

## AF FORM 112—PART I

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

~~RESTRICTED~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
(CLASSIFICATION)DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

USAF memo 7/31/78

By W.C. Lewis, Date 7/19/78  
(LEAVE BLANK) 544/85

COUNTRY

USA

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT

FLYOBREP

AREA REPORTED ON

East Prairie, Missouri

FROM (Agency)

Wing Intelligence Officer  
Scott Air Force Base, Illinois

DATE OF REPORT

1 May 1953

DATE OF INFORMATION

28 April 1953

EVALUATION

F-6

PREPARED BY (Officer)

Major James H. Webb

SOURCE

Weldon W. Watson (Civilian)

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)

AFL 200-5, 29 April 1952

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

Unidentified, unconventional flying objects were sighted by Weldon W. Watson, 112 William Street, East Prairie, Missouri, 16 April 1953. Objects were also observed by Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Stella Shortz and a fourth unidentified person.

Objects were observed for 25 minutes between 1510 and 1535 hours (Central Standard Time) at estimated 40,000 feet. Position of objects were SE to ESE of observers and appeared to be in trail of USAF B-36. (distance in trail unknown). By comparison with B-36 objects were circular and approximately 230' in diameter and silver in color. No visible propulsion system was observed and no exhaust gases or sound was evident. Speed was estimated at 400 to 600 miles per hour in maneuvers and in excess of 600 MPH in normal flight. Weather conditions were ideal with visibility unlimited.

A total of seven objects were seen during the 25 minute period. Initially only one object was seen to be trailing a B-36 for an unknown time or distance. After making a sharp turn to the left it was joined by three additional similar objects. The four objects then completed a tight 360° maneuver coming out abreast and continuing on the original heading, SE, (in trail of B-36) at a greatly increased speed. The four objects disappeared parallel to the trail of the B-36.

Soon after the original four disappeared, three more were seen to be maneuvering to the ESE of observers. For a ten minute period one of the objects remained motionless while the remaining two were in motion in the general vicinity. Mr. Watson further reported observing what seemed to be alternate flashing signals; but were not in Morse Code.

Our investigation shows that the 85th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, often flies interception missions with SAC aircraft in this vicinity. No mission was flown at 1500, but there was a mission flown at 1000 hours 16 April 1953, however, the log of the 85th Fighter Interceptor Squadron fails to show the exact location. The weather report for Farmington, Missouri at 1500 to 1630 Central Standard Time was "broken clouds at 25,000 feet, visibility fifteen (15) miles". No definite conclusions can be arrived at by this Office.

3

INCLS.

1. Ltr dtd 17 Apr 53
2. Ltr dtd 20 Apr 53
3. Ltr dtd 28 Apr 53

James H. Webb

JAMES H. WEBB

Major, USAF

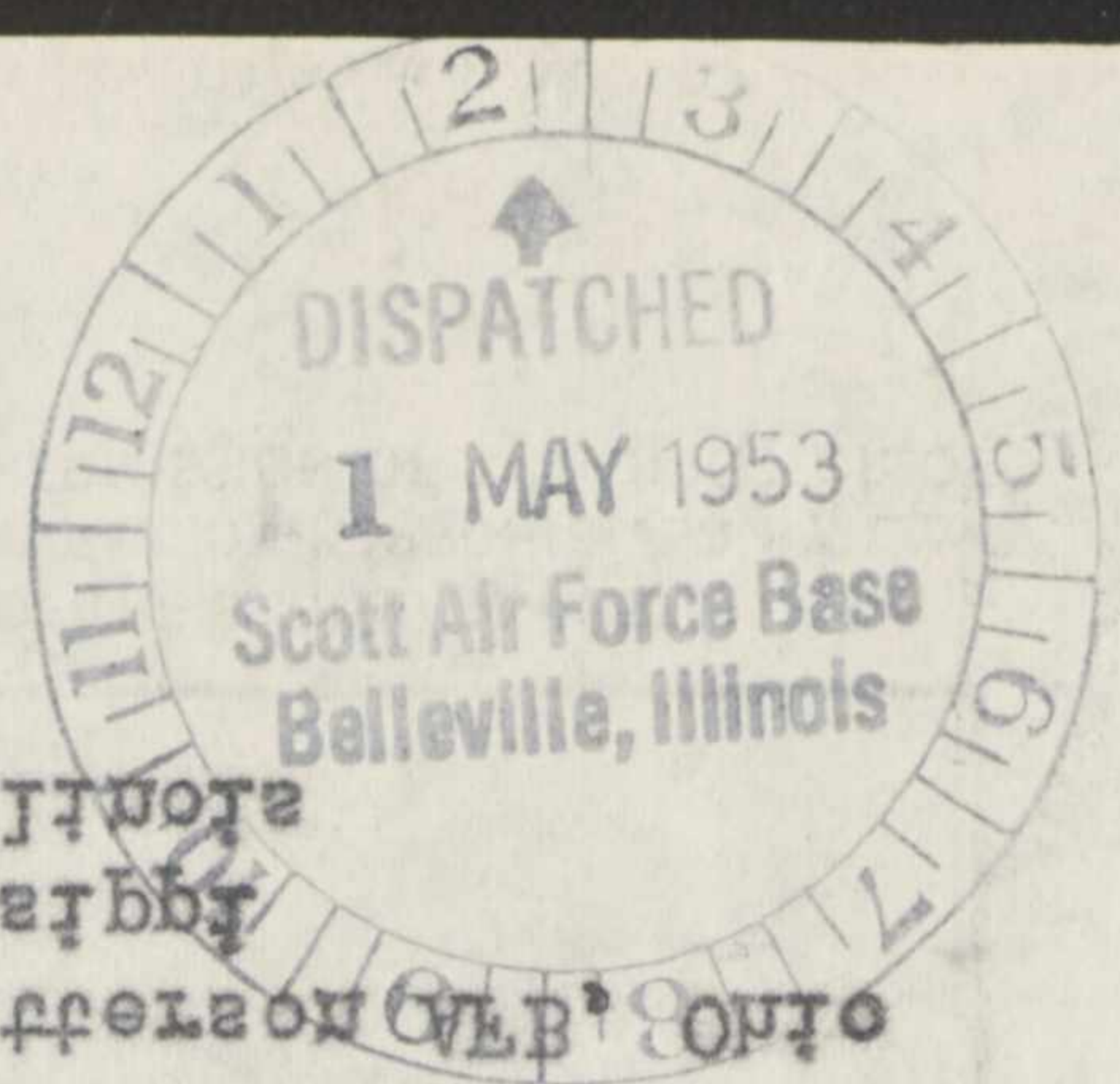
Wing Intelligence Officer

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

Director of Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, Washington 25, D.C.  
Chief Air Technical Intelligence Center, ATTN: ATIAA-2c, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio  
Commanding General, Technical Training Air Force, Gulfport, Mississippi  
Commanding General, Air Training Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

~~RESTRICTED~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
(CLASSIFICATION)



Commanding General, Air Training Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois  
 Commanding General, Second Air Force, Griffing, Mississippi  
 Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center, VLIW: VLIW-50, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio  
 Director of Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, Washington 25, D.C.

Chief Intelligence Officer  
 Major, USAF  
 JAMES H. MEBB

2. Ref 949 58 Apr 22  
 5. Ref 949 50 Apr 22  
 7. Ref 949 13 Apr 22

2  
 at PL this office.  
 Ref. Airtel 115 (12) miles. No definite conclusions can be arrived  
 mission at 1200 to 1230 Central Standard Time was broken along at 52,000  
 squadron left to show the exact location. The weather report for Washington  
 1000 miles to April 1953, however, the log of the 82nd Fighter Interceptor  
 Division. No mission was flown at 1200, but there was a mission flown at  
 Air Force Base, often times interception missions with SAC strictly in this  
 One investigation shows that the 82nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Scott

Training signals: but were not in Morse Code.  
 Airtel. Mr. Watson further reported observing what seemed to be separate  
 remaining motionless while the remaining two were in motion in the General  
 maneuvering to the ESE of observers. For a few minute period one of the objects  
 soon after the original four disappeared, three more were seen to be

flight of the B-29.  
 at a steadily increased speed. The four objects disappeared before to the  
 one spread and continuing on the original heading SE (in flight of B-29)  
 similar objects. The four objects then combined a third 300, maneuvering coming  
 after making a sharp turn to the left it was joined by three additional  
 only one object was seen to be flying a B-29 for an unknown time or distance.  
 A total of seven objects were seen during the 52 minute period. Initially

light. Weather conditions were good with airtelly unimpaired.  
 100 to 600 miles per hour in maneuvers and in excess of 600 MPH in normal  
 observed and no exhaust gases or sound was evident. Speed was estimated at  
 520, in diameter and silver in color. No definite identification system was  
 known). By comparison with B-29 objects were circular and approximately  
 of observers and appeared to be in flight of USAF B-29 (distance in flight  
 standard time) at estimated 10,000 feet. Position of objects were SE to ESE  
 objects were observed for 52 minutes between 1210 and 1232 hours (Central

Base.  
 were also observed by Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Stella Smith and a woman unidentified  
 Watson, JTS William Street, East Prairie, Missouri, 10 April 1953. Objects  
 unidentified, unconventional flying objects were reported by Melton M.

Ref 500-2, 50 April 1953

Major James H. Mepp

Melton M. Watson (Captain)

1 May 1953

58 April 1953

E-9

East Prairie, Missouri

Scott Air Force Base, Illinois  
 Chief Intelligence Officer

EXHIBIT

USAF

247182

AF544185

East Prairie, Mo.  
April 17, 1953

Commanding Officer,  
Air Intelligence,  
Scott AFB, Ill.

Dear Sir,

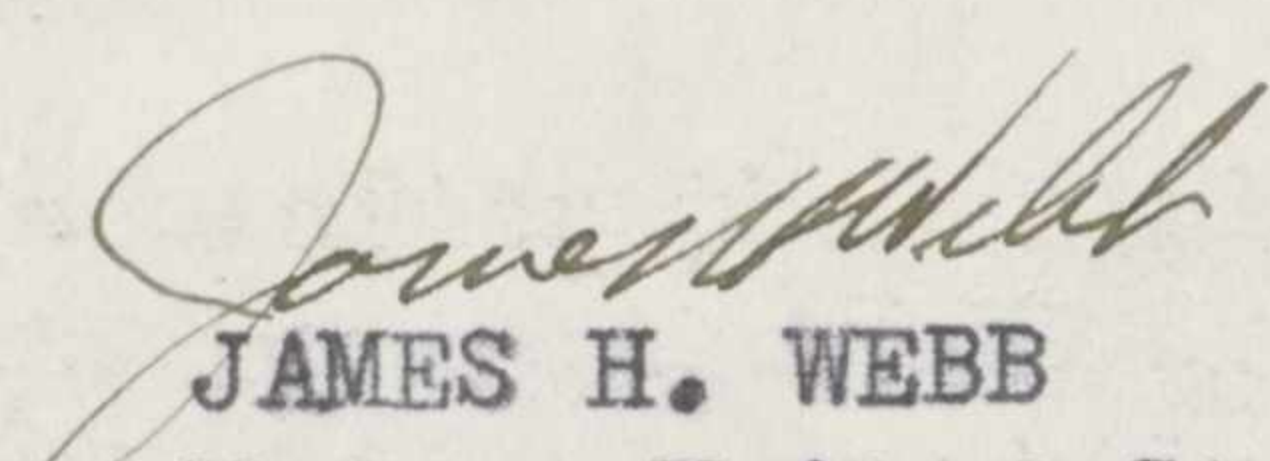
Yesterday afternoon I, along with three others sighted several strange objects in the air. They were in controlled flight. We watched them for about 30 minutes.

Please advise me if the Air Force is interested in such sightings. If so I will be happy to furnish a detailed description of our sighting from notes I made during the time they were visible.

I can be found at the Post Office at any time.

Yours truly,  
Weldon W. Watson

THIS IS A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

  
JAMES H. WEBB

Major, United States Air Force

2nd #1

HEADQUARTERS  
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE  
and  
3310th Technical Training Wing  
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS

20 April 1953

Mr. Weldon W. Watson  
112 Williams Street  
East Prairie, Missouri

Dear Mr. Watson:

Thank you for your letter of April 17. We are very much interested in the sightings of unusual objects and would like you to make a detailed report.

This report should include a brief description of the object's shape, size, color, number, formation if more than one, aero-dynamic features, trail or exhaust, propulsion system, speed, sound, maneuvers, manner of disappearance and other pertinent or unusual features, time of sighting and length of time observed, location of object during sighting in relation to the observer and to the sun if possible, distance from object and an estimate of speed and altitude.

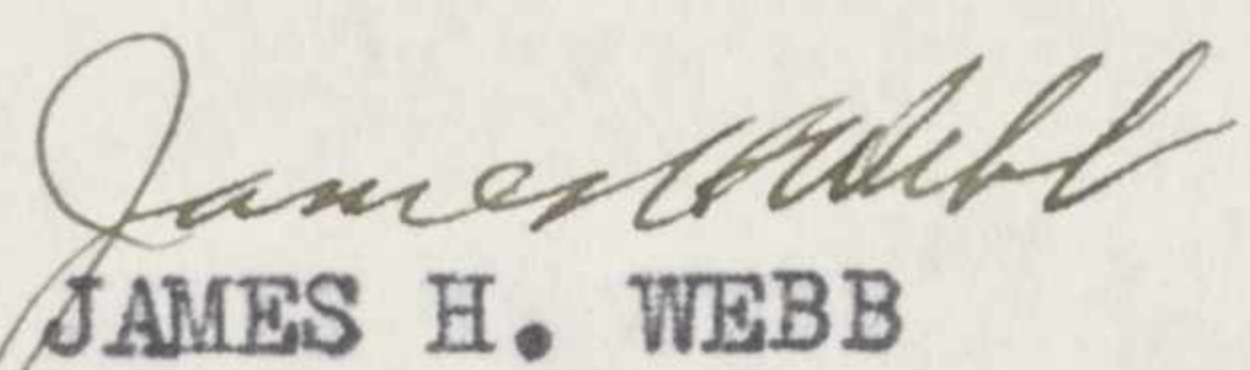
We would also like to have the names of the other observers and a brief description of the weather at the time of sight. Kindly include in this report a paragraph of your own describing what you saw and your evaluation of same.

Any information in relation to the above may be helpful in determining what the sightings were. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter.

Yours truly,

/s/ James H. Webb  
JAMES H. WEBB  
Major, USAF  
Wing Intelligence Officer

THIS IS A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

  
JAMES H. WEBB  
Major, United States Air Force

*Encl # 2*

East Prairie, Mo.  
April 28, 1953.

James H. Webb  
Major, USAF  
Wing Intelligence Officer  
Scott AFB, Ill.

Dear Major Webb,

I shall attempt to give you detailed information you asked for in your letter of April 20.

Time of sighting was about 3:10 P.M. until about 3:35 P.M.

The objects appeared to round. Circular surface.

Altitude- 40,000 feet up.

Position from me S.E & E.S.E.

Color- Silver.

4 to 7 objects.

No sound.

No evidence of propulsion system.

No trail or exhaust visible.

Size--diameter as large as the wing span of B36.

Speed--based on speed of B36 at 600MPH. Objects in maneuvers 400 to 600 MPH. Speed in flight far in excess of 600 MPH.

Weather clear, no clouds and visibility unlimited.

The first object was seen entering the trail of B36. It made a sharp left turn and was joined by three more while still turning. The three joined the first and all four circled once in tight formation then formed abreast. After forming abreast they seemed to gain speed at a tremendous rate of increase. They left and disappeared parallel to the trail left by plane. After disappearance of the four described three were sighted north of the position. This was ESE of my position. These three maneuvered around in the general vicinity of their first appearance. One of these three was motionless for about 10 min. The others moved around but not far.

At one time two seemed to be flashing signals. This could not have been a usual sun reflection because of the two being so close together. The flashing was alternate. It was not Morse Code. The signaling is very puzzling. I know of course, our Air Forces use voice radio for Communication.

It is my opinion that these objects were in controlled flight. They could not have been free flight weather balloons. If these objects were flat or semi-flat they were on edge. I could only see one side and it was a perfect circle. No wings, tail or other breaks in the body visible. I can not identify what I saw but I am convinced they were strange, unknown objects in controlled flight.

The people who saw these objects were my wife, my mother-in-law, Mr. Stella Shortz and a man whose name I don't know. I would not recommend a statement from Mrs. Shortz because of her very poor eye sight. Although she said at the time

Encl #3

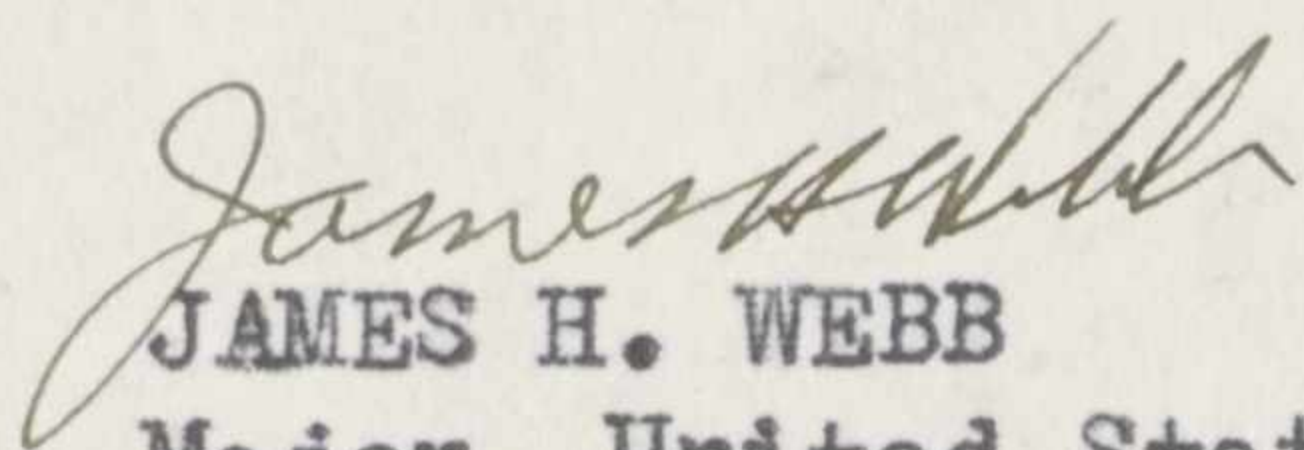
she saw them it is quite possible she saw spots caused by the sun glare. My wife and I had the sun spots but I checked my sight by looking away from the objects. Then when I looked back the objects were still there.

I sincerely hope my information will be of some help and if I can be of any further assistance please write.

Yours truly,

/w/ Weldon W. Watson  
WELDON W. WATSON

THIS IS A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY;

  
JAMES H. WEBB  
Major, United States Air Force