

4602D AISS UFOB LOG

REPORT NO. AISS-UFOB-285-55	DATE/TIME OF SIGHTING 24-0200Z Aug 55	RECD HQ 4602D 24 Aug 55
LOCATION OF SIGHTING Arlington, Virginia		LOGGED BY A/IC DeRudder
MEANS RECD TF Mag	ACTION Investigation Authorized	
INVEST UNIT Flight 3-H	DATE INVEST ASSIGNED 24 August 1955	ASSIGNING OFFICER Lt McEntee
DATE IR RECD HQ	DATE IR APPROVED	DATE IR TO ATIC
DATE OF FORM 5 24 August 1955		
COMMENTS This sighting meets all the criteria for a complete follow-up investigation. The investigation was assigned to Flight 3-H at 24/2100Z Aug 55. The results of the investigation as follows:		
CONCLUSIONS		

AISOP

Comdr, 4602d AISS

Long Distance Telephone Call

AISOP

24 Aug 55
 1345 hours
 AISS-20
 A/IC DeRudder

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

1. Telephone conversation between A/IC R.D. DeRudder, Headquarters, 4602d AISS, and Captain Chester Hanson, Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS.

2. The undersigned called Flight 3-H with respect to a follow-up UFOB investigation of a sighting at Arlington, Virginia, 24/0200Z Aug 55. It was requested that Flight 3-H make a complete investigation of the sighting as soon as possible.

3. Captain Hanson requested that the contents of the initial UFOB report be sent to him in a priority message as a copy of the initial UFOB report was not available at McGuire AFB. (Sent 1430 hours, 24 Aug 55)

4. Captain Hanson requested to talk to Captain Bronstein.

Ronald D. DeRudder, A/IC, USAF
 AIC, UFOB Program

AUG 24 HELU

48026 MISS UFOB REPT 285

DATE-TIME GROUP

24/0200Z Aug 55

OPS Arlington, Virginia

54/1959Z

ENO 011

ENAI41 YDB154 TYC243 TMB159FFA143

RR RJEPHQ RJEPNY RJEDEN RJEDWP

DE RJEPFF 67

R 231200Z

FM COMDR 1401 ABWG ANDREWS AFB MD

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

RJEPNY/COMDR 26TH ADIV ROSLYN AFSTA NY

RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PAT AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASHDC

BT

ANF OGBO 257 UFOB

(1) APPEARED TO BE FLYING SAUCERS

(A) SAUCER ON FLAT DISK SHAPE

(B) MAY HAVE BEEN STAR SHAPED

(C) ORANGE

(D) 5 TO 8

(E) NO REGULAR FORMATION

(F) NO

(G) NONE. FLEW AND STOPPED AND THEN FLEW ON.

(H) NO

PAGE TWO RJEPFF 67

((1) WERE FLYING VERY HIGH AT A TREIFIC RATE OF SPEED

(2) FLYING IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT AN ESTIMATED HEIGHT OF 50 TO 100 MILES

(A) OBSERVING THE MOON AT THE TIME OF SIGHT. WERE AT THE GENERAL POSITION OF THE PLANET SATURN. OBJECTS SEEMED TO APPEAR OUT OF THIN AIR.

(B) NEGATIVE

(C) NEGATIVE

(D) NO SET PATH. ZIGZAGGING AND STOPPING

(E) DISPEARED COMPLETELY ALL OF A SUDDEN

(F) 25 TO 30 MINUTES

(3) (A) GROUND VISUAL

(B) BINACULARS 7X50

(C) N/A

(4) 23 AUG 55 2200 -2230 EDST

(A) 0200-0230Z

(B) NIGHT - CLEAR - NO CLOUDS

(5) NEGATIVE

(6) (A) [REDACTED], ARLINGTON, VA. JA76403

[REDACTED] (1ST LT) RESERVE OFFICER ARMY, ACTIVE

RESERVES [REDACTED], ARLINGTON VA. JA88955

PAGE THREE RJEPFF 67

(B) WEATHER BUREAU AT WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT, [REDACTED]

(7) 0 12 N-NW 8K 330 DEG

(A) NEGATIVE

(B) 350 DEG 15K, 320 10K, 270 DEG 15K, 250 DEG 10K, 280 DEG
34K, 270 DEG 24K, 100 DEG 13K

(C) UNLIMITED

12 MILES

(E) NONE

(F) NONE

(8) NONE KNOWN

(9) NONE SINCE WE WERE NOT ADVISED UNTIL AFTER THE PBJECTS HAD
.DISAPPEARED

(1) NONE KNOWN

(11) NEGATIVE

(12) NONE

BT

24/1628Z AUG RJEPFF

4602nd AISS
Ent AFB

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

(SECURITY INFORMATION when filled in)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN USA	REPORT NO. 31-UFCB-7-55	(Leave blank)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
AREA REPORT CONCERNS WASHINGTON, D.C.		
AGENCY OF ORIGIN Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	DATE OF REPORT 29 August 1955	
SOURCE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]	DATE OF INFORMATION 23 August 1955	
PREPARING OFFICER CHESTER B. HANSON, Capt., USAF	EVALUATION	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) TT AISOP 713 FM COMR 4602D AISS, ENT AFB, COLO., dated 24/2100Z August 55.		
SUBJECT UFCB		
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 112a.)		
I. CONTENTS: PART ONE: Description of sighting by [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Arlington, Virginia. (GeoRef GJNJ 5356) PART TWO: Description of sighting by [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Arlington, Virginia. PART THREE: Supplementary Investigative Efforts PART FOUR: Comments of Preparing Officer II. SUMMARY: Several unidentified flying objects were sighted in the vicinity of Arlington, Virginia at 24/0215Z August 55. The information contained in this report was obtained from an investigation conducted to determine the actual cause of the sighting. III. INVESTIGATOR: 2/Lt Charles L. Berrier, A03019814 <i>Chester B. Hanson</i> CHESTER B. HANSON Captain, USAF Officer-in-Charge <u>1</u> INCL. (See individual parts) APPROVED: <i>John M. White Jr.</i> JOHN M. WHITE JR Colonel, USAF Commander		
DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR		
D/I, USAF; Comdr, ATIC; D/I, 26 ADiv; Comdr, 4602d AISS, OIC, Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS		

AF FORM 112—PART II

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

REPORT NO.

3H-UFCB-7-55

Part One

PAGE 2 OF 8 PAGES

I. SOURCE: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Street, Arlington, Virginia

Age: 55

Occupation: Retired

Education: (2) Years college

Qualifications: [REDACTED] is a student of astronomy. He owns and operates a 400 power astronomical telescope through which he has observed the planets, Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, etc. He has observed numerous meteors and comets, including Haley's comet when it last appeared several years ago.

II. RELIABILITY: Good

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING:

" On August 23, 1955 at about 10:45 pm EST, my friend ([REDACTED]) and I were standing near the south side of my house, facing to the south, when my attention was called to a moving object in the sky. It was orange in color and was travelling south at a high altitude and great speed. After observing its flight for about fifteen seconds, it turned east and disappeared about ten seconds later. Shortly afterwards we were scanning the sky and another object of the same type appeared in the southwest. It remained visible for two or three minutes. At one time we could spot three of them travelling a great distance apart and in the same general direction, but shortly afterwards they took different courses. One circled the dome of the sky while the other made a semi-circle and reversed itself before returning on its original course. The other circled the dome of the sky and then turned and went directly across the dome of the sky. Another appeared to come to a complete stop and then it continued on its regular course. While it was standing still it looked like one of the stars in back of it. At one time, when one was turning, it appeared to have a red dome which was visible through the binoculars. The objects appeared to be above the atmosphere of the earth since they didn't appear to lose altitude as an object would when passing over the horizon. They never showed signs of losing their brilliance and didn't fly in formation at any time. I think that the visible light was due to reflection from the sun."

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Two
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-7-55	PAGE 3 OF 8 PAGES

I. SOURCE: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Arlington, Virginia

Age: 28

Occupation: [REDACTED]

Education: Post-Graduate

Qualifications: Private pilot

II. RELIABILITY: Good

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE had been observing stars through his friend's telescope when he noticed a light in the sky which he at first presumed to be a jet. It suddenly disappeared but no sound seemed to accompany the light. Shortly afterwards, SOURCE related seeing three different and distinct lights in the sky, each appearing to be moving in a different direction from the other two.

The objects seemed to possess a bright orange color and have disk-like shapes. SOURCE further estimated their speed in "thousands of miles per hour in order to go across the dome of the sky in a few minutes." SOURCE'S estimate of the altitude above the earth at which these objects were travelling was that they were "high enough to reflect the sun's light."

In conclusion, SOURCE stated that he wasn't sure whether the objects were a phenomenon of nature or a mechanical device, but that he was inclined to believe that they were mechanical creations of another planet since he didn't believe any Earth-made device would be capable of travelling that high and that fast.

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Three	
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-7-55	PAGE 4	OF 8 PAGES

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. A check with the Air Traffic Control Center at Washington National Airport, (GeoRef GJNJ 5856), for information in confirmation of the 23 August UFOB sighting yielded negative results.

2. [REDACTED], assigned to the [REDACTED] at the Washington National Airport (see Incl#1), stated that his only knowledge of the sighting came from 1401st Air Base Wing officials at Andrews AFB who called his office for weather data at the time of the sighting.

3. Andrews AFB Operations and Weather (GeoRef GJPJ 0743) was contacted but had no information to give in regard to the 23 August UFOB sighting.

4. Bolling AFB Operations and Weather (GeoRef GJNJ 5857) likewise offered no confirmation.

5. The Assistant Chief of Meteorological Observations, US Weather Bureau, Washington, D.C., very cordially furnished the following information on balloons controlled by the US Weather Service: 1) That weather balloons are launched every six hours by Weather Service stations throughout the country. 2) These balloons often are of the 500# rasonde variety, containing either a magnesium bulb or an auto-activated illuminating attachment. Either of these two types of lighting would be difficult to observe once the carrier reaches an altitude of 10,000 ft., which, assuming the average rate of ascent to be 600ft/min., would be accomplished within 10-12 minutes. 3) That the Silver Hill Weather Station, (GeoRef GJNJ 0550), is the principal station operated by the US Weather Service in the Washington vicinity.

6. The Director of the Silver Hill Weather Station, Mr. Argonne, disclosed that a rasonde balloon of the regular type had been released on the evening of 23 August at 10:00 EST. It had travelled in a northeasterly direction (toward Arlington, Virginia) as it disappeared from view. By 10:15 EST, the balloon would have been directly over Arlington at an approximate altitude of 15,000 ft., and increasing according to its normal rate of ascent. Its course at this time could have been followed by binoculars.

7. The US Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C., was contacted by telephone but was unable to confirm the sighting. Mr. J.L. Gossner of the Observatory's Equatorial Division, when told of the traversing and random shifting of the UFOB, mentioned that the turbulence from the earth's atmosphere might produce this impression if a star were observed through the atmosphere media. Whether 6X100 binoculars could record this phenomenon seemed doubtful to him. (This was the type of binoculars used by the Arlington observers.) Mr. Gossner further stated that on the night of 23 August at approximately 10:15 EST he had noticed a bright light in the sky accompanied by a red light. Though there was no sound audible, he felt that the lights were from an aircraft flying at an extremely high altitude. He reported that it had changed direction several times while he was observing it. His suggestion was that the Arlington observers may have seen the same thing which he had, but merely had interpreted it differently.

8. Maj. Sloan of the 75th AA Bn, Andrews AFB, Maryland, was contacted but was unable to confirm any of the sightings with positive radar data.

9. Likewise, Maj. Sutton, AA Ops Officer, 19th AA Group, charged with the AA defense of the Washington area, very courteously offered that his unit had had 25-30

AF FORM 112—PART II

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS

REPORT NO.

3H-UFOB-7-55

Part Three

PAGE

5

OF

8

PAGES

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS: (cont.)

9. sighting and nothing unusual was reported by his various installations. In addition he mentioned that he has 6-7 sets operating in the Arlington vicinity.

10. Lt. Beale of the 647th AC&W Sq, Manassas, Virginia reported that he had received no information which might serve to confirm the Arlington sighting.

11. The Baltimore-Washington Filter Center gave a negative report on the UFOB sighting when approached by the Flight 3-H investigator.

12. Finally, Olmstead Flight Service Center was questioned about the sighting. Capt. Anderson, the Officer on duty in Middleton, reported that his office had received no information in confirmation of the UFOB sighting on 23 August.

13. Weather data during observed flight of UFOB was as follows:

CeilingCondition of CloudsVisibility

Unlimited

Clear

12 Miles

Winds Aloft:

Altitude	Degrees	Knots
6,000	350	15
10,000	320	10
18,000	270	15
20,000	250	10
30,000	280	10
45,000	280	34
50,000	270	24
80,000	100	13

1 Incl:

1. TT MSG AISOP 713 FM COMDR 4602d AISS, ENT AFB, COLO.

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-7-55	Part Three PAGE 6 OF 8 PAGES
---	----------------------------	---------------------------------

Incl. #1, Part Three

TT AISOP 713 FM CCMR 4602D AISS ENT AFB COLO

MEBO 21 YTEO 20 YYC198ENA197

PP RJEPME

DE RJEDEN 246

P 242100Z

FM CCMR 4602D AISS ENT AFB COLO

TO OIC FIT 3 H 4602D AISS MCGUIRE AFB NJ

BT

/UNCLASSIFIED AISOP 713 PD FOL TEST TAKEN FM TT MSG ANF OGBO 257 UFOB

CMM FM CCMR 1401 ABWG ANDREWS AFB MD PD

(1) APPEARED TO BE FLYING SAUCERS

(A) SAUCER ON FIAT DISK SHAPE

(B) MAY HAVE BEEN STAR SHAPE

(C) CRANGE

(D) 6 TO 8

(E) NO REGULAR FORMATION

(F) NO

(G) NONE FLEW AND STOPPED AND THEN FLEW ON

(H) NO

(I) WERE FLYING VERY HIGH AT A TERRIFIC RATE OF SPEED

(2) FLYING IN ALL DIRECTIONS AT AN ESTIMATED HEIGHT OF 50 TO 100 MILES

(A) OBSERVING THE MOON AT THE TIME OF SIGHTING PD WERE AT THE
GENERAL POSITION OF THE PLANET SATURN PD OBJECTS SEEMED TO APPEAR
OUT OF THIN AIR PD

(B) NEGATIVE

(C) NEGATIVE

(D) NO SET PATH PD ZIGZAGGING AND STOPPING

(E) DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY ALL OF A SUDDEN

(F) 25 TO 30 MINUTES

(3) (A) GROUND VISUAL

(B) BINOCULARS 7X50

(;) N/A

(4) (A) GROUND VISUAL

(B) NIGHT CLEAR NO CLOUDS

(5) NEGATIVE

(6) (A) [REDACTED] CMM [REDACTED] CMM ARLINGTON CMM

VA PD JA76403 [REDACTED] (1ST IT) [REDACTED] CMM

[REDACTED] CMM ACTIVE RES [REDACTED] [REDACTED] CMM

ARLINGTON VA PD JA [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] CMM

(B) [REDACTED] WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT CMM

(7) 012 N-WW 8K 330 DEG

(A) NEGATIVE

(B) 350 DEG 15K CMM 320 DEG 10K CMM 270 DEG 15K CMM

250 DEG 10K CMM 280 DEG 10K CMM 280 DEG 34K CMM

270 DEG 24K CMM 100 DEG 13K

(C) UNLIMITED

(D) 12 MILES

(E) NONE

(F) NONE

(8) NONE KNOWN

(9) NONE SINCE WE WERE NOT ADVISED UNTIL AFTER OBJECTS HAD

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UF OB-7-55	Part Three
	PAGE 7	OF 8 PAGES.

Incl.#1, Part Three (Cont.)

(11) NEGATIVE
(12) NONE

BT
24/2239Z AUG RJEDEN

TRUE COPY:

Charles L. Berrier
CHARLES L. BERRIER
2/Lt., USAF
Ass't OIC, Flt 3-H

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	REPORT NO. 3H-UFOB-7-55	Part Four
	PAGE 3	OF 8 PAGES

COMMENTS of the Preparing Officer:

1. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, the 23 August 1955 sighting of a UFOB in the Washington, D.C. area was caused by misinterpretations of the changing course of an ascending Rasonde weather balloon by observers on the ground, combined by the later sighting of a high flying aircraft bearing multiple lights, changing direction and apparently emitting no sound. Though there was actually no association between the first and the second object, the fact that the second phenomenon appeared so closely upon the first created the misconception that the two were associated.

a., In general appearance the first clearly observed object was orange in color and had a disc-like configuration, which seems to leave no doubt that this object could have been a weather balloon. The Silver Hill rasonde balloon was launched at approximately 10:00 EST and was observed to be travelling in the direction of Arlington as it passed from the view of the weather station.

b. Also, this balloon which within ten to twelve minutes after launching could have been tracked for at least 25 minutes thereafter by observers on the ground possessing 6X100 binoculars.

c. An aircraft flying a changing pattern high above the city could easily have created the apparent directional changing phenomenon, which, if accompanied by no sound and appearing closely after the sighting of the first object, may quickly have been attributed by excited observers on the ground to strange flying objects, either in or from outer space. This latter conclusion as to the origin and location of the object or objects might at first appear ridiculous, but to a person who is more properly acquainted with celestial activity, such an assumption might enter the mind quite readily. --- Both observers were confident that what they saw had not come from Earth.

d. One of the principal reasons the observers doubted that the phenomena could have been caused from a rising balloon or an aircraft traversing the sky was its apparent speed. The speed of an object when recorded by the naked eye can be highly deceptive, particularly at night.

Chester B. Hanson
CHESTER B. HANSON
Captain, USAF
Officer in Charge

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

1. Further investigation requested of Flight 3-H revealed that radar contacts were negative in the Arlington area at the time of the sighting, eliminating aircraft as a cause of the sighting. Although winds aloft could substantiate the course of the first object as being a balloon, the speed and duration of the sighting do not correlate with those of a balloon. The other objects, similar in description to the first, do not conform to any known phenomena.

2. This report is forwarded to ATIC as "unknown".

Jmu

ENO 001 ENB052 TYD056JRA058

RR RJEDEN

DE RJEPJR 98A

R 061500Z

FM COMDR JRUP0 ADW MCGUIRE AFB NJ

TO COMDR 4602D AISS ENT AFB COLO

BT

/UNCLASSIFIED/ 4709TH DW 8868 AIS3H-173 PD REF UR TT MSG AISOP 734
CLM MAJ SUTTON CMM 19TH AA GRU CMM RECONTACTED AS REQ PD MAJ STATED
THAT RADAR CONTACTS WERE NEGATIVE DURING TIME OF UFOB SIGHTING PD
END

BT

06/2100Z SEP RJEPJR

SSSS

RGR 01

OPS
06/2326Z

Agrel - unknown was

ops

06/2331

END 002 I ENA119 TYA130JRA060

RR RJEDEN

DE RJEPJR 98A

R 061500Z

FM COMDR 4709DW MCGUIRE AFB NJ

TO COMDR 4602D AISS ENT AFB COLO

BT

/UNCLASSIFIED/ 4709TH DW 8868 AIS3H-173 PD REF UR TT MSG AISOP
CLM MAJ SUTTON CMM 19TH AA GRU CMM RECONTACTED AS REQ PD MAJ ST
THAT RADAR CONTACTS WERE NEGATIVE DURING TIME OF UFOB SIGHTING

BT

05/2100Z SEP RJEPJR

5

\$3 4'333, 001P

DE RJEDEN 001P

RR 02/2300Z

FM COMDR 4602D AISS ENT AFB COLO

TO RJEPME/OIC FLT 3-H 4602D AISS MCGUIRE AFB NJ

BT

/UNCLASSIFIED/AISOP 734 PD REF AF FORM 112 PAREN 3H-UFOB-7-55 PAREN
PAGE FOUR CMM PARA 9 PD REQ TP RECONTACT WITH MAJ SUTTON CMM AA OPS
OFFICER CMM 19TH AA GROUP CMM FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL RADAR
CONTACTS DURING THE TIME OF THE UFOB SIGHTING PD END
BT 02/2321Z SEPT RJEDEN