

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 11 May 52		2. LOCATION <u>Seattle, Washington</u>		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical METEOR ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>0120 PST</u> GMT <u>11/0920z</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Many			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Vivid blue. Sphere w/tail. Steep dive. Two astronomers said it was a meteorite.				11. COMMENTS See report.	

K243.6012-1
11-31 May 1952

RETURN TO:
Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
ATTN: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

SMAC

HEADQUARTERS
25TH AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)
McChord Air Force Base, Washington

ODI 319.1

UNCLASSIFIED

20 MAY 1952

SUBJECT: Unidentified Flying Object Report

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

1. The inclosed report is submitted in accordance with ADCL 300-1, dated 11 April 1951.

2. If inclosure is withdrawn or not attached, the classification of this correspondence will be downgraded to "Unclassified", in accordance with paragraph 25c, AFR 205-1.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

1 Incl
Info on Unconventional Acft,
dtd 16 May 1952 (in dup)

Mary A. Rother
MARY A. ROTHER
2nd Lt USAF
Adjutant General

Distribution:

Dir of Intell, DSC/O, HQ USAF (1cy)
CG, ADC, Attn: Dir of Intell (1cy)
CG, WADF, Attn: Dir of Intell (1cy)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED



10033339

7-3712-48

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM (Agency)

Hq 25th Air Division (Def)

REPORT NO.

IR-25 ADIVODI-2-52

PAGE

2

OF

2

PAGES

target approximately 9 seconds.

j. Other aircraft in area unknown.

2. The following is an extract from Controller's log, Combat Operations Center, 25th Air Division (Def):

0350 Radio report of explosion over Seattle was relayed by COC, this Hq.

0930 An object believed to be a meteor was sighted coming from the south and going north. The object exploded over Seattle. The object was sighted by a Northwest Airlines pilot, Seattle Police, and many others. Its general description was a red body tracing streaks but no estimate was given of its speed. The airlines pilot thought the altitude was about 7000 feet. There were no reports of damage and no radar tracks. This station was off the air at the time on minor breakdown. Reports of the concussion came from as far away as North Tacoma. Explosion time 0035 PST.

1125 The pilot of the Northwest airliner was [REDACTED] - Logan 6459. He reports sighting the object 2 minutes before passing Robert Tan Marker at 0031 or 0032 PST. He reports that the object was left of his A/C (DC-3) and appeared to be a rocket-type, vivid blue, with sparks or streamers coming from it. The object exploded slightly below his A/C level (7000 feet) with a lingering flash which lighted the sky but not the ground. He did not hear or feel explosion. The A/C was landed at Sea-Tac. The Sea-Tac controller, [REDACTED] also saw the object and believed it exploded in the Renton area. Washington State Patrol, Seattle Patrol, Sandpoint Naval Tower were amongst people sighting the object. First report received was from a person on the north end of Mercer Island who reported the explosion northwest of the island. He saw the flash and several seconds later felt the blast. Apparently no one kept any record of names of people sighting the object because of the volume of calls. [REDACTED] (Base Operator) reported seeing the object. Mr. [REDACTED] Summit, also reported sighting the object. WAFB advised.

2055 The University of Washington professor mentioned in the reports of explosion over Seattle is [REDACTED], Phone [REDACTED] in Seattle. He now says he believes the explosion to be a meteor and is compiling all data for a report. For whom he did not say.

5. From evidence available it is the opinion of the undersigned, the unidentified object was a meteor.

UNCLASSIFIED

Neil A. Vossburgh
NEIL A VOSSBURGH
Major USAF
Director of Intelligence

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

UNCLASSIFIED

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO. IR-25ADIVODI-2-52	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Meteor		
AREA REPORTED ON Seattle, Washington	FROM (Agency) Hq 25th Air Division (Def)	
DATE OF REPORT 16 May 52	DATE OF INFORMATION 11 May 52	EVALUATION C-1
PREPARED BY (Officer) NEIL A VOSEBURGH, Maj, USAF, Dir of Intell	SOURCE Seattle Post Intelligencer Extract from COC, Controller's Log Hq 25th ADIV	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) TWX Msg. 25ADIVODI 5904 to ADC Ent AFB Colo and CG WADP, Hamilton AFB, Calif		
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.)		

1. The following report is submitted in accordance with Air Defense Command Letter 200-1, dated 11 April 51, Subject: Unidentified Objects Report.

a. A meteor type object traveling approximately 1500 to 3000 MPH, believed coming from outer space nearly straight, down from south due north direction, vivid blue in color, with flaming sparks or streamers being emitted exploded in a brilliant flash lighting up the sky and disappeared. No sound was heard except upon explosion a tremor or shock wave was experienced by some of the eye-witnesses of approximately 9 seconds duration.

b. Time of sighting: approximately 0124 to 0132 Pacific Standard Time, 11 May 1952. Period of duration: approximately 4 seconds.

c. Visual observation only. Not picked up on radar.

d. Northwest Airlines pilot [redacted] sighted object at 3000 feet 2 minutes before passing Hobart Fan Marker at 0131 or 0132 Pacific Standard Time. Object was to left of his aircraft while coming in for a landing at Seattle-Tacoma Air port at 7000 feet on course due west. Approximate position of explosion 42°21'N and 122°12'W. Mr [redacted] Seattle engineer, [redacted] Seattle, Wash. noticed the object at approximately 30 miles distance at about 21 degrees above horizon and 13 degrees east of north.

e. Mr. [redacted] evaluation C-1. Mr. [redacted] evaluation C-1.

f. Weather Seattle area: 6/10 overcast 5 to 6 thousand feet with 10/10 overcast at 10,000 feet. Intermittent light rain in area. Winds light and variable bearing SW aloft at 20 to 30 knots at 25,000 feet.

g. Mr. [redacted] Professor at the University of Washington, reported the explosion to be a meteor.

h. No physical evidence available.

i. Target was not intercepted nor picked up by radar. Duration of

1 INCL.
Clipping from Seattle Post Intelligencer
dtd 12 May 1952

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DOD DIR 5200.10

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

Dir of Intell, DSC/O, Hq USAF 1 cy
CG ADC Attn: Dir of Intell 1 cy
CG WADP Attn: Dir of Intell 1 cy

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(CLASSIFICATION)

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1950—O-918331

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: (Originator)

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

DATE-TIME GROUP

161330Z May 52

PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

INFORMATION

Routine

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ORIGINAL MESSAGE

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MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

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YES

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NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

CO. ARIC

TO:

CO MC CHORD AFB TACOMA WASH

TELETYPE

INFO:

FROM: AVOIN-ATIAA-5-7E FOR BASE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Reference is made to meteor explosion over Seattle on 11 May 1952. Request that college or university astronomers in Seattle area be contacted to verify fact object was a meteor. Also request info as to whether or not search for fragments is anticipated. Include names of astronomers contacted.

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DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

LT E. J. RUPPELT

SYMBOL

ATIAA-5-7E

TELEPHONE

54061

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

OFFICIAL TITLE

ROBERT E. KENNEDY, Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

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

16-58923-3 ★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNCLASSIFIED

RE032M

WPD035

XYA057

JWPML 36

WS 18

RR JEDWP

DE JWPDM 002G

R 261730Z

FM CG 25TH AIR DIV MCCHORD AFB WASH

TO CHIEF AIR TECH INTELL CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

/ [REDACTED] 25ADIVODI 6236 PD REF YOUR MSG AFOIN-ATIAA-5-7E PD

FOL ASTRONOMERS CONTACTED CLN DR [REDACTED] AND DR [REDACTED] FR UNIV

OF WASH CMA THEY STATE OBJECT WAS A METEOR PD A SEARCH FOR FRAGMENTS

IS BEING CONDUCTED PD IF ANY ARE FOUND YOUR HQS WILL BE NOTIFIED PD

26/1652Z MAY JWPDM

ACTION

ATTC

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APPENDIX IV

Seattle, Washington - 11 May 1952

I. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

At approximately 0124 to 0132 PST, on 11 May 1952 many individuals reported sighting a vivid blue object with flaming sparks or streamers coming nearly straight down over Seattle, Washington. The object exploded in a brilliant flash, lighting up the sky and then disappeared. After the explosion, some of the witnesses experienced a tremor or shock wave of approximately nine seconds duration.

II. STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION

Two local astronomers were contacted and they stated that the object was a meteor. At the present time the astronomers are searching for fragments to confirm their statement.

III. CONCLUSIONS

Object was probably a meteor but file will not be closed until confirming evidence is found.

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DOD DIR 5200.10

Air Force Checks Data On Presumed Meteor

(Continued from Page 1.)

an earthquake had rocked the Pacific Northwest.

After hearing descriptions of the object, trained observers agreed the visitor was a meteor, drawn by earth's gravity from deep space, to blow itself to pieces as friction from the atmosphere heated it to extreme temperatures.

More susceptible viewers guessed the object to be a "Russian bomb," a guided missile, or a "flying saucer."

At least four competent observers had grandstand views of the "fireball." They were the pilot and co-pilot of an airliner, coming in for a landing at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, a United States Weather Bureau observer there and a control tower operator.

PILOTS SAW IT—

Capt. B. C. Carlson and Co-Pilot Earl Perry, flying a Spokane-Seattle shuttle for Northwest Airlines, said the meteor first flared at 1:32 a. m. by his watch and burst into flaming fragments at about 8,000 feet.

Carlson said:

"We were approaching Ho-

bart on a due west course at 7,000 feet. The flash progressed from south to north across our course, apparently between us and the airport."

Perry and Carlson said no shock wave was felt in the plane.

But, from the observation roof at the airport, Weather Observer Sid Howick traced the course of the ragged banners of flame and felt a "definite shock wave" about 2 to 2½ minutes after the first burst of light.

From the airport control tower, Airway Operations Specialist Robert Wiley laconically noted in the Civil Aeronautics Administration logbook:

"Observed very brilliant blue light at 1:32 a. m. (PDT). Appeared light all of airport and originate from northeast direction. Land tremor (explosion) followed about 2 minutes afterward."

OVER WIDE AREA—

The flare was seen and the blast was felt in all sectors of Seattle and surrounding communities. The State Patrol reported the blast was felt in Everett, Tacoma and Bremerton.

Typical of hundreds of Seattle residents jarred out of sound sleep were Mrs. G. V. Rooney, 519 N. 67th St., who said "The windows rattled and we thought the house was coming down."

J. T. Skelly, 7125-44th Ave. S. W., who described the rumble that followed the flash as a "five-shock wave that shook my house."

SAW FLASH—

From the window of his Mercer Island home, Guy L. Bettinger, 7424 W. Mercer Way, saw what he described as a "tremendous flash in the sky." He said:

"The light seemed to go straight up, like a huge electric arc—something like when a transformer explodes. The apex of the light seemed to be about as high as Mount Rainier.

"I thought right away there had been a terrific explosion. I braced for a shock. It seemed like 1½ to 2 minutes before the shock wave hit."

Engineer Reports On Meteor

No one got a better "fix" on Sunday's meteor than Don E. Lyman, Seattle engineer.

Lyman was standing at a window in his home, 16838-19th Ave. S. W., when the flash blinded him momentarily.

Reacting quickly, he went to work with watch and compass. These were his observations:

The flash came at 1:24 a. m. by his watch. It was of 9 seconds' duration. The normal brightness of the flash was maintained for 4 seconds. In color it was a mercury or magnesium blue, with no trace of a greenish hue.

The flash was followed by a deep, shaking tremor which lasted 12 seconds. The tremor started 2½ minutes after the flash. This would put the explosion 30 or 31 miles away. The flash was 21 degrees above the horizon and 18 degrees east of north.

"The tremor had a deep, deep sound like somebody down in the furnace," Lyman said.

Air Force Checking Presumed Meteor That Shook Seattle

Not Seen On Radar

Astronomers throughout the nation, and the United States Air Force, guardian of the skies, displayed keen interest Sunday in the fiery object that flashed across the Seattle area in the blackness of the early morning, then exploded violently.

Scientists who make a study of phenomena of outer space concluded the fiery object was a large meteor that streaked through the earth's blanket of air and disintegrated into flaming streamers.

However, the Air Force has become interested in all sky visitors since it is charged with the job of keeping a radar watch of all things, natural and man-made, that pass overhead.

CHECKING DATA—

As eyewitness accounts of the strange light and following blast came in from widely scattered parts of Western Washington, astronomers expressed the opinion that an unusually big fireball had been destroyed aloft in spectacular manner.

Col. T. Allan Bennett, commanding officer of the 25th Air Force Defense Division, McChord Air Force Base, also leaned toward the theory that the object which exploded at 1:26 a. m. was a meteor. But he said his office is making a thorough check of eyewitness reports and is anxious to receive them.

Bennett said he doubted that the object could have been an aircraft or guided missile.

None of the radar installations in the Pacific Northwest network picked up the object on their screens, he said.

ANGLE—

Asked if the speed of the object may have eluded the radar, Bennett said that the angle, rather than speed, probably was what caused it not to show as a "blip" on the radar scopes.

"If it was a meteor, it was probably coming nearly straight down. That would make it very difficult to track. The indications might be so insignificant that radar wouldn't pick it up," he said.

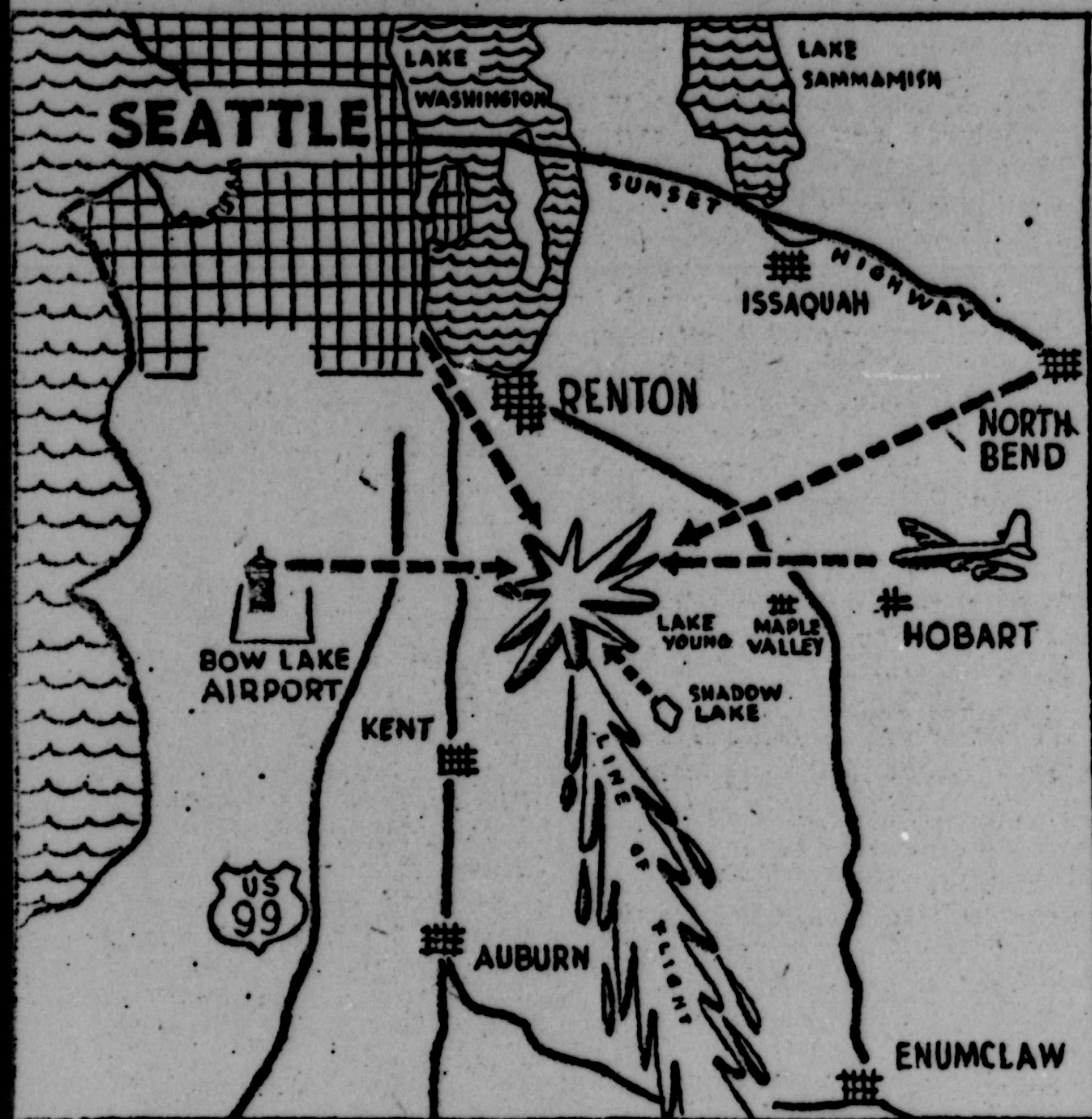
"If it was an aircraft or a guided missile, we would have picked it up," he continued.

REQUEST—

Bennett asked that anyone finding a "strange" piece of material report it to his organization at McChord.

Bennett said that the ground observer phase of the air defense setup is not at present on a 24-hour basis, and said no ground observers had reported seeing the flash.

The two-second blast, a tremendous blue-white flare, caused no ascertainable damage, but police, fire department and newspaper switchboards were jammed by hundreds of anxious calls from suddenly-awakened persons.



LINE OF FLIGHT—Shown on this map is the path and the bursting point of the aerial object that flashed over Western Washington early Sunday. As the map shows, the object, apparently a meteor, traveled from south to north and burst into fragments at the point indicated on the map. Position was determined by eyewitness reports from an airliner and various ground observers. After bursting, fragments of the object traveled to the northwest into an area not covered by the map. Dotted lines and arrows indicate direction of sight of eyewitnesses who established approximate location of the burst.

—(Post-Intelligencer Map.)

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Many believed, after the blast,

Continued on Page 2 Column 4

ourt Meteor Explodes With A Roar; On Scares Thousands In Seattle

By Associated Press

SEATTLE, May 11—A giant meteor swished across western Washington and exploded with a tremendous flash and roar over Seattle at 1:26 a.m. today.

It frightened thousands of persons as it lighted the sky and rattled doors and windows.

No pieces were found, however, and the greatest damage seemed to have been inflicted on the people's nerves.

A 30-second rumble followed the breaking apart of the celestial visitor into an estimated four to 10 large pieces.

Altitude Estimated

Witnesses found it difficult to estimate the object's altitude and speed, but triangulation fixed the explosion point somewhere over or just north of Greenlake in north central Seattle.

The Coast Guard estimated from early reports that it might have been as low as 2,000 feet when it burst. However, Capt. Bert Carlson, a Northwest Airlines pilot, said it appeared to be only a little below his altitude of 8,000 feet.

Carlson said he was flying toward Seattle when the ball of fire appeared, traveling from the southwest toward the northeast. It exploded in a brilliant flash and broke apart.

There were no estimates immediately available as to the size of the meteor.

Like Chain Lightning

Reports to the Coast Guard said the object broke into eight or 10 pieces. Police Sgt. Lee Drake, patrolling in the north end of Seattle, said the meteor broke into four to six pieces over Greenlake. Two other policemen, J. H. Davis and R. G. Carmody, witnessed the incident from the bridge across Lake Washington, five miles southeast of Greenlake.

"It was a blue-white magnesium color," they reported over the police radio. "It lit up the sky like chain lightning."

Newspaper and police switchboards were jammed by excited callers whose fear ranged from explosion of an atom bomb to an earthquake. Very few thought of a meteor.

Police and state patrolmen patrols made fruitless efforts to find pieces of the meteor.



Arthritis Torture "Nearly" Locked My Joints

But his suffering is now a thing of the past—thanks to this wonder-formula for arthritis, neuritis and rheumatic pain.

This miracle-medicine (called NORITO) gives top-speed, long-lasting relief from stabbing nerve and muscle pains—from aching of swollen joints.

NORITO is safe, non-habit-forming. Thousands who have experienced its working swiftness are living gloriously pain-free lives again.

NORITO must relieve your pain after the very first day or your money refunded. Ask your druggist for NORITO today.

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Cool, damp breezes—
Watch out for sneezes

Official U. S. Weather Map on Page 25

SUNDAY TEMPERATURES

7 a.m. 46	1 p.m. 58	7 p.m. 56
8 a.m. 46	2 p.m. 58	8 p.m. 54
9 a.m. 48	3 p.m. 59	9 p.m. 52
10 a.m. 49	4 p.m. 57	10 p.m. 50
11 a.m. 51	5 p.m. 55	11 p.m. 48
12 noon 53	6 p.m. 53	12 mid. 47

The Detroit Free

MONDAY, MAY 12, 1952

On Guard for Over a Century

40 Pages

Was Eerie Explosion a Meteor?

SKY BLAST ROCKS

Free Press Wire Services

SEATTLE — An unidentified missile—possibly a giant meteor — “rumbled like a freight train” across the sky and exploded over Seattle early Sunday.

The Air Defense Command began an immediate investigation.

The explosion bathed this industrial city of 500,000 persons in an eerie blue-white light and knocked city dwellers from their beds.

The blast was visible from 60 miles away, and occurred

at a height estimated as low as 2,000 feet.

THOUSANDS of persons were awakened by the concussion, but there was no report of damage.

The phenomenon was at first definitely believed to be caused by a meteor exploding within the earth's atmosphere.

But astronomers said it was almost impossible for a meteor to get within 2,000 feet of the ground before disintegrating.

Some pointed out, how-

ever, that it might have been higher than reported by observers.

Dr. Fred L. Whipple, Harvard University meteor expert, said that if the Washington blast had been a little lower than reported it might have wiped out all of Seattle and its inhabitants.

Northwest Airlines Pilot Bert Carlson sighted the object as he prepared to land at Seattle-Tacoma international airport.

He said it was at about

7,000 feet when it suddenly shattered into eight pieces which looked like chain lightning. What appeared to be fireballs trailed to the earth, he said.

AN ASTRONOMER at the Yerkes Observatory, Lake Geneva, Wis., said the Seattle phenomenon apparently was a “fireball” — a big meteor heavy enough to penetrate into the earth's lower atmosphere.

But the Yerkes expert, Prof. Gerard Kuiper, said he

was inclined to doubt that the object exploded even as low as 7,000 feet.

“Fireballs usually explode 10 to 15 miles up,” he said.

“However, anything can happen, and the reported force of the explosion suggests that it was somewhat lower than the usual height.

“METEORS’ surfaces burn off rapidly from friction with the air and they often explode from the tremendous heat.”

Fragments are seldom

found, Kuiper cause they reaching ground they are noticed.

The chance of a large one striking “extremely” said.

The famous zone is very recent site Canada appears before the J. Hugh regional director

Detroit Free Press

On Guard for Over a Century

40 Pages

Vol. 122—No. 7

Five Cents

METRO FINAL

★

WE VISIT ADRIAN
Reporter Louis Cook Tells
About Bustling City,
with Pictures by
Doug Kennedy

losion a Meteor?

ST ROCKS SEATTLE

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* * *

"METEORS' surfaces burn off rapidly from friction with the air and they often explode from the tremendous heat."

Fragments are seldom

found, Kuiper said, either because they burn up before reaching ground or because they are too small to be noticed.

The chances of a meteor or a large fragment from one striking the earth are "extremely rare," Kuiper said.

The famed crater in Arizona is very old, he said, and recent sites discovered in Canada appear to date from before the Ice Age.

J. Hugh Pruett, Pacific regional director of the Ameri-

can Meteor Society, said:

"Unless it was an infernal machine of some kind, it could have been a huge meteor."

* * *

THREE SEATTLE police patrol cars reported the object exploded over Green Lake in North Seattle at about 2,000 feet.

Sidney Howick, weather observer at the Seattle-Tacoma airport weather bureau, said: "It was sort of a lights-on, lights-off thing. It lasted two seconds at most.

"Everything turned blue. As soon as it went out there were fireballs or something falling straight down like fireworks. That came in another couple of seconds. Two or three minutes later I heard the rumble."

Most observers agreed the object was travelling from southwest to northeast when it blew up.

Ten hours after the explosion, there were no reports of damage or recovered fragments.

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 11 May 52		2. LOCATION George AFB, California		12. 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 1220 PDST GMT 11/1920 Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Airman first class			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING White color. Disc shaped. "Flipping" end over end on lateral axis - made 90 degree turn. Reported by only one source - possibly paper or other object in a strong thermal. Other reports from same source indicate he's an "observer".				11. COMMENTS Source stated object looked like a white paper plate traveling at speed of jet a/c. Saw 2 other small objects behind the first one.	

NOTE: 2 SMALL STATIONARY OBJECTS REGARDED AS PART OF THE 9-20 GEORGE AFB CASE. THIS REPORT CONSIDERS THE SINGLE MOVING OBJECT.

1952 MAY 13

lp

TATIAA
2 ATIA
3 Central File
ACTION

INFOR

RA153
WPE134
YDA161
KYB136
XDD121
JWPGG 069

PP JEDEN JEDWP JEPHQ 333
DE JWPGG 025
P 131530Z ZNJ

FM COFTRBMRWG ONE FOUR SIX HEEORGE AFB CALIF
TO JEDEN/CONGEN AIR DIFENSE COMMAND ENT AFB COLO
INFO JEDWP/CHIEF AIR TECHNICAL CTR WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO
JEPHQ/DIR OF INTELLIGENCE DC S/O HQS USAF WASHINGTON TWO FIVE D C

OR
UNCLASSIFIED

/R [REDACTED] / CITE 146 FBW WDO2 5-305 PD S [REDACTED]

OBSERVER SIGHTED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS ON THREE SEPARATE
OCCASIONS. FIRST OBSERVATION MADE WAS OF AN OBJECT(S) DESCRIBED AS
"MOTIONLESS AND SHIMMERING". THE OBSERVER REPORTED THAT THE SIZE OF
THE OBJECT WAS SMALL, ALTHOUGH ITS MINUTENESS PREVENTED ANY ACCURATE
ESTIMATE OF SIZE AND SHAPE. THE SECOND OBJECT WAS REPORTED TO BE
TRAVELING AT GREAT SPEED, COVERING HALF THE LENGTH OF THE SKY FROM
WHERE THE OBSERVER WAS STANDING TO THE HORIZON IN TEN SECONDS.
ESTIMATED SPEED WAS 1500 MILES PER HOUR. THE THIRD OBJECT WAS
DESCRIBED AS LOOKING LIKE A WHITE PAPER PLATE, FLIPPING END OVER

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TO JEDEN/COMGEN AIR DIFENSE COMMAND ENT AFB COLO

UNCLASSIFIED

INFO JEDWP/CHIEF AIR TECHNICAL CTR WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

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R [REDACTED] / CITE 146 FBW WDO2 5-335 PD S [REDACTED]

OBSERVER SIGHTED UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS ON THREE SEPARATE

OCCASIONS. FIRST OBSERVATION MADE WAS OF AN OBJECT(S) DESCRIBED AS

"MOTIONLESS AND SHIMMERING". THE OBSERVER REPORTED THAT THE SIZE OF

THE OBJECT WAS SMALL, ALTHOUGH ITS MINUTENESS PREVENTED ANY ACCURATE

ESTIMATE OF SIZE AND SHAPE. THE SECOND OBJECT WAS REPORTED TO BE

TRAVELING AT GREAT SPEED, COVERING HALF THE LENGTH OF THE SKY FROM

WHERE THE OBSERVER WAS STANDING TO THE HORIZON IN TEN SECONDS.

ESTIMATED SPEED WAS 1500 MILES PER HOUR. THE THIRD OBJECT WAS

DESCRIBED AS LOOKING LIKE A WHITE PAPER PLATE, FLIPPING END OVER

PAGE TWO JWPGG 025

END. ITS SPEED WAS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF A JET PLANE, ALTHOUGH

LATER WHEN SIGHTED AGAIN IT APPEARED TO HAVE REDUCED ITS PACE.

MOVEMENT OF THE OBJECT WAS ACCOMPLISHED WHILE FLIPPING END OVER END.

TWO OTHER OBJECTS DESCRIBED AS BEING LIKE THAT ONE MENTIONED IN THE

FIRST OBSERVATION APPEARED LATER IN THE PATH OF THE FLIPPING

"PAPER PLATE". ONE WAS NOT CONTINUALLY VISIBLE BECAUSE IT WAVERED

AND SUN WAS REFLECTED ON IT AS IT TURNED. THE OTHER OBJECT WAS

VISIBLE CONSTANTLY. TWO SMALL OBJECTS FLEW IN WING FORMATION

"MOTIONLESS". LARGE OBJECTS MADE 90 DEGREE TURN OVER BASE. FIRST

7-3712-48

OBJECT SIGHTED AT 1250 HOURS, 9 MAY 1952, FOR ABOUT 20 SECONDS.

SECOND OBJECT SIGHTED ON THE SAME DAY AT 1720 HOURS FOR ABOUT

10 SECONDS. THIRD OBJECT SIGHTED AT 1220 HOURS ON 11 MAY 1952. FIRST

TIME OBSERVED FOR APPROX 3 MINUTES. SOME MINUTES LATER SAME OBJECT

WAS SIGHTED ALONG WITH THE TWO OTHERS. OBSERVED WITH NAKED EYE FROM

THE SURFACE. FIRST OBJECT WAS SIGHTED BY THE MESSHALL(146TH)

NORTH-EAST SECTION, GEORGE AIR FORCE BASE. ALTITUDE 30,000 FEET.

STATIC NO VAPOR TRAILS OR NOISE. SECOND OBJECT WAS SIGHTED BY THE

BASE BALL FIELD ABOUT 3 BLOCKS AWAY FROM WHERE THE FIRST ON WAS

SIGHTED. GOING SOUTH, ALTITUDE 35,000 - 40,000 FEET. NO VAPOR

TRAILS NO NOISE. THIRD OBJECT SIGHTED AT BAKERY, ABOUT 3 BLOCKS

PAGE THREE JWPGG 025

FROM WHERE OTHER OBJECTS WERE SIGHTED AT 15,000-20,000 FEET. NO

VAPOR TRAILS, NO NOISE. OBSERVER WAS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE, WAS AN AUTOMOTIVE PARTS CLERK IN CIVILIAN

LIFE. HE IS TAKING INSTRUCTION FOR PRIVATE PILOTS LICENSE. CLEAR

SKY, LITTLE WIND, GOOD VISIBILITY. T-6 AIRCRAFT DIRECTLY UNDER

OBJECT (1ST SIGHTED) APPROX 1000 FEET. NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF

SIGHTING. NO INTERCEPTION ACTION TAKEN.

13/1549Z MAY JWPGG

C2-1

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

(LEAVE BLANK)

COUNTRY
U.S.A.

REPORT NO.

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT
Report of Information on Unidentified Flying Objects

AREA REPORTED ON
Southern California

FROM (Agency)
Commanding Officer
146th Fighter-Bomber Wing

DATE OF REPORT
14 May 1952

DATE OF INFORMATION
11 May 1952

EVALUATION
Probably True Report

PREPARED BY (Officer)
Maj Stephen V. Walrath, Jr.
Wing Intelligence Officer

Usually Reliable

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFOIN-C/CG-2, Subj: "(UNCLASSIFIED) Reporting of Information on Unidentified Flying Objects," dtd 12 Dec 51, Hq, USAF, Washington, D. C.

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.)

1. Reference letter AFOIN-C/CG-2, Subject: "(UNCLASSIFIED) Reporting of Information on Unidentified Flying Objects," dated 19 December 1951, Headquarters, United States Air Force, Washington, D. C.

a. The following information is submitted:

- (1) Total of 3 objects were observed. One resembled a paper plate in shape and appearance and was of flat white color. Other two were too high for accurate estimate of shape or size but had metallic glow. One of these two was not continually visible because it seemed to waver or "bob." As it turned, its sun's reflection or it caused it to blink. The other of the two small objects was continually visible; both of them seemed to be in wing formation. The larger "paper-plate" like object flipped end over end in definite direction, disappearing into south with speed of jet fighter and returning about 5 minutes later at a reduced speed. "Paper-plate" object made 90° turn to south about 20 or 30 seconds after it reappeared, then seemed to approach the two smaller objects, which did not appear until second observation. No interaction apparent between "paper-plate" object and two smaller ones. No noise or vapor trails apparent.

(2) Sightings made at 1220 and 1226 respectively 11 May. Both observations lasted about 1 minute.

(3) Observation took place on ground visually.

(4) Observer was on central part of George Air Force Base at time of sighting (located about 6 miles northwest of Victorville, California). Larger object moved southwest when first sighted. When second observation was made, larger object was moving east toward observer, then headed south after 90° turn to right. Altitude was between 10,000 and 15,000 feet. Two smaller objects did not move in definite direction but remained in vicinity. Altitude was between 10,000 and 15,000 feet.

(5) Observer has high school educational background and is taking instruction as civilian light aircraft pilot.

INCL. (6) Clear sky, visibility 20 miles, temperature 85°F, wind west at 5 knots per hour.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

None

UNCLASSIFIED

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

(CLASSIFICATION)

16-55589-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

ATTC 61843

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

Commanding Officer
146th Fighter-Bomber Wing

REPORT NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE

2

OF

2

PAGES

- (7) No special activity or condition which might account for sighting.
- (8) No physical evidence of observation was apparent.
- (9) No interception or identification action taken.
- (10) No aircraft in the air in the vicinity at the time of observation.
- (11) No balloon runs in vicinity at the time of observation.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C.—
31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.
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INTELLIGENCE, USAF.

(CLASSIFICATION)

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS
146TH FIGHTER-BOMBER WING
George Air Force Base
Victorville, California

me!
AF452083

WD02

14 May 1952

Statement of Observer

I, [REDACTED], do make the following statement concerning certain unidentified objects observed by me on 11 May 1952:

1. One of the 3 objects that I observed resembled a paper plate in shape and appearance and was of a flat white color. The others were too high to allow any accurate estimate as to shape or size but had a metallic glow. One of the smaller objects was not continually visible because it seemed to waver or "bob." As it turned, the sun's reflection on it would cause it to glint. The other small object was continually visible and both seemed to be in a wing formation. The object resembling the "paper plate" flipped end over end in a definite direction, disappearing into the south with a speed of a jet fighter and returning about 5 minutes later at a reduced speed. 20 to 30 seconds after the second observation had commenced, I saw the "paper plate" object make a 90° turn to the south and then it seemed to approach the two smaller objects, which did not make their appearance until the second observation. There appeared to be no interaction between the "paper plate" object and the two smaller ones. I did not notice any noise or vapor trails emanating from any of the objects.

2. I made the two sightings at 1220 and 1226. The first observation lasted 1 minute and the second one lasted 1 minute.

3. I observed the objects from the ground with the naked eye.

4. I was at the central part of George Air Force Base when I made the observations. George Air Force Base is located 6 miles northwest of Victorville, California. The larger "paper plate" object moved in a south-west direction when first sighted. When I sighted it for the second time, it was moving east approaching me and then headed south after executing a 90° turn to the right. Its altitude was between 10,000 and 15,000 feet. The two smaller objects did not move in any direction but remained in the same general vicinity. They were between 30,000 and 40,000 feet high.

5. I have a high school education and am taking instruction as a civilian light aircraft pilot.

6. Weather was clear, with good visibility and little wind in the vicinity.

7. No special activity or condition which might account for the sighting.

8. No physical evidence of the observation was apparent.

9. No interception or identification action taken.

10. No aircraft in the air in the vicinity at the time of observation.

ATC 6-1843-1

A/C

General May C. [unclear]

Memorandum for Record

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

On 17 May 1952, [redacted] called Major Vincent Wolrath, Wing Intelligence Officer of the 146th 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. [redacted] 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, [redacted] 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 repetitive and plans were made to attempt to observe the object on the afternoon of 21 May.

[redacted] who had piloted the T-6, during previous observations was contacted. He offered to fly that P.M. and take [redacted] 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. [redacted] 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.

[redacted] 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

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 PDST - 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.

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.