

Supplement to Trip Report to Columbus, Ohio - 31 July 1948
Re: Atlanta Sighting

THRU: Col Clingerman

TO: Col McCoy

1. The object of this trip was to interview C. L. McKelvie, a passenger aboard the Eastern Airlines DC-3, the night of 24 July 1948.

2. Mr. McKelvie's written statement is essentially as follows: He was occupying the 5th or 6th seat from the front of the plane on the right and would periodically glance out the window. There was a full moon which illuminated the ground and the skies and the ground could clearly be seen. Frequently they passed cumulus clouds. On one occasion as he was looking out he observed a sudden streak of light moving in a southeastern direction across the airway above the plane. He wondered if it were lightning but observed the flame moved in a straight line and not in a flare. The color was bright flame - he thought it was probably a light cherry red - although the edges were more of a yellow flame. He shifted his position in his seat for better observation, momentarily losing sight of it. Then he saw it again. He estimated the flame to be about 1/2 as far above the plane as the plane was above the ground. He saw no physical shape - only a streak of flame moving in a straight line. The whole experience was momentary so that detailed observation was absent. He heard no sound but stated that the vibration of the plane was much greater than normal and that it was not possible to hear any sound from the outside.

3. In the interview Mr. McKelvie stated to Maj Llewellyn that the pilots seemed quite excited and that they appeared nervous over the episode.

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