THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

interval of perhaps half an hour, would be incredible.

Incident 533 is the only one of the four that includes the daytime observation of a celestial object. The importance of this incident is, however, paramount, for it was in trailing some mysterious object that Lieutenant Mantell lost his life. Again it is possible that the object observed was the planet Venus, although this cannot be made as definitive as that for the sighting made later that day. First, the bearing of the object as reported by various witnesses differs considerably; one says southwest, another says south. For the sake of argument, however, interpreting all the evidence, one is a bit hard put when to determine of the object's position with that of Venus. The following short table of situations vs the position of Venus shows the general movement of the two in azimuth:

Hr.	Object	Venus
1330 (Pvt. Oliver)	SW of field	Al ost due S: 1.4°
1400 (Sgt. Blackwell, (PFC Oliver)	North of field	[illegible]
after 1400 (Lt. Orner)	SW	from due S (130°), at 1400, moving westward 150°
1440 (Capt. Mantell)	210°	
(Col. Hix,	218°	

A more pertinent question is that of whether it would have been possible to see Venus in the daytime on that day. All that can be said here is that it was not impossible to see the planet under those conditions. It is well known that when Venus is at its greatest brilliancy, it is possible to see it during the daytime when one knows exactly where to look, and on January 7, 1948, Venus was less than half

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED