

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

Intelligence Division, Hq MATS
Andrews AFB, Washington 25, D.C.

REPORT NO.

IR-267-50

PAGE

2

OF

3

PAGES

The following information in amplification of IR-244-50 (AF 218100), USA-MATS, which concerned a radar contact with an unidentified aerial object near Bermuda on 25 August 1950 was forwarded by the Intelligence Officer, 1604th Air Base Group, Bermuda.

- a. A B-29 of the 373rd Reconnaissance Squadron (VLR) Weather, Bermuda Base Command, piloted by 1st Lt Frank J. Stockton, departed Kindley Air Force Base, Bermuda, at 1306Z on 24 August 1950, on a special weather mission. Eleven hours later, while flying at a speed of 192 knots at 10,000 feet, on a heading of 27° and at a position of 29° 40' N and 67° 28' W, the radar operator, S/Sgt William M. Shaffer, turned on his APQ 13-A, which had been off for several minutes. Shortly after initiating a routine search procedure, a distinct and bright target appeared on the radar scope at 0004Z. The target appeared to be traveling on the same heading and at the same speed as the B-29, at approximately 1,000 feet below, 10° to the left of 12 o'clock, and 1½ miles in front. S/Sgt Shaffer immediately informed the pilot of the contact. The pilot in turn instructed all crew members to be alert for a possible visual observation of the object.
- b. While the B-29 was held at a constant speed and altitude, the object remained in the same relative position for several minutes before gradually seeming to reduce its speed until it was overtaken and passed by the B-29. The radar scope showed the object to be approximately 1/4 mile off the left wing when passed. Once passed, the unidentified object seemed to assume a position in-trail of the B-29 for an approximate 5-minute period.
- c. In the same gradual manner that the object had reduced speed and dropped behind, it then increased its speed sufficiently to overtake the B-29, passing to the right but keeping within a 1/4 mile radius. After drawing slightly ahead of the weather reconnaissance aircraft, the unidentified object seemed to begin a gradual turn to the right and then accelerated rapidly. At this time Lt Stockton made a 20° turn to his left to determine whether the target would follow. The target did not follow the weather aircraft but continued in its gradual turn to the right until it disappeared from the scope at 0024Z at a position of 30° 15' N and 67° 12' W. When last observed on the scope, the unidentified object was traveling at an estimated speed of 400 knots.
- d. No visual sighting was made during the period that the target remained in the scope. The visibility range was diminished by the oncoming dusk. Sky coverage at the time was 4/8, with towering cumulus with tops at about 13,000 feet.
- e. The target which was seen in the scope was confirmed by two officer members of the B-29's crew. All three persons observing the target in the scope stated that they were positive that what they observed was a true target and not an echo or false reading.
- f. At approximately 3 minutes after the target was last observed in the scope the left scanner of the weather aircraft reported that he observed a bluish streak flash past the left wing of the B-29 from a head-on direction and about 1,000 feet below. The flash was reported to be less brilliant than lightning, but similar in appearance to the light left by a meteor in its descent.
- g. Radio reception was normal at all times before, during, and after the appearance of the target on the scope.
- h. S/Sgt Shaffer stated that he had been having some difficulty with the APQ 13-A prior to the appearance of the unidentified target. He said, however, that at the time of the observation the set was apparently in perfect working condition.

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3

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3

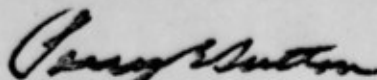
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Sgt Shaffer has been a radar operator for more than three years and is considered well qualified in the operation of the APQ 13-A type radar equipment.

1. It is interesting to note that on 22 August 1950, eight residents of Bermuda reported having seen a strange unidentified object in flight over the southwest end of Bermuda. An investigation is said to have revealed the flying object to have been a weather balloon released by the US weather station of the Bermuda Base Command.

HQ MATS COMMENT:

The foregoing report is based on an investigation by the Intelligence Officer, Bermuda Base Command, of the 25 August 1950 incident reported in IR-244-50 (AF 218100) USA-MATS. Whenever conflict occurs between the data in IR-244-50 (AF 218100), USA-MATS and this report, this report is to be deemed correct.



PERCY E. SUTTON
Captain, USAF

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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