

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 6 Feb 51		LOCATION Lucerne Valley, California		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Tow Targets</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT <u>06/2300Z</u>		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION (1) 7 8 Min (2) 14 15 min		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS (1) Two (2) One		9. COURSE	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Shape like pencil, color was silver. Speed Probably Stationary. Alt was high. No sound.				11. COMMENTS Believed to be tow targets from Muroc AB by investigating officer.	

INCL in D of Intel. Hq USN
INFORMATION REPORT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

AF297074

6 February 1951

13 February 1951

DIO-11ND, San Diego, California

Sgt Below

UNCONVENTIONAL OBJECTS IN SKY

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BRIEF (FOR REPORTS OF MORE THAN ONE PAGE. ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY)

BRIEF: Sources saw three objects - pencil-shaped and silvery in color. Although no airplanes were seen by sources at the time these objects were sighted, it is nevertheless believed by the interviewing officer that sources saw target sleeves towed by Muroc Air Force Base planes.

SOURCE: (1) [redacted], age 63, structural and architectural draftsman, [redacted], Los Angeles, California, High School education, 18 years resident of Southern California. Employed as tool designer for Aircraft Engineering Company in World War II. Presently, and for the last five years, employed by [redacted], Consulting Structural Engineer in Los Angeles.

(2) Mrs. [redacted], wife of above, formerly was professional musician and accountant.

Both informants appeared to be very sincere, competent, and not desirous of publicity, since they have not advised anyone other than the Atomic Energy Commission at Los Angeles, and they have no intention of advising anyone else of their experience lest people think them to be irrational. They first advised AEC/LA because their daughter formerly was in the employ of AEC at Richland, Washington, and because they sighted the phenomena in the afternoon of a day on which there was an atomic explosion in Nevada. AEC turned sources over to this office for interview.

REF: (a) CNO conf Serial 016236P32 of 19 October 1950, subj: Reporting of Info on Unconventional Aircraft

REPORT:

Description and Shape of Objects: Pencil-shaped, about twenty times as long as wide, not cigar-shaped, having uniform thickness. Rounded in front and variously appeared to be feathered out, and/or rounded in the back.

Size: Sources had no idea of the size because they could not gauge the distance; however, they estimated the objects were at least fourteen miles distant. They assume this minimum distance by studying a local map which indicates the tops of the mountains (over and/or beyond which they saw the objects) were about 14 miles distant. Sources, at time of interview, compared the objects with an electric utility pole crossarm. This crossarm was eight feet long, and was observed from a distance of 470 feet. An object fourteen miles distant would be 1250 feet long if it appeared the same as an object eight feet long at 470 feet.

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Color: Silvery, aluminum, metallic, brighter than a white cloud. Never gave off any reflection as a bright metallic object might have.

Number of Objects: Two at first sighting. One at later sighting.

Aerodynamic Features: None distinguishable.

Trail or Exhaust: None on the first two objects. The third object appeared to have a trailing edge, slightly thinner than the object itself, and lighter in color; however, no abrupt change from the object to the trailing edge. Source couldn't tell if the rear third of the object was exhaust or part of the object.

Speed: Impossible to judge. At times appeared to be standing still. Never any rapid movement; however, sources judge that if the objects were much more than fourteen miles distant, even if the objects moved at several hundred miles per hour they would hardly have noticed the movement.

Sound: None.

Maneuver: When the first two objects were sighted they were slowly moving in opposite directions. One was about as far above the other object as the length of one of the objects, and about one half the length of one of the objects apart. One object then appeared to stop its forward motion and slowly turned completely end over end, at one point being in a vertical position. On completing the turn the object resumed its forward motion in the same direction as the other object. In this end over end maneuver the leading end went up. Object #3 was observed in this peculiar movement - the object stopped the forward movement, the leading end went upward, the end moving down again as if the center was on a fulcrum. When the object was in a vertical position the object seemed to shorten and thicken, then it bent and continued to move until again in a horizontal position, when it straightened out, became long and thin again, and proceeded to move in the opposite direction.

Manner of disappearance: Simply vanished. From the time they were seen very clearly to when nothing was observed, fifteen to twenty seconds elapsed. The objects did not vanish by moving behind the line of sight or by moving out of sight - they simply became less and less clear until nothing was seen.

Time of Sighting: 6 February 1951. The first two objects were sighted between 1500 and about 1508 (Pacific Standard Time), and the third object was sighted between 1700 and 1715, also on 6 February 1951.

Length of Time of Observance: The first two objects were seen for about eight minutes. The third object was clocked by the sources and was seen for exactly fifteen minutes.

Manner of Observation: Visual.

Location of Observers: At west edge of town of Lucerne Valley in San Bernardino County in Southern California, at approximately 34°27'N, 116°63'E, at the residence of [REDACTED], Lucerne Valley, elevation approximately 3000 feet. It is believed of interest that this location is 45 miles southeast of the Muroc Air Force Base. The sighting of the third object was while sources were driving west from the town of Hesperia (three miles

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due east of U.S. Highway 66) and south-southwest of the town of Victorville, towards Cajon Pass on Highway 66. Sources lost sight of the objects at a point on Highway 66, fifteen miles south-southeast of the town of Victorville. Sources covered a distance of nine miles while driving while the objects were in observance. Sources traveled about 30 mph while driving, and stopped twice to better view the objects.

Note: If sources traveled 30 mph for fifteen minutes they would have traveled 7½ miles - yet they stated they drove 9 miles, and they stated they stopped twice for a "minute or so" on the way. There is an error in their statement. It is believed of interest that Muroc Air Force Base is a little over 30 miles northwest of Hesperia and Cajon Pass.

Location of Objects with Respect to Observers: The first two objects were 14 or more miles distant in a south-southwest direction. The third object was 14, or more miles distant in a southwest by west direction.

Weather and Wind Conditions at Time and Place of Sightings: Exceptionally calm, only an occasional slight movement of air. No haze, no overcast, no clouds visible anywhere. Exceptionally clear; sources state one could see forty or more miles.

Any Activity or Condition, Meteorological or Otherwise, which might account for the Sightings: None, according to sources.

Existence of any Physical Evidence: None. Sources had no camera.

Other Persons Who Saw the Objects: Mr. [REDACTED] Lucerne Valley, California. Note: Mr. [REDACTED] saw the first two objects, but was not along in the automobile when sources saw the third object.

REPORTING OFFICER'S COMMENT: It is believed what sources probably saw were sleeve targets towed by Air Force planes from the Muroc Air Force Base. The strange maneuvers of the sleeves could have been caused by an upward turn of the tow plane. If not a sleeve, it is believed possible that what sources saw was an optical illusion or daylight version of the phenomena called aurora borealis. The interviewing officer does not believe this sighting is worth investigating. Since the interviewing officer had no way judging the worth of the report until sources were interviewed, and since it is not up to the interviewing officer to discount any report as being worthless, it was written up for whatever it may be worth.

T. J. SHULTZ
District Intelligence Officer
Eleventh Naval District

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