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(CLASSIFICATION)

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
Hq, 106th Bomb Wing (M)	UNCLASSIFIED	PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

1. Three aerial gunners, members of Captain Robert Terry's crew assigned to the 102nd Bombardment Squadron (M), reported observing the following phenomenon on 13 June 1952:

a. An object, shaped like a blimp except that it was larger on one end than the other, was seen at an apparently high altitude. Two of the airmen estimated the altitude to be between 30,000 and 70,000 feet; the third estimated the altitude to be 60,000 feet. No other identifying features of the object could be discerned except its color, which appeared to be white. There were no visible means of propulsion. Maneuvers of the object were very erratic, as it changed course every few seconds, the changes occurring with an angular motion rather than a turning one. It disappeared toward the northwest, at which time it appeared to be climbing.

b. Time of observation was 1245 Pacific Daylight Time. Duration of observation was five or six minutes.

c. Observation was made visually.

d. Observing airmen were standing on the flight line ramp at March Air Force Base, California. The object was almost directly overhead.

e. Airmen sighting the object were: A/1C James J. Martha, AF21912287; A/2C Joseph Marcello, AF11200478; A/2C William Gilbert, AF13336012. These airmen are believed to be sincere, and there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of what they report.

f. Weather was CAVU, with little or no wind.

g. No physical evidence is offered.

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

1. The following investigative action was taken by the undersigned preparing officer:

a. Airmen were questioned as to why the attention of other personnel was not invited to the mysterious object. Their answer was that they were afraid of ridicule, and in fact did ask one unidentified captain to look at the object to form an opinion. The captain merely laughed, waved his hand and walked away without looking up. Subsequently, the airmen overcame their reluctance sufficiently to report the observation confidentially to an Intelligence Officer.

b. Inquiry at Long Beach AFB, California, revealed that radiosonde type weather balloons are released four times a day from the Base Weather Station at 0200, 0800, 1400 and 2000 hours Pacific Daylight Time. In addition, radiosonde balloons are released by Fleet Weather Central, San Diego Naval Air Station, twice a day at 0800 and 2000 hours Pacific Daylight Time. Available information indicates that other weather stations in the Southwestern coastal area of California also periodically release radiosonde balloons. Finally, personnel of the 9th Weather Squadron report that fleet units at sea also occasionally release radiosonde balloons at irregular intervals for the purpose of obtaining wind and other data affecting the firing of heavy-caliber guns.

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