[redacted]

Incident #113

PROJECT BLUE BOOK RECORD CARD

ATIC NO. ---

AF NO. ---

REPORT NO. ---

DATE OF REPORT ----

TIME OF SIGHTING 1506

SHAPE parachute carrying large cannister or bal

SIZE top 8 ft diameter

COURSE NW

NO. IN GROUP 1

SOUND ----

PHOTOS ----

SKETCHES 1

DATE OF INFO 9 April 1948

LOCATION Montgomery, Ala

SOURCE USAF Pilot

DATE IN TO ATIC -----

COLOR silver

SPEED 310 mph Estimated / Measured

ALTITUDE 16,000 ft Estimated / Measured

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 5 sec

TYPE OF OBSERVATION aerial

MANEUVERS ---

JAH: Balloon

~~Unidentified~~

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

[redacted]

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #113 -- Montgomery, Alabama -- 9 April 1948

The object cited in this incident answers to the description of an instrument-carrying balloon. In any case, there is nothing whatever in the report which would allow for an astronomical interpretation.

Attention can be called to the similarity of the description given here to that of incident #81.

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

MCIAXO-3/HWS/rm
Jan 5 1949

MCIAXO

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Chief, Air Weather Service,
Andrews Air Force Base,
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: DSS

1. Project "SIGN" is responsible for the collection, investigation and interpretation of data relative to sighting of unidentified flying objects. Attached Incident Summaries 1 thru 172 from the files of Project "SIGN" are forwarded for study and recommendations as to which of the incidents may be eliminated as balloons released on routine synoptic ascents by the Air Weather Service, the Navy Aerological Service or the United States Weather Bureau. The summaries attached may be retained in your headquarters for working and reference purposes.

2. The Air Weather Service is the only agency of its type that has been asked to assist in the accomplishment of Project "SIGN" except that the United States Weather Bureau has provided information on ball lightning. Research projects in which balloons are used and which are conducted or sponsored by the Army, Navy or United States Air Force are checked by the Intelligence Department of this Command. These checks areusually made direct from the Project "SIGN" Office, MCIAXO-3. These checks are distinct from the check of synoptic balloon flights made by weather service stations of the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Commerce. (U. S. Weather Bureau) requested of Air Weather Service.

3. It is the opinion of this office that the below listed incidents are those having the greatest possibility of being balloons. This list does not eliminate the possibility that many of the remaining incidents are balloons.

2	24	50	91	113	155
3	25	52	92	115	156
4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	148	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	48				

T-34481-A

Hq AMC, Chief, Air Weather Service, Washington 25, D. C.
Subj: Project "SIGN"

4. The form used in interrogating witnesses to sightings is inclosed as a matter of interest. Comment as to possible improvement of the "Essential Elements of Information" in regard to routine synoptic balloon flights is invited.

5. It is requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Commanding General, Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, attention MCIAXO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col, USAF
for H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Dept

2 Incls:
Summaries 1-172 incl
"EEI"

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq. USAF
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab
Major Kodis, MCREEP
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

B/Ltr from AMC
dtd 5 Jan 1949
Subj: Project
"SIGH"

AWS DSS 1st Ind 24 Jan 1949

HEADQUARTERS, AIR WEATHER SERVICE Andrews Air Force Base, Washington 25, D. C.

TO: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXO

Investigations by this headquarters reveal that a synoptic weather balloon could have been at the location where sightings were reported in the following incidents. In compiling this list consideration was given to the wind direction and speed at the surface and aloft at the scheduled time of balloon release, and the location of the nearest weather station making balloon observations.

2	52	91	126
3	72	93	148
4	73	94	155
25	78	105	166
28	81	113	169
36	87	115	172

FOR THE CHIEF AIR WEATHER SERVICE

/s/ W. A. West
W. A. WEST
Lt. Col., USAF
Adjutant General

2 Incls:
n/c

The object, sighted at ten o'clock off his left wing, appeared to be a silver disc. He immediately completed a sharp bank to the left and was able to get a better look at the object, and described it as follows:

"Top part of the object approximately eight feet in diameter, silver in color, had the appearance of a parachute. Attached to the bottom of this had been a dark cable or shroud which appeared to be approximately five feet long. Suspended upon the cable had been a large canister or ball (Colonel Hughes could not discern which) also silver in color. This canister or ball had the appearance of being slightly to the rear of the top part of the object. The overall appearance of the object looked something similar to the parachute and canister containing photographic testing equipment dropped from a V-2 rocket."

At the time he lost sight of the object, Hughes' aircraft had been indicating 310 miles per hour air speed, and the object had appeared to fly away from him on a horizontal plane rather than a vertical decline.

A sketch of the object is attached.

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 113

1. Date 9 April 1948

2. Time ~~1510~~ 1506

3. Location Montgomery, Alabama

4. Name of observer Robert B. Hughes, Lt. Colonel, USAF

5. Occupation of observer Pilot

6. Address of observer Tactics Div., Air Tactical School, Tyndall AF Base

7. Place of observation From the air

8. Number of objects One

9. Distance of object from observer N/S

10. Time in sight Five seconds

11. Altitude Approximately 16000 feet

12. Speed In excess of the viewer's 310 mph air speed

13. Direction of flight Northwest

14. Tactics N/S

15. Sound None

16. Size Top part eight feet diameter

17. Color Silver

18. Shape Had the appearance of a parachute carrying a large canister or ball

19. Odor detected N/S

20. Apparent construction N/S

21. Exhaust trails None

22. Weather conditions Clear, visibility and ceiling unlimited

23. Effect on clouds N/S

24. Sketches or photographs - Sketch (trip)

25. Manner of disappearance N/S

26. Remarks Lt. Col. Robert B. Hughes first sighted the object before completing an 180° left turn over the town of Montgomery, Alabama.

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

FLYING DISC
~~AMLSTOCRA~~

1st Ind.

MARIANNA CIC OFFICE, P.O. Box 404, Marianna, Florida, 14 April 1948

TO: COMMANDING GENERAL, Headquarters Third Army, ~~Atlanta, Ga~~ Fort McPherson, Georgia
ATTN: A C of S, G-2

Enclosed memo obtained from Col. [redacted] in an interview by AF SA CIC regarding SUBJECT.

James A. Ward
JAMES A WARD
Special Agent in Charge

2 Incl:
1 memo 6 copies
2 exhibit No. 1.

AJACI-9
(9 Apr 48)

2nd Ind

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY, Fort McPherson, Georgia, 16 April 1948

TO: COMGENAMC WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Dayton, Ohio
ATTENTION: MCI

1. Attached report is forwarded in compliance with Letter GSUSA, ID, Wash., D.C., File # CSGID 452.1, dtd 25 Mar 48, Subject: "Unconventional Aircraft."

2. No telegraphic report was rendered since Colonel [redacted] also reported the incident to A-2, Tyndall Field.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

Walter A. Buck
WALTER A. BUCK
Colonel, GSC
AC of S, G-2

2 Incls:
1 memo 5 cps (1 w/d)
2 exhibit No. 1

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

15

HEADQUARTERS
3000th AIR UNIVERSITY WING
TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA

(E-4)MEA/ml/E

12 April 1948

SUBJECT: Report of Information on "Flying Disc"

TO : Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: TSDIN

The attached information is forwarded in compliance with USAF Letter, subj: "Reporting of Information on "Flying Discs", dtd 6 February 1948.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

J. B. Price

J. B. PRICE
Major, USAF
Adjutant

1 Incl -
MOIC and Exhibits 1

Distribution:

1 cy ea:
C/S USAF
CG, AMC
CG, AU

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Flying Disc
Montgomery, Alabama
9 April 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

On 9 April 1948, approximately 1500 hours, this agent interviewed Lt Colonel Robert B. HUGHES, Tactics Division, Air Tactical School, Tyndall Air Force Base, who stated in substance: He had left Tyndall approximately 1410 hours on 9 April 1948, flying a P-51H at the altitude of 20000 feet. He had proceeded to Montgomery, Alabama, and just previous to sighting the town had let down to the altitude of 18000 feet and directly over the town had made a 180 degree left turn. Just before completing his left turn, he had sighted an object at 10 o'clock off his left wing which appeared to be a silver disc. Colonel HUGHES had immediately made a sharp bank to the left in order to follow the object which appeared to be heading North west. After completing his turn, Colonel HUGHES had been able to get a better look at the object which he had first thought to be merely a disc and described at as follows: Top part of the object approximately eight feet in diameter, silver in color, had the appearance of a parachute. Attached to the bottom of this had been a dark cable or shroud which appeared to be approximately five feet long. Suspended upon the cable had been a large canister or ball (Colonel HUGHES could not discern which) also silver in color. This canister or ball had the appearance of being slightly to the rear of the top part of the object. The overall appearance of the object, according to Colonel HUGHES, looked something similar to the parachute and canister containing photographic testing equipment dropped from a V-2 rocket. Colonel HUGHES had kept the object in sight for approximately five seconds but had lost it at exactly 1510 hours. At the time he had lost sight of the object, HUGHES' aircraft had been indicating 510 miles per hour air speed, and the object had appeared to fly away from him on a horizontal plane rather than a vertical decline. HUGHES further stated that the object might possibly have changed course during the time it was in his sight but it was impossible for him to definitely establish this fact as his aircraft had been in a sharp turn during part of the time that the object was in sight. At the time that the object had been sighted the weather had been clear, no clouds, visibility and ceiling unlimited; and as far as Colonel HUGHES could determine the object had made no sound and no exhaust trail had been seen. After having lost the object, Colonel HUGHES proceeded to return to Tyndall Air Force Base and upon landing, reported the above mentioned incident to the Intelligence Officer, Tyndall, A-2. Attached hereto as Exhibit I, is a sketch of the object's appropriate configuration.

AGENT'S NOTES: UNCLASSIFIED

It is to be noted, Colonel HUGHES told his story both to this agent and to Lt Burt, A-2, Tyndall, at separate interviews and in both instances his story coincided.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

John F. Frampton, S/A 700-3 CIS Det (USAF)(PROV), Tyndall AF Base, Florida

[redacted]

#113

Reference (H-4)MSJ/el/R, subj: "Report of Information on "Flying Disc", dtd 12 Apr 48, 2d Ind cont'd.

a. Two or three hundred feet below 14 colonel Hughes observed at a 10° angle from the horizontal plane.

b. Three to five hundred feet.

c. Object seemed rigid in construction, having the shape of a parachute.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

SAM P. JORDAN
Captain, USAF
Assistant Adjutant

CONFIDENTIAL

AMC
Subject: Report of Information on "Flying Disc"

1st Ind

MCTA/TCS/amb

APR 22 1948

Hq. AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio

TO: Commanding Officer, Eglin Air Force Base, Panama City, Florida

1. In reference to basic communication dated 12 April 1948, it is requested that Mr. Colonel Robert W. Hughes be interrogated once again to obtain the following information:

a. The altitude of the reported object with respect to Colonel Hughes' airplane at the time of sighting.

b. Did the object have any discernible markings or other identification marks on it?

c. Did the entire object give the appearance of rigid construction, or more the appearance of being a parachute and canister?

2. Any further information available on this or other sightings of this nature would be greatly appreciated.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

James J. Hanson
Colonel, USAF

Incl: 1/1

Chief, Intelligence

2d Ind

(EC-4)HEP/CJ/R

HEADQUARTERS, 500th AAA Individual Wing, Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Florida, 28 April 1948

TO: Commanding General, AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: Chief of Intelligence

1. In reference to 1st Indorsement, basic communication, dtd 12 April 1948, requesting further information re: object sighted by Lt Colonel Hughes, this station, the following answers to sub-paragraphs a, b, c, paragraph 1 is submitted:

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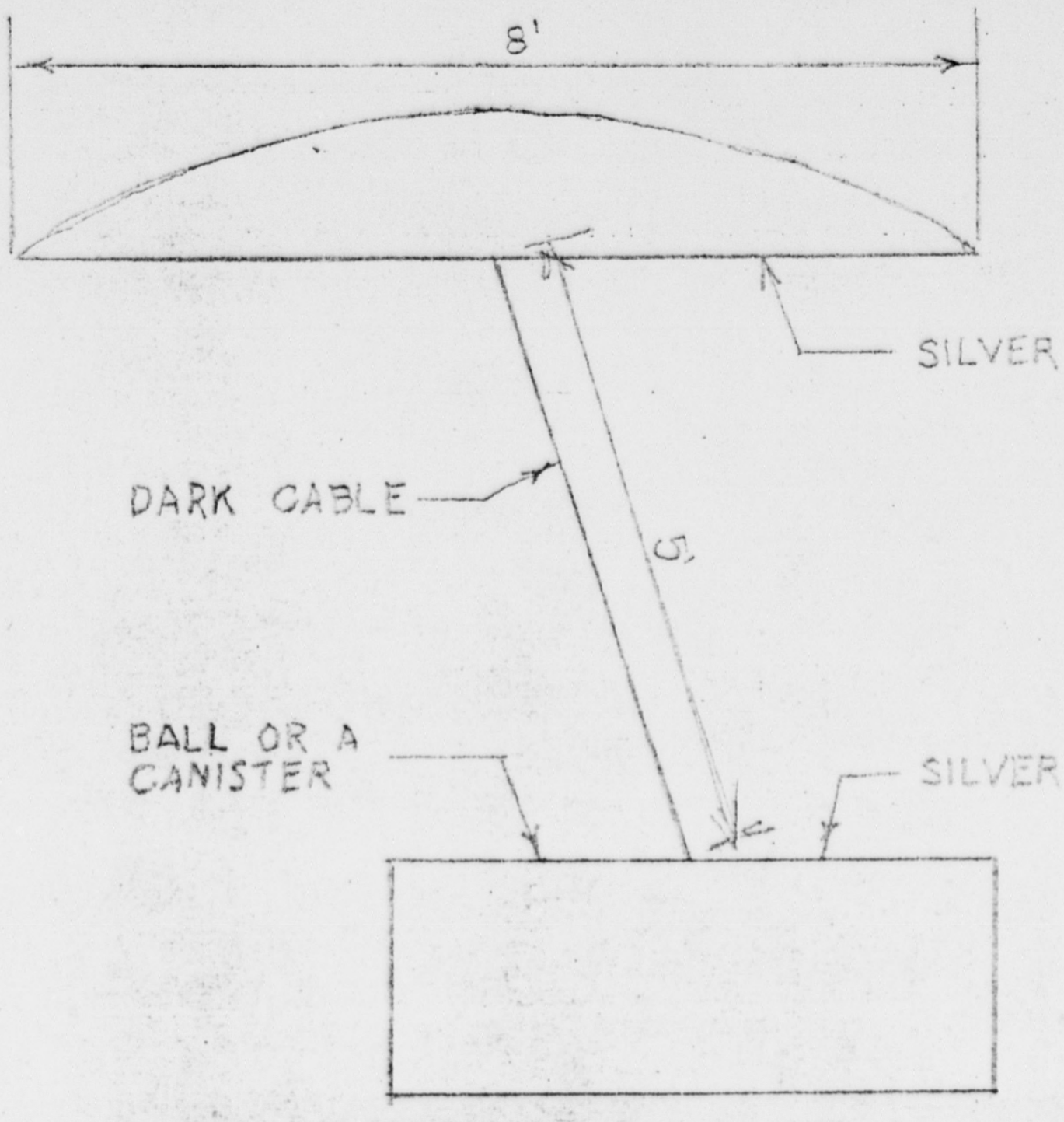
EXHIBIT I

UNCLASSIFIED



DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

EXHIBIT I

INWD 5A/13

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.