

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 27 Aug 1951		2. LOCATION Vandalia, Ill		CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☒ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2000 - 2030 GMT 28/0200Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Newspaper Rpt			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Unk		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one			
		9. COURSE West			
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Big orange light with blinding intensity had red light on top. Viewed in southwest with course of West.				11. COMMENTS Duration, speed, etc unknown therefore case evaluated as Insufficient Data.	

HEADQUARTERS
AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY ADDRESS BOTH
COMMUNICATION AND EN-
VELOPE TO COMMANDING
GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL
COMMAND, ATTENTION FOL-
LOWING OFFICE SYMBOL:

[REDACTED]
Ramsey, Illinois

Dear Miss [REDACTED]

Receipt of your letter dated September 10, 1951 is
hereby acknowledged.

Your letter will be forwarded to the office interested
in these matters.

If further information is desired you will be contacted.

Your action in writing this Command is appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Bryan L. Davis

BRYAN L. DAVIS
Colonel, USAF
Air Adjutant General

Ramsey, Illinois

September 10th, 1951.

Dear Sirs :

of interest

Perhaps your office might find the enclosed clipping from the Vandalia Leader, of August 30 issue. The incident referred to occurred on the evening of August 28th. 27th

Whether it was a military craft from Scott Field hasn't been made known here. If we can be of any further help and if you desire reports of this nature, if and when they should happen here, please advise.

Sincerely,

Ramsey, Illinois. R. R. #1

Thursday, August 30, 1951.

Strange Object in Sky Baffles Local Airmen

It wasn't a flying saucer! Nor was it a conventional type airplane! But whatever it was, it has aroused the curiosity of at least five persons who saw it soaring through the air Monday night.

"It was a big orange light with blinding intensity when I first noticed it over the southwest corner of the airport," Ray Williams told the Leader. "I had just taxied out onto the runway preparing to take a flight around the city when I noticed the light. It was between 8 and 8:30 p.m. I called over the radio to the CAA official on duty Albert Draaklec, and to Paul Reese and asked them to take a look.

"The lighted object disappeared into the west and we decided maybe there was nothing to it. So I decided to continue with my flight plans," Williams stated.

"Shortly after I had taken off I noticed the light again, approaching my plane. It came directly at me and then circled my plane twice before heading toward Greenville. I followed it and it made a circle round that town and came back toward Vandalia. I last saw it near the country club. The CAA radioed a transport pilot who was passing over Vandalia at the time at about 20,000 feet and he too saw the object.

"It was all very spooky," the Vandalia airman said. "It wasn't an airplane but whatever it was the light was on the tail of it, and there was a small red light on top. Probably it was some military craft from Scott Field making a test run."

The lighted object which appeared to have a 10 to 12 inch lens, was also seen by Dwight Kerns in St. Elmo the same evening.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in Vandalia? Read The Vandalia Leader. 35-1t

519.2

98-2168-4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

Status Report #1

Appendix IV

VANDALIA, ILLINOIS - 27 August 1951

34

The only information available on this incident is a newspaper article from "Vandalia Leader" of 30 August 1951.

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Status of Investigation

An attempt will be made to obtain further information on this incident.

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL,
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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UNCLASSIFIED

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RFC

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R7C

EXTRACT FROM STATUS REPORT # 2

DATE: 27 Aug 51

TIME (Local): 2000

LOCATION: Vandalia, Ill.

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: Unknown

SOUND: None

SPEED: High

ALTITUDE: Unknown

HEADING: Varied

SOURCE: Commercial pilots and Ground Obs.

ACTION OR COMMENTS: No further investigation. - No conclusions .

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Bright orange light seen from the ground and again
from two aircraft.