

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 9 October 1951		LOCATION Terre Haute, Indiana		12. CONCLUSIONS	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local <u>1342</u> GMT <u>09/1942Z</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 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 type="checkbox"/> Other <u>UNIDENTIFIED</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 15 Seconds		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	9. COURSE SE		
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Round silver object without fins or protrusions observed in flight from overhead to disappearance over the horizon. Flight straight. Total observation 15 seconds, conservation. Size of 50¢ piece at arm's length. No sound. Witness considered "hard headed".			11. COMMENTS Possible a/c sighting, however, to duration of 15 seconds for flight from <del>at</del> zenith to point over the horizon in 15 seconds is not consistent with this analysis and the case is carried as unidentified.		



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SECURITY INFORMATION  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

The Inspector General USAF  
12th District Office of Special  
Investigations  
Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois

25 October 1951

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

12D 1-11-100

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
Unidentified Aerial Object Sighted Over  
Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute,  
Indiana, 9 October 1951

TO: Director,  
Office of Special Investigations  
Headquarters United States Air Force  
Washington 25, D.C.

1. SYNOPSIS: Chief Aircraft Communicator, CAA, Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, reported to the Office of Special Investigations agent that on 9 October 1951 at 1342 hours he observed an unknown unidentified aerial object directly overhead at Hulman Municipal Airport. The object was approximately the size of a half-dollar coin held at arm's length and was flying in a southeasterly direction. The day was clear and informant's vision was unobstructed. Exact size and altitude of the object unknown. Informant advised that a pilot, one ~~Charles W. Sonner~~ sighted a similar object on the same date at approximately 1345 hours just east of Paris, Illinois at approximately 5,000 feet. Object was last seen traveling in a northeasterly direction, south of the Atomic Energy Plant at Newport, Indiana.

2. DETAILS: Mr. ~~Charles W. Sonner~~, 1833 North Eighth Street, Terre Haute, Indiana, Chief Aircraft Communicator, Civil Aeronautics Authority, Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, was interviewed on 12 October 1951 by Special Agent Elbert W. Farris, and stated that he had observed an unknown unidentified aerial object at 1342 hours, Tuesday, 9 October 1951. The object was sighted directly overhead at Hulman Municipal Airport which is located approximately five (5) miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana, on Indiana State Road No. 42. According to Mr. ~~Sonner~~ the object was approximately the size of a one-half dollar held at arms length; was silver in color and flew in a southeasterly direction. Mr. Sonner stated that the object pursued a straight path of flight; that he

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12D 1-11-100, Subject: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, Unidentified Aerial Object Sighted Over Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, 9 October 1951

observed no vapor trails; heard no noise and observed no protruding fins or other protrusions on this aerial object. Mr. ~~Warren~~ stated he observed the object pass from directly over his head to the horizon in approximately fifteen seconds which he considered to be a conservative estimate of time. The day was clear, a bright sun, no clouds or haze, vision was not obstructed by trees or other foliage or buildings and the object traveled over flat terrain; shape and general form of object could still be observed at the time it disappeared over the horizon. Mr. ~~Warren~~ stated that he could not estimate the object's size or altitude. According to Mr. Sonner, if this object was 200 feet high, it would have been traveling approximately 2,880 miles per hour and that the speed in miles per hour would increase in proportion to the object's height. Mr. ~~Warren~~ further stated that either this object or another was sighted by Charles Warren, South Seventh Street, Terre Haute, Indiana, at approximately 1345 hours, Tuesday, 9 October 1951, just east of Paris, Illinois. Warren was flying a private plane at an altitude of 5,000 feet from Greencastle, Indiana, to Paris, Illinois, and sighted this silver object just east of Paris, Illinois at 5,000 feet. The object appeared to be stationary at 5,000 feet, inasmuch as it did not increase or diminish in size with the approach of the plane. The object then reversed its direction and was last seen traveling in a northeasterly direction south of the Atomic Energy Plant at Newport, Indiana.

3. ACTION: Commanding General, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, notified by two (2) information copies of this report.

LeROY BITCON  
Lt Col, USAF  
District Commander

3 cys - Hqs  
2 cys - CG, ATIC

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AF FORM 112—PART I  
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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COUNTRY U. S. A.	REPORT NO. IR-56-51E	(LEAVE BLANK)
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### AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT Unidentified Aerial Object <i>OK-18 Dec 51</i>		
AREA REPORTED ON Holman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Ind.	FROM (Agency) Hq, EADF, Stewart AFB, Newburgh, N.Y.	
DATE OF REPORT 30 November 1951	DATE OF INFORMATION 9 October 1951	EVALUATION F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) Major J. L. Hudelson	SOURCE 12th District OSI, Chanute AFB, Illinois	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) ADC Letter 200-1, and 12th District OSI Report 1-11-100, 25 Oct 51		

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. On 9 October at Holman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, Chief Aircraft Communicator, CAA, Claude W. Sonner observed an unidentified aerial object directly overhead at 1342 CST for approximately 15 seconds.
2. A second sighting reported approximately 30 miles distant three (3) minutes later indicates the "objects" may have been jet aircraft observed when the reflection of the sun may have distorted the aircraft in the eyes of the observers.

APPROVED:

*B. K. Baumgardner*

BRUCE K. BAUMGARDNER  
Lt. Colonel, USAF  
Director of Intelligence

1 INCL.

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DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR

- 2 cys - CG, AMC, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, Attn: MCIS
- 1 cy - CG, ADC, Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colo., Attn: Deputy for Intelligence

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.

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AF FORM 112—PART II

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

### AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) Hq, EADF, Stewart AFB, Newburgh, N.Y.	REPORT NO. IR-56-51E	PAGE 2	OF 2	PAGES
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1. An unconventional unidentified aerial object was observed by [redacted], Chief Aircraft Communicator, CAA, Hulman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana. Observation was made on 9 October 1951 at 1342 CST for approximately 15 seconds.

2. The following descriptions were obtained in an interview with Mr. [redacted] and OSI agent, 12th District Office OSI, Chanute AFB, Illinois: Single object was round and the size of a half dollar piece held at a distance of arms length, silver colored with no vapor or exhaust trail and no sound. Propulsion system unknown, speed estimated up to 2880 MPH.

3. Object was sighted visually from the ground and observed to travel a straight path in a south-easterly direction. Electronic surveillance device (TPS-1B located at Rockville, Ind) was used but no sighting was reported.

4. Weather: CAVU with bright sun; winds at Chanute AFB on 9 October; surface 270° at 3 knots; 1000 feet to 10,000 feet average direction 315° at 9 knots average. No physical evidence available. No interceptions made.

5. Mr. [redacted] stated Charles Warren, a pilot, sighted a similar object on the same date at 1345 CST just east of Paris, Illinois, at 5000 feet. Object was last seen travelling in a north-easterly direction south of atomic energy plant at Newport, Indiana.

6. Although accurate measurement of the distance between sighting number one by Mr. [redacted] and sighting number two by Mr. Warren is not possible from the information furnished, it appears as though the object could not have been travelling more than 600 MPH (30 miles from Hulman Airport to Newport) if the two sightings were of the same object.

*James L. Hudelson*

JAMES L. HUDELSON  
Major, USAF  
Chief, Opnl Intel Div

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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.

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16-55370-1 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1949-O-913132



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Appendix VIII

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA - 9 October 1951

On 9 October 1951 at 1312 CST, a CAA Chief Aircraft Communicator observed a silver object pass directly overhead while he was at Milan Municipal Airport, five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. The object was judged to be approximately the same size as a 50 cent piece held at arm's length. The object passed overhead at a very high rate of speed going in a southeasterly direction, passing from directly overhead to the horizon in about 15 seconds. There was no sound or vapor trails. The shape and general form of the object could be seen as the object passed over the horizon and out of sight.

(For related incident, see Appendix IX.)

Weather

Clear, bright sun, no clouds or haze.

Status of Investigation

Further details on the incident will be obtained but it is doubtful if any further information will indicate the possible identity of the object.

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EXTRACT Status Report 2

Appendix V

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA - 9 October 1951

I. DISCUSSION OF THE INCIDENT

On 9 October 1951 at 1342 CST, a CAA Chief Aircraft Communicator observed a silver object pass directly overhead while he was at Hulman Municipal Airport, five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. The object was judged to be approximately the same size as a 50 cent piece held at arm's length. The object passed overhead at a very high rate of speed going in a southeasterly direction, passing from directly overhead to the horizon in about 15 seconds. There was no sound or vapor trails. The shape and general form of the object could be seen as the object passed over the horizon and out of sight.

(For related incident, see Appendix VI.)

II. WEATHER

Clear, bright sun, no clouds or haze.

III. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Further investigation revealed no additional information.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

None.

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Status Report # 2

Appendix V

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA - 9 October 1951

I. DISCUSSION OF THE INCIDENT

On 9 October 1951 at 1342 CST, a CAA Chief Aircraft Communicator observed a silver object pass directly overhead while he was at Hulmen Municipal Airport, five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. The object was judged to be approximately the same size as a 50 cent piece held at arm's length. The object passed overhead at a very high rate of speed going in a southeasterly direction, passing from directly overhead to the horizon in about 15 seconds. There was no sound or vapor trails. The shape and general form of the object could be seen as the object passed over the horizon and out of sight.

(For related incident, see Appendix VI.)

II. WEATHER

Clear, bright sun, no clouds or haze.

III. STATUS OF INVESTIGATION

Further investigation revealed no additional information.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

None.

7-5112-39

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Status Report # 1

Appendix VIII

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA - 9 October 1951

On 9 October 1951 at 1342 CST, a CAA Chief Aircraft Communicator observed a silver object pass directly overhead while he was at Ellettsville Municipal Airport, five miles east of Terre Haute, Indiana. The object was judged to be approximately the same size as a 50 cent piece held at arm's length. The object passed overhead at a very high rate of speed going in a southeasterly direction, passing from directly overhead to the horizon in about 15 seconds. There was no sound or vapor trails. The shape and general form of the object could be seen as the object passed over the horizon and out of sight.

(For related incident, see Appendix IX.)

Weather

Clear, bright sun, no clouds or haze.

Status of Investigation

Further details on the incident will be obtained but it is doubtful if any further information will indicate the possible identity of the object.

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*H. Cunningham*

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JEPNE A112

FM JEDUP JEDEN 222 ✓

FM JEPNE 39 ✓

A 111630Z ZNJ ✓

FM 17 ZADF STEWART AFB NEWBURGH NY ✓

TO JEDUP/CG AMC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB DAYTON OHIO ✓

INFO JEDEN/CG ADC ENT AFB COLO SPGS COLO

~~REDACTED~~ / INT 28447. /ATTN AMC FOR MCIS/ /ATTN ADC FOR DEPUTY FOR INTELLIGENCE/ FOR YOUR INFO A UNITED PRESS NEWS

RELEASE APPEARING IN THE 13 OCT NEWSPAPERS RPTD MR. ~~REDACTED~~ CMA

A CAA EMPLOYEE CMA AT HOLMAN MUNICIPAL APRT CMA TERRE HAUTE CMA IND.

SAW A "HUGE METALLIC OBJECT SPEEDING ACROSS THE FIELD" ON 9 OCT.

RELEASE STATES THAT MR. ~~REDACTED~~ CMA "A HARDHEADED CAA OFFICIAL" JOINED

THE RANKS OF THOSE WHO NOW BELIEVE IN FLYING SAUCERS. NO FURTHER INFO

AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. PARA. DO YOU DESIRE ANY INVESTIGATIVE ACTION

BY THIS CMD /QUERY/

1/1544Z OCT JEPNE

*mb*  
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## JOINT MESSAGEFORM

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SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

DATE-TIME GROUP 112030Z Oct 51		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	
PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION Priority	INFORMATION Priority	
<input type="checkbox"/> BOOK MESSAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL MESSAGE		
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE ADDRESS	CRYPTOPRECAUTION <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
REFERS TO MESSAGE:			
IDENTIFICATION INT 28447		CLASSIFICATION [REDACTED]	

TO: Commanding General  
Eastern Air Defense Force  
Stewart AF Base  
Newburgh, New York

INFO: Director of Intelligence  
Headquarters, USAP  
ATTN: Tech Capabilities Branch  
Col Willis  
Washington 25, D. C.

Cite INT 28447. Request immediate field investigation of Hollman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Indiana, incident of 9 Oct 51.

Request any information that could be submitted as a flash intelligence report, followed by Form 112 in accordance with ASCI Letter 85.

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516-148235-3

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)		RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE	
Lt. [REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	
SYMBOL ATIAA-2a		TELEPHONE 65376	
OFFICIAL TITLE FORMAN S. [REDACTED], Captain, USAP Air Adjutant General		PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES	

DD FORM 173  
1 OCT 49REPLACES MME FORM 173, 1 MAY 49,  
WHICH MAY BE USED.



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121900Z Oct 51

OO, AFIC

Routine

Director of Intelligence, Hq USAF,  
Washington 25, D. C.  
(R A D N O T E)

X

X

AFOEM-ATIAA-10-1-E: For AFOEM-V/TC, Col. [REDACTED]. The following message is quoted for your information from Hq EADF, Stewart AFB, Newburgh, N.Y. to CG, AIG, W-P AFB, Site INT 23447, "For your information a United Press news release appearing in the 10 Oct newspaper reported Mr. [REDACTED], a CAA employee, at Holman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Ind., saw a 'huge metallic object speeding across the field' on 9 Oct. Release states that Mr. [REDACTED], 'a hardheaded CAA official' joined the ranks of those who now believe in flying saucers. No further information available at this time. Do you desire any investigative action by this Command?"

Refer info copy of our teletype to Hq EADF, dtd 11 October 1951, for our action.

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Lt. H. Netscher

MURRAY S. STURGIS, Captain, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

ATIAA-2a

65376

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~~SECRET~~  
( 51 OCT 20 04:17 )

NBR 27 20 OCTOBER 51

**PRIORITY**

C-1 ~~SECRET~~ PRIORITY/ROUTINE

FM EASTERN AFB STEWART AFB NY 1920058Z

TO AMC WPAFB DAYTON OHIO ATTN NCIS

INFO ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO ATTN DEPUTY FOR INT

SM  
1 - ATTI-ACTION  
2 - ATTI-INFO  
3 -  
4 - MLAGXMAZL

CITE C2550:

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED. SEE CRYPTO-CENTER  
BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

FEUR MSG MFT 28447. INQUIRY REVEALS OSI CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION OF  
HOLMN MUNICIPAL APRT, TERRE HAUTE, IND, INCIDENT OF 9 OCT 51. SUGGEST  
CONTACTING OSI, INDIANAPOLIS FOR CY OF RPT

20/0657Z OCT

ACTION COPY

MFT-28447  
Operations Office  
Change OSI  
12th Dist  
ATTC  
515-153339-1

~~SECRET~~



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231400Z Oct 51

CO, ATIC

Routine

Twelfth District O.S.I.  
Chanute AFB  
Rantoul, Ill.

x

R A D N O T E

x

D/I, Hq USAF, Washington 25, D. C.

R A D N O T E

ATIAA-10-15-E. Eastern ADF has informed the Air Technical Intelligence Center that O.S.I. is investigating unidentified aerial object sighted over Holman Municipal Airport, Terre Haute, Ind., on 9 October 1951. Please advise when results of investigation will be available to this Center. Ref: AFCS-1 letter No. 85, dated 23 October 1950. In reply refer to Project Grudge.

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Lt E. J. Ruppelt/vs

MURRAH S. STURGIS, Capt, USAF  
Air Adjutant General

ATIAA-2g

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ATIAA-2g J.W.



