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PAGE "UNKNOWN"

CHILES - WHITTED
INCIDENT

24 July 1948

340

At 2:45 in the morning, the pilot and co-pilot of an Eastern Airlines DC-3, flying at 5,000 feet between Mobile and Montgomery, Alabama sighted a dull red exhaust some 700 feet ahead, a little above and to the right of the airliner. *500 ft*

Captain Clarence Chiles, the pilot, immediately turned to his co-pilot, John Whitted and remarked: "Look, here comes a new Army jet job". The object *500 ft* approached in a slight dive, deflected a little to the left and passed the plane on the right, almost level and parallel to flight path, at a distance of approximately one-half miles. After passing, it pulled up sharply and disappeared into a cloud. *(Can't see this)*

The object appeared to be a wingless aircraft, 100 ft. long, cigar-shaped and about twice the diameter of a "B-29". It had no fins or protruding surfaces. Chiles thought it had a "snout" similar to a radar pole on the front and he had the impression there was a cabin with windows above -- much like a pilot compartment -- except that it appeared brighter. The illumination inside the body itself approximated the brilliance of a magnesium flare. He saw no occupants nor did Whitted. Visible from the side only, was an intense, fairly dark, blue glow running the entire length of the object beneath the fuselage.

* at night, such a light would double them

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said it was dark

The glow reminded Chiles of a blue fluorescent factory light. The exhaust was described as a red-orange flame; the lighter color (orange) being predominant about the outer edges. Chiles thought the flame flared out from a nozzle in the rear which he thought he perceived. The flame extended some 30 to 50 feet behind the object and became deeper in intensity (redder) and increased in length as the object pulled up into a cloud. *constant all this* No disturbance was felt from air waves, nor was there any wash or mechanical disturbance when the object passed. No sound was heard.

Co-pilot Whitted's attention was drawn to the object by Chiles' remark. His description of the object and its maneuvers was very similar to that of Chiles' except that he did not observe a cockpit in front nor did he see any radar "snout". His drawing and description also indicated windows or openings on the side. He estimated the object passed at greater distance than did Capt Chiles. He saw the "exhaust" as a parallel wide flame which appeared to come from the entire rear of the object rather than from a nozzle never growing any wider than the width of the object itself, although he noticed the increased length of the flame as the object "pulled up".

6/23
8/5/10
The night was clear with a bright moon and broken cloud coverage of 4/10 at 6,000 ft. Both estimated the object to be in sight approximately 10 to 15 seconds, considered sufficient time for experienced observers to determine whether the "ship" was a reflection caused by some rare meteorological or astronomical phenomena or was a material object.

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After extensive investigations and studies; and consideration of all possible approaches and data pertinent to suggest at least one valid hypothesis or explanation to the sighting were exhausted --- the incident was appropriately classified as a true "Unknown".