2

Incident #207

ATIC NO. ----

AF NO. ----

REPORT NO. ----

DATE OF REPORT ----

TIME OF SIGHTING 2145 EST

SHAPE Oval

SIZE ----

COURSE Orbitted Based

NO. IN GROUP 1

SOUND ----

PHOTOS ---- SKETCHES ----

DATE OF INFO 18 Nov 48

LOCATION Andrews AFB, Md.

SOURCE AF Reserve Officers

DATE IN TO ATIC ----

COLOR Glowing White Light

SPEED ---- Estimated / Measured

ALTITUDE Varied 1700', 1800' Estimated / Measured

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 15-18 Minutes

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground and Aerial

MANEUVERS Evasive tactics-could climb vertically then would drop ! Behind and continue to circle the field.

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

Prof. Balloon

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, 38, 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.

Incident No. 207 -- 18 Nov. 1948, 2200 Hours, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.

The pilot of a T-6 reported seeing an object over the base at 1700 feet. Object was an oblong ball with one light, no wings, no exhaust, in landing light of T-6. It had a dull gray glow and was thought to be smaller than the T-6. Pilot made passes and object evaded by going above aircraft. T-6 tried to close in very tight climbing turns, but object turned inside the aircraft. Object was lost after ten minutes at 7500 feet. Its speed seemed to vary between 80 MPH and 60 MPH.

AMC Opinion: That the object described was a synoptic balloon. Dr. Fitt's report shows that it is very difficult for the observer to separate target motion and his own motion even in daylight, and practically impossible to do so at night. This fact has been substantiated by the writer, who in controlled experiments attacked ordinary balloons with a T-6. In daylight, and with knowledge of what the object was and what it did, all the above described maneuvers were duplicated in appearance.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #207, a, b, c -- Andrews AF Base, Camp Springs, Maryland---
18 November 1948

There is no astronomical explanation for the object observed in this incident.

The similarity of the incident to #172 is striking, and it suggests a common origin for the objects. The two incidents were separated by a month and a half and by half a continent. The hours of observation were about the same. It may be significant that ground observers in each incident did not report the evasive tactics described by air observers, and it is tempting to hazard the guess that such tactics were largely the result of relative motion. It should be investigated whether a lighted balloon caught in the prop wash could give the appearance of a rapidly-maneuvering aircraft. In fact, this investigator believes that it would be an interesting experiment to have a typical lighted balloon engaged by aircraft at night, with a competent observer along to record apparent relative tactics of the balloon.

(It is not clear whether the two observers in this incident who reported evasive tactics were in the same plane, or not, but it is presumed that they were.)

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

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

In Reply
Refer To: AFS 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

18 Nov

No. 207: Definitely not a weather balloon.

18 Nov 49

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 Appendix "H" and "G").

Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (Dr. Paul M. 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, or 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 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. Shasta 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, 185, 186, 193, 207, 215, 236.

INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET
(To be filled out and retained in files)

Incident 207-B

1. Date of Observation . . 13 Nov 48 . . . . . .

2. Time of Observation . . N/S . . . . . .

3. Where was Object(s) Sighted . Over Andrews AF Base, Camp Springs, Md . . . . . .

4. Observer's Position . . Ground while on duty . . . . . .
(i.e. ground, air, control tower, etc.)

5. Name and Address of Observer . . John J. Kushner, S/Sgt USAF, 2238th AFRTC Andrews AF Base .

6. Occupation and/or Hobbies . S/Sgt USAF, Crew Chief . . . . . .

7. Attention Attracted to Object (s) By . Noise . . . . . .

8. Number of Object(s) Sighted . . 1 . . . . . .

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

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

11. Shape (Sketch if Possible) . . N/S . . . . . .

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

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer . Not very high . . . . . .

14. Speed of Object(s) . . N/S . . . . . .

15. Time in Sight . . . N/S . . . . . .

16. Tactics . . . N/S . . . . . .

17. Sound Made by Object(s) . . . . Twice as loud as P-47 but similar in sound

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s) . . Cannot be ascertained from statement . . .
"came from direction 2238th Eng across field towards Hanger #1"

19. Apparent Construction (Of What Material or Substance) . "light" . . . . . .

20. Effect of Objects on Clouds and/or Exhaust Trail . . N/S . - no exhaust seen . .

21. Weather Conditions Existing at the Time . . Night - moonlit - as gleaned from statements of pilots .

22. Peculiarities Noted . did not look like an aircraft . . . . . .

23. Summary of Incident . (over) . . . . . .

(Attach a Separate Sheet if Additional Space is Needed)