

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 20 October 1962		2. LOCATION Wells, Maine		12. CONCLUSIONS ☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 21/0430Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☐ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar		☒ Was Astronomical Meteor ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No		6. SOURCE Civilian		☐ Other _____ ☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 seconds 6 seconds		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE NE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Object that appeared to be a meteor leaving a trail, or two trails - one from each side. Suddenly increased in size and became circular. Had points of light. Object dimmed after about 2 seconds. Sparks trailing. Almost disappeared three times during flight. Trail appearing to glow remained for about 5-8 minutes after object was gone. Dogs barked and howled although sound not audible to witness.				11. COMMENTS Witness indicates object was like meteor or decay; however, was curious at the persistence of the trail. No reported decay for this date. Case considered as possible meteor observation.	

~~Wells Maine~~
Wells Maine
October 24, 1962

Department of the Air Force
Unidentified Flying Objects Department
Washington D.C.

Dear Gentlemen:

On the night of October 20th at approximately 11:30 P.M. I was following a woods road through a small field in Wells, Maine when I saw a light looked up and saw something in the sky that appeared to begin with to be a meteor leaving a very distinct trail behind it. In fact it appeared to be leaving two trails one from each side, which merged into one. Then suddenly it opened up into an object about the size of a dime and stayed this way during most of the duration of the flight. The object appeared to be, or seem, about the size of a dime, circular in planform, and with high points of light on it. It was preceded by a small "bow-wave" of light and trail of light both of which retained their size (length & width) until the object disappeared and was visible for a second afterwards. It did not give out quickly as did the trails of meteors I have seen. It dimmed out taking about 2 1/2 seconds to do so. The object itself was visible about 3 seconds, and there were a few sparks.

(over)

The smoke trail moved in a north east by north direction to a point about 80° from the northern horizon about 80° from the eastern horizon. (Moved 20° at least, from original position in a northerly direction).

The second originated from about where the first did, 70° above eastern horizon 80° above southern and traveled about 30° in a slight curve to a position to a position about 60° above northern horizon about 50° above Eastern.

I don't know what these were, would like to know.

I think some good guesses might be:

1. a meteorite or fireball.

However the objects appeared to be stepping as a decomposing satellite or satellite carrier might due as it entered, bounced off, and reentered the earth's atmosphere, approximately 30 seconds before I saw the first object I did notice what appeared to be a satellite moving along about the same line of flight only higher up (about 90°), from N. S. horizon moving in opposite direction, (from West to East), and noticed nothing unusual.

Ex 2. Shows the possibility of as said before of satellite or satellite carrier breakup. Chiefly because of the fact that no meteor or meteorite leaves no cloud, specially one that curls into a spiral

The object appeared to almost disappear at least three times during its flight before it disappeared entirely.

It left behind it a trail of smoke or particles which appeared to glow. This was visible 5 or 8 minutes during which the trail curled into a single spiral with crookedly completed one turn.

About three minutes after I saw the first object (white smoke trail was finishing spiral) I saw something that appeared to be about the same size as a pinhead or less and as bright as Venus.

I heard a slight but distinct whoosh or whump (the two sounds were intermingled) which occurred while watching the first object.

No sound was heard with the second object.

When the 1st object went over all dogs in the area barked and many howled violently for some time afterwards.

Here are the approximate positions of the objects. The first was sighted approximately 70° up from the eastern horizon and traveled from N.E. by E to S.W. by W to about 65° above the western horizon following a course about 30° degrees off from being directly E to W. The line of flight was about 80° above southern horizon on the average beginning about 90° above southern horizon terminating about 70° above.

The second object could of been an extension
or part of the first which was thrown up wards
by initial contact with earths atmosphere. was
in sharp contrast with first because left no trail
of light and or smoke. I heard no sound.

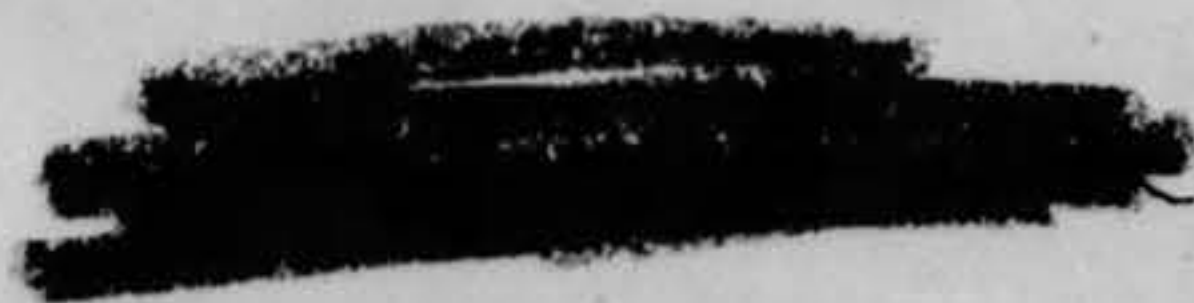
would it be possible for part of an object
to be thrown upwards later to fall back 3 minutes
later under conditions like this?

also would a meteor have points of light
in an already unbelievably bright burning up
of itself?

one more point. I'm not sure about this because
I didn't really notice but it seemed to me that many dogs
in the area were or started howling before I noticed the
object. I know dogs can hear ultrasonic sounds. Do
you suppose they heard this?

If you send me there address I would
be glad to let known this info to any V. F. O. Clubs.

yours sincerely,



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NOTIFICATION

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