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17 August 1953

Peoria, Illinois

Description

Two civilian observers at different locations in Peoria saw an unidentified flying object at 0445 GST 17 August 1953. The object appeared the size of a baseball with a very brilliant white glow. No trail or exhaust was observed and the object seemed to be suspended in the air and then slowly moved away. The speed of the object was unknown. The object was observed south of Peoria and moved off south-southwest. At the time of this sighting, personnel of the 79th ACGW Squadron, Rome, City, Illinois, observed a half-gum shaped object in the same vicinity. Total time of observation was 30 minutes.

Discussion

The ACGW Squadron at Rome City did not pick up any unusual tracks on radar in the area mentioned. Checks with local weather station for possible release determined that there were no weather balloons in the area. Checks made with airfields in the vicinity revealed that there were no aircraft in the area. Check with upper air balloon tracks reveal that there was an upper air research balloon over Peoria at the time of sighting.

Conclusion

Was balloon.

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