

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 25 March 66 26/0340Z	2. LOCATION Cambria, California
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Aircraft (possible) ✓ <i>mt</i>
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground Visual	Observer noticed brilliant orange light in the SE which disappeared and reappeared several times. A contrail was noted. Brightness of light comparable with that of aircraft landing lights.
7. COURSE SE	Observers believe phenomena arose from the effects of an aircraft.
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

Possible (A/C)
~~14~~ 3

TDEW

JUN 30 1966

UFO Sighting, 25 March 1966

Hq USAF SAFOICC (Mrs. Hunt)

Reference the attached letter from Edmund V. Sawyer regarding an observation which he made on 25 March 1966. The following is a suggested reply.

a. Dear Mr. ~~XXXXXX~~

Thank you for your most gracious letter of 3 April 1966. The description which you gave is excellent. Unfortunately, the average person is a poor observer; this has been confirmed time and time again in controlled experiments. Observations, such as yours, make our job much easier in identifying the stimulus which cause such sightings.

From the information you supplied, an aircraft appears to be responsible for your observation. The orange color probably was a result of the twilight glow causing a reflection off the aircraft. Between 45 to 60 minutes after sunset, the twilight glow reaches to a height of 15 - 20 degrees. The horizontal stripes become orange, yellow and greenish in that order. This could account for the brilliant orange color.

We wish to thank you for your interest in Project Blue Book and for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

1 Atch
Ltr, E. Sawyer, 3 Apr 66

COORDINATION
ORIGINATOR:

[Signature] DATED 28 JUN 66
TDEW/UFO MAJ H QUINTANILLA, JR

[Signature] DATED 29 JUN 66
TDEW

TDEW/UFO OFFICIAL FILE CY

27 March 1966

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

SIGHTING REPORT

At 7:40 PM, March 25, 1966, I was driving my family south on California Highway No. 1 from San Simeon toward Cambria, where the road is near the ocean going approximately south-east. We were at a point about 1 mile north of the position where Santa Rosa Creek empties into the ocean.

I noticed a brilliant orange light ahead and above the car, seemingly at a considerable distance. I mentioned to my son Eddie, and then it disappeared and after about ten seconds re-appeared. I drove the car to the side of the road and he and I got out. During this interval the light had been out and was back on again. It remained on about one to two minutes as we discussed it, then went out again. It came on again and after another period of one to two minutes, went out for the last time.

We then noticed a contrail, unusually bright for the light of the thin crescent moon, and seemingly pure white as though the light of the recently set sun was not augmenting the brilliance. The contrail had a large "head" at the point where the light had been last seen, and thus had the appearance of a match with a huge head. We searched for the light for about five minutes without success, although we projected the contrail with time allowances. We estimated the altitude and azimuth, direction and length of the contrail. We then returned to Cambria Pines Inn.

The light did not abruptly turn off or on, but took about one half to one second, like an incandescent. The light did not seem to fluctuate in brightness at any time, and seemed to maintain the same radiance throughout the observations. The brightness can be compared with that of aircraft landing lights at Lindbergh Field, and was perhaps twice the brightness of the light of a plane in the vicinity of this field when directed toward my home, about five miles away.

The sky was brilliantly clear with stars of fifth magnitude easily visible. Checking with Polaris, the "head" of the contrail was estimated to be of 45° Altitude and 80° Azimuth, plus/minus 5° . The contrail, head north-westerly, appeared to us to be pointing at 2:30 O'clock and was about 6° in length. At the time of observations, it had been fully dark only 20-30 minutes, but the sun had set long before. The contrail did not disperse appreciably during the time we observed it; about ten minutes. No sound was heard at any time.

My opinion is that these phenomena arose from the effects of an aircraft. I believe that a commercial or military jet, probably the latter, was flying at about 20,000 feet. The plane encountered condensation conditions in a narrow area and a crew member turned on the landing light several times to observe bits of growing mist. The plane ran through the end of the zone, causing a burst of condensation, or perhaps used an afterburner. I cannot explain the brilliant orange color.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA

3 April 66

United States Air Force
Unidentified Flying Objects Section
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

The enclosed report is probably easily
explained by jet aircraft activity.

Some unusual aspects of the phenomenon
may make the report worth your reading.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

EVS:dk

Enc.

NO CASE INFO ONLY

25 March
LA JOLLA, CALIF

Mrs. Hunt/bp/SAFOICC/72842/29 Jul 66

✓
JH

JUL 29 1966

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your aerial observation on March 25, 1966. Observations such as yours make our job much easier in identifying the stimulus which cause such sightings.

From the information you supplied, an aircraft appears to be responsible for your observation. The orange color probably was a result of the twilight glow causing a reflection off the aircraft. Between 45 to 60 minutes after sunset, the twilight glow reaches to a height of 15 to 20 degrees. The horizontal stripes become orange, yellow, and green in that order. This could account for the brilliant orange color.

Thank you for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

Sincerely,

GEORGE P. FREEMAN, JR.
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

[REDACTED]
La Jolla, California

COORDINATED By (Office Symbol, Name, Grade, Date)			
SAFOI- CC	SAFOI- C		
Hunt			

Coord cy - SAF-OIC
Comb cy - SAF-OIC
Reader cy - SAF-OIC
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Stayback