

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 15 Jan 61	2. LOCATION SE of Paine Field, Washington		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2227 GMT 160627Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Military		<input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 sec	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1	9. COURSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Brilliant white object size of basketball. Resembled a strong spot-light. Then it exploded and a large part of the sky was lit up. There was considerable orange and some blue coloring in explosion. No sound heard. Object appeared level with pilot flying at 35,000'.		11. COMMENTS No satellites reentering at this time. Description and duration are characteristic of a meteor. Brightness and explosion suggest that object was a fireball which exploded before it reached the earth's surface.	

METEOR

COUNTRY

USA

REPORT NO.

(LEAVE BLANK)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT

UFO

AREA REPORTED ON

Paine Field, Wash

FROM (Agency)

64th Ftr Intcp Sq and 64th Ftr Intcp Sq

DATE OF REPORT

16 Jan 61

DATE OF INFORMATION

16 Jan 61

EVALUATION

(1) Time was 0027. 10 Jan 61.

PREPARED BY (Officer)

1st Lt W B McDonald

SOURCE

Capt R E Dawson .tdtM (S)

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)

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 118-Part II.)

UFO. I am in doubt whether to call my sighting an airborne explosion; however, I will assume the sighting was on object before it exploded.

a. Description:

(1) Fireball first, and then a large portion of sky was lit up as if an explosion had occurred. There was considerable orange and some blue coloring in explosion.

(2) Fireball was basketball size.

(3) Fireball was brilliant white. It resembled a strong spotlight.

(4) Only one.

(5) Only one.

(6) My first impression was that a large landing light had been turned on in my face.

(7) No tail visible to me.

(8) No sound, I was flying in a T-33 aircraft.

b. Description of object:

(1) The intense light which appeared to be approaching rapidly. My first thought was that I was about to collide with something and I initiated evasive maneuvers.

(2) Object appeared level with me.

(3) Object was in my nine o'clock, and my magnetic heading was 290°. My altitude was 35,000 feet, my ground speed 330.

(4) Appeared to be gaining altitude.

(5) The sequence was this: brilliant white, fireball; then a brilliant colorful explosion (which silhouetted the cloud tops), and returned to darkness.

(6) Approximately five seconds.

c. Manner of observation:

(over)

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(1) I was airborne in a T-33 aircraft number 56-1504 (my call sign was Air Force Jet 01994). I was flying on a magnetic heading of 290° at 35,000 feet, and my ground speed was 330 knots, and was ten minutes southeast of the Paine TVOR. My home station is Paine Field, Washington.

AREA REPORTED ON: Paine Field, Wash.
DATE OF REPORT: 16 Jan 61
DATE OF INFORMATION: 16 Jan 61
EVALUATION: (1) Time was 0627Z, 16 Jan 61.

PREPARED BY (Name): 1st Lt W H McDonald
SOURCE: (2) Night. Capt R E Dawson

REFERENCES (Control number, director, previous report, etc., as applicable)

e. Location of observers:

SUMMARY: (Last concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-paragraph paragraph. List reference at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)
(1) I was 55 nautical miles southeast of the Paine TVOR tracking inbound explosion; however, I will assume the sighting was on the radial.

f. Identifying information on observers.

- (1) Fireball first, and then a large portion of the sky was lit up as explosion had occurred. There was considerable orange and some blue coloring in explosion.
Capt Robert E Dawson, (Pilot)
- (2) Fireball was basketball size (told) 1st Lt James L Fulk Jr (Pilot)
- (3) Fireball was brilliant white. It resembled a bright star (told) 1st Lt James L Fulk Jr (Pilot)

g. Weather and Winds.

- (1) We were at 35,000 feet and flying on top of the undercast. The entire area was covered with clouds. We were skimming cloud tops.
(2) My first impression was that a large landing light had been turned on in my face.

And this was only a beginning—for on January 15, 1961 a so-called

meteor flashed across the sky in southern Oregon and northern California, lighting up Eureka, California almost like daylight.

thought was that I was about to collide with something and I initiated evasive maneuvers.

- (2) Object appeared level with me.
- (3) Object was in my nine o'clock, and my magnetic heading was 290°. My altitude was 35,000 feet, my ground speed 330.

(4) Appeared to be gaining altitude.
(5) The sequence was this: brilliant white, fireball; then a brilliant colorful explosion (which shrouded the cloud tops), and returned to darkness.

(6) Approximately five seconds.

CLASSIFICATION: (over)
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ATTC
27 JAN 61 14 48

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