

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9 May 52	2. LOCATION Sao Paulo, Brazil	12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☒ Possibly Astronomical METEOR
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1000 ? GMT 07/1300Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian (letter)	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 seconds	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING White color. Meteor shape. Arched down and exploded. Description is possibly meteor.		11. COMMENTS

(LETTER NOT IN FILE)

7-3712-47

General May 21/52

Memorandum for Record

SUBJECT: Trip to George AFB on 20-23 May 1952

On 17 May 1952, Lt E. J. Ruppelt called Major Vincent Wolrath, Wing Intelligence Officer of the 46th Fighter Bomber Wing at George AFB, Calif. Major Wolrath stated that due to the recent flurry of sightings he deemed it very advisable to send someone from ATIC to George AFB. Lt Ruppelt had orders cut and departed by commercial air on 20 May 1952 arriving at George AFB late on the evening of the 20th.

On 21 May 1952, Lt Ruppelt contacted Major Wolrath who reviewed sightings on 1-9-11-13-14 and 20 May. Several of these sightings from a T-6, seemed to be repetative and plans were made to attempt to observe the object on the afternoon of 21 May.

Lt Melzer, who had piloted the T-6, during previous observations was contacted. He offered to fly that P.M. and take Lt Ruppelt along as observer and to assist in setting up an observation team. Both the Ground Control Intercept (Radar) and Fighter Interceptor squadron of ADC were contacted and briefed on the sightings and plans to observe from a T-6. They agreed to stand by all afternoon on "D" channel of VHF in case the object was sighted. If it was, F-86's would be scrambled and radar would attempt a pick-up. A ground station and a ground observer team headed by Major Wolrath was equipped with a ground VHF set and would have a telescope to make ground observations from the George AFB line. Weather was alerted in case a theodolite was needed. All VHF sets were set up for "D" channel on a special frequency to keep the interception of messages to a minimum.

At 1330 PDST, the T-6 was airborne. Lt Ruppelt had a Lieca with a 135 mm telephoto lens in case photos could be taken. At 1430 PDST, the ground observation team called the T-6 and stated they were observing the object through a telescope and it appeared to be a balloon. Also it was identical to several of the previous reports as previous observers were on the ground watching. The aerial search was continued with no success and at 1440 PDST the object disappeared. The aerial search was broken off and the T-6 landed.

Lt Ruppelt contacted Edwards AFB and was informed that at 1438 PDST a Rawinsonde balloon from their station burst at 75,000'-80,000' SSE of their station (approximately over George AFB).

It was concluded that the object was this balloon.

On 22 May 1952, the entire day was spent interviewing sources of other sightings. It will be noted that although some of the reports were attributed to balloons, others could not be and are still being investigated.

Lt Ruppelt returned to W-P AFB on 23 May.

The cooperation received at George AFB was excellent.

APPENDIX VI

George AFB, Calif. - 1, 9, 13, 14, 20 May 1952

I. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

The sighting on 1 May 1952 at George AFB, Calif., was the first of a series of nine sightings there in a three week period. These sightings were all by military personnel.

a. 1 May 1952 - Five round, disc-shaped objects, flat white in color which gave no glare or reflection were sighted. They were in formation with three in front and two in the rear. The latter two darted around in a circular or zig-zag manner.

b. 9 May 1952, 1030 PDST - An unidentified round, silver object was sighted visually from the ground and from two F-86 aircraft.

c. 9 May 1952, 1230 PDST - Two unidentified objects moving with the current or breeze at a slow speed. They appeared to be a silver metal color with a dark spot in the center and at certain angles to the sun gave off a bright glare.

d. 9 May 1952, 1720 PDST - Object was of dull color like a thundercloud. It was shaped like an arrowhead but had no known aerodynamic features.

e. 11 May 1952, 1220 PLST - Object looked like a white paper plate flipping end over end with an initial speed comparable to a jet although later it reduced its pace.

f. 13 May 1952, 1425 PDST - Single object, appeared round, shiny, metallic which glowed or reflected white or silver was observed for thirty minutes.

g. 14 May 1952, 1405 to 1430 PDST - Same description as object sighted on 13 May and by same sources.

h. 20 May 1952, 1425 PLST - A silver colored, bright, round object was observed for five minutes. Initially the object was stationary but eventually moved and faded away.

II. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Only balloons released from Edwards AFB can be tracked accurately over George AFB, consequently, for the most part they are the only balloons with which we are concerned. These balloons are released irregularly thus accounting for some of the unusual times of sightings reported in cases which are probably balloons.

The project monitor of Blue Book went to George AFB to investigate the various reports.

a. 1 May 1952 - Report well documented. No additional information obtained.

b. 9 May 1952, 1030 PDST - A balloon was released from Edwards AFB, 55 minutes prior to this sighting.

c. 9 May 1952, 1230 PLST - No known activity which could account for sighting.

d. 9 May 1952, 1720 PDST - No known activity which could account for sighting.

e. 11 May 1952 - Third report in three days from same individual. No activity in area.

f. 13 May 1952 - Balloon launched from Edwards AFB at 1340 PLST.

g. 14 May 1952 - No balloon release officially reported.

h. 20 May 1952 - Balloon released from Edwards AFB at 1332 PDST.

III. CONCLUSIONS

a. 1 May 1952 - No Conclusions.

b. 9 May 1952, 1030 PDST - Very probable that the balloon released from Edwards AFB was the object sighted.

c. 9 May 1952, 1230 PLST - Very possible that paper was caught in the thermals and swept along. A similar sighting turned out to be just that.

d. 9 May 1952, 1720 PDST - No conclusions.

e. 11 May 1952 - No conclusions.

f. 13 May 1952 - Probably was balloon released from Edwards AFB, 45 minutes previous.

g. 14 May 1952 - Description fits incident of 13 May so perfectly it is highly probable that the object was a balloon.

h. 20 May 1952 - Balloon released 53 minutes prior to sighting was probably object observed.

1. 10/10/10
G. 10/10/10 ✓
G. 10/10/10
D. 10/10/10

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: (Originator) SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

CO, ATIC

TO: LNT WEATHER CENTRAL HNT AFB
COLORADO SPRINGS COLORADO

INFO:

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-5-10-E

Request info as to whether or not there were any large balloons near George AFB,
Calif., on the following dates and times:

- a. 1 May at 1750Z
- b. 9 May at 1730Z
- c. 9 May at 1950Z
- d. 9 May at 0020Z
- e. 11 May at 1920Z
- f. 13 May at 2155Z
- g. 14 May at 2130Z

DATE-TIME GROUP 201830Z May 1952		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SECRET	
PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION Routine	INFORMATION	
☐ BOOK MESSAGE	☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE		
☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS	CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO		
REFERS TO MESSAGE:			
IDENTIFICATION		CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED	

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

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

LT E. J. RUPPELT/vs

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

ROBERT S. KENNEDY, Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

SYMBOL

ATIAA-20

TELEPHONE

3461

OFFICIAL TITLE

DD FORM 173
1 OCT 49REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

16-59023-3 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CO, ATIC

TO: STATION WEATHER OFFICER
AIR WEATHER SERVICE DETACHMENT
LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

TELETYPE

INFO:

DATE-TIME GROUP

201900Z May 1952

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

Routine

INFORMATION

☐ BOOK MESSAGE☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐ YES☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-5-11-2

Request info on each of the following balloon launches:

- a. 1 May 1952 at 1500Z
- b. 9 May 1952 at 1500Z
- c. 9 May 1952 at 2100Z
- d. 11 May 1952 at 1500Z
- e. 13 May 1952 at 2100Z
- f. 14 May 1952 at 2100Z

Urgently need time bearing and distance from station and altitude when contact with balloon was lost. Also whether or not balloon definitely burst or contact lost for other reasons.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

LT E. J. RUPPELT/vs

SYMBOL

ATIAA-20

TELEPHONE

54261

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

OFFICIAL TITLE ROBERT E. KENNEDY, Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DD FORM 173

1 OCT 49

REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

16-55923-3 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

471679-2 c Filed

RE001Z

WPA311

XYD220

JWZ C375

BX163

BWD A514

BWDK485

PP JEDWP

DE BWDKW 15

P 222130Z

FM DET 9-6 9TH WE GP LBEACH MUNI APRT LBEACH CALIF

TO CO AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE COMMAND WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

UNCLASSIFIED

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

[REDACTED] Z-L-0398 PD REF TWX AFOIN-AT-5-11-E UR HQ DTD

201930Z FOL INFO ON BALLOON LAUNCHES SUB HERewith CLN

A 1 MAY 1952 AT 1500Z

BEARING FROM STATION 300 DEGREES

DISTANCE FROM STATION 126750 FEET

ALTITUDE OF BALOON 88005 FEET

BALLOON BURST TIME 1600Z

B 9 MAY 1952 AT 1500Z

BEARING FROM STATION 100 DEGREES

DISTANCE FROM STATION 66750 FEET

Handwritten:
1 ATIA
2 ATIA
3 Central File
ACTION ACTION

DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

PAGE TWO BWDKW 15

ALTITUDE OF BALLOON 129232 FEET

BALLOON BURST TIME 1631Z

C 9 MAY 1952 AT 2100Z

BEARING FROM STATION 100 DEGREES

DISTANCE FROM STATION 107350 FEET

ALTITUDE OF BALLOON 111001 FEET

BALLOON BURST TIME 2222Z

D 11 MAY 1952 AT 1500Z

BEARING FROM STATION 80 DEGREES

DISTANCE FROM STATION 90693 FEET

ALTITUDE OF BALLOON 75765 FEET

BALLOON BURST TIME 1608Z

E 13 MAY 1952 AT 2100Z

BEARING FROM STATION 70 DEGREES

DISTANCE FROM STATION 84900 FEET

ALTITUDE OF BALLOON 74022 FEET

BALLOON BURST TIME 2151Z

F 14 MAY 1952 AT 2100Z

BEARING FROM STATION 90 DEGREES

PAGE THREE BWDKW 15

DISTANCE FROM STATION 105600 FEET

ALTITUDE OF BALLOON 87749 FEET

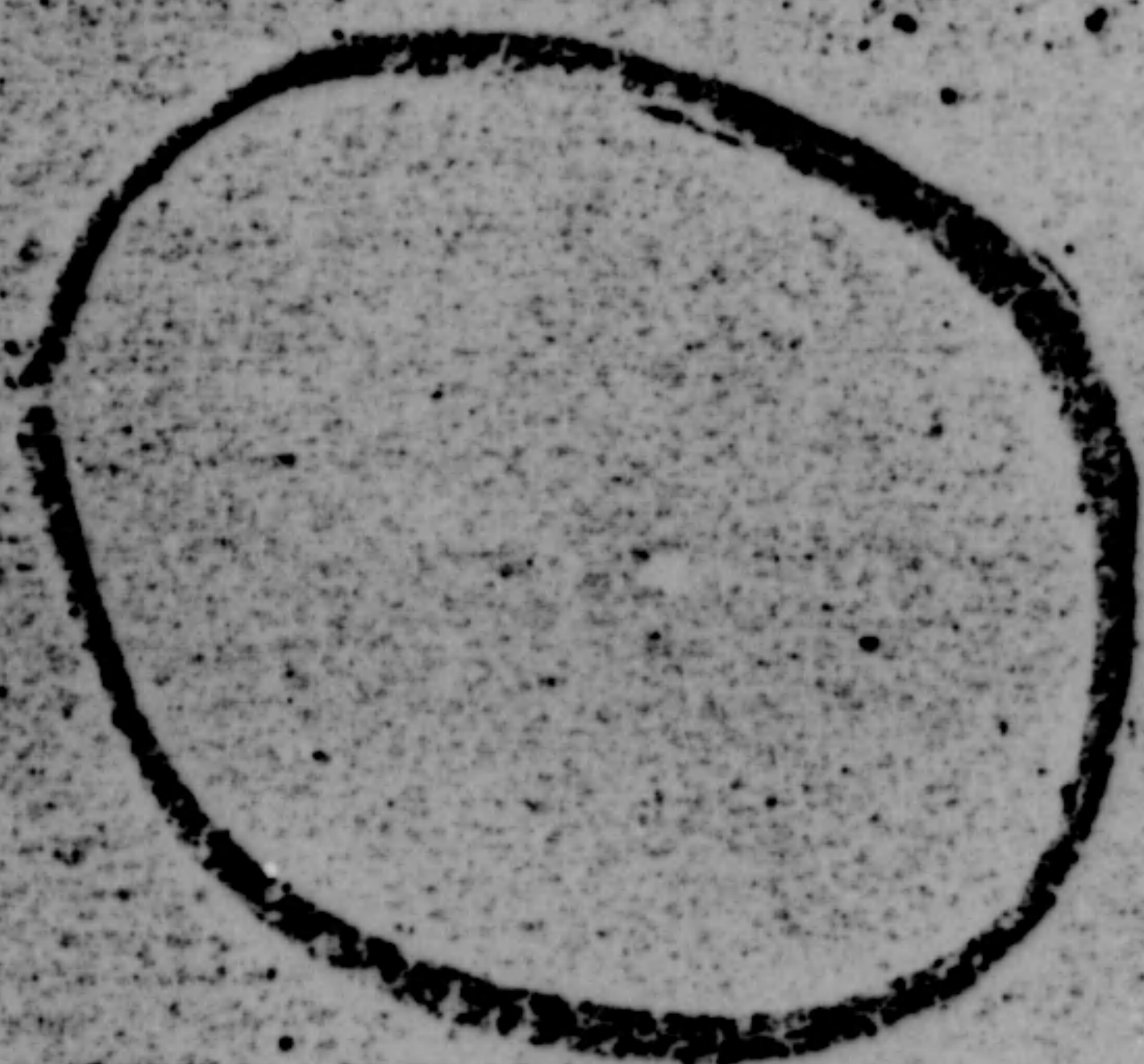
BALLOON BURST TIME 2157Z

22/2155Z MAY BWDKW

File - Clear AFB
CZ-1
E

this case includes
one (1) 8x10 photo

SECRET



SECRET - SECURITY INFORMATION