

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 7 Sep 55		2. LOCATION Baltimore, Md		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☒ Possibly Astronomical (ARCTURUS) ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 08/0252Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE civilian and military (COC)			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 37 min		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE W NW	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Indefinite shape, red, blue, white and green in color. Lights were shooting out of sides of obj at 5 sec intervals, no sound.				11. COMMENTS Arcturus at 10 deg elev, 290 deg az setting at time of disappearance of obj.	

IN

ACTION 12

RE118

Multi

-3 SEP 1955 07 20 -

al

WPA090 YDA080 TYB072 TMA086 TTB035NLA013

RR RJEDEN RJEPNY RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB RJEPJR

DE RJEPNL 3E

R 080550Z

1
2701N-4E4
3
H " 4x2a

FM COMDR 647TH AC&W SQDN MANASSAS VA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

RJEPNY/26TH AIR DIVISION ROSLYN AFS NEW YORK

RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB

OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH DC

INFO RJEPNB/HQS EADF STEWART AFB NEWBURG NY

RJEPNB/COMDR 4602ND AISS

RJEPJR/FLIGHT 3H MCGUIRE AFB TRENTON NJ

BT

/U N C L A S/ACCMO 5-1023 PD UFOB REPORT 08 SEPT 55

1. (A) INDEFINITE

(B) GRAPEFRUIT HELD AT ARM LENGTH

(C) RED, BLUE, WHITE, GREEN

(D) ONE

(E) NEGATIVE

(F) LIGHTS SHOOTING OUT OF THE SIDE OF THE OBJECT AT 5 SECOND IN-

TERVALS

(G) NEGATIVE

(H) NONE

FORM 803 THE STANDARD REGISTER CO. DAYTON 1, OHIO, U. S. A.

PAGE TWO RJEPNL 3E

- (I) NONE
- 2. (A) SKY-SCANNING
 - (B) ELEVATION 40 DEGREES AZIMUTH 290 DEG - 310 DEG
 - (C) UNKNOWN
 - (D) OVER HORIZON IN WNW DIRECTION
 - (E) SLOW FLYING WNW DIRECTION
 - (F) 0252Z UNTIL 0329Z
- 3. (A) GROUND VISUAL
 - (B) BINOCULARS
 - (C) NEGATIVE
- 4. (A) 08/0252Z
 - (B) NIGHT
- 5. PK 2310 AND NK 5753
- 6. (A) ALBERT MERKEL
 - 609 NEWFIELD ROAD
 - GLEN BURNIE, MD
 - TELEPHONE GLEN BURNIE 1420W
 - LINE DRAFTSMAN FOR WESTINGHOUSE
- (B) HURLVET BONNEY 1ST LT
 - 4760TH GOC SQ

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BALTIMORE FILTER CENTER

7. (A) GOOD CLEAR NIGHT

(B) 5,000-320 DEG -20, 10,000-290 DEG -20, 15,000-290 DEG -30,
20,000-300 DEG -30 30,000-270 DEG -45, 45,000-270 DEG -50

(C) UNLIMITED

(D) 15 MILES

(E) NEGATIVE

(F) NEGATIVE

8. BRUNO ITEM 1 AND 2 WERE IN THIS AREA SHOOTING ILS'S AT BALTIMORE
AND ALSO RUNNING PRACTICE INTERCEPTS. LIGHTS ON THE BRUNO AIRCRAFT
ARE ORANGE (FLASHING), RED, GREEN, AND WHITE. BRUNO 1 AND 2 WERE
AIRBORNE AT 0155Z AND LANDED 0307Z

9. NEGATIVE

10. BRUNO ITEM 1 AND 2 OVER BALTIMORE

11. NONE

12. NONE

BT

~~PPIKPTWZ~~ SEP RJEPNL
08/06202

FORM 805 THE STANDARD REGISTER CO. DAYTON 1, OHIO, U. S. A.

FORM 805 THE STANDARD REGISTER CO. DAYTON 1, OHIO, U. S. A.

USA

JN-UP-0-55

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

AREA REPORT CONCERNS

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

AGENCY OF ORIGIN

DATE OF REPORT

Flight 3-H-4602d AISS

13 September 55

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

DATE OF INFORMATION

1/Lt Hurlbut E. Bonnie and others

9 September 55

PREPARING OFFICER

EVALUATION

CHESTER B. HANSON, Capt, USAF

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)

FONCON between Capt Hanson and Capt Bronstein, Hqs, 4602d AISS 9 Sept 1955;
TT SMG FM COMDR 647th AC & W Sq, MANASSAS, VA.

SUBJECT

UFOB

SUMMARY (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112a.)

I. CONTENTS:

PART ONE: Description of sighting by 1/Lt Hurlbut E. Bonnie,
4706th Ground Obs Sq., Baltimore Filter Center,
Baltimore 2, Maryland, (GeoRef GJPK 2420)

PART TWO: Description of sighting by Mr. Albert Merkel, 609
Newfield Road, Glen Burnie, Maryland. (GeoRef GJPJ
2311)

PART THREE: Supplementary Investigative Efforts

PART FOUR: Comments of Preparing Officer

II. SUMMARY: An unidentified flying object was reported to the Baltimore Filter Center by a civilian GOC volunteer located in Glen Burnie, Maryland, at 09/0232Z Sept 55. The object had first been seen by another observer at the same post at 09/0018Z, apparently having caused no alarm. The UFOB was last seen by GOC observers at 09/0318Z Sept 55. The information contained in this report is the result of interviews with persons having visually observed the UFOB in addition to the assistance of various agencies and installations within the Baltimore-Washington area whose records enabled the investigator to establish the probable cause of the phenomenon observed.

III. INVESTIGATOR: 2/Lt Charles L. Berrier, AO 30198114

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INCLS.

(See individual
parts)

Chester B. Hanson
CHESTER B. HANSON
CAPTAIN USAF
Officer in Charge

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

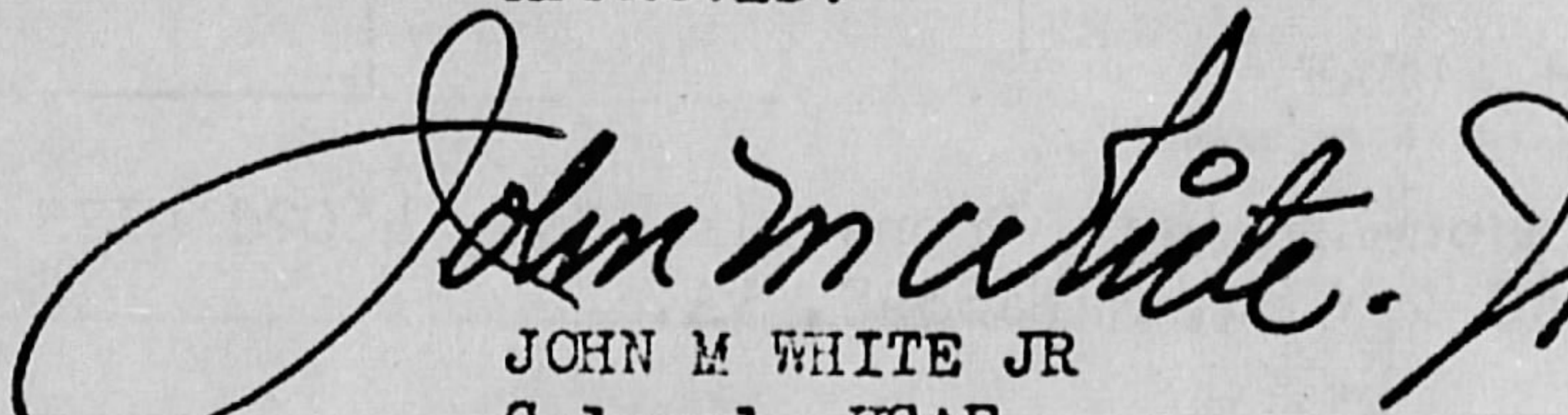
D/I, USAF; Comdr, ATIC; D/I, 26AD1v; Comdr, 4602d AISS; OIC, Flt 3-H, 4602d AISS

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-8-55	1A	8	

APPROVED:


JOHN M WHITE JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part One		
Flight 3-H, 4602d AISS	3H-UFOB-8	PAGE 2	OF 8	PAGES

I. SOURCE: Hurlbut E. Bonnie

Address: 127 Dorchester Road, Glen Burnie, Maryland

Age: 32

Occupation: 1st Lt, USAF, 4760th GOS, Baltimore, Maryland

Education: College

Qualifications: An Air Force Officer, alert, intelligent and possessing 20/20 vision.

II. RELIABILITY: Unknown. SOURCE was contacted by telephone.

III. SOURCE's DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE was at his residence in Glen Burnie, Maryland, at 09/0210Z Sept 55 when he noticed strange lights in the sky which seemed to be moving in a north-northwesterly direction at a moderate speed and an unknown altitude. He estimated object (s) at an angle of 40° with the horizon. Later, SOURCE estimated the distance between himself and the object to be approximately 5 miles, placing the object in the neighborhood of 20,000 feet. The object seemed neither to gain or lose altitude.

SOURCE recalled that no form or definite body shape was visible at any time during the sighting of the UFOB. There seemed to be only a configuration of blinking lights, though SOURCE naturally assumed that the lights were associated with a flying object.

The lights observed by SOURCE and his wife, who saw essentially the same phenomenon as her husband, blinked on successively in the sequence, red to blue to white, at intervals of approximately 5 seconds. The colored lights were never seen to appear simultaneously. At times the lights appeared to shoot out the sides of the undiscernable object.

SOURCE mentioned that there were some aircraft in the sky throughout the period of the sighting and at times sounds could be heard in general direction of the blinking lights, but in his opinion, they were coming from aircraft considerably beyond the UFOB.

The Baltimore Filter Center received a call from SOURCE at 09/0252Z informing them of the phenomenon. SOURCE then returned to his observation point outside his house and continued observing the UFOB, reporting again to the Filter Center as it altered its course slightly and a third time at 09/0318Z Sept 55 to state that the object had gone out of sight.

According to SOURCE, no photographs were taken of the UFOB.

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3H-UFOB-8-55

Part Two

Flight 3-H, 1602d ATSS

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I. SOURCE: Mr. Albert Merkel

Address; 609 Newfield Road, Glen Burnie, Maryland

Age: 42

Occupation: Line Draftsman for Westinghouse

Education: Six years schooling at the Maryland Institute of Electrical Drafting.

Qualifications: Presently working on Guided Missile Control
Has had 25 years experience in electronics.

II. RELIABILITY: Unknown. SOURCE was contacted by telephone.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 09/0230Z Sept 55, just after having been posted on the GOC lookout station in Glen Burnie, SOURCE noticed a blinking, flashing phenomenon in the western sky. SOURCE stated that the lights apparently were coming from an object at least 5 miles from his station and flying at an estimated altitude of 5,000 feet.

The condition of the sky was clear and the wind was slight. SOURCE's first thought was that the object might have been a balloon, but the way it seemed to follow a consistent path and maintain a constant altitude, shortly precluded this possibility.

At 09/0252Z SOURCE reported the baffling phenomenon to the Baltimore Filter Center, after which he returned to his watch and continued tracking the object. It followed a west-northwesterly course and appeared to be losing altitude, which SOURCE attributed to the object's track along the curvature of the earth.

SOURCE told the investigator that the lights changed color periodically from red to blue to white every few seconds, giving the appearance of a streak of light coming from the object.

Aircraft were in the sky at various times throughout the sighting, but SOURCE felt that none of these sounds could be associated with the UFOB directly. Its speed seemed to rule out the possibility of its being an aircraft. Occasionally the sound would seem to come from the general direction of the UFOB (roar of aircraft). However, these aircraft seemed to be much farther beyond the UFOB.

SOURCE called in to report that the UFOB had begun to disappear at 09/0310Z Sept 55. No photographs had been taken of the UFOB.

The SOURCE stated that in his opinion, the object was probably a weather balloon. Investigator concluded the interview at this point.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. The CAA Tower at Harbor Field, Maryland (GeoRef GJPK 2318) was called for information on the UFOB. According to the controller on duty, Mr. M. H. Brandes, none of the aircraft flying in the vicinity of Baltimore during the hours of the UFOB sighting had noticed anything unusual in the surrounding sky. In his opinion had any of the pilots observed an unidentified airborne object it would have been reported to the control tower. A later check with this installation to determine whether any blimps or dirigibles had been flying in the area produced a negative response.

2. A check with the Air Traffic Control tower at Friendship Field (GeoRef GJPK 2212) yielded substantially the same results, namely that they had received no confirmation of an unusual flying object in the vicinity of Baltimore.

3. The Baltimore Filter Center was found to have been responsible for submission of data on the UFOB to the 647th AC & W Sq in Manassas, Virginia, which prepared the preliminary report. All observers of the object had called in to the Filter Center to report their sighting.

4. Operations, 647th AC & W Sq was contacted and this installation reported that in addition to the Drone Item aircraft mentioned in their Preliminary Report, see (incl. #1) an F-80 had taken off from Andrews AFB, Maryland (GeoRef GJPJ 0818) at 09/0240Z, flown in the general vicinity of Baltimore at an altitude of 10,000 ft. practicing GCI-GCA recoveries west and north of the city, and landed again at Andrews AFB at 09/0337Z Sept 55.

5. A check with 25th FTS, Operations at Andrews AFB revealed the following information concerning their activity on the night of 9 September 1955. First, that How 1, 2, and 3 (F-86-D's) had taken off from Andrews AFB at 08/2325Z Sept 55, practiced intercepts and IIS's before landing again at 09/0035Z. Secondly, that Item 1, 2, and 3 (same type aircraft) had taken off at 09/0035Z, flown to the north and west of Baltimore while practicing IIS's and running intercepts before landing again at Andrews at 09/0226Z Sept 55. The aircraft were flying from 10,000 to 25,000 ft. during the maneuvers. None of the pilots from any of these aircraft had reported having seen anything which resembled a UFOB. Each of the above mentioned fighters have lighting systems which blink on and off at approximately 5 second intervals in the sequence red to green to white.

6. The US Weather Bureau at Friendship Field was contacted and the officer on duty stated that his station no longer launched meteorological balloons but that Silver Hill Weather Station (GeoRef GJPJ 0453) near Washington did most of the weather sounding in this area.

7. The Weather Station at Ft. Meade, Maryland, (GeoRef GJPK 1607) was called but no balloons had been launched from this site on either the 8th or 9th of September 1955.

8. Contact with Air Research and Development in Baltimore and Friendship Field revealed that ARDC activity in this area is entirely administrative, not experimental.

9. The 4760th GOS in Baltimore, which controls the operation of the Filter Center and its civilian GOC volunteer support was responsible initially for the sighting and the reporting of the UFOB. Its personnel on duty offered the utmost assistance to the AISS investigator conducting the Follow-Up Investigation.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS: (Contd)

10. In an attempt to record the opinion of local astronomers, the investigator called Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, which was unable to offer assistance. The Baltimore division of the University of Maryland was then contacted, however the Observatory's astronomers were still on summer leave. Finally, the Director of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, [REDACTED], was called. The Director stated that to his knowledge nothing unusual in the way of astronomical bodies might meet the description of the phenomenon described. Neither the Director nor his chief astronomer had any explanation of the "blinking lights", except to suggest that they may have come from an aircraft.

11. A later check with the Baltimore Filter Center revealed that a Miss Jean Laughman at the GOC Post in New Oxford, Pennsylvania (GeoRef GJNK 5653), had called the Filter Center at 0321Z to report that she saw an object with blinking lights east of her post flying toward York, Pa. (GeoRef GJPK 1658). She observed the object through binoculars but could not distinguish shape other than flashing lights. She observed the object until 09/0328Z when it faded from sight.

Weather Data During Observed Flight of UFOB:

Altitude	Degrees	Knots
5,000	320	20
10,000	290	20
15,000	290	30
20,000	300	30
30,000	270	45
45,000	270	50

1 Inclosure

TT MSG ACCMO 5-1028 FM COMDR 647th AC & W SQ MANASSAS VA

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Incl. #1, PART THREE

TT MSG ACCMO 5-1028 FM COMDR 647TH AC&W SQ MANASSAS VA

NO61

TMA086 TTBO35NIA013

RR RJEDEN RJEPNY RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB RJEPJR

DE RJEPNL 3E

R 080550Z

FM COMDR 647T

H

AC&W SQDN MANASSAS VA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC FMT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

RJEPNY/26TH AIR DIVISION ROSLYN AFS NEW YORK

RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH DC

INFO RJEPNB HQS FADF STEWART AFB NEWBURG NY

RJEPNB/COMDR 4602ND AISS

RJEPJR/FLIGHT 3H MCGUIRE AFB TRENTON NJ

BT

/U N C L A S/ACCMO 5-1028 PD UFOB REPORT 08 SEPT 55

1. (A) INDEFINATE
- (B) GRAPEFRUIT HELD AT ARM LENGTH
- (C) RED, BLUE, WHITE, GREEN
- (D) ONE
- (E) NEGATIVE
- (F) LIGHTS SHOOTING OUT OF THE SIDE OF THE OBJECT AT 5 SECOND INTERVALS
- (G) NEGATIVE
- (H) NONE

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- (I) NONE
2. (A) SKY-SCANNING
- (B) ELEVATION 40 DEGREES AZIMUTH 290 DEG - 310 DEG
- (C) UNKNOWN
- (D) OVER HORIZON IN WNW DIRECTION
- (E) SLOW FLYING WNW DIRECTION
- (F) 0252Z UNTIL 0329Z
3. (A) GROUND VISUAL
- (B) BINOCULARS
- (C) NEGATIVE
4. (A) 08/0252Z
- (B) NIGHT
5. EX 2310 AND NK 5753
6. (A) ALBERT MERKEL
- 609 NEWFIELD ROAD
- GLEN BURNIE, MD
- TELEPHONE GLEN BURNIE 1420W
- LINE DRAFTMAN FOR WESTINGHOUSE
- (B) HURLVET BONNEY 1ST LT
- 4760TH GOC SQ

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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Incl. #1 TT MSG ACCMO 5-1028 FM COMR 647TH AC&W SQ MANASSAS VA (Cont.)

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BALTIMORE FILTER CENTER

TELEPHONE LEXINGTON 9-3700

7. (A) GOOD CLEAR NIGHT

(B) 5,000 - 320 DEG -20, 10,000 -290 DEG -20, 15,000-290 DEG -30,
20,000-300 DEG -30 30,000-270 DEG -45, 45,000-270 DEG -50

(C) UNLIMITED

(D) 15 MILES

(E) NEGATIVE

(F) NEGATIVE

8. BRUNO ITEM 1 AND 2 WERE IN THIS AREA SHOOTING ILS'S AT BALTIMORE
AND ALSO RUNNING PRACTICE INTERCEPTS. LIGHTS ON THE BRUNO AIRCRAFT
ARE (ORANGE)FLASHING), RED, GREEN, AND WHITE. BRUNO 1 AND 2 WERE
AIRBORNE AT 0155Z AND LANDED 0307Z

9. NEGATIVE

10. BRUNO ITEM 1 AND 2 OVER BALTIMORE

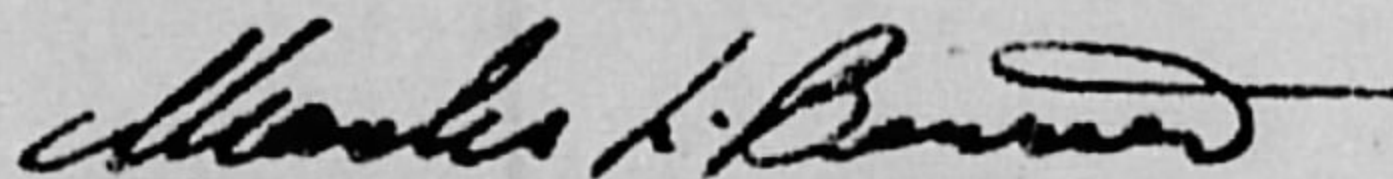
11. NONE

12. NONE

BT

08/0620Z SEP RJEPNL

TRUE COPY:



CHARLES L. BERRIER

2/Lt., USAF

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO.

Part Four

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Flight 3-H 4602 AISS

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer

PROBABLE

1. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, the UFOB sighting was probably caused by the blinking night lights from one or more of the Andrews AFB jets flying in the vicinity of Baltimore between the hours of 09/0230Z and 09/0318Z Sept 55.

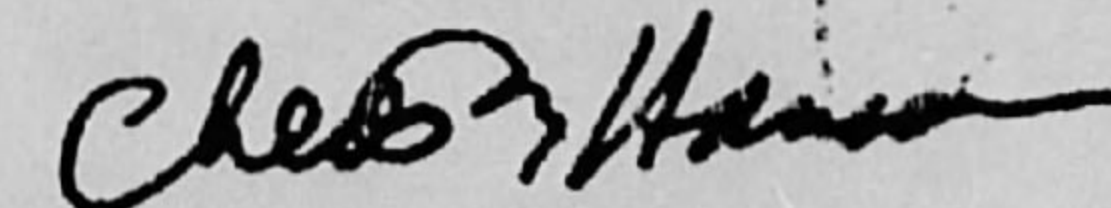
a. The sequence of changing lights observed from the Glen Burnie GOC Post of red to blue to white seems to bear a strong resemblance to the night lights of either an F-30 or an F-86 which blink from red to green to white. These aircraft were known to have been flying in the area reported on at the time of the sighting.

b. None of the evidence collected seems to discredit the possibility that the lights observed were those of fighter aircraft in the vicinity.

- (1) The operations reports from the 95th FIS at Andrews AFB, Maryland established the presence of aircraft in the vicinity of the UFOB.
- (2) The Operations Officer, 647th AC & W Sq confirms the presence of Phantom aircraft and an F-80 in the skies above and to the north and west of Baltimore at the time of the sighting.
- (3) The UFOB observers did hear sounds of aircraft in the skies, while one observer noted aircraft sounds coming from beyond but in the same direction as the UFOB.

c. The following evidence indicates that the lights observed from the ground might not have been those from an Unidentified Flying Object.

- (1) That none of the pilots flying in the vicinity of Baltimore at the time of the sighting were able to offer any confirmation on the UFOB.
- (2) The presence of radar confirmation on the Andrews aircraft and the lack of it with respect to the UFOB.



CHESTER B. HANSON
CAPTAIN USAF
Officer in Charge

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

Concur with the opinion of the Preparing Officer that this sighting was probably caused by the blinking night lights from one or more of the jet aircraft known to be in the vicinity of the sighting.

