

CONTROL NO. R - 540	SUBJECT: FORM 112 Unidentified Flying Object Col.	DECIMAL FILE NO. <u>1344</u>	FOLLOW UP ON
FROM: 307th Bombardment Wing IAXS	Fla	DATED 6/8/49	NO INCLS. 0
RECORDING DESK	AXT-1	DATE RECORDED	6/13/49 1530 HOUR
ROUTED TO	SUSPENSE DATE	ESTABLISHED BY	INITIALS DATE
1 IAXS	N/R	SWT	14 June
2			
3			
DATE OF REPLY	OTHER DISPOSITION:		

TRANSMITTAL  
AMC FORM NO. 10-2  
(20 NOV 47)  
SEE OTHER SIDE  
FOR REMARKS

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 5 June 49 06/0054Z	2. LOCATION Tampa, Florida	348
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION Astro (METEOR)	
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One		
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 40 Minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS One observer saw only a trail of smoke. Other observers saw a bright object at the head of the trail. Appeared to be spinning or spiraling toward earth. Disappeared after a flash. Made an erratic "Z" in the sky. See case File.	
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual		
7. COURSE NE		
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		

Inclosure No. #1 (Report #8-49)

Tampa Morning Tribune  
8 June 1949



**METEOR BLAZES ACROSS FLORIDA SKY**—A fiery object, believed to be a meteor, was seen by thousands in Florida Sunday night at it blazed an 800-mile trail from Key West to St. Simon's Island, Ga. The photograph above was taken in Sarasota.—(AP Wirephoto).

*Meteors don't make  
sharp corners!*

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COUNTRY U. S. A.	REPORT NO. 5-49	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>		
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Object		
AREA REPORTED ON Tampa, Florida	FROM (Agency) Air Operations Intelligence Officer 307th Bombardment Wing Medium	
DATE OF REPORT 8 June 1949	DATE OF INFORMATION 6 June 1949	EVALUATION F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) ALEXANDER N. BEBENIN, Capt, USAF	SOURCE Tampa Morning Tribune, Monday, 6 June 1949	

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)  
Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum #4, 15 Feb 49

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

1. A newspaper article appeared in the Tampa Morning Tribune of Tampa, Florida on Monday, 6 June 1949 concerning an unidentified flying object. It is forwarded because certain conclusions reached in it are not concurred with by a number of military personnel stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, whose observations are forwarded on accompanying Air Force Forms 112.
2. To assist further analysis of this phenomenon, weather conditions were as follows at 0130Z, 6 June 1949: 15 miles visibility; temperature 74°; dew point 73°; surface wind west at 9 MPH; altimeter setting, 29.86 inches; sea level pressure 1011.2 millibars.
3. Winds aloft: local at 35,000 ft, 290° at 30 knots. Jacksonville, Florida, 45,000 feet, 320° to 330° at 30 knots. Winds above these altitudes unrecorded.
4. Above weather conditions were obtained from the MacDill Weather Station.

APPROVED:

*Alexander N. Bebenin*  
ALEXANDER N. BEBENIN  
Captain, USAF  
Wing Intelligence Officer

7-3712-21

INCL.

*Wish?*

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# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Air Operations Intelligence O 307th Bombardment Wing Medium	REPORT NO. 5-49	PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
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(Article From Tampa Morning Tribune, Tampa, Florida, 6 June 1949)

## SMOKE-TRAILING FLASH SEARS SKY OVER STATE

A fiery object, believed by some authorities to be a meteor, was sighted tonight high in the sky over Florida.

The object was observed over an area roughly 800 miles long, from Key West to St. Simon's Island, Ga.

MacDill Field said it was out of the range of present aircraft and apparently was a meteor. Watchers reported it trailed a long, luminous tail and disappeared over the horizon in the vicinity of Cedar Keys, north of Tampa.

It also was seen at Miami, Orlando, Ocala, Daytona Beach, Jacksonville and Fernandina. Pilots of aircraft over Florida also saw it.

Donald Trivett and E. L. Ralston, on duty at the Navy master field at Miami, said it was a "ball of fire."

"It was fairly low and I saw it with the glasses," Ralston said. "It was traveling in a straight line and went behind a bank of clouds in the northwest."

"The trail was a sort of 'Z' shape. It looked like white smoke and zagged but did not dissipate. We saw it for about 25 minutes."

Ralston said it was too large to be a guided missile, as some theorized, and added he was positive it was a meteor.

W. R. Davis and P. L. Moore, two forecasters on duty at the Miami Weather Bureau, said it was "very brilliant and somewhat smaller than a full moon."

That description tallied with the one given by Ralston. Davis and Moore also believed it was a meteor and said the tail "drifted about at high altitude."

"It lit up the sky to the northwest and fell vertically, leaving a luminous, weaving trail," they said.

The phenomenon resulted in hundreds of queries to weather stations, police and newspapers throughout the state.

The fiery object was seen plainly in Tampa shortly before 8 o'clock, and from the downtown section appeared to be over Drew Field.

At Drew Field, however, it was reported farther northwest, over Dunedin. But at Dunedin it was seen about 10 miles out over the Gulf.

Observers here first took the sight to be a falling plane, particularly since it left a trail of white smoke like that of a sky writer which hung in the sky past darkness.

### Trail Stays

In Tampa there was a flash just after the sun had dipped below the horizon, then the trail that appeared to be vertical but soon flattened out to be a horizontal line, seeming about 25 to 30 feet long to the eye from the ground.

Then the switchboard of the Tribune was swamped.

Clearwater was experiencing the same wonderment. So was St. Petersburg, Fort Myers, Miami, Jacksonville, Brunswick, Ga., Ocala, and other cities.

The Tampa Weather Bureau said the object appeared to be a meteor, but observers here could not account for a gaseous or vapor trail. MacDill Air Force Base observers said the phenomenon apparently was in the area of Cedar Keys, and sighted at such distance that the "tail" was 50 or 60 miles long.

The Coast Guard at St. Petersburg put up two airplanes, but diverted them shortly afterwards to investigate reports of a ship in distress eight miles west of Big Pass.

Residents at Fort Myers said the object was sighted in the sky northwest of that city and Daytona Beach said a "cloud of smoke or something in the sky looked like the figure '2' for a few minutes after a flash."

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# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Air Operations Intelligence O 307th Bombardment Wing Medium	REPORT NO. 5-49	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES
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(Article from Tampa Morning Tribune, Tampa, Florida, 6 June 1949)(Continued)

Weather observers had no theory other than it may have been a meteorite with a tail formed by millions of tiny particles.

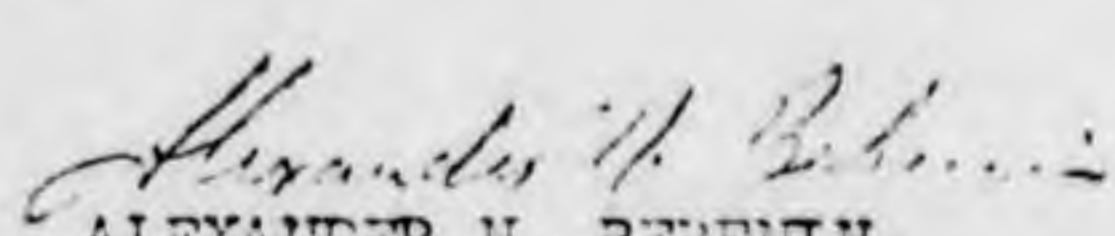
The Florida highway patrol also had reported of the object being sighted near Fernandina and Ocala. The Civil Aeronautics Administration said several pilots reported seeing the object from planes as far north as Brunswick, Ga.

A similar but smaller phenomenon appeared over Florida a few weeks ago, but left no trail. At that time the phenomenon led to reports of a plane crash in the Everglades, but it was finally written off as a shooting star.

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COUNTRY U. S. A.	REPORT NO. 6-49	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>		
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Object		
AREA REPORTED ON Tampa, Florida	FROM (Agency) Air Operations Intelligence Officer 307th Bombardment Wing Medium	
DATE OF REPORT 8 June 1949	DATE OF INFORMATION 6 June 1949	EVALUATION F-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) ALEXANDER N. BEBENIN, Capt, USAF	SOURCE [REDACTED]	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum #4, 15 Feb 49		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)		
<p>1. At approximately 0054Z hours 6 June 1949 [REDACTED] noticed a trail of white smoke in the northwest quadrant of the sky from his location in the control tower of the International Airport, Tampa, Florida. Object apparently causing smoke appeared to be going in a westerly direction and seemed to informant to be located approximately over the city of Dunedin, Florida. From the design of the trail of smoke informant thought the smoke was caused by a falling aircraft. Direction of trail of smoke was straight down. Actual object causing smoke-trail was not seen by this informant. Phenomenon was witnessed by informant about forty (40) minutes, when darkness precluded further observation. Informant expressed his opinion that the phenomenon he observed could not have been a meteor, regardless of statements appearing in a local Tampa newspaper, which cited certain "authorities" as identifying the phenomenon as a meteor.</p> <p>2. Following data is relative to the observer. Mr. [REDACTED] Avenue, is Air Traffic Control Operator at International Airport, Tampa, Florida (located west of Drew Field, Florida). He is an amateur pilot of four (4) years experience. It is believed that subject is reliable with average intelligence.</p>		
APPROVED:		
 ALEXANDER N. BEBENIN Captain, USAF Wing Intelligence Officer		
INCL.		
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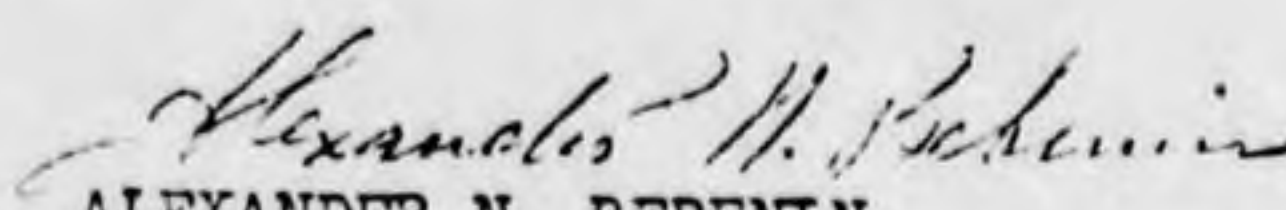
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COUNTRY U.S.A.	REPORT NO. 7-49	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>		
SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Object		
AREA REPORTED ON Tampa, Florida	FROM (Agency) Air Operations Intelligence Officer 307th Bombardment Wing Medium	
DATE OF REPORT 8 June 1949	DATE OF INFORMATION 6 June 1949	EVALUATION C-2
PREPARED BY (Officer) ALEXANDER N. BEBENIN, Capt, USAF	SOURCE ██████████, Capt, USAF	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum #4, 15 Feb 49		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)		
<p>1. At approximately 0100Z hours 6 June 1949 a phenomenon was observed by Captain ██████████, who was located about two miles north of MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. The phenomenon observed by him was located at a high altitude in the quadrant of sky northwest of Tampa, Florida, and appeared to be located about twenty (20) miles northwest of Tampa. A spiral condensation trail covering a large sector of the sky is informant's best description of phenomenon. The pattern formed did not appear to be regular, or in informant's words "pre-determined", nor did all the action seem to informant to take place at one altitude level. A definite reflection, similar to that from a mirror, flashed from a newly-formed sector of the trail for an instant. During the period of twilight and within two minutes following the reflection noted above a bright flash, illuminating the entire sky, occurred. Altitude of phenomena was estimated to be about 40,000 feet. Angle of elevation from horizon was about forty-five (45) degrees. Time in sight: eight (8) minutes. Object which "flashed" like mirror appeared to be about one inch in diameter from position of observer. The object appeared to be spinning or spiraling towards the earth. Trail, composed of what appeared to be "smoke" was white. Manner of disappearance: when the flash of light brightened the sky object was not again seen. Point of apparent disappearance was about fifteen (15) degrees above the horizon.</p> <p>2. The following information is relative to the observer. Captain ██████████ ██████████ Headquarters &amp; Headquarters Squadron, 307th Bombardment Wing Medium, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. Home Address: ██████████ Tampa, Florida. Captain ██████████ is 307th Bombardment Wing Training Officer. He is a navigator of eight (8) years experience. His ability to determine color, speed of moving objects, and size at a distance is considered good. It is believed subject informant is completely reliable, with above average intelligence, and of stable character.</p>		
APPROVED: <i>Alexander N. Bebenin</i> ALEXANDER N. BEBENIN Captain, USAF Wing Intelligence Officer		
INCL.		
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COUNTRY USA		REPORT NO. 8-49	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>			
SUBJECT Unidentified flying object.			
AREA REPORTED ON Tampa, Fla		FROM (Agency) Intelligence Section 307th Bm Gp (M)	
DATE OF REPORT 9 June 49	DATE OF INFORMATION 5 June 49	EVALUATION P-2	
PREPARED BY (Officer) REUBEN N. NORMAN, 1st Lt, USAF		SOURCE Ten Military Aircrew members of 307th Bm Gp	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) Air Intelligence Requirements Memorandum No. 4			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)			
<p>1. 19:45 hours 5 June 1949 at Tampa, Fla an unidentified object traveling from S.E. to N.W. at a very high rate of speed was observed by Aircrew personnel of the 307th Bm Gp. This object was emitting white smoke and/or vapor trail which indicated its flight path was horizontal but very erratic in direction. It made a large "Z" turn on course and then faded from view. The trail was visible for about 30 minutes.</p> <p>2. It is the opinion of this officer that this object was not a meteor due to its erratic course.</p> <p>3. All of the information contained in this report is indorsed by the ten (10) eyewitness interviewed. All ten (10) witnesses are Aircrew members of the 307th Bm Gp.</p> <p>4. The significance of this report is unknown.</p>			
APPROVED:			
 ALEXANDER N. BEBENIN Captain, USAF Wing Intelligence Officer			
1 INCL. 1. Newspaper photograph			
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# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Intelligence Section 307th Bm Gp	REPORT NO. 8-49	PAGE 2	OF 3	PAGES
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COMMENTS:

19:45 hours 5 June 1949 at Tampa, Fla from an unidentified source a long zig-zag trail of smoke and/or vapor trail was observed by crew members of the 307th Bm Gp Med.

The observers were on the ground.

The direction was Northwest of Tampa, Fla.

There was one object sighted.

The local newspaper, Tampa Morning Tribune, reported the object was believed to be a meteor but this is debatable.

The distance of the object from the observers is unknown but estimated to be 35 to 50 miles.

The object is reported to have been seen by observers unknown from as far South as Key West to as far North as St Simon's Island, Ga.

The angle of elevation in the sky from Tampa was about 30 degrees. The altitude unknown but thought to be very high. (One Capitol Airline Pilot reported seeing this object pass him at about 50,000 feet altitude while he was flying at 10,000 feet. This unknown pilot reported its speed as tremendous.)

The vapor or smoke trail was visible for 25 to 30 minutes. The object itself was visible for about 5 to 10 minutes.

The object appeared to be round ball of red fire emitting white smoke. It appeared to be about the size of a big star.

It maintained level flight with an erratic course making a "Z" type turn on course. The direction of flight was west north west.

The color of the smoke was white.

The trail of smoke appeared about 1000 feet wide and several miles long, maybe 35 miles.

There was no odor. The rate of evaporation was slow. There was no sound.

There were no clouds.

There was no emitted light. The object just appeared to be on fire, burning with a red glow.

There was no visible means of support.

Propulsion unknown.

Control unknown.

Air ducts unknown.

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# AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Intelligence Section 307th Bm Gp	REPORT NO. 8-49	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES
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COMMENTS:

Appeared to be traveling above the speed of sound.

The object just faded from view.

*Reuben N. Norman*

REUBEN N. NORMAN  
1st Lt USAF  
Ass't Group Intelligence Officer

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