

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED



STATEMENT OF JOHN B. WHITED

I was flying co-pilot for Capt. C. S. Chiles on Trip 576 which left Houston, Texas at 8:40 PM Eastern Standard Time, Friday night, July 22, 1948. At 0245 EST, we sighted a strange object coming toward us at a high rate of speed. We were at 5000 feet and our position was 25 miles southwest of Montgomery, Ala. The strange object had a stream of red fire coming from its tail. I assumed that it was a jet type airplane of the Army or Navy but as it came nearer I could see that it was much larger than any Army or Navy jet that I have ever seen or read about. It passed us on the right side of our DC-3. I estimate its speed in the neighborhood of 700 MPH but this is purely a rough estimate. We were holding a compass heading of 50 degrees and the object passed us going in the opposite direction. To me, the object seemed about a half-mile from us, flying straight and level. I ~~was~~ could see no wings supporting the object.

The object was cigar shaped and seemed to be about a hundred feet in length. The fuselage appeared to be about three times the circumference of a B-29 fuselage. It had two rows of windows, an upper and a lower. The windows were very large and seemed square. They were white with light which seemed to be caused by some type of combustion. I estimate that we watched the object at least 5 seconds and not more than 10 seconds. We heard no noise nor did we feel any turbulence from the object. It seemed to be at about 5500 feet.

I asked Capt. Chiles what we had just seen and he said that he didn't know. Capt. Chiles then contacted the company radio operator at Columbus, Ga., and asked him to contact Lawson Fld at Ft Benning, Ga., and find out if the Army had any jet or experimental planes in the vicinity. The company operator called us a few minutes later and stated that Lawson Field reported that they had no planes flying in our area. Capt. Chiles then reported back to the company radio operator saying that a strange aircraft just passed us and it looked like some type of rocket ship.

We passed up Columbus because of ground fog and continued on to Atlanta.

REVIEWED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 10 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

Statement & Original
Sketch of object - J.B. Whited

EXHIBIT "A"

Page 3 of 8 pages

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN CLARENCE S. CHILES

Atlanta, Ga.
Aug 3, 1948

Mr. S. L. Shannon
Eastern Air Lines
Miami, Fla.

The following is a report of an unidentified aircraft which was sighted by John Whitted and me, as we were twenty miles southwest of Montgomery, Ala. July 24, 1948, as we were on Eastern's trip 576.

At 2:45 A. M. we were cruising at 5,000 feet when there came, what looked like a Jet type of aircraft to our right and slightly above meeting us. It was a clear moonlight night with the visibility excellent; therefore, we were able to view the ship as it passed for a period of around ten seconds. It was clear there were no wings present, that it was powered by some jet or other type of power shooting flames from the rear some fifty feet. There were two rows of windows, which indicated an upper and lower deck, from inside these windows a very bright light was glowing. Underneath the ship there was a blue glow of light.

After it passed it pulled up into some light broken clouds and was lost from view. There was no prop wash or rough air felt as it passed.

After talking to the only passenger awake at the time, he saw only the trail of fire as it passed and pulled into the clouds. I called the company at Columbus and asked if there was any reported jet army craft and requested if the ATC had any aircraft under control. I was told that no such craft was reported by either source.

/s/ C. S. Chiles

C. S. Chiles
Capt E. A. L.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 6200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

The 8th returned original
Sketch of object by C.S. Chiles
EXHIBIT "A"

Crypt kat
trigly light

APR 5 1961



UNIC

HENRY GRADY HOTEL
ON PEACH STREET
ATLANTA, GA



EST: 100 in length

Chips, G.S.

This is what I saw
and there were no wings
no fins

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

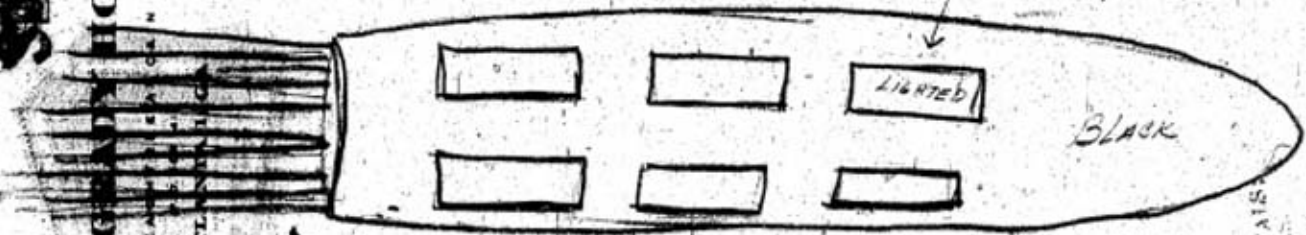
UNCLASSIFIED

EXHIBIT 'A'

20

HENRY GARDNER HOTEL

UNCL



LARGE WINDOWS OR OPENINGS

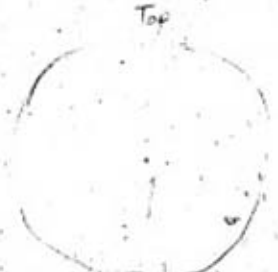
LITTED

BLACK

100' LENGTH

NO FINS

ORANGE & RED
FLAME 40' LONG



ESTIMATED FRONT VIEW
ROUND

UNCLASSIFIED
DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 15 YEARS
DOD DIR 5400.10

UNCLASSIFIED

EXHIBIT "A"

page 6 of 6 pages

J. R. Whitted

UNCLASSIFIED

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Date 24 July 1948 Incident # 144
2. Time 0245
3. Location 20 miles south of Montgomery, Ala.
4. Name of observer Pilot Clarence Ships Chiles & Co-pilot John B. Whitted & Mr. McKelvie
5. Occupation of observer Pilot and Co-pilot (EAL) Mr. McKelvie's occupation N/S
6. Address of observer Atlanta Office of EAL
7. Place of observation air - 20 miles south of Montgomery, Ala.
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer 700 ft
10. Time in sight 10 to 15 seconds
11. Altitude 5,000 ft
12. Speed 500 to 700 MPH (See Atlanta Constitution - 25 July 48)
13. Direction of flight southwest toward Mobile and New Orleans
14. Tactics Pulled up sharply with tremendous burst of flame (Atlanta Constitution - 25 July 48)
15. Sound none
16. Size 100 ft long and about twice the diameter of a "B-29"
17. Color N/S
18. Shape Cigar-shaped
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails red-orange flame with blue fluorescent glow running underneath the object
22. Weather conditions full moon, clear with broken cloud coverage of 4/10 at 6,000 ft
23. Effect on clouds N/S - pulled up into one.
24. Sketches or photographs 2 sketches
25. Manner of disappearance Disappeared into a cloud
26. Remarks: See attached statements.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~