

Incident #217 -- near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania -- 9 December 1943

There is no astronomical explanation for this incident.

The object seen could easily have been a balloon, for

apparent speed could have been a result of the observers' own motion.

Even if an object were standing still, observers in an airplane would

not see it for much longer than the time reported here (7 minutes).

On 9 December while on flight from Washington, D. C. to Patterson Field, shortly after leaving Pittsburgh range some 8 to 12 miles southeast of Pittsburgh Capt Mulling asked Col Brown if he were interested in seeing a flying disc? Col Brown removed his flight goggles, took a quick look and said "Looks like a balloon to me" Capt Mulling didn't agree since the object evinced a very definite movement and was proceeding in a southwest direction at a pretty fair rate of speed. Col Brown then decided to watch the object again. The object appeared perfectly round and of a chalky white color but did not appear shiny. It was whiter than the clouds and was seen against a background of strips of blue sky alternating with strips of thin broken stratus. It was much whiter than the clouds. It appeared to be traveling fairly rapidly through or above the clouds disappearing behind them and then reappearing but always pursuing a straight course. When first sighted it appeared at 60° above horizon and seemed from the observer's viewpoint to be about the size of a quarter - thought to be about 4 to 5 miles in front of the C-45. A horizontal shimmer or jittery motion was noticeable at all times. The C-45 was pursuing a course of 300° and then changed to 270° with the object almost parallel on a course of 250°. The C-45 was cruising at 120 MPH at 6,000 feet. The object appeared to be 12 to 16,000 feet and was above clouds. Object last seen at about 10° above the horizon and was about the size of a beebee shot.

1. Date and Time of Observation: 9 Dec 48 at 15:20 (Zonal by 24 hr clock)
2. Where Sighted: 8 to 12 miles SE of Pittsburgh on heading of 300°
3. Observer's Position: Air on a heading of 300°
(i. e., ground, air, & control tower, etc.)
4. Name and Address of Observer: Col J. K. Brown & Capt P. G. Mulling
Guided Missile Group, DCS/C Ho, USAF, Washington
5. Occupation and/or hobbies: Pilot and co-pilot Instrument Flight Group
6. Attention Attracted by: Capt Mulling called attention of Col Brown to the object
7. Number of Object(s) Seen: 1
8. Size of Object(s): Appeared slightly smaller than a quarter on windmill of aircraft
9. Color of Object(s): chalky white but not shiny
10. Shape(s) (Sketch if Possible) appeared perfectly round
11. Nature of Luminosity: Was observed to shimmer - possibly due to (directed beam of light?) extreme speed and to distortion of light waves
12. Altitude of Object: Undetermined - 12 to 15,000 feet (estimated)
13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer: Unknown - thought to be 4 to 5 miles when first sighted.
14. Estimated Speed of Object: Unknown, but evidently very fast as during the 7 minutes of the sighting it moved from 60° above horizon in a straight line to 10° (time of disappearance)
15. Time in Sight: 7 minutes
16. Tactics: Moved in straight line - horizontal flight
17. Sound Made by Object(s): Could not be determined
18. Direction of Flight of Object(s): On a course of 270°
19. Apparent Construction: Undetermined
20. Effect on Clouds: N/S
21. Exhaust Trail Color (if): A slight shimmer was observed - could have been exhaust
22. Manner of Disappearance: Last seen 10° above horizon - but too small to see
23. Weather Conditions at Time of Sighting: Alto-stratus clouds around Akron
24. Peculiarities Noted: A jittery motion or horizontal shimmer was noticeable at all times
25. Summary of Incident: (over)
(See attached page)

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

(Re Sightings of Unidentified Aerial Objects)

UNCLASS

PROJECT "SIGN"

1. Date of sighting
9 December 1944
2. Time of sighting
(Zonal by 24 hr clock)
16:20
3. Where sighted:
I was on the southeast leg of the Pittsburgh range on a heading of 300 degrees.
 - a. Ground
 - (1) City, town
8 to 12 miles from Pittsburgh
 - (2) Distance and direction from city or town
road, intersections, etc.
 - (3) From building (story), yard, etc.
 - (4) Map coordinates (if feasible) showing
latitude and longitude
 - b. Air
 - (1) Type aircraft, speed, altitude, direction of flight
C-45; 180 mph indicated at 8000 ft; 300 degrees magnetic
 - (2) Distance & direction from city, town or known
landmark.
8 to 12 miles southeast of Pittsburgh
 - (3) Clock position of object from observer's
view
On initial sighting: one o'clock
 - (4) Latitude and longitude
 - c. Sea
 - (1) Latitude and longitude
 - (2) Proximity to land
(Name city, country, etc)
4. Number of objects
One
5. Formation type (if any)
(sketch if possible)
6. Distance of object from observer
Unknown, except that during sighting object disappeared behind a cloud which was determined to be over Akron and at an altitude of from 12,000 to 16,000 feet. At this time aircraft was over Pittsburgh.

UNCLASS

5. (Cont'd)
 - a. Laterally or horizontally
 - b. Angle of elevation from horizon
30 degrees when first seen
 - c. Altitude
6. Time in sight
Approximately 7 minutes
7. Appearance of object
Receded
 - a. Color
Dense white, like chalk
 - b. Shape
(sketch if possible)
 - c. Apparent construction (translucent)
No details visible
 - d. Size
 - (1) Estimated size
 - (2) Size as it appeared from observer's view
(Compared to known object)
Slightly smaller than quarter of windshield of aircraft
8. Direction of flight
Crossing our course at a small angle; when we turned to heading of
9. Tactics or maneuvers 270 degrees, object moved practically parallel to our flight path.
 - a. Vertical ascent or descent, horizontal, oscillating, fluttering
curvilinear, aggressive, erratic, etc.
Moved in straight line.
10. Distance of exhaust
Object appeared to shimmy or dance to a small degree from side to side
 - a. Color of smoke (horizontal plane only).
 - b. Length and width
 - c. Color (if any)
 - d. Rate of evaporation
 - e. Does trail vary with sound?
(snorts)
11. Effect on clouds
 - a. Opened path thru clouds
One cloud behind which object disappeared seemed to change from long
 - b. Form of cloud or mists narrow stratus type to a series of small strips
oblique to the original line of the cloud.

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

In Reply
Refer To: AFS DSS

11 May 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

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

1. Reference is made to letter from your headquarters, MCIA XS, 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

No. 217: Object reported moving into winds of 20-30K velocity and going faster than C-47 doing 150 K.P.H. The speed and direction are apparently very accurate since the C-47 was paralleling the object's course and several readings were made of the compass and air speed indicator. If report is true, definitely no balloon.

16. (Cont'd)

- a. Slats
- b. Duct openings

17. Speed - MPH

Unknown, but evidently very fast as during the seven minutes of the

18. Sound

fighting it moved from 30 degrees above the horizon in a straight line to 10 degrees above the horizon at time of

- a. Continuous whine or buzz disappearance.
- b. Rrr, whistle, whosh
- c. intermittent

19. Was any radio antenna to be observed, i.e., (any projections or extensions that might presumably be construed as such)

20. Manner of disappearance

- a. Explode
 - (1) Possibility of fragments
 - (2) Other physical evidence
- b. Faded from view
 - Size (apparent) gradually diminished until no longer visible.
- c. Disappeared behind obstacle

Relative to the Observer

1. Name of observer
Col. John K. Brown Jr.
2. Address
Guided Missile Group, DCS/Operations, Hq. USAF
3. Occupation
Officer USAF
4. Place of business
Pentagon
- a. Employer or employee
US Government
5. Hobbies
 - a. Time on job in hobby (experience)
Is observer amateur astronomer, pilot, engineer, etc.
Senior Pilot, Combat Observer, Bombardier

11. (Cont'd)

- a. Reflect on clouds
No
- b. Shown thru clouds
No

12. Lights

None apparent

- a. Reflect or attached
- b. Luminous
- c. Blink on and off in relation to speed

13. Support

No details visible

- a. Wings
- b. Aerodynamic lift of fuselage
- c. Vertical jet
- d. Rotating cylinder or cone
- e. Aerostatic lift (balloon or air-filled)

14. Propulsion

- a. Propeller or jet
- b. Rotor
- c. Aerodynamic wings (flapping or oscillating)
(Katzmayer effect)
- d. Visible exhaust or jet openings

15. Control and stability

Appeared very stable - appeared steady at both as near

- a. Fins determined
- b. Stabilizers (horizontal or vertical)
 - (1) Size
 - (2) Shape
 - (3) Location

16. Air ducts

1. (Conf'g)

- a. Observations of range, speed, altitude and size of target
- b. Does target execute any turns? If so, what angle (180°), etc., and what radius of turn. (If radius of turn is not observable, how long did the target stay in the turn and what was its speed? Followed straight path.)
- c. Note particularly any separation of distant target into several targets upon approach. Track all if possible.

2. If airborne, when object was sighted.

- a. Were there any radar indications or extra wise on radar circuits
- b. Give estimates of size, speed, maneuvers, etc.

GENERAL

1. Teletype sequences of local weather conditions
2. Wix's flight report
3. Local flight schedules of commercial, private and military aircraft flying in vicinity at the time
(Check Canadian activity if close to that border)
4. Possible role and of testing devices in vicinity sent aloft by Ordnance, Navy, Air Force, Army, Weather Units, Research Organizations or any other.
5. If object contacted earth, obtain soil samples within and without depression or crater where object landed (condition presumably reported) for purposes of taking comparison of soils.
6. If object came sufficiently near other aircraft or known objects, check surfaces with Geiger counters for possible radioactivity. Take comparisons with other unaffected aircraft objects, etc.
7. Obtain photographs (or original negatives) where available; if not, secure sketches of
 - a. Object
 - b. Surrounding terrain where object was observed
 - c. Place where object contacted earth (if this has ended)
 - d. Maneuvers
 - e. Formation (if more than two)
8. Secure signed statement
9. Obtain fragments or physical evidence where possible.

John K. Brown Jr.

John K. Brown Jr.
Col. USAF
DCSIO, HQ, USAF

6. Ability to determine

- a. Color
Clearly white
- b. Speed of moving objects
- c. Size at distance

About the size of a small bee when it disappeared.

7. Reliability of observer

a. Sources

- (1) Neighbors
- (2) Police Dept.
- (3) FBI records
- (4) Employer

8. Notes relative to observation

a. Sitings in general

- b. How attention was drawn to object(s)
Copilot called my attention to object.

- (1) sound
- (2) motion
- (3) tint of light

9. Witnesses

Colt. Eugene G. McGinnis

- a. Address
Guided Missile Group, DCS/Operations, Hq. USAF
- b. Occupation
Officer, USAF
- c. Reliability
Excellent

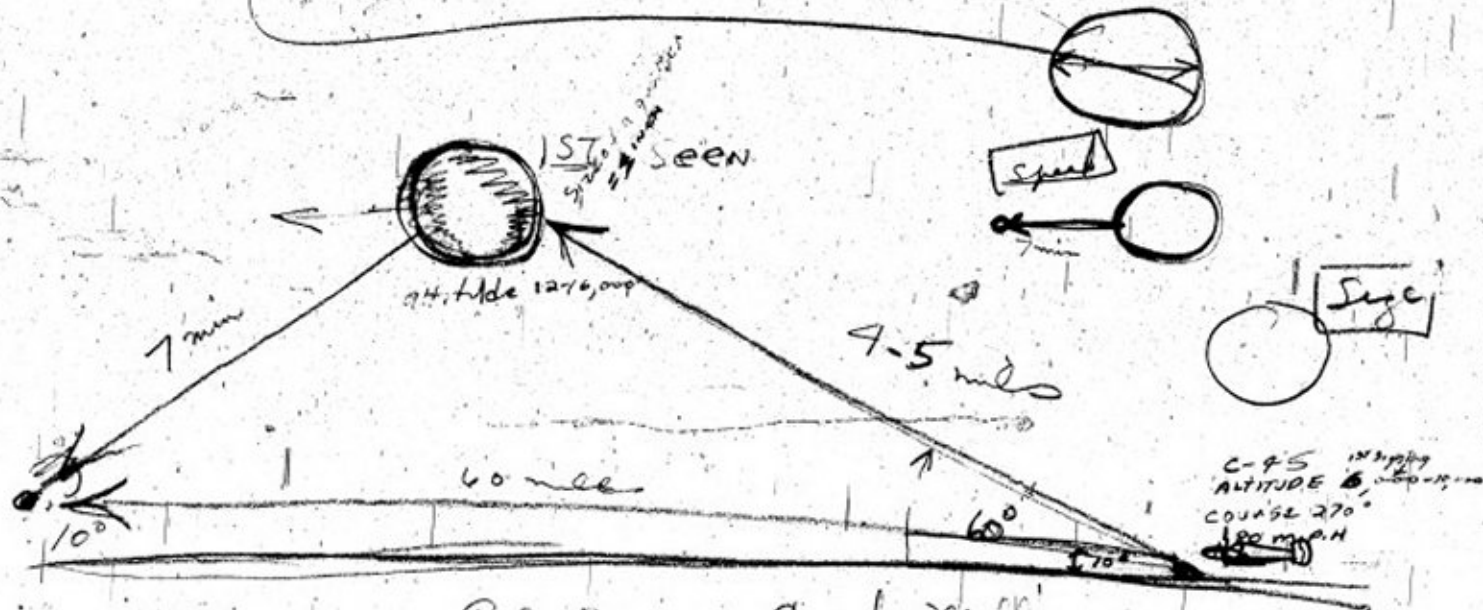
10. Comments of interrogator re intelligence and character of interviewee.

Relative to Reliability of Sitings

- 1. References now pertaining to interview

UNCLASSIFIED

ANGLE OF ELEVATION



BASE WEATHER STATION
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB
FAIRFIELD, OHIO

10 DECEMBER 1948

HOURLY SEQUENCE REPORTS FOR THE STATIONS, TIMES AS
INDICATED 9 DECEMBER 1948 .

1430EST 9 DECEMBER 1948

CLE -0/8 210/32/21-13/009
TOL -0/7 213/35/22-9/012/FEW CU
DAY -0/7 213/34/19-6/011/BINOV C LAGOM
CMH -0/7 213/36/19-4/012
AKR -0/5HK -6/009
PIT -0/1/2K 200/32/21-4/007

1530EST 9 DECEMBER 1948

CLE -0/8 210/33/19-7/010
TCL -0/7 217/35/22-9/012
DAY -0/7 213/35/20-6/011 LAGOM
CMH -0/8 213/37/22-5/013
AKR -0/5K -6/009
PIT -0/1K 200/34/21-5/007

WINDS ALOFT FROM PB30 092320Z

AKR CAK 21 02604 22709 2810 43011 3013 63015 2917 62919 2821
02721 22528 42434 62438 82435
PIT 21 03002 22904 3005 43207 3017 62916 2816 82817 2615 02616
22434 42342

JOHN F. WALL
MAJOR USAF
STATION WEATHER OFFICER

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 1948 SIGHTINGS

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
	Winter	Sun Valley, California	Brinker	Insufficient Data
194	3	Andrews AFB, Maryland	Pain	Balloon (Cluster)
225	3 - 4	Vaughn, New Mexico	Hayes	Other (Flares)
209	4	South Korea	Military	A/C
197	5	Richmond, Indiana	Stevens (PHOTO)	Astro (VENUS)
198	6	Wakkanai, Japan	<u>RADAR</u>	A/C
204	8	Panama	Solera	Astro (COMET 1948L)
202	8	McJannet AFB, New Jersey	Cisek	Astro (Meteor)
210	10	Boston, Massachusetts	Pearmain	A/C
206	12	Clark AFB, Philippines	Wright	A/C and Contrails
232	16	Demarest, New Jersey	Green	Insufficient Data
208	17	Clark AFB, Philippines	Mundloy, Feibelman	Astro (Meteor)
203	17	Peace River, Canada	Military Air	Astro (Meteor)
207	18	Andrews AFB, Maryland	Multi Military	Balloon
222	23	Furstenfeldbruck, Germany	Slater	Balloon
25	23	Vaughn, New Mexico	Hayes	Other (Flares)
	26	Washington, Oregon	Young	Other (Mirage)
219	29	Newburgh, New York	Croke	Astro (Meteor)
220	29	San Francisco, California	Thatcher	Astro (Meteor)

DECEMBER

	1	Tarpon Springs, Florida	Bicker	Astro (Meteor)
212	3	Dayton, Ohio	Hoffman, Statzer	A/C
213			Reeves	
241	3	Bellefontain, Ohio	(PHYSICAL SPECIMEN)	Other (Flare)
245	3	Fairfield-Suisun AFB, Calif	McFarland, DeLafayette	UNIDENTIFIED
247	5	Blanca, Colorado	Wright	Astro (Meteor)
25	5	Indiana County, Pennsylvania	(NO CASE) Civilian	Balloon
216	8	Chanute AFB, Illinois	Multi Military	Astro (Meteor)
217	9	Nr Pittsburgh, Pa	Mulling, Brown	Astro (Parhelio)
218	11	40 Mi NW Martinsburg, West Va	Logg & Crew	Astro (SIRIUS)
240	11	Hood River, Oregon	Bird	Astro (Meteor)
	12	New Orleans, Louisiana	Crockett	Other (Reflection)
247	12	Monte Vista, Colorado	Wright	Astro (Meteor)
229	13	South Bay, Florida	(Newspaper Report)	Insufficient Data
229a	14	Riviera Beach, Florida (No case)	(Newspaper Report)	Insufficient Data
	Mid	Lancaster, Ohio	Lamb	Astro (VENUS)
228	17	Anbridge, Pennsylvania	Worner, Hildebrand	Other (Birds)
261	18	Boise, Idaho	Rogers	Astro (Meteor)

KIRTLAND AFB, NEW MEXICO FIREBALL FOLDER (DECEMBER 1948)

223	5	Albuquerque, New Mexico Area
226	6	Sandia Base, New Mexico
224	8	Las Vegas, New Mexico
227	12	Bernal, New Mexico
241	20	Los Alamos, New Mexico
243	28	Los Alamos, New Mexico
	30	Los Alamos, New Mexico (Report of Sounds)

in SEPARATE
FOLDER