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March 15, 1951
HAFB: 32:1:0315-1:DR

Memo to: Lt. John G. Albert
Operations and Projects
Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico

Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects

The following Bell Personnel reported the sighting of unidentified flying objects on March 14, 1951:

Clifford Heske	Jerry Baker
Lawrence Weber	James Mott
Floyd Lane	George Karres
Walter Rosenthal	Dexter Rosen
Jerry Donovan	

The above personnel are located at the Bell hardstand awaiting the return of B-50 No. 600, following the completion of a Captive Flight mission.

Mr. Heske made the first sighting at approximately 1500 hours while following the flight path of the B-50, which at that time was flying on a southerly heading at an altitude of approximately 15,000 feet MSL east and slightly south of the base. At the first sighting due neither to the distance involved or small individual size of the objects, Mr. Heske attached little significance to the phenomenon thinking perhaps that it was a flock of birds at a considerable distance. However, in a minute or so he began to think otherwise and called the matter to the attention of Messrs. Lane and Weber. At the time his sighting was verified by the latter two men, the elevation angle of the bodies appeared to be greater than that of the B-50 which had progressed a few miles further south and east of the Field.

The motion of the bodies (estimated at between 14 and 20 in number) appeared to be of a swirling nature, not unlike a flock of towering geese or a handful of leaflets in an up-draft. Either due to distance or size, it was impossible to resolve individual shape, however, the general impression was gained that the bodies were white.

Several minutes after the first sighting the writer and others were apprised of the phenomenon. At this time, the B-50 had turned to the left on a reciprocal heading and was approximately east of the Field at the same altitude. The bodies continued to swirl in somewhat random fashion and increase apparent elevation angle. During this time

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Note: See Newell PG 18

14 March 1951
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they appeared to move slowly to the north regrouping on at least two occasions into what appeared to be a V-Formation. At this time the writer apprised General Control of the phenomenon and thereafter attempted to give them bearings as seen from the Bell Hardstand.

Shortly before Queen-1 was notified, the bodies had grouped into a V-Formation and commenced heading generally northward. The bearing heading from the Hardstand changed from nearly due east to a position lined up with Sierra Blanca in what seemed to be a few minutes time. This gave the impression of relatively high velocity. When last seen the bearing heading from the Bell Hardstand was slightly west of Sierra Blanca.

Impressions gained by various Bell Personnel were as follows:

- a. Not unlike a handful of leaflets thrown from an airplane.
- b. Vibratory motion of individual bodies reported occasionally not unlike flapping of wings.
- c. Total time of observation, from time of first sighting, was approximately 15 minutes.

It is of interest to note that the ground-to-air and air-to-ground VHF communications were generally very poor throughout the Bell mission which commenced at 1345 hours. The ground-to-ground VHF communications were however very good. In addition, for the last ten minutes of the B-50 flight VHF communication with the tower was extremely difficult as if another carrier was simultaneously in operation. When the writer contacted Queen-1 he was advised that they also were having communications difficulty.

As additional information, winds aloft to 27,000 feet were generally west-northwest, estimated at 30 to 40 knots. The writer is morally certain that the phenomenon he witnessed could not have been balloons of Project Sky-Hook.

In conclusion, the writer wishes to emphasize that the aerial phenomenon was different from anything he has ever seen up to and including flights of birds.

BELL AIRCRAFT CORPORATION

/s/ DEXTER ROSEN
Dexter Rosen
Field Test Director

DR/m

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PROJECT TWINKLE
FINAL REPORT

L. ELTERMAN

27 November 1951

APPROVED:

P. H. WYCKOFF
Chief, Atmospheric Physics Laboratory

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