

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 30 Jan 61	2. LOCATION 6357 N 2235W (ATLANTIC)		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1355 GMT 301555Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☐ Other Refraction ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Military		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 min.	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE W	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Round, bright silver object, size of match head. Appeared 45° above wing level of a/c at 20,000 ft, 90° port relative angle of a/c. Heading 290° magnetic (a/c heading). Appeared moving slightly to W. A/c changed heading and object was lost.		11. COMMENTS Several other a/c in area which did not see object. Personnel on ground attempted to view object with negative results. Sun's position relative to witnesses was fairly low and to SSE. Probably a layer of ice crystals above witnesses from which sun was reflecting. Witnesses probably in right position at time reflection could be observed. When they changed position, it disappeared.	

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE DIVISION
UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE

AF IN : 2470 (31 Jan 61) ~~IN~~ **COMING**

ACTION: CIN-14

INFO : OOP-2, OOP-CP-1, SAFS-3 (21)
RERUN OF SMD C 085

CZCHQD706ZCCJB027

PP RJEZHQ

DE RJDIKF 1

P 302345Z ZEX

FM AF ICELAND KEFLAVIK ICELAND

TO RJWFAL/ENT AFB COLO

RJEDSQ/WPAFB OHIO

RJEZHQ/HQ USAF AFCIN

RJEZHQ/SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE SAFIS

RJEDAA/SCOTT AFB ILL MAXIN

AF GRNC

UNCLAS KDOI 30-A-44. ATTN MAXIN, SAFIS

THIS MESSAGE IN ONE PART. PART ONE RE PAR 15, AFR 200-2

UFO REPORT.

A. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT

(1) ROUND

(2) MATCH HEAD

(3) BRIGHT SILVER

(4) ONE

(5) N/A

(6) INDISTINGUISHABLE

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(7) NONE

(8) SAME RADIANCE DURING OBSERVATION

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT

(1) BRIGHT SHINY SPOT IN SKY

(2) 45 DEGREES ABOVE WING LEVEL OF AIRCRAFT AT 20,000 FEET,

90 DEGREES PORT RELATIVE ANGLE OF AIRCRAFT. HEADING

290 DEGREES MAGNETIC (A/C HEADING)

(3) SAME

(4) APPEARED MOVING SLIGHTLY TO THE WEST

(5) AIRCRAFT CHANGED HEADING AND OBJECT WAS LOST.

(6) 5 MINUTES

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION.

(1) AIR VISUAL

(2) NONE

(3) TWO F 89 D, 54-199, 20,000 FEET, 290 DEGREES MAGNETIC

KEFLAVIK AIR PORT

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING

(1) 301555Z

(2) DAYLIGHT

E. 63 DEGREES 57 MINUTES NORTH; 22 DEGREES 35 MINUTES WEST

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F. HELAN T. JOHNSON, 1ST LT, 57TH FIS PILOT B-6

KEITH M. BRATTON, CAPT. 57TH FIS RADAR OPERATOR B-6

G. WEATHER AND WINDS--ALOFT CONDITIONS AT TIME AND PLACE OF
SIGHTINGS.

(1) CLEAR

(2) ALTITUDE	DIRECTION	VELOCITY	TEMPERATURE GRAD.
SURFACE	060 DEGREES T	10 KNOTS	2 DEGREES CNT.
6,000	090 DEGREES T	15 KNOTS	-6 DEGRREES CENT.
10,000	080 DEGREES T	15 KNOLS	-15 DEGREES CENT.
16,000	050 DEGREES T	10 KNOTS	-29 DEGREES CENT.
20,000	060 DEGREES T	10 KNOTS	-41 DEGREES CENT.
30,000	120 DEGREES T	10 KNOTS	-61 DEGREES CENT.
50,000	270 DEGREES T	40 KNOTS	-55 DEGREAS CENT.
80,000	260 DEGREES T	100 KNOTS	-61 DEGREES CENT.

H. NONE

I. SEE K BELOW

J. SEE K BELOW

K. COMMENTS OF THE PREPARING OFFICER:

INTELLIGENCE TECHNICIAN, M/SGT ROBERT F. PLYMPTON. BASE
CONTROL TOWER, 932ND AC&W SQUADRON AND DET 13, 9TH

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WEATHER GROUP WERE CONTRACTED FOR POSSIBLE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS SIGHTING. THE BASE CONTROL TOWER REPORTED SEVERAL AIRCRAFT OF VARIOUS TYPES IN THE AREA WITH THE HIGHEST BEING AT 30,000 FEET. NO UNIDENTIFIED OR STRANGE OBJECTS WERE OBSERVED BY ANY OF THE CONTROL TOWER OPERATORS AT THE TIME X THE SIGHTING. THE 932ND AC&W SQUADRON WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE TWO OBSERVERS AT THE TIME FOR THE SIGHTING BUT COULD NOT "PAINT" OR VISUALLY SEE THE OBJECT. SERGEANT KESSLER OF BASE WEATHER STATED THAT BALLOONS ARE RELEASED AT THE SAME TIME BY WEATHER UNITS IN GREENLAND, WEATHER SHIP ABLE 350 MILES WEST OF KEFLAVIK AND THE BASE WEATHER STATION. HE STATED IN HIS OPINION WITH THE WINDS, TIME AND DISTANCE FACTORS CONSIDERED THAT THIS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A BALLOON RELEASED BY EITHER WEATHER OFFICIALS IN GREENLAND OR WEATHER SHIP ABLE. HE STATED THAT THE BALLOON RELEASED AT THIS BASE AT 301100Z, ACCORDING TO INSTRUMENTS TRACKING THE BALLOON, RFP BURST AT 301209Z. HE FURTHER STATED THAT EVEN IF THE BALLOON DID NOT BURST, THAT ACCORDING TO WINDS ALOFT AT THAT TIME, THE BALLOON WOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED FAR TO THE EAST. THE OBSERVERS WERE

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IMPRESSED AT THE OBJECTS BRIGHTNESS AND VERY HIGH ALTITUDE. THEY STATED TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE THE OBJECT MOVED VERY SLIGHTLY DURING THE 5 MINUTES THEY SAW IT. OBSERVERS DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE OBJECT COULD HAVE BEEN A BALLOON BUT ITS VERY HIGH ALTITUDE, IT BRIGHTNESS, AND THEIR NOT HAVING SEEN A BALLOON QUITE LIKE

IT, ASTOUNDED THEM THE OBJECT WAS NOT PURSUED BY THEM, DUE TO THEIR AIRCRAFT BEING LOW ON FUEL. BOTH OBSERVERS WERE VERY SINCERE AND COOPERATIVE IN RELATING ALL INFORMATION THEY HAD ON THE SIGHTING. THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS SUPPLIED BY THE BASE WEATHER DETACHMENT. NO FURTHER FACTS ARE KNOWN AT THIS TIME CONCERNING THIS SIGHTING OR WHAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN.

L. NONE

BT

3 / 0 03Z JAN RJDIF

CALIFORNIA FIREBALL OF 1961 JANUARY 16

A.M.S. No. 2365

C. P. OLIVIER, N. D. PETERSEN and J. P. BAGBY

A very spectacular fireball appeared at 5:57 P.S.T., on this date, and passed over southern California, roughly from east to west. Our regional director, N. D. Petersen, at once began to collect observations with the aid of local papers. Later, J. P. Bagby made further efforts covering the territory to the north. Meantime, totally unknown to us, Dr. John A. Russell, Dept of Astronomy, Univ. of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif., had started a campaign to collect reports on this object. His paper

has been printed in Griffith Observer, September 1961. It is also designated as Contributions of the Meteoritical Society, Vol. VI, No. 10. It seems that he was unaware that the A.M.S. was also collecting reports. Having read his interesting paper it is clear that he had the great advantage of having people north of the path who collected reports in numbers, some by trained observers. Nearly all of our reports came from the Los Angeles area, hence south of the path and very near its end. In view of

these facts, it was obvious that Russell's solution should be considerably better than any we could make, but as both Petersen and Bagby had gone to so much trouble collecting data, and many of the observers themselves filled out following forms, it seemed that

possible with the data. Hence the following solution has been made, fully realizing that lack of much data from north of the path and from the long eastern portion makes the solution of lower weight than one could wish.

We have approximately 65 reports, of which 30 give some angular estimates. Among them are two from Las Vegas, Nev., where mountains unfortunately restricted accurate altitudes, and one from the Am.S.S. Matsonia which was at sea and west of the entire path. This last is of key importance. Twilight still lingered for most observers, so we in general lack any comparison with stars. Time of appearance was given accurately by 11, and approximate by 17 other observers, so it is certainly known to one minute. That it had a disk is definitely stated by 24; 12 of these give angular diameters: mean $17' \pm 12'$. The color, given by 47, vary greatly. Many doubtless saw the color of the head and perhaps blue-white. 22 estimating duration, saying definitely they saw only part of the path. The average for the other 18 is 5.75 seconds. The end point is fairly well determined as 31.7 ± 9.9 km; 12 observers. It lies over $\lambda = 119^\circ 54' W$, $\phi = 34^\circ 43' N$. It is absolutely impossible for us to determine the beginning point. However, by laying off on the chart a projected path which

seemed reasonable, the heights of 12 points on the path, for which altitudes were given, were calculated and a line passed through them as well as possible. While the scatter is large, the line turned out better than expected, giving $h = 21^\circ$ for the radiant, and $a = 277^\circ$. Russell's projected path was then entered on our chart and the same 12 points calculated for it. The mean line, then drawn, shows far greater deviations and $h = 27^\circ$; his $a = 291^\circ$. (Our azimuths are always counted from the south point, in his article from the north point.) Despite the relatively favorable result of our solution, Russell's should be the better one, as he had many observers in favorable places north of the path and also some along the eastern portion. The method used here is a most approximate one, but we either had to use it or give up any attempt at a solution. As it is, we get almost the same end height, but our sub-end point is distant 30 km in azimuth 321° from his. Though the true length of the path could not be determined by us it was certainly much over 170 km. If one of the Las Vegas observers was correct, the path was more than twice that length. By using the segments of path seen by 8 observers who also gave durations the velocity in last part of path was 19.2 km/sec, but the average deviation from the mean is so very large that little confidence can be placed in this result. The object broke up into perhaps four units following one another, near end of the path. Others described it as followed by a "flame" four times the length of the main body. No long enduring train was left nor any authentic sounds heard. The usual tabular data follow:

Parabolic orbit: $i=11^\circ$, $\Omega=117^\circ$, $\pi=172^\circ$, $q=0.77$ A.U.

1) $a=1.7$ A.U., $e=0.51$, $i=14^\circ$, $\Omega=117^\circ$, $\omega=53^\circ$, $q=0.85$ A.U., $P=2.3y$
 2) $a=2.5$ A.U., $e=0.66$, $i=16^\circ$, $\Omega=117^\circ$, $\omega=49^\circ$, $q=0.85$ A.U., $P=4.0y$

data obtained separately a far better orbit would have been obtained.

Both Petersen and Bagby collected the data and put them in form for use. Without this no solution would have been possible. Olivier made the final calculations. Our sincere thanks go to the numerous observers who sent in reports and to the newspapers which kindly published the requests for them.

No Case (Information Only)

17 January 1961
Norco, California

1961

...At dusk on January 17th, Mrs. Paul White of Norco, California, was sitting in her yard when a faint whistling noise attracted her attention. A ball of fire came screaming down toward the ground, and hit in back of a house across the street. The next day Mrs. White investigated the spot where the object had hit, and saw three charred circles in the back yard. The ground appeared to be baked by intense heat, but no objects were found.

NO CASE (INFORMATION ONLY)

22 January, 1961
Ft Walton, Florida

Source: Fawcett

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1961 has started off to be another good year for UFO photographic evidence as two such events were picked up by the eyes of cameras. On January 22 at Ft. Walton, Florida a metallic-looking, revolving cigar-shaped object was photographed over the Gulf of Mexico by Store Manager Harry Caslar.

No Case (Information Only)

30 January 1961
Greenfield, Massachusetts

On January 30, 1961 near Greenfield, Massachusetts a report was relayed to me by the Rev. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Robbins Memorial Congregational Church in Greenfield. A [REDACTED] was returning home from work on [REDACTED] (north of Greenfield) at 5:30 P.M. Her car was passed by a low flying object of huge size, which showed large, very bright white lights at the front and back and a flashing red light in its center. Miss Kangas stopped her car motor and watched the aerial object then turn off, pass directly overhead and move away at increased speed and vanish in the distance. It made a slight sound, like the hum of a child's spinning top, she said.

1 - 15 FEBRUARY 1961 SIGHTINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
-1	Cambridge, Massachusetts	Military	Astro (VENUS)
-3	Spangdahlem AB, Germany	Military	Astro (METEOR)
-3	Van Nuys, California	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
-5	Maine/Vermont Area	Multi	Astro (METEOR)
-5	Cape Wales, Alaska	[REDACTED]	Astro (METEOR)
-6	20N 134W (Pacific)	Military	Astro (METEOR)
-6	Brooklyn, New York	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
-6	8 Mi E Indian Springs, Nevada	Military	Balloon
-6	43.17N 37.30W (Atlantic)	Military	Astro (VENUS)
-6	Forsythe, Montana	[REDACTED]	Astro (VENUS)
-7	L.G. Hanscomb Field, Massachusetts	Military	Astro (VENUS)
-8	Philippine Sea	Military	Astro (METEOR)
-8	23.34N 149.42W (Pacific)	Military	Satellite (ECHO I)
-8	Springfield, Massachusetts	[REDACTED]	Astro (METEOR)
-8	Dayton, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Astro (ALDEBARAN)
-8	Parkersburg, West Virginia	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
-9	Bitburg AB, Germany	Multi	Astro (VENUS)
-10	09.36N 145.15W (Pacific)	USN	Insufficient Data
-12	Finland	Military	Other (VENUS PROBE)
-12	Sterling City-Garden City, Texas	Multi	Astro (VENUS)
-12	Guadalupe Island	Military	Satellite
-12Feb/3Jun/21Jun	Ft Worth, Texas	[REDACTED]	Aircraft
-14	Dayton, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Astro (STARS/PLANETS)
-15	Dayton, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Astro (VENUS)
			Satellite (ECHO I)

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
Feb	Carbindale, Illinois	[REDACTED] (Green 164)	
4	Andrews AFB, Washington	MR (Sgt Moon)	
Feb	Universe	Science News Ltr	