

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 16 April 53 16/2110Z	2. LOCATION East Prairie, Missouri
3. SOURCE Civilians	10. CONCLUSION AIRCRAFT
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Seven	The 85th Fighter-Interceptor SQ flies intercept missions with SAC a/c in the area. At 1000 CST, 16 Apr 53, B-36 a/c were intercepted by a/c of the 85th Fighter-Interceptor SQ.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 25 Minute Period	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Seven silver object in the trail of a B-36 were circular and approx 230 ft in diameter. Speed 400-600 mph in maneuver and 600 mph in level flight.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE SE	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
 FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

East Prairie, Mo.
April 17, 1953

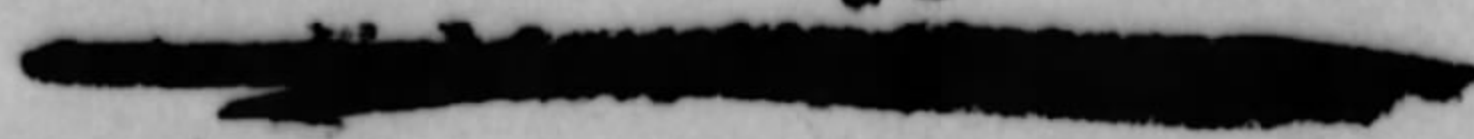
Commanding Officer,
Air Intelligence,
Scott AFB, Ill.

Dear Sir,

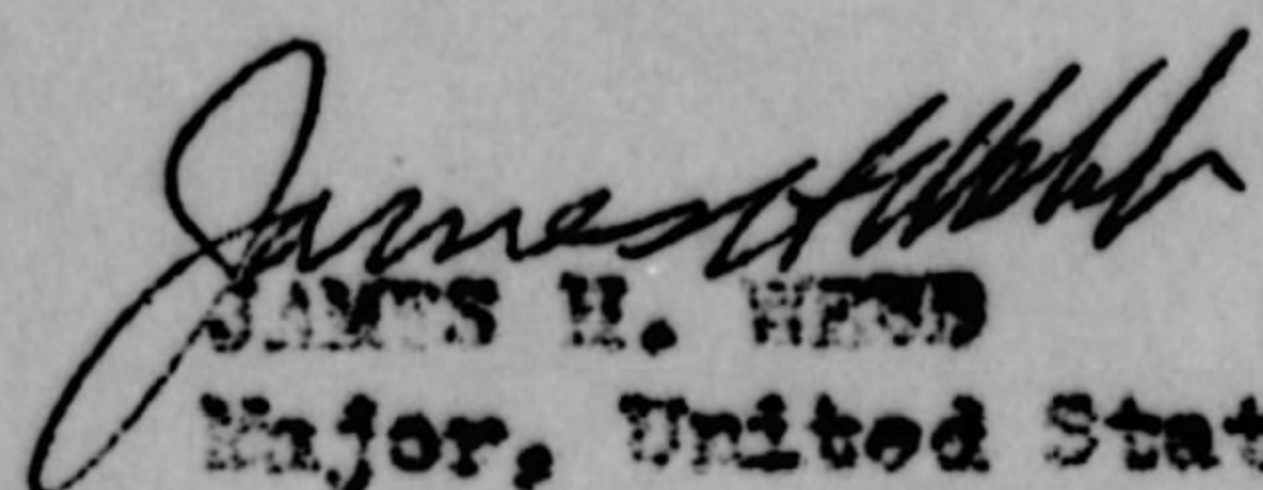
Yesterday afternoon I, along with three others sighted several strange objects in the air. They were in controlled flight. We watched them for about 30 minutes.

Please advise me if the Air Force is interested in such sightings. If so I will be happy to furnish a detailed description of our sighting from notes I made during the time they were visible.

I can be found at the Post Office at any time.

Yours truly,


THIS IS A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


JAMES H. WEED
Major, United States Air Force

HEADQUARTERS
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE
and
3310th Technical Training Wing
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS

20 April 1953

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
East Prairie, Missouri

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of April 17. We are very much interested in the sightings of unusual objects and would like you to make a detailed report.

This report should include a brief description of the object's shape, size, color, number, formation if more than one, aero-dynamic features, trail or exhaust, propulsion system, speed, sound, maneuvers, manner of disappearance and other pertinent or unusual features, time of sighting and length of time observed, location of object during sighting in relation to the observer and to the sun if possible, distance from object and an estimate of speed and altitude.

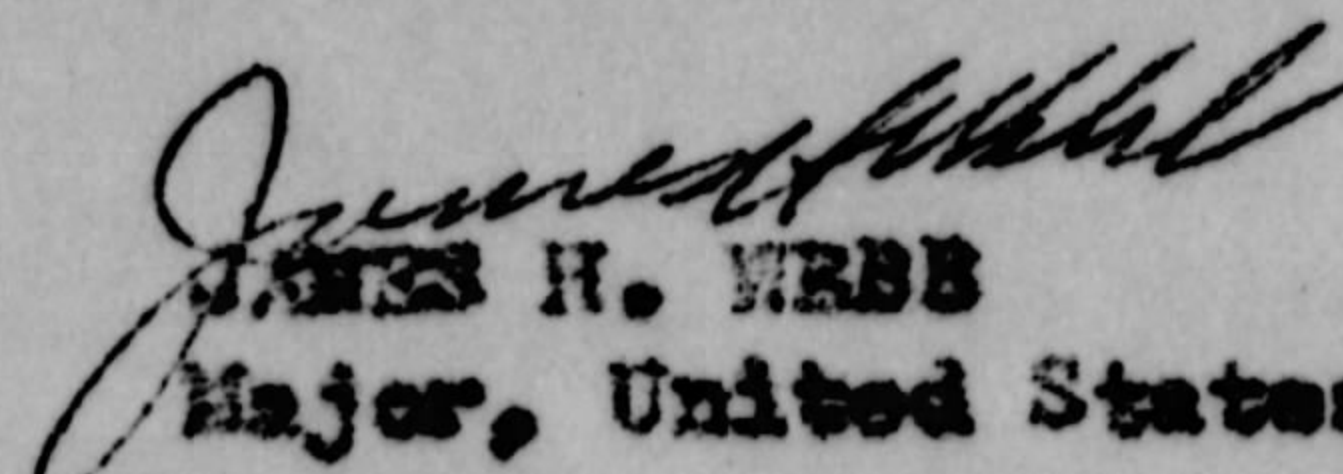
We would also like to have the names of the other observers and a brief description of the weather at the time of sight. Kindly include in this report a paragraph of your own describing what you saw and your evaluation of same.

Any information in relation to the above may be helpful in determining what the sightings were. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter.

Yours truly,

/s/ James H. Webb
JAMES H. WEBB
Major, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

THIS IS A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:


JAMES H. WEBB
Major, United States Air Force

Encl # 2 *

East Prairie, Mo.
April 28, 1953.

James H. Webb
Major, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer
Scott AFB, Ill.

Dear Major Webb,

I shall attempt to give you detailed information you asked for in your letter of April 20.

Time of sighting was about 3:10 P.M. until about 3:35 P.M.
The objects appeared to round. Circular surface.
Altitude- 40,000 feet up.
Position from me S.E. & E.S.E.
Color- Silver.
4 to 7 objects.
No sound.
No evidence of propulsion system.
No trail or exhaust visible.
Size--diameter as large as the wing span of B36.
Speed--based on speed of B36 at 600MPH. Objects in maneuvers 400 to 600 MPH. Speed in flight far in excess of 600 MPH.
Weather clear, no clouds and visibility unlimited.

The first object was seen entering the trail of B36. It made a sharp left turn and was joined by three more while still turning. The three joined the first and all four circled once in tight formation then formed abreast. After forming abreast they seemed to gain speed at a tremendous rate of increase. They left and disappeared parallel to the trail left by plane. After disappearance of the four described three were sighted north of the position. This was ESE of my position. These three maneuvered around in the general vicinity of their first appearance. One of these three was motionless for about 10 min. The others moved around but not far.

At one time two seemed to be flashing signals. This could not have been a usual sun reflection because of the two being so close together. The flashing was alternate. It was not Morse Code. The signaling is very puzzling. I know of course, our Air Forces use voice radio for Communication.

It is my opinion that these objects were in controlled flight. They could not have been free flight weather balloons. If these objects were flat or semi-flat they were on edge. I could only see one side and it was a perfect circle. No wings, tail or other breaks in the body visible. I can not identify what I saw but I am convinced they were strange, unknown objects in controlled flight.

The people who saw these objects were my wife, my mother-in-law, Mr. Stella Shorts and a man whose name I don't know. I would not recommend a statement from Mrs. Shorts because of her very poor eye sight. Although she said at the time

Amel # 3

she saw them it is quite possible she saw spots caused by the sun glare. My wife and I had the sun spots but I checked my sight by looking away from the objects. Then when I looked back the objects were still there.

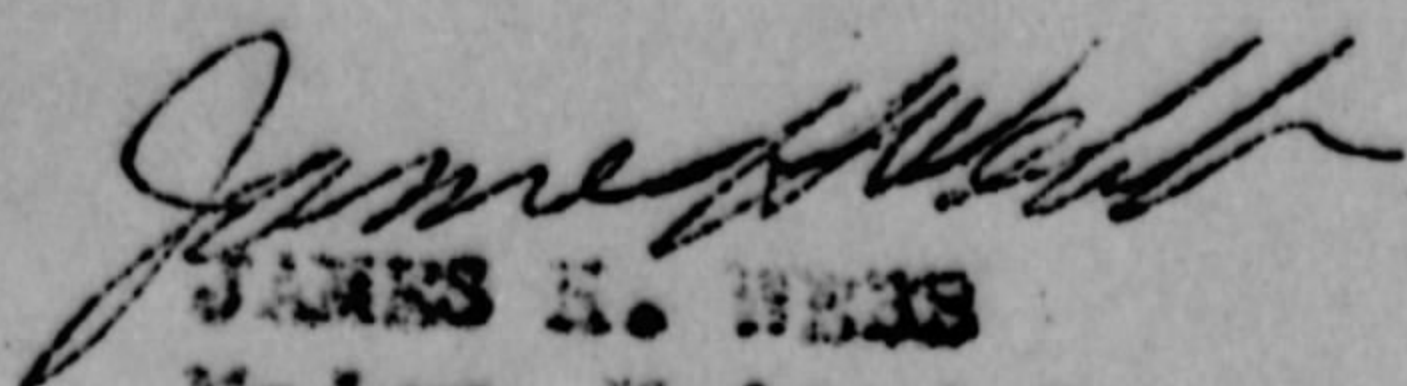
I sincerely hope my information will be of some help and if I can be of any further assistance please write.

Yours truly,

/s/

[REDACTED]

THIS IS A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:



JAMES H. WEBB
Major, United States Air Force

147X23 13 00

(CLASSIFICATION)

UNCLASSIFIED

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT FLYOBRT		
AREA REPORTED ON East Prairie, Missouri	FROM (Agency) Wing Intelligence Officer Scott Air Force Base, Illinois	
DATE OF REPORT 1 May 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 28 April 1953	EVALUATION F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) Major James H. Webb	SOURCE (Civilian)	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFL 200-5, 29 April 1952		

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.)

Unidentified, unconventional flying objects were sighted by [redacted] East Prairie, Missouri, 16 April 1953. Objects were also observed by Mrs. [redacted], Mrs. [redacted] and a fourth unidentified person.

Objects were observed for 25 minutes between 1510 and 1535 hours (Central Standard Time) at estimated 40,000 feet. Position of objects were SE to ESE of observers and appeared to be in trail of USAF B-36. (distance in trail unknown). By comparison with B-36 objects were circular and approximately 230' in diameter and silver in color. No visible propulsion system was observed and no exhaust gases or sound was evident. Speed was estimated at 400 to 600 miles per hour in maneuvers and in excess of 600 MPH in normal flight. Weather conditions were ideal with visibility unlimited.

A total of seven objects were seen during the 25 minute period. Initially only one object was seen to be trailing a B-36 for an unknown time or distance. After making a sharp turn to the left it was joined by three additional similar objects. The four objects then completed a tight 360° maneuver coming out abreast and continuing on the original heading, SE, (in trail of B-36) at a greatly increased speed. The four objects disappeared parallel to the trail of the B-36.

Soon after the original four disappeared, three more were seen to be maneuvering to the ESE of observers. For a ten minute period one of the objects remained motionless while the remaining two were in motion in the general vicinity. Mr. Watson further reported observing what seemed to be alternate flashing signals; but were not in Morse Code.

Our investigation shows that the 85th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, often flies interception missions with SAC aircraft in this vicinity. No mission was flown at 1500, but there was a mission flown at 1000 hours 16 April 1953, however, the log of the 85th Fighter Interceptor Squadron fails to show the exact location. The weather report for Farmington, Missouri at 1500 to 1630 Central Standard Time was "broken clouds at 25,000 feet, visibility fifteen (15) miles". No definite conclusions can be arrived at by this Office.

3.

1. Ltr dtd 17 Apr 53
2. Ltr dtd 20 Apr 53
3. Ltr dtd 28 Apr 53

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

DOD DIR 5280.16

JAMES H. WEBB
Major, USAF
Wing Intelligence Officer

DISTRIBUTION: Headquarters USAF, Washington 25, D.C.
Chief Air Technical Intelligence Center, ATIN: ATIAA-20, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
Commanding General, Technical Training Air Force, Gulfport, Mississippi
Commanding General, Air Training Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois

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

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

(SUMMARY DATA)

In order that your information may be filed and coded as accurately as possible, please use the following space to write out a short description of the event that you observed. You may repeat information that you have already given in the questionnaire, and add any further comments, statements, or sketches that you believe are important. Try to present the details of the observation in the order in which they occurred. Additional pages of the same size paper may be attached if they are needed.

[REDACTED]
(Please Print)

(Do Not Write in This Space)

SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

CODE:

DATE May 27, 1953

When we saw the first object it came into the end of trail left by planes. It was about through the trail, turning left, when 3 more were seen. The four circled one turn and formed abreast. Then disappeared in direction parallel to trail. They were traveling at a speed about same as what I think is a P-36 when first seen. After forming abreast the rate of gain in speed was terrific. After their disappearance we saw 3 to the north of the last sighting. They moved around in the same vicinity for perhaps 20 minutes, changing positions - circling. One disappeared for a few minutes at two times. One of the three was perfectly still for about 5 min. The other 2 still moving. The two that were moving at one point were flashing alternately. I first thought it was Morse Code but it was not. The speed of all objects varied from zero to unknown.

I do not think these objects were weather balloons unless it is a secret balloon. They certainly were not in free flight. I, like so many other people, have read about the so called - flying saucers and have not believed much of what has been written. So, when I saw these I made notes on time, weather conditions - speed - shape - sound. I even tried looking in the opposite direction, and I didn't see them. I looked through the windshield of my car. They were still visible. In short - I made every check I could think of trying to dis-credit what we were seeing. I couldn't. They were not sun spots, either. I sincerely hope that this bit of information will be of some help. I cannot even guess what the objects were but I am definitely convinced we saw them.

As I do not want any publicity of any sort I forbid the use of my information or my statement or the names of myself or my wife except for military use.

I shall be happy to co-operate further in any way possible.

12

Multiple

7 May 1953

16/1510
eHarlestown
MO

East Prairie, Missouri

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Your interest in reporting the matter and your public spirited desire to be of service are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

2 Incls
a/s

Robert C. Brown
ROBERT C. BROWN
Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

U. S. AIR FORCE TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

This questionnaire has been prepared so that you can give the U. S. Air Force as much information as possible concerning the unidentified aerial phenomenon that you have observed. Please try to answer as many questions as you possibly can. The information that you give will be used for research purposes, and will be regarded as confidential material. Your name will not be used in connection with any statements, conclusions, or publications without your permission. We request this personal information so that, if it is deemed necessary, we may contact you for further details.

1. When did you see the object?

16 APR 1953
Day Month Year

2. Time of day:

3 10
Hour Minutes

(Circle One):

A.M.

or

P.M.

3. Time zone:

(Circle One):

a. Eastern

b. Central

c. Mountain

d. Pacific

e. Other _____

(Circle One):

a. Daylight Saving

b. Standard

4. Where were you when you saw the object?

[REDACTED]
Nearest Postal Address

CHARLESTON
City or Town

Mo.
State or Country

Additional remarks: _____

5. Estimate how long you saw the object.

Hours

30-35
Minutes

Seconds

5.1 Circle one of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 5.

a. Certain

b. Fairly certain

c. Not very sure

d. Just a guess

6. What was the condition of the sky?

(Circle One): a. Bright daylight

b. Dull daylight

c. Bright twilight

d. Just a trace of daylight

e. No trace of daylight

f. Don't remember

7. IF you saw the object during DAYLIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, where was the SUN located as you looked at the object?

(Circle One): a. In front of you

b. In back of you

c. To your right

d. To your left

e. Overhead

f. Don't remember

8. IF you saw the object at NIGHT, TWILIGHT, or DAWN, what did you notice concerning the STARS and MOON?

8.1 STARS (Circle One):

- a. None
- b. A few
- c. Many
- d. Don't remember

8.2 MOON (Circle One):

- a. Bright moonlight
- b. Dull moonlight
- c. No moonlight — pitch dark
- d. Don't remember

9. Was the object brighter than the background of the sky?

(Circle One):

a. Yes

b. No

c. Don't remember

10. IF it was BRIGHTER THAN the sky background, was the brightness like that of an automobile headlight?:

*Hard to answer this
because of object's great
distance.*

(Circle One) a. A mile or more away (a distant car)?

b. Several blocks away?

c. A block away?

d. Several yards away?

e. Other

11. Did the object:

(Circle One for each question)

- | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|
| a. Appear to stand still at any time? | <u>Yes</u> | No | Don't Know |
| b. Suddenly speed up and rush away at any time? | <u>Yes</u> | No | Don't Know |
| c. Break up into parts or explode? | Yes | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| d. Give off smoke? | Yes | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| e. Change brightness? | Yes | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| f. Change shape? | Yes | <u>No</u> | Don't Know |
| g. Flicker, throb, or pulsate? | <u>Yes</u> | No | Don't Know |

12. Did the object move behind something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One):

Yes

No

Don't Know.

IF you answered YES, then tell what

it moved behind: Vapor trail left by plane which is believed to have been B36

13. Did the object move in front of something at anytime, particularly a cloud?

(Circle One):

Yes

No

Don't Know.

IF you answered YES, then tell what

it moved in front of:

14. Did the object appear: (Circle One):

a. Solid?

b. Transparent?

c. Don't Know.

15. Did you observe the object through any of the following?

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|---------------|-----|----|
| a. Eyeglasses | Yes | <u>No</u> | e. Binoculars | Yes | No |
| b. Sun glasses | Yes | <u>No</u> | f. Telescope | Yes | No |
| c. Windshield | <u>Yes</u> | No | g. Theodolite | Yes | No |
| d. Window glass | Yes | No | h. Other | | |

Observed ~~with~~ outside of auto & from inside also.

16. Tell in a few words the following things about the object.

a. Sound None

b. Color silver

17. Draw a picture that will show the shape of the object or objects. Label and include in your sketch any details of the object that you saw such as wings, protrusions, etc., and especially exhaust trails or vapor trails. Place an arrow beside the drawing to show the direction the object was moving.

The shape of the object was a perfect circle.
No wings - no protrusions. No trails.

18. The edges of the object were:

- (Circle One): a. Fuzzy or blurred
b. Like a bright star
☒ c. Sharply outlined
d. Don't remember

e. Other _____

19. IF there was MORE THAN ONE object, then how many were there? 4 to 7

Draw a picture of how they were arranged, and put an arrow to show the direction that they were traveling.

① 1st sighting: 12:00 PM
12:00 PM
12:00 PM
E.N. 1 object
② ~~30 OTHERS~~ 1st object
③ Drawing 2 is where 3 joined 1st object. After fig. 2 the four circled in tight formation then formed ~~with~~ abreast and disappeared in direction of plane. S.E. Immediately after this 3 more were sighted north of the 4. This position was E.S.E. They maneuvered in that general area about 25 min.

20. Draw a picture that will show the motion that the object or objects made. Place an "A" at the beginning of the path, a "B" at the end of the path, and show any changes in direction during the course.

After the original 4 disappeared the motion of the other 3 were several.

① ○○ ○ ② ○ ○ ○ ③ ○○ ○ ④ ○ ○ — the one on right remained still at time for as long as 5 mins. while other 2 moved & changed positions.

21. IF POSSIBLE, try to guess or estimate what the real size of the object was in its longest dimension.

_____ feet. Diameter equal to wing span of B36. (?)

22. How large did the object or objects appear as compared with one of the following objects held in the hand and at about arm's length?

(Circle One):

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| a. Head of a pin | g. Silver dollar |
| b. Pea | h. Baseball |
| c. Dime | i. Grapefruit |
| ☒ d. Nickel | j. Basketball |
| e. Quarter | k. Other _____ |
| f. Half dollar | |

- 22.1 (Circle One of the following to indicate how certain you are of your answer to Question 22.)

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| ☒ a. Certain | c. Not very sure |
| b. Fairly certain | d. Uncertain |

23. How did the object or objects disappear from view? *Gained speed at terrific rate*

for 2 to 3 sec. then simply vanished.

24. In order that you can give as clear a picture as possible of what you saw, we would like for you to imagine that you could construct the object that you saw. Of what type material would you make it? How large would it be, and what shape would it have? Describe in your own words a common object or objects which when placed up in the sky would give the same appearance as the object which you saw.

Material could be Aluminum. Circular object of 200' to 400' diameter. A large ball in the sky is the only object I know of that would have a similar appearance.

25. Where were you located when you saw the object?
(Circle One):

- a. Inside a building
- b. In a car
- ☒ c. Outdoors
- d. In an airplane
- e. At sea
- f. Other _____

26. Were you (Circle One)

- a. In the business section of a city?
- ☒ b. In the residential section of a city?
- c. In open countryside?
- d. Flying near an airfield?
- e. Flying over a city?
- f. Flying over open country?
- g. Other _____

27. What were you doing at the time you saw the object, and how did you happen to notice it?

*working in yard when wife called attention to what she
thought at first was the plane that left the trail. But
plane had already disappeared. we then saw the others*

28. IF you were MOVING IN AN AUTOMOBILE or other vehicle at the time, then complete the following questions:

28.1 What direction were you moving? (Circle One)

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North | c. East | e. South | g. West |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

28.2 How fast were you moving? _____ miles per hour.

28.3 Did you stop at any time while you were looking at the object?

(Circle One) Yes No

29. What direction were you looking when you first saw the object? (Circle One)

- | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|
| a. North | c. East | e. South | g. West |
| b. Northeast | ☒ d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

30. What direction were you looking when you last saw the object? (Circle One)

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| a. North | c. East | e. South | g. West |
| b. Northeast | d. Southeast | f. Southwest | h. Northwest |

31. If you are familiar with bearing terms (angular direction), try to estimate the number of degrees the object was from true North and also the number of degrees it was upward from the horizon (elevation).

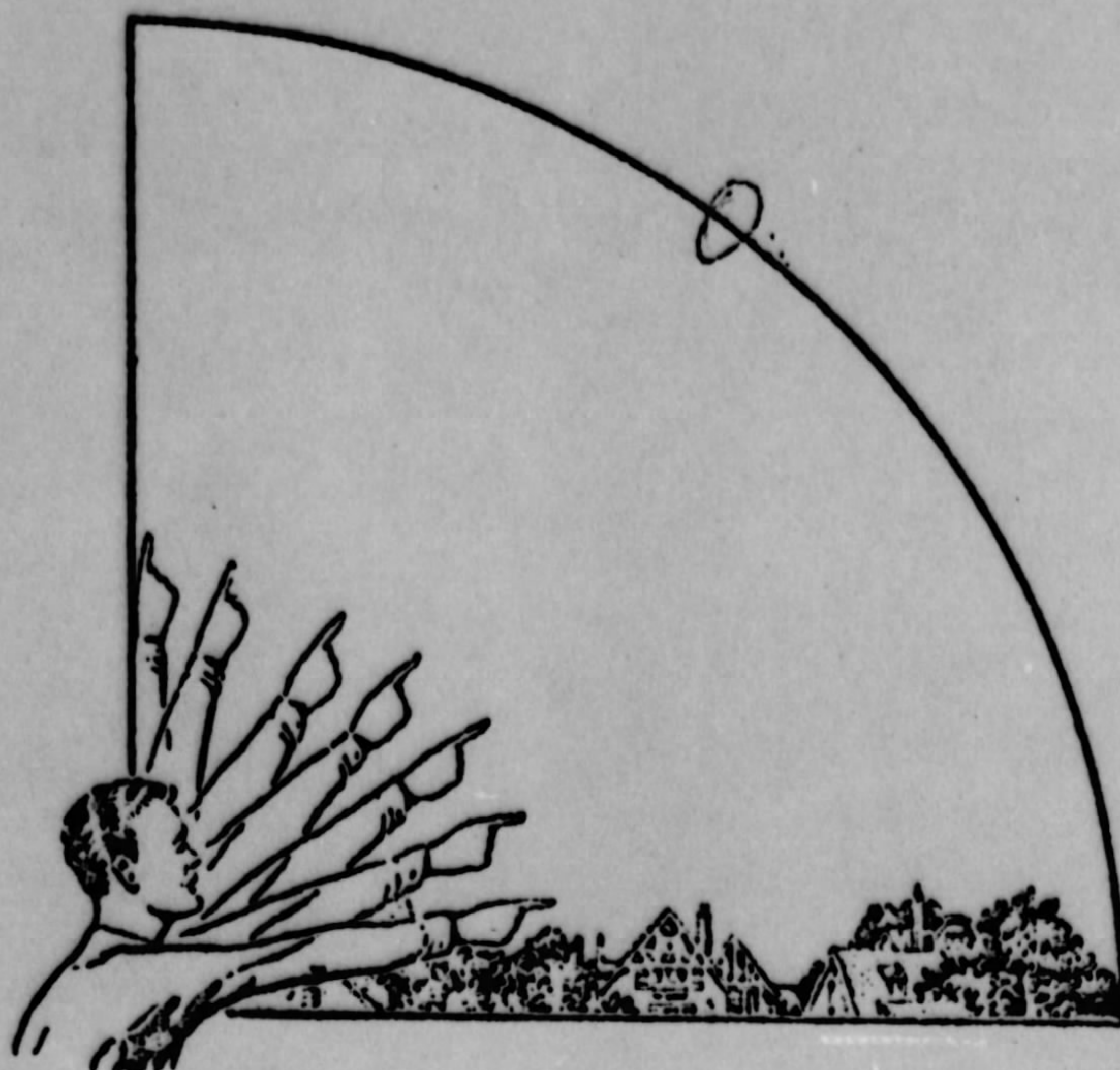
31.1 When it first appeared:

- a. From true North 150 degrees.
- b. From horizon 50 degrees.

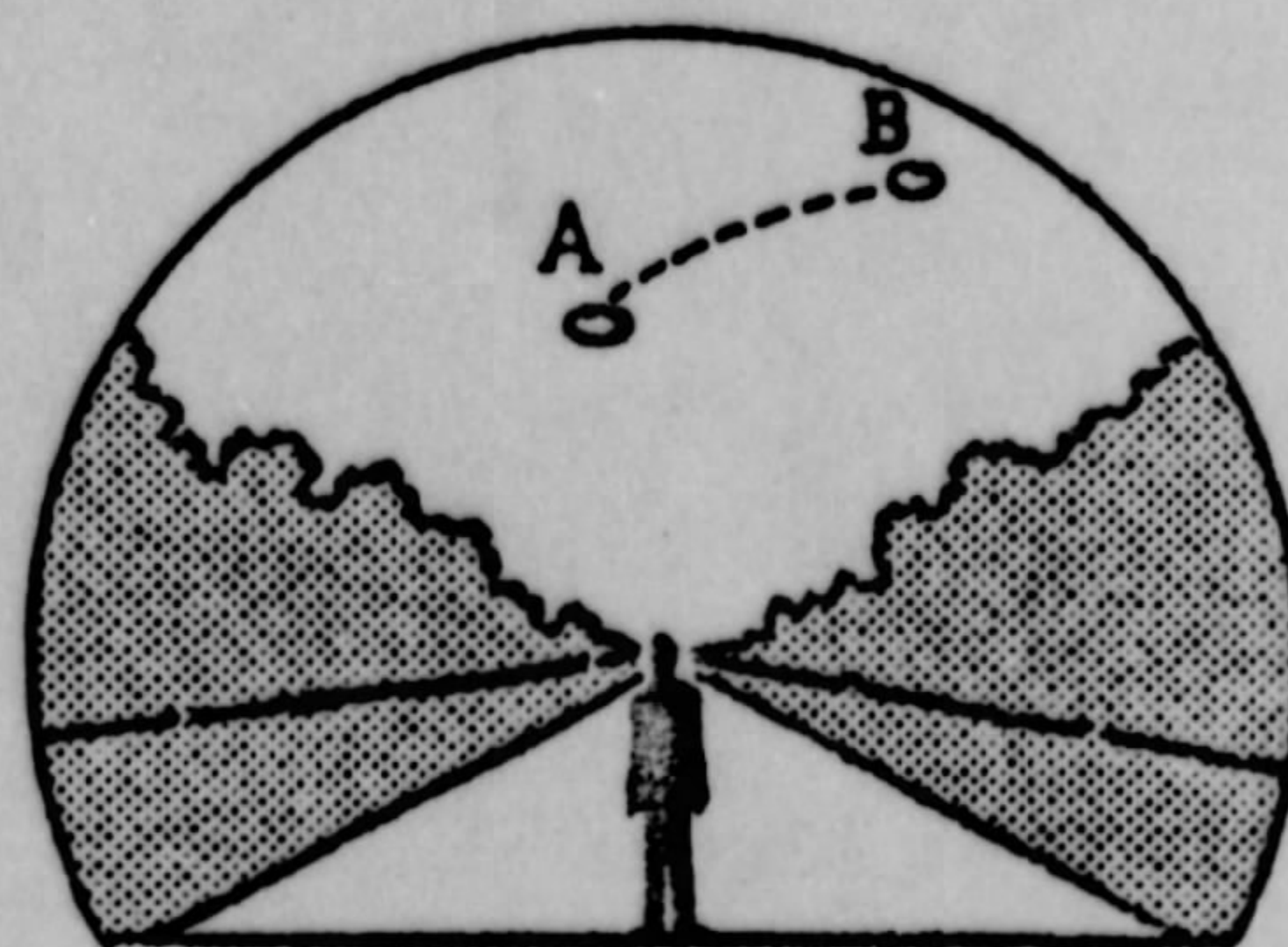
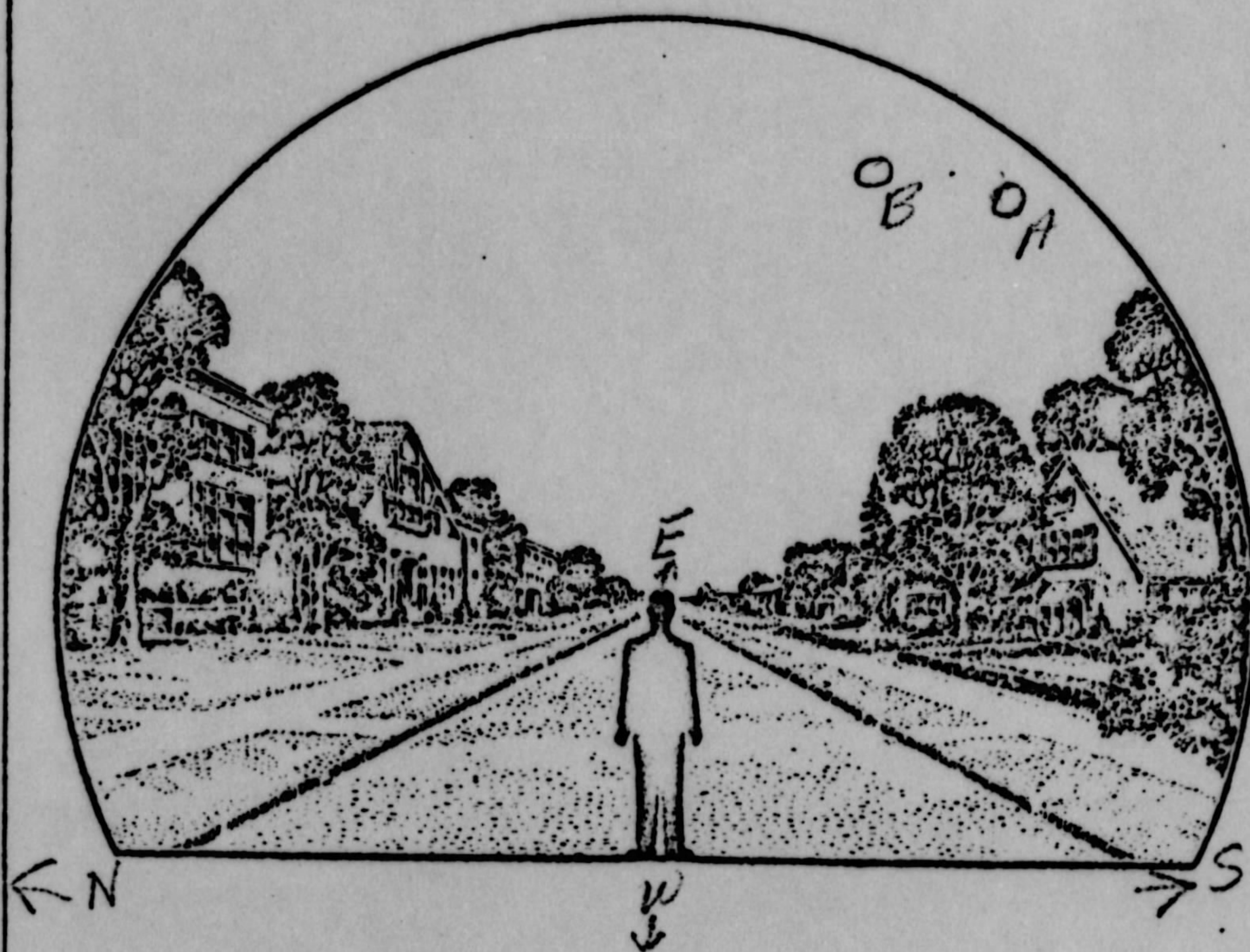
31.2 When it disappeared:

- a. From true North 100-110 degrees.
- b. From horizon 50 degrees.

32. In the following sketch, imagine that you are at the point shown. Place an "A" on the curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *first* saw it. Place a "B" on the same curved line to show how high the object was above the horizon (skyline) when you *last* saw it.



33. In the following larger sketch place an "A" at the position the object was when you *first* saw it, and a "B" at its position when you *last* saw it. Refer to smaller sketch as an example of how to complete the larger sketch.



34. What were the weather conditions at the time you saw the object?

34.1 CLOUDS (Circle One)

- ☒ a. Clear sky
☐ b. Hazy
☐ c. Scattered clouds
☐ d. Thick or heavy clouds
☐ e. Don't remember

34.2 WIND (Circle One)

- ☐ a. No wind
☒ b. Slight breeze
☐ c. Strong wind
☐ d. Don't remember

34.3 WEATHER (Circle One)

- ☒ a. Dry
☐ b. Fog, mist, or light rain
☐ c. Moderate or heavy rain
☐ d. Snow
☐ e. Don't remember

34.4 TEMPERATURE (Circle One)

- ☐ a. Cold
☐ b. Cool
☒ c. Warm
☐ d. Hot
☐ e. Don't remember

35. When did you report to some official that you had seen the object?

16 APR 1953
 Day Month Year

36. Was anyone else with you at the time you saw the object?

(Circle One) ☒ Yes ☐ No

36.1 IF you answered YES, did they see the object too?

(Circle One) ☒ Yes ☐ No

36.2 Please list their names and addresses:

~~_____ East Prairie, Mo.~~
~~_____ Charleston, Mo.~~
 Mrs. _____
 man whose name I do not remember but can find out.

37. Was this the first time that you had seen an object or objects like this?

(Circle One) ☒ Yes ☐ No

37.1 IF you answered NO, then when, where, and under what circumstances did you see other ones?

38. In your opinion what do you think the object was and what might have caused it?

Other than an unknown object in controlled flight
 I do not know.

39. Do you think you can estimate the speed of the object?

(Circle One)

Yes No

IF you answered YES, then what speed would you estimate?

600 m.p.h. *approx*

40. Do you think you can estimate how far away from you the object was?

(Circle One)

Yes No

any estimate would be a guess.

IF you answered YES, then how far away would you say it was?

_____ feet.

41. Please give the following information about yourself:

NAME

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

ADDRESS

Street

EAST PRAIRIE
City

Zone

Mo.
State

TELEPHONE NUMBER

What is your present job?

POST OFFICE CLERK

Age

34

Sex

MALE

Please indicate any special educational training that you have had.

a. Grade school _____

b. High school _____

c. College _____

d. Post graduate _____

e. e. Technical school

(Type)

P.M. School - U.S. NAVY

f. Other special training

Schools included
some weather.

42. Date you completed this questionnaire:

27

Day

MAY

Month

1953

Year