

FIGURE 32 ABOVE WOOD

ATIC NO. —

DATE OF INFO 27 Dec 1949

AF NO. —

LOCATION Los Alamos, N. M.

REPORT NO. —

SOURCE Tech. Personnel

DATE OF REPORT 6 Jan 1950

DATE IN TO ATIC —

TIME OF OCCURRING 1510

COLOR —

NAME —

VELOCITY —

CLASS —

ROTATION —

ANGLE —

ROTATION —

NO. IN GROUP —

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

MANEUVERS Diving

Vapor trail appeared which apparently dived and then disappeared. The object appeared to hang motionless just above the southern horizon for a moment and then went south at a high rate of speed, leaving a vapor trail.

SKETCHES —

peared to hang motionless just above the southern horizon for a moment and then went south at a high rate of speed, leaving a vapor trail.

ATIC Form 329  
(Rev. 5-52)

UNCLASSIFIED

6. Mrs. MERTIE DICKENS, RD #3, Trumansburg, New York was interviewed and stated that on 28 December 1949 she was at her home all day and did not see the objects described by Mrs. [REDACTED] and her children, nor did she hear any airplanes flying overhead that day. She further states that later than evening, Mrs. [REDACTED] called her and asked whether or not she had seen the objects which were seen near her home. She stated that she did not know of anyone in that vicinity who had seen the objects, except Mrs. [REDACTED] and her children.

7. Mrs. [REDACTED] Trumansburg, stated upon interview, that on 28 December 1949 she was at home doing her housework and did not see the objects described by Mrs. [REDACTED] although she had read about it in the newspaper. It had been determined by Mrs. [REDACTED] that the [REDACTED] house was the closest to the spot in the road where they stopped to observe the objects in the sky. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she did not see or hear anything unusual and did not know anything about it until she read about it in the newspaper.

8. Mr. [REDACTED] whose farm borders the strip of woods over which Mrs. [REDACTED] saw the objects flying, stated that on 28 December 1949 he was at home and had been out on the farm with his tractor and had been out in the car also but that he had not seen the objects described by Mrs. [REDACTED]. He stated that he was well acquainted with Mrs. [REDACTED] and remembered her calling him on the phone the evening after she had observed the flying objects, to inquire whether he had seen these objects in the sky.

9. This Agent interviewed Mrs. [REDACTED] school teacher, Trumansburg, New York and she stated that she was at home on 28 December 1949 as this was during the Christmas vacation period. She stated that she had been going in and out of the house a great deal that afternoon as she was helping her mother and father to pack their trailer prior to their leaving for Florida. She stated that she did not see any objects in the sky nor did she hear any airplanes. She stated further that since the Christmas vacation she had talked to a great number of her students and fellow teachers but no one had seen the objects described by Mrs. [REDACTED]. Most of the students and teachers live in the vicinity of the location where Mrs. [REDACTED] and her children saw the objects in the sky.

AT ITHACA, NEW YORK

10. This Agent interviewed the Chief of Police, MARSHALL, and he stated that he had seen the article in the Ithaca Journal relative to the [REDACTED]s who live in the Perry City section and who had seen the objects in the sky. A check of the records revealed that there were no complaints received on 28 December 1949 nor had any information other than that which was in the newspaper relative to the flying objects, been heard of in that locality.

11. Professor Richard Parmenter, Assistant Professor of Research at Cornell University, was interviewed by the Writer and he stated that he had seen the article in the Ithaca newspaper and was quite interested, having read considerable publicity about various people in the different parts of the country who had observed flying saucers. He further stated that there were no experiments being conducted at the University at this date and that there was no weather apparatus sent up to register the weather that day. He added that to the best of his knowledge, 28 December 1949 was a warm, clear December day with no snow and excellent visibility.

UNCLASSIFIED

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12. This Agent interviewed Mr. [REDACTED], Operations Officer for the Robinson Airlines, Ithaca, New York. Mr. [REDACTED] made a check of the records and stated that there was no weather apparatus used on 28 December 1949 or at any time during the month of December. He further states that he observed the article in the Ithaca newspaper and had questioned the pilots flying Robinson aircraft in this vicinity on that date. He further states that it is possible that Mrs. [REDACTED] may have seen one of the Robinson Airliners, which is a DC-3, which landed at the Ithaca Airport at 1535, coming in from a Buffalo to Rochester to Ithaca, New York flight. He stated further that this would place the aircraft in the vicinity described by Mrs. [REDACTED] at approximately 1530, the time she states she saw the object. Another DC-3 landed at the Ithaca Airport at approximately 1522 from a Syracuse to Ithaca, New York flight. He stated further that upon checking the maps in the Operations Room at the Robinson Airlines, he determined that both flights, the one from Buffalo and the one from Syracuse, New York, would circle for a landing near the vicinity where Mrs. [REDACTED] observed the objects on 28 December 1949.

13. Mr. [REDACTED] Ithaca, New York was interviewed by this Agent. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he was a pilot with the Robinson Airlines and was piloting a DC-3 on 28 December 1949 on a flight from Buffalo to Rochester to Ithaca, New York and that he landed at approximately 1535 after circling the area where Mrs. [REDACTED] is alleged to have observed the objects in the sky. He stated that he did not observe anything unusual and that he circled at approximately 1530.

- CLOSED -

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED  
HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY  
FORT MCPHERSON, GEORGIA

AJACI-3 360.33

4 January 1950

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

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

Attention: MCI (Control No. A-1917)

1 AXA

Inclosed herewith are newspaper clippings and summary of information re strange objects in sky over Charlotte and Hamlet, North Carolina.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

*John Meade*  
fr JOHN MEADE  
Colonel, GSC  
AC of S, G-2

6 Incls:

1 - S/I dtd 29 Dec 49  
2-6 Clippings

1-3712-26  
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.1R

UNCLASSIFIED

511

UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

DATE

29 December 1949

PREPARING OFFICE

CIC Field Area Office No. 10, P.O. Box 2525, Charlotte, N.C.

SUBJECT

Unconventional and Unidentified Aircraft Sighted at Hamlet, N.C. and Pageland, S.C.

CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

OF SOURCE:

|                      |       |   |
|----------------------|-------|---|
| COMPLETELY RELIABLE  | ..... | A |
| USUALLY RELIABLE     | ..... | B |
| FAIRLY RELIABLE      | ..... | C |
| NOT USUALLY RELIABLE | ..... | D |
| UNRELIABLE           | ..... | E |
| RELIABILITY UNKNOWN  | ..... | F |

OF INFORMATION:

|                            |       |   |
|----------------------------|-------|---|
| CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES | ..... | 1 |
| PROBABLY TRUE              | ..... | 2 |
| POSSIBLY TRUE              | ..... | 3 |
| DOUBTFULLY TRUE            | ..... | 4 |
| IMPROBABLE                 | ..... | 5 |
| TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED     | ..... | 6 |

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Confirming telephoned report on this date, information is furnished that according to an Associated Press dispatch from Hamlet, N.C., dated 28 December 1949 which was published in the Charlotte Observer on 29 December 1949, a strange unidentified aircraft, resembling a balloon or blimp, was reported flying "erratically" over Hamlet at approximately 1645 on 28 December 1949, apparently out of control. According to the above dispatch several residents, including two pilots, gave various reports of the craft as "heading straight down" and "levelling off" and "turning over". One observer stated that he thought he saw something resembling a man drop from the craft and one pilot, who chased it in an airplane, said it appeared to be from 20 to 30 feet in diameter. (F-3)

"It was first reported flying West over town at about 1645 by Dr. [REDACTED] of Hamlet, N.C. and [REDACTED]. They reported the ship to the local airport where an overseas news correspondent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]ns, took off in a light plane to chase the craft. [REDACTED], a former Air Force pilot, said he saw the craft only once from the air and that it definitely was not saucer shaped. He said he was unable to overtake it but from that distance it appeared to be a large metal ball without any external fittings such as are ordinarily carried by free balloons. Although observers said the craft did not seem to have much speed from the ground, [REDACTED] reported it quickly disappeared in the sun when he drew near. The newsman said he last saw it about 12 miles southwest of here." (F-3)

"The weather station at Charlotte said there was some possibility that the object was a radiosonde balloon such as are released by weather stations at Greensboro and Fort Bragg, N.C. each morning about 1000. The balloons are used to transmit weather data from the atmosphere, and ordinarily burst at high altitude, the radio parachuting back to earth. However, the weather station said that the fact that it was seen over Hamlet, N.C. so late in the afternoon tended to discount this theory. [REDACTED] is stated that from his Air Force service he was familiar with these balloons and that the strange craft did not resemble one. It was much bigger, he stated. He added that the fact that it did not change altitude for a long period of time also tended to disprove it was a balloon." (F-3)

According to another article in the above newspaper on 29 December 1949 several residents of Pageland, S.C. reported seeing a strange object in the sky moving westward on the afternoon of 28 December 1949. "The object, according to the reports, was not moving at a very fast rate, but persons who attempted to follow it in an automobile soon lost it in the evening sun, they reported."

*Janet H. 1*  
DOWNGRADED 12/29/2001 (F-3) A.L.S.  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

DISTRIBUTION

6-A.C. of S., G-2, 3rd Army; 1-File.

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED

## SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

DATE

29 December 1949

PREPARING OFFICE

CIC Field Area Office No. 10, P.O. Box 2525, Charlotte, N.C.

SUBJECT

Unconventional and Unidentified Aircraft Sighted at Hamlet, N.C. and Pageland, S.C.

## CODE FOR USE IN INDIVIDUAL PARAGRAPH EVALUATION

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|----------------------|---|
| COMPLETELY RELIABLE  | A |
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| FAIRLY RELIABLE      | C |
| NOT USUALLY RELIABLE | D |
| UNRELIABLE           | E |
| RELIABILITY UNKNOWN  | F |

## OF INFORMATION:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES | 1 |
| PROBABLY TRUE              | 2 |
| POSSIBLY TRUE              | 3 |
| DOUBTFULLY TRUE            | 4 |
| IMPROBABLE                 | 5 |
| TRUTH CANNOT BE JUDGED     | 6 |

## SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

On this date the following offices were contacted regarding subject and information was revealed that none of these offices have received any reports regarding such an object having been sighted:

C.A.A. Airways Communications Station, Morris Field, Charlotte, N.C.  
C.A.A. Aviation Safety Office, Morris Field, Charlotte, N.C.  
C.A.A. Airport Control Tower, Morris Field, Charlotte, N.C.  
U.S. Weather Bureau, Airport Station, Morris Field, Charlotte, N.C.  
Civil Air Patrol, Headquarters, N.C. Wing, Tuckaseege Rd., Charlotte, N.C.

(B-2)

UNCLASSIFIED  
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DECLASSIFIED  
DOD D

INTERVALS:  
YEARS.

UNCLASSIFIED

DISTRIBUTION

WD AGO FORM 568  
1 JUN 47

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-53306-1

CONFIDENTIAL

# Cigar-Shaped 'Thing' Over City Identified As B-36 Vapor Trail

A ghostly silver tube suspended in cloudless skies brought new visions of air-going cigars to mystified Charlotteans yesterday.

But the strange, oblong object that has been reported streaking over the Carolinas since Wednesday had been shorn of its mystery last night.

The control tower at Municipal airport identified "the thing" conclusively as the vapor trail of an Air Force B-36, flying high and

fast 40,000 feet over the city.

The tube-like object, visible over Charlotte for 15 minutes in midafternoon yesterday, was nothing more than a mass of ice crystals formed when the plane's hot engines came into contact with frigid air nearly eight miles up, airport observers said.

Earlier this week, the Carolinas became the center of excited talk all over the country when a mysterious object, described as resembling a neon tube standing on end, was reported seen in

Hamlet, Fayetteville, and Greenwood, S. C.

The tubular white mass that appeared over Charlotte at 3:45 p. m. yesterday fitted the same description. There was some speculation that this explanation might also tear away the mystery from the "flying cigars" that were popping up months ago.

While Charlotteans excitedly telephoned the newspapers and the airport for explanations, the silver streak appeared to hang suspended for a few minutes before drifting slowly out of sight.

Incl #2

UNCLASSIFIED

"THE STATE" Newspaper  
Columbia, S. Carolina  
29 December 1949

## Strange Craft Is Reported Seen in NC

Hamlet, N. C., Dec. 28—(AP)—A strange unidentified aircraft, resembling a balloon or a blimp, was reportedly flying "erratically" over Hamlet today, apparently out of control.

Several residents, including two pilots, gave various reports of the craft, as "heading straight down and leveling off," and "turning over." One observer said he thought he saw something resembling a man drop from the craft and one pilot, who chased it in a airplane, said it appeared to be from 20 to 30 feet in diameter.

It was first reported flying west over town at about 4:45 p. m. by Dr. W. D. James of Hamlet and Fire Chief J. C. Worley. They reported the object to the local airport where an overseas news correspondent, Phillip Gibbons, took off in a light plane to give chase.

Gibbons, a former Air Force pilot, said he saw the craft only once from the air and that it definitely was not "saucer shaped."

He said he was unable to overtake it but that from a distance it appeared to be a large metal ball without any external fittings such as are ordinarily carried by free balloons. Although observers said the craft did not seem to have much speed from the ground, Gibbons reported it quickly disappeared in the sun when he drew near.

The newsman said he last saw it about 12 miles southwest of here.

The weather station at Charlotte said there was some possibility that the object might have been a radio sonde balloon such as are released by weather stations. The balloons are used to transmit weather data from the atmosphere, and ordinarily burst at high altitude, the radio parachuting back to earth. However, the weather station said the time that it was seen over Hamlet—in late afternoon—tended to discount this theory.

Gibbons said that from his air force service he was familiar with these balloons and that the strange craft did not resemble one. "It was much bigger," he said.

Enc 74 3

UNCLASSIFIED

*James G. Baker*  
JAMES G. BAKER  
SAC FAO #13

CONFIDENTIAL  
UNCLASSIFIED

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER, RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 29, 1949.

## Odd Object Puzzles Hamlet

Hamlet, Dec. 28.—(AP)—A strange unidentified aircraft, resembling a balloon or a blimp, was reported flying "erratically" over Hamlet today, apparently out of control.

Several residents, including two pilots, gave various reports of the craft as "heading straight down and leveling off," and "turning over."

One observer said he thought he saw something resembling a man drop from the craft and one pilot, who chased it in an airplane, said it appeared to be from 20 to 30 feet in diameter.

It was first reported flying west over town at about 4:45 p.m. by Dr. W. D. James of Hamlet and Fire Chief J. C. Worley. They reported the ship to the local airport where former overseas news correspondent, Phillip Gibbons, took off in a light

plane to chase the craft. Gibbons, a former Air Force pilot, said he saw the craft only once from the air and that is definitely was not "saucer shaped."

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The newsman said he last saw it about 12 miles southwest of here.

The weather station at Charlotte said there was some possibility that the object might have been a radio sonde balloon such as are released

See HAMLET, Page Two.

## HAMLET

(Continued From Page One)

by weather stations at Greensboro and Fort Bragg each morning about 10 a.m. The balloons are used to transmit weather data from the atmosphere, and ordinarily burst at high altitude, the radio parachuting back to earth. However, the weather station said the fact that it was seen over Hamlet so late in the afternoon, tended to discount this theory.

And Gibbons said that from his air force service he was familiar with these balloons and that the strange craft did not resemble one. "It was much bigger," he said.

He added that the fact it did not change altitude for a long period of time also tended to disprove it was a balloon.

Local 714

UNCLASSIFIED

## 200-Mile Straight Line Marks Mystery Trail Of Strange Craft Over Carolinas

HAMLET, Dec. 29.—(AP)—A straight line on a map, extending 200 miles across the Carolinas, today marked the mystery-streaked trail of a strange flying object.

The object first was seen at Fayetteville, the site of an air force base at about 4:30 p. m. Wednesday. Within a half-hour, scores of residents in Hamlet, Chesterfield, S. C., and Greenwood, S. C., reported sighting it on its eerie flight through the western sky.

### NO EXPLANATION

There was no explanation today of what the thing could have been. But observers attached significance to the fact that its path was straight for 200 miles. They noted also that after its 4:30 p. m. appearance at Fayetteville, it was seen at Hamlet, 43 miles away, a few minutes later and at Greenwood, more than 150 miles away, shortly after 5 p. m.

Descriptions of the flying object varied. At Fayetteville, it looked like a vertical neon lighting tube. At Hamlet it appeared to be a "dirigible standing on end." And at Greenwood, a pilot who chased it in a light plane said it looked like a smoke trail coming from an unseen plane.

Ground observers at all four cities spoke of it "drifting" into the di-

rection of the setting sun. They said they were able to follow its southwestward flight for 10 minutes or more. But four pilots who rose in light planes at Hamlet and at Greenwood were unable to catch up with it.

Witnesses who saw the strange object included business and professional men, housewives, a city policeman, trained air pilots and the mayor of Greenwood, A. H. Woodle.

One of the pilots, Philip Gibbons, a former Air Force pilot, said that when his plane approached the object, it moved into the glare of the evening sun. He was unable to regain sight of it.

### DISCOUNT REPORTS

Some observers discounted reports that it could have been a reflection from the sun. They said the object was directly between them and the sun.

Air force officials at Pope field near Fayetteville suggested it could have been a weather observation balloon. But the Charlotte weather station, noting that most reports said the object appeared to be silver colored, said that the weather bureau does not use balloons of that color.

Reports of the strange flight re-

counted the numerous stories of flying saucers since the war. Gibbons, the Hamlet pilot, said that the object definitely was not shaped like a saucer. The Air Force reported only this week that there are not any "flying saucers" and that it has ended its special two-year investigation of reports on them.

### Object Reported In Sky Near Danville, Virginia.

DANVILLE, Va., Dec. 29.—(AP)—Two Danville men came forward today to say that they had seen a spherical object floating in the sky similar to that reported in press dispatches from Hamlet, N. C., shortly before Christmas.

They are Randolph Hall, city auditor, and Hamilton Vass, businessman and member of the vestry of Epiphany church.

They say that the floating object appeared in the skies in the vicinity of Dan River mills.

They added that they paid little attention to it, having concluded that it might be a weather balloon released at Greensboro, N. C., and drifted this way by prevailing winds.

Page 5

## Mystery Object Seen Streaking Through Two Carolinas' Skies; Columbian Is One of Observers

Hamlet, N. C., Dec. 29—(AP)—A straight line on a map, extending 200 miles across the Carolinas, today marked the mystery-streaked trail of a strange flying object.

The object first was seen at Fayetteville, the site of an air force base, at about 4:30 p. m. (EST) yesterday. Within a half-hour, scores of residents in Hamlet, Chesterfield, S. C., and Greenwood, S. C., reported sighting it on its eerie flight through the Western sky.

There was no explanation today of what the thing could have been. But observers attached significance to the fact that its path was straight for 200 miles. They noted also that after its 4:30 p. m. appearance at Fayetteville, it was seen at Hamlet, 45 miles away, a few minutes later and at Greenwood, more than 150 miles away, shortly after 5 p. m.

William ("Bill") Shields, director of the city tree department in Columbia, reported seeing the object while hunting near Greenwood Wednesday at about 5:30 p. m. Mr. Shields reported the object looked like a "fluorescent light bulb." He said he watched it for at least 30 minutes while it hovered in one spot and then shot off through the sky at a terrific rate of speed.

"I thought I was seeing things until I heard that other people had seen the object also," Shields said. He said others were with him on the hunt and

saw the object with him.

Descriptions of the flying object varied. At Fayetteville, it looked like a vertical neon lighting tube. At Hamlet it appeared to be a "dirgible standing on end." And at Greenwood, a pilot who chased it in a light plane said it looked like a smoke trail coming from an unseen plane.

Ground observers at all four cities spoke of it "drifting" into the direction of the setting sun. They said they were able to follow its southwestward flight for ten minutes or more. But four pilots who rose in light planes at Hamlet and at Greenwood were unable to catch up with it.

Witnesses who saw the strange object included business and professional men, housewives, a city policeman, trained air pilots and the mayor of Greenwood, A. H. Woodle.

One of the pilots, Philip Gibbons, a former air force pilot, said that when his plane approached the object, it moved into the glare of the evening sun. He was unable to regain sight of it.

Reports of the strange flight recounted the numerous stories of flying saucers since the war.

Gibbons, the Hamlet pilot, said that the object definitely was not shaped like a saucer. The air force reported only this week that there are not any "flying saucers" and that it has ended its special, two-year investigation of reports of them.

Serial 6

James G. Baker  
JAMES G. BAKER  
SAC FAO #13

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

SECRET  
(WHEN FILLED IN ONLY)

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

INCOMING MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

NR 191 29 DEC 49

11:42  
RELEASER NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO CENTER  
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

FROM POPE AFB FAYETTEVILLE N C 291620Z  
TO WRIGHT PAT AFB

FROM STA WEA OFF POPE AFB NC.  
ATTN MCIAKC-3

PPWEA 035.

OPERATIONAL  
IMMEDIATE

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT SIGHTED 30 MILES SOUTHWEST POPE AFB, NORTH CAROLINA AT 1630 HRS EASTERN 28 DEC 49. OBJECT APPEARED AS AN EXTREMELY SHORT BEAM OF LIGHT JUST TO THE RIGHT OF THE SETTING SUN. A CLOSE OBSERVATION THROUGH FIELD GLASSES REVEALED THAT THE EDGES OF THE BEAM WERE FRAYED. OBJECT ALSO APPEARED TO REMAIN STATIONARY AND WAS VISIBLE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR. IMPOSSIBLE TO PHOTOGRAPH DUE TO CLOSE PROXIMITY TO SUN AND LACK OF ADEQUATE FILTERS. IT IS THE OPINION OF THE OBSERVER THAT SUBJECT GLOW WAS CAUSED BY THE REFLECTION OF THE SUN UPON DUST PARTICLES OR OTHER NUCLEI PRESENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE

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

191218

6/6/61

WILLIAM P.

UNCLASSIFIED