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UFOs and the Opposition of Mars

Venus is not the only heavenly body to simulate a flying saucer. Jupiter and even Mercury, the smallest of the planets, have inspired their share of UFOs. Mars, which can also be very bright, has frequently been reported as a spaceship.

On June 21, 1952, an F-47 aircraft was on routine patrol over the Atomic Energy Commission installation at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, when at 10:58 P.M. a spotter from the Ground Observer Corps informed the pilot that a slow-moving craft was moving in the area, at very high altitude. At about the same time the pilot observed a blinking white light, of no definite shape, and with no exhaust or tail, apparently making passes at him. For the next eighteen min-

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FINAL GALLEY PROOF

utes the pilot tried vainly to intercept the unknown. The plane was at 15,000 feet, moving at about 250 knots. As the pilot turned to meet the pass, the UFO would pull up some 4000 to 5000 feet above the plane and then move in again. When the plane reached 22,000 feet, the UFO appeared to make a final dive from 28,000 feet, pulled back up to its previous altitude, and then disappeared. The pilot's reaction is indicated by his answer to one of the routine questions on the Air Force report form: "Did you stop at any time during the sighting?" His reply read: "Ha Ha!"

Investigating the incident, officials from ATIC at first suspected that the object might have been a balloon, released as a hoax; only a few weeks earlier a crank had launched a flight of balloons near Oak Ridge and had been caught. But after interviewing the witnesses, the investigators concluded that the UFO was far more probably the planet Mars. As so often happens, however, they could not convert the "probable" into a "positive" identification because they lacked one essential fact: the bearing of the aircraft [1].

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MARS?

TENTATIVE
OBSERVERS DATA SHEET

Where Choice is Given, Circle Proper Answers, or Insert Answer

1. Date of your observation: 21 (Day) June (Month) 52 (Year)

2. Date you reported the observation: 21 (Day) June (Month) 52 (Year)

3. What time was it when you sighted the object: 10 (Hrs.) 58 (Min.) (0358Z)

A. M. P. M. Daylight Standard

Zone: (Eastern), Central, Mountain, Pacific, _____ (Other)

4. Length of time object was observed. Estimate: _____ (Hours) 17 (Minutes) _____ (Seconds).

5. Where observed:

_____ (Postal Address) Maryville (City or Town) Tenn (State) USA (Country)

6. Where were you at time of observation:

Inside building, In Car, Outdoors, In F-47 A/C at 22 pos (Other)

7. Were you moving at any time during this sighting: Yes (Yes or No);

8. Did you stop at any time during this sighting: ha ha (Yes or No).

9. If you were moving - give _____ (Direction) and _____ (Speed) miles per hour.

10. How was object observed: (Naked eye)
Eye glasses
Other glass (Window or Windshield)
Binoculars, Telescope, Theodolite
Other_____

11. How did you happen to notice the object: _____

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12. Describe what you saw as briefly as possible in the following spaces:

a. Sound_____ b. Shape "light"

c. Color_____ d. Size_____

e. Number one f. Light brightness_____

g. Light color white h. Motion_____

i. Speed_____ j. Other_____

13. How did object disappear from view: Suddenly or Gradually
(Circle One)

14. At any time did the object:

a. Change direction. b. Change speed. c. Move behind something; Cloud, House, Tree, _____ (Other) d. Blend with background. e. Decrease in size. f. Decrease in brightness. g. Move in front of something.

h._____ (Other)

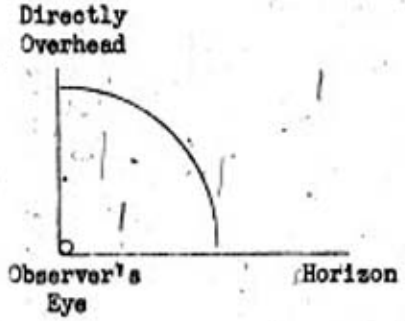
15. When you first looked at the object, what direction were you facing?_____

16. When you last saw the object, what direction were you facing?_____

17. In the following Sketch A, draw lines from the observer's eye to the circular arc to show the apparent elevation of the object in the sky.

A. When first seen, label a.

B. When last seen, label b.



SKETCH A

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18. On the following Sketch B, label a at the apparent position of the object when first seen and b at point last seen. Trace the apparent path of the object between points a and b.

If possible label 1, 2, 3, etc., along the traced path to show the successive positions of the object after equal intervals of time during the sighting.

SKETCH B

19. In Sketch C please show the observed features of the object such as;

A. Apparent shape, (were edges pointed or rounded),

B. Apparent direction of motion (show by arrow), and

C. Other details, exhaust, trails, tails, surfaces, etc.

SKETCH C

20. The sun and the moon are shown below as they appear in their correct relative size. In this sketch D, show the apparent size of what you saw.

SUN OBJECT MOON

SKETCH D

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21. In your own words please describe the sighting you observed. Use sketches if desired. All observations from the time of first sighting to the time of dissappearance are important. Include a description of the weather, wind, and cloud conditions at the time of this sighting.

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22. Your full name:

23. Your Address:

24. Your Occupation:

25. Last school you attended:

26. Year of last attendance at this school:

27. Please list the names and addresses of persons who discussed this sighting with you. It is not necessary to list the names of officials or investigators.

28. Further comments which you believe are important should be entered here. Use additional sheets of the same size if necessary.

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AA155

WPA165

JEDBW 235

ACTION

ATIC

INFO

1:38

ER JEDWP

DE JEDBW 56

R 2614502

FM CO 30TH ADIV (DEF) WILLOW RUN APRT BELLEVILLE MICH

TO CO ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

INT 7317 PD CHIEF PROJECT BLUE BOOK PD REFERENCE YOUR QUIRES OF OUR

MESSAGE INT 7206 (SEVEN TWO ZERO SIX) PD TIME GIVEN WAS ZEBRA TIME PD

GROUND OBSERVER DID NOT SEE FOX FOUR SEVEN

26/1544Z JUN JEDBW

Original

Oak Ridge File

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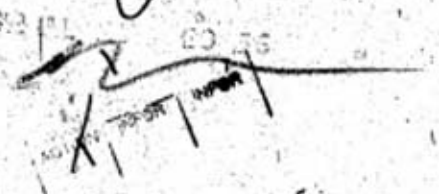
1. ATIAA
2. ATIB
3. C. Files

UNCLASSIFIED

Jul 1952 09-19



ACTION

16:5

19 JUL 21

8TL Ø1

F DY6Ø

DE 8TL Ø7

P 211900Z

FM CO 663RD AC&W SQ/LAKE CITY TENN

TO CO AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

[redacted]

OPS 143 PD

CITE PROJECT BLUE BOOK PD REF URMSG AFOIN-ATIAA-U-2E CMA INCIDENT DID TAKE PLACE UNDER 23000 CLOUD LAYER BUT ENDED WITH FTR AT 23000 AND OBJECT AT APPROX 25000 CMA US WEATHER BUREAU ADVISES /A/ YES /B/ YES /C/ BALLON OBSERVER DOES NOT RECALL TIME LIGHT WENT OUT PD THE TIME HAS BEEN REQUESTED AND WILL BE SUBM WHEN RECD PD FILE OPS 319.1 PD

21/1900Z JUL 52 8TL CB

ES QSL

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

REC 1 MSG AT 21/2037Z

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Cy 1

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MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NOT USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

1 NAME OR TITLE	INITIALS		CIRCULATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	DATE		COORDINATION
2 Telephone call by Col Bower			FILE
			INFORMATION
3			NECESSARY ACTION
			NOTE AND RETURN
4			SEE ME
			SIGNATURE

REMARKS

Telephone call from Bob Myers, Weather Bureau at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

No balloons launched since Dec 1 1950 (Research on air pollution).

AEC Security recently advised crank in area launched lighted balloons about 2 mos ago in Oak Ridge area — was apprehended

FROM NAME OR TITLE	DATE
ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION	TELEPHONE

DD FORM 1 FEB 50 95 Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used.

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ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

O'HARA, COMMANDING, AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

DATE-TIME GROUP: 2414002 June 52

UNCLASSIFIED

PRECEDENCE FOR: ACTION: ROUTINE INFORMATION:

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CRYPTOPRECAUTION: ☐ YES ☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE

IDENTIFICATION: CLASSIFICATION:

TO: US WEATHER BUREAU STATION
OAK RIDGE, TENN

INFO:

FROM: AFOIN-ATIA-6-15E

Urgently need info on whether or not balloon launched at 0300Z on 2 June 52 was lighted. Also request winds aloft for that run. If info is available, desire to know whether or not observers noted a/c near balloon, height, and time balloon burst, and highest altitude reached by balloon.

In reply cite Project Blue Book. If necessary, reply collect at Government expense.

DONALD L. BOYER, COLONEL, USAF
CHIEF, TECHNICAL ANALYSIS DIVISION
AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

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PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

Capt [illegible] Burgoltz/ms

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

SYMBOL: ATIA-5

TELEPHONE: 54361

OFFICIAL TITLE: ROBERT E. KENNEDY, Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

DD FORM 1 OCT 49 173 REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 48, WHICH MAY BE USED.

16—80958-8 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

ATIA-5 31 Mar

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ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

CO, ATIC

TO: CG HQ 30TH AIR DIV (DEFENSE)
WILLOW RUN AIRPORT BELLEVILLE MICH

INFO:

DATE-TIME GROUP	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
241330Z June 52	UNCLASSIFIED

PRECEDENCE FOR:	ACTION	INFORMATION
	ROUTINE	

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☐ ORIGINAL MESSAGE

☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO

REFERS TO MESSAGE

IDENTIFICATION	CLASSIFICATION
INT 7206	Unclassified

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-6-14E FOR DIVISION INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Reference your message INT 7206 dated 211635Z reporting object sighted by F-47 on 21 June. Request info as to whether time given was Zebra or Eastern Standard Time. Did ground observer see F-47 "dog fighting"?

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

Capt E. J. Ruppelt/vs

SYMBOL: ATIAA-5

TELEPHONE: 54261

RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

OFFICIAL TITLE: ROBERT E. KENNEDY, Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

DD FORM 1 OCT 49 173 REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 48, WHICH MAY BE USED.

16—80859-8 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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WPB100

YDD137

JEDBW 26

RR JEPHQ JEDWP JEDEN JEPNB 444

DE JEDBW 48

ACTION

R 2116352

FM HQ 30TH ADIV DEF WILLOW RUN APRT BELLEVILLE MICH.

TO JEPHQ/DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, HEADQUATERS USAF, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

JEDWP/AIR TECHINAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OHIO

ATTN: ATIAA-2C

JEDEN/COMMANDING GENERAL, ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO

JEPNB/COMMANDING GENERAL EADF STEWART AFB NEWBURGH N.Y.

INT 7206 PD FLYOBRPT FOLLOWING REPORT FORWARDED FORM SIX SIX THREE ABLE CMA CHARLIE CMA AND WILLIAM SQUADRON AND REWRITTEN AND FORWARDED BY THIS HEADQUARTERS PD AT TWO ONE JUNE ZERO THREE FIVE EIGHT REPORT RECEIVED FORM GROUND OBSERVER AT OAKRIDGE TENNESSEE THAT AIRCRAFT WAS FLYING THERE AT VERY HIGH ALTITUDE PD PARA AT APPROZIMATELY SAME TIME PILOT AIRBORN IN FOX FOUR SEVEN ON ROUTINE FLIGHT IN CAT TWO AIR CRAFT OBSERVED BLINKING WHITE LIGHT MAKING PASSES AT HIM PD FOX FOUR SEVEN AT ONE FIVE ZERO ZERO ZERO FEET AT INDICATED TWO FIVE ZERO KNOTS ONE ZERO MILE NORTH NORTHEAST OF MARYVILLE TENNESSEE PD PILOT TURNED TO MEET PASS AND UNKNOWN WOUED PULL UP FOUR ZERO ZERO ZERO TO FIVE ZERO ZERO ZERO FEET PD NO SILHOUETTE VISIBLE DASH ONLY WHITE LIGHT PD AT ZERO FOUR ONE FIVE PILOT OF FOX FOUR SEVEN WAS AT TWO TWO ZERO ZERO ZERO FEET

ACTION

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WHEN UNKNOWN MADE FINAL PASS FORM TWO EIGHT ZERO ZERO ZERO FEET AND PULLED UP TO SAME ALTITUDE AND DISAPPEARED PD PILOT SAW NO EXHAUST OR TRAIL BUT THOUGHT OBJECT TO BE A JET BY REASON OF ITS SPEED AND RATE OF CLIMB PD ENTIRE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE WITH RADIUS OF TWENTY FIVE MILES OF MARYVILLE TENNESSEE PD ON ELECTRONIC READING OF FOX FOUR SEVEN OR UNKNOWN DUE TO GROUND CLUTTER ON EQUIPMENT PD

ONE. WHITE BLANKING LIGHT NO EXHAUST VERY ELUSIVPD

TWO. TIME SIGHTED 21/0358 TO 21/0415.

THREE. VISUAL FORM AIR TEN ZERO ZERO ZERO FEET ON LEVEL PD

FOUR. TEN MILES NNE MARYVILLE TENNESSEE PD

FIVE. 1ST LT. JAMES W. WILSON A02 086 330 RELIABLE AND EXPERIENCED PD

SIX. CEILING TWO THREE ZERO ZERO ZERO FEET PD FIVE ZERO PERCENT OVERCAST PD

SEVEN. NONE PD

EIGHT. NONE PD

NINE. INTERCEPTION AND IDENTIFICATION UNSUCESSFUL PD

TEN. NONE KNOWN PD END

21/1635Z JUN JEDBW

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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Oak Ridge, Tennessee
July 17, 1952

Colonel D. L. Bower
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Colonel Bower:

A further investigation of the incident referred to in your teletype of June 24, 1952, brought forth the following data which may be of use to you. A lighted 100 gram pilot balloon with an ascent rate of about 1000 ft./min. was released at 22:00 EST June 20, (210300Z) from the McGhee-Tyson Airport near Knoxville. This balloon was observed for 15 minutes at which time the lighting unit failed. The 0300Z radiosonde balloon from Nashville was followed presumably by an SCR 658, to an altitude of 25,000 ft. No winds above 25,000 ft. were reported by Nashville.

The 210300Z wind data from this area are as follows:

	TYS	BNA	OSD
SFC	250° 11 knots		
2000	240 20		
3000	230 22		
4000	210 24		
5000	200 22		
6000	200 18		
7000	190 16		
8000	190 20		
9000	190 22		
10000	190 21		
12000	190 12		
14000	250 07	290 13	
16000	light out	290 20	
20000		270 24	
25000		270 18	
30000			270 39
35000			280 42
40000			290 45

No balloons were released officially in Oak Ridge at the time of the incident. This station has not released any balloons or flown any captive balloons since December, 1950.

Sincerely yours,

J. Z. Holland

J. Z. Holland
Meteorologist in Charge
Weather Bureau

CC: Fred White, Wash.
Cleo E. Baca, Sec.
Chief Davis, AEC Patrol

Myers:ec

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ROUTING

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)
O'HARA, COMMANDING, AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

DATE-TIME GROUP
720003 July '52 [redacted]

PRECEDENCE FOR: | ACTION: ROUTINE | INFORMATION

TO: 663rd ACSI SQUADRON
MC GHEE TYSON AIRPORT KNOXVILLE TENN

☐ BOOK MESSAGE ☒ ORIGINAL MESSAGE
☐ MULTIPLE ADDRESS CRYPTOPRECAUTION ☐ YES ☒ NO
REFERS TO MESSAGE
IDENTIFICATION | CLASSIFICATION

INFO:

FROM: AFOIN-ATIAA-7-2E

Reference sighting of unidentified aerial object by F-47 pilot Lt Wilson on 21 June 1950. Said incident take place under the reported 23,000 cloud layer. Request you contact U.S. Weather Bureau and forward following information to ATIC:

a. Was a lighted balloon launched at 03002 on 21 June 52? Y

b. Could this balloon have been 10 miles NE of Maryville at 03582? Y

c. Did balloon observer note the time the light went out? NO

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

DONALD L. DOWER, COLONEL, USAF
CHIEF, TECHNICAL ANALYSIS DIVISION
AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

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

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted] PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

DRAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)
Capt A. J. Luppolt/vs

SYMBOL ATIA-5 | TELEPHONE 54361

RELEASER'S SIGNATURE
OFFICIAL TITLE ROBERT T. [illegible], Major, USAF
Air Adjutant General

DD FORM 1 OCT 49 173 REPLACES NME FORM 173, 1 MAY 48, WHICH MAY BE USED.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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15 - 22 JUNE 1952 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
15	Port Huron, Michigan (CARDS MISSING)	Busby	INSUFFICIENT DATA
15	Louisville, Kentucky	Duke	UNIDENTIFIED
15	Honshu, Japan	Military	Other (SEARCHLIGHT)
15	Virginia Area	Multiple	BALLOON
15	Port AuPort, Newfoundland (CARDS MISSING)	Rowe	Other (UNRELIABLE SOURCE)
15	North Kenoma, Ohio	Reese	INSUFFICIENT DATA
15	Pacific	Military	INSUFFICIENT DATA
15	Zora, Pennsylvania	Thalmein	BALLOON
16	Jamestown, North Dakota		INSUFFICIENT DATA
16	Brownsville, Kentucky	Callahan	BALLOON
16	Denver, Colorado	LaFord	INSUFFICIENT DATA
16	Walker AFB, New Mexico	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Lansing, Michigan	Civilian	AIRCRAFT
17	Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio (CARDS MISSING)	Cossairt	BALLOON
17	McChord AFB, Washington	Multiple	UNIDENTIFIED
17	Cape Cod, Massachusetts	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
18	Spokane, Washington	Multiple	BALLOON
18	100 mi E March AFB, Calif. (CARDS MISSING)	Military	AIRCRAFT
18	Columbus, Wisconsin		UNIDENTIFIED
18	Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio	Doyle	INSUFFICIENT DATA
18	Mt Lebanon, Pennsylvania	Civilian	BALLOON
18	Pontiac, Michigan (CARDS MISSING)	Hoffman	UNIDENTIFIED
19	Tacoma, Washington (CARDS MISSING)	Multiple	INSUFFICIENT DATA
19	Lynchburg, Virginia	Reeves	INSUFFICIENT DATA
19	Goose AFB, Labrador	Military (RADAR)	UNIDENTIFIED
19	Waterville, Pennsylvania	Multiple	INSUFFICIENT DATA
19	Yuma, Arizona	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
20	New York Area (CARDS MISSING)	Multiple	INSUFFICIENT DATA
20	Benedict, Maryland	Military	Astro (METEOR)
20	Korea	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
20	Brandonville, Pennsylvania	Hurrox	Other (CIRCUS LIGHTS)
20	Macon, Mississippi (CARDS MISSING)	Military	Astro (METEOR)
21	Erding, Germany	Military	BALLOON
21	Maryville, Tennessee	Military (RADAR)	BALLOON
21	Cheyenne, Wyoming	Nicholls	Astro (METEOR)
21	Kelly AFB, Texas	Military	UNIDENTIFIED
22	Stillwater, Oklahoma	Ikenberry	Astro (METEOR)
22	Millbrae, California	Dutton	AIRCRAFT
22	Boise, Idaho	Military	INSUFFICIENT DATA
22	Korea	Military	UNIDENTIFIED

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
17-19	France	News Clippings	
20	Udine, Italy	Ltr, IR, Ing Tonon Romano	Astro