CONFIDENTIAL

29 July 1952 Port Huron, Michigan

Description of Incident

On the night of 29 July 1952 an AC&W Station in Michigan observed an unidentified return on the scope. The time was shortly before 2140 CST. The target was plotted at 550 knots on a 360° heading for 20 minutes.

Three F-94B aircraft were in the area making practice runs on a B-25. One of these aircraft was requested by GCI to investigate the unknown target. The aircraft climbed out of the practice area on a heading of 270° to 20,000'. GCI called and requested a visual search to be made at 3 o'clock. A turn to 3 o'clock was started when the radar operator got a lock-on from a target at 2:30 o'clock level, four miles away. The lock-on was held for only 30 seconds. As the turn was made, a bright, flashing, colored light was observed by the pilot. He turned into the light on a heading of 360° and followed it for twenty minutes at an IAS of 350 knots at 21,000 ft. The light remained between 12 and 1 o'clock. At the time of the lock-on, the aircraft was 20 miles west of Port Huron, Michigan.

The GCI radar was carrying both the unidentified target and the F-94 on the scope. Since the F-94 could not close, it was assumed by GCI that the object increased its speed to that of the F-94.

Comments

Two other F-94 aircraft were airborne, but they continued making practice runs on a B-25 and were not in the area at the time of the sighting.

The star, Capella, is directly in line with the F-94's line of flight and the aircraft would have been flying straight toward it. It is very low on the horizon and appears to be flashing green, blue, red, etc. At first it was believed that this is what the pilot saw, but when it was established that both the F-94 and the UFO were being carried on the GCI scope, Capella becomes a doubtful suspect.

It could be that this is a series of coincident weather phenomena affecting the radar equipment and sightings of Capella, but this is stretching probabilities too far.

A balloon can be disregarded since the speeds are too high for even a jet stream.

Three weak inversions were noted below 10,000'.

Conclusions

Unknown