[redacted]

Incident #154

ATIC NO. ---

DATE OF INCIDENT 2 Aug 1948

AF NO. ---

LOCATION Columbus, Ohio

REPORT NO. ---

SOURCE Attorney

DATE OF REPORT ---

DATE IN TO ATIC ---

TIME OF SIGHTING 1945

COLOR Periphery Gray-Black; Center Transparent

SHAPE Side - Parallelogram - then circular

SPEED 15 MPH

SIZE About 20-30' diameter

ALTITUDE 1500'-2000'

COURSE S to N

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 10-15 Min.

NO. IN GROUP 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

HOUND ---

MANEUVERS Constant slow speed once it hesitated and thin trail of smoke issued from opposite direction of travel. Changed position assuming different shapes.

PHOTOS ---

SKETCHES 4

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

[redacted]

[redacted]

Incident No. 154 -- 2 August 1948, 1945 Hours, Columbus, Ohio
An attorney and his wife observed an object moving south over the center of Columbus at 1500-2000 ft altitude. During the ten to fifteen minutes the object remained in sight, it changed shape from that of a parellogram to a circle and back again, direction of travel remained constant. Once it seemed to hesitate and a thin trail of smoke appeared from the rear. The smoke disappeared soon. The outline of the object was dark gray or black, but the center seemed to be transparent. Object was judged to be 20 to 30 feet in diameter.

AMC Opinion: There is no reason to believe other than that this object was a research balloon, of which there are many types, and that the "trail of smoke" appeared so from a momentary glimpse of trailing apparati.

A-3712

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #154, 154a -- Columbus, Ohio -- 2 August 1948

This incident is in two respects unique among all those investigated: 1) it is the only object that is defined solely by an outline, appearing vacant inside, so that the sky was visible through it; and 2) it is similar to an object that this investigator viewed as a boy.

The writer's recollection has remained vivid throughout these many years. The object he saw could best be described as a floating ellipse, like a wire hoop travelling slowly across the sky. The motion was uniform, and the form of the object changed slowly, as though the hoop were being distorted. The object was observed for at least ten minutes, with several witnesses, until it finally disappeared in the distance. The writer had dismissed the object as some sort of unusual atmospheric phenomenon, perhaps a travelling air pocket.

Because of the similarity between this observation and that reported in incident #154, the latter has a special interest to this investigator. In the recent incident, however, the tail of smoke is an added feature.

There is obviously no astronomical explanation for these incidents -- the most plausible explanation probably lies in the field of meteorology.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

2 AUG 48

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 "B" 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 had there 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. Rainier 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.

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

MCIAXO-3/EWS/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-24481-A

Hq ARC, 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

T-3481-1

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident #154

1. Date 2 Aug 48

2. Time 1945 hours

3. Location Columbus, Ohio

4. Name of observer [redacted]

5. Occupation of observer Attorney

6. Address of observer [redacted]

7. Place of observation Yard of [redacted] ve., Columbus, Ohio

8. Number of objects 1

9. Distance of object from observer N/S

10. Time in sight 10-15 minutes

11. Altitude 1,500 to 2000 ft

12. Speed 15 MPH

13. Direction of flight Moving south from the north

14. Tactics Constant slow speed - Once it hesitated & thin trail of smoke issued from opposite direction of travel. Changed position assuming different shapes

15. Sound None

16. Size Judged to be about 20 to 30 ft in diameter

17. Color N/S. Perimeter: constant grey-black. Center: transparent.

18. Shape Changing. First: side-view: Parallelogram. Second: ~~circular~~ circular then reverted to original form

19. Odor detected N/S

20. Apparent construction N/S

21. Exhaust trails thin trail of smoke

22. Weather conditions CAVU

23. Effect on clouds No clouds

24. Sketches or photographs 4 sketches

25. Manner of disappearance N/S

26. Remarks: (over)

On 2 Aug 48 at approx 1945 a round object which appeared to be about 20 to 30 ft in diameter was observed moving in southerly direction from the north over center of Columbus. Had constant grey-black perimeter with a transparent center. The blue sky could be observed through this grey-black perimeter while it moved at a constant, slow speed of about 15 MPH. It made no noise of any kind. Once it hesitated in its movements and a thin trail of smoke issued from the opposite direction of travel. The smoke soon disappeared and was not seen again during the 10 to 15 minutes object was visible to the observer. The object changed position - but not direction of travel - three times. When first seen, it evidently presented a side view which was a parallelogram in shape. (See). Slowly its position altered and it became circular in form, only to revert after a time to its original form. The altitude was judged to be some 1500 to 2000 ft above ground.

Agent's Note: [redacted] drew the following sketches

Fourth Third Second First

The above drawings constitute four positions of one phase. The object passed thru three of these phases during the 15 minute period.

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 154a

1. Date ~~12~~ 2 Aug 48
2. Time 7:50 P. M.
3. Location Columbus, Ohio
4. Name of observer [redacted] A. B., M. A.
5. Occupation of observer [redacted] HOUSEWIFE
6. Address of observer [redacted], Columbus, Ohio
7. Place of observation Columbus, Ohio
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight 15 minutes
11. Altitude ~~XXX~~ N/S 1/2 mile high
12. Speed slow and regular speed
13. Direction of flight from North to South to Southwest
14. Tactics N/S / Oblong to circular to oblong change in shape
15. Sound None
16. Size of small plane
17. Color N/S
18. Shape Changing but circular for the most part
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails tail of smoke
22. Weather conditions Unusually favorable for observation. Light sufficient without interference from sun's rays.
23. Effect on clouds Cloudless
24. Sketches or photographs. None
25. Manner of disappearance N/S
26. Remarks: (over)

On 2 Aug 48, at 7:50 P. M. Mrs. [redacted]s observed an unusual object in the sky. Her attention was directed toward it because some neighborhood children were looking toward the north. She called her husband, [redacted]rs, (Inc 154) to witness the phenomenon. The sky was cloudless and the light more than sufficient, without interference from the rays of the sun which were hidden by the buildings of the city.

Object first appeared oblong in shape and was traveling from north to south at a slow, regular speed. [redacted] at a height of a half mile. During the 15 minutes under observation the object traveled approx 7-1/2 miles. Although it did not change its course, it presented different appearances from time to time. From oblong to circular then to oblong. Object went thru this change three different times until observer lost sight of it. However, for the most part it presented a circular appearance. Outline very dark in contrast with the transparency of the center. Only when the shape appeared circular was observer aware of the center being a void. Once xx it hesitated momentarily, observer noticed a tail of smoke emanating from the rear, after which the object continued in a southerly direction. This tail of smoke was observed but once. The size appeared to be that of a small plane. It made no sound altho at one time observer thought she detected one. At approx 8:00 P. M. observer lost sight of the object just as it appeared to be changing direction from South to Southwest.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

8-405

7

16 August 1948

AIABE-2/1917

SUBJECT: Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft

THRU: AC of S, G-2
Headquarters Second Army
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

TO: Director of Intelligence
General Staff
Department of the Army
Washington 25, D. C.

1. Reference is made to letter your headquarters, File OSGID 452.1, Subject: Unconventional Aircraft, dated 25 March 1948, and to your Control Number A-1917.

2. In compliance with paragraph 2, above mentioned letter, inclosed herewith are CIC Agent reports concerning the Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft.

3. A copy of attached report has been furnished the Commanding General, Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio.

1 Incl
Rpt re Mr & Mrs Saunders

DWIGHT I. BOYD
Captain, Infantry
District Intelligence Officer

cc:
AMC, Wright Fld

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

SIGHTING OF UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

2. DATE SUBMITTED

16 August 1948

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO.

A-1917

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

(1) On 11 August 1948, [redacted], attorney, [redacted]eet, Columbus, Ohio, was interviewed and stated in substance:

On 2 August 1948, at approximately 1945 hours, my wife called to me to come out into the yard at [redacted] Columbus, Ohio, in order to observe a strange sight in the sky. The atmosphere was clear, visibility excellent and the heavens were without cloud or haze. I saw a single object, round in shape, which appeared to be about twenty to thirty feet in diameter, and moving in a southerly direction from the North, over the center of the City of Columbus. The object had a constant grey-black perimeter while the center was transparent. The blue sky could be observed through the grey-black outline of the object, while it moved at a constant and slow speed. Once, I observed the object to hesitate in its movement, and a thin trail of smoke issue from opposite direction of travel. The smoke soon disappeared, and I did not observe it again during the ten or fifteen minutes I followed it with my eye. In its movement, the object changed positions, but not the direction of travel three times. Upon first seeing the object, evidently a side view was presented, which was a parallelogram in shape. Slowly its position altered and it became circular in form, only to revert, after a time, to its original form. The object may have traveled five or six miles until I lost sight of it. I cannot estimate the height at which the object traveled; however, I judge it to have been between fifteen hundred and two thousand feet above the ground. The object appeared to be traveling about fifteen miles an hour and made no noise of any kind. The evening was still and the neighborhood was quiet while the object was under observation. (B-2)

Agent's Note: [redacted] drew the following sketches:

Fourth Third Second First

The above drawings constitute four positions of one phase. The object passed through three of these phases during the fifteen minute period.

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

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

GEORGE W. HENDERSON
109th CIC Detachment

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

/Signed/ George W. Henderson

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

AGENT REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT	2. DATE SUBMITTED
SIGHTING OF UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT	16 August 1948
	3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NO. A-1917

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

(2) On 10 August 1948, [redacted] A.B., M.A., housewife, [redacted], Columbus, Ohio, was interviewed and stated in substance:

On 2 August 1948, at 7:50 p.m., I observed an unusual object in the sky. My attention was directed toward it because the children in the neighborhood had stopped playing and were looking toward the North. I called to my husband [redacted]s, immediately who came out of the apartment to look. The weather was unusually favorable for observation. The sky was couldless, and the light was more than sufficient without interference from the rays of the sun which were hidden by the buildings of the City. I observed one object which at first was oblong in shape traveling from North to South at a slow and regular speed. I observed this object at least fifteen minutes during which time it traveled approximately seven miles at a height of a half mile. Although its direction of travel did not change, the object presented different appearances from time to time. From oblong to circular, then to oblong. The object went through this change three different times until I lost sight of it. However, the object for the most part, presented a circular appearance. The outline of the object was very dark in contrast with the transparency of the center. Only at the time I observed the circular shape was I aware of the center being a void. The object seemed to hesitate momentarily soon after I first noticed it. From its rear, I saw a tail of smoke, and the object continued in a southerly direction. I observed this tail of smoke but once. Taking into consideration the height and distance of the object from where I stood, I would estimate the object to be as large as a small airplane. It made no sound, although at one time I thought I detected one; however, I dismissed it from my mind as a part of traffic in another part of the city. At approximately 8:00 p.m. I lost sight of the object just as it appeared to be changing direction from South to Southwest. (B-2)

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

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT	6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT
GEORGE H. HENDERSON 109th CIC Detachment	/Signed/ George H. Henderson

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.