

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 27 Sep 52		2. LOCATION HEMPSTEAD TEX		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☒ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 27/0905 EST GMT 27/1505 Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE AF Pilot and cadet		☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2-3 min		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE SSW	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING AF Flight Instructor and cadet in T-33 a/c sighted white circular object at about 65000'. Object flew straight line, left no trail. Object moved erratically at 600-700 mph.		11. COMMENTS			

PROJECT 10073 WORKSHEET

I. GENERAL

29

1. DATE 27 Sep 52	2. LOCATION Hamstead, Texas	3. TIME Local: 0905 CST Zebra: 1505 Z
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)		

II. ASTRONOMICAL DATA

12. WHAT ASTRONOMICAL ACTIVITY WAS NOTED?		
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>15</u> Minutes						
23. POSSIBLE BALLOON LAUNCH SITES DOWNWIND OF SIGHTING:						
	Location	Type	Launching Agency	Lighted?		Describe Lighting
				Yes	No	
a.	Houston	P	W.B.		☒	
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:

There are two probabilities
 a) That object was pilot balloon
 b) " " " skyhook type balloon

If object is much lower than observer's estimate, this accounts for mistakes in speed.

PROJECT 10073 WEATHER DATA SI I

1. DATE OF OBSERVATION	2. TIME OF OBSERVATION	3. STATION OBSERVING
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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
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6. WERE ANY THUNDERSTORMS NOTED IN AREA? (If yes, at what quadrant? _____)	☐ Yes ☐ No
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7. CLOUD COVER: _____ tenths at _____ feet. _____ tenths at _____ feet. _____ tenths at _____ feet. _____ tenths at _____ feet.	8. VISIBILITY WAS _____ MILES.
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9. COMMENTS:

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Wing Intelligence Officer Bryan Air Force Base, Texas	REPORT NO. IR-70-52 (ATRC)	PAGE 2 OF	PAGES
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On or about 0905 hours, 27 September 1952, an unidentified object, flying at great speed, was observed by two persons, 1/Lt. JAMES E. FAHNAUER, an instructor, and Cadet [REDACTED] a student, both assigned to the 3530th Pilot Training Group, Bryan Air Force Base, Bryan Texas. Both persons were flying in T-33 Jet Aircraft, number 4254. This was one of a flight of four planes. The flight took off from Bryan Air Force Base at 0755 hours, 27 September 1952 and climbed to an altitude of forty thousand (40,000) feet for purpose of high altitude formation indoctrination. While over HEMPSTEAD, Texas, which is approximately fifty (50) miles north west of HOUSTON, Texas, the flight was on a heading of three hundred (300) degrees at an altitude of thirty nine (39,000) feet at which time sighting was made.

Lieutenant FAHNAUER saw the object first and called to Cadet [REDACTED] to observe it. The instructor had happened to look up at the sky and had seen "a circular object, appearing more white than silver" almost "directly overhead". Both men estimated the object to be about fifteen (15) to twenty five thousand (25,000) feet above them, or at an altitude of fifty five (55) to sixty five thousand (65,000) feet. It moved erratically at a very high rate of speed in a south or southwest direction. It appeared to be very maneuverable and traveled at an estimated speed of six hundred (600) to seven hundred (700) miles per hour.

The object was observed for two (2) or three (3) minutes. Both men agreed that the shape was circular and once or twice it seemed to bank to the vertical at which time the object appeared to be flat. There were no conventional vapor trails, although there appeared to be a faint misty area to the rear of the object. The planes in which the observers were flying left trails about one and one half (1 1/2) miles long. When the object was first seen overhead, it appeared to be about the size of a dime or a little larger.

At the time of the sighting the visibility was perfect and at no time did the object fly into or near the sun. The object did not appear to be metallic in color but more white, almost as if it had been painted.

Both men are experienced in flying and are familiar with aircraft. Lieutenant FAHNAUER had about one thousand four hundred (1,400) hours flying time, six hundred (600) of which are in jets. Cadet [REDACTED] has a total of three hundred (300) flying hours, fifty (50) of which are in jets.

The other members of the flight did not observe the object, either because of difficulty in radio reception or in orienting the objects position in relation to their course of flight. Lieutenant FAHNAUER attempted to contact all the flight members by radio.

COMMENTS OF REPORTING OFFICER:

Both men gave the appearance of serious minded individuals who were not inclined to exaggerate and were considered fairly reliable.

COUNTRY United States of America		REPORT NO. IR-70-52 (ATRC)	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT FLY OBJECT			
AREA REPORTED ON HEMPSTEAD, Texas		FROM (Agency) Intelligence Office, Bryan AFB, Texas	
DATE OF REPORT 3 October 1952	DATE OF INFORMATION 27 September 1952	EVALUATION F-6	
PREPARED BY (Officer) 2/Lt. RICHARD L. FAUST, Int. Off.		SOURCE Instructor: 1/Lt. JAMES E. FAHNAUER Cadet Student: [REDACTED]	
REFERENCES (Cite report number, source, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFI 200-5, dtd 29 April 1952			
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 or about 0905 hours, 27 September 1952, an unidentified flying object was seen by 1/Lt. JAMES E. FAHNAUER, Instructor, and Cadet [REDACTED] Student, both assigned to Bryan Air Force Base, Texas. The sighting was made over HEMPSTEAD, Texas (30 00'N 96 15'W) from a T-33 jet aircraft on a heading of three hundred (300) degrees at thirty nine thousand (39,000) feet.

The object was first seen directly over the aircraft at about fifteen (15) to twenty five thousand (25,000) above observing aircraft. It was definitely circular, appeared more white than silver, moved at great speed and disappeared in a south or southwest direction. It was clearly visible for two (2) or three (3) minutes, did not fly near or into the sun, left no apparent vapor trails and did not fly in a straight line. Once or twice it seemed to bank nearly vertical and "appeared to be flat". Both men are familiar with aircraft and experienced in flying.

Sources stated that object was not a mirage or reflection and did not seem to be any type of known aircraft.

Ballon?

APPROVED:

Richard L. Faust
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2/Lt., USAF
Intelligence Officer

INCL.

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