RESTRICTED

Incident #122, a, b -- Holloman Air Force Base -- 5 April 1948

At the moment there appears to be no logical explanation for this incident.

There is nothing to indicate an astronomical origin of the object observed.

RESTRICTED

Incident No. 122 -- 5 April 1948, Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

Three balloon observers saw an object very high in the sky, moving faster than any known aircraft and possessing a rounded indistinct form, which disappeared suddenly. It was seen less than thirty seconds and was apparently not manned, judging by its violent maneuvers. For analogous size they stated if the moon were the size of an orange the object would approximate the size of a disc.

AMC Opinion: No explanation. However, the above comparison of size is to be noted. A dime held at arms length would shield the moon from the eye even if the moon appeared several times larger than it does. To reduce the proportion then, this object must have appeared as an infinitesimal point. From trained observers, this is certainly a major discrepancy.

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	148	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	48				

X-18448-1

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 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

#122

APPENDIX F

3610th Electronics Station

Analysis of Project Grudge Reports

AIR MATERIEL COMMAND
3140 Electronics Division
Cambridge Field Station
230 Albany Street
Cambridge 39, Mass.

000.92
In reply address
both communication
and envelope to the
Commanding Officer
and additional
following office
symbol. EMM

April 1 1948

SUBJECT: Analysis of Project "Crudge" Reported Incidents

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAMD

1. Reference is made to the letters from your Headquarters to this station of 22 November 1947, 6 December 1947, and 14 January 1948, Subjects: "Project 'Sign' ", requesting that reported incidents 1 through 172 be analyzed to determine whether or not these might have been caused by balloons launched by these laboratories.

2. A listing has been compiled of all balloons launched by these laboratories and its contractors for special atmospheric research purposes, from the first such launching to No. 101 on 17 November 1947. Each of these launchings has been compared with the reported incidents 1 through 172. Factors of comparison were date of launching and date of recovery with respect to date of reported incidents; place of launching and place of recovery with respect to the place of reported incidents, and possible deviations from the known flight path with respect to the place of reported incidents. So that your office may make an independent analysis, three copies of the launching list are inclosed.

a. Incidents No. 5 through No. 16 reported on 4 July 1947 throughout Oregon, Idaho and Washington gave, in general, descriptions of clusters or groups of objects. The 3 July 1947 balloon launching No. 5 at Alamogordo was a cluster of balloons and was not recovered, and so might be suspected of being the cause of these reports. However, although not recovered, this flight was terminated in the New Mexico Tularosa Valley only a few miles northwest of Alamogordo. That the balloons were downed was determined both by airplane spotting and by radio direction finding upon the balloon telemetering instruments. Recovery of the balloons and instruments was prevented by the impassability of the terrain.

b. Balloon release No. 11 of 7 July 1947 could compare with respect to date with incident No. 1 through No. 4, and again with incident No. 40. This balloon flight was again a cluster.

Ltr, ERM, to CG, AMC, Subj: Analysis of Proj. "Crud" Reports

The description of Incident No. 40 is in conflict with [illegible] of balloon flight No. 11. Also, in [illegible] description of [illegible] appear which, it is very unlikely that [illegible] from a few miles northward of Alamogordo, although it [illegible] that a long flight west of the launching point could not be [illegible] as impossible.

c. Incident No. 47 compares consistently with balloon launching No. 10 of 5 July 1947. However, balloon No. 10 although not recovered was known to have been downed northeast of Alamogordo, [illegible]. It was not recovered due to impassability of terrain. Incident No. 115 is a reasonable description of the 60 ft. plastic balloons and instruments used by these laboratories. This incident was on the day of balloon release No. 46 of 9 April 1948 at Alamogordo. However, the time of the reported incident (1506 CST) is about 1/2 hour before the time of balloon release (1632 MST), thus the incident could not have been that balloon.

d. It is of interest to note that incident No. 122 was [illegible] by an employee of these laboratories who had considerable experience in the use of balloons of all kinds, and could have been depended upon to know the appearance and behavior of a balloon if it was this he saw.

e. Incident No. 163 bears a fair description of the appearance of a large plastic balloon in sunset light. The object's disappearance could be accounted for either by its movement into the earth's summer shadow or by an optical defocusing of the observer's eyes. This incident could possibly have been balloon release No. 75 or No. 76 or 20 and 21 July 48 from Alamogordo. Balloon No. 75 was recovered at Hollister, California, which is in the Monterey Bay area, on 22 July 1948 and could have easily had a trajectory which would have been within sight of the Los Angeles area. Balloon No. 76 was never recovered. It is possible that it had a trajectory similar to No. 75.

f. All other reported incidents from 1 to 172 do not seem to have reasonable comparison with balloons launched by these laboratories.

3. The balloons used by these laboratories are now somewhat standardized. They are 20 feet long, plastic, white in color, and hemisphere-on-cone in shape. Nearly all launchings are made at the Holloman AFB at Alamogordo, New Mexico. The photograph prints are included showing the appearance and size of these balloons. The larger photograph shows the typical flight appearance at any altitudes where it would be visible. It is hoped that this information may be of some use to you in identifying future reports of incidents.

S-21560

Ltr, [illegible], to GS, [illegible], Subj: Analysis of Prof. "Condon" Report [illegible]

4. It is believed that certain of the items [illegible] "Unexplained or Unidentified Flying Objects" [illegible] reliable data from an observer. [illegible] observers, [illegible] object [illegible] the dead range of the [illegible] sky. Probably one individually [illegible] minutes at least, one of them (and some observed on [illegible]) are [illegible]. Directly asking an observer about these indeterminants not only [illegible] unreliable data but induces will answers because the observer is [illegible] into making a statement about quantities for which he has no [illegible] fact. He will unconsciously assume knowledge of some one of these factors and so give the poorest information on all. That people ([illegible] of which should know better) will unhesitatingly give answers to the [illegible] sufficient difficulty on these questions, which really cannot be [illegible] all, is proof of the unreliability of their information.

5. It is suggested that these four items on the questionnaire be replaced by questions which will yield answers possible of [illegible] dependent data in terms of the observer's best estimates of [illegible] time. From such data given by observers of the same object at two different places, a reliable calculated estimate could be made of the object's size, altitude, speed and path. These data should include:

a. An estimate of the angular size of the object. A quick but reasonable estimate can be made by comparing the angle subtended by the index finger held at arms length. The finger (7/8" wide) of an average man held at 26" to 30" (arms length) will subtend an angle of approximately two degrees. In this way angular size from about 1/2° to about 6° can be estimated.

b. The range of the object's flight in terms of the angle subtended by the observed path. If the object moves in a relatively straight course it is important to observe the position at the beginning and the end of its course. After the flight has been completed a person can extend his arms toward the two points and also at 90° or 180° and by comparison estimate the angular extent of the flight. It is also important that information which will determine these directions relative to a compass point be given. If the angular course is associated with objects on the horizon, with roads, with the sun (if the time of day is also noted) or by the north star, the orientation can be rechecked at any later time.

c. The time required for the object to traverse the observed course. This is probably the most difficult estimate to make. Using a watch is the most satisfactory, but an observer is seldom prepared to do so. Seconds can be counted with good accuracy by saying

C-25050

Ltr, ENE, to CC, AFC, Subj: Analysis of Proj. "Grudge" Reported Unidentified Flying Objects

[illegible] flying saucers, two flying saucers, three flying saucers" [illegible] as a normal spinning speed. On the other hand if it [illegible] circle and if the same disc rolls all the other [illegible] it must be considered that when a person is confused his [illegible] discs are apt to be rather amorphous.

4. Determination of the elevation angle of the object. [illegible] all persons who attempted elevation sights. This [illegible] reduced by the observer extending one arm vertically and the other horizontally to observe a 90° angle. The vertical arm can then be lowered to point to the observed object. In this way the observed angle can be compared with a 90° angle and a more accurate estimate obtained.

5. It is realized that it might not be possible for an observer to perform the operations suggested in the preceding paragraph, during the period the object is sighted. If he would immediately recount [illegible] that he can and then estimate such measurements, he should be able [illegible] the quantities the answers accurate to at least 25%. In interrogating observers, they should also be asked to reconstruct their observations and then estimate these same factors. It is suggested that instructions for making such quick and estimated observations be given to weather observers, control tower operators, civil police, forest and fire rangers, and other such people who might have good chance of seeing unidentified flying objects. If any information concerning unidentified flying objects is given to the public, instructions for reliable observation should be included.

7. This organization will be pleased to be of any further assistance required in connection with this matter.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

/s/ A. C. Trakowski, Jr.
A. C. TRAKOWSKI, JR.
Captain, USAF
Director, Base Directorate
for Geophysical Research

3 Incls
1. List of balloons launched (in trip)
2. 8" X 10" photo print of plastic balloon
3. 4" X 5" photo print of plastic balloon

B-31560

5 APR 48

With 194 incidents thus eliminated, there remain thirty-four which contain some evidence but have no apparent ready explanation. This statement is true only under the assumption that the evidence is accepted as reliable and accurate. When psychological and physiological factors are taken into consideration, all of these incidents can be explained rationally, as pointed out by Rand Corporation and Lt. Pitts of Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (see Appendices "H" and "G").

Air Materiel Command Aero-Medical Laboratory (Dr. Paul M. [illegible] 212 Incidents considered)

There are sufficient psychological explanations for the reports of unidentified flying objects to provide plausible explanations for reports not otherwise explainable. These errors in identifying real stimuli result chiefly from inability to estimate speed, distance, and size.

All of the remaining 34 incidents are treated in detail in this report. These incidents form no pattern in regard to area of sighting, type of object, or manner of performance. There are indications, however, that some sightings were influenced by earlier reports, and probably would not have been considered unusual or reported had there been no publicity.

APPENDIX I

Project Grudge

Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

VII. Summary of AMC Evaluation of Remaining Reports

The remaining unexplained incidents (see Appendix "I") exhibited few common characteristics. Two of them, by statements of the reporters, would not have been made had the witnesses not read of the Mt. Ranier incident (Incident No. 17). Most were distributed without pattern throughout the United States. A few were outside the U. S. No two descriptions of appearance or performance were exactly alike. The reported sightings occurred at various times of day and year.

APPENDIX I

In the following section of this report, each remaining unexplained incident is considered separately. It is not the intent to generally discredit the character of observers, but each case has undesirable elements, and these cannot be disregarded. The numerical designation is merely the categorical order of the incident in the project files.

1, 10, 17, 21, 29, 35, 37, 40, 51, 58, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84,
111, 122, 134, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 236.

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 122

1. Date 5 April 1948
2. Time N/S
3. Location Holloman Air Force Base
4. Name of observer Mr. [redacted]
5. Occupation of observer Trained balloon observer, Geophysics Lab Section
6. Address of observer N/S
7. Place of observation From the ground
8. Number of objects One
9. Distance of object from observer N/S
10. Time in sight 30 seconds
11. Altitude Very high
12. Speed Faster than any known aircraft
13. Direction of flight N/S
14. Tactics Erratic - completing a large loop after its downward descent, then soaring upward and disappearing suddenly
15. Sound None
16. Size Large
17. Color Grey-white
18. Shape Rounded, indistinct form
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails N/S
22. Weather conditions C.A.V.U.
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs None
25. Manner of disappearance Disappeared suddenly
26. Remarks: This was evidently the one object, of two sighted by another witness, that veered to the right and down. Its vaguely

[redacted]

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident # 122 b

1. Date 5 April 1948

2. Time N/S

3. Location Holloman Air Force Base

4. Name of observer Mr. [redacted]

5. Occupation of observer Trained balloon observer, Geophysics Lab Section

6. Address of observer N/S

7. Place of observation From the ground

8. Number of objects Two

9. Distance of object from observer N/S

10. Time in sight 30 seconds

11. Altitude Very high

12. Speed Very high, faster than any known aircraft

13. Direction of flight 1 straight up, 1 disappeared in the west

14. Tactics First one veered to the right, started down and was lost to view. Second one made arc into the west at a terrific speed and disappeared suddenly.

15. Sound N/S

16. Size N/S

17. Color Golden hue

18. Shape Had appearance of a major's insignia, that is, irregularly rounded and slightly concave on top

19. Odor detected N/S

20. Apparent construction N/S

21. Exhaust trails N/S

22. Weather conditions N/S

23. Effect on clouds N/S

24. Sketches or photographs None

25. Manner of disappearance Disappeared suddenly

26. Remarks: Mr. [redacted] was the only one of the three witnesses who saw two objects. When he first perceived them, they were going

[redacted]

straight up then one veered to the right, started down, and was lost to view. Directing his attention to the other object, Mr. [redacted] saw it arc into the west at a terrific speed and disappear suddenly. Mr. [redacted] described the object as being of a golden hue, rather indistinct in outline and possessing somewhat the appearance of a major's insignia, that is, irregularly rounded and slightly concave on top.

~~The statements of other witnesses to this incident are contained in reports 112 and 112a.~~

All witnesses agreed that the object was very high, moved faster than any known aircraft; possessed a rounded, indistinct form, and disappeared suddenly rather than fading away in the distance. It was under observation 1/2 minutes or slightly less. It was definitely not a balloon, and apparently not manned, judging from the violent maneuvers which were performed at a high rate of speed.

[redacted]

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Date 5 April 1948 Incident #122 a

2. Time Afternoon

3. Location Holloman Air Force Base

4. Name of observer Mr. [redacted]

5. Occupation of observer Trained balloon observer, Geophysics Lab Section

6. Address of observer N/S

7. Place of observation From the ground

8. Number of objects One

9. Distance of object from observer N/S

10. Time in sight 30 seconds

11. Altitude Very high

12. Speed Tremendous

13. Direction of flight West

14. Tactics Object made three vertical loops, upon completion of which it it disappeared in a large arc to the west

15. Sound None

16. Size Considering the moon the size of an orange, the object was the size of a dime

17. Color N/S

18. Shape Bore some resemblance to, but definitely not, a balloon

19. Odor detected None

20. Apparent construction N/S

21. Exhaust trails N/S

22. Weather conditions N/S

23. Effect on clouds N/S

24. Sketches or photographs None

25. Manner of disappearance Disappeared suddenly

26. Remarks: Presumably Mr. [redacted] saw the object that did not veer to the right. (See Incident #112 b) He stated that it was absolutely

50

[redacted]

silent on the desert that afternoon and that no audible noise was heard from the object. Neither was any signal nor atmospheric noise heard on the 400-meter receiver to which he was listening at the time. He further stated that the wind at high altitude that day was very calm being only 10 to 15 miles an hour from the west at 65,000 feet.

~~The statements of other witnesses to this incident are contained in reports 112 and 112b.~~

All witnesses agreed that the object was very high, moved faster than any known aircraft, possessed a rounded, indistinct form, and disappeared suddenly rather than fading away in the distance. It was under observation 1/2 minutes or slightly less. It was definitely not a balloon, and apparently not manned, judging from the violent maneuvers which were performed at a high rate of speed.

[redacted]

AMC Form No. 10-314 (Rev 10 Sep 46)

[redacted]

WF-1-2 SEP 47 25000

8-2913

SAVE

IN REPLY ADDRESS BOTH COMMUNICATION AND ENVELOPE TO COMMANDING GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL COMMAND, ATTENTION FOLLOWING OFFICE SYMBOL:

MCIAXD

HEADQUARTERS

AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

UNCLASSIFIED

MCIAXD/JCB/amb

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

~~WRIGHT FIELD~~, DAYTON, OHIO

12 May 1948

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Commanding Officer
Holloman Air Force Base
Alamogordo, New Mexico

1. On 5 May 1948, Lt Colonel James C. Beam and Mr. Alfred C. Loedding, representatives of Intelligence Department, this Command, visited your headquarters for the purpose of interviewing Dr. Peoples of the Watson Laboratories.

2. It was learned that a Lt Markley has, in several instances in the past, detected on a radar scope unidentified flying objects moving at an excessive rate of speed. It is desired that a report be submitted to this headquarters giving all available information on these reported sightings. Future observations of this type should be reported to this headquarters immediately.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL McNARNEY:

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

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

HDOP 1st Ind RJN:ecy

Hq, Holloman Air Force Base, Alamogordo, New Mexico, 24 May 1948

To: CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio

Enclosed is statement of Lt. Markley in answer to basic communication.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl
Lt. Markley's Statement

JAMES C. PETERSEN
Major, Air Corps
Adjutant

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

HGM/ctd

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
OPERATIONS & PROJECTS
ELECTRONIC & ATMOSPHERIC DIVISION

S-T-A-T-E-M-E-N-T

1. Reference is made to Par 2, basic communication. Apparently a misunderstanding exists in that I did not personally see unidentified objects moving at an excessive rate of speed on a radar scope. Rather, Mr. P. [redacted], of Watson Laboratories, very probably saw unidentified objects. However, Mr. [redacted] informed me that the objects seen were not moving at an excessive speed, but rather were motionless at an altitude somewhere in the vicinity of 200 miles. When these were seen on the Radar scope of the CPS-4 (Modified) the angle of elevation of the Radar antenna was approximately 70 degrees from horizontal.

2. During the latter part of August, 1947, this organization was carrying on several test runs with a modified SCR-270 at this base. I had released a corner reflector and two balloons and was watching them in their flight as they drifted to the southeast from this base. While watching the balloons through a pair of ten power binoculars, a white object, appearing to be round, came into my field of vision. I followed the object as far as possible but lost it within seconds after picking it up. The object was traveling at an unprecedented rate of speed and appeared to be several thousand feet over the top of the Sacramento mountain range, traveling in horizontal flight south to north.

3. There have been other times when manning the M-2 Optical tracker, that I have seen round or flat-round objects that were unexplainable.

4. In view of Par 1, this indorsement, it is suggested that Mr. P. [redacted] of the Radar Laboratory, AMC Watson Laboratories, Red Bank, New Jersey be contacted.

[redacted]
1st Lt. USAF
Communications Officer

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

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

MCIAXD/JCB/amb
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
xxxxxxx
12 May 1948

MCIAXD

Lt Markley

Project "SIGM"

Commanding Officer
Holloman Air Force Base
Alamogordo, New Mexico

1. On 5 May 1948, Lt Colonel James C. Beam and Mr. Alfred C. Loedding, representatives of Intelligence Department, this Command, visited your headquarters for the purpose of interviewing Dr. Peoples of the Watson Laboratories.

2. It was learned that a Lt Markley has, in several instances in the past, detected on a radar scope unidentified flying objects moving at an excessive rate of speed. It is desired that a report be submitted to this headquarters giving all available information on these reported sightings. Future observations of this type should be reported to this headquarters immediately.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL McNARNEY:

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

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

11 May 1948

Report of Trip to Holloman Air Force Base, 5 - 6 May 1948

1. The primary purpose of this trip was to interview Dr. [redacted], representing the Watson Laboratories, who was temporarily on loan to Holloman Air Force Base. Upon arrival, it was learned that Dr. [redacted] had returned to the Watson Laboratories at Red Bank, N. J. A teletype sent from Holloman Air Force Base stating that Dr. [redacted] would not be available for interview did not reach Hq, AMC in sufficient time to postpone the visit. However, it was learned that Dr. [redacted] would be at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala. on or about 11 May 1948 for an indefinite period of time.

2. A civilian, Mr. [redacted], who works in the same laboratory with Dr. [redacted] had also seen the unidentified flying object while in the presence of Dr. [redacted]. Mr. [redacted] was interviewed with the following stated results:

a. The object definitely was not a balloon.

b. The object appeared round and white; was at a great altitude and moved at a high rate of speed.

3. Mr. [redacted] promised to send in a detailed report through channels, together with the report of another civilian who also witnessed the phenomenon.

4. It was also learned that a Lt Markley who works in the Radar Laboratory at Holloman AF Base has, on several occasions in the past, witnessed on his scope unidentified flying objects at high altitudes, moving at a very high rate of speed. Lt [redacted] was not available for interview; however, a request for a detailed report of these observations was forwarded to the Commanding Officer, Holloman Air Force Base.

5. Lt Colonel James C. Beam and Mr. Alfred C. Loedding proceeded to Phoenix, Ariz. to interview Mr. [redacted] and follow up on the report and photographs submitted by him some months ago. Although Mr. [redacted] is currently employed as a piano player in a night club, his primary interest is in a small but quite complete laboratory behind his home. According to his business card, this laboratory is called "Panoramic Research - Laboratory and Observatory", and Mr. [redacted] is referred to as the "Chief of Staff". Mr. [redacted] appeared to be completely sincere and apparently is quite interested in scientific experiments. Mr. [redacted] stated he was an aircraft recognition instructor during the last war, and that in his opinion, the object sighted definitely was not a wind-blown object. He reiterated that the object was not less than 2000 ft. away and that it was not much more than 2000 ft. away unless he had greatly underestimated its size. Mr. [redacted] pointed out where he had stood when he took the pictures of this flying object and indicated the exact paths of approach and departure of the object. He added that when the object turned directly away from him, he observed what appeared to be one large opening or vent across the entire trailing edge. Mr. [redacted] promised to send in another more detailed report, incorporating this observation.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

6. Mr. [redacted] also mentioned having seen a series of photographs taken by another civilian in Phoenix, Ariz. on approximately the same day. He promised to investigate this phase and to forward a set of these photographs to this headquarters if they are available. Mr. [redacted] permitted the ordinary box type camera with which he took his pictures to be brought to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for examination.

JAMES C. BEAM
Lt Colonel, USAF
Project Officer

Concurred in:

ALFRED C. LOEDDING
Technical Assistant
Tech Intelligence Div
Intelligence Department

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Supplement to Trip Report to Watson Laboratories - 3 and 4 Jun 48

THRU: Col Clingerman

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

TO: Col McCoy

1. Personnel interviewed on this trip were Dr. [redacted], Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] of the Geophysics Laboratory Section and Mr. [redacted] of the Radar Laboratory.

2. Contrary to existing reports, Dr. [redacted] was not witness to the sighting at Holloman Air Force Base on or about 5th April 1948. However, Dr. [redacted] was very cooperative and called in his assistants, Messrs [redacted] and [redacted], remaining present while they presented their versions of the sighting which occurred in the afternoon of the 5th April 1948 while the three of them were searching the skies for an experimental balloon released a short time before. The sighting was made by all three men at approximately the same time. It was first believed to be the balloon; however, they almost immediately discovered their error and agreed that while the sighted object bore some resemblance to a balloon, it was definitely not that.

3. Mr. [redacted] was the only one of the three who saw two objects. When he first perceived them they were going straight up then one veered to the right, started down, and was lost to view. Directing his attention to the other object, Mr. [redacted] saw it arc into the west at terrific speed and disappear suddenly. Mr. [redacted] described the object as being of a golden hue, rather indistinct in outline and possessing somewhat the appearance of a major's insignia, that is, irregularly rounded and slightly concave on top.

4. Mr. [redacted] saw only one object which was evidently the one that veered to the right and down. He was able to keep it in sight longer than did Mr. [redacted] and described its maneuvers as completing a large loop after its downward descent, then soaring upward and disappearing suddenly. To him it appeared gray-white in color, its vaguely defined form giving the appearance of a large object at great distance.

5. Presumably Mr. [redacted] saw the object that did not veer to the right. He stated that this object made three vertical loops upon completion of which it disappeared in a large arc to the west at tremendous speed. He admitted that at first glance it seemed to resemble a balloon but in his considered opinion it was definitely not that. He stated that it was absolutely silent on the desert that afternoon and that no audible noise was heard from the object. Neither was any signal nor atmospheric noise heard on the 400-meter receiver to which he was listening at the time. He further stated that the wind at high altitude that day was very calm being only 10 to 15 miles an hour from the west at 65,000 feet. As for analygous size, if the moon were considered the size of an orange the object would approximate the size of a dime.

See Doc 122

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

6. All agreed on the following: the object was very high, moved faster than any known aircraft, possessed a rounded, indistinct form, and disappeared suddenly rather than fading away in the distance. It was under observation 1/2 minutes or slightly less. It was definitely not a balloon and apparently not manned judging from the violent maneuvers which were performed at a high rate of speed.

7. Dr. [redacted] stated that he placed great credence upon these observations because all three men are trained balloon observers. He suggested that an observation team equipped with search apparatus both optical and radar be placed at Holloman Air Force Base in order that more definite information might be secured in the event of a recurrence of an incident of this type. He also suggested that the radio sonde stations in the U. S. be alerted for incidents of this type. He promised to alert the observers in his department to be on the watch for and to report any similar incidents.

8. Mr. [redacted] of the Radar Laboratory was interviewed on 4 June 1948. His statements do not check very closely with those contained in Lt [redacted]'s report to this office. Mr. [redacted] stated that Lt [redacted] was one of two observers on a modified CPS 4 Optical Tracking Device. The observations Lt [redacted] reported seeing on this equipment could not be confirmed at any time by the other tracker. Mr. [redacted] passed off the "ghost pip" he personally observed on the radar equipment as merely the illusion of the equipment. He explained that this "ghost" did not move, and was possibly the echo from a distant mountain on a side wave of the radar equipment. He also spoke of "crazing" which is the effect on radar by the white gypsum sand in the area directly west of the Air Base. He also mentioned another form of "ghost" called "Angels" which have been detected and which are believed to be caused by changes in air density. Such phenomena have been observed and reported from Camp Edwards.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION TO BE TAKEN

1. In the light of Mr. [redacted] statements, the frequency of the sightings at Holloman Air Force Base does not warrant the placing of an observation team at that station. Should the sightings become more frequent and more substantial evidence be received from Dr. [redacted] alerted observers, further consideration will be given to the initiation of such a project.

2. The Weather Service Headquarters at Tinker Field will be questioned as to the feasibility of alerting their radio sonde stations to be on the lookout for unidentified aerial objects. A similar request will be made to the Signal Corps and Coast Artillery through Headquarters, Army Field Forces.

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

[redacted]

JAMES C. BEAM
Lt Col., USAF
Project Officer
Tech Intel Div.

UNCLASSIFIED

Request for Trav[illegible] O[illegible]

TO: FROM: DATE:

1. It is requested that travel orders be prepared for:

a. Name: (1) Officers (2) Enlisted Men (3) Civilians

	First	Init	Last	Grade	Serial No	Arm Of
(1)	JAMES	C.	BEAM	Lt Col	AO-34448	USAF
(2)						
(3)	[redacted]	[redacted]		Aeronautical Engineer		

	First	Init	Last	Civil Service Designation
(3)	[redacted]	[redacted]		Aeronautical Engineer

b. Travel to begin on or about 3 May 1948

c. For approximate number of days 2 days

d. To Office of Director of Intelligence, Air Intelligence Req. Div (AFOIR) Hq, USAF, Washington 25, D.C.

Activity to be visited — City — State

Activity to be visited — City — State

Activity to be visited — City — State

Activity to be visited — City — State

e. Is any change in itinerary necessary? _____ If "Yes" give reason:

f. Purpose of travel is to discuss classified Project HT-304

(1) Justification: per orders of Colonel Clingerman

g. Travel is in connection with Project No. HT-304

h. Individual is cleared for access to [redacted] (Top Secret), Lt Col James C. Beam (Secret) material pertinent to these orders.

i. Mode of travel desired is by mil air and/or _____

j. Is per diem requested: X
Yes No

k. Funds are chargeable to MCIA
Division Symbol

l. If travel is to Washington, authority from Washington must be shown

(1) Letter
Office of origin Subject Date

(2) Teletype
Office of origin Number Date

(3) Telephone conversation or verbal orders
Col Robert Taylor, III AFOIR
Name of person in Washington Office

Col H. M. McCoy MCI
Name of person at this Hq Office

Date

m. For permanent change of station (scientists only) list dependents showing name, relationship and age; also, state whether shipment of household goods and personal effects at government expense is requested:

(1) Dependents

Name	Relationship	Age

(2) Is shipment of household goods requested?
Yes No

2. I certify that I have checked this request for travel orders and consider travel essential to effectively discharge the functions of this section.

Signature of Section Chief
W. R. CLINGERMAN, Col, USAF
Chief, Tech Intelligence Div
Intelligence Department

32

MAY 15 01

UEDC

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101

AT 8HHC

[redacted] NCEA 5-4-46 FD ATTN TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION FD

URTT MCIA-4-1 DTD 30 APR 46 FD DR [redacted] OF WATSON LABORATORIES

PARTED FOR MAXWELL FIELD CMA MONTGOMERY ALA 1 MAY 46 FD [redacted]

BE CONTACTED AT MAXWELL FLD ON OR ABOUT 11 MAY FD SUGGEST YOU

[redacted] FOR AVAILABILITY FD SIGNED CRAWFORD

24/2301Z

ASC-251-D
(15-10-43)

MCIA/ACL/amb

A. G. P.	
PRIORITY	
ROUTINE	X
MULTIPLE ADDRESS	

TELETYPE MESSAGE

AIR SERVICE COMMAND TELETYPE NETWORK

FROM: AMC

DATE: 30 Apr 48

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

NAME, RANK AND TITLE OF AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

TO: COMMANDING OFFICER
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE
ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO
~~XXXX~~: ATTN: COL PAUL F. HELMICK

Subject: Interview Dr JW Peoples

TELETYPE NO. MCIA-4-1

MR. ZABRISKI OF THIS HQ INDICATED THAT DR. [redacted] OF THE WATSON LABORATORIES HAS INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT. CONFERENCE WITH [redacted]S REQUESTED ON 5 OR 6 MAY 1948. ADVISE IF CONVENIENT. INTELLIGENCE REPRESENTATIVES LT COL JAMES C. BEAM AND MR. [redacted] WILL TRAVEL BY MILITARY AIR.

SIGNED, TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

-25-

COORDINATION

C. G. OR C. O.	CONTROL OFFICE	MAINTENANCE	P & T	SUPPLY	BUDGET & FISCAL	OTHERS