

UNCLASSIFIED

Leach, Leonard G.
S/Sgt, AF-32070629

1. Date of Observation: 24 January 1949 Date of Interview: 12 April 1949
2. Exact time of observation: From 2000 to 2124
3. Place of Observation: Unknown
4. Position of observer: Air, RB-29 (Left Scanner's position)
5. What attracted attention to object: Pilot called over interphone
6. Number of objects: One (agrees with Incl #1)
7. Apparent size: Undetermined
8. Color of object: Blue-white at base, bordered in red gradually fading out.
9. Shape: First seemed to be red-gold sunset. Resembled mushroom. Estimates circumference to be 25 miles.
10. Altitude: Appeared to be coming out of ocean. Appeared to be based on ocean when observed from both distance and immediate vicinity.
11. Direction from observer: 1100
12. Distance from observer: Undetermined
13. Direction of flight of object: Appeared to be moving west (A/C was moving generally north) estimates minimum speed to be 25 knots
14. Time in sight: Would judge about 1 hour and one half
15. Speed: Undetermined
16. Sound and odor: Undetermined

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17. Trail:
None observed
18. Luminosity:
Comparable to blast furnaces of Pittsburg from distance of 5 miles
19. Projections:
None
20. Maneuvers:
Light appeared to decrease and increase in altitude and intensity. It had a zig-zag course.
21. Manner of disappearance:
Did not disappear
22. Effect on clouds:
Could see two sausage shaped clouds, silhouetted, either beyond or in the east portion of light mass. No other clouds observed.
23. Additional information concerning object:
Light mass was transparent. Could plainly see water on other side of light. Water in vicinity of light was plainly visible. Could have seen surface vessel, but did not. When A/C was departing light appeared to increase in diameter. Airman has observed Northern Lights from Himalayas in India and has never a display that resembled this.
24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting:
Weather was good. Clouds scattered. Was dark, no moon.
- Name and address of observer:
Lerch, Leonard G. AF-32070629
373d Rcn Sq, VLR, Wea
APO 856 c/o PM, N.Y., N.Y.
- Occupation and hobbies:
Scanner, B-29, MOS 2750
No particular hobbies
- Comments of Interrogator:
Observer of average or above average intelligence.
Character, as far as viewed at this headquarters, is excellent.