

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 1, 2, 3 March 1950	2. LOCATION Knoxville, tennessee
3. SOURCE Army Radar	10. CONCLUSION A/C (Third report) Other (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX) Probable Ground Returns
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Several	Returns on 3 successive nights from same quadrant. Probably ground returns from inversion. Report on 3 March of A/C.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 hour 55 minutes,	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Radar	Two successive nights returns of stationary object. On third night slow motion was reported. 1st night 1 hour 55 minutes. 2d night Not stated. 3d XXXX day report of object size of C-47 with track speed estimated at 200 knots.
7. COURSE 1. Stationary, 2. Not Rep 3. Moving	Report from 3 March probable A/C. First two nights returns of stationary object likely ground targets since they were of long duration. No Weather data included. Should be an inversion in the area at the time in order for this to be a cause of the report.
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

6 March 1950

9545

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Radar Equipment in Knoxville, Tennessee Indicates
Unidentified Objects in Vicinity of Oak Ridge.

Un. Objects

The following information was received from CG, 3d Army, Fort LeFlore, Georgia, and from OSI District Commander, Maxwell AFB: Mr. [redacted] Chief of Engineers of radar station near Knoxville operated by Radio Station WROL, reported to Mr. A. F. DAVIS, Chief of the AEC Security Division at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, that he cited through radar set AN-7 between 2155 and 2350 hours, 1 Mar 50, an unidentified object, altitude 40,000 feet, bearing approximately 332° to 340° from Knoxville, distance 10 miles. The radar set operated on 19,000 megacycle frequency. Speed or direction of object undetermined.

AEC Security Division Chief at Oak Ridge, checked with Smyrna AFB, Nashville, which reported that there were no flight plans that would indicate a plane being in that vicinity and altitude. 3d Army checked with 14th AF with negative results.

On 2 Mar 50 one report indicated the station had picked up an object in approximately the same location at 1105 hours. Another report indicated that at 2000 hours, same date two unidentified objects appeared reportedly at an altitude of 80,000 feet, bearing 310° from Knoxville. There was no speed or direction indicated. No flight plans were reported.

At 1035 hours, 3 Mar 50, a report was again received from the same source indicating one unidentified object altitude 40,000 feet, 320° from Knoxville, same frequency, approximate speed 200 miles per hour. No direction but determined approximately the size of C-47 Aircraft.

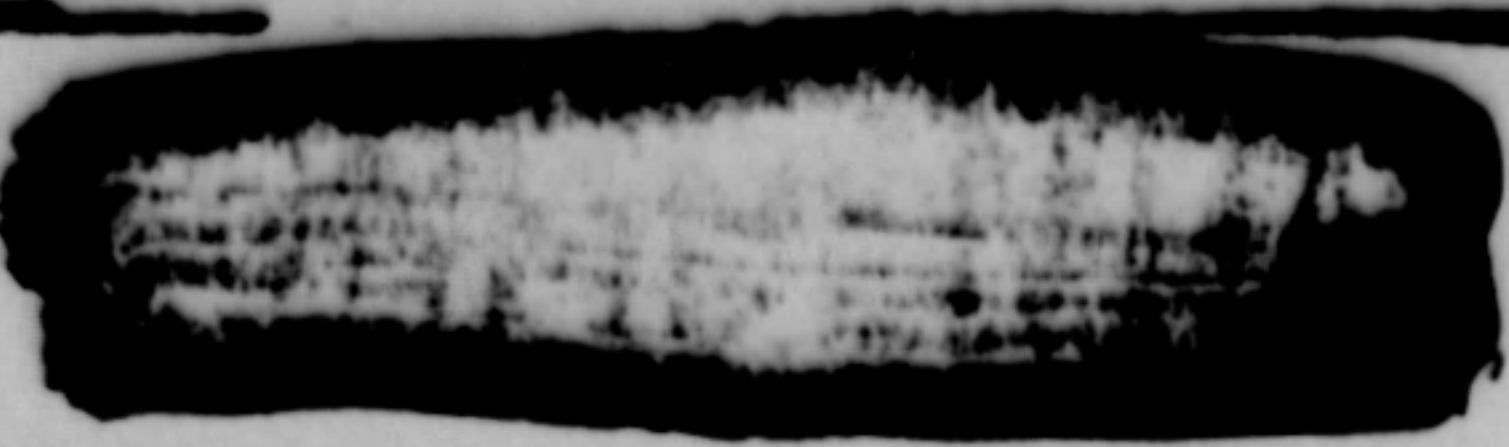
AEC Security Division Chief is not certain as to operation efficiency of radar unit and has requested Smyrna AF Base to send qualified radar operator. Smyrna has no person so qualified but C.O. suggested 3d Army send qualified radar operator to check the equipment. Colonel [redacted], AF liaison to WROL has requested Wright-Patterson AFB to send adequate radar set to Knoxville. Indications received that Wright-Patterson AFB will not send radar sets if they can be supplied from local sources. 3d Army reports no qualified radar operators.

S. E. ADCOCK, Chief of Engineers, Radar, Station WROL, Knoxville, who made the sightings described above has a local reputation in Knoxville of being highly dependable. He was an engineer in radar experimentation work prior to and during World War II.

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