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Rhein-Main AFB, Germany

16 November 1959

I. Description of Incident

From 1945Z to 1900Z, the OCA radar at Rhein-Main picked up radar returns whose speed varied from 100 to 190 mph. The measured altitudes were from 200' to 800'. Both OCA operators have had two years' experience. Ground observers were sent to location of returns, but could not see anything in the air.

One operator had seen a similar situation while stationed in Alaska and it was thought to be caused by icing conditions.

The weather was reported as 7/8 mile visibility, light fog, ceiling 400' - 600', overcast, with a ground temperature of -3°C.

II. Discussion of Incident

The reported maneuvers and speeds of the radar returns are similar to those that have occurred at Washington National Airport.

No data on inversions are available, but similar sightings have been due to weather.

III. Conclusion

Returns due to weather.

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