UNCLASSIFIED [redacted] PROJECT BOOTS RECORD CARD

Incident #48

ATIC NO. -----

AF NO. -----

ATTACHMENT NO. -----

DATE OF G POINT -----

TIME OF SIGHTING Between 1920-1955

SHAPE Cone

SIZE -----

COURSE SW

NO. IN GROUP 1

SOUND -----

PHOTOS ----- SKETCHES -----

DATE OF INFO 7 Jan 48

LOCATION Wilmington, Ohio

SOURCE AF Personnel

DATE IN TO ATIC -----

COLOR Red

SPEED Terrific Bursts Estimated / Measured / Estimated

ALTITUDE ---- Measured

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 35 Minutes

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

MANEUVERS Stationary then gained & lost altitude in bursts

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52) UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

Incident #32 -- over Columbus, Ohio -- 7 January 1943

The evidence given in this incident fits the hypothesis that the object observed was the planet Venus, and, considered with incidents #30, 33, and 48, it is incredible that it could have been anything else.

See report on #33 for detailed discussion of sightings of 7 January 1948.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #30, a-c -- Lockbourne AAB, Columbus, Ohio -- 7 January 1948

Considering this incident with #32, 33, and 46, one is forced to conclude that the object observed from Lockbourne Army Air Base on the evening of 7 January 1948 was the planet Venus.

One report of the incident gives the location of the object as ESE-120°, or approximately opposite from that stated by other observers and that of Venus. Obviously, since the time of observation was the same, this means that one witness either was looking at a different object or had his directions mixed. Since the description otherwise agrees generally with the rest, and since it is assumed throughout the reports that all observers were viewing the same object, the latter interpretation seems preferable.

Witnesses state that the object "couldn't have been a star" (of course, it wasn't), because the sky was completely overcast. However, reports from the Columbus weather bureau indicate that, although the afternoon was cloudy, the sky was clear by 1900 hours. (This does not mean, of course, that there were no clouds near the western horizon.)

For possible explanations of the "tactics" reported by observers of this object, and further discussion of the incident, see report on #33.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #48 -- Clinton County Air Field, Ohio -- 7 January 1948

This incident must be considered with #30, 32, and 33. Combined evidence shows that the object observed from Clinton County Air Field on the evening of 7 January 1948 was undoubtedly the planet Venus.

For discussion of erratic motion related by the observers of the object, and other details, see report on incident #33.

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

MCIAXO-3/HWS/rm
Jan 5 1949

MCIAXO

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Chief, Air Weather Service,
Andrews Air Force Base,
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: DSS

1. Project "SIGN" is responsible for the collection, investigation and interpretation of data relative to sighting of unidentified flying objects. Attached Incident Summaries 1 thru 172 from the files of Project "SIGN" are forwarded for study and recommendations as to which of the incidents may be eliminated as balloons released on routine synoptic ascents by the Air Weather Service, the Navy Aerological Service or the United States Weather Bureau. The summaries attached may be retained in your headquarters for working and reference purposes.

2. The Air Weather Service is the only agency of its type that has been asked to assist in the accomplishment of Project "SIGN" except that the United States Weather Bureau has provided information on ball lightning. Research projects in which balloons are used and which are conducted or sponsored by the Army, Navy or United States Air Force are checked by the Intelligence Department of this Command. These checks areusually made direct from the Project "SIGN" Office, MCIAXO-3. These checks are distinct from the check of synoptic balloon flights made by weather service stations of the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Commerce. (U. S. Weather Bureau) requested of Air Weather Service.

3. It is the opinion of this office that the below listed incidents are those having the greatest possibility of being balloons. This list does not eliminate the possibility that many of the remaining incidents are balloons.

2	24	50	91	113	155
3	25	52	92	115	156
4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	145	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(Sa-122)	154	169
23	43				

T-84431-A

Hq AMC, Chief, Air Weather Service, Washington 25, D. C.
Subj: Project "SIGN"

4. The form used in interrogating witnesses to sightings is inclosed as a matter of interest. Comment as to possible improvement of the "Essential Elements of Information" in regard to routine synoptic balloon flights is invited.

5. It is requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Commanding General, Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, attention MCIAXO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col, USAF
for H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Dept

2 Incls:
Summaries 1-172 incl
"EEI"

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq. USAF
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab
Major Kodis, MCREEP
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

T-SIGN-1

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

MCIAXO-3/BMS/rm
Jan 5 1949

MCIAXO

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Chief, Air Weather Service,
Andrews Air Force Base,
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: DSS

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4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	148	163
15	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	43				

Hq AMC, Chief, Air Weather Service, Washington 25, D. C.
Subj: Project "SIGN"

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/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col; USAF
for H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Dept

2 Incls:
Summaries 1-172 incl
"SEI"

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq. USAF
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab
Major Kodis, MCREEP
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

F-22431-A

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 32

UNCLASSIFIED

1. Date 7 January 1948
2. Time 1953
3. Location Columbus
4. Name of observer Lt. C. W. Thomas
5. Occupation of observer Pilot
6. Address of observer Flight AF 9944 Dayton to Washington
7. Place of observation Cross Country flight from Dayton to Wash. at Columbus Airways to the West
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer About 15 miles
10. Time in sight Not stated
11. Altitude 3000 feet
12. Speed Seemed stationery
13. Direction of flight Stationery
14. Tactics No maneuvers
15. Sound Not stated
16. Size large
17. Color amber
18. Shape like a large star or planet
19. Odor detected Not stated
20. Apparent construction Not stated
21. Exhaust trails None
22. Weather conditions Dark and overcast
23. Effect on clouds Not stated
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance Not stated

UNCLASSIFIED

26. Remarks: Large bright light off to the west. They estimated it below them, or about 3000 ft. It seemed stationery. The light was amber and looked like a large star or planet. It was about 15 miles away from them. (over)

[redacted]

Lt C.W.Thomas and Lt Sims were making a regular cross country flight and reported in to Columbus Airways who asked them if they saw any unusual object in the sky. This report was relayed to Lockbourne - See Eisele's report - incident 30c.

Flight AF 9944, 7 Jan 48 fr Dayton to Nash.

Lt. C. W. Thomas and Lt. Sims (5-02 26) were making a regular cross-country flight. They reported in to Columbus Airways who asked them if they saw any unusual object in the sky. They could see a large bright light off to the west. They estimated it to be below them, or about 3000 ft. It seemed stationery. The light was amber and looked like a large star or planet. It was about 15 miles away from them. The night was dark [redacted] overcast.

June 1953 Inc #32
Direction West SoWest
(From Eisele Report Inc 30c)

[redacted]

b3

Report of Foreign Object in Sky

Major Campbell: 332d Fighter Group.

No information came out of critiques while the Fighter Group was at Godman Field to indicate the appearance of any foreign objects in the sky. Pilots were questioned as to whether they had seen anything unusual while flying in this vicinity, or had contacted anyone at Godman Field, and replied in the negative. Maj. Campbell, personally, has not noticed anything unusual.

Capt. Watson investigated and received the following information:

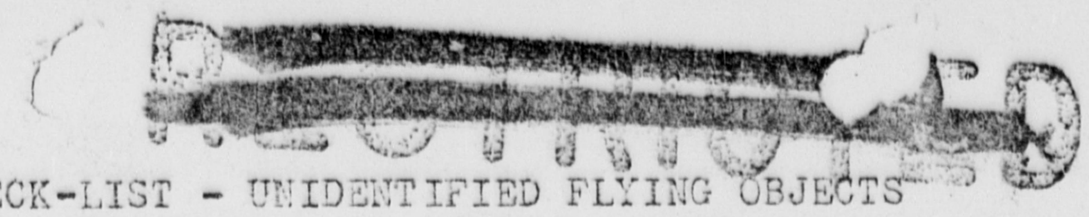
Mr. [redacted] Tower Operator. He says he saw what he thought was a star but then he noticed the sky was overcast so it couldn't have been a star. It was a glowing object with a cone-shaped streak to the right. It glowed from white to amber. He says he first noticed it over the Lockbourne Power Plant; just southwest of here. The object was moving southwest and it changed from amber to red and then disappeared. This happened between 1915 and 1930 EST on 7 January. The only thing he did was to talk to Capt. McGee about it and Mr. [redacted] the DF Operator.

Mr. [redacted], DF Operator. He says he saw it too before he and Mr. [redacted] got together. Both observed it at the same time but didn't talk it over until after the thing had appeared and said each was looking at it without knowing it. He saw a strange light that faded out and came back again. This light was west southwest of the field about 15° above the horizon. The light was much brighter than a star and appeared to be hanging motionless in the sky. It changed from ruddy red to amber and then to yellow and then back to red. It dipped to the horizon and back again several times. It also made several circles and it appeared to have a streak to the right of it.

Capt. McGee, Assistant Operations Officer: He saw the same thing about 1925 EST. He was flying at the time. He noticed a bright and unusual light southwest of Lockbourne and at first it looked like a spotlight but then noticing it there was no beam from the light at its source. As he turned on final approach to land he noticed that the light disappeared as if it had been turned out. After he landed he gave it no further concern until he walked into Operations and the tower operator asked him if he had seen the light. Immediately after this conversation the Tower Operator called him outside the building to look again because the light had re-appeared. The light appeared further west and much lower in the sky. The color had changed from a white color to an orange color. It continued to flicker and move westward and appeared to go out.

Around 1630 7 January, the P-51s in Kentucky were facing the object, whatever it was supposed to be. About 1635 one of them cracked up and conclusions were drawn by the men in the Lockbourne tower. This P-51 was stationed at Mitchel Field and Flight Service at Patterson Field was giving Flight Service at Middletown a summary of what had taken place during the afternoon. It seems that the conversation picked up again between Patterson Flight Service and Olmstead Flight Service around 1945 and at this time Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] told Flight Service at Patterson Field what they had seen a few minutes earlier, i.e., around 1915 - 1930, with regard to this light and also at the same time Clinton County broke in on the conversation and told them they had seen the same thing, and by some manner of means Godman Field got in on the conversation and told Flight Service they were observing the same phenomena - this happened at 1945.

The crack-up referred to was just something that was heard about over the inter-phone, but definite information regarding the light was given to Patterson Field Flight Service at 1945, 7 January.



CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident # 30

1. Date 7 January 1948
2. Time 1925 EST
3. Location Lockbourne Army Air Base, Columbus, Ohio
4. Name of observer Charles E. McGee, Capt. USAF
5. Occupation of observer Asst. Operations Officer (Pilot)
6. Address of observer Airdrome Operations, Lockbourne AAB, Columbus, Ohio
7. Place of observation Runway 23 Overhead approach
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer first 4-5 miles Southwest of Base second time 6-7 miles West and moved westerly in a hovering manner
10. Time in sight Not stated
11. Altitude 3000 ft approximately
12. Speed slow
13. Direction of flight West
14. Tactics Flashed on and off, on westward flight appeared to be fading and descending
15. Sound No noise
16. Size Large size of a flood light
17. Color white later yellowish to orange
18. Shape Oval as if looking at spot light
19. Odor detected Not stated
20. Apparent construction like a spot light
21. Exhaust trails ~~Not stated~~ Bluish streaks like a jet effect out from right (according to Mr. Boudreaux on "squawk" box.
22. Weather conditions Sky solid overcast
23. Effect on clouds Not stated
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance descending and burning out
26. Remarks: (Over)

UNCLASSIFIED

Very bright white light southwest of the field. The light did not cast a beam and seemed the size of a flood light. From the ground the light appeared to move westward. It was further west and lower than I saw it in the air, also the light was similar to that of a lantern light in ~~it~~ that it was glimmering. The light varied yellowish to orange and appeared to be descending and burning out. The latter observation may be that in its westward movement it appeared to be fading out and descending however the light was not nearly as bright on the second observation. At first it was very white and did not appear to be moving though when it flashed on and off it appeared as in a ~~x~~ fash descent. With the naked eye I could at no time make out any shape other than the light being oval shaped as though looking at a large spot light. It was not a heavenly body of any type in that the sky was solid overcast in the Lockbourne area and the object's movement outweighs such a thought. I heard no noise in connection with the object. I estimated at the first observation that it was 4-5 miles southwest of the base. At the second appearance it was 6-7 miles West and moved Westerly in a hovering manner but moving away.

[redacted]

AIRDROME OPERATIONS
LOCKBOURNE ARMY AIR BASE
Columbus 17, Ohio

ADOP/O 319.1

14 January 1948

SUBJECT: Report of Unusual Circumstance.

TO: Commanding Officer, 332d Fighter Wing, Lockbourne Army Air Base, Columbus 17, Ohio.

1. At approximately 1925 EST on the 7 January 1948 I turned to runway 23 for an overhead approach at traffic altitude (1800 ft). Just prior to break-away I saw a very bright white light southwest of the field. I began my 360° approach. It struck me that the light was very unusual and it was not on the ground so I looked in its direction again from my base leg position. It appeared the same and as though it were about 3000 feet in the air. While on my base leg the light suddenly disappeared. The light did not cast a beam and seemed the size of a flood light. While on my approach it flashed on and off again immediately. I landed and taxied to the ramp thinking that it may have been a reflection from the ground or the like.

2. Before flying I had heard part of an interphone conversation from Patterson Center to Olmstead Center relative to a circular object seen over Tennessee. I returned to the Operations building. While there the airways operator, Mr. [redacted], said the tower operator, Mr. [redacted], reported seeing something unusual southwest of the field. I stated that I had seen an unusual light and suggested calling him to check. We called the tower on the "squawk" box, and Mr. [redacted] said the light was what he had been watching about 15 minutes or so and that through the field glasses it appeared to have bluish streaks like a jet effect out from the right. He stated that it went out while I was in the pattern. During the conversation he said it could be seen again (1935-1940). We went to the door to observe.

3. From the ground the light appeared to move westward. It was further west and lower than I saw it in the air, also the light was similar to that of a lattern in that it was glimmering. The light varied yellowish to orange and appeared to be descending and burning out. It moved very slowly and finally disappeared. The latter observation may be that in its westward movement it appeared to be fading out and descending, however the light was not nearly as bright on the second observation.

At first it was very white and did not appear to be moving though when it flashed on and off it appeared as in a fast descent. With the naked eye I could at no time make out any shape other than the light being oval shaped as though looking directly at a large spot light.

4. This object was too large and too sharp a light to be a reflection from the ground. It was not a heavenly body of any type in that the sky was solid overcast in the Lockbourne area and the object's movement outweighs such a thought. I heard no noise in connection with the object. I estimate at the first observation that it was 4-5 miles Southwest of the Base. At the second appearance it was 6-7 miles West and moved Westerly in a hovering manner but moving away. The winds at this time were West-Southwest averaging 6 miles per hour.

[redacted]
Captain, USAF
Ass't Opns Officer

INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET
(to be filled out and retained in files)

1. Date of Observation . 7 Jan 48 . . . . .

2. Time of Observation . 1925 EST . . . . .

3. Where was Object(s) Sighted . [redacted] AIR BASE, OHIO . . . . . .
. . . . . .

4. Observer's Position . . . GROUND . . . . . .
(i.e. ground, air, control tower, etc.)

5. Name and Address of Observer . [redacted] . . . . . .
. . . . WEF / [redacted] RADIO OPERATOR . . [redacted] AIR BASE, OHIO . . . . . .

6. Occupation and/or Hobbies . . RADIO OPERATOR . . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

7. Attention Attracted to Object (s) By . . . . . .

8. Number of Object(s) Sighted . . ONE . . . . . .

9. Size of Object(s) . SMALL . . . . . .

10. Color of Object(s) . [redacted] . . . . . .

11. Shape (Sketch if Possible) . [redacted], OR OVAL . . . . . .

12. Nature of Luminosity . . . . . .

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer . [redacted] FROM GROUND TO 1,000 FT.

14. Speed of Object(s) . . [redacted] (Approx 3 Miles each) . . . . . .

15. Time in Sight . [redacted] . . . . . .

16. Tactics . [redacted] . . . . . .

17. Sound Made by Object(s) . [redacted] . . . . . .

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s) . [redacted] . . . . . .

19. Apparent Construction (Of What Material or Substance) . . . . . .
. . . . . .

20. Effect of Objects on Clouds and/or Exhaust Trail [redacted] .
[redacted]
. . . . . .

21. Weather Conditions Existing at the Time . [redacted] . . . . . .

22. Peculiarities Noted . . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

23. Summary of Incident . [redacted]
. . . . . .
. . . . . .
(Attach a Separate Sheet if Additional Space is Needed)

the same color (xxx amber) as the object. Visable for 20 Min .
Was 3-5 miles away. Appeared to be in the vicinity of Commercial Point.
Definately not a Star, Planet or Astronical Body, Balloon, Flare, Dirigble
Military or other Aircraft.

[redacted]

Saw what he thought was a roar out there. It [illegible] the sky was overcast so it couldn't have been a star. It was a glowing object with a cone-shaped streak to the right. It glowed from white to amber. He says he first noticed it over the Lockbourne Power Plant; just southwest of here. The object was moving southwest and it changed from amber to red and then disappeared. Mr. [redacted] said the light was what he had been watching about 15 minutes or so and that through the field glasses it appeared to have bluish steaks like a jet effect out from the right. He stated that it went out while Capt. [redacted] was in the pattern. During the conversation he said it could be seen again (1935-1940).

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 308

1. Date 7 January 1948
2. Time Between 1915 and 1930 EST Later 1935 to 1940
3. Location Lockbourne AAB, Columbus, Ohio
4. Name of observer Mr. [redacted]
5. Occupation of observer Tower Operator
6. Address of observer Lockbourne AAB, Columbus, Ohio
7. Place of observation Tower, Lockbourne AAB, Columbus, Ohio
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer Not stated
10. Time in sight about 15 minutes
11. Altitude Not stated
12. Speed Not stated
13. Direction of flight Southwest
14. Tactics ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Bobbed up and down
15. Sound ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ None
16. Size ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Enormous
17. Color white to amber as it moved southwest it changed from amber to red
18. Shape Glowing object with a cone-shaped streak to the right
19. Odor detected Not stated
20. Apparent construction Not stated
21. Exhaust trails Bluish streaks like a jet effect out from the right
22. Weather conditions Sky overcast
23. Effect on clouds Not stated
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance went out
26. Remarks: (over)

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 30c

1. Date 7 January 1948

2. Time Around 1940

3. Location Lockbourne AAB, Columbus, Ohio

4. Name of observer Mr. [redacted]

5. Occupation of observer DF Operator, Lockbourne Control Tower

6. Address of observer Lockbourne AAB, Columbus, Ohio

7. Place of observation Ground, Lockbourne AAB

8. Number of objects 1

9. Distance of object from observer An estimated 5 miles - altho rpts f/Godman Fld, Clinton Cy Airport & relayed rpt f/Columbus, O, indicated much greater distance

10. Time in sight Around 15 minutes

11. Altitude 5,000 ft

12. Speed 500 MPH - as indicated by rpts f/Godman Fld & Clinton Cy airport

13. Direction of flight Appeared to hover but performed eliptical, counter-clock wise course when it descended to horizon (4") remained stationary (3") returning

14. Tactics See 13 original position (3")

15. Sound No sound

16. Size About size of runway light when viewed from 500 ft - apparently enormous - see 9 above

17. Color Red to amber-yellow

18. Shape Circular

19. Odor detected N/S

20. Apparent construction N/S

21. Exhaust trails Thin wisp of trail five times diameter of object

22. Weather conditions high overcast

23. Effect on clouds N/S - was under overcast

24. Sketches or photographs None

25. Manner of disappearance Faded and lowered into horizon

26. Remarks: (over)

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Object first seen 15° above horizon in the West-Southwest of Lockbourne emitting a ruddy red light which changed to an amber-yellow at intervals not exceeding 1 to 2 seconds. Its size and magnitude were greater than that of any star - a good comparison of the size and magnitude would be a runway light at full intensity viewed from a distance of 500 ft. Shape - circular with the exception of a thin wisp of tail extending towards the horizon, the tail being 5 times the diameter of the object in length. For approximately 10 minutes it remained motionless, thereupon it descended to the horizon in about 4", hovered on the horizon in 3", then ascended to its original position in about 3", the course being eliptical, counter clockwise. It then faded and lowered toward the horizon disappearing at 1955. No sound was heard from the object at any time.

Note: Object appeared about 5 miles from Lockbourne, however info received f/Godman Fld and Clinton County Tower plus a relayed report from a pilot over Columbus, O., indicated that they all had observed a similar phenomenon in the same general direction and position at the same time.

RELIABILITY: Witness spent 37 mos in AF in communications work including C. W. and Control Tower Operation. Holds valid CAA Certificate for Control Tower Operator and Aircraft Communications and has worked at Lockbourne in this type of work for over 1-1/2 yrs. Enthusiast of astronomy.

CORROBORATED ACCOUNT: See also Incidents 30, 30a and 30b.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

60

MAMA Form No. 10-325 (5 Aug 46)

HEADQUARTERS, 332d FIGHTER WING
LOCKBOURNE ARMY AIR BASE
COLUMBUS 17, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO
OEI/jc

20 January 1948

AG 313.3

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright Field,
Dayton, Ohio
ATTENTION: Mr. Loedding, Air Intelligence

Transmitted herewith letter, Subject: Report of Unusual Circumstance, dated 18 January 1948, which is the statement of Mr. [redacted], civilian tower operator at this station. This statement is furnished in compliance with the request of Mr. Loedding, Air Intelligence Section, your station, who recently visited Lockbourne.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl.
Rpt of Unus Cir, 18 Jan 48,
Frank Eisele (quad)

OWEN E. HAGUE
1st Lt., USAF
Adjutant

DETACHMENT 733RD AF BASE UNIT
103RD AACS SQUADRON
LOCKBOURNE ARMY AIR BASE
Columbus 17, Ohio

16 January 1948

SUBJECT: Report of Unusual Circumstance.

TO: Commanding Officer, 332d Fighter Wing, Lockbourne Army Air Base, Columbus 17, Ohio.

At approximately 1940 hours January 7, the Control Tower Operator advised me that he had been observing a strange light in the Southwest for sometime. However by the time I reached the entrance steps in front of the Operations Building the light had disappeared. I had not returned to my position for more than 2 minutes when the tower operator advised the light had again appeared. I returned to the operations steps and this time I saw the object.

It was 15 degrees above the horizon to the West Southwest of Lockbourne, emitting a ruddy red light changing to an amber-yellow at intervals not exceeding 1 to 2 seconds. Its size and magnitude was greater than that of any star. A good comperison of size and magnitude would be with one of the runway lights turned on at full intensity as viewed from a distance of 500 feet.

Its shape appeared to be circular with the exception of a thin wisp of tail extending towards the horizon the tails length being 5 diameters of the object long. From the time I first saw the object to approximately 1950 hours, it appeared to remain motionless in the sky. At this time the object descended to the horizon in an interval of about 4 seconds, hovered on the horizon for about 5 seconds, and then ascended to its original position in an interval of 3 seconds. Its course was eliptical, counter clock wise. It then faded and lowered towards the horizon and disappeared at 1955 hours. There was no sound audible from the object at any time.

Its distance appeared to be about 5 miles from Lockbourne. However, information received from Clinton County Tower that they too observed a similar or the same object in the same general direction and position at the same time as our observations at Lockbourne. If the object were the same the distance would be much greater than 5 miles, and velocity well to the excess of 500 miles per hour. The object actually looked to be traveling at a speed around 500 miles per hour.

Flight Service also advised that Godman Field observed a similar phenominan at the same time, and that the object disappeared at 2006 hours at Godman.

Clinton advised the object they observed disappeared about 2000 hours. It is not know to me what time either Clinton or Godman first observed the object or objects. Theinformation from Clinton and Flight Service was received by direct line telephone communication from Clinton and Flight Service at Patterson. Our Weather Department was reporting a high overcast and not one heavenly body was visible. The object apparently being under the overcast, and its eratic movement proves that it was not an astrinomical phenominan. Air Force 9944, a C-45, relayed a position report to the Lockbourne Airways, over Columbus at 1953 hours at 5000 feet, on a round robin flight from Wright Field to Washington and return. I asked him if he had seen any strange light to the West Southwest of his position and he reported that he observed a bright light off his right wing, appearing like an oversized beacon.

I have been a member of the American Museum of Natural History which is closely associated with the Hayden Planetarium of New York City for 6 years, and have always been somewhat of an enthusist of Astronomy.

I spent 37 months in the Air Force in communications work including C.W. and Control Tower Operation. I now hold a valid C.A.A. Certificate for Control Tower Operator and Aircraft Communications and have worked at Lockbourne in this type of work for better than 1½ years.

I am of sound mind and health, and am of 25 years of age. I have described the incident exactly the way I saw it, also as to what I heard on the interphones.

[redacted]
Airways Operator
CAF-7

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

MCIAXO-3/HW3/rm
Jan 5 1949

MCIAXO

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Chief, Air Weather Service,
Andrews Air Force Base,
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTN: DSS

1. Project "SIGN" is responsible for the collection, investigation and interpretation of data relative to sighting of unidentified flying objects. Attached Incident Summaries 1 thru 172 from the files of Project "SIGN" are forwarded for study and recommendations as to which of the incidents may be eliminated as balloons released on routine synoptic ascents by the Air Weather Service, the Navy Aerological Service or the United States Weather Bureau. The summaries attached may be retained in your headquarters for working and reference purposes.

2. The Air Weather Service is the only agency of its type that has been asked to assist in the accomplishment of Project "SIGN" except that the United States Weather Bureau has provided information on ball lightning. Research projects in which balloons are used and which are conducted or sponsored by the Army, Navy or United States Air Force are checked by the Intelligence Department of this Command. These checks areusually made direct from the Project "SIGN" Office, MCIAXO-3. These checks are distinct from the check of synoptic balloon flights made by weather service stations of the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Commerce. (U. S. Weather Bureau) requested of Air Weather Service.

3. It is the opinion of this office that the below listed incidents are those having the greatest possibility of being balloons. This list does not elimimate the possibility that many of the remaining incidents are balloons.

2	24	50	91	113	155
3	25	52	92	115	156
4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	145	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	43				

T-84451-A

Hq AMC, Chief, Air Weather Service, Washington 25, D. C.
Subj: Project "SIGN"

4. The form used in interrogating witnesses to sightings is inclosed as a matter of interest. Comment as to possible improvement of the "Essential Elements of Information" in regard to routine synoptic balloon flights is invited.

5. It is requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Commanding General, Headquarters, Air Material Command, attention MCIAKO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col, USAF
for H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Dept

2 Incls:
Summaries 1-172 incl
"SEI"

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq. USAF
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab
Major Kodis, MCREEP
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

T-54451-A

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

A sky phenomena which had the appearance of a flaming red cone trailing a gaseous green mist appeared in the southwest skies of Wilmington, Ohio, between 7:20 and 7:55 P. M. Jan 7, 48.

The sky phenomena hung suspended in the air at intervals and then gained and lost altitude at what appeared to be terrific bursts of speed. The intense brightness of the phenomena pierced thru a heavy layer of clouds passing intermittently over the area and obscured other celestial phenomena.

NOTE: See account of an unamed comet due in the northern hemisphere approx Jan 1. attached.

See incidents 48a, 48b, 48c, 48d & 33, 33a, 33b, 33c, 33d, 33e 33f and 30 and 32.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

UNCLASSIFIED

1. Date 7 Jan 48 Incident #48
2. Time between 7:20 and 7:55 P. M.
3. Location Wilminton, Ohio
4. Name of observer s Gale F. Walter, Col James Hudson M/Sgt Irvin H. Lewis, S/Sgt John P. Haag, Sgt Harold E. Olvis & T/Sgt
5. Occupation of observer Control Tower operators Leroy Ziegler and 4 members of the alert crew
6. Address of observor Clinton County Air Base
7. Place of observation Clinton County AF Base Control Tower
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight 35 minutes
11. Altitude N/S
12. Speed terrific bursts of speed
13. Direction of flight SW
14. Tactics hung suspended in the air at intervals and then gained and lost altitude at seeminginly terrific bursts of speed
15. Sound N/S
16. Size N/S
17. Color red
18. Shape cone
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction "fire"
21. Exhaust trails gaseous green nist
22. Weather conditions Heavy layer of clouds
23. Effect on clouds intense brightness of sky phenomena pierced thru a heavy layer of clouds passing intermittently over the area
24. Sketches or photographs none
25. Manner of disappearance disappeared over horizon
26. Remarks: (Over)

6 observers declined signed names as

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

Object appeared to be moving up and down and from side to side. At one time the object was covered by a cloud but the light could be seen thru the cloud. It was the same color as a star only very much brighter sometimes changing to a more reddish hue then turning white or yellow. At first it did not appear to be traveling at any speed. Then it seemed to go up and down and sometimes change off and go from side to side at what seemed to be a very great speed. It seemed pretty high in the air - too high to be any kind of a light from the ground. There was no beam. No sound could be heard. A faint exhaust trail was discernible when it moved up or down or from side to side. Finally it began to move away toward the SW at very great speed and disappeared over the horizon at about 20:00.

See: 48, 48b, 48c, 48d & 33, 33a, 33b, 33c, 33d, 33e, 33f & 30 and 32.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 48a

1. Date 7 Jan 48
2. Time 1925 o'clock
3. Location Clinton County Air Field
4. Name of observer LeRoy Ziegler
5. Occupation of observer T/Sgt
6. Address of observer Clinton County AF, Wilmington, Ohio
7. Place of observation Clinton County AF Base
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight ~~Approximately one hour and twenty minutes~~ Thirty-five minutes
11. Altitude high
12. Speed stationary for a while and then made rapid ascents and descents and then to SW with great speed
13. Direction of flight to SW SW
14. Tactics Vertical ascents and descents at great speed
15. Sound None
16. Size very large
17. Color Same as star
18. Shape circular - starlike - only larger
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails faint exhaust trail when moving up and down or from side to side
22. Weather conditions Cloudy
23. Effect on clouds Object could be seen thru clouds
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance over the horizon at about 20:00
26. Remarks: (Over)

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

June 48

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

ON THE EVENING OF 7, JANUARY 1948 AT APPROXIMATELY 19:25 O'CLOCK THE UNDERSIGNED WITNESSED A VERY BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE SKY, IN THE SOUTH WEST DIRECTION OF C.C.A.F. THE OPERATIONS CLERK AND MYSELF FIRST WITNESSED IT AND CALLED THE TOWER AND HAD THEM LOOK AT IT THROUGH THEIR FIELD GLASSES. THEY SAID IT WAS MOVING BUT COULD NOT MAKE OUT WHAT IT WAS. I WENT UP TO THE TOWER AND LOOKED AT IT THROUGH THE FIELD GLASSES AND IT APPEARED TO BE MOVING UP AND DOWN AND FROM SIDE TO SIDE . AT ONE TIME CLOUDS CAME BETWEEN THE OBJECT AND THE BASE BUT THE LIGHT COULD STILL BE SEEN THROUGH IT. AT APPROXIMATELY 19:45 THE OBJECT BEGAN TO MOVE AWAY TOWARD THE SOUTH WEST AND DISAPPEARED OVER THE HOROZON AT ABOUT 20:00

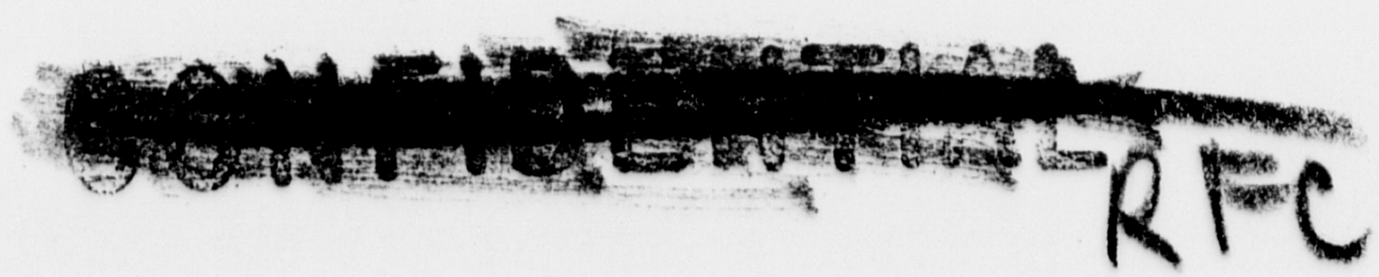
T/Sgt. [redacted]

Inc 48a

Unidentified Object Seen by me at Clinton County Air Field

1. Sighting: Approximately southwest of the Air Field.
2. Location: The exact distance from the field is unknown but it was pretty high up in the air southwest of the field.
3. Time: I do not know what time the object appeared but I first saw it about 19:20 O'clock.
4. Weather: The weather at the time was cold and clear with a few widely scattered clouds.
5. Reported by: Myself.
6. Number of Objects sighted: One
7. Shape: The shape of the object seemed to be ~~xxxxx~~ circular or like a very bright star in the sky only larger.
8. Size: It would be very hard to say what size it was but if compareing it to the lights on an airplane it must have been very large.
9. Color: It had the same color as a star only very much brighter and would sometimes get a little more red then turn to a white or yellow color.
10. Speed: At the time it was spotted it did not seem to be traveling at any speed neither coming toward us or going away.
11. Manuvers: The object seemed to go up and down and sometimes change off and go from side to side at what seemed to be very great speed.
12. Altitude: The object seemed to be pretty high in the air. It was too high to be any kind of light from the ground and did not have a beam on it as though it was being shined from the ground.
13. Heading: At the time it was spotted it did not seem to be heading in any direction but after watching it for awhile it started southwest at what seemed to be a very high speed.
14. Sound: I did not hear any sound at all from it.
15. Exhaust trail: It seemed to leave only a very faint exhaust trail when moving up and down or from side to side.
16. Effect on Clouds: A cloud came between the object and myself only once that I know of. I thought the object was gone but the soldier looking at it through the field glasses as the time said it was still there and that a cloud had come between us and the object. After the cloud passed we could see it just as good as we could before.

T/Sgt. LeRoy Ziegler A.S.N. 17014131



UNCLASSIFIED

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 48b

1. Date 7 Jan 48
2. Time 1920 EST
3. Location Clinton County Army Air Field, Wilmington, Ohio
4. Name of observer James H. Hudson,
5. Occupation of observer Corporal, on duty in Control Tower
6. Address of observer Clinton County AAF.
7. Place of observation Control Tower, Clinton County AAF
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer some 15 to 20 miles
10. Time in sight 35 minutes
11. Altitude N/S
12. Speed Hovered then moved with great speed
13. Direction of flight South West SW
14. Tactics Changed shape on ascent and descent - When it climbed it was right side up - (point up) When descending the point turned down
15. Sound none
16. Size larger than star
17. Color White changing to red to green
18. Shape Triangle
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction surrounded with burning gas or something that emanated light
21. Exhaust trails When ascending & descending it appeared to trail a green mist
22. Weather conditions light scattered clouds with a haze toward the SW
23. Effect on clouds Could be seen thru the cloud which passed under it.
24. Sketches or photographs 4 penciled sketches
25. Manner of disappearance disappeared on SW heading at great speed
26. Remarks: (over)

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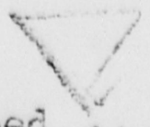
DOD DIR 5200.10

99

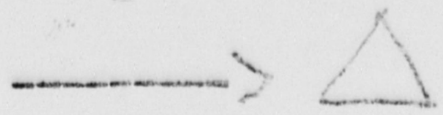
UNCLASSIFIED

The object when first sighted appeared white then it turned red. Its real shape could not be distinguished until it descended. It then took the form of a cone or up-side-down triangle. (See Sketch "A")



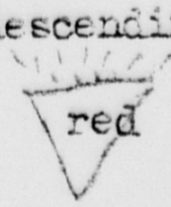
Sketch "A"

When it ~~climbed~~ it was right side up (Sketch "B")



On ascending and descending it appeared to have a green mist following it

See Sketch "C" —



Speed could not be determined in miles per hour for it appeared to hover at spots, then, when it moved, it moved with great speed. After making a vertical descent and ascent it headed due SW at great speed and disappeared at approx 1955 EST. Distance from the field when first sighted was some ~~5~~ 15 to 20 miles. There was no sound. The trail, maybe from exhaust, was green (at least thru the field glasses it appeared green) During the time it was under observation a cloud passed under it and the light shown thru.

According to this observer the object was not a balloon, a comet, star or any known aircraft. The light did not come from an aircraft's running lights. The whole object appeared surrounded with burning gas or something which emitted a light.

See also: 48, 48a, 48c, 48d & 33, 33a, 33b, 33c, 33d, 33e, 33f and Incidents 30 and 32.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

-2-

1 Inc #48

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

SUBJECT: OBJECT SEEN IN SKY JAN. 7, 1948

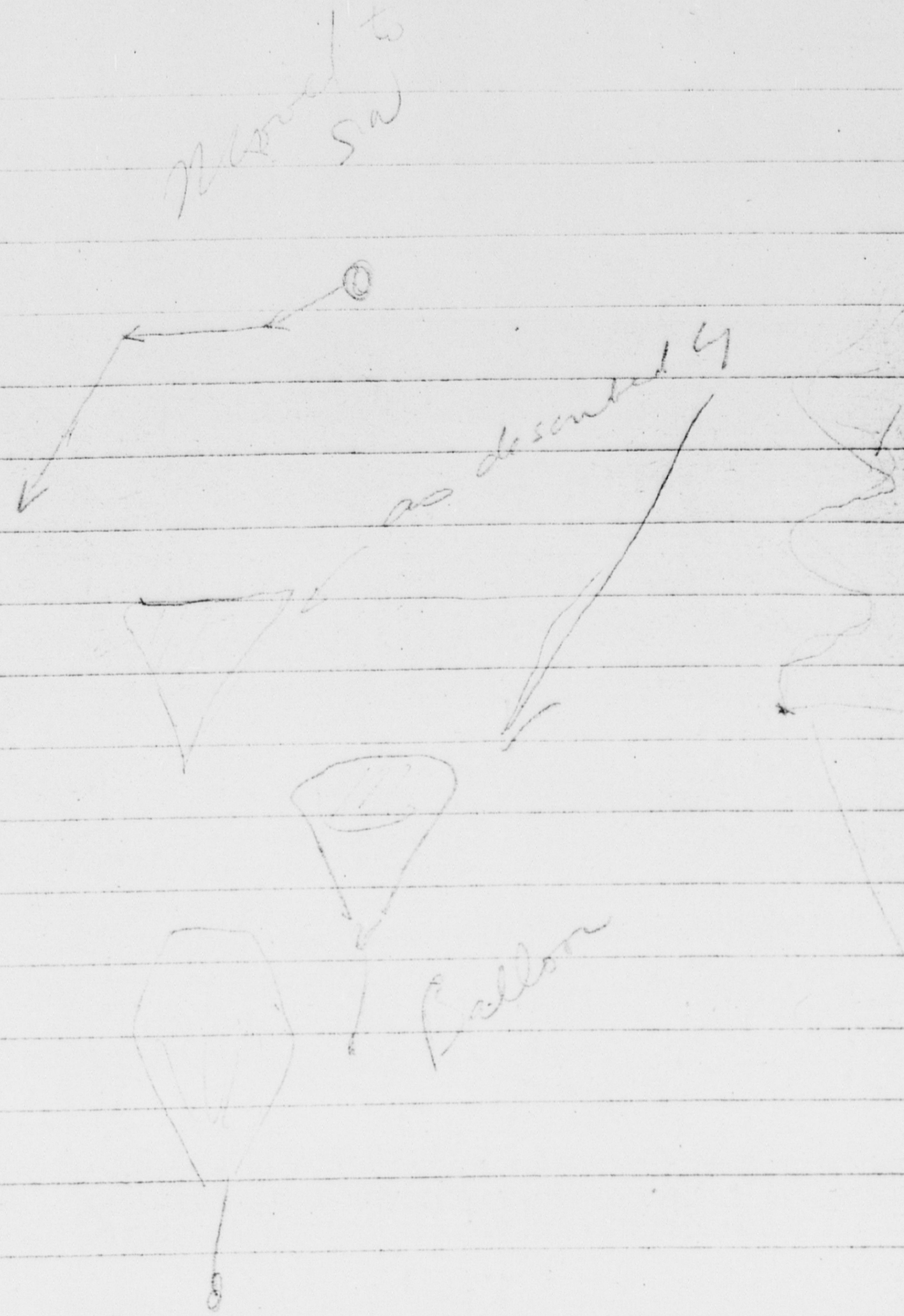
THE TOWER FRIST SEEN THE OBJECT ABOUT 1910 EST TO THE SOUTH WEST OF THE FIELD FROM THE TOWER. WHEN FRIST SIGHTED IT APPEARED TO BE A BRIGHT LIGHT. THE TOWER FOLLOWED IT WITH THE FIELD GLASSES THAT ARE 7X50.

IT THEN DECENDED AND AS IT DID THE OBJECT TURNED RED WITH A GREEN TAIL. IT DECENDED ANS ACENDED WITH GREAT BURST OF SPEED. THE SKY HAD SCATTERED CLOUDS AT THE TIME . A CLOUD PASSED OVER IT ONE TIME AND THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE LIGHT SHOWN THRU THE CLOUDS WHILE THE STARS DID NOT

IT DISSAPPEARED ABOUT 1955EST .IT DISSAPPARED ABOUT WEST SOUTH WEST OF THE FIELD . THIS STATMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY JUDGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE.

CPL. JAMES H. HUDSON 13220873

James H. Hudson



STATE OF OHIO)
)
COUNTY OF CLINTON)

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

Before me, the undersigned authority for administering oaths of this kind, personally appeared one James H. Hudson, Cpl, ASN 13220873

who, being first duly sworn by me, deposes and says:

Subject: Unidentified Flying Object.

Time: January 7, 1948, 1920 EST

Station: Clinton County Army Air Field, Wilmington, Ohio

Location: Wilmington, Ohio

Weather: The weather at the time was light scattered coulds, with a haze towards the South West.

Statement: I, James H. Hudson, was on duty in the Control Tower at the time the object was sighted. It was called to our attention by the dispatcher in Operations. He asked us to see if it was an aircraft flare. We then looked at it with the field glasses. At the time first sighted, the object was white, then it turned red. There was only one object. The real shape of it could not be distinguished from this station 'til the object descended. When it did, the object took a form of a cone or up-side-down triangle (See Sketch "A"). When it climbed, it was right side up (See Sketch "B"). The above is to my observation and opinion the size of the object, I could not determine, but it was much larger than any star. On it's climb and descent it appeared to have a green mist following it (See Sketch "C"). The speed I could not determine in miles per hour for it hovered at what appeared to be one spot, then when it moved, it moved with great speed. It's maneuvers are as follows, from the tower (See Sketch "D"). Then it headed due South-West at great speed and disappeared, at 1955 EST. The distance from the field when first sighted, estimated fifteen to twenty miles. There was no sound. The trail, maybe from exhaust, was green from the field glasses. The glasses have coated lens which may change the color some. At one time, during the time seen, a cloud passed under it and the light shown through. Example: Say you take a black wool cloth and pass it under a light bulb, you see no direct light, but you can still see that there is a light there behind it. (Continued on Page 2)

[redacted]

Further the deponent sayeth not.

James H. Hudson
JAMES H. HUDSON
Cpl 13220873

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of January, 1948

George W. Hohanness
GEORGE W. HOHANNESS
[illegible], USAF
Summary Court Officer

[redacted]

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

Witness observed very bright light in the sky southwest of Clinton County AF Base which appeared to be the complete wing of an aircraft on fire. When viewed thru field glasses from the Control Tower the object would gain and lose altitude very rapidly ~~xxxxxxxx~~ with barely any discernible forward or backward motion. At times it changed colors (from red to green, etc) At one time it disappeared behind the overcast but its light penetrated thru the overcast. At approximately 19:45 o'clock it began to move away from the field on a heading of 210° and disappeared over the horizon at approximately 19:55. (1st acct)

NOTE: See also 48, 48a, 48b, 48d & 33, 33a, 33b, 33c, 33d, 33e, 33f and 30 and 32.

At the time of the sighting the weather was clear over the Base, with a SouthOWest wind which was moderate. There was an overcast in the SE which appeared to be a layer approximately 1000 feet thick. The height of this overcast was approximately 5,000 ft. Object seemed to be about 5 miles from the field at an altitude of from 15,000 to 20,000 ft. The object which appeared stationary at first resembled the complete wing of an airplane on fire. No beam of light was projected. After observing it with the naked eye for some five minutes, witness went to control tower and looked thru field glasses and then decided that it was not a comet or a falling star to his knowledge of astronomy. With the aid of the glasses the object appeared to go from an altitude of15,000 to 10,000 feet without any noticable forward or backward motion, and then back up to its original altitude very rapidly. This occurred some 3 or 4 times. When it moved a red light would dominate and change to a green light and then back to its original color. It then started to reced on a heading of 210° going behind the overcast. However, the light was discernible thru the overcast. It then moved very rapidly away, stopping momentarily for 3 or 4 minute intervals and then disappearing over the horizon at 1955. No sound was heard. No photographs were taken (From a signed statement 4second account)

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 48c

1. Date 7 Jan 48
2. Time 19:30
3. Location Clinton County AAF, Wilmington, O.
4. Name of observer S/Sgt John P. Haag
5. Occupation of observer S/Sgt
6. Address of observer Clinton County AAF
7. Place of observation Control Tower
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object ~~from observer~~ ~~N/S~~ Around 5 miles from field
10. Time in sight 25 minutes
11. Altitude ~~N/S~~ 15,000 to 20,000 ft
12. Speed N/S - apparently slow
13. Direction of flight heading of 210° S W
14. Tactics ~~N/S~~ Moved from altitude of 15,000 ft to 10,000 ft without noticeble forward or backward motion (about 3 or 4 times)
15. Soumd N/S
16. Size N/S
17. Color changing colors (red and green)
18. Shape N/S
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails N/S
22. Weather conditions overcast
23. Effect on clouds could be seen thru overcast
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance disappeared over horizon on heading of 210°
26. Remarks: (over)

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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

South

Jan #48

To: Whom it may concern.

On the evening of 7 January 1948 at approximately 19:30 o'clock the undersigned witnessed a very bright light in the sky, in the Northwest direction of C.C.A.F. which appeared to be the complete wing of an aircraft on fire with the naked eye. Then the following observation with the aid of field glasses from the control tower was made, the object would gain and lose altitude very rapidly without much noticed forward or backward motion and at times changing colors of red and green, at one time it disappeared behing the overcast but its light penetrated through the overcast. At approximate 19:45 o'clock the object began to move away from the field at a heading of 210 degrees and disappeared over the horizon at approximately 19:55.

S/Sgt. John P. Haag, A.F, 17003481

John P. Haag

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

Object seemed to be some sort of flare. Witness thought it was some aircraft in trouble. Requested the tower to take a look at it to determine if it were a flare. It appeared, with the naked eye, to be a very bright light the color of ordinary fire which lost and regained altitude in the manner of a parachute flare riding on thermals. The intensity of the light varied. This was attributed to clouds passing ~~inxfrxnt~~ below; however, the light was readily discernible thru the clouds. The sky was clear to scattered. When the object was compared to the stars there was a decided difference. Stars were of the usual white; this object was yellow or flame color. When first seen it appeared to be about 4,000 ft but disappearing over the horizon would make it much higher. The movement was very slow in appearance and it left no trails or tails like a meteor or comet. Place of disappearance was approximately due west from position of observer.

NOTE: See also 48, 48a, 48b, 48c, 48d & 33, 33a, 33b, 33c, 33d, 33e, 33f & 30 and 32

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

[redacted]

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 48d

1. Date 7 Jan 48
2. Time 1920 to 1950
3. Location Clinton County Army Air Fld., Wilmington, O.
4. Name of observer Mr. [redacted]
5. Occupation of observer N/S
6. Address of observer Clinton County AAB
7. Place of observation Clinton County AAB
8. Number of objects 1
9. Distance of object from observer Seemed to be at first some 4,000 ft high
10. Time in sight N/S
11. Altitude 4,000 ft+
12. Speed movement slow in appearance
13. Direction of flight approx due west SW
14. Tactics described arc from point first seen to horizon
15. Sound N/S
16. Size N/S
17. Color fire-colored
18. Shape N/S
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction ~~Xxx~~ "fire"
21. Exhaust trails none -"left no trails or tails like a meteor or comet"
22. Weather conditions clear to scattered
23. Effect on clouds Xx Light could be seen when clouds passed beneath it.
24. Sketches or photographs none
25. Manner of disappearance due west over horizon
26. Remarks: (over)

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

[redacted]

June #48

S T A T E M E N T

This is a statement of a sky phenomena observed by me on 7 January 1948, between the approximate hours of 1920 to 1950.

It appeared to be some sort of flare. My first reaction to the sight was the belief that an aircraft was in trouble, and had shot a flare to attract attention. I then requested the tower to take a look at the object through glasses so they could attempt to determine whether or not it was a flare.

With the naked eye it appeared to be a very bright light with the color of ordinary fire. I was not able to maintain a watch continuously, due to my duties, and see the whole pattern of movement. I did observe it long enough at intervals to note that it lost and regained altitude in the manner that a parachute flare would when riding on thermals. The intensity of the light varied. This can be attributed to clouds passing in front of the light, however, I was able to see the light when clouds obscured it.

The sky condition at the time was what I would say was clear to scattered. Stars directly above me were compared to the light of the object and there was a decided difference. The stars were of the usual white and the object was yellow or flame color.

The altitude evidently was very high. The object when first seen appeared to be in the neighborhood of four thousand feet, but disappearing over the horizon would make it much higher. It described an imaginary arc from the point first seen to the horizon. The movement was very slow in appearance and left no trails or tails like a meteor or comet. Place of disappearance was approximately due west from my position.

Signed [redacted]

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
ALL-WEATHER FLYING CENTER
CLINTON COUNTY ARMY AIR FIELD
Wilmington, Ohio

June 48

10 January 1948

SUBJECT: Report concerning Public Information release of 8 January 1948.

TO : Col. J. Francis Taylor, Deputy Chief, All-Weather Flying Division.

1. A purely local release of information was made by the Public Information office of this station relating only what observers reported to Public Information concerning the appearance of what was termed a "sky phenomena." (See inclosure 1.)

2. Before this release was cleared to the Wilmington New-Journal, Wilmington, Ohio, permission was obtained from Public Information Office, Hq. AMC.

3. Public Information has extracted a United Press release of 22 December 1947, relating that a new comet should be visible in the northern hemisphere about January 1. This statement was issued by Professor Harlow Shapley, Harvard Observatory, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. (See inclosure 2.)

William D. Ceely
Major, USAF
Public Information Officer

THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Spectral Specter Seen Haunting CCAB Skies

WILMINGTON, Jan. 9.—(AP)—A phenomenon of the skies, a flaming red cone trailing a gaseous green mist, appeared near the Clinton County Air Base last night, and today continued to provide a mystery for the thousands of people who saw it.

The Air Base late yesterday issued a formal statement on the matter, but, a spokesman said, officials there still had no idea of what it was or what it might mean.

"The sky phenomena, described by observers at the Clinton County Air Base as having the appearance of a flaming red cone trailing a gaseous green mist appeared in the southwest skies of Wilmington Wednesday night between 7:20 and 7:55 p. m. (EST) it was said in the statement.

* * *

THE STATEMENT continued:

"Staff Sgt. Gale F. Walter and Corp. James Hudson, patrol tower operators at the airfield, first saw the phenomena at 7:20 p. m. and observed its maneuvers in the sky up to 7:55 p. m. when it reportedly disappeared over the horizon.

The sky phenomenon hung suspended in the air at intervals and then gained and lost altitude at what appeared to be terrific bursts of speed.

The intense brightness of the sky phenomena pierced through a heavy layer of clouds passing intermittently over the area and obscuring other celestial phenomena.

"Master Sgt. Irvin H. Lewis, Staff Sgt. John P. Haag, St. Harold E. Olivis and Tech. Sgt. Leroy Zeigler, four members of the alert crew, joined the patrol tower operators in observing the sky phenomena for approximately 35 minutes."

Flaming Cone Seen In Sky

WILMINGTON—A sky phenomenon, described yesterday by observers at Clinton County Air Base as having the appearance of a flaming red cone trailing a gaseous green mist, appeared in the sky southwest of Wilmington Wednesday between 7:20 and 7:55 p. m.

Staff Sgt. Gale F. Walter and Corp. James Hudson, control tower operators, saw the phenomenon at 7:20 p. m. and observed it until 7:55 p. m., when it disappeared over the horizon. They said the display hung in the air and then gained and lost altitude at what appeared to be terrific bursts of speed.

The intense brightness of the sky pierced through a heavy layer of clouds passing intermittently over the area.

'Flying Saucers' Again?

Ball Of Red Fire Reported At Wilmington

By United Press

Mysterious objects seen floating in the sky over Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio revived speculation about "flying saucers" today.

The latest report on the phenomena was at Wilmington, O., where personnel at the Clinton county air base reported a flaming ball of red fire which was seen for 35 minutes until it disappeared over the horizon.

National guard headquarters in Kentucky blamed the death of a pilot on a mysterious gleaming object which he was chasing.

They said Pilot Thomas F. Mantell, flying without oxygen equipment, apparently flew too high, became unconscious and lost control of his plane. He crashed near Franklin, Ky. Two pilots flying with Mantell turned back after they had climbed to 20,000 feet.

A bright, bulb-shaped object also was reported seen at Clarksville, Nashville and Columbia, Tenn., and at several points in southern Kentucky yesterday.

The ball of fire at Wilmington, O., was seen by Staff Sgt. Gale F. Walter and Corp. James Hudson in the patrol tower at the air base. They watched it for 35 minutes.

They described it as a flaming red cone, trailing a gaseous green mist.

"It hung suspended in the air at intervals and then gained and lost altitude at what appeared to be terrific bursts of speed," Walter said.

The intense brilliance of the object pierced a heavy layer of clouds, he added.

It also was seen by Wilmington residents night before last.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.—Lt. Col. James F. Pierce of the Army reserves said he saw "orange-yellow" lights which appeared to converge from the north and northeast toward the center of an imaginary circle. He said that if they continued he would attempt to photograph them from the air.

Officials at the Chicago Weather bureau said there were no weather conditions that would have produced an Aurora Borealis and they also ruled out the possibility that it was St. Elmo's fire.

St. Elmo's fire, they explained, requires release of static electricity from a conductive object such as a plane wing, ship mast, or a steeple.