1. DATE - TIME GROUP	2. LOCATION
9 December 65 09/2115Z	Indiana, Ohio Penna, Michigan, Canada
3. SOURCE Civilians (MULTIPLE)	**10. CONCLUSION** Astro (METEOR) ✓
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Seconds	**11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS** SEE CASE FILE
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Descending	
8. PHOTOS ☒ Yes IN FILE ☐ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD [illegible]

THIS CASE INCLUDES

2 PHOTOS 8X10

9 December 65
Lapeer, Michigan

SAFOICC/Lt Col Freeman/bp/76526/19 Oct 66
(Chaff)

OCT 19 1966

Dear Mr. [redacted]

This is in reply to your letter of December 10 to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in which you requested information regarding the identity of the material which you inclosed.

The "fireball" which was spotted by Lapeer County residents was also observed by residents in Indiana, Ohio, southeastern Michigan and Pennsylvania. There is no connection between the fireball and the material which was found in Lapeer County. The material which you submitted for analysis is chaff. This material is dropped by aircraft to confuse radar complexes when participating in interdiction exercises. Chaff can travel for many miles, depending on wind currents and wind velocities.

Your interest in the Air Force is appreciated and we sincerely regret the delay in answering your letter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE P. FREEMAN, JR.
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted], Michigan [redacted]

COORDINATED By (Office Symbol, Name, Grade, Date)			
SAFOI- CC	SAFOI- C		
GP			

Coord cy - SAF-OIC
Combk cy - SAF-OIC
Reader cy - SAF-OIC
Activity cy - SAF-OIC
Staycock

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AFSC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO 45433

REPLY TO ATTN OF: TDEW/UFO

DEC 28 1965

SUBJECT: Request for UFO Information

TO: Hq USAF SAFOICC (Mrs Hunt)

1. Mr Kenneth A Parks, Lapeer County Sheriff, has requested information regarding the identity of some material which he submitted to FTD. The following paragraph is provided to assist you with your reply.

2. The "fireball" which was spotted by Lapeer County residents was also observed by residents in Indiana, Ohio, Southeastern Michigan, and Pennsylvania. There is no connection between the fireball and the material which was found in Lapeer County. The material submitted to FTD for analysis, by Sheriff Parks, is "chaff." This material is dropped by aircraft to confuse radar complexes when participating in interdiction exercises. "Chaff" can travel for many miles, depending on wind currents and wind velocities.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Eric T. de Jonckheere

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

2 Atchs
1. Ltr Lapeer County Sheriff
2. Envelope containing chaff

LAPEER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
KENNETH A. PARKS, SHERIFF
LAPEER + MICHIGAN
Phone MO 664-8565

December 10, 1965

Project Bluebook
F. P. D.
Wright, Patterson Air Force Base,
Dayton, Ohio.

Gentlemen:

On December 9, 1965 in Lapeer County several residents spotted a fireball in the sky, said that there was a streak of smoke and fire. Some claimed that they seen an object go down. In the area the enclosed was found.

Would you be able to identify this and advise any information that might be of help in this matter.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,
Kenneth A. Parks,
Lapeer County Sheriff.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 December 1965

[redacted] from Detroit, Michigan called in regards to the picture of the meteor which landed in Acme, Pennsylvania. He said that it was 105 degrees magnetic. It came down to about 25 degrees. The duration was instantaneous. It lasted less than 1/4 second. He left his number at work [redacted]. He would be working until 5:30.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 December 1965

Major Howard from the Pentagon called. He wanted to find some information as to what he could release as a statement to the public.concerning the meteor over Acme, Pennsylvania. Major told him that a team of men were sent out from the Oakdale Radar Site in Oakdale, Pennsylvania. They searched until 2 o'clock, and were unsuccessful in finding the object. This thing was visual, was not picked up by radar. Major told Major Howard that reports came from northern Pennsylvania, Southern Michigan, Northern Ohio, and parts of Indiana. The team of men who were sent out to pick up the object worked along with the State Highway Patrol in trying to recover the object. He explained the Major Howard that the thing could be a meteor or a bolide. He expalined that a bolide is a meteor with sound. This thing could travel 24 miles per second. Major Quintanilla said that it was Ok to call it a meteor that entered the atmosphere. He said that investigation is still under way. There was no space debris which entered the atmosphere on 9 December 1965.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 December 1965

The Information Officer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, called to find out what he could about the meteor seen over Acme, Pennsylvania. We told him it would be wise to contact the Pentagon, and possibly get the same statement which the Pentagon is releasing to the public.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 December 1965

Houston Space Center requested information as to the sighting near Acme, Pennsylvania. Major told him that an Air Force team along with the State Highway Patrol searched the area until 2 o'clock this morning. Major gave him the location as 45-50 miles east of Pittsburgh.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 December 1965

[redacted] from Washington D C called to find out information as to the sighting from Acme, Pennsylvania. Major told him that the sighting took phace at 4:15 on 9 November in the afternoon. (2115 Zulu) Major told [redacted] that a photographer in Michigan was able to take a picture. This photographer is from Royal Oaks. He also tolR the Dr that a search was made in attempt to recover the object. The search ended unsucessfully at 0200.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 December 1965

Mr Hagen from the Air Force Command Post called to find out if there is any additional information as to the sighting at Acme, Pennsylvania. Major told him that we had no additional information. He said that is is probably a bolide or a meteor. Major told him about the substance which is probably chaf radar foiling material from La Pierre, Michigan.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 December 1965

We placed a call to Royal Oaks, Michigan to Mr [redacted]

Major Quintanilla talked to Mrs [redacted]. Mr [redacted] was driving down the highway when he saw a flash. He wasn't sure if he heard a sound. He pulled over to the side of the highway and got out his camera and took a picture. At this time, he only has the negative. On the negative, there appears to be a cloud of smoke..It is going in a certain direction. Mrs [redacted] said that she would be very glad to send the negative or prints of the negative.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 Dec 65

DAYTON DAILY NEWS, [redacted]

Mr [redacted]vented to know the latest news on the sighting seen on Acme, Pennsylvania location. Major Quintanilla told him that there were no local reports, only telephone calls. He told him that we just contacted Oakdale Radar Site and there was no additional information. Major told him that the highway patrol went out to the area, but found nothing.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 December 1965

[redacted] from the Flint Journal called, and wanted to know if there is any more information on the sighting seen in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana. In Flint, Michigan, was found some pieces of gold, flat substances with some discoloration. It was in rather large clumps.(1" long and 1/16th " wide) Major asked him to send a piece addressed to Project Blue Book. He agreed to send it.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 Dec 65

Call from Oakdale, Pennsylvania

Some people saw a glowing light.

There was also a report that there was a blue light, and there was an odor.

(Second call to Oakdale)

Lt Cashman said that the search ended at about 0200. They searched with the State Police. They could not find anything. They do not plan on going out again. The news media, etc. stopped calling about 1 o'clock.

MEMO FOR THE RECORD 10 December 1965

Mrs White in Colonel Jack's office from the Pentagon called. She wanted to know the most recent number of UFO cases for 1965. We told her 718/

Information Only
Source: Saucer News, Vol 13, #1, Mar 66

NE States & Part Canada
9 December 1965

On the afternoon of December 9th, a mysterious fireball made its way across seven northeastern states and part of Canada, and was sighted by airline pilots as well as by hundreds of other people. Strange metal strips were found in a swamp 40 miles north of Detroit, and a large wooded area about 30 miles from Pittsburg, Pa. was sealed off for several hours while a thorough search for debris was made by hundreds of members of the Army's 662nd Radar Squadron, state police, and volunteers. Nothing was found, however. Officials state that a meteorite was probably the cause of it all, but the times involved indicate that the object was traveling much too slow for a meteorite. There is also evidence that it changed course in flight. (N.Y. Journal-American, 12/10/65; The Jersey City N. J. Journal, 12/10/65; Duluth, Minn. News-Tribune, 12/10/65; UPI; etc.)....

Dec. 11, 1965

Dear Major Quintanilla:

On December 9, shortly before 5 p.m, I was driving south on Inter-state I 75 approximately two miles east of Pontiac, Michigan, and was aware of a flash in the sky about 30 degrees elevation, directly south. The flash traveled to the east on a course estimated about 110 degrees and ended at about 25 degrees elevation. The duration of my observation was approximately one second. From the time it was first observed, it appeared to be diminishing in brightness and ended with a definite flash

of light. I stopped my car on the shoulder of the road and made four photographs of the smoke remaining until a 127 millimeter lense on four by five inch film. The first exposure was taken approximately 45 seconds after my first observation, the second approx. 55 seconds, the third at a minute and ten seconds; and the fourth at a minute and 20 seconds.

The photographs made are unretouched and unspotted from the four by five inch negatives, of

which about 10 percent of the negative was used.

Photographs are for your use only. For any other publication please contact me.

Yours very truly

[redacted]

Royal Oak Mich

cc: RC, Jr
Dr. Hynek
Nortwestern University
Sky and Telescope

[redacted]
TORONTO 15, CANADA

Dec. 9th /65

Gentlemen;

I have just returned from a convention in Miami Beach via Tampa on Air Canada

Flight [redacted].

Since I sighted this "thing" over your Country I suppose. you are the people I should report it to.

At approx 4.45 p.m and at about 10 min flying time south of the city of Pittsburgh when we were at 18,000 ft. I was looking out the window to-ward the east when I saw "it"

A sort of pencil shaped object flying horizontal for a split second then going into a 70° dive with an orange flame then appearing behind it. In a matter of just 3 or 4 seconds it was gone. Just like a rocket taking off but this was in reverse - going down.

[redacted]
[redacted]EET
TORONTO 15, CANADA

Apparently I was the only one on board that saw it. However when I asked the stewardess to speak to the captain she told me that he had seen the same thing and was reporting it on the radio.

I was not drinking and have flown quite a bit as a passenger and am a former R.C.A.F pilot from the last war. I have never seen anything like it before. Especially the rapid change in direction and terrific speed.

I hope that this information may be of some use.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

9 December 1965

SAF-OICC/cassel/bev/79079/26 Oct 66

20330

OCT 27 1966

Dear Dr. [redacted]

Please excuse our delay in answering your letter reporting your unidentified flying object observation. A heavy backlog of correspondence and reports has precluded our answering all inquiries as promptly as we should like.

The object which you observed, south of Pittsburgh, on the evening of December 9, 1965, was definitely a brilliant "fireball." This same object was reported to the Air Force by numerous observers in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.

Your interest in our program is appreciated. Thank you for reporting your sighting to us.

Sincerely,

GEORGE P. FREEMAN, JR.
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

Dr. [redacted]
[redacted] Street
Toronto 15, Canada

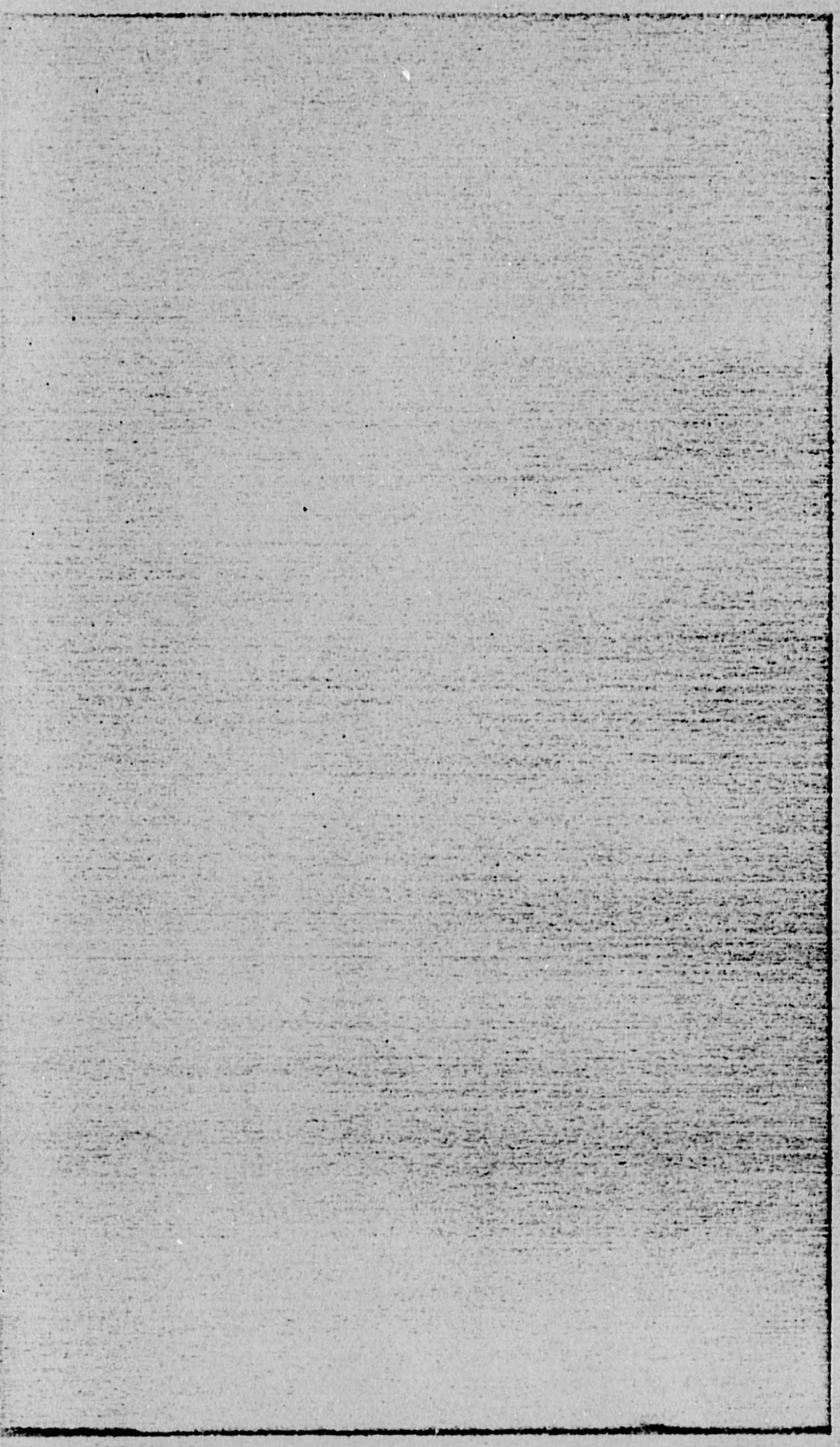
SAF-OICC
GPF

[redacted] cy - SAF-OIC
Comdr cy - SAF-OIC
Reader cy - SAF-OIC
Activity cy - SAF-OIC
Stayback

SKY AND TELESCOPE

FEB, 1966 p. 78

Great Lakes Fireball



The train of the December 9th fireball, approximately 45 seconds after it was first sighted by Richard P. Champine from about two miles east of Pontiac, Michigan. He had been driving south along Interstate 75 when there was a flash in the sky at an altitude of about 30 degrees. The fireball traveled toward the east, ending at an elevation of 25 degrees. It lasted about one second. Although when first seen the fireball appeared to be fading, it ended with a burst of light.

Standing on the shoulder of the road, Mr. Champine took this picture with a 4-by-5-inch camera and a 127-mm. lens. It is the first of a series of four, the others being taken at 55, 70, and 80 seconds after his first observation. In the last picture the train is strongly curved in the middle.

LATE on the afternoon of December 9, 1965, a fireball that must have been brighter than the full moon streaked across the sky near the Great Lakes. Though the brilliant light lasted only a few seconds, the meteor left a smoke train that remained visible for at least 20 minutes.

The fireball's path through the atmosphere appears to have been steep, probably over the southern Michigan Peninsula for the most part. This track terminated near the western end of Lake Erie. It is possible that the fireball dropped meteorites, but because its trajectory is not yet well known, it is not clear whether they fell on land or into the water.

Two factors contribute to this uncertainty of the fireball's path through the atmosphere. Since the time was near sunset, there were no star fields against which the fireball could be plotted. Also, the brief duration and short path in the sky hampered attempts to fix its direction over the ground.

...actively study-

locate any possible meteoritic mass. An astronomer close to the scene was Von Del Chamberlain of the Abrams Planetarium, East Lansing, Michigan. In response to his requests for information, more than 100 persons sent him reports. He writes:

"The fireball occurred at about 21:44 Universal time (4:44 p.m. Eastern standard time). The duration of the meteor was about four seconds, and it was described as a brilliant light which took on a reddish hue at the end of its path. Color estimates indicate that it changed rapidly from white to orange.

"The brightness must have been on the order of magnitude –15 for an observer located in southeastern Michigan. The fireball burst into one large and several smaller fragments before it disappeared.

"Several thunderous, resounding, and rumbling booms were heard in the Detroit area, 2½ to five minutes later, depending on the location of the observer. A seismograph at Willow Run Airport (about 25 miles southwest of Detroit) recorded the shock.

"One observer in Michigan had just finished taking sunset pictures and had turned toward the southeast when the fireball appeared. He quickly took two color pictures of the train and cloud.

"Preparations are under way for Canadian scientists and myself to begin serious attempts to locate the region of a possible fall of meteorites."

By chance, G. W. Wetherill, a geophysics and geology professor at the University of California at Los Angeles had already planned a business trip east. He started three days earlier, in order to interview people who had seen the fireball.

"On December 12th I arrived at Cleveland, rented a car, and drove west to talk to people at Elyria, Ohio. Later the day I visited the Federal Aeronautics Administration flight control center at Oberlin, Ohio, to see if they had any useful information. They did, and through Mr. Hatton of this facility I was given a copy of 23 reports by aircraft pilots.

"The first report was received at 4 p.m. EST from American Airlines Flight 180, which was about 20 miles west of Peck, Michigan (some 65 miles north



The path of the fireball extended roughly from northwest to southeast, passing well south of Pontiac and Detroit, Michigan, and ending in or near the western part of Lake Erie.

GREAT LAKES FIREBALL

(Continued from page 79)

was much closer than it really was. When it disappeared behind a house or a tree, many people thought it had fallen only a few hundred yards beyond.

"If the meteorite had fallen a few minutes later that day, it probably could have been recovered from the much more favorable terrain farther west. The steep trajectory with the short visibility of the fireball indicate that it was extraterrestrial matter rather than a returning spacecraft."

William Werner, a regional director for the American Meteor Society, submitted three sightings. One was by Howard Duell of Wooster, Ohio, who described the fireball as "very bright, yellowish, like a rocket flame. Blue-gray smoke trail remained one minute; last puff, five minutes."

Peter M. Millman of the National Research Council of Canada forwarded a report from H. Needham at the London, Ontario, airport. He described the lingering train as seen most of the time against a clear western sky. It became twisted and off-white in color, ending as "a thin horizontal cloud" visible for at least 20 minutes.

Detroit). The crew had sighted an object trailing smoke south of Detroit.

"Within the next few minutes many other radio messages were received from airborne observers in Michigan, Ontario, and Ohio. Many pilots thought an airplane was down in Lake Erie. When all the bearings were plotted on a map, they intersected in an approximately 300-square-mile area between Toledo, Ohio, and Pelee Island (see map). This agreed with sightings from the Cleveland area.

"The next day I drove farther west to the region of Fremont, Sandusky, and Port Clinton, Ohio. Although these cities were nearer the end of the fireball's trajectory, very few people had noticed the phenomenon, probably because it was high in the sky rather than close to the horizon. However, several reports placed the fireball to the north. One observer at Port Clinton—on the south shore of Lake Erie—also saw the fireball to the north, indicating quite clearly that no impact occurred south of the lake.

"I then telephoned police stations and local operators on all inhabited islands in the western end of Lake Erie, inquiring if anyone had seen the fireball. No one had, but many persons heard a loud detonation or sonic boom at that time. Several people were certain that it came from the west or northwest. This sonic boom had also been heard by many in Port Clinton, but not farther east.

"In view of the small population of these islands (Pelee Island; North, Middle, and South Bass islands; and Kelleys Island) and the fact that most inhabitants stay inside as much as possible in December, it is not surprising that there were no observers of the fireball.

"Calling Colchester, Ontario, on the opposite shore of the lake, I talked to Mrs. Margaret Lankin, who with her daughter had been hanging clothes when the fireball appeared. About 30 seconds after it disappeared, they heard loud detonations.

"I also talked by telephone to Richard Champine, who took the accompanying photograph. His name had been given to me by the FAA in Oberlin.

"It is clear that only one fireball occurred and that this became nonluminous a number of miles above the western end of Lake Erie. Most observers agreed that it burst into several pieces at the end of its trajectory.

"The fireball was observed by many people in Ontario, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and to a lesser extent in neighboring states. In newspaper accounts, a great many supposed impact sites were reported, both in southwestern Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. Fragments were claimed to have fallen in Ohio and Michigan.

"These imagined happenings arose from the impossibility of estimating the distance of an object in the sky. Almost everyone who saw the fireball thought it

(Continued on page 82)

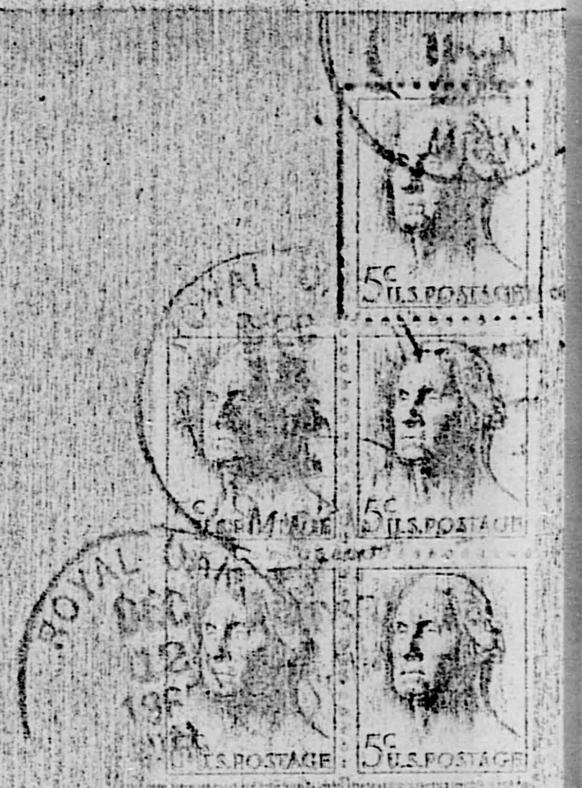
PHOTOGRAPHS

IF NOT DELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO

[redacted]

Royal Oak Michigan

Do not fold



PROJECT BLUE BOOK

WRIGHT PATERSON A.F.B.

OHIO

45433

ATT.
M.Sgt. QUINTANILLA

Time

1835 I received a call from Maj Horkanf, USAF. Command Post, advising me to be prepared for a possib UFO repat. AP release 203 was the only report at this time. AFLC Command Post called and informed me that Maj. Livers, Detroit Air Defense Sector, WO 26161, Ex. 741, called them and reported some very unusual sightings. Repats came to Maj. Livers from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.

The time of sighting was relayed as 4:45 PM. Some repats stated that the object was orange and others stated it was white with a tail. I called Maj. Quintanilla for his advice and assistance. He came to the base and called Maj. Liver. A further call was made to the Oakdale Radar Site in Penna. A three man team has been dispatched to Acme, Pa to investigate and pick-up an object that started a fire.

A call was received from Mr [redacted], Flint, Michigan ([redacted] [redacted] or [redacted] [redacted] [Home Phone]) repating fragments of something. He works for a newspaper and was looking for more info Then he was going. He was advised to send any fragments to Project Blue Book, WPAFB, Ohio.

Two calls have been received from newspapers Both have been refered to Washington, Secretary of the

Air Force Information Office for further info No determination was relayed by me.

Maj Quintanilla called SPADATS and they knew of no space junk entering the atmosphere today. This information has been relayed to Lt. Fowkes, AF Command Post. The best estimate at this time is a meteorite may
2100 have entered the atmosphere.

2250 Call received from Detroit radio wanting to swap information. They told me they had reports of three object but they did not know where anything hit. I told them that I knew no more than they did but I'd be glad to trace any info that he had.

2300 [NORAD OPERATOR, RED 55-2, EXT 6774]

SPACE Defense Center, ENT AFB Colo called and asked for latest info on Oakdale search effort. I am to call them if I get any word. Maj Quintanilla is to call them during the duty day if he gets any word.

2323 Mr. J. L. Bourassa, Chief Special Facilities Division, OEP, ode Blue Stars, called and advised that Mr [redacted] had called him with this info. "My man [redacted] has been given 3 pieces of aluminum type material near Lapeer, Mich. Area". Mr. [redacted] was trying to be wary of a hoax. Mr. [redacted] would like to

be informed of latest developments

2340 As a result of the call from Mr [redacted] I called Mr [redacted] to obtain a first hand account of what he thinks he has. The three pieces are to be brought to him in the morning by Mr. [redacted]. He asked if we minded if he kept one piece to a spectral analysis on it. I said go right ahead but send the other two. ..O. .. The pieces were reported as not being charred; however, the people finding "three pieces" said they showered from the sky and are spread over a wide area. Mr [redacted] said the sighting of the fire ball was approximately 200 nm north of Flint, Michigan.

Fintall 2115 2
500
1615

Rome PA.
30 N.E. of Bunker Hill

W.P. & Pittsburgh.
Oakdale — [redacted] Oakdale, Pa.
Lt.

films: — Dio [redacted]
Royal Oak Mich
5888829

Gowanda, Pa.
sound —

No Sports in Battle Creek.

