

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 10 Dec 52	2. LOCATION POPE AFB, S.C.	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 10/0820EST GMT 10/14203	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☒ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☒ Yes ☐ No	6. SOURCE Several AF officers	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 hrs	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
9. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Bright colored, circular object was observed on PPI scope of CPS/5D. Object moved with a slight circular movement. Object did not cancel out when moving target indicator was employed. About 8 transient a/c flew through area during observation.		10. COMMENTS 1. Circular object hanging motionless gives impression of a large balloon. Seen for long period of time. Upper air research balloon would seem a possibility here. <i>John Kolan Arulga</i> <i>(Inversion ux)</i>

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Pope Air Force Base, South Carolina

10 December 1952

I. Description of Incident

From 1420 to 2215 3 a ground radar station picked up an unidentified object on its scope. It appeared as a stationary object with a slight circular motion which did not cancel out when the moving target indicator was employed. The sighting showed that its altitude was 8,000 feet at 8 1/2 miles from the station. Weather conditions were fair with alto cumulous clouds, no temperature inversions present in the area. Eight transient aircraft flew through the area during the radar observation and an F-51 was directed to investigate. The pilot saw nothing unusual. The radar operators involved have had several years experience.

II. Discussion of Incident

Photographs were taken of the PPI scope but have not been received by ATIC. There is a possibility that local cloud formations may have caused a spurious radar return. Other than this there appears to be no plausible explanation for the incident.

III. Conclusion

Possibly weather phenomena.

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11 DEC 1952 23 Z

RA 681
1. atia
2. atia
3. files

UNCLAS

ZPG210

YDC210

VY210

VDB214

JESDF 233

PP JEDEN JEDWP JEPLG JEPHQ

DE JESDF 114

P QPWQETZ

FM CO 587TH TAC CON GP POPE AFB NC

TO JEPHQ/HQ USAF WASH 25 D. C.

JEDWP/CG AMC WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDWP/AIR TECH INTEL CEN WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ADC ENT AFB COLO

JEPLG/CG TAC LANGLEY AFB VA

INFO ZEN/STH AF POPE AFB NC

UNCLAS

/R [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] S-2 587TH TAC CON GP 52-1893
ATT DIR OF INTEL ATTN ATIAA-2C PD FLYOBRPT CMA IAW PAR 7C AFL 288-5
CMA DTD 29 APR 52 PD FOLG INFOR FWD CLN 1 PDONE CIRCULAR OBJ ON PPI
SCOPE OF CPS/5D CLN SIZE ONE EIGHTH INCH ON SCOPE CLN COLOR BRIGHT CLN
SPEED ALMOST STATIONARY CMA SLIGHT CIRCULAR MOVEMENT CLN UNUSUAL
FEATURES OBJECT DID NOT CANCEL OUT WHEN MOVING TARGET INDICATOR WAS
EMPLOYED PD 2 PD 1420Z OBSERVED TO 2215Z PD 3 PD OBSERVED BY CPS/5D
FROM GRD PD 4 PD OBSERVED FROM POPE AFB CMA NC PD LAT 35 DEG 31 MIN
NORTH CMA LONG 79 DEG 31 MIN WEST CLN OBJ FIRST SIGHTED EIGHT ONE
HALF MILES AT ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE DEG AT EIGHT THOUSAND FEET PD

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PAGE TWO JESDF 114

5 PD CHIEF DUTY CONTROLLER CAPT ALBERT F PERNA CLN CONTROLLER CAPT
DUANE ULSTAD AND OTHERS CLN ALL FULLY QUALIFIED THROUGH SCHOOLING AND
DAILY EXPERIENCE PD 6 PD FAIR WEATHER ALTO CUMULUS CLOUDS CLN NO
PRECIPITATION CLN WINDS WEST SOUTH WEST THIRTEEN DASH TWENTY SIX KNOTS
AT FOUR DASH TEN THOUSAND FEET CLN TEMPERATURE INVERSIONS FOURTEEN
DEG CENTIGRADE AT TWO THOUSAND FEET CMA TEN DEG AT FOUR THOUSAND CMA
SIX DEG AT SIX THOUSAND CMA FOUR DEG AT EIGHT THOUSAND PD 7 PD TEMP
INVERSIONS AS CITED CLN OBSERVATION OF CLOUD AND THREE RADIO TOWERS
BY IN FLIGHT FIGHTER FIFTY ONE PILOT PD 8 PD PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF PPI
SCOPE PD FLYOBRPT CONTINUED CLN 9 PD THREE IN FLIGHT AIRCRAFT
DIVERTED FOR AERIAL INVESTIGATION PD 10 PD APPROX EIGHT TRANSNT
AIRCRAFT FLEW THROUGH AREA DURING OBSERVATION PERIOD PD END HEARTZ
102358Z DEC JESDF

Did he see anything?

Temp. inversions?

14 deg - 2,000 ft
10 " - 4,000 ft
6 " - 6,000 ft
4 " - 8,000

A good sighting!

*1. Ask if he observed
the object*

3. Send another questionnaire

5. Get pilot's own attitude.

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112000Z DEC 77

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ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Subj: Unidentified Aerial Object

S-2 360.1 (23 Dec 52)

1st Ind

HEADQUARTERS, 507TH TACTICAL CONTROL GROUP, Pope Air Force Base, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 5 February 1953

TO: Commanding General, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

1. In compliance with basic communication attached is Air Intelligence Information Report, same subject, 29 January 1953.

2. The Electronic Data Sheets have been withdrawn for future utilization.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl w/d
Added 1 Incl
1. Air Intell Info Rpt

James A. Powers
JAMES A. POWERS
Captain, USAF
Adjutant

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3:3
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AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
DAYTON, OHIO

In reply refer to
AFOIN-ATIAA-5

23 DEC 1952

SUBJECT: Unidentified Aerial Object

TO: Commanding Officer
Pope Air Force Base
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

1. In regard to your FLYOBRPT reporting a radar sighting of an unidentified aerial object on 10 December 1952, 1420Z hours, the Air Technical Intelligence Center is forwarding eight Electronics Data Sheets, one of which it is requested be filled out by the radar personnel involved in the sighting. The remaining data sheets can be retained by your office in the event of future unknown electronic detections and be sent on with the standard Air Force Form 112.

2. In particular reference to the subject sighting, it is requested that the following questions be answered and included in the Form 112:

a. Did the aircraft sent out to intercept the object observe it at any time?

b. Did the object gain or lose altitude during the eight hours of observation?

c. What was the exact altitude of the temperature inversion mentioned in the initial report?

d. Finally, were azimuth and elevation readings taken from the radar?

3. Your cooperation in forwarding the PPI scope photographs and the AF Form 112 as expeditiously as possible would be appreciated by the Air Technical Intelligence Center since an attempted analysis hinges on their receipt.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

1 Incl
Electronics Data Sheets
(eight)

Robert E. Kennedy
ROBERT E. KENNEDY
Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

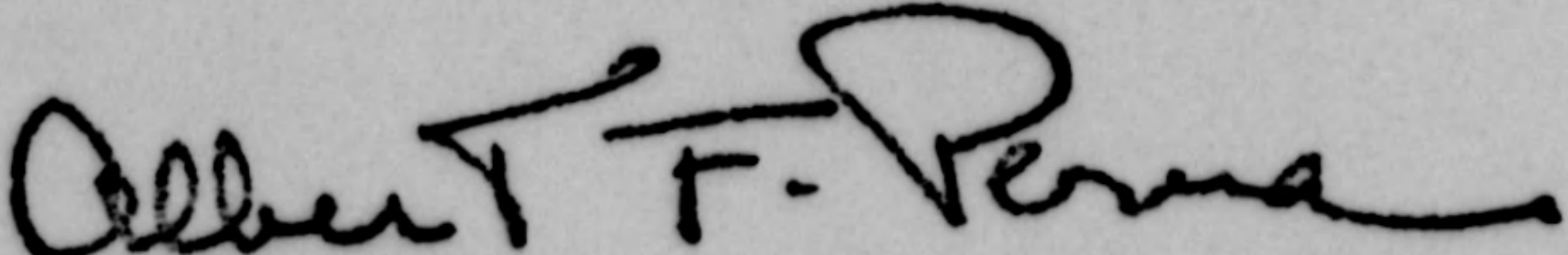
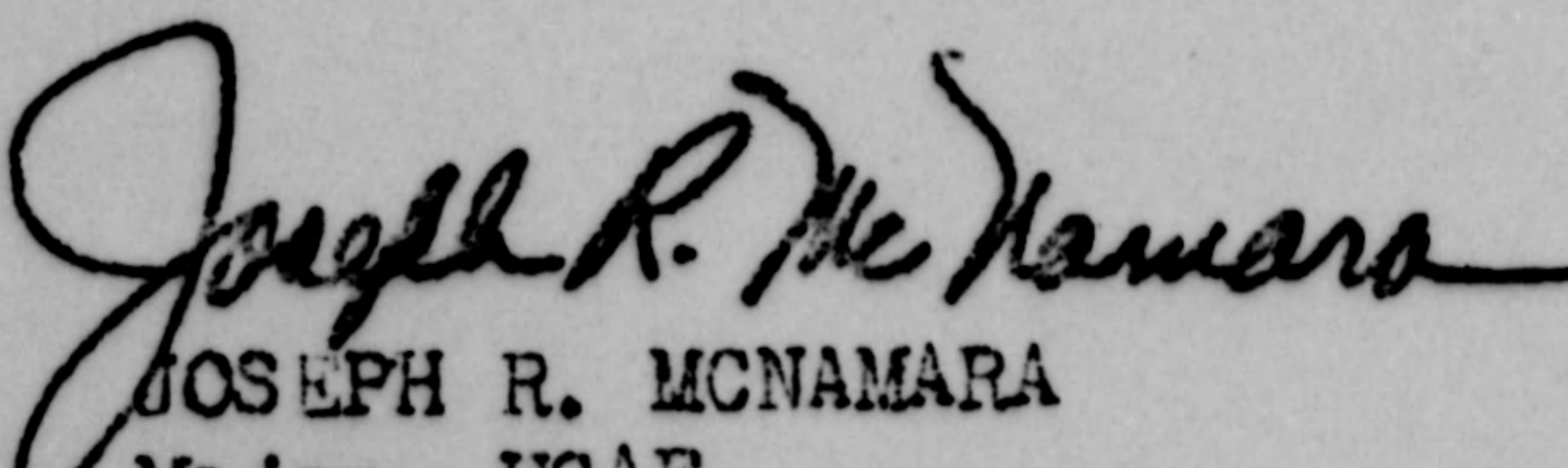
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(CLASSIFICATION)

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COUNTRY United States	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Unidentified Aerial Object		
AREA REPORTED ON Pope Air Force Base, Ft Bragg, N. C.	FROM (Agency) 723th AC & W Sq, 507th Tac Con Gp Pope Air Force Base, Ft Bragg, N. C.	
DATE OF REPORT 29 January 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 9 December 1952	EVALUATION F-0
PREPARED BY (Officer) ALBERT F. PERNA, Capt., USAF	SOURCE M/Sgt R. DeGORDIN AND OTHERS	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		
(1) Air Intelligence Information Report, Subj: "Unidentified Object," 12 Dec 52		
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.)		
(2) Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson, AFB Ltr, AFOIN-ATIAA-5, Subj: "Unidentified Aerial Object," 23 Dec 52.		
1. Attached is a completed Electronic Data Sheet as requested in paragraph 1 of reference 2 above. 2. The following questions and answers are included in compliance with paragraph 2 of reference 2 above. a. QUESTION: Did the aircraft sent out to intercept the object observe it at any time? ANSWER: No b. QUESTION: Did the object gain or lose altitude during the eight (8) hours of observation? ANSWER: Yes, 8,700 feet to 6,200 feet, and then to 4,400 feet. c. QUESTION: What was the exact altitude of the temperature inversion mentioned in the initial report? ANSWER: 8,000 feet, 6,000 feet, and 1,800 feet. d. QUESTION: Finally, were azimuth and elevation readings taken from the radar? ANSWER: Yes, by the MSQ-1 and the AN/MPQ-10.		
 ALBERT F. PERNA Captain, USAF		
1 INCL. Electronic Data Sheet	APPROVED:  JOSEPH R. MCNAMARA Major, USAF Squadron Commander	
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DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR		
Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio		
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NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

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ELECTRONICS DATA SHEET (GROUND RADAR)

The purpose of this questionnaire is to provide technical data for evaluating the report of an unusual radar target or track. It is requested that it be completed as accurately as possible.

When not filled in, the form is Unclassified. The reporting officer will use his own judgement as to what degree of classification is required.

It is preferred that the answers to the questions be typewritten, however, if it will expedite the completion of the form, the answers may be printed in ink. If additional space is needed, use reverse side of form.

1. STATION OBSERVING TARGET: <u>728th AC&W Sq, 507th Tac Con Gp</u> Organization <u>Pope AFB, Ft. Bragg, N. C.</u> Location		2. DATE OF THIS REPORT: <u>3 Feb 53</u> Day Month Year	
3. DATE TARGET OBSERVED: <u>9 Dec 52</u> Local Time ☐ Day Month Year Z Time ☐ Time-Local <u>0920 Hrs</u> Time-Z <u>1320 Z</u>		4. NAME, RANK AND ORGANIZATION OF REPORTING OFFICER: <u>ALBERT F. PERNA, Captain, USAF</u> <u>728th AC&W Sqdn</u> <u>507th Tac Con Gp</u>	
5. EXACT LOCATION OF STATION (COORDINATES): <u>3501 N 7901 W</u>			
6. OBSERVER DATA (LIST EACH OBSERVER):			
Name	Rank	Duty	No. of Years Exp. in Radar
A. <u>ROBERT DeGORDIN</u>	<u>M/Sgt</u>	<u>Radar Operator</u>	<u>7</u>
B. <u>ALBERT F. PERNA</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>Aircraft Controller</u>	<u>5</u>
C. <u>DUANE ULSTAD</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>Aircraft Controller</u>	<u>2</u>
D. <u>RALPH E. COBURN</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>Radar Officer</u>	<u>5</u>
E. <u>STEPHEN LESKO</u>	<u>Capt</u>	<u>Radar Officer</u>	<u>7</u>
7. WAS A VISUAL SIGHTING MADE BY ANY PERSONNEL OF THE STATION? ☐ YES ☐ NO IF SO, GIVE NAME AND RANK OF ALL PERSONNEL MAKING A VISUAL SIGHTING AND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THEY SAW: Sighted only on Radar Scope, not visually			

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8. HAVE YOU HEARD OF ANYONE NOT AT THE RADAR STATION MAKING A VISUAL SIGHTING AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME THE RADAR CONTACT WAS MADE? ☐ YES ☒ NO
IF SO, GIVE NAME AND ADDRESS.

None

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9. RADAR SCOPE PHOTOS:

IS RADAR EQUIPPED WITH A SCOPE CAMERA? ----- ☐ YES ☒ NO
WAS CAMERA OPERATIONAL? ----- ☐ YES ☒ NO
WERE SCOPE PHOTOS TAKEN? ----- ☒ YES ☐ NO
WERE PRINTS OF THE SCOPE PHOTOS FORWARDED TO THE
AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER? ----- ☒ YES ☐ NO

10. TRACK DATA:

WHAT WAS THE NUMBER OF THE TRACK? Stationary Target
WAS A PERMANENT PLOT MADE OF THE TRACK AT THE TIME OF THE OBSERVATION? ☒ YES ☐ NO

11. WERE AIRCRAFT SCRAMBLED TO INTERCEPT THE TARGET? ☒ YES ☐ NO
IF SO, WERE THE AIRCRAFT BEING OBSERVED ON THE SCOPE AT THE SAME
TIME AS THE TARGET? ☒ YES ☐ NO

12. WERE ANY NEARBY RADAR INSTALLATIONS QUERIED WHETHER THEY HAD OBSERVED
THE SAME TARGET OR TRACK? ☒ YES ☐ NO
IF SO, WHICH STATIONS? 728th AC&W sq MSQ-1, Radar test station, Fort
Bragg, N. C.

13. WAS THE TARGET OBSERVED ON SEARCH RADAR? ☒ YES ☐ NO
IF SO, WHAT IS THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE EQUIPMENT? AN/CPS-5-D, AN/MPQ-10

14. WAS THE TARGET OBSERVED ON HEIGHT FINDING RADAR? ☒ YES ☐ NO
IF SO, WHAT IS THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE EQUIPMENT? MSQ-1, AN/MPQ-10

15. HAVE THERE BEEN ANY RECENT MAINTENANCE DIFFICULTIES? ☐ YES ☒ NO
IF SO, DESCRIBE. _____

16. WHAT TYPE MODULATOR (I.E., SPARK GAP, HARD TUBE, ETC.) IS USED IN THE RADAR EQUIPMENT?
Thyratron (CPS-5-D) - MSQ-1 Thyratron

17. WAS THE AFC (AUTOMATIC FREQUENCY CONTROL) CIRCUIT OPERATING PROPERLY? ☒ YES ☐ NO
COMMENTS: _____

18. HAS INTERFERENCE FROM ANOTHER RADAR SET BEEN OBSERVED RECENTLY: ☐ YES ☒ NO
COMMENTS: _____

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19. ARE PERSONNEL FAMILIAR WITH THE EFFECTS CAUSED BY AN INTERFERING SIGNAL? ☒ YES ☐ NO
COMMENTS: _____

20. ARE PERSONNEL FAMILIAR WITH THE EFFECTS OF ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION (DUCTING EFFECTS) AS THEY PERTAIN TO THIS TYPE OF RADAR? ☒ YES ☐ NO

21. HAS ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION (DUCTING EFFECT) BEEN OBSERVED TO EXTEND THE RANGE OF THE GROUND CLUTTER OF THIS RADAR AT THIS SITE? ☒ YES ☐ NO
COMMENTS: _____

22. WAS ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION (DUCTING EFFECT) EXTENDING THE RANGE OF THE GROUND CLUTTER AT THE TIME THE TARGET WAS OBSERVED? ☐ YES ☒ NO
COMMENTS: _____

23. HOW DID THE TARGET APPEAR IN SIZE AND SHAPE AS COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT TARGETS?
The same size, contour and shape except it was stationary.

24. PERFORMANCE OF TARGET:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| a. REMAINED CONSISTENT IN SIZE | ☒ | CHANGED SIZE RAPIDLY | ☐ |
| b. SPEED WAS CONSTANT | ☐ | SPEED WAS VARIABLE | ☐ |
| c. FOLLOWED CONSISTENT TRACK | ☐ | APPEARED, DISAPPEARED, THEN REAPPEARED IN NEW LOCATION | ☐ |
| d. FUZZY COMPARED TO AIRCRAFT TARGET | ☐ | SHARP COMPARED TO KNOWN AIRCRAFT TARGET | ☐ |
| e. SAME AS AIRCRAFT TARGET | ☒ | | |

25. WERE OTHER TARGETS (KNOWN) OBSERVED IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA, AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME AND AT THE SAME ALTITUDE AS THE UNUSUAL TARGET? ☒ YES ☐ NO
IF SO, DESCRIBE. Aircraft were diverted to the exact area to investigate.

26. WHAT TYPE INDICATORS ("A" SCOPE, "B" SCOPE, ETC.) WERE USED TO FOLLOW THE TARGET?
A scopes, PPI's, J Scopes

DESCRIBE THE SIGNAL: As a circular, well defined blip

27. WHAT WAS THE RADAR SCAN RATE? 4 RPM - Aoc (CPS-5-D) Manual Control (MSQ-1)

28. WHAT WAS THE FREQUENCY OF THE TRANSMITTER?

12 50 Megacycles (An/CPS-5-D) 2730 megacycles (MSQ-1)

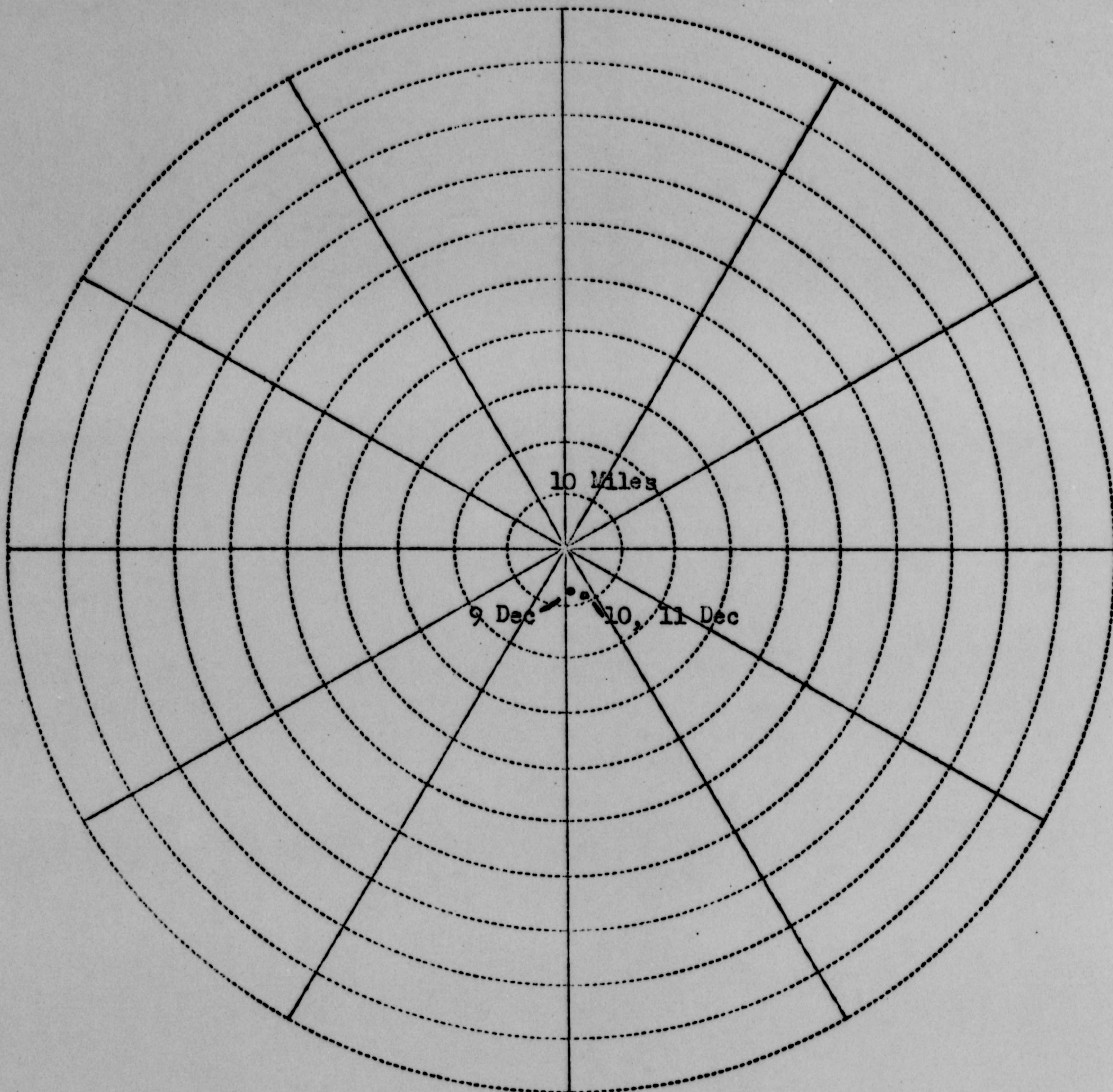
29. DID ANY OF THE OBSERVERS HAVE ANY OPINIONS AS TO THE NATURE OF THE TARGET? ☒ YES ☐ NO
IF YES, GIVE THEIR NAMES AND OPINIONS BELOW. Albert F. PERNA, Cpt - the target was a permanent echo that had become displaced in location for one day due to temperature inversions.

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30. IF SCOPE PHOTOS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, PLOT THE TARGET TRACK AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE. GIVE THE TIME AND ALTITUDE (IF MEASURED) FOR EACH POINT PLOTTED. PUT THE NECESSARY RANGE SCALE ON THE DIAGRAM.



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31. USE THIS SHEET FOR ANY COMMENTS, OPINIONS OR ADDITIONAL DATA NOT COVERED BY THE QUESTIONS.

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