Incident #216

ATIC NO. ---

DATE OF INFO 3 Dec 1948

AF NO. ---

LOCATION Chanute AFB, Ill.

REPORT NO. ---

SOURCE Weather Observers

DATE OF REPORT ---

DATE IN TO ATIC ---

TIME OF OBSERVATION 1846 CST

COLOR White

SHAPE Round

SPEED 350 MPH plus

Estimated X
Measured
Estimated X
Measured

SIZE As Star

ALTITUDE 15,000' plus

SOUND SEN

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED 3 Sec.

NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1

TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground

WEATHER ---

WEATHER Made 13° - 20° climb

--- HEADQUARTERS ---

Supersedes ATIC Form 379
(Jan 52)

Inclosure 0

Incident #21 -- Chanute AF Base, Illinois -- 3 December 1948

A fairly bright, slow-moving bolide offers a good explanation for the object reported in this incident. The apparent rise can be explained as an effect of perspective. There is nothing in the description given that is contradictory to the bolide hypothesis.

No. 216: Object reported moving directly into 70 M.P.H. head winds at an estimated 350 M.P.H. Observer is a professional weather observer and should know a weather balloon. Also, reported sighting was four hours after scheduled release time.

HEADQUARTERS
AIR WEATHER SERVICE
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington 25, D. C.

In Reply
Refer To: ATS DSS

11 May 1949

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Objects

TO : Commanding General
Air Materiel Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXO-3

1. Reference is made to letter from your headquarters, MCIAXS, dated 9 March 1949, subject "Unidentified Flying Objects," and first indorsement thereto by this headquarters, dated 31 March 1949.

2. The incident summaries 173 through 233 have been checked against routine weather-balloon ascents made by the Air Force, Navy and Weather Bureau. Comments based on this review are inclosed.

3. It is recommended that the "Guide To Investigation Of Unidentified Aerial Objects" be changed as follows: Item 13, "Direction of Flight of Object," should be clarified so that vertical and horizontal motions are distinguished if possible, and so that motion is specified as the direction towards which the object appears to move. "Relative to Radar Settings" should include a statement of the type of radar set used.

FOR THE CHIEF, AIR WEATHER SERVICE

/s/ W. A. West
W. A. WEST
Lt. Col., USAF
Adjutant General

2 Incls:
1 - Incident Summaries
2 - Comments 173 thru 233

INCIDENT SUMMARY SHEET

Incident No. 216

1. Date and Time of Observation: 8 December 1948 18:46

2. Where Sighted: Chanute AF Base, Illinois - 40°-18' North 88° 7-1/2' East

3. Observer's Position: ground while facing northeast
(i. e., ground, air, control tower, etc.)

4. Name and Address of Observer: Sgt [redacted], Sgt [redacted]
Det 16/IL, 16th Wea Sq, Chanute AFB, Rantoul, Illinois

5. Occupation and/or hobbies: Weather Observers, 16th Wea Sq

6. Attention Attracted by: glint of light

7. Number of Object(s) Seen: 1

8. Size of Object(s): 15 feet long x 6 ft wide - size jet fighter type plane thick(?)

9. Color of Object(s): white

10. Shape (Sketch if Possible) Round

11. Nature of Luminosity: N/S
(directed beam of light?)

12. Altitude of Object: Over 15,000 ft
(estimated)

13. Estimated Distance of Object from Observer: N/S

14. Estimated Speed of Object: over 350 MPH

15. Time in Sight: 3 seconds

16. Tactics: Seemed to be moving in upward path horizontal from 15° above horizon to 20 or 25°

17. Sound Made by Object(s): No sound

18. Direction of Flight of Object(s) Northeast to South Southwest

19. Apparent Construction: N/S

20. Effect on Clouds: No clouds

21. Exhaust Trail (Color of): Statement of [redacted] mentions that the object was leaving a trail

22. Manner of Disappearance: flew out of sight

23. Weather Conditions at Time of Sighting: high scattered clouds
visibility: 10 miles

24. Peculiarities Noted: (

25. Summary of Incident: (over)
(See attached page)

On 8 Dec 1948 at approximately 1846 hours Sergeant [redacted] noticed what appeared to be either a sky rocket or meteor, and called the object to the attention of his companion, Sergeant [redacted]

Sergeant [redacted] stated that the object did not appear to be a star because it was three or four times as large as a star and seemed closer than a star would be. It was heading from the northeast toward the south southwest and was moving upwards at about a 15 or 20 degree angle. As it moved it seemed to get larger. The object left a trail. In about two or three seconds it disappeared. The object was round, white and moved very fast.

Sergeant [redacted] statement does not differ as to direction or color or angle of ascent. States that the object traversed about 2 to 3/10s of the sky while under observation and did not appear to him to be a falling star. He reported to the Duty Forecaster at the Base Weather Station. Sergeant [redacted] statement does not mention seeing a trail.

[redacted] CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

INCOMING MESSAGE

[redacted] correspondence
per paragraph 51 and 50a (4), AR 380-5*

UNCLASSIFIED

AUG DEC 9 08:18 HH 091Ø91Z

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

FROM CHANUTE AFB RONTOU ILL Ø90[redacted]

TO WRIGHT-PAT AFB

INFO MITCHEL AFB HEMSTEAD LI NY

TECH DIV AIR TRNG COMD SCOTT AFB ILL

FROM DETACHMENT ONE SIX SLASH ONE ONE CMA ONE SIX WEATHER SQDN

PD TO MIKE CHARLIE ITEM ABLE XRAY OBOE DASH THREE AMC

INFO TWO ONE ZERO TWO AIR WEATHER GP CMA ONE SIX WEATHER SQDN PD

IN COMPLIANCE WITH COMMAND INSTRUCTIONS THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF SIGHTING UNUSUAL AERIAL OBJECTS IS SUBMITTED CLN ABLE PD CHANUTE AFB CMA ZERO NINE ZERO ZERO FOUR SIX ZEBRA PD HIGH SCATTERED CLOUDS CMA VISIBILITY ONE ZERO MILES PD CHARLIE PD SGT [redacted] CMA SGT [redacted] CMA WEATHER OBSERVERS CMA THIS DETACHMENT PD DOG PD NEGATIVE PD EASY PD NEGATIVE PD FOX PD SUB ONE PD ONE PD SUB TWO PD ROUND PD SUB THREE PD UNDETERMINED PD SU[redacted]

SECRET MH 091Ø2ØZ [redacted] HR 23ØØE

[redacted]

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DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

MCAG Form No. 22B
(Rev 25 Oct 48)

This copy will be safeguarded with the greatest care until action is completed, at which time it will be prepared for destruction in accordance with Section IV, Hq. Office Instruction No. 11-2.

WF-L-16 NOV 48 10M

[redacted] CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

INCOMING MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

FOUR PD BRIGHT WHITE PD SUB FIVE PD TWO TENTHS OF DISTANT SKY WITHIN TWO TO THREE SECONDS PD SUB SIX PD FIND MOTION EAST TOWARD SOUTH SOUTH WEST PD SUB SEVEN PD UNDETERMINED PD SUB EIGHT PD UNDETERMINED PD SUB NINE PD INITIATIVE PD SUB ONE ZERO PD UNDETERMINED PD PAR GEORGE PD OBJECT SIGHTED TO NORTH EAST MOVING TO SOUTH SOUTH WEST RESEMBLING SKYROCKET OR METEOR BUT MOVING UPWARD ONE FIVE DEGREES PD OBJECT THREE FIVE DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON TRUVERSED THREE FIVE DEGREES WITHIN THREE SECONDS AND

APPEARED

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[redacted]

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INCAD #216

This copy will be safeguarded with the greatest care until action is completed, at which time it will be prepared for destruction in accordance with Section IV, Hq. Office Instruction No. 11-2.

MCAG Form No. 22B
(Rev. 25 Oct 48)

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

14

1 6 DEC 1941

2059AWW INSP 360 1st/W Ind

HEADQUARTERS, 2059TH AIR WEATHER WING, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

TO: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: TSDIN

Basic correspondence received in this headquarters by error.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl
complete file

HENRY W KINNAN
1st Lt, USAF
Adjutant

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[redacted]

[redacted] 216

AWW-0-177

[redacted]

MCIAXO-3
Subj: "Project Sign"

UNCLASSIFIED

Dec 21, 1948

1st Ind.

15/Ba/n

HQ, 3345th Tech Trng Wg and Chanute AFB, Chanute Fld, Ill., 29 Dec 48

TO: Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: MCIAXO-3

Attention is invited to inclosed "Essential Elements of Information" form which has been accomplished and to two statements of witnesses.

Donald S. Genung
DONALD S. GENUNG
Captain, USAF
Intelligence Officer

3 Incls.
1. Info Form (trip)
2. [redacted]
3. [redacted] (quad)

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[redacted]

216

Exhibit 3

[redacted]

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MCIAXO-3

MCIAXO-3/IRS/ej

20 Dec

SUBJECT: Project "Sign"

TO: Commanding General
Chanute Air Force Base
Chanute Field, Illinois
ATTN: Base Intelligence Officer

1. This Command is charged with the investigation of reported sightings of unidentified aerial objects and is authorized direct communication with Air Force installations by letter, Hq USAF, dated 26 February 1948, subject, "Reporting of Information on Flying Discs".

2. A TWX from your Base, 0903352, indicates that Sgts [redacted] and [redacted] 16th Weather Squadron, saw an unidentified aerial object at 1940 hours, 8 December 1948.

3. It is requested that your office interview all witnesses to this observation and investigate circumstances surrounding the incident, using the inclosed Essential Elements of Information form as a guide. It is particularly important that the information outlined in the General Section of this form be obtained.

4. Interested personnel should be advised to avoid publicity in this matter. All evidence will be considered confidential.

5. Direct reply to Commanding General, Hq Air Material Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, ATTN: MCIAXO-3.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

1 Incl
EEI Form

H. M. McKY
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Department

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

216 216

[redacted]

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DETACHMENT NO.
16th Weather Sqdn.
Chanute Air Force Base
Chanute Field, Illinois.

5/E/u

9 December 1948

SUBJECT: Reporting of Information on "Flying Discs"

TO: Commanding General
Air Material Command
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio
ATTN: TSDIN

1. In compliance with 2102D Air Weather Group TWX 464 dated 19 November 1948 and letter, Headquarters, United States Air Force, subject as above, 6 February 1948, the following report is submitted:

a. Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois, 090046Z.
b. High scattered clouds, visibility ten miles.
c. Sgt. [redacted] and Sgt. [redacted], Weather Observers, Det 16/1L, 16th Weather Squadron, Chanute AFB, Illinois.
d. Photographs of objects - none available.
e. Sketches of objects - None available.
f. Object sighted:
(1) One
(2) Round
(3) Undetermined size
(4) Bright white color
(5) Two tenths of distant sky within two to three seconds.
(6) Heading from north east toward south south west.
(7) Undetermined maneuverability.
(8) Undetermined altitude.
(9) No sound
(10) Exhaust trail undetermined.

g. General remarks:

Object sighted to north east moving to south south west that resembled a skyrocket or meteor but was moving upward fifteen degrees. Object was described to be about thirty five degrees above the horizon and traversed across thirty five degrees of the horizon within three seconds and disappeared.

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[redacted]

[redacted]

216

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[redacted]

No file #
Subj: ROIOFD

9 Dec 48

2. Statements of observers are inclosed herewith.

Rush T. Kelley

2 Incls.
1. Stmt Sgt. [redacted]
2. Stmt Sgt. [redacted]

RUSH T. KELLEY
Captain, USAF
For CHARLES K. TAYLOR,
Major, USAF
Station Weather Officer

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED 9 December 1948

I, [redacted] Sergeant, USAF, [redacted] Weather Observer, 16th Weather Squadron, Chanute Air Force Base, Chanute Field, Illinois do hereby make the following statement to Captain Rush T. Kelley, Assistant Base Weather Officer.

On 8 December 1948 at approximately 1846 hours, I was walking with Sgt. [redacted] towards the Base Weather Station when I happened to look up at the sky and notice what appeared to be either a sky rocket or meteor. I tapped Sgt. [redacted] on the arm and called his attention to it.

The object did not appear to be a star because it was three or four times as large as a star and it seemed to be closer to us than a star would be. It was heading from the north east toward the south south west and was moving upwards at about 15 or 20 degree angle. As it moved it seemed to get larger, and it was leaving a trail. In about two or three seconds it disappeared. The object was round, white and moved very fast.

We went into the Weather Station and reported this to the Duty Forecaster whose name is M Sgt. Robert W. Fillman.

[redacted]
Sergeant, USAF
[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] 216

6-100
AWW-E-333

[redacted]

STATEMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

9 December 1948

I, [redacted] Sergeant, USAF, am a Weather Observer assigned to the 16th Weather Squadron, Chanute Air Force Base, Chanute Field, Illinois, and do hereby make the following statement to Capt. Rush T. Kelley, Assistant Base Weather Officer, Chanute AFB:

On 8 December 1948 at approximately 1846 hours, I was walking with Sgt. [redacted] also of the 16th Weather Squadron, towards the Base Weather Station when I noticed what appeared to be a sky rocket or meteor. This object was heading upwards about a 15 degree angle, moving from the north east to the south south west. The object was white in color, very bright and moved about two to three tenths of the sky and then disappeared.

This object did not appear to me to be a falling star.

I immediately went to the Duty Forecaster at the Base Weather Station and reported seeing this.

[redacted]

Sergeant, USAF

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[redacted]

[redacted] 216

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AWW-I-333

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ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

(Re: Sightings of Unidentified Aerial Objects)

PROJECT "SIGN"

1. Date of sighting - 8 December 1948

2. Time of sighting -18:46

3. Where sighted -

a. Ground

(1) Town - Chanute Air Force Base, Chanute Field, Illinois.

(2) Distance and directionfrom city or town - The object was sighted from the sidewalk in front of the Operations Building (two-story building) while facing the ramp or N. East.

(3) From building (story), yard, etc. - The sidewalk runs East and West along the south side of the Operations Building bounded to the south by a 3/4 story crash truck building approximately 75' south of the sidewalk.

(4) Map coordinates (if feasible) showing latitude and longitude - 40°-18' No-88°-7 1/2' East.

b. Air

(1) Type aircraft, speed, altitude, direction of flight - Does not apply.

(2) Distance and direction from city, town or known landmark - Does not apply.

(3) Clock position of object from observer's aircraft - Does not apply.

(4) Latitude and longitude - Does not apply.

c. Sea

(1) Latitude and longitude - Does not apply.

(2) Proximity to land - Does not apply.

4. Number of objects

a. Formation type - One

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[redacted]

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5. Distance of object from observer - Object was very high, not under 15,000 feet.

   a. Laterally or horizontally - Travelled from the North East to South, South West and seemed to be going up from the time first seen travelling horizontally.

   b. Angle of elevation from horizon - 1t to 20°

   c. Altitude - Over 15,000 feet.

6. Time in sight - 18:46

7. Appearnace of object -

   a. Color - White

   b. Shape - Round, leaving a trail of white.

   c. Apparent construction - Could not discern.

   d. Size

      (1) Estimated size - About the size of plane.

      (2) Size as it appeared from observer(s view - About the size of jet plane(fighter type)

8. Direction of light - North East to South South West.

9. Tactics or maneuvers.

   (a) Vertical ascent or descent, horizontal, oscillating, fluttering evasive, aggressive, erratic - Seemed to be moving in upward path horizontal form 15° above horizon to 20 or 25°.

10. Evidence of Exhaust

   a. Color of smoke - White trailing smoke of fire.

   b. Lenght and width - 1t' long, 6' wide.

   c. Odor (if any) - None.

   d. Rate of evaporation - Two seconds.

   e. Does trail vary with sound? No sound at all.

11. Effect on clouds

   a. Opened path thru clouds - No clouds.

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[redacted]

COPY

b. Formed cloud or mists - Could not discern at night.

c. Reflected on cloud - None.

d. Shown thru cloud - None

12. Lights

a. Reflected or attached - Could not discern.

b. Luminous - Could not discern.

c. Blinked on and off in relation to speed - Could not discern.

13. Support

a. Wings - Could not see.

b. Aerodynamic lift of fuselage - Unknown.

c. Vertical jet - Unknown.

d. Rotating cylinder or cone - Unknown.

e. Aerostatic lift - Not a balloon or dirigible.

14. Propulsion

a. Propeller or jet - Possible jet.

b. Rotar - No.

c. Aerodynamic vanes - Unknown.

d. Visible exhaust or jet openings - White ball of fire leaving trail.

15. Control and stability

a. Fins - Could not see.

b. Stabilizers.

(1) Size - Could not see.

(2) Shape - Could not see.

(3) Location - Could not see.

16. Air ducts - Could not see.

17. Speed - Possibly 350 or over.

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[redacted]

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18. Sound

a. Continuous whine or buzz - None.

b. Roar, whistle, whoosh - None.

19. Was any radio antenna to be observed, i.e., (any projections or extensions that might presumably be construed as such) - None.

20. Manner of disappearnace

a. Exploede - None

b. Faded from View - Yes.

c. Disappeared behind obstacle - No.

Relative to the Observer

1. Name of observer [redacted] Sgt., 16th Weather Squadron, Detachment #1. [redacted]

2. Address - Chanute Air Force Base, Chanute Field, Illinois.

3. Occupation - Weather Observer.

4. Place of business - Chanute Air Force Base, Chanute Field, Illinois

5. Hobbies

a. Time engaged in hobby - Weather observer for 2 years in Army

6. Ability to determine

a. color
b. Speed of moving objects
c. Size at distance

} 2 years' past experience as an observer for Army.

7. Reliability of observer

a. Sources

(1) Neighbors # Unknown

(2) Police Dept. - No police record.

(3) FBI Records - Unknown.

(4) Employer - USAF

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[redacted]

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8. Notes relative to observer on

a. Sightings in general -

b. How attention was drawn to object

(1) Sound - None

(2) Motion - Heading upwards about 15° angle.

(3) Glint of light - Streaking

9. Witnesses - Sgt. [redacted] Sergeant, USAF, [redacted]

a. Address - 16th Weather Squadron Detachment #1, Chanute Air Force Base, Chanute Field, Illinois.

b. Occupation - Weather Observer, USAF.

c. Reliability - Good.

10. Coments of interrogator re intelligence and character of person interrogated.

Informant appeared to be above average in intelligence and is highly recommended by his commanding Officer.

Relative to Radar Sightings

Does not apply.

General

Sighting at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois, 090046Z. High scattered clouds, visibility ten miles. Informant sighted one round object of undetermined size, bright white color, two tenths of distant sky within two to three seconds. Object heading from north east toward south south west at undetermined altitude. leaving an exhaust trail. Object resembled a skyrocket or meteor but was moving upward fifteen degrees. Traversed across thirty five degrees of the horizon within three seconds and disappeared. No photographs of object available. No physical evidence or fragments obtained. To informant's knowledge, object did not contact earth in this vicinity.

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[redacted]

From Detachment 16/11, 16 Wea Sq to MCIAXO-3, AMC

Info 2102 Air Weat Gp, 16 Wea Sq.

In compliance with command instructions, the following report of sighting unusual aerial object is submitted:

a. Chanute AF Base, ~~0900 46Z or 8 Dec 48~~ at 1946

b. High scattered clouds, visibility 10 miles.

c. Sgt [redacted] Sgt [redacted] weather observers, this detachment.

d. Negative.

e. Negative

f. (1) 1

(2) round

(3) Undetermined

(4) bright white

(5) 2/10ths of distant sky within 2 to 3 seconds.

(6) From NE toward SSW.

(7) Undetermined

(8) Undetermined

(9) Negative

(10) Undetermined

g. Object sighted to Northeast moving to South Southwest resembling skyrocket or meteor but moving upward 15°. Object 35° above horizon. Traversed 35° within 3 seconds and disappeared.

Dr HYNEK'S EVALUATIONS EXTRACTED FROM PROJECT GRUDGE REPORT.

INCIDENT INDEX

1. Astronomical

   a. High probability:
      #26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 48, 49, 59, 60, 66, 69, 70, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 116, 119, 132, 136, 140, 147, 148, 158, 174, 184, 185, 187, 197, 203, 204, 208, 216, 219, 238.

   b. Fair or low probability:
      #19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 35, 36, 46, 50, 63, 67, 80, 82, 93, 100, 112, 120, 121, 129, 130, 144, 153, 165, 166, 167, 175, 192, 199, 202, 205, 220, 230, 240.

2. Non-astronomical but suggestive of other explanations

   a. Balloons or ordinary aircraft:
      #3, 11, 22, 41, 42, 53, 54, 73, 81, 83, 91, 92, 113, 114, 115, 126, 131, 138, 141, 145, 155, 156, 157, 159, 160, 161, 163, 169, 171, 173, 178, 180, 182, 188, 190, 194, 195, 196, 198, 200, 201, 209, 210, 217, 222, 235, 237, 239.

   b. Rockets, flares or falling bodies:
      #4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 25, 56, 65, 78, 106, 107, 108, 109, 133, 170, 211, 218.

   c. Miscellaneous (reflections, auroral streamers, birds, etc.):
      #39, 89, 123, 124, 128, 146, 164, 181, 189, 214, 221, 231, 234.

3. Non-astronomical, with no explanation evident

   a. Lack of evidence precludes explanation:
      #38, 44, 45, 47, 56, 57, 72, 86, 87, 88, 90, 99, 110, 117, 118, 125, 127, 137, 139, 149, 150, 177, 179, 191, 206, 212, 213, 229, 232, 233.

   b. Evidence offered suggests no explanation:
      #1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 29, 37, 40, 51, 52, 58, 61, 62, 64, 68, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 84, 105, 111, 122, 135, 151, 152, 154, 162, 168, 172, 176, 183, 186, 193, 207, 215, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 134.