PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE	2. LOCATION	12. CONCLUSIONS
23 October 1957	Polk County Florida Lake Wales & Bartow AB, Fla.	☐ Was Balloon ☐ Probably Balloon ☒X 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 1700 GMT 23/2200Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION ☒X Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar ☒X Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar	
5. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒X No	6. SOURCE Civilian	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION one hour	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE South

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

A round silver object with a red light on one side the size of a dirigible at arm's length, directly overhead & moving slowly.

See: Tape 7-3745-426

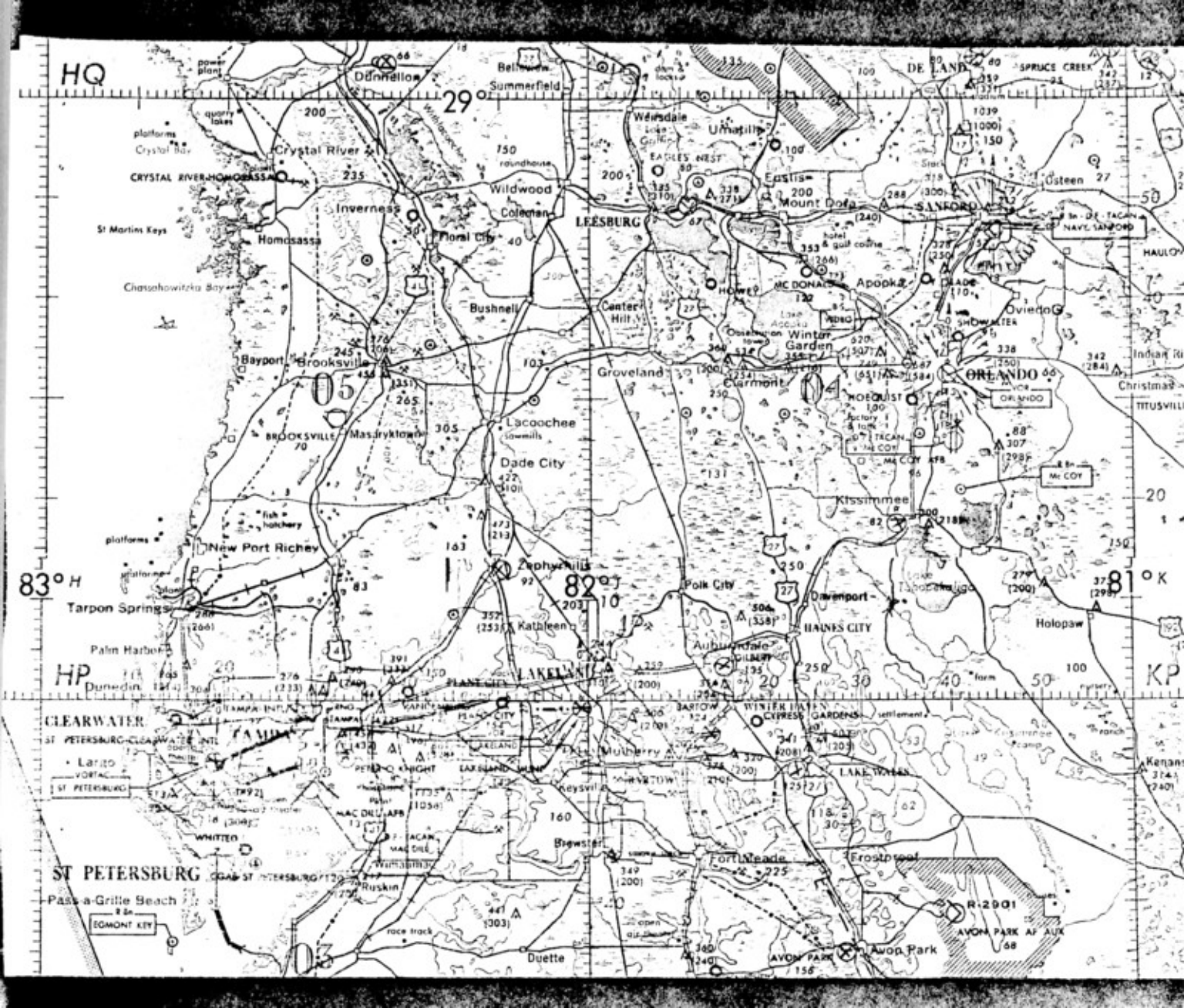
(TAPE RECORDING IN SPECIMEN FILE)

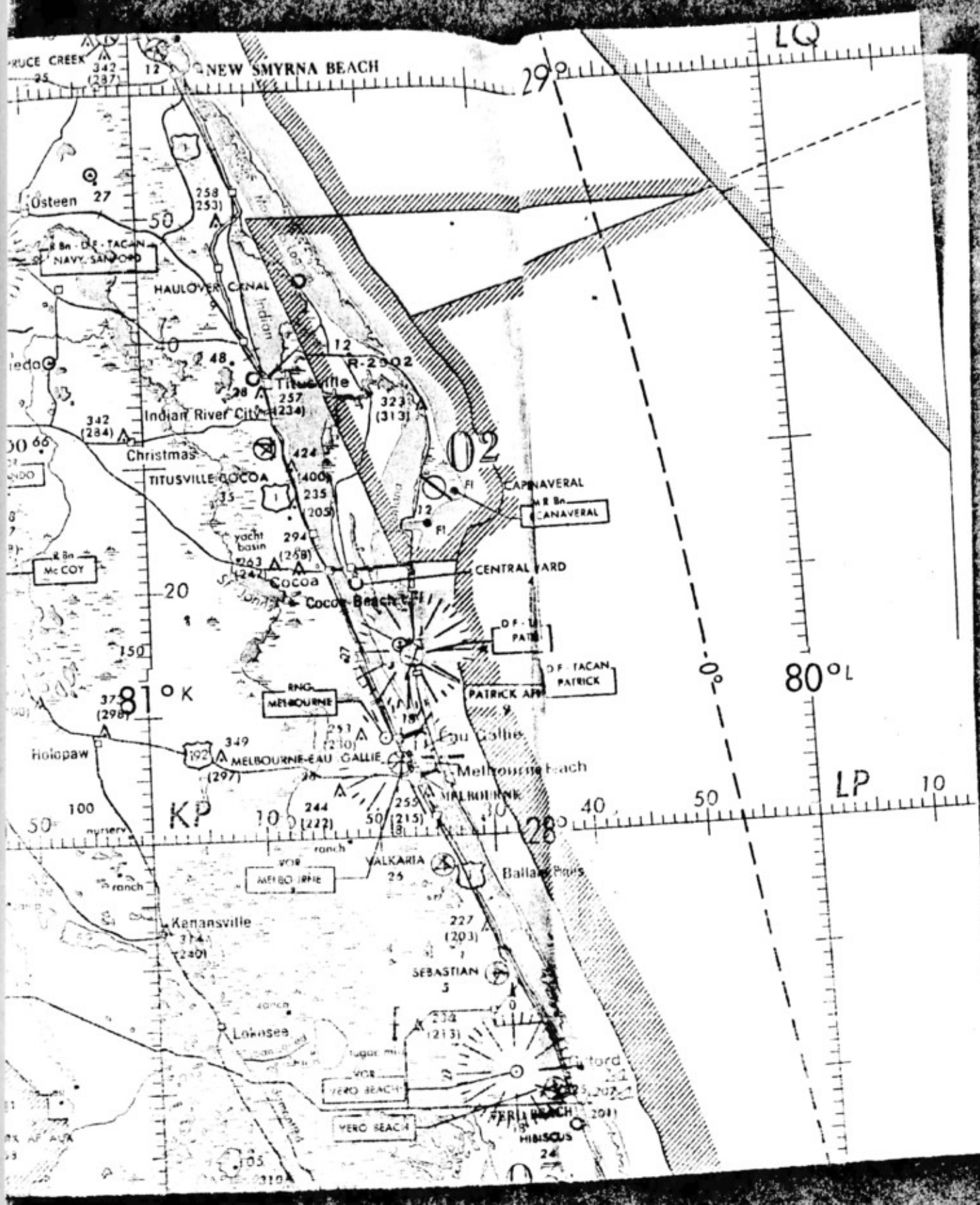
11. COMMENTS

The size is probably a mis-interpretation. Concur with preparing officer. Possible WX balloon.

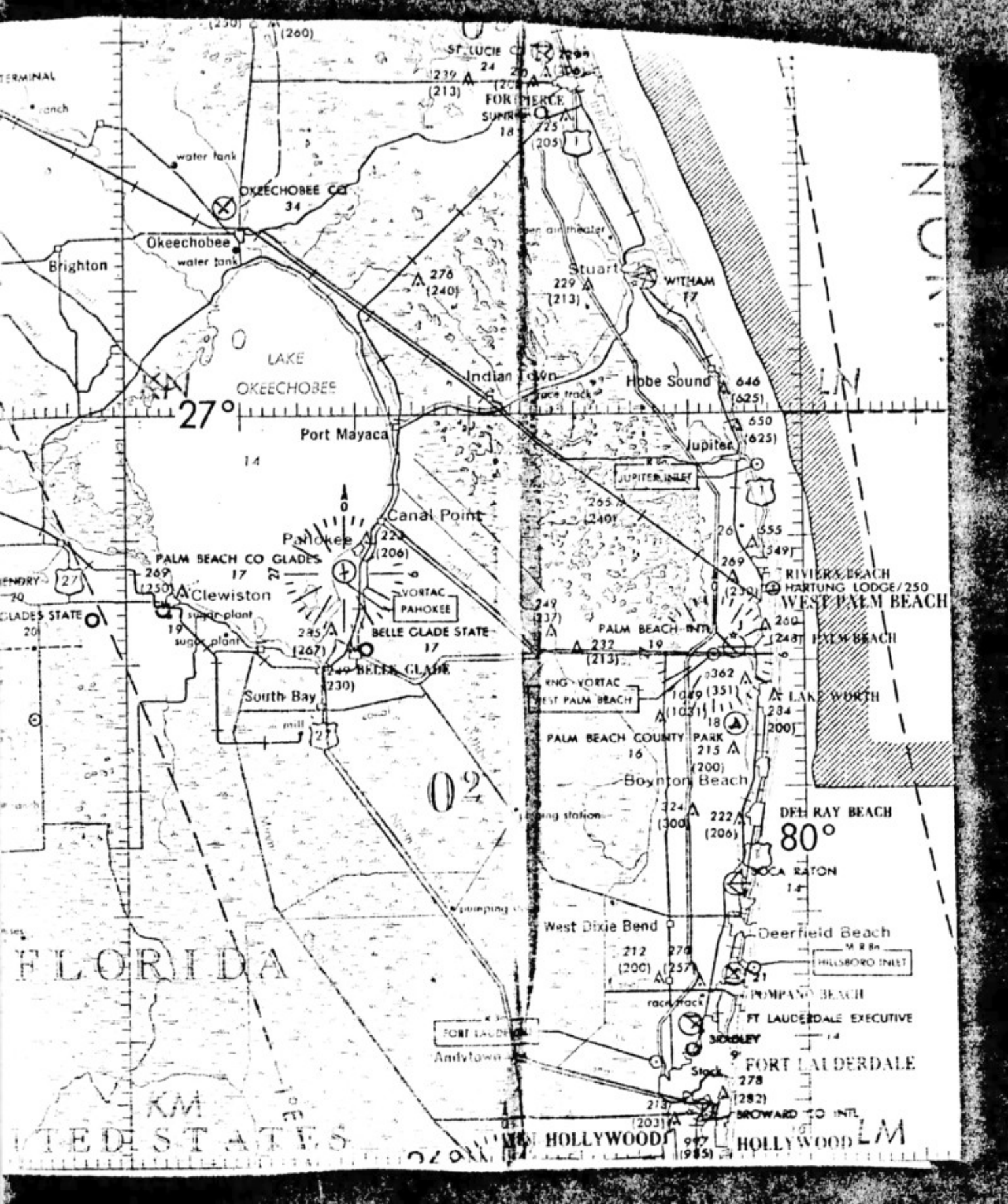
Information called in to Mr. Sanderson as AFCIN-X had previously requested that it be kept informal.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)


HQ
29°
Dunnellon
Bellevue
Summerfield
DE LAND
SPRUCE CREEK
Crystal River
CRYSTAL RIVER-HOMOSASSA
Inverness
Wildwood
Coleman
LEESBURG
Eustis
Mount Dora
SANFORD
Osteen
St Martins Keys
Homosassa
Floral City
Chassahowitzka Bay
Bushnell
Center Hill
Apopka
Oviedo
Winter Garden
Clermont
Groveland
Baypor
Brooksville
ORLANDO
Christmas
Lacoochee
Dade City
Kissimmee
New Port Richey
Zephyrhills
Polk City
Dawenport
HAINES CITY
Holopaw
83° H
82° 10
81° K
Tarpon Springs
Palm Harbor
Katleen
Auburndale
LAKELAND
HP
Dunedin
KP
CLEARWATER
TAMPA
Largo
ST PETERSBURG
Mulberry
Keysville
Lake Wales
Bowstet
Fort Meade
Frostproof
Pass-a-Grille Beach
EGMONT KEY
Ruskin
Duette
Avon Park
R-2901
AVON PARK AF AUX


NEW SMYRNA BEACH
Osteen
HAULOVER CANAL
Indian River City
Christmas
TITUSVILLE-COCOA
Titusville
R-2502
CAPE CANAVERAL
CENTRAL YARD
Cocoa
Cocoa Beach
PATRICK AFB
DF TACAN PATRICK
RNG MELBOURNE
MELBOURNE-EAU GALLIE
Eau Gallie
Melbourne Beach
Holopaw
Kenansville
VALKARIA
SEBASTIAN
Lakesea
VERO BEACH
HIBISCUS
LQ
LP
KP
80°L
81°K
28°
29°

GULF OF MEXICO (COASTAL) ADIZ
HOLMES
PALMA SOLA
ELLENTON
SARASOTA-BRADENTON
SARASOTA
Circus winter quarters
open air theater
Nokomis
Venice
Murdock
BUCHAN
Englewood
Punta Gorda
CHARLOTTE CO
Boca Grande
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
Barshore
PINE ISLAND
CASA YBEL
SANIBEL ISLAND
Fort Myers Beach
FORT MYERS
PAGE FIELD
Buckingham Weapons Center
Wauchula
SHEPARD
Arcadia
ARCADIA
state hospital
Fort Ogden
Bermont
SEBRING
SEBRING AIR TERMINAL
Child
Brighton
Okeechobee
Palmdale
LA BELLE
HENDRY
La Belle
AIRGLADES STATE
Sunniland
NAPLES AMERICA
NAPLES
Miles City
82°
HN
JN
HM
JM
02
FLORI
UNITED ST


ST. LUCIE CO
FORT PIERCE
Stuart
WITHAM
OKEECHOBEE CO
Okeechobee
water tank
Brighton
LAKE
OKEECHOBEE
Indian Town
Hobe Sound
27°
Port Mayaca
Jupiter
JUPITER INLET
Canal Point
Pahokee
PALM BEACH CO GLADES
VORTAC
PAHOKEE
Clewiston
sugar plant
BELLE GLADE STATE
BELLE GLADE
South Bay
RIVIERA BEACH
HARTUNG LODGE/250
WEST PALM BEACH
PALM BEACH INTL
RNG-VORTAC
WEST PALM BEACH
LAKE WORTH
PALM BEACH COUNTY PARK
Boynton Beach
DEL RAY BEACH
80°
BOCA RATON
West Dixie Bend
Deerfield Beach
HILLSBORO INLET
POMPANO BEACH
FT LAUDERDALE EXECUTIVE
FORT LAUDERDALE
Andytown
Stock
BROWARD CO INTL
HOLLYWOOD
FLORIDA
UNITED STATES

POLK COUNTY, FL

23 OCT 57

CASE CONTAINS TAPED RECORDING IN SEPARATE FOLDER

AUDIO-TAPE
Oct. 23, 1957
POLK County, FLA.
Observer - Multi
File # 1003474
In custody of Audio-Visual Division

59117 NTFD 24/23452 ZW

25 Oct 57 07 20

Oct 24 22 42 '57

NNNN

RC175

O WPA178 YDB122 VYC198VDD096KBA049

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

DE RJESKB 2D

P 242200Z

FM COMDR 660TH ACWRON MACDILL AFB FLA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

RJESKB/COMDR 35TH ADIV D DOBBINS AFB GA

RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECH INT CNTR WHBWHT PATTERSON AFB OH

RJEPHQ/DIR OF INT HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY

BT

//UNCLASSFIIED//OPS 0597 PD ATTN: EADF CIO PD

1.

A. ROUND

B. DIRIGIBLE

C. SILVER WITH RED LIGHT

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. RED LIGHT ON ONE SIDE

G. NONE

H. NONE

I. NONE

BT

24/2158Z OCT RJESKB

1957

WA49A

WASHINGTON, NOV. 18.--(UP)--THE AIR FORCE SAID TODAY THAT "FLYING SAUCERS" REPORTED OVER JACKSONVILLE AND POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, LATE LAST MONTH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TENTATIVELY AS A SINGLE LARGE WEATHER BALLOON DRIFTING OVER THE STATE.

THIS EXPLANATION, A SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED, IS "NOT FINAL" BUT "ALL EVIDENCE SO FAR AVAILABLE" INDICATES THAT NO "STRANGE OBJECTS" WERE INVOLVED IN THE REPORTS.

SEN. GEORGE A. SMATHERS (D-FLA.) HAD ASKED THE AIR FORCE FOR AN EXPLANATION OF A REPORT OF A SO-CALLED " FLYING SAUCER" OVER POLK COUNTY ON OCT. 23. A SIMILAR REPORT WAS RECEIVED BY THE AIR FORCE FROM JACKSONVILLE A FEW DAYS LATER.

SILVER-COLORED BALLOONS ARE REGULARLY USED TO CARRY METEOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS ALOFT TO GATHER WEATHER INFORMATION.

(MH) JE135P

PAGE TWO RJESKB 2D

2. MOVING SLOWLY TOWARD SOUTH-20 DEGREES IN 1 HOUR

A. JUST HAPPENED TO SOPT IT

B. DIRECTLY OVER HEAD

C. STILL IN SIGHT AT TIME OF CALL

D. MOVING SLOWLY-SOUTH

E. STILL IN SIGHT AT TIME OF CALL

F. ONE HOUR

3.

. AIR VISUAL AND GROUND VISUAL

B. NONE

C. APACHE [redacted] 16,500 FT. ORBITING AT 120 KNOTS-OBJECT APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 50,000 FT AB IT OVE HIS ALTITUDE ← Distance above ACFT.

4. 23 OCT 1957 AT 1700 EST IN SIGHT FOR ONE HOUR

A. 23 OCT 1957 AT 2200 ZULU

B. DAY

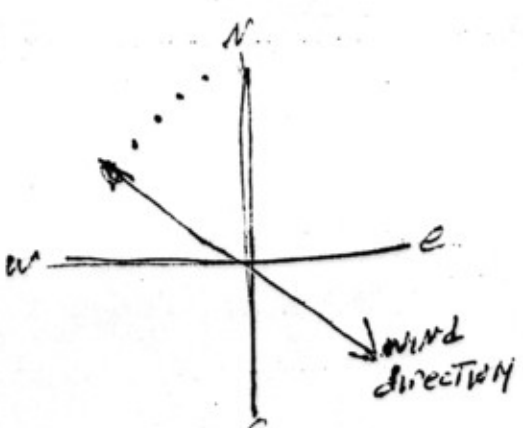
5. OVER LAKE WALES FLA AND AT BARTOW AB FLA

6.

A. MR. [redacted] N/A BARTOW AB, FLA FLIGHT INSTURCTOR

B. N/A

7. CLEAR TO PARTLY CLOUDY



OCT 25 01 46 '57

M WPA019 YDD015 VYS012VDD007KBA003

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

ZEL RJESKB

KBA049

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

DE RJESKB 2D

P 242200Z

FM COMDR 660TH ACWRON MACDILL AFB FLA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS CLOL

RJESKB/COMDR 35TH ADIV D DOBBINS AFB GA

RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECH INT CNTR WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIR OF INT HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY

BT

//UNCLASSIFIED//OPS 0597. PD ATTN: EADF CIO PD

1.

A. ROUND

B. DIRIGIBLE

C. SILVER WITH RED LIGHT

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. RED LIGHT ON ONE SIDE

G. HONE

H. NONE

I. NONE

SIZE AT ARMS LENGTH? Impossible to see anything else but object.

PAGE THREE RJESKB 2D

A. SCATTERED THUNDER CLOUDS

B. 5-140/20 10-070/05 15-290/10 20-310/20 25-330/20

30-300/26 40-310/55 50-310/35KTS

C. SCATTERED

D. GOOD

E. SCATTERED

F. NO THUNDER STORMS

G. NONE

O. VECTORED BACKSTAGE 6 TO THE AREA AT 1820 EST SEARCHED THE AREA FOR 15 MIN-NO JOY

10. APACHE [redacted] OVER LAKE WALES FLA

11. 1/LT HANS A SORENSON USAF SENIOR DIRECTOR ON DUTY POSSIBLE WX BALLON

12. NONE

BT

24/2158Z OCT RJESKB

1) 4E4
2) 3-4X2a

E

JEDWP H014 WPF008 YDD011 VYD004 VDD002KBA024

PP RJEDDN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

DE RJESKB 68

P 281607Z

FM COMDR 35TH CADD DOBBINS AFB GA

TO RJEDDN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

RJEDWP/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/ACS INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH DC

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY

DT

/UNCLASSIFIED/INT 6659. UFOB. ATTN: EADF CIC. REFERENCE UFOB REPORT CITE OPS 0597 FROM 65TH ACWRON. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY 35TH ADCC: CAPT. W.E. PETERS, DUTY CONTROLLER, CONTACTED MAXWELL FLIGHT SERVICE. FLIGHT SRVICE THEN INFORMED A B-47 CALL SIGN VENICE 37 OF THE OBJECT. VENICE 37 FLEW TO THE AREA OF THE OBJECT AND REPORTED HAVING OBSERVED IT. THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN BY VENICE 37 WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS GIVEN BY THE ORIGINAL OBSERVER, WITH THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT THE OBJECT SEEMED TO HAVE A GONDOLA ATTACHED. THE 35TH ADCC WEATHER OFFICER COMMENTS THAT THE OBJECT COULD HAVE BEEN A WEATHER BALOON LAUNCHED IN THE ORLANDO, FLA. AREA. NO FURTHER ACTION TAKEN.

BT

28/1622Z OCT RJESKB

AF FORM 112
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
United States		

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT: Report of Unidentified flying object

AREA REPORTED ON	FROM (Agency)	
Central Florida (Polk County)	[redacted] Lake Wales, Florida	
DATE OF REPORT	**DATE OF INFORMATION**	**EVALUATION**
23 October 1957		
PREPARED BY (Officer)	**SOURCE**	
Albert J. McGill, Capt., USAF	Tape Recording from WGTO Telephone conversation with [redacted]	

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

Air Force Regulation 200-2

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 113—Part II.)

1. In accordance with AFR 200-2, this report is submitted covering the sighting of an unidentified flying object.

(1) Description:

(a) To the naked eye, object appeared oblong with a tail projecting horizontally to the north.

(b) Large.

(c) Shiny.

(d) One.

(e) Not applicable.

(f) Object was described as too shiny for a weather balloon. It remained stationary while roughly ten mile circles were made around it over period of observation, which was approximately two hours.

(g) Oblong object with tail projecting north horizontally.

(h) No sound was heard.

(i) None.

(2) Description of course of object:

(a) Mr. [redacted] at Lake Wales, Florida, Polk County, and four other long time pilots went up Wednesday afternoon, October 23rd, in a Piper Apache at approximately 3:15 to an altitude of about 16,500 feet. They went to investigate an unidentifed flying object reported to the airport by local observer, and widely seen over central Polk County that afternoon.

(b) The five men had no binoculars or telescope, but estimated that the object was at an altitude of 50,000 or 60,000 feet above them, or approximately 66,500 or 76,500 feet altitude. They kept the object continuously in view for

(more)

INCLS.

1 Incl:

Recording Tape.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR: ADC:

Original w/o Incl to ACS/I, HEDUSAF
Copy w/ Incl to Comdr, ATIC
Copy w/o Incl to Comdr, ADC

JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

29Oct57 21 25Z PRIORITY 149C 29/2253Z US

PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE			
ACTION PRIORITY			X	AF	OPS 0597	UNCL
INFO						

FROM: COMDR ATIC

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO: ~~COMMANDER~~, AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, ENT AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO
ATTENTION: D/I

RJEDDN

UNCL/FROM: AFCIN-4E4 CITE 10-1661-E

REFERENCE OPS 0597 DATED 24 OCTOBER 1957. REQUEST FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF UFO SIGHTING OVER LAKE WELLS AND BARTOW AIR BASE, FLORIDA. REQUEST INFORMATION AS TO WHAT TYPE OF BALLOON, IF BALLOON AND WHAT WAS ATTACHED. WHERE WAS BALLOON LAUNCHED, AND ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AS TO ITS FLIGHT PATH FROM ORIGIN TO PLACE OF SIGHTING, IF AVAILABLE.

COORDINATION

AFCIN-4E4 Henry J. Miley DATE 29 Oct 57
Dr. Henry J. Miley

DATE	TIME
29	1550
MONTH OCT	YEAR 57

WRITER

SYMBOL: AFCIN-4E4

TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required): T/Sgt James Bolieu

PHONE: 69216 | PAGE NR. 1 | NR. OF PAGES 1

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASER

SIGNATURE

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
WALLACE W. ELWOOD
Captain, USAF
Assistant Adjutant

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173 REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

approximately two hours.

(c) No statement made by observers.

(d) Object remained stationary during period of observation.

(e) Object remained in sight for approximately two hours. No disappearance of object was noted by observers.

3. Manner of observation:

(a) Object was sighted airborne and ground-visual.

(b) No binoculars or telescopes used. Object was viewed by naked eye only.

(c) Object was sighted by four long time pilots in a Piper Apache. Altitude was approximately 16,500 feet.

4. Time and date of sighting: Approximately 1515 (EST) (2015Z) on Monday, 23 October 1957. Day and dusk.

5. Location of observer: Lake Wales, Florida, Polk County.

6. Identifying information of observers:

(a) [redacted] at Lake Wales, Florida, and four others (names unknown). Various Civilian Ground Observers over Central Polk County (names unknown). No military observers.

7. Weather and winds at time and place of sighting:

(a) Winds were reported to be 22 miles an hour at altitude of 50,000 feet.

(b) Unknown.

(c) Unknown.

(d) Unknown.

(e) Unknown.

(f) Unknown.

8. None.

9. An unidentifed radio contact told [redacted] that Pinecastle Air Force Base had sent two B-47s to an altitude of 15,000 feet to check their observations. Same radio contact requested [redacted] to switch to unidentifed defense agency radio named to him by code name, which the radio contact declined to disclose, but which [redacted] believed to be Tampa, Florida. The agency radio asked [redacted] to transmit on what [redacted] called to international distress frequency which [redacted] said is known as Guard Channel 125. Hull also stated he was in communication for some time on this frequency regarding his observation and was told by the agency radio that he would be contacted later. This reporting officer checked with Captain Groves, Wing Control Room, who stated no aircraft was deployed on that date to search for object sighted.

(more)

AF FORM 112—PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

(CLASSIFICATION)

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

10. None - other than two B-47s.

11. Reporting officer did not see object or had no knowledge of same until after phone call on date stated. Report was delayed until tape recording could be acquired and transmitted with same. No other comments or analysis.

12. None are known to exist.

Albert J McGill

ALBERT J. MCGILL
CAPTAIN, USAF
STAFF INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER

Mr. [redacted] Senator [redacted] Florida

General Jones 25 October 1300 hours

Unidentified Flying Objects

[redacted] was called by Mr. [redacted] of the Lakeland, Florida, Ledger who reported that at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 23 October, a large gondola shaped unidentified object was observed hovering over Pope County at about 80,000 feet. Local residents called the Miami Filter Center, the ISO's at Pinecastle and MacDill AF Bases and the Security Officer at Patrick AF Base. Allegedly all of these individuals indicated they had no idea what the object was and made no effort to attempt to investigate. The people are disturbed about this attitude on the part of the Air Force and feel that the Air Force's responsibility was not fulfilled. Senator [redacted] has asked for a report in this matter as soon as possible.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

28 October 1957

Dear Captain Elwood:

Senator [redacted] office called Brigadier General C. D. Jones, Deputy Director of the Office of Legislative Liaison with reference to a large gondola-shaped Unidentified Flying Object which hovered over Pope County, Florida at approximately 80,000 feet at 1400 hours on Wednesday, 23 October 1957.

Senator [redacted] was concerned because local residents called the Miami Filter Center, the ISOs at Pinecastle and MacDill Air Force Bases and the Security Officer at Patrick Air Force Base with negative results. Allegedly all of these individuals indicated that they had no idea what the object was and made no effort to investigate.

The people are disturbed about this attitude on the part of the Air Force and feel that the Air Force's responsibility was not fulfilled. This sighting should have been reported to your headquarters immediately in accordance with AFR 200-2, dated 12 August 1954.

Will you please check your records to see if this sighting was reported to your headquarters from any other source. If an identification or evaluation of this sighting is possible, please send the results to me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

Captain Wallace W. Elwood, USAF
Assistant Adjutant
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Letter to Honorable [redacted] (Cont)

With the exception of the official press release referred to above, the Air Force has not cleared, sponsored, or otherwise coordinated any books, motion pictures, pamphlets, or other informational material on the subject of unidentified aerial objects. Nothing has occurred since the Department of Defense release on 25 October 1955 to change the official United States Air Force position on the subject, and the new statistics through 30 June 1957 substantiate this stand.

Approximately 5,700 reports have been received from 1947 to the present time:

Statistics for 1956 are:

Total Reports 778

Conclusions

Balloons	26.1%
Aircraft	24.6%
Astronomical	26.3%
Other (Birds, lights, hoaxes, et cetera)	6.7%
Insufficient Data	14.1%
Unknown	2.2%

Statistics for the first half of 1957 are:

Total Reports 250

Conclusions

Balloons	26.4%
Aircraft	28.8%
Astronomical	24.4%
Other (Birds, lights, hoaxes, et cetera)	6.4%
Insufficient Data	12.1%
Unknown	1.9%

No reports of unidentified aerial objects have been withheld. It is a practice, however, that the names of persons involved in reported sightings and the many details of the individual

23 Oct

SAFLL-1/Mr. Wilson/pls/[illegible]641/23 Oct 57
SAFLL

file
JFO

30 OCT [redacted]

Dear Senator [redacted]

Recently you furnished me with information concerning an unidentified aerial object over Pope County, Florida, on 23 October 1957.

Details of this sighting of an unidentified aerial object have been forwarded to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, for possible analysis and identification. The report of their findings, if any, will be forwarded to your office as soon as it is received in Air Force Headquarters.

On 5 May 1955, the Department of the Air Force declassified its special study, Project Bluebook, Report Number 14, Analysis of Reports on Unidentified Aerial Objects. On 25 October 1955, the Department of Defense released the summary of the Air Force study. A copy of the news release and summary are inclosed for your information. It showed that the Air Force had reduced the number of unknown sightings from approximately ten percent in 1954 to approximately three percent. New figures as of 30 June 1957, about to be published, show the unknowns to be less than two percent. The unknown sightings are of concern to the Air Force and will continue to be investigated. There are, however, several primary points concerning the results of our study which may be reiterated. The study has shown:

COORD
COMEBACK
SAFIS
SAFLL-1
Stayback

There is a total lack of evidence that the phenomena observed have inimical or hostile forces behind them.

There is a total lack of evidence that they are interplanetary vehicles.

There is a total lack of evidence that they constitute any threat to the security of the United States or our country.

Letter to Honorable [redacted] (Cont)

cases will not be made public. Most of the persons who report sightings to the Air Force do so in confidence and their wishes are respected.

The Air Force does not consider the unidentified aerial objects question a dead issue and will continue to use the services of qualified scientists and technicians in the investigation and analysis of each reported case with only one end in view, to establish the truth.

A copy of our letter to the Air Technical Intelligence Center, has been forwarded to each of the Commanders of the Air Force activities involved in Florida, in order to preclude the possibility of any indifference with respect to this subject.

Sincerely yours,
[redacted] D. JONES
Brigadier General, USAF
For and in the absence of

JOE W. KELLY
Major General, USAF
Director, Legislative Liaison

Inclosure
Fact Sheet-News Release dtd 25 Oct 55.
Honorable [redacted]

United States Senate

MR: Originated when Mr. [redacted] of Senator [redacted] office called General Jones on 25 October and requested a report. Case was hand-carried to Major Tacker, SAFIS, on 25 October for info to base reply w/susp 28 October. On 28 October Major Tacker hand-carried [redacted] to M&O Branch a proposed draft of reply. Final prepd & fwded 28 October based on draft furnished by Maj Tacker.

464

HEADQUARTERS

AIR FORCE MISSILE TEST CENTER

AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Patrick Air Force Base, Florida

In reply address communication to Comdr, AFMTC, attention following office symbol

MTCT

1 Nov 57

Dear Captain Elwood:

This Center received a courtesy copy of Major L. J. Tacker's letter to you of 28 October 1957, regarding "a large gondola shaped unidentified Flying Object which hovered over Pope (sic) County...23 October 1957". It is believed that Polk County is the correct location as there is no Pope County in Florida.

An investigation has not uncovered any record of the reference call having been received at this Center. Four of the five pertinent agencies checked, maintain blotters or logs on such calls. The fifth agency, the AFMTC Staff Provost Marshall, also has no knowledge of the call.

It is regretted that this Center can not be of further assistance in this matter. A study by this office revealed that over 90% of the UFO calls are the result of sightings relating to our operations (missile test, weather balloons, aircraft instrumentation and range instrumentation checks).

Sincerely yours,

Robert Sattem

ROBERT SATTEM, Captain, USAF

Capt. Wallace W. Elwood, USAF
Assistant Adjutant
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

UFO SIGHTING, LAKE WALES
23 October 1957
23/2200Z

Reported on tape by [redacted]

Wednesday afternoon at approximately 3:00 I received a phone call from an observer in Lake Wales telling me that there was an object in the sky at what he figured was 20 thousand feet. I went outside of my office and looked up viewing this object then proceeded to check with the Orlando radio on the chance that it might be a weather balloon. Orlando had nothing reported in the area, and since it is practice to report these balloons, we decided that we would go up and take a look at this object. We entered a Piper Apache aircraft (twin engine) and proceeded to climb up to try and view this object.

We climbed to 16,500 feet over Haines City and had the object in view all the time. At 16,500 the object appeared to be 50 to 60 thousand feet above us. We kept the object in sight circling it at all times, thereby eliminating the possibility that it might be a star.

Upon receiving the upper winds report giving us winds at 50 thousand feet of 22 knots, we disqualified the chance that it might be a weather balloon because of the fact that at 22 knots wind a weather balloon would have been drifting; and this object stayed stationary directly over Haines City for more than 2 hours as we were up from 3:30 till almost 6:00 searching this object.

The object appeared to have some sort of a tail or trailing fuselage type design. It appeared to be oblong in shape. The tail part of the object was not visible at all times probably due to sunlight reflection.

We discount the fact that it could have been a weather balloon due to the fact that the object was much too shiney. Weather balloons are coated dull with a powdery effect so that they won't shine and reflect. All the people in the a/c with me during this time were licensed pilots who have been flying for many years and have seen many such weather balloons; and therefore, we discounted the weather balloon theory on the basis of our own past experience.

We kept the object in sight until approximately 5:42 at which time the object appeared to be ascending rapidly and on our next circling of the object, it had completely disappeared.

There appeared to be no descent whatsoever to the object.

This is [redacted]

4 Nov 57 0845

Nov 2 00 58 '57

1
2
3
4E4
4-4X2a

RD011

WPE007DNA012

PP RJEDWP

DE RJEDDN 181

P 012328Z

FM COMADC

TO COMDR ATIC

BT

/UNCLAS/ADODI-B 135 PD REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE AFCIN 4E4 CITE 10-1661-E. NO ACTION TAKEN. REFERENCE MESSAGE 35TH AIR DIVISION DOBBINS AFB GEORGIA CITE INT 6659, COPY TO YOUR CENTER. BALLOON REPORTED LAUNCHED IN ORLANDO FLORIDA AREA. END

BT

01/2331Z NOV RJEDDN

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

15 - 25 OCTOBER 1957 SIGHTINGS

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
15	Ft Lauderdale, Florida	Jones	Astro (METEOR)
15	San Antonio, Texas	Guerrero	Insufficient Data
15	La Jolla, California	Military	Aircraft
16	Almogordo, New Mexico	APRO (PHOTO) FILM (*)	Other (Lenticular Cloud)
17	Green Bay, Wisconsin	Groth	Balloon
17	Greenville, Mississippi	Towery	Aircraft
18	Lackland AFB, Texas	Military	Satellite (SPUTNIK ROCKET)
18	Avon Park, Florida	Military	Astro (METEOR)
18	Odebolt, Iowa	Smith	Aircraft
18	Benson, Arizona	Cormier (PHOTO)	Other (ARTIFICIAL METEOR)
19	Ardmore, Pennsylvania	Moynhan	Astro (METEOR)
19	Mildenhall, England	Mil (Vis & RADAR)	1. Vis: Astro (VENUS) 2. Rad: Aircraft
19	Brooklyn, New York	Weiner	Insufficient Data
19	Long Island, New York	Holannd	Astro (METEOR)
20	Washington, D. C.	Highley	Astro (METEOR)
( )	Dayton, Ohio	Wright	Balloon
21	N. Luffingham, England	Mil (Air & Radar)	Insufficient Data
21	Neptune, New Jersey	Durham	Aircraft
21	Kennessaw, Georgia	Hoorn	Other (SEARCHLIGHT)
22	Wiesbaden, Germany	Military (RADAR)	Other (ANOMALOUS PROP)
22	Atlantic (W of Portugal)	Venezuelan Aircraft	Astro (METEOR)
22	Haviland, Kansas	Fruit	Insufficient Data
23	Teheran, Iran	Military	Other (CONTRAILS)
23	Mannasquam, New Jersey	Christenson	Aircraft
23	Polk County, Florida	Multi (CONGRESSIONAL)	Balloon
23	St Louis, Missouri	Chanitz TAPE (*)	Balloon
23	Ovalde, Texas	Stark	Balloon
23	Atlanta, Georgia	Military	Aircraft
23	Fall City, Texas	Pallack	Aircraft
23	Corpus Christi, Texas	Huffman	Astro (METEOR)
24	N Hollywood, California (CASE MISSING)	Military	Balloon
?	Red Oak, Georiga (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Insufficient Data
?	Phillips, Wisconsin	Vrba	Insufficient Data
25	Kodiak, Alaska	Military	Balloon
25	Bismarck, North Dakota	Lockner, Clooten	Balloon
25	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Harp	Astro (METEOR)

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
Oct	Universe	Science News Ltr	
Oct	South Lee, Massachusetts	Newsclipping	
Late Oct	Fiji Island	Newsclipping	
15	Bernardsville, New Jersey	Newsclipping	
18	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Newsclipping	
19	Fairfax, Virginia	Newsclipping	
22	Dayton, Ohio	Newsclipping	
24	Portales, New Mexico	Newsclipping	

(*) IN SEPARATE FOLDERS