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COUNTRY <i>U.S.A.</i>	REPORT NO. <i>AR-1-53C</i>	(LEAVE BLANK) <i>487587</i>
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT <i>FLYOBREP</i>		
AREA REPORTED ON <i>Dallas, Texas</i>	FROM (Agency) <i>147th AC&W Squadron, Duncanville, Texas</i>	
DATE OF REPORT <i>8 January 1953</i>	DATE OF INFORMATION <i>6 - 7 January 1953</i>	EVALUATION <i>F-1</i>
PREPARED BY (Officer) <i>WARD L. McCOMBS, Captain, USAF</i>	SOURCE <i>CAA, Chance Vought Aircraft, DNAS, Perrin AFB, Carswell AFB, Mr. Fechenbach of CAA Love Field Tower, Dallas Times-Herald.</i>	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) <i>Our message, file INT 0122, 061710Z Jan 53</i>		
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.)		

On 6 January 1953, between the hours of 0130Z and 1130Z, a mysterious light was seen in the sky northeast of Dallas, Texas. In many instances reports conflicted with each other. One report would give the heading of the object as south while another would give the heading in a different direction. The altitude of the object also varied in the many reports.

Once the area became aware of something unusual in the air, reports came in more frequently. The object was first sighted at Paris, Texas, and was last seen by spotters at Dallas, Texas.

Whether or not there is any tangible explanation to these sightings, it is not known; however it is believed that we may have identified some of the sightings through our local investigation, which we hope will assist in the current investigations being undertaken by the Air Force in solving the many "Flying Saucer" reports.

Ward L. McCombs

WARD L. McCOMBS
Captain USAF
Operations Officer

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EO 11652 3(E) and 4(D) or (G)
USAF memo 7/31/78
BY WLEWIS 11/27/78

INCL.

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At 0718Z on the 6th of January 1953, this unit was notified by the CAA ARTCC at Meecham Field, Fort Worth, Texas, that they had received numerous calls of an unidentified flying object northeast of Dallas, Texas. Upon notification of the above information, 1st Lt. Bennett, Lawrence W., Director on Duty contacted Love Field Traffic Control Tower at Dallas for verification of the sighting. Mr. Wyle V. Moore at the Love Field Tower said that the object could be seen from Dallas. Lt. Bennett then notified the Controller at Headquarters 33rd Air Division (Defense) of the situation.

Soon after the initial call, Mr. Billy Johnston of Paris, Texas called and stated that he had observed a mysterious object at 0130Z over Paris. He chased the object with his car for thirty minutes to Cooper, Texas. He estimated the object to be at an altitude of 3500 feet. Mr. Johnston also sighted the object at about 0430Z.

At 0801Z, Lt. Bennett called Perrin Tower at Sherman, Texas, and was told by A/2C Carlson, C. A., Perrin Apprentice Operator, that he had seen the aircraft fade from sight going east.

The AC&W unit at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma reported in that they had picked up a target by radar twenty one miles southwest of Paris, Texas. The target then moved to a point three miles east of Bonham, Texas, which is about thirty five miles west of Paris, Texas. The target was heading west at an estimated air speed of 600 knots and at an altitude of seventy five hundred feet. The time of the initial radar pickup was 0805Z. Eleven minutes later, at 0816Z, the object faded. No other radar contacts were made in that area which could be linked to the unusual target observed by the civilian at Paris.

The direction of the radar target, west, and the direction of the object seen by Mr. Johnston, south, do not concur and therefore, are evidently two different objects. The radar target is believed to have been an aircraft heading for Perrin AFB, Texas. No identification can be made on Mr. Johnston's sighting.

Mr. Wyle V. Moore at Love Field, Dallas called and gave a brief description of the object. He said it had a green nose and white wing tips with a stream like jet. Mr. Marcus V. Fechenbach, also on duty at the Love Field Tower sketched the object. A standby driver was sent to Love Field to pick up the sketch and other information. The following two items are facsimiles of the sketch and statement of personnel sighting the object.

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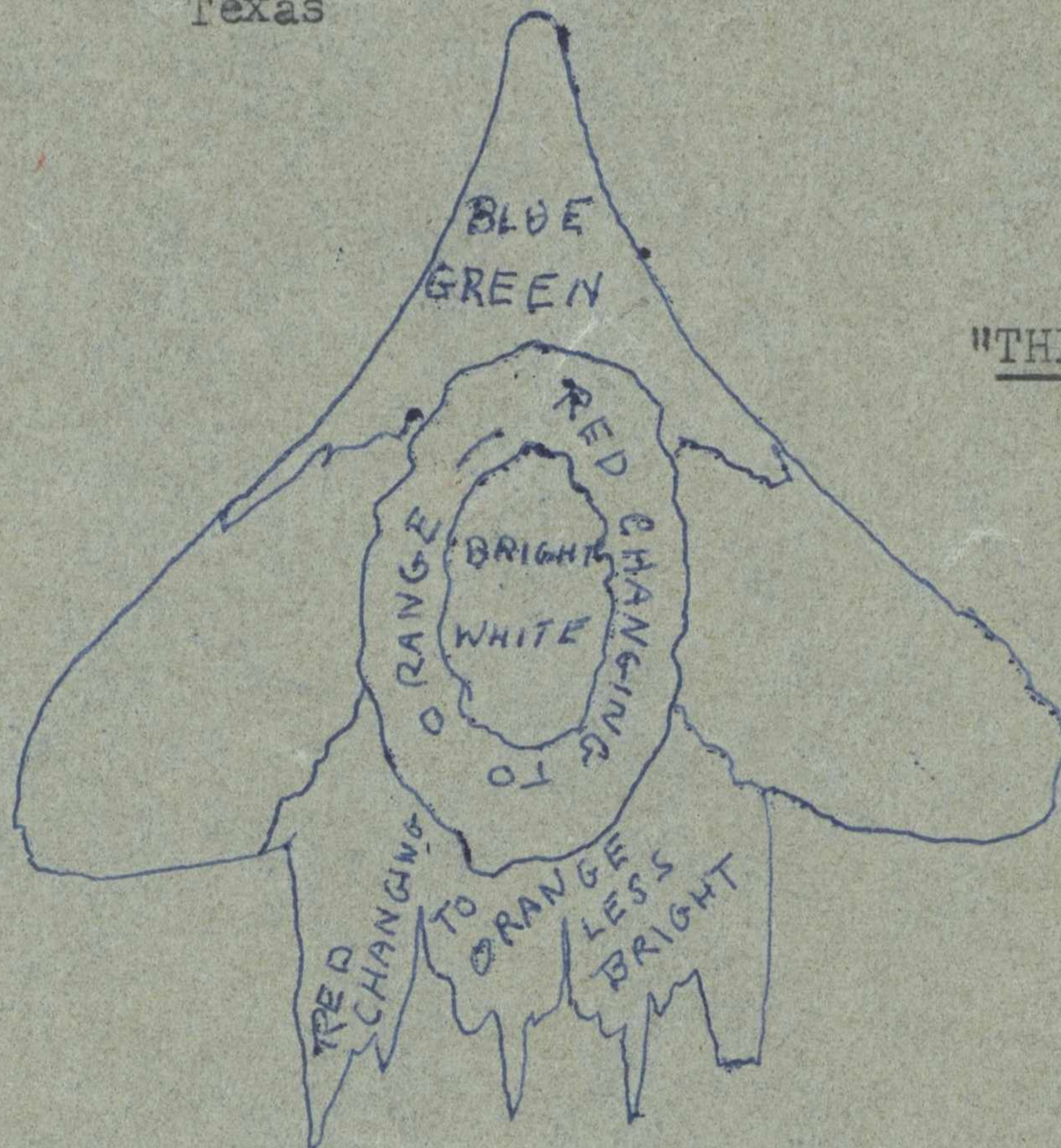
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"THIS IS A FACSIMILE"

Marcus F. Feckenbach

Wyle V. Top
Wyle V. Downe

Paul Dorne

M K Furber

ER Beck

"THIS IS A FACSIMILE"

This Men Were
in Line Furber
at the Date
1-6-53 @ 0125
they agree with
me that they saw
the object & change po
sitions for direction and
change of speed
Wyle V Move

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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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The original two items have been retained by this unit and have been placed in our intelligence files.

After compiling all of the above information an extensive investigation was undertaken by intelligence personnel of this unit. The following paragraphs are the findings of this investigation.

An attempt was made to identify the object. Calls to the surrounding airfields revealed that no flight plans placed any aircraft in the area in question. A check with the Naval Office at Chance-Vought Aircraft Corporation located at Grand Prairie, Texas was made. Commander Ryan, USN, attached to the Naval office said Chance-Vought had no aircraft airborne at the time of the sighting. He also stated that they had received no information of the sighting. Their first knowledge of the object was obtained from local radio broadcasts.

We then proceeded to contact the Dallas Police Department to check on the information they received from the numerous calls to their dispatcher. It was learned that CAA at Love Field had spotted the object and numerous Police Officers cruising around the Dallas area had called in on the object. One Police Officer, W. R. Russell, sighted the object at his home and saw the object disappear at 1130Z.

It is not believed that the object sighted by Officer Russell is the same as the object in question, as the time delay in the sightings vary considerably. Officer Russell most likely saw one of the bright morning stars which, if one looks at long enough, will appear to change colors.

We proceeded next to contact the two local newspapers to see what information they had on the unusual object. Mr. Boswell of the Dallas Times-Herald was very cooperative and gave us additional information which we had not as yet received. In as much as his information was from the notes he had for his article we will give the text of his article which can be used in analyzing this sighting.

THE DAILY TIMES HERALD, DALLAS JAN. 6, 1953

FIERY 'THING' SIGHTED HERE

A bright, colorful object hung in the skies north and northeast of Dallas several hours early Tuesday.

Scores of watchers saw the object. But many doubted it was "a plane, a planet or a star."

Watchers at the Civil Aeronautics Administration control tower at Love Field, a weather bureau observer and police and fire station dispatchers reported seeing the "elongated" or "arrow shaped" object which gave off brilliant "orange, red, green and bluish-white colors".

M. F. Fetchenbach, traffic controller at the Love Field tower, sighted a "light in the sky" at 1:15 a.m. An off-duty policeman said he saw the object disappear at 5:30 a. m.

"It shot right straight up in going out of sight," said W. R. Russel, the off-duty officer who sighted the object at his home, 1814 Lakeland.

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Mr. Fechenbach said he was looking due north out of the control tower when he first sighted the light.

"APPEARED TO CHANGE COURSE."

"I watched it travel as it seemed to approach east by northeast. It appeared to change its course of flight toward Love Field."

Through a pair of 7x50-power binoculars Mr. Fechenbach said the object appeared to have "Delta-type" wings (swept back like on modern jet planes) and "that it seemed to bover east and northeast of the field."

He estimated its closest approach at about 50 miles away and 2,000 feet high.

The Love Field tower also reported a relay message from Oklahoma saying flight of the object had been picked up there on radar at a speed estimated in excess of 600 miles an hour.

A report in Dallas that a jet plane was trying to chase the object here about 5 a.m. was unconfirmed. Military officials denied any jets were in the air. The Love Field tower, however, had reports from airline pilots telling of sighting the object.

"TOO FANTASTIC."

W. B. Harris, fire department radio dispatcher, said he and other firemen viewed the object after receiving a call from the Love Field tower.

"I wish I'd never seen it," Mr. Harris said. "It's too fantastic, and now there'll be a lot of talk. I just wish I'd never seen it."

Looking out an east window at City Hall about 2:30 a. m., Asst. Jailer J. C. Bowles said the object appeared to be floating a little above the nearby Western Union Bldg.

It began to rise as he watched, "changing colors like a diamond," Mr. Bowles said.

R. C. Wise, meteorologist at the Dallas weather station, said he watched the object through a six-power telescope.

"It looked elongated, as if it was vertical - standing on end - and it had a definite impression of dimension. At first it changed color rapidly, from white to blue and then red and green. Later it maintained white with a red spot on the undersurface.

BELIEVES IN SAUCERS.

"I believe in flying saucers," Mr. Wise asserted. "Maybe this was a mother ship for smaller saucers traveling in our orbit."

Wyle Moore, another tower controller at Love Field, estimated the object at 30,000 feet when he first saw it "and within 30 minutes I'd estimated it had gone up to 80,000 feet."

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He said a number of pilots gathered in the tower to watch the spectacle. Mr. Moore said he'd been a pilot for 27 years, worked in the tower for 14 years, and "I should know a plane or a star by now. This wasn't either."

Military Officers at Dallas Naval Air Station, Hensley Field and the Duncanville radar station said the object was not seen by any personnel at those stations.

The Perrin Air Force Base at Sherman, however, reported sighting an "un-identifiable" object.

Police Dispatcher L. P. Passons said he had several calls on the mystery object about 2 a.m. and that a number of cruising police cars also began calling in.

Dispatcher Passons and several policemen climbed to the roof of City Hall. "It looked like a big star, but it seemed to change colors," he declared.

. . . .

"MOST BEAUTIFUL"

Through a 40-power telescope the object appeared "as an arrow" in shape to Linwood Martin, 732 W. Clarendon. "It had swept back wings with a red glow toward the front, the wings blue and the center white. It moved forward and then backward and seemed to be going higher all the time."

Mr. Martin said the colors were "the most beautiful I've ever seen."

First report on the mystery object came to Love Field at 7:30 p.m. from a man at Paris, Tex. The Paris man got into his car and chased the object, which he believed was traveling at an altitude of 3,500 feet, to Cooper, Tex.

Commenting on the possibility that what the watchers saw might have been a planet, E. M. Brewer, president of the Texas Astronomers Society, said only two planets, Jupiter and Venus, were at all bright this time of the year.

. . . .

LITTLE CHANCE OF MISTAKE

Venus, he said, sets at 9 p.m. and Jupiter about midnight. Mr. Brewer believed skilled observers, such as many who reported seeing the object, could not possibly have mistaken the planet Jupiter for anything else.

Cmdr. R. N. Grunbock, public information officer at Dallas Naval Air Station, said no reports of a sighting were made by the control tower watch there. He said no aircraft was sent up.

Nor was there any report from watch standers at Hensley Field on a sighting. Major Hugh T. Arthur at the Duncanville radar station said equipment there was down for maintenance at the time of the sighting. Station observers there, however, did not see the object.

After reading the above article we called Mr. Marcus F. Fechenbach to verify the statements printed in the Herald's article. He said that they were erroneous in many respects. The following is Mr. Fechenbach's statement of his observations.

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"I first saw the light at 0105 CST north of the tower. The only color visible at this time was red. I didn't pay any attention to it, thinking it might be an airplane. Looking back again I noticed the light had moved south-southeast to a point east-northeast of the the tower. It appeared to turn towards the tower. What led me to believe this; was that the light seemed to get brighter. I asked Mr. Wyle V. Moore, who was on duty with me, to look at the light. At this time the light hovered for about ten minutes. I estimated the light to be 50 miles away at about 2500 feet. It is hard to tell the distance, so therefore my estimate could be wrong. After hovering awhile the light moved through a 25° arc in about twenty minutes going up but still moving south."

When asked to describe the object and to give an approximate size, Mr. Fechenbach said:

"I cannot give the size of the object. At first sight, without the use of binoculars, the object looked like a star. However, as soon as I used the binoculars I noticed that the object had a definite shape. As shown in the sketch I drew the object had many colors. Because of the protruding nose and swept back wings, I thought it might have been a B-47 or possibly some kind of delta-wing plane. The outer edges of the object were very well defined, whereas, the trailing edge with the colors changing from red to orange seemed to be a jet stream. I hope that the information can help you and I have tried to give as accurate description of the object as possible."

Mr Fechenbach's description is the best we were able to get of all the sources of information.

A study of the weather conditions at the time of the sighting revealed the sky conditions were clear with a 15 mile visibility, temperature - 50.2° Dew Point - 45.0, and Humidity - 66%. As to the winds aloft, we were able to obtain the readings for 0001Z. They were: 2000 ft - 200 at 13, 10,000 ft - 270 at 15, 20,000 ft - 300 at 24, 30,000 ft - 270 at 30, 40,000 ft - Unk, 50,000 ft - 280 at 31.

This is the information acquired by the investigation conducted by intelligence personnel of this squadron.

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