## PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. DATE: 4 Jul 61 | 2. LOCATION: Cleveland, Ohio | 12. CONCLUSIONS<br>☐ Was Balloon<br>☐ Probably Balloon<br>☐ Possibly Balloon<br>☐ Was Aircraft<br>☐ Probably Aircraft<br>☐ Possibly Aircraft<br>☐ Was Astronomical (Capella)<br>☐ Probably Astronomical<br>☐ Possibly Astronomical<br>☐ Other_____<br>☐ Insufficient Data for Evaluation<br>☐ Unknown |
| 3. DATE-TIME GROUP<br>Local 1015 PM 2215<br>GMT 050315Z | 4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION<br>☐ Ground-Visual ☐ Ground-Radar<br>☒ Air-Visual ☐ Air-Intercept Radar | |
| 5. PHOTOS<br>☐ Yes<br>☒ No | 6. SOURCE: Civilian | |
| 7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION | 8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS: 1 | 9. COURSE: Varied |

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING: Greenish objt that came down fm about 1 o'clock high on a collision course with plane. It stopped, moved to NW and stopped agin before shooting straight upward and disappearing.

11. COMMENTS: Direction, time, etc., point toward identification of objt as Capella, a first magnitude star.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

NORTHERN OHIO - 4 & 5 July 1961: At 10:15 p.m., on July Fourth, [redacted] of Stadvec Aviation, Inc., Akron, was flying between Akron and Cleveland with two passengers, when he saw a greenish object come from about one o'clock high on a collision course with his plane. It stopped, then went 330 degrees azimuth (NNW) and stopped again, before shooting straight up and disappearing.

The next night, about the same time, he again saw the greenish object. This time he said it came straight down, then went off to the north-northwest, not repeating the erratic movements of the night before.

Major Robert Friend, of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, said he believed that the pilot saw an "atmospheric refraction of the (first magnitude) star Capella." This theory seems unlikely.

The clipping we have (sent to us by a Cincinnati CUFOR member) doesn't say whether [redacted] was flying toward Cleveland or Akron, so we'll study it both ways. If he was going toward Cleveland, one o'clock would be just about due north. Therefor we have a star coming down from a high elevation in the north, stopping, then moving toward the north-northwest, stopping again, then disappearing upward.

If he was going toward Akron, one o'clock would be due south, producing similarly unlikely antics for a first magnitude star to perform.

POSTSCRIPT: Just as we were about to close out this issue, we received a good deal of data about the July Fourth sighting (page 3). Among the items of interest a 17-year old girl in Westlake, Ohio reported seeing a red-orange object at 10:10 pm; An object was picked up on radar at the Cleveland Hopkins Airport tower at about the same time as [redacted] saw the greenish object.

The most important item was a statement given to the UFO Research Committee (who sent the data to us) by Mr. [redacted] in which he repudiated the Air Force theory that he saw a star.

"Why didn't this Air Force man (Maj. Friend) take the time to investigate further before making anystatement at all?" He continued,"His supposition that (we) saw a refraction of the star Capella was strictly a grabbing for 'straws' deal.

"Over the years I have seen many falling stars and other phenomena associated with atmospheric conditions as well. What we saw was not an astronomical or meteorological phenomena. The object we saw dived at us on a collision course to the extent that I actually called out to my passengers that the object was going to run us. As the object came at us it reversed course and climbed rapidly into a clear night sky."

Information from phone conversation with Mr JOHN GEIB of Cleveland-Hopkins Airport.

At about 1430 10, July,,1961 mr [redacted], Supervisor of Operations at Cleveland-Hopkins Airport was contacted at CL 2-1774 concerning an object sighted by Mr [redacted]. Mr [redacted] stated that Mr [redacted] did not report the sighting to the airport. He further stated that he received a call from a newspaperman who first established to whom he was talking. He was then asked if he knew Mr. [redacted] and Mr [redacted] replied in the affermative. He stated that he knew Mr. [redacted] flew out of the airport. The newsman then asked if the tower had seen anything and Mr [redacted] didn't know but offered to check. He called the tower and they reported that a light had flashed across the sky like a falling star. Mr [redacted] passed this on to the newsman and was asked if anything had been picked up on Radar. He replied that he didn't know, adding that he doubted it. Mr [redacted] flatly stated that he did not see anything, nor did he receive a report of anything. He further stated that he had talked to Mr [redacted] on the 7th or 8th of July and Mr [redacted] did not mention the sighting.

Weather Report from Pittsburg Weather Station AMhurst 4-0310

Lapse Rates 3 July 1900
Surface to 10,000 Normal
10,000 -1 deg C
10,500 +1 deg C
From 10,500 up Normal

4 July 1961
7,800 to 8,100 Warmed up from +3 deg C to +4 deg C
Other altitudes Normal

5 July, 1961 Normal all altitudes.

6 July 1961
7,800 to 8,100 Warmed up from +3 deg C to +4 deg C.

7 July 1961
Isothermal from 9,600 to 9,700. Inversion present at 16,800 to 17,000

Weather report from Cleveland by Weather Bureau.

3 July 2000 EST. 4,000 scattered, high scattered 15 mi Vis MB 122, 6852 DP, winds NW 13 Kts altimeter 2989. Towering Cumulus to North.
2100 EST. 4,000 scattered, 15 mi Vis MB 132, 6555 DP, Winds NW 12 Kts Altimiter 992

4 July 1961 2000EST. High scattered , 15 mi Vis MB 180, 6050DP, Winds ENE 5kts Altimeter 005
2100 EST. High scattered, 15 mi Vis, MB 183, 5950DP, Winds ENE 5 kts. Altimeter 006.

5 July 1961 2000EST. 4,000 scattered, high scattered, Vis 10 mi, MB 186, 6654DP, Winds N at 8 kts, altimeter setting 007
2100EST, 4,000 sc, high scattered, 8 mi Vis, MB 196, 6354DP, Winds N at6 Kts, Altimeter 009

Weather Information Continued from Cleveland.

6 July, 1961 2000EST 4,000 scattered high scattered, 12 mi Vis, MB 190, 6647DP, Winds WNW at 6 kts, alt 008.
2100EST. High scattered, 12 mi Vis, MB 193, 6647DP, Winds NE at 5 kts, Altimeter 009.

7 July, 1961 2000EST 4,000 scattered, high scattered, 10 mi Vis, MB 173, 6152DP, Winds NNE at 11 Kts, alt 003.
2100 EST 4,000 scattered, high scattered, 10 mi Vis, MB 176, 6052DP, Winds N at 11 Kts, Alt 3004

Additional Notes: Thursday night shortly after 10PM Mr [redacted] and Mr [redacted] went up to look for the object at the advice of Major Friedd. They were informed as to the time and location that the object would appear. They went up at 1020 PM and reported no sighting. Mr [redacted] was the passanger on the second flight that Mr [redacted] made. (Sighting on 5 July). Subsequent to the third flight ( Thursday 10 July) no additional information was given to the press by these gentleman. They reported that they had not observed the phenomena, however it seems logical that they would have made much ado had the Air Force been "wrong", especially in view of Mr. [redacted] concern with the UFO Program.

PROBABLY CAPELLA -

[redacted] REPUBLIC - [redacted]

PILOT - [redacted] AVIATION COMPANY

(MR [redacted] CHECKING FOR OBJECT ON 7 JULY 1961).

4 JULY. 1961

5000' ALT N.W HEADING 335°

[illegible] 10-12 MILES VIZ.

1 [illegible]

2215

APPEARED TO COME TOWARD AT HIGH SPEED

[illegible]

[illegible]

5 JULY. 1961 SAME [illegible]

4,500' 14 MILES S.E. [illegible]

[illegible] 7000 10-12 MILES VIZ.

CLEV - [illegible] TOWER [illegible]

OBJECT TO N.W.

OBJECT APPEARED TO COME TOWARD AT HIGH SPEEDS THEN RECEDED AND CLIMBED AWAY

AIRCRAFT SPEED [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

WHEN CLOSING OBJECT APPEARED TO GROW LARGER.

OBJECT DISAPPEARED — LIKE A LIGHT GOING OUT. —

MOVING TOWARD HORIZON (DOWN) UNTIL IT DISAPPEARED —

SIZE — LIKE A [illegible] LIGHT AT ONE MILE, BUT GREATER INTENSITY.

COLOR BECAME A PALE GREEN WITH DISTANCE.

DURATION — 4-5 SEC FIRST [illegible]
6 SEC SECOND [illegible]

[redacted] — STUDENT [illegible]
[redacted] — PRIVATE PILOT.

[redacted] — [illegible]

[redacted]
Akron 19, Ohio
October 6, 1961

Dear Major Coleman:

I wrote you three months ago in regard to the sighting of 7 July over the Akron area by pilot [redacted] and others. I received your letter, dated 18 July, stating that " This investigation...cannot be concluded until complete data is received- a period of at least three weeks from now."

Would you please send me the conclusion that ATIC has reached concerning this sighting.

Also, would you please send me the latest News Release, Fact Sheet, Air Force UFO Report. Thank you.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

Atmospheric reflection of a star - probably Alpha Aurigae (Capella) -

10 October 1961

Dear Mr. [redacted]

I have your letter of October 6th concerning the Akron sighting of July 7th.

The conclusion on this case was that Mr [redacted] and others probably witnessed an atmospheric refraction of the star Alpha Auriga (Capella). About a month ago I was returning from St. Louis in a two seater jet at night, flying at 29,000 feet. In the rear seat I had a veteran pilot (jet) who has logged several thousand hours. The time of our flight coincided with the rise of Capella as we were passing over central Ohio. I asked this pilot to look at the object near the horizon (Capella) without telling him what it was, and to voice a description of it for the next few minutes. He was somewhat excited as we watched the various apparent changes in light and position (apparent perturbation) of the star. At about the time he was convinced it was a moving object (it appeared to come toward us -- would disappear and reappear) I told him what it was. On the ground later, we looked at the star, now much higher above the horizon. Alpha Auriga is often the culprit in astronomical sightings.

I hope this information is helpful. The latest fact sheet (Jan 61) is enclosed.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. COLEMAN, JR.
Major, USAF
UFO Project Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information

Mr. [redacted]
Akron 13, Ohio

Friday, July 7, 1961 Akron Beacon Journal 25

Over City Two Nights

# Akron Flier Sights Mystery Object

A veteran Akron flyer has reported spotting an unidentified flying object on successive nights over Akron this week.

Ernie Stadvec, operator of Stadvec Aviation Inc. and a former World War II B-29 pilot, described "a brilliant green and white object" which he saw as he flew over Northwest Akron Tuesday and Wednesday nights. He said a flight Thursday night "to see if I could get another look at whatever it was" turned up nothing.

* * *

HERE IS the way the sightings were described:

"Tuesday night, about 10:15, I was flying with two other Akron men at about 5,000 feet," said Stadvec. "At about one o'clock we spotted this brilliant green and white light suspended in the air off to our right.

"Suddenly whatever it was dived toward us and I thought it was going to hit us. But it stopped just as suddenly, made a 180-degree turn and climbed out of our vison into a haze layer.

Stadvec said he first thought it was a jet, but later decided it "couldn't have been."

* * *

THE NEXT night, flying about 4,500 feet, Stadvec said, he saw the same greenish light while he was heading toward Cleveland Hopkins Airport.

"This time the object began climbing and sped off," he said. "The Cleveland Control Tower reported it also had seen the light, but could offer no explanation what it was."

Stadvec said he had seen the same sort of greenish light while flying over Japan during World War II.

Sunday, July 16, 1961

# Ernie Is Sure He Saw 'Object'

By HELEN WATERHOUSE

Ernie Stadvec, operator of Stadvec Aviation, Inc., declared vehemently he wasn't just "seeing stars" as some are trying to make out. But he also wishes he had never spotted that unidentified flying object the other night.

"I've had hundreds of calls since and they've taken a lot of time," Stadvec reports. "But the worst is the men down at the Wright Patterson Air Force base, as usual, tried to make us look ridiculous for reporting such a phenomena.

"Maj. Robert Friend, head of the U. S. Unidentified Flying Object Project at the Dayton field who called us three times that day decided it was the reflection or 'refractor' from the star 'Capella.'

"But five people, including myself, saw this object and even the Cleveland radar tower reported it on its radar screen. We all know it didn't behave like any falling star. It first came right at us as we were flying around making a radio broadcast—and we saw it climb. Whoever heard of a falling star climbing?"

4

# Akron Flier Tells of Strange Bright Green Light in Air

Plain Dealer Bureau

AKRON, O.—Ernie Stadvec, owner of a small fleet of airplanes here, yesterday said he saw an unidentified flying object on Tuesday and Wednesnights while on flights in the Akron-Cleveland area.

The former World War II bomber pilot, operator of Stadvec Aviation Inc., said that while he and two other Akron men were flying over northwest Akron they spotted a brilliant green and white light suspended on his right.

The light approached them, he said, and then broke off into a 180-degree turn into a haze layer.

Stadvic said he spotted a similar light Wednesday night while approaching Cleveland Hopkins Airport. The light began climbing and sped off, he said.

### Object on Radar

An object that behaved like a falling star showed up at about the same time Wednesday on radar screens at the Cleveland Hopkins Airport tower, according to Operations Supervisor John M. Gieb.

He said the object flared up on the screen and faded out in a matter of minutes.

The Unidentified Flying Object report unit, 6172 Wilson Mills Road, Richmond Heights, had an unconfirmed report of an orange-red object sighted over Westlake at 10:10 p.m. Wednesday.

Fred H. Sylvanus of the UFO unit said the report was phoned in by a 17-year-old Westlake girl.

Stadvec said he was giving a flying weather report for Radio Station WAKR Tuesday night, flying at about 4,500 feet, when a green light appeared from the northwest.

"At first I thought it was some kids shooting off high-powered rockets," he said.

"Then I thought it might be a winglight on a jet.

"It came at us at a terrific speed, then veered off at a 180-degree angle and disappeared into a haze layer.

"I called the control tower at Hopkins.

"It was diving at a 1 o'clock position and I was afraid of a collision.

"I knew it wasn't a winglight because the way it was coming at us would have put it on the wrong side and it became too large for a winglight.

"It flattened out at about 10,000 feet.

"I would say it came within three-quarters or a half-mile of us.

### Two With Him

With him were Charles Richard Swain, an Akron truck driver, and Clyde Skelton, an employe of WAKR.

Skelton said he saw the object and his first impression was that it was fireworks.

"It appeared to get relatively close but because we couldn't see what its total size was, you can't tell," Skelton said. "Its rate of closure was extremely fast.

"It was a very brilliant green. I have no idea at all what it might have been.

"If it was a high-speed jet, it must have been extremely close. But if it was farther away, no jet I know of could have moved that fast."

A-8 Hungarian Unidentified

Sunday, July 8, 1961

# Air Force Probes 'Saucer' Reports From Near Akron

Dayton, July 8 — The Air Force is checking out as sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO) made by Ernie Stadvec, owner-operator of Stadvec Aviation Inc. at Akron.

Stadvec reported he sighted the first UFO at 10:15 p.m. on July 4 while flying at about 4,000 feet between Cleveland and Akron. He made the second sighting the following night about the same time.

Maj. Robert Friend of the foreign technologies division at Wright-Patterson Air Force base here, said he believed what Stadvec saw was "atmospheric refraction of the star Capella," a star of the first magnitude.

Stadvec reported he spotted a greenish object that came down from about 1 o'clock high on a collision course with his plane. He said it then stopped and went 330 degrees azimuth to the northwest and stopped again before shooting straight upward and disappearing.

He said that the next night the same thing happened, only the greenish object did not perform erratically. He said it came straight down, stopped, went off to the northwest again.

Stadvec reported he had two passengers aboard, who also spotted the object.

Unidentified Flying Objects Research Committee P. O. Box 9242 Akron 10, Ohio

SUNDAY JULY 9, 1961

THIS IS MY STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE STATEMENT RELEASED BY MAJOR R. FRIEND OF THE UFO PROJECT AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON FIELD.

MY FIRST REACTION UPON HEARING THE STATEMENT MADE BY A MAN WITH A RATHER SKETCHY KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPENED WAS, " WHO ARE THEY TRYING TO KID?" WHY DIDN'T THIS AIR FORCE MAN TAKE THE TIME TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER BEFORE MAKING ANY STATEMENT AT ALL?

HIS SUPPOSITION THAT MYSELF AND TWO OTHER PILOTS ON THE FIRST NITE AND ONE OTHER ON THE SECOND NIGHT SAW A REFRACTION OF THE STAR CAPPELLA WAS STRICTLY A GRABBING FOR " STRAWS " DEAL.

I HAVE BEEN FLYING SINCE 1942 BOTH DAY AND NIGHT AND CURRENTLY OWN AND OPERATE A FLYING BUSINESS THAT REQUIRES USTO FLY DAY OR NIGHT IN ALL TYPES OF WEATHER.

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE SEEN MANY FALLING STARS AND OTHER PHENOMENA ASSOCIATED WITH ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS AS WELL. WHAT WE SAW WAS NOT AN ASTRONOMICAL OR METEOROLOGICAL PHENOMENA. THE OBJECT WE SAW DIVED AT US ON A COLLISION COURSE TO THE EXTENT THAT I ACTUALLY CALLED OUT TO MY PASSENGERS THAT THE OBJECT WAS GOING TO RAM US. AFTER THE OBJECT CAME AT US IT REVERSED COURSE AND CLIMBED RAPIDLY INTO A CLEAR NIGHT SKY. THIS HAPPENED AGAIN THE NEXT NIGHT WHEN THE OBJECT FLASHED UP FROM IN FRONT OF US AND AGAIN CLIMBED INTO A CLEAR SKY. IN BOTH INSTANCES; THE OBJECT CLIMBED AT TREMENDOUS SPEEDS, LEVELLED OFF AND DISAPPEARED TO THE NORTHWEST

I WILL END MY STATEMENT TO WIT--THAT I HAVE NEVER SEEN A STAR CLIMB AND MANUEVER AND I DOUBT THAT ANYONE ELSE HAS EITHER. THE OBJECT WE SAW WAS NO STAR NOR WAS IT A REFRACTION.

TWO CLOSE SIGHTINGS BY OHIO PILOT: On July 4th and again on July 5th, the owner of a small fleet of airplanes in [redacted], Ohio, saw a UFO while sightseeing in the Akron-Cleveland area. Ernie Stadvec, who is a former World War II bomber pilot, said that he was flying with two other Akron men over the northwest section of that city, when they spotted a brilliant green and white light suspended at the right of the plane. The object came toward his plane on a collision course, and then stopped, made a violent turn to the northwest, stopped again, and finally shot upward and disappeared. The next night Stadvec saw a similar object which began climbing and sped off.

An object [redacted] appeared on radar screens at the Cleveland Hopkins Airport tower, at the same time on July 5th, according to Operations Supervisor John M. Gish. He said that the UFO flared up on the screen and faded out in a matter of seconds.

Stadvec stated that the object he saw on the night of the 4th came to within a half mile or so of his plane, and that it was moving much faster than a jet. Major Robert Friend, who is chief of the UFO investigation at Wright-Patterson Field in Dayton, said that he believes what Stadvec saw was "atmospheric refraction of the star Capella," a star of the first magnitude. However, in a statement to the U.F.O. Research Committee, a private saucer investigation group in Akron, Stadvec disagreed sharply with Major Friend's explanation of the sightings. Said Stadvec: "Friend's supposition that myself and two other pilots on the first night and one other on the second night saw a refraction of a star, was strictly a 'grabbing for straws' deal.....I have been flying since 1942.....and over the years I have seen many falling stars and other phenomena associated with atmospheric conditions. What we saw was not an astronomical or meteorological phenomenon. The object (on the first night) dived at us on a collision course to the extent that I actually called out to my passengers that the thing was going to ram us....I have never seen a star climb and maneuver and I doubt that anyone else has either...."

July 4, Amherst, O. Confirmation of greenish-glowing UFO which former AF bomber-pilot [redacted] reported diving at his plane.

# EX-AF PILOT HITS UFO "EXPLANATION"

Former AF bomber pilot Ernest Stadvec, now owner of an Akron flying service, has denounced the Air Force's newest attempt to explain away his recent encounter with a UFO.

On the night of July 4, 1961, Stadvec was flying with two other pilots near Akron when a brilliantly glowing object dived at their plane.

"I thought it was going to ram us," Stadvec reported later. He said that the strange object stopped suddenly and climbed away at tremendous speed.

On the following night, Stadvec sighted a similar flying device while approaching Cleveland Hopkins Airport. When he called the airport tower he was told that they too were watching the unknown object, which was clearly visible because of its greenish glow. Tower operators had no explanation as to what it was.

Later, the Airport Operations Supervisor, John N. Gleb, told the press that the object also had been tracked by airport radar operators. He said it flared up on the radarscopes, then disappeared in a few minutes -- at the same time that Stadvec reported the UFO was streaking up out of sight.

The first public reports of the UFO sightings and tracking did not appear until the evening of July 7. Without even calling Stadvec or Cleveland Airport to check the facts, the AF rushed out an answer, releasing it through Major Robert Friend, chief of the AF UFO Project Blue Book, at Wright-Patterson AFB.

Avoiding any mention of the airport radar and visual confirmation, and the UFO's close approach as described by the other pilots, Major Friend said Stadvec evidently had been misled by the star Capella. Atmospheric refraction, he stated, probably caused the UFO's unusual appearance. The Project chief admitted he had no weather data to back up this explanation. Despite this, the Capella answer was immediately released by the AF for national publication.

Stadvec, a B-29 bomber pilot in World War II, bluntly labeled the AF answer as "grabbing for straws." He added:

"I have been flying since 1942, and I operate a flying business that requires us to fly day and night in all types of weather. Over the years I have seen many falling stars and other atmospheric phenomena. The object we saw was no star or refraction."

The other pilots fully agreed with Stadvec. They confirmed that the UFO had dived at the plane while it was in level flight at 4,000 feet, that it had abruptly reversed course and climbed away at terrific speed. Summing up the facts in a statement relayed to several Congressmen and the UFO Subcommittee, Stadvec sharply criticized the answer given the press by the Project Blue Book chief.

"Why didn't he take the time to investigate before making any statement at all?" Stadvec demanded.

NICAP note: Major Friend was obeying orders. It is now official AF policy to rush out an explanation for any UFO sighting which is reported by the press. The obvious purpose is to kill off press and public interest regardless of the facts and without checking reports -- even those by highly-trained, competent observers. More than once, in these hasty releases, the AF has avoided mention of confirmation by radar or by groups of skilled observers. Instead, it has given the impression that the UFO report was a simple mistake by a lone witness, as in the Stadvec case.

The Stadvec statement was secured by the Akron UFO Research Committee, which is working closely with NICAP. We are grateful for the Committee's cooperation.

9 July 1961 THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

*PROBABLY STARLIGHT*

# Greenish Object Reported In Akron, Checked by AF

Remember flying saucers? Well, the Foreign Technologies division of the Air Technical Intelligence center here is checking out two sightings of unidentified flying objects made last week by an Akron man.

Investigating officers think that what Ernie Stadvec, owner-operator of a flying service, saw was the refraction of a star. But they won't be sure until they get detailed weather data from Akron—probably by Wednesday.

STADVEC said he sighted the first UFO at 10:15 p.m. on July 4 while flying at about 4,000 feet between Cleveland and Akron. He made the second sighting the next night about the same time.

Maj. Robert Friend, of the Technologies division at Wright-Patterson Air Force base, said he thinks Stadvec saw the atmospheric refraction of the first magnitude star Capella.

"EVERYTHING in his report points to this," Friend said. "The direction, the hour and everything else."

Friend added that the description fits other reports of atmospheric refraction made in the past.

STADVEC said both times he spotted a greenish object that came down from about 1 o'clock high on a collision course with his plane. He added that it stopped, moved to the northwest and stopped again before shooting straight upward and disappearing.

Stadvec, a World War II pilot, said he could not identify the object.

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