

416

ATIC NO. _____
 AF NO. _____
 REPORT NO. _____
 DATE OF REPORT 1 Aug 49
 TIME OF REPORT 2100 P - 2130P
 LOCATION _____
 COUNTRY _____
 OBJECT Hovered then Southeast
 NUMBER 1
 SKETCHES _____
 DESCRIPTION Comparable to helicopter
 PORTLAND tower reported object with two red lights and one white light hovering in the area. The object appeared to drop two white flares and ease closer to Portland. When one of four airline pilots who saw the object attempted to intercept it, it turned to the southeast and pulled away easily. Unidentified

DATE OF INFO 30 July 1949LOCATION Mt. Hood, OregonSOURCE Airline pilots and Tower OperatorsDATE INFO ATIC _____COLOR Displayed 2 red lights and one whiteSPEED 0-210 MPH plusALTITUDE 2,000-6,000'LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 30 Min.TYPE OF OBSERVATION Aerial and Ground

DESCRIPTION Comparable to helicopter
 PORTLAND tower reported object with two red lights and one white light hovering in the area. The object appeared to drop two white flares and ease closer to Portland. When one of four airline pilots who saw the object attempted to intercept it, it turned to the southeast and pulled away easily. Unidentified

UNCLASSIFIED

INCIDENT NO. 416

1. Date of Observation 30 July 1949 Date of Interview _____
2. Exact Time (local) 2100-2130P
3. Place of Observation Vicinity Portland, Troutdale & Mt. Hood, Oregon
4. Position of observer Air and in tower
5. What attracted attention to object
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size
8. Color of object See #23
9. Shape
10. Altitude 2,000-6,000 feet
11. Direction from observer
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s) East
14. Time in sight
15. Speed 0-210 MPH
16. Sound and odor
17. Trail
18. Luminosity
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers Maneuvered and hovered in vicinity for 30 minutes like helicopter
21. Manner of disappearance
22. Effect on Clouds
23. Additional information concerning object Object displayed 2 red and 1 white lights
24. Weather Conditions Sky clear, visibility unlimited

(over)

UNCLASSIFIED

7-3712-22

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 2

Incident 416

Name and address of observer: Capt [REDACTED] c/o [REDACTED] Dispatch Office, Portland, Ore;
[REDACTED], Portland, Oregon

Occupation and hobbies: [REDACTED], Portland, Oregon

Pilot NW Airlines
Tower Operator
Civ. Instructor Pilot
CAA Tower Operator

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

NARRATIVE SUMMARY:

General remarks: At approximately 2100P Portland Tower reported to Flight Service that an object displaying two red lights and one white light was seen hovering just south of the Columbia River where the Bonneville Power Lines cross the river. It appeared to drop two white flares and seemed to ease closer to Portland. The object hovered in this area approximately thirty (30) minutes and then disappeared to the east. Believing the object might be an aircraft in emergency, Portland Tower stacked four incoming airliners over the airport. The pilots of these four airliners saw the object and their names and addresses are available from Mr. [REDACTED]

Captain [REDACTED], the pilot of a Northwest Airline Martin 202, reported that while approaching Portland from the east he noticed what appeared to be an aircraft displaying two red lights and one white light. Since this was nonstandard lighting Captain [REDACTED] watched the object very closely. His sighting of this object was at 2110P at an altitude of six (6) thousand feet and he was approximately five (5) miles west of Stevenson, Washington. He reported that the object was behind him and slightly to the left and maintained that same position until Troutdale. When over Troutdale Captain [REDACTED] heard Portland Tower giving instructions to other aircraft to hold over the airport because of an unidentified flying object dropping flares. Upon hearing this information Captain Thrush turned one hundred and eighty (180) degrees and attempted to intercept the flying object displaying the two red lights and one white light that had been following him. He reported that this object then turned to the southeast and appeared to pull away from him quite easily. Captain [REDACTED] reported that his indicated airspeed was two hundred and ten (210) miles per hour while he was trying to intercept the object.

[REDACTED] reported that he saw the object while in the traffic pattern in Troutdale, Oregon. He was flying at an altitude of one (1) thousand three (3) hundred feet indicated and reported that the object appeared to be five (5) hundred to eight (8) hundred feet above him and at an estimated distance of twenty (20) miles to the east.

The only Air Force aircraft in the vicinity at the time was a B-29, AF 7758, who was over Portland at 2130P at an altitude of seven (7) thousand five (5) hundred feet, northbound. The pilot was questioned and stated that he did not drop any flares and did not circle over Portland and did not see anything unusual.

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING MESSA E

UNCLASSIFIED

10:09

14 1 AUG 49

FROM FLIGHT SERVICE CENTER MCCORD AFB TACOMA WASH 311000Z
TO AWC WPAFB
INFO AACE WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT WASH DC
CAC MITCHEL AFB NY
4TH AF HAMILTON AFB SAN RAFAEL CALIF

ACTION ATTN MILAKO-3
INFO ATTN DIR OF INTELLIGENCE.

FOR REP OF SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS IS SUBMITTED:
A. VICINITY OF PORTLAND OREGON, TROUTDALE OREGON AND MT ROSS
OREGON FROM 2100P TO 2130P 30 JULY.
B. SKY CLEAR VISIBILITY UNLIMITED.
C. (1) CAPT [REDACTED] PILOT NORTHWEST AIRLINES, WMA DISPATCH
OFFICE PORTLAND OREGON (2) ROBERT NEWBY, TOWEL OPERATOR, [REDACTED]
AIRPORT, BOX [REDACTED] PORTLAND OREGON (3) [REDACTED] CIVILIAN
INSTRUCTOR PILOT, WESTERN SKYWAYS TROUTDALE OREGON, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], PORTLAND 6 OREGON (4) E J DRASFORD, CAA PORT
OPERATOR PORTLAND AIRPORT [REDACTED]
HAD THE NAMES OF 4 OTHER WITNESSES OF THE INCIDENT.
D. NOT AVAILABLE. E. NOT AVAILABLE. F. (1) 1, (2) UNDETERMINED (3)
UNDETERMINED (4) OBJECT DISPLAYED 2 RED LIGHTS AND 1 WHITE
LIGHT (5) FM 0 TO IN EXCESS OF 210 MPH (6) OBJECT MANEUVERED
AND HOVERED IN THE VICINITY OF PORTLAND AND TROUTDALE FOR PERIOD
OF THREE ZERO MIN AND WAS LAST SEEN PROCEEDING EAST (7)
OBJECT WAS SEEN TO BE ABLE TO MANEUVER AS HELICOPTER (8)
2000 FT TO 7000 FT (9) NONE RPTD (10) NONE RPTD C.
AT 2100 PORTLAND TOWER RPTD AN OBJECT DISPLAYING 2 RED LIGHTS
AND 1 WHITE LIGHT HOVERING JUST SOUTH OF COLUMBIA RIVER

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

ACTION COPY

ACTION COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING MESSA E

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 2 OF 14 1 AUG 49

WHERE BONNEVILLE POWER LINES CROSS THE RIVER. IT APPEARED TO
 BE 2 WHITE PLANES AND SEEMED TO BEAT CLOSER TO BOUNDARY
 THE OBJECT HOVERED IN THIS AREA APPROX 30 MIN AND THEN DISAPPEARED
 TO THE EAST. DURING THE NIGHT OF 10 AUGUST, CHAIRMAN
 TOLSON STATED A AIRLINE, OVER THE AIRPORT, THE PILOTS OF
 THESE 4 AIRLINES SAW THE OBJECT AND THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES
 ARE AVAILABLE FROM [REDACTED]. CAPT [REDACTED] THE PILOT OF
 NWA B747 VIA MARTIN 202 NOTED THAT WHILE FLYING OVER THE
 PORTLAND IN THE VICINITY OF MT HOOD AT 7000 FT HE SAW AN
 OBJECT DISPLAYING 2 RED LIGHTS AND 1 WHITE LIGHT. THIS OBJECT
 APPEARED TO HAVE UNCONVENTIONAL LIGHTING SO HE GAVE UP ON
 THE OBJECT AND NOTED THE OBJECT WAS AWAY IN HIS CORNER AND
 SAME DIRECTION AT GREAT SPEED. CAPT [REDACTED] STATED HE WAS
 INDICATING 210 MPH AT THE TIME HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE
 THE OBJECT. THIS OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER 2130P. HE
 NOTED THAT HE SAW THE OBJECT WHILE IN THE TRAFFIC PATTERN
 AT TROUTDALE OREGON AT AN ALTITUDE OF 1300 FT INDICATED
 AND THAT THE OBJECT APPEARED TO BE 500 FT TO 800 FT ABOVE HIM
 AND AT AN ESTIMATED DISTANCE OF 20 MILES TO THE EAST. THIS
 LIVESAY MCCORD FLT SVC CNTR

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
 DOD 11-2

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

MCCHORD FLIGHT SERVICE CENTER
McChord Air Force Base
Washington

TCM 452

1 August 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson AF Base, Ohio
ATTENTION: MCIAXO-3

1. The following report of sighting of unidentified flying objects is submitted:

a. Location and time of sighting: In the vicinity of Portland, Oregon, Troutdale, Oregon, and Mount Hood, Oregon, from 2100P to 2130P, 30 July 1949.

b. Weather at the time: Sky clear, visibility unlimited.

c. Names, occupations, and addresses of witnesses:

(1) Captain [REDACTED], pilot Northwest Airlines, address Northwest Airlines Dispatch Office, Portland, Oregon.

(2) [REDACTED], CAA Tower Operator, Portland Airport, [REDACTED], Portland, Oregon.

(3) [REDACTED] Civilian Instructor Pilot, Western Skyways, Troutdale, Oregon, [REDACTED], Portland 6, Oregon.

(4) [REDACTED], CAA Tower Operator, Portland Airport, [REDACTED] Portland, Oregon. Mr. [REDACTED] has the names and addresses of four other witnesses of this sighting.

d. Photographs of objects, if available: Photographs of objects are not available.

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

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

S-68845-

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~ R7C

TCM 452

1 August 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

e. Sketches of object's configuration: Sketches of object's configuration are not available.

f. Object sighted:

- (1) Number: One.
- (2) Shape: Undetermined.
- (3) Size: Undetermined.
- (4) Color: Object displayed two red lights and one white light.
- (5) Speed: Was from zero to in excess of two hundred and ten (210) miles per hour.
- (6) Heading: Object maneuvered and hovered in the vicinity of Portland and Troutdale for a period of thirty (30) minutes and was last seen proceeding east.
- (7) Maneuverability: Object seemed to be able to maneuver as a helicopter.
- (8) Altitude: Two (2) thousand to six (6) thousand feet.
- (9) Sound: Not reported.
- (10) Exhaust trail or not: Not reported.

g. General remarks: At approximately 2100P Portland Tower reported to Flight Service that an object displaying two red lights and one white light was seen hovering just south of the Columbia River where the Bonneville Power lines cross the river. It appeared to drop two white flares and seemed to ease closer to Portland. The object hovered in this area approximately thirty (30) minutes and then disappeared to the east. Believing the object might be an aircraft in emergency, Portland Tower stacked four incoming airliners over the airport. The pilots of these four airliners saw the object and their names and addresses are available from Mr. [REDACTED]

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVA.
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD 6200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

2

~~SECRET~~ S-68345-

~~SECRET~~ UNCLASSIFIED

TCM 452

1 August 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

Captain [REDACTED], the pilot of a Northwest Airline [REDACTED], reported that while approaching Portland from the east he noticed what appeared to be an aircraft displaying two red lights and one white light. Since this was nonstandard lighting Captain [REDACTED] watched the object very closely. His sighting of this object was at 2110P at an altitude of six (6) thousand feet and he was approximately five (5) miles west of Stevenson, Washington. He reported that the object was behind him and slightly to the left and maintained that same position until Troutdale. When over Troutdale Captain [REDACTED] heard Portland Tower giving instructions to other aircraft to hold over the airport because of an unidentified flying object dropping flares. Upon hearing this information Captain [REDACTED] turned one hundred and eighty (180) degrees and attempted to intercept the flying object displaying the two red lights and one white light that had been following him. He reported that this object then turned to the southeast and appeared to pull away from him quite easily. Captain [REDACTED] reported that his indicated airspeed was two hundred and ten (210) miles per hour while he was trying to intercept the object.

Mr. [REDACTED] reported that he saw the object while in the traffic pattern in Troutdale, Oregon. He was flying at an altitude of one (1) thousand three (3) hundred feet indicated and reported that the object appeared to be five (5) hundred to eight (8) hundred feet above him and at an estimated distance of twenty (20) miles to the east.

The only Air Force aircraft in the vicinity at the time was a B-29, AF 7758, who was over Portland at 2130P at an altitude of seven (7) thousand five (5) hundred feet, northbound. The pilot was questioned and stated that he did not drop any flares and did not circle over Portland and did not see anything unusual.

Earl J. Livesay
EARL J. LIVESAY
Lt. Col., USAF
Commanding

UNCLASSIFIED

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

~~SECRET~~

S-683-45

COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

The following is from NAD 47075; AF 95910-1:

4 Aug 1949

Subj: Flying Discs, Report of
Ref: (a) CNO Conf Ltr Cp322V P16-3/QN, ser 0422P32 dated 4 Nov 1948
1. In accordance with reference (a), following information is submitted:

At 2100 hours on 30 July 1949, between [redacted] Washington, and Troutdale, Oregon, a group of unidentified lights were sighted by Northwest Airlines pilot [redacted], Portland, Oregon, while on a routine flight from Yakima to Portland. [redacted] stated the objects could have been two or three planes flying in very close formation, however, the red lights were on the wrong side for airborne aircraft. When [redacted] circled the field to await instructions for landing, the object changed course about 50° and left the vicinity.

The co-pilot of the plane, [redacted], also of Portland, sighted the lights but was not available for interview. [redacted], CIA traffic controller on duty in the control tower of the airport also observed the object. [redacted] reportedly observed from the ground tower. According to [redacted] turned the airport spotlight on the object, which he thought at the time was a helicopter, to help guide it to a landing. However, the object disappeared at a high rate of speed and headed in a southeasterly direction when the light was focussed upon it. A description of conditions are as follows:

Weather: Clear, however object was sighted after sundown.

Sketches: None, since darkness prevented adequate observation.

Shape and size: Not determined because of darkness.

Color: Red lights steady, white light on occasion.

Speed: Two hundred miles per hour.

Heading: When first seen approximately 240°T. When last seen over Troutdale, 50°T. There was no change in the lighting with the change of heading.

Maneuverability: Course and elevation did not change rapidly.

Altitude: 6000 - 8000 feet.

Sound: None observed - other sounds in own plane would have obscured sounds.

Exhaust: None observed.

UNCLASSIFIED

COPY

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

Incident
416

COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

2. The above description and information was received by the AIO, 13, 19, from Lt. [REDACTED] USSR, of [REDACTED] Portland 13, Oregon.

M. C. RIDOLE
Acting

cc: 25th Air Defense Command

COPY

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DECLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
AIR DEFENSE COMMAND
25th AIR DEFENSE DIVISION (DEF)
P.O. BOX 909, EVERETT, WASHINGTON

OI 350.09

9 August 1949

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
Attn: MCIAXO-3
Commanding General
Continental Air Command
Mitchel Air Force Base, New York
Attn: Director of Intelligence
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
Washington 25, D.C.
Attn: Dir of Intell, Requirements Div
Commanding General
Fourth Air Force
Hamilton Air Force Base
Hamilton, California
Attn: Director of Intelligence

In compliance with par. 1, ConAC Letter 200.1, 25 March 48, and par. 5 and 6, Letter Fourth Air Force, file OI-350.09/2, dated 18 Feb 49, the following information as relayed to this headquarters via the District Intelligence Officer, Thirteenth Naval District, is submitted:

"At 2100 hours on 30 July 1949, between Stevenson, Washington, and Troutdale, Oregon, a group of unidentified lights were sighted by Northwest Airlines pilot [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Portland, Oregon, while on a routine flight from Yakima to Portland. Thrush stated the object could have been two or three planes flying in very close formation, however, the red lights were on the wrong side for airborne aircraft. When Thrush circled the field to await instructions for landing, the object changed course about 50° and left the vicinity.

The co-pilot of the plane, [REDACTED], also of Portland, sighted the lights but was not available for interview. [REDACTED], CAA traffic controller on duty in the control tower of the airport also observed the object. Basford reportedly observed

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR

Aug 16

*Miss
Segler
JR
incident*

350.09
Subject: Project "WING"

UNCLASSIFIED

9 Aug 49

from the ground. According to Thrush, Basford turned the
airport spotlight on the object, which he thought at the time
was a helicopter. He tried to guide it to a landing. However, the
object disappeared at a high rate of speed and headed in a
southeasterly direction when the light was focussed upon it. A
description of the object is as follows:

Weather: Clear. Object was sighted after sundown.
Sketches: None. Darkness prevented adequate observation.
Shape and size: Not determined because of darkness.
Color: Red light, white light on occasion.
Speed: Two hundred miles per hour.
Heading: When observed, approximately 240°T. When last seen
approximately 50°T. There was not change in the
change of heading.
Maneuverability: Elevation did not change rapidly.
Altitude: 6000 - other sounds in own plane would have
Sound: None observed.
Exhaust: None observed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:
ICER:

Winfred H. Gallienne
WINFRED H. GALLIENNE
Major USAF
Intelligence Staff Officer

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD

UNCLASSIFIED