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in Page Titles

Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1997](#) -> [Nov](#) -> **Re: Kenneth Arnold's testimony**

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Kenneth Arnold's testimony

From: **James Easton** <pulsar@compuserve.com>
Date: Mon, 24 Nov 1997 16:37:01 -0500
Fwd Date: Tue, 25 Nov 1997 01:44:36 -0500
Subject: Re: Kenneth Arnold's testimony

As there's a number of debatable points in Arnold's testimonies, for those interested in discussing them, perhaps we could go back over the issues separately.

Firstly, can we agree a perspective on which to consider these points.

In his radio interview, Arnold states:

"I was approximately 25 to 28 miles from Mt. Rainier, I climbed back up to 9200 feet and I noticed to the left of me a chain which looked to me like the tail of a Chinese kite, kind of weaving and going at a terrific speed across the face of Mt. Rainier. I, at first, thought they were geese because it flew like geese, but it was going so fast that I immediately changed my mind and decided it was a bunch of new jet planes in formation".

So Arnold is 25-28 miles from Mt. Ranier and notices a chain of objects, flying in echelon like geese, or pelicans <g>, and they're travelling across the face of Mt. Ranier.

Can we assume the objects must therefore have been between Arnold's plane and those 25-28 miles to the mountain?

However, in Bruce's "The Complete Sighting Report of Kenneth Arnold...", he quotes from Arnold's letter to the Army Air Force (L) and his later book "The Coming of the Saucers", privately published in 1953 (B).

Arnold now states:

(L) "The sky and air was as clear as crystal. I hadn't flown more than two or three minutes on my course when a bright flash light reflected on my airplane. It startled me as I thought I was too close to some other aircraft.

(B) "I spent the next twenty to thirty seconds urgently searching the sky all around - to the sides and above and below me - in an attempt to determine where the flash of light had come from.

[...]

Before I had time to collect my thoughts or to find a close aircraft, the flash happened again. This time I caught the direction from which it had come. I observed, far to my left and to the north, a formation of very bright objects coming from the vicinity of Mt. Baker, flying very close to the mountain tops and

travelling at tremendous speed.

(L) I observed a chain of nine peculiar looking aircraft flying from north to south at approximately 9,500 ft elevation and going, seemingly, in a definite direction of about 170 degrees.

(B) "At first I couldn't make out their shapes as they were still at a distance of over a hundred miles".

[End]

Is this apparent contradiction in the distance explainable?

Could a flash have reflected off Arnold's plane from an object over 100 miles away?

James.
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