PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 20 October 1962	2. LOCATION Wells, Maine	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 21/0430Z	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 seconds 6 seconds	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE NE

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Object that appeared to be a meteor leaving a trail, or two trails - one from each side. Suddenly increased in size and became circular. Had points of light. Object dimmed after about 2 seconds. Sparks trailing. Alsmost disappeared three times during flight. Trail appearing to glow remained for about 5-8 minutes after object was gone. Dogs barked and howled although sound not audible to witness.

11. COMMENTS

Witness indicates object was like meteor or decay; however, was curious at the persistance of the trail. No reported decay for this date. Case considered as possible meteor observation.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

[redacted]
Wells Maine
October 24, 1962

Speed for reply

Department of the Air Force
Unidentified Flying Objects Department
Washington D.C.

Dear Gentlemen:

On the night of October 20th at approximately 11:30 P.M. I was following a woods road through a small field in Wells, Maine when I saw a light looked up and saw something in the sky that appeared to begin with to be a meteor leaving a very distinct trail behind it. in fact it appeared to be leaving two trails one from each side, which merged into one. There suddenly it opened up into an object about the size of a dime and stayed this way during most of the duration of the flight. The object appeared to be, as said, about the size of a dime, circular in planform, and with high points of light on it. It was preceded by a small "bow wave" of light and tail of light both of which retained the size (the width) until the object disappeared and were visible for a second afterwards. It did not give out quickly as did the trails of meteors I have seen. It dimmed out taking about 2½ seconds to do so. The object itself was visible about 3 seconds, and there were a few sparks.

(over)

The smoke trail moved in a north east by north direction to a point about 80° from the northern horizon about 80° from the eastern horizon. (Moved 20° at least, from original position in a northerly direction.

The second originated from about where the first did, 70° degrees above eastern horizon 80° above southern and traveled about 30° in a slight curve to a position about 60° above northern horizon about 50° above Eastern.

I don't know what these were, would like to know.

I think some good guesses might be:

1. a meteorite or fireball.

However the 1st object appeared to be skipping as a decomposing satelite or satelite carrier might due as it entered, bounced off, and reentered the earthes atmosphere, approximently 30 seconds before I saw the first object I did notice what appeared to be a satellite moving along about the same line of flight only higher up (about 900), from N. S. horizon moving in <u>opposite direction</u>, (from West to East), and noticed nothing unusual.

Ex 2. There the possibility of as said before of Satelite or satelite carrier breakup. Cheifly because of the fact that no meteor or meteorite leaves no cloud, specially one that curls into a spiral

The object appeared to almost disappear at least three times during its flight before it disappeared entirely.

It left behind it a trail of smoke or particles which appeared to glow. This was visible 5 to 8 minutes during which the trail curled into a single spiral with crookedly consisted of one turn.

About three minutes after I saw the first object (while smoke trail was finishing spirals) I saw something that appeared to be about the same size as a pinhead or two and as bright as venus.

I heard a slight but distinct whooshing Rer Whumpp (the two sounds were intermingled.) which occured while watching the first object.

No sound was heard with the second object.

When the 1st object went over all dogs in the area barked and many howled violently for some time afterwards.

Here are the approximate positions of the objects. The first was sighted approximently 70° up from the eastern horizon. and traveled from N.E. by E to S.W. by W to about 65° above the western horizon following a course about 30° degrees off from being directly E. to W. The line of flight was about 80° above southern horizon on the average beginning about 90° above southern horizon terminating about 70° above.

The second object could of been an explosion or part of the first which was thrown up wards by initial contact with earths atmosphere. was in sharp contrast with first because left no trail of light and or smoke. & heard no sound.

would it be possible for part of an object to be thrown upwards later to fall back 3 minuts later under conditions like this?

Also would a meteor have points of light in an already unbelievably bright burning up of itself?

one more point. I'm not sure about this because I didn't realy notice but it seemed to me that many dogs in the area were or started howling before I noticed the object. I hear dogs can hear ultrasonic sounds. Do you suppose they heard this?

If you send me there address I would be glad to let known this info to any V. F. O. Clubs.

yours sincerely,

[redacted]

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
OSAF
1962 OCT 15 52