2 PHOTO FACTS RECORD Incident #237

ATIC NO. - - - - - DATE OF INFO 16 Jan 1949

AF NO. - - - - LOCATION Bandon County, Ky.

SOURCE NO. - - - - SOURCE Newspaper Editor

DATE OF REPORT - - - DATE IN TO ATIC - - -

TIME OF SIGHTING 1630 CST COLOR Fiery

SHAPE Vapor trail SPEED - - - Estimated
Measured
Estimated

SIZE Vapor trail ALTITUDE - - - Measured

COURSE - - - LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 15 min.

NO. IN GROUP 1 TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

SOUND MANEUVERS - - -

PHOTOS (1) TEXT IN NEGATIVE SKETCHES - - -

OTTDR (Wire)

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

CSAF ITEM 7/SECRET/[redacted] CLASSIFIED

ATTENTION PROJECT GRUDGE

REQUEST BRIEF OF RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION AND CONCLUSION CONCERNING UNEXPALAINED MOVING OBJECT REPORTED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS FROM PARIS KENTUCKY, 16 JANUARY 1949, SIGHTED AT 4:30 PM BY MR [redacted], PARIS KENTUCKY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

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

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, 6, 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, 126, 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 #237 -- Bourbon County, Kentucky -- 16 January 1949

There is some confusion as to whether the object or the smoke trail reported in this incident was visible for fifteen minutes. If the object itself was, it could not have been a meteor, but the gist of the report seems to indicate that only the trail was visible for any length of time. In that case, it could have been either the trail from a meteor or the vapor trail from an aircraft: the description is not sufficient to distinguish the two. Other observers (not those reporting the incident) indicated that the object was a high flying plane with a vapor trail, but this does not necessarily exclude the meteoric hypothesis, because of the general unfamiliarity of the public with such phenomena.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

5D-OSI/JWF/fmn

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-4

16 February 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT "SIGN" [redacted]

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAKO-3, Captain B. Sneider

Inclosed is Report of Investigation, subject as above, dated 15 February 1949, for your information and any action deemed necessary.

H. B. GIBSON
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

1 Incl
Rpt of Inv dtd 15 Feb 49
(in dup)

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS;
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DOD DIR 5200.10

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[redacted]

MF-O-3 OCT 48 1SM

237

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

5D-OSI/JMF/fmn

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 5D 24-4	DATE 15 February 1949
REPORT MADE BY: Special Agent ARTHUR LITTON	
REPORT MADE AT: DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, O	
PERIOD: 26 January 1949 thru 6 February 1949	
OFFICE OF ORIGIN: DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, O	
STATUS: CLOSED	

TITLE

PROJECT "SIGN"

CHARACTER
SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE Telephone call from Captain B. Sneider, Technical Intelligence Division, HQ AMC, to Major Farrell, 5D-OSI, on 21 October 1948

SYNOPSIS

This investigation was requested by Captain B. Sneider, Technical Intelligence Division, HQ AMC, whose Section is charged with the investigation of unidentified aerial objects. At 1630 hours on 16 January 1949, Mr. [redacted] of Paris, Kentucky, saw a walmut shaped object emerging from behind a cloud, which object remained in sight for less that a minute. A "tube of light" remaining behind the object was photographed by Mrs. [redacted], wife of Mr. [redacted] Also at 1630 hours on 16 January 1949, Mr. [redacted] of Paris, Kentucky, noted a vapor streak building up for approximately 3 minutes, and which appeared to be climbing. At 1630 hours on 16 January 1949, a Mr. [redacted] Paris, Kentucky, also saw a vapor trail, the source of which was not visible from the ground.

CLOSED

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

DISTRIBUTION

CG, AMC (MCIAXO-3)
Action Cys 2
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5D-OSI File 2

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CG, AMC, ATTN: MCIAXO-3

APPROVED

H. B. GIBSON
Colonel, USAF
DISTRICT COMMANDER

FILE STAMP

UNCLASSIFIED

237

AFOSI FORM 1

16—56438-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

[redacted]

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5D 24-4 15 Feb 49

DETAILS:

AT PARIS, KENTUCKY

1. Mr. [redacted] eet, Paris, Ky., was interviewed on 26 January 1949 and stated, in substance, that at approximately 1630 hours on 16 January 1949, he was proceeding in his automobile in a southwesterly direction, towards Paris, Ky., accompanied by his wife, Mrs. [redacted], and his niece, [redacted] St., Lexington, Ky. Mrs. [redacted] called his attention to the sunlight reflected on the clouds in the western sky, and as he gazed into the sky, his attention was attracted to a walnut shaped object emerging from behind a cloud. Sight of this object emerging from obscurity into reflected light was maintained for less than one minute. Attention was then focused on a "tube of light" that remained behind as the object moved across the sky. Mrs. [redacted] made four exposures of the "tube of light" during its progress. Mr. [redacted] described the course of the object as steady and as though some object on an outward sweeping arc had crossed his field of vision at a great distance from the earth. The fourth and last exposure of the "tube of light" fully extended, as published in the Nicholas County Star and the Kentuckian-Citizen, is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". The photograph is accompanied by an article written by Mr. [redacted] Specific answers to essential elements of information, furnished by Mr. [redacted] is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

237A 2. Mr. [redacted], Paris, Ky., was interviewed on 26 January 1949, and stated, in substance, that he was in the yard of his residence about 1630 hours on 16 January 1949 and on one occasion when he gazed at the sky, he noted a "vapor streak" building up. The streak was forming in a manner similar to that used in ejecting smoke in "sky writing." The building up process was observed for a period of approximately three minutes and then was lost behind the clouds. The streak formed on a bearing between ten and twenty degrees south of east, and appeared to be climbing during the period of motion observed. The altitude of the "vapor streak" was not less than 15,000 feet and appeared to be at an angle of approximately 70 degrees from the horizon. Mr. [redacted] stated that he had seen numerous "vapor streaks" from both the air and ground during his period of service as a paratrooper in the European Theater and had given the sight no further consideration. Specific answers to essential elements of information, furnished by Mr. [redacted] is attached hereto as Exhibit "C".

237B 3. Mr. [redacted] Street, Paris, Ky., was interviewed on 26 January 1949 at the Paris Airport, and stated in substance, that he was standing in front of the Operations Office of the Airport about 1630 hours on 16 January 1949, and someone in the immediate vicinity mentioned that a vapor trail was forming in the sky. On looking in the indicated direction, he saw a "vapor trail" building up between 25,000 and 30,000 feet over a formation of Cirrus clouds and moving in a southeast direction. The position of the

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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5D 24-4 15 Feb 49

"vapor trail" was at an angle of approximately fifty degrees from the horizon when first observed. The source was not visible from the ground due to the altitude of the trail. The speed, in Mr. [redacted] estimation, based on time required to traverse horizon to horizon, was greater than a gasoline propelled craft, and he automatically thought the trail was formed by an Army or Navy jet propelled craft. Mr. [redacted] stated that he was familiar with "vapor trails" from both the air and ground and he had seen innumerable such trails during his service as a B-24 Pilot in the European Theater. Mr. [redacted] further stated that he is presently employed as Manager of the Paris Airport. Specific answers to essential elements of information, furnished by Mr. [redacted], are attached hereto as Exhibit "D". Attached hereto as Exhibit "E" is an unsworn statement furnished by Mr. [redacted], in support of the above interview.

WEATHER CHECK:

AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

4. A review of the files by the Officer in Charge, Weather Detachment, Godman AFB, on 3 February 1949 indicated the teletype sequence of weather as of 1630 hours, 16 January 1949 to be as follows:

FTK-813 E5[illegible]2R-F 173/47/47[illegible]/ØØ3/CMDS/CHGBL [illegible]/Ø 2326 Ø 2167

A review of the files made by the Officer in Charge, Weather Detachment, Godman AFB, on 3 February 1949 indicated the Winds Aloft Report of 16 January 1949, to show winds 60 miles per hour, southwest, at 20,000 feet increasing to 100 miles per hour at 35,000 feet.

AT LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

5. A review of files made by the weather office, Lexington Airport on 6 February 1949 indicated the teletype sequence of weather as of 1630 hours on 16 January 1949 to be as follows:

LEX E30-0015 169/64/54'9/002/E250-0

A check of the files of the weather office, Lexington Airport on 6 February 1949 showed the winds aloft on 16 January 1949 to be southwest, 35 miles perhour at 10,000 feet increasing to 60 miles per hour at 20,000 feet and 60 miles per hour, southwest, at 20,000 feet increasing to 100 miles per hour at 35,000 feet.

GENERAL WEATHER CHECK FOR STATE OF KENTUCKY

6. The weather reports for 16 January 1949 showed conditions in the State of Kentucky to be generally overcast with rain. Occasional breaks occurred in the overcast at which time the ceiling was estimated at 3,000 feet. Winds aloft reports showed a velocity of 35 miles per hour at 10,000 feet progressing to 100 miles per hour at 35,000 feet.

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CLOSED

[redacted]

INCIDENT NO. 237

1. Date of Observation 16 Jan 49 Date of Interview 18 Jan 49
2. Exact time (local) 4:30 P. M.
3. Place of Observation Bourbon County, Ky
4. Position of observer ground
5. What attracted attention to object 8:-
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size Larger than comet
8. Color of object silver to golden
9. Shape ball
10. Altitude
11. Direction from observer
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s)
14. Time in sight
15. Speed
16. Sound and Odor
17. Trail fiery-colored smoke trail which was visible several mimutes
18. Luminosity "brilliant shaft of light"
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers
21. Manner of disappearance
22. Effect on clouds
23. Additional information concerning object Newspaper clipping shows photograph of the object and its trail
24. Weather conditions

(over)

Incident: 237

Name and address of observer: Mr Paul Brannon, 147 E. Main St, Paris Kentucky

Occupation and hobbies: Publisher of the Nicholas County Star & the Kentuckian-Citizen

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s): Mr [redacted] appeared to be above average in intelligence and of sound character. Due to harrassing by friends and fellow newsmen, Mr Brannon has assumed a slightly belligerent attitude with respect to his sighting. He has adopted the attitude that he knows what he saw and has not been convinced by any explanation to date.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

At approximately 1630 hours on 16 Jan 1949 while proceeding in his automobile in a southwesterly direction toward Paris, Ky, accompanied by his wife and his niece, Mrs [redacted] called his attention to the sunlight reflected on the clouds in the western sky. As he gazed into the sky his attention was attracted to a walnut shaped object emerging from behind a cloud. The sight of the object emerging from obscurity into reflected light was maintained for less than one minute. Attention was then focussed on a "tube of light" that remained behind as the object moved across the sky. Mrs [redacted] made four exposures of the tube of light during its progress. Mr [redacted] described the course as steady and as though some object on an outward sweeping arc had crossed his field of vision at a great distance from the earth. The fourth and last exposure of the "tube of light" fully extended as published in the Nicholas County Star and the Kentuckian-Citizen is attached as Exhibit "A". (See files)

INCIDENT NO. 237

1. Date of Observation 16 Jan 49 Date of Interview 26 Jan 49
2. Exact time (local) 1630
3. Place of Observation 3 miles northeast of Paris, Kentucky
4. Position of observer Ground from auto
5. What attracted attention to object: - sunlight reflected on clouds
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size size of walnut
8. Color of object dark - occasionally referred to as black
9. Shape Referred to as both bullet-shaped and shape of a hulled black walnut
10. Altitude Could not be estimated
11. Direction from observer
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s) West to east direction
14. Time in sight 1 minute - "tube of light" seen for approximately 15 minutes
15. Speed Could not be estimated
16. Sound and Odor None
17. Trail ribbon or trail similar to that of a neon tube - various colors reflected in the tube due to setting sun
18. Luminosity Reflected light of sun
19. Projections None observed
20. Maneuvers Movement steady - apparently climbing on a 30 to 40° angle during period of observation
21. Manner of disappearance Passed beyond field of vision of observer
22. Effect on clouds
23. Additional information concerning object
24. Weather conditions The weather reports for 16 Jan 49 for State of Kentucky showed conditions to be generally overcast with rain. Occasional breaks occurred in the overcast at which time the ceiling was estimated at 3,000 ft.

Name and address of observer: Mr & Mrs [redacted]

Occupation and hobbies: Mr [redacted] is an editor

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s): Informant has a local reputation as a "publicity bound"

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

An unexplained moving object trailing a bright light across the sky was sighted near here today by [redacted] Paris newspaper publisher. [redacted] and his wife observed a ball-shaped object "literally opening up a path across the heavens". Object was sighted between Paris and North Middletown. At first the object had a silver color but took on a golden hue from the sun's rays. "It looked almost like another planet", he said. "I've seen meteors and Halley's Comet, but it wasn't as small as those. This thing was a brilliant shaft of light that you couldn't help but see..." [redacted] said it was visible at least 15 minutes. A picture was taken by Mrs [redacted] few minutes after they first observed the object streaking out from behind a small cloud.

Possible Explanation by CIC Agent CHARLES J. FLETCHER, 109 CIC Detachment & gleaned from various newspaper clippings

Mr [redacted], Jr, brother of CIC Agent J. D. Haggard, 109th CIC Det, was interviewed on 18 Jan 49 and stated that he, too, had seen the "thing in the sky" as outlined in the news story. He stated that it was unquestionably a very high flying aircraft with concomitant vapor trail.

[redacted] who lives 8 miles from Lexington on the Richmond Road stated that he saw a small plane emitting smoke going toward Winchester about 4:30 P. M., 16 Jan 49. He said the fiery-colored smoke trail remained visible several minutes.

[redacted], said he was returning to Louisville on State Highway, 169 between Richmond & Nicholasville when he first observed the plane flying at a high altitude. He thought that it was a sky-writing airplane trailing smoke.

[redacted]

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PROJECT SIGN

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

1. Date of sighting: 16 January 1949

2. Time of sighting: 1630 hours.

3. Where sighted:
   a. Ground
      (1) Town: Paris, Kentucky.
      (2) Approximately three (3) miles northeast of Paris, Ky.
      (3) Sighted from automobile - progress observed from ground.
      (4) Map coordinates not known.

4. Number of objects: one (1).

5. Distance of object from observer:
   a. Horizontal of Lateral distance could not be estimated.
   b. Angle of elevation from horizon: 40-50 degrees.
   c. Altitude: Could not be estimated.

6. Time in sight: Object observed for approximately one (1) minute. "Tube of light" observed for approximately fifteen (15) minutes.

7. Appearance of object:
   a. Color: Dark (Occassionally referred to as black).
   b. Shape: Referred to as both bullet shaped and the shape of a hulled black walnut.
   c. Construction: Not determined.
   d. Size: Appeared about the size and shape of a walnut.

8. Direction of flight: General west to east direction.

9. Tactics or maneuvers: Movement steady. Apparently climbing on a 30 to 40 degree angle during period observed.

10. Evidence of exhaust: Object left behind a ribbon or trail, similar to that of a neon tube. Various colors were reflected in the tube due to the setting sun.

11. Effect on clouds: None observed.

12. Lights: Reflected light of sun.

13. Support: None observed.

14. Propulsion: None observed.

15. Control and stability: None observed.

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[redacted]

5D 24-4

EXHIBIT "B"

[redacted]

PROJECT "SIGN"

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

16. Air ducts: None observed.

17. Speed: Could not be estimated.

18. Sound: None.

19. Radio antenna: None observed.

20. Manner of disapperance: Passed beyond field of vision of observer.

RELATIVE TO THE OBSERVER

1. Name: Mr. [redacted].

2. Address: [redacted], Paris, Ky.

3. Occupation: Publisher of the Nicholas County Star and the Kentuckian-Citizen.

4. Place of Business: The Kentuckian-Citizen, 147 E. Main St., Paris, Ky.

5. Hobbies: None.

6. Ability to determine color, speed of moving objects and size at a distance could not be ascertained.

7. Reliability: Reported to be completely reliable by three neighbors and the Sheriff of Bourbon County, Ky.

8. Observers attention originally drawn to sunset. Attention further arrested by a dark walnut shaped object appearing from behind a cloud and leaving a neon like tube of light behind it.

9. Witnesses:

Mrs. Irene Brannon
[redacted]
Paris, Ky.

Miss Elizabeth Fritz
[redacted]
Lexington, Ky.

10. Comments of interrogator: Mr [redacted] appeared to be above average in intelligence and of sound character. Due to harrassing by friends and fellow newsmen, Mr. [redacted] has assumed a slightly beligerent attitude with respect to the "Thing in the sky". He has adopted the attitude that he knows what he saw and has not been convinced by any explanation offered to date.

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[redacted]

5D 24-4

EXHIBIT "B"

INCIDENT NO. 2373

1. Date of Observation 16 Jan 49 Date of Interview 26 Jan 49
2. Exact time (local) 1630
3. Place of Observation Paris Airport, 2 miles north of
4. Position of observer ground
5. What attracted attention to object : Attention drawn to vapor trail by an unnamed individual at the airport
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size
8. Color of object
9. Shape Only vapor trail seen. Source of vapor trail not determined
10. Altitude 50° from horizon - 25,000 - 30,000 ft above formation of cirrus c clouds
11. Direction from observer
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s) Southeast
14. Time in sight Three to five minutes from horizon to horizon
15. Speed Greater than gas-propelled aircraft
16. Sound and Odor
17. Trail Only vapor trail observed
18. Luminosity Reflected light of sun
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers Steady flight
21. Manner of disappearance Faded from view beyond horizon
22. Effect on clouds
23. Additional information concerning object : Believed by observer to be jet aircraft due to speed in traversing horizon to horizon.
24. Weather conditions Generally overcast with rain occasional breaks in 3,000 ft overcast. Winds 35 MPH at 10,000 to 100 MPH at 35,000 feet

(over)

Incident: ~~2373~~

Name and address of observer: [redacted], [redacted], Paris, Ky

Occupation and hobbies: Manager, [redacted]

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s): Mr [redacted] appears to be of above average intelligence and of good character. He is disgusted at the publicity given the incident

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

At approximately 4:30 P. M. on January 16, 1949 Mr [redacted] attention was called to a vapor trail. It was building up at approximately 25-30,000 feet over a formation of cirrus clouds and moving in a southeast direction. Its position was at an angle of about 50° to the horizon when first observed. Due to the altitude of said formation, its source was not visible from the ground.

[redacted]

PROJECT "SIGN" UNCLASSIFIED

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

1. Date of sighting: 16 January 1949.

2. Time of Sighting: 1630 hours.

3. Where sighted:

   a. Ground:
      (1) Town: Paris, Ky.
      (2) Sighted from Paris Airport, two (2) miles north of Paris, Ky.
      (3) Sighted from ground.
      (4) Map coordinates not ascertained.

4. Number of objects: One (1).

5. Distance from observer:

   a. Horizontal distance: Not estimated.
   b. Angle of elevation from horizon: Fifty (50) degrees.
   c. Altitude: 25,000 to 30,000 feet.

6. Time in sight: Three (3) to five (5) minutes, from horizon to horizon.

7. Appearance of object: "Vapor trail", source not determined.

8. Direction of flight: Southeast.

9. Tactics or maneuvers: Flight steady.

10. Evidence of exhaust: None observed.

11. Effect on clouds: None.

12. Lights: Reflected light of sun.

13. Support: None observed.

14. Propulsion: None observed. Believed jet due to speed in traversing horizon to horizon.

15. Control and Stability: Not observed.

16. Air ducts: None observed.

17. Speed: Not estimated.

18. Radio antenna: None observed.

20. Manner of disappearance: Faded from view beyond horizon.

[redacted]

5D 24-4 EXHIBIT "D" UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

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PROJECT "SIGN"

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

RELATIVE TO THE OBSERVER

1. Name: [redacted]

2. Address: [redacted], Paris, Ky.

3. Occupation: Manager, Paris Airport.

4. Place of business: Paris Airport.

5. Hobbies: Model aircraft.

6. Ability to determine color, speed and size at a distance not ascertained.

7. Reliability: Neighbors and Sheriffs Office report Mr. [redacted] to be completely reliable.

8. Attention drawn to vapor trail by an unnamed individual at the airport.

9. Witnesses: Names of those present could not be recalled at time of interview.

10. Comments of interrogator: Mr [redacted] appears to be of above average intelligence and of good character. He is disgusted at the publicity given to the incident.

[redacted]

EXHIBIT #21

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

PHONE 6

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PARIS AIRPORT

AIRCRAFT SALES AND SERVICE

RUDDLES MILL ROAD

PARIS, KENTUCKY

26 Jan 1949

At approximatel four thirty (4:30) P.M. on January 16, 1949, my attention was called to a vapor trail. It was building up at approximately 25-30,000 feet over a formation of Cirrus clouds and moving in a south east direction. Its position was at an angle of about 50 degrees to the horizon when first observed. Due to the altitude of said formation, its source was not visible from the ground.

[redacted]

EXHIBIT "E"

UNCLASSIFIED

237

INCIDENT NO. ~~2371~~

1. Date of Observation 16 Jan 49 Date of Interview 26 Jan 49
2. Exact time (local) 1630 hours
3. Place of Observation Paris, Ky
4. Position of observer from yard, central part of Paris, Ky.
5. What attracted attention to object - chanced to look at the sky and saw something seen previously in the European Theater
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size Not seen - only vapor trail observed
8. Color of object
9. Shape
10. Altitude 70° from horizon - not less than 15,000 feet
11. Direction from observer
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s) 100-110°
14. Time in sight 3 minutes
15. Speed Could not be estimated
16. Sound and dor
17. Trail Vapor trail similar to sky writing
18. Luminosity reflected light of sun
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers Appeared to be climbing in steady flight
21. Manner of disappearance Lost behind clouds
22. Effect on clouds
23. Additional information concerning object
24. Weather conditions

(over)

Incident: 237A

Name and address of observer: Mr [redacted] St., Paris, Ky

Occupation and hobbies: Manager of Jewelry Store

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

Mr [redacted] appears to be of average intelligence and of good character. He appears disgusted with publicity given to what he considers to be only a "vapor trail" of an aircraft flying at high altitude.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

About 1630 hours on 16 Jan 49 Mr [redacted] on one occasion when he gazed at the sky noted a "vapor streak" building up. The streak was forming in a manner similar to that used in ejecting smoke in "sky writing". The building up process was observed for a period of approximately three minutes and then was lost behind the clouds. The streak formed on a bearing between ten and twenty degrees south of east and appeared to be climbing during the period of motion observed. The altitude of the "vapor streak" was not less than 15,000 feet and appeared to be at an angle of approximately 70° from the horizon. [redacted] stated that he had seen numerous "vapor streaks" from both the air and ground during his period of service as a paratrooper in the European Theater and had given the sight no further consideration.

[redacted]

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PROJECT "SIGN"

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

1. Date of sighting: 16 January 1949.

2. Time of sighting: 1630 hours.

3. Where sighted:

   a. Ground
      (1) Town: Paris, Ky.
      (2) Sighted from central part of Paris, Ky.
      (3) Sighted from yard.
      (4) Map coordinates not known.

4. Number of Objects: One (1).

5. Distance from observer:
   a. Horizontal distance: Not estimated.
   b. Angle of elevation from horizon: Seventy (70) degrees.
   c. Altitude: Not less than 15,000 feet.

6. Time in sight: Approximately three (3) minutes.

7. Appearance of object: "Vapor trail" similar in effect to sky writing was observed. Source of "vapor trail" was not determined.

8. Direction of flight: Bearing ten (10) to (20) degrees south of east.

9. Tactics of maneuvers: Flight steady- appeared to be climbing.

10. Evidence of exhaust: none observed.

11. Effect on clouds: None.

12. Lights: Reflected light of sun.

13. Support: None observed.

14. Propulsion: None observed.

15. Control and stability: Not observed.

16. Air ducts: None observed.

17. Speed: Could not be estimated.

18. Sound: None.

19. Radio antenna: None observed.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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PROJECT "SIGN"

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

20. Manner of disappearance: Behind clouds.

RELATIVE TO THE OBSERVER

1. Name: [redacted]

2. Address: [redacted].

3. Occupation: Manager of Jewelry store.

4. Place of business: Ellis Jewelers, Paris, Ky.

5. Hobbies: None.

6. Ability to determine color, speed and size at a distance not as certained.

7. Reliability: Business associates in vicinity and Sheriff Office report Mr. White to be completely reliable.

8. Attention was drawn to object through an unplanned glance at the sky and recognized a sight seen previously in the European Theater.

9. Witnesses: None.

10. Comments of interrogator: Mr. [redacted] appears to be of average intelligence and of good character. He appears to be disgusted with the publicity given, to what he considers to be only the "vapor trail" of an aircraft flying at high altitude.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Request for Information

5D OSI MCIAXO-3 23 Feb 49 1
ATTN: Maj Farrell

1. Reference is made to Report of Investigation File 5D 2l+-4 dated 15 February 1949.

2. It is desired that original negatives (particularly those published) of the unidentified aerial phenomenon photographed by Mrs [redacted] as noted in referenced report, be obtained on a loan basis for further study and evaluation by this Headquarters.

3. If negatives are available the following information would greatly assist personnel in making an analysis:

a. Type and model of camera used.

b. Type and speed of lens.

c. Duration of exposures.

d. Intervals between exposures.

e. Type of developer used.

f. Was any retouching done.

[redacted]

W. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Tech Intelligence Division
Intelligence Department

CWT/aw
6-5310
Bldg 258

MCIAXO-3 File 237

UNCLASSIFIED

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

Amc
V.A

Mv. K. Lowell

[redacted] CLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS SECOND ARMY
FORT GEO. G. MEADE, MD.

AF 39695

AIASB-Z-67135

24 January 1949

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SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Director of Intelligence
General Staff, U. S. Army
Washington 25, D. C.

ATTN: Chief, Intelligence Group

1. Reference is made to Department of the Army letter CSGID 452.1, dated 1 November 1948, subject as above.

2. Inclosed herewith is an agent's report, together with a newspaper clipping regarding an unexplained moving object in the sky above Bourbon County, Kentucky, which is being forwarded for your information and any action deemed necessary.

FOR THE AC OF S, G-2:

2 Incls.
1. Agent's Report
2. Clipping

R. D. ALBRO
Lt Col, GSC
Actg Dir, ZI Intell Div

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

237

[redacted] CLASSIFIED

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AF 6692

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Project "Sign" - Incident: 237

JAN 17 1949

5D OSI
Attn: Maj Farrell

MCIAXC-3

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1. It is requested your office initiate an investigation of an unidentified aerial object as observed by Mr [redacted] (Paris, Ky. newspaper publisher) and others. This phenomenon was alleged to have been seen at approximately 4:30 P. M., 16 January 1949.

2. As a guide to the investigating officer in recording the desired data three copies of the "Essential Elements of Information" form are inclosed herewith.

2 Incls
1. Newspaper clipping
2. "EEI" (3 cys)

W. R. CLINGERMAN
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Tech Intelligence Div
Intelligence Department

HMS/aw
6-5510
Bldg 288

Operations Section File Cy

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]