

RAF-1208-I
Incident
9 September 1947

52a

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

Mr. Ward L. Stewart, 1242 Milvia Street, Berkeley, California, was interviewed 8 September 1947 at his place of employment, the Hearst Mining Building, University of California, concerning flying objects he reported to have seen on 29 July 1947 while with Captain William R. Ryherd of the 415th AAF BU (RT). Mr. Stewart stated in substance that he was a 1st Lt in the Reserve and that on the 29th of July 1947 shortly after 12 noon he and Captain Ryherd had just landed from a routine training flight when Captain Ryherd called Mr. Stewart's attention to an unidentified flying object that was following a P-80 aircraft at a terrific rate of speed. Mr. Stewart estimated the P-80 to be flying at approximately 250 miles per hour on a preliminary approach to landing at Hamilton Field. In Mr. Stewart's estimation the object he saw following the P-80 maintained a speed of three to four times that of the aircraft. A moment later a second object appeared and flew a course described as something similar to a fighter aircraft's maneuvers when accompanying heavier ships, or a left to right movement, over the object first sighted. Mr. Stewart stated that this maneuvering continued until the objects were out of sight. He estimated the time to be approximately 15 seconds, the course approximately 120 degrees. Mr. Stewart could not estimate the size of the objects nor actual altitude, though he did not believe them to be beyond six thousand feet. Mr. Stewart described the objects as being milky white in color, and unlike any conventional type aircraft he had ever seen. When questioned whether he was familiar with the Navy "Flapjack", Mr. Stewart stated that he was, and that he was certain the objects he reported seeing were not of this nature.

AGENT'S NOTES: Mr. Stewart is a former officer of the U.S. AAF and a B-29 pilot of considerable experience. Mr. Stewart does not convey the impression of being the kind of person who would "imagine" that he was seeing objects, nor has he any apparent desire for publicity. Mr. Stewart is in charge of machine shops at the University of California, Berkeley, California.

LESLIE S. HUBBARD, S/A, CIO ADG:RAF

#512

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Incident UNCLASSIFIED
4AF 1208-1
5 August 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

On 5 August 1947, this agent interviewed Captain William H. Ryherd, ASN O-66356, the assistant operations officer in the 415th AAF BU, Building 95, Hamilton Field, California, regarding flying objects in the air. Captain Ryherd stated in substance: He is an instructor pilot in the 415th Training Unit. On 29 July at 1450, Captain Ryherd and a student, 1st Lt. Ward L. Stewart, 1242 Milvia Street, Berkeley, California, landed and parked an AT-6 near the hangar, building 59 of the 415th AAF BU. Walking from the aircraft toward reserve operations, and looking westward just over the hangar, Captain Ryherd saw a P-80 flying southward toward Oakland. Above this P-80, at approximately 8,000 to 10,000 feet in altitude, Captain Ryherd saw two flying objects traveling the same direction as the P-80. He, Ryherd, judged the solid, white, somewhat shiny objects were approximately 15 to 25 feet in diameter. Ryherd stated that he didn't call them discs due to the publicity these objects have been given, but in shape they were circular, like a ball on the bottom, but not completely round; and Ryherd specifically stated that these objects were not airplanes.

The first flying object was traveling straight and level; whereas the second was close behind the first, same altitude, only it seemed to be going from left to right and right to left, more or less like a guard in an aircraft formation. Captain Ryherd further stated that the speed of these two objects made a P-80 look as if it was motionless in the air.

The sky was clear, consequently Captain Ryherd and Lt. Stewart watched the two objects until they disappeared in flight, supposedly over Oakland, headed toward the ocean.

Due to the noise of the P-80, no sound of any kind could be heard from these flying objects.

These objects did not leave any vapor, smoke, or any visible trails along their flight path.

Captain Ryherd informed this agent he had never told anyone about these flying objects, fearing that people would think he was crazy.

AGENT'S NOTES: Captain Ryherd showed extreme sincerity throughout the interview, answering all questions with caution and assurance.

JAMES A. NELSON, Spec. Agt., CIC 4AF

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

AMS 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: MCIAKO

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

2 Incls:
n/c

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

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

MCIAKO-3/BWS/ra
Jan 5 1949

MCIAKO

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 are usually made direct from the Project "SIGN" Office, MCIAKO-3. These checks are distinct from the check of synoptic balloon flights made by weather service stations of the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Commerce. (U. S. Weather Bureau) requested of Air Weather Service.

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

2	24	50	91	113	155
3	25	52	92	115	156
4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	148	163
16	32	87	107, 8, 9	151	167
22	33	89	112 (See 122)	154	169
23	48				

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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 MCIAO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

2 Incls.
Summaries 1-172 incl
"SEI"

/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col, USAF
for H. E. McCoy
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Dept

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq. USAF
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab
Major Kodis, MCREP
Colonel Neal, MELANS

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CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

UNCLASSIFIED Incident # 52

1. Date 29 July 47
2. Time 1450
3. Location Hamilton Fld., Calif
4. Name of observer Capt. William B. Ryherd
5. Occupation of observer Capt. USAF, - Assistant Operations Officer
6. Address of observer Hamilton Fld
7. Place of observation Hamilton, Fld., Calif. 38° 03' N 122° 31' W
8. Number of objects 2
9. Distance of object from observer observed from ground
10. Time in sight N/S
11. Altitude 8,000 - 10,000 ft
12. Speed very fast - made P-80 look as if it were motionless
13. Direction of flight Southward toward Oakland
14. Tactics 1st object pursued horizontal flight; 2d object seemed to be going from left to right and right to left like guard in aircraft formation
15. Sound No sound heard
16. Size 15-25 ft in diameter
17. Color white shiny
18. Shape circular like a ball
19. Color detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails None
22. Weather conditions Clear
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance Disappeared in flight
26. Remarks: (over)

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR
INTERVALS: NOT ACTION OFFICIAL
DECLASSIFIED 1400 DEC 22 1961

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Capt Ryherd saw two unidentified aerial objects at approximately 8,000 to 10,000 ft traveling above a P-80. He thought they were approximately 15 to 25 feet in diameter. In shape they were circular like a ball on the bottom but not completely round. The first flew straight and level but the second flying close behind the first at the same altitude seemed to be going from left to right and right to left - more like a guard in an aircraft formation. Due to the noise of the P-80, no sound could be heard from them. They did not leave any vapor smoke or visible trail. The weather was clear and Captain Ryherd and Lt Ward Stewart watched them until they disappeared in flight presumably over Oakland headed toward the ocean.

NOTE: Capt Ryherd showed extreme sincerity throughout the interview

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CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident # 52A

1. Date 29 July 47
2. Time After 1200
3. Location Hamilton Fld., California
4. Name of observer Ward L. Stewart
5. Occupation of observer 1st Lt., Air Res. (Former B-29 pilot)
6. Address of observer Hearst Mining Bldg., Univ. of Calif.
7. Place of observation 38° 03' N 122° 31' W
8. Number of objects 2
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight 15 seconds
11. Altitude 5,000 ft
12. Speed Approx 75 MPH
13. Direction of flight 120°
14. Tactics Similar to fighter a/c when accompanying heavier ships
15. Sound none
16. Size N/S
17. Color milk white
18. Shape N/S
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails None
22. Weather conditions N/S
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance flew out of sight
26. Remarks: (over

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[REDACTED]

Stewart's attention called to unidentified flying object by Capt Ryherd. Stewart estimates the P-80 at 250 miles on preliminary approach for landing at Hamilton Fld. Object was estimated to be following P-80 at three or four times its speed. A moment later another object appeared and flew a course described as something similar to a fighter's maneuvers when accompanying a heavier ship, on a left to right movement, over the object first sighted. The object continued this maneuvering until out of sight. Size could not be estimated but not believed to be above 6,000 ft altitude. Described as milky-white in color, and unlike any conventional aircraft seen.

[REDACTED]

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JULY 1947 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
July	Tempe, Arizona (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
July	Oak Ridge, Tennessee (FOLDER) *	Presley (PHOTOS)	Other (Development Flaw)
3	S. Brookville, Maine	Cole	UNIDENTIFIED
4	Mt Jefferson, Washington	Boggs	Insufficient Data
4	Portland, Oregon Area	Multiple	Other (Chart)
4	Portland, Oregon	Evans	Insufficient Data
4	Portland, Oregon	Wayward	Insufficient Data
4	Portland, Oregon	Dwyer	Insufficient Data
4	Seattle, Washington	Ryman	Balloon
4	Emmett, Idaho (FOLDER) *	Smith	UNIDENTIFIED
4	West Trenton, New Jersey	Marshall	Astro (Meteor)
6	Fairfield-Suisun AFB, California	Burniston	UNIDENTIFIED
6	Hollywood, California	Corey	Insufficient Data
6,7,8	Warren, Ohio (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
6	Clay Center, Kansas	Browning	Astro (SOLAR REFLECTION)
6	Birmingham, Alabama	Livingston	Other (Fireworks)
7	Shreveport, Louisiana	(PHOTO) (NOT IN FILE)	Insufficient Data
7	East Troy, Wisconsin (CASE MISSING)	Farston (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Hoax)
7	Lakeland, Florida	Mail and Civ	Insufficient Data
7	Maroc AFB, California	Griffin (MODEL)	Other (Psychological)
7	Hickham AFB, Hawaii	Wise	Balloon
7	Phoenix, Arizona (FOLDER) *	Saito	Balloon
7	Oakdale, California (CASE MISSING)	Hodges (PHOTO)	Other (Hoax)
7	Arlington, Virginia	Civilian	Insufficient Data
7	Omaha, Nebraska	Cobb	Astro (Meteor)
8	Maroc AFB, California	Reibold (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Asteroid)
8	Maroc AFB, California	McHenry, Buvalo, Scott	UNIDENTIFIED
8	Rogers Dry Lake, California	Strapp	Balloon
9	Boise-Meridian, Idaho	Scoop, Gilkey, Balok	Balloon
9	Midland, Michigan	Johnson Visual	Balloon
9	Grand Falls, Newfoundland (FOLDER) *	(PHOTO) (NOT IN FILE)	Other (No Image)
20	Novo Scotia & Newfoundland (FOLDER) *	Ianc (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Fireworks)
23	Harmon Field, Newfoundland (FOLDER) *	Wearsey	Astro (Auroral Streamer)
15	Between Novo Scotia & Newfoundland (FOLDER) *	Maitland, Larkin, Douglass	
10	Morristown, New Jersey	Hannaker, Abbott	
10	Harmon AFB, Newfoundland (FOLDER) *	Gulleage	
10	Codroy, Newfoundland	Jansen (FOLDER) *	
11	Elmendorf AFB, Alaska	Leidy (PHOTOS)	Astro (Meteor)
11	Black River Falls, Wisconsin	Evans	Astro (Meteor)
12	Elmendorf AFB, Alaska	Perry, Guyer	Insufficient Data
15	Seattle, Washington	Hanson (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Hoax)
20	Cumberland, Maryland (CASE MISSING)	Graham	Balloon
21	Cengtu, China (CASE MISSING)	Kremmer (PHYSICAL S)	Other (Hoax)
21	Jackson, Ohio	Civilian	Insufficient Data
29	Helena, Montana	Civilian (PHYSICAL)	Balloon (Radioactive)
29	Hamilton Field, California	Mapes (PHYSICAL S)	Balloon (Radioactive)
		Madden	Astro (Meteor)
		Reyherd, Stewart	UNIDENTIFIED

① IN SEPARATE FOLDER
NO PHYSICAL SPECIMENS INCLUDED

JUL 4