

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 14 Mar 61	2. LOCATION 3853N 7951W <u>ELKINS, W. VA</u>		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical <u>METEOR</u> ☒ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>0250</u> GMT <u>140750Z</u>	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	6. SOURCE Civilian		
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 min	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE NW-NE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Dark objt with orange tail size of F-86 or F-94 and about 15' in length. Observer in a/c heading 268°. Objt 45° fwd of right wing when sighted. Disappeared 45° rear of right wing. Objt's altitude approx 60,000'. Speed estimate 5000 mph.		11. COMMENTS Objt of this sighting has all characteristics of a meteor. There is no evidence which would indicate that this objt was not a meteor. Was probably a meteor of "fireball" class and initial experience of observer with type; therefore resulting in misidentification. It is concluded that objt of sighting was probably a meteor.	

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

AF IN : 46628 (14 Mar 61) STAFF MESSAGE DIVISION

UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE

NNNN

ACTION: CIN-14

INCOMING

INFO : OOP-2, OOP-CP-1, DSD-4, SAFS-3 (25)
SMD A243

JC673

PP RJEZHQ

DE RJESKB 52

ZNR

P 142130Z

FM 32AIRDIV DOBBINS AFB GA

TO RJWFAL/ADC ENT AFB COLO

RJEDSQ/ATIC WPAFB OHIO

RJEZHQ/HQ USAF WASH DC

RJEZHQ/OSAF WASH DC

RJEDSQ/COSMATIC WPAFB OHIO

RJEZDK/PROJECT SPACE TRACK LG HANSCOM FLD BEDFORD MASS

BT

UNCLAS 320IN 2791. HQ USAF FOR AFCIN AND AFCIN-1B1; OSAF

FOR SAFIS, COSMATIC FOR AFCIN-4A. SUBJ (U) MOON DUST. PAR 15, AFR

200-2: A, (1) DARK OBJECT; (2) NO ESTIMATE; (3) NONE; (4) ONE; (5)

N/A: (6) NONE; (7) ORANGE TAIL, SIZE AND SHAPE OF F-86 OR F-94 AND

ABOUT 15 FEET IN LENGTH; (8) NONE; (9) NONE; B.(1) JUST HAPPENED TO

BE LOOKING WHERE IT WAS SEEN; (2) OBSERVER IN ACFT HDG TWO SIX EIGHT

DEG. OBJECT WAS FOUR FIVE DEG FWD OF RIGHT WING; (3) FOUR FIVE DEG

REAR OF RIGHT WING. ALTITUDE OF OBJECT APPROX 60,000 FT; (4)

STRAIGHT NORTH WEST TO NORTH EAST; (5) JUST FADED AWAY. SPEED

ESTIMATE 5000 MPH; (6) FIVE MIN. C,(1) AIR VISUAL; (2) NONE;

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INCOMING

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(3) DC7-B; EASTER NR449, 18,000 FT, HDG 268 DEG, TAS 270KT, GNDSPD 230KT, IDEWILD AIRPORT. D,(1) 14,0750Z; (2) NIGHT, DARK SKY, NO MOON, STAR BACKGROUND, CLEAR ABOVE ACFT. E,(1) ACFT OVER ELKINS VOR (38-53N 79-51W) OBJECT 25 TO 50 NM NORTH OF VOR. F, (1) [REDACTED] AGE 38, COPILOT EASTERN AIRLINES, C/O LA GUARDIA N.T., A-1. G,(1) SCATTERED TO BROKEN BELOW ACFT, CLEAR ABOVE ACFT.

SYNOPTIC SITUATION FOR 14 MARCH 1961. AT 0800Z LOW PRESSURE WAS LOCATED IN SOUTHERN MICH., MOVE NORTH-NORTHEAST AT 15 KNOTS. AN ^{OCCURRED} 9:00Z 753D FRONT EXTENDED FROM LOW SOUTH EASTWARD TO NORTHWESTERN WEST VA, THEN SOUTHWARD AS A COLD FRONT OVER CENTRAL WEST VA, EXTREME WESTERN VA, AND EASTERN TENN. FRONT WAS MOVING EASTWARD AT 18 KNOTS. A WARM FRONT EXTENDED EASTWARD FROM NORTHWESTERN WEST VA, PASSING NORTH OF ELKINS, THEN SOUTHWARD OVER WESTERN VA TO N.C.-VA BORDER, THEN EASTWARD. THE WARM FRONT WAS MOVING NORTHEAST AT 10 KNOTS. CONDITIONS EAST AND NORTH OF WARM FRONT WERE 500 OVERCAST WITH CLOUDS LAYERED TO 15000 AND 24000 OVERCAST TOPS 35000 ABOVE. VSBYS 1-3 IN LIGHT RAIN AND FOG. CONDITIONS WEST OF WARM FRONT (INCLUDES AREA OF ERN WEST VA AND ELKINS AREA) WERE 35-70 BROKEN OVERCAST WITH TOPS TO 12000-14000 AND 24000 BROKEN TOPS TO 35000 ABOVE. VSBYS 7 MILES OR BETTER. WINDS ALOFTS: SURFACE 170DEGREES/08 KNOTS/PLUS 9DEGREES

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STAFF ~~Passage~~ Division

UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE

I N C O M I N G

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C, 6000 230DEGREES/40 KNOTS PLUS 5DEGREES C, 10000 240DEGREES/60 KNOTS-
2DEGREES C, 16000 240DEGREES/55 KNOTS- 15DEGREES C, 20000 240 DEGREES/60
KNOTS-22DEGREES C, 30000 230DEGREES/70 KNOTS-45DEGREES C, 50000 250DEGREE
/55 KNOTS-59DEGREES C, 80000 NOT AVAILABLE.

ELKINS 0800Z WEATHER REPORT. E 70 BROKEN 7, SSE 5. SOME LIGHT
RAIN SHOWERS WERE OCCURING IN EXTREME NORTHEASTERN WEST VA LOWERING
CONDITIONS TO 2500 OVERCAST VSBY 500. H THRU J NEGATIVE; (DIRECTOR
INTELLIGENCE 32D AIR DIVISION; COMMENTS: NONE; L. NONE).

BT

14/2138Z MAR RJESKB