

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 19 Oct 52		2. LOCATION SELMA, ALA.		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 19/1700 EST GMT 19/2200 Z		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 Varied Civilians		☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 25 Min.		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS		9. COURSE ☐ Other ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Bright object which left bright trail was observed by many civilian observers. Some sources believe phenomena to be high flying a/c leaving vapor trail which was illuminated by sunset.				11. COMMENTS 1. Interesting report and a good on-the-spot analysis.	

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COUNTRY U. S. A.	REPORT NO. IR-75-52 (ATRC)	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT FLYOVER		
AREA REPORTED ON SELMA, ALABAMA	FROM (Agency) Headquarters, 3615th Pilot Training Wing, Craig Air Force Base, Alabama	
DATE OF REPORT 22 October 1952	DATE OF INFORMATION 19 October 1952	EVALUATION B-2
PREPARED BY (Officer) JAMES R. MIDKIFF, M/Sgt., USAF	SOURCE (See Below)	
REFERENCES (Control number, direction, previous report, etc., as applicable) AF Letter 200-5 dated 29 April 1952		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

At approximately 1700 hours on 19 October 1952, an object appeared in the sky west of SELMA, ALABAMA, that caused considerable comment among some of the people who saw it. This object was in two parts: a trail similar to the contrail of an airplane and an object that detached itself from this trail in much the same way that an airplane would detach itself from its contrail upon leaving the conditions that caused it. The trail was remarkable for its short length and both parts for their brilliance.

This phenomenon was visible from 1700 hours until about 1725. Its altitude was estimated at 35,000 to 45,000 feet and no sound was heard. Ceiling and visibility were unlimited and the sun was low in the west. A great many people saw either one or both objects and all but one of them attributed their brilliance to reflection from the sun. The short length of the trail, which varied from very short and fan shaped to ten or fifteen times the width, depending on the position of the observer, was generally believed to be caused by an airplane travelling either directly toward or away from this general area.

Lt. McKee considered the object he saw unusual because of its brilliance, the length of time it retained its brilliance and the manner of its disappearance. He saw it for thirty or forty seconds. He did not believe that it would maintain the proper attitude to the sun to act as a reflecting surface for that period of time. This together with the fact that it seemed to him to burn itself out, led him to believe that it generated its own brilliance. He said its speed was not excessive.

Flight Service reported high-speed aircraft operating in this area at this time. Tower personnel at Craig Air Force Base reported that a jet airplane passed over the base at about 1725 hours. It is believed that this incident can be explained as the flight of a high speed, high altitude airplane made remarkable by an unusual angular relationship to the sun and the observer.

SOURCES: 1st Lt. Wiley B. McKee
S/Sgt. J. C. Huett
A/IC G. H. Reeves
Selma, Ala.

James R. Midkiff
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M/Sgt., USAF
ECIC, Int Sec.

2 INCL DOWNGRADED AT 2 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED 2 YEARS
DOD LRM 320.10
1. Statement of Lt. McKee
2. Statement of S/Sgt Huett

APPROVED:

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(CLASSIFICATION)
16-54499-1 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1960 O-918331

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Headquarters, 3615th Plt
Tng Wing, Craig AFB, Alabama

REPORT NO. *Incl #1*
IR-75-52 (ATRC)

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STATEMENT

The following statement is submitted as required by AF Letter 200-5, dated 29 April 1952.

On Sunday afternoon, October 19, 1952, at about 1725 hours I was reading the newspaper in my home when a neighbor called to me to come outside and look at something. When I went into the yard he pointed to an object in the sky that looked light and brilliant like a bright star. In shape, brilliance and color it resembled the evening star. It travelled at a high speed, left no trail and made no sound that I could hear. When I first saw it, it was about 20 degrees south of the sun, at a high altitude and was travelling on what appeared to be a straight course toward the southeast. After about thirty or forty seconds the brilliance changed gradually to a dull reddish glow which wobbled slowly and then disappeared.

I saw this object with the unaided eye at my home in Selmont, which is located approximately one mile south of Selma, Alabama. The unusual features about this observation were the initial brilliance, the length of time this brilliance lasted and the odd manner in which it changed color and then disappeared.

W. B. K.
WILEY B. MC KEZ
1st. Lt., USAF

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Headquarters, 3615th Flt
Training Wing, Craig AFB, Ala.

REPORT NO. *Incl #2*
IR-75-52 (ATRC)

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STATEMENT

The following statement is submitted as required by AF Letter 200-5 dated 29 April 1952.

At 1715 hours on 19 October 1952, I was standing on the steps of the Guard House when I spotted a small round object about the size of a silver quarter, which had a small vapor trail a short distance behind the object. The vapor trail was about two to three feet in length. I watched this object for about two minutes. It looked to be at about 250 degrees.

My belief is that this object was some type of aircraft leaving a vapor trail as there was a small silver object in front of the vapor trail which looked like an airplane traveling at a very high altitude. At this high altitude the object and the vapor trail were moving very very slowly.

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