

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 21 June 1950 21/0935Z	LOCATION Hamilton AFB, California
3. SOURCE Military	10. CONCLUSION INSUFFICIENT DATA Report not in file. Card not in file. Case missing.
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One (five passes)	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Not Reported.	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Four newsclippings and one extract from a "Flying Saucer" magazine constitute the only information available. Case will be evaluated if file is located.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ground visual	
7. COURSE varied, straight flight.	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

THE 1950 HAMILTON AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA CASE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS CARRIED THIS STORY: DATELINE HAMILTON FIELD, CALIFORNIA, JUNE 21, 1950. IT WAS 1:35 A.M. CORPORAL BARKLAND PRYOR, 20, WAS IN THE FIELD CONTROL TOWER WITH STAFF SERGEANT ELLIS LORIMER, 25, A VETERAN WITH THREE YEARS EXPERIENCE IN CONTROL TOWER OBSERVATION. SUDDENLY THEY SAW AN OBJECT SPRAYING A BLUE-GREEN STREAK OF FLAME HURLING TOWARD THEM FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE NEARBY PACIFIC...

BECAUSE OF THE SPEED AND THE DARKNESS, THEY COULDN'T DISCERN ITS SHAPE. OPPOSITE THE CONTROL TOWER, IN ANOTHER OBSERVATION POST, STAFF SERGEANT VIRGIL CAPPURO, 36, ALSO WATCHED AS THE STRANGE CRAFT MADE THREE SEPARATE PASSES ACROSS THE FIELD...



THE STORY THEN STATED: "AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE MEN QUESTIONED THE THREE OBSERVERS ALL MORNING. HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE FOURTH AIR FORCE HERE HAD NO COMMENT. IT IS SAID A REPORT WAS BEING MADE TO WASHINGTON. OFFICERS WERE TIGHT LIPPED. BUT MAJOR JAMES E. JOHNSTON, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, SAID:

"AT WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON'S NEWS CONFERENCE... S/SGT. LORIMER SAID:

"THE FIRST REPORT ON THE MYSTERY (OBJECT) CREDITED IT WITH A SPEED OF 1000 TO 1500 MILES AN HOUR. LORIMER WAS ASKED ABOUT THIS. HE SAID:

THERE WERE NO PLANES OVER HAMILTON FIELD AT THE TIME THE MYSTERY OBJECT WAS REPORTED, AND NONE LANDED DURING THE PRE-DAWN.

THE EXHAUST OR 'TAIL' OF THE CRAFT 'RESEMBLED THE FLAME OF A BLOW TORCH'. (I) KNEW IT WASN'T A JET PLANE BECAUSE OF THE GREAT RATE OF SPEED AND BECAUSE A JET PLANE, WHICH (I AM) USED TO WATCHING SHOWS NO FLAME."

IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE SPEED, HEIGHT, AND DISTANCE AT NIGHT."



(LORIMER) WOULDN'T COMMIT HIMSELF TO A FIGURE. A REPORTER ASKED:

"THE FIRST REPORT WEDNESDAY MORNING FROM THE FIELD QUOTED THE OBSERVERS AS SAYING THE OBJECT 'ROARED' ACROSS THE SKY. BUT AT WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON'S NEWS CONFERENCE THEY SAID:



DID YOU ADD THESE NAMES TO YOUR EVER-BROWING LIST, AIR FORCE? MEN WHO'D BEEN DEEMED TRUST-WORTHY AND COMPETENT ENOUGH TO GUIDE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN AIRCRAFT TO SAFE LANDINGS AT HAMILTON? DID THE "AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE MEN" WHO "QUESTIONED THE THREE OBSERVERS ALL MORNING" INSTRUCT THEM TO CHANGE THEIR STORIES SO THAT THE AFTERNOON STATEMENTS DID NOT COINCIDE WITH THE FIRST MORNING REPORTS? AND IF SO, WHY? WHAT DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT US TO KNOW?

NOTE: PARENTHESES DENOTE WORD-CHANGE OF VERBATIM STORY TO FACILITATE DRAMATIZATION, I.E. THEY (WE). — EDS.

Disc, 'Roaring Like Thunder,' Is Reported At Hamilton Field

OAKLAND, Cal., June 21.—(AP)—The Oakland Tribune said a "disc shaped object" roaring at an estimated speed of 1000 to 1500 miles an hour made five "passes" near Hamilton Air Force Base early today.

The newspaper quoted three Air Force non-commissioned officers who said the "flying saucer," shooting blue flame and with a "roar like thunder" dived near a beacon just north of the field.

Hamilton Field is 25 miles north of San Francisco.

Cpl. Roger G. Pryor, a control tower operator at the field, said he saw a blue flame shooting out as the saucer flashed by from the southwest and headed northeast.

"I thought it was a falling star," the Tribune quoted Pryor. "But it didn't fall. It just kept on going."

Pryor said the first pass was at 1:35 a. m., and the object traveled so fast he couldn't see the subsequent approaches.

THE TRIBUNE said Pryor's observation was verified by Staff Sgt. Ellis R. Lorimer, another control tower operator, and Staff Sgt. Virgil Cappuro, member of the airways communications staff.

They said the saucer returned from the northwest and made another pass north of the field, then later made three more approaches.

The Tribune said the airmen described the object as circular, thick in the center and tapering to the sides. They used binoculars in following its course.

They described its approach altitude at between 2000 and 5000 feet.

The men said the sky was clear over Hamilton Field, although high fog prevailed elsewhere in the San Francisco Bay area.

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

21 JUNE 1950

KY. HERALD TRIBUNE

JUNE 22, 1950

N.Y. DAILY NEWS

21 JUNE 1950

Air Force Men Sure They Saw A 'Flying Disc'

Hamilton Field, Calif., June 21 (U.P.)—Three Air Force trained observers in the traffic control tower at Hamilton Field reported they saw a "flying disc" make from three to five passes over the air base early today.

They said the aerial object, emitting a "thunder-like roar," buzzed the field at an altitude of 2,000 to 5,000 feet. The control operators said they followed the disc with binoculars. They estimated its speed at "between 1,000 and 1,500 miles an hour."

Blue Flame Seen.

Cpl. Roger Pryor, control tower operator, first spotted the object as it sped across the beacon. At first, he said, he thought it was a falling star but he changed his mind when the object held its altitude, turned, and made another pass of the air base.

S/Sgt. Ellis Lorimer and Sgt. Virgil Cappuro, both tower operators, saw the disc in the clear, early-morning sky. They said the object trailed blue flame behind it "like an acetylene torch."

Air Force officers at the base had no comment to make.

GIs Report Seeing "Saucer" At Air Base On West Coast

HAMILTON FIELD, Calif., June 21.—(AP)—Three airmen told today of sighting a mysterious flying object over their base, traveling at a great rate of speed, and spraying a blue-green flame.

It was first sighted at 1:35 a. m., they told newsmen, and they saw it repeatedly.

But because of the speed and the darkness, they couldn't discern its shape.

But all agreed it was not a jet plane—at least, not a conventional jet plane. There are many jets at this big Air Force base, and the men said they have seen them countless times at night.

Air Force intelligence men questioned the three observers all morning. Headquarters of the fourth Air Force here had no comment. It said a report was being sent to Washington. Officers were tight-lipped.

Air Force headquarters at Washington said it had received no information about the incident.

The first report on the Hamilton field flying object said the men

Cpl. Garland Pryor, 20, of White Hall, Mont., told reporters at today's news conference that he was the first to see the interloper in the sky.

Pryor was in the field control tower. He called it to the attention of S/Sgt. Ellis Lorimer, 25, of Burbank, Calif., who had had three years' experience in control tower observation.

Lorimer, who did most of the talking today, said he then saw the craft make three separate passes across the field.

Opposite the control tower, in

Engineers and construction crews of the Dayton Power and Light company, digging foundations for towers for high-tension lines, tapped the underground of water.

post for many years, but civil engineers were surprised

stumble onto it only three feet below ground.

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