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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: 1956 Mid-Air Incident with AF Plane

From: **Kenny Young** <task@fuse.net>
Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 03:37:30 -0700
Fwd Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 04:45:25 -0400
Subject: Re: 1956 Mid-Air Incident with AF Plane

AIR FORCE PLANE DOWNED BY UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT
Headline above quoted directly from
July 23/24, 1956 Rocky Mountain News, Denver Colorado

The July 24, 1956 San Francisco Chronicle states as follows:

A Hamilton AFB transport plane survived a 9,000 ft. vertical dive and landed safely with three-fourths of its tail elevator missing. The pilot, co-pilot and crew of two all blacked out following a mysterious mid-air incident that no one was able to explain.

Major Merwin Stenvers, the pilot, said the C-131D, was cruising at 16,000 ft. over Pixley. 'Suddenly, there was a loud bang, a severe vibration and we went into a dive,' he said.

Major Stenvers had the plane under manual control at the time. While he and his co-pilot battled to bring it out of the spin, the two crewmen were scrambling to regain their feet in the cabin.

Finally, Stenvers was unable to explain what happened. He said he saw no other planes about him. He thought a faulty port engine had caused trouble and feathered the propeller before landing at Kern County Airport at 11:30 a.m.

Only when he inspected the plane on the ground did he notice the badly damaged tail section. About 36-square feet of the left elevator was missing. The remaining portion was hanging shredded and torn. There also was a dent about ten inches in diameter under the left stabilizer. The two crewmen suffered minor cuts when they were thrown about the cabin.

Major Stenvers and Capt. Marble were questioned by officials from Edwards AFB. All men were or are part of the 2317th Air Transport Squadron at Hamilton AFB.

According to one UP report: One official said it looked like 'something had struck it from above but we don't know.' Another UP report said: The Air Force ordered tight security measures into effect and stationed guards around the plane at the airport. An AP report said that the sheriff's office investigated a report that another plane had crashed nearby but found no evidence.

NOTE:

The July 24 edition of the San Francisco CHRONICLE stated that Air Force investigators discovered that a jammed control device threw the ill-fated plane into a steep dive causing the damage. Said the Chronicle: "Earlier theories had the plane under attack from above by everything from a meteor to a flying saucer..."

This account was published in the
August 3, 1956 C.R.I.F.O. ORBIT NEWSLETTER

Vol. III - No. 5, published by LEONARD STRINGFIELD

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"Investigation without predisposition."
T.A.S.K. - Tri-State Advocates for Scientific Knowledge

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