

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 3 Jan 58	2. LOCATION Houston, Texas		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>night</u> GMT _____	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION not given	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE descending	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Star-like obj slowly descending near Deneb in the constellation Cygnus, which at this time was low on the NW horizon. Obj had brilliance of 1st mag star. Dimmed as it descended & disappeared behind trees. Did not appear to be burning, not a meteor, not oscillating like weather balloon.		11. COMMENTS No duration, speed other than slow, or enough data for analysis. Case considered as insufficient data.	

Cover Sheet, Cmt #1, Subj: UFO Report from Mr. [REDACTED] dtd 24 Mar 58,
to SAFIS-3 (Cont'd)

- d. January 12 sighting: We have no report of any burning object in this area. If, as source states, all the neighbors observed the incident, why was his query not addressed to his local police, firement, press, etc., instead of to the Air Force through the editor of TIME magazine.
- e. January 14 sighting: It is believed that the objects observed through the telescope were jet aircraft at high altitude. They often give the appearance described.
- f. Although not conclusively identified as yet, data provided will be used as part of our continuous study of aerial phenomena, followed with a statement of appreciation for reporting.

1 Incl:
Ltr frn [REDACTED]
dtd 17 Jan

Nicholas Post
NICHOLAS POST
Assistant Deputy
AFCIN-4E

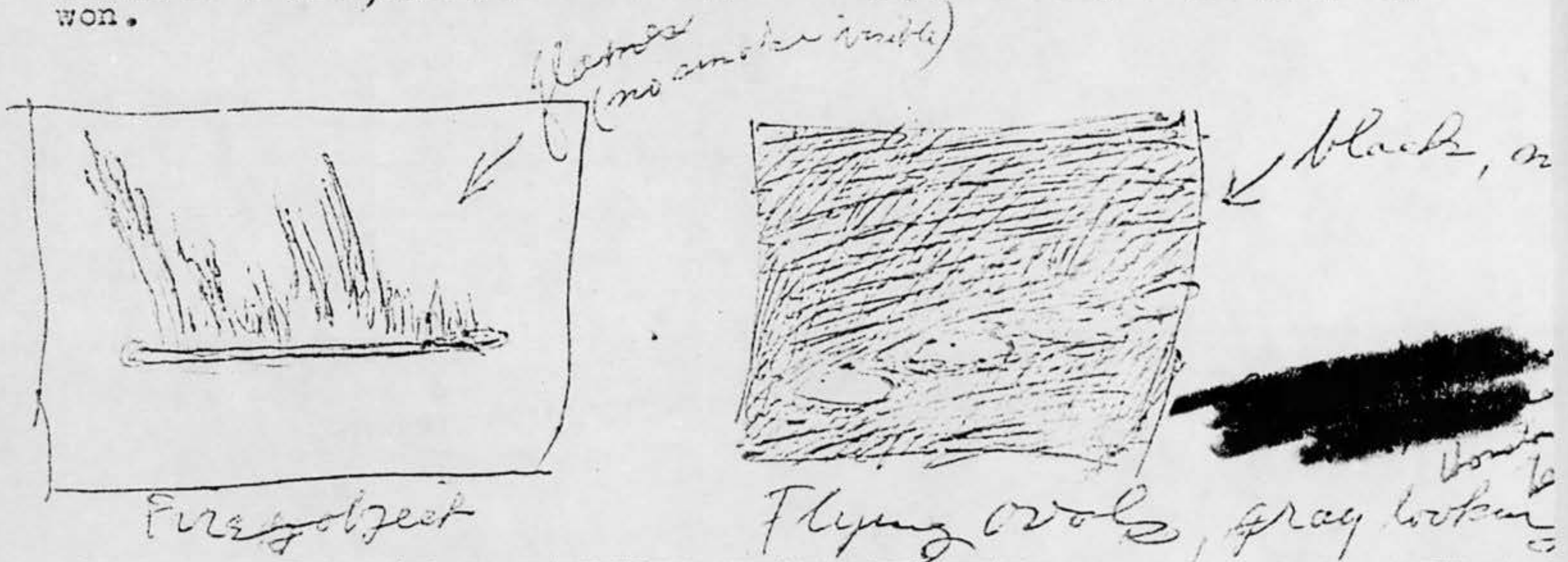
PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 14 Jan 58	2. LOCATION Houston, Texas		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Unreliable Rpt</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>night</u> GMT _____	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar <u>4" telescope</u>		
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 min	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS four	9. COURSE not given	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One of three rptd sightings fm a letter to TIME magazine. This one was of four ovals in formatbn obsrved thru a telescope. Estimated speed at less than 200 mph, & size of objs at 30-40 ft. Objs flew at low alt (150'). No sound.		11. COMMENTS Possible a/c in formation. This rpt was forwarded in the form of a letter to a magazine and did not receive any investigation. Rpt is therefore very unreliable. Letter written to the observer four months after observation explained difficulties in analysis of this type of rpt.	

^{to} These two celestial occurrences should have been sufficient but hold us, but ~~mean~~ no:

On the night of January 14, I was in my back yard about 10:30 p.m., looking at the stars through my 4-inch telescope. At that particular moment, I had stepped away from my scope and was looking in the direction of Gemini (██████████), when suddenly four oval-shaped objects, one behind the other and in perfect formation, flew across my line of sight, very low. (I would say under 150 feet.) These objects were not lighted at all, were grayish in color from the lights of the city (the moon was not in the sky). They were flying exactly uniformly in speed, at less than 200 miles an hour, I would say, if the objects were as low as they appeared. In less than one minute, they disappeared from sight. As a guess, I would say that each oval was perhaps 30 to 40 feet in diameter. Because of their exact flying speed in relation to each other, it is possible that each was attached to the same long object which would be invisible if it were painted black (like gondolas under a dirigible). No sound ~~was~~ was audible, not even a murmur.

My private theory is that Ellington field, about 20 miles southeast of my house, where many jets are in operation, knows something about these objects. If they belong to our government (power without sound or lights, and perfect maneuverability) we've got the next war won.



15/0430Z

35A

SAFIS-3/Maj Tacker/jmd/73328

15 April 1958

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge your letter of 17 January concerning unidentified flying object sightings.

The Air Force has no report of a burning object over Houston, Texas on 12 January 1958.

With reference to the objects sighted on 14 January 1958, they were probably high flying jet aircraft.

Without photographs, accurate azimuths, evaluations, bearings, exact times and identification based upon the observer's own description it is difficult, if not impossible, to definitely evaluate such sightings.

Sincerely,

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

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Houston 6, Texas

✓
COMEBACK-SAFIS3
READER-SAFIS-1
STAYBACK-SAFIS-3

January 17
1 9 5 6

Editor Time
New York

Dear Sir:

There are some strange goings-on in the evening and night sky above Houston.

On the night of January 3, my wife and I, upon returning from a visit to a bookstore, observed a star-like object slowly descending near Deneb in the constellation Cygnus in the low North-western sky. This object, with the brilliancy of a first magnitude star, dimmed as it sank, becoming barely visible when it disappeared from view behind treetops. It did not appear to be a burning object, such as a gas-filled weather balloon. It definitely was not a shooting star or a meteor.

nine days later
On the late afternoon of January 12, just before dusk, I was searching the western sky for a glimpse of the planet Mercury. I could not see Mercury because of the brilliancy of the sky (the sun had set) but my attention was attracted by a brilliant, orange colored object which, at first, appeared to be a giant multi-motored plane, lit by the rays of the declining sun. It grew brighter for a few minutes but did not appear to be approaching or even moving, except for a perceptible downward drift. I decided it must be a burning plane, but I could see no smoke. I raced into the house for my binoculars (7 powers) and shouted to my wife and daughter to see the spectacle. They ran outside (also our maid and neighbors from across the street), and we all examined the object intently through the glasses. The object definitely was burning (my wife called it a raft). It was a mass of flames reaching into the air almost as high as the object was long. The flames were higher on the left side (south) than the right side. This object, too, grew dimmer and finally, after about six or seven minutes, sank out of sight. We judged it to be about 10 to 20 miles away. If it were that far, the wing spread must have been at least 150 feet. Later, my daughter, age 2nd, drew pictures of it, independently. Her drawing was remarkably like mine.

*behind treetops across
the street from us.*

[REDACTED]

Houston 6, Tex

44
January 17
1 9 5 6

Editor Time
New York

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On the night of January 3, my wife and I, upon returning from a visit to a bookstore, observed a star-like object slowly descending near Deneb in the constellation Cygnus in the low North-western sky. This object, with the brilliancy of a first magnitude star, dimmed as it sank, becoming barely visible when it disappeared from view behind treetops. It did not appear to be a burning object, such as a gas-filled weather balloon. It definitely was not a shooting star or a meteor.

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burning object

Viewed from across the street

^{to} These two celestial occurrence should have been sufficient ~~but~~ hold us, but ~~must~~ no:

On the night of January 14, I was in my back yard about 10:30 p.m., looking at the stars through my 4-inch telescope. At that particular moment, I had stepped away from my scope and was looking in the direction of Gemini (Castor and Pollux), when suddenly four oval-shaped objects, one behind the other and in perfect formation, flew across my line of sight, very low. (I would say under 150 feet.) These objects were not lighted at all, were grayish in color from the lights of the city (the moon was not in the sky). They were flying exactly uniformly in speed, at less than 200 miles an hour, I would say, if the objects were as low as they appeared. In less than one minute, they disappeared from sight. As a guess, I would say that each oval was perhaps 30 to 40 feet in diameter. Because of their exact flying speed in relation to each other, it is possible that each was attached to the same long object which would be invisible if it were painted black (like gondolas under a dirigible). No sound ~~was~~ was audible, not even a murmur.

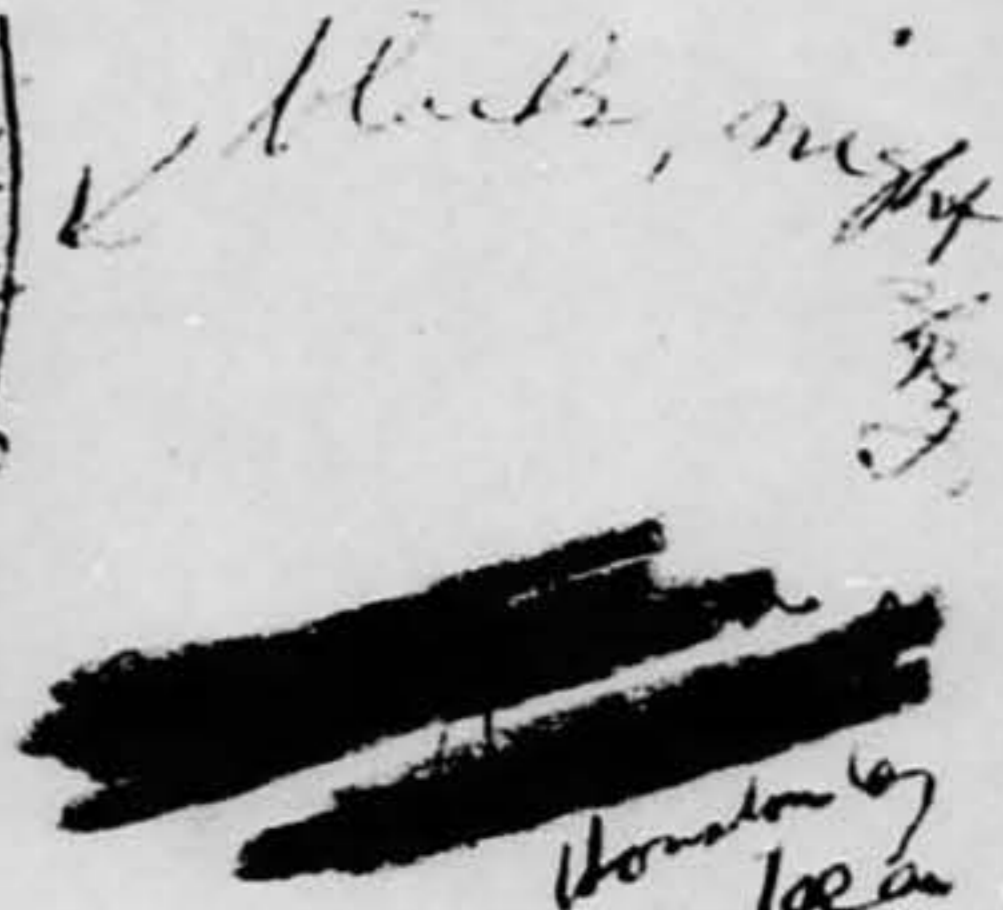
My private theory is that Ellington field, about 20 miles southeast of my house, where many jets are in operation, knows something about these objects. If they belong to our government (power without sound or lights, and perfect maneuverability) we've got the next war won.



Firejet



Flying oval



Black, night
Houston by
be a
gray looking

11

~~HEA~~
HE 4
See 35A

UFO Report from Mr. ██████████

SAFIS-3, Major Tacker
AFCIN-4E

24 March 1958

for 1
AFCIN-4E4/Capt Gregory/kmo/6-9216

1. Subject report has been reviewed. There appears to be three unrelated incidents involved.
2. Suggestions upon which to base a reply:
 - a. Air Force receives a number of reports from amateur astronomers or persons having telescopes who ask the Air Force to explain or identify objects or lights which appear strange to them.
 - b. Without photographs and accurate azimuths, elevations, bearings, etc., coupled with exact times, identification based on the observer's own description is difficult, if not impossible. Amateur and professional astronomers and sky observers almost invariably provide this data without request. Mr. ██████████ only provides general directions, if at all.
 - c. January 3 sighting: We believe object was a bolide - a number were reported during that period.

OFFICE OF RECORD
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
FILE CLASS

Cover Sheet, Cont #1, Subj: UFO Report from Mr. [REDACTED], dtd 24 Mar 58, to SAFFIS-3 (Cont'd)

INITIALS	
DATE	
LEAD	
REPLY	

- d. January 12 sighting: We have no report of any burning object in this area. If, as source states, all the neighbors observed the incident, why was his query not addressed to his local police, firement, press, etc., instead of to the Air Force through the editor of TIME magazine.
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- f. Although not conclusively identified as yet, data provided will be used as part of our continuous study of aerial phenomena, followed with a statement of appreciation for reporting.

1 Incl:
 Ltr from Mr. [REDACTED]
 dtd 17 Jan

NP
 NICHOLAS POST
 Assistant Deputy *3/29/58*
 AFCE-4E

OFFICE OF RECORD

OFFICIAL FILE COPY
 FILE COPY

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 12 Jan 58	2. LOCATION Houston, Texas		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>afternoon</u> GMT _____	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
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7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION - - -	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE stationary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Ground</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One of three rpts in letter to TIME Magazine forwarded for analysis. This obj was on the ground & burning.		11. COMMENTS Not a flying obj. Should have been rptd to police or fire dept.	

Editor Time
New York

Dear Sir:

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On the night of January 3, my wife and I, upon returning from a visit to a bookstore, observed a star-like object slowly descending near Deneb in the constellation Cygnus in the low North-western sky. This object, with the brilliancy of a first magnitude star, dimmed as it sank, becoming barely visible when it disappeared from view behind treetops. It did not appear to be a burning object, such as a gas-filled weather balloon. It definitely was not a shooting star or a meteor.

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↓ behind treetops across street from us.

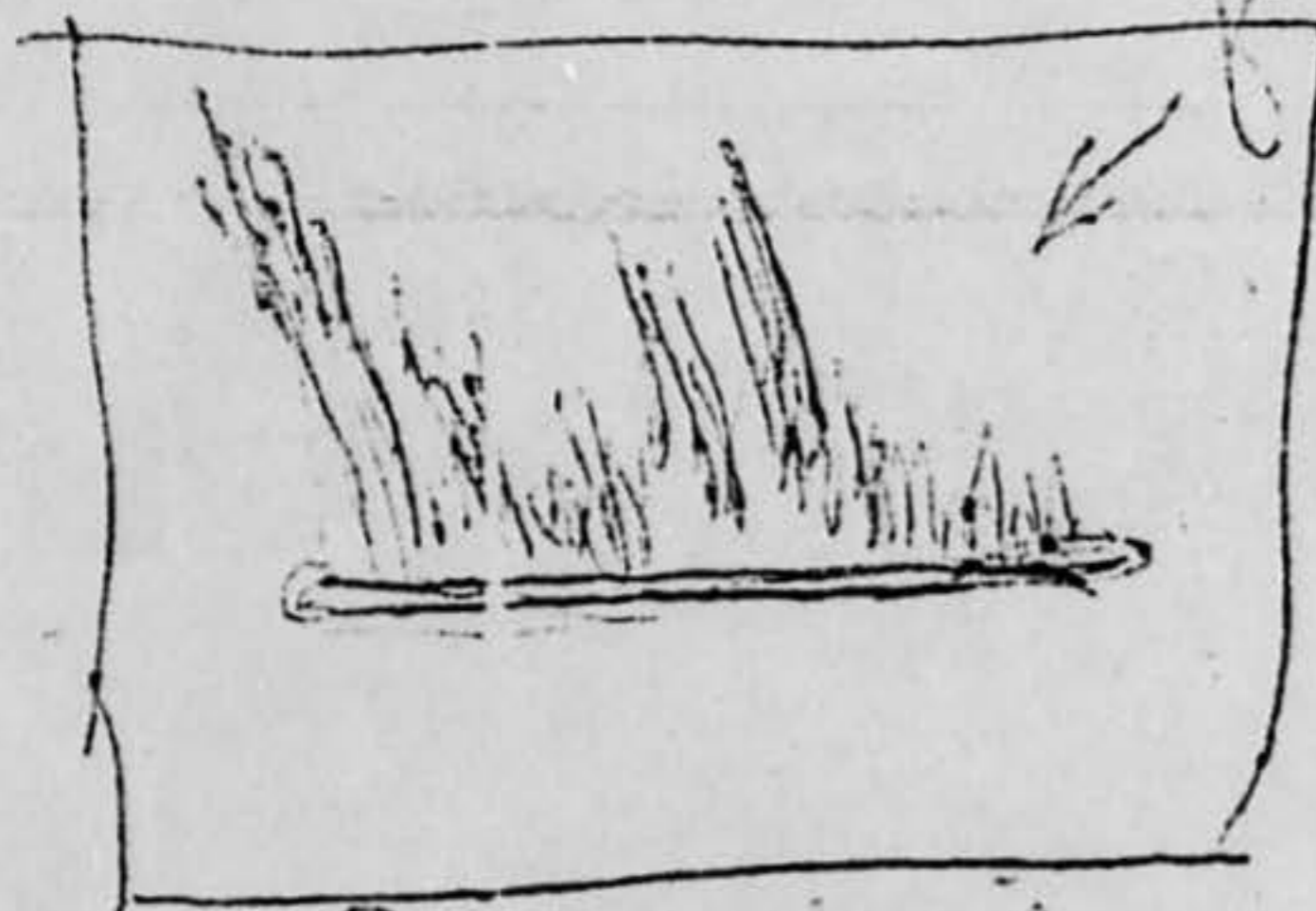
Sam Johnson
1217 Broadway
Houston 6, Tex

404
January 17
1956

^{to} These two celestial occurrences should have been sufficient
but hold us, but ~~mean~~ no:

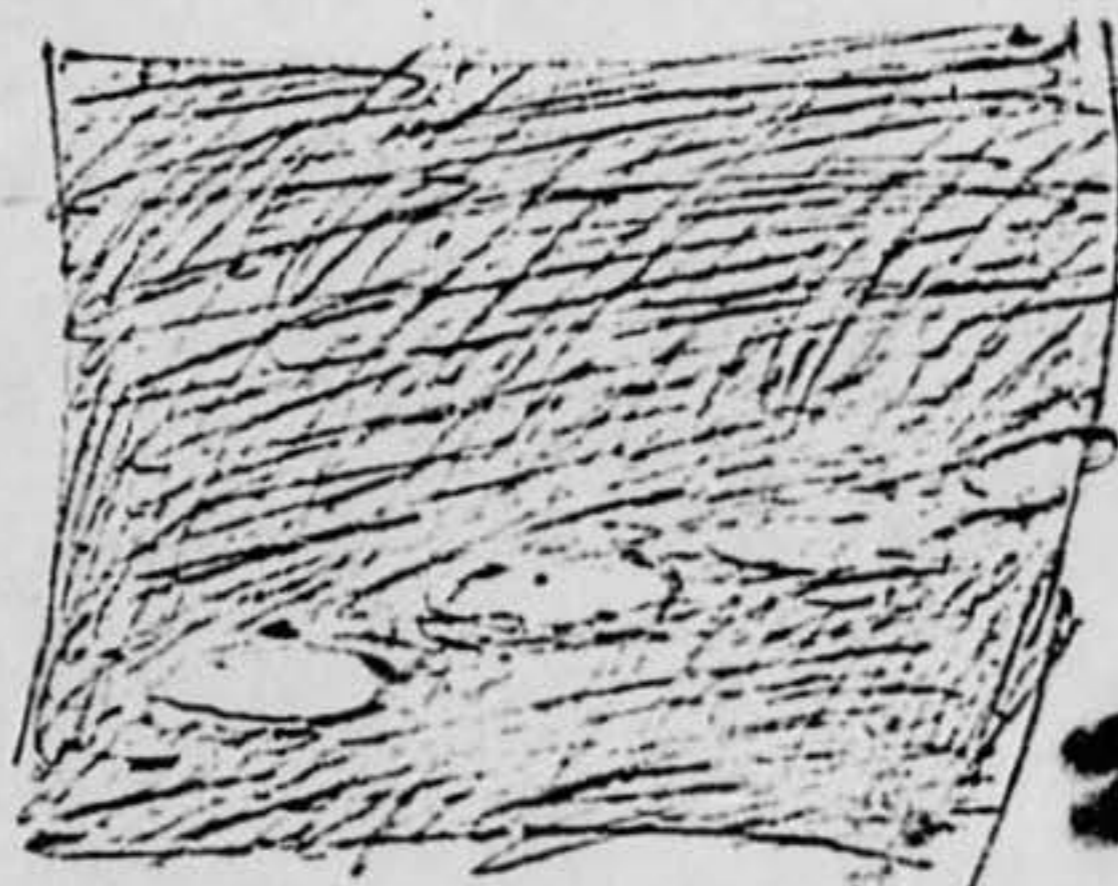
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Every object

*flames
(no smoke visible)*



black, o

Flying ovals, gray looking

AFTERNOON 12TH

COVER SHEET

SUSPENSE

ORIGIN OF BASIC

DATE

ASSIGNED BY

DATE

TYPE

NO.

SUBJECT

UFO Report from Mr. [REDACTED]

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
	OIN-1			OIN-2			OIN-3			OIN-4			AFOIN	
	OIN-1X			OIN-2X			OIN-3X			OIN-4X			AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X	
													AFOIN-X1	
													AFOIN-X2	
													AFOIN-X3	
													AFOIN-X4	
													AFOIN-X5	
													AFOIN-Z	
													CABLES	
													FILE	
													DISPATCH	

TO: SAFIS-3, Major Tacker

DATE 24 March 1958

FROM: AFCIN-4E

COMMENT NO. James C. Tolson

COMMENTS (Use reverse, if necessary) AFCIN-4E4/Capt Gregory/kmo/6-9216

1. Subject report has been reviewed. There appears to be three unrelated incidents involved.
2. Suggestions upon which to base a reply:
 - a. Air Force receives a number of reports from amateur astronomers or persons having telescopes who ask the Air Force to explain or identify objects or lights which appear strange to them.
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