

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 21 Oct 52		2. LOCATION KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☒ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT _____		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Weather Observer			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 - 2 Min.		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 6		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Six white objects were seen by weather observer following pibal balloon release by theodolite. Objects were about same size as balloon.				11. COMMENTS 1. Observed by theodolite. 2. There are 2 other observations very similar to this in our files.	

2872

EXTRACT OF REPORT FROM WEATHER BUREAU AIRPORT STATION
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, DATED OCTOBER 21, 1952

Observed unexplained aerial phenomena while following a 100-gram pibal balloon with the standard Weather Bureau theodolite. Six white or whitish objects in a very loose formation appeared in the theodolite vision field. These were sighted 57 minutes after release of the standard white 100-gram pibal balloon. This would give an altitude of 16,565 meters, or 54,347 feet MSL. The elevation angle was 36.5° and the azimuth angle was 267.6° .

While holding the loose formation of two, three, one, objects appeared to execute a long shallow dive at the rising balloon, such as to investigate it. Formation appeared to pass the balloon and pulled up at a sharper angle than the diving approach and at increased speed. Pibal balloon disappeared from view at 58,022 feet MSL. Could have burst.

FACTS AS OBSERVED

Shape - appeared round, or nearly so.

Color - white or whitish near the shade of the balloon.

Size - appeared about the same size as the balloon at that altitude.

Sighted - one and one-half to one and three-quarter minutes.