Incident #220

UNCLASSIFIED

ATIC NO. ----

AF NO. ----

REPORT NO. ----

DATE OF REPORT ----

TIME OF SIGHTING 2113 PST

SHAPE "Flash of Light"

SIZE ----

COURSE N to NNW

NO. IN GROUP 1

SOUND ----

PHOTOS ---- SKETCHES ----

DATE OF OBS. 29 Nov 48

LOCATION San Francisco, Calif

SOURCE Science Teacher

DATE IN TO ATIC ----

COLOR Yellow

SPEED Faster than A/c

ALTITUDE ----

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 7 Seconds

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

MANEUVERS Changed course

Estimated Measured Relative Measured

Witness

Bad Meteor

Temporary ATIC Form 329
(4 Jan 52)

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #220 -- San Francisco, California -- 29 November 1948

There is good reason to believe that the object observed in this incident was a bolide. The fact that the observer, although a science teacher, confused the term comet with meteor is strong evidence that he is unacquainted with these phenomena: a comet appears stationary in the sky over a relatively long period of time. While the evidence is insufficient to establish with any certainty that the object was a bolide, it appears to this investigator, none the less, to be the most probable explanation.

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

29 Nov

No. 220: Wird at all levels W. to WNW; object reported flying directly into these winds. Also made definite turn from flying due North to North Northwest. Sighting time 4 1/4 hours after scheduled release times at Alameda, Sacramento and McClellan AFB.

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

In Reply
Refer To: AWS DSS

11 May 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO : Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXO-3

1. Reference is made to letter from your headquarters, MCIAXS, dated 9 March 1949, subject "Unidentified Flying Objects," and first indorsement thereto by this headquarters, dated 31 March 1949.

2. The incident summaries 173 through 233 have been checked against routine weather-balloon ascents made by the Air Force, Navy and Weather Bureau. Comments based on this review are inclosed.

3. It is recommended that the "Guide To Investigation Of Unidentified Aerial Objects" be changed as follows: Item 13, "Direction of Flight of Object," should be clarified so that vertical and horizontal motions are distinguished if possible, and so that motion is specified as the direction towards which the object appears to move. "Relative to Radar Settings" should include a statement of the type of radar set used.

FOR THE CHIEF, AIR WEATHER SERVICE

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

2 Incls:
1 - Incident Summaries
2 - Comments 173 thru 233

3912-12

2130 Hours, 29 November 1948.

Mr. [redacted], an Air Force Veteran, now a Science teacher at the Francisco Junior High School, called and said that at 2113 hours he observed a yellow light flashing across the sky headed due North, then turning North-Northwest and disappeared. The light lasted about seven seconds and appeared to be traveling too fast for a plane. However, it did not appear to be a comet or shooting star.

Home Address: [redacted], San Francisco, Calif.
[redacted]

INCIDENT NO. ~~8233~~ 220

1. Date of Observation 29 Nov 48 Date of Interview 13 Jan 49

2. Exact time (local) 2115

3. Place of Observation [redacted], San Francisco, Calif

4. Position of observer ground with four-power binoculars

5. What attracted attention to object :- yellow light

6. Number of objects 1

7. Apparent size

8. Color of object bright yellowish

9. Shape Spherical

10. Altitude 35 - 40° above horizon

11. Direction from observer East

12. Distance from observer

13. Direction of flight of object(s) North northwesterly direction

14. Time in sight 7 seconds (3 or 4 thru 4X binoculars)

15. Speed Too fast for plane

16. Sound and Odor None

17. Trail Object did not stream fire or light

18. Luminosity Emitted a steady glow

19. Projections

20. Maneuvers Object made turn to North Northwest from a due north course

21. Manner of disappearance Passed from view over ~~kxx~~ a low fog bank lying over Golden Gate Bridge

22. Effect on clouds

23. Additional information concerning object

24. Weather conditions "Exceptionally clear night" - fog lying over Golden Gate Bridge

(over)

Incident: 220

Name and address of observer: Mr [redacted] San Francisc
Calif

Occupation and hobbies: Teacher in science at Francisco Jr High School

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):
[redacted] is above average intelligence and reliable. However, he is near-sighted and wears glasses. He was not wearing glasses while using the binoculars. [redacted] vision with glasses is 20-20. An attempt by the writer and Mr Thatcher to trace the course of the object with the aid of a star map met with negative results. Mr [redacted] could not even give an approximate course.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Mr [redacted] was studying the constellations on the night of 29 Nov 1948 while in his back yard at [redacted], San Francisco, Calif., as it was an exceptionally clear night. To further aid his study he was using a pair of 4X binoculars. At 2115 he sighted a glowing object to the east heading in a north northwesterly direction. Object did not appear to be either a comet or a meteor in that it did not stream fire or light. It was spherical in shape and emitted a steady glow. [redacted] heard no noise that could be associated with the object. He followed the object thru the binoculars until it passed from view to the North over a low fog bank which was lying over Golden Gate Bridge. After the object had disappeared [redacted] simulated his movements again and stated that the total time the object was in sight was apporoximately seven seconds. In [redacted] opinion the object was approximately 35 to 40° above the horizon. He thought the object appeared to be traveling too fast for a plane.

12-351

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
HAMILTON FIELD, CALIFORNIA

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

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

1. The inclosed is forwarded for your information and disposition.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

DONALD L. SPRINGER
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence

Incl:
Cy Ltr "Rumor of Light"

cc: CG: CAC
C/S: USAF

220

Request for Investigation

5th D - CSI
ATTN: Major Farrell

MCIAXO-3

25 Dec 48

1

1. The following, received from Hq. 4th Air Force is quoted for your information:

"2130 Hours, 29 November 1948. Mr. [redacted], an Air Force Veteran, now a Science teacher at the Francisco Junior High School, called and said that at 2115 hours he observed a yellow light flashing across the sky headed due North, then turning North-Northwest and disappeared. The light lasted about seven seconds and appeared to be traveling too fast for a plane. However, it did not appear to be a comet or shooting star."

Home Address: [redacted], San Francisco, Calif. Phone: [redacted]

2. It is requested your office initiate an investigation of this incident using the inclosed EM1 form as a guide for the investigating agent. It is particularly desired that information outlined in General section of the EM1 be obtained.

3. Interested personnel should be advised to avoid publicity in this matter.

1 Incl
Form EM1

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

MMC/esh
6-5310
B 265
P 201F

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

5D-OSI/JWF/fmn

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO 5D 24-4

16 February 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT "SIGN"

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXO-3, Captain B. Sneider

Inclosed is Report of Investigation, subject as above, dated 20 January 1949, for your information and any action deemed necessary.

1 Incl
Rpt of Inv dtd 20 Jan 49
(in dup)

H. B. GIBSON
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

WF-O-5 OCT 48 15M

720

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	FILE NO. 24-6	DATE 20 January 1949
TITLE PROJECT "SIGN", Special Inquiry	REPORT MADE BY ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR.	
	REPORT MADE AT DO #19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB	
	PERIOD 13, 16 January 1949	
	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB	
	STATUS PENDING	

CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY

REFERENCE Ltr fr Dist Comdr, DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB, File No. 5D-24-4, dtd 27 Dec 49, Subject, "Project 'Sign'"

SYNOPSIS

Investigation requested by District Commander, DO #5, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. Mr. [redacted] saw, while in back yard at [redacted], San Francisco, California, at approximately 2115 hours, on 29 November 1948, an unidentifiable glowing object passing from the East to the Northwest at a very great speed, finally disappearing from sight behind a fog bank to the North. Investigation failed to reveal identity of the object or produce other witnesses.

DISTRIBUTION		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	FILE STAMP
CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB (Action Copies)	2	Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Dayton, Ohio ATTN: Intelligence Department, MCIAXO	
DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB	2		
OSI, HQ	2		
File	2		

APPROVED AIS:

JOHN G. SWOPE
Colonel, USAF
DISTRICT COMMANDER

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220

SMAMA—Nov 48—100M

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

OSI File No. 24-6

DETAILS:

1. Investigation requested by District Commander, DO # 5, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, by letter dated 27 December 1949, File No. 5D-24-4, Subject, Project Sign, which letter advised that a Mr. [redacted] had reported the sighting of an unknown object on the night of 29 November 1948.

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

2. On 13 January 1949, Mr. [redacted] San Francisco, California, was interviewed and stated that he is a teacher in science at the Francisco Junior High School, San Francisco, California. In the course of his instruction it is necessary that he present the students with some basic astronomy, and in connection with this course Mr. [redacted] was studying the constellations on the night of 29 November 1948 while in back yard at [redacted], San Francisco, California, as it was an exceptionally clear night. To further aid his study [redacted] was using a pair of 4X binoculars. At 2115 [redacted] sighted a glowing object to the East and heading in a North-Northwesterly direction. Mr. [redacted] emphatically stated that the object did not appear to be either a comet or a meteor, in that the object did not stream fire or light, but was spherical in shape and emitted a steady glow. The only difference that could be observed by [redacted] between the normal sight and sight through the binoculars was that the object appeared brighter. [redacted] followed the object through the binoculars until it passed from view to the North over a low fog bank which was lying over the Golden Gate Bridge. [redacted] stated at no time did he hear any noise that seemed to come from the direction of the object. After the object had disappeared, [redacted] simulated his movements again and stated that the total time that the object was in sight was approximately seven seconds of which three or four seconds were through the binoculars. In [redacted] opinion, the object was approximately 35 to 40 degrees above the horizon.

3. [redacted] was in the Air Force as a Radar and Radio Mechanic and spent time overseas in England. While in England, [redacted] saw German buzz bombs at night and remarked that the object in no way appeared like one of these bombs in that the object emitted a steady glow which was bright yellowish and the buzz bombs seemed to him to emit spasmodically a rosy red flame. [redacted]s only hobby is radio which he has practiced since he was a boy.

4. The writer, through the fact that [redacted] is a science teacher and after speaking with him, believes that [redacted] is above

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[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED 120

19D OSI 24-6

DETAILS: (Cont'd)

average intelligence and reliable. [redacted] is near-sighted and wears glasses; however he was not wearing glasses while using the binoculars. [redacted]vision with glasses is 20-20.

5. A thorough check of the residents in the vicinity of [redacted], San Francisco, California, failed to reveal any other persons who, on the night of 29 November 1948, saw this unidentifiable light or had seen anything unusual any other night.

6. On the night of 16 January 1949, the writer and Mr. [redacted] attempted to trace the course of the object with the aid of a star map. This attempt met with negative results. Mr. [redacted] could not even give an approximate course.

- PENDING -

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DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

19D OSI 24-6

UNCLASSIFIED

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 19, FAIRFIELD-SUISUN AFB

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. Will check records of the F.B.I. Field Office, San Francisco, California, for information re informant.

2. Will check Criminal and Subversive Files of the San Francisco, Police Department for information re informant.

3. Will interview fellow employees and acquaintances of [redacted] for information on informant's character, integrity and loyalty.

4. Will conduct additional investigation as outlined on the EEI.

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UNCLASSIFIED

220

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASS...

5D 24-4
(24 Feb 49)

1st Ind

5D-OSI/JWF/fmm

Subj: PROJECT "SIGN" (SPECIAL INQUIRY)

54h District OSI, (IC), Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, 8 Mar 49

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

Forwarded as a matter pertaining to your Command.

1 Incl
n/c

JOHN W. FARRELL
Major, USAF
Acting District Commander

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Headquarters United States Air Force
Washington

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF
19th District Office of Special Investigations
FAIRFIELD-SUISUN AF BASE, CALIFORNIA

19D OSI 24-6

SUBJECT: PROJECT "SIGN"
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

ATTENTION: Intelligence Department MCIAXO

1. Reference is made to the report of Special Agent ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR., of this office, dated 20 January 1949.

2. Forwarded for your information and any action deemed appropriate is the final report of Special Agent ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR., of this office, dated 23 February 1949. With the submission of this report, all logical investigative leads have been covered and reported.

1 Incl
Rpt of S/A ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR.
dtd 20 Jan 49 (dup)

JOHN G. SWOPE
Colonel, USAF
District Commander

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFI[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 24-6 | DATE FEB 24 1949

REPORT MADE BY ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR

TITLE

PROJECT "SIGN"

REPORT MADE AT DO # 19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB

PERIOD 20 January 1949
4 February 1949

OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO # 5, Wright-Patterson AFB

STATUS CLOSED

CHARACTER Special Inquiry

REFERENCE Rpt of Investigation, S/A Armin F. Herold, Jr., dated 20 January 1949, File No. 24-6

SYNOPSIS

Interview of [redacted]s supervisor and fellow employes revealed that they believed [redacted] loyalty, integrity and character to be above reproach. No derogatory information was revealed in a check of local law enforcement agencies on either [redacted] or the Teachers' Union (A.F.L.), San Francisco, California, in which [redacted] was interested. This object was not sighted by any employees of the air lines or personnel of the Air Force operating in the Bay Area.

CLOSED

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DO # 5 (Action Copies)	2	Commanding General	
CG, AMC	2	Air Materiel Command	
OSI Hqs	2	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base	
Files	2	Dayton, Ohio	
		ATTN: Intelligence Department, MCIAXO	

APPROVED

JOHN F. SHOPE
Colonel, USAF,
DISTRICT COMMANDER

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SMAMA—Nov 48—100M

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

19D OSI 24-6

DETAILS:

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. Mr. [redacted] Francisco Junior High School, Powell and Francisco Streets, San Francisco, California, and Mrs. [redacted] Francisco Junior High School, were interviewed and stated in substance that [redacted] loyalty to the Government was above question in their estimation and his integrity and character were of the best. [redacted] is not known to drink heavily nor is his imagination known to be flamboyant. Further [redacted] is one of the better teachers in that he is conscientious, observant and able to handle and understand the younger people. Neither knew of any derogatory information concerning [redacted] In the course of these interviews it was revealed that [redacted] is very interested in the Teachers' Union (A.F.L.) which is attempting to gather strength in San Francisco. A check of this Union revealed that out of approximately 3,000 teachers in San Francisco, only about 200 are members of the Union. There was no derogatory information available concerning the Teachers' Union (A.F.L.), San Francisco, California.

2. A check with the American Airlines, Pan American Airlines, Western Airlines, Mills Field, California; Operations, Hamilton Air Force Base; and Operations, Alameda (Navy), California, failed to reveal any reports of a strange object's being sighted on the night of 29 November 1948.

3. A check of the records and files of the following agencies were made with negative results in regard to [redacted]

G-2, 6th Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California
F.B.I. Field Office, San Francisco, California
Harper-Knowles Agency (Western Research Institute), (Civilian Subversive Files Source)
Criminal & Subversive Files, Police Department, San Francisco, California

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[redacted]

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, 126, 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.