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375 4 Nov 97  
ALABAMA STATE DEPT  
(Division)



## PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 4 November 1957	2. LOCATION Oro Grande, New Mexico		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>1:10 PM MST</u> GMT <u>04/2010Z</u>	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE USAF Employee. (Covilian)		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 4 minutes	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE N to S to NW	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Source alleged he saw an oval, pearly colored obj in the sky while driving towards El Paso, Texas. The obj made two passes in front of him. He alleges that as the obj passed close it stopped his car's ignition & that he received a "severe" sunburn" fm the Phenomena. He took down names of other witnesses who he claims observed the obj. Obj moved fm around 5000 ft to between 1500 to 2500 feet, climbed & disappeared to the West.		11. COMMENTS Because of the National publicity given this case, extensive investigations were made (not that this sighting took place within 48 hrs or so after the Levellar case/ie/oval obj, stops car ignition). Findings: a. Source considered unreliable. b. Taken to hospital, no trace of burns. c. Contradictory statements. d. His witnesses couldn't be found even after diligent search.	



- e. Contacted press & TV before giving his report to the Air Force. This would be understandable if he were not connected with the AF as an electronics technician working in a USAF division. He must have been aware that UFO's were the responsibility of the Air Force. Also contacted a writer's magazine (after this investigation) See Writer's Digest, Dec 1957.

Conclusions: On the basis of above, probably an optical illusion (mirage etc) such as is common in desert terrain, highly fortified with an over-active imagination & apparent (fm the investigations) exaggeration of the incident.



MEMO ROUTING SLIP		NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS	
1 NAME OR TITLE <i>Capt. Gray</i>	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE		COORDINATION
2 <i>Memo to Self</i>			FILE
<i>Dictate tomorrow</i>			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
<i>Telephone</i>			NOTE AND RETURN
4 <i>Report from investigation</i>			SEE ME
<i>in the field</i>			SIGNATURE

## REMARKS

Report from investigation  
- field:

1. Stokes headband was influenced by Lovell, Tex. 5/1/50.
2. Appears to retch publicly.
3. Passes himself off as engineer to Radio, TV & Press to whom he gave story 15<sup>+</sup>. - but is actually a technician.
4. Probably saw conventional object, and

FROM NAME OR TITLE <i>made it appear as if to Lovell, Tex.</i>	DATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION <i>3. Inconsistent in his story.</i>	TELEPHONE

DD

FORM  
1 FEB 50

95

Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 43, and AFHQ  
Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

☆ GPO: 1955-O-403461



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SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

ORO GRANDE, NEW MEX INCIDENT  
4 NOV 57 (See PART IV)

PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
ACTION	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE			
INFO			X	AF		

FROM: COMDR ATIC

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO: ACS/1, WASHINGTON, D.C. ATTN: AFCIN-XL MAJ BYRNES

[REDACTED] / FROM: AFCIN-4E4 CITE IC 41030

REFERENCE PREVIOUS MESSAGE IN EIGHT PARTS, DTD 8 NOVEMBER 1957. THIS IS ADDITIONAL INFO RE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED INCIDENTS.

REF. PART I OF PREVIOUS MSG: INVESTIGATION OF ANOTHER SOURCE IN AREA WHO CLAIMS THAT HIS IGNITION STALLED AT TIME OF SCHMIDTS SIGHTING, DISCLOSED THAT HIS DISTRIBUTOR ROTOR WAS CHANGED IN HIS TRUCK DAY BEFORE. FURTHER, STATEMENT FROM MECHANIC INDICATES THAT PIECE OF OLD ROTOR LATER FOUND WEDGED IN BETWEEN POINTS.

REF. PART IV, SPOKES INCIDENT: HOSPITAL EXAMINATION REVEALS NO BURNS ON SPOKES. UNDER EXAMINATION ADMITS THAT HE HAD EXPERIENCED RADIO FADE-OUT IN THAT AREA PREVIOUSLY. WITNESSES WHOM STOKES CLAIMS TO HAVE JOTTED DOWN CANNOT BE FOUND AFTER DILIGENT SEARCH. STOKES EVALUATED AS UNRELIABLE BY AF INVESTIGATORS.

*Flash Report sent to Wash by Capt Gregory, upon request of Headquarters USAF for any comment for press - because*

DATE	10	TIME
MONTH	NOV	YEAR
		57

SYMBOL		SIGNATURE	
AFCIN-4E4			
TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required)		TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE	
Capt George T. Gregory			
PHONE	69216	PAGE	1
		NR. OF PAGES	2
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION		DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS!	
UNCLASSIFIED		DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.	
		DOD DIR 5200.10	



FROM:

COMOR ATIC

REF PART IV, MILITARY PATROLS INCIDENTS: INVESTIGATION MADE OF 3 OR 4 MEMBERS WHO OBSERVED UFOS AT SEPARATE TIMES IN WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUNDS. FOLLOWING DISCLOSED:

- a. SOURCES AGES 17 to 21, QUITE IMPRESSIONABLE.
- b. INDICATED THAT NOT PARTICULARLY OBSERVANT OR ANALYTICAL.
- c. ALL MEMBERS HAD DISCUSSED PHENOMENA AMONG THEMSELVES, WHICH PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR ALMOST IDENTICAL STORIES.
- d. THEY GAVE STORY FIRST TO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.
- e. ASTRO PLOTS INDICATE VENUS AT ITS MAGNITUDE AT TIME, PLACE AND DIRECTION OF FIRST PATROL'S OBSERVATION. MOON IN GENERAL DIRECTION OF SECOND PATROL'S OBSERVATION, WITH SCATTERED CLOUDS.

PASS ON TO MAJOR TACKER, SAFIS; CAPTAIN GREGORY COULD NOT CONTACT MAJOR TACKER, MONTS OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OFFICE, SATURDAY. INFORMATION GIVEN TO MISTER HOWELL. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEGATIVE GIVEN TO LIFE MAGAZINE BY SOURCE. ALSO DETACHMENT, NORTON APB SAYS PRINT WILL BE OBTAINED SOON. ASSUMPTION GIVEN TO MISTER HOWELL NOW APPEARS VALID.

**DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10**

SYMBOL  AFCIN-4D4.	PAGE NR 2	NR OF PAGES 2	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION <b>UNCLASSIFIED</b>
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UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

ORIG GRANDE, N.M. UFO INCIDENT  
(see)

PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
ACTION	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE			
INFO	PRIORITY		X	AF		

FROM: COMDR ATIC

TO: ACS/1, WASHINGTON, D.C. ATTN: AFCIN-XL, MAJ BYRNE  
 [REDACTED] / FROM: AFCIN-4E4 CITE

THIS MESSAGE IN EIGHT PARTS. REFERENCE NUMEROUS PRESS QUERIES TO HEADQUARTERS USAF AND ATIC DURING LAST THREE DAYS REGARDING UFO INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT U.S. GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY, AND YOUR REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE CONCLUSIONS OR FINDINGS.

PART I. KEARNEY, NEBRASKA "SPACE SHIP" INCIDENT. SOURCE, REINHOLDT SCHMIDT CONSIDERED WHOLLY UNRELIABLE SOURCE. HAS WIDE CRIMINAL RECORD, THREE YEARS IN PENITENTIARY, AND HAS REFUSED TO TAKE LIE DETECTOR TESTS. LOCAL SHERIFF STATES HE CAN BREAK SCHMIDT'S STORY TO MAKE HIM PERSONALLY ADMIT STORY WAS A HOAX. BELIEVE PORTION OR ALL OF THIS RELEASED TO PRESS. THEREFORE, USAF RELEASE TO PUBLIC CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.

PART II. GULF OF MEXICO, COAST GUARD CUTTER "SABEGO" SIGHTING 200 MILES SOUTH OF NEW ORLEANS. FACTS SOMEWHAT

DATE	TIME
08	0900
MONTH	YEAR
NOV	57

SYMBOL		SIGNATURE	
AFCIN-4E4			
TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required)		TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE	
Capt G. T. Gregory			
PHONE	PAGE NR.	NR. OF PAGES	
69216	1	3	
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION		DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS	
UNCLASSIFIED		DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS	
		DOD DIR 5260.10	



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FROM:

COMDR ATIC

CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS. FROM LIMITED DATA IN OFFICIAL REPORT, REFERENCE TT MESSAGE CGC SEBAGO WPG 42, COPY YOUR HEADQUARTERS. FOLLOWING CONSIDERED OUR TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS:

- a. IMPRESSION THAT ONLY ONE OBJECT OBSERVED APPEARS ERRONEOUS. FOUR SEPARATE TARGETS INDICATED, 3 ON RADAR, ONE VISUALLY.
- b. EACH TIME SUCCEEDING TARGET PICKED UP IT WAS IN ALMOST DIRECT OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM PRECEDING TARGET AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY.
- c. A TIME-DISTANCE PLOT INDICATES ONE TARGET RETURN HAD SPEED APPROXIMATELY 250 MPH, ANOTHER 360 MPH, SUGGESTING PROPELLER TYPE AND JET AIRCRAFT RESPECTIVELY.
- d. VISUALLY SIGHTING ONLY 3 SECONDS, BRILLIANT LIKE PLANET, MOVING WITH HIGH SPEED, BUT HORIZONTALLY, REPEAT HORIZONTALLY, AGAIN SUGGESTIVE OF AIRCRAFT.
- e. AREA OF INCIDENT IS SCENE OF MANY FLIGHTS AND OPERATIONS OF NAVY AND AIR FORCE. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT CHECK THE COUNTLESS POSSIBLE ORIGIN OF AIRCRAFT AND THEIR FLIGHT PLANS.
- f. ON BASIS OF ABOVE, MANEUVERS AND SPEEDS SUGGESTIVE OF CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT FOR MOST PART. HOWEVER, THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE AND DISAPPEARANCE OF THE TARGETS COULD BE INDICATIVE OF SPURIOUS RETURNS (FALSE TARGETS). IN ANY EVENT, MORE THAN ONE RETURN IS INDICATED, CONTRARY TO

SYMBOL	PAGE NO	NR OF PAGES	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	INITIALS
AFCIN-4E4	13	8	UNCLASSIFIED	

DD FORM 173-1  
1 MAY 55

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1950-387226

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS!  
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DDQ DIR 5200.10



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FROM:

COMDR ATIC

PRESS REPORTS.

PART III. LEVELLAND, TEXAS, "BLUE LIGHT" CASE. INFORMED BY COMMANDER, LOOETH AISE THAT INVESTIGATION PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. FURTHER DATA DISCLOSE FOLLOWING:

- a. CONTRARY TO KEYHOLE'S AND WASHINGTON PRESS REPORTS ONLY THREE, NOT NINE PERSONS WITNESSED INCIDENT.
- b. OBJECT OBSERVED FOR ONLY FEW SECONDS, AND NOT LENGTHY PERIOD AS IMPLIED BY PRESS.
- c. MIST, RAIN, THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING DISCHARGES IN SCENE OF INCIDENT, FACT NOT QUOTED BY NEWSPAPER RELEASES.
- d. THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES, REPEAT POSSIBILITIES, BEING CHECKED, WHICH COULD RESULT IN UNUSUAL PHENOMENA OBSERVED PARTICULARLY UNDER DARKNESS, MIST AND RAIN: (1) BURNING GAS FROM OIL OPERATIONS IN THE AREA, REFLECTING OFF LOW CLOUD CEILING EXISTING AT THAT TIME, (2) DOWNED POWER LINE GIVING OFF SPARK DISPLAY IN CONTACT WITH WET GROUND, (3) ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE OR SIMILAR PHENOMENA LIKE ST. ELMO'S FIRE CAUSED BY RIGHT COMBINATION OF WEATHER AND OTHER CONDITIONS, AND (4) "BALL LIGHTNING" A RARE, BUT NEVERTHELESS, POSSIBILITY IN VIEW OF LIGHTING DISCHARGES IN VICINITY.

PART IV. SIGHTING AROUND WHITE SAND PROVING GROUND, NEW MEXICO AREA. INFORMED THAT MAJOR GENERAL LEIGHTON DAVIS, COMMANDER HAS SET UP INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO SIGHTINGS. REPORTED THAT PRINCIPAL JAMES STATES ENGINEER

SYMBOL

AFPCIN-474

PAGE

NR 3

NR OF

PAGES 5

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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INITIALS

DD FORM 173-1  
1 MAY 55

\* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955-352138

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DDI DIR 520010



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FROM:

COMDR ATIC

WITH THE MISSILE DEVELOPMENT CENTER, WHO MADE A STATEMENT TO ALAMOGORDO RADIO STATION REGARDING SUNBURN GIVEN OFF BY HEAT OF FLYING OBJECT THAT MADE A PASS NEAR HIS LOCATION, WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL FOR OBSERVATION.

PART V. REFERENCE DEMANDS OF R. C. MAYNER FOR RETURN OF HIS SAUCER FILM ALLEGEDLY WITHHELD BY THE AIR FORCE. MAYNER IS TELEVISION EDITOR OF TV STATION KVWT, CLEVELAND, HAS PUBLICLY ACCUSED AF OF THIS. FOLLOWING IS QUOTED FROM LETTER TO AFCIN-X, DATED 9 MARCH 1954. QUOTE 1. AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER HAS NO RECORD OF HAVING RECEIVED SUBJECT FILM FROM (MARINE) PRIVATE RALPH MAYNER. 2. LIFE MAGAZINE, IN RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ATIC, INDICATED THAT IT (FILM) HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY TURNED OVER TO A NAVAL BASE. IF THIS IS THE CASE, THE FILM WOULD HAVE REMAINED WITH NAVAL INTELLIGENCE. UNQUOTE. IT APPEARS THAT MAYNER DESIRES TO COMMERCIALIZE ON THE CURRENT "SAUCER SIGHTINGS" FUROR.

PART VI. REGARDING POSSIBLE DECLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE OF BRIEFING GIVEN TO MEMBER OF OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, DR. ROBERTSON, REFERENCE IS MADE TO FORM AFHQ O-86 MESSAGE TO AFCIN-XI, DATED 18 OCTOBER 57, ATTENTION: MAJOR BYRNE ON SAME SUBJECT. IN BRIEF, THIS CENTER INTERPOSES NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE. HOWEVER, DECISION TO RELEASE LIES WITH AFCIN AND SAFIS.

PART VII. ATTENTION IS INVITED TO FACT THAT MEMBER OF

SYMBOL	PAGE NR	NR OF PAGES	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	INITIALS
			UNCLASSIFIED	

DD FORM 173-1  
1 MAY 55

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1957-038130

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

DOD DIB 5200.10

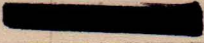


FROM: COMDR ATIC

NICAP WAS IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED TO LEVELLAND TEXAS TO INVESTIGATE. SIGNIFICANT TO POINT OUT THAT ALTHOUGH THIS ORGANIZATION CONTINUOUSLY IMPLIES USAF NOT QUALIFIED TO INVESTIGATE, OR DO NOT RELEASE THEIR FINDINGS, IT HAS NOT MADE ANY STATEMENTS REGARDING ITS OWN FINDINGS OR CONCLUSIONS. DESIRABLE IF NICAP WOULD MAKE ITS FINDINGS KNOWN FIRST, THEN USAF COULD QUERY HOW ANALYSIS PERFORMED AND CONCLUSIONS DERIVED. IN ALL PROBABILITY NICAP WILL LET USAF MAKE FIRST STATEMENT, THEN WILL MAKE THE USUAL CHARGES.

PART VIII. MAKING CHECK FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ATIC'S ENTRY INTO UFO PROGRAM AND EARLY HISTORY REGARDING DOCUMENTS WHICH BROUGHT THIS ABOUT.

Rob M... (Large diagonal watermark)



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 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
 DOD DIR 5200.10

SYMBOL AFCIN-4E4	PAGE NR 5	NR OF PAGES 5	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED	INITIALS
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TAB

- A INITIAL REPORT
- B ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- C INTELLIGENCE REPORT
- D MENSEL'S ANALYSIS
- E MISC. NEWS ARTICLES



Rob Mercer





This msg and attached notes were read to  
Mr. Whedon at 1200 9 Nov. 57 - R.H. Cronley A/C

NOV 9 21 03 57

1st Report  
Bureau

NNNN WPA194 WYC139 UMB1060HA 55

PP RJWFDN RJEDWP RJEPYB RJEPHQ

EA RJWFOH 42

P 182045Z

FM COMDR AFMDC HOLLoman AFB

TO RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECH INTEL CEN WPAFB

INFO RJWFDN/COMAIRDIV 34 DEF KIRTLAND AFB

RJEPYB/COMDR ARDC

RJEPHQ/DIR OF INTEL HEDUSAF

BT

UNCLAS FROM HDCC-11-9-E. FOR WPAFB ATTN: GENERAL WATSON. REFERENCE

CONVERSATION BETWEEN GENERAL WATSON OF YOUR HEADQUARTERS

AND COL JUDY THE DEPUTY COMMANDER, AFMDC, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

ON UFO IS FURNISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AFR 2-2.1

PART I

A. OVAL

B. ELONGATED EFF

C. PEARL COLOR WITH IRRADISCENT PURPLE TINT

D. CNL

E. N/A



1. COVERED SOLE WITH SHARP CUTS

G. NO EXHAUST, NO TAIL OR TRAIL

H. NO SOUND

I. NO UNUSUAL FEATURES

2. A. AUTOMOBILE RADIO FADE OUT AND ENGINE STOPPING. ANOTHER MAN WAS POINTING TOWARD THE OBJECT.

B. 15 DEGREE ANGLE ON A 20 DEGREE TN BEARING

C. 10 DEGREE ANGLE AND 270 DEGREE TN BEARING

D. GENTLE GLIDE FOR 15 MILES IN THE DIRECTION OF SOUTH WITH A SUDDEN RIGHT TURN TO THE WEST. APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES SOUTH OF THE OBSERVER.

E. THE OBJECT DISAPPEARED FROM SIGHT DUE TO DISTANCE

F. TWO TO THREE MINUTES TOTAL ON TWO SEPARATE RUNS

3. A. GROUND VISUAL OBSERVATION

B. N/A

C. N/A

4. A. 2:10 2 TIME 4 NOV 57

2010 - 7 = 1310 hrs  
(i.e. 2:10 PM)  
3 November

B. DAY

5. 32 DEGREE 13' NORTH

106 DEGREE 8' WEST

PAGE THREE RJWFOH 42

6. A. CIVILIAN JAMES W. STOKES, 46, 1209 MICHIGAN STREET, ALAMOGORDO, N MEXICO

B. N/A

7. A. BROKEN CLOUDS 1500 - 2500 FEET VISIBILITY 30 MILES

B. HOLLoman AFB WEATHER AS FOLLOWS:



6000 180 - 45K 50000 24 - 55  
10000 210 - 15K 80000 NOT AVAILABLE  
16000 230 - 35  
20000 230 - 45

C. HIGH OVERCAST ABOVE 20000 MSL

D. 40 MILES

E. 10/10

F. NONE

G. UNKNOWN

H. NOT REPORTED UNTIL 4 HOURS AFTER SIGHTING

I. NORMAL FLYING FROM HOLLOWAN AFB, 40 MILES TO THE NORTH. NO AIRCRAFT OBSERVATIONS

J. MAJOR DWIGHT N. HILLIS, CHIEF, OPERATIONS AND TRAINING BRANCH, DCS/OPERATIONS, AFMDC, NEW MEXICO

PAGE FOUR RJWFOH 42

12. NONE

PART II

SIX INDIVIDUALS WERE INTERVIEWED ON OTHER OBJECTS: HOWEVER, THIS INFORMATION IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE FOR THIS PRELIMINARY REPORT. A MEMBER OF THE 1006H AISS CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION AND A FORM 112 IS BEING FORWARDED FROM ENT, AFB, COLO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

BT

08/2053Z NOV RJWFOH



WPF05 YDAG01DNAG07

OO RJEDWP RJEPHQ

DE RJEDDN 21

O 19225.Z

NOV 10 04 10 57

FM COMDR 1466TH AISS ENT AFB COLO

TO RJEPHQ/TO ACA INTEL HEDUSAF WASH DC

RJEDWP/COMDR ATIC WPAFB OHIO

BT

/FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/ALSO 213 PD PRELIMINARY REPORT ON SIGHTING  
NEAR OROGRANDE NEW MEXICO PD REFERENCE ASSOCIATED PRESS RELEASE PD  
SOURCE OBSERVED AN EGG-SHAPED OBJECT AT APPROXIMATELY 131 HOURS  
4 NOV 57 AS HE DROVE SOUTH APPROXIMATELY TEN MILES SOUTH OF  
OROGRANDE ON HIS WAY TO EL PASO TEXAS PD SOURCE FIRST BECAME  
CONCERNED WHEN HIS AUTOMOBILE RADIO BEGAN TO FADE CMM FOLLOWED  
BY A SLOW-DOWN OF HIS CAR ENGINE PD HE PULLED OFF TO THE SIDE OF THE  
ROAD WHERE APPROXIMATELY SIX CMM ORIGINALLY REPORTED AS TEN CMM  
CARS HAD PRECEDED HIM PD SOURCE GOT OUT OF HIS CAR AND LOOKED  
AROUND SMCLN HE THEN OBSERVED A MOTHER-OF-PEARL COLORED OBJECT



4 Mr  
1310 hrs

PAGE TWO RJEEDN 21

APPROACHING FROM THE NORTHEAS BELWO THE SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS SMOEN THE  
OBJECT MADE A SHALLOW DIVE AT A POINT APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES AWAY OF  
HIM CMM AND THEN SPED TOWARD OROGRANDE AND DISAPPEARED PD MOMENTS  
LATER THE OBJECT RETURNED AND FOLLOWED AN IDENTICAL PATH PD SOURCE  
STATED THE OBJECT WAS TRAVELING AT LEAST TWICE THE SPEED OF SOUND

CMM MADE NO NOISE CMM HAD NO VAPOR TRAILS CMM WAS 100 FT HIGH AND  
300 FEET CMM AND WAS VISIBLE FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO OR THREE MINUTES  
PD SOURCE LATER REPORTED THAT HE HAD FELT A RISE IN HIS BODY  
TEMPERATURE AS THE OBJECT PASSED CMM AND THAT HE HAD A SLIGHT

SUNBURN THE FOLLOMOING DAY PD SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATION REVEALED NO TRACE

OF SUNBURN PD NO PRELIMINARY REPORT OF PAR 7 APR 21-2 WAS SUBMITTED  
PD INVESTIGATION BY THIS ORGANIZATION WAS MADE ONLY AFTER SOURCE  
HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED SEVERAL TIMES CMM BY TELEVISION CMM RADIO AND  
PRESS PD CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THIS SIGHTING ARE THAT

IDPEBLA

MIRAGE REFLECTION CAUSED BY TEMPERATURE INVERSION PD AT 1300 HOURS  
ON 4 NOV 57 THE TEMPERATURE WAS 62.2 DEGREES SMOEN THERE WERE  
SCATTERED CLOUDS AT 1400 FEET AND A HIGH BROKEN OVERCAST AT 2500 FEET  
PD THE TERRAIN IS DESERT PD BY SOURCES CMM ADMISSION CMM HE HAS  
PREVIOUSLY EXPERIENCED CAR RADIO FADEOUTS IN THE AREA PD DESPITE THE  
FACT THAT SOURCE CLAIMS TO HAVE DISCUSSED THIS PHENOMENON WITH









Rob Mercer



B



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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
STAFF MESSAGE DIVISION

*file*

DE RJEDWP 1X

NO PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT PRIOR TO  
CATEGORY B ENCRYPTION - PHYSICALLY REMOVE  
ALL INTERNAL REFS BY DTG PRIOR TO DECLASS  
NO UNCLAS REFERENCE IF THE DTG IS QUOTED

FM COMDR ATIC WPAFB OHIO  
TO COFS HEDUSAF WASHDC  
BT

FROM: AFCIN-4E4 CITE IC 41030. ATTN: AFCIN-X1

MAJ BYRNES. REFERENCE PREVIOUS MESSAGE IN EIGHT PARTS, DTD 8 NOV 1957.  
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PROB

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
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CAF IN: 70126 (11 Nov 57) Page 1 of 2 pages

AFHQ FORM 22 JUN 56 0-309a  
PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM  
MAY BE USED. REPLACES AFHQ FORM  
0-309F, 19 JAN 51, WHICH IS OB-  
SOLETE.

[REDACTED]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
STAFF MESSAGE DIVISION

E TWO RJEDWP 1X

WITNESSES WHOM STOKES CLAIMS TO HAVE JOTTED DOWN CANNOT BE FOUND AFTER DILIGENT SEARCH. STOKES EVALUATED AS UNRELIABLE BY AF INVESTIGATOR REF PART IV, MILITARY PATROLS INCIDENTS: INVESTIGATION MADE OF 3 OF 4 MEMBERS WHO OBSERVED UFO'S AT SEPARATE TIMES IN WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUNDS. FOLLOWING DISCLOSED.

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- PASS ON TO MAJ. TACHER, SAFIS. CAPT. GREGORY COULD NOT CONTACT MAJ TACKER, MONTS OR ASST SECY OF DEFENSE OFFICE, SATURDAY. INFO, GIVEN TO MR. HOWELL. ADDITIONAL INFO. NEGATIVE GIVEN TO LIFE MAGAZINE BY SOURCE. AISS DET., NORTON AFB SAYS PRINT WILL BE OBTAINED SOON. ASSUMPTION GIVEN TO MR. HOWELL NOW APPEARS VALID.

BT

NOTE : This msg refers to CAF IN 69525 (8 Nov 57)

ACTION: CIN

INFO : SAFIS

CAF IN: 70126 (11 Nov 57) Page 2 of 2 pages H/jjm

AFHQ FORM 22 JUN 56 0-309a  
PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM MAY BE USED. REPLACES AFHQ FORM 0-309F, 19 JAN 51, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10



Rob Mercer

c



USA

AISS-UFOD-438-57

# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY OR AREA REPORT CONCERNS <b>OROGRANDE, NEW MEXICO, USA</b>	DATE OF INFORMATION <b>4 Nov 57</b>	SSI STATUS (If applicable)
ACTIVITY SUBMITTING REPORT <b>1006th AISS Ent AFB, Colorado</b>	DATE OF COLLECTION <b>6 Nov 57</b>	SSI NO. <input type="checkbox"/> CANCELED/COMPLETE
PREPARING INDIVIDUAL <b>WILLIAM P. BRUNSON Lt. Colonel, USAF</b>	DATE OF REPORT <b>12 Nov 57</b>	SSI NO. <input type="checkbox"/> CANCELED/INCOMPLETE
NAME OR DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE <b>JAMES W. STOKES</b>	EVALUATION <b>E-3</b>	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON (Date) <input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE

REFERENCES (AIR Subject, previous reports, etc., as applicable)

AFR 200-2

SUBJECT (Descriptive title. Use individual reports for separate subjects)

## UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT

SUMMARY (Give summary which highlights the salient factors of narrative report. Begin narrative text on AF Form 112a unless report can be fully stated on AF Form 112. List inclosures, including number of copies)

### I. CONTENTS:

- PART ONE: Description of Sighting by Mr. James W. Stokes
- PART TWO: Supplementary Investigative Efforts
- PART THREE: Comments of the Preparing Officer

II. SUMMARY: This report contains information about an Unidentified Flying Object sighted by Mr. James W. Stokes on 4 November 1957 while driving south on US Highway 54, approximately eight to ten miles south of Orogrande, New Mexico; results of supplementary investigative efforts; and possible identification criteria. SOURCE is an electronics technician (Instrumentation) with the High Altitude Test Division (Rocketsonde Branch) at the Air Force Missile Development Center, Alamogordo, New Mexico, and a veteran of twenty-four years service with the US Navy.

III. INVESTIGATOR: Captain Patrick O. Shere, AO 1639638

INCIS

*William P. Brunson*  
 WILLIAM P. BRUNSON  
 Lt. Colonel, USAF  
 Operations Officer

APPROVED:

*John W. Meador*  
 JOHN W. MEADOR  
 Colonel, USAF  
 Commander

*1. Unreliable Observer*  
*2. Contradictory statement as given over phone by investigator to AFIC*  
*3. Obviously a publicity stunt*  
*4. Hospital show no trace of sunburn (as alleged by Stokes)*  
*Whitasse*

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR (Except USAF and AFIC. Indicate Dist W/Ex and copies w/Incl. If applicable)

M/oz D/I USAF  
Comdr, AFIC, 1 cy

Comdr, 1006th AISS, 1 cy  
DCS/Ops, Holloman Air Development Center, New Mexico

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INCL

*1. Unreliable Observer  
 2. Contradictory Statement  
 3. Investigator's Photo by  
 Stokess  
 4. Hospital  
 no trace of  
 sunburn  
 allegedly  
 Stokes  
 witness*

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M/oz D/I USAF Comdr, 1006th AISS, 1 cy  
 Comdr, ATIC, 1 cy DCS/Ops, Holloman Air Development Center, New Mexico

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I. SOURCE: JAMES W. STOKES

Address: [REDACTED]  
Alamogordo, New Mexico

Age: 46

Occupation: Electronics Technician (Instrumentation)  
High Altitude Test Division, Rocketsonde Branch  
Air Force Missile Development Center  
Holloman AFB, New Mexico

Education: 2 years college

Qualifications: 24 years, US Navy, Chief Petty Officer (Ret)  
Private Pilot

II. RELIABILITY: Although SOURCE claims to have had two years of college, and although he holds a GS-11 rating, he does not give the impression of being a reliable or careful observer. He states that he jotted down, in a pocket notebook, the details of the sighting he witnessed, and so is able to remember precisely what he saw; however, he later made somewhat contradictory statements. At first he stated that as the object passed at its nearest point, he felt "kind of a heat wave" and that when he reached home he found he had a severe sunburn. Subsequent medical observation disclosed that there was no trace of sunburn, and SOURCE later admitted that he had been in error on this point. By the time this interviewer was able to make arrangements to talk with SOURCE, he had been interviewed several times by reporters and had made a taped radio interview; he did not seem adverse to the large amount of publicity which followed. An interesting aspect of his personality is the fact that to reporters he referred to himself as an "engineer" whereas in actuality he is a "technician". SOURCE, on several occasions, stated that he had had some doubts as to whether or not he should report his sighting; in order to resolve this question, he had telephoned his chief, who told him he saw nothing wrong in describing it. SOURCE was quite definite in his statements and appeared to have little doubt about any details of what he had seen.

20102-7-1310  
(182084) Local

III. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF SIGHTING: At approximately 0420LOZ Nov 57, SOURCE was driving south in open countryside on US Highway 54 toward El Paso, Texas. He was alone in his automobile, a 1957 Mercury, and travelling around seventy miles per hour. The radio was tuned to an El Paso, Texas, station, which, according to SOURCE, gives good reception in a rather spotty area, where there are several dead spots. SOURCE stated that his radio began to fade out; simultaneously his car began to slow up, almost as though it were developing battery trouble. About this time, he noticed about six other cars (originally reported as ten) which had pulled off the road; their passengers had disembarked and were pointing skyward. SOURCE followed suit, left his car, and saw an egg-shaped object in the northeast sky, just below the Sacramento Mountains. SOURCE does not wear spectacles, nor did he observe it through binoculars. He estimated that it was 35 degrees from the horizon, and about 45 degrees from true North. It appeared to be lustrous, the color of mother-of-pearl, and with a faint, purplish tinge; there was no glow or corona. SOURCE stated that it was brighter than the dull sky background, although the brightness did not approximate that of an automobile headlight; at no time did its brightness change. SOURCE stated that the object appeared to be solid, rather than transparent, but could offer no theory about construction details. SOURCE estimated that the object



appeared to be solid, rather than transparent, but could offer no theory about construction details. SOURCE estimated 100 feet, turned west toward the San Andras Mountains, and disappeared at approximately 15 degrees from the horizon, and 270 degrees from true North (Refer to Figure #1). The object appeared to be between three and five miles ahead of the first car parked along the road. Approximately two minutes later, SOURCE observed the object make an identical appearance, although slightly south of the path of the first. SOURCE stated that the object appeared to be about the size of a pea held at arm's length; he stated he believed it to be about 500 feet long; he noticed no ports, heard no sounds, noticed no smoke or vapor trails, and said it was sharply outlined with nothing fuzzy about the silhouette. SOURCE stated that it did not appear to change shape at any time, did not stand still, did not flicker or seem to pulsate. As the object passed, SOURCE noticed a distinct rise in his body temperature, as though he had been exposed to a "giant sun lamp", and later stated that he had incurred a sunburn. (This statement was later retracted). During this time, SOURCE discussed the phenomena with two other motorists, one of whom, as did SOURCE, made notes; the other allegedly took photographs of the object. SOURCE took down the names of these two men, although he neglected to take down the license numbers of their automobiles. A subsequent search for the two men failed to disclose their whereabouts, nor could they be further identified, no other reports of such a sighting were made by anyone else. Although the day was dull with scattered clouds and a 2500 foot broken high overcast, SOURCE stated that he had observed the two flights of the object for a total of three or four minutes; he later estimated the speed of the object to be between 1500 and 2000 miles per hour. SOURCE has never been married. SOURCE stated that his car started again quite easily, although the battery had been steaming.

Impossible:

at those speeds and for  
that long-time duration —  
through broken clouds — at  
low levels !!!?



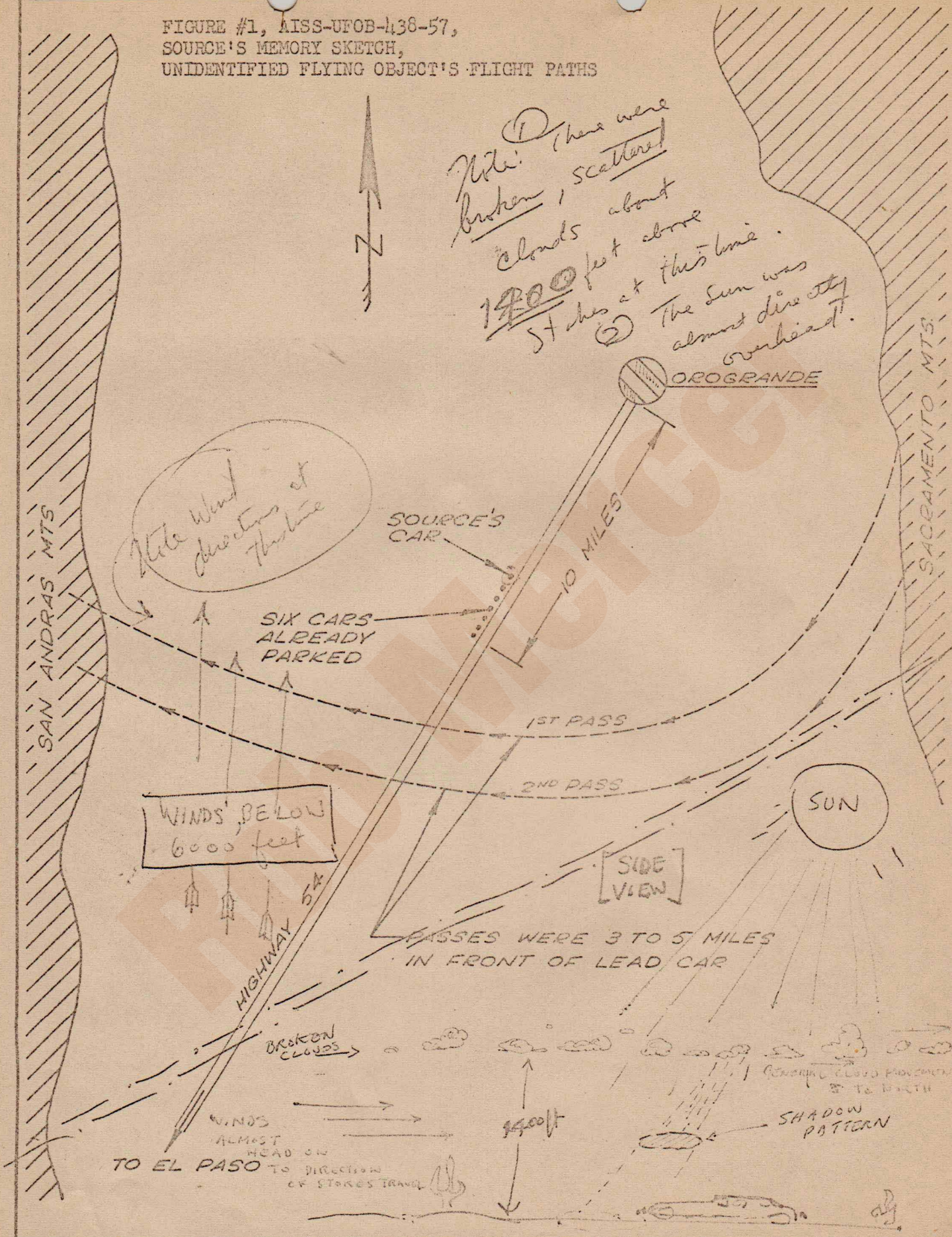
SUPPLEMENTARY INVESTIGATIVE EFFORTS:

1. A check was made with the Holloman Flight Service Center for unidentified aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting; negative results.
2. Information from the US Weather Bureau at El Paso, Texas, indicated that weather conditions were not conducive for the creation of ball lightning.
3. Weather records at Holloman AFB indicate that at 1300 hours MST, the temperature was 62.2 degrees, with scattered clouds at 1400 feet and a broken high overcast at 2500 feet.

Rob Mercer



FIGURE #1, AISS-UFOB-438-57,  
SOURCE'S MEMORY SKETCH,  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT'S FLIGHT PATHS



NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT, 50 U. S. C. -- 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. IT MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY OTHER THAN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AGENCIES, EXCEPT BY PERMISSION OF THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, USAF.



1006th AISS  
Ent AFB, Colorado

AISS-UFOB-438-57

6 OF 6 PAGES

## COMMENTS OF THE PREPARING OFFICER:

1. The opinion of the Preparing Officer is that SOURCE possibly witnessed an optical phenomenon for the following reasons:
  - a. The object does not remotely meet identification criteria for aircraft, balloons, meteors, stars or planets.
  - b. Although the reported color of the object is consonant with that of ball lightning, the fantastic speed of the unidentified object rules out that possibility.
  - c. The reported shape, lack of trail and sound, incredible speed and other reported conditions are in harmony with the theory of an optical illusion.
2. It would be manifestly impossible for SOURCE to have observed the object for as long as he stated if it were travelling at the estimated speed.
3. Due to the flat white sandy terrain, mirages cannot be considered unusual occurrences.

*William P. Brunson*  
WILLIAM P. BRUNSON  
Lt. Colonel, USAF  
Operations Officer



Rob Mercer

D



On Monday night, November 4, the Alamogordo, New Mexico, radio station broadcast a dramatic interview with an engineer from

#### FINAL GALLEY PROOF

##### Galley 69—THE WORLD OF FLYING SAUCERS

Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, describing his sighting of an E-M-radiating UFO at least 500 feet long. About one o'clock on Monday afternoon, Mr. X stated, he was returning to base after a weekend in El Paso [4]. While driving along a desert stretch of U. S. Highway 54 near the town of Orogrande, he noticed a group of cars stopped ahead of him, their passengers standing in the road, pointing at the sky. Looking up, he saw an iridescent egg-shaped object at least 500 feet long—more than twice the size of the UFOs reported in the preceding two days. As it approached, the flying egg exerted a force that killed the engine of his car, generated a wave of heat that gave him a bad burn, and demonstrated a startling new characteristic: it silenced the radio in his car. (During the next few days, reports of similar encounters usually included a jammed radio.) When the UFO took off toward the mountains and disappeared, Mr. X started his car again and drove on into Alamogordo to the home of a friend, Mrs. Coral Lorenzen.

One of the most zealous amateur investigators of UFO reports, Mrs. Lorenzen had founded the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) (see *Chapter XIII*) in January 1952, and from 1954 to 1956 had been employed at Holloman Air Force Base. After listening to Mr. X's story and examining the notes he had scribbled during the sighting (unfortunately they proved to be illegible, but for some reason no one has ever suggested that the pen or pencil was also hexed by the UFO), she hurried him down to the local radio station where he made the taped interview that was broadcast later that evening.

A daylight visit by an E-M flying egg some 500 feet long would supposedly have attracted the attention of many witnesses. Air Force investigators could find only one: Mr. X. According to his testimony, the passengers of several automobiles (his estimate of the number of cars varied from time to time but he eventually settled on ten) had stood in the road watching the unknown object. A persistent search by Air Force officials failed to locate any one of these persons. The witness showed no sign of the burns he al-



Rob Mercer

E



# ★ OBJECT

Continued From Page 1

with no difficulty. I called officials at the Air Force Development Center and notified them of the sighting," he said.

He said the object moved very rapidly and its surface looked like "glowing mother of pearl."

He said Allan D. Baker of Las Cruces, N.M., shot some pictures of the object.

Clark said he was unable to get a statement from Holloman officials and was unable to reach Baker.

A spokesman at Reese Air Force Base here said yesterday a representative of the Air Defense Command had flown in from the Colorado Springs, Colo., headquarters.

Lt. Miles Penney of White Sands said the glowing object was sighted by two military patrols on the missile testing range 17 hours apart Sunday.

Bill Haggard, information officer, said one patrol described it as "about 200 feet long and about 75 feet in diameter."

"The object if it was an object sighted," Haggard said, "has absolutely no connection with White Sands Proving Grounds."

Saturday, Pedro Saucedo, 30, and other witnesses in this area reported a similar object. Saucedo said it looked something like a rocket and flew "with a great sound and rush of wind. It sounded like thunder." He said the object stalled their auto engines and caused the lights to go out.

Col. Barney Oldfield of the North American Air Defense said "the object . . . was not picked up by radar. It did not seem to be traceable."

He said the provost marshal at Reese had investigated but found nothing. Other peace officers in this area made a ground search but found no signs.

Among those reporting unusual flashes in the Texas sky were Sheriff Weir Clem of Levelland, State Patrolmen Lee Hargrove and Floyd Cavin, and Calvin Harris and Sandy McKean, CAA control tower workers at Amarillo Airport.

Oldfield said reports indicated the object did not act like a balloon.

Three policemen and a fireman in Chicago's Elmwood Park said they saw a peculiar round glowing thing in the early morning sky yesterday. They said their car lights appeared to dim as they kept the prowl car spotlight focused on the thing.

Mrs. Ruby Hairston said at Martinsville, Va., she and her family saw a strange red glare Sunday night while driving to

# Missile Aide Tells of Seeing Flying Fireball Report Probed In New Mexico

LUBBOCK, Tex. (AP)—A missile engineer reported seeing a "brilliant colored egg-shaped object" which he said stalled autos in New Mexico yesterday.

The Air Force has started an investigation into similar reports in this and other areas.

Witnesses say a mystery object skipped about the countryside here and near scientific military bases in New Mexico over the weekend. The reported sightings startled citizens, peace officers and servicemen but apparently left no concrete trace.

James Stokes, 45, an engineer from the Air Force Missile Development Center at Holloman Air Force Base, Alamogordo, N.M., told news director Terry Clark of KALG, Alamogordo, 19 autos were stopped on an isolated desert highway, U.S. 51, between White Sands Proving Grounds and Alamogordo yesterday.

### BALL OF FIRE

His description was similar to ones reporting a big ball of fire flitting about much of this west Texas area over the weekend. A huge, oval object "nearly as bright as the sun" was reported seen at White Sands Proving Ground Sunday, hovering near bunkers used in the first A-bomb explosion.

Witnesses said other strange lights were seen over other parts

of Texas, near Chicago and in Virginia.

Clark said the Air Force at Holloman gave him permission to use Stokes' story.

He said Stokes told him occupants of cars saw a strange, unidentified object flying toward them from the northeast. He said his auto radio faded and died, then his engine stopped. He said several other cars were also stalled.

Looking up, he told Clark, "I saw a brilliant colored egg-shaped object making a shallow dive across the sky to the northeast. Then it turned and made a pass at the highway and crossed it not more than two miles ahead. Then it moved away toward White Sands Proving Grounds to the southwest. As it passed . . . I could feel a kind of heat wave, like radiation from a giant sun lamp. But there was no sound. It had no visible portholes and there was no vapor trail."

### BATTERY STEAMING

"When I got back to my car and checked the engine, I found it intact but the battery was steaming. But the engine started

See OBJECT on Page 14



CLERGYMAN SEES UFO IN SOUTH PACIFIC

# Engineer and GIs Sight 500-Foot 'Flying Saucer'

ALAMOGORDO, N. M., Nov. 5 (UP)—An electronics engineer reported seeing an unidentified flying object near Alagogordo in southern New Mexico yesterday.

James Stokes, 42, an engineer in an upper air research project at the Air Force Missile Development Center near Alamogordo, said the object appeared yesterday afternoon on U. S. highway 54, between White Sands proving grounds and the Air Force Missile Development center.

He added the object appeared to be about 500 feet in length, with a shiny surface like mother of pearl.

Earlier in the day, officials at White Sands proving grounds said two Army patrols reported seeing a similar object or objects on Sunday.

SEEN IN TEXAS

Reports came Sunday from Levelland, Tex., of other UFO's.

A dispatch from Honolulu said a number of Fiji Island natives and a white clergyman reported seeing a similar object in the South Pacific skies last month. The strange object was sighted four times the week of Oct. 13-19, according to an official government report issued in Suva.

Alamogordo, which KALG in Alamogordo, reported that the object approached from the northeast over the Sacramento Mountains. He said the first indication that something was a giant of the ordinary radio in his auto.

Then, he said, the car engine died, and he noticed that several other cars on the highway had stopped.

EGG-SHAPED

"Looking up," Mr. Stokes said, "I saw a light-colored, egg-shaped object making a shallow dive across the sky to the northeast.

"Then it wheeled and made a pass at the highway, across the road not more than two miles ahead.

"As it passed at its closest point I could feel a kind of heat wave, but there was no sound.

"It had no visible portholes and there was no vapor trail, smoke or flame visible."

BATTERY STEAMS

"When I got back to my car and checked the engine, I found it intact, but the battery was steaming. It started with no trouble and I headed for a phone to notify officials at the Air Force missile development center at Alamogordo."

Mr. Stokes said he noted later, after he reached home, that he had a severe sunburn.

Officials at White Sands proving grounds, where missiles are tested, said two separate military patrols reported seeing an unidentified flying object (or objects) Sunday over an isolated area of the proving grounds, near "Trinity" site where the first atomic bomb was exploded in 1945.



## Nov. 5, 1957 Engineer 'Sunburned' by Flying 'Thing'

ALAMOGORDO, N. M., Nov. 5 (UP)—An electronics engineer reported seeing an unidentified flying object on an isolated desert highway near Alamogordo in southern New Mexico yesterday.

James Stokes, 42, an engineer in an upper air research project at the Air Force Missile Development Center near Alamogordo, said 10 automobiles stopped or were stopped in the object appeared yesterday afternoon on U. S. highway 54, between White Sands Proving Grounds and Air Force Missile Development Center.

Mr. Stokes, in a taped interview for Terry Clark, news director at station KALG in Alamogordo, reported that the object approached from the northeast over the Sacramento mountains. He said the first indication that something was a giant of the ordinary was a gradual fading of the radio in automobile.

Then, he said, the car engine died, and he noticed that several other cars on the highway had stopped. Mr. Stokes said he noticed that the occupants were getting out of their cars and pointing to the sky.

"Looking up," Mr. Stokes said in the interview, "I saw a light-colored, egg-shaped object making a shallow dive across the sky to the northeast. Then it wheeled and made a pass at the highway, across the road not more than two miles ahead.

"It then moved away toward the Organ Mountains near

Times Index

- Amusements ..... 13
- Bridges ..... 10
- Business ..... 20
- Casey ..... 21
- Chit-Chat ..... 10
- Comics ..... 19
- Crossword Puzzle ..... 22
- Dishing the Dirt ..... 7
- Editorials ..... 12
- Harold Hartley ..... 20
- Irving Leibowitz ..... 11
- Moby Mayfield ..... 22
- Obituaries ..... 16
- Sports ..... 14-16
- Stella ..... 6
- Television and Radio ..... 21
- Women's ..... 6, 7
- World Over ..... 2



If the Levelland, Gulf of Mexico, and White Sands reports were "misunderstood natural phenomena," then the "exaggeration" must be the report from Alamogordo by James Stokes. "Stories of a light strong enough to cause sunburn," said the AF, "were not verified on interview with the originator"; and he also "acknowledged that the fade-out of his radio was the same sort of thing that had happened in that area before." If these statements mean anything at all, they are plain hints that the AF thinks Stokes was lying. What else they might mean we are in no position to say. Stokes is employed as an electronics engineer at Holloman AFB, and there are more ways than one to skin a cat. Perhaps the Air Force was being tactful about an employee's unstable temperament; perhaps Stokes was willing to help them out of their explanation problem by agreeing that his radio had faded out in that area before. But had his motor faded out also? And what about the other witnesses, in cars on the road behind Stokes, who experienced the same trouble? True, these witnesses could not be found; but having seen the Levelland investigator at work, we may certainly doubt that the AF made any real effort to locate Stokes's supporting witnesses.

At 1:10 p.m. the same day, Nov. 4th, James Stokes, an electronics engineer of the Air Force Missile Development Center, Holloman AFB in New Mexico, was driving south of Orogrande, N. M., when his car radio faded out and his motor stopped. Noticing a number of other stopped cars along the highway, he got out and saw a large egg-shaped object with a surface like "mother of pearl" coming out of the northeast. The object made several "shallow dives" across the highway before it departed to the northwest.