RESTRICTED

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

Incident #166

ATIC NO. —

AF NO. —

REPORT NO. —

DATE OF REPORT —

TIME OF SIGHTING 2000

SHAPE V-2 Rocket

SIZE Larger than B-29

COURSE W to E

NO. IN GROUP —

SOUND —

PHOTOS — SKETCHES —

DATE OF INFO 30 Aug 1948

LOCATION Los Angeles, Calif.

SOURCE USAF Airman

DATE IN TO ATIC —

COLOR Silver

SPEED Over 700 MPH Estimated / Measured

ALTITUDE Over 20,000 ft. Estimated / Measured

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED —

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

MANEUVERS —

JAH (Meteor)

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

RESTRICTED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #166 -- Los Angeles, California -- 30 August 1948

The observer of this incident states that the object looked like a rocket and was larger than a B-29. He does not give the distance, but estimates the altitude as well over 20,000 feet. At this implied distance, it appears to this investigator that resemblance to a rocket must have been largely subjective.

Although a rocket cannot be ruled out, it is also possible that the object seen was a bright meteor. If the hour of observation given is correct, it was late twilight. It seems that a bright meteor appearing at this time could give the general impression of a rocket leaving a trail.

The report states that the object was observed through field glasses taken from a German 88 mm. artillery piece and that each lens was 8" in diameter. (This is an improbably large size for a field glass.) If the object completely filled the lens at that given altitude, either it was of a truly tremendous size or the glass was out of focus. Furthermore, the telegram and summary state that the object was travelling from west to east (another report says from north to south); if it had been a rocket heading east, the landing would probably have been reported.

All in all, the evidence supports the conclusion that the object was more likely a bright meteor than a huge rocket.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

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

AWS DSS

1st Ind 24 Jan 1949

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

TO: Commanding General, Air Material 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	145
4	73	94	155
25	78	105	166
28	81	113	169
36	87	115	172

FOR THE CHIEF AIR WEATHER SERVICE

2 Incls:
n/c

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

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 166

1. Date 30 Aug 48
2. Time 20,000 hours or 8:00 P. M.
3. Location Los Angeles, Calif.
4. Name of observer S/Sgt [redacted]
5. Occupation of observer S/Sgt
6. Address of observer M/S [redacted], Los Angeles
7. Place of observation [redacted] Los Angeles, Calif.
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer M/S
10. Time in sight M/S
11. Altitude estimated to be well over 20,000 ft.
12. Speed thought to be well over 700 MPH
13. Direction of flight [redacted]
14. Tactics none - flew level course
15. Sound No sound
16. Size Larger than B-29
17. Color silver
18. Shape V-2 rocket
19. Odor detected M/S
20. Apparent construction rocket - like
21. Exhaust trails blue exhaust trail
22. Weather conditions M/S
23. Effect on clouds M/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance M/S
26. Remarks: (over)

Object resembled the fuselage of a V-2 rocket - but much larger. S/Sgt [redacted] stated that it was much larger than a B-29 and silver in color and that it completely filled the lens of a 10 B-80 field glass which was taken from a German 88 mm artillery piece. Each lens was 8" in diameter. Speed estimated to be well over 700 MPH. and object was traveling at an altitude of well over 20,000 ft. No sound was heard. Left a blue exhaust trail. Object traveling from west to east. Only one object sighted.

RE6Ø

PP UED

8:03Z

194

FM UWJIR 9/MARCH FLT SVC CTR MARCH AFB CALIF Ø1ØØ1Z

TO CG/ATTN TSDIN/ATC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

INFO JEPC/CO/ATTN A-2/HQ FLT SVC WASHDC

AF GRNC

UNCLASSIFIED

/R [redacted] D/DMZ ØØ48 H PD ROCKET SIGHTED FLYING NORTH TO SOUTH WEST OF LOS ANGELES ESTIMATED TO 2Ø TO 3Ø THOUSAND FEET AT 2Ø25 PDT WEATHER CLEAR 12 MILES PD REPORTED BY S/SGT ESTES LOS ANGLES PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE PD FUSELAGE RESEMBLES A GERMAN V-2 ROCKET PD WITNESS FOLLOWED RICKET WITH PAIR OF HIGH POWERED GLASSES AND WAS CERTAIN IT WAS NOT A SHOOTING STAR PD END/R [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

TAYLOR CO MESC

CFN 3Ø4S 2Ø23 2Ø 3Ø 12 S/SGT V-2

Ck # 2

S/ØØ2Ø2Z

/ [redacted] D / ATTN NCI PASS TO DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE

CSUSA PD CONTROL NBR AB)DASH ONE NINE ONE SEVEN I REPORT SIGHTING

OF UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT BY S SGT LEROY H ESTES AF ONE NINE ZERO

SEVEN EIGHT ONE EIGHT FOUR THIS CRNG AT TWENTY HUNDRED HRS THIRTY AUG

FORTY EIGHT FM ROOF OF BLDG LOCATED AT ONE THREE ZERO ONE WEST OLY

MPIC BLVD LOSANGELES CALIF PD NEATEST MAIN CROSS ST IS FIGUERO ST

PD WEATHER WAS VERY CLEAR CMA NO WITNESS OTHERTHAN SGT ESTES CMA NO

PHOTOS TAKEN CMA ONLY ONE OBJECT SIGHTED CMA SHAPE WAS THAT OF A

VICTOR DASH TWO ROCKET BUMUCH LARGER CMA NO ESTIMATE AS TO SIZE

EXCEPT THAT IT WAS LARGER THAN BAKER RWO NINE AND WAS REPORTED AS

ENORMOUS CMA OBJECT COMPLETY FILLED THE LENS OF THE FIELD GLASSES

BEING USED BYSSGT STES CMA FIELD GLASSES USED WERE OF TEN BE EIGHTY

POWER AND WRE TAKEN FROM A GERMAN EIGHTY EIGHT MM ARTILLERY PIECE

EACH LENS IS EIGHT IN DIAMETER CMA SLIVER COLOR CMA NO POSITVE

ESTIMATION OF SPEED BUR WITNESS ESTIMATED WELL OVER SEVEN HUNDRED MPH

CMA OBJECT CAME FROM WEST AND WAS HEADING IN EASTERLY DIRECTION

CMA WAS FLYING STRAIGHT LEVEL COURSE AND WAS NOT MANEUVERING CMA

ESTIMATED ALTIUDE WELL OVER TWENTY THOUSANT FT CMA NO SOND CMA LEFT

BLUE EXHAUST TRAIL PD FOLLOWING SIGHTING OF OBJECT SGT ESTES REPORTED

THIS FACT TO FLIGHT SEV MARCH AFB CALIF PD REPORTED CAPT OSTENDORF

PD END CITE AMWLA DASH A ONE SIX NINE THREESONE SEVEN FIVE

31/21452

8-853

ACTION | INFO

1 1 1

AF77

EUB511

ETA011

EUA005

WUG11

WLE217

RR UEDLY

Action MCIA | Info MCI

FM UWLFK 11/ASU 6402 UAS UASF RS DIST SANPEDRO CALIF 312120Z

TO CCMGENAMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB DAYTON OHIO

WD GRN

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

March Flight Service Center
March Air Force Base
Riverside, California

1 September 1948

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson AF Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTENTION: TSDIN

In compliance with FS Regulation 200-4, dated 18 August 1948, the following report is submitted, reference TWX, DMZ 0048 H, March Flight Service Center:

a. An object was sighted west of the City of Los Angeles. The time of the sighting was reported as 2025 Pacific Daylight Time.

b. The weather was reported to be clear with visibility twelve (12) miles.

c. The object was reported by Staff Sergeant L[redacted], residence -[redacted], Los Angeles, California; assigned to the Public Information Office of the Los Angeles Army and Air Force Recruiting Station, located at 610 South Main Street, Los Angeles; Telephone -[redacted] or Van[redacted] Object was not reported by any other person or persons to the March Flight Service Center.

d. No photographs or sketches are submitted with report.

e. Object sighted:

(1) Number - One
(2) Shape - Reported to resemble a German V-2
(3) Size - Unknown
(4) Color - Unknown
(5) Speed - Unknown
(6) Heading - Reported flying North to South
(7) Maneuverability - Unknown
(8) Altitude - Estimated 20,000 feet to 30,000 feet
(9) Sound - Unknown
(10) Exhaust trail or not - Resembling shooting star

~~RESTRICTED~~

Enc 1&6

CLASSIFIED

Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects UNCLASSIFIED 1 Sep 48

g. Sergeant [redacted] reported that he followed the flight of the object with a pair of high powered binoculars, and was certain that it was not a shooting star.

CHARLES M. TAYLOR
Major, USAF
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

Chief of Staff, USAF, Wash 25, D. C.
ATTN: Director of Intelligence
Commander, MATS, Wash 25, D. C.
ATTN: Chief, Intelligence Div.
Commanding Officer, Flight Service, Wash 25, D. C.
ATTN: A-2

DECLASSIFIED

1301 W. Olympic Blvd. Los Angeles, Calif. - Nearest crossing st-
Figuero St. Weather was clear. No witnesses other than Sgt [redacted]
No photos taken only one object sighted - shape that of a V-2 rocket - but
much larger. No estimated as to size exce t that it was larger than
B-29 and was reported as enormous since object completely filled the lens of
field glasses being used which were of 10 B-80 power and were taken from a german
88 mm artillery piece. Each lens is 8 in diameter. Object silver in
color. No positive estimation of speed but witness thought it well over
700 MPH. Object came from west and was heading east. flying straight level
course and not maneuvering. Altitude estimated to be well over ~~xxxx~~
20,000 ft. No sound. Left blue exhaust trail.

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UNCLASSIFIED

NCLAMC-3/EWS/ew

NCLAMC-3

SEP 8 19[illegible]

Project "SIGN"

Commanding Officer
March Air Force Base
Riverside, California
ATTENTION: Base Intelligence Officer

1. This Command is engaged in an intelligence investigation of all reported sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena and has been authorized direct communication with all Air Tactical Command units by Hq USAF, in letter dated 6 February 1948.

2. Reference is made to attached teletypes dated 31 Aug 1948 and 1 September 1948 concerning the sighting of an unidentified aerial object by S/Sgt [redacted] of the Los Angeles Public Information Office.

3. It is requested your office interview the above and obtain a signed graphic statement as to what he observed. This statement should include the facts as itemized in teletype dated 31 August, i. e., location, date and time of sighting, weather conditions at the time, names, occupations and addresses of witnesses (if any), photographs or sketches, construction, number, shape, size, color, speed, in what part of the sky first observed, direction, manner of disappearance, maneuverability, altitude, sound, exhaust trail, odor, effect on clouds and diagram of flight pattern (if any). Since, in this case, no photographs are available, it is desired that the witness sketch the configuration to the best of his ability and submit this as an attachment to his signed statement.

4. In connection with the above, request that

a. Local teletype sequence of weather conditions and the Winds Aloft Report at the time of the sighting be obtained.

b. Local flight schedules of commercial and military aircraft flying in the vicinity at the time be checked.

McCoy's Copy

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR [illegible]

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

166

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED

AMC
Subject: Project "SIGN"

c. Possible releases of testing devices sent aloft by Ordnance, Navy, Army, Air Forces, Weather Bureau, Research Organizations or any other, in the vicinity be investigated.

5. All material will be forwarded directly to Commanding General, AMC, Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio, attention: MCI, in accordance with USAF letter dated 26 February 1948.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

L. L. Hartman
for H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief of Intelligence

2 Incls
1. Cy teletype
dtd 31 Aug 48
2. Cy teletype
dtd 1 Sept 48

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

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET

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.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

MCIAXO-3/RAL/aw

5th Aug (?) 1948

27

Project "SIGN"

Commanding Officer
Shaw Air Force Base
Sumter, South Carolina
ATTENTION: Base Intelligence Officer

1. This Command is currently engaged in an intelligence investigation of all reported sightings of unidentificable aerial phenomena and has been authorized direct communication with all Air Force units by Hq, USAF, in letter dated 6 February 1948.

2. It has come to the attention of this Office that Mrs. [redacted] of Columbia, South Carolina, has reported witnessing the so-called "flying discs."

3. It is requested your office interview this individual and obtain a signed graphic statement as to the anomaly observed. It is further requested that the observer indicate to thebest of her ability the following salient factors: Location, date and time of sighting, weather conditions at the time, names, occupations and addresses of witnesses, (if any), photographs or sketches, luminous or metallic construction, number, shape, size, color, speed, in what part of sky first observed, direction, manner of disappearance, maneuverability (tactics), altitude, sound, exhaust trail, odor, if any, effect on clouds, etc.

4. It is requested that the individual be informed that her disclosures will be treated as "strictly confidential", and that, in the interests of national defense, all publicity surrounding this investigation be stringently avoided.

5. All pertinent material will be forwarded directly to Commanding General, AMC, Wright-PattersonAF Base, Wright Field, Ohio, attention: MCI, in accordance with USAF letter dated 26 February 1948.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

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

H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, of Intelligence

T-143491

[redacted]

Incident 143

UNCLASSIFIED