Τέλος φόρμας

Oak Ridge sighting by security patrol, 10/13/50

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[From Current Encounters Mailing List]

Date: Wed, 01 Oct 1997
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It's been awhile, but I'm back with another casefile from Oak Ridge, Tennessee: my hometown. The "Atomic City" has a long and storied history where the UFO phenomenon is concerned, and this is just one account among many that are available for public consumption, thanks to the Freedom of Information Act, and books by guys such as J. Allen Hynek (CUFOS), and Edward J.Ruppelt (Project Blue Book).

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The following account is taken from an FBI document (circa 1950) sent by J. Edgar Hoover to Mr. Francis R. Hammock, Acting Director of the Division of Security of the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington, D.C.:

"On 13 October, 1950, Atomic Energy Security Patrol Trooper, Edward D.Rymer, and a caretaker, John Moneymaker, from the University of Tennessee Research Farm, at Oak Ridge, saw an object at about 12,000 to 15,000 feet above Solway Gate of the "Control Zone." This object appeared to be an aircraft which was starting to make an outside loop, trailing smoke behind. Soon these two men realized that the formerly described smoke behind the aircraft was a tail. This object continued to descend in a controlled dive, and when it

approached the ground it leveled off and flew slowly, parallel to the ground. This object came within two hundred and ten (210) feet of the two observers and was paralleling the ground at approximately six (6) feet. Trooper Rymer attempted to approach the object but as he approached the object became smaller and started moving in a southeasterly direction. This object is said to have approached a nine (9) foot cyclone chain link fence and made a controlled movement to clear the fence, then a Willow tree, then a telephone post and wire, after which the object gained momentum and altitude and cleared a hill at approximately one (1) mile away. The object appeared to be pear shaped. When this object was over the hill it was still visible as the same object that was observed when only fifty (50) feet away. (The explanation given was that this object grew larger as it gained altitude and speed.)

Approximately five minutes later the object appeared again having reappeared from approximately the same location from which it had disappeared. The object was seen again five minutes later for approximately ten seconds.

During the above happenings, Mr. John Moneymaker had visual reference of this object during its first [appearance] for approximately seven minutes. Trooper Rymer was interrupted twice during which times he called his headquarters in an attempt to get other observers. Also, during the fantastic flight of this object, Trooper Rymer stopped Mr. E.W. Hightower, who was on the highway in his vehicle, to verify what was being seen. Mr. Hightower's statement substantiates the description as before.

By the time the object appeared the second time, Joe Zarzecki, Captain of the Atomic Energy Commission Security Patrol, was present and also witnessed this phenomenon. Each of the observers describes the object substantially as follows:

a. When the object was first sighted it appeared to be an aircraft trailing smoke, or better described as "smoke writing."

b. When the object was approaching the ground in its descent, it took on the shape of a bullet with a large tail.

c. When the object was sighted on the ground (from app. 210 ft.) It appeared to be approximately the size of a 2x5 card {from a distance], with a twenty (20) foot ribbon tail. The object and the tail were alternately moving up and down, and the ribbon appeared to be waving in the breeze. The color was a metallic gray.

d. When Trooper Rymer came within fifty (50) feet of the object he described it similar to the above except that the first two and one-half (2 ½) feet of the tail appeared more solid, but the last seventeen and one-half (17 ½) feet of the tail appeared almost transparent and was glowing, intermittently, in sections. The tail appeared to have four or five sections which would glow intermittently.

Trooper Rymer's record is among the best of the troopers at the Atomic Energy Commission Securty Patrol. Mr. John Moneymaker holds badge No.UT-1817, and is employed by the

University of Tennessee Agricultural Research Farm as a caretaker for small animals. Mr. E.W. Hightower holds badge No. 6633 and is an employee of the Maxon Construction Company.

The Controller, Capt. W. Akin, of Detachment No. 2…at the Knoxville Airport Radar Site, made a report that he had seen peculiar readings on the radar scopes at approximately 1520 hours. Apparently the radar picture was indefinite, intermittent, and inaccurate, because the objects sighted by radar would only make a short "painting" on the scope and would then disappear only to reappear at another location."

Attached to this Summary are eleven (11) enclosures which tend to clarify information contained in the former two (2) Summaries of Information on SUBJECT. These enclosures are composed of witness statements; background information concerning previous sightings of peculiar objects over Oak Ridge; and radar reports. The most reliable sources available were utilized in the compilation of this report. The employment records and the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports concerning the witnesses were inspected to ascertain their reliability, integrity, and loyalty to the United States Government.

The opinions of the officials of the Security Division, AEC, Oak Ridge; Security Branch, ??PA [partially unreadable] Division, Oak Ridge: AEC Security Patrol, Oak Ridge; FBI, Knoxville: Air Force Radar and Fighter squadrons, Knoxville; and the OSI, Knoxville, Tennessee, FAIL TO EVOLVE AN ADEQUATE EXPLANATION FOR SUBJECT [emphasis mine] however, the possibilities of practical jokers, mass hysteria, balloons of any description, flights of birds (with or without cobwebs or other objects attached), falling leaves, insect swarms, peculiar weather conditions, reflections, flying kites, objects thrown from the ground, windblown objects, insanity, and many other natural happenings HAVE BEEN REJECTED because of the simultaneous witnessing of the objects with the reported radar sightings; because of the reliability of the witnesses; because of the detailed, similar description of the objects seen by different persons; and BECAUSE OF IMPOSSIBILITY…"

(The previous document was declassified in 1983.)

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