

UNCLASSIFIED

FLEET LOGISTIC AIR WING, ATLANTIC/OCEANIC

AIR TRANSPORT SQUADRON ONE

U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION

PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND

UNCLASSIFIED

10 February 1951

MEMORANDUM REPORT to Commanding Officer, Air Transport Squadron ONE

Subject: Report of Unusual Sighting on Flight 125/8, February 1951

1. At 0055Z, 10 February 1951, I was the Plane Commander of Flight 125/09-850 Bureau Number 56501, enroute from Keflavik, Iceland to Argentia, Newfoundland at 10,000 feet on an instrument flight plan. Our position at 10/0055Z was 49-50 North, 50-03 West, on a true heading of 230°, ground speed 118 knots. The weather was clear with about 60 miles visibility and thin stratus clouds at about 4,000.

2. I was in the cabin of the plane checking the passengers when one of the navigators, Lieutenant N. J. P. KOGER, came aft and pointed to this phenomena. I watched it for a minute and went forward to the cockpit to get a better view. Upon reaching the cockpit, I took the plane off of the autopilot and turned to a true heading of 290° in pursuit of the object. The object left on a heading of about 290° true and went over the horizon in a very short time.

3. I would guess the speed to be well over 1500 miles per hour, and the diameter to be at least 300 feet.

4. My first view of it resembled a huge fiery orange disc on its edge. As it went further away, the center became darker, but the edge still threw off a fiery hue. When it went over the horizon, it seemed to go from a vertical position to a horizontal position, with only the trailing edge showing in a half-moon effect. Since I was not the first to see it, it was going away from the plane when I was notified. Copilot Lieutenant G. E. BETHUNE was flying the plane and Second Plane Commander Lieutenant Fred KINGDON was flying on the right side at the time of the incident.

5. At 10/0104Z, I called Gander Tower on VHF and asked them if Gander A. T. C. had any information of an aircraft at that position and time. They had no such information and notified the military of our sighting. When we landed at Argentia at 10/0240Z, we were interrogated by Capt. D. H. PAULSEN, USAF, Pepperell AFB, and CDR WERMAYER, C.O., VP-8, Argentia. The extreme speed, maneuverability, and brilliance of the object made our estimates as to the distance and size very difficult.

/s/A. L. JONES

LTJG, US. S. NAVY

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
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