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(SAUCER)
POPLAR BLUFF, MO.--FOUR PLANES CHASED AFTER A STRANGE SPHERICAL OBJECT WHICH HUNDREDS OF PERSONS SAW ROARING ACROSS THE SKY, BUT THE PILOTS SAID TODAY THEY COULDN'T GET NEAR IT.
POLICE, AIRPORT AND RADIO STATION PERSONNEL SAID "JUST ABOUT EVERYONE IN POPLAR BLUFF" SAW THE MYSTERIOUS OBJECT FOR FIVE OR SIX HOURS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.
CAA WORKERS AT MALDEN, 28 MILES SOUTHEAST OF HERE, PLOTTED ITS SOUTHEASTERLY COURSE FROM 4 P.M. UNTIL DARK.
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE OBJECT AND GUESSES AS TO ITS IDENTITY WERE VARIED.
NATIONAL GUARD AUTHORITIES AT MEMPHIS, TENN., SENT TWO F-51 FIGHTERS UP FOR A CHECK.
A NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT CONFIRMED THAT THE F-51'S CLIMBED TO 30,00 FEET BUT COULD NOT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE OBJECT. HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER THE PILOTS ACTUALLY SAW THE OBJECT.
A CAA OFFICIAL AT MALDEN, WHO MAINTAINED TWO-WAY RADIO CONTACT WITH THE F-51'S, SAID THE PILOT OF THE FIRST PLANE UP REPORTED FROM AN ALTITUDE OF 31,000 FEET:
"IT'S STILL WAY ABOVE ME, APPARENTLY MOTIONLESS. I'M NOT GETTING ANY NEARER. FUEL SUPPLY ALMOST EXHAUSTED."
THE OTHER F-51 PILOT MADE A SIMILAR REPORT, THE CAA OFFICIAL SAID.
THE CAA WORKER ALSO LOGGED A REPORT FROM AN F-80 JET PLANE, BASE AND DESTINATION UNKNOWN, WHICH PRESUMABLY HAD BEEN TOLD TO SIZE UP THE OBJECT. AT 40,000 FEET, THE F-80 PILOT REPORTED HE APPEARED TO BE "NO CLOSER THAN ON THE GROUND."
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