

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

1 August 1959

Bellefontaine, Ohio

Description of Incident

At 1551Z, a radar track appeared 20 miles NNE of W-P AFB. The course was 040° at 400 knots. Two F-86's under GCI control were then located ten miles SE of that position. The fighters were vectored and made visual contact at 1555Z. Fighters stayed with the object until 1612Z.

Interrogation of sources, an AF major and lieutenant, reveal the following:

a. The F-86's climbed to 15,000', fell off, and then made a second climb to 18,000'. The major made a course run the second time and received a weak return on his radar gun sight. The lieutenant's sight was "scaped" so he received no return. The major estimated the object at 15,000-20,000' above his altitude of 15,000'. This estimate was substantiated by the range capability of the radar gun sight. The object's size, accepting source's estimate of distance, was 30-40' in diameter and source said his optical sight just covered the object. The film was not sufficiently clear. The object appeared as a fuzzy, small image in the upper right hand corner with discernible motion to lower left.

b. The AQW Squadron established two important facts: No-affirmation that the UFO moved at 400 knots and indication that the two F-86's and UFO appeared simultaneously on the GCI scope. It is obvious that all eyes and antennas were fixed on the same object.

Comments

The object was not a balloon, since the speed was too fast. A radioradar was released at 1500Z and moved off to the west. The object moved against the wind. The blip size was that of a normal aircraft. The object was not a known aircraft because the altitude was too high. The object was not astronomical as dual radar returns eliminate this. Electronic or visual mirage of meteorological phenomenon is out of the question as the radar set was on high beam, and both would not occur simultaneously in the same place. The sighting occurred "above the weather".

Conclusion

Unknown