

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 10 Jul 58	2. LOCATION Billings, Montana		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other <u>Illusion</u> ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT <u>11/0230Z to 03400Z</u>	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 1 hr 10 mins	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS three	9. COURSE South	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Three objs, thinner & longer than a cigar, very bright golden w/fuzzy outline, in a loose group. First obj was stationary when first sighted, tilted fm horizontal. Two more moved toward it. Second obj approached the first, circled over it, leaving a vapor-like trail & joined up w/ the first. The third obj then joined the two objs. The first obj returned to a horizontal position & all three moved rapidly South & faded.		11. COMMENTS Probably interplay of sun's slant rays on scattered clouds.	

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

Mult

11/0230Z to 11/0340Z
2ul

TELEPHONED
TO _____
NO. 5213
TIME 2300
Date _____
By: _____

UP to 49

1 } 4E 4H
2 }
3 }
44X2a

(ME)

QB618 YDB677ZCZCQYA212ZCGUAS78

PP RJEDDN RJEDSQ

DE RJWZGU 2F

P 111640Z

FM COMDR 779TH ACWRON OPHEIM AFS

TO RJEDDN/COMDR AIR DEFENSE COMMAND ENT AFB

RJWZGU/COMDR 29TH ADIV DEF MALMSTROM AFB

RJEDSQ/COMDR AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB

RJZHQ/ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS USAF

RJZHQ/OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES HEADQUARTERS USAF

BI

//UNCLASSIFIED//OPS 481. UFO:

A. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS:

(1) LIKE A DIRIGIBLE, BUT THINNER. LIKE A CIGAR, BUT THINNER AND LONGER.

(2) GRAPEFRUIT *inches in diameter* →

(3) VERY BRIGHT GOLDEN (FUZZY OUTLINES)

(4) THREE

(5) LOOSE GROUP

(6) NONE

(7) SECON OBJECT CIRCLED AND LEFT A VAPOR-LIKE TRAIL, QUITE LONG

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AND BRIGHT. THIS TRAIL STOPPED VERY ABRUPTLY.

(8) NONE

~~(9) EXTREMELY HIGH SPEED~~ ←

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECTS:

(1) FIRST OBJECT WAS NOTICED DUE TO ITS EXTREME BRIGHTNESS AND STRANGE SHAPE. ← *?*

(2) APPROXIMATELY 1 DEGREES TO 2 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON, ESTIMATED 330 DEGREES TRUE.

(3) APPROXIMATELY 40 DEGREES TO 60 DEGREES ABOVE HORIZON, ESTIMATED 300 DEGREES TRUE.

(4) FIRST OBJECT WAS STATIONARY WHEN FIRST SIGHTED. OBSERVERS WENT INSIDE STORE FOR 30 MINUTES AND WHEN THEY CAME OUTSIDE AGAIN THE FIRST OBJECT WAS STILL IN THE SAME PLACE, BUT TWO MORE OBJECTS OF THE SAME SIZE AND SHAPE WERE MOVING TOWARD IT. AT

THIS TIME, FIRST OBJECT APPEARED TO BE TILTED FROM THE HORIZONTAL.
SECOND OBJECT APPROACHED THE FIRST, CIRCLED OVER IT, LEAVING A
VAPOR LIKE TRAIL, AND JOINED UP WITH THE FIRST. THE THIRD OBJECT
THEN JOINED THE FIRST AND SECOND OBJECTS; THE FIRST OBJECT RETURNED
TO THE HORIZONTAL POSITION, AND ALL THREE MOVED RAPIDLY SOUTH
AND FADED.

Best
Plot of Incident

Inconsistent
in sight for over one hour,
yet moving at high
speed

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(5) GRADUALLY FADED

(6) ONE HOUR, TEN MINUTES

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

(1) GROUND-VISUAL

(2) NAKED EYE AND BINOCULARS

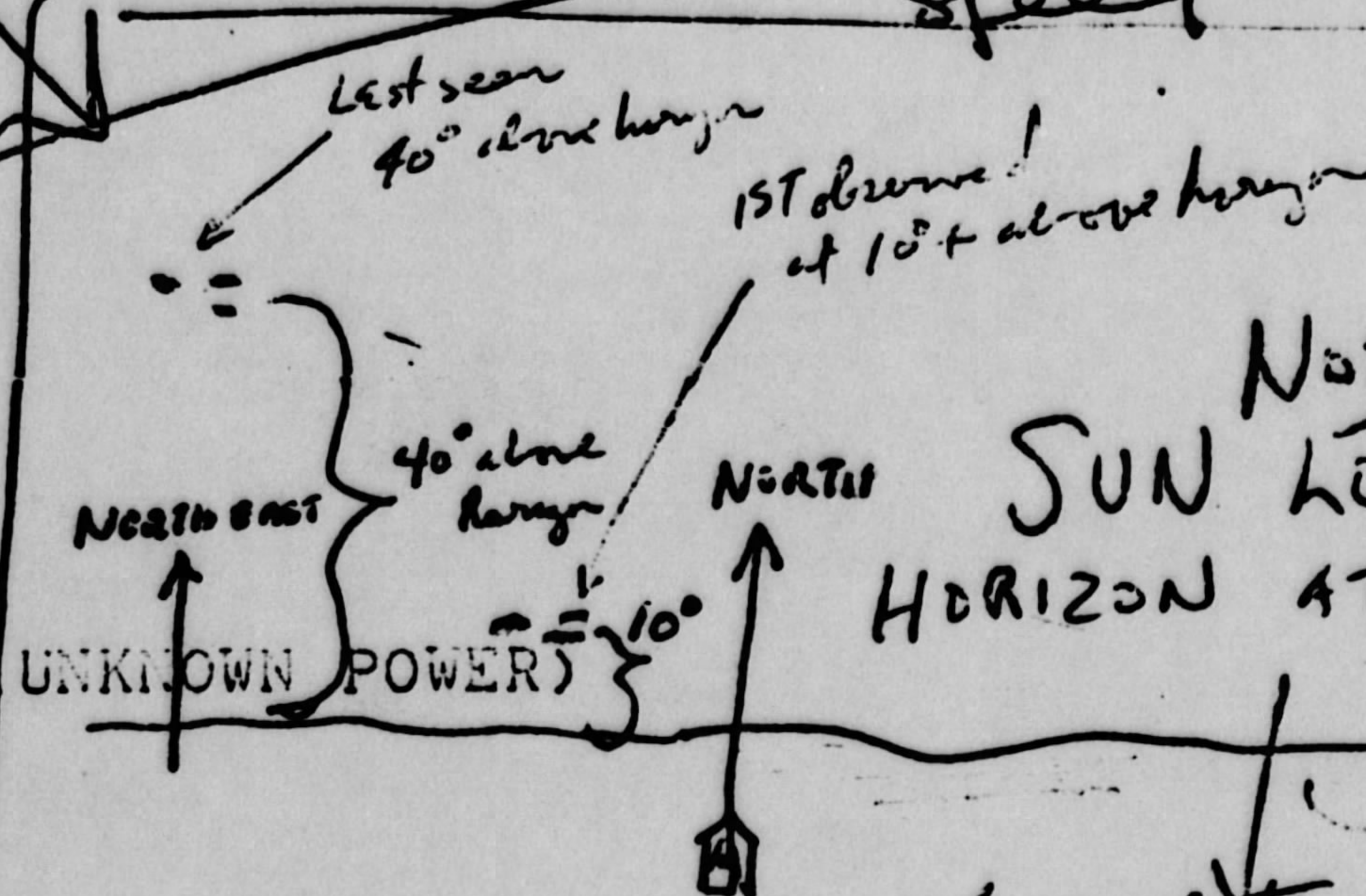
(3) N/A

effects + illusion
known - see file

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

(1) 11/23 Z TO 11/2347Z JULY 1958

(2) DUSK



Note!
SUN LOW ON
HORIZON AT THIS TIME

Local Time!

0230 - 7 = 1930 to

0340 - 7 = 2040 hrs

i.e. 7:30 PM

to 8:40 PM

E. LOCATION OF OBSERVERS: 14842W - 4552N BILLINGS, MONTANA

F. MRS. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] BILLINGS, MONTANA

RADIO STATION (KOOK) COPY-WRITER: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], MONTANA AGE AND OCCUPATION UNKNOWN: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALKALI CREEK ROAD BILLINGS, MONTANA AGE AND OC-
CUPATION UNKNOWN.

G. WEATHER AND WINDS ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME AND PLACE OF SIGHTINGS:

(1) CLEAR, SCATTERED CLOUDS, CALM, DRY AND WARM.

(2) SURFACE - 290 DEGREES, 3 KNOTS.

6,000 FT - NOT AVAILABLE

10,000 FT - NOT AVAILABLE

Note: Scattered clouds! at dusk!
Sun going
behind horizon!
obj. to fuzzy!

Therefore, obj. is
moved from near the
horizon (at 7:30 PM) to
40° + above the horizon
(at 8:40 PM) - from
330 to 300 degrees -
i.e. Moved Westward
15 degrees at an
angle.

Winds from
W-NW -
drifted not
backwards

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16,000 FT - NOT AVAILABLE

20,000 FT - 290 DEGREES, 15 KNOTS

30,000 FT - 310 DEGREES, 25 KNOTS

45,000 FT

280 DEGREES, 45 KNOTS

50,000 FT - NOT AVAILABLE

80,000 FT - NOT AVAILABLE

(3) UNLIMITED

(4) 50 MILES

(5) NONE

(6) NONE

(7) NONE

H. NONE

I. NONE

J. NONE

K. NONE

L. NONE

END

BT

11/1722Z JUL RJWZGU

Based on observer statements:

① No sight for over one hour

② scattered clouds in area

③ Sun low on horizon

④ obj. fairly flat - fuzzy

⑤ no discernible outline

⑥ Inconsistent in some of
observers statements noted
(indication of reliability)

Conclusions on basis of above - and
on basis of similar reports in
the past. OTHER (interplay of
sun's rays on
scattered clouds)
ILLUSION

realize how frequently mirages occur. Many persons do not know what a mirage is or what can cause it. First, let me say that a mirage is something real, not a hallucination like a pink elephant. Nor is it an optical illusion. Light may depart appreciably from its nearly straight-line path when exceptional temperature conditions occur in the lower atmosphere, as, for example, when an intensely

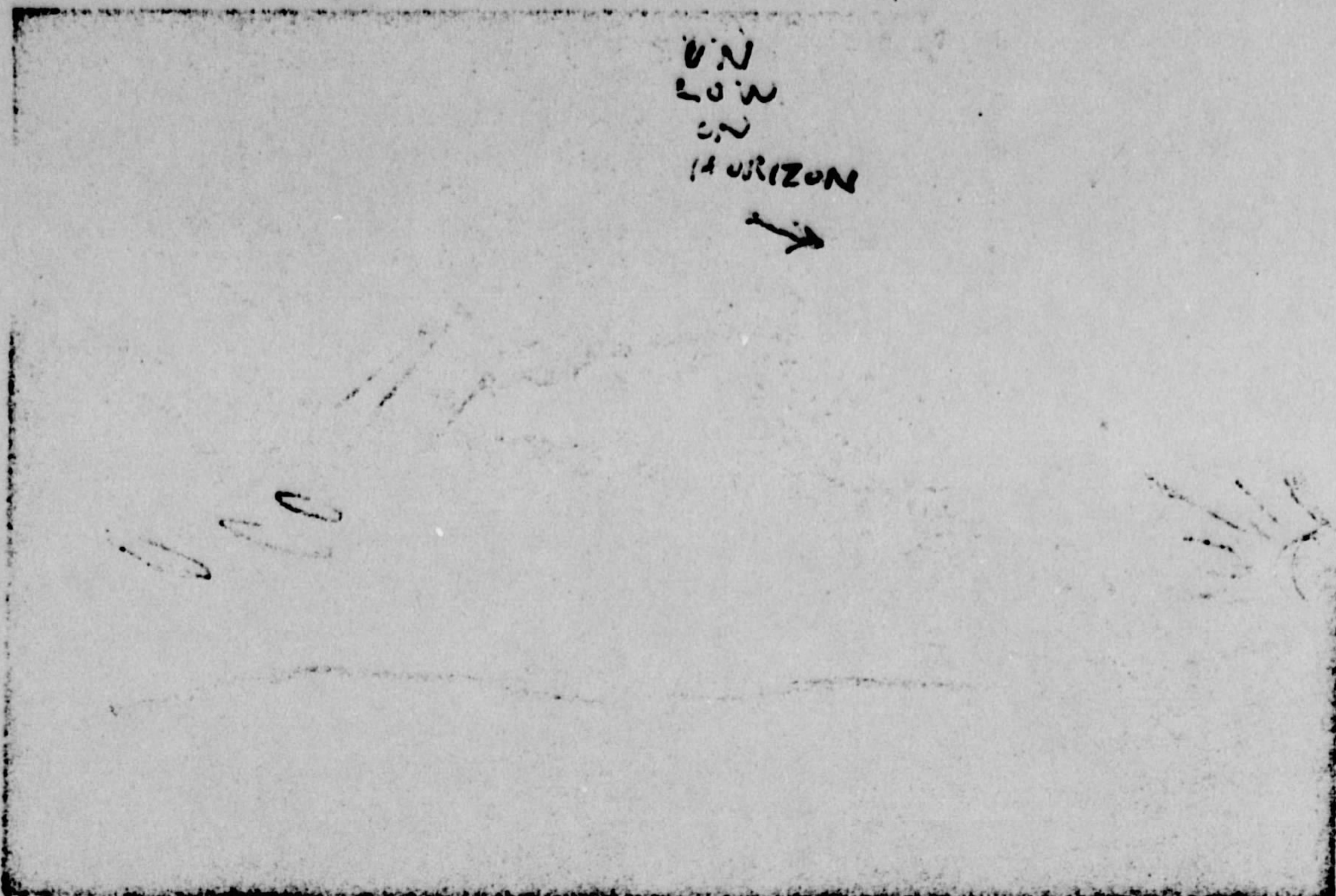


Fig. 2. A lenticular cloud, often mistaken for a flying saucer.

hot or extremely cold layer of air lies close to the earth's surface. The air acts as a sort of lens to bring a distant light source into focus. The lens is imperfect, so that the world seen through it is distorted and unfamiliar; it is a little like looking through someone else's spectacles. No wonder one sees weird things — even flying saucers. This brief description of a mirage will have to serve until we again consider the question in more detail, in a later chapter.

Technical Text
"Optics & Physics"