

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 12 Feb 59		2. LOCATION W of Tanana, Alaska		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 13/0115Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Military			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION not given		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1			
9. COURSE N/A		11. COMMENTS Source of balloon and equipment cannot be determined until recovery.			
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Balloon approximately 50 ft diameter and 30% longer from top to bottom. Box suspended below balloon. Approximately 100 ft of cable or rope extended below box. Balloon shot down, but not yet recovered.					

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT PRIOR TO
CATEGORY B ENCRYPTION--PHYSICALLY REMOVE
ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION

HQAO36AGDO17

PP RJEDSQ

DE RJKDAG 13

P
FM COMDR AAC ELMENDORF AFB ALASKA

TO RJEZHQ/COFS HQ USAF WASH DC

INFO RJWFAL/CINCNOAD ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS COLO

RJEDSQ/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

BT

// [REDACTED] //FROM ACS/INT AAC 50015

ACTION HQ USAF ATTN AFCIN. INFO NORAD J-2. THIS REPORT

CONCERNS AN UNIDENTIFIED BALOON, SHOT DOWN OVER ALASKA, TRACK

W2G, 13 FEB ZULU IN THREE PARTS. PART I. CAPT J. J. VOYNICH

HQ 11TH AIR DIVISION DIVERTED TO TART IN T-33 FOR CHASE.

1/LT G. H. MEYERS, 317TH FIS WAS ALREDY ORBITING TARGET IN

E-102. ON ARRIVAL OF T-33 OF F-102 MADE A FIRING PASS AT

0115Z WITH 2.75 ROCKETS AND MISSED FOLLOWING WHICH HE RECOVERED

AT GALENA AFS. T-33 CONTINUED TO ORBIT TARGET, ALTITUDE 33,000

TO 34,000 FEET. PILOT DESCRIBES AS FOLLOWS: BALOON PORTION

UNCLASSIFIED

1
2 > 4E4
3 4E

4 - 4X2a2

71.4

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ELONGATED VERTICALLY, APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET ACROSS AND 30

PERCENT LONGER FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. MILKY-CLEAR APPEARANCE.

BACK OR NEAR BLACK BOX SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY UNDER BALOON

ESTIMATED 3 BY 3 BY 4 FEET. GREATEST LENGTH VERTICAL HEIGHTH.

ONE SIDE APPEARED TO HAVE A MIRROR BRIGHT SURFACE. APPROXI-

MATELY 100 FEET ONE HALF INCH OR LARGER CABLE OR ROPE EXTEND-

IND DOWN BELOW BOX. EASILY VISIBLE FROM ONE HALF MILE. TWO

ADDITIONAL FGAQPWS ARRIVED IN AREA AT APPROXIMATELY 0135Z.

CAPT Y. L. ISBELL, 317TH FIS MADE SUCCESSFUL FIRING PASS AT

0148Z WITH 2.75 ROCKETS, ALTITUDE 33,000 TO 34,000 FEET. T-33

SAW BALOON COLLAPSE AND DESCEND AT ABOUT FREE FALL SPEED.

GAVE CHASE, LOSING ALTITUDE AT ABOUT 6,000 FEET PER MINUTE.

BALOON WAS STREAMING ABOVE BLACK BOX. OBJECTS DISAPPEARED

INTO HAZE AT ABOUT 20,000 FEET. T-33 CONTINUED DOWN TO

APPROXIMATELY 7,000 FEET BUT HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT. RECOVERED

AT GALENA AFS. SECOND F-102 ORBITED AND WENT DOWN AS LOW AS

4,000 FEET IN AREA. PILOT CAPT Y. H. HANSON, 317TH FIS,

REPORTED LAST CONTACT AT 16,000 FEET AT 0226Z, RECOVERED AT

GALENA AFS, 0300Z PARA PART II: TIN CITY ACW STATION THEN

CAMPION ACW HAD CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE OF TARGET FROM 122105Z

Classification Cancelled

OR Changed to UNCL

Auth AFR 205-1D

Para 2-176 (ii)

By H. [Signature]

14 FEB 59 15 40

ATIC

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TO 130115Z AT WHICH TIME THE FIRST F-102 MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL

FIRING. AT BLNF 1020. AT THIS POINT TARGET APPEARED TO ORBIT,

COMING OUT OF ORBIT AT 0224Z. POSITION AT 0228Z BLNE 2530.

CONTACT LOST BLNE 5026 AT 0243Z. PARA PART III. ACS/INT AAC

COMMENTS. 1. ORIGIN OF OBJECT UNKNOWN. 2. IT IS BELIEVED

SURVEILLANCE OF TARGET BY CAMPTON ACW PROBABLY CEASED OR BECAME UNRELIABLE AT 130115Z, SINCE PLOTS BECAME ERRATIC FOLLOWING THAT TIME. IT IS CONSIDERED PROBABLE THAT TARGET AND ORBITING AIRCRAFT BECAME CONFUSED. 3. IT IS BELIEVED THE TARGET FELL STRAIGHT TO EARTH AT OR VERY NEAR THE POINT OF THE SUCCESSFUL FIRING PASS AT 0148Z, BLME 1557. 4. IT IS BELIEVED ALL OR A PORTION OF THE BALOON ENVELOPE FLAILED OR BROKE LOOSE FROM THE BOX AND FLOATED EARTHWARD AT A MORE LEISURELY RATE RESULTING IN SUBSEQUENT TARGET REPORTING. PARA 5. THE TARGET PAYLOAD PROBABLY STRUCK THE EARTH AT OR NEAR TERMINAL VELOCITY FORCE RESULTING IN RUPTURE AND BURYING IN SNOW. DARKNESS AND POOR WEATHER HAVE PREVENTED SEARCH OF THE AREA. PARA. 6. RESULTS OF SEARCH EFFORTS ARE BEING REPORTED TO NORAD THROUGH OPERATIONAL CHANNELS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS OBJECT IS FOUND. AT THAT TIME WE WILL FORWARD THROUGH NORMAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE FOUR RJKDAG 13
INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS TO ALL CONCERNED.
BT
14 FEB RJKDAG



NNNN

ZCZCSQPS260CZCSQF877ZCJYD136

PP RJEDSQ

DE RJEZHQ 838

P 181634Z

FMHHEDUSAF

TO COMATIC

BT

UNCLASSIFIED FROMHAF CIN-1A1 36239

FOR CIN-4E. REQUEST YOUR EVALUATION AND COMMENTS ON AAC MESSAGE

54015

Ref msg dated Feb 14th

BT

18/1648ZHTFB RJEZHQ

*Sup P 125/59**→ 4E
24E4AIC
34X2a*

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

AC

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT PRIOR TO
CATEGORY B ENCRYPTION—PHYSICALLY REMOVE
ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION—NO UNCLASSIFIED
REFERENCE IF THE DATE-TIME GROUP IS QUOTED

1728

PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)	ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
ACTION ROUTINE	BOOK MULTI SINGLE	AF	AFCIN 1A1 36239	UNCL
INFO	X			

FROM:

COMDR, ATIC

20X

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO:

HQ., USAF, WASHINGTON, D. C.

FROM: AFCIN-4E4

IC 40438

REF MSG AFCIN 1A1 36239, DTD 18 FEB 59, CONCERNING AAC MSG 50015, DTD 14 FEB 59. IF THE PILOT'S ESTIMATE OF SIZE IS CORRECT, THE BALLOON WAS TOO SMALL TO BE A SKYHOOK BALLOON. A CHECK FAILS TO REVEAL ANY PROJECT IN OPERATION THAT UTILIZES THIS TYPE BALLOON, OR ONE THAT WOULD HAVE DRIFTED TO ALASKA. IT IS POSSIBLE THE BALLOON COULD HAVE DRIFTED OVER FROM USSR TERRITORY, OR BEEN RELEASED FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER, WHERE THE BALLOON CAME FROM OR ITS SPECIFIC PURPOSE CANNOT BE DETERMINED UNLESS THE BOX IS RECOVERED AND SUCCESSFULLY ANALYZED.

COORDINATION:

AFCIN-4E4

Col. Glaser

DATE 24 Feb 59

AFCIN-4E

Col. Gilbert

DATE 2/24/59

DATE	TIME
24	0915
MONTH	YEAR
FEB	1959

SYMBOL	SIGNATURE
AFCIN-4E4	R. J. Harrell
TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature if required)	TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
Maj. R. J. Friend	10 LCU 13 J HARRELL
PHONE 69216	Captain, USAF
PAGE 1	Assistant Administrative Officer
NR. OF PAGES 1	
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	

JOINT MESSAGE FORM				SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED				
SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER								
APR 14 21 06 '59 4E48 15/0338Z 44E WY								
PRECEDENCE		TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL		ORIG. OR REFERS TO	
ACTION ROUTINE		BOOK MULTI SINGLE			AF		AAC 50015	
INFO		X					CONF	
FROM:							SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS	
ATIC, WP-AFB TO: AAC, ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA <i>W-K D A G</i>								
/UNCLASSIFIED/FROM: AFCIN-4E48 <i>4-716-E</i>								
REF MSG ACS/INT AAC 50015, DTD 14 FEB 59, REQUEST ALL AVAILABLE INFO CONCERNING SUBJECT BALLOON AND EQUIPMENT BE FORWARDED TO THIS CENTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHEN THE EQUIPMENT IS RECOVERED, REQUEST IT BE FORWARDED TO THIS CENTER.								
COORDINATION: AFCIN-4E <i>George I. Gray</i> DATE <i>13 Apr 59</i> <i>for</i> Col Rathman								
AFCIN-4E <i>W. Gilbert</i> DATE <i>4/14/59</i> Col Gilbert								
							DATE 10 MONTH APR TIME 0915 YEAR 1959	
SYMBOL AFCIN-4E48 TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required) MAJ ROBERT J. FRIEND PHONE 69216 PAGE 1 NR. OF PAGES 1 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED				SIGNATURE <i>L. J. Harrell</i> TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE LOUIS J. HARRELL CAPTAIN, USAF ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER				

