

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: 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. 228, Case under investigation, no information.

Project "SIGN"

5D OSI

Attn:

MCIAO-3

26 Dec 48

1.

1. This office is in receipt of a communication reporting the sighting of an unidentified aerial phenomena during the week of 20 December 1948 by

a. Mr C. R. Werner
1006th Ave
Freedom, Pa.

b. Mr T. Hildebrand
R. D. #2, Marton Hill
New Brighton, Pa.

2. The above are employed at the Spring-Chalfont Steel Tube Plant, and were working in the train yards at the time of the sighting.

3. It is requested your office initiate an investigation of this incident.

4. As an aid to the investigating officer in recording the desired data a copy of our Essential Elements of Information is inclosed.

1 Incl
1. SPL

S. R. CLINGMAN

Colonel, USAF

Chief, Technical Intelligence Division
Intelligence Dept

HW/ew

6-5310

UNCLASSIFIED

SD 24-1,
(11 Mar 49)

1st Lnd

SD-OSI/JWF/Am

Subj: PROJECT "SIGH" (SPECIAL INQUIRY)

5th District OSI (IC), Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, 15 Mar 49

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

Forwarded for your information and any action deemed appropriate.

1 Inol
n/o

JOHN W. FARRELL
Major, USAF
Acting District Commander

SUBJECT: PROJECT "SIGN"

THRU: District Commander
5th District OSI (IC) USAF
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

TO: Commanding General
Hq, Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

1. Reference is made to letter from 5th District OSI, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, dated 3 January 1949, File 5D 24-4.
2. Forwarded for your information and any action deemed appropriate is the final report of Special Agent TONEY ZEVRAS, 3d District OSI, dated as above. With the submission of this report, all logical investigative leads have been covered and reported.
3. Interviews with witnesses of Subject phenomena failed to give any logical explanation of same. Investigation disclosed that CHARLES WERNER and PETER HILDEBRAND, who reported the sighting of the spherical objects, are of unquestionable veracity and integrity and no reason to doubt their statements was disclosed.
4. In order that OSI records may be complete, it is requested that this office be informed of the results of any action which may be taken.

FOR THE DISTRICT COMMANDER:

1 Incl
Report of SA TONEY ZEVRAS
dtd as above (in dup)

Walter E. Marshall
BACCHUS B. BYRD, JR.
Captain, USAF
Deputy Commander

14 MAR 1949

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UNCLASSIFIED 24-9

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE BY

TONEY ZEVRAS

REPORT MADE AT

DO #3, 1612 S. Cameron St., Harrisburg, Pa.

PERIOD

10, 24 Feb - 2, 3 Mar 49

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

DO #3, 1612 S. Cameron St., Harrisburg, Pa.

STATUS

CLOSED

CHARACTER

SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE

Letter from DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, dated 3 Jan 49, File 5D 24-4

SYNOPSIS

Investigation predicated from information received from Technical Intelligence Division, Hq, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio regarding the sighting of unidentified aerial phenomena near Ambridge, Pa., by CHARLES WERNER and PETER HILDEBRAND during the week of 20 December 1948. At 0130 hours 17 December 1948, WERNER and HILDEBRAND sighted several unidentified spherical objects approaching high above the horizon from the north, and before reaching a point directly overhead, made a sharp 90° turn towards the west and faded from view while still high above the horizon. Greater Pittsburgh Airport, Coraopolis, Pa. Weather Sequence at 0130 hours 17 December 1948, indicated visibility clear (1 1/2 miles) fog and smoke. Wind from west, 12 miles per hour. Military and civilian flight records disclosed no flights over Ambridge at 0130 hours 17 December 1948. References contacted concerning character of WERNER and HILDEBRAND disclosed no derogatory information, and both are considered good, sober citizens whose veracity has never been doubted.

DISTRIBUTION

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CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB
(Action Copy)

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CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio

DO #5, WP AFB

2

Hq, OSI

2

APPROVED

File

2

Michael G. Frisch
MICHAEL G. FRISCH
Major, USAF
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DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

DETAILS:

1. This investigation was requested by Commanding General, Hq, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, Technical Intelligence Division, regarding the sighting of unidentified aerial phenomena by CHARLES WERNER and PETER HILDEBRAND during the week of 20 December 1948.

AT FREEDOM, PA.

2. This is a joint investigation of Special Agent HARRY H. PERRY, Jr. and the writer.

3. On 10 February 1949, Mr. CHARLES WERNER, 1000 6th Avenue, Freedom, Pa., was interviewed in his home and stated in substance that on 17 December 1948 at approximately 0130 hours while working as a yardmaster in the railroad yard of the Spang-Chalfant Corporation, which is on the north side of Ambridge, Pa., he sighted what appeared to be a formation of spherical objects; approximately the dimension of a late full moon. These objects were first sighted at a 45° angle above the horizon to the north. The objects appeared to be moving at a high rate of speed towards the south. At this time the topmost object appeared to dive beneath the formation and accomplish a sharp 90° turn to the right. This maneuver was followed by the rest of the formation. The objects then disappeared very high above the horizon towards the west where they faded from the view of the observer. All movements appeared to be definite as in controlled flight. The objects seemed to be whitish or luminescent and no exhaust vapors or flames were evidenced. At the time of this sighting, the sky was clear, moonlit, and visibility according to the observer, was excellent. It was estimated the objects were visible for approximately thirty (30) seconds and appeared to be rotating around their axes. No lights other than the overall luminescence of the object were apparent and no antennae, wings, fins, projections, propellers, slots, ducts or openings were visible. At the time of the sighting WERNER was standing near a railway switching locomotive and therefore could not definitely state whether or not there was any noise emanating from the objects. WERNER stated he has no hobbies as his family and position take up most of his time. WERNER, upon request and to the best of his ability, drew a rough sketch of the objects which is inclosed with this report as Exhibit "A", and at a later date mailed to this office a page from an unnamed magazine, depicting objects similar to the ones he sighted, which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

NOTE: WERNER appeared to be an intelligent, conscientious, reliable, sober family man.

AT NEW BRIGHTON, PA.

4. On 24 February 1949, Mr. PETER HILDEBRAND, R.D. #2, Marion Hill, New Brighton, Pa., was interviewed in his home and stated in substance that on 17 December 1948 at approximately 0130 hours, while working as conductor in the railroad yards of the Spang-Chalfant Corporation, Ambridge, Pa., his attention was attracted by a shout from the night yardmaster, CHARLES WERNER, who was

pointing up into the sky. HILDEBRAND, who at the time, was atop a freight car, immediately looked up towards the direction indicated by WERNER and sighted what appeared to be a group of eight (8) white objects, approximately 45° above the horizon moving up the river from Rochester, Pa. towards Ambridge. (The Ohio River between Rochester and Ambridge flows from south almost directly north, consequently objects would be moving towards the south). The objects which resembled wheels turning around hubs were traveling at what appeared to be a high rate of speed. The objects suddenly dove, changed positions, and executed a sharp 90° turn to the right fading from view towards the west while still high above the horizon. HILDEBRAND estimated the time objects remained in his view as approximately thirty (30) seconds. The objects were solid, white, rotating wheels and approximately the size of a high full moon. The weather during this period was clear. In view of the fact that HILDEBRAND was standing on a freight car close to the switching engine, he could not state if noises of any type were emanating from the objects. The objects appeared to be definitely under control and no antennae, wings, fins, projections, propellers, slots, ducts, or openings were visible and did not leave a vapor trail nor were there signs of exhaust. HILDEBRAND could not make a definite statement concerning the speed, size, or altitude of the objects. HILDEBRAND has no hobbies other than his automobile as he stated he is entirely occupied by his family and job.

NOTE: HILDEBRAND is the father of three (3) children and appears to be well settled, honest, and a conscientious person.

AT CORAOPOLIS, PA.

5. On 24 February 1949 the weather sequence for Greater Pittsburgh Airport, Coraopolis, Pa., for 0130 hours 17 December 1948 was obtained as follows:

0130 17 December 1948 GRP Sequence, clear, 1 1/2 miles visibility (fog and smoke) pressure 190 millibars, 33°F, dew point 31°F, winds from west at 12 mi per hr, altimeter 30.07. Pressure rising 3/100 millibars. No precipitation in last 12 hours. Maximum temp. 57°F. Winds aloft for this period could not be obtained from GRP.

AT MCKEESPORT, PA.

6. On 2 March 1949 the winds aloft for Allegheny County Municipal Airport, McKeesport, Pa., was obtained from U.S. Weather Bureau, Municipal Airport, Allegheny County, for the following times and dates:

2200 16 Dec 48	2000 MSL	260°	7 mph
	3000 MSL	270°	9 mph
	4000 MSL	270°	8 mph
	5000 MSL	270°	7 mph
	6000 MSL	270°	8 mph

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0400 17 Dec 48 2000 MSL 270° 29 mph
3000 MSL 260° 30 mph
4000 MSL 280° 29 mph
5000 MSL 270° 36 mph
6000 MSL 270° 45 mph
7000 MSL 270° 53 mph
8000 MSL 260° 71 mph
9000 MSL 270° 72 mph

7. On 2 March 1949 Mr. JOHN M. DAVIS, Chief, Aircraft Communications, Allegheny County Municipal Airport, McKeesport, Pa., was interviewed concerning radio contacts made with aircraft in flight in the Pittsburgh area on 17 December 1948. Radio contacts are as follows:

0015 17 Dec 48 AF 8801 5 min NE Pitts at 5000 VFR
0023 AF 8801 over GRP at 3000 VFR
0201 NAN 47172 over Pitts 8000 VFR

8. On 2 March 1949 Mr. HENRY A. HUDSON, Tower Operator, Allegheny County Municipal Airport, McKeesport, Pa., was interviewed and the following information regarding incoming and outgoing flights of aircraft was obtained:

Incoming

17 Dec 0025 TWA 3011 fr LaGuardia
0031 Capital fr Washington
0159 Capital fr Newark
0215 Capital fr Newark

Outgoing

0025 Capital 74 to Washington
0028 Capital 22 to Washington
0100 TWA 3011 to St. Louis
0111 TWA 1031 to Columbus
0116 TWA 1433 to Columbus

AT CORAOPOLIS, PA.

9. On 2 March 1949 a check of the files of the Airway Communication Service, Greater Pittsburgh Airport, Coraopolis, Pa., for 17 December 1948, revealed the following information regarding incoming and outgoing flights of military aircraft:

Incoming

0029 B-25 fr Cleveland

Outgoing

0153 C-45 to Middletown

Radio check-in call C-45 at 0220 enroute from Orchard Place to Bolling AFB. There were no local flights from GRP after 1800 16 December 1948.

AT AMBRIDGE, PA.

10. On 24 February 1949 Mr. E. L. CRANE, Industrial Relations Supervisor, Spang-Chalfant Corp., Ambridge, Pa., was interviewed in his office regarding CHARLES WERNER and PETER HILDEBRAND. CRANE stated in substance that although he never had occasion to have personal contact with either of the men, he

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DOB: 1949-12-10

could definitely state that from the viewpoint of employer-employee relationship their work, character, and integrity were beyond reproach. Each man has been employed in the freight yards for over twelve (12) years and on no occasion have given cause for suspension or reprimand. Both are considered good, solid American citizens and typical family men of the community. Physically and mentally, both men are in excellent condition due to the nature of their work, which necessitates coordination and good eyesight as their work in the switchyards is at night.

11. On 24 February 1949 Mr. PAUL MARTIN, Yardmaster, Spang-Chalfant Corp., Ambridge, Pa., was interviewed in his office and stated he is personally acquainted with both men for over twelve (12) years, both as a friend and supervisor. WERNER is night yardmaster under MARTIN, and HILDEBRAND is a car conductor, responsible for the shifting and making up of freight cars in and out of the Corporation's yards. MARTIN stated that in his estimation, both men are good, sober, citizens whose veracity he would never doubt, and on no occasion has he had cause to mistrust or reprimand either man.

AGENCY

12. On 24 February 1949 the following agencies were checked with negative results:

Police Department, New Brighton, Pa.
Constable, Freedom, Pa.

Inclosures:

FOR CG, AMC, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, DAYTON, OHIO

1. The signed statements of PETER HILDEBRAND and CHARLES WERNER, dated at Beaver County, Pennsylvania, 3 March 1949.
2. Exhibit "A" - a rough sketch of the objects drawn by CHARLES WERNER.
3. Exhibit "B" - a page from an unnamed magazine depicting objects similar to the ones sighted by CHARLES WERNER.

FOR DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 5, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, DAYTON, OHIO

Copy of statement of PETER HILDEBRAND and CHARLES WERNER, dated at Beaver County, Pennsylvania, 3 March 1949.

FOR HQ, OSI, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Copy of statement of PETER HILDEBRAND and CHARLES WERNER, dated at Beaver County, Pennsylvania, 3 March 1949.

CLOSED

MAR 3 1949

As requested by Mr. Harry H. Perry, Jr. who has identified himself as a Special Agent of the Office of Special Investigations, Inspector General, USAF, and in the presence of Mr. Tony Zevrais, who has also identified himself as a Special Agent of the Office of Special Investigations, Inspector General, USAF, I, Charles Werner, 1000 6th Avenue, Freedom, Pennsylvania, do make the following statement:

On 17 December 1948, at approximately 1:30 A. M. while working as Yardmaster in the railroad yard of the Spang-Chalfont Corporation, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, I sighted what appeared to be a formation of spherical objects, approximately the dimensions of a late full moon. I first sighted these objects above the horizon to the north, at a range approximately ~~30° 15' N. Longitude and 40° 35' N. Latitude~~. The objects appeared to be moving at a high rate of speed in a southerly direction, until almost directly overhead. At this time the topmost object appeared to dive beneath the formation and accomplish a sharp 90° turn to the right, this maneuver being followed by the rest of the formation. The objects then disappeared very high above the horizon towards the west where they faded from my view. All movements of the objects appeared to be definite as in controlled flight. The objects seemed to be whitish or luminescent and no exhaust vapors or flames were evident. At the time of my sighting the sky was clear, moonlit, and visibility was excellent. These objects were visible for approximately 30 seconds and appeared to be rotating around their axis. No lights other than the overall luminescence of the objects were apparent and no antennae, wings, fins, projections, propellers, slots, ducts or openings were visible at the time of the sighting. I was standing near a railroad switching locomotive and therefore could not definitely state whether or not the objects made any noise.

Charles R. Werner
CHARLES WERNER

MAR 3 1949

COUNTY OF BEAVER)
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA)

As requested by Mr. Harry H. Perry, Jr. who has identified himself as a Special Agent of the Office of Special Investigations, Inspector General, USAF, and in the presence of Mr. Toney Zevrais, who has also identified himself as a Special Agent of the Office of Special Investigations, Inspector General, USAF, I, Peter Hildebrand, RD #2, Marion Hill, New Brighton, Pennsylvania do make the following statement:

On 17 December 1948, at approximately 1:30 A. M. while working as conductor in the railroad yards of the Spang-Chalfont Corporation, Ambridge, Pennsylvania, my attention was attracted by a shout from the night yardmaster, Charles Werner, who was pointing up into the sky. I immediately looked up towards the direction indicated by Mr. Werner and sighted what appeared to be a group of eight white objects approximately 450' above the horizon moving up the river from Rochester, Pennsylvania towards Ambridge. The objects resembled wheels turning around hubs and were traveling at what appeared to be a high rate of speed. The objects ~~at this time were almost directly overhead, and~~ then suddenly dove, changed positions, and executed a sharp 90° turn to the right, fading from view towards the west while still high above the horizon. I would say the objects were in view for approximately 30 seconds. The objects were solid white rotating wheels and approximately the size of a high full moon. The weather was clear. I was standing on a freight-car near the switching engine and could not say whether the objects made any noise. The objects appeared to be definitely under control and no antennae, wings, fins, projections, propellers, slots, ducts, or openings were visible. They did not leave any vapor trail, and there were no signs of an exhaust. I could not make definite statements to the speed, size or altitude of the objects.

Peter Hildebrand
PETER HILDEBRAND

NOVEMBER * DECEMBER 1948 SIGHTINGS

NUMBER	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
	Winter	San 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	RADAR	A/C
204	8	Panama	Solera	Astro (COMET 1948L)
202	8	Newark AFB, New Jersey	Cisok	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
203	17	Clark AFB, Philippines	Handley, 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	
221	3	Bellefontain, Ohio	(PHYSICAL SPECIMEN)	Other (Flare)
215	3	Fairfield-Suisan AFB, Calif	McFarland, DeLafayette	UNIDENTIFIED
247	5	Blanca, Colorado	Wright	Astro (Meteor)
235	5	Indiana County, Pennsylvania	(NO CASE) Civilian	Balloon
216	8	Chamute AFB, Illinois	Multi Military	Astro (Meteor)
217	9	Mr Pittsburgh, Pa	Mulling, Brown	Astro (Perseids)
218	11	40 Mi NW Martinsburgh, 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	Ansbribe, Pennsylvania	Werner, 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