

UNCLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~

Ramier, Alabama

16 February 1953

I. Description of Incident

Two civilian men at this location sighted an unidentified object as 1630 EST while watching the flight of a B-47 aircraft cross their field of vision. A metallic looking object appearing round at one instant and flat the next was seen at an altitude of about two-thirds that of the B-47 which ATIC learned was at 35,000 ft. Its maneuvers consisted of climbing, diving, and sharp angle turns to the left and right in and around a few scattered clouds and it appeared to be faster than the B-47. Total time of sighting was for 20 minutes.

II. Discussion of Incident

Although the Maxwell Radio Range Station reported no known aircraft other than the B-47 in the area ATIC feels that, on the basis of the description submitted by the two relatively inexperienced observers, they probably sighted a fighter type aircraft, possibly an F-86, maneuvering in the air space below the B-47. To support this conclusion is the fact that the clouds mentioned in the original report around which the object was sighted, were determined to be at 20,000 ft. At this altitude a fighter aircraft would be hard to distinguish. The observers did state, however, that the object appeared to have swept-back wings.

III. Conclusion

Possibly aircraft.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
~~SECRET~~

Port Austin, Michigan

17 February 1953

I. Description of Incident

At 2204 EST an unidentified aerial object was sighted visually by members of an AC&W Squadron at Port Austin. The object was sight to ten miles northwest of their station at an estimated 100' above the horizon. It appeared to be larger and brighter than a star and other than changing color, there were no unusual features visible. The object was moving south at a low rate of speed and eventually faded out completely after becoming much less bright in intensity. This object was viewed visually from 2204 EST for five minutes until 2209 EST.

At 2208 EST, the observers tracked the object on a search radar set. Position of the object on the radar set was 300° moving in a 160° course at 55 knots. The object was observed at 2208 EST for 17 minutes until 2225 EST. No height finding equipment was available at point of observation, but the observers estimated the altitude at 1000' from the radar returns. Weather conditions at time of sighting were: visibility and ceiling - unlimited, with moderate winds from the west.

II. Discussion of Incident

The possibility of the reported object being a balloon was checked by the reporting officer. The nearest balloon launch station is at Waukegan, Michigan, which is 140 miles from Port Austin. A pi-ball type balloon was released from Waukegan at 0300Z. It is not likely that this balloon caused the sighting because the object in question was sighted at 0304Z.

Both the visual and electronic sightings were made by the same personnel, consisting of two officers and three airmen. All of these men have three or more years experience in radar. A radar scope camera was installed, but was not in operation at the time of sighting.

No known meteorological disturbances or activity existed at the time of sighting, or at any time that day.

After checking with surrounding bases and flight plan sources, it was found that there were no known aircraft in the general area.

The planet Venus is very low on the northwest horizon at this time of year and is easily seen. This fact might explain the visual sighting, but Venus will not show on a radar scope.

Further analysis of this sighting awaits adiabatic weather charts for the date and area of sighting. Until this information is received, this report is carried as unknown.

III. Conclusions

Unknown

UNCLASSIFIED