

The Battle of Los Angeles - General Marshall to Roosevelt memo

Written by Grant Cameron

Friday, 31 July 2009 03:22 - Last Updated Friday, 31 July 2009 03:25

General George Marshall Secret Memo to President Roosevelt about the unidentified objects over Los Angeles on February 25, 1942

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WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

The following is the information we have from GHQ at this moment regarding the air alarm over Los Angeles of yesterday morning:

"From details available at this hour:

"1. Unidentified airplanes, other than American Army or Navy planes, were probably over Los Angeles, and were fired on by elements of the 37th CA Brigade (AA) between 3:12 and 4:15 AM. These units expended 1430 rounds of ammunition.

"2. As many as fifteen airplanes may have been involved, flying at various speeds from that is officially reported as being 'very slow' to as much as 200 MPH and at elevations from 9000 to 18000 feet.

"3. No bombs were dropped.

"4. No casualties among our troops.

"5. No planes were shot down.

"6. No American Army or Navy planes were in action.

"Investigation continuing. It seems reasonable to conclude that if unidentified airplanes were involved they may have been from commercial sources, operated by enemy agents for purposes of spreading alarm, disclosing location of antiaircraft positions, and slowing production through blackout. Such conclusion is supported by varying speed of operation and the fact that no bombs were dropped."

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DD FORM 5200.9 (9/27/58)

George C. Marshall
Chief of Staff.

Date- 3-10-59

Signature- *Carl L. Spicer*

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