PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE

31 October 1957

2. LOCATION

Massapequa Park, New York

3. DATE-TIME GROUP

Local 2030 ?

GMT 01/ 0130Z Nov

4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION

☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar

☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

5. PHOTOS

☐ Yes

☒ No

6. SOURCE

Civilian (Pilot & X FBI)

7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION

not given /6-7 seconds

8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS

one

9. COURSE

North

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

An extremely bright object was seen traveling very fast, (120 dgr in about 6-7 seconds). No reports of an UFO from radar, aircraft, air operations or others from that area.

11. COMMENTS

Although observer tends to discount the possibility of a meteor, the characteristics, speed and description all point to the object being a meteor.

12. CONCLUSIONS

- ☐ Was Balloon
- ☐ Probably Balloon
- ☐ Possibly Balloon
- ☐ Was Aircraft
- ☐ Probably Aircraft
- ☐ Possibly Aircraft
- ☐ Was Astronomical Meteor
- ☐ Probably Astronomical
- ☒ Possibly Astronomical
- ☐ Other_____
- ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
- ☐ Unknown

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

1 - 4 NOVEMBER 1957 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
Nov	Brazil (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
Nov	Garwd, Poland	Civilian	Astro (METEOR)
Nov	Hemet, California	Civilian	Insufficient Data
1	New Orleans, Louisiana	[redacted]	Aircraft
1	Huntington, West Virginia	[redacted]	Other (UNRELIABLE OBSERVER)
1	Detroit, Michigan	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
1	Atlanta, Georgia	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
1	Swansea, Illinois	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
2	Canadian, Texas	[redacted]	Other (UNRELIABLE REPORT)
2	Brooktondale, New York	[redacted]	Other (SEARCHLIGHT)
2	Ft Worth, Texas	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
2	Atlantic Ocean	Military	Astro (METEOR)
2-3	Levelland, Texas (Folder) (*)	Multi	Other (BALL LIGHTNING)
3	White Sands, New Mexico	Multi	Astro (MOON/VENUS)
3	Belmar, New Jersey	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
3	Long Beach, New York	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
3	Asbury Park, New Jersey	[redacted]	Balloon
3	Greenville, Alabama	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
3	Tuscon, Arizona	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
4	Mount Dora, Florida	[redacted]	Other (KITE)
4	Dunedin, Florida	[redacted]	Other (CONTRAILS)
4	Oro Grande (Alamongordo), New Mexi	[redacted]	Other (MIRAGE/PSYCH)
4	Astoria, Missouri	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
4	Mitchell Field, Long Island, New York	[redacted]	Balloon
4	Marietta, Georgia	[redacted]	Insufficient Data
4	Birmingham, Alabama	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
4	Kirtland AFB, New Mexico (CASE MISSING)	Military	Astro (METEOR)
4	Milwaukee, Oregon	Military	Astro (VENUS)
4	El Paso, Texas	[redacted]	Other (UNRELIABLE REPORT)
4	Cayucos, California	[redacted]	Astro (VENUS)
4	Moisant, Louisiana	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
4	Atlantic (Jamaica, Miami)	[redacted]	Astro (METEOR)
4	Kirtland AFB, New Mexico (CASE MISSING)	[redacted] (RADAR)	Aircraft

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
Nov	Universe	Science News Ltr	
2	Brown Mountain, North Carolina	Newsclipping	
3	Amarillo, Texas	Newsclipping	
4	Itaipu Fort, Brazil MISSING	Newslcipping	
4	Kodiak, Alaska MISSING	Newsclipping	
4	Elmwood Park, Illinois	Newsclipping	

(*) In separate folder

1 NOV / 0302

1 Witness

97

CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY OF ACTIVITY REPORTING	REPORT NO.	(Leave blank)
Mitchel AF Base, New York	3-57	

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS	DATE OF INFORMATION	
Massapequa Park, New York	31 October 57	
ACTIVITY SUBMITTING REPORT 2500th Air Base Wing Mitchel Air Force Base, New York	DATE OF COLLECTION	SRI STATUS (If applicable) SRI NO. CANCELED/COMPLETE
PREPARING INDIVIDUAL Director of Operations, 2500th Air Base Wing, Mitchel AF Base, N. Y.	DATE OF REPORT 12 December 57	SRI NO. CANCELED/INCOMPLETE
NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE R. B. Mason	EVALUATION	SRI NO. ACTIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON (Date)

REFERENCES (BAIR Subject, previous reports, etc., as applicable)

SUBJECT (Descriptive title. Use individual reports for separate subjects)

SUMMARY (Give summary which highlights the salient factors of narrative report. Begin narrative text on AF Form 112a unless report can be fully stated on AF Form 112. List inclosures, including number of copies)

Attached letter from R. B. Mason, 77 Harmony Drive, Massapequa Park, New York, dated 5 December 1957, is forwarded for any investigation or action you deem necessary.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Martha G. O'Toole

MARTHA G. O'TOOLE
Captain, USAF
Adjutant

Inv. at the District Level

1 INCLS
a/s

Sec Sec'd Ltr for Comments

Orig returned for USAF

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AF FORM 15 SEP 54 112 REPLACES AF FORM 112, 1 OCT 52, WHICH MAY BE USED

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1954 O — 315475

CLASSIFICATION

[redacted]
Massapequa Park, New York
December 5, 1957

Director of Base Operations
United States Air Force
Mitchell AFB
Garden City, New York

Sirs:

This is for the UFO section of the "To whom it may concern" department; my feelings won't be hurt if it ends up in the circular file, but after some weeks I've decided I should at least drop a note.

Matter of fact, the snide references in the press to hallucinations, and the repeated assurances that USAF can explain all reports of unidentified objects, including those reported by professional military and airmen, almost shame me into ignoring any mention of this incident; I toss it in now, for what it may be worth, on the off-chance that it might just happen to tie in with someone else's observation.

An ex-Naval Aviator (still on flying status in the Reserves), I don't think I'm completely ignorant of atmospheric phenomena; an ex-FBI agent, I think my general powers of observation and reasoning are at least normal.

So I'm morally confident there was no natural explanation within the frame of reference of my experience to account for the extremely bright object I sighted within a few minutes of 8:30 p.m., local time (I forget whether we were then on EST or EDST) October 31, 1957. It moved south to north through an arc about 60 degrees above the eastern horizon from my vantage point at the above Long Island address. Its speed was most striking. (Not knowing its distance, I of course wouldn't hazard a guess as to linear velocity; but its angular velocity took it through some 120 degrees of azimuth in perhaps six or seven seconds flat.) Its brilliance was easily, say, ten times that of Sirius or one of the brighter planets.

A meteor would of course be the nearest natural phenomenon, but I tend to discount that possibility on several grounds, mainly because of the flat trajectory, which appeared to parallel the horizon throughout its sweep.

On the million-to-one chance this has any relevance to your work, I remain,

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

ASTRONOMY

See Fall Constellations

Some characteristic fall constellations are visible in the southern sky during October, which also brings an unusual solar eclipse visible only from Antarctica.

By JAMES STOKLEY

ALTHOUGH the autumn skies do not have the brilliance of those of winter, there are some interesting and characteristic constellations which now shine in the south.

These appear on the accompanying maps, which depict the skies as they appear about ten o'clock, your own kind of standard time—add one hour for daylight saving time—at the first of October; nine o'clock at the middle of the month and eight o'clock at the end.

High in the southern sky are the four stars marking the great square in Pegasus, the winged horse. Actually, only three of these are in Pegasus. Alpheratz, the one in the upper left-hand corner, is in the neighboring group of Andromeda, the chained lady. Diagonally opposite is Markab, which is in the horse's neck, as the figure was drawn on the old star maps.

The row of stars extending downward and to the right from Markab form the head. The stars extending westward from the upper right-hand corner are his forefeet, for the animal is shown upside-down!

If you follow downward the line of the right side of the square, you will come to a bright star, low in the south, which is called Fomalhaut, and is part of Piscis Austrinus, the southern fish. This is about as high as it ever gets, in our northern latitudes.

That is why it is represented by the symbol for a second-magnitude star, even though it is of the first magnitude, according to the system whereby the astronomer reckons star brightnesses. Because it is so low, its light has to pass through a greater thickness of the earth's atmosphere than if it were higher in the sky.

The symbols on our maps show the stars as they appear and they are only shown with their full brightness when they are fairly high.

Constellations of the Zodiac

Just below the square we find Pisces, the fishes, which is one of a row of constellations extending diagonally across the southern sky, down to the southwestern horizon. The others are Aries, the ram; Aquarius, the water-carrier; Capricornus, the sea-goat, and Sagittarius, the archer.

These are constellations of the zodiac; another is Taurus, the bull, low in the northeast. Beyond Sagittarius, and visible earlier in the evening than the times for which the maps are drawn, is Scorpius, the scorpion, also a zodiacal constellation.

The zodiac is the path through which the sun, moon and planets seem to move, and at present Venus is in Scorpius. It sets, at the beginning of October, about an hour and three-quarters after the sun, but by the end of the month it remains above the horizon for nearly two and a quarter hours after sunset.

Of magnitude minus 3.7, Venus is far brighter than any other star or planet, so there is no difficulty in finding it.

Another planet, Saturn, is in the same part of the sky. Although of the first magnitude, it is less than a sixtieth as bright as Venus. At the beginning of October, Venus is to the west of Saturn. Moving eastward, it passes Saturn on Oct. 20.

The other naked-eye planets (Mercury, Mars and Jupiter) are now all so nearly in the same direction as the sun that they are not visible.

Returning to the stars, we find that some of the brightest of those now visible appear to the right of Pegasus. High in the west is Cygnus, the swan, with first-magnitude Deneb. Just below this star is Vega, in Lyra, the lyre. To the left of Lyra is Aquila, the eagle, with the star called Altair.

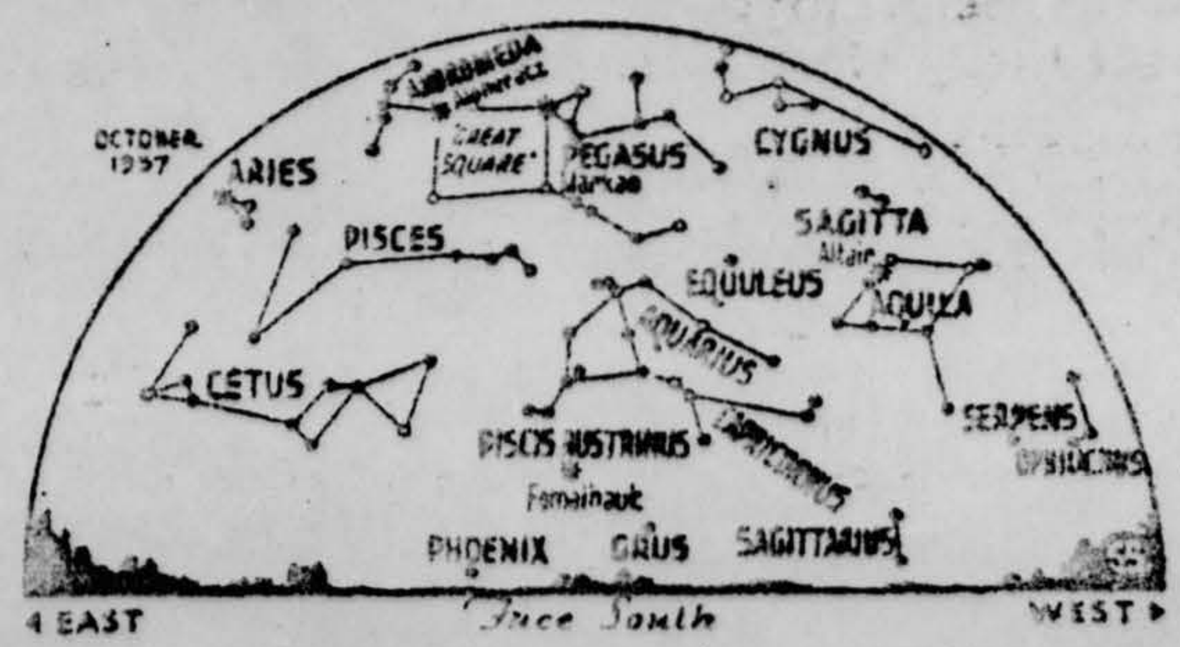
Now moving over to the east we find, near the horizon at the map-times, brilliant Capella, in Auriga, the charioteer. To the right is part of Taurus, the bull, with a reddish star called Aldebaran. Both of these belong to that brilliant array of stars which will be so prominent to the south during winter evenings.

On the celestial program for October there is an eclipse of the sun, but almost the only people to see it will be the members of the scientific parties located in Antarctica, making observations in connection with the current International Geophysical Year.

An eclipse of the sun occurs when the moon passes between sun and earth, so that the lunar shadow falls on our planet.

This shadow has two parts: the umbra, or inner shadow, where the moon completely hides the sun, and the outer penumbra, from which the lunar disc would only partially cover the sun's face. Where the umbra reaches, an eclipse is total; from the penumbra only a partial eclipse may be observed.

During the night of Oct. 22, by U. S. time, most of Antarctica, the southern tip of Africa, and the southernmost parts of Madagascar and New Zealand, as well as a large portion of the Indian Ocean, will be covered by the penumbra, so that a partial eclipse of the sun will be observed from these regions.



SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

The umbra, however, will just graze the earth's atmosphere, barely touching it along the Antarctic coast, near Halley Bay, where a British expedition is located. Scientists there will be able to take advantage of this opportunity for some unique observations, if the weather is clear; if it is not, the eclipse should still be useful.

One important phase of the IGY program is concerned with the ionosphere, the layer of the atmosphere that reflects radio waves back to the ground, and is affected by the sun's radiation. When the moon cuts this off, important observations are expected.

Without traveling to Antarctica, anyone who can see the evening skies in October will be able to see another eclipse—not once but several times. This will be of the star called Algol, in the constellation of Perseus, the champion, which is seen in the northeast, just above Auriga.

Algol, also known as beta Persei, is the second brightest star in this constellation; the brightest is Mirfak, a little to the left. Ordinarily, Algol is of magnitude 2.06, while Mirfak is 1.80, or about 25% brighter.

Below Algol (under the letter P in Perseus) is the star called epsilon Persei, of magnitude 2.88, and Algol is about twice as bright.

However, if you look at these stars at about 9:07 p.m. on the evening of Oct. 18, you will find that their order of brightness has changed, and epsilon is about 50% brighter than Algol, which is now only a third as bright as it is normally. On the evenings of Oct. 19 and 20, Algol will shine with its normal brightness, but on the 21st, 2.87 days after its previous diminution in brightness, it will again have faded.

Actually, Algol is not a single orb, but consists of two stars revolving around the center of gravity of the pair. There are many binary stars of which this is true, but with an eclipsing binary the plane of revolution is nearly in line with the earth, and one star is much fainter than the other.

Thus, every 2 days 20 hours 49 minutes, the dark component of Algol passes partially in front of the bright one and produces an eclipse, which dims its light. It takes about ten hours for the complete passage of the dark star.

Celestial Time Table for October

Oct.	EST	
5	12:00 noon	Jupiter behind sun.
	5:00 p.m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,200 miles.
8	4:42 p.m.	Full moon (Hunter's Moon).
13	5:30 a.m.	Algol at maximum.
16	12:19 a.m.	Algol at minimum.
	8:44 a.m.	Moon in last quarter.
18	9:07 p.m.	Algol at minimum.
20	7:00 a.m.	Venus passes Saturn.
21	8:00 a.m.	Moon nearest, distance 224,400 miles.
	5:56 p.m.	Algol at minimum.
22	11:45 p.m.	New moon; total eclipse of sun, visible from Antarctica.
25	10:17 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn.
26	10:17 a.m.	Moon passes Venus.
30	5:28 a.m.	Moon in first quarter.

Subtract one hour for CST, two hours for MST, and three for PST.

Science News Letter, September 28, 1957

Oct.28-London-UFO with lights seen over one of Britain's Atomic-Bomber Bases by a Night-Fighter-Pilot & also picked-up by Radar Crews on the ground! (Being Investigated by Intelligence Agents of the Royal-Air-Force.) Object turned-off its' lights & sped away when it was discovered, according to the United-Press....

29 OCT 57

SAFIS-3/Maj Tacker/jmd/74966

8 January 1958

Dear Mr. [redacted]

Your letter of 17 December 1957, addressed to Air Technical Intelligence Center, has been referred to this office for reply.

The Air Force has no objection to your publishing the circumstances surrounding the unidentified flying object sighting mentioned in your letter.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Mr. [redacted]
[redacted]
Shippan Point
Stamford, Connecticut

COMEBACK-SAFIS-3
READER-SAFIS-1
STAYBACK-SAFIS-3

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

1 NAME OR TITLE Maj. L.J. TACKER	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION SAFIS - OSAF	DATE		COORDINATION
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

Maj. T- Our stock answer to these letters has been that the Air Force can impose no restriction on the publication of anything he saw or did.

TJH

FROM NAME OR TITLE Ted Hissatt	DATE 23 Dec 57
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION AFCIN-4X3	TELEPHONE 55266

DD FORM 1 FEB 50 95 Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

☆ GPO : 1956—O-403461

Saucer 4 x 3

[redacted],
Shippan Point,
Stamford, Conn.

December 17, 1957.

Air Technical Intelligence Center,
United States Air Force,
Wright Patterson Air Force Base,
Ohio.
Attention: Wallace W. Elwood,
Captain, USAF
Assistant Adjutant.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a clipping from one of the New York papers. This object is similiar to the one I saw, the difference being that this object was just passing by us for routes unknown. The object that I saw was actually doing some reconaissance work, moreover it was probably extracting some materials out of the sound and analysising them, or perhaps even useing them for fuel. As far as I am concerned nothing is impossible.

I am not writing to you about the flying objects seen over the New Jersey skies, I am writing to you about my own sighting, file reference AGAO-CC (29 Oct. 57). I have just recently gone in the writing field. I write about space, government and religion. My first book will be out, I hope, in the summer of 1958. The title of the book is "MAN FINDS GOD THROUGH SPACE".

I would like to have permission to have my sighting released, so that I could publish it along with the book as the book also deals with unexplainable objects.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]