

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 3 July 67	63/2110 04/0210Z	2. LOCATION Kansas City, Kansas
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Probable BALLOON	
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Surface wind due south at 5 knots.	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 Minutes	The observer sighted a metallic looking object that traveled due south, had a slight wobble in flight, wispy smoke could be seen above the object, and seemed to explode somewhere between the observers home and Richards-Gebour AFB	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual		
7. COURSE South		
8. PHOTOS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

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

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS		ACTION
1 TO TDPTR		INITIALS	CIRCULATE	
		DATE	COORDINATION	
2			FILE	
			INFORMATION	
3			NOTE AND RETURN	
			PER CONVERSATION	
4			SEE ME	
			SIGNATURE	
REMARKS				
<p>Request surface observations for 3 July 1967 for 2100 and 2200 hours CDT from Kansas City, Missouri.</p>				
FROM TDPT (UFO) Lt Carmon L. Marano		DATE 27 May 1969 PHONE 70916		

DD FORM 1 OCT 60 95

Replaces DD Form 94, 1 Feb 50 and DD Form 95, 1 Feb 50 which will be used until exhausted.

★ GPO:1960-O-56224

(Carmon)

2

The following is the weather data for 3 July 1967, Kansas City, Kansas, received from the United States Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Center (ETAC), Washington, D. C.

Kansas City 9:00 p.m. CDT (4/0200Z)

3/8 alto-cumulous coverage
Surface wind from 360 deg at 5 knots
Visibility - 15 miles
Temperature - 19 deg C
Dew Point - 12 deg C

Kansas City 10:00 p.m. CDT (4/0300Z)

Clear
Surface wind from 40 deg at 6 knots
Visibility - 15 miles
Temperature - 19 deg C
Dew Point - 11 deg C

Upper air data to 5,000 feet. The closest upper air stations and closest times available were from:

Columbia, Missouri 7:00 p.m. CDT

Alt in meters	Direction	Speed
580	From 300 deg	14 knots
1045	From 300 deg	16 knots
1527	From 300 deg	18 knots
2029	From 290 deg	19 knots

Topeka, Kansas 7:00 p.m. CDT

Alt in meters	Direction	Speed
600	From 10 deg	6 knots
1066	From 40 deg	6 knots
1549	From 310 deg	8 knots
2055	From 320 deg	19 knots

MEMO FOR RECORD

23 May 1969

SUBJECT: UFO Sighting of 3 July 1969

23 May 1969

1110 Hrs EDT

Called Lt. Col. Mercier
Richards Gebaur AFB
(ext. 2668/2102)

1. Col. Mercier stated that he did talk to Mr. ██████ and that he had submitted his report of the sighting to the 328th Fighter ^{WING} Group. The contents of the report were much the same as in Mr. ██████ letter. Col. ██████ said that the object had exploded somewhere between his home and the drive-in theater roughly 3 mi. south of his home. Col. Mercier stated that Mr. ██████ lived in a fairly heavily populated suburban district but that there was some farm land to the south. He felt that if an object as described by Mr. ██████ had actually exploded in the area, it would have been seen and heard by many others. No physical evidence was found by either the police department or by Col. Mercier, both of whom at least looked at the area where the explosion reportedly took place. Col. Mercier did think that Mr. ██████ had seen something. He stated that he first felt that Mr. ██████ may have seen a light plane which was landing at the State Line Airport, a small airport just south of the drive-in theater. However, since the night manager was not at the airport the night of the sighting, there was no way of knowing if a small plane had landed at about the time of the sighting. He also stated that aircraft departing from the Kansas City Municipal Airport often pass over the area.
2. Col. Mercier stated that at the time he submitted his report to the 328th Fighter Group, the group was in the process of deactivating.
3. He also stated that he had recently received a letter from Washington, D. C. requesting that he try to locate the records of the sighting. He was unable to do so and has already submitted his report to this effect to Washington, D. C.

27 May 69

Called Col. Mercier's office again and talked to Sgt Lear. The letter from Washington D.C. was from Ted Bloecher of NICAP.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Washington, D.C.

20 May 69

Date

28 May 69

Suspense

PRIORITY

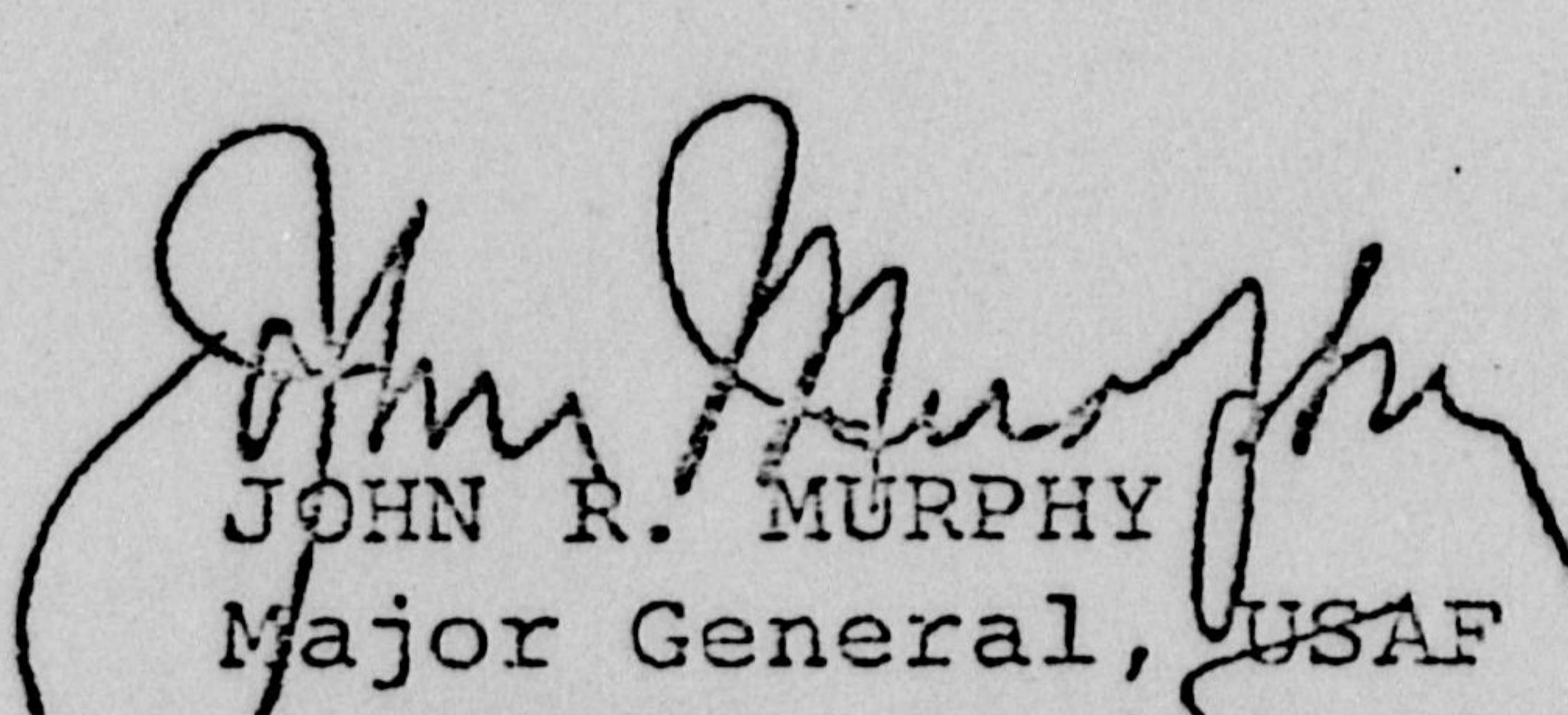
Category

MEMORANDUM FOR: SAFOI

SUBJECT: UFO

1. The attached correspondence is forwarded for preparation of a proposed reply (double-spaced draft in duplicate). Strict adherence to all provisions of HOI 10-20 is imperative, with particular attention being given to meeting the established suspense date.
2. Please return this memorandum and attachment(s).
3. Remarks:

4. SAFLL Action Officer is Maj Cochran,
Extension 57205.


JOHN R. MURPHY
Major General, USAF
Director, Legislative Liaison

NOSENIT BALKIN 10037
30 SEP 1968
SIVS

516 100 07 101 63

LARRY WINN, JR.
KANSAS

COMMITTEES:
SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
MANAGED SPACE FLIGHT
SPACE SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE
ROOM 310, HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
204 FEDERAL BUILDING
CODE 202-225-2065

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

RICHARD L. BOND
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
204 FEDERAL BUILDING
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101
TELEPHONE: MAYFAIR 1-0532

May 14, 1969

Major General John Murphy
Director, Legislative Liaison
Office of the Secretary of the Air Force
Washington, D.C. 20330

Dear General Murphy:

I would like to take this opportunity to request an official report from the Department of the Air Force with regard to their investigation on a reported sighting of an "unidentified flying object" on the date of July 3, 1967 in the Kansas City Kansas-Missouri area.

One of my constituents, Mr. [REDACTED] of Leawood, Kansas has brought to my attention a report on his observation of this phenomenon and it is my belief, after reading his summary, that there is some substance to this sighting and to the thousands of similar observations which have largely been ignored and laughed at over the years.

I am enclosing the entire file, which has been excellently prepared and is complete and self-explanatory. I would only like to draw attention to the fact that this sighting occurred within close proximity of one of the largest and most important Air Force bases in the nation - Richards Gebauer. It is quite disturbing to note that Mr. [REDACTED] received no satisfactory acknowledgement of his report of this observation.

Thank you for any assistance you may offer. As a member of the Science and Astronautics Committee here in the House I am most interested in the UFO issue.

Most sincerely,

Larry Winn Jr.
LARRY WINN, JR.
Member of Congress

LW:lm
enclosures

[REDACTED]
Leawood, Kansas

April 17, 1969

Honorable Larry Winn
Congressman
Federal Building
Kansas City, Kansas

Dear Sir:

After spending some time with [REDACTED] he suggested that I give you copies of the complete reports, letters, etc. pertaining to the sighting of a UFO from our residence in Leawood.

(You will note the complete indifference to this sighting by the)
Air Force and I am pursuing this in the full belief that the
entire subject is of utmost importance - while at the same time
conscientious United States citizens have been ridiculed and
suffered undue hardships.

Of most importance, in my opinion, of this particular sighting
was the almost certain possibility of recovering hardware or
proof of the existence of these objects. To my knowledge only
one other such explosion has been seen and that was in Brazil.

I would appreciate your comments and the opportunity to discuss
briefly not only the contents and details of the report but my
suggested plan for proper investigation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

PREFACE

The following report was made to the proper authorities of the U. S. Air Force within minutes of the observation of the UFO and its final destruction on July 3, 1967.

Since then this has been discussed with other authorities on the subject, such as Dr. Ed Condon, Col. Mercier, Dr. Allan Hynek. I am hereby publicizing this report to additional persons and groups interested in this phenomenon, because of my sincere hope that the U.S. Government will make an intensive full scale development program towards building similar devices, for if they don't Russia will. Further, the Air Force's attitude toward U.F.O. reports from conscientious U. S. citizens has resulted in undue hardships and ridicule to these people as well as directly misleading the American people.

I firmly believe we are far closer to the development of these unusual devices than is generally believed, and I have several ideas on this.

The U.F.O. sighted in this report exploded within sight of one of the largest and most important Air Force bases in the U.S.

U. F. O.
July 3, 1967

Briefly, the sighting occurred during a quiet family party on our patio - our excitement attracted others of our household and a neighbor. First, [redacted] noted a bright red orange light bearing about 30 degrees from north - as we watched it we became aware that it was an object - completely unlike anything we had ever seen. We ran for a set of binoculars and my 4" telescope. All had a chance to observe the object through the binoculars, including a neighbor who brought her own binoculars - only the writer saw the object in the telescope - which proved difficult to train on the object due to its limited field.

The sun had set a few minutes before the sighting, and the sky was very bright and perfectly clear. There were no clouds, no stars or comets were visible, (the Air Force included clouds and possible comet in their report). The conditions were ideal, including the setting sun at our backs.

The object appeared as drawn on the attached sheet - two persons (one the writer) with binoculars were watching the object, as well as the others watching unaided at the time of explosion, which was over an area of farm land, woods, brush and a few houses on the Kansas side of the Missouri-Kansas State line 13 - 14 miles from the center of Kansas City, Missouri. The explosion occurred on a bearing of about 170 - 175 from our observation point - or almost due south.

The edges and surfaces were sharp and clear - bright metallic in color similar to polished stainless steel - reflections of green trees could be seen on the flat bottom surface - and its wobble in flight (slight roll and pitch combined) was unlike any known aircraft - traveling considerably faster than the wind, the wispy lines of vapor coming to a point above the object added another unusual feature - any other aircraft would leave vapor or smoke trailing. The three very bright red orange lights appeared to be non-directional - a carbon arc at that distance would not have appeared as large nor would there be as much total light. As it wobbled through the air - when the edge nearest us was up occasionally we could see a fainter red orange light on the opposite side - all lights appeared on the trailing edge - or abaft the beam on the port and starboard quarters.

It appeared as a shallow inverted bowl with a flat cover (bottom side) - one observer thought they saw small portholes, others did not. Whether the sunlight was hitting the object at the estimated altitude we are not sure.

It is difficult if not impossible to estimate distance, size or speed when all are unknown - if the size were known, speed and distance estimates would be easier. Many small planes fly a similar course in approaching a small airport about four miles south. The diameter appeared to be about fifty feet if any.

guess could be made - it flew a straight course crossing the State Line several blocks south of our vantage point.

The Air Force did not acknowledge any other reports, to our group - nor was there any publicity given (to our knowledge) through any news media. We received that same night two hours after our report to the Air Force - what we now know is the standard Air Force comment "There were no planes in the area at that time and there were no blips on radar".

My comment - 'Either they were lying or they had better overhaul their radar.' The object was within three miles of this major air base (Richards Gebauer) when it exploded and it went between our house and the Air Base !

I pressed the Air Force as much as I could into a search for the parts because - here was another chance to obtain positive evidence. A similar plea to Mr. [REDACTED] group for action apparently fell on deaf ears.

Summary of Action after Sighting

Immediately after sighting and explosion of the U.F.O. - the writer phoned the WDAF-TV. No other reports had been made but the operator interrupted our conversation saying that the switch board was lighting up like a Christmas Tree, then he hung up immediately. No further reports or T.V. mention.

I called Johnson County (Kansas) sherriff - he asked a few questions and got my name and address.

Then I called Richard Gebauer Air Force Base - after several minutes I got a party to talk to - then five more minutes delay while he looked for the report Form - which must have been five pages long, that ended the conversation.

My next action was to search the area (it was dark by now) by car - and interviewing people in the area - attendants at Drive-In, Deputy Sheriff at a fireworks stand, etc. - none had seen or heard anything.

I figured that if the craft was ours or if it was alien - the Air Force in either case would be all over the area like a tent - I criss-crossed all the area by car - no military personnel - and few civilians.

I returned home - one-and-a-half hour later to find that the sheriff had interviewed three of the observers - but would not admit any other reports... though we learned later this same man had told a neighbor that they had over 25 reports !!

We had just gone to bed when the Air Force called - saying "There were no planes in the area at the time and that there were no blips on radar". The phone clicked.

A week had passed when a secretary from the Air Base called saying a Captain So-and-so wants to talk to me - but he won't be in for several days. He did call - but he seemed more interested in how to join the Astronomy Club than our sighting.

Several weeks passed - and through friends active in the Navy League suggested that I call the skipper of the base - , which I did - he suggested to call the Commander of Richards Gebauer - which I did - he was out, his assistant sent Col. Mercier to visit us - he inspected the binoculars, telescope, the angles - and bearings that we pointed out. He apologized for a comment in the Air Force report - that the U.F.O. probably was a comet. I drew pictures, etc. and signed them. He left. I called him two weeks later and asked him if he had heard anything - He said "No - and you won't either." Col. Mercier in my opinion is a fine officer and a very likeable person but also had orders to keep quiet.

Since I had worked for the Bureau of Standards while an officer in the Navy I figured that I could at least get some sort of a response from Dr. Ed Condon who was head of the Bureau and who had specifically requested one of my reports. So I called him long distance at my expense obtaining him after several days of futile attempts.

I didn't expect him to remember me, the report or for that matter other personnel connected with the project - the project he did remember. He said that this was the toughest job he ever got into mainly for the lack of evidence - I said "That's the reason I'm calling !!! I know where the evidence is and with five men we can find it in a few hours !" He said that he is supposed to get copies of all reports made by the Air Force, and as soon as he saw it would let me know - No answer. I followed with a letter to remind him of our conversation - I only asked "Did you get a copy of my report? " - Again no answer, none to this day.

Since this experience with the authorities my contacts have been with numerous other individuals who have had similar experiences both in sightings and their contacts with the Air Force and other authorities.

Since than I have had a very delightful and informative forty-five minute talk with Dr. Allen Hynek of Northwestern, who is the only one thus far who has acknowledged any report or conversation . He will receive the first copy of this last report.

Signed:

November 18, 1968

The following report of a U.F.O. sighting on July 3, 1968 in the Kansas City Suburb town of Leawood, Kansas is made by the author with the following directly related qualifications.

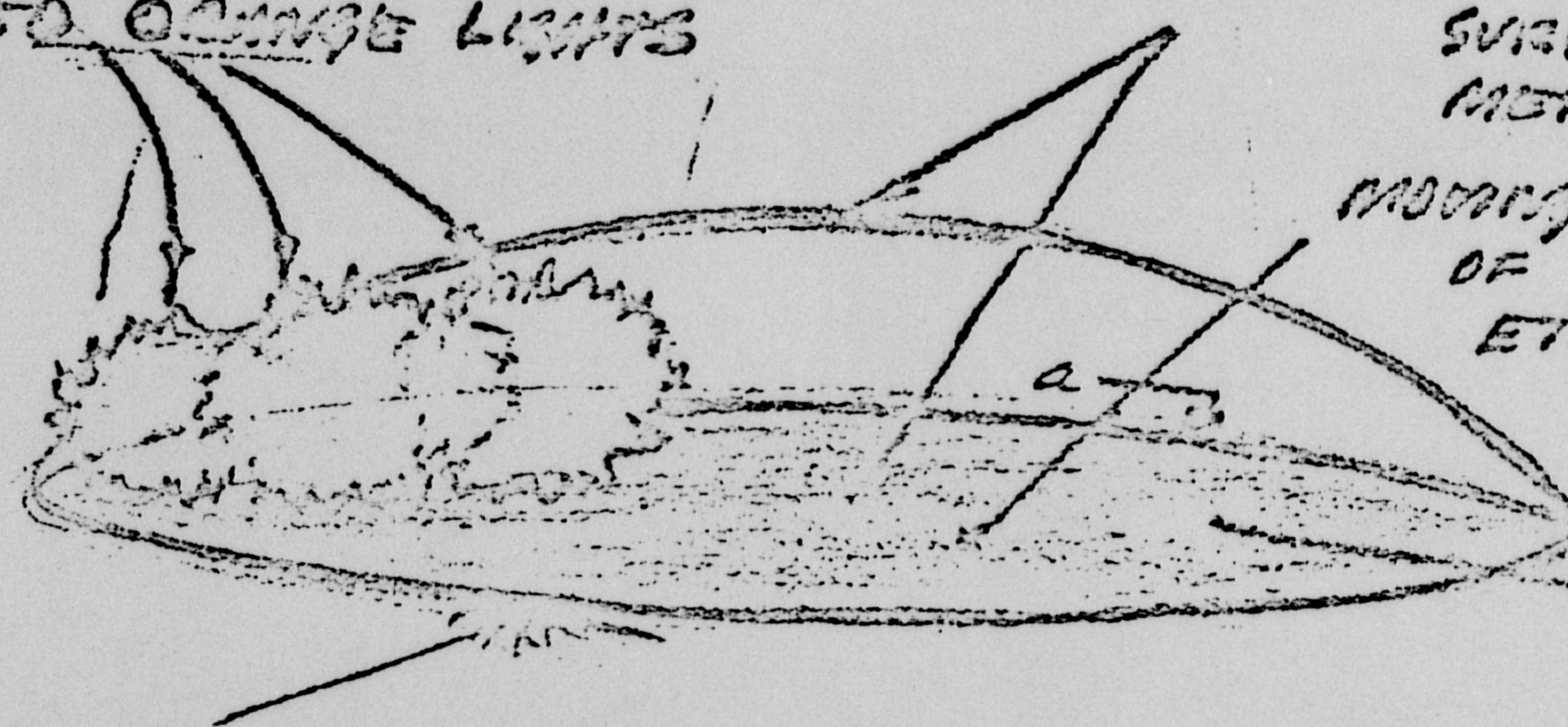
- 1) Graduate Mechanical Engineer with major in Aeronautical Engineering - Case Institute of Technology 1939 (now Case Western Reserve University)
- 2) Licensed private pilot since 1941
700 flying hours, primary glider to cross country and acrobatics type planes.
- 3) Three and a half years instructor at University of Houston teaching army and navy pilots, Theory of Flight, Air Navigation, Aircraft Engines, Meteorology.
- 4) Aviation Ordnance Officer, U.S. Navy, assigned to the design and testing of a classified bomb director during World War II. This included many hours of flight testing - as well as training pilots etc. on the proper use and maintenance of this equipment. This included duty at U.S. Bureau of Standards, Tactical test section U.S. Naval Air Station at Patuxent Aircraft Carriers Boxer and Tarawa as well as numerous air stations and depots.
- 5) Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Kansas.
- 6) Member various Engineering and Technical societies.
- 7) Member of the Astronomy Club of Kansas City.
- 8) Observed many meteorological phenomena at sea, in the air, etc. such as St. Elmo's fire on sail boats, planes, all sorts of mirages, as well as hundreds of halos, sun dogs, etc. many image distortions due to temperature inversions, land, sea and air. Corona discharges on high voltage power lines, a tornado from an airplane, inverted thunderheads, hurricanes, water spouts, sonic pressure waves, northern lights, comets, meteors, satellites, asteroid showers, are some of the sightings and identified by the observer.
- 9) While on sea duty with U.S. Navy other duties such as liaison officer between air group and aircraft carrier, photographic officer, monitored radio and radar in CIC, plane accident investigations, etc.
- 10) Fourteen years as a field welding engineer for Lincoln Electric Co.
- 11) Instructed at (3) universities - U of Houston, Univ. of California and University of Missouri at Kansas City.
- 12) Developed and patented several products in plastics, electronics, etc. Now president of Nicholl Bros., Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri = manufacturers of flashlights, lanterns, etc.

GENE MCGEE
 CAROL MCGEE
 JOHN G. DOWD
 MARGARET DOWD
 T. H. MCMAHON
 NEIGHBORS UNKNOWN
 + 2 CHILDREN

ROBOT VISUAL SIGHT,
 THOUGH 7X50 JASON BINOCULARS,
 + 4" REFLECTOR TELESCOPES

COPY LINES OF WORD
DO NOT TRAIL AS
BOAT BE EXPELLED
 IS TO FORWARD
 DIRECTION

THIS DRAUGHT
 FOR ORANGE LIGHTS



ORANGE LIGHT USELESSLY VISIBLE
 THICK EDGE (L) TILTED UP.
 (a) THE EDGE CLOSEST TO OBSERVERS

Cloudless sky.

Light breeze

Cloudy area

Sunscreen

Wind NNE of 10 MPH
60°

MOTION - SLIGHT ROLL

3 PERIOD

(WATER LINE A SMALL
BOAT MOVING SLOWLY,
ON GENTLE GROUND
WAVES AT 5 FT.)

COLOUR - GREASY-ARROX

190° VIEWING - EAST
OF OBSERVERS

ESTIMATED - -

ALTITUDE - 2500' ESE

SPEED 100±20 MPH

TIME VISIBLE 4 MIN

DIAMETER 50'

POINT CLOSEST TO
OBSERVERS - 1/2 "

SHAPE CLEARLY DEFINED
SURFACES - AGAIN
METALLIC

MIRROR REFLECTIONS
OF GROUND - TREES
ETC.

ROUND
FLAT
BOTTOM

DISCRETE
OF FINES

LISTED 7-3-67

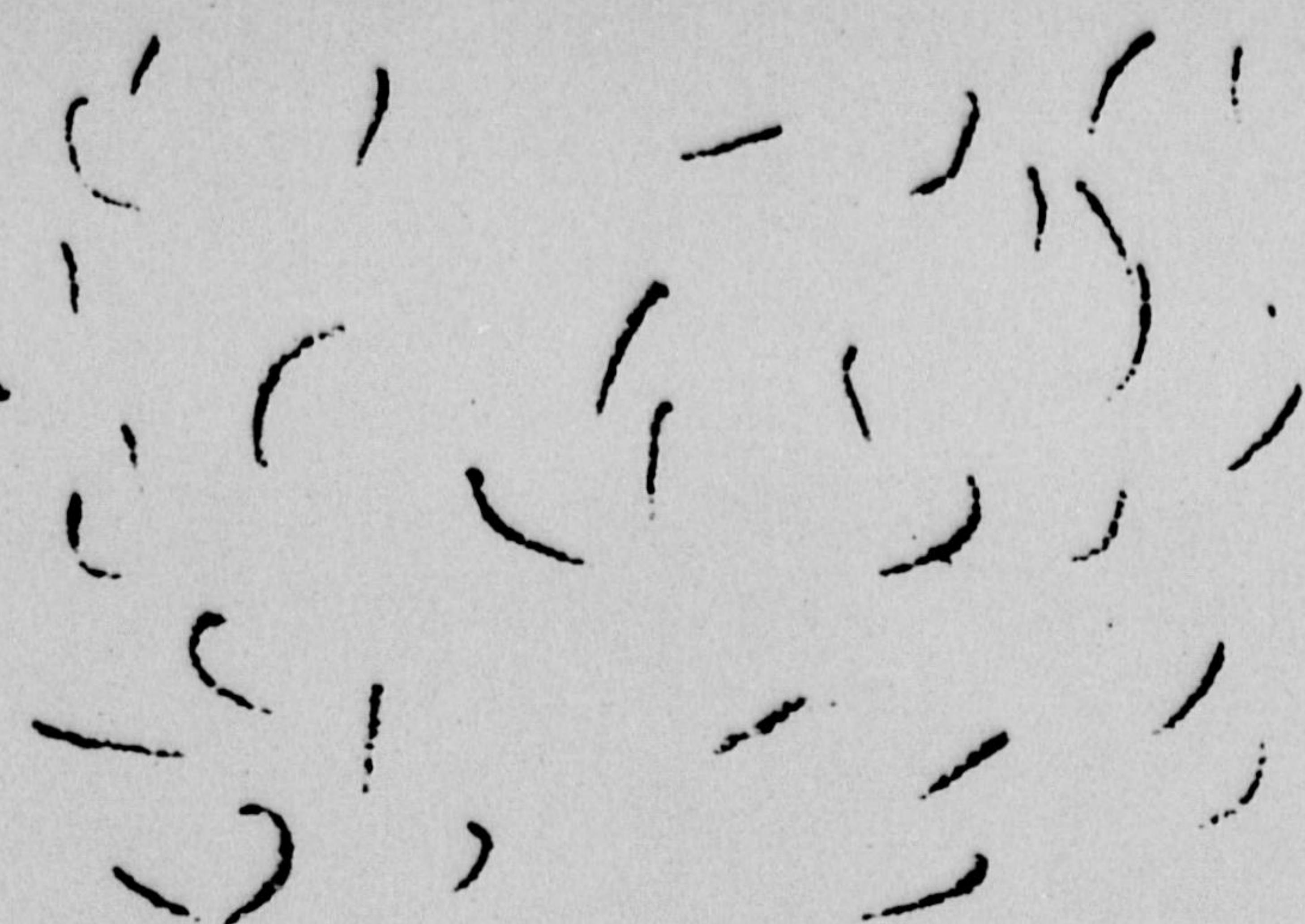
9:10 - 9:15 PM CENTRAL
STANDARD TIME .. DAYLIGHT TIME

CLOUD OF SMOKE?
OR VAPOR? CLEARED
QUICKLY

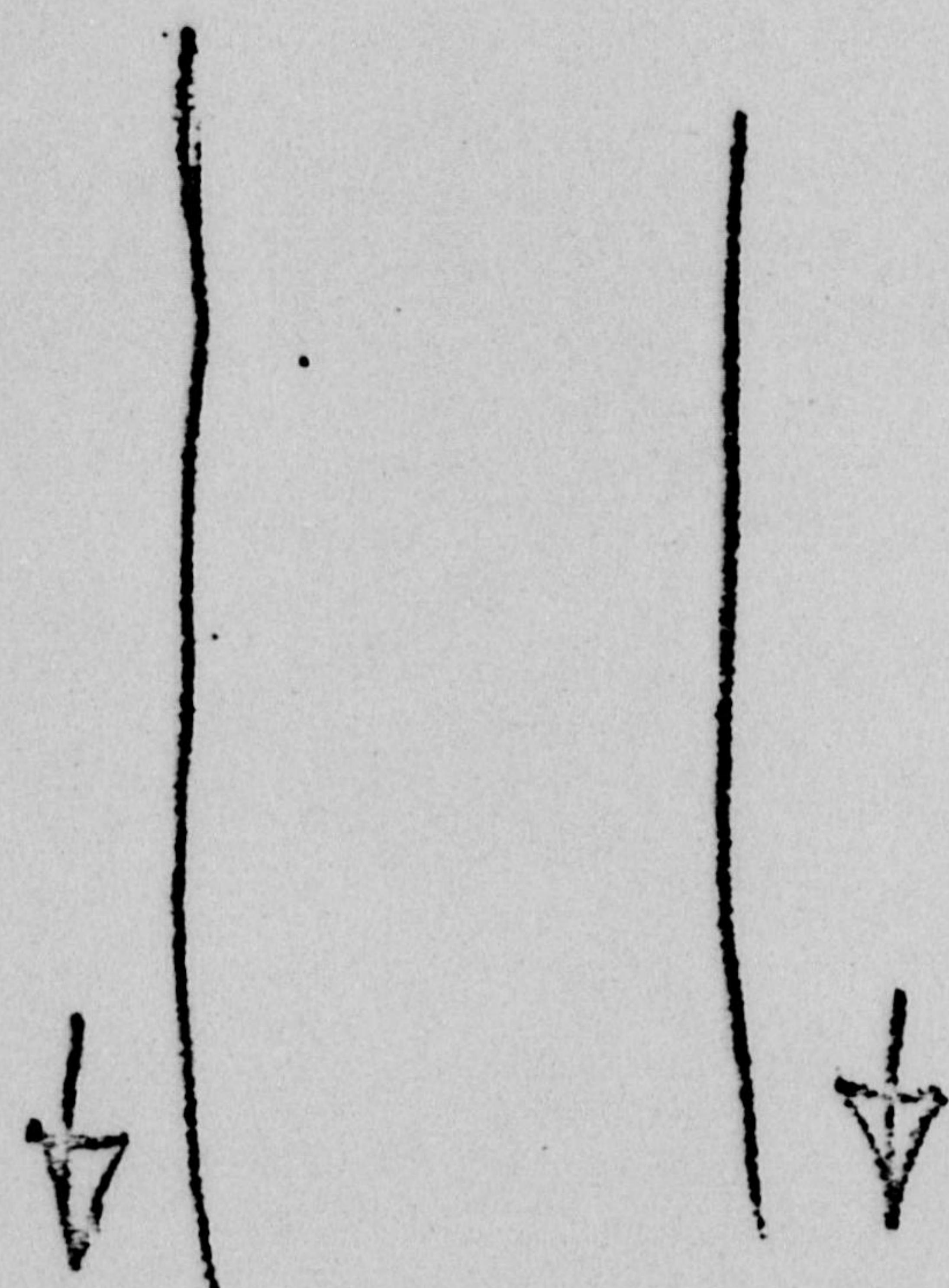
EXPLSION

(SMOKE OR VAPOR)
NEARLY PURPLE WHIT

LIGHT WEIGHT
PARTICLES
FLUTTERED
DOWN



TOO HEAVY
PARTICLES STOP
EARTHWARD



FLIGHT OF UFO ENDING IN THE EXPLOSION
AFTER OBSERVING FLIGHT FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES
DETERMINING 170-175° FROM POINT OF OBSERVATION
AT THIS POINT OF OBSERVATION

TDPT (UFO)

28 MAY 1969

Request for UFO Sighting Analysis

USAF (SAFOICC)

Reference letter dtd 14 May 69 from Congressman Winn requesting UFO sighting analysis. A proposed reply has been prepared and is attached.

FOR THE COMMANDER

SECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Branch
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

1 Atch
Proposed reply.

TDPT (UFO) Official Kelly

Proposed reply to letter from Congressman Winn, dated 14 May 69.

1. Reference the UFO sighting of 3 July 1967 from Kansas City, Kansas.

After an initial investigation by the Project Blue Book Staff, it has been determined that the object seen by Mr. [REDACTED] was almost certainly a balloon, probably a Garment Bag Hot Air Balloon. (See attached description.)

2. Surface weather observations were requested from the United States Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Center (ETAC), Washington, D. C. and are as follows:

Kansas City 9:00 p.m. CDT (4/0200Z)

3/8 alto-cumulous coverage
Surface wind from 360° at 5 knots
Visibility - 15 miles
Temperature - 19°C
Dew Point - 12°C

Kansas City 10:00 p.m. CDT (4/0300Z)

Clear
Surface wind from 40° at 6 knots
Visibility - 15 miles
Temperature - 19°C
Dew Point - 11°C

3. Upper air data to 5000 ft was also requested. The closest upper air stations and closest times available were from:

Columbia, Missouri 7:00 p.m. CDT

Alt in meters	Direction	Speed
580	From 3000	14 knots
1045	From 300°	16 knots
1527	From 300°	18 knots
2029	From 290°	19 knots

Topeka, Kansas 7:00 p.m. CDT

Alt in meters	Direction	Speed
600	From 10°	6 knots
1066	From 40°	6 knots
1549	From 310°	8 knots
2055	From 320°	19 knots

4. It is felt that the evaluation of balloon (Hot Air) is consistent with the description and flight characteristics of the object.

<u>UFO Description and Flight Characteristics</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Wobble in flight (slight roll and pitch combined)	Characteristic of balloon flight.
Wispy lines of vapor	Probably smoke from burning heat source for balloon.
Bright red-orange lights	Heat sources.
Reflective surface	Reflections from plastic bag.
50 ft in diameter	Impossible to estimate unless distance is known.
Explosion and debris	1. Possibly caused by a small firecracker attached to the base of the balloon. 2. Possible misinterpretation of natural decay of balloon.
Lack of debris on the ground	There would be little left of the balloon. It would not be as far away as observer estimated. Would tend to go unnoticed, since the observer would be looking for metallic debris.
Duration of about 5 minutes	Suitable duration for Hot Air Balloon
Traveled due south	Surface wind southerly at about 5 knots.
No radar contact	Balloon would be an extremely poor reflector for radar.

5. On the basis of the above similarities, this sighting is to be carried under the balloon category in Project Blue Book files.

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY
60 GARDEN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

CABLE ADDRESS "OBSERVATORY"

AREA CODE 617 863 7600

August 5, 1969

Lt. Colonel Hector Quintanilla, Jr., USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Department of the Air Force
Headquarters Foreign Technology Division (AFSC)
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433

Dear Hector:

Thank you for your letter of 1 July and its enclosure. I have recently returned from a fairly extensive trip to Europe, with the main objective of naming craters of the far side of the moon, a meeting of a committee of which I am Chairman.

I found the cases you sent extremely interesting. I am particularly pleased with your resume of the Cochrane, Wisconsin sighting and your credit line to me. My only minor comment is that I would have replaced the word "possibly" by "probably."

I see no reason to get excited over the Kansas City sighting. But apparently McDonald can work up a sweat about anything. I think the analysis of a small balloon, probably a garment bag hot air balloon, is probable. The suggestion of a firecracker is also reasonable, in view of the date. I feel that not enough attention has been paid to the date, the evening before the Fourth of July. The description sounds, to me, more like some sort of fireworks rather than the plastic balloon. I am not familiar with all the forms of modern fireworks. However, I have seen some forms of flares, often colored, which are sent up with a rocket and come down with a parachute. I give little weight to the statement that reflections of trees could be seen on the flat bottom surface. However, the lines of vapor would be quite in keeping with some sort of flare. There is no way of knowing how far away it was. They don't know its size. However, the description of "a shallow inverted bowl" does suggest to me the parachute.

I think that the failure of the Air Force to record any planes or radar indicates that it was something quite small. A search of stores in the area might produce a duplicate of what was observed. The description of "light weight particles fluttering down," is entirely consistent with the idea that these

August 5, 1969

were the kind of phosphorescent sparks so characteristic of fireworks. The explosion as described is more consistent with my explanation as fireworks rather than a plastic balloon and as part of the explosion, some of the falling debris could have produced the observation of the two heavy parts.

The foregoing is my analysis for what it is worth. I will be interested in getting your reaction.

With reference to the Jefferson City sighting, I am certainly not impressed either with the principal observer or with Hynck's interview with him.

Estimates of size and distance mean absolutely nothing. The shape is something like a plastic balloon. One cannot help but wonder about the man's eye condition. However, he was observing through the windshield and such observations can always be misleading. Could it, for example, have been a reflection of the moon? A person seeing such a reflection, when driving, will observe it to maneuver. He makes the statement that "at one time it was directly overhead."

At no time does he indicate that he stopped the car, got out and observed. He claims that he observed with both binoculars and a telescope. Most certainly the question should have been asked whether he tried to observe with these instruments through his windshield or through the side windows. Were the side windows up or down? Was the top down? Otherwise how does he know it was directly overhead? These are vital questions that should have been asked. I should like to know what his eye correction is.

He advances a fantastic theory to explain the sighting. From the description I would judge that he has read some of the more sensational books on UFO propulsion. His insistence that the object was definitely metal also arouses suspicions about his accuracy as an observer. Also about his intelligence. And I think he must have read some of the UFO books that insist that the Air Force is trying to keep this a secret.

It certainly could have been a plastic balloon, it could have been light reflections of varied character. It could have been a star or planet. If the observer was looking through the glass of the window or windshield, the distortion could well have been considerable. At least it could have been a disk rather than a point as he concluded.

As a final comment, the statement in his interview about "G Forces" again indicates some familiarity with the jargon of UFO. (Footnote: In the interview of August 1969, he was asked for a copy of his critical review published in the Bulletin of Atomic

Lt. Colonel Hector Quintanilla -3-

August 5, 1969

Scientists. And I am particularly surprised at his statement that he might have been "used as a tool." What is even more to the point, Hynek's statement that Condon and the entire National Academy of Sciences could also have been no mind.

Another thing that strikes me as peculiar in his continued reference to "World War I helmet," which is unusual for someone only 25. He claims to have 20-20 vision, but is this with or without glasses?

As for my evaluation, I would say that the object seen could very well have been a garment bag. However, until the questions I have raised about viewing through windows or windshields are cleared up, I would not dismiss the possibility of reflections; reflections of the moon, of stars, and possibly of other lights. However, if the interview is reopened, I would strongly suggest that someone other than Hynek ask the questions. He should be asked to reconstruct precisely where he was looking and how he was looking, and not give him any leading questions. Frankly, I do not trust the judgment of the observer.

Well, Hector, it is easy for me, without any evidence other than in the files you have sent, to sit back and try to reconstruct what might have happened. I can be a long way off. But if I have at least suggested some new leads and new thoughts, I shall be satisfied.

It begins to look as if I shall do the children's book on UFO's. If so, I shall want to get as much photographic material from you as I possibly can.

With my very best regards and many thanks for your continued interest in my evaluations, I am,

Cordially yours,

✓) ✓) ✓) ✓)

Donald H. Mengel

DRM/mb