

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 15 October 1956		2. LOCATION Fernley, Nevada		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 16/0250Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Military & Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 40 to 45 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE see below	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING One cigar-shaped bright obj. size of pea at arm's length. Obj's color varied fm red to blue to green to gold. Obj had distinct exhaust appearing approx 1/2 length of obj. Initial sighting at 25-30dgr el and 225dgr az & traveled to 320dgr az where it disappeared. Obj appeared to hover the majority of the time. Upon disappearance, obj traveled in level flight at high speed & was out of sight in approx 7 to 10 seconds. Obj viewed visually & thru binocs for 40 to 45 minutes.				11. COMMENTS Shape & color of obj, hovering, duration, course & wind direction indicate cause a balloon. Balloon (S-289) launch fm Vernalis on 15/1641Z estimated to be 25 Mi S of sighting. Check w/ADC Forecast Center reveal estimated locations on balloon tracks can be as much as 50 mi in error. Balloon may have been closer to area of sighting & could be cause. Not supporting this evaluation is: appearance of distinct exhaust; relatively low alt; high rate of speed at disappearance. Exhaust possible misinterp of equip below balloon; low alt unusual but possible; obsrvr may have exaggerated rate of disappearance. Evaluated as Possible Balloon.	

16/02502 24

ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

11/11/56

FROM: (Originator)

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

COLOR SPRING AFB NEW

DATE-TIME GROUP

22/1802/0756

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

PRECEDENCE
FOR:

ACTION

INFORMATION

AIR MAIL

☐ BOOK MESSAGE

☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS

CRYPTOPRECAUTION

☐ YES

☐ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE:

IDENTIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

UNCLASSIFIED

TO: COLOR SPRING COMMAND BMT AFB (AIR MAIL)

COLORADO SPRINGS COL

COMDR 28TH AIR DIVISION, HAMILTON AFB, CAL

COLOR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF,

INFO: WASHINGTON 25 D. C.

UNCLAS FROM O 240/56.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFR 200-2 PAR 7d, THE FOLLOWING UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT REPORT IS SUBMITTED.

1 a. CIGAR-SHAPED

b. PEA

c. VARYING RED, BLuish, GREEN, GOLDEN COLORED

d. ONE

e. N/A

f. NEGATIVE

g. DISTANCE 20000 FT FROM APPROXIMATELY 3,000 YARDS. EXHAUST

APPEARED APPROXIMATELY HALF THE LENGTH OF THE OBJECT.

h. NEGATIVE

i. NEGATIVE

2 a. OBJECT ORIGINALLY OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES NORTHWEST OF

sector
Hosage Street
TN: Archive
Cowell AFB, Tenn

RETURN TO

K243.6012-1
15-31 Oct
1956

SMC

1003450

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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OF

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CRYPTOPRECAUTION

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FERNNLEY, NEVADA, AS A BRIGHT OBJECT IN THE SKY. OBSERVERS FIRST THOUGHT THIS OBJECT TO BE A RADIO TOWER AND THEN PERHAPS A PLANE DUE ITS POSITION AND CHANGING LIGHTS.

2 b. 25 DEGREES TO 30 DEGREES ELEVATION AND 225 DEGREES AZIMUTH

c. 25 DEGREES TO 30 DEGREES ELEVATION - 320 DEGREES AZIMUTH

d. OBJECT APPEARED TO BE HOVERING ~~SEVERAL~~ THE MAJORITY OF THE TIME IT WAS UNDER OBSERVATION. UPON DISAPPEARANCE IT TRAVELLED IN LEVEL FLIGHT AT APPROXIMATELY 5,000 TO 7,000 FEET. NO UNUSUAL MANEUVERS NOTED.

e. OBJECT DISAPPEARED AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED IN APPROXIMATELY 7 TO 10 SECONDS.

f. 40 TO 45 MINUTES

3 a. GROUND-VISUAL

b. 1200122 00-20
BINOCULARS - 7 X 50 POWER

c. N/A

4 a. 160250Z OCT 56

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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5. 119 DEGREES 03 MINUTES WEST 39 DEGREES 42 MINUTES NORTH, 19 MILES NORTHEAST OF FERNLEY, NEVADA, ON US HIGHWAY 40. 6 a. MRS. [REDACTED], WIFE OF MILITARY OFFICER LISTED BELOW. 6 b. [REDACTED], 1/LT USA [REDACTED], 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII. LT [REDACTED] HAS 12 YEARS SERVICE IN THE INFANTRY AND SEEMS OF AVERAGE MATURITY. DUE TO HIS INFANTRY EXPERIENCE, HIS JUDGMENT OF GROUND DISTANCE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BETTER THAN AVERAGE. 7 a. EXTREMELY CLEAR NIGHT. NO CLOUD COVER VISIBLE. 7 b. WEATHER DATA FURNISHED IS FROM WEATHER ATTACHMENT STEAD AIR FORCE BASE. WINDS - 160300Z OCTOBER 1956. <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">ALTITUDE</th> <th style="text-align: left;">DEGREES</th> <th style="text-align: left;">KNOTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7,000 FEET</td> <td>190</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10,000 FEET</td> <td>180</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16,000 FEET</td> <td>160</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20,000 FEET</td> <td>160</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25,000 FEET</td> <td>140</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						ALTITUDE	DEGREES	KNOTS	7,000 FEET	190	10	10,000 FEET	180	15	16,000 FEET	160	20	20,000 FEET	160	15	25,000 FEET	140	
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APPROXIMATELY 3,000 YARDS DIRECTLY OFF THE HIGHWAY AND APPEARED TO BE HOVERING OVER A SMALL HILL. BY ESTIMATING THE HEIGHT OF THE HILL, LT [REDACTED] DETERMINED THE ALTITUDE OF THE OBJECT TO BE 5,000 TO 7,000 FEET, HOWEVER, HE READILY ADMITTED HIS ESTIMATE WAS ONLY A GOOD GUESS. SHORTLY AFTER GETTING OUT OF HIS CAR TO BETTER OBSERVE THE OBJECT, IT COMMENCED TRAVELING IN A NORTHEAST DIRECTION AWAY FROM LT AND MRS. [REDACTED]. JUST AFTER IT STARTED TO MOVE LT [REDACTED] WAS ABLE TO FOCUS HIS BINOCULARS ON THE OBJECT AND GET A MUCH CLEARER SIGHTING. IT WAS THROUGH THIS STUDY THAT HE DETERMINED THE OBJECT TO BE CIGAR-SHAPED AND SAID HE OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE OPENINGS OR APERTURES ON THE FUSELAGE BUT DUE TO THE RAPID SPEED OF MOVEMENT, HE COULD NOT GET AN ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF SUCH OPENINGS. ACCORDING TO LT [REDACTED], THE OBJECT BEGAN ITS FLIGHT FROM A HOVERING POSITION AT 250 TO 300 MILES PER HOUR AND ACCELERATED RAPIDLY TO A TREMENDOUS SPEED WHICH HE COULD NOT ESTIMATE. FROM THE START OF MOVEMENT UNTIL THE OBJECT WAS OUT OF SIGHT APPROXIMATELY 7 TO 10 SECONDS ELAPSED. OBJECT TRAVELED ON A LEVEL COURSE ON A CONSTANT HEADING UNTIL OUT OF SIGHT. LT [REDACTED]

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AND HIS WIFE THEN CONTINUED TRAVELING TOWARD FERNLEY, NEVADA, UNTIL THEY WERE APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES FROM FERNLEY AND STOPPED AGAIN TO LOOK BACK. AT THIS TIME WHAT APPEARED TO BE THE SAME OBJECT WAS AGAIN OBSERVED IN APPROXIMATELY ITS ORIGINAL POSITION. THIS SAME SIGHTING WAS AGAIN MADE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF FERNLEY, NEVADA. ALTHOUGH THE ESTIMATED ALTITUDE AND VAGUE DESCRIPTION OF THIS OBJECT LEAVES NUMEROUS QUESTIONS UNANSWERED, THE FACT THAT THIS OBJECT WAS OBSERVED ORIGINALLY IN FRONT AND THEN BEHIND THE OBSERVERS IN THE COURSE OF TRAVELING 30 MILES, SEEMS TO PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF IDENTIFYING IT AS A STAR EFFECTED BY UNUSUAL ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS. IN THE ABSENCE OF ADDITIONAL IDENTIFYING OR CONFIRMING DATA ON THIS SIGHTING, NO DETERMINATION AS TO POSSIBLE OR PROBABLE CAUSE CAN BE MADE AT THIS LEVEL.

12. NEGATIVE.

5200122 03 00

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SYMBOL

ROBERT E. FLETCHER, 1st COL, USAF

TELEPHONE

OFFICIAL TITLE

Major,

USAF

DD FORM 173
1 OCT 49REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49,
WHICH MAY BE USED.

C9-16-58923-4

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE