UFOB INDEX CARD

1. DATE

15 February 1955

2. LOCATION

New York, N. Y.

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

Civilian photographer

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION

N/A (Object never observed; later discovered on film.)

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS

2

9. COURSE

Stationary

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Two white spots with darker crosses across their centers showed up on photgraphic negatives during the process of development of the film. There was no previous sighting of either of these "objects".

11. COMMENTS

Concur in the conclusion that "spots" in the picture were probably produced by optical phenomena.

Note: Hq, 4602d AISS would be interested in your reaction to this.

RB

12. CONCLUSIONS

☐ Was Balloon
☐ Probably Balloon
☐ Possibly Balloon

☐ Was Aircraft
☐ Probably Aircraft
☐ Possibly Aircraft

☐ Was Astronomical
☐ Probably Astronomical
☐ Possibly Astronomical

☒ Other Probably optical
☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
☐ Unknown

AISOP Form 5 (15 Oct 54)

AF FORM 112—PART I

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USA

IR-UFOB-1-58

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

U F O B

[illegible]

Det 3, 4602d AISS

[illegible]

12 Feb 58

C-6

CONRAD H. SEIM, 1st Lt., USAF

Mr. [redacted]

AFR 200-2 dtd 29 Jan 58; AFR 200-2 [illegible]
TWX Commander [illegible] 15/1215/Z FEB 58 [illegible]

I. CONTENTS:

PART ONE: Description of conditions relative to a sighting photograph taken by Journal American staff photographer.

PART TWO: Investigators Summary.

II. SUMMARY: At 15/1800/Z FEB 58 Det 3 was directed by Headquarters, 4602d AISS to conduct a follow up investigation of a UFOB sighting at 12/0745/Z FEB 58 in Central Park, New York (GEOREF [illegible] 0247). This report was originally made to the Coast Guard and to the Air Division by Mr. [redacted], a reporter of the Journal American who was not with the photographer at the time of the sighting and who on his own initiative (after seeing the resultant photograph) deemed it his duty to alert the above military agencies. Brief discussions with other members of the paper's staff indicated they all unanimously agreed that Mr. [illegible] was continually enlarging upon minor incidences of which he had no knowledge in an effort to enhance his position on the staff.

III. INVESTIGATORS: 1st Lt Conrad H. Seim Jr, AO 981 256
T/Sgt [illegible] AF [illegible] 651

W. C. Van Norman
WILLIAM C VAN NORMAN
Major USAF
Officer in Charge

APPROVING OFFICER:

2 Incls (See individual reports)

for
[illegible]
Colonel, USAF
Commander
Maj USAF

Cy 1 - Comdr 4602d AISS, D/I USAF, Comdr ATIC, D/I 26th ADiv

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	
Det 3, 4602d AISS	D3-UFOB-1-55 PART ONE	PAGE 2 OF 6 PAGES

I. SOURCE: [redacted] (Civilian)

Address: [redacted] Great Neck, New York

Age: 35

Present Position: [redacted] New York Journal American

Education: High School

Qualifications: Former Air Force Navigator and Staff Photographer.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE was a serious minded individual in his middle thirties with a keen sense of responsibility, and very much interested in his work. SOURCE was a former Air Force Navigator, and well versed in astrological phenomena. He was very cooperative, and sorry that he could not render any additional information, since he had been totally unaware of the presence of the "spot" until after the picture was developed. He continually expressed his convictions that this "sighting" was a result of a combination of weather, and optical equipment. It is believed that the information received from SOURCE may be considered fairly reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF "SIGHTING":

1. At 15/0745/Z FEB 55 SOURCE, alone, set up his camera in Central Park at the 72d street Crossover Road near the Mall on assignment to photograph some snow scenes.

2. Using a 4x5 speed graphic camera, with Ansco Superpan Press film, ASA-80, Tungsten, SOURCE exposed for about two minutes at f-11. To fill in the foreground, 4 press 40 bulbs were shot away from the lens during the exposure.

3. At no time during his assignment did SOURCE see, hear, or otherwise sense anything unusual. While focusing and composing subject photograph SOURCE stated that he keenly scanned the picture area and saw nothing which would result in a glow of this intensity.

4. The sky at this time was overcast with low clouds and it had stopped snowing momentarily. The weather was estimated at about 18 degrees farenheit, and there was a no wind condition.

5. Upon his return to the Journal American Film Studio, SOURCE, as usual, handed the film packs to the darkroom crew for processing. Upon projecting the negative for an enlargement the "speck" was thought to be on the enlarger lens, but after cleaning, it was determined to be on the negative. Enlargements of the print were then analyzed by the photographers on the shift without anyone being able to arrive at a sound solution.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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6. Minutes later one of the newspaper reporters, a Mr. [redacted], entered the room and immediately voiced his conclusions. He then called the Waldorf Astoria, whose twin towers are located just left of the "spot", to check if any of the guests had seen anything strange in the area. Another call was made to Teterboro Airport in New Jersey, ((GEORGE HOPE 5551) to see if the field ceiling light was on. It was reported that it was. Mr. [redacted] then called Headquarters, 3d District, Coast Guard and Headquarters 26th Air Division for a possible explanation of this alleged phenomena. None could be given.

7. In SOURCE's opinion, the "spot" was caused by a reflection from a lighted object or objects on nearby roof tops that were strong enough to register during the course of a prolonged exposure but not of sufficient intensity to be discernable to the naked eye.

2 Incls
1. Photograph (dup)
2. Negative of Photograph

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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INVESTIGATOR'S SUMMARY

1. A check with the Ground Observer Corps Filter Center, at White Plains, New York, (GEOREF KAHN 1601) revealed there had been an unconfirmed report of a fireball in the area at 15/0100/Z FEB 55. However nothing was reported during the time of the subject sighting at 15/0745/Z FEB 55.

2. A check was made with several of the toll collectors at the George Washington Bridge (GEOREF KAHN 0521) since the relative position of the "spot" on the negative placed it in this general area, and since this vantage point afforded an unrestricted view of the entire surrounding area. None of the men on shift during this time recalled seeing anything unusual in the [illegible].

3. Contact was made with the Hayden Planetarium in an effort to establish a scientific explanation for the appearance of the "spot" on the negative. Mr. Nicholson, associate astronomer, was shown the photographs and made the following conclusions:

a. A bright star in the sky will sometimes appear on a time exposure similar to the "spot" on the subject photograph. However, since at this time there was an overcast condition, this possibility was ruled out.

b. Mr. Nicholson noted that there was another "spot" on the picture on the roof-top, about 220 degrees from the primary "spot". He pointed out that this second "spot" was superimposed on the water tower on the roof-top since there was a definite variation in the shadow gradient of the tower.

c. The two street lamps in the foreground of the picture are in the same relative position as the two "spots" on the horizon, by virtue of distance and direction.

d. It was therefore concluded that these factors may have produced an optical phenomenon in the camera.

e. This conclusion was supported by Mr. [redacted] the [redacted] [redacted], and optical advisor.

4. Mr. Forrester, chief observer for the Hayden Planetarium concurred with the conclusions of paragraph 3 above, and rendered the following additional information in its support:

a. A check with the weather bureau revealed that there was a 1000' overcast and the visibility was about three miles. It had stopped snowing at about 15/0740/Z FEB 55 and there were light winds from the south veering to southwest. There were no cloud reflections at this time. A check with the weather bureau for entries on the special phenomena sheet produced no results.

W C Van Norman
WILLIAM C. VAN NORMAN
Major USAF
Officer in Charge

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