

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 18 17 Apr 52	2. LOCATION Yuma, Arizona		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1505 MST GMT 17/2205Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Weather observers		☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 7 seconds	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE	☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☒ Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Flat white color. Circular w/short tail. Slightly erratic trajectory. All observers agreed it was too fast to track with a theodolite. 2 OBSERVATIONS			11. COMMENTS Object subtended angle of $\frac{1}{4}''$ at arm's length. Had thin intermittent vapor trail or tail one to two diameters long.

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3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT _____	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE 2 enlisted meteorologists		☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5-10 seconds	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE	☐ Other _____ ☒ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Dull white color. Circular. Very erratic.		11. COMMENTS Attempted to track with theodolite, object too erratic.	

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CO, ATIC

TO: CG 6TH ARMY SAN FRANCISCO CALIF

TELETYPE

INFO:

DATE-TIME GROUP

71500Z May 52

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

Routine

INFORMATION

☐

BOOK MESSAGE

☐

ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐

MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐

YES

☒

NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

A-1917

CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-5-3E

Reference your message A-1917. Request full written report on sighting of unidentified object at Yuma, Arizona, on 17-18 April be airmailed to ATIC, W-P AFB, Ohio. Please include:

1. Bearings and elevations of both objects at beginning and end of flight.
2. Time of sighting and length of time observed on both objects.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

SECURITY INFORMATION

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

LT E. J. RUPPALT/vs

SYMBOL

ATIAA-20

TELEPHONE

54261

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

ROBERT E. KENNEDY, Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

OFFICIAL TITLE

PAGE

OF

PAGES

DD

FORM
1 OCT 49

173

REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 43,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

16-55921-3 ★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

7-3712-46

UNCLASSIFIED

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

PRIORITY

C1 [REDACTED]
FM CG 6TH ARMY SAN FRANCISCO CALIF
TO CG AMC WP AFB OHIO ATTN MCI

FROM AMGBI 050316

ACTION

2 13714
3 13714
4 13714

RECONTROL NO A-1917. PARA A. UNCONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT REPTD SIGHTED
VIC YUMA TEST STATION, YUMA, ARIZONA 17 AND 18 APRIL 1952.

PARA B. WEATHER BELIEVED CAVU. PARA C. OBSERVED BY MEMBERS OF
9575 TSU, YUME TEST STATION: LT [REDACTED] M SGT [REDACTED]

SGT [REDACTED] CPL [REDACTED] CPL [REDACTED] N CPL [REDACTED] 3 CPL [REDACTED] CPL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CPL [REDACTED] CPL [REDACTED] PFC [REDACTED] 5 PFC [REDACTED] 5

PFC [REDACTED]. PARA D. NO PHOTOS. PARA E. (1) 1 OBJECT SIGHTED
EACH DATE. (2) CIRCULAR. (3)

6 SUBTENDED ARC OF 1/4 INCH AT ARM SLENGTH. (4) FLAT-WHITE.

(5) SPEED FROM ZENITH TO HORIZON APPROX 7 SECONDS.

(6) 60 DEGREES. (7) COURSE NOT COMPLETELY SMOOTH. (8) ALTITUDE

UNK NOWN. (9) NO SOUND REPORTED. (10) INTERMITTENT VAPOR TRAIL,
NON-PERSISTENT, THIN, NOT LONGER THAN 2 OBJECT DIAMETERS.

PARA F. ALL OBSERVERS WERE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVERS AND STATED
THE OBJECT WAS UNLIKE ANY OBJECT OR PHENOMENON ON SEEN PREVIOUSLY.
OBJECT SIGHTED 18 APRIL WAS MOVING TOO FAST AND TOO ERRATICALLY
TO BE TRACKED BY THE ODOLITES WITH OPENSIGHTS.

7228

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

AMGBI-P&T 350.09

UNCLASSIFIED

9 May 1952

SUBJECT: Intelligence Spot Report

TO: Commanding General
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

1. Reference your message AFOIN-ATIAA-523E. Forwarded herewith is copy of detailed report received from Yuma Test Station.

2. A copy of this correspondence was sent to AC of S, G-2, Department of the Army and Western Air Defense Force, Hamilton Air Force Base, Hamilton, California.

3 Incl

1. Ltr dtd 25 Apr 52
2. Statement
3. List of names

H. S. Isaacson
H. S. ISAACSON
Colonel, GS
AC of S, G-2

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
YUMA TEST STATION
Yuma, Arizona

AMFAP-BS 350.09

25 April 1952

SUBJECT: Intelligence Spot Report

TO: Commanding General
Sixth Army
Presidio of San Francisco, California
ATTN: OACofS, G-2

1. This office is reporting that some individuals of this installation, on 17 April 1952, at 1505 or 1510 hours, spotted some unfamiliar flying object while on a hike along the Colorado River, three (3) miles south of Yuma Test Station.

2. This object appeared to be flat-white, with no sheen, circular in shape, flying in a 60 degree azimuth direction.

3. Inclosed is a written statement of Lt. [REDACTED] who was the leader of the group.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

/s/ Irving Lamm

1 Incl
Statement

/t/ IRVING LAMM
CWO USA
ASSISTANT ADJUTANT

Copy furnished:
Regional Office #5
Phoenix, Arizona

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

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COPY

[REDACTED] UNCLASSIFIED

1. On the afternoon of 17 April 1952 the undersigned took a group of Enlisted Weather Observers on a Field familiarization hike from Yuma Test Station. All men were members of the [REDACTED] TSU on duty at this Station.

2. Between 1505 and 1510 hours MST one of the men, CPL [REDACTED], who has a degree in science and a strong background in meteorology, called attention of the group to an object directly overhead. At this time the group was seated on the east side, and in the shade of a tree, between the canal bank and the Colorado River, approximately three (3) miles south of Yuma Test Station on the Arizona side of the River. The object was seen immediately by the entire group without any difficulty in focusing the eyes or locating it overhead. It appeared flat-white, with no sheen, circular in shape, and while on a regular course of approximately 60° azimuth, it did not exhibit a completely smooth trajectory. It was accompanied intermittently by an apparent vapor trail, non-persistent, thin, and not any longer than one or two object diameters. This trail or tail disappeared immediately within the above dimensions as it accompanied the object.

3. This object was first sighted by the group almost directly overhead at an elevation angle in excess of 80°. Due to the position of the group in relation to the canal bank, the horizon to the east was obstructed to a height of approximately six or eight degrees elevation. The total time the object was visible between the first sighting overhead and the disappearance over the horizon, was very close to, and not more than seven seconds. In apparent size, the object subtended a circle of approximately 1/4 inch when held at arm's length.

4. The group was instructed that if any subsequent sightings are made while they are occupied in their assigned weather duties, that they should attempt to take bearings on the object from two or more theodolite positions and report their findings to the Unit Commander. In this instance the apparent motion of the object was so fast that it would have been impossible to obtain angular readings on its trajectory with the theodolite even with the gears disengaged and sighting over the open gunsights..

5. Of the attached list of men, PFC [REDACTED] is a graduate Engineer with laboratory experience; CPL [REDACTED], a graduate Engineer with propeller design experience; and M/SGT [REDACTED], a University graduate and was previously rated a flight engineer in U.S. Air Force. All of the men are presently training as weather observers and have had some experience tracking meteorological balloons with optical equipment. All of the men commented that the object sighted was unlike any natural object or a phenomena which they had ever seen previously, and that they did not believe it could be mistakenly identified as a weather balloon. The group was told, pending further instructions, not to discuss this sighting. Attached is a list of the men in this group.

6. On the following day CPL [REDACTED] and PFC [REDACTED] reported another sighting while practicing with a theodolite. The duration of the sighting was between five and ten seconds and the apparent motion so erratic that they were unable to obtain a sighting on the course of the object with a theodolite. The general appearance of the object was reported to be the same as that seen on the preceding day, except that no vapor trail was observed. The general course of the object was in an easterly direction.

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DOD DLR 5200.10

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED

7. The undersigned has eleven (11) years military duty in meteorology, with a substantial portion employed on weather equipment development, and on upper air observations entailing the use of many sizes and types of meteorological balloons. In my experience I have never observed any other object, by comparison with which this object could be further identified.

/s/ [REDACTED]

/w/ [REDACTED]
2nd Lt, Sig C

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 3 YEARS
POD DIR SEC 1.4

UNCLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CPL [REDACTED]

CPL [REDACTED]

PFC [REDACTED]

CPL [REDACTED]

SGT [REDACTED]

M/SGT [REDACTED]

CPL [REDACTED]

PFC [REDACTED]

PFC [REDACTED]

CPL [REDACTED]

CPL [REDACTED]

CPL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1. At Yuma Test Center, Yuma, Arizona

2. 17 and 18 April 1952

3. Weather believed CAVU

4. Lt Baker J. [REDACTED]

M/Sgt [REDACTED]

Sgt [REDACTED]

Cpl [REDACTED]

Cpl [REDACTED]

Cpl [REDACTED]

Cpl [REDACTED]

Cpl [REDACTED]

Cpl [REDACTED]

Cpt [REDACTED]

PFC [REDACTED]

PFC [REDACTED]

PFC [REDACTED]

5. No photos

6. Object sighted each date

7. Circular in shape, flate white color

8. Subtended arc of 1/4 in. at arm's length

9. Zenith to horizon (90°) in 7 seconds (12°/sec)

10. 60 degrees???

11. Course not completely smooth

12. Altitude unknown

13. No sound reported

14. Intermittent vapor trail, non-persistent, thin, 2 diameters long

15. All observers meteorological observers and had never seen anything like this before

16. Object tracked on 18 April was too fast and too erratic to be tracked with theodolites with open sights.

EXTRACT FROM STATUS REPORT # 7

DATE: 17-18 Apr 52

TIME (Local): 1505-1510

LOCATION: Uma, Ari z.

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: 7 Seconds

SOUND: Unknown

SPEED: Unknown

ALTITUDE: 80°

HEADING: Unknown

SOURCE: Military

ACTION OR COMMENTS: No conclusions.

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Flat, white object, circular and with an occasional vapor trail. 

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