

[REDACTED]

18/1000

ATTC NO. _____

ATTC NO. _____

ATTC NO. _____

DATE 27 April 1950

0600-1200-1300 (4 hours)

Sphere _____

2, Diameter of Moon

1 _____

ATTC Form 549

(Jan 52)

[REDACTED]

18 April 50.
CLARENCE, TEXAS
Memphis, Texas
Ground USAF
Northrop Test Pilot

Silvery Metallic

Above 10,000 ft

20 Minutes

F W 1 Aerial

Internal Movement

Astria (VENUS)

UNCLASSIFIED

**LOS ANGELES AF PROCUREMENT FIELD OFFICE
AIR MATERIAL COMMAND**

155 W. WASHINGTON BLVD.
P. O. BOX 3849 TERMINAL ANNEX
LOS ANGELES 54, CALIFORNIA

MCPFYT/CEM/wmb

**SUBJECT: Report on Observation of an Unidentified Object
in the Sky**

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

1. Forwarded for your information is a copy of a report prepared by a Northrop Aircraft Inc. pilot in regard to an unidentified object observed in the sky in the vicinity of Memphis, Texas, on 18 April 1950.

2. This material has been classified "Confidential" pending the evaluation of its contents and decision by Headquarters, Air Materiel Command.

FOR THE CHIEF, LOS ANGELES AF PROCUREMENT FIELD OFFICE:

**CHARLES E. MOORE
Major, USAF
Chief, Flight Operations**

1 Incl
Rpt by Max Stanley
dtd 27 Apt 50

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

C O P Y

UNCLASSIFIED

7-3712-29

NORTHROP AIRCRAFT,
MEMORANDUM
AVOID VERBAL ORDERS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Lt. Col. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Subject: Observation of Unidentified Object
in the Sky in Vicinity of Memphis,
Texas, on 18 April 1950

Date: 27 April 1950

Copies: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] File

Ref.:

On 17 April 1950 a flight was made from Northrop Field, Hawthorne, California, to Amarillo, Texas, in connection with Project MX-775. The airplane used for this flight was F-61C No. AF 8357, with a three-man crew consisting of Lloyd Balsam and Sam F. West as observers, and the undersigned as pilot.

Shortly before departing from Amarillo on 18 April 1950 for the return flight to Northrop Field, I was requested by the Amarillo Airport office to call the local CAA radio range station on the telephone. Upon contacting the CAA office I was informed that the CAA observers in Clarendon, Texas, had under observation an unidentified object in the sky. This object had been observed since 9:00 A.M. (it was then approximately 12:00 noon Amarillo time), and was described as a silvery object with an orange glow around its perimeter. The Clarendon observers in conjunction with observers at Childress, Texas, had triangulated its position as being in the vicinity of Memphis, Texas. I was requested to fly to the position of the object for a closer observation.

After reaching an altitude of approximately 20,000 feet in the vicinity of Memphis, Texas, an object was sighted to the southeast of our position. It was at a considerable distance and could be detected only by the intermittent reflection of sunlight on what appeared to be a metallic surface; it could have been another airplane. A heading was taken toward this object and radio communication established with the Amarillo range station. Amarillo radio was questioned as to the possibility of other aircraft being in the area at an altitude of 30,000 feet or above; they advised that no other aircraft at that altitude were known to be in the area, but that a B-36 had taken off from Fort Worth, Texas, to search for and observe the object but it had not yet flown into the vicinity of Memphis.

After flying toward the object for approximately 10 minutes, it began to take form and appeared as if it might be a weather balloon. Amarillo radio was then questioned

Classification [REDACTED]
OR Changed to Res.
Auth: [REDACTED]
JCB: [REDACTED]
By 1st Lt. [REDACTED]
10

UNCLASSIFIED

NORTHROP AIRCRAFT, I
MEMORANDUM
AVOID VERBAL ORDERS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
RESTRICTED

To: Lt. Col. [REDACTED]
Subject: Observation of Unidentified Object
in the Sky in Vicinity of Memphis,
Texas, on 18 April 1950
Copies:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 27 April 1950
Ref.:

as to this possibility. After contacting the local weather station, they advised that it could not possibly be a weather balloon inasmuch as it had been observed continuously in the same area for approximately four hours and that the winds aloft were such as to preclude the possibility of a free balloon remaining visible from the ground for that length of time.

At this time the object was lost from sight due to a deck of cirrus clouds; the object went behind or into this cloud layer. Flight was continued on the same heading for approximately another five minutes. The object then reappeared slightly to our right and above us; our altitude at that time was approximately 30,000 feet and very close to the base of the cloud deck. The object appeared to be much closer to us than when last seen. However, it is impossible to make an estimate of its distance inasmuch as the size of the object was unknown. My best estimate of its apparent size would be that its diameter was one half that of a full moon when viewed directly overhead.

The object was of a silvery metallic color with a translucent quality; no orange ring or other evidence of color was observed. The shape of the object was sphere-like with prominent detents on the top and bottom, and with a dark streak or shadow connecting these detents. For the most part, this shadow was vertical and appeared to tilt occasionally, resulting in a sideways movement of the object. The motion was not rapid and any movement was of short duration. There was no visible or apparent means of propulsion.

During the period of this observation, radio contact was established with the B-36 airplane and a description of the object was given to them, but I was not able to establish my definite position above the ground. The B-36 reported that they were above the cloud layer at 46,000 feet and were unable to sight the object.

The object was again lost from sight due to its going behind or into a cloud. After circling in the vicinity of the last visual contact for approximately five minutes, the object was again sighted for about 30 seconds in a break

Classification Cancelled
OR Changed to REST
Auth: Ltr AF PWD OFF
J. C. [Signature]
By 1st Lt USAF
19 May 50

UNCLASSIFIED

NORTHROP AIRCRAFT, ...
MEMORANDUM
AVOID VERBAL ORDERS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~RESTRICTED~~

To: Lt. Col. [REDACTED]
Subject: Observation of Unidentified Object
in the Sky in Vicinity of Memphis,
Texas, on 18 April 1950
Copies:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 27 April 1950
Ref.:

between two clouds. After this contact it was necessary that we descend due to depletion of the ship's oxygen supply.

It is estimated that 20 minutes elapsed between the time of first sighting the object and losing sight of it for the second time. During this period a constant easterly heading was maintained while climbing from 20,000 feet to 30,000 feet altitude at an average indicated airspeed of 150 mph.

Two or three minutes after commencing the descent from 30,000 feet, the B-36 reported that they too were leaving the area due to fuel shortage and that they had been unsuccessful in sighting the object.

Mr. Lloyd Balsam, who was riding in the gunner's station in the airplane, is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Sam F. West is a graduate of the University of California, and for five years was employed in the Radiation Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Both of the above observers are familiar with this report, and are in agreement with the statements made herein. Further, we all agree that the object sighted was not an airplane, balloon, celestial body, or any other object commonly seen above the earth.

Max Stanley

Max Stanley
Engineering Test Pilot

MS:bm:dl

Classification ~~Cancelled~~
OR Changed to REST
Auth: Lt AF PMA OFF
JCPaschal
By 1st Lt USAF
19 May 51

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

7wd. MAY 22 1951
Basic ltr fm Los Angeles AF Procurement Fld Office to CG AMC, W-P AFB,
ATTN: MCP, "Report on Observation of an Unidentified Object in the
Sky"

1st Ind

MCIAXA-1/JJR/peg

Hq AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio

TO: Chief, Los Angeles AF Procurement Field Office, Air Materiel
Command, 155 W. Washington Blvd., P.O. Box 3849 Terminal Annex,
Los Angeles 54, California

1. The report forwarded in the basic letter has been routed to
the organization interested in these matters.

2. Due to the nature of the report in question, the information
may be downgraded from Confidential to Restricted.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHIDIAN:

1 Incl
w/d

FRANK L. DUNN
Colonel, USAF
Actg Chief, Intelligence Department

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

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JRD: A DEP

ADJUTANT GENERAL

CHIEF OF ADMIN.

AIR INSPECTOR

PUBLIC RELATIONS

JUDGE ADVOCATE

PERSONNEL (T-1)

INTELLIGENCE (T-2)

ENGINEERING (T-3)

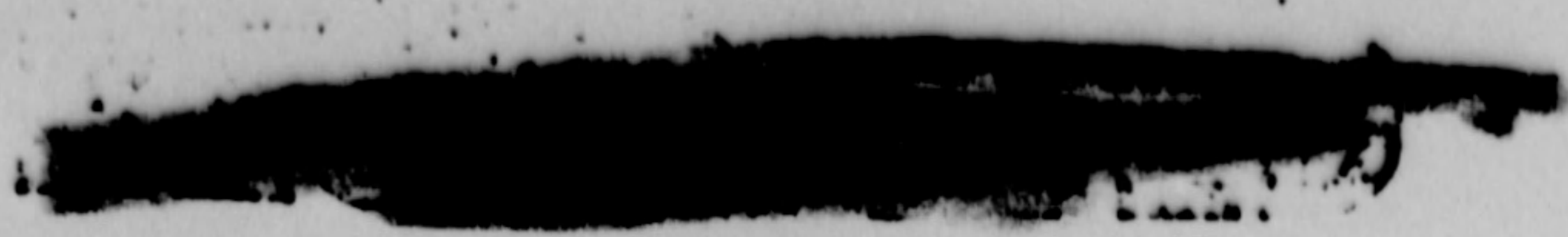
SUPPLY (T-4)

PLANS (T-5)

BASE C. O.

OTHER

ATSC Form No. 10-508
(Rev. 22 Oct 45)
(PRINT SYMBOL AND
INITIALS IN APPRO-
PRIATE BLOCK)



Basic ltr fm Los Angeles AF Procurement Fld Office to CG AMO, W-P AFB,
ATTN: MCP, "Report on Observation of an Unidentified Object in the
Sky"

1st Ind MCIAXA-1/JJR/peg

Hq AMC, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio MAY 25 1950

TO: Chief, Los Angeles AF Procurement Field Office, Air Material
Command, 155 W. Washington Blvd., P.O. Box 3849 Terminal Annex,
Los Angeles 54, California

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BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL CHIDLAW:

5/25/50

FRANK I. DUNN
Colonel, USAF
Actg Chief, Intelligence Department

1 Incl
w/d

MCIAXA-1
ENGINEERING (T-3)

X4R
4-1

UNCLASSIFIED

