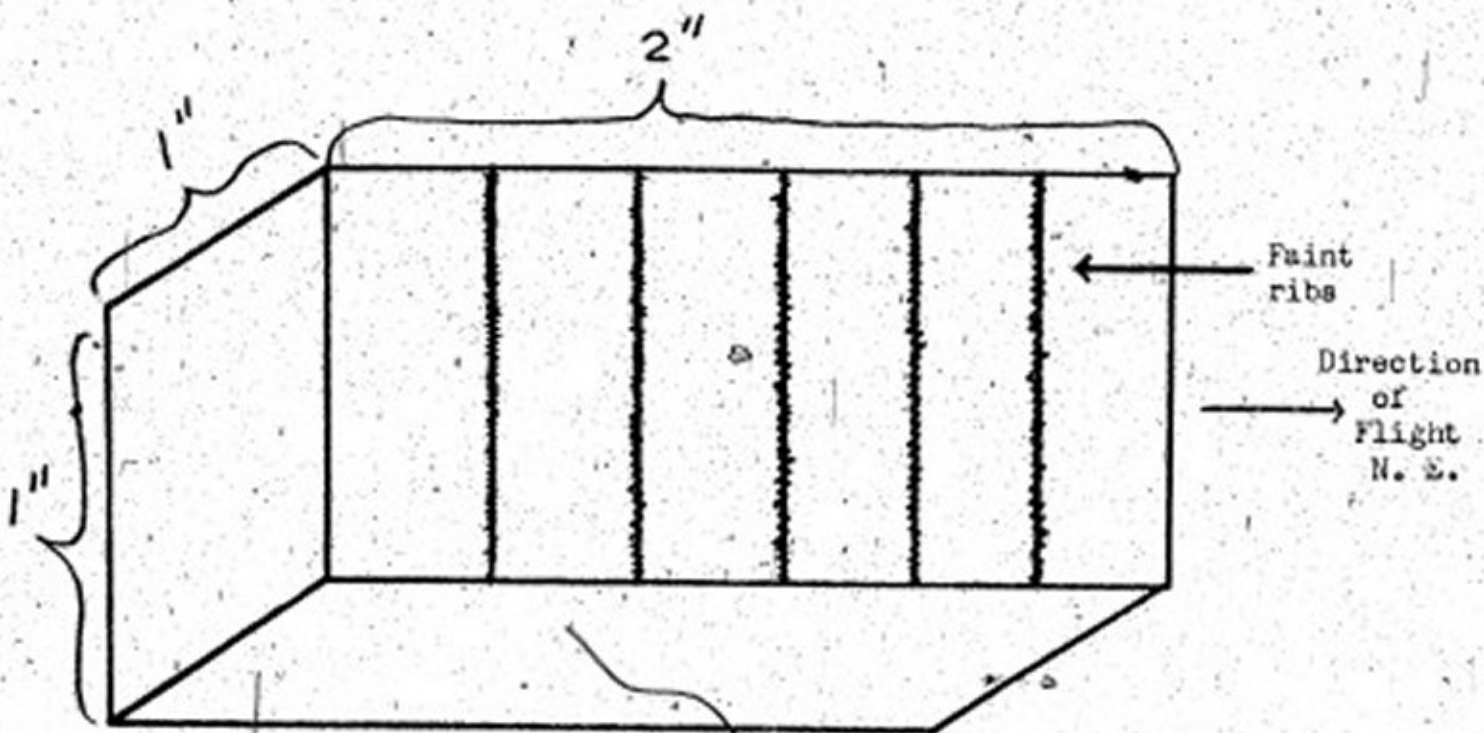


OSI Case No. 24-3
19th District

Apparent Size



Altitude - undetermined

Speed - "

Color - buff-gray

176

176

176

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

23 November 1948

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN OBJECT, Project "Sign"
Special Inquiry

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

1. Reference is made to report of Special Agent ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR., of this office, dated 12 November 1948.
2. Attached for your further information are two copies of the report of Special Agent ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR., dated 16 November 1948.
3. This investigation is continuing in this OSI District Office. Subsequent reports will be forwarded for your review and for such action as you deem appropriate when the investigation is completed.

1 Incl
Report of SA ARMIN F.
HEROLD, JR., dtd 16 Nov
48 (in dup)

DONALD C. GOEWY
Captain, USAF
District Commander

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 100-11724-3	DATE 12 November 1948
TITLE UNKNOWN OBJECT, Project "Sign"		REPORT MADE BY ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR.	
		REPORT MADE AT DO #19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB	
		PERIOD 4 November 1948	
		OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB	
		STATUS PENDING	
CHARACTER Special Inquiry			
REFERENCE Ltr fr Hq, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, File: CG, AMO, ATTN: MCIAXD, dated 18 October 1948			
SYNOPSIS Investigation requested by Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. At approximately 1200 hours, 23 September 1948, Colonel HORACE S. HAKINS, U. S. Army (RET), sighted an unknown object moving very fast at a considerable altitude, headed due East. This object was also seen by a Mr. BENTHAM.			
DISTRIBUTION CG, AMO, Wright-Patterson AFB, (Action copy) (Incl) 2 DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB (Incl) 2 OSI Headquarters (Incl) 2 File (Incl) 2		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio ATTN: MCIAXD-3	FILE STAMP
APPROVED DONALD C. CORVET Captain, USAF DISTRICT COMMANDER		DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS DOD DIR 5200.10 UNCLASSIFIED	

Horace S. Zakins
Colonel, U. S. Army, Ret'd.
C-8548
Box 1213 Walnut Creek, California

Dear Sir:

Your letter dated 23 September 1948 addressed to G-2 Sixth Army Area, Presidio of San Francisco, California, has been forwarded to this Headquarters for necessary action.

This Command is interested in all reports of unidentified aerial objects and appreciates the interest you have taken in bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely yours,

W. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Tech Intelligence Division
Intelligence Department

Office Memorandum
1. ... District (1)
2. ... Air Force ...
3. ... California

1. This report is submitted to the ... investigation of all reported sightings of unidentified aerial ... and has been ... direct communication ... all Air Force installations by ... letter dated 6 February 1948, subject "Report of Information on ...".

2. A letter dated 4 ... and forwarded to ... and, copy attached as ... 1, indicates the box 1215, Calif, saw an unidentified aerial object 23 October 1948.

3. It is requested that office interview all witnesses to this observation and, if practicable, signed statements of the ... observed. It is further requested that ... the ... obtain as much information as possible relative to the subject as outlined in the "Special Instructions to Interviewees" form, attached as Inclosure 2. Any additional evidence that may be pertinent to the investigation, as indicated in Section "Case File" of the ... should be included.

4. Interested personnel should be advised that the confidential nature of this matter precludes any publicity.

5. It is requested that all pertinent material be forwarded directly to the ... Federal, Air Material Command, ... Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, Attention 61120-5.

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

2 Incls.

1. Cy ltr dtd 1 Oct
2. MIA Form

K. B. CLINE
Colonel, USAF
Actg Chief of Intelligence

UNCLASSIFIED

Subject: International Airport

Ed Lind

1. Mr. Lind is to be interviewed in regard to the matter reported in the letter of Mr. Lind to the Bureau, dated 1/11/50.

2. Mr. Lind is to be interviewed in all parts of the matter reported in the letter of Mr. Lind to the Bureau, dated 1/11/50.

3. Mr. Lind is to be interviewed in all parts of the matter reported in the letter of Mr. Lind to the Bureau, dated 1/11/50.

1. Lind
v/s

1. Lind

1. Lind

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY
Office of The Assistant Chief of Staff G-2
Presidio of San Francisco, California

AWOBI-C

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Commanding General
Headquarters Fourth Air Force
Hamilton Field, California
ATTN: AC of S, G-2

1. Reference, letter, DA, CSOID 452.1, 25 March 1948, subject as above.
2. Attached letter Horace S. HAKINS, Walnut Creek, California, is forwarded for your information.
3. The report was not considered of sufficient importance to warrant direct communication with the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, as provided for in reference letter.

/s/ Alexander G. Kirby

ALEXANDER G. KIRBY
Lt Colonel FA
Actg AC of S, G-2

1 Incl:
Ltr as indicated in par 2
dtd 23 Sep 48
452.1 Gen/SGO-01

1st Ind

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE, Hamilton AFB, Hamilton Field, California,

5 OCT 1948

TO: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB,
Dayton, Ohio. ATTN: TSDIE

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl:
n/e

J. P. BAILLY
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Operations

cc to CG, ADC, Attn: D/I

BOX 1213 - Walnut Creek,
California

23 September 1948

Memo for: G-2, Sixth Army Hq.,
Presidio of San Francisco, Calif.

Subject: Observation

1. A few minutes after 12:00 o'clock noon this date an Army bomber flew relatively low near Pinole. As the undersigned raised his eyes, he saw far beyond the bomber - much higher - an irregular shaped white object - undulating going at a fast speed. This object seemed as large as a bomber. As it "wobbled" a dark spot could be seen in its center.

2. A Mr. Bentham also saw it.

3. Soon it (the object) disappeared inland.

Horace S. Bakins,
Colonel, U. S. Army, Retd.
O-8548

UNCLASSIFIED

OSI File No. 24-3

DETAILS

1. This investigation was predicated upon receipt of letter from Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, Reference File, CG, AMC; ATTN: MCIAXO, dated 18 October 1948.

IN WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

2. On 4 November 1948 HORACE S. EAKINS, Colonel, U.S. Army (RET) O-8548, 1024 Esther Drive, Walnut Creek, California, was interviewed and in substance stated that at approximately 1200 hours, on 23 September 1948, while standing in front of the packing plant at Castro's Ranch, which is located 4 miles due East of San Pablo, California, and 4.1 miles South of Pinole, California, he noted an Army bomber, two-engined, type unknown, passing overhead at a very low altitude and headed Southeast. Upon watching the bomber, he noticed above and going in the direction of nearly due East, an unknown object. Upon sighting the object, Colonel EAKINS brought it to a Mr. BENTHAM's attention and asked him if he (Colonel EAKINS) were seeing things. BENTHAM substantiated Colonel EAKINS' observation that there was an object above the bomber. Colonel EAKINS described this object as being approximately the size of a large four-engined bomber having a shape similar to an amoeba (sketch is inclosed). The object was shaped so that it appeared that there were three (3) appendages forward and two (2) aft. These appendages seemed to be flapping or oscillating while the center portion remained stable. The object appeared to be, in Colonel EAKINS' opinion, a mile or more above the bomber. In the center of this object there appeared a round, dark circle which, in Colonel EAKINS' opinion, seemed to be above the main body of the object. Further it appeared that the main part of the object was translucent and of a dirty gray color and that the dark, circular portion appeared to grow more dense in color as it approached the center. From this observation Colonel EAKINS concluded that the dark portion was spherical, having the shape and depth similar to a globe. Colonel EAKINS further stated that in his mind the main part of the object appeared like canvas. Colonel EAKINS stated there was no way he could estimate the speed of the object but that it was traveling at a far greater speed than the bomber or anything else he had ever seen and that there was no noise of any type, no evidence of exhaust or trail. The object just disappeared from sight, not behind a cloud or hill or any other obstruction, in a very short

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DDI DIR 5200.10

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

DO #19, Case No. 24-3

time. Colonel HAKINS could not estimate whether it was a matter of seconds or minutes as he was so engrossed in the object. On this day, and at this time, there were very few clouds in the sky. However, the day was rather dull and hazy. Colonel HAKINS further stated that the object did not reflect or give off light of any type.

3. Colonel HAKINS, prior to his retirement in 1948, was on duty with the Army mission in Panama as a veterinarian. Colonel HAKINS retired because of personal reasons and not because of any physical defects. However, Colonel HAKINS is far-sighted and has to wear glasses. He is presently employed by the California State Department of Agriculture as a Meat Inspector. A check with the neighbors and business associates established the fact that Colonel HAKINS is highly thought of and is reliable in all his dealings and associations with them.

NOTE: Colonel HAKINS expressed the opinion to this writer that he was very reluctant in writing his original letter to G-2, Sixth Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California, in that he believed somebody would think he was "another quack, probably an old fuddy-duddy." However, in the belief that he had a duty to perform, even though retired, he finally forwarded the information. Colonel HAKINS impressed this investigator as being very stable, intelligent, above average in common sense.

Inclosures:

FOR COMMANDING GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL COMMAND, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB; DO #5, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB; OSI HEADQUARTERS; AND FILE.

Rough sketch of UNKNOWN OBJECT, Project "Sign."

- PENDING -

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

UNCLASSIFIED

24-3

DATE 18 November 1948

REPORT MADE BY ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR

TITLE
UNKNOWN OBJECT, Project "Sign"

REPORT MADE AT
DO # 19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB

PERIOD
12 and 15 November 1948

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
DO # 5, Wright-Patterson AFB

STATUS
PENDING

CHARACTER Special Inquiry

REFERENCE Ltr fr Hqs, Air Materiel Command, Ref File No. CG,AMC, ATTN: MCIAXO, dtd 18 October 1948

SYNOPSIS
This investigation was predicated upon receipt of letter from Hqs, Air Materiel Command, Ref File CG AMC, ATTN: MCIAXO, dated 18 October 1948. A check of the radar net of the San Francisco Bay Area; United Air Lines; Air Port Traffic Field, Mills Field; Western Air Lines; Pan-American Airways; American Air Lines; and the Flying Tigers, all of San Francisco, California, revealed no unusual radar readings or sightings during the period from 1100 to 1300 hours on 23 September 1948.

DISTRIBUTION

Commanding General,
Wright-Patterson AFB
(action copy) 2
District Commander,
DO # 5, Wright-Patterson AFB 2
OSI Hqs 2
Files 2

ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO

Commanding General,
Wright-Patterson Air Force
Base,
Dayton, Ohio

ATTN: MCIAXO-3

APPROVED

UNCLASSIFIED

DONALD C. GOEWEY
CAPTAIN, USAF

FILE STAMP

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AT 12 YEARS
DOD 11/18/86

OSI File No. 24-3

DETAILS:

1. This investigation was predicated upon receipt of letter from Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, Reference File CGAMC, ATTN: MCIA XO, dated 18 October 1948.

AT MILLS FIELD, SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

2. On 12 November 1948 Mr. JOE MCMAHAN, Senior Airport Traffic Controller (CAA), Mills Field, California, stated that he knew of no scheduled flights over the Pinole area at approximately 1200 hours on 23 September 1948.

3. On 12 November 1948 Mr. JOHN EVANS, Traffic Representative, Pan American Airways, Mills Field, California, stated that their records for 23 September 1948 showed no scheduled aircraft over the Pinole area. One (1) unscheduled aircraft from Pan American Airways had been on a training mission on 23 September 1948, but the instructor, Mr. RICK MCHEMERY, stated that the aircraft had not flown North of Hunters Point, which is a considerable distance South of the Pinole area.

4. On 12 November 1948 Mr. FULLER, Dispatcher for United Air Lines, Mills Field, California, contacted the writer by telephone and stated that United Air Lines Flight No. 576 was over Bay Point, East of the Carquinez Bridge, which is 6.1 miles North-east of San Pablo, California, and approximately 8 miles due North of Castro's Ranch, at 12:14 (Pacific Daylight Saving Time) on 23 September 1948; West-bound at an altitude of 4,000 feet. Flight No. 576 was a DC-4. Further he stated that Flight No. 562, a DC-4, was South-bound at 11:45 (Pacific Daylight Saving Time) on 23 September 1948, flying at an altitude of 5,000 feet.

5. On 12 November 1948 Mr. L. R. ALLEN, Western Air Lines Passenger Agent, stated that none of their flights of 4-engined aircraft were scheduled to fly over the Pinole area. A check of their daily flight log revealed no record of any training flights or other unscheduled missions on this date. The Western Air Lines Radio Communications Section also serves American Air Lines flights and it was revealed that American Air Lines had no 4-engined aircraft in the air after 0745 hours on 23 September 1948.

UNCLASSIFIED

OSI File No. 24-3

DETAILS (cont'd)

6. On 12 November 1948 Mr. R. F. MAHN, Radio Communications Officer for Trans World Air Lines, stated that none of their 4-engined aircraft had been in the Richmond-San Pablo area within two hours of the questioned time.

7. On 12 November 1948 Mr. MIKE CARNES, Station Manager, Flying Tigers Air Lines, Mills Field, California, stated that none of their 4-engined aircraft were scheduled for day time flights to or from Mills Field and that on 23 September 1948, none of their aircraft were utilized for training or any other unscheduled flights.

AT HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE, HAMILTON FIELD, CALIFORNIA

8. On 15 November 1948 the Army Airways Communications Service, who are charged with the responsibility of the radar net of the San Francisco Bay Area, were contacted and it was revealed that on 23 September 1948 at approximately noon, there were no unusual radar readings reported, nor were there reported any Air Force 4-engined aircraft in the vicinity of Pinole, Pinole Point, Lone Tree Point or Corquinez Straits.

Forward - direction of flight.

EAST



A dark color,
growing more
dense in color
as it approach-
ed the center.

Translucent,
dirty gray.

Aft

NOTE: about size of 4-engine bomber - longer than wide.

Dr HYNEK'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, 50, 63, 67, 80, 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, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:

#38, 44, 45, 47, 56, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118,
125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 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,
75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162,
168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226,
227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1948 SIGHTINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
<u>September</u>			
5	Kentwood, Louisiana (NO CASE)	Civilian	Other (SOX)
12	Moffat, Colorado	Civilian	Astro (MIRROR)
18	Shreveport, Louisiana (NO CASE)	Civilian	Balloon
22	Albany, Georgia	Rubisch	Possible Astro (POLIDE)
23	Santa Fe, New Mexico	Angier, Fairchild	Astro (VENUS)
23	San Pablo, California	Bentham, Eakins	UNIDENTIFIED
28	San Simeon, California	Patterson	Insufficient Data
<u>October</u>			
Fall	Vinyard Haven, Massachusetts	Van Kyper	Other (METEOROLOGICAL)
Oct	Escalon, California (NO CASE)	Male Civilian	A/C
1	New Orleans, Louisiana	Williams	Astro (MIRROR)
1	Fargo, North Dakota (FOLDER) (C)	Gorman	1. Balloon 2. Astro (JUPITER)
2	Lytton, British Columbia	Newspaper (PHYSICAL S)	Balloon
10	Xenia, Ohio (CASE MISSING)	Military	A/C
11	Neubiberg, Germany	Swap, Ingelido	Balloon
13	South Bend, Indiana	Brooke, Thompson	Other (DEBRIS IN AIR)
14	Dayton, Ohio-Indianapolis, Ind (CASE MISSING)	Military Air	Other (REFLECTION)
15	Kyushu, Japan (NO CARD) Air Vis & RADAR	Halter, seaphill	UNIDENTIFIED
15	Atlantic Ocean (Off Norfolk) (CASE MISSING)	Shipboard	Astro (MARS)
16	Sterling, Utah (CASE MISSING)	Male Civilian	Insufficient Data
17	Crescent City, California	Siler, Haley, Benggi	A/C
19	Honolulu, Hawaii	Drum	Balloon
20	Winona, Minnesota	Benoit, Zink	Astro (MIRROR)
	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Hansen, Oliver	
	(Also observed at Aberdeen, S. D. and other places in area)		
24	Neubigerg, Germany (CASE MISSING)	Military	A/C
24	Junction City, Kansas	Huber	A/C
24	Fargo, North Dakota	Sanders	Astro (MIRROR)
24	Phoenix, Arizona	Peterson	Balloon
29	Goose AFB, Labrador	Ground R/TAP	Other (Anomalous Propagation)
31			
1 Nov			
30	Grays Harbor, Washington	Kunzman	Astro (MIRROR)
31	Azores	Military	Balloon
31	Carthage, Missouri (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data

(*) SEPARATE FOLDER