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(54) **Aerial target system**

(57) The present invention relates to an air-borne target system. The use of aerial targets in weapons training situations is well known. Targets towed by aircraft or self-propelled targets simulate the characteristics against which anti-aircraft shells and missiles might be used. Those characteristics might include shape or thermal signatures. Gas or petroleum powered burners have been used to heat a mesh or solid surface which gives the required thermal signature. However, the use of a burner also provides a visual indicator. Whilst not

causing any problems for daylight training missions, during night-time operations, often a person training in the use of anti-aircraft weaponry inadvertently follows the visual signature rather than the thermal signature. This clearly reduces the effectiveness of the training in simulating battle conditions where there may be no visual indication as to a target's location. The present invention addresses this problem by providing an aerial target including an electrically-powered heater unit.

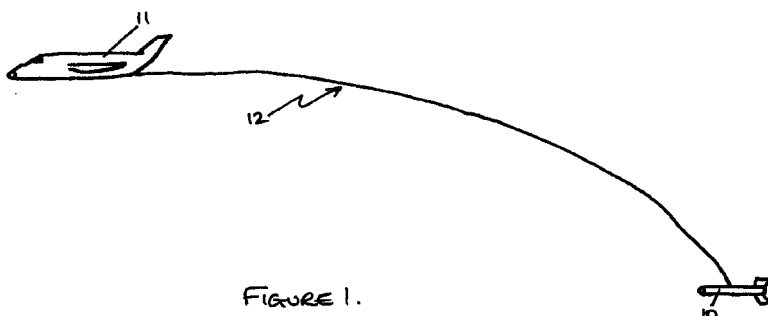


FIGURE 1.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 20 3554

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 3 May 1999	Examiner Van der Plas, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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