UNCLASSIFIED

DATE/TIME 13 Dec 1948

LOCATION South Bay, Fla.

SOURCE Civilians

DATE IN TO ATIC ---

COLOR Red, blue and yellow

SIZE ---

ALTITUDE ---

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED ---

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

MANEUVERS ---

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

D

Incident #229 -- South Bay, Florida -- 13 December 1948
229a -- Riviera Beach, Florida -- 14 December 1948

There seem to be two separate occurrences reported in this incident, and the information given for each is entirely insufficient for adequate analysis.

In #229, the location of the object in the sky is not given, nor is the hour of observation. The moon and Jupiter were visible in the early evening, the moon quite high, and Jupiter setting in the west. One might hazard a guess that Jupiter seen through a variable mist or high, thin cloud coverage appeared to blaze up and die out. The larger planets often become momentarily spectacular when they are very near the horizon and the weather conditions are right.

#229a occurred at dusk, with the observers looking out over the ocean. The nearly-full moon was fairly high in the southeastern sky at that time; there might possibly be some connection between it and the object observed, if weather conditions were unusual.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

It's a Kite! It's a Blimp!—What Is It?

From Miss McDonald

Miami Herald 17 Dec 47

Odd Phenomenon Seen In Sky

People are seeing odd things in Florida skies again.

It's nothing so monotonous as flying saucers or blazing meteors, though. This time it's a "burning planet" at South Bay, and something that looks like a "great, big kite" at Riviera Beach.

Several persons at South Bay described a Monday night sight that looked as if "one of the larger planets was on fire with the light blazing up and dying down."

"Observed through field glasses, the phenomenon was beautifully colored in reds, blues and yellows," one witness said.

Several enterprising spectators even looked at the thing through binoculars. They reported it looked like a circle or halo of stars surrounding a blazing star.

At Riviera Beach, several persons, including a fireman and a special deputy, happened to be looking out over the ocean about dusk Tuesday.

"We saw a strange flying object," they reported. "It was silver colored with a big white spot on it like an airplane marking. It was a long way off, but it looked to be about 20 feet across.

"It looked like a great, big kite," they said.

It couldn't be a blimp, they decided. The way it dodged, slid and speeded up was very unblimplike.

The Miami Weather Bureau didn't know anything about it, and the Navy stated emphatically that it was not to blame for either of the incidents.

229

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

13 Dec

No. 229: Case dropped.

INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET

Incident No. 229

1. Date and Time of Observation: 13 Dec 48

2. Where Sighted: South Bay ?Florida

3. Observer's Position: Ground (With Binoculars)
(i. e., ground, air, control tower, etc.)

4. Name and Address of Observer: n/s

5. Occupation and/or hobbies: n/s

6. Attention Attracted by: n/s

7. Number of Object(s) Seen: n/s

8. Size of Object(s): n /ss

9. Color of Object(s): Red Blue Yellow

10. Shape (Sketch if Possible) Like circle or halo of stars surrounding a blazing star.

11. Nature of Luminosity:
(directed beam of light?)

12. Altitude of Object:
(estimated)

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer:

14. Estimated Speed of Object:

15. Time in Sight:

16. Tactics:

17. Sound Made by Object(s):

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s)

19. Apparent Construction:

20. Effect on Clouds:

21. Exhaust Trail (Color of):

22. Manner of Disappearance:

23. Weather Conditions at Time of Sighting:

24. Peculiarities Noted:

25. Summary of Incident: Complete investigation not being carried out due to meagerness of report.
(~~See attached page~~)

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, 69, 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.

UNCLASSIFIED

14 DEC 1948
RIVIERA BEACH FLA

Incident #229 -- South Bay, Florida -- 13 December 1948
229a -- Riviera Beach, Florida -- 14 December 1948

There seem to be two separate occurrences reported in this incident, and the information given for each is entirely insufficient for adequate analysis.

In #229, the location of the object in the sky is not given, nor is the hour of observation. The moon and Jupiter are visible in the early evening, the moon quite high, and Jupiter setting in the west. One might hazard a guess that Jupiter seen through a variable mist or high, thin cloud coverage appeared to blaze up and die out. The larger planets often become momentarily spectacular when they are very near the horizon and the weather conditions are right.

#229a occurred at dusk, with the observers looking out over the ocean. The nearly-full moon was fairly high in the southeastern sky at that time; there might possibly be some connection between it and the object observed, if weather conditions were unusual.

UNCLASSIFIED

Odd Phenomenon Seen in Sky

People are seeing odd things in Florida

[illegible] monotonous as [illegible] saucers or blazing meteors, though. This time a "brilliant flyer" at South Bay, and

Several persons at South Bay described a Monday night sight that looked as if "one of the larger planets was on fire with the light blazing up and dying down."

[illegible] fully colored in reds, blues [illegible] looked at the sky through binoculars. They reported it looked like a circle or halo of stars surrounding a white star.

At Riviera Beach, several persons [illegible] dusk Tuesday.

[illegible] a strong flying object." They [illegible] was a long way off, but it looked to be [illegible] 20 feet across.

"It looked like a great, big kite," they said.

It couldn't be a blimp, they decided. The [illegible] was designed, and [illegible] unblimplike.

The Miami Weather Bureau knew nothing about it, and the Navy acted emphatically that it was not to blame for either of the incidents.

INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET

Incident No. 229A

1. Date and Time of Observation: 14 Dec 1948

2. Where Sighted: Rivera Beach Florida

3. Observer's Position:
(i. e., ground, air, control tower, etc.) Ground (With Binoculars)

4. Name and Address of Observer: n/s

5. Occupation and/or hobbies: n/s

6. Attention Attracted by: n/s

7. Number of Object(s) Seen: n/s

8. Size of Object(s): 20 foot

9. Color of Object(s): Silver with big white spot.

10. Shape (Sketch if Possible) Like large kite.

11. Nature of Luminosity:
(directed beam of light?)

12. Altitude of Object:
(estimated)

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer:

14. Estimated Speed of Object:

15. Time in Sight:

16. Tactics: Dodged skid and speeded up.

17. Sound Made by Object(s):

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s)

19. Apparent Construction:

20. Effect on Clouds:

21. Exhaust Trail (Color of):

22. Manner of Disappearance:

23. Weather Conditions at Time of Sighting:

24. Peculicrities Noted:

25. Summary of Incident:

([redacted]) Complete investigation not being made due to meagerness of intial report.