[redacted] Incident #115

ATIC NO. [redacted] DATE OF INFO 19 April 1948

AF NO. [redacted] LOCATION Greenville AFB, SC

REPORT NO. [redacted] SOURCE USAF Officers

DATE OF REPORT [redacted] DATE IN TO ATIC [redacted]

TIME OF SIGHTING 1615 COLOR white

SHAPE Elliptical SPEED Stationary then climbing Estimated / Measured

SIZE [redacted] ALTITUDE 15,000-20,000' Estimated / Measured

COURSE North LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 2 minutes

NO. IN GROUP 3, 1 first and two later TYPE OF OBSERVATION ground

SOUND [redacted] MANEUVERS Hovering then acceleration & climb

PHOTOS [redacted] SKETCHES 2

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(2 Jan 52)

[redacted]

Ltr Balloons

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #115 -- Greenville, South Carolina -- 19 April 1948

There is nothing astronomical in this incident.

The description suggests that the objects observed were balloons or aircraft reflecting sunlight.

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	143	163
16	32	87	107,8,9	151	167
22	33	89	112(See122)	154	169
23	43				

T-2451-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 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-3[illegible]-A

B/Ltr from AMC
dtd 5 Jan 1949
Subj: Project
"SIGN"

AWS DSS 1st Ind 24 Jan 1949

HEADQUARTERS, AIR WEATHER SERVICE Andrews Air Force Base, Washington 25, D. C.

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

Investigations by this headquarters reveal that a synoptic weather balloon could have been at the location where sightings were reported in the following incidents. In compiling this list consideration was given to the wind direction and speed at the surface and aloft at the scheduled time of balloon release, and the location of the nearest weather station making balloon observations.

2	52	91	126
3	72	93	148
4	73	94	155
25	78	105	166
28	81	113	169
36	87	115	172

FOR THE CHIEF AIR WEATHER SERVICE

2 Incls:
n/c

/s/ W. A. West
W. A. WEST
Lt. Col., USAF
Adjutant General

Witnesses were attracted by sound of fighter aircraft in vicinity. They started searching the sky for the aircraft and sighted the objects. When first sighted, the witnesses thought the objects might be weather balloons. However, when they accelerated so rapidly in a northerly heading, they determined the objects could not be balloons. They were in a trail formation on a North-South line, and moved so rapidly they wereout of sight within a few seconds. From original sighting in the stationary position to their disappearance, a period of approximately two (2) minutes elapsed, ~~of~~ which the objects were in a stationary position for approximately one (1)minute.

NOTE: Wind at 20,000 ft from 340° at 10 knots per hour (1230 EST Rpt)
Wind at 20,000 ft 32° at 13 knots per hour ~~at~~ (1830 EST Rpt)

NOTE: Nearest weather station releasing balloons is Spartanburg, S. C.
One black balloon was released at 1230 EST.

CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident #115

1. Date 19 Apr 48
2. Time 1615
3. Location Over Greenville AF Base, Greenville, S. C.
4. Name of observers 1st Lt [redacted]
& 1st Lt [redacted]
5. Occupation of observor Both attached to Liaison sq. Greenville
6. Address of observors Greenville AF Base, Greenville, S. C.
7. Place of observation Greenville AF Base
8. Number of objects 2 - 1 at first, 2 later
9. Distance of object from observor 15,000 to 20,000 ft overhead
10. Time in sight 2 mimutes
11. Altitude 15,000 to 20,000 ft
12. Speed Undetermined. Stationary, then rapidly accelerating and climbing
13. Direction of flight North
14. Tactics Hovering then acceleration and climbing
Observed trail formation
15. Soumd none audible (?) - states: Witnesses were ttracted by sound of fighter aircraft in vicinity. (no mention made of these)
16. Size undetermined
17. Color white
18. Shape elliptical
19. Odor detected N/S
20. Apparent construction N/S
21. Exhaust trails No exhaust or condensation trail
22. Weather conditions CAVU
23. Effect on clouds N/S
24. Sketches or photographs 2
25. Manner of disappearance in distance
26. Remarks: (over)

CONFIDENTIAL RTC

3
5

UNCLASSIFIED

AMC
Subject: "Report of Sighting Flying Discs"

1st Ind MCIA/JCB/amb

Hq, AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio APR 27 1948

TO: Commanding General, Greenville Air Force Base, Greenville, S. C.
ATTN: Intelligence Officer, 5th Liaison Squadron

Reference is made to paragraph g, basic communication. Request clarification as to whether the fighter aircraft heard were actually observed in addition to the unidentified flying objects.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

H. M. McCOY
Colonel, USAF
Chief of Intelligence

2nd Ind

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, 5th Liaison Squadron, GAFB, Greenville, South Carolina, 6 May 48

TO: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio.
ATTENTION: Chief of Intelligence

One witness states he actually saw and identified fighter aircraft which attracted his attention, and also saw unidentified flying objects.

THOMAS J. MAHER
1st Lt, USAF
Intelligence Officer

1 Incl
Statement of 1st Lt [redacted]
USAF

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

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL RTC

Item #115A

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
5TH LIAISON SQUADRON
Greenville Air Force Base
Greenville, South Carolina

19 April, 1948

SUBJECT: Report of Sighting Flying Discs

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTENTION: TSDIN

1. In accordance with instructions contained in TAC Letter, file TAC 000.92 (16 Feb 48), Subject: Reporting of Information on Flying Discs, dated 16 February, 1948, the following information is submitted:

a. Objects sighted at 1615, 19 April, 1948 over Greenville Air Force Base, Greenville, South Carolina.

b. Weather at time of sighting: ceiling and visibility unlimited.

c. Witnesses:

1st Lt [redacted]
5th Liaison Squadron, Greenville Air Force Base,
Greenville, South Carolina

1st Lt [redacted]
5th Liaison Squadron, Greenville Air Force Base,
Greenville, South Carolina

d. No photographs available.

e. Sketches of objects configuration attached.

f. Objects sighted:

1. Number of objects sighted: two (2).
2. Shape: elliptical.
3. Size: undetermined.
4. Color: white.

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

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Ltr Hdqrs 5th Liaison Squadron, GAFB, Office of the Intelligence Officer, Greenville, S. C. Subj: Report of Sighting Flying Discs, dtd 19 April, 1948 to Commanding General, AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. ATTN: TSDIN

5. Speed: Undetermined. Stationary, then rapidly accelerating and climbing.
6. Heading: North.
7. Maneuverablity: No display except acceleration.
8. Altitude: approximated 15,000 feet plus.
9. Sound: none audible.
10. No exhaust or condensation trail.

g. General remarks: Witnesses were attracted by the sound of fighter aircraft in the vicinity. They started searching the sky for the aircraft and sighted the objects. When first sighted, the witnesses thought the objects might be weather balloons, however, when the objects accelerated so rapidly in a northerly heading, they determined that the objects could not be balloons. The objects were in a trail formation on a North-South Line. The objects moved so rapidly that they were out of sight within a few seconds. From original sighting in the stationary position to their disappearance, a period of approximately two (2) minutes elapsed, of which the objects were in a stationary position for approximately one (1) minute. As a precaution against submitting an erroneous report, the local weather office was checked to see whether any weather balloons had been released and a negative reply was received. The winds aloft report made at 1230 hours EST, 19 April, 1948, indicated at 10,000 feet that winds were from 90 degrees at 3 knots per hours and at 20,000 feet, from 340 degrees, at 10 knots per hour. The 1830 hour EST report indicated winds at 10,000 feet to be from 25 degrees at 2 knots per hour, at 14,000 feet from 24 degrees at 4 knots per hour and at 20,000 feet to be from 32 degrees at 13 knots per hour. Nearest weather station releasing balloons is Spartanburg, S. C., one black balloon was released at 1230 EST.

2. Statement of 1st Lt [redacted] is enclosed. Statement of 1st Lt [redacted] is not available at this time due to his absence from this station, however statement will be forwarded under separate cover when statement is available.

3. The undersigned officer interviewed witnesses and investigated weather conditions.

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

THOMAS J. MAHER
1st Lt, USAF
Unit Intelligence Officer

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

#115

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

S T A T E M E N T

On the 19th day of April, 1948, at approximately 1615 hours, I, with Lt. [redacted], was standing in front of our squadron orderly room. As we were talking, I heard the sound of fighter aircraft flying and searched the sky in the direction of the sound, whereupon, I noticed one (1) white balloon object on a Northeast heading. I then noticed that there were two (2) objects.

These objects were at an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 feet and seemed to be stationary; then these two (2) objects seemed to accelerate very rapidly in a northerly direction and at the same time, seemed to be climbing until they were lost to sight. It is estimated that these objects were visible for not more than three (3) minutes.

Lt. [redacted] and myself discussed the possibility that the objects were weather balloons. I, personally, checked the weather office to determine if weather balloons had been released and I was informed that no balloons had been sent aloft.

[redacted]

1st Lt, USAF

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

STATEMENT

At approximately 1615 1st Lt [redacted] and myself were standing in front of 5th Intelligence Squadron orderly room, Greenville Air Force Base. A [illegible] was heard in the vicinity of the field and upon looking for same Lt [redacted] brought to my attention a spherical shaped silvery looking stationary object vertically above us. My impression at the time of the object, was a weather balloon. Upon further observation however the altitude of object appeared to be roughly 15 to 20 thousand feet. Approximately one minute later two identical objects were noted in close proximity. Almost immediately objects accelerated rapidly to the north east apparently climbing. Lt [redacted] lost sight of the objects after a few seconds, however they remained visible to me for at least 30 seconds from the time I first noticed them.

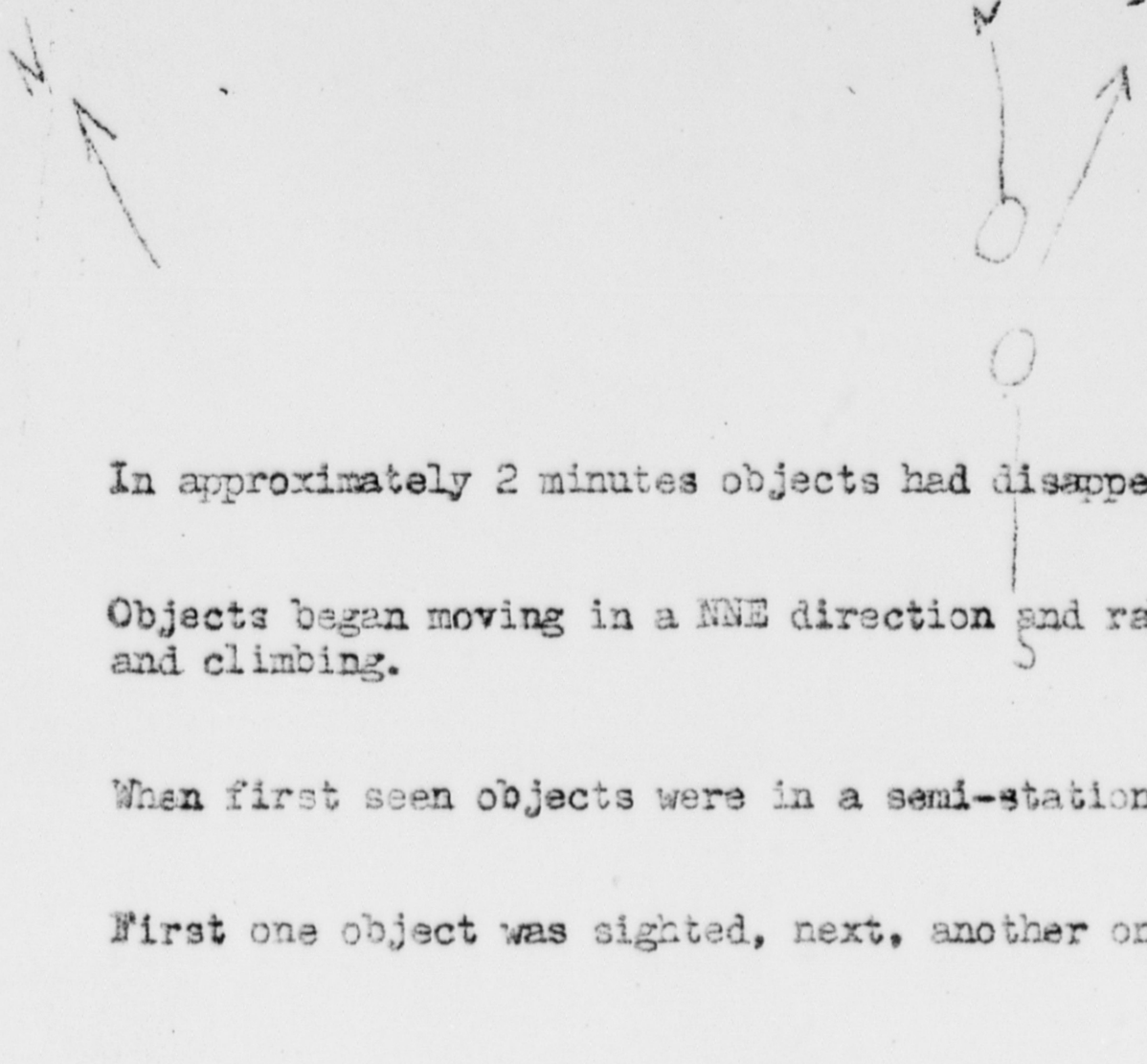
There appeared to Lt [redacted] at the time, that if they were balloons there might be speed indicated by very high wind at that altitude.

I am positive that objects were not airplanes inasmuch as there was no sound audible, no apparent movement in relation to front of orderly room, and that objects were definitely spherical in shape.

As not known, size of objects the presumed approximate altitudes make the impressions we received, that 15 to 20 thousand is correct, objects would then be slightly smaller than an [illegible]

[redacted]

1st Lt, USAF



(4) In approximately 2 minutes objects had disappeared

(3) Objects began moving in a NNE direction and rapidly accelerating and climbing.

(2) When first seen objects were in a semi-stationary position.

(1) First one object was sighted, next, another one appeared.

Dr. HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

   a. High probability:
   #26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

   b. Fair or low probability:
   #19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

   a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
   #3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

   b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
   #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

   c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
   #39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

   a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
   #38, 44, 45, 47, 55, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

   b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
   #1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.