Incident # 167

ACTIC NO. —

A. NO. —

REPORT NO. —

DATE OF REPORT —

TIME OF REPORT 0905

AUTHOR Ball

CL —

TOUR —

NO. OF OBS. 1

TOTAL —

PHOTOS — SKETCHES —

(Supersedes AFCIC Form 329 of Jun 52)

DATE OF OBS. 6 May 1948

LOCATION 19°03'N-164°05'E Wake Island

SOURCE AF Pilot

DATE INTO AFIC —

COLOR White

SPEED High

ALTITUDE 10,000' (EST)

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED Split Second

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Aerial

DESCRIPTION Exploded like shell

Fireball

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #137 -- Pacific Ocean: 19° 08' N, 164° 05' E -- 6 May 1948

The object observed here was probably an exploding fire-ball seen head-on and seen only at the time of actual explosion. This, with partial cloud coverage, could easily explain the absence of a trail.

It is not likely that lights sighted on the water surface or aircraft sighted later had any relation to the original object.

If the object had been a shell fired from the USS Boxer, it appears improbable that only one shell would have been observed.

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

MCIAXO-3/HWS/rm
Jan 5 1949

MCIAXO

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Chief, Air Weather Service,
Andrews Air Force Base,
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: DSS

1. Project "SIGN" is responsible for the collection, investigation and interpretation of data relative to sighting of unidentified flying objects. Attached Incident Summaries 1 thru 172 from the files of Project "SIGN" are forwarded for study and recommendations as to which of the incidents may be eliminated as balloons released on routine synoptic ascents by the Air Weather Service, the Navy Aerological Service or the United States Weather Bureau. The summaries attached may be retained in your headquarters for working and reference purposes.

2. The Air Weather Service is the only agency of its type that has been asked to assist in the accomplishment of Project "SIGN" except that the United States Weather Bureau has provided information on ball lightning. Research projects in which balloons are used and which are conducted or sponsored by the Army, Navy or United States Air Force are checked by the Intelligence Department of this Command. These checks areusually made direct from the Project "SIGN" Office, MCIAXO-3. These checks are distinct from the check of synoptic balloon flights made by weather service stations of the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Commerce. (U. S. Weather Bureau) requested of Air Weather Service.

3. It is the opinion of this office that the below listed incidents are those having the greatest possibility of being balloons. This list does not eliminate the possibility that many of the remaining incidents are balloons.

2	24	50	91	113	155
3	25	52	92	115	156
4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	148	163
16	32	87	107,6,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	48				

T-84451-A

Hq AMC, Chief, Air Weather Service, Washington 25, D. C.
Subj: Project "SIGN"

4. The form used in interrogating witnesses to sightings is inclosed as a matter of interest. Comment as to possible improvement of the "Essential Elements of Information" in regard to routine synoptic balloon flights is invited.

5. It is requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Commanding General, Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, attention MCIAKO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col, USAF
for H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Dept

2 Incls:
Summaries 1-172 incl
"EEI"

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq. USAF
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab
Major Kodis, MCREEP
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

Hq AMC Form No. 10-514 (Rev 20 Feb 48)

WF-L-25 MAR 48 150M

13

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HEADQUARTERS

AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY ADDRESS BOTH COMMUNICATION AND ENVELOPE TO COMMANDING GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL COMMAND, ATTENTION FOLLOWING OFFICE SYMBOL:

MCIAXO-3

MCIAXO-3/RAL/sw

AUG 10 1948

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Commanding General
Hq, Eastern Pacific Wing
Pacific Division
Air Transport Command
Fairfield Suisun Air Force Base
Fairfield, California
ATTENTION: A-2

1. This Command is engaged in an intelligence investigation of all reported sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena and has been authorized direct communication with all Air Transport Command units by Hq., USAF, in letter dated 6 February 1948.

2. It has come to the attention of this Office that Capt Floyd Barnes of the Pacific Division, ATC, has sighted unidentified aerial object(s).

3. It is requested your office interview the individual concerned and obtain a signed graphic statement as to the object(s) observed. It is further requested that he indicate the following salient factors: Location, date and time of sighting, weather conditions at the time, names, occupations and addresses of witnesses, (if any), photographs or sketches, luminous or other construction, number, shape, size, color, speed, in what part of the sky first observed, direction, manner of disappearence, maneuverability (tactics), altitude, sound, exhaust trail, odor (if any), effect on clouds and diagram of flight pattern (if any).

4. All material will be forwarded directly to Commanding General, AMC, Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio, attention: MCI, in accordance with USAF letter dated 26 February 1948.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

James J. Hausman
Lt Col USAF

for L. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief of Intelligence

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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PACD (10 May 1948)
Subject: Spot Report

observer's aircraft and slightly to the right of course. Captain Barnes made numerous attempts to contact the other aircraft on Channel B and C, VHF, but acknowledgment of his transmission was never received.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

JOEL A. HARPER
Major, USAF
DAC/S, Intelligence

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

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P
Y

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
PACIFIC DIVISION, AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE
AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND
APO 953

DC/CJP/dd

10 May 1948

SUBJECT: Spot Report

TO: Commanding General
Air Transport Service
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTENTION: AC/S, Intelligence

1. The following information was reported by Captain Floyd Barnes, Pilot of aircraft, who was in flight between Kwajalein Island, Marshall Islands, and Hickam Field, T. H., at the time the incident occurred.

2. While flying magnetic course 060°, altitude 9000 feet, at approximately 09:05 GCT, 6 May 1948, a large white ball of fire was observed 19° 05' N - 164° 05' E, four to five miles directly ahead of and slightly above the aircraft. The ball of fire was observed for only a split second and was comparable to the explosion of a shell. There were no streamers or "tails" observed as usually related to a meteor of a distress signal.

3. Immediately after the ball of fire was observed, Captain Barnes instructed the Radio Operator to check the IFF. The IFF was reported by the Radio Operator to be in position No. 2 and operative.

4. As the aircraft approached the approximate position of where the ball of fire was observed, a single white light was seen on the water surface. However, this light was obscured within a few seconds after sighting because of the existing cloud coverage (4/1 - 5/10).

5. More lights were immediately observed on the water surface approximately ten miles north of the aircraft's course. It is the opinion of Captain Barnes and other persons aboard who observed these lights, that it was a surface vessel.

6. Approximately ten minutes elapsed after the last lights were observed on the water surface, when an aircraft was sighted flying a reciprocal course (240°) at about 1000 feet below the

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HEADQUARTERS
PACIFIC DIVISION
MILITARY AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE
APO 953

DC/CJP/dd

23 August 1948

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTENTION: MCIAXD-3

1. Letter your Headquarters, above subject, 10 August 1948, addressed to Commanding General, Headquarters Eastern Pacific Wing, has been endorsed to this office, and, in turn, was forwarded to the Commanding Officer, 541st Air Base Group, APO 184, where Capt. Barnes was last reported to be assigned.

2. After receiving the report of "Possible Firing Between Johnston Island and Hickam Field" from Capt. Barnes, this office immediately dispatched a query to the District Intelligence Officer, 14th Naval District, Old Naval Station, Honolulu, Hawaii, whose reply is quoted as follows:

> "It is believed that the USS BOXER was engaged in tactical training operations in the vicinity of the contact reported by Captain Barnes, ATC pilot."

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl:
Cy Hq PACD ltr
dtd 10 May 48

BURTON K. WOOBERS
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Division

Incl. 1 2 C

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DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

A large white ball of fire was observed some four to five miles directly ahead of and slightly above the aircraft. It was observed for only a split second and was comparable to the explosion of a shell There were no streamers or "tails" observed such as usually related to a meteor or a distress signal. As the aircraft approached the approximate position where the ball of fire was observed a single white light was seen on the water surface. However, this disappeared within a few seconds after sighting because of the existing cloud coverage. More lights were immediately observed on the water surface some 10 miles north of the plane's course. It is the opinion of the witness (Capt Barnes) that these were from a surface vessel. Some 10 minutes elapsed after these lights were observed on the water surface when an aircraft was sighted flying a reciprocal course (240°) at about 1000 ft below the observers's aircraft and slightly to the right of the course. Capt Barnes made numerous attempts to contact this aircraft on Channel "B" and "C", "VHF" but acknowledgment of his transmission was never received.

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 167

1. Date 6 May 1948

2. Time 0905 GCT

3. Location 19° 08' N - 164° 05' E between Kwajalein Island, Marshall Islands and Hickam Field.,

4. Name of observer Capt Floyd Barnes

5. Occupation of observer Pilot USAF

6. Address of observer Pacific Division, Milit Air Trans Service

7. Place of observation Ahead & above his plane

8. Number of objects 1

9. Distance of object from observer 4 to 5 miles

10. Time in sight split second

11. Altitude 10,000 ft

12. Speed N/S

13. Direction of flight N/S

14. Tactics exploded like a shell

15. Sound N/S

16. Size N/S

17. Color white

18. Shape ball

19. Odor detected N/S

20. Apparent construction N/S "fire"

21. Exhaust trails None

22. Weather conditions 5/10 cloud coverage

23. Effect on clouds N/S

24. Sketches or photographs none

25. Manner of disappearance exploded

26. Remarks: (over)