

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 5 September 66 06/0330-0630Z	2. LOCATION Finland AFS, Minn. (Multiple)
3. SOURCE Civilians - Military	10. CONCLUSION INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION RADAR: (ANOMALOUS PROPAGATION) <i>Just</i>
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 3 Hours	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Observers noted sparkling light, changing from red to green to red for about 3 hours. Object settled beneath the horizon and vanished. Object was basically stationary in the west. Object was allegedly picked up on radar; however, a radar analysis suggested that anomalous propagation was apparently the cause of the radar paint.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Radar & Visual	
7. COURSE West	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
INCOMING MESSAGE

AF IN : 7563 (6 Sep 66)

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7 WEATHER AND WINDS AL OFT :

B. AWS ACCOUNT OF WINDS-

(1) 230/07

(2) 010/30

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(3) 010/35

(4) 030/35

(5) 340/30

(6) 360/6

(7) 320/25

C. 8000-12,000 SCATTERED

D. 15 NM VISIBILITY

E. SCATTERED

F. NO

8. UNUSUAL ACTIVITY IN THE AREA :

A. SLIGHT INVERSION, 6500-8000 FEET; POSSIBLE INVERSION,
25,000-35,000 FEET.

B. NONE

C. NONE

9. INTERCEPTION OR IDENTIFICATION OF ACTION TAKEN:

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REPORT CALLED IN, BRIEF RADAR RETURN, SIGHTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY PERSONNEL OF FINLEY AFS (RADAR SITE). TWO F-89 AIRCRAFT SCRAMBLED, MERGED WITH BLIP, APPARENTLY WRONG ALTITUDE, NOT AIRBORNE SIGHTING.

10. POSITION/TITLE AND COMMENTS OF PREPARING OFFICER: INTELLIGENCE
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OFFICER. WILL SEND FOLLOW-UP WITH PHOTOS, IF ANY, AND ALL OTHER PERTINENT DATA ONCE FULL INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS: POSSIBLE INVERSION.

11. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE: MR [REDACTED] MADE NO PHOTOS. POSSIBLY SAME OBJECT PHOTOGRAPHED BY AF PERSONNEL.

BT

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 29TH AIR DIVISION (ADC)
DULUTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55814



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: 290IN

27 Sep 1966

SUBJECT: UFO Follow-Up Report

TO: AFSC (FTD) 10AF (NINT)

1. Reference our message 290IN 09010, dated 6 September 1966, on the UFO allegedly sighted by a civilian and by personnel of Finland AFS.

a. The initial report stated that the object was seen by personnel of Finley AFS. This should have read Finland AFS.

b. The follow-up report submitted to this office by Lt Sumner, Intelligence Officer at Finland AFS, is forwarded as an attachment.

2. In the follow-up report, Lt Sumner mentions seeing another object the following evening (0300Z, 7 September 1966). Mrs. [REDACTED], who sent in the initial report, also reported seeing a blue, green, and red light flying about southwest of Grand Marais, Minnesota at 0215Z, 7 September 1966. She watched the object for two hours and reported that the light had a vapor trail. Further, Airman Second Class Tarple of Finland AFS saw a "round light" southwest of Finland AFS at 0250Z, 7 September 1966. He watched it for less than two minutes before it "vanished". It is possible the three new sightings are related.

3. The vague, contradictory, and confused nature of the reports makes it difficult to determine exactly what these people really saw. Stars or temperature inversions may have caused the sightings, and anomalous propagation or ground clutter may have caused the radar returns.

FOR THE COMMANDER


G. B. SMITH, F/L, RCAF
29 NCRAD Div Intelligence Officer

1 Atch
UFO Report, 19 Sep 66, 1 cy

atc

FROM: 756 Radar Sq (SAGE)(ADC)(MSS-F)
Finland AFS, Minn. 55603

19 Sept 66

SUBJECT: UFO's

TO: 29 OIN

1. On the evening of 5 September 1966, this station became involved in UFO activity. It is understood that your office has submitted reports concerning the incident. Statements have been procured from airmen of the squadron who claim to have observed the occurrence. Each of the airmen (whose names are included in the attached report) said the same things about the "UFO". The attached report is based upon their statements.
2. As it occurred, this station was unaware of any extraordinary activity until Mrs. [REDACTED] (residing near Lutzen, Minn.) called and reported having observed a wierd "flying object". Her call was relayed to Duluth (29AD SAGE). Sgt Smith called and, shortly after 2200 hrs, local time, airmen began to look for possible "UFO". As reported, the object was green, hovering at 500 feet, near her (Mrs [REDACTED]) home.
3. At first, there were no returns in the area Mrs. [REDACTED] claimed the object to be in. "The 99 tower at the 27 tower got nothing", said the airmen height technicians. A2C Larrie Dedie, another of the technicians, pointed out there was "too much clutter to see anything in that area on radar..." Later, 2300 hrs, local, the technicians detected a return on the FPS 90 scope. Varying in range from 13 to 54 miles, it "flitted around, but always satyed on the 270 degrees' azimuth." A pair of F-89s had been scrambled from Duluth AB and searched the area where the radar return was, but "the return moved away from them..." Both aircraft maneuvered around the location, searching at altitudes of 8 to 10000 feet. Asked about the clutter, the airmen claimed that the radar showed the clutter extending to 3,000 feet and the UFO return was above it (8-10,000'). The return of the "UFO" remained on the scope for periods of two to four minutes and then vanished, reappearing at a different range, but remaining at azimuth of 270 degrees.
4. One of the observers, PFC Tutty, claimed to have watched the "UFO" from the hill top and took photographs. Asked about the pictures, he admitted that he had used improper settings with one camera and had a color film, with low ASA rating, in the second. No photos were produced.
5. The next evening, at 2200 hours, the "white-red-green" object reappeared in the sky at exactly the same position it had appeared on 5 September. This officer observed it and determined it to be a star which was near the horizon and would settle beneath the horizon after midnight. It did appear to "sparkle" in red-green-white colors, but so do other stars which can be pointed out from this mountain top.

THERON J. SUMNER, 2d Lt, USAF
Weapons Director

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ATCH 1

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

ON OR ABOUT 2230 HRS. THE 5TH OF SEPT. 1965, I WAS ASKED TO TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE TO THE NORTH WEST FOR A PLANE BY THE COM-CENTER. I SAW AN OBJECT TO THE WEST THAT AT FIRST I THOUGHT TO BE A STAR. I WATCHED THE OBJECT FOR ABOUT 2 MINUTES AND SAW THAT IT WAS MOVING BUT NOT LEAVING ITS GENERAL LOCATION. IT WAS MOSTLY WHITE WITH A RED FRINGE AT ONE END AND OVAL SHAPED SITTING AT ABOUT A 45 DEGREE ANGLE TO THE HORIZAN. I THEN RETURNED TO THE SAGE BUILDING AND REPORTED MY FINDING TO THE COM-CENTER AND THEN WENT TO THE COMPUTER ROOM AND CYCLED UP THE ACTIVE AIR DEFENCE PROGRAM ON THE BUIC SAGE COMPUTER. I THEN WENT TO THE CONSOLE ROOM TO SEE IF IT COULD BE SEEN ON A SCOPE. I FOUND A PAINT ON THE SCOPE AT 270 DEGREES OF THE SITE AT ABOUT 5 MILES. I WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH IT TO BE A SOLID OBJECT NOT MOVING FROM ITS LOCATION. AT THIS TIME I RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE S D AT DULUTH. HE ASKED IF WE COULD SEE ANYTHING ON THE SCOPE OF OUR BUIC SYSTEM. I TOLD HIM WE COULD AND THAT WE ALSO HAD VISUAL CONTACT. I THEN HELPED HIM BY KEEPING HIM INFORMED OF THE LOCATION AND THE VISUAL INFORMATION PASSED ME BY TROOPS WATCHING THE OBJECT. AS THE FIGHTERS FROM DULUTH GOT CLOSE IN TO THE OBJECT SEVERAL PERSONS CAME IN TO TELL ME IT WAS MOVING UP AND AWAY IN A WESTERN DIRECTION. I CONFIRMED THIS ON THE SCOPE AND PASSED THE INFORMATION ON TO THE SD. THE OBJECT MOVED WEST TO ABOUT 15 MILES AND DIDN'T MOVE FROM THIS SPOT UNTILL CONTACT WAS LOST SOME TIME LATER. AS THE OBJECT MOVED WEST VISUAL CONTACT WAS LOST. I CONTINUED TO TRY AND HELP THE SD BY GIVING HIM HELP WITH THE LOCATION OF HIS AIR CRAFT TO THE OBJECT. CONTACT WITH THE OBJECT WAS LOST COMPLETELY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

1. Description of Object: Shape round Size incalculable
 Color red/green Number one observed
 Formation single
 Any Discernible Features "sparkling" light, changing from red to green to red...
 Tail Trail or Exhaust none
 Sound none Any other Pertinent or Unusual
 Features settled beneath the horizon ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and vanished

2. Description of Course of Object(s): remained at azimuth of 270 degrees, but
 What First Called Observers Attention to Object? at ranges varying from 13-54 miles.
 A report from Mrs. T. Lutzen, who observed an object there...
 Angle of Elevation and Azimuth 30 degrees/ 270 degrees (Appearing)
 Angle of Elevation and Azimuth below horizon/270 degrees (Disappearing)
 Description of Flight Path and Maneuvers of Object "skipped from 13 to 54 miles
and then 24 and 34 miles from the station, remaining on 270 degree azimuth."
 How did the Object Disappear? sank below the horizon
slowly (Fade Slowly, Instantaneously, etc)
 How long Was it Visible 2230 hours to 0115 hours, local time (Specific)

Manner of Observation: naked eye, binoculars, and radar
 How Was it Seen "
 Optical Aids Used binoculars (8 power)
 Was Observer in an Aircraft? Type F-89 ID No. ML
 Altitude varying Heading circular Speed 250 kts Home Station Duluth
Aircraft were scrambled, but observed ^{ONLY} what
was interpreted to be a beacon reflection...
 4. Date and Time of Sightings 2230-0130 hrs local (5 and 6 Sept 66)
 Zulu Date and Time of Sighting 0330-0630 hrs zulu, 6 Sept
 Light Conditions Prevailing bright night sky, clear with northern lights at play...

5. Location of Observer(s): on Rangoon Mountain, elevations: 1927 feet
 Exact Latitude and Longitude of Observer, also Nautical Mile Position in
 any Direction from any known landmark 9135 West 4702 North
045 degrees and 53 nautical miles from Duluth, Minn.

6. Identifying Information of Observer(s):
~~xxxxxxx~~ Mil. Name A2C Earl Beal, A3C Andy Bergans, Pfc Tutty Ages 19, 20, 20
 Mailing Address Finland AFS, Minn, 55603
 Occupation USAF Reliability average
 1. Starry X Name A2C Ferdinand Williams Grade A2C
 Organization Finland AFS, Minn. Height Technician
 Character of good

7. Weather Conditions
 Observer's Account of Conditions clear, starry night, with northern lights
 AWS or US Weather Bureau Report on Surface Winds in Dir and Velocity in Knots
"temperature inversions were prevalent and possible..."
 Ceiling unlimited Visibility 15 miles +
 Ceiling-Condition northern lights Thunderstorms none
 Temperatures 35 degrees

Attachment #1. FBNCCO: 200-2

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AFSC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO 45433



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: TDEER/Mr. Bryant/pkj/70401

SUBJECT: UFO Evaluation

12 Oct 66

TO: TDETR (Maj Quintanilla)

1. The comment of the 29 NORAD Div Intelligence Officer, paragraph 3, 29th Air Division letter of 27 Sep 66, regarding the vague, contradictory and confused nature of the reports, is concurred in by this office.
2. The UFO Report, 19 Sep 66, attached to the above referenced letter, states that the "return moved away" from the two F-89 interceptors when they approached; the teletype report says they "merged" with the blip. With 15-mile visibility and scattered clouds, it would appear almost impossible for the pilots to have not observed the target visually at close range at the time of "merging," yet there is no indication that this was the case.
3. The slight temperature inversions mentioned may have caused erratic and unpredictable radar returns. The fact that clutter on the height finder extended to 3000 feet altitude at ranges from 13 to 54 miles suggests such a condition. (Figure 7-19, page 220, Volume 2, MIT Radiation Laboratory Series, "Radar Aids to Navigation" shows the photograph of a height finder scope with clutter caused by anomalous propagation. It appears to depict graphically the conditions described in this report.)
4. The movement, or "flitting around" of the target, always on the 270° azimuth, suggests a reflection of a fixed ground target, due, of course, to anomalous propagation.
5. Lacking more complete details, it is not possible to give a more definite evaluation of the radar portion of the sighting. The merging of interceptors and the target at the altitude the height finder designated for the target appears to rule out the target as a material object at that location.

for R. L. Jones
JEROME J. JONES, Colonel, USAF
Electronics Directorate
Deputy for Technology and Subsystems

2 Atchs
1. Ltr fm 29th AD, dtd 27 Sep 66, 1 cy (U) w/1 Atch
1. UFO Rpt, 19 Sep 66, 1 cy (U)
2. Msg fm 29 AD, 290IN 09610 Sep 66, 1 cy (U)

Lutsen, Minn. 6 Sept 66
J. J. J. J.

FTD (TDETR) *HL*
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433
8 September 1966

Mrs. [REDACTED]
Lutsen, Minnesota 55612

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED],

Reference your unidentified observation of 6 September 1966. The information which we have received is not sufficient for evaluation. Request you complete the attached FTD Form 164 and return it in the envelope provided.

We wish to thank you for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

Sincerely,

(X)
RECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Major, USAF
Chief, Project Blue Book

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GRAND
06/02/02
01
Sept 66
02302
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AF IN : 7563 (6 Sep 66) H/wkt

ACTION : RDC-4 INFO : XOP-1, XOPX-2, SAFOS-3, NIN-7, DIA-1 (19)

SMB B0670ZCBV B381

ADV CY DIA

PTTU JAW RUWPTB0035 2491654-UUUU-RUEDHQA.

ZNR UUUUU

P 061700Z SEP 66

FM HQ 29 AIR DIV DULUTH INTL APRT MINN

TO RUWMEVA/ADC

RUWFLA/10 AIR FORCE RICHARDS GEBAR AFB MO

RUEDFIF/AFSC FOREIGN TECH DIV WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RUEDHQA/HQ USAF

RUEDHQA/SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE WASHINGTON D C

BT

UNCLAS 2901N 09010 SEP 66. FOR: ADC (AD OIN); 10AF (NINT);

AFSC (FTD); HQ USAF (AFRDC); SEC OF THE AF (SAFOI). SUBJECT: UFO.

REFERENCE AFR 200-2.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT:

- A. EGG
- B. ABOUT TWENTY FEET LONG
- C. RED, YELLOW, AND GREEN
- D. ONE
- E. N/A

AFHQ FORM
JAN 65 0-309C

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AF IN : 7563 (6 Sep 66)

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F. FLASHING LIGHTS

G. TAIL

H. SILENT

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1. DOUBLE DISC FLASHING YELLOW AND RED, ALTERNATING.
2. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT:

A. WAS LOOKING AT STARS

B. BELOW NORTHERN LIGHTS-ABOUT 500 FEET UP

3. MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

A. VISUAL

B. BINOCULARS

C. NO AIRBORNE SIGHTING

4. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

A. 6 SEP/0250Z

B. NIGHT

5. LOCATION OF OBSERVERS:

A. FIVE NAUTICAL MILES NORTHEAST OF GRAND MARIS, MINNESOTA.

6. IDENTIFYING INFO OF ALL OBSERVERS:

A. CIVILIAN-MRS T [REDACTED], AGE 36, [REDACTED], LUTSEN,
MINNESOTA, HOUSEWIFE, TELEPHONE [REDACTED].

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