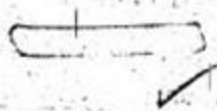


• Dic. 1941



24 Dec 1941

South of ...

U.S. ...

2000 - 2124

Circular - half sphere

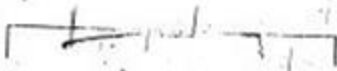
1-1 1/2 Miles wide

... sea level

... 1 hr 24 min.

... Aerial

Astra (other)
Aurora Borealis



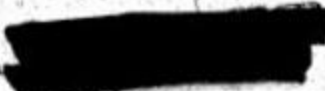
UNCLASSIFIED

1. Action requested above has been [REDACTED]
2. According to astronomical authorities the phenomenon described by Captain Mattatall coincides exactly with the appearance of aurora polaris (northern lights) as seen at latitudes as far south as Bermuda.
3. The newspaper article "Northern Lights Are Seen Here", which is evaluated A-1, states that the aurora was visible in Bermuda 21 January beginning at a time close to that when Captain Mattatall first saw his phenomenon. Furthermore, the lights were seen in a line of direction from Bermuda which passes through or near the position where Captain Mattatall estimates his light mass to have been located when last seen.
4. A transcript of entries from the log of Hamilton Meteorological Station for the night in question has been requested.
5. It was further requested that Captain Mattatall and his crew be interviewed to determine whether the appearance or nearness of the light mass could have been illusory caused, possibly, be a combination of cloud and water reflection and the intensity of the aurora.

Incls:
w/d

A. J. [REDACTED], JR.
 Lt Colonel, USAF
 Acting Chief
 Tech Intelligence Division
 Intelligence Department

HAS/ra
 65310
 P 202P
 sldg 288



MCIA

Attn: Mr. Deyarmond

MCI

9 Mar 49

1.

UNCLASSIFIED

1. The attached correspondence will be coordinated immediately with the Engineering Division to determine what action, if any, can be taken to determine the nature or origin of the phenomena reported.

2. It is suggested that the data available be handcarried to Dr. Hynek of the Ohio State Research Foundation. In the event that no opinion can be obtained from that organization, the incident should be coordinated with Dr. T. P. Robertson of the Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology. Dr. Robertson is chairman of the Committee on Technical Intelligence of the Von Karman Advisory Group. Another possibility would be Dr. George Valley of W. I. T.

3. It is recommended that all references to filtering as expressed in paragraphs 2, 1, and 4 be deleted as they would unnecessarily disclose classified Air Force operations and those data would not aid in identifying the nature of the phenomena.

Incl:

Ltr. 21 Feb 49 w/15 Incls
4 Mar 49 fr AF01R-CO-5 w/4 Incls

W. A. CLIGGEMAN

Colonel, USAF

Acting Chief, Intell Dept.

JSH/dm

B 262

R 253

5-9210

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8/9 WEATHER SQUADRON DETACHMENT
KINDLEY AIR FORCE BASE
APO 856 C/O POSTMASTER
NEW YORK, NEW YORK


MEMORANDUM

10 May 1949

SUBJECT: Aurora Borealis

TO : Commanding Officer, 373rd Recon Squadron

Records of the Hamilton Meteorological Office, Hamilton Bermuda indicate a Aurora-Borealis occurred Northwest of this station at 2000 hours local 24 January thru 0200 hours local 25 January 1949. The same records also indicate a faint Aurora-Borealis occurring Northwest of this station at 0100 hours local 26 January 1949.


FRANK S. SAVAGE
Major, USAF
Station Weather Officer

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Mattatall, Marsden W.
Capt, AO-748440

1. Date of observation: 24 January 1949 Date of interview: 13 April 1949
2. Exact time of observation: From 2000 to 2124
3. Place of observation: 29°30'N-87°29'W
4. Position of observer: Air, RB-29 (Aircraft Commander's Position)
5. What attracted attention to object: Dark red glow which at first resembled moon rising, later resembled ship (surface vessel) burning.
6. Number of objects: One (see Incl #1. Capt Mattatall does not completely agree, states red portion was much more rounded than shown in Sgt Sims's sketch and pillars of white light were very distinct).
7. Apparent size: Main portion of red mass was 1 to 1½ miles wide.
8. Color of object: Predominately red with white light base and shafts of white light extending upward approximately 3/4 of red mass
9. Shape: Circular, half sphere, mushroom.
10. Altitude: Below horizon, based on water, gave appearance of coming from water.
11. Direction from observers: 1100
12. Distance from observer: First sighting approximately 100 miles away, approaching to within 100 to 150 ft, executed sharp right bank to keep from flying into red light mass.
13. Direction of flight of object: Undetermined
14. Time in sight: 1 hour, 24 min.
15. Speed: Undetermined:
16. Sound and odor: None noticeable

DOWNGRADED
DECLASSIFIED

17. Trail:
None

UNCLASSIFIED

18. Luminosity:
Appeared to generate its own light, white light comparable to fluorescent light, red light some less brilliant than runway flare.

19. Projections:
None

20. Maneuvers:
Undetermined

21. Manner of disappearance:
A/C departed. Red light still visible from Bermuda on landing.

22. Effect on clouds:
Appeared to tint clouds red.

23. Additional information concerning object:
Red light illuminated left wing of A/C and reflected into cockpit. Did not resemble any Northern Light display as seen over Alaska. From 6000 ft. Water could be seen on opposite side of phenomena, stars could be seen on opposite side of red portion of light.

24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting:
Weather good. Clouds 2 to 4 tenths, wind 25 knots from 250, No moon, very dark, stars visible.

Name and address of observer:
Matetall, Marsden W., Captain, AO-748440
373d Ren Sq VLR Wea
APO 856 c/o PL, N.Y., N.Y.

Occupation and hobbies:
Pilot, VHB
(No particular hobbies)

Comments of Interrogator:
Observer is of above average intelligence. Character, as far as viewed at this headquarters, is excellent.

1. Date of Observation 24 Jan. 1949 Date of Interview 13 April 1949
2. Exact Time (local) 2000-2124
3. Place of Observation South of Bermuda, B.W.I. 29° 30' North 67° 69' West
4. Position of observer Air in RB-29 Course true 50° - 1500 - 6000 Ft. Altitude
5. What attracted attention to object. Dark red glow.
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size 1 to 1-1/2 miles wide
8. Color of object Red with white light base with shafts of light extending 3/4 way through mass.
9. Shape Circular, half sphere, mushroom.
10. Altitude Sea level
11. Direction from observer 330°
12. Distance from observer 1st sighted at 100 miles approached to within 100-150 Ft.
13. Direction of flight of object(s)
14. Time in sight 1 hr. 24 minutes
15. Speed Unknown
16. Sound and odor
17. Trail
18. Luminosity Appeared to generate own light.
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers
21. Manner of disappearance A/C departed from scene...
22. Effect on Clouds Appeared to tint clouds red.
23. Additional Information Concerning Object-
24. Weather Conditions. Good .2 - .4 clouds, wind 25 knots from 25°
No moon, very dark, stars visible.

Name and address of observer:

Occupation and hobbies:

Capt. Marsden W. Mattall, 373d Recon Sqd. VLR Woa
APO - 856 C/O PM, New York, N. Y.

Captain, USAF
VHB Bomber Pilot

Comments of interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

Above average intelligence, character appears excellent.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY: