PROJECT 10073 RECORD

298

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 21 April 49 22/0340Z	2. LOCATION Enid AFB, Oklahoma
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION Astro (METEOR)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2 seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observer sighted what appeared to be a white ppalescent ball with a tail. It was going to the West at a supersonic speed. It had a level flight and it faded from view.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE West	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

INCIDENT NO. 295

1. Date of Observation 21 April 49 Date of Interview _____

2. Exact time (local) 2140

3. Place of Observation ENID AFB, Oklahoma 97°55' West 36°20' North

4. Position of observer Ground

5. What attracted attention to object S -

6. Number of objects one

7. Apparent size as Opalescent light bulb if observed at 15 ft.

8. Color of object White Opalescent

9. Shape Ball with Tail

10. Altitude 70° Elevation 2,000'

11. Direction from observer

12. Distance from observer 2,000'

13. Direction of flight of object(s) East to West

14. Time in sight 2 5 Seconds

15. Speed Supersonic

16. Sound and Odor

17. Trail 100 ft. light trail

18. Luminosity

19. Projections

20. Maneuvers Level flight

21. Manner of disappearance faded from view

22. Effect on clouds

23. Additional information concerning object

24. Weather conditions Clear, 6 miles visibility, no clouds, wind SE 7 knots

(over)

S/ - 3 - 49 Astro (meteor)

Name and address of observer: Lt. Col. [redacted]
ENID Air Force Base, Oklahoma

Occupation and hobbies: [redacted], ENID USAFB
Pilot 2186 Flying Hours - 266 Hours Combat

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):
Unquestionable.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY (ENID Air Force Base, ENID, Oklahoma, 2 May 1949)

On the night of 21 April 1949 at approximately 2140 hours CST, I was standing on the apron at Enid Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma facing north while talking to two airmen when a light caught my eye which impressed me instantly as an aircraft flying from east to west approximately 2,000 feet high. As aircraft were flying locally in the area as well as shooting landings and take-offs at that time, it startled me to see what I first thought was an aircraft flying at right angles to the direction of traffic at that altitude. However, upon looking up to see the object, I realized it was not an aircraft due to the fact it had a long tail trailing behind, thus giving the impression of a celestial comet. However, upon analyzing the situation, I realized it could not have been a comet because the object appeared to be no higher than ordinary traffic altitude and its trajectory was horizontal with no curve noted whatsoever. The object disappeared from sight and did not explode or come in contact with any other object. From the time the object caught my attention until the time it passed from sight, approximately two (2) seconds elapsed.

It was impossible to note whether or not the object produced an audible sound or not because of the fact an aircraft was taking off at that moment. The three impression I had which occurred within the matter of seconds, the first being that the object was an aircraft flying across at right angles to the traffic pattern, the second that it was a comet because of its long tail with approximately 100 feet in length, and the third that it was neither of these two, made me realize that the object was something inexplicable. Because of its rapid speed which I would estimate to be approximately 1,000 miles per hour, judging by past experience where I have witnessed Jet aircraft flying approximately 500 to 600 miles per hour, it was impossible to describe the object as other than something which appeared to be the size of a large opalescent light globe when viewed at approximately fifteen (15) feet distance. It is entirely possible that the object did not have an actual tail but, instead, that its appearance was caused by the rapid speed of a lighted object traveling through the sky on a darker night. The weather conditions at this particular time were clear.

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Incident: 298

Name and address of observer: Lt. Col. [redacted]

Occupation and hobbies: Enid Air Force Base, Oklahoma

[redacted], Enid USAFB
Pilot 2136 flying hours - 266 hours combat

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer(s):

unquestionable

MARGINAL SUMMARY: nnn

Copy Signed Statement of Witness

RB166

PP JEDC

UNCLASSIFIED

824

FM JWOEN 1/CO ENID AFB ENID OKLA 2714[illegible]Z 27 17:18

TO JEPC/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQS USAF WASHINGTON D C

INFO JEDC/PASS TO COMGENAMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB ATTN MCIAXO-3 DAYTON

OHIO

AF GRNC

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

BKLZ-5-A-GD463BF PD INFORMATION RELATIVE TO AIR INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS MEMO FOUR CMA UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT PD DATE OF SIGHTING CMA 21 APRIL 49 PD TIME OF SIGHTING CMA 2140 CST PD SIGHTED FROM GROUND CMA ENID AIR FORCE BASE CMA ENID CMA OKLAHOMA PD SIX MILES SW CITY OF ENID PD MAP COORDINATES 97 DEGREES 55 MINUTES LAT CMA 36 DEGREES 20 MINTUES LONG PD NUMBER OF OBJECTS CMA ONE PD DISTANCE OF OBJECT FROM OBSERVER 2000 FEET PD HORIZENTALLY CMA ANGLE OF ELEVATION 4-2) FROM HORIZON CMA 70 DEGREES PD ALTITUDE CMA 2000 FEET PD TIME IN

SIGHT CMA FIVE SECONDS PD APPEARANCE OF OBJECT CMA WHITE BALL WITH TAIL PD SIZE CMA APPEARED SAME AS LARGE OPALESCENT LIGHT GLOBE WOULD BE IF OBSERVED AT 15 FEET PD DIRECTION OF FLIGHT CMA EAST TO WEST PD TACTICS OT MANEUVERS CMA LEVEL FLIGHT PD EVIDENCE OF EXHAUST CMA WHITH LIGHT TRAIL 1ØØ FEET IN LENGTH AND CONTINUOUS PD LIGHTS CMA NONE ATTACHED PD

CCC... ON EEEEE IN LINE 12 GP ONE SHD READ OR PRT EEEE RPT OR RPT OR OEEE IN DEEEEE SAME LINE 11 SHD READ WHITE RPT WHITE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE TWO JWOEN 1/

SUPPORT CMA NONE NOTED PD PROPULSION CMA APPEARED TO HAVE JET EXHAUST PD CONTROL AND STABILIZERS CMA NONE NOTED PD AIR DUCTS CMA NONE NOTED PD SPEED CMA SUPERSONIC PD SOUND CMA IMPOSSIABLE TO ASCERTAIN DUE TO A/C TAKING OFF PD MANNER OF DISAPPEARANCE CMA FADED FROM VIEW PD RELATIVE TÖ THE OBSERVER CMA LT COL [redacted] CMA [redacted] CMA ENID AIR FORCE BASE CMA ENID OKLAHOMA PD PILOT CMA 2136 HOURS TOTAL TIME PD 2ØØ HOURS COMBAT TIME PD PRESENTLY ON FLYING STATUS PD RELIABILTY OF OBSERVER CMA UNQUESTIONABLE PD WITNESSES CMA NONE PD NOMMENTS OF INTERROGATOR CMA SUBJECT IS 3Ø YEARS OF AGE CMA RATED PILOT ON 12 DECEMBER 1941 PD CHARACTER ABOVE REPROACH PD WEATHER CONDITIONS AS OF 213Ø SAME DATE CMA CLEAR CMA 6 MILE VISIBILITY CMA TEMP 58 DEGREES CMA WIND SOUTHEAST 7 KNOTS CMA NO CLOUDS PD END

CCC... IN LINE 9 GP 1 SHD READ COMMENTS RPT COMMENTS

[illegible]

46361 2136 266 3Ø 12 1941 213Ø 6 56 7

CONTROL NO	SUBJECT: Ltr	DECIMAL FILE NO.	FOLLOW UP ON
Q - 184	Unconventional Aircraft (Q-483		DATE

FROM: 3575th Pilot Training Wing DATED 5/2/49
TO: IAXS Okla NO. INCLS. 3
RECORDING DESK AXT-1 DATE RECORDED 5/5/49 HOUR 1300

	ROUTED TO	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY (INITIALS)	DATE
1	IAXS	N/R	PWT	5 May
2				
3				

DATE OF REPLY | OTHER DISPOSITION:

TRANSMITTAL
AMC FORM NO. 10-2
(3 NOV. 47)
SEE OTHER SIDE FOR REMARKS

CONTROL NO.	SUBJECT: Ltr. "Unconventional Acft." DECIMAL FILE NO.	FOLLOW UP ON DATE
5-51		

FROM: ENID AFB, ENID, OKLAHOMA DATED 5/2/49
TO: CG AMC, ATTN: Intell. Dept. NO. INCLS 3

RECORDING DESK MCICKA DATE RECORDED 5/4/49 HOUR 0950

ROUTED TO:	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY (INITIALS)	DATE
1 MCI-4	Remarks	[illegible]	5/4
2 MCIQ		Qm	4-
3			

DATE OF REPLY

☐

OTHER DISPOSITION:

TRANSMITTAL
ASC FORM NO. 302B

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR REMARKS

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
3575TH PILOT TRAINING WING (AME)
ENID AIR FORCE BASE
Enid, Oklahoma

2 - MAY 1949

000.9

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
Attn: Intelligence Department

1. Forworded herewith is the supplementary report concerning an Unconventional Aircraft sighted at this station on 21 April 1949. This incident was initially reported by teletype on 26 April 1949, to the Director of Intelligence, USAF. This report is submitted in accordance with Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum No. 4, Department of the Air Force, dated 15 February 1949, Subject: "Unconventional Aircraft.

2. Your attention is invited to answer seven (7) page two (2) of the attached report. This is a correction of the initial teletype submitted to the Director of Intelligence USAF, in which the "Time of sight" was given as five (5) seconds.

3. This report is not submitted on AF Form 112 due to the fact this form is not available at this station. Subject form was unobtainable from the Tinker Air Material Area and from Intelligence Division, Flying Division, Air Training Command, Randolph Field.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

CLYDE E. DAVIS
Captain, USAF
Asst. Adjutant

3 Incls:
1. Report Unconventional Aircraft
2. Initial Teletype Report
3. Signed Statement [redacted].

[redacted]

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

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UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

PART II - REQUIREMENTS

General

1. Date of sighting: 21 April 1949.

2. Time of sighting (zonal by 24 hr clock): 2140 CST.

3. Where sighted (observer's position): Ground.

a. Ground

(1) City, town: Enid Air Force Base.
(2) Distance and direction from city or town, road, intersection, etc: Six (6) miles southwest of Enid, Oklahoma.
(3) From building (story), yard, etc: Sighted from Air Field Apron.
(4) Map coordinates: 97 Degrees 55 Minutes Latitude and 36 Degrees 20 Minutes Lon itude.

b. Air

(1) Type aircraft, speed, altitude, direction of flight: Not applicable.
(2) Distance and direction from city, town, or known landmark: Not applicable.
(3) Clock position of object from observer's aircraft: Not applicable.
(4) Longitude and latitude: Not applicable.

c. Sea

(1) Latitude and longitude: Not applicable.
(2) Proximity to land. (Name city, country, etc): Not applicable.

4. Number of objects: One.

Formation type (if any), sketch if possible: None.

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DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

UNCLASSIFIED

PART II - REQUIREMENTS

General

5. Observable celestial phenomena or planets that may account for the sighting. (Local facilities or organizations which follow such celestial phenomena should be consulted for such information): Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma was consulted and it was learned that the university does not have an astronomy department.

6. Distance of object from observer: Approximately 2000 feet.

a. Laterally or horizontally: Horizontally.
b. Angle of elevation from horizon: Approximately 70 degrees.
c. Altitude: Approximately 2000 feet.

7. Time in sight: Approximately 2 seconds.

8. Appearance of object: White light, ball shaped with tail approximately one hundred feet long.

a. Color: White (opalescent).
b. Shape: Ball shaped.

c. Apparent construction: Observer was unable to answer this question.
d. Size.

(1) Estimated size:
(2) Size as it appeared from observer's view. (Compared to known object): Object appeared approximately the same as a large opalescent light globe would appear if observed from a distance of fifteen feet.

9. Direction of flight: East to west.

10. Tactics or maneuvers: Level horizontal flight.

11. Evidence of exhaust:

a. Color of smoke: White light trail.
b. Length and width: One hundred feet in length.
c. Odor: None noted.
d. Rate of evaporation: Instantaneous.
e. Does trail vary with sound? No sound noted.

12. Effect on clouds: Not any clouds in sky at the time the object was sighted.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

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PART II - REQUIREMENTS

General

13. Lights: None noted.

14. Support: None noted.

15. Propulsion: Object appeared to have jet exhaust.

16. Control and stability: No controls or stabilizers noted.

17. Air ducts: None noted.

18. Speed - M.P.H.: Supersonic.

19. Sound: Impossible to ascertain because B-25 aircraft taking off at time of sighting.

20. Manner of disappearance: Faded from view.

Relative to the Observer

1. Name of observer: Lt Col [redacted].

2. Address: Enid Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma.

3. Occupation: [redacted]

4. Place of business: Enid Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma.

5. Pertinent hobbies: None.

6. Ability to determine:

a. Color: Normal.
b. Speed of moving objects: Normal.
c. Size at distance: Normal.
Subject passed last Form 64 Physical Examination on 17 December 1948.

7. Reliability of observer: Above reproach.

8. Notes relative of observer on:

a. Sightings in general: Has not previously sighted unconventional type aircraft or unexplainable phenomena.

b. How attention was drawn to object: Glint of light.

c. Degree of fatigue and duration of flight at time of sighting in cases where observer is airborne: Not applicable.

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[redacted]

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT

PART II - REQUIREMENTS

General

9. Witnesses: None.

10. Comments of interrogator regarding the intelligence and character of person interrogated, It Col [redacted] is presently assigned as Director of Flying at this station. He is 30 years of age and was rated as pilot on 12 December 1941. The Subject has 2186 hours of total time to his credit and has 266 hours of combat time. His character and integrity are above reproach.

Relative to Radar Sightings

Not Applicable.

GENERAL

1. Telètype sequence of local weather conditions: As of 2130 hours, 21 April 1949 the following weather conditions prevailed at this station: Clear, 6 mile visibility, slight haze, temperature 58 degrees, due point 55, sea level pressure 149 MBS, wind southeast, 7 knots, relative humidity 89, station barometeric reading 28.62, no clouds.

2. Winds aloft report: Not recorded because instruments were inoperative at this time.

3. Local flight schedules of commercial, private and military aircraft flying in vicinity at the time: Thirty six B-25 aircraft were flying in the local flying area at 2140 hours on 21 April 1949. This information was obtained from the Enid Detachment AACS.

4. Possible releases of testing devices in vicinity sent aloft by Ordnance, Navy, Air Force, Army, Weather Units, Research Organizations or any other: Unknown.

5. Object did not contact earth.

6. Object did not come sufficiently near other aircraft or known objects to warrant check with Geiger counter.

7. Photographs not available.

8. Signed statement made by Lt Col [redacted] attached.

9. Fragments or physical evidence not available.

10. Radio antenna not observed.

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John Hemming

JOHN H. HEMMING
1st Lt, USAF
Intelligence Officer

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DOD DIR. 5200.10

[redacted]

[redacted]

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CO ENID AIR FORCE BASE, ENID, OKLAHOMA RESTRICTED

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE
HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

PRIORITY
X

PASS TO COMGENANC
WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB
DAYTON, OHIO
ATTN: MCIAXO-3.

BKLZ 5-A GD _____ BF PD INFORMATION RELATIVE TO AIR INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS MEMO FOUR CMA UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT PD DATE OF SIGHTING CMA 21 APRIL 1949 PD TIME OF SIGHTING CMA 2140 CST PD SIGHTED FROM GROUND CMA ENID AIR FORCE BASE CMA ENID CMA OKLAHOMA PD SIX MILES SW CITY OF ENID PD MAP COORDINATES 97 DEGREES 55 MINUTES LAT CMA 36 DEGREES 20 MINUTES LONG PD NUMBER OF OBJECTS CMA ONE PD DISTANCE OF OBJECT FROM OBSERVER 2000 FEET PD HORIZONTALLY CMA ANGLE OF ELEVATION FROM HORIZON CMA 70 DEGREES PD ALTITUDE CMA 2000 FEET PD TIME IN SIGHT CMA FIVE SECONDS PD APPEARANCE OF OBJECT CMA WHITE BALL WITH TAIL PD SIZE CMA APPEARED SAME AS LARGE OPALESCENT LIGHT GLOBE WOULD BE IF OBSERVED AT 15 FEET PD DIRECTION OF FLIGHT CMA EAST TO WEST PD TACTICS OR MANEUVERS CMA LEVEL FLIGHT PD EVIDENCE OF EXHAUST CMA WHITE LIGHT TRAIL 100 FEET IN LENGTH AND CONTINUOUS PD LIGHTS CMA NONE ATTACHED PD SUPPORT CMA NONE NOTED PD PROPULSION CMA APPEARED TO HAVE JET EXHAUST PD CONTROL AND STABILIZERS CMA NONE NOTED PD AIR DUCTS CMA NONE NOTED PD SPEED CMA SUPERSONIC PD SOUND CMA IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN DUE TO A/C TAKING OFF PD MANNER OF DISAPPEARANCE CMA FADED FROM VIEW PD RELATIVE TO THE OBSERVER CMA AT 30L

[redacted] CMA ENID AIR FORCE

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED

BASE CMA ENID OKLAHOMA PD PILOT CMA 2186 HOURS TOTAL TIME PD 266 HOURS COMBAT TIME PD PRESENTLY ON FLYING STATUS PD RELIABILITY OF OBSERVER CMA UNQUESTIONABLE PD WITNESSES CMA NONE PD COMMENTS OF INTERROGATOR CMA SUBJECT IS 30 YEARS OF AGE CMA RATED PILOT ON 12 DECEMBER 1941 PD CHARACTER ABOVE REPROACH PD WEATHER CONDITIONS AS OF 2130 SAME DATE CMA CLEAR CMA 6 MILE VISIBILITY CMA TEMP 53 DEGREES CMA WIND SOUTHEAST 7 KNOTS CMA NO CLOUDS PD END

CO EAFB

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

CD JOHN H. WILLING, 1st Lt. USAF UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED
STATEMENT

Enid Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma
2 May 1949

On the night of 21 April 1949 at approximately 2140 hours CST, I was standing on the apron at Enid Air Force Base, Enid, Oklahoma facing north while talking to two airmen when a light caught my eye which impressed me instantly as an aircraft flying from east to west approximately 2,000 feet high. As aircraft were flying locally in the area as well as shooting landings and take-offs at that time, it startled me to see what I first thought was an aircraft flying at right angles to the direction of traffic at that altitude. However, upon looking up to see the object, I realized it was not an aircraft due to the fact it had a long tail trailing behind, thus giving the impression of a celestial comet. However, upon analyzing the situation, I realized it could not have been a comet because the object appeared to be no higher than ordinary traffic altitude and its trajectory was horizontal with no curve noted whatsoever. The object disappeared from sight and did not explode or come in contact with any other object. From the time the object caught my attention until the time it passed from sight, approximately two (2) seconds elapsed.

It was impossible to note whether or not the object produced an audible sound or not because of the fact an aircraft was taking off at that moment. The three impressions I had which occurred within the matter of seconds, the first being that the object was an aircraft flying across at right angles to the traffic pattern, the second that it was a comet because of its long tail with approximately 100 feet in length, and the third that it was neither of these two, made me realize that the object was something inexplicable. Because of its rapid speed which I would estimate to be approximately 1,000 miles per hour, judging by past experience where I have witnessed Jet aircraft flying approximately 500 to 600 miles per hour, it was impossible to describe the object as other than something which appeared to be the size of a large opalescent light globe when viewed at approximately fifteen (15) feet distance. It is entirely possible that the object did not have an actual tail but, instead, that its appearance was caused by the rapid speed of a lighted object traveling through the sky on a darker night. The weather conditions at this particular time were clear.

[redacted]
Lt. Col., USAF

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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[redacted]

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GUIDE TO INVESTIGATION

UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS

Incident No._____

1. Date of Observation 21 Apr 1949 Date of Interview Letter

2. Exact time of observation (local) 10:15 - 10:30 DST

3. Place of Observation: UNITY, Md - 25 miles north of Washington, D.C. (Map Coordinates) 5 miles north of Olney, Md., on route 97.

4. Position of observer (air, car, bldg, location of - give details: On ground, at farm at Unity. Address: [redacted], Gaithersburg, Md.

5. What attracted attention to object: Moderate luminosity in sky, south of zenith

6. Number of objects and sketch of formation or grouping: See previous letters. No objects seen, only luminosity

7. Apparent size (compare to known object, i.e., sun, moon, thumb or fist at arms length): See previous letters

8. Color of object: Luminosity was white, no evident color tone

9. Shape (give graphic description - compare with known object): See previous letters. Took form of a band, 2 or 3 degrees wide; long persistence, fading out all at once; in later stages, took form of a cloud, with two tails.

10. Altitude (Angle of elevation above horizon - 0° at horizon, 90° overhead): First seen at about 70° from horizon; dropped to within about 20° of southern horizon, then turned eastward.

11. Direction from observer (Angle clockwise from North): When first seen? South When last seen? South, but progessing east. The lights of Washington reflect in sky near southern horizon, directly below this light.

12. Distance from observer (Distance to town, bldg, etc.; over which object appeared to be): Impossible to determine. I believed it was astronomical, but Harvard Observatory believes not.

13. Direction of flight of object (s): Downward, toward southern horizon; turned east

14. Time in sight: 15 minutes

15. Velocity (time to cover given angular distance): dropped in about ½ minute; moved more slowly east.

16. Sound and odor: None

NICAP 321

JUL 5

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Incident No._____

17. Trail (color, length, width, persistance, etc.) See previous letters.

18. Luminosity (visible by reflection, incandescence, other - degree of brilliance): Part, if not all, of luminosity due to its own light; although reflection from Washington may have been partly responsible.

19. Projections (fins, wings, rods, antennae, canopies, etc.):
None

20. Maneuvers (turns, climbs, dives, etc. - sketch of flight path):
See sketches in two previous letters

21. Manner of disappearance: Faded rather rapidly

22. Effect on clouds: No clouds present. Faint starlight, but a dark night; much water in atmosphere, but no mist.

23. Additional information concerning object:
My previous letters present full details; as they were written while the incident was fresher in mind, I have not repeated them here

24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting:
See 22 above

Name and address of observer: [redacted], Washington, D.C.

Occupation and hobbies: Conservationist; ornithology; photography; outdoor recreation; have been National Park Ranger

UNCLASSIFIED

MC IAXS

MC IAXS/GWT/amc

Mr. [redacted]
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear [redacted]:

Receipt of your letter, dated 16 June 1949, is respectfully acknowledged by this Headquarters.

The completed questionnaire mentioned in your letter has not been received to date.

In view of the above, we are inclosing an additional copy of our Questionnaire for use in recording the desired data. Your co-operation in this matter is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

1 Incl:
Guide to Investigation

A. J. HEMSTREET, JR.
Lt Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, Analysis Division
Intelligence Department

24 JUN 1949

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6-183

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

An independent, non-profit organization with nation-wide membership
guarding America's heritage of scenic wilderness

Founded 1919

1214 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

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JOSHUA EVANS, JR.
Treasurer

DEVEREUX BUTCHER
Executive Secretary
and Editor

[redacted]

June 16, 1949

United States Army Intelligence Division
Air Force Materiel Command
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Sirs:

A few weeks ago I wrote you about an aerial phenomenon that I observed at Unity, Maryland. You sent me a questionnaire for further data, which I filled out and returned to you. As I could not then recall the exact date, I wrote to the Harvard Observatory, and requested that they send back to me the original letter I wrote to them about it. They have done so, and I enclose it herewith.

I regret that I cannot locate the carbons of my previous correspondence with you, and hence have had to guess at the proper address for this letter. I trust it reaches you in due course.

If there is any further information I can give you, please let me know. I believe, however, that I have told you everything I know about it.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

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JUN 22

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Founded 1919

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Secretary

JOSHUA EVANS, JR.
Treasurer

DEVEREUX BUTCHER
Executive Secretary
and Editor

F.L.W.

April 21, 1949

Dr. Harlow Shapley, Director
Harvard Observatory
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Shapley:

While I was an undergraduate at Harvard I had the pleasure of cooperating with your observatory in making meteoritic counts on several occasions, and attending the meetings of the Bond Astronimical Club. I was advised several times to report any phenomena I might observe that seemed to me to be unusual, and am accordingly writing to tell you of something I saw a few moments ago which was strange to me.

At 10:15 P.M., at Olney, Maryland, I glanced at the sky and noticed a fairly wide streak or ribbon of luminosity, perhaps a degree in width, which seemed to be extending itself irregularly downward as I watched. I focused my 7 x 50 binoculars on this light, and saw that it was formed as a long cloud of luminosity, with no sharply demarked lights of any sort, except that the central portion was decidedly brighter and seemed to glow. The light ran from almost at the zenith to about 15° degrees of the southern horizon. The ends were faint, evenly toned across the entire band, but the central portion assumed the feature of two parallel lines of light, marking the edges of the ribbon, that became increasingly bright.

The whole was in motion, for in about a minute it turned toward the east, and the bright portion bunched up, with a distinct curl of light rising from it, while the rear of the fainter part of the ribbon broke into two arms, one upward to the east, the other downward to the south. Finally, about two minutes later, the brighter portion, moving fairly rapidly eastward, but at about a constant altitude, had coalesced to form a broad, bluntly pointed head (somewhat like a large comet), with two fainter tails curving upward and downward. In another minute, the whole had faded, but did not entirely die out for perhaps three minutes more.

I am sufficiently familiar with astronomical occurrences to be sure this was not a meteoritic phenomenon nor a display of aurora borealis, and it certainly was not a comet. It may well be something quite normal of occurrence, and if so, I should appreciate your kindness in having one of the staff of the observatory suggest to me what it may have been.

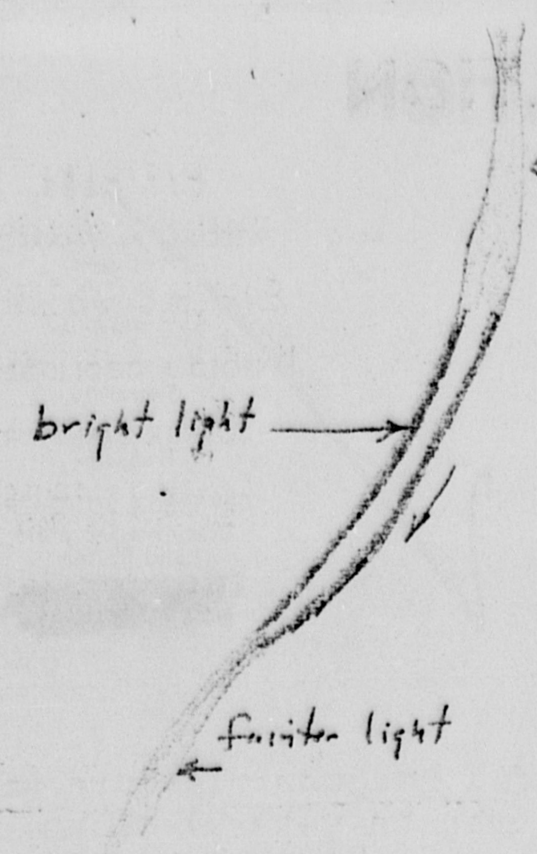
Yours sincerely

[redacted]

P.S. On the other side I have sketched the appearance of the above light.

UNCLASSIFIED

1.



← fainter light

bright light →

← fainter light

(Track more irregular than shown)

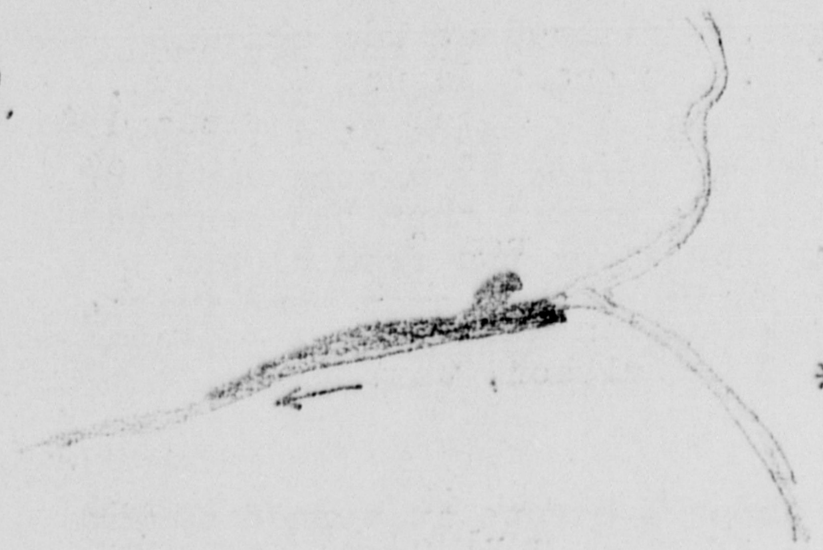
* } stars of equal intensity

* – slightly fainter star

* Bright star, probably Sirius

Looking South

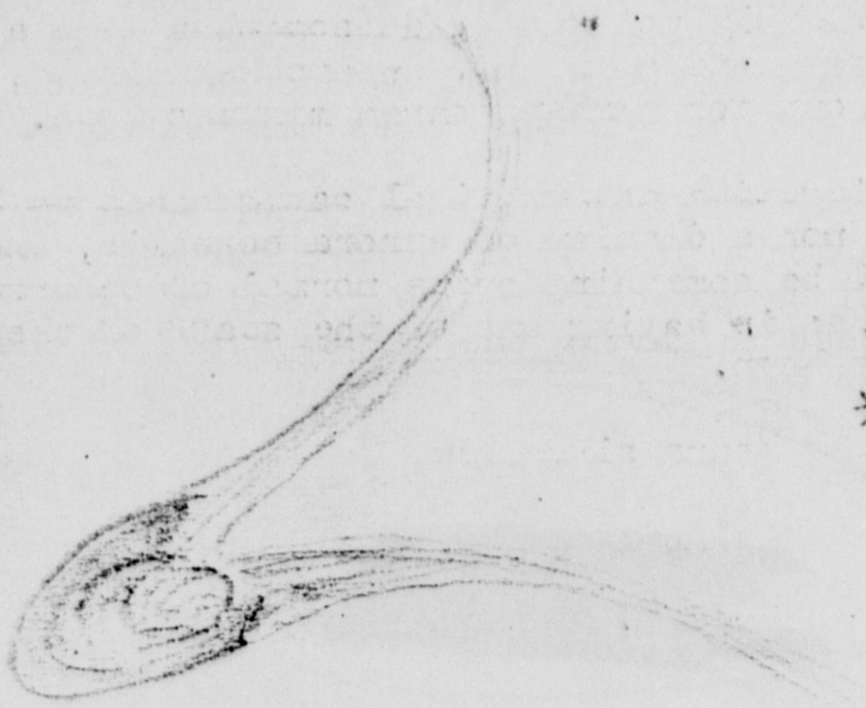
2.



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*

3.



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*

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