

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 11 August 53 12/0300Z		2. LOCATION Barksdale AFB, Louisiana	
3. SOURCE Military		10. CONCLUSION Astronomical (METEOR) Clear sky, visibility was unlimited. Many stars were visible at the time of sighting. AFIC COMMENT: The length of observation, speed, color and streak left in sky are very characteristic of a meteor observation.	
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One			
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Seconds			
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual			
7. COURSE SE			
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Large reddish ball of fire left a streak in the sky traveled at a high speed in SE direction. Observers could not ascertain the angular velocity of object. The officer stated that the speed of the object was similar to that of a falling star. Size 3H star. Speed faster than jets in area.	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No			
☐ Yes 11 Aug Barksdale AFB, La. Fireball c-1 ☒ No			

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

1953 AUG 17

08:56 UNCLASSIFIED

Multi

*3. Attn
4. R. file*

REASSPC239

VYD136

JES B355

MM JED SUPVR JES

ZUI JED A273 ZDK VYA219

JESBA 190N

MM JEDEN JEDMH JEDWP JEPHQ 444

DE JESBA 07

M 141430Z ZNJ

FM COMDRAF 2 BARKSDALE AFB LA

TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASH D C

JEDWP/AIR INTEL CENTER WIRHGT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

JEDMH/COMDRSAC OFFUTT AFB NEBR

UNCLASSIFIED

2AFICB 1647. FLYOBRPT. FOL INGO ON UNIDENTIFIED
FLYING OBJECT SUBMITTED TO THIS OFFICE BY MAJ JACK D SWICKARD, 11430A,
FWD IN COMPLIANCE WITH AFL 202-5, WO APR 53: PAR 1. OBJECT APPEARED
TO BE REDDISH BALL OF FIRE, APRX THREE TIMES SIZE OF LARGE STAR. OBJECT
MOVED VERY FAST AND LEFT STREAK IN SKY. SPEED OF OBJECT DESCRIBED
CONSIDERABLY FASTER THAN JET ACFT AND JUDGED BY SEVERAL B-47S IN TRAFFIC
PATTERN IN GEN VICINITY OF OBSERVATION. PAR 2. SIGHTING OCCURRED SHORTLY
AFTER 2100 HRS, 11 AUG 53 LENGTH OF SIGHTING DESCRIBED AS ONLY MATTER OF
SECONDS. PAR 3. THIS WAS VISUAL SIGHTING. PAR 4. AT TIME OF SIGHTING,
MAJ SWICKARD AND BASE GAME WARDEN, S SGT OTIS RECTOR, 14340799, WERE

Action

AS

*11/2100
Barksdale, LA.*

PAGE TWO JESBA 27

BOTH AT NORTH END OF FLAGG LAKE SITUATED IN NORTH CENTRAL PART OF BARKSDALE RESERVATION. UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT APPROACHED FROM NORHTERLY DIRECTION AND MOVED TOWARD SOUTHEAST, MOVING ALMOST PARALLEL TO EARTH'S SURFACE AND RISING SLIGHTLY BEFORE DISAPPEARING FROM VIEW. PAR 5. MAJ SWICKARD IS ACFT OBSR AND BELIEVED VERY RELIABLE. HE STUDIED ASTRONOMY AND VERY DEFINITELY STATED UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT NOT "SHOOTING STAR". S SGT RECOTR CAUGHT ONLY SLIGHT GLIMPSE OF OBJECT WHEN MAJ SWICKARD SHOUTED "LOOK" TO HIM. HOWEVER, S SGT RECTOR STATED HE HAS OBSERVED SIMILAR OBJECTS ON THREE OTHER OCCASIONS, BUT DID NOT REPT THEM BECAUSE OF FEAR OF RIDICULE. PAR 6. WEATHER AT TIME DESCRIBED BY MAJ SWICKARD AS VERY CLEAR, CLOUDLESS NIGHT WITH SKY FULL OF STARS. HOWEVER, NO MOON AT TIME OF SIGHTING. PAR 7. AT 2100 HRS, ON DT OF OBSERVATION, BARKSDALE WEATHER STA RELEASED WEATHER BALLOON. PAR 8. NO FRAGMENTS, PHOTOS, ETC, OBTAINED. PAR 9. NO KNOWN INTERCEPTION ATTEMPTED. PAR 10. AT TIME OF SIGHTING, SEVERAL B-47 ACFT SHOOTING LANDINGS IN GEN VICINITY. HOWEVER, B-47 ACFT STILL QUITE DISTANCE FROM OBSRS. IM AFTER OBSERVATION, ONE B-47 PASSED OVERHEAD AND FORMED BASIS FOR MAJ SWICKARD'S JUDGMENT OF SPEED OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT. ANOTHER OBSERVATION: LOCAL NEWSPAPER STATED SEVERAL PEOPLE IN DOWNTOWN SHREVEPORT REPTD SIGHTING UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT AT

PAGE THREE JESBA 07

1930 HRS ON SAME NIGHT MAJ SWICKARD MADE HIS OBSERVATION. OBJECT
DOWNTOWN DESCRIBED ABOUT 10 FT IN DIAMETER AND ROUND IN SHAPE.
BARKSDALE AIR POLICE LATER REVEALED IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BALLOON THEY
SAW BLOWN UP AT 1920 HRS ON DOWNTOWN STREET AND RELEASED. DESCRIBED
APRX 10 FEET IN DIAMETER.

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

14/1452Z AUG JESBA

UNCLASSIFIED

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

COMDR ATIC

TO:

COMDR 2ND AF BARKSDALE AFB LA

JESBA

INFO:

UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: AFOLN-ATIAE-8-7-8

DATE-TIME GROUP

181530Z AUG 53

PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

ROUTINE

☐

BOOK MESSAGE

☐

ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐

MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐ YES☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

2AFICB 1647

CLASSIFICATION

Ref your message 2AFICB 1647 reporting the observation of an unidentified aerial object by Maj J. D. Swickard and S/Sgt Rector at approximately 2100 hrs, 11 Aug 53, on Barksdale AFB reservation. Request following information: 1) What was the angular velocity of the object? 2) What were the winds aloft at various altitudes? 3) Did the object appear to be moving as fast as a meteor?

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

COORDINATION:

ATIAE-5

M.B. Futch
(A/IC Futch)

Date

18 Aug 53

ATIAE

J. A. Johnston
(Col Johnston)

Date

18 Aug

ATIAE

William K. Hays
(Col O'Hern)

Date

19 Aug

UNCLASSIFIED

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

ELECTRONICS BRANCH

Office of Record

Proj 10073

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

A/IC MAX G. FUTCH/vs

SYMBOL

ATIAE-5

TELEPHONE

65365

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

RELEASING OFFICIAL'S SIGNATURE

OFFICIAL TITLE

ROBERT C. BROWN, MAJOR, USAF
ADJUTANT

DD FORM 173

1 OCT 49

REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 48
WHICH MAY BE USED.

16-55223-3 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1953 AUG 25

03:55

25 AUG 00 152

hr

Action

*3. Attn
4. R. file*

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RC36

WPC176

VYC124

JEDBA 190

JEDVP

DE JESBA 166

N 242200Z ZNJ

FM COMDRAF 2 BARKSDALE AFB LA

TO COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

UNCLASSIFIED

/ [REDACTED] / 2AFIC 2927. RETURNING AFOIN-AT-IAE-3-7, PROJECT BLUE BOOK. REINTERROGATION OF MAJ SWICKARD REVEALED FOL INFO: SUBJ OFF COULD NOT ASCERTAIN ANGULAR VELOCITY OF OBJECT. WIND ALOFT WERE AS FOLLOWS: AT 1,000 FT, 13 DEGREES, 3 KNOTS; 2,000 FT, 12 DEGREES, 3 KNOTS; 3,000 FT, 11 DEGREES, 3 KNOTS; 4,000 FT, 7 DEGREES, 3 DEGREES, 3 KNOTS; 5,000 FT, 5 DEGREES, 5 KNOTS; 6,000 FT, 4 DEGREES, 6 KNOTS; 7,000 FT, 5 DEGREES, 9 KNOTS; 8,000 FT, 3 DEGREES, 11 KNOTS; 9,000 FT, 20 DEGREES, 10 KNOTS; 10,000 FT, 20 DEGREES, 11 KNOTS; 12,000 FT, 40 DEGREES, 15 KNOTS; 14,000, 60 DEGREES, 20 KNOTS; 16,000 FT, 60 DEGREES, 25 KNOTS; 18,000 FT, 60 DEGREES, 25 KNOTS;

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AF FORM 112—PART I

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY USA		REPORT NO. IR-36-53	(LEAVE BLANK) AF573326
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT FLYOBREP			
AREA REPORTED ON Barksdale AFB Reservation		FROM (Agency) D/Intelligence, Hq Second Air Force	
DATE OF REPORT 13 Aug 53	DATE OF INFORMATION 11 Aug 53	EVALUATION	
PREPARED BY (Officer) Capt William L Cramer, Jr		SOURCE	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFL 200-5 & 2AFL 200-1			

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.)

An unidentified flying object was sighted by Major Jack D Swickard and S Sgt Otis Rector at 2100 hours, 11 August 1953.

The two men agreed that the object was traveling at a high rate of speed, almost parallel to the earth's surface and appeared to be a red ball of fire.

APPROVED:

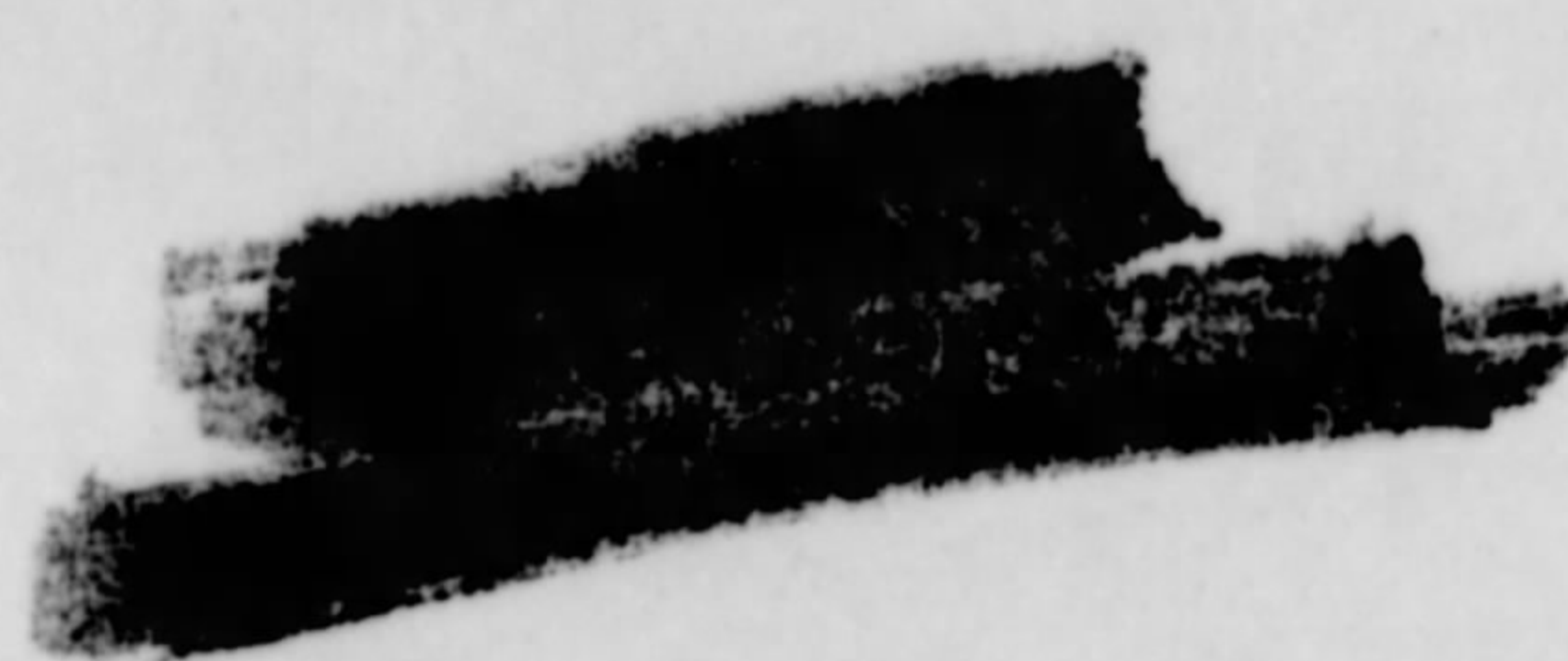
William E. Todd
WILLIAM E TODD
Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence

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DOD DIR 5200.10

ATTC 139253

130 DEGREES, 17 KNOTS; 35, 90, 90 DEGREES, 17 KNOTS; 44, 90, 90 DEGREES,
18 KNOTS; 45, 90, 31 DEGREES, 18 KNOTS; 51, 90, 34 DEGREES,
3 KNOTS; 55, 90, 50 DEGREES, 9 KNOTS; 61, 90, 7 DEGREES, 1
KNOTS; 65, 90, 7 DEGREES, 19 KNOTS. OBJECT APPEARED TO MOVE
APRX AS FAST AS FALLING STAR.

24/22432 AUG J133A



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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

D/Intelligence, Hq 2AF

REPORT NO.

IR-36-53

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OF

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The following information on an unidentified flying object was submitted to this office by Major Jack D Swickard, 11430A:

1. The object appeared to be a reddish ball of fire, approximately three times the size of a large star. The object moved very fast and left a streak in the sky. The speed of the object was described as considerably faster than a jet aircraft and was judged by several B-47s in the traffic pattern in the general vicinity of the observation.

2. The sighting occurred shortly after 2100 hours on 11 August 1953. The length of the sighting was described as only a matter of seconds.

3. This was a visual sighting.

4. At the time of the sighting, Major Swickard and a base game warden, S Sgt Otis Rector, 14340799, were both at the north end of Flagg Lake situated in the north central part of the Barksdale reservation. The unidentified object approached from a northerly direction and moved toward the southeast, moving almost parallel to the earth's surface and rising slightly before disappearing from view.

5. Major Swickard is an Aircraft Observer and believed very reliable. He has studied Astronomy and very definitely stated that this unidentified object was not a "shooting star". S Sgt Rector caught only a slight glimpse of the object when Major Swickard shouted "look" to him. However, S Sgt Rector stated that he has observed similar objects on three other occasions, but did not report them because of fear of ridicule.

6. The weather at the time was described by Major Swickard as a very clear, cloudless night with the sky full of stars. However, there was no moon at the time of the sighting.

7. At 2100 hours, on the date of the observation, the Barksdale Weather Station released a weather balloon.

8. No fragments, photographs, etc, were obtained.

9. There was no known interception attempted.

10. At the time of this sighting, there were several B-47 aircraft shooting landings in the general vicinity. However, the B-47 aircraft were still quite a distance from the observers. Immediately after the observation, a B-47 passed overhead and formed the basis for Major Swickard's judgment of the speed of the unidentified object.

Another Observation: A local newspaper stated that several people in downtown Shreveport reported sighting an unidentified flying object at 1930 hours on the same night Major Swickard made his observation. The object downtown was described as about 10 feet in diameter and round in shape. Barksdale Air Police later revealed that it had been the balloon they saw blown up at 1920 hours on a downtown street and released. It was described as approximately 10 feet in diameter.

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

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Major Swickard stated that he had studied Astronomy and did not believe the unidentified object as any type of meteorological phenomenon. He further stated that

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AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

D/Intelligence, Hq 2AF

REPORT NO.

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There was only a very slight breeze blowing at the time of the observation. This would seem to rule out the possibility of the object being the weather balloon which was released at approximately the same time as the observation because of the high rate of speed attained by the object while paralleling the surface of the earth.

William L. Cramer, Jr.
WILLIAM L. CRAMER, JR.
Captain, USAF
Directorate of Intelligence

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