1. DATE - TIME GROUP 29 Jan 52 30/01:52	2. LOCATION Compton, South Carolina
3. SOURCE Civ Obs	10. CONCLUSION Unknown Pope AFB, N. C., reported that [illegible] the time of sighting and that [illegible]
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS [illegible] Very oblong object [illegible] moved slowly at a low altitude. [illegible] Object emitted a low rumbling sound.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE West	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 61 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

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State

SC Man Tells

continued from page 1

Booth is a veteran of anti-aircraft service in the United States and Hawaii and has been trained in aircraft identification of both enemy and Allied planes.

Booth said, "I have been in helicopters and seen in aircraft almost every type plane. This was none of them and didn't even faintly resemble any of them."

Booth said he was reluctant at first to tell anyone about the object, even his family because the "saucers" have been so widely debunked. However his family heard his shot and he told them what he had seen.

He also told the Rev. Elwell Jones, Baptist minister. The Rev. Mr. Jones

Booth went in the barn, saw nothing then exited the building. A full moon lit up the sky. An eclipse of the moon on the same night had ended. Then from his vantage point, he looked up above the top of the pine trees and saw the strange object.

Citizens in the area noted that at least 18 cows have died mysteriously, of poisoning in Horry County within the last three weeks.

Booth said he doesn't know what to think about the poisonings. He said he could detect no sign of poisonous smell or substance from the object. He said a veterinarian had

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...State

...Man Tells of Shooting Hovering Flying Saucer, Shoots Into It

...which he is known, lately here the object came...

...saw him well, in bed...later it, around it, and viewed it continued on page 2A, column 3

SC Man Tells

continued from page 1

...scene identification.

...

...

...

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ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO

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SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CG ATIC

TO: DO POPE AFB FT BRAGG NORTH CAROLINA

INFO: C/I [redacted] USAF ACTN: AFOIN-2A WASH D C
(AIR MAIL)

DATE-TIME GROUP 171952Z FEB 53 [redacted]

PRECEDENCE FOR: ACTION: ROUTINE | INFORMATION

☐ BOOK MESSAGE | ☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☒ MULTIPLE ADDRESS | CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE

IDENTIFICATION | CLASSIFICATION

FROM: AF IN-ATIAS-5 FOR INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Request you investigate circumstances surrounding the sighting by Lloyd [redacted], north of Conway, South Carolina, of an unidentified flying object. Booth runs a store and service station on Highway 701, eight miles north of Conway, S.C. The story of his sighting received considerable publicity in the 7 February issue of a newspaper, the "Columbia State", of Columbia, S.C.

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

COORDINATIONS

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR I
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

753-2067

[redacted] PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

Lt Col [redacted]/vs

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

SYMBOL: ATIAS-5

TELEPHONE: 59-66

OFFICIAL TITLE: [redacted] USAF
Asst Executive Officer

ATIAE-5File

DD FORM 1 OCT 61 173 REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 MAY 48 WHICH MAY BE USED.

16-52023-8 ☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

30/63Y5-V C&WHFY S.C.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CO FOUR FOUR ONE FIVE AB GP

POPE AFB FT BRAGG NC

DATE/TIME GROUP: 061300Z MAR 53

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION:

PRECEDENCE FOR: ACTION: MAIL INFORMATION:

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CERTIFICATION: ☐ YES ☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE

IDENTIFICATION: IC DASH 148 CLASSIFICATION: [redacted]

TO:

CHIEF AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

ATTN CLN ATIAA DASH2 C

WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

INFO:

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE

~~HQ USAF OCIGIA WASHINGTON 25 D C~~

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PCBAD 004 PD BLUE BOOK PD REURMSG IC DASH 148 DT TIME GP 190539ZFEB53

PD RPT REQ IN CITED MSG FWD YOUR HQ THIS DT AS INCL ONE TO THIS MSG PD

~~DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVA~~
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGE

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

JOSEPH A FISCHER 2D LT USAF

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

Joseph A. Fischer

JOSEPH A. FISCHER 2D LT USAF

SYMBOL: PCBAD

TELEPHONE: 4-5150

OFFICIAL TITLE: BASE ADJUTANT

DD FORM 1 MAY 49 173 REPLACES WD AGO FORM 11-1B, 15 JUN 1945, AND WD AGO FORM 580, 1 APR 1946, WHICH MAY BE USED.

AF-AAFB-Gen-8 Jun 51-500,000

1953 FEB 20 09:36

1. ATIA
2. ATI
3 Files

20Feb53 15 11z

ACTION

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RR JEDEN JEDWP JEPLG JEPHQ 444

DE JESDF 102

R 192100Z

FM CG SAF POPE AFB NC

TO JEPHG/DIR OF INTEL USAF WASH DC

JEDWP/AIR TECH INTEL CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

JEPLG/CG TAC LANGLEY AFB VA

UNCLASSIFIED

/[redacted]D/ATTN ATIAA 2C NAFOI 2-0812 FLYOBRPT PD FOL INFO

TAKEN FR LTR AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPING FWD TO NINTH AF DIR OF INTEL BY

ALO MYRTLE BEACH SC PD

LLOYD C BOOTH VIS OBSR AT 072420Z EIGHT MILES N OF CONWAY SC ONE OVAL

OBJ 12 X 24 FT W/WHEEL IN THE BOTTOM AND SLOPING FRONT AND BACK PD

OBJ DID NOT MV FOR 20 OR 30 MINUTES AND APPEARED TO BE 80 FT OVERHEAD PD

3 NAVY BLIMPS WERE REPT I AREA AT TIME OF SIGHTING PD

19/2300Z FEB JESDF

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

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AF FORM 112—PART I
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

UNCLASSIFIED

COUNTRY	(LEAVE BLANK)
USA	1

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Blue Book

SUBJECT: Report of Unidentified Flying Object

AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)
Horry County, South Carolina	Commanding Officer, Pope AFB, N. C.

DATE OF REPORT	DATE OF INFORMATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
5 Mar 53	24 - 25 Feb 53		F-6

PREPARED BY (Author)
2d Lt Earl M Crouch

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as appropriate)
Msg IO-148 fr CO ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio Dt-time Gp 190539Z Feb 53

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give appropriate item and/or paragraph. Use continuation sheet if necessary. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II)

Report of the sighting of an unidentified flying object by Lloyd C Booth of Conway, South Carolina, at 300345Z (January). Three (3) Navy blimps were reported in the area at approximately the time of sighting. It is probable that what Booth saw was one of these blimps.

Earl M. Crouch
EARL M CROUCH
2d Lt, USAF
Investigation Officer

Approved.

George S Roberts
Maj USAF
Executive
CARTER E DUNCAN
Colonel, USAF
Commanding

DOWNGRADED AT [redacted]
DECLASSIFIED AT [redacted]
DOD DIR [redacted]

2 INCLS

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR
1. Director of Intelligence Headquarters USAF, Washington 25, D. C.
2. Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center, ATTN: ATIAA-2c, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
3. Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, ATTN: NCFOI, Pope Air Force Base, Ft Bragg, NC
4. File, Headquarters 4415th Air Base Group, Pope Air Force Base, Fort Bragg, N. C.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

1. The object sighted by Lloyd C. Booth of Conway, S. C., on the night of 29 January 1953 had the following identifying characteristics:

a. Shape - The bottom of the object was oblong-shaped. The top was of a shape much like an egg cut in half. The front blended in with the oblong bottom and had a cob-like affair extending about four (4) feet around the sides. The back was in a point, had two (2) round openings on either side covered by red glass (apparently exterior lights), approximately 16 or 17 inches in diameter. On the bottom of the craft was a crescent-shaped object which looked much like a large conveyor belt wheel and which covered about half of the overall length of craft.

b. Size - The object appeared to be approximately 24 to 26 feet long and about 8 feet tall excluding the projection on the bottom which was about 3½ or 4 feet tall and approximately the same in width.

c. Color - The object was observed to be a dull light gray color, not like aluminum at all, more like it was painted. This was all observed under a full moon.

d. Numbers - There was only one (1) craft observed by Mr. Booth.

e. Trail or Exhaust - No trail or exhaust was observed.

f. Propulsion System - No visible means of propulsion was observed. There were no jet openings as exhaust pipes noticed. The observer stated that the object had a dull humming or whishing sound to it like a large electric motor running.

g. Speed - When first observed, the object was practically standing still. It was so slow that the observer states that he walked along under it and observed it for about twenty (20) minutes. It was about twenty (20) minutes after first observing the object that Mr. Booth fired on it with a 22 caliber pistol. Mr. Booth stated that he heard the first shot hit the object and bounce off. It was then the object tilted slightly and went up at about a 65° angle at a speed estimated to be between 600 and 700 M.P.H. No erractic movements were noted. The object was traveling practically due west when it disappeared.

h. There were no identifying marks such as numbers, insignias, and the like. No human elements were observed in the object although the cockpit-like affair was fully lighted.

2. The object was observed at 2030EST (January) for a period of twenty (20) minutes. The object was approximately 60 feet above the ground at the time.

3. The manner of observation was visible and was observed by Mr. Booth alone.

4. The location of the observer during sighting was approximately 200 yards from his home which is located 1/2 mile to 1 mile off U.S. Highway 701, 7 miles northeast of Conway, S. C. There are no known landmarks in this vicinity. The object was observed from the ground and headed due West.

5. Mr. Booth was the only observer of this object on the night of 29 January 1953. In the statements given to the press and to me, Mr. Booth stated that he was very familiar with all types of aircraft, including blimps, having served with an anti-aircraft unit for 22 months during World War II. On checking on the reliability of Booth's story and of his character, many people were interviewed. All testified that Booth was of the highest type character, that he was not prone to lying, and that he was definately not a publicity seeker nor a drinking man. In interviewing Booth, it was found that he

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Library) | SUBJECT NO. | PAGE 2 OF 8 PAGES

was of an introvert nature which corresponds with the statements of others. The Mayor of Conway, S. C., stated that he was not personally acquainted with Booth, but that he knew of the family and that as far as he knew they were very reliable people. Mr. Larry Baulier, editor of the "Field", one of the two (2) newspapers in Conway, S. C., and the only one which carried the story, stated that he had investigated the story, and that from his own investigations had found nothing which would disprove Booth's story. Mr. Baulier's written statement is inclosed with this report. Mr. W. Horace Carter, General Manager of the "Field" and four (4) other newspapers in the Myrtle Beach area, also gave a written statement in which he said that he had investigated Booth and his story very carefully and that he is convinced that what Booth said is true. Mr. Carter has just been awarded the "Man of the Year" award for the state of North Carolina, and is a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize. From my own investigation of Mr. Booth, I am convinced that he saw something. Booth has had two (2) years college at Wingate College in North Carolina and he served for twenty-two (22) months in the last war. He speaks intelligently, expressing himself very well. However, it is entirely possible that what Booth saw was a Navy blimp enroute from Glynco, Georgia, to Weeksville, N. C. This theory came from C. W. Hall of the CAA Control Tower at Bluethenthal Field, Wilmington, N. C. His story written in the "Field" is inclosed with this report.

6. The weather on the night of 29 January 1953 in the Horry County area was clear and cool with winds about four (4) M.P.H. This is the official report given to me by the 3d Weather Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, N. C. This corresponds to the story given by Booth, but not the one given by the CAA Control Tower. The report from there stated that high headwinds kept the blimps flying from Georgia to North Carolina unusually low.

7. There was apparently no activity or condition, meteorological or otherwise which might account for the sighting.

8. There was no existence of any physical evidence such as documents, photographs and the like of sighting.

9. There was no interception or identification action taken.

10. Other than the possibility that one of the Navy blimps mentioned above might have been in the area, there was no known air traffic around at the time.

11. Reports of sighting unidentified aircraft of unconventional design have been coming in from the Horry County area for quite some time, but Booth's sighting is the only one that has reported seeing the objects so close at hand. Inclosed with this report are several newspaper articles on the Booth sighting and on other reported sightings. One interesting sidelight gathered from this investigation is that the people of this area are quite upset over the deaths of so many of their cattle. They claim that every time one of these objects is reportedly sighted, within twenty-four (24) hours several cows in the vicinity are found dead. The veterinarians of this area say that the cattle have died from caustic or lead poisoning. This may or may have some bearing on the reported sightings.

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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (ADVISE)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 3 OF 8 PAGES

CERTIFICATE OF CHARACTER:

February 25, 1953

To Whom It May Concern:

I have talked to Lloyd C. Booth on five occasions since he sighted a mysterious flying object on the night of January 29, 1953. Mr. Booth has told me the same story on each occasion. He told it in deadly seriousness. He was never tangled up on details and never had to think to answer any question concerning it that I could ask him.

He is quiet, introvert type personality. He is not prone to talk much. He told no one about his experience for several days after the incident other than his immediate family.

I talked with a large number of Mr. Booth's neighbors, including some who have known him all his life. Everyone has said that he is a good, Christian, God-fearing man that has never been known to lie or misrepresent anything. Rev. Swell Jones, a Baptist preacher in Horry County who has known Booth all his life, said that he was of good character and when he told you something you could depend upon it. The same story is told by every individual in that community that we have contacted.

/t/c/ W. Horace Carter

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

CERTIFICATE OF CHARACTER:

February 25, 1953

As far as I know from my own investigation I would say that the report of Mr. Booth as to the "flying saucer" is substantial and Mr. Booth's character and past is reliable.

/t/a/ LARRY BAUMER
Editor of the Field
Conway, South Carolina

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

THE FIELD, Conway, S. C., Thursday, February 5, 1953

HORRY COUNTY MAN SHOOTS FLYING SAUCER

Disk Vanishes After Receiving Direct Hit

All over the United States reports have been made of the sighting of various unusual objects in the air, now generally referred to as "flying saucers," and just such a thing was reliably reported by Lloyd C. Booth, of the Poplar and Adrian community of Horry County, this week.

Booth is a 29 year old ex-serviceman, a member of the Poplar Methodist Church and of exceedingly high character throughout the area in which he is known. There is no doubt in the minds of those who know him well, including ministers, that he is by nature truthful and of high moral integrity. What he saw was no hoax, and he had ample time to study it in great detail.

Booth runs a community store and service station on highway 701 about eight miles north of Conway. He usually keeps his business open until about 11:30, which he did on the night of January 29, last Thursday.

He lives with his parents a mile or so from the store and after closing the station, he drove home and arrived there at about 11:15. His mother had left his supper prepared for him as usual so he put on the coffee pot and sat down to read the paper while it was heating.

A few minutes later, he heard one of his father's mules neighing at the barn. A few minutes more and a second mule began making a commotion, a mule that is not easily disturbed. Then at about the same moment, the chickens and a pen of ducks began hollering and Booth sensing something awry, grabbed a 22 caliber pistol and went outside to investigate.

He was particularly anxious to investigate because the day before a cow of his had died suddenly, and the veterinarian diagnosed her cause of death as poisoning. Portions of this cow were cut up and sent off for laboratory study to determine what type poisoning.

Thus, Booth thought perhaps some more stock was being tampered with by some one. When he was outside the house, he went directly to the barn, and seeing nothing, he went around behind the building. By this time it was near midnight and a full moon lit up the sky. The eclipse of the moon on the same night had already completely vanished. From his vantage point there, he looked up above the top of the pine trees, and there was the strange object that at first mystified him but never kept him from fully investigating.

The object was almost still, like it was drifting at a pace slower than the fast walk of a human. It was only some ten feet above the tree tops, and easily visible. It was making a very low humming noise, barely detectable. Booth realizing he was perhaps getting the best view in history of the long discussed "flying saucer" yelled loud and long for someone at the house, about 200 yards away. But the late hour had them soundly asleep, and he was not able to arouse them.

"But I still wanted to know more about this thing that was hovering around our barn, and with my gun in hand, I went directly into the woods, easily catching up with the object. I walked under it, around it, and viewed it from all sides. It was

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Encl 2

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

FLYING SAUCER (The Field, Conway S. C., February 5, 1953)

about 24 feet long and about 12 feet across, was a light greyish color and was lit up on the inside. Two places in the front somewhat resembled cockpits and were glassed over. I could see the light inside but could see no object in there. The back also had something resembling a cockpit with a stained glass over it. Light was coming through this section, but I could not see through it," Booth said.

"The object was about eight or ten feet deep. The front sloped upward at the base at an angle of about 60 degrees and the back was sloped inward at an angle of 40 to 50 degrees. The sides came straight down from the top for maybe four or five feet and then sloped outward and joined the base at about a 45 degree angle," Booth said. The object obviously was novel in construction and gave an overall, streamlined effect something like half an egg cut from end to end.

"Underneath the 'saucer' was something resembling a built-in wheel, with half the 'wheel', possibly three feet across, extending below the base in a crescent shape. There were no markings anywhere on it because I looked hard for some identification," Booth said.

He continued, "There was no visible means of support for the object. It had no propeller, there were no exhaust fumes showing, no vapor trail and I could detect no vapor trail and I could detect no unusual odor. It simply sat there and drifted along as I ran around and around it getting just as good a look at it as I could. I watched it for at least 20 minutes, maybe as much as 30 minutes."

Despite Booth's yelling for someone to come and see the object, [redacted] he aroused no one and in desperation after this length of time, he fired his pistol straight up at the "saucer" at a distance of about 75 feet. "I heard the bullet hit the object. It made a metallic sound and bounced off. A hard instant after the bullet hit, the object began making considerably more noise like a large electric motor and took off at a high rate of speed at about a 45 degree angle. It kept that same course until it was completely out of sight," said Booth.

He pointed out that the noise it made when it took off could have been heard easily at his house, if some one had been listening for it, although it was by no means a loud noise like an aircraft of conventional design would have made.

He also debunked any notion that it was a helicopter or any other known type aircraft. "I have been in helicopters and been in and around almost every type plane. This was none of them and didn't even faintly resemble any of them," he said.

Booth said that he was reluctant to tell anyone about the object, even his family because of the widespread debunking of those who have reported seeing mysterious objects. However, his family had heard the shot, and he told them about what he had seen.

He also told Rev. Elwell Jones, Baptist minister in Horry County, and Rev. Jones said "I have known Lloyd Booth all my life. We are about the same age and grew up together. When he says he saw something, he did," and that is the opinion of dozens of Horry citizens who have known Booth for years. "He is a Christian man who doesn't drink or misrepresent anything," said one of his neighbors.

And as a finishing touch, two cows disappeared shortly after the affair. At least 17 cows have died mysteriously in Horry County within the last three months. All have had

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[redacted]

FLYIN' SAUCER (The Field, Conway, S. C., 5 February 1953)

instantaneously, some never even flicked. All have died from poisoning, of a caustic nature. There have been no early symptoms. The cows simply have fallen over, and have died in an instant.

Two cows owned by Henry Anderson died of poisoning less than a mile from the sighted object on the very night that Booth saw it. Both cows were milked and fed the evening before but were stone cold and stiffened the next morning. Other cows have died the same way from Myrtle Beach through Red Hill and into the Adrian and Poplar sections.

And the greatest number of hogs have died in this area in history. Some farmers have lost whole herds. One man alone reported losing 75. They did not die of cholera.

All of which might add to the mystery. What did Booth see? Why was it there. Did it have anything to do with the death of Horry livestock?

THE FIELD, Conway S. C., Thursday, February 12, 1953

"Flying Don't Do That Trick"

BOOTH DENIES C. A. A. THEORY OF HIT PLANE

The Horry County farmer who on January 29 became the only man in the world to shoot a flying saucer today debunked a CAA explanation that he might actually have "wounded" a Navy blimp.

Lloyd C. Booth, 29, said: "I have seen many blimps and I've even been in one. I'd certainly know a blimp when I saw one go past over my head."

That was the height of the unidentified object which floated slowly over Booth's farm on the eventful night and which Booth says he later shot at with a .22 pistol. Booth sighted the object after a search with his flashlight sent him in search of a possible prowler.

The blimp explanation came Tuesday from C. W. Hall of the CAA control tower at Bluethenthal Field, Wilmington, N. C. Hall said three Navy blimps were on a hop from Elkton, Va., to Hecksville, N. C., on January 29, and that one of them could easily have passed over Horry County at midnight when Booth was patrolling his farm.

High headwinds kept the blimps low, Hall said, which was why Booth spotted one just ten feet above the trees on his land.

Booth rejected the blimp possibility on the basis of his past experience with the craft. He added:

"I was with an anti-aircraft unit for 22 months during the war and I was trained to identify planes on sight. If the object I saw and shot was a plane or a blimp, I surely would have known. I watched the thing for almost 30 minutes."

Booth described the craft as being circular, with the contour of an egg sliced from end to end. He viewed it from directly below and from both sides, but was unable to detect any identifying marks or means of propulsion. He saw dim light emanating from what might have been a cabin on the forward topside and near the underside tail.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 7 OF PAGES

THE STATE (Conway, S. C., 19 February 1953)

"BLIMPS DON'T GO THAT FAST"

While cruising from east to west over him, the craft gave off a low hum, like a distant auto. Booth was able to keep pace with the vessel at an average walking speed. It was almost directly above him when he fired at it; his bullet struck with a metallic sound. The craft shot up and away instantly and was beyond range when Booth fired a second time.

"It took off at a speed I'd estimate at 700 miles an hour," Booth said today. "I never heard of a blimp going that fast."

CAA-man Hall opined that an investigation of the blimps now at Weeksville would reveal a dent in the bottom of them where Booth shot it. The Navy has not announced any such damage or indicated any association with the shooting since the event was reported.

Reports of flying saucers have been frequent in this area during the past few weeks. One was seen near Myrtle Beach a week before the Booth shooting. A Marine Corps jet pilot pursued and lost a strange craft along the Carolinas coast. Last Friday, another was seen by four people at Myrtle Beach, heard by another, then seen by six others a few minutes later over Marion, S. C.

Latest reports were made last night when three Myrtle Beach residents saw an unidentifiable object fly inland at approximately 1000-foot altitude.

THE HORRY COUNTY NEWS AND THE LORIS SENTINEL, Loris, South Carolina, Thursday, February 19, 1953

BOOTH SAYS FLYING SAUCER WAS NOT A NAVY BLIMP

Conway, S. C. - Feb. 17 - The Horry County farmer who on January 29 became the only man in the world to shoot a flying saucer today debunked a CAA suggestion that he might actually have "wounded" a Navy blimp.

Lloyd C. Booth, 29, said: "I have seen many blimps and I've even been in one. I'd certainly know a blimp when I saw one 50 feet over my head."

That was the height of the unidentified object which floated slowly over Booth's farm on the eventful night and which soared away after he shot at it with a .22 pistol. Booth sighted the object after a commotion among his livestock sent him in search of a possible prowler.

The blimp suggestion came yesterday from C. W. Hall of the CAA control tower at Bluethenthal Field, Wilmington, N. C. Hall said three Navy blimps were en route from Glynco, Ga., to Weeksville, N. C., on January 29 and that one of them could easily have passed over Horry County at midnight when Booth was patrolling his farm.

High headwinds kept the blimps low, Hall said, which was why Booth spotted one just ten feet above the lines on his land.

Booth rejected the blimp possibility on the basis of his past experience with the craft. He added:

"I was with an anti-aircraft unit for 22 months during the war and I was trained

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to identify planes on sight. If the object I saw and shot was a plane or a blimp, I surely would have known. I watched the thing for almost 30 minutes."

Booth described the craft as being circular, with the contour of an egg sliced from end to end. He viewed it from directly below and from both sides, but was unable to detect any identifying marks or means of propulsion. He saw dim lights emanating from what might have been a cabin on the forward topside and near the underside tail.

While cruising from east to west over him, the craft gave off a low hum, like a distant auto. Booth was able to keep pace with the vessel at an average walking speed. It was almost directly above him when he fired at it; his bullet struck with a metallic sound. The craft shot up and away instantly and was beyond range when Booth fired a second time.

"It took off at a speed I'd estimate at 700 miles an hour," Booth said today. "I never heard of a blimp going that fast."

Chairman Hall opined that an investigation of the blimps now at Weeksville would reveal a dent in the bottom of one of them where Booth shot it. The Navy has not announced any such damage or indicated any association with the shooting since the event was reported.

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