

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 7 Jan 51		2. LOCATION Honolulu, T.H.		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Meteor ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 08/0500Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Seconds		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One		9. COURSE Arc	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Muddy orange colored flame. Shape - Oil fire blown by wind - Size 10 time B-17 - Alt 2,000' - 3,000'. Object passed through three clouds, traveling in an arc. Transversed an arc of 60 deg. Source was familiar with meteors and said this didn't look like a meteor.				11. COMMENTS Probable meteor sighting	

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HEADQUARTERS
PACIFIC DIVISION
MILITARY AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE
APO 953

I/PFO'D/bk

24-24

10 January 1951

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: Unconventional Aircraft

THRU: Commander
Military Air Transport Service
Andrews Air Force Base
Washington 25, D. C.
ATTENTION: Inspector General (OSI)

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters, United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

1. SYNOPSIS: Unidentified airborne object observed in sky over southern shore of island of Oahu, T. H., at 1900 hours Hawaiian Standard Time (HST), 7 January 1951.

2. DETAILS: At 1015 hours on 8 January 1951, Mr. ~~REDACTED~~, Honolulu, T. H., was interviewed at that address, and stated in substance as follows:

At approximately 1900 hours (HST) on 7 January 1951, I was sitting in my parked car at the Kapiolani Drive-In Theater, 1620 Kapiolani Boulevard, Honolulu, T. H. My car was parked facing the screen, on an approximate east-west line, heading approximately east. At that time, I looked out the open, right-hand window of my car toward the southeast, and observed a large mass of muddy-orange colored flame at an estimated altitude of between two and three thousand (2000-3000) feet and estimated to be out over the ocean approximately four (4) miles from my point of observation. The mass of flame appeared to me to be similar to the appearance of an oil fire blown by a strong wind. The mass of flame was moving at a very fast rate of speed in an east-to-west direction. I could not distinguish any form of solid body such as an aircraft, but could only see the flames. The mass of flames appeared to be traveling on an arc; the object appeared suddenly; travelled through three (3) clouds; and I

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did not see the flames beyond the third cloud. As the moving mass of flames approached the third cloud, I observed a conventional four-engined aircraft apparently coming into Honolulu from the south with landing lights lighted. I thought, at the time, that the pilot of the approaching aircraft must have seen the mass of flames, and that, possibly, the mass of flames had been an aircraft in distress crashing into the ocean. I could hear no sound from the unidentified object. The mass of flame appeared to be approximately eight to ten (8-10) times the wing-span of the four-engined aircraft. The mass of flames was visible to me for only a matter of seconds, during which time it traversed a sector of approximately sixty (60) degrees, from time of sighting until disappearance in the third cloud. A conventional single-engine fighter aircraft, flying at three-to-four hundred (300-400) miles per hour would have required approximately five (5) minutes to travel the same distance as the mass of flames. The speed of the mass of flames far surpassed the speed of any jet aircraft I have seen. The flames appeared to be lazily fanning out behind the object, or as though the flames were not keeping the same rate of speed as the main body, which I could not discern.

Mr. [REDACTED] furnished the following particulars concerning himself as an aid in evaluation of his observation: Born 28 June 1920 at Eagle River, Wisconsin; ten (10) years service in U. S. Army, last with paratroopers unassigned; approximately two hundred (200) hours total flying time, mainly as a passenger; current hobby and former profession as artist, painting; mechanical skill, and has both participated in and judged racing events of midget automobiles and motorcycles; non-drinker; excellent health; normal vision (20/20 in both eyes), although known to be color-blind to red and green.

Mr. [REDACTED] further advised that, at the time of the sighting, there was still a trace of light in the sky from the after-glow of sunset, pointing out that it was not pitch-black night. He also indicated that there was no unusual amount of artificial lighting in the immediate vicinity of his point of observation. He said the flames were clearly visible to him, and not a reflection seen in automobile windows or other reflecting surfaces. Mr. [REDACTED] said that it was a clear night, and added that the flames were not as bright as a meteor, nor was the path of flight similar to that of a meteor.

Mr. [REDACTED] advised that he had been accompanied by his wife and one (1) child, neither of whom saw the mass of flames. Mr. [REDACTED] said that he drove to the Honolulu Airport, Honolulu, T.H., at the conclusion of the movie, approximately 1130 hours, and that he inquired of personnel in the pilot-briefing and weather plotting room at the Airport concerning the object he had seen,

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and that these people reported that they had received no information concerning a sighting. Mr [redacted] said that he had also called The Honolulu Advertiser and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, reputable daily newspapers, and had received no indication of any other reports concerning the sighting. Mr FENN called the 14th Naval District Intelligence Office at approximately 0800 hours on 8 January 1951.

No other references to this sighting have been noted in public news media or reports of other agencies in the Hawaiian area. Reference is made to Spot Intelligence Report, File 24-24, dated 26 December 1950, forwarded to Director of Special Investigations, Headquarters USAF, Washington 25, D. C., by this office, reporting a similar sighting on 24 December 1950.

3. ACTION TAKEN: Office of the Intelligence Officer, Pacific Division, Military Air Transport Service, Hickam AF Base, APO 953, advised on 8 January 1951.

4. DISTRIBUTION: In addition to addressees, copies of this report are furnished:

Chief, Intelligence Division, MATS, Andrews AFB, Washington 25 D. C.

Intelligence Officer, PACD MATS, Hickam AFB, APO 953

FOR THE COMMANDER:



PERRY F. O'DONNELL
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Investigations

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B/L fr Hq PACD, Subj:
Unconventional Aircraft
Gordon A. Fenn, civ
dtd 10 Jan 51

1st Ind

MACIG

MATS 24-233

7 JAN 51

HQ, MILITARY AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE, Andrews AF Base, Washington 25, D. C.

TO: Headquarters USAF, The Inspector General, ATTN: Director of Special Investigations, Washington 25, D. C.

Forwarded for your information.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Julius A. Kolb
JULIUS A. KOLB
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Inspector General

AFCSI-6
24-185-600/20

A X A

2nd Ind

31 JAN 1951

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE, HQ, U. S. AIR FORCE, Washington 25, D. C.

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

Forwarded as a matter of interest to your Command.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

ROY A. LANGE
ROY A. LANGE
Major, U. S. Air Force
Asst Exec, Dir. of Special Investigations
The Inspector General

File Bridge
master file

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Balloon Takes a Trip

Residents of the Wichita Falls area had "flying saucer" troubles again Tuesday, but government ordnance officials said "no such thing."

The object that was seen by literally thousands of West Texans, the government men said, was a balloon released early Tuesday at White Sands Proving Ground, N. M.

That report may end Tuesday's chapter of the saucer tales officially, but some folks around here were skeptical of the explanation.

Too many people saw the mysterious thing. Nearly everybody in Seymour turned out to look at it.

People all the way from Guthrie and Dickens to the immediate vicinity of Wichita Falls watched the "balloon"—some of them for nearly two hours.

The pilot of a light plane from Hobbs, N. M., chased the object for more than 100 miles but was able to get no closer than 50 to 75 miles.

The Record News received scores of telephone calls from wondering witnesses, and calls came also to the Sheppard Air

Force Base control tower, the police station, the weather bureau and the Civil Aeronautics Association.

All spectators wanted to stress a common belief—the object was definitely not a balloon, they said.

Reports from various New Mexico and Texas communities had all the trimmings of the flying saucer stories, the Associated Press reported. The object moved sharply to the right and left. It jumped up and down. It even left vapor trails, a report traced to the antics of a jet plane cavorting about 100 miles from Artesia, N. M.

The balloon, said the White Sands officials, was released there early Tuesday as part of an ordnance conference in connection with the guided missile program. Reports started to trickle in from Southeast New Mexico and Southwest West Texas that another flying saucer had been sighted.

It was between 5:30 and 6:30 p. m. that most persons in this area observed the "balloon."

Sheriff Ed Luttrell at Vernon
(Continued on Page 2)

Hundreds See Flying Balloon

(Continued From Page One)

watched the object for nearly 30 minutes as it moved slowly through the sky at a height of 8,000-10,000 feet. It stopped intermittently, he said, then suddenly began climbing straight up until it disappeared at a height of 30,000 to 40,000 feet.

Luttrell, an Air Force reservist who is familiar with planes and other aerial objects, said he had seen "a lot of weather balloons go up, but I never saw one go up that fast."

He called a friend, R. B. Smith, a Vernon surveyor. Smith watched the "balloon" through a 40-power telescope. It was traveling, he said, at an angle from the ground of 44 degrees and 50 minutes and moving northeast. When it began its sudden ascent, the "balloon" seemed to give off a burst of orange flame, Smith declared.

To Luttrell and Smith, the object resembled a "tremendous floating light bulb"—shaped like an inverted light bulb with a neck that came to a point. It was aluminum in color.

A "very large" disc traveling eastward at an extreme height was what one resident of Monday saw.

Clarence Fox of Lubbock noticed people watching the sky from their yards as he drove from Lubbock to Wichita Falls Tuesday afternoon. But not until he reached Seymour about 5:55 p. m. and saw that nearly everyone in town was looking skyward did he stop.

It was then he saw "an object apparently about 30,000 feet high and shaped much like a top except that it was flat on the bottom. It was giving off a white light similar to fluorescent lighting."

Fox left Seymour about 6:15 p. m. and stopped about seven miles from there to have another look. He said the object then appeared to be some 50 or 100 miles south of Seymour and traveling at a high rate of speed.

Upon reaching Wichita Falls, the Lubbock man talked with a truck driver who had watched the object all the way from Dickens. "After dark," the driver said, "it seemed to take on a reddish glow."

COUNTRY USA		REPORT NO. 1	LEAVE BLANK
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT "Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft"			
AREA REPORTED ON 14th Army Area		FROM (Agency) Wg Intel O Sheppard AFB, Texas	
DATE OF REPORT 18 Jan 51	DATE OF INFORMATION 17 Jan 51	EVALUATION B-2	
PREPARED BY (Officer) Wg Intel O Sheppard AFB, Texas		SOURCE Wichita Falls Record News, Wichita Falls, Tex	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Ltr. AFOIC-CC-1, Dept of AF, 8 Sep 50, Subject as above			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 113--Part II.) Newspaper clipping taken from the Wichita Falls Record News, morning edition, dated Wednesday 17 January 1951, listed as incl # 1, is forwarded for your information herewith. No further inquiry has been made except checking the story with the sheriff of Vernon Texas, since Government men at White Sands Proving Ground, N.M., identified the object.			
<i>file</i> <i>George</i> <i>511.15</i> <i>Wg Intel</i>			
1 INCL.			
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DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR 1 cy Commanding General, ATRC, ATTN: DC/S Operations, Director of Intelligence			