PROJECT BOOTS AND SPURS

ATIC NO. ---

AF NO. ---

REPORT NO. ---

DATE OF REPORT ---

TIME OF SIGHTING 2030 EST

SHAPE Sausage

SIZE 2 Fingers at Arms Length

COURSE North to South

NO. IN GROUP 1

SOUND ---

PHOTOS --- SKETCHES ---

DATE OF INFO 23 February 1949

LOCATION Sandberg Pass, California

SOURCE USAF Res. Pilot

DATE IN TO ATIC ---

COLOR ---

SPEED ---

ALTITUDE Approx 10,000'

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED Over 40 Seconds

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Aerial

MANEUVERS Made 360° turn and 180° turn.

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

Other (military)

UNCLASSIFIED

INCIDENT NO. 257

1. Date of Observation 23 Feb. 49 Date of Interview 27 Mar 47
2. Exact Time (local) ~~2030 PST~~
3. Place of Observation Sandberg Pass, California (40 miles South Bakersfield, California)
4. Position of observer Air (T-11)
5. What attracted attention to object. jet from tail.
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size Size of index or third finger at arm-length
8. Color of object
9. Shape Jet propelled Blimp (Sausage Shaped)
10. Altitude 9,000 ft 20°
11. Direction from observer North
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s) North to South
14. Time in sight 20 Sec.
15. Speed 500 MPH
16. Sound and odor
17. Trail
18. Luminosity
19. Projections Circled Plane in 360° and 180° turns
20. Maneuvers
21. Manner of disappearance
22. Effect on Clouds
23. Additional Information Concerning Object. High then ~~scattered~~ clouds 20,000 ft 10 miles visibility 8 mph wing from South. Visibility to west 1 mile.
24. Weather Conditions.

(over)

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

UNCLASSIFIED

Name and address of observer: [redacted]

Occupation and hobbies: 1st Lt A.F.

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

[redacted] Appeared to be an honest young man, better quiet & Reserved.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

Ans:

Copy of [redacted] Statement attached to letter

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

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS 1st FIGHTER WING
March Air Force Base
March Field, California

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE

OI

2 May 1949

SUBJECT: Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object

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

1. In compliance with 1st Indorsement to basic letter, File MMS 360.112, Subject: Information of Unidentified Flying Object, dated 1 March 1949, the following report of investigation is submitted:

a. 1st [redacted], [redacted] Air Force Reserve Pilot, stationed with 703d Air Reserve Unit, Fresno State Teachers College, Fresno, California, was interrogated and submitted a written statement concerning his observation of an unfamiliar flying object. This observation was made in the vicinity of Sandberg Pass, forty (40) miles South of Bakersfield, California, at approximately 2030 PST, 25 February 1949. No other persons were found who had witnessed the flight of this object. Guide to investigation of unidentified aerial objects, which was furnished this office by Air Materiel Command, was used during the interrogation.

b. Lt [redacted] a student of Industrial Arts at Fresno State Teachers College, Fresno, California, appeared to be an earnest young man, rather quiet and reserved, with no particular aptitude for self-expression. He is regarded as sober and respectable and enjoys a good reputation among his associates, in the school. In the opinion of the Investigating Officer, Lt [redacted] would have neither the inclination nor the ability to construct this report in a wild flight of fancy.

c. Lt [redacted] was first interviewed on 22 March 1949. He reported that at the time of the observation he had been seated in the left pilots seat of a T-11 aircraft, flying the return leg of a round robbin cross country proficiency flight from Fresno Air Terminal to Los Angeles and return. The object which he observed was roughly

[redacted]

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DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

OI 2 May 1949

Subject: Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object

sausage shaped in that both the forward and trailing ends resembled a B-29 nose. The object was on a heading approximately North to South and approached [redacted] aircraft from 12 o'clock, at which time he made his first observation. The object disappeared to the rear of the T-11 and then apparently it made a 360° turn around it as [redacted] made his second observation approximately fifteen (15) seconds later when the object appeared to his right and made a 180° turn in front of him, again disappearing to the rear. The total length of time for both of these observations was approximately twenty (20) seconds. The weather at the time was reported to be high thin scattered clouds at 20,000 feet, vsby 10 miles. Temperature was 36, dew point 34, with a wind from the South at about eight (8) miles per hour. Vsby to the West was one (1) mile, with fog ceiling due to scattered stratas. Weather conditions were rapidly changing at the time. The object appeared at about 20° above the observers horizon. Its size in comparison to the hand held at an arms length from the face was about that of the index and third finger. The object had no definite color and no luminosity. There were no projections observed. There appeared to be no effect on clouds in the vicinity and [redacted] asserts that his attention was drawn to the object by the glow of a propulsion jet from the objects tail. Interrogation of experienced jet pilots reveal that at night no jet glow is visible unless observed from exactly behind the aircraft, looking right up the tail pipe. [redacted] co-pilot was in the back of the T-11 at the time of the observation and saw nothing of the object. [redacted] attempted to contact another pilot flying a similar mission who was approximately ten (10) minutes behind him to ask him to watch for the object. [redacted] was answered by an unidentified voice over the radio whom he believed to be the pilot he was calling. Upon landing however, he discovered that although the other pilot had received his message he had not been able to contact [redacted] because of the interference created by the unidentified person answering [redacted] call. The other pilot likewise observed nothing of the object.

d. It will be noted that the original report of this incident was sent to Air Material Command from March Flight Service Center. Investigation revealed that March Flight Service Center was informed of the occurrence by a report from Los Angeles Control Center. This Control Center probably received its information from one (1) or more of four (4) Radio Range Stations in the vicinity. These are the Bakersfield Radio, Lancaster Radio, Newhall Radio or Los Angeles Radio. It is believed that it was the operator on duty at one of these Range Stations that answered Smiths call, although he did not identify himself and no information of a more definite nature could be obtained.

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[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

OI 2 May 1949

Subject: Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object

e. The following installations, both commercial and military in this area, were interrogated as to the possibility of any jet aircraft flights originating from their stations at the approximate time of the observation.

(1) Muroc Air Force Base, California
(2) Point Mugu USNAMTC, Point Mugu, California
(3) El Toro MCAS, Santa Ana, California
(4) Inyokern USNAMTC, Inyokern, California
(5) Hamilton Air Force Base, California
(6) 62nd Fighter Wing, Metropolitan Airport, Van Nuys, California
(7) 196th Fighter Sq, San Bernardino AFB, California
(8) U.S. Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego, California
(9) Lockheed Aircraft Corp, Burbank, California
(10) North American Aviation Inc, Inglewood, California
(11) Base Operations, this station
(12) 1st Fighter Group, this station
(13) 67th Tac Reconnaissance Wing, this station

All of this correspondence was answered and regarding the origin of any jet flights that could possibly have been in the area of the observation at the time the observation was made, was negative.

f. No radar sightings of the object were reported.

William R. Crooks

2 Incls:
1. Pilot's Statement
2. Cy S.O. 54, appointing Investigating Officer

WILLIAM R. CROOKS
Major, USAF
Director of Intelligence

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

857

[redacted]

STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

I am a Reserve pilot, 703rd ARCC Unit, at Fresno, California. On the night of February 28, 1949, I was pilot of a T11 aircraft No. 7346 on a round-robin flight from Fresno Air Terminal, California, to Los Angeles and return. I departed Fresno 1845 hours with one crew member. At approximately 2030 PST while in the vicinity of Sandberg Pass, 40 miles south of Bakersfield, while flying on a northerly heading at an altitude of approximately 9,000 feet, I observed what appeared to be a jet-propelled aircraft of an unfamiliar type. Weather over Sandberg Pass was thin scattered clouds, visibility 10 miles, temperature 36, cloud covering at approximately 20,000 feet, dew point 34, wind south 7, altimeter 3007. The visibility west was 1 mile with fog ceiling and visibility variable due to scattered stratas drifting in the area. The object with the general shape of a blimp approached head-on about 1500 feet above me, made a complete 360° circle, and left on a heading of 180° to my course. The object left a steady glow at the rear which I believed to be a jet exhaust. At the time the co-pilot was in the rear of the aircraft and at no time observed the object. I was unable to determine its distance from me due to darkness and climatic conditions. The object appeared about as big as two fingers at arms' length and it took about 40 seconds for object to make a 360° turn about my aircraft. During this maneuver I observed the object to be approximately 20° above my line of flight. The windshield of my aircraft was clear at the time the observation was made.

When the object completed the turn and left, I immediately attempted to contact the pilot of another aircraft also on a round-robin about 10 minutes behind me. I was answered by someone whom I believed to be this pilot but I later learned that, although he had received my transmission, he had been unable to reply due to the interference of the unknown individual who was answering me. I was never able to identify the individual with whom I communicated. The other pilot that I was attempting to contact did not observe the object and to my knowledge I am the only person who made the actual observation.

[redacted]

[redacted]
1st Lieut., USAFR
[redacted]

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

R57

HQ 1ST FTR WG, MARCH AF BASE, CALIF, SO 54 dtd 18 Mar 49.

7. The fol named EM WM/USAF, orgn's indicated this sta having reenl in the AF dates indicated, for periods indicated, are auth reenl lv as indicated, eff dates indicated, and MT to destinations indicated. Upon compl of lv EM will report to proper orgn and sta.

T/Sgt Milton F McGahee AF6 359 922 1st Instls Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st AB Gp, enl 17 Mar 49 for an indef period, auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 25 Mar 49, address: 835 Vermont Street, Bangor, Maine.

S/Sgt Albert F Schneider AF36 233 493 1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp, enl 17 Mar 49 for an indef period, auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 22 Mar 49, address: 2223 West Garfield Ave, Milwaukee, Wisc.

S/Sgt Lawrence Burgher AF35 469 360 1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp, enl 17 Mar 49 for an indef period, auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 22 Mar 49, address: Ashland, Maine.

S/Sgt Lewis B Thompson AF19 059 348 12th Tac Rcn Sq (PJ) 67th Tac Rcn Gp, enl 18 Mar 49 for 3 yrs; auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 21 Mar 49, address: 9117-217th St., Queens Village, New York.

In accordance with Par 56 AFR 173-5 the FD this sta will pay in adv the prescribed mon alws in lieu of T a/r of five (05¢) cents per mile fr March AF Base, Calif, to destinations indicated and return.
TDN A 2190425 901-226 F 435-02 399-999.
AUTH: AR 600-115 and AF Ltr 35 -114.

8. MAJ 9301 WILLIAM R CROOKS AO-4404 011 WM/USAF, Hq & Hq Sq 1st Ftr Wg this sta is aptd investigating Officer to investigate occurrence per auth CG, AMC, contained in 1st Ind to Letter, Subj: "Information of Unidentified Flying Object", File: DMZ 360.112, fr March Flight Sv Center this sta dated 1 Mar 49.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL DAVIDSON:

OFFICIAL:

M S TILGHMAN
Lt Col, AGD (USAF)
Adjutant

H R GALLOWAY
WOJG, USAF
Asst Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:
10 ea 7;
5 ea 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.

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DOD. DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

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Basic ltr fr March Flight Svc Center, March AF Base, Calif, to C/G AMC Wright-Patterson AF Base, Ohio, Attn: MCIAXO-3 d/1 Mar 1949

DMZ 360.112 1st Ind MCIAXS/GMT/aw

Hq AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio

TO: Commanding Officer, March Air Force Base, March Field, Calif, ATTN: Base Intelligence Officer.

1. It is requested Base Intelligence Officer initiate an investigation and obtain detailed signed statements from all available witnesses to the sighting of the unidentified aerial phenomenon reported in basic letter.

2. Two (2) copies of "Guide to Investigation" are inclosed as an aid to the investigating officer in obtaining the desired data.

3. It is particularly desired that all questions of the "General Section" of the guide be answered.

4. Results of this investigation should be considered "Confidential" and interested personnel should be advised of the necessity of avoiding publicity in this matter.

5. Results of this investigation should be directed to Commanding General, Hq, Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl
Guide to Inves (2 cys)

W. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Actg Chief, Intelligence Department

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

HQ 1ST FTR WG, MARCH AF BASE, CALIF, SO 54 dtd 18 Mar 49.

7. The fol named EM WM/USAF, orgn's indicated this sta having reenl in the AF dates indicated, for periods indicated, are auth reenl lv as indicated, eff dates indicated, and MT to destinations indicated. Upon compl of lv EM will report to proper orgn and sta.

T/Sgt Milton F McGahee AF6 359 922 1st Instls Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st AB Gp, enl 17 Mar 49 for an indef period, auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 25 Mar 49, address: 835 Vermont Street, Bangor, Maine.

S/Sgt Albert F Schneider AF36 233 493 1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp, enl 17 Mar 49 for an indef period, auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 22 Mar 49, address: 2223 West Garfield Ave, Milwaukee, Wisc.

S/Sgt Lawrence Burgher AF35 469 360 1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp, enl 17 Mar 49 for an indef period, auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 22 Mar 49, address: Ashland, Maine.

S/Sgt Lewis B Thompson AF19 059 348 12th Tac Rcn Sq (PJ) 67th Tac Rcn Gp, enl 18 Mar 49 for 3 yrs; auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 21 Mar 49, address: 9117-217th St., Queens Village, New York.

In accordance with Par 56 AFR 173-5 the FD this sta will pay in adv the prescribed mon alws in lieu of T a/r of five (05¢) cents per mile fr March AF Base, Calif, to destinations indicated and return.
TDN A 2190425 901-226 F 435-02 599-999.
AUTH: AR 600-115 and AF Ltr 3[illegible]-114.

8. MAJ 9301 WILLIAM R CROOKS AO-404 011 WM/USAF, Hq & Hq Sq 1st Ftr Wg this sta is aptd investigating Officer to investigate occurrence per auth CG, AMC, contained in 1st Ind to Letter, Subj: "Information of Unidentified Flying Object", File: DMZ 360.112, fr March Flight Sv Center this sta dated 1 Mar 49.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL DAVIDSON:

OFFICIAL:

M S TILGHMAN
Lt Col, AGD (USAF)
Adjutant

H R GALLOWAY
WOJG, USAF
Asst Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:
10 ea 7.
5 ea 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.

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DOD. DIR 5200.10

HEADQUARTERS 1ST FIGHTER WING
March Air Force Base, California

SPECIAL ORDER
NUMBER 54

18 March 1949

E X T R A C T

1. Par 53 SO 30 this Hq dtd 11 Feb 49 is AMENDED by DELETING: "Sgt Domenico Farinella AF16 205 686 11th Tac Recn Sq (NP) 67th Tac Recn Gp". (Re: Trf of EM to AF ORD, Camp Kilmer, N.J., for Hq & Hq Sq 3rd Air Division, Burtonwood, England. (Shipment Number AH-M186(a)).

2. The fol named EM WM/USAF, orgn's indicated this sta VI o/a 27 Mar 49 on TDY for approx eight (8) days fr March AF Base, Calif, to Selfridge AF Base, Mich., to participate in ConAC Bowling Tournament. Upon compl of TDY EM will return to proper orgn and sta. It is mandatory that EM utilize all Gov't qrs and/or messing facilities available.

M/Sgt	Robert G LeSueur	AF6 854 769	1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp
T/Sgt	Joseph L Castleman	AF19 309 649	Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp
T/Sgt	Dennis S Novak	AF13 026 271	1st Food Sv Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st AB Gp
S/Sgt	Theodore C Schmidt	AF39 760 002	1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp
Ifc	Edward E Monical	AF14 290 063	67th Sta Med Gp

Funds being furn by Army & AF Central Welfare Fund.
TBMA is auth.
AUTH: Ltr Hq 4th AF, file TW 353.8 dtd 8 Mar 49, Subj: "ConAC Bowling Tournament".

3. Par 31 SO 9 this Hq dtd 13 Jan 49 is REVOKED. (Re: 2ND LT HURDIS A SEVERSEN AO-682 908 reld fr asgmt Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp).

4. Par 18 SO 27 this Hq dtd 8 Feb 49 is REVOKED. (Re: TDY of EM Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp (IT)).

5. Exigencies of the sv having prevented the issuance of written orders in adv the VOCO 4 Jan 49 directing the fol named EM WM/USAF, Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp this sta to proceed on TDY for approx one (1) day to Hamilton AF Base, Calif, as armed guards for the purpose of delivering garrison prisoners 1ST LT BRUCE J EVERETT O-204 763 WM/MSC, 67th Sta Med Gp this sta and 2ND LT HURDIS A SEVERSEN AO-682 908 WM/USAF, Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp this sta to CG Hamilton AF Base, Calif, and upon compl of TDY EM will return to proper orgn and sta is hereby confirmed and madeof reocrd. (Off were conf sta guardhouse this sta pending approval GCM). Par 20c AR 600-375 will be complied with prior to departure fr this sta.

S/Sgt	Elmer E Clay	AF6 520 012
Cpl	James R McNeely	AF19 245 222

AUTH: Ltr AGS 4AF, file PJ 253/32, Subj: "Transfer of General Prisoners", dtd 24 Dec 48.

6. T/Sgt Milton F McGahee AF6 359 922 WM/USAF, 1st Instls Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st AB Gp this sta is auth to ration separately eff 17 Mar 49. Confirming VOCO.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Basic ltr fr March Flight Svc Center, March AF Base, Calif, to C/G AMC Wright-Patterson AF Base, Ohio, Attn: MCIAXO-3 d/1 Mar 1949

DMZ 360.112 1st Ind MCIAXS/GWT/aw

Hq AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio 7 March 49

TO: Commanding Officer, March Air Force Base, March Field, Calif, ATTN: Base Intelligence Officer.

1. It is requested Base Intelligence Officer initiate an investigation and obtain detailed signed statements from all available witnesses to the sighting of the unidentified aerial phenomenon reported in basic letter.

2. Two (2) copies of "Guide to Investigation" are inclosed as an aid to the investigating officer in obtaining the desired data.

3. It is particularly desired that all questions of the "General Section" of the guide be answered.

4. Results of this investigation should be considered "Confidential" and interested personnel should be advised of the necessity of avoiding publicity in this matter.

5. Results of this investigation should be directed to Commanding General, Hq, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl
Guide to Inves (2 cys)

W. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Actg Chief, Intelligence Department

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

257

[redacted]
MARCH FLIGHT SERVICE CENTER
March Air Force Base, California

DMZ 360.112 UNCLASSIFIED 1 March 1949

SUBJECT: Information of Unidentified Flying Object.

TO: Commanding General,
Air Material Command,
Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
ATTENTION: MCIAIC-3.

1. In accordance with letter, Headquarters, USAF, subject: "Reporting of Information on 'Flying Discs'," dated 6 February 1948 and Flight Service Regulation 200-4, the following information of unidentified flying object is forwarded as received by March Flight Service Center from Air Route Traffic Control, Los Angeles.

a. 1st Lt. [redacted], pilot of Air Force 7348, T-11 on a round robin flight from Fresno Air Terminal, California to Los Angeles and return, reported that he was circled by a jet propelled blimp while over Sandberg Pass, about 40 miles south of Bakersfield, California at 2030 P, 28 February 1949. The speed of the object was estimated at 500 MPH, flying at an altitude of nine thousand feet. The object then disappeared on a heading of 180°.

b. Weather reported for Sandberg Pass at 2030 P was twenty thousand feet w'n scattered clouds, visibility 10 miles, temperature 38, dew point 34, wind south 7, altimeter 3007. Remarks to the sequence weather were: Visibility west 1 mile, fog ceiling and visibility variable due to scattered stratas drifting over station. Conditions radically changing.

c. No other information of object's size, shape, speed, or color, is available.

RALPH A. REEVS,
Lt. Colonel, USAF,
Commanding.

Information Copies to:
Chief of Staff, USAF,
Washington 25, D.C.
Attn. Director of Intelligence
Commander, MATS, Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: Intelligence Division
CO, Flight Service, Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: A-2

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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1949 MAR 4 21 54

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~~GP SVC~~

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PP JEPAB

FM UWJIR 6/CO FLT SVC MARCH AFB CALIC 011923Z

TO JEPAB/ATTN NCIA XO-3/CG AIR MATERIEL COND WRIGHT PATTERSON

AFB OHIO

INFO JEZAB/ATTN A-W/CO FLT SVC WASHDC

AF GRNC

ODMZ 0002 C PD REF LTR HQ USAF QUOTE REPORTING OF INFORMATION ON

FLYING DISCS UNQUOTE 6 FEB 48 COLON PILOT REPORTS HE WAS CIRCIED

BY JET BLIMP OVER SAN BERNARDINO CALIFORNIA AT 2030P EST SPEED

300 CMA 90 FEET HEADING 180

BZGREES PD DETAILS FOLLOW END REEVE

CC AFSC

DOC 1ST LINE 1ST GP 3HD READ DMZ RPT DOZEES DMZ

01/1927Z MARCH

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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257

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS 1st FIGHTER WING
March Air Force Base
~~March Field, California~~
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE

OI

2 May 1949

SUBJECT: Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object

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

1. In compliance with 1st Indorsement to basic letter, File EMZ 360.112, Subject: Information of Unidentified Flying Object, dated 1 March 1949, the following report of investigation is submitted:

a. 1st Lt [redacted], [redacted], Air Force Reserve Pilot, stationed with 703d Air Reserve Unit, Fresno State Teachers College, Fresno, California, was interrogated and submitted a written statement concerning his observation of an unfamiliar flying object. This observation was made in the vicinity of Sandberg Pass, forty (40) miles South of Bakersfield, California, at approximately 2030 PST, 28 February 1949. No other persons were found who had witnessed the flight of this object. Guide to investigation of unidentified aerial objects, which was furnished this office by Air Materiel Command, was used during the interrogation.

b. Lt [redacted] a student of Industrial Arts at Fresno State Teachers College, Fresno, California, appeared to be an earnest young man, rather quiet and reserved, with no particular aptitude for self-expression. He is regarded as sober and respectable and enjoys a good reputation among his associates, in the school. In the opinion of the Investigating Officer, Lt [redacted] would have neither the inclination nor the ability to construct this report in a wild flight of fancy.

c. Lt [redacted] was first interviewed on 22 March 1949. He reported that at the time of the observation he had been seated in the left pilots seat of a F-11 aircraft, flying the return leg of a round robbin cross country proficiency flight from Fresno Air Terminal to Los Angeles and return. The object which he observed was roughly

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[redacted]

57

[redacted]

OI 2 May 1949
Subject: Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object

sausage shaped in that both the forward and trailing ends resembled a B-29 nose. The object was on a heading approximately North to South and approached [redacted] aircraft from 12 o'clock, at which time he made his first observation. The object disappeared to the rear of the T-11 and then apparently it made a 360° turn around it as [redacted] made his second observation approximately fifteen (15) seconds later when the object appeared to his right and made a 180° turn in front of him, again disappearing to the rear. The total length of time for both of these observations was approximately twenty (20) seconds. The weather at the time was reported to be high thin scattered clouds at 20,000 feet, vsby 10 miles. Temperature was 36, dew point 34, with a wind from the South at about eight (8) miles per hour. Vsby to the West was one (1) mile, with fog ceiling due to scattered strata. Weather conditions were rapidly changing at the time. The object appeared at about 20° above the observers horizon. Its size in comparison to the hand held at an arms length from the face was about that of the index and third finger. The object had no definite color and no luminosity. There were no projections observed. There appeared to be no effect on clouds in the vicinity and [redacted] asserts that his attention was drawn to the object by the glow of a propulsion jet from the objects tail. Interrogation of experienced jet pilots reveal that at night no jet glow is visible unless observed from exactly behind the aircraft, looking right up the tail pipe. Smiths co-pilot was in the back of the T-11 at the time of the observation and saw nothing of the object. Smith attempted to contact another pilot flying a similar mission who was approximately ten (10) minutes behind him to ask him to watch for the object. Smith was answered by an unidentified voice over the radio whom he believed to be the pilot he was calling. Upon landing however, he discovered that although the other pilot had received his message he had not been able to contact [redacted] because of the interference created by the unidentified person answering [redacted] call. The other pilot likewise observed nothing of the object.

d. It will be noted that the original report of this incident was sent to Air Materiel Command from March Flight Service Center. Investigation revealed that March Flight Service Center was informed of the occurrence by a report from Los Angeles Control Center. This Control Center probably received its information from one (1) or more of four (4) Radio Range Stations in the vicinity. These are the Bakersfield Radio, Lancaster Radio, Newhall Radio or Los Angeles Radio. It is believed that it was the operator on duty at one of these Range Stations that answered [redacted] call, although he did not identify himself and no information of a more definite nature could be obtained.

[redacted]

357

[redacted]

OI 2 May 1949

Subject: Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object

e. The following installations, both commercial and military in this area, were interrogated as to the possibility of any jet aircraft flights originating from their stations at the approximate time of the observation.

(1) Muroc Air Force Base, California
(2) Point Mugu USNAMTC, Point Mugu, California
(3) El Toro MCAS, Santa Ana, California
(4) Inyokern USNAMTC, Inyokern, California
(5) Hamilton Air Force Base, California
(6) 62nd Fighter Wing, Metropolitan Airport, Van Nuys, California
(7) 196th Fighter Sq, San Bernardino AFB, California
(8) U.S. Naval Air Station, North Island, San Diego, California
(9) Lockheed Aircraft Corp, Burbank, California
(10) North American Aviation Inc, Inglewood, California
(11) Base Operations, this station
(12) 1st Fighter Group, this station
(13) 67th Tac Reconnaissance Wing, this station

All of this correspondence was answered and regarding the origin of any jet flights that could possibly have been in the area of the observation at the time the observation was made, was negative.

f. No radar sightings of the object were reported.

William R. Crooks

WILLIAM R. CROOKS
Major, USAF
Director of Intelligence

2 Incls:
1. Pilot's Statement
2. Cy S.O. 54, appointing Investigating Officer

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

3

[redacted]

257

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

STATEMENT

I am a Reserve pilot, 703rd AROC Unit, at Fresno, California. On the night of February 28, 1949, I was pilot of a T11 aircraft No. 7346 on a round-robin flight from Fresno Air Terminal, California, to Los Angeles and return. I departed Fresno 1845 hours with one crew member. At approximately 2030 PST while in the vicinity of Sandberg Pass, 40 miles south of Bakersfield, while flying on a northerly heading at an altitude of approximately 9,000 feet, I observed what appeared to be a jet-propelled aircraft of an unfamiliar type. Weather over Sandberg Pass was thin scattered clouds, visibility 10 miles, temperature 36, cloud covering at approximately 20,000 feet, dew point 34, wind south 7, altimeter 3007. The visibility west was 1 mile with fog ceiling and visibility variable due to scattered stratas drifting in the area. The object with the general shape of a blimp approached head-on about 1500 feet above me, made a complete 360° circle, and left on a heading of 180° to my course. The object left a steady glow at the rear which I believed to be a jet exhaust. At the time the co-pilot was in the rear of the aircraft and at no time observed the object. I was unable to determine its distance from me due to darkness and climatic conditions. The object appeared about as big as two fingers at arms' length and it took about 40 seconds for object to make a 360° turn about my aircraft. During this maneuver I observed the object to be approximately 20° above my line of flight. The windshield of my aircraft was clear at the time the observation was made.

When the object completed the turn and left, I immediately attempted to contact the pilot of another aircraft also on a round-robin about 10 minutes behind me. I was answered by someone whom I believed to be this pilot but I later learned that, although he had received my transmission, he had been unable to reply due to the interference of the unknown individual who was answering me. I was never able to identify the individual with whom I communicated. The other pilot that I was attempting to contact did not observe the object and to my knowledge I am the only person who made the actual observation.

[redacted]

1st Lieut., USAFR

[redacted]

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

[redacted]

207

Name and address of observer: 1st Lt Air Force

Occupation and hobbies:

[redacted] appeared to be earnest young man, rather quiet & reserved.

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

I am a Reserve pilot, 703rd AROC Unit, at Fresno, California. On the night of February 28, 1949, I was pilot of a T11 aircraft No. 7346 on a round-robin flight from Fresno Air Terminal, California, to Los Angeles and return. I departed Fresno 1845 hours with one crew member. At approximately 2030 PST while in the vicinity of Sandberg Pass, 40 miles south of Bakersfield, while flying on a northerly heading at an altitude of approximately 9,000 feet, I observed what appeared to be a jet-propelled aircraft of an unfamiliar type. Weather over Sandberg Pass was thin scattered clouds, visibility 10 miles, temperature 36, cloud covering at approximately 20,000 feet, dew point 34, wind south 7, altimeter 3007. The visibility to west was 1 mile with fog ceiling and visibility variable due to scattered stratas drifting in the area. The object with the general shape of a blimp approached head-on about 1500 feet above me, made a complete 360° circle, and left on a heading of 180° to my course. The object left a steady glow at the rear which I believed to be a jet exhaust. At the time the co-pilot was in the rear of the aircraft and at no time observed the object. I was unable to determine its distance from me due to darkness and climatic conditions. The object appeared about as big as two fingers at arms' length and it took about 40 seconds for object to make a 360° turn about my aircraft. During this maneuver I observed the object to be approximately 20° above my line of flight. The windshield of my aircraft was clear at the time the observation was made.

When the object completed the turn and left, I immediately attempted to contact the pilot of another aircraft also on a round-robin about 10 minutes behind me. I was answered by someone whom I believed to be this pilot but I later learned that, although he had received my transmission, he had been unable to reply due to the interference of the unknown individual who was answering me. I was never able to identify the individual with who I communicated. The other pilot that I was attempting to contact did not observe the object and to my knowledge I am the only person who made the actual observation.

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HEADQUARTERS 1ST FIGHTER WING
March Air Force Base, California

SPECIAL ORDER
NUMBER 54

18 March 1949

E X T R A C T

1. Par 53 SO 30 this Hq dtd 11 Feb 49 is AMENDED by DELETING: "Sgt Domenico Farinella AF16 205 686 11th Tac Rcn Sq (NP) 67th Tac Rcn Gp". (Re: Trf of EM to AF ORD, Camp Kilmer, N.J., for Hq & Hq Sq 3rd Air Division, Burtonwood, England. (Shipment Number AH-M186(a)).

2. The fol named EM WM/USAF, orgn's indicated this sta WP o/a 27 Mar 49 on TDY for approx eight (8) days fr March AF Base, Calif, to Selfridge AF Base, Mich., to participate in ConAC Bowling Tournament. Upon compl of TDY EM will return to proper orgn and sta. It is mandatory that EM utilize all Gov't qrs and/or messing facilities available.

M/Sgt	Robert G LeSueur	AF6 854 769	1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp
T/Sgt	Joseph L Castleman	AF19 309 649	Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp
T/Sgt	Dennis S Novak	AF13 026 271	1st Food Sv Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st AB Gp
S/Sgt	Theodore C Schmidt	AF39 760 002	1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp
Ifc	Edward E Monical	AF14 290 063	67th Sta Med Gp

Funds being furn by Army & AF Central Welfare Fund.
TBMA is auth.
AUTH: Ltr Hq 4th AF, file PW 353.8 dtd 8 Mar 49, Subj: "ConAC Bowling Tournament".

3. Par 31 SO 9 this Hq dtd 13 Jan 49 is REVOKED. (Re: 2ND LT HURDIS A SEVERSEN AO-682 908 reld fr asgmt Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp).

4. Par 18 SO 27 this Hq dtd 8 Feb 49 is REVOKED. (Re: TDY of EM Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp (PT)).

5. Exigencies of the sv having prevented the issuance of written orders in adv the VOCO 4 Jan 49 directing the fol named EM WM/USAF, Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp this sta to proceed on TDY for approx one (1) day to Hamilton AF Base, Calif, as armed guards for the purpose of delivering garrison prisoners 1ST LT BRUCE J EVERETT O-204 763 WM/MSC, 67th Sta Med Gp this sta and 2ND LT HURDIS A SEVERSEN AO-682 908 WM/USAF, Hq & Hq Sq 1st AB Gp this sta to CG Hamilton AF Base, Calif, and upon compl of TDY EM will return to proper orgn and sta is hereby confirmed and madeof reocrd. (Off were conf sta guardhouse this sta pending approval GCM). Par 20c AR 600-375 will be complied with prior to departure fr this sta.

S/Sgt	Elmer E Clay	AF6 520 012
Cpl	James R McNeely	AF19 245 222

AUTH: Ltr AGS 4AF, file PJ 253/32, Subj: "Transfer of General Prisoners", dtd 24 Dec 48.

6. T/Sgt Milton F McGahee AF6 359 922 WM/USAF, 1st Instls Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st AB Gp this sta is auth to ration separately eff 17 Mar 49. Confirming VOCO.

HQ 1ST FTR WG, MARCH AF BASE, CALIF, SO 54 dtd 18 Mar 49.

7. The fol named EM WM/USAF, orgn's indicated this sta having reenl in the AF dates indicated, for periods indicated, are auth reenl lv as indicated, eff dates indicated, and WT to destinations indicated. Upon compl of lv EM will report to proper orgn and sta.

T/Sgt Milton F McGahee AF6 359 922 1st Instls Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st AB Gp, enl 17 Mar 49 for an indef period, auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 25 Mar 49, address: 835 Vermont Street, Bangor, Maine.

S/Sgt Albert F Schneider AF36 233 493 1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp, enl 17 Mar 49 for an indef period, auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 22 Mar 49, address: 2223 West Garfield Ave, Milwaukee, Wisc.

S/Sgt Lawrence Burgher AF35 469 360 1st Sup Sq, Ftr Jet, 1st M & S Gp, enl 17 Mar 49 for an indef period, auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 22 Mar 49, address: Ashland, Maine.

S/Sgt Lewis B Thompson AF19 059 348 12th Tac Rcn Sq (PJ) 67th Tac Rcn Gp, enl 18 Mar 49 for 3 yrs; auth thirty (30) days lv, eff o/a 21 Mar 49, address: 9117-217th St., Queens Village, New York.

In accordance with Par 56 AFR 173-5 the FD this sta will pay in adv the prescribed mon alws in lieu of T a/r of five (05¢) cents per mile fr March AF Base, Calif, to destinations indicated and return.
TDN A 2190425 901-226 F 435-02 S99-999.
AUTH: AR 600-115 and AF Ltr 35-114.

8. MAJ 9301 WILLIAM R CROOKS AO-404 011 WM/USAF, Hq & Hq Sq 1st Ftr Wg this sta is aptd investigating Officer to investigate occurrence per auth CG, AMC, contained in 1st Ind to Letter, Subj? "Information of Unidentified Flying Object", File: DMZ 360.112, fr March Flight Sv Center this sta dated 1 Mar 49.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL DAVIDSON:

OFFICIAL:

M S TILGHMAN
Lt Col, AGD (USAF)
Adjutant

H R GALLOWAY
WOJG, USAF
Asst Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:
10 ea 7.
5 ea 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

INCIDENT NO. 257

1. Date of Observation 23 July 47 Date of Interview 1 Aug 47
2. Exact time (local) 2030 PST
3. Place of Observation Sandberg Pass, Calif (40 miles South Bakersfield Calif)
4. Position of observer Air (T-11)
5. What attracted attention to object Jet from tail
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size Size of Inter at Arms length
8. Color of object
9. Shape Jet Propelled Blimp (Sausage Shaped)
10. Altitude 9,000 ft 20°
11. Direction from observer North
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s) North to South
14. Time in sight 20 Sec.
15. Speed 500 MPH
16. Sound and Odor
17. Trail
18. Luminosity
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers Circled Plane in 360° & 180° Turns
21. Manner of disappearance
22. Effect on clouds
23. Additional information concerning object
24. Weather conditions High Thin Scattered Clouds 19000 ft 10 miles Vis 4 8 MPH Wind from South Visibility to west 7 miles

(over)

UNCLASSIFIED