

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

DATE 5 August 1952	1. LOCATION Hameda AFB, Japan	CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2330 I	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
GMT PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Varied AF Personnel	☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 Hour	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1 COURSE	☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☒ Unknown

BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Shape--Circular

11. COMMENTS

SMC

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

ATIL Office, D/I FEAF

REPORT NO.

IR-35-52

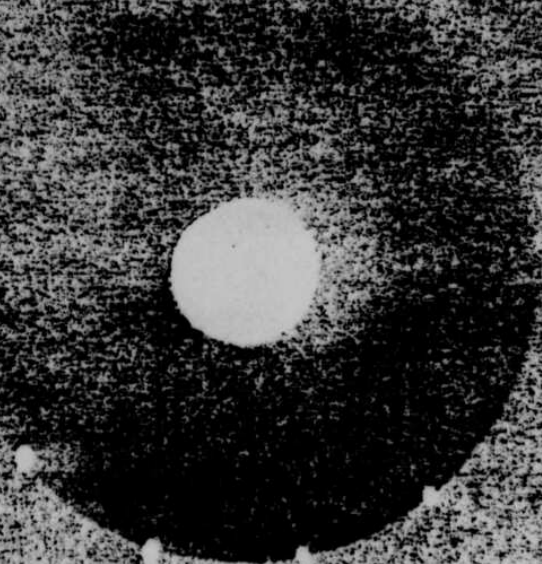
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DRAWING OF OBJECT AS DESCRIBED BY CONTROL TOWER PERSONNEL, HANEDA AFB, JAPAN,
2330/I to 0030/I, 5/6 Aug 52.

1. Center Light - constant brilliance across entire area (not due to a point-source of light).
2. Dark Area - Not determined whether due to a dark body, or due to shadow or blinding effect from the brilliant light.
3. Lights on Periphery - Light at lower left, small and fairly bright. Other lights dimmer and possibly smaller.
4. Weather - Visibility, excellent. Full moon, with 36° elevation, 189° azimuth.
5. Location of Object - Approximately 50° bearing from Haneda AFB.

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S T A T E M E N T

The first time I noticed the intense bright light over the Bay, was while crossing the ramp on our way to the tower. At first we thought it was an aircraft with landing lights on, but as we kept watching we noticed it wasn't moving. When we were about half way across the ramp it disappeared for the first time and returned to approximately the same spot about 15 seconds later.

After we got in the tower I started looking at it with binoculars, which made the object much clearer. Around the bright white light in the middle, there was a darker object which stood out against the sky, having little white lights along the outer edge, and a glare around the whole thing.

I watched it disappear twice through the glasses. It seemed to travel to the East and gaining altitude at a very fast speed, much faster than any jet. Every time it disappeared it returned again, except for the last time when the jets were around. It seemed to know they were there.

As for an estimate on the size of the object----I couldn't even guess.

I know it wasn't a star, weather balloons or Venus, because I compared it with all three.

When we first saw it, we estimated it to be at about 5,000 feet. We couldn't estimate the distance because of the angle we were looking at it and the brightness. It was to the NNE of the field.

I watched it from 11:30 to 12:30, it was very clear in the east until then. The bright light disappeared again at about 12:30 and we lost sight of it due to the broken clouds that moved in at that time. We kept looking for it whenever the clouds broke, but we never saw it again.

/s/ Lloyd West
/t/ LLOYD WEST
A/3C, USAF

Jefferson

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1. At 2330/I, 5 August 1952, A/3C Lloyd West and A/1C Walter Gutowski, 1956-1 AACS Detachment, while crossing the ramp on their way to work at the Haneda Air Force Base control tower, (35°33'N-139°45'E), sighted an exceptionally bright light in the sky to the NE of Haneda Air Force Base. Upon reporting for duty, they brought the object to the attention of A/2C Walter Jackson and A/3C George LaGasse, who had not previously noticed it because the operating load had been keeping their attention elsewhere.

a. The four operators agreed on the appearance of the object and watched it through 7 x 50 binoculars for a total period of about 50 minutes to 1 hour. The light was described as circular in shape, with brilliance appearing to be constant across the face. The light appeared to be a portion of a large round dark shape which was about four times the diameter of the light. When the object was close enough for details to be seen, a smaller, less-brilliant light could be seen at the lower left-hand edge, with two or three more dim lights running in a curved line along the rest of lower edge of the dark shape. Only the lower portion of the darker shape could be determined, due to the lighter sky which was believed to have blended with the upper side of the object. No rotation was noticed. No sound was heard.

b. The object faded twice to the East, then returned. Observers were uncertain whether disappearance was due to a dimming of the lights, rotation of object, or to the object moving away at terrific speed, since at times of fading, the object was difficult to follow closely, except as a small light. Observers did agree that when close, the object did appear to move horizontally, varying apparent position and speed slightly.

c. Three of the operators indicated the size of the light, when closest to the tower, was approximately the same as the small ceiling balloons (30 grams, appearing 2 1/2 inches in diameter) when launched from the weather station, located at about 2000 feet from the tower. This would make the size of the central light about 50 feet in diameter, when at the 10 miles distance tracked by GCI. At the greatest distance, the size of the light appeared slightly larger than Venus, approximately due East of Haneda and slightly brighter. A lighted weather balloon was launched at 2400 hours. The balloon's light was described as extremely dim and yellow, when compared to the brilliant blue-white light of the object. Observers stated that their eyes would fatigue rapidly when they attempted to concentrate their vision on the object.

d. Shirol GCI was contacted, (35°49'N-140°02'E), and after visual vectors were given, were able to track the object. An F-94 was in turn scrambled for an attempted intercept.

e. The control tower at Tachikawa Air Force Base called Haneda tower at approximately 2350/I to bring their attention to a brilliant white light over Tokyo Bay. The tower replied that it had been in view for some time and that it was being checked.

f. A C-54 entering Haneda traffic was requested to check the object. The pilot replied that it looked like a brilliant star and dismissed the sighting as such.

g. The F-94 appeared over Haneda just before the C-54 landed. After the F-94 turned North, the tower called Shirol to direct the F-94 to turn right. No visual contact was made by the F-94.

h. The F-94 was vectored to the radar contact maintained by the Shirol GCI. A radar contact was made by the F-94, but was lost after 90 seconds. Soon after loss of radar contact by Shirol and the F-94, the tower lost visual contact as the object either faded, moved away, or was obstructed by clouds.

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2. Site #4, 528th Aircraft Control and Warning Group, located at Shirol Air Force Base, was notified of the location of the unidentified object soon after the first visual contact by Haneda tower. The CPS-1 radar is normally operated at maximum range, and contact was attempted on both high and low beams by Lt. Rawlins, the controller then on duty. Three or four blips were noted at a position 050° bearing from Haneda, as reported by the tower, but no definite movement could be ascertained, and no Height/Range contact could be made with the CPS-4 due to ground clutter.

a. Lt. Albert reported for duty at 2345/I, and was soon able to make radar contact on the 50 mile high beam. An F-94 was scrambled to investigate. The object at this time had left the ground clutter and could be tracked at varying speeds in a right orbit. Although impossible to accurately estimate speed, Lt. Albert gave a rough estimate of from 100-150 knots, stopping and hovering occasionally, and a maximum speed during the second orbit (just before F-94 was vectored in) of possibly 250-300 knots. At approximately 0012/I the object reportedly broke into three smaller contacts maintaining an interval of about 1/4 mile, with one contact remaining somewhat brighter. The F-94 was vectored on this object, reporting weak contact at 0015/I and loss of contact at 0018/I. Within a few seconds, both the F-94 and the object entered the ground clutter and were not seen again.

b. The blips on the CPS-1 were described as small and relatively weak, but sharply defined. The brightness varied somewhat, and at one time appeared very bright as the object appeared to be in a fairly sharp turn at higher speed than previously noted. Both recorded orbits were in approximately the same position, with the object moving and occasionally hovering in one position for several sweeps (4 RPM). Surveillance of area was made for an extended period of time and no further contact was made.

c. The ADCC Controller at Johnson Air Force Base was kept informed of the incident at it took place. Personnel at Site #4 attempted unsuccessfully to make visual contact with the object, which at times was less than ten miles distance from Shirol Air Force Base. Radar was functioning normally before and after the incident.

3. The F-94B with 1st Lt. Wesley R. Holder as pilot and 1st Lt. Aaron Jones as radar operator, was scrambled at approximately 2355/I. There was a slight delay in becoming airborne due to fuel system trouble during run-up. Aircraft became airborne at 0003/I and was directed to make a search from Haneda Air Force Base northeast over Tokyo Bay. No visual contact was made at any time.

a. The F-94 crew reported exceptional visibility in the air, with a very thin cloud layer at 14,000 to 16,000 feet and one or two isolated patches of thin clouds lower. The C-54 in the pattern at Haneda Air Force Base was very clearly seen. The only stars seen at a low elevation were the North Star and Venus. As the F-94 headed North, the Control Tower asked GCI to vector the F-94 toward the east. Looking off their right forward quadrant and turning in the direction requested, the F-94 was still unable to see anything unusual.

b. As the F-94 orbited to the right at approximately 330 knots T.A.S., the GCI radar re-established contact with the object and vectored the F-94 on a course of 320°. GCI called the object at 11 o'clock to the F-94 at 4 miles. At this time the F-94 managed to make a weak contact at 10° port, 10° low, at a range of 6,000 yards.

c. The radar contact at approximately 35°37'N-139°56'E, was described as weak and small but distinct and definable from the ground clutter encountered. The radar operator, Lt. Jones, was very busy, maintaining the weak contact by manual control. As the object moved across the scope from the port to starboard, it appeared to increase speed and Lt. Jones called for a hard right turn. As the aircraft turned, the object appeared to suddenly accelerate and disappeared rapidly from the scope on a course of

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approximately 055⁰. Contact was maintained for approximately 90 seconds. No further returns were found. In a search pattern, the pilot checked the area very thoroughly for any visual signs without success.

d. The APQ-33 radar is checked before and after every mission and appeared to be working normally. The blip was described as definitely an airborne target and behaved as a bona-fide target, except when it appeared to accelerate off the right edge of the scope. The overcast was extremely thin, and all objects in the area could be seen clearly. The F-94 crew stated that there was no possibility of any radar contact from any of the clouds in the area at that time.

4. Haneda weather at time of sighting was recorded as 2500 scattered, 16000 broken, 15 miles visibility, with wind SSE at 11 mph. Weather reported by the personnel involved in the incident was thin scattered to broken at 14,000-16,000 feet, generally thin enough to allow almost full brilliance of the moon to shine through. One or two thin scattered puffs were reported by the F-94 crew with none reported by Haneda tower. The weather moving in from the southwest was lower broken clouds sufficient to obscure the moon as the clouds moved over Tokyo Bay about 0045/I to 0100/I. Visibility was reported as exceptional with Mount Fuji (60 nautical miles to the west) clearly discernable. Scattered thunderstorm activity was reported in the mountains to the Northwest of the Tokyo area. Temperature recorded at Haneda was 78⁰, Dew Point 73 with altimeter setting of 29.81 inches.

5. The personnel involved were all serious, intelligent, and completely cooperative.

a. Tower personnel cross-checked all known factors constantly and did not attempt to make any inferences in the sighting. Object is believed to have been reported exactly as they saw it.

b. Lt. Albert, GCI Controller at the Shirol site, has had considerable experience under all conditions and thoroughly understands the capabilities of the CPS-1 radar. His statement was that the object was a bona-fide moving target, though somewhat weaker than that normally obtained from a single jet fighter.

c. Lt. Jones, F-94 radar operator, has had about seven years experience with airborne radar equipment. He states that the object was a bona-fide target, and that to his knowledge, there was nothing within a area of 15-20 miles that could give a radar echo.

COMMENTS BY PREPARING OFFICER:

1. The ten minute difference in time between the statement by Lt. Albert, 528th AC & W Sq., and that reported by other personnel concerned, is believed to be a typographical error, since the statement agrees on every other portion of the sighting.

2. The map grid coordinates listed on 35th Fighter Interceptor Wing Form 112, IR-1-52, are in error, since the area of contact was as shown in Inclosure #5. Error may have been due to a mis-reading by the original debriefing officer.

3. This is the first sighting in the Far East which combined positive visual and radar contact over an extended period of time. The following items may have some bearing on this sighting:

a. On the night of the incident, there was a full moon. The F-94 crew reported exceptional visibility and stated that the upper cloud layer did not appreciably affect the brilliancy of the moonlight. Reflections off the water were considered as

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sufficient to form secondary reflections off the lower clouds. Isolated patches of thin clouds were reported by the F-94 crew as being at approximately 4000 feet, with fairly strong reflections making them visible. These clouds were not reported to be visible by the control tower personnel. A/3C LaGasse reported that as he returned to the barracks, he noticed that the object seemed somewhat higher in the sky than previously, and that he noticed at the same time that the moon seemed proportionately higher in elevation.

b. There was some thunderstorm activity in the mountains to the northwest of Tokyo. Although lower broken clouds later moved over Tokyo Bay, there was no reported electrical activity or vertical development in these clouds. Visibility was approximately the same as earlier.

c. The only objects reported in the area at the time of sighting were the C-54 landing at Haneda and the weather balloon launched by the Haneda weather station at 2400/I. Both were continually in sight of control tower personnel. Venus was located low on the horizon and was definitely identified by the Tower, the GCI Site, and the F-94 crew.

d. According to the radar tracking, the object should have passed very close to Site #4 at Shirol. A constant search of the area by personnel at the site, and the thorough search by the F-94 without visual contact indicates possible moonlight reflections, since the object was visible to the tower personnel at both Haneda and at Tachikawa, located 30 miles to the west. The azimuth of the moon at this time was 189°, with an elevation of approximately 36°. A secondary reflection off a cloud could conceivably be bright to observers to the south or west, while the remainder of the cloud could block the reflection from above and to the north.

e. The F-94 crew evidently made an extremely thorough search over the area, and appeared to be perplexed that they had been unable to make visual contact, since everything within 20 to 25 miles was easily visible. Flying at 5,000 feet, they could spot the isolated lower cloud patches. Failure to sight the object could only be due to the light being on the lower surface of the object, or reflected in a narrow beam toward the south and west.

f. The strange appearance could be attributed to a localized blinding effect causing the illusion of a darker form, particularly with the lower scattered lights to give an illusion of an outline.

g. Although many sightings might be attributed to visual and electrical reflections off ionized areas in the atmosphere, the near-perfect visibility on the night of the sighting, together with the circular orbit of the object would tend to disprove this theory.

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Charles J. Malven
CHARLES J. MALVEN
Captain, USAF
ATLO

COUNTRY Japan	REPORT NO. IR-35-52	(LEAVE BLANK)
SUBJECT FLYOBREP		
AREA REPORTED ON Japan	FROM (Agency) ATIL Office, D/I FEAF	
DATE OF REPORT 12 August 1952	DATE OF INFORMATION 5 August 1952	EVALUATION B-2
PREPARED BY (Officer) Charles J. Malven, Captain, USAF (ATLO)	SOURCE JADF & MATS Personnel	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFL 200-5, dtd 29 Apr 52; IR-1-52 (35th F.I. Wg), dtd 7 Aug 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 118--Part II.)		

This report concerns the visual and radar sighting of an unidentified flying object in the Tokyo area, 2330/I, 5 August 1952. The object was first sighted visually by control tower personnel at Haneda Air Force Base, tracked by Tokyo GCI located at Shiroi Air Force Base, and briefly contacted by the APG-33 radar on an F-94 vectored on the object by the CGI radar.

APPROVED:

Charles Y. Banfill
CHARLES Y. BANFILL
 Brigadier General, USAF
 Deputy for Intelligence

9 INCL.

1. Statement by A/3c Lloyd West
2. Sketch of Object
3. Statement by 1st Lt. Henry E. Albert
4. Statement by 1st Lt. Melvin E. Rawlins
5. Sketch of track of Object
- 6, 7, & 8. Calibration charts of Site #4, Radar

9. Statement by 1st Lt. Holder and 1st Lt. Jones

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IN-EVAL, FEAF, Cy #9

ATLO, FEAF, Cy #10

COMNAVFE, Cy #11

File, Cy #12

5 August 1952, Maneda AFB, Japan

Report of radar targets does not allow a plausible explanation of the nature of the targets. Absence of weather data, i.e. temperature vs height and moisture vs height, does not allow an anomalous propagation estimate. However, the report states that targets did appear to be permanent echoes at various times.

Capt R. L. James
15 September 1952

CASE #3 (contd)

At 0003I an F-94 was airborne on a scramble and was requested to search to the NE of Haneda AFB over Tokyo Bay. They could make no visual observations, but could see the North Star and Venus. The F-94 was vectored to the object by GCI (both the F-94 and object were on the scope) and held of for 90 seconds. Shortly after this, both the object and the F-94 disappeared into the ground clutter on the GCI. At no time did the F-94 make visual contact. The radar contact indicated the target was at 6000 yards, 10° below and 10° to the right of a 320° bearing from the station. Soon after loss of radar contact, the object was lost visually.

Comments

The F-94 crew reported excellent visibility, yet they could not visually observe the object during a thorough search of the area. They stated that the moon was bright and might possibly have caused reflections off the few scattered clouds. This, however, is not in agreement with the description of an exceptionally bright light given by the tower operators.

Since the weather was not given, it is not possible to determine whether the radar return was caused by some type of anomalous propagation.

Conclusion

Unknown

SE #3

5 August 1952

Haneda AFB, Japan

Description of Incident

The object was first noticed by two airmen walking across the ramp at Haneda AFB on the night of 5 Aug 52 at 2330I (local time). The airmen were on their way to the tower to relieve the operators. On reporting to the tower, the object was called to the attention of the tower operators who were going off duty.

The four operators agreed that the object, which they observed for from 50 minutes to an hour through 7x50 binoculars, was circular in shape and with constant brilliance. The light appeared to be a portion of a large, round, dark shape which was about 4 times the diameter of the light. When the object was close enough for details to be seen, a smaller, less brilliant light could be seen along the lower edge of the dark shape. The object faded to the east twice but reappeared; it could have faded or actually gone away and come back. The size of the light, when closest to the tower, was approximately the same as the ceiling balloons that are released near the tower. A comparison was made to these 24" diameter balloons at 2000'. This would make the object 50' in diameter at 10 miles. During the observation, a lighted balloon was released but this light was extremely dim and yellow compared to the object.

check

An airborne C-54 was requested to check the object, which the pilot did, but he reported seeing only a star.

An AC&W unit was notified soon after the original visual sighting and shortly after 2345I picked up an unidentified return. The object was tracked at varying speeds from hovering to 300 knots. At 0012I the return "broke into three pieces" and they maintained intervals of 1/4 mile. No visual observation was made from the AC&W unit although it was attempted and, at one time, the object was within 10 miles of the station. The radar was directed onto the target by visual observations from the tower. So it can safely be assumed that both visual and radar contacts involved the same object.

INCIDENT NO. 3—Shortly before midnight on August 5, 1952, two airmen were walking toward the tower at Haneda AFB in Japan to begin their shift when they spotted a large round object bearing a light in the sky. Hurrying to the tower, they pointed it out to the other tower operators, and they took turns observing the object through 7x50 binoculars. Under the glasse, a less brilliant light could be seen around the edge of the object. The tower people called radar and gave them a bearing on the thing, and radar picked up a target in the immediate area. By correlating movement of the radar target and the visual UFO, they established that they were both observing the same object. The radar tracked the object at speeds varying from hovering to 300 knots. An F-94 was scrambled and vectored into the target. It got a radar lock-on and started to close on the object. At 6,000 yards, the jet lost radar contact and at the same time the tower and ground radar lost it, too. At the end of the sighting, the object as seen on the ground radar broke up into three pieces which flew formation at quarter-mile intervals. During the incident, a weather balloon was released at the base, and the witnesses reported that its light was much dimmer than that of the UFO. One of the puzzling aspects of the incident was that neither the jet pilot nor the radar crew was able to get a visual sighting on the object, although each was closer to it than the air base tower.



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D/I FEAF Comment:

This incident, including information received from control tower personnel at Haneda AFB, Japan, was previously reported on FEAF IR #35-52, dated 12 August 1952.

4c *George D. Arthur*
CHARLES Y. RANFILL
for Brigadier General, USAF
Deputy for Intelligence

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Statement of 1st Lt G. S. Day, ADCC Controller at Johnson A.B.

At 2355I on 5 Aug 52, I scrambled one (1) F-94 alert aircraft to attempt to intercept and identify an unidentified aircraft or aerial object, reported to this ADCC through Shiroi GCI from visual sighting report by Haneda tower operators. As reports of progress of intercept came into ADCC, I logged them in. A wire recording of all reports was made, but due to conditions of communications and recorder, this recording is unreadable. My contacts were all made with Lt Albert, duty controller at the Shiroi GCI station, also was controlling the F-94.

The F-94 was unable to close on the unidentified aircraft or object, after getting one radar contact from its reported location; after a patrol search the F-94 landed. My records show this sighting remains unidentified.

G. S. Day

G. S. DAY
1st Lt., USAF
ADCC Controller

Statement of 1st Lt Melvin E. Rawlins, Controller at Shiroi

At approximately 2330 hours, 5 Aug 52, while on duty as controller at Det #4, 528th AC&N Group, I received a call from the Haneda tower operator that they could see a bright light out over Tokyo Bay, northeast of their station at approximately 1000 to 1500 feet. I relayed this information to ADCC and started checking for an indication on the radar scope on both high and low beam. There were three (3) or four (4) blips on low beam but none I could definitely get a movement on or none I could get a reading on the HRI scope. At 2345 hours I was relieved by Lt Albert.

1st Lt Melvin E. Rawlins is stationed at Shiroi and is not immediately available to sign narrative statement.

Statement of 1st Lt Henry E. Albert, Controller at Shiroi

The undersigned officer reported for work at Site #4, at 2345I, 5 Aug 52. Controller being relieved informed me of an unusual sighting reported to him by Haneda tower operator. This was reported to me as being a lighted object hovering northeast of Haneda. After discussion with ADCC controller, it was decided that an F-94 should be scrambled to investigate.

At the time of scramble, I had what was believed to be the object in radar contact. The radar sighting indicated the object to be due south of this station over Tokyo Bay and approximately eight (8) miles northeast of Haneda. The target was in a right orbit moving at varying speeds. It was impossible to estimate speed due to the short distance and times involved.

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STATEMENT

At 0000I I was scrambled to investigate an unidentified object reported by a control tower operator at Haneda. The object was reported to be in the Tokyo bay area in an orbit to the starboard at an estimated altitude of 5,000 feet. I observed nothing of an unusual nature in this area, however at 0016I when vectored by Hi-Jinx on a heading of 320 degrees, and directed to look for a bogie at 1100 o'clock, 4 miles, Lt Jones made radar contact at 10 degrees port 6000 yards. The point moved rapidly from port to starboard and disappeared from the scope. I had no visual contact with the target. Soon after this contact the search was abandoned. I continued to search the Tokyo bay area independently until 0120I. The weather was .3 to .4 cloud covered at an estimated altitude of 14,000 feet, with exceptional visibility of 60-70 miles. The only known air traffic at this time was a C-54 in the pattern at Haneda and another C-54 over Johnson A.B., approximately 30 minutes later.

/s/ Wesley R. Holder
/t/ WESLEY R. HOLDER
1st Lt., USAF

STATEMENT

At 0000I Lt Holder and I were scrambled to investigate an unidentified target over Tokyo bay. Upon becoming airborne we immediately took up a heading for Tokyo bay. At 0009I, Hi-Jinx reported a target at our 9 o'clock position. Visual contact was made at 0010I with this target and identified as a C-54. We then started a starboard searching orbit under GCI control, southeast of Haneda A. B. At 0015I Hi-Jinx gave us a vector of 320 degrees. Hi-Jinx had a definite radar echo and gave us the vector to intercept the unidentified target. Hi-Jinx estimated the target to be at 11 o'clock to us at a range of 4 miles. At 0016I I picked up a radar contact at 10 degrees port, 10 degrees below at 6,000 yards. The target was rapidly moving from port to starboard and a "lock on" could not be accomplished. A turn to the starboard was instigated to intercept target which disappeared on scope in approximately 90 seconds. No visual contact was made with the unidentified target. Hi-Jinx was then contacted and they were unable to give us another vector because they also had lost radar contact with the unidentified target. We continued our search over Tokyo bay under Hi-Jinx control. At 0033I Hi-Jinx released us from scrambled mission. The only other aircraft intercepted during this mission was at 0100I. This aircraft was identified as a C-54 on course of 350 degrees altitude 5000 feet, speed 180 knots. We noticed nothing of unusual nature from this time until we landed at 0120I.

5 /s/ Aaron M. Jones, Jr.
/t/ AARON M. JONES,
1st Lt., USAF