

Balloon Sighting Near Black Water Lake, BC

A.W.Powell

Superintendent of Indian Affairs

Victoria, BC

UFO*BC NOTE:

On the 16th of May, 1896, the Swedish Government informed Canada that they would be sending a balloon from Sweden heading to the North Pole in the early summer of 1896. This information was requested to be widely disseminated across Canada so that any sightings could be reported back to Sweden and any assistance could be given to the explorers if needed. However, due to poor weather, the departure was delayed until the following year. Eventually the balloon set sail on July 11, 1897, but crashed on the pack ice after only 2 days (nowhere near Canada). Strangely enough, many sightings that were assumed to be this balloon were reported in Canada and the USA in 1896 and early 1897 (including this one).

Indian Office

Hazelton, B.C. July 10th, 1896

Sir:

I have the honor to report the information received this day by Ghail, head-chief of Kitspioux, that while trapping with a party of Indians on Black Water Lake, above the head waters of the Skeena, an object resembling a balloon, and then displaying very bright lights, was seen by them on the evening of the same day as before mentioned (the 3rd. inst) in a near northerly course.

Ghail, whom you know, is a trustworthy man and his statement to be credited.

The Indians of the Skeena were made aware, liable to see, during beginning

of this month a balloon going north of the purpose of its occupants etc, and to report to me anything noticed by them, of that description.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Obedient Servant

(sgd) R.E.Loring

Indian Agent

Source: <https://ufobc.ca/Reports/MusgraveFiles/>