

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 9 May 64 10/0423Z	2. LOCATION Chicago, Illinois
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION IDENTIFIED UNIDENTIFIED
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Three	Evaluated as an unidentified object by JAH
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 Seconds	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS See Case File
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE West	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201
16 November 1964

Major Hector Quintanilla
Foreign Technology Division
Box 9494
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major:

As you see from the enclosed copy of the letter to Mr. ~~XXXX~~ (case of 9 May 1964), I think it is quite likely that he saw after-images. I had quite a long talk with him on the phone, and he was most cooperative. He seemed to be quite impressed by the fact that we were interested in his case and said that he was honored that we were spending any time on it at all.

His story was still very much the same as he gave in the original report. Here are some of the highlights of our conversation:

He was most impressed by the oscillating motion of the crescents; he said it was "most fearsome," and he was both trembling and perspiring when it was over. I asked him to re-enact the time sequence and check it with his watch, and when he did so, he indicated the whole duration was three to five seconds. His original report, I believe (although I don't have it at hand at the moment), said something like twenty seconds, didn't it? He said the experience was very vivid, "like a photograph planted in his mind." He said that ever since he has been pondering, trying to hand it on to something, but still finds no explanation. When I asked him what he would put up in the sky to simulate the situation, he said he'd put three moons as seen through a fog as he was particularly impressed by the motion the object had both across his line of sight and yet seeming to vanish in the distance. This seems to me very characteristic of an after-image: the more you try to see it, the faster it dashes away.

He said he was on the phone within five minutes to the Tribune and the Planetarium and sent a telegram to Sky and Telescope and, I believe, he also said to Wright-Patterson. He said the night was exceptionally clear, "one of those once or twice a year nights." So any question of searchlights against a high cirrus is out. He is convinced they were objects, and fearsome ones. The edges were fuzzy, and the whole objects were apparently of third magnitude. His eyes were dark-adapted.

He said they have mercury lights in the neighborhood, and another possible explanation is that he saw light reflected from the bottoms of some birds, but I don't particularly like that explanation. He said that as soon as it happened, he "immediately knew he had seen something extraordinary."

When he told me, however, that just before that he had been looking at the setting dials of his telescope, illuminating them with a red light, it seemed that we might have the explanation there, as you see I have indicated in my letter to him.

So, all in all, the fuzzy edges, the greenish tinge, the faintness of the object, the peculiar motion, and the fact that even looking at a red light just before adds up, it seems to me, to the likelihood that this was a subjective experience. Perhaps, he had been bending over and suddenly straightened up. Anyway, I don't think we should chalk this up to anything really out of the ordinary, and unless he comes back with a very sharp and cogent denial, I think we might well evaluate this as a subjective experience, possibly after-images caused by watching a red light.

I'm working on the Altas, Mt. Vernon, and the ~~██████████~~ cases. I haven't been able to locate the Northwestern student as yet. One final thing in the ~~██████████~~ case, it was he himself who brought up the suggestion that it might have been caused by the red light. Usually when the witness brings up a suggestion like that, it often means the he's pretty convinced himself that that is what it was.

Sincerely,



J. Allen Hynek

JAH:krf
enclosures

10 December 1964

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chicago 4, Illinois

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

This is a rather belated reply to your letter of November 18, but that's the way it goes.

I tend to agree with you as to the inadequacy of the after-image interpretation. This was just a possibility, of course.

One thing occurred to me later on, and I suggest it only in order to put on the table all possible interpretations, even though remote. Could possibly the oscillating motion which impressed you so much have been the motion of birds illuminated by distant street lights, say mercury lights? I bring this up only because this turned out most definitely to be the cause of the famous Ingbok lights which caused such a stir a number of years ago. I myself have seen birds dimly illuminated at night, and the effect, I can assure you, is quite startling.

Let me know what you think about this possible interpretation. I do not offer it as an explanation but only in the sense of dusting off all possible explanations, as I did in the matter of the after-image. Operating on the basic working hypothesis that whatever it was has a perfectly logical explanation our job is to see whether the facts jibe with remotely with perfectly natural explanations. If in the long run, they do not, then we must reckon the watch for similar cases which might lead us to a new insight in atmospheric phenomena, etc. I quite agree with you that there is no need at present to introduce extra-terrestrial visitors to explain your sighting.

Thanks again for the time you have taken with all this, and I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

J. Allen Hynek

JAH:krf

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
CHICAGO 4, ILLINOIS

November 18, 1964

Dr. J. Allen Hynek
Director,
Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dear Dr. Hynek:

I was honored and pleased to hear from you today in writing concerning the May 9th phenomenon we have discussed.

My particular reason for writing is because, as is often the case, a number of things occurred to me after we had spoken on the phone which I neglected to mention.

As a preliminary, I think we had established that the most striking elements of this phenomenon were the following: 1. Oscillating or pulsing; 2. attitude of cusps oddly pointing as illustrated in my drawing. (You may wonder why this continues to impress me. May it just suffice to say the nature of it was profound and completely unique) 3. Such other things as path of motion, fuzzy outlines, color, etc.

I have never once considered this as an extra-terrestrial occurrence, not even at the moment I saw it; I was only aware that I had witnessed something extraordinary. May I stress that the appearance was bold and vivid and above all fear-inspiring.

I think I should tell you that I am regarded as a cynic and I tend to pooh-pooh myths, superstitions, dogmatic religious beliefs, etc., so that it takes a great deal to excite me, as did this matter - witness the fact that I immediately began making phone calls, sending telegrams and writing letters seeking some sort of corroboration or explanation

Without hoping to enhance the mystery, or to perpetuate it, May I observe that it seems to me the after-image interpretation fails in several significant particulars. May I with deference list them, as follows:

1. The appearance occurred almost a full minute after I had turned off my red flashlight; 2. My setting circles are 10-inch diameters and can be read with a glance - not requiring concentrated light or squinting; 3. I have purposely let them oxidize so they would have a dull finish (cast aluminum); 4. Most important of all, I think, is the fact these objects raced into my view from the east traveling southwest as my gaze was fixed looking west; I first saw them out of the corner of my eye and had to turn southeast to begin tracking them! This alone to me seems almost conclusively to

eliminate the after-image theory, as appealing as it is, since my experience with after-image has been that the spurious objects will always appear where one's eyes are first brought to focus immediately after shifting them from the original light source which the eye retains and transposes.

I think the main misunderstanding, leading to the after-image theory, was that I had used the red flashlight and then immediately looked up into the sky. If this were the case I would have dismissed the whole matter without another thought, since after-image is such a familiar experience to all of us.

As I believe I remarked, I have tried repeatedly to reenact or reproduce this effect, even on nights when the sky has been of good transparency, and there has been nothing of the sort observed.

Still in all, considering that after-image of red light is almost invariably green, that crescent shapes assume the exact contour of a flashlight shown on setting circles from above (thereby being semicircles,) the sky being intensely black, and being an experienced observer, the conclusion is irresistible and I think you can close the case on that note.

But damn that eerie oscillating! I list it as the number one factor, please remember, and it standing alone would be sufficient to have launched all this inquiry.

Oh well. - I wish to thank you sincerely for allowing me to impose on your valuable time. It is certainly a mark of greatness common to men of your standing that you will entertain even the eccentric, back yard astronomer such as I.

Very truly yours,

[REDACTED]

May 11, 1964

Unit for Investigation of UFOs
(Unidentified Flying Objects)
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Gentlemen:

I believe I am addressing this letter to the proper air base but do not know how to route it by organization. May I request it be directed to the unit responsible for investigating so-called UFOs.

I am similarly contacting the Chicago Adler Planetarium, Chicago Tribune Newspaper and Sky & Telescope Magazine, Cambridge, Mass.

Phenomenon Observed

Date: May 9, 1964; Time: 11:23 p.m. Central Daylight
Saving Time; Place: South-western Chicago, Illinois;
Visibility: Exceptional, cloudless.

Narration: Appearance of 3 large, light-green crescents, observed for approx. 3 seconds traveling at high speed from east to west south of star constellation Leo, approx. 40° above horizon, disappearing abruptly after transit of approx. $1/4$ of south-western sky.

Further details: Size: Each object approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of moon; Brightness: Approx. 3d magnitude (dim but large) Oscillating in size & color; form, slightly nebulous. Objects held peculiar tight formation as shown in sketch attached.

Please note the following customary explanations have seemingly been eliminated: Auroral effects, presence of planet Venus, searchlights bouncing off clouds, aircraft, helicopters, advertising zeplins, stray-light optical effects such as auto headlights, aircraft landing lights, etc.

May I respectfully request acknowledgment of receipt of this letter - I do not ask for explanations since I understand this is not customarily done.

c.c. Adler Planetarium
Sky & Telescope Mag.

Very truly



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

Unit for Investigation of UFOs
/ Unidentified Flying Objects /
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

9 May 64
Chicago, Ill.

24 Jun 64

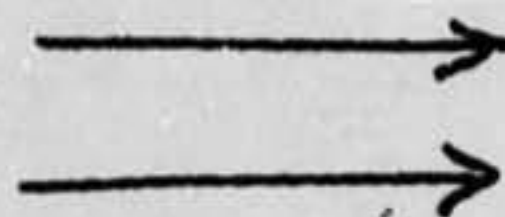
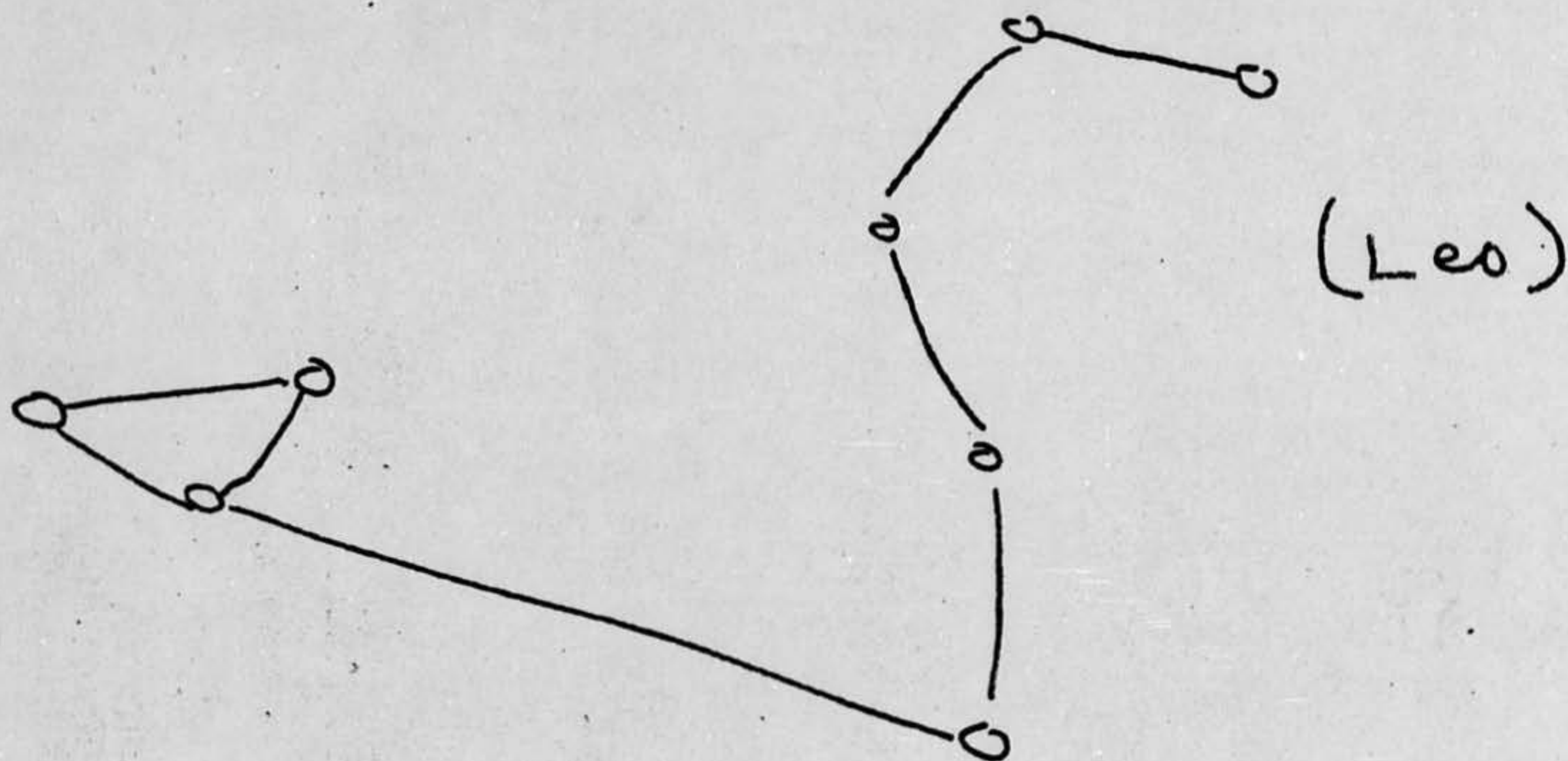
Dr J Allen Hynek
Dearborn Observatory
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

Dear Allen,

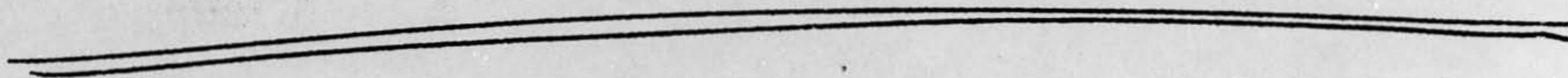
I am returning the letter from Isabell Davis to you. We have forwarded a copy of the 9 May 64, Chicago sighting per your suggestion. Also, attached is the 9 May sighting from Chicago. The 26 May Cambridge, Mass sighting from Mr Paul Wankowicz is attached. We have no evaluation on these at present and would appreciate your analysis at your earliest convenience in order that we may be able to reply to the observers.

Sincerely,

DAVID N MOODY
TSGT, USAF



(40°)



HEADQUARTERS
FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO



TDEW

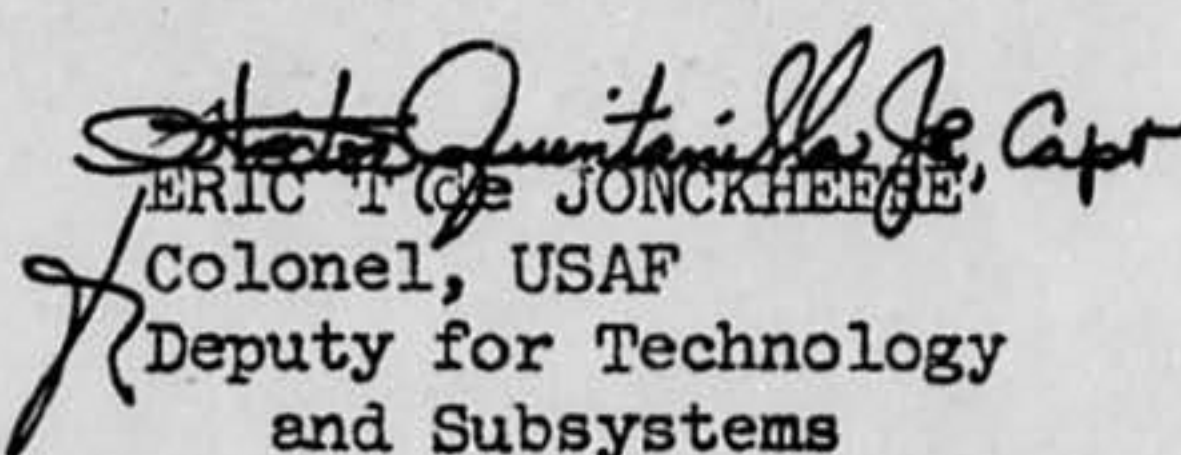
UFO Sighting (9 May 64, Chicago, Illinois)

17 Jun 64

Hq USAF SAFOI PB (Mrs Gaiser)
Wash D C 20330

1. We have received a report of an unidentified flying object sighting by Mr. [REDACTED] et, Room [REDACTED], Chicago, Illinois, 60604.
2. This report is being forwarded to Doctor J Allen Hynek, Air Force consultant to Project Blue Book, due to the astronomical nature. At present we are unable to determine what Mr Betz has observed. It is requested that he be informed of the referral of his letter to Doctor Hynek and that he will be informed of our evaluation on this phenomenon.

FOR THE COMMANDER


ERIC T. JONCKHEERE
Colonel, USAF
Deputy for Technology
and Subsystems



July 22, 1964

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

This is in reference to a report of an unidentified flying object you forwarded to the Air Force.

Due to the astronomical nature of your report, it is being forwarded to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Chief of the Astronomy Department at Northwestern University and Air Force consultant on the UFO program. You will be advised in the near future concerning Dr. Hynek's evaluation of this report.

Sincerely,

MASTON M. JACKS
Major, USAF
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Chicago, Illinois 60604

14 November 1964

~~████████████████████~~
~~████████████████████~~
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. ~~██████████~~

I have pondered quite a bit about the sighting you made last May 9, and I would very much like to find some reasonable explanation for it. I can appreciate that it must have been a very puzzling and even unnerving experience for you, but that should not blind us to looking for a simple but perhaps unusual explanation. I'm sure that neither you nor I would call for any extra-terrestrial explanation unless everything else absolutely failed, and even then I would find it hard to believe that spaceships came in the form of greenish crescents!

It is a great pity that there were no witnesses, in which case any question of this having been a subjective experience would be cleared away. I am, nonetheless, impressed with several things you mention: your eyes were dark-adapted; you had been looking at a red light; you had probably been bending over or at least not in a perfectly normal position (although you did not indicate this); the sky was intensely black, a fact which would have provided an exceedingly fine backdrop for faint after-images. Perhaps, the thing that strikes me most of all is that green is the usual after-image color after a person has been looking at a red light.

I should like you to give consideration to the following working hypothesis, and I admit, of course, that it is only that, but I should like your comments, nonetheless. The setting circles are curved, and the reflection of a red light on the circles would be in the form of a crescent. The after-image of red is green. The sky was intensely black, and your eyes were dark-adapted, and there were no other lights to detract from even a faint after-image. Particularly if you had been bending over in a somewhat cramped position, then straightening up and suddenly looking up would, I believe, be conducive to seeing such an after-image.

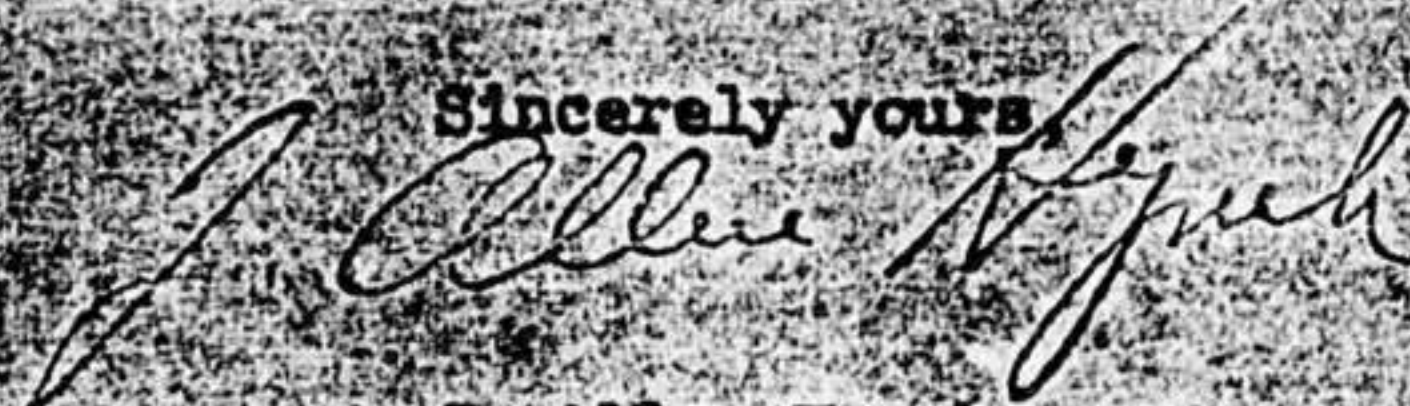
Now I admit that this is only a slim hypothesis, and it may not fit the facts as only you can know them. I do believe it could fit the facts as you told me, as I interpret them. The fact that the greenish crescents were fuzzy is another detail in favor of this idea. Now why there should have been three crescents rather than one I will admit is very difficult to explain. As I say, this hypothesis may not hold water at all, but I would like to have you comment on it. I do know, however, that I have had after-images in certain circumstances which I would have nearly sworn were tangible objects, and, as you know, after-images take the form of the last object a person had been staring at. The surfaces you were watching were certainly curved and shiny enough to reflect the red light you were using.

I think it was extremely honest and conscientious of you to have mentioned the red light. It indicates to me that you yourself are examining all possibilities and that you will accept a normal but unusual situation as a probable cause rather than to deliberately cover up any facts in favor of perpetrating a mystery. You would be surprised, however, how many people are just that way. They love a good sensational story and consciously or unconsciously hold back some little item which might well be the clue to the entire case.

Another thing about after-images is that the more you try to follow them with your eye, the faster they seem to scoot away, and, indeed, they have very much the same motion that you describe, across the field and in radial velocity. Well, I'd appreciate your comments. I think we'll both agree that you've had an unusual experience and a vivid one. I wonder whether you have tried or would consider trying to repeat the actions of that night as closely as possible. Of course, the night would also have to be quite dark since the after-images might not show up as well against a background of a light-appearing sky.

Again, let me thank you for your cooperation, both in reporting the original even and in helping to solve it.

Sincerely yours,



J. Allen Hynek
Director

JAH:krt