degrees when it disappeared. I would say that it was not a star because of the one radical move. We had this in sight approximately 23 to 25 minutes. We noticed this because Edwards Air Force Base requested we look for an object north or south of our field.

/s/ Richard F. Lundy
AC2 USN

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

A TRUE COPY:

Patrick O Shepe
PATRICK O SHEPE
Captain USAF

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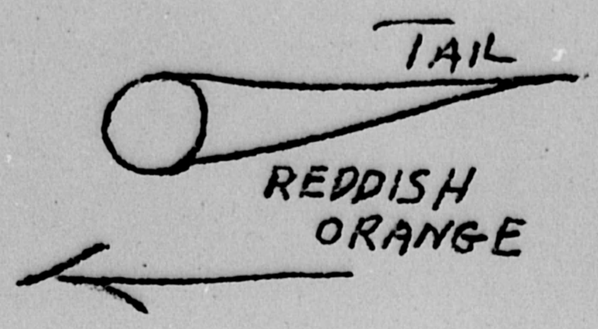
Incl #2, PART TWO, Rept 1C-UFOB-11-55
SOURCE's Memory Sketch of object
(retouched)



Arrow indicates direction of flight

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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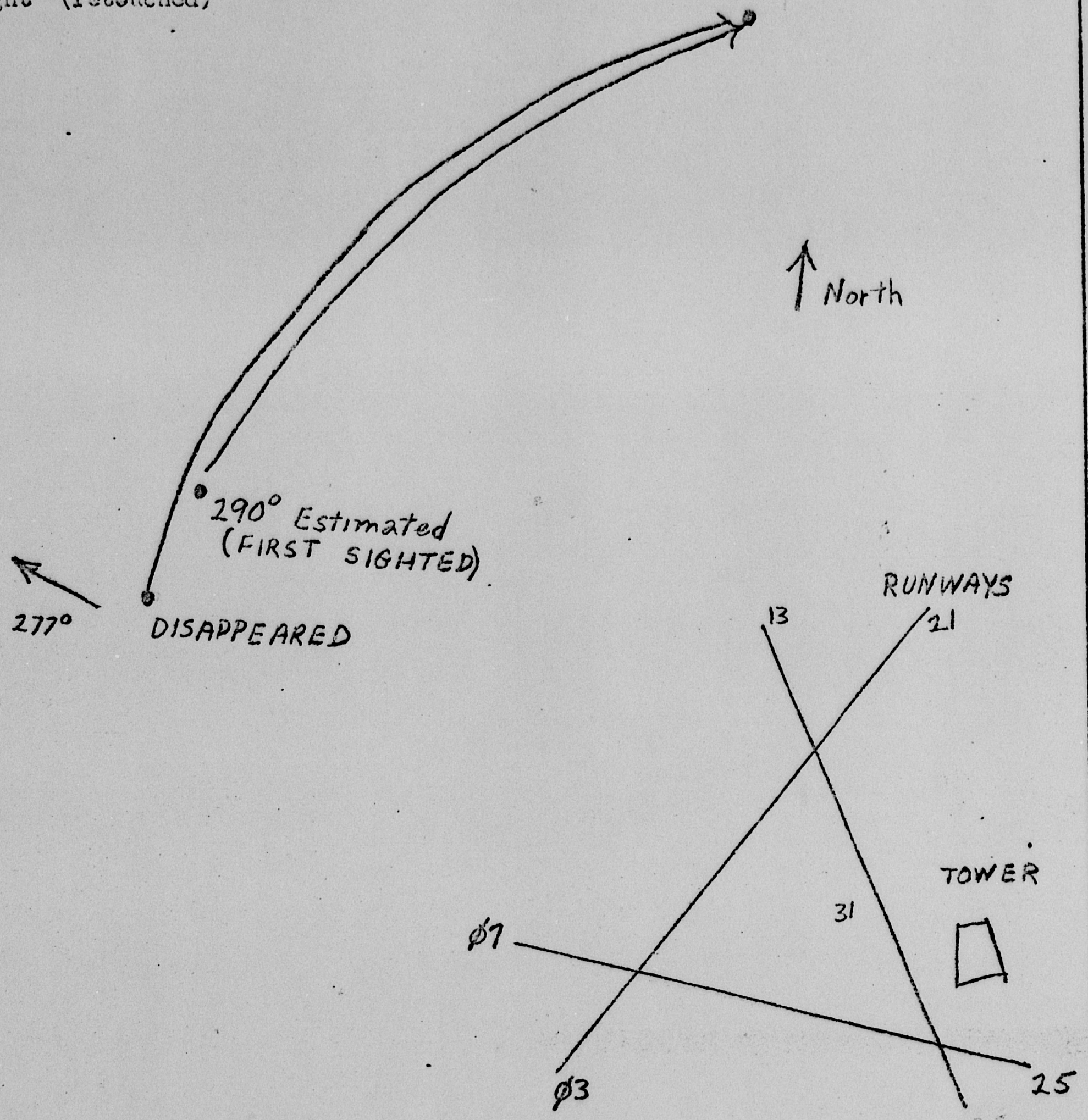
Incl #3, PART TWO, Rept 1C-UFOB-11-55
SOURCE's Memory Sketch of Object's Line of Flight (retouched)



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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PART THREE
Flight 1-C, 4602d AISS	1C-UFOB-11-55	PAGE 11 OF 20 PAGES

I. SOURCE: CHARLES P. CHITWOOD

Age: 22

Duties: Control Tower Operator

Education: 13 years

Qualifications: 18 months as a control tower operator

Station: China Lake Naval Air Facility

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE's memory of the incident was very good. His constant attitude to be of help was very impressive. He freely volunteered information, sketches, and maps. His continuity of the events during the sighting was good. He seemed to remember all the facts in order. His answers to questions were positive, with the exception of what the object might possible have been. SOURCE used good judgement during the sighting as evidenced by his immediate call to the duty officer and his attempts with theodolite, binoculars, and telescope to identify the object. SOURCE seemed to be more knowledgeable on the object than the others, possibly because he was the first to sight it. Although SOURCE had one year of college he seemed to be lacking in general knowledge. His vocabulary seemed to be just a little limited. His knowledge of his job, however, was very good. SOURCE can be rated of average intelligence and should be considered to be probably reliable. Information in this report should be evaluated as "1" since it has been confirmed by two (2) other SOURCES.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT:

1. SOURCE was on duty as tower operator at China Lake Naval Air Facility on the night of 11 July 1955. SOURCE received a call from Edwards Air Force Base, Edwards, California (EJCE 0854), and was asked to look for an object in the northern or southern sky. SOURCE looked but could see nothing. A few minutes later at 120510Z JUL 55 Edwards AFB again called and asked SOURCE to look to the north. This time SOURCE spotted the object.

2. Object was in the northern sky at a heading of 340 degrees when first sighted. Object moved on a heading of 240 degrees for seven minutes, then suddenly reversed course and sped away on an 80 degree heading almost to the point where first sighted. The object then reversed course again and disappeared out of sight on a measured (by theodolite) 277 degree heading. Disappearance was gradual and the object seemed to gain altitude as it disappeared. Object was approximately 10 to 15 degrees from the horizon at all times.

3. During the time that the object was in sight (23 - 25 minutes) it appeared to stand still, suddenly speed up and/or move. It seemed to change brightness although the color remained constant. SOURCE also stated that it seemed to pulsate.

4. SOURCE said that the object approximated the size of a pea, was orange with fuzzy edges. Object did not appear to change size or shape but intensity of color changed. The object was brighter than stars in the sky.

5. Sighting through 8 power binoculars SOURCE observed a faint conical tail four to five times the length of the object. This tail appeared darker in color than the object proper.

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6. The object disappeared six (6) times but it was not possible to tell if it moved behind something or not. SOURCE stated, however, that it was possible that the object moved behind some mountains. Object always reappeared on a line coincident with its flight line. It was not possible to tell if the object passed in front of anything.

7. The object disappeared in a westerly direction growing dimmer and dimmer. It did not disappear suddenly.

8. SOURCE originally thought object to be a jet with its afterburner switched on but when he stepped out on the ledge of the tower he heard no sound and also thought that a jet would not have its afterburner on in level flight. Also the speed of the object when first observed was seemingly too slow for a jet.

9. The weather was cool with a little breeze blowing. A few stars were visible. It was completely dark with no moonlight.

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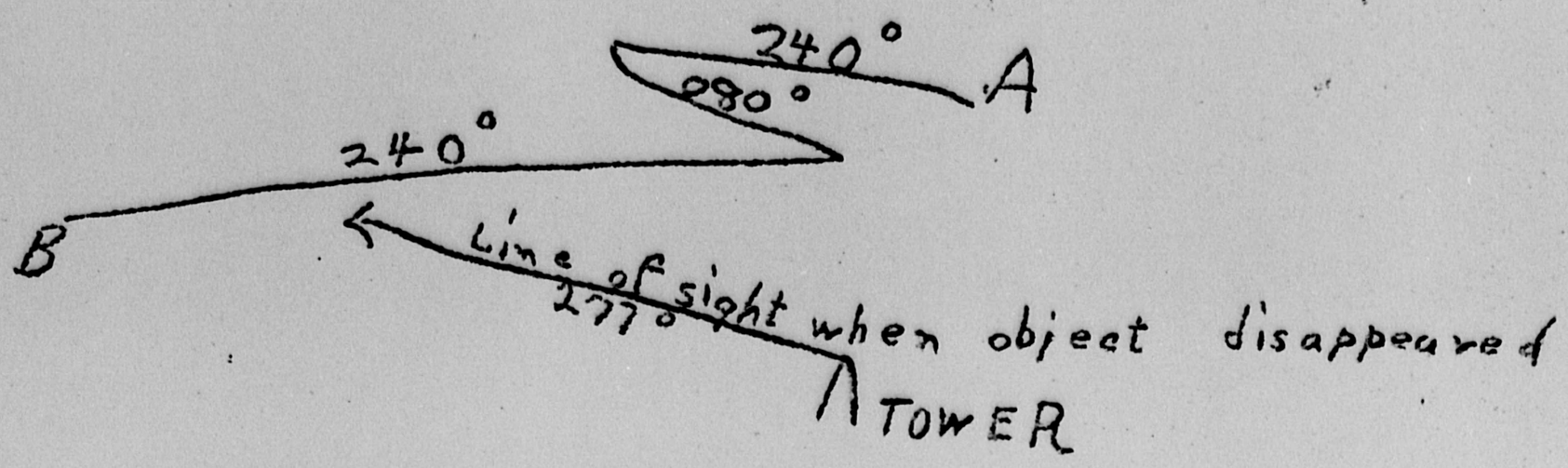
Incl #1 PART THREE, Rept 1C-UFOB-11-55
SOURCE's Memory Sketch of flight path
of object.



"A" indicates point of initial sighting
"B" indicates point of disappearance

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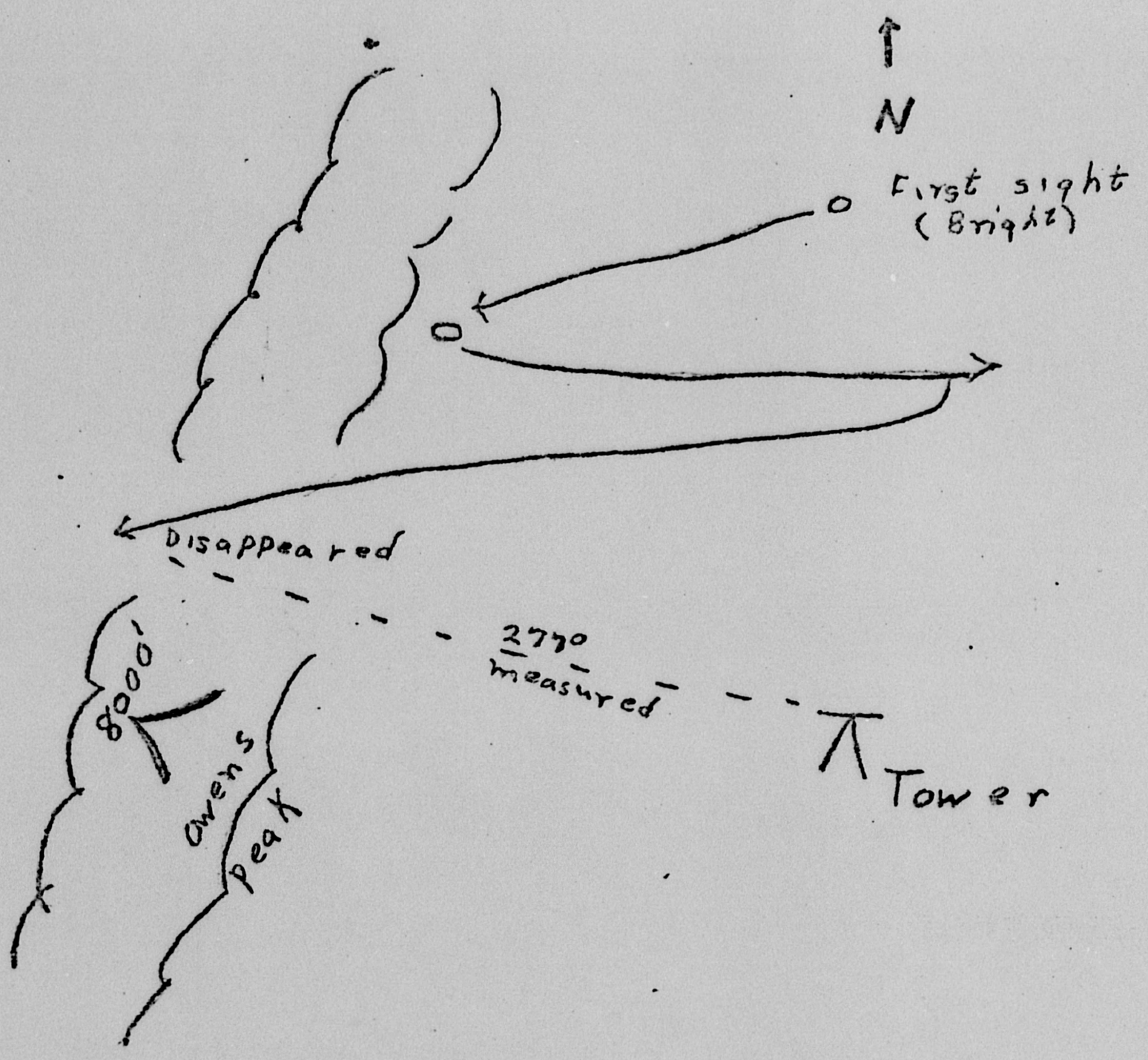
Incl #2, PART THREE, Rept 1C-UFOB-11-55
SOURCE's Memory Sketch of object's flight path in possible relation to mountain range



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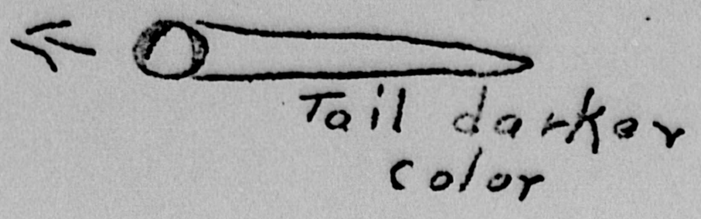
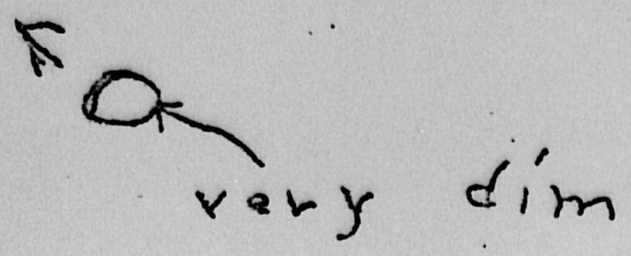
Incl #3, PART THREE, Rept 1C-UFOB-11-55
SOURCE's Memory Sketchs of object at time
of initial sighting and disappearance

First sight



Last sighted:



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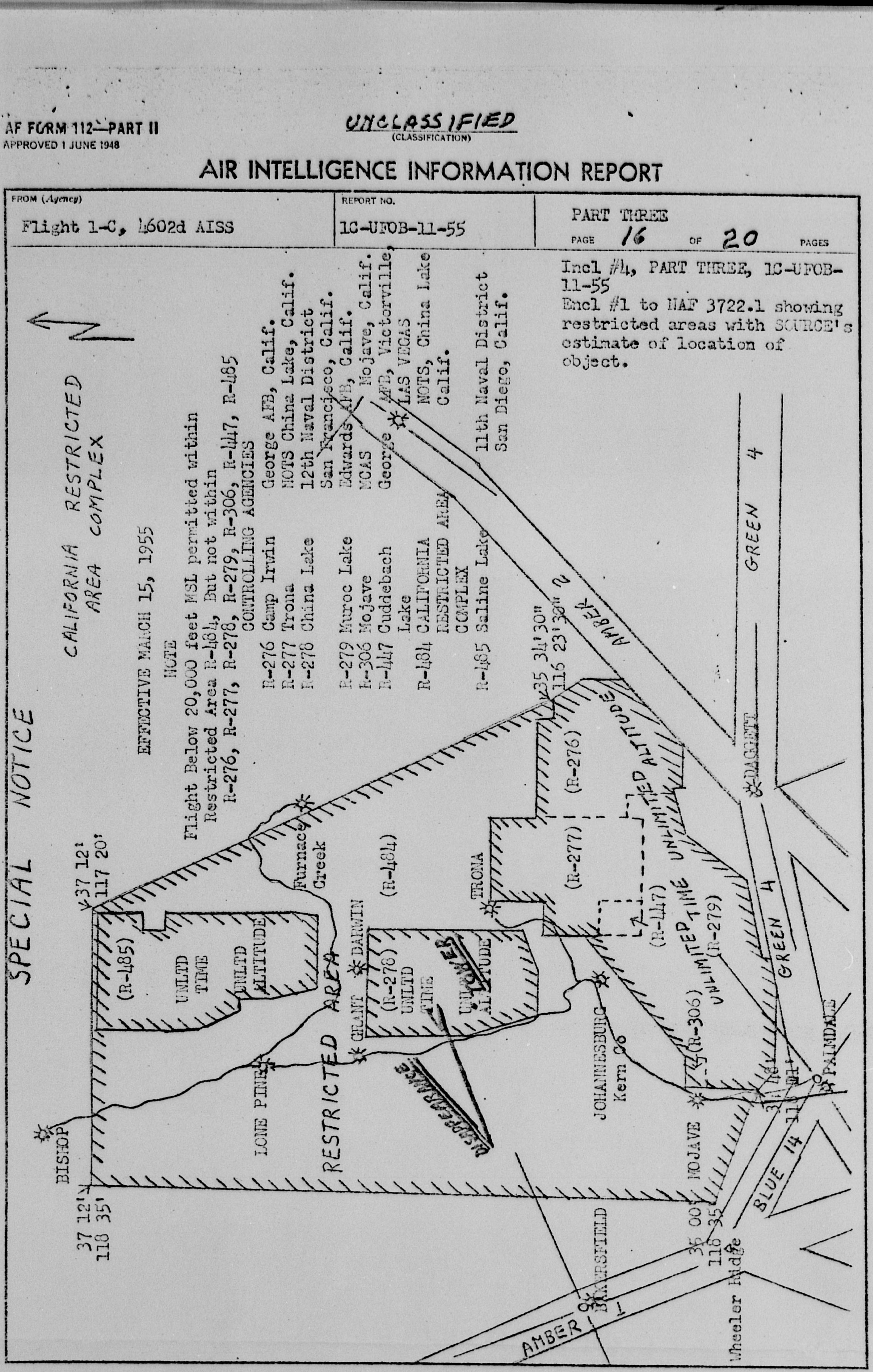
Incl #4, PART THREE, 1C-UFOB-11-55
Encl #1 to HAF 3722.1 showing restricted areas with SOURCE's estimate of location of object.



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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. A check with the MARCH AFB, CALIFORNIA (EJCD 4454) Flight Service Center revealed that no aircraft were in the general vicinity of the sighting at the time of the sighting.

2. The Duty Officer at the CHINA LAKE NAVAL AIR FACILITY at CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA (EJCF 1707) was interviewed (see Part One) and he stated the the Air Facility had been closed down and made secure prior to the sighting.

3. An unidentified airlines pilot en route from LAS VEGAS, NEVADA (EJEG 5210) to FRESNO, CALIFORNIA (EJAG 1445) reported a flash of light on a 310 degree heading.. The aircraft was flying a 212 degree course into DAGGETT, CALIFORNIA (EJDE 1252) when the flash was noticed. The pilot was not available for interview so the exact point from which the flash was seen in unknown. However the report mentioned only a flash and not an object such as seen by the three individuals mentioned above. The time of the flash was 120510Z JUL 55.

4. A check with EDWARDS AFB, EDWARDS, CALIFORNIA (EJCE 0854) revealed that a flash of light had been seen in the northern sky at 120510Z JUL 55. This was a ground visual and nothing was seen after the initial flash.

5. At 120506Z JUL 55 the AC & W site at BORON, CALIFORNIA (EJCF 1600) had an object on their scopes. They made a call to EDWARDS AFB who in turn notified the NAVAL AIR FACILITY at CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA. The control tower operators there looked but saw nothing. Another call through the same channels resulted in the operators at CHINA LAKE sighting the object. A few minutes later the AC & W site lost contact. This was the only instance during the sighting that radar picked up the object.

6. A check with Flight Operations at GEORGE AFB, CALIFORNIA, (EJCE 3736) revealed that they had been alerted. Two F-86D's were scrambled at 120528Z JUL 55. The F-86D's made no contact either visually or with radar.

7. A check with Combat Operations Center, 27th Air Division (Defense) NORTON AFB, SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA (EJCE 4606) revealed that they were in contact with GEORGE AFB while the F-86D's were aloft. No action was taken by NORTON AFB, however..

8. A check with the Ground Observer Corps Filter Centers at PASADENA, CALIFORNIA (EJBE 5010) and BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA (EJAF 6023) revealed that no UFOB reports in the vicinity of the sighting had been received. The Filter Centers stated, however, that there was a great deal of meteor activity that night.

9. DR. BOWEN, Chief Astronomer at the MT WILSON OBSERVATORY (EJBE 5714) was contacted as to the possibility of astronomical causes. DR. BOWEN stated that since all observers are inside the observatory it is unlikely for them to sight such objects. Nothing unusual had been seen and he could give no explanation for the sighting.

10. GEORGE BEATTIE, Professor of Astronomy, San Bernardino Valley College, SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA, was interviewed for possible ideas on the sighting. He could give no information or explanation for the object. He did say that the length of time the object was in sight would possibly preclude the chances of the object being astronomical.

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11. The weather conditions at the CHINA LAKE NAVAL AIR FACILITY were as follows:

Surface: all clear with 15 miles visibility, slight breeze
6000 degrees 260 knots 10
10000 degrees 210 knots 12
16000 degrees 310 knots 20
20000 degrees 310 knots 20
30000 degrees 300 knots 40
50000 degrees 260 knots 20
80000 degrees UNK knots UNK

There was no temperature inversion at this time.

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COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER:

1. The preparing officer was unable to come to any definitive conclusion as to the cause of the sighting of an object near the CHINA LAKE NAVAL AIR FACILITY, CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA, on the night of 11 July 1955.

2. The following possibilities are offered for consideration:

a. Considering the length of sighting, the hovering, speeding up and the near level flight of the object suggests the possibility that the object was a balloon. The gradual disappearance in the direction (westerly) that the wind (reported from surface to 50000 feet as blowing between 10 and 40 knots) also helps the balloon theory. However, the very sudden change in course, the rapid speed attained in an easterly direction after this reversal in course and another sudden reversal in course would seem to preclude the possibility of a balloon. The faint conical tail must be considered. The tail was seen only through binoculars and a telescope and might possibly have been an optical illusion caused by the glass. Also the object was between the viewers and the sun, although the sun had long since set. It is unlikely that the object would appear as large as it did (from the size of a pea to the size of a dime held at arm's length) if it were high enough to catch the sun's rays at such a late hour. It is possible that unknown to the weather bureau a jet stream existed and the object drifted into the stream. Having risen through the stream the object then continued on its westerly course at a leisurely pace. It is the opinion of the preparing officer that although the sighted object might possibly have been a balloon, evidence indicates that this was not probable.

b. The three individuals who spotted the object were briefed on the following possibilities: a truck or car winding down mountain roads, a searchlight reflecting off the mountains, the reflection of some light on the mountains. None thought any of these could apply to the sighting. Although all three were familiar with air traffic none had any ideas or conclusions concerning the object.

c. Although a great deal of meteor activity was noted on the night of 11 July 1955, the length of the duration of sighting seems to rule out the possibility of a meteor. The sudden reversal in course throws out the planet or planetoid theory. The sudden flash seen by the airlines pilot and the observer at EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE might possibly have been a meteor. Although the times of the sighting of the object and the flash of light are similar, along with the same general vicinity, it is the opinion of the preparing officer that the two are not one and the same. The failure of the tower operators at CHINA LAKE NAVAL AIR FACILITY to observe the flash of light can be blamed on a lack of observance since the airfield at CHINA LAKE had been shut down and secured for the night. Neither the astronomer at MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY nor the one at SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY COLLEGE had knowledge of this flash of light. Possibly the distance was too great. The preparing officer believes that the flash of light was astronomical while the sighting of the UFOB was not.

d. One SOURCE (see PART THREE) at first thought the object to be a jet with afterburner switched on which might possibly explain the conical tail theory but again the length of time the object was in sight, along with its slow speed during its westerly courses, preclude that possibility. Same SOURCE located the object within the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESTRICTED AREA COMPLEX. It

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was learned by the investigator that violations of this restricted area are very very rare. The lack of contact by F-86D's also seems to rule out the aircraft possibility.

e. Optical phenomena seems to be the best possibility. The fact that no other individuals observed this object, although it was in sight for approximately 23 minutes, lends credence to this theory. The area is sparsely populated and it is possible that other people saw it and failed to report it. The inability of the interceptor planes to make either visual or electronic contact helps this possibility.

PATRICK O SHERE
Captain USAF
Officer in Charge

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

1. This headquarters does not concur with the possible causes of this sighting offered by the Preparing Officer for the following reasons:

a. Balloon possibility: The sudden reversal of direction, the high rate of speed, and the conical tail would eliminate balloon activity.

b. Aircraft possibility: The duration of the sighting, the slow movement to the west, and the area of the sighting (restricted area) would eliminate the possibility of aircraft.

c. Astronomical activity: The fact that this object was initially sighted by radar, coupled with the duration of the sighting would eliminate the possibility of astronomical activity.

d. Optical phenomena: This object was initially picked up on radar and was seen by three people for a long period of time, thereby eliminating the possibility of optical phenomena.

2. This report is forwarded to ATIC as "unknown".

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