

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 16 Feb 53 16/2230Z	2. LOCATION Rainer, Ala.
3. SOURCE 2 Civ Men	10. CONCLUSION BALLOON Object presents characteristics of balloon sighting.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 20 Min.	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Metallic object appearing to be round at one angle and having swept back wings from another angle, traveled at high rate of speed. Maneuvers consisted of climbing, diving, executing right and left angle turns, and reversing its course. B-47 a/c was being observed when object appeared. A rawinsonde balloon released at 1500Z.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE N	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

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COUNTRY United States		REPORT NO. IR-5-53	(LEAVE BLANK)
SUBJECT FLYOVERPT			
AREA REPORTED ON Rainer, Alabama		FROM (Agency) 3800th AW Wing Intell Section Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama	
DATE OF REPORT 18 February 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 17 February 1953		
PREPARED BY (Officer) Edward R. Swartz, 1/Lt, USAF, Wg Intell Off.		SOURCE Mr. [redacted] & Mr. [redacted]	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) 21302			

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

At 1630 hours (local time), 16 March 1953, Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] were watching an AF B-47 when their attention was drawn to a noiseless, metallic object executing maneuvers at an altitude about two-thirds the altitude of the B-47. These maneuvers were being performed in and around a few scattered clouds. The speed of the object was estimated as about 3 times that of the B-47. (A check with the Maxwell Weather Station revealed that at the time of the sighting there were scattered clouds at 20,000 feet. A further check with the Maxwell Radio Range revealed that an AF B-47 #8355 from McDill AFB, Florida was in the area at 35,000 feet with a speed of 425 knots.) Mr. [redacted] states that could not give an accurate description of the object, but it appeared to be about the size of an F-80. Both observers state that at times the object appeared to be round, then again, when viewed from another angle, it looked like it had delta or swept-back wings. As the B-47 passed overhead it left distinct vapor trails, but the object observed left no vapor trails and showed no signs of propulsion. This object performed maneuvers that are impossible for known conventional aircraft to perform. Both observers agreed that the object seemed to maintain a constant speed through such maneuvers. They described the object as climbing, diving, executing right and left angle turns and reversing its course without turning at an angle or in a circle.

Subject sightings were made by the naked eye. The observers were located on the ground at Rainer, Alabama (32° 03' 30" N, 86° 13' 30" W). Observers state that they were about 1 1/2 miles south of the object and viewed the object from a 45° angle. This object departed the area on a 360° course at approximately 1650 hours. The total time of sighting was approximately 20 minutes.

The weather report aloft for this area at the time of the above-mentioned sighting is as follows: broken ceiling, scattered clouds at 20,000 feet, winds 270° at least 80 knots, temp 15.5 centigrade, visibility unlimited.

This office has no further confirmation of subject sighting. A check with McDill AFB revealed no reports by pilots on subject sighting. Both observers are untrained as observers or spotters and have never witnessed such sighting before.

Ball released from Mont 2100Z (1500 EST)
Rainbow

None INCL.

APPROVED:

Edward R. Swartz
EDWARD R. SWARTZ
1st Lt., USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

Probably Balloon - Get Balloon Data

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center
ATTN: ATIAA-2c
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

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SR 10

amier, Alabama

16 February 1953

I. Description of Incident

Two civilian men at this location sighted an unidentified object as 1630 EST while watching the flight of a B-47 aircraft cross their field of vision. A metallic looking object appearing round at one instant and flat the next was seen at an altitude of about two-thirds that of the B-47 which ATIC learned was at 35,000 ft. Its maneuvers consisted of climbing, diving, and sharp angle turns to the left and right in and around a few scattered clouds and it appeared to be faster than the B-47. Total time of sighting was for 20 minutes.

II. Discussion of Incident

Although the Maxwell Radio Range Station reported no known aircraft other than the B-47 in the area ATIC feels that, on the basis of the description submitted by the two relatively inexperienced observers, they probably sighted a fighter type aircraft, possibly an F-86, maneuvering in the air space below the B-47. To support this conclusion is the fact that the clouds mentioned in the original report around which the object was sighted, were determined to be at 20,000 ft. At this altitude a fighter aircraft would be hard to distinguish. The observers did state, however, that the object appeared to have swept-back wings.

III. Conclusion

Possibly aircraft.

EXTRACT
TRUE ARTICLE
BY LT RUPP

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