# PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

**1. DATE**
2-3 November

**2. LOCATION**
Vicinity
Levelland, Texas

**3. DATE-TIME GROUP**
Local 1100-0130 MST
GMT 03/0430Z

**4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION**
☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar
☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar

**5. PHOTOS**
☐ Yes
☒ No

**6. SOURCE**
Civilian

**7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION**
3 seconds to 4 mins

**8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS**
one

**9. COURSE**
varied

**10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING**
This case triggered off more than 300 similarly described reports within a 5 day period because of the nation-wide publicity and sensationalism given by the press, radio and TV. Oval or round shaped object, generally bluish-white or greenish-white in color.

The size and maneuvers of the obj varied with different (6) observers, which ranged fm the size of a basket ball to 800 feet in length, although the majority reporting that the obj hovered above the ground. Most of the observers stated that the obj affected or stopped their cars ignition. Duration of sightings ranged fm 2 secs to 4 mins. Significant to note that all but one observer mentioned lightning or lightning flashes & the existance of rain or mist in the area.

**11. COMMENTS**
After very extensive checks and detailed investigations by the Air Force and with complete collaboration with both Air Force & non-governmental scientists it was concluded that the sighting was due to a very rare phenomena, ball lightning.

**12. CONCLUSIONS**
- ☐ Was Balloon
- ☐ Probably Balloon
- ☐ Possibly Balloon
- ☐ Was Aircraft
- ☐ Probably Aircraft
- ☐ Possibly Aircraft
- ☐ Was Astronomical
- ☐ Probably Astronomical
- ☐ Possibly Astronomical
- ☒ Other Ball lightning
- ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation
- ☐ Unknown

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Sheriff's Statement given telephonically by Sgt Gibson
3 Nov 1957 re this case

# U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U. S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes, and will be regarded as confidential material. Your name will not be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that, if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

____ Day ____ Month ____ Year

2. Time of day: 0100 Hour ____ Minutes

(Circle One): A.M. or P.M.

3. Time zone:

(Circle One): a. Eastern
b. Central
c. Mountain
d. Pacific
e. Other ____

(Circle One): a. Daylight Saving
b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

____ Nearest Postal Address ____ City or Town ____ State or Country

Additional remarks: 3 Mi NW of Loveland

5. Estimate how long you saw the object. Few Hours Sec Minutes ____ Seconds

5.1 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 5.

a. Certain
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Bright daylight
b. Dull daylight
c. Bright twilight
d. Just a trace of daylight
e. No trace of daylight
f. Don't remember

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(Circle One): a. In front of you
b. In back of you
c. To your right
d. To your left
e. Overhead
f. Don't remember

ATIC FORM NO. 164 (13 OCT 54)

8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS *(Circle One)*:

a. None
b. A few
c. Many
d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON *(Circle One)*:

a. Bright moonlight
b. Dull moonlight
c. No moonlight — pitch dark
d. Don't remember

9. Was the object brighter than the background of the sky?

*(Circle One)*: a. Yes b. No c. Don't remember

10. IF it was BRIGHTER THAN the sky background, was the brightness like that of an automobile headlight?:

*(Circle One)* a. A mile or more away (a distant car)?
b. Several blocks away?
c. A block away? 200 yds
d. Several yards away?
e. Other

11. Did the object: *(Circle One for each question)*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. Appear to stand still at any time? | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| c. Break up into parts or explode? | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| d. Give off smoke? | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| e. Change brightness? | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| f. Change shape? | Yes | No | Don't Know |
| g. Flicker, throb, or pulsate? | Yes | No | Don't Know |

12. Did the object move behind something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

*(Circle One)*: Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, then tell what it moved behind: _____

_____

13. Did the object move in front of something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

*(Circle One)*: Yes No Don't Know. IF you answered YES, than tell what it moved in front of: _____

_____

14. Did the object appear: *(Circle One)*: a. Solid? b. Transparent? c. Don't Know.

15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

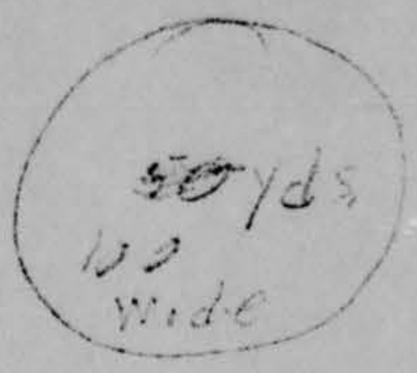
| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. Eyeglasses | Yes | No | e. Binoculars | Yes | No |
| b. Sun glasses | Yes | No | f. Telescope | Yes | No |
| c. Windshield | Yes | No | g. Theodolite | Yes | No |
| d. Window glass | Yes | No | h. Other _____ | | |

16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound One person said it was like thunder

b. Color Dark Orange - Like a Big Sun

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.




18. The edges of the object were:

*(Circle One)*:
a. Fuzzy or blurred
b. Like a bright star
c. Sharply outlined
d. Don't remember
e. Other _____

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? _____.
Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

20. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.

A Measures Going East 20°
Fwilliams " South
Long-Setting in Pad-
(The Trail Over)

21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.
_____feet.

22. How large did the object or objects appear as compared with one of the following objects *held in the hand* and at about arm's length?

*(Circle One)*:

a. Head of a pin
b. Pea
c. Dime
d. Nickel
e. Quarter
f. Half dollar
g. Silver dollar
h. Baseball
i. Grapefruit
j. Basketball
k. Other _____

22.1 *(Circle One* of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 22.

a. Certain
b. Fairly certain
c. Not very sure
d. Uncertain

23. How did the object or objects disappear from view? _____

_____

_____

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, we would like for you to imagine that you could construct the object that you saw. Of what type material would you make it? How large would it be, and what shape would it have? Describe in your own words a common object or objects which when placed up in the sky would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

ATIC

WPE022 YDC030DNA041

Nov 7 02 16 '57

CC RJEDWP RJEPHQ

DE RJEDDN 1

O 070838Z

FM COMDR 1006TH AISS

TO RJEPHQ/ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF INTEL HEDUSAF

RJEDWP/COMDR ATIC

BT

/UNCLAS/AISOC 206 PD PROLIMINARY REPORT ON UFOB INVESTIGATION IN LEVELLAND TEXAS AREA PD FOLLOWING WERE SOURCES INTERROGAATED CLN [redacted] CMM RELIABLILITY SMCLN NEWEL WRIGHT CMM RELIABILITY B SMCLN SHERIFF WEIR CLEM CMM RELIABILITY C SMCLN [redacted] CMM RELIABLITY B CMM [redacted] CMM RELIABILITY D SMCLN [redacted] CMM RELIABLITY B PD GENERAL DESCRIPTION WAS AS REPORTED PD SOURCES [redacted] CMM [redacted] AND [redacted] WERE ONLY ONES TO REPORT OBJECT LANDED AND THE LNLY ONES WHO SAW FOR OVER A FEW SECONDS PD IN OPINION OF INVESTIGATOR FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES EXIST CLN 1. WITH AMOUNT OF RAIN IN AREA CMM

2 4

2
3
4E4

4-4X2a

7c

FCLAS OPS ZZYK PD "UFOB" PD IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONAD

MANUAL 55-1 CMM SUBJ CLN CONAD STANDARD AIR SURVEILLANCE PRO-

CEDURES CMM DATED SEPT 1955 CMM THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF SIGTING

OF AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT IS SUBMITTED PD

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT PAREN S PAREN CLN

1. OVAL

2. 200 FEET LONG - 40 FEET WIDE

3. ALUMINUM - ALSO EMITTING BLUISH LIGHT

4. 1

N 5. N/A



6. UNK

7. UNK

8. UNK

9. NONE

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT PAREN S PAREN CLN

1. OBJECT BLOCKING ROAD

2. 0 DEGREES ELEVATION - STRAIGHT AHEAD

3. UNK

4. AROSE VERTICALLY AT A RAPID SPEED AND THEN HOVERED ABOUT 200 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND MOMENTARILY

5. UNK

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION CLN

1. GROUND-VISUAL

2. UNK

3. N/A

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING CLN

1. 2200Z THRU 3600Z 3 NOV 1957

E. NIGHT

F. LOCATION OF OBSERVER PAREN S PAREN CLN

1. FJCD 3035 (SEVERAL OBSERVERS IN VICINITY OF LEVELLAND CMM

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING CLN

1. 2200Z THRU 0600Z 3 NOV 1957

2. NIGHT

E. LOCATION OF OBSERVER PAREN S PAREN CLN

1. FJCD 3035 (SEVERAL OBSERVERS IN VICINITY OF LEVELLAND CMM



TEXAS)

F. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVER PAREN S PAREN CLN

1. [redacted] - KERMIT CMM TEXAS

2. [redacted] - WACO CMM TEXAS

3. [redacted]

G. WEATHER AND SENDS ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTINGS PD

1. CLOUDY CMM LIGHT DRIZZLE ← Note 1

2. SURFACE 045 DEGREES - 10KNOTS
6,000 FEET - 300 DEGREES - 15 KNOTS
10,000 FEET - 220 DEGREES - 25 KNOTS
16,000 FEET - 230 DEGREES - 30 KNOTS
20,000 FEET - 240 DEGREES - 35 KNOTS
30,000 FEET -250 DEGREES - 60 KNOTS
50,000 FEET - 250 DEGREES - 50 KNOTS
80,000 FEET - NOT AVAILABLE.

3. 7,000 FEET.

4. 15 MILES

5. 5/10 TO 9/10 OF SKY OBSCURED ← Note 2

6. NONE

PAGE THREE RJWFHW 3P -

TEXAS)

F. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OF ALL OBSERVER PAREN S PAREN CLN

1. [redacted] - KERMIT CMM TEXAS

2. [redacted] - WACO CMM TEXAS

3. [redacted] - [redacted]Y

G. WEATHER AND SENDS ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTINGS PD

1. CLOUDY CMM LIGHT DRIZZLE ← Note !

2. SURFACE 045 DEGREES - 10KNOTS

6,000 FEET - 300 DEGREES - 15 KNOTS

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20,000 FEET - 240 DEGREES - 35 KNOTS

30,000 FEET -250 DEGREES - 60 KNOTS

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80,000 FEET - NOT AVAILABLE.

3. 7,000 FEET.

4. 15 MILES

5. 5/10 TO 9/10 OF SKY OBSCURED ← Note !

6. NONE

PAGE FOUR RJWFHW 3P

H. NONE

I. NONE

J. NONE

K. DUTY DIRECTOR 2/ LT RICHARD P. HENDERSON CLN NO COMMENT

L. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN WAS OBTAINED FROM AN ADJACENT RADAR STATION (P-51) IN AN ADJACENT AIR DIVISION (34TH) PD THIS REPORT WAS CORRELATED WITH THE AMARILLO DIVISION OF THE TEXAS HIGHWAY PATROL PD NONE OF THE PERSONNEL MENTIONED HEREIN WERE QUESTION BY THIS ORGANIZATION PD

TO USAF PD PRESS RELEASE ALSO STATED THAT FARMER IN

* Rept shows Common earth-make brand of oil



IMMEDIATE AREA HAD EXPERIENCED POWER FAILURE IN HIS TRUCK AT APPROXIMATE TIME OF THIS SIGHTING PD INVESTIGATION PROVED THAT A ROTOR HAD BEEN CHANGED ON THE FARMERS TRUCK THE PREVIOUS DAY PD ONE PIECE OF THE OLD ROTOR HAD NOT BEEN REMOVED AND HAD WEDGED IN BETWEEN THE POINTS CAUSING THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM TO BE NOW NON OPERATIVE PD THIS STATEMENT WAS OBTAINED FROM THE MECHANIC WHO HAD REPAIRED THE TRUCK PD AF FORM 112 WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PD END

BT

09/2026Z NOV RJEDDN

>5

CONDITIONS MIGHT HAVE DEVELOPED TO BRING ABOUT ST ELMO FIRE OR THE LIKE PD 2. POSSIBILITY OF EXCESS BURNING GAS FROMOIL OPERATIONS REFLECTION OFF 400 FOOT CLOUD COVER PD 3. POSSIBILITY OF DOWNED POWER LINE SPARKING OFF WET GROUND PD SOUTHWESTER PUBLIC SERVICE CO IS CHECKING WITH REA COOPS ON ANY OTHER CONCERN WITH POWER LINES INTO AREA FOR FAILURE PD SOUTHWESTERN IS POWER COMPANY IN AREA PD THEY WILL PHONE INFO RECEIVED TO REESE AFB WHO WILL FORWARD TO THIS ORTANIZATION PD DR RALPH S UNERWOOD CMM TEXAS TECH ASTRONOMY EXPERT CMM STATED THAT THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES EXISTED AS HE UNDERSTOOD THE SIGHTING CLN NATURAL PHENOMENA NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND CMM POSSIBLY CAUSED BY RAIN CMM AND HE STATED THAT THE POSSIBILITY EXISTED THAT THEY CAME FROM OUTER SPACE BUT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE CASE PD DR UNDERWOOD ALSO CONCURED WITH NUMBERS ONE AND TWO ABOVE PD END PRCLIMINARY REPORT PD AF FORM 112 WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE PD END

BT

07/1152Z NOV RJEDDN

26

LEVELLAND, TEXAS "BLUE LIGHT" CASE
2 November 1957

Five witnesses report seeing objects in the vicinity of Levelland, Texas on the night of 2 November 1957. The time reported by these witnesses is between 2300 and 2400 hours. The general description of the UFO's is that they were round to oval in shape and ranged from the size of a baseball to a basketball. The colors reported were white with a greenish tint, blue, reddish glow, red and a flash of white light. Several of the witnesses reported that the engine of their car died due to electrical disturbances. The duration of most of these sightings was approximately several seconds. At 2045 on 4 November 1957, a witness reported an UFO as red and the size of a basketball, connected to a larger darker object by what appeared to be a cable. After approximately three or four minutes the object rose and disappeared into the base of the clouds.

The weather at the time of the sightings on 2 November 1957, was a 400' overcast, visibility three miles, light and variable. There was a drizzle or light rain throughout the period and the area had been subjected to heavy thunderstorms just prior to the sightings. The weather on the 4th of November 1957, thick heavy clouds and light rain.

It is concluded that the cause of the sightings on 2 November 1957, was probably due to a phenomena known as "Ball Lightning". The cause for the witnesses cars stopping could be attributed to the sudden disposition of moisture on distributor parts, especially if moisture condensation nuclei were enhanced by increased atmospheric ionization. In one instance a faulty distributor was determined as being the cause for the motor stoppage.

The object sighted on 4 November 1957, was probably a weather balloon with the safety light which is attached to these balloons for night launchings.

RETURN TO:
Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

K243.6012-1
23 Nov 1957

UNKNOWN.

H. SOUNDED LIKE THUNDER

I. RESEMBLED FLASHING NEON LIGHTS

2.

A. SOUND AND SIGHT

B. UNKNOWN

C. UNKNOWN

D. UNKNOWN

E. LANDED IN OPEN FIELD

F. OBSERVER J[redacted] REPORTED SWING OBJECT FOR APPROMIMATELY EIGHT MINUTES.

3.

A. GROUND VISUAL

B. NONE

C. N/A

4.

A. FIRST SIGHTED PRIOR TO 0500 HOURS ZULU TIME, 3 NOVEMBER 1957- EXACT HOUR UNKNOWN

B. NIGHT

5. IN AND AROUND LEVELLAND TEXAS

6.

A. CIVILIANS-SHERRIF WIN CLEM, [redacted]

LEVELLAND, TEXAS, AND THE LITTLEFIELD HIGHWAY PATROL
UNNAMED. AGES, MAILING ADDRESSES AND OCCUPATION OF EACH
INDIVIDUAL UNKNOWN.

B. N/A

7. A. UNKNOWN

B. 6,ØØØ-16Ø/18, QPNPPPAQUPXWTN QYNPPAWEPXETN WPNPPPA
WRPXETN EPNPPPAWTPXYTN TPNPPPAWRTXYTN IPNPPØ-UNKNOWN.

C. 12,ØØ FEET.

D. 15 MILES.

E. 7/1Ø.

F. NONE

8. NONE

9. REESE AFB, TEXAS, PROVOST MARSHALL MAJOR DANIEL R. KESTER
VIITED THE ALLEGED SCENE IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL CIVIL
AUTHORITIES. NEGATIVE RESULTS. ← They did not see anything unusual

1Ø. UNKNOWN

11. SAMUEL GOLDSTEIN, CAPTAIN, USAF, ASSISTANT WING OPER-
ATIONS OFFICER. NO IDEA OF THE POSSIBLE CAUSE OF SIGHTING.

12. NONE

BT

Ø3/222ØZ NOV RJWFLB

A

25

SUBJ: Request for Air Science Division Review of Levelland Case

ball lightning can hover above the ground, and blue-white light (the color most reported) is a characteristic color. (See brief excerpt from an authoritative source from research done on the subject.)

4. Request that applicable personnel of Air Sciences Division, in collaboration with other ATIC units necessary, determine or give their viewpoints in regard to the following "missing factor" of the hypothesis:

a. What effect does nearby lightning discharges have on the electrical circuits, or voltage potential?
b. Could oil vapor (from the nearby oil fields) suspended in the water droplets in the air be ignited to cause an explosion, or a ball of light somewhat similar to a flash-bulb light? Mist, heavy clouds and a very low ceiling existed at that time.

5. Formal request in writing is made because the case file will undoubtedly be sent to Washington and/or turned over to the TV group, tomorrow.

6. To satisfy both the demands of Headquarters USAF, and to possibly incprporate this in the material required by the aforementioned writers and story researchers due in tomorrow, your cooperation in this matter would be appreciated.

George T. Gregory

3 Incls
1.

GEORGE T. GREGORY
Captain USAF
UFO Project Officer

34

Analyst's Comments or Conclusions:

"Ball Lightning" -

1. In the opinion of the undersigned, after careful search, study, and consideration of all data available, the phenomenon was undoubtedly related to the meteorological conditions that existed in the area at that time: fog, light rain, mist, very low ceiling (400 feet) and lightning discharges. The latter were definitely established through the results of numerous investigative reports.

2. Probably contributing to the phenomenon were the oil fires that were also burning in the vicinity. An oil-saturated mist is capable of producing a "fluorescent glow" (as described) upon excitation from a lightning discharge.

3. In summation, all of the above were conducive to a "ball lightning" manifestation -- a field, of which very little is known by admission of writers and authorities themselves (Dr. John Trombridge, Enclop. Am.; Prof. T. A. Blair, Univ. of Nebraska, Weather Elements, among others).

4. All are in agreement, however, of the following, which, significantly, are the almost exact characteristics and descriptions of the "Levelland phenomena":

a. Ball lightning can take many unusual or weird spherical or elliptical shapes.

b. It is predominantly brilliant blue-or bluish-white in color.

c. It can float slowly some distance above the ground.

5. The close proximity of ball lightning or lightning discharges is capable of ionizing the air that may, in turn, effect moisture-laden ignition components of a motor vehicle.

George T. Gregory

Capt. GT T. Gregory
3 Jan 1958

Case was submitted to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Northwestern Astrophysical Observatory for his interest review and comment — appended hereto, see Hynek letter. Note A.F.C. scientists further comments. D.T.B. March 1958

(Also see USSR Scientist, Kaplan's work in this file — just received and translated)

To Capt. Gregory 5 Dec 57 Con. # 2

Subject:

Concerning the Scientific Basis for Explaining the Levelland Case Sightings.

1. No two sightings were made at the same time. Therefore no single explanation need be sought for all of them.

2. It appears that ordinary lightning, in one form or another, close at hand, may serve well to explain most of the sightings. The low cloud ceiling known to have existed during several of the sightings might have led to brilliant reflections from some of the cloud formations. This might account for some of the more "object" appearances. St. Elmo's fire (brush discharge appearance) might have been seen in a case or two, but not necessarily "ball" lightning (In spite of occasional reference to ball lightning in reputable publications, it is not felt that ball lightning is sufficiently respectable scientifically to be brought into use in explaining any of these sightings, particularly where ordinary lightning appears to ~~be adequate~~ furnish an adequate basis for explanations). It should be remembered that lightning is not so common out there as it is in most places.

3. It is not unlikely that the ignition of an old car could be put out of order by water (blown or splashed onto it). A faulty voltage regulator could account for the discharge of a battery.

4. Specific replies to the questions of (4) above are:
   a. None; the engine is in a Faraday cage when the hood is closed.
   b. Exceedingly unlikely. There is a very low probability that oil vapor in the rain could be ignited. However, a flash from a natural gas "burn-off stack" is a possibility. This flame would be yellowish though because of sodium present, and this color should be recognized by people accustomed to seeing these gases burning.

~~fit in made in Experimentations.~~ conditions

6. The full physiological and psychological ~~considerations~~ should be ~~made in regard to~~ taken into account whenever possible. For example, the "trigger" sighting (the first one) seems explainable by ~~single~~ lightning and a water bubble. First of all, how many people watch an ammeter when driving and all is serene? (If he had a car with a red light indicator this would be noticed - but even then, an erratic voltage regulator would cause a discharge!) If the car is old, water blown or splashed under the hood might cause the car to ~~fail to go~~ stop. How could he see the battery, etc. without a battery source of light such as a flash light? After might get back into the car a flash of lightning close by would ~~be~~ blind his eyes for some time, especially if they were dilated by night adaptation. After some time, the image cleared up, the heat of the engine dried off the water, and the car started easily. Thus ~~these~~ ordinary lightning and ordinary events might have given rise to the observations of sighting #1.

~~If the [redacted] a flash light~~

[redacted] and all

4E4

19 February 1958

RE: Prime Source in Levelland UFO Case

During the course of the investigation at Levelland, all attempts possible were made to locate R[redacted], truck driver and prime* source in the sighting.

Contrary to newspaper reports, source did not live in Levelland. He was from outside the city and could not be contacted by the sheriff of Hockley County.

SGT. NORMAN P. BARTH
NCOIC UFO Section
1006th AISS

* A prime source who personally saw the thing to us — then ran — as in often the case of people we want to check them up.

# Weird "Thing" To Be Probed By Air Force

WASHINGTON (AP)—Reports of a huge, strangely lighted mystery object spotted over West Texas were being investigated by the Air Force. A bright, oval object was also reported over southern New Mexico. Several witnesses, including a sheriff and one of his deputies, reported seeing the object over Texas. Although reports of strange flying objects have been popping up for years, the reported week-end sightings impressed the Air Force sufficiently to call for at least a preliminary investigation.

**17 HOURS APART**

Sighting of the object over the White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico were made 17 hours apart by two different military police patrols. The sightings were near bunkers used in the first atomic bomb explosion.

One of the two-man patrols said the bright object spotted Sunday evening was about 200 or 300 feet long and disappeared into the sky after blinking on and off. Another patrol said a bright object spotted early Sunday morning descended until it was about 50 yards above the A-bomb bunkers, then faded.

Officials of the proving ground said the phenomena had nothing to do with any activity at the base. A Pentagon spokesman said no official report was received on the reported New Mexico sightings and no investigation was being made on those.

**ENGINES STOPPED**

Witnesses who reported seeing the object over Texas said their car engines stopped and their lights went out when they drove near it. The military police who reported the object over the proving grounds said they had no trouble with their jeeps.

Air Force and civilian scientists have refrained so far from speculating on what may have caused the autos to act up. Nor would they guess whether there was any connection between the phenomena reported from widely separated localities and recent large scale power failures like the one which hit the Grand Central area in New York City last week.

**NO APPARENT RELATION**

Dr. Fred L. Whipple, director

CONT.

# Sun-Like Mystery Object Hovers Near Atomic Bunkers

BOSTON GLOBE, NOV. 5, 1957

WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND, N.M., Nov. 4 (AP)—The Army today reported that a huge, oval object "nearly as bright as the sun" was spotted Sunday hovering near bunkers used in the first atomic bomb explosion.

The sightings were made 17 hours apart by two military police patrols on this southern New Mexico missile testing range. The first atomic bomb was touched off on the northern edge of the area July 16, 1945.

The commanding officer of the M.P.'s said none of the men had heard radio reports or seen newspaper accounts of similar sightings in Texas.

Both sightings were in the area of abandoned bunkers used by technicians who observed the world's first atomic explosion. The bunkers are of reinforced concrete and dirt and contain no equipment or personnel. The explosion site leveled and filled in, is several miles away.

First Lt Miles F. Penney of Port Jervis, N.Y., commanding officer of the stallion site camp about 90 miles north of WSPG headquarters said one sighting was made by a two man patrol at around 8 p.m. Sunday.

S.P. 3. Forest R. Oakes and S.P 3 Barlow reported that about that time their patrol saw a bright light. Oakes thought hanging about 50 feet above the old A-bomb bunker Oakes said the "large bright light" took off at a 45 degree angle and went up into the sky and started blinking on and off. Then it disappeared.

This patrol estimated the objects size as "200 or 300 feet long." "It was very bright," Oakes said. He said his patrol was about two or three miles west of the light."

**"Fell . . . And Went Out"**

The earlier sighting came at 3 a.m. Sunday. Another two-man jeep patrol consisting of Cpl Glenn H. Toy and Pfc Wilbanks made the report.

Lt Penney quoted them as saying they noticed a "very bright object" high in the sky. The object descended until it was about 50 yards above the A-bomb bunkers when it went out.

A few minutes later, Toy said, "the object became real bright, like the sun, then fell in an angle to the ground and went out."

He described the object as about 25 to 30 yards in diameter and shaped like an egg. He said it moved over the old bunkers about three miles from where the M.P. jeep was parked.

Lt Penney said he had accompanied some of the M.P.'s to the site today in an effort to find some physical evidence of the object's visit, but found nothing.

Neither patrol had motor trouble with their jeeps. Some drivers who saw similar phenomena in Texas reported engine trouble.

Officials at White Sands Proving Ground said the phenomena had nothing to do with any activity of the base.

**Seen in Fiji Islands**

HONOLULU, Nov. 4 (UP)—The Fiji government, in a report received here today, said a white clergyman and four natives reported sighting a dazzling object in the South Pacific skies which generally matched the description of an unidentified object reported in Texas.

The report issued from Suva, capital of the island group, said three sightings of the strange flying object were reported last week.

## INQUIRY ON AIR OBJECT

N.Y. TIMES, NOV. 5, 1957

**Air Force Looking Into Reports of Texas Occurrence**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (AP)—The Air Force began an investigation today of a lighted object reported to have flashed over West Texas Saturday and yesterday.

Reports of flying objects have been occurring for years, but this one had the support of several witnesses, including a sheriff and one of his deputies.

Witnesses said their car engines had stopped and lights went out when they drove near the object. It was variously described as a burning mass, a big light and an egg-shaped object 200 feet long.

COVER SHEET

SUSPENSE

ORIGIN OF BASIC

DATE

ASSIGNED BY

DATE | TYPE | NO.

SUBJECT: General Comment Regarding Mr. [redacted] Hypothesis on Levelland UFO Incident.

ROUTING

*Initial "IN" column to denote review prior to action. Initial "OUT" column to denote review of completed action. (X for action; ✓ for coordination.)*

| IN | OFFICE | OUT | IN | OFFICE | OUT | IN | OFFICE | OUT | IN | OFFICE | OUT | IN | OFFICE | OUT |
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TO: SAFIS Attn: Maj. Tacker

DATE: 20 JAN 58

FROM: AFCIN-4E4

COMMENT NO. 1

COMMENTS (*Use reverse, if necessary*)

1. Correspondence from Office of Public Services forwarded for your formal reply
2. Our General Comments are attached to assist you in replying.

Incl:
Rough Draft -
Gen. Comment
re Mr. [redacted] Hr.

AFHQ FORM 7 MAY 56 0-86 PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM MAY BE USED. GPO 908344

General Comments regarding hypothesis advanced by Mr. [redacted]:

There is just enough truth in this hypothesis (the existence of charged clouds such as cause lightning) to make it appear as a reasonable explanation.

However, we have never heard of the "ducting" of ions; and certainly if a sizable volume of air were to be turned, the resulting influx of air, or efflux of gases would create quite a wind, which reports of the incident did not indicate.

[redacted]

EXTRACT FROM PURPLE BOOK

On November 3, 1957, a rash of sightings broke out in Texas and they had a brand new twist. To do things up right the powers that guide the UFO picked the town of Levelland only 27 miles west of Lubbock, the home of the now traditional "Lubbock Lights."

It was with a tug of nostalgia that I read about these reports because five years before, almost to the day, Lubbock had plunged the Air Force, and me, into the UFO mystery on a grand scale.

According to the best interpretation of the maze of conflicting stories, facts and rumors about these famous sightings the only positive fact is that there were scattered storm clouds across West Texas on the night of November 4, 1957. This was

A.F.

# DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

FILE NO.

SUBJECT Referral of Correspondence

TO Personal Services Branch
Office of Secretary of Defense
ATTN: Lt Colonel Peter Erickson

FROM CINFO-PI

DATE 14 November 57 COMMENT NO. 1
Major Walker/55136/wgk

The attached correspondence is forwarded as a matter pertaining to your office.

FOR THE CHIEF OF PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION:

VICTOR L. WALKER
Major, GS-17 ?
Public Information Division

1 Incl
Ltr from Domenic Ripani
1108 Western Avenue
Waukesha, Wisconsin
Dated 10 Nov 1957

DD FORM 1 FEB 50 96 REPLACES NME FORM 96, 1 OCT 48, WHICH MAY BE USED

16—54801-3 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1952 O - 886875

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Office of Information Services, USAF DATE: 19 Nov 57

FROM : Personal Services Branch, Office of Public Services, OASD(PA), OSD

SUBJECT: Referral of Correspondence

The inclosed communication is referred herewith for such action and direct* reply as considered appropriate.

The writer has not been advised of this referral.

Peter A. Erickson
Lt. Col. MPC
Personal Services Branch
Office of Public Services

Incl: Ltr dtd 10 Nov 57
DOMENIC RIPANI
Waukesha, Wisc.

D/F fr CINFO-PI dtd 14 Nov 57

Technical 10 for ATIC for possible use and reply

* No direct reply from ATIC. Forward to SBFS for reply

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

For Levallon Ops - 2 Nov 57
(See Part III)

| PRECEDENCE | | TYPE MSG (Check) | | | ACCOUNTING SYMBOL | ORIG. OR REFERS TO | CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE |
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| | | BOOK | MULTI | SINGLE | | | |
| ACTION | | | | | | | |
| INFO | PRIORITY | | | X | AF | | |

FROM:
COMDR ATIC

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO: ACS/I, WASHINGTON, D.C. ATTN: AFCIN-XL, MAJ BYRNE

[redacted]/FROM: AFCIN-4E4 CITE _____

THIS MESSAGE IN EIGHT PARTS. REFERENCE NUMEROUS PRESS QUERIES TO HEADQUARTERS USAF AND ATIC DURING LAST THREE DAYS REGARDING UFO INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT U.S. GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY, AND YOUR REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE CONCLUSIONS OR FINDINGS.

PART I. KEARNEY, NEBRASKA "SPACE SHIP" INCIDENT. SOURCE, [redacted] CONSIDERED WHOLLY UNRELIABLE SOURCE. HAS WIDE [redacted] AND HAS REFUSED TO TAKE LIE DETECTOR TESTS. LOCAL SHERIFF STATES HE CAN BREAK [redacted]'S STORY TO MAKE HIM PERSONALLY ADMIT STORY WAS A HOAX. BELIEVE PORTION OR ALL OF THIS RELEASED TO PRESS. THEREFORE, USAF RELEASE TO PUBLIC CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.

PART II. GULF OF MEXICO, COAST GUARD CUTTER "SABEGO" SIGHTING 200 MILES SOUTH OF NEW ORLEANS. FACTS SOMEWHAT

T57-30468

| DATE | TIME |
|---|---|
| 08 | 0900 |
| MONTH NOV | YEAR 57 |

WRITER

SYMBOL: AFCIN-4E4

TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required): Capt G. T. Gregory

PHONE 69316 | PAGE NR. 1 | NR. OF PAGES 6

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

RELEASER

SIGNATURE

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173 REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

| JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION |
|---|---|

FROM:

COMDR ATIC

CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS. FROM LIMITED DATA IN OFFICIAL REPORT, REFERENCE TT MESSAGE CGC SEBAGO WPG 42, COPY YOUR HEADQUARTERS. FOLLOWING CONSIDERED OUR TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS:

a. IMPRESSION THAT ONLY ONE OBJECT OBSERVED APPEARS ERRONEOUS. FOUR SEPARATE TARGETS INDICATED, 3 ON RADAR, ONE VISUALLY.

b. EACH TIME SUCCEEDING TARGET PICKED UP IT WAS IN ALMOST DIRECT OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM PRECEDING TARGET AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY.

c. A TIME-DISTANCE PLOT INDICATES ONE TARGET RETURN HAD SPEED APPROXIMATELY 250 MPH, ANOTHER 660 MPH, SUGGESTING PROPELLER TYPE AND JET AIRCRAFT RESPECTIVELY.

d. VISUALLY SIGHTING ONLY 3 SECONDS, BRILLIANT LIKE PLANET, MOVING WITH HIGH SPEED, BUT HORIZONTALLY, REPEAT HORIZONTALLY, AGAIN SUGGESTIVE OF AIRCRAFT.

e. AREA OF INCIDENT IS SCENE OF MANY FLIGHTS AND OPERATIONS OF NAVY AND AIR FORCE. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT CHECK THE COUNTLESS POSSIBLE ORIGIN OF AIRCRAFT AND THEIR FLIGHT PLANS.

f. ON BASIS OF ABOVE, MANEUVERS AND SPEEDS SUGGESTIVE OF CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT FOR MOST PART. HOWEVER, THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE AND DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TARGETS COULD BE INDICATIVE OF SPURIOUS RETURNS (FALSE TARGETS). IN ANY EVENT, MORE THAN ONE RETURN IS INDICATED, CONTRARY TO

T57-30468

| SYMBOL | PAGE NR | NR OF PAGES | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | INITIALS |
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| AFCIN-4E4 | 2 | 6 | | |

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173-1

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953—352236

JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

FROM:

COMDR ATIC

PRESS REPORTS.

PART III. LEVELLAND, TEXAS, "BLUE LIGHT" CASE. INFORMED BY COMMANDER, 1003TH AISS THAT INVESTIGATION PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. FURTHER DATA DISCLOSE FOLLOWING:

a. CONTRARY TO KEYHOE'S AND WASHINGTON PRESS REPORTS ONLY THREE, NOT NINE PERSONS WITNESSED INCIDENT.

b. OBJECT OBSERVED FOR ONLY FEW SECONDS, AND NOT LENGTHY PERIOD AS IMPLIED BY PRESS.

c. MIST, RAIN, THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING DISCHARGES IN SCENE OF INCIDENT, FACT NOT QUOTED BY NEWSPAPER RELEASES.

d. THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES, REPEAT POSSIBILITIES, BEING CHECKED, WHICH COULD RESULT IN UNUSUAL PHENOMENA OBSERVED PARTICULARLY UNDER DARKNESS, MIST AND RAIN:(1) BURNING GAS FROM OIL OPERATIONS IN THE AREA,REFLECTING OFF LOW CLOUD CEILING EXISTING AT THAT TIME, (2) DOWNED POWER LINE GIVING OFF SPARK DISPLAY IN CONTACT WITH WET GROUND, (3) ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE OR SIMILAR PHENOMENA LIKE ST. ELMO'S FIRE CAUSED BY RIGHT COMBINATION OF WEATHER AND OTHER CONDITIONS, AND (4) "BALL LIGHTNING" A RARE, BUT NEVERTHELESS, POSSIBILITY IN VIEW OF LIGHTING DISCHARGES IN VICINITY.

PART IV. SIGHTING AROUND WHITE SAND PROVING GROUND, NEW MEXICO AREA. INFORMED THAT MAJOR GENERAL LEIGHTON DAVIS, COMMANDER HAS SET UP INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO SIGHTINGS. REPORTED THAT PRINCIPAL [redacted] ENGINEER

T57-30468

| SYMBOL | PAGE NR | NR OF PAGES | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | INITIALS |
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DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173-1

3P

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955—[illegible]

1. LEVELLAND INCIDENT - 2 November 1957 (UNCLASSIFIED)

a. A mysterious object, whose shape was described variously as ranging from round to oval, and predominantly bluish-white in color was observed separately by six persons near the town of Levelland, Texas. Times of observations ranged from 2300 hours to after 0130 hours, night of 2-3 November 1957. Size of the object was estimated from that of a basketball to that of an object 200 feet in length.

b. The unusual aspect of this incident was the statement by a number of observers that their car's ignition stopped completely during the occurrence.

c. In a matter of hours this incident was given nation-wide publicity by the nation's press, radio and TV networks. For the next 72 hours ATIC and Headquarters USAF were deluged with a flood of UFO reports, the majority of observers claiming to have encountered a somewhat similar phenomenon: a dazzling bluish-white object, generally oval in shape, swooping down or floating nearby - that stopped their car's ignition. The reports were from persons of some standing in their communities casually reporting seeing the objects to those insisting that the "blue lights" stopped their cars in heavy traffic in the middle of large cities during broad daylight.

d. Intensive investigations produced information not generally given by newspapers and other media previously. For example: it was pitch dark, rain and mist was falling, a very low ceiling existed, there were lightning discharges, and the sightings took place near an area where excess gases from oil operations were being burned. In some instances, faulty ignition systems and near freezing temperatures were found during the investigations.

e. A number of the observers interviewed admitted the presence of lightning or flashes of light. The prime source could not be located for interview and interrogations by USAF investigators.

f. After exhaustive studies and analyses by the Air Force, and in full collaboration with outside scientists and experts, it was concluded that the sighting was due to a very rare lightning phenomenon - ball lightning. No definite conclusion has been reached regarding the possible effects of ball lightning on ignition systems. (All agreed that the combination of conditions existing in the area at the time were definitely conducive to the phenomenon. A study of the very few existing photographs of actual ball lightning further confirmed the conclusion.)

Indianapolis Star — 11-4-57

# Blinding 'Flying Saucer' 'Stops' Texas Motorcars

Levelland, Tex. (UP) — A mysterious egg-shaped object, red as a blinding setting sun and faster than the speed of sound, streaked over West Texas and New Mexico Saturday night and early yesterday, and one man said he even saw it sitting in the highway.

James A. Lee of Abilene, Tex., who is a member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, rushed here to investigate and said he will send a report to Washington.

The object was also reported seen in the vicinities of Midland, Tex., 110 miles south of Levelland, and Clovis, N.M., about 70 miles northwest of Levelland.

**THE MOST** graphic description came from Jesse D. Long of Waco, Tex., who said the object killed the engine of his automobile and put out his headlights.

Other motorists said it did the same thing to their cars.

Long said the object appeared to be about 200 feet long and landed in the highway in front of his car. When he got out to investigate the thing took off straight up.

**SHERIFF** Weir Clem and Deputy Sheriff Pat McCullough, who went out to investigate the reports, said they spotted the object streaking across the sky in front of their car.

"It lit up the whole pavement in front of us for about two seconds," said Clem. He called it oval shaped and said it looked like a brilliant red sunset.

Lee, thoroughly impressed, said reports that automobile engines stalled and headlights went out convinced him a flying object definitely had visited the area.

He said machines inside the object "disturb the magnetic field of balance" and will cause car engines to stall and compasses to go awry.

**LEE SAID** he definitely did not think the object was launched by the United States.

Pedro Sacido, a Levelland motorist, was the first to report sighting the thing. He said he was driving west of Levelland on State Highway 116 about 11:15 p.m. (CST) Saturday, when it flashed over him with a terrific noise.

"It sounded like an ear-splitting clap of thunder—as if something had exploded," Sacido told the sheriff.

He said it killed his engine and knocked out his headlights until after it passed over.

NOV 2, 1957 LEVELLAND, TEXAS, HIGHWAY 116 (KEYHOE-1960 P 114) 2 WITNESSES

JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT, TRUCK DRIVER [redacted] WAS DRIVING TOWARD TOWN WITH A PASSENGER, [redacted] WHEN A HUGE TORPEDO-SHAPED OBJECT DESCENDED TOWARD THE HIGHWAY. IT HAD A BLUISH-GREEN GLOW, AND IT APPEARED TO BE 150 TO 200 FEET LONG.

AS THE MYSTERIOUS OBJECT CAME CLOSER, THE CAR LIGHTS DIMMED, THEN THE ENGINE SPUTTERED AND DIED. [redacted] JUMPED OUT AND DIVED UNDER THE TRUCK. AS [redacted] WATCHED FROM THE CAB, THE STRANGE OBJECT SETTLED CLOSE TO THE ROAD. WHETHER IT LANDED, OR WAS HOVERING JUST OFF THE GROUND, [redacted] COULD NOT TELL -- THE BLUE-GREEN LIGHT WAS TOO BRIGHT.

FOR TWO OR THREE MINUTES THE UFO REMAINED THERE. THEN IT QUICKLY LIFTED, ITS GLOW CHANGING TO RED AS IT CLIMBED.

SHAKEN, [redacted] GOT BACK INTO HIS TRUCK. THE LIGHTS AND IGNITION NOW WORKED CORRECTLY. HE DROVE INTO LEVELLAND, TOLD THE SHERIFF HIS STORY, WITH [redacted] AS A WITNESS.

AT FIRST, SHERIFF WEIR CLEM WAS INCREDULOUS. BUT IN THE NEXT HOUR HE LEARNED OF FOUR OTHER CASES WHERE LIGHTS HAD BEEN DIMMED AND ENGINES STOPPED BY LOW APPROACH OF (WHAT WAS APPARENTLY) THE SAME OBJECT. AMONG THE WITNESSES WERE TRUCKER [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], [redacted] OF ANTON, TEXAS, AND [redacted] OF WACO.

WHILE [redacted] WAS CHECKING ONE REPORT, HE AND DEPUTY [redacted] SAW A WEIRD GLOW AS (WHAT WAS APPARENTLY) THE SAME OBJECT PASSED ABOVE THE HIGHWAY. THIS ALSO WAS SEEN BY [redacted] AND [redacted] FOLLOWING IN SEPARATE CARS.

IT WAS THEN 1.30 A.M.

powerful giants of East and West.

# Texans See 'Craft From Outer Space'

By the United Press.

LEVELLAND, Tex., Nov. 4.—A man who has spent 20 years studying aerial phenomena said today he believed a mysterious object seen in West Texas and New Mexico "was a space craft from one of the neighboring planets."

The expert is James A. Lee, of Abilene, Tex., a member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena and a director of Inter-Planetary Space Patrol, a West Texas organization which investigtes "flying saucers" and similar objects.

Mr. Lee rushed here yesterday upon hearing of the latest object, seen by at least nine persons in two states.

The egg-shaped object was described as about 200 feet long and a brilliant red.

James D. Long, of Waco, said he was driving near Levelland yesterday when he encountered the object sitting in the road. He said that he got out of his car 200 feet away to investigate, but that, when he did, the object suddenly took off with a roar straight into the air.

Mr. Long said his engine coughed and died and his headlights suddenly went out.

Two other persons in the Levelland area said the object passed over their cars with a roar. The engines of their cars died and the headlights went out, too.

Sheriff Weir Clem and his deputy, Pat McCullough, spotted the object streaking across the sky in front of their car.

"It lit up the whole pavement in front of us for about two seconds," Mr. Clem said.

W.T.S - 11/4/57

W.T.S 11/4/57
1-DAY STORE HOURS 10:00 T

unusual for November and everyone in the community was just a little edgy.

It was early in the evening, at least early for most hunters on a Saturday night, when [redacted], a farm worker, and his friend [redacted], started out in [redacted] truck toward Patrick, two miles northwest of Levelland. They had just turned off State Highway 116 and were heading north on a country road when the two men saw a flash of light in an adjacent field. [redacted], a Korean War veteran, and [redacted] didn't pay much attention to the light at first. They only noticed that it was coming closer. It seemed to be paralleling us and edging a little closer all the time. [redacted] later recalled. Still neither man paid any attention to the light. They drove on, [redacted] watching the road and [redacted] talking.

Then it hit.

The first signal of something wrong was when the truck's headlights went out, then the engine stopped. Before [redacted] could hit the starter again he glanced over his left shoulder. A huge ball of fire was "rapidly drifting" toward the truck. Without a second's hesitation [redacted] did what the Korean War had taught him to do when in doubt, he shoved open the car door and hit the ditch.

[redacted] just sat.

The "thing" passed directly over my truck with a great sound and rush of wind," [redacted] later told County Sheriff Weir Clem after he'd started his truck and had driven back to Levelland. "It sounded like thunder and my truck rocked from the blast. I

1003477

# Fiery Ovals Sighted in Far Places

(From Dallas News Staff and Wire Reports)

Flying fireballs, the hopped-up 1957 version of the old-time spinning saucers, Monday night were reported at such widely separated points as Foster, Ind., and the Fiji Islands.

Even as the Air Force announced in Washington that it is sending a team of technicians to investigate the glowing, mysterious object spotted at Levelland, Texas, Saturday night and early Sunday, reports of similar sightings began to mount.

And at least one student of flying saucers, who completed his personal investigation of the Levelland affair Monday, said he was firmly convinced that the object seen there "was a space craft from one of the neighboring planets."

At White Sands Proving Ground, N.M., the Army reported that a huge oval object "nearly as bright as the sun" was spotted Sunday hovering near bunkers used in the first A-bomb explosion.

The sightings at White Sands were made 17 hours apart by two different military police units patrolling the missile testing range in Southern New Mexico. First Lt. Miles F. Penney of Port Jervis, N.Y., commanding officer of the military police, said none of the men had heard radio reports or seen newspaper accounts of similar sightings elsewhere in the country.

Both sightings were in the area of the new abandoned bunkers used by technicians who observed the world's first atomic explosion on July 16, 1946.

Lieutenant Penney, whose base, the Stallion Site Camp, is about 90 miles north of the proving grounds headquarters, said the firs sighting there was made at 3 a.m. Sunday by Cpl. Glenn H. Toy and a Pfc. Wilbanks, on patrol in a jeep.

The two men said they were on routine patrol when they noticed a "very bright object" high in the sky. The object, described by Toy as egg-shaped and 75 to 100 yards in diaameter, then descended until it was about 50 yards above the bunkers.

There, according to Toy, it went out. A moment later it "be-

See THING, Page 9, Col. 1

1957

# THING

Continued from Page 1

came real bright, like the sun, then f( 'an angle to the ground and w out."

The second sighting was made at 8 p.m. Sunday by S.P.3 Forest R. Oakes and an S.P.3 Barlow. They saw a bright light at an estimated height of 50 feet over the old a-bomb bunker. Oates said the "light" took off at a 45-degree angle; went up into the sky and started blinking on and off. Then it disappeared.

Oakes said his patrol was about two or three miles west of the light, which was "200 or 300 feet long."

Lie ant Penney said he had accompanied some of the MP's to the site Monday in an effort to find some trace of the object's visit, but that there was none. Neither patrol reported motor trouble with their jeeps, and in that respect their accounts differed from those of the persons in the Levelland area, who said their car engines stalled when the light came near.

From several other points in the United States Monday came belated reports of "things" in the sky.

Mrs. Robert Moudy said that on Oct. 15 a flat, oval-shaped object, about 200 feet long with what appeared to be a ball of fire in the center, zoomed over a farm near Foster, Ind. She said her husband told her of seeing the object, but that they did not mention it to anyone for fear of ridicule.

She said her husband related the engine of his combine stalled when the object passed overhead, making a screaming noise "like an auto tire squealing on a fast take-off."

In Tucson, Ariz., a city fireman, Wencie E. Higuera, said he saw a bright ball with "a tail something like a rocket" over Davis-Monthan AFB, on the southeast corner of Tucson, Sunday night. It made no noise, he said, and disappeared in the Northwest after about 10 seconds.

Mrs. David L. Patrick, wife of a University of Arizona vice-president, said the object had a poin nose and a glowing "slender y." She said it seemed to travel too slow to be a meteor.

In Chicago's suburban Elmwood Park, three policemen and a fireman said they saw a peculiar round glowing thing in the early morning sky Monday. They said their car lights appeared to dim as ( kept the prowl car spotlight ocused on the thing.

At Martinsville, Va., Mrs. Ruby Hairston said she and her family saw a strange red glare Sunday night while driving on the Virginia-North Carolina border.

And at Brenham, Texas, it was reported by Newspaperman Tom Whitehead of the Banner-Press

tellof seeing a glowing bright object in the western sky. It was larger in the center than on the ends, they said, and did not appear to be moving.

According to the United Press, the Fiji government, in a report received Monday at Honolulu, Hawaii, said a Seventh Day Adventist church official, R. O. Aveling, and four natives had sighted a dazzling object in the South Pacific skies.

The report, issued Oct. 23 in Suva, capital of the island group, said three separate sightings of the strange flying object were reported the preceding week.

All the witnesses there described what they had seen as a "strange object, white in color and circular in shape." They said it gave off a blinding light "and made them feel weak."

But it was the Levelland incident that apparently set off the wave of reports, and a Texan experienced in tracking flying saucers was certain that the object seen there was a visitor from outer space.

"Whatever this thing was it had a definite mission and a plan of operation," James A. Lee of Abilene told The News. Lee, who owns and operates a surgical supply store and a household ware store in Abilene, said he has been interested in space mysteries for a decade or more. He rushed to Levelland Sunday to tape-record interviews with the several persons who said they had seen the huge, brightly lighted object, either on the ground or in the air.

"It's an amazing, fantastic story," he said. "Those people out there saw something—there's no question about it. It was literally something out of this world."

Lee said he interviewed the witnesses separately and their stories all added up.

"The sheriff (Weir Clem of Levelland) told me personally that he had interviewed these people as they came in and none of them knew what the others had said. They all told the same story."

The story, as related by Sheriff Clem, was that the brilliant object, egg-shaped and about 200 feet long, settled down on highways at points around Levelland. As it did so, the witnesses claimed, their automobile engines went dead and their headlights dimmed out. When the object rose swiftly into the air, the car lights came back on, and the drivers were able to restart their engines.

Some witnesses reported the object made a deafening noise, like a clap of thunder, as it landed and then arose.

Lee said he considered the story told by Newell Wright Jr., a Texas Tech student, the "most important and authentic of all."

Wright told Lee that he was en route from Lubbock to Levelland when, unaccountably, his car stalled and the lights failed. Finding nothing wrong, he closed the hood. As he did so he caught sight of the object, glowing with an eerie fire.

Wright reported he made a frightened dash to get back in the car. As he did so, the flying fireball took off. Immediately, the student told Lee, he was able to start his car again.

The dead engine angle particularly impressed Donald E. Keyhoe of Washington, a former Marine Corps major who has written several books attempting to prove that flying saucers are, too, real. Keyhoe is also director of a group called the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

"That's just the way an electromagnetic force field would operate," he said in regard to the engines dying. "This isn't the first time we've heard of such things happening."

Texan Lee said he had talked during the day with Keyhoe, who wanted to get a first-hand report on the matter. Lee is a member of Keyhoe's committee and is also a director of Interplanetary Space Patrol, which, says Lee, has members over most of Texas, plus some in Great Britain.

Lee was asked about the possibility that the mystery object might have been ball lightning, which is described by reference works as "a ball or globe of brilliant light moving slowly a short distance above the surface of the earth, as if rolling on an invisible support a few feet high."

Not a chance, said Lee.

"Whatever it was showed every indication of being under intelligent guidance," he said stoutly. "Its objective seemed to be to land on the highway and interrupt traffic, then immediately leave that area and fly over to another highway leading into Levelland. . . . It landed four times, and when observed it would take off to another location. In every case when a car or truck would approach it would fail to function and the lights would go out."

The possibility that engine failure might have been caused by ball lightning or static electricity was offered by Dr. Wayne Rudmose, Southern Methodist University physic professor, in an interview with The News.

"You might build up enough conductivity in the air as the result of dust to cause the ignition spark to leak off," he said. This, he explained, would cause the spark to ground rather than follow its normal course.

But he added that the engines of today's cars are well shielded, and that it would take a terrific charge to cause them to stall.

No physical trace of the fireball's visit has been found. And Major L. J. Tacker told The News' Washington Bureau that the biggest piece of evidence against flying saucers is the complete lack of any material object which might prove that they have been about.

"On the object seen at Levelland, we will have to wait until we get reports from our investigators and the evidence is evaluated by our experts," said Tacker, who is executive officer of the public information division of the Air Force.

Tacker said that most of the strange objects that have been investigated have turned out to be balloons or aircraft. This theory was given support by Col. Barney Oldfield of the North American Air Defense (NORAD) at Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Balloons sometimes come down to earth in weather like we are now having, and when they get warm they rise again, but they certainly don't rush around with noise like thunder and are not lighted with neon lights," he commented.

# THING

Continued from Page 1

came real bright, like the sun, then it ' an angle to the ground and w out."

The second sighting was made at 8 p.m. Sunday by S.P.3 Forest R. Oakes and an S.P.3 Barlow. They saw a bright light at an estimated height of 50 feet over the old a-bomb bunker. Oates said the "light" took off at a 45-degree angle; went up into the sky and started blinking on and off. Then it disappeared.

Oakes said his patrol was about two or three miles west of the light, which was "200 or 300 feet long."

Lieutenant Penney said he had accompanied some of the MP's to the site Monday in an effort to find some trace of the object's visit, but that there was none. Neither patrol reported motor trouble with their jeeps, and in that respect their accounts differed from those of the persons in the Levelland area, who said their car engines stalled when the light came near.

From several other points in the United States Monday came belated reports of "things" in the sky.

Mrs. Robert Moudy said that on Oct. 15 a flat, oval-shaped object, about 200 feet long with what appeared to be a ball of fire in the center, zoomed over a farm near Foster, Ind. She said her husband told her of seeing the object, but that they did not mention it to anyone for fear of ridicule.

She said her husband related the engine of his combine stalled when the object passed overhead, making a screaming noise "like an auto tire squealing on a fast take-off."

In Tucson, Ariz., a city fireman, Wencie E. Higuera, said he saw a bright ball with "a tail something like a rocket" over Davis-Monthan AFB, on the southeast corner of Tucson, Sunday night. It made no noise, he said, and disappeared in the Northwest after about 10 seconds.

Mrs. David L. Patrick, wife of a University of Arizona vice-president, said the object had a poin nose and a glowing "slender y." She said it seemed to travel too slow to be a meteor.

In Chicago's suburban Elmwood Park, three policemen and a fireman said they saw a peculiar round glowing thing in the early morning sky Monday. They said their car lights appeared to dim as kept the prowl car spotlight focused on the thing.

At Martinsville, Va., Mrs. Ruby Hairston said she and her family saw a strange red glare Sunday night while driving on the Virginia-North Carolina border.

And at Brenham, Texas, it was reported by Newspaperman Tom Whitehead of the Banner-Press that Ed Fischer and A. B. Fischer had called him Saturday night to report a flying object in the western sky. It was larger in the center than on the ends, they said, and did not appear to be moving.

According to the United Press, the Fiji government, in a report received Monday at Honolulu, Hawaii, said a Seventh Day Adventist church official, R. O. Aveling, and four natives had sighted a dazzling object in the South Pacific skies.

The report, issued Oct. 23 in Suva, capital of the island group, said three separate sightings of the strange flying object were reported the preceding week.

All the witnesses there described what they had seen as a "strange object, white in color and circular in shape." They said it gave off a blinding light "and made them feel weak."

But it was the Levelland incident that apparently set off the wave of reports, and a Texan experienced in tracking flying saucers was certain that the object seen there was a visitor from outer space.

"Whatever this thing was it had a definite mission and a plan of operation," James A. Lee of Abilene told The News. Lee, who owns and operates a surgical supply store and a household ware store in Abilene, said he has been interested in space mysteries for a decade or more. He rushed to Levelland Sunday to tape-record interviews with the several persons who said they had seen the huge, brightly lighted object, either on the ground or in the air.

"It's an amazing, fantastic story," he said. "Those people out there saw something—there's no question about it. It was literally something out of this world."

Lee said he interviewed the witnesses separately and their stories all added up.

"The sheriff (Weir Clem of Levelland) told me personally that he had interviewed these people as they came in and none of them knew what the others had said. They all told the same story."

The story, as related by Sheriff Clem, was that the brilliant object, egg-shaped and about 200 feet long, settled down on highways at points around Levelland. As it did so, the witnesses claimed, their automobile engines went dead and their headlights dimmed out. When the object rose swiftly into the air, the car lights came back on, and the drivers were able to restart their engines.

Some witnesses reported the object made a deafening noise, like a clap of thunder, as it landed and then arose.

Lee said he considered the story told by Newell Wright Jr., a Texas Tech student, the "most important and authentic of all."

Wright told Lee that he was en route from Lubbock to Levelland when, unaccountably, his car stalled and the lights failed. The student, puzzled, got out and raised the hood to investigate. As he did so he caught sight of the object, glowing with an eerie fire.

Wright reported he made a frightened dash to get back in the car. As he did so, the flying fireball took off. Immediately, the student told Lee, he was able to start his car again.

The dead engine angle particularly impressed Donald E. Keyhoe of Washington, a former Marine Corps major who has written several books attempting to prove that flying saucers are, too, real. Keyhoe is also director of a group called the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

"That's just the way an electromagnetic force field would operate," he said in regard to the engines dying. "This isn't the first time we've heard of such things happening."

Texan Lee said he had talked during the day with Keyhoe, who wanted to get a first-hand report on the matter. Lee is a member of Keyhoe's committee and is also a director of Interplanetary Space Patrol, which, says Lee, has members over most of Texas, plus some in Great Britain.

Lee was asked about the possibility that the mystery object might have been ball lightning, which is described by reference works as "a ball or globe of brilliant light moving slowly a short distance above the surface of the earth, as if rolling on an invisible support a few feet high."

Not a chance, said Lee.

"Whatever it was showed every indication of being under intelligent guidance," he said stoutly. "Its objective seemed to be to land on the highway and interrupt traffic, then immediately leave that area and fly over to another highway leading into Levelland. . . . It landed four times, and when observed it would take off to another location. In every case when a car or truck would approach it would fail to function and the lights would go out."

The possibility that engine failure might have been caused by ball lightning or static electricity was offered by Dr. Wayne Rudmose, Southern Methodist University physic professor, in an interview with The News.

"You might build up enough conductivity in the air as the result of dust to cause the ignition," he explained, would cause the spark to ground rather than follow its normal course.

But he added that the engines of today's cars are well shielded, and that it would take a terrific charge to cause them to stall.

No physical trace of the fireball's visit has been found. And Major L. J. Tacker told The News' Washington Bureau that the biggest piece of evidence against flying saucers is the complete lack of any material object which might prove that they have been about.

"On the object seen at Levelland, we will have to wait until we get reports from our investigators and the evidence is evaluated by our experts," said Tacker, who is executive officer of the public information division of the Air Force.

Tacker said that most of the strange objects that have been investigated have turned out to be balloons or aircraft. This theory was given support by Col. Barney Oldfield of the North American Air Defense (NORAD) at Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Balloons sometimes come down to earth in weather like we are now having, and when they get warm they rise again, but they certainly don't rush around with noise like thunder and are not lighted with neon lights," he commented.

APPEARED IN EVERY MAJOR NEWSPAPER IN U.S. — ALSO TV + RADIO

# Fiery Flying Object Stops Texas Trucks

5 NOV. 57 — TUCSON DAILY CITIZEN

LEVELLAND, Tex. — (AP) — Reports of a mystery object which one witness said flew around with a "great sound and rush of wind" had officials and the public puzzled today.

Newsmen and authorities had reports of sightings over a wide west Texas area Saturday and yesterday.

Peace officers checking areas where landings were reported were unable to find any trace. Reese Air Force Base officials here declined to say whether an investigation was being made.

Pedro Saucedo, 30, a farm hand and part-time barber here, told officers and newsmen, "I was driving out to a farm near the Pettit community (west of here) Saturday night with a friend, Joe Salaz, when we first saw the thing. We first saw a flash of light in a field to our right, and we didn't think much about it at first.

"When it got near, the lights of my truck went out and the motor died. I jumped out of the truck and hit the dirt because I was afraid. I called to Joe but he didn't get out. The thing passed directly over my truck with a great sound and a rush of wind. It sounded like thunder and my truck rocked from the blast. I felt a lot of heat. Then I got up and watched it go out of sight toward Levelland," he said.

Saucedo, a Korean War veteran, said it was "torpedo shaped" or like "a rocket," but much larger.

Ronald Martin, 18, a Levelland truck driver, said his truck engine died and the lights went out "when a big ball of fire dropped on the highway" east of here early Sunday. Martin said the object changed to a bluish green color when it settled on the highway, then changed to a fireball again when it rose straight up and disappeared.

Newell Wright, a Texas Tech student from here, reported a similar occurrence also east of Levelland.

Police Patrolman A. J. Fowler said Saucedo and about 14 others who called in reports of the object sounded upset and in some cases terrified.

"They seemed to agree that this something was 200 feet long, shaped like an egg and was lit up like it was on fire—but looked more like neon lights," he said.

"They said it was about 200 feet in the air, and when it got close car motors and lights would go off. Everybody that called was very excited," he asserted.

Sheriff Weir Clem said he saw a brilliant light in the distance but didn't get close enough for a good look. Highway Patrolmen Lee Hargrove and Floyd Cavin reported seeing similar flashes in the sky in about the same area and at the same time as Clem. All were riding in separate cars.

Leveland

U.P. Wiess?? 4 Nov PM
same report comes
from Chicago.
quite circumstantial
evidence
LOOK INTO.

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AFCIN info. Note A
Mr James A. Lees
of NICAP rushed
down to site of Tex.
report to find observers

The Air Force also took the unusual step of referring to specific cases. An AP dispatch from Washington (Nov. 15) began: "The Air Force has looked into five recent reports ... and there isn't a flying saucer in the lot." Five reports out of scores or hundreds received? Was the Air Force, perhaps, practicing frugality? We might think so, in the light of another Washington dispatch (Science Service, Nov. 7), which said: "Each major track-down costs about $10,000, including sending out investigating personnel, paying transportation expenses, sending planes aloft to investigate intruders and taking pictures of, perhaps, Venus - plus administrative work." But on this point there is some instructive evidence (see below).

Of the five cases "looked into," one could be promptly dismissed as a hoax (the Schmidt case, Kearney, Nebraska, Nov. 5). The other four cases, concluded the AF, were either (a) exaggerations, or (b) misunderstood natural phenomena. What about these natural phenomena?

At Levelland, Texas, the luminous egg-shaped object 200-300 feet long that stopped car motors and radios was identified as: "a natural electric phenomenon called ball lightning or St. Elmo's fire." Apparently the technical investigators who conducted this particular $10,000 investigation were not aware that these are two entirely different electric phenomena; or that the average diameter of ball lightning is 8 inches; or that a good many scientists deny that ball lightning even exists; or that St. Elmo's fire is invariably attached to some solid object. As for the stalled car motors, continued the AF, the same weather that produced St. Elmo's ball lightning might have - MIGHT have, notice - "soaked the ignition systems of cars." And what might have dried them out so quickly once the light departed? And did anyone's ignition in fact become soaked? Were the witnesses asked this? (One report, said the AF, arose from "an automobile mechanic's mistake"; no details are given.)

The investigators said further (note that plural) that they could find only three witnesses who actually saw the big light. The miracle is, they found as many as three. For we know, in this case, exactly what the Air Force investigation amounted to. On November 6 the Levelland Daily Sun News reported: "Air Force 'Mystery' Man Leaves City; Actions, Identity Cloaked in Secrecy." The anonymous visitor drove an AF vehicle, wore civilian clothes, and"said he could not give his name or any identification" (italics ours). Around noon on the 6th he spent 30 minutes in Sheriff Weir Clem's office. He returned about 2:30 p.m. for another half hour. About 3 p.m. he headed for Lubbock (30 miles away); he came back about 6:30, said to Sheriff Clem, "Well, I'm gone," and drove off into the dark, drippy night. Adds the paper, "There was never any hint as to what he found out or whether he was really a civilian or an Air Force officer."

Does the Air Force call this a "major track-down"? We won't even bother to laugh. Do they say that the activities of the mysterious gentleman's 7-hour day cost $10,000 or anything like it? Then the taxpayers had better start yelling bloody murder, for they are being well bilked. Yet it was on the basis of this feeble parody of an investigation that the Air Force, on November 15, uttered its "conclusions" about the Levelland object!

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AFCIN-4E4/T/Sgt Bolieu/ac
Ext 6-9216/Bldg 828
Typed 26 Sept 1958

30 SEP 1958

AFCIN-4

SUBJECT: Appreciation

TO: Commander
1006th Air Intelligence Service Squadron
Ent Air Force Base, Colorado

1. This organization wishes to express its appreciation to the 1006th Air Intelligence Service Squadron for the fine support rendered in conjunction with investigations of unidentified aerial phenomena.

2. The summer of 1947 marked the beginning of active United States Air Force interest in the so-called "Flying Saucer" business. Since that time literally thousands of reports have been received, investigated, evaluated and documented. This mammoth task would never have been accomplished without the whole-hearted and energetic support of your organization.

3. It is always extremely difficult to isolate those individuals who have contributed most towards the success of any supporting program. Such is the case here. We do recall, however, that S/Sgt Norman P. Barth, of your organization, has been in intimately close contact with our people regarding field investigations, and personally did an extremely fine job for us during the recent "Levelland, Texas" incident. See Inclosure No. 1.

4. It is my desire that you extend to S/Sgt Barth, and other applicable members of your command, our sincere appreciation for their untiring efforts and loyal support.

FOR THE COMMANDER

JOHN G. ERIKSEN
Colonel, USAF
Commander
29 SEP 1958

1 Incl.
1. Stmt of Specific Performance - S/Sgt Barth

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ATIC FORM 144 (REV 10 SEP 57) ROUTING AND COORDINATION SHEET

ROUTING / COORDINATION

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OTHERS

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STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE

S/Sgt BARTH, Norman P.

1. On 2 November 1957, the Air Technical Intelligence Center was notified of an unidentified flying object, which was reported in the vicinity of Lovelland, Texas. The impact of this sighting on the public can only be measured in terms of the publicity given the incident, and the great increase in reported cases of unidentified flying objects. Approximately six hundred cases were reported in a three week period following this incident.

2. S/Sgt Barth, of the 1006th Air Intelligence Service Squadron, was assigned the task of investigating the Levelland report. Investigation of this incident required S/Sgt Barth be thorough and forceful, but also required that he be diplomatic in his dealings with the witnesses and other persons concerned with the sighting. The information supplied the Air Technical Intelligence Center by S/Sgt Barth was considered complete in every detail and reflected the thoroughness of this man in the performance of his duty. As a result of S/Sgt Barth's efforts the Air Technical Intelligence Center was able to keep the Air Force and other interested government agencies informed concerning this important sighting. This airman's handling of this controversial incident reflects credit upon himself and his organization.

3. Air Force Regulation 200-2, dated 5 February 1958, is the Air Force guide pertaining to unidentified flying objects. S/Sgt Barth was his organization's representative at the drafting of this regulation at the Air Technical Intelligence Center in December 1957. This airman made many valuable contributions to the draft of the regulation.

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ATIC FORM 144 (REV 10 SEP 57) ROUTING AND COORDINATION SHEET

Incl #1

# THE UNPARALLELED UFO "FLAP" OF NOVEMBER 1957

EGG-SHAPED UFO STALLS CARS ON HIGHWAY

COPS CHASE SKY OBJECT

MYSTERY AIR OBJECTS SEEN IN SKY OVER L.A.

These eight-column headlines* are only a sample of what appeared all over the national press during the first two weeks of November, 1957. Many moons have passed--two of them artificial (as of this writing)--since the press has displayed such open interest in UFOs; but then the remarkable incidents which they describe are undoubtedly without parallel in the history of "flying saucers."

Following hard on the announcement of the launching of "muttnik"--whether by coincidence or not--came the first reports of what quickly developed into a startling series: near Levelland, Texas, during the night of November 2/3rd, a number of truck drivers, state and local police, and other residents described seeing a vast 200-foot luminous "egg-shaped" object that hedgehopped the countryside around Levelland, landing on highways and in adjacent fields and mysteriously affecting car motors and headlights. (This effect on automobiles had previously been reported from France, in 1954.) Terrified witnesses reported their experiences to Weir Clem, Hockley County sheriff, and Clem, together with deputies and dozens of police officers, made a tour of the areas where the object(s) had been encountered. At 2:30 a.m., [redacted] saw "a streak of fire" flash across the highway to the south of his car; two highway patrolmen, following some distance behind him, confirmed his sighting. At least seven persons reported close encounters with the "egg"; at least four cars or trucks were stalled; and many others reported seeing the phenomenon at greater distance.

* The above headlines are from the Alamogordo, N.M., Daily News, 11/5; the Hammond, Ind., Times, 11/11; and the Los Angeles Times, 11/6.

## *Stormy Weather in Texas*

The new type of UFO with electromagnetic (E-M) powers first attracted notice in this country by allegedly appearing near Levelland, Texas, on the night of November 2, 1957, a few hours before Sputnik II went into orbit. A small town with a population of some 8000, Levelland lies on the plains of western Texas about sixty miles from Plainview, site of a famous meteor shower and only twenty-five miles from Lubbock, which a few years earlier had gained national fame with its "Lubbock lights" (p. 000). The region is normally an arid one, but at the beginning of November it was experiencing unusual weather—electrical storms and rain (the month proved to be the wettest ever recorded in western Texas).

About 11:15 that Saturday night, a farmworker named Pedro Saucedo (or Saucido) with his friend Joe Palaz (also given in various printed accounts as Palav, Salav, Salaz, Salvaz) was driving home from Levelland. A few miles northwest of the town he had turned off Route 116 into a side road, when both men noticed a flash of light in a field at the right. Evidently unalarmed, he continued driving and talking until suddenly the engine died and the lights went out. While trying to restart the motor, Saucedo (the similarity between "Saucedo" and "saucer" presents a diverting coincidence) glimpsed over his left shoulder something that looked like a flaming ball or a fiery tornado drifting rapidly toward the truck. A veteran of combat in Korea, Saucedo reacted instantaneously to the blazing unknown. As he described the experience later that night, "I jumped out of the truck and hit the dirt because I was afraid. I called to Joe but he didn't get out. The thing passed directly over my truck with a great sound and a rush of wind. It sounded like thunder and my truck rocked from the flash. . . . I felt a lot of heat." Crawling out and seeing the object disappear in the direction of Levelland, he restarted the engine and drove back to Levelland to report the incident to the sheriff [2].

The sheriff was soon receiving reports from other persons who had been driving in the same area at about the same time. They said that they, too, had seen a blazing object which they described as a "flying egg" or "egg-shaped fireball." Their cars, like Saucedo's, had stalled and then restarted when the object disappeared. A number of townspeople telephoned the authorities to report bright flashes in the sky, and the police comment that "everyone who called was very excited" [3] was probably an understatement.

Under headlines such as "Mystery Object Stalls Autos in West Texas," these stories hit newspapers all over the nation. The news spread fast. All day Sunday dozens of persons in Texas and New Mexico were relating that they, too, had seen fiery objects and flashes of light in the sky the night before. An amazingly large number of citizens seem to have been out late that stormy Saturday night, but apparently none of them noticed any ordinary lightning—only phantom "somethings" variously described as a burning mass, a big light, an egg-shaped object 200 feet long lighted up as though it were on fire, something like neon lights, objects that were red, glowing, brilliant, fiery, bluish-green, or pulsating green.

Not surprisingly, with all this publicity, the original incident quickly began to take on new dimensions. Saucedo amplified his first statements and recalled that the object had been "torpedo-shaped," "like a rocket, but much larger," and that lights on the object had seemed to be winking on and off [4]. One book has since described the phenomenon as "a huge torpedo-shaped machine. . . . It had a bluish-green glow, and it appeared 150 to 200 feet long." [5, p. 114] Those who wanted to believe in flying saucers easily ignored the discrepancy between the "flaming ball" or "fiery tornado," originally described by Saucedo, and a bluish-green torpedo-shaped machine more than 150 feet long.

For days the Russian satellites had to share the spotlight with the American flying eggs, while both amateur and professional investigators tried to solve the mystery. UFO addicts unhesitatingly deduced the presence of a flying saucer with E-M powers. Various astronomers, when urged by newsmen, reluctantly advanced off-the-cuff theories based on the meager printed accounts. Dr. La Paz, of the Institute of Meteoritics in New Mexico, suggested that the things seen at Levelland might have been fireballs. A reporter assigned to

[illegible] a lot of heat.

The "thing" which disappeared across the prairie looked like a funnel cloud.

Five years before and a little east of where [redacted] and [redacted] were "buzzed" I had talked to two women who described their [illegible] UFO. And the resultant "uniqual" to this day.

In Levelland, the two men's story would have been enough to keep Sheriff Clem busy for the rest of the night but before the hours of 8:15 p.m. and midnight on the 2nd the Levelland police struck five more times.

[redacted], a [redacted] truck driver, came upon [redacted] just east of Levelland and reported it hovered over his truck. Another truck driver, [redacted] stopped east of Levelland, as was [redacted]. [redacted] from Stanton, [redacted] and [redacted] added their stories to the list.

All of them who had been startled told Sheriff Clem [illegible] story. One thing [illegible] was shaped something like an egg standing on end. It was fiery red, more like a red neon light. It was about 200 feet long and was about 200 feet in the air. When it came close to cars the engines would stop and the lights would go out.

"Everyone," Sheriff Clem said, "seemed very excited."

That night everyone in West Texas saw UFO's. [redacted] saw a brilliant light in the distance. Highway patrolman [redacted] and [redacted] reported similar brilliant lights at the same time but from a different location. The control tower operators at the Amarillo Airport, to the north, saw a "blip".

the Harvard-Smithsonian Observatories to cover Moonwatch observations of the new Sputnik gave a sketchy summary of the incident to Dr. Menzel, who also concluded that Saucedo might have seen an unusually bright meteor and, startled by its brilliance, might accidentally have killed the engine. Lacking news of Sputnik II, the reporter sent in a facetious story asserting that, according to the director of the Harvard College Observatory, the flying eggs were mirages that so frightened the drivers that they reacted by pressing a "nervous foot" on the accelerator and killing the engine. When the weather conditions at Levelland became known, of course, the meteor theory was immediately discarded. Dr. Nininger, of the American Meteorite Museum in Arizona, made the best guess of all: Saucedo had observed an example of that rare phenomenon, ball lightning [6].

Within a few days an Air Force investigator visited Levelland to study the incident. Members of civilian saucer groups complained later that, since he spent only seven hours in the area, he had obviously not taken the problem seriously and could not have found the correct solution. Even seventy hours of labor, however, could not have produced a clearer picture. Saucedo had unquestionably had a frightening experience, very much as he originally described it. But as in many UFO sightings, most of the other reports had been stimulated chiefly by the general excitement. Three persons, not "dozens," had seen the phenomenon near the ground. Some ten or fifteen others (including the sheriff) had not observed it at close quarters but had merely seen brilliant flashes of light in the sky.

After studying the weather reports and the descriptions given by the various witnesses, the Air Force issued an explanation, unfortunately ambiguous because it omitted the necessary word "either," stating that the phenomenon observed at Levelland had been "ball lightning or St. Elmo's fire." Supporters of the saucer theory seized on this ambiguity to protest, correctly, that ball lightning and St. Elmo's fire are two different phenomena. They went on to conclude by some process of peculiar logic that neither ball lightning nor St. Elmo's fire was involved and that the phenomenon had actually been a flying saucer.

Saucer publications have printed thousands of words to support this argument. The evidence, however, leads to an overwhelming probability: the fiery unknown at Levelland *was* ball lightning.

In Levelland the night of November 2 conditions were ideal for the formation of ball lightning. For several days the area had been experiencing freak weather, and on the night in question had been visited by rain, thunderstorms, and lightning. Shortly before the glowing sphere approached the truck, the two men had noticed a lightning flash in a nearby field. The original description of the phenomenon—a "flaming ball" or a "fiery tornado" that floated toward and over the truck and detonated with light and heat—fits the classic picture of ball lightning. The truck's engine may have died for one of several reasons. The rain during the evening could have seeped under the hood and soaked the ignition or dampened the spark plugs. The feed line may have been clogged. Or the region of highly rarefied air created by the ball lightning may temporarily have deprived the engine of oxygen.

Of the other drivers near Levelland that night who reported having trouble with balky motors and seeing a blazing object like an egg-shaped fireball, three probably saw ball lightning. Others, after hearing Saucedo's frightening story, perhaps unconsciously dramatized their own experiences and magnified ordinary lightning flashes into attacking fiery objects. It is significant that although the night was stormy, only Saucedo reported seeing the ordinary lightning that normally accompanies a thunderstorm.

Since ball lightning is short-lived and cannot be preserved as tangible evidence, its appearance in Levelland on the night of November 2 can never be absolutely proved, even though this explanation fits all the facts—facts that in themselves do not warrant so lengthy a study. Only the saucer proponents could have converted so trivial a series of events—a few stalled automobiles, balls of flame in the sky at the end of thunderstorm—into a national mystery. (Ball lightning doubtless accounts for other UFO reports, such as the phenomenon observed at Lock Raven Dam on October 26, 1958, when two men returning late at night from a fishing trip saw a flaming ball hovering above the superstructure of a bridge; it exploded with a loud noise and a brilliant white flash and disappeared.)

One thing is certain. *No* evidence exists to suggest the presence of a spaceship over Levelland. Any extraterrestrial vehicle attempting to patrol the area that night would certainly have been seen and its path would have been accurately plotted. Moonwatch crews in New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado were all watching the skies for a passage of Sputnik, and in Texas itself official observers were on the alert at Big Spring, 100 miles southeast of Levelland; at San Antonio, 370 miles southeast; at Wichita Falls, 250 miles east; at Dodson, 162 miles northeast; and at Amarillo, 120 miles north. None of the trained witnesses at these stations saw anything in the sky that should not have been there.

Tex. 4-1957

# Blinding 'Flying Saucer' 'Stops' Texas Motorcars

Levelland, Tex. (UP) — A mysterious egg-shaped object, red as a blinding setting sun and faster than the speed of sound, streaked over West Texas and New Mexico Saturday night and early yesterday, and one man said he even saw it sitting in the highway.

James A. Lee of Abilene, Tex., who is a member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, rushed here to investigate and said he will send a report to Washington.

The object was also reported seen in the vicinities of Midland, Tex., 110 miles south of Levelland, and Clovis, N.M., about 70 miles northwest of Levelland.

THE MOST graphic description came from Jesse D. Long of Waco, Tex., who said the object killed the engine of his automobile and put out his headlights.

Other motorists said it did the same thing to their cars.

Long said the object appeared to be about 200 feet long and landed in the highway in front of his car. When he got out to investigate the thing took off straight up.

SHERIFF Weir Clem and Deputy Sheriff Pat McCullough, who went out to investigate the reports, said they spotted the object streaking across the sky in front of their car.

"It lit up the whole pavement in front of us for about two seconds," said Clem.

Lee, thoroughly impressed, said reports that automobile engines stalled and headlights went out convinced him a flying object definitely had visited the area.

He said machines inside the object "disturb the magnetic field of balance" and will cause car engines to stall and compasses to go awry.

LEE SAID he definitely did not think the object was launched by the United States.

Pedro Sacido, a Levelland motorist, was the first to report sighting the thing. He said he was driving west of Levelland on State Highway 116 about 11:15 p.m. (CST) Saturday, when it flashed over him with a terrific noise.

DA2

1ST LEAD FLYING OBJECT

LEVELLAND, TEX., DV. 3--(UP)--A YSTERIOUS I -SHAPED OBJECT, RED AS THE SETTING SUN AND FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND, STREAKED OVER WEST TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO LAST NIGHT AND EARLY TODAY, AND ONE MAN SAID HE EVEN SAW IT SITTING IN THE HIGHWAY.

[redacted], OF ABILENE, TEX., WHO SAID HE HAD SPEENT 20 YEARS STUDYING "FLYING SAUCERS," SAID, "I THINK IIT'S A SPACE CRAFT FROM SOME OF THE NEIGHBORING PLANETS."

[redacted] A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA, RUSHED HERE TO INVESTIGATE AND SAID HE WILL SEND A REPORT TO WASHINGTON.

THE OBJECT WAS ALSO REPORTED SEEN IN THE VICINITIES OF MIDLAND, TEX., 110 MILES SOUTH OF LEVELLAND, AND CLOVIS, N. M., ABOUT 70 MILES NORTHWEST OF LEVELLAND.

THE MOST GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION CAME FROM [redacted] OF WACO, TEX., WHO SAID THE OBJECT KILLED THE ENGINE OF HIS AUTOMOBILE AND PUT OUT HIS HEADLIGHTS.

TWO OTHER MOTORISTS SAID IT DID THE SAME THING TO THEIR CARS.

[redacted]SAIDUTHE OBJECT APPARE

TWO OTHER MOTORISTS SAID IT DID THE SAME THING TO THEIR CARS.

[redacted] SAID THE OBJECT APPARE

[redacted] SAID THE OBJECT APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 200 FEET LONG AND LANDED IN THE HIGHWAY IN FRONT OF HIS CAR. WHENHE GOT OUT TO INVESTIGATE THE THING TOOK OFF STRAIGHT UP.

IN THE HIGHWAY IN FRONT OF HIS CAR. WHEN HE GOT OUT TO INVESTIGATE THE THING TOOK OFF STRAIGHT UP.

[redacted] AND [redacted], WHO WENT OUT TO INVESTIGATE THE REPORTS, SAID THEY SPOTTED THE OBJECT STREAKING ACROSS THE SKY IN FRONT OF THEIR CAR.

"IT LIT UP THE WHOLE PAVEMENT IN FRONT OF US FOR ABOUT TWO SECONDS," SAID [redacted]. HE CALLED IT OVAL SHAPED AND SAID IT LOOKED LIKE A BRILLIANT RED SUNSET.

[redacted] THOROUGHLY IMPRESSED, SAID REPORTS THAT AUTOMOBILE ENGINES STALLED AND HEADLIGHTS WENT OUT CONVINCED HIM A FLYING OBJECT DEFINITELY HAD VISITED THE AREA.

HE SAID MACHINES INSIDE THE OBJECT "DISTURB THE MAGNETIC FIELD OF BALANCE" AND WILL CAUSE CAR ENGINES TO STALL AND COMPASSES TO GO AWRY.

[redacted]SAID HE DEFINITELY DID NOT THINK THE OBJECT WAS LAUNCHED BY THE U. S. ALTHOUGH THIS AREA IS NEAR THE SCIENTIFIC PROVING GROUNDS IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY.

(PICKUP 6TH PGH: LONG TOLD THE, ETC)

PR810P..

NK12A

LEVELLAND, TEX. NOV. 4.--(UP)--A MAN WHO HAS SPENT 20 YEARS STUDYING AERIAL PHE[illegible]JENA SAID TODAY HE BELIEVE A MYSTERIOUS OBJECT SEEN IN WEST TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO "WAS A SPACE CRAFT FROM ONE OF THE NEIGHBORING PLANETS."

THE EXPERT IS [redacted] OF ABILENE, TEX., A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA AND A DIRECTOR OF INTER-PLANETARY SPACE PATROL, A WEST TEXAS ORGANIZATION WHICH INVESTIGATES "FLYING SAUCERS" AND SIMILAR OBJECTS.

[redacted] RUSHED HERE YESTERDAY UPON HEARING OF THE LATEST OBJECT, SEEN BY AT LEAST NINE PERSONS IN TWO STATES.

COINCIDING WITH RUSSIA,S LAUNCHING OF ITS SECOND EARTH SATELLITE, THE "THING" WOULD HAVE CAUSED LITTLE MORE ALARM IF SMALL GREEN MEN HAD JUMPED OUT OF IT.

THE EGG-SHAPED OBJECT, DESCRIBED AS ABOUT 200 FEET LONG AND A BRILLIANT-RED, WAS GLIMPSED BY AT LEAST FIVE PERSONS IN THE LEVELLAND AREA, INCLUDING THE SHERIFF, THREE PERSONS AT MIDLAND AND ANOTHER AT CLOVIS, N. M.

[redacted] OF WACO SAID HE WAS DRIVING ON A FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD WEST OF LEVELLAND AT 1:15 A.M. SUNDAY WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED THE OBJECT SITTING IN THE ROAD.

HE SAID IT WAS OVAL-SHAPED, ABOUT 200 FEET LONG AND GLOWED LIKE A NEON SIGN. HE GOT OUT OF HIS CAR ABOUT 200 FEET AWAY TO INVESTIGATE BUT WHEN HE DID THE OBJECT SUDDENLY TOOK OFF WITH A ROAR STRAIGHT UP INTO THE AIR.

[redacted] SAID HIS ENGINE COUGHED AND DIED AND HIS HEADLIGHTS SUDDENLY WENT OUT. WHEN HE GOT HIS CAR STARTED, HE HURRIED BACK TO TOWN.

TWO OTHER PERSONS SAID THEY SAW THE OBJECT IN THE LEVELLAND AREA ABOUT AN HOUR EARLIER. BOTH [redacted] AND [redacted] SAID THE OBJECT PASSED OVER THEIR CARS WITH A ROAR LIKE THUNDER. THE ENGINES OF THEIR CARS DIED AND THE HEADLIGHTS WENT OUT, TOO.

[redacted] AND HIS DEPUTY, [redacted], SPOTTED THE OBJECT STREAKING ACRROSS THE SKY IN FRONT OF THEIR CAR.

"IT LIT UP THE WHOLE PAVEMENT IN FRONT OF US FOR ABOUT TWO SECONDS," [redacted] SAID. HE CALLED IT OVAL-SHAPED AND SAID IT LOOKED LIKE A BRILLIANT RED SUNSET.

THE GROUND OBSERVER CORPS AT MIDLAND REPORTED THAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MOTHER AND HER TWO CHILDREN SAW "A LARGE OBJECT OF BLUISH COLOR FLYING WEST AND VERY LOW" EARLY SATURDAY NIGHT.

[redacted] IN CLOVIS, N. M., SAID HE "SAW A STREAK OF LIGHT LIKE A FIRE BALL" MOVING IN A SOUTH-EASTERLY DIRECTION ABOUT 8 P.M. SATURDAY.

"I THINK IT'S A SPACE CRAFT FROM ONE OF THE NEIGHBORING PLANETS," HE DECLARED.

[redacted] SAID MACHINES INSIDE THE OBJECT "DISTURB THE MAGNETIC FIELD OF BALANCE" AND WILL CAUSE CAR ENGINES TO STALL AND COMPASSES TO VEER CRAZILY. (For a person who never saw the object, he apparently knows the propulsion system, the engine, etc. of his supposedly space aircraft.

HE SAID HE WILL MAKE A REPORT OF HIS INVESTIGATION TO WASHINGTON.

HS416A

JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

FROM:

COMDR ATIC

WITH THE MISSILE DEVELOPMENT CENTER, WHO MADE A STATEMENT TO ALAMOGORDO RADIO STATION REGARDING SUNBURN GIVEN OFF BY HEAT OF FLYING OBJECT THAT MADE A PASS NEAR HIS LOCATION, WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL FOR OBSERVATION.

PART V. REFERENCE DEMANDS OF [redacted] FOR RETURN OF HIS SAUCER FILM ALLEDGEDLY WITHHELD BY THE AIR FORCE. [redacted] OF TV STATION KVWT, CLEVELAND, HAS PUBLICLY ACCUSED AF OF THIS. FOLLOWING IS QUOTED FROM LETTER TO AFCIN-X, DATED 9 MARCH 1954. QUOTE 1. AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER HAS NO RECORD OF HAVING RECEIVED SUBJECT FILM FROM (MARINE) PRIVATE [redacted]. 2. LIFE MAGAZINE, IN RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ATIC, INDICATED THAT IT (FILM) HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY TURNED OVER TO A NAVAL BASE. IF THIS IS THE CASE, THE FILM WOULD HAVE REMAINED WITH NAVAL INTELLIGENCE. UNQUOTE. IT APPEARS THAT [redacted] DESIRES TO COMMERCIALIZE ON THE CURRENT "SAUCER SIGHTINGS" FUROR.

PART VI. REGARDING POSSIBLE DECLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE OF BRIEFING GIVEN TO MEMBER OF OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, DR. ROBERTSON, REFERENCE IS MADE TO FORM AFHQ O-86 MESSAGE TO AFCIN-K1, DATED 18 OCTOBER 57, ATTENTION: MAJOR BYRNE ON SAME SUBJECT. IN BRIEF, THIS CENTER INTERPOSES NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE. HOWEVER, DECISION TO RELEASE LIES WITH AFCIN AND SAFIS.

PART VII. ATTENTION IS INVITED TO FACT THAT MEMBER OF

T57-6048

| SYMBOL | PAGE NR | NR OF PAGES | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | INITIALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173-1

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955—355238

JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

FROM: COMDR ATIC

NICAP WAS IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED TO LEVELLAND TEXAS TO INVESTIGATE. SIGNIFICANT TO POINT OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THIS ORGANIZATION CONTINUOUSLY IMPLIES USAF NOT QUALIFIED TO INVESTIGATE, OR DO NOT RELEASE THEIR FINDINGS, IT HAS NOT MADE ANY STATEMENTS REGARDING ITS OWN FINDINGS OR CONCLUSIONS. DESIRABLE IF NICAP WOULD MAKE ITS FINDINGS KNOWN FIRST, THEN USAF COULD QUERY HOW ANALYSIS PERFORMED AND CONCLUSIONS DERIVED. IN ALL PROBABILITY NICAP WILL LET USAF MAKE FIRST STATEMENT, THEN WILL MAKE THE USUAL CHARGES.

PART VIII. MAKING CHECK FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ATIC'S ENTRY INTO UFO PROGRAM AND EARLY HISTORY REGARDING DOCUMENTS WHICH BROUGHT THIS ABOUT.

T57-30463

| SYMBOL | PAGE NR | NR OF PAGES | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | INITIALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AFCIN-4E4 | 5 | 5 | | |

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173-1

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JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

*SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER*

LEUCLAND, TEX. CASE.

| PRECEDENCE | TYPE MSG (Check) | | | ACCOUNTING SYMBOL | ORIG. OR REFERS TO | CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | BOOK | MULTI | SINGLE | | | |
| ACTION | | | | | | |
| INFO PRIORITY | | | X | AF | | |

FROM: COMDR ATIC

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO: ACS/I, WASHINGTON, D.C. ATTN: AFCIN-XL MAJ BYRNES

CONFIDENTIAL/FROM: AFCIN-4E4 CITE IC 41030

REFERENCE PREVIOUS MESSAGE IN EIGHT PARTS, DTD 8 NOVEMBER 1957. THIS IS ADDITIONAL INFO RE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED INCIDENTS.

REF. PART I OF PREVIOUS MESG: INVESTIGATION OF ANOTHER SOURCE IN AREA WHO CLAIMS THAT HIS IGNITION STALLED AT TIME OF SIGHTING, DISCLOSED THAT HIS DISTRIBUTOR ROTOR WAS CHANGED IN HIS TRUCK DAY BEFORE. FURTHER, STATEMENT FROM MECHANIC INDICATES THAT PIECE OF OLD ROTOR LATER FOUND WEDGED IN BETWEEN POINTS.

REF. PART IV, [redacted]S INCIDENT: HOSPITAL EXAMINATION REVEALS NO BURNS ON [redacted]. UNDER EXAMINATION ADMITS THAT HE HAD EXPERIENCED RADIO FADE-OUT IN THAT AREA PREVIOUSLY. WITNESSES WHOM [redacted]S CLAIMS TO HAVE JOTTED DOWN CANNOT BE FOUND AFTER DILIGENT SEARCH. [redacted] EVALUATED AS [redacted] BY AF INVESTIGATORS.

T57-30589

| DATE 10 | TIME |
|---|---|
| MONTH NOV | YEAR 57 |

| WRITER | | RELEASER | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SYMBOL AFCIN-4E4 | | SIGNATURE | |
| TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required) Capt George T. Gregory | | TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE | |
| PHONE 69216 | PAGE NR. 1 / NR. OF PAGES 2 | | |
| SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | | | |

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173 REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

*SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER*

LEUELLAND, TEX. CASE.

| PRECEDENCE | TYPE MSG (Check) | | | ACCOUNTING SYMBOL | ORIG. OR REFERS TO | CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACTION | BOOK | MULTI | SINGLE | | | |
| INFO PRIORITY | | | X | AF | | |

FROM:
COMDR ATIC

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO: ACS/I, WASHINGTON, D.C. ATTN: AFCIN-XL MAJ BYRNES

CONFIDENTIAL/FROM: AFCIN-4E4 CITE IC 41030

REFERENCE PREVIOUS MESSAGE IN EIGHT PARTS, DTD 8 NOVEMBER 1957. THIS IS ADDITIONAL INFO RE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED INCIDENTS.

REF. PART I OF PREVIOUS MESG: INVESTIGATION OF ANOTHER SOURCE IN [redacted] WHO CLAIMS THAT HIS IGNITION STALLED AT TIME OF [redacted] SIGHTING, DISCLOSED THAT HIS DISTRIBUTOR ROTOR WAS CHANGED IN HIS TRUCK DAY BEFORE. FURTHER, STATEMENT FROM MECHANIC INDICATES THAT PIECE OF OID ROTOR LATER FOUND WEDGED IN BETWEEN POINTS.

REF. PART IV, [redacted]S INCIDENT: HOSPITAL EXAMINATION REVEALS NO BURNS ON [redacted]. UNDER EXAMINATION ADMITS THAT HE HAD EXPERIENCED RADIO FADE-OUT IN THAT AREA PREVIOUSLY. WITNESSES WHOM [redacted]S CLAIMS TO HAVE JOTTED DOWN CANNOT BE FOUND AFTER DILIGENT SEARCH. [redacted] EVALUATED AS [redacted] BY AF INVESTIGATORS.

T57-30580

| DATE 10 | TIME |
|---|---|
| MONTH NOV | YEAR 57 |

| WRITER | | RELEASER | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SYMBOL AFCIN-4E4 | | | SIGNATURE |
| TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required) Capt George T. Gregory | | | TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE |
| PHONE 69216 | PAGE NR. 1 / NR. OF PAGES 2 | | |
| SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | | | |

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173 REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CON...NUATION SHEET | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

FROM: COMDR ATIC

REF PART IV, MILITARY PATROLS INCIDENTS: INVESTIGATION MADE OF 3 OR 4 MEMBERS WHO OBSERVED UFOS AT SEPARATE TIMES IN WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUNDS. FOLLOWING DISCLOSED:

a. SOURCES AGES 17 to 21, QUITE IMPRESSIONABLE.

b. INDICATED THAT NOT PARTICULARLY OBSERVANT OR ANALYTICAL.

c. ALL MEMBERS HAD DISCUSSED PHENOMENA AMONG THEMSELVES, WHICH PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR ALMOST IDENTICAL STORIES.

d. THEY GAVE STORY FIRST TO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

e. ASTRO PLOTS INDICATE VENUS AT ITS MAGNITUDE AT TIME, PLACE AND DIRECTION OF FIRST PATROL'S OBSERVATION. MOON IN GENERAL DIRECTION OF SECOND PATROL'S OBSERVATION, WITH SCATTERED CLOUDS.

PASS ON TO MAJOR TACKER, SAFIS. CAPTAIN GREGORY COULD NOT CONTACT MAJOR TACKER, MONTS OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OFFICE, SATURDAY. INFORMATION GIVEN TO MISTER HOWELL. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEGATIVE GIVEN TO LIFE MAGAZINE BY SOURCE. AISS DETACHMENT, NORTON AFB SAYS PRINT WILL BE OBTAINED SOON. ASSUMPTION GIVEN TO MISTER [redacted] NOW APPEARS VALID.

| SYMBOL | PAGE NR | NR OF PAGES | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION | INITIALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AFCIN-4D4 | 2 | 2 | | |

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173-1

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955—[illegible]

gaseous object which moved swiftly and left an amber trail.'

There were dozens more. It was a memorable Saturday night in Levelland.

But unbeknown to Sheriff Clem or the residents of West Texas, they weren't alone on the visitors list.

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

| COUNTRY OR ACTIVITY REPORTING | REPORT NO. | Hdqtrs Stamp |
|---|---|---|
| USA | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | 11/4/957 |

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS | DATE OF INFORMATION | SEE STATUS (IF REPLACEMENT) |
|---|---|---|
| LEVELLAND, TEXAS | 2 to 3 Nov 57 | |
| ACTIVITY SUBMITTING REPORT | DATE REPORTED | REL NO. |
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | 4 to 6 Nov 57 | CANCELLED (CONFIDENTIAL) |
| PREPARING INDIVIDUAL | DATE OF REPORT | SEC NO. |
| WILLIAM P. BRUNSON, Lt. Colonel, USAF<br>Operations Officer | 8 Nov 57 | DOWNGRADED |

SOURCE OR OPERATION OF SOURCE | EVALUATION | CONFIRMATION OR OTHER INFORMATION ON HAND

Mr. [redacted] and others

SUBJECT(S) (With subject, previous reports, etc., as applicable)

AFR 200-2

(Use descriptive title. Use individual reports for separate subjects)

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SIGHTING, LEVELLAND, TEXAS AREA

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

I. CONTENTS:

PART ONE: Description of sighting by Mr. [redacted], Levelland, Texas.

PART TWO: Description of sighting by Mr. [redacted], Levelland, Texas

PART THREE: Description of sighting by [redacted], Levelland, Texas.

PART FOUR: Description of sighting by [redacted], Little Field, Texas.

PART FIVE: Description of sighting by T/Sgt [redacted], Lubbock, Texas.

PART SIX: Description of sighting by Mr. [redacted], Whiteface, Texas.

PART SEVEN: Supplementary Investigative Efforts

PART EIGHT: Comments of the Preparing Officer

8
(See Individual Parts)

Classification change to UNCLASSIFIED effective on 6 July 1966 under the authority of AFR 205-1, Par 2-14b(ii), by Hector Quintanilla Jr.
Hector Quintanilla, Jr, Major, USAF

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(DISTRIBUTION OF ORIGINAL (Except AF and ... as applicable)

Original to ACS/I, HEDUSAF
Copy to Comdr, ATIC
Copy to Comdr, ADC
Copy to Comdr, 1006th AISS
Copy to Comdr, Reese AFB, Texas

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AF FORM 112 REPLACES ... WHICH MAY BE USED.

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | PAGE 2 OF 19 PAGES |

II. SUMMARY: Between 02/1100MST and 03/0130MST, an oval shaped object, approximately two hundred feet long, was seen in the area of Levelland, Texas (FJCD3835). Two witnesses observed the object hovering or resting on the ground for from three to five minutes. The information in this report was obtained from interviews with the SOURCES during an investigation conducted to determine the possible cause of the sighting.

III. INVESTIGATOR: STAFF SERGEANT NORMAN P. BARTH, AF 19500406

William P. Brunson

WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Operations Officer

APPROVED:

JOHN W. MEADOR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

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NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C. — 31 AND 32 AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

16—55870-1 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

[redacted] (CLASSIFICATION)

UNCLASSIFIED

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part One<br>PAGE 3 OF 19 PAGES |

I. SOURCE: [redacted]

Address: [redacted], Levelland, Texas

Age: 19

Occupation: Student at Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas

Education: Second Semester, Freshman Year, Texas Tech.

Qualifications: None.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE seemed to the investigator to be very sincere about his sighting. He was appalled at the amount of publicity given him and was anxious to have the sighting resolved. He was unhesitating in his replies; however, during the course of further questioning, he admitted uncertainty in some of his answers. SOURCE can be considered usually reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: SOURCE stated that he was driving home from Lubbock, Texas (FJDD0935) on the night of 3 November 1957 at 0005 CST on Texas highway 116. Approximately four miles west of Smyer, Texas (FJDD2035), the ampmeter on SOURCE's automobile registered discharge for a moment. Upon the return of the ampmeter to normal, the engine of the automobile began cutting out as if it were not getting any gas. After it had quit running, the lights and car radio went out. SOURCE then got out of the car and lifted the hood to check for battery malfunction and, finding none, closed the hood of the car and turned around to look for help. It was at this time that SOURCE saw the object and returned to the inside of the car.

SOURCE described the object as oval shaped and he thought that the size of the object was that of a baseball at arm's length. He estimated that the object was seventy-five to one hundred feet at its longest dimension. SOURCE stated that the object was white in color, with a greenish tint, possibly caused by the tinted windshield of SOURCE's car. (Refer to inclosure 1 for SOURCE's memory sketch of the object.)

SOURCE estimated that he had been observing the object for four or five minutes when it rose virtually straight up and out of his line of vision. SOURCE was unable to estimate the speed with which the object left the area and was unable to estimate the distance he was from the object.

Upon the departure of the object, SOURCE stated that the lights and radio of the car came on and the motor started with no difficulty.

SOURCE stated that there were heavy clouds in the area and a light rain falling.

SOURCE had no opinion concerning the possible cause of the sighting.

2 Incls
1. Memory Sketch
2. Statement

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[redacted] (CLASSIFICATION)

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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

[redacted]
(CLASSIFICATION)

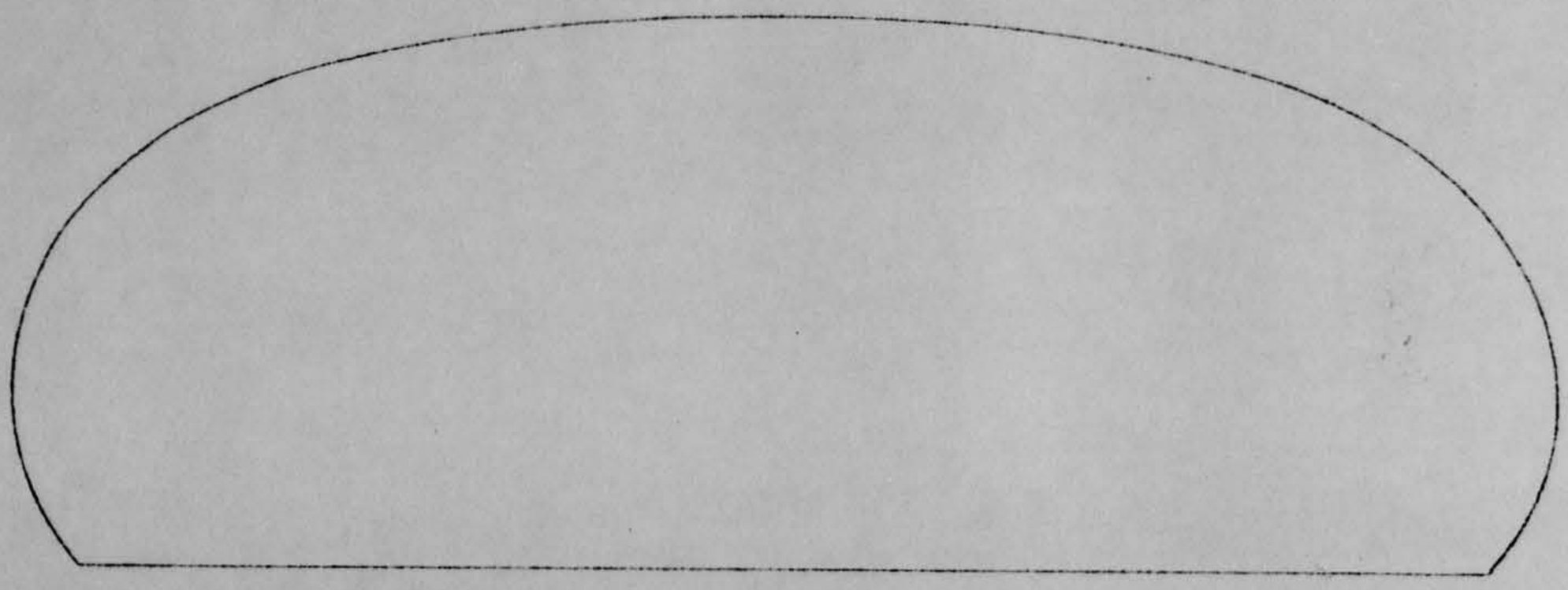
UNCLASSIFIED

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part One<br>PAGE 4 OF 19 PAGES |

Inclosure 1 to Part One.

SOURCE's Memory Sketch of Object



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[redacted]

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[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

AF FORM 112--PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part One<br>PAGE 5 OF 19 PAGES |

Inclosure 2 to Part One:

S T A T E M E N T

I was driving home from Lubbock on state highway 116 at approximately 12:00 p.m. when the ampmeter on my car jumped to complete discharge, then it returned to normal and my motor started cutting out like it was out of gas. After it had quit running my lights went out. I got out of my car and tried in vain to find the trouble. When I found nothing I closed the hood and looked for a passing motorist to obtain help. It was at this time that I saw this object, I got back into my car and tried to start it, but to no avail. After that I did nothing but stare at this object until it disappeared about 5 minutes later. I then resumed trying to start my car and succeeded with no more trouble than under normal circumstances. I then proceeded home very slowly and told no one of this sighting until my parents returned home from a weekend trip to Hobbs, New Mexico for fear of public ridicule. They did convince me that I should report this and did so to the sheriff around 1:30 p.m. Sunday November 3rd.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: /s/[redacted] Jr.

William P Brunson

WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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[redacted] UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

16—85370-1 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Activity) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57. | Part Two<br>PAGE 6 OF 19 PAGES |

I. SOURCE: [redacted]

Address: [redacted] Levelland, Texas

Age: 30

Occupation: Barber

Education: Grade School

Qualifications: None.

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE appeared to be of [redacted]. His occupation was a barber; however, Sheriff Clem of Hockley County stated that SOURCE was a part-time farm laborer, dishwasher, barber, etc. SOURCE had no concept of direction and was conflicting in his answers. SOURCE can be considered [redacted].

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 02/2300 CST November 1957, SOURCE was driving west on Texas Highway 116 about four miles from Levelland, Texas (refer to Inclosure 1, Part Seven) when he saw a large flame in the west. SOURCE first thought it was caused by lightning. The object, however, moved over his position and his truck engine and lights went out. Because of the heat and speed of the object, SOURCE got out of his truck and laid on the ground. SOURCE described the object as shaped like a torpedo. The color of the object itself was blue. The object had yellow flame coming out of the rear and white smoke surrounding the flame. SOURCE estimated the dimensions of the object to be two hundred feet long and six feet wide. SOURCE stated the object was in sight for two to three minutes and disappeared by burning out. SOURCE estimated the speed of the object to be eight hundred miles per hour and he estimated the object to be three hundred feet away. Upon disappearance of the object, SOURCE was able to restart the engine, and after the engine started, the lights of the truck came on. SOURCE stated he thought the object was an electronically controlled rocket.

2 Incls
1. Memory Sketch
2. Statement

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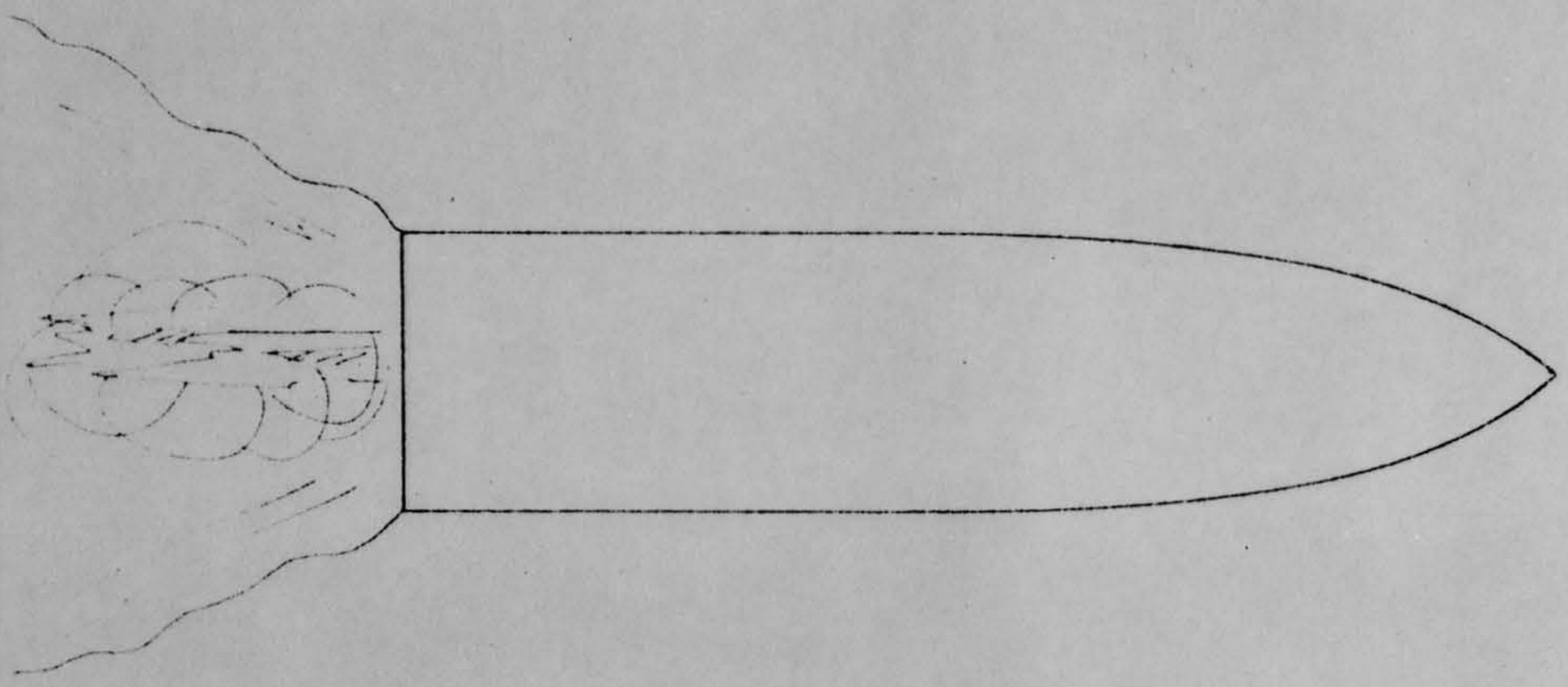
AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Two<br>PAGE 7 OF 19 PAGES |

Inclosure 1 to Part Two:

SOURCE's Memory Sketch of Object





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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Two<br>PAGE 8 OF 19 PAGES |

Inclosure 2 to Part Two:

S T A T E M E N T

To whom it may concern, on the date of November 2, 1957, I was traveling north and west on route 116, driving my truck. At about four miles out of Levelland, I saw a big flame, to my right, front, then I thought it was a lightning. But when this object had reach to my position, it was different, because it put my truck motor out and lights. Then I stop, got out, and took a look, but, it was so rapid and quite some heat, that I had to hit the ground, it also had three colors, yellow, white and it look like a torpedo, about 200 feet long, moving at about 600 to 800 miles an hour.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: /s/[redacted]

William P. Brunson
WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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[redacted]

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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Three<br>PAGE 9 OF 19 PAGES |

I. SOURCE: [redacted]

Address: [redacted], Levelland, Texas

Age: 43

Occupation: [redacted]

Qualification: Officer's School of Texas

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE impressed the investigator as being of average intelligence. He was eager to cooperate in resolving the sighting and frequently asked the investigator for advice on releases to the press. He was rather pleased with the sudden importance of the county. SOURCE can be considered fairly raliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 03/0130 CST November 1957, SOURCE was driving his car looking for objects that had been reported in the area. SOURCE was travelling south on the Oklahoma Flat Road (refer to inclosure 1, Part Seven) at twenty miles per hour when he saw "just a streak of light one time". This light had a reddish glow and moved from south to west in two seconds. SOURCE estimated the object to be eight hundred feet at its longest dimension and estimated the object to be four hundred yards away from his point of observation. SOURCE had no opinion as to the possible cause of the sighting.

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[redacted]
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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Four<br>PAGE 10 OF 19 PAGES |

I. SOURCE: [redacted]

Address: [redacted], Littlefield, Texas

Age: 24

Occupation: Texas Highway Patrolman

Education: High School

Qualifications: Patrol School and Jet Aircraft School

II. RELIABILITY: Usually Reliable.

## S T A T E M E N T

Was driving south on the unmarked roadway known as the Oklahoma Flats Highway, and was attempting to search for an unidentified object reported to the Levelland Police Department. When I saw a strange looking flash which looked to be down the roadway approximately a mile to a mile and one half, the flash went from east to west and appeared to be close to the ground. The flash lasted only a fraction of a second, and was red to orange red in color. This flash occured approximately 1:15 a.m. on the morning of November 3, 1957.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

/s/ [redacted]

William P. Brunson
WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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EV WPDØ43 YDDØ27 WYDØ32 WDAØ41DNAØØ9DNEØØ2

MM RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ

DE RJWFDN 2E

M Ø417457

FM COMDR 686TH ACWRON WALKER AFB NMEX

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC

RJWFDN/COMDR 34TH ADD

RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

RJEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ

BT

UNCLAS FROM OPS 755.

UFOB IN ACMERDANCE WITH AFR 2ØØ-2, 12 AUGUST 1954, AND ADCR 2ØØ-7,

29 JANUARY 1955, THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED:

(1) (A) OVAL SHAPED, 2ØØ FEET LONG, 4Ø FEET WIDE.

(B) OBSERVED ON GROUND - DIMENSIONS AS ABOVE.

(C) LIGHT RED GLOW - SIMILIAR TO SUNSET.

(D) ONE

(E) N/A

(F) NEGATIVE

(G) NEGATIVE

PAGE TWO RJWFDN 2E

(H) SOUNDED LIKE CLAP OF THUNDER WHEN TAKING OFF.

(I) THREE PEOPLE OBSERVED THE OBJECT FROM AUTOMOBILES AND

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[redacted]
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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Five<br>PAGE 11 OF 19 PAGES |

I. SOURCE: [redacted]

Address: [redacted], Lubbock, Texas

Age: 28

Occupation: Aero-Medical Technician, USAF

Education: Some college work

Qualifications: T/Sgt, USAF

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE appeared to be of above average intelligence and experience. He stated that he was giving his information only to aid in resolving the sighting. SOURCE can be considered usually reliable.

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 02/2335 CST November 1957, SOURCE and his wife were driving home on Texas Farm Road 1073 (refer to inclosure 1, Part Six) about two miles south of Shallowater, Texas (FJDD004:7), when he saw a flash of light visible for approximately three (3) seconds. The flash was seen in the southwest and was white orange in color. At this time, the lights and radio on SOURCE's car went out for approximately one to three seconds. SOURCE and his wife remarked then that it "was certainly a strong bolt of lightning to put out our lights and radio." SOURCE stated that he thought no more of this sighting until he heard about the sighting on Sunday (3 November 1957) when he noticed the concurrence of the time and location factor and decided to report his sighting.

SOURCE stated that the weather at the time of the sighting was misty, with scattered clouds and a slight breeze.

1 Incl
Statement

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[redacted]
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[redacted]
(CLASSIFICATION)

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Five<br>PAGE 12 OF 19 PAGES |

Inclosure 1 to Part Five:

S T A T E M E N T

The information contained in this pamplet is given not to mislead anyone and is of my own observance.

On the night of 2 November 1957, at approximately 2310, my wife, 2 children and myself departed my father's home in Sudan, Texas. At about 2330, in the vicinity of Anton, Texas, my wife and I noted occasional lightning and at the same time static on our radio. At approximately 2350 or 2355, I turned south (at Shallowater, Texas) on State Farm Road 1073. In just a few minutes, later this bolt of lightning occured to our southwest. At the same, my radio and car lights went out for approximately 1-3 seconds, and then came back on. My wife and I remarked that was certainly a strong bolt of lightning to put out our lights and radio. We didn't think anything about this until we heard the radio report (Sunday night) of this phenomenon, with its location and the time factor, certainly coincides with this flash of lightning that my wife and I observed.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: /s/[redacted]

William P. Brunson
WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Six<br>PAGE 13 OF 19 PAGES |

I. SOURCE: [redacted]

Address: [redacted] Whiteface, Texas

Age: 52

Occupation: [redacted] McCulchin Drilling Company, Whiteface, Texas

Education: High School

Qualifications: None

II. RELIABILITY: SOURCE appeared to be of [redacted]e. He was hesitant about details and constantly added details of the description of the object. SOURCE can be considered [redacted].

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At 04/2045 CST November 1957, SOURCE was driving about seven miles north of Sundown, Texas (FJCD3132) on farm road 300 (refer to inclosure 1, Part Seven) when he saw a red object the size of a basketball at arm's length in the northeast. The object appeared to be swinging in about a quarter mile arc from north to south. SOURCE stopped his automobile by the side of the road and watched the object for about three or four minutes. At the ends of the arc, SOURCE stated flame and sparks were given off, as if to start the object on its course back. The object appeared to be attached by a hose or cable to a larger stationary object. The stationary object appeared to be a similar to a balloon. After three or four minutes, the object, still swinging, turned white and rose at a rapid rate of speed into the clouds and disappeared. SOURCE stated that it was pitch dark with no stars and no moonlight, thick, heavy clouds and a light rain. SOURCE had no opinion as to the possible cause of the sighting.

2 Incls
1. Memory Sketch
2. Statement

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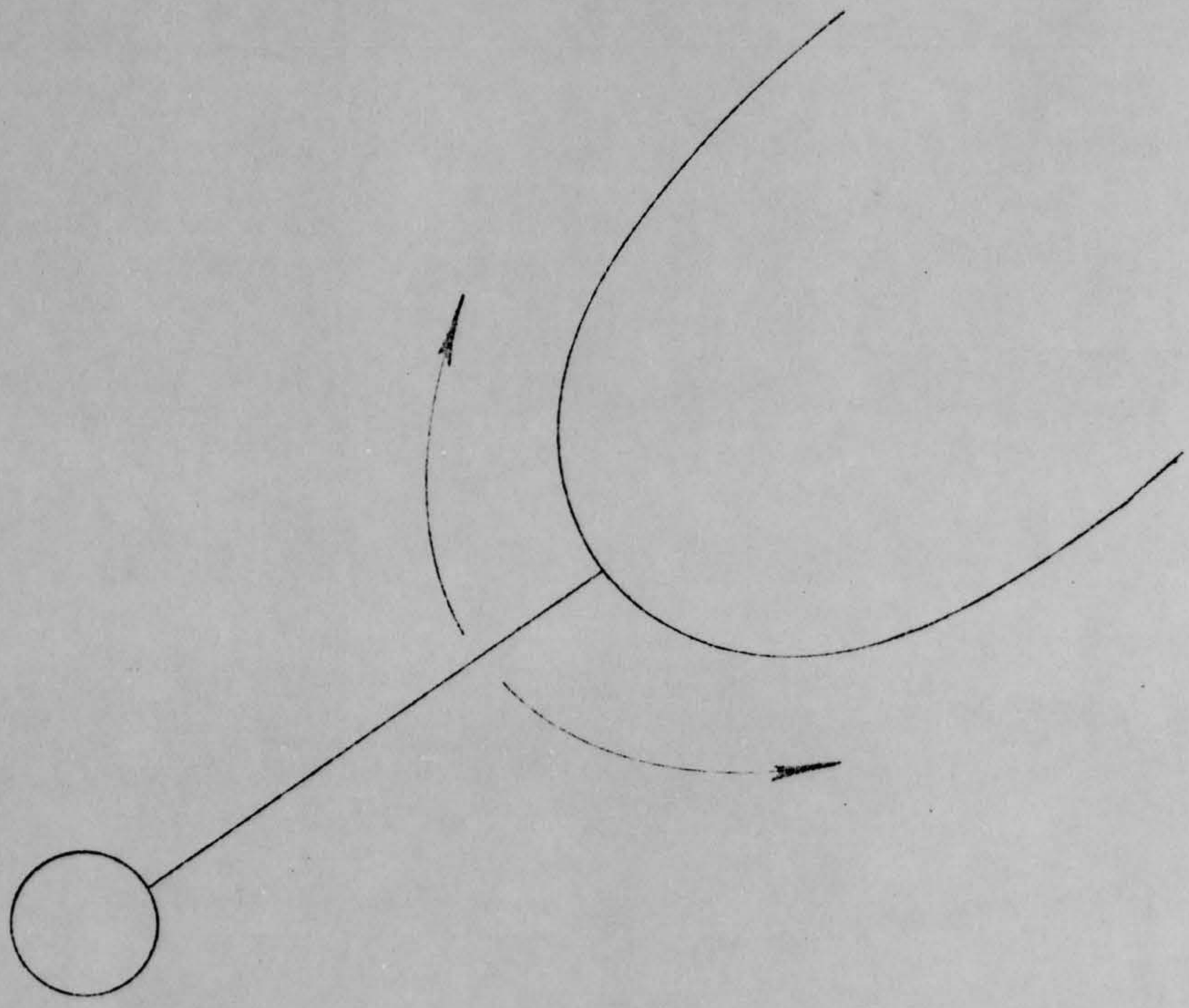
# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Six<br>PAGE 14 OF 19 PAGES |

Inclosure 1 to Part Six:

SOURCE's Memory Sketch of object



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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Six<br>PAGE 15 OF 19 PAGES |

Inclosure 2 to Part Six:

S T A T E M E N T

While driving north about 7 miles north of Sundown, Texas, I saw a light about the size of a basketball about 200 or more feet above ground traveling from east to west. I stopped by side of road with my wife and we watched the object, a bright red light giving off a glow. It apparently stopped and began swinging from north to south about a ¼ mile distance while getting higher slowly and fire or sparks similar to a cutting torch cutting iron scraping out with visible smoke. An object above it seemed to hold up the light on a cable or hose appearing link between the light and the balloon object above it. It continued swinging north to south 3 or 4 minutes and then at a fast rate of speed it went straight up into the clouds and disappeared or the light went out.

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY: /s/ [redacted]

William P. Brunson

WILLIAM P. BRUNSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF

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[redacted]

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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Seven<br>PAGE 16 OF 19 PAGES |

## SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS

1. A check made with Lowry Flight Service, Carswell Flight Service, Reese AFB Operations, and Lubbock, Texas CAA for any traffic in the area produced a negative reply.

2. A check for balloon operations showed that Amarillo and Midland, Texas weather stations released balloons at 1200Z and 2400Z daily. However, these balloons were not likely to be in the area.

3. An interview with Dr. Ralph S. Underwood, BA, MA, PhD, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Texas Technological College revealed the following information:

a. The amount of rain in the area, together with the condition of the crops, could have developed a phenomenon similar to St. Elmo fire.

b. The possibility of burning excess gas from nearby oil operations reflecting off low clouds existed.

c. The possibility of lightning stalling a car and extinguishing the lights existed; however, the possibility decreases as the number of such incidents increase.

4. A check with Reese AFB and US Weather Bureau at Lubbock, Texas revealed the following weather conditions:

a. A shallow temperature inversion existed from the surface to approximately 6,000 ft.

b. A complete overcast existed with a 400 foot observed ceiling and visibility at 3 miles.

c. Winds were as follows:

SURFACE: Light and variable

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 6,000 | : | 160 degrees at 18 knots |
| 10,000 | : | 170 degrees at 25 knots |
| 16,000 | : | 230 degrees at 35 knots |
| 20,000 | : | 240 degrees at 35 knots |
| 30,000 | : | 250 degrees at 65 knots |
| 50,000 | : | 245 degrees at 65 knots |

d. There was a drizzle or light rain throughout the period.

5. A check made with oil companies in the area revealed that a limited amount of excess gas from oil operations was being burned. Most of the gas is returned to the ground.

6. A check for downed power lines during the period was made with negative results.



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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Originator) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Seven<br>PAGE 17 OF 19 PAGES |

SUPPLEMENTAL INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS, (cont'd)

7. The other witnesses reported in newspaper accounts as having observed an object had either disappeared or returned to their homes, leaving no forwarding addresses.

1 Incl
Vicinity Map

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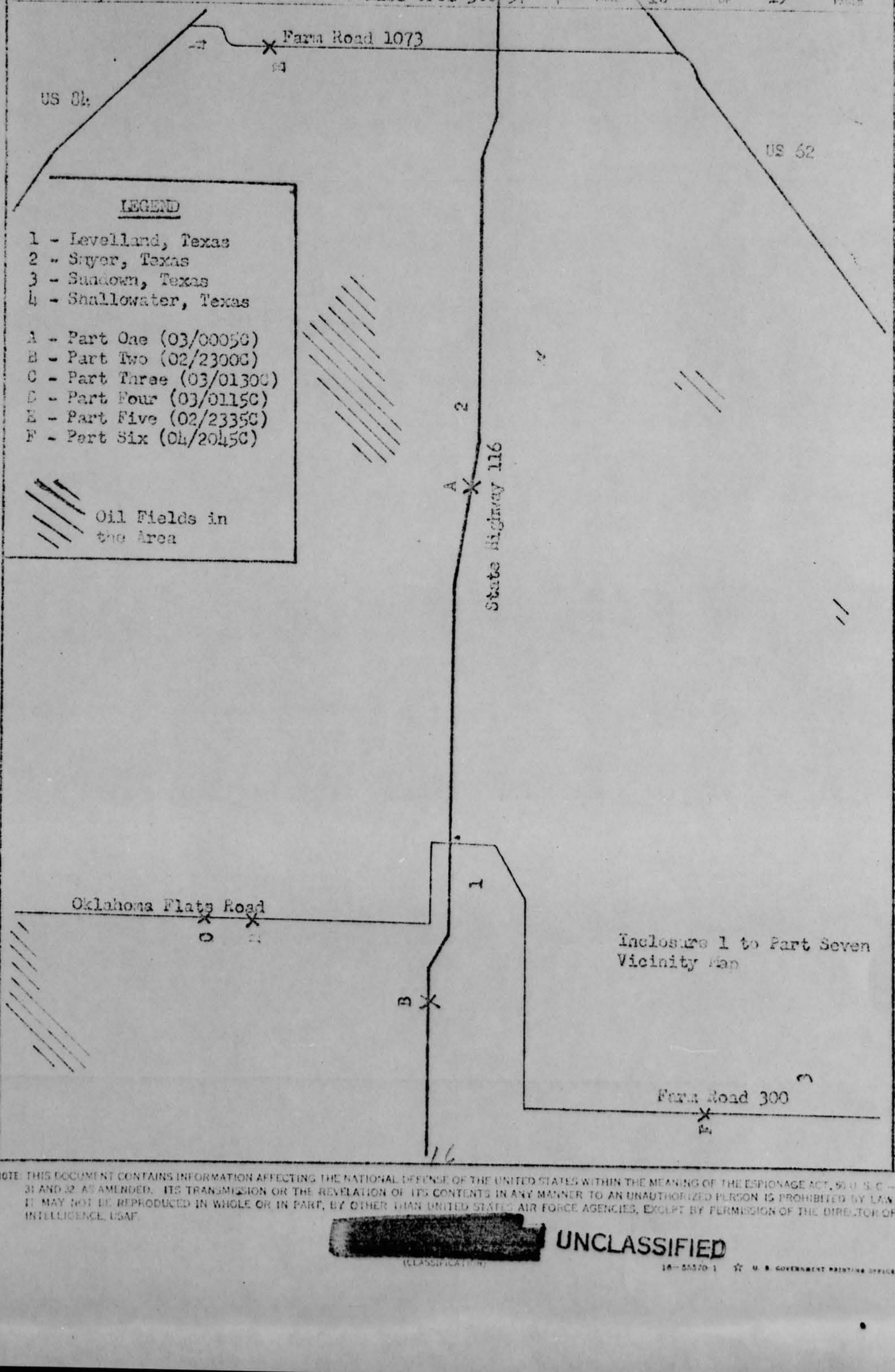
# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Seven<br>PAGE 18 OF 19 PAGES |




Inclosure 1 to Part Seven
Vicinity Map

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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

| FROM (Agency) | REPORT NO. | |
|---|---|---|
| 1006th AISS<br>Ent AFB, Colorado | AISS-UFOB-386-57 | Part Eight<br>PAGE 19 OF 19 PAGES |

## COMMENTS OF THE PREPARING OFFICER

1. The following comments concerning the descriptions, reliability, etc., of the SOURCES treated in Parts One through Six are offered:

a. Only one observer (Part One) said an object hovered over or on the ground. One observer (Part Two) said an object moved over his head at a low altitude, and one observer (Part Six) saw an object hovering and swinging in a pendulum motion considerable distance above the ground. The other observers saw a light streak across the sky (Parts Three and Four) or a bolt of lightning (Part Five).

b. Reference Part Two. This observer's account of the sighting cannot be relied upon. His statements that the object was going eight hundred miles per hour and that the object was three hundred feet away from him are not compatible with the reported length of time in sight. Also his description of the weather conditions does not agree with the established conditions in the area.

c. The observers treated in Parts Three and Four reported seeing only a streak of light. In the opinion of the preparing officer, no basis exist for linking these sightings with the sightings treated in Parts One, Two, Five and Six.

d. Reference Part Six. The sighting described in this part occured two days after the sightings treated in the other parts. The description of this sighting is so completely different and unsupported by other sightings that the Preparing Officer feels that it is not connected with the other sightings

e. Reference Part Five. The sighting treated in this part is included only as a possible explanation for the other sightings. The fact that the radio and lights were cut out for a few seconds by the lightning in this sighting indicates that lightning could have entered into the other sightings.

f. Reference Part One. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, the sighting treated in this part is the most important. The reliability, sincerity, and intelligence of the SOURCE lend credence to this account of his sighting.

2. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, the following possibilities causing this sighting exist:

a. Weather phenomena, such as St. Elmo Fire on a similar phenomenon.

b. Ball lightning. There were Nimbus clouds in the area, which, according to information at this organization must be present for ball lightning to occur.

c. Reflection of excess burning gas from a very low cloud cover.

d. A meteorological phenomenon which could be any combination of paragraphs 2a, b, and c above.

3. It is felt that insufficient knowledge of the above phenomena exists at this organization to completely resolve this sighting. Therefore, this sighting is forwarded as unresolved.

William P. Benson
WILLIAM P. BENSON
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Operations Officer

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16-65870-1 ☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1. LEVELLAND INCIDENT | 2 November 1957 (UNCLASSIFIED)

a. A mysterious object, whose shape was described variously as ranging from round to oval, and predominantly bluish-white in color was observed separately by six persons near the town of Levelland, Texas. Times of observations ranged from 2300 hours to after 0130 hours, night of 2-3 November 1957. Size of the object was estimated from that of a basketball to that of an object 200 feet in length.

b. The unusual aspect of this incident was the statement by a number of observers that their car's ignition stopped completely during the occurrence.

c. In a matter of hours this incident was given nation-wide publicity by the nation's press, radio and TV networks. For the next 72 hours ATIC and Headquarters USAF were deluged with a flood of UFO reports, the majority of observers claiming to have encountered a somewhat similar phenomenon: a dazzling bluish-white object, generally oval in shape, swooping down or floating nearby - that stopped their car's ignition. The reports were from persons of some standing in their communities casually reporting seeing the objects to those insisting that the "blue lights" stopped their cars in heavy traffic in the middle of large cities during broad daylight.

d. Intensive investigations produced information not generally given by newspapers and other media previously. For example: it was pitch dark, rain and mist was falling, a very low ceiling existed, there were lightning discharges, and the sightings took place near an area where excess gases from oil operations were being burned. In some instances, faulty ignition systems and near freezing temperatures were found during the investigations.

e. A number of the observers interviewed admitted the presence of lightning or flashes of light. The prime source could not be located for interview and interrogations by USAF investigators.

f. After exhaustive studies and analyses by the Air Force, and in full collaboration with outside scientists and experts, it was concluded that the sighting was due to a very rare lightning phenomenon - ball lightning. No definite conclusion has been reached regarding the possible effects of ball lightning on ignition systems. (All agreed that the combination of conditions existing in the area at the time were definitely conducive to the phenomenon. A study of the very few existing photographs of actual ball lightning further confirmed the conclusion.)

WHEN THE OBJECT ROSE ABOUT 200 FEET THE ENGINE AND LIGHTS WOULD AGAIN WORK.

(2) (A) SOUND AND LIGHT FROM THE OBJECTS ATTRACTED THE OBSERVERS.

(B) FIRST OBSERVED ON THE GROUND.

(C) DISAPPEARED TO THE WEST.

(D) TOOK OFF STRAIGHT UP; FLEW VERY IRREGULAR AND ERRATIC COURSE.

(E) FLEW OUT OF SIGHT.

(F) APPROXIMATELY 2 SECONDS.

(3) (A) GROUND VISUAL OBSERVATION.

(B) NONE

(C) N/A

(4) (A) 3 NOVEMBER 1957 0430Z AND 0530Z

(B) NIGHT

(5) 4 TO 5 MILES WEST OF LEVELLAND, TEXAS ON STATE HIGHWAY 16.

(A) (1) [redacted] - OCCUPATION UNKNOWN - KERMIT, TEXAS

(2) [redacted]G - OCCUPATION UNKNOWN - WACO, TEXAS



(3) WEIR CLEM (LEVELLAND COUNTY SHERIFF) LEVELLAND, TEXAS

(B) NONE

(7) (A) LIGHT MIST

(B) LUBBOCK WEATHE STATION: 0500Z 3 NOVEMBER 57. SURFACE WINDS 060 DEGREES 15 KNOTS.

(C) UNLIMITED CEILING

(D) VISIBILITY 15 MILES

(E) 4/10 COUD COVER

1. LEVELLAND INCIDENT | 2 November 1957 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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d. Intensive investigations produced information not generally given by newspapers and other media previously. For example: it was pitch dark, rain and mist was falling, a very low ceiling existed, there were lightning discharges, and the sightings took place near an area where excess gases from oil operations were being burned. In some instances, faulty ignition systems and near freezing temperatures were found during the investigations.

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5 NOVEMBER 1957 SIGHTINGS

| DATE | LOCATION | OBSERVER | EVALUATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | Gulf of Mexico | Mil (RADAR & Vis) | 1. Astro (METEOR)<br>2. Rad: Other (SPURIOU RETURN |
| 5 | Springfield, Ohio | [redacted] | Other (GROUNDLIGHT) |
| 5 | Kearney, Nebraska | | Other (HOAX) |
| 5 | Eglin AFB, Florida | Military (RADAR) | Other (MALFUNCTION/ EL INTERFERENCE) |
| 5 | Sarasota, Florida | [redacted] | Aircraft |
| 5 | Hilton, New York | | Aircraft |
| 5 | Travis County Prison, Georgia | | Aircraft |
| 5 | Great Neck, New York | | Aircraft |
| 5 | Theriot, Louisiana | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Rochester, New York | | Aircraft |
| 5 | Williams Bay, Wisconsin | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Port Arthur, Canada | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Green Bay, Wisconsin | | Insufficient Data |
| 5 | Atlanta, Georgia | | Aircraft |
| 5 | Aiken, South Carolina | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Woodstock, Georgia | | Other (UNRELIABLE REPO |
| 5 | Delevan, Wisconsin | | Aircraft |
| 5 | Scotia, Nebraska | | Other (UNRELIABLE REPO |
| 5 | SSW of New Orleans, Louisiana | | Insufficient Data |
| 5 | Wentzville, Missouri | | Aircraft |
| 5 | Walworth, Wisconsin | | Balloon |
| 5 | St Louis, Missouri | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Long Beach, California | Military | Other (MIRAGE) |
| 5-10 | Finland AFS, Minnesota | Military & Civilian | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Atlantic (Not Given/R Zone) | Military | Astro (METEOR) |
| 5 | Regina, New Mexico | | Insufficient Data |
| 5 | Newburgh, New York | | Insufficient Data |
| 5 | Gimili RCAF Station, Canada | | Insufficient Data |
| 5 | Towner, North Dakota | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Roseburg, Oregon | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Lynchburg, Virginia | | Astro (AURORA) |
| 5 | Chattanooga, Tennessee (CASE MISSING) | Civilian | Astro (METEOR) |
| 5 | W Port Washington, Washington | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Steelrock, Oregon | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri | Multi (4 cases) | Astro (AURORA) |
| 5 | Eatonton, New Jersey | | Insufficient Data |
| 5 | Chattanooga, Tennessee (CASE MISSING) | Civilian | Aircraft |
| 5 | Texas, New Mexico Area | Multi (Mil & Civ) | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Long Beach, California | | Other (UNRELIABLE REPO |
| 5 | Los Angeles, California | | Astro (VENUS) |
| 5 | Paris, Illinois (CASE MISSING) | Civilian | Aircraft |
| 5 | San Antonio, Texas | | Astro (METEOR) |
| 5 | Kansas City, Missouri | | Astro (VEGA) |
| 5 | New Orleans, Louisiana | | Astro (METEOR) |
| 5 | San Diego, California | | Astro (ALDEBARAN) |
| 5 | Williams Bay AFS, Wisconsin | Military | Insufficient Data |
| 5 | Santa Fe, New Mexico | | Other (GROUND LIGHT) |
| 5 | Del Rosa, California | | Aircraft |

(F) NONE

(8) NONE

(9) NONE

(10) NONE

(11) 2ND LT PAUL W. FIELDS, DUTY DIRECTOR, 686TH ACW SQUADRON, WALKER AFB, NEW MEXICO. NO COMMENT ON POSSIBLE CAUSE.

(12) NONE

BT

Ø4/223ØZ NOV RJWFDN



A