

[REDACTED]

25/00005

373

ATIC NO. _____ DATE OF INFO 22 July 1950

AP NO. _____ LOCATION Spartanburg, S.C.

REPORT NO. _____ OCCASION Civilian Couple

DATE OF REPORT 24 July 1950 TIME IN TO ATIC _____

TIME OF OBSERV. Betw 2300 & 2400 COLOR _____

SHAPE Round SPEED _____

SIZE 200' diameter ALTITUDE 2000'

COURSE _____ LENGTH OF TIME OBS. 2 min - 3 min

NO. IN GROUP _____ TIME OF OBSERV. Ground

WEATHER _____ OBSERVERS _____

PHOTOS _____ SKETCHES _____

Temporary ATIC Form 329 (2 Jan 53) second appearances were in the same spot while the first and lower one to the right of the original position.

[REDACTED]

ATK (STAR/PLAN)

UNCLASSIFIED

**HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY
FORT McPHERSON, GEORGIA**

47

m117XA

AJACI-3 360.33

27 July 1950

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

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

Attention: MCI (Control No. A-1917)

Inclosed herewith is report re flying object seen near
Spartanburg, South Carolina, 22 July 1950.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

John Meade
**JOHN MEADE
Colonel, GSC
AC of S, G-2**

**1 Incl:
Rpt dtd 24 July 50
re "Flying Thing"**

14
1950 JUL 31

**DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
EOP DIR 6200.10**

*AST. (STAR/PLANES)
[REDACTED] DELETED*

*50714
copy*

7-3712-31



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McCullough at Random

Flying Something Seen Saturday

They hesitated to use the words —flying saucers. But Vernon Gwynne and his bride, Betty, swore early Sunday morning that they saw something while watching a drive-in movie Saturday night. And the occupants in the next auto saw "it" too.

Their description of the object in the sky is that it was a huge silver thing, elongated but generally in the shape of a great saucer. A mist seemed to surround it and gradually dissipated as they watched.



ALEX McCULLOUGH

THEIR VISION was supported by a control-tower operator at Memorial Airport who told The Herald that the same object had been sighted from there. Speculation was that it possibly could be a planet, but nobody was sure.

There were no reports of dirigibles in this area.

I'm sure they all saw something. What was it? . . .

EVEN THE Communists are laughing at some of the Communist propaganda efforts, INS reports. The Voice of America has been poking fun in a slapstick manner at Moscow attempts to convince Soviet people that America dropped potato bugs on Communist lands.

Now it is reported that the Communist potato bug propaganda has produced more jokes in Czechoslovakia than it has bugs.

AND HERE'S one from INS that ought to give a laugh to somebody. Chief Justice Kotara Tan-

Reporter Sees Flying 'Thing'

Vernon Gwynne, a Spartanburg Journal reporter, today turned in a story for the newspaper that he got unexpectedly while attending a show Saturday night at the Starlite Drive-in Theater on the Asheville Highway with his wife, Betty.

It was about a "flying something" that appeared in the sky near the theater 3 times within an hour.

Mr. Gwynne described the "thing" this way:

"I first noticed a "cloud-like" formation that was drifting in the opposite direction of the other clouds. This cloud was very low and indistinct. I called Betty's attention to it and asked her if she noticed anything peculiar about it. As we watched it took a more definite shape which was rounded on the bottom and fairly flat.

"Since we wanted others to be able to corroborate our story I got out of the car and asked 2 fellows in the next car to 'look up there and see if, you see what we see?' By the time they looked the 'something' was gone.

"The second time I saw the cloud

forming in the same place, apparently out of the clear sky. The fellows in the car, Betty and I watched the shape form in the center of the 'cloud.' After about 2 or 3 minutes the shape disappeared again.

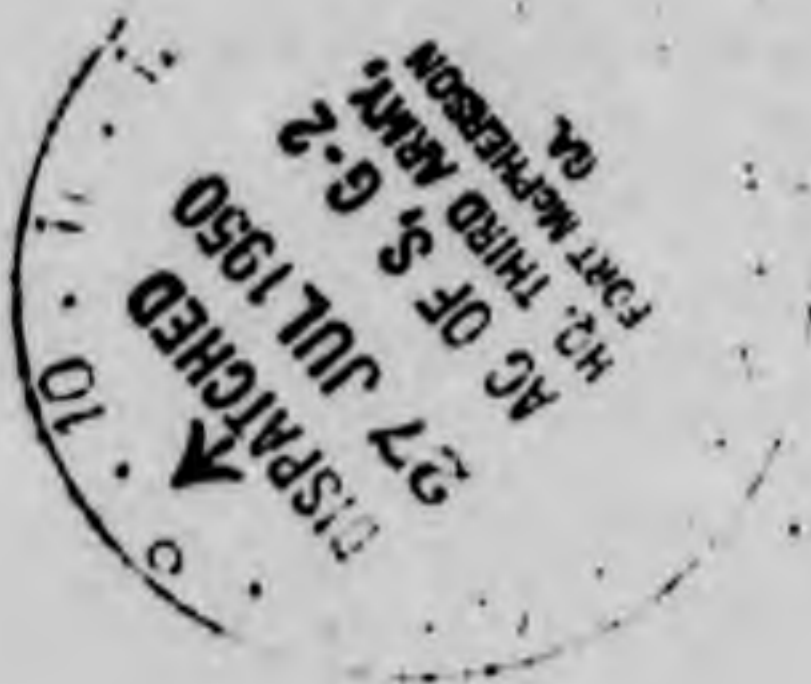
About 30 minutes later all 4 of us again saw the shape only this time it was very clearly lighted and had changed position. We think the mist or cloud came from within the shape. It is very hard to estimate size or distance at night so we hesitate to claim that it was less than a mile from us and between one and 2,000 feet in altitude.

"The color of the rounded bottom was about the same as a reflected fire on a silver or white surface. The size we would estimate to be larger than any dirigible that we have ever seen.

"During the 3 different times we saw 'it', for a period of probably 8 or 10 minutes over an hours time, we discussed it and asked each other how we were going to describe it. We are convinced that we saw what other people say are 'Flying Saucers.'"

Clipping from The Spartanburg Journal, dated 24 July 1950. (Afternoon Edition) Spartanburg, South Carolina

Clipping from The Spartanburg Herald, Spartanburg, S. C., dated 24 July 1950. (Morning Edition)



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SUBJECT: "FLYING THING"

TO: Chief, Sec & Inv Br
111th CIC Det
Ft McPherson, Ga

FROM: FAO#9, Spartanburg,
S. C.

24 July 1950

On 24 July 1950, Mr. [REDACTED], Reporter, Spartanburg Herald Journal, Spartanburg, S. C. was interviewed in regards to a "FLYING THING" that was reported seen by him Saturday night, 22 July 1950, near Spartanburg, S. C. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he and his wife, [REDACTED] Gwynne, were at the Star Light Drive In Theater, which is located North West of Spartanburg, approximately 3 miles from the city limits on the Asheville, N. C. highway. They were attending the last show, which started at approximately 2300 hours. They had been sitting in their car watching the picture for only a short while when Mr. [REDACTED] noticed an object in the sky which was round, had a bright surface as if a light was being reflected off it and was an estimated two thousand (2000) feet in the air. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he showed the object to his wife and they both watched it for approximately 2 minutes before Mr. [REDACTED] got out of his automobile and went to the car that parked next to them to show the object to 2 men occupants of that car. By that time the object had disappeared; however, only a few minutes later the object appeared again in the same place. (Mr. [REDACTED] kept track of the object's location by sighting from a light pole which the object appeared the first and second time just at the top of the pole and a little to the right) and was observed by Mr. [REDACTED] his wife and the two occupants of the other car for approximately 3 minutes before the object disappeared again. The object appeared a third time a few minutes later and that time it had moved and was considerably lower and a little more to the right of the position that it was observed the first and second time. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that the third time the object appeared, the bottom, which was round and the shape of a saucer, was very brightly illuminated as if the light from a big forest fire was being reflected from a bright surface suspended in the air. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that each time the object appeared it was surrounded by a mist or smoke, which he does not believe was a cloud as the sky was clear and the stars could be seen shining clearly beyond the object on all sides. Mr. [REDACTED] said that as far as he could determine the object did not move while it was visible to him and that it appeared the first and second time in the same spot. The third time it appeared it had moved and was considerably lower and to the right of the position it was seen before. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that it was difficult to estimate its size and altitude, but it appeared to him that the bottom surface of the object was about two hundred (200) feet in diameter, was about 2,000 feet altitude and was approximately 1200 yards from where he was observing it. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he did not know what the object was, but that he had never seen anything like it before and that

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he, his wife, and the other 2 observers all agreed that its structural appearance, its behavior in the air and its tremendous size eliminated its being any aircraft known by the 4 of them, or that it could be a planet and that it was surely not an illusion as it was seen very distinctly by all 4 observers and a discussion as to what it was and how to describe it later went on for approximately an hour after it had disappeared the last time. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he did not try to bring the object to anyone else's attention, other than the two men in the car next to him, the first and second time the object appeared because it was not clearly visible and he thought it was possibly a planet. The third time it appeared it was so large and looked so weird that his wife was very frightened and he and the other 2 men, observers agreed that it would be best not bring it to the attention of the others as they were afraid that it would cause mass hysteria. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he was so excited over seeing the object that he did not get the names of the other 2 men observers and did not know where to locate them. As far as he knows, no one else at the drive in theater saw the object, however, a control tower operator, name unknown, at the Spartanburg Air Port reported the next morning as having observed a similar object as Mr. [REDACTED] observed and at approximately the same time. Mr. [REDACTED] does not wish to commit himself and say that the object was definitely something out of the ordinary, but he believes that he saw what other people have described as Flying Saucers. (B-2)

On 24 July 1950, Mr. [REDACTED], Control Tower Operator, Memorial Airport, Spartanburg, S. C., was interviewed and stated that he was on duty in the control tower on Saturday night 22 July until 2400 hours and that he did not see anything out of the ordinary that night and did not report having seen anything. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he saw the article in the newspaper about Mr. [REDACTED] seeing the object, but he did not know who at the air port could have seen the object unless it was Mr. [REDACTED], also a control tower operator, who relieved Mr. [REDACTED] at 2400 hours that night. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that Mr. [REDACTED] is off duty until 1600 hours, Thursday 27 July 1950 and is believed to be in Atlanta, Ga., at the present. (B-2)

REX H. AVERY, 82nd CIC Detachment

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FLYING SAUCER SEEN BY TWO VENICE YOUTHS

What was described as a flying saucer was seen over Venice at 2:30 a.m. yesterday by Jack Leisher and Rahl Clark. They first noticed it, they said, hovering above Washington and Lincoln Blvds.

"We just happened to be driving home," said Jack, 19, of 453 Rialto Ave., Venice. "I looked up and there it was."

Rahl, 17, same address, witnessed the same phenomenon, he said.

"It seemed to be about 1000 feet high," said Jack. "We started chasing it but it suddenly took off fast, going south. It left a bluish white vapor and was about 300 feet around."

The youths described the object as disk-shaped and grayish in color.

L.A. TIMES
26 JULY 1950