

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 21 Feb 1962		2. LOCATION Aliwal North, South Africa		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☒ Other Atlas Booster Section ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT - - -		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes Physical ☒ No Specimen		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION - - -		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE - - -	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Piece of metal recovered in South Africa.				11. COMMENTS Identified as booster rocket section of Glenn flight.	

COMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

File

IN : 44211 (31 Aug 62) P/crp

UNCLASSIFIED

Control: 24818

Rec'd: AUGUST 31, 1962
9:51 AM

FROM: PRETORIA

AF DIST: CIN-9, SA78-3, KPD-3, OOP-CP-1 (15)

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 164, AUGUST 31.

ACTION DEPARTMENT 164, INFORMATION JOHANNESBURG CAPETOWN DURBAN
PORT ELIZABETH UNNUMBERED

DEPT PASS NASA AND DEFENSE

THIS MORNING IN DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH PRESS PHOTO-
GRAPHERS AND CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT I PRESENTED TO FORMIN. ERIC
LOUW MOUNTED AND INSCRIBED FRAGMENT RECOVERED NEAR ALIWAL NORTH
FEB. 21 AND LATER IDENTIFIED AS PART OF COL. GLENN'S ATLAS ROCKET
BOOSTER. SECRETARY JOOSTE WAS WITH LOUW AND COUNSELOR RPT COUNSELOR
CLARK AND AIR ATTACHE MILLS ACCOMPANIED ME. TEXT JOINT FOREIGN
AFFAIRS/EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWS:

"ONE OF SPACE AGES MOST HISTORIC MEMENTOS WAS PRESENTED TO
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN AN INFORMAL CEREMONY IN OFFICE OF
MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS ERIC LOUW THIS MORNING BY U.S. AMBASSADOR
JOSEPH C. SATTERTHWAITE.

MEMENTO IS A FRAGMENT OF ATLAS ROCKET WHICH BOOSTED LT. COL.
JOHN GLENN INTO ORBIT FEBRUARY 20 AND LATER FELL NEAR ALIWAL NORTH
IN CAPE PROVINCE. ALL FRAGMENTS RECOVERED WERE SENT TO UNITED
STATES FOR ANALYSIS.

FRAGMENT PRESENTED THIS MORNING, ABOUT TWO FEET SQUARE, HAS BEEN
MOUNTED AND INSCRIBED BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. REMAINING
FRAGMENTS OF BOOSTER ROCKET WERE GIVEN TO UNITED STATES BY SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

IN THIS MORNINGS CEREMONY AMBASSADOR SATTERTHWAITE SAID HE WAS
PLEASED TO MAKE PRESENTATION IN APPRECIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S

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-2-164, AUGUST 31, FROM PRETORIA

EXCELLENT COOPERATION IN AMERICAS SPACE EFFORTS.

INSCRIPTIONS ON MISSILE FRAGMENTS FRAME READ:

"PRESENTED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

THIS IS A FRAGMENT OF ATLAS BOOSTER WHICH LAUNCHED LT. COL. JOHN H. GLENN, JR. AND MERCURY SPACE CRAFT "FRIENDSHIP 7" FROM CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA, ON 20 FEBRUARY, 1962. THE ATLAS ORBITED EARTH FIVE TIMES AND TRAVELLED APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY THREE THOUSAND MILES. THIS FRAGMENT SURVIVED RE-ENTRY AND WAS RECOVERED NEAR ALIWAL NORTH, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, ON 21 FEBRUARY, 1962."

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN THANKING AMBASSADOR FOR THIS RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANCE AFFORDED BY SOUTH AFRICA IN UNITED STATES PROGRAM OF RESEARCH IN OUTER SPACE GAVE ASSURANCE THAT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS OF A PERMANENT NATURE WOULD BE MADE FOR EXHIBITING FRAGMENT TO THE PUBLIC."

FRAGMENT WILL BE EXHIBITED INITIALLY AT PRETORIA-TRANSVAAL SHOW NOW IN PROGRESS.

MCA

GLOBAL SIGHTINGS -

South Africa-2/21/62-1:05AM
Three strange objects seen above Kimberly by a number of residents. "They came from the south. They looked like rockets, but travelled horizontally and were very brilliant. Two were smaller than the one between them. The center one gained in intensity, gave off a flash, and disappeared."

SATTERTHWAITE

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