

Incident #133

ATIC NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF REPORT 8 Mar 1948

AF NO. \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION Belmont, N.C.

REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SOURCE Male Civilian

DATE OF REPORT \_\_\_\_\_

DATE IN TO ATIC \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF OCCURRENCE 1100

COLOR bright or silver, looked metallic

SHAPE round or sphere

SPEED 600 mph

SIGHT From distance- small coin

ALTITUDE \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE easterly

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 10 sec

NO. IN GROUP 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION ground

WIND \_\_\_\_\_

WAVE \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTOS \_\_\_\_\_ SKETCHES \_\_\_\_\_

*Robert A/C*

Standard ATIC Form 309  
(Rev. 1-53)





UNCLASSIFIED

T-1993

Col. W. L. North, MCE,  
contacted and  
picked up.

URGENT UEDLY

FM UEAC 98A/CG FTMCIPHERSON GA 161400Z  
TO COMGENAMC WRIGHTPATTERSON AFB DAYTON OHIO

16:35  
April 16, 1948

UNCLASSIFIED

PASS TO DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE GSUSA

UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT SIGHTED AT BELMONT NC EIGHT MARCH NINETEEN  
FORTY EIGHT ELEVEN HUNDRED HOURS PD WEATHER CLEAR CMA VISIBILITY  
EXCELLENT CMA FEW SMALL SCATTERED FFLEECY WHITE CLOUDS PD WITNESSES  
CLN MR [REDACTED] CMA SUPER METER DEPT CMA DUKE POWER CO CMA  
CHARLOTTE CMA NC CMA MR [REDACTED] CMA ASST TO [REDACTED] CMA MR [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] CMA GASTONIA ELECTRIC CO CMA GASTONIA CMA NC PD NO PHOTOS PD  
OBJECT SIGHTED CLN NOT ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER DISC OR SPHERE PD  
SIZE NOT ESTIMATED EXCEPT THAT APPARENT SIZE FROM GROUND ABOUT THAT  
OF SMALL COIN PD COLOR BRIGHT OR SILVER. CMA REFLECTED SUNLIGHT CMA  
BUT NO FLICKER CMA STEADY REFLECTION PD ESTIMATED SPEED A BIT FASTER  
THAN JET TYPE AIRPLANE CMA THAN WITNESS HAS SEEN CMA OR ABOUT SIX  
HUNDRED MILES PER HR PD WITNESS WAS ABLE TO OBSERVE VERY FAST SPEED  
IN RELATION TO SMALL CLOUD CMA BEHIND WHICH OBJECT DISAPPEARED PD  
SEEN FOR ABOUT TEN SECONDS PD HEADING EASTERLY PD OBJECT MOVED IN  
STRAIGHT LINE AT CONSTANT SPEED WITHOUT APPARENT CHANGE IN  
ALTITUDE

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

PASS TO DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE GSUSA

OR DIRECTION PD UNABLE TO ESTIMATE ALTITUDE CMA EXCEPT ABOVE CLOUDS  
PD NO SOUND OF ANY KIND PD NO EXHAUST TRAIL OR ANY OTHER PHENOMENON  
CONNECTED PD COMPLETE WRITTEN REPORT FOLLOWS PD

UNCLASSIFIED

16/20472

16/20472  
MCEI - Action  
MCAAGR - Info  
53262

4/19

T-1993



C O P Y

Hq, 317th ORC Composite Gp  
c/o Office Instructor, ORC  
Charlotte QM Depot  
Charlotte, N. C.

15 April 1948

SUBJECT: Report of Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft

TO : Hq, Third Army, Att. AC of S, G-2

1. The following report submitted in accordance with Ltr.,  
Hq, Third Army, AJACI-452.1 General, 1 April 1948. The undersigned  
heard of a sighting of an unconventional aircraft, investigated,  
and submits herewith the following information:

- a. Sighted at Belmont, N. C., March 8, 1948 at 1100 hours.
- b. Weather clear, visibility excellent, few small scattered  
fleecy white clouds.
- c. Witnesses: Mr. [REDACTED], Super. Meter Dept.,  
Duke Power Co., Charlotte, N. C.  
Mr. [REDACTED], Ass't to above.  
Mr. [REDACTED], Gastonia Electric Co.,  
Gastonia, N. C.
- d. No photographs.

3. Object sighted:

- (1) one
- (2) Round-not able to determine whether disc or sphere.
- (3) Size-not able to estimate except that apparent size  
from ground about that of small coin.
- (4) Color-bright or silver, reflected sunlight, but no  
flicker, steady reflection.
- (5) Speed-estimated a bit faster than jet type airplane,  
that witness has seen, or about 600 miles per hour.  
Witness was able to observe very fast speed in  
relation to a small cloud, behind which object  
disappeared. Seen for about 10 seconds.
- (6) Heading-easterly.
- (7) Maneuverability-object moved in straight line at  
constant speed without apparent change in altitude  
or direction.
- (8) Altitude-unable to estimate, but above clouds.
- (9) Sound-no sound of any kind.
- (10) No exhaust trail or any other phenomenon connected.



2. The undersigned talked to Mr. [REDACTED], but neither of the other witnesses. Mr. [REDACTED] is a man of excellent character and reputation, a first grade engineer, and employee of Duke Power Co. for some 30 years. He is known to the undersigned thru mutual close friend to whom he is related. He impressed the undersigned as being conservative and sound and is a technical man with a very technical and responsible position. Was employed by the government during war in some work of a technical and classified nature.

Mr. [REDACTED] was careful in his statements outlined above. He does not claim that he and other witnesses saw a "flying disc". He merely claims that they saw an object which they could not identify with any natural phenomenon or known type of aircraft. He was quite sure in his own mind that it did not resemble any conventional aircraft, that it was "a round metallic appearing object, moving very rapidly." He states that there is absolutely no doubt in his mind or that of the other two witnesses that they saw something very clearly of the above description, and that they all watched it for some ten seconds until it disappeared behind a small cloud.

3. Mr. [REDACTED] states that he will be glad to give any further information that may be desired, but believes the above contains all the information which he can give as to the object itself. The exact location from which the witnesses sighted the object can be obtained as the three were working on a power line at the time and have a detailed diagram of their exact position.

4. Further information concerning Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] could not doubt be obtained from the Personnel Dept of Duke Power Co. The undersigned knows nothing about the references of the third witness, Mr. [REDACTED].

5. The undersigned has no further information upon which to evaluate report, but from talking to Mr. [REDACTED] feels that he and other witnesses saw something which they could not identify, are sincere, and the details of the object in their own minds are as presented above. Mr. [REDACTED] repeated that he was quite positive that the object was not an airplane.

James Y. Rogers, Jr.  
Lt Col, Cml C (Res)  
O-403612  
C.O. 317th Composite Gp

Personal address:  
2131 McClintock Rd.,  
Charlotte, N. C.

C O P Y



UNCLASSIFIED

NCIA/JCB/and  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

~~SECRET~~

21 April 1948

NCIA

Lt Colonel James Y. Rogers  
2131 McClintock Road  
Charlotte, N. C.

Dear Colonel Rogers:

Reference is made to your letter, subject: "Report of Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft" to Hq, Third Army, Attn: AC of S, C-2, dated 15 April 1948.

It is requested that an estimate of the height of the clouds at 1100 hours on 8 March 1948 be secured from the Belmont, N. C. Weather Bureau. It is further requested that Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ be interviewed once more for the purpose of securing the following:

a. An estimation of the horizontal or slant range from his position to the object.

b. Whether or not the object gave the appearance of immense size at great height or that of medium size at a lesser altitude.

c. In the event the object sighted gave the appearance of great size, are there any other known observers not in the immediate vicinity of Mr. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ and his companions?

Any further information available on this or other sightings of this nature would be greatly appreciated by this Headquarters.

Sincerely yours,

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

W. R. CLEGGAN  
Colonel, USAF  
Chief, Tech Intelligence Div  
Intelligence Department

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~



Charlotte, N. C.  
May, 7, 1948

UNCLASSIFIED

Commanding General  
Air Material Command  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio  
Att. MICA

Gentlemen,

Reference is made to your letter of 21 April to me from Col. W. R. Clingerman (signed by Lt. Col. J. J. Hausman) in reply to my report of 15 April, subject: "Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft."

The weather bureau at Morris Field (about five miles from the Imperial Cotton Mills, Belmont, N. C. - where object was sighted) reports that the weather on 8 March 1948 at 1100 hrs. as unlimited ceiling, clouds about .1, high (above 10,000 ft.) thin Cirrus, estimated at 30,000 ft at 1130 hrs. Morris Field says that these conditions were general over a large area, and undoubtedly the same over the sighting spot as they were at the weather station at Morris Field.

Have interviewed the witness, Mr. [REDACTED] again and he says that since he is not a trained aerial observer and does not know either the actual size of the object or the distance, would be unable to estimate horizontal or slant range, or determine whether the object appeared to be large at a great distance, or smaller at a lesser distance. There are no other known observers other than Mr. [REDACTED] and his party.

Mr. [REDACTED] added nothing further to the original report, except that he seems to be of the impression that the object was a disc rather than a sphere, but I don't see how he could determine this under the conditions, and since he was uncertain in his original report, believe it should probably be discounted. He was quite insistent that he heard no sound, and that it wasn't in his opinion a conventional type airplane.

It is regretted that no more information is available.

Yours very truly

*James Y. Rogers, Jr.*  
James Y. Rogers, Jr.,  
Lt. Col. Cml C (Res)  
2131 McClintock Rd.,  
Charlotte, N. C.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

*Inc 105*



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,  
125, 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.



[REDACTED]

~~RESTRICTED~~  
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Incident #105 -- Belmont, North Carolina -- 8 March 1948

The speed of 600 MPH, the lack of an exhaust trail, and the reported "exactly horizontal course" make it extremely improbable that the object seen in this incident was a meteor. The "steady reflection which did not flicker" also argues against that possibility. Since the observer was a technical man, it does not seem likely that his observations can be considered subjective enough to fit them into an astronomical hypothesis.

~~RESTRICTED~~

7-3712-5



HEADQUARTERS  
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio

MCLAXO-3/HWS/rm  
Jan 5 1949

MCLAXO

SUBJECT: Project "SIGN"

TO: Chief, Air Weather Service,  
Andrews Air Force Base,  
Washington 25, D. C.  
ATTN: DSS

1. Project "SIGN" is responsible for the collection, investigation and interpretation of data relative to sighting of unidentified flying objects. Attached Incident Summaries 1 thru 172 from the files of Project "SIGN" are forwarded for study and recommendations as to which of the incidents may be eliminated as balloons released on routine synoptic ascents by the Air Weather Service, the Navy Aerological Service or the United States Weather Bureau. The summaries attached may be retained in your headquarters for working and reference purposes.

2. The Air Weather Service is the only agency of its type that has been asked to assist in the accomplishment of Project "SIGN" except that the United States Weather Bureau has provided information on ball lightning. Research projects in which balloons are used and which are conducted or sponsored by the Army, Navy or United States Air Force are checked by the Intelligence Department of this Command. These checks are usually made direct from the Project "SIGN" Office, MCLAXO-3. These checks are distinct from the check of synoptic balloon flights made by weather service stations of the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Commerce. (U. S. Weather Bureau) requested of Air Weather Service.

3. It is the opinion of this office that the below listed incidents are those having the greatest possibility of being balloons. This list does not eliminate the possibility that many of the remaining incidents are balloons.

2	24	50	91	113	155
3	25	52	92	115	156
4	28	72	96	126	157
11	30	73	104	141	159
14	31	81	105	148	163
16	32	87	107, 8, 9	151	167
22	33	89	112 (See 122)	154	169
23	43				

T-4481-1



Hq AMC, Chief, Air Weather Service, Washington 25, D. C.  
Subj: Project "SIGN"

4. The form used in interrogating witnesses to sightings is inclosed as a matter of interest. Comment as to possible improvement of the "Essential Elements of Information" in regard to routine synoptic balloon flights is invited.

5. It is requested that correspondence be forwarded to the Commanding General, Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, attention MCIAXO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

2 Incls:  
Summaries 1-172 incl  
"EEI"

/s/ W. R. Clingerman, Col; USAF  
for H. M. McCoy  
Colonel, USAF  
Chief, Intelligence Dept

Copies furnished:

AFOIR, Hq. USAF  
Capt Trakowski, Geophysics Lab  
Major Kodis, MCREEP  
Colonel Neal, MCLAWS

7-34481-1



B/Ltr from AMC  
dtd 5 Jan 1949  
Subj: Project  
"SIGN"

AWS DSS

1st Ind

24 Jan 1949

HEADQUARTERS, AIR WEATHER SERVICE Andrews Air Force Base, Wash-  
ington 25, D. C.

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

Investigations by this headquarters reveal that a synoptic  
weather balloon could have been at the location where sightings  
were reported in the following incidents. In compiling this  
list consideration was given to the wind direction and speed at  
the surface and aloft at the scheduled time of balloon release, and  
the location of the nearest weather station making balloon obser-  
vations.

2	52	91	126
3	72	93	148
4	73	94	155
25	78	105	166
28	81	113	169
36	87	115	172

FOR THE CHIEF AIR WEATHER SERVICE

2 Incls:  
n/o

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



CHECK-LIST - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Incident #105

1. Date **8 Mar 48**
2. Time **1100**
3. Location **Belmont, N. C.**
4. Name of observer **Mr. ██████████**
5. Occupation of observer **Supt. Meter Dept, Duke Power Co., Charlotte, N. C.**
6. Address of observer **Charlotte, N. C. (Duke Power Co.)**
7. Place of observation **Belmont, N. C. (Sighted from ground)**
8. Number of objects **1**
9. Distance of object from observer **N/S**
10. Time in sight **about 10 seconds**
11. Altitude **N/S - could not be estimated**
12. Speed **Around 600 MPH**
13. Direction of flight **Easterly**
14. Tactics **None - moved in straight line at constant speed without change in altitude or direction**
15. Sound **None**
16. Size **From a distance - that of a small coin**
17. Color **bright or silver - looked metallic**
18. Shape **round or sphere (unable to determine which)**
19. Odor detected **N/S**
20. Apparent construction **Metallic**
21. Exhaust trails **None**
22. Weather conditions **Clear with scattered white clouds**
23. Effect on clouds **N/S**
24. Sketches or photographs **None**
25. Manner of disappearance **behind small white cloud**
26. Remarks: **(over)**



A round metallic-appearing object moving very rapidly at an estimated speed of 600 MPH was observed near Belmont, N. C., at approx 1100 the morning of 8 Mar 48. The weather was clear with excellent visibility with a few small scattered fleecy white clouds. It could not be determined if the object were a disc or sphere. Its apparent size was that of a small coin of a bright or silver color. It reflected the sun maintaining a steady reflection which did not flicker. The object which was under observation for some 10 seconds was on an easterly heading and moved in a straight line at a constant speed without apparent change in altitude or direction. It was impossible to determine the altitude but it was moving above the clouds. No sound of any kind was heard nor was any exhaust trail observed.

NOTE: Witness (Mr. ██████████) is a man of excellent character and reputation, a first-grade engineer and employee of Duke Power Co for some 30 years. He impressed the agent as being conservative and sound and is a technical man with a very technical and responsible position.

Mr. ██████████ was careful in his statements. He does not claim he saw the "flying disc", merely stating claiming that they saw an object which they could not identify with any natural phenomenon or known type of aircraft. It resembled "a round metallic appearing object moving very rapidly."

Witnesses: Mr. ██████████ assistant Superintendent, Meter Dept  
Duke Power Co., Charlotte, N. C.  
Mr. ██████████, Gastonia Electric Co.,  
Gastonia, N. C.



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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MCIA/JOB/amb  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MCIA

Project "SIGN"

APR 22 1948

Director of Intelligence  
General Staff  
United States Army  
Washington 25, D. C.  
ATTENTION: CEGID

The attached copy of teletype from Fort McPherson, Georgia, is  
forwarded for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Inal  
by teletype fr  
Ft McPherson

H. M. McCOT  
Colonel, USAF  
Chief of Intelligence

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DOD DIR 5200.10

1670 163 35 08 58

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~~RESTRICTED~~

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AJACI-9

1st Ind

(15 Apr 48)

HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY, Fort McPherson, Georgia, 16 April 1948

TO: COMGENAME, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Dayton, Ohio  
ATTENTION: MCI

1. TWX forwarded this date.
2. Basic communication is forwarded for more detailed information.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

WALTER A. BUGK  
Colonel, GSC  
AC of S, G-2

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~~RESTRICTED~~