

1. DATE - TIME GROUP SIGHT, 6MGRUP 24 Feb 53 25/0025Z	2. LOCATION Great Falls, Montana
3. SOURCE Civ. Man	10. CONCLUSION INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION XXXXXXXXXX	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Mr [REDACTED] of Great Falls observed the same unidentified object on three separate occasions, 25/0025Z Feb 53 - 05/2115Z Mar 53 - 06/1932Z Mar 53. Have received call from Capt Smith, Pentagon on this sighting.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE	COMMENTS: 1. Capt Smith asked Project Blue Book advise 1701st Aie Transport Wing. Advisory TWX plus 4 questionnaires were sent out 10 Mar 53.
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	2. Two of the 3 sightings occurred in undisputed daylight so that recurrent bright star is not a possibility. Questionnaires not received, insufficient data for evaluation.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

RA196

B202

YDA213

XVA287

XDB228

CXA221

JWPQG 101

PP JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN 333

DE JWPQG 58C

P 052112Z ZNJ

FM CO 1701 AT WG GREAT FALLS AFB MONT

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASH DC

JEDWP/CHIED ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS COLO

[REDACTED] FLYOBRPT/ GFOIN-3-2441. MYMSG GFOPT-2-1325 DTG
250020Z AND MYLTR GFOIN 350.09, SUBJ: FLYOBRPT, DTD 27 FEB 53. DONALD
H LEE OBSR 5 FLY OBJ ON WED 4 MAR 53 FR 2100 MST TO 2215 MST. ALL OBJ
APPEARED AND MANEUVEED AS DID OBJ SIGHTED 24 FEB 53 ALL WITNESSES QUOTED
IN MYLTR ABOVE WERE PRESEN AT THIS SIGHTING. INFO REC VIA TP 1320
MST 5 MAR 53. FURTHER INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY.

05/2115Z MAR JWPQG

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

UNCLASSIFIED

1. Atia
2. Ati
3. C. files

UNCLASSIFIED

-6 MAR 1953 5 MAR 53 22 40z

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

1953 MAR 5

19:22

Rw

cy/

7 MARCH, 1953 - 0900 AM

Capt Smith called. There is an incident at Great Falls, Mont., on which the Field Agency, 1701st Air Transport Wing is requesting advice. There have been three reports from this same organization, same type of sighting, same individual making observation.

Date and time groups: 250025Z Feb 53

052115Z Mar 53

061932Z Mar 53

All from the 1701st Air Transport Wing, Great Falls AFB, Mont.

Observer in each case ~~REDACTED~~

The 1701st is a little disturbed over this incident.

Check into this and give them some sort of an answer. Send info copy of answer to Capt Smith.

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION
-9 6 MAR 53 22 08 z
MAR 1953 43 06 z

1. Attn
2. Attn
3. C. files

201357

YDC217

XYB321

XDB251

CXE167

JWPQG 71

PP JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN 333

DE JWPQG 36C

P 062134Z ZNJ

FM CO 1701 AT WG GREAT FALLS AFB MONT

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASH D C

INFO JEDWP/CHIEF ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/CG ENT AFB COLO SPGS COLO

[REDACTED] GFOIN-3-0531. ATTN ATIAA-2C AT WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB
/FLYOBRPT/ MYMSG GFOPT-2-1825 DTG 250020Z AND MSG GFOIN-3-0441 DTG
052112Z AND MYLTR GFOIN 350.09 SUBJ: FLYOBRPT, DTD 27 FEB 53. DONALD
H LEE AGAIN OBSR FLY OBJ SIMILIAR IN APPEARENCE AND MANEUVERING AS THE FLY
OBJ PREVIOUSLY OBSR. SIGHTING TOOK PLACE AT APRX 2100MST 5 MAR 53. MR
LEE CLAIMS ADDITIONAL WITNESSES TO THOSE QUOTED IN LTR ABOVE. INFO REC
VIA TP 1145MST 6 MAR 53. MR [REDACTED] ASSERTS THAT LOCAL CITIZENS ARE BECOMING
ALARMED OVER REPEATED SIGHTINGS OF FLY OBJ. PLEASE ADVISE.

36/1932Z MAR JWPOG

DOWNGRADED AT 2
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

cy 1

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CG ATIC

TO:

INFO:

DATE-TIME GROUP	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
101215Z APR 53 PRECEDENCE FOR:	UNCLASSIFIED
☐ BOOK MESSAGE	☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE
☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS	CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☐ NO
REFERS TO MESSAGE:	
IDENTIFICATION	CLASSIFICATION

especially if it develops that the unknown object appeared in the same relative position each time. Also, advise informal check into Mr. Lee's character, local reputation, etc., to be sure that the sightings are not the result of a "crackpot". Advise Mr. Lee that Air Force is taking an interest in his sightings. Four USAF Technical Information Sheets are being forwarded your organization, one of which should be filled out by Mr. [redacted]. This and also an AF Form 112 consolidating a report of the 3 incidents should be sent to ATIC per AFL 200-5 at the earliest possible date.

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

COORDINATION:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES
UNCLASSIFIED	
RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	
OFFICIAL TITLE	
ROBERT C. BROWN, Major, USAF Air Adjutant General	

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

SYMBOL

TELEPHONE

DD FORM 173

REPLACES WD AGO FORM 11-158, 15 JUN 1945, AND WD AGO FORM 0990, 1 APR 1946, WHICH MAY BE USED.

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CG ATIC

TO: CG GREAT FALLS AF BASE GREAT FALLS MONTANA

INFO: D/I HQ USAF WASH D C APOIN-2A2
(AIR MAIL)

FROM: APOIN-ATIAE-3-5-E FOR 1701ST AIR TRANS WG, HQ

DATE-TIME GROUP 101245Z MAR 53		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION ROUTINE	INFORMATION
☐ BOOK MESSAGE	☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE	
☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS	CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO	
REFERS TO MESSAGE:		
IDENTIFICATION	CLASSIFICATION	

ATIC has been advised by D/I HQ USAF that your organization has received 3 separate reports on 25 Feb 53 and 5 and 6 Mar 53 of an unidentified aerial object sighted at Great Falls by one ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. ATIC advises the following in handling the incident: 1) Ask Mr. Lee to determine the approximate azimuth and elevation readings in each case, or at least its general position in the sky. Was the object in the same position and of the same description in each instance? 2) Were there other observers or witnesses? 3) Check local radar facilities to determine if they recorded anything unusual at the dates and times of sightings. 4) Check local weather balloon launches as a possible cause for one or more of the sightings. Although 2 out of the 3 sightings are in the daytime, bright stars such as Venus are sometimes visible during the day. Venus has caused many incidents in the last month and ATIC advises that a local astronomer be contacted on this possibility,

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PAGE OF PAGES

UNCLASSIFIED

2

ATIAE-5

AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE
OHIO

In reply refer to
AFOIN-ATIAE-5

13 MAR 1953

SUBJECT: (UNCLASSIFIED) Sightings Made by Mr. [REDACTED]

TO: Commanding General
Great Falls Air Force Base
ATTN: 1701st Air Trans Wg, Hq
Great Falls, Montana

1. As mentioned in ATIC's wire of 10 March 1953 concerning various unidentified aerial object reports by Mr. [REDACTED], four U.S. Air Force Technical Information Sheets are hereby forwarded your organization.

2. ATIC requests that the source fill out one of these forms and it be returned with an AF Form 112 to this Center. The remainder of the forms can be retained for possible future use.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL

- 2 Incls
1. USAF Tech Info Sheet
(4 cys)
2. Ret Add Env

Robert C. Brown
ROBERT C. BROWN
Major, USAF
Air Adj. Gen.

COORDINATION

INSERT
ORIGIN CODE AND
FULL SIGNATURE

2. Brown
11 Mar 53 114
ATIAE-5 In
AF
H. Johnson
11 Mar 53 6624
ATIAE-5
11 Mar 53 6624
ATIA-12
TO

V ACTION

13 MAR 1953 09 09 Z

12 MAR 53 20 24 Z

1. Atia
2. Atia
3. C. files

RA142

WPA241T

XYB297

XMA183

CXD123

JWPQG 069

RR JEDWP JEPHQ JWFMB 333

DE JWPQG 28C

R 121829Z

FM CO 1701 AT WG GREAT FALLS AFB MONT

TO JEDWP/CG ATIC WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

INFO JEPHQ/D/I HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

JWFMB/COM CNTLD MATS KELLY AFB TEX

GFOIN-3-0949 URMSG AFOIN-ATIAE-3-5-E ACTION BEING TAKEN BY 29 AD (DEF)

GREAT FALLS AFB MONT

12/1907Z MAR JWPQG

Cy1

United States

IR-214-53 UNCLASSIFIED

FLYCRPT

Montana

Intelligence Officer, CNTLD, MATS
Kelly AFB, San Antonio, Texas

13 March 1953

25 February 1953

B-2

Major J. M. Penny, USAF

Military Personnel, 1701st ATW, MATS,
Great Falls AFB, Montana

TWX from CO 1701st AT WG, Great Falls, Montana (No. and Date Time Group Unknown)

Submitted in accordance with AF LTR. No. 200-5, dated 20 April 1952, Subj: Unidentified Flying Object Reporting.

At approximately 2020 hours MST on the night of 25 February 1953, an Unidentified Flying Object was observed visually from the ground by an Air Force Lieutenant and two airmen at a point approximately 15 miles northeast of Great Falls Air Force Base, Montana, at an altitude of 4500 feet above the terrain (approximate coordinates 111° 15' N - 49° 29' E).

The object when first observed appeared as an extremely bright, flickering, whitish light as one caused by burning magnesium, and tinges of deep red were discernible. The light abruptly began an earthward descent at very great speed. When it reached a point about one-third of the way from its original height to the ground, the light burst into a flash and its intensity and magnitude increased about ten times, resembling a parachute flare. At a point about one half way to the ground, the light disappeared abruptly. No sound was heard.

Weather conditions at the time of the sighting were not given nor was any information furnished as to the presence or absence of known air-borne aircraft in the vicinity.

APPROVED:

J. M. PENNY
Major, USAF
Chief, Intelligence Division

1

Geo. Sketch of area.

ATTC

Multiple

Hq, ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, AFOIN-ATIAE-5, Subj:
(UNCLASSIFIED) Sightings Made by Mr. Donald H. Lee

GFOIN 350.09 (13 Mar 53)

1st Ind

HQ, 1701ST AIR TRANSPORT WING, Great Falls AFB, Montana, 17 Mar 53

TO: Commanding General, ATIC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

1. Reference basic communication: copies of USAF Technical Information Sheets have been forwarded to 29th Air Division (Def), Great Falls AFB, Montana, with information copy of basic letter.

2. The 29th Air Division (Def) is presently conducting complete investigation relative to sightings of unidentified aerial objects as reported by Mr. Donald Lee.

3. Your headquarters will be furnished reports from the 29th Air Division (Def), Great Falls AFB, Montana.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

2 Incls:
w/d

Raymond L. Kolman
RAYMOND L. KOLMAN
Major, USAF
Director, Opr & Tng

F

UNCLASSIFIED

Intelligence Officer
Hq. CNTLD MATS, Kelly AFB, Texas IR-214-53

2

3

1. On the night of 25 February 1953 Lieutenant Peter Marquez, S/Sgt Roney M. Mayer and A/1C Ramsey from the 1701st Air Transport Wing, Great Falls Air Force Base, Montana, were returning to the base in a car along Highway 87 from Dodson, Montana, where they had made an investigation of a reported sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object near Dodson on the night of 22 February 1953.

2. When they reached a point on the highway about 25 miles northeast of Great Falls Air Force Base at 2020 hours MST, they noticed a very bright, flickering, whitish light in the sky at about a distance of 10 miles to the southwest and which appeared to be at an altitude of some 4000 to 4500 feet above the terrain. This light appeared similar to burning magnesium. Abruptly the light began descending toward the earth at very great speed. When it reached a point about one third of the distance from the original height to the ground, it burst into a flash that increased in intensity and magnitude about 10 times its original size, then the light decelerated in speed but continued to drop, resembling a parachute flare. At a point about half way to the ground from its original position the light disappeared completely.

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

ACTION

23 MAR 1953 10 10 7

21 MAR 53 04 48

- 1. Atia
- 2. Atia
- 3. C. Felix

~~R7C~~

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~RESTRICTED INFORMATION~~

UNCLASSIFIED

ATIC

1953 MAR 21

RE061

WPC053E

YDB056

09

INFO

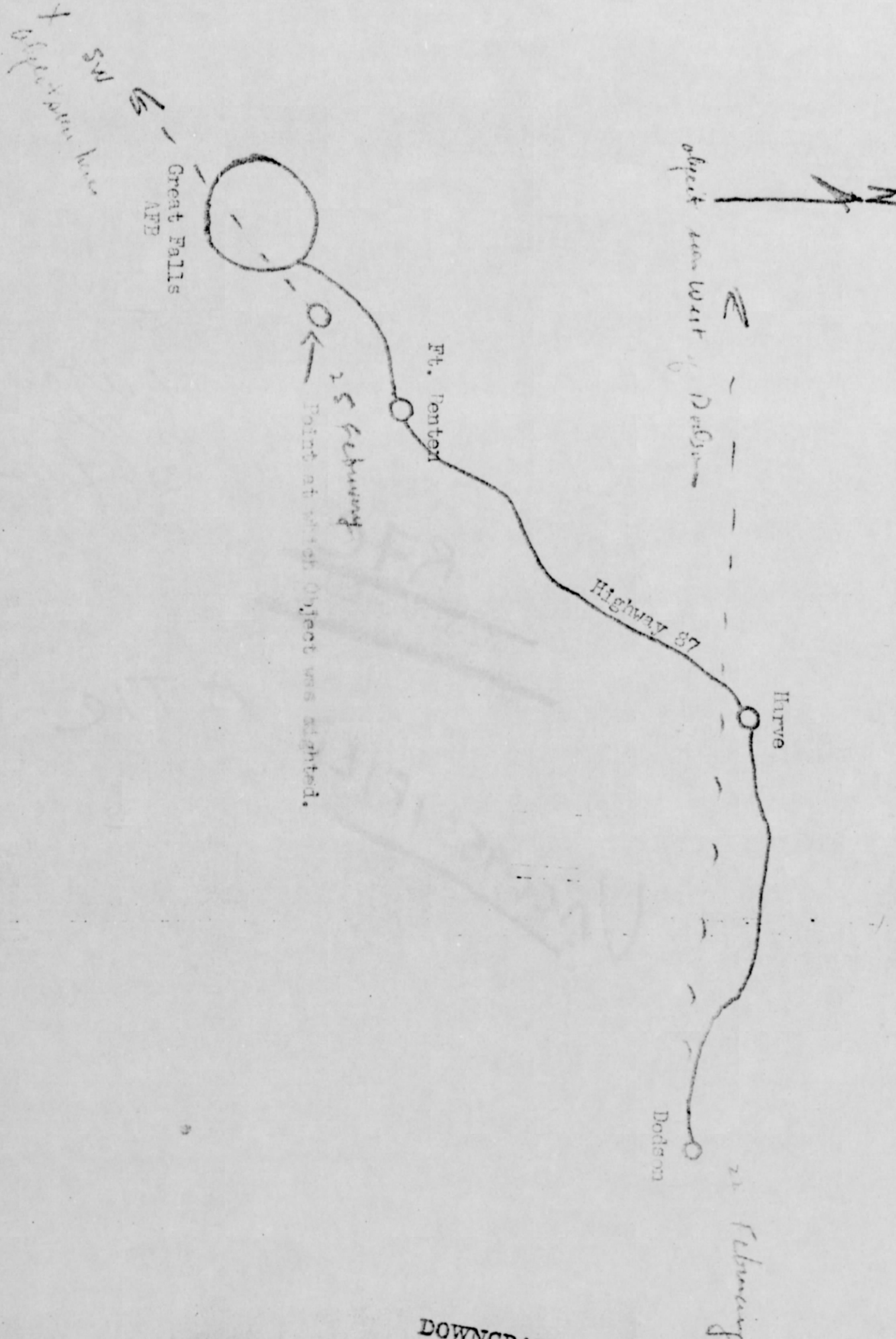
UNCLASSIFIED

Intelligence Officer
Hq. CNTLD, MATS, Kelly AFB, Texas

IR-214-53

3

3



Incl #1

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEARS
DECLASSIFIED

Great Falls, Montana

25 February 1953

I. Description of Incident

A civilian man from this location sighted an unidentified aerial object on three separate occasions - 25 Feb 53 at 0025Z, 5 Mar 53 at 2115Z, and 6 Mar 53 at 1932Z.

II. Discussion of Incident

Very little information has been gathered on this sighting, even a basic description of the object's appearance has not been submitted to Project Blue Book. Furthermore, nothing is known of the observer's experience level, corroborative witnesses, etc. In the light of the scant information received, the report has to be carried as insufficient data for evaluation until an AF Form 112 arrives.

III. Conclusion

Insufficient data.

UNCLASSIFIED

753-3695

70

XYB272

XDB061

CXB056

JWPGU 07

RR JEDWP JEDKF JWFMB 333

DE JWPGU 02

R 202354Z

FM JWPGU/CG 29TH AIRDIVDEF GREAT FALLS AFB MONT

TO JEDKF/CG CADF KSC MO

JEDWP/CG ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO 2

INFO JWFMB/CMDR CNTLD MATS KELLY AFB TEX

~~REDACTED~~ GFD01D 1892 PD PROJECT BLUEBOOK. REF MSG CADFTC
3-5 AND MSG AFOIN-ATIAE 3-5E. SENDING REPRESENTATIVE TO DODSON, MONTANA
FROM 29TH A.D. (DEF) O1D TO CONTACT MR ~~REDACTED~~ REGARDING FLYING OBJECT.
SUBJECT REPRESENTATIVE FULLY QUALIFIED TO ASSERTAIN FACTS. CO-ORDINATED
WITH 1701ST AT WG REGARDING FLYING OBJECTS. IN THE
FUTURE O1D 29TH A.D. WILL PROCESS ALL FLYING OBJECT REPORTS IN 29TH
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. FULL REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

20/2343Z MAR JWPGU

Have this sighting,

Donald Lee

RESTRICTED
SECURITY INFORMATION

Cy!