

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 30 NOV 54	2. LOCATION SYLACAUGA, ALBAMA GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, FLA, S CAROLINA		12. CONCLUSIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 30/1850Z 1900Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes ATIC <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE MILITARY & CIVILIAN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical Meteorite <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION - - -	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS ONE	9. COURSE - - -	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Obj observed by hundreds of persons in the Ala, Miss, Georgia and Fla area. Refer to case file for complete details.		11. COMMENTS Obj was definitely a meteorite. 9 lb obj recovered.	

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20,000 FEET 270 DEGREES/ 50 KNOTS
30,000 FEET 270 DEGREES/ 70 KNOTS
50,000 FEET 240 DEGREES/ 100 KNOTS
80,000 FEET 270 DEGREES/ 60 KNOTS

C. CEILING-NONE

D. VISIBILITY-15 MILES.

E. CLOUD COVER-HIGH SCAT CIRRVUS

F. THUNDERSTORMS-NONE

8. NONE KNOWN

9. NONE KNOWN-OBJECT EXPLOEDE.

MAXWELL AIR RESCUE SQUADRON SENT SEVERAL AIRCRAFT TO SITES OF
REPORTED EXPLOSIONS-NO WRECKAGE OR DEBRIS LOCATED BY AIR SEARCH
-GROUND PARTIES DISPATCHED FROM LAWSON AFB TO PHENIX CITY AREA
NEG. RESULTS.

10. NUMEROUS AIRCRAFT IN VARIOUS AREAS OF REPORTED SIGHTINGS.

11. OPERATIONS OFFICE, MAXWELL FLIGHT SERVICE CENTER, MAXWELL AFB,
ALABAMA

12. IMMEDIATELY AFTER EXPLOSION, AN OBJECT CAME THRU ROOF OF HOME
OF MRS. [REDACTED] AT SYLACAUGA, ALA. OBJECT HIT MRS. [REDACTED] AND

WAS RECOVERED BY MAXWELL AIR RESCUE TEAM. OBJECT PRESENTLY
ENROUTE TO MAXWELL AFB AND WILL PROBABLY REMAIN IN THE CUSTODY OF
MAXWELL OSI OFFICE.

3. STATEMENT BY CAPT. HAYNES N. HUNTER.

PAR 13:

CAPT HUNTER SAW AT 1251CST ON TRUE N HEADING 40 DEGREES ELEVATION
DOWN TO 20 OR 30 DEGREES ELEVATION WHAT APPEARED TO BE A METEOR WITH
LONG WHITE FIREY TAIL AND A LITTLE WHITE SMOKE ABOUTAS LONG AS A 12"
RULER HELD AT ARMS LENGTH WITH A WHITE FIREY, EXTREMELY BRIGHT AND
NEARLY BLINDING LIKE WHITE PHOSPHEROUS BODY ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE END
OF A FINGER POINT AT YOU FROM ARMS LENGTH. NO NOISE WAS HEARD THROUGH-
OUT ITS VISIBLE 30 TO 45 DEGREE DIVING COURSE TO SOUNDLESS EXPLOSION
POINT. AT EXPLOSION OR DISINTERGATION POINT IT STOPPED INSTANTLY,
SEEMED TO VANISH INSTANT-LY EITHER BY DISINTERGATING OR BY LEAVING
EARTHS ATMOSPHERE. NO PIECES COULD BE SEEN DUE TO NICKED EYE OBSERVATION.
AT VANISHING POINT THE OBJECT APPEARED TO STILL BE QUITE HIGH, SAY
40 TO 60 THOUSAND FEET. I IMAGINE SPEED WAS IN EXCESS OF 2 TO 6
THOUSAND MILES PER HOUR SINCE IT COVERED A 20 DEGREE ARC OF THE SKY IN
ABOUT 2 SECOND OR LESS. I WAS COINCIDENTLY LOOKING IN A N DIRECTION AT
TIME OF EVENT. THE WHITE SMOKE TAIL (PART OF IT) LINGERED IN THE SKY
FOR ABOUT 25 TO 10 MINUTES AFTER VANISHING POINT, AND FINALLY DISAPATED
INTO OR ABOVE OR BELOW A VERY THIN LAYER OF CIRVS (HORSE TAILS' IN THE
PATH OF THE OBJECT.

CAPT. HAYNES N, HUNTER MAXWELL FLT SERVICE CENTER MAXWELL AFB, ALA.

30 NOV 1954

SIGNED GOLINSKY-END

30/2241Z NOV JESYQ

ST 20 496130 T-
-1 DEC 1954 07 15

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Intelligence Division	REPORT NO.	DATE	OF	PAGES
WFO/O-427, Air Proving Ground Command, Eglin AFB, Florida	4-54	Nov 3	of	3

30,000 ft	E	260 degrees at 60 knots
40,000 ft	E	260 degrees at 75 knots
50,000 ft	E	230 degrees at 60 knots
60,000 ft	E	250 degrees at 30 knots
70,000 ft	E	250 degrees at 15 knots

- (3) (a) 25,000 ft. Scattered - under 5/10
- (b) 15 miles
- (c) Scattered - about 3/10 at 25,000 ft
- (d) None
- (8) Any other unusual activity or condition, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sighting.
 - (a) On 30 November 1958, 1300 to 1400 hours, press reported the occurrence of meteorite activity and phenomena visible in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Explosions and brilliant flashes in the sky were reported. A nine (9) pound meteorite struck a home in Sylacauga, Alabama (33° - 100y/86° - 137W).
- (9) Interception or identification action taken (Such action may be taken whenever feasible, complying with existing air defense directives): N/A
- (10) Location of any air traffic in the area at time of sighting: None reported and none seen.
- (11) Position title and comments of the reporting officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of sighting: Chief, Intelligence Division, Headquarters, Air Proving Ground Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

It is considered quite feasible and very possible that this reported sighting of an unidentified flying object coincides with the meteorite phenomena sighted on the same date, approximately the same time, and in the same general location.
- (12) Existence of physical evidence, such as materials and photographs: None

John J. Walsh
 JOHN J. WALSH
 Major, USAF
 Chief, Intelligence Division

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

1. Subsequent evidence indicated this to be a sighting of the Sylacauga, Alabama, incident.
2. No further action is required.

Smith

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM: FLIGHT 2-C, 46021 ATSS	REPORT NO: E2C-UPOR-2	PAGE: 5 OF 5
TO: 35TH AIR DIV (D), DOBELAN AFB, MISSOURI		
DATE: 15 OCT 60		

can be interviewed by Flight 2-C.

Regarding object and source of origin, the following opinions were reached. From opinions given by sources considered reliable, it is believed that an object of similar size, weight and shape, travelling at the high speed normally attributed to a meteorite, would have smashed through the floor and buried itself deep into the earth. Instead, it merely penetrated the roof and ceiling, [redacted] and dropped on floor according to [redacted] story to newspaper (ref. # 3). Object was forwarded to ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio for further analysis.

Richard C. Vaughn

FOR RICHARD C. VAUGHN
1st Lt., USAF
Officer in Charge

4. Incls:

1. ATIC Form 164 (Jones)
2. ATIC Form 164 (Potter)
3. Newspaper Clippings
4. 9 photographs of object

COMMENTS of Approving Officers:

This UFOR report was forwarded to ATIC for analysis and evaluation. It is believed that the preparing officer's comments were the result of statements made by Dr. Lincoln LaPaix, director of the Institute of Meteoritics, University of New Mexico. Dr. LaPaix said the tests performed to date were far from conclusive and that the incidents surrounding the characteristics of this meteorite during the penetration of the house did not conform to known data on previous studies of recognized meteorites.

Jones

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FORM 115-100-1 (10-60) (11-60)

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(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FLIGHT 2-C, 4602d AISS
48th AIR DIV (D), DOBBINS AFB,
MARIETTA, GEORGIA

REPORT NO.
E2C-UR08-1

PAGE 4 OF 5

Capt Marston
Operations Officer
48th Air Rescue Squadron
Maxwell AFB

T/Sgt Jack L. Potter
Control Tower Operator
48th Air Rescue Squadron
Maxwell AFB

- b. T/Sgt Potter met Sgt Lanz at operations for completion of ATIC Form # 164 (Ref Incl # 2).
- c. Sgt Tennille contacted Capt Marston, 48th Air Rescue Squadron, and was informed that five helicopters were dispatched to different locations given at time of crash and/or explosion. One of the helicopters piloted by Capt Rogers landed at Sylacauga, Alabama. He acquired the object and returned with same to Maxwell AFB. (Itinerary of flights being forwarded to Flt 2-C via air mail). 48th Air Rescue Squadron transferred object to Col Atchley of OSI.
- d. Sgt Tennille phoned Col Atchley from 48th ARS and was informed that Hq 4602d AISS had contacted Col Atchley regarding object. It was decided that Flt 2-C, 4602d AISS would assume custody of object. Sgt's Lanz and Tennille proceeded to the District OSI Office and were met there by Col Atchley who informed them that according to AFR 200-2 dtd 12 Aug 54, he would relinquish the object to Flt 2-C's investigating team.
- e. Because of unfavorable publicity incurred by the acquisition of the object, Col Atchley suggested that the matter should be coordinated with the Base Comdr, Col James E. Pratt, 3800 Air Base Group, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Col Atchley and Sgt's Lanz and Tennille proceeded to Col Pratt's office where he was briefed on the situation. He suggested a call to Comdr 4602d AISS, outlining action for pacifying the local people involved in Sylacauga, Alabama - specifically the Mayor, Ed J. Howard; and Mrs Hewlett Hodges, the individual struck by the object. Since AFR 200-2 outlines the disposition of UROB matter found, Col Pratt suggested we pick up object and proceed to Dobbins AFB, Marietta, Georgia.
- f. Col Atchley suggested that the object be examined by Dr. Frederick K. Morris of the Directory of Research Studies Institute, Arctic, Desert and Tropic Information Center at Maxwell AFB. Dr. Morris stated that he was equipped for complete analysis of object, if so requested. He believed that its composition was "either a stone meteorite or an earthly peridotite." Furthermore, he suggested that the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C. (GEORISE: GJMS 9356) would be interested in its study.

9. At 1/2330Z team departed DAFB and arrived at Flight Headquarters at 2/0500Z

COMMENTS of Preparing Officers:

Because of events related in par 8e, it was decided by the team not to visit Mrs. Hodges immediately but to return to DAFB, Marietta, Georgia for quick transfer of object to ATIC. If, however, it is deemed necessary, Mrs. Hewlett Hodges

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, U.S.C. (50 U.S.C. 32) AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE REGULATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. NO PART OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE USAF.

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(CLASSIFICATION)

FORM 10-59 (REV. 1-54) GPO: 1954 O-388-000

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FLIGHT 2-C, 46021 ATSS	REPORT NO.	3	5
5TH AIR DIV (D), DOBBIENS AFB	F2C-UP08-1		
DATE: 1/1/69			

- g. At 30/2030Z Birmingham, Alabama (BHM) Tower advised Weather Bureau had received a report that a meteorite had fallen at Sylacauga, Alabama.
- h. Maxwell Flight Service (MFFS) advised 30/2032Z.
- i. At 30/2057Z Alabama State Patrol advised Birmingham (BHM) Tower a woman was injured (broken hip) by a falling object near Sylacauga, Alabama. Woman in hospital at Sylacauga, Alabama.
- j. At 30/2115Z Eastern Airlines Aircraft Trip # 131 advised Birmingham (BHM) Tower of the following - sighted a helicopter in a field 140 degrees bearing from Birmingham, Alabama and 210 degrees bearing from Anniston, Alabama (ANB). Appeared to be a fire in the field and helicopter appeared to be investigating.

5. Team departed Atlanta Municipal Airport at 1/0/30Z for Lawson Air Force Base, Fort Benning, Georgia and arrived 1/0900Z.

6. At 1/1300Z Mr. J. V. Warren (Civilian), Chief Dispatcher at Lawson AFB and SFC Harold S. Murray of the Dispatchers Office LAFB were interviewed. They related the following information:

- a. At 30/1850Z telephone call was received from Mr. Marion Jones, Phenix City, Alabama, reporting the sighting of a falling object. Since Jones inferred that this was obviously an aircraft crash, emergency procedures were instituted by Lawson Operations Officer. Refer to fact # 1, UP08 rept. (Completed ATIC form 16).
- b. At 30/1915Z two helicopters were dispatched to alleged crash site with Capt Charles D. Lang in charge. Simultaneously, a ground rescue party departed to search the area. Both parties were recalled at 30/2130Z. Results of search were negative.
- c. At 30/1945Z telephone call was received from F. M. Coker, Smith Station, Alabama reporting falling object.
- d. At 30/1950Z Capt D. W. Reed, 464 Trip Carr Wg, Pope AFB, Fort Bragg, North Carolina phoned Dispatcher (Warren) that a moving object was observed from downtown Columbus, Georgia (GEORGE - GALT 0329), bearing 270 to 280 degrees. The object with a long brilliant trail of fire exploded at approximately 40 degrees azimuth from surface.

7. An unsuccessful attempt was made to locate Capt Reed. An ATIC form 16 (USAF Technical Information Sheet) was left with Mr. Warren for completion and forwarding to Flight 2-C, 46021 ATSS, DAFB, Doletts, Georgia by Capt Reed. Team departed for Maxwell AFB, Alabama at 1/1500Z.

8. At 1/1900Z Intell Team arrived Operations Office, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

a. The names and locations of the following personnel were obtained:

Col E. E. Ashley
District Commander
8th District OSL (16)
Maxwell AFB

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN: 2-6-46021 AISS
FROM: AIR DIV (D), DEBBINS AFB,
GEORGIA

REF: EC-100B-1

2 of 5

MANUALLY OF BYRNS RELATING TO UPOB SIGHT AT SEAC-ALB, ALABAMA (GEORGE: G-IDD 4510)

1. Received telephone call from Hq 46021 AISS, Colorado Springs, Colorado at 1/0100Z. Major Gynalaki informed Sgt Lane to proceed to the fall places and contact the fall persons and/or agencies relative to investigation of reports:

- a. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Air Route Traffic Control Center (GEORGE: G-IDD 3046).
- b. Lowry Air Force Base, Fort Benning, Georgia (GEORGE: G-IDD 0520).
- c. Phenix City, Alabama, Mr. Marlon Jones, 2609 Fourth Ave (GEORGE: G-IDD 5928).
- d. Maxwell Air Force Base, Flight Service, 45 ARS, Major Kelso (GEORGE: G-IDD 3928).
- e. Sylacauga, Alabama, Mr. Harold Hodges (GEORGE: G-IDD 4510).

2. At 1/0120Z another call was received from Hq 46021. Major De Bruler and Major Gynalaki informed Sgt Lane that a TR msg rept had been received at 35th Air Div (Det), DAFB, Marietta, Georgia (GEORGE: G-IDD 2954) relative to UPOB re: TR msg N 30/2243Z from Comdr Flight Service, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

3. A check was made with 35th Division D/T and a copy of above cited msg was picked up prior to departure for investigation by E/Sgt's Lane and Tomille at 1/0210Z. Team utilized mil vehicle.

4. At 1/0330Z team arrived at Atlanta Municipal Airport, Air Route Traffic Control Center, and the following information was obtained from H. W. Duke, Senior Controller ATCC, Atlanta, Georgia (Notes extracted verbatim from ATCC log):

- a. At 30/1854Z Montgomery (MGM) and Maxwell (MKE) Tower reported explosion at high altitude and ball of fire trailing smoke falling north of Montgomery, Alabama (MGM).
- b. At 30/1855Z Atlanta, Georgia (ATL) Tower reported bright flash west of airport. Debbins AFB (MKE) Tower reported this to ATL also. AF 2275 B-47 witnessed the same thing and advised object above 34,000 feet. Mr. Campbell at (TCL) Tuscaloosa, Alabama reported to TCL the same thing.
- c. At 30/1900Z Maxwell (MKE) Flight Service advised they were sending out a SA-16 from Rescue Squadron to investigate.
- d. At 30/1905 Debbins AFB has no B-47's out. All ISR in (MGM) area accounted for.
- e. At 30/1909Z Tuscaloosa, Alabama (TCL) advised Mr. Fulmer of TCL University observed bright orange flame and pieces falling east of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Birmingham, Alabama (BHM) advised it appeared to be bearing 135 degrees from (BHM). Montgomery (MGM) advised one north of Montgomery. AF 2275 (B-47) advised altitude looked to be 66,000 feet. Flight Service advised 30/1910Z.
- f. At 30/1928Z Alabama State Patrol sending unit to Smith's station (6 miles NE of Phenix City on U.S. 280) to investigate falling object reported hitting ground.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY CONCERNED USA		DATE OF REPORT 2 May 54	
TITLE OF REPORT 35th Air Bn (Det) Johnson AFB		DATE OF INFORMATION 25 Mar 54	
AUTHORITY RICHARD C. WILSON		CLASSIFICATION SECRET	

1. SUMMARY OF FACTS RELATING TO UPON SUBJECT AT READING ALONG

2. INVESTIGATIONS

R/DC: CHARLES LANE AF 515175
 R/DC: CARL G. THURMAN AF 697056

Richard C. Wilson
 FOR RICHARD C. WILSON
 1st Lt USAF
 OIC

APPROVED BY:

John M. White, Jr.
 JOHN M. WHITE, JR.
 Colonel, USAF
 Commander

(See Individual Reports)
 DISTRIBUTION:
 D/E USAF 4/1/54
 Comdr AFIC 4/6/54
 ADC OIC 4/6/54
 D/E 35th Air Bn (Det) 4/6/54
 Comdr 4602d ASS 4/6/54

1. This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, and its transmission or revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

30 NOV 1954 - SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA

METEOR INCIDENT

ATIC Case file and evaluation

SUMMARY:

On 30 November 1954 at approximately 1350 hrs, EST, an object crashed through the roof of the residence of Mrs. ██████████ Sylacauga, Alabama. Mrs. ██████████ was slightly injured during the incident.

The object was initially observed by many persons in the three state area of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. The object exploded at an estimated altitude of 45,000 to 50,000 ft; the largest and only fragment recovered was that piece which penetrated Mr. ██████████ residence.

The initial UFO teletype reports are designated as Attachment #1, of this case file.

AF FIELD RECOVERY AND REPORT:

Upon immediate notification of the incident to the Executive Officer at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, an air rescue helicopter (SA-16) piloted by Capt Rodgers was dispatched to Mrs. ██████████. Capt. Rodgers acquired the object and promised Mrs. ██████████ to return it after the AF had examined it. Mrs. ██████████ agreed to the arrangement.

Capt Rodgers returned the object to Maxwell AFB, where Dr. Frederick K. Morris of the Directory of Research Studies Institute tentatively identified the object was either a stone meteorite or an earthly perioditite.

On 1 December 1954, members of the 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Flt 2-C arrived at Maxwell and interviewed Col. K.L. Atchley, District Commander, 8th Dist., OSI, Maxwell. After coordination with the Base Commander of Maxwell

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION	File No. 24-424	Date 8 December 1954
	Report Made By DONALD T. SCAFF, S/A adt	
Title (Unclassified) UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS Over Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, and particularly Sylacauga, Alabama, 30 November 1954	Report Made At DO #8, Maxwell AFB, Alabama	
	Period 30 Nov; 1 Dec 54	
	Office of Origin DO #8, Maxwell AFB, Alabama	
	Status CLOSED	

Character
SPECIAL INQUIRY

Reference
TWX DO#8 to Dir. OSI, CIID 112, dtd 2 Dec 54

Synopsis

Investigation requested by Commander, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, as a result of unconfirmed reports of aerial explosions, alleged aircraft crashes and unidentified flying objects. One unidentified flying object fell through roof of house injuring occupant. Object obtained by Air Rescue aircraft, returned to station and examined by Geiger Counters with negative results. Flight Service Center received numerous reports of aircraft crashes, aerial explosions and flying objects in area where UFOB found. Air Defense Command informed of situation under provisions of AFR 200-2 and directed AISS Team to question persons with knowledge of reports of explosions and to obtain UFOB for transmission to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, for purpose of determining its origin. Considerable publicity resulted in object having been obtained by USAF. Guided Missile Expert advised UFOB not of similar substance used in his field of experiments. Geologist with Research Studies Institute advises that without complete examinations of object, he could identify it only as "either a stone meteorite or an earthly peridotite". UFOB released to AISS Team. Husband of victim alleged to have retained attorney to regain UFOB from USAF.

A T T E N T I O N

Disclosure of the nature, sources, or even the existence of such investigative information to persons mentioned in the report or to other persons not normally entitled to such information may be made only when expressly authorized by the Director of Special Investigations, Headquarters USAF, or higher authority. Unauthorized disclosure of the information will be considered to be a violation of AFR 205-1.

Distribution	Action Copy Forwarded to	File Stamp
Cmdr. 3800th AB Wg. 2 (Info)(w/incls)	Approved <i>R. L. Atchley</i> R. L. ATCHLEY Colonel, USAF District Commander	DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5290.10 UNCLASSIFIED
Dir. OSI (w/incls) 2		
DO#14 (Info)(w/incls) 2 (Cmdr ADC, Info - 1, w/incls)		
DO#5 (Info)(w/incls) 2 (Cmdr W-P AFB, Attn: ATIC, Info - 1, w/incls)		
File 2		

1892699

Air Rescue Squadron presently had a helicopter in Sylacauga to obtain the object reported to have fallen in that area, and it was expected to return to Maxwell AFB at approximately 1715 hours.

6. At 1700 hours, 30 November 1954, the late edition of the Alabama Journal, a local newspaper, was screened for publicity concerning the cited reports. The following item was listed on the front page of said newspaper and is quoted verbatim below:

"PILOT REPORTS BLAST 60,000 FEET ABOVE MONTGOMERY

"A pilot flying over Montgomery early this afternoon reported sighting of an explosion of an unidentified object over Montgomery, about 60,000 feet up.

"The object exploded about 1:30. The pilot was not identified.

"Meanwhile, a resident of the Cloverland area reported she saw an object, which she described as larger than a fireworks display, disintegrated before it hit the ground.

"Police said they did not have any report of the alleged explosion and the Highway Patrol reported that a search was on in the Sylacauga area for reported unidentified object which fell with a flash in an area north of Montgomery and southeast of Birmingham.

"Reports received here at 2 p.m. said what appeared to be an explosion was heard high over Sylacauga. An unidentified object fell through the roof of a home and injured a woman."

7. At 1730 hours, 30 November 1954, R. B. ROBERTS, Captain, 25792A, 48th Air Rescue Squadron, pilot of helicopter referred to previously, returned from Sylacauga, Alabama, and released to Special Agent ATCHLEY the object which allegedly fell through the roof of a house in Sylacauga. The object was estimated to weigh approximately nine (9) pounds, and appeared to be of rock or metallic substance, and was of black or charcoal color. ROBERTS advised that he had obtained this object from Mayor EDWARD J. HOWARD and Chief of Police W. D. ASHCRAFT at Sylacauga, Alabama. ROBERTS stated ASHCRAFT informed him to the effect that Mrs. HEWLETT HODGES, Oak Grove Community, three (3) miles east of Sylacauga, had reported to him that between 1245 and 1300 hours, 30 November 1954, the object fell through the roof of her house while she was lying on the couch, and struck her on the body. ASHCRAFT stated to the best of his knowledge, the object was not hot when it struck Mrs. HODGES, nor was it hot when he obtained it from Mrs. HODGES.

8. At 1800 hours, 30 November 1954, 1st Lt. GEORGE R. BUMFORD, Flight Service Center, furnished the log book of 48th Air Rescue Squadron Operations for

17. On 1 December 1954, LANZ and TENNILLE, accompanied by Special Agent ATCHLEY and the writer, interviewed Professor FREDERICK K. MORRIS, Geologist, Arctic-Desert-Tropic Information Center, Research Studies Institute, concerning the object. After considerable deliberation and examination of the object, Dr. MORRIS advised that due to present circumstances of urgency to forward object to Wright-Patterson AFB, which would permit him only a very limited examination of the object, he could identify it only as "either a stone meteorite or an earthly peridotite".

18. On 1 December 1954, JAMES G. PRATT, Colonel, Commander, Maxwell AFB, was briefed on all available pertinent information concerning the object by Special Agent ATCHLEY, M/Sgt. LANZ, M/Sgt. TENNILLE and the writer. At this time Colonel PRATT telephonically contacted the Operations Officer, 4602nd AISS, Ent AFB, Colorado, and requested that Headquarters telephonically contact the Mayor of Sylacauga, Alabama, in an effort to satisfactorily explain the necessity for USAF examination of the object and thus avoid any publicity adverse to USAF concerning the method by which it was obtained from the Mayor of Sylacauga. This step was taken in view of increasing publicity resulting from numerous and frequent protests made by Mr. HEWLETT HODGES concerning the USAF obtaining and withholding the object. It was determined from local newspapers that HODGES had this date obtained an attorney for the purpose of recovering the alleged meteorite from the USAF.

19. The following information from the Montgomery Advertiser, a newspaper of Montgomery, Alabama, and from the Birmingham Post-Herald, a Birmingham, Alabama newspaper, both of 1 December 1954, is quoted verbatim below:

"FRAGMENT OF METEORITE CRASHES SYLACAUGA HOME

"SYLACAUGA, Ala., Nov. 30 (AP)— A meteorite crashed through the roof of a house here today and slightly injured Mrs. Hewlett Hodges, 32.

"George Swindle, field representative of the U.S. Geological Survey, tested the nine-pound object and identified it as a sulphide meteorite.

"A mysterious explosion in the Sylacauga area, about 55 miles southeast of Birmingham, set off a three-state search today in which 35 or 40 planes took part. But there were no planes reported missing.

"The explosion was seen as far south as Phenix City, on the Alabama-Georgia border.

"Dr. Walter B. Jones, Alabama state geologist, said evidently a meteor exploded in southeast Alabama, and Mrs. Hodges was hurt by a particle of it.

"Swindle, who is conducting a water survey in Sylacauga, said after he identified the meteorite, it was taken to Maxwell Air Force Base at Montgomery, 'where the Air Force is required to examine such strange objects'.

10. At 1915 hours, 30 November 1954, JOHN BABCOCK, Colonel, Chief, Special Weapons Branch, Command and Staff College, examined the object with Geiger Counters which revealed no indication of radio activity.

11. At 2120 hours, 30 November 1954, RODMAN REDARD, Captain, Duty Officer, Directorate, Special Investigations, Washington, D. C., was telephonically advised of the above related events which had transpired as of this time, in compliance with AFR 200-2, by Special Agent ATCHLEY.

12. On 1 December 1954, three (3) views of the object were photographed by the Maxwell AFB Alert Photographer. These photographs are attached as Inclosure #1.

13. At 1025 hours, 1 December 1954, JOSEPH CYBULSKI, Major, Headquarters, Air Defense Command, Ent AFB, Colorado, telephonically contacted Special Agent ATCHLEY requesting information concerning the unidentified flying object which landed at Sylacauga, Alabama, 30 November 1954. CYBULSKI was furnished all pertinent information available in compliance with AFR 200-2 dated 12 August 1954. CYBULSKI advised that an Intelligence Team from Flight 20, 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron, 35th Air Division, Dobbins AFB, Marietta, Georgia, consisting of M/Sgts. LANZ and TENNILLE, had departed Dobbins AFB this date to conduct interviews at Lawson AFB, Georgia, and Phenix City, Alabama, then would report to Maxwell AFB, Alabama, to Special Agent ATCHLEY for the purpose of obtaining information concerning the object and, if possible, to obtain the object itself. CYBULSKI suggested that the 8th District OSI could either release the object to the AISS Team or could forward it to ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. CYBULSKI advised that the above action was required in order to effect compliance with applicable provisions of AFR 200-2.

14. On 1 December 1954, Mr. [REDACTED] Public Information Officer, and Dr. ERNST STUHLINGER, Guided Missile Expert, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama, examined the object and discussed the events with Special Agent ATCHLEY. Dr. STUHLINGER advised Special Agent ATCHLEY the object was not part of any equipment or materiel in use at their station.

15. On 1 December 1954, Special Agent ATCHLEY telephonically contacted Mr. GILBERT R. LEVY, Chief, Counter Intelligence Investigations Division, Directorate, Special Investigations, Washington, D. C., and briefed him on all pertinent information available at this time regarding the incident.

16. On 1 December 1954, GEBHARD LANZ, M/Sgt., AF 33131779, and CARL G. TENNILLE, M/Sgt., AF 6973086, Flight 20, 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron, Dobbins AFB, Georgia, contacted Special Agent ATCHLEY and were briefed on all pertinent information available, by Special Agent ATCHLEY and the writer. LANZ advised that they had already obtained all information contained in Log Book of Flight Service Center, concerning the unidentified flying object and desired to obtain the object itself for return to Dobbins AFB and further transmission to Wright-Patterson AFB. The object was at this time released to LANZ and TENNILLE by Special Agent ATCHLEY.

"Plunges Through Roof of House—

"METEORITE HITS SYLACAUGA WIFE

3 States View Air Explosions

"Woman is First Person in History Known to be Struck by Sky Object

"A large meteor exploded high in the heavens above Alabama yesterday afternoon and a piece of it fell through the roof of a Sylacauga house and bruised a 31-year-old housewife.

"Mrs. ██████████, a plump, cheerful woman, was lying asleep on a sofa in her living room when she became the first person in history known to have been struck by a meteorite.

"The fragment, torn loose from the meteor by one of three terrific explosions of fire and smoke, smashed a three-foot wide hole in the roof of the Hodges' home.

"The meteorite, identified by experts as being of the sulphide variety, landed on Mrs. ██████████ hip and 'made a big bruised place'.

"'It also hit me on the hand and it swelled up', she said.

"Her hand still was swollen last night, and was turning blue-black and green.

"She said the bruises of her hip were even more colored.

"The object which struck Mrs. ██████████ was identified as a meteorite (a meteor which strikes the ground) by George Swindle, field representative of the U. S. Geological Survey.

"The explosion which tore the meteor to bits happened at 12:45 p.m. and caused wild excitement not only in Sylacauga where everyone seemed to have been viewing the heavens, but also in other parts of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.

"The explosion probably occurred some 40 miles up, but was heard over a wide distance and seen even further.

"A Birmingham man who saw the explosion but did not hear it, said a mushroom-shaped cloud formed in the direction of Sylacauga from Birmingham and lasted for about 15 minutes before dissipating.

"Observers in Sylacauga could see the smoke but could not tell its shape since it was directly overhead.

"The piece which hit Mrs. ██████████ was examined by Swindle on the scene. He happened to be in Sylacauga conducting a water survey.



~~Proprietary~~

UNCLASSIFIED

"Swindle said Mayor Ed J. Howard has assured Dr. Jones the meteorite will be placed in the state museum at the University of Alabama when it is returned by the Air Force.

"Sylacauga police rushed to the Hodges home when the object crashed through the roof about 1 p. m.

"Mrs. said she was lying on a couch in the living room of the frame house when the meteorite smashed a three-foot wide hole in the room and came tumbling through the ceiling.

"It hit our radio at one end of the couch and bounced off on me. It hit me on the arm and hip", she said.

"Police summoned a doctor when they arrived and Mrs. was treated for bruises. She was reported in good condition tonight.

"We had a little excitement around here today", she told her husband when he came home from work.

"A meteorite fell through the roof."

is a tree surgeon and knew nothing of the incident until he came home from work tonight. He had been trimming trees for the telephone company.

"I don't believe I want to talk to anybody else for a while", said Mrs. . "I'm kind of tired".

said his wife told him the house had been full of people all afternoon.

"She said there must have been several hundred", he added.

said he had no insurance on the house, and hadn't estimated the damage. He said the radio apparently was damaged extensively.

"Swindle said the meteorite was about six inches in diameter. He said the inside was a metallic, grey granular substance, which responded to tests given for sulphide. The outside coating was a black satin appearing substance.

"Dr. Jones said tonight he would welcome the meteorite, since the University museum does not have such an object from Alabama."

UNCLASSIFIED

~~Proprietary~~

[REDACTED]

"A woman who lived directly across the street from the [REDACTED] home, Mrs. [REDACTED] was in her front yard planting shrubbery when the fragment fell.

"'But I didn't hear anything', she said. 'I didn't even know anything had happened until somebody came out and told me about it'.

"Mrs. [REDACTED] said she didn't hear anything either.

"She was asleep on a sofa in the living room, sleeping with her face toward the back of the sofa, her left hip up.

"When the meteorite hit her roof, it slanted across the room and struck her on the hip and injured her hand and arm which were lying on the hip.

"'I woke up and thought the house was falling down', Mrs. [REDACTED] said. [REDACTED] was in the next room sewing. She came running in and asked me if the house was falling down.

"'I said I didn't know. I thought it was the chimney. I got up and started out of the house. Then my hip started hurting.

"'I hadn't even seen the rock.'

"Then she and her mother found the hole in the roof and saw the 'rock' on the floor. They called the police.

"'There wasn't any smell or anything to the rock,' said Mrs. [REDACTED]

"Police Lt. W. T. Van Sandt, when he arrived, realized what must have happened and took the object to the police station where it was identified by the U. S. geologist.

"Van Sandt said that the object was cold to the touch when he arrived.

"Mrs. [REDACTED] and her mother had not disturbed the meteorite.

"But her clothing was not scorched and she was not burned on the arm where it hit her."

"'It's a good thing it didn't hit me in the head,' said Mrs. [REDACTED] 'It might have killed me.'

"Mrs. [REDACTED] thought at first the object had fallen atop a radio set in the corner and then bounced and hit her. The radio was damaged.

"'But now I don't believe it did,' she said. 'The radio might have been hit by a piece of the ceiling or roof.'

[REDACTED]

"After he viewed it, an Air Force captain in a helicopter landed in the small city 50 miles southeast of Birmingham and whisked the meteorite away to Maxwell Field at Montgomery.

"Swindle said Sylacauga Mayor Ed J. Howard gave assurances that the object will be placed in the State Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama when it is returned by the Air Force.

"But Mrs. [REDACTED] husband, who didn't know about the incident until he got home from work early last night, was furious about the loss of the meteorite.

"I am going to demand that the Air Force return the stone to me', he said. 'They had no business taking it away in the first place.'

[REDACTED] did not get to see the meteorite before it was flown away.

[REDACTED] an employe of Bell Telephone Co., said he thought he could 'get enough evidence that the thing fell in my house.'

"The meteorite which hit Mrs. [REDACTED] weighed almost 10 pounds.

"Police Chief W. D. Ashcraft and other officers who handled it before it was turned over to the Air Force, said it was a metallic object, black and scorched-looking.

"Swindle, the geologist, said the meteorite was six inches in diameter. He said the inside was a metallic, gray granular substance which responded to tests given for sulphides.

"The outside coating was a black satin appearing substance.

"Besides striking Mrs. [REDACTED], the meteorite caused quite a stir in Sylacauga.

"Almost everyone in town saw the smoke which followed the explosion and a goodly number saw the explosion itself.

[REDACTED] a country store operator and farmer, was outside his home when he heard the explosions.

"First there was a loud boom', he said. 'Then in a few seconds there was another one and then a third'.

[REDACTED] said after the first and second explosions, he located the direction of the noise and looked aloft and saw the third. There was a little fire and a lot of black smoke.

"He was about two miles from the Hodges house.

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

"Police summoned a doctor who took Mrs. [REDACTED] to his office and X-rayed her. He did not find any broken bones and sent her home.

"Her husband did not know of any of this until he arrived home from work.

"'We had a little excitement around here today', she told [REDACTED] in a wifely fashion. 'A meteor fell through the roof.'

"The [REDACTED] home is one of the oldest houses in the Sylacauga area. It is a rambling wooden house set among groves of old trees.

"One witness to the explosion said that before it exploded, the meteor appeared to be a plane on fire.

"'It was a blaze of fire with a lot of smoke', said Miss [REDACTED], 22, a waitress at the DeSoto Grill near Sylacauga.

"She was standing outside waiting for a bus with two other women.

"'One of them said to look at the plane on fire', Miss [REDACTED] said. 'We looked and there it was.'

"Just at that moment, she said, it blew up in a blinding flash and a lot of noise.

"It appeared to come out of the southeast.

"Several other persons in Sylacauga thought it was a burning plane also, and a search with some 30 or 40 airplanes got under way shortly to look for the crash.

"There were variances in the descriptions of the smoke from the explosions.

"In Sylacauga, it appeared black.

"In Birmingham and in other places at a distance, it appeared white.

"There was immediate re-action to the meteorite story from over the nation.

"Experts agreed unanimously that Mrs. [REDACTED] was the first person known to have been struck by a meteorite.

"Dr. [REDACTED], amateur astronomer and registrar at Birmingham-Southern College, said he never had heard of it before.

"Dr. [REDACTED], head of the astronomy department at Agnes Scott College at Atlanta, said that the injury of Mrs. [REDACTED] was the first that he knew of that could be attributed to a meteor.

(Cpl James E. Pratt) it was mutually agreed that the 4602nd should obtain the object in accordance with the provisions of AFR 200-2 (UFOB Reporting). The object was returned to Flt 2-C headquarters located at Dobbins AFB, Georgia where arrangements for mailing it were initiated. A complete narrative report is listed as attachment #2 of this file.

ATIC ACTION:

On 2 December 1954, Captain Hardin, Chief, ATIAE-5, received a telephone call from Col. Dennison (Exec. Off. of the 48th Air Rescue Squadron, Maxwell). Col. Dennison stated that he was "under pressure" to return the object to Mrs. ██████████. Capt. Hardin assured Col. Dennison that ATIC would not harm the original appearance of the object in any way during the examination. Capt Hardin suggested Col Dennison contact Mrs. ██████████ and reassure her the object would be returned to her as soon as possible.

As of 3 December 1954, the object had not been received at ATIC. Capt Hardin, ATIAE-5, placed a call to Flt 2-C of the 4602nd to inquire as to its status. Prior authorization for direct contact with a field unit had been obtained from Hq 4602nd AISS, Ent AFB, Colorado. Capt. Hardin was informed by 1st Lt Richard C. Vaughn, OCI, Flt 2-C, that he had encountered some difficulty in transporting the object to ATIC. He stated that he would send it immediately by First Class mail and register it.

On 6 December 1954, the object, encased in a wooden box was received at ATIC and signed for by T/Sgt Drepperd, ATIAE-5. The object was immediately examined visually by Dr. Robinson, ATIAE-4, whose evaluation is listed as attachment #3 of this file.

"Numerous astronomers state in books on the subject that no one ever has been struck.

"But the fragment which fell from the sky over Alabama yesterday is only one of billions which strike the earth's atmosphere each day.

"Most of them are tiny particles of sand-like material, remnants of lost worlds that exploded eons ago and swarm around the sun like knats.

"Some are in regular orbits and when the earth passes through these meteor orbits, more are seen than normally.

"Only rarely does one last more than an instant of a second before being burned to a crisp by earth's atmosphere.

"The burning of the meteors is caused by their tremendous speed as they come into contact with the earth's atmosphere.

"Meteors generally start burning at about 100 miles up and burn out before they descend very far. If one is large enough to burn until it reaches an altitude of about 40 miles, it explodes in a manner similar to one which blew up over Sylacauga.

"The pieces then drift down over wide areas, hitting the ground at only moderate speeds because the air resistance slows them down.

"The fact that the Sylacauga meteor exploded at a tremendous height is substantiated by the fact that the explosion was seen from three states.

"It was seen at Phenix City and a wild report started there that the meteor was a flying saucer and that a woman saw a man get out of it.

"Guardsmen went out in planes, jeeps, ambulances and heliocopter trying to find the object.

"But Guardsmen were unable to find anything, even though they scoured the area.

"The bright flash across the sky was reported simultaneously at Atlanta, Newnan and Columbus, Ga., several parts of Alabama, and as far west as Greenville, Miss.

"In Atlanta, the Air Force and State Patrol received several reports of a probable plane crash near Newnan, 40 miles southwest of Atlanta. Two patrol cars searched the area for two hours before calling off the search.

"Radio Station WOOH in Newnan reported numerous calls from persons who said they saw a mysterious, flaming object in the sky.

"A Civil Aeronautics Admn., employe in Montgomery saw the falling meteor. He described it as 'a bright light like a falling star with a trail of smoke behind it' which fell across the horizon from a great height.

"A Maxwell Air Force pilot who was flying at high altitude also sighted it and gave a similar description.

"National Guard Sgt. Joe Clark of Elba was with the Guard in Phenix City. He said it appeared smaller than a plane.

"In Sylacauga, the descriptions of the explosions were as varied as the persons who heard it.

"To some, it was just loud 'boom, boom, booms'.

"Others heard small crackling noises and popping sounds between the big explosions.

"A Sylacauga city councilman, B. J. Phillips said it sounded like thunder to him. He was at home resting after lunch when the explosion occurred.

"Being the first person to be hit by a falling meteorite was of almost no moment to Mrs. [REDACTED]. When asked how she felt about the dubious honor, she said: 'I feel bruised.'

"And what kind of a day was it?

"It was a day when the stars fell on Alabama at last."

20. On 6 December 1954, copy of report of incident as written by LANZ and TENNILLE was received from Flight 2C, 4602nd AISS, Dobbins AFB, Georgia, and is quoted verbatim: (Details only)

"FLIGHT 2-C, 4602D AISS
35TH AIR DIV (D), DOBBINS AFB, UFOB
MARIETTA, GEORGIA

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS RELATING TO UFOB SEEN AT SYLACAUGA, ALABAMA(GEOREF: GJDD 4510)

1. Received telephone call from Hq 4602d AISS, Colorado Springs, Colorado at 1/0100Z. Major Cybulski informed Sgt Lanz to proceed to the foll places and contact the foll persons and/or agencies relative to investigation of report:

- a. Atlanta Municipal Airport, Air Route Traffic Control Center (GEOREF: GJFD 3646).

- () ~~_____~~ ()
- b. Lawson Air Force Base, Fort Benning, Georgia (GEOREF: GJFC 0520).
 - c. Phenix City, Alabama, Mr. ~~_____~~ (GEOREF: GJEC 5928).
 - d. Maxwell Air Force Base, Flight Service, 48 ARS, Major Kelso (GEOREF: GJDC 3928).
 - e. Sylacauga, Alabama, Mrs. ~~_____~~ (GEOREF: GJDD 4510).

2. At 1/0120Z another call was received from Hq 4602d; Major De Bruler and Major Cybulski informed Sgt Lanz that a TT msg rept had been received at 35th Air Div (Def), DAFB, Marietta, Georgia (GEOREF: GJFD 2954) relative to UFOB re: TT msg M 30/2243Z from Comdr Flight Service, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

3. A check was made with 35th Division D/I and a copy of above cited msg was picked up prior to departure for investigation by M/Sgt's Lanz and Tennille at 1/0210Z. Team utilized mil vehicle.

4. At 1/0330Z team arrived at Atlanta Municipal Airport, Air Route Traffic Control Center, and the following information was obtained from H. W. Duke, Senior Controller ARTCC, Atlanta, Georgia (Note: Extracted verbatim from ARTCC log):

- a. At 30/1854Z Montgomery(MGM) and Maxwell(MXF) Tower reported explosion at high altitude and ball of fire trailing smoke falling north of Montgomery, Alabama(MGM).
- b. At 30/1855Z Atlanta, Georgia(ATL) Tower reported bright flash west of airport. Dobbins AFB(MGE) Tower reported this to ATL also. AF 2275 B-47 witnessed the same thing and advised object above 34,000 feet. Mr. Campbell at (TCL) Tuscaloosa, Alabama reported to TCL the same thing.
- c. At 30/1900Z Maxwell(MXF) Flight Service advised they were sending out a SA-16 from Rescue Squadron to investigate.
- d. At 30/1905 Dobbins AFB has no B-47's out. All IFR in (MGM) area accounted for.
- e. At 30/1909Z Tuscaloosa, Alabama (TCL) advised Mr. Fulman of TCL University observed bright orange flame and pieces falling east of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Birmingham, Alabama (BHM) advised it appeared to be bearing 135 degrees from (BHM). Montgomery (MGM) advised due north of Montgomery. AF 2275 (B-47) advised altitude looked to be 60,000 feet. Flight Service advised 30/1910Z.
- f. At 30/1928Z Alabama State Patrol sending unit to Smith's station (6 miles NE of Phenix City on U.S. 280) to investigate falling object reported hitting ground.

[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

8. At 1/1900Z Intell Team arrived Operations Office, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

a. The names and locations of the following personnel were obtained:

Col K. L. Atchley
District Commander
8th District OSI (16)
Maxwell AFB

Capt Marsten
Operations Officer
48th Air Rescue Squadron
Maxwell AFB

T/Sgt Jack L. Potter
Control Tower Operator
48th Air Rescue Squadron
Maxwell AFB

- b. T/Sgt Potter met Sgt Lanz at operations for completion of ATIC Form # 164(Ref incl # 2).
- c. Sgt Tennille contacted Capt Marsten, 48th Air Rescue Squadron, and was informed that five helicopters were dispatched to different locations given at time of flash and/or explosion. One of the helicopters piloted by Capt Rogers landed at Sylacauga, Alabama. He acquired the object and returned with same to Maxwell AFB. (Itinerary of flights being forwarded to Flt 2-C via air mail). 48th Air Rescue Squadron transferred object to Col Atchley of OSI.
- d. Sgt Tennille phoned Col Atchley from 48th ARS and was informed that Hq 46C2d AISS had contacted Col Atchley regarding object. It was decided that Flt 2-C, 4602d AISS would assume custody of object. Sgt's Lanz and Tennille proceeded to the District OSI Office and were met there by Col Atchley who informed them that according to AFR 200-2 dtd 12 Aug 54, he would relinquish the object to Flt 2-C's investigating team.
- e. Because of unfavorable publicity incurred by the acquisition of the object, Col Atchley suggested that the matter should be coordinated with the Base Comdr, Col James E. Pratt, 3800 Air Base Group, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Col Atchley and Sgt's Lanz and Tennille proceeded to Col Pratt's office where he was briefed on the situation; He suggested a call to Comdr 4602d AISS, outlining action for pacifying the local people involved in Sylacauga, Alabama - specifically the Mayor, Ed J. Howard; and Mrs H [REDACTED], the individual struck by

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~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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- g. At 30/2030Z Birmingham, Alabama(BHM) Tower advised Weather Bureau had received a report that a meteorite had fallen at Sylacauga, Alabama.
- h. Maxwell Flight Service(MXFFS) advised 30/2032Z.
- i. At 30/2108Z Alabama State Patrol advised Birmingham(BHM) Tower a woman was injured (broken hip) by a falling object near Sylacauga, Alabama. Woman in hospital at Sylacauga, Alabama.
- j. At 30/2115Z Eastern Airline Aircraft Trip # 181 advised Birmingham (BHM) Tower of the following: sighted a helicopter in a field 140 degrees bearing from Birmingham, Alabama and 210 degrees bearing from Anniston, Alabama(ANB). Appeared to be a fire in the field and helicopter appeared to be investigating.

5. Team departed Atlanta Municipal Airport at 1/0430Z for Lawson Air Force Base, Fort Benning, Georgia and arrived 1/0900Z.

6. At 1/1300Z ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ (civilian), Chief Dispatcher at Lawson AFB and SFC Harold S. Murray of the Dispatchers Office LAFB were interviewed. They related the following information:

- a. At 30/1850Z telephone call was received from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Phenix City, Alabama, reporting the sighting of a falling object. Since Jones inferred that this was obviously an aircraft crash, emergency procedures were instituted by Lawson Operations Officer. Refer to incl # 1, UFOB rept (Completed ATIC form 164).
- b. At 30/1915Z two helicopters were dispatched to alleged crash site with Capt Charles D. Lang in charge. Simultaneously, a ground rescue party departed to search the area. Both parties were recalled at 30/2130Z. Results of search were negative.
- c. At 30/1945Z telephone call was received from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Smith Station, Alabama reporting falling object.
- d. At 30/1950Z Capt D. W. Read, 464 Trp Carr Wg, Pope AFB, Fort Bragg, North Carolina phoned Dispatcher (Warren) that a moving object was observed from downtown Columbus, Georgia (GEOREF: GJFC 0329), bearing 270 to 280 degrees. The object with a long brilliant trail of fire exploded at approximately 40 degrees azimuth from surface.

7. An unsuccessful attempt was made to locate Capt Read. An ATIC form 164 (USAF Technical Information Sheet) was left with Mr. Warren for completion and forwarding to Flight 2-C, 4602d AISS, DAFB, Marietta, Georgia by Capt Read. Team departed for Maxwell AFB, Alabama at 1/1500Z.

UNCLASSIFIED

[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED

the object. Since AFR 200-2 outlines the disposition of UFOB matter found, Col Pratt suggested we pick up object and proceed to Dobbins AFB, Marietta, Georgia.

- f. Col Atchley suggested that the object be examined by Dr. Frederick K. Morris of the Directory of Research Studies Institute, Arctic, Desert and Tropic Information Center at Maxwell AFB. Dr. Morris stated that he was equipped for complete analysis of object, if so requested. He believed that its composition was 'either a stone meteorite or an earthly peridotite.' Furthermore, he suggested that the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C. (GEOREF: GJNJ 5856) would be interested in its study.

9. At 1/2330Z team departed MAFB and arrived at Flight Headquarters at 2/0500Z

10. Investigators' Comments:

Because of events related in par 8e, it was decided by the team not to visit Mrs. [REDACTED] immediately but to return to DAFB, Marietta, Georgia for quick transfer of object to ATIC. If, however, it is deemed necessary, Mrs. [REDACTED] can be interviewed by Flight 2-C.

Regarding object and source of origin, the following opinions were reached. From opinions given by sources considered reliable, it is believed that an object of similar size, weight and shape, travelling at the high speed normally attributed to a meteorite, would have smashed through the floor and buried itself deep into the earth. Instead, it merely penetrated the roof and ceiling, hit Mrs. [REDACTED] and dropped on floor according to Mrs. [REDACTED] story to newspapers (Ref incl # 3). Object was forwarded to ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio for further analysis.

RICHARD C VAUGHN
1st Lt., USAF
Officer in Charge"


21. This report is classified CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with paragraph 7, AFR 124-1.

INCLOSURES:

COMMANDER, 3800TH AIR BASE WING, MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA
DIRECTOR, SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, HQS, USAF, WASHINGTON D. C.
COMMANDER, AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, ENT AFB, COLORADO
DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 14, LOWRY AFB, COLORADO

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[REDACTED]


Inclosures: (Cont'd)

COMMANDER, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO, ATTN: ATIC
DISTRICT OFFICE NO. 5, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO

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Photographs, three (3) views of UFOB.

C L O S E D

UNCLASSIFIED

THIS CASE INCLUDES

Three (3) 8" x 10 1/2"

photos and ONE (1) 8" x 10"

photo.

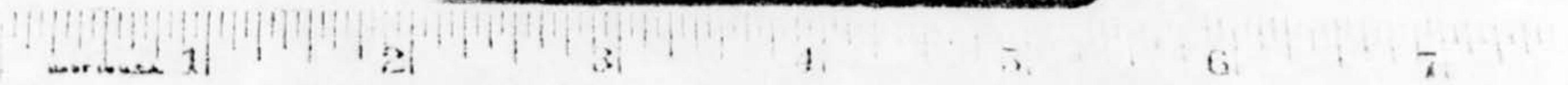
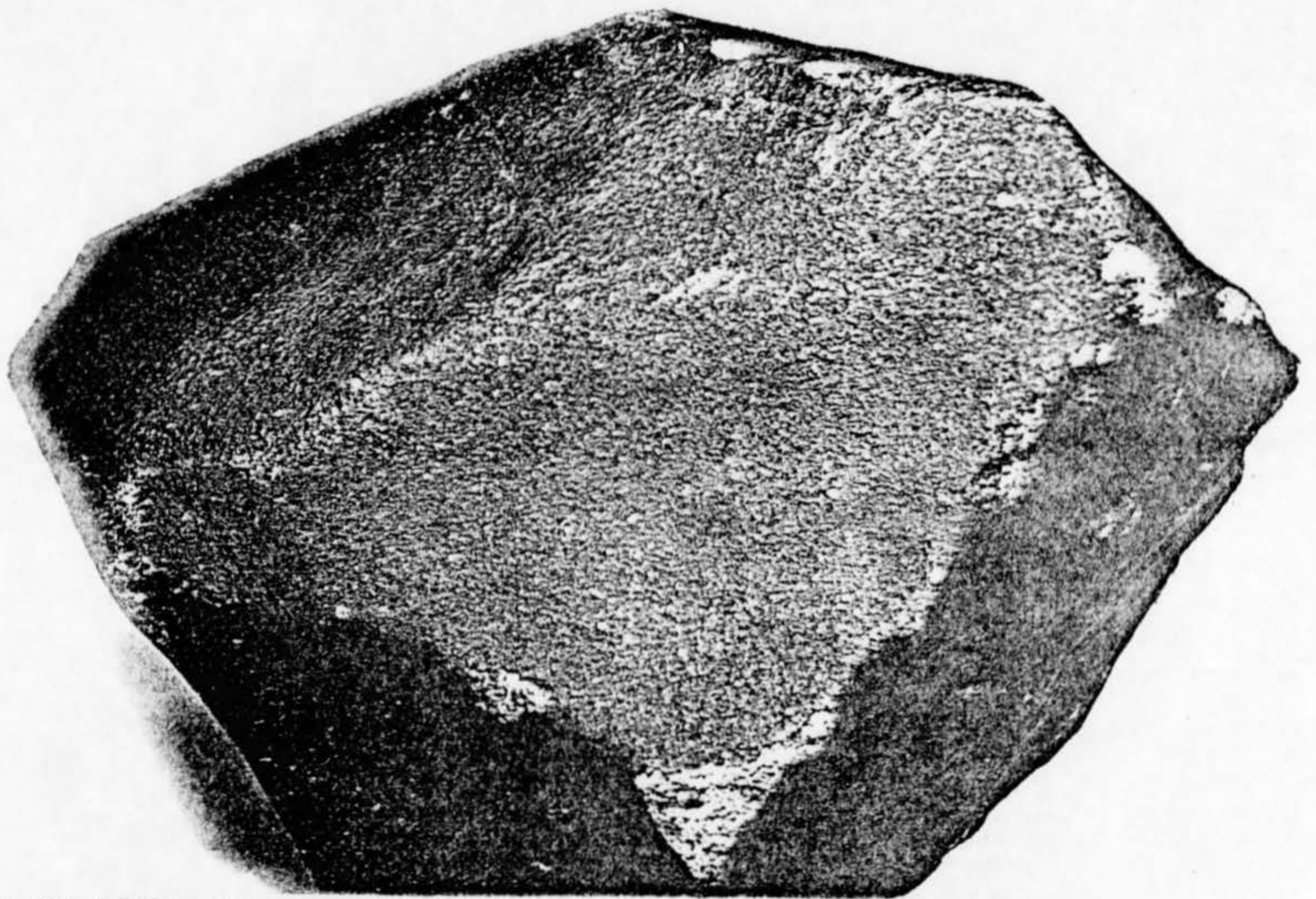


Exhibit #1

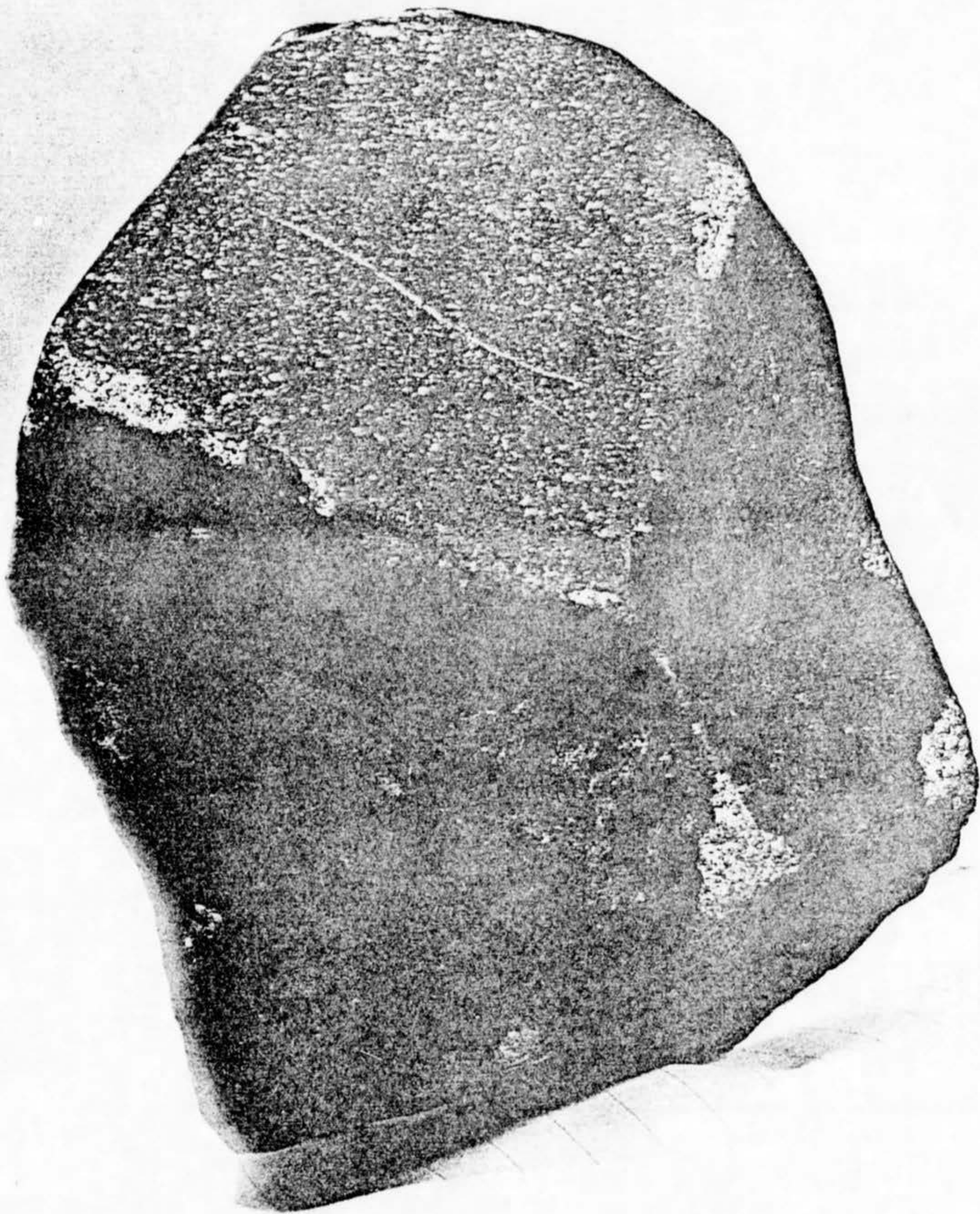


Exhibit #2

On 6 December 1954, Capt. Hardin placed to Col Bloomer, AFOIN-X, and informed him that the object was being examined at ATIC. Col. Bloomer stated he had received a Congressional inquiry on the matter as well as requests for press releases. Col. Bloomer also stated that the Smithsonian Institute (Wash DC) would like to examine the object. He recommended that Capt Hardin contact Mr. Henderson of the Institute relative to the matter. On the same date, Capt. Hardin received a telegram from the Mrs. [REDACTED] owner of the meteorite. This message is entered into this file as attachment #4.

On 7 December 1954, T/Sgt Drepperd placed a call to Mr. Henderson of the Smithsonian. Mr. Henderson agreed there is no question of who is the rightful owner, however, any type of meteorite is considered of national scientific value, and the National Museum (Smithsonian) should have an opportunity to examine it. Mr. Henderson further stated that, if possible, they would inform Mrs. [REDACTED] of the true monetary value of the meteorite. T/Sgt. Drepperd recommended that Mr. Henderson contact Col. Bloomer to make arrangements for acquisition of the meteorite from the A.F.

Shortly after the above mentioned phone conversation, Col Bloomer called Capt Hardin and informed him that a suitable agreement had been accomplished between the Smithsonian and Mrs. [REDACTED] Congressional Representative. Plans called for the AF to release the meteorite to the Congressman, who in turn would loan it to the Smithsonian for study. Col Bloomer then requested the meteorite to be forwarded to AFOIN-X. Col Bloomer also requested a short report of ATIC's analysis for press release. information.

The meteorite was crated in the same wooden box it was received in and air mailed at 1200 hrs to Col Bloomer. (Col Bloomer acknowledged receipt via telephone at 100 hrs, 8 Dec 54).

ATIC PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

2 December 1954

The UFO which struck the house in Sylacauga, Alabama on 30 Nov 54 was definitely a meteorite, very probably a member of the Andromid Shower always observed with varying degrees of prominence from Nov. 24 to Dec. 7. Great displays of them were observed in 1872 and 1885 when many people thought "the world was coming to an end." The Andromid shower of meteors follow the orbit of Biela's comet which had a period of 6.6 years. The comet broke into two parts in 1846 and disappeared after 1852. The great showers of 1872 and 1885 occurred when the comet should have reappeared. The meteors ordinarily are slow and leave long trails but their speeds depend upon what part of the day, or night they are seen; and it is possible to see members of the shower almost any time of the night. Only the larger ones, however, could register their occurrence by an explosion during the daylight hours. Some are seen every year because the debris of the comet has been strewn along the whole path of the comet and the earth in its motion around the sun crosses the path of the comet on Nov 27 each year.

Dr. L.V. Robinson
1 December 1954

ATTACHMENT #3

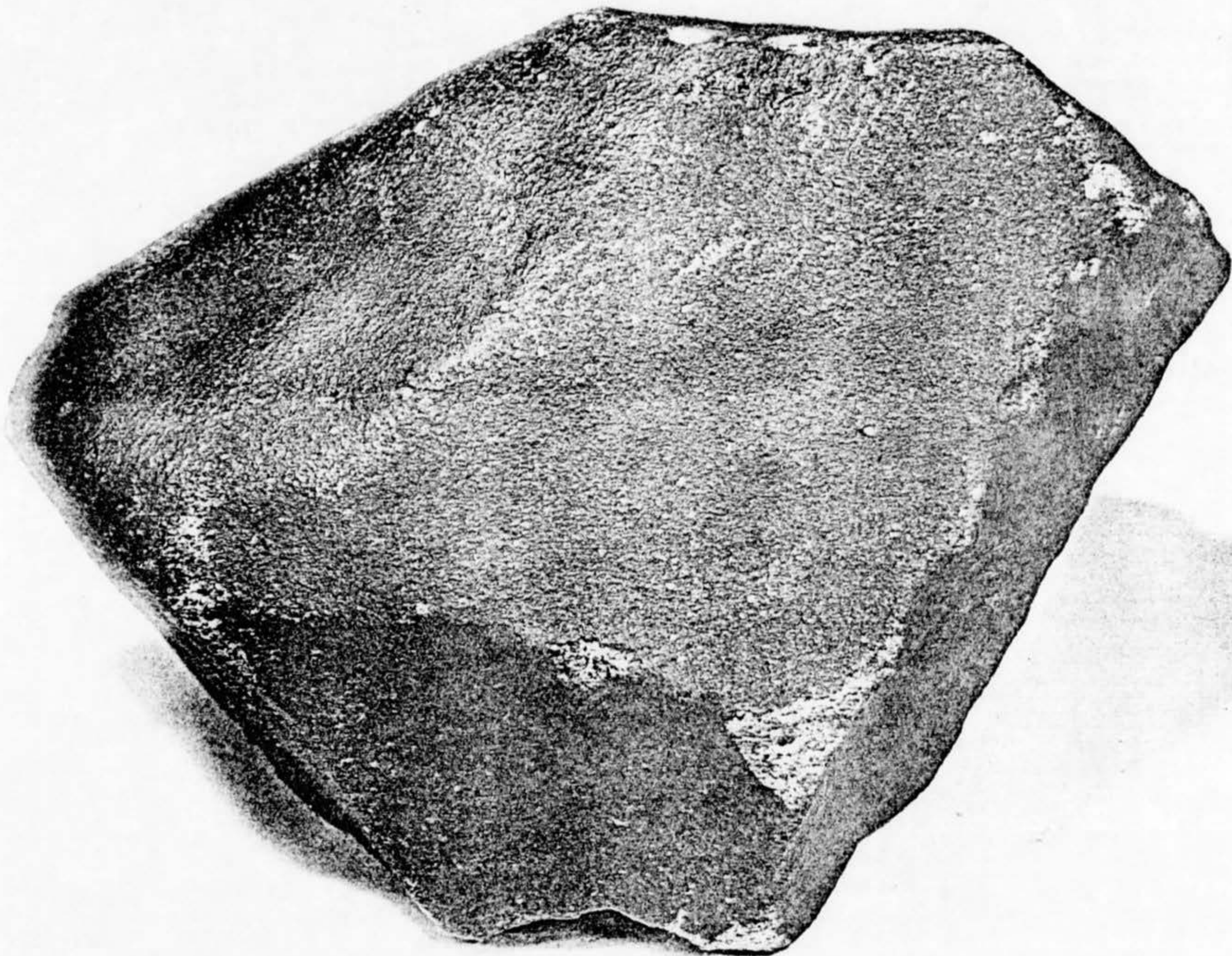


Exhibit #3

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
10073
ELECTRONICS BRANCH
Office of Record

10A/13P
8/52002

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

COMDR ATIC

DATE-TIME GROUP

062045Z DEC 54

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

PRECEDENCE FOR:

ACTION

INFORMATION

ROUTINE

BOOK MESSAGE

ORIGINAL MESSAGE

MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

YES

NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

TO:

D/I HQ USAF WASH D C

JEPH4

FOR POLICY AND MANAGEMENT GROUP

INFO:

FROM AFOIN-ATIAE -12-707-E

The Alabama meteorite is made up of dense stony matter with many grains of nickel-iron alloys (aerolite type meteorite). The outer portion of the meteorite is blackened showing evidence of heat erosion from friction with the earth's atmosphere. The original meteorite was much larger than the part recovered since it was seen to explode from Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Some other fragments distributed over a very large area remain to be recovered, and much of it must have fallen as ashes. The speed of the meteorite when it entered the earth's atmosphere was probably in excess of 15 miles per second. Evidence indicates that the Alabama meteorite was a member of the Andromid shower, occurring between 24 November and 7 December. These generally come from the north as in this case. If it is from this shower, it is from the debris of Biela's comet which disappeared after 1852. Fragments from this comet have fallen for centuries.

ATIAE

W. L. Johnston

DATE

7 Dec

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

ATIA

W. L. Johnston

DATE

7 Dec

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

W. L. Johnston

DRUGGER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

Charles A. Hardin
Captain Charles A. Hardin/ro

SYMBOL

ATIAE5

TELEPHONE

69216

OFFICIAL TITLE

B. C. SCH

ATIAE5 OFFICIAL FILE

Cas

113

CTW060 WUS123 CT.DAA427 (NS.SNA025) PD

SYLACAUGA ALA 6 1210PMC

WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB

LABORATORY DEPT DAYTON OHIO TLS CIN

I OWN THE PROPERTY ON WICH THE METORITE FELL AND CLAIM POSSESSION OF IT

MRS BERTIE GUYL

(24).

(129 PM DEC 6 54)

WADC

TELEPHONED
To <i>Capt. Nardin</i>
No. <i>69216</i>
Time <i>2:16p.</i>
Date <i>6</i>
By: <i>DA</i>

DEC 5 10 37 2

~~*25296-*~~
~~*52121-*~~

Capt. Nardin
69216 - *2:16p.*

~~*69319-*~~ *1:15p. - DA*
DC -

ATTACHMENT #4

8 December 1954

On 7 December 1954, ATIAE-5 was visited by Dr. Taylor and Mr. Castillo from the C & N Laboratory, WADC. They visually examined the meteorite and agreed with Dr. Robinson's original evaluation. Mr. Castillo stated he has been monitoring effects of ionospheric propagation on HF radio signals through an oscilloscope for the past two years. He has been especially interested in the returns he has been receiving from meteorite trails. He continued that during the month of November, 1954, there had been a mark increase in the meteorite activity. The attached photograph is one that he obtained on the night of 21 Oct 1954 which vividly depicts a fair size return of a meteorite trail. Mr. Castillo operates station WWV in Springfield, Ohio. He concluded that during the week of the Alabama incident, he received unusual amounts of meteorite returns on his graph.

One set of the meteorite photographs were given to Dr. Taylor upon his request.

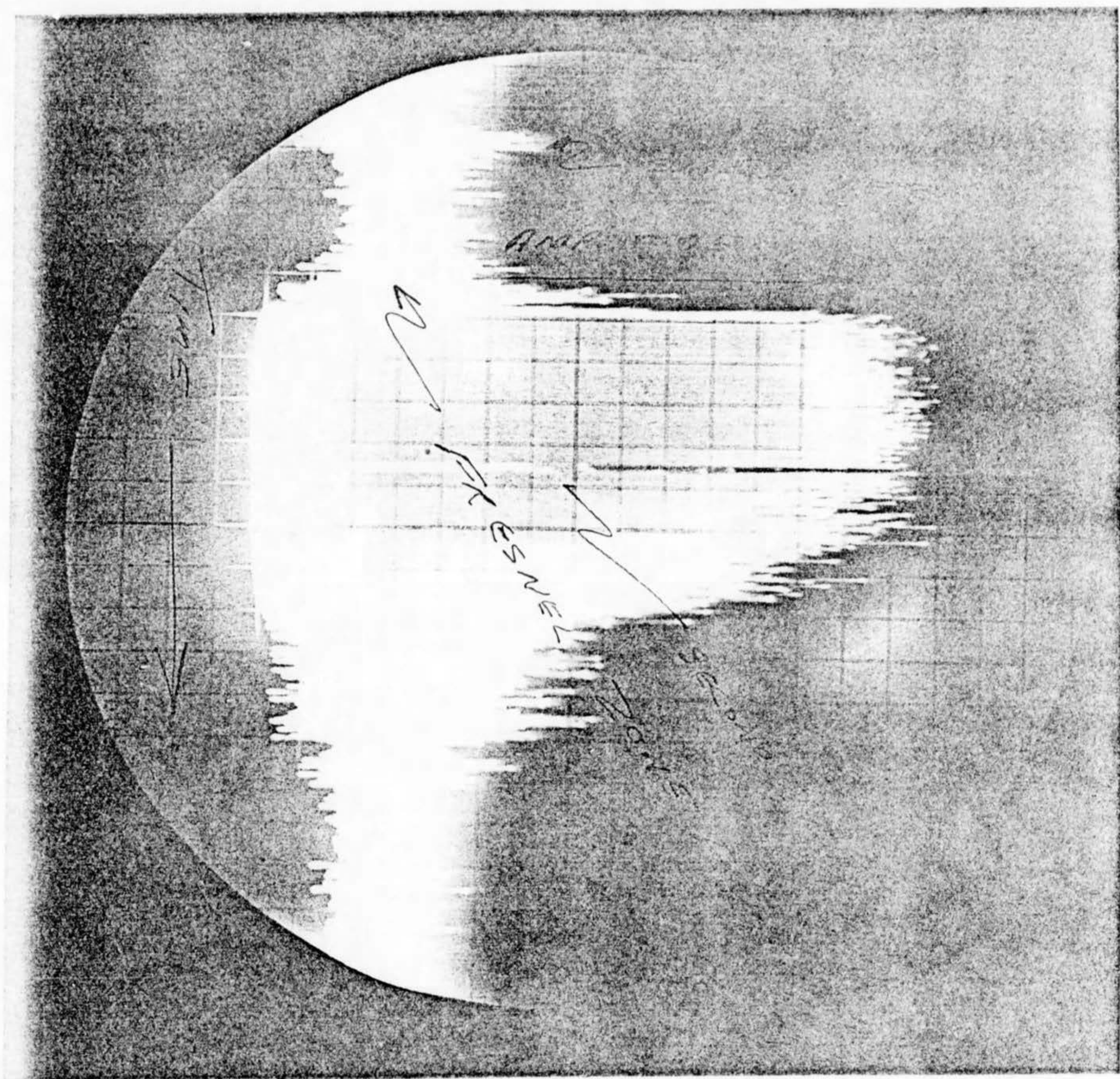


PHOTO MADE BY H.T. CASTILLO (LOOK IN IRE DIRECTORY)

15MC WWV TIME 0102 ON 21 OCT 1954

THIS TYPE METEOR ACTIVITY DETECTED AND MEASURED STRONG E LAYER
 ON NIGHT THAT FERDITE METEOR STRUCK IONOSPHERE DETECTED

0102

8 December 1954

On 7 December 1954, ATIAE-5 was visited by Dr. Taylor and Mr. Castillo from the C & N Laboratory, WADC. They visually examined the meteorite and agreed with Dr. Robinson's original evaluation. Mr. Castillo stated he has been monitoring effects of ionospheric propagation on HF radio signals through an oscilloscope for the past two years. He has been especially interested in the returns he has been receiving from meteorite trails. He continued that during the month of November, 1954, there had been a mark increase in the meteorite activity. The attached photograph is one that he obtained on the night of 21 Oct 1954 which vividly depicts a fair size return of a meteorite trail. Mr. Castillo operates station WWV in Springfield, Ohio. He concluded that during the week of the Alabama incident, he received unusual amounts of meteorite returns on his graph.

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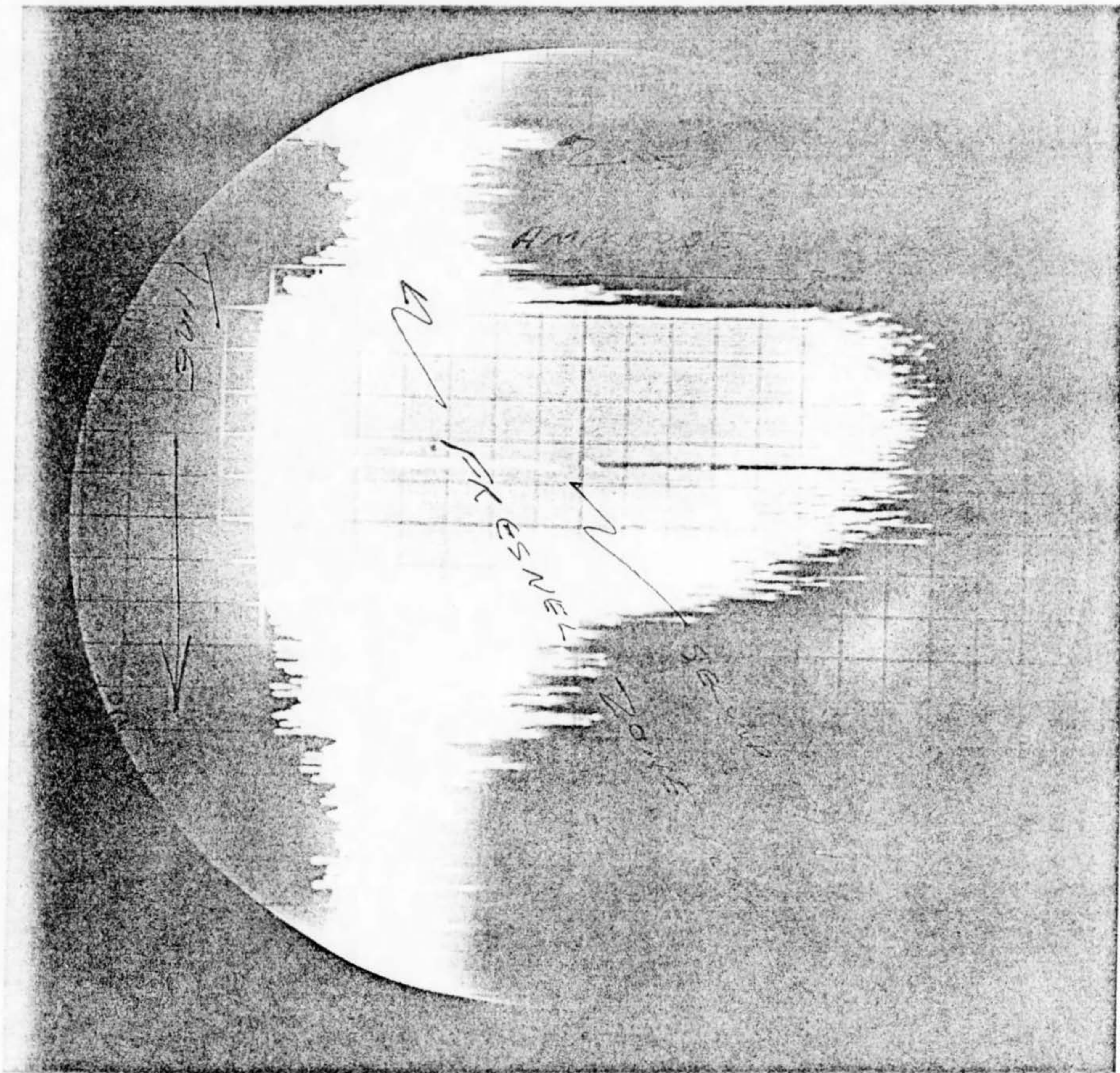


PHOTO MADE BY H.T. CASTILLO (LOOK IN IRE DIRECTORY)

15MC WWV TIME 0102 ON 21 OCT 1954

THIS TYPE METEOR ACTIVITY DETECTED AND MEASURED ON NIGHT THAT AERONAUTIC METEOR STRUCK STRONG E LAYER. IDENTIFICATION REPORTED

0102

48TH AIR RESCUE SQUADRON'S CONTROLLER'S LOG

30 November 1954

- 30/1238/GRB "DW" F/S reports an explosion 5 miles north of Homersville Ga. towards Perarson Ga. Explosion in the air reported by a civilian Mrs. [REDACTED]
- 30/1240/GRB F/S reports ramp check at Moody AFB shows no overdue aircraft.
- 30/1245/GRB A phone call to Lt. Bunton Ass't Ops Officer at Moody AFB, revealed no further info.
- 30/1248/GRB Tower operator reports call of fire and smoke going down 5 miles north of runway 36. Scramble two SA-16's and one H-19.
- 30/1300/GRB A various assortment of reports of crashes coming through at this time. Flight Service reports a search of the area north of Homerville Ga. by a B-25 revealed nothing. Flight Service reports that a Mr. [REDACTED] from Marietta, Ga. notified fire station who in turn notified Dobbins AFB that he sighted an explosion $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Smyrna Ga. Object resembled a falling jet. Mr. Sheppard of Atlanta reports same explosion. Birmingham tower reported thru Maxwell Flight Service a silver object falling 40 miles SE of Birmingham on a bearing of 135° . Small plane pilot reported smoke in that general area.
- 30/1310/GRB Flight Service reports a confirmed crash between Phenix City Ala. and Smith Station Ala. reported by Mr. [REDACTED] Phenix City. Police enroute to crash. Also ambulance and ground party also enroute. Crash believed to be a jet.
- 30/1315/GRB Civilians at Tuscaloosa, Ala. reported a bright orange flash with pieces falling.
- 30/1320/GRB Dobbins tower reports a crash in the Newnan, Ga. area. Vicinity southwest of Atlanta at Madres Int. on airway green 6.
- 30/1325/GRB Airline pilots flying in above vicinity reported a crash or an explosion below their altitude 3000 ft.
- 30/1330/GRB At the moment we have reports of four crashes in a general arc running from southeast to northwest over an area of approximately 250 miles. Flight Service reported a civilian Mr. [REDACTED] reported a jet afire over Winona, Miss. about 25 miles east of Greenwood, Miss. Two (2) aircraft from Greenville AFB, Miss. proceeding to the scene.
- 30/1350/GRB Mr. [REDACTED] of Ala. CAP briefed on all available reports we have at this time. Requested to instigate a search on a wheel basis, using each incident reported as the hub of the wheel. At present time we have five incidents pending with no crashes as yet confirmed.

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

FILE NO.

AIS2C

SUBJECT

Letter of Transmittal

TO

Commander, ATIC
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

FROM

Flight 2-C, 4602D AISS
Dobbins AFB, Marietta, Ga.

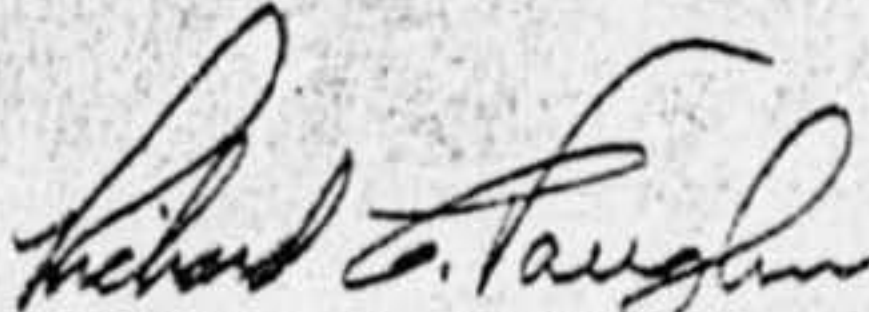
DATE

8 Dec 54

COMMENT NO. 1

1. Transmitted herewith is true extract copy of Mission 109, dated 30 November 1954, taken from the 48th Air Rescue Squadron Controller's Log.

2. Reference F2C-UFOB-1 (Narrative of Events Relating to UFOB Sighting at Sylacanga, Alabama).


RICHARD C. VAUGEN
1st Lt., USAF
Officer in Charge

A TWX, reference attachment #5 was prepared and forwarded to AFOIN-X on 7 December 1954.

CONCLUSIONS:

Final evaluation, conducted by Dr. Robinson, is contained herein as Attachment #6. The meteorite was photographed by ATIRT-1 on 6 December 1954. The three photographs are included in this file as Attachment #7. The following organizations and individuals received copies of the photo's as indicated:

1 set contains three photographs.
Hq USAF - AFOIN-X 2 sets
ATIAE-5 1 set
Dr. Taylor C&N Lab, WADC 1 set
Dr. Hynek 2 sets
Dr. Robinson - 2 sets
4602nd AISS 2 sets

See other side of this file for additional information pertaining to this case.

48TH AIR RESCUE SQUADRON'S CONTROLLER'S LOG

30 November 1954

- 30/1238/GRB "DW" F/S reports an explosion 5 miles north of Homerville Ga. towards Perarson Ga. Explosion in the air reported by a civilian Mrs. [REDACTED]
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- 30/1245/GRB A phone call to Lt. Bunker Ass't Ops Officer at Moody AFB, revealed no further info.
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- 30/1300/GRB A various assortment of reports of crashes coming through at this time. Flight Service reports a search of the area north of Homerville Ga. by a P-25 revealed nothing. Flight Service reports that a Mr. [REDACTED] from Marietta, Ga. notified fire station who in turn notified Dobbins AFB that he sighted an explosion $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Smyrna Ga. Object resembled a falling jet. Mr. Sheppard of Atlanta reports same explosion. Birmingham tower reported thru Maxwell Flight Service a silver object falling 40 miles SE of Birmingham on a bearing of 135°. Small plane pilot reported smoke in that general area.
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- 30/1315/GRB Civilians at Tuscaloosa, Ala. reported a bright orange flash with pieces falling.
- 30/1320/GRB Dobbins tower reports a crash in the Newnan, Ga. area. Vicinity southwest of Atlanta at Madres Int. on airway green 6.
- 30/1325/GRB Airline pilots flying in above vicinity reported a crash or an explosion below their altitude 8000 ft.
- 30/1330/GRB At the moment we have reports of four crashes in a general arc running from southeast to northwest over an area of approximately 250 miles. Flight Service reported a civilian Mr. [REDACTED] reported a jet afire over Winona, Miss. about 25 miles east of Greenwood, Miss. Two (2) aircraft from Greenville AFB, Miss. proceeding to the scene.
- 30/1350/GRB Mr. [REDACTED] of Ala. CAP briefed on all available reports we have at this time. Requested to instigate a search on a wheel basis, using each incident reported as the hub of the wheel. At present time we have five incidents pending with no crashes as yet confirmed.

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

FILE NO.

AIS2C

SUBJECT

Letter of Transmittal

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Commander, ATIC
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

FROM

Flight 2-C, 4602D AISS
Dobbins AFB, Marietta, Ga.

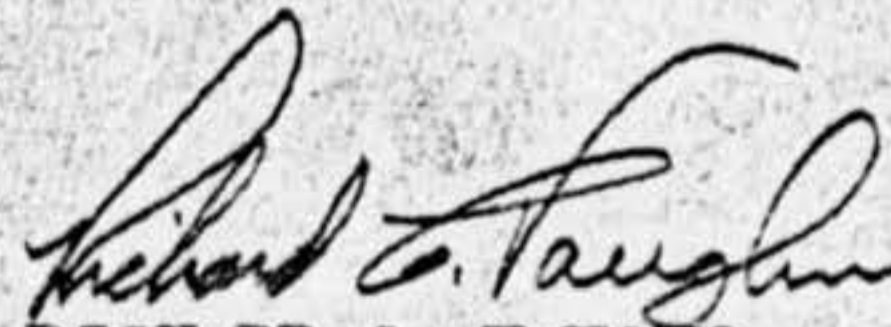
DATE

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RICHARD C. VAUGHN
1st Lt., USAF
Officer in Charge

48th Air Rescue Squadron's Controllers Log Continued.

- 30/1545/GRB (Delayed Entry) H-19 3838 on the ground at Sylacauga. Standing by for further information. That is Rescue Control is standing by.
- 30/1610/GRB Capt. Miller of Phenix City police called and reported that ground search revealed nothing. Requested to discontinue search.
- 30/1625/GRB SA-16 7207 on the deck at this time.
- 30/1635/GRB C-47 5732 reports that 848 has the object on board and is airborne from Sylacauga being escorted by SA-16 7153. 5732 returning to the base.
- 30/1645/GRB OSI Mr. Scass notified of above information and requested that we stand by on a security guard for unidentified object.
- 30/1647/GRB C-47 5732 on the deck at this time.
- 30/1705/GRB Major McCullough Mississippi CAP officially de-alerted at this time.
- 30/1732/GRB Georgia CAP officially de-alerted thru Major Rognick at this time.
- 30/1724/GRB H-19 3848 on the deck at this time.
- 30/1725/GRB SA-16 7153 on the deck at this time. Mission officially closed for lack of further information.
- 30/1815/GRB Alabama CAP, Lt. Col Casady officially notified and de-alerted at this time.

TRUE EXTRACTED COPY:

/T/ CHARLES W. KELSO
Major, USAF
Operations Officer

THIS IS A TRUE COPY

Jewings S. K. Chin, 2nd Lt. USAF
FOR RICHARD C VAUGHN
1st Lt., USAF

43th Air Rescue Squadron's Controllers Log Continued.

- 30/1400/GRB SA-16 #7153 performing an expanding square search in the Birmingham area also H-19 #3848 in this area. SA-16 #7207 on an expanding square search in the Atlanta, Georgia area. C-47 #5932 being dispatched to Greenwood, Miss. area to perform an expanding square search from Winona, Miss. area.
- 30/1415/GRB Capt. Roberts pilot on H-19 3848 called in from Columbiana, Ala. reported that he requested forest rangers to alert their entire net in the southeast to be on the lookout for any new fires which may enable us to ascertain the cause of these reports.
- 30/1420/GRB Capt. Marsden requested Flight Service to notify ADC on above incidents and report back any findings to us.
- 30/1422/GRB C-47 #5732 departing for Greenwood area.
- 30/1430/GRB SA-16 #7153 reports searching area 15 miles to 30 miles south of Sylacauga, Ala. reported nothing seen.
- 30/1440/GRB Flight Service that the Birmingham weather bureau reported a meteor struck near Sylacauga, Ala. A woman was injured and taken to the hospital women's name - Mrs. [REDACTED] lives at North Oak Grove about 3 miles east of Sylacauga.
- 30/1445/GRB Capt. Kinsaul Alabama CAP reports that state police notified him that a meteor struck a house near Columbiana, Ala. CAP checking back with state police to get woman's name who was supposedly injured also her address.
- 30/1450/GRB Lawson AFB operations called by phone to report that a search of Atlanta area has revealed nothing so far. Requested that they continue search.
- 30/1500/GRB Major McCollough of Mississippi CAP called from Jackson, Miss. stating that he had dispatched aircraft to the Winona area to initiate a search of that incident.
- 30/1525/GRB Flight Service reported that a meteor definitely struck a house and injured a woman at Sylacauga, Ala. Woman's name given in 1440 report and requested that H-19 land and pick-up as yet the unidentified object and return it to Maxwell AFB for examination. Standing by.
- 30/1530/GRB A call by Capt. Marsden to city police at Phenix City, Ala. revealed that as yet the ground search parties in that area have found nothing.
- 30/1545/GRB SA-16 7207 reported that they have searched the area around Newnan Intersection on airway green 6 and have found nothing. Instructed to return to base at this time. Also all CAP activities de-alerted at this time.

48th Air Rescue Squadron's Controllers Log Continued.

- 30/1545/GRB (Delayed Entry) H-19 3838 on the ground at Sylacauga. Standing by for further information. That is Rescue Control is standing by.
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- 30/1725/GRB SA-16 7153 on the deck at this time. Mission officially closed for lack of further information.
- 30/1815/GRB Alabama CAP, Lt. Col Casady officially notified and de-alerted at this time.

TRUE EXTRACTED COPY:

/T/ CHARLES W. KELSO
Major, USAF
Operations Officer

THIS IS A TRUE COPY

Swing S. R. Chin, 2nd Lt. USAF
FOR RICHARD C VAUGHN
1st Lt., USAF

48th Air Rescue Squadron's Controllers Log Continued.

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ATIAE-5/Capt. Hardin/rc/69216

ATIAE5

10 DEC 1954

SUBJECT: (Uncl) Unidentified Flying Object Recovered at Sylacauga,
Alabama

TO: Commander
4602d AISS (ADC)
ATTN: Major Cybulski
Ent Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, Colorado

1. Reference report AF Form 112, F2-C-UFOB-1, dated 2 December 1954, from Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia. Inclosed for your retention are two duplicate sets of prints of the Sylacauga, Alabama unidentified flying object. The object was photographed on 6 December 1954 at the Air Technical Intelligence Center.

2. The object was received at the Air Technical Intelligence Center 1000 hours on 6 December 1954 and was forwarded to AFOLN-X at 1200 hours 8 December 1954, where it has been loaned to the Smithsonian Institute for additional study.

3. The following is the preliminary analysis of the object by AFIC; the final evaluation is pending the results of the Smithsonian Institute's examination:

a. Meteors and meteorites may be divided roughly into three classes. One class is almost completely metallic (iron, nickel, etc). Another is largely stony; and another, members of which are frequently called aerolites, is composed of dense stony matter with many grains of nickel-iron alloys. This meteorite (from Alabama) appears to be an aerolite, weighing 3 pounds, 8 ounces.

b. Explosions of very large meteors are quite frequent. Most meteors are no larger than the head of a pin, and these burn up miles above the earth. On account of the heat generated, the larger meteors moving with high speeds must therefore explode. The Alabama meteorite was much larger than the smaller part recovered, for it was seen to explode. Some other fragments distributed over a very large area remain to be recovered, and much of it must have fallen as ashes.

c. The average limits of altitudes of meteor paths are known. They seldom appear at greater heights than 90 miles, for at greater heights there is insufficient air to cause one to burn; and generally they burn up before getting as low as 40 miles. Only those large

ATIAE-5/Capt. Hardin/rc/69216

ATIAE5

10 DEC 1954

SUBJECT: (Uncl) Unidentified Flying Object Recovered at Sylacauga,
Alabama

TO: Commander
4602d AISS (ADC)
ATTN: Major Cybulski
Ent Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, Colorado

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2. The object was received at the Air Technical Intelligence Center 1000 hours on 6 December 1954 and was forwarded to AF0IN-1 at 1200 hours 8 December 1954, where it has been loaned to the Smithsonian Institute for additional study.

3. The following is the preliminary analysis of the object by ATIC; the final evaluation is pending the results of the Smithsonian Institute's examination:

a. Meteors and meteorites may be divided roughly into three classes. One class is almost completely metallic (iron, nickel, etc). Another is largely stony; and another, members of which are frequently called aerolites, is composed of dense stony matter with many grains of nickel-iron alloys. This meteorite (from Alabama) appears to be an aerolite, weighing 3 pounds, 8 ounces.

b. Explosions of very large meteors are quite frequent. Most meteors are no larger than the head of a pin, and these burn up miles above the earth. On account of the heat generated, the larger meteors moving with high speeds must therefore explode. The Alabama meteorite was much larger than the smaller part recovered, for it was seen to explode. Some other fragments distributed over a very large area remain to be recovered, and much of it must have fallen as ashes.

c. The average limits of altitudes of meteor paths are known. They seldom appear at greater heights than 90 miles, for at greater heights there is insufficient air to cause one to burn; and generally they burn up before getting as low as 40 miles. Only those large

ATIAE5 OFFICIAL FILE

ATIAE-5/Capt. Hardin/rc/6926

ATIAE5

10 DEC 1954

SUBJECT: (Uncl) Unidentified Flying Object Recovered at Sylacauga, Alabama

TO: Commander
4602d AISS (ADC)
ATTN: Major Cybulski
Ent Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, Colorado

1. Reference report AF Form 112, F2-C-UFOB-1, dated 2 December 1954, from Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia. Inclosed for your retention are two duplicate sets of prints of the Sylacauga, Alabama unidentified flying object. The object was photographed on 6 December 1954 at the Air Technical Intelligence Center.
2. The object was received at the Air Technical Intelligence Center 1000 hours on 6 December 1954 and was forwarded to AFOIN-X at 1200 hours 8 December 1954, where it has been loaned to the Smithsonian Institute for additional study.
3. The following is the preliminary analysis of the object by ATIC; the final evaluation is pending the results of the Smithsonian Institute's examination:
 - a. Meteors and meteorites may be divided roughly into three classes. One class is almost completely metallic (iron, nickel, etc). Another is largely stony; and another, members of which are frequently called aerolites, is composed of dense stony matter with many grains of nickel-iron alloys. This meteorite (from Alabama) appears to be an aerolite, weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces.
 - b. Explosions of very large meteors are quite frequent. Most meteors are no larger than the head of a pin, and these burn up miles above the earth. On account of the heat generated, the larger meteors moving with high speeds must therefore explode. The Alabama meteorite was much larger than the smaller part recovered, for it was seen to explode. Some other fragments distributed over a very large area remain to be recovered, and much of it must have fallen as ashes.
 - c. The average limits of altitudes of meteor paths are known. They seldom appear at greater heights than 90 miles, for at greater heights there is insufficient air to cause one to burn; and generally they burn up before getting as low as 40 miles. Only those large

ATIAE5

SUBJECT: (Uncl) Unidentified Flying Object Resemblance at
Alabama

TO: Commander
4602d AISS (ADC)
ATTN: Major Cybulski
Ent Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, Colorado

1. Reference report AF Form 117, 71-8-4000, dated
1954, from Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia. Attention
are two duplicate sets of prints of the
unidentified flying object. The object was photographed
1954 at the Air Technical Intelligence Center.

2. The object was received at the Air Technical Intelligence
Center 1000 hours on 6 December 1954 and was re-examined
1200 hours 8 December 1954, where it has been sent to the
Institute for additional study.

3. The following is the preliminary report of the
ATIC; the final evaluation is pending the Institute's
Institute's examination:

a. Meteors and meteorites may be divided into
classes. One class is almost completely stony.
Another is largely stony; and another, called
aerolites, is composed of dense alloys
of nickel-iron alloys. This meteorite is an
aerolite, weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces.

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Most meteors are no larger than the head of a pin,
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meteors moving with high speeds must travel very
meteorite was much larger than the smaller ones
seen to explode. Some other fragments of the
area remain to be recovered, and much of it was

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They seldom appear at greater heights than 50,000
heights there is insufficient air to cause them to
they burn up before getting as low as 40,000

ATIAE5 OFFICIAL FILE

LIST OF TABS

TAB CONTENTS

- A Initial Notification of Object TWX dtd 1 Dec 54
- B Initial Investigation IR dtd 2 Dec 54
- C Complete Report (OSI) dtd 8 Dec 54 (Conf)
- D Miscellaneous Corresponce and Information regarding Case
- E Related visual sightings
- F Press Releases and Photographs of Object

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Intelligence Division, HCS/AGCP, Air Proving Ground Command, Eglin AFB, Florida	REPORT NO. 4-54	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES
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30,000 ft	2	260 degrees at 60 knots
40,000 ft	2	260 degrees at 75 knots
50,000 ft	2	230 degrees at 60 knots
60,000 ft	2	260 degrees at 30 knots
70,000 ft	2	260 degrees at 15 knots

- (3) (a) 25,000 ft Scattered - under 5/10
- (b) 15 miles
- (c) Scattered - about 3/10 at 25,000 ft
- (d) None

(8) Any other unusual activity or condition, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sighting:

(a) On 30 November 1956, 1300 to 1400 hours, press reported the occurrence of meteorite activity and phenomena visible in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Explosions and brilliant flashes in the sky were reported. A nine (9) pound meteorite struck a home in Sylvauga, Alabama (33° - 107°/86° - 132°).

(9) Interception or identification action taken (Such action may be taken whenever feasible, complying with existing air defense directives): N/A

(10) Location of any air traffic in the area at time of sighting: None reported and none seen.

(11) Position title and comments of the preparing officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of sighting: Chief, Intelligence Division, Headquarters, Air Proving Ground Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

It is considered quite feasible and very possible that this reported sighting of an unidentified flying object coincides with the meteorite phenomena sighted on the same date, approximately the same time, and in the same general location.

(12) Existence of physical evidence, such as materials and photographs: None

John J. Walsh
 JOHN J. WALSH
 Major, USAF
 Chief, Intelligence Division

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

Indicates this to be a sighting of the Sylvauga.

Ltr, ATIC, Subj: (U) Unidentified Flying Object Recovered at Sylacauga, Alabama

enough to penetrate all the earth's atmosphere actually hit the earth; and these are called "meteorites." Velocity of a meteor plays an important part on whether or not it hits the earth. At the time a meteor hits the earth's atmosphere--100 miles high, say--its velocity will range between 5 miles per second and 44 miles per second. Since the earth's motion around the sun gives it a velocity of 18 miles per second and the average velocity of a meteor is 26 miles per second, one therefore finds velocities between 26-18 and 26+18 miles per second.

d. The speed of the Alabama meteorite can be estimated only if one knows the exact direction from which it came and the time of the day it fell. The evidence seems to indicate, however, that the Alabama meteorite was a member of the Andromid shower, occurring between November 24 and December 7. These come from the north, but the exact direction depends on the time of day they are seen. Ordinarily their speeds are about 15 miles per second, but this figure may be either higher or lower. If it is a member of this shower, it is from the debris of Biela's comet which disappeared after 1852. Fragments from this comet have fallen, however, for centuries--one of the earliest perhaps being a stone weighing 260 pounds which fell in Alsace, November 16, 1492, between 11 and 12 A.M.

4. Arrangements have been made for the meteorite to be returned directly to its owner from the Smithsonian Institute.

FOR THE COMMANDER

1 Incl
Photographs (dup)

R. C. SCHUM
CWO, USAF
Asst. Adj.

COORDINATION:

ATIAE5 C. A. Hardin DATE 12/9/54
Capt. C. A. Hardin
ATIAE H. C. Johnston DATE 9 Dec 54
Lt. Col. H. C. Johnston
ATIA W. D. O'Hern DATE 9 Dec 54
Col. W. D. O'Hern

for.

VAC-301

TO BE RETURNED TO THE COMMANDER

ATIAE5 OFFICIAL FILE

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Intelligence Division	REPORT NO.	DATE	CLASS.
HQ/1st AF, Air Proving Ground Command, Eglin AFB, Florida	4074	3	3

30,000 ft	2	260 degrees at 60 knots
40,000 ft	2	260 degrees at 75 knots
50,000 ft	2	230 degrees at 60 knots
60,000 ft	2	260 degrees at 30 knots
70,000 ft	2	260 degrees at 15 knots

- (3) (a) 25,000 ft Scattered - under 5/10
- (b) 15 miles
- (c) Scattered - about 3/10 at 25,000 ft
- (d) None

- (8) Any other unusual activity or condition, meteorological, astronomical, or otherwise, which might account for the sightings.
 - (a) On 30 November 1954, 1300 to 1400 hours, press reported the occurrence of meteorite activity and phenomena visible in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Explosions and brilliant flashes in the sky were reported. A nine (9) pound meteorite struck a home in Sylvauga, Alabama (33° - 105°/86° - 13°).

- (9) Interception or identification action taken (Such action may be taken whenever feasible, complying with existing air defense directives): N/A

- (10) Location of any air traffic in the area at time of sighting: None reported and none seen.

- (11) Position title and comments of the preparing officer, including his preliminary analysis of the possible cause of sighting: Chief, Intelligence Division, Headquarters, Air Proving Ground Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

It is considered quite feasible and very possible that this reported sighting of an unidentified flying object coincides with the meteorite phenomena sighted on the same date, approximately the same time, and in the same general location.

- (12) Existence of physical evidence, such as materials and photographs: None

John J. Walsh
 JOHN WALSH
 Major, USAF
 Chief, Intelligence Division

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

Indicates this to be a sighting of the Sylvauga.

Ltr, ATIC, Subj: (U) Unidentified Flying Object Recovered at Sylacauga, Alabama

enough to penetrate all the earth's atmosphere actually hit the earth; and these are called "meteorites." Velocity of a meteor plays an important part on whether or not it hits the earth. At the time a meteor hits the earth's atmosphere--100 miles high, say--its velocity will range between 8 miles per second and 44 miles per second. Since the earth's motion around the sun gives it a velocity of 18 miles per second and the average velocity of a meteor is 26 miles per second, one therefore finds velocities between 26-18 and 26+18 miles per second.

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4. Arrangements have been made for the meteorite to be returned directly to its owner from the Smithsonian Institute.

FOR THE COMMANDER

1 Incl
Photographs (dup)

R. C. SCHUM
CWO, USAF
Asst. Adj.

COORDINATION:

ATIAE5 C. A. Hardin DATE 12/9/54
Capt. C. A. Hardin
ATIAE H. C. Johnston DATE 9 Dec 54
Lt. Col. H. C. Johnston
ATIA W. D. O'Hern DATE 9 Dec 54
Col. W. D. O'Hern

for.

VINC-001

NOV 23 1954

ATIAE5 OFFICIAL FILE

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY INFORMATION - Form 104-1

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN United States		REPORT NO. 4-5	(Leave blank)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
AREA OF INTEREST United States - Southeast			
REPORTING OFFICE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION HQS/4602d AIFG Command, Kelly AFB, Florida	DATE OF REPORT 6 Dec 54		
REPORTING OFFICER Mr. Wayne Colan Mr. John K. Murray	DATE OF REVISION 30 Nov 54		
REPORTING OFFICER JOHN J. WALSH, Major, USAF		EXTENSION 16	

REFERENCE (Cite number, director, previous report, etc., as applicable)

AIF Regulation 20042, 12 August 1954

SUBJECT

UFO

SUMMARY (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final paragraph. Indicate number of items seen. Number of types seen. If known.)

**Report of unidentified flying object sighted over Hanceville, Alabama
(31° - 32°N/87° - 20°W), 30 November 1954.**

John J. Walsh
JOHN J. WALSH
 Major, USAF
 Chief, Intelligence Division

APPROVED BY:

John M. White Jr.
JOHN M. WHITE JR.
 Colonel, USAF
 Commander, 4602d AIFG

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE		FORM NO. 1-54
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
TITLE: United States - Southeast		
REPORTING OFFICE: Intelligence Division, 1st AF, Air Proving Ground, Orlando, Fla. AF, Florida	DATE OF REPORT: 6 Nov 54	
REPORTING OFFICER: Mr. John K. Murray	DATE OF PROMOTION: 28 Nov 54	
REPORTING OFFICER'S GRADE: Major, USAF	TYPE OF REPORT: 1-5	

AF Regulation 200-2, 12 August 1954

SUMMARY (State number of report. Give significance in brief or outline paragraph. List indicators of item type. Indicate if report is AF Form 100-1)

Report of unidentified flying object sighted over Murreville, Alabama (1° - 32'N / 87° - 20'W), 30 November 1954.

John J. Walsh
JOHN J. WALSH
 Major, USAF
 Chief, Intelligence Division

APPROVED BY:

John W. White, Jr.
JOHN W. WHITE, JR.
 Colonel, USAF
 Commanding, 4602d AISS

- 1cc: Distributions:
 D/T USAF
 Comdr AFIC
 Comdr ADC (CIC)
 D/T 35th Air Div (Inf)
 Comdr 4602d AISS

DISSEMINATION BY CATEGORY: In accordance with paragraph 7(2)(b) of AF Regulation 200-2, dated 12 August 1954.

WARNING: This report contains information that is classified as secret and is to be controlled in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11652, dated 11 June 1954, and AF Regulation 200-2, dated 12 August 1954. It is not to be disseminated outside the United States Air Force without the approval of the Director of Intelligence, USAF.

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Intelligence Division
 (C-4) Air Training Ground
 Eglin AFB, Florida

Left

2

3

1. Description of the objects

- (a) Circular
- (b) Unknown
- (c) Unknown
- (d) Unknown
- (e) Unknown
- (f) Negative
- (g) Success of fire shooting from its rear
- (h) Negative
- (i) High rate of speed

2. Description of course of the objects

- (a) Sudden, surprise sighting while gardening with several people.
- (b) Unknown
- (c) Unknown
- (d) Headed north at high rate of speed
- (e) Unknown
- (f) Unknown

3. Manner of observation

- (a) Ground - visual
- (b) None
- (c) N/A

4. Time and date of sighting

- (a) 30/1845Z November 1954
- (b) Day

5. Location of observer

31° - 32°N / 87° - 20°W

6. Identifying information of all observers

- (a) Mrs. [redacted] housewife, Monroeville, Alabama
- Mr. [redacted] Chief Industrial Engineer, Vanity Fair Mills, Inc.,
 Monroeville, Ala. Source seemed sincere and quite
 serious about his observations.

7. Weather and winds aloft conditions at time and place of sighting

- (a) Day was clear, scattered clouds, good visibility.
- (b) The following was taken from the records of the Eglin AFB Weather Station and from Evergreen Radio Station at Monroeville, Alabama, from observations made at 30/1845Z November 1954:

SURFACE	3	SE at 5 knots
6,000 ft	1	310 degrees at 20 knots
10,000 ft	1	290 degrees at 20 knots
16,000 ft	1	270 degrees at 40 knots
20,000 ft	1	270 degrees at 45 knots

JESYQ 432

EMERGENCY JEDEN JEDWP J. HQ JESDB JEDWF 555

DE JESYQ 69B

Y 382243Z

FM COMDR FLT SVC MAXWELL AFB ALA

TO JEDEN/COMDRCAIR DEFENSE COMMAND ENT AFB COLO

JEDWP/COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEPHQ/DIRECTOR ON INTELLIGENCESHEADQUARTERS USAF WASHDC

JESDB/COMMANDER 35TH AIR DIVISION/DEF/ DOBBINS AFB GEORGIA

INFO JEDWF/COMMANDER CENTRAL AIR DEFENSE FORCES GRANDVIEW AFB MO

INFOB/EMERGENCY

1. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT(S)

A. SHAPE UNKNOWN

B. SEE ATTACHED REPORT SUBMITTED BY CAPT . HAYNES N HUNTER.

C. APPEARS AS BRIGHT OBJECT TRAILING SMOKE.

D. ONE

~~E. UNKNOWN~~

F. BRIGHT OBJECT TRAILING SMOKE-OBJECT EXPLODED.

G. TRAILING SMOKE

H. EXPLOSION REPORTED BY CITIZENS OF SYLACAUGA, ALA

I. WIDE SPREAD REPORTS RECEIVED AT SAME TIME FROM CENTRAL

MISSISSIPPI TO SOUTHERN GEORGIA OF SIMILAR OBJECTS AND EXPLOSIONS.

DESCRIBED AS A ROCKET, A MISSILE, A METEOR, OR A BURNING JET

61 10 19

AIRCRAFT.

2. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT(S)

A. BRIGHTNESS OF OBJECT IN SKY.

B. VERY HIGH AND COMING DOWN. ESTIMATES FROM AIRCRAFT PLACE
ALTITUDE OF EXPLOSION FROM 45,000 TO 50000FT.

C. EXPLODED

D. VERTICAL DESCENT

E. EXPLOSION-DISENTRAGED-PIECES OBSERVED FALLING TO GROUND

F.

3. MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

A. GROUND/VISUAL AND AIR/VISUAL

B. NONE KNOWN

C. AFJET 52275 B47 34000FT. 90 DEGREES HUNTER AFB GA.

AFJET 24891 F-86 40000FT 90 DEGREES ALEXANDRIA AFB LA.

4. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

A. REPORTS RECEIVED INDICATE EXPLOSION TO HAVE OCCURRED 1850Z 30
NOVEMBER 1954

B. DAY

5. LOCATIONS OF OBSERVER(S):

MANVELL AFB, ALA.

SYLACAUGA, ALA.

PAGE THREE OF JESYQ 69B

ATLANTA ARTC, GA NEAR MOODY ABFB, GA..

BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT, ALA.

PHENIX CITY, ALA

WINONA, MISSISSIPPI

6. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVERS:

A. CIVILIAN

MRS. [REDACTED], SYLACAUGA, ALA [REDACTED]

W.D. ASHCRAFT, POLICE CHIEF, SYLACAUGA, ALA

[REDACTED], EDITOR POST HERALD, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

CAPT, HAYNES N. HUNTER-MAXWELL FLT SRV CNTR, MAXWELL AFB ALA

T/SGT JACK L. POTTER MAXWELL TOWER, MAXWELL AFB, ALA.

CAPT J. T. ONEAL-PILOT B47 52275, 373RD BOMB SQDN, HUNTER AFB, GA.

L/LT J.A. GREGG-PILOT F86 24691-613TH FTR. BMR. SQDN, ALEXANDRIA
AFB LA.

7. WEATHER AND WINDS ALOFT AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTING:

A. MAXWELL AFB 1230C OBSERVATION: 25000 SCAT. 15 MILES.

B. SURFACE 060 DEGREES/ 10 KNOTS

6000FEET 360 DEGREES/ 10 KNOTS

10,000FEET 300 DEGREES/25 KNOTS

16,000 FEET 270 DEGREES/ 65 KNOTS