Patuxent, Naval Air Test Center AC 301 863-3111

Sighted of 1300 EST Dec 19, 1964 — Cdr. Gordon R. Otis, Operations Officer — Phoned him 4/3/67 14:05 P.M.

Investigator I-1 3/65, p.3

Mr. Austin White, ATC civilian advisor, was at Patuxent in Dec 1964. Cdr Otis called him to phone

Wallops Island off to East & generates many UFO's Rep.o

White remembers incident: Officer's name was CORSON, not CORDON. Crewman on ~~Spain~~ Sugden ~~?~~ replace the

Was ~~not on watch~~ on nite watch & White not on watch. Sugden Got

returns at high speed. Came in & turned around

& went back. Recalls, came all way in to ground clutter

(2 miles or so), but d.p.a. NICAP says 15 mile turn-back pt.

Have L-Band 200 mile range.

& S-Band (can track on MTI all way in). short range.

White could not recall about any details of calibration - check.

White will check logs & let me know if have any

records of it.

Cdr Otis wanted to chat a bit re UFO problem. Clearly knew very little about it, but casually said may be something to it at all.

Investigator account:

Sugden & 2 other navy CTO's (Control Tower Operators) tracked

two large unknown returns (largest they'd ever seen on scope).

Approaching NATC, 10 miles apart at 6000 kts.

15 miles away the two turned back.

Then, on a second approach came in to 10 mile range before reversing.

Finally, a single ~~[illegible]~~ return came in toward base & at

8 miles out went thru a 160-degree turn, a fantastic maneuver

at such high speed.

All three CTO's agreed were hard echoes not related to

malfunction. AF told Sen. Byrd was due likely to faulty radar or poorly

trained spotter, quit previously, on Jan 5, 1965 the Navy officially released a report regarding the tragedy

Bernard R. Sughe, ABQ. residence 298-6553 4/23/67 at ABQ
(Charles D Sughe, 2704 Louisiana Blvd, NE, ABQ)

Time was 0330 - on midwatch definitely. Times & dates garbled in press
No windows, darkened radar room; got wx data from Aerology
All happened so fast, couldn't respond fast enough to call tower re visual obs after 5 minutes.
They called & CT saw nothing, he said
S. holds control tower operator certificate. At time was Air Controlman 3/c
Chief Jas. Flanagan & Pinkerton (now a Warrant officer) Jim Flanagan
probably still at Patuxent (Chief Aircraft Controlman). Pinkerton left NAS before S did
Pair first came in on heading 340°. Lost them at 15 mi. Nearly a 180° turn (160°)
Second was a single UFO & both Sughe & Pinkerton saw it
Doesn't recall a 3rd sighting (cf letter for details). no third object.
Considered almost immediately unlikely it was a weather effect (Pinkerton 14 yrs on radar)
Called radar technician ("Berg?"), he agrees that they'd never seen anything like it.
No other 'malfunction' before or after that, on Dec 19. Had just landed an aircraft; no other
traffic for next hour, however.
Called FAA Washington Center (Leesburg, Va.) & they had nothing on it. Their radar covers
radar Patuxent. Such cases have occurred before.*
Radar: CPN-18 (wavelength ——) Pinkerton was on 40-mi range display, while
Sughe had been on 10, to land the plane. On MTI, (Pinkerton), automatic MTI on these sets
Flanagan and Pinkerton, who had much experience, said that they'd never seen anything
like. Sughe said size was main thing that was unusual about blip was its size
was about 3 times average P3-A (Patrol Bomber, Lockheed, Turboprop, similar to Electra)
Speed & maneuvers were also impressive
↗* Was a slow night & they might not have been watching their scopes continuously
at Leesburg FAA
Cape May Coast Guard, had asked re visual sighting at Salisbury, Md Flight Service
Center, so Salisbury called Sughe. Sughe asked them to try to contact Coast Guard
latter denied knowing about.
No fighters available to scramble — just lost aircraft.
No USAF personnel or FAA personnel came down to check set or interview the
personnel. This made him mad. Got together with others & assembled it so the
letter, because mad at USAF claims. Letter was sent a week or so after USAF
letter, because mad at USAF claims. Can't recall how long a time elapsed since
claimed they'd checked set. Claimed that the Navy controllers were inexperienced & probably a malfunctioning
set. Thinks USAF statement was in Washington Post, evidently in papers.
(He looked for clipping that made him mad. A.P. Jan 1965 (late?).
Head "Unidentified Objects False Radar Signals". "USAF says UFO's reported seen on
radar at P. NAS were defective radar signals".
After everything settled down, Cdr. Croson would he said O.K. to send the letter to NICAP, so S did
Age 24 now. Has 9.5 yrs in Navy. Soon off to Viet Nam. Leaves May 7
A USAF Major reamed out Croson for release to press of news. But lad was later re
the release. Cdr. Croson cleared them out & so made Sughe return his NICAP letter.
Date Dec 19th 0330; as in all clippings. (Shows Cdr. did not know of 200-2 & didn't
realize S should not have sent anything to NICAP on later on!