

Incident #220

UNCLASSIFIED

ATTC NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF REPORT 29 Nov 48

AP NO. \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION San Francisco, Calif

REPORT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ SOURCE Science Teacher

DATE OF REPORT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE IN TO ATTC \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF OBSERVING 2113 PST COLOR Yellow

SHAPE "Flash of Light" SPEED Faster than A/c

SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ ALTITUDE \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE N to NNW LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 7 Seconds

NO. IN GROUP 1 TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ MANEUVERS Changed course

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

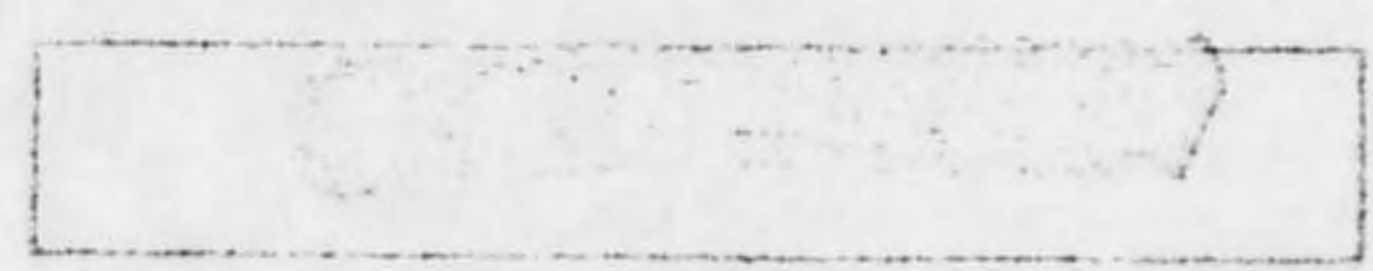
ESTIMATED  
MEASURED  
ESTIMATED  
MEASURED

*Witness*

*Bob McTeer*

Temporary ATTC Form 329  
(2 Jan 52)

UNCLASSIFIED





UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

5D-OSI/JWF/fmm

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF  
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO 5D 24-4

16 February 1949

SUBJECT: PROJECT "SIGN"

TO: Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio  
ATTN: MCIAXO-3, Captain B. Snider

Inclosed is Report of Investigation, subject as above, dated 20 January 1949, for your information and any action deemed necessary.

1 Incl  
Rpt of Inv dtd 20 Jan 49  
(in dup)

*John H. Gibson*  
H. B. GIBSON  
Colonel, USAF  
District Commander

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

UNCLASSIFIED



HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. 24-6	DATE 20 January 1949
TITLE  PROJECT "SIGN", Special Inquiry		REPORT MADE BY ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR.	REPORT MADE AT DO #19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB
		PERIOD 13, 16 January 1949	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB
		STATUS PENDING	
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY			
REFERENCE Ltr fr Dist Comdr, DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB, File No. 5D-24-4, dtd 27 Dec 49, Subject, "Project 'Sign'"			
SYNOPSIS  Investigation requested by District Commander, DO #5, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. Mr. [REDACTED] saw, while in back yard at [REDACTED], San Francisco, California, at approximately 2115 hours, on 29 November 1948, an unidentifiable glowing object passing from the East to the Northwest at a very great speed, finally disappearing from sight behind a fog bank to the North. Investigation failed to reveal identity of the object or produce other witnesses.			
DISTRIBUTION	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	FILE STAMP	
CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB (Action Copies) 2	Commanding General		
DO #5, Wright-Patterson AFB 2	Air Materiel Command		
OSI, HQ 2	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base		
File 2	Dayton, Ohio		
	ATTN: Intelligence Department, MCIAXO		
	APPROVED ALS: [Signature] JOHN G. SNOPE Colonel, USAF		
	DISTRICT COMMANDER [REDACTED]	UNCLASSIFIED 220	







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19D OSI 24-6

DETAILS: (Cont'd)

average intelligence and reliable. [REDACTED] is near-sighted and wears glasses; however he was not wearing glasses while using the binoculars. [REDACTED] vision with glasses is 20-20.

5. A thorough check of the residents in the vicinity of [REDACTED], San Francisco, California, failed to reveal any other persons who, on the night of 29 November 1948, saw this unidentifiable light or had seen anything unusual any other night.

6. On the night of 16 January 1949, the writer and Mr. [REDACTED] attempted to trace the course of the object with the aid of a star map. This attempt met with negative results. Mr. [REDACTED] could not even give an approximate course.

- PENDING -

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DOD DIE 3200.10

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[REDACTED]



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19D OSI 24-6

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 19, FAIRFIELD-SUISUN AFB

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. Will check records of the F.B.I. Field Office, San Francisco, California, for information re informant.
2. Will check Criminal and Subversive Files of the San Francisco, Police Department for information re informant.
3. Will interview fellow employees and acquaintances of ~~informant~~ for information on informant's character, integrity and loyalty.
4. Will conduct additional investigation as outlined on the EEI.

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS:  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 8200.10

4 UNCLASSIFIED

220

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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SD 24-4  
(24 Feb 49)

1st Ind

SD-OSI/JWF/rmm

Subj: PROJECT "SIGN" (SPECIAL INQUIRY)

5th District OSI, (IC), Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, 8 Mar 49

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

Forwarded as a matter pertaining to your Command.

1 Incl  
n/c

JOHN W. FARRELL  
Major, USAF  
Acting District Commander

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 6200.10

2

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
Headquarters United States Air Force  
Washington

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF  
19th District Office of Special Investigations  
FAIRFIELD-SUISUN AF BASE, CALIFORNIA

19D OSI 24-6

SUBJECT: PROJECT "SIGN"  
SPECIAL INQUIRY

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

ATTENTION: Intelligence Department (MCINX)

1. Reference is made to the report of Special Agent ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR., of this office, dated 20 January 1949.

2. Forwarded for your information and any action deemed appropriate is the final report of Special Agent ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR., of this office, dated 23 February 1949. With the submission of this report, all logical investigative leads have been covered and reported.

1 Incl  
Rpt of S/A ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR.  
dtd 20 Jan 49 (dup)

JOHN S. SWOPE  
Colonel, USAF  
District Commander

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS:  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 15 YEARS  
DOD DIR 8200.10

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~  
UNCLASSIFIED



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UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	UNCLASSIFIED FILE NO. 24-6	DATE FEB 21 1949
	REPORT MADE BY ARMIN F. HEROLD, JR	
TITLE  PROJECT "SIGN"	REPORT MADE AT DO # 19, Fairfield-Suisun AFB	
	PERIOD 20 January 1949 4 February 1949	
	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO # 5, Wright-Patterson AFB	
	STATUS CLOSED	

CHARACTER Special Inquiry

REFERENCE Rpt of Investigation, S/A Armin F. Herold, Jr., dated 20 January 1949, File No. 24-6

SYNOPSIS

Interview of ██████████'s supervisor and fellow employees revealed that they believed ██████████'s loyalty, integrity and character to be above reproach. No derogatory information was revealed in a check of local law enforcement agencies on either ██████████ or the Teachers' Union (A.S.U.), San Francisco, California, in which ██████████ was interested. This object was not sighted by any employees of the air lines or personnel of the Air Force operating in the Bay Area.

CLOSED

DISTRIBUTION	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO	FILE STAMP
DO # 5 (Action Copies) CG, AMC OSI Hqs Files	2 Commanding General 2 Air Materiel Command 2 Wright-Patterson Air Force Base 2 Dayton, Ohio ATTN: Intelligence Department, MCIAXO	
	APPROVED  <i>[Signature]</i> JOHN T. SCOPE Colonel, USAF DISTRICT COMMANDER	DOWNGRAD TO CONFIDENTIAL DECLASSIFIED AFTER 5 YEARS DOI DIB 829610
UNCLASSIFIED		UNCLASSIFIED



[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

19D OSI 84-6

DETAILS:

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1. Mr. [REDACTED] Francisco Junior High School, Powell and Francisco Streets, San Francisco, California, and Mrs. [REDACTED] Francisco Junior High School, were interviewed and stated in substance that [REDACTED]'s loyalty to the Government was above question in their estimation and his integrity and character were of the best. [REDACTED] is not known to drink heavily nor is his imagination known to be flamboyant. Further [REDACTED] is one of the better teachers in that he is conscientious, observant and able to handle and understand the younger people. Neither knew of any derogatory information concerning [REDACTED]. In the course of these interviews it was revealed that [REDACTED] is very interested in the Teachers' Union (A.F.L.) which is attempting to gather strength in San Francisco. A check of this Union revealed that out of approximately 3,000 teachers in San Francisco, only about 200 are members of the Union. There was no derogatory information available concerning the Teachers' Union (A.F.L.), San Francisco, California.

2. A check with the American Airlines, Pan American Airlines, Western Airlines, Mills Field, California; Operations, Hamilton Air Force Base; and Operations, Alameda (Navy), California, failed to reveal any reports of a strange object's being sighted on the night of 29 November 1948.

3. A check of the records and files of the following agencies were made with negative results in regard to [REDACTED]

G-2, 6th Army, Presidio of San Francisco, California  
F.B.I. Field Office, San Francisco, California  
Harper-Knowles Agency (Western Research Institute), (Civilian Subversive Files Source)  
Criminal & Subversive Files, Police Department, San Francisco, California

CLOSED

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVAL  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD REG 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]



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, 155, 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, 73, 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,  
126, 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,  
158, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226,  
227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.



~~RESTRICTED~~  
UNCLASSIFIED

Incident #220 -- San Francisco, California -- 29 November 1948

There is good reason to believe that the object observed in this incident was a bolide. The fact that the observer, although a science teacher, confused the term comet with meteor is strong evidence that he is unacquainted with these phenomena: a comet appears stationary in the sky over a relatively long period of time. While the evidence is insufficient to establish with any certainty that the object was a bolide, it appears to this investigator, none the less, to be the most probable explanation.

UNCLASSIFIED  
~~RESTRICTED~~



29 Nov

No. 220: Wind at all levels W. to WNW; object reported flying directly into these winds. Also made definite turn from flying due North to North Northwest. Sighting time 4 1/4 hours after scheduled release times at Alameda, Sacramento and McClellan AFB.



HEADQUARTERS  
AIR WEATHER SERVICE  
Andrews Air Force Base  
Washington 25, D. C.

In Reply  
Refer To: AFS DSS

11 May 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO : Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio  
ATTN: MCIAXO-3

1. Reference is made to letter from your headquarters, MCIAXS, dated 9 March 1949, subject "Unidentified Flying Objects," and first indorsement thereto by this headquarters, dated 31 March 1949.

2. The incident summaries 173 through 233 have been checked against routine weather-balloon ascents made by the Air Force, Navy and Weather Bureau. Comments based on this review are inclosed.

3. It is recommended that the "Guide To Investigation Of Unidentified Aerial Objects" be changed as follows: Item 13, "Direction of Flight of Object," should be clarified so that vertical and horizontal motions are distinguished if possible, and so that motion is specified as the direction towards which the object appears to move. "Relative to Radar Settings" should include a statement of the type of radar set used.

FOR THE CHIEF, AIR WEATHER SERVICE

2 Incls:  
1 - Incident Summaries  
2 - Comments 173 thru 233

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

7-3712-12



2130 Hours, 29 November 1948.

Mr. [REDACTED], an Air Force Veteran, now a Science teacher at the Francisco Junior High School, called and said that at 2113 hours he observed a yellow light flashing across the sky headed due North, then turning North-Northwest and disappeared. The light lasted about seven seconds and appeared to be traveling too fast for a plane. However, it did not appear to be a comet or shooting star.

Home Address: [REDACTED], San Francisco, Calif.  
[REDACTED]



1. Date of Observation 29 Nov 48 Date of Interview 13 Jan 49
2. Exact time (local) 2115
3. Place of Observation [REDACTED], San Francisco, Calif
4. Position of observer ground with four-power binoculars
5. What attracted attention to object :- yellow light
6. Number of objects 1
7. Apparent size
8. Color of object bright yellowish
9. Shape Spherical
10. Altitude 35 - 40° above horizon
11. Direction from observer East
12. Distance from observer
13. Direction of flight of object(s) North northwesterly direction
14. Time in sight 7 seconds (3 or 4 thru 4X binoculars)
15. Speed Too fast for plane
16. Sound and odor None
17. Trail Object did not stream fire or light
18. Luminosity Emitted a steady glow
19. Projections
20. Maneuvers Object made turn to North Northwest from a due north course
21. Manner of disappearance Passed from view over ~~low~~ a low fog bank lying over Golden Gate Bridge
22. Effect on clouds
23. Additional information concerning object
24. Weather conditions "Exceptionally clear night" - fog lying over Golden Gate Bridge

(over)



Name and address of observer: Mr. ██████████ San Francisco  
Calif  
Occupation and hobbies: Teacher in science at Francisco Jr High School

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

██████████ is above average intelligence and reliable. However, he is near-sighted and wears glasses. He was not wearing glasses while using the binoculars. ██████████ vision with glasses is 20-20. An attempt by the writer and Mr Thatcher to trace the course of the object with the aid of a star map met with negative results. Mr ██████████ could not even give an approximate course.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Mr ██████████ was studying the constellations on the night of 29 Nov 1948 while in his back yard at ██████████, San Francisco, Calif., as it was an exceptionally clear night. To further aid his study he was using a pair of 4X binoculars. At 2115 he sighted a glowing object to the east heading in a north northwesterly direction. Object did not appear to be either a comet or a meteor in that it did not stream fire or light. It was spherical in shape and emitted a steady glow. ██████████ heard no noise that could be associated with the object. He followed the object thru the binoculars until it passed from view to the North over a low fog bank which was lying over Golden Gate Bridge. After the object had disappeared ██████████ simulated his movements again and stated that the total time the object was in sight was approximately seven seconds. In ██████████ opinion the object was approximately 35 to 40° above the horizon. He thought the object appeared to be traveling too fast for a plane.



HEADQUARTERS FOURTH AIR FORCE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
HAMILTON FIELD, CALIFORNIA

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

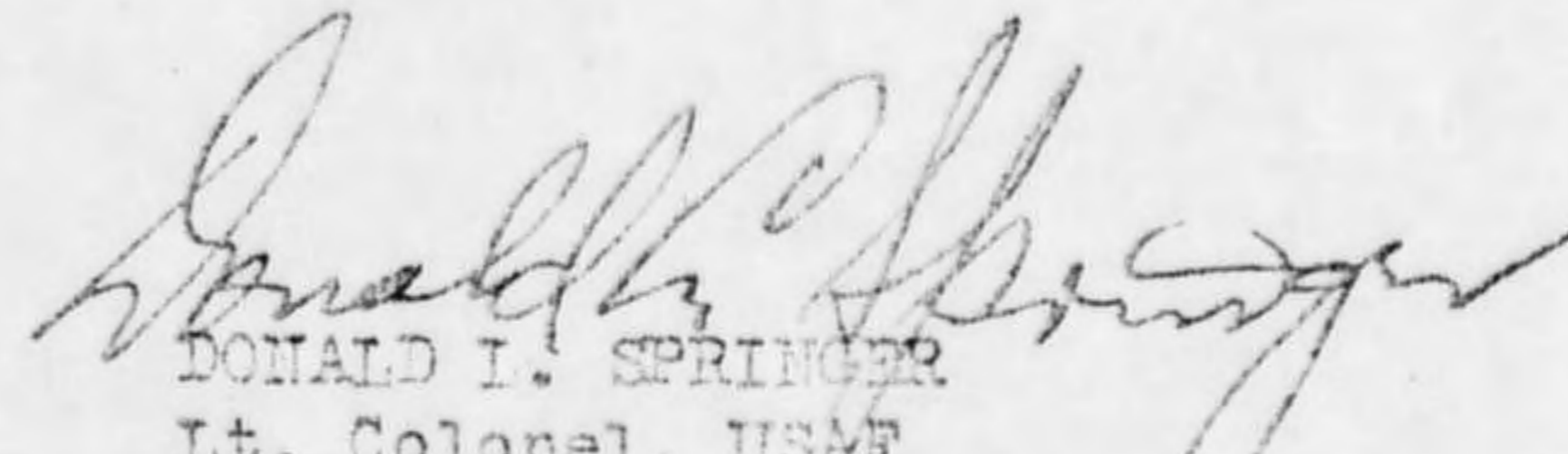
TO: Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio  
ATTN: TSDIN

1. The inclosed is forwarded for your information  
and disposition.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Incl:  
Cy Ltr "Rumor of Light"

cc: CG: CAC  
C/S: USAF

  
DONALD I. SPRINGER  
Lt. Colonel, USAF  
Director of Intelligence



ME 1 AYO-3

Request for Investigation

5th D - OSI  
ATTN: Major Farrell

WGLAKO-3

25 Dec 48

1

1. The following, received from Hq. 4th Air Force is quoted for your information:

"2130 Hours, 29 November 1948. Mr. [REDACTED], an Air Force Veteran, now a Science teacher at the Francisco Junior High School, called and said that at 2113 hours he observed a yellow light flashing across the sky headed due North, then turning North-Northwest and disappeared. The light lasted about seven seconds and appeared to be traveling too fast for a plane. However, it did not appear to be a comet or shooting star."

Home Address: [REDACTED], San Francisco, Calif. Phone: [REDACTED]

2. It is requested your office initiate an investigation of this incident using the enclosed HML form as a guide for the investigating agent. It is particularly desired that information outlined in General section of the HML be obtained.

3. Interested personnel should be advised to avoid publicity in this matter.

1 Incl  
Form HML

W. R. CLEVERMAN  
Colonel, USAF  
Chief, Technical Intelligence Div  
Intelligence Department  
HMC/esh  
6-5310  
B 263  
P 201F