

Bowen-Knapp Camera Station V
White Sands Proving Ground
Las Cruces, N. M.

23 June, 1949.

Special report of object seen in sky, as requested by
Mr. C. W. Tombaugh.

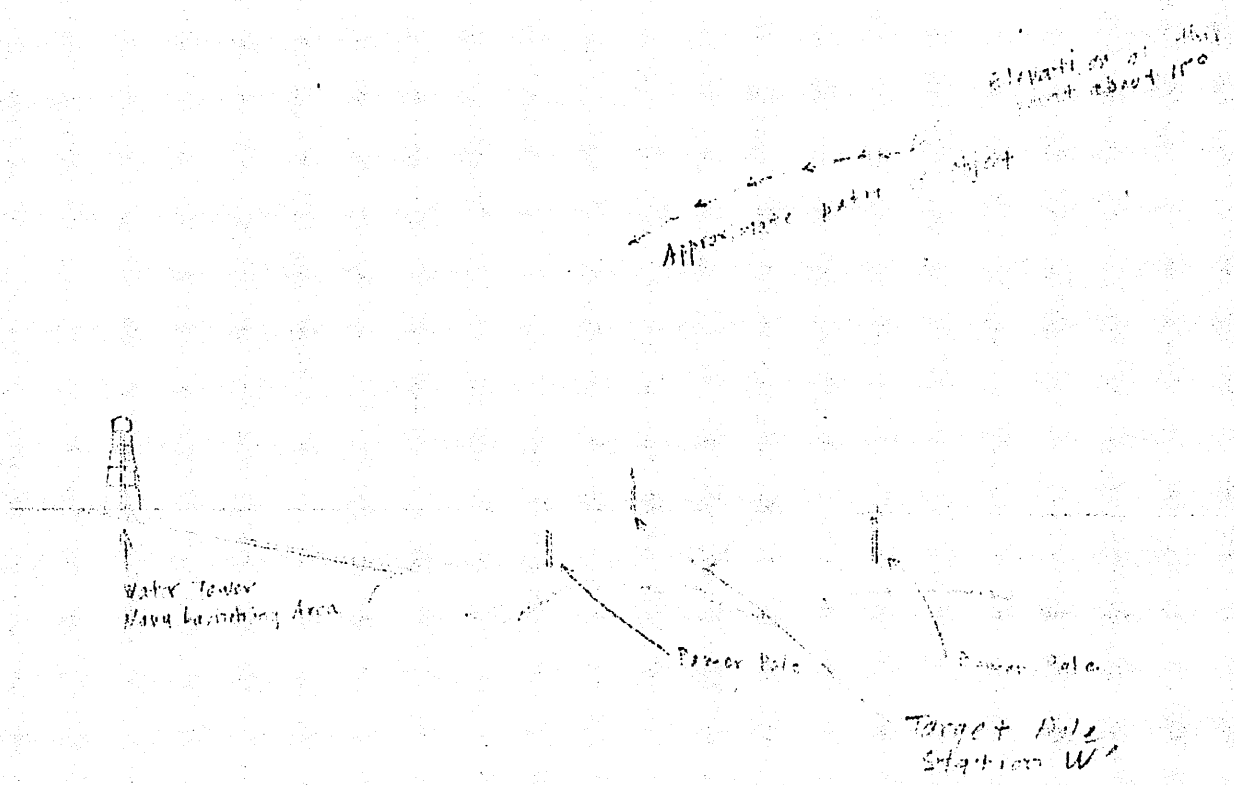
At about 9:30 a.m. on 23 June, 1949, during operation of aircraft for tracking practice of Askania and Telescope cameras of this post, and toward the end of the first southward run of this ~~plane~~ ^{aircraft}, I stepped to the door of Station V and glanced in a generally east southeast direction, whence the sound of the plane seemed to be reaching me.

I did not see the plane at this nor at any other time, but almost immediately on looking in the stated direction I saw what appeared to be a shiny metal object, at an elevation of approximately 15° and moving toward my left with an increasing downward movement. The object was in view for 2-4 seconds, then it disappeared while still well above the horizon. I could not distinguish any defined shape of the object but it seemed as though a sheet of aluminum or other shiny metal might have similar appearance and move in a similar manner. It appeared to be "fluttering" and repeatedly caught and reflected the sun's rays.

I gave little thought to the matter until when, some time later, Mr. R. J. Humphries (who had stepped out of the building before I did and was using binoculars in an attempt to see the aircraft) mentioned having seen several objects apparently of the same sort. A sketch herewith indicates approximate location of flight of this object as it appeared to me and as I recall it.

Alfred W. Pugh
chief, Station V.

Sketch



View from station V. Direction approx. ESE.

23 June 1949
Rubins