

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 18 September 1954		2. LOCATION Las Cruces, New Mexico Oklahoma City, Enid, Oklahoma		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical METEOR ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 19/0300-0400Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Military			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Varies		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING X White object leaving vapor trail which remained 30 minutes - Explosive light. Rainbow colored flame from object. Local evaluation meteorological phenomena - Exploding meteor LVR. (SEE CASE FILE)				11. COMMENTS Unusual meteor, trail persist 30 minutes.	

IN 18/2174 OKLA
ACTION

20 SEP 1954 08 18

19 SEP 54 05 59z

WYAC 17

WDAC 15

WYAC 73

WYAC 16IM

JWFAM 12

ZZ JWFNE JEDEN JEDWP JEPFF JEPHQ JESRO 666

DE JWFAM 03

Z 190503Z

FM HQ LOWRY AFB COLO

TO ZEN/SECDEF WASHDC

JEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

JWFNE/COMDR VANCE AFB OKLA

JEDWP/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASHDC

JEPFF/COMDR MATS ANDREWS AFB WASHDC

JESRO/COMDR FLIGHT SERVICE ORLANDO FLO

ZEN/UFOB AIRBORNE

FLIGHT SUPPLEMENT REPORT AF2966. ACFT REPORTED SIGHTED UNK OBJECT

21360. ACFT POSITION 45 KNOTS WNW OKC HEADING 290 DEG. OBJECT

HEADING APPX 240 DEG AZMUTH 30 DEG PAR TO HORZN HEIGHT UNK. BRIGHT

MULTI COLORED TAIL THEN CHANGED TO WHITE TAIL 3 DEG WIDE 20 DEG LONG.

AFTER 5 MIN TAIL CHANGED TO S TURN AND THEN TO U TURN. DRDLY FADED

22050

CCC 5TH LINE 5TH WORD SHUD FREAD CHANGED

19/0532Z
00XP532Z SEP JWFAM

19 SEP 54 22 45z

ACTION

LS

E. Altia
3. Altia
1. Rfile

RR JEDEN JEDWP JEPHQ 533

DE JEPHL SH

R 001400Z

FM HQ ADANA HILL AFB UTAH

TO JEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

JEP/COMDR AIRTECHNICALINTELSEN WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEPHQ/DI/OFINTEL HQS USAF WASHDC

JEP/COMDR HQS ANC WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

protected

FROM JED-3-7-E FOR MCEP UFOB /1/ /A/ NO DEFINITE SHAPE /1/ NEGATIVE

/3/ DARK /D/ ONE /E/ NA /F/ NONE /G/ 4 SEC RAINBOW COLORED FLAME

APPEARING TO SHOOT FROM OBJECT FIRST OBSERVER STATES BRILLIANT

GREEN OUTSTANDING OTHERS STATE NO COLOR OUTSTANDING CMM IMMEDIATELY

FOLLOWING FLAME CMM BRILLIANT BLUE WHITE TRAIL LASTING APPROX 5 MINS

CMM 3 DEG WIDE AND 20 DEG AZIMUT LONG CMM WENT INTO HAZY WHITE COLOR

ASSUMING QUOTE S UNQUOTE SHAPE THEN GRADUALLY INTO QUOTE U UNQUOTE

SHAPE DISSIPATING AFTER APPROX 24 MINS /H/ NEGATIVE /I/ NONE

/2/ /A/ FIRST OBSERVER SIGHTED OBJECT WHILE LOOKING AT STARS NOTIFIED

SECOND AND THIRD OBSERVERS WITHIN 5 SECS /BCD/ OBJECT CROSSED SKY

*A meteor which
exploded?
X R*

1. TRACK 24 DEG AND 3 DEG ABOVE HORIZON AND
PARALLEL TRACKED UNKNOWN CMM TRACKED FROM APPROX 45 DEG
OF ALT /X/ DISSIPATED /F/ OBJECT 2 SECS CMM FLAME 5 SECS CMM
TRAIL APPROX 20 MINS /3/ /A/ AIR VISUAL /E/ NONE /C/ C-124 CMM NO
52968 CMM 3000 FT CMM 230 DEG CMM INDICATED AIRSPEED 170 KNOTS CMM
BASED HILL AIR FORCE BASE CMM UTAH /4/ /A/ 2136 CST 13 SEPT 54
/B/ ALTITUDE /5/ 45 NM. NW OKLA CITY ON HEADING 20 DEG /6/ /A/ NA
/E/ FIRST OBSERVER MANSFIELD L. SESSION CAPT 28TH LSS CMM TRANSPORT
PILOT CMM EXCELLENT CMM SECOND OBSERVER [REDACTED] MAJ 28TH LSS
TRANSPORT PILOT CMM EXCELLENT CMM THIRD OBSERVER RAYMOND K HENLEY
CAPT CMM NAVIGATOR CMM EXCELLENT /7/ /A/ GOOD /E/ NEGATIVE /C/
UNLIMITED /D/ UNLIMITED /E/ NONE /8/ NONE /9/ NONE /10/ REPORTED
BASE RADIO 2142 CMM FULL REPORT LOWERY FLIGHT SERVICE BY GARDEN
CITY RADIO 2240 CMM CIRVIS REPORT COMDR ADC ENT AFB CMM COLO CMM
SUBJECT WASHDC /11/ NONE /12/ CAPT ALBERT SCOTT PROV MARSHALL HILL
AIR FORCE BASE UTAH CMM POSSIBLE CAUSE OF SIGHTINGS METEOROLOGICAL

13/2138Z SEP JWPUL

20 SEP 1954 12 18

NI

18 SEP 54
IN 19/03-102

ACTION

LAS CRUCES, N.M.

22

20 SEP 1954 08 11 19 SEP 54 09 45Z

File
2 City
4 File

RA 17

BP 121

TYA 77

JE 1

EMERGENCY JEDUP

DE JEPHO 03F

Y 190728Z

FM USAF WASH DC

TO ATIC WRIGHT-PAT AFB DAYTON OHIO

054Z

COMDR MARCH FLIGHT SERVICE CNTR MARCH AFB CALIF

TO JEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

FM C/COMDR COM WESTSEA FROM TREASURE ISLAND CALIF

JE 1/2C/ USAF WASH DC

ADDITIONAL INFO TO CIRVIS RPT 190537Z

BRILLIANT BLUE GREEN OBJECT FLYING PARALLEL TO GND LVGG

SMOKE TRAIL 3 TO 4 MILES LONG OBSERVED ON A LINE FROM NW OF OKC

NE OF G4 VCNTY TCC NE OF BOR NEW MEXICO PD OBJECT OBSERVED BY AF 2965

WILL FILE A CIRVIS RPT WITH LRYFS PD VCNTY GAG 2140C N90D TCC

AT 2042M FROM AF 1786 ELP ABO VCNTY TCS AT 2042M PD INDIVIDUAL ON GND

AT BOR AT 2045M BY TWA 87 2043M BTN TCC AND ABO TWA 17 2043M

TCC ABO PD TWA32 12 MI E OF ACH AT 2049M PD REPORT AT FIRST BEING

DESCRIBED AS METEOR HAVEING A STRAIGHT TAIL BECOMING HORSHOE

A SHAPED LVGG AND AFTERGLOW PD TCC INSAC AMA INSAC AMA INSAC AND

WAS ROUGHLY CALLS PD ABO

FMPC PD LGD MARCH FLT SVC CNTR

190537Z JEDUP

IN

20 SEP 1954 08 19 19 SEP 54 07 47z

WPP20

YDE18

XYC54

XDC009T

JWPRH A107

OO JEDEN JEDWP JEPHQ JEPFF 444

DE JWPRH 03IV

O 190641Z

FM CMDR MARCH FLT SV CEN MARCH AFB CALIF

TO JEDEN/CMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

JEDWP/CMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASHDC

JEPFF/CMDR MATS ANDREWS AFB WASHDC

D E O B

I

A NO DESCRIPTION AS TO SHAPE

B NO DESCRIPTION AS TO SIZE

C WHITE

D ONE

E N/A

F NONE

G OBJECT LEFT A VAPOR OR SMOKE TRAIL WHICH COULD BE SEEN VEEEEEE SEEN

FOR APPROX THIRTY MINUTES AFTER OBJECT DISSAPPEARED

H NONE

I BRILLIANTLY LIGHTED

II

A OBERVER STATED AN EXPLOSIVE BRILLIANCE BROUGHT HIS ATTENTION TO
THE OBJECT

B ELEVATION ACFT AT TEN THSND FEET PD OBJECT APPROX TWENTY THSND FEET PD

ACTION

Handwritten notes:
A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. X. Y. Z.
19 SEP 54 07 47z
190641Z
OD ATIC

Handwritten squiggle

AZIMUTH OFF OF RIGHT WING

C ELEVATION UNKNOWN AZIMUTH DISAPPEARED STRAIGHT AHEAD GOING AWAY FROM
ACFT

D LEVAL FLIGHT

E STRAIGHT AHEAD GOING AWAY

F OBJECT IN SIGHT FOR ONLY A FEW SECONDS PD VAPOR OR SMOKE TRAIL IN
SIGHT FOR APPROX THIRTY MINUTES

III

A AIR TO AIR (VISUAL)

B NONE

C C45 AF1786 PD 355 THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIVE DEGREES PD ALTITUDE

TEN THSND FEET PD SPEED APPROX 150 ONE HUNDRED FIFTY PD KIRTLAND AFB NEW
MEXICO PD

IV

A 19034Z

B NIGHT

V

FIVE MILES NORTH OF LAS CRUCES N.M.

VI

A UNKNOWN

B MEUTE, HOWARD W. CAPT USAF A0822226 PD HQTRS A.F. SPECIAL

WAAAAAEE WEAPONS CENTER PD KIRTLAND AFB N.M. PD DUTY PILOT RELIABILITY

UNKNOWN

VII

A CLEAR VISIBILITY GOOD

B SURFACE WIND FROM WEST AT SEVEN REST OF WIND INFO UNK

C CLEAR

D SEVENTY FIVE MILES

E NONE

F NONE

VIII

NONE

IX

NONE

X

UNKNOWN

XI

OPERATIONS OFFICER ASSIGNED TO MARCH FLT SVC CENTER

MARCH AFB CALIF PD

IT IS THE OPINION OF THE PREPARING OFFICER THAT THE OBSERVER DEFINITELY

SAW THIS OBJECT HE DESCRIBED TO ME PD ALSO THERE

SHOULD BE ADDITIONAL REPORTS FORWARDED FROM AIR FORCE BASES IN

THAT AREA PD

XII

NONE

SGND MARCH FLT SV CEN T

19/0703Z SEP JWPRH

UNCLASSIFIED

20

AF FORM 172- PART I
APPROVED 1 MAR 54

(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY USA		REPORT NO. 2D-UFOS-2	ORIGINATOR USAF
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT UFOS INVESTIGATION			
AREA REPORTED ON ENID, OKLAHOMA, USA		FROM (Agency) Ft 2-D, 4602d AISS	
DATE OF REPORT 7 DEC 54	DATE OF INFORMATION 19 SEPT 54	EVALUATION B-3	
PREPARED BY (Name) DEAN S. JAMESON, 2nd Lt., USAF		SOURCE [REDACTED] 1st Lt., USAF	
REFERENCES (Cite number, date, and source of report, etc., as applicable) AFR 200-2, AFIC Form A, VANCE AFB, FING INTELLIGENCE REPORT #1, 21 Sept 54			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give signifier in first sentence paragraph. The indicator of item type. Date of report as AF Form 172- Part I.)			
I. CONTENTS:			
PART ONE REPORT 2D-UFOS-2			
II. SUMMARY: On 2 Dec 54, members of Flight 2-D, 4602d AISS, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma conducted a follow-up investigation of a UFOS sighted over Enid, Oklahoma (GEORGE FJHC 05-25) on 19 Oct 54. Investigation was conducted in strict compliance with AFR 200-2 dated 12 Aug 54.			
III. TECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS: 2nd Lt. DEAN S. JAMESON E/Sgt. FRANK R. CORREIA			
PREPARED BY:			
 DEAN S. JAMESON 2nd Lt., USAF OIC, Ft 2-D			
APPROVED BY:			
 JOHN M. WHITE Colonel, USAF Commander			
1 (See individual report)			
DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:			
1 cty Comdr 4602d AISS with Incls D/I USAF w/incl COMDR AFIC w/incl			
DEC 16 14 54.21		AFICOM (CO) w/incl D/I 3rd AF w/incl	

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C. AND 50 U.S.C. 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, OR OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

UNCLASSIFIED

AF FORM 112-1 (PARTIAL)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Flight Z-17, A6020, AFSS

21-NOV-62, PART ONE

2-4

I. SOURCE: [REDACTED] 1st Lt., USAF

Age: 27

Length of Service: 4 years

Duties: Test Pilot and Aircraft Maintenance Officer

Education: 4 years of College, M. S. in Aero Engineering

Station: 3575th JMS Group, Vance AFB, Oklahoma

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE was questioned late in the day and obviously was in a hurry to leave his office. He seemed friendly and willing to cooperate, although he stated that the event happened over 2 months previously. All details of the sighting were very vague. It is the opinion of the investigators that the information furnished by the SOURCE is reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT:

1. SOURCE was attending a drive-in movie at Enid, Oklahoma (GROSS 170 0525) on the evening of 20/0230z Sept 54. He was parked in the fifth row and sighted object for approximately one second on a heading of 360°. Object appeared to be solid with a red and amber light leading and the trailing light green. The object moved from South to North on a straight and level trajectory at a speed of approximately 2000 to 4000 MPH by a triangulation estimate. Reference Incl #1, Rept 21-NOV-2, SOURCE's sketch of sighting.

- Pt. 1: Outdoor Theatre Screen in Technicolor
- Pt. 2: Observer
- Pt. 3: Line of sight
- Pt. 4: Road, Public behind screen
- Pt. 5: 20° Elevation, 70° Azimuth
- Pt. 6: 20° Elevation, 50° Azimuth
- Pt. 7: Object traveling South to North, approximate course of 360°
- Pt. 8: Green Light
- Pt. 9: Amber Light
- Pt. 10: Red Light
- Pts. 8, 9, 10: Lights in a triangle shape. Straight Fit

2. On the night of observation sky was clear with 15 miles visibility and many stars in the sky. Stars were blocked out in space between the three lights.

3. Object did not change course or direction and did not show any evidence of exhaust or any other method of propulsion.

4. SOURCE was unable to distinguish the color of the object because the area between the triangular lights was blocked out. However, he could be certain that it was only one object as it blocked out the stars while traveling across the sky.

5. Object was about 2 to 5 miles away from SOURCE at time of sighting and appeared to be about the size of a volleyball at arm's length. SOURCE stated that he was certain that the object was at least the size of 2 F-26's. It was

UNCLASSIFIED

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM: Commanding Officer	REPORT NO:	
Flight 2-D, 16028 ATSS	2D-UNDR-2 PART ONE	

definitely brighter than the background of the sky.

6. SOURCE last sighted object when it disappeared behind his automobile windshield post proceeding in an Easterly direction.

7. SOURCE stated that object emitted no sound, although sounds from the movie could possibly drown any out.

8. SOURCE stated that when he saw the object, he inquired from other people in the area if they had seen it. He received negative replies. He also stated that he could not identify the object.

IV. INVESTIGATOR'S SUMMARY: SOURCE reported this sighting to Vance AFB in Enid, Oklahoma. Captain Ralph W. Mistret, Wing Plans and Training Officer checked with the following agencies:

I. Weather Detachment 16-14

Wind direction and velocity by degrees and knots: direction 210/15
6,000 feet 220/30, 10,000 feet 270/15, 20,000 feet 260/25 and 30,000 feet 240/10.
Cloud cover clear, visibility 15 miles at surface. Ceiling and height, temperature
and dewpoint 90/62. Altimeter setting 996, relative humidity 40%.

Sep 5K from Venice, Italy - the ballgame was at 17:00 (UTC) on Sunday, ended as dusk
light and was played in 30-60 min or less. The game was played in 30-60 min or less.

2. **How many times did you visit the site in the last 12 months?** 20/03/15: Sep 5/15

1997年12月 第27卷 第12期

At 26/0224Z Sep 54, a B-26 from Albuquerque, New Mexico landed at Vance AFB from the West.

b. At 20/0235Z Sep 54, a T-28 from Scott AFB, changed destination from Vance AFB to Tinker AFB flying from north to south.

2. Comments on Preparing Certificate: As the movie was in technicolor, and there was meteorological activity on that night, it is very possible that what the SOURCE saw was a light reflection on some moving object which could have been distorted by the technicolor screen or his windshield glass. The object was sighted for only one second, and no other persons in the area reported a sighting.

L'Incliz

1. SOURCE: Sketch of Sighting

DEAN S. JAMISON
2nd Lt., USAF
Officer in Charge

CONCEPTS OF IMPROVING INDICES

The length of observation and other circumstances surrounding the sighting indicate the existence of an optical illusion or meteorological activity.

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

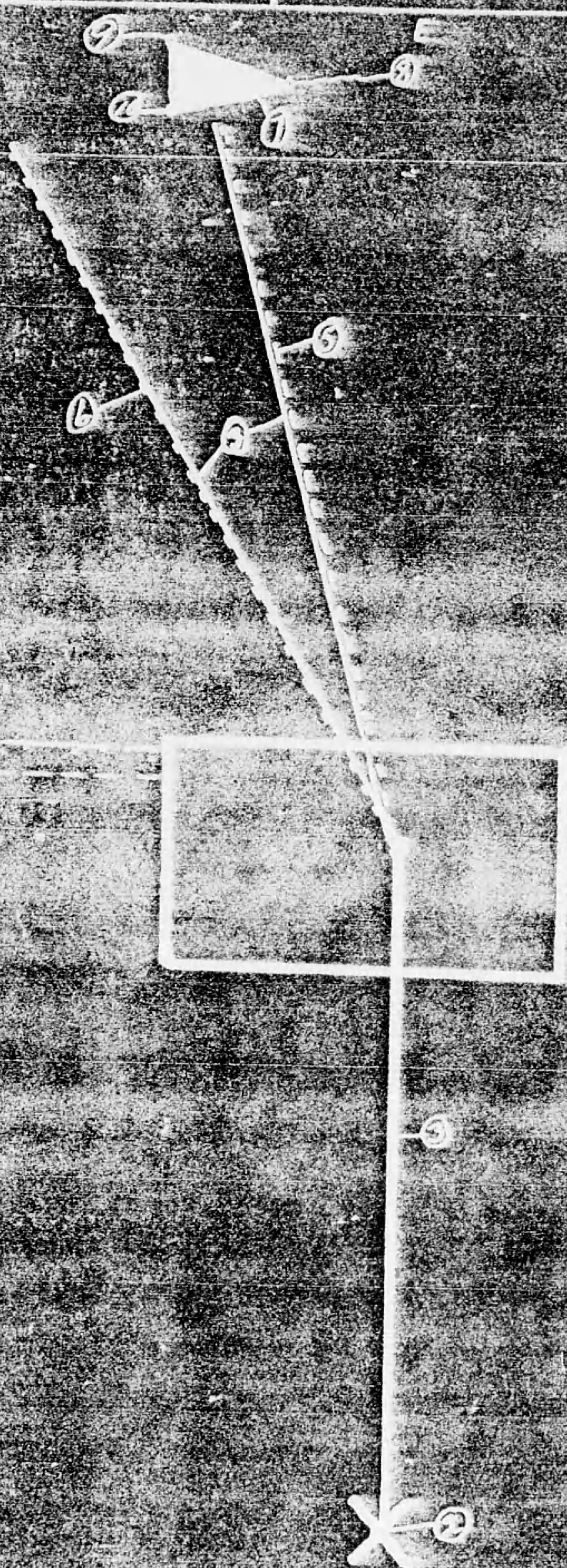
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

AF FORM 17-1, PART I
APPROVED 1-1-60

REPORT NO.
20-1000-2 PART ONE

4 4

Inc. 11, Rept 2-1-
1000-2, SOURCE
Sketch of Signal



UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency):	REPORT NO.:	DATE:	TIME:	PLACE:
Vance AFB, Wing Intelligence	1	2	3	

4. Time and Date of Sighting:

- 0230 hours, Zulu 20 Sep 54, approximately.
- Night.

5. Observer was located at drive-in movie, 3/4 mile south of city limits, Enid, Oklahoma, and 1/4 mile west of US Highway 81. Parked in 5th row from screen at Theater between Enid and Vance AFB. The film was in technicolor.

6. Richard P. Schumann, 1st Lt, 24402A, Hq Sq, 3575th M&S Gp, Vance AFB, Okla., (Flight Test Officer (B-3)).

7. Weather and Winds-Aloft Conditions:

- Clear with fifteen (15) mile visibility.
- Weather Det 16-24 report as of 2028 hours, 19 Sept 54:

(1) Wind direction and velocity by degrees and miles: Surface 210, 15; 6,000 ft 220, 30; 10,000 ft 270, 15; 20,000 ft 260, 25, and 50,000 ft 240 and 10. Cloud cover clear, visibility 15 miles at Enid, Oklahoma, ceiling unlimited, temperature and dewpoint 90/62, altimeter setting 30.0, relative humidity 40%.

8. Other Unusual Activity or Conditions:

- Local astronomer reports two (2) meteorites between 2045 and 2115 hours, 19 Sep 54; both swung in a curve downward pointing toward the east.
- A weather observation balloon with mercury candle light released at 2045 hours from Vance AFB Weather Det; the balloon rises at 120 feet per minute, emits a white light, and was rising in a generally south to north direction.

9. Negative.

10. Location of Air Traffic:

- At 2024 hours a B-26 from Albuquerque landed at Vance AFB from the West. At 2035 hours a T-28 from Scott AFB changed destination from Vance AFB to Tinker AFB; flying north to south.

11. Preparing Officer's Comments: Position title of preparing officer is Wing Plans and Training Officer. There was meteorological activity on this night, coupled with the fact that movie was in technicolor, does not preclude the possibility of a light reflection on any moving object which could have given the illusion of a fast moving object of definite proportions. From observer's sketch, the object moved across and just above the top of the movie screen.

12. Additional Data:

- Estimated speed: 2,000 to 4,000 mph (by triangulation estimate).
- Distance from Observer to lights approximately 3 to 5 miles, judging

[illegible]

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

UEOB near Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma

Vance AFB and Enid, Oklahoma

Vance AFB, Wing Intelligence

21 Sep 1954

19 Sep 1954

B-2

NAME: MISROJ, Captain, USAF

1st Lt, USAF

V/L

UEOB -- (Ref Format para 7C, AER 200-2)

1. Three (1) lights moving as a unit.

- a. Lights spaced triangularly (two leading, one trailing).
- b. "Volleyball" (Twice length of B26) (total span of lights).
- c. Lights were amber, green and red.
- d. Three, moving unison.
- e. Same as d above.
- f. Stars were blacked out in space covered by all lights.
- g. Negative.
- h. Negative.
- i. Level flight.

2. South to north.

- a. Movement just above center of attention.
- b. Twenty (20) degrees angle of elevation and 070 degrees azimuth.
- c. Twenty (20) degrees angle of elevation and 050 degrees azimuth.
- d. Straight and level flight.
- e. Went out of sight.
- f. Approximately one (1) second.

3. Manner of Observations

- a. Ground visual.
- b. Negative.
- c. Not applicable.

UEOB (2) Info: EFAE (1) FFAE (1)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

REPORTING OFFICE Vance AFB, Wing Intelligence	REPORTING NUMBER 1	REPORTING DATE 1960 3	REPORTING TIME 00 3	REPORTING PAGE 1
--	-----------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	---------------------

from past recognition of aircraft lights.

c. Observer questioned others nearby, received negative information on sighting.

d. Object heading was on approximately a course of 360 degrees.

e. Object covered by three (3) lights had to be as large as any known 4-engine aircraft.

END OF REPORT

The Green Fireballs

On the evening of September 18, 1954, a group of astronomers and their wives from the observatory at Sacramento Peak, New Mexico, were having a picnic at the White Sands National Monument, near Alamogordo. In this great desert of pure white gypsum the air is extremely hot during the daytime but cools to a pleasant warmth after sunset. Supper finished, the picnickers had taken off shoes and stockings to wade in the soft warm sand. By 8:30 it was dark and some of the astronomers had already left but others (including Dr. Menzel) had lingered to watch the stars, which stand out sharply in the clear skies over the desert.

Suddenly, far to the north, appeared an enormous green fireball. Of blinding brilliance, it was moving slowly and majestically from east to west in a substantially horizontal path about seven degrees above the horizon, leaving behind a luminous trail that persisted for at least fifteen minutes. At about the same time thousands of other persons on the ground in New Mexico and Colorado, as well as the crews of several planes in flight, were observing the fireball. It passed over a crowded football stadium in Santa Fe, interfered with radio and TV transmission as it appeared over Albuquerque, and over Denver turned night into day. A United Airlines pilot at about 15,000 feet near Laramie, Wyoming, saw the blue-green ball crossing his course and for some ten minutes observed the luminous cloud it left behind [6]. At almost the same instant, the fireball was sighted in the Bay of San Francisco, 1000 miles away. Major Keyhoe, the Director of NICAP (see *Chapter XIII*), enthusiastically and inaccurately recorded this meteor as two separate UFOs, one flying over San Francisco where it caused a "skyquake," the other over New Mexico and the Southwest where it "rattled airplanes flying through its trail." [2, pp. 197, 202] What these planes were doing at the height of the meteor—some seventy miles—he does not explain. RC

When telephone calls swamped the newspaper offices, reporters interviewed Dr. Lincoln La Paz of the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico. Although he had not observed this particular specimen, he had seen similar green fireballs a few years earlier and he commented that this was no ordinary meteor but something unusual. A new wave of UFO excitement began to sweep the country. Were mysterious machines from outer space again patrolling New Mexico?

The astronomers who had admired the fireball at White Sands were amazed at the public reaction. As professionals who had spent

Galely 39—THE WORLD OF FLYING SAUCERS

their lives in observing and analyzing astronomical phenomena, they agreed that the object had been unusual in its slow movement, its color, and its brilliance. But an unusual meteor is still only a meteor, not a spaceship, and they easily recognized it as a green fireball of the type that had appeared over the Southwest a few years earlier.

In the years following, green fireballs occasionally appeared. An astronomer observed one over Lafayette, Colorado, at 7:45 P.M. on June 4, 1950. One soared over the New England states and eastern Canada on November 2, 1950, and a year later, on November 2, 1951, a plane crew over Texas sighted another which was dramatically publicized in *Life* Magazine, and described in a saucer publication [2, p. 92] as a "projectile-shaped device" and a "strange missile" that shot out red balls. Few others made the headlines until the one of September 18, 1954, but even that caused only brief excitement and the Air Force expressed no alarm..

FSC