

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 1 Oct 55		2. LOCATION Shelby, Iowa		12. CONCLUSIONS ☒ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 01/2204		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE civilian (GOC)			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1½ hours		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 6			
		9. COURSE S to N			
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Round, disk, white, two small parachutes, dropped no sound, observers thought they heard a/c, then saw objs. Faded in and out of sight. SEE CASE FILE.				11. COMMENTS Primary obj balloon. w/package recovered. Multiple sighting	

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III

07 33

45
1/2 701N-AE4
3/4 " AX2a

RAI 22

WPA334 YMA331NGA039

MM RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPAG RJEDKF

DE RJEDNG 2I

M 2 12327Z

FM COMDR 789TH AC&W SQDN OMAHA NEBRA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

RJEDWP/COMDR ATIC WP AFB OHIO

RJEPAG/DIR OF INTELL HQ USAF WASH DC

RJEDKF/COMDR CADF GAANVIEW AFB MO

RJEDNG/COMDR 31ST ADIV ST PAUL MINN

BT

/U N C L A S S I F I E D/OPNS 679 UFOB REPORT AS FOLLOWS

A

1 ROUND DISK

2 QUARTER

3 WHITE

4 SIX

5 SOUTH TO NORTH

6 TWO PARACHUTES WERE DROPE D SMALL SIZE

7 NONE

8 NONE

9 NONE

FORM 805 THE STANDARD REGISTER CO., DAYTON 1, OHIO, U. S. A.

FORM 805 THE STANDARD REGISTER CO., DAYTON 1, OHIO, U. S. A.

PAGE TWO RJEDNG 2I

B

1 THOUGHT THEY HEARD AIRCRAFT THEN SAW OBJECTS

2 UNKNOWN

3 UNKNOWN

4 FADED IN AND OUT OF SIGHT

5 FADED

6 ONE AND A HALF MINUETS

C

1 GROUND VISUAL

2 NONE

3 N/A

D

1 10/10/55 2204Z

2 DAY

F

MISS [REDACTED]

MISS [REDACTED]

SHELBY IOWA GOC OBSV

G

1 CLEAR LIGHT WINDS

2 NONE

3 NONE

4 NONE

5 NONE H NONE INONE

J TWO INTERCEPTORS SEARCHED THE AREA WHERE OBJECTS WERE SIGHTED

AT APPROXIMATELY 1400 FT BY ONE OF THE INTERCEPTORS NO OTHER

INFORMATION OF DESCRIPTION WAS OBTAINED

K NONE

L NO EXPLANATION

BT

02/10/57 SEP RJEDNG

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COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO. D2-UUCB-2-55	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT		
AREA REPORTED ON WFOB		
DATE OF REPORT 6 Oct 55	DATE OF INFORMATION 1 Oct 55	FROM (Agency) Detachment 2, 4602d ATSS
PREPARED BY (Officer) HANS BISCLOFS, Captain, USAF	SOURCE [REDACTED]	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) TT D/CINE 679, COMDR 789th AC&M Sq., Omaha, Nebr.		
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 118-Part II.)		

I. CONTENTS:

PART ONE: Description of sighting by Miss Marva Farr, Box 154, Shelby, Iowa and Miss Janet Walgenbach, Box 47, Shelby, Iowa. Occupation - Students; Age - both girls 15; On duty as GOC observers.

PART TWO: Supplementary Investigative Efforts

PART THREE: Comments of Preparing Officer

II. SUMMARY: Unidentified flying objects were sighted by two (2) observers at GOC observers post at Shelby, Iowa (GEOREF FAKM 3331). Objects initially observed at 012204Z Oct 55, for a period of one and a half minutes. Other objects were observed for short periods of time over a period of one and a half hours. The observers were Miss ~~Marva Farr~~ and Miss ~~Janet Walgenbach~~, ages - 15, Occupation - students, Shelby, Iowa. The follow-up investigation consisted of a more thorough interview of the observers and a check of other possible sources of activity in the area on that date.

III. INVESTIGATORS: CAPT. HANS BISCLOFS AC 7842/2
S/Sgt. BILLIE R. MCCREARY AF 17351508

Hans Bisclofs
HANS BISCLOFS
Captain, USAF
AC IC

APPROVED:

John M White Jr
JOHN M WHITE JR
Colonel, USAF
Commander

INCL.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part One	
Det. 2, 4602D AISS	D2-UFC 3-2-55	PAGE 2	OF 4 PAGES

I. SOURCES: a) Miss [REDACTED]
b) Miss [REDACTED]

Address: a) [REDACTED], Shelby, Iowa
b) [REDACTED], Shelby, Iowa

Age: a) 15
b) 15

Occupation: a) Student
b) Student

Education: a) 1st year high school
b) 1st year high school

Qualifications: GOC Observers (approximately 5 months)

II. RELIABILITY: Both SOURCES seemed very sincere and very cooperative to the investigator. Both told identical stories of what they had observed. Miss Farr stated that she believed in objects from outer space. Their school teacher (also a GOC observer) was queried on the reliability of both girls and stated that Miss [REDACTED] was a "very mature and level headed girl" but that [REDACTED] was a "very immature girl". Definite emphasis must be placed on the age and inexperience of both SOURCES when evaluating their descriptions of the sightings.

III. SOURCES' DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: All objects were spherical in shape and appeared the size of a quarter held at arms length. Objects were observed with the naked eye and through binoculars. There were no changes in characteristics when objects were observed through binoculars. Objects appeared to be made of some shiny, silver material.

The first object seen had a slightly whirling motion and moved from SW to NW. When object was to the NW of observation point it appeared to divide into two separate spherical objects and one object appeared to drop a parachute. The parachute fell only a short distance and then all three objects disappeared abruptly in the sky. This incident happened in a period of about one and a half minutes. Through the next one and half hours five other objects were observed having the same general direction and characteristics as the first. Each one of these was observed for about the same length of time (one and a half minutes). No other object except the first seemed to divide or drop a parachute. All objects disappeared in the sky very abruptly. Although SOURCES could not give the altitude of objects they stated that none ever came near the horizon. The weather was clear with no clouds present. Temperature warm, wind light. No sound was connected with the objects and no trail or exhaust was noted. All objects appeared to be moving (speed could not be determined).

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	Part Two	
Det. 2, 4602D AISS	D2-UFOB-2-55	PAGE 3	OF 4 PAGES

SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. Inquiries were made of farmers around the area in an effort to find a parachute. It was learned that one had been found on 2 Oct 55 by a farmer's son. He was located and the parachute obtained. The boy stated he had found the chute in a nearby field (about three and a half miles NE of GOC observation point). The parachute was of paper and had radiosonde attached to it. It was definitely identified as the type being used on ordinary weather balloons.
2. Winds aloft for the Omaha, Nebraska area were checked and found to be 20 to 25 knots at 5000 feet from 250 degrees, at 10000 feet 270 degrees 25 to 30 knots. Surface winds were light at about 5 to 10 knots. The winds were the same direction and velocity for about 24 hours.
3. A check of the GOC aircraft log showed a total of five planes in area from 012155Z Oct 55 to 012315Z Oct 55. The five planes were identified as three single engine, one twin engine and one multi-engine. Altitudes varied from low to very high.
4. A flight of two fighter interceptors were dispatched from Sioux City, Iowa GEOREF FJJN 3730. They were airborne at 012345Z Oct 55 and checked the area around Shelby, Iowa at an altitude of 1400 feet. They reported seeing nothing unusual.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Det. 2, 4602D AISS	REPORT NO. D2-UFOB-2-55	Part Three
	PAGE 4	OF 4 PAGES

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

1. In the opinion of the Preparing Officer, this sighting was probably caused by a Radiosonde weather balloon for the following reasons:

a. The recovery of the parachute and Radiosonde equipment definitely establishes the fact that the first object sighted was a weather balloon.

b. What apparently happened was that the balloon (probably released from Weather Station at Omaha, Nebr. GEORGE FJHM 0417) traveled up to a fairly high altitude and instead of exploding, as they normally do, it developed a leak and descended again with the parachute and Radiosonde equipment still attached. When balloon had become deflated enough it probably released the parachute with equipment. This obviously made the balloon that much lighter and caused it to rise again. Since air was still escaping from balloon it probably descended again. This may account for the additional sightings observed after the parachute was seen.

c. The shiny, silver appearance can be attributed to the fact that these balloons are white in color and with the reflection of the sun in the late afternoon it could possibly given off a silvery appearance.

d. It must be pointed out that although the above hypothesis may render some explanation of the sighting, it is difficult to determine or explain how this balloon always returned to the SW before it was observed again and then abruptly disappeared into obscurity in the NW.

e. A definite factor to be remembered is the age and inexperience of the observers. The idea of having seen the initial sighting and subsequent release of the parachute may possibly have stimulated imagination, which resulted in seeing and reporting more than was actually there.

Hans Bischofs
HANS BISCHOPS
Captain USAF
ACIC

COMMENTS of Approving Officer:

Concur with the opinion of the Preparing Officer that the recovery of the parachute and radiosonde equipment definitely establishes that the first sighting was generated by a radiosonde type weather balloon. Subsequent sightings can possibly be attributed to aircraft known to be in the area of the sighting and the nontechnical background of the observers.

Jmw

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