

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 2 Mar 59		2. LOCATION Bloomington, Ill		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 03/0142Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 8 secs		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE NW	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Speck of light, heading NW, approx 50° elev, passed thru an angle of approx 20-25°.				11. COMMENTS It is the opinion that the obj was probably a high flying jet a/c, distance and wind direction accounting for the absence of sound.	

On March 2, 1959, I stood on my front porch looking for a star on which to focus my telescope camera. I was looking at Sirius because it seemed to be bright enough to cast an image on the focusing glass on my telescope camera. As I studied the star I noticed a faint speck of light, so faint I would never have detected it if I had not been looking at Sirius, pass under the star Sirius on a north-westerly heading. At first I thought it might be an artificial moon - perhaps one of the Eyslores - but if it were, I should think that it would be traveling in the opposite direction. I know it wasn't a meteor, flares by quickly and leaves a momentary streak of light, but this faint light did neither. During the time I saw it - about eight (8) seconds - I tried to estimate the distance it traveled. I should guess that it passed through an angle of about $20^{\circ} - 25^{\circ}$. i.e. 

I should guess that the object was at an elevation of about 30° . During the time I saw the light, I heard no rumble or roar as would come from a jet plane, and I did not hear such a sound. During the three or four minutes I spent trying to detect the light after I lost it. I lost it because I glanced at my watch to check the time which was 7:42 P.M.

During the time I worked for the Ground Observer Corps I saw a few strange things which include a small cloud, a jet plane flying at very high altitude - it made no sound until it was well past my OP, and even a white kite. All of these I identified these objects within half a minute. I have seen all sorts of lights at night all of which proved to be the lights of airplanes. In fact, I have never seen a light quite like it. I don't think this one was a satellite, but I don't think this one was a satellite. If you should find out what it was please notify me because my curiosity is really aroused.

Sincerely yours,

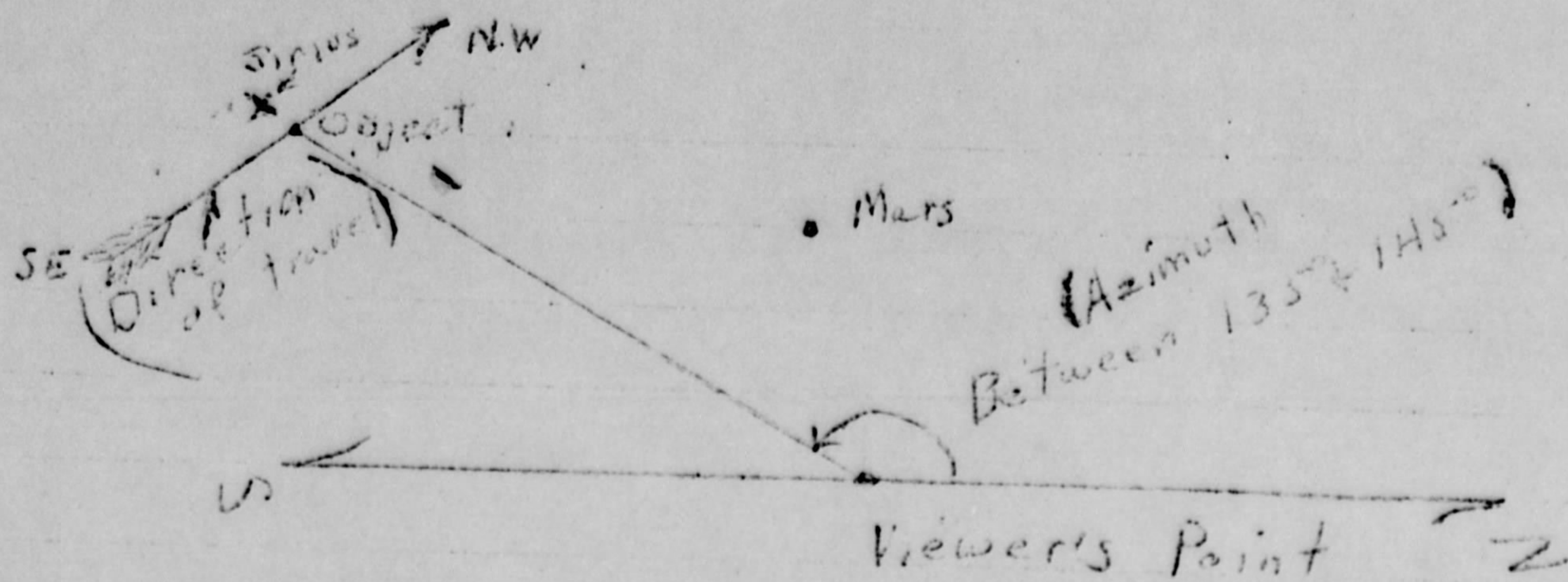


Bloomington, Illinois.

ATIC

6 MAR 59 10 44 AM

REC'D



Time: 7:43 P.M.
March 2, 1959

UFO Sighting

SAFIS-3, ATTN: Maj. Tacker

25 March 1959

AFCIN-4E

1

AFCIN-4Eg/Maj Friend/ac/69216/Blag 263

1. The possibility of Mr. [REDACTED] observing a satellite was considered. However, the speed of the object was too great and duration too short for a satellite.

2. The duration of the sighting was too great to have been a meteor. The average life of a meteor is $\frac{1}{2}$ second or less.

3. The speed, assuming the witnesses made a good estimate, is quite high for any aircraft other than an F-104 or B-58. It is known that F-104's operate in this area, and could have been running an intercept mission. The F-104's have four (4) lights on the tail arranged in a perimeter and thus can be seen from almost any angle.

4. It is the opinion of this office that the object was probably a high flying jet aircraft, with distance and wind accounting for the absence of sound.

1 Incl:
Ltr fr [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (No date)

H. K. GILBERT
Colonel, USAF
AFCIN-4E

4E-4 response

31 March 1959

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is to acknowledge your letter received at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on 6 March concerning an unidentified flying object sighting in Bloomington, Illinois, on 2 March.

The findings of the Air Technical Intelligence Center reveal the following:

1. The speed of the object was too great and the duration of time observed too short for it to be a satellite.
2. The duration of the sighting was too great to have been a meteor. The average life of a meteor is $\frac{1}{2}$ second or less.
3. The speed as estimated is quite high for any aircraft other than F-104 or B-58 jets. It is known that F-104s operate in the Bloomington area and this aircraft has four lights on the tail structure arranged in a perimeter so they can be seen from almost any angle.
4. It is the opinion of the Air Technical Intelligence Center that you observed a high-flying jet aircraft with distance and wind accounting for the absence of sound.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

0276
0276-1000-1000
Mr. [REDACTED]

Bloomington, Illinois