

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 20 May 59		2. LOCATION Alexandria, Va.		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☒ Probably Astronomical Meteor ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 21/0310Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 secs		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE NNW	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Comet shaped, appeared to be about 1/10 diameter of the moon, first observed in the West & disappeared to the NNW. Appeared to break into smaller separate parts. Color brilliant orange-yellow changing to greenish-blue white.				11. COMMENTS All info reptd is typical of a meteor which entered the earth's atmosphere and exploded.	

Attachment #1 to SDO report
20-21 May 59.

SUBJECT: Report on aerial phenomenon.

1. At 2305 local time I accepted a collect call from Mr. [REDACTED], Alexandria, Va, Telephone [REDACTED], who wished to report on an aerial phenomenon. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he had been advised to call ATIC by a Major Smiley at the Pentagon. I questioned Mr. [REDACTED] in accordance with ATIC form Nr. 164 (13 Oct 54) "USAF Tech Info Sheet". Mr. [REDACTED]'s answers are provided in paragraph 3, below. *Calle further stated he wants no publicity.*

2. At 2325, Major Smiley, Staff Duty Officer at AFCIN, Hq USAF, phoned. Maj. Smiley stated that he had spoken to Mr. [REDACTED], and wished to confirm that [REDACTED] had called ATIC upon his (Smiley's) recommendation. Smiley wished to notify the ATIC SDO that Mr. [REDACTED]'s responses seemed to be quite rational and that Mr. [REDACTED] seemed quite responsible. Smiley wished further to notify ATIC SDO that he had called Bolling and Andrews Ops, and the local sheriff's offices, and had been informed that a multitude of similar calls had been received at the same time as [REDACTED]'s call, reporting essentially the same phenomenon from the Alexandria vicinity.

3. Mr. [REDACTED]'s responses to the questions in ATIC form 164 are as follows:

1. 20 May 1959
2. 2310 hrs.
3. Eastern Daylight time.
4. At home, address [REDACTED], Alexandria Virginia.
5. 3 seconds
- 5.1 Certain
6. Stars easily visible through light overcast
7. N/A
- 8.1 Many stars
- 8.2 Dull moonlight (Full moon through overcast as per 6, above.
9. Brightest object in sky. Much brighter than moon
10. Several blocks away.
11. a. No
b. No
c. Yes (at end of observed display object appeared to break into a burst of smaller separate parts.
d. No (Object appeared to be followed by trailing tail of lesser brightness, similar somewhat to a comet tail.)
e. Yes (At first brilliant orange yellow, changing to greenish blue-white, which dulled near termination of observation.)
f. No (except breakup at end of observation)
g. No
12. No
13. No
14. Solid
15. Naked eye, uncorrected optically (Calle states he has perfect vision)

16. a. No sound
b. See 11 c, above.
17. Essentially comet form, as described previously
18. sharp edged, except tail which ~~xxxxxx~~ faded at edges.
19. Single object, except for breakup at end of observation.
20. Straight course from first observation at 40 degrees above horizon due west, to last observation at 15 degrees above horizon in North north-west
21. Cannot estimate size in absolute figures, but appeared about one-tenth diameter of moon.
22. see 21, above. (in terms of object in hand, ~~approximately~~ approximately one-tenth diameter of dime held in hand at arms length.
23. See 11 c, above.
24. Does not consider describable in terms of question. Considers it as re-entry of artificial satellite into upper atmosphere.
25. Outdoors
26. Residential section.
27. Sitting in yard of home.
28. N/A
29. West
30. West of North, Approximately NNW.
31. (See 20, above)
32. (See 20, above)
33. (See 20, above)
- 34.1 Slight high haze.
- 34.2 Slight breeze (estimate 5 knots.
- 34.3 humid
- 34.4 Warm
35. Immediately after observation, I called Pentagon, spoke to a Major Smiley, who recommended I call ATIC SDO, W-P AFB, Dayton, Ohio.
- 36.1 No.
- 36.2 N/A
37. Qualified NO.. Has previously observed meteors, and has watched transit of artificial satellites at scheduled times. However had never seen any aerial phenomenon of nature of this reported one.
38. Believe observation was of re-entry of artificial satellite into atmosphere.
39. Having seen satellite transits, which took several minutes to cross observable arc overhead, estimates ~~xxxxxxx~~ angular velocity of observed phenomenon as some five to ten times angular velocity of satellite passage.
40. No, since I have no conception of size. However, since I believe this was satellite re-entry, I would answer that its distance was some 100 to 300 miles, but this answer is based on estimated altitude at which a re-entrant satellite would heat up, and not based on an educated estimate of distance.
41. NAME: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
ADDRESS: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
TEL: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
JOB: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Television Station WTTC
AGE: 30

SEX: Male.

Special Educational Training:

- a. Meteorologist, USAF, 1943-1945,
- b. Meteorological Training at Chanute Field, Ill.
- c. Graduate Indiana University,
- d. Graduate in Engineering of Purdue Univ.

42. 20 May 1959.