

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 22 Mar 66 23/0115Z	2. LOCATION Normal, Illinois
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION AIRCRAFT (DC-3) The DC-3 was 25 minutes late. A low pass was made over the town prior to letdown at the airport. A slow descending pattern was flown. The lighting configuration on the DC matches that of the
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS UFO Object was described as being oblong in shape like a football. The lights were red and green, separated by a white and red alternating light with blinking on top. Object was about 20 deg. above the horizon when sighted and disappeared at tree tops, gradually in the ENE.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3-5 Minutes	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE SW to NW	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	1 Witness

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 3345th AIR BASE GROUP (ATC)
CHANUTE AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS 61868



REPLY TO:
ATTN OF: ABOTF

30 March 1966

SUBJECT: UFO Sighting

TO: AFSC (FTD)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433

Final report of investigation surrounding the circumstances in the sighting of a UFO on the 22 March 1966 in the city of Normal, Illinois.

Edward J. Orenic

EDWARD J ORENIC, Captain, USAF
Investigating Officer

7 Atch

1. Copy of Initial Transmitted Report.
2. Copy of orders assigning investigator.
3. Chronological order of events.
4. Summary of investigating officer.
5. Map of area.
6. Diagram of UFO and DC-3.
7. Copy of news article.

Copies to:
ABOT
ABCR

UNCLAS

PRIORITY

X

TECHINGCEN CHANUTE AFB ILL

ADC

FTD WPAFB OHIO

30AIRDIV TRUAX FID WIS

CSAF

OSAF WASH D C

UNCLAS ABOTF 00021 MAR 66. FOR AFNIN AND SAFOI. Subj: UFO

Par 14, AFR 200-2.

a(1) Oblong.

(2) Football.

(3) Dark.

(4) One.

(5) N/A

(6) Light. Red and green, separated by a white and red
alternating with a blinking red on top.

(7) None.

(8) None.

(9) None.

25 1115

MAR 1966

ABOTF

Capt W. J. Orenic, UFO Inves Off

2705

1

3

UNCLAS

ARTHUR V HOLMAN, Major, USAF
Chief, Base Operations & Training Div

TECHNGEN CHANUTE AFB ILL

b(1) A six year old "saw an airplane".

(2) 20°

(3) Tree top.

(4) SW to NE

(5) Gradually to ENE

(6) 3 to 5 minutes.

c(1) Ground visual only.

(2) N/A

(3) N/A

d(1) 0115Z 23 Mar.

(2) Night.

e. ██████████, Normal, Illinois

f(1) Civilian. ██████████ high school student,

██████████, Normal, Illinois.

(2) N/A

g. Wx 2000 broken 4000 overcast, WSW 10 knots.

h. Normally, a DC-3 flown by Ozark Airlines arrives at the Bloomington Normal airport at 1850 CST. On this particular day the DC-3 was 25 minutes late. A low pass was made over the town prior to letdown at the airport. A slow descending pattern was flown. The lighting configuration on the DC-3 matches that of the UFO. The ceiling was ragged and overcast.

i. N/A

j. See Item h.

k. Capt Edward J. Orenic, Flight Operations

UNCLAS

TECHNGEN CHANUTE AFB ILL

All information received was evaluated and the following conclusion was then made. The UFO was in fact a DC-3 belonging to Ozark Airlines. All statements of witnesses and editorials in the newspaper will be sent forward.

ABOTF

3 3 UNCLAS

AVH

TEMPORARY DUTY ORDER - MILITARY (If more space is required, continue on reverse, identifying items by number)				DATE 24 Mar 66
TO: CASPD, OTTC Chanute AFB, Ill.		FROM: ABOT, 3345th ABGp	1. INDIVIDUAL(S) WP ON TDY AS SHOWN IN ITEMS 5 THROUGH 21.	
2. TYPED NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF ORDERS ISSUING OFFICIAL EVERETTE A. ROBBINS, 2nd Lt, USAF Admin. Off 3345th ABGp		3. SIGNATURE <i>Everette A. Robbins</i>	4. PHONE NO. 3424	
5. GRADE CAPT	6. NAME (Last, first, middle initial, AFSN) ORNICK, EDWARD J. FV3008517	7. ORGANIZATION Hq 3345th ABGp	8. SECURITY CLEARANCE None	
9. EFFECTIVE ON OR ABOUT 24 Mar 66		10. APPROXIMATE NO. OF DAYS (Include travel time) 1 day	11. DDALV	
12. PURPOSE OF TDY Investigate Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)		13. ITINERARY FROM: Chanute AFB, Ill. TO: Bloomington, Ill. RETURN TO: Chanute AFB, Ill.	<input type="checkbox"/> VARIATIONS AUTHORIZED	
14. MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED WITHIN CONUS A. <input type="checkbox"/> TPA. Travel time by most economical common carrier available (rail, bus or air) is days. Travel time in excess is charged to leave auth in Item 11.		B. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TPA. THIS MODE HAS BEEN DETERMINED MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVT.	C. <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT (First class accommodations)	
15. TOTAL POUNDS BAGGAGE, INCLUDING EXCESS, AUTHORIZED EACH PERSON		16. APPROVED. PER AFR 35-14 FOR ALL NECESSARY TRAVEL EXPENSE INCLUDING \$ FOR REGISTRATION AND/OR ADMISSION FEES		
(ITEMS 17 THROUGH 21 APPLY FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL)				
17. NAME OF DESIGNATED OFFICIAL COURIER		18. AIR MOVEMENT DESIGNATOR ASSIGNED IS		
19. PROPER THEATER CLEARANCES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED				
20. MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL A. <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY AIRCRAFT B. <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT C. <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT (First class accommodations) D. <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT (Also foreign registry when U.S. registry is not available), RAIL AND BUS WITHIN OS AREA				
21. a. Prior to travel overseas comply with the Foreign Clearance Guide for passports and immunization requirements. b. Return air movement designator will be obtained from the local area priority issuing agency. c. In the event of limited war or mobilization and you are traveling overseas, contact your Hq to determine the necessity for continuance of travel. In the event of general war or if the CONUS is attacked by a foreign military force while you are traveling, report to the nearest AF installation as soon as possible.				
22. REMARKS Verbal order of the Commander on 24 Mar 66 is confirmed exigencies of the service having been such as to preclude the issuance of competent written orders in advance.				
23. AUTHORITY AFM 36-13 and AFR 300-2		24. DATE 28 Mar 66	25. SPECIAL ORDER NO. TA-882	
26. DESIGNATION AND LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE Hq Chanute Tech Trng Cen (ATC) Chanute AFB, Ill. 61830		27. EXPENSES CHARGEABLE TO 5763400 3066441 Plat 213155 215165 5525900 CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION CODE <i>Col. M. Reid</i>		
28. TDN		29. DISTRIBUTION 10 ABOT #67 3 ABOT 7 T		
		30. SIGNATURE ELEMENT OF ORDERS AUTHENTICATING OFFICIAL DONALD V. REID, Lt Col USAF Chief, Administrative Services		

The following chronological report of the UFO sighting is submitted:

23 Mar 66, 2100 hrs CST

Call received from Mrs. ██████████ ██████████, Illinois.

Place of Sighting: ██████████, Illinois at the above address.

Time of Sighting: Between 1900 CST and 1930 CST, 22 March 1966.

Duration: Approximately 2 (two) minutes.

Description: Oblong object with a row of lights, four blinking, placement not indicated. No estimate of size of the object but all present received the impression it was of great size. No sound from the object.

Object Activity: Traveling west at tree top level, stopped blinked lights, descended vertically, arose in a different location traveled east, descended out of sight as the boys ran toward it.

Altitude: No estimate can be given.

Reported: Initial report was given to the Pantagraph News in Bloomington Illinois. Next report was given to the Civil defense in Chicago. Final report was given to the Command Post at Chanute AFB, Illinois.

24 Mar 66

1015 hrs CST:

Initial call by Captain Edward J. Orenic, investigating Officer, to Chief of Police in Normal Illinois. 1015 CST: Chief Hanna said approximately 15 people had called in about the sighting. No reason to doubt the validity of the callers, and one officer was dispatched to interview the Simpsons.

1020 hrs CST:

Call to the daily Pantagraph in Bloomington. Reporter on the story was ██████████ a student at the Illinois Wesleyan University. ██████████ was in school at the time, and a report was received from ██████████ on the city desk, containing the names of persons interviewed and a "reading" of the article in the paper.

1030 hrs CST:

Call to the tower operator at Bloomington, Illinois. ██████████ stated that he did not know of any aircraft operating in the area, no helicopters, no weather balloons. Could not offer any information on the object.

1100 hrs CST: Call to Springfield Air National Guard. Negative aircraft or object report.

1110 hrs CST: Call to Peoria Air National Guard. Negative Aircraft or Object Report.

1115 hrs CST: Call to Chicago center for special report on any peculiar activity or objects reports from controllers, Negative.

1130 hrs CST: Call to the UFO center at Wright Patterson AFB as per instructions in AFR 200-2. Given instructions to proceed with the investigation and to proceed to Normal, Illinois to interview the witnesses.

1345 hrs CST: Departed Rantoul, Illinois for Normal.

1505 hrs CST: Arrived in Normal, Illinois and proceeded to the Police Station for an interview with the Chief of Police, Captain Hanna. Made a preliminary check of the persons involved, a check of the weather in the area on the night of the incident, a check of the terrain including the area of the sighting. The area of the sighting is situated approximately 3 miles parallel to the runways at the airport (see attachment 5). The area of the sighting is heavily wooded, with tall trees in all directions. The area is approximately one city block from the railroad tracks, in a slight depression. The exact location of the area is 3 miles northwest of the runways at the Bloomington airport. The wind on the night of the sighting was west-south-west at about 15 knots. The sky condition was 2,000 broken to overcast with a ragged condition.

1600 hrs CST: Proceeded to the [redacted] residence at [redacted] to interview the [redacted] years old.

"I was in the house when my neighbor, [REDACTED] ran over and told me to come outside and see the UFO in the air. I ran outside and looked to the southeast and saw the object moving from the southeast to the northeast. It was fairly high in the sky and was shaped like a long football. It had a green light on the bottom, red, white and a blue light in that order on the side. I think all the lights were blinking. It was very hard to tell what shape the object was."

Proceeded to interview Mrs. ██████████. "I did not really see the object very clearly since my glasses aren't very good. It didn't look like the Ozark airliner that comes over the area every night about 7 o'clock. I Saw it for about 15 seconds moving from the NW to the SE. I'm sorry I can't tell you more about it, but I really didn't see it very well."

1730 hrs CST:

Called Miss ██████████ student at the Illinois Wesleyan University.

Miss ██████████

"At first I thought it was an airplane. I was walking east on Phoenix Avenue on campus, and looked up and saw the blinking lights. I really couldn't tell you what the shape was. It did have a blinking red light on it and I kinda think it was an airplane. My friend ██████████ who was walking along with her boyfriend, ██████████ also saw the object. Tom is a science student and he said that it wasn't an airplane. This all happened about 7 o'clock in the evening."

1740 hrs CST:

Called ██████████

Mr. ██████████

"I was walking north at about 6:45 PM. The object I saw did not look like a small Cessna. I am familiar with airplanes since I have flown in them for about 200 hours. My roommate has a Cessna and we fly together quite a bit. This object was about 4000 feet high, it had red, white and blue blinking lights. It normally moved very slowly and made quick turns. I watched it for about 15 to twenty minutes. It did not make any noise at all. I remember it was quite cloudy that night. The basic direction was from Bloomington towards Normal, north from Normal and then to the east when it went out of sight. I could not tell you what shape it had if any. I'm sure it wasn't any airplane. I'm a science student and have flown before and I'd know an airplane if I saw it."

1800 hrs CST:

Call to Ozark Airlines, Mr. ██████████

Mr. ██████████

"The weather on the night of the sighting was 3 thousand broken, 4 thousand overcast with ragged ceilings. The wind was WSW at about 15 knots. Normally a DC-3 out of Chicago arrives at 6:51 and departs at 7:01. It flies V-9 from Pontiac to Bloomington. The runway in use was 22. On this particular night, the DC-3 was 25 minutes late. It landed around 7:15. The standard lighting is Red left wing tip, green right wing tip, Red rotating anti-collision on top of the tail and a red and white alternating on the back of

the tail. It flew a right hand pattern making a right base for landing at Bloomington Normal. Since there is not a tower, the DC-3's usually make a pass over the airport checking the wind "T". Then they proceed on a downwind to base for landing. About 5 people called in and said they saw a UFO. Actually it was the DC-3 flying over the city."

1830 hrs CST:

Interview with the [REDACTED].

"We were out in back playing basketball when my young brother said, hey Steve look at how low that plane is. I ran to the front of the yard and watched it flying. I didn't think it was a plane. It was moving from the southwest to the northeast. It was moving real slow. It had a green light on the bottom, red, white and blue lights across the front. All the lights were blinking. It was oblong oval shaped. I didn't tell this before but it had two antenna coming out of the top and two antenna coming out of the bottom. It wasn't making any sound at all. It appeared to hover overhead staring at us. Then it moved over toward Main Street toward Krogers. Then it appeared to hover right over the trees back of the house. It was diving and climbing and changing its speed. When we ran toward it, it dived out of sight to the north east. [REDACTED] teacher spotted a bright orange ball of light in his back yard but didn't report it. A friend of mine, Roger Simpson, he's no relative, saw the UFO and was listening to his walkie talkie at the time. When the UFO came close, it caused interference on his set. The interference went away when the UFO went out of sight."

Mrs Simpson:

"I saw the UFO above the tree top level. It had blinking lights. Red, white and Green. No, Steve, It wasn't blue. You said it had a blue light but I didn't see it. The lights quit working when the object moved out of sight toward the Kroger area. I'd say we watched the object for about 3 to 5 minutes."

Steve Simpson:

"Here, let me show you how it looked. (He left and obtained a copy of a dated "Coronet Magazine" and showed me a picture of a UFO, which was in reality a picture of a U-2). The thing that got me was that it hovered over us looking at us. When we ran toward it, it turned and ran. I'm sure it wasn't an airplane. I'd guess the UFO was about a couple of hundred feet in the air."

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

1. I believe that the persons contacted did in fact see something and that all witnesses were reliable to a degree. The fact that all agreed on the time of the sighting, the area of sighting, the colors of lights, the oblong shape, the fact that the object apparently had lacked sound generating capabilities and finally they all agreed on the basic flight direction, all these facts tend to strengthen the fact that the UFO was in fact a DC-3 in flight over the city.

a. The wind at the time of the incident was west south west at about fifteen knots. Since this would tend to blow the sound away from the sighting area, this would answer the questions on the lack of sound.

b. Since an overhead pattern is flown by the airlines arriving at the Bloomington airport at night, and since these patterns are made at a relatively low altitude in order to determine the wind direction and landing runway, these facts would account for the changes in direction, the low slow speed of the object and since the aircraft are descending for landing, they usually have power reduced in order to lose airspeed and descend into the pattern.

c. The sky condition on the night of the incident was overcast and ragged. Under these conditions it is almost impossible to determine the shape of the object while in flight. The lights of the city reflecting on the bottom of the object in question, could and usually do present to the viewer, a strange contrast of light and shadow effect.


d. The DC-3 operated by the Ozark Airlines, arrives at the Bloomington airport each night at about 1850 hours CST. On the night in question, the airlines was 25 minutes late as evidenced by the Ozark operations log. This information places the airliner over the city of Normal, Illinois at the precise time of the UFO sighting. The standard lighting configuration of the DC-3 is comparable to that of the UFO when viewed from various angles. The question of the Blue light is solved when you consider the fact that blue is quite easily mistaken for green at night. Atmospheric conditions at night can cause colors to be mistaken by the bending and absorbing of light rays.

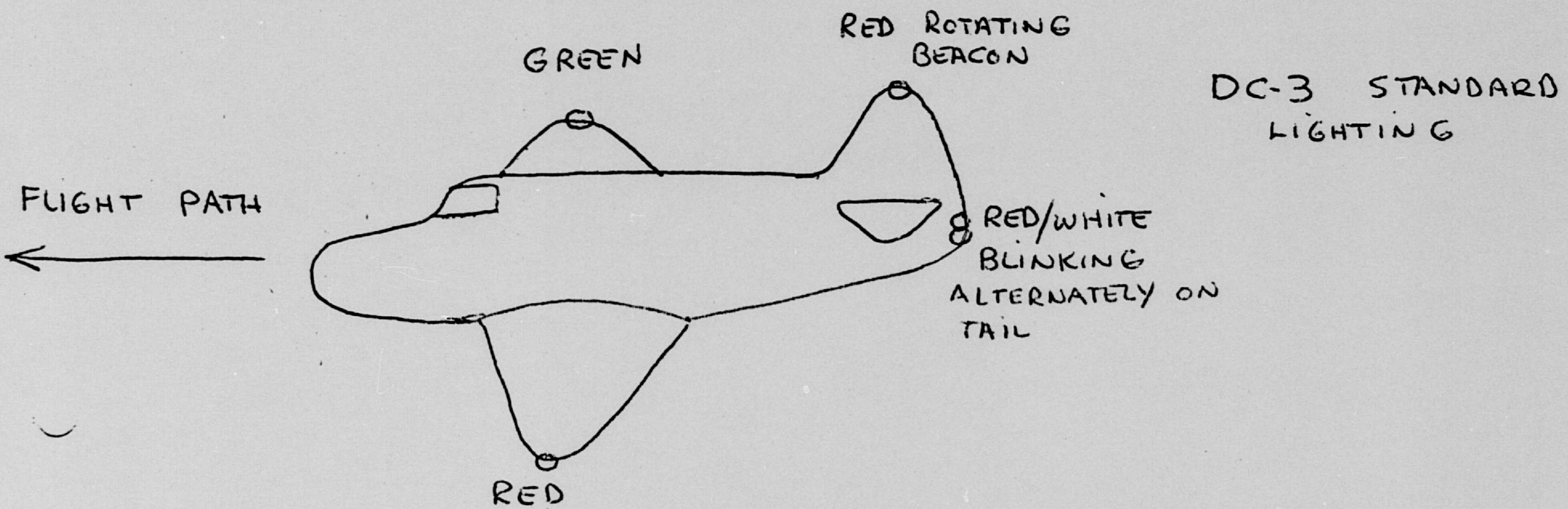
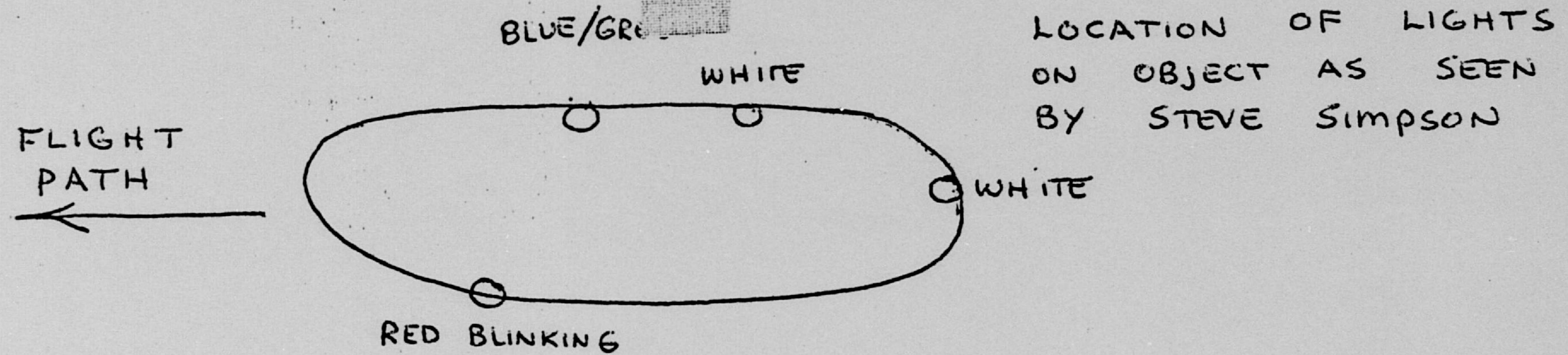
e. I feel that most witnesses were reliable until facts became confused fantasy as in the case of Steve Simpson. Prior to his sighting of the UFO, he admitted that he was very familiar with the sightings in Michigan. His testimony on the antennae was revealed two days after the original sighting. Also comments on "hovering right overhead, staring at us, blinking its light at us, running away as we ran toward it, etc.", are added as after thought since he stated originally that the object flew from the southwest to the northeast and then descended out of sight. The more a witness talked about the sighting, the more the sequence of events became and the more the additional fantasies were included. For example, Mrs Simpson had to disagree with her son on the number of lights, the colors of lights and the flight path of the object after he had changed his original testimony.

2. In conclusion, all facts point toward the UFO being the DC-3 and vice-versa.

3. Recommend that the civilian population be informed as to the proper procedure for reporting the sightings of UFO's. This would eliminate the costs of investigating fantasies and know flights of air vehicles.

Edward J. Orenic
EDWARD J ORENIC, Captain, USAF
Investigating Officer





LATEST OF MANY

Unidentified Flying Object Mystifies Normal Viewers

By STEVE VOGEL

Ray Floyd Jr., 12, of 914 W. Division, Normal, sat talking to a reporter about the unidentified flying object he, five of his friends and four adults reported seeing early Tuesday night.

"Maybe you shouldn't be telling people about this," interjected his mother. She had also seen the strange air—or space—craft.

"Maybe I shouldn't," laughed young Ray. "Pretty soon the men in the white coats will be after me!"

Crazy? Laugh if you wish, but 10 Bloomington-Normal residents are the latest of scores of persons in the Midwest reporting seeing UFOs this week.

Oval, Soundless

First reported sighting of the object was by the Merle Simpson family of 918 W. Division at about 7:15 p.m. The Simpsons' youngest son, Jimmie, 8, said he first saw it approach from the southwest while he and his three brothers played basketball.

The craft, said to be oval in shape, soared soundlessly at heights estimated at 200 to 300 feet and had four blinking lights—a green light on the "bottom" and three others (blue, white and red) on the side.

"Look at the airplane," yelled Jimmie. But as the craft approached, the boys said it was evident that it was neither an airplane, nor a helicopter, nor a weather balloon.

The boys called their parents' attention to it and soon after, that of Mrs. Floyd and her son. The witnesses said the ship flew over them, hovered near a group of trees several blocks northeast of their homes and then proceeded southeasterly. They said they had the craft in sight for more than a minute and as it "had finished exploring," flew to the southeast, and then dipped.

Area Searched

"I don't know if it landed—don't get me wrong there," said

Steve Simpson, 15-year-old ninth grader at Chiddix," but I saw it dip down and out of sight."

The boys searched the area near Main Street where they thought it could have set down, but found nothing.

Mrs. Floyd, having stepped outside to look for a taxi when the Simpsons called her attention skyward, said she saw it hover over the trees. "Now I admit that my glasses need to be changed," she said, "and I saw just the one red light." But she was sure that she saw something, and that something was not an airplane. "It didn't seem to take off very fast," she recalled.

Normal police investigated the sighting. "I don't know what to think about it," said Patrolman Robert Fowler. He said that the parents backed up what their children had said. "There was enough of them who saw it," he said. "It sure beats me. But I don't think there's anything to get excited about."

Twice In Michigan

It was just Monday night that a Civil Defense director, an assistant dean and 87 coeds in Hillsdale, Mich., reported seeing a glowing object zip past a college dormitory and hover in a swamp for hours.

And Sunday night a similar craft had been seen by more than 50 persons, including 12 policemen near Ann Arbor, Mich. Those objects (or object?) were described as roughly in the shape of a football.

The Air Force announced it was sending Dr. H. Allen Hynek, chairman of Dearborn observatory at Northwestern University and scientific consultant

to the Air Force's "project blue book" program to track down the reports of UFOs in Michigan.

And as Steve Simpson put it, "I've read stories about these things, but I never dreamed I'd see one."

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 12771 (25Mar66) S/r1 j

Pg 1 of 3

ACTION: NIN-7 INFO: XOP-1, XOPX-2, SAFOS-3, DIA-1 (8) ADV CY DIA

SMB A151PTTU JAW RUCISBA9762 0841727-UUUU--

RUEBHQ.A.

ZNR UUUUU

P 251715Z

FM TECHNGCEN CHANUTE AFB ILL

TO RUWMFVA- ADC

RUCDSQ-FTD WPAFB OHIO

RUCDAH-30AIRDIV TRUAX FLD WIS

RUEBHQ.A- USAF

RUEBHQ.A- USAF WASH DC

BT

UNCLAS ABOTF 00021 MAR 66. FOR AFNIN AND SAF-01. SUBJ: UFO

PAR 14, AFR 200-2.

- (1) OBLONG.
- (2) FOOTBALL.
- (3) DARK.
- (4) ONE.
- (5) N-A
- (6) LIGHT. RED AND GREEN, SEPARATED BY A WHITE AND RED
ALTERNATING WITH A BLINKING RED ON TOP.
- (7) NONE.

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STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 12771 (25Mar66)

Pg 2 of 3

PAGE 2 RUCISBA9762 UNCLAS

- (8) NONE.
- (9) NONE.
- B(1) A SIX YEAR OLD "SAW AN AIRPLANE".
- (2) 20 DEGREES
- (3) TREE TOP.
- (4) SW TO NE
- (5) GRADUALLY TO ENE
- (6) 3 TO 5 MINUTES.
- C(1) GROUND VISUAL ONLY.
- (2) N-A
- (3) N-A
- D(1) 0115Z 23 MAR.
- (2) NIGHT.
- E. 918 W. DIVISION ST, NORMAL, ILLINOIS
- F(1) CIVILIAN. ██████████ AGE 15, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT,
██████████, NORMAL, ILLINOIS.
- (2) N-A
- G. WX 2000 BROKEN 4000 OVERCAST, WSW 10 KNOTS.
- H. NORMALLY, A DC-3 FLOWN BY OZARK AIRLINES ARRIVES AT THE

UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN: 12771 (25Mar66)

Pg 3 of 3

BLOOMINGTON NORMAL AIRPORT AT 1850 CST. ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY

PAGE 3 RUCISBA9762 UNCLAS

THE DC-3 WAS 25 MINUTES LATE. A LOW PASS WAS MADE OVER THE TOWN
PRIOR TO LETDOWN AT THE AIRPORT. A SLOW DESCENDING PATTERN WAS
FLOWN. THE LIGHTING CONFIGURATION ON THE DC-3 MATCHES THAT OF
THE UFO. THE CEILING WAS RAGGED AND OVERCAST.

- I. N-A
- J. SEE ITEM H.
- K. CAPT EDWARD J. ORENIC, FLIGHT OPERATIONS

ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED WAS EVALUATED AND THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSION
WAS THEN MADE. THE UFO WAS IN FACT A DC-3 BELONGING TO OZARK
AIRLINES. ALL STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES AND EDITORIALS IN THE
NEWSPAPER WILL BE SENT FORWARD.

BT

NNNN