2

PRE[redacted] RECORD CARD Incident #135

UNCLASSIFIED

ATIC NO. - - -

AF NO. - - -

REPORT NO. - - -

DATE OF REPORT - - -

TIME OF SIGHTING 2130 MST

SHAPE Elliptical

SIZE 100' plus EST.

COURSE From NW to SW

NO. IN GROUP Approx. 12

SOUND None

PHOTOS - - -

SKETCHES yes

DATE Bet. 15-20 Aug 1947

LOCATION Rapid City AFB, Weaver, S.D.

SOURCE USAF Intell. Off.

DATE IN TO ATIC - - -

COLOR Yellowish -white brilliant

SPEED 500 mph plus Estimated / Measured

ALTITUDE 10,000' to approx 6,000' Estimated / Measured

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED one min.

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

MANEUVERS Tight Diamond Formation

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Prob Birds

With 194 incidents thus eliminated, there remain thirty-four which contain some evidence but have no apparent ready explanation. This statement is true only under the assumption that the evidence is accepted as reliable and accurate. When psychological and physiological factors are taken into consideration, all of these incidents can be explained rationally, as pointed out by Rand Corporation and Dr. Fitts of Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (see Appendices "F" and "G").

Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (Dr. Paul M. Fitts 212 Incidents considered)

There are sufficient psychological explanations for the reports of unidentified flying objects to provide plausible explanations for reports not otherwise explainable. These errors in identifying real stimuli result chiefly from inability to estimate speed, distance, and size.

All of the remaining 34 incidents are treated in detail in this report. These incidents form no pattern in regard to area of sighting, type of object, or manner of performance. There are indications, however, that some sightings were influenced by earlier reports, and probably would not have been considered unusual or reported if there had been no publicity.

APPENDIX I

Project Grudge

Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

VII. Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

The remaining unexplained incidents (see Appendix "I") exhibited few common characteristics. Two of them, by statements of the reporters, would not have been made had the witnesses not read of the Mt. Ranier incident (Incident No. 17). Most were distributed without pattern throughout the United States. A few were outside the U. S. No two descriptions of appearance or performance were exactly alike. The reported sightings occurred at various times of day and year.

APPENDIX I

In the following section of this report, each remaining unexplained incident is considered separately. It is not the intent to generally discredit the character of observers, but each case has undesirable elements, and these cannot be disregarded. The numerical designation is merely the categorical order of the incident in the project files.

1, 10, 17, 21, 29, 35, 37, 40, 51, 58, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84,

111, 122, 134, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 236.

Incident No. 135 -- Between 15 and 20 August 1947, 2130 Hours, Weaver, South Dakota.

An Air Force Officer saw twelve "flying discs" four miles away over the Rapid City Air Force Base in a tight diamond formation at 8000 to 10,000 feet descending to 6000 feet at 500 MPH. Objects made a formation turn and climbed at 30° to 40° accelerating. Objects were very maneuverable, remaining equally spaced in all maneuvers. Each object was 100 feet in length, oval-shaped and brilliant yellowish-white. No sound nor exhaust trail were heard or seen.

ATIC Opinion: This reporter should be a reliable observer. However, it has been shown that distance cannot be estimated without prior knowledge of the size of an object. If distance is not known, speed cannot be estimated. More notable perhaps is that such minute detail could be remembered in a report made one year after the observation and yet the date was not remembered. Dr. Hynek suggested the possibility of detached auroral streamers.

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Incident #135 -- Weaver, South Dakota -- between 15-20 August 1947

For the description of this incident as given, there is no astronomical explanation.

The statements of an apparently well-trained observer can scarcely be doubted, but no interpretation, either astronomical or otherwise, other than possible detached auroral streamers, suggests itself. The moon at the time was new and the night apparently very dark, the most favorable conditions for the observation of auroral phenomena.

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Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

a. High probability:
#26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

b. Fair or low probability:
#19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
#3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
#4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
#39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
#38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
#1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.