

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 27 Jun 59		2. LOCATION Danville, Va		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other Atmos - HAZE	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2000 GMT		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION not given		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE SE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Airfoil shaped obj, pushing smoke & haze in front of it & around it, seemed to be descending at a fast rate of speed in a shallow dive. Four objs broke away fm it & climbed steeply in perfect formation. They did not climb out of sight, but just disappeared. No sound.				11. COMMENTS ATIC agrees w/the conclusions of the witness that this was a pocket of gas. The smoke & haze in the area making it visible.	

[REDACTED]
July 5, 1959

Department of the Air Force
UFO Investigation Team
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

One week ago I sighted an unidentified flying object. My attention was called to the object by my daughter, aged 10.

I have been a life-long student of aviation, took my first flying lesson at the age of 16. Spent three years in the USAF. Have been a member of the National Aeronautics Association for six years; an honorary member of the Parachute Club of America; chief judge of the Parachuting Contest -- National Aircraft Shows, Dayton, Ohio and Philadelphia, Penn.

I have been a "Flying Saucer" fan for a long time but up to now had never seen anything I would class as a saucer. My pet theory was that these objects were interplanetary space vehicles. I have watched for them many times without success. I have talked to people who have spotted these objects but satisfied myself that they had seen ordinary planes from angles which obscured its wings.

For a few hours after sighting the flying object last week I was certain that I had seen a craft from outer space. I was certain that the object was real and solid. It was very weird looking but was definitely airfoil-shaped. After seeing the one object break away into four distinct objects in perfect formation I thought about the Air Force "Thunderbirds" or the Navy "Blue Angeles" but I knew they would not be flying a tight formation at dusk and would dive down over a city through the haze. I also knew they could not make a sharp right-angle turn as such a low altitude.

The object made no sound at all. It seemed to be pushing the smoke and haze in front of it and around it. It seemed to be descending at a fast rate of speed in a shallow dive.

My daughter, aged 10, first spotted the object. She was in the front yard which overlooks the city, I was in the backyard surrounded by trees. She called, "Daddy, come here, quick!" I came around the house and she said, pointing to the moving object, "Daddy what is that thing, is it a plane or what?"

I took a look at the weird, airfoil-shaped object and knew right away that it wasn't an airplane. It did not seem to be under any control but was just boring in toward the city. I had no fear thinking it was a bomb or missile but an intense curiosity because I had never seen anything like this. As the object went below the

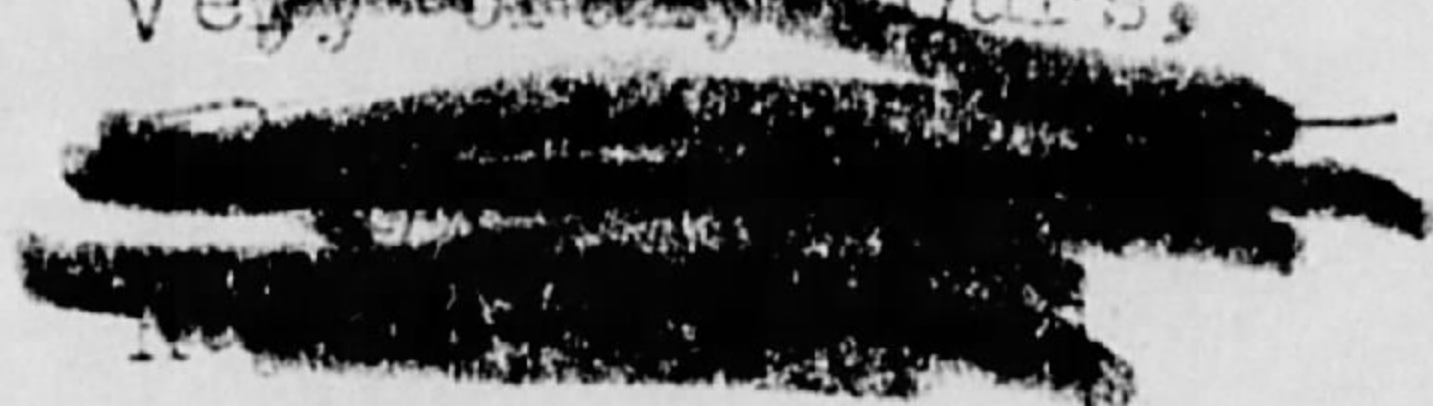
horizon, about four miles away, I told my daughter to watch for it at a point where I estimated it would break out into the clear again. While we were watching this spot the object evidently made a sharp right turn, while below our field of vision, and I saw four objects climb steeply in perfect formation. They moved up about 5 or 10 degrees above the horizon and disappeared. They did not climb out of sight or give an extra burst of speed, they were climbing and all of a sudden--disappeared.

Bang--goes my theory of space craft--Unless, perhaps the Martians or Venusians or Star X men, knowing that I spotted them on one of their observation jaunts have brainwashed me. Well at most they have left me a bit confused. Here-to-fore I have not been subject to hallucinations and I don't believe in ghosts.

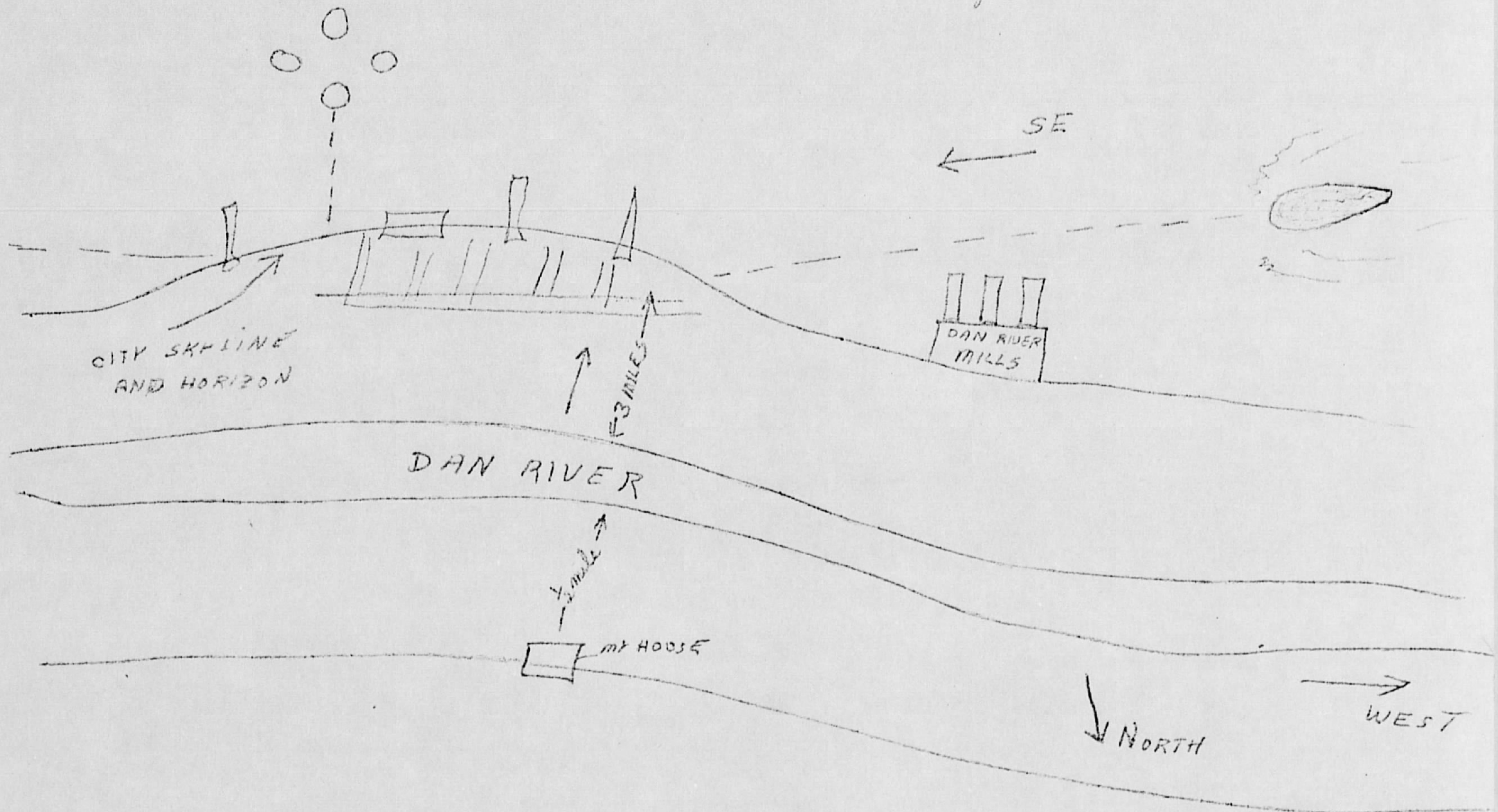
My conclusion: Since there was no sound, since there were no other sightings, I conclude that on this very hot day a pocket of gas had formed in the air and had found a channel through which to move. The smoke and haze in the air made it visible and moving forward through the air it naturally assumed an airfoil shape. I would imagine that under certain conditions the gas would appear to be luminous or silvery or as a bright light. Perhaps the peculiar behavior of this gas when it breaks free from its pocket causes it to break away in distinct patterns of four or six or more.

I thought perhaps you might want to add this sighting and my conclusion to the files of the UFO. My daughter and I would be most cooperative if any USAF rep. wishes to discuss this matter further. I am almost certain it was a pocket of gas and yet I sure hate to loose my status as a "Flying Saucer" fan. I would welcome some cross-examination.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


End to HIC in front
analysis and evaluation



Place: Danville, Va.
Date: June 27, 1959
Time: Approx. 8 p.m.
Visibility: Slight haze
Wind: None
Sun: Just dropped below
horizon
Temperature: 90 degrees
Direction of travel: SE
Speed: Fast

INTER-PLANETARY

Did not follow course of river
Fast speed
Right angle turn
Perfect formation of 4 objects

POCKET OF GAS

Hottest day of year
Smoke & haze in front of object
No sound
No other sighting
Apparent huge size