

418 SIGNAL CORPS

act/ie

500 Electronics Division

Cambridge Field Station

250 Albany Street

Cambridge 30, Mass.

April 16, 1949

OO:HQ
 In reply address
 both communication
 and message to the
 Commanding Officer
 and attention of
 following office
 symbol: 500

SUBJECT: Analysis of Project "Orbit" Reported Incidents

TO:
 Commanding General
 418 Signal Corps
 Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
 Dayton, Ohio
 AFSA: 500AM

1. Reference is made to the letters from your headquarters to this station of 20 November 1948, 4 December 1948, and 11 January 1949. Subjects: "Project 'Orbit'", requesting that reported incidents 1 through 17 be assigned to determine whether or not these might have been caused by balloons launched by these laboratories.

2. A listing has been compiled of all balloons launched by these laboratories and its contractors for special atmospheric research purposes, from the first such launching by No. 101 on 17 November 1948. Each of these launchings has been compared with the reported incidents 1 through 17. Factors of comparison were date of launching and date of recovery with respect to date of reported incident; place of launching and place of recovery with respect to the place of reported incident; and possible deviations from the known flight path with respect to the place of reported incident. So that your office may make an independent analysis, three copies of the launching list are inclosed.

a. Incidents No. 5 through No. 16 reported on 4 July 1947 throughout Oregon, Idaho and Washington area, in general, descriptions of clusters or groups of objects. The 3 July 1947 balloon launching No. 8 at Alamogordo was a cluster of balloons and was not recovered, and so might be expected of being the cause of these reports. However, although not recovered, this flight was terminated in the New Mexico Valerona Valley only a few miles northwest of Alamogordo. That the balloons were viewed was substantiated both by airplane spotting and by radio direction finding upon the balloon releasing instruments. Recovery of the balloons and instruments was precluded by the inaccessibility of the terrain.

b. Balloon release No. 11 of 7 July 1947 could compare with respect to date with incident No. 1 through No. 4, and again with incident No. 16. This balloon flight was again a cluster.

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