PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE: 5 August 1952

2. LOCATION: Downey, California

3. TYPE OF OBSERVATION
X Ground-Visual
Ground-Radar
Air-Visual
Air-Interceptor Radar

4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS: 2

5. SHAPE: Civilian man

6. SOURCE

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 360°

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS

9. SHAPE

10. COMMENTS

11. CONCLUSIONS
Was Balloon
Probably Balloon
Possibly Balloon
Was Aircraft
Probably Aircraft
Possibly Aircraft
Was Astronomical
Probably Astronomical
Possibly Astronomical
X Insufficient Data for Evaluation
Unknown

12. PHOTOS
Yes
X No

13. ADDITIONAL DATA

14. EVALUATION

15. DISTRIBUTION

16. DETACHMENT OR UNIT

17. ACTIVE CIRCUIT
CG/ADC AFS

18. DATE
CG/ADC 4

BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Small object, very high was seen through binoculars by an ex-pilot living in Downey. Object left a thin trail, separated into two distinct objects which flew separate courses.

AFIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

C
O
P
Y

August 11, 1952

To - Civilian Saucer Investigation
Los Angeles, California

Subject: Sighting of Unknown Object

Dear Sirs:

On the evening of Aug. 8, 1952, at approximately 19:55 hrs., while standing in the front yard of Mr. [redacted] in North Downey, California, we sighted a very small object, flying very high, on a course of nearly 360°.

At first, both [redacted] and myself figured it was a weather balloon, but after I located the object in the field glasses, I realized it was travelling much too high and too fast. So we came to the conclusion it was an extremely high flying aircraft, although I couldn't make out any shape that resembled aircraft, as the object appeared round.

I kept the object in the glasses for a period of approximately five minutes, when it was practically direct overhead, when, from this object another object emerged, gaining speed slowly at 90 degrees to the original object (approx. 270 degrees) and leaving a thinly distinguishable trail, the color of which resembled the original object and the one that left it. The object that left the original object was about one quarter the size of the original. The colors of these objects, in the glasses, appeared slightly golden, yet, when seen with the naked eye, appeared to have the color of the first stars to appear in the evening, which, by the way, is what we thought it was until we assured ourselves it was moving.

If there was an aircraft (military) that was flying extremely high and released a rocket powered aircraft, as I have read about in magazines, then that is what I saw, and, because of the extreme height the sun was still shining on it, and explains the color.

If there were no flights of this kind, then I (we) have sighted something for your records. Either way, I would appreciate an answer to this letter, as I am quite a fan of your organization, and this is the first sighting in nearly two years of intermittent observation, that I have seen anything I couldn't explain to myself.

Please be advised that I have been a pilot (civilian) since 1930, put in three years instructing R.A.F. Cadets during the last World War, and haven't flown for over two years, as pilot. I am 40 years of age, and have lived in and around this area for 37 years.

Yours Sincerely,

By Walter Riedel
8-20-52

[redacted]
Downey, California

Phone [redacted]

7-21-10

TENTATIVE
OBSERVERS QUESTIONNAIRE - 4694.00

SECTION A

1. When did you see the object:

1.1 Date: 8th (Day) August (Month) 1952 (Year)

1.2 Time of Day: 7 (Hrs.) 55 (Min.) A.M. or (P.M.) (Circle One)

1.3 Time Zone: (Circle One):

a. Eastern
b. Central
c. Mountain
d. (Pacific)
e. Other _____

(Circle One): a. (Daylight Saving)
b. Standard

1.4 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to the above question 1.2:

a. (Certain)
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

2. Where were you when you saw the object:

[redacted] (Postal Address) Downey (City or Town) Calif. (State) U.S.A. (Country)

Additional Remarks: _____

3. Where were you located when you saw the object:

(Circle One):
a. Inside a building
b. In a car
c. (Outdoors)
d. In an airplane
e. At sea
f. Other _____

3.1 Were you:

(Circle One):
a. In the business section of a city?
b. (In the residential section of a city?)
c. In open countryside?
d. Flying near an airfield?
e. Flying over a city?
f. Flying over open country?
g. Other _____

4. How did you happen to notice the object? It was observed, by my friend and myself, while watching an airplane crossing overhead.

5. When did you report to some official that you had seen the object? Several days after observing same, as I had to obtain the address.
Day Month Year

SECTION B

6. What were you doing at the time you saw the object? Standing in the front yard, preparing to leave for home.

6.1 What had you been doing for the 30 minutes before you saw the object? Try to list the activity or activities and the approximate amount of time spent on each.

Merely visiting and discussing business.

7. Were you moving at any time while you saw the object? (Circle One):

Yes or (No)

IF you answered YES, then complete the following questions:

7.1 What direction were you moving?
(Circle One):
a. North
b. Northeast
c. East
d. Southeast
e. South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest

7.2 How fast were you moving? _____ miles per hour.

7.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One): Yes or No

8. What direction were you looking when you first saw the object?

(Circle One):
a. North
b. Northeast
c. East
(d. Southeast)
e. South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest

8.1 What direction were you looking when the object disappeared?

(Circle One):
a. North
b. Northeast
c. East
d. Southeast
e. South
f. Southwest
g. West
h. Northwest

Directly Overhead

8.2 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to the above question and preceding question (8 and 8.1).

a. Certain
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

9. Were you wearing eye glasses when you saw the object? (Circle One):

Yes or No

10. How was the object seen?

(Circle One):
a. Through window glass
b. Through windshield
c. Through binoculars
d. Through telescope
e. Through theodolite
f. Through sunglasses
g. Through open space
h. Other _____

11. What do you remember about the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

11.1 CLOUDS (Circle One)

a. Clear sky
b. Hazy
c. Scattered clouds
d. Thick or heavy clouds
e. Don't remember

11.2 WIND (Circle One)

a. No wind
b. Slight breeze
c. Strong wind
d. Don't remember

11.3 WEATHER (Circle One)

a. Dry
b. Fog, Mist, or light rain
c. Moderate or heavy rain
d. Snow
e. Don't remember

11.4 TEMPERATURE (Circle One)

a. Cold
b. Cool
c. Warm
d. Hot
e. Don't remember

SECTION C

12. Estimate how long you saw the object? _____ Hours 8 Minutes _____ Seconds

12.1 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 12:

a. Certain
(b. Fairly sure)
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

13. Did the object look: (Circle One) (Solid) or Transparent

14. Did the object at any time:

(Circle One for each question)

14.1	Change direction?	(Yes)	No	Don't know	With reservation in answer to 14.5 & 14.6. See original letter. W.I.K.
14.2	Change speed?	Yes	No	(Don't know)	
14.3	Change size?	Yes	(No)	Don't know	
14.4	Change color?	Yes	(No)	Don't know	
14.5	Break up into parts or explode?	Yes	(No)	Don't know	
14.6	Give off smoke?	Yes	(No)	Don't know	
14.7	Change brightness?	Yes	(No)	Don't know	
14.8	Flicker, throb, or pulsate?	Yes	(No)	Don't know	
14.9	Remain motionless?	Yes	(No)	Don't know	

15. Did the object give off a light? (Circle One): Yes (No) Don't know

15.1 IF you answered YES, what was the color of the light? _____

16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object?

16.1 Sound None

16.2 Color Bright salmon or gold

17. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? _____
Draw a picture of how they were arranged and put an arrow to show the direction they were traveling.

Refer to original letter.

18. Did the object at any time:

18.1 Move behind something? (Circle One) Yes (No) Don't know

IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind.

_____

18.2 Move in front of something? (Circle One) Yes (No) Don't know

IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved in front of.

18.3 Blend with the background? (Circle One) Yes (No) Don't know

19. Which of the following objects is about the same actual size as the object you saw? (Circle One):

(a. Pea) note:- smaller
b. Baseball
c. Basketball
d. Bicycle wheel
e. Office desk
f. Automobile
g. Small airplane
h. Large airplane
i. Dirigible
j. Other _____

19.1 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 19.

(a. Certain)
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Uncertain

20. Try to tell the following things about the object:

20.1 How high above the earth was it? No guess feet.
20.2 How far was it from you? No guess feet or _____ miles.
20.3 How fast was it going? No guess miles per hour.
20.4 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to the above questions:

Even by use of binoculars, the size didnt appear to enlarge appreciably. W.F.K.

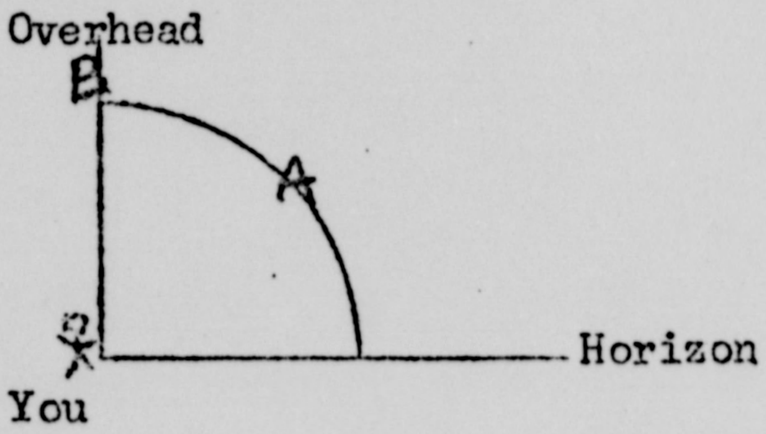
a. Certain
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

21. How did the object disappear from view?

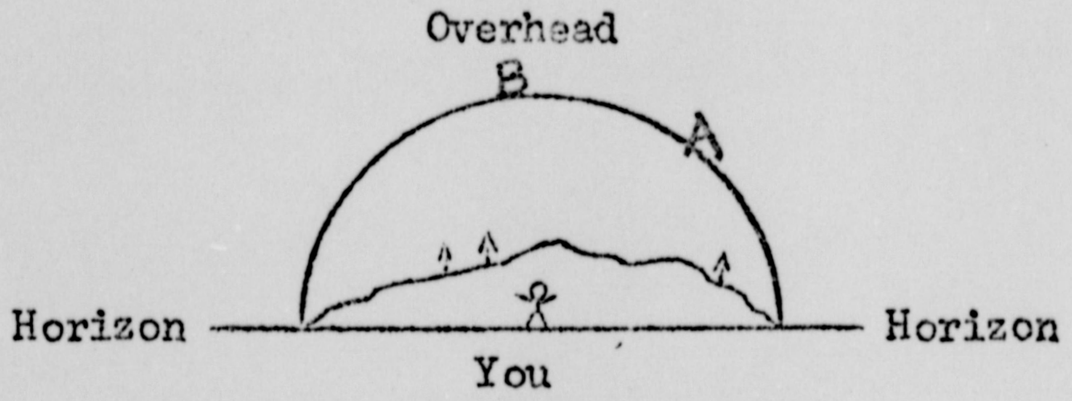
(Circle One): a. Suddenly
(b. Gradually)
c. Other _____
d. Don't remember

SECTION D

22. In the following sketch, imagine your eye at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you first saw it. Place a "B" to show where it was when you last saw it.



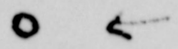
23. In the following sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you first saw it, and a "B" at its position when you last saw it.



24. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object made. Place an "A" at the beginning of its path and a "B" at the end of its path.

Motion not discernible. Too high.

25. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw and place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.



SECTION E

26. Was this the first time that you have seen an object like this?

(Circle One): (Yes) or No

26.1 IF you answered NO, then when, where, and under what conditions did you see other ones?_____

27. In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it? Since seeing this one, I have seen another, the same size, shape, color and altitude and approximately the same time of day. Direction of flight practically identical. This sighting approximately two weeks after first sighting. W.E.K.

28. Give the following information about yourself:

NAME [redacted] (Last Name) [redacted] (First Name) [redacted] (Middle Name)

ADDRESS [redacted] (Street) Downey (City) ____ (Zone) Calif. (State)

TELEPHONE NUMBER [redacted]

What is your present job? Head Cattle Buyer

Age 40

Sex Male

29. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object?

(Circle One): (Yes) or No

29.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too?

(Circle One): (Yes) or No

29.2 Please list their names and addresses:

Mr. & Mrs. [redacted]

[redacted]

Downey, Calif.

30. Please add here any further comments which you believe are important. Use additional sheets of the same size paper, if necessary.

So that this can be properly considered, I held a Commercial Pilot's license number [redacted] during the second World War, and have held, up to 5 years ago (since 1932) a pilot's license. This is my first sighting and is a subject I am deeply interested in. I will not attempt to judge the altitude, except to say it was extremely high. The sighting took place at an hour of that day in which the sun had dipped below the horizon, and only the extreme height of the object allowed it to be seen as it was high enough to still be in the light of the sun. I lost sight of the object as it came directly overhead. I lost it in the glasses, due I think, to its being farther west and I could no longer observe the reflection of the sun. As my letter stated, another object appeared to leave it, at a 90 degree angle, leaving a faint smoke and gaining speed very slowly. The original object left no trace of exhaust at any time. The fact that, even with the aid of binoculars, the size of the object wasn't appreciably large, leads me to believe it was extremely high. However, the binoculars used were not a too powerful set.

The second sighting of this object was practically identical with the first, and the course practically the same. However, no binoculars were used and no object was seen to leave it. This second sighting about 2½ weeks later, and somewhat shakes my belief that it can't be explained as identifiable object.

More information I cannot give you. Hoping this will be of some use to you in your files, I remain

Respectfully

[redacted]