

21 Jan 1953

Ops/st Durant

Rec

ROTATING CLUSTERS OF RED, WHITE AND GREEN LIGHTS--WAS SPOTTED OVER NORTHERN JAPAN BY AMERICAN AIRMEN, THE AIR FORCE DISCLOSED TUESDAY.

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS PLACED THE SIGHTINGS CLOSE TO RUSSIAN TERRITORY IN THE KURILE ISLANDS AND SAKHALIN. THEY ADDED:

"THERE ARE TOO MANY INDICATIONS OF THE PRESENCE OF SOMETHING VERY STRANGE TO BE CONSIDERED AN OBSERVATION OF NOTHING." AND THEY DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY THE SIGHTED OBJECTS WERE MERELY REFLECTIONS OF LIGHT.

COL. CURTIS R. LOW, COMMAND OF THE NORTHERN DIVISION OF THE JAPAN AIR DEFENSE FORCE, SAID THE FLYING CLUSTERS WERE SEEN BY FIGHTER PILOTS AND GROUND PERSONNEL AND WERE TRACKED ON RADAR. HE RELEASED OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON THE SIGHTING TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

THE REPORTS WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE DESCRIBING "FLYING SAUCERS" IN THE U.S. SOME SAID THE LIGHTS APPEARED TO HANG MOTIONLESS AT TIMES AND AT OTHER TIMES DISAPPEARED WITH BLINDING SPEED.

COL. DONALD J. M. BLAKESLEE, WORLD WAR II ACE AND COMMANDER OF AN ESCORT FIGHTER WING, TOOK DETAILED OBSERVATIONS OF ONE ROTATING CLUSTER AND TRIED IN VAIN TO INTERCEPT IT IN A JET.

SIGHTINGS WERE MADE BY MANY PERSONS AT MANY POINTS OVER NORTHERN JAPAN DEC. 29. ON JAN. 9 A ROTATING CLUSTER WAS SPOTTED BY TWO FIGHTER PILOTS AND WAS TRACKED ON RADAR.

THE REPORT WAS SIGNED BY LT. COL. RUSSELL POWELL, INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, U.S. AIR FORCE.

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Hit papers 21 Jan 1953

Picked Up on Radar Screen

WASH D.C. POST 22 JAN 53

U. S. Jet Pilots Chase Light Clusters Flying At Blinding Speed Over Northern Japan

UNITED STATES AIR BASE, Northern Japan (Thursday), Jan. 22 (AP)—Strange clusters of red, white and green lights flying at blinding speed have been chased twice by United States jet pilots over northern Japan, the Air Force said Wednesday.

The hurtling, rotating clusters were seen the nights of December 29 and January 9 over northern Honshu, the main island of Japan. The Japanese government recently complained of flights over Hokkaido Island just north of Honshu by Russian fighter planes from Kurile and Sakhalin Island bases.

"Frequency of related sightings attest to some unconventional flying object active in this general area," said an Air Force intelligence report on the De-

ember 29 spotting, indicating the mysterious lights had been seen many times before.

"There are too many indications of the presence of something for the source's remarks to be considered an observation of nothing." The report was signed by Lieut. Col. Russell, intelligence officer.

(At Washington, the Air Force said it had received a preliminary report on the sightings.)

Col. Donald J. M. Blakeslee in his F-84 Thunderjet chased the lights the night of December 29, at 35,000 feet. They headed west and out of sight. In that direction lies Russian Siberia.

He observed the lights for approximately seven minutes, as he set his course of pursuit, "he noted that the object ob-

viously was increasing in size," the report said. Blakeslee extinguished all the lights of his aircraft "to make certain he was not getting some reflection from his canopy surface."

After losing the lights, Blakeslee turned southeast and "after five minutes he noted the object again at 35,000 feet, level with him and flying what appeared a parallel course."

After more than 4 minutes observation, the lights headed west and disappeared, the report said.

Authorities at this air base were especially impressed by the radar pickup by another plane on January 9. They said the radar actually locked on the object, heading the plane toward it as though it were drawn by a magnet.