RESTRICTED

Incident #157

ATIC NO. ------

AF NO. ------

REPORT NO. ------

DATE OF REPORT ------

TIME OF REPORTING ------

SHAPE Like old type "County Fair Balloon round

SIZE 2' x 3 1/2'

COURSE Eastward

NO. IN GROUP 1

SOUND ------

PHOTOS ----- SKETCHES ------

DATE OF INFO July 45

LOCATION Columbus, Ohio

SOURCE Teletype Operator

DATE IN TO ATIC ------

COLOR White crepe paper

SPEED N/S

ALTITUDE Came to earth from around 100'

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED ---

TYPE OF OBSERVATION ------

MANEUVERS ------

Estimated

Measured

Estimated

Assumed

REMARKS: Hoax

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #155 -- Columbus, Ohio -- 31 July 1948

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident.

If the information offered is to be given any weight at all, the most likely explanation is that a cluster of balloons, or a balloon with several fire-pots hanging below it, was observed. Corroboration for this interpretation is probably furnished by incidents #156 and 157, which occurred a few hours later near this location. The object reported in #157 proved to be a "county-fair" type balloon.

UNCLASSIFIED

B/Ltr from AMC
dtd 5 Jan 1949
Subj: Project
"SIGN"

AWS DSS 1st Ind 24 Jan 1949

HEADQUARTERS, AIR WEATHER SERVICE Andrews Air Force Base, Washington 25, D. C.

TO: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXO

Investigations by this headquarters reveal that a synoptic weather balloon could have been at the location where sightings were reported in the following incidents. In compiling this list consideration was given to the wind direction and speed at the surface and aloft at the scheduled time of balloon release, and the location of the nearest weather station making balloon observations.

2	52	91	126
3	72	93	148
4	73	94	155
25	78	105	166
28	81	113	169
36	87	115	172

FOR THE CHIEF AIR WEATHER SERVICE

/s/ W. A. West
W. A. WEST
Lt. Col., USAF
Adjutant General

2 Incls:
n/c

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

MCIAXO-3/EHS/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	143	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	48				

T-84481-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 MCIAXO-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

T-54451-A

RE[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #156 -- Columbus, Ohio -- 31 July 1948

This incident and incident #157, which obviously refer to the same object, must be considered together. The object fell to earth and was retrieved; it proved to be a "county fair balloon," once quite common in this part of the country. Usually they are lighted in mid-afternoon, having one or more fire-pots to provide the hot air. They then rise and stay aloft for several hours before finally falling to earth.

It is highly probable that the object described in incident #155, which was observed a few hours earlier on the same day and near the same location, was this object, seen while it was still high in the sky.

UNCLASSIFIED

K[redacted]

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

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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	143	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	48				

T-24451-A

Hq ARC, 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 MCIAXO-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, MCREXP
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #157 -- Columbus, Ohio -- 31 July 1948

The object described in this incident can be easily identified as a "county fair balloon."

See report on incident #156 for discussion.

UNCLASSIFIED

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

MCIAXO-3/EWS/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.

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11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	148	165
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	48				

2-84461-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 MCIAXO-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

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 155

1. Date ~~1630~~ 31 July 48
2. Time 1630
3. Location [redacted], Columbus, Ohio
4. Name of observer [redacted]
5. Occupation of observer Housewife
6. Address of observer [redacted], Columbus, Ohio
7. Place of observation Columbus, Ohio
8. Number of objects 6 or 7
9. Distance of object from observer Very great distance away
10. Time in sight N/S
11. Altitude N/S - very great
12. Speed Hovering
13. Direction of flight N/S
14. Tactics Hovering -hanging in the sky
15. Sound N/S -
16. Size of an ash tray
17. Color gold
18. Shape starlike
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails N/S
22. Weather conditions CAVU - bright sunlight
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance N/S
26. Remarks: (over)

Witness Statement:

Objects first looked like large stars. They seemed to be at a very great distance and appeared to be about the size of an ash tray. There were approximately six or seven of them in a formation that resembled the shape of the big dipper. Did not have a definite shape individually but just seemed to be a group of spots glittering in the sky. They were gold in color and seemed to be just hanging in the sky. The sky was clear and blue and the sun was shining but do not believe the gold color caused by a reflection of the sun.

Corroborated by truck driver but witness could not obtain his name.

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 156

1. Date 31 July 48

2. Time 8:00 P. M.

3. Location Columbus, Ohio - Tremont Rd near WOSU radio tower located near University Golf Course

4. Name of observer Mrs. [redacted] & Mrs. [redacted]

5. Occupation of observer Mrs. [redacted] housewife
Mrs. [redacted]: mother of Mrs. [redacted]

6. Address of observer [redacted] Ave., Columbus, Ohio

7. Place of observation [redacted] Rd near WOSU Radio Tower

8. Number of objects 1

9. Distance of object from observer 250 feet

10. Time in sight N/S

11. Altitude 250 feet

12. Speed very slow

13. Direction of flight West to East

14. Tactics Did not change course or altitude

15. Sound No noise

16. Size of gasoline drum - Approx 5' x 6'

17. Color ~~XXXX~~ Black

18. Shape Oblong

19. Odor detected N/S

20. Apparent construction N/S

21. Exhaust trails Spouted black smoke from the top

22. Weather conditions Clear with no clouds

23. Effect on clouds No clouds

24. Sketches or photographs None

25. Manner of disappearance N/S

26. Remarks: (above)

On Saturday evening, 31 July 48, at approximately 8:00 P. M. , while driving south on Tremont Road as observers approached the WOSU Radio Tower located on the University Golf Course, a large object resembling a huge lantern was seen floating in the sky. The weather was clear, and it was still daylight so object could be seen quite clearly. It was oblong in shape and about the size of a gasoline drum. It was coming from the west and moving very slowly. It passed close to the tower and was about 1/2 the height of the tower from the ground. As it passed overhead traveling east, it spouted black smoke from the top and at the bottom on the left side there was a dull enclosed light like that of a lamp. The object did not change its course or altitude but continued on to the east with black smoke trailing behind. The object was black. It did not make any noise. There were no wings visible nor did it have any motor. No openings of any kind could be seen.

NOTE: Another car stopped near them with two occupants who claimed that they had never witnessed anything like it before.

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 157

1. Date 31 July 48
2. Time 8:00 P. M.
3. Location Columbus, Ohio
4. Name of observer [redacted]
5. Occupation of observer Teletype Operator
6. Address of observer State Highway Patrol Radio Station
7. Place of observation Near Golf Driving Range, Columbus, Ohio
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer Object was balloon which fell to earth & was investigated by observer
10. Time in sight N/S
11. Altitude Came to earth from around 100 ft (when first observed)
12. Speed N/S
13. Direction of flight earthward
14. Tactics N/S
15. Sound N/S
16. Size 2 ft x 3-1/2 ft
17. Color white crepe paper
18. Shape N/S - but said to be like old time "County Fair" balloon - round
19. Odor detected N/S
20. ~~Approx~~ construction crepe paper
21. Exhaust trails smoking - caused by large ball of waste material
22. Weather conditions N/S - (clear - see Incident: 156)
23. Effect on clouds N/S (no clouds)
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance Fell to earth where it was retrieved.
26. Remarks: (over)

Object was perceived floating in the sky coming from the west over Ohio State Student housing Project and was approximately 100 feet off the ground when first observed. It got lower all the time and landed in a field nearby. Three small boys ran toward it and observer went over to investigate. Saw paper bag affair approx 2 feet in diameter and 3-1/2 feet long made of white crepe paper. (like old time "County-Fair" hot air balloons) It was smoking when first observed and this was caused by a large ball of waste material which was fastened underneath it. There were no marks or writing on it ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

Note: See Incident 156 - in which time & direction tally.

8-203 Case

AIABB-Z/1917 9 August 1948

SUBJECT: Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft

THRU: AC of S, G-2
Headquarters Second Army
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

TO: Director of Intelligence
General Staff
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Reference is made to letter your headquarters, File CSGID 452.1, Subject: Unconventional Aircraft, dated 25 March 1948, and to your Control Number A-1917.

2. In compliance with paragraph 2, above mentioned letter, inclosed herewith are CIC Agent reports concerning the Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft.

3. A copy of attached report has been furnished the Commanding General, Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.

MELVIN L. HUTCHISON
Captain, FA
Actg District Intelligence
Officer

2 Incls
Incl 1 - Rpt re Watson, Price, Rippetoe, Goshorn
Incl 2 - Rpt re Yantis'

cc:
AMC, Wright Field

9 Aug 1948

A-1917

On 2 August 1948, Mrs. [redacted], housewife, and Mrs. [redacted], mother of Mrs. [redacted], both of [redacted] Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, were interviewed concerning an unidentified object inthe sky and stated in substance:

On Saturday evening, 31 July 1948, at approx 8:00 P.M., we were driving south on [redacted] Road and as we approached the WOSU radio tower which is located onthe University Golf Course, we saw a large object which looked like a huge lantern floating in the sky. The weather was clear there were no clouds,and it was still daylight, so we could see the object quite clearly. It was oblong in shape and was about the size of a gasoline drum. It was coming from the west and moving very slowly. It passed close to the radiotower and was about half the height of the tower from the ground. As it passed overhead, traveling east, it was spouting black smoke from the top and at the bottom on the left side there was a du ll enclosed light like a lamp. The object did not change its course or altitude but continued on to the east with black smoke trailing behind. The object was black and did not make any noise. It did not have any motor or wings visible and we could not see any openings of any kind. We stopped our car to observe this object and another car stopped near us. There was a boy and a girl in it and they both said they never saw anything like the object before. We did not get their names. We called the Columbus Dispatch (newspaper) when we got home and the editor took our story but he misrepresented the facts in the newspaper. We did not see any "glittering whirling discs" or "glittering balls" as stated in the paper. We say only one object.

B-6

Floyd S. Dunning
109th Cic Detachment

CONFIDENTIAL

AGENT REPORT

UNCLASSIFIED

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

SIGHTING OF UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

2. DATE SUBMITTED

9 August 1948

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

A-1917

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

(1) On 2 August 1948, Mrs. [redacted], housewife, [redacted] Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, was interviewed concerning unidentified objects which she saw in the sky on Saturday, 31 July 1948, at approximately 1830 hours, and stated in substance:

My husband and I had just left our house which is located on the southeast corner of Leonard and Monroe Avenues and had turned west on Leonard when I glanced up at the sky and saw some objects which looked like large stars. They seemed to be a very great distance away and appeared to me to be about the size of an ash tray. There were approximately six or seven of them and they were in a formation that resembled the shape of the big dipper. They did not have any definite shape individually but just seemed to be a group of spots glittering in the sky. They were gold in color and were not moving but seemed to just be hanging in the sky. The sky was clear and blue and the sun was shining but I do not think that the gold color was caused by a reflection of the sun. I do not think these objects were man-made but I believe they were just a strange celestial phenomena. I told my husband to look at the strange objects in the sky but he could not see them and told me I was having hallucinations. When we stopped for the traffic light at Leonard and St Clair Avenues, a truck stopped beside us and I asked the truck driver if he could see anything in the sky. He said he saw them but did not know what they were. I was not able to obtain the truck driver's name as traffic started to move. We turned south on St Clair Avenue then and I could not see the objects as my sight was obstructed by buildings. I called the Columbus Dispatch (newspaper) at approximately 10:30 p.m. that evening to find out if anyone else had reported seeing them, and I told the editor my story. It was a strange sight and I have never seen anything like it before. B-6

(2) On 2 August 1948, Mrs. [redacted], housewife, and [redacted] mother of Mrs. [redacted], both of [redacted] Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, were interviewed concerning an unidentified object in the sky, and stated in substance:

On Saturday evening, 31 July 1948, at approximately 8:00 p.m., we were driving south on [redacted] Road and as we approached the WOSU radio tower which is located on the University Golf Course, we saw a large object which looked like a huge lantern floating in the sky. The weather was clear, there were no clouds, and it was still daylight, so we could see the object quite clearly. It was oblong in shape and was about the size of a gasoline drum. It was coming from the west and moving very slowly. It passed close to the

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

FLOYD S. DUNNING

109th CIC Detachment

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

/signed/ Floyd S. Dunning

CONFIDENTIAL

WD AGO FORM 1 JUN 47 341

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—53407-1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AGENT REPORT

UNCLASSIFIED

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

SIGHTING OF UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

2. DATE SUBMITTED

9 August 1948

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

A-1917

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

(2) continued.

radio tower and was about half the height of the tower from the ground. As it passed overhead traveling east, it was spouting black smoke from the top and at the bottom on the left side there was a dull enclosed light like a lamp. The object did not change its course or altitude but continued on to the east which black smoke trailing behind. The object was black and did not make any noise. It did not have any motor or wings visible and we could not see any openings of any kind. We stopped our car to observe this object and another car stopped near us. There was a boy and a girl in it and they both said they never saw anything like the object before. We did not get their names. We called the Columbus Dispatch (newspaper) when we got home and the editor took our story but he misrepresented the facts in the newspaper. We did not see any "glittering whirling discs" or "glittering balls" as stated in the paper. We say only one object. B-6

(3) On 2 August 1948, [redacted] teletype operator, State Highway Patrol Radio Station WPGO, Ackerman Road, Columbus, Ohio, was interviewed and stated in substance:

On Saturday evening 31 July 1948, at approximately 8:00 p.m., I was at the refreshment stand of the Golf Driving Range which is located on Dodridge Street across from Union Cemetery, when I saw an object floating in the sky. It was coming from the west over the Ohio State Student Housing Project and was approximately 100 feet off the ground when I first observed it. It was getting lower all the time and I saw it land in a field nearby. Three small boys ran toward it and I went over to investigate. The object was a paper bag affair approximately 2 feet in diameter and 3½ feet long, made of white crepe paper. It was like the old time "County Fair" hot air baloons. It was smoking when I first observed it and I found that this was caused by a large ball of waste material which was fastened underneath it. There were no marks or writing on it and I do not know where it came from. B-6

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

FLOYD S. DUNING
109th CIC Detachment

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

/signed/ Floyd S. Dunning

CONFIDENTIAL

WD AGO FORM 1 JUN 47 341

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1948—O—[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:
#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:
#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.