PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE	2. LOCATION	CONCLUSIONS
27 Aug 1951	Vandalia, Ill	☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☐ Possibly Balloon ☐ Was Aircraft ☐ Probably Aircraft ☐ Possibly Aircraft ☐ Was Astronomical ☐ Probably Astronomical ☐ Possibly Astronomical ☐ Other ☒ Insufficient Data for Evaluation ☐ Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 2000 - 2030 GMT 28/0200Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION XX Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar XX Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes XX No	6. SOURCE Newspaper Rpt	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Unk	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE West

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Big orange light with blinding intensity had red light on top. Viewed in southwest with course of West.

11. COMMENTS

Duration, speed, etc unknown therefore case evaluated as Insufficient Data.

HEADQUARTERS

AIR MATERIEL COMMAND

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

DAYTON, OHIO

IN REPLY ADDRESS BOTH COMMUNICATION AND ENVELOPE TO COMMANDING GENERAL, AIR MATERIEL COMMAND, ATTENTION FOLLOWING OFFICE SYMBOL:

Carmen Delores Welch
R. R. #1
Ramsey, Illinois

Dear Miss Welch:

Receipt of your letter dated September 10, 1951 is hereby acknowledged.

Your letter will be forwarded to the office interested in these matters.

If further information is desired you will be contacted.

Your action in writing this Command is appreciated.

Yours very truly,

BRYAN L. DAVIS
Colonel, USAF
Air Adjutant General

Ramsey, Illinois

September 10th, 1951.

Dear Sirs :

Perhaps your office might find the enclosed clipping of interest from the Vandalia Leader, of August 30 issue. The incident referred to ocurred on the evening of August ~~26th.~~ 27th.

Whether it was a military craft from Scott Field hasn't been made known here. If we can be of any further help and if you desire reports of this nature, if and when they should happen here, please advise.

Sincerely,

Carmen Delores Welch

Ramsey, Illinois. R. R. #1

Thursday, August 30, 1951.

Strange Object in Sky M
Baffles Local Airmen Tr

It wasn't a flying saucer! Nor was it a conventional type airplane! But whatever it was, it has aroused the curiosity of at least five persons who saw it soaring through the air Monday night.

"It was a big orange light with blinding intensity when I first noticed it over the southwest corner of the airport," Ray Williams, told the Leader. "I had just taxied out onto the runway preparing to take a flight around the city when I noticed the light. It was between 8 and 8:30 p.m. I called over the radio to the CAA official on duty Albert Drackley, and to Paul Reese and asked them to take a look.

"The lighted object disappeared into the west and we decided maybe there was nothing to it. So I decided to continue with my flight plans," Williams stated.

"Shortly after I had taken off I noticed the light again, approaching my plane. It came directly at me and then circled my plane twice before heading toward Greenville. I followed it and it made a circle round that town and came back toward Vandalia. I last saw it near the country club. The CAA radioed a transport pilot who was passing over Vandalia at the time at about 20,000 feet and he too saw the object.

"It was all very spooky," the Vandalia airman said. "It wasn't an airplane but whatever it was the light was on the tail of it, and there was a small red light on top. Probably it was some military craft from Scott Field making a test run."

The lighted object which appeared to have a 10 to 12 inch lens was also seen by Dwight Kerns in St. Elmo the same evening.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in Vandalia? Read The Vandalia Leader. 35-1t

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

Status Report #1

1,34

Appendix IV

VANDALIA, ILLINOIS - 27 August 1951

[illegible] information available on this incident is a newspaper article from the Daily Leader of 30 August 1951.

It [illegible] flying saucer! [illegible] and the airplane! [illegible] whatever it was, it has [illegible] of all at five persons who saw it soaring [illegible] the air during night.

[illegible] bright light [illegible] noticed it over the airport, [illegible] and the Leader. I left [illegible] my pickup [illegible] to have a look around the city when I noticed the light. It was between [illegible] I called over [illegible] the car officials on my short-wave [illegible] and [illegible] Dow.'

'The oblong object disappeared into the west and we decided maybe there was nothing to it. So I decided to continue with my flight plans,' [illegible] pilot.

'Shortly after [illegible] I noticed the light again, approaching [illegible] it from the city to me and then circled my plane twice before heading toward [illegible]. I followed it and it made a circle right [illegible] and came back [illegible]. I last saw it near the country club. [illegible] transport pilot who was passing over Vandalia at the time at about 6,000 feet and he too saw the object.

'It was all very spooky,' [illegible] Vandalia citizen said. 'It wasn't an air plane but whatever it was the light was on the tail of it, and there was a small red light on top. Probably it was some military craft from Scott Field making a test run.'

The lighted object which appeared to have a [illegible] was also seen by eight persons in St. Elmo the same evening."

Status of Investigation

An attempt will be made to obtain further information on this incident

EXTRACT FROM STATUS REPORT # 2

DATE: 27 Aug 51

TIME (Local): 2000

LOCATION: Vandalia, Ill.

LENGTH OF TIME OBSERVED: Unknown

SOUND: None

SPEED: High

ALTITUDE: Unknown

HEADING: Varied

SOURCE: Commercial pilots and Ground Obs.

ACTION OR COMMENTS: No further investigation. No conclusions.

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT: Bright orange light seen from the ground and again from two aircraft.

VANDALIA, ILLINOIS - 27 August 1951

The only information available on this incident is a newspaper article from "Vandalia Leader of 30 August 1951.

'It wasn't a flying saucer! Nor was it a conventional type airplane! But whatever it was, it has aroused the curiosity of at least five persons who saw it soaring through the air Monday night.

"'It was a big orange light with blinding intensity when I first noticed it over the southwest corner of the airport,' Ray Williams told the Leader. 'I had just taxied out onto the runway preparing to take a flight around the city when I noticed the light. It was between 8 and 8:30 p.m. I called over the radio to the CAA official on duty Albert Brockler, and to Paul Reese and asked them to take a look.'

"'The lighted object disappeared into the west and we decided maybe there was nothing to it. So I decided to continue with my flight plans,' Williams stated.'

"'Shortly after I had taken off I noticed the light again, approaching my plane. It came directly at me and then circled my plane twice before heading toward Greenville. I followed it and it made a circle round that town and came back toward Vandalia. I last saw it near the country club. The CAA radioed a transport pilot who was passing over Vandalia at the time at about 10,000 feet and he too saw the object.'

"'It was all very spooky,' the Vandalia airman said. 'It wasn't an airplane but whatever it was the light was on the tail of it, and there was a small red light on top. Probably it was some military craft from Scott Field making a test run.'

'The lighted object which appeared to have a 10 to 12 inch lens, was also seen by Dwight Kerns in St. Elmo the same evening."

Status of Investigation

An attempt will be made to obtain further information on this incident.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1951 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
August			
Aug	Mavosta, Texas CASE MISSING	Morley	Insufficient Data
5	Herkimer, New York	Walton	Astro (METEOR)
8	Cleveland, Ohio	Skelops	A/C
11	Birmingham, Alabama	Multiple	Astro (METEORS)
12	Corong, New Mexico (CASE MISSING)	Military	Astro (METEOR)
12	Indianapolis, Indiana	Multiple	Balloon
14	Rhein Main AB, Germany	Military Air	Insufficient Data
19	Alexandria, Virginia	Neville	A/C
20	Spokane, Washington	Not reported	Balloon
25	Lubbock, Texas (FOLDER) *	Multiple (PHOTO)	Other (BIRDS)
25	Albuquerque, New Mexico (~~FOLDER~~)	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
26	Ellington AFB, Texas	Military	Balloon
26	Ellington AFB, Texas	Multiple	Insufficient Data
26	Larson AFB, Washington	Military (RADAR)	Other (ELECTRONIC INTERFERENCE)
[illegible]	San Antonio, Texas	Orozco	Astro (METEOR)
27	Vandalia, Illinois	Williams	Insufficient Data
29	Grenier AFB, New Hampshire	Military	Insufficient Data
31	Matador, Texas	Tilsom	UNIDENTIFIED
- Aug	Gonzales, Texas (INFO ONLY)	Morris	A/C
September			
3-8	Spokane, Washington (NO CASE)	Military	Insufficient Data
6	Claremont, California	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
6	Hollywood, California	Miller	Other (PSYCHOLOGICAL)
10	Andrews AFB, Washington D C	Military	Astro (METEOR)
10	Sandy Hook, New Jersey (FOLDER) ° (CARD MISSING)	Military Air	Balloon
10-11	Fort Monmouth, New Jersey (FOLDER) °	Military (RADAR)	1. Balloon 2. Anomalous Propagation
12	Cincinnati, Ohio	Schott	Astro (METEOR)
[illegible]	Goose AFB, Labrador	Ground Radar	UNIDENTIFIED
[illegible]0	Marion, Ohio	Grover	A/C
17	Tatum, New Mexico (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
17-19	65.40N 71.40W	Military (VIS/RAD)	A/C
[illegible]8	Michigan - Wisconsin	Military (RADAR)	Other (DUCTING)
[illegible]0	Pori, Finland	Civilian	Astro (METEOR)
23	March AFB, California (~~FOLDER~~)	Military (Air)	Balloon
30	Orange, Virginia	Simmons, Daniel, Walker	Insufficient Data

* IN SEPARATE FOLDER

° Some INFO in this folder; some in separate folder