[redacted]

[redacted] AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON
29TH AIR DIVISION (DEFENSE)
Bonners Ferry, Idaho

5 October 1952

[redacted]

TO: Commanding Officer
[redacted]th AC&W Squadron
Bonners Ferry, Idaho

TO: Commanding General
29th Air Division (Defense)
Great Falls AFB, Montana

TO: Commanding General
Western Air Defense Force
Hamilton AFB, California

TO: Commanding General
Air Defense Command
Ent AFB, Colorado

TO: Director of Intelligence
Headquarters, USAF
Washington 25, D.C.

1. Under provisions of AFL 200-5, dated 29 April 1952, and in the absence of AF Forms 112, "Air Intelligence Information Report", the following report of unidentified flying objects is submitted:

a. Colored lights were observed in the sky southeast of the radar station located near Trask, Montana. At the same time and the same azimuth, unidentified targets appeared on the AN/FPS-3 PPI scope. No more than two lights appeared at one time. They were observed moving in a rather erratic pattern and changing colors occasionally. The last thirty minutes of observation revealed the lights remaining a yellowish-white in color. Prior to then they were red, green, or blue. The lights moved in no apparent formation, but in most instances appeared in the same area and disappeared in another area. They disappeared when the light went out or the objects dived behind one of the thin clouds in the sky. The lights were smaller and less bright than the stars, and round in shape. A long white vapor trail was left when the objects dived.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted] Subj: [redacted] 5 Sep 52

The objects were immobile at times, and other times were observed to move very rapidly. This corresponded to similar movements observed on the radar equipment. One white light went out as it changed direction and continued as a black silhouette outlined against the sky which was getting light with the approaching dawn.

b. The objects were observed over a period of one hour, from 1145 to 1245 hours, 1 September 1952. The targets on the scope remained for a similar period.

c. Visual observation from the surface by two airmen, and by three airmen on the electronic equipment, a search radar set mounted on a mount in top. The type set was the AN/[illegible]-3.

d. The latitude and longitude of place of observation, both visual and electronic, was about 115° 43' West, 48° 53' North. Objects were moving 50 to 70 degrees from the zenith, well above the horizon. The azimuth as noted visually and electronically from the set, varied from 120° to 140°. The distance from station of targets observed on the radar was 50 to 90 miles. The altitude was unknown since a height finder isn't installed. An estimated height based on the ranging angle at the above mentioned azimuth would be 10,000' or less.

e. Observers:

(1) Visual:

A/1C Ramsey, Earl C., AF 14364873, [illegible] 27350
A/1C Oberdorf, Leonard [illegible]., AF 13280099, [illegible] 27350

(2) Electronic:

Airmen listed in paragraph 1.e.(1) above.
A/2C Williams, Donald [illegible]., AF 13404342, [illegible] 27350

(3) All three observers are reliable airmen with considerable experience as Aircraft Control & Warning Operators.

f. A few thin clouds were in the sky. The period was just before dawn so the sky was changing from dark to light.

g. No activity or expedition, meteorological or otherwise, which might account for the sighting is known.

h. No physical evidence exists.

i. No interception was attempted because no fighter aircraft were available.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[illegible] Subj: FLYCERPT 5 Sep 52

1. There was no air traffic on the radar within one hundred miles of the objects.

2. Statements from the three observers and copies of the recorders [illegible] are attached as inclosures.

[illegible]

Incls:
1. Statement of [illegible] Ramsey
2. Statement of [illegible] Oberdorf
3. Statement of [illegible] Williams
4. Recorders Log

[illegible]
Captain, [illegible]
Adjutant

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

[illegible] Ferry, Idaho

[illegible] September

[illegible] on duty as an aircraft [illegible] warning operator in the early morning hours, [illegible] September 1952, at the [illegible] Squadron, located near [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] Cpl. [illegible] 14364573, and [illegible] Oberdorf, Leonard [illegible], [illegible] 13280099, observed colored lights in the [illegible] southeast of our station. During the first ten minutes of observation there were blips on the radar scopes in the same direction as the lights. These targets had the appearance of small permanent echoes. These targets would remain on the scope for a short time, disappear, [illegible] appear again [illegible] three or four miles from the [illegible] position.

The first light to [illegible] the appearance of a shooting star. This object left a thin vapor trail and disappeared without any unusual movement. About two minutes later another light moved in the opposite direction. This light was moving at a high rate of speed and going up and down with jerky movements. The movements were similar to a flat surfaced object skipping over water. The next two lights observed were at the same place as the previous two. They were sidewise side and remained stationary for about forty-five seconds, then began to move in every direction always remaining about the same distance apart. They disappeared in about the same place as they appeared.

The next light moved at a very high rate of speed. It moved in a straight course for a short distance then turned almost straight up. This object turned off and dived leaving a vapor trail on the downward course. The vapor trail was light and quickly disappeared. This object disappeared behind a thin mass of clouds. Another light was observed a short time after then previous one disappeared. This object glued and swiftly disappeared behind the same cloud, also leaving a vapor trail while diving.

By this time it was almost dark light. A light was observed moving towards the cloud where the last object had disappeared. The light disappeared and at the same time and place a black object appeared, changed direction and moved on a downward course in the opposite direction. This object came lower than any of the others before disappearing.

The last light observed was a short time later. This light appeared in a flash considerable higher than the others. After the flash a small light moved up and disappeared. [illegible] time all the [illegible] disappeared from the radar scopes.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[illegible]

[illegible] Ferry, Idaho

5 September [illegible]

While on duty as an aircraft [illegible] warning operator in the early morning hours, 1 September 1952, at the [illegible] Squadron, located near [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] Oberdorf, [illegible] 13280[illegible], observed [illegible] lights in the [illegible] southeast of [illegible]. During the first ten minutes of observation there were slips on the radar scopes in the same direction as the lights. These targets had the appearance of small permanent echos. These targets would remain on the scope for a short time, disappear, then appear again within three or four miles from the former position.

The first light to move gave the appearance of a shooting star. This object left [illegible] vapor trail and disappeared without any unusual movement. About two minutes later another light moved in the opposite direction. This light was moving at a high rate of speed and going up and down with jerky movements. The movements were similar to a flat surfaced object skipping over water. The next two lights observed were at [illegible] place as the previous two. They were side by side and remained stationary for about forty-five seconds, then began to move in every direction always remaining about the same distance apart. They disappeared in about the same place as they appeared.

The next light moved at a very high rate of speed. It moved in a straight course for a short distance then turned almost straight up. This object turned off and dived leaving a vapor trail on the downward course. The vapor trail was light and quickly disappeared. This object disappeared behind a thin mass of clouds. Another light was observed a short time after then previous one disappeared. This object dived and swiftly disappeared behind the same cloud, also leaving a vapor trail while diving.

By this time it was almost daylight. A light was observed moving towards the cloud where the last object had disappeared. The light disappeared and at the same time and place a black object appeared, changed direction and moved on a downward course in the opposite direction. This object came lower than any of the others before disappearing.

The last light observed was a short time later. This light appeared in a flash considerable higher than the others. After the flash a small light moved up and disappeared. At this time all the targets disappeared from the radar scope.

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1. A/1C Leonard [illegible]berdorf, while on duty at the [illegible] Aircraft Control [illegible] Squadron, [illegible], on the early morning of [illegible] September [illegible], received a call from [illegible] (call sign of the 760th [illegible] Squadron, [illegible], Washington) concerning a strange light in the sky, southeast from our station. I immediately went out of the building to see if I could, perhaps, see such a light. I searched the sky in several directions before I saw a light. My first glimpse was a very bright blue light, but it lasted only about a minute then it faded into a light green. The light that I saw was in a slow moving orbit. I was startled at first so I closed my eyes and opened them again. The light was still there. I stared at it a few minutes and the light seemed at this time more of a yellow than the previous mentioned colors. I did not think anyone would believe me so I went inside the building and relieved A/1C Ramsey, who was on duty at the radar scope. He went outside and observed in the direction which I informed him. At this time I was scope operator and I adjusted the scope for 90° and 120° scanning. The first pip or possible target was 128°, 53 miles. After that it appeared as a permanent echo. After about 10 sweeps (2 minutes) of the radar beam it completely disappeared. Almost the same time that it disappeared, another pip appeared, azimuth 134°, 73 miles. It also seemed like a permanent echo. It only stayed on the scope for 1½ minutes. These pips were at no time caused by malfunction of the radar set. At one time I was able to determine the speed if the two pips were the same target, but it cannot be possible to say that they were the same object. It was doing 20 miles in one minute or 1200 miles per hour. This pip was always inside a radius of 35 miles of the original sighting. The same pip was observed by A/2C Donald Williams within five minutes of my observation. It was daylight when it seemed to fade both visually outdoors and electronically indoors.

[signature]
Leonard S. Oberdorf
A/1C USAF
AF 13290099

DOWNGRADED [illegible]
DECLASSIFIED [illegible]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

680TH AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON
29TH AIR DIVISION [illegible]
Bonners Ferry, Idaho

5 September 1957

[illegible]

While on duty as an AC[illegible] operator at the 680th [redacted]ft Control and Warning Squadron, Isaac, Montana, on the morning of 1 September 1957, between the hours of 1100 and 1200 Zebra, I picked up some targets on the [illegible] scope of the [illegible]-3 radar which appeared between 1200 and 1400 in azimuth and from 70 to 80 miles in distance. These targets were identified as unknown or unknown objects. The presentation on the scope appeared as aircraft usually do except they were possible a little smaller than normal. They would stay in one position for a few minutes and then disappear only to reappear a few seconds later at a distance of five or six miles from the original appearance, however, I couldn't tell if this was a move on the initial target. So I couldn't calculate the speed of the object or objects. Other than the fact they appeared to move so fast, there wasn't any difference in these objects and moving ordinary targets, other than the smallness of the presentation as noted above.

During the period I was observing the radar presentation [illegible] Lansey and [illegible] Dordorf were either at a scope with [illegible] or outside taking visual observations.

Ronald E. Williams

Ronald [illegible] Williams, AF 13404942
[illegible] 680th AIRW Squadron

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[illegible] LOG

O'Dell DATE: 1 Sept 1952

O'Dell SHEET NO. Z FROM 0514 TO 1526 Z

EXTRACTS

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	IDENTIFICATION	ALTITUDE	SPEED	IFF MODE	TIME	REMARKS
1P	FC 0350		JNK				1215	Enroute [illegible]
A-5	FC 2040						1255	Fade

Incl #1

DOWN[illegible]
DECLA[illegible]
DOD [illegible]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]

[illegible]

[illegible] [redacted] ROSTINE 15 SEP 52 09 1[illegible]

FM 25 AIR DIV DEFENSE EVERETT WASH 111[illegible]
TO AMC WPAFB OHIO [redacted]

25 ADIV 001-[illegible]

PROJ BLUE BOOK. URMSG 10-1216. NO REC OF MSG 01-24 IN THIS HQ.
REQ THIS HQ BE NOTIFIED OF OFF OF ORIGIN
12/1552Z

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SIFIED

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

DD FORM 173

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Designator)

[redacted]

DATE TIME GROUP: 1610 SEPT 52

ROUTINE

TO: ATIC

CO 2978 AIR DIV (DEF) GREAT FALLS AFB MONT

INFO:

CI-24 [redacted]

FROM: AFOIB-ATIAA

Reference your message CI-24 dated 02234DZ, subj: FLYOSRPT. Request the following data be included in Form 112. 1) Were objects first sighted visually or by radar? 2) Was estimate of altitude made on AN/FPS-32 3) Complete description of visual and electronic appearance of targets. 4) Details of weather in area, including plots of altitude vs moisture content and temperature. 5) Did any GOC or Forest Service lookouts observe objects?

In reply cite Project Blue book.

DOWN
DECLASSIFIED

TERVALS:
PLANE

COORDINATION:

ATIAA _____

ATIA _____

[redacted]

TSD-16506

[redacted] PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

SHAFTER'S NAME (and signature, when required)

UNCLASSIFIED

CAPT E. J. RUPPELT/jos

TELEPHONE

OFFICIAL TITLE

ROBERT E. [illegible], MAJOR, USAF
AIR-[illegible]

DD 1 OCT 48 173 REPLACES NAVY FORM 131, WHICH MAY BE USED.

UNCLASSIFIED

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

UNCL

SPACE ABOVE FOR COMMUNICATIONS CENTER ONLY

FROM: (Originator)

[redacted]

TO:

INFO:

[redacted]

Reference your [illegible] dated [illegible], [illegible] request the following [illegible] 1) More objects first sighted visually or by radar? 2) Has estimate of altitude made on [illegible]? 3) Complete description of visual and electronic appearance of targets. 4) Details of weather in area, including plots of altitude vs moisture content and temperature. 5) [illegible] or Forest Service lookouts observe objects.

In reply cite Project Blue Book.

[redacted]

[redacted]

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

UNCLASSIFIED

OFFICIAL TITLE: ROBERT E. KENNEDY, MAJOR, USAF AIR ADJUTANT GENERAL

DD 173