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RETURN TO
USAF Historical Archives
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Maxwell AFB, Ala 36112

ALABAMA

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24 July 1946

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Incident 144

July 1928

20 Mi. S of Montgomery, Ala.

Airline Pilots

DATE

TIME

ALTITUDE

WEATHER

TYPE OF

REMARKS

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**Capt. Clarence S. Chiles,
Eastern Air Lines Pilot,
Is Special Adviser**

Although the detailed biography of Captain Chiles was not received in time for use in this issue, he will be recognized as one who played an important part in the UFO story in 1948.

It was in July of 1948 that Captain Chiles and the then 1st Officer John B. Whitted encountered a huge projectile-shaped device along the airway near Montgomery, Alabama. Chiles and Whitted both agreed that it was about 100 feet in length, twice the diameter of a B-29. Both men saw two rows of windows or ports through which a blue fluorescent glow was visible. The UFO, which they described as a machine traveling at 500 miles per hour or faster, veered sharply as it neared them and both reported they could feel the UFO's backwash rock their DC-3 as the strange object climbed steeply away.

Although Captain Chiles has not reported any UFO encounter since that date, he has maintained his interest in the saucer subject. As a veteran pilot who has had an extremely close range observation of a saucer, Chiles is well equipped to examine and evaluate authentic sighting reports for NICAP.

1211-7
1003303

TAB

ITEM

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Investigation by OSI dtd 2 Nov 48 and 16 Nov 48 |
| 2 | IR # 102-122-79 dtd 20 Dec 1948 |

EXHIBITS

- | | |
|---|--|
| A | Chiles-Whitted Investigation dtd 25-28 July 48 |
| B | McKelvie (Passenger) Report dtd 31 July 1948 |
| C | Aircraft Movement Data |
| D | Investigation dtd 9 September 1948 |
| E | Agent Report dtd 11 August 1948 |
| F | (Extracted for case dtd 26 July 1948) |
| G | Eastern Airlines Report |
| H | Work Sheet |

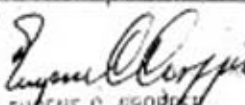
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Newspaper Clippings and Magazine Article.

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HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-100-40	DATE 2 November 1
TITLE SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT on 21 August 1948 at Montgomery, Alabama by Mr. WILLIAM H. PERMY, JR.		REPORT MADE BY Herbert F. Carson, SA REPORT MADE AT 6th Dist OSI (IG), Marietta AFB, Ga. PERIOD 6 October 1949 OFFICE OF ORIGIN 8th Dist OSI (IG), Maxwell AFB, Ala. STATUS DEFERRED	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT		DEFERRED	
REFERENCE AFOSI Letter #85, dated 12 August 1949.			
SYNOPSIS Captain C. B. CHILES was interviewed and stated that he sighted an unidentified flying object 20 to 50 miles southwest of Montgomery, Alabama at approximately 0340, 23 July 1948, at an estimated altitude of 5000 feet. This object was flying northeast to southwest at an estimated speed of at least 500 miles per hour. CHILES reported this to Eastern Air Lines Publicity Control Office on 23 July 1948.			
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DEFERRED			
DISTRIBUTION DO #8 (3 Incls) 3 HQ OSI (3 Incls) 2 DO #8 (3 Incls) 4 --H AMC, ATTN: 2 MCIAXO-3	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO		FILE STAMP
APPROVED  EUGENE C. BROPPER Lt Colonel, USAF District Commander for 3 DISTRICT COMMANDER		144 UNCLASSIFIED	

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TITLE: SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT; CHARACTER: SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT; FILE NO: 24-186; DATE: 2 November 1949

DETAILS:**AT MARIETTA AFB, GEORGIA**

1. At approximately 1400 hours, 6 October 1949, Captain C. H. CHILES, Eastern Air Lines, Atlanta, Georgia, stated that he had seen an unidentified flying object on 23 July 1948, which he assumed to be a secret type USAF aircraft, and reported same to the Eastern Air Lines Public Relations Representatives and Safety Board Officials.

2. On 6 October 1949, Captain C. H. CHILES, 3730 Peachtree-Dunwoody Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed and supplied the following data:

Date of sighting	23 July 1948
Time of sighting	0340 hours
Place of sighting	30 to 50 miles southwest of Montgomery, Alabama. Observer's position was from the cockpit of an Eastern Air Lines D-3 at approximately same altitude as unidentified flying object.
Number of objects	One (1)
Celestial phenomena	None.
Distance of object from observer	Observer had forward and going away view from about 2 to 3 miles distance.
Time in sight	5 to 8 seconds
Appearance of object	A double-decked cigar shape fuselage, illuminated thru apparent port-holes, resembling a D-C 6 without wings in size and appearance.
Direction of flight	Northeast to southwest.
Tactics of maneuvers	Object appeared to be traveling in straight and level flight at same altitude but to the right and in an opposite direction to

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TITLE: SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT; CHARACTER: SPECIAL INQUIRY - UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT; FILE NO: 24-185; DATE: 2 November 1949

Tactics of maneuvers (cont'd)

that of observer. After passing abreast of airliner carrying observer, object tended to disappear upwards to the rear and disappeared into overcast.

Evidence of exhaust

A cherry red flame extended 50 to 75 feet to rear of object.

Effect on clouds

None.

Lights

The forward two-thirds of cylindrical unidentified flying object appeared to have two well defined rows of cabin lights.

Support

No wings

Propulsion

Appeared to be result of jet power.

Control

Excellent - well coordinated gentle climbing turn into clouds prior to disappearance

Air ducts

None observed.

Speed

At least 500 miles per hour.

Sound

None audible.

Manner of disappearance

Disappeared into cloud bank to rear of observer, after slight climbing turn.

Weather

(At 5000) Visibility - Excellent, with 25 mile range. High - broken clouds - brilliant moonlight - faint trace of light breeze.

RELATIVE TO THE OBSERVER

Name

Captain C. S. CHILDS

Address

3730 Peachtree-Dunwoody Road, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia

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TITLE: SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT; CHARACTER: SPECIAL INQUIRY -
UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT; FILE NO: 24-185; DATE: 2 November 1949

Occupation	1st Pilot - Eastern Air Lines.
Place of business	Atlanta Office - Eastern Air Lines.
Pertinent hobbies	Photography.
Ability to determine	Excellent
Reliability of observer	During the war, observer was a Lt. Col. Pilot, USAF, in a command capacity on the Ascension Islands, with vast experience in judging and identifying aircraft.
Witnesses	JOHN B. WITTED, formerly with Eastern Air Lines. Address unknown. G. L. McKELVIE, Columbus, Ohio

Note: Captain CHILES stated during the course of the interview that he has never sighted any unidentified flying object at any time other than at 0340, 23 July 1948.

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TITLE: SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT; CHARACTER: SPECIAL INQUIRY -
UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT; FILE NO: 24-188; DATE: 2 November 1949

INCLOSURES

The following inclosures are attached to each copy of report:

- Incl. 1. Exhibit "A" - Extracted Article from Page 1, Atlanta Journal, Atlanta, Georgia, dated 24 July 1948.
- Incl. 2. Exhibit "B" - Extracted Article from Page 1, Atlanta Journal, Atlanta, Georgia, dated 25 July 1948.
- Incl. 3. Exhibit "C" - Extracted Article from Page 1, Atlanta Journal, Atlanta, Georgia, dated 26 July 1948.

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ARTICLE ON PAGE ONE, ATLANTA JOURNAL, DATED 24 JULY 1948

Two Eastern Air Lines pilots reported Saturday that their plane Friday night passed a tremendous wingless aircraft that shot 40 feet of flame from the back end and was traveling 500 - 700 miles per hour.

Capt. Clarence Shipe Childs and Co-pilot John B. Whitely said the object looked like a B-29 fuselage "blown up about 4 times" and was brilliantly lighted with 2 decks of big square windows. The object passed within several hundred feet of the DC-3 and then shot up into the clouds.

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EXHIBIT "A"

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ARTICLE ON PAGE ONE, ATLANTA JOURNAL, DATED 25 JULY 1948
(Three Column Spread)

Large Photo of Childs and Whited

Article with same information as 24th July with added speculation and denials by U. S. Air Force and Air Lines and plane manufacturers that the object was of U. S. make.

Passenger who also saw object identified as Mr. C. L. McKelvie of Columbus, Ohio, who stated that all he saw was a flash of fire pass the DC-3.

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ARTICLE ON PAGE ONE, ATLANTA JOURNAL, DATED 26 JULY 1949

People all over the country seeing objects.

Mrs. Noah Atkinson of Brookhaven, Georgia saw object.

C. W. Bowles, an Exposition Mills painter who lives near airport also saw object in past.

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EXHIBIT "C"

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