

# PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 31 Aug 49 01/0617Z	2. LOCATION Sacramento, California
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION Astro (METEOR)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3-10 seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observers sighted an object with a short, rounded nose, very short wings rounded at the tips. There was <del>not</del> no trail or noise. It appeared as a dark object having a dull gray or silver finish. It was very fast.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE 230 deg	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

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



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HEADQUARTERS  
3535TH BOMBARDMENT TRAINING WING  
MATHER AIR FORCE BASE  
Mather Field, California

13C

000.9

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Commanding General  
Flying Division, Air Training Command  
Randolph Field, Texas  
ATTN: AC/S, Operations, Intelligence Division

1. In compliance with letter, 000.9, Hq AFTRC, dated 2 March 1949, Subject: Unconventional Aircraft, the following is submitted as a complete report to meet the requirements of Part II of aforementioned letter.

2. a. Date of sighting - 31 August 1949  
b. Time of sighting - 2217  
c. Position of observer when sighted - ~~REDACTED~~  
Sacramento, California  
d. Air - Not applicable  
e. Sea - Not applicable  
f. Number of Objects - One, see attached photostat  
g. Observable Celestial Phenomena - None  
h. Distance object from observer - Approximately 15,000 feet  
i. Time in sight - Not less than 3, nor more than 10 seconds  
j. Appearance of object - Large, dull finish. See photostat and statement  
k. Direction of flight - 220° to 240°  
l. Tactics or maneuvers - Level flight
- Astro (meteor)*

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Incl 1 2507

7-3112-23  
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B/L: 000.9, Hq, Mather AFB, Mather Fld, Calif, Subj: Unconventional Aircraft (Contd)

- m. Evidence of exhaust - None observed
- n. Effect on clouds - No clouds present
- o. Lights - None observed
- p. Support - Very streamlined, short stubby wing
- q. Propulsion - No indication
- r. Control and stability - Not visible
- s. Air ducts - Not visible
- t. Speed - Approximately 600 to 800 miles per hour
- u. Sound - None
- v. Manner of disappearance - Faded into light of moon

3. a. Name of observer - [REDACTED]

b. Address - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mather Air Force Base, Mather Field, California

c. Occupation - Air Force [REDACTED]

d. Place of business - Mather Air Force Base, Mather Field, California

e. Pertinent hobbies - Amateur Astronomer

f. Ability to determine - Rated and on flying status

g. Reliability of observer - Rated officer in USAF

h. How attention was drawn to object - While identifying stars

i. Witness - [REDACTED]

j. Address [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Mather Air Force Base, Mather Field, California

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k. Occupation - [REDACTED]

l. Reliability - Rated Officer in USAF

4. During interrogation of both officers, both were very serious and certain of seeing object reported. Neither are habitual drinkers and claimed nothing to drink 24 hours prior and subsequent to sighting. Both officers appeared reliable, both in intelligence and character. Evaluation by this section, B-2.

5. Office of Special Investigations, 19th District, is continuing investigation in this matter as other persons, this base, have reported to the Office of Special Investigations sightings of similar nature.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER

3 Incls

1. Sworn Statement of [REDACTED]  
w/Photostat of object sighted
2. Sworn Statement of [REDACTED] w/Photostat of object sighted
3. Intelligence Interrogation

*J. B. Bigh*  
1st Lt, USAF  
Adjutant

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S T A T E M E N T

My name is [REDACTED], assigned to the [REDACTED] Group, [REDACTED], Mather Air Force Base, Mather Field, California. I live at [REDACTED], which is approximately five (5) miles due South of the center of Sacramento. Last night, 31 August 1949, at approximately 2200 hours, my neighbor, Lt. [REDACTED], also assigned to this base, called me and asked me to help him identify a particular star.

After doing this, we then proceeded to identify and locate various stars that were out. The night was clear, visibility unlimited. There was about a 3/4 moon. Apparently there was some haze because there was a bright area around the moon.

As we were looking at the Star Polaris, I had noticed an airplane flying a course of approximately due East at about 10,000 feet and I judged it to be slightly South or two (2) miles South of Sacramento. I could see its lights and hear its engine. Suddenly [REDACTED] punched me and said "Look" and almost at the same instant I saw what he was pointing to. I recorded my observations within twenty (20) minutes after this experience happened and I will give the facts as recorded.

This object first attracted my attention in the direction of Polaris. It was a dark shape against the sky. I believe that it had wings; it had no flapping or inner-motion. It made no sound before, during or after I saw it. I lost the object, after tracking it for approximately three (3) seconds, in the glow below the moon.

In other words, this object went from the direction of Polaris which is due North into the sky Southwest of the moon's direction, which at this time was Southwest, in approximately three (3) seconds. I recorded my feelings as follows: Large object, very fast, noiseless.

I had a definite uncanny weird sensation probably due to not knowing what I was looking at. I thought of a possibility of a shadow but this thing had body to it. It was hard to distinguish clearly but it blacked out the stars under which it passed. I have no way of guessing its altitude but as a comparison of size, it appeared to be of the same relative size as a C-54 at 3 to 5,000 feet.

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As soon as we had lost it to sight we agreed not to describe it to each other in order not to influence each other's opinion. The only things we discussed and agreed on were its course which was 220° to 230° and its speed which we estimated was 7 to 800 miles per hour. The time of observation by both our watches was 2217. We agreed that I would make the initial report and [REDACTED] would make any additional report that would be desired.

The attached drawing is my impression at the time I recorded this.



Sworn and subscribed to before me this 6th day of September 1949.

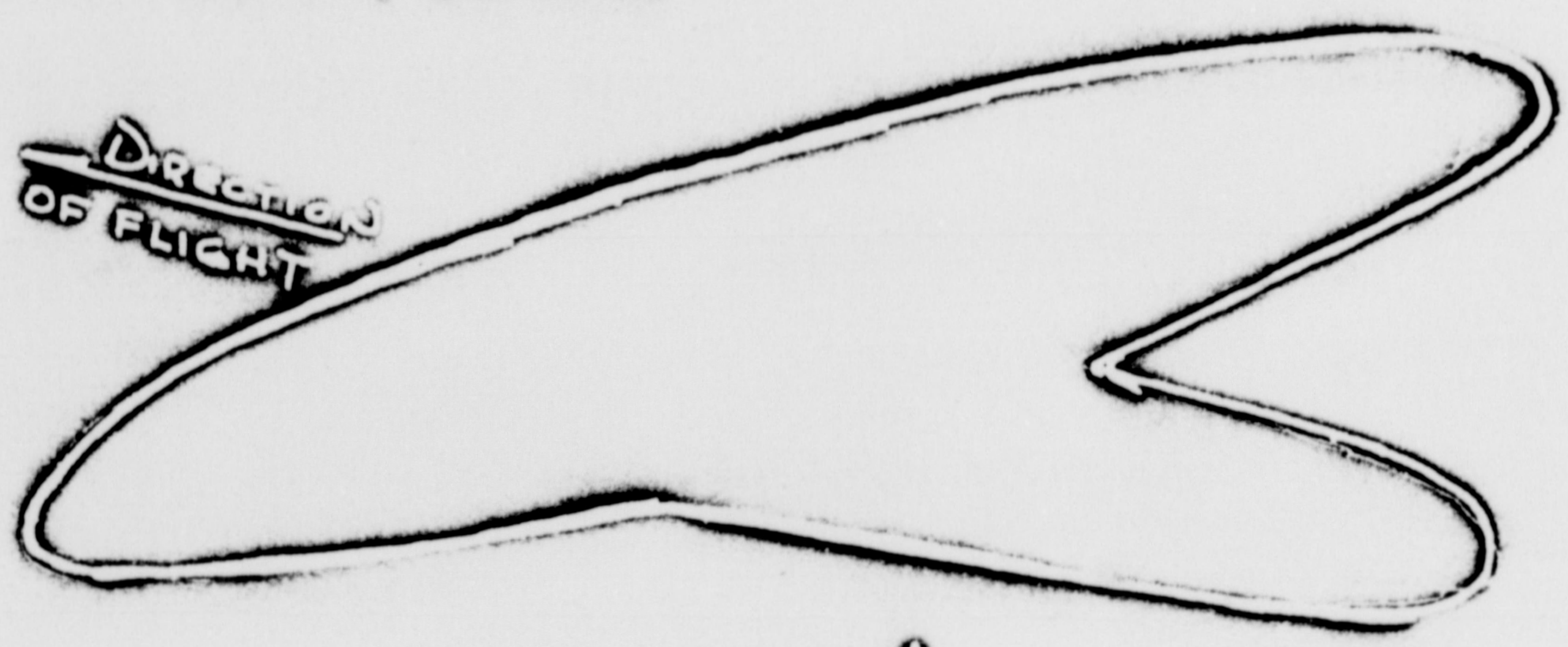
*W. J. Bally, Jr.*  
W. J. BALLY, JR.  
1st LT., USAF  
Assistant Adjutant

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VIEW AS SEEN FROM OBJECT'S  
LEFT FRONT, BELOW



SAME ANGLE OF VIEW



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Sketch submitted by [redacted] Captain  
USAF, of unconventional aircraft sighted on  
August 1949 at 2230 hours flying over Shawmut  
Lake, Georgia

[redacted]

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S T A T E M E N T

My name is [REDACTED], assigned to the [REDACTED], Mather Air Force Base, Mather Field, California. My duty assignment is [REDACTED]

My residence is at [REDACTED], located approximately five (5) miles due south from the center of Sacramento, California. On 31 August 1949 about 2200 hours I called Captain [REDACTED] for assistance in identifying certain navigational stars.

The night was very clear, visibility unlimited. The moon was at a 3/4 phase with a bright area around it probably due to some haze in that area.

While looking at the star Polaris, I noticed a plane flying on an easterly heading approximately two (2) or three (3) miles south of Sacramento. The navigation lights of this airplane were clearly visible and the noise from the engines was very audible.

Watching the aircraft I suddenly touched [REDACTED] and said "Look" and pointed toward the sky just above the roof tops. Captain [REDACTED] saw it just about the time I pointed to it.

When I first spotted this object, it was just coming over the horizon. It made no noise; there was no visible motion of its very short, stubby wings. No noise or sound was heard as it came toward us and passed almost overhead. I lost sight of it just as it started into the moonlight.

This object came from a northerly direction, or from a direction of Polaris, the North Star. Its path of flight was straight and level and on an approximate heading of 230°. Its speed was estimated to be about 700 miles per hour. It was visible to me approximately five seconds. This was a very fast, very large noiseless object.

This object was very visible as a dark object against the glow and reflection of the lights of Sacramento. It seemed to have a dull grey or silver finish which blended into the moonlight after it passed overhead.

The possibility of this being a shadow can be discounted because it did black out the stars above. I estimated its altitude to be about 15,000 feet. As a comparison the size of this object was larger than that of a B-36 at about 5,000 feet.

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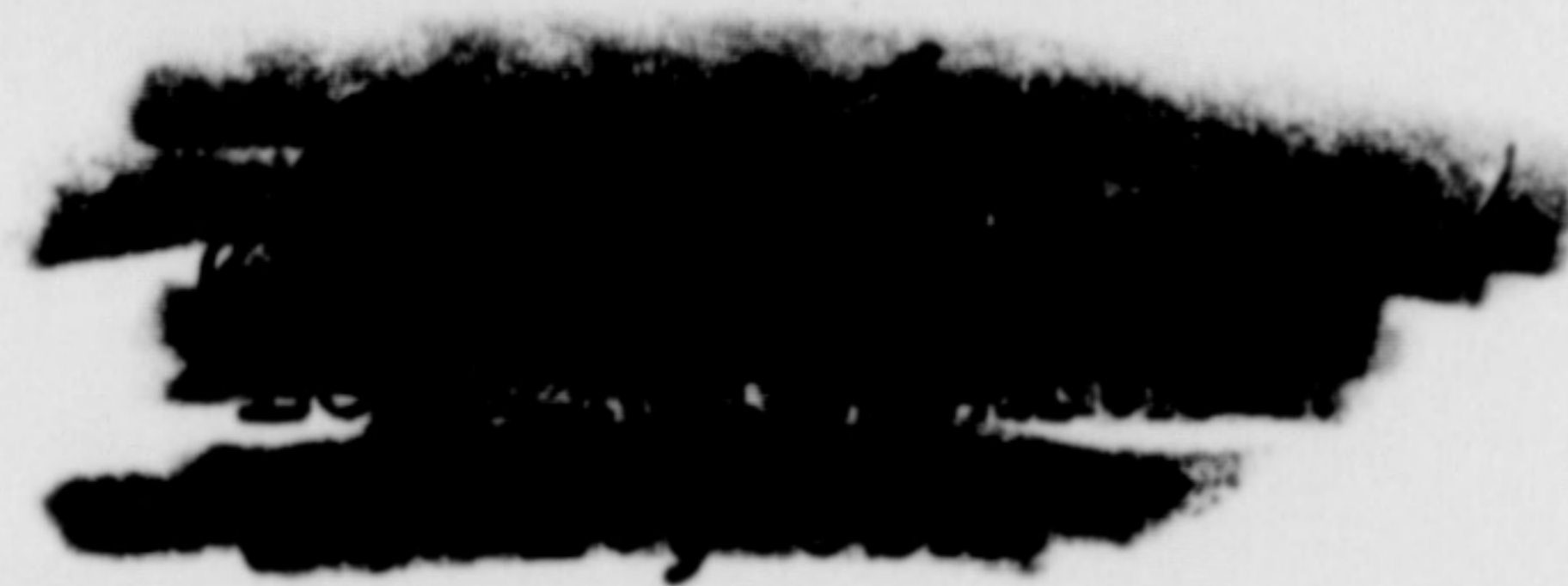
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~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ and I agreed not to describe this object in order not to influence each other's opinion. We did agree on the time 2217, its direction of flight 220° to 230° and its speed 700 to 800 miles per hour. We also agreed ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ was to make the initial report and I would follow up with any additional information.

The psychological effect on me was a weird sensation best described as a hair raising experience. This object had size, shape and motion and not knowing what we were looking at in all probability gave me this strange feeling.

The shape of this thing is: short, rounded nose, very short wings rounded at tips, fuselage short and thick. There were no visible jet or exhaust opening and no visible indications of engines. There were no visible traces of jet or exhaust flames or smoke. There was no noise of any sort, no navigational lights or any other lights indicating its position or presence in the sky. Also in describing its shape, it had no tail surfaces that were visible.

The sketch attached to this statement is my impression of this object.



Sworn and subscribed to before me this 6th day of September 1949.

W. J. BALLY, JR.  
1st LT., USAF  
Assistant Adjutant

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Direction of Flight

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INTERVIEW  
STATE

DO NOT WRITE

Sketch submitted by [redacted] USAF  
of unconventional [redacted] signed on 21 August 1964  
at 2217 hours [redacted] [redacted]

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INTELLIGENCE INTERROGATION

The following two (2) officers were interrogated 1 September 1949 as prescribed in letter, 000.9, Hq AFTRC, dated 2 March 1949, Subject: "Unconventional Aircraft," Part II.

[REDACTED] Mather Air Force Base

[REDACTED] Mather Air Force Base with duty assignment as [REDACTED]

1. Q: What was the date of this sighting?

A: 31 August 1949

2. Q: What was the time of sighting?

A: 2217 hours.

3. Q: What was your position in relation to object sighted?

A: At [REDACTED], Sacramento, California

Q: What called your attention to the object?

A: [REDACTED] We were identifying stars as practice and [REDACTED] saw the object first and told me and I saw it almost as soon as he told me.

Q: Any idea of your location in degrees?

A: Longitude and latitude of position = 38 31 N  
121 24 W

4. Q: What was the number sighted?

A: One object was sighted. We both made a sketch or rough diagram.

5. Q: Do you think your sighting may have been a celestial phenomena?

A: No, don't think so. We are both familiar with all unusual celestial appearances and are both [REDACTED]

6. Q: What was the distance from you to object sighted?

A: [REDACTED] - I made a rough estimate of distance at about 15,000 feet.

Q: What was the altitude?

A: [REDACTED] - I felt if it was lower than 15,000 and had been making noise, I would have heard it. Any aircraft flying at that altitude if you weren't listening for it the noise would not be great enough to attract your attention.

[REDACTED] - If there had been any sound, we could have guessed closer

Page 1 of 3 Pages

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Intelligence Interrogation (Contd)

If it had been an airplane, there would have been a rumble of contacting air behind it, but there was no noise. It was exceptionally large and if it had been lower, we might have been able to see any exhausts on it or some indication of a motor. Any object flying through the air like that is bound to make some noise. If we couldn't hear it, it must have been high.

7. Q: How long would you estimate it took to pass over you and out of sight?  
A: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - 10 seconds but could have been a lot less than that. I think if I said about 5 seconds, it would be more accurate. I spotted it first and called ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ attention to it.  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - I said about 3 seconds. It could have been a little longer but not 10 seconds.
8. Q: What was the appearance of object, color, shape, and construction and size?  
A: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - To me it appeared to have a dull finish; it wasn't white, an unpainted surface, like buffed metal you might say. (See inclosed sketch)  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - It was dark, and I could see it against the sky. Had a dull reflection. It came over from Sacramento and went into the moonlight. (See inclosed sketch)
- Q: Do you both agree it was very large?  
A: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - I compared it to a B-36 - large aircraft.  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - I would compare it to the relative size of a C-54. It was definitely big.
9. Q: What was the direction of flight?  
A: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - I would say about 240°.  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - We agreed to within 10° as to the direction of flight. About 220° to 230°. We agreed to about 230°.
10. Q: Did you observe any tactics or maneuvers?  
A: Just straight, level flight.
11. Q: Was there evidence of any exhaust?  
A: Never saw any evidence of exhaust. There was no sound. There was another aircraft in the vicinity that may have cut out noises if there were any. However, don't believe another aircraft would have covered any noises but think we would have heard noises had there been any.

Page 2 of 3 Pages

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Intelligence Interrogation (Contd) UNCLAS

12. Q: Was there any effects on the clouds by object?  
A: It was an exceptionally clear night.
13. Q: Did you observe any lights in, or on object?  
A: Didn't see any lights. No navigation lights of any kind.
14. Q: What type of wing, fuselage, and shape did object have?  
A:  - It appeared to have a short stubby wing. Just one wing, no tail. Flying wing type. Short nose. Very streamlined.  
 - I got the impression that it had some sort of wings, some sort of tail and no sort of nose.
15. Q: How was the object propelled?  
A: No indication. First impression was that somebody was coming in for a dead stick landing but it was traveling too fast for that.
- Q: Was there any visible exhaust, or jet opening.  
A: No.
16. Q: Was any fins or stabilizer controls visible?  
A: No.
17. Q: Were any slots or duct openings visible?  
A: No, couldn't distinguish any.
18. Q: What was object's speed?  
A:  - I thought it was going about 600 or 700 miles per hour.  
 - My estimate is 700 or 800 miles per hour. Was traveling exceptionally fast. Estimate I saw it at an angle of 40° and lost it at an angle of about 40° again. I followed it a little further than  I first saw it near Polaris and lost it near the moon.  
 - I judged the speed of the object according to the speed of other aircraft.
19. Q: Did object make any sound?  
A: No noise whatever.
20. Q: What was the manner of disappearance?  
A: It faded from view, blended in with the moon. Seemed to be going with moon and was lost in moon glow.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT OF CAPT  LT  and myself agreed we wouldn't describe the object to each other and would make a report separately. The only thing we did discuss was the direction as we wanted to establish a definite direction.

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*Richard N. Driscoll*  
RICHARD N. DRISCOLL  
1st Lt, USAF  
Wing Int Off Interrogator

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INCOMING MESS 3E

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NR 14 3 SEPT 49

ROUTINE

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FROM FLYING DIV ATC RANDOLPH AFB SAN ANTONIO TEX 081450Z  
TO ANCEHAFB ATTN MCIAKO RPT MCIAPO-3  
INFO ATC BARKSDALE AFB SHREVEPORT LA

FD197 FOLG TT RECD FR CG MATHER AFB IS QUOTED FTL: "13  
CO0221 UNIDENTIFIED FLT OBJECT SIGHTED 31 AUG 49 AT 2217  
PST FM 3 MILES SOUTH OF CITY OF SACRAMENTO BY CAPT [REDACTED]  
AND 1ST LT [REDACTED] THIS BASE. OBJECT ON GROUND AREA 2ND  
DEGREES WITH ESTD SPEED OF 7 TO 300 MPH. OBJECT WAS UNUSUAL,  
DARK AND MADE NO SOUND. NO EVIDENCE OF EXHAUST. SHAPE  
DISCERNABLE DUE TO BLACKING OUT STARS. OBJECT CROSSED FOR  
SECONDS. SIZE ESTD COMPARABLE TO C-54 FLY. 3 TO 5000 FT.  
DISAPPEARED IN GLARE OF MOON. FULL RPT AND SS FOL"

END OF TRANSMISSION

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(Rev. 25 Oct 48)

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be prepared for destruction in accordance with Section IV, Hq. Office Instruction No. 11-2.

WF-L-16 FEB 49 10M

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HEADQUARTERS  
FLYING DIVISION, AIR TRAINING COMMAND

31

GOI  
Randolph Field, Texas.  
20 SEP 1949

AG 000.9

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

TO: Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio  
ATTN: ~~MCIAAO-3~~

1A XS

1. Forwarded in accordance with paragraph 3c(1), Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum No 4, Hq, USAF, 15 Feb 1949.
2. Commanding General, Mather Air Force Base, has been advised to submit all future reports of this type on AF Form 112.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

*Fred N. Schmidt*

FRED N. SCHMIDT  
Captain, USAF  
Asst. Adj. Gen.

1 Incl:  
Ltr 000.9, Hq, Mather AFB,  
Subj: Unconventional Air-  
craft, 14 Sept 1949

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*Enc.  
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