

2 Feb 1953
Victorville Calif.

gun camera
eval. - Balloon

Rob Mercer

Photo Taken March 17, 1953
Speed Graphic Camera Lens F-4.7
2.30 P.M. Film Super XX
Shutter Speed 100
Lens Opening F.22

2. Ra Hoffman



evaluated as flaw in the film
submitted as a UFO
by R. A. Hoffman

17 March 1953

Venezuela/Puerto Ordaz

Rob Mercer

~~SECRET~~

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~



IMA

~~SECRET~~



Date: Summer (June) 1953

Location: Muskogee, Oklahoma

Evaluation: Other (HOAX)

Rob Mercer

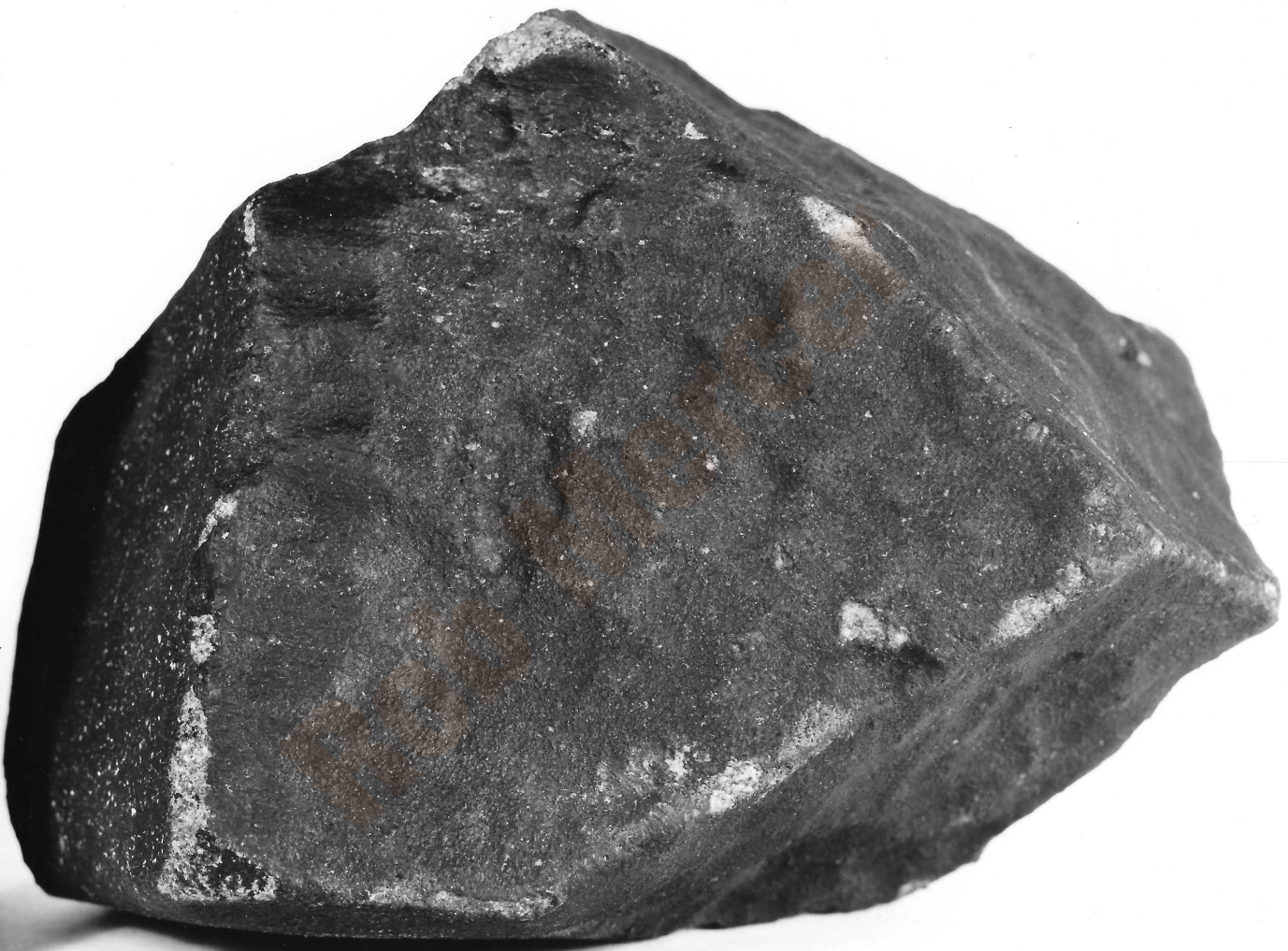




7 July 1953
Atlanta, Ga.
Shared Monkey

Rob Mercer

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



18 72 76 80 84 88 92 96 100 104 108 112 116 120 124 128 132 136 140 144 148 152 156 160 164 168 172 176 180 184 188 192 196 200 204 208 212 216 220 224 228 232 236 240 0 3/16

5

4

3

2

1

0

30 Nov 54 Sylacauga Okla
meteorite

Rob Mercer

1. DATE 1954-1956	2. LOCATION Shreveport, Louisiana		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>Day</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 - - - - -	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS two	9. COURSE - - - - -	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Birds</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Letter received in 1958 of sighting of objects photographed during the period of 1945-1956.		11. COMMENTS Photo analysis shows objects to be birds on rise, probably pheasants.	



Other: Birds (Pheasants)
54-56 (See 54 folder)
Shreveport, La.

Rob Mercer

1 Feb 54	2. LOCATION Puente, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>1015</u> GMT <u>011815Z</u>	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 <u>PHOTO</u>	6. SOURCE civilian		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 30 seconds	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Bellshape, silver fuzzy edges - floating motion. Alleged residue drifted down & was gather up in jar. Report of witness indicates clear sky.		11. COMMENTS Little, if any, residue in jar - one small strand. Lab reports say substance most nearly like cobwebb. Association between object in air residue not established. Filters, chemicals plants, not checked. Migrations malfunctions of industrial spiders possibility, also a/c a possibility. <u>CLOUD SEEDING</u>	

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

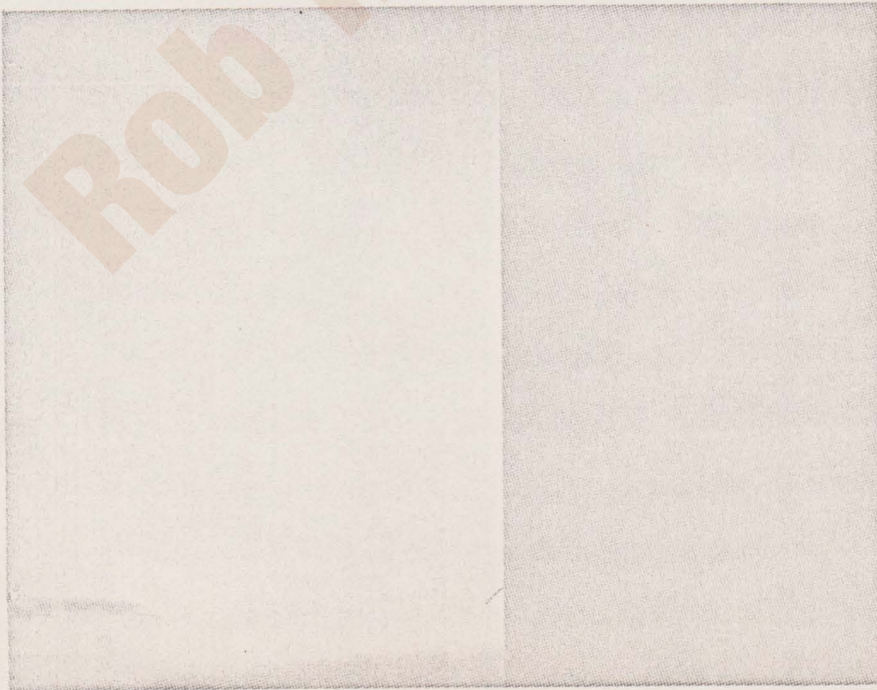
1. DATE - TIME GROUP 1 February 1954 01/2000Z	2. LOCATION Tuscaloosa, Alabama
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 6	INSUFFICIENT DATA
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Lights hovering around cosmic research balloon. Photographs were taken. Navy is making analysis of negative.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air Visual	Photo from down camera on balloon received. No report from Navy and photos from a/c not received. Insufficient data for this reason.
7. COURSE	
8. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	



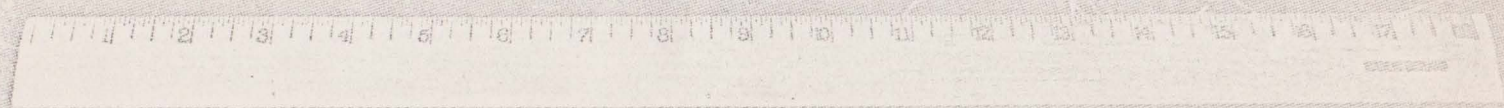
PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

<p>1. DATE 7 Mar 54</p>	<p>2. LOCATION Mobile, Alabama</p>		<p>12. CONCLUSIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon</p>
<p>3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1130 AM-CST GMT 07/1730</p>	<p>4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft</p>
<p>5. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos received <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>6. SOURCE military</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical</p>
<p>7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION two hours</p>	<p>8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one</p>	<p>9. COURSE east</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown</p>
<p>10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Appeared as a balloon. White and translucent. White streamer hanging from bottom of obj. Obj at about 50,000'. Drifted East at about 20 mph.</p> <p>(FILM IN SPECIMEN FILE)</p>			<p>11. COMMENTS Photo's reveal apparant brilliant blob of light. All sources believe obj to have been a balloon reflecting sun light.</p>

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26)



1. DATE - TIME GROUP 26 Apr 54/1600	2. LOCATION MILDENHALL, ENGLAND
3. SOURCE military	10. CONCLUSION RADAR TRACKING DEVICE
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ground visual	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS. Hollow Aluminum sphere. 16" in diameter. Pieces of balloon attached to object. Trademark "Made in England" appeared on balloon. OSI, United Kingdom believe this object to be a tracking target used by some radar station in England. ATIC concurs in this evaluation.
7. COURSE floating to earth	
8. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (6 objects) <input type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE XXX <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	



48062 3910ABG 28 APR 54 OSI INVESTIGATION

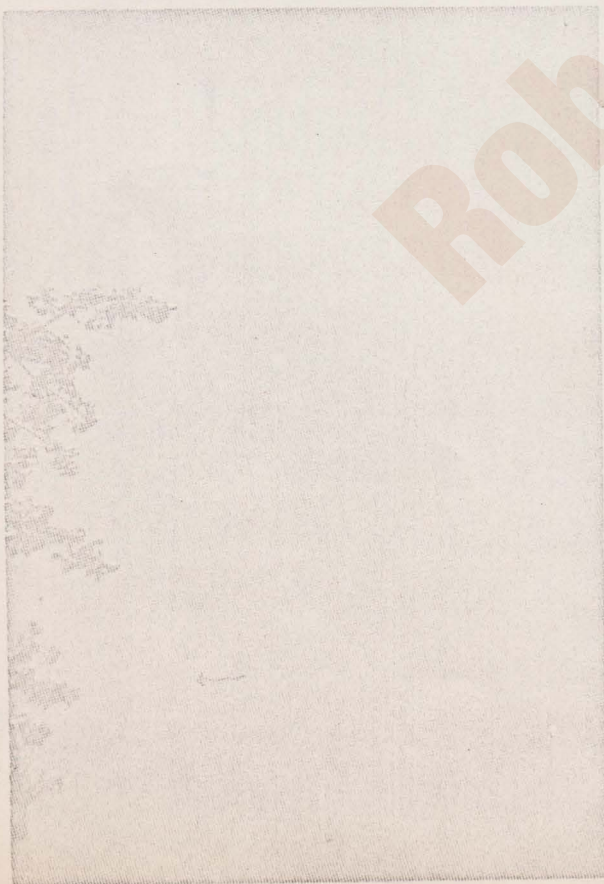
Rob Mercer



480G1 3910ABG 28APR54 OSI INVESTIGATION

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

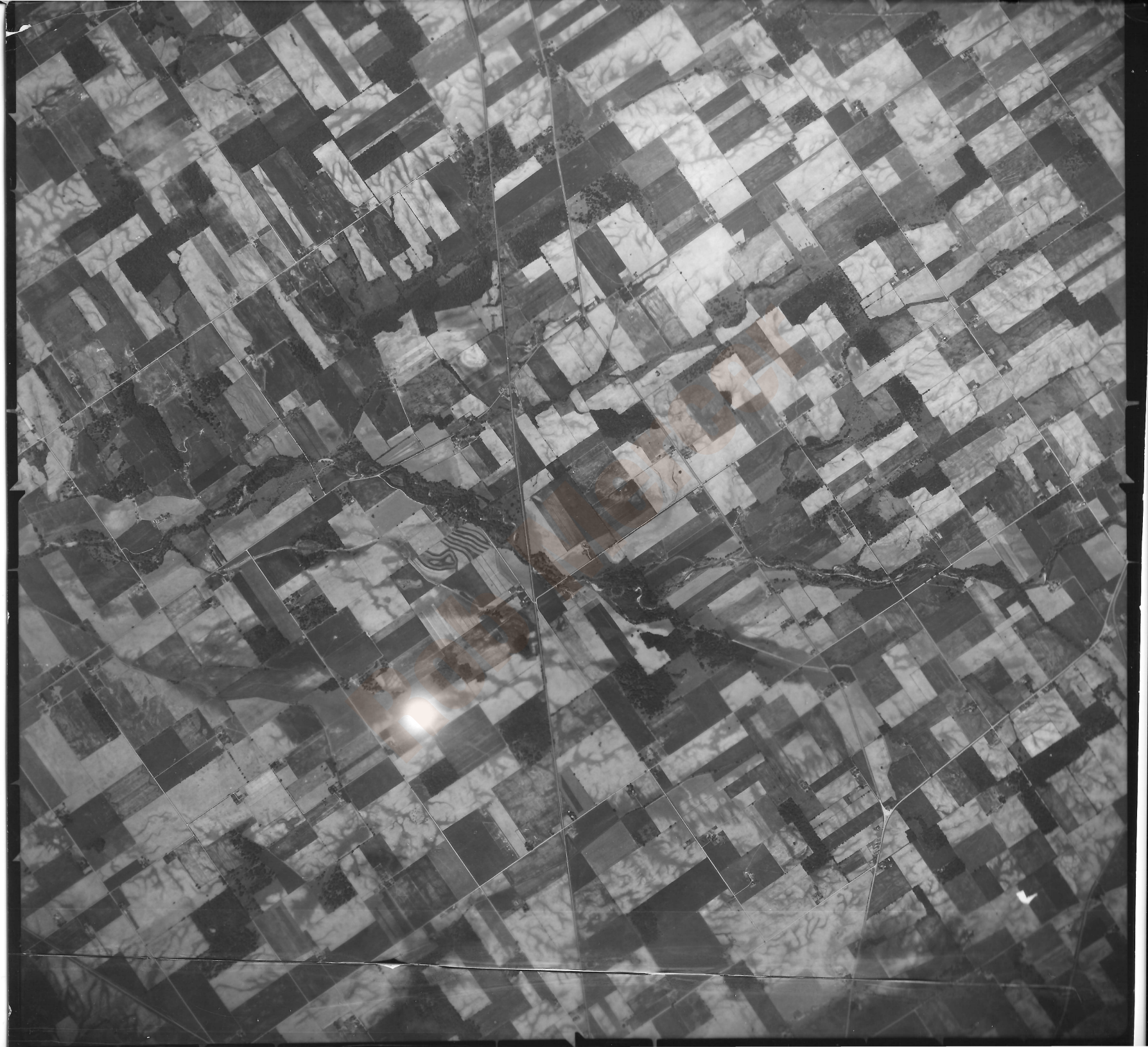
<p>1. DATE - TIME GROUP 24 May 1954 24/2300Z</p>	<p>2. LOCATION Chicago, Illinois</p>
<p>3. SOURCE Civilian</p>	<p>10. CONCLUSION INSUFFICIENT DATA</p>
<p>4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1</p>	
<p>5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 minutes</p>	<p>11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Possible balloon. Tube like silvery projectile. Changed color</p>
<p>6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual</p>	<p>Photos inconclusive. Insufficient data for analysis</p>
<p>7. COURSE SE</p>	
<p>8. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	



rm may b



Rob Mercer



Rich
RICHMOND, INDIANA

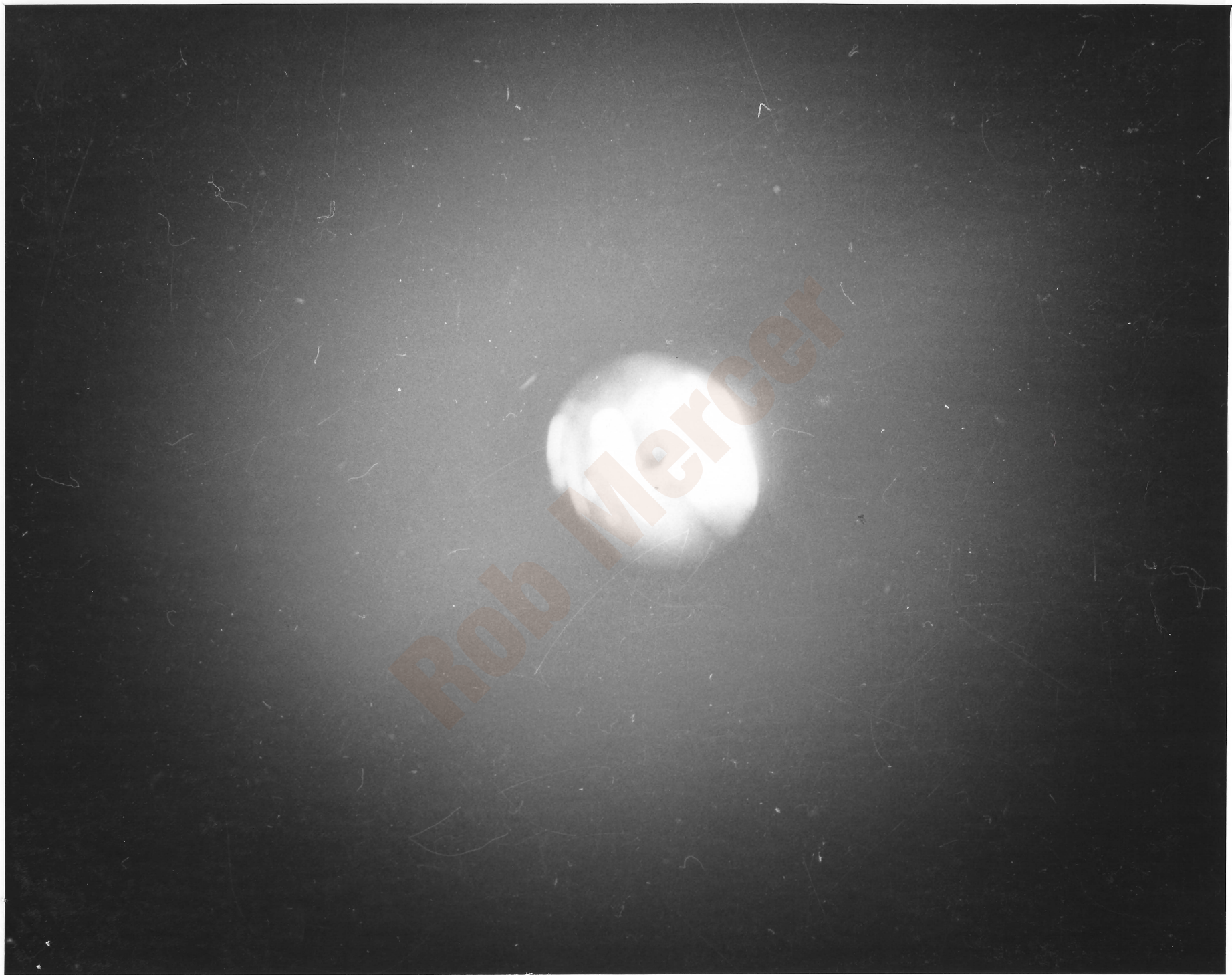
24 MAY 1954

At 1225 (EST) on 24 May 1954, an Air Force Major, flying a photographic mapping mission near Richmond, Indiana, observed and photographed what appeared to be a large, high-intensity light moving below his aircraft. The light traveled a distance of six miles over the ground at a speed twice that of the aircraft.

Intensive studies of the photographs were made. The studies indicated that the light was not a material object.

Extensive investigations, exploring all possible clues and avenues of approach to the probable nature of the object were made. The ground under both the path taken by the aircraft and the object were examined with a fine tooth comb. Photographs were made of the area for a study of ground characteristics or other clues. Aircraft flights, radar units and other operations were immediately checked carefully, with negative results.

The data was submitted to a panel of scientists and specialists, which included astronomers, meteorologists, and a physicist. It was concluded that the sighting was a very rare aerial phenomena caused by the reflection of the sun's rays upon an ice-crystal platellete formation.



June 1954

Morrisville Ill. - Astro (S/P)
Mustoge Okla. - Hoop
Incolwood Ill. - Astro (S/P)

Rob Mercer

1. DATE 30 July 1954	2. LOCATION Mountain View Missouri		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes PHOTOS <input 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 - - -	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 2	9. COURSE - - -	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Photos of two objects forwarded to ATIC for evaluation. Source is Bucky Nelson (Contacted)		11. COMMENTS Source has admitted contactee stories are a hoax.	



Hoax

30 July 1954

Mountain View, Missouri.

(trip to Venus)

Rob Mercer

1. DATE 15 May 1955	2. LOCATION New York City, New York		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 15/2000Z	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 one & one half minutes	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE North & South	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Hoax</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING As the sources were taking pictures on the roof of a downtown New York City building, one of them noticed an object in the sky which at times had a metallic glint and appeared to be moving north after hovering. Object then returned to original position. Source snapped ten photos of obj but only five were purportedly returned. In photos the obj appears fuzzy, similar to cloud or smoke.		11. COMMENTS At request of ATIC this sighting investigated by this Hq. Investigating officer's opinion is that photos fraudulent. This hq agrees w/conclusion of IO that sighting is hoax. Photos will be forwarded to ATIC upon receipt of AF Form 112 fm ADC publications. 112 on this case states reasons for Hoax evaluation.	

15 May 1955
New York City, N.Y.
Hoax
9 photos

Rob Mercer



Rob Mercer

15 May 1955
N.Y. N.Y.

3.



Rob Mercer



15 May 1955
N. Y., N. Y.

Rob Mercer

Arch. #1

15 May 1955

N. Y., N. Y.

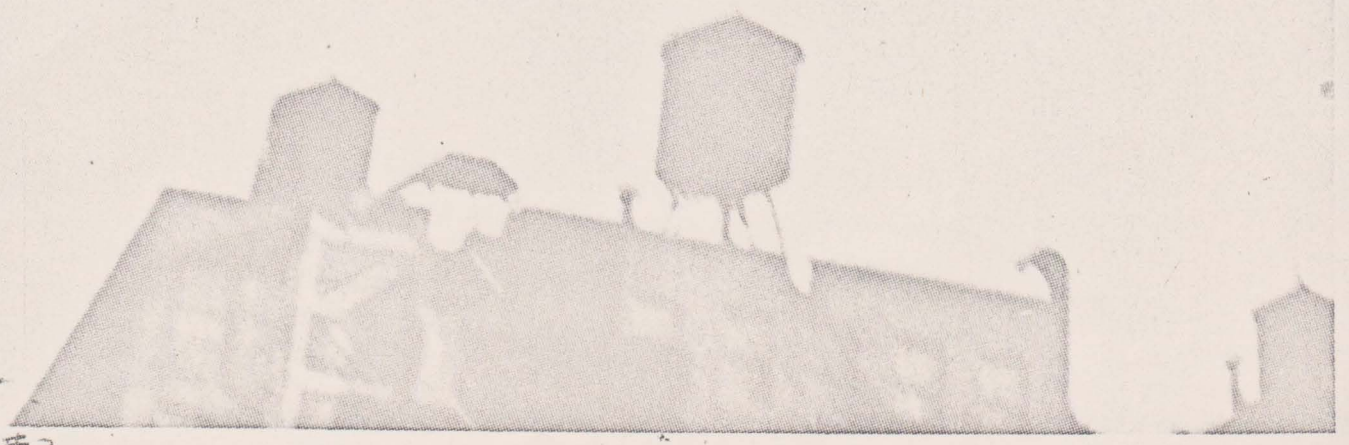
Rob Mercer



Incl. #2

15 May 1955
R. W. Bell
M.P. 21

Rob Mercer



Incl. #3

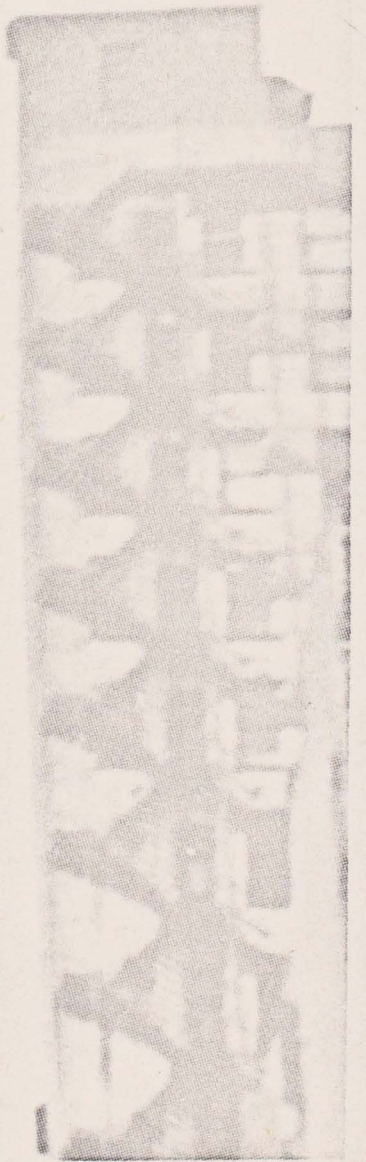
15 May 1955
W. H. J.

Rob Mercer

Encl #4

15. May 1955
N.Y., N.Y.

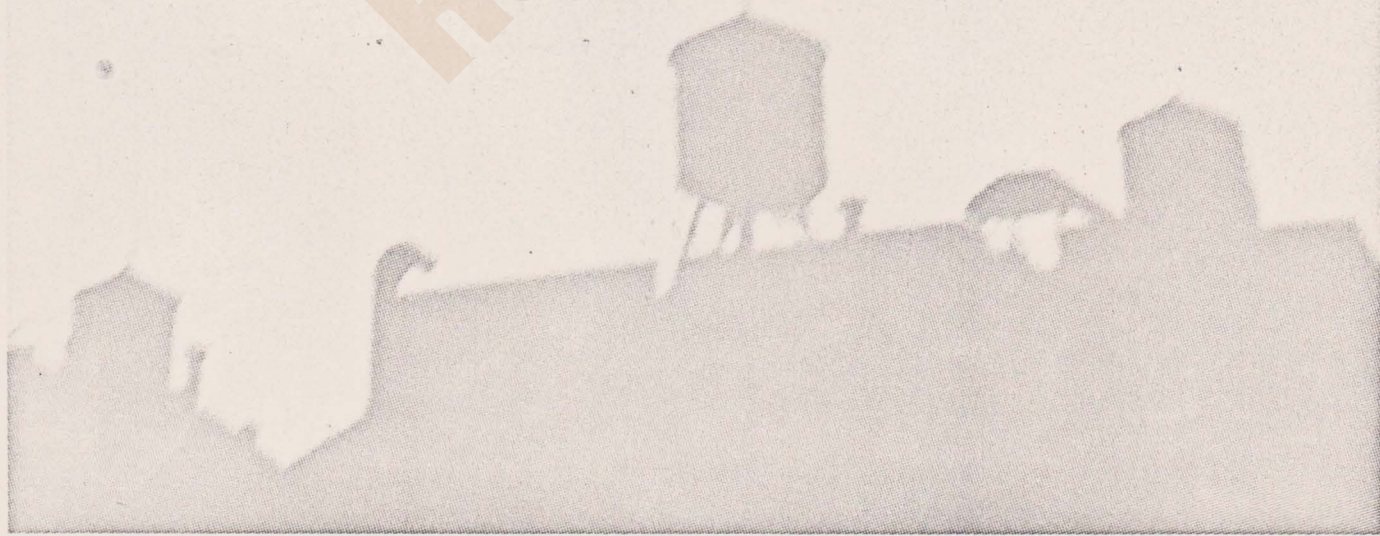
Rob Mercer



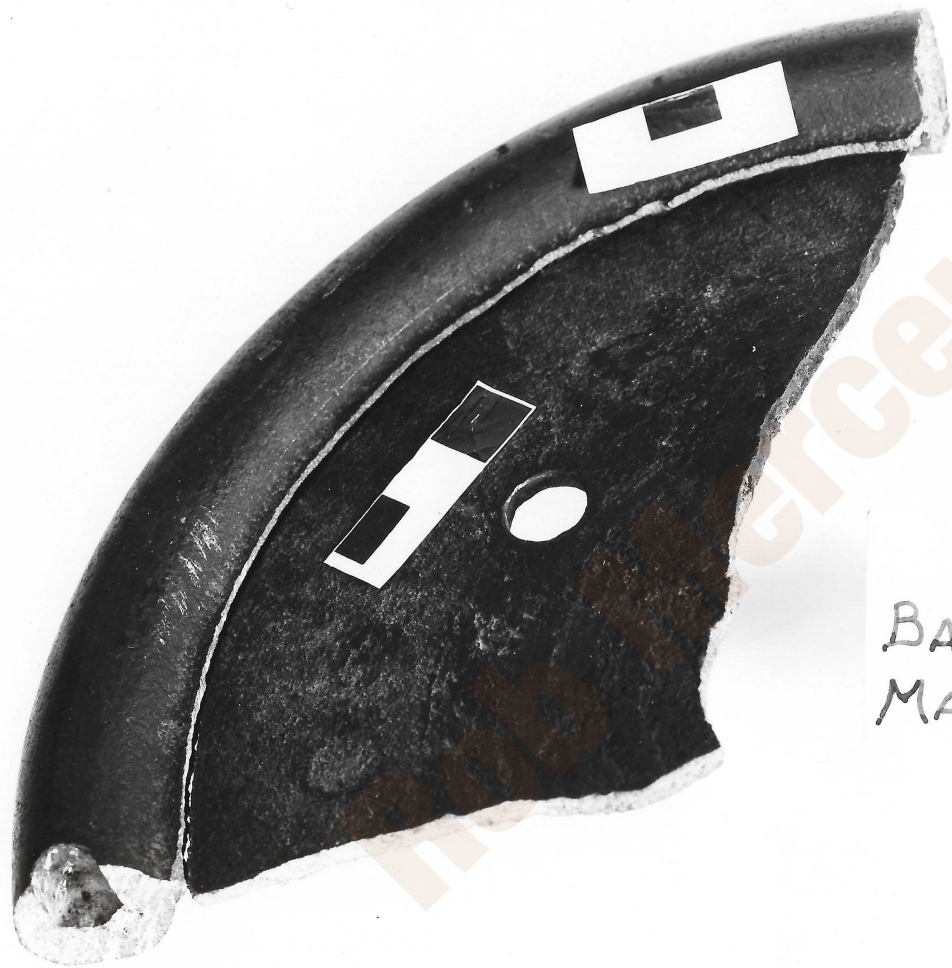
Incl. #5

15 May 1955
A. J. M. J.

Rob Mercer



15 May 1955
F. W. B. Jr.
N.Y.



7 MAY 55
BALTIMORE
MARYLAND

7 May 1955
Baltimore Md.
Valne Wheel.

Rob Mercer



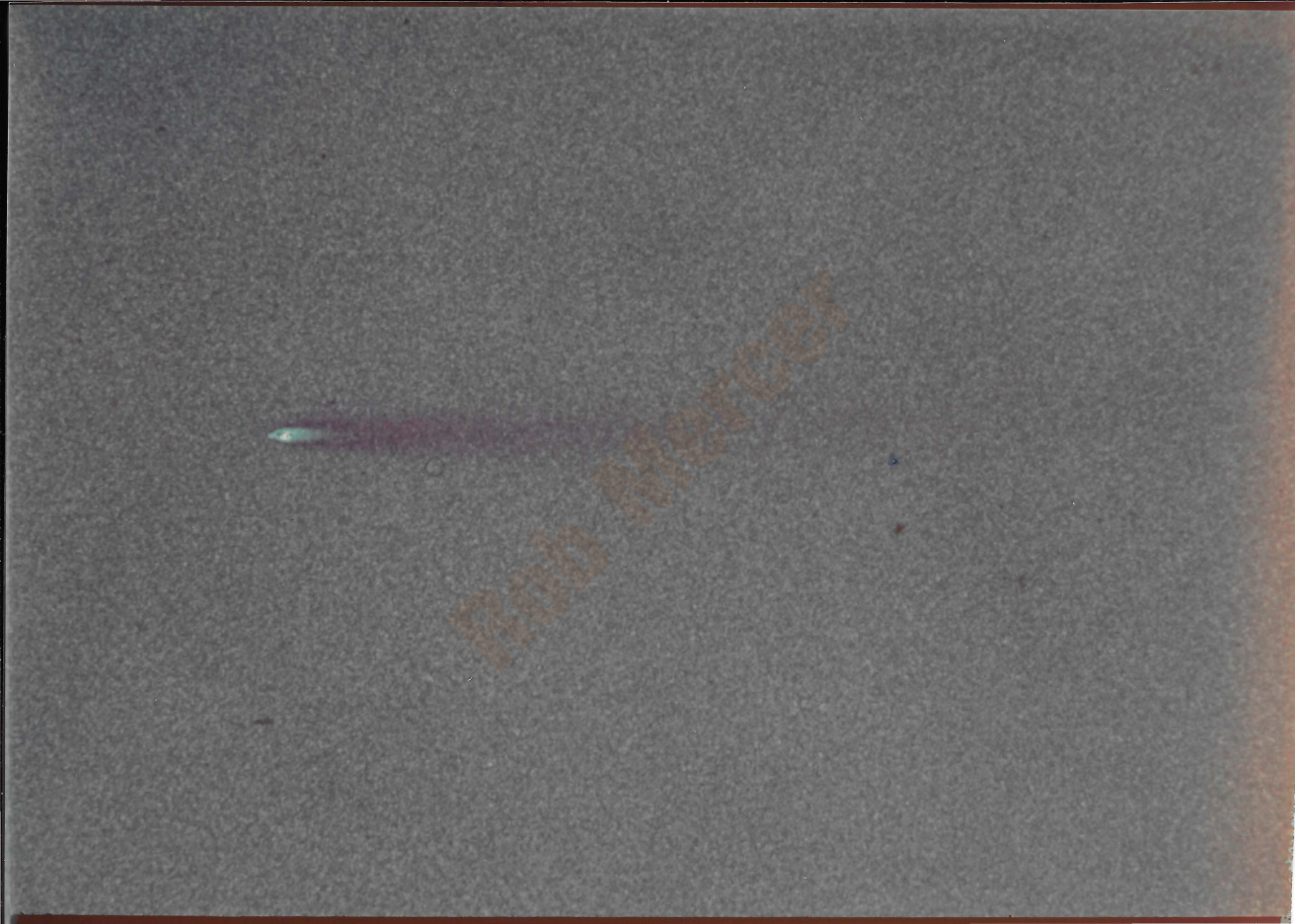
SOURCE: IAPA - SEP 63



Summer (June) 1955
News clipping

all 30 Aug 1955

30 Aug 1955
Old Greenwich, Conn.
Hoap
Erneston Flaw





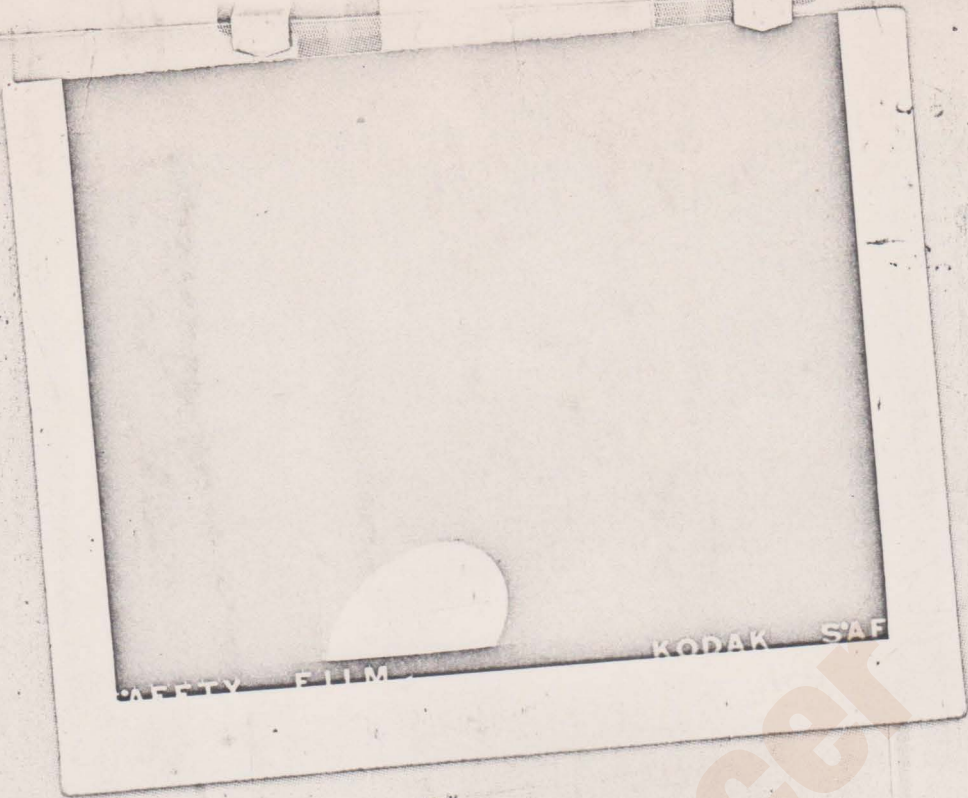
PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE October (?) 1956	2. LOCATION Newington, Connecticut		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 reported	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE not reported	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Letter from youth with photos of UFO taken two years previously.		11. COMMENTS Photos too old and information provided was insufficient to properly evaluate and/or analyze.	



PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 14 October 1956	2. LOCATION Cincinnati, Ohio	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 TX <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 - - -	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE - - - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Internal TX Reflection</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Photos of moon & light submitted for analysis.		11. COMMENTS Photographer taking pictures of moon through telescope. One photo not of moon. This was attributed to off-axis, distorted & overexposed, (probably not faked) shot when the telescope was pointing near the moon giving rise to internal reflections. Camera offset in TX. (Analysis by JAH)



14 Oct 56
Circi, Ohio

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE (OK 2 NOV) ? 19 October 1956	2. LOCATION <u>Bostonia, California</u>		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>Hoax</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>2100 hrs (PST)</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		
5. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE <u>Civilian</u>		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION <u>10 - 20 min (photo exposure)</u>	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS <u>1</u>	9. COURSE <u>N/A</u>	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING In report given to FBI, source stated that as part of her photography course, she fixed a camera on the ground to get a "time-exposure" of the moon. Camera was left "open" for 10-20 minutes, then shutter closed. Upon development of the film a saucer-like object was found over a tree in the prints. Source claims she has no knowledge how the object appeared in the film.		11. COMMENTS Enlargements and different density regions of the prints indicate that there was a "break" in the exposure. The position of the moon and its track, which was shifted to a 45° angle from the original track, was the clue. Apparently a partial track of the moon was made; the shutter closed and a light fixture in a dark ceiling (indoors) was photographed; and an attempt to return the camera to its original position was made. Evidence of "dodging" and "burning in" of the photography in question is also evident.	



→
⋮

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⋮

(Dinner in)

→
→

not a line ceiling?
←

Mercer

19 Oct 56
Bostonia, Calif

Rob Mercer

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE <u>24 January 1956</u>	2. LOCATION <u>Beltsville, Maryland (Photo)</u>		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT <u>25/0207Z</u>	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE <u>Civilian (14 yrs old)</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION <u>thirty three minutes</u>	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS <u>one</u>	9. COURSE <u>see photo</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING <u>See attached photo and AF Form 112. Similar to fluorescent light.</u>		11. COMMENTS <u>It is the opinion of the 4602d AISS that the object on the attached photo is a time exposure of the moon. During the time of the exposure, the moon traversed the arc depicted on the photo, Note the curvature of the object, the appearance of a spherical image at each end of the obj, and the size of the spherical image is compared to the size of the roof of the photo.</u>	



Rob Mercer

24 Jan 56

Betterville Maryland

Rob Mercer

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE ? May 1956	2. LOCATION Boston, Massachusetts		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
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u> N/A </u> GMT <u> </u>	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
5. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Developing Flaws
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION N/A	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS two	9. COURSE N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Developing Flaws <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Photos submitted showing two objects which were not seen when photos were taken.		11. COMMENTS After extensive review and analysis it was found that "objects" are the result of developing flaws.	



7 May 56
Boston Mass.



Rob Mercer

19 July 1956

San Bernardino
Calif

boat

Michael Savage

Rob Mercer



19

6 Sept 56

Love Bay & Portland Oregon

Rob Mercer

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 6 September 1956	2. LOCATION Between Coos Bay & Portland, Oregon		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>1500</u> GMT <u>06/2100</u>	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian a/line passenger		<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 NE (?)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other photo flaw <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Source took a number pf pictures fm airline at 27,000 ft. Discovered elliptical object w/tiny perforations along its long axis. In rpt insists it is space ship & requested if U.S. had a/c of that description in area.		11. COMMENTS Source sent UFO question-naire which source refused to return & he claimed negative of print lost. Insisted AF give any info if rocket ship in area at time of photo. Obj concluded to be emulsi- flaw caused by sticking prints during developing/Brownie Camera cannot stop fast action. Has Meniscus lens, 1/25 shutter speed, & F.11 stop. No UFO rpt in area on this date fm either military or airline a/c. May be attempted hoax.	



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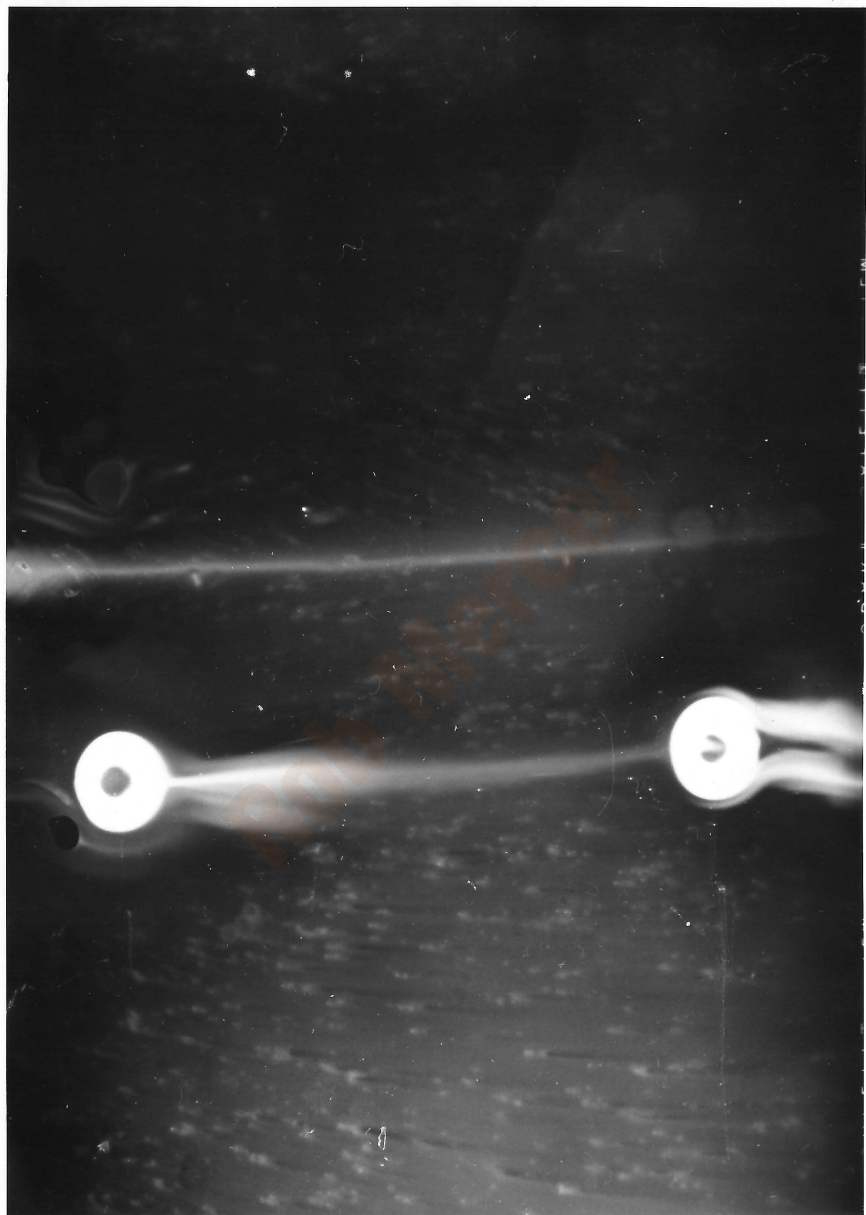
Date: 16 October 1957

Location: Alamogordo, New Mexico

Evaluation: Other (LENTICULAR CLOUD)

as a lenticular
cloud

D-1





D R A F T

30 November 1959

1. Background.

a. On Wednesday, 27 May 1959, Major Tacker of SAFIS-3 called AFCIN-4E4g and informed Major Friend that Congressman Jennings had contacted SAFIS and requested information concerning an UFO sighting in Wise-Coeburn, Virginia area. A check was made of the UFO files and it was found that no reports had been received from Wise-Coeburn area. Hqs., 1006th AISS was contacted and was requested to investigate these sightings. The only available information was that received via telephone and newspaper articles received from Major Tacker. The information in the newspaper articles indicated a large number of residents in the Wise-Coeburn, Va. area sighted several strange lights and found strips of aluminum foil on the mountains in the area.

b. Detachment 8, 1006th AISS was directed to investigate the subject UFO sightings and contacted AFCIN-4E4g. Due to the fact the detachment was short of personnel, T/Sgt Bolieu of AFCIN-4E4g was directed to assist in the investigation. Friday, 5 June 1959, T/Sgt Bolieu and A/1c Brimacombe of Det 8, 1006th AISS departed Wright-Patterson AFB for Wise-Coeburn, Va area and arrived at Wise, Va. at 2400 on same day.

2. Investigative Efforts.

a. 6 June 1959.

(1) Made an appointment with the Wise County Sheriff for 1315. The county sheriff, Mrs. Estelle Heaberlin, who is also a waitress, had very little information concerning the sightings as she had not seen the objects herself. She stated that she had never heard of a mountain until reports of subject sightings reached her.

(2) Departed Wise, Va. for Coeburn, Va. Contacted Mr. Lewis [redacted], funeral home director, concerning the objects he had observed. (see Tab C) Mr. [redacted] and his family had been seeing strange lights in the area for a number of years. They drive around almost every night looking for them.

(3) Contacted Mr. David Miller of Coeburn, a forest ranger (see TAB A). Mr. [redacted] has observed the objects for about a year, hearing noises like a strong wind blowing through power lines.

b. Sunday, 7 June 1959.

(1) Departed Coeburn for Norton, Va. to look around the area. This area of Virginia has only coal mining industries and there was found to be a large number of coke furnaces burning at all times. They are outdoor furnaces and an orange flame is emitted straight up through the top of the furnaces. They are located west of Coeburn.

(2) Returned to Coeburn and contacted Mr and Mrs John [redacted]. They couldn't remember the date of their sighting, but the sighting itself was still vivid in their minds (see TAB G). Their description of the three lights they saw was identical to the railroad right-of-way lights used in this area, except the strange lights were seen through the tops of some trees approximately 10° elevation from eye level. The trees were approximately fifty yards from observer.

c. Monday, 8 June 1959.

(1) Visited the Clinch Valley College located near Wise, Va. However, we could not talk to the individuals concerned with the UFO sightings as they were having an open house party for parents and relatives.

(2) Mr. [] guided the investigators up Sheepprock Mountain to the alleged clearing supposedly made by one of the UFO's. The clearing was reported to have been used during the month of March 1959. By the time the investigators saw it, it had grown up with weeds and the trees had filled out. During the early days of the sighting, it was reported, a large group of people were all over the mountain and had camped in the clearing with camp fires burning. The original reports stated limbs in the outer fringes of the clearing were broken and some brush in the center singed. By the time the local residents got through tramping all over the clearing and probably breaking trees for firewood, it was impossible to tell if the reports were accurate. As of now, the clearing looks like any clearing found in a forest. The three holes found there have also been filled in.

(3) Visited the Lewis [] family at their home. There are two young girls in the family and all members of the family claimed to have seen strange lights almost every night. We got Mrs Estes' description of one seen by them on the night of 5 April 1959 (see TAB C). Later in the evening the investigators drove out on the road toward St. Paul, Va. with the Estes family hoping to see some of the lights they claimed to see. The only lights visible were car, house and star lights.

d. Tuesday, 9 June 1959.

(1) Visited Mrs [] of Tacoma, Va. She was reported to have been with the Estes family on 5 April 1959 (see TAB C).

(2) Drove out to Bull Mountain on the road to St. Paul where Mr. [] claims to see strange lights. The road winds up through the mountains and there are houses in the valleys, and some on the mountain-side among the trees that cannot be seen during the day.

(3) Attended a weekly meeting at the college, held by the Clinch Valley College Astronomy Club. Most of the boys stayed home studying for final examinations; therefore, very little was accomplished. However, we did get a description of a sighting made by Mr. Ronald Wells (see TAB D). While the meeting was in progress, a Mr. J. L. Van Sandt of Johnson City, Tenn. came in. He wanted to talk to Professor Robinson concerning the strange lights in the area.

e. Wednesday, 10 June 1959.

(1) Drove to Norton, Va. to contact Ronald [redacted]. He had the picture taken of one of the objects. Also contacted Mr. Frank [redacted] for his description of an object sighted by him (see TAB F).

(2) Drove to the Clinch Valley College to contact other members of the astronomical club who had witnessed the objects. Contacted Mr. Richard [redacted] and Mr. Millard [redacted] (see TAB D).

(3) Contacted Ray [redacted], a young boy approximately 10-11 years old, concerning an object he had observed (see TAB E).

(4) Drove back to Coeburn and contacted Mr and Mrs William R. [redacted]. The date of their observation was uncertain (see TAB H).

(5) Drove out toward Clintwood, Va. to Caney Ridge where several strange lights were observed by Mr [redacted]. We were with the [redacted] and another young couple. Eventually, the [redacted] family showed up. While we were there a bright white flash was observed. One investigator said it was a car, but one of the women claimed it was above the mountain. The investigator pointed out that the mountain in question was fairly hard to distinguish from the dark sky, but she still insisted the light was above the mountain. The investigator was sure he had momentarily caught a glimpse of a red tail light at the same time the white light appeared. He suggested they keep watch to the left of the original sighting, and after about two

or three minutes a car could be seen rounding a curve from right to left. Another light was observed which disappeared and then seemed to reappear at another location. The investigators thought that someone had probably gone to bed as it was very late, and some neighbor of the first had come home. This theory was just laughed at. To the investigators, it had the appearance of a distant house light. After watching in other areas, everyone returned home.

f. Thursday, 11 June 1959.

(1) Drove to Clintwood to contact Mr. Paul [redacted]. He was very difficult to locate and when we finally located him, he didn't have very long before going back to school (see TAB E).

(2) Drove to Haysi to contact Mr. [redacted] er. Mr. [redacted] er did not live in Haysi and investigators had to drive back toward Clintwood. Source lives south of Haysi several miles (see TAB B).

(3) Drove to High Knob which is situated approximately 10 miles southwest of Coeburn. It is a recreation area in a national forest. The trees in this area are thick and tall this time of year, making it impossible to see anywhere but up.

(4) Returned to Coeburn for the evening. At approximately 2300, a Mr. Ralph Rasnick, a newspaper reporter, visited the investigators and asked for information concerning the sightings. We could not give the information requested and Mr. Rasnick was so informed. As he had observed some of the strange lights we asked him for his description (see TAB F).

g. Friday, 12 June 1959.

(1) Drove to Darwin along Caney Ridge. Contacted several people who live in the area concerning the unusual lights Mr. [redacted] claims to have seen. No one in the area had observed anything out of the ordinary.

(2) Talked to several people in Coeburn, including the Coeburn police; no new information could be learned.

b. Saturday, 13 June 1959.

(1) Visited Mr. Charles [redacted], who lives on the outskirts of Coeburn. Mr. Bemben gave a description of two separate sightings (see TABS A&E)

(2) Was visited by Mr. Sidney Miller, an Army Reserve 1st Lt and a law student at Baltimore, Md. He had heard of the strange lights and drove to Coeburn to look around. He said he had talked to several people and went out one night with Mr. [redacted]. He said they saw a light and Mr. [redacted] declared there were no roads or houses where the light was. Mr. Miller said he went to the area the next day and saw houses among the trees and some roads in the area where the lights were seen. Mr. Miller said he had been up to the clearing on Sheeprock Mountain and found some ground under the brush that was charred. He was asked if it could have been from the camp fires that had been built there. He had no answer. He told the investigators of two people who saw something during the first of May. After about two hours he left.

i. Sunday, 14 June 1959.

(1) Drove to Toms Creek, Va. to contact the people who were reported to have seen a strange light. All that could be learned was that a woman by the name of Shirley saw a momentary light travel across the sky.

3. Evaluation of Witnesses:

- a. Name - David W. [redacted]
Age - 23
Occupation - Forest Warden
Education - 9 years
Evaluation - E3

Most of the adult population in and around Coeburn, Va. does not have a very high opinion of Mr. [redacted]. He appeared to try to impress the investigators with his importance, and especially his prowess in outwitting the game wardens. Mr. [redacted] also turned over to the Clinch Valley College a rock that he claimed was a meteorite. He claimed to have seen it fall, and that it was still steaming when he went to pick it up. The investigators looked it over and although it was heavy for its size, it had the appearance of a rock found almost anywhere. It had sharp flat places and pieces could be broken off by hand. In view of the above, Mr. Miller is considered an unreliable witness.

- b. Name - Charles K. [redacted]
Age - 20
Occupation - Student and part time employee
Education - 2 years college
Evaluation - C2

Mr. [redacted] appears to be an ambitious young man and is well liked by everyone. He belongs to the Cumberland Astronomical Society, an organization that is open to anyone in the area who is interested in astronomy. Mr. [redacted] is considered a reliable individual, but only a fairly reliable witness.

- c. Name - Jackie C. [redacted]
Age - 18
Occupation - Student
Education - 2 years college
Evaluation - C2

Mr. [redacted] appeared to be of average intelligence, with no outstanding qualities apparent. Mr. [redacted] also is a member of the Cumberland Astronomical Society.

- d. Name - Mrs. [redacted]
Age - Unknown
Occupation - Housewife
Education - Unknown
Evaluation - F5

Mrs [redacted] conversation indicated she was fairly well educated. However, her close association with the [redacted] family has probably led her to over-emphasize things she cannot readily explain.

- e. Name - Lewis [redacted]
Age - 47
Occupation - Funeral Home Director
Education - High School
Evaluation - E4

Mr. [redacted] claims he has been seeing strange objects in the area for the last 10 years. Most of the adult population in the area consider Mr. [redacted] a crack-pot. He takes his family, and anyone else that wants to ride along, on a saucer hunting trip almost every night. They take a flash camera and binoculars with them. They claim they see something almost every time they go out. It was learned that Mr. [redacted] receives literature from the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, a private UFO club.

- f. Name - [redacted]
Age - 35
Occupation - Housewife
Education - High School
Evaluation - F4

Mrs. [redacted] appeared to be of average intelligence and emotionally stable. However, she is considered to be in the same category as her husband due to the fact they have been seeing alleged strange objects for so long. She is probably influenced partially by her family. There are two young school children, girls, who appear to be real fanatics about the lights.

- g. Name - Millard [redacted]
Age - 20
Occupation - Student and part time draftsman
Education - College
Evaluation - C2

Mr. [redacted] is the president of the Cumberland Astronomical Society which is only a few months old. Mr. [redacted] has no experience in astronomy, however. Mr. [redacted] stated that almost every time one of these strange lights was seen, an aircraft had gone by in the same location prior to, or just after, the sightings. Mr. [redacted] was very cooperative and was instrumental in contacting other individuals. Due to the relative inexperience of Mr. [redacted], he is considered to be only a fairly reliable witness.

- h. Name - Ronald A. [redacted]
Age - 16
Occupation - Student
Education - 11 years
Evaluation - C3

Mr. [redacted] is a young man very much interested in science. From the appearance of his bedroom, he spends a lot of time reading scientific

literature and experimenting with gadgets. He also has built himself a four inch reflecting telescope. Due to the youth and inexperience of Mr. Wells, he is considered as only a fairly reliable witness.

- i. Name - Richard [redacted]
Age - 20
Occupation - Student
Education - College
Evaluation - C3

Mr. [redacted] is also a member of the Cumberland Astronomical Society. He appeared to be one of the brightest individuals the investigators talked to. However, Mr. [redacted] is considered only fairly reliable due to his relative inexperience.

- j. Name - Paul [redacted]
Age - 20
Occupation - Student
Education - Two years college
Evaluation - C3

It appeared that Mr. [redacted] was an individual looked up to by other people. He acted and appeared older than he actually is. Mr. [redacted] was very helpful in obtaining information relative to the sightings. However, Mr. [redacted] is considered only fairly reliable due to his inexperience.

- k. Name - Ray [redacted]
Age - Approximately 10-11
Occupation - Student
Education - Unknown
Evaluation - E4

Mr. [redacted] is a young boy living with his working mother. He could give very little detail concerning his sighting. Due to his age, he is considered as an unreliable witness.

- l. Name - Frank [redacted]
Age - 17
Occupation - C of C
Education - 10 years
Evaluation - C3

Mr. [redacted] is a Hungarian refugee. He appeared to be a very conscientious individual, eager to learn. Due to his age and probable inexperience as a witness of such phenomena, he is considered only fairly reliable.

- m. Name - Ralph [redacted]
Age - 36
Occupation - Newspaper Reporter
Education - Four years college
Evaluation - B3

Mr. [redacted] visited the investigators in the capacity of a reporter looking for news. He was informed that only SAFIS-3 could give him the desired information, and he was satisfied. He was very cooperative in answering questions asked by the investigators. Due to his experience, Mr. [redacted] is considered usually reliable. However, as an observer of phenomena, he is possibly only fairly reliable.

- n. Name - Mr. & Mrs. John [redacted]
Ages - 57 and 50
Occupation - Tipple worker - Housewife
Education - 9 years
Evaluation - F6

Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] were very cooperative. They could not give very much information concerning their sighting other than they saw three stationary lights through the tree tops.

- o. Name - William [redacted]
Age - 36
Occupation - Insurance salesman
Education - Unknown
Evaluation - F6

Mr. [redacted] stated that he doesn't put much stock in these sightings. He was reluctant to give the investigators information concerning his sighting as he didn't think there was anything to it. He was positive there was a logical explanation for the lights.

4. Analysis and conclusions.

a. The metal strips found in several locations surrounding Coeburn, Va. are identical to one type of chaff used for jamming radar.

b. Due to the time lapse of up to three months between the sightings and the investigation, it is rather difficult to draw a valid conclusion as to the nature of the reported sightings. However, it is the considered opinion of the analyst that several things contributed to these sightings.

- (1) The presence of a large number of open coke ovens in the area.
- (2) The prevailing weather on most of the subject evenings.
- (3) The apparent inability of some witnesses to determine when an automobile was traveling along a road located on top of a ridge.

(4) The inexperience of witnesses with the appearance of astronomical bodies when observed under other than normal atmospheric conditions.

(5) The witnesses were out looking for strange lights, and as will always happen, some were observed. They looked so long and hard that they began seeing lights dance around.

(6) The power of suggestion cannot be discounted as being partly responsible for the sightings.

Rob Mercer

(2) Departed Wise, Va. for Coeburn, Va. Contacted Mr. Lewis C. Estes, funeral home director, concerning the objects he had observed. (see Tab C) Mr. Estes and his family had been seeing strange lights in the area for a number of years. They drive around almost every night looking for them.

(3) Contacted Mr. David Miller of Coeburn, a forest ranger (see TAB A). Mr. Miller has observed the objects for about a year, hearing noises like a strong wind blowing through power lines.

b. Sunday, 7 June 1959.

(1) Departed Coeburn for Norton, Va. to look around the area. This area of Virginia has only coal mining industries and there was found to be a large number of coke furnaces burning at all times. They are outdoor furnaces and an orange flame is emitted straight up through the top of the furnaces. They are located west of Coeburn.

(2) Returned to Coeburn and contacted Mr and Mrs John McCormick. They couldn't remember the date of their sighting, but the sighting itself was still vivid in their minds (see TAB G). Their description of the three lights they saw was identical to the railroad right-of-way lights used in this area, except the strange lights were seen through the tops of some trees approximately 10° elevation from eye level. The trees were approximately fifty yards from observer.

c. Monday, 8 June 1959.

(1) Visited the Clinch Valley College located near Wise, Va. However, we could not talk to the individuals concerned with the UFO sightings as they were having an open house party for parents and relatives.

(2) Mr. Rose guided the investigators up Sheepprock Mountain to the alleged clearing supposedly made by one of the UFO's. The clearing was reported to have been used during the month of March 1959. By the time the investigators saw it, it had grown up with weeds and the trees had filled out. During the early days of the sighting, it was reported, a large group of people were all over the mountain and had camped in the clearing with camp fires burning. The original reports stated limbs in the outer fringes of the clearing were broken and some brush in the center singed. By the time the local residents got through tramping all over the clearing and probably breaking trees for firewood, it was impossible to tell if the reports were accurate. As of now, the clearing looks like any clearing found in a forest. The three holes found there have also been filled in.

(3) Visited the Lewis C. Estes family at their home. There are two young girls in the family and all members of the family claimed to have seen strange lights almost every night. We got Mrs Estes' description of one seen by them on the night of 5 April 1959 (see TAB C). Later in the evening the investigators drove out on the road toward St. Paul, Va. with the Estes family hoping to see some of the lights they claimed to see. The only lights visible were car, house and star lights.

d. Tuesday, 9 June 1959.

(1) Visited Mrs Bade Ramsey of Tacoma, Va. She was reported to have been with the Estes family on 5 April 1959 (see TAB C).

(2) Drove out to Bull Mountain on the road to St. Paul where Mr. Estes claims to see strange lights. The road winds up through the mountains and there are houses in the valleys, and some on the mountain-side among the trees that cannot be seen during the day.

(3) Attended a weekly meeting at the college, held by the Clinch Valley College Astronomy Club. Most of the boys stayed home studying for final examinations; therefore, very little was accomplished. However, we did get a description of a sighting made by Mr. Ronald Wells (see TAB D). While the meeting was in progress, a Mr. J. L. Van Sandt of Johnson City, Tenn. came in. He wanted to talk to Professor Robinson concerning the strange lights in the area.

e. Wednesday, 10 June 1959.

(1) Drove to Norton, Va. to contact Ronald Wells. He had the picture taken of one of the objects. Also contacted Mr. Frank Budda for his description of an object sighted by him (see TAB F).

(2) Drove to the Clinch Valley College to contact other members of the astronomical club who had witnessed the objects. Contacted Mr. Richard Burleson and Mr. Millard Rose (see TAB D).

(3) Contacted Ray Couch, a young boy approximately 10-11 years old, concerning an object he had observed (see TAB E).

(4) Drove back to Coeburn and contacted Mr and Mrs William R. McCall. The date of their observation was uncertain (see TAB H).

(5) Drove out toward Clintwood, Va. to Caney Ridge where several strange lights were observed by Mr Estes. We were with the McCalls and another young couple. Eventually, the Estes family showed up. While we were there a bright white flash was observed. One investigator said it was a car, but one of the women claimed it was above the mountain. The investigator pointed out that the mountain in question was fairly hard to distinguish from the dark sky, but she still insisted the light was above the mountain. The investigator was sure he had momentarily caught a glimpse of a red tail light at the same time the white light appeared. He suggested they keep watch to the left of the original sighting, and after about two

or three minutes a car could be seen rounding a curve from right to left. Another light was observed which disappeared and then seemed to reappear at another location. The investigators thought that someone had probably gone to bed as it was very late, and some neighbor of the first had come home. This theory was just laughed at. To the investigators, it had the appearance of a distant house light. After watching in other areas, everyone returned home.

f. Thursday, 11 June 1959.

(1) Drove to Clintwood to contact Mr. Paul Buchanan. He was very difficult to locate and when we finally located him, he didn't have very long before going back to school (see TAB E).

(2) Drove to Haysi to contact Mr. Jacki Turner. Mr. Turner did not live in Haysi and investigators had to drive back toward Clintwood. Source lives south of Haysi several miles (see TAB B).

(3) Drove to High Knob which is situated approximately 10 miles southwest of Coeburn. It is a recreation area in a national forest. The trees in this area are thick and tall this time of year, making it impossible to see anywhere but up.

(4) Returned to Coeburn for the evening. At approximately 2300, a Mr. Ralph Rasnick, a newspaper reporter, visited the investigators and asked for information concerning the sightings. We could not give the information requested and Mr. Rasnick was so informed. As he had observed some of the strange lights we asked him for his description (see TAB F).

g. Friday, 12 June 1959.

(1) Drove to Darwin along Caney Ridge. Contacted several people who live in the area concerning the unusual lights Mr. Estes claims to have seen. No one in the area had observed anything out of the ordinary.

3. Evaluation of Witnesses:

- a. Name - David W. Miller
Age - 23
Occupation - Forest Warden
Education - 9 years
Evaluation - E3

Most of the adult population in and around Coeburn, Va. does not have a very high opinion of Mr. Miller. He appeared to try to impress the investigators with his importance, and especially his prowess in outwitting the game wardens. Mr. Miller also turned over to the Clinch Valley College a rock that he claimed was a meteorite. He claimed to have seen it fall, and that it was still steaming when he went to pick it up. The investigators looked it over and although it was heavy for its size, it had the appearance of a rock found almost anywhere. It had sharp flat places and pieces could be broken off by hand. In view of the above, Mr. Miller is considered an unreliable witness.

- b. Name - Charles K. Bemben
Age - 20
Occupation - Student and part time employee
Education - 2 years college
Evaluation - C2

Mr. Bemben appears to be an ambitious young man and is well liked by everyone. He belongs to the Cumberland Astronomical Society, an organization that is open to anyone in the area who is interested in astronomy. Mr. Bemben is considered a reliable individual, but only a fairly reliable witness.

- c. Name - Jackie C. Turner
Age - 18
Occupation - Student
Education - 2 years college
Evaluation - C2

Mr. Turner appeared to be of average intelligence, with no outstanding qualities apparent. Mr. Turner also is a member of the Cumberland Astronomical Society.

- d. Name - Mrs. Bad Ramsey
Age - Unknown
Occupation - Housewife
Education - Unknown
Evaluation - F5

Mrs Ramsey's conversation indicated she was fairly well educated. However, her close association with the Estes family has probably led her to over-emphasize things she cannot readily explain.

- e. Name - Lewis C. Estes
Age - 47
Occupation - Funeral Home Director
Education - High School
Evaluation - E4

Mr. Estes claims he has been seeing strange objects in the area for the last 10 years. Most of the adult population in the area consider Mr. Estes a crack-pot. He takes his family, and anyone else that wants to ride along, on a saucer hunting trip almost every night. They take a flash camera and binoculars with them. They claim they see something almost every time they go out. It was learned that Mr. Estes receives literature from the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, a private UFO club.

- f. Name - Maybercy M. Estes
Age - 35
Occupation - Housewife
Education - High School
Evaluation - F4

Mrs. Estes appeared to be of average intelligence and emotionally stable. However, she is considered to be in the same category as her husband due to the fact they have been seeing alleged strange objects for so long. She is probably influenced partially by her family. There are two young school children, girls, who appear to be real fanatics about the lights.

- g. Name - Millard F. Rose
Age - 20
Occupation - Student and part time draftsman
Education - College
Evaluation - C2

Mr. Rose is the president of the Cumberland Astronomical Society which is only a few months old. Mr. Rose has no experience in astronomy, however. Mr. Rose stated that almost every time one of these strange lights was seen, an aircraft had gone by in the same location prior to, or just after, the sightings. Mr. Rose was very cooperative and was instrumental in contacting other individuals. Due to the relative inexperience of Mr. Rose, he is considered to be only a fairly reliable witness.

- h. Name - Ronald A. Wells
Age - 16
Occupation - Student
Education - 11 years
Evaluation - C3

Mr. Wells is a young man very much interested in science. From the appearance of his bedroom, he spends a lot of time reading scientific

literature and experimenting with gadgets. He also has built himself a four inch reflecting telescope. Due to the youth and inexperience of Mr. Wells, he is considered as only a fairly reliable witness.

- i. Name - Richard C. Burleson
Age - 20
Occupation - Student
Education - College
Evaluation - C3

Mr. Burleson is also a member of the Cumberland Astronomical Society. He appeared to be one of the brightest individuals the investigators talked to. However, Mr. Burleson is considered only fairly reliable due to his relative inexperience.

- j. Name - Paul D. Buchanan
Age - 20
Occupation - Student
Education - Two years college
Evaluation - C3

It appeared that Mr. Buchanan was an individual looked up to by other people. He acted and appeared older than he actually is. Mr. Buchanan was very helpful in obtaining information relative to the sightings. However, Mr. Buchanan is considered only fairly reliable due to his inexperience.

- k. Name - Ray Couch
Age - Approximately 10-11
Occupation - Student
Education - Unknown
Evaluation - E4

Mr. Couch is a young boy living with his working mother. He could give very little detail concerning his sighting. Due to his age, he is considered as an unreliable witness.

- l. Name - Frank A. Budda
Age - 17
Occupation - C of C
Education - 10 years
Evaluation - C3

Mr. Budda is a Hungarian refugee. He appeared to be a very conscientious individual, eager to learn. Due to his age and probable inexperience as a witness of such phenomena, he is considered only fairly reliable.

- m. Name - Ralph R. Rasnick
Age - 36
Occupation - Newspaper Reporter
Education - Four years college
Evaluation - B3

Mr. Rasnick visited the investigators in the capacity of a reporter looking for news. He was informed that only SAFIS-3 could give him the desired information, and he was satisfied. He was very cooperative in answering questions asked by the investigators. Due to his experience, Mr. Rasnick is considered usually reliable. However, as an observer of phenomena, he is possibly only fairly reliable.

- n. Name - Mr. & Mrs. John B. McCormick
Ages - 57 and 50
Occupation - Tipple worker - Housewife
Education - 9 years
Evaluation - F6

Mr. and Mrs. McCormick were very cooperative. They could not give very much information concerning their sighting other than they saw three stationary lights through the tree tops.

- o. Name - William R. McCall
Age - 36
Occupation - Insurance salesman
Education - Unknown
Evaluation - F6

Mr. McCall stated that he doesn't put much stock in these sightings. He was reluctant to give the investigators information concerning his sighting as he didn't think there was anything to it. He was positive there was a logical explanation for the lights.

4. Analysis and conclusions.

a. The metal strips found in several locations surrounding Coeburn, Va. are identical to one type of chaff used for jamming radar.

b. Due to the time lapse of up to three months between the sightings and the investigation, it is rather difficult to draw a valid conclusion as to the nature of the reported sightings. However, it is the considered opinion of the analyst that several things contributed to these sightings.

- (1) The presence of a large number of open coke ovens in the area.
- (2) The prevailing weather on most of the subject evenings.
- (3) The apparent inability of some witnesses to determine when an automobile was traveling along a road located on top of a ridge.

(4) The inexperience of witnesses with the appearance of astronomical bodies when observed under other than normal atmospheric conditions.

(5) The witnesses were out looking for strange lights, and as will always happen, some were observed. They looked so long and hard that they began seeing lights dance around.

(6) The power of suggestion cannot be discounted as being partly responsible for the sightings.

Rob Mercer

D R A F T

30 November 1959

1. Background.

a. On Wednesday, 27 May 1959, Major Tacker of SAFIS-3 called AFCIN-4E4g and informed Major Friend that Congressman Jennings had contacted SAFIS and requested information concerning an UFO sighting in Wise-Coeburn, Virginia area. A check was made of the UFO files and it was found that no reports had been received from Wise-Coeburn area. Hqs., 1006th AISS was contacted and was requested to investigate these sightings. The only available information was that received via telephone and newspaper articles received from Major Tacker. The information in the newspaper articles indicated a large number of residents in the Wise-Coeburn, Va. area sighted several strange lights and found strips of aluminum foil on the mountains in the area.

b. Detachment 8, 1006th AISS was directed to investigate the subject UFO sightings and contacted AFCIN-4E4g. Due to the fact the detachment was short of personnel, T/Sgt Bolieu of AFCIN-4E4g was directed to assist in the investigation. Friday, 5 June 1959, T/Sgt Bolieu and A/1c Brimacombe of Det 8, 1006th AISS departed Wright-Patterson AFB for Wise-Coeburn, Va area and arrived at Wise, Va. at 2400 on same day.

2. Investigative Efforts.

a. 6 June 1959.

(1) Made an appointment with the Wise County Sheriff for 1315. The county sheriff, Mrs. Estelle Heaberlin, who is also a waitress, had very little information concerning the sightings as she had not seen the objects herself. She stated that she had never heard of a mountain until reports of subject sightings reached her.

(2) Talked to several people in Coeburn, including the Coeburn police; no new information could be learned.

h. Saturday, 13 June 1959.

(1) Visited Mr. Charles Bemben, who lives on the outskirts of Coeburn. Mr. Bemben gave a description of two separate sightings (see TABS A&E)

(2) Was visited by Mr. Sidney Miller, an Army Reserve 1st Lt and a law student at Baltimore, Md. He had heard of the strange lights and drove to Coeburn to look around. He said he had talked to several people and went out one night with Mr. Estes. He said they saw a light and Mr. Estes declared there were no roads or houses where the light was. Mr. Miller said he went to the area the next day and saw houses among the trees and some roads in the area where the lights were seen. Mr. Miller said he had been up to the clearing on Sheeprock Mountain and found some ground under the brush that was charred. He was asked if it could have been from the camp fires that had been built there. He had no answer. He told the investigators of two people who saw something during the first of May. After about two hours he left.

i. Sunday, 14 June 1959.

(1) Drove to Toms Creek, Va. to contact the people who were reported to have seen a strange light. All that could be learned was that a woman by the name of Shirley saw a momentary light travel across the sky.



PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 18 Mar 59	2. LOCATION Denville, NJ		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2050 EST GMT 19/0150Z	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		
5. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 N/A	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 34	9. COURSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Static Electric</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Photograph submitted w/34 objs appearing to race away fm the moon. Objs were not noticed until after film was developed.		11. COMMENTS Static electric discharge was arrived at as the cause by photo analysis section.	

FRICK PARK AREA, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

15 September 1959

On 15 September 1959 the Pittsburgh police investigated a reported explosion in the Frick Park area of the city. The explosion was reported to have occurred at 2400 on 14 September 1959. During the investigation the police discovered an unidentified object in the area of the reported explosion. The object was conically shaped, and the body was of polyethylene plastic, yellow in color. Three wires appearing like an antenna protruded from the top just below a red light. Attached to the side was a "U" bolt with two feet of 1/4" cable attached to it with 1/2" bolts. The weight of the object was twelve pounds. The object was burned around the edge of the base.

During inspection of the object attempts were made to open it without destroying it, but this proved impossible. Under the plastic coat, which averaged 1/2" in thickness, was a thin sheet of aluminum with the same general contours. Contained in the aluminum were the following items, all embedded in a glue-like substance which was used to fill the interior:

- a. Hilco Huntlite lantern battery container with switch.
- b. Steel pipe (threaded both ends) 2 1/2" long and 1 3/4" diameter.
- c. Eight Ray-O-Vac flashlight batteries (four in the battery container).
- d. Two mercury switches.
- e. Tiny atom 1/2000 horsepower electric motor (Wilson's of Cleveland).
- f. Transformer (Federal Telephone and Radio Corporation, Boonton, N. J.).

The batteries, mercury switches, electric motor, and light bulb were all wired; however, the electric motor was not connected mechanically to anything. The antenna and transformer were not a part of the circuit.

Wilson's of Cleveland, manufacturers of the tiny atom electric motor, when contacted concerning the motor indicated that their chief outlets were hobby shops.

In view of the relatively great weight, inaccessability, overall lack of any productive function, and crudness this object is ruled out as a device designed to collect atmospheric data.

All evidence indicates that this object was not airborne at any time. An object weighing twelve pounds would, upon falling to earth from any appreciable altitude, have left an impression in the ground which would have been noticed during investigation. Further indication that the object had not fallen was the fact that the light bulb and fragile plastic cover were found intact.

It is the Air Force conclusion that this object and the explosion were all part of a hoax. The red light, flashed by mercury switches, and the whirring of the little electric motor were designed to create further mystery for the finder. Since this incident happened at the beginning of the school term, this was probably a prank of college students.



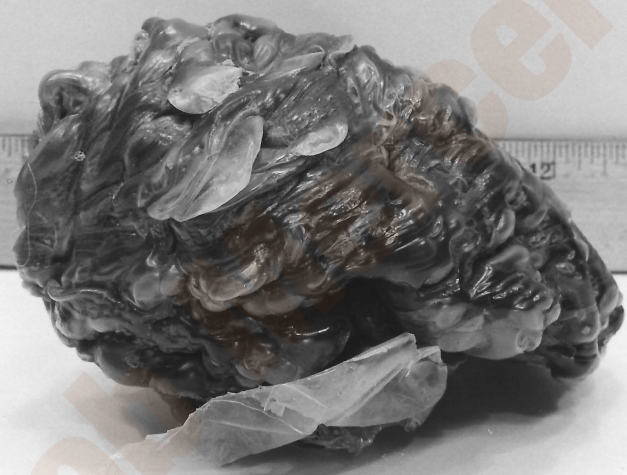
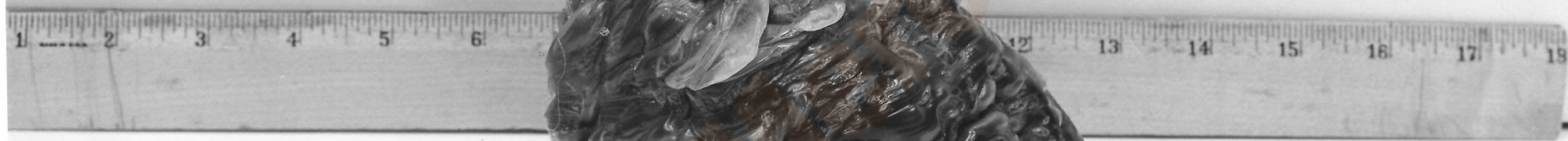
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

20 October 1962

PLASTIC

Two youths, age 11, informed their science teacher at school that they had observed a gray object falling from the sky on 20 Oct 62 with a whooshing sound, and landing in the sand about 20 ft from them. One of the youths claimed that he touched the object and it was warm, so he did not pick it up. The teacher suggested that they bring the object to him. This object was turned over to authorities at the U S Naval Base, Newport, Rhode Island. The object was then turned over to the Air Force for analysis. The samples were identified as being similar to US Nylon, Number 66, a brown sample was identified as polystyrene and the cream colored inclusion within the brown sample was identified as polyethylene. The appearance of these samples indicate strongly that they are the "tailings" or "end-of-run" from extrusion machines producing plastic forms or foils. Such "scrap" or discarded materials are often seen in just this type of physical form and condition. The materials named above are all common and widely used plastic materials. Tests have indicated that none of the samples have been exposed to a space environment or have been used in relation with any space application.

The material was compared with known waste material from extrusion processes of industries in the local areas utilizing nylon, etc, in the manufacture of insulated wire and cable, and found to be of similar appearance and consistency.







31 Oct 64
Fosterdale, N. Y.

Rob Mercer

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 31 October 64 (01 Nov)	2. LOCATION Fosterdale, New York
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION See Photo analysis. Unable to determine on limited data present. Print shows light track against night background. Could be satellite, a/c, etc. Two of the photos appear to be timed exposures of sky. Inadequate data.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Three Prints	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Photos Not Reported	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE	
8. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS SEE CASE FILE
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	



31 Oct 64
S. Charleston, Ohio

Rob Mercer

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 15 March 1964 15/1600Z	2. LOCATION Kings Mountain, North Carolina
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION A/C Photo analysis indicated that the objects in the photos were probably high flying a/c with the sun reflection halating the images. Wing and tail visible but no type of a/c identifiable
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Six	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Stated	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual	
7. COURSE SE	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observation of two formations of three each. Objects at high altitude. Contrail visible. Photos taken. Objects in slow flight to SE.
8. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Photo Analysis. <input type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	





1. DATE - TIME GROUP 21 Mar 64 22/0100Z	2. LOCATION Roswell, New Mexico
3. SOURCE civilian	10. CONCLUSION: INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION Photo analysis indicated that the obj reported was not the image on the photo. The image on the photo was probably caused by a chemical drop on the film at some time during its processing. Since the photo did not show an image to compare with the observers descript of the sighting case regarded as Insufficient.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Bright obj like chrome reflecting sunlight. Time indicated 6pm but bright night listed as the daylight conditions under which obj was observed. Flight to North. Initial observation at 70 degrees elevation 240 deg az. Flight for 5 minutes to horizon at 350 deg az. Observer took picture of obj.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ground visual	
7. COURSE North	
8. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

2. PHOTOS

DIRT ON FILM



225

Rob Mercer



<p>1. DATE - TIME GROUP</p> <p>11 April 64 11/2230Z</p>	<p>2. LOCATION</p> <p>Homer, New York</p>
<p>3. SOURCE</p> <p>Civilian</p>	<p>10. CONCLUSION</p> <p>UNIDENTIFIED</p>
<p>4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS</p> <p>Multiple</p>	
<p>5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION</p> <p>30 Minutes - 45 Minutes</p>	<p>11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS</p> <p>Letter to Dr Hynek of unusual observation. See Case File.</p>
<p>6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION</p> <p>Ground-Visual (BX)</p>	
<p>7. COURSE</p> <p>Drifting</p>	
<p>8. PHOTOS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

 CORTLAND, N. Y.

February 23, 1965

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
 Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern Univ.
 Evanston, Illinois, 60201
 Dear Dr. Hynek

Apparently our minds were operating on the same wave length last week, because at the time when you were writing your letter of February 18th, I was in the process of assembling the sketches and data and putting them together in a comprehensible form. I was honored to receive your telephone call and very pleased to discuss the sighting with you. I have re-read my letter to you for the first time since it was sent and realize that I contradicted myself in some of the details.

One point is that the jet trails actually appeared from West to East as stated in the letter and not vice-versa as stated in my telephone conversation. Since our conversation I have returned to the location of the sighting and as nearly as I can remember it to be find that the trail of the object was actually nearer the South end of Skaneateles Lake and not half way up as I stated to you. Further I had also forgotten that I had mailed a copy of my letter to you to Stephen R. Putnam of Scituate, Mass, whose hobby is UFOs. However, I never heard from him and the only reason I wrote to him was that he had had an article in our local paper. Other than that I have discussed this matter only with close friends.

It is amazing what details one can forget in six months time and you caught me at a very busy time in my office so that my recall was not too quick on the matters we discussed. I am inclosing herewith seven prints of the sighting which my wife prepared from our description of the same describing it as nearly as we all can recall, together with a description of the same and I intend to return to the location to have photographs made for your reference.

In the event there is anything further wherein I can be of assistance to you in your research of similar situations, kindly advise and I will be very happy to do so. Thanking you very much for your interest herein, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

 R.P.

Inclosures 8
 Reg. Mail, RR

18 February 1965

Dr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Street
Cortland, New York

Dear Dr. [REDACTED]:

I am still very much interested in the sighting which you made last April, but I am no closer to a solution than I was before. I write this to remind you that you promised to send the sketches of the sighting that I believe you said your wife made.

You were not certain whether the original sketches still existed, but you indicated that if they did not, you would prevail upon your wife to reproduce them as best she can from memory. I hope that you will be able to favor me with this in the near future as I would like to include these in the case file.

I trust that everything else is well with you and that you are carrying your camera around with you!

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:krf

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201
12 January 1965

Major Hector Quintanilla
Foreign Technology Division
Box 9494
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major:

You will soon fire me because instead of solving unidentifieds, I appear to be adding to them. I believe you got a copy of a letter that was sent to me by a [REDACTED], a physiotherapist from Cortland, New York, dated May 15, 1964. I don't think this was ever officially reported to your office, but it was officially reported to me, and so I guess in a way that counts as being officially reported. The sighting occurred on April 11, 1964, at 6:30 P.M., apparently Eastern Standard Time, as the sun was just setting behind a hill to the west. If you do not have a copy of his letter, I'll send you a copy of my "toasted" copy. I rather think I sent the original on to you.

At any rate, I got around to calling and had a fairly long conversation with him. He said he reported it to me because he had seen the account of my investigation in Socorro and because there were three other witnesses. He said that had he seen this alone, he definitely would not have reported it to anyone, coupling it with the usual statement that he'd never seen anything like this before in all his life. The letter gives the main events, and once again, as it seems to have happened a number of times recently, even though a number of months have separated the sighting from my call, (which always catches them completely cold) none of the facts have essentially changed. The phone conversation was mainly useful in that it gave me an idea what the guy sounded like and to see if he had any afterthoughts in the meantime. The physical location turns out to be at the south end of Skaneateles Lake, which is one of the Finger Lakes. The only other witnesses were his wife and two children, aged fourteen and ten respectively. There was a south wind blowing according to him, and the contrails that he saw shortly before were definitely drifting northward. The trail he saw came from northeast to southwest and drifted southward. The contrails, furthermore, broke up quite rapidly without much turbulence, and disappeared soon thereafter.

The southwestern portion of the cloud appeared to get darker, which he first explained as the effect as the setting sun. However, if this had been the case, it should have been the eastern part of the trail that got dark first. It was at this time that he began to observe it with six-power binoculars and then saw these wisps of dark smoke coming out of it. The original trail, incidentally, he said appeared very suddenly, "all of a sudden, it was there." At first he said it looked like a plane on fire, just like you see in the movies when a plane has been shot down at war, but the thing just

hung there in the sky like a banana. It was at this point that he said that had he not seen it for himself, "You'd never had heard from me." The cloud itself seemed to have come from high elevation and as high or higher than the contrails he saw at first. He said the incident "shook him up a bit" and he cursed himself for not having his camera along, especially as he is a camera bug and usually has it along with him.

When the second object appeared, he thought perhaps it was his daughter's imagination, but then he saw it also and examined it with binoculars. This cloud, horizontal, was traveling toward the north, and he said it must have been gigantic because the only clouds in the sky, which were cumulus, were far to the west. This second cloud behaved in a very peculiar fashion--- it would shoot forward with a flash and move completely out of the field of vision of his binoculars, and then just as rapidly shoot back again. He said the speed was "as fast as one moved one's hand." The back and forth motion would have covered the angular distance from the index to fourth finger on an outstretched hand held at full arm's length. The object itself could have been covered by a thumbnail with the hand in same position.

Now if this had been in the Southwest someplace, I would say that some gunnery practice had been going on and a balloon suspended target, invisible previously, was set aflame by a direct hit. The first trail would have been the trail of the original missile. However, this is over a populated area, and I don't think such gunnery takes place there. It is fairly near to Rome Air Base, but I have not heard that they do experimental gunnery there.

I forgot to mention that the whole duration was something of the order of a half an hour to forty-five minutes, but I think that he said that in the letter. They had ample time to observe the strange goings-on, and to check with each other. When they got home, they wrote down the events and made sketches. He wife is supposed to send me the original sketches or redraw some if she has lost the originals. As yet, they haven't arrived.

So, what do you make of it?

The letter brings out one thing which I think is of general interest and that is that people in general respect serious investigations and research work, especially that connected with a university. It was the fact that a Northwestern University professor had taken the time to Socorro to investigate that apparently prompted this man to write me his experiences. From my long phone conversation with him, there is no doubt in my mind about his basic reliability and intelligence. I asked whether he minded having his case in his name included in the official files and he said, "Not at all." It would be nice if one of you had occasion to visit Rome Air Force Base and then called on this guy.

I am afraid that this is another "unidentified," the Case of the Burning Banana. The only logical explanation I can see is that this was a case of aerial gunnery and target practice, but what's that doing over Rome, New York?

Tomorrow I leave for Washington, and this letter will probably be signed (forged) by Kathy. I will see Maston Jacks and the redoubtable Mrs. Hunt while I am in Washington and undoubtedly give you a call from there (their nickel).

Sincerely,

Allen (sic)

[REDACTED]
CORTLAND, N. Y.

May 15, 1964

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Director, Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Hynek

I can appreciate that you probably receive hundred of letters of this type, but if the information submitted herein assists you in any way in your research of matters of this sort, I am happy to submit it to you.

On April 11, 1964, my wife, two children ([REDACTED] age 10, and [REDACTED] age 14) and I were having a picnic supper on a hill 1800 feet above sea level, about ten miles Northwest of Homer, New York. It was 6:30 p.m., wind out of the North about 5 miles per hour, and the day was crystal clear with just a few stratus clouds on the Western horizon. At about 6:00 p.m. several jet bombers had left vapor trails up high, traveling from West to East, but these trails quickly disappeared.

As I looked up in the sky a little to the Northwest of us at about 6:30 p.m. there appeared what I thought was a very large jet trail from Northeast to Southwest. It was very white and wide and at the Southwest end there was a break on the trail of about 1 mile. Then a very black spiral formation of what appeared to be smoke appeared about 1 mile long. We remarked that the white trail was unusually wide for a jet trail and apparently the black portion looked dark because of the angulation of the glow of the setting sun behind the Western hill several miles away.

The white vapor trail hung in the sky and gradually drifted to the South, slowly dissipating. Up to this point we were observing what we believed to be a normal situation, except for the abrupt ending of the white trail, the space and the continuation of the black spiral tip.

Approximately ten minutes had now passed and it suddenly occurred to me that the black spiral cloud had slowly moved to the West while the white trail had drifted Southward. Also, the cloud became much darker and we all observed this. At this point I took my 6 x 25 binoculars to observe it and was shocked to see wisps of smoke actually streaming out of the black cloud...almost boiling out. It

CORTLAND, N. Y.

Page 2.

May 15, 1964

was now slowly approaching the distant stratus cloud formation silhouetted against the Western hill. Suddenly the black cloud, still retaining its spiral shape, changed from the horizontal position to a vertical position with greater smoke activity and resembled a smoking plane slowly falling from the sky, at the same time assuming a shape not unlike a banana. Then it no longer seemed to be falling, but simply stopped and hung there for two or three minutes and then very slowly seemed to sink into the clouds and was obliterated. Everyone of us observed this strange phenomenon plainly with the naked eye.

After about three minutes had elapsed while we were all wondering if our eyes had played tricks on us, my daughter suddenly exclaimed "there's another one". It appeared as a horizontal pencil shaped object. It was impossible at that distance to determine the length, but it could have been as large as a submarine. It moved from the left on the horizon to the right. We could not agree as to whether this was the original object or another rendezvousing with the first object, as this second sighting appeared to the left of where the first object became obliterated by the clouds.

As I was observing it with my binoculars, there was a flash of white light from the rear of it and it shot forward with incredible speed for a distance of about five times its length and as suddenly stopped, still maintaining the pencil shape, apparently hovering. My son described the incident as it happened while I watched it with the binoculars. It became thick in the middle and with a cloud of smoke emanating from it, shot backward as rapidly as it had gone forward about the same distance. Again it hovered and then began to shorten in length until it appeared saucer shaped, fat in the middle. Then the most incredible part occurred...from the saucer shape it became almost perfectly round and slowly divided into two parts, one above the other, very much as a single cell does under a microscope. The top object slowly became smaller as it appeared to fade off in the distance, while the second object headed downward at a 45° angle toward the spot where we had seen the banana shaped object disappear. At this point it divided in two again but the bottom object now assumed a vertical pencil shape while the top oval object slowly faded away. We realize the pencil shape could well be a disc observed from the side. Then the pencil shaped object also faded from sight.

62
copy a
revenge

WARREN B. OCHSNER, R. P.
PHYSIOTHERAPIST
33 TOMPKINS ST.
CORTLAND, N. Y.

Page 3.

May 15, 1964

This whole episode took place in about forty-five minutes and ended just about dusk. If it were not for the fact that all four of us observed this event, I would hesitate to bring this to your attention. However, the inclosed clippings are what prompted me to write to you relative to the same. Newark Valley is about fifty miles South of ^{us} and I must admit the report from there sounds wierd, but then, our experience appeared the same to us.

During World War II I was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and all my flying experience was within the Continental limits of the United States. In all that time I never once, night or day, observed anything unusual in the skies. Now, at age 43, I have observed phenomena which are beyond my comprehension, and which tax my sense of reasoning and credulity.

Respectfully,

Inc.

PROB MET

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUMMARY OF PRINTS

- Print I. At first sighting of the dark end of the formation it was not giving off any smoky material. This happened as it neared the cloud formation and the vapor drifted to the North according to my daughter. However, I thought it drifted to the South as it dissipated and we can not agree on the North or South direction.
- Print II. The vapor trail from the object was a great deal wider than an ordinary jet trail and after Print II had disappeared and should be disregarded in the subsequent prints.
- Print III. New object appears moving from left to right and at arm's length I could cover the sight of the object with my two forefingers so this must have been a very large vehicle.
- Print IV. A very short time lapsed as object moved rapidly from left to right and then from right to left back again as shown in...
- Print V. There were no signs of other planes or jet trails in the sky during any of these sightings.
- Print VI. ✓ As the object was dividing into two parts shown in closeup, the whole operation was very smooth and absolutely positive in action.
- Print VII. No. 3 of Print VI became 4, and subsequently 5 as shown in closeup on Print VII. Object 5 should be more distinctly a pencil-shape and not curved as shown.

Miscellaneous

At Print II the object did not continue to fall but seemed to be suspended and then disappeared into the cloud bank. At Print IV object shot forward a distance of two inches (approximately) on horizon if measured with ruler held at arm's length.

Dark end of object at very first sighting in Print I definitely appeared to be of material substance and not just a cloud formation.

Distance object traveled from Print III to Print IV where it shot FORWARD appeared to be about seven inches on a ruler held at arm's length.

2
Crossing the river through
mountains

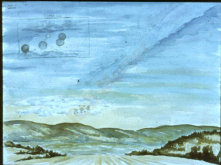














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WARREN B. OCHSNER, R. P.
 PHYSIOTHERAPIST
 23 TOMPKINS ST.
 CORTLAND, N. Y.

Page 2.

May 15, 1964

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*cc [unclear]
 trying a [unclear]*

WARREN B. OCHSNER, R. P.
PHYSIOTHERAPIST
23 TOMPKINS ST.
CORTLAND, N. Y.

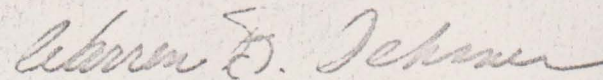
Page 3.

May 15, 1964

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Respectfully,



Warren B. Ochsner

Inc.

WARREN B. OCHSNER, R. P.
 PHYSIOTHERAPIST
 23 TOMPKINS ST.
 CORTLAND, N. Y.
 February 23, 1965

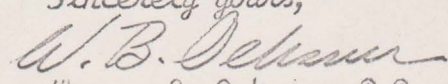
Dr. J. Allen Hynek
 Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern Univ.
 Evanston, Illinois, 60201
 Dear Dr. Hynek

Apparently our minds were operating on the same wave length last week, because at the time when you were writing your letter of February 18th, I was in the process of assembling the sketches and data and putting them together in a comprehensible form. I was honored to receive your telephone call and very pleased to discuss the sighting with you. I have re-read my letter to you for the first time since it was sent and realize that I contradicted myself in some of the details.

One point is that the jet trails actually appeared from West to East as stated in the letter and not vice-versa as stated in my telephone conversation. Since our conversation I have returned to the location of the sighting and as nearly as I can remember it to be find that the trail of the object was actually nearer the South end of Skaneateles Lake and not half way up as I stated to you. Further I had also forgotten that I had mailed a copy of my letter to you to Stephen R. Putnam of Scituate, Mass, whose hobby is UFOs. However, I never heard from him and the only reason I wrote to him was that he had had an article in our local paper. Other than that I have discussed this matter only with close friends.

It is amazing what details one can forget in six months time and you caught me at a very busy time in my office so that my recall was not too quick on the matters we discussed. I am inclosing herewith seven prints of the sighting which my wife prepared from our description of the same describing it as nearly as we all can recall, together with a description of the same and I intend to return to the location to have photographs made for your reference.

In the event there is anything further wherein I can be of assistance to you in your research of similar situations, kindly advise and I will be very happy to do so. Thanking you very much for your interest herein, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

 Warren B. Ochsner, R.P.

WBO:dd

Inclosures 8
 Reg. Mail, RR

18 February 1965

Dr. Warren B. Ochsner
23 Tompkins Street
Cortland, New York

Dear Dr. Ochsner:

I am still very much interested in the sighting which you made last April, but I am no closer to a solution than I was before. I write this to remind you that you promised to send the sketches of the sighting that I believe you said your wife made.

You were not certain whether the original sketches still existed, but you indicated that if they did not, you would prevail upon your wife to reproduce them as best she can from memory. I hope that you will be able to favor me with this in the near future as I would like to include these in the case file.

I trust that everything else is well with you and that you are carrying your camera around with you!

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynak
Director

JAH:krf

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

12 January 1965

Major Hector Quintanilla
Foreign Technology Division
Box 9494
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major:

You will soon fire me because instead of solving unidentifieds, I appear to be adding to them. I believe you got a copy of a letter that was sent to me by a Warren B. Ochsner, a physiotherapist from Cortland, New York, dated May 15, 1964. I don't think this was ever officially reported to your office, but it was officially reported to me, and so I guess in a way that counts as being officially reported. The sighting occurred on April 11, 1964, at 6:30 P.M., apparently Eastern Standard Time, as the sun was just setting behind a hill to the west. If you do not have a copy of his letter, I'll send you a copy of my "toasted" copy. I rather think I sent the original on to you.

At any rate, I got around to calling and had a fairly long conversation with him. He said he reported it to me because he had seen the account of my investigation in Socorro and because there were three other witnesses. He said that had he seen this alone, he definitely would not have reported it to anyone, coupling it with the usual statement that he'd never seen anything like this before in all his life. The letter gives the main events, and once again, as it seems to have happened a number of times recently, even though a number of months have separated the sighting from my call, (which always catches them completely cold) none of the facts have essentially changed. The phone conversation was mainly useful in that it gave me an idea what the guy sounded like and to see if he had any afterthoughts in the meantime. The physical location turns out to be at the south end of Skaneateles Lake, which is one of the Finger Lakes. The only other witnesses were his wife and two children, aged fourteen and ten respectively. There was a south wind blowing according to him, and the contrails that he saw shortly before were definitely drifting northward. The trail he saw came from northeast to southwest and drifted southward. The contrails, furthermore, broke up quite rapidly without much turbulence, and disappeared soon thereafter.

The southwestern portion of the cloud appeared to get darker, which he first explained as the effect as the setting sun. However, if this had been the case, it should have been the eastern part of the trail that got dark first. It was at this time that he began to observe it with six-power binoculars and then saw these wisps of dark smoke coming out of it. The original trail, incidentally, he said appeared very suddenly, "all of a sudden, it was there." At first he said it looked like a plane on fire, just like you see in the movies when a plane has been shot down at war, but the thing just

hung there in the sky like a banana. It was at this point that he said that had he not seen it for himself, "You'd never had heard from me." The cloud itself seemed to have come from high elevation and as high or higher than the contrails he saw at first. He said the incident "shook him up a bit" and he cursed himself for not having his camera along, especially as he is a camera bug and usually has it along with him.

When the second object appeared, he thought perhaps it was his daughter's imagination, but then he saw it also and examined it with binoculars. This cloud, horizontal, was traveling toward the north, and he said it must have been gigantic because the only clouds in the sky, which were cumulus, were far to the west. This second cloud behaved in a very peculiar fashion--- it would shoot forward with a flash and move completely out of the field of vision of his binoculars, and then just as rapidly shoot back again. He said the speed was "as fast as one moved one's hand." The back and forth motion would have covered the angular distance from the index to fourth finger on an outstretched hand held at full arm's length. The object itself could have been covered by a thumbnail with the hand in same position.

Now if this had been in the Southwest someplace, I would say that some gunnery practice had been going on and a balloon suspended target, invisible previously, was set aflame by a direct hit. The first trail would have been the trail of the original missile. However, this is over a populated area, and I don't think such gunnery takes place there. It is fairly near to Rome Air Base, but I have not heard that they do experimental gunnery there.

I forgot to mention that the whole duration was something of the order of a half an hour to forty-five minutes, but I think that he said that in the letter. They had ample time to observe the strange goings-on, and to check with each other. When they got home, they wrote down the events and made sketches. He wife is supposed to send me the original sketches or redraw some if she has lost the originals. As yet, they haven't arrived.

So, what do you make of it?

The letter brings out one thing which I think is of general interest and that is that people in general respect serious investigations and research work, especially that connected with a university. It was the fact that a Northwestern University professor had taken the time to Socorro to investigate that apparently prompted this man to write me his experiences. From my long phone conversation with him, there is no doubt in my mind about his basic reliability and intelligence. I asked whether he minded having his case in his name included in the official files and he said, "Not at all." It would be nice if one of you had occasion to visit Rome Air Force Base and then called on this guy.

I am afraid that this is another "unidentified," the Case of the Burning Banana. The only logical explanation I can see is that this was a case of aerial gunnery and target practice, but what's that doing over Rome, New York?

Tomorrow I leave for Washington, and this letter will probably be signed (forged) by Kathy. I will see Maston Jacks and the redoubtable Mrs. Hunt while I am in Washington and undoubtedly give you a call from there (their nickel).

Sincerely,

Allen (sic)

WARREN B. OCHSNER, R. P.
PHYSIOTHERAPIST
23 TOMPKINS ST.
CORTLAND, N. Y.

May 15, 1964

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Director, Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Hynek

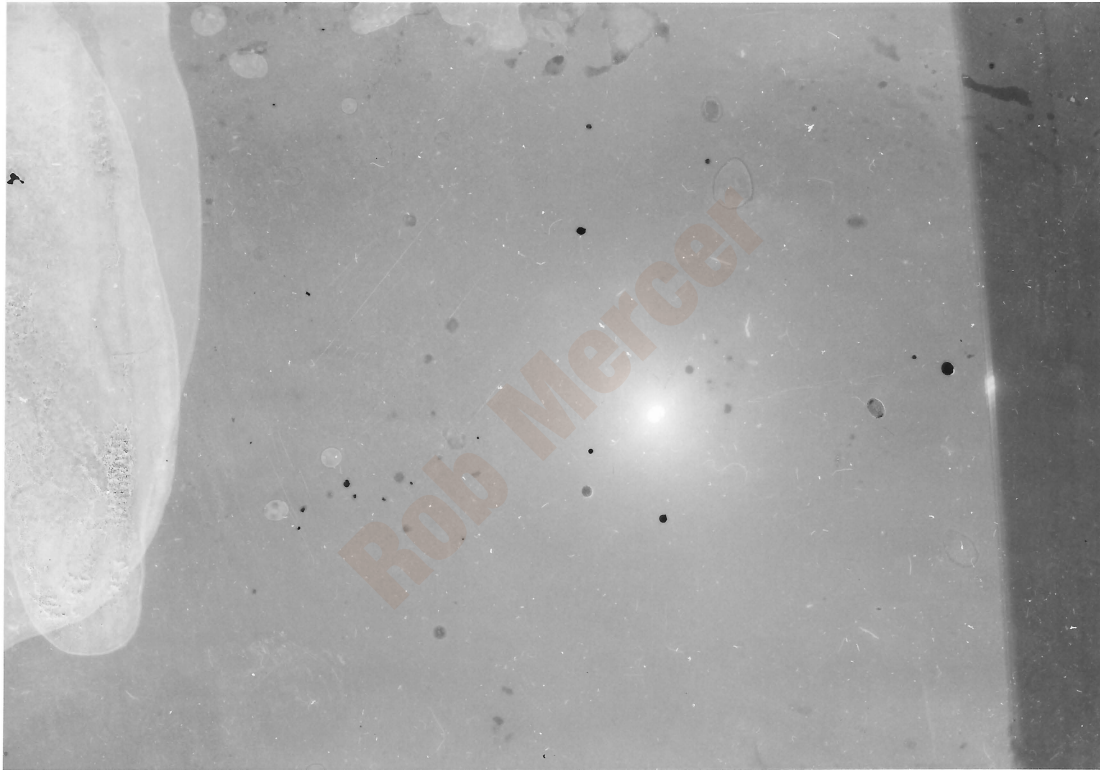
I can appreciate that you probably receive hundreds of letters of this type, but if the information submitted herein assists you in any way in your research of matters of this sort, I am happy to submit it to you.

On April 11, 1964, my wife, two children (Rick, age 10, and Barbara, age 14) and I were having a picnic supper on a hill 1800 feet above sea level, about ten miles Northwest of Homer, New York. It was 6:30 p.m., wind out of the North about 5 miles per hour, and the day was crystal clear with just a few stratus clouds on the Western horizon. At about 6:00 p.m. several jet bombers had left vapor trails up high, traveling from West to East, but these trails quickly disappeared.

As I looked up in the sky a little to the Northwest of us at about 6:30 p.m. there appeared what I thought was a very large jet trail from Northeast to Southwest. It was very white and wide and at the Southwest end there was a break on the trail of about 1 mile. Then a very black spiral formation of what appeared to be smoke appeared about 1 mile long. We remarked that the white trail was unusually wide for a jet trail and apparently the black portion looked dark because of the angulation of the glow of the setting sun behind the Western hill several miles away.

The white vapor trail hung in the sky and gradually drifted to the South, slowly dissipating. Up to this point we were observing what we believed to be a normal situation, except for the abrupt ending of the white trail, the space and the continuation of the black spiral tip.

Approximately ten minutes had now passed and it suddenly occurred to me that the black spiral cloud had slowly moved to the West while the white trail had drifted Southward. Also, the cloud became much darker and we all observed this. At this point I took my 6 x 25 binoculars to observe it and was shocked to see wisps of smoke actually streaming out of the black cloud...almost boiling out. It



Make a neg. and
6 5x7 copies

26 June 64
Clinton, Pa.



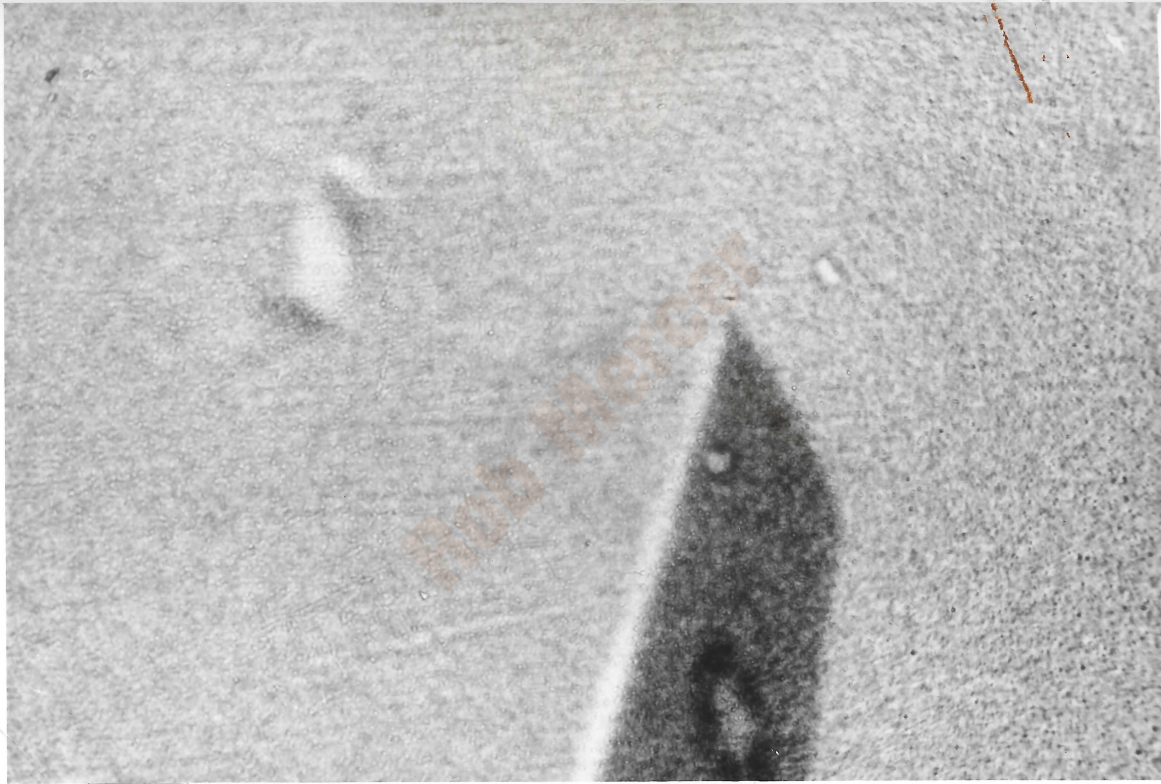
29 July / Aug 64
Binghampton, N. Y.

1 photo of approx 5
diff. photos.

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

DATE JULY AUG 29 - 31 1964	2. LOCATION Binghamton, New York		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>Night</u>	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft B-26 <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft Stars/Planets
PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Civilian Multiple		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical Meteors <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
LENGTH OF OBSERVATION See Case File	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS See Case File	9. COURSE See Case File	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Satellites</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING See Case File. Two investigations by Griffis AFB Officials		11. COMMENTS Photos show passage of ECHO I and ECHO II. Sightings in area determines to be A/C, Meteors, Stars and Planets and Satellites.	

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 27 August 64 (Daytime)	2. LOCATION Hondo Air Force Base, Texas
3. SOURCE Military Air	10. CONCLUSION STABILIZATION CHUTE OR PIECE OF EQUIPMENT
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	P.I. evaluates as most probably a stabilization chute, or a piece of equipment dropped from an aircraft at higher altitude
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION N/A	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS than the C-119 being photogr
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Air-Visual	Photographer was panning to keep the C-119 centered and was not aware of the object until he edited the film. The C-119 track was 180 degrees altitude 1000 ft, air speed 130 knots. The photographer faced West and was located 2200 ft East of the C-119 ground track.
7. COURSE Falling	
8. PHOTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	



55 P23

airplane probably
evaluated as a stabilization
chute or piece of equipment
dropped from a higher altitude
than the C-119 being

27 Aug 64

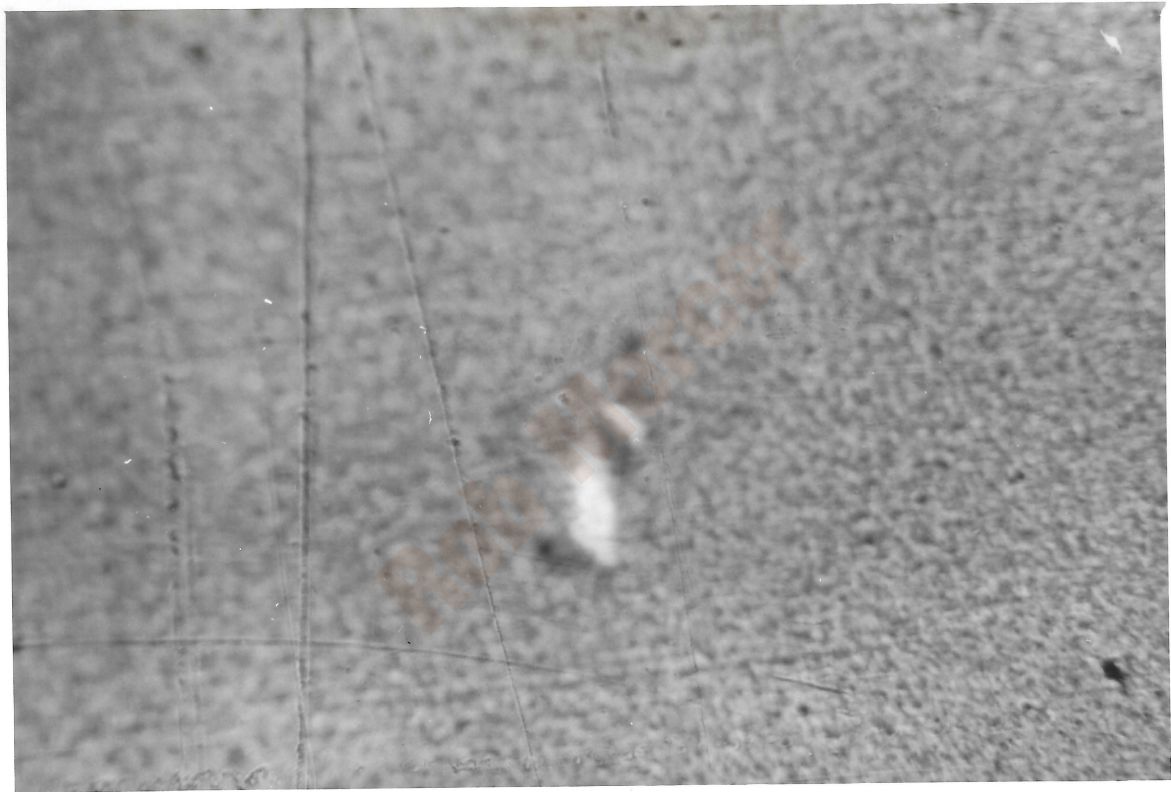
Hondo AFB, Texas

photographed
at Hondo AFB, Texas

by military

J-1

27 August 1964



27 Aug 64
Hondo AFB, Texas

Rob Mercer

UNCLASSIFIED

PHOTO ANALYSIS REPORT

NR 64-55

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DATE OF REPORT 27 October 1964

SUBJECT POSSIBLE UFO REPORT

LOCATION Hondo Air Force Base, Texas

DATE 27 August 1964

PHOTOGRAPHY

AF _____ IR _____ QUALITY _____

P NRS 2 35MM negative film strips with 6 frames each, 7 enlarged 16MM prints, 1 enlarged 16MM negative, 1 75 frame roll of 16MM color motion picture film

1. PURPOSE: This report answers WD #64-94 from Major Quintanilla, requesting evaluation of photography containing images which might possibly be UFO's.
2. CIRCUMSTANCES: A photographer took pictures of a C-119 drop on Hondo Air Force Base, panning to keep the C-119 centered. The photographer was not aware of the object until he edited the film. The C-119 track was 180°, altitude 1000 feet, air speed 130 knots. The photographer faced West and was located 2200 feet east of the C-119 ground track. Camera angle with respect to the ground was approximately 45°. Object appears on the film while camera was panned from approximately 290° to 280°.
3. ANALYSIS: The 16MM film strip was viewed under still magnification up to 100 X in an attempt to determine the configuration of the unidentified object. Nothing was gained from this other than the position of the unidentified object relative to the C-119. The image was blurred resulting from panning of the camera.
4. The 16MM film strip was also viewed on a motion picture projector to determine the configuration and rate of descent of the unidentified object. This process showed the object to be a probable stabilization chute or piece of equipment which descended too rapidly to be a standard personnel or equipment chute. The objects rate of descent appeared to be too slow to be in powered flight.
5. We feel that the object in question is probably a stabilization chute, or a piece of equipment dropped from an aircraft at higher altitude than the C-119 being photographed.

PHOTO ANALYSIS BY:

APPROVED BY:

John W. Summerfield
JOHN W. SUMMERFIELD
Intelligence Research Specialist

William L. Turner
WILLIAM L. TURNER
Captain, USAF
Chief, Photo Analysis Division

William Price, Jr.
WILEEN PRICE, JR.
Director, Photo Exploitation Directorate

UNCLASSIFIED



Date: 20 March 1965

Location: Sloan, Nevada

Evaluation: Other (Developer Smear)

589

Rob Mercer



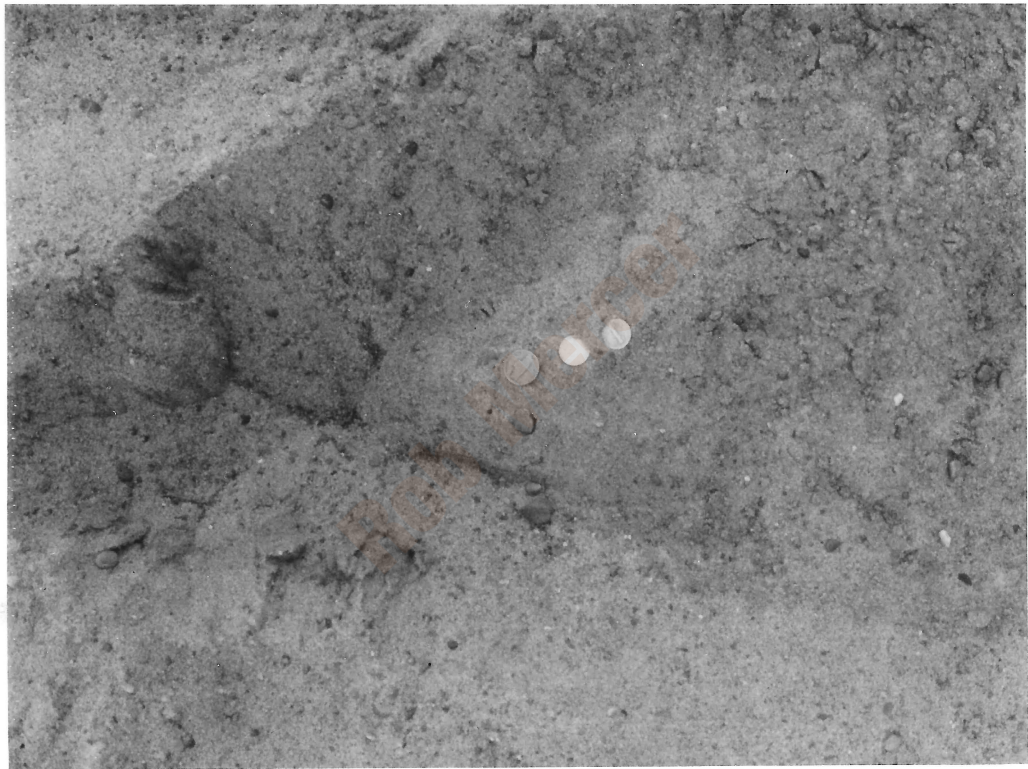


DATE: 3 August 1965

LOCATION: Santa Ana, California

EVALUATION: Other (HOAX)

Rob Mercer



INDENTATIONS IN SAND
CLAIMED TO BE FROM

U.F.O. 31 JULY 66

PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK,
ERIE, PA.

Rob Mercer