

~~SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

FLEET LOGISTIC AIR WING, ATLANTIC/CONTINENTAL
AIR TRANSPORT SQUADRON ONE
U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND

10 February 1951

UNCLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
MEMORANDUM REPORT to Commanding Officer, Air Transport Squadron ONE

Subj: Report of Unusual Sighting on Flight 125/9 February 1951

I, Graham E. BETHUNE, was Co-Pilot on Flight 125 from Keflavik, Iceland to Naval Air Station, Argentia on the 10th of February 1951. At 0055Z I sighted and observed the following object:

SIGHTED
While flying in the left seat at 10,000 feet on a true course of 230 degrees at a position of 49-50 North 50-03 West, I observed a glow of light below the horizon about 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the water. Its bearing was about 2:00 Clock. There was no overcast, there was a thin transparent group of scuds at about 2,000 feet altitude. After examining the object for 40 to 50 seconds I called it to the attention of Lieutenant KINGDON in the right hand seat. It was under the thin scuds at roughly 30 to 40 miles away. I asked "What is it, a ship lighted up or a city, I know it can't be a city because we are over 250 miles out". We both observed its course and motion for about 4 or 5 minutes before calling it to the attention of the other crew members. Its first glow was a dull yellow. We were on an intercepting course. Suddenly its angle of attack changed, its altitude and size increased as though its speed was in excess of 1,000 miles per hour. It closed in so fast that the first feeling was we would collide in mid air. At this time its angle changed and the color changed. It then was definitely circular and redish orange on its primum. It reversed its course and tripled its speed until it was last seen disappearing over the horizon. Because of our altitude and misleading distance over water it is almost impossible to estimate its size, distance and speed. A rough estimate would be at least 300 feet in diameter, over 1,000 miles per hour in speed and approached within 5 miles of the aircraft.

(500 FEET)

/s/Graham E. BETHUNE
LT, U. S. Naval Reserve.

ENCLOSURE (4)

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10