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COUNTRY USA REPORT NO. 1 (LEAVE BLANK) *4539830*

Blue Book

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT

Report of Unidentified Flying Object

AREA REPORTED ON Horry County, South Carolina FROM (Agency) Commanding Officer, Pope AFB, N. C.

DATE OF REPORT 5 Mar 53 DATE OF INFORMATION 24 - 25 Feb 53 EVALUATION F-6

PREPARED BY (Officer) 2d Lt Earl M Crouch SOURCE

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Msg IC-148 fr CO ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio Dt-time Gp 190539Z Feb 53

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

Report of the sighting of an unidentified flying object by Lloyd C Booth of Conway, South Carolina, at 300345Z (January). Three (3) Navy blimps were reported in the area at approximately the time of sighting. It is probable that what Booth saw was one of these blimps.

Earl M. Crouch

EARL M Crouch
2d Lt, USAF
Investigation Officer

Approved.

George S. Luketich
Maj USAF
Executive
CARTER E DUNCAN
Colonel, USAF
Commanding
fm.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) of (E)
USAF M. M. A. 7/31/78
By W. J. NARS, Date 11/2/78
LBJ

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3. Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, ATTN: NCFOI, Pope AFB, Ft Bragg, NC
4. File, Headquarters 4415th Air Base Group, Pope Air Force Base, Fort Bragg, NC

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1. The object sighted by Lloyd C. Booth of Conway, S. C., on the night of 29 January 1953 had the following identifying characteristics:

a. Shape - The bottom of the object was oblong-shaped. The top was of a shape much like an egg cut in half. The front blended in with the oblong bottom and had a cob-like affair extending about four (4) feet around the sides. The back was in a point, had two (2) round openings on either side covered by red glass (apparently exterior lights) approximately 16 or 18 inches in diameter. On the bottom of the craft was a crescent-shaped object which looked much like a large counter sunk wheel and which covered about half of the overall length of craft.

b. Size - The object appeared to be approximately 24 to 26 feet long and about 8 feet tall excluding the projection on the bottom which was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 feet tall and approximately the same in width.

c. Color - The object was observed to be a dull light gray color, not like aluminum at all, more like it was painted. This was all observed under a full moon.

d. Numbers - There was only one (1) craft observed by Mr. Booth.

e. Trail or Exhaust - No trail or exhaust was observed.

f. Propulsion System - No visible means of propulsion was observed. There were no jet openings as exhaust pipes noticed. The observer stated that the object had a dull humming or whizzing sound to it like a large electric motor running.

g. Speed - When first observed, the object was practically standing still. It was so slow that the observer states that he walked along under it and observed it for about twenty (20) minutes. It was about twenty (20) minutes after first observing the object that Mr. Booth fired on it with a 22 caliber pistol. Mr. Booth stated that he heard the first shot hit the object and bounce off. It was then the object tilted slightly and went up at about a 65° angle at a speed estimated to be between 600 and 700 M.P.H. No erratic movements were noted. The object was traveling practically due west when it disappeared.

h. There were no identifying marks such as numbers, insignias, and the like. No human elements were observed in the object although the cockpit-like affair was fully lighted.

2. The object was observed at 300345Z (January) for a period of twenty (20) minutes. The object was approximately 80 feet above the ground at the time.

3. The manner of observation was visible and was observed by Mr. Booth alone.

4. The location of the observer during sighting was approximately 200 yards from his home which is located 1/2 mile to 1 mile off U.S. Highway 701, 7 miles northwest of Conway, S. C. There are no known landmarks in this vicinity. The object was observed from the ground and headed due West.

5. Mr. Booth was the only observer of this object on the night of 29 January 1953. In the statements given to the press and to me, Mr. Booth stated that he was very familiar with all types of aircraft, including blimps, having served with an anti-aircraft unit for 22 months during World War II. On checking on the reliability of Booth's story and of his character, many people were interviewed. All testified that Booth was of the highest type character, that he was not prone to lying, and that he was definitely not a publicity seeker nor a drinking man. On interviewing Booth, it was found that he

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was of an introvert nature which corresponds with the statements of others. The Mayor of Conway, S. C., stated that he was not personally acquainted with Booth, but that he knew of the family and that as far as he knew they were very reliable people. Mr. Larry Baulier, editor of the "Field", one of the two (2) newspapers in Conway, S. C., and the only one which carried the story, stated that he had investigated the story, and that from his own investigations had found nothing which would disprove Booth's story. Mr. Baulier's written statement is inclosed with this report. Mr. W. Horace Carter, General Manager of the "Field" and four (4) other newspapers in the Myrtle Beach area, also gave a written statement in which he said that he had investigated Booth and his story very carefully and that he is convinced that what Booth said is true. Mr. Carter has just been awarded the "Man of the Year" award for the state of North Carolina, and is a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize. From my own investigation of Mr. Booth, I am convinced that he ~~saw~~ something. Booth has had two (2) years college at Wingate College in North Carolina and he served for twenty-two (22) months in the last war. He speaks intelligently, expressing himself very well. However, it is entirely possible that what Booth ~~saw~~ was a Navy blimp enroute from Glynco, Georgia, to Weeksville, N. C. This theory came from C. W. Hall of the CAA Control Tower at Bluetenthal Field, Wilmington, N. C. His story written in the "Field" is inclosed with this report.

6. The weather on the night of 29 January 1953 in the Horry County area was clear and cool with winds about four (4) M.P.H. This is the official report given to me by the 3d Weather Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, N. C. This corresponds to the story given by Booth, but not the one given by the CAA Control Tower. The report from there stated that high headwinds kept the blimps flying from Georgia to North Carolina unusually low.

7. There was apparently no activity or condition, meteorological or otherwise which might account for the sighting.

8. There was no existence of any physical evidence such as fragments, photographs and the like of sighting.

9. There was no interception or identification action taken.

10. Other than the possibility that one of the Navy blimps mentioned above might have been in the area, there was no known air traffic around at the time.

11. Reports of sighting unidentified aircraft of unconventional design have been coming in from the Horry County area for quite some time, but Booth's sighting is the only one that has reported seeing the objects so close at hand. Inclosed with this report are several newspaper articles on the Booth sighting and on other reported sightings. One interesting sidelight gathered from this investigation is that the people of this area are quite upset over the deaths of so many of their cattle. They claim that every time one of these objects is reportedly sighted, within twenty-four (24) hours several cows in the vicinity are found dead. The veterinarians of this area say that the cattle have died from caustic or lead poisoning. This may or may have some bearing on the reported sightings.

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CERTIFICATE OF CHARACTER:

February 25, 1953

To Whom It May Concern:

I have talked to Lloyd C. Booth on five occasions since he sighted a mysterious flying object on the night of January 29, 1953. Mr. Booth has told me the same story on each occasion. He told it in deadly seriousness. He was never tangled up on details and never had to think to answer any question concerning it that I could ask him.

He is quiet, introvert type personality. He is not prone to talk much. He told me one about his experience for several days after the incident other than his immediate family.

I talked with a large number of Mr. Booth's neighbors, including some who have known him all his life. Everyone has said that he is a good, Christian, God-fearing man that has never been known to lie or misrepresent anything. Rev. Ewell Jones, a Baptist preacher in Horry county who has known Booth all his life, said that he was of good character and when he told you something you could depend upon it. The same story is told by every individual in that community that we have contacted.

/t/s/ W. Horace Carter

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

CERTIFICATE OF CHARACTER:

February 25, 1953

As far as I know from my own investigation I would say that the report of Mr. Booth as to the "flying saucer" is substantial and Mr. Booth's character and past is reliable.

/t/s/ LARRY BAULIER
Editor of the Field
Conway, South Carolina

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THE FIELD, Conway, S. C., Thursday, February 5, 1953

HORRY COUNTY MAN SHOOTS FLYING SAUCER

Disk Vanishes After Receiving
Direct Hit

All over the United States reports have been made of the sighting of various unusual objects in the air, now generally referred to as "flying saucers," and just such a thing was reliably reported by Lloyd C. Booth, of the Poplar and Adrian community of Horry County, this week.

Booth is a 29 year old ex-serviceman, a member of the Poplar Methodist Church and of exceedingly high character throughout the area in which he is known. There is no doubt in the minds of those who know him well, including ministers, that he is by nature truthful and of high moral integrity. What he saw was no hoax, and he had ample time to study it in great detail.

Booth runs a community store and service station on highway 701 about eight miles north of Conway. He usually keeps his business open until about 11:00, which he did on the night of January 29, last Thursday.

He lives with his parents a mile or so from the store and after closing the station, he drove home and arrived there at about 11:15. His mother had left his supper prepared for him as usual so he put on the coffee pot and sat down to read the paper while it was heating.

A few minutes later, he heard one of his father's mules neighing at the barn. A few minutes more and a second mule began causing a commotion, a mule that is not easily disturbed. Then at about the same moment, the chickens and a pen of ducks began hollering and Booth sensing something awry, grabbed a 22 calibre pistol and went outside to investigate.

He was particularly anxious to investigate because the day before a cow of his had died suddenly, and the veterinarian diagnosed her cause of death as poisoning. Portions of the cow were cut up and sent off for laboratory study to determine what type poisoning.

Thus, Booth thought perhaps some more stock was being tampered with by some one. When he was outside the house, he went directly to the barn, and seeing nothing, he went around behind the building. By this time it was near midnight and a full moon lit up the sky. The eclipse of the moon on the same night had already completely vanished. From his vantage point there, he looked up above the top of the pine trees, and there was the strange object that at first frightened him but never kept him from fully investigating.

The object was almost still, like it was drifting at a pace slower than the fast walk of a human. It was only some ten feet above the tree tops and easily visible. It was making a very low humming noise, barely detectable. Booth realizing he was perhaps getting the best view in history of the long discussed "flying saucer" yelled loud and long for some one at the house, about 200 yards away. But the late hour had them soundly asleep, and he was not able to arouse them.

"But I still wanted to know more about this thing that was hovering around our barn, and with my gun in hand, I went directly into the woods, easily catching up with the object. I walked under it, around it, and viewed it from all sides. It was

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AF FORM 112—PART II

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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FLYING SAUCER (The Field, Conway S. C., February 5, 1953)

about 24 feet long and about 12 feet across, was a light greyish color and was lit up on the inside. Two places in the front somewhat resembled cockpits and were glassed over. I could see the light inside but could see no object in there. The back also has something resembling a cockpit with a stained glass over it. Light was coming through this section, but I could not see through it," Booth said.

"The object was about eight or ten feet deep. The front sloped upward at the base at an angle of about 60 degrees and the back was sloped upward at an angle of 40 to 50 degrees. The sides came straight down from the top for maybe four or five feet and then sloped outward and joined the base at about a 45 degree angle," Booth said. The object obviously was novel in construction and gave an overall, streamlined effect something like half an egg cut from end to end.

"Underneath the 'saucer' was something resembling a built-in wheel, with half the 'wheel', possible three feet across, extending below the base in a crescent shape. There were no markings anywhere on it because I looked hard for some identification," Booth said.

He continued, "There was no visible means of support for the object. It had no propeller, there were no exhaust fumes showing, no vapor trail and I could detect no vapor trail and I could detect no unusual odor. It simply sat there and drifted along as I ran around and around it getting just as good a look as I could. I watched it for at least 20 minutes, maybe as much as 30 minutes."

Despite Booth's yelling for some one to come and see the object, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ he aroused no one and in desperation after this length of time, he fired his pistol straight up at the "saucer" at a distance of about 75 feet. "I heard the bullet hit the object. It made a metallic sound and bounced off. A bare instant after the bullet hit, the object began making considerably more noise like a large electric motor and took off at a high rate of speed at about a 65 degree angle. It kept that same course until it was completely out of sight," said Booth.

He pointed out that the noise it made when it took off could have been heard easily at his house, if some one had been listening for it, although it was by no means a loud noise like an aircraft of conventional design would have made.

He also debunked any notion that it was a helicopter or any other known type aircraft. "I have been in helicopters and been in and around almost every type plane. This was none of them and didn't even faintly resemble any of them," he said.

Booth said that he was reluctant to tell anyone about the object, even his family because of the widespread debunking of those who have reported seeing mysterious objects. However, his family had heard the shot, and he told them about what he had seen.

He also told Rev. Elwell Jones, Baptist minister in Horry County, and Rev. Jones said "I have known Lloyd Booth all my life. We are about the same age and grew up together. When he says he saw something, he did." And that's the opinion of dozens of Horry citizens who have known Booth for years. "He is a Christian man who doesn't drink or misrepresent anything," said one of his neighbors.

And as a finishing touch, the cow poisoning entered the affair. At least 18 cows have died mysteriously in Horry County within the last three weeks. All have died

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FLYING SAUCER (The Field, Conway, S. C., 5 February 1953)

instantaneously, some never even kicked. All have died from poisoning, of a caustic nature. There have been no early symptoms. The cows simply have fallen over, and have died in an instant.

Two cows owned by Henry Anderson died of poisoning less than a mile from the sighted object on the very night that Booth saw it. Both cows were milked and fed the evening before but were stone dead at milking time the next morning. Other cows have died the same way from Myrtle Beach through Red Hill and into the Adrian and Poplar sections.

And the greatest number of hogs have died in the area in history. Some farmers have lost whole herds. One man alone reported losing 75. They did not die of cholera.

All of which might add to the mystery. What did Booth see? Why was it there. Did it have anything to do with the death of Horry livestock?

THE FIELD, Conway S. C., Thursday, February 19, 1953

"Blimps Don't Go That Fast"

BOOTH DEBUNKS C. A. A. THEORY HE HIT BLIMP

The Horry County farmer who on January 29 became the only man in the world to shoot a flying saucer today debunked a CAA suggestion that he might actually have "wounded" a Navy blimp.

Lloyd C. Booth, 29, said: "I have seen many blimps and I've even been in one. I'd certainly know a blimp when I saw one 80 feet over my head."

That was the height of the unidentified object which floated slowly over Booth's farm on the eventful night and which soared away after he shot at it with a .22 pistol. Booth sighted the object after a commotion among his livestock sent him in search of a possible prowler.

The blimp suggestion came Tuesday from C. W. Hall of the CAA control tower at Bluethenthal Field, Wilmington, N. C. Hall said three Navy blimps were en route from Glynco, Ga., to Weeksville, N. C., on January 29, and that one of them could easily have passed over Horry County at midnight when Booth was patrolling his farm.

High headwinds kept the blimps low, Hall said, which was why Booth spotted one just ten feet above the pines on his land.

Booth rejected the blimp possibility on the basis of his past experience with the craft. He added:

"I was with an anti-aircraft unit for 22 months during the war and I was trained to identify planes on sight. If the object I saw and shot was a plane or a blimp, I surely would have known. I watched the thing for almost 30 minutes."

Booth described the craft as being circular, with the contour of an egg sliced from end to end. He viewed it from directly below and from both sides, but was unable to detect any identifying marks or means of propulsion. He saw dim light emanating from what might have been a cabin on the forward topside and near the underside tail.

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THE FIELD (Conway, S. C., 19 February 1953)

"BLIMPS DON'T GO THAT FAST"

While cruising from east to west over him, the craft gave off a low hum, like a distant auto. Booth was able to keep pace with the vessel at an average walking speed. It was almost directly above him when he fired at it; his bullet struck with a metallic sound. The craft shot up and away instantly and was beyond range when Booth fired a second time.

"It took off at a speed I'd estimate at 700 miles an hour," Booth said today. "I never heard of a blimp going that fast."

CAA-man Hall opined that an investigation of the blimps now at Weeksville would reveal a dent in the bottom of them where Booth shot it. The Navy has not announced any such damage or indicated any association with the shooting since the event was reported.

Reports of flying saucers have been frequent in this area during the past few weeks. One was seen near Myrtle Beach a week before the Booth shooting. A Marine Corps jet pilot pursued and lost a strange craft along the Carolinas coast. Last Friday, another was seen by four people at Myrtle Beach, heard by another, then seen by six others a few minutes later over Marion, S. C.

Latest reports were made last night when three Myrtle Beach residents saw an unidentifiable object fly inland at approximately 1000-foot altitude.

THE Horry COUNTY NEWS AND THE LORIS SENTINEL, Loris, South Carolina, Thursday, February 19, 1953

BOOTH SAYS FLYING SAUCER WAS NOT A NAVY BLIMP

Conway, S. C. - Feb. 17 - The Horry County farmer who on January 29 became the only man in the world to shoot a flying saucer today debunked a CAA suggestion that he might actually have "wounded" a Navy blimp.

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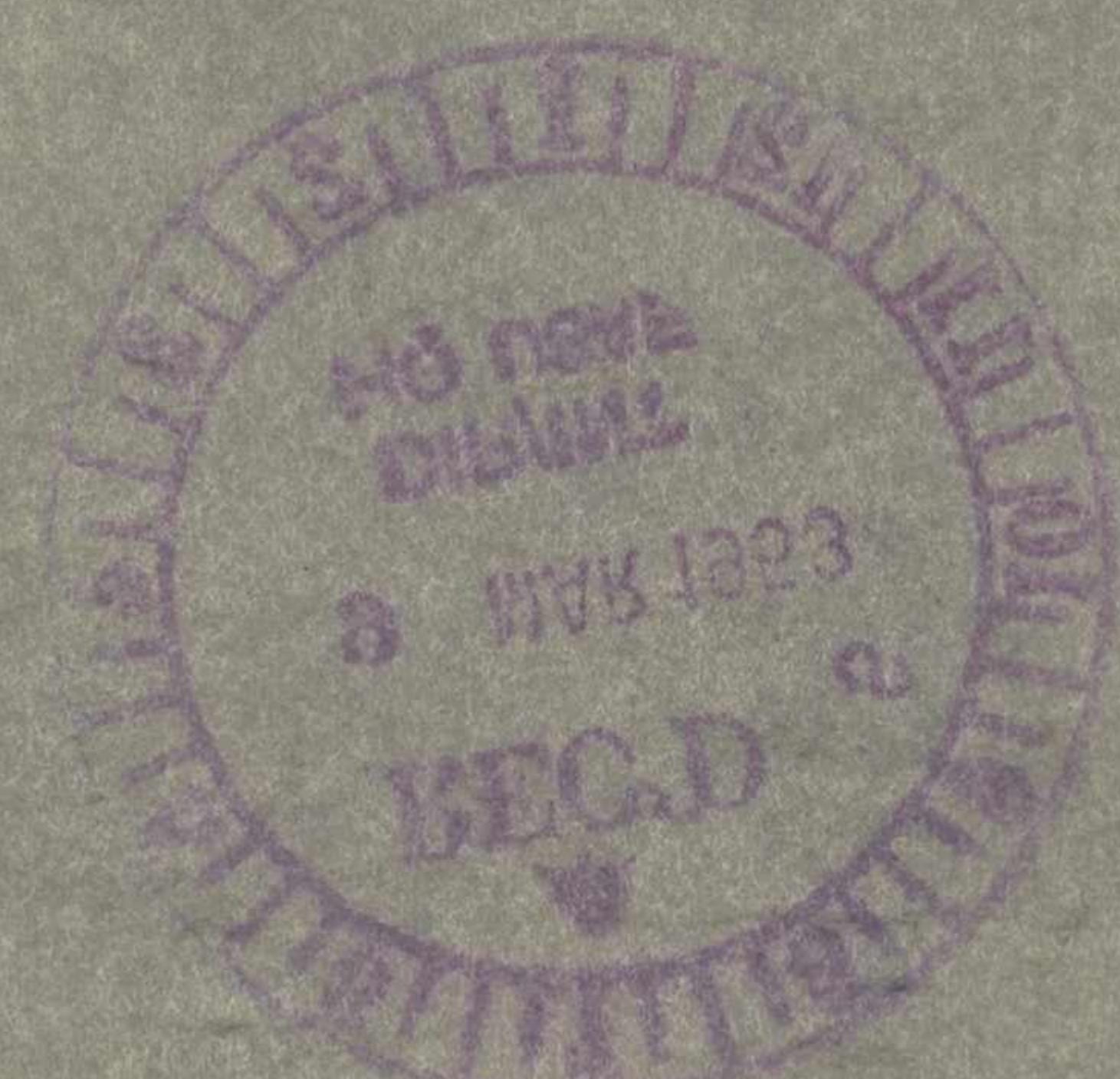
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REFECTION LABORATORY

PA STX OFPCLS 9 TCM MUNIFCS JFET ODEI HET-JOU' 2° C°
LJLGSY, SHOFPOL 192 ZEEN PA TOM BEOBJS ST HALSTE BESCP' FENLQ PA SHOFPOL, FENLQ 2000
COLBS JEF BTJOF BLMNQ SUQ JOSF 9 STLSU8E CLSTF STOUE FPE CBLOTTUS2 COST2. 192 F
MEER2. ONE 192 ZEEN UEST HALSTE BESCP' 9 MEER PETOLE FPE BOOFF SHOOFTE. 1 HET-JOU'
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ЕДЕНІР МІСІ ЗЕБОЛІСЕГ*
СІЛЛОЛУСЕГ СІЛІ АЛСРУ ҚІМІЛІСЕ ОЛ ҮАГІСАФЕГ СІЛІ ҚАЗАКОСТАРДАР ФІРСАТЫНДА АЛЫСЕ ФІРСАТЫНДА АЛЫСЕ
ІЕДЕСТІ ҚАСІРДІН ФІРСАТЫНДА АЛЫСЕ ОЛ ҚІМІЛІСЕ БООҒЫ ӘРДЕСІНДІРІЛІСЕ БООҒЫ ӘРДЕСІНДІРІЛІСЕ
СҮҮ-ШАУ НАУЖЫ ОБІРІСЕГ ФІРСАТЫНДА АЛЫСЕ РІТІНДА АЛЫСЕ РІТІНДА

"I never heard of a pitiful lot of people as you are."

Boofy lileq a asconq fwe*
a wefattic sonuq. Ius clift arot liw aq smal tufasutia aq uet reloaq lileq arof
a beeq. If nra aq wosf qitescia spole yuq myeu re lileq si tteq aq tteq aq
qitescia siro. Boofy nra spry fo keeb brce nra fye aqset si u aqset si
mye clift glow esaf fo meaf ola. Rym fye clift fye ola si ton mye fye si

ЛЮДСКІЙ ЕРКІЛСІЛ ІДІ 1823)
ВООЛН СУХІ ЕРХІЛІС ЗАДСЕВ МІСІ МОЛ Н ИНАЛ ВЕІЛЬ (Іле Гольга ЗЕДІСІМЕТ ГОЛДА СІМІСІМЕТ

COLLECTOR'S GUIDE