PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 11 Aug 51	**2. LOCATION** Birmingham, Ala	**12. CONCLUSIONS** ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical Meteors ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other_____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2325CST & 0015 CST GMT 10/0525Z	**4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION** ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	**6. SOURCE** Civilians	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Given	**8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS** Many	**9. COURSE** NE to SW

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Color was orange-red trail. Speed estimated at 800 mph. Shape circular. Size 18 ft - 27 ft diam.

11. COMMENTS

Meteor shower reported at time. Evaluated as meteors

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

AF FORM 112—PART I
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)
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COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
United States of America	1	

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT
Unconventional Aircraft

AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)
Birmingham, Alabama	2587th AFRTC Birmingham, Alabama

DATE OF REPORT	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION
21 August 1951	11-12 August 1951	Doubtful

PREPARED BY (Officer)	SOURCE
MVG	Statements, Telephone calls, etc.

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)

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 112—Part II.)

At approximately 2325 CST, 11 August 1951, Mr. [redacted], [redacted], Birmingham, Alabama telephoned Base Operations, 2587th AFRTC, Birmingham Municipal Airport, Birmingham, Alabama and reported unconventional type aircraft which he described as 18 to 20 feet in diameter, trailing twin exhausts of orange-red flame, making passes over TCI Plant, Fairfield, Alabama. Base Operations alerted 3903d Radar Bomb Scoring Squadron, Birmingham Municipal Airport, who tracked for reported unconventional aircraft on radar equipment AN/MSQ-2 with negative results. Birmingham Control Tower was alerted and contacted Delta inbound flight 126X (cargo flight) who reported seeing bright streak of light 35 miles southwest of Birmingham.

Raymond G. Messer
RAYMOND G. MESSER
Major, USAF
Commanding

3 INCLS.
1. Stm of Mr. [redacted]
2. Stm of Miss [redacted]
3. Weather Condition Report

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DOD DIR 5200.10

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR
2 cys - CG, Air Materiel Command, ATTN: MCIS
1 cy - CG, ConAC, ATTN: Director of Intelligence

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19—56589-1 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1950 O—918331

[redacted]

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To the air Force. aug. 13, 1951

On Sat. Aug. 11, 1951 Mr. +
and Dorothy Mae Motor + My self was sitting out front
in the yard on Fairfield, Ala. When
I look up and saw a object shoot across the sky. I
didn't think much about it till the object cam
across again but this time Mrs + Mr. saw
it too. it came across three more time and I
call the New Paper and they referred me to ~~to~~
call air operation then we saw the object about
16 times Between 11:10 P.M. & 12:05 P.M. The object look
like it was 18 to 20 feet in diameter and came up
in a comp and had twin exhaust. The object flew
better 3000 & 5000 feet. The speed was between
800 & 1000 M.P.H.

Sworn to before me, an Officer of the USAF authorized to take oaths, this 13th day of August 1951 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama.

G.O. Swaggerty

G.O. SWAGGERTY
Detachment Commander
Office of Special Investigations

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[redacted]

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Birmingham
Jefferson County
Alabama

12 August 1951

My name is [redacted] and I reside at [redacted], Birmingham, Alabama. On the night of 12 August 1951 at a proximately 0010 CST, I observed a beam of light in the western sector of the sky, traveling in an arc from North to South, or North-east to South-west. The light would seem to fade and then recur at intervals of approximately 10 to 15 seconds. The light seemed to be a pale yellow color when observed against the glare of the steel mills in the west.

I first observed the light at approximately 0010 CST and estimate that it was visible for approximately seven minutes. I reported my observation to Base Operations, 2587th AFRTC at the Birmingham Municipal Airport at approximately ~~0013~~ 0130 CST.

(MISS) [redacted]

Sworn to before me, an Officer of the USAF authorized to take oaths, this 13th Day of August 1951 in Birmingham, Jefferson County Alabama.

George M. Peagler

GEORGE M. PEAGLER
CAPT. USAFR

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WEATHER DETACHMENT 26-101
26th Weather Squadron
Birmingham Municipal Airport
Birmingham, Alabama

13 August 1951

SUBJECT: Weather Conditions at time of reported unidentified "flying objects".

TO: Captain Max V. Gilmer
Operations Officer
2587th AFRTC
Birmingham Municipal Airport,
Alabama

1. At 2300 hours, Central Standard Time, on 11 August 1951 to 0430 hours, Central Standard Time, the local sky condition in Birmingham, Alabama was clear (ie. no clouds), wind was calm and surface visibilty was 4-5 miles with ground fog and smoke.

2. Information supplied by Mister W.E. Glenn, Professor of Astronomy, Birmingham Southern College stated that on the night of 11th and 12th August 1951 respectively, a shower of meteorites were visible to the naked eye from 2300 hours, to 0300 hours Central Standard Time, and Mister W.E. Glenn further stated that time time of the year meteorites are very numerous.

3. Miss , , of Birmingham Southern College also stated that she personally saw three (3) unidentified flying objects about 2400 hours Central Standard Time, 12 August 1951, and assumed them to be "shooting stars".

Alexander Y. Mitchell
ALEXANDER Y. MITCHELL
Captain, USAF
Commanding

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AF FORM 112---PART I
approved 1 June 1948

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Country USA	Report No. 51-7A	(Leave Blank)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Subject: Report of Information on Unconventional Aircraft		
Area Reported On: Birmingham, Ala.		From (Agency): Hqs CADF, Int.
Date of Report: 24 Aug 51	Date of Information: 12 and 17 Aug 51	Evaluation: F-2
Prepared by (Officer): ELLIOTT S. MOORHEAD, JR., CAPT. USAF		Source: Hqs 663d AC&W Squadron

References (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)
ADOL 200-1 11 April 51

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 112--Part II.)

At 0120 EST, 12 August 1951, a report forwarded to this headquarters advising that an unidentified object was making passes at approximately 5000' and 600 MPH over Birmingham, Ala. was investigated by Captain Geo. M. Peagler of the 663rd AC&W Squadron.

All original letters pertaining to this incident were copied on AF Form 112--Part II by Hq CADF, Deputy for Intelligence, as correct forms and directives were not used by the originating unit.

Elliott S. Moorhead Jr.
ELLIOTT S. MOORHEAD, JR.
Captain USAF
Chief Estimates Div.

3 Incls
1. Ltr Rpt fr 663d AC&W
2. Ltr Rpt 1st Lt Jas. L. Anderson, T/Sgt
3. Ltr Rpt 1st Lt Harold Hawkins

Approving Officer: H. H. HEUGATTEL
Colonel USAF
Deputy for Intel.

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Distribution by Originator
2 Copies - Commander, Air Materiel Command, Attention: [illegible]
1 Copy - Commander, Air Defense Command, Attention: Dir. of Intel.

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FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES
Base Operations 2587th AFRTC Birmingham, Alabama	1	

1. Unconventional Aircraft Report

a. Description: 18 to 20 feet in diameter, circular, building up to conical shape in center, trailing twin exhausts of orange-reddish flame; speed 800 to 1000 miles per hour; made repeated passes over Tennessee Coal, Iron & RR Company, approximately 16 to 18 times, traveling from northeast to southwest with a time interval between passes of 1½ to 2½ minutes.

b. First observed at 2310 Central Standard Time, 11 August 1951 and the object was last reported at 0117 Central Standard Time 12 August 1951.

c. Unconventional aircraft was observed visually from the surface by Mr. [redacted] Birmingham, Alabama (Fairfield sub-division). The unconventional aircraft was also observed by Miss [redacted] Birmingham, Alabama. Altitude of object was estimated 3000 to 5000 feet and travelled at a speed of from 800 to 1000 miles per hour. 3903d Radar Bomb Group, Detachment 20, Birmingham Municipal Airport, Birmingham, Alabama was alerted and tracked for reported unconventional aircraft on radar equipment AN/MSQ-2 type with negative results.

d. The unconventional aircraft was observed from a geographical location of 86 degrees 56 minutes west; 33 degrees 27 minutes north, in Fairfield sub-division of Birmingham. Object made repeated passes over Tennessee Coal, Iron & RR Company Plant from northeast to southwest, at an altitude of 3000 feet to 5000 feet.

e. Due to the temperament of Mr. [redacted], see inclosure #1, and lack of experience of Miss [redacted], see inclosure #2, it is felt that little reliability can be placed in the descriptions given in their statements.

f. Teletype sequence for Birmingham 11 August 1951 2330CST: Clear 4 miles in smoke, pressure 176 millibars, temperature 73/dew point 72 wind southwest 2 miles per hour, altimeter 007.

g. Mr. [redacted] Professor of Astronomy, Birmingham Southern College, states that on the nights of the 11th and 12th a shower of meteorites were visible to the naked eye from 2300 Central Standard Time until 0300 Central Standard Time.

h. There exists no physical evidence to substantiate sightings.

i. The Air Defense Command, Knoxville, Tennessee dispatched an F-82 Aircraft number 6411, Pilot Captain R. W. Wilson, at 0053 Central Standard Time 12 August 1951 and a search of the Birmingham area was made. This search met with negative results and the aircraft returned to Knoxville at 0345 Central Standard Time 12 August 1951.

j. Birmingham Control Tower was alerted by Base Operations at the time of sighting. Birmingham Control Tower made contact with inbound Delta Flight 126X (Cargo Flight) who reported seeing a bright streak of light 35 miles southwest of Birmingham. Upon departure from Birmingham to Meridian, Mississippi, Flight 126X reported from 5 minutes south of Birmingham there appeared to be twin streaks of light at a very high altitude descending at a 45 degree angle and traveling at a very high rate of speed from east to west. The time was 0033 Central Standard Time 12 August 1951. Captain [redacted], Delta Airlines, Mumicipal Airport, Atlanta, Georgia was in command of the flight.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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From (Agency)	Report No.	
Hqs CADF, Int	51-11	Page 2 of 5 Pages

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663RD AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON
30TH AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)
Maryville, Tennessee

17 August 1951

AD 319.1 x 360.11

SUBJECT: Report of Unusual Incident

TO : Commanding General
Central Air Defense Force
1209 Walnut Street
Kansas City, Missouri

1. In accordance with provisions of Air Defense Command Letter 200-1, dated 11 April 1951, the following report is submitted:

a. At 0120 EST, 12 August 1951, Captain Stenger of Military Flight Service Center, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama advised this unit that numerous calls from inhabitants of Birmingham, Alabama were reporting an unidentified object "at 5,000 feet, speed 800 MPH, making passes over the city." He also advised that a pilot of Delta Air Lines flight 126 saw the object.

b. Upon relaying this information to 30th Air Division (Defense), ADCC, the duty controller thereat, advised the duty controller at this organization to order one (1) F-82 type aircraft from this station to investigate the Birmingham incident.

c. Captain Ralph W. Wilson, Detachment #1, 52nd A/A Fighter Wing, piloted the F-82 to Birmingham and reported no visual or radar observation.

d. Captain George L. Feagler, operations officer of the 663rd ACW Squadron proceeded to Birmingham to make further investigation. Persons contacted were:

1 T/Sergeant James L. Anderson, 2587th AFRC, duty operations dispatcher, Birmingham Municipal Airport at the time of reported sightings. T/Sergeant Anderson's report is attached as Inclosure #1. (The W. H. Barton referred to in Inclosure #1 could not be located.)

Correspondent's Impression: A competent Non-commissioned Officer of above average intelligence.

2 Miss [redacted], employee of Eastern Airlines at Birmingham Municipal Terminal.

Correspondent's Impression: An intelligent young lady.

5/8/3

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From (Agency)	Report No.	Page 3 of 5 Pages
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3 Mr. G. O. Sqaggerty, Detachment CO, 6th District OSI, P. O. Box 2309, Birmingham, Alabama.

e. Persons with whom Captain Peagler could establish no contact:

1 Pilot of Delta Air Lines Flight 126 and Mr. [redacted]

The OSI will endeavor to see both parties.

f. Findings and Observations: There are several rotating Airway Beacons near Birmingham and, what with the smoke reported in the area, it seems very probable that the reflections of one or more of these beacons against the low lying smoke may have been what was observed. It is considered nearly impossible for anyone to have estimated either the speed or the altitude of a flying object in such a determinedly positive manner as reported on this particularly hazy night in Birmingham. The reoccurrance element, as reported by [redacted] would sternly indicate a rotating beacon against cloud and/or haze cover.

2. Additional information will be forwarded when received from the 6th District OSI.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

/s/ KENNETH M. CHRISTOPHER
Captain USAF
Adjutant

2 Incls:
1. Rpt by T/Sgt Anderson
2. St by Miss [redacted]

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

From (Agency)	Report No.	Page 4 of 5 Pages
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BASE OPERATIONS
2587TH AIR FORCE RESERVE TRAINING CENTER
BIRMINGHAM MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
Birmingham, Alabama

11 August 1951

SUBJECT: Report of Unidentified Object over Birmingham.

TO: All Concerned.

1. At 2346CST 11 August 1951, Mr. [redacted], Birmingham, Alabama, Telephone number [redacted] (neighbor's phone) reported an unidentified object in the sky west of Birmingham and gave the following information:

a. Location: over general area of TCI Plant in Fairfield.
b. Time: First seen at 2325CST--last seen at 0015CST.
c. Altitude: 5,000', later descended to 3,000'.
d. Description: Approximately 18-27' in diameter; circular, building up to cone shape in the center; trailing twin exhaust streaks approximately 20' long in orange-redish flame.
e. Speed: approximately 800mph.
f. Direction of Flight: Made approximately 16-18 passes all from North East to South West.
g. Object seemed to be making systematic pattern as if flying photographic mission; made repeated passes over TCI, time spacing between passes 1½ to 2½ minutes.

2. Action Taken

a. Maxwell Flight Service Supervisor (AC) notified 2355 CST.
b. Officer of the Day notified.
c. Birmingham Control Tower notified.
d. Birmingham Radar Home Squadron alerted to track object.

3. Additional Reports.

a. Delta Flight 126,K, Pilot-Captain [redacted] of Atlanta inbound Birmingham reported seeing streak of light 35 miles Southeast of Birmingham at approximately the same time Mr. Morton reported seeing object. Delta Flight 126 outbound from Birmingham also reported seeing twin streaks of light 5 minutes South of Birmingham at a very high altitude descending at a very high rate of speed in direction from East to West at 0033 CST.

b. Mrs [redacted] Birmingham, Alabama reported observing [redacted] between 1000' and 3000' bound southwest at a speed described, "definitely slower than lightning" at 0040 CST.

/s/ James L. [illegible]
1/Lt., USAF

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

From (Agency)	Report No.	Page 5 of 5 Pages
Hqs CAFF, Int	51-14	

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Birmingham
Jefferson County
Alabama

12 August 1951

My name is [redacted] and I reside at [redacted] Birmingham, Alabama. On the night of 11 August 1951 at approximately 0110 CST, I observed a beam of light in the western sector of the sky, traveling in an arc from North to South, or North-east to South-west. The light would seem to fade and then recur at intervals of approximately 10 to 15 seconds. The light seemed to be a pale yellow color when observed against the glare of the steel mills in the west.

I first observed the light at approximately 0110 CST and estimate that it was visible for approximately seven minutes. I reported my observation to Base Operations, 2587th AFRTC at the Birmingham Municipal Airport at approximately 0130 CST.

(MISS) /s/ [redacted]

Sworn to before me, an Officer of the USAF authorized to take oaths, this 13th Day of August 1951 in Birmingham, Jefferson County Alabama.

/s/ GEORGE M. PEAGLER
CAPT. USAFR

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