

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 28 Jan 53 30/0335Z	2. LOCATION Mitchell AFB, New York
3. SOURCE Varied civilians	10. CONCLUSION Probably Astro (METEOR)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS A bright fireball shaped like a convex lens seen traveling N to S by a housewife, amateur radio and amateur astronomer observer. Winds were NNM.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE N to S	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/11/01 BY 1045 GPM/STP

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED] 16

RB157 *More than one*

WPA229

YDC182

YYC148

TYD200

TEC160

JEPQW B109

RR JEDEN JEDWP JEPH 333

DE JEPQW 069

R 051800Z ZNJ

FM HQ 2500TH AB WG MITCHEL AFB NY

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH DC

[Handwritten signature]

NR
FEB 5 22

tm

- 1. AT/A
- 2. AT/A
- 3. AT/A
- 4. file

DISPATCHED

28/2035
MITCHELL AFB
N.Y.

AT/C

-6 FEB 1953 13 37 Z

JEDWP/AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE CEN WRIGHT PAT AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLO SP(VGS COLO

ZEN/CG AFONE MITCHEL AFB NY

UNCLASSIFIED

/ [REDACTED] MTL 012-2 DO FLYOBRPT WRIGT PATTERSON ATTN

ATIAA-2C

1. BRIGHT CMA FIRE BALL CMA CONVEX LENS SHAPE TRAVELING NORTH TO SOUTH

2 ²²³⁵ TWENTY TWO THIRTY FIVE E CMA ²⁸ TWENTY EIGHT JANUARY FIFTY THREE

3. VISUAL

4. OBSERVERS CLN ALPHA TERRYVILLE LONG ISLAND CMA BRAVO LAKE

RONKONKOMO LONG ISLAND CMA COCA MITCHEL AFB LONG ISLAND CMA DELTA

MITCHEL AFB LONG ISLAND

5. OBSERVERS CLN ALPHA HOUSEWIFE CMA BRAVO RADIO AMATERU AND AMATEUR

ASTRONOMER CMA COCA OPERATIONS DISPATCHER CMA DELTA OPERATIONS

DISPATCHER

6. TWENTY TWO THIRTY WEATHER CLN FORTY FIVE HUNDERE OVERCAST TEN MILES

VISIBILITY WIND NNW SEVEN K PD TWENTY ONE THIRTY WEATHER WAS SEVEN

THOUSAND FOOT SCATTERED

7. NONEHO

8. NONE

9. NONE

10. UNKNOWN BUT NOT FELT TO BE APPLICABLE

05/1848Z FEB JEPQW

RB158

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS.
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS 235
DOD DIR 5200.10

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5
2735
2403
03352

eyl

(CLASSIFICATION)

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COUNTRY	REPORTING NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT		
Report of Unidentified Flying Object		
AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)	
	Hq 2500th Air Base Wing	
DATE OF REPORT	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION
14 January 1953	28 January 1953	
PREPARED BY (Officer)	SOURCE	
REFERENCES (Control number, Directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)		
REF: AFM 112-3 DO, Hq 2500th AB Wing, HARR, NY, 5 February 1953		
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.)		
The single object was sighted at wide spread locations by five known observers, one of whom was in the vicinity of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania which would indicate that the distance of the object from the four observers on Long Island (the height of the object above the earth's surface) was great enough to be above a tangent extending from the earth's surface at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and above normal surface haze which would have obliterated it at the minimum altitude. Significance: Due to the pre-eminence of Dr. Olivier in the field of meteor study it is felt that his statement that the object was a "bright fireball which is a perfectly normal body" may be accepted as the solution.		
INCL. 1. USAF Technical Info Sheet 2. Answers to USAF Tech Info Sheet 3. Answers to USAF Tech Info Sheet 4. Answers to USAF Tech Info Sheet 5. Answers to USAF Tech Info Sheet 6. Ltr to Dr. Charles P. Olivier		
DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR		
IAF, ComAC, Director of Intelligence, Hq USAF (Through channels) Info by to: Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center, ATTN: ATIAA-2c, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio		

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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, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

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RE345

WPA37

YDA346

TYC346RPTT

1953 FEB 12

13:26

JEPQW A353T

NMNM JEDEN JEDWP JEPHQ 333

DE JEPQW 173

NM 112200Z

FM HQ 2500TH ABWG MITCHEL AFB NY

TO JEPHQ/DIR INTEL HQS USAF WASH DC

JEDWP/AIR TECH INTEL CENT WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLO SPR COLO

ZEN/CG CONAC MITCHEL AFB NY

MTL 259-2 DO ATTN ATIAA-2C PD REF TWX THIS HQS MTL 312-2 WRITTEN

RPT DELAYED DUE TO DIFFICULTY IN CONTACTING OBSERVERS PD EXPECT

COMPLETION 13 FEB 1953 PD

11/2330Z FEB JEPQW

ACTION

UNCLASSIFIED

1. Atia
2. Ati
3. C file

ATIC

1953 FEB 12

INFO

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Cy 1

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DO 319.1

SUBJECT: Report of Unidentified Flying Object

TO: Commanding General
First Air Force
Witchel Air Force Base, New York

1. In accordance with Air Force Letter 200-6, 29 April 1952, subject as above, the attached report is submitted.

2. According to instructions from a representative, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, who visited this station during November 1952, interviews were conducted with the observers rather than taking written routine statements. The results of the interviews were recorded on USAF Technical Information Sheets a copy of which is inclosed for reference to the answers.

3. Hayden Planetarium, New York City was contacted to obtain information on meteor activities. They referred the investigator to Dr. Charles P. Olivier, Director of Flower Observatory, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, who is an authority on this subject. Dr. Olivier had had a report which he felt was the object being investigated and he considered it to be a "bright fireball which is a perfectly normal body".

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl:
Rpt of Unidentified
Flying Object

Paul E. McInerney, Jr.
PAUL E. MCINERNEY, JR.
Major, USAF
Adjutant

13 30
13 30

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(CLASSIFICATION)

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
Hq 2500th Air Base Wing Mitchel Air Force Base, N.Y.		1	1	1

1. Description: Single bright object described generally as round, oval or elliptical and with somewhat of a tail. All observers except one gave the color as green and also orange-red. One observer described it as green with an orange tail. None of the observers could accurately describe what they had seen; all of them, however, stated that it was the first object of this nature that they had ever seen. The time of observation, azimuth and elevation of the object were approximately the same for all observers. Only two observers followed the object through a long traverse. The other two saw only a portion of the complete arc. The object was described as traveling at various speeds, all of them in the sonic to supersonic range.

2. Time: All sightings were reported as between 2230 and 2235 hours, EST, 23 January 1953.

3. Manner of Observation: With the naked eye, through eye glasses, window pane or automobile windshield. No aids to vision were utilized.

4. Location of Observers: Two observers, Mitchel AFB, N. Y.
Long. 40° 42', Lat. 73° 58'
One observer, Terryville, Long Island, N. Y.
Long. 40° 55', Lat. 73° 10'
One observer, Lake Ronkonkomo, Long Island, N. Y.
Long. 40° 48', Lat. 73° 10'
One observer, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Long. 40° 00', Lat. 75° 15'

5. Information on Observers:
Mr. [REDACTED] - Amateur astronomer and amateur radio operator. His descriptions were considered to be accurate.
Mrs. [REDACTED] - Elderly housewife who stated during the interview that perhaps her impressions might have been conditioned from material which she has read.
S/Sgt James Brand and T/Sgt James C. Smith are traffic clerks at Operations, Mitchel Air Force Base, New York

6. Weather: Weather conditions at Mitchel AF Base at the time of the observation had been from broken to scattered cumulus between 4000 to 7000 feet. Further out on Long Island the cloud cover was from lightly scattered to clear.

7. Dr. Charles P. Olivier, Flower Observatory, Upper Darby, Pa., received a report of a sighting at approximately the same time which he accepted as a fireball phenomena.

8. Negative

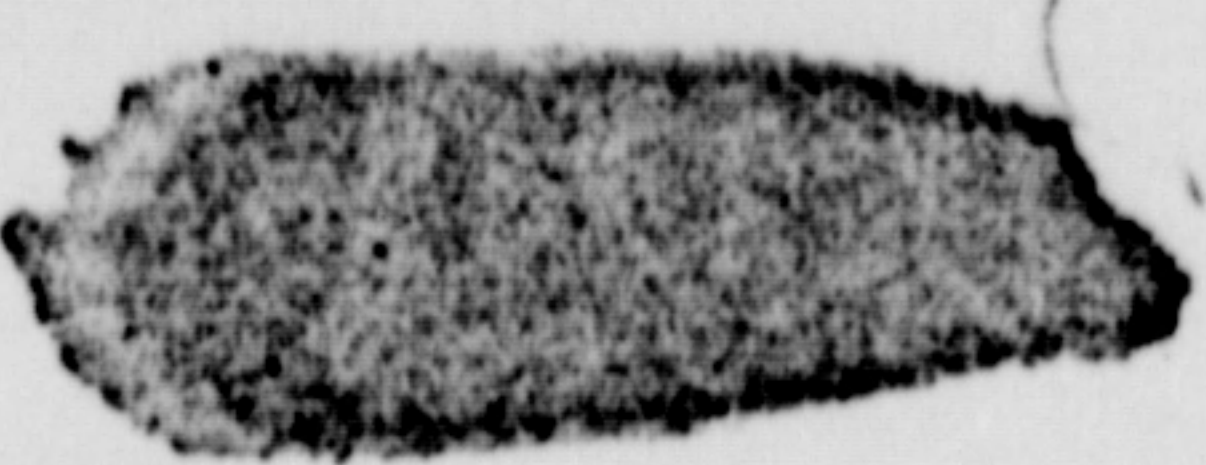
9. Negative

10. Light commercial traffic in the New York Metropolitan area. No jet traffic.

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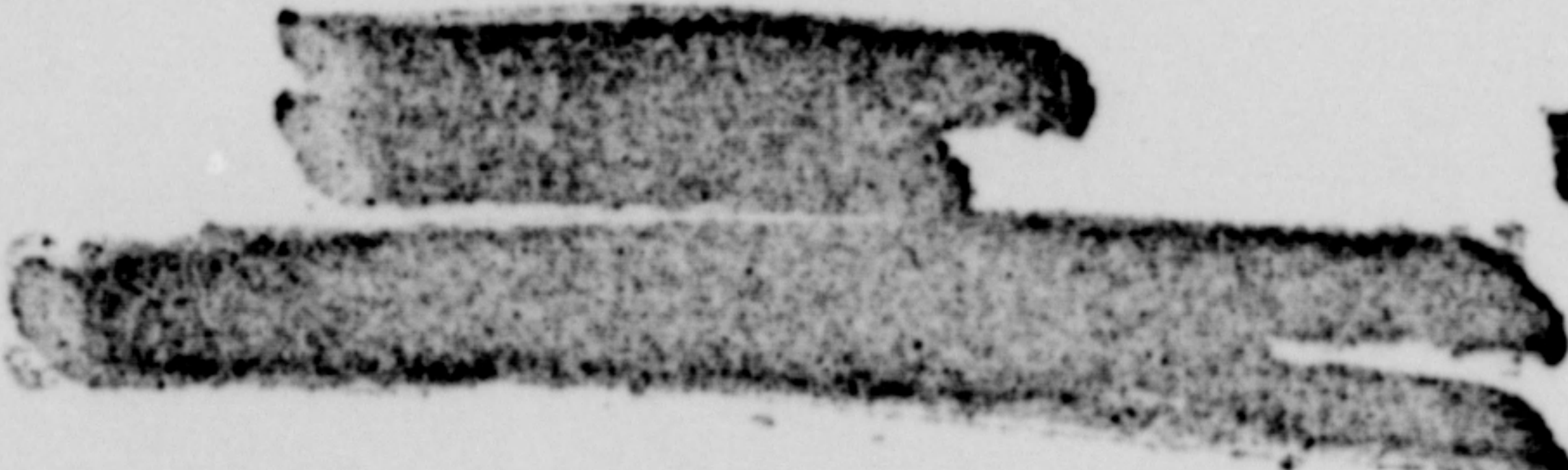

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Esipoff

Answers to questions contained in:

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

1. 28 January 1953
2. 2235 hours
3. Eastern Standard Time
4. Terryville Road, Terryville, Long Island, New York
5. Approximately five seconds
 - 5.1 Fairly certain
6. No trace of daylight
7. Not Applicable
8. 8.1 Don't remember
 - 8.2 Bright moon (very)
9. Yes
10. Light appeared to be reflected
11. a. through g. - No
12. No
13. No
14. Solid
15. Eyeglasses
Window glass (double pane)
16. a. No sound audible
 - b. White silver


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17.



side view



18. Sharply outlined

19. One object

20.



21. One hundred feet or longer

22. Slightly larger than silver dollar

22.1 Fairly certain

23. Cut from view by window edge

24. Constructed of bright shiny aluminum in the shape of a discus with a protrusion extending from one surface at an angle.

25. Inside a building

26. In a house in open country

27. Glanced out window from TV set

28. Not Applicable

29. Southeast

30. South

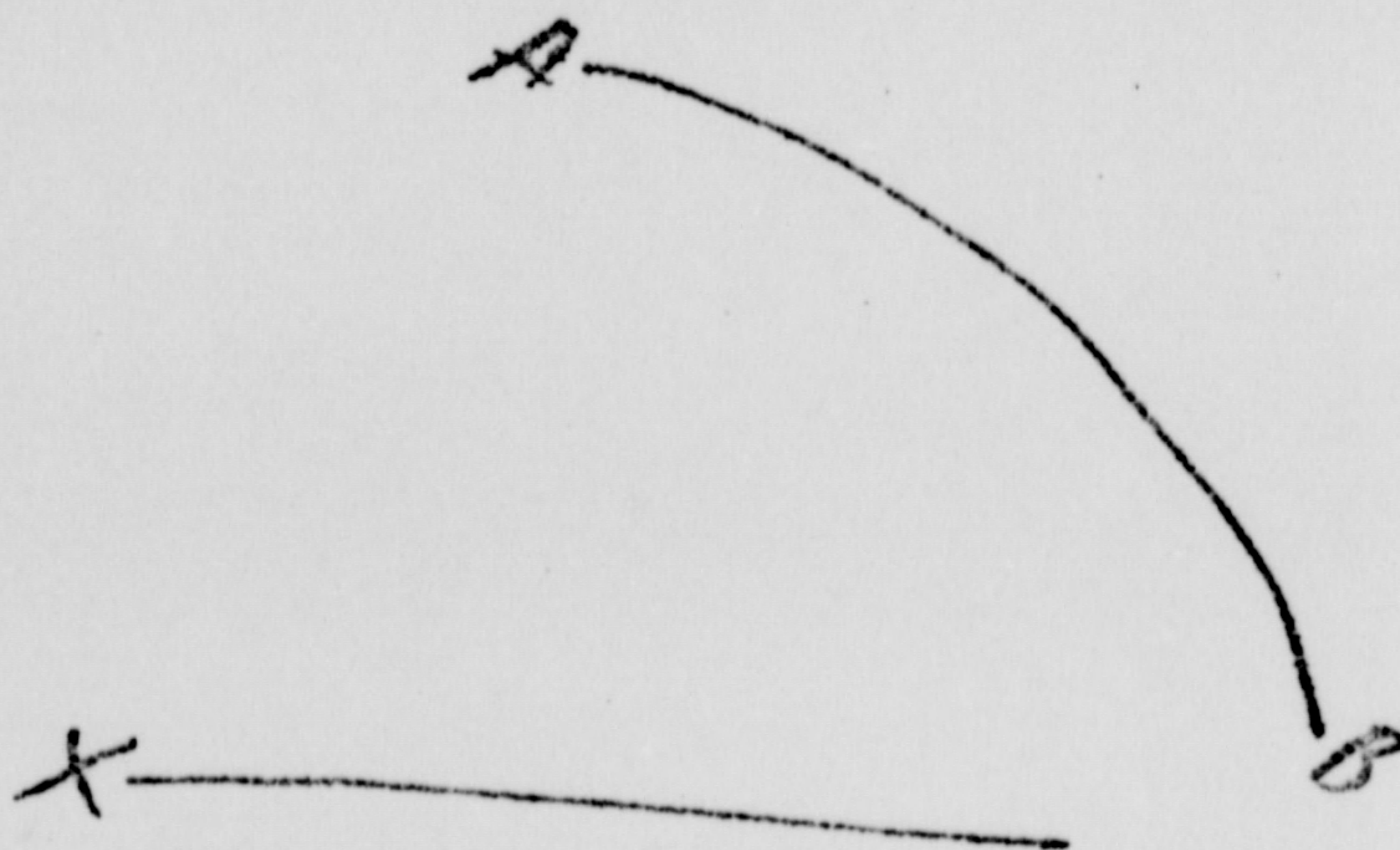
31. 31.1 a. 120 degrees
b. 20 degrees
31.2 a. 170 degrees
b. 15 degrees

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32.



33.



34. Clear - Does not recall other weather

35. By letter dated 29 January 1953

36. No

37. Yes

38. Interplanetary object

39. Fast at a distance

40. Not much idea

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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41. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Terryville, Long Island, New York
[REDACTED]

60 Female

College

42. 3 February 1953

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Answers to questions contained in:

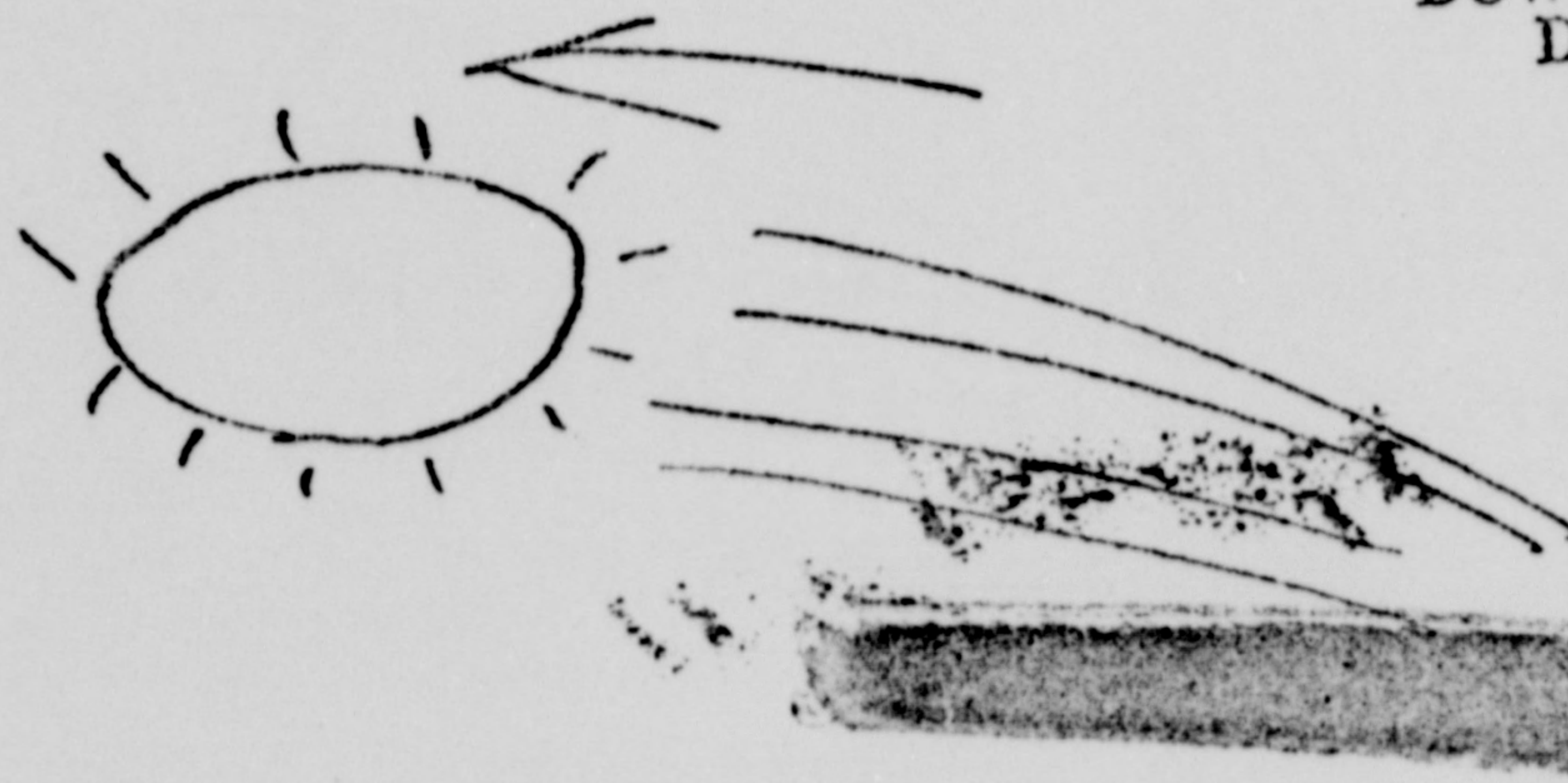
Brand

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

1. 28 January 1953
2. 2235 hours
3. Eastern Standard Time
4. Mitchel Air Force Base, New York
5. two seconds
 - 5.1 Fairly certain
6. No trace of daylight
7. Not Applicable
8. 8.1 A few
 - 8.2 Don't remember
9. Yes, very
10. Several yards away
11. a. through g. - No
12. No
13. Don't recall
14. Solid
15.
 - a. No
 - b. No
 - c. Yes
 - d. No
16.
 - a. None
 - b. Bright green
- 17.

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Incl 3

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18. Don't remember
19. One object - Not applicable
20.



21. Two to three foot in diameter with a five to seven foot tail
22. Item not very certain
23. Below horizon or tree line
24. About the size of a large weather balloon made of combustible material which burns green leaving a tail
25 through 36 - See report of T/Sgt James C. Smith
37. Yes
38. Shooting star
39. Over 2000 miles per hour
40. Two to three hundred yards
41. Brand, James, S/Sgt, USAF
Mitchel Air Force Base, New York
Garden City 3-4000 - Extension 1208
Base Operations Dispatcher
25 Male

One year college
Control Tower Operator School
42. 3 February 1953

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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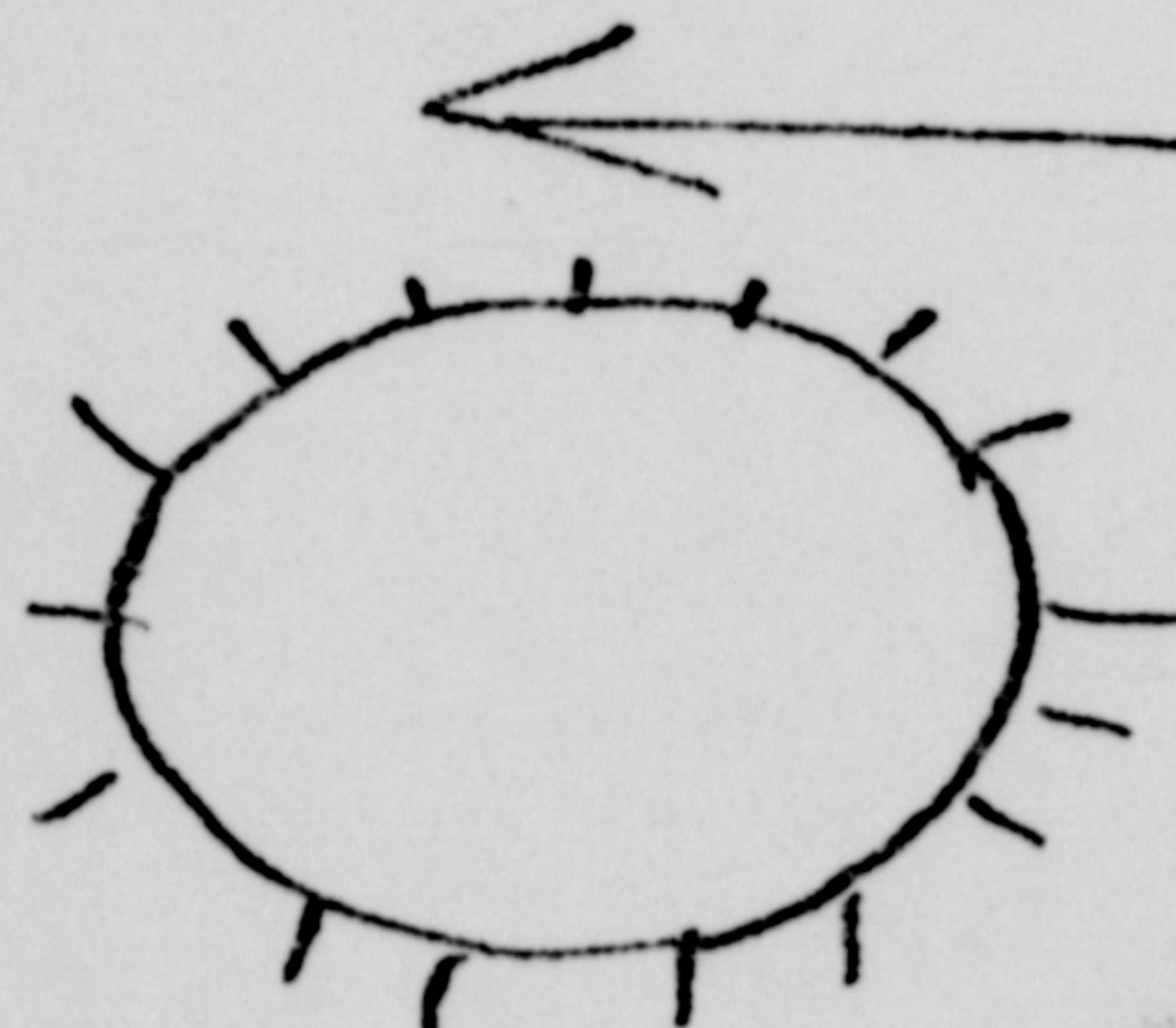
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Smith

Answers to questions contained in:

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

1. 28 January 1953
2. 2230 hours
3. Eastern Standard Time
4. Mitchel Air Force Base, New York
5. Five to six seconds
 - 5.1 Fairly certain
6. No trace of daylight
7. Not Applicable
8. 8.1 Don't remember
 - 8.2 Don't remember
9. Yes
10. Several blocks away
11. a. through g. - No
12. No
13. No
14. Don't know
15. Windshield
16. a. None
 - b. Greenish at first then as it moved on it got a redish tinge
- 17.



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DOD DIR 5200.10

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Incl 4

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18. Fuzzy and blurred

19. Only one

20.



21. Don't know

22. Baseball

23.1 Fairly certain

23. Disappeared very rapidly - could have gone behind clouds

24. Constructed of heat resistant substance, egg shaped, the size of a link trainer burning slightly with a greenish tinge

25. In a car

26. On an airfield

27. Checking a parked aircraft on the field - stopped to cross runway and object was seen

28. Not Applicable

29. Southeast - 120 degrees

30. 290 degrees

31. 31.1 a. 120 degrees

b. 270 degrees to 280 degrees

31.2 0 degrees to about 60 degrees above horizon

32.



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33.



34. Don't remember weather conditions

35. 28 January 1953 - 2300 hours - to Airdrome Officer

36. Yes

36.1 Yes

36.2 S/Sgt James Brand
Mitchel Air Force Base, New York
Garden City 3-4000 - Extension 1208

37. Yes

38. Thought it was a flare at first - don't know now

39. No

40. Four or five blocks away

41. Smith, James C., T/Sgt, USAP
Mitchel Air Force Base, New York
Garden City 3-4000 - Extension 1208
Base Operations Dispatcher
30 Male

High school
Aerial gunnery
Aircraft Mechanic
Instructors school for aerial gunnery

42. 5 February 1953

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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Day

Answers to questions contained in:

U.S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE

1. 28 January 1953
2. 2235 hours
3. Eastern Standard Time
4. ~~REDACTED~~ Lake Ronkonkomo, Long Island, New York
(Lat. 40 degrees 49' 45" N)
(Long. 73 degrees 08' 30" W)
5. Two and one-half seconds
6. Dark
7. Not Applicable
8. 8.1 None
8.2 None
9. Yes
10. Maximum distance 26 miles - minimum 12 miles computed from rough triangulation
11. a. through g. - No
12. Yes - below tree line
13. Yes - clouds - cumulus overcast
14. Solid
15. a. Yes e. No
b. No f. No
c. No g. No
d. Yes h. No
16. a. None
b. Blue green (of copper burning) at head - flame orange at tail
(neon orange)

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Incl 5

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17.

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18. Head was fuzzy - tail sharp

19. One

20.



21. Size of automobile

22. Pea

22.1 Not certain

23. Behind tree line

24. Length 150 feet - tail (jet blast)
head made of copper metal.
fission propulsion

25. Inside a building

26. In the residential section of a city

27. Looking out window

28. Not Applicable

29. through 33.

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Direction bearings taken from Polaris 103 degrees azimuth, 15 degrees elevation when first observed. 110 degrees azimuth, 9 1/2 degrees elevation when disappeared, however, the object was not seen through its full travel as it was observed in flight and disappeared behind trees.

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[REDACTED]
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34. 34.1 Curulus scattered
34.2 High
34.3 Clear
34.4 Cool

35. 23 January 1953 - Mitchel Air Force Base, New York

36. Yes - Wife - Same address

37. Yes

38. Fission propelled object - guided missile

39. 1200 miles per hour (guess)

40. 15 miles

41. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
New York, New York
Residence: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Advertising writer - technical subjects

40 Male

Two years engineering } New York University
Two years physics }
One year - Bendix Marine
3 1/2 years - Bell Telephone Laboratories
Professional Engineer
Amateur Radio Operator - [REDACTED]
Amateur Astronomer - specializes in lunar observations
For many years a member of the Meteor Society

42. 10 February 1953

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[REDACTED]

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia 4

Flower Astronomical Observatory
Headquarters American Meteor Society

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1953 Feb 12

Col. Merrick, Commanding
Headquarters 2500 Air Base Wing,
Mitchel Air Force Base, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your telegram, following a telephone conversation on Feb. 10 with [redacted], as to a probable fireball or brilliant meteor reported from Long Island, N.Y., on 1953 Jan 28 between 10:30 and 10:35 P.M., I have searched our records and find one which I am pretty sure refers to the same body.

The man who reported it was in a car not too far from the Flower Observatory and gave me the information over the telephone. I had no doubt that what he saw was a bright fireball, which is a perfectly natural body and of which I have computed orbits for many dozens.

The one item is the time, but he was driving and quite uncertain about that though he said near 11 P.M. However, from his account the difference in time can be tolerated.

He reported it as $\frac{1}{2}$ size Moon, falling at a 45° angle in S.E. from W towards S, visible 5-6 seconds, and disappearing below his horizon. As he saw it from front seat of a car, he could hardly have seen higher than 30° for the start, but of this he was uncertain.

Another brilliant one was reported to me by a friend who also lives near on Jan. 29 about 9:30 P.M., as being white, in the East, and falling perpendicularly.

From the data in your telegram there seems to me absolutely no reason to doubt that the object reported to you was a fireball, as I said, and further I think it was the same one reported from here.

Incidentally, at all the army and navy posts near New York City, all of which must have sentinals on duty at all hours, such an object should be reported by them. If not, may I respectfully suggest that it be called to the attention of commanding officers in all the services that they see sentinals be instructed to report such objects. It would in no possible way interfere with their military duties and would be of value to science as well as to you. I enclose a form we distribute to our observers.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ and /t/ Charles P. Olivier, Director

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A TRUE COPY:

JAMES A. GEYER
Major, USAF
Incl 6