Incident #236

ATIC NO. - - -

DATE OF INFO 4 April 1949

AF NO. - - -

LOCATION Merced, Calif.

REPORT NO. - - -

SOURCE Ex-Maj. USAF Pilot

DATE OF REPORT - - -

DATE IN TO ATIC - - -

TIME OF SIGHTING 2220

COLOR - - -

SHAPE Solid-curved undersurface

SPEED - - -

SIZE 4'-5' diameter

ALTITUDE 40° (less than 1,000')

COURSE N or NW then S to SE

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 35 Sec EST

NO. IN GROUP 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

SOUND Clicking Noise

MANEUVERS Performed arc of aprox 90° with clicking noise throughout.

PHOTOS - - -

SKETCHES - - -

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jun 52)

Unident. Sled

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INCIDENT NO. 286

3

1. Date of Observation 4 April 49 Date of Interview _____

2. Exact time (local) 2220

3. Place of Observation Merced, California (1 mile West)

4. Position of observer Ground

5. What attracted attention to object & - clicking noise of considerable intensity.

6. Number of objects one

7. Apparent size 4 or 5 foot in diameter

8. Color of object Appeared to be dull surfaced light metal. (seen by reflection of ground lights only.

9. Shape Appeared to be solid mass,but under surface believed to have been curved.

10. Altitude 40°(appeared to be less than 1,00 ft.)

11. Direction from observer Easternly

12. Distance from observer

13. Direction of flight of object(s) North or Northwest at first then South to Southwest

14. Time in sight estimated 35 seconds

15. Speed When first sighted appeared to be moving very slowly.

16. Sound and/or Clidking noise like home mixer improperly meshed. When overhead noise stopped.

17. Trail none noticed.

18. Luminosity Only reflected light from surface lights noticed.

19. Projections

20. Maneuvers Maneuvered through an arc of turn to the left of about 90° to left. (clicking continous throughout turn)

21. Manner of disappearance Suddenly disappeared when clicking noise stopped.

22. Effect on clouds.

23. Additional information concerning object Dog directed its attention toward direction of objects course during entire period.

24. Weather conditions 20,000 thin broken, 12 miles visibility, Surface winds North 9 mph,

(over)

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TRANSMITTAL RESTRICTED ATSC FORM NO. 80-506 (1 JAN. 45)

FROM: [illegible] DATE 11 Apr 49 HOUR 1500 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: [illegible]

INCO		INTER-OFFICE	X		OUTGOING		COMPLETE FILE COPY		INCOMPL. FILE COPY		NO FILE COPY	

FROM: ATSC TO: AG ASF w/1 cy to Hqs ASF

REG. NO. [illegible]

DESCRIPTION, DATES AND SUBJECT:

Catalina Messages 2d 11 Apr 49(1-1 p)(cy 1 thru 3 made)

INCLOSURES: 5

TO: (OFFICE SYMBOL)	COPY NO.	REC'D BY (FULL SIGNATURE)	DATE REC'D	HOUR
1 WDTAG	2			
TO: 2 AAFS	COPY NO.	REC'D BY	DATE REC'D	HOUR
TO: 3	COPY NO.	REC'D BY	DATE REC'D	HOUR
TO: 4	COPY NO.	REC'D BY	DATE REC'D	HOUR

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DETAILS (cont'd)

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a light private aircraft, he had sighted a circular disc which seemed to be suspended from a parachute or balloon. This circular object when viewed through ten (10) power binoculars, seemed to be aflame along the entire inner edge of disc or circle. Mr. [redacted] said that the object ascended to approximately twenty-five (25) thousand feet and he was unable to keep it in sight. Mr. [redacted] gave the nine (9) inch fragment of the unidentified object to this Agent.

AT LOWRY AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

11. An examination of available research material disclosed that above mentioned objects were an integral part of a Japanese Bomb or Incendiary Carrying Balloon. Page 2061, O.N.I. Weekly, Volume IV, No. 26 dated 27 June 1945, contains a descriptive article on same and pictures found between pages 2046-2047 of the same volume will substantiate this theory.

12. Enclosed as exhibits: Exhibit I, newspaper clipping of Mr. [redacted] and fragment of object. Exhibits II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, 8"x10" photos of the three fragments.

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation was requested by the District Commander, 14th OSI District, Lowry AF Base, on 2 April 1949, who was telephonically informed by Mr. [redacted], 1400 Gilpin St., Denver, Maintenance Engineer for Westinghouse Electrical Co., that he was in possession of an object that he believed to be a part of a rocket or guided missile.

AT DENVER, COLORADO

2. This is a joint investigation of Special Agents ROY E. BURKEY, FREDERICK K. UNGERER and the writer.

3. At 1120 hours, 2 April 1949, this agent interviewed Mr. [redacted] at his office, Room 1025, Gas & Electric Building. Mr. [redacted] produced a semi-circular object, approximately nine (9) inches long, with eight (8) hozzles protruding along entire inner surface of arc. Above object was constructed of a rough aluminum, magnesium material, with brass or brass alloy, nozzle like projections that threaded into inner curve of arc at approximately one half (1/2) inch intervals. This object was not identifiable as a part of any known aircraft engine, jet engine, or rocket. Mr. [redacted] stated that this object was found by a Mr. [redacted], a rancher, whose ranch was located near Delta, Colorado, adjacent to the Uncompahgre National Forest. [redacted] said that [redacted] had picked up the object while riding the northern range limits of his ranch, and that several other similar portions were still lying on the [redacted] ranch. In Mr. [redacted] opinion, [redacted] had discovered the objects thirty (30) to sixty (60) days prior. Mr. [redacted] gave Mr. [redacted] the portion he had, to identify it, and Mr. [redacted] brought the above mentioned object to Denver. (See Exhibits, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

AT LOWRY AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

4. The following interviews were conducted by Special Agent FREDERICK K. UNGERER.

5. Upon examination of metal article, 1st Lt. JOSEPH P. L. BERNIER, OIC, Bombs & Rockets Branch, 3415th Technical Training Wing, stated that he did not recognize it as anything within his scope of knowledge. It was Lt. BERNIER's opinion that the detachable nozzle-like parts were some sort of metering jets possibly used in large type rockets. Due to its size Lt. BERNIER stated that if the part were from a rocket or guided missile, it would be from the White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico.

6. M/Sgt HUGH J. SHINKLE, AF 6652021, NCOIC, Machine Shops, Lowry AF Base, measured the metal parts and came to the conclusion that all dimensions were in the metric system. The threads of the nozzle-like parts are not of a standard U. S. size.

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DETAILS (cont'd)

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7. Captain HENRY C. MACQUEEN, AO-364961, Tech Inspector, Lowry AF Base, stated that the metal part was definitely not part of a Jet engine and that it was not any part known to him.

8. Captain DARWIN D. CHARBONNEAUX, AO-37013, OIC, Inspection and Flight Test Section, Lowry AF Base, stated that he had returned from schooling at Aero Jet Engineering Corporation, Azusa, California, 25 March 1949. The Aero Jet Engineering Corporation is presently building rockets for the U. S. Government. During his schooling Captain CHARBONNEAUX became familiar with all types of Jet engines and rockets, including the V-1 and V-2 rockets. Upon examination of the metal part presented by this agent, Captain CHARBONNEAUX stated that it was unlike any part of any rocket constructed by the U. S. He also stated that in his opinion the section shown was part of a diffuser ring or injection ring used in some type of rocket. When used in a rocket, a diffuser or injection ring is not subjected to intense heat, according to Captain CHARBONNEAUX.

AT DELTA, COLORADO

9. On 5 April 1949, Special Agent ROY E. BURKEY and the writer contacted Messrs. [redacted] at their ranch, approximately eight (8) miles southwest of Delta, Colorado. Mr. [redacted] stated that he had discovered the unidentified objects while riding range, in the latter part of April 1946. At that time, Mr. [redacted] stated that he was slightly curious as to what said objects might be; however, he left them lie until April 1949, at which time he brought the objects back to the ranch house and attempted to identify them, giving one each of the fragments or portions to Mr. [redacted] of Denver, and Mr. [redacted] of Montrose, Colorado. (See attached clipping, Exhibit I). Mr. [redacted] accompanied Agent BURKEY and writer to the approximate location where objects were first found, on a high, extremely rocky mesa, approximately two and one half (2 1/2) miles from his ranch house. A thorough search was conducted, of this inaccessible area, with negative results. An examination of available maps of locality where objects were found, indicated position by map co-ordinates, as thirty eight (38) degrees, forty two (42) minutes north and one hundred eight (108) degrees ten (10) minutes, thirty (30) seconds west. Mr. [redacted] gave Agent BURKEY the object which he still had in his possession; this was identical with that received from Mr. [redacted], except it was longer, being approximately twenty (20) inches in length. Mr. [redacted] and [redacted] both stated that neither they or any of their neighbors had ever seen any "flying discs", rockets, or balloons in their area.

AT MONTROSE, COLORADO

10. Mr. [redacted], [redacted], was interviewed and stated that he had received a nine (9) inch fragment of the object found on the ranch at Delta. [redacted] stated that he believed the object to be a portion of a so called "flying disc", as he had observed many of them, during the summer of 1947. Mr. [redacted] further stated that in June 1947 while flying in

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TRANSMITTAL

RESTRICTED ATSC FORM NO. 80-506 (1 JAN. 43)

FROM: [illegible] DATE 4/8/43 HOUR 22 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER [illegible]

INCOMING	INTER-OFFICE		OUTGOING	COMPLETE-FILE COPY		INCOMPL. FILE COPY		F[illegible]OPY	

FROM: [illegible] TO: [illegible]

REG. NO. [illegible]

DESCRIPTION, DATES AND SUBJECT:

[illegible]

ACTION

INCLOSURES:

5

TO: (OFFICE SYMBOL)	COPY NO.	REC'D BY (FULL SIGNATURE)	DATE REC'D	HOUR
1 [illegible]	1	[illegible]		
TO: 2	COPY NO.	REC'D BY	DATE REC'D	HOUR
TO: 3	COPY NO.	REC'D BY	DATE REC'D	HOUR
TO: 4	COPY NO.	REC'D BY	DATE REC'D	HOUR

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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	FILE NO. 24-24	DATE 7 April 1949
	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT C. LANE, S/A	dl
TITLE Integral Part of a Japanese Bomb and Incendiary Carrying Balloon ([redacted] Ranch, Delta, Colorado)	REPORT MADE AT DO #14, LOWRY AFB	
	PERIOD 2, 4, 5, 6, April 1949	
	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #14, LOWRY AFB	
	STATUS CLOSED	

CHARACTER
Special Inquiry

REFERENCE
None - This is an initial report.

SYNOPSIS

On 2 April 1949, Mr. [redacted], Maintenance Engineer, [redacted], Denver, Colorado, telephonically informed the Deputy District Commander, 14th OSI District that he was in possession of an unidentified object found on a rahch near Delta, Colorado, and he believed it to be a part of a rocket. Mr. [redacted] said that larger portions of this same mysterious object were still lying on the ranch of Messrs. [redacted] and [redacted], near Delta, Colorado. Agent R[redacted] and the writer proceeded from Denver to the [redacted] Ranch Delta, Colorado, conducted a thorough search of the area and questioned all persons concerned, and recovered two (2) additional portions of the same object. Investigation revealed this object to be an integral part of a Japanese Bomb or Incendiary Carrying Balloon. The recovered parts of this object are in the custody of the District Commander, 14th District OSI (IG), Lowry AF Base, Colorado.

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

DISTRIBUTION		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	FILE STAMP
HQ, OSI	4	Director of Special Investigations, Office of The Inspector General, USAF Washington 25, D. C.	
DO, Lowry AFB (Info)	2		
DO #6	2		
File	1		
		APPROVED [redacted] OSI, USAF DISTRICT COMMANDER	

AFOSI FORM 4
29 JULY 1948

UNCLASSIFIED

3-1078, AF

[redacted]

OTCI 000.92
Subj: Report of Possible Intelligence Interest

surfaced, light colored metal. The only ground lights of intensity were a row of street lights behind me one half block which leads me to believe the under surface of this object to be curved in shape.

"This object when first sighted, was moving very slowly in a west or northwesterly direction. I would estimate that I had it in my range of vision for 35 seconds, after having heard it about ten seconds before locating it. It passed on beyond the house and maneuvered through an arc of turn to the left of about ninety degrees, the clicking sound was continuous throughout this turn, however, it became louder as it returned on its new heading of south or southwest. On its return the clicking sound became louder, but I was unable to see it at this time. The clicking sound stopped when it was at its greatest intensity and appeared to come from a position directly over head. I was unable to see the object after the sound stopped.

"This clicking sound retained the same pitch and speed throughout the entire course observed, but intensity varied. There was no whistle or roar, but only the clicking noise which might be compared to beaters of a home mixer that were not properly meshed. No lights or flame were observed during its entire course with exception of the previous described reflections twice. No exhaust trail was distinguishable.

"My dog was with me and directed her attention in the general direction of this object's flight throughout its course. She had been romping with me on coming out of the house, but without spoken word stopped and directed her attention to the previously described area. The clicking sound might not have been unusual to the dog, but there is a possibility of sounds on wave lengths discernable only to the dog, being emitted."

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

[redacted]
Lt Col, USAF
Adjutant

Info Cy to:
CO 15 AF
CG SAC

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

[redacted]