

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 19 October 53 20/0230Z	2. LOCATION Lowry AFB, Colorado
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION WEATHER BALLOON Rawinsonde balloon released from Lowry AFB at 1920 hours. Investigated and determined object to be rawinsonde balloon.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE North	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Four airmen observed a whitish light traveling in N direction. Maneuvers consisted of moving very erratically, stopping, starting up and down, fading very slowly in a spiraling motion.
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

([REDACTED])
UNCLASSIFIED
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, USAF
5TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5D 24-21

2 November 1953

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
Rawinsonde Balloon Reported as
Unidentified Aerial Object
Lowry Air Force Base
1935 hours, 19 October 1953
SPECIAL INQUIRY (Aerial Object)

TO: Commander
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio
ATTN: ATIAA-2C

1. Attached for your information is one (1) copy of report of investigation by Special Agent CHESTER A. CUMMINS, 14th OSI District, file 24-155, dated 31 October 1953, subject as above.

2. Investigation was initiated by the District Commander, 14th OSI District, Lowry Air Force Base, predicated upon information received from the Airdrome Officer on 19 October 1953 to the effect that four (4) airmen had reported an unidentified aerial object over Lowry AFB at approximately 1935 hours, 19 October 1953.

3. No further investigative action is contemplated, and the files of the 14th OSI District are considered closed.

4. Attention is invited to the provisions of AFR 124-1 which prohibit release of classified information to unauthorized persons.

1 Incl
ROI, DO #14, dtd 31 Oct 53

cc: Dir. OSI w/o incl
DO #14 (24-155) w/o incl

George T. Koch, Jr.
GEORGE T. KOCH, JR
Major, USAF
District Commander

DOWNGRADED AT [REDACTED] INTERVAL
DECLASSIFIED [REDACTED] 12 FEB 81
DOD DIR 220110

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS REPORT OF INVESTIGATION		FILE NO. UNCLASSIFIED 24-155 REPORT MADE BY CHESTER A. CUMMINS, S/A REPORT MADE AT DO #14, Lowry AFB, Colo. PERIOD 19, 20 October 1953 OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO #14, Lowry AFB, Colo. STATUS CLOSED
TITLE Rawinsonde Balloon Reported as Unidentified Aerial Object Lowry Air Force Base 1935 hours, 19 October 1953		
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY (Aerial Object)		
REFERENCE INITIAL REPORT		
SYNOPSIS Attention is invited to par 18, AFR 205-6, dated 1 Sep 50, which prohibits the disclosure of investigative information to unauthorized persons. Investigation initiated by District Commander. Four airmen reported unidentified aerial object over Lowry AFB to the Airframe Officer at approximately 1935 hours, 19 October 1953. Statements obtained from airmen reflect they saw a light moving erratically across the sky. Light was visible approximately ten to twelve minutes and turned alternately bright white and yellowish, and was moving from a southerly direction across Lowry AFB. Light circular in shape and emitted no sound. Radiosonde Section of the 11-4 Weather Detachment confirmed releasing a Rawinsonde Balloon over Lowry AFB at 1928 hours, 19 October 1953, to which was attached a light for tracking purposes. Radiosonde Section released another balloon at 0100 hours 20 October 1953, which was observed and had characteristics of reported object. Wing A-8 Officer, Lowry AFB, personally advised of inclosed information. DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIR 5200.10		
DISTRIBUTION Comdr, Lowry AFB (Action) 2 Dir, OSI 2 DO #5 (ATIS - Info Cy 1) 2 File 2	ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commander Lowry Air Force Base Denver, Colorado APPROVED  LEROY H. BARNARD Colonel, U. S. Air Force	FILE STAMP 
UNCLASSIFIED District Commander.		

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DETAILS:

1. This investigation was initiated by the District Commander, predicated upon information received from the Airframe Officer on 19 October 1953 to the effect that four airmen had reported an unidentified aerial object over Lowry AFB, at approximately 1935 hours, 19 October 1953.

2. This investigation was conducted by Special Agents JOHN G. CAMPBELL and OTT C. BATTIS.

AT LOWRY AIR FORCE BASE, DENVER, COLORADO

3. At 2023 hours, 19 October 1953, Special Agent CAMPBELL, Duty Agent, received a telephone call from 1st Lt LEONARD L. ABART, AO 784283, 3415th Air Base Group, Airframe Officer on 19 October 1953, in which he stated that four airmen had reported to him that they had seen a flying saucer at 1935 hours this date. Lt ABART furnished Special Agent CAMPBELL with notes he had taken from the airmen which included their names, ranks, serial numbers and organizations. Excerpts from these notes are as follows:

"A/B DAVID C. POWER, AF 13 403 619,
3427th Student Squadron

A/3C JAMES E. ASTRIM, AF 12 459 398
3427th Student Squadron

A/3C ANDREW L. VAN SICLEN, JR., AF 29 651 255
3421st Student Squadron

A/3C WILLIAM C. JONES, AF 13 433 727
3420th Student Squadron

"Airmen JONES sighted first while walking alone. Saw other three motioning toward object. All four got together and watched. Object (light) moving very erratically, stopping, starting up and down, fading very slowly, visible for approximately five minutes while light bright and yellowish. When first sighted was extremely bright, north of Lowry #2 and below clouds. Object stopped and hovered. Seemed to make very slight movement. Appeared to be quite low over Lowry moving in northerly direction. No definite shape, just a light which did not change shape. Last saw object disappear to Northeast. Upward spiral noted when disappeared. Moved straight across sky."

4. At approximately 2230 hours, 19 October 1953, the above airmen were summoned to the OSI office where they executed statements setting forth their recollection of the incident. The body of these statements are set forth verbatim herewith:

Statement of A/B POWER:

"Lowry AFB, Colorado
19 October 1953

"I, DAVID C. POWER, A/B, AF 13, 403, 619, 3427th Student Squadron, Lowry AFB, Colorado, hereby state that JOHN G. CAMPBELL has identified himself to me

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DETAILS (cont'd):

as a Special Agent of the Office of Special Investigation, United States Air Force, and that I do hereby voluntarily and of my own free will make the following statement without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement, and without any promise of reward, benefit or any immunity having been made to me:

"At approximately 1940 hours 19 October 1953 Airman JAMES E. ANTRIM came into the Lowry #3 cafeteria and asked me to come outside and he had something for me to see before it got away. I went outside and Airman Van SICLEN was pointing up into the sky and I looked up and saw what appeared to be a light below the clouds which were at about 15-30,000 feet. The light looked at first like a distant sharp, clear street light, of a whitish color with a slight yellowish cast. It did not flicker or shimmer but remained a steady light. It looked very tiny but very clear and very bright but appeared to be at a tremendous distance. It appeared to be moving very slowly in an approximate northerly direction from a southerly-southeast direction. The light appeared to vanish at about 70-80 degrees elevation when figuring 90 degrees as being directly overhead. It appeared to be following a spiraling course, not a hard planned spiral but one more of a haphazard drifting spiral without direction. It appeared to remain in a small section of the sky before it disappeared, fading slowly from view. I observed no violent jerks only a mild wobbling. I heard no sound whatsoever and did not cast any light on the ground. I saw the light for approximately four minutes myself. I did not see any semblance of shape but it appeared to be an aircraft light in intensity and brilliance but much smaller. I saw no other stars in the particular area of sky in which the object was, there appeared to be depth to the light inasmuch as it did not vary in brilliance when passing clouds scudded over it. I do not think it was a star or an airplane. The sky was broken with clouds drifting about; the moon was brilliant and appeared to be due southwest of the object at a 75-80 degree elevation.

"I am 13 years of age and have been in the USAF since March 1953 studying camera repair and electronics.

"I further state that I have read this entire statement, initialed all the pages and corrections and signed this statement, and that it is correct and true as written.

/s/ David E. Power AF12403519
(Signature)

3427th Student Sqdn.
(Addressed)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 19th day of October 1953 at Lowry AFB, Colorado.

/s/ John G. Campbell
(Signature of person administering oath)
JOHN G. CAMPBELL, S/A, OSI, USAF (IC)

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DETAILS (cont'd):

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Statement of A/3C ANTRIM:

"Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado
19 October 1953

"I, JAMES E. ANTRIM, A 3C, AF 19459 398, 3427th Student Squadron, Lowry AFB, Colorado, hereby state that JOHN G. CAMPBELL has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Office of Special Investigations, United States Air Force, and that I do hereby voluntarily and of my own free will make the following statement without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement, and without any promise of reward, benefit, or any immunity having been made to me:

"I was leaving the Service Club at Lowry #2, Colorado, with A 3/C VAN SICLEN at about 1930 hours 19 October 1953 when VAN SICLEN pointed a light in the sky out to me. The light was to the left of the moon and below it. The moon was already part way up in the sky but it wasn't fully risen. I thought that the light looked like an airplane light but then it dawned on me that airplane lights blink and this was a steady light, kind of a yellowish-white. The light appeared to travel at a rapid speed toward the north. I don't have any idea as to the actual height of the light or its speed. The light slowed down and came to a complete stop to the left and above the moon, but didn't cross the moon where we could get a glimpse of what it was. It made a sort of half circle I don't recall which direction, but started north-east and then gained altitude in a spiraling motion and kept in that motion until it faded out of sight. It stayed altogether in our sight about 10 or 12 minutes from the time we first saw it until it disappeared. The condition of the sky was light cloudy with many clear patches of sky. I didn't hear any sound at all from the object and did not send any light to the ground. All it looked like to me was just a blob of light but I can't account for what it was, I'm pretty sure it wasn't an airplane though. While we were watching the light another Airman named JONES walked by and asked us what we were looking it and we told him the light up in the sky. He said that he saw the same light come over the horizon and had followed it with his eyes to its present position. I went and got Airman FOWERS from the cafeteria during time we first saw the light and he joined us in watching it and called the Airframe Officer and reported it after it disappeared.

"I am 17 years of age and have been in the USAF since April 1953 and have been studying electronics at Lowry AFB since August 1953.

"I further state that I have read this entire statement, initialed all the pages and corrections and signed this statement, and that it is correct and true as written.

/s/ A/3C James E Antrim
(signature)

19459398

Box 1058 3427 Stu Sqd

(address)

Lowry AFB Denver, Colo

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DETAILS (cont'd):

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" Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th Day of October, 1953, at Lowry AFB, Colorado, a person authorized by law to administer oaths.

/s/ John G. Campbell

Signature of person administering oath
JOHN G. CAMPBELL

Special Agent, OSI, USAF (IC) "

Statement of A/SC VAN SICLEN JR.:

"LOWRY AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO
19 October 1953

"I, ANDREW L. VAN SICLEN, A SC, AF 28651265, 3481st Student Squadron, Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado, hereby state that JOHN G. CAMPBELL has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Office of Special Investigations, United States Air Force, and that I do hereby voluntarily and of my own free will make the following statement without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement, and without any promise of reward, benefit or any immunity having been made to me:

"At approximately 1935 hours 19 Oct 53 I came out of Service Club #3 at Lowry AFB #3 out of the door facing south. As I came out I looked up toward the sky and saw a bright object which looked to be a very bright star which was mounting into the sky. I thought it was moving because I was moving but when I mentioned it to my buddy, A SC JAMES ANTRIM he said to stop and see if it still moved. He stopped and it kept moving. We watched the object and it mounted to a point where it appeared to be directly above us at which time the object stopped and just stayed where it was. As we watched the object for a few minutes it began to move again slowly in a northeasterly direction and then it stopped again and A SC ANTRIM ran over to the cafeteria and got Airman FOWERS out to look at it. We all looked at the object for a few minutes while the object moved erratically around and then it started to climb. At about this time another Airman whom I believe to be named JONES came up to us and asked us if we were looking at the object at which he was looking and we replied that we were. We watched the object until it finally disappeared from sight straight up in the air. Before it did disappear however, it did some tricky maneuvering in the sky. I blinked my eyes as it started to disappear and then looked at the object again at which time it appeared to be two objects but as my eyes re-focused on the object I could see that it was just one. The color of the object appeared to be a white light. I did not hear any sound whatsoever and I have no idea as to the height of the object in the sky but it was high and it was in the sky. It did not appear to be leaving any trails and I could not see the any detail of the object as to its outline, shape or form. Altogether the object stayed in the vicinity eleven minutes. The time I know because I checked my watch when I first saw the object and when it disappeared from my view. The object did not appear to shed any light on the ground or buildings. The sky

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DETAILS (cont'd):

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was clear at the time and the moon was in the process of rising as I do not recall that it was high in the sky at the time. After the object disappeared to the north, apparently straight up in the sky, Airman POWERS called the Air-Drone Officer and reported what we had seen.

"I am 18 years of age and have been in the USAF since March 1953 studying electronics.

"I further state that I have read this entire statement, initialed all the pages and corrections and signed this statement, and that it is correct and true as written.

/s/ Andrew L. Van Siclen Jr
A/3c (Signature) 23651253

3421 Stu. Sqd. Lowry AFB
(address)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 19th day of October 1953 at Lowry AFB, Colo

/s/ John G. Campbell
(Signature)
JOHN G. CAMPBELL, S/A OSI, (IC) USAF

Statement of A/3C JONES:

"Lowry AFB, Colorado
19 October 1953

"I, WILLIAM C. JONES, A 3C, AF 13 433 727, 3420th Student Squadron, Lowry AFB, Colorado hereby state that JOHN G. CAMPBELL has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Office of Special Investigations, United States Air Force, and that I do hereby voluntarily and of my own free will make the following statement without having been subjected to any coercion, unlawful influence or unlawful inducement and without any promise of reward, benefit, or any immunity having been made to me:

"At about 1935 hours 19 October 1953 I was at Lowry #2 near the parking lot across from the Service Club, only on the far end of the parking lot, the southern end of it. I was walking East and just above the horizon I saw a whitish-yellow light which appeared to get brighter as it got closer and appeared to come toward me at a rather rapid speed. I watched it as I walked East and then turned north by the Base Theatre #2 and before I got to the Theatre the object appeared to be very bright and appeared to stand stationary above me, and then as I started to walk off the light suddenly took off from a standstill, moving slowly, gained speed and then stopped dead. It appeared to make a slight turn to the South. When the light first stopped in the sky I saw upon Airman Antrim, VAN SICLEN and POWER also watching the object. I noticed that the light appeared to move in a spiraling motion, a zig-zagging maneuver when it moved toward me when I first saw it. I didn't hear any noise whatsoever. The sky was cloudy with some broken places and the moon while not bright was "blurry".

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DETAILS (cont'd):

The light did not send any light to the ground and when it disappeared it appeared to fade away as it appeared to rise. I don't believe it was an airplane or star nor did I see any stars in the same place I saw the light.

"I am 18 years of age and have been in the USAF since September 1958 and am studying weapons-mechanics.

"I further state that I have read this entire statement, initialed all the pages and corrections and signed this statement, and that it is correct and true as written.

/s/ A/SG William C Jones
SIGNATURE

3420th Tech Sqdn.
ADDRESS

Subscribed and sworn to before me a person authorized by law to administer oaths, this 19th day of October 1958 at Lowry AFB, Colorado.

/s/ John G Campbell
Signature of person administering oath
JOHN G. CAMPBELL, S/A OSI, USAF (ID)

The original copies of the above statements are being retained in the files of this District Office and will be made available upon authoritative request.

5. At 0100 hours, 20 October 1958, Special Agent CAMPBELL telephonically contacted the Radiosonde Section, 11-4 Weather Detachment, Lowry AF Base, to ascertain whether they released a weather balloon. A/IC ROBERT HOGAN, AF 13 364 471, on duty at the Radiosonde Section, advised that at 1928 hours, 19 October 1958, Radiosonde balloon with a yellowish light hanging from it for tracking purposes was sent up from the South part of Lowry AF Base. In addition, HOGAN stated that another balloon had just been sent up. Special Agent CAMPBELL went outside the building and saw a flickering whitish light high in the sky in the Northwest area. It too appeared to change color slightly and to gyrate about the sky in a small area. CAMPBELL called the weather station for a bearing and they confirmed his observation as to the light being that attached to the balloon.

6. On 20 October 1958, Special Agent OTT C. RATT3 personally advised Captain WALLACE L. CRISWELL, AO 228078, A-3, 3415th Technical Training Wing, of the information possessed by this office.

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