

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 22 Sep 60		2. LOCATION Champaign, Illinois		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 23/0040Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☐ No		6. SOURCE Civilian		☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10 min		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE WSW	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Yellowish-white object, oval in shape, four times size of Echo I. Object appeared to wobble, had straight flight path, stopped, appeared to grow smaller, and faded from sight.				11. COMMENTS A jet aircraft at high altitude would be high enough to reflect the sun even though the sun had previously set. This is probably what the two witnesses saw.	

COPY TO D. HYNER

HEADQUARTERS
CHANUTE TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER (ATC)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
CHANUTE AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: OSD

28 SEP 1960

SUBJECT: UFO Sighting

TO: Air Technical Intelligence Center (AFCIN-LE2)
Wright-Patterson AFB
Ohio

The attached investigating Officers's report of UFO Sighting is forwarded in accordance with AFR 200-2.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Emmett C. Wittenbach
EMMETT C. WITTENBACH
Major, USAF
Chief, Operations Services Division

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Rept, UFO Sighting

CHANUTE TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER (ATC)

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

IED/Lt. Nevins/4259

SUBJECT:

Unidentified Flying Object (UFO)

TO: Operations Service Division (OSD)

1. On 23 September 1960 (Zulu Time) [REDACTED] Champaign and [REDACTED], Champaign reported to WCIA-TV that they had jointly observed an Unidentified Flying Object in the sky north west of Champaign. The following is a report of their observation.

a. Description of object:

- (1) Oval in shape
- (2) Four times the size of Echo I
- (3) Yellowish-white in color
- (4) One object
- (5) Negative formation
- (6) Negative discernible features or details.
- (7) Negative tail or exhaust
- (8) No sound
- (9) The object appeared to wobble

b. Description of Course of object:

- (1) The observers were watching the stars when they first noticed the object.
- (2) The object was first observed at approximately 000⁰, elevation 35⁰.
- (3) The object was last observed at approximately 315⁰, elevation 45⁰.
- (4) Straight flight path, negative maneuvers.
- (5) Object stopped, appeared to grow smaller, and faded from sight.

(6) Object was visible for approximately ten minutes.

c. Manner of observation:

(1) Ground-visual, with the unaided eye

d. Time and date of sighting:

(1) 0040 Z, 23 September 1960

(2) Dusk

e. Location of observers:

(1) 40° 07'N, 88° 15'W; Champaign, Illinois.

f. Identifying information on observers:

(1) [REDACTED]; age 14 years, [REDACTED], Illinois, and [REDACTED], Champaign, Illinois. These persons have no experience as observers and have no technical knowledge. They seemed to be quite impressionable; however, their honesty was sincere.

g. Weather and winds - Aloft conditions at time of sighting:

(1) Observers account - Clear sky and calm wind.

(2) Report of Chanute AWS

(a) Wind direction and velocity

Surface - ESE @ 6K

6,000 - 270°/13.5K

10,000 - 290°/12K

16,000 - 270°/18K

20,000 - 270°/21K

30,000 - 230°/30K

50,000 - 290°/27K

60,000 - 250°/03K

60-80,000 - 240°-260°/8-12K

(b) No ceiling - 100 - 0/ - 0

(c) Visibility 7 miles

(d) Total opaque sky cover 2/10

(e) No Thunderstorms

(f) Temperature gradient

Surface - 26.8°C	2°C/M
10,000 - 7°C	1.75° C/M
20,000 - -12.5°C	2.25° C/M
30,000 - -35°C	1.15° C/M
40,000 - -46.5°C	1.38° C/M
50,000 - -60.3°C	

h. There were no activities such as ballon launchings in the area or meteorological activities which could account for this sighting. The observers saw Echo I at the same time they were watching this UFO and it was traveling in the opposite direction.

2. Comments of Preparing Officer:

a. The boys who observed this object were very young and impressionable. Their judgement of elapsed time and estimate of angles seemed very inaccurate. However, they were quite positive as to the shape, size, and color of the object.

b. The object could not have been a ballon because its direction of motion is counter to the winds at all altitudes. An aircraft light would have appeared much smaller unless it was close enough for the engines to be heard. And there were no known earth satalites which could have produced this visual effect.

c. The description of the object as given by the boys reminds me of an object I observed under similiar conditions some time ago. The object I observed, just after dusk, was a high flying bomber with a short vapor trail. The bomber and vapor trail were reflecting the same light to give the same visual effect as described by these boys. I believe this is what these boys observed.

Joseph K. Nevins
JOSEPH K. NEVINS
1st Lt., USAF
Investigating Officer