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APPENDIX III

This appendix contains resumes of several of the more significant incidents that were reported to AFIC during the period covered in this report.

13 May 1952

Greenville, South Carolina

Description of Incident

On the night of 13 May 1952 at 2235 EST, four amateur astronomers observed a diamond formation of four oval-shaped objects. The objects were observed visually from the ground. The objects were sighted nearly overhead and disappeared at an angle of about 12° in three seconds. They were described as being reddish-yellow or reddish-brown in color. They were relative in size to a half dollar, quarter turned, at arm's length. The objects appeared to wobble in their flight and being oval-shaped appeared to be flying sideways.

The night was extremely clear. The sources stated that there was haze and ground illumination near the city, but that they were on the Furman University campus and that there were no ground lights near nor haze.

One observer was inclined to believe these were geese.

Comments

The description of this incident is very similar to others from drive-in theaters and one from Fargo, North Dakota, on 25 April 1952, that were ducks. In this case, however, there were no ground lights in the area to reflect from a bird. This is borne out by the fact that these people had set up their telescopes in a dark area, which is essential for good astronomical observing.

It is not known how much light a bird will reflect, but it seems logical that a relatively bright ground source of light would be needed.

As was stated, one source was sure they were geese but the other three were just as sure they were not.

The possibility of aircraft is nil since they passed directly overhead with no sound.

Conclusion

Unknown

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18 July 1952

Patrick AFB, Florida

Description of Incident

At approximately 2245 EST on 18 July 1952 seven people, three officers and four airmen, observed a series of unidentified lights near Patrick AFB, Florida. The lights were described as being much brighter than a star and amber-red in color and similar to a star. The first light was observed at a 45° angle of elevation west of the air base. It remained stationary for approximately one minute, then began to slowly move north. It stopped, then moved south at a slow speed. While observing the first light, a similar light was observed about 20° below the first light and moving north at a much higher speed.

As the first light continued to move south, a third light was seen over the base traveling in a westerly direction at high speed. Before this light had faded in the distance, a fourth light was observed following the same path as the third. At this time, all the lights except number four had disappeared.

A fifth light appeared in the west and came directly over the airfield where it appeared to make a gradual 180° left turn and head toward the west until it faded from view. This light appeared coming over the base and disappeared in 15 seconds.

Comments

An attempt was made to pick up the object on APQ-13 radar, but the attempt was unsuccessful. It should be noted that APQ-13 is not a search radar, consequently, the fact it could not make contact is not significant.

A balloon was in the area but the balloon was tracked continuously and drifted west of the air base. At no time was it over the observers. It is possible that a balloon could drift into the area from another location, but the number of reported lights, their motion and the winds aloft do not substantiate this theory.

Air traffic was checked and there were no aircraft in the area.

Conclusion

Unknown