PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

DATE 30 August 1962	2. LOCATION Port-au-Prince, Haiti	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 31/0035-0050Z Aug	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar 7-50 Binoculars ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian	☒ Was Astronomical Venus ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one 9. COURSE stationary	☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

See case file.

11. COMMENTS

It is concluded that the misidentification of the planet Venus was the cause for the UFO sighting. Atmospheric effects which distorted the planet, the apparent nearness of the star Spica to the planet & unfamilitarity of the witness w/astronomical objs were probably contributing factors.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

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TD-E/Col Wynn

UFO Sighting, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

18 October 1962

OSD, ISA (Capt Neill)
Wash 25 DC

1. The following information regarding an unidentified flying object sighting which occurred in the area of Port-au-Prince, Haiti on 30 August 1962 is forwarded in response to a telephone request by Major Hart, SAFOI. A copy of the report of the sighting is attached for your information.

2. It is the opinion of FTD that the object viewed by the witness in this sighting was the planet Venus. At the time reported for the beginning of the UFO sighting, Venus had a right ascension of 13 hours 22 minutes 24 seconds and a declination of -10 degrees 24 minutes 05 seconds. This location of the planet would have caused its position, as viewed from Port-au-Prince, to coincide closely with that reported for the UFO.

3. The witness reported that it was not necessary to move the telescope for approximately 10 minutes while observing the object. The apparent angular rate of motion of the planet is approximately 2.5 degrees in 10 minutes and as it nears the horizon atmospheric refraction probably reduces this rate slightly. As best as can be determined from the report, the optical equipment used by the witness has a field of view of approximately 2 degrees. Observation of the object for approximately 10 minutes without moving the scope is quite possible.

4. Information regarding the vertical temperature gradient at Port-au-Prince at the time of the sighting is not available; however, the general description of the weather, as provided in the report, indicates the probability of a temperature inversion. At the lower elevations the effects of inversions tend to increase the distortion of astronomical objects by the atmosphere. These objects are flattened and dispersion effects cause them to appear multi-colored. Often objects viewed under these conditions appear to jump around and/or to move radially. Further, these conditions often cause them to appear to ascend rapidly just at the moment of setting. In this sighting bad seeing was probably a contributing factor. In these cases atmospheric tremors are magnified as well as the images.

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5. At the time of the sighting the bright star Alpha Virgo (Spica), magnitude 1.2, was only approximately one half degree (the angular diameter of the moon) from Venus. Though the optical equipment used by the witness could resolve these two objects, it is possible that due to atmospheric conditions Spica was a contributing factor. Spica was just to the left and above Venus at the time of the sighting.

6. Venus at the time of the sighting had a magnitude of -3.9 and was by far the brightest object in the sky, the moon having set 41 minutes earlier at 1854. As viewed from the earth .511 of the planet's surface was illuminated, presenting an effect similar to the moon just before the last quarter. Coupled with atmospheric effects this apparent distortion could have been a contributing factor.

7. It is concluded that the misidentification of the planet Venus was the cause for the UFO sighting which occurred at Port-au-Prince, Haiti on 30 August 1962. Atmospheric effects which distorted the planet, the apparent nearness of the star Spica to the planet and unfamiliarity of the witness with astronomical objects were probably contributing factors.

8. This UFO sighting does not contain any evidence of threat to the security of the United States.

FOR THE COMMANDER

EDWARD H. WYNN
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Science
and Components

1 Atch
Copy of Report of UFO Sighting in Port-au-Prince vicinity

Robert J. Friend Lt Col.
TD-E 17 October 1962

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MISSION TO HAITI (CAIRC)

C/O AMERICAN EMBASSY

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

REPLY TO ATTN OF : C 10 September 1962

SUBJECT : Unidentified Flying Object in the Area of Port-au-Prince, Haiti

TO : Headquarters USAF (AFCIN)

1. In accordance with paragraph 15, AFR 200-2, 14 September 1959, the following eye witness data is submitted on an object sighted in the sky south-west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti:

a. Description of Object:

(1) Formed like two automobile hubcaps placed together (see position 2 of attached drawings).

(2) By use of a theodolite the observer estimated the diameter of the object to be about 70 feet and the thickness about 10 feet.

(3) The color was predominately a silver grey.

(4) One object.

(5) Not applicable.

(6) Around the perimeter of the object there appeared to be regularly spaced openings which were believed to be exhaust ports. From one of the surfaces (top or bottom) an antenna-like object about three feet in diameter and eight to ten feet long could be seen.

(7) There was a cloud of gaseous material, apparently emanating from the exhaust parts, with a width of around ten feet enveloping the object. This gaseous jacket was many-colored.

(8) No sound was evident at any time.

(9) None.

b. Description of Course of Object:

(1) The observers who reported this instance were having supper at an out-door restaurant when they noticed this bright object in the sky.

(2) The angle of elevation was 24 degrees 4 minutes and the magnetic azimuth 251 degrees 30 minutes.

(3) The same-object remained stationary.

(4) While the object remained in one location in the sky it did keep rotating in position. (see four positions on attached drawing).

(5) The object disappeared rapidly, in about five seconds in a direction straight away from the observers or approximately 250 degrees and 30 minutes.

(6) The object was observed for twenty minutes.

c. Manner of Observation:

(1) Observation was ground visual.

(2) Use was made of a Tachometer Theodolite WILD T-16 manufactured by WILD HEERBRUGG, SWITZERLAND.

(a) Diameter of objective:.....40 mm (1.58")

(b) Magnifying power ..... 28 X

(c) Shortest focusing distance .....1,40 m (4½')

(d) Horizontal circle divided into single degrees, all of which are numbered.....79 mm (3,1')

(e) Vertical circle: same arrangement

(f) Circle reading with scale microscope ..... 60'

or 100c

(g) Estimation to 1/10th of a minute

Circle clamp fastening horizontal circle to alidade.

(h) 1 circular level

(i) 1 plate level, centrally arranged between the standards, sensitivity 30" per 2 mm

(j) 1 vertical circle level for coincidence setting, sensitivity 30" per 2 mm.

(k) Circular compass set into a special holder which latter is screwed to the standard. A horizontal eye piece which can be adapted to the observer's visual acuity gives a clear picture of the compass disc with degree division, which can be read to 1/10th of a degree with an index line.

(2) Not applicable.

d. Time and Date of Sighting:

(1) Between 301/.35Z and 301/.55Z.

(2) Night.

e. Location of Observer:

(1) 72 degrees, 22 minutes, 20 seconds West longitude and 18 degrees, 21 minutes, 10 seconds North latitude.

f. Identifying Information on Observer:

(1) Mr. [redacted], 10 years of age, Techint Engineering Co., Port-au-Prince, Haiti. [redacted] of Mission Techint Engineering Co. Consulting Engineer of the International Bank for Reconstruction & Development. I have known Mr. [redacted] for a year and a half and consider him to be a stable, mature and well educated individual. I am forwarding this report to you only because I feel that he is a reliable source for this information.

Mr. [redacted] - unknown to me.

Mr. [redacted] - unknown to me.

g. Weather and Winds Aloft Conditions:

(1) The night was dark and clear, there was no moon, with visibility ten miles or better.

(2) None available.

(3) Ceiling - unlimited.

(4) Visibility - at least ten miles.

(5) There was no cloud cover that night.

(6) No thunderstorms.

(7) Temperature unknown.

h. None.

i. None.

j. None.

4. Colonel Richard Curtis, Chief USAF Mission to Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Knowing the principal observer, Mr. [redacted] as I do, I can only feel sure that he has described this object as accurately as possible. The fact that he had the advantage of an optical instrument to observe details of the object lends credence to his report.

1. None.

2. Prior to the completion of this report I learned that an object had been sighted by a Marine helicopter pilot, Capt. James Gordon. On the evening of 7 September 1962 he observed a lighted object in the sky in a southwesterly direction from his home in Petionville on the eastern suburb of Port-au-Prince. He first observed it at approximately 0723Z stationary in the sky. He used regular 7 x 50 binoculars for his observation. At 0800Z the object moved higher in the sky and to the west. At 0800Z it moved straight down in the sky until it passed from sight behind a ridge of mountains.

Captain Gordon was unable to see many details on the object but described it to be similar in shape to the object seen by Mr. [redacted]. He could not distinguish any antenna but confirmed the gas on the lower side of the object. Observations conditions were excellent as it was a clear night with a half moon and no clouds.

3. We are establishing watches each night and I will report further observations to you if they occur.

RICHARD CURTIS
Colonel, USAF
Chief

3 Atch
1. Ltr fm Mr. [redacted]
2. Map with indication of site of instrument and approximate site of object
3. Drawing showing various positions of object

Copies to: Chief MAAG Haiti
Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

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[redacted] ENGINEERING CO. Port-au-Prince, September 5, 1962

To : U.S.A.I.D. Mission to Haiti
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Subject : Sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object in the Vicinity of Port-au-Prince.

On the evening of August 30, 1962 at 7:35 P.M. while sitting out-of doors with two friends, Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted], I observed a lighted object in the sky. I have stated circumstances on the following report which I am forwarding to you for any use you care to make of it.

1) Persons who made the observations and the measurements:

- Mr. [redacted] of Mission Technint Engineering Co., Consulting Engineer of the International Bank for Reconstruction & Development

- Mr. [redacted], engineer.

2) Date and time of observations:

August 30, 1962, between 7:35 and 7:50 P.M. Haitian time corresponding to the E.S.T.

3) Instrument used for observations: Tacheometer Theodolite WILD T-16 made by "WILD HEERBRUGG, SWITZERLAND". The main technical features to the instruments are the following:

- Diameter of objective:..... 40 mm (1,58")

- Magnifying power ..... 28 X

- Shortest focusing distance .....1,40 m (4½')

- Horizontal circle divided into single degrees, all of which are numbered ..... 79 mm (3,1')

- Vertical circle: same arrangement

- Circle reading with scale microscope ..... 60'

  or 100c

- Estimation to 1/10th of a minute

  Circle clamp fastening horizontal circle to alidade.

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- 1 circular level
- 1 plate level, centrally arranged between the standards, sensitivity, 30" per 2 mm
- 1 vertical circle level for coincidence setting, sensitivity 30" per 2 mm.
- Circular compass set into a special holder which latter is screwed to the standard. A horizontal eye piece which can be adapted to the observer's visual acuity gives a clear picture of the compass disc with degree division, which can be read to 1/10th of a degree with an index line.

4) Site of observation: following are the geographic coordinates of the place where the instrument was set:

Longitude: 72° 22' 20"

Latitude : N 18° 31' 18"

True azimuth: 249° 02'

Magnetic azimuth: 251° 30'

5) Heading of the instrument:

Magnetic heading: S 71° 30' W

Angle of inclination: 24° 4' from sea level

6) Data concerning the object (this data is obviously approximated because of impossibility of setting up the instrument in a different place. Error of calculation is to be considered within ± 20%):

- Altitude from sea level: 7000 feet
- Distance from observer : 13000 feet
- Diameter of object : 70 feet
- Estimated geographic coordinates of object:

Longitude: 72° 24'

Latitude : N 18° 28'

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7) General remarks

The object was first noted at 7:35 P.M. but this does not mean it had just arrived; it left at 7:55, direction S.W. with reference to the observer.

The object was rather dazzling and glaring to the naked eye.

The object had the form of a double hub cup, as shown in the drawing. For about 10 minutes the object did not move, so that it was possible to keep it in the telescope eye piece without any movement of the Theodolite. Nevertheless the object would continuously keep moving around its own axis. On the upper part of the object, some kind of an antenna was noticed; this antenna appeared to have approximately 3 feet in diameter and 8 to 10 feet high.

The color of the object was mainly silvery gray.

On the only side of the object which could be observed a certain number of dark spots were noticed, in a circular line as shown in the drawing; they gave the impression of being some kind of rivets but could as well have been openings or exhaust ports.

All around the object, with a width of approximately 10 feet, a vaporous jacket was noticed the color of which would cover the entire solar spectrum. While the object was stationary in the sky this gaseous emission was on the under surface giving the impression of buoying up the object.

The object gathered speed with such acceleration that it vanished within 5 seconds at the most from the moment it started moving. No noise whatsoever was noticed.

N O T E.- Data under paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5 are entirely accurate and certified to by the signers. Data under paragraphs 6 and 7 are estimates.

s/[redacted]
t/[redacted] of Mission of
[redacted] CO.

Attachments:

1) Map with indication of site of instrument and approximate site of object

2) Drawing showing various positions of object

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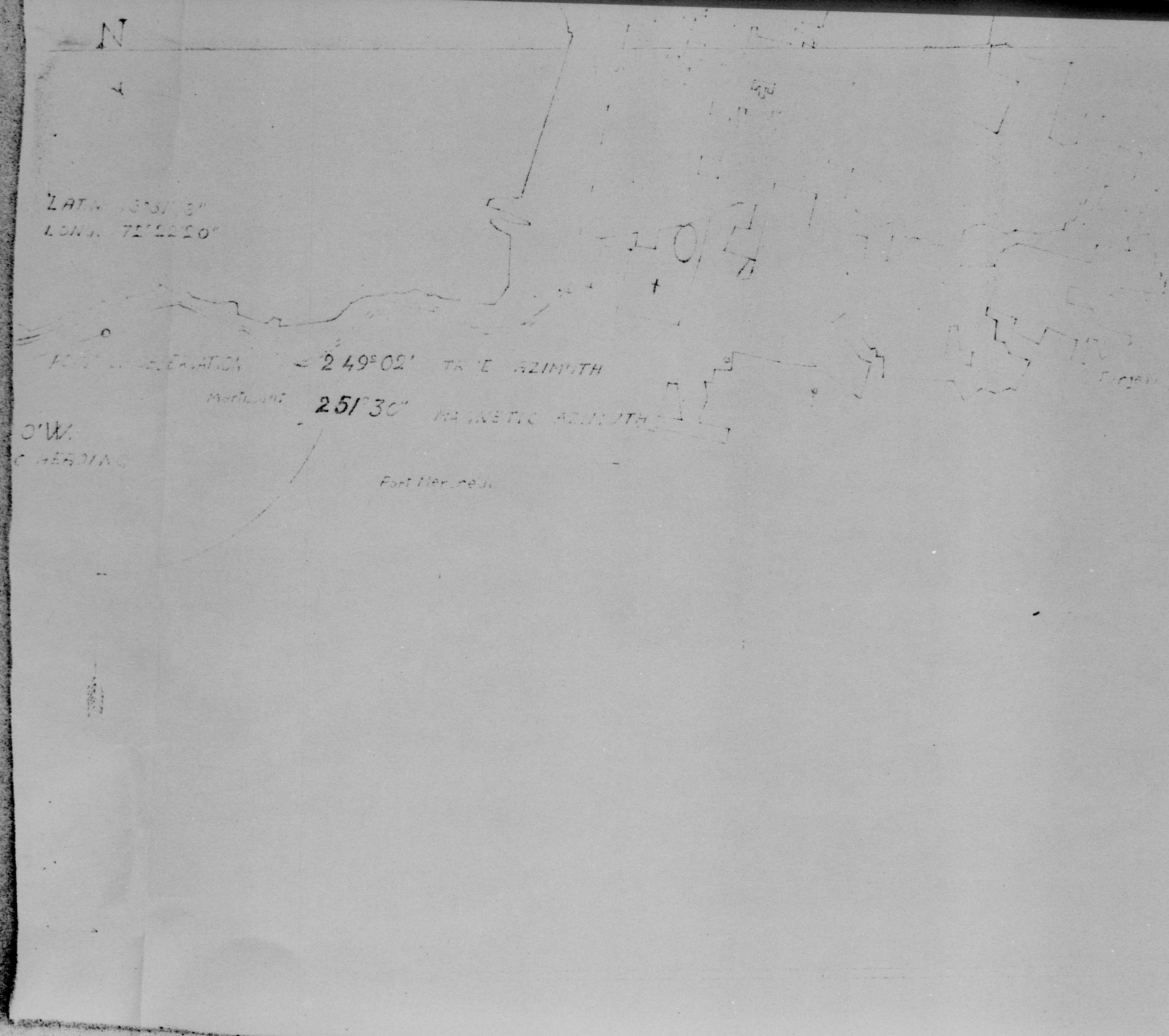
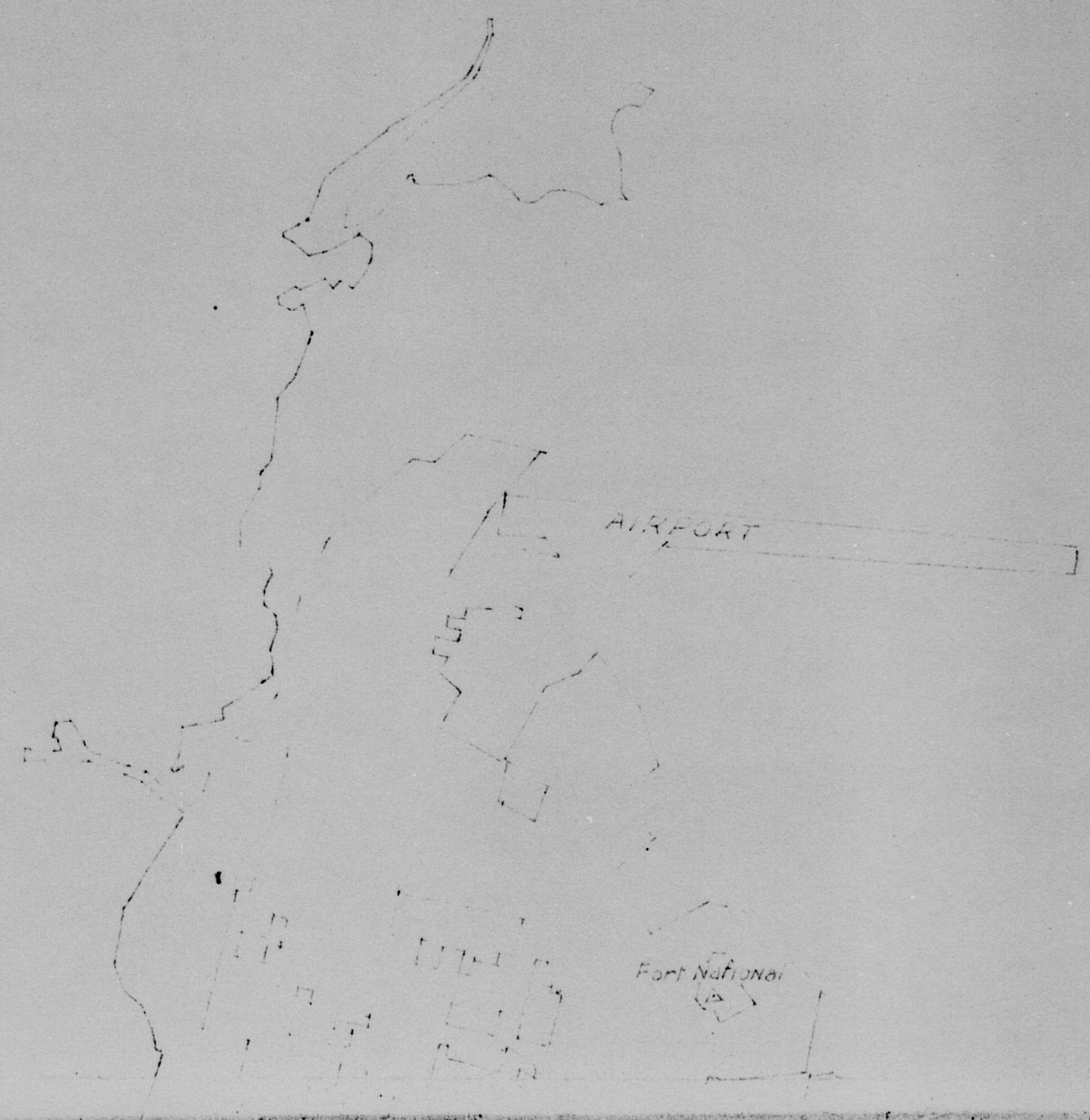
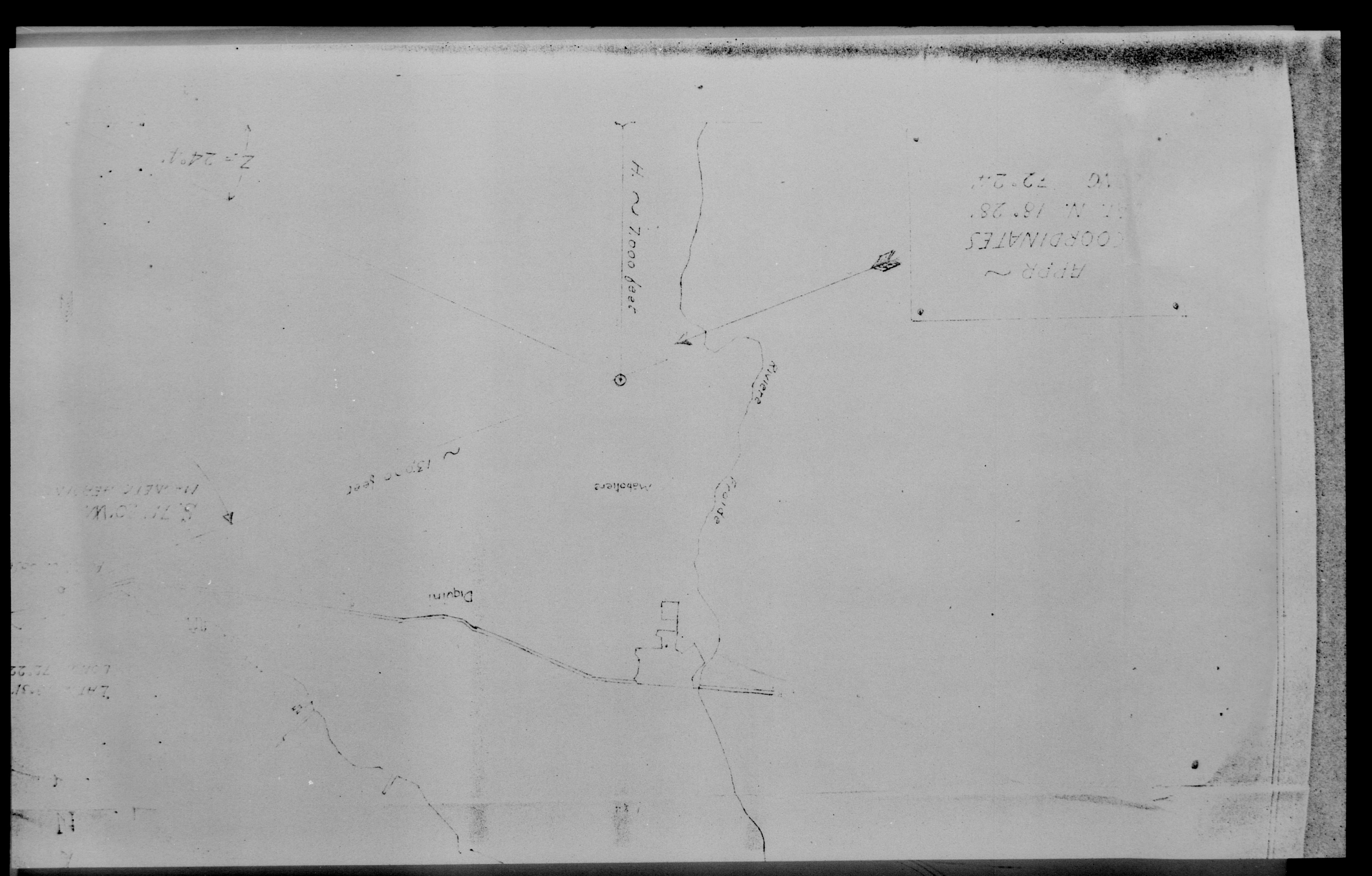

N
LAT. N. 13°51'3"
LONG. 72°22'20"
249°02' TRUE AZIMUTH
251°30" MAGNETIC AZIMUTH
Fort Ville Marie

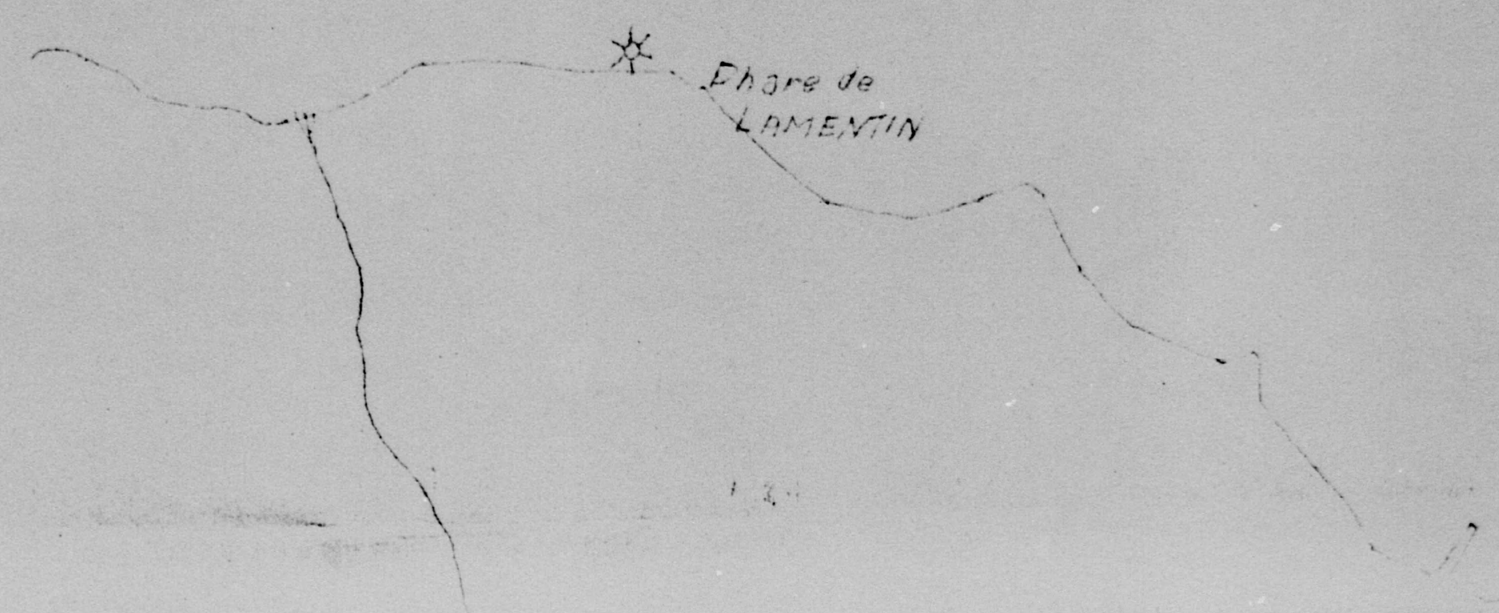
PORT AU PRINCE

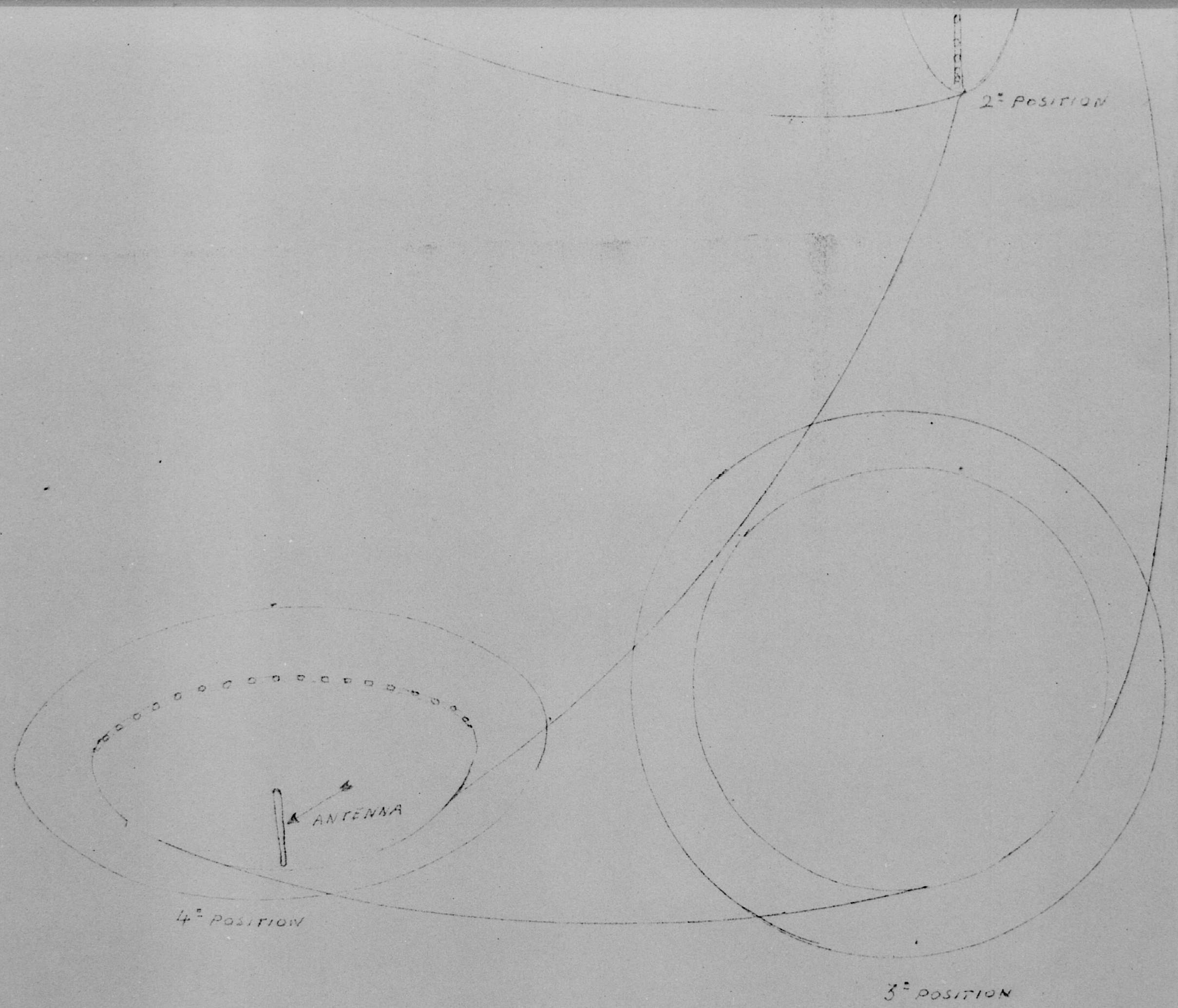



APPR ~
COORDINATES
N. 18° 28'
72° 2.1'
H ~ 7000 feet
River
Mabolera
~ 13000 feet
Diquini
Z = 240°

SCALE 1:25000

BAY OF PORT A




2ª POSITION
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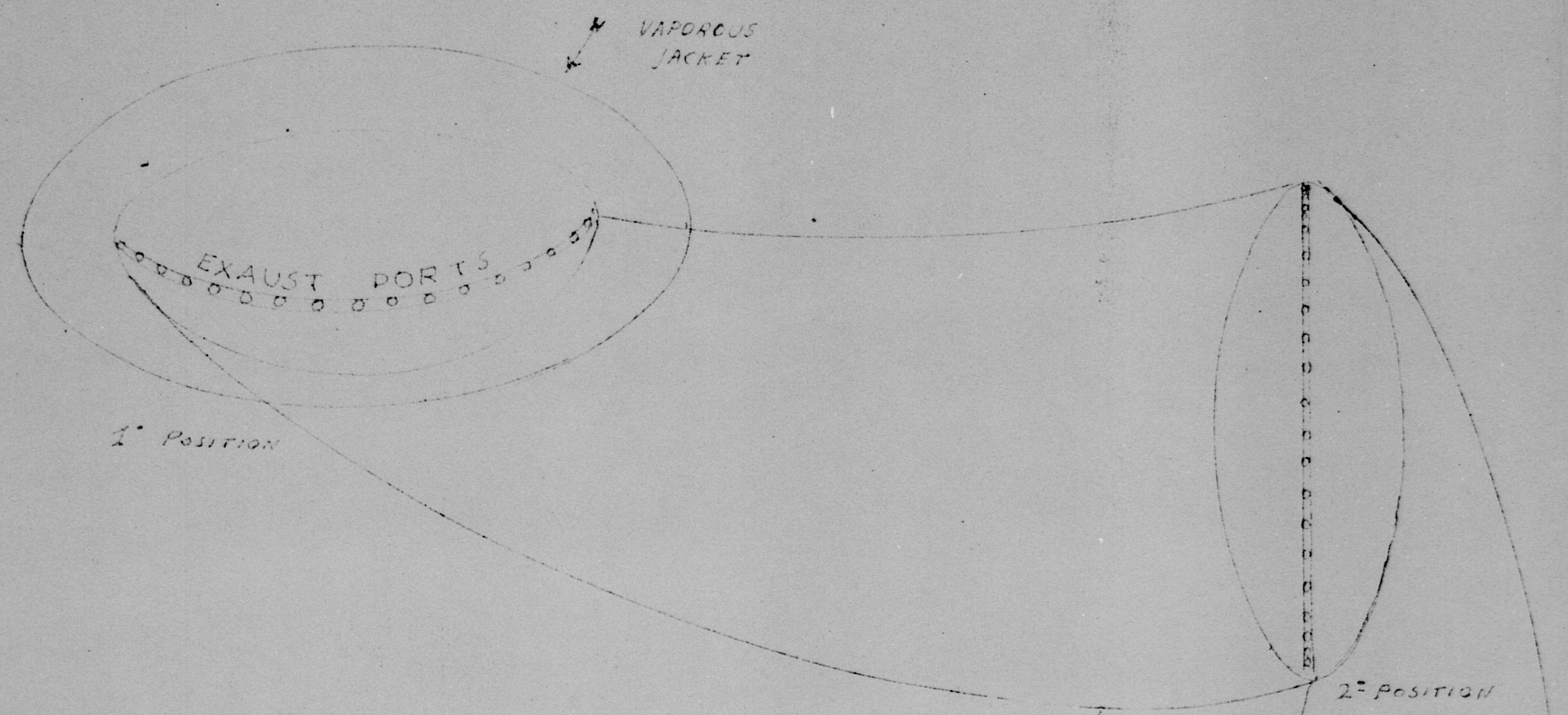
3ª POSITION

VARIOUS POSITIONS OF THE OBJECT