

1. DATE - TIME GROUP Fall 1963	2. LOCATION Thaxton, Virginia
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION THISTLE BLOOMS
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Multiple	Finally observed thistle blooms at close range. Thistle blooms are 1-1 1/2 inches in diameter.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Bright silver object in sky. Thought to be high in sky. Finally observed objects less than 100 ft instead of at great height. Object moving with wind. Letter submitting the observed phenomenon as a possible solution for other observations of this nature.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Falling	
8. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

RETURN TO:

K243.6012-1
Oct 1963

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

9 December 1964

Dear [REDACTED]

Your observation of floating thistle blooms is an interesting case, and it falls into the general category of evaluations of reported "angel hair".

Similar observations which have been reported on many occasions included migrating spider web, rayon residue from broken chemical plant filters, and several silver halides from cloud seeding operations. All three of these phenomena appear in the same manner which you described in your sighting during the latter part of the fall of 1963.

The Air Force appreciates your contributions to this program and will add this unique observation to the various causes of unidentified flying object reports.

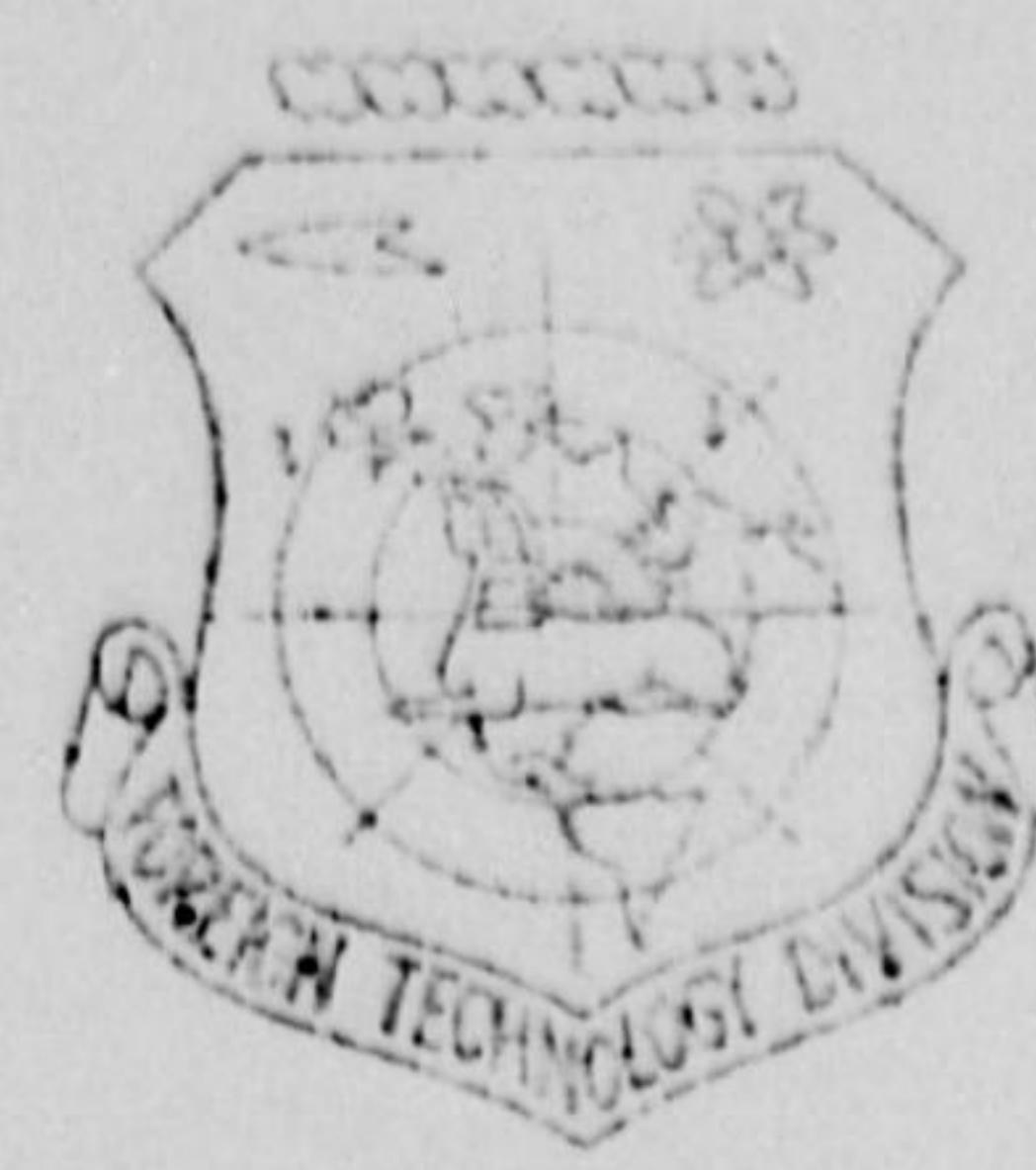
Sincerely,

MASTON M. JACKS
Major, USAF
Chief, Pictorial Branch
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. [REDACTED]
Thaxton, Virginia

1003639

HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO



REPLY TO TDEW
ATTN OF:
SUBJECT: UFO Sighting, Fall of 1963, Thaxton, Virginia

2 Dec 64

TO: Hq USAF SAFOI PB [REDACTED]
Wash D C 20330

This office is in receipt of a letter from [REDACTED] Thaxton, Virginia, providing information on a sighting of his in the fall of 1963. The following is a suggested reply:

Dear [REDACTED]

Your observation of floating thistle blooms is indeed an interesting case and it falls into the general category of evaluations of reported "angel hair".

Similar observations which have been reported on many occasions included migrating spider web, rayon residue from broken chemical plant filters and several silver halides from cloud seeding operations. All three of these phenomena appear in the same manner which you described in your sighting during the latter part of the fall of 1963.

The Air Force appreciates your contributions to this program and will add this unique observation to the various causes of unidentified flying object reports.

Also, it is unusual for most private citizens to have a feeling for the relationship of sizes and their distances of the objects which they report. This is just one of the many problems which confront the scientists and specialists who evaluate the UFO reports. Again, we wish to express our appreciation for an excellent report.

Sincerely,

FOR THE COMMANDER

ERIC T. JONCKHEERE
ERIC T. JONCKHEERE
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Technology
and Subsystems

[Signature]
YOU - THE NUCLEUS OF SECURITY!

U.S. Airforce
U.F.O., Unidentified Flying Objects
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
my dear sis.

Nov. 25, 1964

During recent years when our citizens became U.F.O.'s happy, it's my theory that they suddenly became conscious of looking sky-ward, and saw varied objects which had previously been un-noticed.

During the late Fall in 1963, I noticed things glittering in the air about 100 or more feet above me, & upon carefully checking I discovered ^(I BELIEVE) them to be the petals of the bloom of the Thistle, a prickly weed, which was 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, silvery-white & color. This was a cool, ~~clear~~ clear day & as the sun's bright light made them glitter in the air, and from different angles they appeared large & the wind would make them zoom in different directions & great distance in the sky. Finally I at first was certain that I had seen an U.F.O., and since I kept observing was able to identify some sort of petal from some bloom zooming about in the breeze, which could have been several hundred feet distance away.

— Page one of 2

Page 2 of 2

It is my belief that due to the clear & bright day, with a very slow breeze, that the petals from the bloom getting caught in different cross-winds, or currents of air, and by seeing them from different angles that they shined & appeared just like large silvery objects at a great distance. It absolutely had me fooled until I was able to see some of those blooms less than fifty feet away!

I am enclosing two sort of blooms & perhaps if dried thoroughly & thrown into the air in a large well lit room and with the aid of electric fans you may get the same picture which I saw.

Should this prove what I have in ^{my} mind regarding the U.F.O. story, I would appreciate having a reply on your findings.

Sincerely yours

[REDACTED]
Tazetta
Virginia

Dept. of the Air Force
Master M. Jackson, Major, USAF
Chief, Proc. Branch, SAFOR-1 PB
Washington, D.C.

Thayton, Virginia

Dec. 22, 1964

My dear Sir:

In reference to your letter dated 12-9-64, I wish to make the following remarks:

I am 60, retired, 11 1/2 years Army Encl., 24 years Proc. Off. sub. I live in the hills 20 miles ^{West} of the A. Force Radar Station on Apple Orchard Mt., which is 20 miles north of the Town of Belford.

There is much Air Force activities over my farm land. That I just finished reading an U.F.O.'s article in TRUE magazine this week, by Ret. Major Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC. In reference to the floating thistle bloom, I wish to state that what I saw in the air ~~very~~ appeared to be those petals, and I did not identify them as such. On the city of Roanoke the city has a lighted star 100 foot in diameter & the other night I observed it at a distance of 10 miles. On the day that I sighted the U.F.O., I was standing near ~~roof~~ 30 X 30 feet in diameter, which have a galvanized tin cansions of this happening I became ward and noticed I found myself gazing sky- nately I noticed hundreds, or the atmosphere appeared full of tiny, silvery objects glittering, possibly no more than 2 inches in any direction ~~as~~ as diameter. I definitely recall having a sort of hypnotized feeling.

— Page 2 of 2 —

⊕ while still gazing at a point about ⊕ 10 miles over the town of Bedford I saw (only) one silver disc hovering motionless. Almost instantly it ZOOMED southward ~~out of sight~~. This is my only & first sighting. (Between Oct. & Dec. 1963. (date of happening).

I have never had & any dizzy or fainting spells. I was in good health, sober and feeling fine. I did not mention this to any person.

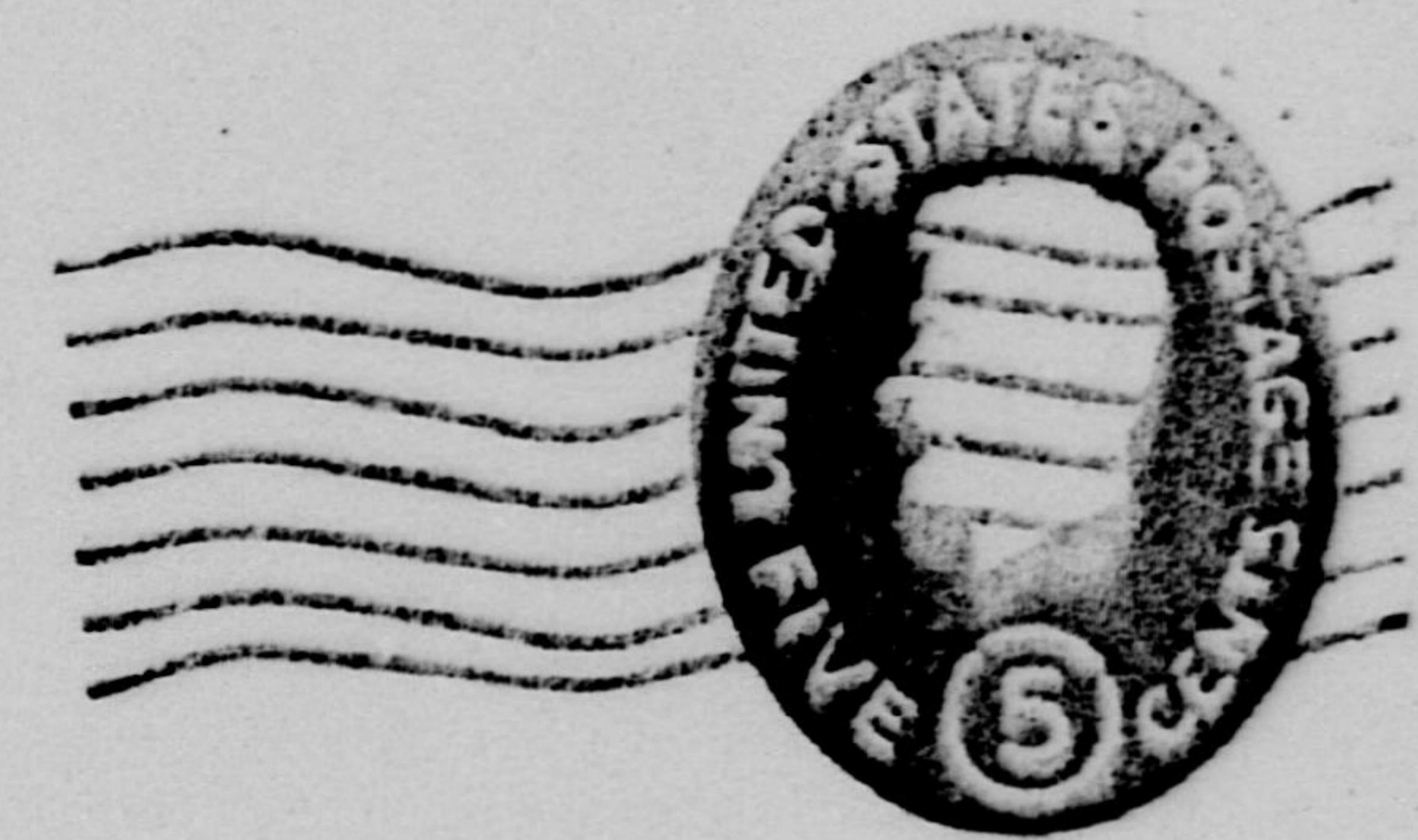
I figured that it was some sort of Air Force Radar Station Maneuver & that perhaps that I had only seen a reflection resembling a silver disc.

My opinion is that the Air Force should interview the people reporting more important sightings. Also perhaps they would tell more that way, and ~~learn~~ learn something about noises & whether they had a feeling whether the thing was trying to communicate with them or not. This is all I have to report.

Sincerely,

THAXTON, VIRGINIA

Thomaston, Ga.



att'd. → Department of the Air Force
Master M. Groves, Major, USAF.
R.E. USAF DI-PB
Chief Pictorial Branch
Washington 20330
D.C.

Maston M. Jacks
Major, U. S. A. F.
Chief, Pic. Br. Washington, D.C.

[REDACTED]
Roanoke, Va.
Sept. 8, 1965

MANUSCRIPT OCT 6 1965

My dear Major;

R.E. U.F.O.

My letter of 1-11-65 may be disregarded, because it must have been a large plane, with small wings. However, my letters of 11-25-64 and 12-22-64 are sincere.

That which I did not report is as follows:- on a clear, cool Fall day in 1963, I was standing in the sun of my garage, suddenly I felt my eyes being drawn skyward with a hypnotic feeling to an oval, same like thing about 10 O'clock position in the sky, and within 2 seconds it disappeared out of sight southward. It was about 100' diameter and 12' high. It was high over Bedford, Va., which is 9 miles

-Page 1 of 2-

East of me, and 15 miles south of the Air Forces
Radar station on Apple Orchard mountains, and I
was about 20 miles south of it. For some
reason I had no desire to mention it to any-
one & didn't, in fact the whole thing left me
with a feeling of great fear. During this time the sky &
atmosphere appeared to be full of tiny, fine objects the size of pins.

STINNY

The nearest thing that I ever saw resembling it
in a natural way was when I have seen glitter-
ing clusters of thistle fetal bloom when caught
in an up draft - (draught) rising skyward a
few hundred feet & shot obliquely at an
angle in a cross current of air. There must be
many larger blossoms across the South West & U.S.

Sometimes I wonder if some of your report's
aren't physiologically after re-examining & look-
ing at it objectively, I still swear by this report &
have not and will not discuss it with reporters.

Sincerely,

— Page 2 of 2 —

THAXTON, VA Fall 63

CASE INCLUDES one (1)
ENVELOP OF THISTLE BLOOMS

THAXTON, VA.

(Second Postage Due)
Oct 1960

U.S. Air Force
U. F. O., unidentified flying objects
1/2 → THE PENTAGON
Washington
D. C. S A P O

FTP

