

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 24 Aug 52	2. LOCATION Hermanas, New Mexico	1
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION UNKNOWN	
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 2		
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS SEE CASE FILE	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air Visual		
7. COURSE Not stated		
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No		

(CLASSIFICATION)

UNCLASSIFIED

HERMANAS

MEXICO

24 Aug 52

COUNTRY United States of America	REPORT NO. IR-129-52	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT FLY03RPT		
AREA REPORTED ON South West United States	FROM (Agency) CD 40th Air Division, Turner AFB, Ga.	
DATE OF REPORT 29 August 1952	DATE OF INFORMATION 24 August 1952	EVALUATION A-2
PREPARED BY (Officer) Major John E. Albert, Intelligence Officer	SOURCE Colonel Gerald W. Johnson	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

On 24 August 1952 while enroute from Travis AFB, California to Turner AFB, Georgia Colonel Gerald W. Johnson, flying an F-34G aircraft, observed two (2) objects in the vicinity of Hermanas, New Mexico (3150N 10602W). The objects appeared to be round in shape, silver in color and approximately six (6) feet in diameter. He observed them to be approximately two (2) miles from him between 10 and 11 o'clock. There was no visible means of propulsion and the objects left no trail or exhaust. One object seemed to change its shape to a long grey object while in a right turn. The other object also seemed to change shape when it accelerated very rapidly. This object also seem to take the shape of a long grey object twice as long as when it appeared as a ball. The objects disappeared three (3) minutes from when first observed. After approximately seven (7) minutes the objects reappeared at which time the observer was over El Paso, Texas (3147N 10625W). One object seemed to climb straight up two or three thousand feet and was joined shortly thereafter by the other one in close formation.

The observed characteristics of these unidentified objects were such that would lead to no conclusion, however, their speed was so much greater than the 290 MPH Indicated Air Speed of the observer and the fact that they could so quickly disappear on two occasions led me to believe that their flight capabilities were greater than that of any aircraft known to be flying today.

APPROVED:

John E. Albert
JOHN E. ALBERT
Major, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

7-3719-15

1 INCL.
Map (6 copies)

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NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM: 48th Air Division, Turner AFB, Ga.	REPORT NO. IR-129-52	PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES
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1. Two (2) silver objects appearing as balls six (6) feet in diameter were flying line abreast approximately four to five hundred yards apart. Change in shape came when one object turned right in front of observer, it then appeared to be a long gray object twice as long as when it was a ball. The other object continued on its course and gradually turned gray in color. There was no trail or exhaust observed. Propulsion system unknown. Speed unknown, observer was traveling at 290 MPH Indicated Air Speed at 35,000 feet altitude. The objects appeared, flew a course parallel with observers and disappeared in three minutes. Maneuver: One object made a right turn and disappeared later. The other object which appeared to be silver in color and to have a ball shape six (6) feet in diameter accelerated rapidly and appeared to be a long gray object. In the second sighting the objects resembled a basketball, one object seemed to go straight up two or three thousand feet and five minutes later the second object came across the observer's nose and joined the other object in close formation.

2. The first sighting was 1015 to 1013 MST and the second was 1025 to 1035 MST 24 August 1952.

3. The visual observation was made from an F-34G aircraft at 35,000 feet traveling at 290 MPH Indicated Air Speed.

4. First sighted over Hermanas, New Mexico (3150N 10802W). Location of object in reference to observer approximately two miles away appearing between ten and eleven o'clock at approximately 37,000 feet flying east. When pilot was over El Paso one of the objects reappeared from the direction from which they had disappeared, the other object came across the observer's nose and joined in close formation with the other object.

5. Colonel Gerald W. Johnson.

6. Weather VFR Clear, few low scattered clouds, winds forecasted SW 30 knots at 35,000 feet.

7. None.

8. Not applicable.

9. Interception not attempted due to difference of speed.

10. Location of any air traffic in the general area at the time of the sighting none known. An attempt was made to contact El Paso radio concerning any other aircraft in the area which was unsuccessful.

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

1. The last paragraph in Part I of this report is a comment by Colonel Gerald W. Johnson.

2. After questioning the observer the following information affects the significance of the report.

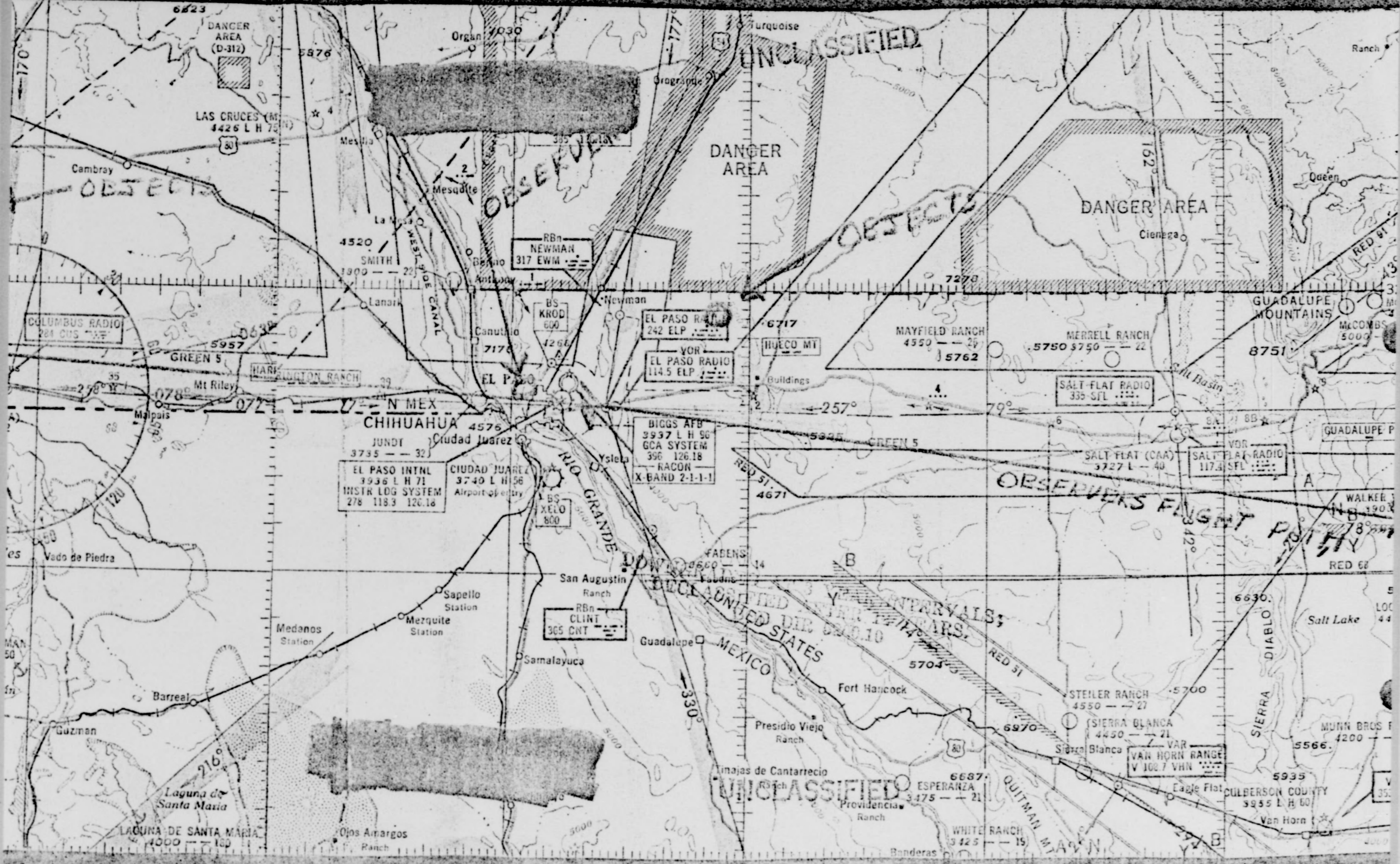
a. The observer checked his air speed against known air speeds of all present day high speed aircraft.

b. Check was made of the possibility of being in the vicinity of White Sands Proving Grounds. If the objects had been from the White Sands Proving Ground, they would have been outside the danger area. In addition, according to information available, missiles at White Sands are fired north out of the danger area. This would indicate the objects were not from White Sands.

JOHN E. ALBERT
Major, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

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UNCLASSIFIED



DANGER AREA (D-312)

LAS CRUCES (M) 4426 L H 75

Organ 7030

UNCLASSIFIED

DANGER AREA

DANGER AREA

OBSERVE

OBSERVE

COLUMBUS RADIO 284 CUS 117

GREEN 5

HARK HARK RANCH

SMITH 4520 1800 - 22

RBn NEWMAN 317 EWM

EL PASO R 242 ELP

EL PASO RADIO 114.5 ELP

HUECO MT

MAYFIELD RANCH 4550 - 25

MERRELL RANCH 5750 3750 - 22

SALT FLAT RADIO 335 SFL

EL PASO INTNL 3936 L H 71 INSTR LOG SYSTEM 278 118.3 126.18

CIUDAD JUAREZ 3740 L H 56 Airport of entry

BIGGS AFB 3937 L H 90 GCA SYSTEM 396 126.18 RACON X-BAND 2-1-1-1

SALT FLAT (CAA) 3727 L - 40

SALT FLAT RADIO 117.3 SFL

RBn CLINT 365 CNT

DECLASSIFIED BY 10410

OBSERVERS FLIGHT PATH

STEILER RANCH 4550 - 27

SIERRA BLANCA 4450 - 21

VAN HORN RANGE 102.7 VHN

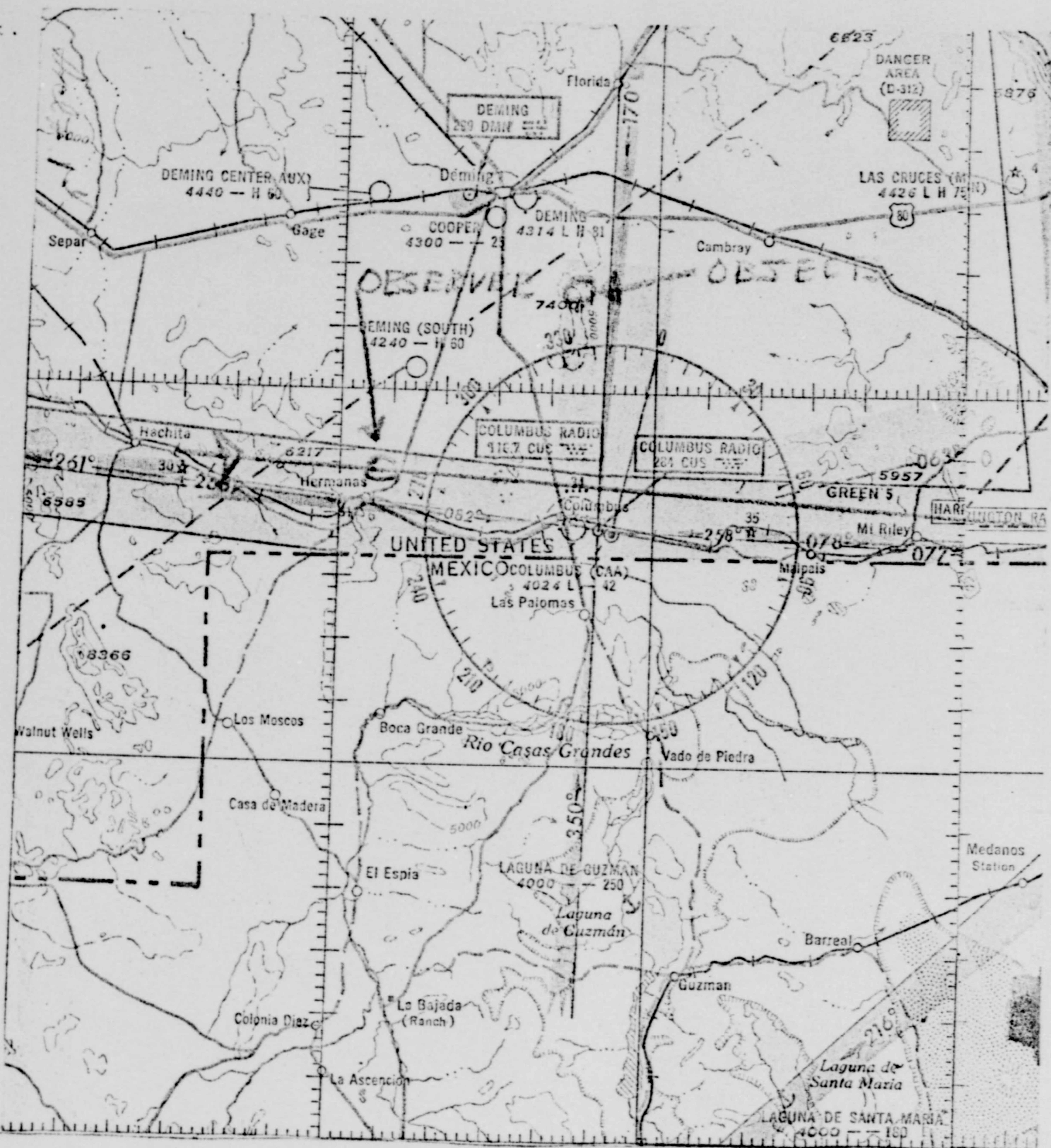
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ESPERANZA 3475 - 21

WHITE RANCH 3425 - 15

CULBERSON COUNTY 3955 L H 60

Van Horn



CASE 100

24 August 1952

Hermanas, New Mexico

An AF colonel, flying a jet a/c, observed 2 objects in the vicinity of Hermanas, New Mexico (31 deg 50 min N/103 deg 2 min W). The objects appeared to be round in shape, silver in color and approximately 6" in diameter. He observed them to be approximately 2 miles from him between the hours 1000-1100MST on 24 Aug 52. The first sighting was 1015-1018 MST and the second sighting 1025-1035 MST. There was no visible means of propulsion. One object seemed to change its shape to a long grey object while in a right turn. 1 The object (second object) also seemed to change shape when it accelerated very rapidly. This object also seemed to take the shape of a long grey object twice as long as when it appeared as a ball. The objects disappeared 3 minutes from when first observed. After approximately 7 minutes the objects reappeared at which time the observer was over El Paso, Texas. One object seemed to climb straight up 2 or 3 thousand feet and was joined shortly thereafter by the other one in close formation.

The observed characteristics of these unidentified objects were such that would lead to no conclusion, however, their speed was so much greater than the 290 MPH indicated air speed of the observer and the fact that they could so quickly disappear on two occasions led the reporting officer to believe that their flight capabilities were greater than that of any aircraft known to be flying today.

The ATIC checked all possibilities of known objects in the air in the vicinities of the two sighting with negative results.

Conclusion:

Unknown

Hamilton AFB

Two unidentified objects were first observed visually and with binoculars at 1615 PDST for a period of 1 hour and 15 minutes. They were described as silver in color, ~~silver~~ circular in shape. They were described as being 60 to 100' in diameter and traveled at an estimated speed of 400 to 450 MPH. No sound was heard. The objects were moving from E to W. One object appeared to be at approximately 12,000' and the other ~~for~~ at about 18,000'. The two objects moved to the W ~~at~~ approximately 15 miles passing over head of the observers. During this time the object at about 18,000' reportedly dove to the approximate ~~same~~ ^{same} altitude as the lower object. When the objects reached a point about 15 miles W of the observers, they began maneuvers similar to an aircraft dogfight. After appearing to disappear into the sun momentarily, the observers then sighted the same 2 objects in the approximate location ~~&~~ at which they were lost from view. During the latter period of observation, 6 additional objects of similar description were observed 15 to 20 miles W of the observers. This made the total rise to 8 similar objects observed in this area. These additional 6 objects came into view in pairs - altitudes not estimated by the observers. These objects appeared to be in a dogfight. The observers stated that the objects took up a diamond formation momentarily covering an estimated 4 mile area. The observers also stated that the objects were definitely not jet a/c and had no vapor trails, exhaust or sound and further stated that it was difficult to follow any one object for any length of time.

The weather officer at Hamilton AFB reported the weather as clear during the time of sighting with approximately 20 miles visibility. The preparing officer stated that this report indicates the possibility that the objects sighting sighted were weather balloons.

HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

UNCLASSIFIED

DINC 350

11 SEP 1952

SUBJECT: (Unclassified) FLYOBRPT

TO: Chief,
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio

The attached AF Forms 112, Air Intelligence Information Reports are forwarded as per instructions AFL 200-5, dated 29 April 1952, subject, FLYOBRPT.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

2 Incls
IR-129-52(1cy)
IR-130-52 (1cy)

Ray P. Stewart
RAY P. STEWART
Major, USAF
Asst Adj Gen

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

DATE-TIME GROUP

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

INFORMATION

CO ATIC

TO:

CO BIGGS AFB EL PASO TEXAS

☐ BOOK MESSAGE☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐ YES☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

INFO:

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-2-7-E

FOR INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

In connection with sighting of an unidentified aerial object on 24 August 1952, over Hermanes, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas, request immediate information on weather balloon releases from El Paso, Texas, and White Sands, New Mexico, area between 0900 and 1100 MST this date and include: a) release time, b) track, c) time of burst.

Were clusters of balloons released and were there any irregular launches on this date?

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

COORDINATION:

ATIAA _____

ATIA _____

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PAGE OF PAGES

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DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

LT OLSSON/ios

SYMBOL

TELEPHONE

OFFICIAL TITLE

ROBERT E. KENNEDY, MAJOR, USAF

DD FORM 173

1 OCT 49

REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

10-28923-3 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

22 SEP 52 08 59

SEP 20 22 1952

1. ATIAA
2. ATIA
3. C. Files

ACTION

ATIC
7:27

RB088 M

WPD124

WYC153

CBD080

JWFBG 089

PP JEDWP ✓

DE JWFBG 27 ✓

P 201830Z

FM COADIV 810 BIGGS AFB TEX ✓

TO CG ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO ✓

IDA 1951. PROJECT BLUE BOOK: REURMSG AFOIN-ATIAA-9-7-E FOLG INFO IS
SUBM: NEG WX BALLOONS RELEASED AT BIGGS AFB, WHITE SANDS, N.M. OR EL PASO
PASO INTERNATL AIRPORT BETWEEN 0900 AND 1100 MST 24 AUG 52. FOLG INFO ON
RELEASES PRIOR TO SUBJ TIMES IS SUBM: WHITE SANDS RELEASED 1 BALLOON
TYPE ML391 C/AM(730) AT 0800 MST 24 AUG 52. RATE OF ASCENT 4137 FT/MIN;
SLANT RANGE 13,600 YDS; BURST ALT 56,603 FT; TRACK S.E. EL PASO INTERNTL
AIRPORT RELEASED 1 WX BALLOON AT 0802 MST 24 AUG 52. RECORDS NOT AVAIL ON
ON RATE OF ASCENT OR SLANT RANGE; BURST ALT 25,770 FT. NO OTHER RELEASES
IN THIS VICINITY DURING PERIOD 24 AUG 52. NO CLUSTERS OF BALLOONS OR
KNOWN IRREGULAR RELEASES THAT DATE. END.

20/1903Z SEP JWFBG

Ag-1

UNCLASSIFIED

4. Atia
2. Atia
3. C files

ACTION

1E

ATC

0

WPC107

YMA044

VYB096

VDC126

JESTU 33

PP JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN JEDMH 444

DE JESTU 40

P 252225Z ZNJ

FM CO 40TH ADIV TURNER AFB GA

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INT HQ USAF WASH DC

JEDWP/AIR TECH INT CTR WRIGHT PATT AFB ATIAA 2C OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLO

JEDMH/CG SAC OFFUTT AFB NEBR

508 INT 879. FLYOBRT 1. 2 OBJECTS APPEARED TO
BE SILVER BALLS APPROX 6 FT IN DIA IN A FORMATION OF LINE ABREAST 4
TO 500 YARDS APART. ONLY CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL SHAPE WAS WHEN ONE TURNED
TO RIGHT IN FRONT OF OBSERVER, COL GERALD W JOHNSON, IT THEN BECAME
A LONG GRAY OBJECT TWICE AS LONG AS WHEN IT WAS A BALL. THE OTHER
OBJECT CONTINUED ON ITS ORIGINAL COURSE AND GRADUALLY CHANGED INTO A
GRAY SHAPE, THERE WAS NO TRAIL OR EXHAUST OBSERVED. PROPULSION SYSTEM
UNKNOWN. SPEED OBSERVED BY OBSR TRAVELING AT 290 MPH INDICATED, IT
DISAPPEARED FROM HIS SIGHT 3 MINS FROM WHEN FIRST OBSERVED. SOUND
NOT APPLICABLE. MANEUVERS: ONE MADE A RIGHT TURN AND DISAPPEARED
LATER. THE OTHER ACCELERATED VERY RAPIDLY FROM WHEN FIRST OBSERVED

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

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE TWO JESTU 40

AS A SILVER BALL 6 FT IN DIA TO A LONG GRAY OBJ DISAPPEARING IN 3 MINS. AFTER 10 MINS THEY WERE AGAIN SIGHTED UNUSUAL MANEUVER, ONE CLIMBED RAPIDLY, APPEARED TO CLIMB STRAIGHT UP TWO OR THREE THOUSAND FT, SECOND JOINED LATER IN CLOSE FORMATION. 2. 1015 MOUNTAIN STD TIME 24 AUG 52. THREE MINS FIRST SIGHTING, SECOND SIGHTING TEN MINS LATER 1025 TO 1035 MOUNTAIN STD TIME. 3. FLYING FROM WEST COAST TO ALBANY GA. VISUAL OBSERVATION FROM AIR 290 MILES PER HOUR INDICATED 35,000 FEET F-84G NONE. 4. 31 DEGREES 50 MINS NORTH LATITUDE, 108 DEGRS 02 MINS WEST LONGITUDE. REF LAND MARK OVER CITY OF HERMANAS, NEW MEXICO. LOCATION OF OBJ IN RESPECT TO OBSR APPROX TWO MILES AWAY APPEARED BETWEEN TEN AND ELEVEN O'CLOCK AT APPROX 37,000 FEET FLYING EAST. 5. COL GERALD W JOHNSON. 6. WEATHER VFR CLEAR FEW LOW SCATTERED CLOUDS WINDS FORECASTS SW THIRTY KNOTS AT 35,000 FT. 7. NONE 8. NOT APPLICABLE. 9. INTERCEPTION NOT ATTEMPTED DUE TO DIFFERENCE OF SPEED. 10. LOCATION OF ANY AIR TRAFFIC IN THE GENERAL AREA AT THE TIME OF THE SIGHTING NONE KNOWN. AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO CONTACT EL PASO RADIO CONCERNING ANY OTHER ACFT IN THE AREA WHICH WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. AT 1025 MOUNTAIN STD TIME OVER CITY OF EL PASO

PAGE THREE JESTU 40

OBJECTS REAPPEARED. WHEN, I FIRST OBSERVED THEM THEY APPEARED IN THE GENERAL VICINITY OF THE POSITION OF WHICH THEY HAD DISAPPEARED. I FIRST OBSERVED A SHINY OBJ APPROX THE SIZE OF A BASKETBALL. I OBSERVED THIS ONE FOR APPROX 5 MINS WITHOUT ANY APPARENT CHANGE IN ITS SIZE WHICH INDICATED TO ME THAT IT WAS TRAVELING APPROX THE SAME SPEED THAT I WAS. I THEN SAW THE SECOND ONE COME FROM IN FRONT OF MY NOSE MOVING TOWARDS THE FIRST ONE. IT CONTINUED TO CLOSE UNTIL THE TWO WERE IN CLOSE FORMATION. THEY STAYED IN CLOSE FORMATION FOR TWO OR THREE MINS THEN ONE CLIMBED RAPIDLY WHICH APPEARED TO BE STRAIGHT UP, THEN AFTER A MOMENTS DELAY SECOND ONE RAPIDLY CLIMBED TO JOIN THE FIRST ONE. THEIR CHANGE IN ALT WAS APPROX TWO OR THREE THOUSAND FEET TO APPROX 40,000 FT. BOTH THEN APPEARED IN CLOSE FORMATION AND THEY GRADUALLY BECAME SMALLER AND SMALLER AND DISAPPEARING AT 1035. LAST SIGHTING THEM OBSERVER WAS AT 31 DEGREES 40 MINS NORTH 105 DEGREES 10 MINS WEST.

25/2229Z AUG JESTU

In sight a long time in balloons

Balloons would not make such maneuvers.

Cy.

PROJECT 10073 WORKSHEET

I. GENERAL

1. DATE <i>24 Aug 52</i>	2. LOCATION <i>Hermanas, N.M.</i>	3. TIME Local: <i>1015MST</i> Zebra: <i>1715</i>
4. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED FROM THE GROUND? ☐ Yes ☒ No		
☐ Naked Eye ☐ Binoculars ☐ Telescope ☐ Theodolite		
5. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED BY GROUND RADAR? ☐ Yes ☒ No		
☐ By One Set ☐ By Two Sets ☐ By Three Sets		
6. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED FROM THE AIR? ☒ Yes ☐ No		
☐ A/C Observed Object ☐ Interception Attempted ☒ No Intercept Attempted		
7. WERE AIRCRAFT SCRAMBLED TO INTERCEPT? ☐ Yes ☒ No		
☐ A/C Scrambled ☐ Visual Contact Made ☐ A/I Contact Made ☒ No Contact Made		
8. DID OBJECT CHANGE DIRECTION AT ANY TIME? ☒ Yes ☐ No		
☒ Normal ☐ Violent		
9. IF OBJECT WAS A "LIGHT", WAS IT: ☐ Blinking ☐ Steady		
10. LENGTH OF TIME IN SIGHT: ☐ 1-15 Seconds ☒ 1-5 Minutes ☒ Over 10 Minutes		
11. REPORTING AGENCY (Unit Number and Mailing Address) <i>40th A Div. Turner AFB, Ga.</i>		

II. ASTRONOMICAL DATA

12. WHAT ASTRONOMICAL ACTIVITY WAS NOTED? <i>None</i>		
13. DID OBJECT APPEAR TO ARCH DOWNWARD?	☐ Yes	☐ No
14. DID OBJECT HAVE A TAIL?	☐ Yes	☐ No
15. DID OBJECT APPEAR TO DISINTEGRATE?	☐ Yes	☐ No
16. TIME OF SIGHTING RELATIVE TO SUNRISE OR SUNSET (Data from Air Almanac)		
☒ Night		
☒ Day		
☐ Sunrise		
☐ Sunset		

III. AIRCRAFT DATA

17. WERE AIRCRAFT NOTED IN AREA?	☐ Yes	☒ No
☐ One Aircraft ☐ More Than One Aircraft		
18. WAS ANY SOUND HEARD?	☐ Yes	☒ No
19. WERE THERE INDICATIONS OF HIGH BACKGROUND NOISE?	☐ Yes	☒ No
20. WAS THE OBJECT VIEWED ABOVE 45° ELEVATION?	☐ Yes	☒ No

24-107

OFFICIAL ATIC REPORT—EL PASO, TEXAS

An Air Force colonel flying a jet observed 2 objects in the vicinity of Hermanas, N. M. (31 deg 50 min N / 108 deg 2 min W), Aug. 24, 1952. The objects appeared to be round in shape, silver in color and approximately 6' in diameter. He observed them to be approximately 2 miles from him between the hours 1000-1100 MST. There was no visible means of propulsion. One object seemed to change its shape to a long gray object while in a right turn. The second object also seemed to change shape when it accelerated very rapidly. The objects disappeared 3 minutes from when first observed. After approximately 7 minutes, the objects reappeared, at which time observer was over El Paso, Texas. One object seemed to climb straight up 2,000-3,000 feet and was joined by the other in close formation.

The ATIC checked all possibilities of known objects in air in the vicinities of the two sightings with negative results.

Conclusion: Unknown.

(PROJECT 10073 WEATHER DATA SH)

1. DATE OF OBSERVATION		2. TIME OF OBSERVATION		3. STATION OBSERVING	
4. WINDS ALOFT:					
ALTITUDE (feet)	VELOCITY (knots)	DIRECTION (degrees)	ALTITUDE (feet)	VELOCITY (knots)	DIRECTION (degrees)
0			25,000		
1,000			30,000		
2,000			35,000	30	225
3,000			40,000		
4,000			45,000		
5,000			50,000		
6,000			55,000		
7,000			60,000		
8,000			65,000		
9,000			70,000		
10,000			75,000		
12,000			80,000		
14,000			85,000		
16,000			90,000		
18,000			95,000		
20,000			100,000		
5. WAS AN INVERSION LAYER NOTED? (If yes, at what altitude? _____)			☐ Yes ☐ No		
6. WERE ANY THUNDERSTORMS NOTED IN AREA? (If yes, at what quadrant? _____)			☐ Yes ☐ No		
7. CLOUD COVER:				8. VISIBILITY WAS	
_____ tenths at _____ feet.		_____ tenths at <u>VFR</u> feet.		CAVV MILES.	
_____ tenths at _____ feet.		_____ tenths at _____ feet.			
9. COMMENTS:					

IV. BALLOON DATA

21. WERE BALLOONS RELEASED IN AREA?					☐ Yes		☒ No	
22. TIME SINCE SCHEDULED BALLOON RELEASE:					_____ Minutes			
23. POSSIBLE BALLOON LAUNCH SITES DOWNWIND OF SIGHTING:								
	Location	Type	Launching Agency	Lighted?		Describe Lighting		
				Yes	No			
a.								
b.								
c.								
d.								
(attach overlay)								

V. EVALUATION

21. EVALUATION OF SOURCE: ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Unreliable ☐ Extremely Doubtful ☐ Hoax	22. DETAILS OF REPORT: ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Insufficient to Evaluate
23. FINAL EVALUATION: ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other: _____ ☐ Insufficient Data For Evaluation ☒ Unknown	
24. COMMENTS:	

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE <u>24 Aug 52</u>		2. LOCATION <u>Washington, D.C.</u>		3. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☒ Possibly Balloon	
4. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>1556 EDT</u> GMT		5. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		6. Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft	
7. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		8. SOURCE <u>civilian</u>		9. Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
10. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION		11. NUMBER OF OBJECTS <u>1</u>		12. COURSE ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
13. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING <u>White. Round. Changed directions.</u>				14. COMMENTS <u>Source an inexperienced aerial observer. Possible noise of object drowned out by another plane.</u>	

A number of other publicized cases listed as "Unknown" were in all probability balloons. Since a probability, however good, is not the same as an established fact, these sightings remain in the Unknown category even though their actual explanation is reasonably certain. Such a case was that near Hermanas, New Mexico, which, like that a few weeks earlier at Hamilton Air Force Base, may have been stimulated by the 1952 saucer panic in Washington (Chapter VII). 2 of 1009

On August 24, 1952, an Air Force colonel was flying from California to Georgia in an F-84-G plane at an air speed of about 290 miles an hour. At 10:15 (A.M. M.S.T., when near Hermanas, New Mexico, he observed two round, silvery objects about six feet in diameter some two miles north of him and traveling east at high speed; they showed no trail or exhaust. During the three minutes they were in view, one object suddenly began a right turn while the second accelerated rapidly; they changed in shape and in color, became elongated and gray, and then disappeared. A few minutes later over El Paso, Texas, he saw two similar silvery objects, also traveling east. During the ten minutes they were in view, one object seemed to climb straight up for 2000 or 3000 feet, followed immediately by the second one. Assuming that the same pair of objects was involved in both sightings, the observer concluded that they were going much faster than any plane, and reported the incident to ATIC.

The behavior described is typical of that of balloons. Rising into a new wind stream, they may move rapidly and change their orientation so that they look sausage-shaped instead of round; reflecting the sun at a different angle, they look gray rather than silver. Investigators checked with Biggs Air Force Base, White Sands, and El Paso International Airport; both White Sands and El Paso had released weather balloons at 8:00 that morning which had traveled southeast and burst some time before the sighting at Hermanas. Since no single recorded balloon could account for the sighting, it was listed as Unknown [2].

This inquiry can scarcely be called thorough. Apparently no check was made at Holloman Air Force Base or at more distant bases whose weather balloons might well have traveled into the area. The investigators apparently accepted the pilot's assumption that the objects in the two sightings were identical and were therefore traveling at incredible speeds; yet there was no evidence to support the assumption. It is far more probable that he was observing two sets of objects, not one. The estimates of size, distance, and speed are all uncertain because no fixed reference point existed. The report does not state whether the objects seemed to be above or below the plane, and does not give the exact heading of the objects.

The objects looked and behaved like balloons. Another possibility is that they were fragments from the balloons that had burst earlier: the observer was looking into the sun and could have misinterpreted them. But the explanation of this incident remains unknown because too few facts were determined.

8

AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

24 A U A

AUG 28 1952

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

Your recent report of unidentified aerial phenomena has been received by the Air Technical Intelligence Center. Inclosed is a questionnaire, which, when completed by you and returned in the inclosed, self-addressed envelope, will aid in standardizing the data and will provide a complete record of the occurrence.

Your interest in reporting the matter and your public spirited desire to be of service are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Kennedy
ROBERT E. KENNEDY
Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

2 Incls
a/s

7-3719-15

TENTATIVE
OBSERVERS QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION A

1. When did you see the object:

1.1 Date: 24 August 1952
Day Month Year

1.2 Time of Day: 3 56 A.M. or P.M. (Circle One)
Hrs. Min.

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] Washington 20 DC
Postal Address City or Town State Country

Additional Remarks: _____

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

(Circle One): a. Inside a building d. In an airplane
b. In a car e. At sea
c. Outdoors 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? Noise of airplane in same
part of sky

5. When did you report to some official that you had seen the object?

24 August 1954
 Day Month Year

SECTION B

6. What were you doing at the time you saw the object? Standing up to stretch
after sitting in shade

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.

Sitting in shade, resting

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

e. South

b. Northeast

f. Southwest

c. East

g. West

d. Southeast

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

e. South

b. Northeast

f. Southwest

c. East

g. West

d. Southeast

h. Northwest

8.1 What direction were you looking when the object disappeared?

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

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 | c. Not very sure |
| b. Fairly certain | 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 | e. Through theodolite |
| b. Through windshield | f. Through sunglasses |
| c. Through binoculars | g. Through open space |
| d. Through telescope | 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

11.3 WEATHER (Circle One)

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

11.2 WIND (Circle One)

- a. No wind
b. Slight breeze
c. Strong wind
d. 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?

<u>0</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>4</u>
Hours	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?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
14.2	Change speed?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
14.3	Change size?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
14.4	Change color?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
14.5	Break up into parts or explode?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
14.6	Give off smoke?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
14.7	Change brightness?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
14.8	Flicker, throb, or pulsate?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
14.9	Remain motionless?	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't know</u>

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 white, like absorbent cotton or white cloud on sunny day

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.

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
- b. Baseball
- c. Basketball
- d. Bicycle wheel
- e. Office desk

- f. Automobile
- g. Small airplane
- h. Large airplane
- i. Dirigible
- j. Other 1/8" diameter at a distance of 30 inches

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? _____ feet.

20.2 How far was it from you? _____ feet or _____ miles.

20.3 How fast was it going? _____ miles per hour.

20.4 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to the above questions:

- a. Certain
- b. Fairly certain

- c. Not very sure
- d. Just a guess

Cannot tell, see question 24 for speed.

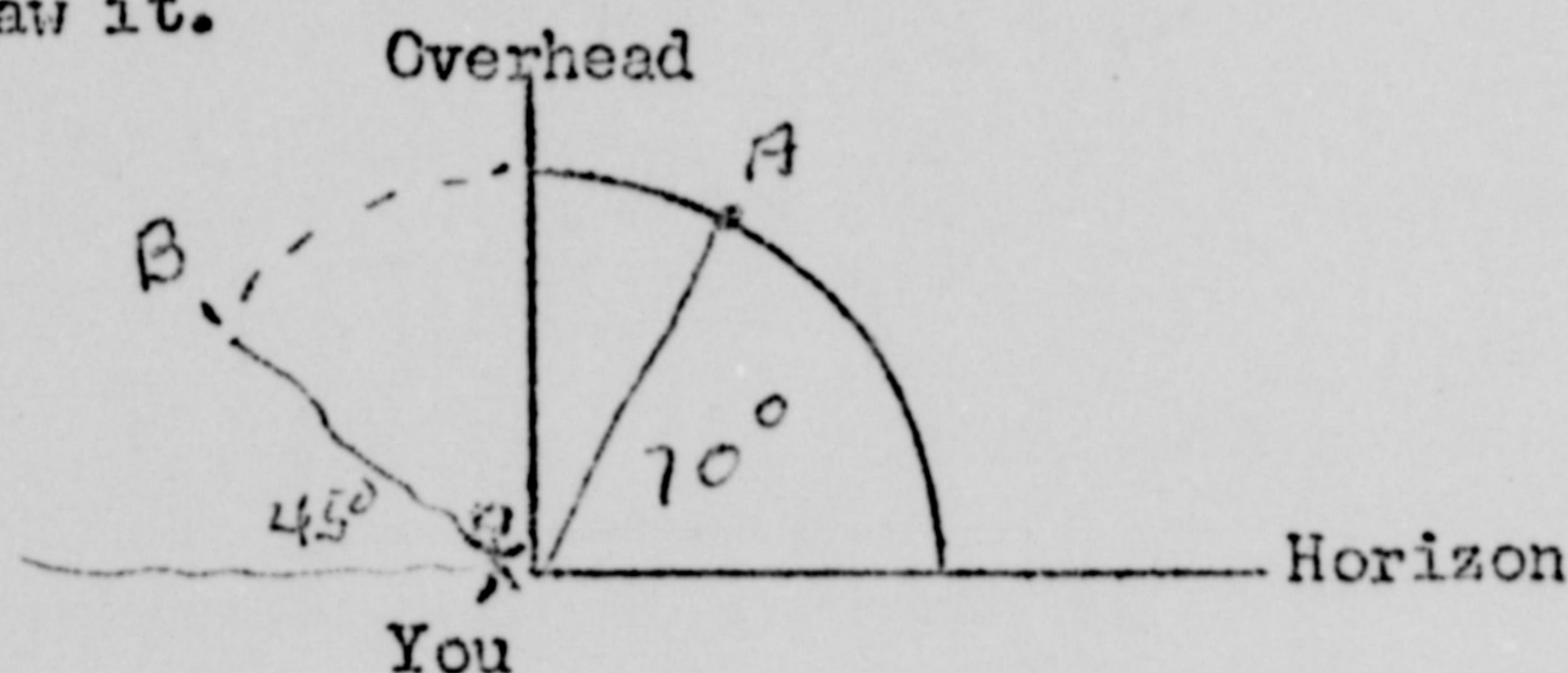
21. How did the object disappear from view?

- (Circle One):
- a. Suddenly
 - b. Gradually

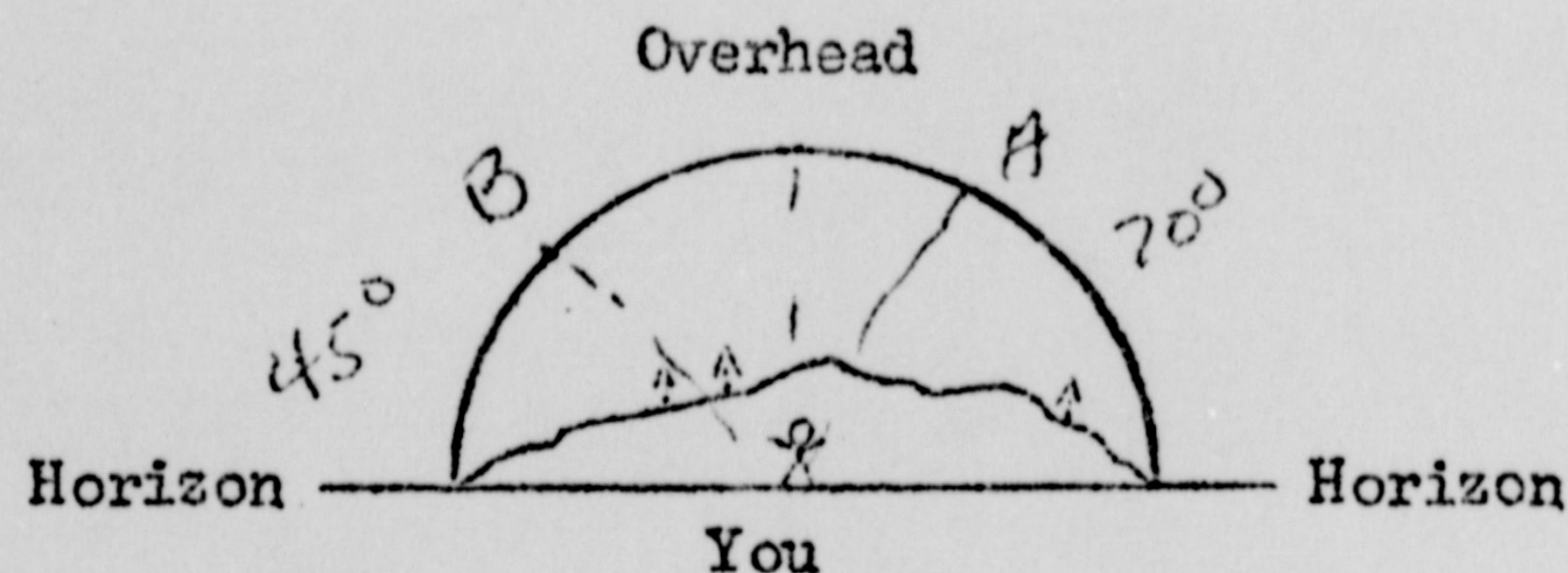
- c. Other _____
- d. Don't remember

SECTION D

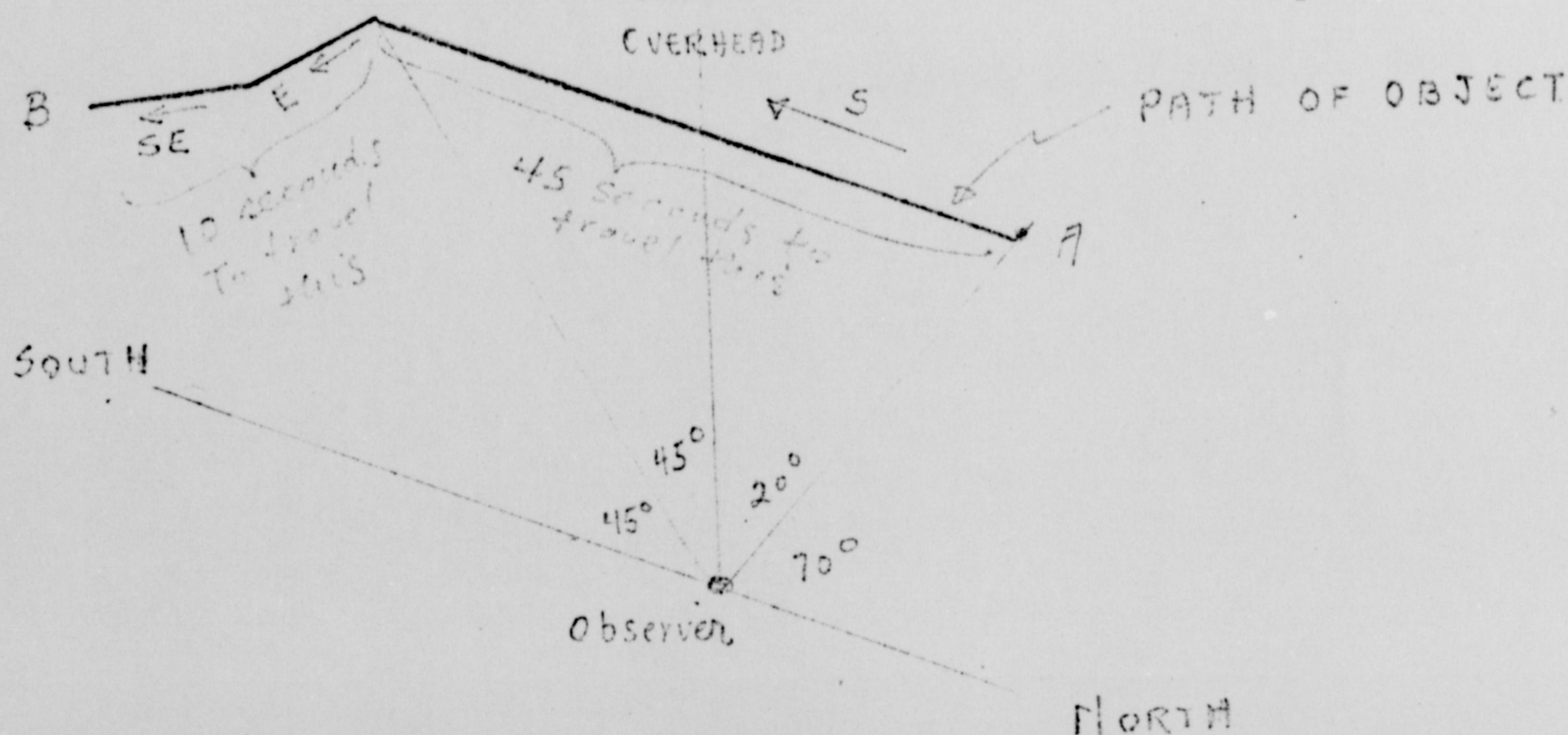
22. In the following sketch, imagine your eye at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you first saw it. Place a "B" to show where it was when you last saw it.



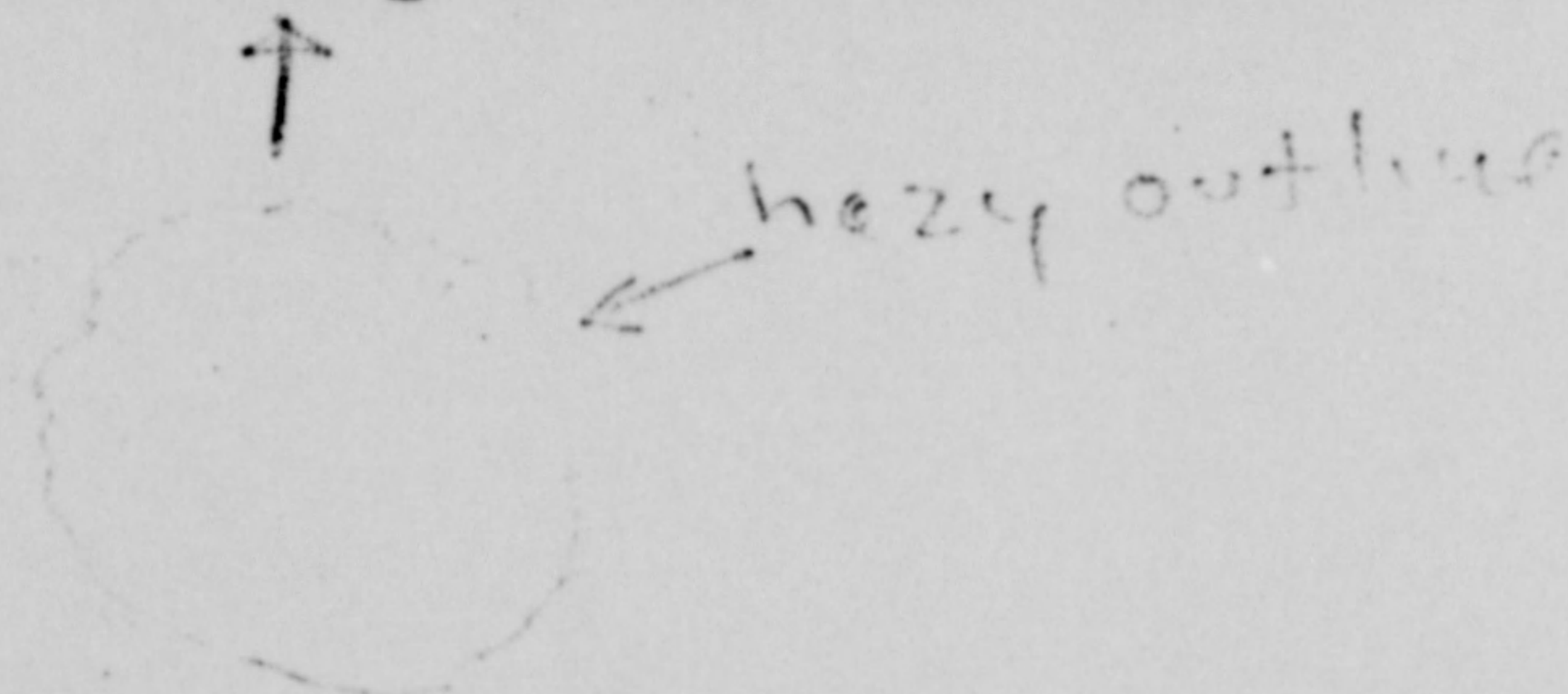
23. In the following sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you first saw it, and a "B" at its position when you last saw it.



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.



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

26.1 IF you answered NO, then when, where, and under what conditions did you see other ones? *1*

27. In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it? I do not know. If it travelled at wind velocity of 10 mph for 45 seconds, it must have been about 510 feet above ground, and I might have recognized it, but it didn't look like any weather balloon or toy balloon.

28. Give the following information about yourself:

NAME			
	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
ADDRESS			
	Street	City	Zone
			State

TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]

What is your present job? Mechanical Engineer

Age 4.9

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:

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

See attached "Report of Fighting".

Wind at ground level was mostly from
West and South West.

REPORT ON SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT
IN SKY OVER WASHINGTON D.C.

Time: 24 August 1957, 3:56 PM, EDT

Place: Southeast section of Washington D.C.

Visibility: Sunny, clear, cloudless. Weather Bureau states wind was blowing from north at that time. *at 10 miles per hour at 1000 feet elevation*

Description of Sighting . Object was first sighted at azimuth 010 degrees (compass), elevation about 70°. Color was white, like absorbent cotton. Size about 1/2 inch diameter at arm's length distance, shape, approximately round. *It travelled southward, passing almost directly overhead, continued in direction 100° until for about 45 seconds, reaching altitude 45°. At this point, it veered sharply east, much more rapidly than any jet or conventional plane could do, then lost more elevation, appearing to travel southeast. Object kept getting smaller, until it disappeared about 10 seconds after veering east.* *outline not sharp*

Remarks. First thought the white color was reflection from the sun on airplane, but it was not glistening the way most planes do in the sunlight. No change in color or shape during entire observation time. No exhaust vapor trail, no sound. Notified Air Force Intelligence at 4:05 P.M.

At no time during observation did the object appear to be attached to anything visible.


Washington 20, D.C.

03519

0351YDC001

0352

TDE001

JEPHQ B001

JEP JEDEN JEDWP JEPLG 333

DE JEPHQ 11A

242322Z ZNJ

NR HQ USAF WASHDC

JEDEN/CGAIRDEFCON ENT AFB COLO

JEDWP/CHIEF ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEPLG/CGTAC LANGLEY AFB VA

RECEIVED/ FROM AFOIN 56434 FLYOBRPT. ATTN CLM ATIAA-2C.

ONE ROUND WHITE CMA UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT CMA ABOUT ONE EIGHT INCH IN

SIZE WHEN VIEWED BETWEEN THUMB & INDEX FINGER AT ARMS LENGTH WAS

SIGHTED OVER SOUTH EAST WASHINGTON D. C. AT 1556 HOURS CMA EASTERN

DAYLIGHT TIME CMA 24 AUG 52. COLOR OF OBJECT DISTINCTLY WHITE DISSIMILAR

TO ALUMINUM COLOR OF AIRCRAFT. NO EXHAUST COULD BE SEEN. NO IDEA OF

DISTANCE OR ALTITUDE CMA VISIBILITY WAS UNLIMITED AT TIME OF SIGHTING

TO NAKED EYE OBSERVER CHECKED POSITIONS BY POCKET COMPASS SECURED

AFTER SIGHTING. OBJECT WAS FIRST SIGHTED AT APPROXIMATELY 010 DEGREES

CMA AT ALTITUDE OF 70 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON. MOVED SOUTH TOWARDS 190

DEGREES CMA PASSED ALMOST DIRECTLY OVERHEAD CMA THEN VEERED EAST. CMA

MUCH MORE ABRUPTLY CMA THAN JET OR UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT COULD.

ACTION

25 AUG 52 13 26

1. Attn
2. Attn
3. C. files

ACTION INFO INFO

ATTC

25 21 7:53



200/45 seconds

You can figure it out
it's a balloon

PAGE TWO JEPHQ 11A

HEADED EAST THEN SOUTH EAST FOR LAST TEN SECONDS CMA DROPPING TOWARDS
HORIZON AND DISAPPEARED. ENTIRE SIGHTING COVERED APPROXIMATELY 45
SECONDS. A CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT WAS IN THE GENERAL AREA THE SAME TIME.
OBSERVER UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN IF OBJECT HAD ACCOMPANYING SOUND SINCE
CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT NOISE PREVENTED THIS. WIND UNKNOWN AT TIME OF
SIGHTING. SIGHTING MADE IN 2900 BLOCK NEAR "C" STREET AND PENN AVE. CMA
SOUTH EAST WASHINGTON CMA D. C. OBSERVER WAS MR. [REDACTED] CMA
[REDACTED] CMA SE CMA WASHINGTON D. C. TELEPHONE [REDACTED]
NO OTHER OBSERVERS OF OBJECT. RELIABILITY OF OBSERVER IS UNKNOWN.

24/2352Z AUG JEPHQ

Balloon

af 1

524035 13 50

PROJECT 10073 WORKSHEET

I. GENERAL

1. DATE <i>24 Aug '52</i>	2. LOCATION <i>Washington, D.C.</i>	3. TIME Local: <i>1556</i> Zebra: <i>1956</i>
4. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED FROM THE GROUND? ☒ Yes ☐ No		
☒ Naked Eye ☐ Binoculars ☐ Telescope ☐ Theodolite		
5. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED BY GROUND RADAR? ☐ Yes ☒ No		
☐ By One Set ☐ By Two Sets ☐ By Three Sets		
6. WAS OBJECT OBSERVED FROM THE AIR? ☐ Yes ☒ No		
☐ A/C Observed Object ☐ Interception Attempted ☐ No Intercept Attempted		
7. WERE AIRCRAFT SCRAMBLED TO INTERCEPT? ☐ Yes ☒ No		
☐ A/C Scrambled ☐ Visual Contact Made ☐ A/I Contact Made ☐ No Contact Made		
8. DID OBJECT CHANGE DIRECTION AT ANY TIME? ☒ Yes ☐ No		
☒ Normal ☐ Violent		
9. IF OBJECT WAS A "LIGHT", WAS IT: ☐ Blinking ☐ Steady		
10. LENGTH OF TIME IN SIGHT: ☐ 1-15 Seconds ☒ 1-5 Minutes ☐ Over 10 Minutes		
11. REPORTING AGENCY (Unit Number and Mailing Address) <i>No USAF, Wash D.C.</i>		

II. ASTRONOMICAL DATA

12. WHAT ASTRONOMICAL ACTIVITY WAS NOTED? <i>No</i>		
13. DID OBJECT APPEAR TO ARCH DOWNWARD?	☐ Yes ☒ No	
14. DID OBJECT HAVE A TAIL?	☐ Yes ☒ No	
15. DID OBJECT APPEAR TO DISINTEGRATE?	☐ Yes ☒ No	
16. TIME OF SIGHTING RELATIVE TO SUNRISE OR SUNSET (Data From Air Almanac)		
☐ Night ☒ Day ☐ Sunrise ☐ Sunset		

III. AIRCRAFT DATA

17. WERE AIRCRAFT NOTED IN AREA?	☒ Yes ☐ No	
☒ One Aircraft ☐ More Than One Aircraft		
18. WAS ANY SOUND HEARD?	☒ Yes ☐ No	
19. WERE THERE INDICATIONS OF HIGH BACKGROUND NOISE?	☒ Yes ☐ No	
20. WAS THE OBJECT VIEWED ABOVE 45° ELEVATION?	☒ Yes ☐ No	

IV. BALLOON DATA

21. WERE BALLOONS RELEASED IN AREA? ☒ Yes ☐ No						
22. TIME SINCE SCHEDULED BALLOON RELEASE: <u>4 hrs 56</u> Minutes						
23. POSSIBLE BALLOON LAUNCH SITES DOWNWIND OF SIGHTING:						
	Location	Type	Launching Agency	Lighted?		Describe Lighting
				Yes	No	
a.	<u>Andrews AFB - Wash.</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>A.W.S.</u>			
b.	<u>Annapolis - "</u>	<u>Petrol</u>	<u>U.S.N. (Irregular)</u>			
c.	<u>Washington</u>	<u>radio. sawn</u>	<u>USDA Weather Bur.</u>			
d.	<u>"</u>	<u>petrol</u>				

(attach overlay)

V. EVALUATION

21. EVALUATION OF SOURCE: ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor <u>unk.</u> ☐ Unreliable ☐ Extremely Doubtful ☐ Hoax	22. DETAILS OF REPORT: ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☒ Poor ☐ Insufficient to Evaluate
23. FINAL EVALUATION: ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☒ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other: _____ ☐ Insufficient Data For Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
24. COMMENTS:	

PF ECT 10073 WEATHER DATA SHEET

1. DATE OF OBSERVATION		2. TIME OF OBSERVATION		3. STATION OBSERVING	
4. WINDS ALOFT:					
ALTITUDE (feet)	VELOCITY (knots)	DIRECTION (degrees)	ALTITUDE (feet)	VELOCITY (knots)	DIRECTION (degrees)
0			25,000		
1,000			30,000		
2,000			35,000		
3,000			40,000		
4,000			45,000		
5,000			50,000		
6,000			55,000		
7,000			60,000		
8,000			65,000		
9,000			70,000		
10,000			75,000		
12,000			80,000		
14,000			85,000		
16,000			90,000		
18,000			95,000		
20,000			100,000		
5. WAS AN INVERSION LAYER NOTED? (If yes, at what altitude? _____)			☐ Yes ☐ No		
6. WERE ANY THUNDERSTORMS NOTED IN AREA? (If yes, at what quadrant? _____)			☐ Yes ☐ No		
7. CLOUD COVER:				8. VISIBILITY WAS	
_____ tenths at _____ feet.		_____ tenths at _____ feet.		_____ MILES.	
_____ tenths at _____ feet.		_____ tenths at _____ feet.			
9. COMMENTS:					
<i>Unk. weath conditions</i>					