

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 11 Oct 1951		LOCATION Minneapolis, Minnesota		12. CONCLUSIONS	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 0630 GMT 11/1230Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other <u>UNIDENTIFIED</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☒ Unknown	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Multiple (3)		9. COURSE Maneuvered	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Observed from A/C at 10,000 ft. Brightly glowing object. Moving from E to W at high speed. At high altitude. Moved at speed of 5 degree per second. Halo with dark undersurface and slowed down and began climb in a lazy circles, with pattern like leaf falling. Did this for couple minutes. Watch for 5 min. A number of these objects observed from ground.				11. COMMENTS UNIDENTIFIED. When observers contacted airport, tried to track with theodolite but couldn't because objects moving too fast. Also observed again two hours later. No vapor trails. Smoke gray color. No reflection from object.	

VITEM 11 AMC /RESTRICTED/
FROM LT E J RUPPELT ATIAA-2C
TO COL WILLIS AFOIN-V/TC

SECURITY INFORMATION
REFERENCE CSAF ITEM NR 6, TT-281, 9
NOVEMBER 1951. SOURCES OF THIS REPORT WERE
CHECKED AND ARE EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS
WITH HIGH ALTITUDE RESEARCH BALLOON
PROJECT. ATIC IS INVESTIGATING FURTHER.

END ITEM 11 AMC /RESTRICTED/

TT-284
15 Nov 51
AMC ITEM 11
ATIAA-2C/RUPPELT

INFORMATION

CSAF ITEM 6/UNCL/

FM AFOIN-V/TC WILLIS

TT-281
9 Nov 51
CSAF ITEM 6

THIS INFORMATION WAS REPORTED THROUGH A
PERSONAL LETTER BY MR [REDACTED] AND REQUEST
COMMENT OR EVALUATION. "TIME: 0630, 11 OCT 51.

AT/AA

[REDACTED] AND I WERE FLYING AT 10,000 FT.
OBSERVING THE GRAB BAG BALLOON WHEN I SAW
A BRIGHTLY GLOWING OBJECT TO THE S.E. OF U.
OF M. AIRPORT. AT THAT TIME WE WERE A FEW
MILES NORTH OF MINNEAPOLIS AND HEADING
EAST. I POINTED IT OUT TO DICK AND WE BOTH
MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATION:

"THE OBJECT WAS MOVING FROM EAST TO WEST
AT A HIGH RATE AND VERY HIGH. WE TRIED KEEPING
THE SHIP ON A CONSTANT COURSE AND USING REIN-
FORCING MEMBER OF THE WINDSHIELD AS A POINT.
THE OBJECT MOVED PAST THIS MEMBER AT ABOUT
50 DEGREES PER SECOND.

"THIS OBJECT WAS PECULIAR IN THAT IT HAD
WHAT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A HALO AROUND IT WITH
A DARK UNDERSURFACE. IT CROSSED RAPIDLY AND
THEN SLOWED DOWN AND STARTED TO CLIMB IN
LAZY CIRCLES SLOWLY. THE PATTERN IT MADE WAS
LIKE A FALLING OAK LEAF INVERTED. IT WENT
THROUGH THESE GYRATIONS FOR A COUPLE MINUTES
AND THEN WITH A VERY RAPID ACCELERATION DIS-
APPEARED TO THE EAST. THIS OBJECT, DICK AND I
WATCHED FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES.

ACTION

"I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE ITS SIZE,
BECAUSE AT THE TIME I DIDN'T HAVE THE BALLOON
IN SIGHT FOR A COMPARISON.

"SHORTLY AFTER THIS WE SAW ANOTHER ONE,
BUT THIS ONE DIDN'T HANG AROUND. IT
APPROACHED FROM THE WEST AND DISAPPEARED TO
THE EAST, NEITHER ONE LEAVING ANY TRACE OF
VAPOR TRAIL.

"WHEN I SAW THE SECOND ONE I CALLED OUR
TRACING STATION AT THE U.OF M. AIRPORT AND THE
OBSERVERS THERE ON THE THEODOLITE MANAGED TO
GET GLIMPSES OF A NUMBER OF THEM, BUT COULDN'T
KEEP THE THEODOLITE GOING FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP
THEM IN THE FIELD OF THEIR INSTRUMENTS. BOTH
DOUG SMITH AND DICK DORIAN CAUGHT GLIMPSES OF
THESE OBJECTS IN THE THEODOLITE AFTER I
NOTIFIED THEM OF THEIR PRESENCE BY RADIO."
END CSAF ITEM 6/UNCL/

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CO, ATIC

TO: 109th Fighter Interceptor Wing
Wold Chastelain Field
Minneapolis, Minnesota
BA NOTE

INFO: D/I, Hq USAF, Washington 25, D. C.
BA NOTE

DATE-TIME GROUP

151345Z Nov 51

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

Routine

INFORMATION

☐

BOOK MESSAGE

☒

ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☒

MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐ YES☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

For Wing Intelligence Officer. In reference to AUC letter 200-1, it is requested that AF Form 112 be completed on the incident in your area on 11 October 1951. Two pilots of the General Mills high altitude balloon project, Mr. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], sighted an unconventional aircraft southeast of University of Minnesota Airport. Object was also observed from the ground with a theodolite by a Mr. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Please advise by wire when this can be expected.

In reply cite ATIAA-Grudge.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

918-168130

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

Lt. E. J. Depoelt/vs

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

SYMBOL

ATIAA-2c

TELEPHONE

54261

OFFICIAL TITLE

AT:AA
Lt. Ruppelt

UNCLASSIFIED

OK see DTG removed *Int T1*

C-1 CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY
FM WING INT OFFICER 133 FTR INTCP WG MINNESOTA
TO CO ATIC WP AFB OHIO

IN REFERENCE TO YOUR MSG REQUESTED INFO WILL BE
ACCOMPLISHED AS SOON (WHIO 1792) AS POSSIBLE. MR [REDACTED] MR [REDACTED]
AND MR [REDACTED] ARE ALL OUT OF TOWN, CONTACT COULD NOT BE MADE.
TRIED TO LOCATE A MR [REDACTED], ANYONE WITH THIS NAME COULD NOT BE
LOCATED. A REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR HQS AS SOON AS THE
PERSONNEL LISTED ABOVE RETURN

NR6150

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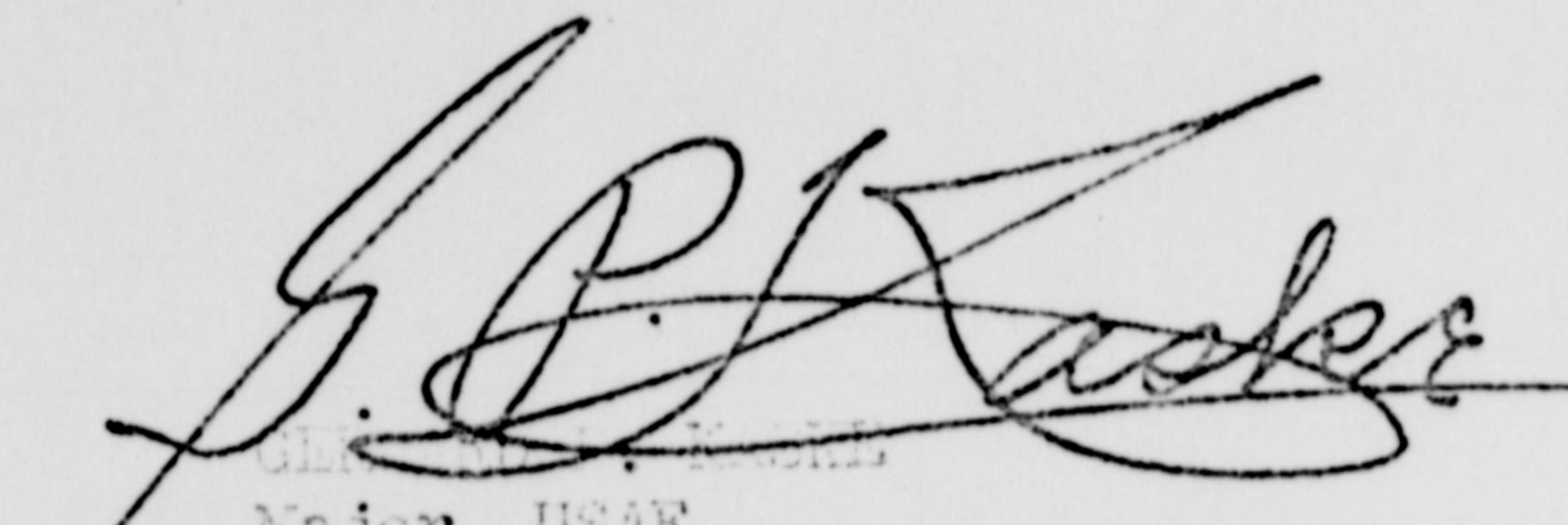
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(Classification)

1582

WP AFB
CO ATIC

Country United States	Report No. 2-51	(Leave Blank)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
Subject Sighting of Unidentified Object		
Area Reported On Vicinity of Minneapolis, Minnesota	From (Agency) Wg. Int. 133rd FIC, St. Paul, Minn.	
Date of Report 28 Nov 1951	Date of Information 12 Oct 1951	Evaluation Unevaluated
Prepared by (Officer) Gerhard P. Kaske, Major, USAF	Source Interrogation of Personnel-Air Research Labs.	
References (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AT-9358 ATIAA-Grudce		
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.)		
This report was completed as requested by TWX from CO ATIC Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, dtd 16 Nov 1951, ref Nbr AT-9358 by Interrogating personnel of the Balloon Project Sect. of the Aeronautical Research Laboratories, General Mills, Minneapolis, Minnesota who made the observation. The men mentioned in the report are all research engineers working on a classified combined AF-Navy project and three of the men mentioned are also pilots. Mr. [REDACTED], the narrator, was formerly in the USAF as a fighter pilot during WW II, Captain [REDACTED] with the 475th FG in the Pacific area. Mr. [REDACTED] also performed duty as engineering officer during his wartime service. Considering the excellent technical background of the men interviewed, their knowledge of aerodynamics and the fact that there were four men to confirm the reported sighting, the undersigned feels that this is a very reliable report for this type of observation.  Major, USAF Intelligence Officer 133 Fighter Interception Wing Holman Field St. Paul, Minn. DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10		
Distribution by Originator Cys #1 & 2, CO ATIC WP AFB, OHIO; Cy #3 General Mills Air Research; Cy #4, file. Cy #5 CADE, Cy #6 ADC		

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APPROVED 1 June 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

UNCLASSIFIED

From (Agency) Wg. Intell., 133rd FIW St. Paul, Minnesota	Report No. 2-51	Page 1 of 3 Pages
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The narrator, Mr. [REDACTED], reported sighting unidentifiable objects on two successive days in reports to his superior officer. Those original reports are included in their entirety in the event they had not been forwarded to ATIC WP AFB previously.

1. Mr. [REDACTED]

12 October 1951

Flying Saucer Observation

Time: 1010, 10 October 1951

Place: 10 miles east of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin

Observers: [REDACTED]

We had just spotted our trajectory flight and were approaching from the north at an altitude of 4000 ft. We started a climb towards the balloon on a course of 230°. At 6000 ft. I noticed a strange object crossing the skies from East to West, a great deal higher and behind our balloon. I estimated that our balloon was at approximately 20,000 ft. at the time.

Using our balloon for comparison, this object appeared to be about the size of the balloon. We were climbing and about 6 miles N.E. of the balloon. The object had a peculiar glow to it, crossing behind and above our balloon from East to West very rapidly, first coming in at a slight dive, leveling off for about a minute and slowing down, then into a sharp left and climb at an angle of 50 to 60° into the S.E. with a terrific acceleration, and disappeared.

[REDACTED] and I observed this object for approximately two minutes and it crossed through an arc of approximately 40-50°. We saw no vapor trail and from past experience I know that this object was not a balloon, jet, conventional aircraft, or celestial star.

JJK:rj

cc: [REDACTED]

Confirmation of the above sighting is not possible as Mr. [REDACTED] is presently at Alamogordo, N.M. on a research project for General Mills.

2. Mr. [REDACTED]

12 October 1951

SIGHTING OF FLYING SAUCERS

DOWNGRADED AT [REDACTED]
DECLASSIFIED AT [REDACTED]
DOD DIR 5200.10

Time: 0630, 11 October 1951

Dick Reilly and I were flying at 10,000 st. observing the grab bag balloon when I saw a brightly glowing object to the S.E. of U. of M. Airport. At

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

UNCLASSIFIED

From (Agency)	Report No.	Page	2	of	3	Pages
Wg. Intell., 133rd FIW St. Paul, Minnesota	2-51					

Sighting of Flying Saucers (contd.)

that time we were a few miles north of Minneapolis and heading east. I pointed it out to Dick and we both made the following observation:

The object was moving from the east to west at a high rate of speed and at very high altitude. We tried keeping the ship on a constant course to use the reinforcing member of the windshield as a fixed point. The object moved past this member at about 5° per second.

This object was peculiar in that it had what can be described as a halo around it with a dark undersurface. It crossed rapidly and then slowed down and started to climb slowly in lazy circles. The pattern it made was like an inverted falling leaf. It went through these gyrations for a couple of minutes. This object, Dick and I watched for approximately five minutes. I called our tracking station at the U. of M. Airport and the observers there on the theodolite managed to get glimpses of a number of them, but couldn't keep the theodolite going fast enough to keep them in the field of their instruments. Both ~~Mr. Smith~~ and ~~Mr. Dorian~~ caught glimpses of these objects in the theodolite after I notified them of their presence by radio.

I don't know how to describe its size, because at the time I didn't have the balloon in sight for a comparison and the weather was CAVU.

Shortly after this we saw another one, about two hours later, but this one didn't hang around. It approached from the west and disappeared to the east, neither one leaving any trace of vapor trail.

JJK:rj
cc: G.P. Haglund

The second of the observations reported above was confirmed by Mr. ~~Smith~~ who was one of the crew at the U. of M. Airport tracking the balloon ascension. The object crossed Mr. ~~Smith~~'s field of vision on a path roughly from 4 to 10 o'clock and when Mr. Dorian tried to track it in the theodolite he got only a brief blur (believes it was because theodolite wasn't focused). The object was visible in the theodolite for a little under two seconds and appeared to be smoky gray (no halo or glow was noticed), cigar shaped, left no vapor trail and gave off no reflection such as sun reflected by metal. Mr. ~~Smith~~ (not present at time of interrogation so this is hearsay repeated by Mr. ~~Smith~~) agreed with Mr. Dorian in all respects on the above information. Both Mr. ~~Smith~~ and Mr. ~~Dorian~~ claim that during their period of visual observation they saw two more like objects which finally formed in straight pattern after the first and all departed at same time. The men in the plane saw only the one object described above.

All of these men were very positive on the following major points:

1. Object though vaguely defined and blurred by distance retained a definite shape.
2. No vapor trails, exhaust flashes or jet propulsion flames were seen.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

From (Agency) Wg. Intell., 133rd FIW St. Paul, Minnesota	Report No. 2-51	Page 3 of 3 Pages
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Sighting of Flying Saucers (contd.)

3. The object acted exactly as if under definitely controlled flight.

APPROVED:

Robert L. Petit
ROBERT L. PETIT
Col, USAF
Wg. Executive Officer

Gerhard P. Kaske
GERHARD P. KASKE
Major, USAF
Intelligence Officer

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Appendix X

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. - 11 October 1951

The only information available on this incident is a letter quoted below.

TIME: 0630, 11 Oct 51. [REDACTED] and I were flying at 10,000 ft. observing the grab bar balloon when I saw a brightly glowing object to the S.E. of U. of M. Airport. At that time we were a few miles north of Minneapolis and heading east. I pointed it out to Dick and we both made the following observation:

"The object was moving from east to west at a high rate and very high. We tried keeping the ship on a constant course and using reinforcing member of the windshield as a point. The object moved past this member at about 50 degrees per second.

"This object was peculiar in that it had what can be described as a halo around it with a dark undersurface. It crossed rapidly and then slowed down and started to climb in lazy circles slowly. The pattern it made was like a falling oak leaf inverted. It went through these gyrations for a couple minutes and then with a very rapid acceleration disappeared to the east. This object, Dick and I watched for approximately five minutes.

"I don't know how to describe its size, because at the time I didn't have the balloon in sight for a comparison.

"Shortly after this we saw another one, but this one didn't hang around. It approached from the west and disappeared to the east, neither one leaving any trace of vapor trail.

"When I saw the second one I called our tracing station at the U. of M. Airport and the observers there on the theodolite managed to get glimpses of a number of them, but couldn't keep the theodolite going fast enough to keep them in the field of their instruments. Both Doug Smith and Dick Lorian caught glimpses of these objects in the theodolite after I notified them of their presence by radio."

Status of Investigation

Further details of the incident have been requested. The sources have been investigated and are known to be experienced high altitude balloon observers with General Mills balloon projects.

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1-3712-34

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Appendix VII

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. - 11 October 1951

I. DISCUSSION OF INCIDENT

The only information available on this incident is a letter quoted below:

TIME: 0630, 11 Oct 51. [redacted] and I were flying at 10,000 ft. observing the grab bag balloon when I saw a brightly glowing object to the SE of University of Minnesota Airport. At that time we were a few miles north of Minneapolis and heading east. I pointed it out to Dick and we both made the following observation:

"The object was moving from east to west at a high rate and very high. We tried keeping the ship on a constant course and using reinforcing member of the windshield as a point. The object moved past this member at about 50 degrees per second.

"This object was peculiar in that it had what can be described as a halo around it with a dark undersurface. It crossed rapidly and then slowed down and started to climb in lazy circles slowly. The pattern it made was like a falling oak leaf inverted. It went through these gyrations for a couple minutes and then with a very rapid acceleration disappeared to the east. This object, Dick and I watched for approximately five minutes.

"I don't know how to describe its size, because at the time I didn't have the balloon in sight for a comparison.

"Shortly after this we saw another one, but this one didn't hang around. It approached from the west and disappeared to the east, neither one leaving any trace of vapor trail.

"When I saw the second one I called our tracing station at the U. of M. Airport and the observers there on the theodolite managed to get glimpses of a number of them, but couldn't keep the theodolite going fast enough to keep them in the field of their instruments. Both Doug Smith and Dick Jorian caught glimpses of these objects in the theodolite after I notified them of their presence by radio."

II. WEATHER

Unknown, but evidently clear.

III. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Further investigation produced no additional information as to the identity of the object. The theodolite operator was interrogated and stated that he could only observe "a brief blur for about two seconds". During his brief observation, the object appeared to be a smoky grey cigar shaped object. It left no vapor trail and gave off no reflection.

All observers were positive of the following facts:

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- A. The object, though vaguely defined and blurred, retained a definite shape.
- B. No vapor trails, exhaust flashes, or jet propulsion were observed.
- C. The object definitely seemed to be controlled. The sources are all experienced engineers with General Mills Balloon Projects and have been observing all types of balloons for several years.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

No conclusions can be made. It is significant however, that the sources can be graded as very reliable and that they observed an object with which they were entirely unfamiliar.

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EXTRACT FROM STATUS REPORT # 3

DATE: 10 Oct 51

TIME (Local): 1010

LOCATION: Minneapolis, Minn.

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 2 Min.

SOUND: None

SPEED: High

ALTITUDE: High

HEADING: SE

SOURCE: Balloon Obs.

ACTION OR COMMENTS: Further investigation of both of these incidents has lead to no conclusions. The investigation is closed. (See Status Report No. II for details).

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Round, silver object seen by pilots tracking a balloon.

EXTRACT FROM STATUS REPORT # 3

DATE: 11 Oct 51

TIME (Local): 0630

LOCATION: Minneapolis, Minn.

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: Several Minutes.

SOUND: None

SPEED: High

ALTITUDE: High

HEADING: Unknown

SOURCE: Balloon Obs.

ACTION OR COMMENTS: See Status Report No. II for details.

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Round, silver object seen by pilots tracking balloon and by ground observer team.