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Incident #185 — Albany, Georgia — 22 September 1948

There is nothing astronomical in this incident.

Since the object looked like a drum, perhaps it was one.

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7-3712-10

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HEADQUARTERS
AIR WEATHER SERVICE
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington 25, D. C.

In Reply
Refer To: AWS DSS

11 May 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO : Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAO-3

1. Reference is made to letter from your headquarters, MCIAO, dated 9 March 1949, subject "Unidentified Flying Objects," and first indorsement thereto by this headquarters, dated 31 March 1949.

2. The incident summaries 173 through 233 have been checked against routine weather-balloon ascents made by the Air Force, Navy and Weather Bureau. Comments based on this review are inclosed.

3. It is recommended that the "Guide To Investigation Of Unidentified Aerial Objects" be changed as follows: Item 13, "Direction of Flight of Object," should be clarified so that vertical and horizontal motions are distinguished if possible, and so that motion is specified as the direction towards which the object appears to move. "Relative to Radar Settings" should include a statement of the type of radar set used.

FOR THE CHIEF, AIR WEATHER SERVICE

2 Incls:
1 - Incident Summaries
2 - Comments 173 thru 233

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

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No. 189; Rawinsondes released at Montgomery and Atlanta 1 1/2 hours earlier and would have been blown into sighted area by upper winds. Only a faulty balloon, however, could have descended to that low altitude. From description, balloon is most unlikely.

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Incident: 189

While acting as co-pilot on a C-47 aircraft enroute from Eglin Auxiliary Field #2 to Turner AF Base at approximately 1530 hours EST 22 Sept 48, Lt Martin G. Rubisch observed an object approaching at an angle of about 25°. The C-47 at the time was approaching Turner Field from the Southwest at an altitude of about 2,000 ft. The object appeared to be about 500 feet lower and about 2,000 to 1500 feet away and traveling at an estimated speed of 250 MPH. Lt Rubisch stated that the object appeared about the size of a radio controlled model airplane (5 to 10 ft). He could not determine the shape but said he could not observe wings or rudder. He could give no other description other than it was a metallic shiny object. No one else aboard the C-47 observed the object.

Ability to determine color, speed of moving objects and time at distance was determined excellent. However the observer's Squadron Commander was interviewed and he stated that Lt Rubisch is inclined to exaggerate and is a person whose opinion is not highly regarded by associate officers.

Observer was able to closely corroborate information given by him at first interrogation, though the interrogating officer was inclined to think that Lt Rubisch was given to exaggeration. It was the opinion of the interrogating officer that the observer was of normal intelligence and sound character.

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INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET

Incident No. 189

1. Date and Time of Observation: 22 Sept 1948, about 1530 hours
 2. Where Sighted: Near Turner AF Base, Albany, Ga
 3. Observer's Position: Air - while acting as co-pilot
(i. e., ground, air, control tower, etc.)
 4. Name and Address of Observer: Lt Martin G. Rubisch, Eglin Auxiliary Fld
#2, Eglin AF Base, Fla.
 5. Occupation and/or hobbies: Asst Combat Operations Officer - Co-pilot
 6. Attention Attracted by: motion of
an approaching object
 7. Number of Object(s) Seen: 1
 8. Size of Object(s): Size of a radio-controlled model plane (5 to 10 ft)
 9. Color of Object(s): metallic and shiny
 10. Shape (Sketch if Possible): Undetermined
 11. Nature of Luminosity: N/S - apparently none
(directed beam of light?)
 12. Altitude of Object: Between 1500 and 2000 ft
(estimated)
 13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer: ~~XXXX~~ - 1/2 mile horizontally
Approximately 500' laterally.
 14. Estimated Speed of Object: about 250 MPH
 15. Time in Sight: ~~1/2~~ 3 seconds
 16. Tactics: ~~1/2~~ Level flight
 17. Sound made by Object(s): ~~N/S~~ - Unknown
 18. Direction of Flight of Object(s): 335°
 19. Apparent Construction: Metallic
 20. Effect on Clouds: N/S - CAVU
 21. Exhaust/Trail Color of: N/S
 22. Manner of Disappearance: N/S
 23. Weather Conditions at Time of Sighting: CAVU
 24. Peculiarities Noted: No wings or rudder
 25. Summary of Incident: (over)
- (See attached)

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HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

GAF 000.92

27 OCT 1948

SUBJECT: Report of Flying Discs

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
Attn: M.C.I.

In accordance with instructions contained in TAC letter, file TAC 000.92 (16 Feb 48), subject: "Reporting of Information on Flying Discs", the following information is submitted:

a. Object sighted at about 1530 hours EST, 22 Sep 48, near Turner Air Force Base, Albany, Georgia.

b. Weather at time of sighting, CAVU.

c. Lt Martin G. Rubisch, Asst Combat Operation Officer, Eglin Auxiliary Field #2, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

d. No photographs taken.

e. Lt Rubisch could not sketch object.

f. Object sighted:

- (1) One object sighted.
- (2) Undetermined.
- (3) About the size of a radio controlled target airplane.
- (4) Color: Metallic and shiny.
- (5) Speed: Estimated 250 miles per hour.
- (6) Heading: 335°.
- (7) Maneuverability: No display.
- (8) Altitude: Between 1500 and 2000 feet.
- (9) No exhaust or condensation trails observed.

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9AF 000.92, Subj: Report of Flying Discs

g. General Summary:

- (1) On the 22 September 1948 Lt. Martin G. Rubisch was on a flight from Eglin Auxiliary Field #2 to Turner Air Force Base. He was co-pilot on a C-47 type aircraft on an Administrative flight. At about 1530 hours, EST, he observed an object approaching from an angle of about 25 degrees. The C-47 was approaching Turner Field from the south-west at an altitude of about 2000 feet. The object appeared to be about 500 feet lower and about 2000 to 1500 feet away and traveling at an estimated speed of 250 mph. Lt. Rubisch stated that the object sighted appeared to be about the size of a radio controlled model airplane. He also stated that he did not observe wings or rudder on object. Lt. Rubisch could not give any description other than the fact that it was a metallic shiny object. No one else aboard the plane observed the object.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

s/ W. L. Baxter
t/ W. L. BAXTER
Major, USAF
Asst. Adj. General

1st Ind

MCIAXO-3/GWC/JJg

Hq AEC Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, Nov 5 1948

TO: Commanding General, Ninth Air Force Base, Greenville Air Force Base, Greenville, South Carolina

1. It is requested that the Base Intelligence Officer immediately initiate further investigation of subject report..
2. An Essential Elements of Information List is inclosed as an aid to the interviewing officer in obtaining, insofar as possible, the desired information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

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1 Incl
EEI List

s/ H. W. McCoy
t/ H. W. McCoy
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Department

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BASIC: Ltr fr Hq 9AF, Subj, "Report of Flying Discs", file 9AF 000.92,
dtd 27 Oct 48

9AF 000.92 (27 Oct 48)

2d Ind

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, HEADQUARTERS NINTH AIR FORCE,
Greenville, South Carolina, 16 November 1948

TO: Director of Intelligence, Headquarters Twelfth Air Force, March
Air Force Base, March Field, California

1. Request compliance with paragraph 1, preceding indorsement.
2. Information available this headquarters indicates that Lt.
Martin G. Rubisch is presently assigned 1st Fighter Group, March Air
Force Base, March Field, California.

1 Incl
n/c

HENRY H. WALLER, Jr
Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence

INT (27 Oct 48)

3d Ind

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE, Office of the Director of Intelligence,
March Air Force Base, March Field, California, 22 November 1948.

TO: Wing A-2, 1st Fighter Wing, March Air Force Base, March Field,
California

Request investigation be made in accordance with paragraph 1,
1st indorsement, and report forwarded this headquarters at the earl-
iest practicable date.

1 Incl:
n/c

GEORGE M. SANDER
Major, USAF
Director of Intelligence

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BASIC: Ltr Fr HQ, Subj: "Report of Flying Discs", file WAF 000.92,
 dtd 27 Oct 48

INT

4th Ind

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

TO: Commanding Officer, 1st Fighter Group, March Air Force Base, March
 Field, California

1. Forwarded for compliance with 1st and 3rd indorsements.
2. Request that the completion of the investigation be expedited
 and that report be forwarded to this headquarters at earliest practicable
 date.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL REES:

MONTY S. SAMS

1 Incl:
 n/c

INT

5th Ind

HEADQUARTERS 1ST FIGHTER GROUP, March Air Force Base, March Field
 California

TO: Commanding Officer, 1st Fighter Wing, March Air Force Base,
 March Field, California

Investigation completed in compliance with 1st and 3rd indorse-
 ments and S-2 Officer's completed Interrogation Report is inclosed.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

2 Incl
 EBI List
 EBI Typed Form
 Completed

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BASIC: Ltr fr Hq USAF, Subj: "Report of Flying Discs", file 9AF 000.
92 27 Oct 48

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HEADQUARTERS, 1ST FIGHTER WING, Office of the Intelligence Officer, March
AF Base, March Field, California 3 Dec 48

TO: Director of Intelligence, Twelfth Air Force, March AF Base, March Fld
California.

2 - Incls: n/c

JOSEPH E. COSGROVE,
1st Lt., USAF
Wing A-2 C

DFT 7th Ind

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH AIR FORCE, Office of the Director of Intelligence,
March Air Force Base, March Field, California, 3 December 1948.

TO: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force
Base, Dayton, Ohio. ATTN: M. C. I.

Interrogation Report forwarded herewith for your information.

2 Incls:
n/c

GEORGE M. SANDER
Major, USAF
Director of Intelligence

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REPORT OF INTERVIEW

SUBJECT: 1st Lt. M.G. Rubisch

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REPORT BY: EDWARD D. MICHELSON, Captain USAF, 1st Ftr Gp S-2 Officer

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION
(Resightings of Unidentified Aerial Objects)

PROJECT "SIGN"

1. 22 September 1948
2. Approximately 1530 EST
3. A. NA
 - B. (1) C-47, 160 MPH, approximately 2500 feet, approximately 90°
 - (2) 10 Miles West of Turner AFB, Georgia
 - (3) 4 o'clock, low
 - (4)
- C. NA
4. One
5. a. Approximately 1/2 mile - horizontally
 - A. Approximately 500' laterally
 - b. 10
 - c. Approximately 2000 feet
6. Approximately three (3) seconds
7. a. Silver
 - b. Undistinguishable - Lacked wings and rudder.
 - c. Unknown
 - d. Appeared smaller than civilian light plane.
8. Approximately 335°
9. Level Flight
10. None
11. NA
12. None
13. Undetermined
14. Undetermined
15. None apparent
16. None apparent
17. Approximately 250 MPH
18. Unknown

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REPORT OF INTERROGATION CONTINUED:

19. None Apparent

20. Disappeared under airplane

"I Certify that the foregoing information volunteered by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief."

Martin G. Rubisch
MARTIN G. RUBISCH
1st Lt. USAF

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SET Relative to Observer

1. Martin C. Rubisch, 1st Lt., AO-2015095
2. 71st Fighter Squadron, 1st Ftr Gp, March AFB, March Fld, Calif.
3. USAF Pilot (Jet)
4. Same as #2
5. Denies
6. a. Excellent
b. Excellent
c. Excellent
7. a. Observer's Squadron Commander was interviewed and stated that, while he is not completely unreliable, Lt. Rubisch is inclined to exaggerate and is a person whose opinion is not highly regarded by associate officers.
8. b. Attention was drawn by motion of object.
9. None
10. Observer was able to closely corroborate the information given by him at the first interrogation, however I would be inclined to concur with the remarks set out in #7a above. Observer appears to be of normal intelligence and sound character.

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Dr HYNEX'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:

#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94,
95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140,
147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216,
219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:

#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 60, 63, 67, 69, 82, 93, 100,
112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 160, 166, 167, 175, 192,
199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:

#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115,
126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163,
169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198,
200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:

#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107,
108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):

#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 183, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:

#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118,
125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 208, 212, 213,
229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:

#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71,
76, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162,
166, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226,
227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.