

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 17 April, 1960		2. LOCATION Richards Gebaur AFB, Missouri		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 UNIDENTIFIED	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 18/0229Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual 48X telescope ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Military			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2 1/2 minutes		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One		9. COURSE Southwest	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Red glowing object viewed through 48X telescope, located North of Orion at 30° elevation, passed 1° South of Cirrus and disappeared below the horizon in 2 1/2 minutes. Request for additional information sent and no answer received.				11. COMMENTS From the information given no conclusion can be offered. Case listed as unidentified.	

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Subject: Sighting Report - Extraordinary

18 April 1960

To: Smithsonian Visual Tracking Center
60 Garden St., Cambridge 38, Mass.

Sir:

1. After consulting with Mr. [REDACTED] who heads the K. C. Moon Watch, I submit the following:

- a. Date/Time: 17 April 1960; 1429-1431.5 GMT -6 hrs = 8:30 am CST
- b. Location: Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Missouri. 20 miles south of K. C. Mo.
- c. Weather: Fair - Temperature 40°F.
- d. Sky Condition: clear--no moon
- e. Sighting made with both unaided eye and six inch Newtonian telescope with one inch eye piece - 48x.
- f. Object sighted initially 1429 GMT north of belt in Orion - 30° above horizon--estimated. Moving in arc toward southwest, it passed 1° south of Sirius falling below horizon at 1431.5 GMT. Color, a reddish glow. Object subtended 5 seconds of arc- estimated--with undetermined profile. During sighting period there was no apparent change in either size, color, or magnitude. The angular rate of change of the object appeared to increase from 2°/minute-- estimated-- in Orion to 1°/second at last sighting.

2. Mr. [REDACTED], Field Representative LINK, and I were viewing M-42 in Orion when this spectacle occurred. We sensed we were seeing something extraordinary. The first 30 seconds we watched and debated the origin of the light. This was no aircraft. Then we checked the objects track. At first we thought it to be a polar orbit--but on checking it with the celestial polar axis an orbit near 45° appeared more reasonable. In a desperate effort I got the object in the narrow field of my telescope. Unfortunately I did not get a good focus.

3. Did we observe a vehicle of the Discoverer class on reentry just prior to its becoming a fire-ball?

Respectfully

s/Jim G. Ford
Major, USAF

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