

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 16 Oct 52	2. LOCATION North Korea		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT _____	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground -Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE AF Pilots		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE N	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Metallic silver color. Round silver object was observed over the battle line. Was observed to change speed and hover.			11. COMMENTS Balloons have been used by every forces in area before/ ⁱⁿ the same area.

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17 October 1952

1. Object was first sighted against cloud bank. It was approximately twenty-five (25) feet in diameter, silver in color, and had no visible aerodynamic features. It was completely circular in shape. There was no visible source or evidence of power. When first sighted, object was traveling two-hundred (200) MPH. After stopping for approximately one (1) second, it accelerated to great speed approximately eight-hundred (800) MPH. Object made no sound during sighting.

2. Object was under observation for approximately three (3) minutes. Sighting was made from 0650I to approximately 0653I.

3. Observation was visual, air to air, object was observed from a T-6 type aircraft flying at six thousand two hundred (6200) feet indicated, one hundred forty (140) MPH, heading due West. There were no optical devices used. Instructor pilot wore "issued" sun glasses.

4. Object was over DT 222417 at time of sighting. Object was Northwest of observer at approximately six-thousand (6000) feet and was approximately three (3) to four (4) miles away at first sighting.

5. Instructor pilot (1st Lt. William H. Hooper) has eighty (80) combat missions. Pilot (1st Lt. Thomas A. O'Neill) has twenty-five (25) combat missions.

6. Weather was four tenths (4/10) at six-thousand (6000) Visibility air to air, ten (10) miles. Wind condition was unknown.

7. Observation was made soon after sun rise.

8. None

9. When object was sighted, pilot lowered right wing for better observation of object. Object stopped for approximately one (1) second, then proceeded with increasing acceleration away from observer in East North East direction toward the coast.

s/t/FRANCIS C. HANEY
Major, USAF
Intelligence Off.

af 473260

Incl #5

ATTN 102859-E

[REDACTED]

(CLASSIFICATION)

Classified: SECRET
Auth: C. G. STAFF
20 OCT 52
Date: initials

COUNTRY Korea	REPORT NO. 52-275	(LEAVE BLANK) 473260
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Unidentified Aerial Object		
AREA REPORTED ON North Korea	FROM (Agency) Det 1, 6004th AISS, APO 970	
DATE OF REPORT 20 October 1952	DATE OF INFORMATION 16 October 1952	EVALUATION C-4
PREPARED BY (Officer) 2d Lt James F. Power	SOURCE 6149th Tac Con Squadron	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Lt 52-124 dated 21 June 1952, Det 1, 6004th AISS, AF Letter 200-5 dated 29 Apr 52		

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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.)

altic

This report contains information concerning an unidentified aerial object sighted in the vicinity of UTM coordinates DE 221413.

APPROVED:

JEAN H. DAUGHERTY
Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence

1/2 (5000)

*4/5 incs (A-E)
ATISSIB
28 June 53*

ATIC 102859

5 INCL	
1. Sketch of object	1
2. Sketch showing flight of object	10
3. Statement of Lt O'Neill	1
4. Statement of Lt Drooper	1
5. Report of Major Haney	1
DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR	
DI, FFAF, cy 1	ATI, 6004th AISS, cy 4
DI, 9th AF, cy 2	ATIC, FFAF, cy 5
CO, 6004th AISS, cy 3	File, cy 6

*1 of ATIC, ATTA: ATIAA-20
1 of AAC
1 of FFAF ATLO*

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On 16 and 17 October 1952, 1st Lt William H. Hooper and 1st Lt Thomas A. O'Niell of the 6149th Tac Con Sq., 6147th Tactical Control Group at K-47 were interviewed with regard to the sighting of an unidentified flying object.

On the morning of 16 October 1952, Lt Hooper, Instructor Pilot and Lt O'Niell, Pilot, were flying a combat mission in a T-6 aircraft over the eastern sector of the main line of resistance. At 0650I, Lt Hooper was flying the aircraft on a magnetic heading of 280 degrees, 140 miles per hour indicated air speed, 6,300 feet indicated altitude. Lt O'Niell was checking the MLR for activity when he observed what he thought was a strange aircraft at 6,000 feet altitude, traveling approximately 200 mph and heading in an easterly direction. When he first observed the object it was at approximately UTM coordinates DT221413 and the T-6 was at DT312362. The object was 15 degrees to the right of his course traveling on a magnetic heading of 100 degrees.

Lt O'Niell called the object to the attention of Lt Hooper who did not observe it until the aircraft and the object came parallel. He then saw it at the 3 o'clock position. Lt O'Niell stated that as he was calling off the relative positions of the object for Lt Hooper; (who was attempting to pick it up) the object appeared to be decelerating. By the time Lt Hooper observed it, the object had apparently ceased to move and was hovering over DT2942. Both observers report the fact that the object ceased movement, but differ as to the length of time of the hovering. Lt Hooper estimates the time at 15 seconds while Lt O'Niell reports the time to be approximately 1 to 2 seconds.

Lt Hooper dipped the right wing of the aircraft for a better observation of the object. It began to move, accelerating in an east-north easterly direction and disappeared from sight in the haze as the T-6 came about in a 120 degree. The speed of the object at this time was estimated by both observers to be approximately 800 mph. Lt Hooper bases his estimation upon the time elapsed in it's covering approximately 15,000 meters.

Lt O'Niell stated that at first he thought the object was a jet or liaison type aircraft, but upon further observation it did not appear to have any aerodynamic features. Both observers concurred in the statement that the object was perfectly circular in shape and metallic silver in color with no protrusions of any type. Both observers stated that the object did not appear to have any visible means of propulsion and no vapor trails or smoke were apparent. The estimated size was 25 feet in diameter, by comparison with the 37 foot wing span of a T-6 aircraft at the same distance. No sound from the object was audible at any time.

The object was under observation for approximately three minutes from 0650I, to 0653I with Lt O'Niell observing it for the full period of time. Lt O'Niell who made his observations with the naked eye, described the object as glowing slightly while Lt Hooper, who wore Government Issued sunglasses did not observe anything other than that it looked just like a "ball bearing".

The nearest observation was made at a distance of 3 to 4 miles.

The object was seen against three backgrounds, clouds at the first sighting,

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hills at the hovering position, and sky as it traveled away, and seemed constant as to size, shape and color to both observers.

The pilots stated that at no time during their observation did the object increase or decrease in altitude.

The weather conditions at the time was 4/10 covered at 6,000 feet with bases at 4,500 feet. Visibility, air to air was 10 miles, air to ground 5 miles, wind velocity and direction was unknown. The sun was to the rear of the T-6 as the observation was made until the aircraft made a right turn near the end of the observation, when the object was moving away from the observers in an east north easterly direction, disappearing from sight.

COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER:

1. Both pilots are in their thirties and seemed level headed and reliable. They reported the incident and reacted to the interview with no apparent nervousness or excitement. They were quite certain in their descriptions and gave a great deal of detail. (Their reporting of the incident was very factual). Lt Hooper had completed 27 missions and Lt O'Niell had completed 25 missions and it is considered that their judgement in estimating distance and dimensions seems excellent. All their estimates of dimensions, speed and distance were given by comparison to some known factor, for example the speed of their own aircraft as compared to jets and F-51's that they have worked with. They had no predetermined opinion as to what their observation might have been, although they immediately discounted the possibility of its being a weather balloon because of its solid metallic appearance and perfectly circular shape.

2. Reference is made to Intelligence Report 52-124 dated 24 June 1952, Det #1, 6004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron. This report contains information concerning the sighting of a large enemy captive balloon located in the grid square DT1344 in the area of hill 1290. This balloon, anchored by cable, has been sighted several times, during daylight and in darkness by means of a light sometimes suspended from it. It has been spotted as far away from its tie down point as DT204398 by ground observers. On 7 June 1952, at approximately 2120I, a light was observed by a representative of this unit for a period of one hour and five minutes in the DT1344 area. A friendly ground observation post observed a large balloon being raised and lowered by means of a cable at this point on 9 June 1952 at 1445I. The balloon has been observed to move horizontally very rapidly, in some cases it has been described as being egg shaped, in others the shape is described as round. The balloon has been observed at altitudes of from 1,000 to 10,000 feet.

3. The location of the reported position of this captive balloon is approximately 4,500 meters and at a bearing of 223 degrees from the position of the sighting as reported by the Source. This places the observer, the object and the tie down point of the balloon in almost a direct line of sight. The wind was from 290 degrees at 20-25 knots per hour. It is possible that the object sighted by these pilots was this captive balloon being released and rising, blowing in a south easterly direction. This movement of controlled ascension, being blown by the prevailing wind could be mistaken for an object travelling in an south easterly direction. The object appeared to stop and hover over DT294422. A change of wind direction or an air pocket could have caused this reaction.

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John H. Cumming

JOHN H. CUMMING
Captain, USAF
Commanding

D/I USAF Comment:

1. Airborne orientation of a small airborne object in reference to a maneuvering aircraft is extremely difficult, particularly when the aircraft is very near to the object. Since the reference points would normally be points on the ground near the line-of-sight to the object, a nearby object would appear to be moving rapidly; and if hovering, it would appear to be moving in a direction opposite to the relative motion of the observing aircraft.

2. Since enemy balloons are known to have been used in this vicinity, this observation was probably of the same location reported in IR-52-124, Det #1, 6004th AISS, dated 24 June 1952.

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

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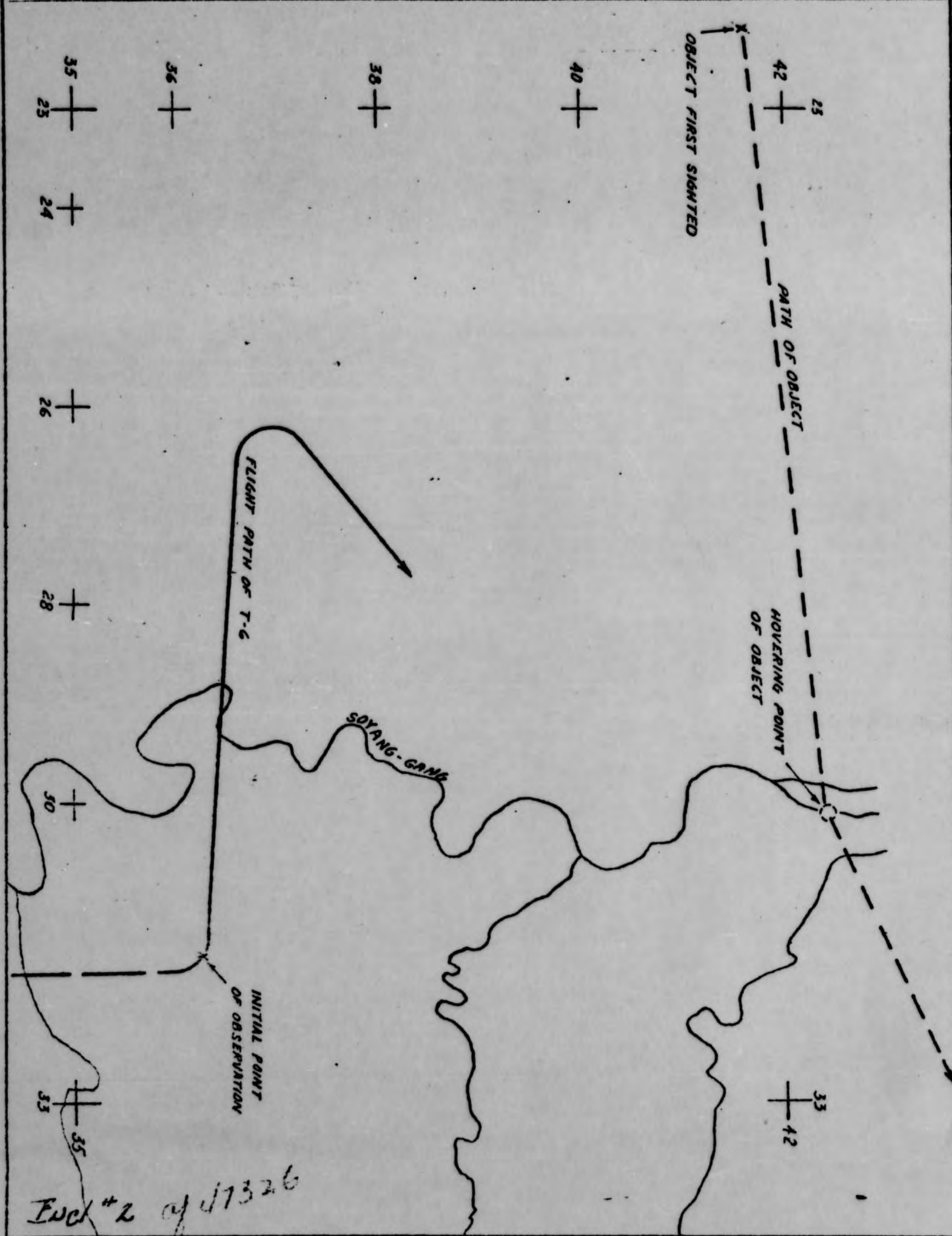
ATTC 102859-A

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STATEMENT

17 October 1952

On 16 October 1952 at approximately 0650L, the weather conditions were four tenths (4/10) at sixty-five hundred (6500) and ten (10) miles visibility. We had just finished checking in with Zimmerman Control and were told to go to Early Bird Control. The route of travel was to take us over the Punch Bowl. After completing a turn in Grid Square DT 3136, I being in the back seat, started to check the MTR for activity. While in the same Grid Square, I observed what appeared to be an aircraft flying along the MTR on an Easterly heading. I remarked to 1st Lt. Hooper that there was a strange aircraft traveling along the MTR at six-thousand (6000) feet indicated. At this time we were approximately sixty-three hundred (6300) feet indicated. The observation of the object was first observed in Grid Square, DT 2241, against a cloud background.

I called the attention of the object to 1st Lt. Hooper for his observation. The first time I noticed the object, it was 1230 from us. I continued to clock the object and called at 1 and 2 o'clock. This time we both had the object under observation. At first sighting, I approximated the speed to be 200 MPH. When object was approximately 2 o'clock from us, it started to slow down. At that time there was no background but the darkness of the hills. The object hovered and we dipped the right wing to observe. The object was 25 feet in diameter and silver in color, and seemed to glow. The object was hovering at the time. Object then changed path of flight to the East by Northeast heading, accelerating to a speed of approximately 800 MPH. We turned the aircraft to keep the object under observation. The object flew out to sea out of our sight. The closest observation was approximately 3 miles from us. I was observing it with the naked eye, while the other pilot was wearing Air Force issued sun glasses. Object hovered in Grid Square, DT 2942.

s/t/THOMAS A. O'NEILL
1st Lt., USAF
6149th Tac. Con. Sq.

473260

Incl #3

ATTN 102859-C

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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STATEMENT

17 October 1952

On 16 October 1952 while in the vicinity of the Punch Bowl, DT 2842 at 0652I, while on a heading of 280 degrees, I observed an unidentified object approximately three (3) miles North Northeast of my position, traveling on an Easterly heading and slowing down. Spherical shaped, appearing silver in color and about twenty-five (25) feet in diameter. When first observed, I dropped the right wing to get a better view of the object. At this time the object was observed to stop and hover. Object started moving in an East North Easterly direction, accelerating to what I estimated to be about 800 miles per hour. As the object started moving, I turned toward it. Object's speed was estimated at 800 MPH as it covered approximately 15,000 meters in such short lapse of time.

At the time of the observation, I was wearing Air Force issued sun glasses and pilot in the rear cockpit was observing it with the naked eye. Object appeared to have the same color and shape as a ball bearing. The sun was at my back and when I first observed the object it was outlined against a background of hills. My altitude was 6300 feet indicated and the object was at approximately 6,000 feet indicated. I first observed the object in the vicinity of DT 285425. I observed the object until it was in the vicinity of the coastline at which time it faded from sight due to early morning haze over the ocean.

From my heading, the object was observed at the following clock positions, 1, 2 and 3 o'clock. At 3 o'clock, the object was outlined against a background of hills. I observed the object for about 15 seconds at the hovering position.

s/t/WILLIAM H. HOOPER
 1st Lt., USAF
 6149th Tac. Con. Sq.

ATM 102859-D

Incl #4

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