

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 4 Feb 53 5/0050Z	2. LOCATION Blythe, California
3. SOURCE Aircrew Members	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 Min.	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Bright round white object appearing from behind some clouds was observed at a stationary position for a period of approx 5 minutes. Object disappeared behind some clouds.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Visual	
7. COURSE	COMMENTS: 1. Upper air research balloon was determined to be in area at approx time of sighting, though there is conflict in position of the balloon's actual position from the aircraft, it is felt that the balloon solution is a strong one.
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	2. Balloon at 67,000' - object observed above a/c.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	3. Rising slowly, round shape.

Multiple
UNCLASSIFIED

COUNTRY United States of America	REPORT NO. IR-12-53	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT FLYOVERPT		
AREA REPORTED ON Blythe, California	FROM (Agency) 31st Strat Ren Sq 5th Strat Ren Wg, (H) Travis AFB, Calif.	
DATE OF REPORT 7 February 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 5 February 1953	EVALUATION B-2
PREPARED BY (Officer) 1st Lt James F. Wood, Sq Intell Officer	SOURCE Interrogation of RB-36 crew members	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFI 200-5, 20 Apr 52, Ltr Hq USAF, AFQIN-C/CC-2, 15th AF Intell Bulletin #27, Ltr Hq 15th AF, DIO, Dtd 21 May 52. Dec 51		
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.)		

APPROVED:

HERBERT L. MEYER
Captain, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

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

2

- INCL
1. Plot Map of Area Sighting (6 cys)
 2. Statements of Observers (3 Statements, 6 cys each)

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

Director of Intelligence, USAF, Washington 25, D.C.
Chief Air Technical Intelligence Center, ATTN: ATIAA-2c W-P AFB
Commanding General SAC, Offutt AFB

3 cys
1 cy
1 cy
1 cy

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	31st Strat Recon Sq 5th Strat Recon Wg (H) Travis AFB, Calif.	REPORT NO.		PAGE	2	OF	2	PAGES
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While flying on a ferry mission from Fort Worth, Texas to Travis AFB, California in the vicinity of Elythe, California, an RB-36 crew of the 31st Strat Recon Squadron, 5th Strat Recon Wing, observed a unidentified object. The RB-36 was maintaining a True Air Speed of 200 knots, a ground speed of 180 knots, and a true heading of 283 degrees at an altitude of 30,000 feet. The time of the sighting was 0050 GCT, 5 February 1953, and the aircraft's exact position at the time of the sighting was 33-43N 115-16W. The sighting was observed for approximately 5 minutes at which time the object disappeared from view behind clouds. It was a white round object appearing brighter than the cirrus clouds behind it. It was sighted at seven (7) o'clock high with a relationship to the aircraft the same as a star or sun while flying a straight level course. No definite movement or direction was made while observed.

The statements made were slightly conflicting due to each observers different viewing angle of the object. The altitude was estimated to be approximately 30,000 to 50,000 feet. No vapor trails were observed. The object appeared similar to a full moon and like a metal surface with reflecting sun rays. The object was not thought to be an aircraft or a weather balloon.

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

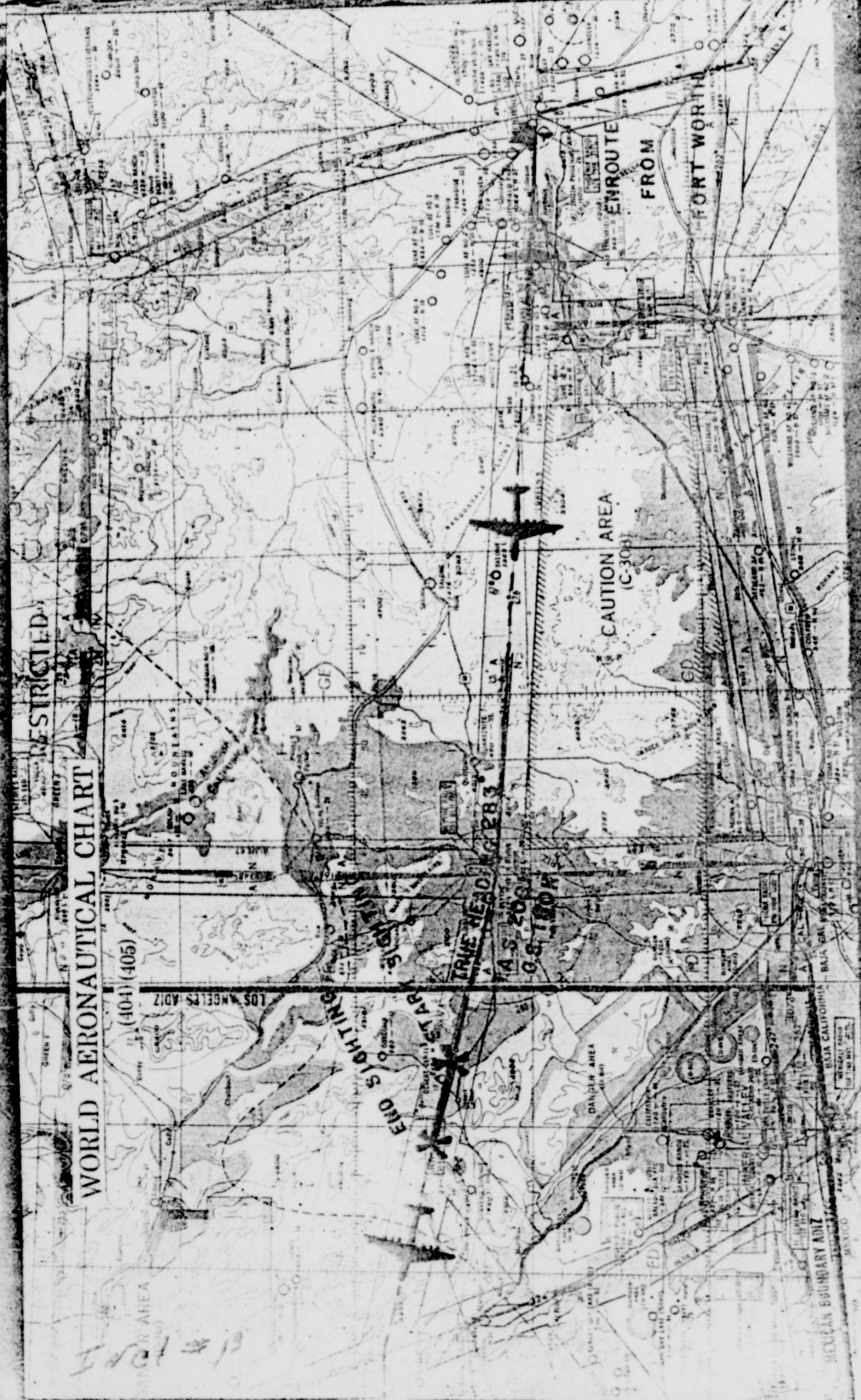
It is the opinion of the preparing officer that the sighting reported was observed as stated in each of the crew member's statements, and it is definitely worthy of a flying object report.

James F. Wood
JAMES F. WOOD
1st Lt. USAF
Sq Intell Off

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERIM
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 3200.10

This case includes one (1) $9\frac{1}{4}" \times 5\frac{1}{2}"$
photographed World Aeronautical Chart.

RESTRICTED
WORLD AERONAUTICAL CHART



1001-10

STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

On the 4th of February 1953 I was scheduled to ferry aircraft 52-1372, an RB-36, from Convair aircraft company to Travis AFB, California. While flying on airways from Blythe to Riverside my pilot reported an object at seven (7) o'clock high. The time was 1650 pacific standard time and we were located approximately 5 miles East of Desert Center, California, flying at 20,000 feet. The object appeared to me the same as sun rays reflecting off of a metal surface. No vapor trails were visible from the object. It's relation to our aircraft stayed the same, for example like a star or the Sun does while flying on a straight course. I could not determine the distance of this object. It disappeared behind a cloud 5 minutes after I first saw it.

Howard A. Sandberg

HOWARD A. SANDBERG
Captain., USAF

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Incl #2

STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

On a ferry trip from Ft. Worth, Texas to Travis AFB, California on 4 February 1953 at 1650 pacific standard time, Captain David Smith the pilot sighted an object through the navigator's astradome at 7 o'clock high. He called by attention to it and I looked out the navigator's astradome and saw a white object which appeared to be round in shape. As to size and how high the object was above us I could not say; but it appeared to be about the size of an aircraft which is at 30,000 feet above the ground. The object appeared not to move while I was observing it. The exact location was 33-43 North latitude and 115-16 West longitude. The altitude of our aircraft was 20,000 feet. The true heading was 283°. The true airspeed was 200K and the ground speed was 180K. The object was sighted at 1650 pacific standard time and was observed for approximately 5 minutes.

Michael L. Corey
MICHAEL L. COREY
2/Lt., USAF

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

1401#2

[REDACTED]

STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

at 1650 pacific standard time on 4 February 1953 while 15 MILES NNE of Salton Sea approaching Palm Springs intersection I observed a shinning object above us and to the rear (at about 7 o'clock). It might have been an aluminum aircraft. We were at 30,000 feet heading about 275° magnetic. The object appeared considerably higher than we were, I would judge 50,000 feet altitude. I was in the right seat as pilot and observed the object over my left shoulder through the strut.

David M. Smith

DAVID M. SMITH
Captain, USAF

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVIEW
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DUE 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

Incl #2³

~~SECRET~~
STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

On a ferry trip from Ft. Worth, Texas to Travis AFB, California on 4 February 1953 at approximately 1650 Pacific standard time someone sighted an object in the sky at "7 o'clock high".

I looked out the window aft of the engineers station and saw a round white object similar to a full moon in every respect except size of indeterminate size at an indeterminate altitude. After flying about seven (7) or eight (8) minutes we flew under a cloud that was approximately 5,000 feet above us (our altitude was 20,000). This gave me an opportunity to judge the height of this disk as being 30,000 feet. I would estimate the size as being 15 to 20 feet across. The object made no movement while we observed it, if it ascended it was a very small amount. The exact location was 33-43N - 115-16W.

Timothy R. Foley
TIMOTHY R. FOLEY
Captain., USAF

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Enc 1 #2

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

STATEMENT

On 4 February 1953 at about 1650 hours I was aboard RB-36 aircraft number 52-1372 over Desert Center, California at 20,000 feet. At that time the Navigator called my attention to an unidentified object above and behind the aircraft. I checked our position and found it to be about 5 miles east of Desert Center. I then went back to the left forward sighting blister and observed the object myself. It appeared as a bright white ball, much brighter than the high cirrus cloud behind it. I would estimate altitude at 40,000 feet and its position 30 miles ESE of the aircraft. Its motion was stationary. The sun was behind me as I looked at the object, about 15° above the western horizon. This object did not appear to me to be an aircraft or a weather balloon. I have no further opinion as to its identity.

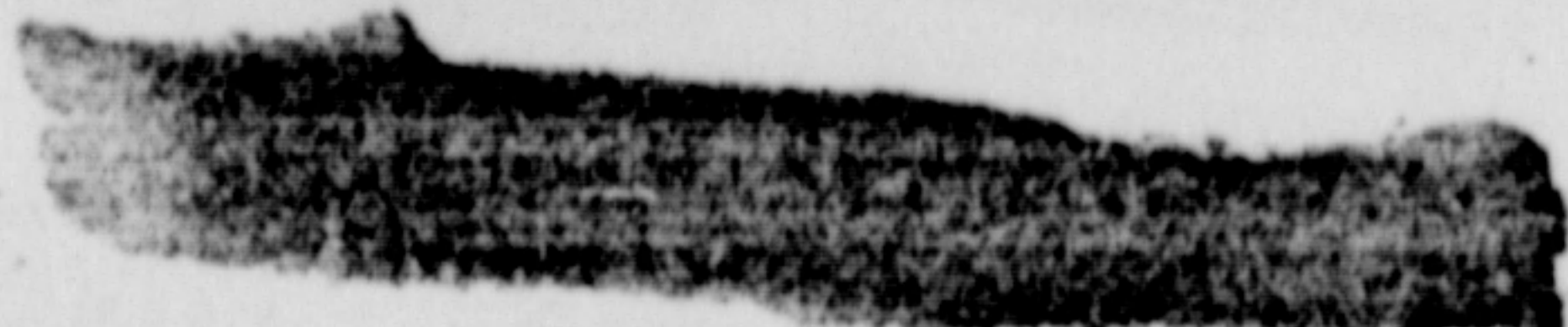
Alexander Ripinall
ALEXANDER RIPINALL
Captain., USAF

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

Incl #25


STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

On 4 February 1953, at 1650 on a flight from Carswell AFB, Texas to Travis AFB, California I observed a white object much higher than our aircraft. It was at approximately 6:30 o'clock high. It appeared to be moving slightly. As it moved the sun rays were reflected off of it. I observed it first with clouds as a background, then it appeared cleared as it moved out of the clouds. It was brought to my attention by the Radar Navigator. I observed it from the right upper forward blister for approximately 10 minutes.

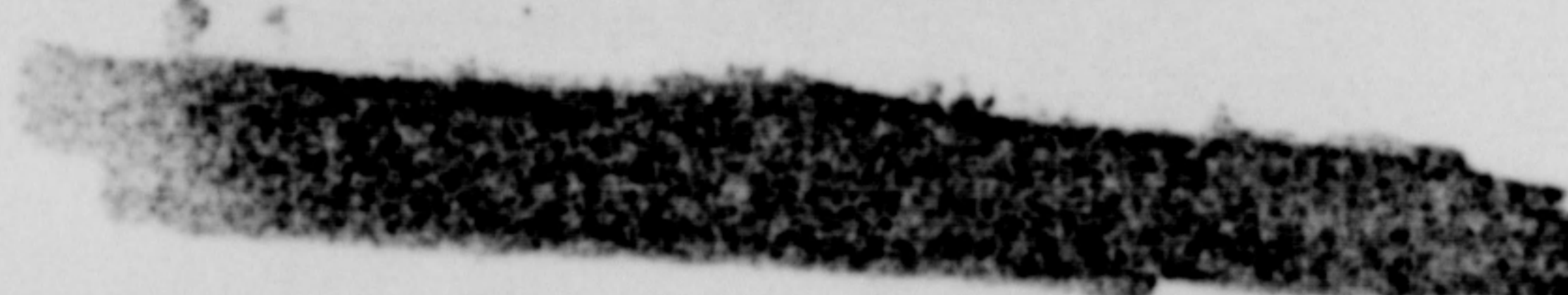
Keith M. Barrow

KEITH M. BARROW
A/EC. AF17311643

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Incl #2



STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

On 4 February 1953, at 1650 pacific standard time I sighted a white object off to the left of the aircraft, it was about "7 o'clock high". It appeared to look like a flat object. It stayed in sight about five minutes.

Marvin I. Delker

MARVIN I. DELKER
A/1C., AFI 17192720

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Inc 1-2

~~SECRET~~
STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

On 4 February 1953, at 1650 hours pacific standard time I sighted a object above and behind the aircraft. It was of round shape and of light color. It appeared to be raising very slowly. I observed it for approximately 10 minutes. The reflection of the sun made it appear to change its shape slightly. This sighting was made from the lower aft left blister.

Richard G. Strube

RICHARD G. STRUBE
S/3gt. AF19371188

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Incl 23

~~SECRET~~