

<b>1. DATE - TIME GROUP</b> 11 August 53 12/0300Z	<b>2. LOCATION</b> Barksdale AFB, Louisiana					
<b>3. SOURCE</b> Military	<b>10. CONCLUSION</b> Astronomical (METEOR) Clear sky, visibility was unlimited. Many stars were visible at the time of sighting. ATIC COMMENT: The length of observation, speed, color and streak left in sky are very characteristic of a meteor.					
<b>4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS</b> One						
<b>5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION</b> Seconds						
<b>6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION</b> Ground-Visual						
<b>7. COURSE</b> SE	<b>11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS</b> Large reddish ball of fire left a streak in the sky traveled at a high speed in SE direction. Observers could not ascertain the angular velocity of object. The officer stated that the speed of the object was similar to that of a falling star. Like 3M star. Speed faster than jets in area.					
<b>8. PHOTOS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No						
<b>9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No						
<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="107 1310 566 1408"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 11 Aug  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         </td> <td data-bbox="566 1310 1037 1408">           Barksdale AFB, La.         </td> <td data-bbox="1037 1310 1350 1408">           Fireball         </td> <td data-bbox="1350 1310 1821 1408"></td> <td data-bbox="1821 1310 1982 1408">           c-1         </td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 11 Aug <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Barksdale AFB, La.	Fireball		c-1
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 11 Aug <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Barksdale AFB, La.	Fireball		c-1		

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AF FORM 112—PART II  
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
D/Intelligence, Hq 2AF	IR-36-53	3	3	3

There was only a very slight breeze blowing at the time of the observation. This would seem to rule out the possibility of the object being the weather balloon which was released at approximately the same time as the observation because of the high rate of speed attained by the object while paralleling the surface of the earth.

*William L. Cramer, Jr.*  
WILLIAM L. CRAMER, JR.  
Captain, USAF  
Directorate of Intelligence

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERV.  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

1953 AUG 17

08:56 UNCLASSIFIED

3

3. Atn  
4. R. File

Multi



Action

AS

11/2100  
BARKSDALE, LA.

REASSPC239

VYD136

JES B355

MM JED SUPVR JES

ZUI JED A273 ZDK VYA219

JESBA 190N

MM JEDEN JEDMH JEDWP JEPHQ 444

DE JESBA 07

M 141430Z ZNJ

FM COMDRAF 2 BARKSDALE AFB LA


TO JEPHQ/DIR OF INTEL HQ USAF WASH D C

JEDWP/AIR INTEL CENTER WIRHGT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

JEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

JEDMH/COMDRSAC OFFUTT AFB NEBR

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 2AFICB 1647. FLYOBRPT. FOL INGO ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT SUBMITTED TO THIS OFFICE BY MAJ JACK D SWICKARD, 11430A, FWD IN COMPLIANCE WITH AFL 200-5, WO APR 53: PAR 1. OBJECT APPEARED TO BE REDDISH BALL OF FIRE, APRX THREE TIMES SIZE OF LARGE STAR. OBJECT MOVED VERY FAST AND LEFT STREAK IN SKY. SPEED OF OBJECT DESCRIBED CONSIDERABLY FASTER THAN JET ACFT AND JUDGED BY SEVERAL B-47S IN TRAFFIC PATTERN IN GEN VICINITY OF OBSERVATION. PAR 2. SIGHTING OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER 2100 HRS, 11 AUG 53 LENGTH OF SIGHTING DESCRIBED AS ONLY MATTER OF SECONDS. PAR 3. THIS WAS VISUAL SIGHTING. PAR 4. AT TIME OF SIGHTING, MAJ SWICKARD AND BASE GAME WARDEN, S SGT OTIS RECTOR, 14340799, WERE

PAGE TWO JESBA 27

BOTH AT NORTH END OF FLAGG LAKE SITUATED IN NORTH CENTRAL PART OF BARKSDALE RESERVATION. UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT APPROACHED FROM NORHTERLY DIRECTION AND MOVED TOWARD SOUTHEAST, MOVING ALMOST PARALLEL TO EARTH'S SURFACE AND RISING SLIGHTLY BEFORE DISAPPEARING FROM VIEW. PAR 5. MAJ SWICKARD IS ACFT OBSR AND BELIEVED VERY RELIABLE. HE SUTDIED ASTRONOMY AND VERY DEFINITELY STATED UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT NOT "SHOOTING STAR". S SGT RECOTR CAUGHT ONLY SLIGHT GLIMPSE OF OBJECT WHEN MAJ SWICKARD SHOUTED "LOOK" TO HIM. HOWEVER, S SGT RECTOR STATED HE HAS OBSERVED SIMILAR OBJECTS ON THREE OTHER OCCASIONS, BUT DID NOT REPT THEM BECAUSE OF FEAR OF RIDICULE. PAR 6. WEATHER AT TIME DESCRIBED BY MAJ SWICKARD AS VERY CLEAR, CLOUDLESS NIGHT WITH SKY FULL OF STARS. HOWEVER, NO MOON AT TIME OF SIGHTING. PAR 7. AT 2100 HRS, ON DT OF OBSERVATION, BARKSDALE WEATHER STA RELEASD WEATHER BALLOON. PAR 8. NO FRAGMENTS, PHOTOS, ETC, OBTAINED. PAR 9. NO KNOWN INTERCEPTION ATTEMPTED. PAR 10. AT TIME OF SIGHTING, SEVERAL B-47 ACFT SHOOTING LANDINGS IN GEN VICINITY. HOWEVER, B-47 ACFT STILL QUITE DISTANCE FROM OBSRS. IM AFTER OBSERVATION, ONE B-47 PASSED OVERHEAD AND FORMED BASIS FOR MAJ SWICKARD'S JUDGMENT OF SPEED OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT. ANOTHER OBSERVATION: LOCAL NEWSPAPER STATED SEVERAL PEOPLE IN DOWNTOWN SHREVEPORT REPTD SIGHTING UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT AT

PAGE THREE JESBA 07

1930 HRS ON SAME NIGHT MAJ SWICKARD MADE HIS OBSERVATION. OBJECT  
DOWNTOWN DESCRIBED ABOUT 10 FT IN DIAMETER AND ROUND IN SHAPE.  
BARKSDALE AIR POLICE LATER REVEALED IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BALLOON THEY  
SAW BLOWN UP AT 1920 HRS ON DOWNTOWN STREET AND RELEASED. DESCRIBED  
APRX 10 FEET IN DIAMETER.

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14/1452Z AUG JESBA



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ROUTING

# JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

19 Aug 53 21 20z

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

COMDR ATIC

TO:

COMDR 2ND AF BARKSDALE AFB LA

JESBA

INFO:

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAE-8-7-2

DATE-TIME GROUP 181530Z AUG 53		SECURITY CLASSIFICATION [Redacted]
PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION ROUTINE	
<input type="checkbox"/> BOOK MESSAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL MESSAGE	
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE ADDRESS	CRYPTOPROTECTION <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
REFERS TO MESSAGE:		
IDENTIFICATION 2AFICB 1647	CLASSIFICATION [Redacted]	

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Ref your message 2AFICB 1647 reporting the observation of an unidentified aerial object by Maj J. D. Swickard and S/Sgt Rector at approximately 2100 hrs, 11 Aug 53, on Barksdale AFB reservation. Request following information: 1) What was the angular velocity of the object? 2) What were the winds aloft at various altitudes? 3) Did the object appear to be moving as fast as a meteor?

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

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DOD DIR 5200.10

COORDINATION:

- ATIAE-5 M. G. Futch Date 18 Aug 53  
(A/IC Futch)
- ATIAE J. Johnston Date 18 Aug  
(Col Johnston)
- ATIAE William K. Ryan Date 19 Aug  
(Col O'Hern)

OFFICIAL FILE COPY  
ELECTRONICS BRANCH  
Office of Record  
Proj 10073

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DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

A/IC MAX G. FUTCH/MS

SYMBOL  
ATIAE-5

TELEPHONE  
65365

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION [Redacted]	PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES
RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE <u>Robert C. Brown</u>	
OFFICIAL TITLE ROBERT C. BROWN, MAJOR, USAF ADJUTANT	

1953 AUG 25

03:55

15 53 00 152

*hr*

Action

*S. Atia  
3  
R. file*

2006  
WPC176  
VVO124  
JTBDA 190  
JEDWP

UNCLASSIFIED




JLSBA 166

242201Z 700

COMDRAF 2 BARKSDALE AFB LA

UNCLASSIFIED

TO COMDR AFIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

 / 2010 2007. RETURNING AFOL - AT - IAE - 1 - 7, PROJECT BLUE BOOK. REINTERROGATION OF MAJ SWICKARD REVEALED FOL INFO: SUBJ OFF COULD NOT ASCERTAIN ANGULAR VELOCITY OF OBJECT. WIND ALOFT WERE AS FOLLOWS: AT 1,000 FT, 13 DEGREES, 3 KNOTS; 2,000 FT, 12 DEGREES, 3 KNOTS; 3,000 FT, 11 DEGREES, 3 KNOTS; 4,000 FT, 7 DEGREES, 3 DEGREES, 3 KNOTS; 5,000 FT, 5 DEGREES, 5 KNOTS; 6,000 FT, 4 DEGREES, 6 KNOTS; 7,000 FT, 5 DEGREES, 9 KNOTS; 8,000 FT, 3 DEGREES, 14 KNOTS; 9,000 FT, 20 DEGREES, 10 KNOTS; 10,000 FT, 20 DEGREES, 11 KNOTS; 12,000 FT, 40 DEGREES, 15 KNOTS; 14,000, 60 DEGREES, 20 KNOTS; FT, 60 DEGREES, 25 KNOTS; 18,000 FT, 60 DEGREES, 25 KNOTS;

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ATIC

AF FORM 112—PART I  
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY USA	REPORT NO. <b>IR-36-53</b>	(LEAVE BLANK) AF573326
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### AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT <b>FLYOBPT</b>		
AREA REPORTED ON <b>Barksdale AFB Reservation</b>	FROM (Agency) <b>D/Intelligence, Hq Second Air Force</b>	
DATE OF REPORT <b>13 Aug 53</b>	DATE OF INFORMATION <b>11 Aug 53</b>	EVALUATION
PREPARED BY (Signature) <b>Capt William L Cramer, Jr</b>	SOURCE	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) <b>AFL 200-5 &amp; 2AFL 200-1</b>		

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

An unidentified flying object was sighted by Major Jack D Swickard and S Sgt Otis Rector at 2100 hours, 11 August 1953.

The two men agreed that the object was traveling at a high rate of speed, almost parallel to the earth's surface and appeared to be a red ball of fire.

APPROVED:

*William E. Todd*  
 WILLIAM E TODD  
 Colonel, USAF  
 Director of Intelligence

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 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
 DOD DIR 5200.10

ATIC 139253



100 DEGREES, 17 KNOTS; 35, 10, 20 DEGREES, 10 KNOTS; 40, 10, 5 DEGREES,  
15 KNOTS; 45, 10, 31 DEGREES, 10 KNOTS; 50, 10 FT, 54 DEGREES,  
5 KNOTS; 55, 10 FT, 50 DEGREES, 5 KNOTS; 60, 10, 7 DEGREES, 10  
KNOTS; 65, 10 FT, 7 DEGREES, 15 KNOTS. OBJECT APPEARED TO MOVE  
WEST AS FAST AS FALLING STAR.

24/22472 AUG J132A



UNCLASSIFIED

## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
D/Intelligence, Hq 2AF	IR-36-53	2	3	

The following information on an unidentified flying object was submitted to this office by Major Jack D Swickard, 11430A:

1. The object appeared to be a reddish ball of fire, approximately three times the size of a large star. The object moved very fast and left a streak in the sky. The speed of the object was described as considerably faster than a jet aircraft and was judged by several B-47s in the traffic pattern in the general vicinity of the observation.
2. The sighting occurred shortly after 2100 hours on 11 August 1953. The length of the sighting was described as only a matter of seconds.
3. This was a visual sighting.
4. At the time of the sighting, Major Swickard and a base game warden, S Sgt Otis Rector, 14340799, were both at the north end of Flagg Lake situated in the north central part of the Barksdale reservation. The unidentified object approached from a northerly direction and moved toward the southeast, moving almost parallel to the earth's surface and rising slightly before disappearing from view.
5. Major Swickard is an Aircraft Observer and believed very reliable. He has studied Astronomy and very definitely stated that this unidentified object was not a "shooting star". S Sgt Rector caught only a slight glimpse of the object when Major Swickard shouted "look" to him. However, S Sgt Rector stated that he has observed similar objects on three other occasions, but did not report them because of fear of ridicule.
6. The weather at the time was described by Major Swickard as a very clear, cloudless night with the sky full of stars. However, there was no moon at the time of the sighting.
7. At 2100 hours, on the date of the observation, the Barksdale Weather Station released a weather balloon.
8. No fragments, photographs, etc, were obtained.
9. There was no known interception attempted.
10. At the time of this sighting, there were several B-47 aircraft shooting landings in the general vicinity. However, the B-47 aircraft were still quite a distance from the observers. Immediately after the observation, a B-47 passed overhead and formed the basis for Major Swickard's judgment of the speed of the unidentified object.

Another Observation: A local newspaper stated that several people in downtown Shreveport reported sighting an unidentified flying object at 1930 hours on the same night Major Swickard made his observation. The object downtown was described as about 20 feet in diameter and round in shape. Barksdale Air Police later revealed that it had been the balloon they saw blown up at 1920 hours on a downtown street and released. It was described as approximately 10 feet in diameter.

COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 13 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

Major Swickard stated that he had studied Astronomy and did not believe the unidentified object as any type of meteorological phenomenon. He further stated that it