Statement Cont'd. (Guthrie)

UNCLASSIFIED

A. Cont'd. Kildare asked us to indentify, and we found that impossible to do.

Q. Why couldn't you?

A. Object was too high and we were suffering from a fuel shortage.

Q. Direction. Had this object maintained a Southerly direction during your attempt to intercept it?

A. It had maintained "Orbit to Right."

Q. Your position at 0925 was where and what altitude?

A. In the vicinity of SAN ANTONIO PEAK, Alt: 43,500ft.

Q. Do you know if there were any other Interceptors air borne on or about the L.A. area, when you were on Intercept Scramble?

A. Yes. Two others from George A.F.B.

Q. Separate flights?

A. Yes, a separate flight.

Q. Do you know if they were aware of the proximity of this object?

A. No. However, they had sighted it at Long Beach and they had sighted it before us.

Q. Can you give the sequences of Vectors if any given you by ACW or any other such agencies?

A. There were no Vectors given by Kildare because object was not reflected in the radar scope.

Q. Do you know if your flight was observed Kildare scope?

A. I don't know. But I presume they did.

Q. Have you ever requested a Fix from them?

A. Yes, and they have given us a position Fix.

Q. What do you think your object sighted could have been, bearing and its behaviour?

A. It is my opinion it was a free weather balloon, influenced by upper air currents.

Harold E. Guthrie

HAROLD E. GUTHRIE
Captain USAF
Intelligence Officer

UNCLASSIFIED

"A"

HEADQUARTERS
1ST FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR WING
NORTON AIR FORCE BASE, CALIF.

[redacted]

SUBJECT: WEATHER REPORT.

UNCLASSIFIED

Winds Aloft — 23 Sept 51

The following information was extracted from record files maintained by Base Weather Station, Norton AF Base, San Bernardino, California. Major Harmon USAF, Weather Squadron Commanding Officer.

WINDS ALOFT. 23 Sept 51- 1500Z= 0700 hrs Pacific Time

200 M.B. = 40,200 ft. Los Angeles Area

Long Beach— Wind from due West 270 degrees at 20 knots.

Phoenix— " " " " 270 " " 35 " .

Las Vegas— " " " " 280 " " 20 " .

Indicating these winds were constant from West to East

(Note) a. This is at variance with Guthrie who reported object orbitting to right.(item free balloon).

b. Reichman reported "object" orbitting left would be more correct.(item free balloon)

c. Harvey's report--object over M.A.F.B. could not, or at least eliminates (item free balloon)

WINDS ALOFT--12 hours later. ie. 0300Z 24th or 1900 Pac Time 23 Sept 51.

Winds change to N.W. with no appreciable increase in velocity, except Tuscon..winds up to 45 knots.

TEMPERATURES--aloft were MINUS 55 degrees generally in both cases.

CHAS. F. CASEY
Major USAF
Intelligence Officer
1st. Ftr-Intcp. Wing.

UNCLASSIFIED

"D"

[redacted]

HEADQUARTERS
94TH FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON
George Air Force Base, California

UNCLASSIFIED

11 December 1951

SUBJECT: Investigation of high flying Unidentified Object.

TO : Commanding General
1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing
Norton Air Force Base,
San Bernardino, California

1. Reference letter 27 AD01-360.1. The attached reports are submitted herewith.

a. Statement of pilots making observation

b. Map

c. Overlays

d. Weather Rept. Winds Aloft...extract Records 23 Sept 51 C.F.C.

2. Pilots were interrogated by Major Charles F. Cavitt, C.F.C. Intelligence Officer of the 1st Fighter-Interceptor Wing.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

Harold E. Guthrie

HAROLD E. GUTHRIE
Captain USAF
Intelligence Officer

Incls:
A. Statements by:

Capt. James H. Harvey
Capt. Harold E. Guthrie
Capt. Omer J. Reichman

B. Map

C. Overlays

D. Weather Rept. Winds Aloft. Extract records 23 Sept 51 C.F.C.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

11 December 1951

1. On 23 September 1951 at approximately 0810 ST a bogie was sighted about 50,000 feet over Long Beach. I, Captain James H. Harvey and my flight of four were dispatched by Kill Deer to investigate this bogie. When we sighted this bogie he appeared to be over Muroc. When we reached an altitude of 43,000 feet this object was in the vicinity of March Air Force Base.

From 43,000 feet this bogie appeared to be between 50,000 and 55,000 feet and also appeared to be a swept-wing, fighter-type aircraft. He was also noted to be in a constant orbit.

2. Q. When you were Vectored by the Long Beach area, were you able to Fix your position?

A. Yes, at approximately 117° 30 W. 33° 20 N.

Q. Did you see this object?

A. Yes.

Q. What position was it, in relation to you?

A. 12% and very high.

Q. What was your heading at that time?

A. 340° Compass Heading. (350° [illegible])

Q. Did you alert the rest of your flight?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. By what method?

A. Radio.

Q. Were you on the same comm. channel as Kill Deer?

A. Yes.

[redacted]

"A" (HARVEY)

UNCLASSIFIED

Q. Did your flight Roger your information?

A. Yes they did.

Q. Were you sure Kill Deer read you also?

A. Right, because Kill Deer knew of object.

Q. Did you question Kill Deer if they could read object on the scope?

A. I did not, but Captain Reichman did.

Q. Were you over Muroc at any time?

A. Negative.

Q. Did you attempt to intercept object?

A. Yes I did with my three companions.

Q. What happened. Were you able to intercept?

A. No——because we had external tanks, and 43,000 feet was the highest we could get. Plus fuel shortages. If we had dropped our tanks, I believe we could have attained higher altitude.

Q. Did you ask permission to drop tanks?

A. No.

Q. Did Control instruct you to do so?

A. No.

Q. Did you lose sight of object at any time?

A. No.

Q. How long did you remain in area with object?

A. I don't know exactly, but at least 10 to 15 minutes. Not being able to climb higher, we broke off the intercept, because of the fuel shortage, and returned to Base.

Q. Did Kill Deer release you, or what comm did you have with Control?

A. Yes, when informed of our position.

Q. Did Kill Deer inform you a new interception was in progress?

A. No.

"A"

Statement Cont'd.(Harvey)

UNCLASSIFIED

Q. Were you at any time over or near March Base?

A. Yes, within 10 miles, altitude 43,000ft.

Q. Did you see this object then?

A. Yes, it appeared, from angle we were at, to be directly over March AF. Base.

Q. Any noticeable manuevers?

A. No, just an orbit——varied between left and right.

Q. Would you say it was a controlled orbit?

A. Yes, it appeared so; the turn was held in. It's controlled.

Q. Did you hear March Tower talk at any time?

A. No. I was on a different frequency.

Q. Can you describe the object?

A. It appeared to be a swept back wing, bright silver color. In size prospection, it would fit within the radii of a gun sight.

Q. What altitude do you estimate object was at?

A. 50-55,000 feet.

Q. Your altitude at this time was 43,000 feet.

A. Yes, it was.

Q. That would indicate approximately 12,000 feet difference between you and the object?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the weather and visibility?

A. Clear and unlimited.

Q. In your own opinion Captain, what do you deduce it(the object) could have been?

A. It could have been a free ballon.

Q. Did you discuss this object with your co-pilots.

A. Yes. We were not quite definite, but it was an unidentified object.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Q. What time did you land?

A. At about 0845.

James H. Harvey
JAMES H. HARVEY
Captain USAF

[redacted]

[redacted]

"A"

UNCLASSIFIED

STATEMENT

[redacted] 11 December 1951

1. Captain Omer J. Reichman states: On the morning of ~~23~~ 23 September, 1951, I was one of an element of two that Scrambled at approximately 0700 hours. The nature of this crambe was to intercept unidentified object. We were Vectored over Long Beach Bay, arriving there at 0715 at approximately 30,000feet. I was in a port orbit over position (118° 40 W--33° 50 N). I took up a Vector to Long Beach range at approximately 80° heading. At a period 30 seconds from Long Beach Range, I saw this object at 12 o/c high above me. It appeared to be in a left orbit of an undaterment speed, at above 50,000feet altitude. It continued on a left orbit and passed directly over me, port to starboard. It appeared to have swept back wing of 45° and a very bright silver coloring---like sun reflecting on water. The prospection of the object seemed very far away.

2. Did the pilot of your element also see this object?

A. Yes. (Name Jack C. Rico~~'~~t, ~~Captain.~~ Lt) Now TDY MAXWELL Fld.

Q. Did you attract his attention to the object?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you satisfy yourself he saw and recognized object pointed out?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. How did you accomplish this?

A. Over the radio, V.H.F.

Q. Is that on the same channel as Kill Deer?

A. Yes. I called this information into them. They Rogered but they did not have object on the radar scope.

UNCLASSIFIED

"A" (REICHMAN) [redacted]

Q. Could they, or was Kill Deer tracking you?

A. Yes.

Q. You are quite certain Kill Deer Rogered you, but it could not Roger object?

A. Right. At the time I called in my position.

Q. What was your position at the time?

A. 30 seconds from Long Beach, heading 80 degrees. Probably Mag

Q. Did you notice any manuevers from this object?

A. No. It continued in a left orbit.

Q. Were you in vicinity of Rumso at any time?

A. I passed within 20 miles going out and returning. Could not see object there.

Q. Did you try to intercept it?

A. No. The shortage of fuel and altitude of this object prevented me from doing so.

Q. Are you positive Kill Deer was aware of object, and also of your fuel shortage?

A. Yes, they were, because they had Vectored the next flight into the vicinity and released us.

Q. In your own opinion, what do you think the object could have been?

A. I am of the opinion it was an A/C of some sort, being in a state of burn.

Q. Have you discussed this object with others who also saw it, and if so, how.

A. Yes, because of curiosity and attempting to resolve it. I also reported it on landing. Capt Harvey made a written report.

Q. Did you lose sight of the object.

A. No. I left because of fuel shortage, and object was still in a port orbit, altitude approx. 50,000 ft.

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Statement Cont'd. (Reichman) [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Q. What time approximately did you break off?

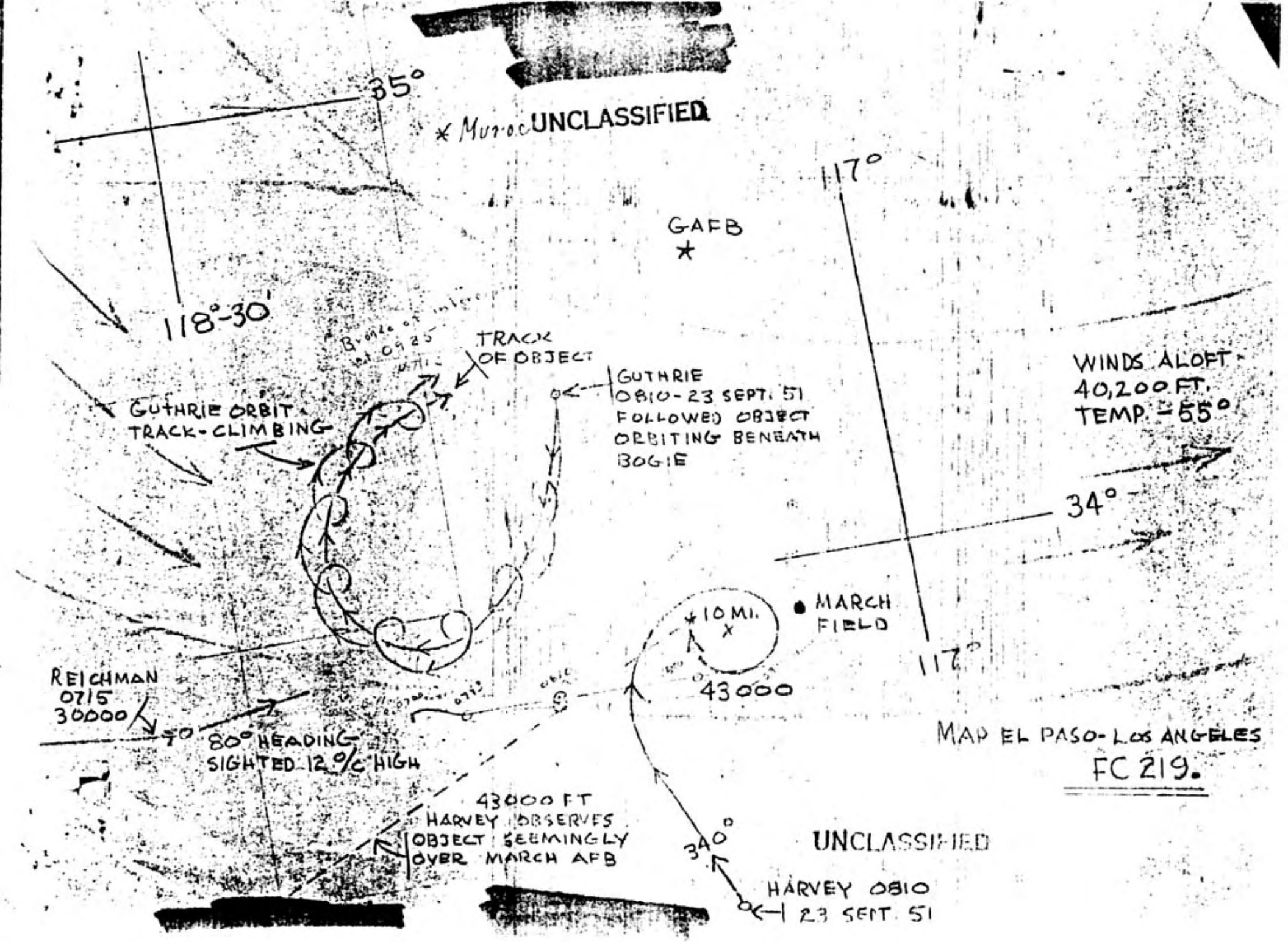
A. About 0810 to 0815.- Heading directly to Base at a 33° heading.

OMER J. REICHMAN
Captain USAF

[redacted]

"A"

UNCLASSIFIED


35°
UNCLASSIFIED
117°
GAFB
118°-30
TRACK OF OBJECT
GUTHRIE ORBIT TRACK-CLIMBING
GUTHRIE OBIO-23 SEPT. 51 FOLLOWED OBJECT ORBITING BENEATH BOGIE
WINDS ALOFT 40,200 FT. TEMP. -55°
34°
10 MI.
MARCH FIELD
43000
REICHMAN 0715 30000
80° HEADING SIGHTED 12°C HIGH
43000 FT HARVEY OBSERVES OBJECT SEEMINGLY OVER MARCH AFB
HARVEY OBIO 23 SEPT. 51
MAP EL PASO-LOS ANGELES
FC 219.
UNCLASSIFIED

650
640
630
620
610
600
To Silver Lake
269 SIL
To Silver Lake
116°
269
DANGER AREA
Coyote Lake
AMBER 2
Baxter
Crucero
ALICO GUEST RANCH
1925
Harvard
VOR
DAGGETT RADIO
116.5 DAG
Hector
Daggett
DAGGETT RADIO
365 DAG
DAGGETT
Ludlow
255°
BLUE 24
DOUBLE J RANCH
2955
Lucerne Valley
GIANT ROCK
2700
Building
TWENTYNINE PA
1761
Twentynine Palm
BIG BEAR CITY
Baldwin Lake
Big Bear City
8335
8502
9842
K FIELD
2380
YUCCA VALLEY
3333
BEAUMONT
2570
11485
SAN GORGONIO
REDLANDS
Redlands
GREEN 5
Desert Hot Sprs
256°
Beaumont
Banning
PALM SPRINGS
Garnet
SAN JACINTO PK
10805
Edom
Whitewater R
BANNING
Palm Springs
PALM SPRINGS
PALM DESERT
La Quinta
Indio
Coachella
MARCH AFB
Santo Jacinto
Hemet
Winchester
7150
6823
8705
Camp
Ranch
56°
CLARKS DRY
Ranch
Observatory
6138
6533
Warner Springs
WARNER SPRINGS
Fallbrook
Pala
CAUTION AREA
OCEANSIDE
Bonsall
Henshaw Lake
BORREGO VALLEY SAN DIEG
RED 65
Valley Center
McCORMICK
2144
550
Escondido
JULIAN
263 JLI
Ranch
Santa Ysabel
OCOTIL

EL PASO TO LOS ANGELES, U. S. A. FC 219

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CO, ATIC

TO: Commanding Officer
Air Force Weather Squadron
Long Beach Municipal Airport
Long Beach, California
RADNOTE

INFO: D/I, Hq USAF, Washington 25, D. C.
RADNOTE

DATE-TIME GROUP	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
301845Z Nov 51	
PRECEDENCE FOR: ACTION Routine	INFORMATION
☐ BOOK MESSAGE	☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE
☒ MULTIPLE ADDRESS	CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO
REFERS TO MESSAGE:	
IDENTIFICATION	CLASSIFICATION

ATIAA-11-42. This Center has been informed that your station launched a weather balloon between 0645 and 0746 PST on 23 Sept 1951, and that it was lost at 42,900 feet. It is requested that more exact details be forwarded by mail as soon as possible for use in high priority classified project. Information needed is:

a. Exact time of launch.

b. Ground track of balloon until it was lost.

c. Time and location when balloon was lost.

d. Winds aloft.

e. Rate of ascent.

f. Type of balloon.

In reply refer to Project Grudge.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted] COPY [redacted] OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)
Lt K. J. Ruppelt/vs

SYMBOL
ATIAA-3s

TELEPHONE
52261

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

OFFICIAL TITLE
KENNETH T. FINCH, Capt, USAF
Asst Air Adjutant General

DD FORM 1 OCT 49 173 REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49 WHICH MAY BE USED.

16—58923-3 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DETACHMENT 10-6
10TH WEATHER SQUADRON
LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

4 December 1951

SUBJECT: Flight of Weather Balloon (Project Grudge)

TO: Commanding Officer
ATIC Wright Patterson AFB
Ohio

1. Reference your TWX 30 November 1951, The following information is submitted:

a. Launching time 0700P.

b. Ground track of balloon is shown in enclosed graph.

c. Balloon lost at 0743P, eight (8) miles east of this station, bearing ninety-five (95) degrees.

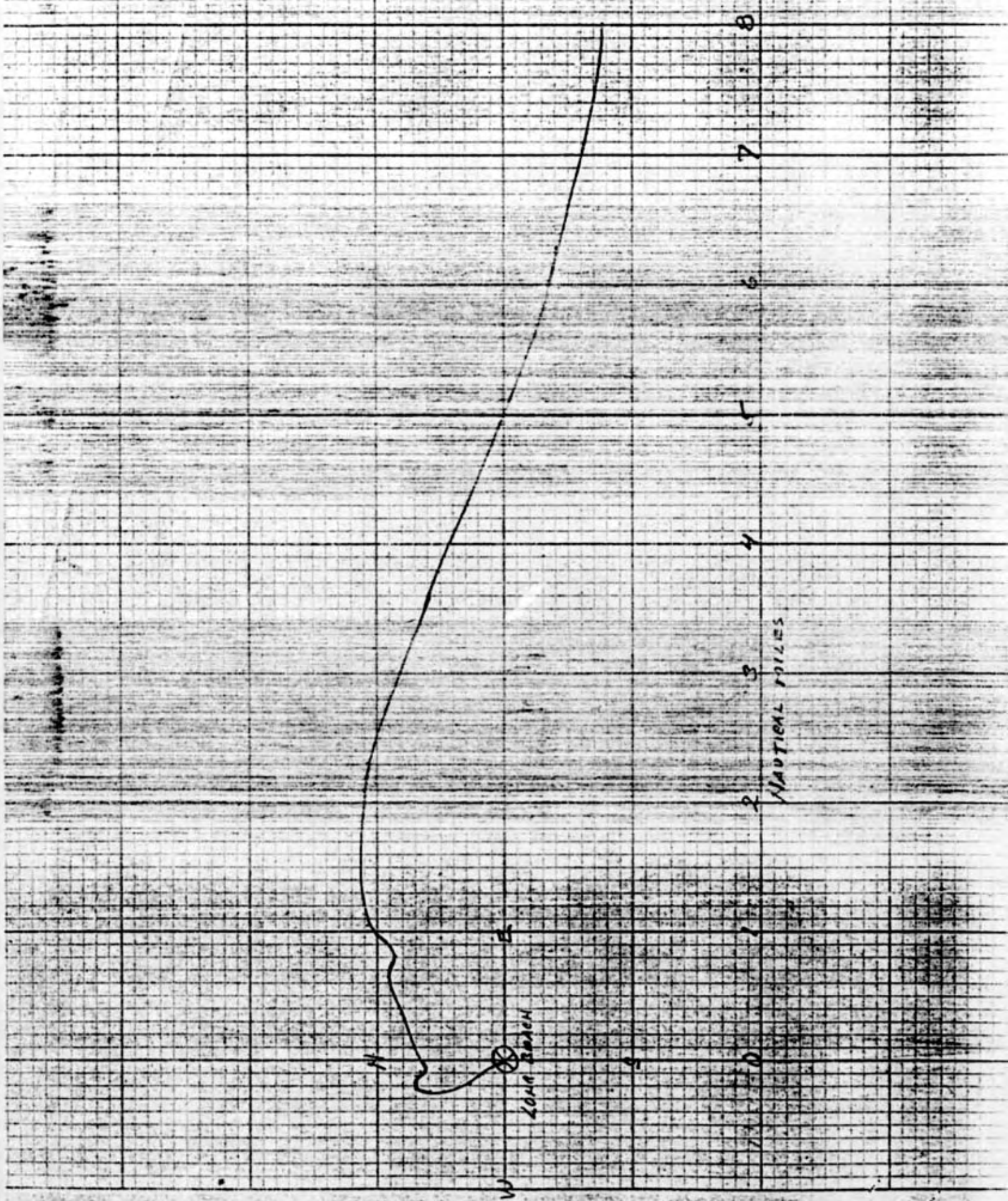
d. Winds Aloft:

Height	Direction	knots
SFC	160 deg	02
1000	140	04
2000	140	05
3000	140	07
4000	160	07
5000	170	05
6000	180	06
7000	200	07
8000	270	04
9000	310	03
10000	320	03
12000	240	05
14000	250	09
16000	250	09
18000	290	05
20000	230	10
25000	270	15
30000	290	19
35000	290	32
40000	280	21

e. Rate of ascent was 1000 feet per minute.

f. Type of balloon used was ML-391.

Kenneth T. Brooks
KENNETH T. BROOKS
Major, USAF



"PERFECT" CROSS SECTION
10 X 10 = ONE INCH
EUGENE DIETZGEN CO.

"PERFECT" CROSS SECTION
10 X 10 = ONE INCH
EUGENE DIETZGEN CO.

W

LONG BEACH

E

N

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

NAUTICAL MILES

Santa Maria Winds - 23 September 1951 - 1000 EST (0700 PST)

Surface	Calm
1,000'	100° - 2K
2,000'	130° - 2K
2,500'	200° - 3K
4,000'	340° - 6K
4,500'	340° - 7K
6,000'	340° - 7K
7,000'	340° - 7K
8,000'	330° - 4K
8,500	240° - 2K
10,000'	190° - 8K
12,000'	220° - 14K
14,000'	220° - 13K
16,000	230° - 6K
18,000	240° - 6K
20,000	230° - 6K
25,000	270° - 10K
30,000	270° - 5K
35,000	270° - 7K