

1. DATE - TIME GROUP <u>2</u> Jan 53 <u>10</u> /0327Z		2. LOCATION Santa Ana, California
3. SOURCE AF Pilot	10. CONCLUSION AIRCRAFT (KC-97)	
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One		
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 Sec.		
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Visual		
7. COURSE		
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Numerous blue lights appeared to close on observing a/c. Another pilot confirmed observation by reporting two KC-97 a/c over Santa Ana at time of sighting and stated that this particular type a/c was equipped with a considerable number of blue formation lights.	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No		

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

CASE #21 (contd - page 4)

9 Jan 53

Santa Ana, California

Two observers, an a/c commander and a pilot of B-29 air-refueling a/c, first observed the object while flying on a heading of ~~330~~ 330 deg. The objects appeared as a formation of lights approaching the a/c from a NE direction. The lights approached the a/c with such a rapid rate of closure that the a/c commander started a turn to the left, suddenly the lights appeared to hold the same position momentarily and then made a slight rise and disappeared. The lights appeared in a slightly bent V formation and were blue in color. During the interval in which they were observed, the lights changed from a banked to a level position, stopped and banked away immediately before disappearing. No sound was heard. The time of the sighting was 1927 PST with the lights remaining in view for approximately 5 seconds thereafter. The a/c in which they were flying was on a heading of 330 deg and was over Santa Ana, California. The objects were observed at 230 o'clock or NE of the a/c. These objects appeared to be on a plane ~~parallel~~ with the a/c which was flying at 16,500'. The speed of the objects or their distance from the observers could not be ascertained. The weather conditions at the time of sighting were clear sky, the radar winds for the position were 227 deg at 12 knots. The a/c commander upon first sighting initiated a left turn in an effort to get out of the line of flight of the objects. As both were familiar with the reflection characteristics of the B-29 cockpit, these were checked to insure the lights were not a ground reflection within the cockpit. There were no other a/c observed in the immediate vicinity and none were reported by Air Traffic Control and Military Flight Service.

ATTC Comment: Two KC-97 type a/c over-Santa-Ana-at-time-of-sighting-and-stated-there--
~~particular-a/c-equipped-with-considerable-number-blue-light-formation-was-observed.~~
were in the immediate vicinity and 1 particular a/c was equipped with a ~~number~~ ^{number} of blue
light formation lights and the object was definitely that a/c.

UNCLASSIFIED

Multiple

*09/1427 EST
SANTA ANA
CALIF*

TT 8

13 Jan 53

ACTION

CSAF ITEM 5 (U N C L)

FROM : CAPT SMITH AFOIN -2A2

TO: CAPT RUPPELT, ATIAA-5

FOLLOWING FROM LAX INSAC FORWARDED FOR INFO AND
NECESSARY ACTION "UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS OVER
SANTA ANA 1927 P ALTITUDE 165MSL COMPRISED
NUMEROUS BLUE LIGHTS WHICH APPEARED TO CLOSE
ON OBSERVING AIRCRAFT PD DURATION OF SIGHTING 5
SECONDS PD WEATHER CONDITION GOOD PD
REPORTED BY LT L D BRANDT PILOT OF AF 6526
FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION OF SIGHTING CAM
PILOT OF AF 4983 REPORTED TWO KC 97 TYPE
AIRCRAFT OVER SANTA ANA AT TIME OF SIGHTING
AND STATED THIS PARTICULAR AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED
WITH CONSIDERABLE NUMBER BLUE FORMATION LIGHTS .
LAX 12/3422Z* PRELIMINARY EVALUATION IS THAT
SIGHTING CAUSED BY ANOTHER A/C FORMULATED
BY PHONE CONVERSATION AFOIN-2 DUTY OFFICER
AND ADC.

END CSAF ITEM 5 (U N C L)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNITED STATES

IR-1-53
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

UNCLASSIFIED

FLYOVERPT

Santa Ana, California

Hq, 93d Bomb Wing, Castle AFB, California

26 January 1953

9 Jan 53 to 12 Jan 53

P-6

2nd Lt G. T. Ludlum Jr. Asst Intel Officer

Crew personnel

At 1027, PST, 9 January 1953, two (2) pilots assigned to this organization observed unidentified flying objects (lights) in the vicinity of Santa Ana, California while flying on a routine training mission. An investigation was conducted and a statement was obtained from the aircraft commander. The findings of this investigation are presented herewith.

1927
+ 0800

2727
2400

2327

APPROVED:

Charles J. Cooke
CHARLES J. COOKE
Lt. Col., USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

3

1. Sketch, stages during sighting (6 cys)
2. Statement, Lt. Brandt (6 cys)
3. Statement, Lt. Loveless (6 cys)

cc: CG 15AF

UNCLASSIFIED

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

Wing Intelligence
Castle AF Base, California

2

2

1. Description of Object: The observers, Aircraft Commander and pilot of a B-29 Air Refueling aircraft, first observed the objects while flying on a heading of 330 degrees. The objects appeared as a formation of lights approaching the aircraft from a northeasterly direction. The lights approached the aircraft with such a rapid rate of closure that the aircraft commander started a turn to the left; suddenly the lights stopped and appeared to hold the same position momentarily and then made a slight rise and disappeared. The lights appeared in a slightly bent V formation and were blue in color. During the interval in which they were observed the lights changed from a bank to a level position, stopped, and banked away immediately before disappearing. No sound was heard.

2. Time: Sighting began at about 1927 PST, with the lights remaining in view for approximately five (5) seconds thereafter.

3. Manner of Observation: Observation was made visually from the cockpit of an airborne B-29 type aircraft; no optical or electronic equipment was utilized. Initial attention was drawn by sight only as these objects apparently were silent. The Aircraft Commander and co-pilot were the only crew members to view the objects.

4. Location: The observers were airborne at the time of the sighting. The aircraft in which they were flying was on a heading of 330 degrees and was over Santa Ana, California (approx. 3345N-11752W). The objects were observed at 2:30 o'clock or north-east of the aircraft. These objects appeared to be on a plane with the aircraft, which was flying at an altitude of 16,500 feet. The speed of the objects or their distance from the observers could not be ascertained.

5. Observers:

a. 1st Lt. LOWELL D. BRANDT, USAF, Aircraft Commander (1234C) assigned to a combat crew of the 93d Air Refueling Squadron, 93d Bombardment Wing (W), Castle Air Force Base, California. He has been on flying status three and one half years; further, he has not previously observed unidentified objects.

b. 1st Lt. CHARLES C. LOVELESS, USAF, co-pilot (1231C) on the same combat crew as Lt. Brandt. Lt. Loveless has been on flying status for two and one half years and has been assigned to the 93d Air Refueling Squadron, 93d Bombardment Wing (W), Castle Air Force Base, California, for three months. He reports that this is the first time he has sighted flying objects.

6. Weather Conditions: Clear skies--the radar winds for the position were 227 degrees at twelve knots.

7. Related Activities or Conditions: None determined.

8. Physical Evidence: None.

9. Immediate Interception or Identification Action: The Aircraft Commander upon first sighting initiated a left turn in an effort to get out of the line of flight of the objects. As both pilots were familiar with the reflection characteristics of the B-29 cockpit, these were checked to insure the lights were not a ground reflection within the cockpit. The Los Angeles, California CAA radio was called and informed as to the time, location, and altitude of the objects.

10. Simultaneous Air Traffic: There were no other aircraft observed in the immediate vicinity and none were reported by Air Traffic Control and Military Flight Service.

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

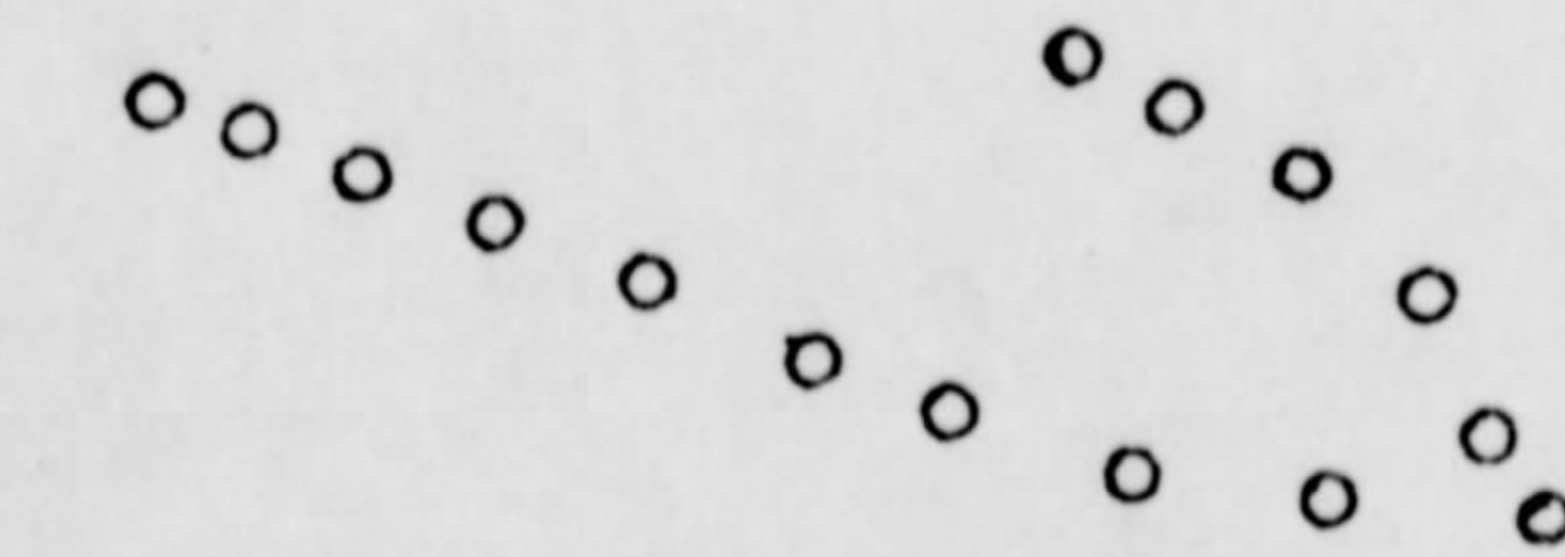
UNCLASSIFIED

George T. Ludlum Jr.
GEORGE T. LUDLUM JR.
2nd Lt., USAF
Asst. Intelligence Officer

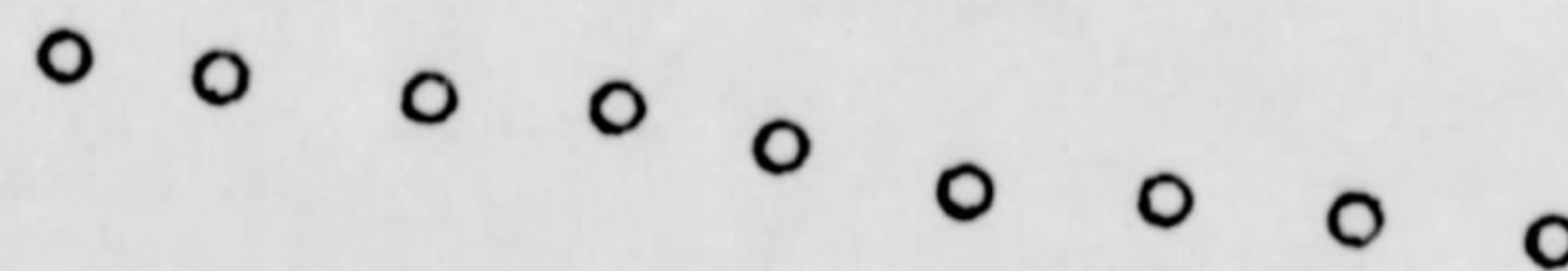
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

Direction
of Travel

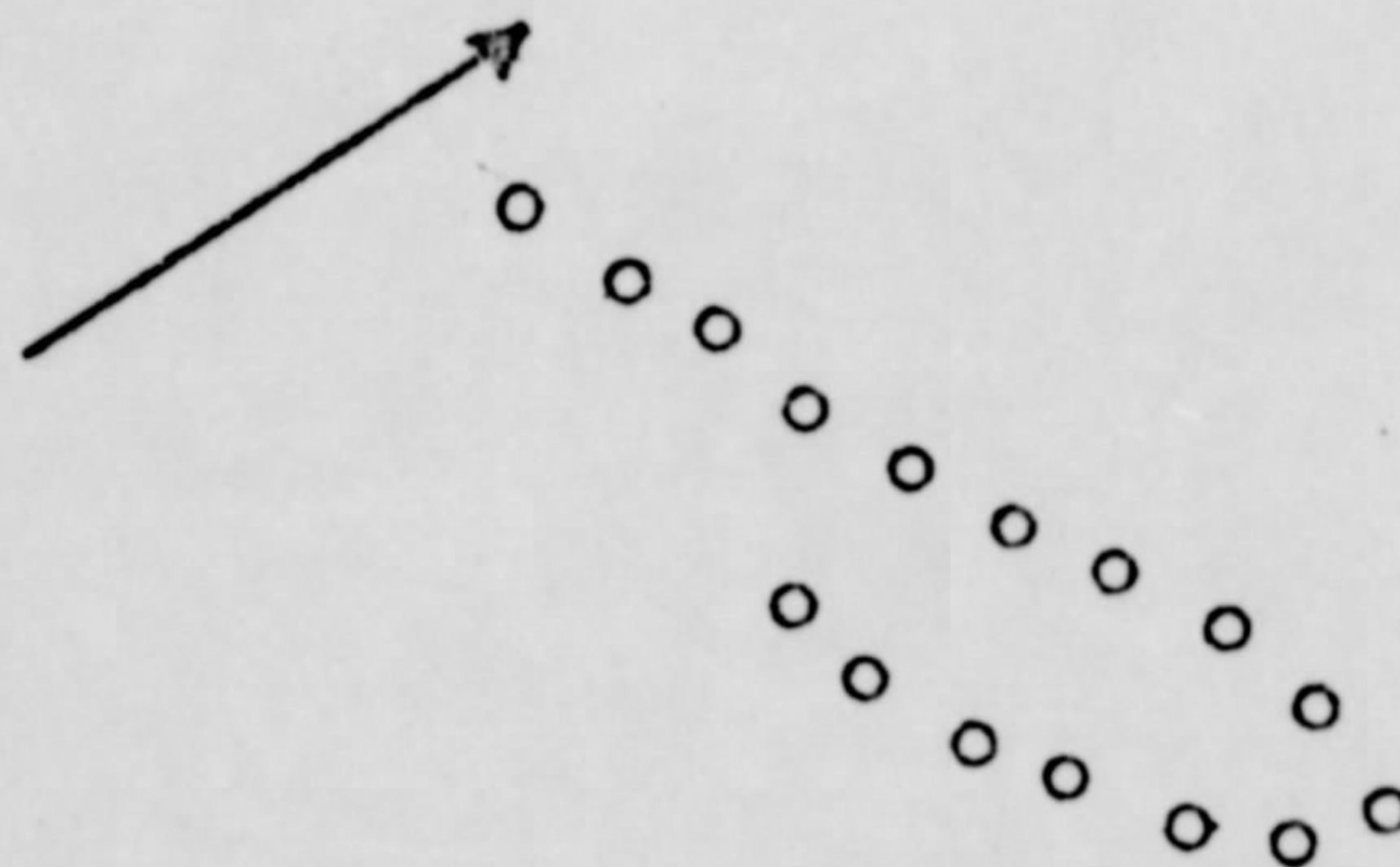


APPROACHING FORMATION



MOMENTARY LEVELING OFF

Direction of
Break-away



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

UNCLASSIFIED

BREAK AWAY

Lowell D. Brundage

[REDACTED]
STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

At 1927 (Pacific Standard Time), 9 January 1953 over the city of Santa Ana, California, on a heading of 330° my co-pilot, Lt. Charles C. Loveless, called my attention to a formation of lights approaching the aircraft from a position of 02:30 o'clock level. The lights approached at a very rapid rate of closure and I immediately effected a turn to the left. The lights stopped and appeared to hold the same position momentarily and then made a slight rise and disappeared. The total time of sighting was approximately 5 seconds. I immediately called Los Angeles radio and informed them of time, altitude and position of the objects. The weather was clear in the vicinity at the time of the sighting. As both pilots were familiar with the reflection characteristics of the B-29 cockpit, these were checked to insure it was not a ground reflection within the cockpit. There was no aircraft in the immediate vicinity and none was reported by Air Traffic Control and Military Flight Service. The lights seemed to appear in a slightly bent V formation and were blue in color. The formation appeared to change from a bank to a level position then stopped and banked away just before disappearing. The radar winds for the position were 227°/12 knots. My co-pilot and myself were the only members of the crew to view the lights. Our altitude was 16,500 feet.

I further state that I am an Aircraft Commander (12340) assigned to a combat crew of the 93d Air Refueling Squadron, 93d Bomb Wing (M), Castle AFB, California. I have been on flying status 3½ years. I enclose a drawing of the appearance of the objects.

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

Lowell D. Brandt
LOWELL D. BRANDT
1/Lt. USAF

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED


STATEMENT

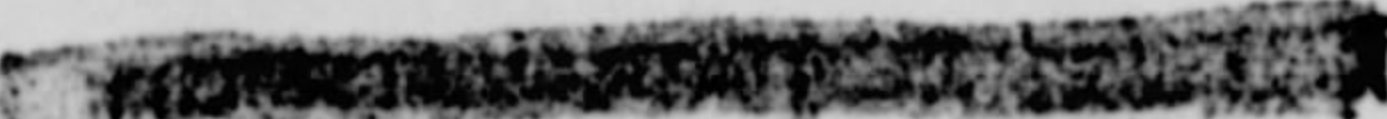
UNCLASSIFIED

I have concurred with Lt. Brandt in the preparation of his statement in connection with sighting flying objects (lights) on 9 January 1953, over Santa Ana, California. As a result of this concurring I feel his report is complete and accurate and I can therefore add nothing to that report.

Charles C. Loveless

Charles C. Loveless
1 Lt. USAF

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



UNCLASSIFIED

9 JAN 1953
SANTA ANA CALIF

The new sightings looked important. The first report was dated January 9, 1953. Early that evening, a B-29 bomber, with Capt. George Madden at the controls, was flying over California on a routine mission. Lt. Frank Briggs, the co-pilot, had the right-hand seat. (As in all these official cases, witnesses' names have been changed.)

It was a clear night. They could see Santa Ana, some 16,000 feet below. Except for the B-29, the sky seemed to be empty. Captain Madden was checking his instruments when a flash of blue suddenly caught Briggs' eye. He stared out to the right. Coming toward them, at fantastic speed, was a V-formation of blue-lighted objects.

Briggs gave a shout of warning. Madden took one look, hurriedly swerved to the left. For a split second, the strange craft seemed to hold their speed. Then they abruptly slowed down, the V-formation twisting as if a few of the machines had overshot. Banking away, they slanted upward and vanished.

Though Madden knew of no supersonic test plane that could make such speed, he cut in his mike and called air-traffic control. The answer came back: No experimental aircraft—no planes of any kind—were known to be in the area.

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9 Jan 1953	2. LOCATION Santa Ana, California	3. SOURCE AF Pilot	
4. TIME Local <u>8/1927PST</u> Z <u>18/0327Z</u>	5. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	6. SHAPE light	7. COLOR blue
8. COURSE	9. ALTITUDE	10. ANGULAR VELOCITY ° per second	11. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No
12. TYPE OF OBSERVATION air visual	13. LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 5 seconds	14. MANEUVERS	
15. CONCLUSIONS Numerous blue lights appeared to close on observing aircraft. Another pilot confirmed the observation by reporting two KC-97 aircraft over Santa Ana at the time of sighting and stated that this particular type aircraft was equipped with a considerable number of blue formation lights.		16. COMMENTS Was aircraft - KC-97	