

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE <u>13 Apr 52</u>		LOCATION <u>Moriarity, New Mexico</u>		12. CONCLUSIONS	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>1645</u> MST GMT <u>13/2345</u> Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☒ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE <u>several airmen</u>			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION <u>5-10 minutes</u>		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS <u>1</u>	9. COURSE		
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Silver color. Elliptical. Turned and dove. Balloon in area but weather people at Albuquerque considers it highly doubtful.			11. COMMENTS		

UNCLASSIFIED

APPENDIX V

Moriarity, New Mexico - 13 April 1952

I. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

On 13 April 1952 at 1645 MST, four airmen observed a silver, disc-shaped object east of Moriarity, New Mexico. The object appeared to be traveling at a high rate of speed and its flight path was very erratic. The object was assumed to be disc-shaped due to the fact that it appeared to tip edgewise and disappear for an instant. When first noticed, the object was thought to be a high flying jet aircraft but all the observers are familiar with jet aircraft and they all agreed that its speed and maneuverability eliminated that possibility.

The time of observation was judged to be from four to ten minutes.

II. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Both Moriarity, New Mexico, and Albuquerque have radar but no unusual returns were noted on 13 April.

A piball balloon was released from Albuquerque at 1400 MST. The winds, however, would have carried this balloon south of Moriarity. In addition, the balloon would have risen too high to be observed after two hours and 45 minutes. It is possible the balloon leaked and leveled off at a low altitude, however, it would have been south of the observation point. The speed and maneuvers do not correlate with a normal balloon's drift except for the possibility that there might have been some strong winds at the time. This cannot be ascertained and the object must remain unidentified.

III. CONCLUSIONS

None.

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

T52-10889

16

UNCLASSIFIED

7-3710-45

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CO, ATXC

TO: CO 34TH AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)
KIRTLAND AFB NM, MEXICOTELETYPE

INFO:

DATE-TIME GROUP

301345Z Apr 52

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

Routine

INFORMATION

☐

BOOK MESSAGE

☒

ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐

MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐ YES☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

FROM: AFOM-ATIA-4-102:

Reference written report of unidentified aerial object over Moriarty, New Mexico, on 13 April 1952. Request information as to whether or not radar in area picked up any unidentified returns on 13 April 1952. Also check Albuquerque Weather Bureau for time of launch of weather balloons and possibility of balloon in Moriarty area.

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

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE

OF

PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

Lt R. J. Ruppelt/vs

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

ROBERT E. HENNELLY, Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

SYMBOL APLAA-20

TELEPHONE 34261

OFFICIAL TITLE

DD FORM 173
1 OCT 49REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

16-58023-3 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

97700-20-200

MAY 1952-15 11 2

1. } ATIAA
2. }
3. ATIA
4. Central Files

ACTION

UNCLASSIFIED

C1 ROUTINE ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
FROM KIRTLAND AFB ALBUQUERQUE N MEX
TO AMCWPAFB OHIO CO ATIC
OIN3888. UNCLASSIFIED

PARADISE NOT RECORDED. SEE CRYPTO CENTER
BEFORE 1952-15

OK

REF AFOIN-ATIAA-4-10E DTD 30 APR 52 UNIDENTIFIED AERO BJ SITED
OVER MORIARTY NEW MEXICO 13 APR 52 WAS NOT RADAR SITING. RDAR IN
THIS AREA DID NOT REPT PICK UP OF UNIDENTIFIED AER OBJS ON THAT
DTX ALBUQUERQUE EEA STA REPT REL OF WHITE PLT BALLOON 3 FEET IN
DIAM AT 2100Z THAT DT. WINDS WERE IN NORTHWEST-WEST NORTHWEST DIR
AT 21 TO 39 KNOTS. WINDS WOULD TAKE BALLOON SOUTH OF MORIARTY.
POSSIBLY WITHIN SIGHTING DIS. WEA EXPERTS REPT THIS TYPE BALLOON BURSTS
AFTER 1 TO 1 AND ONE HALF HR FLT BUT OCCASIONALLY REACHES
A STABILIZING ALT AND REMAINS IN BACT FOR SEVERAL HR. BALLOON NORMALLY
FOL A STEADY UPWARD FLT AT APPARENT SLOW MOTION AT HIGHER ALT.
SUDDEN DISSAPPEARANCE OF THERE BALLOONS OCCURS AT TIME OF BURSTING.
WEA EXPERTS FURTHER STATE BALLOON WOULD HAVE CONT SOUTHWARD MOTION.
NEVER TURNING NORTHWARD. DR TO PREVAILING WINDS. FACTS POINT TO
REMOTE POSSIBILITY BALLOON COULD HAVE BEEN OBJECT. BUT CONSIDER IT
HIGHLY IMPROBABLE. 1 SILVER RADIO SONDE BALLOON WAS RELS AT 1500Z.
THIS BALLOON NORMALLY EXPLODES 1 TO 2 HR LATER. DO NOT CONSIDER
THIS BALLOON VISIBLE AT TIME OF SIGHTING REPT AT MORIARTY

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 520010

UNCLASSIFIED

752-10323-1

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 30 April 52		2. LOCATION Moriarity, New Mexico		12. CONCLUSIONS	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0746 MST GMT 3/ 1446 Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ELECTRONIC ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ RADAR ☐ Other <i>ECM</i> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Radar crew			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 minute		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Straight and level maneuvers. Electronics concludes this may have been due to purposely "locked on" jammer.				11. COMMENTS Radar blip clocked at 3700 MPH. 0	

EXTRACT FROM STATUS REPORT # 7

DATE: 30 Apr 52

TIME (Local): 0740 & 0746

LOCATION: Moriarity, N. H.

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 4 sweeps & 6 sweeps

SOUND: Unknown

SPEED: 3,700 mph

ALTITUDE: Unknown

HEADING: Unknown

SOURCE: Radar Operators

ACTION OR COMMENTS: Probable interference or jamming from some unknown source.

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Radar pick-up. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNCLASSIFIED

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

COUNTRY UNITED STATES		[REDACTED]		LEAVE BLANK
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT				
SUBJECT Report of Unconventional Aircraft		UNCLASSIFIED		
AREA REPORTED ON Albuquerque ADIZ		FROM (Agency) 76th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron		
DATE OF REPORT 1 May 1952	DATE OF INFORMATION 30 April 1952	EVALUATION		
PREPARED BY (Officer) JAY R. WALLER, 1st Lt., USAF		SOURCE Electronically Observed (Radar)		
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None				

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.)

SUBJECT: Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft

In accordance with AIC Ltr 200-1, Reporting of Unconventional Aircraft, dated 11 April 1951, the following report of unusual target picked up by radar observation is forwarded to your headquarters in its importance as intelligence.

30 April 1952

At 0740 MST a normal appearing target was observed on the PPI Scope by the radar observer on duty. Target appeared to be normal but was traveling at the unusual speed estimated at 3700 Miles Per Hour. At 0746 MST another target was observed 10° to the south of the first target traveling at the same estimated speed. The first target was observed for four (4) sweeps of the antenna while the second target was tracked for six (6) sweeps, antenna rotates at six (6) Revolutions Per Minute.

Significance of Incident:

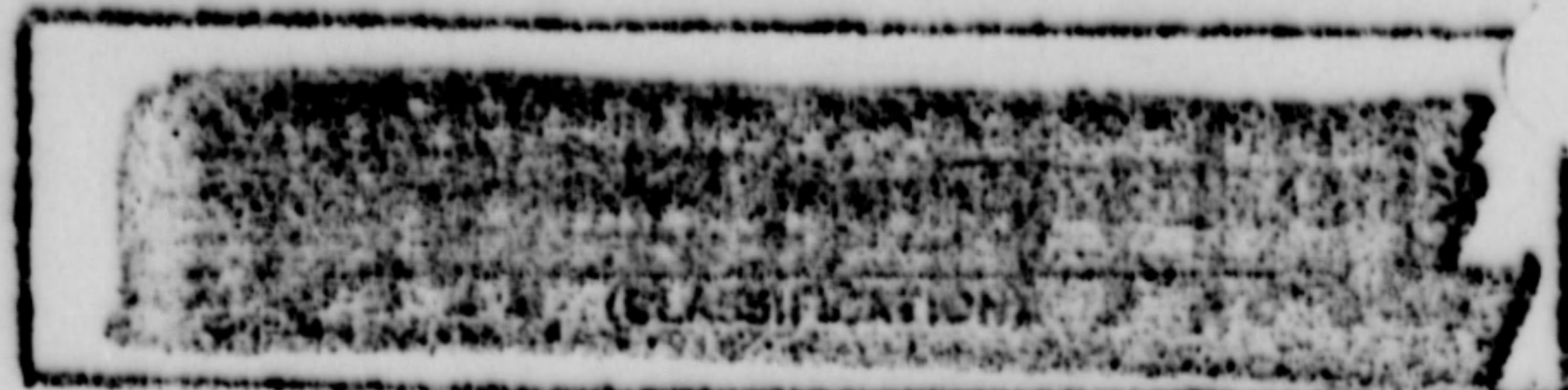
These two (2) targets were observed by four (4) experienced radar observers who are familiar with the appearance of normal aircraft picked up by the radar equipment; the target appeared to be normal in all respects except for excessive speed.

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

(12) INCL.

UNCLASSIFIED

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR



UNCLASSIFIED

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	One (1)	OF	One (1)	PAGES
763th ACW Sqn.	Not Applicable					

(a) Shape: Negative
Size: Negative
Color: Negative
Number: One (1)
Aerodynamic Features: Negative
Trail or Exhaust: Negative
Speed: 3700 MPH
Propulsion System: Negative
Sound: Negative
Maneuvers: Negative
Manner of Disappearance: Radar Fade

(b) Time Sighted: 0746 MST

(c) Electronically Observed (Radar): (AM/CPS-5(3))

(d) Moriarity, New Mexico, 763th ACW Sqn. (See Sworn Statement)

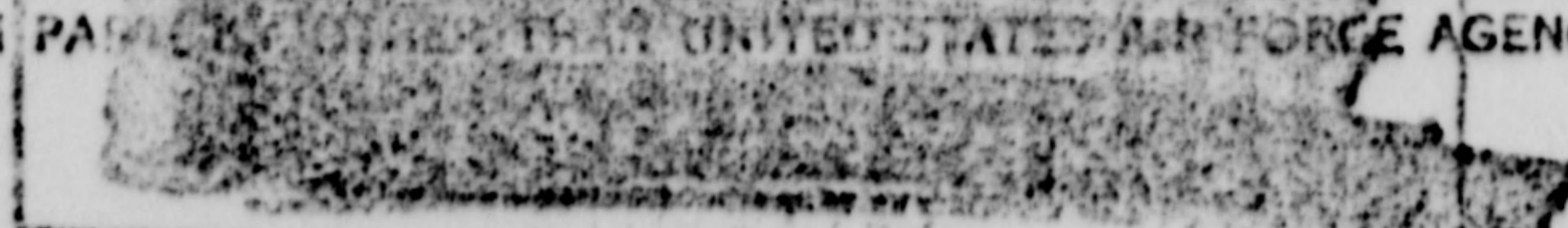
(e) Observer is reliable and experienced

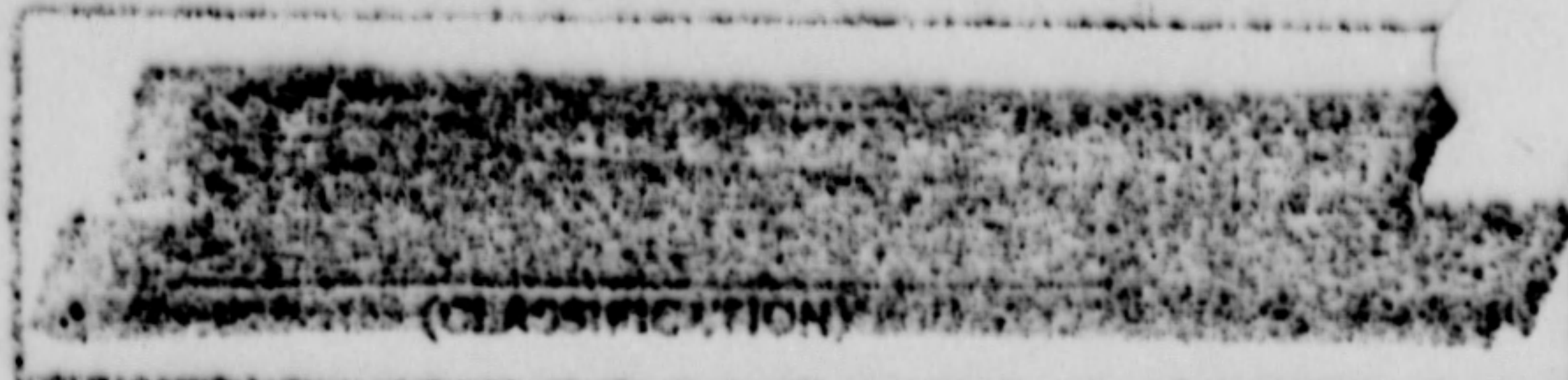
(f) 70 Sctd 200 Sctd 60 Visibility 6° centigrade NNW at 3 MPH
80 Sctd 60 Visibility 13° centigrade NNW at 11 MPH

(g) Negative
(h) Negative
(i) Negative
(j) Negative

The information given above by Captain, [REDACTED] is true and correct to the best of his ability and knowledge.

UNCLASSIFIED





AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

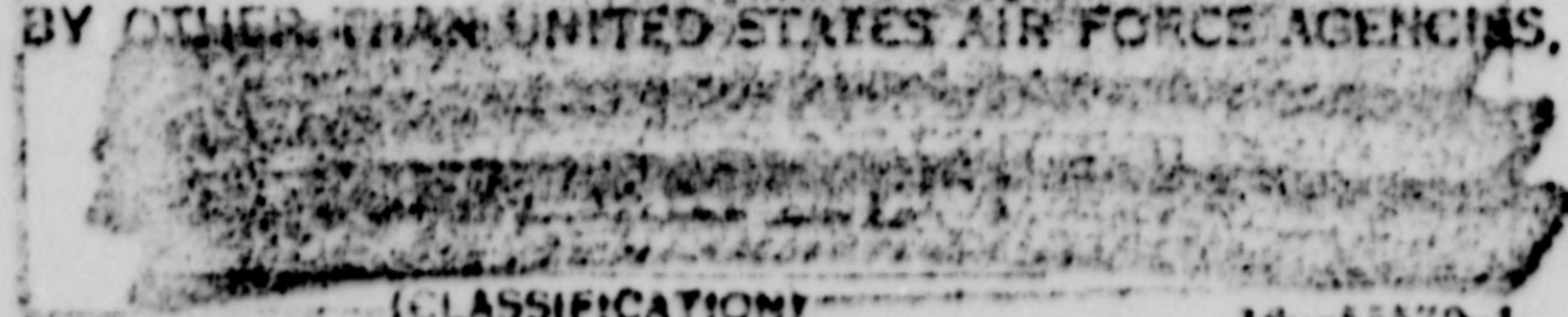
FROM (Agency) 763th ACW Sqn.	REPORT NO. Not Applicable	One (1)	One (1)
		PAGE	OF PAGES

- (a) Shape: Negative
Size: Negative
Color: Negative
Number: One (1)
Aerodynamic Features: Negative
Trail or Exhaust: Negative
Speed: 3700 MPH
Propulsion System: Negative
Sound: Negative
Maneuvers: Negative
Manner of Disappearance: Radar Fade
- (b) Time Sighted: 0746 MST
- (c) Electronically Observed (Radar): (AN/CP3-5(D))
- (d) 763th ACW Sqn. Moriarity, New Mexico (See Sworn Statement)
- (e) Observer is reliable and experienced
- (f) 70 Sctd 200 Sctd 60 Visibility 6° centigrade MMW at 3 MPH
80 Sctd 60 Visibility 13° centigrade MMW at 11 MPH
- (g) Negative
(h) Negative
(i) Negative
(j) Negative

UNCLASSIFIED

The information given above by A/IC William T. Pennington is true and correct to the best of his ability and knowledge.

UNCLASSIFIED



AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 753th ACW Sqn.	REPORT NO. Not Applicable	PAGE One (1)	OF One (1)	PAGES
---------------------------------	------------------------------	-----------------	---------------	-------

- (a) Shape: Negative
Size: Negative
Colors: Negative
Number: Two (2)
Aerodynamic Features: Negative
Trail or Exhaust: Negative
Speed: 3700 MPH
Propulsion System: Negative
Sound: Negative
Maneuvers: Negative
Manner of Disappearance: Radar Fade
- (b) Time Sighted: 1st Blip 0740 MST, 2nd Blip 0746 MST
- (c) Electronically Observed (Radar): (AN/CPS-5(D))
- (d) 753th ACW Sqn. Moriarity, New Mexico (See Sworn Statement)
- (e) Observer is reliable and experienced
- (f) 70 Sctd 200 Sctd 60 Visibility 6° centigrade WNW at 3 MPH
80 Sctd 60 Visibility 13° centigrade WNW at 11 MPH
- (g) Negative
- (h) Negative
- (i) Negative
- (j) Negative

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The information given above by A/IC [REDACTED] is true and correct to the best of his ability and knowledge.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	One (1)	OF	One (1)	PAGES
763th ACW Sqn.	Not Applicable					

- (a) Shape: Negative
Size: Negative
Color: Negative
Number: One (1)
Aerodynamic Features: Negative
Trail or Exhaust: Negative
Speed: 3700 MPH
Propulsion System: Negative
Sound: Negative
Maneuvers: Negative
Manner of Disappearance: Radar Fade
- (b) Time Sighted: 0746 MST
- (c) Electronically Observed (Radar): (AN/CPS-5(D))
- (d) 763th ACW Sqn. Moriarty, New Mexico (See Sworn Statement)
- (e) Observer is reliable and experienced
- (f) 70 Sctd 200 Sctd 60 Visibility 6° centigrade WNW at 3 MPH
80 Sctd 60 Visibility 13° centigrade WNW at 11 MPH
- (g) Negative
(h) Negative
(i) Negative
(j) Negative

UNCLASSIFIED

The information given above by A/B [REDACTED] is true and correct to the best of his ability and knowledge.

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HEADQUARTERS
34th AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO

OIN 452.1

5 MAY 1952
UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft Report

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
ATTN: MCIS
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 6200.10

Air Intelligence Information Reports, dated 1 May 1952, as submitted by the Commanding Officer, 768th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron, Moriarty, New Mexico, are forwarded in compliance with Air Defense Command letter 200-1, dated 11 April 1951.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Sam Odensky
SAM ODENSKY
2nd Lt, USAF
Asst Air Adj Gen

- 13 Incls
- 1. AIIR - Part I (dupl)
 - 2. AIIR - Part II - [REDACTED] (dupl)
 - 3. " " [REDACTED] "
 - 4. " " [REDACTED] (dupl)
 - 5. " " [REDACTED] "
 - 6. Sworn Statement [REDACTED] "
 - 7. " " [REDACTED] (dupl)
 - 8. " " [REDACTED] (dupl)
 - 9. " " [REDACTED] "
 - 10. Scope Diagram - [REDACTED] "
 - 11. " " [REDACTED] on (dupl)
 - 12. " " [REDACTED] (dupl)
 - 13. " " [REDACTED] "

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

34-36570

13 May 1952

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1. There seems to be two or more possible explanations of the unidentified target reported by attached Form 112:

- a. Radar target was caused by an actual airborne target.
- b. Interference from a purportedly "locked-on" jamming or confusion transmitter.
- c. Other less likely causes such as equipment fault, weather, etc.

2. Since the path of the radar target was along a straight line passing thru the radar station location, it is considered most likely that the explanation given in paragraph 1b is applicable.

P. L. James
Captain, USAF

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

UNCLASSIFIED

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30 April 1952

I, Captain [REDACTED], 76th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Moriarity, New Mexico, do hereby wish to make the following statement:

At 0742 MST, 30 April 1952, the [REDACTED] on duty, A/1C [REDACTED], informed me that something unusual was being sighted by the radar. I immediately posted myself as an observer behind the scope operator and at approximately 0746 MST a blip appeared at 140 miles on 230° azimuth, in the next sweep the blip was again at 230° azimuth and at a range of 129 miles. The blip occurred consistently for 6 sweeps moving down the 230° azimuth line at approximately 11 miles per sweep or 11 miles every 10 seconds. It faded at approximately 74 miles range which might indicate a terrific altitude. This represented to me a clearly defined track 100° heading. The blips observed were not blurred nor were they fuzzy blobs of a sort but rather they were very clearly defined blips which can only be described as the type of blip that is sighted every day made by conventional type aircraft. The terrific speed of this track as described above was very impressive.

Attached hereon is the approximate path of flight the blip was in as I saw it.

DOWNGRADED TO SECRETARY'S EYES ONLY;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[REDACTED]
Captain, USAF

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30 day of April 1952.

Parker F Jones
PARKER F JONES
Captain, USAF
Adjutant
76th ACW Sq., Moriarity, New Mexico

UNCLASSIFIED

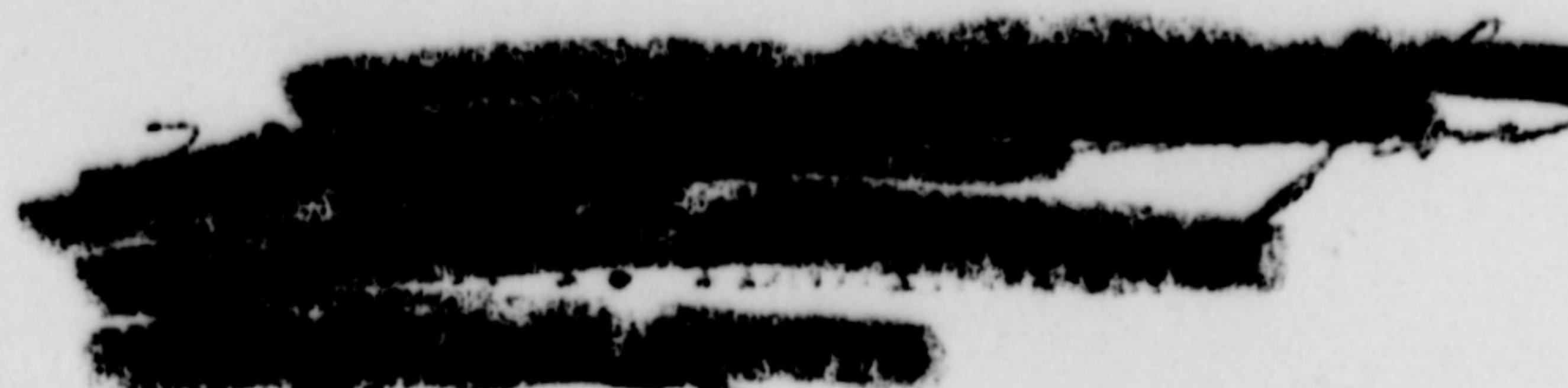
S

30 April 1952

I, A/IC [REDACTED] Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Moriarity, New Mexico, do hereby wish to make the following statement:

At 0742 MST, 30 April 1952, as [REDACTED] on duty from 0001 to 0300 MST. I was informed of an unusual blip on radar by scope operator on duty, A/IC [REDACTED]. Immediately I passed this unusual occurrence on to the Controller on duty, Captain, [REDACTED]. At 0746 MST my first observation of this blip appeared approximately at 140 miles on 280° azimuth and this blip moved approximately 11 miles each sweep, every 10 seconds, for 6 sweeps. This blip faded approximately 70 miles from station. This blip appeared on the scope as a usual aircraft would appear, except for it's speed.

Attached hereon is the approximate path of flight the blip was in as I saw it.



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April 1952.

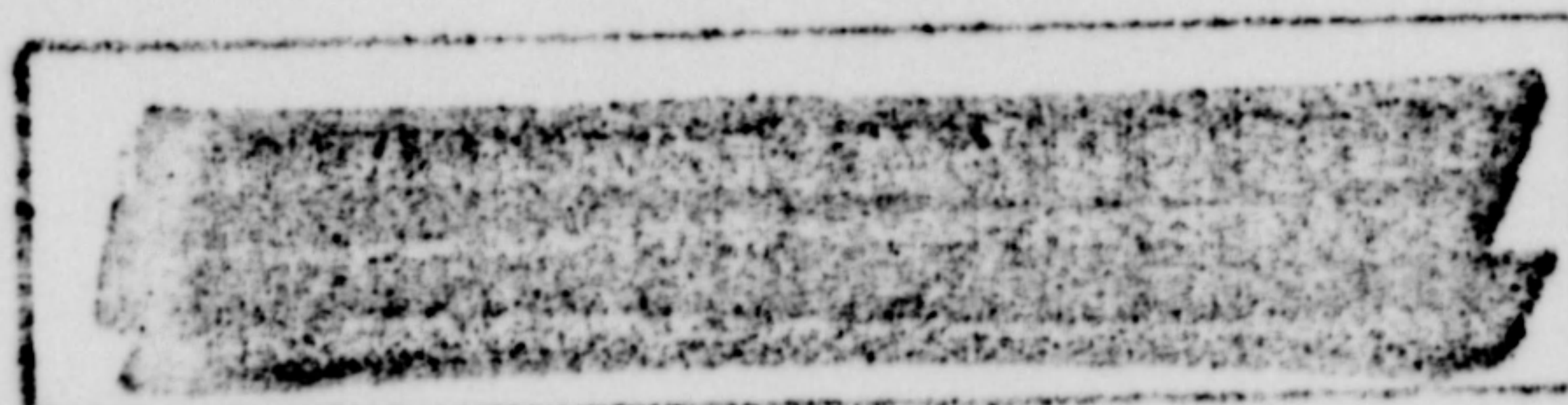
Parker F Jones

PARKER F JONES

Captain, USAF

Adjutant

768th AC&W Sq., Moriarity, New Mexico



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SWORN STATEMENT

30 April 1952

I, A/IC [REDACTED] Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Moriarity, New Mexico, do hereby wish to make the following statement:

At 0730 MST I took my position on PPI scope #1 (range 50-150 miles.) At approximately 0740 MST I noticed a blip at 230° at 149 miles. I was preparing to call it in as an initial plot when on the next sweep it had moved 11 miles to the NE. I reported this to the Crew Chief and crew and then I continued watching this blip until it faded 4 sweeps later.

The first unusual blip had no sooner faded when at approximately 0746 MST another blip appeared at 280° at 140 miles. This blip like the other moved at the rate of 11 miles per sweep (6 sweeps per minute.) It continued towards Kirtland until it faded at a point about 70 miles from our Station.

Attached hereon is the approximate path of flight the blip was in as I saw it.

[REDACTED]
A/IC [REDACTED]

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April 1952.

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

Parker F. Jones
PARKER F. JONES
Captain, USAF
Adjutant
763th AC&W Sq., Moriarity, New Mexico

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

30 April 1952

I, A/B [REDACTED] Aircraft Control and
Warning Squadron, Moriarity, New Mexico, do hereby wish to make the
following statement:

At 0745 MST, 30 April 1952, I relieved A/IC [REDACTED] as scope operator.
I was informed that something unusual was being sighted on the radar
scope. At 0746 MST, I sighted a blip on the radar scope at 230° at a
140 miles. The next sweep it moved to 230° at 129 miles. It was moving
11 miles every 10 seconds, at approximately 3700 miles an hour. It
appeared on the scope for 6 sweeps. The blip faded at 230° at 70 miles.
The blip appeared on the scope as a regular conventional aircraft.
To the best of my knowledge this was not interference.

Attached hereon is the approximate path of flight the blip was in
as I saw it.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
A/B AF [REDACTED]

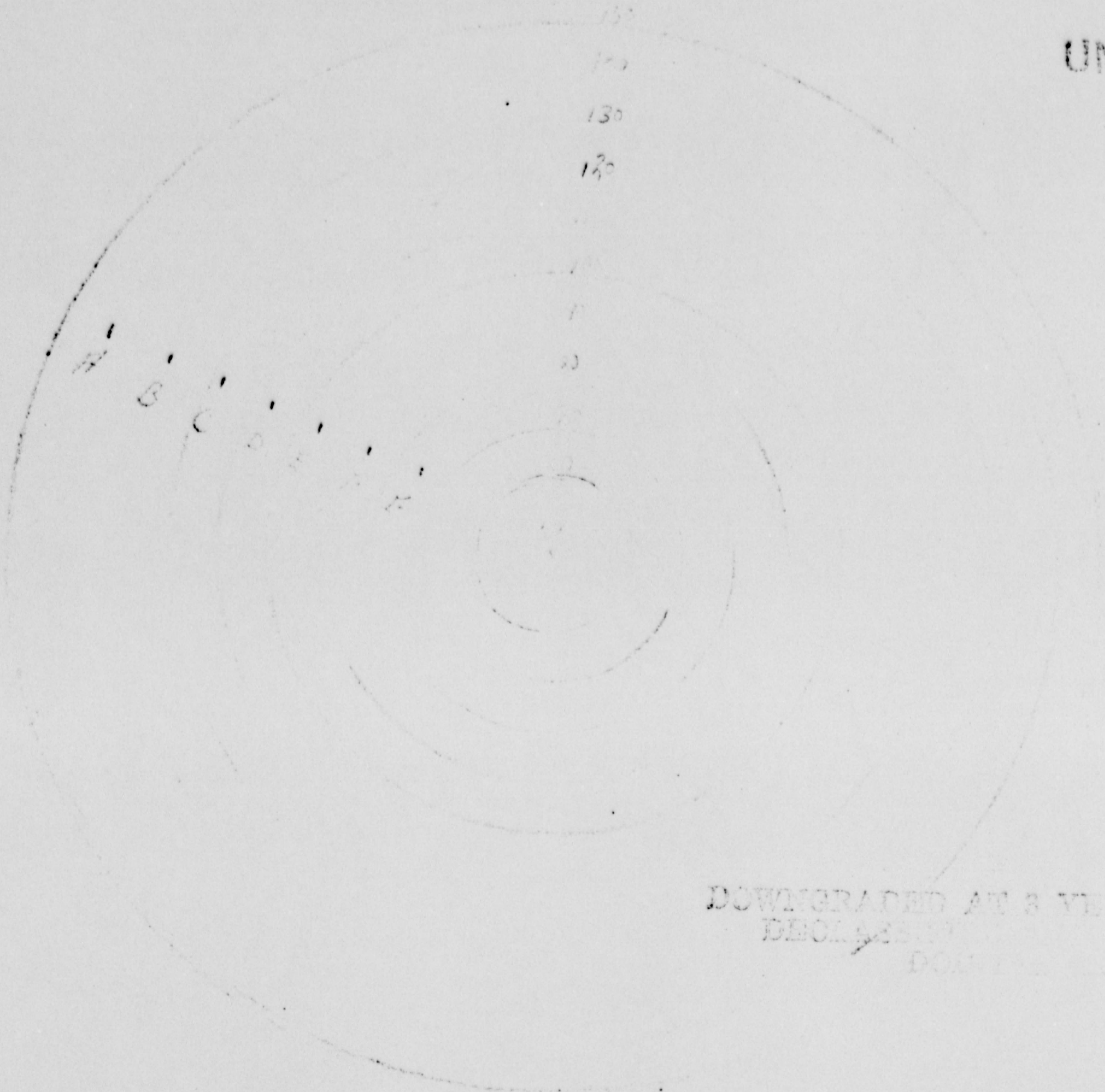
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of April 1952.

Parker F Jones
PARKER F JONES
Captain, USAF
Adjutant
768th AC&W Sq., Moriarity, New Mexico

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED



DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL;
DECLASSIFIED AT 10 YEARS;
DO NOT RECLASSIFY

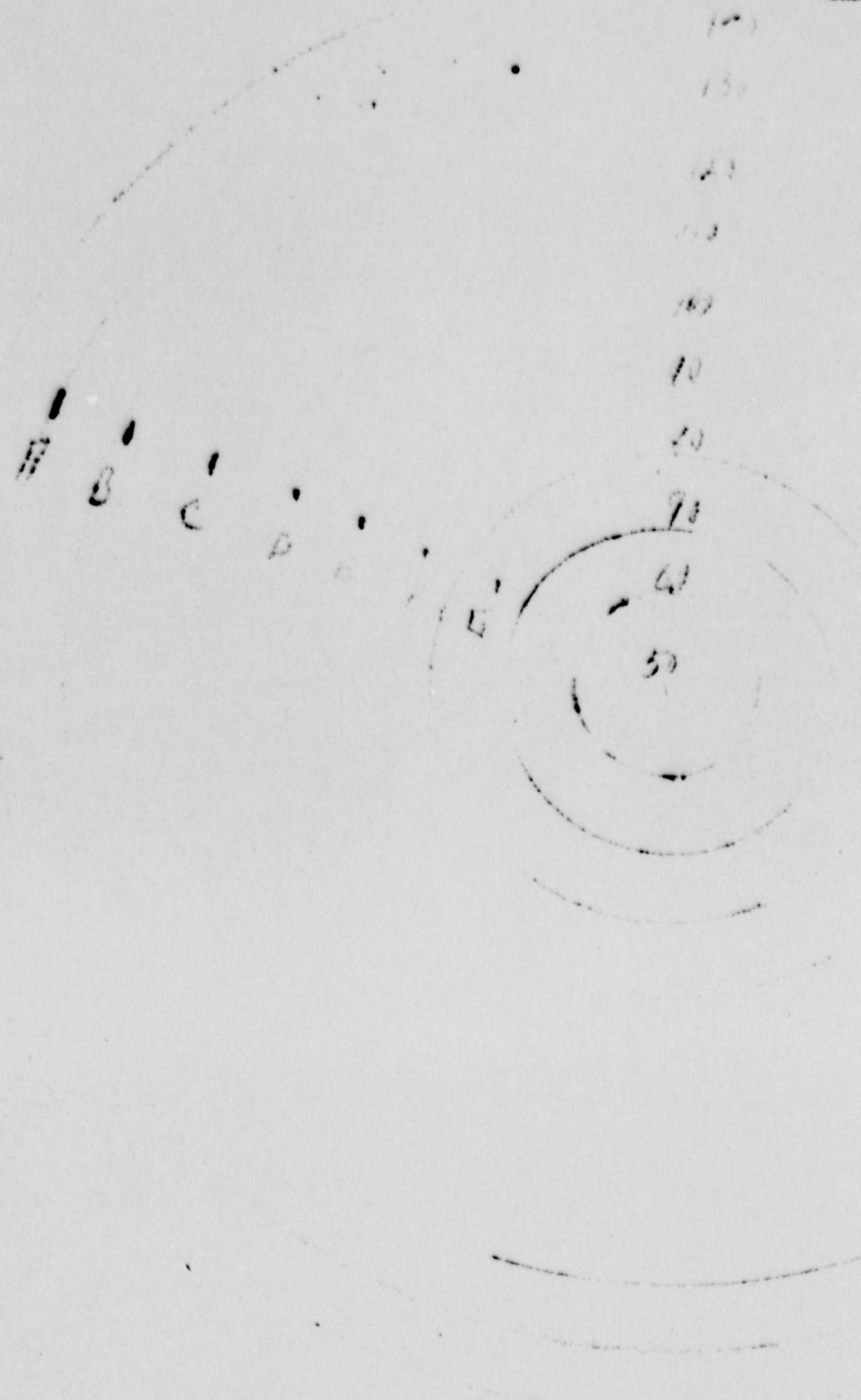
UNCLASSIFIED

- H - initial pickup of blip
- B - first move of blip
- C - second move of blip
- D - third move of blip
- E - fourth move of blip
- F - fifth move of blip
- G - sixth move of blip

Not to Scale

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

- A - Initial pickup of blip 250° AT 110 MILES
- B - First Move of blip
- C - Second Move of blip
- D - Third Move of blip
- E - Fourth Move of blip
- F - Fifth Move of blip
- G - Sixth Move of blip

UNCLASSIFIED

NOT TO SCALE



CONFIDENTIAL

180
150
120
90
60
30
0
30
60
90
120
150
180

UNCLASSIFIED

A B C D E F E

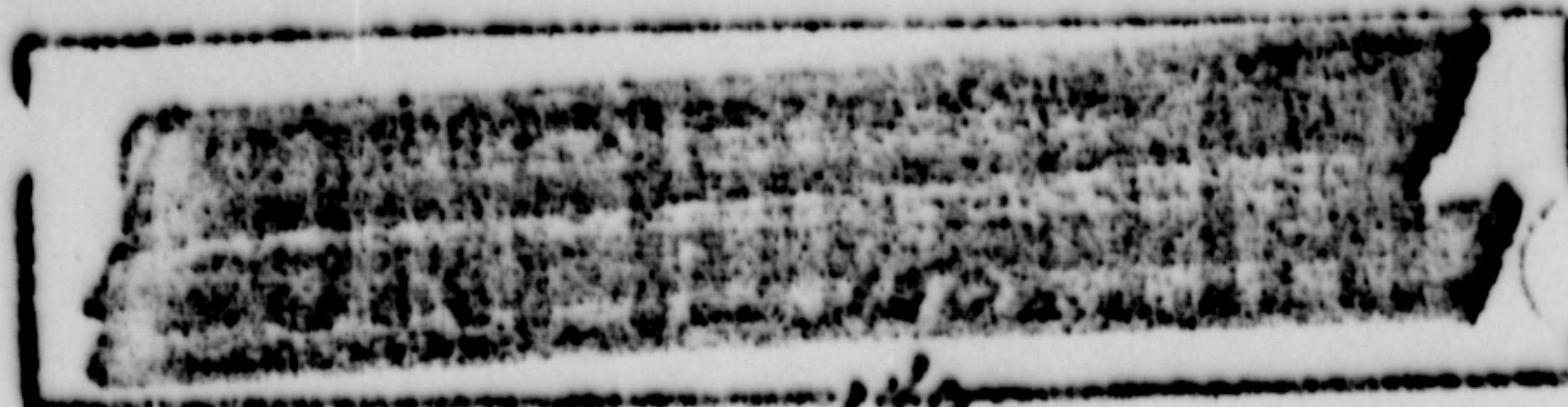
A - initial pre-upt blip
B - first wave of blip
C - second wave of blip
D - third wave of blip
E - fourth wave of blip
F - fifth wave of blip
E - sixth wave of blip

280° - 180°
DOWNGRADED AT 2 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

not to be used

CONFIDENTIAL



140

130

120

110

100

90

80

70

60

UNCLASSIFIED

TK#2

280°

I/P

1

2

3

4

5

6

TK#1

I/P

1

2

3

230°

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AT 18 YEARS

UNCLASSIFIED

TK#1

I/P 230° - 149 miles

1st sweep 228° - 139 "

2nd " 225° - 129 "

3rd " 223° - 119 "

4th " A/C FADED

TK#2

I/P

280° - 140 miles

1st sweep

280° - 129 "

2nd "

280° - 118 "

3rd "

280° - 107 "

4th "

280° - 96 "

5th "

280° - 85 "

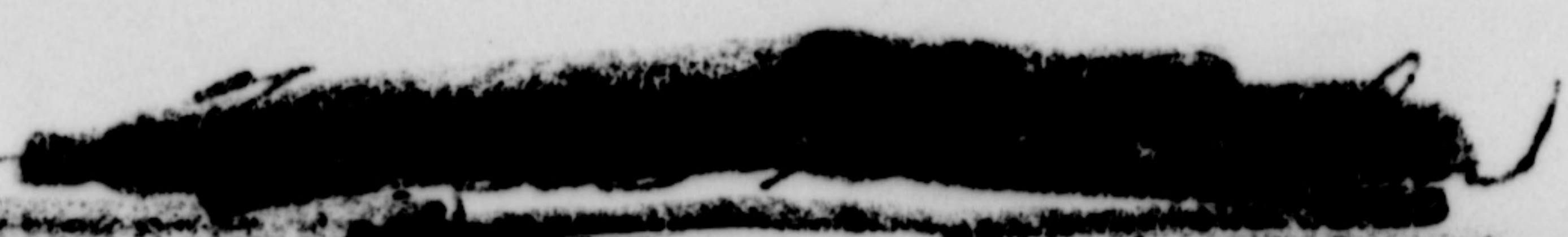
6th "

280° - 74 "

7th "

A/C FADED

Not to scale



25 Apr. 1952

American Meteor Society report
For 1967 by Dr. C.P. Olivier

1952 April 25.69 G.M.T.
A.M.S. No. 2395

In our files are found 12 reports of an extremely brilliant fireball which appeared on the above date at 11:28 p.m., E.S.T. Out of the 12 reports 10 came from Wilmington, N.C., one from 5 miles south, one from 25 miles north, so all observers lay along a south-north line. The reports were gathered by Donald Strayhorn of Wilmington, then an active A.M.S. member. The reports were unanimous that the fireball's color was blue or green and its size excessive, estimates of the latter running from one half to three times the size of full Moon. Allowing for probable exaggeration, its apparent diameter must have approximated 15' to 20'. Based on 9 estimates, the duration was 3.06 ± 0.76 sec.—a smaller average error than usual. From 9 stations the path was reported as vertical or almost so, and the beginning altitude as 45° or greater, and the end at north point at about 5° altitude. As the sidereal time was about 13:33, the right ascension of the radiant would, for a vertical path, approximate that. No information on the radiant's declination nor linear heights can be obtained from the data. Its path probably ended near the Va.-N.C. border. Evidently, however, it was not from the Lyrid radiant, but may well have come from A.M.S. fireball radiant No. 5056. Though all the usual results could not be obtained it seemed worth while to put this remarkable fireball on record.

FIREBALL of 1961 August 10.61 G.M.T.
A.M.S. No. 2294

On this date at about 8:32 p.m., C.S.T., a fireball was observed from the Chicago-Milwaukee area, and some 250 reports were gathered by the Adler Planetarium and eventually sent to A.M.S. headquarters. There has been a long delay in solving the path of the principal body to which these reports refer. A detailed study indicated that 30 or more referred to a second bright object, seen to the northeast, while, due to the date, Perseids were doubtless present in numbers and some observers did not differentiate between an ordinary meteor and the fireball in question. Despite these complications a solution has finally been obtained. Unfortunately only about 5 people tried to refer the path or end of it to stars, Ursa Major being so used. All the rest depended upon estimates of both directions and altitudes, nobody seems to have used any instrument for measuring either coordinate.

A preliminary study weeded out about half of the reports as having no value for either coordinate. Further, estimates of altitudes of 60° and over were omitted, as almost nobody, without using stars as reference, can estimate such arcs with even approximate accuracy, and heights depend upon the tangents of the angle, which become abnormally great over 60° . To determine the projected path, a chart of the region was prepared, scale 1' in latitude to 1mm. On this stations were plotted and azimuth lines drawn showing the observed projected starting and ending points, and in many cases intermediate. From this, despite the usual scatter, these points were derived and the projected path drawn. Then the linear height corresponding to observed altitudes were derived by measuring the distance to projected path from each station and taking the tangent of the altitude. Most did not see the beginning point, but our derived beginning height depends upon 13 usable altitudes. The end point depends upon 43 altitudes. Joining these points by a straight line gives us the atmospheric path. Other estimates could be bunched into three heights. When plotted, these fit in tolerably well with path mentioned.

While the average deviations from the mean heights certainly show larger values than we could wish, yet in percentages they compare very favorably with those all observers get when measuring stellar parallaxes, and the latter are the very basis of stellar astronomy. So we beg the indulgence of astronomers and suggest that, while in a given case the fireball path and orbit derived certainly may be considerably in error, still statistically, they may be treated with more respect.

1 - 10 MAY 1952 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
1	Moses Lake, Washington	REDACTED	UNIDENTIFIED
1	Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona	Military	AIRCRAFT
1	George AFB, California	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
1	San Francisco, California (CARDS MISSING)	REDACTED	Other (BIRDS)
2	Wichita Falls, Texas	REDACTED	Astro (METEOR)
2	Olmstead AFB, Pennsylvania	Civilian	INSUFFICIENT DATA
3	Melbourne, Australia	REDACTED	Astro (METEOR)
3	Phoenix, Arizona	REDACTED	Astro (METEOR)
4	Richmond, Texas	REDACTED	Astro (METEOR)
5	Tenafly, New Jersey (CARDS MISSING)	REDACTED	UNIDENTIFIED
5	Phoenix, Arizona	REDACTED	Astro (METEOR)
7	Keesler AFB, Mississippi	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
7	Nashville, Tennessee	REDACTED	BALLOON
7	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	REDACTED	(PHOTOS) Other (HOAX)
8	31.20N 70.00W (ATLANTIC)	Civilian	Astro (METEOR)
8	Misawa, Japan	Military	Astro (METEOR)
8	Misawa, Japan	Military	INSUFFICIENT DATA
8	Mishawaka, Indiana	REDACTED	INSUFFICIENT DATA
9	Sao Paulo, Brazil (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Astro (METEOR)
9-20	George AFB, California	Military-Civilian	(RADAR) BALLOON
9	George AFB, California	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
9	San Diego, California	REDACTED	Astro (METEOR)
10	Cyprus	British Scientist	INSUFFICIENT DATA
10	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Multiple	BALLOON
10	Ellenton, South Carolina	Civilian	UNIDENTIFIED
10	Portland, Oregon (CARDS MISSING)	REDACTED	Other (SEARCHLIGHTS)
10	Korea (CARDS MISSING)	Military	BALLOONS

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
4	San Francisco, California	REDACTED (PHOTOS)	
10	Pacific Ocean	Hydrographic Bulletin	Astro (METEOR)