

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 29 NOV 54		2. LOCATION CHARLESTON, S C		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☒ Was Astronomical METEOR ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 30/0340Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE MILITARY			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION MOMENTARY		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS ONE		9. COURSE DOWNWARD	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING BRILLIANT BLUE FLASH, SMOKE OR CLOUD AS RESULT. (NO CASE IN FILE)				11. COMMENTS OBJ IDENTIFIED AS METEOR	

The New York Herald Tribune received several days ago a copy of a photograph taken at Taormina, Sicily, which showed a group of Sicilians gazing skyward at two disc-shaped objects. These objects hovered over the town for two minutes before disappearing, according to Giuseppe Grasso, the photographer who furnished the photograph to the Rome Bureau of the The United Press and who is regarded by them as reliable.

The Herald Tribune withheld this photograph from publication pending a further check by The United Press. The United Press reported yesterday that the original negative of the Taormina photograph had been obtained by its Rome bureau and that a careful examination revealed no evidences of double exposure, retouching or any other known methods of fake photography.

The United Press stated, "We have not been able to determine from the negative any evidences

of fraud whatever." [Picture appears on Page One.]

Some parachute operations apparently had been conducted in the area recently, according to the United Press, but no direct connection between the objects shown in the photograph from Sicily and parachutes was discovered.

*Clipping from
St Louis Post
Dispatch*

U.S. STUDYING EUROPEAN FLYING SAUCER PHOTOS

Swedish, Yugoslav, Italian Reports Checked
— 10 Pct. of U.S. Cases Unexplained.

By ANSEL E. TALBERT

The New York Herald Tribune-Post-Dispatch
Special Dispatch.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10—United States defense agencies are studying purported photographs taken in at least three European countries—Sweden, Yugoslavia and Italy—of mysterious flying saucers to determine whether they could be inhabited vehicles, natural phenomena or frauds.

The United States Air Force's Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, O., which is charged with investigating all "unusual aerial phenomena" having a possible bearing on national defense, also plans to analyze the data and photographs from abroad.

Still No Opinion.

The Air Force said last night that its technical intelligence chiefs, who have been looking into reports of saucer, cigar and disk-shaped objects moving through the skies since 1947, still have no opinion on what they might be. The Air Force said further that they "are not any plane, missile or weapon" developed or under development by the United States and that "no authentic evidence exists that they are space ships from another planet."

Many sightings have been quickly explained by Air Force scientists and analysts as obvious mistakes by their viewers, who confused natural phenomena including reflections on clouds, or objects such as weather balloons, with "flying saucers." The Air Force says that comparatively few are deliberate hoaxes. About 10 per cent constitute observations by reliable persons for which there is no apparent explanation of any kind.

Italian Photograph.

Among the photographs being studied is one taken at Taormina, Sicily, which showed a group of Sicilians gazing skyward in the direction of two disk-shaped objects. These objects hovered over the town for about two minutes before disappearing, according to Giuseppe Grasso, the photographer.

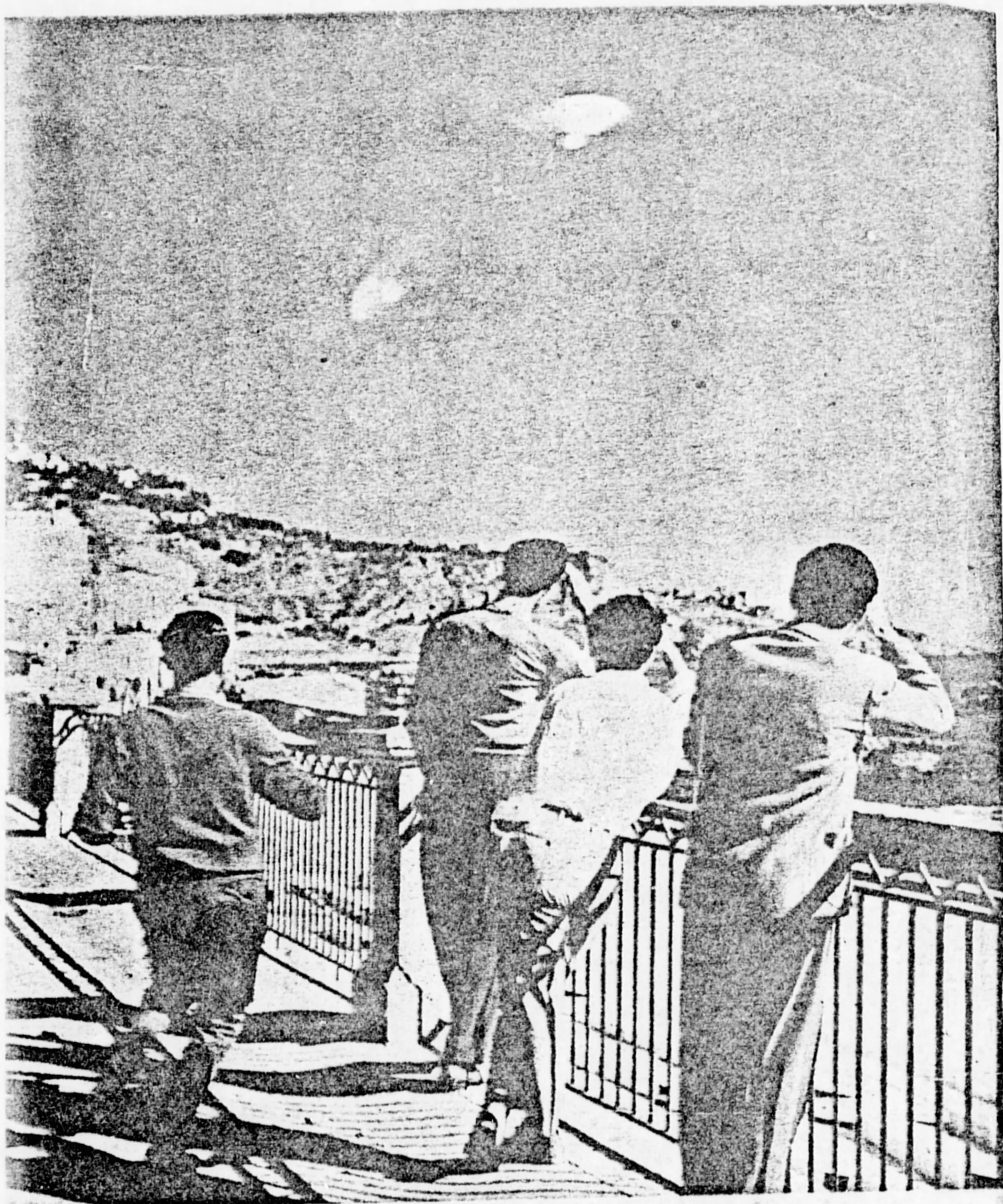
Clare Booth Luce, United States Ambassador to Italy, is among the hundreds of persons abroad who have reported seeing unusual phenomena in the skies, although she stressed that she had no idea what it might be. Dr. Rafaele Bendandi, an Italian astronomer of considerable repute, has offered an opinion that the mysterious objects seen with increasing frequency are "human made."

Yugoslav Saucer.

In Yugoslavia, Dr. Milorad Protic, also an astronomer, stated that a glowing object which streaked over Belgrade going due east, and was reported in many other parts of the nation, "could not be a meteorite because it flew horizontally on a fixed course." A spokesman for Yugoslav Government said that although other scientists disagreed "we are taking the matter very seriously and conducting a thorough investigation."

Sweden's defense ministry has disclosed that photographs were taken two months ago with a telephoto lens of an object which passed over southern Sweden "at exceptionally high speed" about 19,000 feet high. This object went northward and was under observation "from horizon to horizon." No announcement has been made by Sweden as to what it believes the object was.

In France, which has been the origin of more recent "flying saucer" reports than any other nation in Europe, the magazine Express regarded as the voice of Premier Pierre Mendes-France, has offered a reward of 10,000,000 francs (about \$28,570) to the first person to bring a visitor from outer space into its offices.



The Air Force admits that images like these seen in Sicily are real, but officials say that such phenomena are now explainable.

This CASE Includes

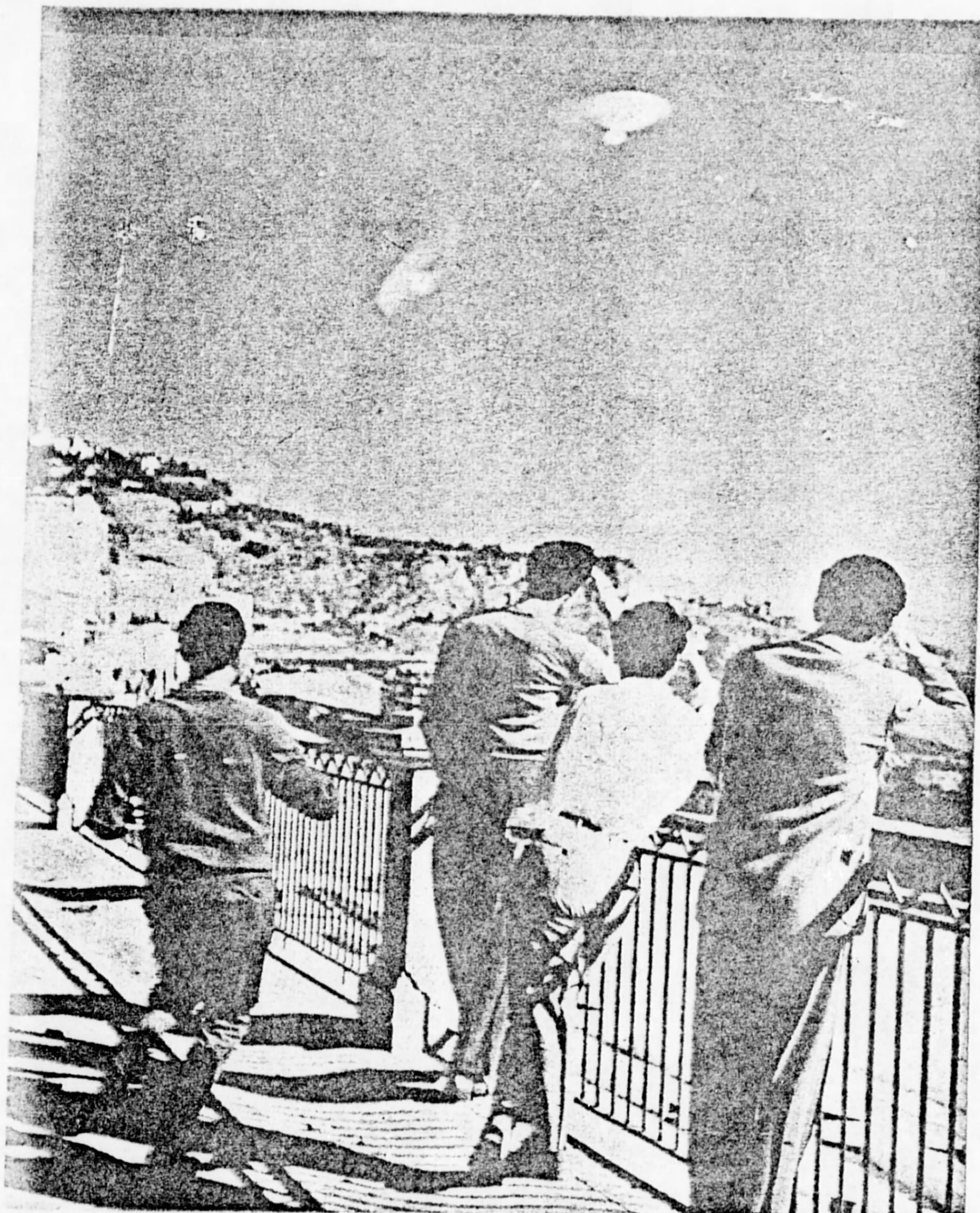
Four (4) photos clipped

FROM NEWSPAPERS.

No Case (Information Only)

November(?) 1954
Taormina, Sicily

(See Menzel Book pg 205 for explanation)



The Air Force admits that images like these seen in Sicily are real, but officials say that such phenomena are now explainable.

NY. H.T. Dec. 10, 1954



Herald Tribune—United Press

One of the pictures seemingly showing flying saucers, which are being studied by defense agencies. It was taken at Taormina, Sicily. Similar photographs were made in Sweden and Yugoslavia.

Air Force to Probe New 'Flying Saucers' Over Europe

By Ansel E. Talbert

The United States armed services are receiving few reports of mysterious airborne objects this year but in Europe a mass of recent "flying saucer" reports has caused serious investigations in several nations. In at least three

European nations — Sweden, Yugoslavia and Italy — purported photographs of the mysterious flying objects were taken and are being studied by defense agencies to determine whether they could be inhabited vehicles, natural phenomena or frauds. The

United States Air Force's Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright - Patterson Air Force Base, near Dayton, Ohio, which is charged with investigating all "unusual aerial phenomena" having a possible bearing on national defense, also plans to analyze

the data and photographs from abroad. The Air Force said officially last night that its technical intelligence chiefs, who have been looking into reports of saucer, cigar and disc-shaped objects moving through the skies since

Continued on page 14, column 5

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
Hollywood 28 Calif.
12-13-54

Gentlemen - I have
studied the so-called "flying
saucer" picture from
Sicily. If one looks
at it closely, one
notes that neither
of the two Sicilians are looking
at the two-disc shaped objects -
but looking to the right, and at
a considerably lower distance
than the actual objects.

Very truly
~~_____~~

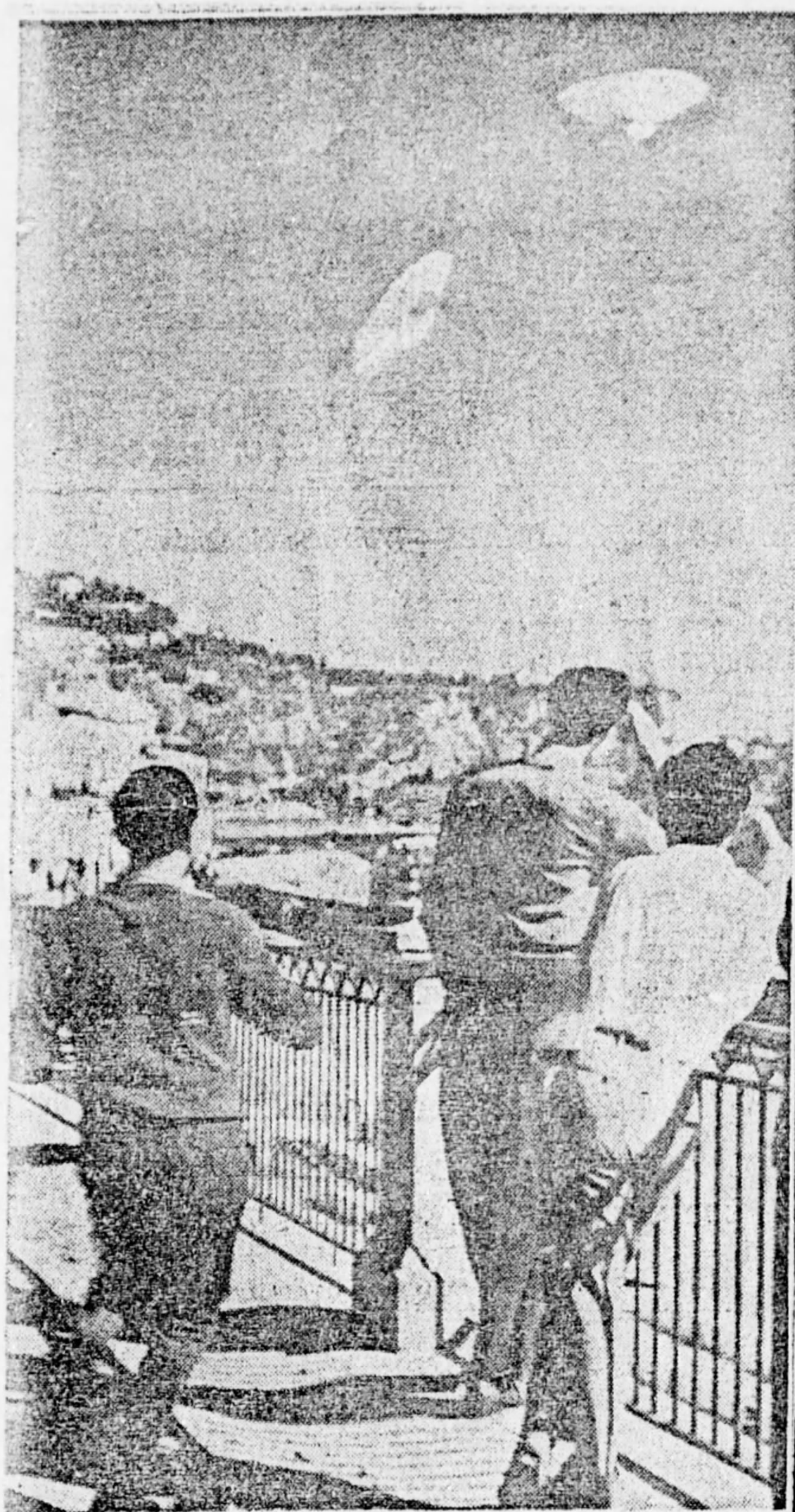
Air Force Scans For Pictures of Flying Saucers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP) — The Air Force is studying so-called flying saucer sightings in foreign countries as well as those reported in the United States.

A spokesman said that a "flying saucer" photograph from Sicily is being studied by the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, O.

The photograph, made at Taormina, Sicily, showed Sicilians looking at two disk-shaped objects. It was made by Giuseppe Grasso, a photographer who supplied the picture to the United Press.

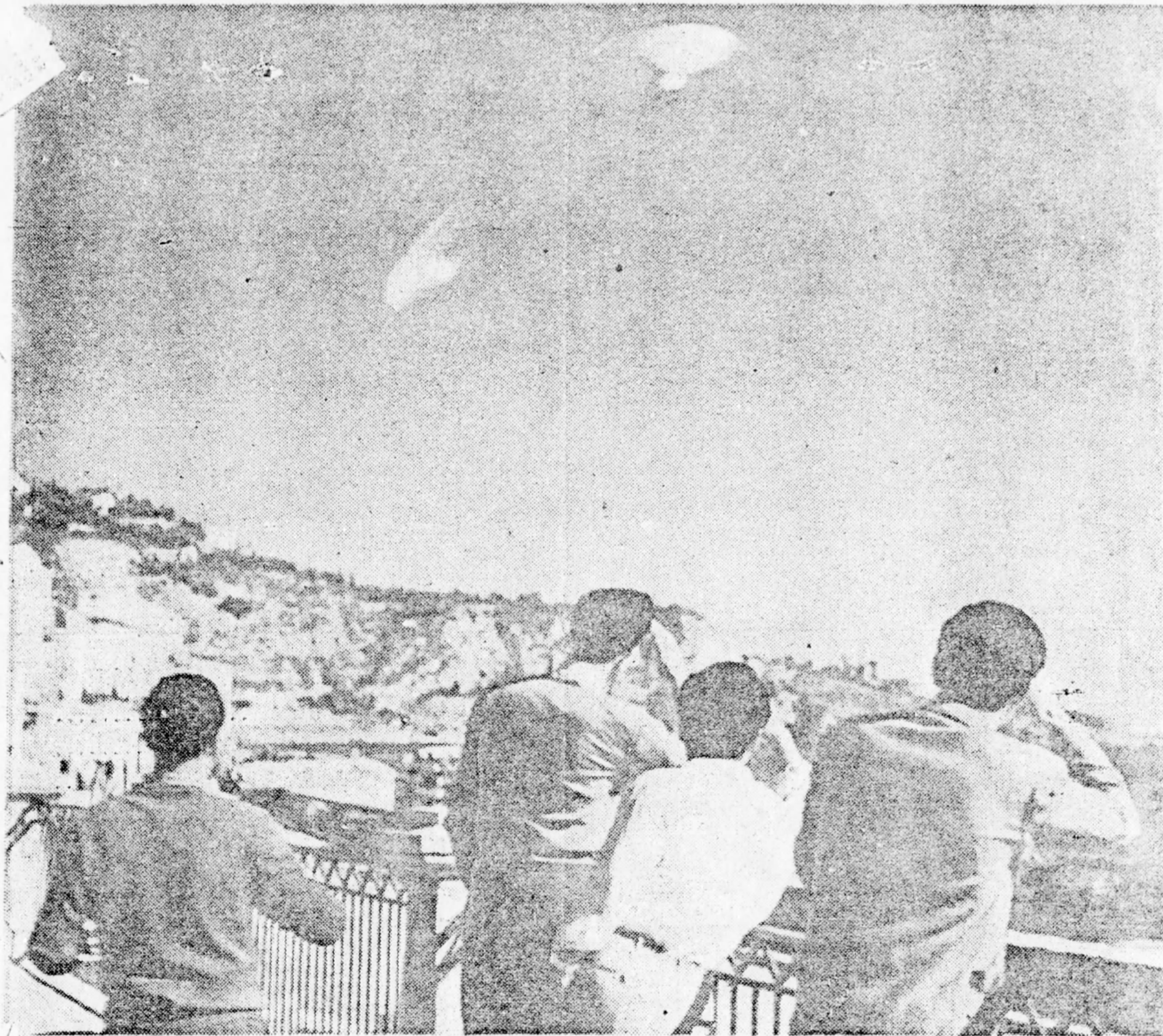
30
21 DEC 54 10 30 AM '54



FLYING SAUCERS? Amazed spectators at Taormina, Italy, sight objects in the sky resembling oft-reported flying disks. Italy recently has been flooded with reports of the flying "mysteries."

United Press Photo.

Worship the West, Dec 57



United Press

Amazed Sicilians watch a
incredible sight — flyin
objects which resemble th
lying saucers
choice recently been
reports o
of undeter
This phot
at Taormina.

SEA-DART EXPLOSION

Nov. 5,
1954.

Convair Jet Blast Baffles

Citizen News, Hollywood, Calif.

SAN DIEGO (UP) — Baffled Navy and Convair experts pressed an investigation today to learn why the world's fastest seaplane fell apart in the air over San Diego Bay, killing a veteran test pilot.

Charles E. Richbourg, 31, was killed when his jet Sea-Dart fighter suddenly disintegrated and burst into flames in full view of several hundred persons

yesterday at the plant of General Dynamics Corporation's Convair Division.

The crowd, including a host of newsmen covering demonstrations of late model Navy planes, watched in awe as the 700-mile-an-hour YF2Y-1 fighter skimmed off the water, climbed, circled and got into position for a high-speed pass.

Awe turned to horror when the

—Turn to Page 2, Column 4

SEA-DART

Continued from Page 1—

jet came out of a shallow dive at high, but not supersonic, speed and abruptly began to shudder. For a split-second it seemed to pitch longitudinally and a fraction later it was in flames, the intense heat being felt on the shore 300 feet below.

What happened then was progressive, rapid disintegration. The Delta (triangular) wing and horizontal stabilizer flew in all directions and the nose section extending aft of the cockpit hurtled forward and into the harbor. A few hundred feet to the right or left and burning parts probably would have fallen on the crowd.

Richbourg, an ex-Navy fighter pilot, still was strapped to his cockpit seat when reached by company divers immediately after the wreckage plunged into the 40-foot depths of the bay. He died two minutes later on a nearby dock.

The flyer, who joined Convair in 1951 and exceeded the speed of sound in the Sea-Dart last summer, is survived by his wife Margaret, 28, and two children, Roger, 3, and Margaret, not quite a year old.

Company and Navy officials refused today to speculate on the cause of the mysterious crash.

OFFICE OF
CIVIL DEFENSE
OLEAN, N. Y.

April 25, 1960

Major Lawrence J. Tacker
Department of the Air Force
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Tacker:

I have written you previously pertaining to UFO reports. I am currently preparing an editorial concerning an unidentified flying object sighting on the night of November 18, 1954 over Western New York reportedly of which involved two Air Force jet planes from Rome AFB, New York. (Rome, New York)

I am writing you for confirmation and other necessary details of this alleged incident. The report states an unidentified flying object was approaching Niagara Falls Air Force Base from the general direction of Syracuse and traveling at a slow rate of speed. It was described as about the size of the moon when viewed by the naked eye. The moon was visible that night...but in another section of the sky.

Niagara Falls AFB allegedly received a report from one Yonah Fortner, formerly of Buffalo, New York, concerning the approaching object. I am not quite certain whether he sighted the object and called Niagara Falls AFB, or whether someone called Fortner of the on-coming object and Fortner then called the base.

The report further states that two jets were sent up from Rome New York Air Force Base for an intercept. The time was allegedly between 9:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M., perhaps earlier, I am not sure.

The report ends by stating the jets trailed the UFO. As the object moved out over Lake Erie, it DIVED into the lake with the two jets following. The UFO and jets allegedly completely disappeared into the lake. I have also been informed that Mr. Yonah Fortner was quizzed by Niagara Falls AFB officials, and later questioned by officials of Rome Air Force Base.

I would appreciate it very much if you will check this matter out for me and send me the necessary information concerning this report. This incident occurred the same week a jet disappeared while on a UFO intercept over the state of Michigan.

Thanking you in advance for the necessary information, I remain

Yours Sincerely,

Bob Barry
328 N. 6th St.,
Olean, New York

OFFICE OF
CIVIL DEFENSE
OLEAN, N. Y.

April 25, 1960

Public Information Officer
Niagara Falls AFB
Niagara Falls, New York

Dear Sir:

My name is Bob Barry, Civil Defense Director for the City of Olean, and News Director of Radio Station WMNS, Olean. I am preparing an editorial concerning a UFO sighting (Unidentified Flying Object) on the night of November 18, 1954 over Western New York which reportedly involved two jets from Rome AFB.

I am writing for confirmation and other necessary information pertaining to this sighting.

The report I have states an Unidentified Flying Object was traveling at a slow rate of speed toward Niagara Falls from the direction of Syracuse. It was described as about the size of the moon as viewed with the naked eye. The moon was visible in another portion of the sky that night.

Your base allegedly received a report from one Yonah Fortner, of Buffalo, New York, concerning the on-coming object. I am not quite certain as to whether he sighted the object and called your base, or if someone contacted him and he in turn called the base.

The report further states that two jets from Rome, New York AFB were sent up for an intercept. The time was allegedly between 9:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M., perhaps earlier, I am not sure.

The report ends by stating the jets trailed the UFO. As the object went out over Lake Erie, it DIVED into the lake with the two jets following. The UFO and jets allegedly completely disappeared into the lake. I have also been informed that Mr. Fortner was quizzed by your base and was also taken to Rome, New York Air Force Base for further discussions there about the UFO incident.

I would appreciate it very much if you will check this matter out for me and secure the necessary information regarding the incident. Kindly contact me via letter of your findings. This incident occurred the same week a jet plane disappeared over the state of Michigan while pursuing an unidentified flying object.

Thanking you in advance for your help in this important matter.

Kindest personal regards,

Bob Barry
Bob Barry
328 N. 6th St.,
Olean, New York

HEADQUARTERS
26TH AIR DIVISION (SAGE)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
HANCOCK FIELD
SYRACUSE 25, NEW YORK

OEN⁴

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

26CIS

SUBJECT:

Editorial - Unidentified Flying Object

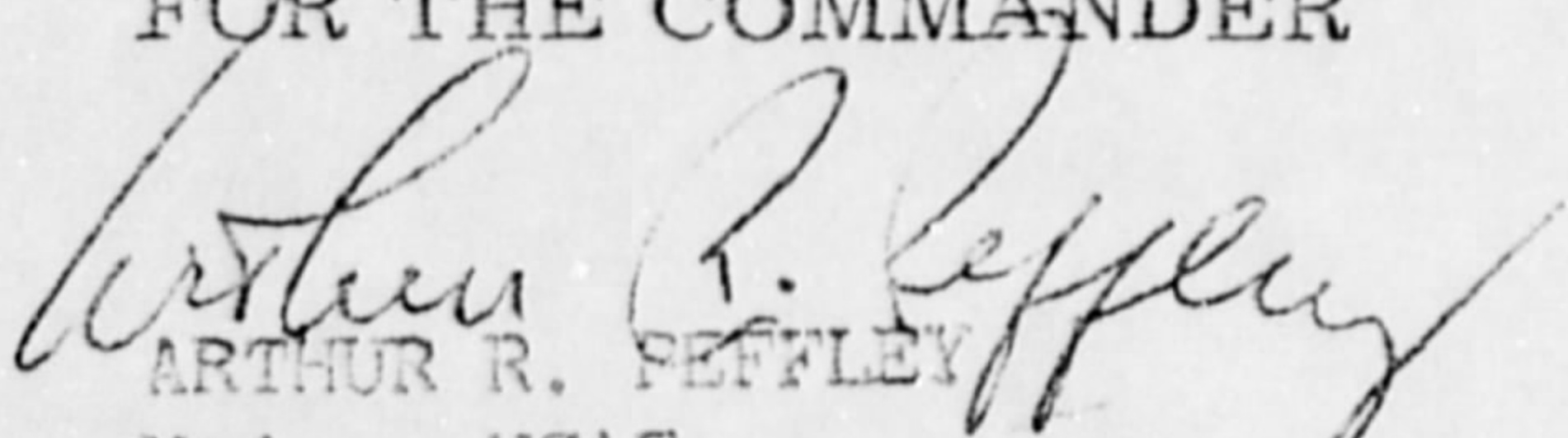
2 MAY 1960

TO:

ADC (ADOIN)

1. The attached letter is forwarded for your information and necessary action.
2. This Headquarters has no knowledge of subject incident.

FOR THE COMMANDER


ARTHUR R. PEFFLEY
Major, USAF
Dir of Admin Services

1 Atch
Ltr dated 25 April 1960

TELEPHONE 2-5511

EXT: 2193

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: ADOIN

SUBJECT: Editorial - Unidentified Flying Object

TO: ADCIS

The attached letter, 26CIS, Headquarters 26 Air Div, 2 May 1960, subject as above, is forwarded for your information and any appropriate action. ADOIN has no knowledge of cited incident.

John R. Linehan
JOHN R. LINEHAN
Lt Colonel, USAF
Director of Intelligence

1 Atch
Ltr, 26CIS, Hq 26 AD,
2 May 60, Editorial-
Unidentified Flying
Object w/1 Atch, 1 cy
ltr, Civil Defense, 25
April 1960

HEADQUARTERS
AIR DEFENSE COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ENT AIR FORCE BASE
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO



5 MAY 1960

TEL: MELROSE 2-5511

EXT: 2258

HEADQUARTERS
AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ENT AIR FORCE BASE
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO



10 MAY 1960

REPLY TO

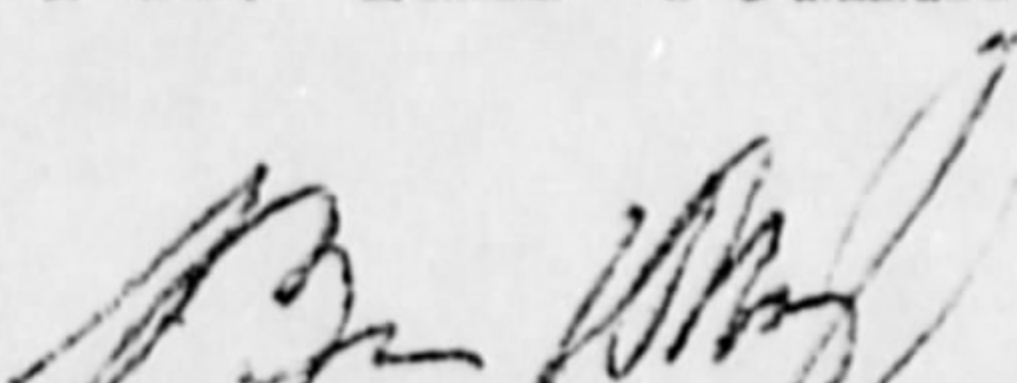
ATTN OF: ADCIS-P

SUBJECT: Editorial - Unidentified Flying Object

TO: Secretary of the Air Force (SAFOI)
Wash 25 DC

The attached correspondence is forwarded for your information and necessary action in accordance with Par 4d AFR 200-2.

FOR THE COMMANDER


BROWN H. MAYALL
Colonel, USAF
Command Information Officer

1 Atch
Ltr ADOIN, Hq ADC 5 May 60,
Ltr, 26CIS, Hq 26 AD,
2 May 60, Editorial-
Unidentified Flying Object
w/1 Atch, 1 cy ltr Civil
Defense, 25 April 1960

*TO ATIC for
basis for reply
May Becker*

MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	
1 NAME OR TITLE	Major L. J. Tacker	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	SAFOI-3d OSAF	DATE	COORDINATION
2			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME Barry
			SIGNATURE Olean, NY
REMARKS Larry- Returned herewith is letter from Bob Barry. Also attached is another letter from him, almost identical, to Niagara Falls AFB with indorsements. We have searched our files and find no sighting or report during the time he mentions in the area he mentions nor any report that remotely resembles it, nor anything in that general area at that time. Note that Niagara Falls AFB says they have no record of the incident.			
FROM NAME OR TITLE		DATE	
Ted Hieatt		18 May 60	
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION		TELEPHONE	
AFCIN-4X3		57136	

DD FORM 95
1 FEB 50

Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

c48-16-74087-2
GPO

25 May 1960

Dear Mr. Barry:

This is to acknowledge your letter of 25 April 1960 addressed to this office, Niagara Falls Air Station and Griffiss Air Force Base, New York concerning an unidentified flying object sighting of 18 November 1954 over Western New York.

Niagara Falls Air Station and Griffiss Air Force Base have no record of this sighting. This sighting was not reported to the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center. Griffiss Air Force Base at Rome, New York had no major aircraft accident or missing aircraft during the month of November 1954.

I regret I could not help you in this matter.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. Bob Barry
328 N. 6th Street
Olean, New York

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

1960 MAY 32 12 52

oi-3d comeback

oi-1 reader

*Captain, we just ain't getting the
good ones!!*

* REMARKABLE NORWEGIAN NEAR-LANDING CASE OF 1954 NOW PUBLISHED

*16. Man's Magazine
with an emphasis
on SEX*

In the March, 1957 issue of SIR! magazine (thanks to Theodore W. Hill of Woodbury, N.J. for sending it to us), Norwegian newspaperman Oddvar Larsen tells of an extraordinary sighting, which he believes to be authentic. (Incidentally, publication in a magazine like SIR! might raise a question of whether the whole thing is a piece of fiction; fortunately, we can attest to the bona fides of Oddvar Larsen.) Larsen writes directly in English: the article is not a translation.

The date was November 23, 1954--a time just after the great landing wave in France, when notable sightings were being made in many places, among them Italy and Brazil. The witnesses were three little girls, Anne and Tora Storedal and Tora Høy Haugo, of Torpo, in the Hallingdal district; Anne was ten years old, the other two were nine, and all were frightened out of their wits. As they were coming home from school near some woods, a black object descended rapidly from the sky, knocked snow from the tree tops, and stopped only a few feet above the girls' heads. They gave the following weird description of it: "It looked like a stone...like a ball...about ten feet across; the lower part was black, but trimmed with yellow spots which could have been made of glass, and there were also a number of small, red jags." The upper part was transparent--the trees could be seen through it--and a human or at any rate semi-human pilot was visible inside, operating controls of some sort. Dressed in black, this man or entity had "big eyes, covered by a pair of immense, red glasses", with which he looked straight at the girls. The craft then rose again with a droning sound, brushing a high-tension line and striking a shower of sparks from it; an odor compared by Tora Høy to "fried sausages" (ozone?) filled the air; and the little girls ran for their lives.

When Larsen first heard of this story, he was naturally skeptical; but after hearing tape recordings of an on-the-spot investigation of the case, he was convinced that neither hoax nor helicopter could account for it. He cites, for example, this detail given by Tora Storedal:

"When the stone came down toward me it had a long, white tail behind, but when the stone turned and moved away, the tail went first. That was funny, I thought."

In the snow, there was found and photographed a disturbed track 25 yards long, presumably made by the craft after the girls had turned their backs on it.

The Research Section is of course not in a position to endorse this case, but Larsen's writing gives a favorable impression of his good sense, and the evidence as he reports it appears good.

A striking parallel is apparent between the Torpo case and the Hemmingford, Quebec landing of August 28, 1954. Here too a spherical craft was reported, with "men" (seven feet tall) dressed in black, with "big round eyes" (unfortunately, no further detail is available.) The Hemmingford case's claim to acceptance likewise rests principally on the good impression of honesty and sanity given by the witnesses (Mrs. Coupal and sons) in a taped interview, for which the saucer world is indebted to investigator Dr. A.G. Dittmar of Au Sable Forks, N.Y. (Dr. Dittmar, director of Tape Recorded UFO Information Service, generously offers to copy tapes from his collection for those who send a spool of blank tape with directions about speed, etc. Although he does this gratis, you ought to send a couple of dollars to repay him for his time.)

ADDRESSEE

Headquarters USAF

ATTN: AFOIN-X, Lt. Col.
Bloomer, Wash., D. C.RETURN THIS RECEIPT IMMEDIATELY
TO ADDRESS INDICATED ON REVERSE

REGISTRY OR CONTROL NO.

DATE OF LATEST ACTION

7 Dec. 54

DATE DISPATCHED

7 Dec. 54

SUMMARY OF BASIC DOCUMENT: FILE NO., TYPE, SOURCE, DATE, SUBJECT (Short title, if classified)

Description - Meteorite. Recovery date - 25 Nov 54, Sylacauga, Alabama; Mrs. [REDACTED]. Weight - 8 lbs, 8 ounces. Color Dull Black. Estimated Type - Aerolite Type Meteorite, probably member of the Andromid shower, occurring between 24 Nov & 7 Dec.

INDORSEMENT(S) (Number of copies and copy Nos.)

2 INCLOSURE(S) (Number of copies and copy Nos.)

1. Meteorite
2. Photographs (dup) 3 copies each

NOTE.—This sheet to be retained in suspense file until receipt (Duplicate) has been signed and returned, then this sheet should be destroyed.

DD FORM 646
1 MAY 52REPLACES WD AGO FORM 996, 1 DECEMBER 1944,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

GPO c9-16-87080a-1

CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT RE
(Original)

ADDRESSEE

Headquarters USAF

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Bloomer, Wash., D. C.RETURN THIS RECEIPT IMMEDIATELY
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(Original)