Incident 194

ATIC NO. ----

AP NO. ----

SAUCOCP NO. ------

DATE OF REPORT ------

TIME OF SIGHTING 1040 EST

SHAPE Balloon

SIZE ----

COURSE ----

NO. IN GROUP 8

SOUND ----

DURATION ---- SKETCHES ------

DATE OF INFO 3 Nov 48

LOCATION Andrews AFB, MD.

SOURCE USCG Pilot

DATE IN TO ATIC ------

COLOR ------

SPEED 2 mph

ALTITUDE 43,000 ft

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED ------

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Aerial

MANEUVERS ----

REMARKS: Proved to be a cluster of balloo

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #194 -- near Andrews Field -- 3 November 1948

No astronomical explanation is possible for this incident.

The object reported has been independently identified as an MIT cosmic ray balloon cluster.

UNCLASSIFIED

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

In Reply
Refer To: AWS DSS

11 May 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO : Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXO-3

1. Reference is made to letter from your headquarters, MCIAXS, dated 9 March 1949, subject "Unidentified Flying Objects," and first indorsement thereto by this headquarters, dated 31 March 1949.

2. The incident summaries 173 through 233 have been checked against routine weather-balloon ascents made by the Air Force, Navy and Weather Bureau. Comments based on this review are inclosed.

3. It is recommended that the "Guide To Investigation Of Unidentified Aerial Objects" be changed as follows: Item 13, "Direction of Flight of Object," should be clarified so that vertical and horizontal motions are distinguished if possible, and so that motion is specified as the direction towards which the object appears to move. "Relative to Radar Settings" should include a statement of the type of radar set used.

FOR THE CHIEF, AIR WEATHER SERVICE

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

2 Incls:
1 - Incident Summaries
2 - Comments: 173 thru 233

3 views up

No. 194. Definite identity established by M.I.T.

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Original report was classified top-secret. Strategic Air Command requested original messages be destroyed.

At 10:40 A. M. on 3 Nov 48 two Mustang fighters of the 82d Fighter Wing were dispatched to investigate the sighting reported by Lt Com Pain, a Coast Guard pilot, who reported the original sighting. The pilots upon reaching 22,000 feet sighted the unidentified object. They kept on climbing until they reached 37,000 feet. They estimated the object to be another five or six thousand feet above them. At this height the object resembled an intestine that had been inflated and it appeared 5 to 6 times higher than wide. Sketches were not available. Speed was estimated to be about 2 mph. Heading approximately 45°/

First report by Strategic Air Command identified the object tentatively as a heavenly body.

Subsequent information received by Lt Roherkemper, Coast Guard Officer stationed at Salem identified the craft as a cosmic ray equipment carrier used by MIT. Later it was definitely established that the craft sighted was a cluster of eight balloons used by MIT for cosmic ray research.

This incident is considered closed in that definite identity has been established.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

INCIDENT SUMMARY
(be filled [illegible] n Files)

1. Date of Observation . 4 [illegible] 1948 AM Incident 194

2. Time of Observation . .3 Nov 1948 . . UNCLASSIFIED now identified

3. Where was Object(s) Sighted . Near Andrews Fld. . . . . .
. . . . . .

4. Observer's Position . Aircraft #37821 . . . . . .
(i.e. ground, air, control tower, etc.)

5. Name and Address of Observer . .Lt Com Pain, Coast Guard Pilot .(original report)
. . . and by 2 fighter pilots of the 82d Fighter Wing who verified the sighting.

6. Occupation and/or Hobbies . . pilot . . . . . .
. . . . . .

7. Attention Attracted to Object (s) By . N/S . . . . . .

8. Number of Object(s) Sighted . . 5 balloons in a cluster . . . . . .

9. Size of Object(s) . . N/S . . . . . .

10. Color of Object(s) . . N/S . . . . . .

11. Shape (Sketch if Possible) . round - that of balloon . . . . . .

12. Nature of Luminosity . . N/S . . . . . .

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer . . N/S . . . . . .
Elevation: 43,000 feet

14. Speed of Object(s) . . . 2 MPH . . . . . .

15. Time in Sight . . N/S . . . . . DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

16. Tactics . . N/S . . . . . DOD DIR 5200.10 . . . . . .

17. Sound Made by Object(s) . . . N/S . . . . . .

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s) . . . heading of approximately 45? . . . . . .

19. Apparent Construction (Of What Material or Substance) . like that of balloon . .
. . . . . .

20. Effect of Objects on Clouds and/or Exhaust Trail . . N/S . . . . . .
. . . . . .

21. Weather Conditions Existing at the Time . good visibility - scattered to broken
base of clouds approximately 5,000 feet . . . . . .

22. Peculiarities Noted . . ~~[illegible]~~ Resembled an intestine. . .
that had been inflated
. . . . . .
. . . . . UNCLASSIFIED . . . . . .

23. Summary of Incident . . . (over)
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
(Attach Separate Sheet if Additional Space is Needed)

Flew in Wash D.C.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

At 10:40 a.m. on November 3, 1948 the 82nd Fighter Wing dispatched two Mustang fighters to check on a reported sighting of an unidentified aircraft. The fighter pilots sighted the unidentified aircraft when they reached 22,000 feet, and were able to keep it in sight until they reached 37,000 feet. The pilots estimated the craft to be five or six thousand feet above them. It was also stated that they were unable to see thru the craft with it between them and the sun. The speed of the craft was believed to be about 2 mph. The craft was proceeding on a heading of approximately 45°.

The fighter pilots described the unidentified craft as resembling an intestine that had been inflated, and was five or six times higher than it was wide. Sketches were not available.

Subsequently, information was received from Lt. Roherkemper, Coast Guard officer, stationed at Salem. He identified the craft as a cosmic ray equipment carrier being used by Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The above information was received from Grenier Air Force Base thru Strategic Air Command, Andrews field. The original sighting was made by a Coast Guard pilot, Lt Com Pain, flying in Aircraft No. 37821 at 11,500 ft. The weather was scattered to broken base of clouds approximately 5000 ft with good visibility. Strategic Air Command originally identified the object tentatively as a heavenly body.

On 9 November 48 this Division sent a wire to Strategic Air Command, Andrews Air Force Base, stating that the project set up by this Command to investigate and study reports of such sightings bears a classification of Confidentidl and that the Meteorological Research work being done by M.I.T. is unclassified. In view of this information permission was requested to downgrade previous messages on this incident. Since it has been definitely established that the craft sighted was a cluster of eight balloons used by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for cosmic ray research.

Permission to downgrade message was denied. Strategic Air Command requested that original messages be destroyed.

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

INCIDENT No 194

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

194

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.