

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 21 August 1956		2. LOCATION (near) Hamilton, California		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 21/1935Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Military			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION ten minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one			
		9. COURSE westerly			
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One round clear silver object, size of dime at arm's length. Obj initially sighted air-visually at approx 20,000 ft altitude at 38.10N 123W. Obj was near contrail of a B-47. Obj's flight path was straight & climbing. Observer attempted intercept action & obj appeared to be between interceptor & contrail & under contrail. This led pilot to believe obj was close & he initiated maximum performance of a/c. A/C was climbing at 250kts but obj appeared to pull away & up. Obj viewed a/v for approx 10 min & still visible when intercepting a/c returned to base for fuel. Last sighting at 38.18N 123.20W.				11. COMMENTS Balloon launched from Vernalis, Cal. on 21/1432Z. From the Vernalis balloon chart rpt, the balloon estimated to be in area of sighting at time. Size, shape, ascending, westerly course are characteristics of balloon sighting.	

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52) to base for fuel. Last sighting at 38.18N 123.20W.

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

COMAIRDIVDEF 28 HAMILTON AFB
CALIF

DATE-TIME GROUP

222200Z AUG 56

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

INFORMATION

DEFERRED

TO: COMADC ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS
COLO (MAIL)☐ BOOK MESSAGE☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE☒ MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐ YES☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

COMMANDER

AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER
WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO (MAIL)DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE
HEADQUARTERS USAF
WASHINGTON 25 D. C. (MAIL)

COMMANDER

4602ND AIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SQUADRON
HAMILTON AFB CALIF (COURIER)

06172

(UNCLASSIFIED) 280ID . UFOB PD (1)(a) ROUND PD (1)(b) DIME

PD (1)(c) CLEAR SILVER PD (1)(d) ONE PD (1)(e) N/A PD (1)(f) NONE PD (1)(g)

NONE PD (1)(h) NONE PD (1)(i) NONE PD (2)(a) OBSERVED BY RADAR OBSERVER IN

F-89D AT 20,000 FT ON HEADING OF 180 DEGREES PD UFOB WAS NEAR CONTRAIL OF B-47 PD

(2)(b) FROM COCKPIT 90 DEGREES ON STARBOARD PD ELEVATION ANGLE 45 DEGREES PD

(2)(c) APPROXIMATELY SAME PD (2)(d) STRAIGHT AND CLIMBING PD (2)(e) INTERCEPTOR

AIRCRAFT LOW ON FUEL AND RETURNED TO BASE PD (2)(f) TEN MINUTES PD (3)(a)

AIR-VISUAL PD RADAR INOPERATIVE ON F-89D PD (3)(b) NONE PD (3)(c) F-89D CMA

678 CMA 20,000 FT CMA 180 DEGREES CMA 250 LSS CMA 84TH FIGHTER-INTERCEPTOR SQDN

CMA HAMILTON AFB CALIF PD (4)(a) 211935Z AUG 56 PD (4)(b) DAY PD (5)

FIRST SIGHTING: 38 DEGREES 10 MINUTES NORTH CMA 123 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST PD

LAST SIGHTING: 38 DEGREES 10 MINUTES NORTH CMA 123 DEGREES 20 MINUTES WEST PD

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

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BOOK MESSAGE

☐

ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐

MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐

YES

☐

NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

INFO:

(6)(a) N/A PD (6)(b) ROBERT C MORELLI CMA 2/LT CMA 84TH FIS CMA PILOT PD
 JOHN W CURTIS CMA 2/LT CMA 84TH FIS CMA RADAR OBSERVER PD BOTH OFFICERS
 USUALLY RELIABLE PD (7)(a) CLEAR WITH THIN CIRRUS AT 35,000 FT PD (7)(b)
 5,000 - 200/10 PD 10,000 - 200/15 PD 20,000 - 210/25 PD 30,000 - 210/35 PD
 40,000 - 210/45 PD 45,000 - 210/45 PD (7)(c) UNLIMITED PD (7)(d) UNLIMITED
 PD (7)(e) THIN CIRRUS AT 35,000 FT PD (7)(f) NONE PD (8) POSSIBLE BALLOON OF
 SOME SORT PD (9) UFOB FIRST NOTICED NEAR CONTRAIL OF B-47 APPROX 2 MI to REAR
 OF ACFT PD OBSERVED FOR APPROX 1 MIN CMA THE PILOT WENT FOR A CLOSER LOOK AND THE
 UFOB APPEARED TO GO BETWEEN INTERCEPTOR AND CONTRAIL AND UNDER CONTRAIL PD THIS
 LED PILOT TO BELIEVE UFOB WAS CLOSE AND HE INITIATED MAX PERF OF ACFT TO INTCP
 ON HEADING OF 270 DEGREES PD IAS WAS 250 KTS CLIMBING BUT OBJECT APPEARED TO
 PULL AWAY AND UP PD (10) ONE B-47 heading 180 DEGREES AT 35-40,000 FT PD (11)
 DIR OF INTEL CMA 28TH AIR DIV DEF CMA UFOB ESTIMATED TO BE POSSIBLE BALLOON
 PD WEATHER STATES NO BALLOONS RELEASED IN THIS AREA AT APPROX TIME OF SIGHTING
 PD POSSIBILITY OF UNIVERSITY OR AIR FORCE DEMONSTRATION ELSEWHERE THAT MAY
 HAVE RELEASED A BALLOON PD (12) NONE PD ADDL REMARKS - WHEN FUEL BECAME LOW AND

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PAGE

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OF

3

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TO:

☐ BOOK MESSAGE☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐ YES☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

INFO:

CHASE FUTILE CMA PILOT TURNED TOWARD HOME BASE PD ON HEADING OF 360 DEGREES CMA THE
OBJECT APPEARED TO BECOME LARGER PD PILOT BELIEVES CANOPY MAGNIFIED OBJECT PD NO
MORE SIGHTINGS MADE PD IN GENERAL CMA THE UFOB APPEARED ON HEADING OF 270 DEGREES
PD PILOT BELIEVES UFOB REMAINED AT SAME ALTITUDE AND RADAR OBSERVER BELIEVES IT
WAS CLIMBING PD

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

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DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

FRANK M BOWMAN, MAJOR, USAF

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

SYMBOL

2801D

TELEPHONE

3113

OFFICIAL TITLE

R. G. JACOBSEN

Major USAF

Adjutant

DD FORM 173

1 OCT 49

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

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE