INTELLIGENCE REPORT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

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COUNTRY United States of America

REPORT NO. IR-1-62

SUBJECT (U) UFO

DATE OF REPORT 24 April 1962

NO. OF PAGES 7

DATE OF INFO 18 - 19 April 1962

REFERENCES AFR 200-2 Complete

PLACE & DATE ACQ Hill AFB, Lynndyl and Eureka, Utah 18 - 19 April 1962

EVALUATION B-2

SOURCE Sources below named.

FROM Sec & Law Enforce Div, Hill AFB

PREPARED BY Douglas K. Crouch

ABSTRACT: At 0319Z on 19 April 1962 a brilliant mid-air illumination appeared over Delta, Utah, visible in Idaho, California, Arizona and Kansas. One violent explosion and 20-30 sharp explosions followed illumination. AF pilot in area reported clearly defined white object falling toward ground after illumination. Resident of Lynndyl, Utah, stated a bright white object passed over him traveling north-west at 300-500 feet altitude, having bright white trail, turning to smoke trail after object passed. Observers at Jericho, Utah, (39 45N, 112 11W) stated object passed east of Jericho in north-west direction. Observer 3 miles south-west of Eureka, Utah (39 58N, 112 07W) reported object passed over in northwest direction, alternately emitting gasping sound, retarding forward movement, and surging ahead three or four times, before flame at tail of object turned from bright yellow to blue. Observer stated object arced over and estimated that object landed in Rush Valley in vicinity of McCentire Ranch (39 29N, 112 25W).

1. At 0319Z on 19 April 1962 a brilliant mid-air illumination appeared over central Utah which was reported visible in Idaho, California, Arizona and as far East as Kansas. Observers reported a bright object generally described as a brilliant white ball fall toward the earth in that area.

2. At 0600Z on 19 April 1962 Captain Herman O. [redacted], AO 2210541, 73[illegible]rd Troop Carrier Squadron, a reserve AF pilot and civilian Attorney at Law was interviewed at Hill AFB, with a tape recording being made of the interview. The following information and answers received to questions is prefaced by the paragraph number of items of information requested in paragraph 15, AFR 200-2, dated 14 September 1959.

15a(1) Shape - A long cylinderical shape like a cigarette.

15a(2) Size - At the distance object appeared to be the size of a cigarette.

15a(3) Color - The forward or lower part of object was a bright intense white such as a magnesium fire. The after half was a clearly distinguishable yellow color.

15a(4) Number - One.

15a(5) Formation - None.

15a(6) Discernible features - None.

15a(7) Tail, Trail or Exhaust - None.

15a(8) Sound - None heard.

15a(9) Pertinent features - None observed.

15b(1) What called attention to object - The bright intense light directly above his aircraft.

DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR FTD-2) cys w/2 attachments: Tape recordings of statements of observers

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15b(2) Angle, elevation and azimuth - When object was first spotted it was lower than aircraft (8,500 feet), and between aircraft and mountains to east. Bearing from aircraft approximately 65 to 75 degrees from nose of aircraft which was on approximately 130 degree magnetic heading.

15b(3) Angle, elevation and azimuth at time of disappearance - Same as 15b(2) above.

15b(4) Flight path and maneuvers - Traveling toward the ground, 10 to 20 degrees from vertical or 70 to 80 degrees from horizontal. Flight path from south west to north-east.

15b(5) How did object disappear - Object disappeared suddenly before striking the ground (rate of turn of aircraft might have made it disappear from view).

15b(6) How long was object visible - Object itself was visible for not more than two seconds. Time from beginning of illumination to disappearance of object was a minimum of ten seconds.

15c(1) Manner of observation - Naked eye.

15c(2) Optical Aids - None.

15c(3) Airborne sighting - C-119 aircraft # 53-8093, altitude 8,500 feet. Turning right from heading of 68 degrees to heading of 165 degrees. Heading approximately 130 degrees at time of sighting. Speed of 170 knots. Aircraft based at Hill Air Force Base.

15d(1) Zulu time date group - 03190, 19 April 1962.

15d(2) Light conditions - Night.

15e Location of observer - Above junction of US Highway 50-6 with Utah Highway 36. (39 30N, 112 02W) 5 miles southwest of Eureka, Utah.

15f Information on observer - Herman O. SHIELDS, Captain AFRes, 777th Troop Carrier Sqdn., Hill AFB, Utah. Civilian occupation, Attorney at Law. Age 36. Commissioned in August 1954 with three years active duty as pilot. Flying status with AFRes since 1958. Has 2,300 hours flying time. Captain SHIELDS appears to be a mature and stable person. His ready answers to questions asked indicated exceptional powers of observation and proficiency as a pilot.

15g(1) Weather and winds - SHIELDS reported a full moon with no clouds above them and visibility of 30 to 40 miles. No obstructions to visibility.

3. Seven residents of Nephi, Utah (39 43N, 111 50W) were interviewed in an attempt to establish the location of the source of illumination as well as a description and direction of travel of the object. Each of the persons interviewed agreed that the illumination originated almost directly over Nephi. Further that the object generally described as a yellowish white ball of fire traveled in a northwesterly direction over and away from Nephi, leaving a trail of dark gray smoke. That approximately three to five minutes after the object disappeared in the northwest, the sound of a strong explosion was heard. Also that after the strong explosion, a series of 20 to 30 explosions were heard from the direction from which the object had appeared, most observers explaining the sound as like that of an anti-aircraft gun.

4. Three residents of Leamington, Utah (39 30N, 112 17W) were interviewed in an attempt to obtain a cross bearing on the direction of travel of the object. All three persons agreed that the object passed over to the east of Leamington on a heading of 300 to 355 degrees, leaving a trail of dark gray smoke. That after the object passed off on the above heading, the bright object turned to a dull color and seemed to burn out. Due to the brightness of the illumination, residents stated they were unable to determine a shape or altitude of the object.

5. At 1430Z on 19 April 1962 Roy NIELSON was interviewed at Lynndyl, Utah, with a tape recording being made of the interview. The following information was received concerning the object:

This format is used in lieu of AF Form 112a, which is not available.

15a(1) Shape - A bulky form, a little wider than long.

15a(2) Size - At the distance about the size of a basketball.

15a(3) Color - A white color with a bluish tint. Like the color of burning metal at white heat.

15a(4) Number - One.

15a(5) Formation - None.

15a(6) Discernible features - None he could see.

15a(7) Tail, Trail or Exhaust - a long trail of flame approximately 500 feet long. After flame went by there was a trail of dark gray smoke.

15a(8) Sound - Object had a "Whooching" sound as it went over. After object went over, approximately 30 sharp explosions were heard in mid-air like dynamite explosions set off at close intervals.

15a(9) Pertinent features - None he could see.

15b(1) What called attention to object - Was tending water in garden when entire valley lighted up as bright as day. Looked up to locate source of illumination and saw object.

15b(2) Angle, elevation and azimuth - Passed overhead about 300 feet east of his location. Estimated object was 300 to 500 feet above him when it passed over going in a northwesterly direction.

15b(3) Angle, elevation or azimuth at time of disappearance - Appeared to be descending in a shallow glide on a north west heading at the time object seemed to burn out.

15b(4) Description of flight path - A flat trajectory from the south east to north west in a slightly descending glide. No maneuvers.

15b(5) How did object disappear - Seemed to burn out while going away into northwest.

15b(6) How long was object visible - two to three seconds.

15c(1) Manner of observation - Naked eye.

15c(2) Optical aids - None.

15c(3) Airborne sighting - N/A

15d(1) Zulu time date group - 0315Z to 0320Z on 19 April 1962.

15d(2) Light conditions - Night.

15e Location of observer - North end of Lynndyl, Utah (39 31N, 112 22 1/2W).

15f Information on observer - Roy NIELSON, age 60, Lynndyl, Utah, Storekeeper and Garage Operator. Neighbors have a high regard for the honesty and veracity of NIELSON. Interview and comparison of estimates of distances indicate NIELSON may be a poor judge of distance.

15g(1) Weather and winds - NIELSON reported no winds, with moon shining brightly and a few high scattered cumulous clouds.

This format is used in lieu of AF Form 112a, which is not available.

6. Four sheepmen and herders located at Jericho, Utah (39 45N, 112 11W) were interviewed on 19 April 1962 with regard to the object. The four interviewees concurred that the object passed east of Jericho on a north-west heading. After their attention was attracted by the brilliant illumination, the persons observed the object and described it substantially as a bright white object which left a trail of dark gray smoke. Also that the object seemed to burn out or turn dark after passing over the immediate area. The descriptions of the 20 to 30 sharp explosions heard after the object passed over given by each of the men generally agreed, with the noise likened to that of anti-aircraft fire.

7. On 19 April 1962 Mr. Bob ROBINSON was interviewed at the Silver City Mine at Silver City, Utah, and the following information obtained:

15a(1) Shape - Round ball of fire.

15a(2) Size - About the size of a soccer ball.

15a(3) Color - White with a yellowish tint and a bright yellow jagged flame coming from the rear of the object.

15a(4) Number - One.

15a(5) Formation - None.

15a(6) Discernible features - None he could see.

15a(7) Tail, trail or exhaust - The object had a bright yellowish flame coming from the rear. After object passed overhead, a dark gray smoke trail remained in the sky.

15a(8) Sound - Object emitted a gasping sound three or four times when it slowed down in flight and then speeded up again. After object had burned out, approximately 20 sharp explosions were heard in direction from which object came.

15a(9) Pertinent features - Yellow jagged flame at rear of object. After object had slowed up and surged ahead three or four times, the flame at the rear of object turned from yellow to blue, and jagged ends of trailing flame turned into a sharp pointed flame at the rear.

15b(1) What called attention to object - Bright illumination overhead caused him to look up and see object.

15b(2) Angle, elevation and azimuth - Object traveled northwest over mountain east of his location on a flat trajectory. Could not estimate altitude.

15b(3) Angle, elevation and azimuth at time of disappearance - Traveling north west with descending angle. Below top of mountains to west (8,000 feet).

15b(4) Flight path and maneuvers - As object passed over ROBINSON, it slowed down in air, and after gasping sound was heard, the object spurted ahead again. After this procedure was repeated three or four times, the object arched over and began descending to earth after which the object turned bluish color and then burned out or went dark. After object began to slow down it began to wobble or "fishtail" in it's path.

15b(5) How did object disappear - After beginning to arc over toward the ground, the object turned dark or burned out, still on a northwest heading.

15b(6) How long object visible - Two or three seconds.

This format is used in lieu of AF Form 112a, which is not available.

15c(1) Manner of observation - Naked eye.

15c(2) Optical aids - None.

15c(3) Airborne Sighting - N/A.

15d(1) Zulu time-date group - 03195 19 April 1962.

15d(2) Light conditions - Night.

15e Location of observer - 3,000 feet southeast of junction of US Highway 50-6 and Utah Highway 36 (39 30N, 112 22W).

15f Information on observer - Bob [redacted], age 35-40, Eureka, Utah, Miner. [redacted] appears to be a mature and stable person. Law enforcement officers in that area advised that [redacted] was very reliable and trustworthy, and they placed a great deal of faith in his story concerning the object.

15g(1) Weather and winds - Observer reported practically no wind, with moon shining and only high clouds.

8. On 24 April 1962 a telephone call was received from Mr. W. C. JONES, 1843 Atkin Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah. JONES was relaying information concerning a UFO observed by his mother, Mrs. George T. JONES, 1866 North State, Orem, Utah. The following information was obtained:

15a(1) Shape - Shaped like a luncheon cloth with a round ball in the center about the size of a large coconut.

15a(2) Size - The size of a luncheon cloth.

15a(3) Color - Yellow with black corners, a bright red object the size of a coconut in the center.

15a(4) Number - One.

15a(5) Formation - None.

15a(6) Discernible features - As it was burning, the edges appeared to curl. Mrs. JONES states this was not like any meteorite or falling star she had seen and that she first thought it was an exploding aircraft.

15a(7) Tail, Trail or Exhaust - Object came down out of a shaft of smoke.

15a(8) Sound - None.

15b(1) Pertinent features: A bright red ball, the size of a large coconut in the center of the object.

15c(1) What called attention to object: The bright illumination overhead caused her to look up and see the object.

15c(2) Angle, elevation and azimuth - Object traveled straight down toward the ground. Elevation and azimuth not determined.

15c(3) Elevation and Azimuth at time of disappearance - In dropping toward the ground elevation and azimuth not determined.

15c(4) Flight Path and Maneuvers - Dropped straight to the ground.

This format is used in lieu of AF Form 112a, which is not available

15b(5) How did object disappear - Did not notice manner of disappearance.

15b(6) How long object visible - 2 - 3 seconds.

15c(1) Manner of observation - Naked eye.

15c(2) Optical Aids - None.

15c(3) Airborne Sighting - N/A.

15d(1) Zulu time date group - 0315Z, 19 April 1962.

15d(2) Light conditions - Night.

15e Location of Observer - On Utah Highway 11, 1/3 of distance between Moroni and Fountain Green, Utah. (39 33N, 111 35W).

15f Information on observer - Mrs. George T. JONES, 1866 North State, Oren, Utah, age 78. Mr. JONES stated that his mother had remarkable eye sight and control of her facilities for a person of that age.

15g(1) Weather and winds - Not noticed.

9. Following is the balance of information forwarded in compliance with AFR 200-2 dated 14 September 1959:

15g(2) Weather and winds-The US Weather Bureau at the Salt Lake City Airport reported conditions at 0300Z as 10 knot surface winds from 180 degrees, 5 knot wind at 170 degrees at 6,000 feet, 5 knot winds from 160 degrees at 10,000 feet, 15 knot winds from 240 degrees at 16,000 feet, and 10 knot wind from 260 degrees at 20,000 feet. No information available above 20,000 feet.

15g(3) Ceiling - Above 20,000 feet MSL.

15g(4) Visibility - 30 miles.

15g(5) Cloud cover - 6.

15g(6) Thunderstorms - None reported by weather bureau.

15g(7) Temperature Gradient - 70 degrees, dewpoint 36.

15h Unusual activity or condition - None.

15i Interception or identification - None attempted.

15j Air traffic and balloon releases - No air traffic in area to account for sighting and no reports of missing aircraft. Two balloon releases at 0001Z and 1200Z on 19 April 1962 would not account for sighting.

15k The preparing officer is Chief Criminal Investigator, GS-9, Security and Law Enforcement Division, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. Preliminary analysis indicates that each of the observers interviewed were logical, mature persons, and that each person was convinced that he had observed some tangible object, not identifiable as as balloon or conventional type aircraft. The theory that the object was a manned aircraft was abandoned due to the described shape and color and flaming tail of the object, plus the fact there are no reports of missing aircraft in this area. No unusual meteorological or astronomical conditions were present which would furnish an explanation for the sighting. No missile test firings are conducted in the immediate area other than static tests. The hypotheses that the object was a

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FROM: Sec & Law Enforce
Div, [illegible] AFB, [illegible]

falling meteor is questioned due to the statements of three observers describing the flat trajectory, plus the description of sounds eminating from the object and the account of the "table cloth" and the final object falling to the ground. Due to the inaccessibility of the valley, ten miles wide by 15 miles long in which the object apparently came to earth, no further search for the object is contemplated. With the completion of this initial report, no explanation has been developed for the brilliant illumination of the area, the object itself, or the explosions in the wake of the object.

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Charles W. Bixion

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2 Atch
1. Tape recording of interview with Capt Shields
2. Tape recording of interview with Mr Nielsen

NNNN

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
STAFF MESSAGE BRANCH
UNCLASSIFIED MESSAGE

INCOMING

AF IN : 59676 (20 Apr 62) N/dug

ACTION: CIN-17

INFO : OOP-2, OOP-CP-1, SAPS-3, DIA-7 (31)

SNB A326

ZCH0B687ZCWJD855

PP RJEZHQ

DE RJVFKFK 2

ZNR

P 201938Z

FM 138TH ACW SQ BUCKLEY ANGB COLO

TO RJVFKF/29TH AD RICHARDS GEBAUR AFB MO

RJVFAL/ ADC ENT AFB COLO

RJEDSC/ AIR TECH INTELLIGENCE CEN WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEZHQ/HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

RJEZHQ/SEC AIR FORCE WASH 25 DC

BT

UNCLAS FM ACWOP 0268. FOR AFCIN HQ USAF WASH DC AND SAFIS SEC AIR FORCE WASH DC. THE FOLLOWING UFOB REPORT IS SUBMITTED IAW AFR 200-2.

1. A. NONE DISTINGUISHABLE

   B. 1/2 PENCIL SIZE IN WIDTH ABOUT 3 INCHES IN LENGTH

   C. ORANGE

   D. NO DEFINITE OBJECT SIGHTED

   E. N/A

   F. APPEARED AS BRIGHT FLASH AND EXPLOSION

   G. N/A

rlash, Boom Over Utah Fireball Lights Skies In Ten States

The huge "ball of fire" which flashed across the Western U. S. between 8:15 and 8:19 p.m. on 18 April 1962 was so brilliant that it triggered the photo-electric street lighting system in Eureka, Utah. The object was traveling from east to west. All street lights turned off in Eureka as the object passed over. Authorities thought the fireball crashed about 10 miles south of the small town. Residents saw a "blue flash" and heard a "rumbling" off in the distance immediately after the sighting.

Salt Lake City observers said the light of the "meteor" was as "bright as day." It was seen in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, New Mexico, Wyoming, Arizona, Nevada, Kansas and Utah. An FAA spokesman at Salt Lake City said the object vanished over southwestern Utah about 35 miles northeast of Delta. He also said aircraft and ground observers in the area confirmed the report.

Although not definitely established, a [illegible] glow seen by a tower spokesman at Peterson Field (Colorado Springs, Colo.) west of Pike's Peak, may have been connected with the sighting. The light was obstructed by the mountain.

Air Force officers from Hill AFB at Ogden, Utah, questioned sheepherders in the hills south of Eureka, Utah, who [illegible] Robinson of Eureka said it first looked like a "polliwog" with its tail on fire, going east to west in "sort of jerks." He said it suddenly exploded into a "sodium blue-white light brighter than day" and then continued on, looking like a vapor trail from a jet. He estimated it was 8 to 10 seconds before the sound became audible, sounding like cannons firing in the distance.

Most observers in Nevada declared the object was traveling west to east.

The thought occurs that this object was a perfect high-altitude flare—illuminating most of a two-state area to a point of daylight brightness. It so happens that the two states receiving most of the light were Utah and Nevada, both locations of U. S. Missile and nuclear test sites.