

"UFO Sighting From an Aircraft"- Report Form

Case No.:
WW-2
Date: 3-26-42
Time:
N = observ.
Altitude (ft)
Weather: CAVC
IFR, VFR
Comm'l, Private,
~~Military~~
USA, ~~Foreign~~

- (B) Primary witness: Flt Lt. Roman (Ray) Sobinski crew: P, CP,
(A) Second witness: crew: P, CP, Rear Gunner
(C) Third witness: crew:
(D) Other witnesses & circumstances: Fired machine guns at UFO
Reference:

Date:

Flight Details: (Spatial) Lat. [° ' " N S] Long. [° ' " E W]

1. Location (flt. path): Origin: Dest.
1.1 Sighting (initial) location: EUROPE - Essen, Germany over ZUIDER
2. Did A/C change flt. bearing due to sighting? yes, no (if yes, cont. 2.1) YES
2.1 Orig. bearing: deg. Changed to: deg. Chg to: deg.
3. Altitude at time of sighting: K ft. (Type: Abs., Ind., Press. True)
3.1 Alt. Chg. due to sighting? yes, no (if yes, cont. 3.2)
3.2 A/C ascend, descend
3.3 Rate of 3.2: ft/sec accurate, approx. INTERESTING CASE
4. A/C Attitude:
5. Other A/C involv. yes, no (details in 5.1)
5.1 Second A/C behind them - sev. min. later.

Signature

Flight Details: (Temporal)

7. IAS: 180 ~~mph~~, knots
8. Accel: yes, no (if yes, cont. 8.1)
8.1 accel: ft/sec accurate, approx.
9. TAS: mph, kts.
10. GMT: hrs.
11. Local Time: (zone:)
12. UFO Sighting duration: ()

UFO Characteristics (Only (A))

32. Mag. Bearing: deg.
33. Vel. mph, kts
33.1 vel. (how det.):
33.2 accel:
34. Ang. size: 8' diam
34.1 (34. how det) est.
35. Luminosity: Very bright, A = dull-polished copper
36. Shape disc
37. Structural Details: fuzzy edges
38. Sketch made? yes, no
38.1 Photos () obtained
38.2 (38.1 details)
39. No. UFOs: one
40. Atmosph. traces: one
41. UFO: ~~friendly~~ hostile, non
41.1 (41 details) paced, 3 diff. positions.
42. UFO disappearance details at 45° &
43. Altitude:
44. Misc.

Flight Details: (Aircraft)

17. Jet, ~~prop~~ rocket Polish Squadron 301
18. Commercial: Airline: Bombing Mission
18.1 Flt. No.:
18.2 A/C Model: Wellington Bomber
18.3
19. Window through which UFO first obs.: (A)
19.1 Est. visibility of 19:
19.2 Other windows used: ()
19.3 cont. 19.2 ()
20. Radar contact: yes, no (if yes, cont. 20.1)
20.1 Details:

Observer Details:

24. Age: (A): (B): (C):
25. Flt. Hrs. (A): (B): (C):
26. Med. Certif. (A): (B): (C):
27. Prev. UFO exper. (A): (B): (C):
28. Was formal rept. filed on sighting? yes, no
28.1 (If no, why not?):
28.2 Rept. Submitted to Whom?
28.3 Any known follow up:

Witness consent: "I hereby permit my name to be publically associated with the data I have given on this form:"

19-2-75 Ah

MAR 10 1977

() see over for further inf

Michael Strainic, Re: Wellington WWII Case

To: Michael Strainic
From: Richard F. Haines
Subject: Re: Wellington WWII Case
Cc:
Bcc:

Hi Mike,

AOK, I'll see what I can learn about astrohatches from Janes' All the Worlds Aircraft...which we have here in our library back to WW2. Don't hold your breath while expecting an immediate reply though.

Thanks for this detailed reply about the 1942 incident. I will compare it with others in my AIRCAT for that time and locale. All the best.

Dick Haines

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At 01:09 PM 2/10/99 -0800, you wrote:

>
>Just me again.....
>
>Here's the rough draft of the Wellington case. I'm checking as much of the
>data as I can. For example, I found out that there was in fact a Polish
>Squadron 301, etc. One thing that I have had no success with is this:
>Sobinski said that the astrohatch was in the centre of the plane. I have
>managed to locate 3 photos of Wellingtons, and they all show the standard
>cockpit area and the perspex bubble at the rear, but nothing like an
>astrohatch in the centre, either above or below the fuselage. Of course,
>Sobinski's English was not the best, so "centre" might not have been the
>perfect choice of words.
>
>An interesting bit of trivium: there were more than 11, 000 Wellingtons
>built and only 2 survived. One had never flown, and the other had been shot
>down by the Germans, and was eventually hauled out of.....Loch Ness!
>
>Anyway, this is just a rough draft, so don't publicise any of this until I
>can check more of the facts (and go back to the original tapes to search
>for subtleties).
>
>Enjoy!!
>
>mike
>
>
>
>~~~~~
>1942 - Europe
>
>Weather: absolutely clear, no clouds
>Moon was high and stars clearly visible
>object was not very bright, and the edges were fuzzy
>Ray (Roman) Sobinski.
>
>Two recorded accounts, slightly different.
>
>
>Later: referred to object a "big disc" about 8 feet diameter; this shape
>was not mentioned before
>Captain had referred to object as light
>
>During WW2, witness was a Flight Lieutenant with 16 bombing runs to his
>credit. He was flying with Polish Squadron 301, and the unit was flying
>Wellington bombers. 1942, June, [Later given as 26 March 1942] was on
>bombing mission over the Ruhr [Later: Essen, after midnight] (aka Happy

Michael Strainic, Re: Wellington WWII Case

>Valley??). 6 crew.
>
>
>They had just made a routine bombing run and were on their way back to
>base. They were flying over the Zuider Zee, cruising at a speed of
>approximately 180 mph, when the rear gunner reported that an aircraft was
>approaching from the rear. Lt. Sobinski left the copilot in charge and went
>to the astrophatch in the centre of the plane to take a look. Through the
>dome he saw what he assumed was an aircraft approaching -- it was a very
>bright light, still a mile or two away, but it was closing fast. Concerned,
>he told the gunner that if it came any closer they would have to open fire
>on it. They were puzzled by this strange light that was approaching them.
>Trying to make some sense out of it, they considered the possibility that
>it might be a German fighter with some sort of searchlight mounted in the
>nose. However, as the light got closer and closer, they began wondering
>more and more what it might possibly be. They had never seen anything like it.
>
>Soon, the object had closed in to about 200 yards from the bomber. At this
>distance, the object was roughly the same size as or bigger than the moon,
>which was almost at zenith and was also visible. The object was the colour
>of "dull, shining copper" or a "setting sun."
>
>They still had no idea what it was. And now it was just too close.
>
>Sobinski gave the order and they fired on the object.
>
>There were 4 machine guns in the rear turret, and all were using ammunition
>with tracer bullets. The crew were able to see the tracers entering the
>object. The bullets apparently did no damage at all and had no noticable
>effect on the object whatsoever. The bullets had definitely entered the
>object, as evinced by the tracer bullets, but they did not ricochet or pass
>through the object. The bullets simply entered... and vanished. The gunners
>continued to pump tracer-laden ammunition into the thing, whatever it was,
>for a full two minutes. Suddenly the object changed its position. It moved
>at a terrific speed -- estimated at about 1000 mph -- to the port side and
>positioned itself at almost the same distance from the bomber as it had
>been just a moment before.
>
>This time, on Lt. Sobinski's orders, both the front and rear gunners opened
>fire.
>
>This time, the pilot, the gunners and the crew all could see the tracer
>bullets entering the object from two separate and distinct angles.
>
>This latest barrage seemed to have no more effect on the strange object
>keeping pace with them than the first rounds had. Wisely, Lt. Sobinski
>returned to the cockpit and quickly began making evasive manuevres. Some of
>the movements the plane executed were quite violent and jarring up-and-down
>manuevres, but throughout the entire evasive action the object remained
>exactly in the same position relative to the wing. Then, after a time, the
>object moved to a position out in front of the bomber. It stayed there for
>a while, the crew opened fire yet again, and yet again with the same
>non-results. And then, after another short span of time, the object
>simply.....departed. Without warning or preamble, the object just took off,
>leaving at an angle of at least 45°, and was gone. As quickly as it had
>begun, it ended. Everything was again just as it had been.
>
>Sighs of relief quietly echoed throughout the plane.
>
>When they landed, Lt. Sobinski reported the incident to the appropriate
>military officials, but they simply joked about it. Later, both Lt.
>Sobinski and his crew learned that another aircraft, flying behind them,
>had had a strikingly similar experience just a few minutes afterwards, but
>they did not report the incident when the first report was laughed off.
>This second plane did not fire on the object; they had just been engaged in
>battle and had completely run out of ammunition.
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bullets had
no effect

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--- George Gershwin, "Rhapsody in Blue"

Michael Strainic
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